

Protecting Childhood: Frontier Health's Approach to Preventing and Treating Child Maltreatment

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Learning Objectives

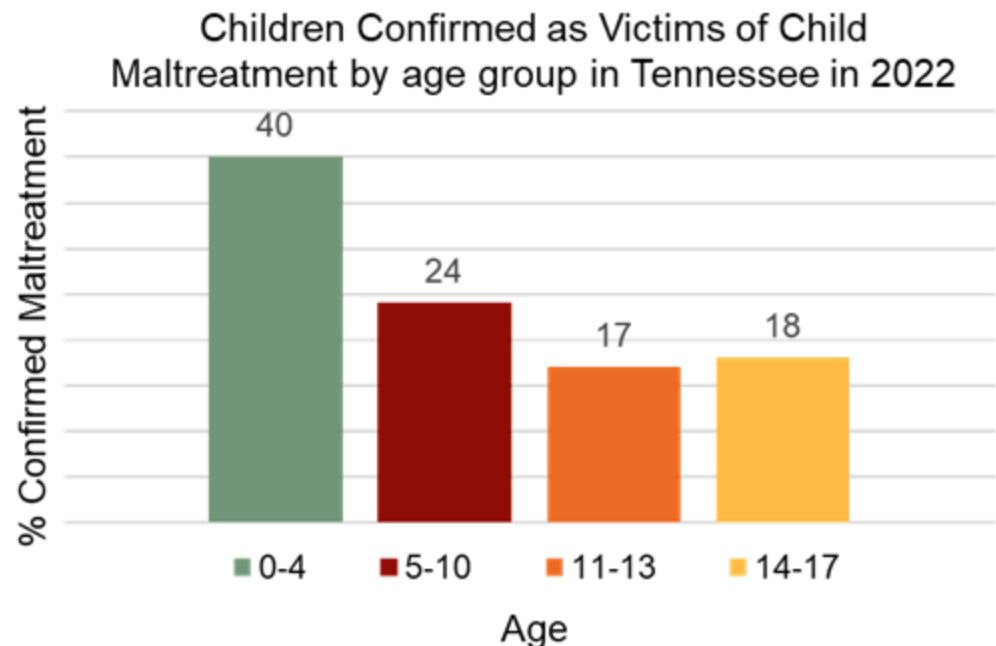
- Be able to identify risk factors of child maltreatment
- Describe five protective factors and their role in child well being
- Explain how the Evidence Based Interventions discussed relate to the five protective factors.



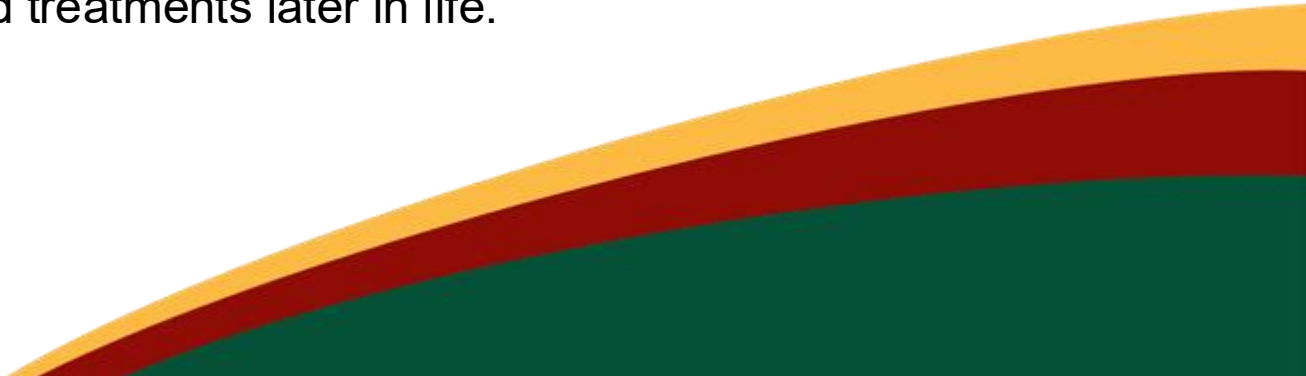
Child Maltreatment in Tennessee

•According to the World Health Organization, “Child maltreatment is the abuse and neglect that occurs to children under 18 years of age. It includes all types of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, negligence, and commercial or other exploitation, which results in actual or potential harm to the child’s health, survival, development, or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust, or power.”

In 2022 Tennessee had 6,834 children who were confirmed by CPS as victims of maltreatment. Of those the highest rate (40%) were in the age range of 0-4 years.



Child Maltreatment in Tennessee

- Impacts (child, family, community): loss of education, loss of workforce, poor health, trauma symptoms, substance use, and overall cost of care. It is estimated that the impact of substantiated claims of child abuse and neglect in Tennessee is between \$3.33 and \$4.97 billion per year.
 - Early intervention and prevention: result in greater labor force participation, improved population health, decreased rates of substance use disorders, lower incarceration rates, reduced demand for state services, and greater life expectancy
 - It is also financially impactful as each \$1 invested in IECMH programs returns \$3.64 back in prevented treatments later in life.
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Risk Factors

Child

- Younger than age 4
- Having special needs

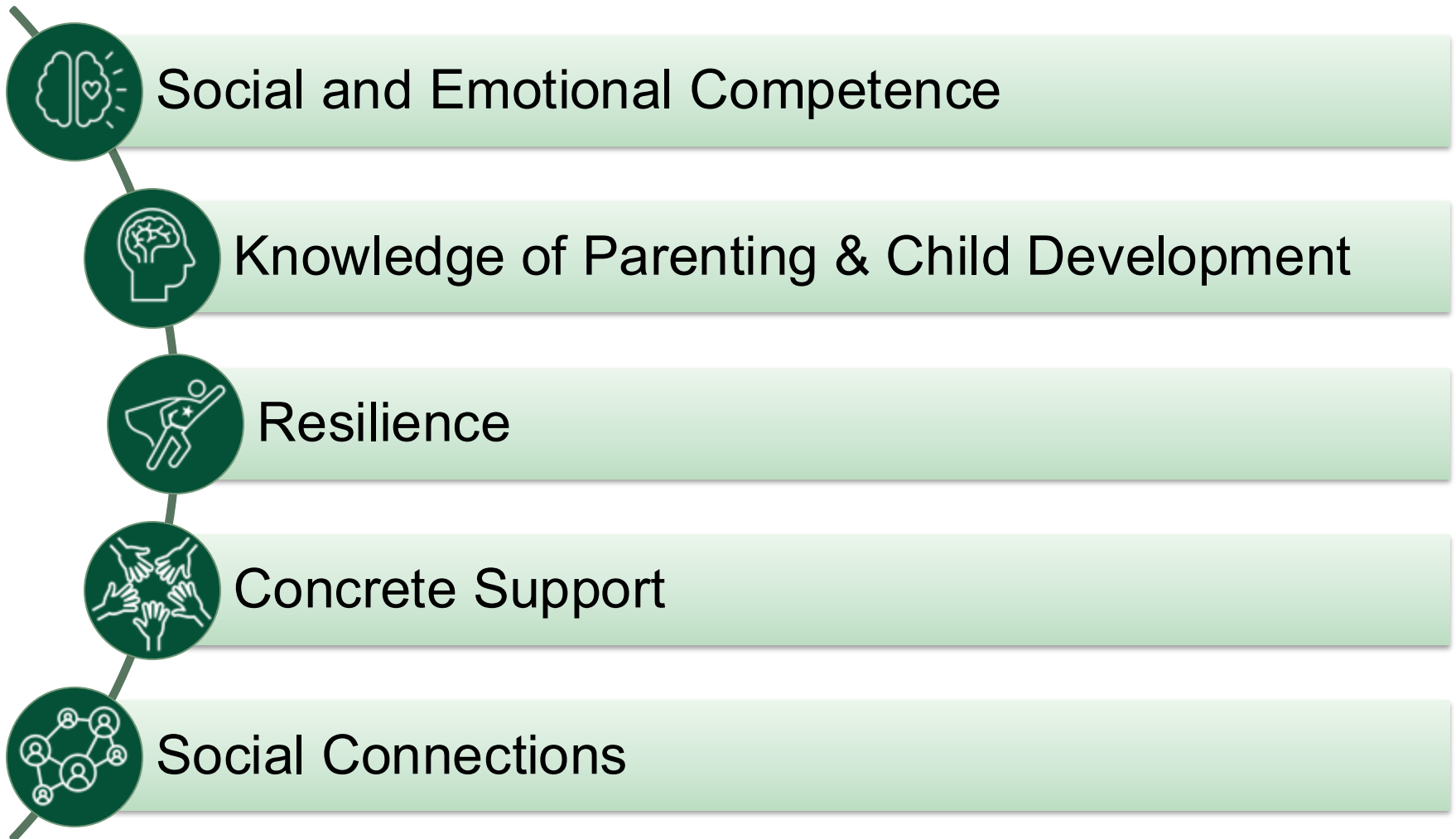
Perpetrator

- Substance use
- Mental health issues
- Lack of parenting knowledge
- History of own abuse
- Low income
- Incarceration
- Isolation
- Domestic violence
- Poor communication
- High stress
- Own history of childhood abuse
- More than 2 children

Community


- Violence and crime
- High unemployment
- Access to substances,
- Low community involvement from residents
- Few activities for young people,
- Unstable housing
- Poverty with limited educational and economic opportunities

Protective Factors




Addressing Factors

Related assistance from community mental health centers:

- Infant and early childhood mental health treatment
 - Substance use treatment for adolescents and adults including IOP
 - Therapy services
 - Case management services
 - Parenting classes
 - Criminal justice programs
 - Housing programs
 - Employment and educational specialists
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Evidence Based Interventions

- An Evidenced Based Intervention is a program, practice, or treatment that has been studied and known to have proven effectiveness in a population and setting.
 - Various disciplines such as medical, mental health, etc. make use of EBIs in their given fields.
 - For the area of Child Welfare, the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse (<https://www.cebc4cw.org/>) is used.
 - History
 - Rating Scale
 - Programs and Measurement Tools
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Nurturing Parenting

Core Principles

- Empathy
- Self Worth
- Empowerment
- Discipline
- Attachment

Addressing Risk Factors

- Parental Stress and Mental Health
- Lack of Parenting Knowledge
- Intergenerational patterns of abuse
- Social Isolation

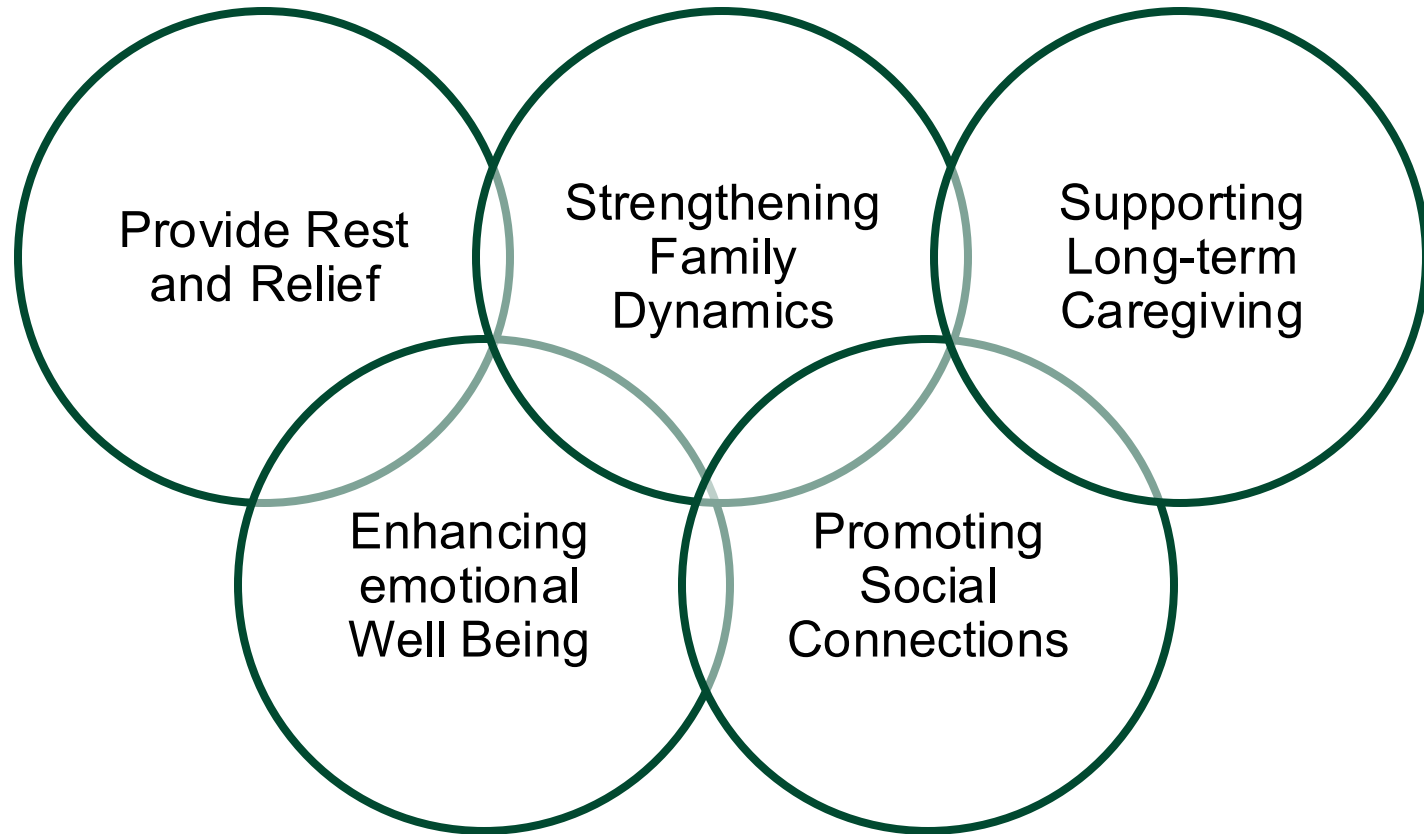
Key Components

- Education on Child Development
- Skill Building
- Behavioral Interventions
- Group and Individual Sessions
- Tailored Curriculum

Promoting Protective Factors

- Parental Resilience
- Social Connections
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
- Concrete support in times of need
- Social and Emotional Competence

Family Links Respite Services



Dyadic Therapy Models

Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)

- Evidence Based Therapy
- Children ages 2-7*
- Behavior concerns

Child Parent Psychotherapy (CPP)

- Evidence Based Therapy
- Children ages 0-5
- Child or caregiver who has experienced trauma


Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)

Therapist provides real time coaching to caregiver

Two Phases of Treatment

1. Child-Directed Interaction (CDI)
2. Parent-Directed Interaction (PDI)

Goals and Outcomes


- Reduced tantrums, aggression, and defiance in children
 - Increased positive behaviors, such as sharing and following directions
 - Improved parental confidence and consistency in managing behavior
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Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP)

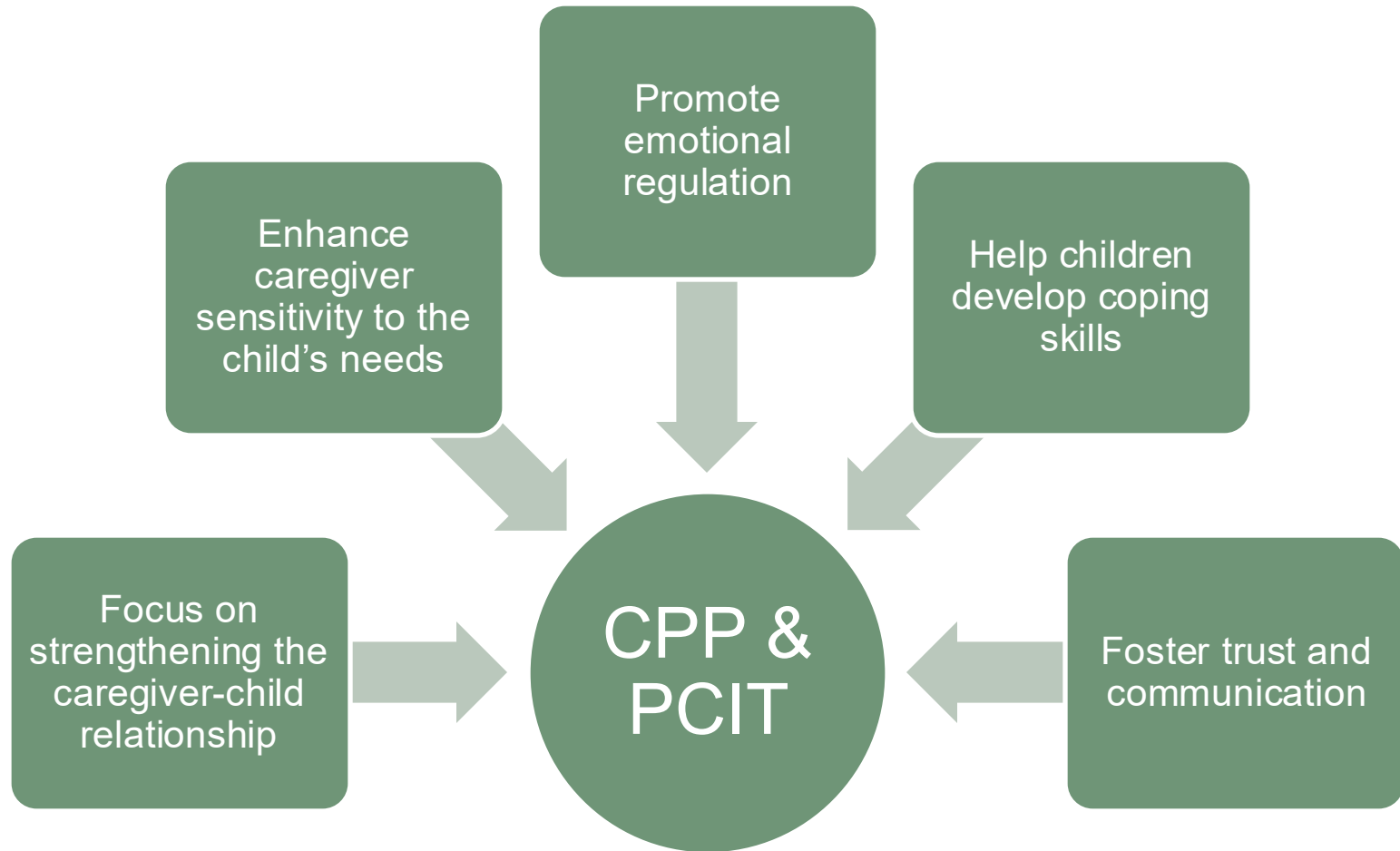
Key Features

- Trauma-Informed Approach
- Attachment-Based
- Integrated Framework

Goals

- Enhance the caregiver-child relationship
 - Help caregivers understand and respond to their child's emotional and behavioral needs
 - Reduce symptoms of trauma and stress in both the child and caregiver
 - Promote healthy attachment and emotional regulation
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Building Resilience and Promoting Healthy Attachment



Infant Mental Health

- The social and emotional wellbeing and development of children birth to age 5, as well as the quality of relationships with caregivers.
- It encompasses the development of healthy attachments, coping mechanisms, and the ability to regulate emotions.
- It emphasizes the importance of secure attachments, nurturing environments, and early intervention to support healthy development



Association of Infant Mental Health in Tennessee (AIMHiTN)

Focuses on empowering professionals and families to foster strong, positive relationships and provide resources for optimal early childhood growth. These efforts aim to lay a solid foundation for lifelong mental health and resilience.

AIMHiTN Supports this mission by providing:

Infant Mental Health Endorsement (IMH-E®)

Professional Development

Training and Outreach

Technical Assistance


Clinician Directory Resource

Agency Experience

Challenges

- Grant based funding sources
- Time and cost to train providers
- Getting appropriate referrals
- Providing weekly service

Success

- Partnerships with COE
 - Developing within agency training structures
 - Sustainability with in-house supervision support
 - Support from upper management
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Questions



References

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"Lori A Legano, L. W. (2021). Maltreatment of children With Disabilities."

"Natalie Beck Aguilera, P. T. (2023). Improving Current Functioning and Preventing Future Abuse: Exploring Outcomes of the Nurturing Parenting Program With Adolescents."

