



DCFS Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2022

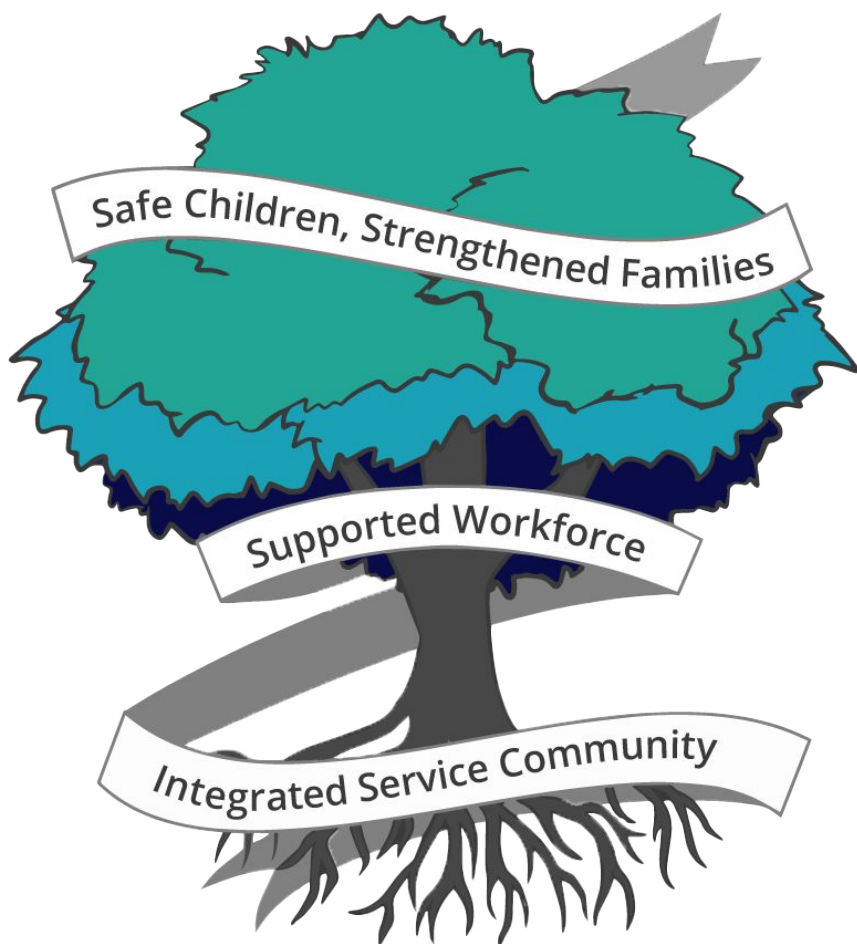


Utah Division of Child and Family Services

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Please note: The data in this report is measured by state fiscal year (July 1 through June 30) unless otherwise stated.

Utah Division of Child and Family Services



Safe Children

Safety is the reason we exist. The mission of the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) is to keep children safe from abuse and neglect through the strengthening of families.

Strengthened Families

A child's physical and emotional well-being largely exists within the context of the adults in their life. When a family is strengthened through individualized, trauma-informed, community-based services that are both safety driven and family driven, an environment that promotes child safety and well-being is created.

Supported Workforce

Our most important resource in achieving success with children and families is our staff. They enter the lives of children and families at times of crisis and vulnerability. The professionalism and skill of our staff in engaging, teaming, assessing, planning, and intervening with children and families are essential to good outcomes. Due to the complex and critical nature of child welfare, our community expects and deserves a well trained, experienced, ethical, compassionate, and supported workforce.

Integrated Service Community

DCFS is not the child welfare system — we are the child welfare agency within a much larger social service continuum. Our ability to provide timely, effective, and extensive services to our most vulnerable populations is integrated within a robust network of legal partners and private and public community providers. We also provide Domestic Violence Services.

Sources of CPS Reports of Abuse and Neglect Accepted for Assessment During FY 2022



9,695

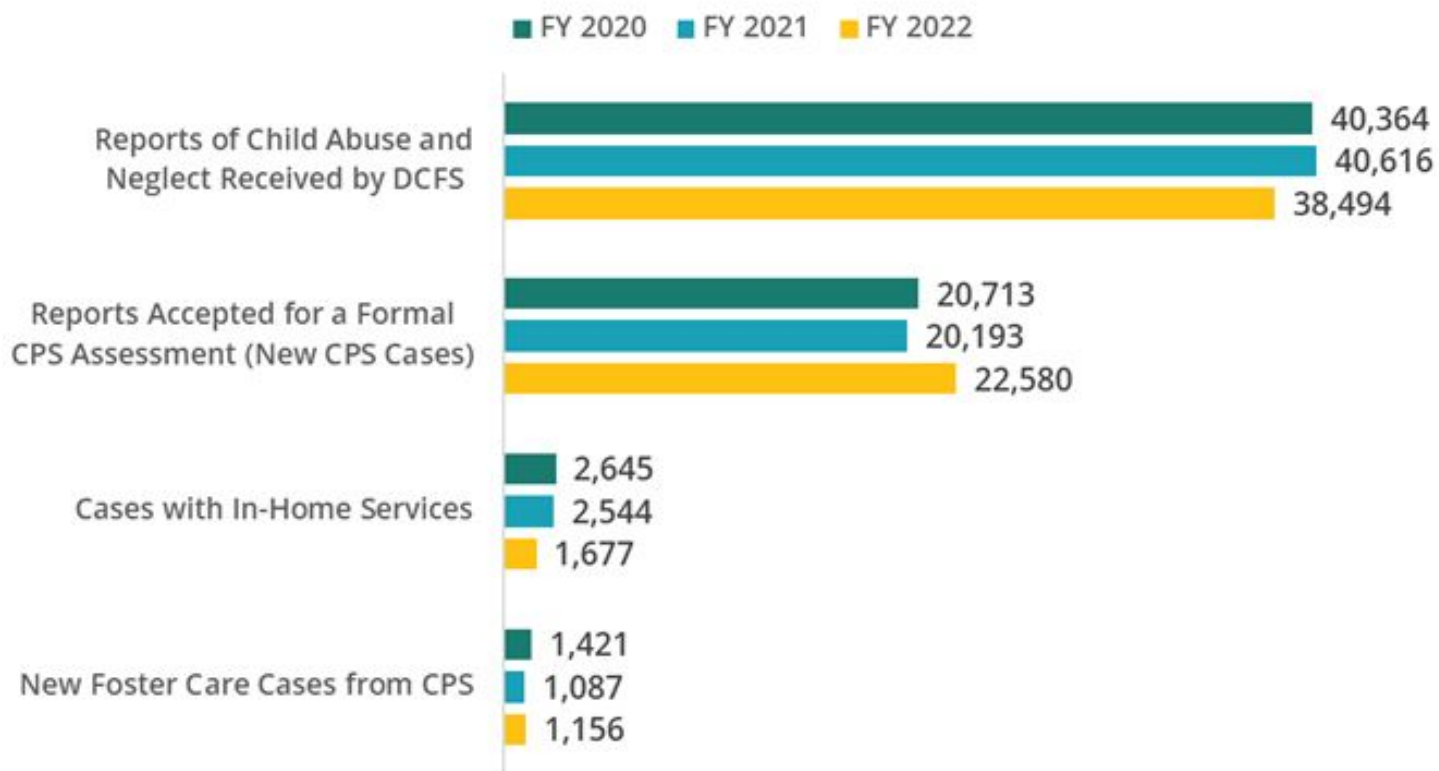
Children confirmed as victims of abuse or neglect.

7,317

Children confirmed as victims with referrals to community services without further DCFS involvement.

89.6%

Children confirmed as victims of abuse or neglect did not experience repeat maltreatment within 12 months.



The moment Child Protective Services (CPS) becomes involved with a family, our goal is to assess for safety concerns, work with the family to create a safety plan, and provide effective interventions that promote child safety and strengthen parents.

At the Division of Child and Family Services, our work in child welfare brings us into the lives and communities of diverse families with diverse needs.

DCFS is committed to building knowledge and understanding of a framework of equity, diversity, inclusion and access through partnerships with Casey Family Programs and the University of Utah's Social Research Institute.

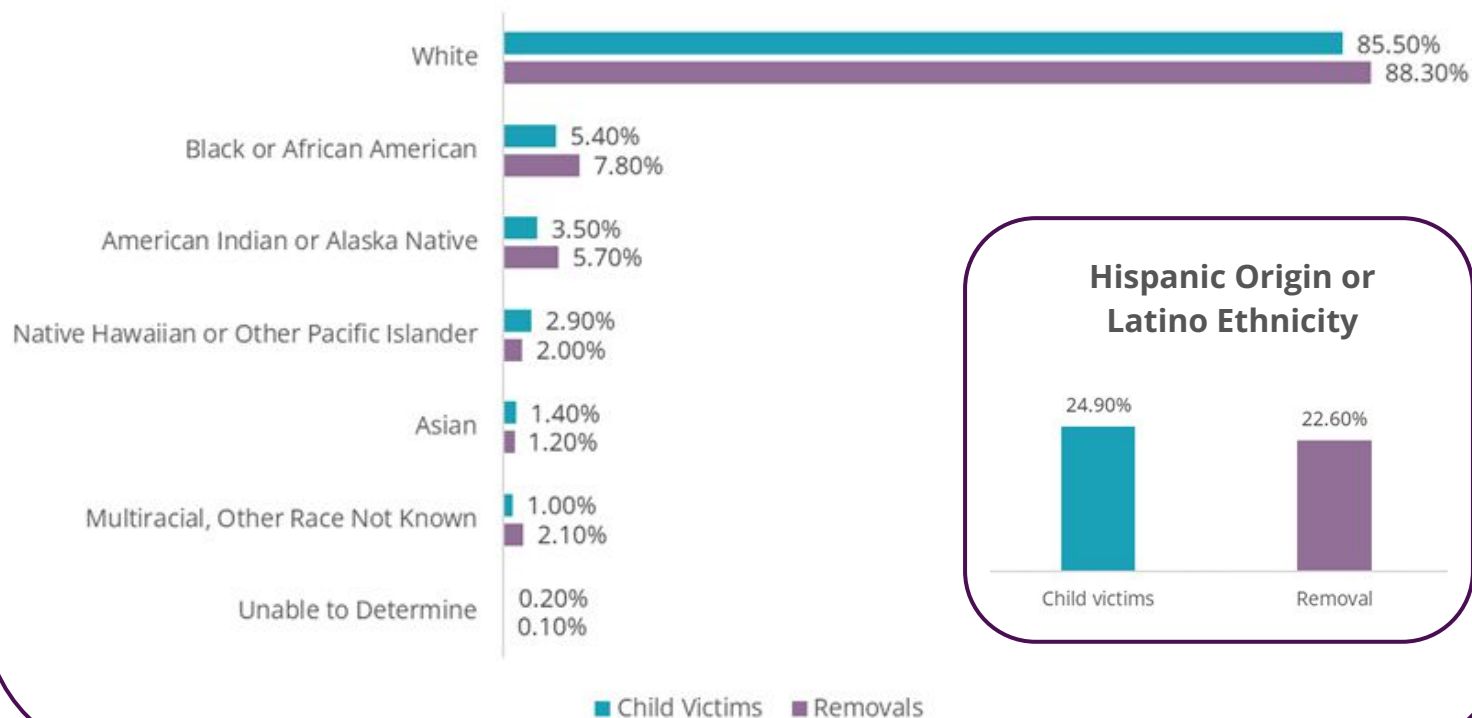
The division will continue its work to review its policy and practice to address racial and ethnic disproportionality at specific decision points in the child welfare process.

Recommended reading: Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2021). *Child welfare practice to address racial disproportionality and disparity*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau.

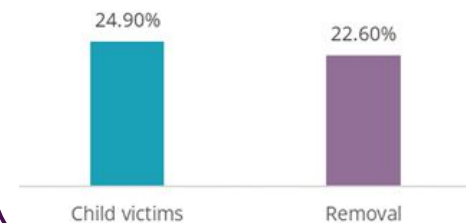
Percent of Children Confirmed as Victims by Age Group, FY 2022



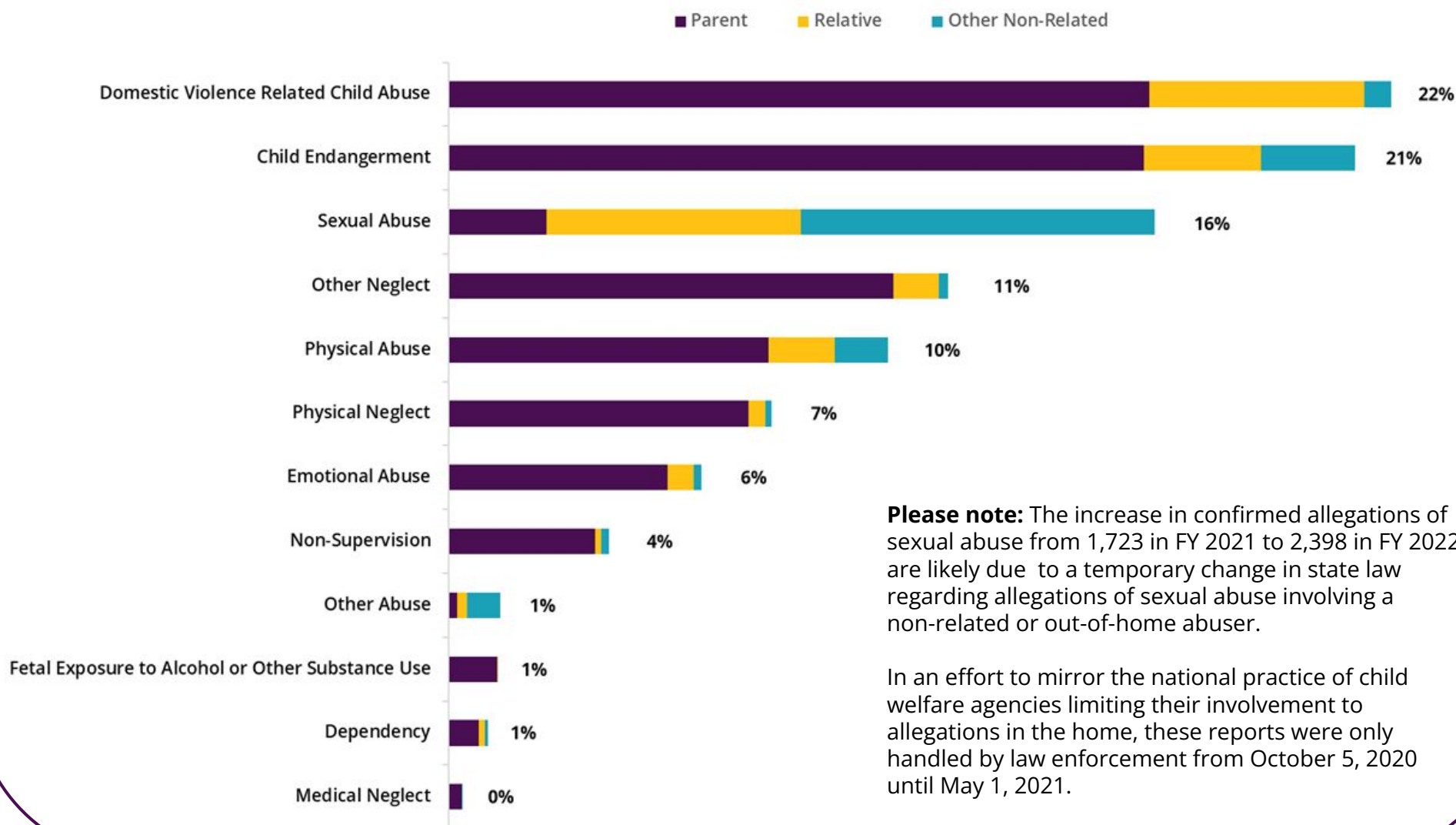
Race Among Confirmed Child Victims vs. Child Removals into Foster Care, FY 2022



Hispanic Origin or Latino Ethnicity



Confirmed Allegations by Type and Relationship of Individual Responsible for Abuse or Neglect to Child Victim, FY 2022



Please note: The increase in confirmed allegations of sexual abuse from 1,723 in FY 2021 to 2,398 in FY 2022 are likely due to a temporary change in state law regarding allegations of sexual abuse involving a non-related or out-of-home abuser.

In an effort to mirror the national practice of child welfare agencies limiting their involvement to allegations in the home, these reports were only handled by law enforcement from October 5, 2020 until May 1, 2021.

Other Neglect includes: Abandonment, educational neglect, failure to protect, failure to thrive, sibling/child at risk. **Other Abuse** includes: Dealing in material harmful to a child, human trafficking (sexual), lewdness, sexual exploitation.

Of the **1,483** children who were placed in foster care in fiscal year 2022, **76%** involved substance use as a safety concern.

We recognize substance use disorders (SUDs) as a health crisis that affects countless Utah families. The majority of cases requiring a child welfare intervention involve substance use.

Our goal is always for the child to remain in the home whenever safely possible while we work to connect the parent or caregiver to services to help build their long-term capacity to safely care for their children.

206

Children served in parent/child SUD residential placement.

80%

Children served in parent/child SUD residential placement who reunified with parent after case closure.

9%

Children served in parent/child SUD residential placement with subsequent supported CPS case (based on FY 2021 data)



2,764 children were confirmed as a victim of domestic violence related child abuse (DVRCA) in fiscal year 2022.

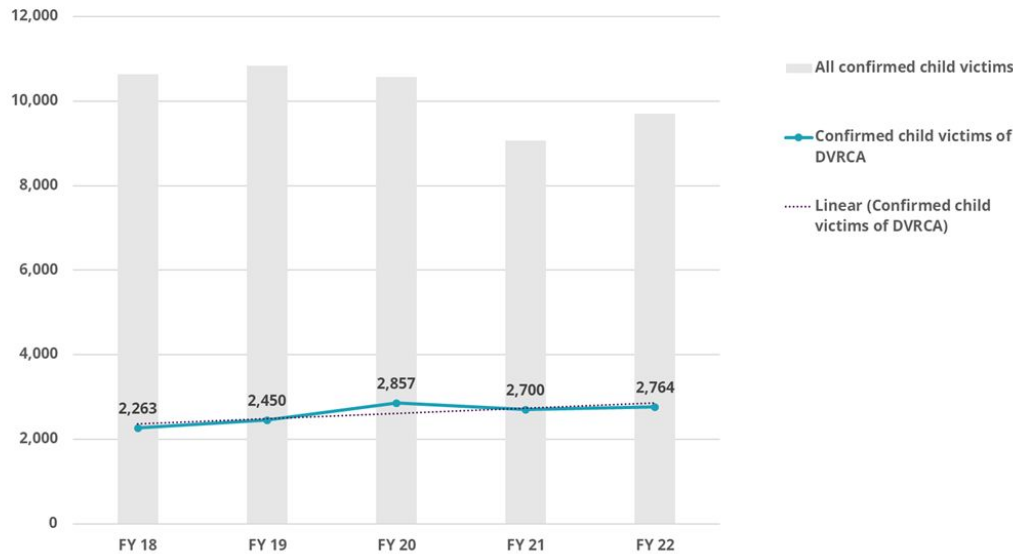
13.9%

Confirmed child victims of DVRCA who received in-home services

7.57%

Confirmed child victims of DVRCA who received in-home services and still required subsequent removal into foster care.

All Confirmed Child Victims and Domestic Violence Related Child Abuse (DVRCA) Victims

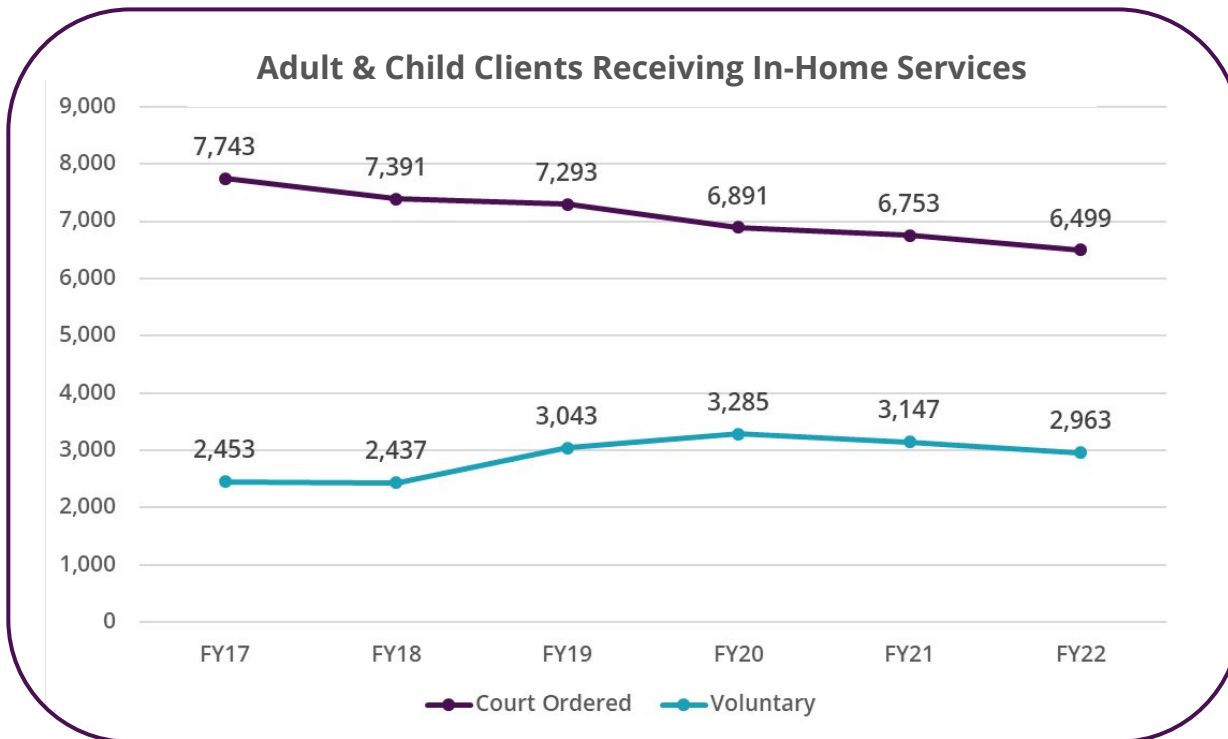


The goal of in-home services is to keep children safely at home while addressing abuse or neglect through family-driven, solution-focused interventions.

In-home services include:

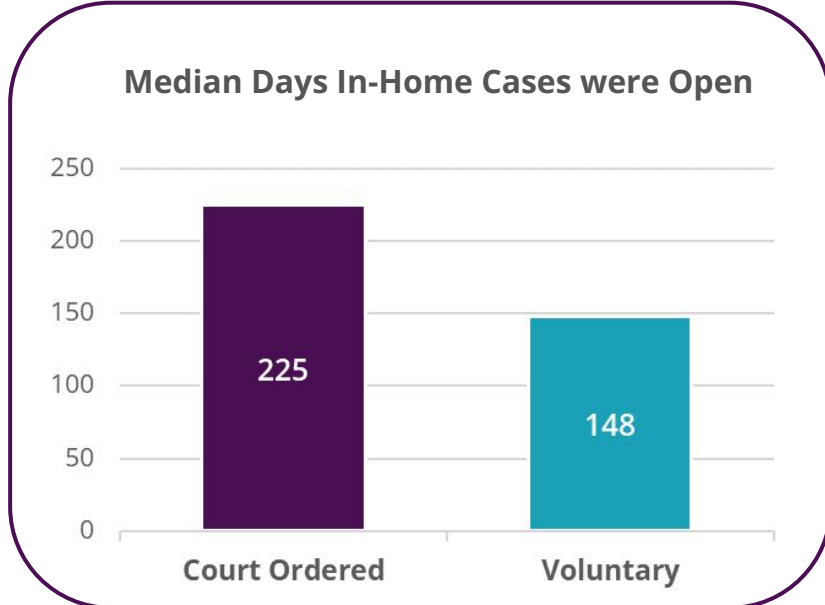
- Child and Family Team Meetings that bring the family, members of their support system, and service providers together to help set solution-focused goals to address safety concerns.
- Developing child safety plans with the family to address and manage safety concerns.
- Linking the family to evidence-based community resources including mental health treatment, parenting skills, and substance use disorder treatment.

In some situations safety is achieved when a family works collaboratively and voluntarily with DCFS to address risk factors. At other times these services are court ordered to ensure the best outcomes for children and their families.



2,432
Total number of in-home services cases for Fiscal Year 2022.

91.2%
In-home child clients who did not have a subsequent supported CPS case within 12 months of case closure (based on prior year's case closures reported in FY 2022).



Placement with family best reduces trauma and preserves a child’s connection to their culture, biology, ancestry, and community.

When children are unable to safely remain in their own homes, foster care acts as a temporary intervention until children are able to be safely reunited with their family. Whenever possible, a kinship care placement is priority.

Kinship care allows a child to stay in the care of a family member or friend who is willing to meet the child’s needs, including working with the child’s parent(s) toward reunification, or providing a permanent home. Early involvement of kinship in a CPS case may also support more robust safety planning, allowing children to remain safely at home, and decreasing the likelihood of removal in some cases.

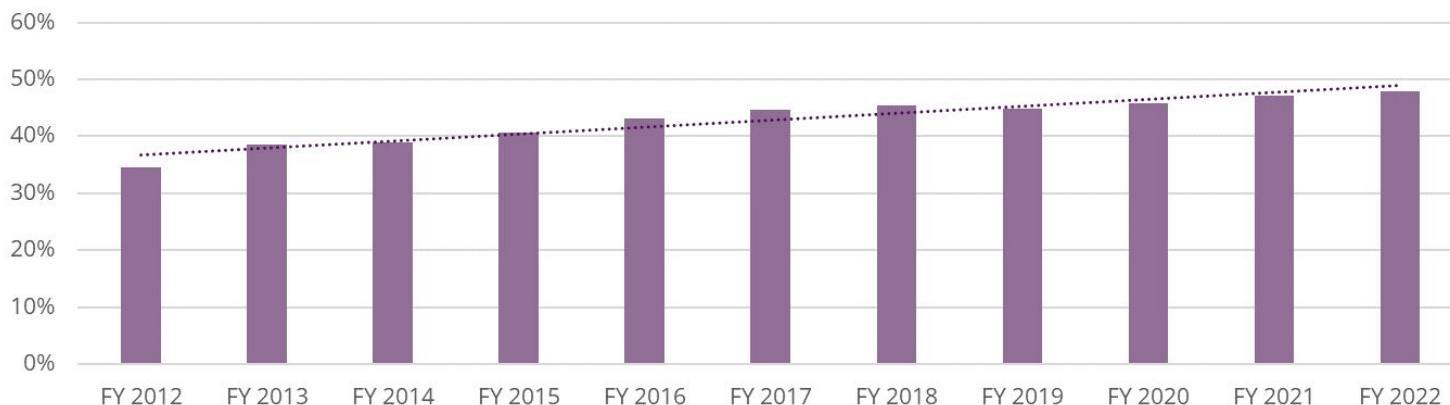
1,840

Children served in a kinship placement in FY 2022.

Relationship of Kinship Caregiver to Children Placed in Kinship Care during FY 2022:

42.9%	38.1%	29.6%
Grandparent	Aunt/Uncle	Other

Children Served in a Relative Placement FY 2012 - FY 2022



98%

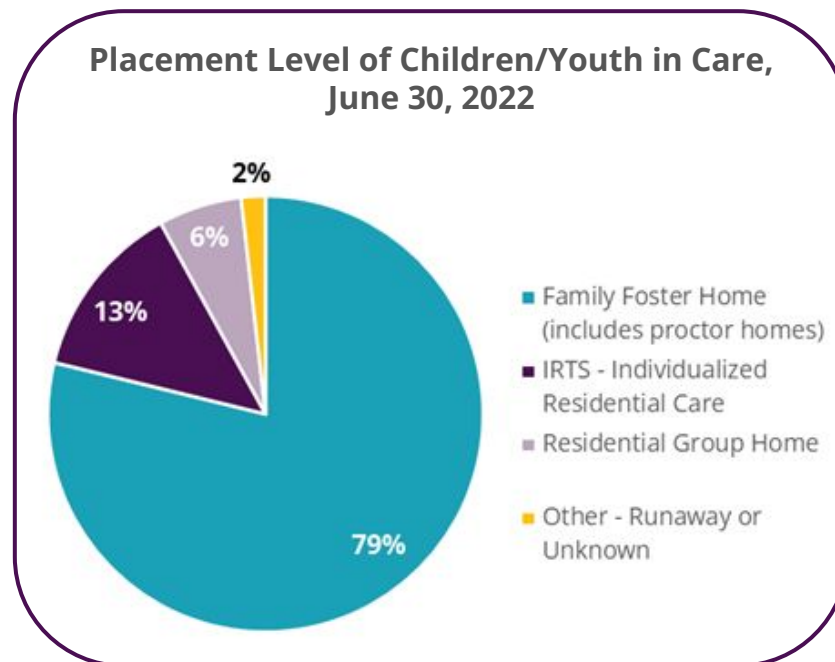
Children who exited foster care to a relative in FY 2021 and did not have a supported CPS case within 12 months.

95%

Children who exited foster care to a relative in FY 2021 and did not re-enter foster care within 12 months.

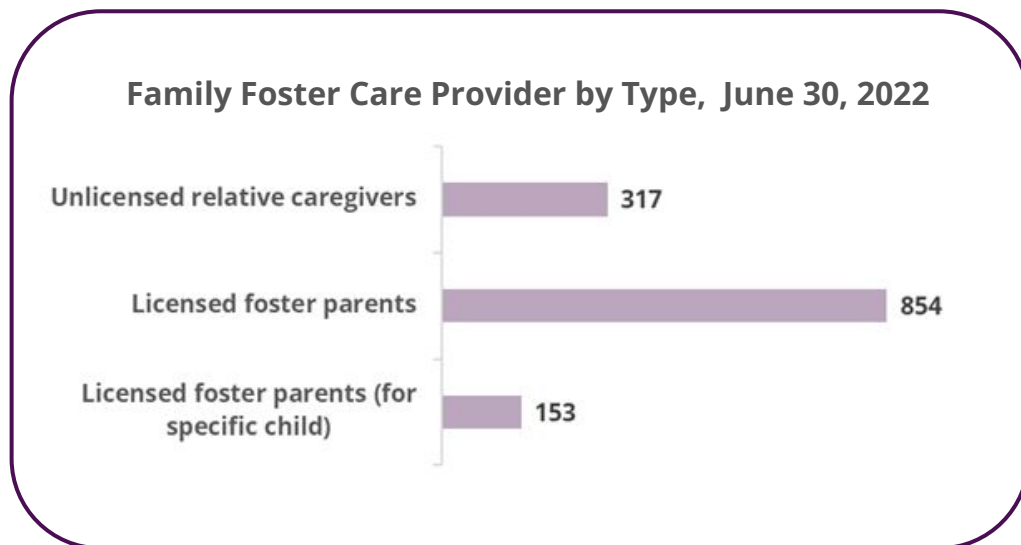
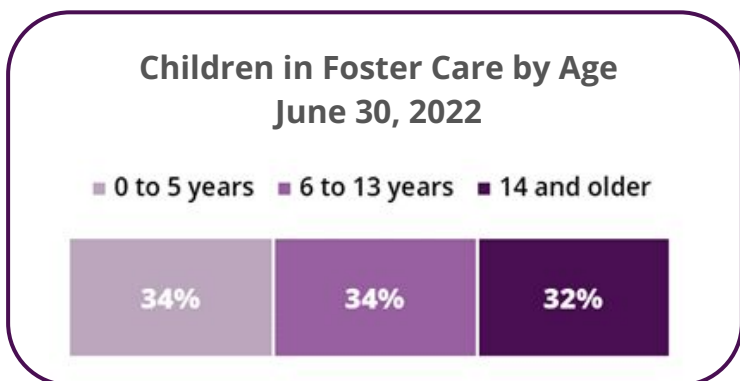
Approximately 2 of every 1,000 children* will enter foster care in Utah, while the national rate is 5 of every 1,000 children.

Foster families are an important part of providing temporary safety and support for children and youth in care who are unable to remain safely at home. Supporting a robust continuum of providers ensures children and youth are placed in the most appropriate and least-restrictive settings for their individual needs.



3,620
Total children served in foster care at some point during the fiscal year.

82%
Children served in foster care less than 12 months with two or fewer placements.



*Based on [2020 National Kids Count](https://datacenter.kidscount.org) data, datacenter.kidscount.org.

Every child deserves safety, stability and permanency.

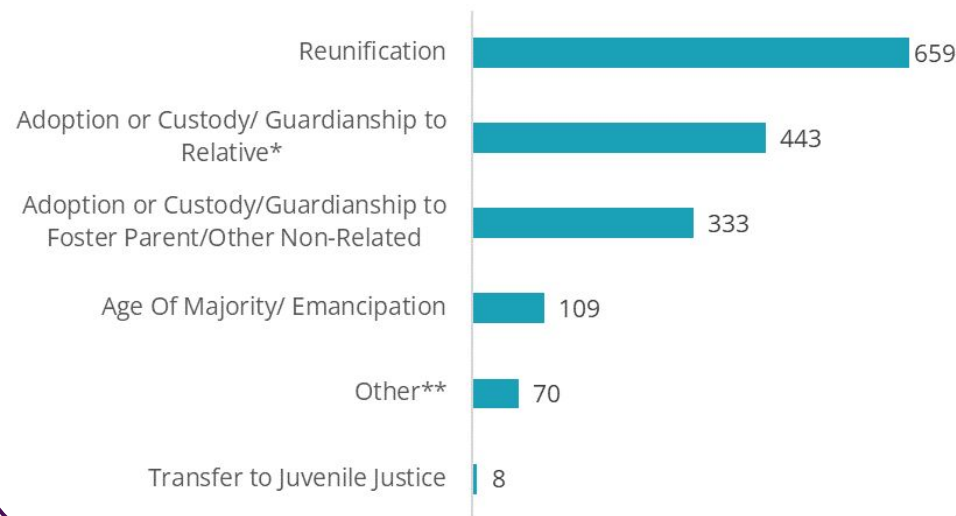
Continued efforts to find meaningful, loving, permanent, and safe living environments are critical for children who enter into foster care. For children who cannot reunify safely with their family, adoption services work to connect children to a home through relatives, families who fostered them, or other families seeking to adopt.

Youth who exit foster care without a permanent home need added supports.

No service replaces the stability and connection of a family. We provide assistance to youth ages 14 to 21 and continue to work with community partners toward reunification, kinship care, or adoption until youth leave our care.

The Transition to Adulthood Living (TAL) program utilizes a network of organizations to offer services including academic mentoring, financial planning, career preparation, and limited financial assistance until youth reach age 23.

Reasons Children Exited Foster Care During FY 2022



*Includes custody to non-custodial parent. **Other includes: Child Missing/Ran Away; Referred Outside Organization; Petition for Temporary Custody Denied/Dismissal; Non-Petitional Release; Voluntary Custody Terminated; Death of Child; Transfer to Juvenile Justice.

14 months

Median time in care for children who exited foster care in FY 2022.

10 months

Median time in care for children who exited foster care to reunification.

20 months

Median time in care for children who exited foster care to adoption.

Supporting Family Well-being

Prevention of child abuse and neglect is a focus of DCFS through local community-based services that include:

- Parenting classes
- 6 evidence-based home visitation programs
- Statewide community and school-based education presentations
- Support to grandparents raising grandchildren
- 17 crisis nurseries in local Family Support Centers across the state

More than \$3.6 million of federal and state funds were provided through DCFS for these community-based prevention services in FY 2022.

In an effort to highlight services available to help families thrive across Utah, DCFS collaborated with United Way programs, Utah 211 and Help Me Grow Utah, to create the 211 Strengthening Families webpage (uw.org/211/family-strengthening).



Domestic Violence Services

Connecting adults affected by domestic violence to trauma-informed services also enhances stability, safety and permanency for children. Domestic violence services provided by local shelter and treatment programs with federal and state funding through DCFS include:

- 16 domestic violence shelters
- Trauma-informed therapy, financial planning and safety planning
- Assistance with protective orders
- LINKline domestic violence crisis hotline
- Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) program utilized by law enforcement and victims advocates to assist and educate victims
- Trauma-focused treatment for both survivors and offenders

More than \$11.6 million was provided through DCFS to support the domestic violence services program in FY 2022.

50,433

Number of crisis calls made to the Linkline and domestic violence shelters.

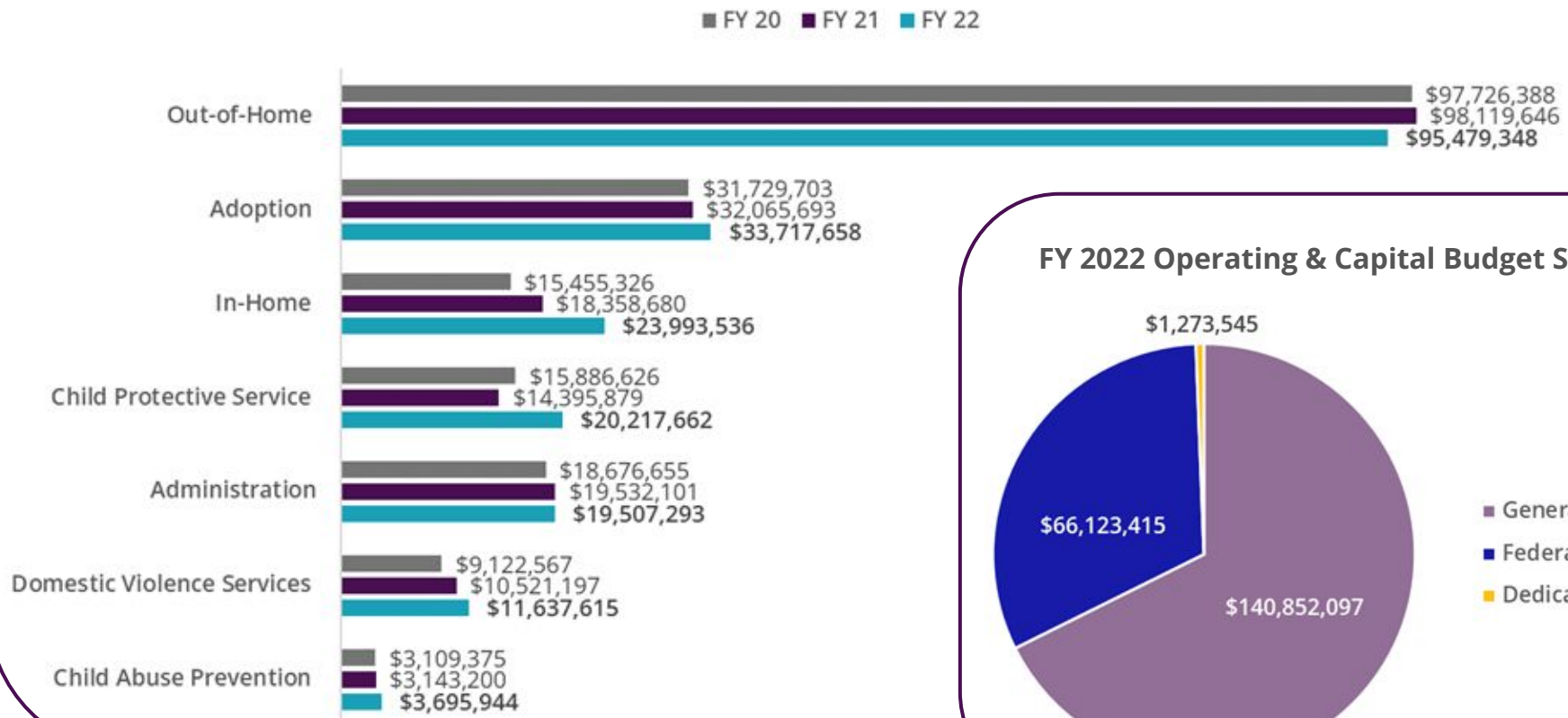
2,671

Number of adult and child clients served in domestic violence shelters.

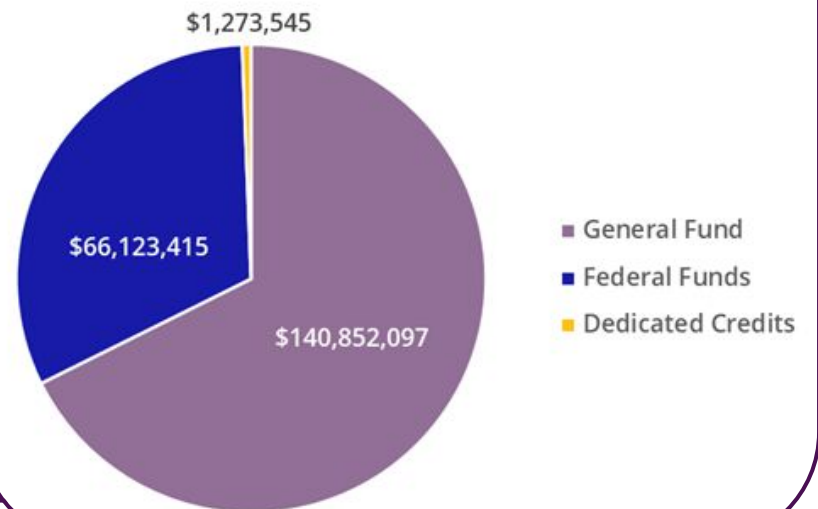
The budget for the division is primarily made up of a mix of state general fund, federal funds and dedicated credits. The following four general fund restricted accounts are appropriated by the Legislature and distributed through DCFS for services that focus on child abuse prevention and treatment programs, adoption, health and education programs for adults and children, and domestic violence services:

- Children’s Account
- Choose Life Adoption Support Restricted Account
- National Professional Men’s Basketball Team Support Women and Children Issues Restricted Account
- Victims of Domestic Violence Services Account

DCFS Actual Expenditures by Program



FY 2022 Operating & Capital Budget Sources

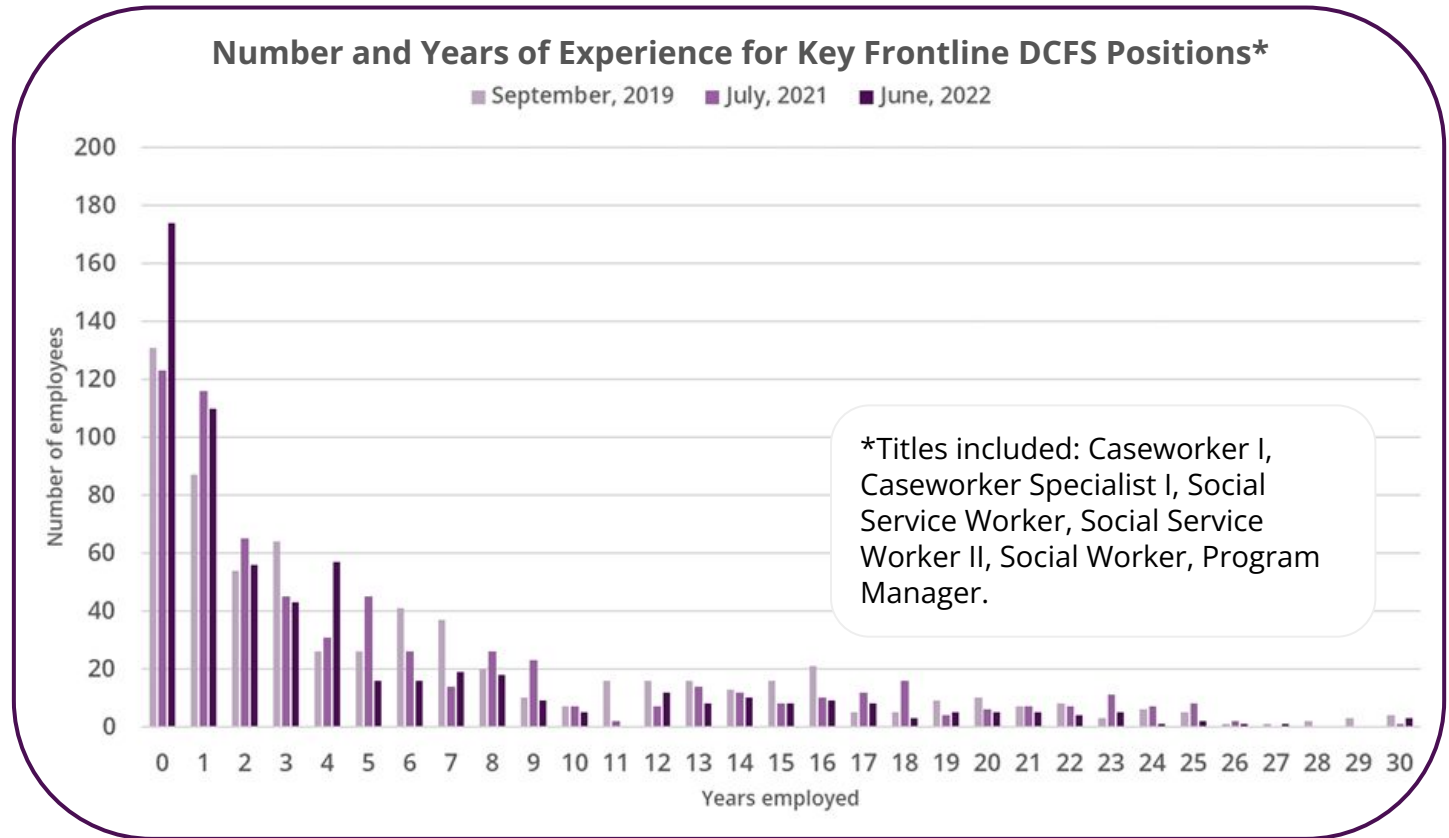


During Fiscal Year 2022, 205 new employees completed the required hours of training.

Required training includes:

- All DCFS direct service staff are required to complete 120 hours of in-class Practice Model Training and 40 hours of supervised field experience prior to working independently with families.
- Within 90 days of hire, direct services staff are required to complete a web-based 4th and 14th Amendments training.
- Within one year of hire, direct service staff are required to complete an Indian Child Welfare Act course, and a one-day Trauma Informed Care training.

After the first year, direct services staff are required to complete a minimum of 20 hours of additional annual training.



1,005 Total number of DCFS staff at end of FY 2022.	647 DCFS staff in key frontline positions at end of FY 2022.	44% DCFS staff in key frontline positions at end of FY 2022 with >3 years of experience.	36.7% Turnover for key frontline DCFS positions during FY 2022.
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Support from the governor’s office and state lawmakers during the 2021 Legislative Session led to a \$5 million investment in DCFS frontline staff. Additionally, the governor’s budget included the Caseworker I and Social Service Worker Titles in a 5% hotspot increase in 2022. While turnover increased from 33.7% in FY 2021, skilled staff also increased from 44% in FY 2021 to 46.2% on June 1, 2022. DCFS is continuing to explore internal strategies to address recruitment and retention, as well as compression issues among higher titles responsible for direct support and supervision of frontline staff.



For an online copy of this report, or to find previous annual reports please go to dcfs.utah.gov.

For questions about this report please contact the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Public Affairs & Education at dhhs@utah.gov.