



Australian Centre for
Child Protection



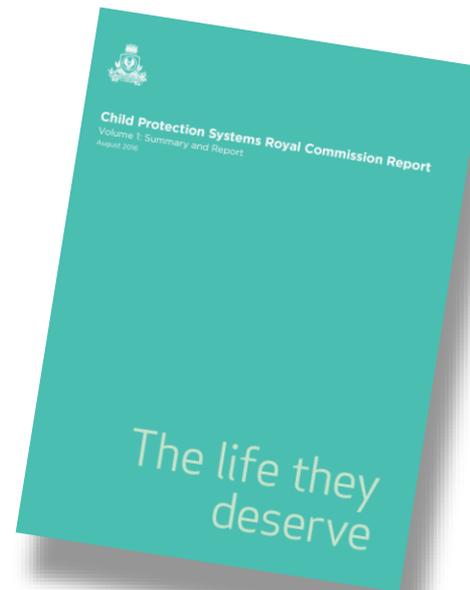
EIRD: Findings of the first two Case File Reviews

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EIRD Forum

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Treating child abuse and neglect as a paediatric health epidemic

- Understanding the problem, it's scale and key populations to prevent abuse and neglect and halt intergenerational transmission
- Research and treatment of the highest quality
- Strategies to implement quickly, effectively and at scale
- Ceasing treatments that perpetuate the problem or are harmful, re-directing efforts to effective interventions matched to need

Case file reviews

Study 1: Pregnancy and the first 1000 days of life ✓

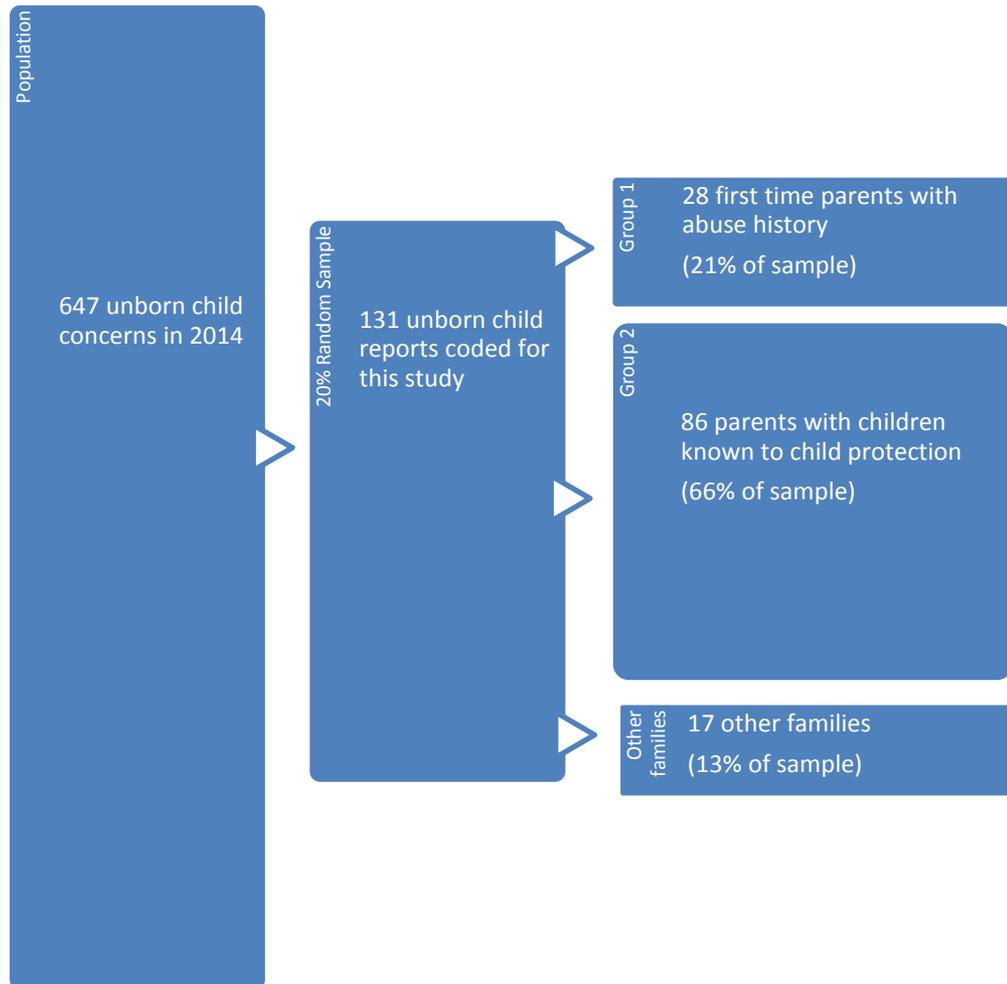
Study 2: Children with repeat involvement in the child protection system ✓

Study 3: Aboriginal over-representation in the child protection system

Aims and objectives of Case File Reviews

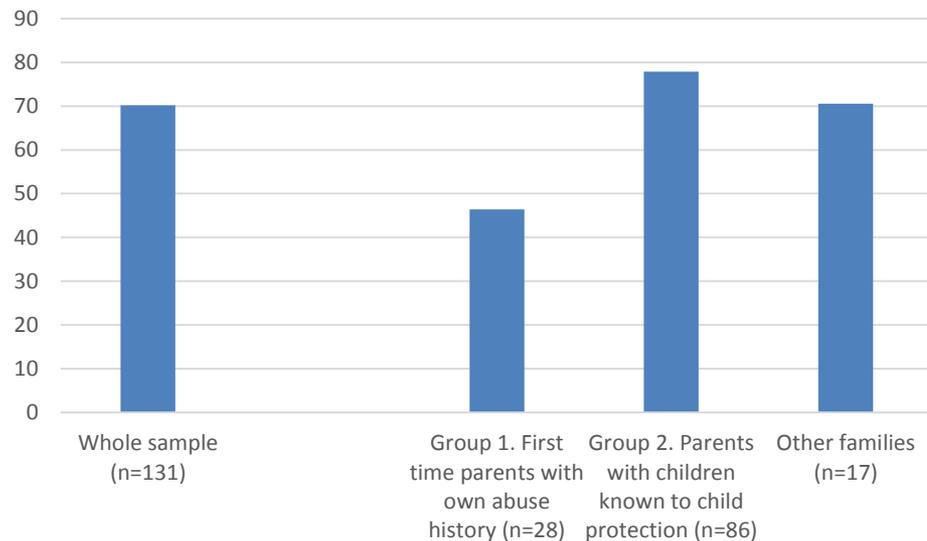
- Understand the “sliding doors” opportunities – where an alternate path can be taken
- Understand what notifiers are worried about and who they are worried about to develop typologies of families that can benefit from early intervention and prevention
- Understand population level patterns of involvement with child protection that can identify the scale of child protection involvement and system level opportunities for intervention
- Understand modifiable risk factors associated with the typologies to help develop system responses
- Reliable and replicable methodology to produce new insights

Case file review 1: Unborn child reports

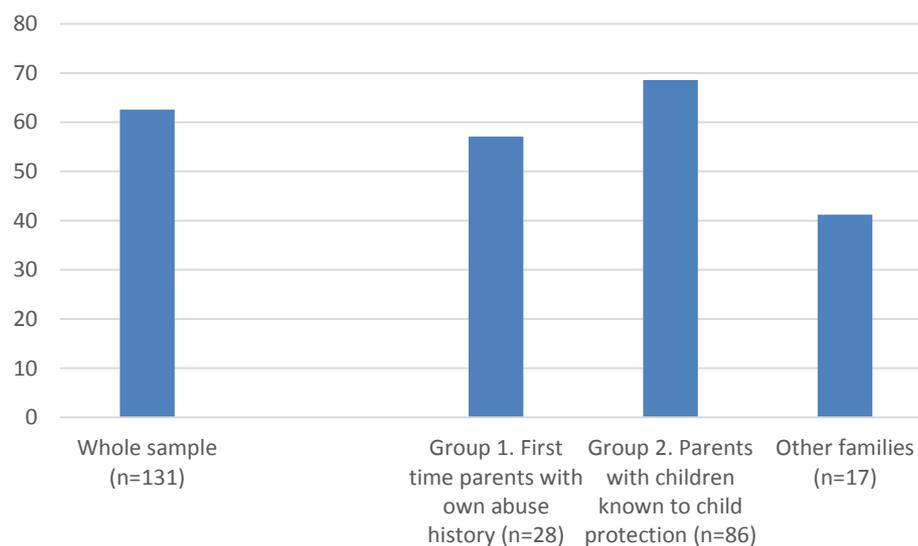


Characteristics

- Intimate partner violence (current or previous):
 - Total sample – 70%;
 - First time parents typology – 46%;
 - Parents with children known to CP – 78%

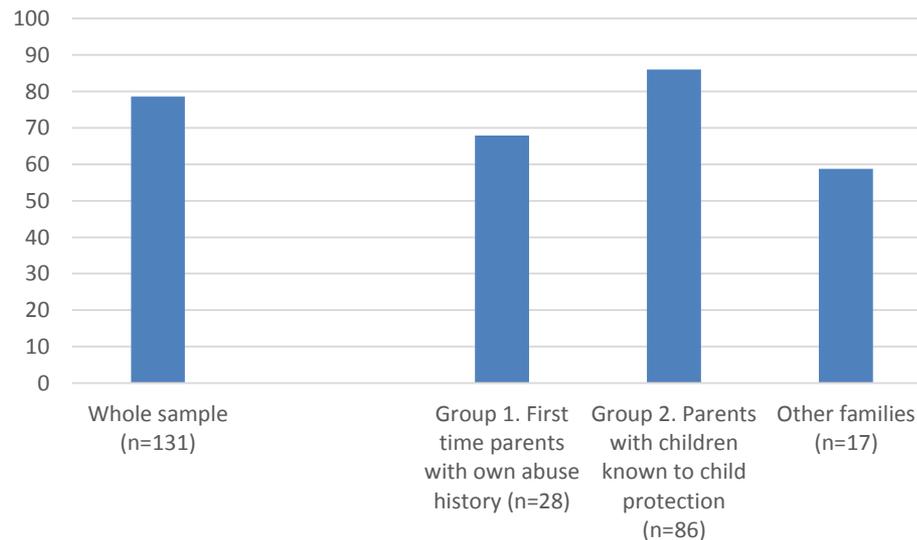


- Parental use of alcohol or other drugs (current or previous):
 - Total sample – 63%;
 - First time parents typology – 57%;
 - Parents with children known to CP – 69%

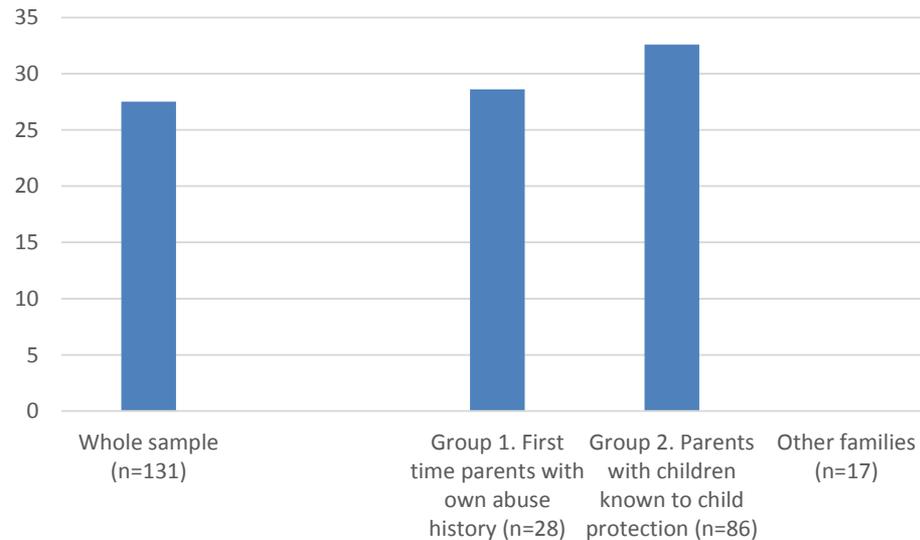


Subsequent CP involvement between 0-2 years?

- Yes: 79% of the sample (n = 103)
 - First time parents typology – 68%;
 - Parents with children known to DCP – 86%
- Between 1 and 18 additional reports before age 2, a total of 444 reports



- Just over one quarter (27.5%) of the total sample were subsequently the subject of a child protection order, and similar proportions were seen in first time parents (29%) and parents with older children who were known to Child Protection (32%)



Is Typology 2, Typology 1 but after subsequent births?

- Patterns related to partnering, intimate partner violence, and age at birth of first child are indicating that this is possible
- Also, one quarter of the families in Group 2 at the time of their first pregnancy would have been identified as first time parents with their own abuse history. This is likely to be an underestimate for older parents or parents with extensive child protection histories for their own children, due to different recording practices.
- Prevention potential if this is the case

Implications

- 90% of UCCs for families already known to CP and our data indicates that 80% of them will be subsequently known before the children are 2 years old
- Cycles of violence and abuse that commence in childhood and continue into subsequent generations - Focus on intergenerational trauma
- Early intervention potential is huge, ability to provide normative support for first time parents, prevention of pregnancy
- Currently lack of response from multiple systems and families might not even know that reports have been made – notifiers aren't telling families that they're reporting (two cases), response to UCCs

- One of the key activities of the EIRD is to examine service and system alignment to the needs of particular target groups, to make sure early intervention and prevention efforts are timely and effective.
- The families identified in this study, clearly have a need for services that are suited to working with people who have experienced abuse and neglect, families who may have had their children removed, or who may have been removed themselves as children, and services and supports that are equipped to work with families experiencing high levels of intimate partner violence, and significant substance misuse problems.
- Traditional assessment and referral approaches will be unlikely to work for many families in these circumstances, and there is a key opportunity to identify and trial models that are suited to families in these circumstances.

Case file review 2: preliminary findings

Family

Children in our random sample

Identify the types of concerns raised about children

Examine the extent of repeat involvement in a sample of children reported to child protection

Coded the allegation/concern narrative for all reports recorded for children in the random sample between 1st of July and 31st of December 2016

Analysed administrative data to identify the proportion of children reported to child protection two or more times over 6 months and over 8 years

Identify patterns of repeat involvement for children and their families

Identify the types of concerns raised

Determine the risk factors and outcomes associated with repeat child protection

Genograms were created to represent family relationships

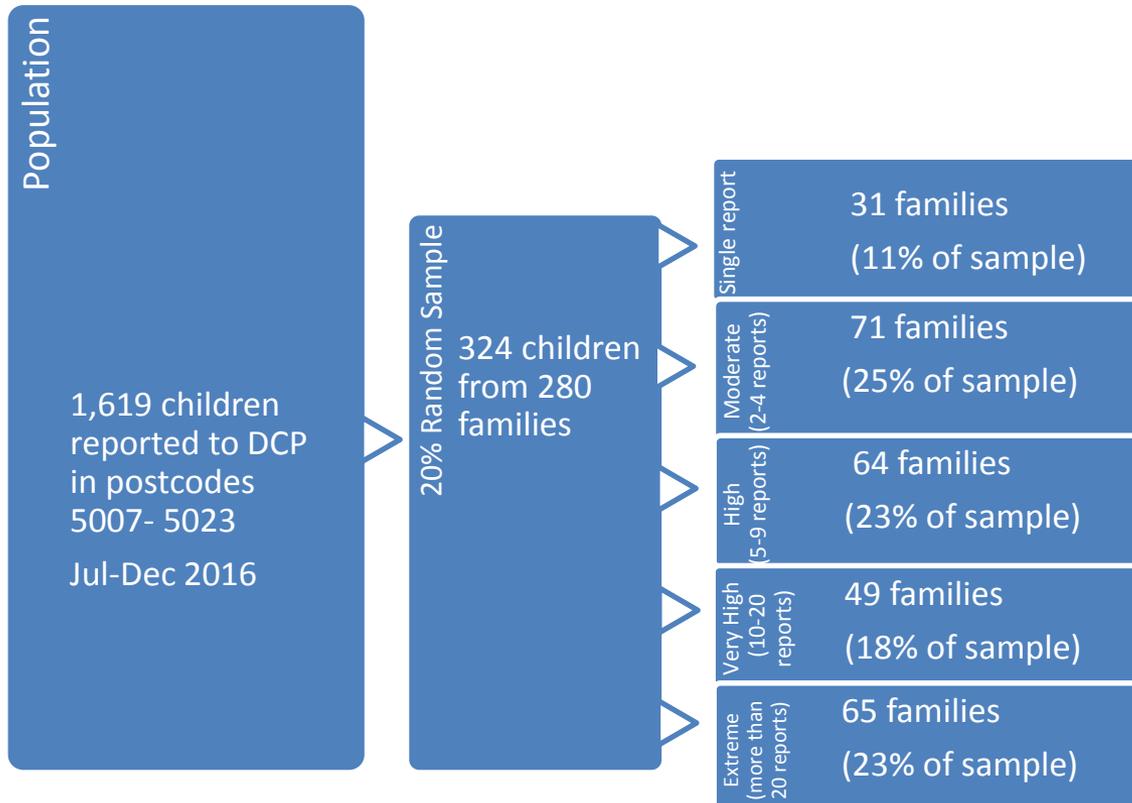
Coded the most recent report narrative for each child including details of previous concerns reported to child protection

Analysed administrative data for families to identify patterns of repeat involvement with child protection over an 8 year period

Case file review 2: preliminary findings

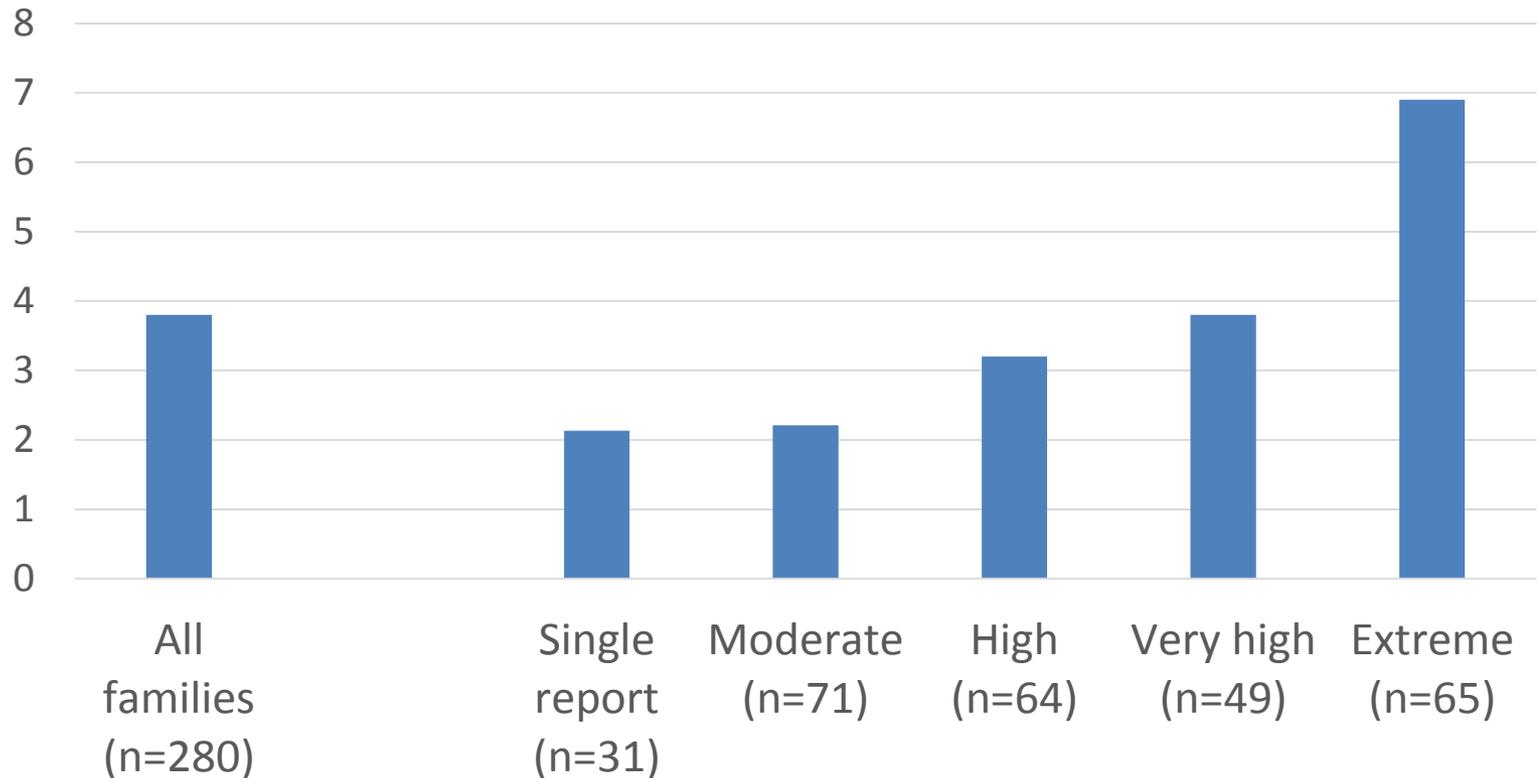
- 40% of children were the subject of a second report to child protection within a six month period. Number of reports ranged from 1 to 7.
- The proportion of children subject to a second report rose to 87% when repeat involvement was examined over eight years. Number of reports ranged from 1 to 49.
- Almost 90% of the families in our sample had some level of re-reporting for different matters over the eight year period. The number of reports ranged from 1 to 118.

Case file review 2: Repeat Involvement



Family Characteristics

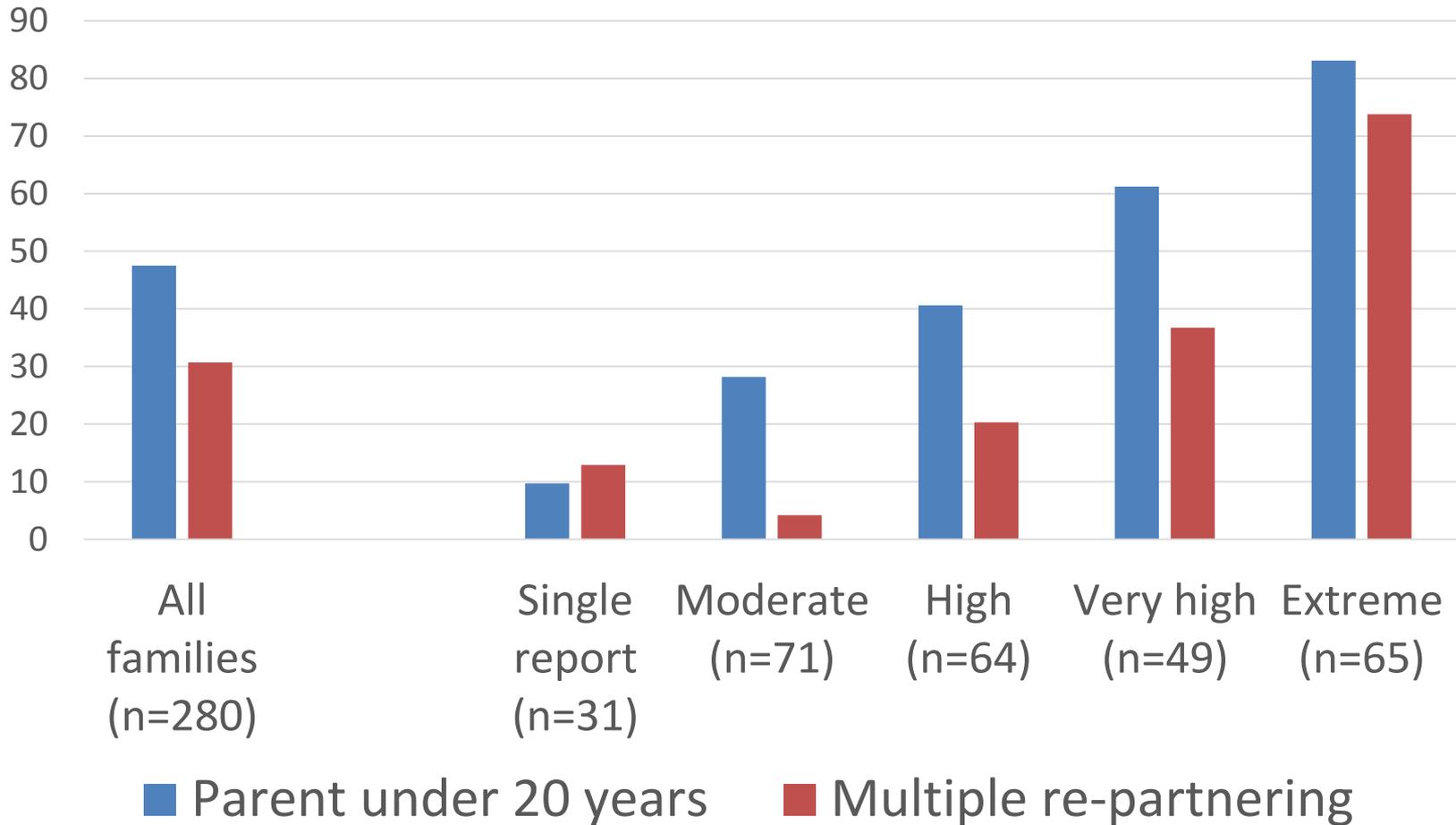
Average number of children in the family



Preliminary figures only, subject to inter-rater reliability analysis

Family Characteristics

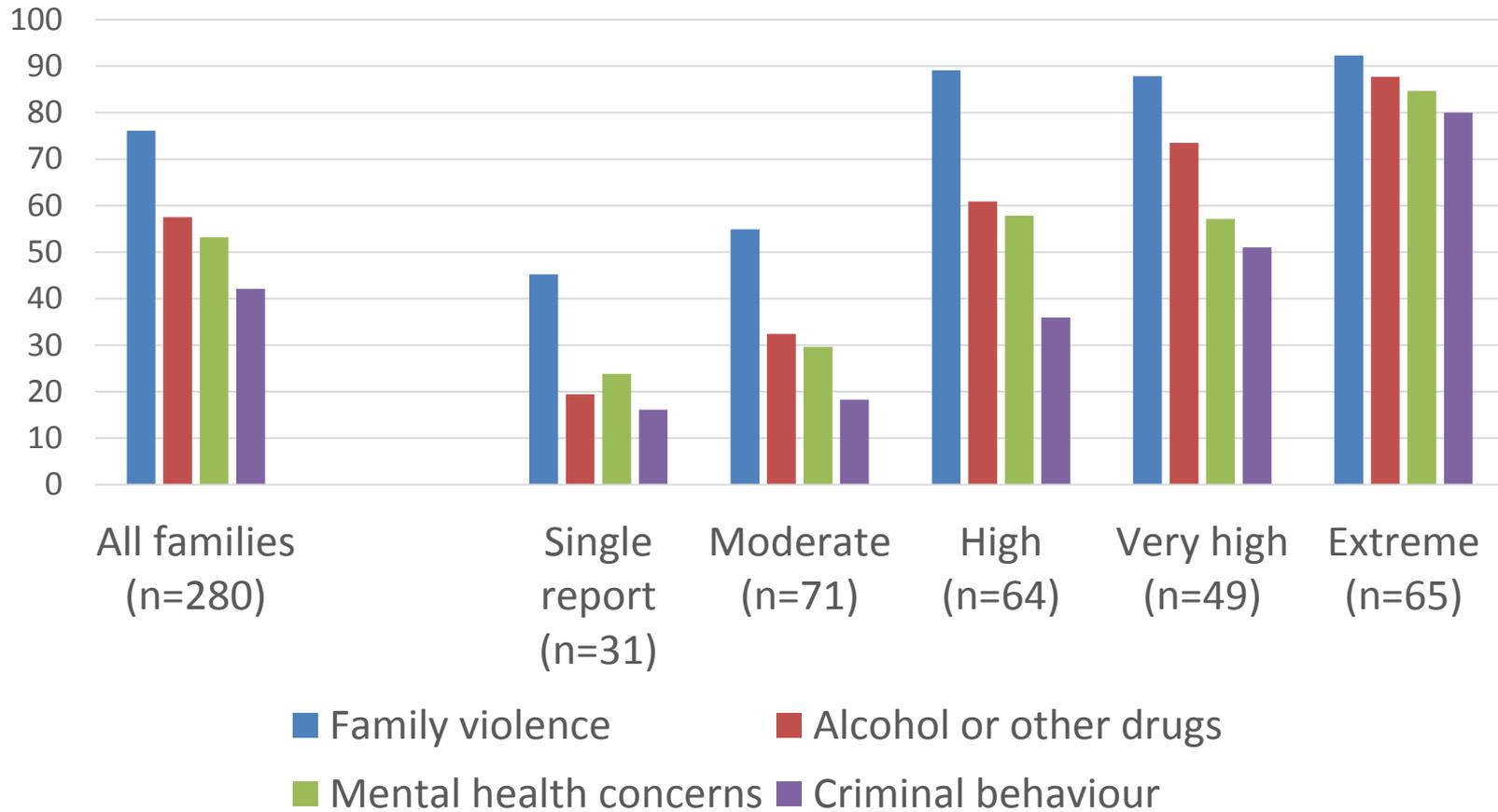
Parent under 20 years during first pregnancy and multiple re-partnering



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Family Characteristics

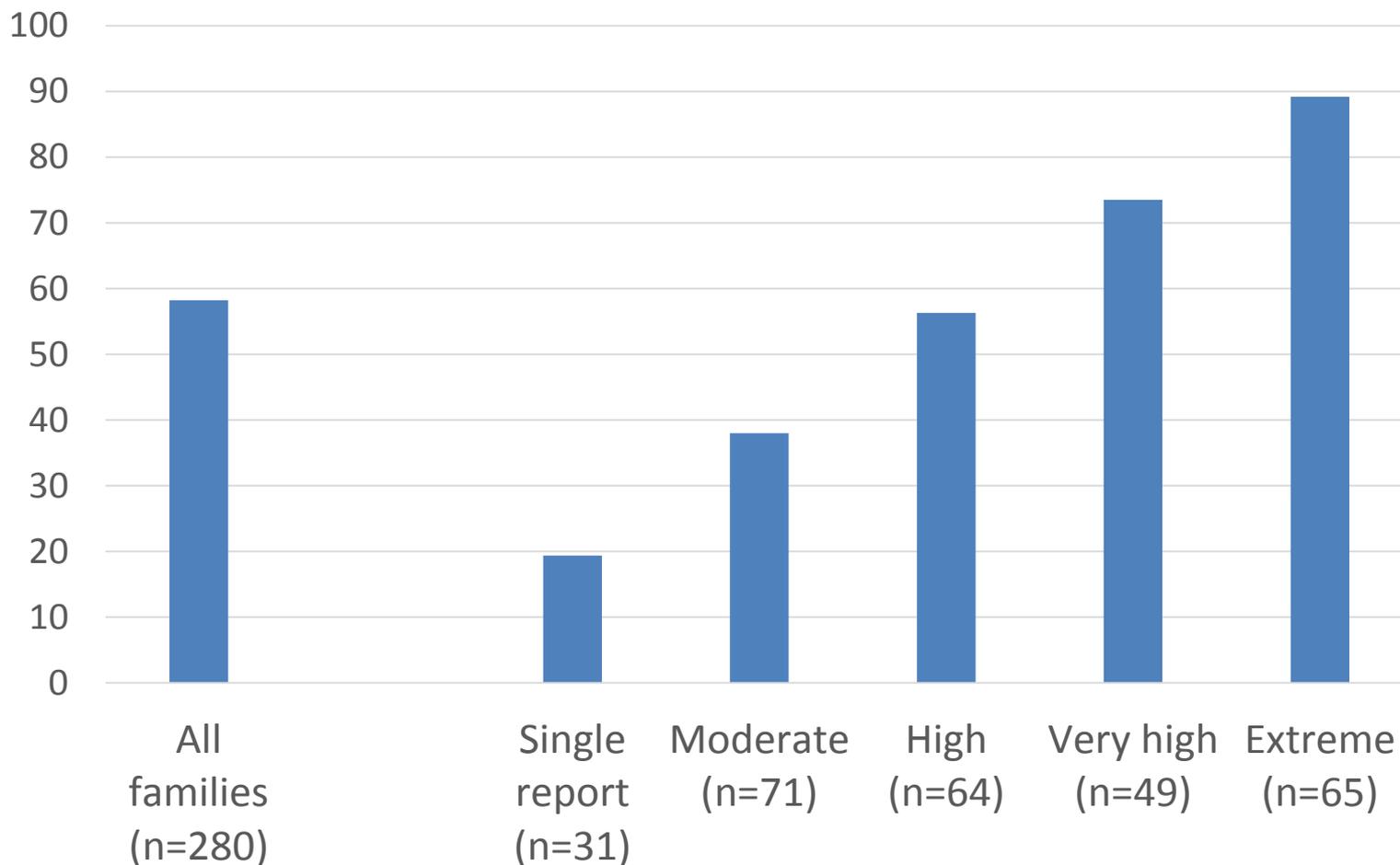
Parental risk factors for repeatedly involved families



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Factors identified at the child level

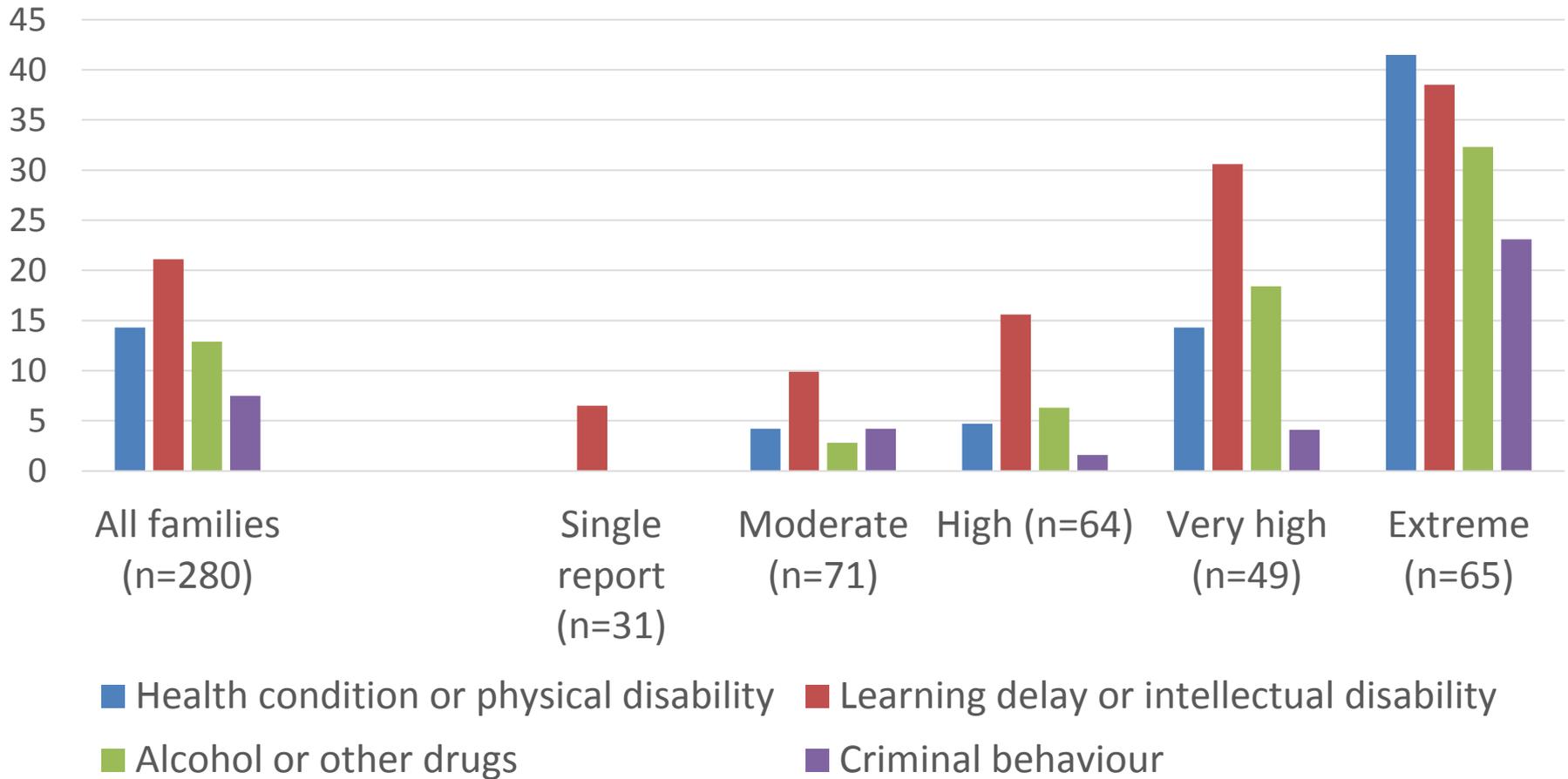
Child and adolescent mental health or behavioural problem



Preliminary figures only, subject to inter-rater reliability analysis

Factors identified at the child level

Outcomes of child trauma or factors conveying vulnerability for children



Preliminary figures only, subject to inter-rater reliability analysis

Improving the lives of vulnerable children

Implications

- Repeat involvement is very high and is associated with poor outcomes
 - Almost all families had repeat involvement
 - One in four families had a pattern of extreme involvement
 - Children living in situations with a high level of cumulative risk and harm culminating in suicidal ideation/attempts or criminal behaviour
- Families with high levels of repeat involvement share many characteristics which can help target and inform early intervention and prevention
 - High and extreme families - adolescent at first born, high numbers of subsequent children with multiple different partners
 - Reducing teen pregnancy rates
 - Interventions for young parents (co-parenting regardless of relationship status, mental health and substance misuse)
 - Interventions to delay the birth of subsequent children for first time adolescent parents
 - Preventing and responding to domestic violence

Implications

- Intergenerational nature of child protection involvement
 - Focus early intervention and prevention for children in the extreme involvement families as these will become parents of future generations of children involved with child protection
 - Need to reduce harm to these children but also mitigate the impacts of harm and prevent future harm to children not yet born
- Limitations of an incident-based system in identifying and responding to cumulative risk and harm
 - Domestic Violence- present in 32% of current concerns, reported in 76% of families
 - Parent AOD – present in 29% of current concerns, reported in 58% of families
 - Incident-based systems exacerbate repeat involvement - key warning signs of escalating risk and harm are less likely to trigger a statutory investigative response

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