2017 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

OFFICE OF CHILD WELFARE

OCTOBER 2017

Mike Carroll
Secretary

Rick Scott
Governor

Child Welfare Results-Oriented Accountability Program

The Child Welfare Results-Oriented Accountability (ROA) Program was established in section 409.997(1), Florida Statutes (2014), enacted by Chapter 2014-161, Laws of Florida, and is charged with the following primary purposes:

- Produce an assessment of individual entities' performance, as well as the performance of groups of entities working together on a local, regional, and statewide basis to provide an integral system of care.
- Monitor and measure the use of resources, the quality and amount of services provided, and child and family outcomes.
- Develop and maintain an inclusive, interactive, and evidence-supported program of quality improvement that is informed by data analysis and promotes individual skill building and organizational learning.

Pursuant to section 409.997, Florida Statutes, the ROA Program includes the establishment of a technical advisory panel to advise the Florida Department of Children and Families (Department) on the implementation of the Program. Members of the technical advisory panel include:

- A Florida Senate legislative liaison;
- A Florida House of Representatives legislative liaison;
- A representative of the Florida Institute for Child Welfare at Florida State University
- Community-Based Care providers, including lead agency and community alliance representatives;
- Florida family representatives;
- Contract provider representatives; and
- Florida child advocate representatives.

An ROA Governance Committee was established in 2015. The Committee is chaired by Department Secretary Mike Carroll. The focus of the Governance Committee is to set strategies for attaining the Program's goals and gives authority for the use of resources to implement defined strategies to achieve identified outcomes. Members of the governance committee include:

- A representative of the Florida Institute for Child Welfare at Florida State University;
- Community-Based Care providers, including lead agency and community alliance representatives;
- Florida child advocate representatives;
- Sheriff Office representatives;
- Office of State Courts Administrator representatives;
- Florida family representatives; and
- Contract provider representatives.

Statutory Requirements for the Annual Report

Pursuant to section 409.997, Florida Statutes, the Department shall submit an annual ROA performance report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by October 1 of each year.

Abbreviations included in this Report

- Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)
- Child Protective Investigator (CPI)
- DCF Office of Child Welfare (OCW)
- Florida Department of Children and Families (Department) (DCF)
- Florida Institute for Child Welfare (FICW)
- Lead Agency for Community-Based Care (CBC)
- Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) (OHC)
- Performance and Quality Management Unit within OCW (PQMU)
- Quality Assurance (QA)
- Quality Improvement (QI)
- Results-Oriented Accountability Program (ROA) (Program)
- State Fiscal Year (SFY)

Department of Children and Families Service Structure

Regions, Circuits, Counties, and CBC Lead Agencies
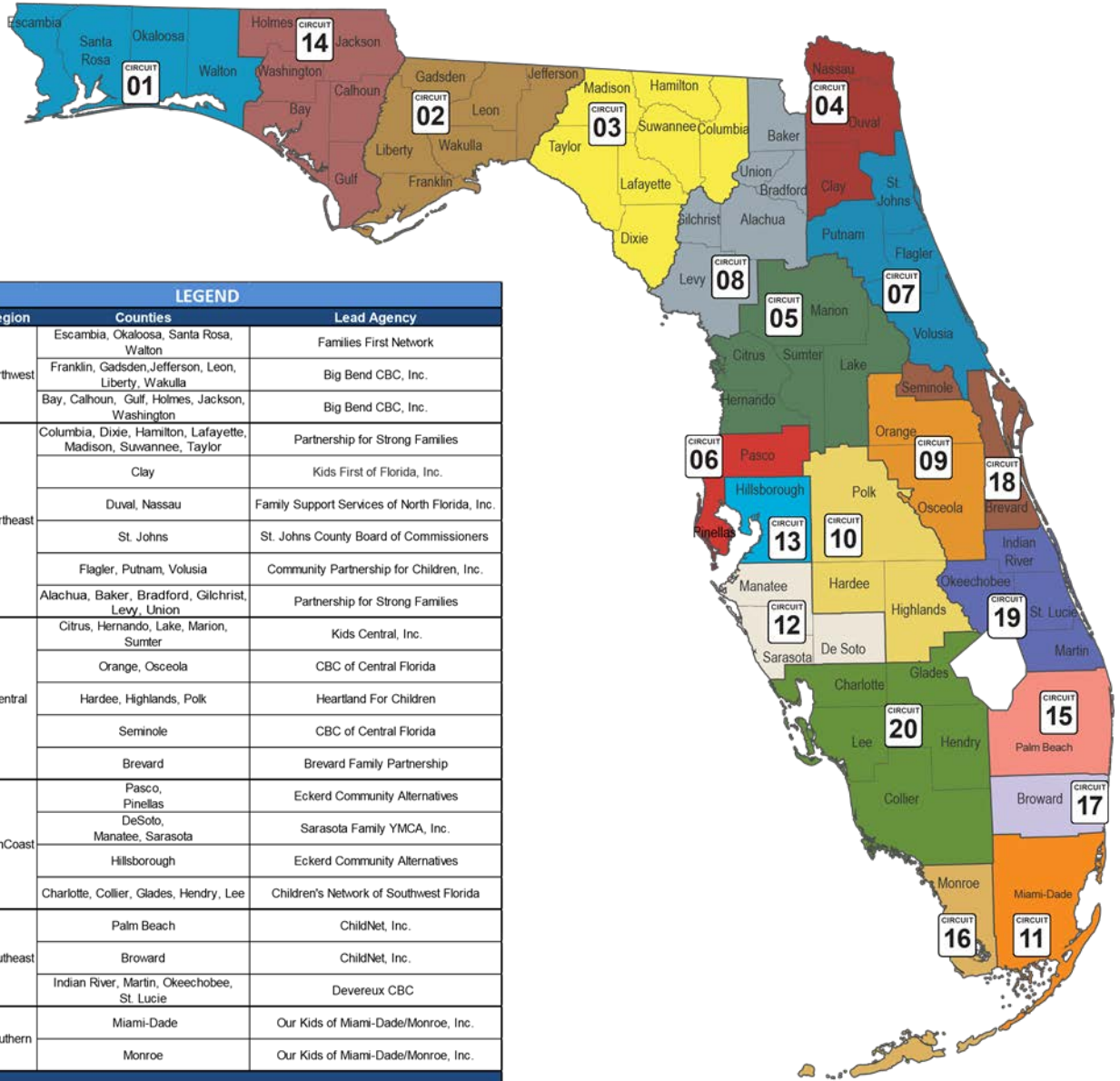
LEGEND			
Circuit	Region	Counties	Lead Agency
1	Northwest	Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton	Families First Network
2	Northwest	Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Wakulla	Big Bend CBC, Inc.
14	Northwest	Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Washington	Big Bend CBC, Inc.
3	Northeast	Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor	Partnership for Strong Families
4	Northeast	Clay	Kids First of Florida, Inc.
4	Northeast	Duval, Nassau	Family Support Services of North Florida, Inc.
7	Northeast	St. Johns	St. Johns County Board of Commissioners
7	Northeast	Flagler, Putnam, Volusia	Community Partnership for Children, Inc.
8	Northeast	Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, Union	Partnership for Strong Families
5	Central	Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion, Sumter	Kids Central, Inc.
9	Central	Orange, Osceola	CBC of Central Florida
10	Central	Hardee, Highlands, Polk	Heartland For Children
18	Central	Seminole	CBC of Central Florida
18	Central	Brevard	Brevard Family Partnership
6	SunCoast	Pasco, Pinellas	Eckerd Community Alternatives
12	SunCoast	DeSoto, Manatee, Sarasota	Sarasota Family YMCA, Inc.
13	SunCoast	Hillsborough	Eckerd Community Alternatives
20	SunCoast	Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee	Children's Network of Southwest Florida
15	Southeast	Palm Beach	ChildNet, Inc.
17	Southeast	Broward	ChildNet, Inc.
19	Southeast	Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, St. Lucie	Devereux CBC
11	Southern	Miami-Dade	Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc.
16	Southern	Monroe	Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc.

Table of Contents

Drivers of Timely Permanency...57

Well-Being of Children in Out-of-Home Care....................................61

Executive Summary

The Results-Oriented Accountability (ROA) Annual Report for SFY 2016-2017 describes the current status of Florida's community-based child welfare system. The report follows the flow of Florida's child welfare system from the Florida Abuse Hotline to Child Protective Investigations (CPI) to Community-Based Care lead agencies (CBC). The report uses trend charts that show change over time and comparison charts that show Florida in relation to other states, and each circuit or area in Florida in relation to other areas.

Florida's **child population** has increased by 1.8% from 4,031,098 in 2007 to 4,105,129 in 2015 compared to a 0.5% decrease in the United States' child population. Florida's **poverty rate** for 2015 was 2% higher than the comparable national average. Statewide, Florida's **poverty rate** has dropped since 2012 and rates vary when stratified by area (circuit/county).

Florida's child maltreatment **reporting rate** exceeds the national average (including twice the national average in SFY 2012-13) and Florida is in the top 10 states in the nation for reporting by calculating children investigated per 1,000 children in the general population. Statewide, reporting rates vary considerably by area with the highest rate area more than three times the size of the lowest rate area. Reports to the Florida Abuse Hotline follow a seasonal trend and in 2015, the Hotline's acceptance of allegations of child maltreatment was higher than the national average. Additionally, the number of "**special condition**" (non-maltreatment) referrals to the Hotline continues to increase with a steady 75-80% acceptance rate.

Whereas, the trend of incoming investigative workload has increased slightly over the past five years, the trend of **active investigations** and those that are open over 60 days (backlog) are increasing at a higher rate. Statewide performance in completing investigations within 60 days is currently below standard, though 15 circuits and sheriffs' offices completed over 90% of investigations within 60 days in SFY 2015-16, and two met the 99% standard target.

Florida has consistently maintained high **timeliness** in responding to alleged maltreatment within 24 hours compared to the national average. In 2015, Florida tied with New York for the fastest response time of states that reported. Florida's requirement that investigators make timely face-to-face contact with each alleged victim has been traditionally high, but performance has been declining since 2014, dropping below the national standard in June 2017. However, 15 sheriff's offices and DCF circuits saw 90% or more alleged victims within 24 hours in SFY 2016-17.

There is wide variation among circuits and sheriff's offices in making a **safe/unsafe determination** using the Department's safety practice guidelines, as well as in the proportion of families receiving services after the conclusion of an investigation, with the use of Family Support Services having the highest variation. The majority (54.7%) of children determined "unsafe" were removed from their home and 37.2% received in-home services, totaling 91.9% of children determined to be "unsafe" receiving ongoing case management. Of children who were determined to be safe, 93.6% did not receive ongoing case management services, 1.1% received ongoing case management and 0.9% were in out of home care.

Removal rates per 1,000 children in the general population and per 100 children in investigations are both calculated in the ROA Annual Report. Florida's entry rate into foster care per 1,000 children in the general population has been historically higher than the national average. Florida's rates have been steadily increasing, ranging from 3.7 to 3.9 per 1,000 in the last four state fiscal years. There is a wide variation when comparing historical removal rates for circuits and sheriff offices. During SFY 2016-2017, two areas had removal rates of more than 6.0 per 1,000 child population and five areas had rates of less than 3.0 per 1,000 child population. Children investigated include those who are the subject of at least one alleged maltreatment and/or alternative response report (children per 100 investigated). Florida's rate is historically much lower than the national rate. Both Florida and the nation have experienced recent increases in removals.

The gap between the number of children in **out-of-home care** (OHC) and the number of **children protected in their own homes** continues to widen with increases in OHC and decreases in in-home services. There is high variation statewide in the mix of services provided and the relationship between the number of children being actively protected and children in investigations. The number of children in OHC nationally have increased since 2013 with Florida's rise sharper than the nation. Florida's **OHC rate per 1,000 children** in 2015 (the most recent year available) was relatively low compared to most states. Several states have rates that are twice as high as Florida's. The rate of children in care compared to the general population has increased over the last three fiscal years to 5.7 per 1,000, but is still below the 7 per 1,000 level that was the norm in SFY 2004-05 through SFY 2006-07.

The increase in OHC is primarily due to a decrease in **discharge rates**, rather than an increase in removal rates. There is wide variation around the state, with the highest rates more than twice the lowest rates. The recent increase in OHC was driven by increases in removals with no increase in discharges. Florida's discharge rate in the last three fiscal years has been at the lowest point in the last decade with wide variation across the state. Using national data to compare total discharges each Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) to children in care at the end of the FFY, Florida's rate has been consistently above the national average from 2003 through 2015. The last available national data was for FFY 2015, ending September 30, 2015. Florida's exit rate of 64.8 is above the national average of 59.2.

The ROA Annual Report presents seven data indicators established by the United States Children's Bureau for Round 3 of the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR-3) to support the three Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA) goals and outcomes, as well as the nine outcomes established in Florida Statutes (section 409.986, Florida Statutes). The national standards and calculations of state performance for CFSR-3 are currently being revised by the Children's Bureau.

Outcome 1: Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect. The most recent national data (2015) indicates that Florida's "observed performance" of 8.4% was better than the initial standard and national average of 9.1%. Florida presents performance on this indicator positively as "non-recurrence." The percent has been trending upwards and began to exceed the initial standard in 2013-2014. There has been overall improvement across the state since 2009-10, with 16 areas exceeding the target in 2015-16. The percent of children in investigations with at least one finding of **"verified" maltreatment** has been declining over the last five state fiscal years. As only verified maltreatment is included in the measurement of recurrence, the decline in percent verified may

have had a significant impact in lowering the rates of measured recurrence of maltreatment. Variation in verification rates statewide affects variation in measured recurrence of maltreatment.

Outcome 2: Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care. Maltreatment in foster care is measured as a rate per 100,000 days in care. The most recent national data (2015) indicates that Florida's "observed" rate of 9.02 for the period under review does not meet the initial standard. Florida's calculated rates are somewhat different from the rate appearing in the federal data profile used for CFSR-3, which uses Adoption and Foster are Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and National Child Abuse and Neglect Data (NCANDS) files submitted by states. Florida's calculated rates are higher and have shown overall improvement in the last six years with a strong decline in 2016-17.

The percent of children with no verified maltreatment *during* case-managed, in-home services remained steady at around 97% in January-March 2016. The percent of children with no verified maltreatment within six months *after termination* of case-managed services improved for those closures in July-September 2015 to 96.2%. The percent of children with no verified maltreatment within six months of termination of Family Support Services continued at a lower level than the other indicators, with those closures in July-September 2015 at 93.8%.

Outcome 3: Increase permanency for children in foster care. The three indicators of timely permanency measure achievement of permanency within 12 months for three different cohorts of children, based on a certain period or date (12 months, 12-23 months, and 24+ months). The latest national data available (2015) indicates that Florida's performance (47.1%) has been above the initial national standards on all three indicators for the last six years. Performance on the entry cohort indicator has declined in the last few years, but is still above the national standard (almost half of Florida areas are below the standard). Performance on the in-care 12-23 months indicator is consistently above the national standard. Performance on the in-care 24+ months cohort dipped in the 2015-16 year, but remained constantly above the national standard.

Outcome 4: Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing reentry. The latest national data available (2015) indicates that Florida's "observed" performance in 2013-14 on re-entry to foster care in 12 months was better than the CFSR-3 initial standard and better than most states in the comparison period. However, Florida's own measured performance indicates that Florida is not meeting the standard. Although the national CFSR-3 indicator is the percent that re-entered care (initial standard 8.3%), Florida displays the indicator positively as the percent that did not re-enter care (initial standard 91.7%).

Florida is consistently one of the top states for **case management visits** with children in care. Florida is also consistently in the top nationwide when comparing the percentage of monthly visits that were made to the child's home. Florida's exemplary performance is consistent throughout the state. Florida's indicator measures percent of visits completed within 30 days of the last visit and is consistently near 100%.

Outcome 5: Reduce time in foster care to adoption. There is wide variation among Florida circuits on judicial handling time. Florida's statewide average for children with a goal of reunification and no termination of parental rights activity after 15 months was 6.8% on June 30, 2017 with wide

variation among circuits. The statewide median of timeliness of termination of parent rights, from petition to order, was 154 days in SFY 2016-17, with wide variation among the circuits. The statewide median for time from removal date to disposition order was 60 days in SFY 2016-17, with wide variation, compared to a statewide target of 90 days.

Outcome 6: Increase placement stability. The recent growth in children in out-of-home-care has been met primarily by increased use of kinship placements, the benefits of which include reduced trauma, maintained familial connections, and reduced costs of care. The latest national data (2015) shows that Florida's "observed" performance of 4.69 **placement moves** per 1,000 days in care in 2015-16 did not meet the CFSR-3 initial standard of 4.12 placement moves per 1,000 days in care. Until SFY 2016-17, statewide performance had been slightly better than the initial national standard of 4.12 placement moves per 1,000 days in foster care over the last six years. Florida's application of the federal algorithm appears to be slightly different from federal calculations, which are being revised.

Statewide performance for the **percent of siblings placed together** slightly peaked June 30, 2013 at 66.88% but has declined since then and is consistently below Florida's own standard of 65%. Half of Florida's areas are at or above the 65% standard.

In the last few years, there has been a slight reduction in the percent of **children placed outside their removal circuit,** while the percent placed outside their removal county has remained stable. Children in licensed OHC placed outside of their removal county show wide variation across Florida circuits, with urban areas generally placing more children *within* their removal county, and circuits with larger rural areas placing more children outside their removal county. The percent of children placed outside of their removal circuit is lower than the percent of children placed out-of-county, as many children that are not placed in their home county are placed in a neighboring county within their same circuit.

Outcome 7: Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions. The proportion of children of all ages in licensed care who are placed in group care averages 25% statewide. The statewide number of children ages 6-12 in group care has increased sharply since 2014. Overall the percentage of very young children (ages 0-5 years) placed in group care is generally quite low (3.4%), with the exception of one area having twice the rate of children ages 0-5 placed in group care of the next highest lead agency on June 30, 2017. The percentage of children in group care increases with age, with a statewide average of 25.7% of children ages 6-12 and62.9% of children ages 13-17 placed in a group home environment as of June 30, 2017.

The ROA annual report provides **educational stability** measures that includes school changes related to removals and placements, and percentages of foster children with identified disabilities to support the outcomes in Florida Statutes (section 409.986, Florida Statutes). Of foster children ages 7-18, 54% were at the appropriate grade level, compared to 79% for non-foster children. The percentage of children who changed schools at least once during a school year is significantly higher for children who experience out-of-home care episodes, as is the percentage of students with identified disabilities.

Statewide performance on children in OHC who receive **medical services** improved from less than 80% in 2011 to a stable 97% over the last few years. All but one Florida area is above the 95% target on this indicator. Statewide performance on children in OHC who receive **dental services** improved from around 65% in 2011 to more than 90% in the last few years, but still under the state target. Thirteen areas are above the statewide target of 95%, with another five areas falling above the 90% level.

All but three Florida areas are above the statewide target of 80% on young adults who age out of foster care and have completed or are **enrolled in a secondary education, vocational training or adult education program**, consistent with the previous SFY 2015-16. Florida has exceeded the state target since SFY 2012-13.

Child Welfare in Florida

Florida's community-based child welfare system was created to prevent child abuse, neglect, and abandonment through a partnership between the Department of Children and Families (DCF), other state agencies, the courts, law enforcement agencies, service providers, and local communities. It is designed to provide equal protection to children through consistent intake decision-making regarding the children to be served and local systems of care to meet varying community needs, matching the needs of children and families to community resources, and allowing flexible development of evidence-based and promising approaches to the protection of children.

Intake for the community-based system of care is provided by DCF and county sheriff's offices, which determine whether children and families should receive services and what kind of services:

- DCF's Florida Abuse Hotline receives over 300,000 child-related calls, web reports and faxes annually and screens-in those which meet the requirements for investigation or assessment of special conditions with no alleged maltreatment.

- Child Protective Investigations (CPI) are conducted by county sheriff's offices in six counties and DCF in the other 61 counties. Investigators determine the need for post-investigation services, including protecting the child through removal and placement in OHC, or through case-managed, in-home services (by court order or non-judicially), or through informal voluntary family support services.

Section 409.986(1), F.S., requires that post-investigation services be provided through contracting with CBCs and emphasizes that:

- Communities "have responsibility for and participation in ensuring safety, permanence, and well-being for all children in the state."

- Outsourcing must be accompanied by "comprehensive oversight of the programmatic, administrative, and fiscal operation of those entities. . . . The appropriate care of children is ultimately the responsibility of the state and outsourcing such care does not relieve the state of its responsibility to ensure that appropriate care is provided."

Section 409.997, F.S., requires DCF to develop and implement a comprehensive, results-oriented accountability program (ROA), which includes monitoring outcomes. Florida's complex child welfare system has many entities sharing responsibility for child welfare outcomes. ROA includes data analysis; research review and evaluation; and an assessment of performance of individual entities and groups of entities working together to provide an integrated system of care. ROA incorporates a limited number of outcome measures, using available data to quantify outcomes as children move through the system of care. Results are transparent for all parties in the child welfare system, policymakers and the public. This report includes some of the ROA outcomes and other key outcome and process indicators.

Florida's Child Welfare Practice Model

In order to implement Florida's child welfare law, a practice model was created.

Vision. Every child in Florida thrives in a safe, stable and permanent home, sustained by nurturing relationships and strong community connections.

Goals. Florida's child welfare professionals seek to achieve these goals:
  Safety. Florida's children live free from maltreatment.
  Permanency. Florida's children enjoy long-term, secure relationships within strong families and communities.
  Child Well-Being. Florida's children are physically and emotionally healthy, and socially competent.
  Family Well-Being. Florida's families nurture, protect, and meet the needs of their children, and are well integrated into their communities.

Practices

To achieve these goals, Florida's child welfare professionals use a safety-focused, family-centered and trauma-informed approach that includes these key practices:

Engage the Family. Build rapport and trust with the family and people who know and support the family. Empower family members by seeking information about their strengths, resources and proposed solutions. Demonstrate respect for the family as the family exists in its social network, community and culture.

Partner with All Involved. Form partnerships with family members and people who know and support the family. Partner and share information with relative caregivers and foster and adoptive parents. Include parent and other caregivers in case decision-making. Lead and facilitate partnership with all involved parties to achieve optimum communication, clear roles and responsibilities, and mutual accountability.

Gather Information. Gather information from the family members and other team members throughout the course of interventions to gain insight into solutions that might work for family members. Update information as underlying issues, including trauma histories, are identified and as the family situation changes.

Assess and Understand Information. Assess the sufficiency of information gathered. Identify and, whenever possible, reconcile unsupported impressions and observations or unverified statements regarding family functioning. Ensure all team members have a shared understanding of both risk and safety information and how this information informs interventions.

Plan for Child Safety. Develop and implement, with the family and other partners, short-term actions to keep the child safe in the home or in OHC. For a child in temporary care, identify the circumstances within the child's family that must exist for the child to be returned home safely with an in-home safety plan.

Plan for Family Change. Work with the child, family members, and other team members to identify appropriate interventions and supports necessary to achieve child safety, permanency and well-being. Identify services to help the child recover from the effects of child maltreatment and trauma, and to restore typical development to the extent possible. Seek to identify what is needed for the family members and their support network to succeed in maintaining positive changes over the long term. Seek the caregivers' expertise in case planning and service delivery.

Monitor and Adapt Case Plans. Link family members to services and help them navigate formal systems. Troubleshoot and advocate for access to services when barriers exist. Modify safety actions and family case plans as the needs of family members change. Support the child and family members with transitions, including alternative permanency options when reunification cannot occur.

Indicators Presented in this Report

This report provides charts for a set of indicators describing the current status of Florida's community-based child welfare system. The sequence follows the flow of Florida's child welfare system from the Florida Abuse Hotline to Child Protective Investigations (CPI) to CBCs. CBC indicators are structured around the three national goals of Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being.

This report uses trend and comparison charts. Trend charts show change over time. Comparison charts show Florida in relation to other states and each area in Florida in relation to other areas. Such comparisons are included to provide appropriate context. For example, if Florida appears to be trending in the wrong direction on a given indicator, it is useful to see Florida's performance in relation to the nation.

The indicators in this report show wide variation from state to state and community to community. Many of the measured differences between states reflect differences in laws and reporting systems, as well as differences in populations served. Variation within Florida may also be due in part to varying demographics of populations served and different levels of community resources to support children and families. The flexibility to meet varying community needs means that Florida's varying systems of care will have different mixes of services, which may lead to varying levels of performance on outcome measures.

Caution should be used in comparing states, circuits and CBCs. Comparisons may trigger celebration of high performance or signal a need for improvement. More often, recognition of differences will trigger questions about how our state is different from others and how Florida's communities are different.

Demographic Context of the Child Welfare System

Wide variation on various indicators, including removals and discharges, service mix, and measured outcome performance, are present throughout the report. There are also some important context differences between communities, including wide variations in the proportion of children living in poverty and the public response to maltreatment measured through maltreatment reporting rates. Both indicators are included on the following pages.

Although additional indicators, such as teen births, employment, education, crime, etc., are not included in this report, such indicators can contribute toward a broader understanding of how such variations might affect community-level indicators in this report. Other variables to consider include:

- The allocation of resources to various components by CBCs, including the mix of case management, residential placement (e.g., foster family homes vs. group care), safety management and other direct services.
- The availability of additional resources devoted to child welfare, such as those with Children's Services Councils supported by local taxes.
- Indicators such as median income, the number of children compared to the general population, and income inequality.

Growth in Child Population

Long-Term Trends: Florida vs. National Estimates

The United States' child population decreased by 0.5% from 74,019,405 in 2007 to 73,645,111 in 2015. In contrast, Florida's child population increased by 1.8% from 4,031,098 in 2007 to 4,105,129 in 2015.

Population of Children Age 0-17

Data Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count 2017, using Population Division U.S. Census Bureau estimates. Data presented for 2010 through 2015 are Vintage 2015 population estimates.
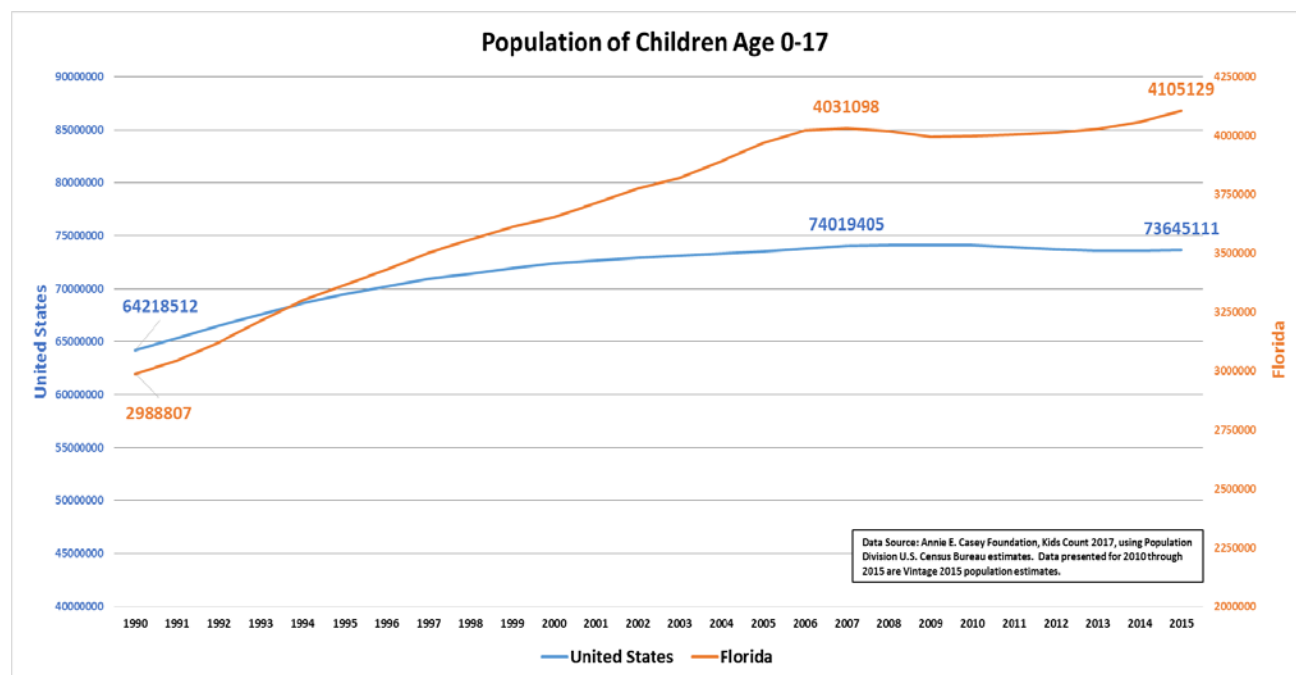
Children Living in Poverty

When comparing communities on various child welfare indicators, poverty is an important factor to consider, including its relationship to reporting rates and implications for service needs.

Florida Compared to Other States

Florida's child poverty rate of 23% in 2015 was higher than the 21% national average.

Percentage of Children Living in Poverty, 2015 Estimate

Data Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count 2017, using U.S. Census Bureau 2015 American Community Survey, American Fact Finder B17011
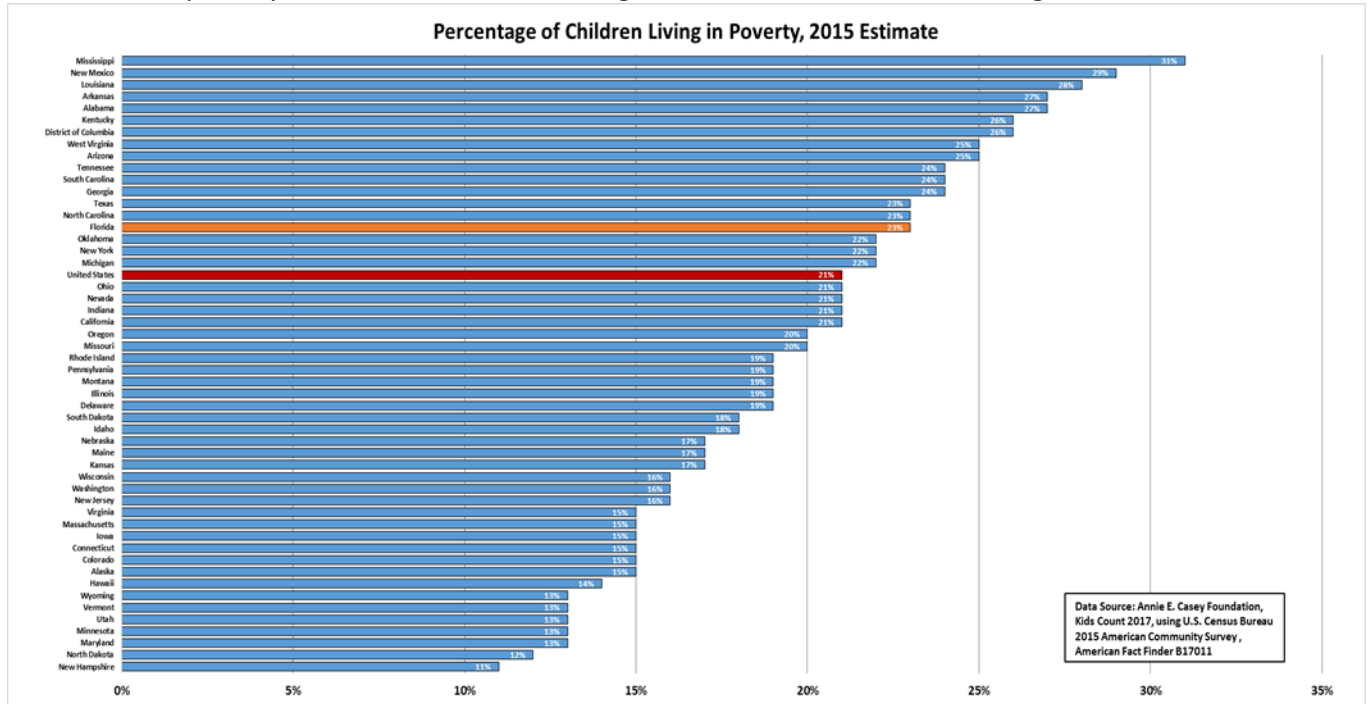
Circuit/CBC Comparisons

Statewide, Florida's poverty rate has dropped slightly since 2012 with higher percentages in Circuits 3 and 8 and 10 (28%) and lower percentages in Circuits 7 (10%), 4 and 18 (16%).

Area	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Families First Network-Circuit 01	23%	24%	24%	24%	21%	22%
Big Bend CBC-Circuits 02 &14	26%	26%	26%	28%	26%	27%
Partnership for Strong Families-Circuits 03 & 08	29%	28%	31%	30%	28%	28%
Kids First, Inc.-Circuit 4 (Clay County Only)	16%	15%	15%	14%	16%	16%
Family Support Services of North FL-Circuit 04 (Duval & Nassau Counties)	23%	25%	26%	25%	26%	25%
St Johns Family Integrity-Circuit 07 (St Johns County Only)	14%	12%	12%	12%	11%	10%
Community Partnership for Children-Circuit 07 (Flagler, Putnam and Volusia Counties Only)	27%	29%	32%	27%	28%	26%
Kids Central, Inc.-Circuit 05	27%	27%	30%	27%	27%	27%
CBC of Central Florida-Circuit 09	23%	26%	27%	27%	26%	24%
CBC of Central Florida-Seminole-Circuit 18 (Seminole County Only)	14%	17%	17%	17%	16%	16%
Brevard Family Partnership-Circuit 18 (Brevard County Only)	20%	23%	23%	22%	22%	21%
Heartland for Children-Circuit 10	29%	31%	29%	30%	28%	28%
Eckerd Community-Hillsborough-Circuit 13	23%	24%	27%	24%	23%	21%
Eckerd Community-Pasco and Pinellas-Circuit 06	21%	23%	20%	22%	21%	20%
Sarasota Safe Children Coalition-Circuit 12	24%	24%	24%	26%	22%	22%
Children's Network of SW FL-Circuit 20	28%	28%	26%	27%	26%	25%
Devereux CBC-Circuit 19	25%	28%	28%	27%	26%	24%
ChildNet-Palm Beach-Circuit 15	22%	24%	23%	23%	22%	21%
ChildNet-Broward-Circuit 17	20%	21%	21%	20%	20%	20%
Our Kids-Circuits 11 & 16	25%	29%	30%	28%	28%	27%
Statewide	**24%**	**25%**	**26%**	**25%**	**24%**	**23%**

Estimated Percentage of Children Living in Poverty by Calendar Year

Data Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation County Health Rankings

Intake into the Child Welfare System

Maltreatment Reporting

Reporting Rate: Children Investigated Compared to Population

In 1971 the Florida Legislature created the Florida Abuse Hotline and child protective investigations in each of Florida's 67 counties. Since that time, Florida has used this intake system as the "front door" of its child welfare system. According to a 2016 Florida study by the SAS Institute that followed a 2005 birth cohort for 10 years, *approximately one in every five children born in Florida in 2005 were reported at least once to the child welfare system within 60 months from birth*.

Long-Term Trends: Florida vs. National Average

Florida's investigation rate has been flat for a decade, but far exceeds the national average.
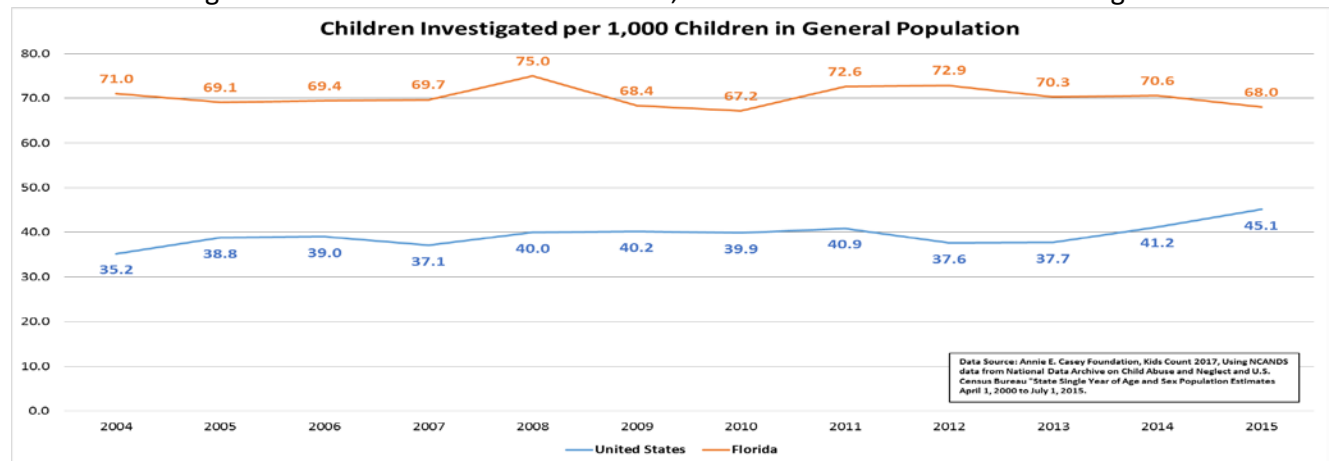
Florida Compared to Other States

Florida's investigation rate was one of the highest in the nation in 2015.
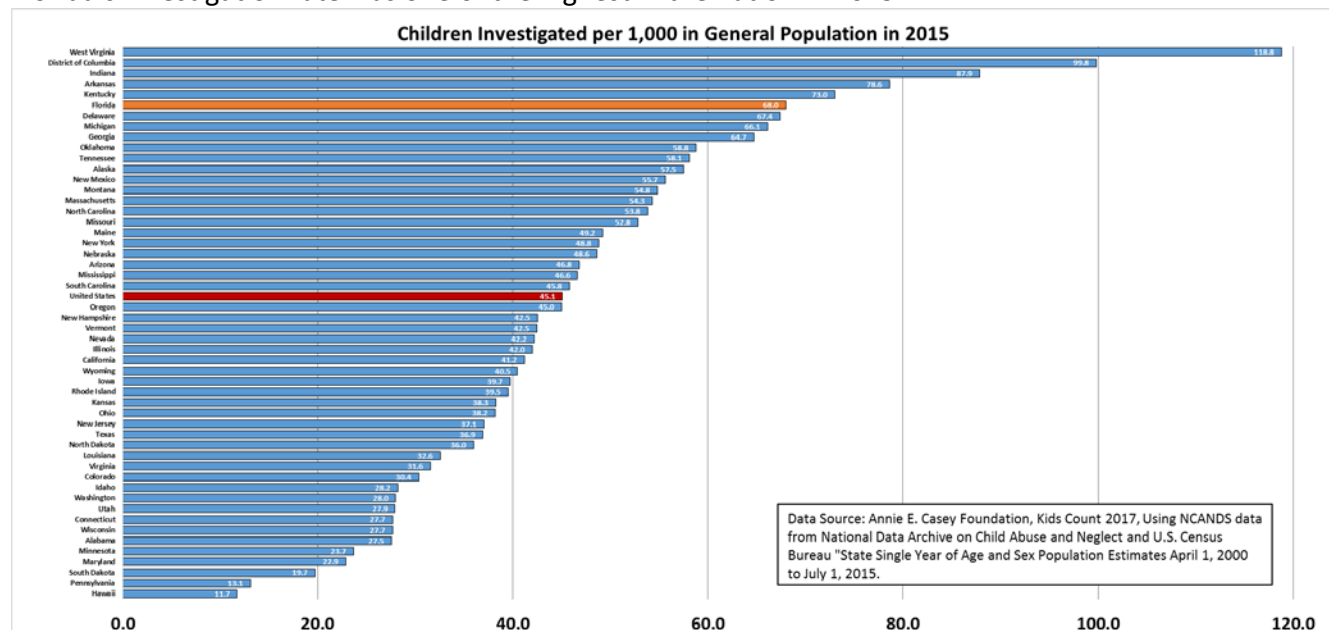
Reporting Rate: Children Investigated Compared to Population

Florida Statewide Trend

Florida's maltreatment reporting rate has been stable over the years. The dip in SFYs 2008-09 and 2009-10 was due to handling some allegations to the Hotline as "Parent Needs Assistance" special conditions referrals, rather than maltreatment reports. Note that the figure for SFY 2016-17 reflects only 9 months of the year.

Children in Maltreatment Investigations per 100 Children in the General Population by State Fiscal Year (2016-17 July-April)

NOTE: The decline in children investigated in SFY 2008-0 to 2010-11 was due to modifications made to the categorization of some Hotline referrals as maltreatment reports to "special condition referrals"

NOTE: Due to limited availability of complete data SFY 2016-17 represents data from July to April only.

Data Source: DCF Child Welfare Services Trend Reports

Circuit Comparisons

Maltreatment reporting rates are extremely variable, with the highest rate (8.9) more than three times the size of the lowest rate (2.7). Note that SFY 2016-17 reflects only nine months of the year.

Children in Maltreatment Investigations per 100 Children in the General Population by State Fiscal Year (2016-17 July-April)										
Entity	SFY 2007-08	SFY 2008-09	SFY 2009-10	SFY 2010-11	SFY 2011-12	SFY 2012-13	SFY 2013-14	SFY 2014-15	SFY 2015-16	SFY 2016-17 (Jul-Apr)
DCF-Circuit 01	9.4	8.5	7.9	8.9	9.4	9.5	9.0	8.9	8.8	7.4
DCF-Circuit 02	8.0	6.7	5.9	6.4	6.6	6.9	6.9	7.1	5.8	6.5
DCF-Circuit 03	10.5	9.1	8.3	9.9	10.0	9.2	9.8	8.8	9.5	8.9
DCF-Circuit 04	7.5	6.7	6.4	7.3	7.7	7.7	7.9	7.5	7.6	6.6
DCF-Circuit 05	10.0	9.4	9.0	9.6	9.6	9.3	9.1	8.5	9.2	8.0
SO-Pasco Circuit 06	9.0	8.8	8.6	9.2	8.7	7.6	7.6	7.2	7.2	7.2
SO-Pinellas Circuit 06	8.9	8.1	7.3	8.4	8.8	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.0	6.9
DCF-Circuit 07	9.2	8.2	8.2	8.8	9.0	8.3	8.1	7.4	7.7	6.9
DCF-Circuit 08	9.9	9.2	8.4	9.1	9.5	9.4	9.9	8.8	9.2	8.2
DCF-Circuit 09	7.5	6.5	6.1	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.3	6.3	5.0
DCF-Circuit 10	8.8	8.1	7.9	8.3	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.3	8.5	7.5
DCF-Circuit 11	3.1	2.8	2.7	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2	2.7
DCF-Circuit 12 (Desoto-Sarasota)	7.0	6.7	6.5	7.4	7.3	6.8	6.6	6.4	6.7	5.8
SO-Manatee Circuit 12	9.7	8.5	8.2	9.2	9.0	8.7	9.2	8.4	8.3	7.2
SO-Hillsborough Circuit 13	6.1	5.5	5.4	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.5	4.8
DCF-Circuit 14	11.6	10.2	9.9	10.6	10.7	10.2	9.4	9.3	9.8	8.6
DCF-Circuit 15	5.6	5.5	5.2	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.2	5.3	4.3
DCF-Circuit 16	8.1	7.0	6.1	6.6	7.2	7.7	7.8	7.5	6.0	5.9
SO-Broward Circuit 17	4.8	4.2	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.7	4.9	4.6	3.7
DCF-Circuit 18 (Brevard Only)	9.8	9.1	8.9	9.6	9.7	9.0	8.6	8.1	8.4	7.6
SO-Seminole Circuit 18	5.9	5.8	5.3	6.0	5.9	5.7	6.0	6.3	6.2	5.5
DCF-Circuit 19	7.1	6.4	5.9	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.3	5.5
DCF-Circuit 20	6.4	6.0	5.9	6.7	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.2	6.6	6.1
Statewide	6.9	6.3	6.0	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.6	6.3	6.4	5.5

Florida Abuse Hotline

Intake Screening Rates

The first decision point in Florida's child welfare system is the decision as to whether a reporter's allegation(s) of maltreatment meet(s) the criteria to be accepted for investigation. Caution should be used in comparing states, due to varying laws, reporting mechanisms, and information systems, but Florida has traditionally had one of the highest "screen-in" rates.

Florida Compared to Other States

The most recent national data for the percentage of allegations screened-in is for 2015. Florida's rate was above the national average in 2015.

Percent of Maltreatment Reports or Referrals Screened-In 2015

Florida Trend

Child Maltreatment Allegations: Total, Screened-In, Screened-Out, and Percentage Screened-In
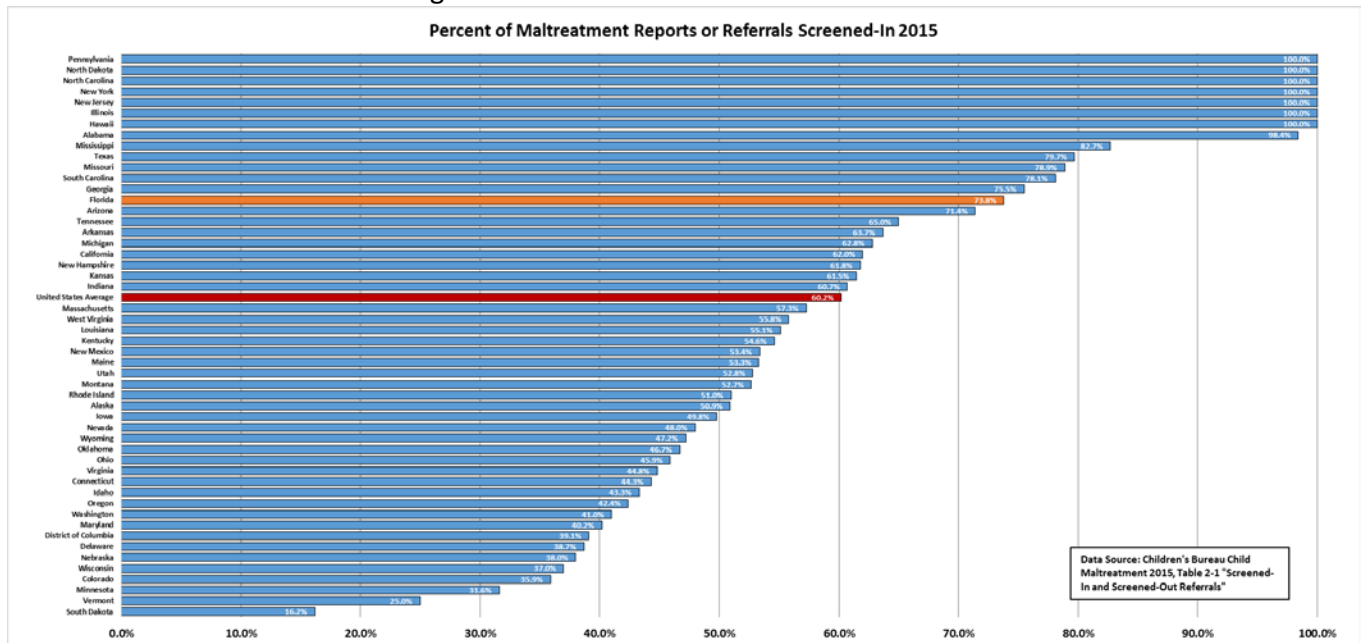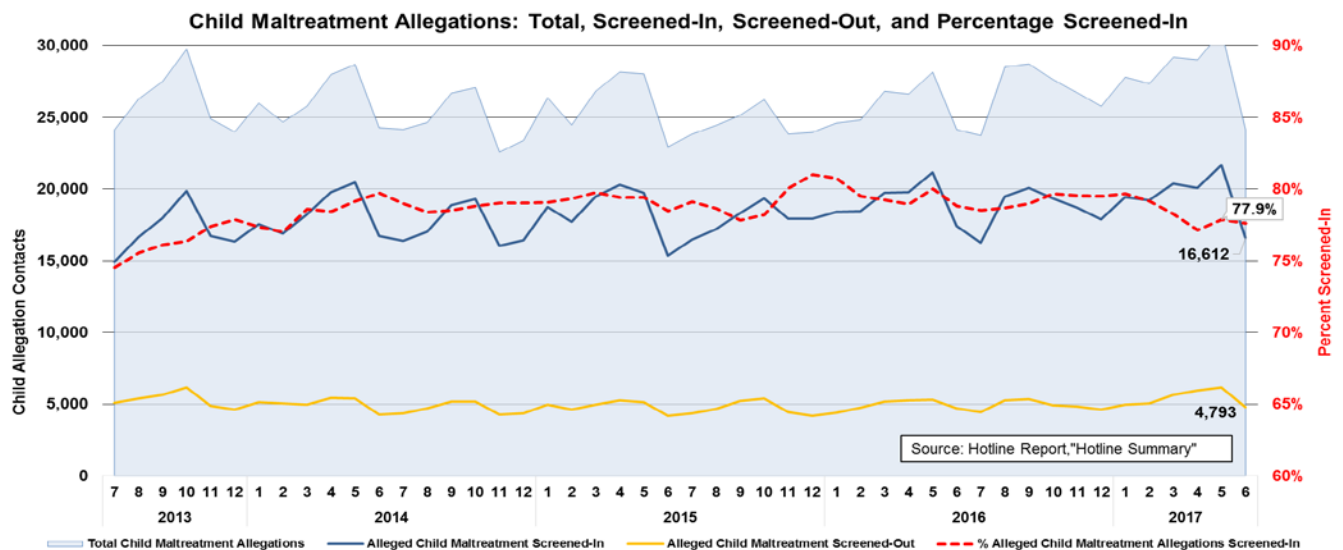
Intake Screening Rates

Florida Trend

Florida's "screen-in" rate, that was above the national average in 2015, has continued to increase. The increase in the acceptance of "special condition" (non-maltreatment) referrals in 2014 was the result of a statutory change related to child-on-child sexual abuse referrals.

Special Conditions: Total, Screened-In, Screened-Out, and Percentage Screened-In

Source: Hotline Report, "Hotline Summary". Note Changes to Florida Statute (SB1666) in July 2014 related to age requirements for child on child sexual abuse allegations significantly increased the percentage of Special Conditions that are screened-in, from that point forward.
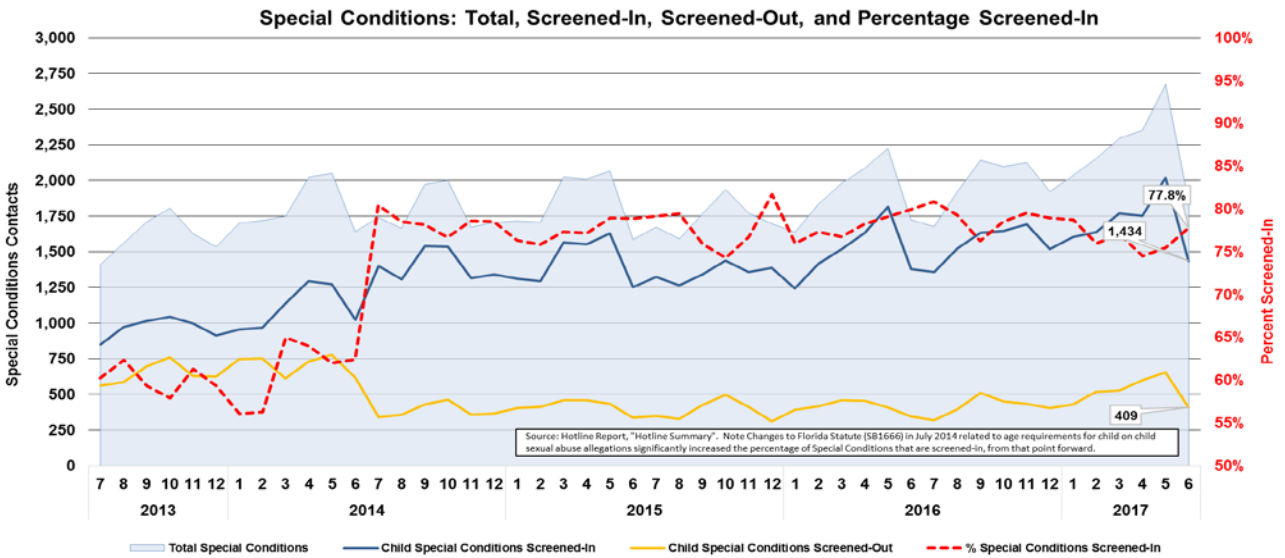
Seasonality of Reporting

Florida Trend

Reporting levels follow a fairly predictable seasonal pattern. Year-to-year fluctuations in the pattern may be due to wait times experienced by reporters to the Florida Abuse Hotline that may result in multiple contacts.

Seasonality in Reporting: Total Contacts Offered

Source: Hotline Report,"Hotline Summary"
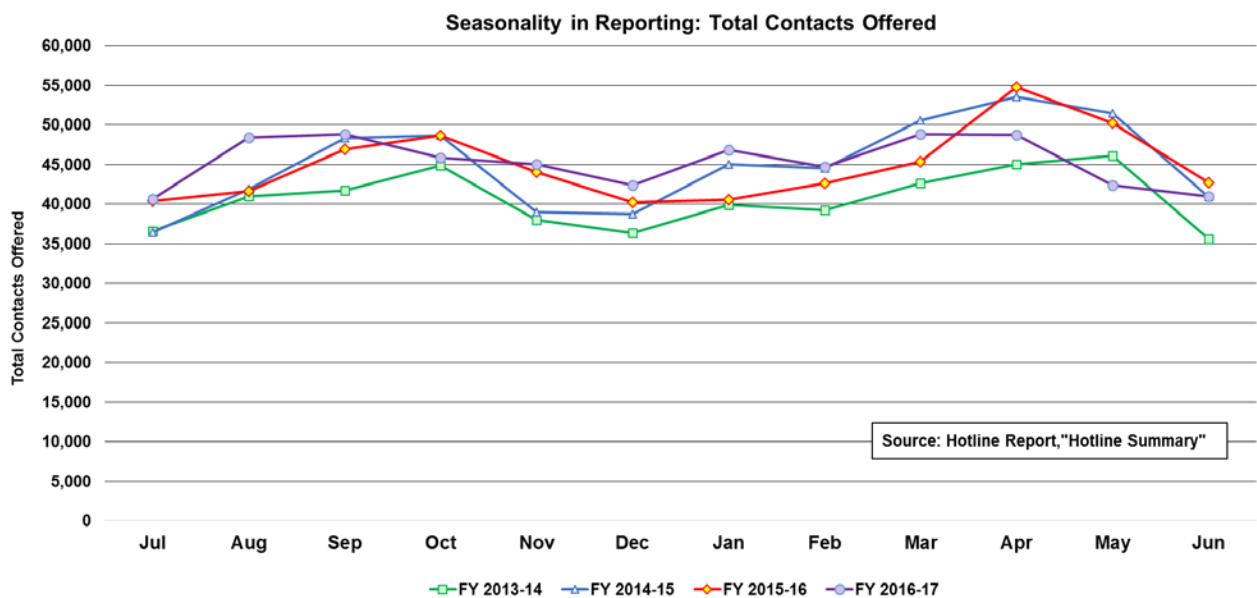
Child Protective Investigations

Workload Indicators

Florida Statewide Trends

Incoming, Active, and Backlog Investigations

Although the trend of incoming investigative workload over the last 5 years has only increased slightly, the trend for active investigations and active investigations open over 60 days (backlog) are noticeably increasing at a higher rate.
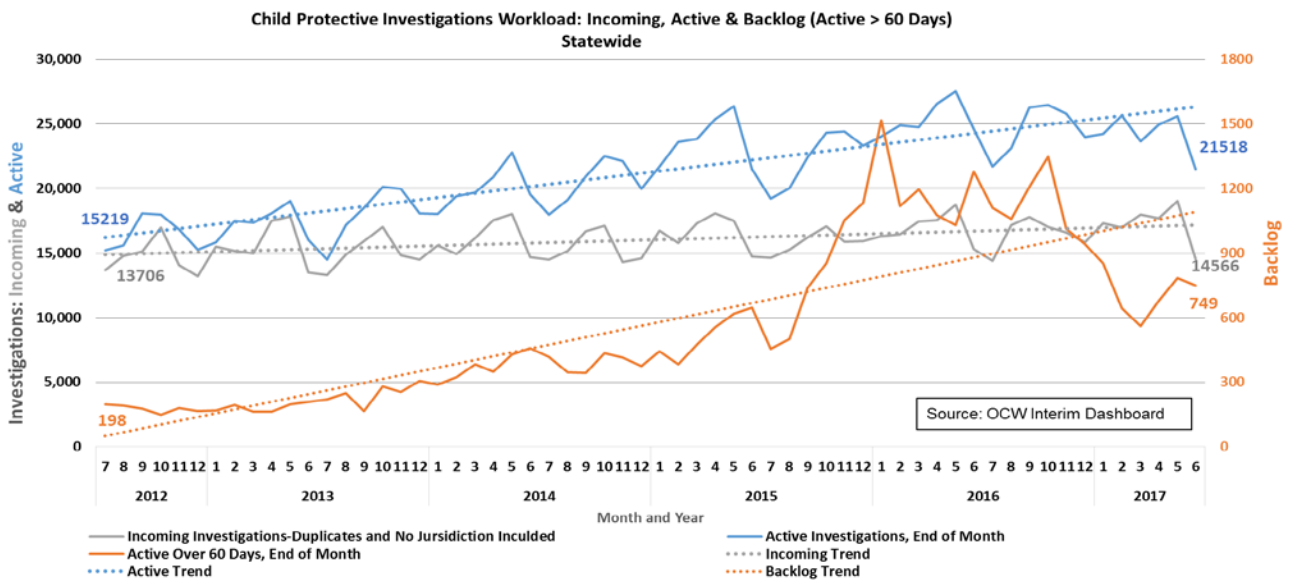
Maltreatment Investigations and Special Conditions Assessments

The relative growth in special conditions referrals, due to 2014 statutory changes related to child-on-child sexual abuse referrals, is greater than the growth in alleged maltreatment.
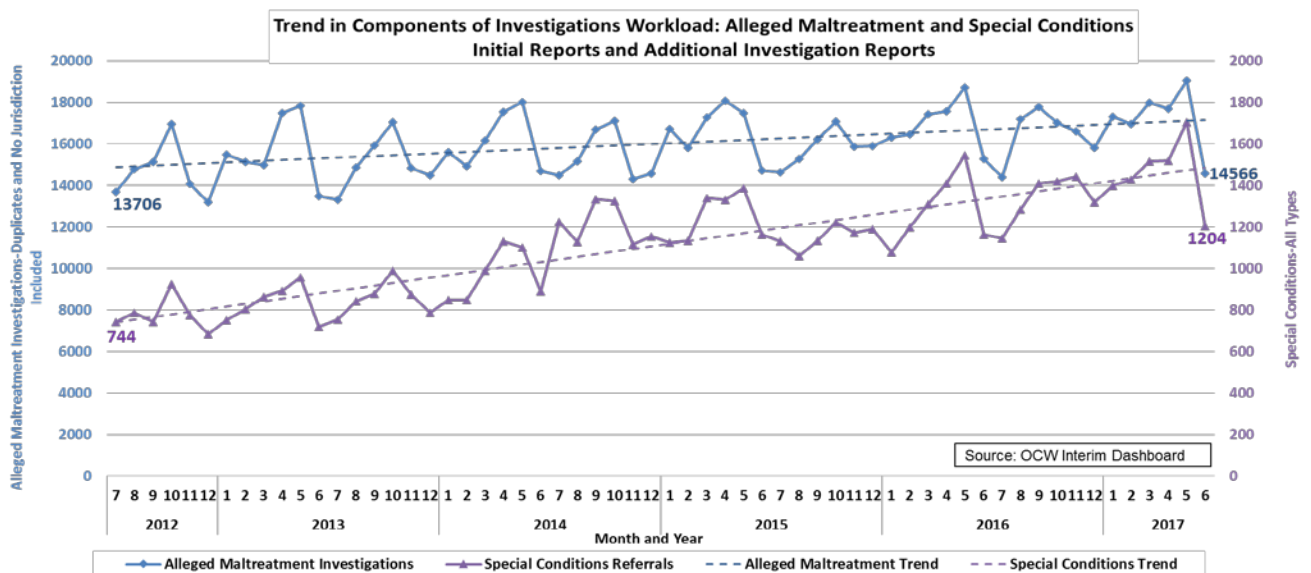
Average Investigative Response Time in Hours

Timeliness in responding to alleged maltreatment is important. Florida law requires that some investigations be commenced immediately while others are to be commenced within 24 hours. These requirements have contributed to Florida having an extremely fast investigative response time when compared to the national average.

Trend: Florida vs. National Average

Florida has maintained consistently high performance over the years, including 2011 through 2015, the last year with available national data.
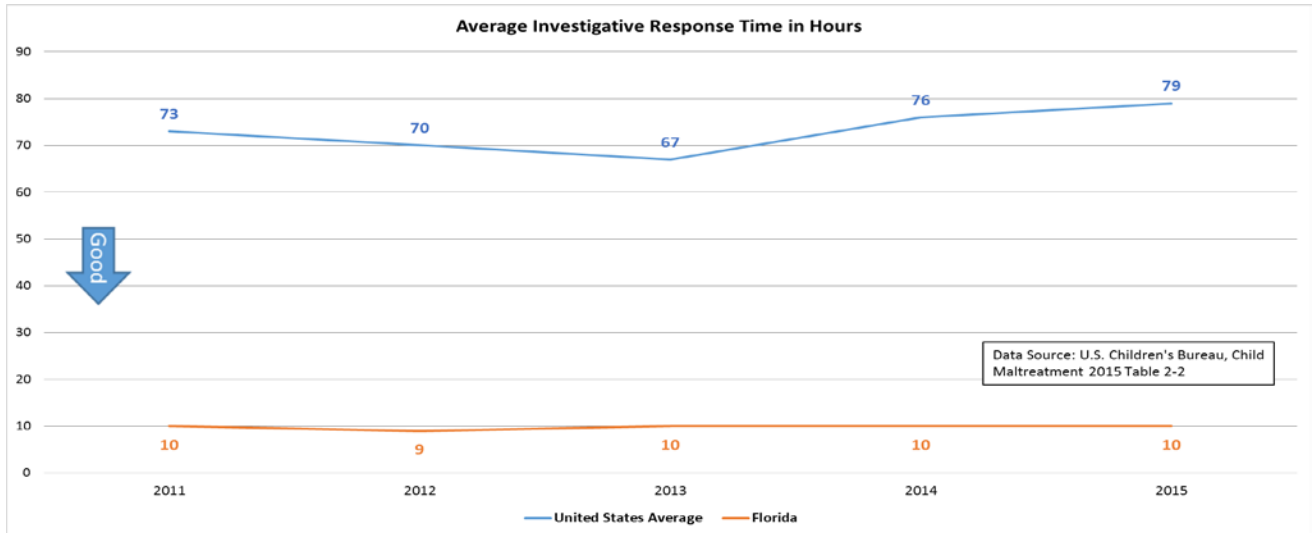
Florida Compared to Other States

In 2015, Florida had the fastest response time of all states that reported, tied with New York.
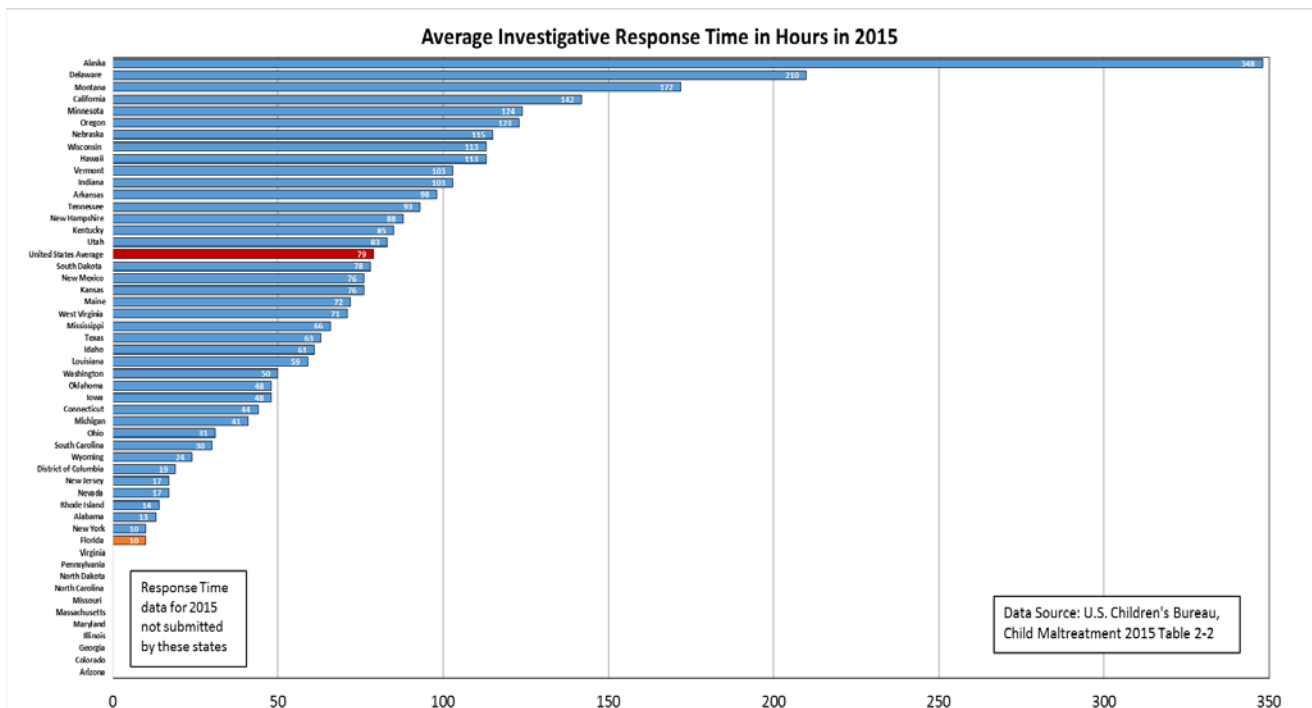
Percent of Alleged Victims Seen within 24 Hours

In addition to initiating investigations in a timely manner, Florida also requires that investigators make timely face-to-face contact with each alleged victim.

Florida Statewide Trend

Although Florida's performance in timely investigative response has traditionally been high, performance in seeing all alleged victims within 24 hours continues to decline.
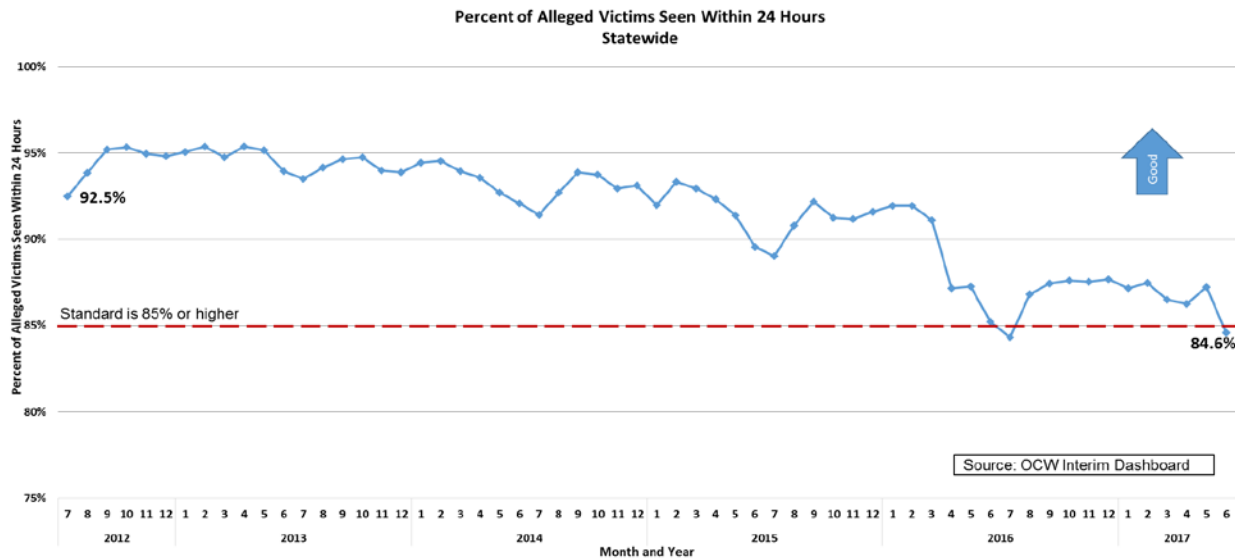
Circuit/Sheriff Comparisons

Fifteen sheriffs' offices and DCF circuits were at or above the statewide target of 85% or higher of alleged victims seen within 24 hours in SFY 2016-17.

Percentage of Alleged Victims Seen within 24 Hours (Target 85%)					
Area	SFY 2012-13	SFY 2013-14	SFY 2014-15	SFY 2015-16	SFY 2016-17
DCF-Circuit 01	93.5%	91.6%	92.6%	88.9%	82.2%
DCF-Circuit 02	93.5%	91.1%	88.2%	85.7%	78.7%
DCF-Circuit 03	94.2%	91.4%	87.1%	78.4%	86.1%
DCF-Circuit 04	94.5%	93.5%	91.6%	89.8%	87.0%
DCF-Circuit 05	96.4%	96.3%	94.3%	93.4%	86.9%
SO-Pasco Circuit 06	92.7%	94.5%	92.5%	90.0%	86.7%
SO-Pinellas Circuit 06	96.1%	97.0%	96.4%	94.8%	93.0%
DCF-Circuit 07	95.5%	96.0%	93.8%	89.7%	87.2%
DCF-Circuit 08	95.1%	93.5%	88.1%	81.6%	81.2%
DCF-Circuit 09	94.7%	93.9%	92.8%	90.3%	85.8%
DCF-Circuit 10	95.9%	95.1%	95.1%	93.0%	90.2%
DCF-Circuit 11	96.1%	91.0%	89.3%	87.7%	80.6%
DCF-Circuit 12 (Desoto-Sarasota)	92.5%	91.1%	87.6%	83.4%	84.3%
SO-Manatee Circuit 12	96.2%	96.1%	94.0%	92.9%	93.9%
SO-Hillsborough Circuit 13	93.3%	95.0%	94.9%	91.6%	90.1%
DCF-Circuit 14	94.0%	95.4%	91.7%	87.7%	84.3%
DCF-Circuit 15	95.2%	95.6%	95.5%	93.8%	90.6%
DCF-Circuit 16	94.6%	96.1%	95.8%	88.2%	84.4%
SO-Broward Circuit 17	92.5%	90.0%	89.1%	88.4%	83.1%
DCF-Circuit 18 (Brevard Only)	97.0%	96.3%	94.3%	93.5%	88.2%
SO-Seminole Circuit 18	93.3%	92.3%	92.9%	90.9%	87.8%
DCF-Circuit 19	96.7%	96.2%	96.0%	94.5%	92.6%
DCF-Circuit 20	93.3%	91.6%	89.3%	87.2%	87.9%
Statewide	**94.7%**	**93.9%**	**92.5%**	**90.1%**	**86.8%**

Percent of Investigations Completed within 60 Days

Florida has a statutory requirement to complete all but a few investigations (death, missing children, and those with a specified concurrent criminal investigation) within 60 days.

Florida Statewide Trend

Statewide performance in completing investigations within 60 days has been declining since 2013, with some improvement seen from 2015 to 2017, but still well below standard.

Circuit/Sheriff Comparisons

Fifteen circuits and sheriffs' offices completed over 90% of investigations within 60 days in SFY 2015-16, and two met the 99% target.

Percentage of Investigations Closed within 60 Days (Target 99%)																
					2016-17											
Area	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
DCF-Circuit 01	99.5%	98.9%	98.1%	86.5%	63.6%	65.5%	84.4%	90.9%	90.9%	90.9%	94.1%	95.2%	87.4%	81.3%		
DCF-Circuit 02	98.7%	94.1%	59.4%	55.3%	54.6%	63.6%	69.7%	77.0%	85.4%	86.4%	86.5%	93.5%	87.8%	89.8%		
DCF-Circuit 03	99.7%	97.8%	83.0%	78.5%	93.2%	94.4%	89.9%	92.5%	93.9%	87.4%	94.3%	89.1%	90.6%	83.1%		
DCF-Circuit 04	99.8%	99.4%	97.0%	95.8%	98.0%	96.4%	97.6%	96.2%	97.0%	96.4%	97.7%	96.0%	95.6%	97.2%		
DCF-Circuit 05	99.7%	98.5%	93.3%	96.2%	90.2%	86.0%	88.5%	92.4%	84.7%	84.7%	94.0%	95.2%	93.8%	92.8%		
SO-Pasco Circuit 06	99.2%	99.2%	97.0%	97.1%	97.4%	99.3%	96.2%	97.9%	96.9%	97.4%	98.4%	98.9%	98.1%	98.5%		
SO-Pinellas Circuit 06	99.7%	99.7%	99.1%	99.3%	99.0%	99.3%	99.3%	99.5%	99.2%	99.7%	99.6%	99.7%	100.0%	99.5%		
DCF-Circuit 07	99.8%	98.9%	82.7%	78.0%	95.6%	92.4%	92.9%	93.0%	93.9%	95.0%	93.6%	89.7%	92.7%	94.1%		
DCF-Circuit 08	99.5%	98.1%	85.7%	86.3%	91.7%	91.0%	91.0%	91.4%	89.0%	93.7%	96.3%	93.5%	96.6%	94.5%		
DCF-Circuit 09	99.7%	97.7%	94.9%	95.2%	92.9%	91.1%	91.5%	92.6%	91.0%	91.3%	94.5%	95.4%	94.9%	96.5%		
DCF-Circuit 10	99.4%	98.1%	95.9%	95.4%	97.0%	95.2%	95.2%	96.2%	95.1%	96.0%	97.0%	95.1%	96.2%	97.4%		
DCF-Circuit 11	98.6%	91.2%	66.6%	92.6%	95.2%	95.1%	94.7%	93.7%	91.2%	94.3%	94.6%	98.9%	92.9%	93.2%		
DCF-Circuit 12 (Desoto-Sarasota)	98.7%	95.6%	96.0%	89.5%	91.5%	85.0%	84.1%	86.4%	89.9%	92.0%	93.2%	95.1%	77.4%	79.7%		
SO-Manatee Circuit 12	98.8%	99.1%	94.2%	91.4%	94.2%	94.4%	92.5%	94.7%	93.8%	94.1%	96.9%	100.0%	98.6%	98.8%		
SO-Hillsborough Circuit 13	98.6%	98.9%	98.6%	97.7%	98.2%	99.0%	98.7%	98.8%	98.2%	98.4%	99.1%	92.7%	98.6%	99.2%		
DCF-Circuit 14	98.4%	90.5%	87.3%	73.1%	56.3%	62.1%	78.5%	85.6%	89.7%	95.9%	85.9%	95.7%	86.6%	83.3%		
DCF-Circuit 15	99.7%	99.3%	98.5%	96.8%	95.1%	90.0%	85.4%	84.7%	91.6%	93.6%	95.4%	95.8%	95.3%	95.7%		
DCF-Circuit 16	97.8%	94.7%	97.6%	79.4%	96.4%	92.6%	93.6%	96.4%	98.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%		
SO-Broward Circuit 17	99.4%	97.9%	99.0%	99.3%	99.5%	98.8%	99.2%	98.7%	98.7%	99.6%	98.9%	98.1%	99.2%	99.3%		
DCF-Circuit 18 (Brevard Only)	99.7%	97.3%	89.1%	90.0%	88.5%	79.7%	81.3%	87.4%	88.1%	81.8%	94.6%	94.3%	94.5%	92.9%		
SO-Seminole Circuit 18	97.2%	94.0%	91.1%	93.9%	95.4%	94.0%	94.9%	92.4%	93.0%	97.1%	97.0%	79.3%	97.9%	97.3%		
DCF-Circuit 19	99.8%	99.4%	97.4%	96.1%	88.5%	85.1%	87.3%	96.5%	97.3%	96.4%	98.7%	96.5%	97.9%	96.8%		
DCF-Circuit 20	99.0%	98.6%	98.5%	96.9%	97.0%	98.6%	98.4%	98.2%	97.8%	96.6%	96.8%	94.9%	96.9%	96.7%		
Statewide	99.3%	97.7%	94.3%	92.3%	91.7%	90.5%	92.2%	93.6%	93.5%	94.0%	95.9%	95.1%	94.8%	94.7%		

These are the individual months of 2016-17 as the year has not yet completed.

Safety Outcome Indicator: Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment

The first safety outcome indicator in this report measures recurrence of maltreatment within 12 months of verified maltreatment, regardless of whether services were provided. This national data indicator for Round 3 of the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR-3), answers the question, "Of all children who were victims of a substantiated maltreatment report during a 12-month period, what percent were victims of another substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months?"

> Denominator: Number of children with at least one substantiated or indicated maltreatment report in a 12-month period.

> Numerator: Number of children in the denominator that had another substantiated or indicated maltreatment report within 12 months of their initial report.

Florida Compared to Other States

The national standards and calculations of state performance for CFSR-3 are being revised by the Children's Bureau; however, the most recent national data (2015) indicates that Florida's "observed performance" of 8.4% was better than the initial standard and national average of 9.1%. "Risk standardized performance," not presented here, is adjusted by the Children's Bureau according to each state's median age.

Observed Performance: Recurrence of Maltreatment within 12 Months
Florida Data: FFYs 2014 & 2015, Other States: FFYs 2012 & 2013

State	%
New York	17.8%
Alaska	16.1%
New Mexico	12.5%
Michigan	12.4%
Iowa	11.3%
Maine	11.2%
Massachusetts	11.1%
Rhode Island	10.9%
Nebraska	10.8%
Dist of Columbia	10.8%
Ohio	10.2%
Illinois	10.1%
Oklahoma	9.4%
Utah	9.2%
California	9.2%
National Ave.	9.1%
Indiana	8.8%
Florida	8.4%
Oregon	8.3%
Mississippi	8.3%
Louisiana	8.3%
Vermont	7.9%
Washington	7.8%
South Dakota	7.4%
New Jersey	7.3%
Maryland	7.1%
Connecticut	6.9%
Minnesota	6.6%
Arkansas	6.4%
Montana	6.2%
Kentucky	6.2%
Georgia	6.2%
Nevada	6.0%
Texas	5.7%
Idaho	5.5%
Arizona	5.3%
North Dakota	5.2%
Wisconsin	4.8%
North Carolina	4.8%
Colorado	4.2%
New Hampshire	4.1%
Kansas	3.9%
West Virginia	3.7%
Delaware	3.6%
Alabama	3.6%
Hawaii	3.4%
South Carolina	3.3%
Wyoming	2.7%
Virginia	
Tennessee	
Pennsylvania	
Missouri	

National Standard: 9.1%

GOOD

No data from these states

Source: Children's Bureau, Florida data from "CFSR-3 Data Profile" (9/2016); Other states data from CFSR Round 3 Statewide Data Indicators Workbook" (5/2015)

Safety Outcome Indicator: Non-Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment

Florida Statewide Trend

Florida presents performance on this indicator positively as "non-recurrence." The percent has been trending upwards and began to exceed the initial standard in SFY 2013-2014.

Children Who Were Victims of Verified Maltreatment by SFY Who Were Not Victims of Subsequent Verified Maltreatment within Twelve Months Statewide

Data Source: FSFN OCWDRU #1228-"Children Who Are Not Neglected or Abused with Twelve Months of a Report of Verified Maltreatment for Children Who Were Victims of a Verified Report of Maltreatment

Values shown: SFY 2009-10: 89.2%, SFY 2010-11: 89.1%, SFY 2011-12: 89.5%, SFY 2012-13: 90.2%, SFY 2013-14: 91.2%, SFY 2014-15: 91.4%, SFY 2015-16: 91.8%

Circuit/Sheriff Comparisons

There has been overall improvement across the state since SFY 2009-10, with 16 areas now exceeding the target.

Children Who Were Victims of Verified Maltreatment by SFY Who Were Not Victims of a Subsequent Verified Maltreatment within Twelve Months (Target 90.9%)

Area	SFY 2009-10	SFY 2010-11	SFY 2011-12	SFY 2012-13	SFY 2013-14	SFY 2014-15	SFY 2015-16
DCF-Circuit 01	87.8%	87.8%	88.3%	89.3%	90.7%	92.4%	90.7%
DCF-Circuit 02	89.4%	88.7%	92.5%	90.0%	91.8%	91.2%	97.5%
DCF-Circuit 03	84.8%	87.6%	88.9%	89.4%	86.3%	91.8%	92.5%
DCF-Circuit 04	88.6%	88.6%	89.3%	89.1%	92.1%	89.7%	90.4%
DCF-Circuit 05	88.4%	88.0%	87.8%	90.8%	92.4%	90.4%	91.9%
SO-Pasco Circuit 06	88.6%	90.6%	87.7%	88.0%	89.6%	90.3%	90.5%
SO-Pinellas Circuit 06	85.4%	84.8%	84.8%	87.7%	88.1%	88.9%	90.0%
DCF-Circuit 07	87.6%	86.6%	87.8%	88.2%	91.3%	88.2%	90.0%
DCF-Circuit 08	87.5%	87.2%	88.6%	89.9%	91.1%	91.4%	93.1%
DCF-Circuit 09	90.7%	91.3%	91.4%	92.7%	92.1%	92.2%	93.1%
DCF-Circuit 10	89.6%	89.6%	89.9%	92.2%	94.0%	93.1%	93.6%
DCF-Circuit 11	93.8%	91.8%	93.9%	92.4%	93.0%	93.8%	94.1%
DCF-Circuit 12 (Desoto-Sarasota)	86.8%	84.7%	90.2%	88.0%	92.0%	88.6%	91.0%
SO-Manatee Circuit 12	89.4%	90.6%	90.6%	92.6%	90.0%	90.8%	92.4%
SO-Hillsborough Circuit 13	91.2%	91.6%	91.7%	91.2%	91.4%	92.5%	93.1%
DCF-Circuit 14	88.1%	91.7%	88.6%	89.2%	92.7%	93.9%	92.2%
DCF-Circuit 15	90.1%	90.3%	91.7%	89.0%	92.9%	94.0%	92.7%
DCF-Circuit 16	86.7%	87.4%	85.3%	87.4%	85.5%	89.6%	92.3%
SO-Broward Circuit 17	90.8%	90.7%	90.8%	89.8%	89.3%	90.4%	91.2%
DCF-Circuit 18 (Brevard Only)	86.4%	85.5%	86.4%	91.2%	91.0%	90.8%	89.0%
SO-Seminole Circuit 18	90.5%	93.6%	90.1%	93.1%	90.1%	91.8%	90.0%
DCF-Circuit 19	88.0%	86.1%	87.9%	92.7%	89.6%	92.1%	92.0%
DCF-Circuit 20	91.1%	90.4%	88.3%	90.2%	92.6%	92.5%	92.1%
Statewide	89.2%	89.1%	89.5%	90.2%	91.2%	91.4%	91.8%

Data Source: FSFN OCWDRU #1228-"Children Who Are Not Neglected or Abused with Twelve Months of a Report of Verified Maltreatment for Children Who Were Victims of a Verified Report of Maltreatment

Investigative Decisions and Flow to Services

Evidence of Maltreatment

Chapter 39, Florida Statutes, requires that "Protective investigations shall . . . perform the following child protective investigation activities to determine child safety . . . Determine whether there is any indication that any child in the family or household has been abused, abandoned, or neglected; the nature and extent of present or prior injuries, abuse, or neglect; and any evidence thereof."

Verification Rates

While evidence of maltreatment is important, the decisions to provide post-investigation services should be based on safety determinations and service needs rather than simply verified evidence of maltreatment, regardless of danger to the child or the family's need for services. Decision-making based on safety determinations are presented in the indicators in the next section.

Florida Statewide Trend

The percent of children in investigations with at least one finding of "verified" maltreatment has been declining over the last five state fiscal years. As only verified maltreatment is included in the measurement of recurrence, the decline in percent verified may have had a significant impact in lowering the rates of measured recurrence of maltreatment present in the last section.

Percentage of Children in Maltreatment Investigations with at Least One Verified Finding by State Fiscal Year (2016-17 July-April)

NOTE: Due to limited availability of complete data SFY 2016-17 represents data from July to April only.

Data Source: DCF Child Protective Investigations Trend Reports

Circuit/Sheriff Comparisons

The wide range of percentages in the figure below suggests that there is variation in local practice, rather than simply variation in evidence of maltreatment. Variation in verification rates affects variation in measured recurrence of maltreatment.

Percentage of Children in Maltreatment Investigations with at Least One Verified Finding by State Fiscal Year (2016-17 July-April)										
Entity	SFY 2007-08	SFY 2008-09	SFY 2009-10	SFY 2010-11	SFY 2011-12	SFY 2012-13	SFY 2013-14	SFY 2014-15	SFY 2015-16	SFY 2016-17 (Jul-Apr)
DCF-Circuit 01	9.7%	12.1%	12.9%	12.5%	13.3%	12.8%	11.0%	12.0%	10.5%	9.7%
DCF-Circuit 02	9.6%	10.6%	12.0%	12.7%	11.6%	9.8%	9.3%	8.0%	6.5%	6.0%
DCF-Circuit 03	9.2%	10.1%	13.7%	12.3%	12.3%	11.6%	12.0%	11.5%	8.8%	8.7%
DCF-Circuit 04	11.0%	11.3%	13.5%	12.3%	12.3%	12.2%	11.8%	10.9%	9.7%	9.0%
DCF-Circuit 05	13.3%	12.3%	12.6%	11.3%	12.1%	11.8%	8.8%	8.3%	8.1%	6.5%
SO-Pasco Circuit 06	6.7%	8.1%	12.5%	10.4%	13.9%	14.2%	14.3%	12.5%	11.3%	12.5%
SO-Pinellas Circuit 06	13.2%	14.5%	18.0%	18.2%	17.9%	17.4%	15.5%	14.4%	13.7%	12.6%
DCF-Circuit 07	7.7%	8.2%	9.8%	10.3%	12.3%	11.6%	9.5%	10.6%	9.4%	9.1%
DCF-Circuit 08	14.3%	18.5%	18.4%	17.5%	14.8%	15.3%	11.4%	10.9%	9.5%	7.4%
DCF-Circuit 09	10.4%	12.1%	14.6%	13.8%	13.3%	12.3%	9.2%	9.6%	9.5%	9.3%
DCF-Circuit 10	9.1%	10.2%	10.5%	9.7%	9.3%	8.3%	6.8%	6.6%	7.4%	7.2%
DCF-Circuit 11	10.5%	11.2%	13.7%	13.9%	12.8%	13.6%	14.8%	13.7%	10.0%	8.6%
DCF-Circuit 12 (Desoto-Sarasota)	11.7%	12.3%	14.1%	14.9%	15.0%	14.2%	11.0%	11.3%	11.4%	10.5%
SO-Manatee Circuit 12	11.9%	13.4%	12.9%	11.9%	11.9%	11.1%	11.7%	14.1%	13.6%	12.5%
SO-Hillsborough Circuit 13	10.2%	12.0%	13.1%	11.5%	11.6%	11.2%	10.8%	10.7%	11.2%	10.4%
DCF-Circuit 14	10.0%	9.0%	9.7%	7.1%	7.6%	9.4%	8.5%	7.3%	8.2%	6.5%
DCF-Circuit 15	11.2%	11.0%	13.3%	11.6%	12.1%	12.2%	12.7%	8.6%	6.8%	6.0%
DCF-Circuit 16	16.9%	17.1%	17.5%	16.5%	13.6%	16.3%	19.3%	17.5%	14.7%	10.7%
SO-Broward Circuit 17	11.3%	12.9%	17.2%	17.4%	18.6%	19.1%	17.9%	17.0%	17.4%	17.0%
DCF-Circuit 18 (Brevard Only)	11.6%	12.4%	12.4%	11.1%	11.4%	8.1%	7.0%	9.5%	9.8%	7.9%
SO-Seminole Circuit 18	7.1%	7.5%	8.7%	9.0%	8.1%	8.5%	7.3%	9.2%	8.8%	7.1%
DCF-Circuit 19	12.1%	14.3%	16.6%	15.4%	13.4%	11.4%	11.2%	11.5%	9.3%	9.4%
DCF-Circuit 20	8.6%	8.6%	9.6%	8.5%	9.7%	9.6%	9.6%	9.0%	9.4%	9.0%
Statewide	10.6%	11.6%	13.3%	12.6%	12.8%	12.4%	11.3%	11.0%	10.2%	9.4%

Safety Methodology and Flow to Services

Section 39.301, Florida Statutes, defines requirements for assessment of safety and development of safety plans.

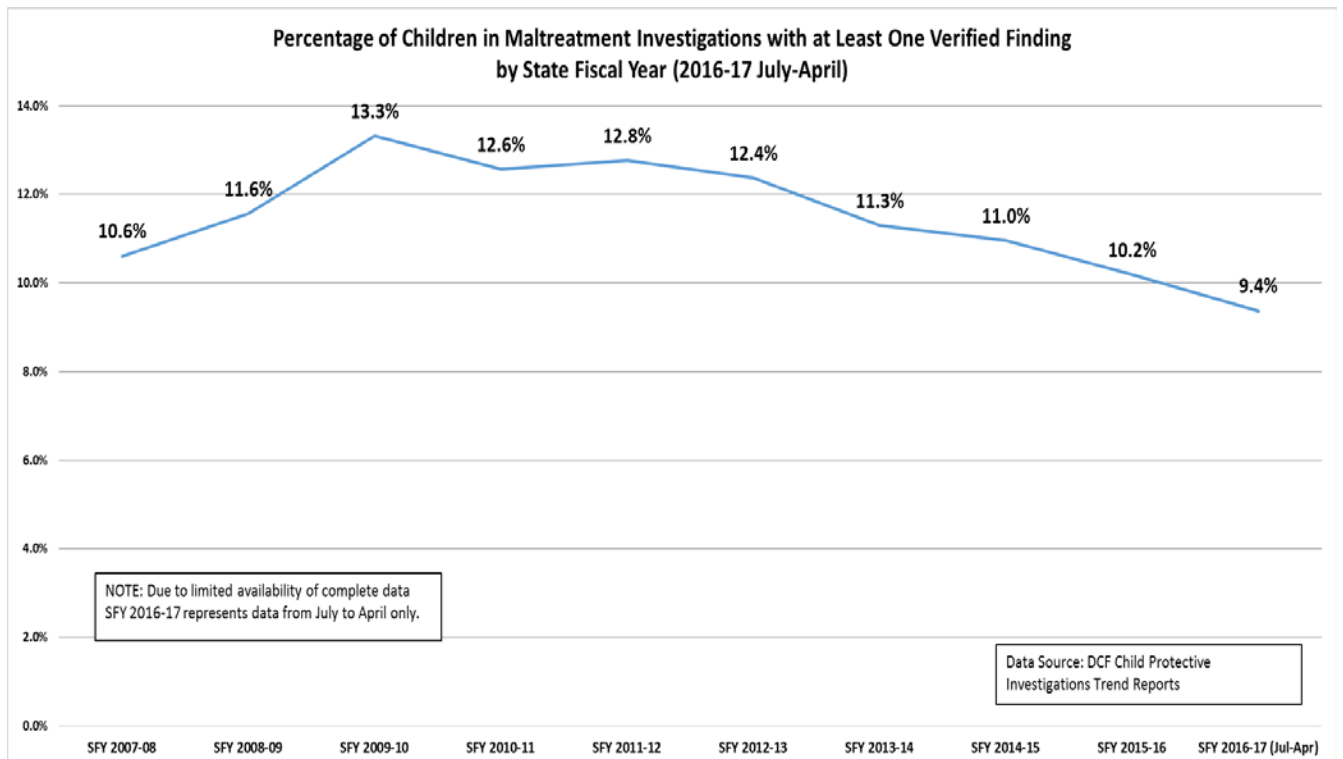Section 39.301 (9), Florida Statutes states in part: "Protective investigations shall . . . perform the following child protective investigation activities to determine child safety . . . Complete assessment of immediate child safety for each child based on available records, interviews, and observations . . . Document the present and impending dangers to each child based on the identification of inadequate protective capacity through utilization of a standardized safety assessment instrument. If present or impending danger is identified, the child protective investigator must implement a safety plan or take the child into custody. If present danger is identified and the child is not removed, the child protective investigator shall create and implement a safety plan before leaving the home or the location where there is present danger. If impending danger is identified, the child protective investigator shall create and implement a safety plan as soon as necessary to protect the safety of the child. The child protective investigator may modify the safety plan if he or she identifies additional impending danger.

If the child protective investigator implements a safety plan, the plan must be specific, sufficient, feasible, and sustainable in response to the realities of the present or impending danger. A safety plan may be an in-home plan or an out-of-home plan, or a combination of both. A safety plan may include tasks or responsibilities for a parent, caregiver, or legal custodian. However, a safety plan may not rely on promissory commitments by the parent, caregiver, or legal custodian who is currently not able to protect the child or on services that are not available or will not result in the safety of the child. A safety plan may not be implemented if for any reason the parents, guardian, or legal custodian lacks the capacity or ability to comply with the plan. If the department is not able to develop a plan that is specific, sufficient, feasible, and sustainable, the department shall file a shelter petition."

"The child protective investigator shall collaborate with the community-based care lead agency in the development of the safety plan as necessary to ensure that the safety plan is specific, sufficient, feasible, and sustainable. The child protective investigator shall identify services necessary for the successful implementation of the safety plan. The child protective investigator and the community-based care lead agency shall mobilize service resources to assist all parties in complying with the safety plan."

Section 39.301 (14), Florida Statutes states in part: "If the department or its agent determines that a child requires immediate or long-term protection through . . . services to stabilize the home environment . . . . such services shall first be offered for voluntary acceptance unless . . . there are high-risk factors that may impact the ability of the parents or legal custodians to exercise judgment. Such factors may include the parents' or legal custodians' young age or history of substance abuse, mental illness, or domestic violence; or there is a high likelihood of lack of compliance with voluntary services, and such noncompliance would result in the child being unsafe."

The DCF safety practice guides selection of appropriate post-investigative services, including removal and placement in OHC, case-managed in-home services, and family support services.

Safe/Unsafe Determinations

The statewide percent of children determined "unsafe" was 8.4% in the last quarter, but there is wide variation among circuits and sheriffs' offices in making the safe/unsafe determination.

Children Investigated Using Safety Methodology by Safety Determination for Completed Investigations in April-June 2016

Circuit/Sheriff	Percentage Unsafe	Percentage Safe
DCF-Circuit 16	12.2%	87.8%
DCF-Circuit 03	11.9%	88.1%
SO-Hillsborough Circuit 13	10.9%	89.1%
DCF-Circuit 19	10.7%	89.3%
SO-Pasco Circuit 06	10.1%	89.9%
SO-Broward Circuit 17	9.8%	90.2%
DCF-Circuit 20	9.8%	90.2%
DCF-Circuit 07	9.6%	90.4%
DCF-Circuit 18 (Brevard Only)	9.6%	90.4%
SO-Pinellas Circuit 06	9.6%	90.4%
DCF-Circuit 12 (Desoto-Sarasota)	9.0%	91.0%
SO-Seminole Circuit 18	8.7%	91.3%
DCF-Circuit 11	8.6%	91.4%
Statewide	8.4%	91.6%
DCF-Circuit 04	7.9%	92.1%
DCF-Circuit 05	7.9%	92.1%
DCF-Circuit 15	7.6%	92.4%
DCF-Circuit 01	7.5%	92.5%
DCF-Circuit 10	7.1%	92.9%
SO-Manatee Circuit 12	6.3%	93.7%
DCF-Circuit 09	6.3%	93.7%
DCF-Circuit 08	6.0%	94.0%
DCF-Circuit 14	4.0%	96.0%
DCF-Circuit 02	3.7%	96.3%

Data Source; OCWDRU Report #1204, Safety Determination and Services On-Demand Listing" as of 8/10/2016

Flow to Services, Regardless of Safe/Unsafe Determinations

There is wide variation among circuits and sheriffs' offices in the proportion of families receiving services after the conclusion of an investigation, with the use of Family Support Services having the highest variation.

Children Receiving Post Investigation Services Upon Investigation Closure, Regardless of Safety Determination, by Service Type, for Completed Investigations in April-June 2016

Circuit/Sheriff	% No Services	% FSS	% In-Home	% OHC
DCF-Circuit 16	76.5%	6.6%	7.5%	9.4%
SO-Hillsborough Circuit 13	83.8%	2.9%	4.2%	9.1%
DCF-Circuit 03	82.9%	2.6%	6.7%	7.8%
DCF-Circuit 12 (Desoto-Sarasota)	86.7%	3.8%	2.8%	6.7%
DCF-Circuit 11	85.5%	3.6%	4.4%	6.5%
DCF-Circuit 05	86.0%	4.3%	3.3%	6.4%
SO-Manatee Circuit 12	84.3%	6.6%	2.9%	6.3%
DCF-Circuit 20	87.4%	2.1%	4.4%	6.0%
SO-Pasco Circuit 06	86.5%	5.3%	2.2%	6.0%
SO-Broward Circuit 17	85.5%	4.6%	4.2%	5.7%
Statewide	86.2%	4.3%	4.1%	5.5%
SO-Pinellas Circuit 06	87.9%	2.6%	4.1%	5.4%
DCF-Circuit 19	85.3%	3.5%	5.8%	5.4%
DCF-Circuit 07	83.5%	5.8%	5.6%	5.2%
DCF-Circuit 10	89.9%	1.9%	3.0%	5.1%
DCF-Circuit 01	87.4%	4.7%	3.2%	4.6%
DCF-Circuit 08	90.3%	2.0%	3.0%	4.6%
DCF-Circuit 18 (Brevard Only)	78.3%	11.4%	5.8%	4.5%
DCF-Circuit 09	88.9%	2.4%	4.3%	4.4%
DCF-Circuit 15	91.2%	0.8%	3.6%	4.3%
SO-Seminole Circuit 18	85.3%	5.0%	5.5%	4.3%
DCF-Circuit 02	90.7%	4.3%	1.2%	3.8%
DCF-Circuit 04	80.3%	10.6%	5.6%	3.6%
DCF-Circuit 14	91.6%	3.5%	1.7%	3.3%

Data Source; OCWDRU Report #1204, Safety Determination and Services On-Demand Listing" as of 8/10/2016

Children Determined "Unsafe" Receiving Post-Investigation Services

Florida's practice model requires that children who are determined to be unsafe receive on-going case management. The majority (54.7%) of children determined "unsafe" were removed from their homes and a smaller group received services in-home (37.2%), totaling 91.9% of children determined to be "unsafe" receiving ongoing case management. This means there is a small portion of children determined to be "unsafe" who were not receiving ongoing case management services (5.1%). However, there is wide variation among circuits and sheriffs' offices.

Children Determined "Unsafe" Receiving Post Investigation Services Upon Investigation Closure by Service Type for Completed Investigations in April-June 2016
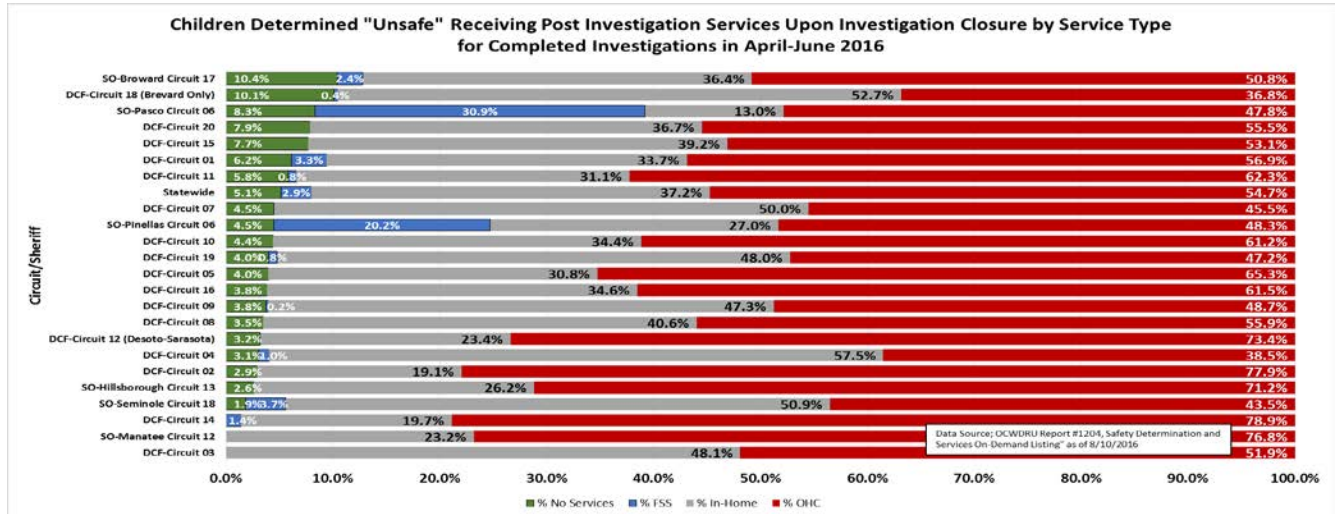
Children Determined "Safe" Receiving Post-Investigation Services

The chart below presents the reverse, the number of children who have been determined to be safe and what, if any, services they are receiving after the conclusion of the investigation. The expectation would be that children who are found to be safe would not be receiving ongoing case management services. This was true for almost all children (93.6%); however, a small percent of children (1.1%) found to be safe are receiving ongoing case management and specifically, a very small percent (0.9%) of children found to be safe were in OHC care.

Children Determined "Safe" Receiving Post Investigation Services Upon Investigation Closure by Service Type for Completed Investigations in April-June 2016
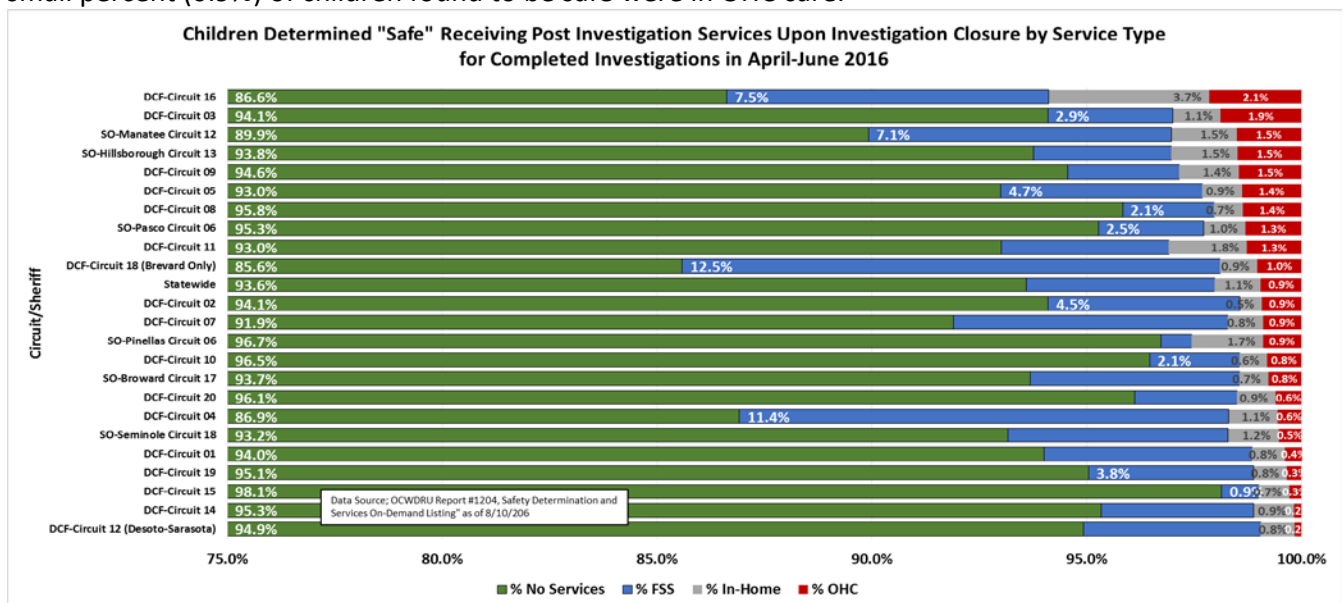
Children Removed from their Families

In order to compare removals in different areas, removal rates per 1,000 children in the general population and per 100 children in investigations are calculated. The rate per 1,000 children in the general population indicator does not consider how many children were investigated with a chance of removal. The removal rate per 100 children in investigations indicator is limited to children with a chance of being removed, so it is more directly related to investigative decision-making.

Removal Rates per 1,000 Children in General Population

Long-Term Trends: Florida vs. National Average

Note that Florida's entry rate into foster care per 1,000 children in the general population has been higher than the national average, except for a period of convergence beginning 2008. Florida's rates have begun to climb again over the past two years.
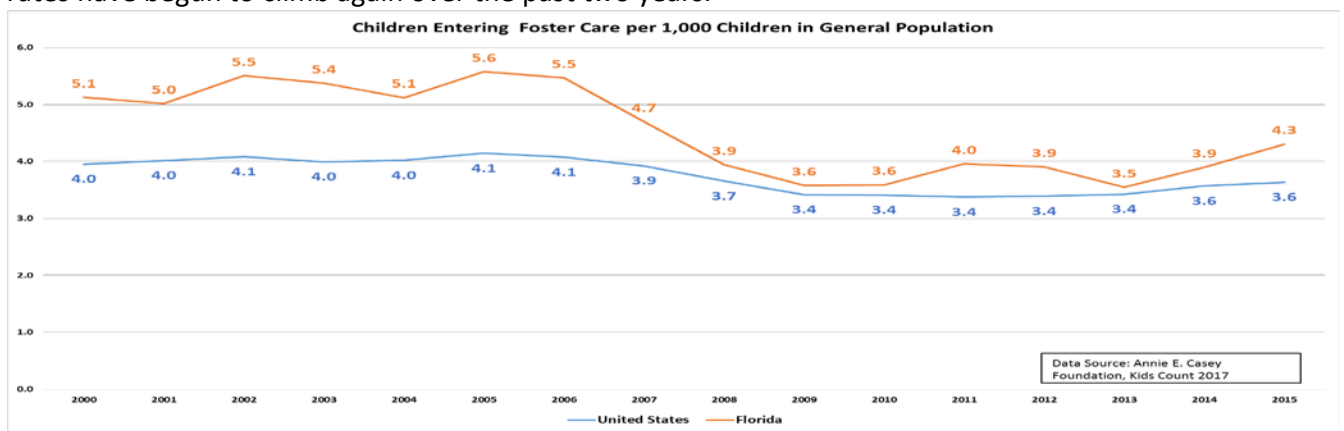
Florida Compared to Other States

Florida's rate in 2015 was higher than the national average, as several large states with low removal rates (e.g., TX and NY) affected the national average.
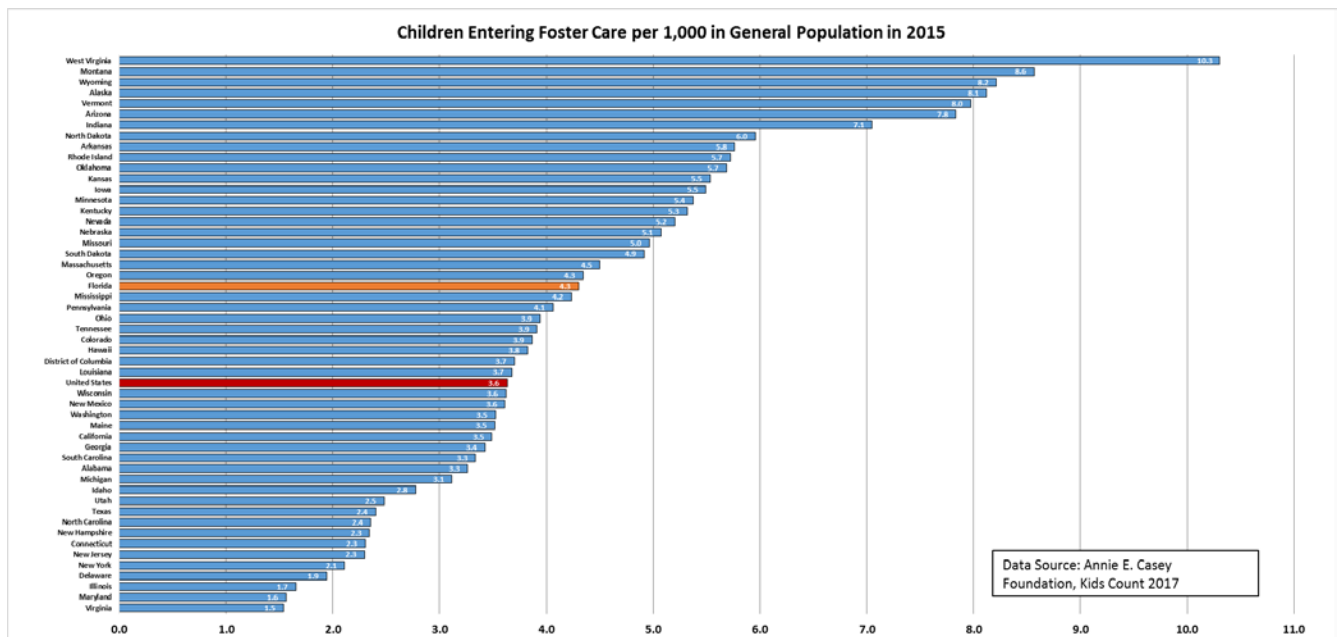
Removal Rates per 1,000 Children in General Population

Florida Statewide Trend

Removal rates per 1,000 children in the general population declined in the last decade from 5.0 per 1,000 in SFY 2004-05 to 3.1 per 1,000 in 2009-10. However, the rate has been steadily increasing, ranging from 3.7 to 3.9 per 1,000 in the last four state fiscal years.
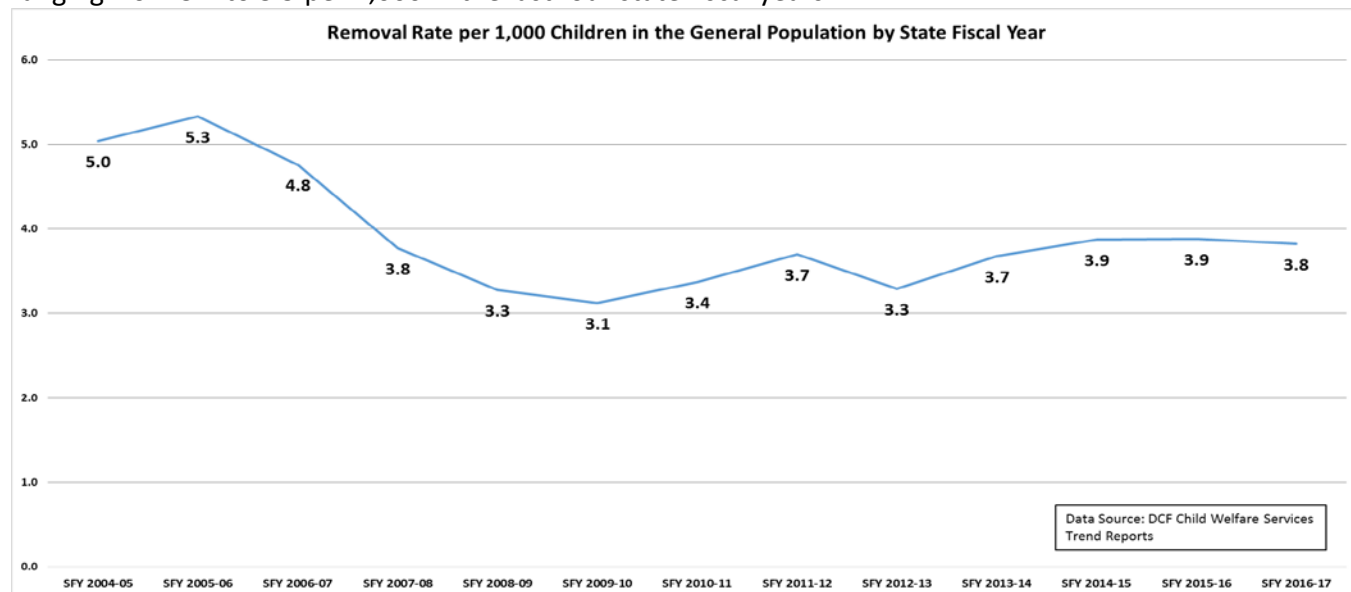
Circuit/Sheriff Comparisons

There is a wide variation when comparing historical removal rates for circuits and sheriffs' offices. During SFY 2016-2017, two areas had removal rates of more than 6.0 per 1,000 child population and five areas had rates of less than 3.0 per 1,000 child population.

Area	SFY 2004-05	SFY 2005-06	SFY 2006-07	SFY 2007-08	SFY 2008-09	SFY 2009-10	SFY 2010-11	SFY 2011-12	SFY 2012-13	SFY 2013-14	SFY 2014-15	SFY 2015-16	SFY 2016-17
DCF-Circuit 01	8.0	10.1	8.4	6.5	5.2	4.7	5.8	6.5	4.3	5.3	6.6	5.3	5.0
DCF-Circuit 02	4.9	5.2	5.5	5.2	4.1	2.4	2.8	2.9	1.6	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.6
DCF-Circuit 03	8.7	9.1	8.6	5.7	3.7	3.6	3.4	4.6	4.9	4.6	6.1	6.6	7.6
DCF-Circuit 04	6.5	7.0	6.9	5.1	3.7	2.8	3.2	3.1	2.6	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.2
DCF-Circuit 05	12.4	10.1	7.2	6.2	4.7	4.5	4.4	5.3	5.0	5.1	4.9	6.1	5.3
SO-Pasco Circuit 06	6.4	5.2	3.2	3.2	4.8	4.9	4.8	6.7	4.7	5.7	5.0	4.7	5.9
SO-Pinellas Circuit 06	5.7	6.6	6.0	5.2	5.0	4.9	5.4	6.4	5.8	4.2	4.7	5.2	5.1
DCF-Circuit 07	5.2	5.7	4.8	4.8	3.5	4.4	4.4	4.7	3.2	2.9	4.4	5.4	4.2
DCF-Circuit 08	7.2	8.2	9.2	6.8	4.2	3.8	3.9	4.5	4.3	5.0	5.0	5.8	5.7
DCF-Circuit 09	3.7	3.8	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.9	2.5	2.0	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.5
DCF-Circuit 10	9.0	8.7	8.2	4.5	4.0	3.7	4.5	5.1	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.7	5.3
DCF-Circuit 11	2.1	2.3	2.7	2.0	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.1	3.0	2.9	2.2	2.1
DCF-Circuit 12 (Desoto-Sarasota)	4.3	4.6	3.3	4.7	3.3	4.0	6.0	5.9	3.8	3.7	3.7	4.8	5.9
SO-Manatee Circuit 12	4.7	5.4	6.7	4.2	3.9	4.3	4.8	3.8	2.9	3.6	6.1	8.3	6.1
SO-Hillsborough Circuit 13	6.4	6.6	4.6	3.5	3.7	4.2	4.1	5.0	4.5	4.3	4.4	5.3	5.2
DCF-Circuit 14	10.7	12.5	10.4	7.5	6.9	7.1	5.0	5.4	5.1	4.6	4.5	6.0	4.9
DCF-Circuit 15	2.6	4.1	3.5	2.2	3.1	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.6	4.0	3.6	2.9	2.4
DCF-Circuit 16	6.3	6.9	7.6	7.3	3.7	3.3	3.8	4.2	4.9	8.2	4.6	6.1	4.8
SO-Broward Circuit 17	2.9	3.2	3.0	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	3.1	3.2	3.5	3.2	3.1
DCF-Circuit 18 (Brevard Only)	6.3	5.5	4.2	4.2	3.4	2.6	3.4	5.1	4.2	4.2	5.3	4.1	4.3
SO-Seminole Circuit 18	2.9	3.8	3.5	2.8	2.0	1.9	2.3	1.6	1.8	2.3	3.6	3.3	2.6
DCF-Circuit 19	7.0	6.4	5.4	4.3	3.6	3.5	4.0	3.7	3.2	3.4	4.3	3.6	4.1
DCF-Circuit 20	2.9	2.9	4.0	3.9	3.0	2.7	2.5	2.8	3.0	3.8	3.2	3.4	4.2
Statewide	5.0	5.3	4.8	3.8	3.3	3.1	3.4	3.7	3.3	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.8

Removal Rates per 100 Children Investigated

Long-Term Trends: Florida vs. National Average
Children investigated include those who are the subject of at least one alleged maltreatment and/or alternative response report. Florida's rate is historically much lower than the national rate, but both the state and national rate declined through 2008 and plateaued for several years. The recent increase in the national rate preceded Florida's recent increase.
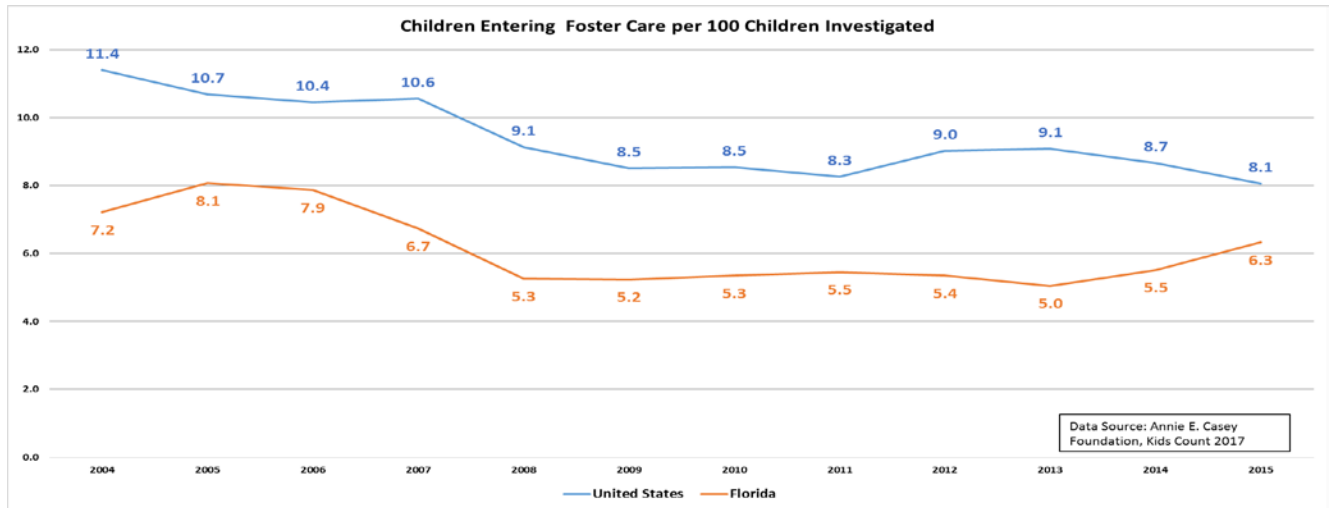
Florida Compared to Other States
State differences in policies and practices—including variations in the legal definitions of maltreatment—affect rates, so interpretation of trends and state-by-state comparisons should be made with caution. Some differences in rates are related to differences in other indicators. For example, states with very low reporting rates (e.g. Pennsylvania) tend to have a relatively high removal rate; states with a very high reporting rate (e.g. Florida) tend to have a relatively low removal rate.
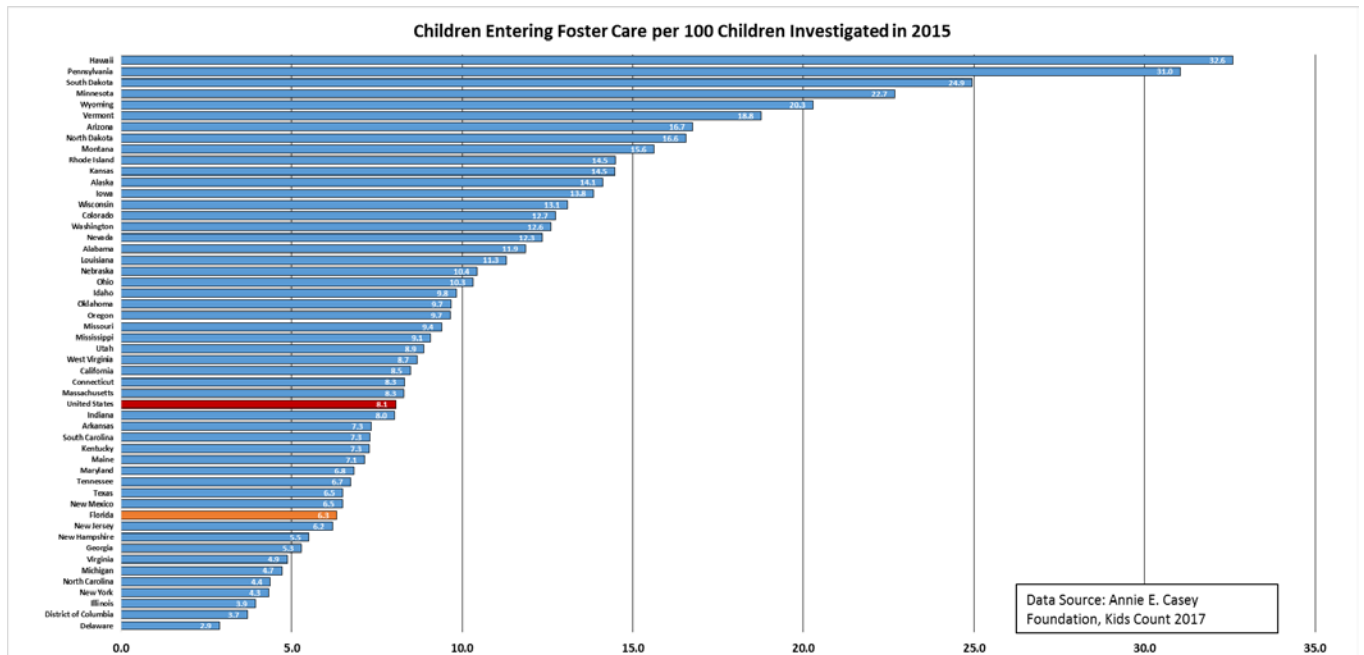
Removal Rates per 100 Children Investigated

Florida Statewide Trend

After a slight rise from SFY 2007-2008 to 2009-2010, the removal rate remained flat at around five per 100 children investigated for six years, increasing to six per 100 in the last year (similar to the SFY 2009-2010 rate).

Rate of Children Removed from their Families per 100 Children Investigated by State Fiscal Year (2016-17 July-April)

NOTE: Due to limited availability of complete data SFY 2016-17 represents data from July to April only.

Data Source: DCF Child Protective Investigations Trend Reports
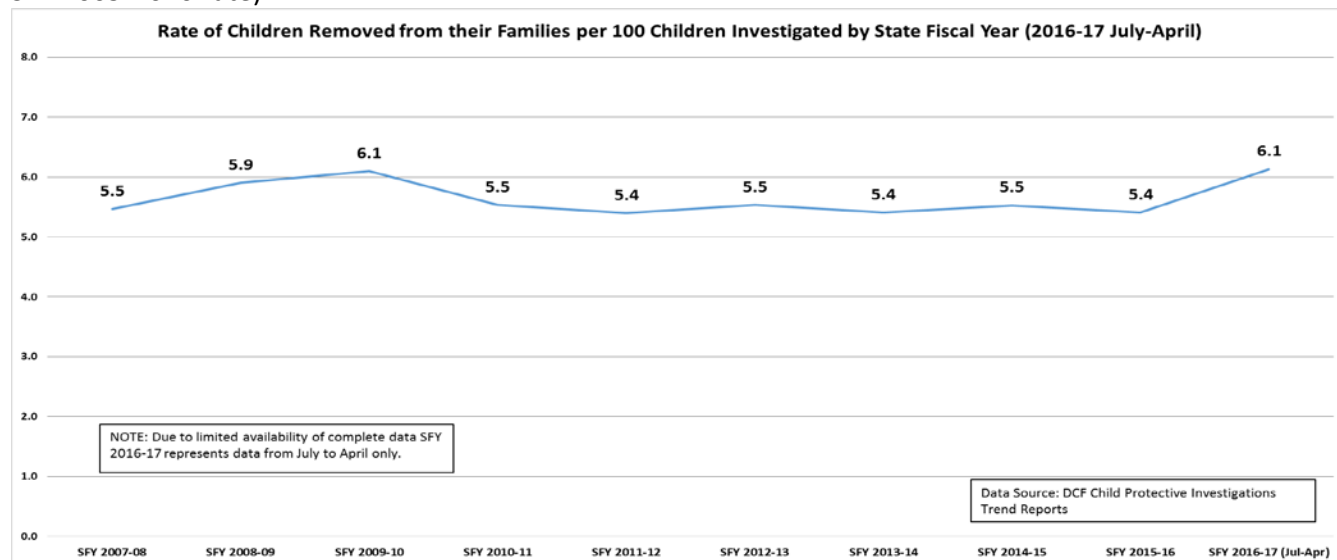
Circuit/Sheriff Comparisons

Statewide level removals have increased, but trends in each area are different. In order to compare communities, the rate of removals per 100 children in investigations is used. Note the wide variation from a high of 10.1 to a low of 3.7 in the current SFY 2016-17 (YTD Jul-Apr).

Area	SFY 2007-08	SFY 2008-09	SFY 2009-10	SFY 2010-11	SFY 2011-12	SFY 2012-13	SFY 2013-14	SFY 2014-15	SFY 2015-16	SFY 2016-17 (Jul-Apr)
DCF-Circuit 01	6.9	7.5	8.0	7.0	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.4	6.2	7.4
DCF-Circuit 02	6.5	8.0	8.7	7.7	6.9	6.6	6.4	6.0	7.1	5.9
DCF-Circuit 03	5.4	5.7	5.9	4.9	4.7	5.0	4.5	5.0	4.7	4.5
DCF-Circuit 04	6.8	7.4	7.4	6.5	6.1	6.2	5.9	6.0	5.8	6.4
DCF-Circuit 05	6.1	6.3	6.5	5.8	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.0	5.9
SO-Pasco Circuit 06	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.8	4.6	4.7	5.2	5.4	5.4
SO-Pinellas Circuit 06	5.9	6.3	7.1	6.2	6.1	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.8	7.5
DCF-Circuit 07	5.2	5.7	5.5	5.0	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.5	4.9
DCF-Circuit 08	6.8	6.8	7.3	6.1	5.8	6.1	5.5	5.9	5.4	5.8
DCF-Circuit 09	3.4	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.8	4.1	4.0	5.0
DCF-Circuit 10	5.1	5.6	6.0	5.7	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.7
DCF-Circuit 11	6.5	6.9	7.1	5.9	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.5	6.2
DCF-Circuit 12 (Desoto-Sarasota)	6.8	7.2	7.2	6.7	6.3	6.9	7.0	6.8	6.5	7.5
SO-Manatee Circuit 12	4.3	4.7	4.7	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.8
SO-Hillsborough Circuit 13	5.8	6.2	6.2	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.1	7.2
DCF-Circuit 14	6.5	7.4	7.7	7.7	7.5	7.9	8.3	8.4	8.1	8.6
DCF-Circuit 15	3.9	4.2	4.9	4.7	5.0	5.2	4.9	5.5	5.4	6.9
DCF-Circuit 16	9.0	10.8	11.6	10.1	9.3	8.2	7.5	7.7	9.8	10.1
SO-Broward Circuit 17	4.6	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.7	5.4	5.4	5.5	6.8
DCF-Circuit 18 (Brevard Only)	4.3	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.9	4.2	4.6
SO-Seminole Circuit 18	4.7	4.7	4.9	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.1	3.7	3.5	3.7
DCF-Circuit 19	6.0	6.5	7.0	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.4	7.0
DCF-Circuit 20	6.2	6.3	6.3	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.7	5.4	5.8
Statewide	5.5	5.9	6.1	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.4	6.1

Community-Based Care

Source of Indicators in this Section

The remaining outcome indicators in this report are based primarily on the seven federal outcomes related to three goals of Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being established by ASFA and the nine outcomes established by Florida's Community Based Care statutes, which contain the requirements for Results-Oriented Accountability (ROA).

The United States Children's Bureau (Children's Bureau) established seven national outcomes:
> Outcome 1: Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect
> Outcome 2: Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care
> Outcome 3: Increase permanency for children in foster care
> Outcome 4: Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing reentry
> Outcome 5: Reduce time in foster care to adoption
> Outcome 6: Increase placement stability
> Outcome 7: Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions

Florida Statutes (section 409.986, Florida Statutes) established the following nine outcomes "…to protect the best interest of children by achieving the following outcomes in conjunction with the community-based care lead agency, community-based subcontractors, and the community alliance:
> (a) Children are first and foremost protected from abuse and neglect.
> (b) Children are safely maintained in their homes, if possible and appropriate.
> (c) Services are provided to protect children and prevent their removal from their home.
> (d) Children have permanency and stability in their living arrangements.
> (e) Family relationships and connections are preserved for children.
> (f) Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.
> (g) Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.
> (h) Children receive services to meet their physical and mental health needs.
> (i) Children develop the capacity for independent living and competence as an adult."

The Children's Bureau established seven data indicators for Round 3 of the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR-3) to support the three ASFA goals and outcomes. The national standards and calculations of state performance for CFSR-3 are being revised by the Children's Bureau, but the initial standards and measured performance of Florida, other states and areas within Florida are presented in this report as important indicators of safety and permanency. The Children's Bureau measures both "observed" (actual) performance and "risk standardized" performance, which is adjusted according to the median age of children served and entry rates into foster care. Only "observed performance" is presented in this report.

CFSR Safety Outcome 1: Children Are, First and Foremost, Protected From Abuse and Neglect
> Maltreatment in Foster Care
> Recurrence of Maltreatment

CFSR Permanency Outcome 1: Children Have Permanency and Stability in Their Living Situations
> Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care
> Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12 to 23 months

Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more
Re-entry to foster care in 12 months
Placement stability

Organization of Indicators in this Section

The indicators in this section of the report are grouped into the following sections:

Caseload Indicators

Mix of Services: In-Home and Out-of-Home

Out-of-Home Care Population in Context: General Population and Children Investigated

Out-of-Home Care, Removals and Discharges

Safety Outcome Indicators

Maltreatment in Foster Care

Maltreatment during Services

Maltreatment after Termination of Services

Permanency Outcome Indicators

Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care

Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12 to 23 months

Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more

Re-entry to foster care in 12 months

Drivers of Timely Permanency

Caseworker Visits

Children's Legal Services

Well-Being of Children in Care

Trends in Placement Types

Maintaining Connections: Placement Stability

Maintaining Connections: Siblings

Maintaining Connections: Proximity of Placement

CBC Caseload Indicators

Protection of Children in their Own Homes

Mix of Case-Managed Services: In-Home Services vs. Out-of-Home Care

Two CBC outcomes required by law are "Children are safely maintained in their homes, if possible and appropriate" and "Services are provided to protect children and prevent their removal from their home," so more unsafe children should be protected in their own homes.

Florida Statewide Trend

In late 2013 the number of children in OHC began to increase while the number of children protected in their own homes remained flat. The gap between the two continues to widen.

Children Protected: Out-of-Home Care, In-Home Care and Combined Total Statewide
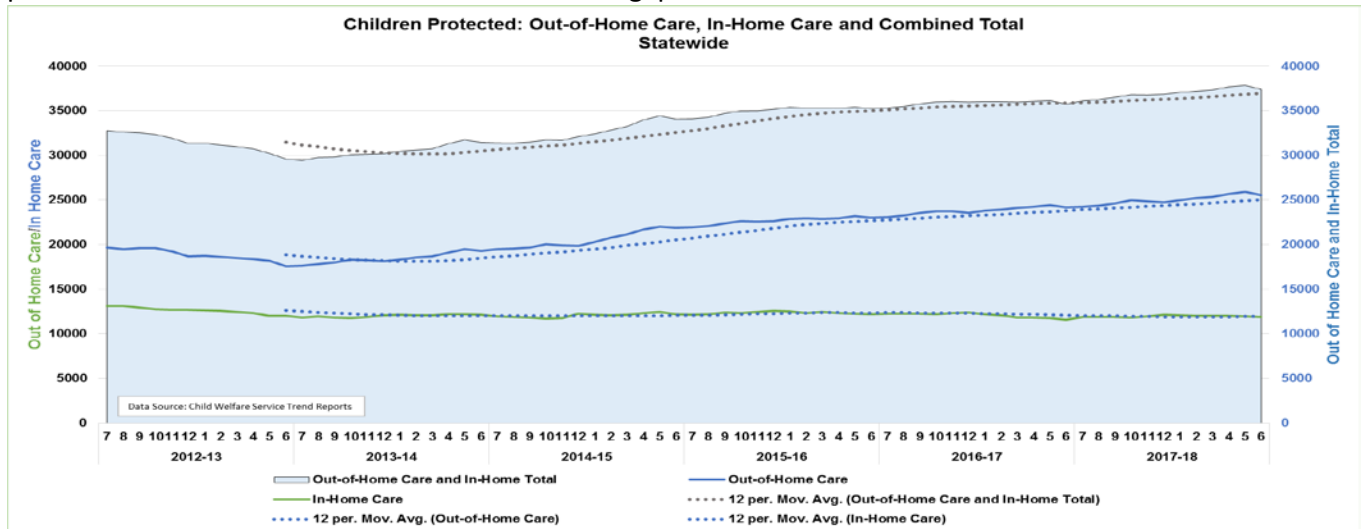
Circuit/CBC Comparisons

There is high variation in the service mix and the relationship between the numbers of children being actively protected and one of the best indicators of need – children in investigations.

Rate of Children Actively Receiving Services per 1,000 Children in the General Population by State Fiscal Year

Area	SFY2012-13		SFY2013-14		SFY2014-15		SFY2015-16		SFY2016-17	
	In-Home	Out of Home	In-Home	Out of Home	In-Home	Out of Home	In-Home	Out of Home	In-Home	Out of Home
Families First Network-Circuit 01	7.7	6.8	5.0	6.2	4.3	7.7	5.1	7.9	4.4	8.7
Big Bend CBC-Circuits 02 &14	4.1	4.9	3.4	4.8	2.6	4.9	2.5	5.2	2.3	6.0
Partnership for Strong Families-Circuits 03 & 08	4.0	5.6	3.9	5.8	3.6	6.1	4.5	7.3	3.7	7.9
Kids First, Inc.-Circuit 4 (Clay County Only)	2.7	3.9	2.3	3.6	2.5	3.9	3.3	4.9	2.6	5.1
Family Support Services of North FL-Circuit 04 (Duval & Nassau Counties)	4.0	3.4	4.0	3.3	4.2	3.5	3.1	3.9	3.1	3.9
St Johns Family Integrity-Circuit 07 (St Johns County Only)	1.6	3.0	1.5	2.1	1.2	2.9	1.5	4.0	1.4	4.3
Community Partnership for Children-Circuit 07 (Flagler, Putnam and Volusia Counties Only)	3.1	7.5	2.6	5.5	2.6	6.0	4.4	8.5	3.7	9.2
Kids Central, Inc.-Circuit 05	5.1	5.9	5.6	5.5	4.5	5.6	4.1	7.4	3.8	8.3
CBC of Central Florida-Circuit 09	2.1	3.3	1.9	3.2	2.0	3.4	2.2	3.4	2.1	3.3
CBC of Central Florida-Seminole-Circuit 18 (Seminole County Only)	1.2	2.4	1.3	2.6	1.8	3.5	2.4	4.5	2.5	4.1
Brevard Family Partnership-Circuit 18 (Brevard County Only)	3.4	5.0	3.2	4.8	3.2	6.1	4.2	7.1	4.1	7.1
Heartland for Children-Circuit 10	3.6	6.5	3.2	6.0	2.5	6.0	2.9	6.6	3.5	7.4
Eckerd Community-Hillsborough-Circuit 13	3.4	6.3	3.3	5.6	3.3	5.8	3.9	6.4	4.4	7.2
Eckerd Community-Pasco and Pinellas-Circuit 06	3.8	8.1	3.3	6.5	2.8	6.3	2.7	6.6	2.7	7.4
Sarasota Safe Children Coalition-Circuit 12	2.5	5.9	2.3	5.0	2.3	5.4	2.3	7.2	2.8	8.1
Children's Network of SW FL-Circuit 20	2.3	4.1	2.7	4.5	2.6	5.4	2.8	5.9	3.5	6.4
Devereux CBC-Circuit 19	4.4	5.2	4.3	5.5	4.4	6.0	3.0	6.0	3.1	5.2
ChildNet-Palm Beach-Circuit 15	1.9	3.4	2.3	4.1	2.3	4.3	1.8	4.4	1.6	3.9
ChildNet-Broward-Circuit 17	2.5	3.5	1.9	4.3	2.5	5.4	3.1	6.2	3.0	5.9
Our Kids-Circuits 11 & 16	2.3	3.0	2.7	3.5	3.2	4.1	2.5	3.6	1.9	3.4
Statewide	3.1	4.7	3.0	4.6	3.0	5.0	3.0	5.5	2.9	5.7

Florida's Out-of-Home Care Population in Context

Florida's OHC population has grown since 2013. Changes in Florida parallel changes nationally. These charts show trends and the relative size of Florida's OHC population to the general population of children and children in investigations, an indicator of need.

Long-Term Trends: Florida vs. National Average

Children in Out-of-Home Care Population Trend

The number of children in OHC nationally dropped sharply during 2000-10, but Florida's decrease was sharper than the decrease for the nation as a whole. The numbers have been increasing since 2013 with Florida's rise being sharper than the nation.
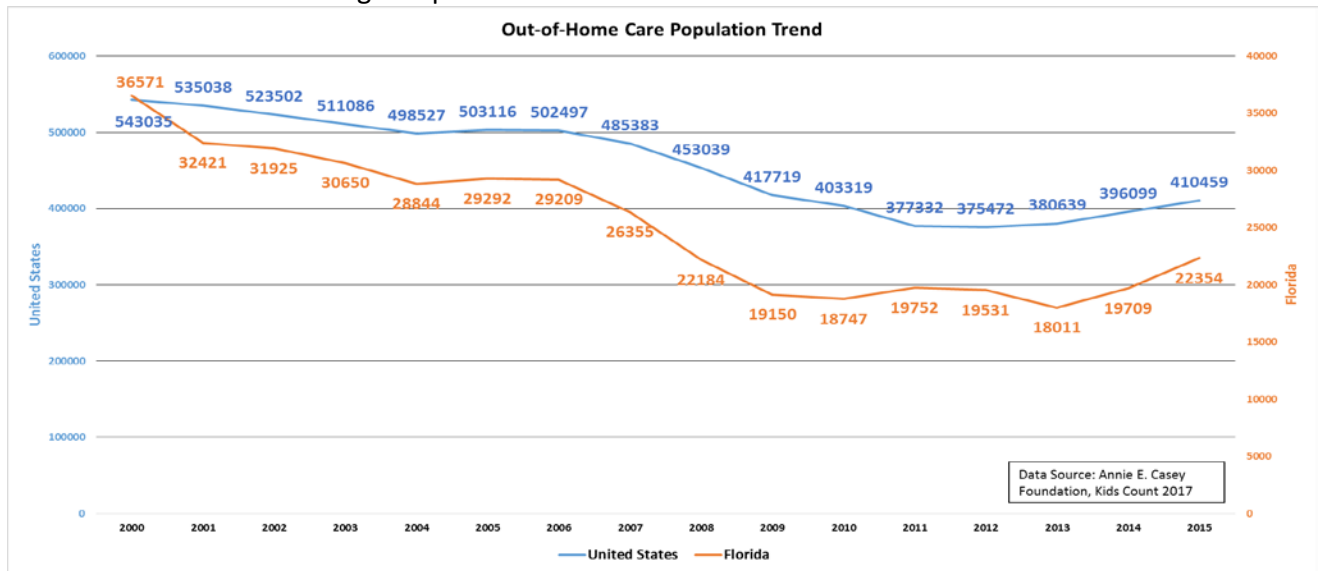
Children Removed/Foster Care Entries Trend

Florida's reduction in removals from 2007 to 2010 was much more dramatic than the gradual national reduction. Both Florida and the nation have experienced recent increases in removals.
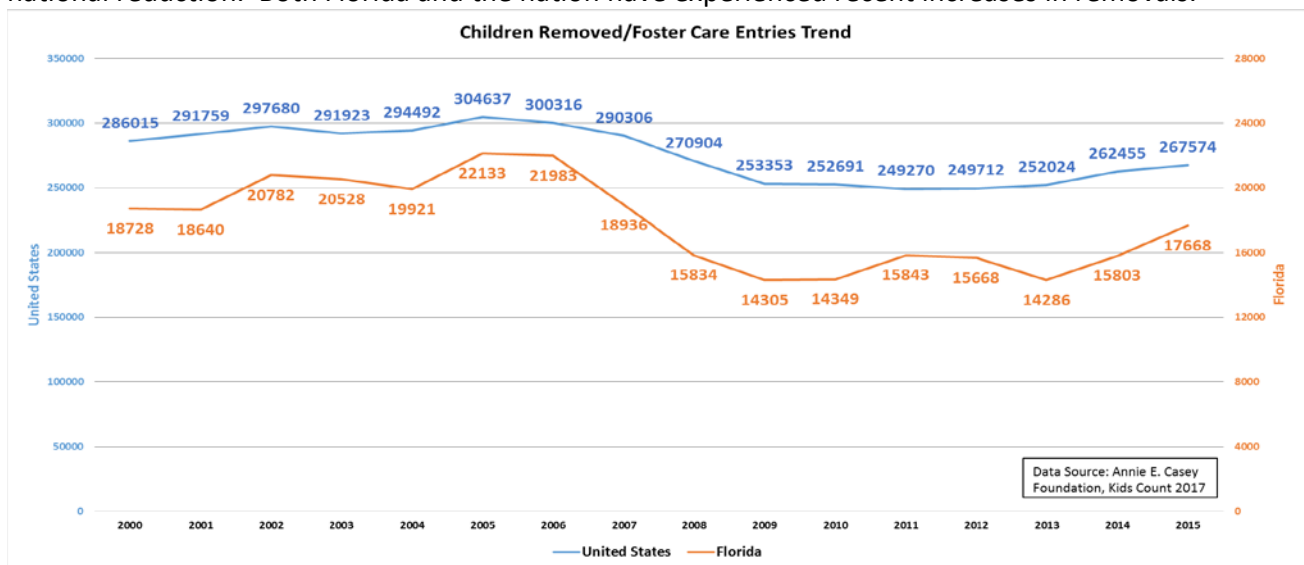
Children in Out-of-Home Care Compared to Child Population

Although states have differing populations (e.g., income and poverty) and maltreatment reporting requirements, comparing the OHC population to the general child population is one way to see the relative size of Florida's OHC population.

Long-Term Trends: Florida vs. National Average

In 2000-06, Florida's OHC rate per 1,000 children in the general population was above the national average. From 2007 to 2015, Florida has been below the national average.
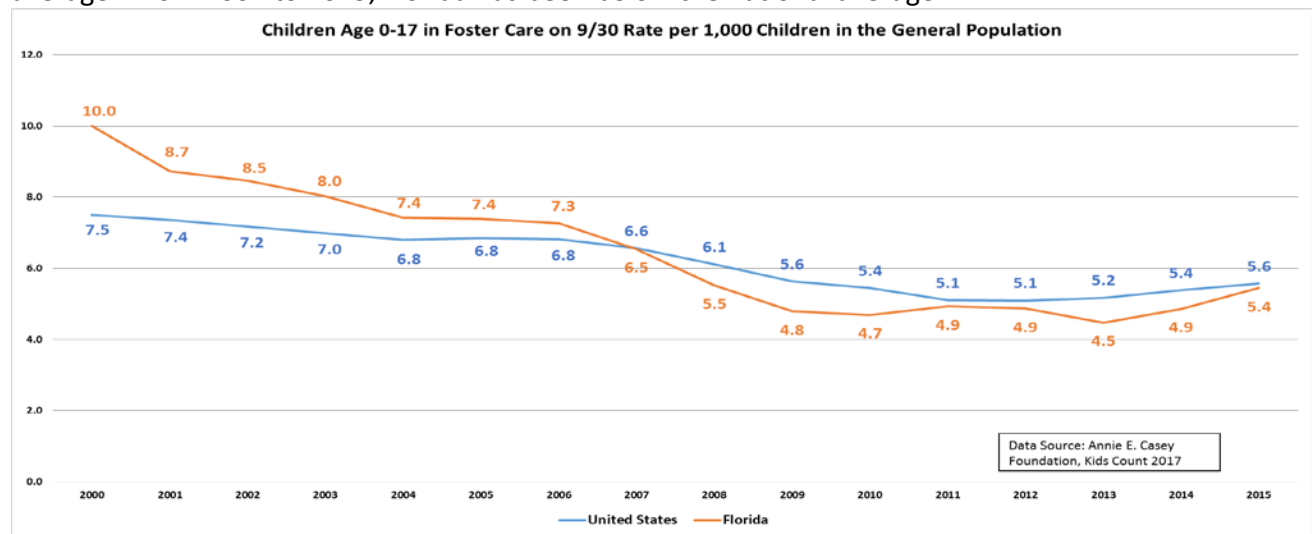
Florida Compared to Other States

Florida's OHC rate per 1,000 children in 2015 (the most recent year available) was relatively low compared to most states. Several states have rates that are twice as high as Florida's.
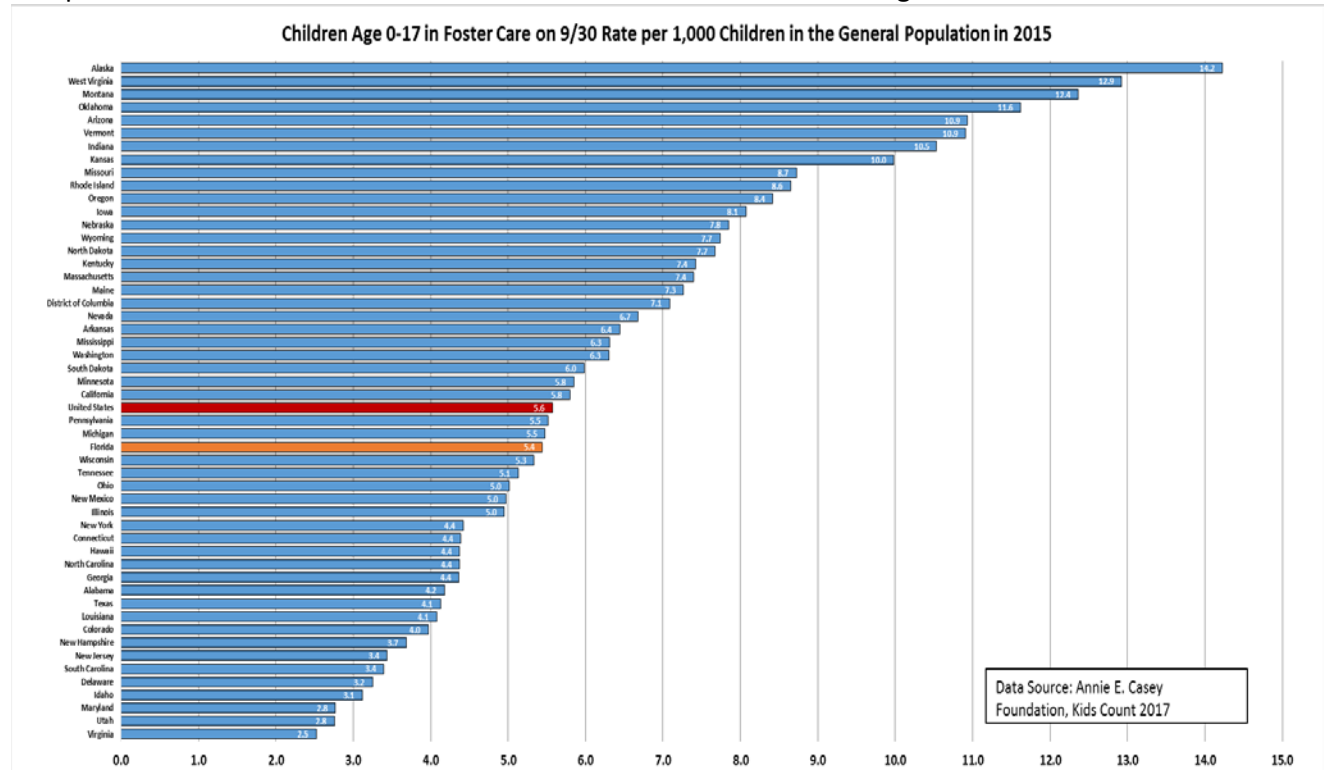
Children in Out-of-Home Care Compared to Child Population

Florida Statewide Trend

Children in care compared to the general population declined in the last decade from around 7 per 1,000 in SFY 2004-05 through 2006-07 to around 4.5 per 1,000 in SFY 2009-10 through 2013-14. The rate has increased over the last three fiscal years to 5.7 per 1,000, but is still below the 7 per 1,000 level that was the norm in SFY 2004-05 through 2006-07.

Average Rate of Children in Out-of-Home Care as of the Last Day of the Month per 1,000 Children in the General Population by State Fiscal Year

Data Source: DCF Child Welfare Services Trend Reports
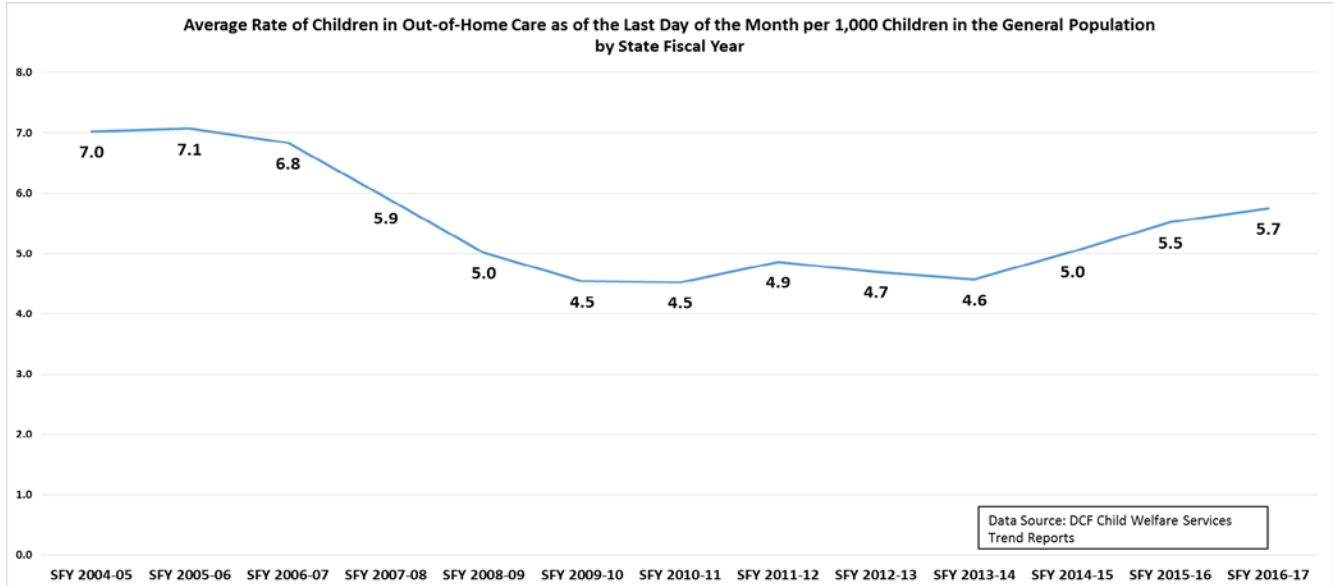
Circuit/CBC Comparisons

Although the statewide rate for the last fiscal year was 5.7 per 1,000 children in the general population, there is wide variation across CBCs.

Average Rate of Children in Out-of-Home Care as of the Last Day of the Month per 1,000 Children in the General Population

Area	SFY 2004-05	SFY 2005-06	SFY 2006-07	SFY 2007-08	SFY 2008-09	SFY 2009-10	SFY 2010-11	SFY 2011-12	SFY 2012-13	SFY 2013-14	SFY 2014-15	SFY 2015-16	SFY 2016-17
Families First Network-Circuit 01	8.8	9.5	9.5	8.3	6.8	6.0	6.6	8.2	6.8	6.2	7.7	7.9	8.7
Big Bend CBC-Circuits 02 &14	7.2	8.8	9.5	7.8	6.4	5.2	5.2	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.9	5.2	6.0
Partnership for Strong Families-Circuits 03 & 08	7.9	8.7	9.6	9.2	6.7	5.7	5.6	6.1	5.6	5.8	6.1	7.3	7.9
Kids First, Inc.-Circuit 4 (Clay County Only)	5.9	6.7	6.4	6.7	5.1	4.5	3.6	4.2	3.9	3.6	3.9	4.9	5.1
Family Support Services of North FL-Circuit 04 (Duval & Nassau Counties)	8.4	8.7	8.9	7.3	5.0	3.6	3.7	4.0	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.9	3.9
St Johns Family Integrity-Circuit 07 (St Johns County Only)	5.6	5.4	5.3	4.3	2.8	3.2	4.1	3.9	3.0	2.1	2.9	4.0	4.3
Community Partnership for Children-Circuit 07 (Flagler, Putnam and Volusia Counties Only)	9.1	8.5	7.7	7.2	6.2	6.3	7.0	7.8	7.5	5.5	6.0	8.5	9.2
Kids Central, Inc.-Circuit 05	10.4	10.8	8.5	7.1	6.0	5.7	5.3	5.9	5.9	5.5	5.6	7.4	8.3
CBC of Central Florida-Circuit 09	5.1	5.1	4.4	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.3
CBC of Central Florida-Seminole-Circuit 18 (Seminole County Only)	2.9	3.5	3.9	3.6	2.9	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.4	2.6	3.5	4.5	4.1
Brevard Family Partnership-Circuit 18 (Brevard County Only)	6.6	6.1	4.8	4.4	4.1	3.7	3.8	4.5	5.0	4.8	6.1	7.1	7.1
Heartland for Children-Circuit 10	11.0	11.1	10.8	7.7	6.0	5.4	6.3	6.6	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.6	7.4
Eckerd Community-Hillsborough-Circuit 13	11.4	12.2	11.0	9.1	7.4	6.4	6.2	6.6	6.3	5.6	5.8	6.4	7.2
Eckerd Community-Pasco and Pinellas-Circuit 06	10.5	10.0	9.0	8.0	7.4	7.1	7.1	7.5	8.1	6.5	6.3	6.6	7.4
Sarasota Safe Children Coalition-Circuit 12	6.2	5.9	6.7	6.4	5.3	5.2	5.8	6.5	5.9	5.0	5.4	7.2	8.1
Children's Network of SW FL-Circuit 20	4.6	4.0	4.4	4.7	4.4	4.1	3.6	3.9	4.1	4.5	5.4	5.9	6.4
Devereux CBC-Circuit 19	8.6	8.7	8.4	6.5	5.7	5.5	5.7	5.6	5.2	5.5	6.0	6.0	5.2
ChildNet-Palm Beach-Circuit 15	4.8	5.0	5.3	4.1	4.0	3.7	3.2	3.5	3.4	4.1	4.3	4.4	3.9
ChildNet-Broward-Circuit 17	4.1	4.1	4.4	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.5	4.3	5.4	6.2	5.9
Our Kids-Circuits 11 & 16	5.5	4.9	4.8	4.3	3.6	3.0	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.5	4.1	3.6	3.4
Statewide	7.0	7.1	6.8	5.9	5.0	4.5	4.5	4.9	4.7	4.6	5.0	5.5	5.7

Children in Out-of-Home Care Compared to Children Investigated

Children removed and placed in OHC are not taken from the general population, but from those in investigations; so the number of children investigated is a better indicator of need. However, the relative size of the OHC population is affected by permanency performance as much as removal rate.

Long-Term Trends: Florida vs. National Average

The Florida and national OHC rate per 100 children investigated has been declining, with Florida's rate seeing an increase recently, but Florida's rate is much lower than the national average.
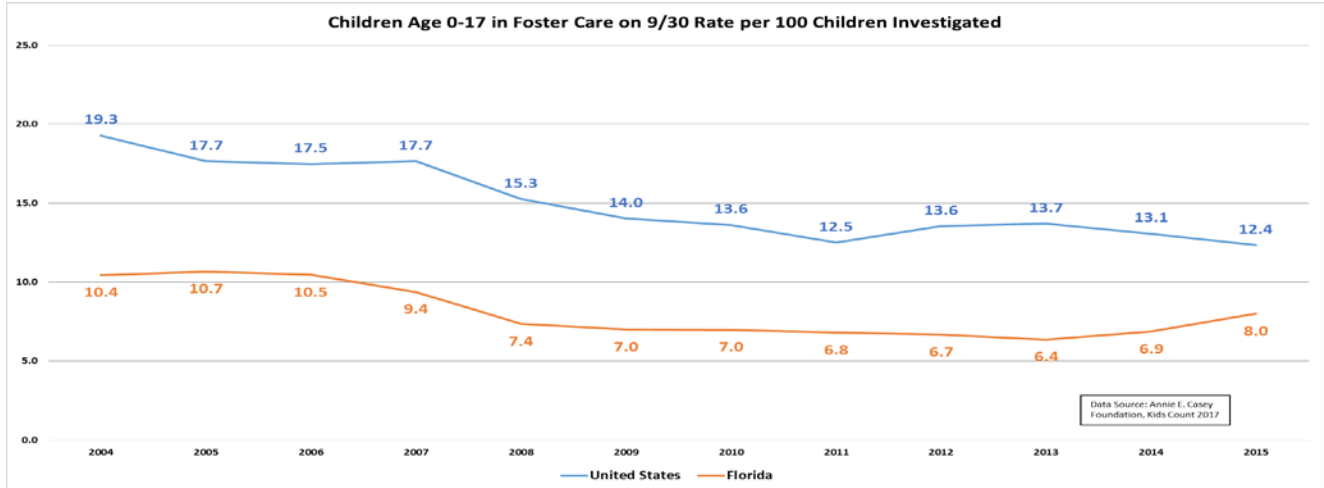
Florida Compared to Other States

Florida's OHC rate per 100 children investigated was one of the lowest in the nation in 2015, due in part to Florida's high reporting rate. Conversely, Pennsylvania's low reporting (children investigated) rate impacts its high rate of children in foster care per 100 children investigated.
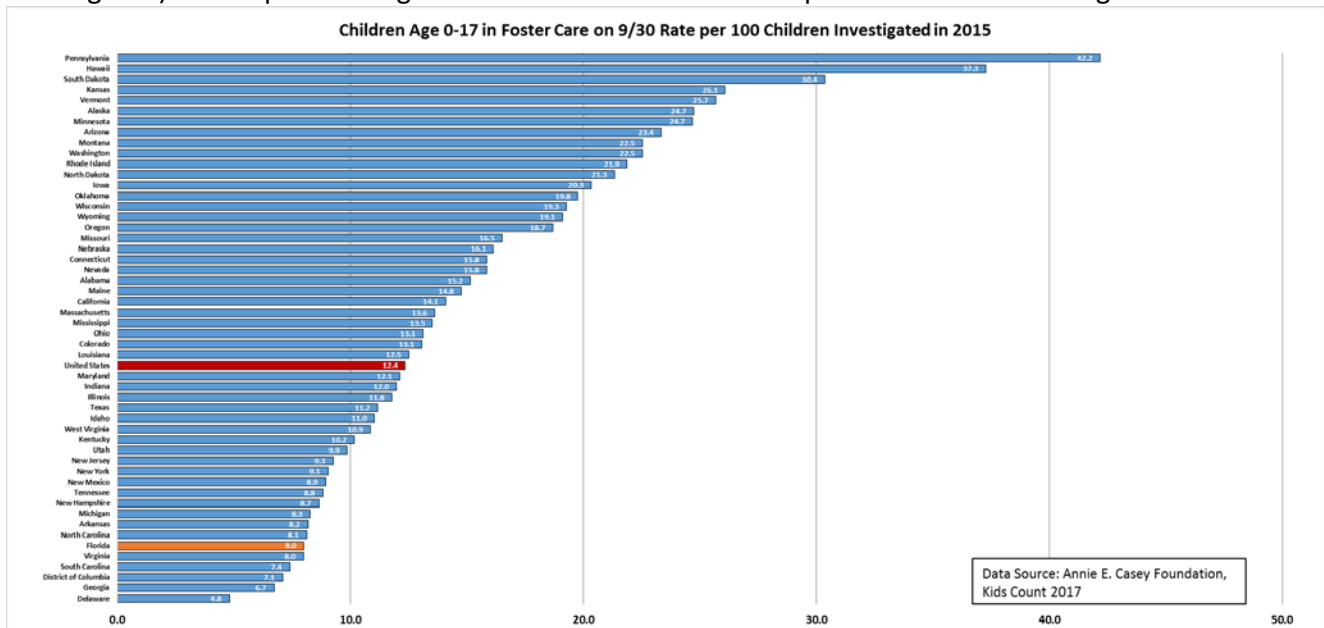
Children in Out-of-Home Care Compared to Children Investigated

Florida Statewide Trend

The OHC rate has increased for the last three fiscal years, with the SFY 2015-16 rate approaching the SFY 2006-07 level and the partial SFY 2016-17 surpassing it. Although this comparison is for children investigated, it is important to remember that the increase in OHC is primarily due to a decrease in discharge rates, rather than an increase in removal rates.

Average Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care per 100 Children Investigated by SFY (2016-17 July-April)

NOTE: Due to limited availability of complete data SFY 2016-17 represents data from July to April only.

Data Source: DCF Child Protective Investigations Trend Reports and Child Welfare Services Trend Reports
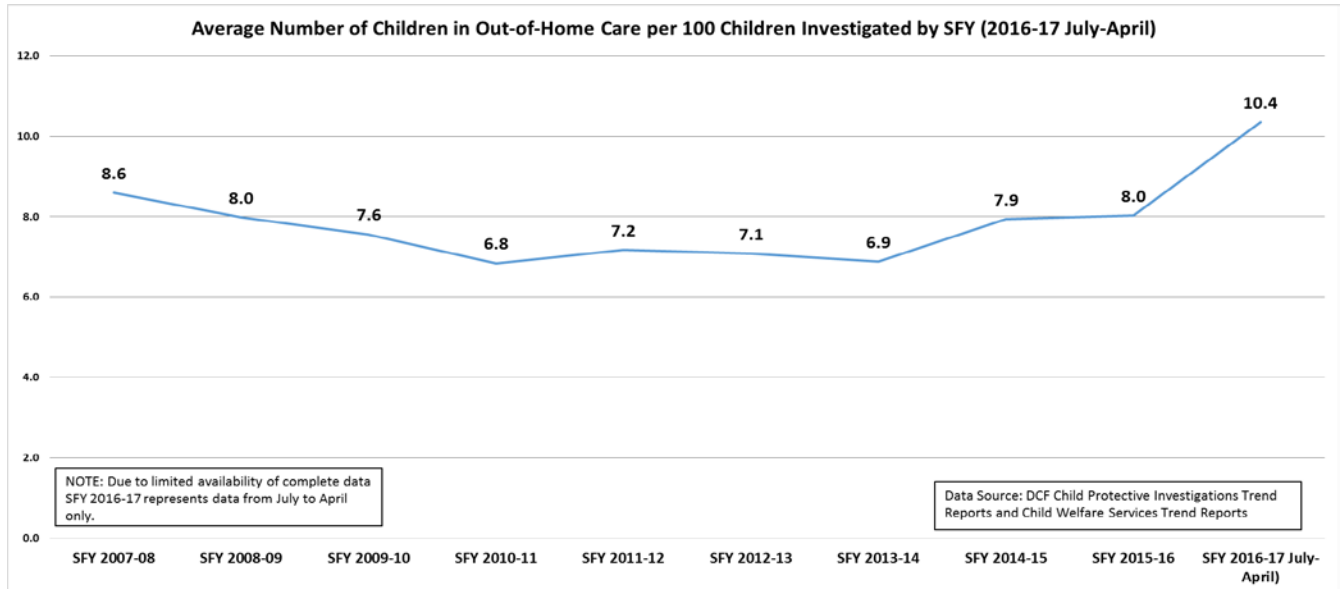
Circuit/CBC Comparisons

There is wide variation around the state, with the highest rates over twice as high as the lowest rates.

Average Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care per 100 Children Investigated by SFY (2016-17 July-April)										
Area	SFY 2007-08	SFY 2008-09	SFY 2009-10	SFY 2010-11	SFY 2011-12	SFY 2012-13	SFY 2013-14	SFY 2014-15	SFY 2015-16	SFY 2016-17 (Jul-Apr)
Families First Network-Circuit 01	8.8	7.9	7.7	7.4	8.7	7.2	6.9	8.6	8.2	11.9
Big Bend CBC-Circuits 02 &14	8.2	7.8	6.8	6.3	5.9	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.3	8.0
Partnership for Strong Families-Circuits 03 &08	9.1	7.3	6.8	5.9	6.3	6.0	5.8	7.0	7.3	9.4
Kids First, Inc.-Circuit 4 (Clay County Only)	9.2	7.4	6.9	4.5	5.6	6.1	5.4	5.9	6.6	8.8
Family Support Services of North FL-Circuit 04 (Duval & Nassau Counties)	9.8	7.4	5.7	5.2	5.2	4.2	4.0	4.6	4.7	5.7
St Johns Family Integrity-Circuit 07 (St Johns County Only)	6.5	4.9	5.8	6.8	6.9	6.1	4.1	6.4	7.8	11.2
Community Partnership for Children-Circuit 07 (Flagler, Putnam and Volusia Counties Only)	7.2	7.0	7.0	7.3	7.8	7.9	6.0	7.1	8.9	11.5
Kids Central, Inc.-Circuit 05	7.1	6.3	6.3	5.5	6.1	6.3	6.1	6.5	7.4	10.4
CBC of Central Florida-Circuit 09	5.2	6.0	6.5	5.8	5.7	4.9	4.7	5.4	5.0	6.6
CBC of Central Florida-Seminole-Circuit 18 (Seminole County Only)	6.2	5.0	4.4	4.3	4.6	4.2	4.3	5.5	6.8	7.4
Brevard Family Partnership-Circuit 18 (Brevard County Only)	4.5	4.6	4.1	4.0	4.6	5.6	5.6	7.6	7.8	9.3
Heartland for Children-Circuit 10	8.7	7.4	6.8	7.6	7.8	7.6	6.9	7.2	7.1	9.8
Eckerd Community-Hillsborough-Circuit 13	14.9	13.3	11.8	10.6	11.3	11.2	9.7	10.2	10.8	14.9
Eckerd Community-Pasco and Pinellas-Circuit 06	9.0	8.9	9.1	8.2	8.6	9.9	8.1	8.0	8.0	10.5
Sarasota Safe Children Coalition-Circuit 12	7.8	7.0	7.2	7.0	8.0	7.6	6.3	7.3	8.9	12.4
Children's Network of SW FL-Circuit 20	7.4	7.3	6.9	5.4	5.6	6.0	6.6	8.7	8.4	10.4
Devereux CBC-Circuit 19	9.2	9.0	9.3	9.0	8.5	8.3	8.8	9.7	8.8	9.4
ChildNet-Palm Beach-Circuit 15	7.4	7.2	7.0	5.5	6.1	6.0	7.1	8.4	7.7	9.1
ChildNet-Broward-Circuit 17	8.3	8.8	8.5	8.0	7.4	7.8	9.1	11.1	12.4	15.7
Our Kids-Circuits 11 & 16	13.3	12.3	10.7	8.6	9.1	8.8	10.2	12.1	10.2	12.1
Statewide	8.6	8.0	7.6	6.8	7.2	7.1	6.9	7.9	8.0	10.4

Relationship between Out-of-Home Care, Removals and Discharges

Changes in the children in OHC population -- up or down -- are driven by changes in removals/entries and discharges/exits. Note the gaps between the two lines:

- Removals (red) above discharges (green) result in OHC increase.
- Discharges (green) above removals (red) result in OHC decrease.

National Trend

This chart shows that the national reduction in OHC 2007-11 was driven by reduction in removals. The recent increase in OHC was driven by increases in removals with no increase in discharges.
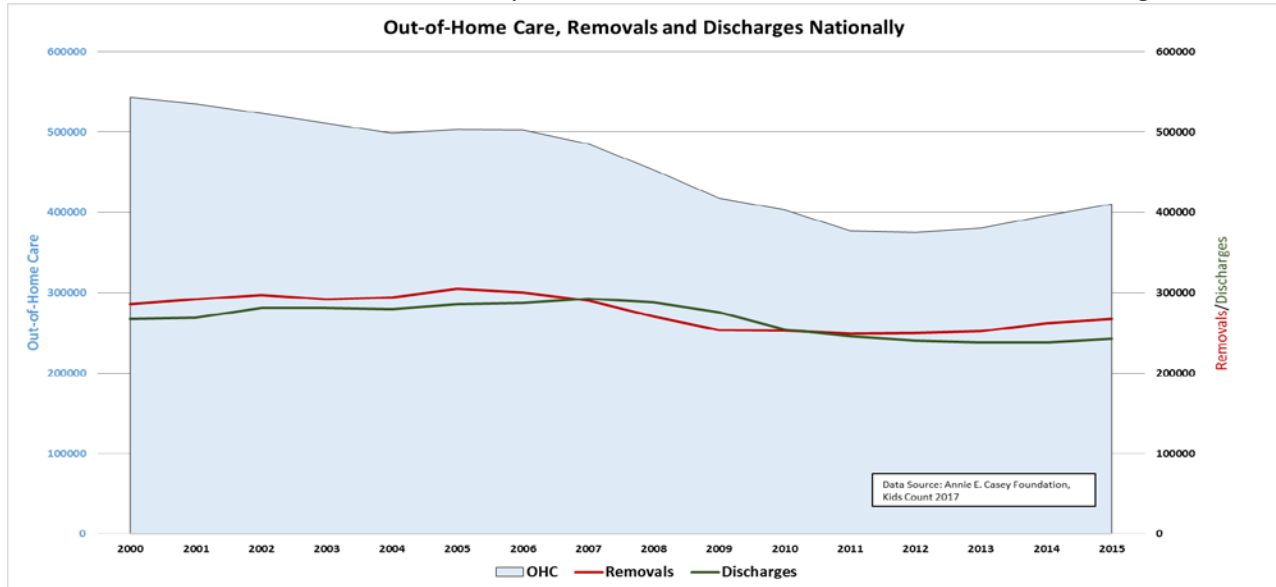
Florida Statewide Trend

Florida was similar to the national trend, but with steep reductions in removals and OHC in SFY 2007-09. Simultaneous increase in removals and decrease in discharges in 2014 drove the OHC increase.
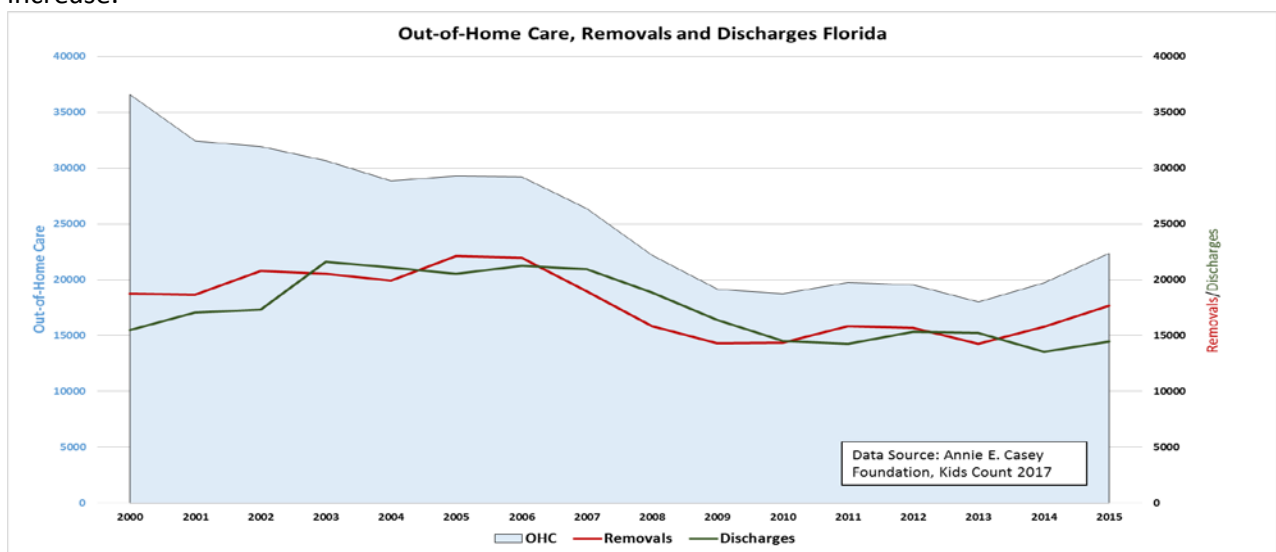
Children Exiting Foster Care per 100 in Care

In order to compare states and communities, discharges in a period are compared to the number of children in care at the end of the period.

Long-Term Trends: Florida vs. National Average

Using national data to compare total exits each Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) to children in care at the end of the FFY, Florida's rate was just below the national average in 2000, but has been consistently above the national average from 2001 through 2015.

Children Exiting Foster Care in FFY per 100 Children in Care 9/30
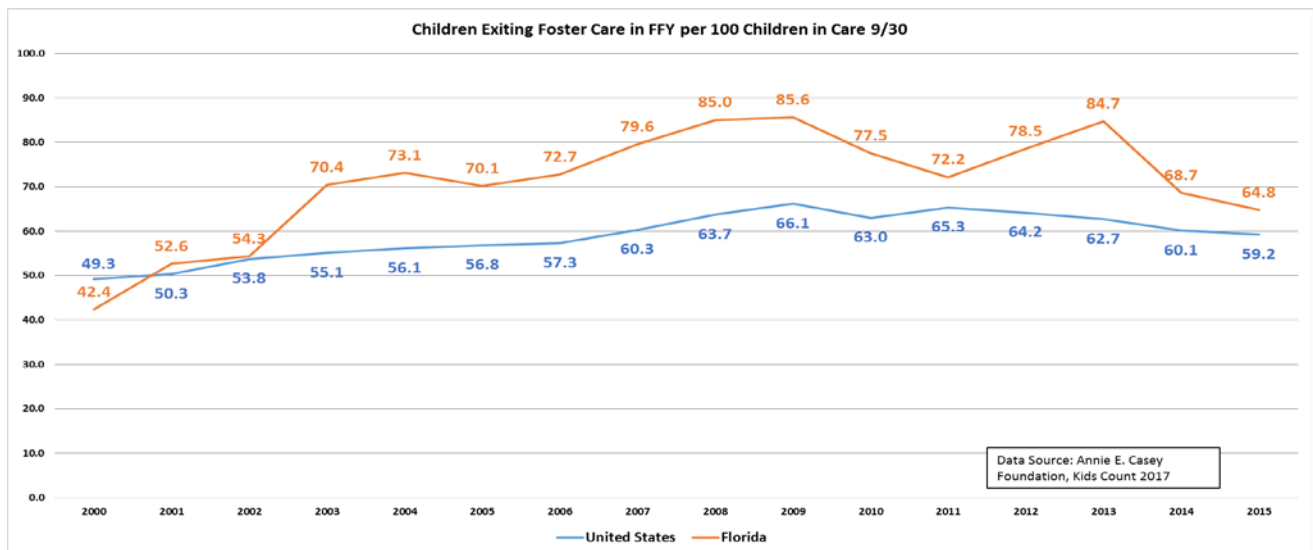
Florida Compared to Other States

The last available national data was for (FFY) 2015, ending September 30, 2015. Comparing all exits in FFY 2015 to children in care September 30, 2015, Florida's exit rate of 64.8 is above the national average of 59.2.

Children Exiting Foster Care in FFY 2014-15 per 100 Children in Care on 9/30/2015
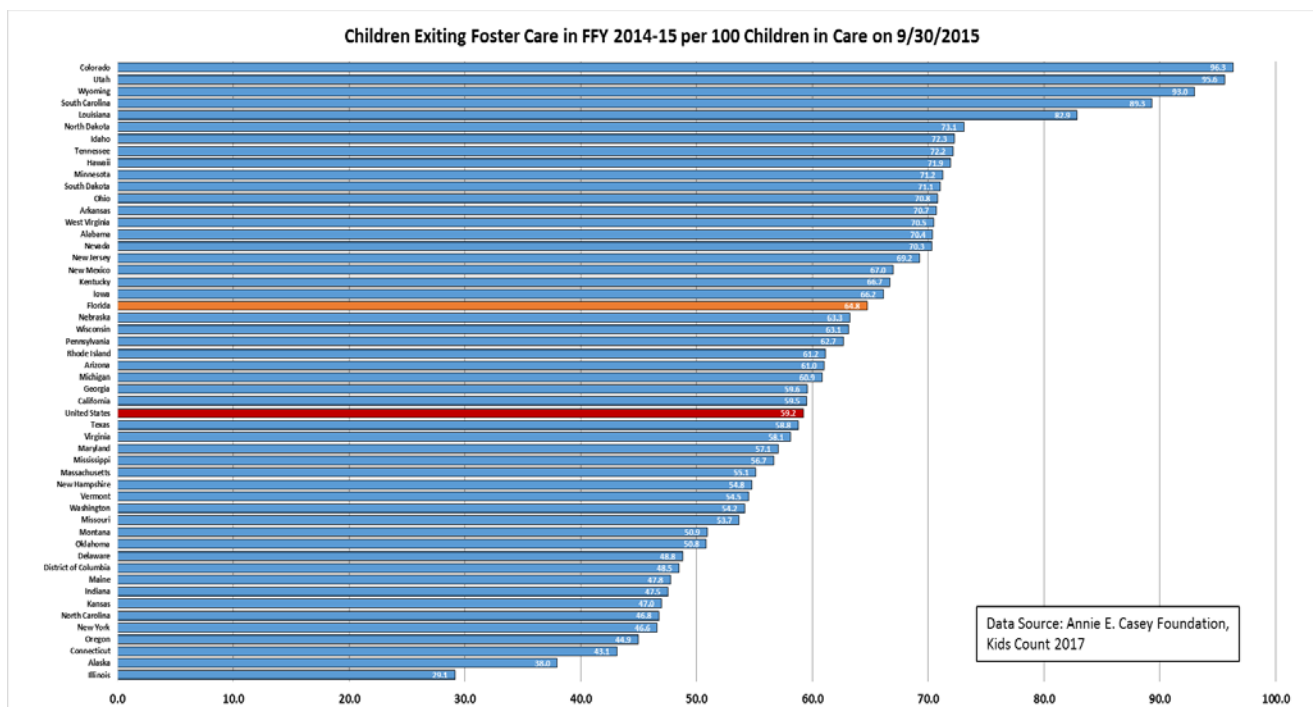
Children Exiting Foster Care per 100 in Care

Florida Statewide Trend
Florida's discharge rate in the last three fiscal years has been at the lowest point in the last decade.
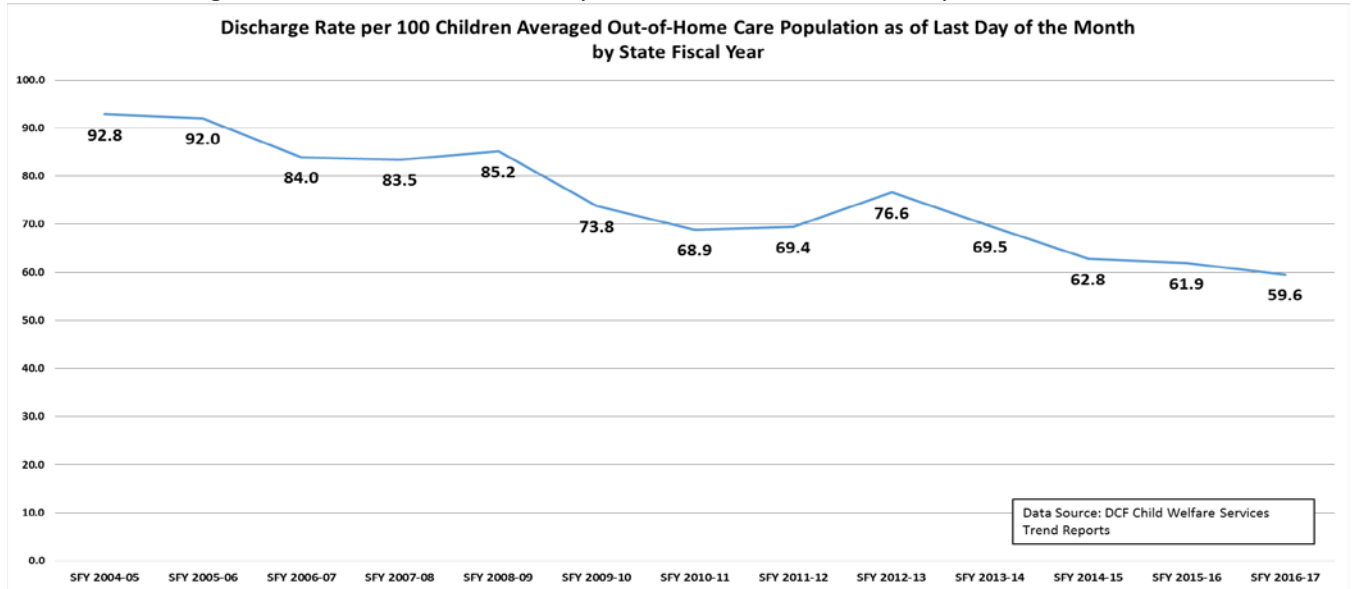
Circuit/CBC Comparisons
There is wide variation in discharge rates across the state.

Discharge Rate per 100 Children Averaged Out-of-Home Care Population as of Last Day of the Month													
Area	SFY 2004-05	SFY 2005-06	SFY 2006-07	SFY 2007-08	SFY 2008-09	SFY 2009-10	SFY 2010-11	SFY 2011-12	SFY 2012-13	SFY 2013-14	SFY 2014-15	SFY 2015-16	SFY 2016-17
Families First Network-Circuit 01	110.1	107.1	107.7	92.8	104.1	85.5	71.3	63.1	81.8	66.4	53.6	62.6	49.5
Big Bend CBC-Circuits 02 &14	102.8	93.3	98.0	102.8	115.1	88.9	82.7	74.3	78.2	67.3	62.8	67.9	59.4
Partnership for Strong Families-Circuits 03 & 08	119.2	102.2	95.3	89.1	97.1	67.2	74.4	72.1	91.9	81.8	69.2	71.9	74.7
Kids First, Inc.-Circuit 4 (Clay County Only)	102.7	80.3	79.5	87.3	88.0	75.0	96.6	46.8	83.7	52.7	67.6	60.8	46.4
Family Support Services of North FL-Circuit 04 (Duval & Nassau Counties)	97.4	108.4	92.9	109.9	109.6	86.7	58.6	67.1	91.5	67.3	81.9	59.8	57.1
St Johns Family Integrity-Circuit 07 (St Johns County Only)	145.5	124.6	94.2	100.5	104.1	70.1	73.0	90.6	96.9	130.0	50.7	54.5	64.2
Community Partnership for Children-Circuit 07 (Flagler, Putnam and Volusia Counties Only)	91.3	89.3	88.1	79.9	84.5	70.0	66.4	56.8	70.6	84.4	53.1	49.3	43.2
Kids Central, Inc.-Circuit 05	126.1	138.2	116.4	104.2	105.9	74.4	76.3	68.5	82.5	84.4	72.1	54.5	57.6
CBC of Central Florida-Circuit 09	90.4	93.9	89.0	73.9	64.0	65.1	71.4	69.6	76.5	63.9	56.6	63.0	63.8
CBC of Central Florida-Seminole-Circuit 18 (Seminole County Only)	95.9	106.5	89.4	97.6	99.8	96.5	68.8	69.6	70.7	66.4	60.7	54.0	72.9
Brevard Family Partnership-Circuit 18 (Brevard County Only)	124.8	115.5	115.2	99.1	104.5	92.2	76.2	79.3	84.0	77.3	48.2	56.5	64.9
Heartland for Children-Circuit 10	102.4	88.2	92.1	108.8	85.4	75.5	63.2	78.4	69.1	78.4	76.4	62.7	60.9
Eckerd Community-Hillsborough-Circuit 13	61.4	64.5	58.8	59.2	74.8	72.7	63.2	66.7	84.5	77.6	74.9	70.5	63.3
Eckerd Community-Pasco and Pinellas-Circuit 06	82.3	92.1	76.9	69.6	71.2	74.5	77.5	76.1	76.3	90.1	81.9	76.0	61.3
Sarasota Safe Children Coalition-Circuit 12	118.2	99.9	77.3	78.3	97.0	66.5	76.6	72.1	65.1	71.1	68.5	62.6	58.8
Children's Network of SW FL-Circuit 20	89.5	97.3	83.5	87.4	84.4	77.6	66.8	59.7	68.8	56.6	44.4	48.3	56.1
Devereux CBC-Circuit 19	85.8	88.7	79.0	90.5	86.5	67.5	67.0	76.8	54.5	59.0	53.7	75.2	79.2
ChildNet-Palm Beach-Circuit 15	77.4	79.6	75.7	91.3	74.5	77.3	72.1	70.0	73.3	62.9	63.2	63.1	69.0
ChildNet-Broward-Circuit 17	105.8	97.0	80.2	69.7	75.9	62.8	59.6	76.2	76.2	47.0	44.9	45.1	54.8
Our Kids-Circuits 11 & 16	75.9	66.2	65.2	67.0	72.4	68.5	59.1	63.5	73.0	59.3	64.1	73.6	56.2
Statewide	92.8	92.0	84.0	83.5	85.2	73.8	68.9	69.4	76.6	69.5	62.8	61.9	59.6

CBC Safety Outcome Indicators

Relative Safety by Status of Services

Child Safety Trends: Comparison of Three Indicators

Children continue to be safer while receiving services than after termination of services, as evidenced by the relative percentages of the three indicators on the following chart. The following trends are also shown:

- The percent of children with no verified maltreatment *during* case-managed in-home services has remained steady at around 97% and was 97% in January-March 2017.
- The percent of children with no verified maltreatment within six months *after termination* of case-managed services improved for those closures in April-Jun 2016 to 95.6%.
- The percent of children with no verified maltreatment within six months of termination of Family Support Services continued at a lower level than the other indicators, with those closures in July-September 2016 at 93.8%.

Measuring safety performance requires follow-up periods for maltreatment after termination of services plus two months for completion of any subsequent investigations. This chart and others in this section include the most recent available quarters.

Safety of Children During Case-Managed In-Home Services and Within Six Months of Termination from Family Support Services and Case-Managed In-Home Services
Statewide
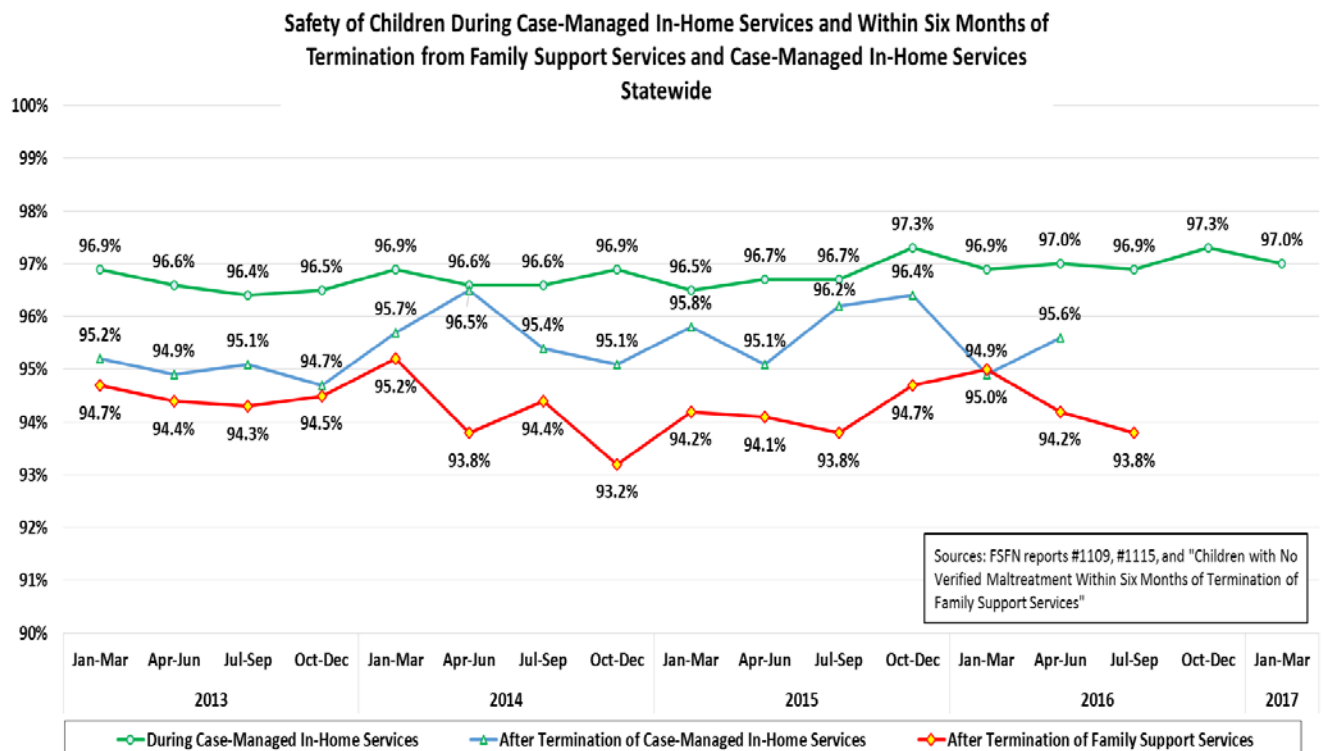
Individual Safety Indicators

Maltreatment in Foster Care

Maltreatment in foster care is a rare event compared to the three safety indicators in the last chart, so it is measured as a rate per 100,000 days in care in the federal CFSR-3. It answers the question, "Of all children in foster care during a 12-month period, what is the rate of victimization, per day of care?"

> Denominator: Of children in care during a 12-month period, total number of days these children were in care as of the end of the 12-month period.
>
> Numerator: Of children in the denominator, total number of substantiated or indicated reports of maltreatment (by any perpetrator) during a foster care episode within the 12-month period.

Florida Compared to Other States

The national standards and calculations of state performance for CFSR-3 are being revised by the Children's Bureau; however, Florida's "observed" (not "risk standardized") rate of 9.02 for the period under review does not meet the initial standard. The data below is the most recent data available.

Observed Performance: Maltreatment in Foster Care per 100,000 Days in Care. Florida Data: FFY 2015, Other States: FFY 2013

State	Rate
Massachusetts	18.74
Iowa	15.89
New York	15.60
Michigan	13.56
Oklahoma	13.06
Alaska	13.04
Indiana	11.94
Maryland	11.90
Rhode Island	11.79
Ohio	11.52
Kentucky	10.75
Oregon	9.85
Utah	9.20
Florida	9.02
Colorado	8.48
National Ave.	8.47
California	8.46
Arkansas	8.34
Illinois	7.98
Washington	7.83
Nevada	7.69
Connecticut	7.60
Nebraska	7.39
Louisiana	7.37
Delaware	7.19
Tennessee	6.91
South Carolina	6.86
New Mexico	6.72
Texas	5.86
Georgia	5.78
Kansas	5.40
Montana	5.25
New Jersey	4.80
Idaho	3.58
Vermont	3.51
Alabama	3.43
Minnesota	3.40
Maine	3.36
North Dakota	3.33
Hawaii	3.26
Wisconsin	2.79
West Virginia	2.65
Arizona	2.36
South Dakota	2.23
Virginia	1.73
Dist of Columbia	1.73
New Hampshire	1.60
Missouri	1.58
Wyoming	1.16
Pennsylvania	No data from these states
North Carolina	No data from these states
Mississippi	No data from these states

National Standard: 8.50

GOOD

Source: Children's Bureau, Florida data from "CFSR-3 Data Profile" (9/2016); Other states data from CFSR Round 3 Statewide Data Indicators Workbook" (5/2015)

Maltreatment in Foster Care

The national standards and calculations of state performance for CFSR-3 are being revised by the Children's Bureau. Florida's calculated rates are somewhat different from the rate appearing in the federal data profile used for CFSR-3, which uses AFCARS and NCANDS files submitted by states. Florida's rates are higher than on the last page, but useful for making internal comparisons and measuring progress.

Florida Statewide Trend

Florida has shown overall improvement in the last six years with a strong decline in SFY 2016-17. Maltreatment in OHC is a rare event compared to maltreatment during in-home services.

Rate of Verified Maltreatment per 100,000 Child-Days for Children in Out-of-Home Care by State Fiscal Year
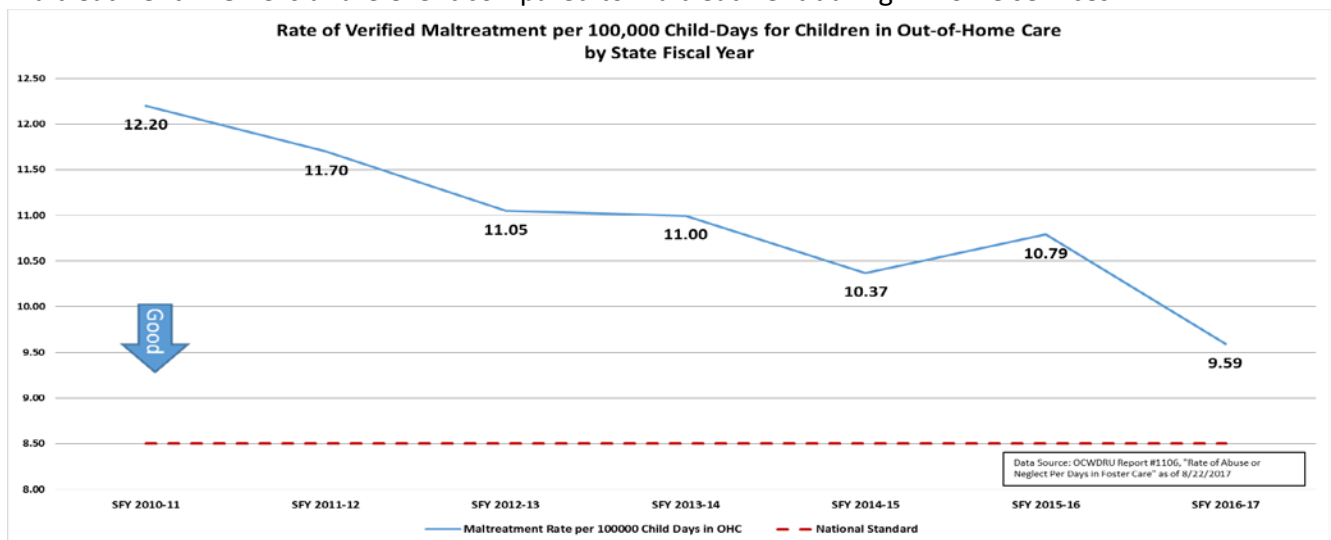
Circuit/CBC Comparisons

There is wide variation around the state on this indicator. Some differences of this indicator are likely due to differences in reporting maltreatment to the Hotline, differences in verification rates, and use of kinship care, which is typically higher than licensed care.

Rate of Verified Maltreatment per 100,000 Child-Days for Children in Out-of-Home Care (National Standard is 8.5 or Less)							
Area	SFY 2010-11	SFY 2011-12	SFY 2012-13	SFY 2013-14	SFY 2014-15	SFY 2015-16	SFY 2016-17
Families First Network-Circuit 01	10.46	11.54	7.77	9.13	12.37	8.86	8.15
Big Bend CBC-Circuits 02 &14	9.92	7.77	10.62	7.55	6.31	7.83	10.93
Partnership for Strong Families-Circuits 03 & 08	14.67	9.60	12.39	20.57	11.25	8.28	7.77
Kids First, Inc.-Circuit 4 (Clay County Only)	15.95	9.53	9.64	9.25	8.66	7.92	5.39
Family Support Services of North FL-Circuit 04 (Duval & Nassau Counties)	14.34	16.30	14.69	7.38	7.66	6.36	6.25
St Johns Family Integrity-Circuit 07 (St Johns County Only)	7.05	14.59	12.15	8.41	10.55	10.37	9.05
Community Partnership for Children-Circuit 07 (Flagler, Putnam and Volusia Counties Only)	12.79	14.73	7.69	4.97	5.07	9.31	9.75
Kids Central, Inc.-Circuit 05	10.64	13.52	12.39	12.74	9.32	12.42	6.45
CBC of Central Florida-Circuit 09	14.62	16.88	16.34	9.97	11.64	9.37	8.94
CBC of Central Florida-Seminole-Circuit 18 (Seminole County Only)	10.01	4.32	12.96	6.78	8.29	13.76	6.86
Brevard Family Partnership-Circuit 18 (Brevard County Only)	30.61	26.18	16.19	20.52	12.15	14.78	9.78
Heartland for Children-Circuit 10	11.14	9.60	7.59	7.06	8.85	13.46	6.76
Eckerd Community-Hillsborough-Circuit 13	11.27	9.01	11.15	12.11	10.49	11.26	10.68
Eckerd Community-Pasco and Pinellas-Circuit 06	15.35	16.28	10.70	13.28	9.13	9.87	7.51
Sarasota Safe Children Coalition-Circuit 12	9.27	8.92	10.17	4.96	9.43	15.80	14.38
Children's Network of SW FL-Circuit 20	8.89	9.45	7.88	9.33	7.81	12.34	19.47
Devereux CBC-Circuit 19	13.58	13.03	9.99	4.94	14.30	7.25	11.73
ChildNet-Palm Beach-Circuit 15	7.70	3.51	8.16	13.35	12.31	8.53	11.34
ChildNet-Broward-Circuit 17	13.12	12.27	15.69	15.84	12.42	12.09	9.71
Our Kids-Circuits 11 & 16	8.77	7.22	9.60	9.96	11.75	11.30	7.08
Statewide	**12.20**	**11.70**	**11.05**	**11.00**	**10.37**	**10.79**	**9.59**

Maltreatment during Case-Managed Services

Children receiving case-managed in-home services include:
- Children found to be unsafe and needing ongoing assessment, planning, services, and frequent case manager visits to ensure safety while preventing removal and placement.
- Children receiving post-placement supervision.

As this service is for "unsafe" children with potential for removal, it is not surprising that some may have verified maltreatment while receiving these services. As with other recurrence indicators, measurement is influenced by verification rates.

Florida Statewide Trend
There is no standard for this indicator, but performance has been relatively flat the last few years.

Percentage of Children Receiving In-Home Services Who Were Not Maltreated During Services by State Fiscal Year

91.88% — 92.38% — 93.81% — 93.30% — 93.36% — 93.67% — 94.07%

Data Source: OCWDRU Report #1109, "Children Who are Not Neglected or Abused During In-Home Services" as of 8/22/2017
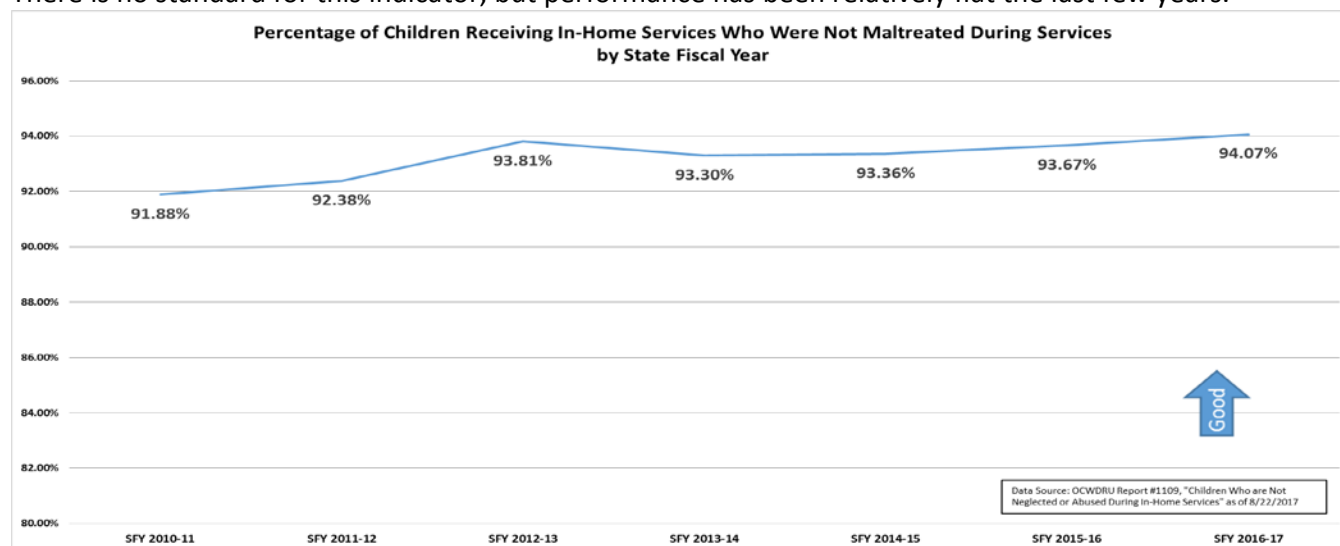
Circuit/CBC Comparisons
Statewide, there is a narrow range when comparing children receiving in-home services by area.

Percentage of Children Receiving In-Home Services Who Were Not Maltreated During Services by State Fiscal Year

Area	SFY 2010-11	SFY 2011-12	SFY 2012-13	SFY 2013-14	SFY 2014-15	SFY 2015-16	SFY 2016-17
Families First Network-Circuit 01	89.56%	89.80%	91.23%	90.68%	92.20%	93.23%	92.89%
Big Bend CBC-Circuits 02 &14	91.82%	93.85%	93.42%	93.17%	94.22%	95.92%	94.19%
Partnership for Strong Families-Circuits 03 & 08	89.59%	91.85%	92.18%	91.79%	90.65%	93.06%	95.77%
Kids First, Inc.-Circuit 4 (Clay County Only)	85.25%	90.40%	91.79%	93.59%	90.91%	92.40%	93.35%
Family Support Services of North FL-Circuit 04 (Duval & Nassau Counties)	90.76%	89.72%	93.22%	91.52%	92.86%	92.70%	92.43%
St Johns Family Integrity-Circuit 07 (St Johns County Only)	100.00%	86.62%	91.39%	94.24%	93.64%	95.15%	88.06%
Community Partnership for Children-Circuit 07 (Flagler, Putnam and Volusia Counties Only)	90.57%	92.72%	94.26%	95.21%	92.77%	91.01%	91.02%
Kids Central, Inc.-Circuit 05	93.15%	93.43%	95.54%	95.24%	95.41%	92.43%	95.38%
CBC of Central Florida-Circuit 09	93.20%	92.54%	93.46%	93.64%	94.07%	93.80%	94.12%
CBC of Central Florida-Seminole-Circuit 18 (Seminole County Only)	92.74%	93.60%	95.19%	92.84%	93.37%	92.06%	93.67%
Brevard Family Partnership-Circuit 18 (Brevard County Only)	90.97%	91.74%	92.71%	92.47%	93.50%	94.65%	93.02%
Heartland for Children-Circuit 10	92.14%	95.27%	93.24%	95.21%	95.41%	94.55%	96.74%
Eckerd Community-Hillsborough-Circuit 13	93.06%	91.61%	94.39%	94.29%	93.01%	93.88%	93.30%
Eckerd Community-Pasco and Pinellas-Circuit 06	89.86%	89.73%	90.04%	93.25%	93.04%	93.13%	95.58%
Sarasota Safe Children Coalition-Circuit 12	93.05%	93.50%	93.44%	95.26%	91.94%	92.01%	94.14%
Children's Network of SW FL-Circuit 20	89.72%	88.57%	91.48%	92.80%	94.13%	93.30%	94.52%
Devereux CBC-Circuit 19	90.54%	90.69%	91.38%	94.20%	91.43%	93.74%	94.46%
ChildNet-Palm Beach-Circuit 15	95.05%	92.24%	94.68%	92.23%	94.09%	97.45%	95.42%
ChildNet-Broward-Circuit 17	91.54%	92.56%	96.34%	90.48%	88.97%	91.29%	91.75%
Our Kids-Circuits 11 & 16	96.28%	96.42%	96.93%	94.22%	95.32%	96.64%	96.59%
Statewide	**91.88%**	**92.38%**	**93.81%**	**93.30%**	**93.36%**	**93.67%**	**94.07%**

Maltreatment after Termination of Case-Managed Services

Just as it is important to ensure safety of children receiving services, it is also important that supervision not be terminated prematurely, if the risk of subsequent maltreatment remains high.

Florida Statewide Trend

Florida has shown steady progress on this indicator.
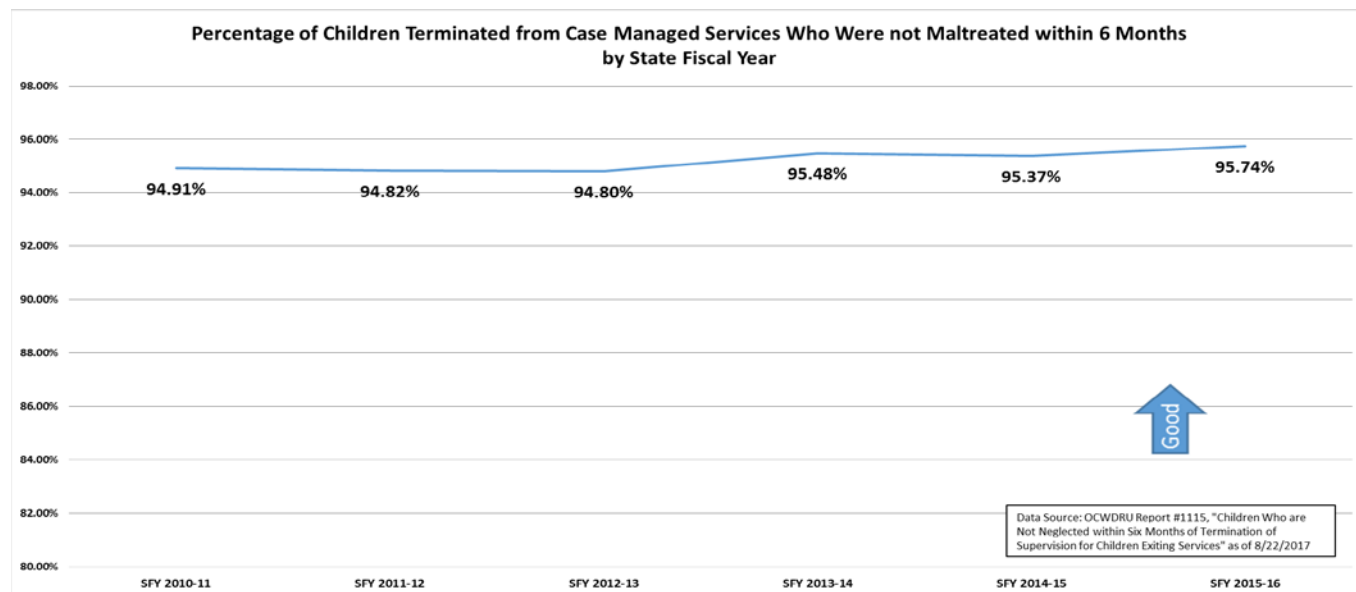
Circuit/CBC Comparisons

The high rate of non-recurrence on this indicator indicates that children are generally safe after termination of services. Data for the entire fiscal year is used in the chart below.

Percentage of Children Terminated from Case Managed Services Who Were not Maltreated within 6 Months by State Fiscal Year						
Area	SFY 2010-11	SFY 2011-12	SFY 2012-13	SFY 2013-14	SFY 2014-15	SFY 2015-16
Families First Network-Circuit 01	93.43%	96.36%	95.47%	95.67%	96.37%	95.63%
Big Bend CBC-Circuits 02 &14	94.99%	95.98%	92.92%	96.54%	95.77%	94.93%
Partnership for Strong Families-Circuits 03 & 08	94.04%	93.67%	94.43%	92.45%	93.55%	95.47%
Kids First, Inc.-Circuit 4 (Clay County Only)	89.64%	91.50%	96.84%	99.02%	94.26%	93.10%
Family Support Services of North FL-Circuit 04 (Duval & Nassau Counties)	94.90%	94.42%	95.59%	96.17%	94.51%	93.91%
St Johns Family Integrity-Circuit 07 (St Johns County Only)	85.71%	88.89%	94.55%	93.02%	87.13%	93.08%
Community Partnership for Children-Circuit 07 (Flagler, Putnam and Volusia Counties Only)	94.66%	95.22%	95.28%	93.89%	94.82%	95.06%
Kids Central, Inc.-Circuit 05	95.10%	93.75%	94.98%	95.81%	95.62%	94.67%
CBC of Central Florida-Circuit 09	96.32%	95.80%	94.01%	97.67%	94.37%	95.58%
CBC of Central Florida-Seminole-Circuit 18 (Seminole County Only)	98.19%	94.05%	95.38%	97.67%	95.34%	95.21%
Brevard Family Partnership-Circuit 18 (Brevard County Only)	92.10%	92.42%	95.65%	93.33%	91.54%	94.86%
Heartland for Children-Circuit 10	95.45%	95.65%	96.72%	98.53%	96.28%	95.91%
Eckerd Community-Hillsborough-Circuit 13	96.83%	94.56%	100.00%	96.01%	96.64%	96.33%
Eckerd Community-Pasco and Pinellas-Circuit 06	92.99%	91.53%	91.67%	94.50%	94.18%	95.13%
Sarasota Safe Children Coalition-Circuit 12	94.91%	95.90%	95.59%	93.28%	92.59%	94.84%
Children's Netwrok of SW FL-Circuit 20	96.70%	94.79%	94.66%	95.68%	96.86%	95.96%
Devereux CBC-Circuit 19	93.68%	94.15%	93.70%	96.41%	96.25%	96.12%
ChildNet-Palm Beach-Circuit 15	96.48%	96.68%	95.98%	93.04%	96.05%	95.59%
ChildNet-Brwoard-Circuit 17	96.11%	96.21%	85.71%	96.36%	96.52%	97.57%
Our Kids-Circuits 11 & 16	96.02%	95.80%	95.57%	95.41%	96.08%	97.83%
Statewide	**94.91%**	**94.82%**	**94.80%**	**95.48%**	**95.37%**	**95.74%**

Permanency Indicators

Timely Achievement of Permanency

Permanency within 12 Months from Three Starting Points

The federal CFSR-3 includes three indicators of timely permanency, plus a companion indicator of re-entry into care after discharge. Each of the three timely permanency indicators measures achievement of permanency within 12 months for a different cohort of children, based on a certain period or date.

- **Entry Cohort.** This indicator measures the proportion of children in a cohort of children who were removed and entered care in the same period and achieved permanency within 12 months of removal.
- **In Care 12-23 Months Cohort.** This indicator measures the proportion of children in a cohort of children who were in care 12-23 months on the same date and achieved permanency within 12 months of the reporting period.
- **In Care 24+ Months Cohort.** This indicator measures the proportion of children in a cohort of children who were in care 24 or more months on the same date and achieved permanency within 12 months of the reporting period.

The national standards and calculations of state performance for CFSR-3 are being revised by the Children's Bureau. The following chart shows that Florida's performance has been above the initial national standards on all three indicators for the last six years. Performance on the entry cohort indicator has declined in the last few years, but is still above the national standard. Performance on the in-care 12-23 months indicator is consistently above the national standard. Performance on the in-care 24+ months cohort dipped in the SFY 2015-16 year, but remained constantly above the national standard.

Indicators of Permanency within 12 Months: From Entry, In Care 12-23 Months, In care 24+ Months by State Fiscal Year
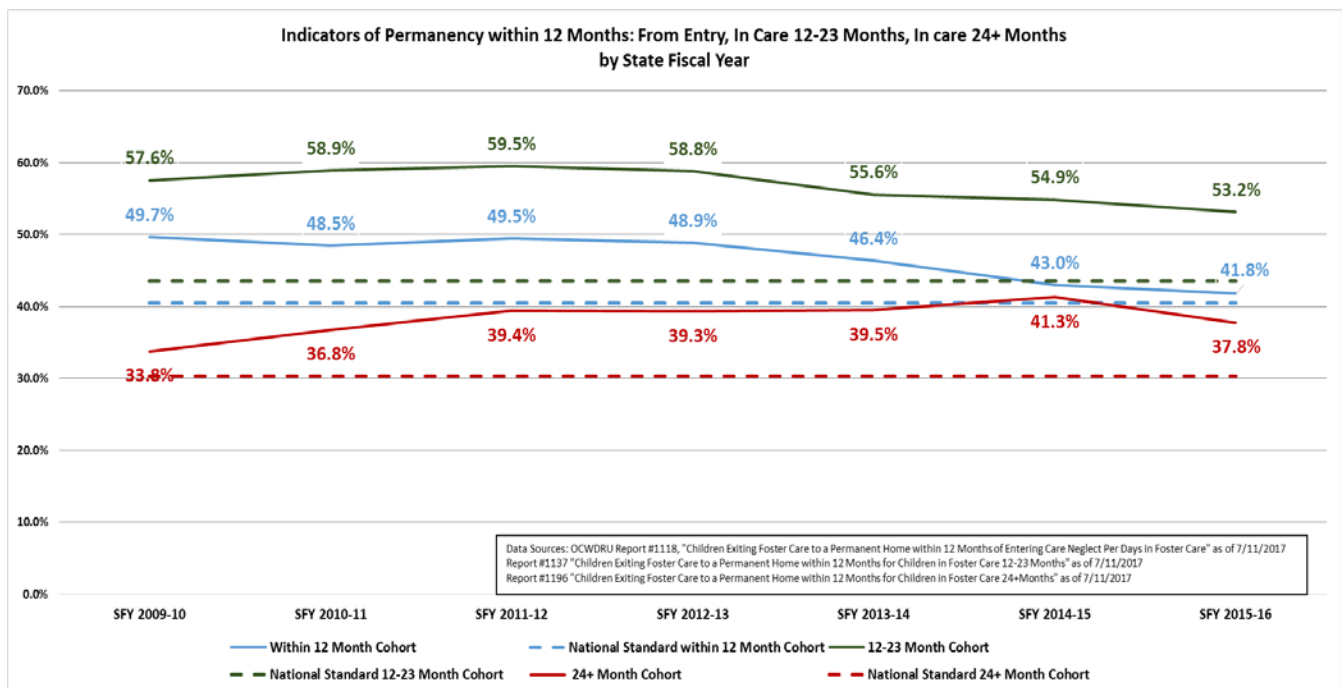
Permanency in 12 Months for Children Entering Care

The first of the CFSR-3 permanency indicators answers the question, "Of all children who enter care in a 12-month period, what percent discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering care?"

> Denominator: Number of children who enter care in a 12-month period.
>
> Numerator: Number of children in the denominator who discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering care.

Florida Compared to Other States

Florida's "observed" (not "risk standardized") performance of 47.1% for children removed in April 2013 – March 2014 was above the initial national standard and was among the top states in the nation in the period used for CFSR-3. The figure below includes the most recent data available for this indicator.

Observed Performance: Permanency within 12 Months for Children Entering Foster Care. Florida Data: 4/2013-3/2014, Other States: 4/2011-3/2012

State	Percent
Arkansas	63.8%
South Carolina	63.1%
Minnesota	58.9%
Wyoming	55.1%
Colorado	54.3%
Louisiana	51.6%
Kentucky	49.7%
Alabama	49.0%
Rhode Island	47.9%
Mississippi	47.9%
Florida	47.1%
Massachusetts	46.8%
Utah	46.7%
Tennessee	46.0%
Ohio	45.9%
Indiana	45.9%
South Dakota	45.6%
Georgia	45.6%
Wisconsin	45.4%
Idaho	45.2%
Hawaii	44.9%
Iowa	44.4%
Oregon	43.9%
Nevada	42.6%
National Ave.	41.1%
Kansas	40.8%
New Jersey	40.6%
Maryland	40.0%
North Dakota	38.9%
Delaware	38.9%
Texas	38.3%
Pennsylvania	37.6%
California	37.3%
Vermont	37.2%
Nebraska	37.2%
Montana	36.8%
Missouri	36.7%
New Hampshire	36.2%
New York	33.6%
Michigan	32.6%
New Mexico	32.5%
Washington	32.3%
Oklahoma	30.8%
Arizona	30.5%
Alaska	29.6%
Dist of Columbia	29.4%
Virginia	28.7%
Connecticut	26.9%
Maine	25.3%
Illinois	15.9%
West Virginia	No data from these states
North Carolina	No data from these states

GOOD

National Standard: 40.5%

Source: Children's Bureau, Florida data from "CFSR-3 Data Profile" (9/2016); Other states data from CFSR Round 3 Statewide Data Indicators Workbook" (5/2015)

Permanency in 12 Months for Children Entering Care

Florida Statewide Trend

Florida's performance has been declining since the period used for CFSR-3, but remains just above the initial national standard.

Percentage of Children Achieving Permanency within Twelve Months for Children Removed by State Fiscal Year
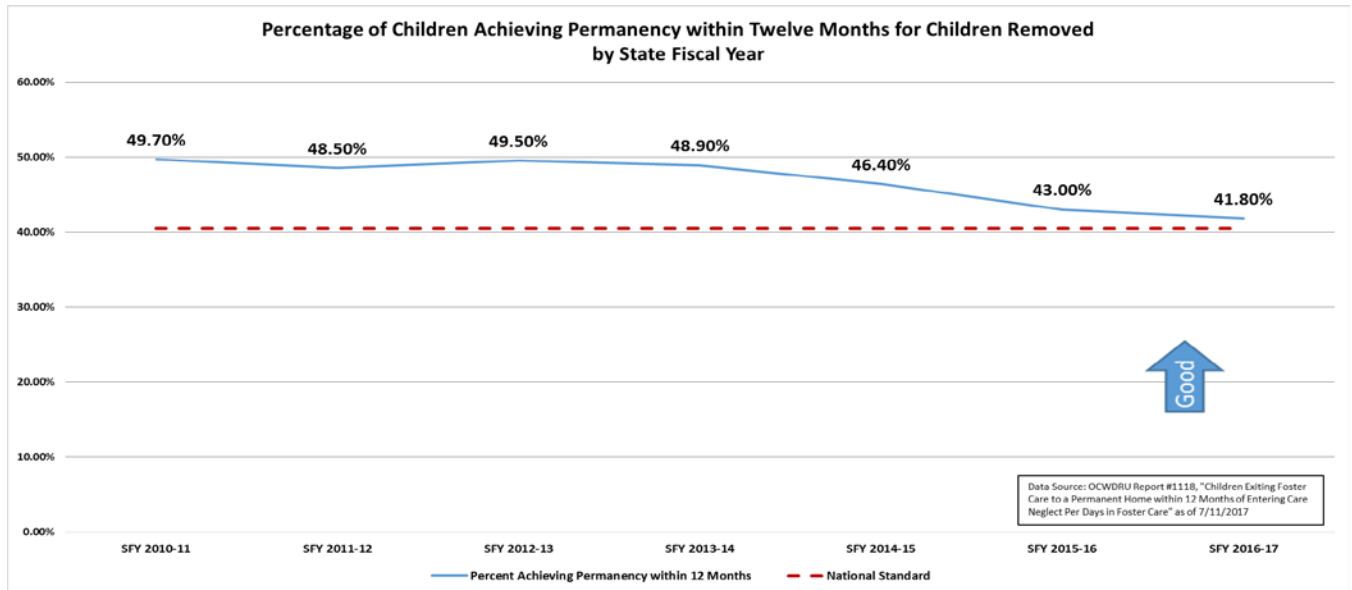
Circuit/CBC Comparisons

Although Florida's statewide performance is above the CFSR-3 initial national standard, almost half the areas are below the standard.

Percentage of Children Achieving Permanency within Twelve Months for Children Removed by State Fiscal Year							
Area	SFY 2009-10	SFY 2010-11	SFY 2011-12	SFY 2012-13	SFY 2013-14	SFY 2014-15	SFY 2015-16
Families First Network-Circuit 01	55.10%	48.20%	54.20%	47.20%	44.30%	47.50%	37.10%
Big Bend CBC-Circuits 02 &14	62.80%	52.20%	48.40%	43.80%	37.50%	38.60%	33.60%
Partnership for Strong Families-Circuits 03 & 08	53.30%	54.60%	59.50%	54.70%	53.90%	52.00%	52.80%
Kids First, Inc.-Circuit 4 (Clay County Only)	65.40%	48.00%	44.70%	28.70%	37.70%	36.60%	32.90%
Family Support Services of North FL-Circuit 04 (Duval & Nassau Counties)	50.30%	54.40%	57.60%	54.40%	59.00%	52.90%	45.00%
St Johns Family Integrity-Circuit 07 (St Johns County Only)	48.50%	52.50%	56.70%	62.50%	54.50%	34.20%	32.80%
Community Partnership for Children-Circuit 07 (Flagler, Putnam and Volusia Counties Only)	43.50%	35.10%	34.10%	40.80%	27.20%	36.90%	30.20%
Kids Central, Inc.-Circuit 05	52.90%	50.70%	57.90%	58.30%	51.70%	40.20%	42.50%
CBC of Central Florida-Circuit 09	45.00%	46.60%	46.40%	43.00%	38.40%	29.90%	36.40%
CBC of Central Florida-Seminole-Circuit 18 (Seminole County Only)	59.60%	43.40%	34.50%	36.70%	38.00%	31.90%	39.80%
Brevard Family Partnership-Circuit 18 (Brevard County Only)	56.40%	58.60%	52.60%	51.50%	44.90%	37.00%	32.90%
Heartland for Children-Circuit 10	46.80%	53.40%	49.20%	47.90%	50.30%	47.40%	41.30%
Eckerd Community-Hillsborough-Circuit 13	54.40%	55.40%	46.80%	59.20%	53.60%	51.20%	47.20%
Eckerd Community-Pasco and Pinellas-Circuit 06	44.50%	42.80%	51.70%	50.70%	52.30%	44.60%	48.30%
Sarasota Safe Children Coalition-Circuit 12	53.10%	56.50%	49.30%	49.30%	48.80%	48.00%	47.20%
Children's Netwrok of SW FL-Circuit 20	53.20%	49.00%	52.10%	47.10%	43.60%	40.10%	45.10%
Devereux CBC-Circuit 19	37.60%	45.80%	42.90%	44.10%	36.70%	38.80%	43.30%
ChildNet-Palm Beach-Circuit 15	45.20%	41.10%	44.50%	48.70%	54.80%	46.60%	48.40%
ChildNet-Brwoard-Circuit 17	44.10%	47.80%	47.90%	42.30%	35.70%	30.80%	33.50%
Our Kids-Circuits 11 & 16	44.80%	38.10%	47.40%	41.50%	43.00%	50.40%	40.70%
Statewide	49.70%	48.50%	49.50%	48.90%	46.40%	43.00%	41.80%

Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Care 12-23 Months

This permanency indicator answers the question, "Of all children in care on the first day of a 12-month period who had been in care (in that episode) between 12 and 23 months, what percent discharged to permanency within 12 months of the first day?"

> Denominator: Number of children in care on the first day of a 12-month period, who had been in care (in that episode) between 12 and 23 months.
>
> Numerator: Number of children in the denominator who discharged to permanency within 12 months of the 1st day.

Florida Compared to Other States

National standards and calculations of state performance for CFSR-3 are being revised; however, Florida's "observed" (not "risk standardized") performance in 2015-16 was above the CFSR-3 initial standard and higher than most states in the nation in the comparison period. This is the most recent data available for this indicator.

Observed Performance: Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Foster Care 12-23 Mos. Florida Data: 4/2015-3/2016, Other States: 4/2013-3/2014

State	Value
Idaho	62.6%
West Virginia	59.0%
Iowa	57.7%
Texas	57.0%
Louisiana	54.8%
Florida	53.7%
Nevada	53.6%
Arizona	53.1%
Arkansas	52.5%
Tennessee	51.8%
Utah	51.3%
Michigan	50.4%
Wyoming	49.7%
Hawaii	48.5%
Nebraska	48.4%
Alaska	45.6%
Georgia	45.5%
Colorado	45.5%
Vermont	45.1%
Ohio	44.7%
New Mexico	44.2%
Missouri	44.2%
National Ave.	44.1%
Indiana	43.6%
Maryland	43.5%
South Dakota	43.1%
Washington	42.6%
Pennsylvania	42.6%
New Jersey	42.5%
Kansas	42.3%
Wisconsin	42.1%
South Carolina	42.1%
Rhode Island	42.1%
Minnesota	42.0%
Dist of Columbia	41.8%
Maine	41.5%
Delaware	40.9%
Montana	40.6%
California	40.5%
Oregon	40.3%
Virginia	40.2%
Oklahoma	40.1%
Alabama	39.4%
Massachusetts	38.7%
North Dakota	38.5%
Mississippi	38.4%
New Hampshire	34.3%
Kentucky	33.9%
Connecticut	33.2%
New York	25.9%
Illinois	23.9%
North Carolina	No data from North Carolina

GOOD

National Standard: 43.6%

Source: Children's Bureau, Florida data from "CFSR-3 Data Profile" (9/2016); Other states data from CFSR Round 3 Statewide Data Indicators Workbook" (5/2015)

Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Care 12-23 Months

Florida Statewide Trend

Florida's performance has declined since the 2013 cohort used for the CFSR-3, but continues to exceed the initial national standard.
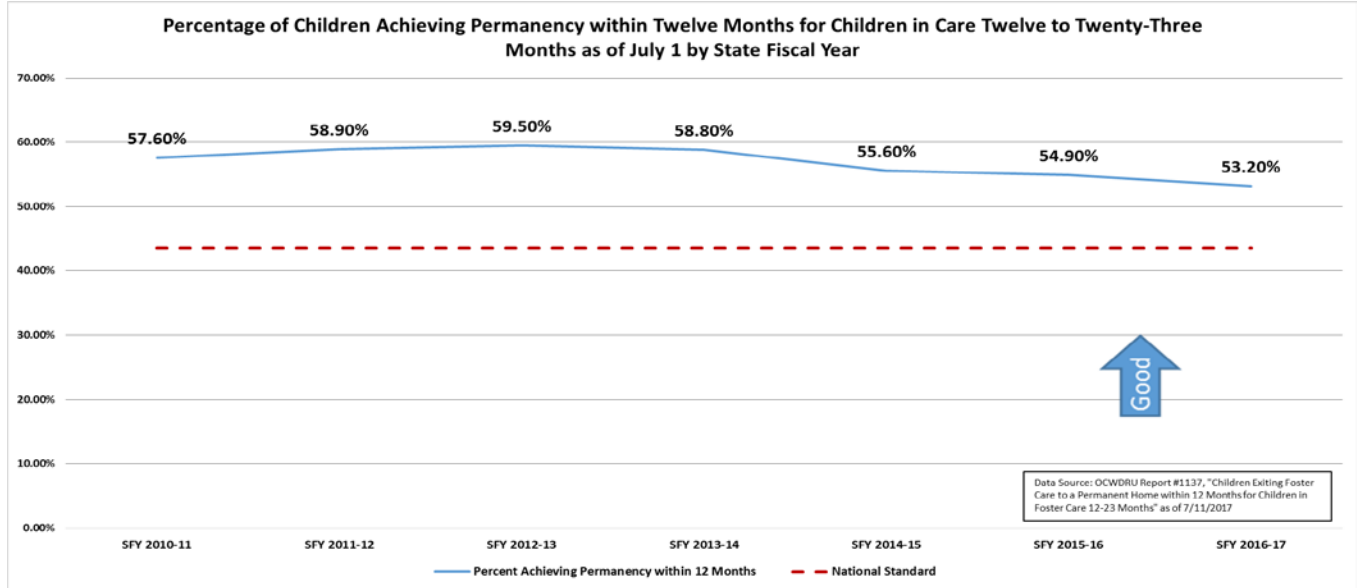
Circuit/CBC Comparisons

Throughout the state, high performance on achieving permanency within 12 months of the reporting period is displayed below.

Percentage of Children Achieving Permanency within Twelve Months for Children in Care Twelve to Twenty-Three Months as of July 1 by State Fiscal Year							
Area	SFY 2010-11	SFY 2011-12	SFY 2012-13	SFY 2013-14	SFY 2014-15	SFY 2015-16	SFY 2016-17
Families First Network-Circuit 01	60.00%	63.90%	64.30%	67.70%	59.00%	51.50%	50.70%
Big Bend CBC-Circuits 02 &14	64.70%	60.60%	55.10%	56.40%	62.60%	63.00%	53.30%
Partnership for Strong Families-Circuits 03 & 08	73.60%	75.10%	67.80%	76.10%	64.10%	61.20%	64.90%
Kids First, Inc.-Circuit 4 (Clay County Only)	86.30%	40.90%	69.80%	62.50%	75.50%	82.00%	47.90%
Family Support Services of North FL-Circuit 04 (Duval & Nassau Counties)	51.50%	64.90%	67.90%	62.50%	62.70%	62.00%	78.10%
St Johns Family Integrity-Circuit 07 (St Johns County Only)	64.00%	58.00%	79.30%	82.10%	61.50%	48.10%	62.90%
Community Partnership for Children-Circuit 07 (Flagler, Putnam and Volusia Counties Only)	60.60%	54.80%	61.80%	70.60%	60.20%	52.60%	47.50%
Kids Central, Inc.-Circuit 05	61.30%	61.20%	71.70%	59.40%	60.50%	53.90%	44.60%
CBC of Central Florida-Circuit 09	54.20%	47.60%	62.80%	55.10%	57.80%	56.50%	59.00%
CBC of Central Florida-Seminole-Circuit 18 (Seminole County Only)	40.00%	66.60%	49.30%	48.90%	47.40%	61.00%	62.00%
Brevard Family Partnership-Circuit 18 (Brevard County Only)	53.80%	62.00%	64.20%	61.40%	37.80%	38.70%	50.90%
Heartland for Children-Circuit 10	48.00%	64.40%	58.10%	55.10%	64.30%	48.40%	58.10%
Eckerd Community-Hillsborough-Circuit 13	65.50%	62.50%	57.00%	65.60%	59.40%	55.50%	54.60%
Eckerd Community-Pasco and Pinellas-Circuit 06	57.40%	62.30%	63.70%	63.70%	60.10%	52.00%	50.10%
Sarasota Safe Children Coalition-Circuit 12	66.60%	66.00%	62.90%	65.10%	66.90%	59.70%	49.20%
Children's Network of SW FL-Circuit 20	59.40%	57.40%	59.20%	52.30%	46.20%	47.60%	53.10%
Devereux CBC-Circuit 19	58.90%	65.60%	51.10%	39.60%	59.20%	69.60%	64.10%
ChildNet-Palm Beach-Circuit 15	51.80%	46.30%	52.70%	61.60%	55.50%	58.60%	46.80%
ChildNet-Broward-Circuit 17	54.70%	54.10%	53.00%	38.70%	45.50%	50.10%	50.40%
Our Kids-Circuits 11 & 16	45.00%	48.00%	49.70%	51.70%	44.50%	57.80%	50.50%
Statewide	57.60%	58.90%	59.50%	58.80%	55.60%	54.90%	53.20%

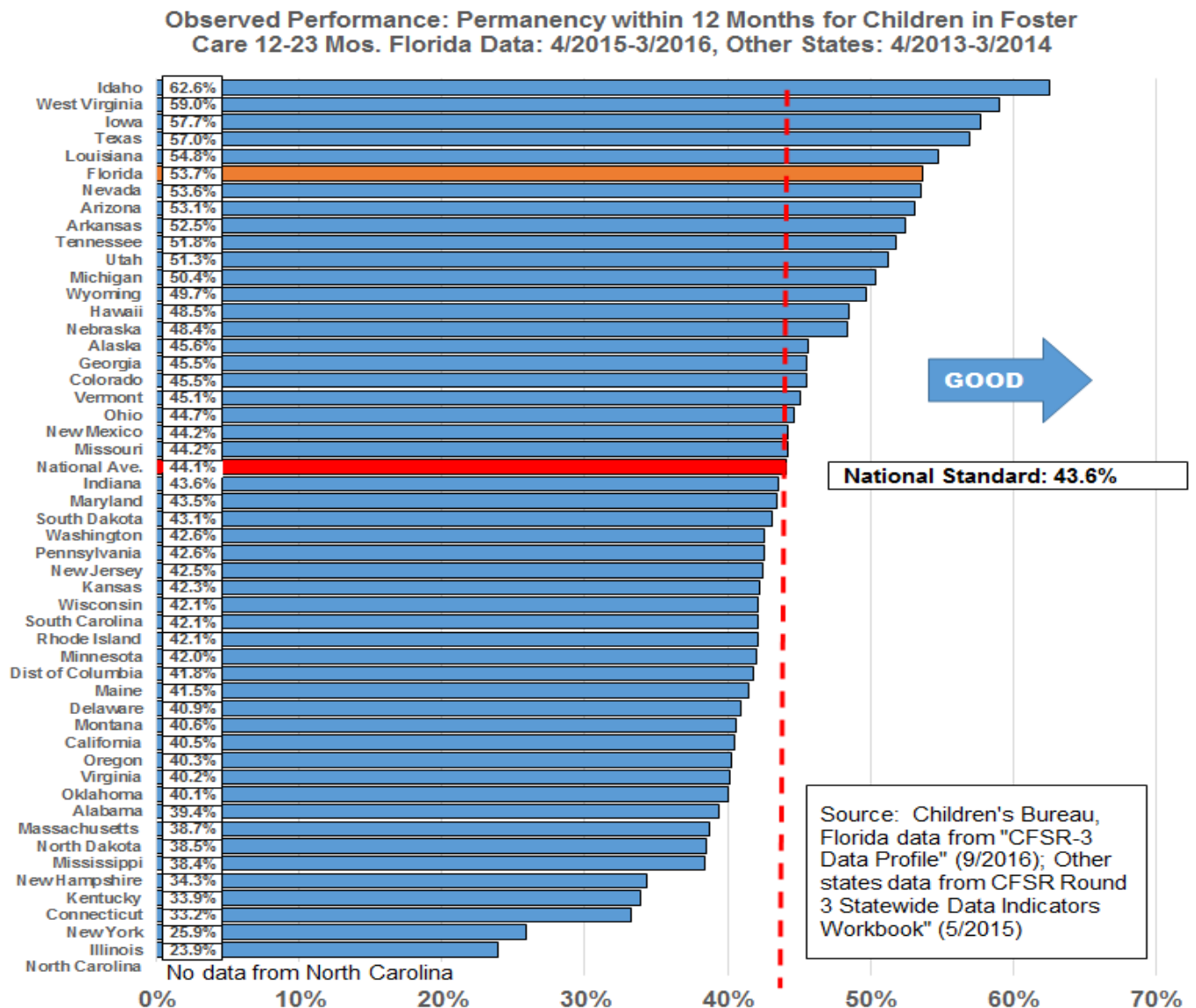# Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Care 24+ Months

This permanency indicator answers the question, "Of all children in care on the first day of a 12-month period, who had been in care (in that episode) for 24 months or more, what percent discharged to permanency within 12 months of the first day?"

> Denominator: Number of children in care on the first day of a 12-month period, who had been in care (in that episode) for 24 months or more.
>
> Numerator: Number of children in the denominator who discharged to permanency within 12 months of the 1st day.

Florida Compared to Other States

The national standards and calculations of state performance for CFSR-3 are being revised; however, Florida's "observed" (not "risk standardized") performance in 2015-16 was above the CFSR-3 initial standard and higher than most states in the comparison period. This is the most recent data available for this indicator.

Observed Performance: Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Foster Care 24+ Months. Florida Data: 4/2015-3/2016, Other States: 4/2013-3/2014

State	Percent
West Virginia	44.3%
Nevada	44.3%
Tennessee	43.0%
Louisiana	42.5%
Florida	42.2%
Hawaii	41.6%
Arizona	40.6%
Idaho	40.4%
New Jersey	40.3%
Alaska	39.4%
Nebraska	39.0%
Pennsylvania	38.7%
Michigan	38.5%
Wisconsin	37.6%
Washington	37.3%
New Mexico	36.7%
South Carolina	35.8%
Wyoming	35.5%
Dist of Columbia	35.5%
Georgia	34.4%
Mississippi	34.2%
New Hampshire	33.9%
Alabama	33.5%
Kentucky	33.4%
Oklahoma	33.1%
Indiana	33.1%
Missouri	32.1%
Iowa	31.6%
Montana	31.1%
Arkansas	30.8%
National Ave.	30.7%
Texas	30.6%
Oregon	29.5%
Kansas	29.0%
Virginia	28.8%
Ohio	28.2%
Rhode Island	28.0%
Maine	27.5%
South Dakota	27.4%
New York	27.4%
Colorado	27.0%
Delaware	26.7%
Illinois	26.6%
Maryland	24.5%
Vermont	24.3%
Massachusetts	24.2%
Utah	22.9%
California	22.4%
Minnesota	20.6%
Connecticut	20.0%
North Dakota	18.9%
North Carolina	No data from North Carolina

GOOD →

National Standard: 30.3%

Source: Children's Bureau, Florida data from "CFSR-3 Data Profile" (9/2016); Other states data from CFSR Round 3 Statewide Data Indicators Workbook" (5/2015)

Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Care 24+ Months

Florida Statewide Trend

Florida's performance has improved since the 2013 cohort used for CFSR-3, and is continually above the national standard in spite of a decline in the most recent year.
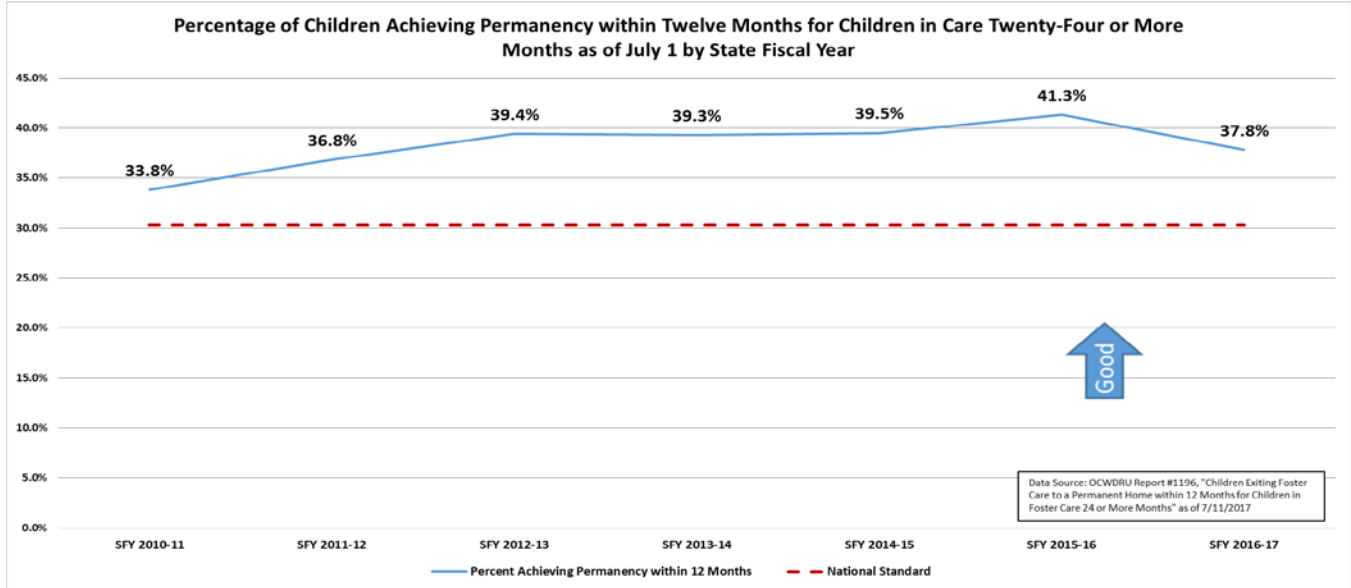
Circuit/CBC Comparisons

Throughout the state, Florida's high performance on this indicator is displayed below.

Percentage of Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Care 24+ Months as of July 1 by State Fiscal Year							
Area	SFY 2010-11	SFY 2011-12	SFY 2012-13	SFY 2013-14	SFY 2014-15	SFY 2015-16	SFY 2016-17
Families First Network-Circuit 01	31.5%	38.3%	42.6%	52.4%	40.0%	41.4%	44.2%
Big Bend CBC-Circuits 02 &14	32.1%	38.0%	38.0%	39.2%	41.1%	47.0%	42.5%
Partnership for Strong Families-Circuits 03 & 08	35.5%	27.2%	39.4%	41.8%	30.7%	30.0%	26.9%
Kids First, Inc.-Circuit 4 (Clay County Only)	27.5%	37.0%	39.1%	29.6%	41.6%	25.0%	36.8%
Family Support Services of North FL-Circuit 04 (Duval & Nassau Counties)	23.2%	28.3%	39.4%	27.2%	28.7%	41.9%	35.9%
St Johns Family Integrity-Circuit 07 (St Johns County Only)	41.6%	55.5%	46.6%	45.4%	10.0%	41.6%	26.6%
Community Partnership for Children-Circuit 07 (Flagler, Putnam and Volusia Counties Only)	34.5%	39.6%	46.5%	50.2%	45.2%	44.2%	43.2%
Kids Central, Inc.-Circuit 05	50.0%	50.6%	42.8%	46.5%	44.0%	34.0%	32.6%
CBC of Central Florida-Circuit 09	31.2%	38.6%	36.9%	34.4%	41.5%	50.0%	40.0%
CBC of Central Florida-Seminole-Circuit 18 (Seminole County Only)	33.9%	40.4%	32.1%	31.9%	53.4%	51.1%	47.0%
Brevard Family Partnership-Circuit 18 (Brevard County Only)	20.4%	22.5%	27.3%	37.0%	22.3%	39.8%	43.5%
Heartland for Children-Circuit 10	39.6%	39.4%	46.5%	44.3%	47.5%	37.8%	39.7%
Eckerd Community-Hillsborough-Circuit 13	36.1%	39.1%	46.7%	51.4%	54.3%	41.7%	37.5%
Eckerd Community-Pasco and Pinellas-Circuit 06	37.9%	38.0%	38.3%	36.3%	41.2%	50.4%	39.7%
Sarasota Safe Children Coalition-Circuit 12	54.0%	50.0%	45.5%	43.3%	52.3%	50.0%	35.9%
Children's Netwrok of SW FL-Circuit 20	36.6%	43.5%	39.4%	41.1%	33.9%	41.2%	42.1%
Devereux CBC-Circuit 19	54.8%	45.5%	39.1%	36.9%	49.7%	47.3%	41.4%
ChildNet-Palm Beach-Circuit 15	29.9%	35.2%	42.3%	33.7%	24.6%	32.6%	30.6%
ChildNet-Brwoard-Circuit 17	26.1%	37.5%	32.7%	22.9%	30.1%	34.8%	38.3%
Our Kids-Circuits 11 & 16	24.3%	25.2%	34.2%	36.7%	30.1%	39.6%	31.6%
Statewide	33.8%	36.8%	39.4%	39.3%	39.5%	41.3%	37.8%

Re-entry to Foster Care

Areas with high performance on the entry cohort indicator tend to have high re-entry rates.

Re-entry to Foster Care in 12 Months

This permanency indicator is paired with the entry cohort and answers the question, "Of all children who enter care in a 12-month period, who discharged within 12 months to reunification, live with relative, or guardianship, what percent re-entered care within 12 months of their discharge?

> Denominator: Number of children who enter care in a 12-month period, who discharged within 12 months to reunification, live with relative, or guardianship.
>
> Numerator: Number of children in denominator who re-enter care within 12 mos. of discharge.

Florida Compared to Other States

The national standards and calculations by the Children's Bureau of state performance for CFSR-3 are being revised. Florida's "observed" (not "risk standardized") performance in 2013-14 was better than the CFSR-3 initial standard and better than most states in the comparison period. However, our own measured performance (next page) indicates that we are not meeting the standard. Below includes the most recent data available for this indicator.

Observed Performance: Re-entry to Foster Care in 12 Months for Children Entering Foster and Achieving Permanency in 12 Months.
Florida Data: 4/2013-3/2014, Other States: 4/2011-3/2012

State	Percent
Rhode Island	18.6%
Vermont	15.9%
Minnesota	15.0%
Pennsylvania	14.3%
Massachusetts	13.4%
Colorado	13.4%
Maryland	11.8%
Wisconsin	11.7%
South Dakota	10.8%
New Jersey	10.8%
Hawaii	10.7%
New York	10.5%
Connecticut	10.5%
Iowa	10.3%
Wyoming	10.2%
Ohio	10.0%
Kentucky	10.0%
California	9.4%
Tennessee	9.1%
National Ave.	8.3%
Oregon	8.3%
Arizona	8.0%
Dist of Columbia	7.7%
Montana	7.2%
North Dakota	6.8%
Missouri	6.6%
Nevada	6.5%
Oklahoma	6.2%
Nebraska	6.1%
Arkansas	6.1%
Utah	5.8%
Illinois	5.8%
Georgia	5.7%
South Carolina	5.6%
Louisiana	5.6%
Florida	5.5%
Kansas	5.2%
Alabama	4.9%
Indiana	4.5%
Washington	4.4%
Maine	4.4%
Virginia	4.3%
Mississippi	4.3%
Idaho	3.9%
New Hampshire	3.8%
New Mexico	3.6%
Alaska	3.6%
Texas	3.4%
Michigan	2.6%
Delaware	2.1%
West Virginia	No data from these states
North Carolina	

National Standard: 8.3%

GOOD

Source: Children's Bureau, Florida data from "CFSR-3 Data Profile" (9/2016); Other states data from CFSR Round 3 Statewide Data Indicators Workbook" (5/2015)

Re-entry to Foster Care in 12 Months

Florida Statewide Trend

Although the national CFSR-3 indicator is the percent that re-entered care (initial standard 8.3%), Florida displays the indicator positively as the percent that did not re-enter care (initial standard 91.7%). Florida's performance in SFY 2012-13 and 2013-14 has continued to be below the initial standard after April 2011 – March 2012, the period under review for CFSR-3.

Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months of Removal Who Do Not Re-Enter Care within 12 Months of Achieving Permanency by State Fiscal Year
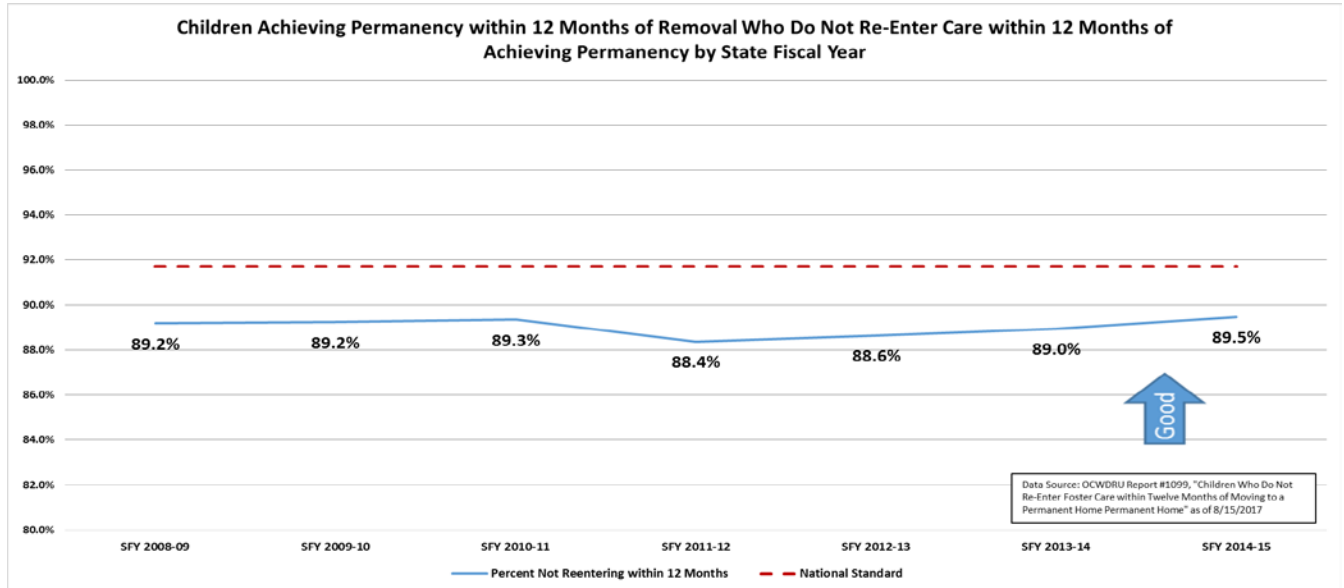
Circuit/CBC Comparisons

Unlike the timely permanency indicators, Florida's low performance on this indicator is observed in most of the state.

Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months of Removal Who Do Not Re-Enter Care within 12 Months of Achieving Permanency							
Area	SFY 2008-09	SFY 2009-10	SFY 2010-11	SFY 2011-12	SFY 2012-13	SFY 2013-14	SFY 2014-15
Families First Network-Circuit 01	90.3%	84.9%	87.3%	89.2%	83.3%	92.2%	91.2%
Big Bend CBC-Circuits 02 &14	90.4%	90.9%	93.2%	87.4%	86.4%	86.4%	92.3%
Partnership for Strong Families-Circuits 03 & 08	86.3%	94.7%	89.5%	90.5%	92.8%	89.9%	96.5%
Kids First, Inc.-Circuit 4 (Clay County Only)	94.7%	93.3%	94.4%	95.0%	93.8%	92.7%	85.7%
Family Support Services of North FL-Circuit 04 (Duval & Nassau Counties)	89.8%	89.3%	89.8%	87.7%	88.9%	87.7%	89.1%
St Johns Family Integrity-Circuit 07 (St Johns County Only)	97.9%	95.2%	89.7%	98.8%	92.5%	86.4%	93.5%
Community Partnership for Children-Circuit 07 (Flagler, Putnam and Volusia Counties Only)	88.0%	86.9%	93.3%	82.1%	91.5%	86.7%	83.5%
Kids Central, Inc.-Circuit 05	89.4%	92.5%	91.8%	87.8%	89.5%	92.1%	86.6%
CBC of Central Florida-Circuit 09	88.9%	90.1%	92.1%	92.1%	89.0%	84.9%	92.9%
CBC of Central Florida-Seminole-Circuit 18 (Seminole County Only)	91.7%	95.1%	88.9%	90.7%	91.0%	89.9%	85.3%
Brevard Family Partnership-Circuit 18 (Brevard County Only)	82.0%	84.0%	83.0%	87.8%	86.2%	84.8%	89.4%
Heartland for Children-Circuit 10	88.9%	89.9%	91.3%	87.4%	84.5%	88.1%	86.1%
Eckerd Community-Hillsborough-Circuit 13	87.4%	86.5%	86.2%	88.5%	85.3%	86.2%	91.0%
Eckerd Community-Pasco and Pinellas-Circuit 06	87.4%	86.2%	85.7%	88.5%	90.2%	87.2%	88.0%
Sarasota Safe Children Coalition-Circuit 12	94.0%	88.5%	88.9%	91.6%	97.4%	91.2%	91.9%
Children's Network of SW FL-Circuit 20	91.1%	89.6%	90.0%	86.2%	91.4%	93.6%	88.3%
Devereux CBC-Circuit 19	82.7%	89.1%	89.8%	86.8%	86.4%	89.0%	92.8%
ChildNet-Palm Beach-Circuit 15	90.6%	90.9%	88.3%	82.2%	89.4%	87.4%	88.7%
ChildNet-Broward-Circuit 17	89.2%	91.1%	90.6%	87.7%	85.7%	92.3%	90.3%
Our Kids-Circuits 11 & 16	89.0%	90.7%	90.1%	89.8%	90.3%	89.3%	88.7%
Statewide	89.2%	89.2%	89.3%	88.4%	88.6%	89.0%	89.5%

Drivers of Timely Permanency

Caseworker Visits with Children in Care

According to the Children's Bureau, achieving permanency in a timely manner for children in foster care can be linked in part to the frequency and quality of caseworker visits with children. During the first and second rounds of the CFSR, an association was found between caseworker visits measures and positive outcomes for children in foster care. For example, frequent contact between the caseworker and the child was associated with better ratings on the CFSR Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

Title IV-B of the Social Security Act requires states to collect data on monthly caseworker visits for children in foster care. The caseworker visits data include the percentage of children visited each full month they were in care, as well as the proportion of those visits that occurred in the homes where the children were then living.

Percentage of Children Receiving Monthly Caseworker Visits

This federal indicator answers the question, "Of the children in care, what percent received monthly caseworker visits?"

> Denominator: The number of complete calendar months all children in the reporting population spent in care. This denominator, expressed in "visit months," is aggregated over all children and refers to the number of months in which visits should have occurred.

> Numerator: The number of monthly caseworker visits made to the children in the reporting population, where if a child is visited more than once in a month, only one visit is counted.

Florida Compared to Other States

Florida is consistently one of the top states for case management visits with the children. Below includes the most recent data available for this indicator.

Percentage of Children Receiving Monthly Caseworker Visits in 2013

State	Percentage
New Mexico	98.5%
New Hampshire	98.3%
Florida	98.3%
Georgia	97.9%
Wyoming	97.6%
New Jersey	97.6%
Nevada	97.6%
Missouri	97.5%
South Dakota	97.4%
Maine	97.4%
Wisconsin	97.0%
Pennsylvania	96.8%
Utah	96.6%
Maryland	96.6%
Alabama	96.5%
District of Columbia	96.4%
Ohio	96.3%
Colorado	95.9%
Vermont	95.5%
Kentucky	95.3%
West Virginia	95.1%
Tennessee	95.0%
Virginia	94.7%
Michigan	94.7%
Illinois	94.7%
Louisiana	94.6%
Kansas	94.6%
Connecticut	94.6%
Delaware	94.4%
Nebraska	94.3%
New York	94.2%
Idaho	94.2%
Texas	94.1%
Washington	93.9%
North Carolina	93.0%
Oklahoma	92.8%
North Dakota	92.7%
Indiana	92.4%
National Average	91.9%
California	90.8%
South Carolina	90.5%
Arizona	86.9%
Massachusetts	86.8%
Hawaii	82.0%
Rhode Island	80.8%
Alaska	80.6%
Arkansas	78.9%
Minnesota	78.8%
Iowa	76.1%
Oregon	69.9%
Mississippi	66.2%
Montana	58.8%

Source: US Children's Bureau Report Builder

Percentage of Monthly Visits that Occurred in the Home of the Child

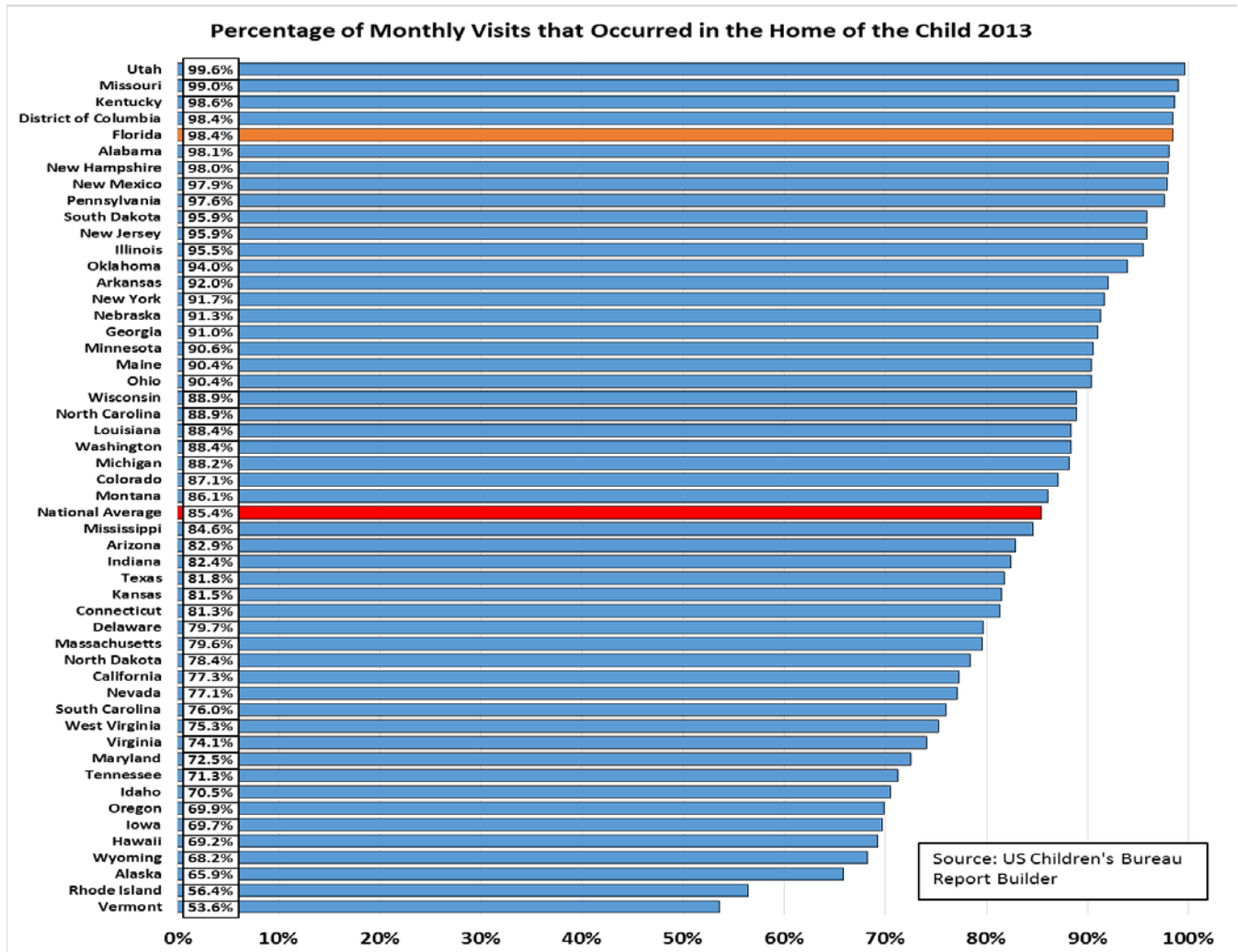This related federal indicator answers the question, "Of the children visited, what percent of the visits were in the home of the child?"

Denominator: The number of monthly caseworker visits made to children in the reporting population – the numerator of the last indicator.

Numerator: The number of monthly visits made to children in the reporting population that occurred in the child's home.

Florida Compared to Other States

Florida is also consistently in the top nationwide when comparing the percentage of monthly visits that were made to the child's home. Below includes the most recent data available for this indicator.

Percentage of Monthly Visits that Occurred in the Home of the Child 2013

State	%
Utah	99.6%
Missouri	99.0%
Kentucky	98.6%
District of Columbia	98.4%
Florida	98.4%
Alabama	98.1%
New Hampshire	98.0%
New Mexico	97.9%
Pennsylvania	97.6%
South Dakota	95.9%
New Jersey	95.9%
Illinois	95.5%
Oklahoma	94.0%
Arkansas	92.0%
New York	91.7%
Nebraska	91.3%
Georgia	91.0%
Minnesota	90.6%
Maine	90.4%
Ohio	90.4%
Wisconsin	88.9%
North Carolina	88.9%
Louisiana	88.4%
Washington	88.4%
Michigan	88.2%
Colorado	87.1%
Montana	86.1%
National Average	85.4%
Mississippi	84.6%
Arizona	82.9%
Indiana	82.4%
Texas	81.8%
Kansas	81.5%
Connecticut	81.3%
Delaware	79.7%
Massachusetts	79.6%
North Dakota	78.4%
California	77.3%
Nevada	77.1%
South Carolina	76.0%
West Virginia	75.3%
Virginia	74.1%
Maryland	72.5%
Tennessee	71.3%
Idaho	70.5%
Oregon	69.9%
Iowa	69.7%
Hawaii	69.2%
Wyoming	68.2%
Alaska	65.9%
Rhode Island	56.4%
Vermont	53.6%

Source: US Children's Bureau Report Builder

Circuit/CBC Comparisons

Florida's exemplary performance is consistent throughout the state. Florida's similar indicator measures percent of visits completed within 30 days of the last visit and is consistently near 100%.

Children's Legal Services Indicators

Judicial handling time is key to timely permanency and there is wide variation among the circuits.

Reunification Goal after 15 Months & No Termination of Parental Rights Activity

Circuit Comparisons

The statewide average was 6.8% on June 30, 2017 with wide variation among the circuits.

Percentage of Children with Reunification Goal Extended Past 15 months and no TPR Activity
Children Active on June 30, 2017
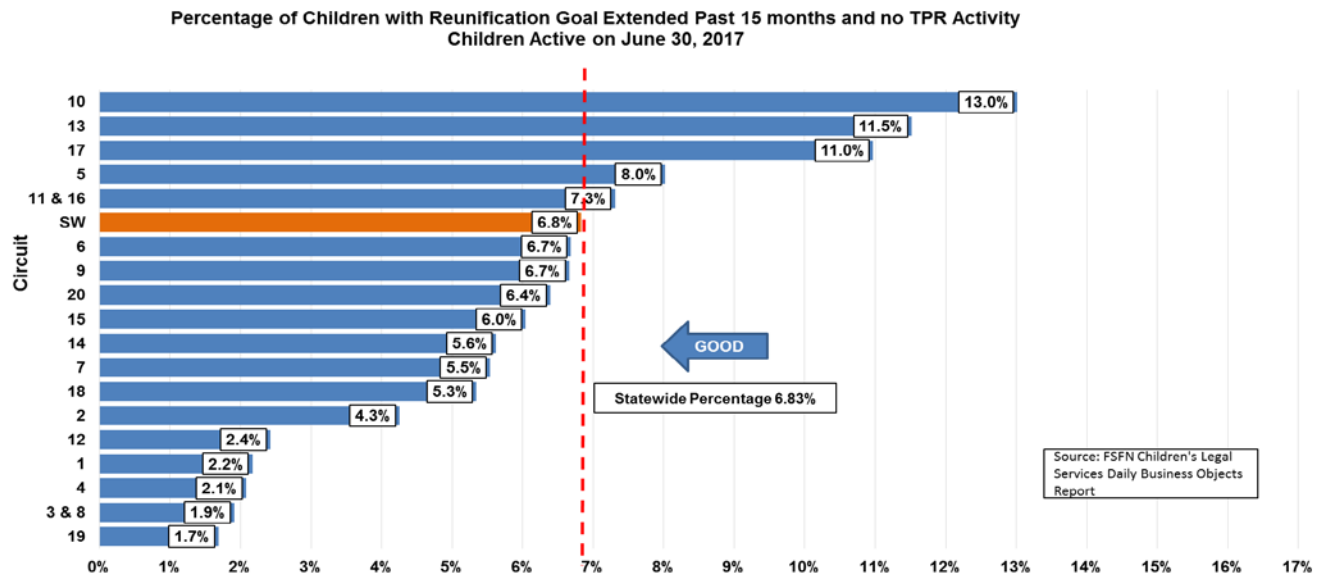
Timeliness of Termination of Parental Rights, from Petition to Order

Circuit Comparisons

The statewide median was 154 days in SFY 2016-17, with wide variation among the circuits.

Median Days from Termination of Rights Petition to Entry of Final Order
Children with TPR Final Orders July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017
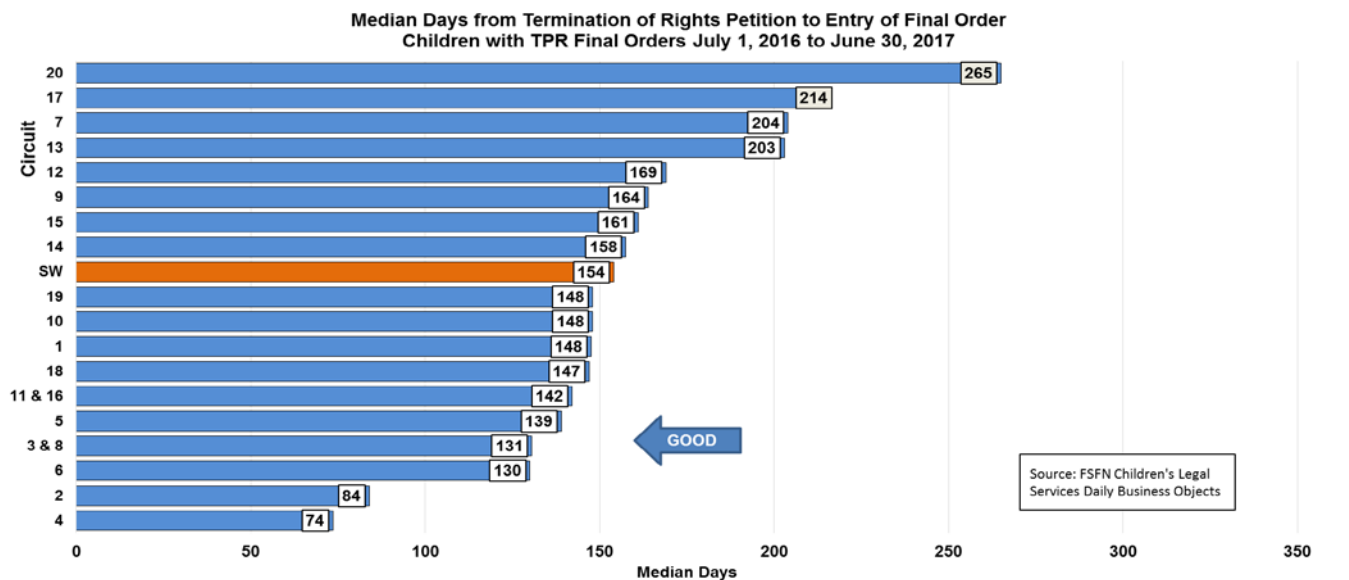
Time from Removal Date to Disposition Order

Circuit Comparisons
The statewide median was 60 days in SFY 2016-17, with wide variation, compared to a statewide target of 90 days.

Median Number of Days from Shelter to Disposition
Children with Disposition July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Circuit	Median Days
7	100.0
20	82.50
14	75.50
10	71.0
5	65.0
18	64.00
1	62.0
SW	60.0
19	56.00
15	55.50
11 & 16	55.0
2	54.0
3 & 8	50.0
13	47.0
17	43.00
12	39.0
4	36.0
9	35.0
6	28.0

GOOD

SW Target: Under 90 Days

Source: FSFN Children's Legal Services Daily Business Objects Report
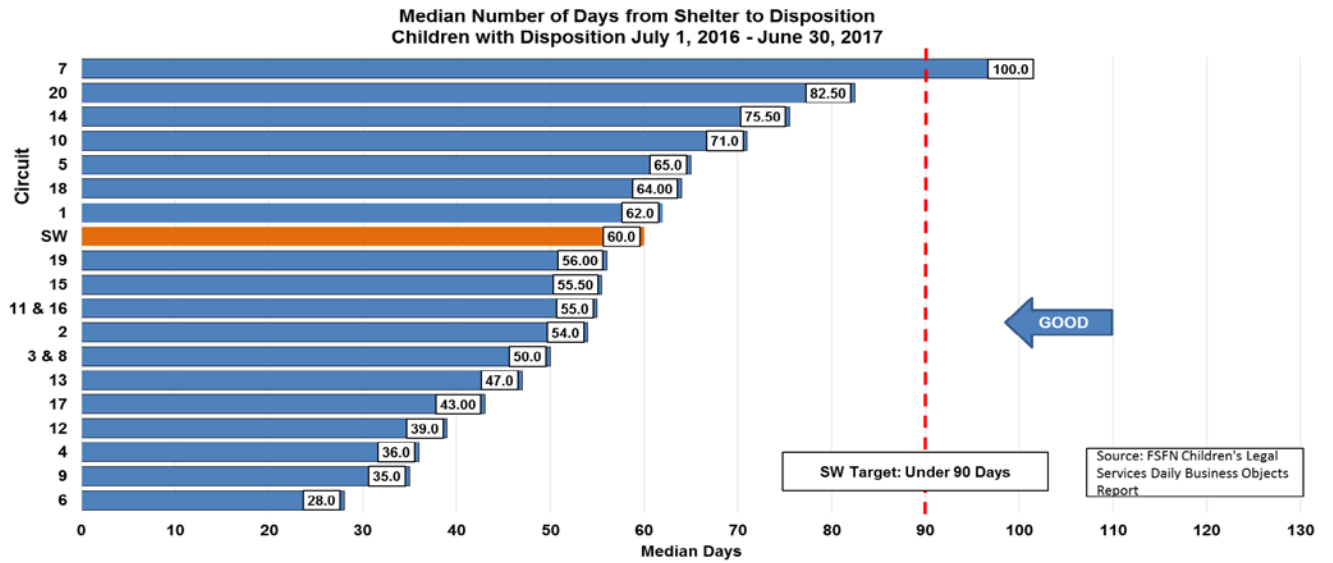
Well-Being of Children in Out-of-Home Care

Appropriate Placements for Children Removed from Families

Trends and Variations in Placement Types

Federal law requires that a case plan be designed to achieve a safe placement in the least restrictive (most family-like) setting available and in close proximity to the home of the parent(s) when the goal is reunification. When children must be removed, priority is given to placement with kin, both relatives and unrelated persons, with significant relationship to the child before removal.
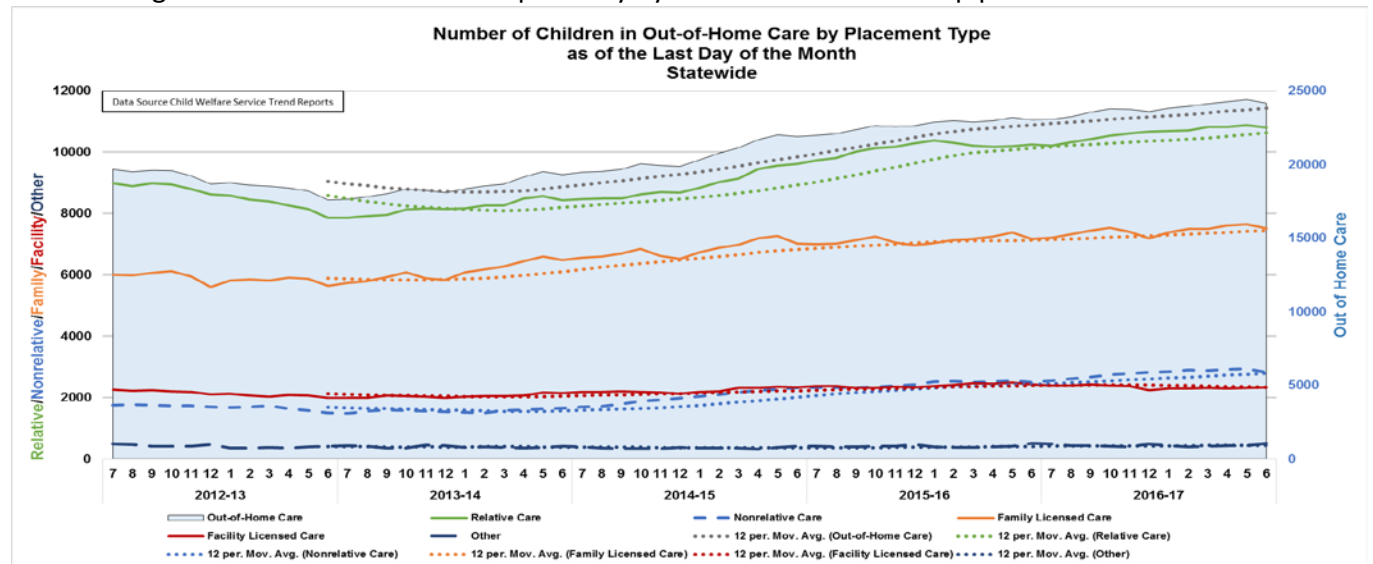
Florida Statewide Trend

The recent growth in OHC has been met primarily by increased use of kinship placements.

Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care by Placement Type as of the Last Day of the Month — Statewide

Circuit/CBC Comparisons

Statewide, there is a wide range in use of kinship care the benefits of which include reduced trauma, maintained familial connections, and reduced costs of care. Stratification by use of group care is displayed in the chart below.

Percentage of Children in Out-of-Home Care by Placement Type by State Fiscal Year

Entity	SFY 2012-13 Percentage Relative and Nonrelative Care	Percentage Family and Facility Licensed Care	Percentage Other	SFY 2013-14 Percentage Relative and Nonrelative Care	Percentage Family and Facility Licensed Care	Percentage Other	SFY 2014-15 Percentage Relative and Nonrelative Care	Percentage Family and Facility Licensed Care	Percentage Other	SFY 2015-16 Percentage Relative and Nonrelative Care	Percentage Family and Facility Licensed Care	Percentage Other	SFY 2016-17 Percentage Relative and Nonrelative Care	Percentage Family and Facility Licensed Care	Percentage Other
Families First Network-Circuit 01	53.81%	43.92%	3.09%	49.06%	48.30%	2.83%	51.11%	45.81%	2.19%	49.67%	47.55%	3.69%	50.72%	46.57%	3.31%
Big Bend CBC-Circuits 02 &14	55.90%	41.64%	3.25%	52.79%	45.41%	2.11%	51.34%	46.26%	2.84%	53.90%	44.32%	2.30%	60.59%	37.90%	2.19%
Partnership for Strong Families-Circuits 03 & 08	66.31%	31.67%	3.01%	65.46%	32.70%	3.06%	64.16%	34.54%	2.39%	64.52%	33.47%	2.35%	68.01%	30.13%	3.42%
Kids First, Inc.-Circuit 4 (Clay County Only)	53.94%	44.22%	17.89%	55.91%	42.63%	28.17%	57.37%	41.46%	20.86%	59.62%	38.45%	16.66%	62.95%	34.74%	18.46%
Family Support Services of North FL-Circuit 04 (Duval & Nassau Counties)	46.74%	48.35%	4.22%	48.44%	47.59%	4.41%	45.33%	51.40%	4.47%	48.08%	46.71%	4.37%	48.70%	46.25%	4.08%
St Johns Family Integrity-Circuit 07 (St Johns County Only)	64.92%	32.62%	3.97%	53.48%	42.73%	6.08%	50.69%	44.58%	4.35%	62.44%	34.00%	5.34%	65.35%	33.57%	2.95%
Community Partnership for Children-Circuit 07 (Flagler, Putnam and Volusia Counties Only)	58.95%	36.75%	1.64%	54.55%	42.24%	1.81%	53.82%	43.57%	1.46%	60.91%	37.15%	1.37%	61.72%	36.69%	0.96%
Kids Central, Inc.-Circuit 05	66.04%	30.58%	0.44%	61.35%	34.89%	0.50%	57.54%	40.01%	0.40%	62.56%	35.04%	0.45%	56.59%	41.43%	0.62%
CBC of Central Florida-Circuit 09	53.31%	44.35%	1.39%	56.27%	41.43%	1.18%	58.21%	39.46%	1.38%	60.02%	37.38%	1.27%	60.22%	37.00%	1.28%
CBC of Central Florida-Seminole-Circuit 18 (Seminole County Only)	48.55%	48.05%	16.22%	49.55%	48.17%	17.47%	55.09%	42.95%	9.38%	58.18%	39.78%	7.75%	57.07%	41.41%	8.79%
Brevard Family Partnership-Circuit 18 (Brevard County Only)	58.14%	38.25%	3.77%	54.42%	43.03%	3.79%	56.29%	40.81%	3.24%	60.73%	36.69%	3.62%	61.56%	35.91%	3.65%
Heartland for Children-Circuit 10	57.55%	39.25%	4.26%	54.57%	41.80%	4.62%	54.23%	42.12%	3.08%	57.64%	38.90%	3.37%	62.85%	34.16%	2.55%
Eckerd Community-Hillsborough-Circuit 13	51.94%	45.24%	2.66%	49.70%	47.80%	2.46%	54.77%	43.03%	2.44%	56.66%	41.32%	2.37%	59.04%	39.06%	2.18%
Eckerd Community-Pasco and Pinellas-Circuit 06	57.36%	40.44%	1.62%	52.08%	45.28%	1.97%	49.62%	47.24%	2.96%	51.94%	45.11%	2.58%	52.55%	44.75%	2.42%
Sarasota Safe Children Coalition-Circuit 12	56.06%	41.64%	0.74%	52.08%	45.21%	0.76%	53.89%	43.66%	1.03%	59.99%	37.87%	0.94%	62.38%	34.65%	0.55%
Children's Netwrok of SW FL-Circuit 20	49.49%	48.30%	4.69%	49.03%	48.83%	2.69%	49.92%	48.75%	1.93%	52.78%	45.71%	2.08%	51.97%	45.68%	1.89%
Devereux CBC-Circuit 19	60.12%	37.46%	6.22%	58.52%	39.53%	5.44%	56.31%	42.11%	4.41%	58.38%	39.79%	4.28%	56.69%	41.77%	5.20%
ChildNet-Palm Beach-Circuit 15	47.84%	48.30%	3.16%	53.10%	44.54%	2.08%	50.45%	47.65%	1.74%	48.64%	49.19%	1.72%	51.42%	46.19%	2.77%
ChildNet-Broward-Circuit 17	43.02%	52.86%	3.01%	46.29%	50.38%	1.92%	48.71%	49.14%	1.34%	51.18%	46.72%	1.47%	51.73%	45.99%	1.51%
Our Kids-Circuits 11 & 16	52.45%	44.19%	1.86%	53.60%	42.18%	2.11%	55.78%	40.36%	2.46%	52.90%	43.20%	2.66%	51.34%	44.33%	2.70%
Statewide	54.46%	42.53%	3.01%	52.91%	44.20%	2.89%	53.30%	44.13%	2.58%	55.45%	41.99%	2.56%	56.37%	41.09%	2.54%

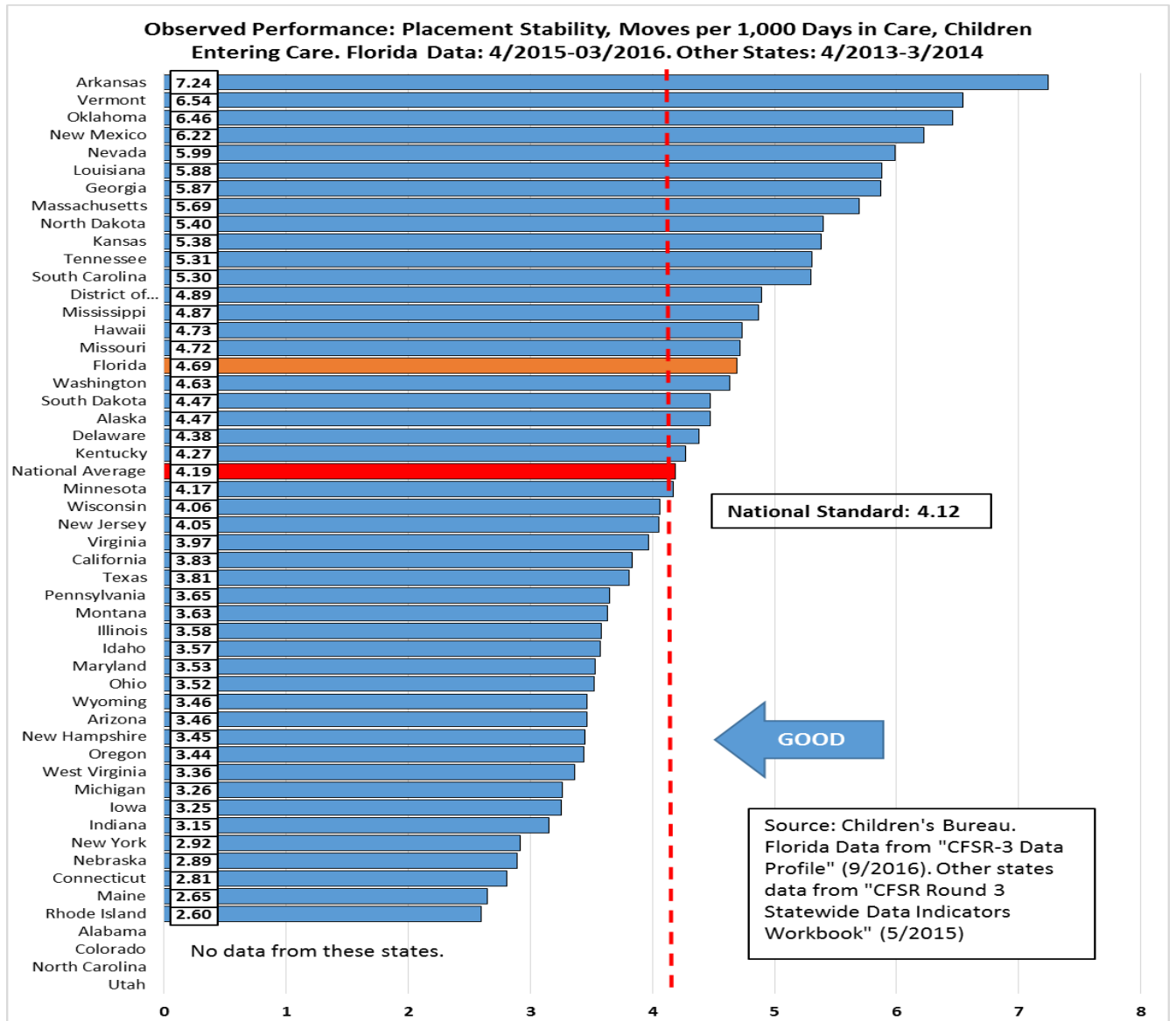# Stable Placements that Maintain Connections

Placement Stability

This CFSR-3 indicator answers the question, "Of all children who enter care in a 12-month period, what is the rate of placement moves, per 1,000 days of foster care?"

> Denominator: Of children who enter care in a 12-month period, total number of days these children were in care as of the end of the 12-month period.
>
> Numerator: Of children in the denominator, total number of placement moves during the 12-month period.

### *Florida Compared to Other States*

The national standards and calculations of state performance for CFSR-3 are being revised by the Children's Bureau; however, Florida's "observed" (not "risk standardized") performance of 4.69 in 2015-16 did not meet the CFSR-3 initial standard of 4.12 moves per 1,000 days in care. Below includes the most recent data available.

Observed Performance: Placement Stability, Moves per 1,000 Days in Care, Children Entering Care. Florida Data: 4/2015-03/2016. Other States: 4/2013-3/2014

State	Value
Arkansas	7.24
Vermont	6.54
Oklahoma	6.46
New Mexico	6.22
Nevada	5.99
Louisiana	5.88
Georgia	5.87
Massachusetts	5.69
North Dakota	5.40
Kansas	5.38
Tennessee	5.31
South Carolina	5.30
District of...	4.89
Mississippi	4.87
Hawaii	4.73
Missouri	4.72
Florida	4.69
Washington	4.63
South Dakota	4.47
Alaska	4.47
Delaware	4.38
Kentucky	4.27
National Average	4.19
Minnesota	4.17
Wisconsin	4.06
New Jersey	4.05
Virginia	3.97
California	3.83
Texas	3.81
Pennsylvania	3.65
Montana	3.63
Illinois	3.58
Idaho	3.57
Maryland	3.53
Ohio	3.52
Wyoming	3.46
Arizona	3.46
New Hampshire	3.45
Oregon	3.44
West Virginia	3.36
Michigan	3.26
Iowa	3.25
Indiana	3.15
New York	2.92
Nebraska	2.89
Connecticut	2.81
Maine	2.65
Rhode Island	2.60
Alabama	
Colorado	No data from these states.
North Carolina	
Utah	

National Standard: 4.12

GOOD

Source: Children's Bureau. Florida Data from "CFSR-3 Data Profile" (9/2016). Other states data from "CFSR Round 3 Statewide Data Indicators Workbook" (5/2015)

Placement Stability

Florida Statewide Trend

Until SFY 2016-17, statewide performance has been slightly better than the initial national standard of 4.12 moves per 1,000 days in foster care over the last six years. Florida's application of the federal algorithm appears to be slightly different from federal calculations, which are being revised.
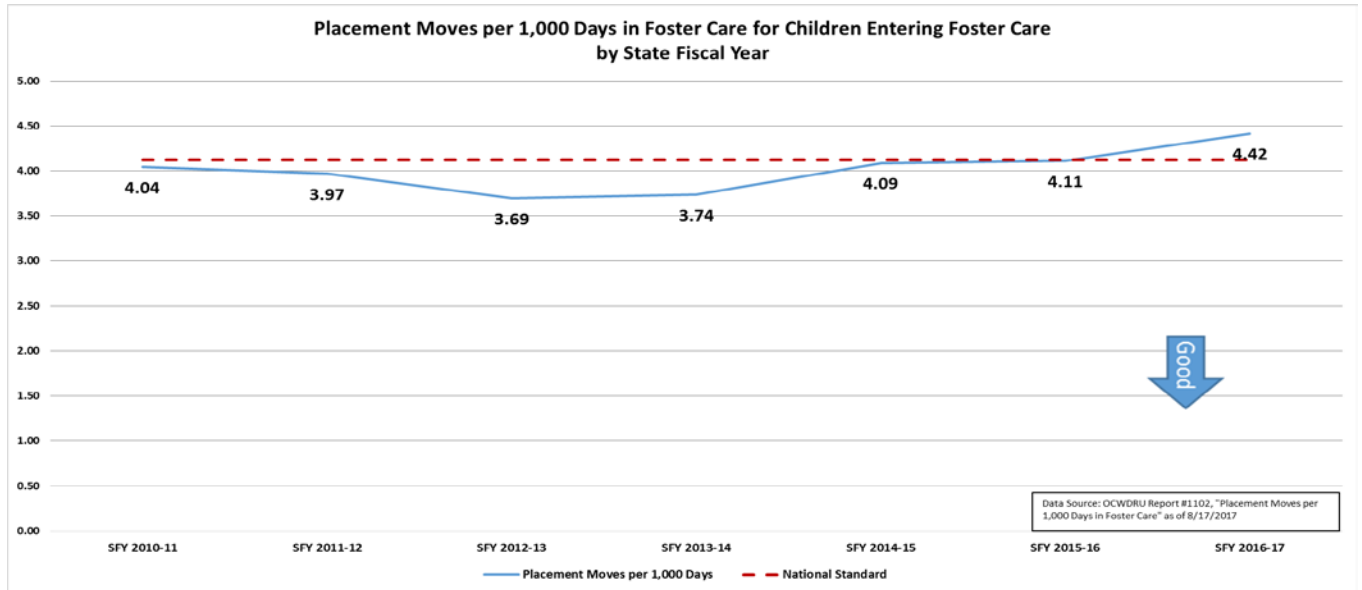
Circuit/CBC Comparisons

Although 12 of the 20 areas below are below the target of 4.12 and the statewide average, there is a wide range statewide.

Placement Moves per 1,000 Days in Foster Care for Children Entering Care July 1 to June 30							
Area	SFY 2010-11	SFY 2011-12	SFY 2012-13	SFY 2013-14	SFY 2014-15	SFY 2015-16	SFY 2016-17
Families First Network-Circuit 01	3.49	3.21	3.48	4.65	4.44	5.63	6.08
Big Bend CBC-Circuits 02 &14	2.89	3.88	3.28	3.35	4.29	3.39	3.45
Partnership for Strong Families-Circuits 03 & 08	3.59	3.05	3.54	3.50	3.96	3.35	4.12
Kids First, Inc.-Circuit 4 (Clay County Only)	2.85	3.41	2.33	3.38	2.86	2.48	1.44
Family Support Services of North FL-Circuit 04 (Duval & Nassau Counties)	2.86	4.15	2.94	2.86	2.85	3.87	3.97
St Johns Family Integrity-Circuit 07 (St Johns County Only)	2.23	2.12	1.86	3.53	4.69	2.78	3.76
Community Partnership for Children-Circuit 07 (Flagler, Putnam and Volusia Counties Only)	2.47	2.74	2.56	3.65	2.87	3.20	3.57
Kids Central, Inc.-Circuit 05	4.18	3.68	3.62	3.26	4.34	3.73	4.49
CBC of Central Florida-Circuit 09	4.88	3.69	3.12	4.21	4.01	3.59	4.82
CBC of Central Florida-Seminole-Circuit 18 (Seminole County Only)	3.10	3.38	3.86	3.26	4.85	3.76	3.24
Brevard Family Partnership-Circuit 18 (Brevard County Only)	3.77	3.53	3.56	4.79	3.36	3.61	3.25
Heartland for Children-Circuit 10	4.18	5.29	3.68	3.82	4.04	3.07	2.85
Eckerd Community-Hillsborough-Circuit 13	4.88	4.58	4.40	5.84	4.73	5.63	5.29
Eckerd Community-Pasco and Pinellas-Circuit 06	3.49	3.74	4.25	2.96	3.57	3.71	4.45
Sarasota Safe Children Coalition-Circuit 12	3.74	3.66	3.84	3.60	4.07	4.32	4.31
Children's Network of SW FL-Circuit 20	4.80	4.86	3.98	2.52	5.78	5.66	6.45
Devereux CBC-Circuit 19	4.54	3.83	4.77	4.07	5.34	3.59	3.98
ChildNet-Palm Beach-Circuit 15	4.20	4.46	3.16	5.96	2.59	3.34	3.59
ChildNet-Broward-Circuit 17	6.21	4.52	3.05	4.94	3.16	3.54	3.35
Our Kids-Circuits 11 & 16	4.51	4.64	4.57	3.38	5.27	5.28	5.20
Statewide	4.04	3.97	3.69	3.74	4.09	4.11	4.42

Percent of Siblings Placed Together

Our understanding of sibling relationships and the role they play in the lives of children in foster care has deepened over the past decade. Research has demonstrated that sibling relationships are important to children's development and emotional well-being. Sibling relationships are now understood as playing a vital role in helping children achieve developmental milestones and in providing emotional support, companionship and comfort in times of change. These relationships are crucial for children and youth in foster care as siblings often are the "family" that they can claim and that can provide them with a sense of identity and belonging.

Florida Statewide Trend
Statewide performance for this measure slightly peaked June 30, 2013 at 66.88% but has declined since then and is consistently below Florida's own standard of 65%.
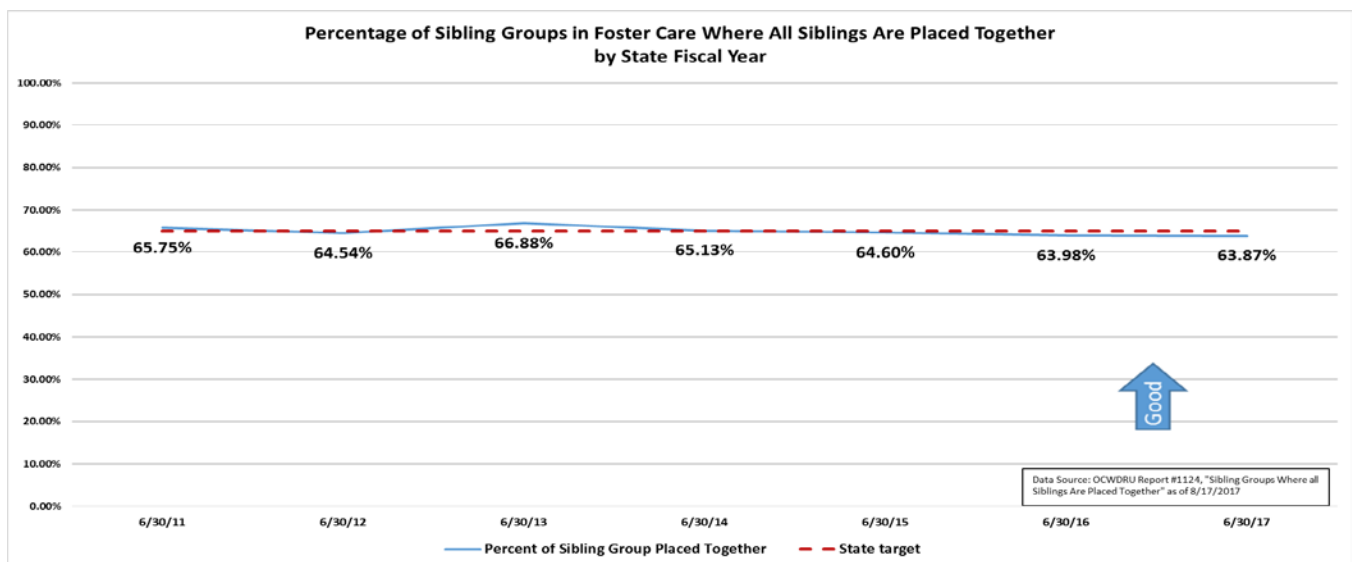
Circuit/CBC Comparisons
Half of the areas are near at or above the 65% standard.

Percentage of Sibling Groups in Foster Care Where all Siblings are Placed Together as of June 30 (State Target 65%)							
Area	SFY 2010-11	SFY 2011-12	SFY 2012-13	SFY 2013-14	SFY 2014-15	SFY 2015-16	SFY 2016-17
Families First Network-Circuit 01	74.54%	74.45%	73.53%	74.29%	70.82%	65.85%	63.50%
Big Bend CBC-Circuits 02 &14	63.58%	61.58%	67.06%	72.22%	61.38%	70.35%	69.19%
Partnership for Strong Families-Circuits 03 & 08	67.81%	68.63%	64.44%	69.13%	65.73%	64.93%	66.51%
Kids First, Inc.-Circuit 4 (Clay County Only)	66.67%	66.67%	61.90%	70.45%	63.04%	62.30%	70.59%
Family Support Services of North FL-Circuit 04 (Duval & Nassau Counties)	71.59%	75.86%	76.19%	68.21%	68.31%	71.43%	71.23%
St Johns Family Integrity-Circuit 07 (St Johns County Only)	71.79%	56.76%	60.87%	69.23%	77.78%	65.38%	68.09%
Community Partnership for Children-Circuit 07 (Flagler, Putnam and Volusia Counties Only)	70.51%	68.77%	73.71%	72.92%	68.20%	62.59%	60.40%
Kids Central, Inc.-Circuit 05	65.81%	65.96%	71.12%	63.93%	73.84%	75.00%	70.66%
CBC of Central Florida-Circuit 09	63.64%	60.68%	61.28%	59.53%	60.83%	58.82%	65.54%
CBC of Central Florida-Seminole-Circuit 18 (Seminole County Only)	67.24%	54.35%	62.00%	64.06%	70.65%	69.81%	54.00%
Brevard Family Partnership-Circuit 18 (Brevard County Only)	71.74%	70.09%	66.67%	54.63%	67.05%	64.12%	60.67%
Heartland for Children-Circuit 10	61.19%	60.98%	60.08%	65.12%	59.45%	58.82%	62.38%
Eckerd Community-Hillsborough-Circuit 13	69.37%	65.60%	70.87%	68.91%	68.44%	62.66%	66.51%
Eckerd Community-Pasco and Pinellas-Circuit 06	62.90%	64.92%	69.95%	67.91%	67.77%	69.08%	63.45%
Sarasota Safe Children Coalition-Circuit 12	72.33%	70.81%	62.84%	67.67%	71.75%	71.67%	70.93%
Children's Network of SW FL-Circuit 20	66.84%	64.22%	70.31%	58.37%	66.18%	63.46%	61.35%
Devereux CBC-Circuit 19	76.25%	63.70%	65.82%	74.55%	67.40%	68.18%	71.71%
ChildNet-Palm Beach-Circuit 15	55.92%	56.80%	66.10%	62.56%	64.34%	58.22%	55.71%
ChildNet-Broward-Circuit 17	58.61%	62.35%	65.34%	58.91%	57.37%	57.47%	56.17%
Our Kids-Circuits 11 & 16	55.99%	53.37%	57.18%	59.10%	53.15%	55.37%	59.62%
Statewide	65.75%	64.54%	66.88%	65.13%	64.60%	63.98%	63.87%

Proximity of Placement to Community of Removal

Normalcy for foster children, maintenance of family connections, parent-child visitation, and school stability require that children be placed in proximity of the neighborhood or community of removal. Keeping the child in the same community from which the child was removed will also promote family reunification.

Title IV-E of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 674) requires:

> "A plan for ensuring the educational stability of the child while in foster care, including . . . assurances that each placement of the child in foster care takes into account the appropriateness of the current educational setting and the proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement; and an assurance [of coordination with] local educational agencies . . . to ensure that the child remains in the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of each placement," and that "each child has a case plan designed to achieve placement in a safe setting that is the least restrictive (most family like) and most appropriate setting available and in close proximity to the parents' home, consistent with the best interest and special needs of the child."

Some states are using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to organize and analyze data in terms of geographic location. Most often a visual representation of the data is developed by plotting the data points on a map. For many foster care agencies nationwide, GIS is a powerful tool: it can help agency staff track the location of available foster homes, map the locations of schools and their catchment areas, and allow foster family recruiters to focus their efforts on the areas with the greatest need. Other states focus on recruiting and maintaining foster families within the school districts, with a focus on recruiting in the towns with the highest removal rates, reaching out to principals and administrators of schools to help raise awareness about the need for foster families.

Children in Licensed Out-of-Home Care Placed Outside Removal Circuit and County

Florida Statewide Trend

In the last few years, there has been a slight reduction in the percent of children placed outside their removal county, while the percent placed outside their removal circuit has remained stable.

Children in Out-of-Home Care Placed Outside of Removal County/Circuit/Region on June 30 by State Fiscal Year
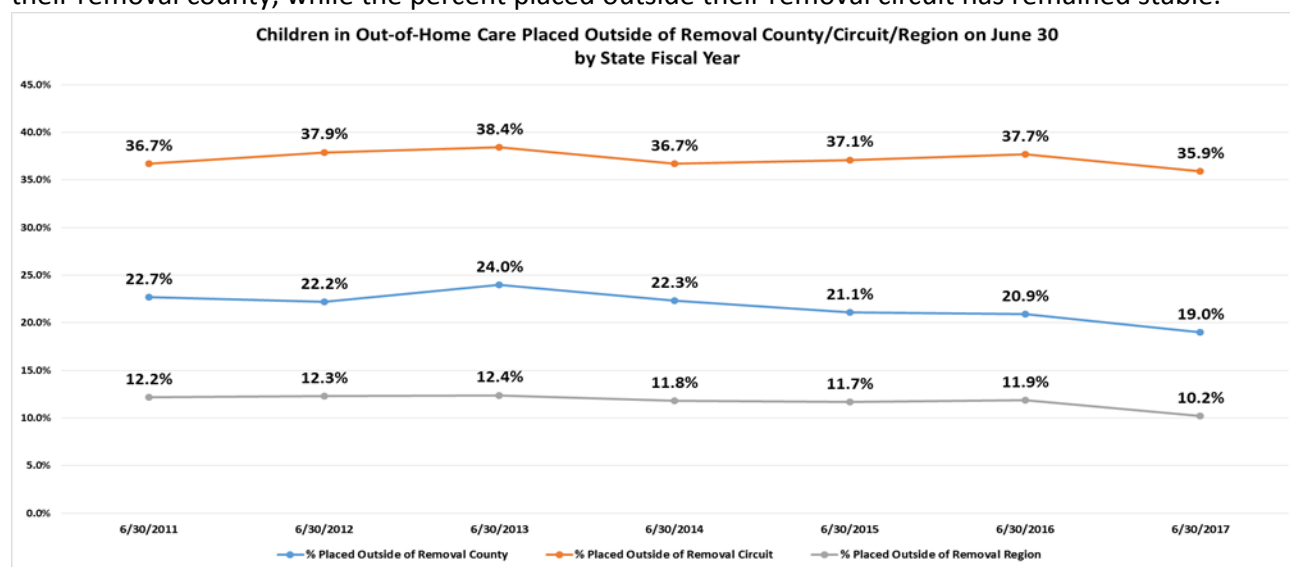
Proximity of Placement to Community of Removal

Circuit/CBC Comparisons

Children in Licensed Out-of-Home Care Placed Outside Removal County
There is wide variation across circuits, with urban areas generally placing more children *within* their removal county, and circuits with larger rural areas placing more children *outside* their removal county.

Children in Licensed Out-of-Home Care Placed Outside Removal County on June 30

Region	Area	6/30/2011	6/30/2012	6/30/2013	6/30/2014	6/30/2015	6/30/2016	6/30/2017
Northwest	Circuit 01	46.2%	43.7%	53.0%	52.0%	58.4%	52.9%	55.3%
Northwest	Circuit 02	50.8%	54.0%	41.0%	40.8%	42.2%	48.3%	40.8%
Northwest	Circuit 14	68.8%	72.4%	74.1%	67.3%	56.6%	63.6%	67.0%
Northeast	Circuit 03	93.0%	89.6%	88.6%	94.4%	88.2%	82.0%	92.5%
Northeast	Circuit 04	26.4%	31.2%	31.4%	27.9%	23.0%	22.9%	19.6%
Northeast	Circuit 07	32.3%	35.0%	30.7%	30.4%	38.2%	33.8%	30.7%
Northeast	Circuit 08	68.8%	74.2%	80.6%	70.4%	72.5%	67.9%	77.1%
Central	Circuit 05	64.1%	60.4%	65.6%	62.3%	65.6%	60.4%	62.5%
Central	Circuit 09	62.4%	63.3%	57.3%	61.2%	58.4%	56.3%	49.4%
Central	Circuit 10	40.8%	38.1%	38.2%	36.6%	29.1%	32.1%	25.3%
Central	Circuit 18	27.9%	24.5%	27.1%	28.2%	23.9%	27.1%	22.9%
SunCoast	Circuit 06	46.0%	48.3%	47.7%	45.3%	43.9%	46.2%	47.2%
SunCoast	Circuit 12	48.1%	60.1%	58.8%	52.0%	54.2%	61.3%	52.0%
SunCoast	Circuit 13	23.1%	22.4%	25.7%	22.7%	23.6%	24.5%	20.0%
SunCoast	Circuit 20	38.1%	39.6%	33.3%	32.9%	42.6%	44.2%	39.8%
Southeast	Circuit 15	33.3%	32.4%	31.2%	30.5%	26.1%	25.0%	20.3%
Southeast	Circuit 17	12.8%	10.9%	12.5%	14.0%	15.0%	18.8%	16.0%
Southeast	Circuit 19	67.0%	68.2%	65.6%	64.5%	75.0%	64.5%	66.2%
Southern	Circuit 11	8.6%	9.9%	12.5%	12.9%	11.9%	10.5%	9.8%
Southern	Circuit 16	36.1%	36.8%	31.0%	41.1%	29.2%	40.0%	31.1%
Statewide	Statewide	36.7%	37.9%	38.4%	36.7%	37.1%	37.7%	35.9%

Children in Licensed Out-of-Home Care Placed Outside Removal Circuit
The percent of children placed outside of their removal circuit is lower than the percent of children placed out-of-county, as many children who are not placed in their home county are placed in a neighboring county within their same circuit.

Children in Licensed Out-of-Home Care Placed Outside Removal Circuit on June 30

Region	Area	6/30/2011	6/30/2012	6/30/2013	6/30/2014	6/30/2015	6/30/2016	6/30/2017
Northwest	Circuit 01	10.2%	11.0%	16.0%	12.6%	15.2%	10.1%	16.7%
Northwest	Circuit 02	35.2%	36.7%	26.9%	25.0%	21.6%	20.7%	17.3%
Northwest	Circuit 14	35.1%	35.1%	43.9%	39.6%	28.6%	34.0%	43.2%
Northeast	Circuit 03	71.0%	68.8%	75.9%	72.2%	71.4%	66.7%	72.9%
Northeast	Circuit 04	14.0%	15.6%	18.1%	17.3%	12.6%	11.5%	11.4%
Northeast	Circuit 07	14.1%	13.2%	15.0%	11.5%	16.2%	10.1%	12.7%
Northeast	Circuit 08	52.2%	59.7%	69.0%	61.0%	59.9%	57.0%	54.9%
Central	Circuit 05	14.8%	13.3%	19.7%	12.0%	12.1%	16.3%	11.7%
Central	Circuit 09	41.8%	42.4%	38.8%	44.6%	40.9%	39.2%	36.4%
Central	Circuit 10	30.3%	28.4%	29.4%	28.7%	19.0%	21.0%	16.3%
Central	Circuit 18	25.2%	23.0%	26.0%	26.3%	22.9%	25.7%	21.2%
SunCoast	Circuit 06	26.5%	22.8%	24.5%	23.7%	24.1%	20.9%	19.3%
SunCoast	Circuit 12	24.7%	27.2%	26.3%	21.2%	23.2%	31.7%	22.2%
SunCoast	Circuit 13	23.1%	22.4%	25.7%	22.7%	23.6%	24.5%	20.0%
SunCoast	Circuit 20	14.4%	18.0%	11.3%	11.5%	9.5%	12.0%	10.1%
Southeast	Circuit 15	33.3%	32.4%	31.2%	30.5%	26.1%	25.0%	20.3%
Southeast	Circuit 17	12.8%	10.9%	12.5%	14.0%	15.0%	18.8%	16.0%
Southeast	Circuit 19	26.4%	22.4%	29.4%	23.1%	27.3%	19.2%	19.0%
Southern	Circuit 11	8.6%	9.9%	12.5%	12.9%	11.9%	10.5%	9.8%
Southern	Circuit 16	36.1%	36.8%	31.0%	41.1%	29.2%	40.0%	31.1%
Statewide	Statewide	22.7%	22.2%	24.0%	22.3%	21.1%	20.9%	19.0%

Placement in Family Setting

Federal law mandates that a case plan include a discussion of how the plan is designed to achieve a safe placement for the child in the least restrictive (most family-like) setting available.
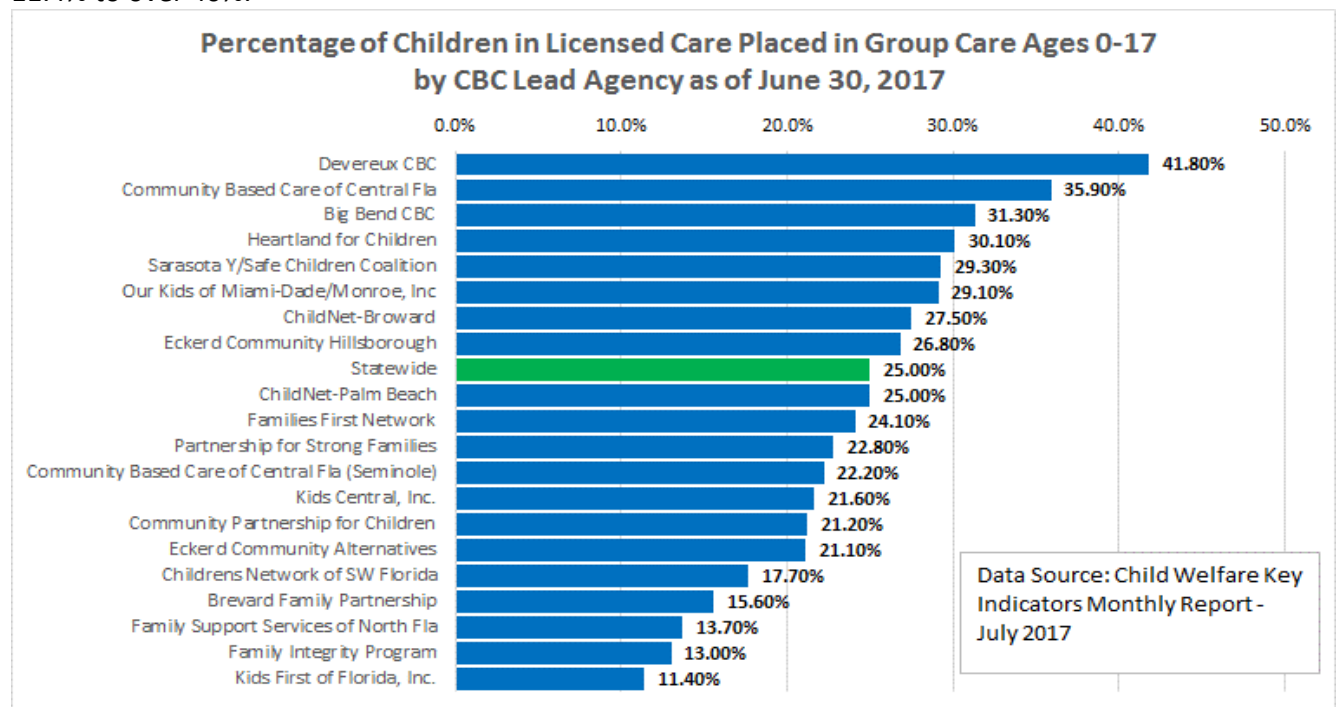
Although there is an appropriate role for group care in the continuum of foster care settings, there is consensus across multiple stakeholders that most children and youth, but especially young children, are best served in a family setting. Stays in group care should be based on the specialized behavioral and mental health needs or clinical disabilities of children. It should be used only for as long as is necessary to stabilize the child or youth so they can return to a family-like setting. One of the original seven ASFA outcomes was "Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions."

A December 2014 report by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) described the process for determining placement in group care as follows. "Lead agencies must place all children in OHC in the most appropriate available setting after conducting an assessment using child-specific factors. Lead agencies must consider placement in residential group care if specific criteria are met—the child is 11 or older, has been in licensed family foster care for six months or longer and removed from family foster care more than once, and has serious behavioral problems or has been determined to be without the options of either family reunification or adoption. In addition, the assessment must consider information from several sources, including psychological evaluations, professionals with knowledge of the child, and the desires of the child concerning placement."

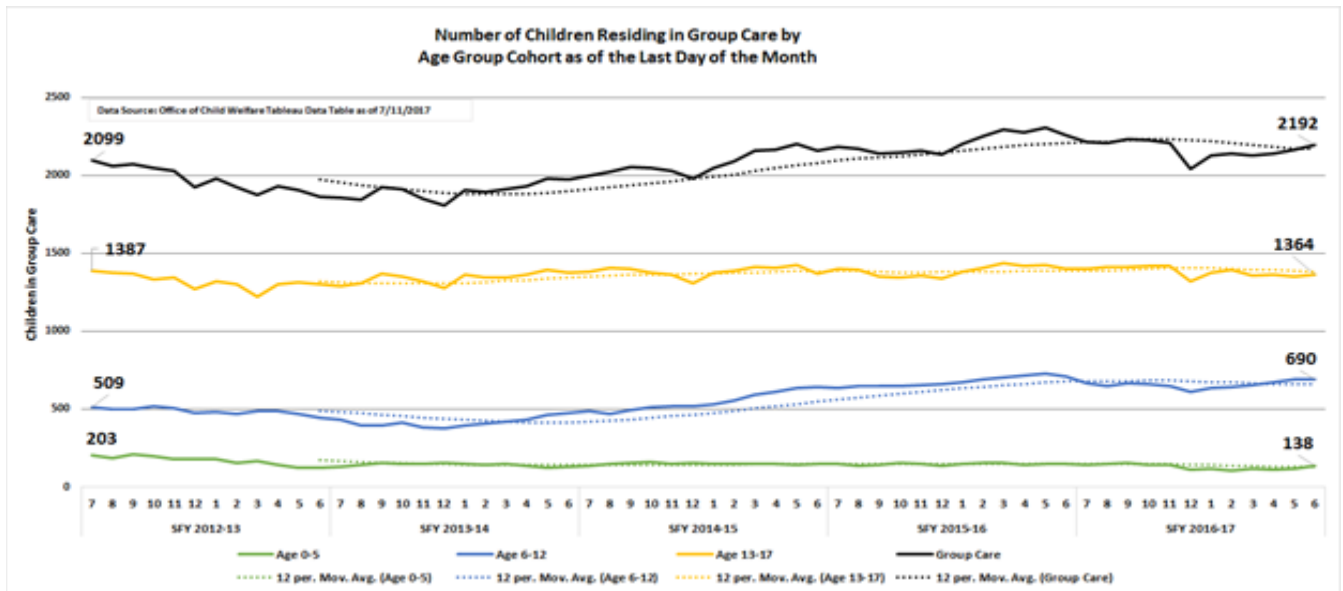## Percent of Children in Licensed Care Placed in Group Care

Circuit/CBC Comparisons

The proportion of children of all ages in licensed care who are placed in group care ranges from 11.4% to over 40%.

Percentage of Children in Licensed Care Placed in Group Care Ages 0-17 by CBC Lead Agency as of June 30, 2017

CBC Lead Agency	Percentage
Devereux CBC	41.80%
Community Based Care of Central Fla	35.90%
Big Bend CBC	31.30%
Heartland for Children	30.10%
Sarasota Y/Safe Children Coalition	29.30%
Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc	29.10%
ChildNet-Broward	27.50%
Eckerd Community Hillsborough	26.80%
Statewide	25.00%
ChildNet-Palm Beach	25.00%
Families First Network	24.10%
Partnership for Strong Families	22.80%
Community Based Care of Central Fla (Seminole)	22.20%
Kids Central, Inc.	21.60%
Community Partnership for Children	21.20%
Eckerd Community Alternatives	21.10%
Childrens Network of SW Florida	17.70%
Brevard Family Partnership	15.60%
Family Support Services of North Fla	13.70%
Family Integrity Program	13.00%
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	11.40%

Data Source: Child Welfare Key Indicators Monthly Report - July 2017

Children in Group Care by Age Group
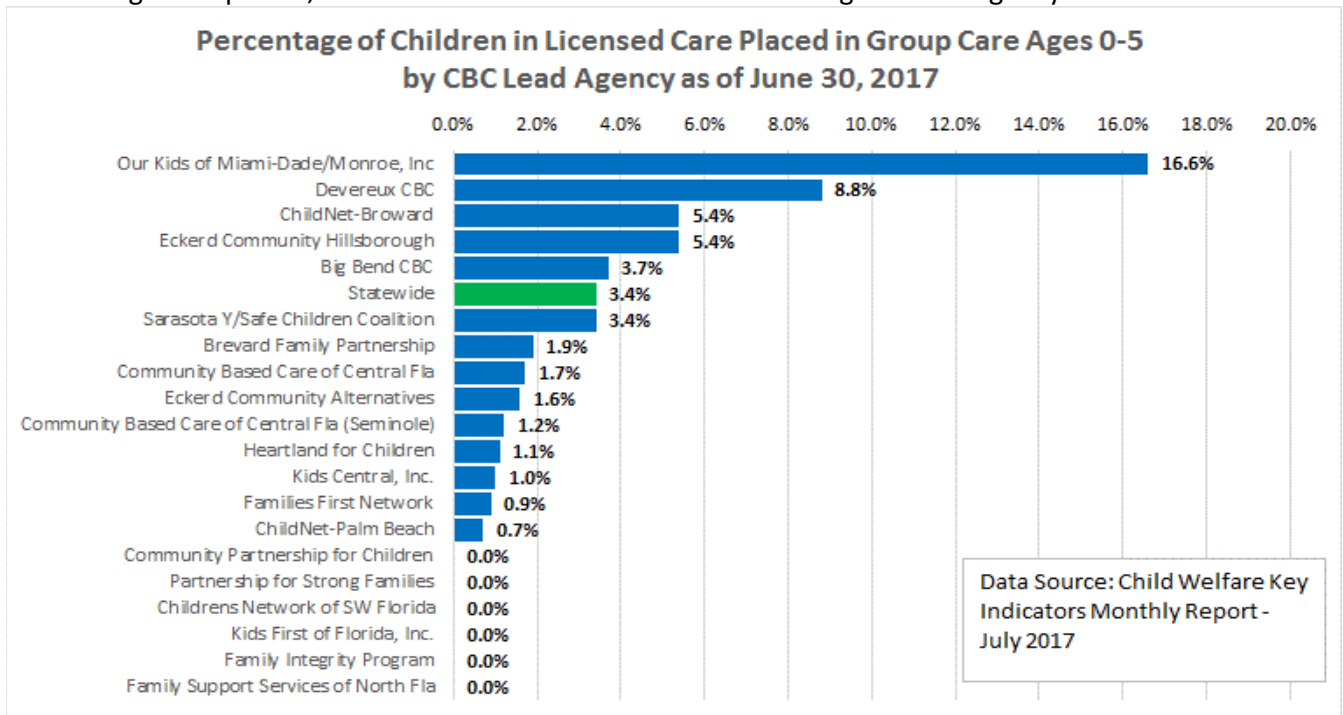### *Florida Statewide Trend*
The statewide number of children ages 6-12 in group care has increased sharply since 2014.
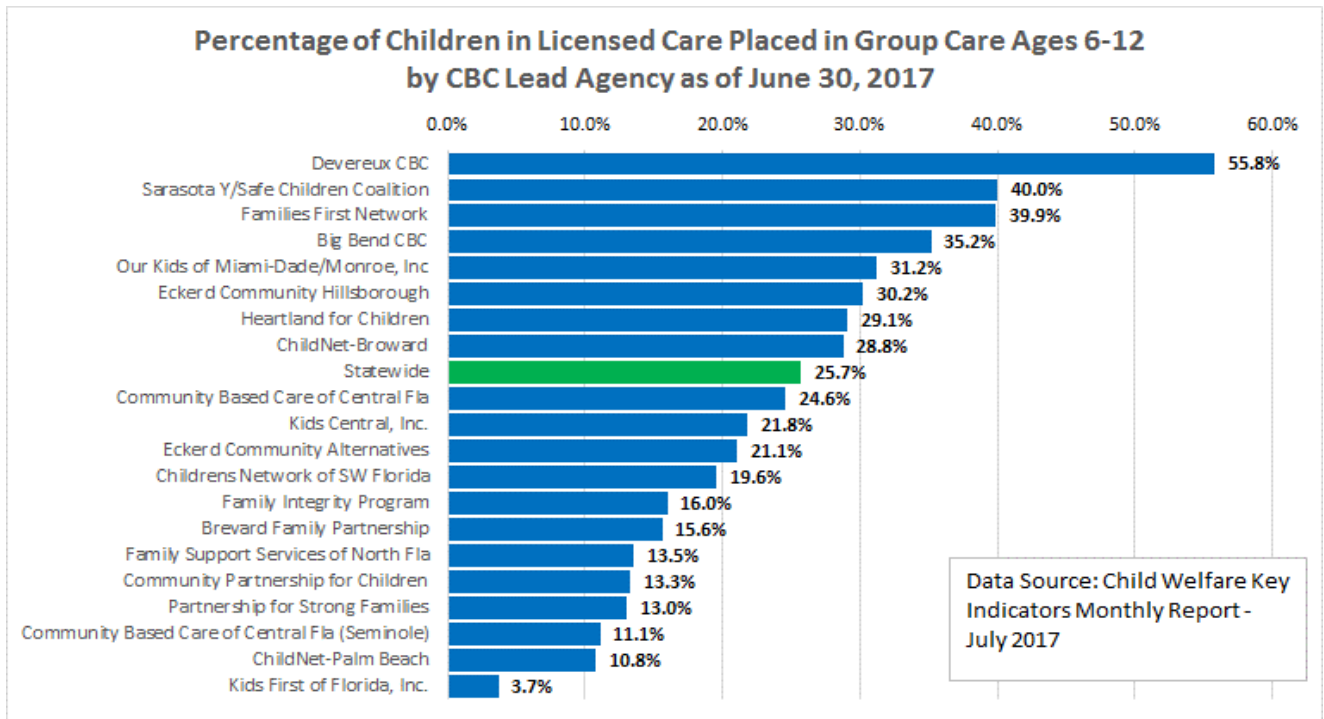

Circuit/CBC Comparisons

Children Ages 0-5 Years in Licensed Care Placed in Group Care
One of the original seven ASFA outcomes was Outcome 7: "Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions." Overall the percentage of very young children placed in group care is generally quite low, with 75% of areas having less than the statewide average percentage of children ages 0-5 placed, and one area twice the rate of the next highest lead agency.
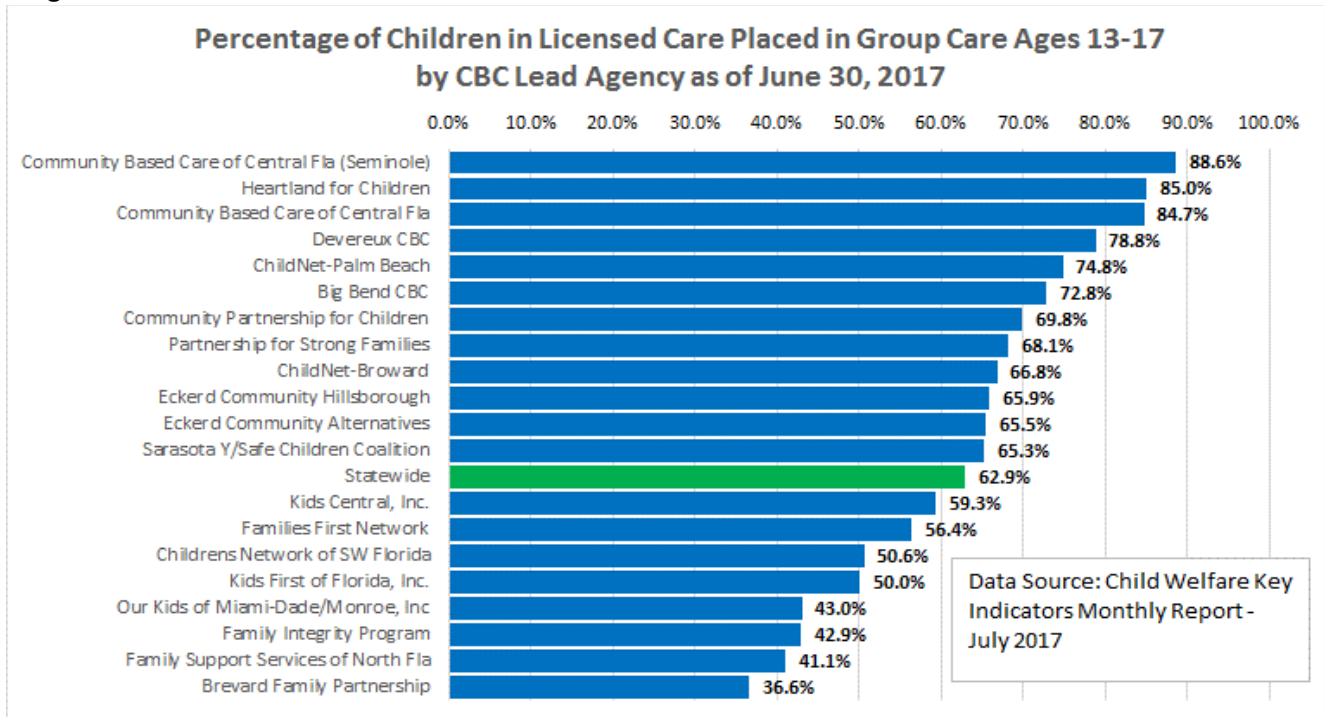
Children Ages 6-12 Years in Licensed Care Placed in Group Care
The proportion of children of children ages 6 to 12 in licensed care who are placed in group care ranges from 3.7% to over 50%.

Percentage of Children in Licensed Care Placed in Group Care Ages 6-12 by CBC Lead Agency as of June 30, 2017

Agency	Percentage
Devereux CBC	55.8%
Sarasota Y/Safe Children Coalition	40.0%
Families First Network	39.9%
Big Bend CBC	35.2%
Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc	31.2%
Eckerd Community Hillsborough	30.2%
Heartland for Children	29.1%
ChildNet-Broward	28.8%
Statewide	25.7%
Community Based Care of Central Fla	24.6%
Kids Central, Inc.	21.8%
Eckerd Community Alternatives	21.1%
Childrens Network of SW Florida	19.6%
Family Integrity Program	16.0%
Brevard Family Partnership	15.6%
Family Support Services of North Fla	13.5%
Community Partnership for Children	13.3%
Partnership for Strong Families	13.0%
Community Based Care of Central Fla (Seminole)	11.1%
ChildNet-Palm Beach	10.8%
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	3.7%

Data Source: Child Welfare Key Indicators Monthly Report - July 2017

Children Ages 13-17 Years in Licensed Care Placed in Group Care
The proportion of children of children ages 13 to 17 in licensed care who are placed in group care ranges from 36.6% to over 85%.

Percentage of Children in Licensed Care Placed in Group Care Ages 13-17 by CBC Lead Agency as of June 30, 2017

Agency	Percentage
Community Based Care of Central Fla (Seminole)	88.6%
Heartland for Children	85.0%
Community Based Care of Central Fla	84.7%
Devereux CBC	78.8%
ChildNet-Palm Beach	74.8%
Big Bend CBC	72.8%
Community Partnership for Children	69.8%
Partnership for Strong Families	68.1%
ChildNet-Broward	66.8%
Eckerd Community Hillsborough	65.9%
Eckerd Community Alternatives	65.5%
Sarasota Y/Safe Children Coalition	65.3%
Statewide	62.9%
Kids Central, Inc.	59.3%
Families First Network	56.4%
Childrens Network of SW Florida	50.6%
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	50.0%
Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc	43.0%
Family Integrity Program	42.9%
Family Support Services of North Fla	41.1%
Brevard Family Partnership	36.6%

Data Source: Child Welfare Key Indicators Monthly Report - July 2017

Educational Achievement of Foster Children

One of Florida's nine statutory CBC outcomes is "Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs." Children in licensed and kinship foster care are atypical of children in the general population and have many challenges before they enter care, as reflected in the indicators in this section. Children are removed and placed in foster care because of maltreatment by their parents or guardians. Most of these children were born into poverty. There is a growing body of research on the effects of early maltreatment on brain development. All children in foster care have experienced loss and trauma, but are no different from other children in learning, growing, playing with friends their age, and needing the love and stability a permanent home provides.

Research has found that maltreatment results in lower academic achievement:
- Maltreated children have lower verbal and math scores.
- Neglected children have poorer academic performance than physically maltreated children.
- Maltreated children have higher rates of absenteeism from school than non-maltreated peers.
- Maltreated children are at substantially higher risk of repeating a grade.
- Maltreated children are at increased risk of dropping out before high school graduation.
- Maltreated children are more likely to be referred for special education services.
- Maltreated children are more likely to exhibit poor social skills and classroom behavior.

http://www.icmec.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Child-Maltreatment-and-Academic-Achievement.pdf

A study by the Vera Institute of Justice, "What Keeps Children in Foster Care from Succeeding in School," (https://www.vera.org/publications/what-keeps-children-in-foster-care-from-succeeding-in-schools-views-of-early-adolescents-and-the-adults-in-their-lives) found that foster children face roadblocks other economically disadvantaged children do not face, including those that effect academic performance:
- Foster children avoid social interactions with peers to hide their foster care status and blame themselves, not foster care or schools, for their poor achievement.
- Foster parents and caseworkers were not aware of academic progress.
- School staff was not aware of foster care events that led to missed tests and assignments.

The median amount of time that a child spends in foster care is just over a year, with children entering care throughout the year and with episodes typically overlapping academic years. Child welfare agencies may not be able to reverse the many effects of maltreatment before removal and placement, including academic performance, but they can avoid further disruptions in school through placement near the child's school and can work with the school system to ensure stability.

Children in foster care frequently change schools – when they enter foster care, when they move from one home to another, and when they return home. Research shows that children who change schools frequently make less academic progress than their peers and fall farther behind with each school change. School instability makes it difficult for children to develop supportive relationships with teachers or peers. Children in foster care frequently face delays in school enrollment or are placed in the wrong classes or schools, often due to missing, incomplete, or delayed school records.

The 2015 federal Every Student Succeeds Act provides for collaboration between education and child welfare agencies to promote school stability and success. Children in foster care must remain in their "school of origin" unless a determination is made that it is not in their best interest, including consideration of the appropriateness of the current educational setting and the proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement. If a change is warranted, foster children can enroll immediately in a new school, even without providing records. If transportation to the school of origin is needed, it must be provided.
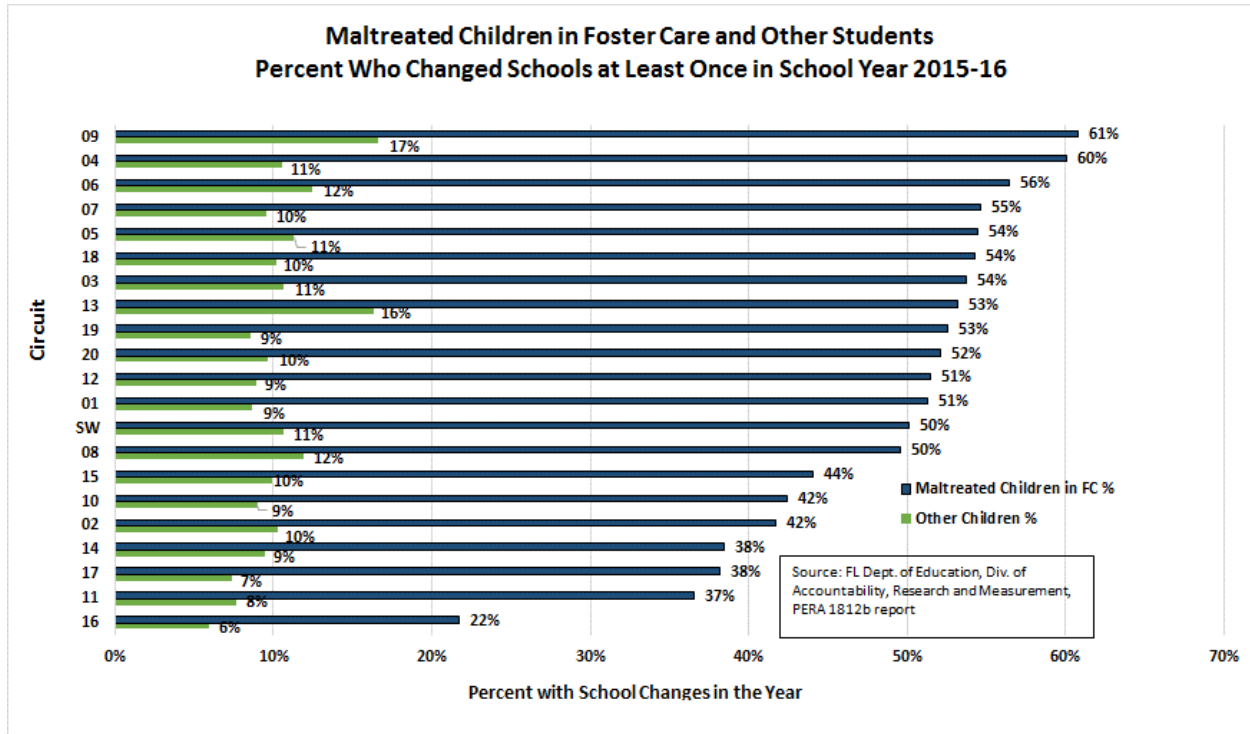
Florida Department of Education

The Florida Department of Education (DOE) Division of Accountability, Research and Measurement provides the Office of Child Welfare (OCW) with data annually specific to public school performance of children that have been in out-of-home care for any duration of time during a school year and includes comparable data of children statewide who have not experienced any out-of-home care episodes. These data points include:

- The number of students who earn a standard high school diploma;
- The number of students with disabilities;
- The number of students who change schools at least once during the school year and the average number of changes; and
- Student performance on the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) English Language Arts and Mathematical Overview.
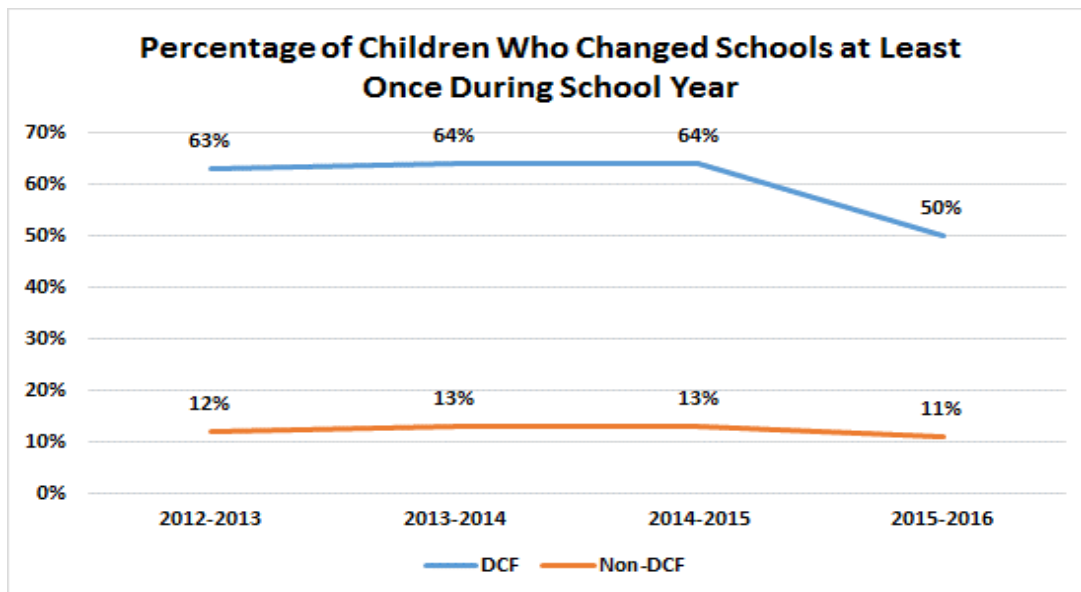
Educational Stability

Circuit Comparisons

Although the child welfare system does not have direct control over school success, it does have control over school changes related to removals and placements.

**Maltreated Children in Foster Care and Other Students
Percent Who Changed Schools at Least Once in School Year 2015-16**

Circuit	Maltreated Children in FC %	Other Children %
09	61%	17%
04	60%	11%
06	56%	12%
07	55%	10%
05	54%	11%
18	54%	10%
03	54%	11%
13	53%	16%
19	53%	9%
20	52%	10%
12	51%	9%
01	51%	9%
SW	50%	11%
08	50%	12%
15	44%	10%
10	42%	9%
02	42%	10%
14	38%	9%
17	38%	7%
11	37%	8%
16	22%	6%

Source: FL Dept. of Education, Div. of Accountability, Research and Measurement, PERA 1812b report

Florida Statewide Trend

Statewide, the percentage of children who experienced an out-of-home care episode and changed schools at least once during the school year dropped significantly in 2015-2016 from the previous school year.

Percentage of Children Who Changed Schools at Least Once During School Year

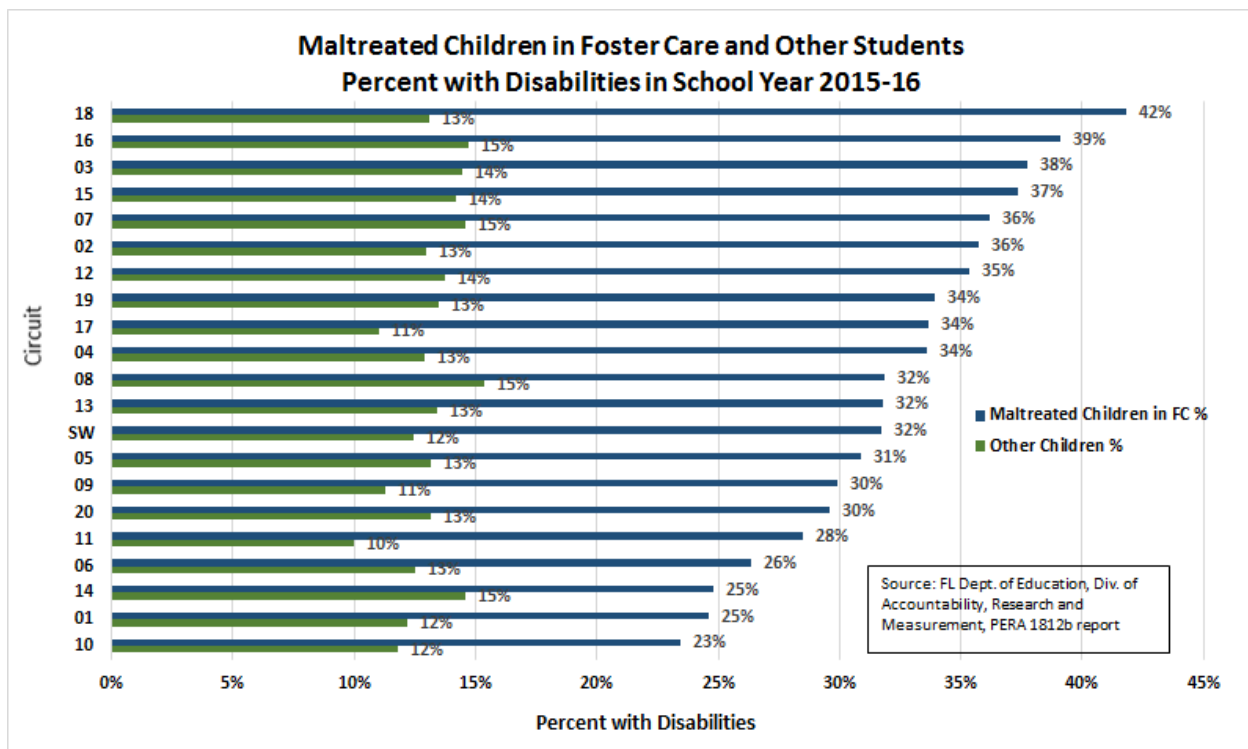|	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
DCF	63%	64%	64%	50%
Non-DCF	12%	13%	13%	11%

Percent of Children with Disabilities

Florida Statewide Trend
Statewide, the percent of children who experienced an out-of-care episode with identified disabilities continues to decrease since the 2012-2013 school year.
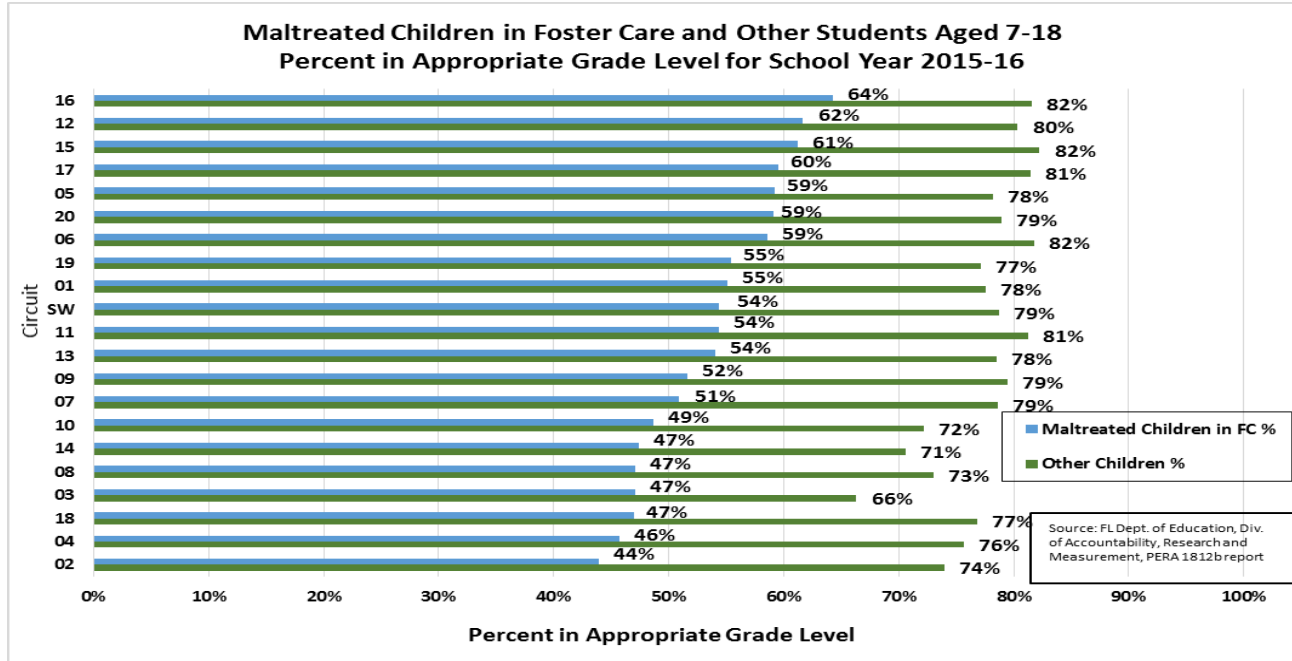
Percent of Students with Disabilities

	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
DCF	37%	36%	35%	32%
Non-DCF	13%	13%	13%	12%
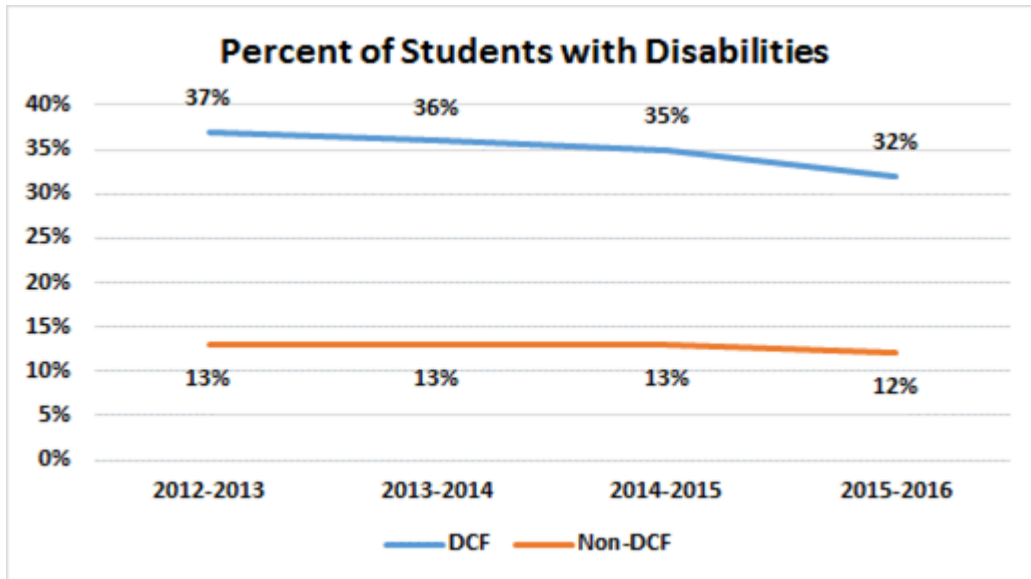
Circuit Comparisons
The percentages for children are much higher and highly variable across school districts.

Maltreated Children in Foster Care and Other Students Percent with Disabilities in School Year 2015-16

Circuit	Maltreated Children in FC %	Other Children %
18	42%	13%
16	39%	15%
03	38%	14%
15	37%	14%
07	36%	15%
02	36%	13%
12	35%	14%
19	34%	13%
17	34%	11%
04	34%	13%
08	32%	15%
13	32%	13%
SW	32%	12%
05	31%	13%
09	30%	11%
20	30%	13%
11	28%	10%
06	26%	13%
14	25%	15%
01	25%	12%
10	23%	12%

Source: FL Dept. of Education, Div. of Accountability, Research and Measurement, PERA 1812b report

## Appropriate Grade Level for Age

Circuit Comparisons

79% percent of non-foster children ages 7-18 were at the appropriate grade level, compared to 54% percent for foster children.

Maltreated Children in Foster Care and Other Students Aged 7-18
Percent in Appropriate Grade Level for School Year 2015-16

Percent of Students in Grade 12 Who Earn a Standard High School Diploma

Florida Statewide Trend

DOE reported that Florida achieved a graduation rate of 80.7% in 2015-2016 (see http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7584/urlt/GradRates1516.pdf). The data provided by its Division of Accountability, Research and Measurement for the 2015-2016 school year shows a significant increase of standard high school diplomas earned for Grade 12 students from previous years reported. Due to this extreme change, the Department is following-up to determine its validity.

Percent of Students in Grade 12 Who Earn a Standard High School Diploma
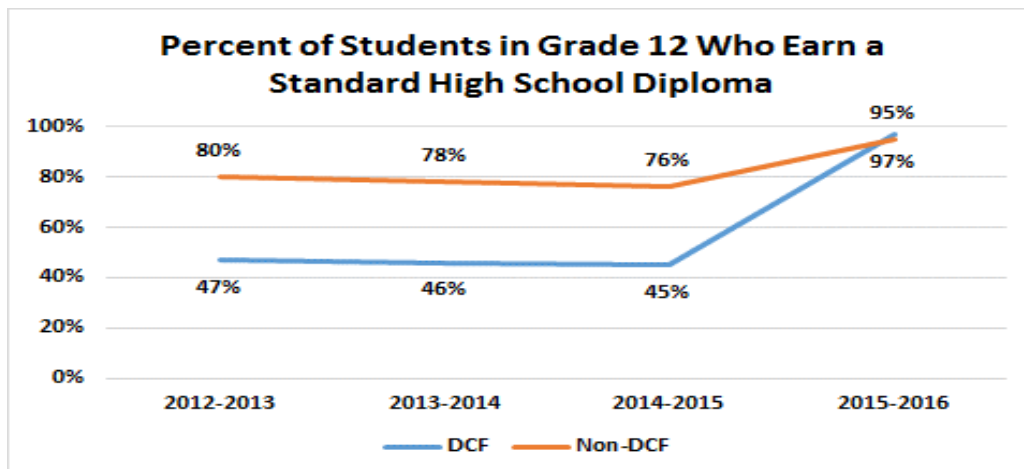
Florida faces extensive challenges in strengthening the well-being of children who experience out-of-home care episodes in the form of educational achievement because of mobility and other inherent destabilizing factors experienced by children in out-of-home care notated in this section's opening.

In regards to trends of contributing factors towards instability, placement moves per 1,000 days of children in out-of-home-care continues to increase annually statewide since FY 2013-2014 (see page 63); however, children in out-of-home care that are placed outside of their home county/circuit/region has dropped statewide from June 2016 to June 2017 (page 65) and school placement moves for children in out-of-home care as reported by DOE dropped in 2015-2016 from the previous school year (see page 73). Additionally, the percentage of young adults who age out of foster care and have enrolled in or completed secondary education, vocational training or adult education continues to be well above the state target since FY 2012-2013 (see page 79).

Continued improvement towards success in a child's educational achievement can best be assessed and performed at the circuit/school district level with increased community collaboration, awareness, and action towards stability goals. The foster care provisions of Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) that took effect in December 2016 place a great emphasis on the educational stability of children in out-of-home care and requires several key provisions for states on this effort.
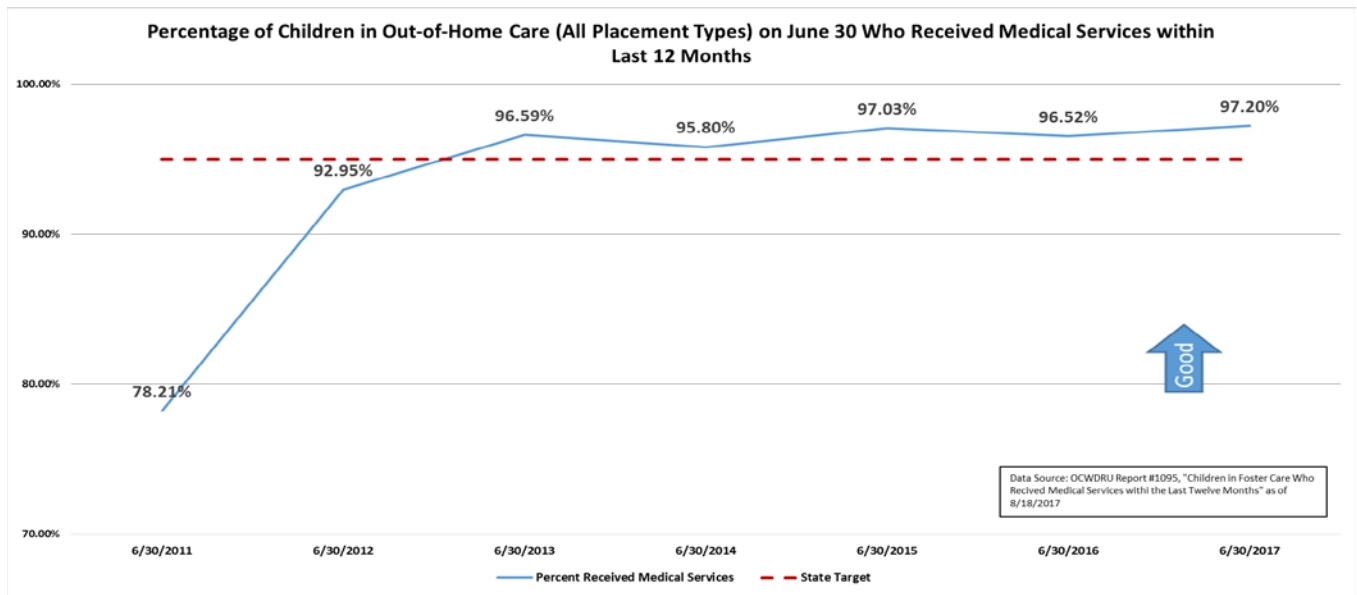
Physical and Mental Health Needs

One of Florida's nine statutory CBC outcomes is "Children Receive Services to Meet their Physical and Mental Health Needs." Considerable progress has been made in the last few years in providing regular medical and dental services.

Medical Services

Florida Statewide Trend

Statewide performance improved from less than 80% in 2011 to a stable 97% over the last few years.
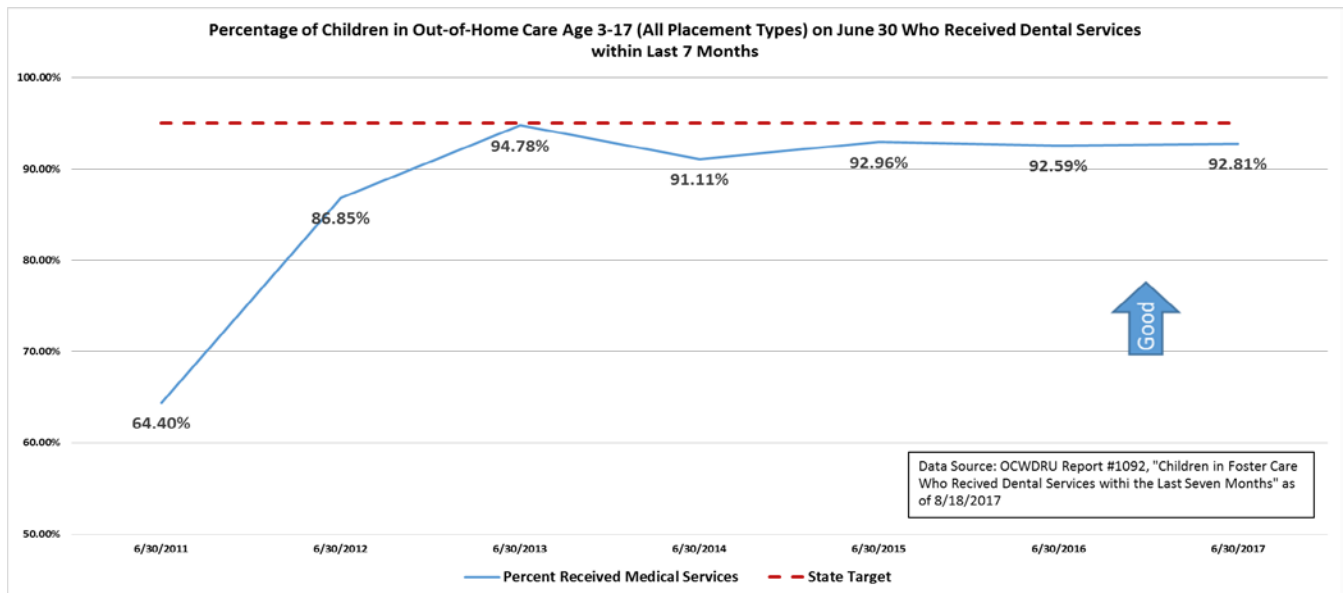

Circuit/CBC Comparisons

All but one area is above the 95% target on this indicator.

Area	6/30/2011	6/30/2012	6/30/2013	6/30/2014	6/30/2015	6/30/2016	6/30/2017
Families First Network-Circuit 01	77.08%	95.52%	96.33%	97.47%	94.59%	92.89%	97.78%
Big Bend CBC-Circuits 02 &14	69.68%	93.35%	95.35%	95.06%	96.82%	99.20%	99.28%
Partnership for Strong Families-Circuits 03 & 08	92.49%	90.44%	94.25%	93.35%	97.77%	97.51%	98.93%
Kids First, Inc.-Circuit 4 (Clay County Only)	91.36%	87.55%	96.89%	95.31%	98.48%	99.10%	98.05%
Family Support Services of North FL-Circuit 04 (Duval & Nassau Counties)	87.54%	92.37%	94.81%	98.10%	97.37%	98.23%	99.09%
St Johns Family Integrity-Circuit 07 (St Johns County Only)	74.68%	87.34%	98.23%	91.95%	96.15%	97.38%	98.41%
Community Partnership for Children-Circuit 07 (Flagler, Putnam and Volusia Counties Only)	74.46%	85.69%	96.26%	93.16%	95.44%	92.98%	92.39%
Kids Central, Inc.-Circuit 05	69.77%	94.24%	95.76%	95.46%	96.95%	95.08%	95.02%
CBC of Central Florida-Circuit 09	62.40%	87.68%	96.03%	95.81%	96.23%	96.47%	97.37%
CBC of Central Florida-Seminole-Circuit 18 (Seminole County Only)	55.64%	87.56%	94.14%	92.86%	95.03%	93.20%	94.93%
Brevard Family Partnership-Circuit 18 (Brevard County Only)	87.38%	97.63%	97.20%	93.62%	96.28%	96.67%	96.81%
Heartland for Children-Circuit 10	50.38%	92.60%	96.49%	96.36%	96.58%	98.19%	99.25%
Eckerd Community-Hillsborough-Circuit 13	88.49%	93.39%	95.95%	95.24%	99.01%	97.68%	99.36%
Eckerd Community-Pasco and Pinellas-Circuit 06	78.62%	91.97%	96.75%	97.66%	98.74%	98.46%	98.90%
Sarasota Safe Children Coalition-Circuit 12	84.10%	95.06%	98.98%	99.04%	99.45%	97.30%	95.03%
Children's Network of SW FL-Circuit 20	90.12%	95.63%	96.58%	95.86%	97.07%	93.41%	95.87%
Devereux CBC-Circuit 19	62.92%	93.17%	93.97%	93.59%	96.30%	98.33%	96.30%
ChildNet-Palm Beach-Circuit 15	65.55%	90.40%	98.08%	96.92%	97.60%	96.12%	95.39%
ChildNet-Broward-Circuit 17	90.25%	96.64%	98.25%	96.23%	96.28%	96.94%	96.91%
Our Kids-Circuits 11 & 16	91.79%	97.06%	98.09%	94.58%	97.01%	97.32%	97.32%
Statewide	78.21%	92.95%	96.59%	95.80%	97.03%	96.52%	97.20%

Dental Services

Florida Statewide Trend

Statewide performance improved from around 65% in 2011 to more than 90% in the last few years.

Percentage of Children in Out-of-Home Care Age 3-17 (All Placement Types) on June 30 Who Received Dental Services within Last 7 Months

Data Source: OCWDRU Report #1092, "Children in Foster Care Who Recived Dental Services withi the Last Seven Months" as of 8/18/2017

Circuit/CBC Comparisons

Thirteen areas are above the statewide target of 95%, with another five areas falling above the 90% level on this indicator.

Percentage of Children in Out-of-Home Care Age 3-17 (All Placement Types) on June 30 Who Received Dental Services within Last 7 Months (State Target 95.0%)							
Area	6/30/2011	6/30/2012	6/30/2013	6/30/2014	6/30/2015	6/30/2016	6/30/2017
Families First Network-Circuit 01	55.05%	87.36%	95.00%	93.62%	79.73%	81.85%	91.37%
Big Bend CBC-Circuits 02 &14	59.70%	92.95%	91.42%	87.81%	91.53%	97.47%	98.52%
Partnership for Strong Families-Circuits 03 & 08	80.91%	84.06%	94.62%	86.99%	92.59%	95.31%	96.24%
Kids First, Inc.-Circuit 4 (Clay County Only)	81.82%	73.81%	96.30%	88.33%	91.23%	96.18%	97.65%
Family Support Services of North FL-Circuit 04 (Duval & Nassau Counties)	89.44%	85.82%	95.83%	92.64%	97.13%	95.49%	96.50%
St Johns Family Integrity-Circuit 07 (St Johns County Only)	64.20%	77.08%	89.74%	87.76%	84.09%	97.54%	94.96%
Community Partnership for Children-Circuit 07 (Flagler, Putnam and Volusia Counties Only)	54.14%	73.65%	90.12%	84.41%	86.97%	82.70%	80.87%
Kids Central, Inc.-Circuit 05	53.38%	90.57%	95.69%	94.99%	96.41%	92.63%	95.18%
CBC of Central Florida-Circuit 09	47.24%	83.49%	95.37%	95.77%	97.01%	94.15%	98.20%
CBC of Central Florida-Seminole-Circuit 18 (Seminole County Only)	42.00%	82.05%	95.76%	93.58%	98.09%	94.08%	97.93%
Brevard Family Partnership-Circuit 18 (Brevard County Only)	69.41%	95.89%	95.22%	90.80%	90.02%	92.70%	95.29%
Heartland for Children-Circuit 10	37.83%	83.17%	92.04%	91.18%	94.34%	92.49%	95.04%
Eckerd Community-Hillsborough-Circuit 13	70.60%	87.80%	95.12%	92.75%	96.39%	96.60%	96.84%
Eckerd Community-Pasco and Pinellas-Circuit 06	67.58%	90.29%	95.96%	95.36%	97.36%	97.43%	96.40%
Sarasota Safe Children Coalition-Circuit 12	68.63%	84.88%	94.75%	94.99%	92.36%	81.38%	58.82%
Children's Network of SW FL-Circuit 20	65.78%	91.86%	86.77%	90.88%	91.52%	84.86%	93.77%
Devereux CBC-Circuit 19	57.04%	85.19%	92.97%	91.39%	90.64%	95.61%	93.98%
ChildNet-Palm Beach-Circuit 15	55.49%	71.43%	96.70%	91.20%	95.02%	94.67%	92.00%
ChildNet-Broward-Circuit 17	69.34%	91.67%	97.70%	93.74%	91.08%	92.94%	91.03%
Our Kids-Circuits 11 & 16	81.35%	93.10%	97.79%	81.51%	94.30%	96.42%	95.21%
Statewide	64.40%	86.85%	94.78%	91.11%	92.96%	92.59%	92.81%

Preparation for Independent Living as Adults

Two of Florida's nine statutory CBC outcomes are "Children Receive Appropriate Services to Meet their Educational Needs" and "Children Develop the Capacity for Independent Living and Competence as an Adult."

Young Adults Aging Out Enrolled in Education Programs

For children who don't achieve permanency prior to reaching adulthood, it is crucial that they are prepared for life after foster care by the time they "age out" of care. While education is one indicator of preparation for adulthood, it does not control for any of the many variables that further influence this, including time in care and the child's education level when entering care.
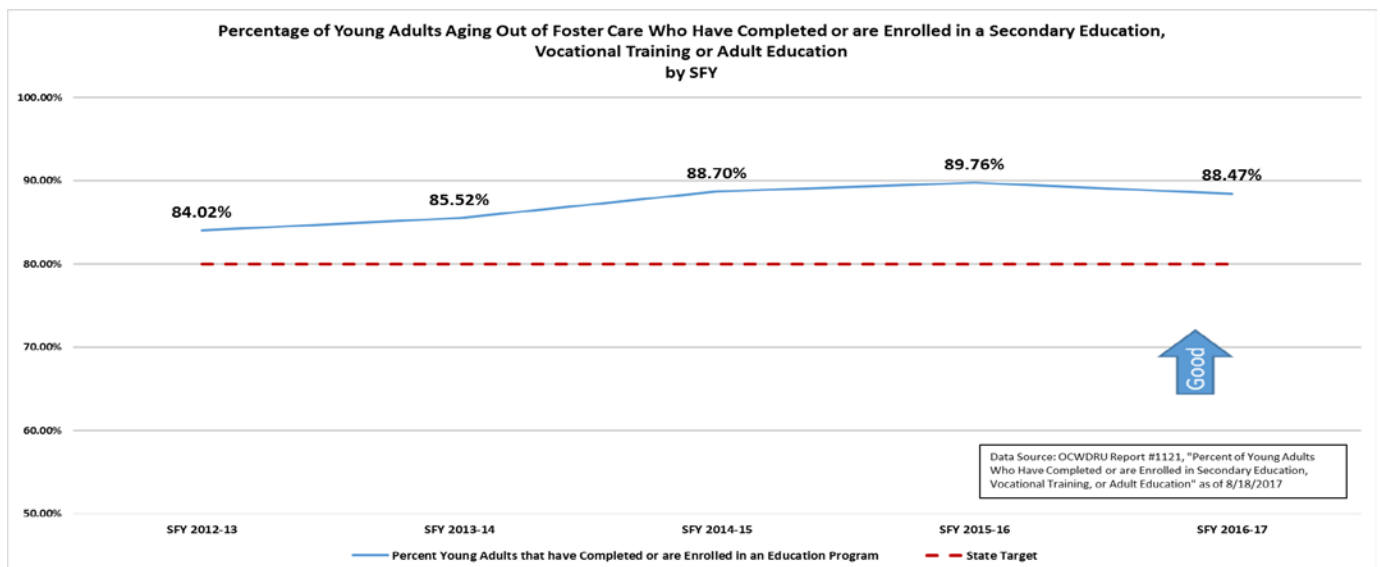
Circuit/CBC Comparisons

All but three areas are above the statewide target of 80%, consistent with the previous SFY.

Percentage of Young Adults Aging Out of Foster Care Who Have Completed or are Enrolled in a Secondary Education, Vocational Training or Adult Education by SFY (State Target 80.0%)					
Area	SFY 2012-13	SFY 2013-14	SFY 2014-15	SFY 2015-16	SFY 2016-17
Families First Network-Circuit 01	93.88%	84.62%	81.08%	86.67%	85.45%
Big Bend CBC-Circuits 02 &14	86.84%	86.11%	73.53%	80.00%	81.82%
Partnership for Strong Families-Circuits 03 & 08	100.00%	91.30%	90.91%	100.00%	89.47%
Kids First, Inc.-Circuit 4 (Clay County Only)	87.50%	100.00%	88.89%	100.00%	100.00%
Family Support Services of North FL-Circuit 04 (Duval & Nassau Counties)	74.55%	85.00%	100.00%	93.94%	96.88%
St Johns Family Integrity-Circuit 07 (St Johns County Only)	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	64.29%	75.00%
Community Partnership for Children-Circuit 07 (Flagler, Putnam and Volusia Counties Only)	82.76%	70.27%	66.67%	88.24%	75.00%
Kids Central, Inc.-Circuit 05	68.18%	82.14%	82.93%	92.50%	84.91%
CBC of Central Florida-Circuit 09	88.41%	83.33%	82.54%	76.92%	91.67%
CBC of Central Florida-Seminole-Circuit 18 (Seminole County Only)	100.00%	88.89%	82.35%	71.43%	68.75%
Brevard Family Partnership-Circuit 18 (Brevard County Only)	80.49%	76.19%	76.67%	86.67%	87.10%
Heartland for Children-Circuit 10	85.45%	77.36%	87.27%	93.18%	88.46%
Eckerd Community-Hillsborough-Circuit 13	85.23%	87.65%	95.83%	98.85%	95.83%
Eckerd Community-Pasco and Pinellas-Circuit 06	87.50%	93.85%	93.65%	95.65%	88.31%
Sarasota Safe Children Coalition-Circuit 12	100.00%	86.36%	100.00%	96.15%	90.91%
Children's Network of SW FL-Circuit 20	88.89%	78.57%	90.00%	94.00%	91.18%
Devereux CBC-Circuit 19	72.50%	96.67%	92.31%	84.00%	88.10%
ChildNet-Palm Beach-Circuit 15	73.68%	90.16%	92.41%	94.12%	95.16%
ChildNet-Broward-Circuit 17	71.32%	77.66%	95.00%	92.59%	91.74%
Our Kids-Circuits 11 & 16	94.34%	92.50%	88.03%	84.51%	83.82%
Statewide	84.02%	85.52%	88.70%	89.76%	88.47%