The Cuyahoga County Defending Childhood Initiative

The Cuyahoga County Defending Childhood Initiative was created to improve the County's response to childhood exposure to violence and trauma. The initiative focuses on increasing screening, assessment, and referrals into trauma-informed treatment for children in Cuyahoga County.

Between July 2012 and November 2015:

- 23,471 Children Screened for Violence Exposure and Trauma
- 2,245 Children Referred for Full Diagnostic Assessments
- 870 Children Referred for Trauma-Informed Treatment

Diagnostic Assessment Data Revealed that in the Past Year:

- 94% Reported exposure to violence
- 34% Witnessed domestic violence
- 22% Were assaulted with a weapon
- 16% Knew someone close to them who was murdered

Trauma-Informed Treatment Works!

Children Receiving Treatment Reported:

- Significant improvements in trauma symptomatology
- Significant decreases in problem behavior
- Significant reductions in violence exposure

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