

# Collaboration and data in a County Initiative: Cuyahoga County – Invest in Children



Claudia Coulton & Rob Fischer, Ph.D.  
Center on Urban Poverty & Community Development  
Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences  
Case Western Reserve University  
[claudia.coulton@case.edu](mailto:claudia.coulton@case.edu)

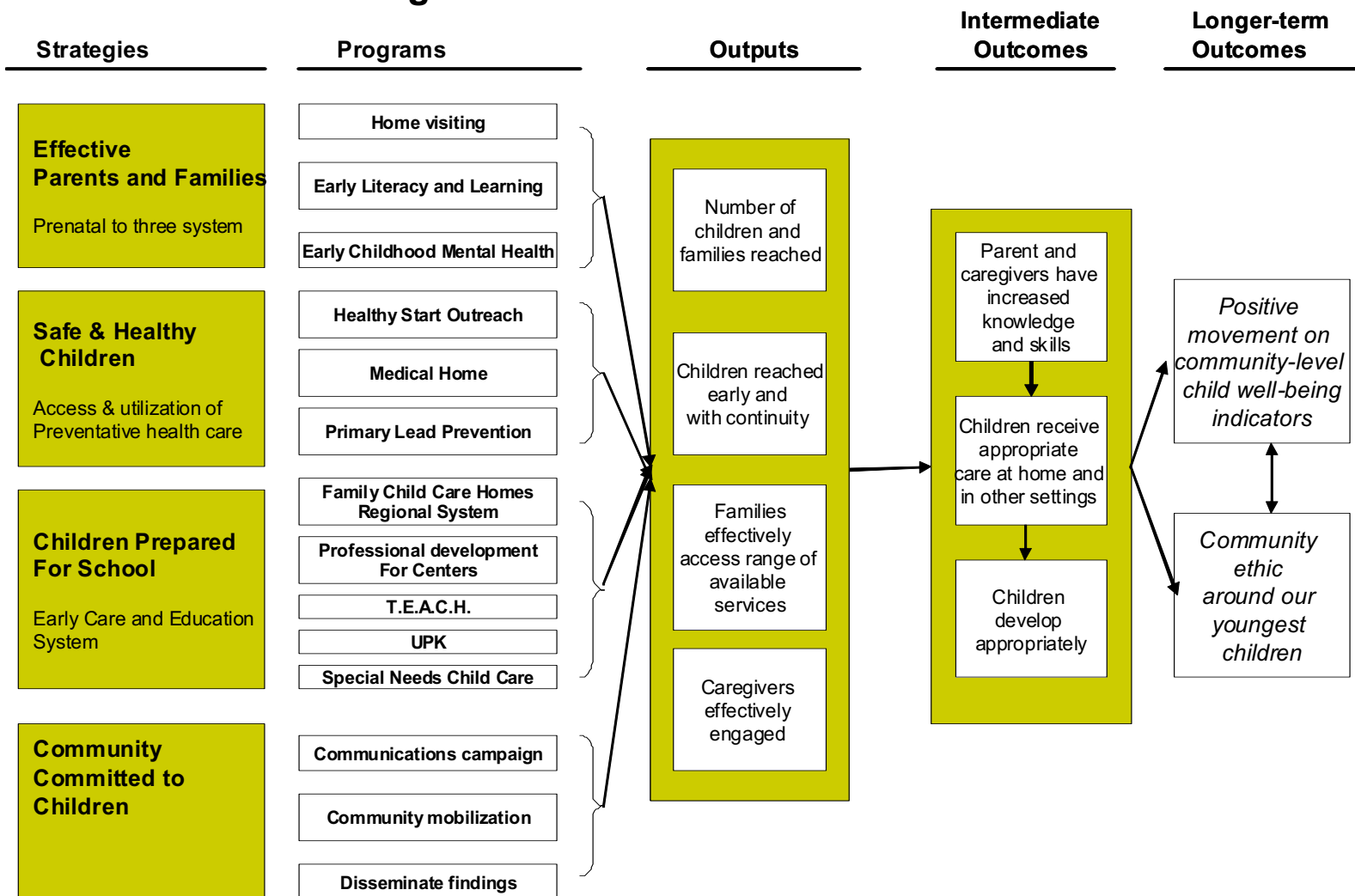
National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership  
Detroit, May 11-13, 2011

# Main themes

- Data is an ongoing need in collaboration on early childhood services in Cuyahoga County—12 years of work
- Collaboration's role in -
  - Framing child indicators for use in mobilizing and monitoring
  - Developing programmatic refinements
- Data analysis is responsive and flexible as collaboration evolves

# Program strategies to support key outcomes

## Invest in Children Logic Model



# Focuses of evaluation data in IIC

<u>Phase I: 1999 – 2003</u>	<u>Phase II: 2004 – 2005</u>	<u>Phase III: 2006 – 2011</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Building data systems</li><li>■ Establishing baseline</li><li>■ Evaluating programs as taken to scale</li><li>■ Tracking child well being indicators</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Continuing to track scope and reach</li><li>■ Informing program development (e.g. child care capacity /quality studies; child abuse and neglect studies)</li><li>■ Evaluation of new pilot programs (primary lead prevention and early learning)</li><li>■ Continue to track child well being</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Continue to track scope and reach</li><li>■ Increased focus on child outcomes</li><li>■ Evaluation of new pilot programs (UPK, medical home, early childhood mental health)</li><li>■ Continue to track child well being</li><li>■ Preparation for longitudinal study</li></ul>

# Systems for promoting school readiness

- Nine domains\*:
  - Home visiting/family support/parent counseling
  - Foster care/child protective services
  - Registered child care
  - Head Start
  - State and local Pre-K
  - Medicaid, SCHIP, EPSDT
  - Immunizations and lead screenings
  - IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act)
  - Kindergarten instruments to assess school readiness

# Tracking well-being

The logo for "Invest in Children" features the text "Invest in Children" in white, centered within a yellow, stylized shape that resembles a bow or a ribbon.

Invest in Children

- With the launch of the County's Invest in Children in 1999, a study of the effort commenced, including tracking indicators of child well-being
  - ✓ Tracking trends in population and birth characteristics
  - ✓ Tracking mobilizing indicators such as family self-sufficiency and child poverty, child care vouchers, birth outcomes, child maltreatment, child health insurance, enrollment in regulated child care

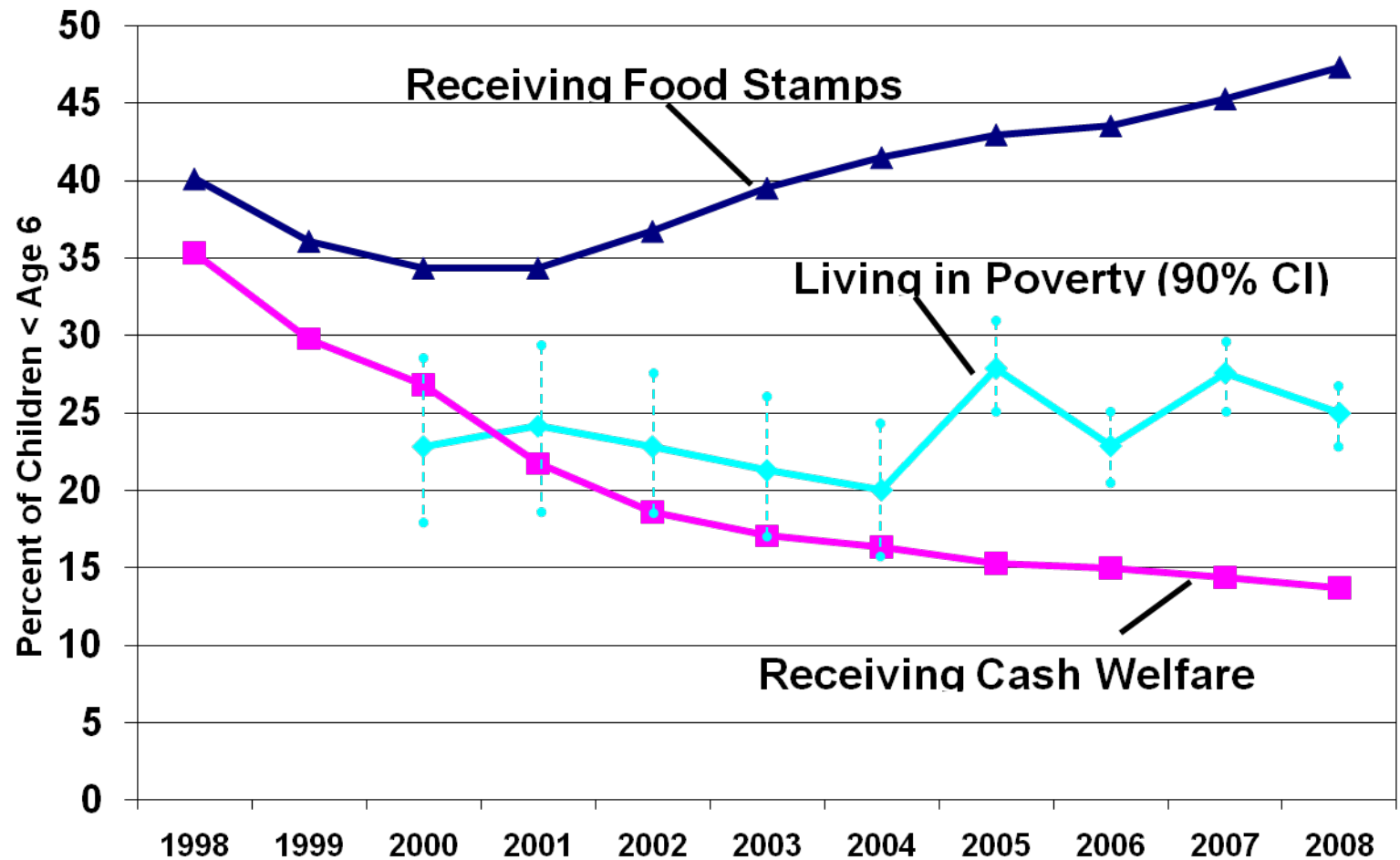
# Tracking well-being

The logo for "Invest in Children" is a yellow, stylized bowtie shape. The words "Invest" and "in Children" are written in white, sans-serif font across the two horizontal bars of the bowtie.

Invest in Children

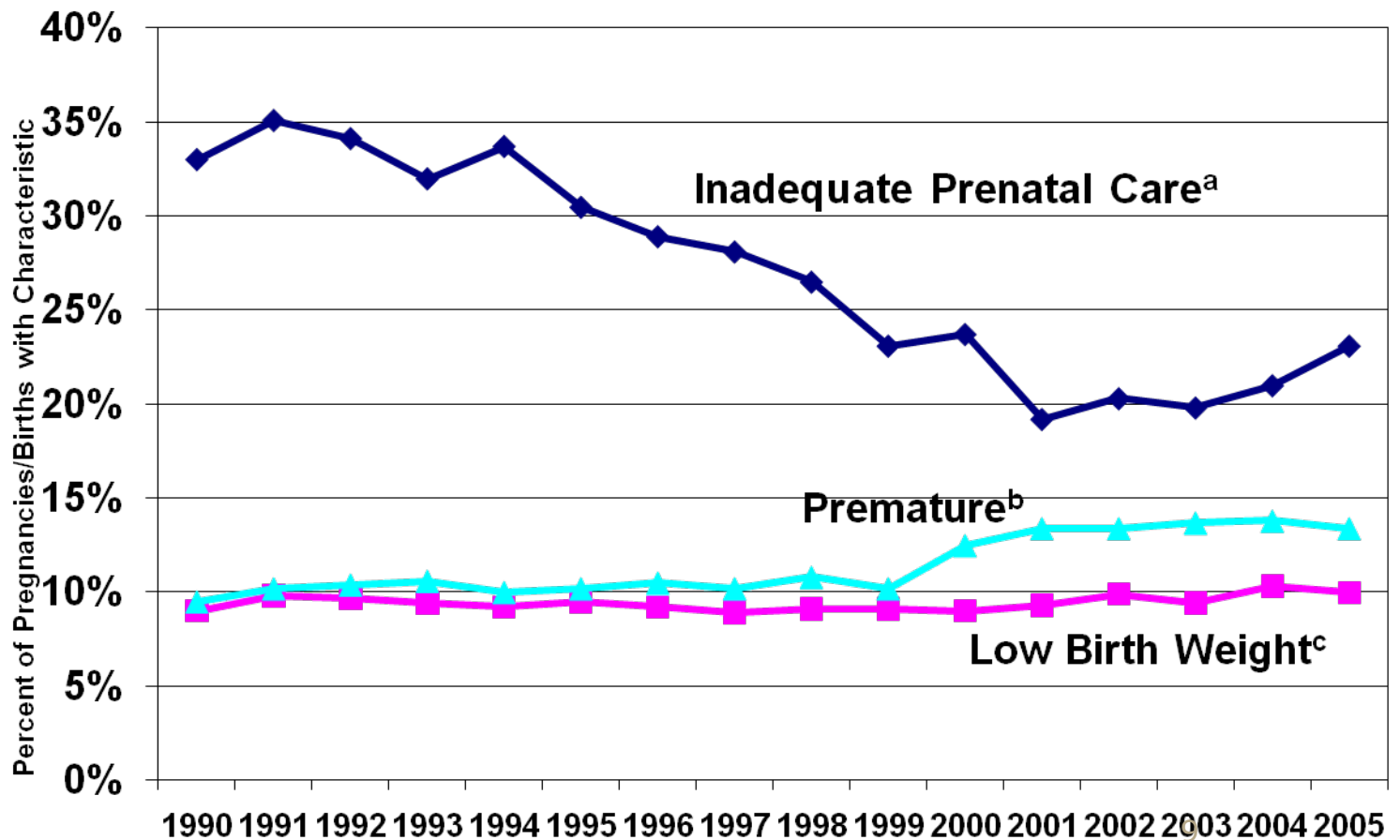
- Integrated data system
  - Links administrative records from multiple agencies—probabilistic matching—on all county children
  - Prenatal home visit or birth certificate is earliest record
  - Tracked through to grade 3 test scores
  - Limitations
    - Children born out of state
    - Children who go to private school

# High poverty but less cash aid

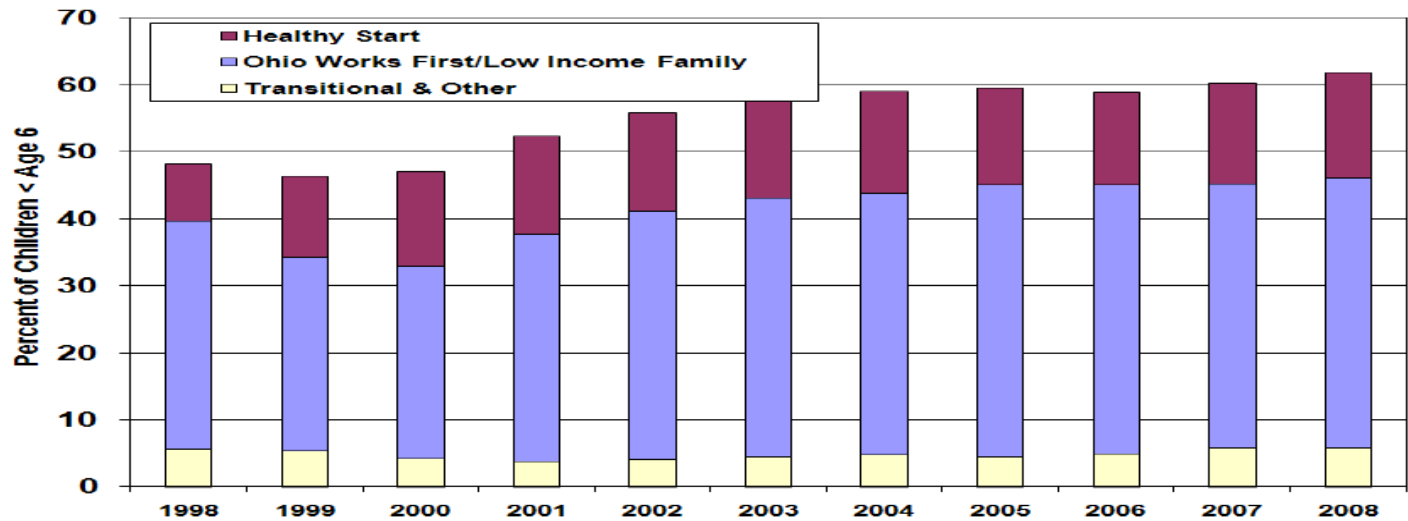
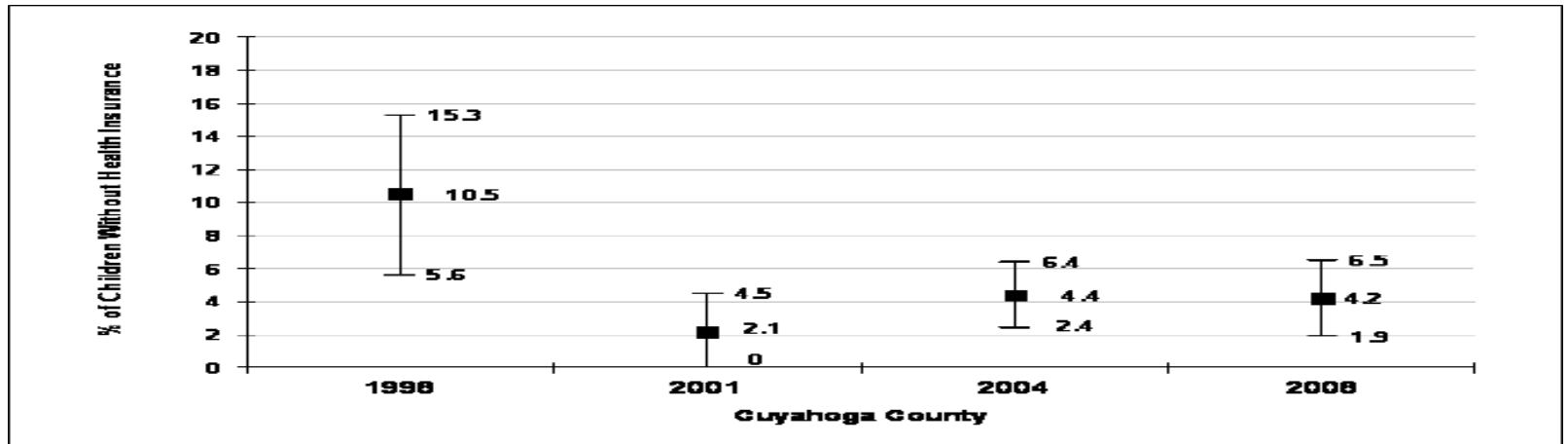




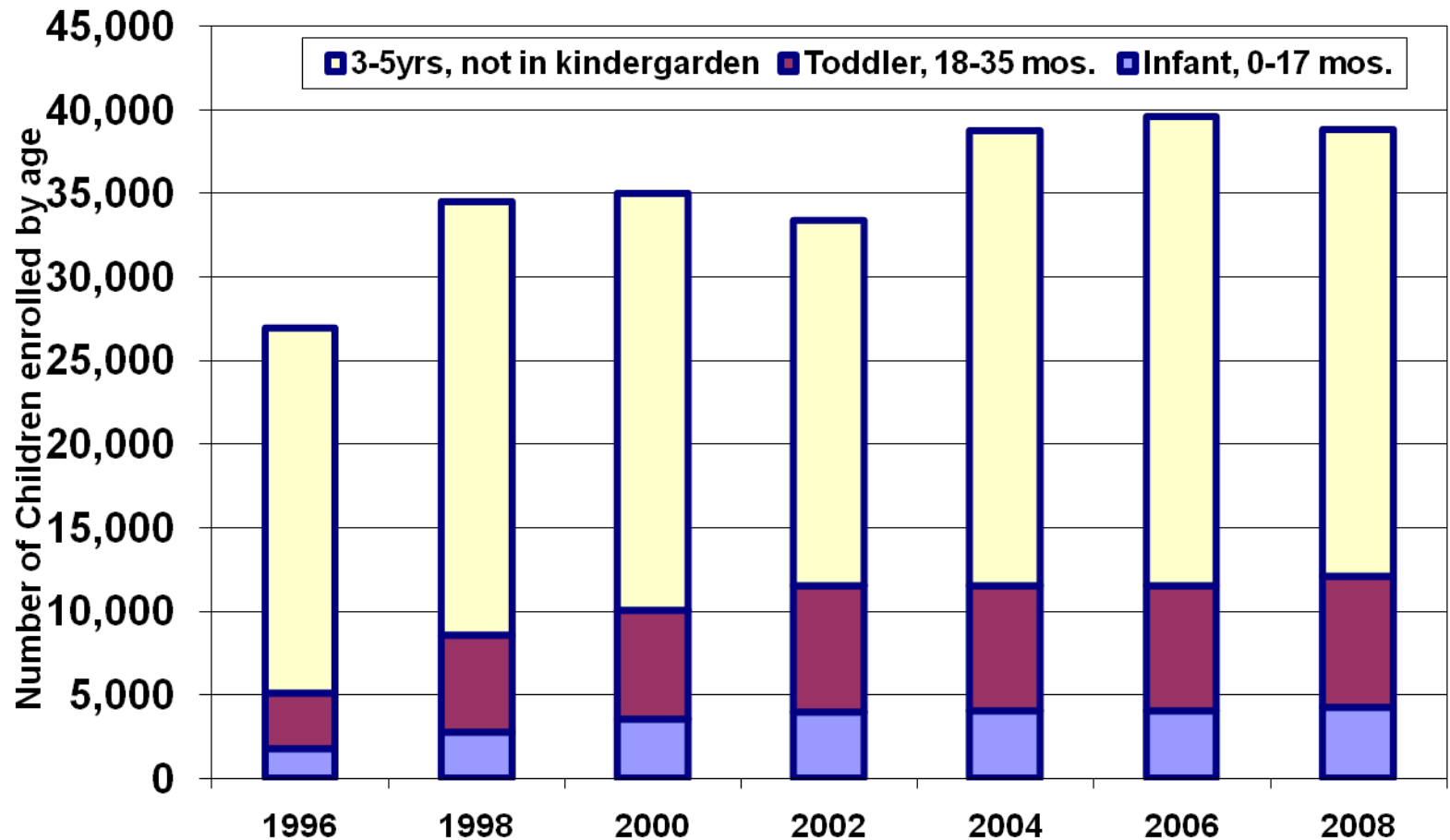
# Better prenatal care but birth outcomes tough to influence



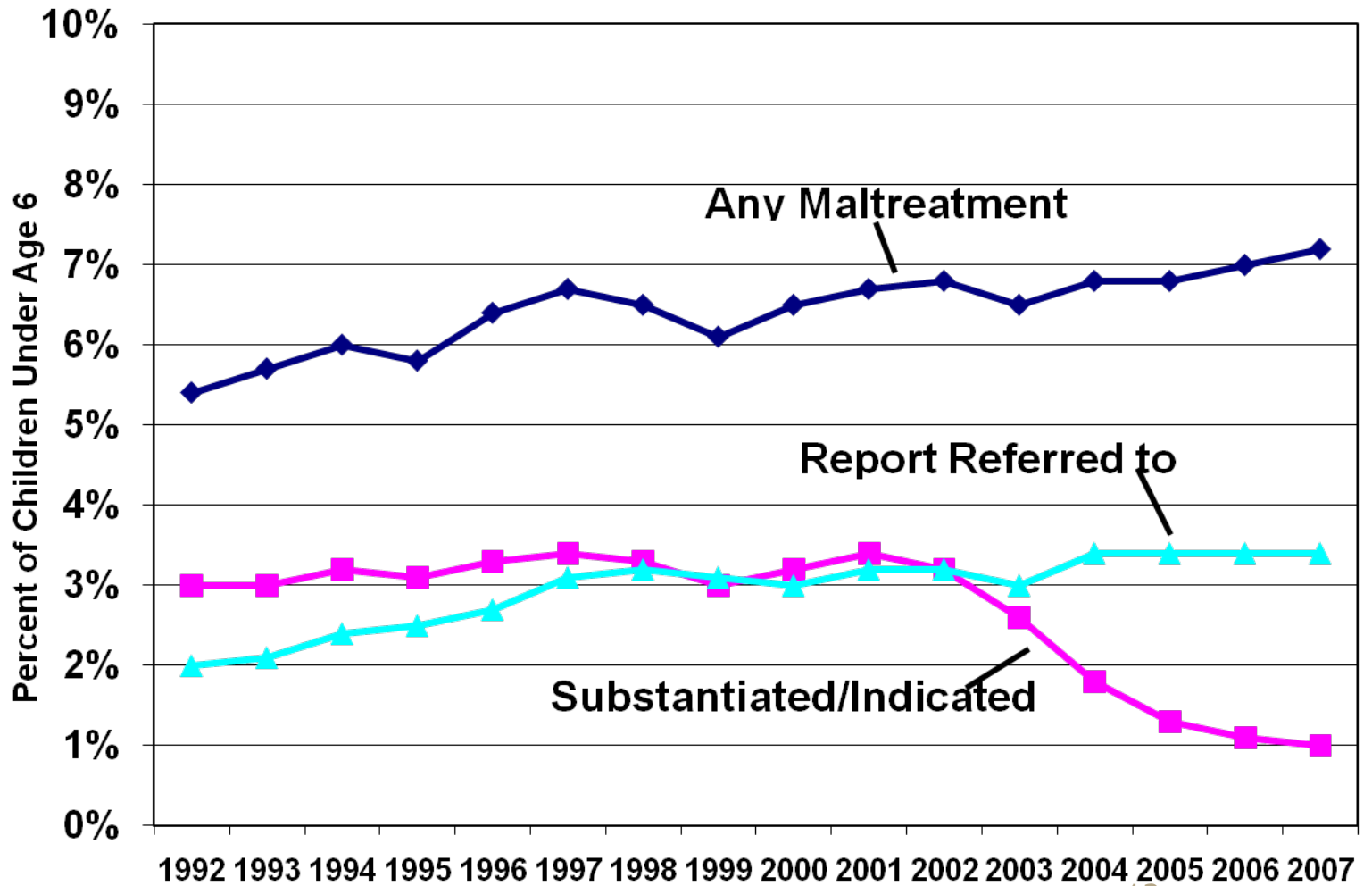
# More children have health insurance



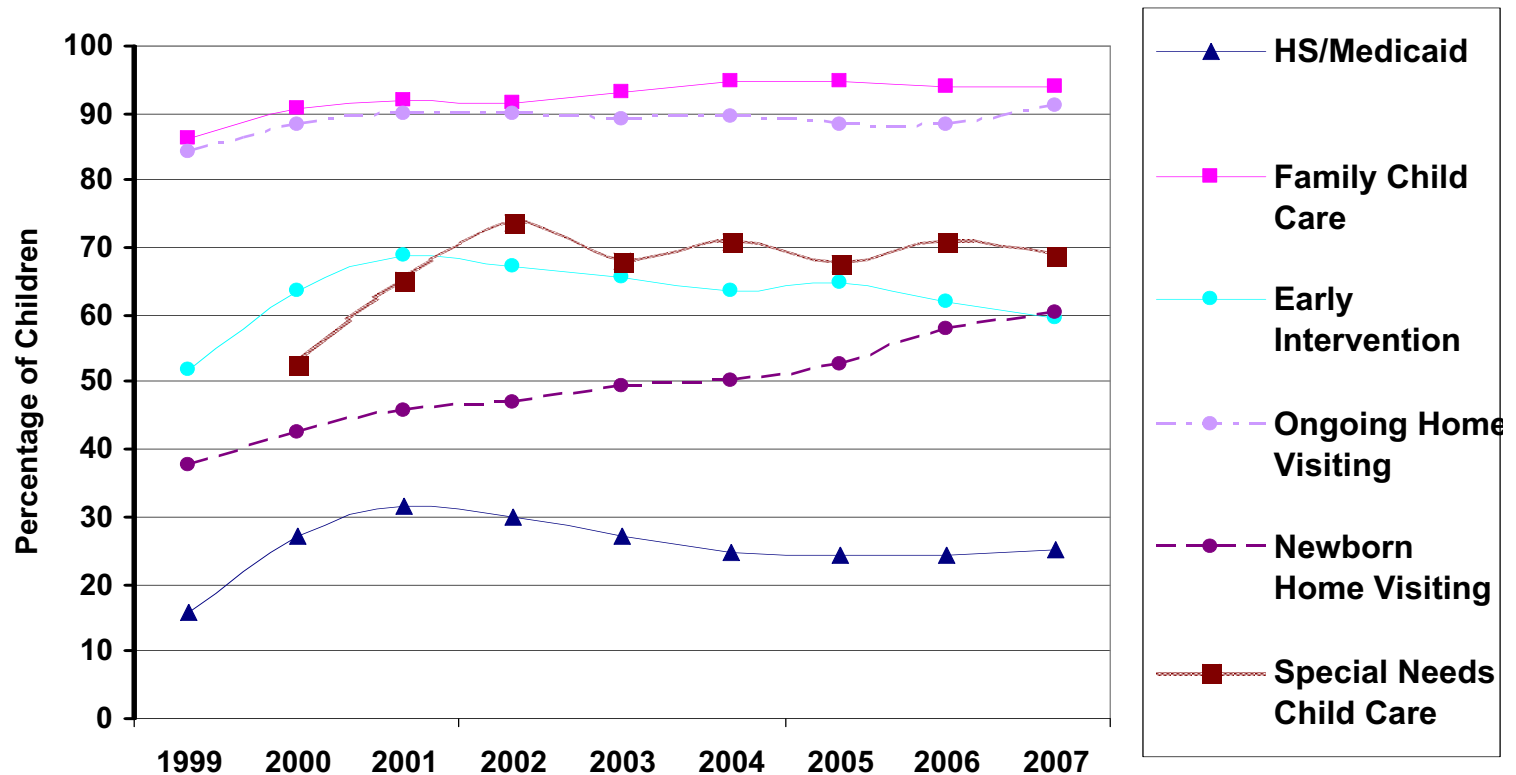
# More children enrolled in early care and education



# Less child maltreatment but risk remains the same



# Invest in Children: How do you measure a “system” ?



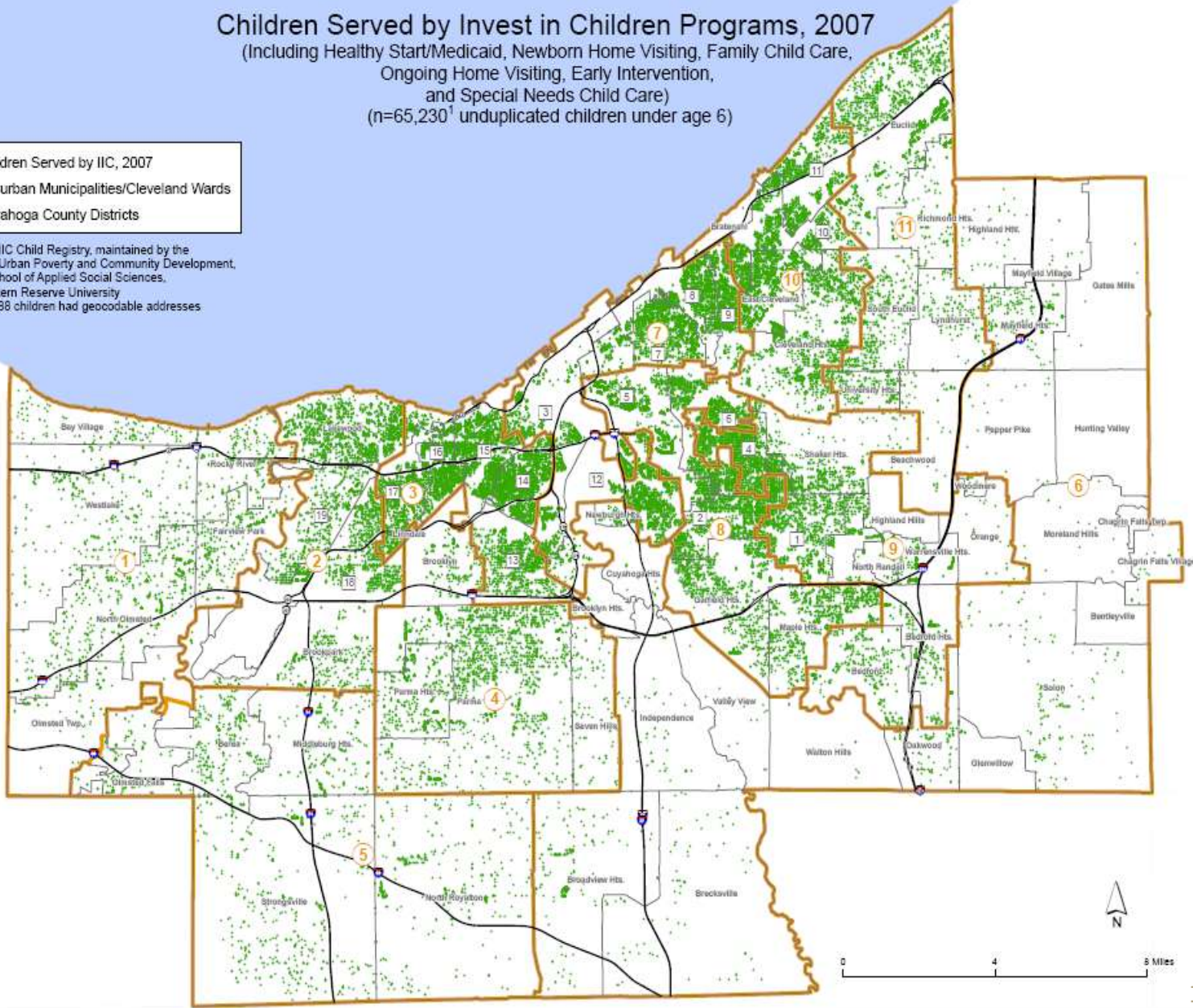
# Children Served by Invest in Children Programs, 2007

(Including Healthy Start/Medicaid, Newborn Home Visiting, Family Child Care, Ongoing Home Visiting, Early Intervention, and Special Needs Child Care)

(n=65,230<sup>1</sup> unduplicated children under age 6)

- Children Served by IIC, 2007
- Suburban Municipalities/Cleveland Wards
- ▭ Cuyahoga County Districts

Data from IIC Child Registry, maintained by the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development, Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University  
<sup>1</sup>Only 61,888 children had geocodable addresses



# Improvements on a well-being indicator but...

Outreach efforts were very successful at enrolling eligible children in Healthy Start (SCHIP)

The number of children 0-6 without health insurance declined from 10.5% in 1999 to 3.98% in 2008.

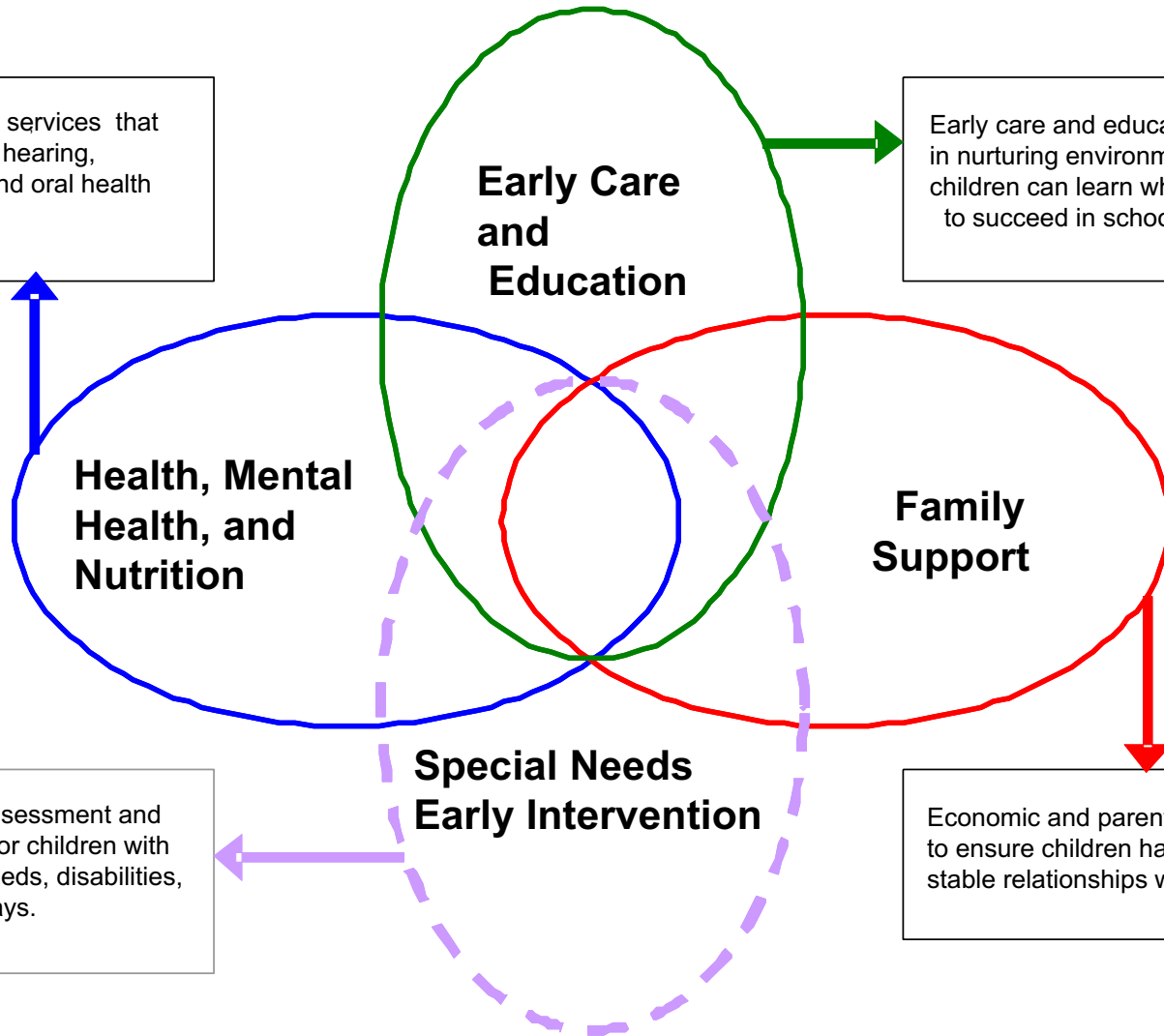
**Should we celebrate a victory?** No.. Data showed poor utilization rates for well child visits.

- *Medical Home Pilot Program (in process)* 86% of the participating families completed all recommended infant well child visits compared with 42% for all children covered by Medicaid.

# Early Childhood Development System

Comprehensive health services that meet children's vision, hearing, nutrition, behavioral, and oral health medical needs.

Early care and education opportunities in nurturing environments where children can learn what they need to succeed in school and in life.



**Health, Mental Health, and Nutrition**

**Early Care and Education**

**Family Support**

**Special Needs Early Intervention**

Early identification, assessment and appropriate services for children with special health care needs, disabilities, or developmental delays.

Economic and parenting supports to ensure children have nurturing and stable relationships with caring adults.



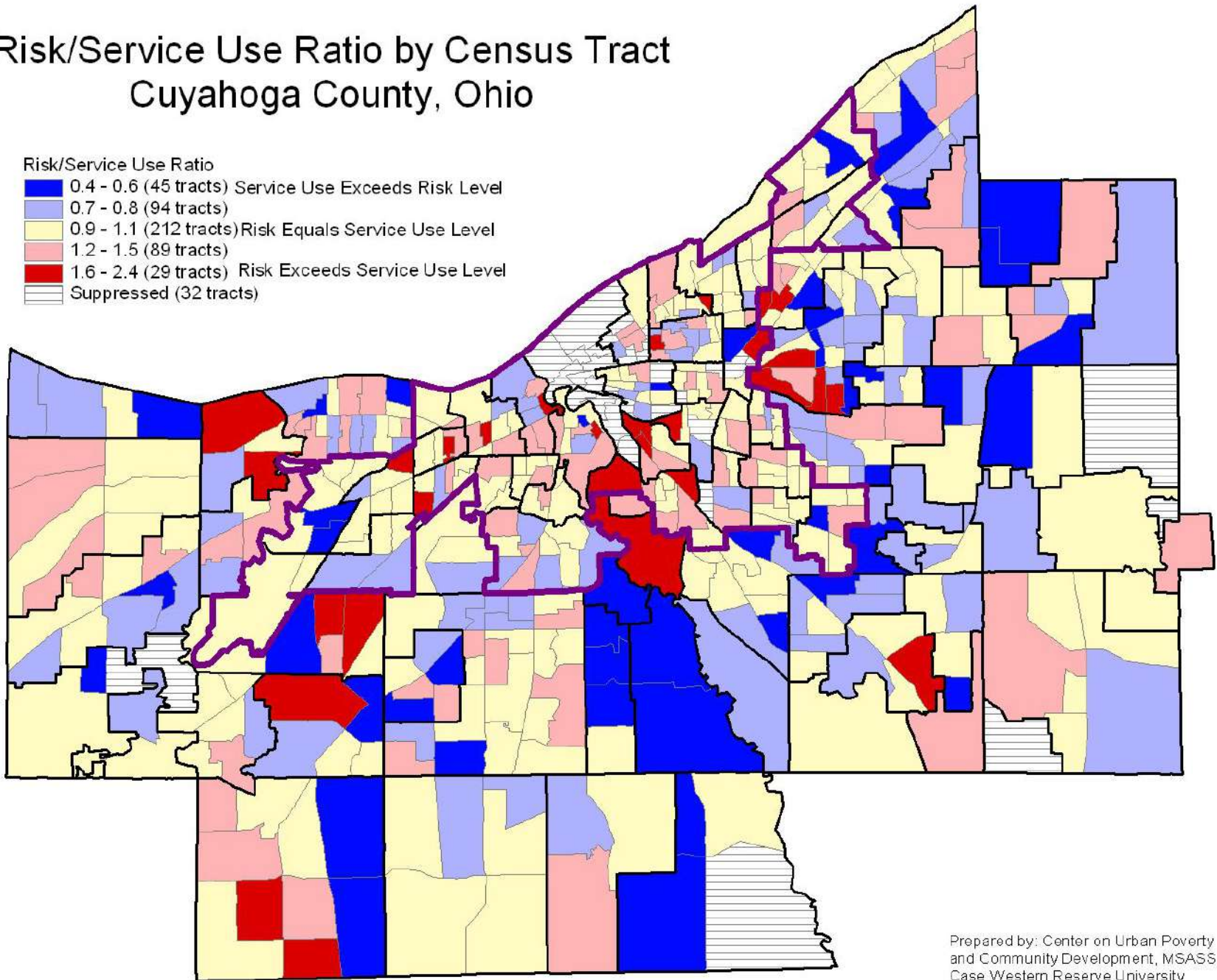
# Systems scan observations

- Efforts underway to better integrate and coordinate the many parts of the system
- Wealth of data to inform systems-level decision making but systematic access still needed to key data - Head Start students records, lead screenings,
- Structural and institutional factors challenge a seamless system from birth to kindergarten
- Other efforts/initiatives need to be better integrated into the county's service system -Voices for Ohio's Children, Children's Defense Fund – Ohio, Ohio Groundwork Campaign, Build Ohio, Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association

# Risk/Service Use Ratio by Census Tract Cuyahoga County, Ohio

## Risk/Service Use Ratio

- 0.4 - 0.6 (45 tracts) Service Use Exceeds Risk Level
- 0.7 - 0.8 (94 tracts)
- 0.9 - 1.1 (212 tracts) Risk Equals Service Use Level
- 1.2 - 1.5 (89 tracts)
- 1.6 - 2.4 (29 tracts) Risk Exceeds Service Use Level
- Suppressed (32 tracts)



# Conclusion/Next Steps

- Maintenance of collaborative over time
  - Shifting funding environment
  - Shifting focal outcomes within collaboration
- Formulation of a seamless system faces challenges
  - Programmatic targeting leads to transition issues
  - Funding stream constraints
  - Lack of willingness to engage in a system view
  - Effectively incorporating K-3 in system
- More data needed
  - Data on quality of service/settings and relative value
  - Data on critical milestones and outcomes (e.g., early developmental assessments)
  - Education data from private a parochial schools