

PSOP 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Executive Summary

2015 marked the tenth year for the Parent Support and Outreach Program (PSOP) of Olmsted County. In 2005, Olmsted County was one of 38 counties within the state of Minnesota who agreed to participate in the pilot program to implement differential response practices with families who were the subject of screened out reports of child maltreatment. The focus of the pilot program was to utilize services and supports that had demonstrated effectiveness in the Differential Response model of child protection. These services were aimed at addressing issues families face related to poverty as well as focusing on family engagement.

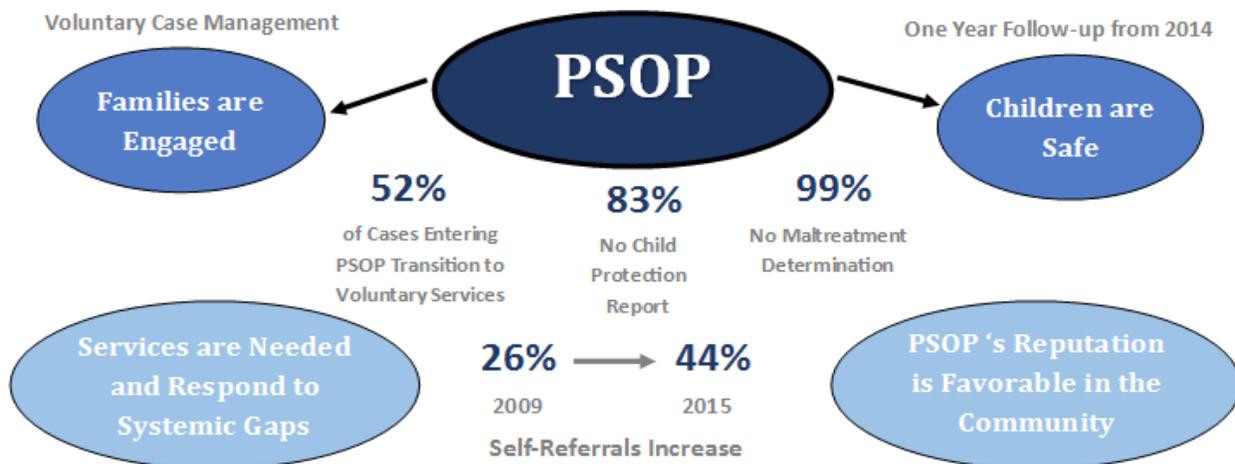


Over time, the program has been utilized to respond to systemic gaps within the social services system. As the number of families served by the program grew, Olmsted County was able to add staff. This enabled the program to expand in 2007 in order to provide services to expectant parents with a history or current issue related to the use of drugs and or alcohol. The program expanded once again in 2014 in order to ensure that families with older children (ages 11-18) could also access services through PSOP.

In 2015, PSOP served 549 families (260 assessments, 288 case management) involving 718 adults and 1,013 children. PSOP case management is most often brief (median time 28 days in 2015). However specialized cases are open longer (alcohol and drugs, median 48 days and severe mental illness, median 752 days).

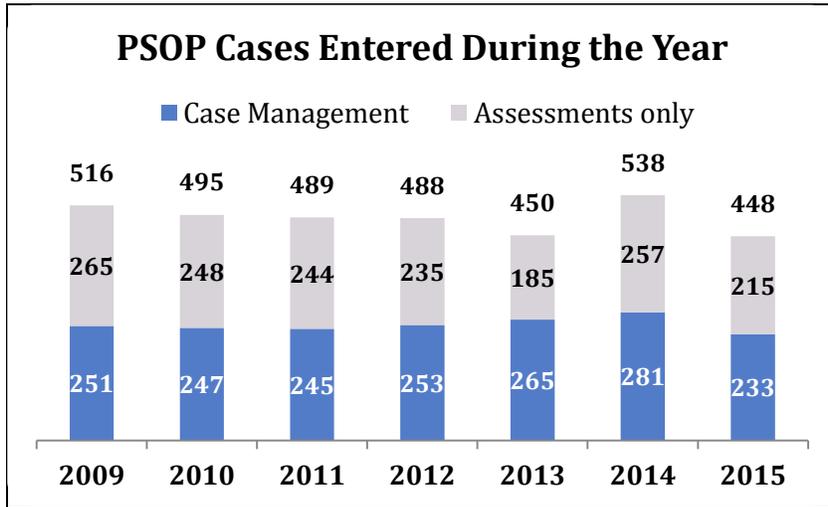
The prevention of families from entering into deeper-end child protection involvement remains a priority in Olmsted County. Over the last ten years, families who receive services through PSOP in Olmsted County have a low rate of repeat reports to social services, maltreatment findings and placement out of children out of the care of their parents or caregivers.

2015 Outcome Highlights



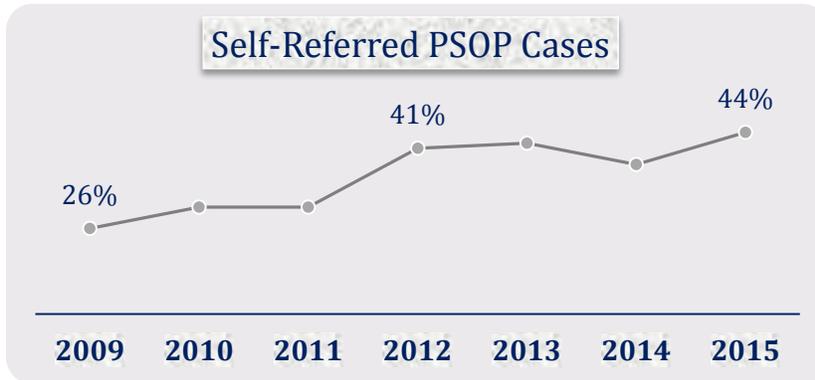
PSOP 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Service Trends



PSOP entering in 2015:

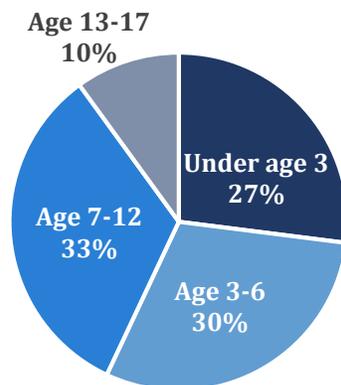
- 448 cases
- 1,462 family members
- 52% transitioned to voluntary case management
- Additional 31 cases entered for Child Welfare 'over age 10' and 6 case management cases entered for parents with severe and persistent mental illness



Percentage of self-referrals continues to rise indicating high awareness of PSOP in the community and a need for services

Demographic Outcomes

Age of Children Served in 2015 PSOP



1,103 children served

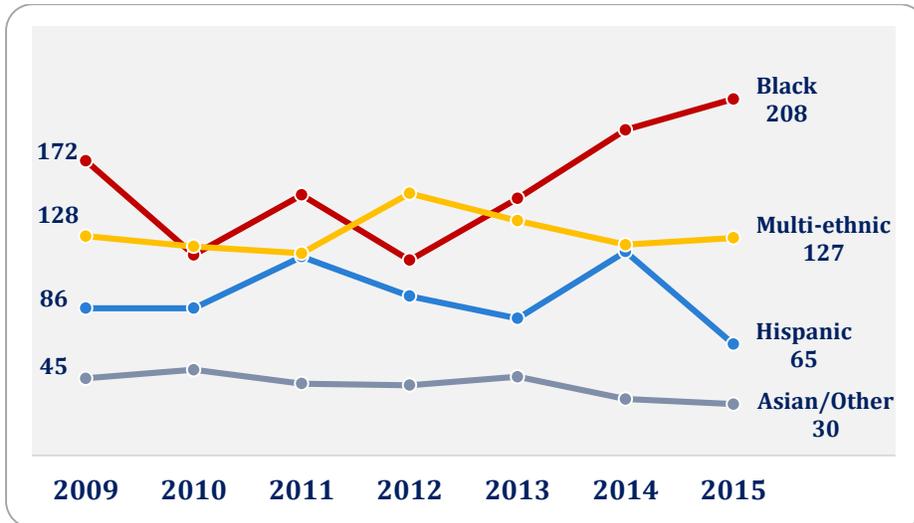
Includes all PSOP workgroups:

- Child Protection
- Child Welfare (over age 10)
- Alcohol and other

PSOP 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

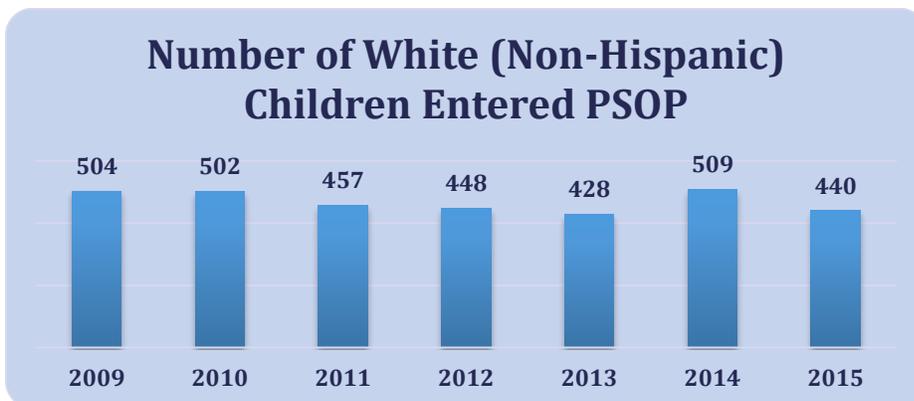
Race/Ethnicity Trends of Children Entering PSOP Child Protection**

Does not include Child Welfare cases "Over Age 10"



Half of children served by PSOP are non-white or Hispanic (49%)

Number of black children served by PSOP has risen over the past four years



The number of white non-Hispanic children has declined slightly over the years

Specialized PSOP Services

Alcohol and Other Drug Services (AOD)

Chemical dependency and mental health issues are the most common challenges faced by families served by PSOP.

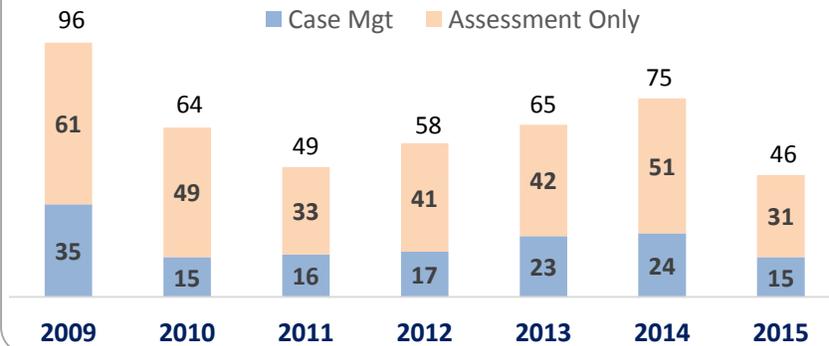
Specialized AOD services are provided to parents expecting a child who have issues related to alcohol and other drug addiction. The focus is to find and engage family/kin and others who can provide a network of support and help create safety plans prior to the delivery of the baby if possible. Family Group Decision Making conferences are frequently used to achieve this goal.



PSOP supports parent attendance in prenatal care and helps with access to chemical dependency services. Close collaboration with Olmsted County Public Health CRAFT program provides service to women who have problems with alcohol/drugs and who are pregnant and/or parenting children.

PSOP 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Alcohol and Drug Cases Entered in 2015



In 2015, there were 46 cases:

- 58 adults
- 55 children

Serious and Persistent Mental Illness (CARE)

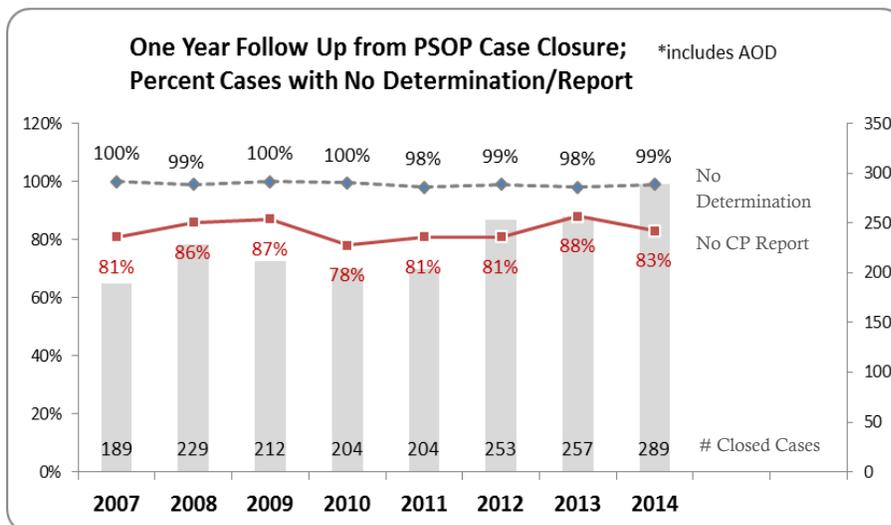
CARE is an early intervention program that stands for **Child Adult Relationship Enrichment Program** and is designed to serve parents diagnosed with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness and their children.

In 2015, there were 16 families with case management, 19 adults and 23 children.

The focus is on families with young children ages 0-5 and is a partnership between Olmsted County Child and Family Services and Zumbro Valley Health Center. The program is voluntary and extensive, lasting up to two years, with an objective to increase parenting skills, monitor and meet child wellbeing needs and improve family stability and safety.



Child Safety Outcome



A follow-up study is conducted each year to determine if there are child protection reports or maltreatment determinations made on children involved in a PSOP case closed the previous year.

Of cases closed in 2014:

- 99% with no determination
- 83% with no report

PSOP 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Challenges

Many families that the PSOP team work with are impacted by poverty. Families are employed but often do not earn a living wage. They face significant challenges in meeting basic needs such as food, securing affordable housing and paying monthly expenses.

PSOP is able to assist on a one-time basis but families need longer-term solutions.

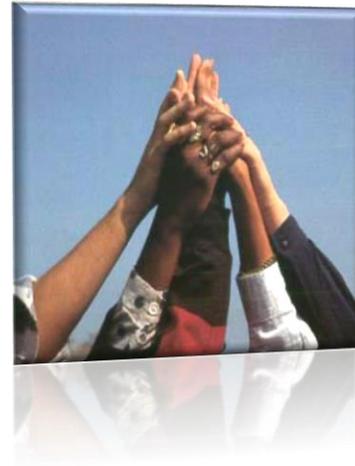
In addition to needing stable and safe homes, children also need access to safe childcare and enrichment activities. Families within our community have limited resources in terms of affordable childcare. The waiting list for child care assistance can be long and at times be closed. As a result families may utilize childcare arrangements that present safety and wellbeing concerns for their children.

While early childhood centers in our community have expanded, programs often fill quickly so not all children are able to access these opportunities.

Moving Forward

In 2014, Governor Dayton appointed a task force to take a deeper look at the Child Protection System in Minnesota, with a focus on high risk families receiving intensive services. It is crucial to assess and ensure the effectiveness of the child protection system but also important that preventative services like PSOP remain a priority for the state.

Olmsted County continues to collaborate with the Department of Human Services as well as other counties in our region offering partnership and mentoring to ensure strong service development and delivery.



PSOP Contact Information

Kari Hohn, PSOP Program Manager

hohn.kari@co.olmsted.mn.us

Phone: 507-328-6573

Jessie Stratton, PSOP Program Manager

stratton.jessie@co.olmsted.mn.us

Phone: 507-328-6441