Keep Children Safer With Advanced Analytics

The Issue
Worldwide, approximately 40 million children younger than 15 are subjected to child abuse each year. Consequences of child maltreatment include impaired lifelong physical and mental health, and the social and occupational outcomes can ultimately slow a country’s economic and social development.

No level of abuse or neglect is acceptable. But it’s even more disturbing to learn that in many instances of abuse or neglect, information was available that could have helped identify high-risk situations before tragic outcomes occurred.

Unfortunately, caseworkers can’t readily access the information they need. This prevents them from effectively using all available information to continuously monitor each child’s overall safety risk. Making matters worse, budget constraints have overburdened personnel tasked with ensuring the safety of at-risk children. And large caseloads limit the amount of time they can allocate to each individual case.

Our Approach
Superior data integration and advanced analytics combined with proven models help save children’s lives. SAS delivers software and services to help you:

- **Get a comprehensive view of all available data for a child.** Data management techniques automatically access and integrate child-related data across all available sources. Data matching and link analysis determine important relationships.

- **Quantify child safety risk.** Advanced analytical methods calculate overall risk scores for each child. Proven predictive models address a broad range of vulnerabilities.

- **Quickly alert caseworkers of important status changes.** Software monitors all available data sources and automatically alerts case workers when changes occur that affect a child’s risk score. Risk scores are continuously recalculated based on the most up-to-date information.

SAS® identifies high-risk situations faster so case workers can intervene sooner and save more lives.
The SAS® Difference: A comprehensive, data-driven approach to protecting at-risk children

SAS uses a hybrid analytical approach for child risk scoring that applies simple business rules, anomaly detection, predictive modeling, social network analytics and geospatial analysis to structured and unstructured data sources. SAS provides:

• **Data management and multiple analytical methods that address a broad range of vulnerabilities.** SAS combines and cleanses data from case management systems with data from social benefit, education, health care, law enforcement and criminal justice systems. This creates a continuous feedback loop that heightens analytical accuracy over time.

• **Advanced social network analytics to determine who is associated with a child.** SAS captures important data, including criminal histories, behavioral health data, drug and alcohol treatment data, and other cases potentially associated with these individuals.

• **Advanced analytics to determine a weighted influence for each risk factor.** SAS incorporates complex interactions or risk factors into an overall risk score for each child.

• **Automatic monitoring to identify changes that could affect risk.** Risk scores are continuously recalculated based on the most up-to-date information, revealing the current risk status of each child. An alerts engine notifies workers when thresholds are exceeded.

SAS uses analytics to take case management systems to a higher level, helping caseworkers provide the best protection possible for at-risk children.

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**Case Study: Florida Department of Children and Families**

**Situation**

The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) has a mission of protecting the vulnerable, promoting strong and economically self-sufficient families, and advancing personal and family recovery and resiliency. As part of ongoing improvements to child protective investigations, the DCF wanted to make use of available data that could help investigators understand how to best serve families in crisis.

**Solution**

The DCF released a five-year child fatality trend analysis that the department will use to help investigators better predict the needs of families that are in crisis. Florida is one of the first states in the nation to introduce predictive analytics into the practice of child welfare.

**Results**

Investigators and child welfare professionals now have better information at their fingertips to help inform decision making on behalf of at-risk families.

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**What if you could …**

**Improve child safety**

What if you could use analytics that employ a continual feedback loop to improve over time?

**Rely on proven technology and experience to protect children**

What if your child welfare solution could accommodate the complexity and sensitivity of the myriad data sources that can be used for child protection?

**Help ensure that no child falls through the cracks**

What if you could use all available data to effectively assess each child’s risk?

**Improve caseworker effectiveness**

What if you could use automatic alerts to help caseworkers more effectively prioritize their cases?

You can. SAS gives you THE POWER TO KNOW®.

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**SAS Facts**

- SAS helps customers at more than 75,000 sites improve performance and deliver value by making better decisions faster.
- SAS has domain expertise in child welfare data analytics, as well as experience with public sector organizations in more than 80 countries.
- SAS provides sophisticated statistical analysis through the State and Local Government Advanced Analytics Lab.

Learn more about SAS for child well-being.