

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS)

Child maltreatment is a serious problem that has grave and costly consequences for the child, his or her family and the community at-large. A child who has experienced abuse and neglect is more likely to have social, emotional and physical health problems and perform poorly in school.

Indicator

Child Abuse and Neglect Reports

Total reported incidents of suspected child abuse and neglect through the ChildLine Registry. (Number and rate per 1,000 children age 0-17)

State					% Change 2013 to 2017
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
26,944	29,273	40,590	44,359	47,485	76.2%
9.6	10.5	14.5	15.9	17.0	

Child Abuse and Neglect Substantiations

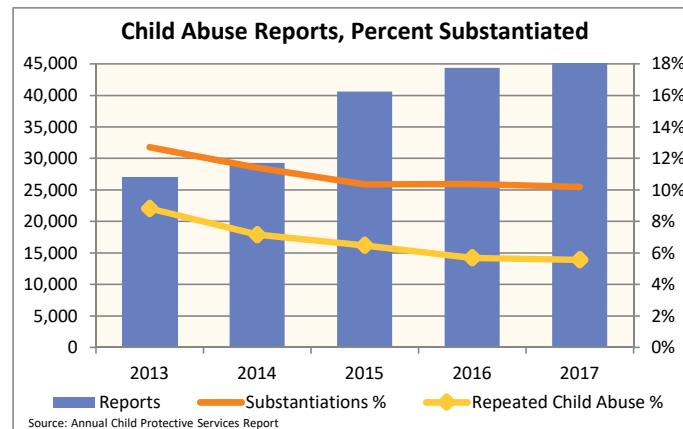
Founded or indicated reports of child abuse and/or neglect.

State					% Change 2013 to 2017
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
12.7%	11.4%	10.4%	10.4%	10.2%	-19.9%

Repeated Child Abuse and Neglect

Children with another substantiated incident of abuse and/or neglect following the first reported incident. (Data may be overstated.)

State					% Change 2013 to 2017
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
8.8%	7.2%	6.5%	5.7%	5.6%	-36.9%
1 in 11	1 in 14	1 in 15	1 in 18	1 in 18	



GENERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICES (GPS)

Reports not alleging abuse of a child are categorized as general protective services (GPS) reports. Addressing concerns related to child safety and well-being before allegations of child abuse or severe neglect are made enables children to remain safely in their own homes while services are provided to the family to mitigate the risk of potential maltreatment.

Indicator

GPS Reports

Total reported concerns of general neglect, not alleging child abuse.

State					% Change 2013 to 2017
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
-	-	131,953	151,087	163,852	-

Valid GPS Reports

Reports in which the allegations were found to have merit. Includes reports accepted for in-home services and reports referred out to community agencies for services.

State					% Change 2013 to 2017
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
-	-	18.4%	20.9%	22.8%	-

Children with Valid Allegations

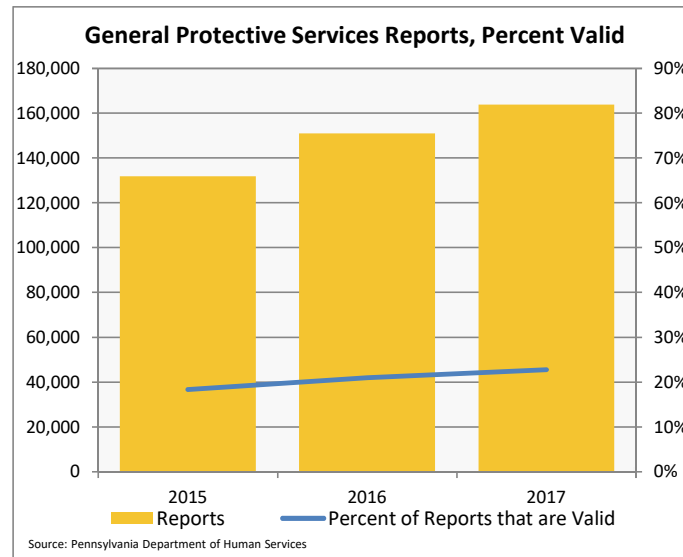
Number of children with a valid GPS allegation by valid report. Children may be counted more than once if more than one report was found to have merit.

State					% Change 2013 to 2017
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
-	-	32,364	43,702	53,319	-

Unduplicated Number of Children Served

Children who received in-home services along with parents to address concerns related to child safety and well-being.

State					% Change 2014 to 2018
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
167,582	181,371	190,413	186,855	194,761	16.2%



Statewide Findings

- Child abuse referrals are the highest recorded to date.
- General Protective Service referrals continue to steadily increase, with the rate of substantiation also increasing.
- The need for in-home services to allow children to remain safely at home continues to rise, with over 27,000 more children and their families being served.

FOSTER CARE - SERVED

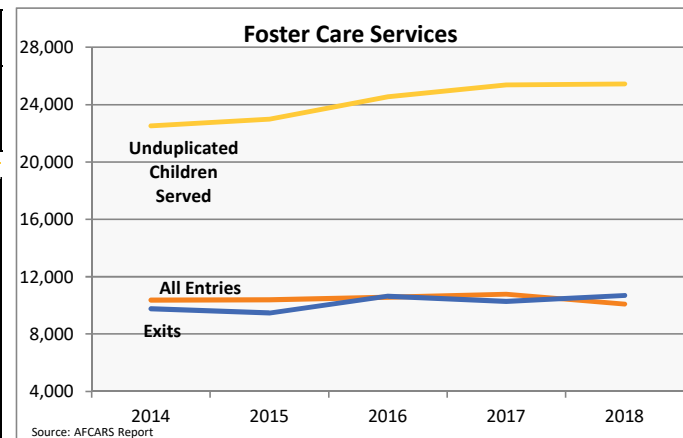
Foster care is meant to be a temporary intervention to assure the safety and well-being of a child. A child who spends long periods in foster care is more likely than other children to drop out of school, have mental health challenges, and experience unemployment and/or homeless as an adult. The following shows the past five years of data regarding children served in foster care during each federal fiscal year.

Indicator

Unduplicated Number of Children Served

All Children in Foster Care During the Year
(Rate per 1,000 children age 0-20)

State					% Change 2014 to 2018
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
22,510	22,980	24,543	25,381	25,441	13.0%
6.7	6.8	7.3	7.5	7.5	

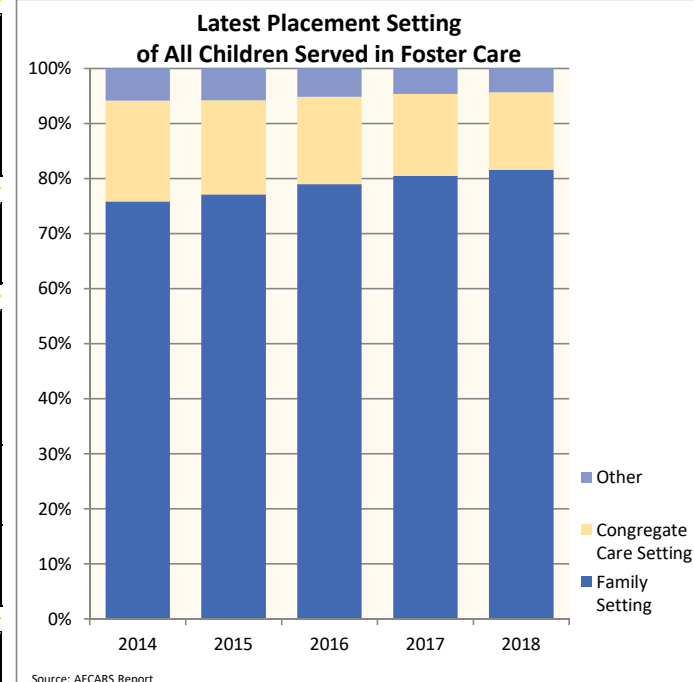


By Age

Age Group	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2014 to 2018
0-2	19.4%	19.9%	20.2%	20.3%	20.2%	3.7%
3-5	16.8%	17.1%	17.0%	17.4%	17.9%	6.6%
6-8	12.3%	12.9%	13.0%	13.3%	13.4%	9.1%
9-11	9.5%	10.0%	11.0%	11.4%	11.8%	24.6%
12-14	10.9%	11.4%	11.2%	11.6%	11.8%	7.6%
15-17	21.4%	20.4%	19.6%	18.6%	18.7%	-12.4%
18-20	9.8%	8.3%	7.9%	7.4%	6.3%	-35.2%
Infants (age 0-1)	12.5%	12.8%	12.8%	12.7%	12.7%	1.7%
Youth (age 13+)	38.9%	36.7%	35.5%	34.0%	33.1%	-15.0%

By Race and Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2014 to 2018
Non-Hispanic White	42.3%	40.9%	42.5%	42.9%	43.7%	3.4%
Non-Hispanic Black or African American	35.2%	34.6%	35.3%	34.9%	33.9%	-3.7%
Non-Hispanic Other Race	4.4%	5.9%	3.3%	2.9%	2.3%	-47.3%
Non-Hispanic Two or More Races	4.9%	5.3%	5.4%	6.2%	7.1%	7.1%
Hispanic or Latino	13.1%	13.4%	13.4%	13.2%	13.0%	-1.2%



By Gender

Gender	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2014 to 2018
Male	50.8%	51.0%	51.2%	51.0%	50.8%	0.1%
Female	49.2%	49.0%	48.8%	49.0%	49.2%	-0.1%

By Latest Placement Setting

Placement Setting	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2014 to 2018
Family Setting	75.8%	77.1%	79.0%	80.5%	81.6%	7.6%
Pre-adoptive Home	3.5%	3.1%	4.5%	4.0%	4.5%	28.4%
Foster Family Home – Relative	29.6%	31.5%	34.1%	36.4%	37.1%	25.0%
Foster Family Home – Non-Relative	42.7%	42.5%	40.5%	40.1%	40.1%	-6.2%
Congregate Care Setting	18.3%	17.1%	15.8%	14.9%	14.0%	-23.5%
Group Home	11.6%	10.5%	9.1%	8.8%	8.5%	-26.9%
Institution	6.8%	6.6%	6.8%	6.1%	5.6%	-17.7%
Supervised Independent Living	1.9%	1.7%	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%	-17.2%
Runaway	1.2%	1.3%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	18.3%
Trial Home Visit	2.8%	2.9%	2.2%	1.7%	1.4%	-49.5%

Children Entering Foster Care

Indicator	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2014 to 2018
All Entries into Foster Care During the Year	10,364	10,387	10,567	10,781	10,095	-2.6%

Statewide Findings

- Transition Aged Youth make up one-third of the foster care population.
- Efforts to increase placement in family-based settings continues to increase; however, almost half of those youth are placed in non-relative foster homes.
- Congregate care placement rates are the lowest in five years.

FOSTER CARE - FIRST TIME ENTRIES

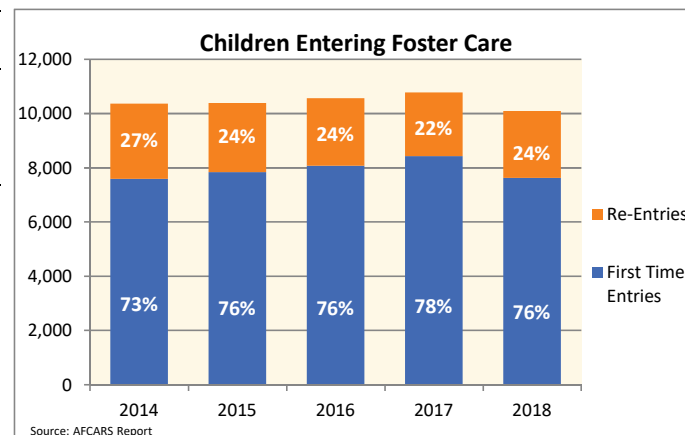
Data on first time entries provides information on children who have just begun their foster care experience during the past federal fiscal year. How the child welfare system is serving them may say something about current system practice and decision making.

Indicator

Children Entering for the First Time

	State				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
First Time Entries During the Year	7,592	7,843	8,082	8,438	7,626
(Rate per 1,000 children age 0-20)	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.3
First Time Entries as Percent of All Entries	73.3%	75.5%	76.5%	78.3%	75.5%

% Change 2014 to 2018
0.4%
3.1%



By Age

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2014 to 2018
0-2	32.7%	32.7%	33.3%	33.2%	34.4%	5.4%
3-5	15.7%	14.6%	14.7%	15.3%	15.4%	-1.9%
6-8	11.5%	11.9%	12.5%	11.9%	11.5%	-0.4%
9-11	9.2%	9.8%	9.6%	10.1%	10.3%	12.5%
12-14	12.7%	13.4%	12.6%	13.1%	12.8%	0.2%
15-17	18.0%	17.4%	17.2%	16.3%	15.6%	-13.7%
18-20	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	-90.0%
Infants (age 0-1)	26.3%	26.2%	26.3%	26.5%	28.0%	6.6%
Youth (age 13+)	27.6%	27.5%	26.6%	26.0%	24.7%	-10.6%

By Race and Ethnicity

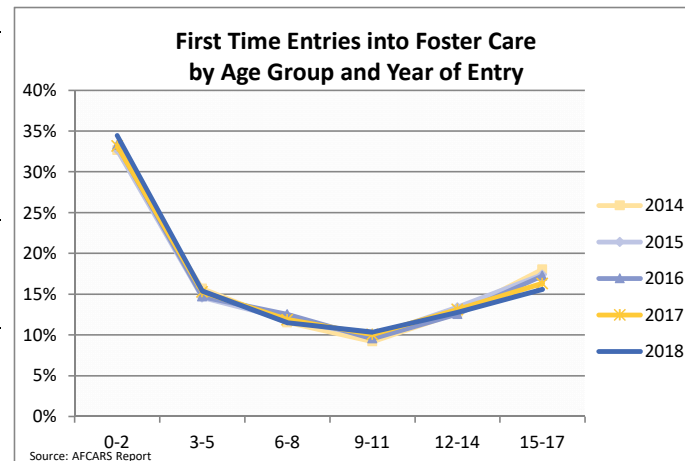
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2014 to 2018
Non-Hispanic White	46.9%	42.7%	49.4%	47.6%	48.3%	3.1%
Non-Hispanic Black or African American	29.2%	29.1%	28.6%	29.7%	29.3%	0.1%
Non-Hispanic Other Race	5.1%	8.7%	4.1%	3.4%	2.7%	-47.7%
Non-Hispanic Two or More Races	4.9%	5.6%	5.4%	6.3%	7.7%	57.2%
Hispanic or Latino	13.9%	13.4%	12.6%	13.0%	12.0%	-13.4%

By Gender

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2014 to 2018
Male	51.0%	50.8%	50.8%	51.0%	50.7%	-0.6%
Female	49.0%	49.2%	49.2%	49.0%	49.3%	0.6%

By First Placement Setting

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2014 to 2018
Family Setting	80.7%	80.9%	82.3%	83.6%	83.8%	3.7%
Pre-adoptive Home	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	-7.7%
Foster Family Home – Relative	33.1%	33.6%	37.5%	39.1%	39.9%	20.5%
Foster Family Home – Non-Relative	47.5%	47.2%	44.6%	44.2%	43.7%	-7.9%
Congregate Care Setting	17.5%	17.0%	15.9%	15.0%	14.3%	-18.4%
Group Home	12.1%	10.7%	9.7%	9.1%	9.4%	-22.4%
Institution	5.4%	6.3%	6.2%	5.9%	4.9%	-9.5%
Supervised Independent Living	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	7.4%
Runaway	0.4%	0.4%	0.6%	0.5%	0.7%	53.8%
Trial Home Visit	1.2%	1.5%	1.0%	0.8%	1.1%	-2.7%



Statewide Findings

- In 2018, there was a significant decline in children entering foster care for the first time.
- First time entries often result in the child being placed in a family-based setting; however, more than half of those youth are placed in a non-relative family home.
- First time placement into a congregate care setting is the lowest it has been in five years.

FOSTER CARE - RE-ENTRIES

Data on re-entries provides information on children who come back into foster care because of new or continuing challenges at home. Some children experience numerous foster care episodes or cycle in and out of the system. Others can experience large spans of time between foster care episodes, which is why the age of children who re-enter is typically older.

Indicator

Children Re-Entering Foster Care

Re-Entries During the Year
Re-Entries as Percent of All Entries

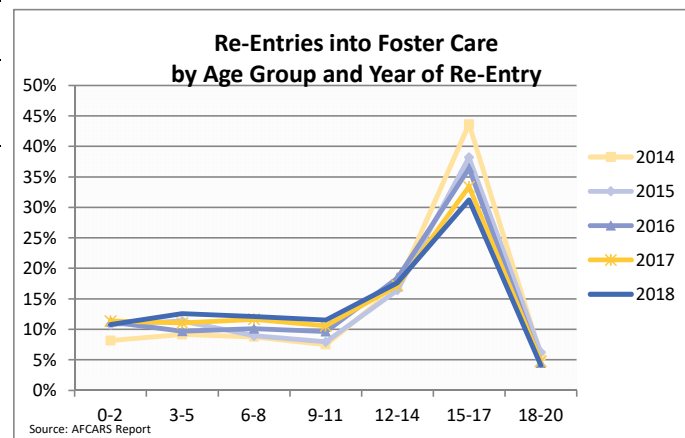
State				
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
2,772	2,544	2,485	2,343	2,469
26.7%	24.5%	23.5%	21.7%	24.5%

% Change 2014 to 2018
-10.9%
-8.6%

By Age

Age Group	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
0-2	8.2%	10.8%	11.2%	11.4%	10.8%
3-5	9.2%	11.4%	9.7%	11.1%	12.6%
6-8	8.8%	9.0%	10.1%	11.7%	12.1%
9-11	7.5%	7.9%	9.6%	10.6%	11.5%
12-14	17.1%	16.5%	18.5%	17.2%	17.7%
15-17	43.7%	38.2%	36.4%	33.4%	31.2%
18-20	5.7%	6.3%	4.5%	4.7%	4.2%
Infants (age 0-1)	5.2%	6.5%	7.4%	6.6%	6.4%
Youth (age 13+)	63.5%	57.9%	55.3%	51.1%	48.6%

32.1%
37.0%
38.1%
53.3%
3.3%
-28.5%
-26.3%
23.2%
-23.4%



By Race and Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Non-Hispanic White	39.0%	35.5%	41.9%	38.6%	39.6%
Non-Hispanic Black or African American	47.2%	41.4%	42.5%	37.4%	40.5%
Non-Hispanic Other Race	4.5%	8.0%	3.3%	1.7%	1.8%
Non-Hispanic Two or More Races	5.0%	5.0%	6.1%	6.0%	7.1%
Hispanic or Latino	13.3%	12.5%	12.3%	11.3%	11.1%

1.6%
-14.2%
-60.6%
43.1%
-17.0%

By Gender

Male	50.6%	50.5%	50.3%	49.6%	49.1%
Female	49.4%	49.5%	49.7%	50.4%	50.9%

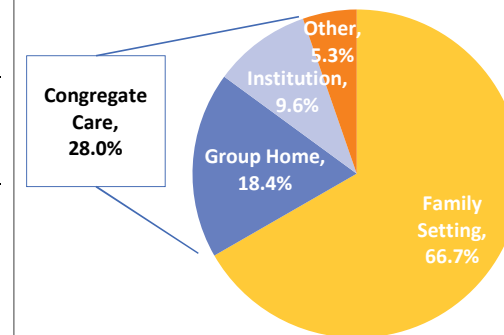
-3.0%
3.1%

By Placement Setting at Re-Entry

Placement Setting	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Family Setting	59.0%	58.9%	65.0%	60.3%	66.7%
Pre-adoptive Home	0.2%	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%
Foster Family Home – Relative	22.2%	24.7%	27.8%	29.0%	28.3%
Foster Family Home – Non-Relative	36.6%	33.6%	36.5%	30.8%	37.9%
Congregate Care Setting	44.7%	37.7%	35.9%	29.4%	28.0%
Group Home	27.2%	22.6%	20.3%	18.8%	18.4%
Institution	17.5%	15.0%	15.6%	10.7%	9.6%
Supervised Independent Living	1.8%	1.8%	1.3%	1.7%	1.8%
Runaway	3.6%	2.4%	2.6%	2.4%	2.7%
Trial Home Visit	0.8%	0.9%	0.6%	0.6%	0.8%

13.0%
85.3%
27.8%
3.6%
-37.3%
-32.6%
-44.8%
1.1%
-25.6%
-3.7%

Percent of Children by Placement Setting at Re-Entry to Foster Care, 2018



Statewide Findings

- There was a steady decline in children re-entering care until 2018, which is now at the same proportion as 2015.
- Nearly half of the children re-entering foster care are Transition Age Youth.
- Unlike first time entries, youth re-entering care are less likely to be placed in a family-based setting.

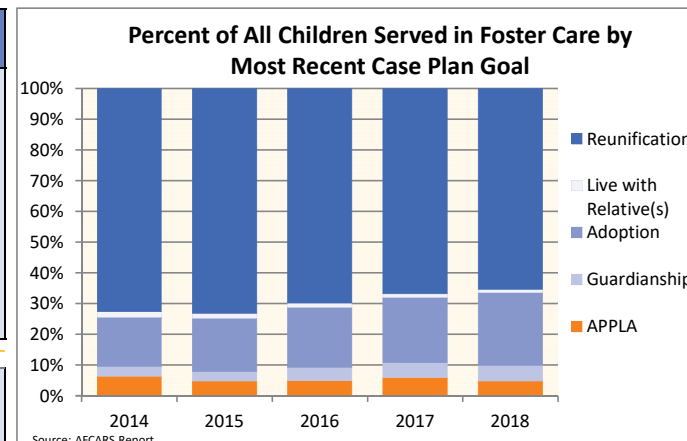
FOSTER CARE - GOALS

All children in foster care have a court-ordered permanency goal, which directs the efforts of the child welfare agency toward a certain family outcome for each child. In addition to the court-ordered 'primary' goal, a 'concurrent' goal is put in place to ensure permanency is achieved if for some reason the primary goal cannot be met. This data provides information on the most recent primary goal for every child served in foster care during the federal fiscal year.

Indicator

Percent of Children by Case Plan Goal

	State					% Change 2014 to 2018
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Family-Based Permanency Goals	93.6%	95.2%	95.0%	94.0%	95.1%	1.7%
Reunify With Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s)	72.6%	73.1%	69.8%	66.7%	65.3%	-10.1%
Adoption	16.1%	17.4%	19.5%	21.2%	23.6%	46.8%
Guardianship	3.1%	3.0%	4.3%	4.8%	5.1%	65.6%
Live with Relative(s)	1.8%	1.7%	1.5%	1.3%	1.2%	-33.0%
Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)	6.4%	4.8%	5.0%	6.0%	4.9%	-24.1%
Long Term Foster Care	1.8%	1.2%	1.0%	0.7%	0.6%	-69.1%
Emancipation	4.6%	3.6%	4.0%	5.3%	4.3%	-6.7%

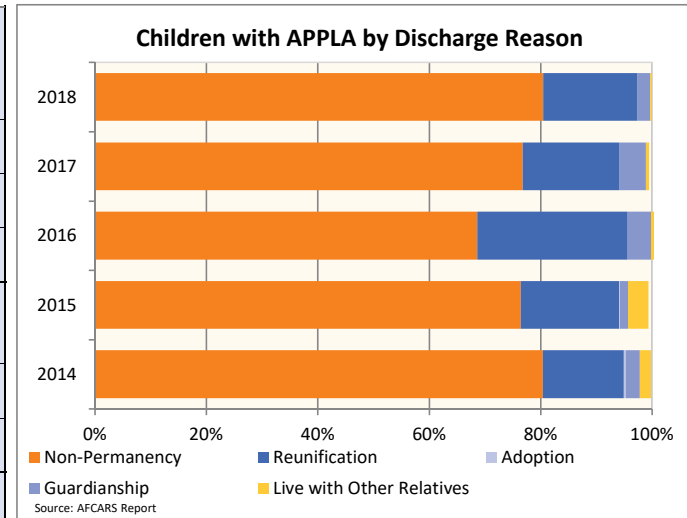


APPLA By Age as % of Age Group Served

Age Group	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2014 to 2018
0-15	0.8%	0.4%	0.2%	1.0%	1.0%	38.3%
16-20	23.1%	19.4%	21.6%	25.1%	25.1%	8.6%

APPLA By Discharge Reason

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2014 to 2018
Exit to Permanent Arrangements	19.4%	23.0%	32.1%	22.7%	19.5%	0.6%
Reunification	14.5%	17.6%	27.0%	17.3%	16.9%	16.6%
(number of months until reunification)	36.2	27.5	30.4	11.8	18.6	-48.7%
Adoption	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-100.0%
(number of months until adoption)	149.3	31.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	-100.0%
Guardianship	2.5%	1.4%	4.2%	4.9%	2.3%	-9.4%
(number of month until guardianship)	27.8	18.0	32.0	23.6	25.6	-7.9%
Live with Other Relatives	2.1%	3.7%	0.9%	0.5%	0.3%	-85.1%
(number of months until living with relatives)	15.9	37.1	39.8	21.4	32.9	106.9%
Exit to Non-Permanent Arrangements	80.4%	76.4%	68.6%	76.8%	80.5%	0.1%
Emancipation	73.0%	71.7%	62.2%	66.7%	72.1%	-1.3%
(number of months until emancipation)	33.5	34.3	30.6	26.2	27.6	-17.6%
Transfer to Another Agency	5.5%	2.7%	5.0%	8.2%	5.3%	-3.4%
(number of months until transfer)	13.0	40.7	27.6	3.7	19.4	49.9%
Runaway	1.9%	2.0%	1.4%	1.9%	3.0%	61.1%
(number of months until running away)	16.3	23.4	14.1	32.0	22.4	37.4%
Death of Child	0.2%	0.6%	0.2%	0.5%	0.0%	-100.0%
(number of months until death of a child)	129.8	9.0	143.7	62.6	62.6	-51.8%



Statewide Findings

- While family-based permanency goal rates continue to remain high, goals of reunification decreased and adoption and guardianship increased.
- APPLA continues to be assigned as a goal for a Transition Age Youth far too often.
- Those youth with a goal of APPLA primarily leave care to non-permanent arrangements.

FOSTER CARE - EXITS

Data on foster care exits provides information on children who left foster care during the federal fiscal year, where they went when they left and how long their most recent episode of foster care was. A paramount goal of the foster care system is to ensure every child has the lifelong support of a permanent family.

Indicator

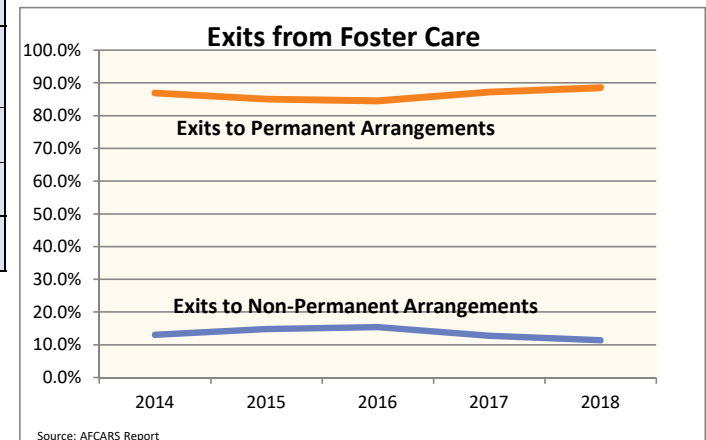
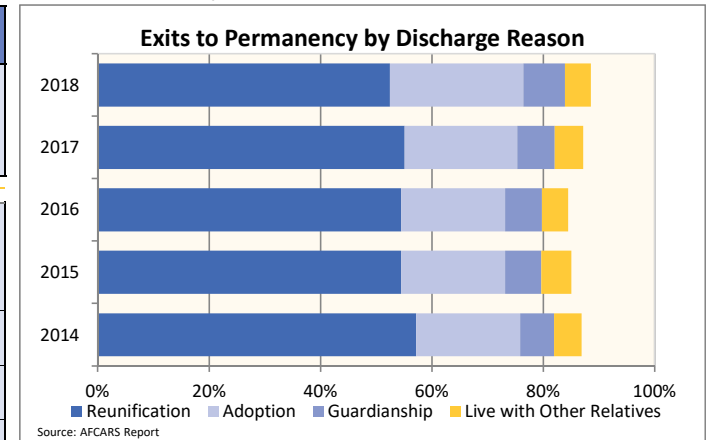
Children Exiting Foster Care

	State				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total Children Leaving Foster Care	9,769	9,471	10,635	10,276	10,694
Percent of Children Leaving Foster Care (number of months until leaving)	43.4%	41.2%	43.3%	40.5%	42.0%
	10.7	11.4	11.7	11.9	13.0

% Change 2014 to 2018
9.5%
-3.1%
21.5%

By Discharge Reason

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2014 to 2018
Exit to Permanent Arrangements	86.9%	85.0%	84.5%	87.2%	88.6%	1.9%
Reunification (number of months until reunification)	57.2%	54.5%	54.5%	55.1%	52.5%	-8.2%
Adoption (number of months until adoption)	5.5	5.7	6.7	6.6	6.4	16.7%
Guardianship (number of month until guardianship)	6.1%	6.5%	6.6%	6.7%	7.5%	22.3%
Live with Other Relatives (number of months until living with relatives)	20.8	21.1	19.4	20.1	19.4	-6.6%
Exit to Non-Permanent Arrangements	13.0%	14.8%	15.4%	12.7%	11.4%	-12.7%
Emanicipation (number of months until emancipation)	5.0%	5.4%	4.7%	5.1%	4.6%	-6.2%
Transfer to Another Agency (number of months until transfer)	1.0	3.0	2.2	2.2	2.1	106.5%
Runaway (number of months until running away)	7.7%	7.8%	6.8%	7.9%	7.3%	-5.2%
Death of Child (number of months until death of a child)	29.6	28.1	23.4	22.0	23.7	-20.1%
	4.3%	5.8%	7.9%	4.3%	3.5%	-18.5%
	5.0	6.7	7.6	6.9	7.9	58.6%
	1.1%	1.3%	0.7%	0.5%	0.6%	-42.8%
	13.2	15.5	11.2	19.4	14.0	6.5%
	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	4.4%
	30.9	4.9	13.2	18.8	5.5	-82.1%



Statewide Findings

- In 2018, the rate of children exiting foster care has outpaced children entering.
- While the rates of adoption continue to increase, so does the length of time that it takes to achieve permanency.
- The rates of children exiting to non-permanent arrangements is the lowest it has been in five years.

FOSTER CARE - REMAINING IN CARE

Data on children remaining in foster care provides information on children who did not leave foster care during the year but are still in foster care on the last day of the federal fiscal year. This data includes all children in foster care on September 30. Some of these children may have just entered foster care days prior to the end of the fiscal year and others may have been in foster care for many years.

Indicator

Children Remaining in Foster Care

Children in Foster Care on Last Day
(number of months children have been in care)

State					% Change 2014 to 2018
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
14,162	14,859	15,382	16,381	16,074	13.5%
12.6	12.5	13.2	13.4	14.2	13.1%

By Age

Age Group	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2014 to 2018
0-2	20.0%	21.0%	21.3%	21.5%	21.0%	4.8%
3-5	16.7%	16.7%	17.0%	17.5%	17.5%	4.5%
6-8	12.4%	12.9%	13.2%	13.7%	13.6%	9.0%
9-11	9.6%	10.7%	11.6%	11.8%	12.2%	26.1%
12-14	11.5%	11.7%	12.0%	12.1%	12.3%	6.3%
15-17	21.1%	20.2%	19.6%	18.2%	18.3%	-13.5%
18-20	8.4%	6.8%	5.3%	5.3%	5.2%	-38.3%
Infants (age 0-1)	13.2%	13.9%	13.8%	13.8%	13.7%	3.5%
Youth (age 13+)	37.8%	35.2%	33.5%	31.9%	31.9%	-15.5%

By Race and Ethnicity

Race and Ethnicity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2014 to 2018
Non-Hispanic White	40.1%	37.9%	41.0%	42.1%	42.2%	5.4%
Non-Hispanic Black or African American	38.3%	36.9%	37.0%	35.8%	35.4%	-7.5%
Non-Hispanic Other Race	3.9%	6.0%	2.9%	2.7%	2.3%	-42.1%
Non-Hispanic Two or More Races	4.7%	4.9%	5.5%	6.1%	7.1%	52.4%
Hispanic or Latino	13.0%	14.3%	13.6%	13.2%	13.0%	-0.6%

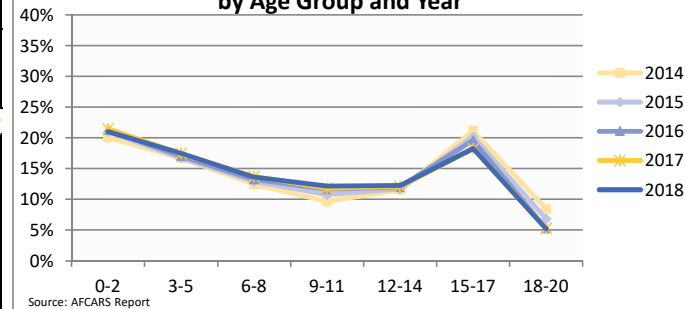
By Gender

Gender	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2014 to 2018
Male	50.9%	51.3%	51.2%	51.2%	50.9%	0.0%
Female	49.1%	48.7%	48.8%	48.8%	49.1%	0.0%

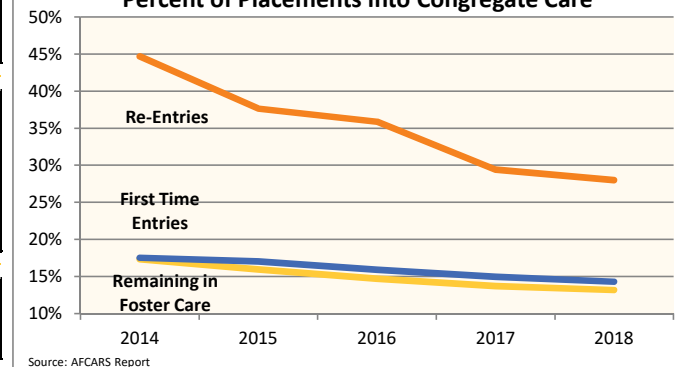
By Latest Placement Setting

Placement Setting	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 2014 to 2018
Family Setting	79.0%	80.6%	82.5%	83.4%	84.0%	6.3%
Pre-adoptive Home	3.9%	3.2%	5.3%	4.1%	4.0%	1.1%
Foster Family Home – Relative	30.0%	32.8%	35.1%	37.9%	37.8%	25.9%
Foster Family Home – Non-Relative	45.1%	44.5%	42.1%	41.4%	42.2%	-6.4%
Congregate Care Setting	17.3%	16.0%	14.7%	13.7%	13.2%	-23.9%
Group Home	10.6%	9.0%	8.4%	8.2%	7.9%	-25.6%
Institution	6.7%	7.0%	6.3%	5.5%	5.3%	-21.3%
Supervised Independent Living	1.7%	1.4%	1.3%	1.5%	1.5%	-12.1%
Runaway	1.1%	1.1%	0.7%	0.8%	0.9%	-19.4%
Trial Home Visit	0.8%	1.0%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%	-49.1%

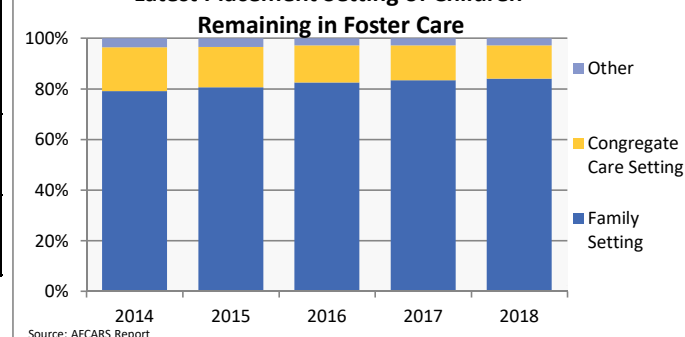
Children in Foster Care on September 30
by Age Group and Year



Percent of Placements into Congregate Care



Latest Placement Setting of Children
Remaining in Foster Care



Statewide Findings

- The length of time children have been in foster care continues to increase.
- The proportion of children remaining in care who are Transition Age Youth has steadily decreased since 2014, but remained stagnant over the past year.
- Children remaining in care have high rates of being in family-based settings, but too often are in non-relative foster care.

FOSTER CARE - STABILITY

Every time a child moves, the trauma caused by separation and lack of continuity grows. A child who faces multiple placements may struggle to build and maintain healthy relationships and confront academic challenges due to school changes.

Indicator

Foster Care Placement Stability

Children who were in foster care for 12 to 23 months and had three or more placement settings.

State					% Change 2014 to 2018
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
32.7%	32.8%	33.6%	32.2%	31.2%	-4.6%

Statewide Findings

- The stability rate for children in foster is the best it has been over the past five years.

FOSTER CARE - TIMELY REUNIFICATION

A child's separation from his or her parents or relatives is traumatic for all involved. Minimizing the time a child spends in foster care without compromising safety is key to healthy child development.

Indicator

Timely Reunification with Parents or Relatives

Children who entered foster care for the first time who were reunified with their parents or discharged to relatives within the next 12 months.

State					% Change 2014 to 2018
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
39.7%	39.0%	36.0%	39.2%	37.4%	-5.6%

Statewide Findings

- The percentage of children reunified with their parents or relatives within 12 months of entering foster care continued to fluctuate over the past 5 years.

FOSTER CARE - FAILED REUNIFICATION

A child re-entering foster care following a return to his or her family signals a breakdown in the family and a potential failure on the part of the child welfare system to appropriately address family needs.

Indicator

Failed 1-Year Reunification (Re-entry)

Children who re-entered foster care in fewer than 12 months following reunification with parents or relatives. (Data may be overstated.)

State					% Change 2014 to 2018
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
26.9%	24.1%	24.8%	23.0%	21.4%	-20.4%

Statewide Findings

- The rate of failed reunification is the lowest recorded to date.

**KIDS
COUNT**

PPC is part of a network coordinated and supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation

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