

Programs for Children, Youth, and Families Need a Guiding Framework for Accountability and Funding

A presentation to the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee

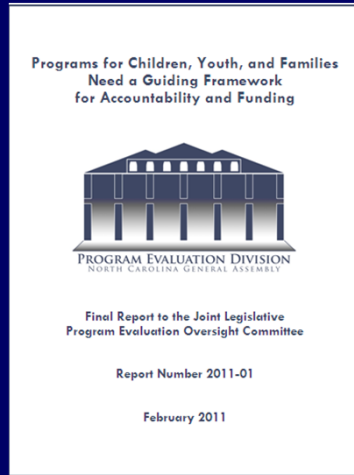
April 5, 2011

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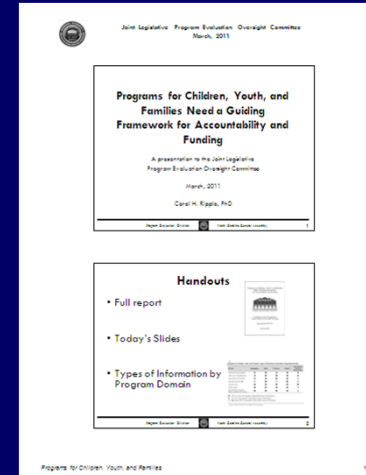


Handouts

Full Report



Today's Slides



Two-sided Sheet

Seven Domains Describe All 53 Programs in the Inventory

Domain	Description	Number of Programs	Domain Funding
Child and Maternal Health	Nutrition, dental, and prenatal services; provider training; health insurance; health promotion and prevention	17	\$ 780,375,089
Child Care/ Prekindergarten	Direct prekindergarten and after-school care; service vouchers; provider training; accreditation; quality improvement; availability	15	851,238,523
Child Safety and Welfare	Domestic violence services; child welfare and family preservation services; advocacy; prevention and public health initiatives	14	392,082,988
Education and Life Skills	Youth employment training and life skills; enrichment activities	21	5,908,890
Family Support	Direct services for parents; income assistance	4	395,145,474
Juvenile Justice	Legal services; residential and community-based services for youth with delinquency problems	12	138,232,357
Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Early Intervention	Advocacy; direct services for children, youth, and parents of children with mental health problems, substance abuse, or developmental disabilities	10	719,834,727
Total		93	\$ 3,282,818,048

Source: Program Evaluation Division based on survey responses. Report p. 12

Programs for Children, Youth, and Families: Types of Performance Information Collected by Domain

Domain	Descriptives	Inputs	Processes	Outputs	Documented Outcome Measurement
Child and Maternal Health	◐	●	◐	●	◐
Child Care/Prekindergarten	◐	●	●	●	◐
Child Safety and Welfare	◐	●	●	●	◐
Education and Life Skills	○	●	○	●	○
Juvenile Justice	●	●	●	●	●
Family Support	●	●	●	●	○
Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Early Intervention	●	●	●	●	○

● – 75% or more of programs collected this type of information
 ◐ – 50-74% of programs collected this type of information
 ○ – Less than 50% of programs collected this type of information

Source: Program Evaluation Division based on survey responses.



Evaluation Team



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Overview: Findings

- Children, youth, and families were served by 93 programs across 18 agencies at a cost of \$3.3 billion from all sources
- Over 60% of programs did not collect outcome data
- Programs fit under seven domains
- A conceptual framework would promote strategic funding and programming



Overview: Recommendation

Authorize the Legislative Study Commission on Children and Youth to create a strategic plan for children, youth, and families

- Set statewide goals
- Set broad parameters to assess progress toward goals

Report p. 19



Background



Our Charge

Legislation based on a recommendation from the 2009 Study Commission on Children and Youth report:

- Study programs that directly or indirectly benefit children and youth
- Identify sources of funding
- Determine whether they have goals, indicators, and benchmarks to measure success

Report p. 2



Why an Inventory?

The state funds programs, but...

- What kinds of programs?
- Who runs them?
- How much money do they get?
- To what end?



Parameters

- **Funding:** State funding streams that allocated funds in FY 2009-10
- **Activity:** Goods, services, or public assistance
- **Target:** Prenatal up to age 18 and their families

Report p. 2



Parameters (continued)

- **Focus**
 - Specific target on children, youth, or their families
 - Health, safety, or well-being
- **And Not**
 - Research only
 - K-12 education

Report p. 2



Data Sources

- State agency surveys
- Interviews with program administrators
- Evaluators in other states
- Literature review

Report p. 2



Findings



Finding 1.
**In Fiscal Year 2009-10, North Carolina
funded 93 programs for children,
youth, and families across 18
agencies and universities**



The Inventory

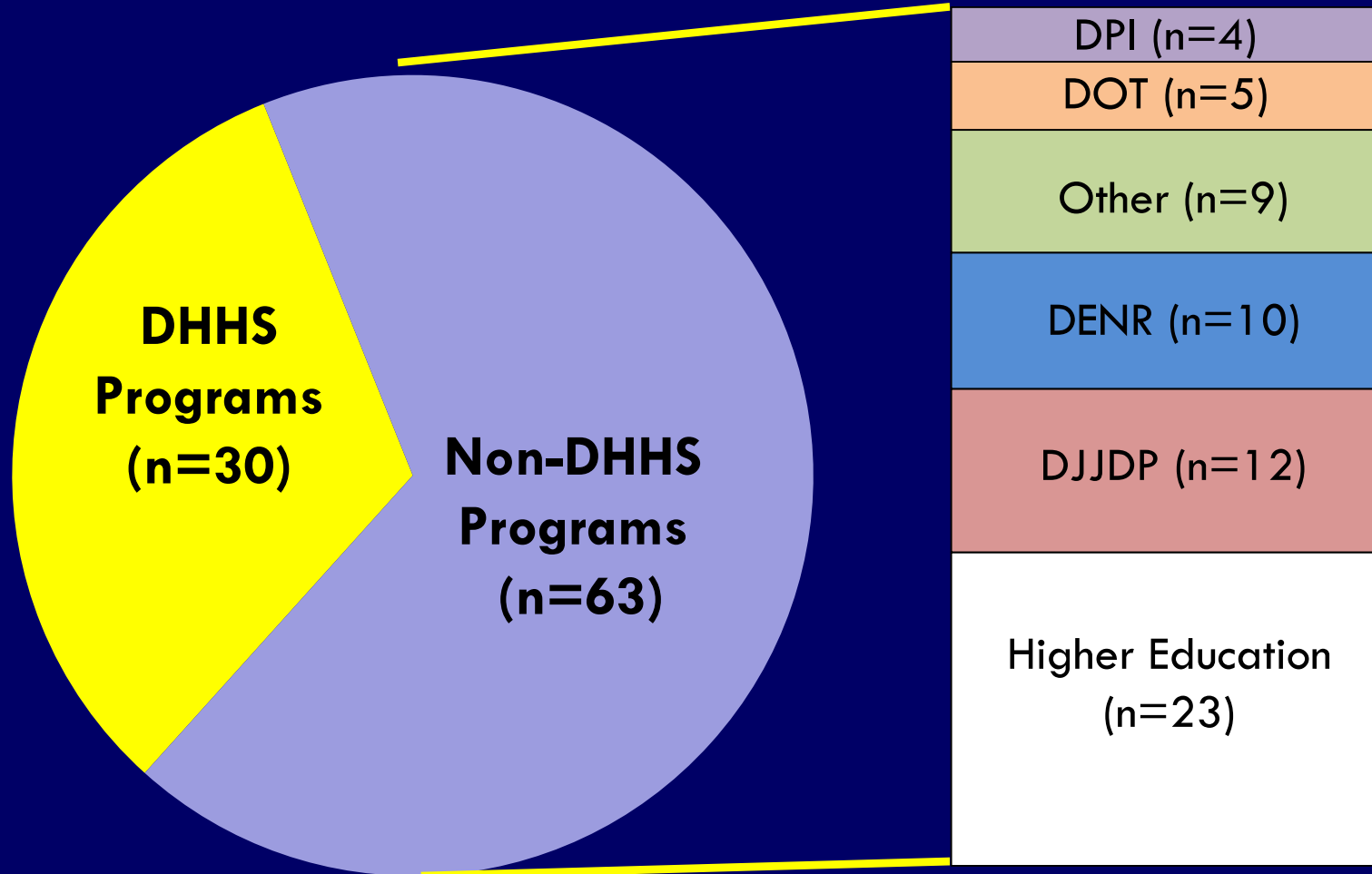
93 programs were operated by 18 agencies:

- 63 operated by 17 agencies
- 30 operated by the Department of Health and Human Services
 - Grouped services within programs
- Report Appendix A

Report p. 6; Appendix A



The Inventory



Report p. 7



The Inventory

Total expenditures of \$3.3 billion from all sources

- Lowest: \$245.00
- Highest: \$386.6 million

Report pp. 7-8



Finding 2.

Over 60% of programs did not collect the type of data necessary to inform whether they achieved intended goals



Program Goals

- Models and goals are building blocks for accountability
- Most programs had models and goals
 - 59% had program models
 - 73% had goal statements that met Program Evaluation Division criteria
- Nearly all programs collected some data, but the types of evidence varied

Report p. 8



Strength of Evidence

<u>Strength of Evidence</u>	<u>Type of Information</u>	<u>Examples</u>
	Descriptives	<i>Demographics</i>
	Inputs	<i>Staff, funding</i>
	Processes	<i>Length of time in program</i>
	Outputs	<i>Number of sessions</i>
	Outcomes	<i>Change in attitudes/behaviors, return on investment</i>

Report p. 9



Examples of Outcomes

Juvenile Justice: Project Challenge

Table 5. Referrals/Arrests since Completion of Project Challenge by 6th or 12th Month Survey

Arrested or Referred since Completion	Follow-up Month		Total
	6 Month	12 Month	
Yes	38 15.00%	32 14.48%	70 14.80%
No	209 83.00%	187 84.62%	396 83.70%
Did Not Answer	5 2.00%	2 0.90%	7 1.50%
Total	252 100.00%	221 100.00%	473 100.00%

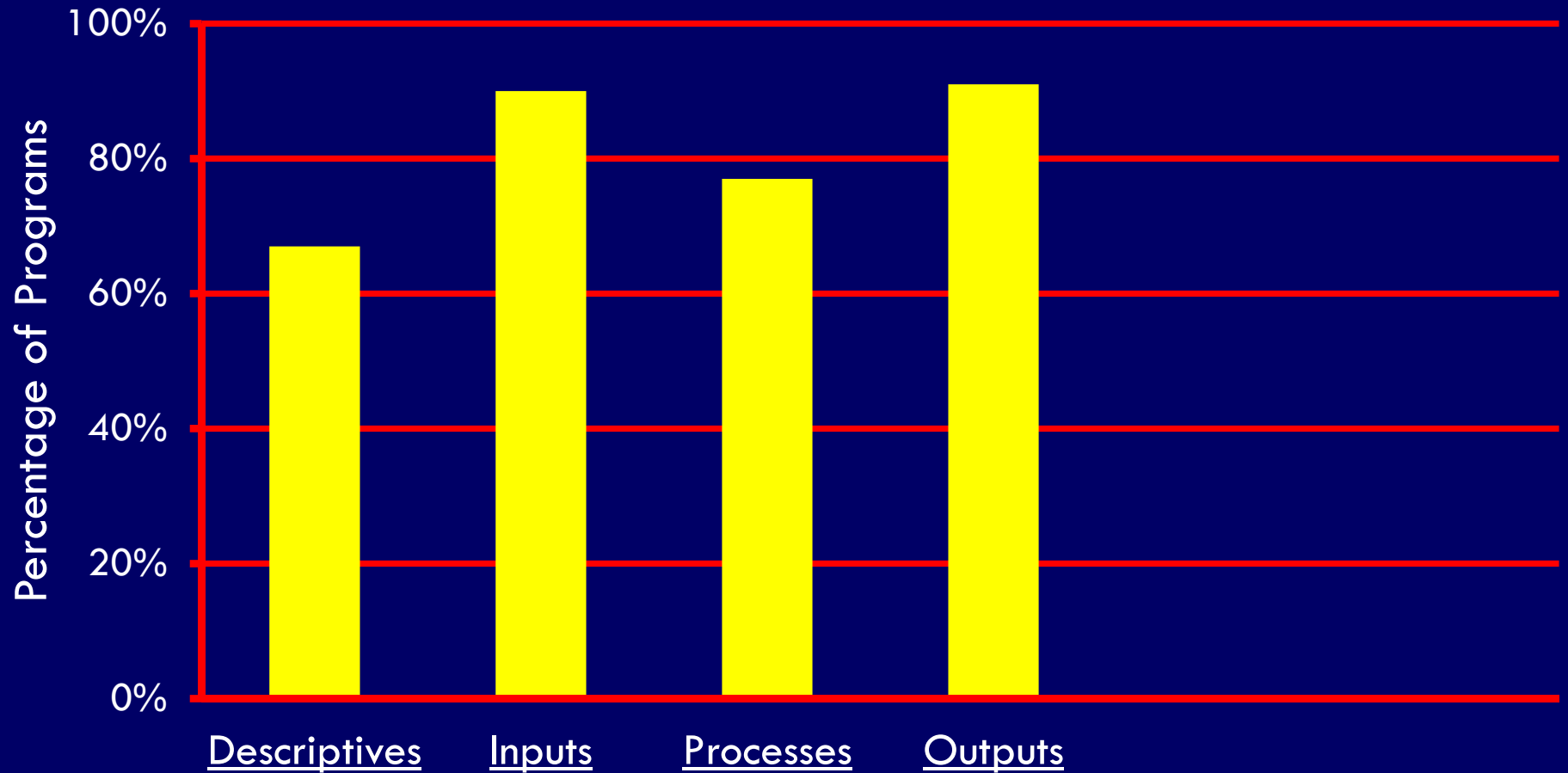
Examples of Outcomes

UNC Wilmington: Friends, Food, and Fun Nutritional Health Program

“Which is healthier?”



Types of Performance Information Collected

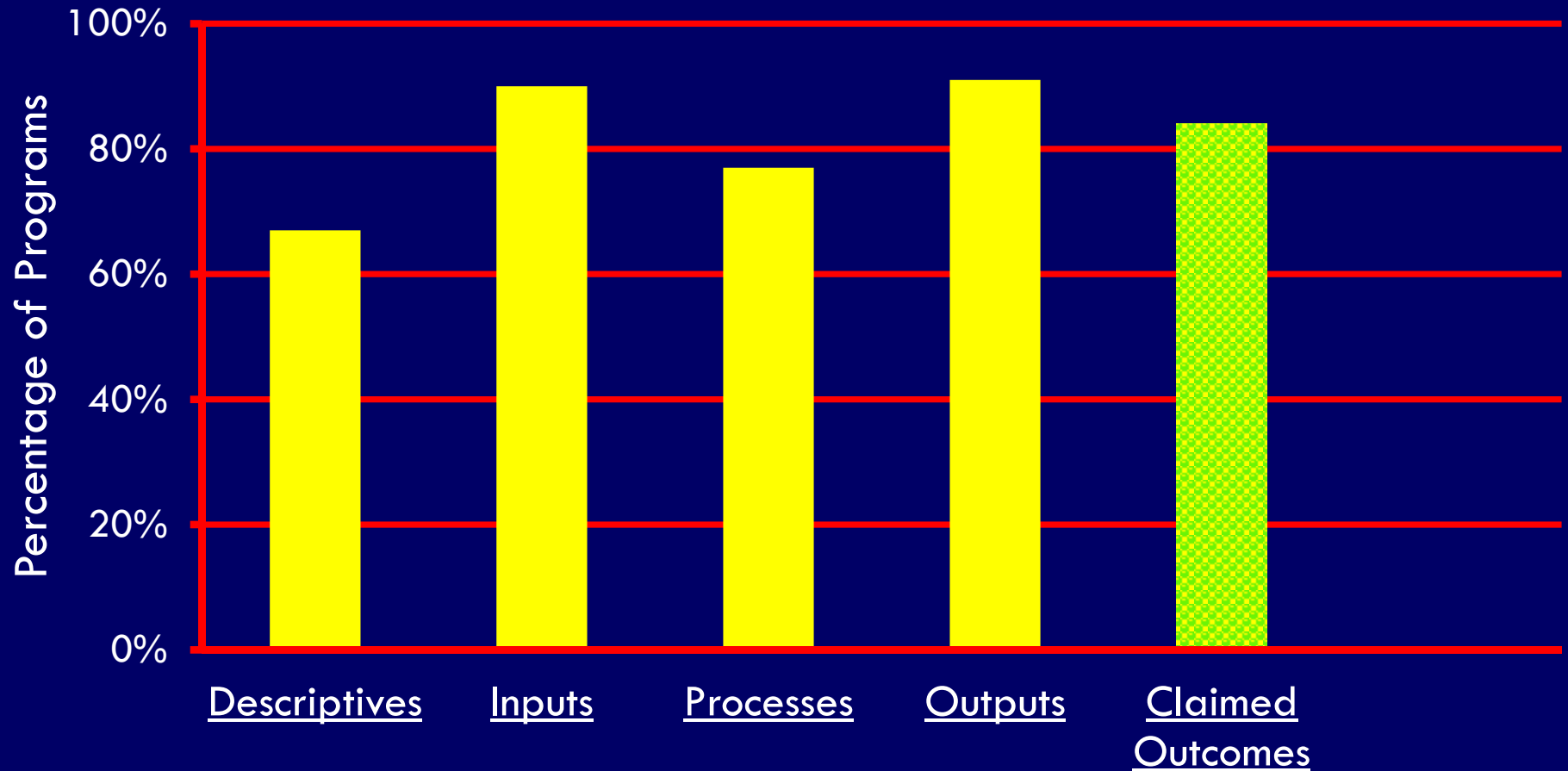


Type of Performance Information

Report p. 10



Types of Performance Information Collected

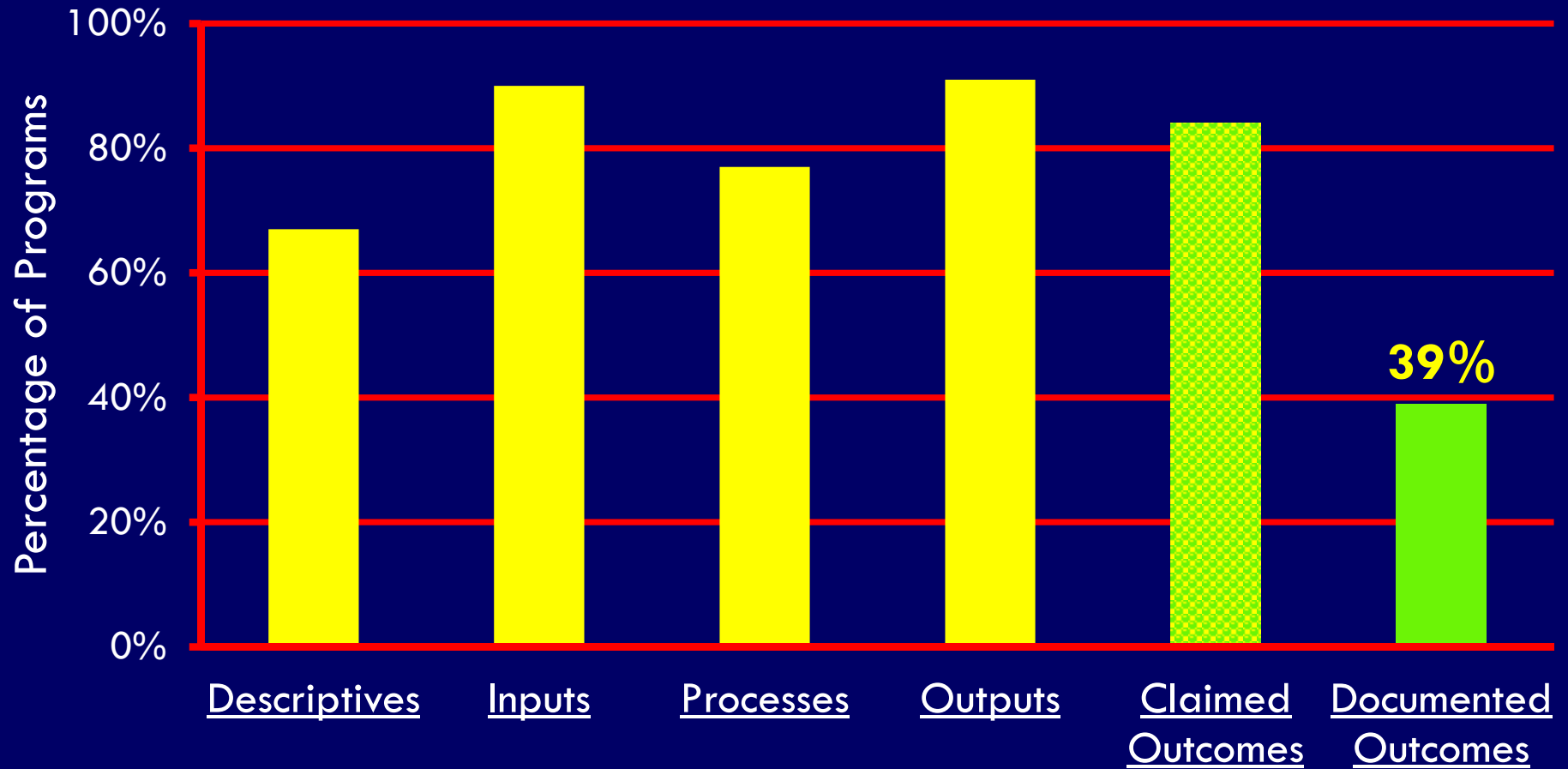


Type of Performance Information

Report p. 10



Types of Performance Information Collected



Type of Performance Information

Report p. 10



Performance Measures and Funding

Outcome Evidence	Funding from All Sources	% of Total Funding
Outcomes Documented	\$1.97B	60%
Outcomes Not Documented	\$1.14B	35%
No Outcomes	\$172.1M	5%
Total	\$3.3 B	100%

Report p. 11



Finding 3.
**Despite their scattered nature, these
programs can be categorized into
seven domains**



Seven Program Domains

Domain	Programs	Funding (Millions)
Child and Maternal Health	17	\$780.4
Child Care/PreKindergarten	15	\$851.2
Child Safety and Welfare	14	\$392.1
Education and Life Skills	21	\$5.9
Family Support	4	\$395.1
Juvenile Justice	12	\$138.2
Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Early Intervention	10	\$719.8
Total	93	\$3.3 Billion

Report p. 12; Appendix B



Finding 4.

Conceptual frameworks can be the basis for effective funding strategies



The Inventory: Programs in North Carolina Are Scattered

- 93 programs operated by 18 entities
- Entities were overseen by six different appropriations committees in 2010
- Only one agency had an organizing strategy

Report pp. 15-16



Conceptual Frameworks Exist

- Department of Health and Human Services goals and objectives
- Office of State Budget and Management program inventory
- Coordinating entities in 20 other states

Report pp. 17-19



Conceptual Frameworks

Frameworks provide:

- Coherent way to examine what is offered
- Promotion of common measures and outcomes
- Targeted, strategic funding
- Identification of a statewide approach

Report p. 14



Recommendation



Recommendation.
**Authorize the Legislative Study
Commission on Children and Youth
to create a strategic plan for North
Carolina's children, youth, and
families**



Strategic Plan

- Establish statewide goals and objectives
- Recommend strategic grouping of programs to facilitate policy and funding decisions
- Identify broad parameters for performance measurement
- Determine whether programs should be reconfigured

Report pp. 19-20



Strategic Plan

Work with the Office of State Budget and Management:

- Determine how best to use their inventory and performance measures
- Direct OSBM to develop a plan for training and technical assistance for agencies

Report pp. 19-20

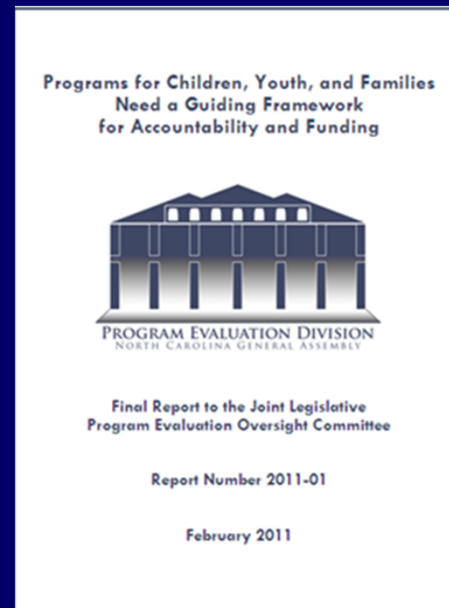


Summary

- Programs for children, youth, and families are scattered
- Outcome data are sparse
- Programs can be readily grouped together under seven domains
- Conceptual frameworks exist and are needed to improve policy and funding



**Report available online at
<http://www.ncleg.net/PED/Reports/Topics/Intergovernmental.html>**



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