

Mental Health Needs and Service Utilization among Children and Families in the Child Welfare System: Recent Findings from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being

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NATIONAL SURVEY OF CHILD AND ADOLESCENT WELL-BEING

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National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW): History

- Originally funded via the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Title V, Section 429A (PL 104-193)
- Congressional mandate to the HHS Secretary to conduct a “national random sample study of child welfare”



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NSCAW Overview

- **Target Population:** Children (14 and younger) involved in maltreatment investigations that were closed between Oct 1999 and Dec 2000 (N=5,504)
 - Oversampled infants, sexually abused children, and children/families who received child welfare services
- **Data sources:** children, caregivers, caseworkers, teachers, and child welfare agencies.
- **Data Collection (5 waves):** baseline, 12-months after the close of the investigation, 18-months, 36-months, and 56-72 months



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NSCAW: Measurement Domains

- Child functioning and well-being
- Services to children and families
 - Child Health and Mental Health services
 - Education/Special Education services
 - CWS services
 - Services to meet basic family needs (e.g., TANF)
 - Caregiver mental health and substance abuse services
- Family and caregiver functioning
- Community environment
- Agency and system level factors



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Data Release

Baseline to Wave 4 data available to research community through the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, Cornell University (www.ndacan.cornell.edu)



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