



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

Department of Human Services | State of Utah

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The work we do at the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) is not just important to the children and families we serve directly—it is important to all Utahns. We are continually working to fulfill our mission of “Safe Children, Strengthened Families” and build a foundation that is reflective of the innovative, pioneering spirit of our great state.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about DCFS, and for your continued support of the children and families of our state.

Brent Platt, L.C.S.W.

Director, Utah Division of Child and Family Services



PREVENTION SERVICES

Child and Family Services provides nearly \$3 million annually to support community partners in child abuse and neglect prevention efforts, and oversee the implementation of these prevention programs and services delivered to Utah's children and families. Programs and services include crisis respite nurseries, parenting classes, family counseling, school-based education initiatives, in-home services for families, and after school programs. We have also begun to integrate the evidence-based Strengthening Families Framework into our prevention and early intervention efforts. The Framework focuses on what works in families, including the Five Protective Factors – five attributes research shows successful families share.

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PROTECTIVE FACTORS

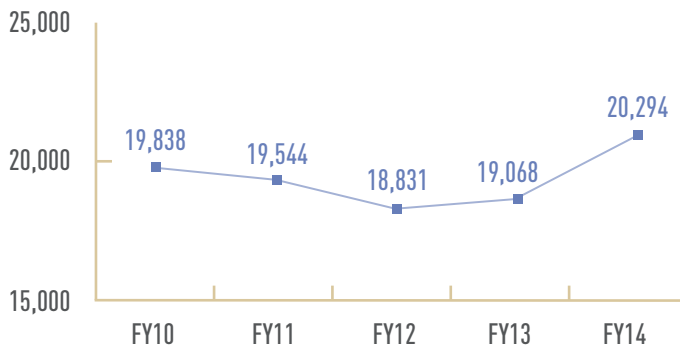
- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Knowledge of parenting and child development
- Concrete supports in times of need
- Healthy social and emotional development of children



CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Child Protective Services (CPS) is a community resource for individuals who become aware of the potential abuse, neglect or dependency of a child. Individuals can report allegations of abuse or neglect 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by dialing 855-323-DCFS (3237).

Number of Cases



When an individual calls DCFS, they will speak to a trained social worker who will determine if the allegations rise to the level of abuse or neglect as defined by Utah statute. Callers may also be given a referral to community resources or another state agency.

OUTCOMES

Child Protective Services investigated 20,294 reports of child abuse or neglect in FY14. Of those, 6,973 were supported based on the evidence acquired in the investigation.

Results of Investigation

60%
Unsupported

34%
Supported

3%
Unable to Complete*

2%
Unable to Locate

1%
Without Merit*

0%
False Report

*Unable to Complete is used when a family moves out of the state and our request for courtesy work by the other state is declined, or if initial face-to-face contact with the child has been made, but there is insufficient evidence to make a finding because the whereabouts of the child and/or family are unknown.

*Without Merit is used in the event that at completion of the investigation that the alleged abuse or neglect did not occur, or that the alleged perpetrator was not responsible. This differs from an Unsupported finding, where there is insufficient evidence to conclude that the the abuse or neglect occurred, but we did not conclude that the allegation was without merit.

77%

OF FAMILIES WHO HAD SUPPORTED CASE OF ABUSE & NEGLECT WERE REFERRED TO COMMUNITY SERVICES.

17% Child Victims Received In-Home Services

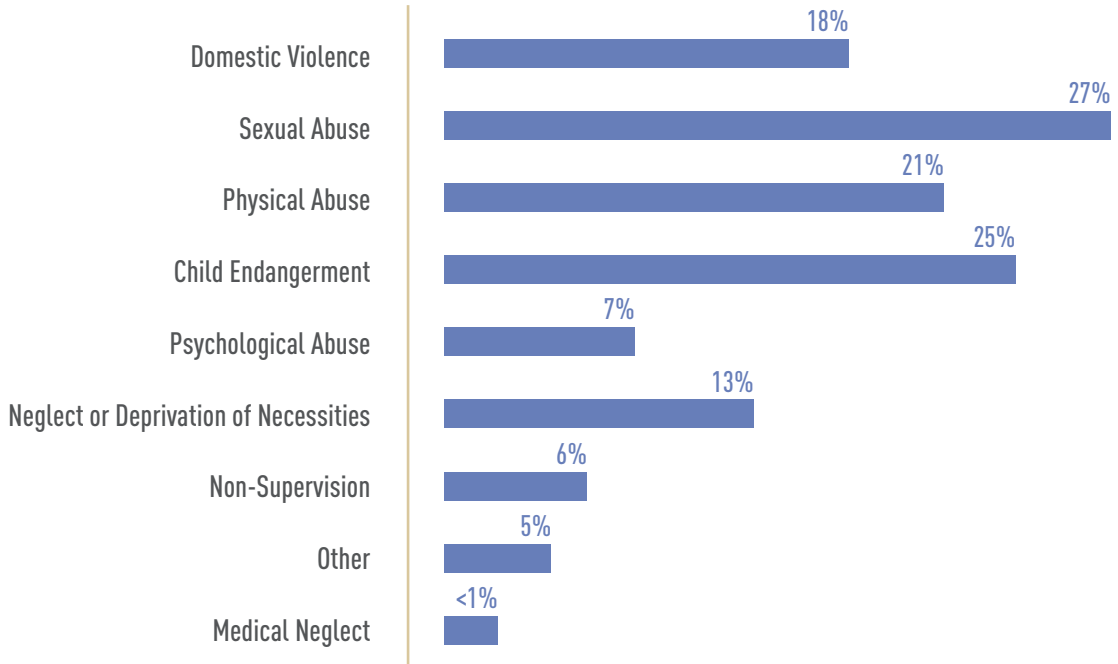
15% Child Victims Received Foster Care Services



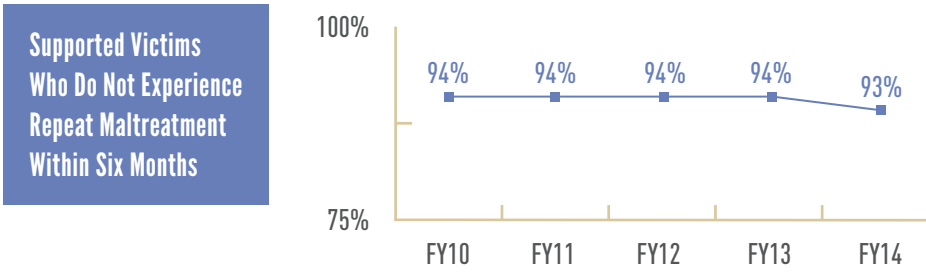
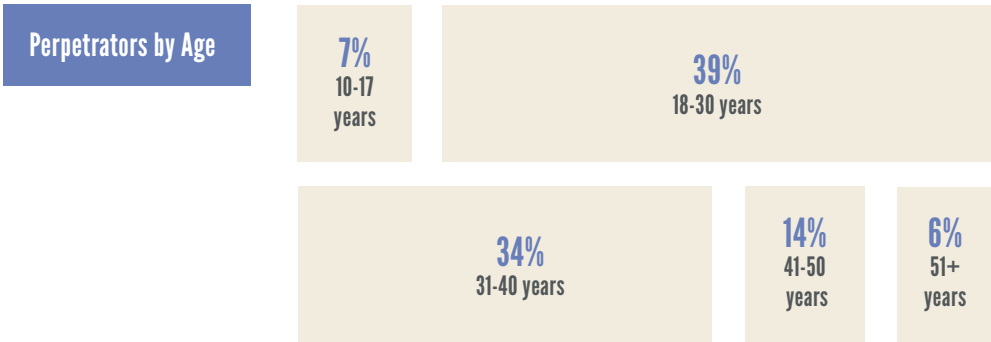
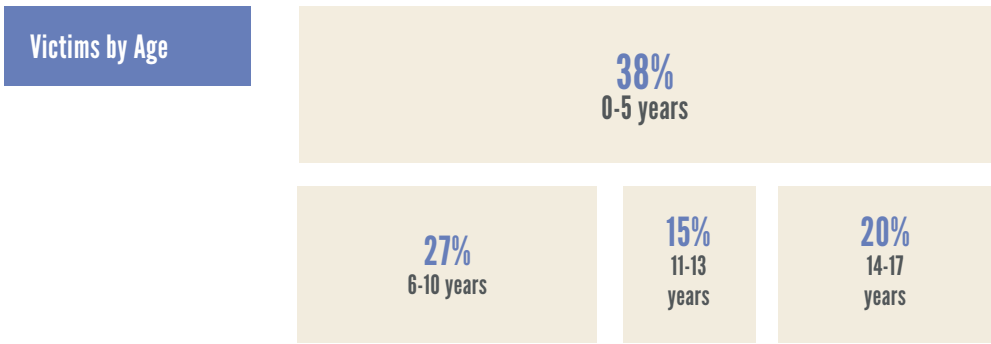


During FY 2014, sexual abuse was the most frequently supported allegation. The “other” category includes allegations of safe relinquishment of a newborn child, dependency, and failure to protect. Note that one case may have more than one supported allegation. Therefore, the percentages in the chart below add up to more than 100%.

Allegations for Supported CPS Cases



Of the total abused and neglected children, 54% were female and 46% were male. Approximately 72% of perpetrators were the victim's parents, and 16% were other relatives.



IN-HOME SERVICES

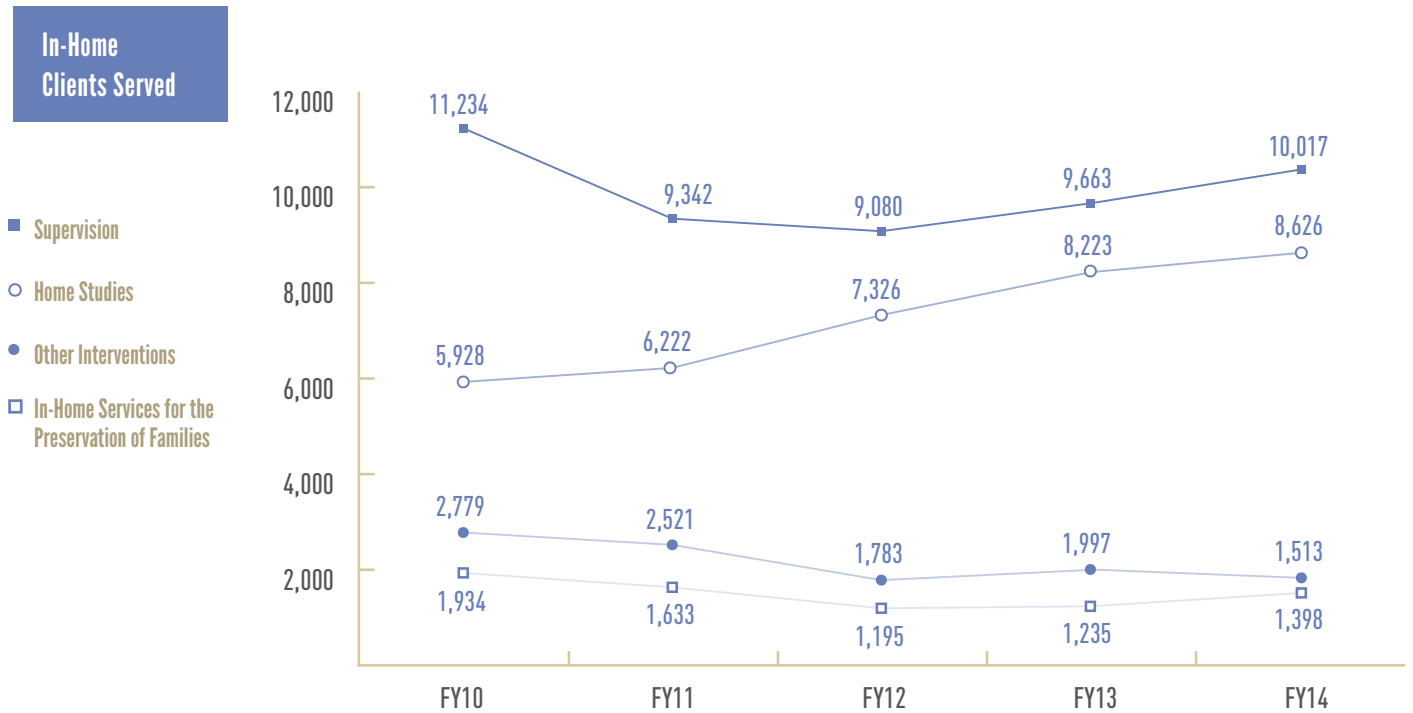
In-Home Services provide an array of supports and interventions to children at risk of abuse, neglect, delinquency or dependency. Goals of in-home services are to prevent the recurrence of abuse and neglect and safely maintain children in their home. In-Home Services may be voluntary or court-ordered and are categorized as one of the following:

In-Home Services for the Preservation of Families: Short term intensive in-home interventions for children at risk of abuse, neglect, or dependency.

Supervision: Case management services or children at risk of abuse, neglect, or dependency.

Other Interventions: Supportive services to stabilize a family including therapy, monitoring, linking to community services.

Home Studies: Studies to determine appropriate of placements or service level needs for a family.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

In 2014, DCFS received and distributed state and federal dollars to domestic violence shelters across Utah. Referrals come from many sources, including law enforcement, community agencies and self-referrals.



SHELTERS PROVIDE

- Direct clinical services
- Direct casework
- Safety planning
- Individual and group counseling
- Community outreach and education
- Referral to community support
- Assistance in acquiring protective orders
- Direct shelter service

DCFS works with the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health and the Public Behavioral Health System, the Utah Suicide Prevention Coordinators, the Utah Domestic Violence Coalition, the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, the Office of Victim Services and the Utah Department of Health to develop and implement integrated solutions and reliable performance measurements. Efforts will continue to support funding for domestic violence programming, ensuring access to quality services for families and individuals.



**Shelter
Days Provided**

	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14
Children	40,683	47,364	59,544	51,139	51,389
Women	35,951	42,687	47,647	45,891	51,344
Men	556	912	1,175	1,069	866

KINSHIP SERVICES

Kinship caregivers are individuals who provide a temporary or permanent home for relative children who cannot remain in the home of their parents due to the threat of further abuse or neglect. The “other” category includes first cousins, in-laws, or family friends

Relationship of Kinship Caregiver to the Foster Child

49%
Grandparent

40%
Aunt or Uncle

11%
Other

4%
Non-Custodial Parent

3%
Sibling

1%
Step-Parent

If kinship caregivers become licensed to provide foster care for a specific child, they can receive the same resources available to all licensed foster parents.

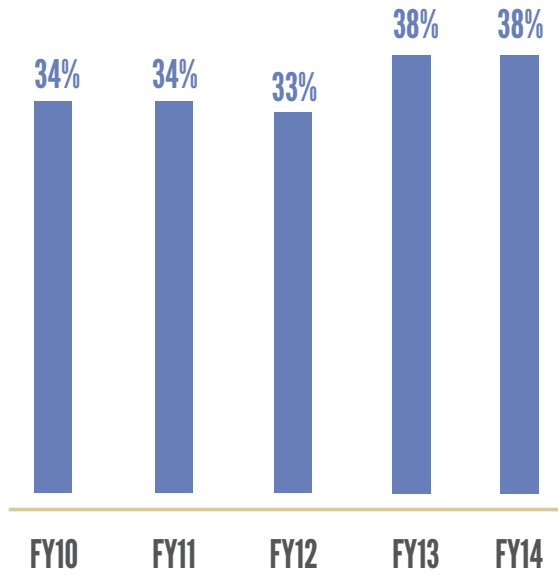
KINSHIP CAREGIVERS INCLUDE:

- Grandparents
- Aunts
- Uncles
- Cousins



Child in Foster Care Placed with Kinship Caregivers

*Percent of children placed with a relative at any time during the year.

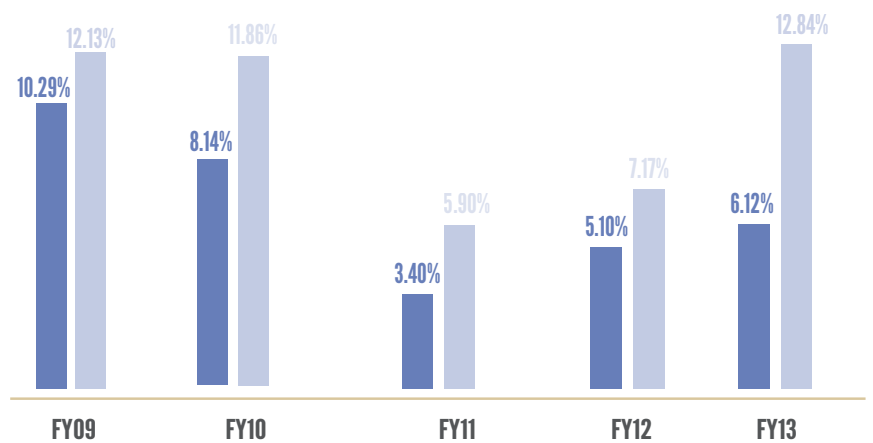


OUTCOMES

More children who transition from custody to live with kin achieve stability, as evidenced by the reduction in the rate of children re-entering custody.

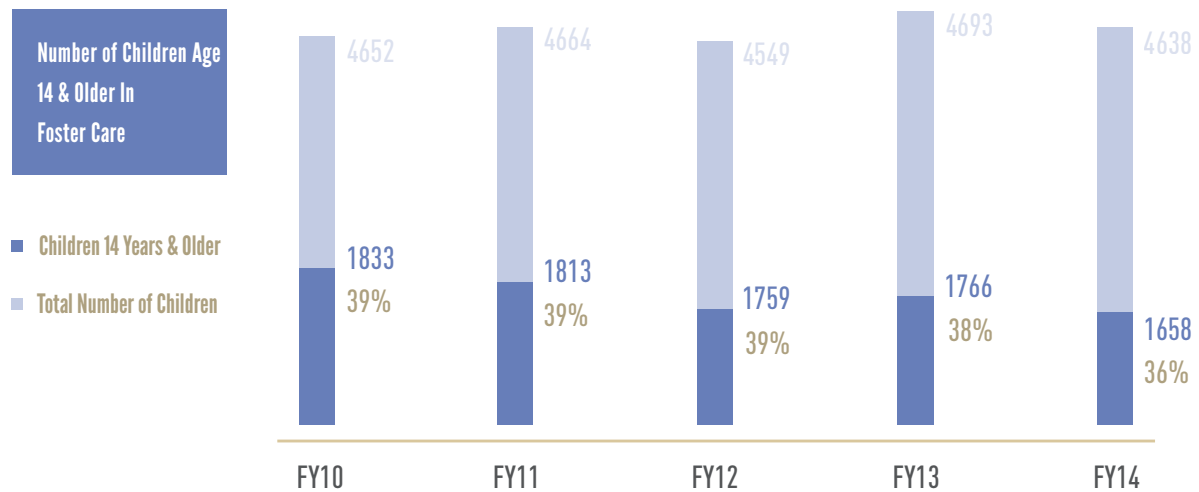
Children Who Exited Custody to a Relative That Were Victims of Abuse or Re-entered Custody Within 1 year.

- Victims of Abuse
- Re-entered Custody



ADOLESCENT SERVICES

The Transition to Adult Living (TAL) program offers a continuum of services for youth ages 14 and up. Since 2010, the percentage of youth in foster care has decreased from 39% to 36%.



TAL PROGRAM

PREPARES YOUNG PEOPLE BY HELPING THEM DEVELOP IN :

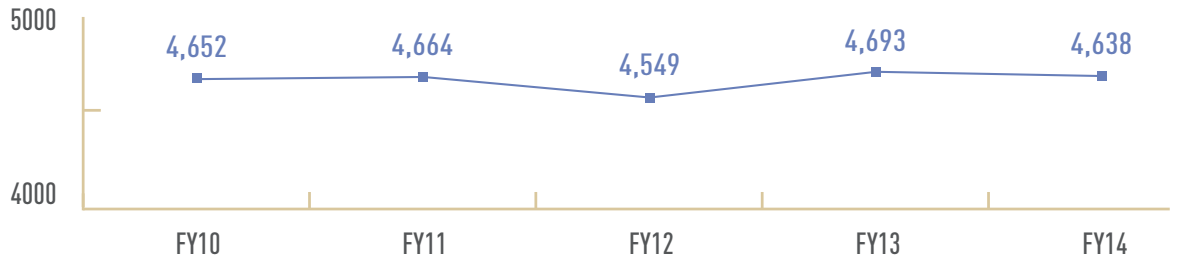
- Self-care and health education
- Communication, social relationships, family and marriage
- Home life and daily living
- Work, career planning and education
- Housing and money management



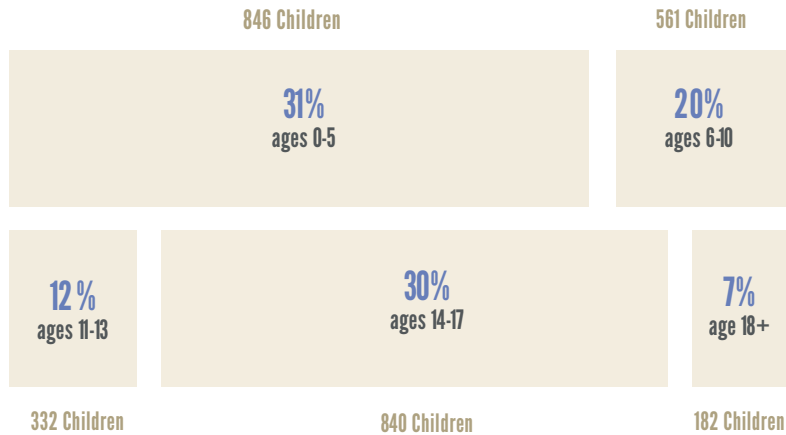
FOSTER CARE SERVICES

To ensure that all children's needs are met, DCFS maintains a number of foster care placements that offer an increasing intensity of services. The chart below illustrates the total number of children served in foster care in FY14.

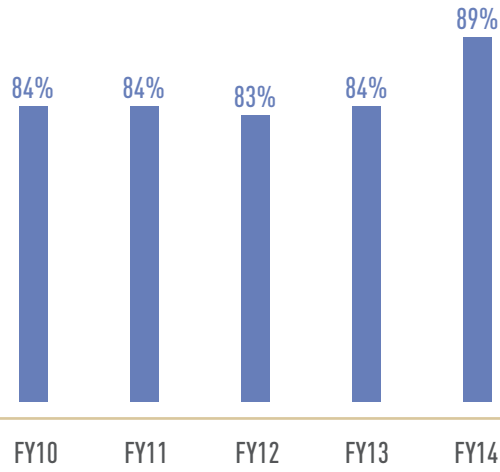
Youth Receiving Foster Care Services



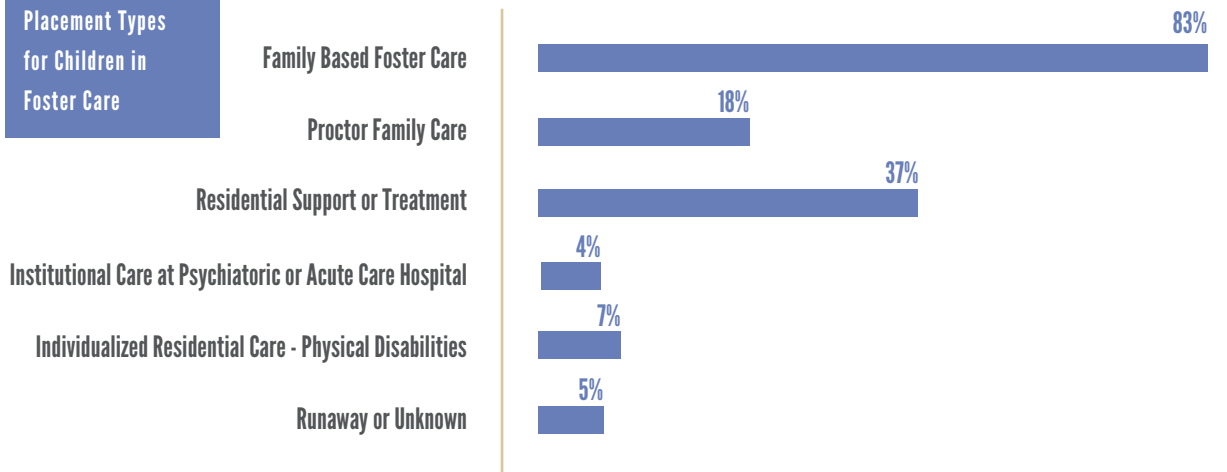
Children in Foster Care



Children in Foster Care Less Than 12 Months Who Had Two or Fewer Placements



Placement Types for Children in Foster Care

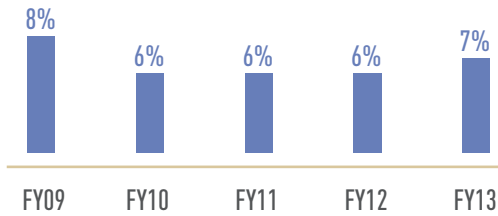


OUTCOMES

Once children are placed into the custody of the state for their safety, the goal becomes to reunify them with their parents. If reunification is not possible, DCFS focuses on finding another permanent home.

Reason for Exiting	Percent
Reunification with Parents/Primary Caregiver	38%
Adoption	28%
Custody & Guardianship to Relative	17%
Age Out	10%
Child Ran Away	1%
Custody to Juvenile Justice Services	2%
Custody to Foster Parent	2%
Referred Outside DCFS	1%

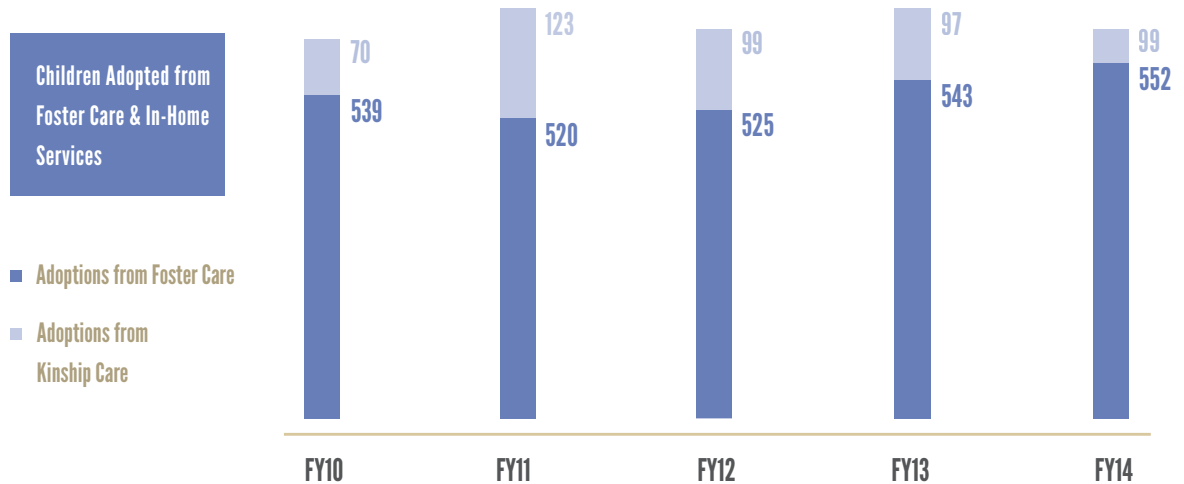
Children Exiting Custody with a Subsequent Foster Care Episode within 12 Months





ADOPTION SERVICES

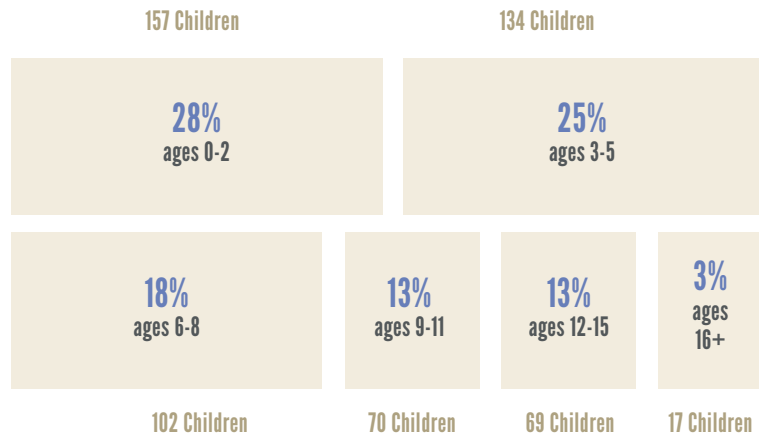
The adoption program works to find an adoptive family for every child and youth who cannot safely return home.



During the adoption process, the caseworker helps the adoptive parents assess what services the child and family may need, and identify community resources that may be helpful.

We recruit adoptive families specifically for older youth and sibling groups in state care with help from our community partner, the Adoption Exchange. The exchange sponsors Wednesday's Child in collaboration with KSL; the Heart Gallery, which travels the state with beautiful portraits of youth in need; and Wendy's Wonderful Kids through the Dave Thomas Foundation.

Children Adopted from Foster Care



Children Adopted from Kinship In-Home Services

