

# Addressing the Child Welfare and Substance Abuse Link

Working Together to Strengthen  
North Carolina Families - Part I  
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## [ Background: Child Welfare and Substance Abuse Link ]

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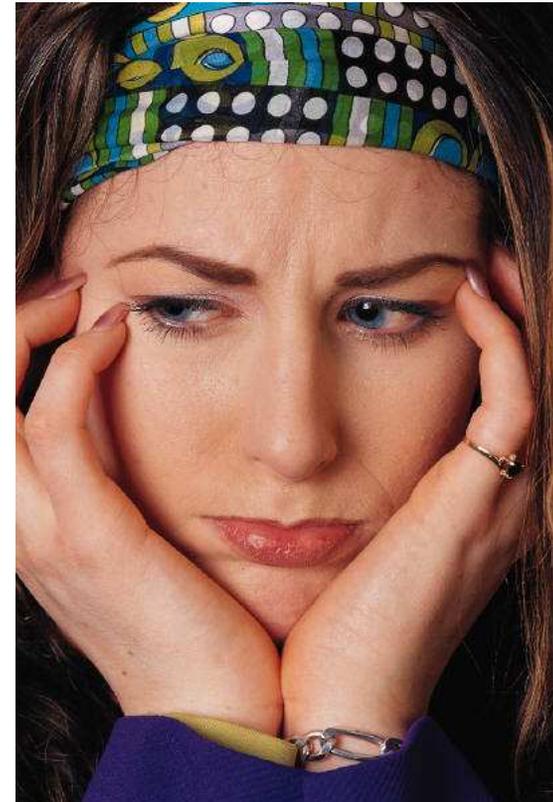
- In virtually every age group under 18 years, nationally 10% of children live with a parent who abuses alcohol or who is in need of treatment for illicit drug use.
- An estimated 8.3 million children in the United States live with at least one parent who abuses alcohol or who is in need of treatment for illicit drug use. (National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2002)

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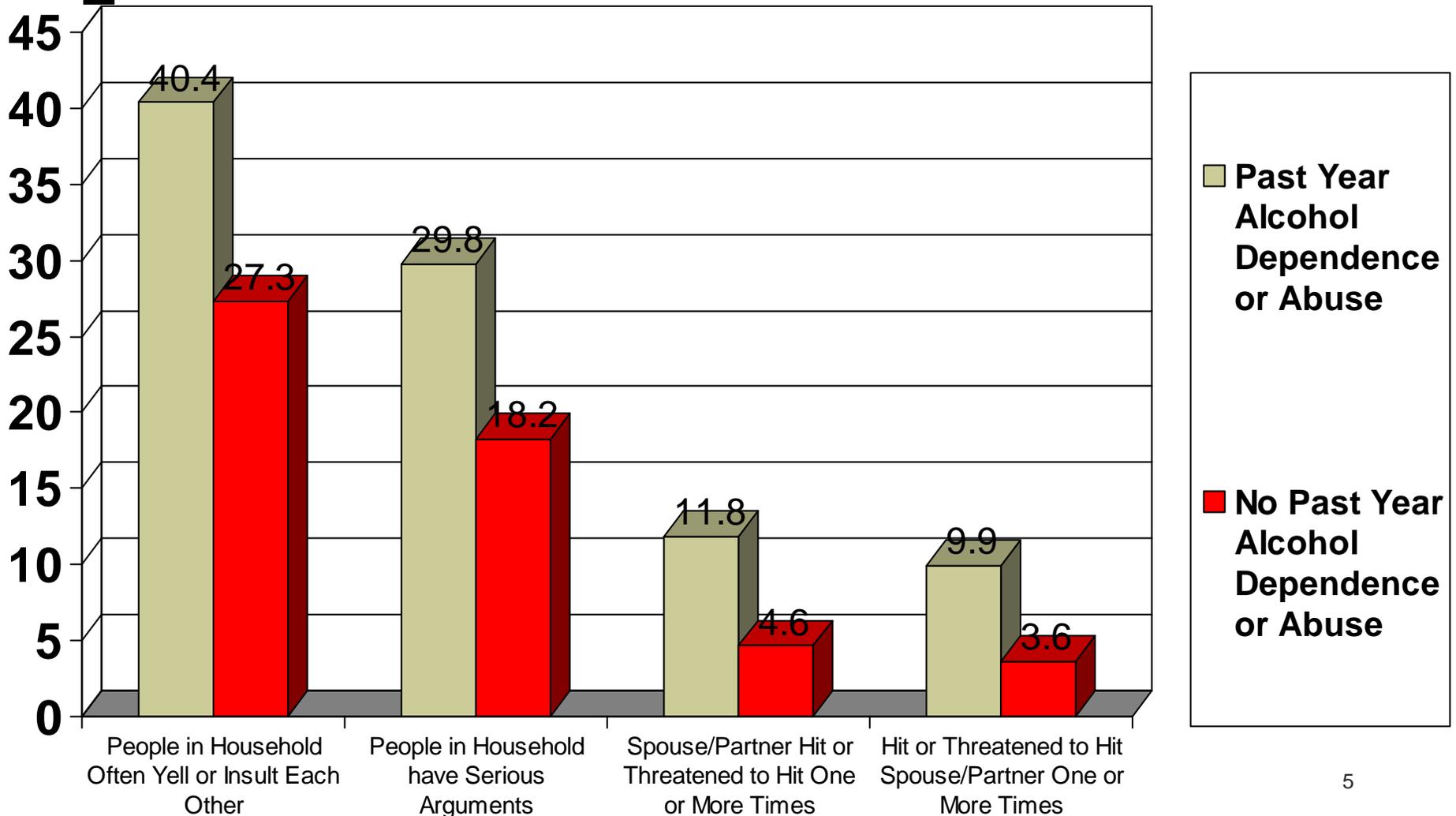
- Parental substance abuse is also a key factor underlying the abuse or neglect experienced by many of the children who enter foster care or are at risk of entering foster care.
- Many studies indicate that between one-third and two-thirds of substantiated child maltreatment reports involve substance abuse. (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1999)

# Children and Families

- Parents with past year alcohol dependence or abuse were more likely to report household turbulence than parents who were not alcohol dependent or alcohol abusing.



# Parents Reporting Past Year Household Turbulence, by Past Year Alcohol Dependence or Abuse: NHSDA 2002



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- In a recent survey, 85% of states reported substance abuse as one of the two major problems in families where maltreatment was suspected.  
(National Center on Child Abuse Prevention Research, 2001)

# [ Barriers to Serving Families ]

- Child welfare agencies often face a number of service barriers, such as:
  - Inadequate treatment resources to meet the need,
  - Training needs for child welfare workers on substance abuse issues, and
  - Conflicts in the time required for substance abuse recovery and legislative requirements regarding child permanency. (Young & Gardner, 2003)