



THE SDM[®] SYSTEM IN MAINE

**EVIDENT
CHANGE**

Inform Systems. Transform Lives.

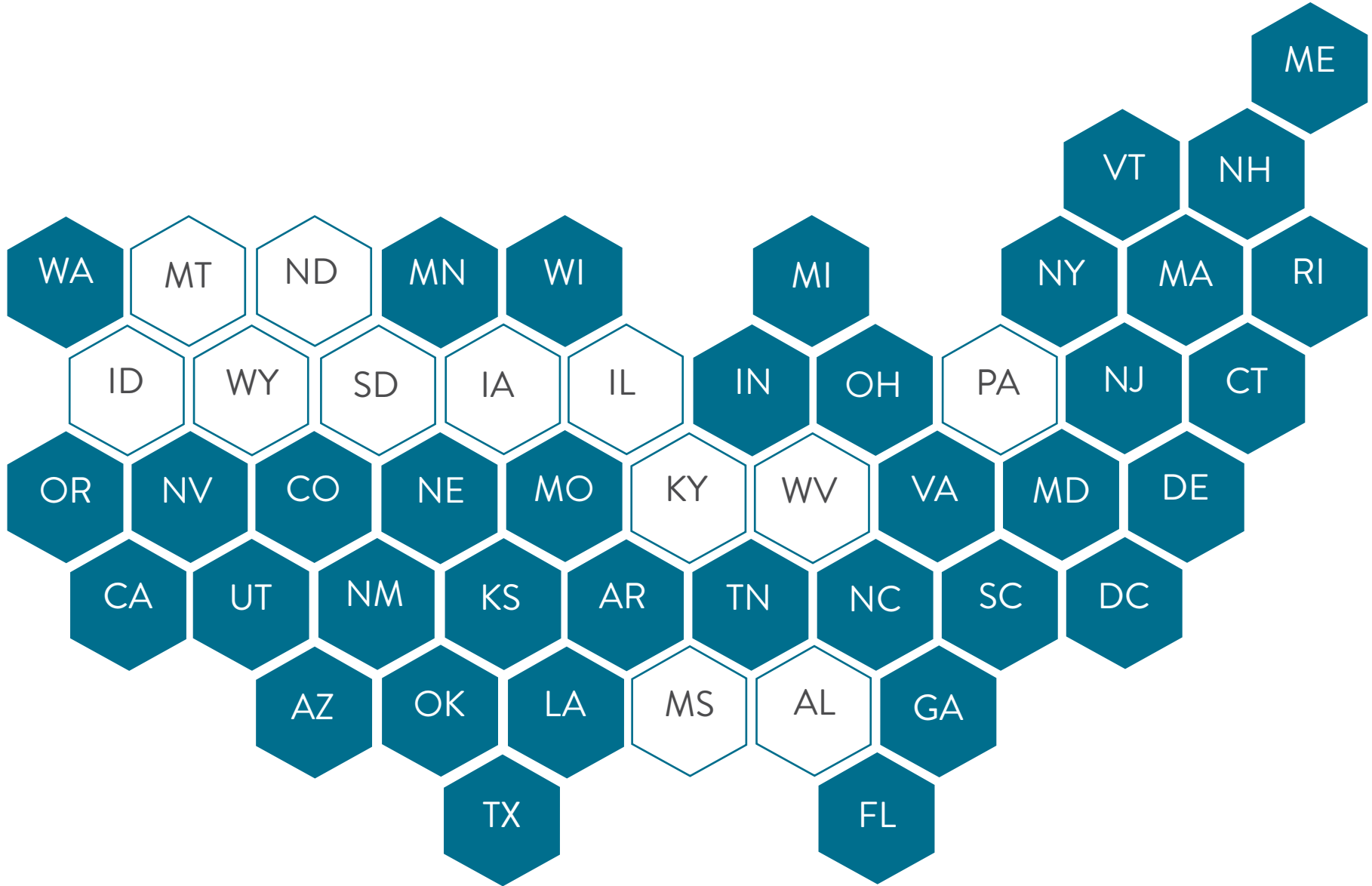
THE STRUCTURED DECISION MAKING[®] (SDM) SYSTEM

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WHAT IS THE SDM[®] SYSTEM?

A decision-support system
informed by research,
policy, and best practices



Jurisdictions where the SDM model has been implemented

SDM SYSTEM OBJECTIVES



Provide workers with **simple, objective, reliable** assessments to support their decisions.



Increase **consistency, accuracy** and **equity** in decision making.



Provide managers and administrators with **management information** for improved program planning, evaluation, and resource allocation.

THE SDM SYSTEM AT EACH DECISION

Should this report be investigated?



Intake Assessment

Can the child safely remain in the home?



Safety Assessment

Should ongoing services be provided?



Risk Assessment

What interventions could address child and family needs?



Case Plan Tool

Can the child safely return home?



Reunification Assessment

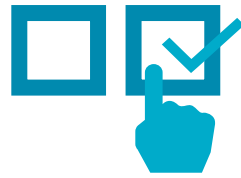
Are ongoing services still necessary?



Risk Reassessment

DISTINGUISHING SAFETY AND RISK IN THE SDM MODEL

Safety Assessment



Is there an immediate threat of serious harm?

Informs: *The removal decision*

All items connected to Maine law and/or contain caregiver, behavior, impact on the child

Risk Assessment

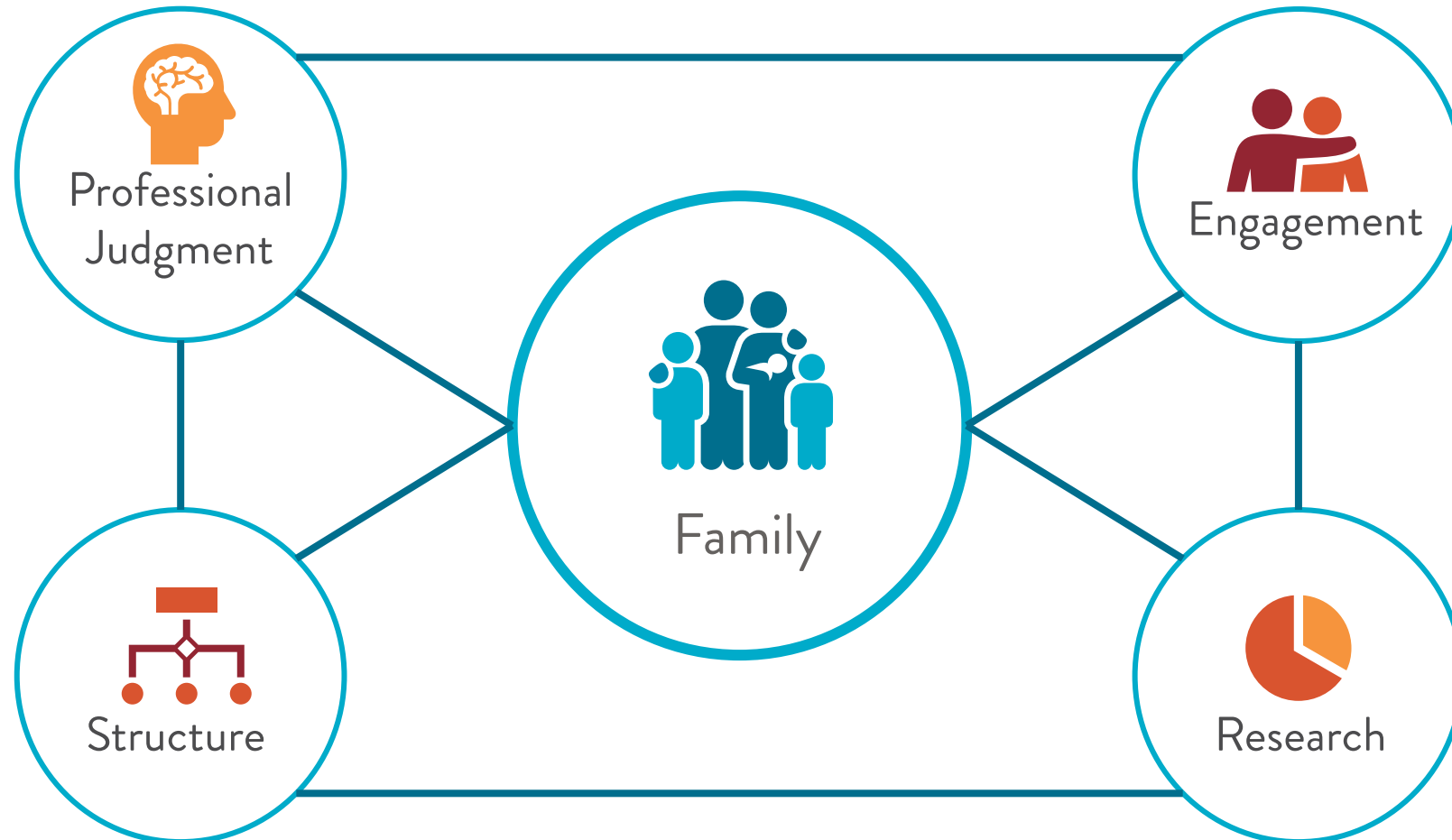


What is the likelihood of future system involvement?

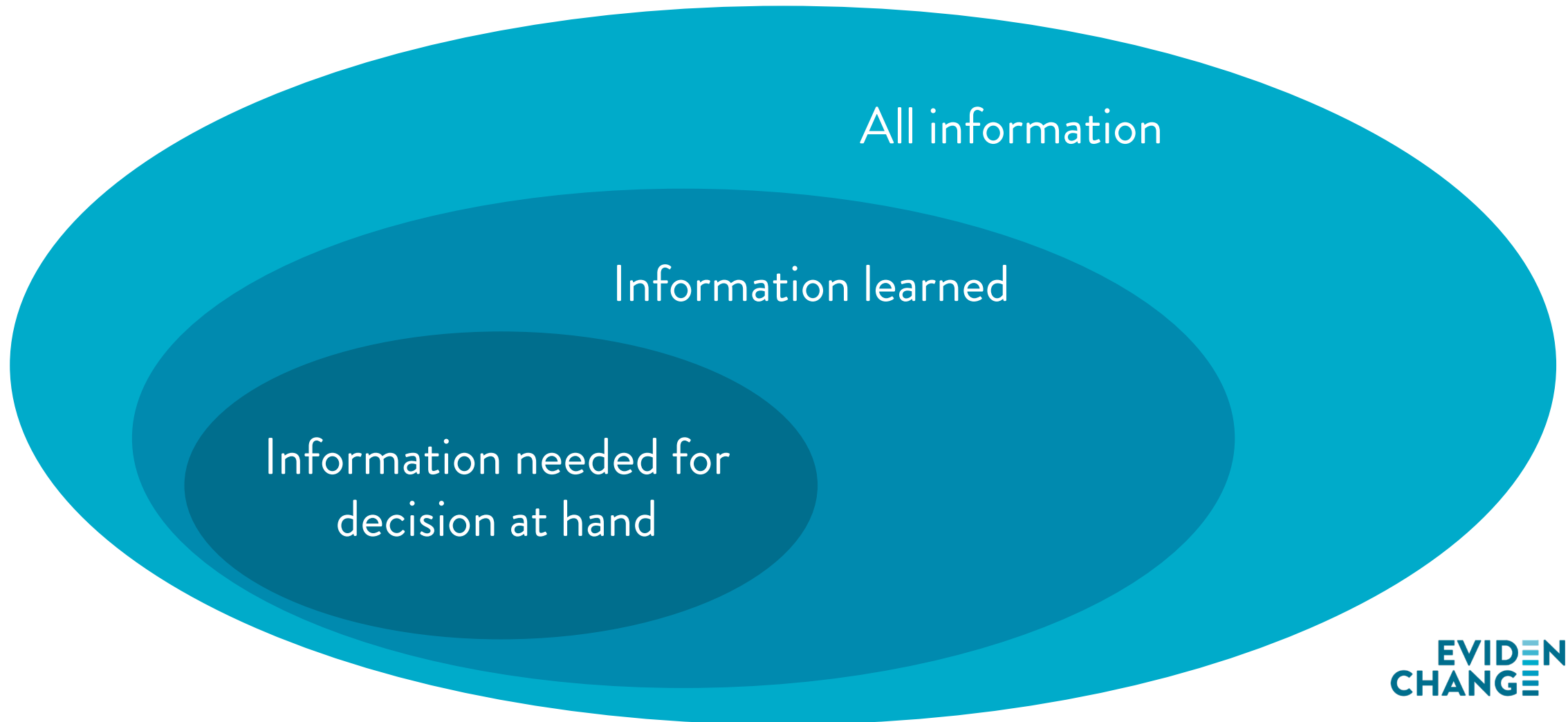
Informs: *A prevention opportunity*

All items have a statistical connection to future outcomes we are hoping families can avoid

THE SDM SYSTEM: A COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK



HOW DO THE SDM ASSESSMENTS HELP?



TOOLS ARE A PROMPT FOR PRACTICE



Tools do not make decisions.



People make decisions.



+



Tools help people make better decisions.

THE SDM MODEL IN MAINE

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MAINE TIMELINE FOR SDM ASSESSMENT TOOL DEVELOPMENT

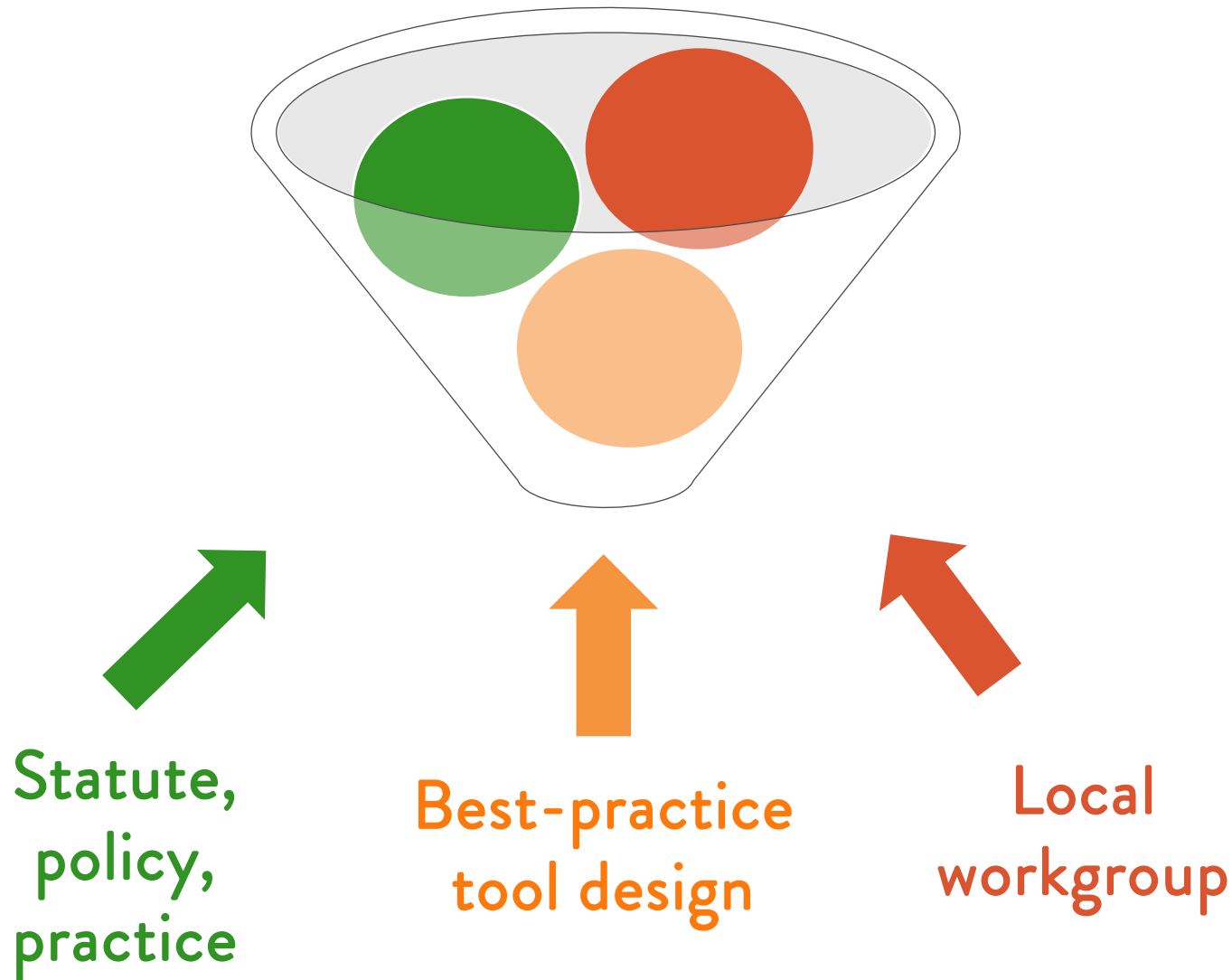


SDM ASSESSMENT CUSTOMIZATION

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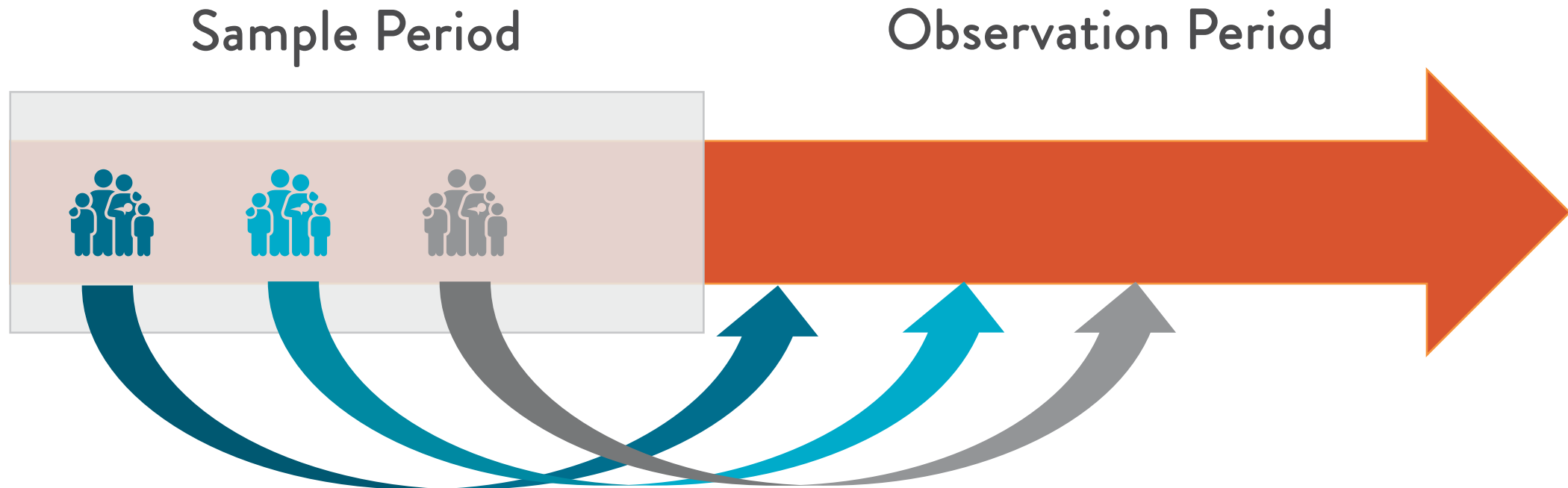
SDM SAFETY ASSESSMENT DEVELOPMENT

Tools like the SDM intake assessment and safety assessment are consensus-based tools designed in a collaborative workgroup process.



SDM RISK ASSESSMENT DEVELOPMENT

Risk Fit Analysis

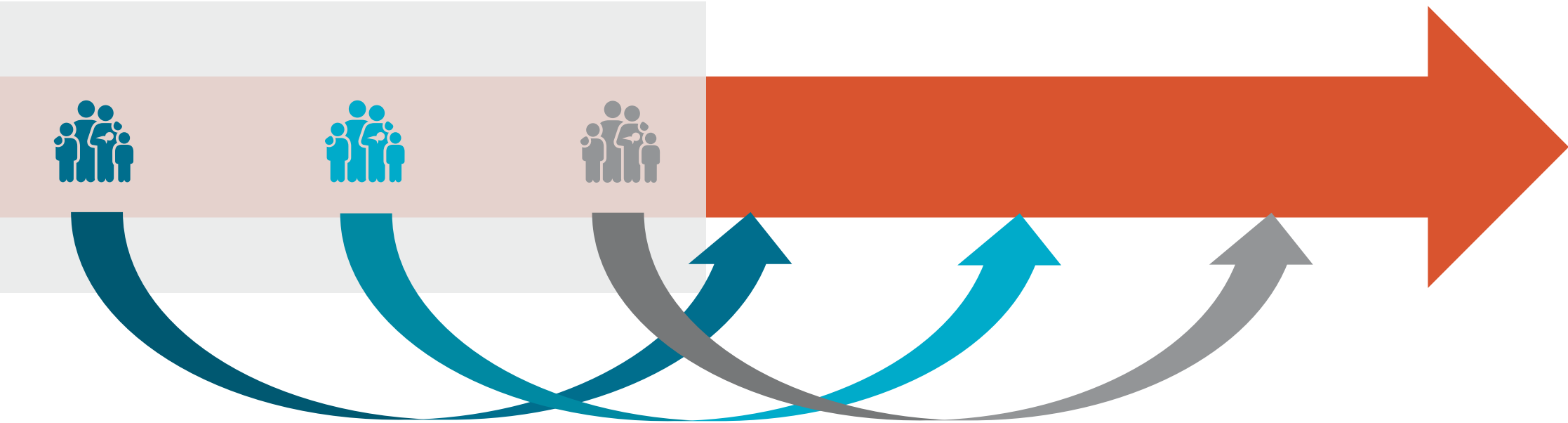


We study future investigations, substantiations, and placements for families in the observation period and look for similar characteristics across the families.

MAINE SDM RISK FIT ANALYSIS

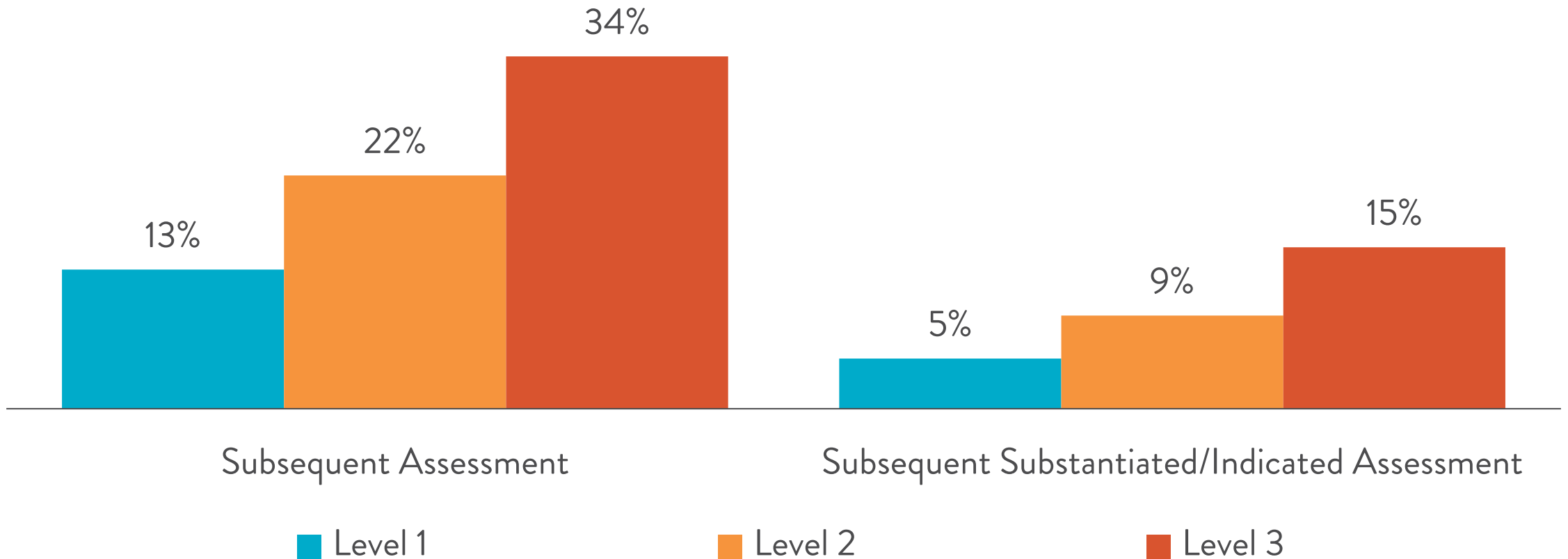
Assessment Sample
Time Period:
April 2016 – October 2016

Outcome Observation
Time Period:
Through July 2017



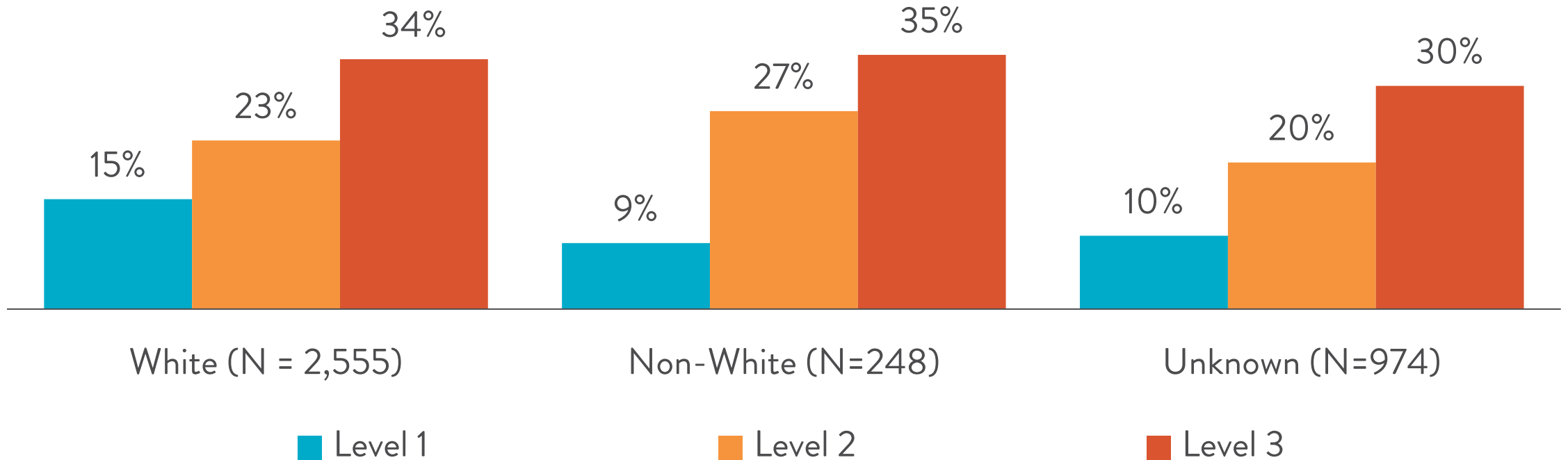
For each family, outcomes observed for nine months

SUBSEQUENT CPS INVOLVEMENT BY ESTIMATED SCORED RISK LEVEL



Maine preliminary data analysis, 2018

SUBSEQUENT ASSESSMENT BY ESTIMATED SCORED RISK LEVEL BY RACE OF YOUNGEST CHILD

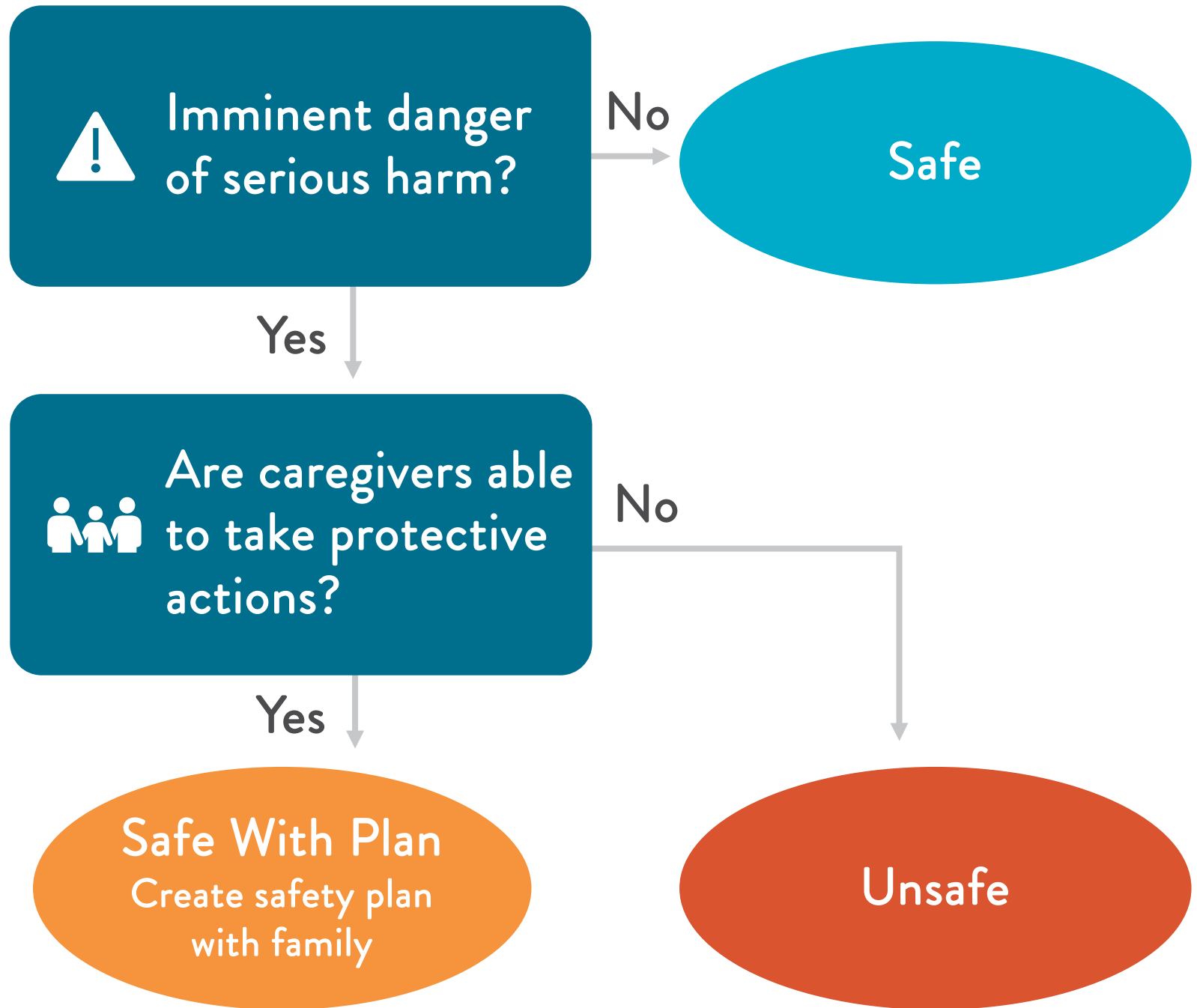


Maine preliminary data analysis, 2018

SDM SAFETY ASSESSMENT

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SDM SAFETY ASSESSMENT LOGIC



SDM SAFETY ASSESSMENT SECTIONS



Child Vulnerabilities



Safety Threats



Protective Capacities



Safety Interventions

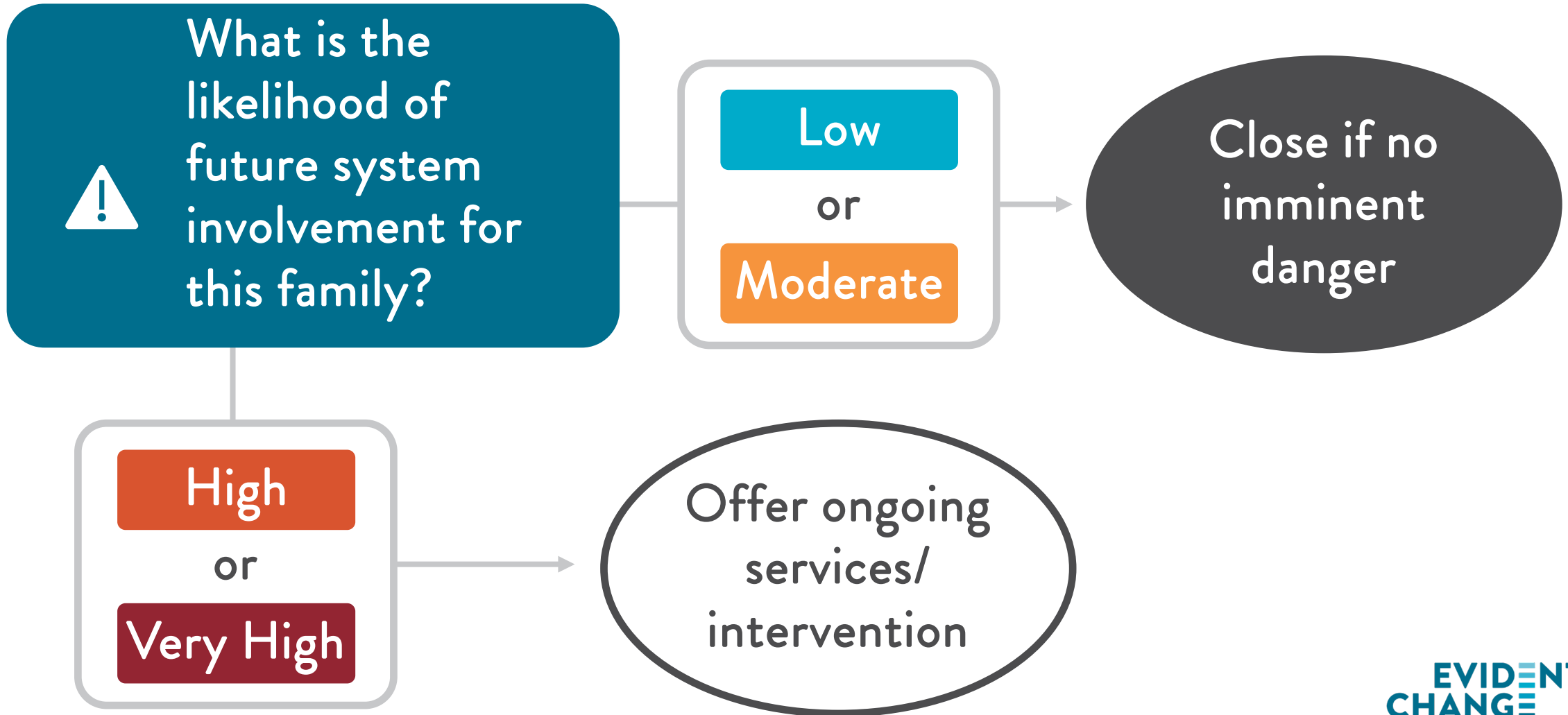


Safety Decision

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SDM RISK ASSESSMENT LOGIC



THE SDM RISK ASSESSMENT



Neglect and Abuse Indices



Scored Risk Level



Overrides

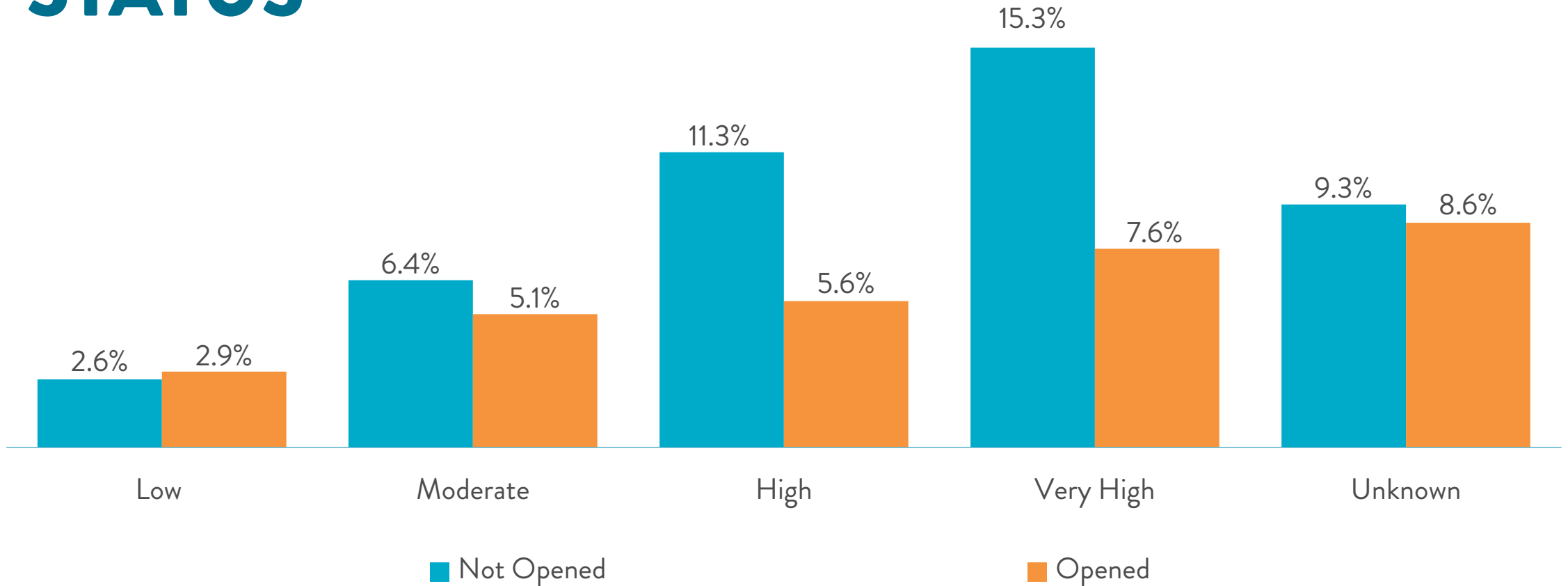


Final Risk Level

SDM-INFORMED CASE OPENING GUIDANCE

	Safe	Safe With Plan	Unsafe
Low/ Moderate Risk	<i>Allow family to lead decision for referrals.</i>	<i>Ensure the safety plan is working.</i>	<i>Build safety network to expedite safe return.</i>
High/ Very High Risk	<i>Offer community services specific to family needs.</i>	<i>We need to see the plan working longer.</i>	<i>Create sustainable safety before return home.</i>

RE-SUBSTANTIATION WITHIN SIX MONTHS BY RISK AND CASE-OPENING STATUS



N = 30,903 children in households with at least one substantiated allegation
Case promotion decisions made from January through June 2011, California

CURRENT SDM IMPLEMENTATION- SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

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SAFETY AND RISK IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

- Ongoing refresher trainings and implementation support
- Ongoing technical assistance
- Coaching institute, 2020
- Reunion workgroups, 2019 and 2022–2023
- Case reading development and training, 2021–2022

THANK YOU

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