### Background/Relevance
Roughly 1/3 of children 0-3 referred for maltreatment have developmental concerns that qualify for Early Intervention (EI) services, but just 13% of these children received such services following child welfare referral (Casanueva, Cross, & Ringeisen, 2008). Studies show routine developmental screening among children in foster care improves detection or problems (Bruhn, Duval, & Louderman, 2008; Jee, et al., 2010). IDEA and CAPTA were amended to require referral of all children 0-3 substantiated for maltreatment to EI when developmental problems are detected.

### Research Questions
1. What are concern rates when using the ASQ and ASQ:SE among children receiving child welfare services?
2. Is there evidence to support policies that screen only children with substantiated maltreatment?
3. Which child and maltreatment-related characteristics predict positive screening results?
4. How does the screening process engage caregivers?

### Study Design
This three phase study is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Children, Youth & Families.

### Measures
- Caseworker reports of key characteristics entered into Screening Database
- Caregiver Interview
- Ages & Stages Questionnaires® (Squires, et al., 1999)
- Ages & Stages Questionnaires: Social-Emotional ® (Squires, et al., 2003)

### Screening Database
In July 2009, Pennsylvania’s Child Welfare Training Program (CWTP) created a web-based database for counties to utilize. Every county is asked to enter data on all the children screened in their counties by the last business day of each month. So far, 59/67 counties are actively using the database.

### Database Elements
- Demographics on children and caregivers including child’s substantiation status and maltreatment type
- Child’s screening results
- Various reports for county use

### Caregiver Risk Factors
- Half of the caregivers interviewed (48.7%) were involved with CYS as children, with 22.4% saying they spent time in foster care as a child.
- A third (33.5%) of interviewed caregivers reported that they were currently receiving services for a mental health issue, and 29.9% said they received mental health services as an adult.
- 32.9% of those interviewed are currently taking psychotropic medication.
- A quarter (24.8%) of caregivers reported IPV in the last year.

### Caregiver Reports on Receiving Needs-Based Services
- Medicaid: 60.8%
- SSI or Disability: 24.1%
- Housing Support: 16.5%
- Cash Assistance: 31.2%
- Food Stamps: 84.2%
- WIC: 70.3%

### Caregiver’s Perception of the Screening
- Nearly a third of participants said they learned quite a bit (32.8) about their child because of the screening.

### Caregiver’s Opinion on How the Screening Took Place
- Very Positive: 62.3%
- Somewhat Positive: 32.3%
- Not Very Positive: 3.3%
- Not Positive At All: 1.6%

### Implications
- Findings support previous research showing that screening policies should not be guided by substantiation status.
- Biracial children and children in foster care may need additional support in early childhood
- Consideration should be given to child development specialization with CWS to build workforce capacity

### References


### Results of Logistic Regression Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Developmental Concerns</th>
<th>Socio-Emotional Concerns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Age</td>
<td>0.87**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1.43</td>
<td>1.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biracial</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>2.85*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.39*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Care</td>
<td>0.37*</td>
<td>2.07*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Home</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>1.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Neglect</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caregiver MH Problems</td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td>1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child in NICU</td>
<td>3.96**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p<.10, **p<.05, ***p<.01

### Caregiver Interviews
- Counties were randomly selected by their location in the state, group of children being screened & number of children in the database. The state was divided into seven distinct sampling regions. 158 interviews were completed as of June 30, 2011

### Caregiver Demographics (N=158)
- The majority of our caregivers are white (83.5%), non-Hispanic/Latino (97.6%), females (88.6%).
- 64% of the caregivers interviewed were 35 years old or younger.
- Although most of the participants received a High School diploma (45.6%), or GED (13.9%), a high number of participants (31.6%) reported not finishing High School.
- The average age of first biological child is 20.7.
- 57.6% of caregivers interviewed reported being single, and 51% reported not living with a partner.

### Screening Concern Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screening Area</th>
<th>N=1513</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any ASQ Developmental concern</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine motor skills</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross motor skills</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal social skills</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem solving skills</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than one developmental concern</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASQ Social-Emotional concern</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any ASQ or ASQ:SE concern</td>
<td>39.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Bivariate Tests
Significant bivariate correlations (p<.05) were added into a logistic regression model. An important finding is that there was no significant relationship between substantiated maltreatment and problem scores on the ASQ or ASQ:SE.