

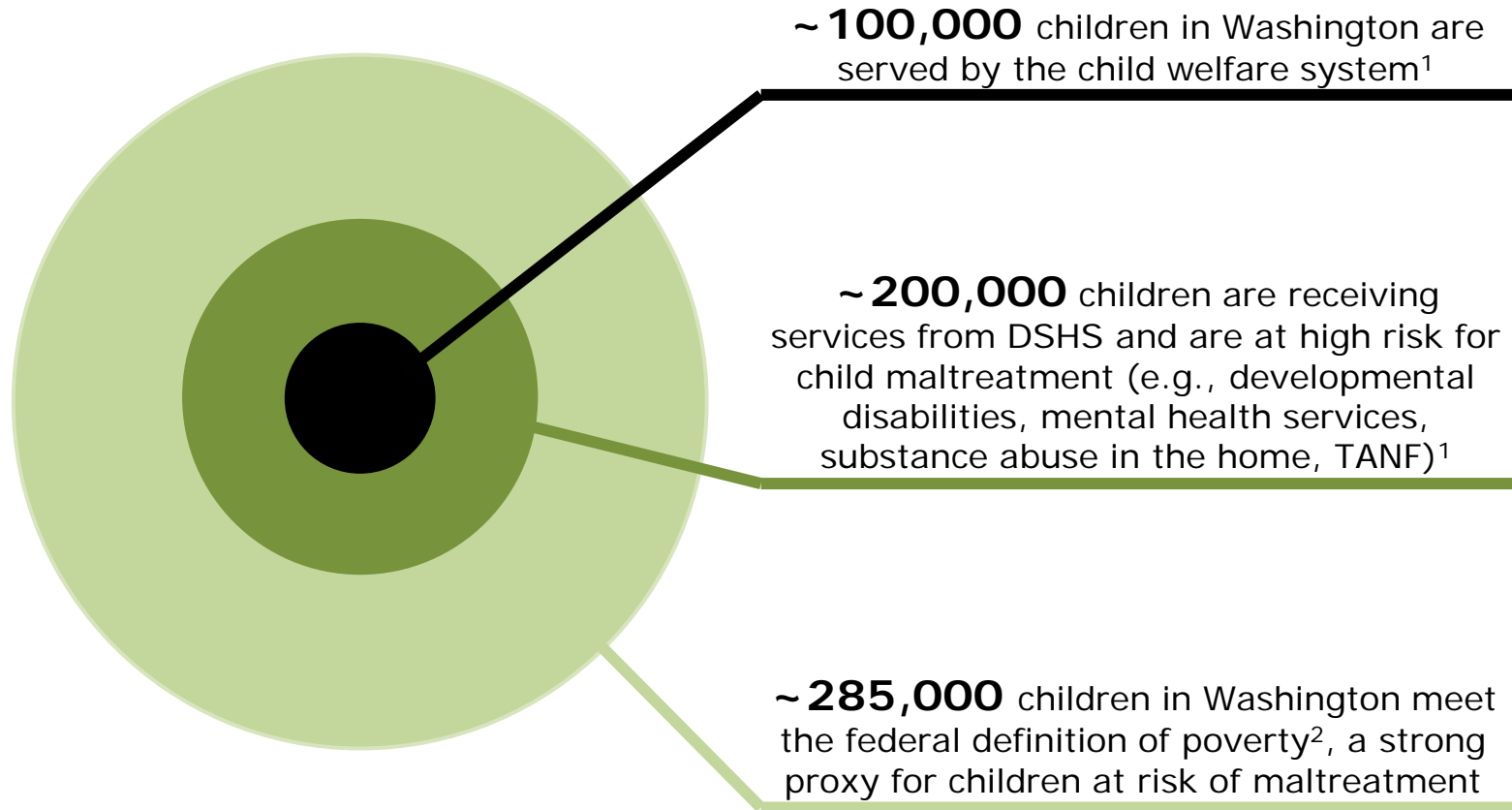


CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN WASHINGTON

Blue Ribbon Commission May 10, 2016

PRESENTED BY BENJAMIN DE HAAN

WHO ARE WE SERVING AND WHO SHOULD WE AIM TO SERVE



¹ Washington DSHS data

² US Census

Child welfare involvement is closely related to family **poverty**, parental **mental health** concerns, child behavioral health, domestic violence and **substance abuse**.

In 2009 a survey conducted with parents who were involved in the child welfare system in Washington, found that:

- 47% had an annual income less than \$10,000
- 81% of were receiving assistance from public programs, families or friends.
- Families reported a high unmet need for food, clothing, transportation, and housing
- 56% of parents met the criteria for one or more mental health disorders and 35% had experienced domestic violence

Opportunities

- Opportunity to create an enhanced prevention framework for vulnerable children and families
- Greater opportunity to link to child-focused outcomes
- Brings an elevated focus on children's issues with a direct voice to the Governor
- A smaller agency brings increased opportunity for flexibility, innovation and partnerships