

Child Deaths with Prior DFCS Involvement (December 1, 2011 – February 12, 2012)

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Presentation to: DHS Board Members

Date: March 21, 2012



Vision, Mission and Core Values

Vision

Stronger Families for a Stronger Georgia.

Mission

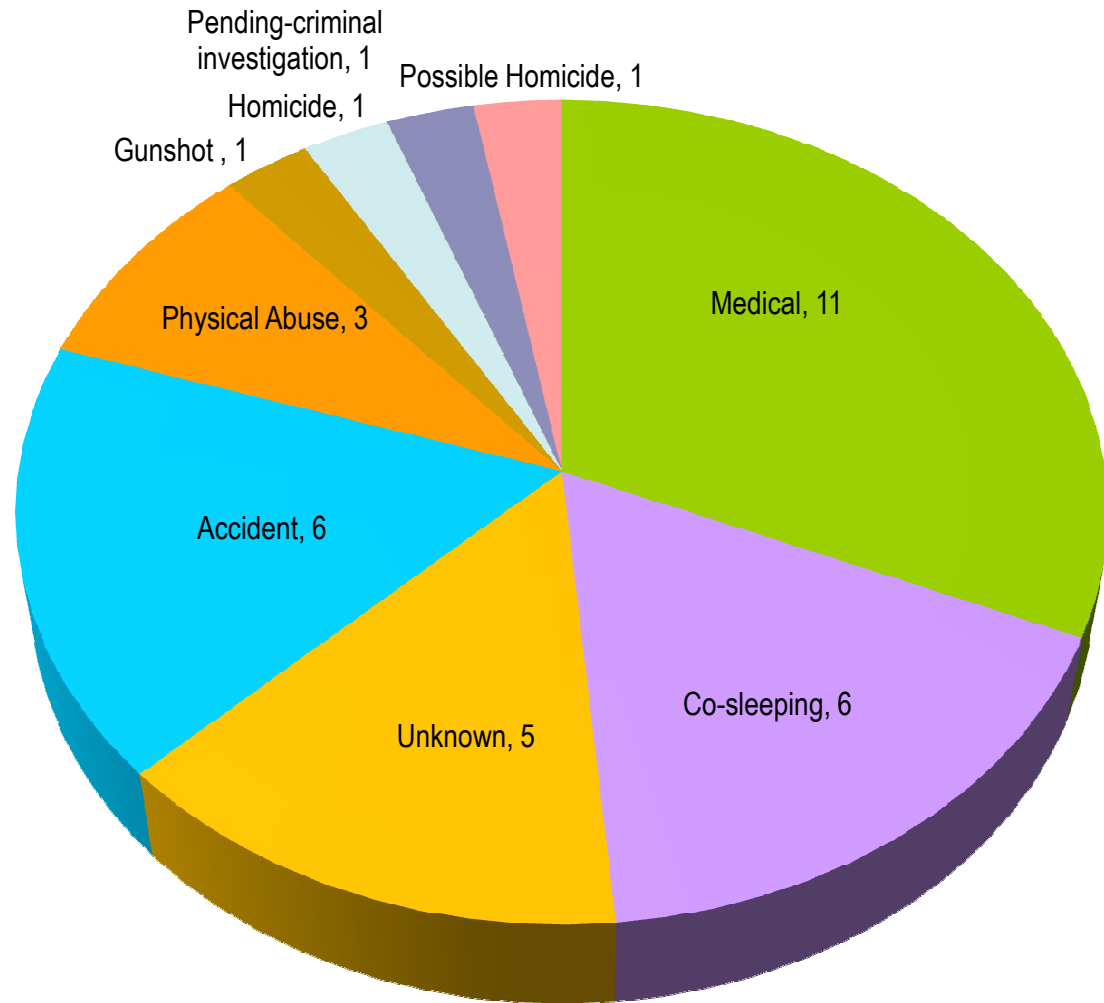
Strengthen Georgia by providing Individuals and Families access to services that promote self-sufficiency, independence, and protect Georgia's vulnerable children and adults.

Core Values

- **Provide access to resources that offer support and empower Georgians and their families.**
- **Deliver services professionally and treat all clients with dignity and respect. Manage business operations effectively and efficiently by aligning resources across the agency.**
- **Promote accountability, transparency and quality in all services we deliver and programs we administer.**
- **Develop our employees at all levels of the agency.**

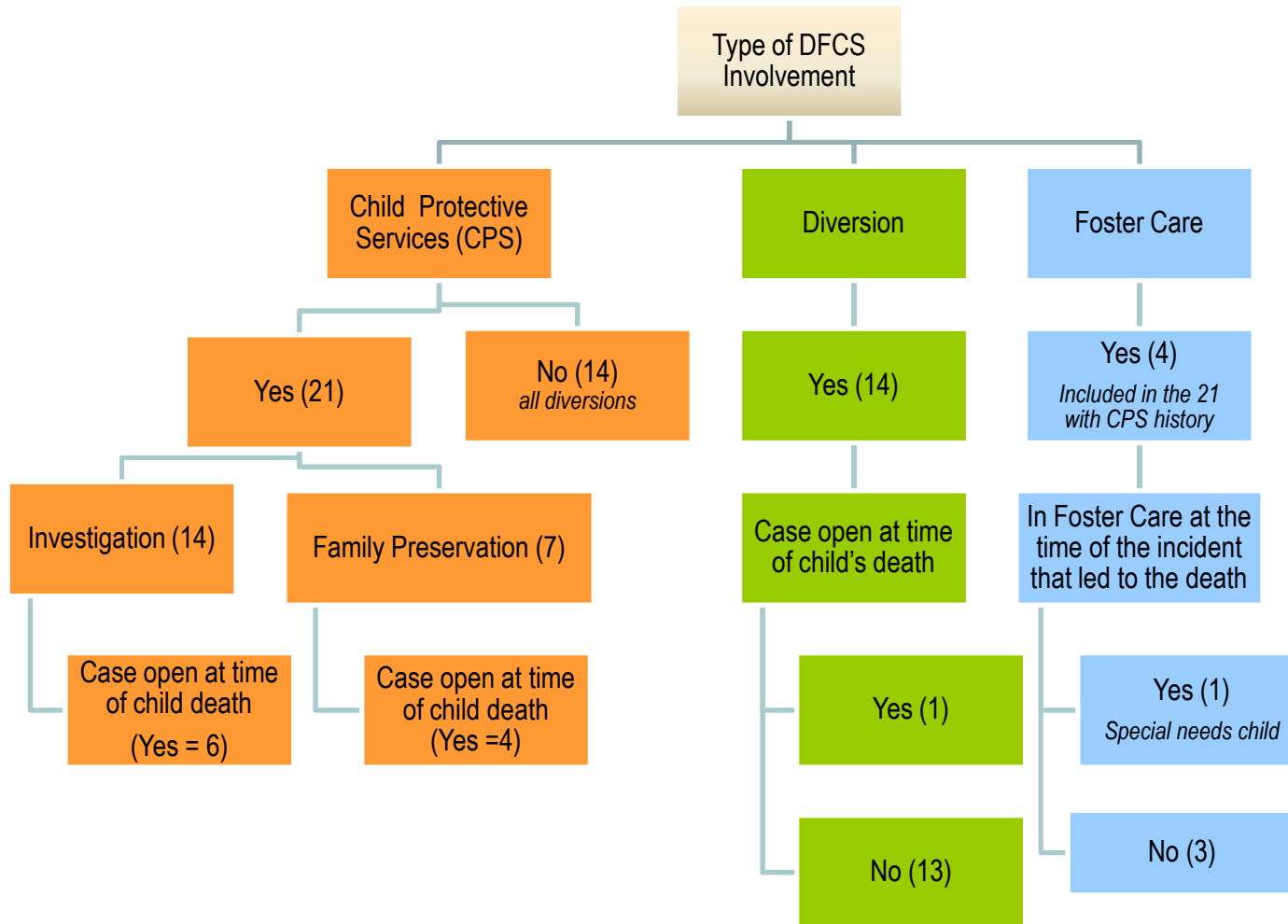
Child Deaths from December 1, 2011 – February 12, 2012: Cause of Death (n=35)

Of the 35 deaths, 63% were due to medical, co-sleeping, or accidents (bathtub drowning, motor vehicle accident, etc).



Note: The “unknown” deaths did not have a definite cause associated with them at the time of the Case Staffing. However, documentation indicates some of the possible causes as Sudden Infant Death, Sudden Unexplained Infant Death, cardiac arrest, etc.

Child Deaths & Type of DFCS Involvement (December 1, 2011 – February 12, 2012)



The 35 children all had some DFCS involvement prior to their death; 21 of them had received CPS services (either an Investigation or Family Preservation Services), 14 were in families that had a prior diversion and four of the children were in foster care at the time of their death. However, 3 of the 4 children came into foster care as a result of the incident that led to their death.

Child Death Comparison for Similar Time Periods

	December 1, 2009- February 22, 2010	December 1, 2010- February 22, 2011	*December 1, 2011- February 12, 2012
Previous DFCS involvement	40	29	35
Previous Child Protective Services (CPS)	22	20	21
Open CPS (<i>investigation</i>) case at the time of the child's death	4	4	6
Previous Diversion case	11	7	14
Open Diversion case at the time of the child's death	1	0	1
Foster Care history	7	2	4
Child in foster care at the time of his/her death	7	1	4

Note: The information for December 1, 2009 – February 22, 2010 and December 1, 2010 – February 22, 2011 is taken from a report completed last year and includes 10 more days in February than the current information which is through February 12, 2012.

DFCS Child Death Pro-Active Measures

- Quarterly Meeting with Governor's Office COO Staff, Child Advocate, DHS Commissioner, DFCS Director
- Invitation to Child Advocate to attend DFCS Child Death State Staffing Meeting
- Acceptance of Child Advocate Training for DFCS Child Welfare Staff
- Public Awareness Campaigns
 - 1st phase - Dangers of Co-Sleeping
 - 2nd phase – Drownings (water safety)
 - 3rd phase – Car Seat Safety
- Roll Out of Differential Response Practice Model (April 1, 2012)
 - First phase of the Safety Response Model
- Work with GOCF on Domestic Violence/Children Issue
- Focus of the Internal DFCS Newsletter for March 2012