

I-CARE study: Child protection pathways of Aboriginal children and mother's health and wellbeing



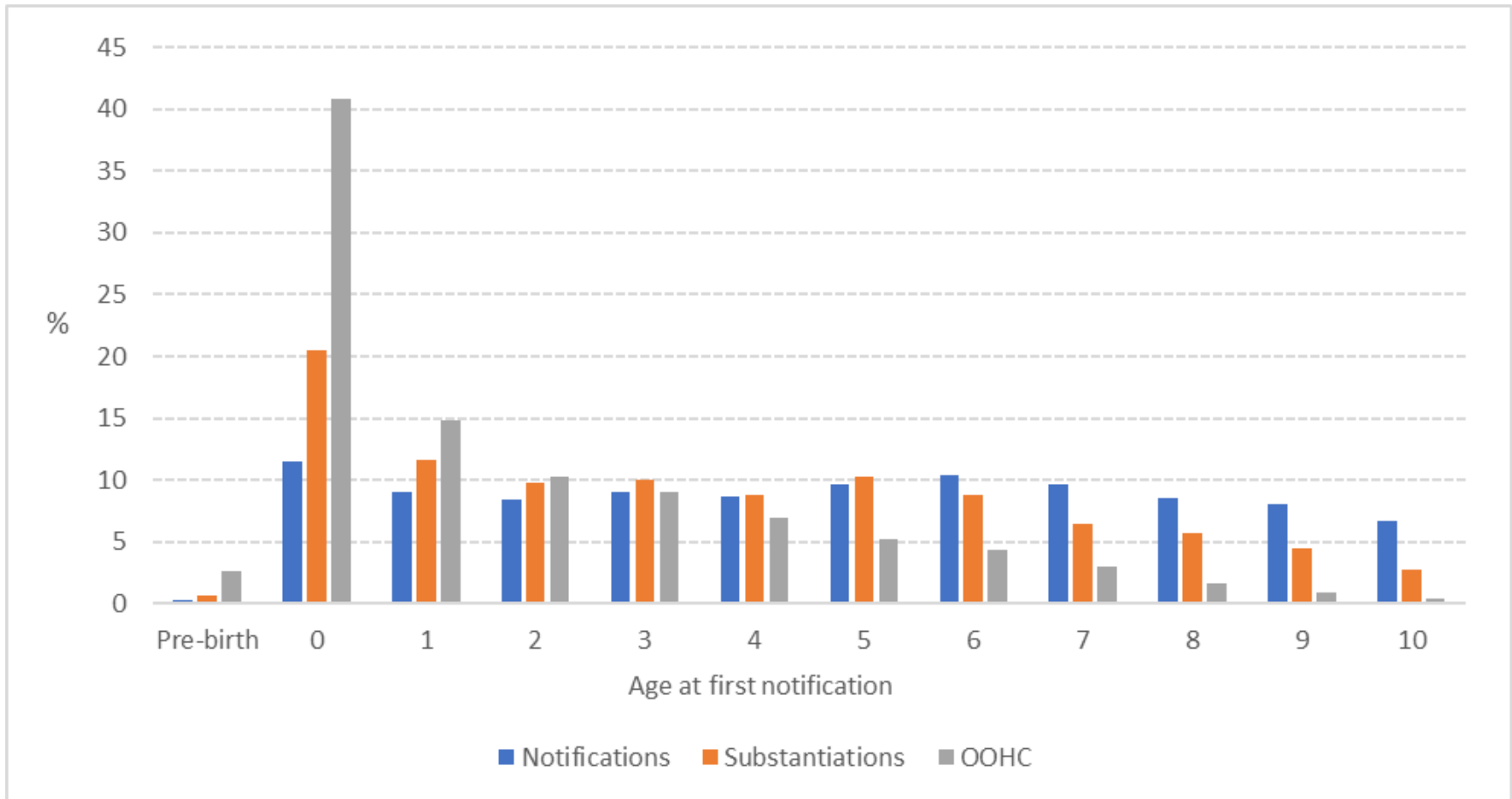
Australian Centre
for Child Protection

What we know: Over-representation of Aboriginal children involved in child protection.

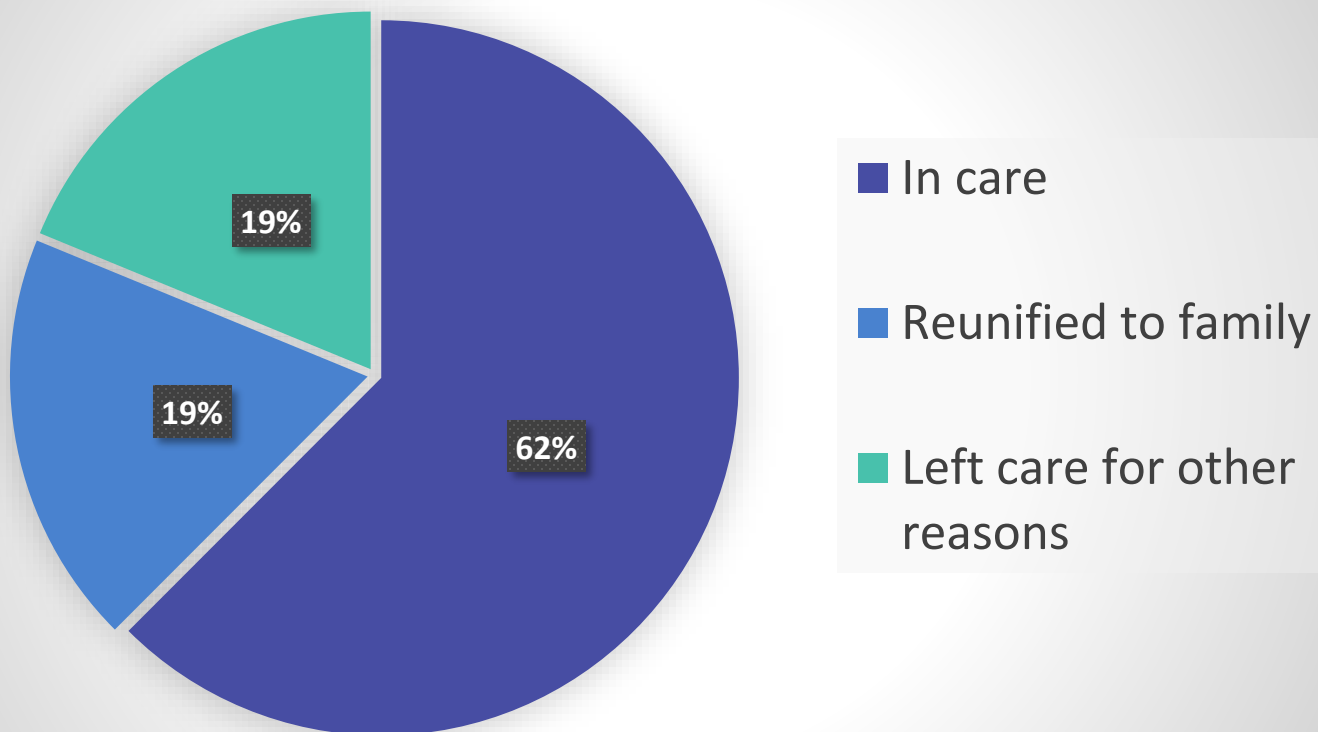
Aim

- 1) Determine the longitudinal child protection pathways including notifications, substantiations and OOHC placements for Aboriginal children entering care between infancy and age 10 years;
- 2) Quantify the characteristics of children in relation to different child protection pathways; and
- 3) Investigate the age of entry to care and the placement types.

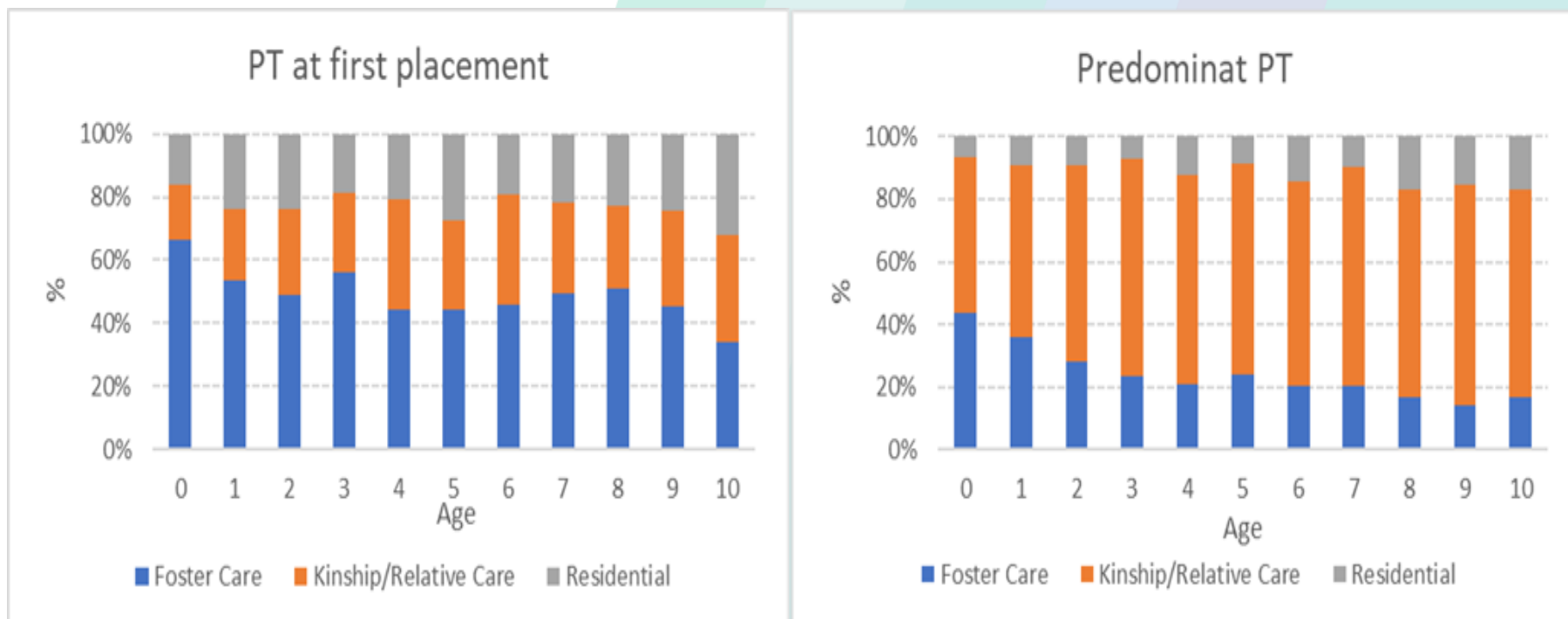
Age at first notification for children's highest level of child protection involvement



Exit reason at end of follow-up



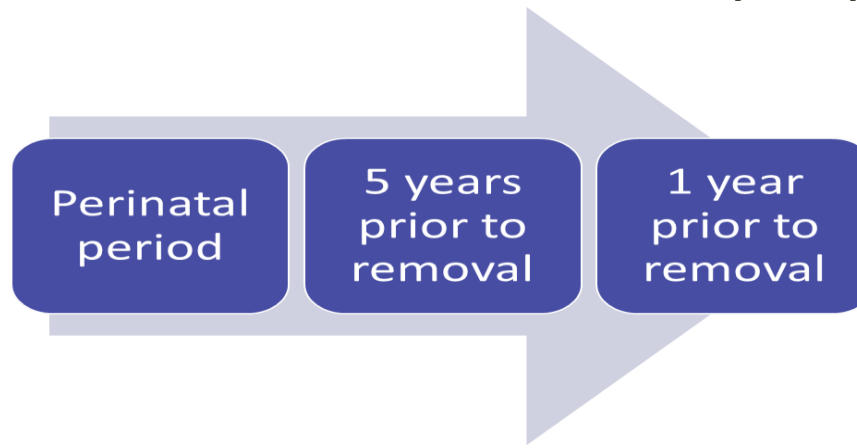
Placement type at first placement and predominant



Mother's health and wellbeing

Aims of paper

To describe the health and wellbeing of mothers of Aboriginal children who enter out-of-home care;
the types of health and mental health conditions experienced by these mothers;
and the level of comorbidities that they experience.



Hospitalisations – Specific conditions

Condition		Care	Contact	No contact
Alcohol and Drug related		52%	23%	7%
	Alcohol related	32%	13%	4%
	Drug related	36%	13%	4%
Injury and poisoning		26%	15%	7%
	Accident	19%	12%	6%
	Self-harm	9%	4%	1%
Assault		30%	14%	4%
Mental health diagnosis		52%	26%	10%
Potentially preventable hospitalisations		26%	17%	10%



Number of co-occurring health related contacts (MH, alcohol/drugs, assault potentially preventable hospitalisations (5 years prior)

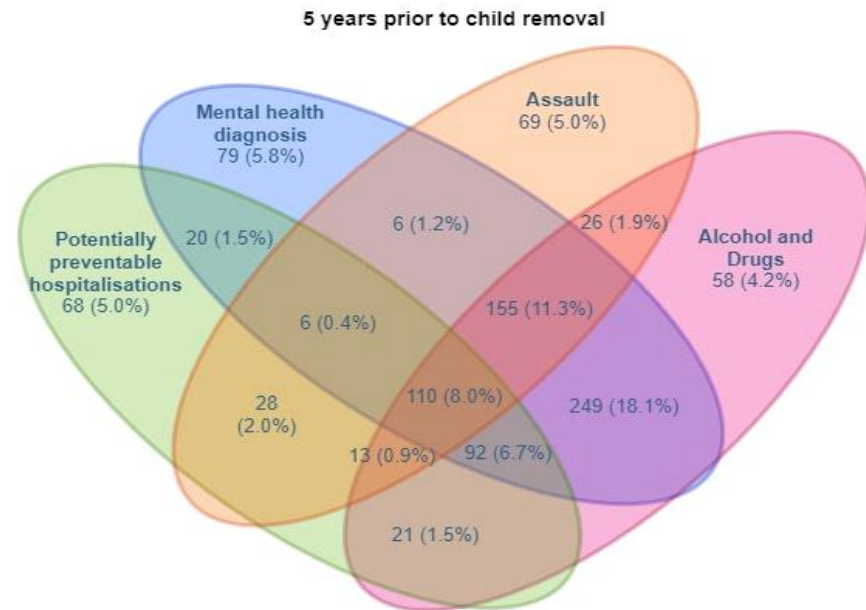
Number of Comorbid Hospitalisations	Care group	Contact group	No contact group
At least 1	74%	43%	21%
1	20%	20%	14%
2	26%	12%	5%
3	19%	9%	2%
4	8%	2.5%	0.5%



Co-occurring conditions 5 years prior to removal

Most prevalent comorbidity
– mental health and alcohol/drug related hospitalisation (18%)

- Mental health, alcohol/drug, assault (11%)



Conclusions

- These mothers therefore are seen at a high rate in hospital and mental health systems prior to child removals and during the perinatal period.
- This is the first study to really quantify the level of multiple and complex needs these mothers are experiencing.
- It also highlights the importance of health and mental health systems in providing services and support that recognises the multiple needs of mothers.



Acknowledgements

Study participants

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University of Western Australia

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Industry Partners

This presentation cannot be considered to be either endorsed by the Departments or an expression of the policies or views of the Departments. Any errors of omission or commission are the responsibility of researchers.

New South Wales- Family and Children Services

Improving the lives
of vulnerable children.



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I-CaRe WA Study



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