

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



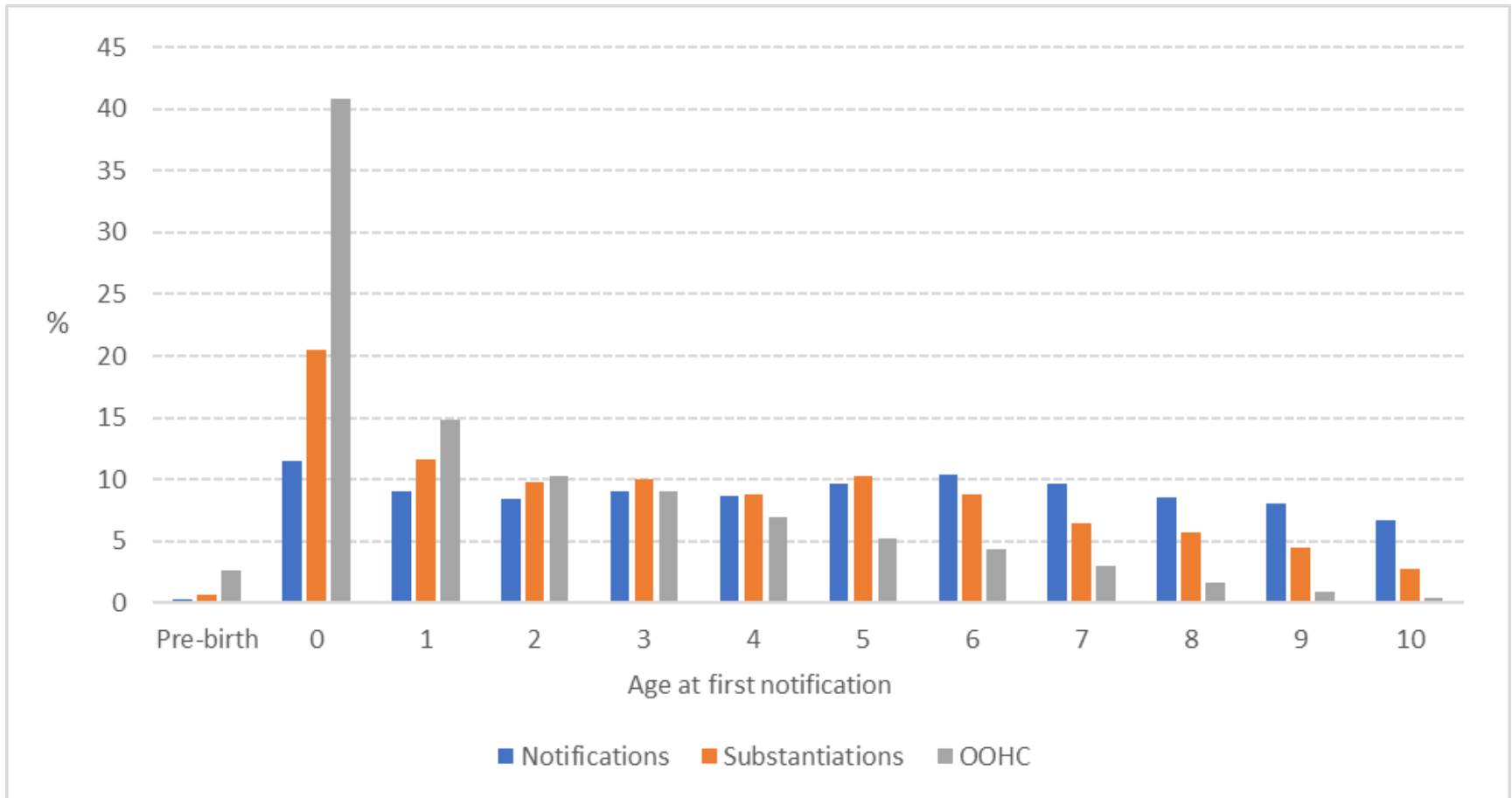
Australian Centre
for Child Protection

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

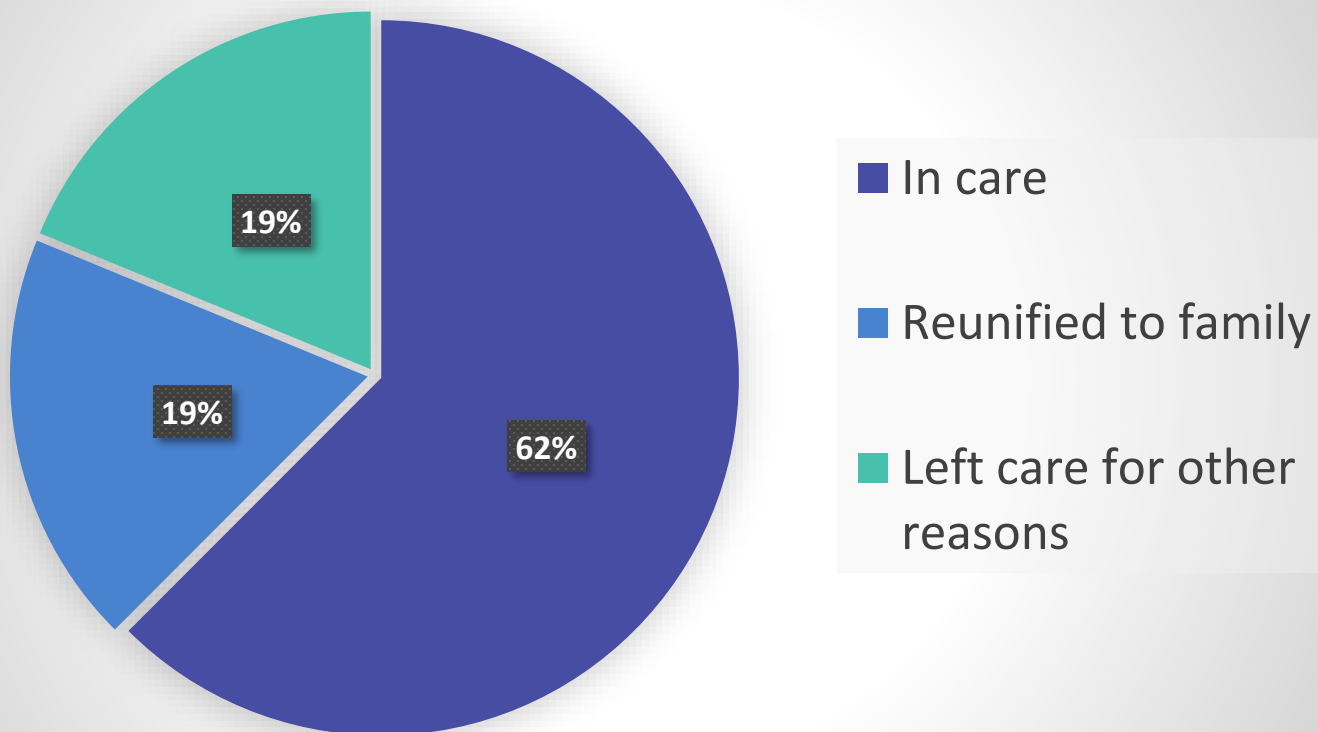
Aim

- 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.

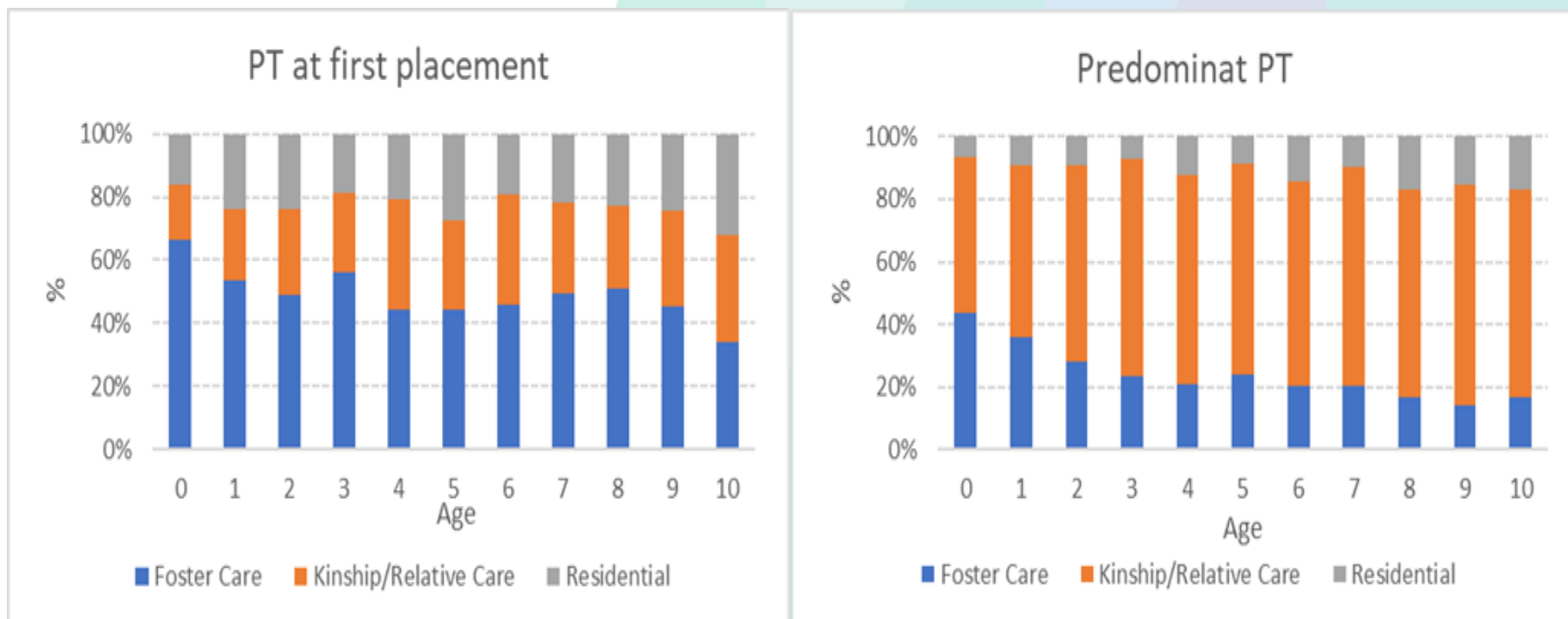
Age at first notification for children's highest level of child protection involvement



Exit reason at end of follow-up



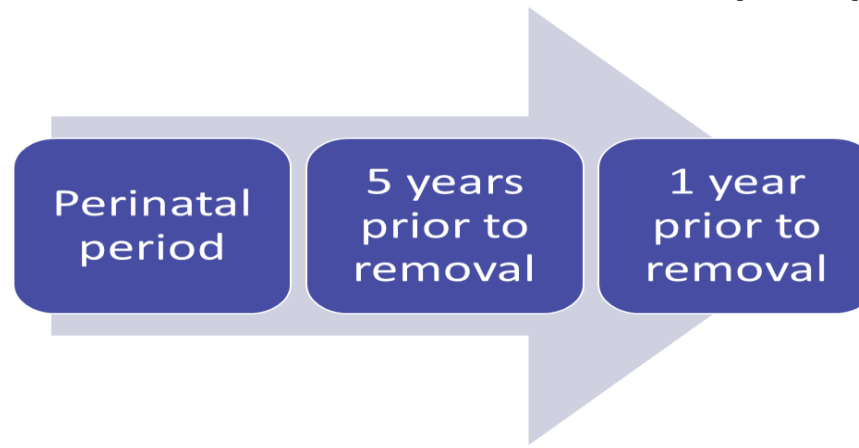
Placement type at first placement and predominant



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%



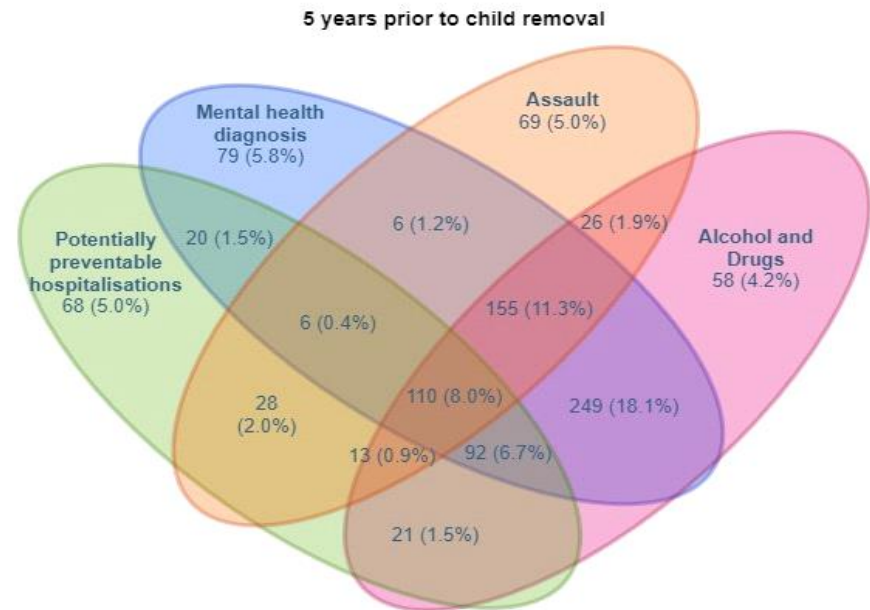
Number of co-occurring health related contacts (MH, alcohol/drugs, assault potentially preventable hospitalisations (5 years prior)

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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WA Department of Health

Industry Partners

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New South Wales- Family and Children Services

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