Getting to the "why" and "how" of the matter:
A workshop on the use qualitative data-mining & analysis to improve child welfare practice

Colleen Henry, MSW, PhD
Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter College
City University of New York

Bryan Victor, MSW, PhD
School of Social Work
Indiana University

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Silberman
School *of* Social Work
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Workshop overview

- Highlights from keynote speech

- When to use qualitative data-mining (QDM) for CQI
  - Qualitative Research 101

- Nuts & bolts: How does QDM work?
  - Step by step
  - Case study

- Exploring use of QDM in your agency

- Wrap up: questions, clarifications, and comments

Highlights from keynote speech

- Qualitative Data-Mining
  - Utilizes existing data to better understand agency practice
  - Fosters new knowledge about client populations and emerging problems
  - Generates new knowledge about child welfare practice and case complexity
  - Deepens understanding of the underlying factors that contribute child welfare outcomes
  - Compliments the CQI process

When to use QDM

- When you want to explore causal relationships

- When you want to place information into context

- When you want to ask a question that starts with "why"

- When you want to ask a question that starts with "how"

- When you want a variable for quantitative analysis that isn't currently available to you

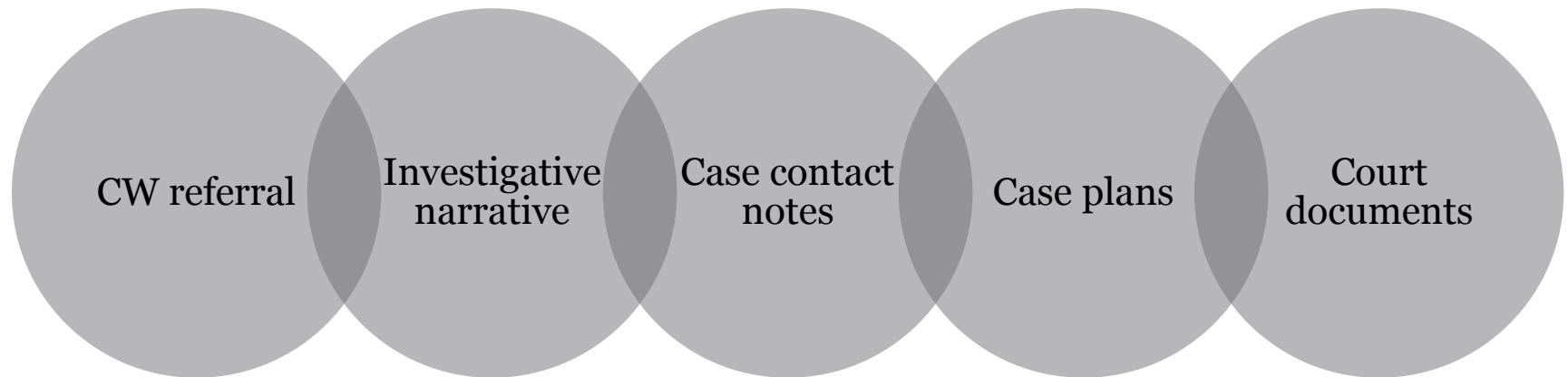# Qualitative research 101

Nuts & bolts: CW-QDM process

- Identifying practice & research concerns

- Developing practice research questions

- Identifying qualitative data sources & assessing data

- Data extraction and preparation

- Analysis and documentation of findings

- Dissemination of findings and integration into practice

Adapted from Henry, Carnochan, & Austin, 2017

Concerns and questions

Concern	Question
Application of abuse or neglect categories	How are caseworkers interpreting and applying a certain maltreatment type?
Increased rates of re-entry for certain groups	Why does this group re-enter at higher rates?
Emerging issues, problems, or trends	How is maltreatment/trauma experienced by youth who become pregnant while in care?

Adapted from Henry, Carnochan, & Austin, 2017

Data sources: mapping your data

CW referral Investigative narrative Case contact notes Case plans Court documents

Data sources: sampling

- The disappointing answer is that it depends.

- Random samples are best

- Saturation of themes/findings

Analyzing data: software selection

Analyzing data: coding documents

Analyzing data: coding strategies

Deductive Methods

Inductive Methods
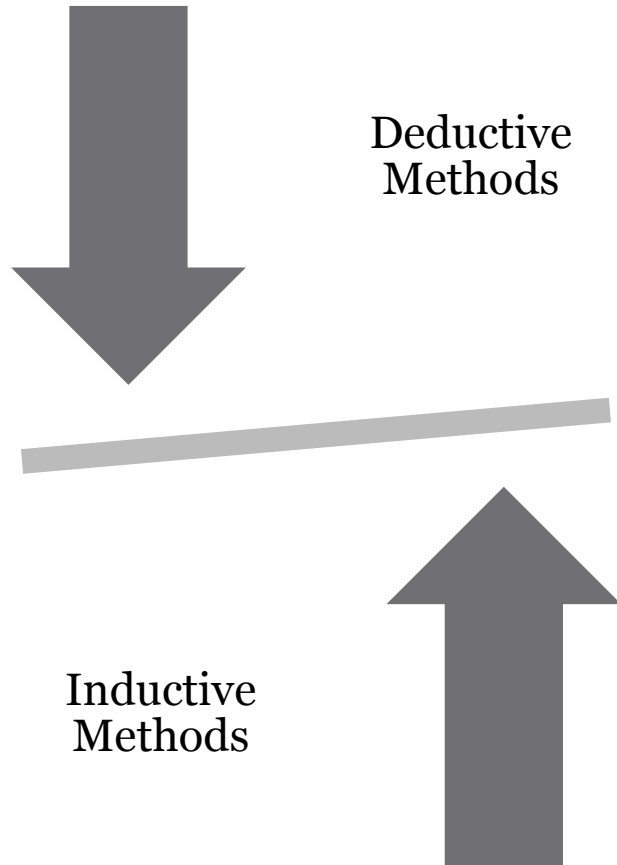
- Read through a handful of documents with your question in mind to ground yourself in the data

- Assign initial codes that say something meaningful about the document

- Then look for important commonalities and differences across codes

- Using your codes as a guide, begin to sort your documents into broader categories related to your research question

Case study

Case study

Allegations by Type
California 2008-2017

Webster, D., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Wiegmann, W., Saika, G., Chambers, J., Min, S., Randhawa, P., H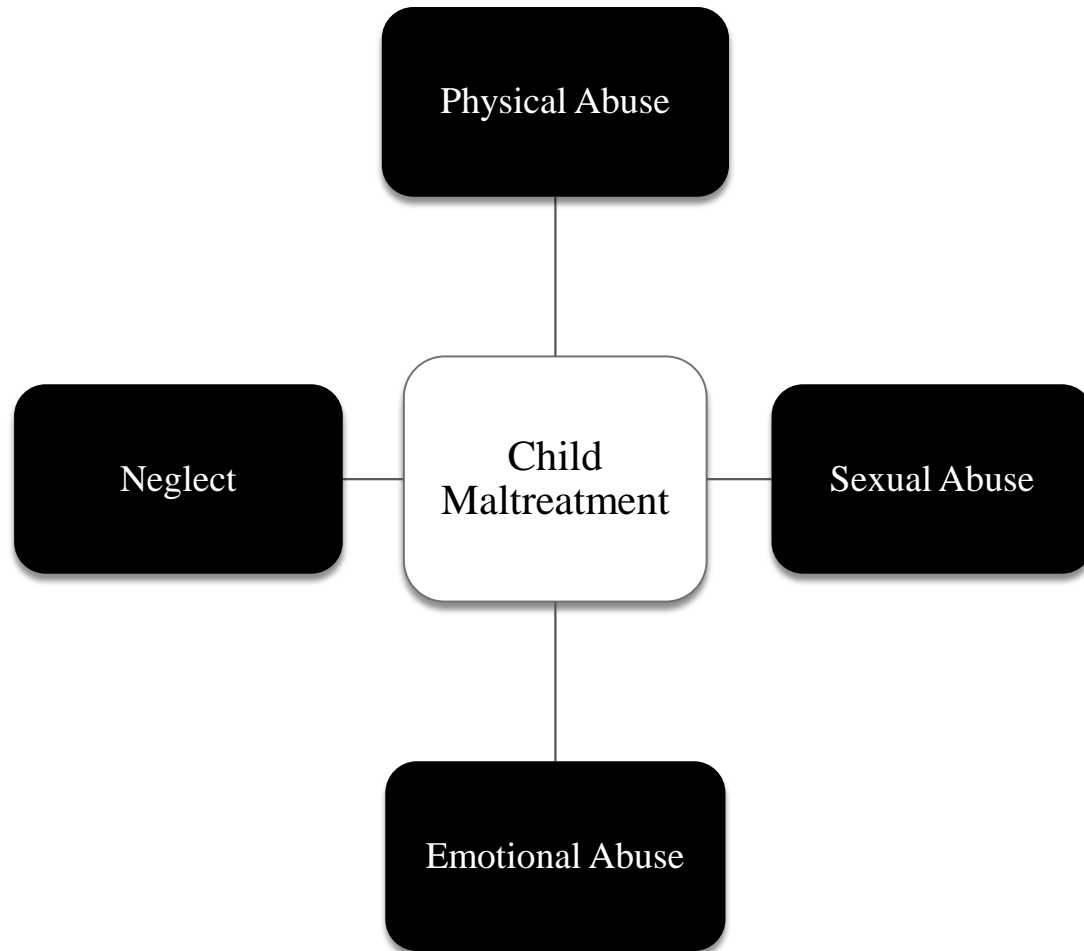ammond, I., Sandoval, A., Yee, H., Benton, C., White, J., Lee, H., & Morris, N. (2019). *CCWIP reports*. Retrieved 3/14/2019, from University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website.
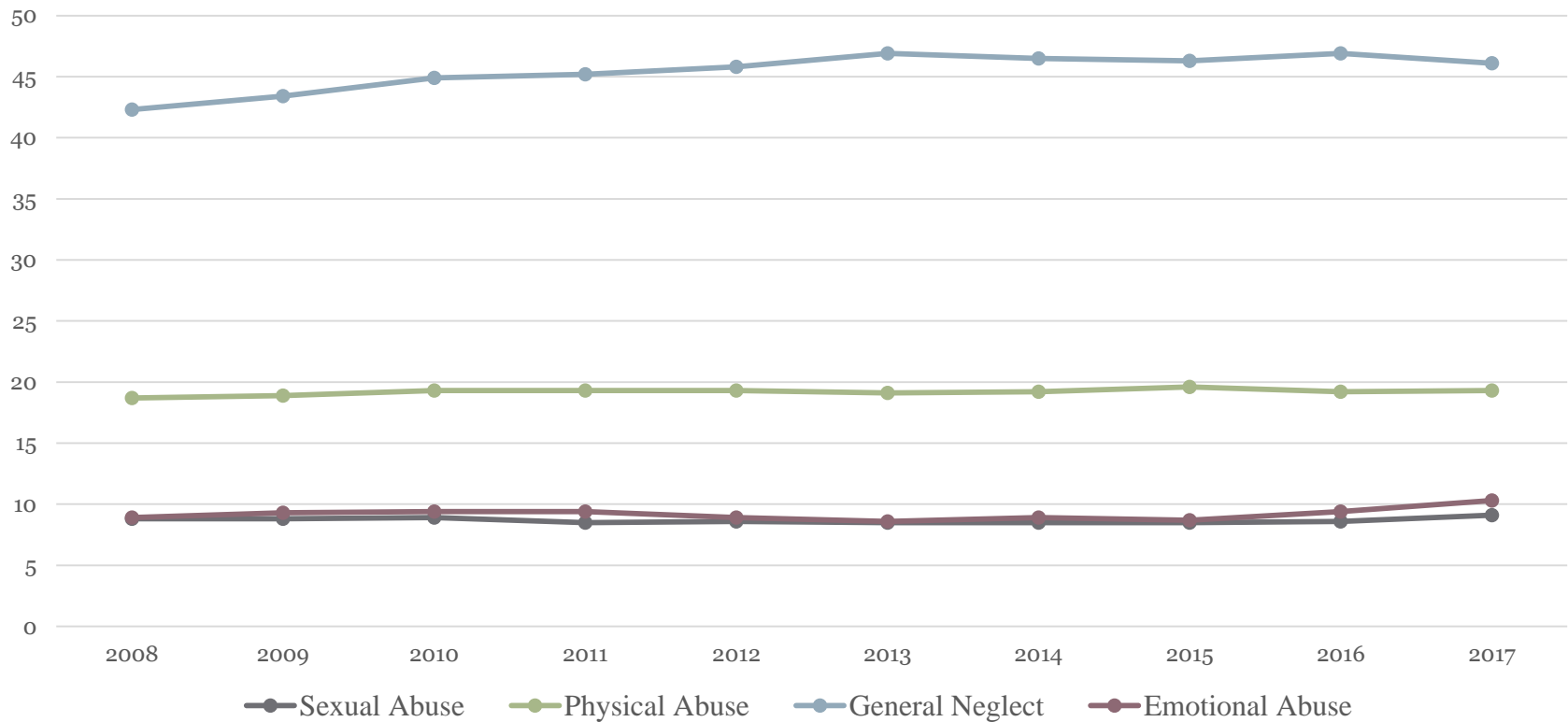
Case study

Case study

General Neglect Dispositions
California 2008-2017

Case study

Neglect substantiations: Under what conditions and with what justification?
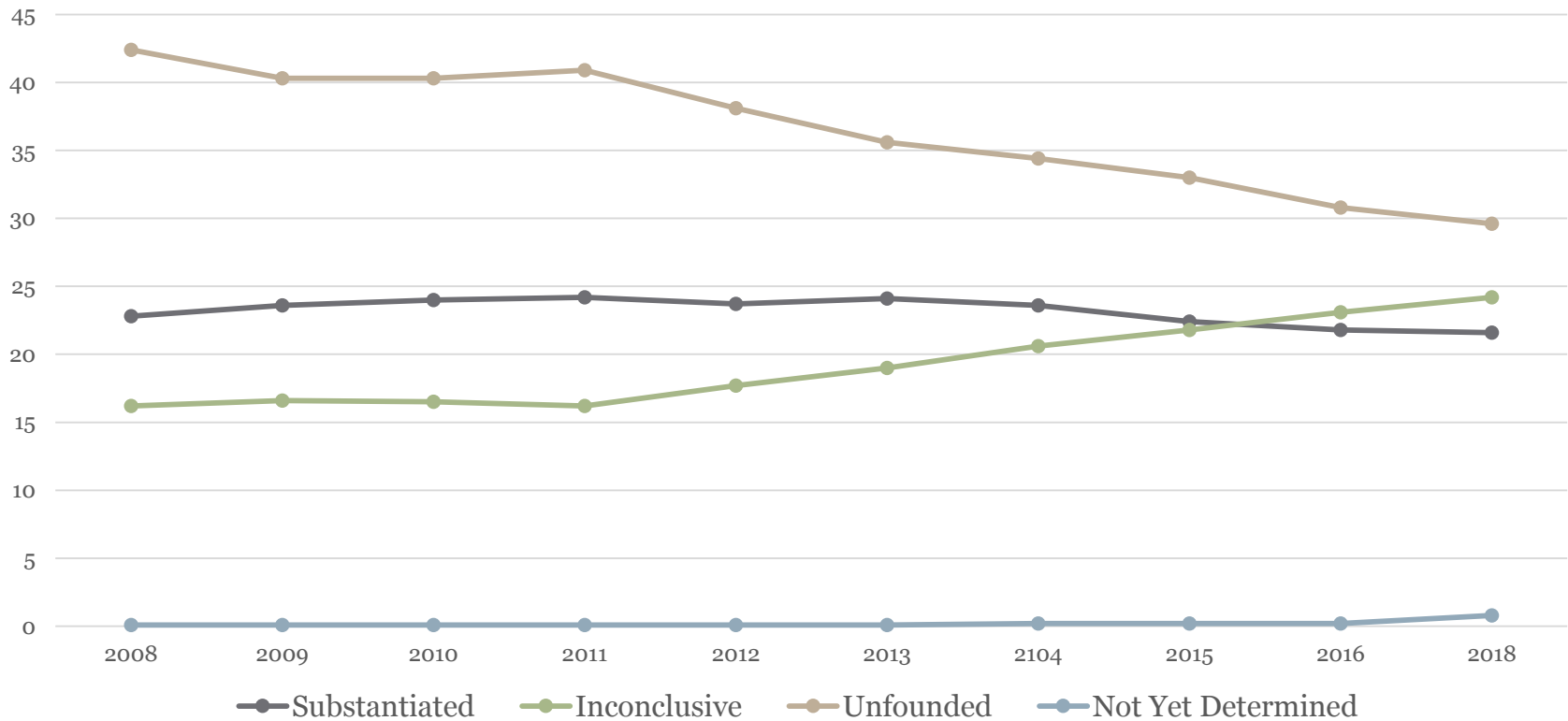
Case study

- Concern: State has guidelines for substantiating neglect. We can use quantitative analysis to know how often neglect is substantiated, against whom, and in what counties, but we don't know the context in which neglect is occurring or the basis for caseworker decisions to substantiate.

- Question: Under what conditions and with what justification do caseworkers substantiate neglect?

- Data source: Investigation narratives

- Analyzing data: Read through cases, assign initial codes, group into categories, compile findings.

Case study

Context of Neglect	Justification for substantiation
Caregiver does not meet the child's immediate needs for supervision, food, clothing, and/or medical or mental health care.	• The caregiver leaves the child alone in circumstances that create opportunities for serious harm, e.g., child left unattended in vehicle. • The child's nutritional needs are not met, resulting in danger to the child's health and/or safety, including malnutrition and morbid obesity.
The physical living conditions are hazardous and immediately threatening to the health and/or safety of the child	• Excessive garbage or rotted or spoiled food that threatens health. • Guns and other weapons are not locked and not properly secured. • Drug production in the home. • Substances or objects within reach of child that may endanger his/her health and/or safety.
Failure to protect	• The caregiver does not provide supervision necessary to protect the child from potentially serious harm by others. • The caregiver takes the child to dangerous locations where drugs are manufactured or regularly administered. • In circumstances of domestic violence, the non-offending caregiver is not able to protect him/herself or the child from immediate threat of physical and emotional harm.

Children's Research Center. (ND). California SDM Definitions. NCCD. Retrieved from: https://ca.sdmdata.org/definitions

Applying QDM in your agency

Take about 10 minutes to roughly fill in the worksheet we'll pass out now. We will float around the room to answer questions and provide clarifications.

Applying QDM in your agency

Now take 10-15 minutes to share your plan with your tablemates.

Applying QDM in your agency

- 2-3 examples of how you plan to use QDM
- Next steps for integrating this into your practice
- Questions, comments and concerns

Thank You

colleen.henry@hunter.cuny.edu

bgvictor@iu.edu

Qualitative coding resources

- Padgett, D. K. (2017). *Qualitative Methods in Social Work Research* (Third Edition). SAGE Publications, Inc.

- Miles, M. B., Huberman, A. M., & Saldaña, J. (2013). *Qualitative Data Analysis: A Methods Sourcebook* (Third Edition). SAGE Publications, Inc.

- Creswell, J. W., & Clark, D. V. L. P. (2006). *Designing and Conducting Mixed Methods Research* (1st ed.). SAGE Publications, Inc.