

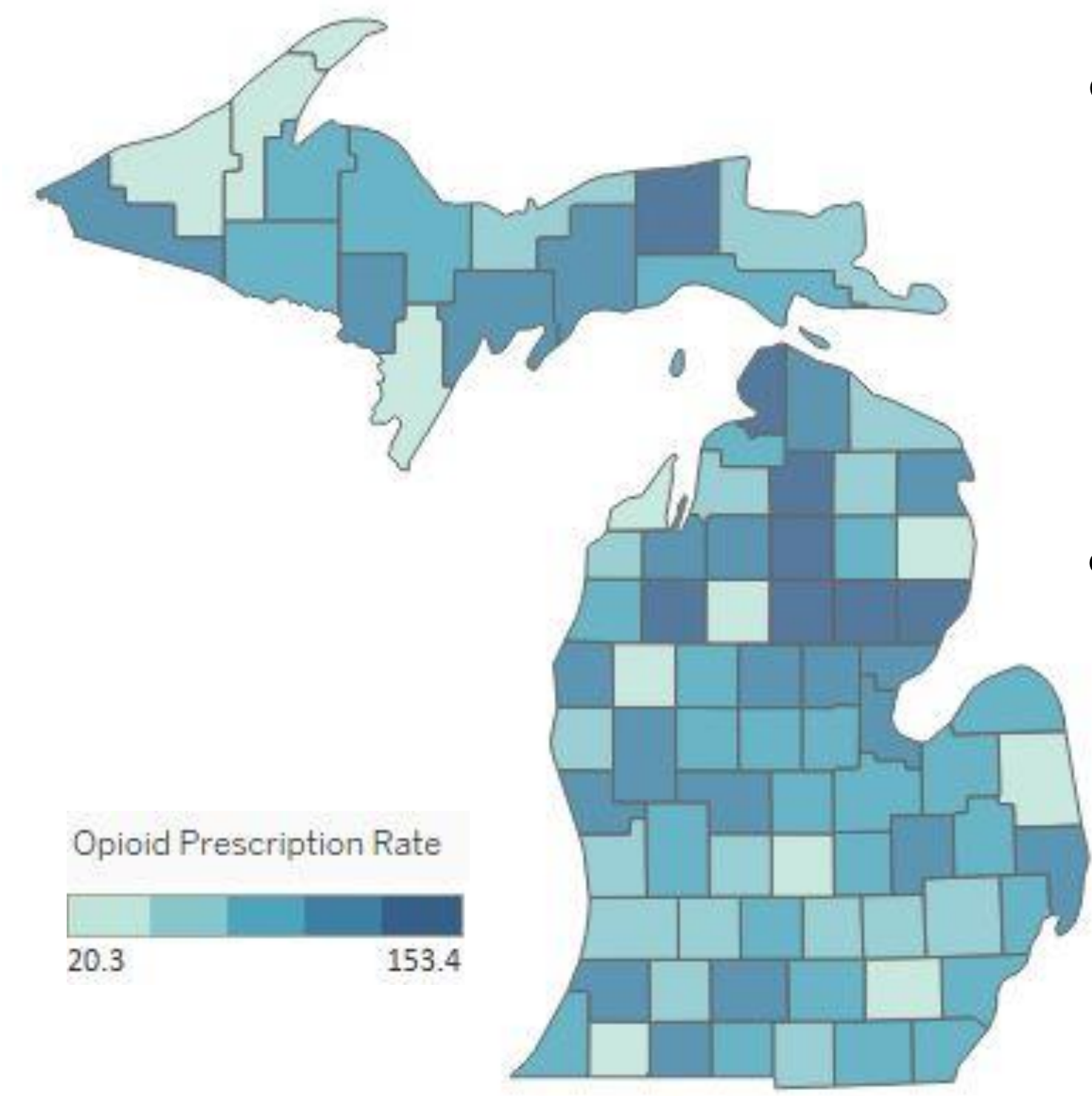
# The Youngest Victims of the Opioid Crisis:

## Child Welfare & Opioid Prescription Rates in Michigan

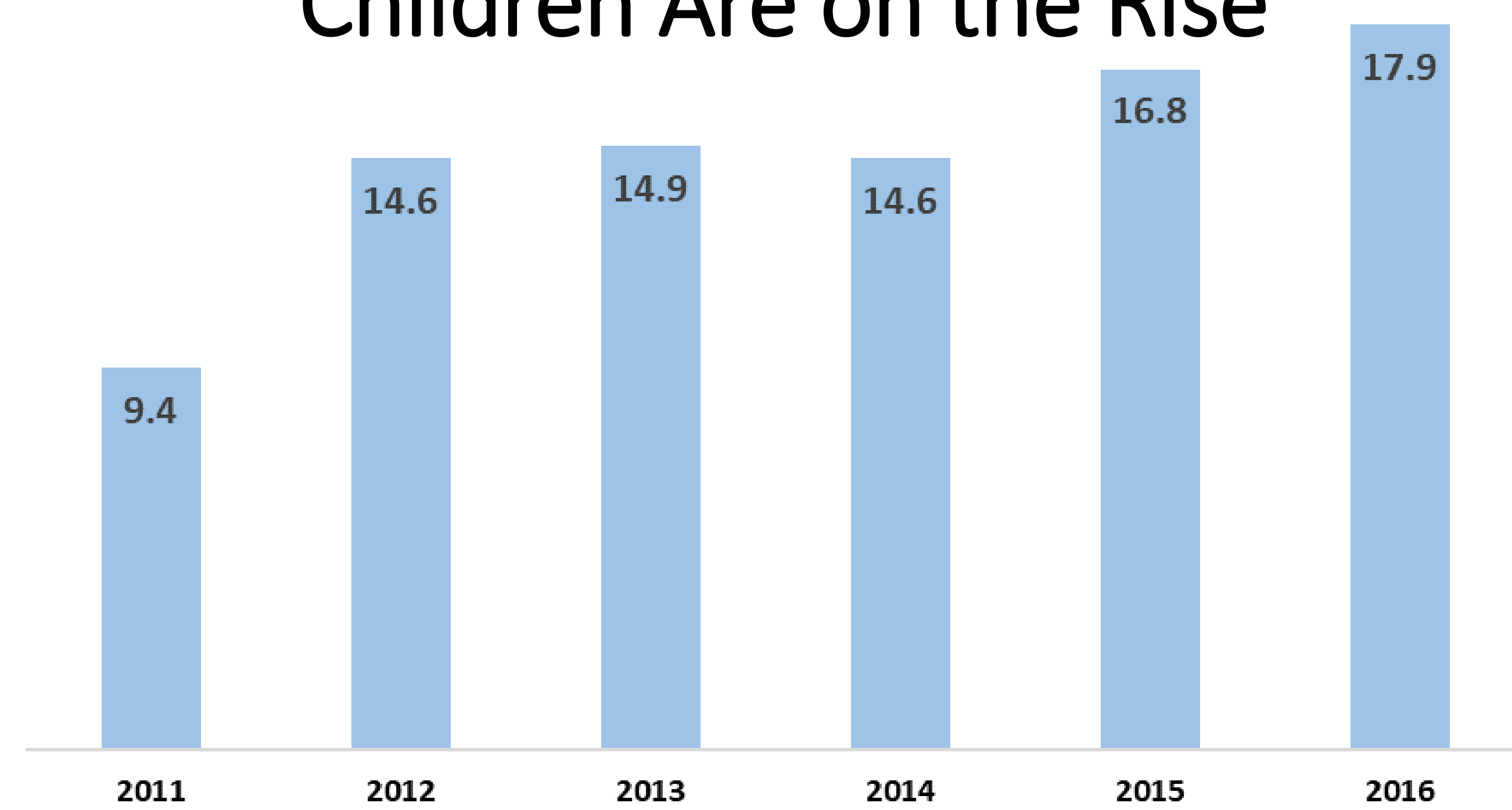
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### Connecting Two Crises

- **1/3** of counties had more opioid prescriptions than people
- Ranked **10<sup>th</sup>** in the nation for opioid prescriptions



### Rates of Abuse and Neglect per 1,000 Children Are on the Rise



From 2011 – 2016:

**26%**

Rise in Michigan child abuse & neglect rates

Decline in Michigan children in foster care

**15%**

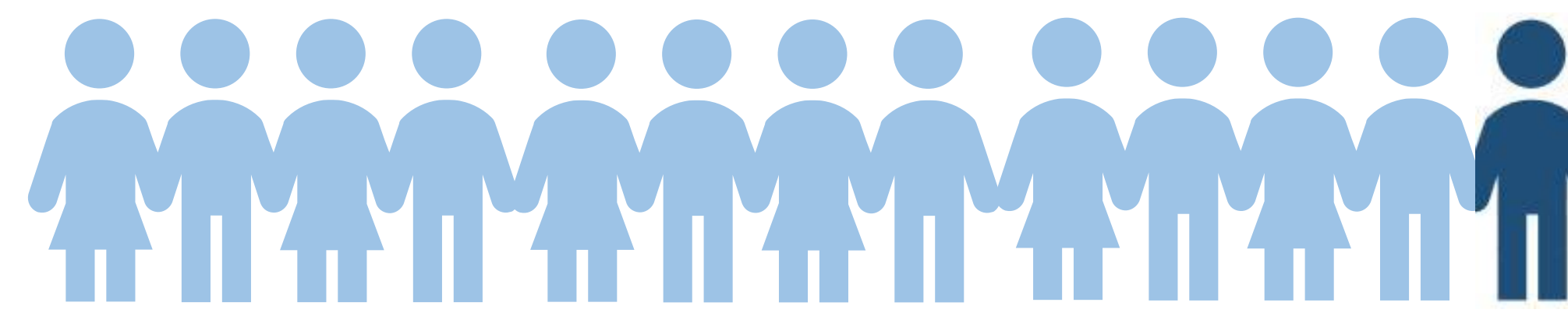
**9%**

Rise in children in foster care in the U.S.

### Measuring the Link

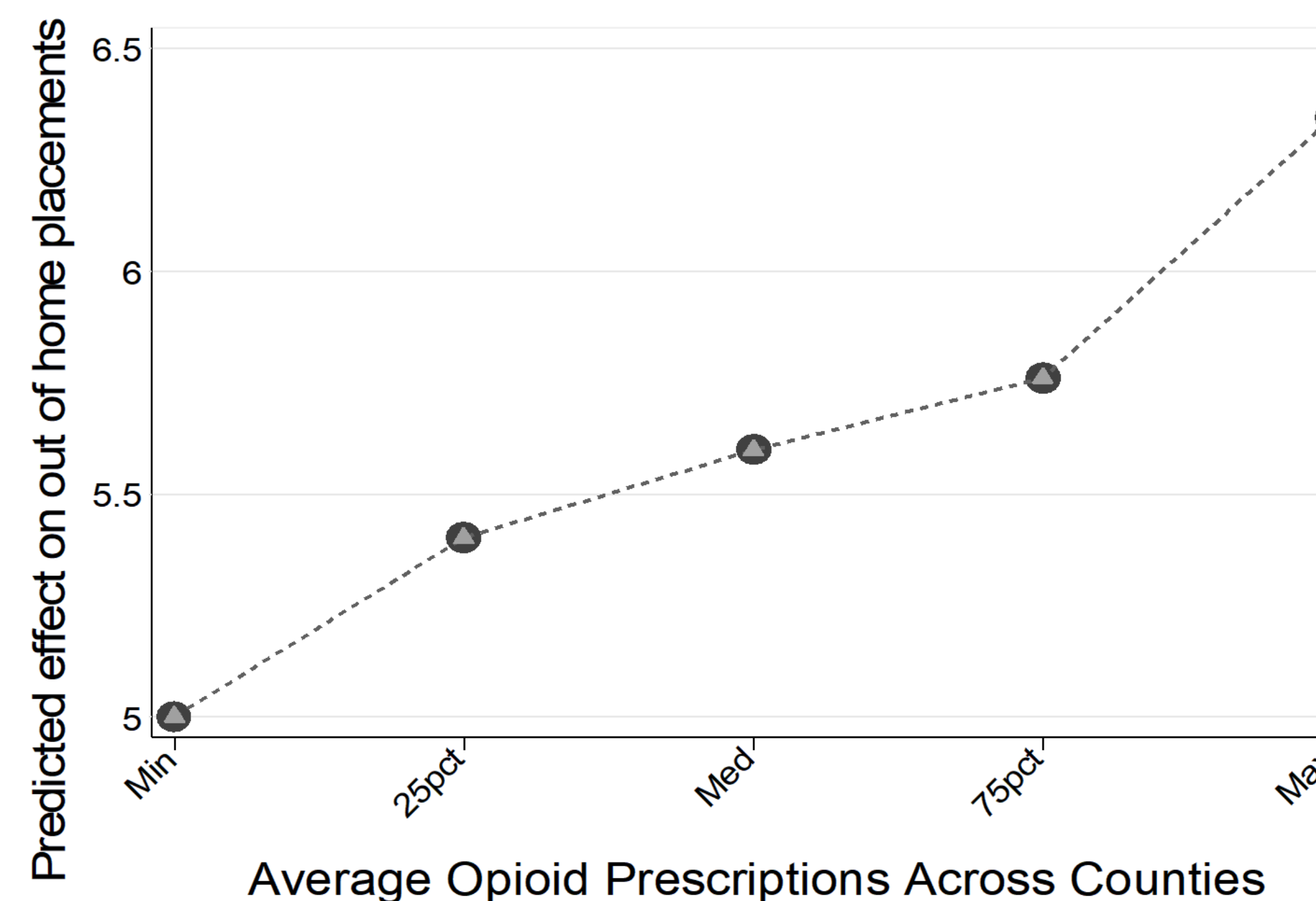
- OLS regression analysis on panel data
- County level opioid prescription rates (CDC)
- County level out-of-home placements due to abuse and/or neglect
- Controls for poverty, population, and race (Kids Count Data Center)

### Empirical Results: A Lasting Effect



For every **10** additional opioid prescriptions per 100 people per county, there is a predicted **6%** rise in children in out-of-home placements due to abuse & neglect **3 years later**

### County Out-of-Home Placements Rise with Average Opioid Prescription Rates



### Why It's Probably Even Worse

- Methods do not capture illicit opiate use, including heroin and fentanyl
- Child out-of-home placements only represent abuse and neglect severe enough to warrant removal
- Michigan does not have information on the number of children removed due to substance abuse

### Moving Forward

**Track it!** Legislature mandates reporting on child removals due to drug activity, but the state reporting system (MiSACWIS) does not have the capability

**Treat the parents, help the kids.** Apply quick, comprehensive treatment. **Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT)** utilizes medications and behavioral counseling for effective outcomes

**Learn from other states.** Ohio expanded family drug courts, **Kentucky's** evidence-based START program, **Connecticut's** 2 generational pay-for-success Family Based Recovery program