



# BROWARD CHILDREN'S STRATEGIC PLAN

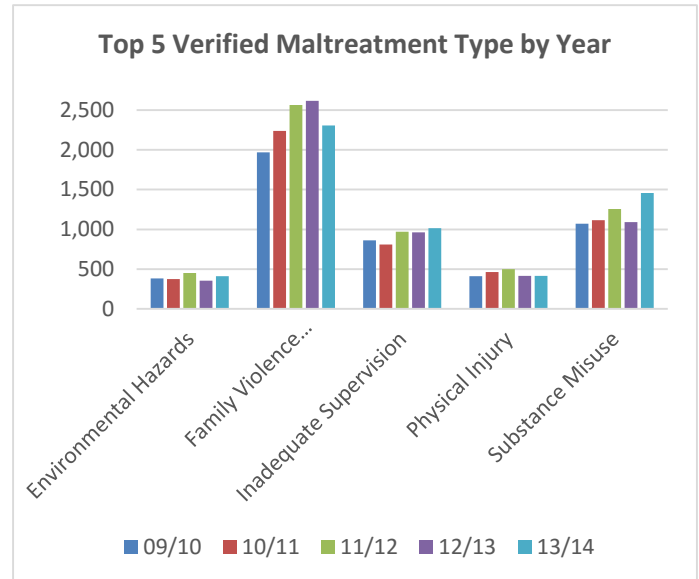
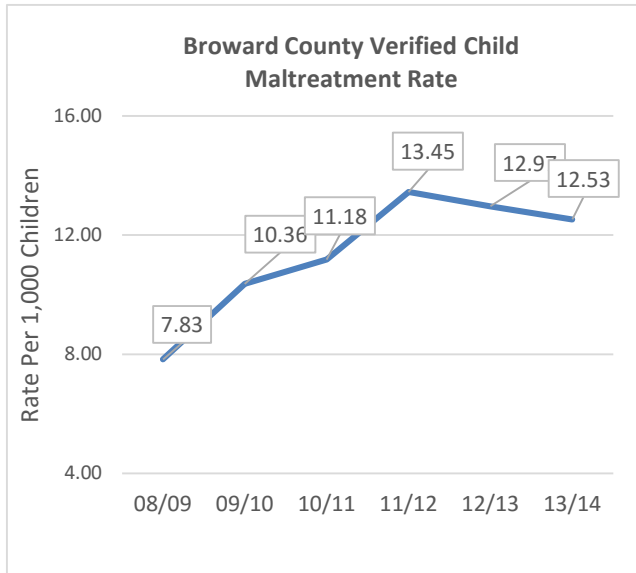
"PARTNERING TO CREATE CHILD & FAMILY WELL-BEING"

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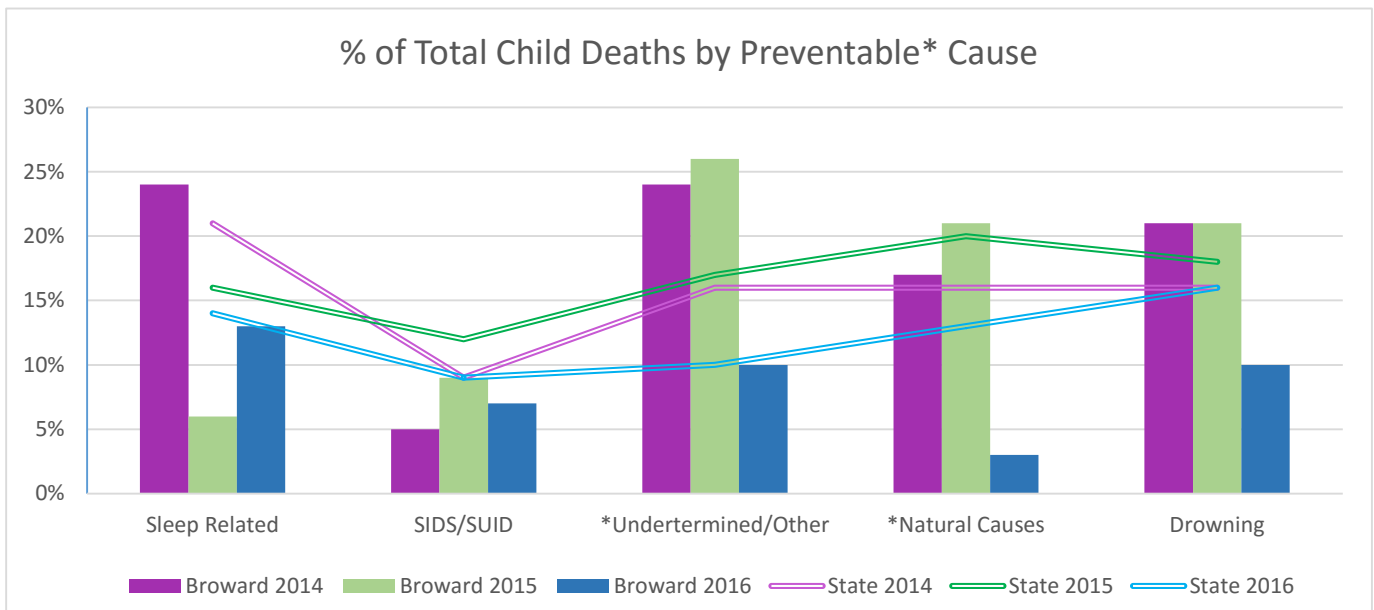


## TURN THE CURVE REPORT COMMUNITY STRATEGIES TO PREVENT ABUSE & NEGLECT - CSPAN

**POPULATION RESULT: Children in Broward County shall live with safe and nurturing families.**



\* Substance misuse data segregated into four substance specific categories in SY2013/14. Categories combined for graph.  
Source: Florida Safe Families Network, Department of Children and Families, Office of Child Welfare



Source: DCF Fatality Website \*Narrative summaries of death circumstances describe a "most likely" preventable death.



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## STORY BEHIND THE CURVE

- Over the previous five years, child maltreatment rates in Broward County have increased by 60% mirroring statewide trends. Broward County was deeply affected by the economic downturn which resulted in high foreclosure rates, unemployment, lack of concrete support, and a high demand for various social services. With many protective factors diminishing during the economic downturn, more families were at risk for child abuse and neglect. As the economy improves, the County is starting to have a slight decrease in the child maltreatment rate.
- The top five maltreatment types (alleged and verified) have remained consistent over the past five years. Family violence remains significantly higher than all other maltreatments and is verified between 32% and 39% of the time, with substance abuse coming next verified at 23%-28% of the time; however, more children are removed due to substance abuse.
- DCF has launched a website tracking all child fatalities. The two leading causes of death for very young children are drownings and unsafe sleep practices, which are considered as preventable deaths. Broward has seen a recent decrease in drownings due to targeted and collaborative efforts within the community under the funding of CSC.
- Deaths related to unsafe sleep practices continues to remain around 20 per year (2016-19; 2015-14; 2014-21), although this data is not easily identified on the DCF fatality website due to the various categories used to capture the information. When the circumstances of the deaths are reviewed, it is evident that sleep environment (mainly co-sleeping) was a major contributor to the cause of death.

## PARTNERS

### Active

- 211 Broward
- BCHD Drowning Prevention Taskforce
- Broward AWARE
- Broward County Public Schools
- Broward Health
- Broward Regional Health Planning Council
- BSO CPIS
- ChildNet
- Children's Services Council
- Coast to Coast Legal Aid
- DCIP/FLAG Court Administration
- Department of Children & Families

- Family Central
- Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services
- Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies
- Healthy Start Coalition
- Henderson Behavioral Health
- Hispanic Unity
- Jack and Jill Children's Center
- Kids in Distress
- Media
- Municipalities, Park & Recreation
- Nancy J. Cotterman Center
- State's Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Council
- Swim Central
- Women in Distress

### Potential

- Faith-based Partners
- Business



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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The drowning prevention taskforce in partnership with CSC and Swim Central launched a swim coupon program. All children under 4 were eligible to receive a \$40 coupon for water safety lessons for up to 10 lessons. Since its launch, approximately 1,200 children have redeemed their coupon. The drowning prevention coordinator has acquired an additional staff person focusing on business marketing and partnerships.
- CSC began funding a safe-sleep coordinator position at Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies. The goal of this position is to increase training, awareness, and collaboration efforts throughout the community.
- Kinship services were expanded under funding through CSC and ChildNet.
- Broward AWARE continues to lead efforts in a four-month campaign on child abuse prevention through leveraging community resources and forming partnerships. This effort is being recognized state-wide.
- Broward county judicial advocates have launched Early Childhood Court aimed at working intensely with families who had their child (0-5) removed from their custody. This program uses the best practice, Child Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) and intense oversight to streamline and expedite reunification.
- In response to the growing concern of substance abusing parents, approximately 60 staff from various agencies were trained in Circle of Security.
- Broward County Schools Department of Child Abuse & Neglect changed its mandated child abuse training policy to include all non-instructional personnel.
- Domestic Violence Taskforce- Since 2014, the DV taskforce has worked diligently to identify community needs and potential partnerships. The taskforce created its first Turn the Curve report and presented it to the Children & Families Leadership Association in November 2016. The taskforce was subsequently adopted by the Broward Domestic Violence Coalition to continue its efforts and reduce duplication. Women In Distress has increased their participation in committees and prevention efforts including expanding community-based service locations.
- CSC, ChildNet, and BSO CPIS partnered to fund training on the Safe & Together Model, a child-centered, perpetrator accountability approach. Over 200 staff in the community participated in overviews, basic training, or consultations.

## ACTION STEPS

- Increase safe sleep initiatives to identify targeted risk factors and effective messaging campaigns. Replicate successes from the drowning prevention initiative.
- Increase/maintain the drowning prevention strategies, public awareness campaigns, and coupon programs.
- Continue promoting Broward AWARE and bringing relevant activities under this umbrella message.
- Ensure families identified at-risk are successfully linked to Domestic Violence and Substance Abuse Interventions.
- Continue to encourage funder's to strategically coordinate funding to provide comprehensive services to "a family" in order to maximize that family's long term success.



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- Increase the knowledge base of The Protective Factors and implement training through a two-tiered strategy: captive audience (those providing a service or receiving service) and prevention (whole community); Ensure community-based training opportunities on Protective Factors, including the education of the faith-based community.

## DATA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

- Pending