

Lessons learnt in Icelandic Barnahus

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Children and Families

Basic functions

Established 1st of November 1998

Child sexual and physical abuse,
domestic violence from ages

3 ½ - 18 years.

Forensic interviews

Investigative interviews

Exploratory interviews

Unaccompanied children

Medical examination

Victim assessment and therapy

Family counselling and support

Instructions to other professionals



Two types of forensic interviews

Investigative interview

- Cases referred to the police
- The court judge is in charge of the procedure
- Monitoring are:
 - The prosecution
 - The police
 - The CPS representative
 - The child's legal advocate
 - The defence lawyer
 - The alleged offender

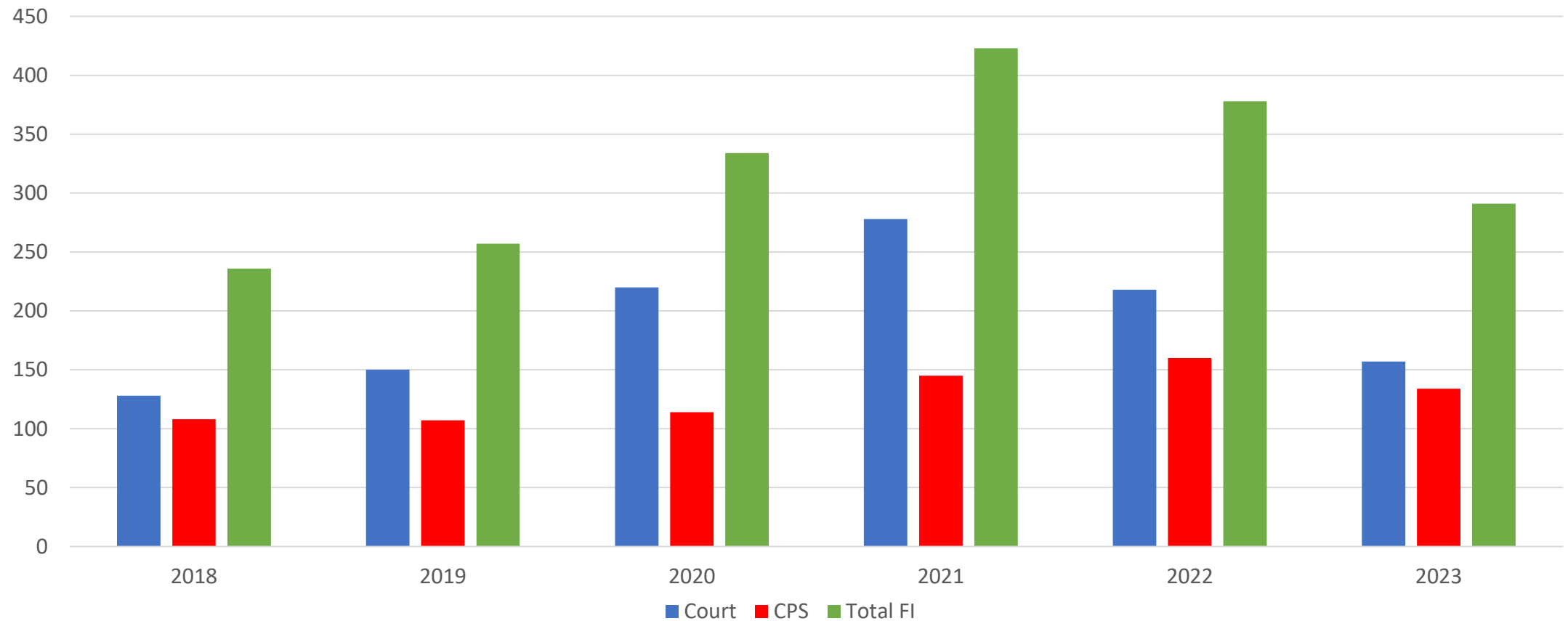
Exploratory interview

- At the request of the CPS
- Disclosure is absent or very weak/ambiguous
- Offender has not been identified
- Offender is below the age of criminal responsibility(15 years)
- Only CPS is monitoring

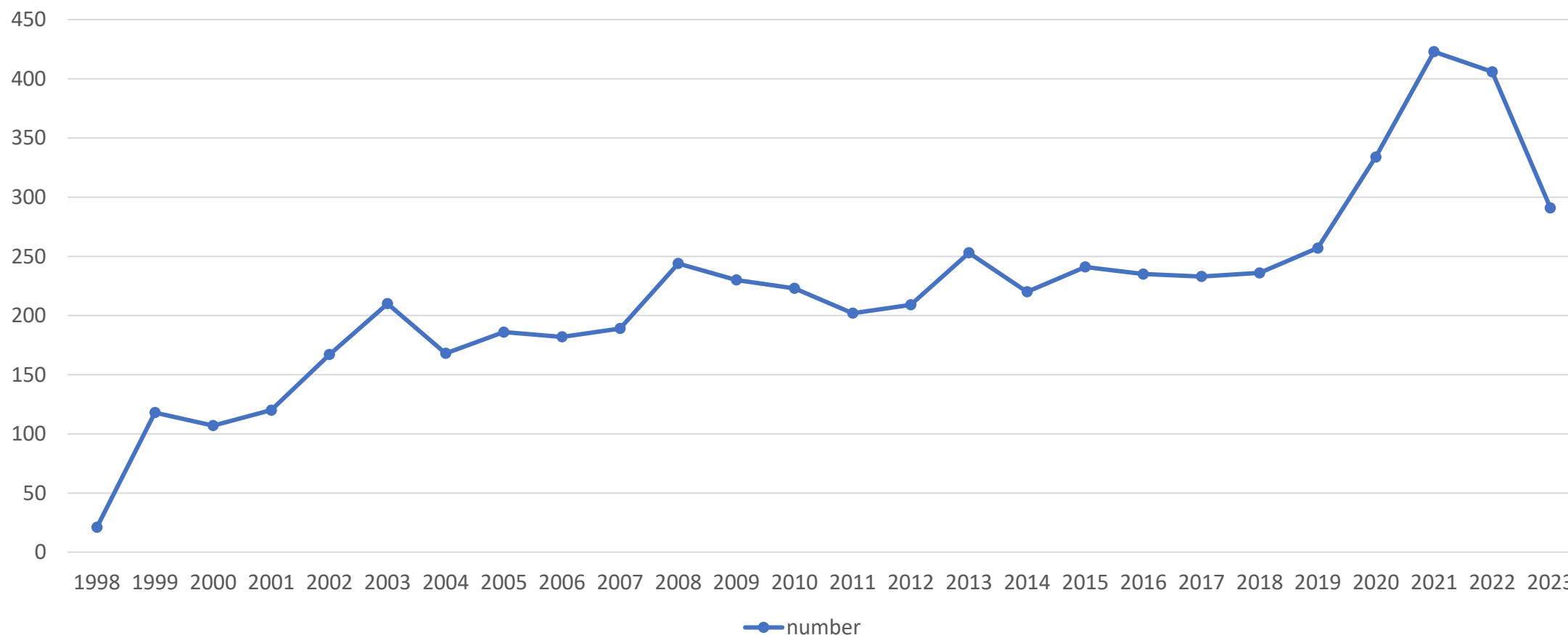
Number of children disclosing about sexual abuse in exploratory interview

2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
71	61,2	62	57,4	79	73,8	84	73,7	98	67,6	88	55	79	59
116		108		107		114		145		160		134	

Forensic interviews 2018-2023



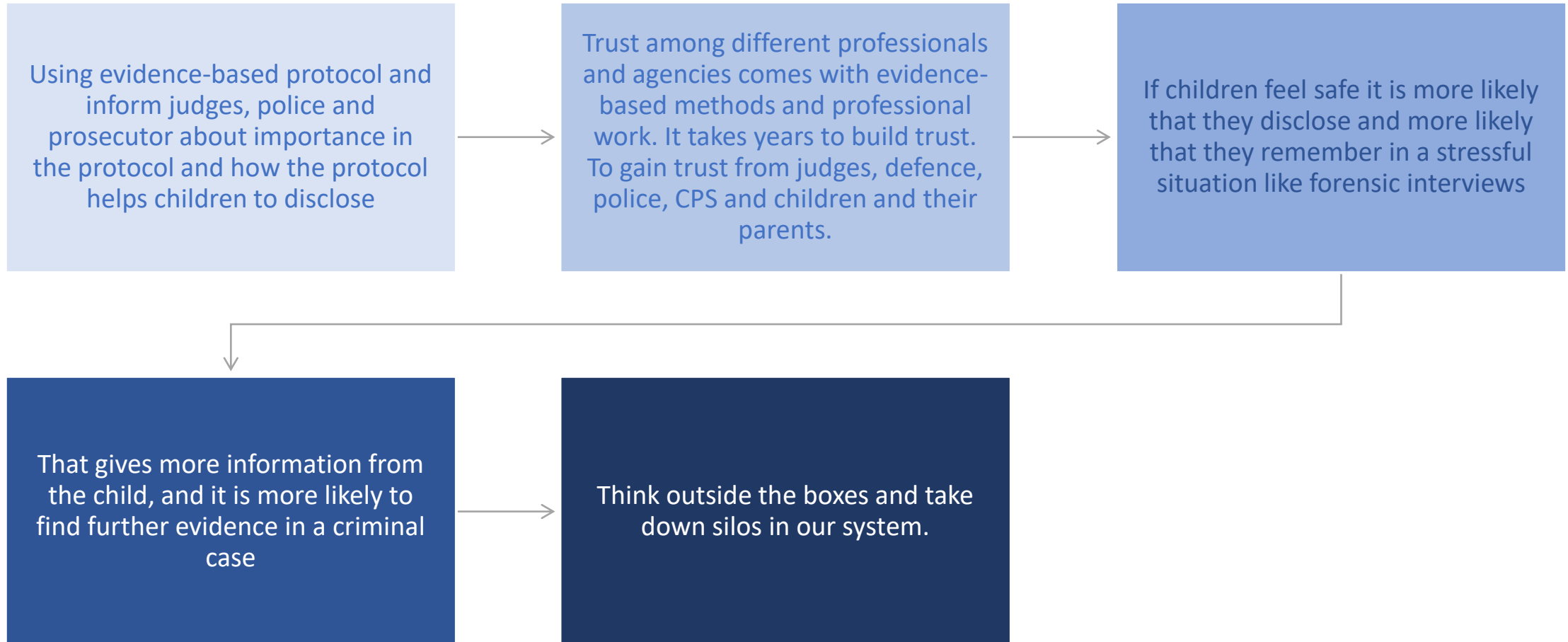
Forensic interviews in Barnahus from beginning



Lessons learned in discover abused children



Lessons learned in the investigation of criminal cases



Childrens disclosure about sexual abuse

2023 youth research

Of those who have been touched by grown up

8th grade	10th grade
21%	33%

In the beginning



Implement the basic philosophy and take care of all children in the future

- Act on the integration of services in the interest of children's prosperity – 2022
- Safeguarding the basic concept of Barnahus.
- Keep the children's best interest at heart all the time.
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Children have right to be questioned in the best possible circumstances – by best professionals and best facility



Barna- og
fjölskyldustofa

Thank you

Zagreb 30 January 2024