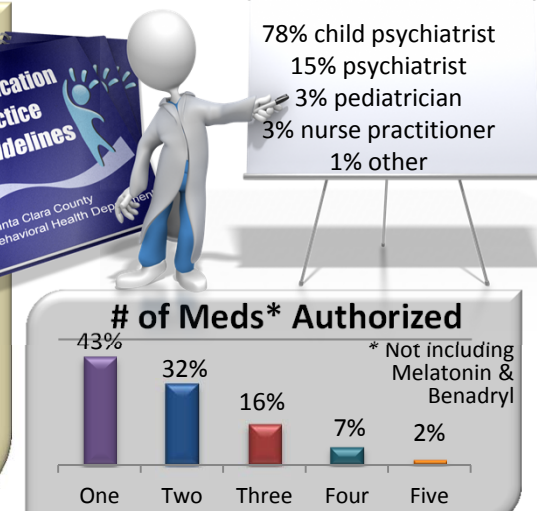
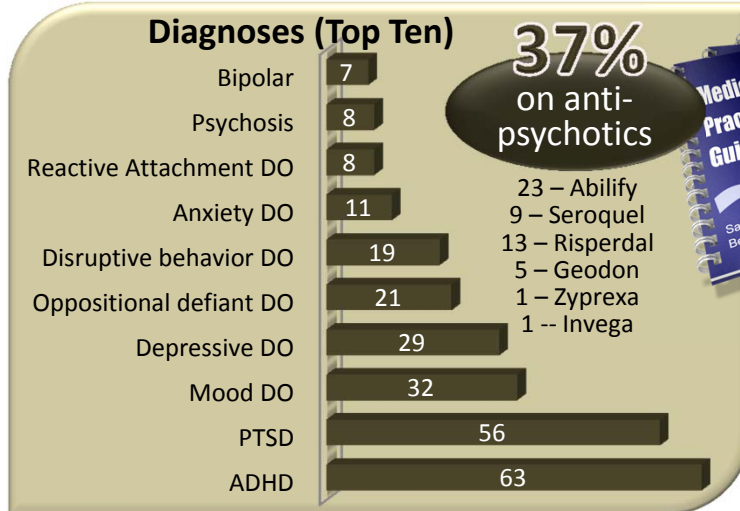
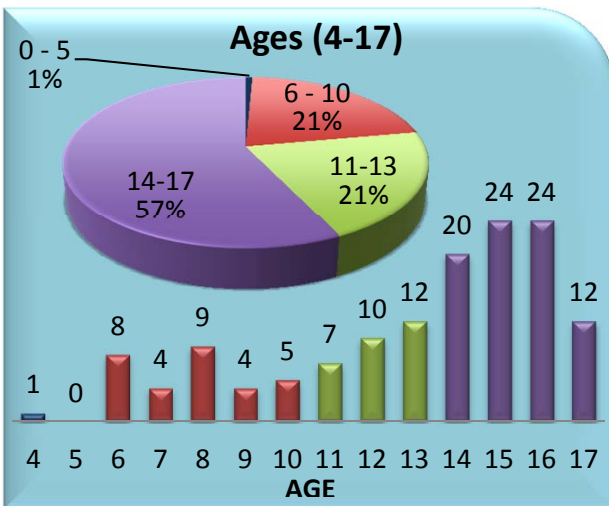
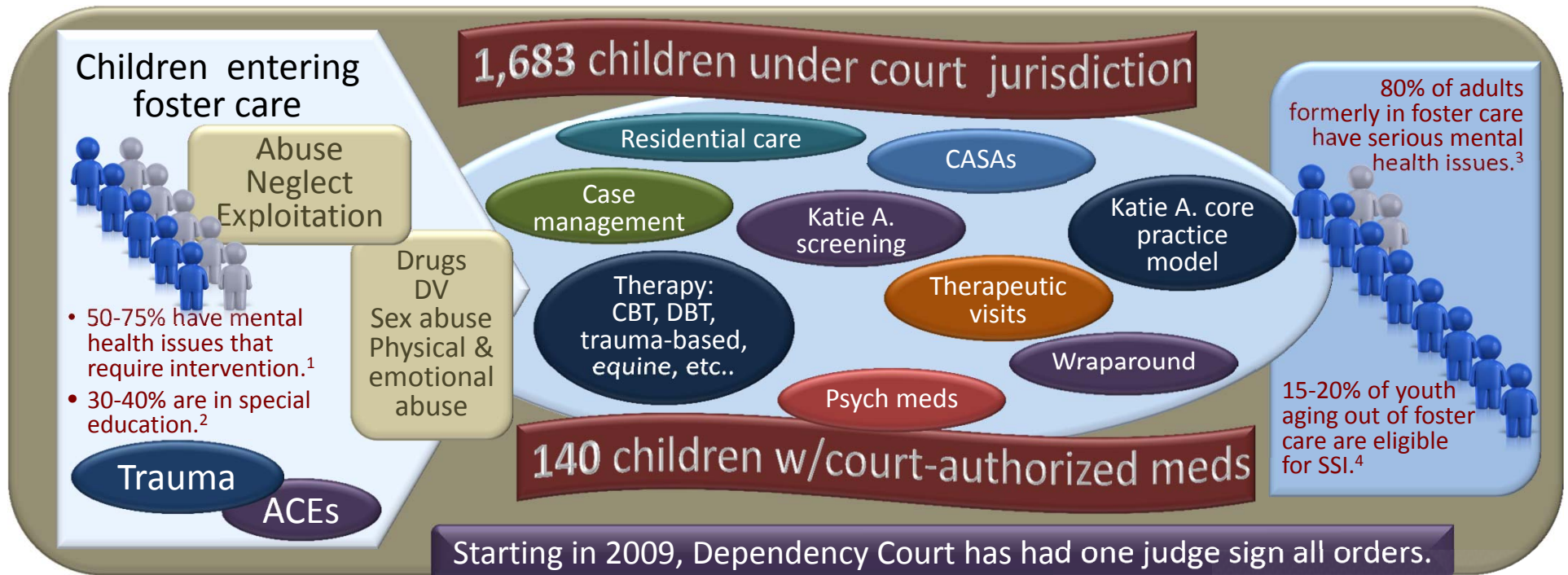


# Foster children & psychotropic medication in Santa Clara County



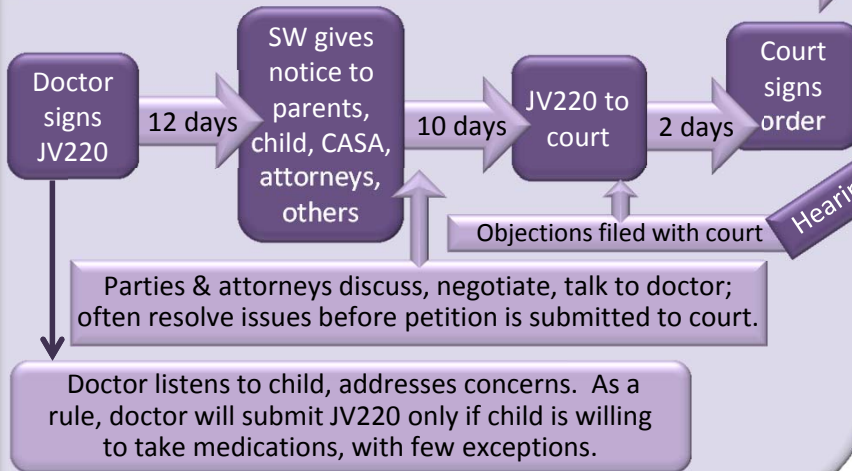
1 National Institute of Mental Health funded a national survey (Burns et al., 2004); found 47.9% of foster youth had clinically significant emotional or behavioral problems. Literature review for the Casey Family Programs (Landsverk, Burns, Stambaugh & Rolls Reutz, 2006) found between one-half & three-fourths of children entering foster care needed mental health services.  
 2 Casey Family Programs, 2004.  
 3 National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability  
 4 State of CA Health & Human Services Agency, Dept. of Social Services. "Ensuring Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Payments for California's Foster Youth"

Statistics collected and compiled by  
 and infographic created by  
 Hon. Shawna M. Schwarz

9/21/15

## The JV-220 process\*

Average time from doctor's signature to judge's signature = 24 days



\* Tracking since May 2012

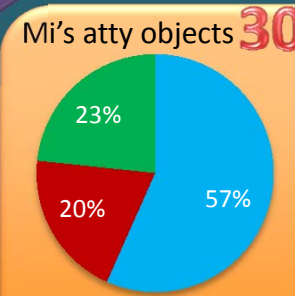
## Does the judge ever say no?

218 Objections filed since 2009

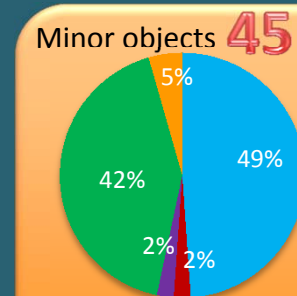
37 Resolved before hearing (17%)

18 – objections withdrawn  
10 – no JV220 filed based on objection  
4 – MD changed rec based on input  
2 – signed to titrate off  
3 – signed w/ dosages adjusted

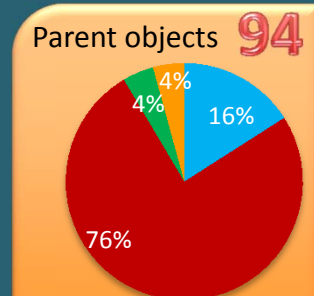
162 Contested hearings held since 2009



Ordered over objection  
Objection withdrawn



AWOL  
JV220 withdrawn; doc stopped meds  
No meds ordered / meds ordered to taper only



## “Are we drugging kids into passivity?”

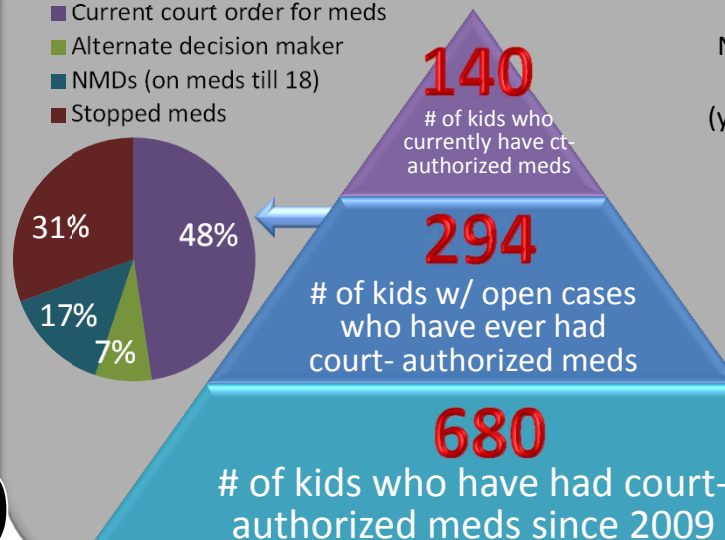
“The point of taking medicine is not to control behavior, but to reduce symptoms that get in the way. When a medicine is doing what it is supposed to do, a person should find more options available to them. They should experience not less but more control over themselves and their lives.”

**Mark Edelstein, M.D.**  
EMQ Families First Medical  
Director & Board Certified Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist

“Is the judge just checking boxes?” **NO**

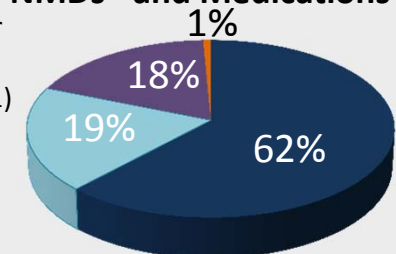
## Once started, do medications ever stop? How often?

- Current court order for meds
- Alternate decision maker
- NMDs (on meds till 18)
- Stopped meds



NMD: non-minor dependent (youth ages 18-21)

### NMDs\* and Medications



- Never took meds (253)
- Stopped before 18 (78)
- On meds at 18 (75)
- Alternate decision maker (3)

Of NMDs who ever took meds, half (78 out of 156), took them short-term and stopped before age 18.

\*409 NMDs since AB12 inception