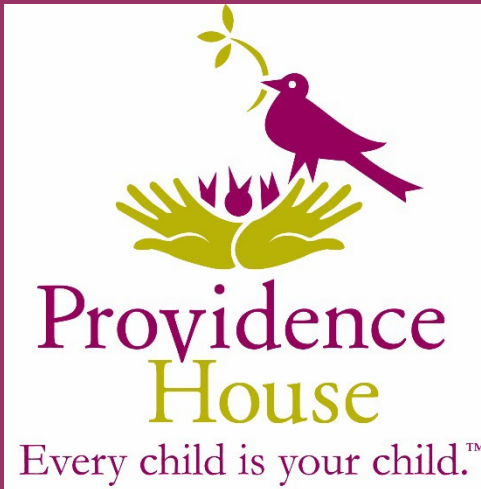


# Crisis Nurseries

Keeping Kids Safe and Families Together



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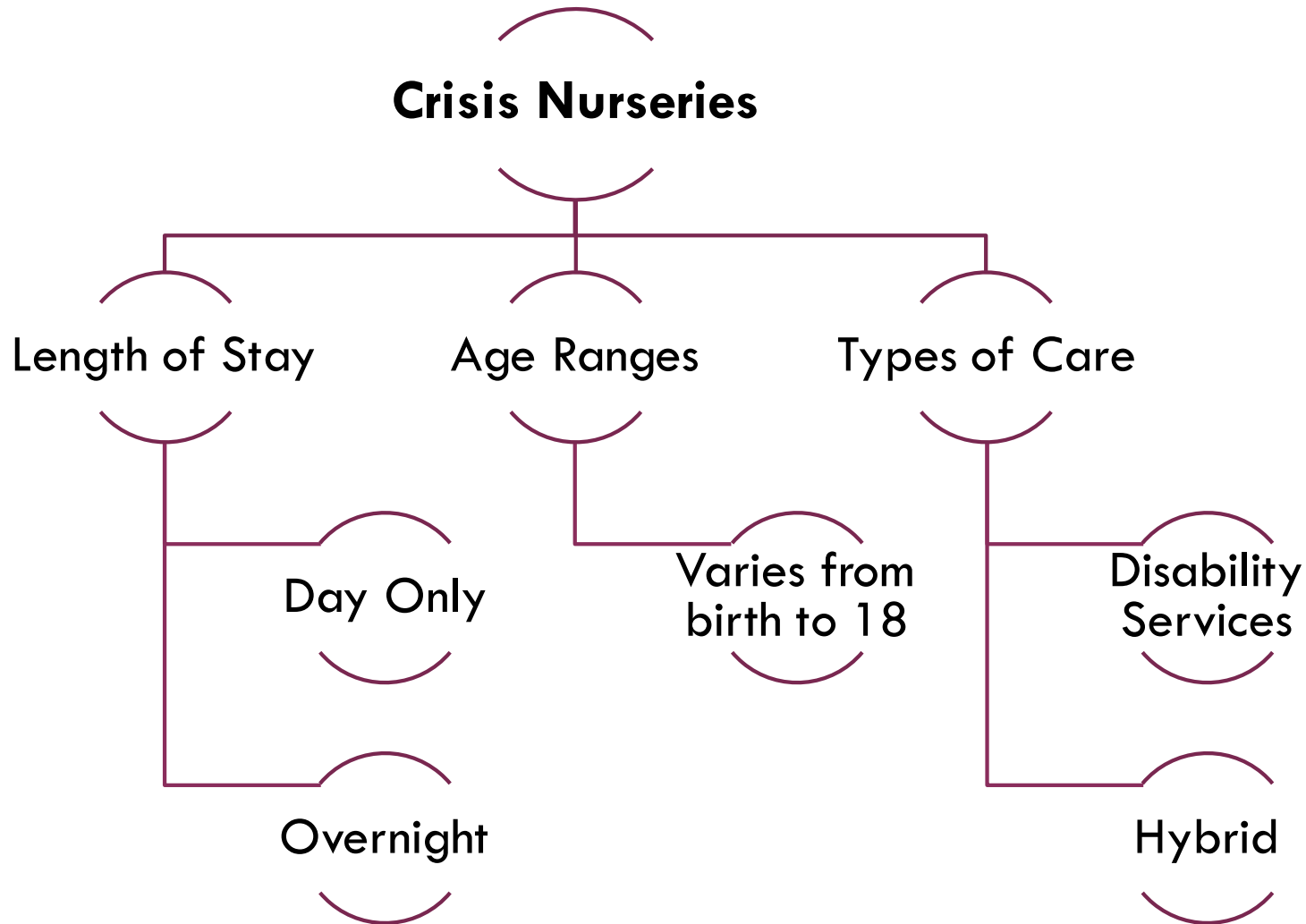
# Crisis Nurseries

- Crisis Nurseries provide emergency shelter and respite services to children of families who are experiencing crisis
  - ▣ Respite services are necessary but *not* fully sufficient
- Crisis care is delivered to the entire family
  - ▣ Children are provided a safe environment to stay in while their caregivers are supported through their crisis and taught tools and sustainable practices to reunite with their children
- Crisis Nurseries are deeply embedded in their communities
  - ▣ Wraparound services are put in place for lasting and far-reaching effects
  - ▣ Community partners are often engaged for services
- What is a crisis?
  - ▣ Turning point in the way Crisis Nurseries refer to themselves
    - Need for better terminology to fully encapsulate services offered

# Crisis Nurseries – History

- United States, 1960s and 70s
  - ▣ Child maltreatment is beginning to be broadly defined and prevention strategies are put in place
  - ▣ Parents who are under stress and in crisis are provided support through grassroots efforts
- 1980s and 90s
  - ▣ CAPTA legislation is passed to help fund Crisis Nurseries
  - ▣ Focus is on mental health and family stability
- 2000s
  - ▣ Family First Preservation Services Act authorizes Title IV-E funds for prevention services aimed at children who might otherwise land in foster care

# Crisis Nursery Care Models





# Providence House

Every child is your child.™

Providence House Service Overview

# Who is Providence House?

- ❑ Ohio's first and **one of the nation's largest and longest operating Crisis Nurseries**
  - 30 bed campus: Crisis Nursery, Pediatric Crisis Nursery, Family Center
  - Coming soon! East Campus 20-bed Crisis Nursery, Family Resiliency Center and Admin HQ.
- ❑ Founded in 1981 - **Licensed since 1990** as a Children's Crisis Care Facility by Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services
  - ❑ **NEW! QRTP Certified in 2021 – aligned with Federal Family First Preservation Services Act**
  - Over 13,300 children (ages newborn-12) and families served over the past 40 years!
- ❑ A licensed, **accredited, evaluated national model for child maltreatment prevention and family preservation** through intervention, education and advocacy



# Mission and Vision

## Mission:

*Providence House protects at-risk children and supports families through crisis, strengthening communities to end child abuse and neglect.*

## Vision:

*Children everywhere are raised in safe, loving families free from abuse and neglect.*

***Our dedication to family preservation means offering support that's accessible, impactful, and delivered by a caring team that truly wants their family to succeed.***

# Crisis Nurseries and the PH Difference

- Residential children's crisis nurseries – usually center-based - offering voluntary (non-custodial) emergency children's shelter services
  - ▣ Admission is only for children - parents are addressing crises or receiving their own services elsewhere during their child's stay
  - ▣ Providence House uniquely embeds family preservation into traditional crisis nursery services
- Primary focus is child maltreatment/trauma prevention by providing a place for an at-risk child to live temporarily away from the home while parent receives services
- Emerging national focus on Crisis Nurseries as an alternative to foster care
  - ▣ Non-custodial child admission blended with family support, parenting skills, and services focused on family preservation and stability – 100% of PH families reunited



# Crisis Nurseries and the PH Difference

- Children newborn through 5 years old are primary focus
  - ▣ PH changed Ohio licensing to allow for newborn through 12 years old to keep siblings together
- Admissions typically 48-72 hours in most states, some 30 days
  - ▣ PH changed Ohio licensing to allow for 60-90 day LOS to support intensive intervention
  - ▣ Children in custody can also be admitted by first responders and public children services agencies for up to 14 days

# The Costs of the Community Need

- **1-2-3-45 Strikes Against Cleveland's Children**
- #1 in U.S. child poverty – 52% of children live in poverty.
- #2 in U.S. infant mortality – 6 black babies die for every white baby annually
- #3 in U.S. working poor parents
- #45 in U.S. - Ohio's ranking nationally in child welfare and maltreatment prevention investment
  
- **Child maltreatment and trauma is a harmful and costly epidemic.**
- 1 in 3 children will be investigated and 1 in 7 will experience a confirmed case of maltreatment.
- The average lifetime cost for one victim of child maltreatment amounts to over \$200,000
  - ▣ Over \$80 billion nationally every year.
  
- **Child maltreatment and trauma erodes the wellness, social, and economic health of our community.**
- 75% of high school dropouts have experienced maltreatment or trauma.
- 80% of violent juvenile and adult prisoners were raised in violent homes.
- 70% more likely to be teen parents.
  
- **Children who experience maltreatment are at a heightened risk for negative health outcomes.**
- 80% of 21 year olds maltreated as children meet the criteria for at least one psychological disorder.
- Children who suffered maltreatment are 36% more likely to be obese in adulthood.
- 56% more likely to have cancer or chronic heart conditions
- 80% more likely to die 20 years sooner than nurtured peers

# The Cost of Foster Care

- Most children taken into custody are removed for poverty-related dependency issues – not maltreatment
  - ▣ National focus is shifting to intervention and family preservation
  
- Annual foster care cost is \$25,782 per child
  - ▣ Upwards of \$91,250 when considering additional physical, mental, or behavioral health need
  - ▣ 70% of youth aging out are in adult systems within 2 years
  - ▣ Poor foster care outcomes cost us \$4 for every \$1 we spend
  
- Providence House saves over \$10 million dollars annually in Cuyahoga County by preventing foster care placements

# Benefits of the multi-gen PH Model:

- **Family Permanency and Stability:** **100% of families reunite** after stay at PH and 85% of parents reported family stability significantly increased
- **Child/Family Attachment:** Average length of stay: 25 days at PH vs. 240 days State average in Foster Care – **89% higher reunification in 95% less time!**
- **Closes the Racial Disproportionality Divide:** A recent study found that minority (**Black/Multi-racial**) families are the most engaged and least likely to have their children placed in foster care following PH services vs. Caucasian families
- **Addresses National Mandate for Foster Care Reduction:** A recent study found that families using PH services were far less likely to have their children placed in foster care— **82% of children served remained out of foster care!**

# Our Values and Philosophy

- Multi-generation focused
- Individualized, strengths-based approach from moment of inquiry
- Data culture with commitment to quality outcomes, evaluation, and continuous innovation
- Recognize the value of our niche service and core competencies
  - ▣ Partner with others to link families to everything they need to succeed long-term
- Acknowledgement and respect for the difficult situation and choice families are making



# Providence House

Every child is your child.™

Providence House History

# Innovating to Meet Community Need

## PH Milestones



**1981**

St. Hope Greener opens Providence House



**1987**

First campus expansion is complete



**1990**

Leo's House opens



**2005**

Formal Parent Education Program launches



**2006**

Providence House leads a legislative effort to expand services to children newborn through 12 for up to 90 days

### Mission

Providence House protects at-risk children and supports families through crisis, strengthening communities to end child abuse and neglect.

### Vision

Children everywhere are raised in safe, loving families free from abuse and neglect.

### Who We Are

Providence House is Ohio's first and one of the nation's longest operating crisis nurseries. We are truly unique in our mission and philosophy in our service area, and are recognized as a national leader in child abuse prevention, family preservation, and alternative response to foster care.

### What We Do

We **protect children** by providing for their physical, emotional, developmental, and educational needs. We provide free, voluntary (non-custodial) 24/7 emergency shelter to children newborn through 12 who are at risk of maltreatment.

We **support families** by connecting them to resources, cultivating nurturing practices, and encouraging responsibility. We offer individualized parent education, counseling, case management, trauma services, and Aftercare to support long-term family stability.

We **strengthen communities** by advocating for underserved families and demonstrating the lasting impact of prevention. We collaboratively partner with over 100 public and private service providers to link families to community supports, treatment, and therapies.



**2012**

Leo's House expansion is complete



**2014**

Family Center opens

### Our Services

#### Crisis Nursery

Our traditional Crisis Nursery model provides shelter and intervention for children in a home-like setting that includes play spaces, a dining area, sibling bedrooms, and a family room.

#### Pediatric Crisis Nursery

Our Pediatric Crisis Nursery model includes an additional tier of medically-related services for children to improve child wellness, reduce hospital stays and readmissions, and increase caregiver capacity to support their child's medical needs.

#### Family Center

Our Family Preservation services include private onsite family visitation, parent education, case management, trauma services, and Aftercare support sessions.



**2015**

Elisabeth's House: The Prentiss Pediatric Crisis Nursery opens



**2018**

Giving Hope for the PH Future Campaign launches



**2021**

40th anniversary of keeping kids safe and families together!

### Our Impact

#### Family Preservation:

**98% of children were reunited with their parents** after their stay at Providence House. Beyond keeping our families together, they are stronger and more self-sufficient after engaging in our services with a **73% Increase in employment**, a **16% Increase in families living in their own house or apartment**, and a **33% increase in income**.<sup>1</sup>

#### Foster Care Prevention:

An external evaluation found that families using Providence House services were far less likely to have their children placed in foster care. **82% of children we served remained out of foster care long-term**.<sup>2</sup>

#### Community Savings:

Our services are less costly than foster care, victim treatment services, and long-term healthcare costs. **Over \$8 million in savings is realized annually in Cuyahoga County due to our services**.<sup>3</sup>

# Services:

Protecting children by providing for their physical, emotional, developmental, and educational needs



## Children's Emergency Shelter:

Licensed, home-like setting supporting up to 30 (soon 50) children at a time



## Children's Medical Care and Monitoring:

Contracted nursing staff provide well-child exams, support care for children with medical needs



## Children's Direct Care and Services:

Assigned childcare model provides individual nurturing and developmental support



## Public Agency Partnerships:

Emergency CPS Placements and ADAMHS Children's Shelter Programs



# Services:

Supporting families by connecting them to resources, cultivating nurturing practices, and encouraging responsibility



## Family Center Services:

- Case Management and Referral
- Parent Support and Education
- Family Medical Skills Training
- Family Trauma Services
- Aftercare Program



## Community-Based Services:

- Community Referrals for basic need items and Community Education and Resiliency Program, Respite admissions

# Services:

Strengthening Community by advocating for underserved families and demonstrating the lasting impact of prevention

We Partnered with 130 Agencies and Service Providers



Over 150 outreach events annually to promote the prevention of child maltreatment

Public policy and advocacy to educate public officials and our community



# Who are our clients?

## □ Families in Poverty

- 88% of families supported live at or below the federal poverty line. The average annual income of the families utilizing our services is less than \$10,000 year.
- 20% of the families served last year reported not having received any cash income in the previous month.

## □ Families Filled with Trauma and Violence

- Through our Trauma Screening process, we have identified 69% of our parents and 62% of our children have experienced significant trauma and violence
  - 61% experienced domestic violence
  - 21% experienced bullying
  - 18% experienced physical assault
  - 15% experienced sexual assault
- 88% of children and parents/guardians reported a history with child services

# Why They Needed Us

## □ Respite Services

- Respite Services Accounted for 31% of Admissions
- 100% had an overwhelmed parent
- 23% had family mental health needs
- 4% had a caregiver working on sobriety maintenance

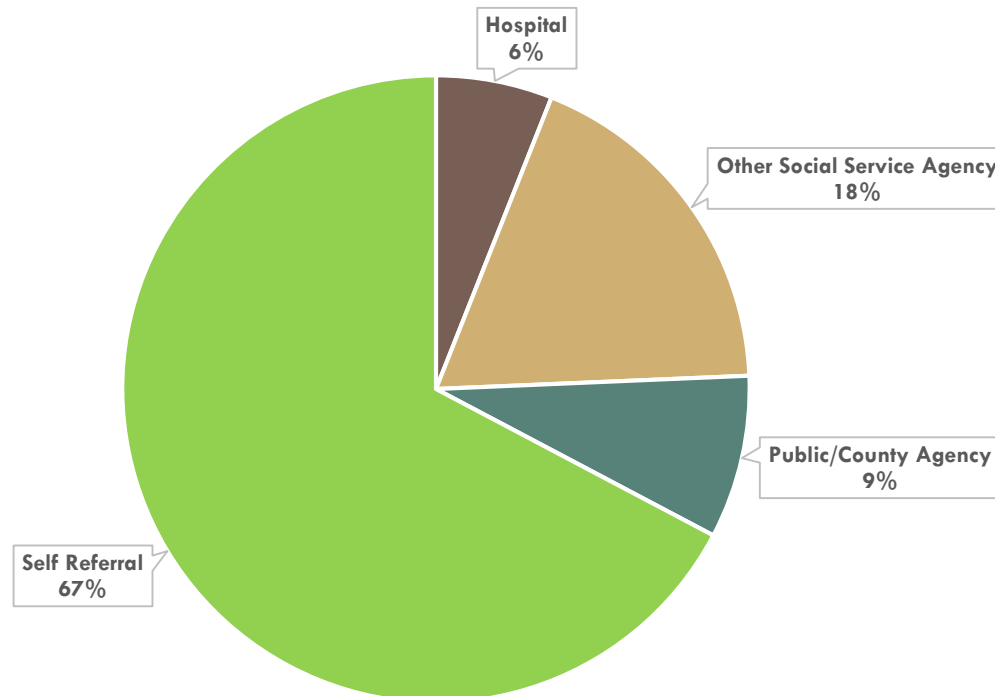
## □ Why our clients reached out

- 35% lacked resources to meet basic needs
- 33% were homeless or had unsafe housing
- 16% had a family medical crisis
- 15% had a mental health crisis
- 15% were victims of or witnesses to violence

# How They Find Us:

## Referral Sources

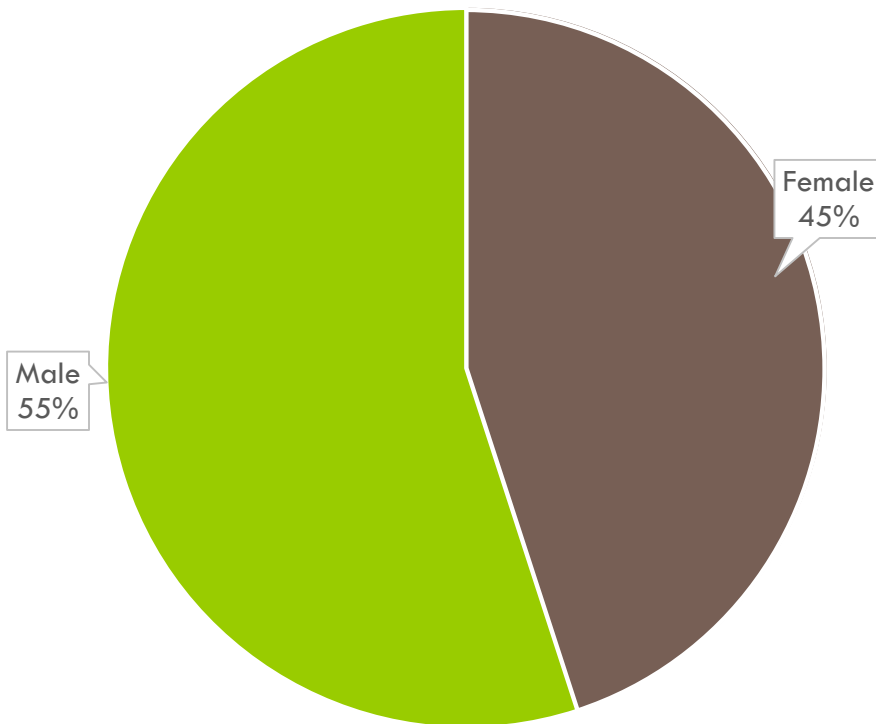
- Nearly 70% of families who engage in our services **self refer**, but Providence House received inquiries from over 46 agencies last year.
- Children are typically admitted by their parent or guardian.



# Who We Served: Gender

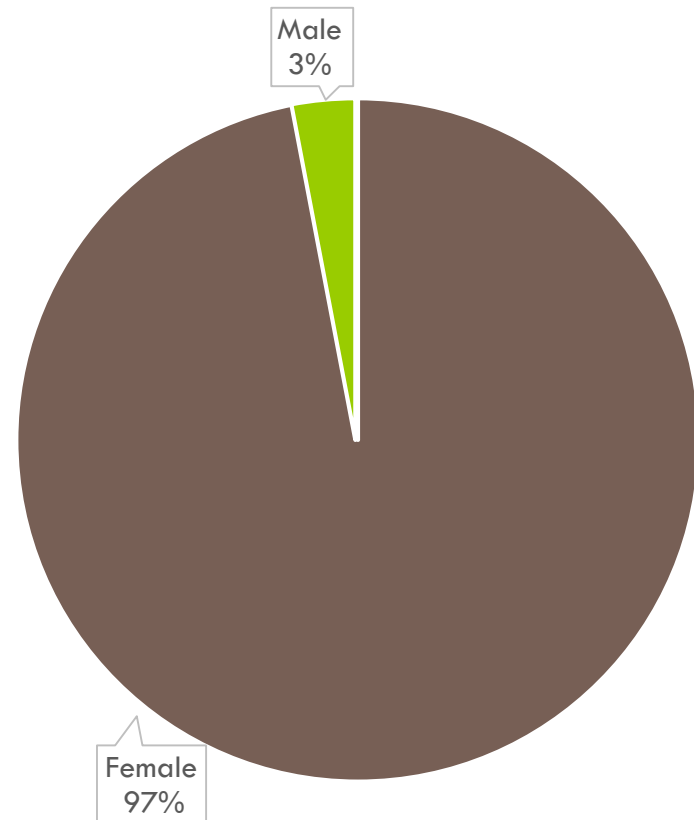
## Child Gender

general child population is (51% male, 49% female)



## Adult Gender

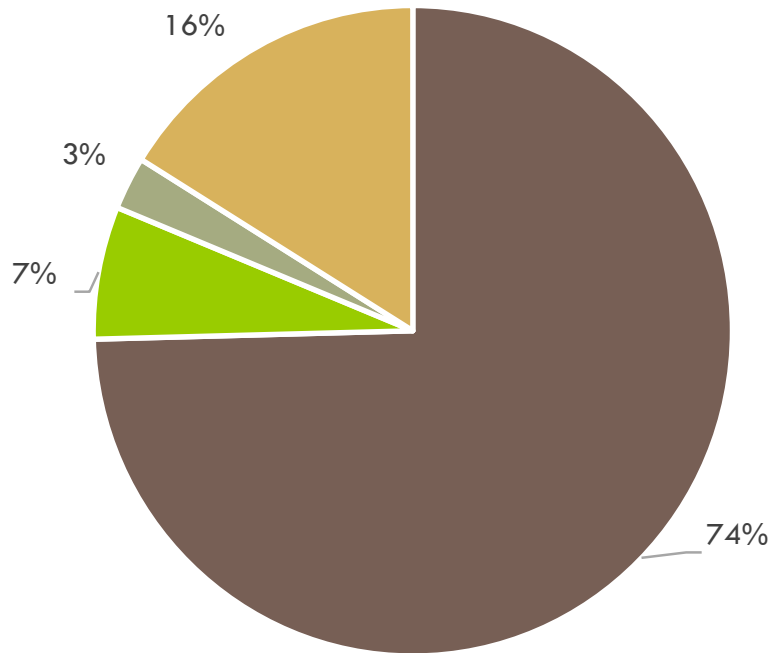
includes co-parents engaged in services



Most of the children served came from single, female-headed households of color, but 32% of families had co-parents/guardians, and 7 of those were engaged in our family preservation services

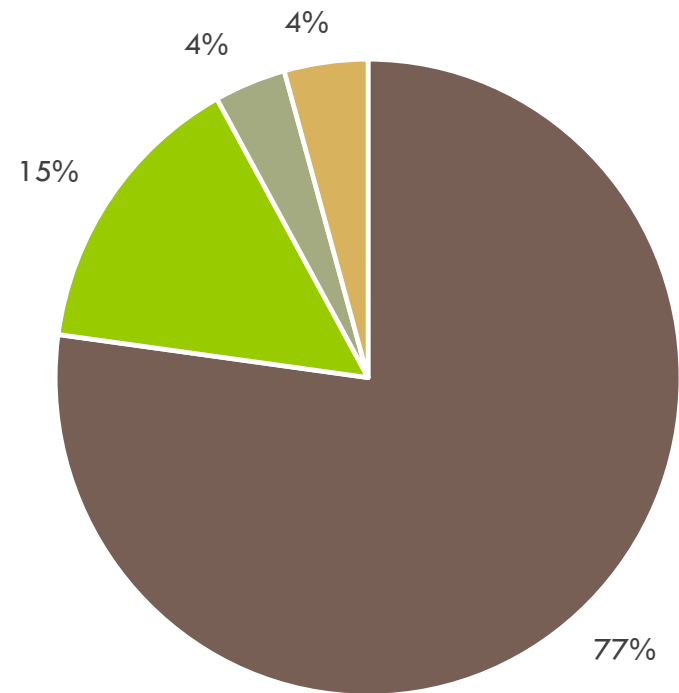
# Who We Served: Race/Ethnicity

## Children



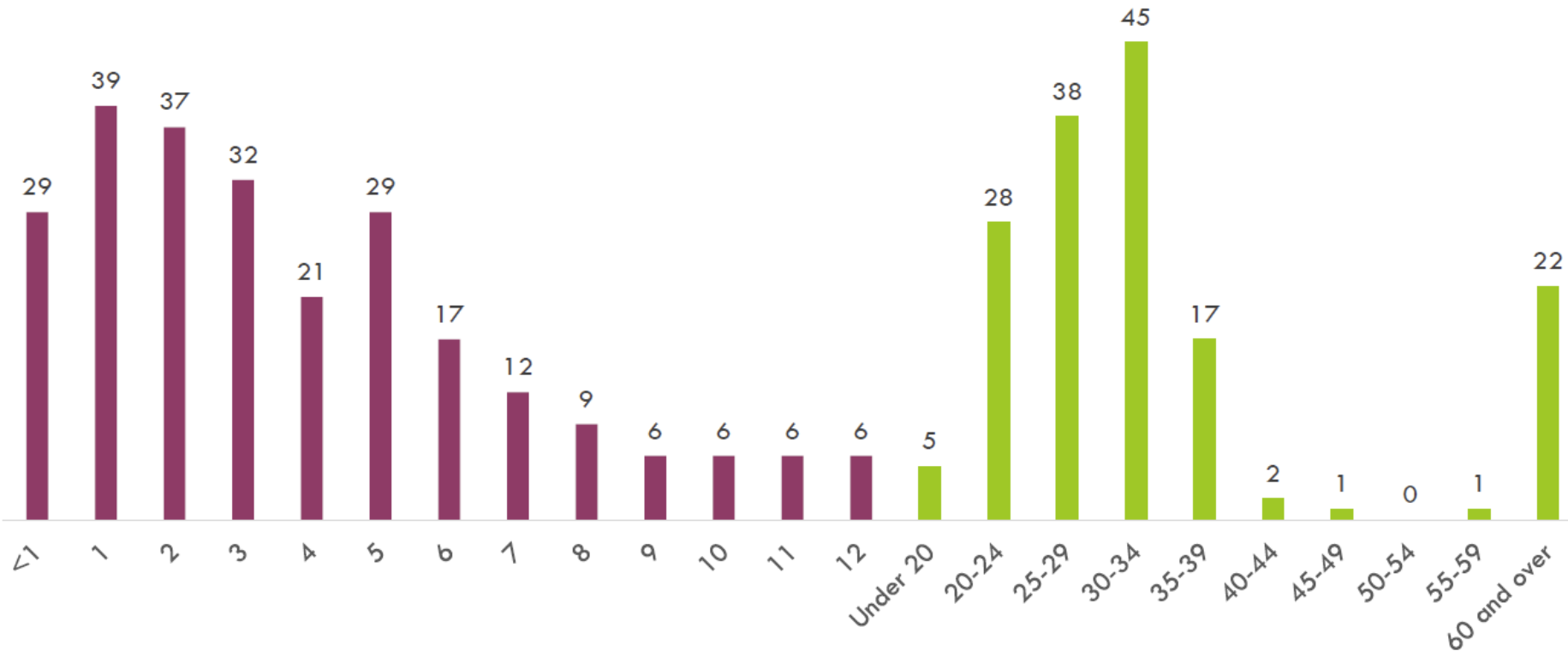
■ African American ■ Caucasian ■ Hispanic ■ Biracial

## Parent/Guardian



■ African American ■ Caucasian ■ Hispanic ■ Biracial

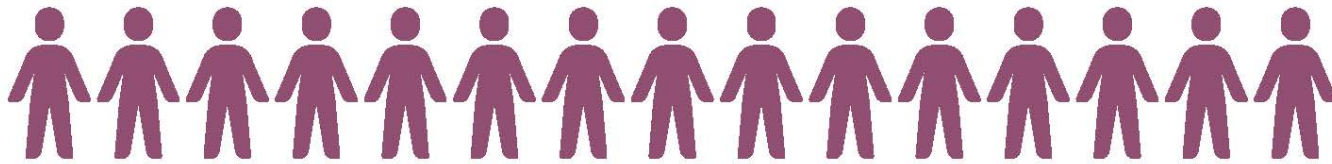
# Who We Served: Ages



- 75% of children were ages 5 and under
- 70% of parents/guardians were 20-34 years old
- Over 60 years old is predominately kinship caregivers in CERP



# Total Clients Served: PH is more than a Crisis Nursery!



## We Served 741 Children & Families

- 170 children from 94 families in our Crisis Nursery
- 34 families in our voluntary, 12-month Aftercare Program
- 35 families in our Community Education & Resiliency Program
- 177 families through our Community Referral Program
- 231 families through community giveaways

# Our Results:

## Engaged Parents and Reunited Families

- **100%** of participants felt supported by Providence House staff
- **99%** of children were reunited with their parent/guardian
- **99%** of parents reported their bond with their child stayed the same or improved during their engagement with Providence House services
- **99%** of parents strongly agreed or agreed that their overall experience was positive.
  - **70%** of parents reported improved bond
- **97%** of families were fully engaged in services provided by Providence House
- **89%** of parents felt their family stability improved
- **75%** said their parenting skills improved
- **68%** experienced decreased trauma symptoms

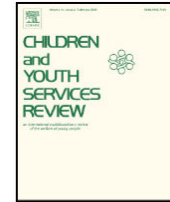
# Our Results - External Evaluation: Foster Care Prevention Findings



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Children and Youth Services Review

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/childyouth)



Crisis nursery services and foster care prevention: An exploratory study

David Crampton <sup>a,\*</sup>, Susan Yoon <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University, USA

<sup>b</sup> The College of Social Work, The Ohio State University, USA



- **Reduced Foster Care Placements:** 82% of children in study remained out of foster care
- **Successful Minority Families:** Minority families (African American and Bi-racial) were the most successful (vs. Caucasian) with more engagement in services and less foster care involvement
- **Sometimes It Takes More Than Once:** 26% of children had multiple admissions, but were not more likely to have foster care involvement
- **Coming Soon:** Our research partnership with Dr. Crampton will continue with a study of PH's impact on child maltreatment reduction, family preservation, child foster care prevention, and community safety

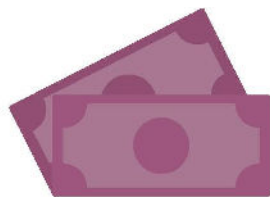
# Our Results - External Evaluation:

## Family Stability Indicators

### Our Findings

Providence House partnered with The Partnership for Program Evaluation and Research Implementation (PERI), a high quality program evaluation resource for health and human services organizations. The PERI external evaluation completed by researchers from the Begun Center at Case Western Reserve University showed Providence House clients are more likely to be enrolled in school, employed, and have their own house/apartment after using our services.

### Our Impact



**Average  
Monthly Income**

At intake - \$1,094  
At discharge - \$1,273  
  
16% Increase

Families with  
no income  
  
12% Decrease



**Employment**

24% Increase in  
Employment Attainment



**Housing Stability**

29% Increase in Families Living in  
Their Own House or Apartment

# Sharing our Model:

## Building a national community for Crisis Nurseries



A collaborative, interactive online community where crisis nurseries and those interested in making a difference for children and families can share ideas, best practices, and learn from each other.



The Crisis Nursery Institute provides virtual learning opportunities for crisis nurseries including expert coaching and turnkey solutions, policies, and resources in an online learning environment.



Replication services encompass customized consultation and coaching from Crisis Nursery experts for nurseries of all sizes and needs from startups through mature nursery programs.



Thank you!

Q&A