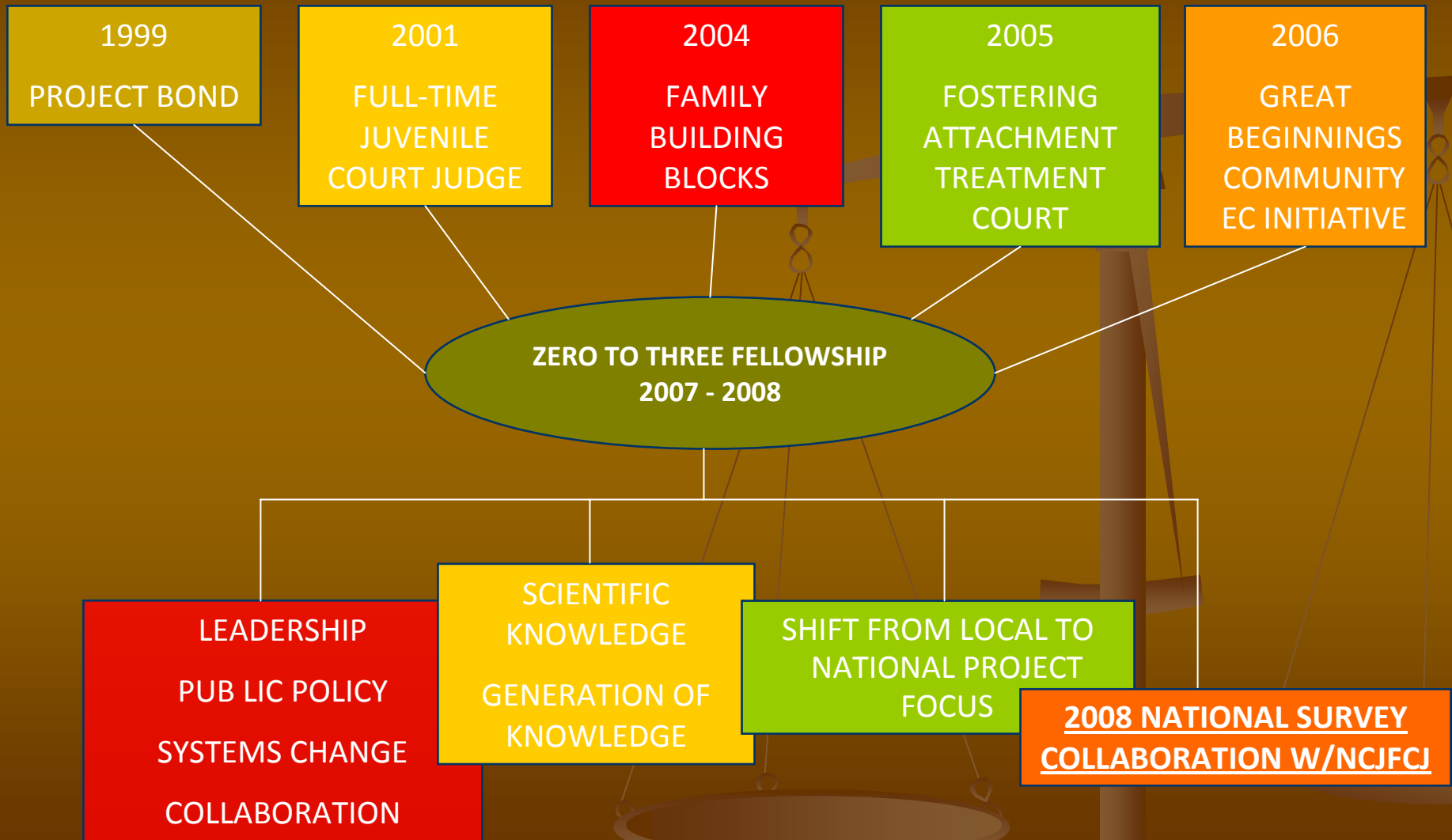


***BETTER OUTCOMES FOR  
INFANTS AND TODDLERS:  
COLLABORATION WITH DEPENDENCY COURTS  
FOR SYSTEMS REFORM  
2008 SURVEY RESULTS***

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES  
AND  
ZERO TO THREE NATIONAL CENTER FOR INFANTS, TODDLERS, AND FAMILIES

HONORABLE PAMELA L. ABERNETHY  
MIMARI A. HALL, M.A., NCJFCJ

# FELLOWSHIP JOURNEY



WHY



JUDGES?

- DAILY WITNESS TO CYCLIC, INTERGENERATIONAL ABUSE AND NEGLECT FROM THE BENCH
- JUDGES UNIQUELY SITUATED TO ACT
- POWER TO BRING COMMUNITY PARTNERS TOGETHER

# PERSONAL RELECTION: *“CRUMBS FROM THE TABLE OF JOY”*

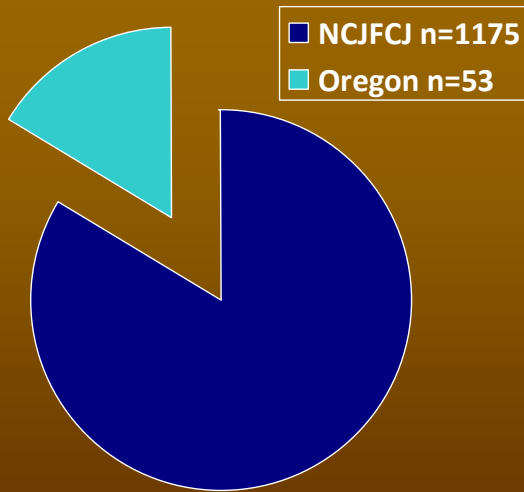
*HOW MANY OF THE DEPENDENT WARDS OF MY COURT EXPERIENCED SIGNIFICANT JOY IN THEIR LIVES?*

- *PRENATAL DRUG EXPOSURE*
- *YEARS OF CHRONIC NEGLECT FOLLOWED BY YEARS OF FOSTER CARE*
- *LOW TO NO SELF-ESTEEM*
- *NO OR LACK OF AFFECTION*
- *EXPECTATIONS FOR POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS AND FOR A HAPPY FUTURE ARE NILL*

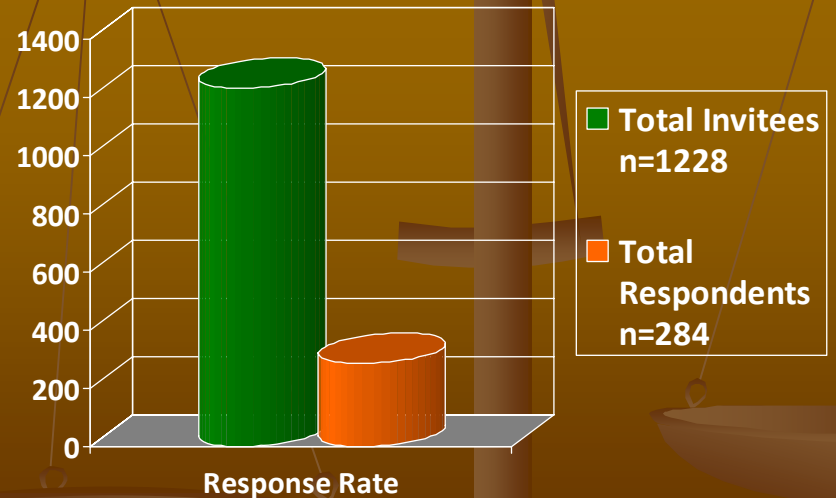
# SURVEY METHOD

COLLABORATION AMONG THE ZTT FELLOW, NCJFCJ AND ZERO TO THREE (ZTT)

SAMPLE  
(N=1228)



RESPONSE RATE  
23% (n = 284)



# SAMPLE SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. INFANTS AND TODDLERS CAN EXPERIENCE DEPRESSION
2. INFANTS AND TODDLERS CAN SENSE A PARENT'S MOOD AND BE AFFECTED BY A PARENT'S DEPRESSION OR ANGER
3. INFANTS AND TODDLERS CAN EXPERIENCE LONG TERM EFFECTS FROM WITNESSING VIOLENCE

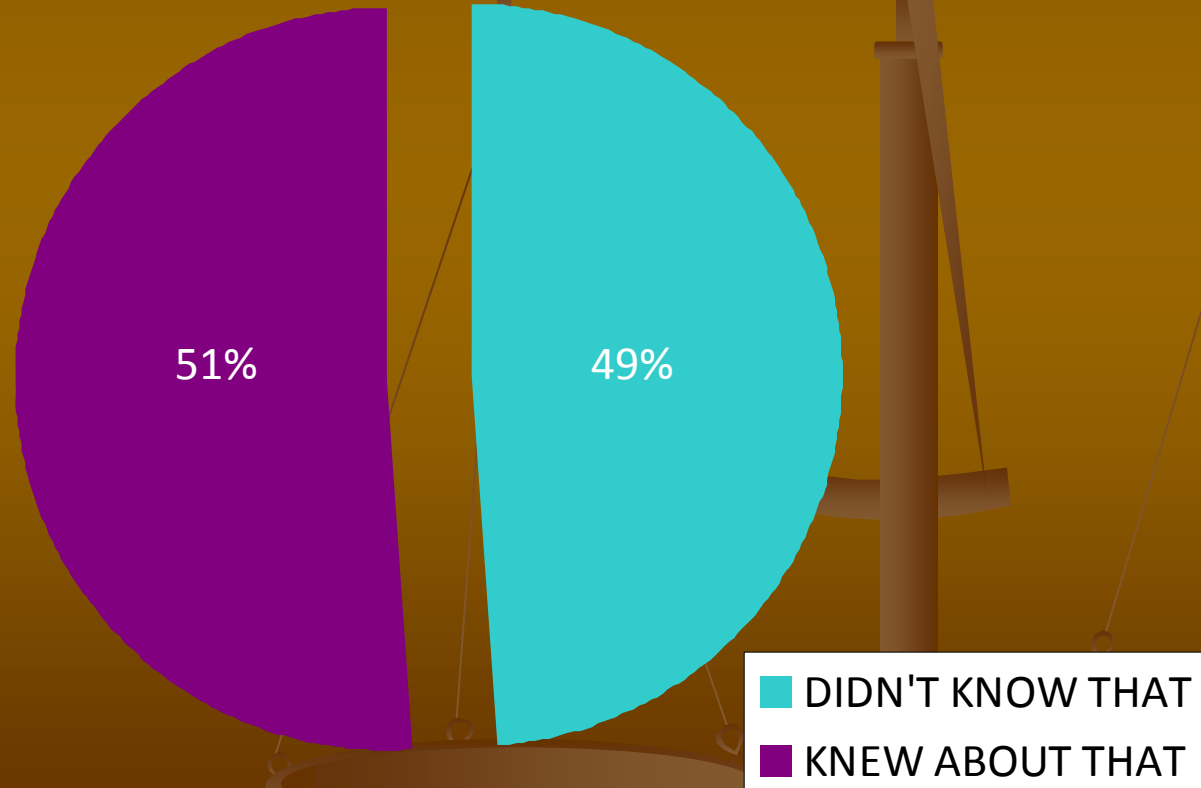
# SAMPLE SURVEY QUESTIONS

- CHILDREN UNDER AGE 3 IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM ARE AT A VERY HIGH RISK OF HAVING BELOW AVERAGE COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT
- EACH ADDITIONAL VISIT THAT BABIES AND TODDLERS RECEIVE WITH PARENTS PER WEEK TRIPLES THE ODDS OF PERMANENCY IN A YEAR
- INFANTS AND TODDLERS CAN GET ASSESSMENTS AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES THROUGH INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA) PART C AND ARE REQUIRED TO BE REFERRED IF THERE IS A SUBSTANTIATED INCIDENT OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT

# KEY FINDINGS I

## JUDICIAL KNOWLEDGE

### IDEA PART C REFERRAL



# KEY FINDINGS I

## JUDICIAL KNOWLEDGE (Cont.)

### ■ CROSS-TABULATION RESULTS

#### 1. VICTIMS ACT MODEL COURTS (VAMC) vs. NON-VAMCs

- VAMC PARTICIPANTS SIGNIFICANTLY MORE KNOWLEDGE THAN NON-VAMC RESPONDENTS
- KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONS (d), (e), (f), AND (i) STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT

# KEY FINDINGS I

## JUDICIAL KNOWLEDGE (Cont.)

### 2. 0-2 YEARS vs. 3-10 YEARS vs. 10+ YEARS ON BENCH

- JUDGES WITH 10+ YEARS EXPERIENCE *MORE KNOWLEDGE* ABOUT QUESTION (c)
- JUDGES WITH 2 OR LESS YEARS EXPERIENCE *LESS KNOWLEDGE* ABOUT QUESTIONS (e) AND (i)

### 3. ZTT vs. NON-ZTT

- OVERALL NOT STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT
  - CAUTION SHOULD BE TAKEN DUE TO:
    - CEILING EFFECTS;
    - DRAMATIC DIFFERENCE IN THE SIZE OF THE TWO GROUPS

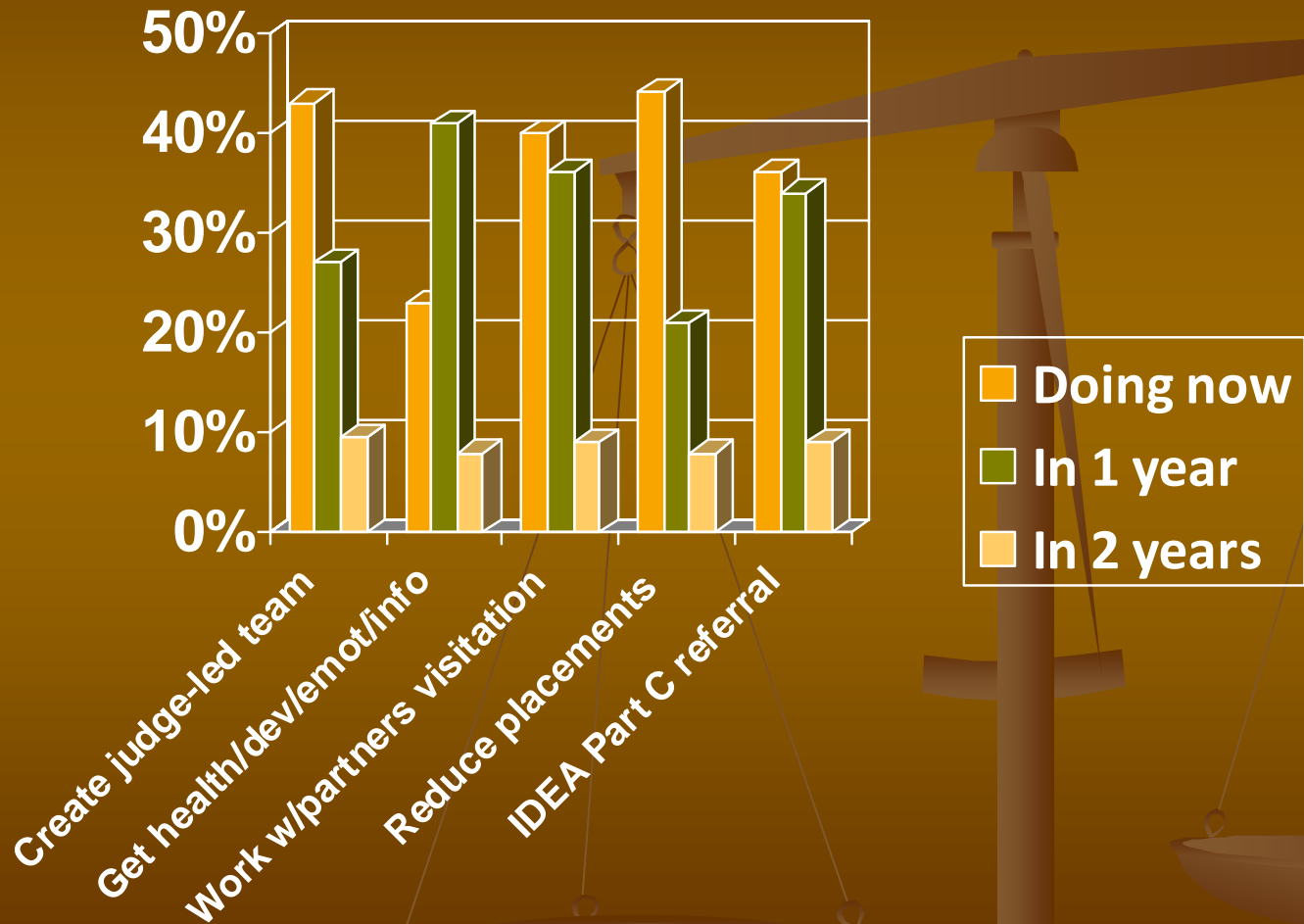
# KEY FINDINGS II

## JUDICIAL PRACTICE AND SCIENCE

JUDGES WITH THREE YEARS OR MORE EXPERIENCE ON THE BENCH **MORE LIKELY** TO BELIEVE IN THEIR ABILITY TO USE SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE TO MAKE BETTER JUDICIAL DECISIONS

# KEY FINDINGS III

## SYSTEMS CHANGE



# NEXT STEPS

- SURVEY RESULTS REPORT ONLINE PUBLISHING BY NCJFCJ
- ARTICLE IN ZTT JOURNAL
- INDIVIDUAL CALL TO ACTION

# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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[www.zerotothree.org](http://www.zerotothree.org)



**THANK YOU!**