

The Safe Babies Court Teams Project:

**Supporting Alcohol-Exposed Women and
their Children in the Child Welfare System**

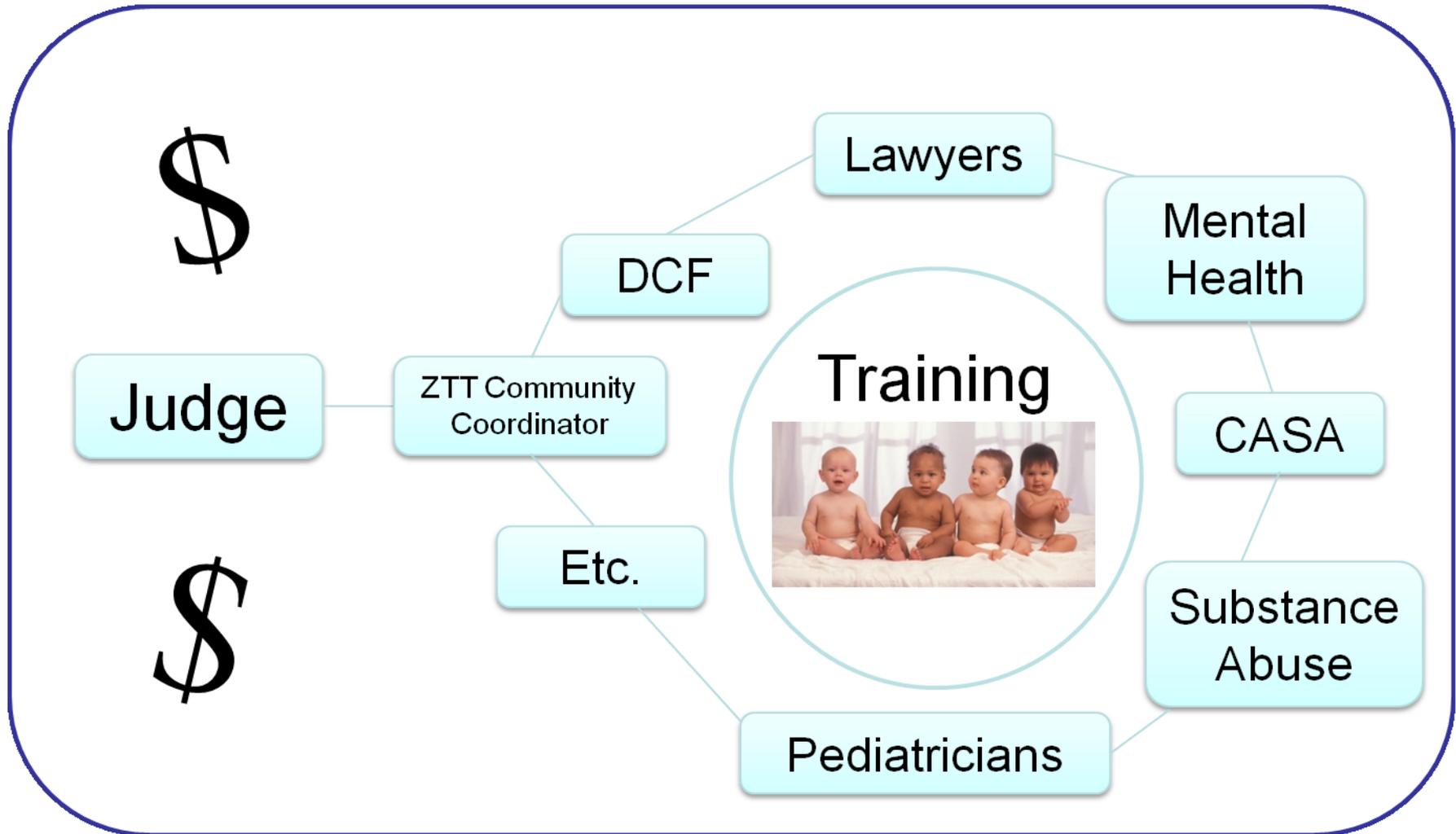
The Safe Babies Court Teams Project Goals

1. To increase awareness among all those who work with maltreated infants and toddlers about the negative impact of abuse and neglect on very young children.
2. Change local systems to improve outcomes and prevent future court involvement in the lives of very young children.



Photo credit: Lifestock Photos

The Safe Babies Court Teams: An Overview



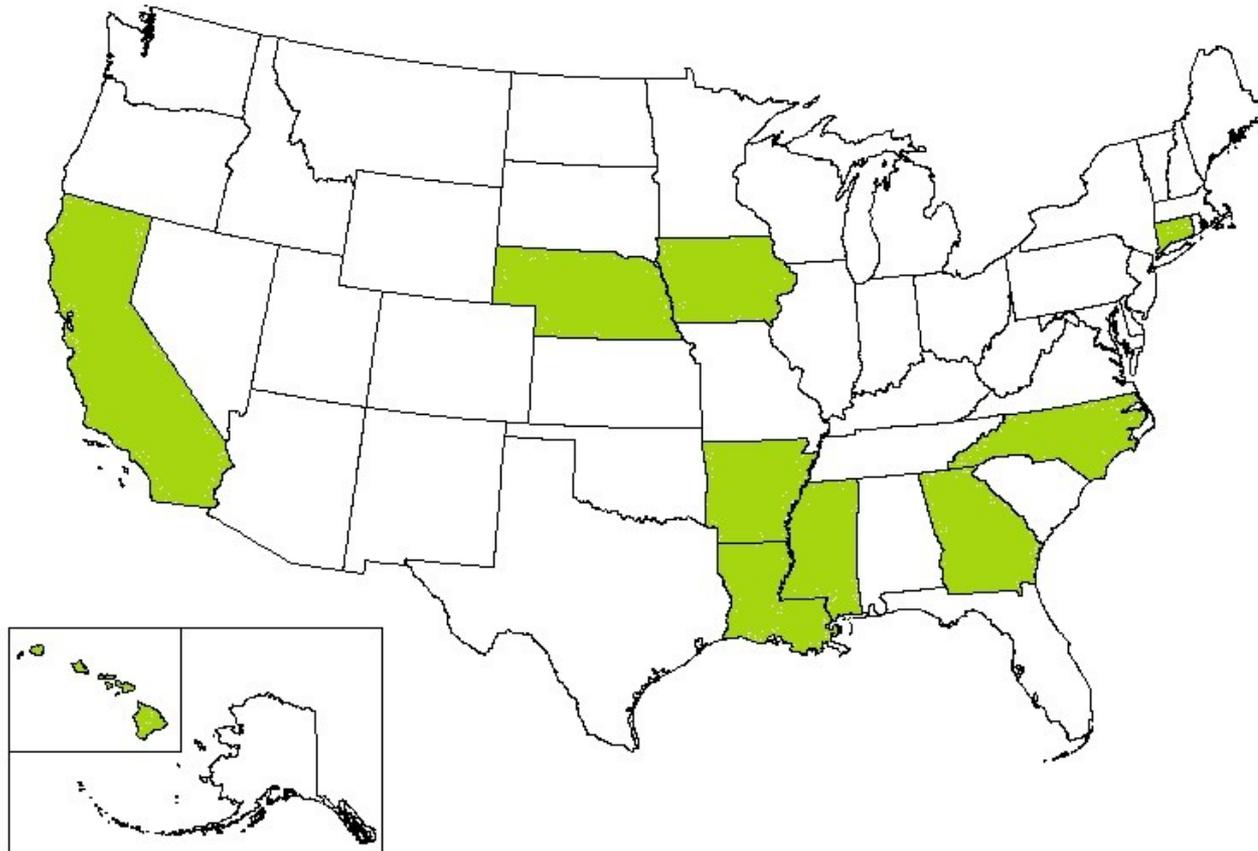
The Safe Babies Courts Teams: Core Components

The Safe Babies Court Teams Project has 10 Core Components including:

- Increased Parent Child Contact
- Monthly Case Reviews
- Concurrent Planning
- Appropriate Services

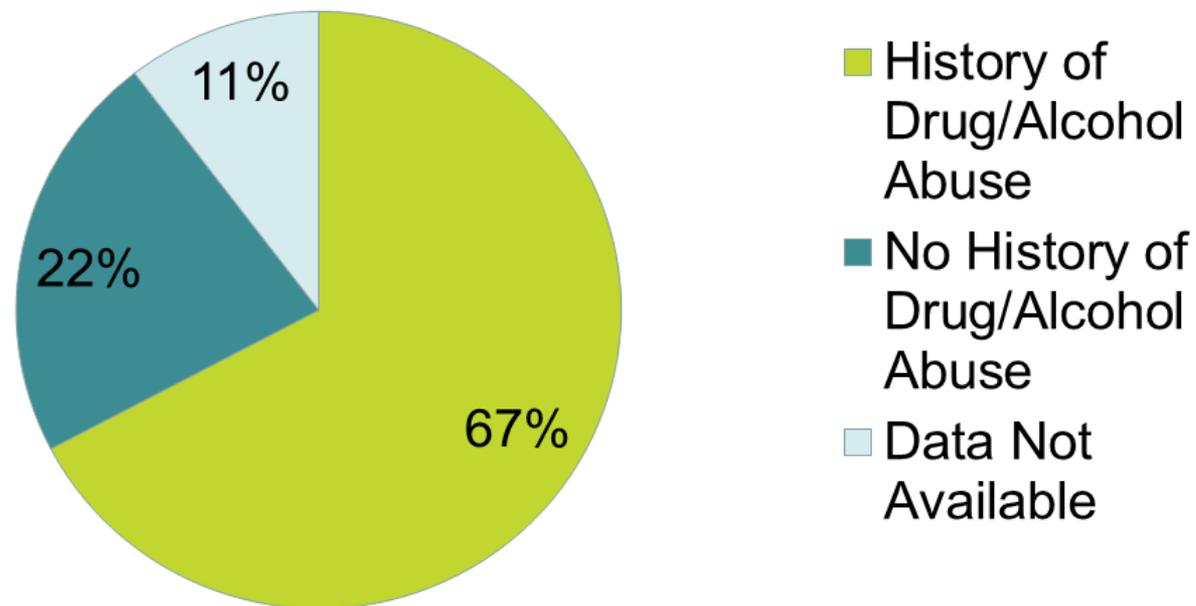


Court Team Locations



Parents in the Safe Babies Court Teams

History of Drug and Alcohol Abuse in Court Teams Parents



What We Know about FASD

- Children affected by FASD are more likely to come into foster care.
- Children affected by FASD, and not properly diagnosed, are more likely to move between placements.
- FASD is often intergenerational.
- FASD is commonly undiagnosed or misdiagnosed.

Building an FASD System



The goals of the Safe Babies Court Teams Project inspired a three-pronged approach to building local FASD systems.

The three areas of systems building are:

- Training professionals and encouraging collaboration
- Identifying and supporting affected children
- Identifying and supporting caregivers who are affected and/or have an exposed child.

Building an FASD System: Professionals

The Safe Babies Court Teams approach to informing professionals and encouraging collaboration included:

- Training the ZERO TO THREE staff;
- Hosting community trainings;
- Hosting an FASD Leadership Training aimed at creating community action plans; and
- Implementing community action plans.



Building an FASD: Community Plans

- Conduct an Asset/Needs Assessments
- Create an FASD Task Force
- Host trainings
- Develop a system of care
- Refer children in child welfare to existing systems of care.
- Add trainings or resources as needed.



Discussion Questions

1. Is your community addressing FASD? If so, how?
2. What assets exist in your community that can be utilized to address FASD?
3. What needs does your community have to enhance its ability to address FASD?
4. What are the first steps you would take to better addressing FASD in your community?

Building an FASD System: Children

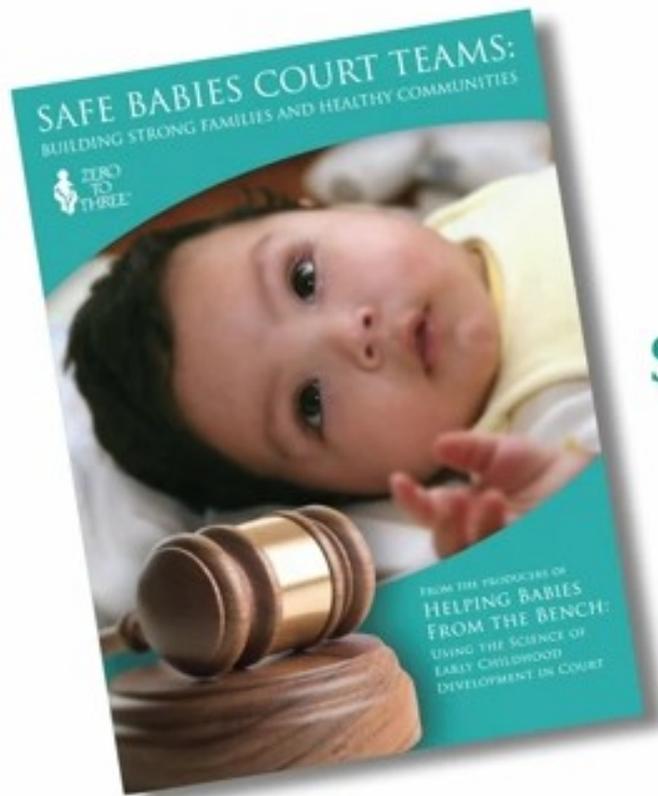
Needs:

- Early identification
- Appropriate early intervention
- A stable, loving caregiver
- A routine

Solutions:

- Provide in-person developmental screenings
- Ensure quick referrals to early intervention services
- Document parental alcohol use
- Create concurrent plans
- Ensure routine case plans

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Video



Zero to Three: Safe Babies Court Teams

Available now on DVD.

To order, go to:

<http://www.zerotothree.org/maltreatment/safe-babies-court-team/safe-babies-products.html>

Building an FASD System: Adults

Adults with FASD may have difficulty:

- Telling time
- Remembering multiple instructions
- With reading comprehension
- With large groups
- With cause-an-effect



Building an FASD System: Adults

Recognizing these needs, the Court Teams aim to:

- Identify the adult's capabilities
- Create an achievable case plan
 - Write down the case plan in simple language
 - Create routine case plans
 - Utilize praise
- Educate
- Create support systems.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you have an existing system of care for persons affected by FASD?
2. Does the existing system meet the needs of persons affected by FASD?
3. What are the steps to meeting the needs of persons affected by FASD?
4. What are the barriers to meeting the needs of persons affected by FASD?
5. What are ways you can overcome those barriers?

Contact Information

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