



California Association of Collaborative Courts  
(CACC) Conference - April 2015

## Assessing Family Needs in Collaborative Courts

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### Learning Objectives

1. Gain greater understanding why addressing family needs is vital for collaborative court professionals improving individual and family outcomes in collaborative courts.
2. Explore practice and policy implications for addressing family needs that impact individuals whose child neglect stems from substance abuse and prior emotional trauma, including the need for greater collaboration within the collaborative courts and the community.
3. Learn about the Family Strengths and Needs Survey and its capacity to improve case processing for attorneys at the beginning of the collaborative court referral process by reviewing the outcomes of implementation in pilot projects.

## Session Overview

Statement of the Problem/Prevalence Data  
Recovery in the Context of the Family  
Complex Needs of Families/Family-Centered Care  
Developmental Process (Micro/Court to Macro/Field)  
3 Ns – Numbers, Needs, and Network  
Redirection of Resources  
Shared Outcomes  
Review of Family Strengths and Needs Survey  
Q & A Discussion



## We Know the Costs: Children of Parents with a Substance Use Disorder



- They are children who arrive at kindergarten not ready for school
- They are in special education caseloads
- They are disproportionately in foster care and are less likely to return home
- They are in juvenile justice caseloads
- They are in residential treatment programs

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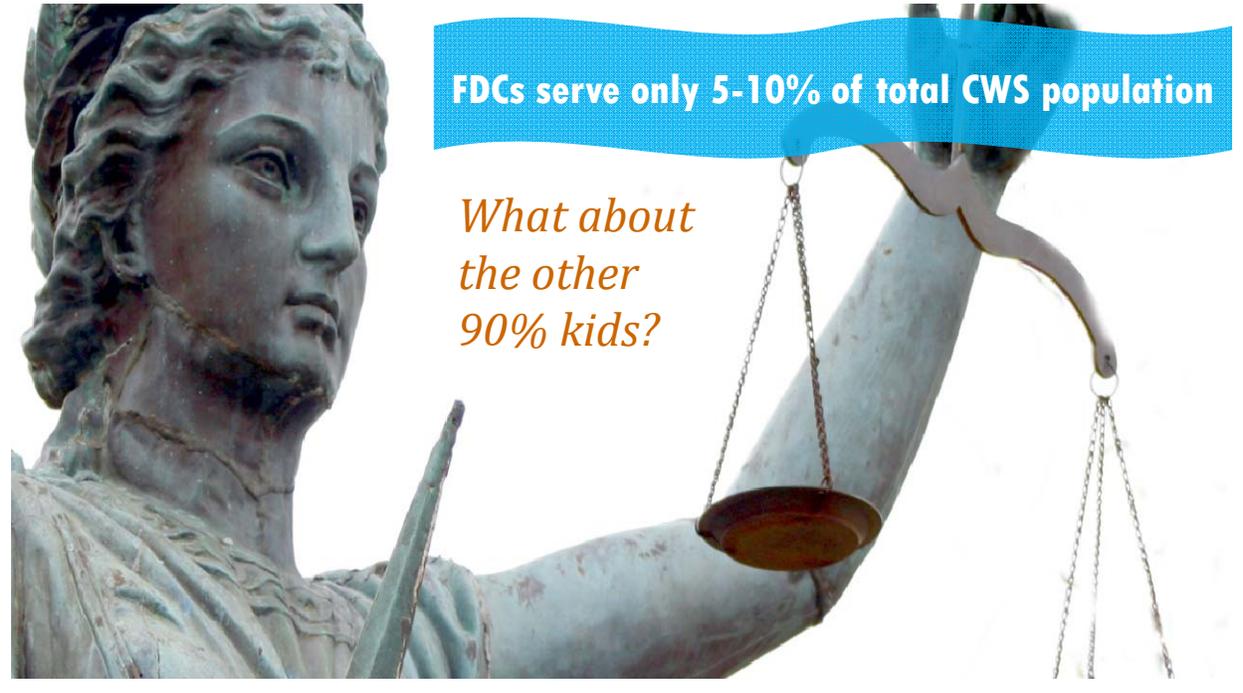


### Did You Know?

**60-75%**

of participants in  
adult drug courts  
have at least  
one minor child

All Collaborative Courts are  
Family Courts



**FDCs serve only 5-10% of total CWS population**

*What about the other 90% kids?*

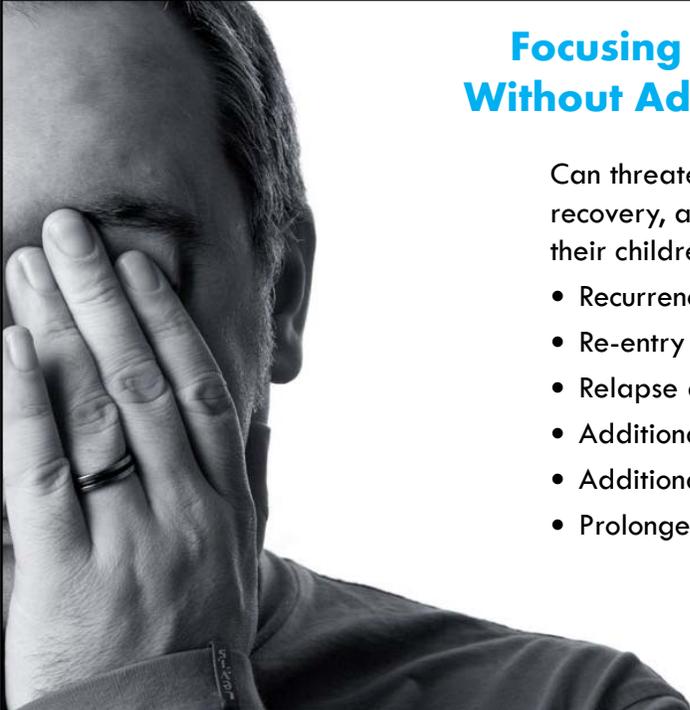
The image features a close-up of a bronze statue of Lady Justice, the personification of the goddess of justice. She is depicted with a stern expression, wearing a blindfold and holding a pair of scales of justice in her left hand and a sword in her right. The scales are tilted, with the right pan being lower than the left. The background is a bright, slightly blurred outdoor setting.



**Addiction affects the whole family**

- Developmental impact
- Generational impact
- Psychosocial impact
- Impact on parenting

The image shows a family of three outdoors. A man in a striped shirt is smiling and looking down at a baby who is sitting in a dark-colored baby carrier. A woman in a teal shirt is leaning in from the right, gently holding the baby's hands. The background consists of trees and foliage, suggesting a park or a wooded area. The overall mood is warm and intimate.



## Focusing Only on Parent's Recovery Without Addressing Needs of Children

Can threaten parent's ability to achieve and sustain recovery, and establish a healthy relationship with their children, thus risking:

- Recurrence of maltreatment
- Re-entry into out-of-home care
- Relapse and sustained sobriety
- Additional substance exposed infants
- Additional exposure to trauma for child/family
- Prolonged and recurring impact on child well-being

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## Parent Recovery & Well-Being

## Family Recovery & Well-Being

Because recovery and well-being occurs in the context of family relationships



## Understanding the Complex Needs of Families

- Lack of parenting skills
- Trauma history
- Substance abuse history
- Unemployment
- Prior CWS history
- Lack of support
- Lack of stable or safe housing
- Transportation needs
- Mental health history
- Education status
- Development disorders

## Why Involve Families in Drug Court? (The Literature)

- Family issues are one of most commonly identified criminogenic factors (Bonta et al., 2008)
- Family interventions are one of most effective methods to reduce offender recidivism (Lipsey et al., 2010)
- Inadequate family support, family problems and family disruption contribute to offending (Salisbury & Van Voorhis, 2009; Wareham, Dembo & Poythress, 2009)
- Attachment to children reduces violations (Visher, 2013)
- Meta-analyses show that family interventions reduce recidivism (Farrington & Welsh, 2003; Woodfenden, Williams & Peat, 2002)



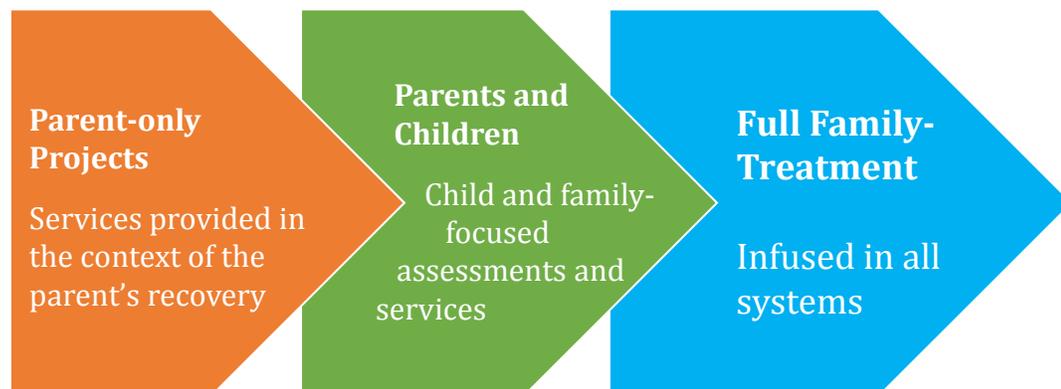
## The Literature also Suggests...

- Families are powerful informal agents of control
- Families often help the offender in addressing issues such as housing and employment (Young, Taxman & Byrne, 2002)
- Family involvement results in better employment and reduced drug use (Visher, La Vigne & Travis, 2002)
- Offenders with more family contact are less likely to be arrested again or re-incarcerated (LaVigne, Visher, & Castro, 2004; Martinez and Christian, 2009)



## It's a Developmental Process

### 1) Practice Improvements in the Field at Large (Macro)



### 2) Progression During Each Court's Life Cycle (Micro)



## Parenting in Adult Drug Courts

Adult Drug Courts that provided parenting classes had **65% greater reductions** in criminal recidivism and **52% greater cost savings** than Drug Courts that did not provide parenting classes.

Source: Carey, S.M., Mackin, J.R., & Finigan, M.W. (2012). What works? The 10 key components of Drug Court: Research-based best practices. Drug Court Review.

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It's imperative that Collaborative Courts identify the strengths and weaknesses of the family if they are to maximize the Court experience for primary adult participant.

**3Ns**  
NUMBERS  
NEEDS  
NETWORK

A Framework



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**Serving Children & Families— A Developmental Process**

**3Ns**  
Numbers Needs Network



Count Screen Assess Refer Monitor

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**How can Collaborative Courts determine the number of children associated with participant adults?**

*You can't coordinate what you can't count.*

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## Numbers

- How will your Court ask clients if they have children?
- How will your Court ask about other family relationships, such as non-custodial parents (identity, location and quality of relationship)?
- Ask questions about **family status** at intakes?
- Strategize on how to get **entire family into treatment** to assist in identification of parental drug use and facilitate treatment
- Ensure that **court information systems** including tracking of family members

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## Early Intake, Step One: The Numbers

### Understanding Participants' Family Composition and Structure

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
1. Political will to recognize children and family members (Shared Mission and Vision) 2. Staff resources 3. Instrument(s) 4. Data infrastructure	Participant interview to enumerate & obtain basic information about children and (participant-defined) family members	Basic family data record	Court personnel expand view of participant as isolated individual (How is this measured?)



**How can Collaborative Courts determine the needs of children and families associated with participant adults?**

*What services and supports do these children and families need?*

## Needs – Guiding Questions

- Are child's medical, developmental, behavioral, and emotional needs assessed?
- How will your Court ask clients if their children have received appropriate screenings and assessments?
- Has the child and family been assessed for trauma? Relationship issues?
- Did the child receive appropriate interventions or services for the identified needs?
- Do the parents have an understanding of the child's identified needs? Are they able to cope with the child's needs?
- Does the family have access to long-term supportive services?
- Are you providing training and education to the Court Team, including judicial leaders on the importance of serving children and families?

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## Action Planning Ideas – Intake & Services

- How will your Court ask adult clients if they have children?
- How will your Court ask about other family relationships, such as non-custodial parents (identity, location, and quality of relationship)?
- How will your Court ask clients if their children have received appropriate screenings, assessments, intervention and treatment services?
- How will you ensure that children are screened for services?
- How will you ensure that questions about child and family status are asked at intake?
- *“How are your kids doing?”*

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**How can Collaborative Courts build lasting effective networks or partnerships to respond to the needs of these children?**

*You don't have to do it alone- that's what collaborative means*

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## Building A Network of Services

- How will you refer and follow up to outside agencies with children's services?
  - You need an inventory of children's services
    - Ask your Family Drug Court, Juvenile Drug Court, VTC
    - Ask local coordinating bodies
    - Ask local congregations
- How will you ensure availability of evidence-based, family-centered treatment services?
  - Which agencies just got new federal or state funding? Are children in their caseloads? Should they be?

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## Comprehensive Treatment and Support

- Family-centered services
  - Interventions with parents and children
  - Attached focused interventions
  - Successful visitation
- Evidence-based treatment and services
  - Peer/Parent mentors
  - Home services
  - Recovery support specialists
  - Parenting services
- Gender-responsive
- Trauma-informed and focused
- Clinically sound, non-judgmental and nurturing relationships with staff
- Ongoing support

## Network - Guiding Questions



- Do you refer and follow-up to outside agencies with children's services?
- Are child and family-serving agencies on your collaborative team?
- Are you mobilizing and linking to new resources from other agencies that already serve children and families?

## You Don't Have Do It Alone



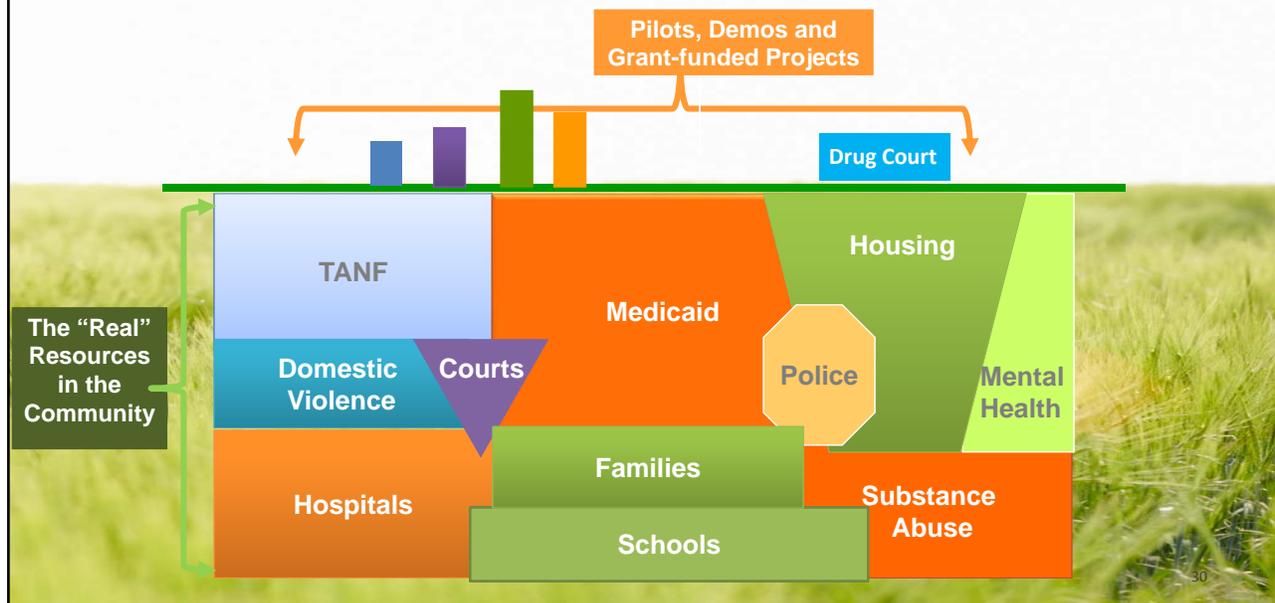
*That's what collaborative means*

- The task is not diverting funds from your Court; but to mobilize and link to existing services or accessing *funds already available for children's services*
- Securing their fair share of \$350 billion in existing children's programs
  - Maternal and child health
  - Mental health
  - Child development
  - Youth services
  - Special education
  - Delinquency prevention

*Are child and family-serving agencies on your collaborative team?*

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## Redirection of Resources Already Here



## Importance of a Cross-Systems Response

- Effective family interventions require **collaboration** to facilitate meaningful and sustainable family involvement and successful individual and family outcomes.
- Interventions are most effective when implemented within the context of a **coordinated, cross-system approach**.
- Interventions should consider children's and family's ecology—extended family, peers, school and neighborhood.

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## What Outcomes Do You Want to Monitor?

Do you have families involved in the Child Welfare System?

**Family Reunification** – are children being reunified with parents?

Do you have families involved in custody cases?

**Visitation** – are children seeing non-custodial parent?

Do the children need special intervention services (ie mental health services)?

**Evidence-Based Programs** – are they making progress by participating ?

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## *Holding Each Other Accountable*

- Our systems hold parents responsible for their recovery and their parenting
- Our systems must also hold each other accountable to improve the outcomes for families affected by substance use disorder



## **Family Strengths and Needs Survey**

**A Resource**

**The Montana Experience**



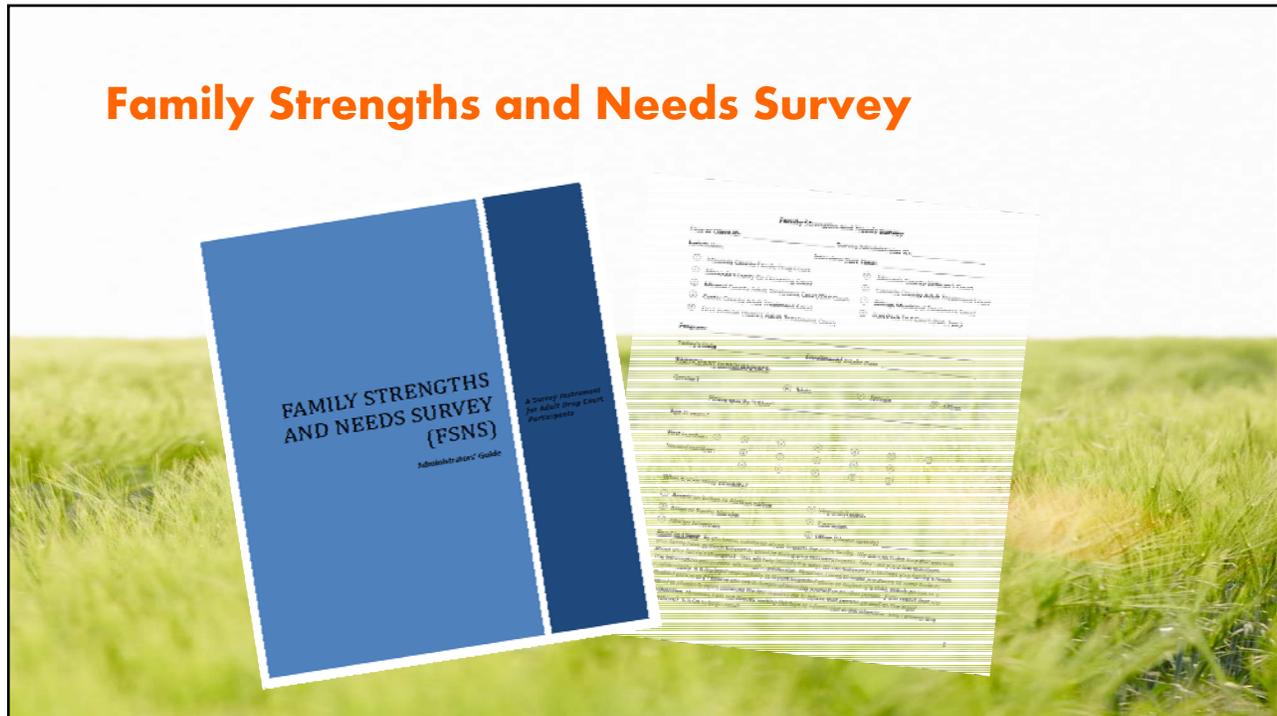
## The Need for a Tool

- Brief screening tool that can be administered by a drug court coordinator (with little or no training)
- Simple and efficient - screening should be completed in a short time frame
- Identify an array of family related issues regarding the family of an adult drug court client
- So appropriate referrals can be made within the immediate community
- Applicable to complex family structures common to drug court participants

## The Approach

- Preferred administrator approach is utilizing Motivational Interviewing (MI) techniques. MI is a collaborative conversation to strengthen a person's own motivation for and commitment to change.
- The spirit of MI is based on three key elements:
  - (1) Collaboration between administrator and client
  - (2) Evoking or drawing out client's ideas about change
  - (3) Emphasizing autonomy of client

## Family Strengths and Needs Survey



## The Family Data Capture Sheet

<b>First Name</b>	<b>1 Participant- Peter</b>	<b>2 Cynthia</b>	<b>3 Jennifer</b>
<b>Relationship to Participant</b>		<b>Spouse</b>	<b>Biological Child</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male
<b>Date of Birth/ Age</b>	<b>3/13/1981</b>	<b>8/09/1984</b>	<b>3</b>

## FSNS Short Form

### MEDICAL and DENTAL

	1 Participant- Peter	2 Cynthia	3 Jennifer	4	5	6	7	8
	Relationship to Participant	Spouse	Biological Child					

1) Do you have any worries or concerns regarding medical problems or issues for any of your family members?  
 (Note: Identify family members with medical issues at right)

①  ②  ③  ④  ⑤  ⑥  ⑦  ⑧  
 No

## Service Referral and Screening/Assessment Summary

First Name	1 Participant	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Relationship to Participant									
Receiving or Needing Service or Further Screening: R = Receiving Services N = Need Services NSA = Need Screening or Assessment									
Family	Substance Abuse Services								
	Counseling/ Therapy								
	Psychiatric Care								
	Trauma Services								
Medical/ Dental	Medical Services								
	Dental Services								
	Immunizations								
Child Development	Developmental Assessment								

Service Referral and Screening/Assessment Summary									
First Name	1 Participant	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Relationship to Participant									
Receiving or Needing Service or Further Screening: R = Receiving Services N = Need Services NSA = Need Screening or Assessment									
Parenting/ Child Care	Parental Skills Training								
	Child Care Services								
Education	Adult Educational Services								
	Special Education								
Basic Services/ Employment	Employment Services								
	Housing Services								
	Food/Nutrition Services								
	Income Assistance								
	Legal Services								

## Feedback From Montana Court Coordinators

Process of completing the FSNS fostered rapport and contributed to building a relationship between the survey administrator and participant.

The process expanded administrators' view of a participant to include her/his family issues and dynamics and other factors affecting recovery.

## Drug Court Coordinator Experience Administering FSNS

“This experience opened up a world of needs that have gone unaddressed and also provided motivation for finding these services and linking with other community organizations.”

“The process of administering the FSNS helps coordinators to get to know the participant at a deeper level, much less superficial than with the standard intake/ screening tool.”

## Family Issues that may Affect Recovery

- **52.7%** had concerns regarding one or more of their **children's social and emotional well-being**
- **47.2%** of participants had concerns regarding **medical problems or issues** with one or more of their children
- **40.0%** had concerns about one or more of their **children's behavior**
- **17.8%** had significant concerns about their spouse's or significant other's **mental health**



## Q&A and Discussion

### Contact Information

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