

The Use of Predictive Analytics in Child Welfare



**FLORIDA
INSTITUTE
FOR CHILD
WELFARE**

AT FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

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What is Predictive Analytics?



Netflix

The recommendation system influences approximately **80%** of the content streamed



Collects behavioral data to create a better experience for the user

Using Big Data to Streamline your Streaming

Predictive Analytics & the Social Sciences



Making Decisions Better, Making Lives Better

Evaluation of the Child Welfare Predictive Analytics Project



The State Child
Welfare Agency



The State Child Welfare
Research Institute

Child Protective Investigators

Public Relations Specialist

Flexible and adaptive

Organized

Trained in indicators of child abuse



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In what ways, if any, does the use of a predictive model, during pre-commencement, add value to child protective services?

**Workload
Standards**

**Chronic
Re-abuse
by
Caregivers**

**Worker
Efficacy and
Confidence**

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RESULTS

Effective?

Indeterminate

Functional?

Too many technical issues

Useful?

Not as helpful in understanding chronic maltreatment as proposed

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RESULTS

Strengths of Predictive Model

Presents the case holistically instead of in pieces

Barriers of Predictive Model

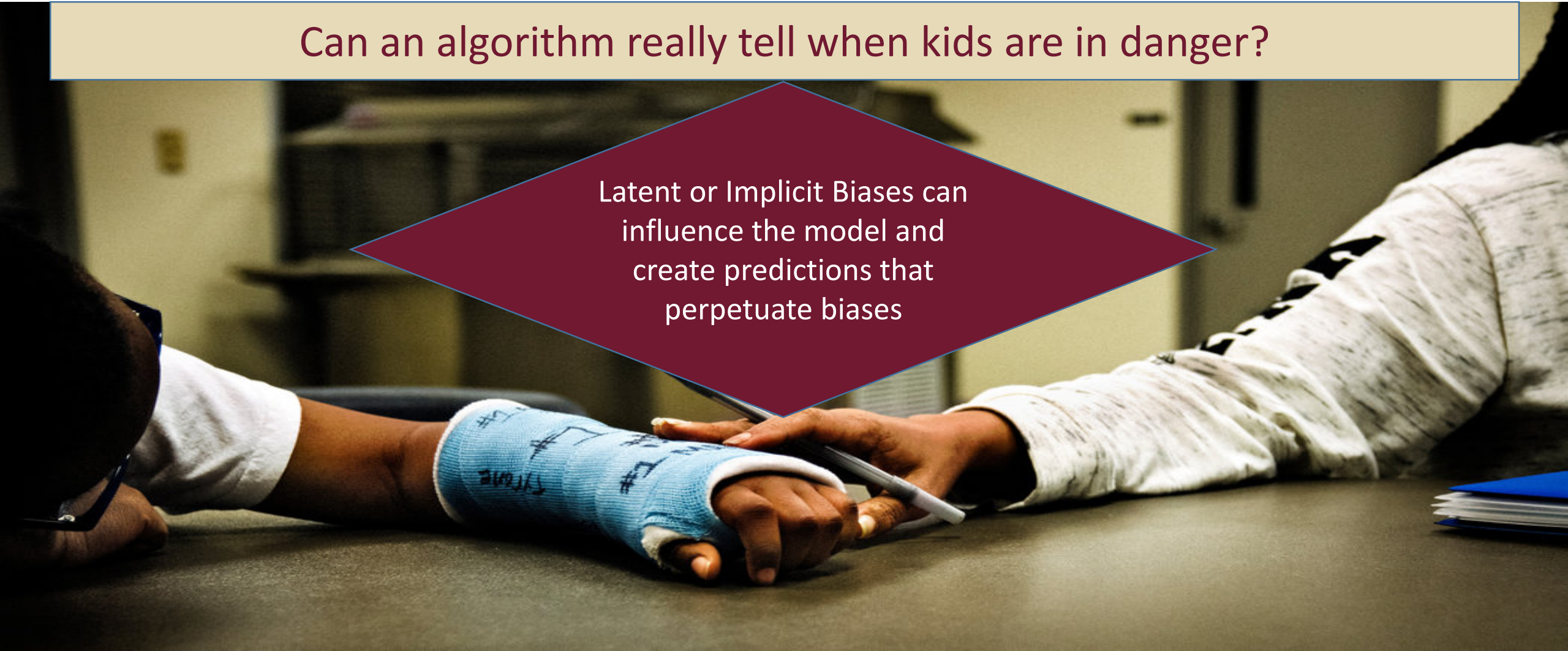
Potentially profiles cases using characteristics like race and income

Predictive Analytics & Child Welfare



Can an algorithm really tell when kids are in danger?

Latent or Implicit Biases can influence the model and create predictions that perpetuate biases



Google & the Beauty Pageant



Next Steps: Predictive Analytics & Child Welfare



Next Steps:

Consider the latent and implicit biases that could bias the model and perpetuate biases that harm more children and families