

Working for the world to change

Cindy Blackstock
SNAICC: September 2007

All of what we know is just
some of what they knew



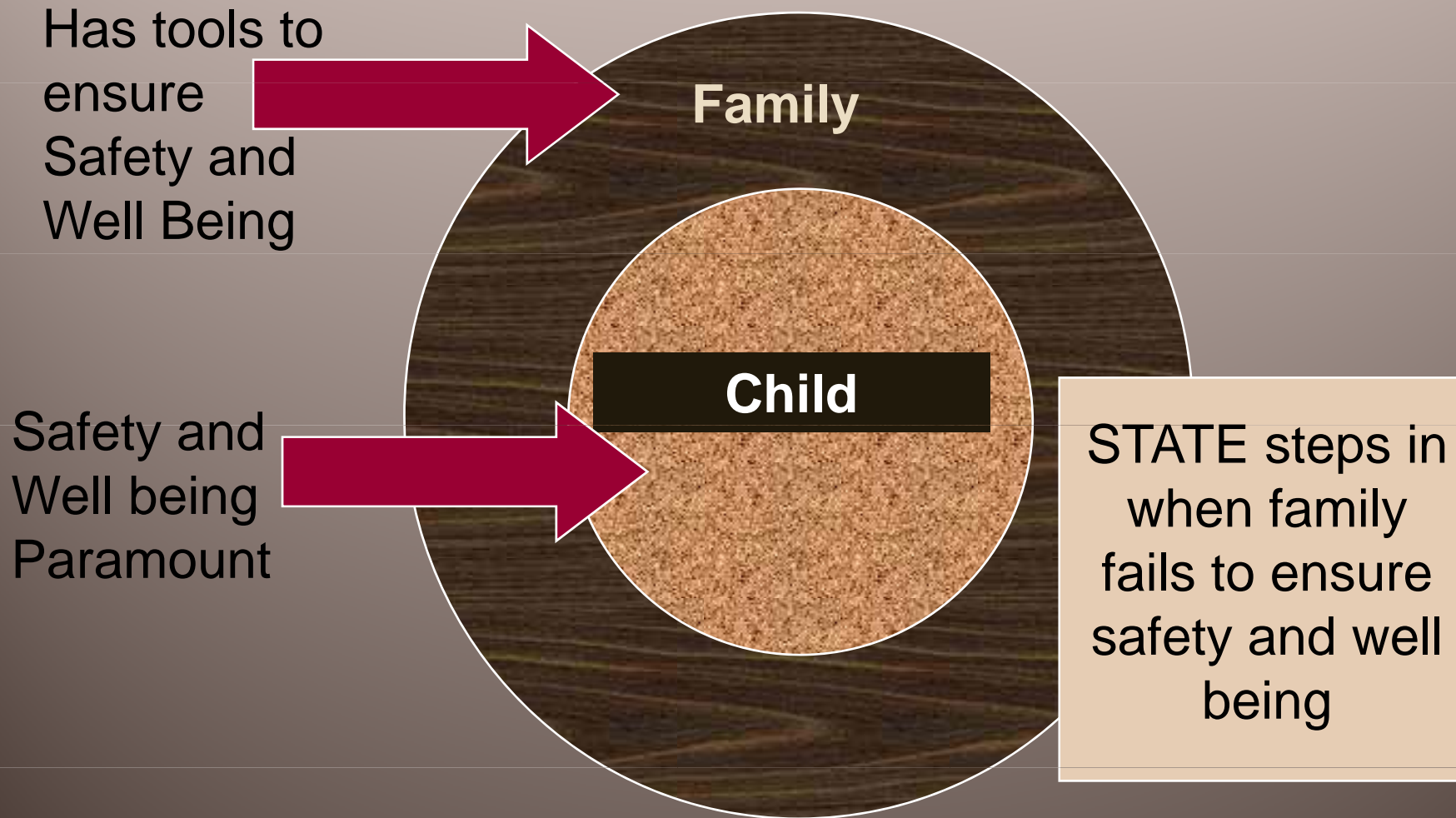
Legend Aboriginal Youth Network

Indians discover a lost Spaniard called Christopher Columbus

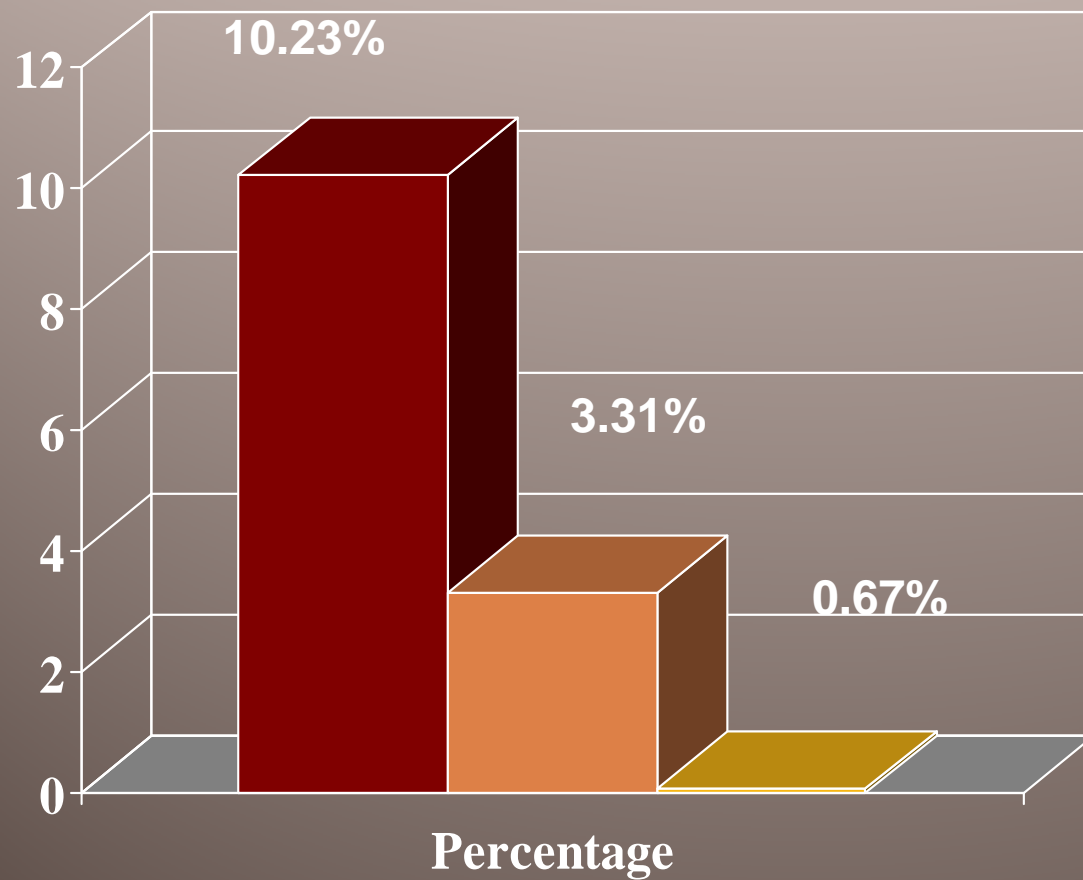




Basic Principles of Child Protection

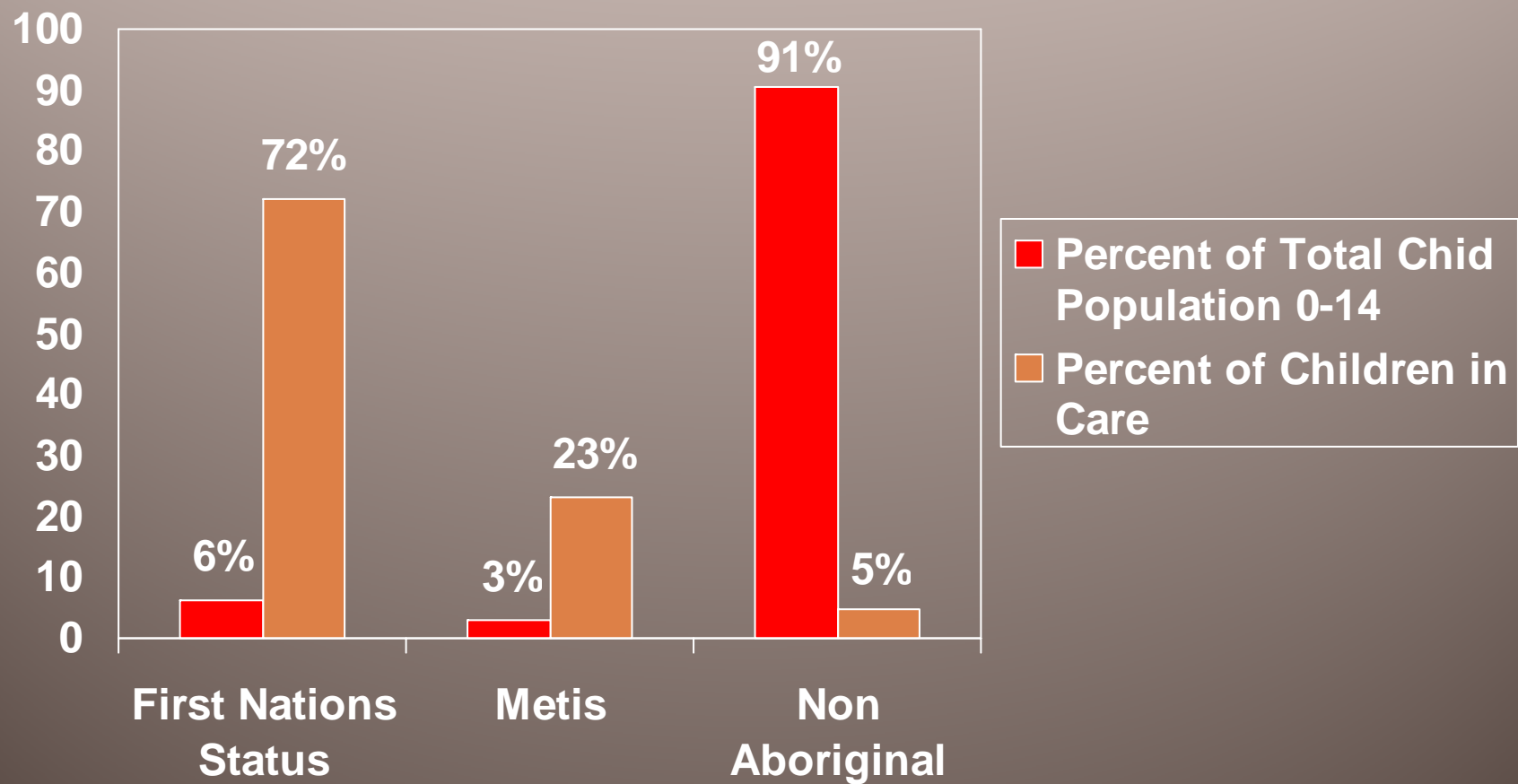


Group



- First Nations Status
- Metis
- Non Aboriginal

4 sample
provinces

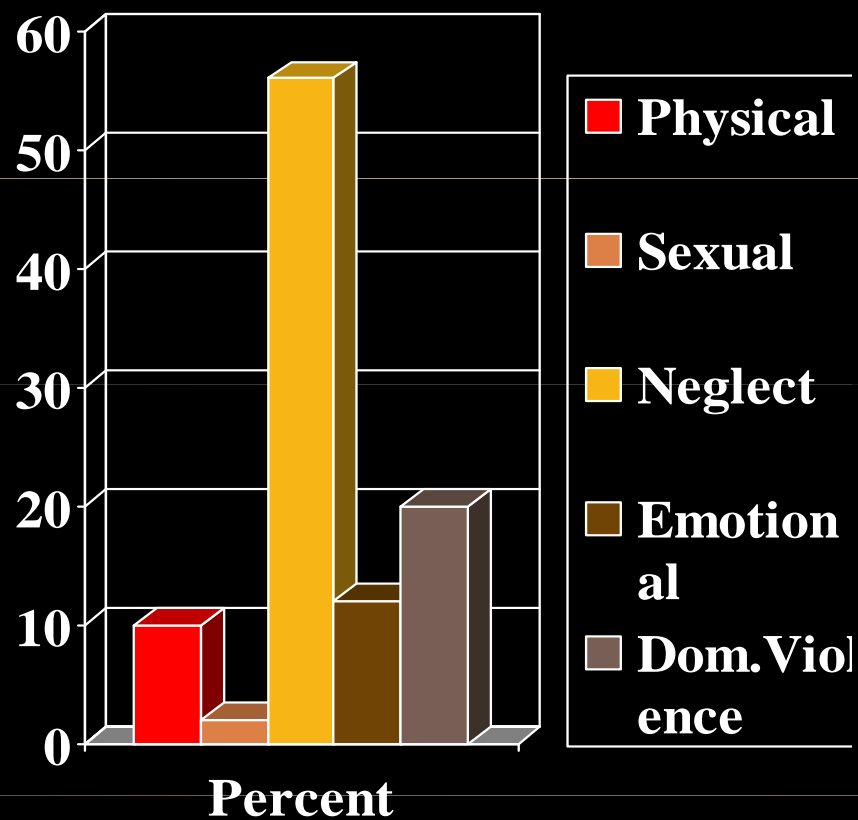


Total Percentage of all Aboriginal Children 0-14 in Care: 14.12%

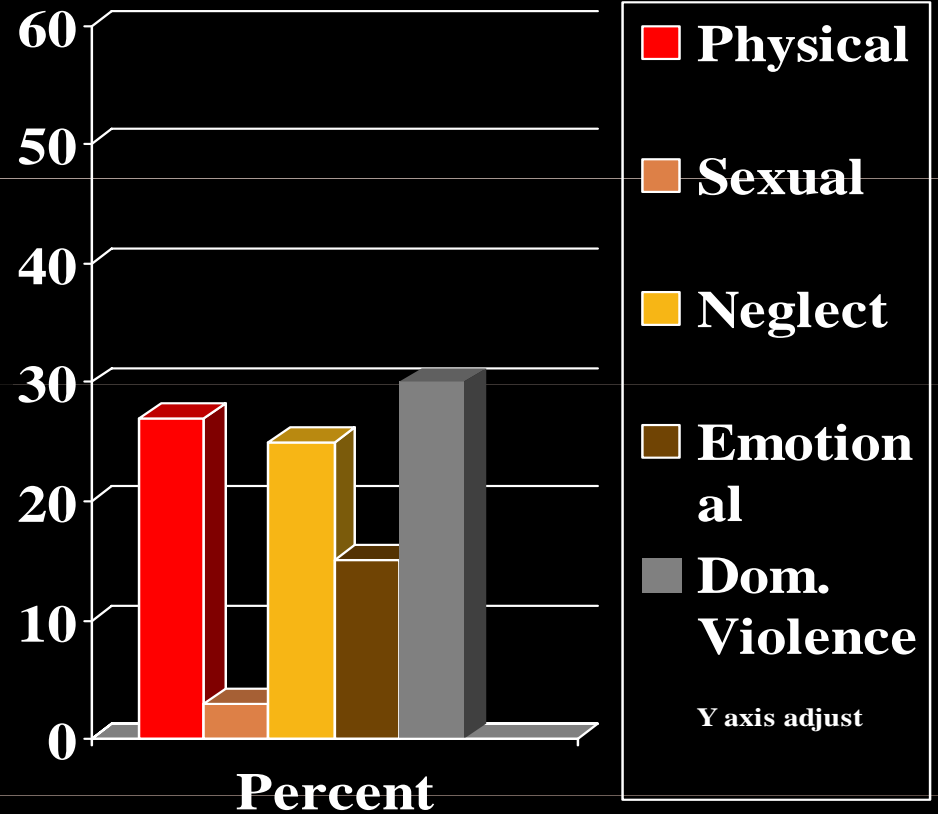
First Nations Children come
to the attention of child
welfare for different reasons
than non Aboriginal children



First Nations



Non Aboriginal

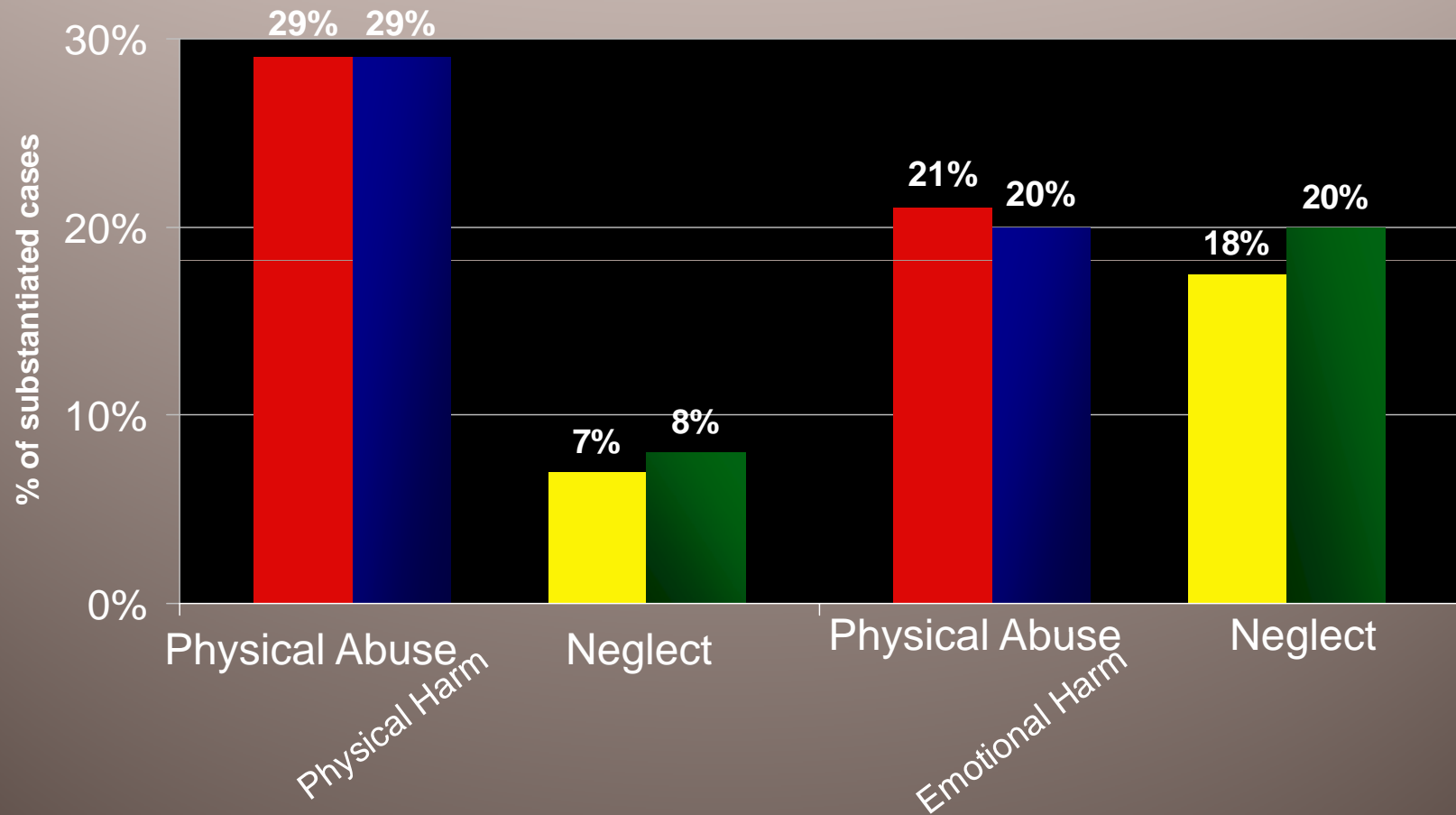


Trocme et.al. 2006

First Nations
children do not
experience **higher**
rates of harm
than non
Aboriginal
children referred
to child welfare



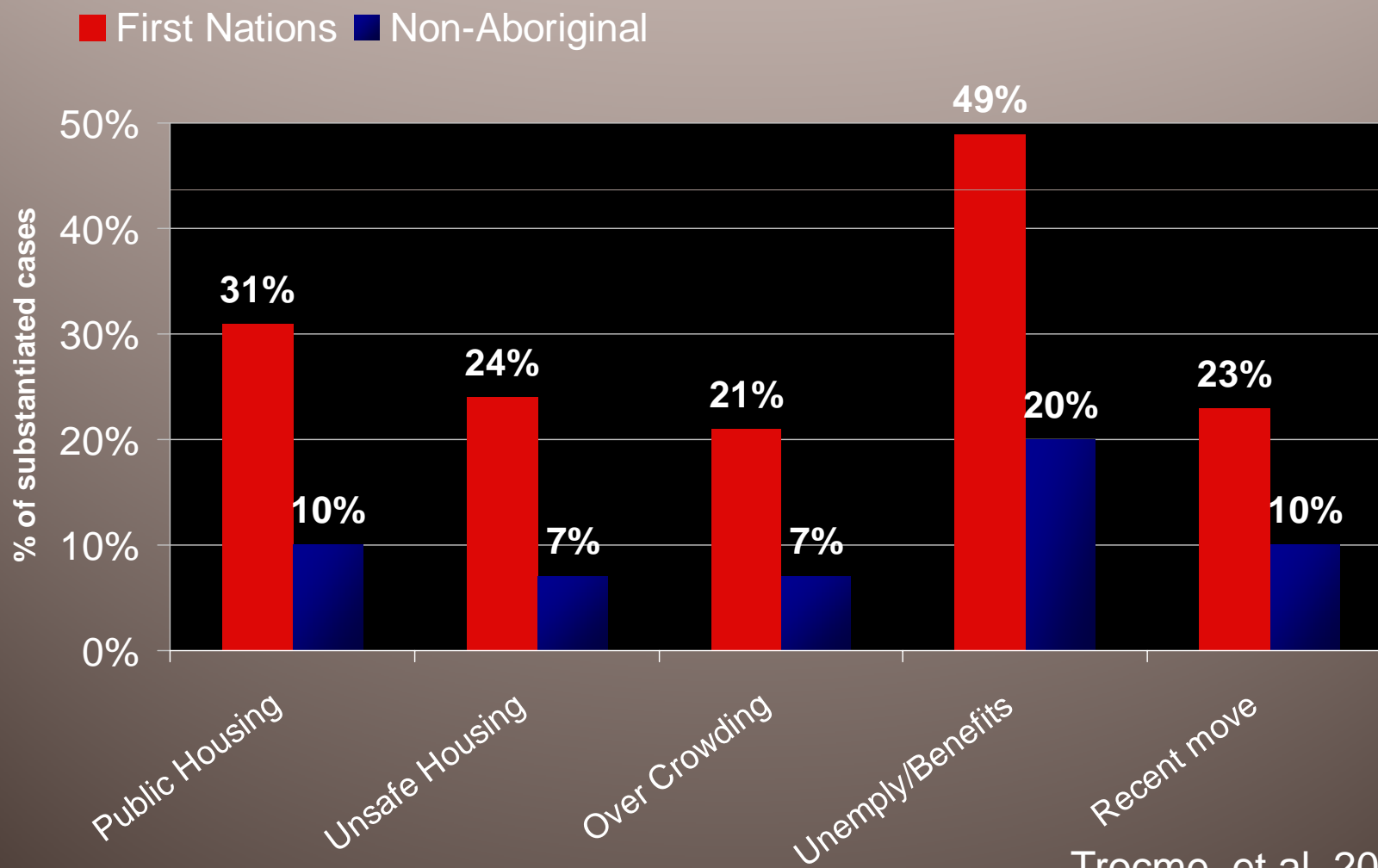
■ Phy Ab FN ■ Non FN ■ " ■ Neg FN ■ Non FN



Trocme, et.al. In press

The factors that explain the over representation of First Nations children in care are structural and are difficult for parents to change on their own



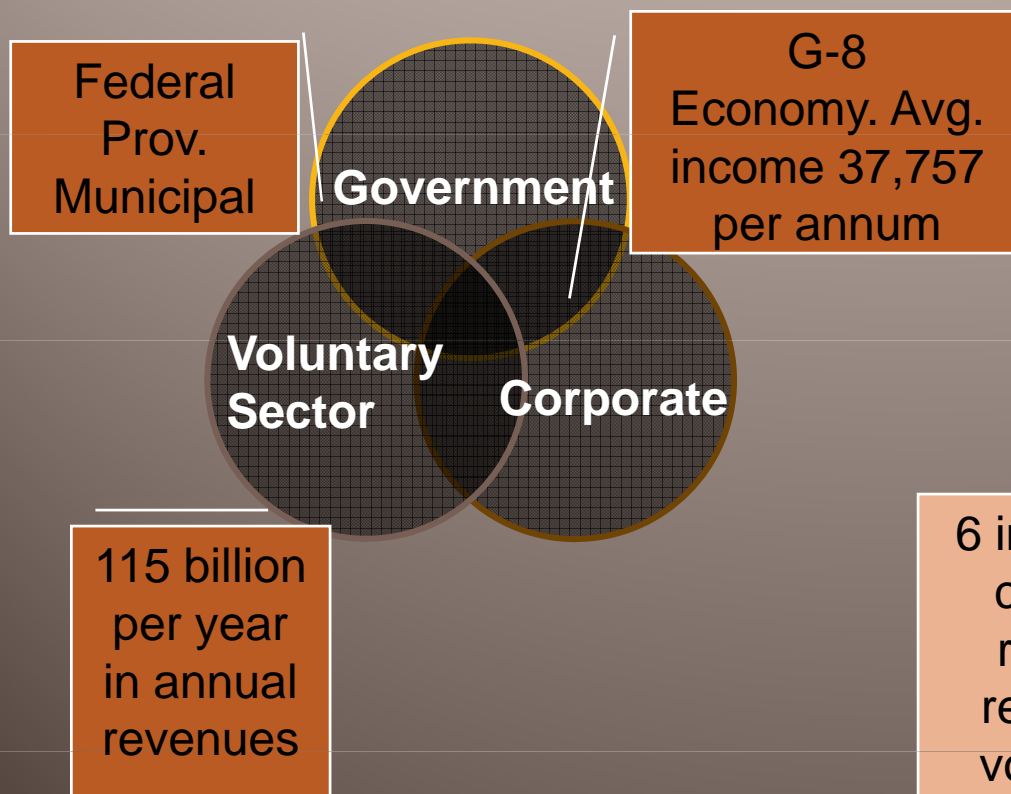


Trocme, et.al. 2006

Although First Nations children are over represented in child welfare — they get far fewer resources than non Aboriginal children

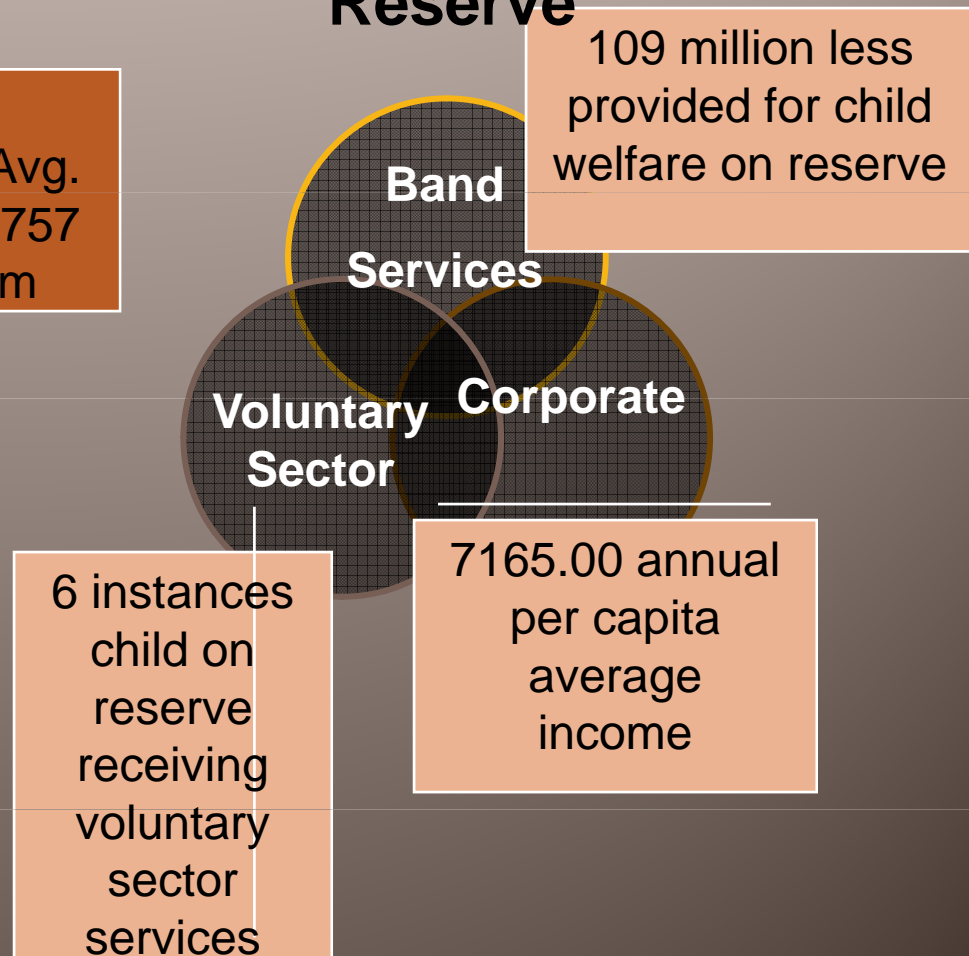


Canada



Blackstock & Trocme, 2005

First Nations on Reserve



A child first principle for resolving intergovernmental jurisdictional disputes. When a government jurisdictional dispute arises around services to a First Nations child and these services are normally available to other Canadian children, the government of first contact must pay for the service without delay or disruption and figure out the jurisdictional dispute later



What Works: Touchstones of Hope for Indigenous children and families



- Self- Determination
- Culture and Language
- Holistic Approach
- Structural Interventions
- Non Discrimination

www.reconciliationmovement.org



First Nations Design

- Indigenous children served by FN agencies are 3-4 times more likely to stay safely with family. FNCFSA have received international awards for best practice – we know with equitable funding they could do even more
- FN control over adequately resourced child welfare results in the most sustained socio-economic gains for community

Prevention

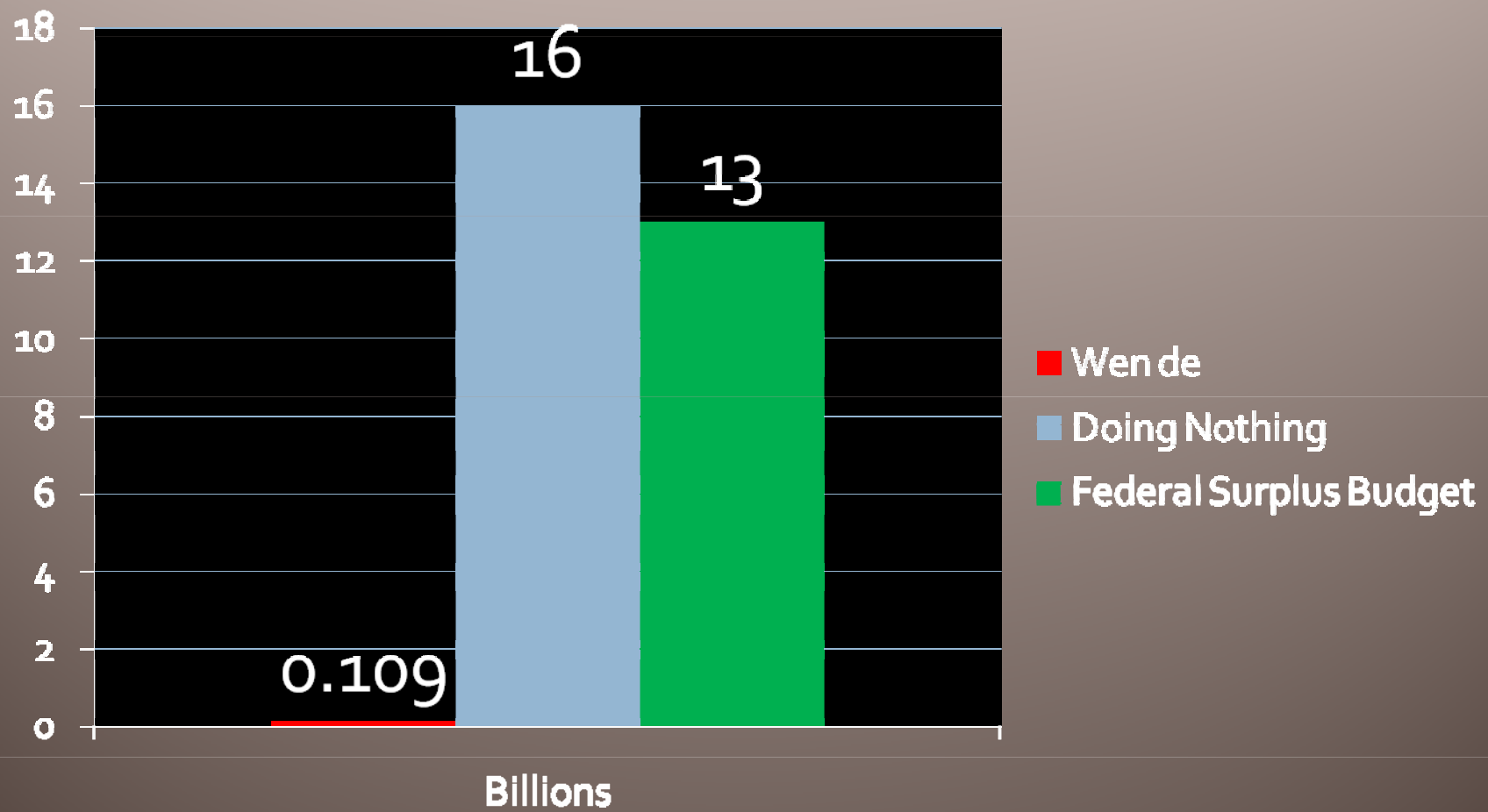
- Prevention programs targeting poverty, poor housing and substance misuse coupled with sustainable investments in First Nations led community development
- Respect for Indigenous self government has also been shown to be the most important factor to reduce child and youth suicide rates in Canada

Working in partnership

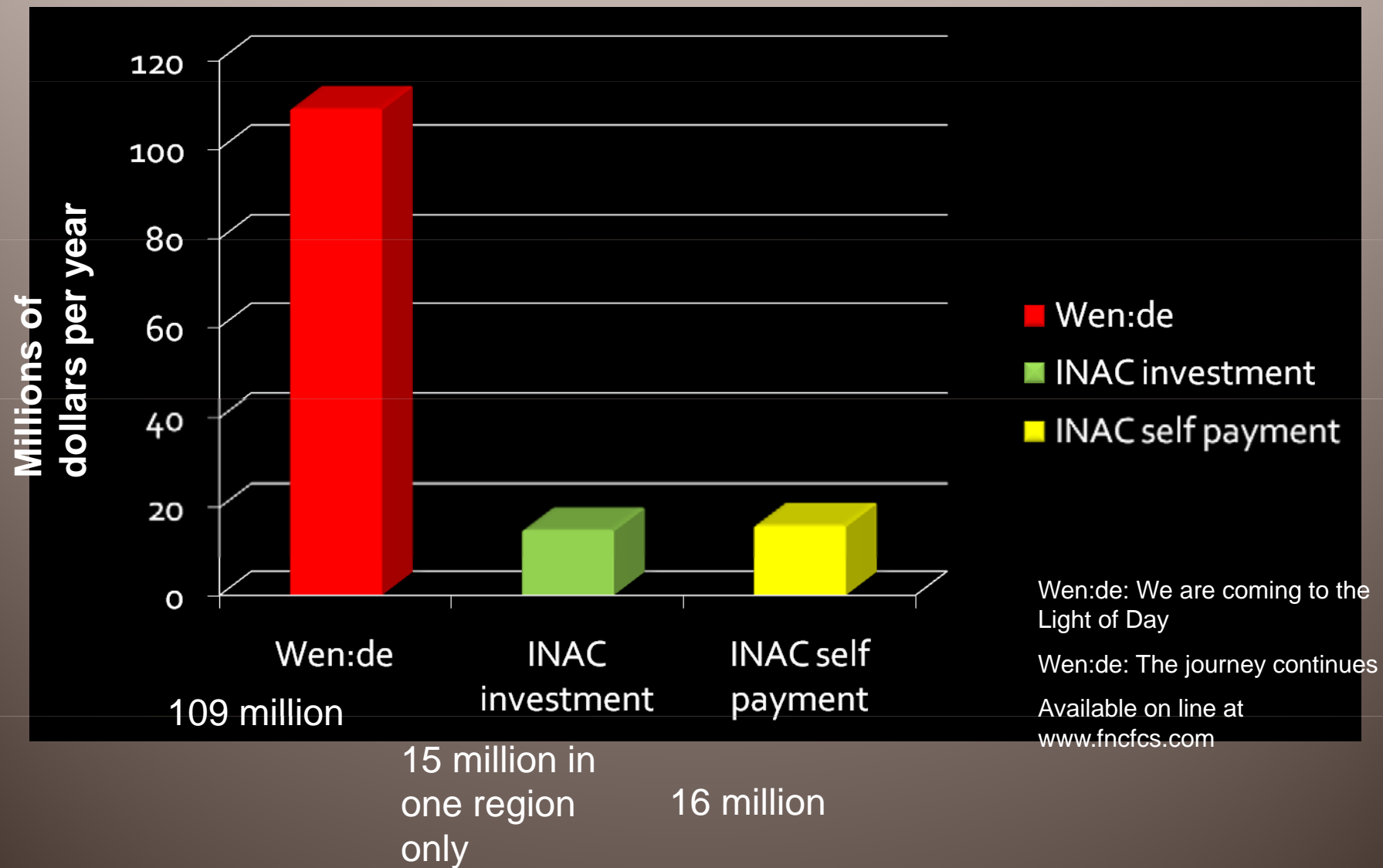
- Research that documents the reasons why FN children come into care and what we can do about it led by Indigenous communities
- Working with non Indigenous and Indigenous policy makers to implement good government policy such as Jordan's Principle which has been endorsed by 380 supporters



What works? – equality that respects the distinct way that First Nations provide for child safety. But what will it Cost?



Bowlus et. al., 2005; Blackstock et. al., 2005



Auditor General of Canada

- Investigating Canada's child welfare policy

Jordan's Principle Declaration

- Signed by over 380 orgs www.fncaringociety.com

Human Rights Complaint

- Filed by the Assembly of First Nations and FNCFCS in 2007 seeking equal treatment for First Nations children



Support Jordan's Principle

- Go on line to www.fncaringociety.com



Support the Touchstones of Hope

- Go on line to www.reconciliationmovement.org



Support First Nations in providing equitable child welfare care

- Go on line to www.amnesty.ca

Take hold of the sacred sun of your
ancestors and light of the world



www.reconciliationmovement.org

www.fncaringcommunity.com