



# DCF FOSTER CARE OVERVIEW

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HOUSE CHILDREN AND SENIORS COMMITTEE- JANUARY 18, 2022

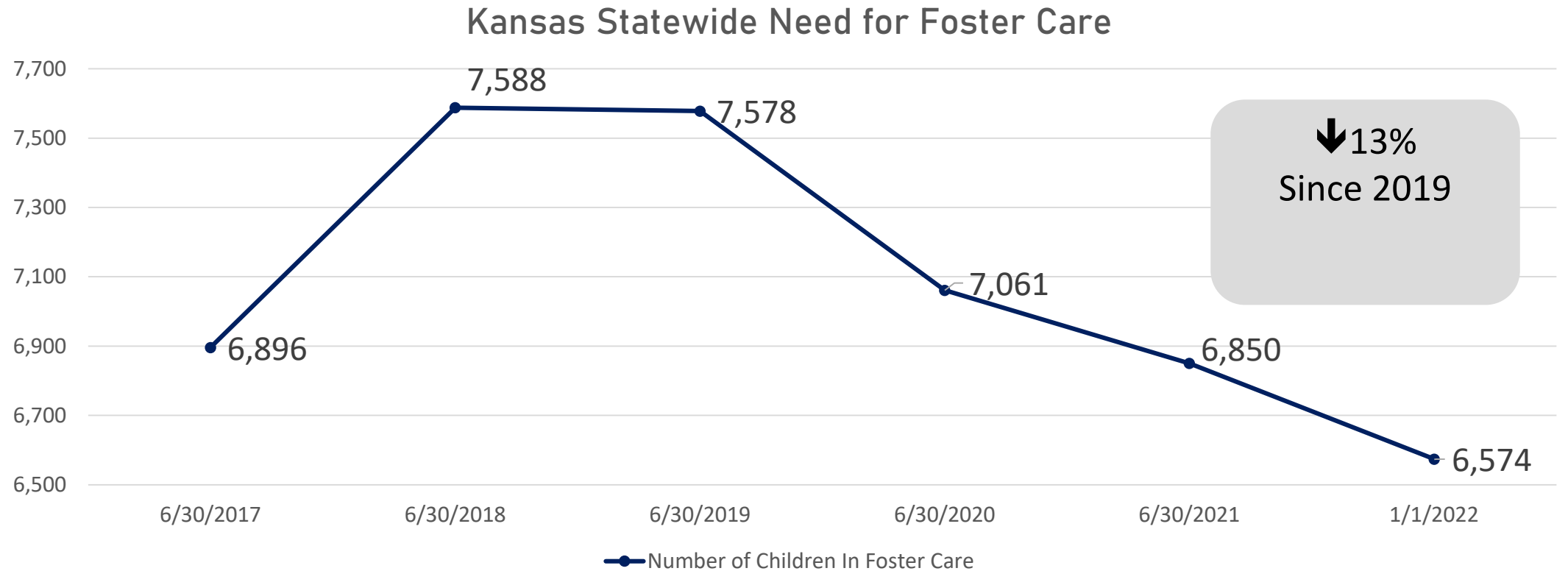


# OVERVIEW

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# HOW IT'S GOING – BY THE NUMBERS

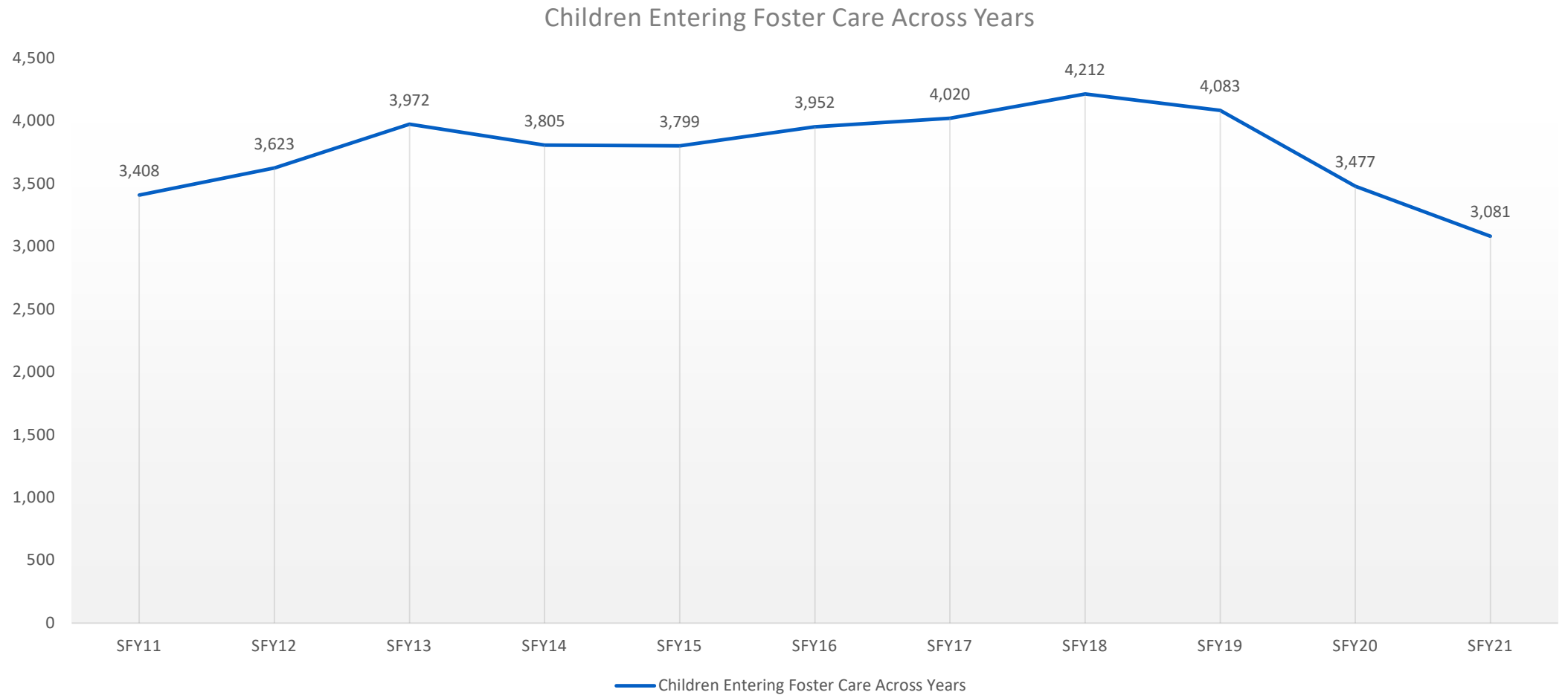


- Only law enforcement and the court can remove a child from a parent’s custody.
- DCF does not remove children or decide to take children into state custody.
- During an assessment or prevention service delivery, when there is a concern a child may need to leave the home due to safety concerns, a Team Decision Making meeting is held.
- There are times when the safest decision for a child is protective custody removal into foster care.
- If DCF determines it is not possible to protect a child through services or other actions it recommends that the county or district attorney file a Child In Need of Care, or “CINC,” petition



# ENTRY INTO FOSTER CARE

# HOW IT'S GOING – BY THE NUMBERS



- Family Crisis Response
- Expand Parent Legal Representation
- Family First Prevention Services
- Family Preservation since 1997



**STRENGTHENING  
PREVENTION**

# FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES

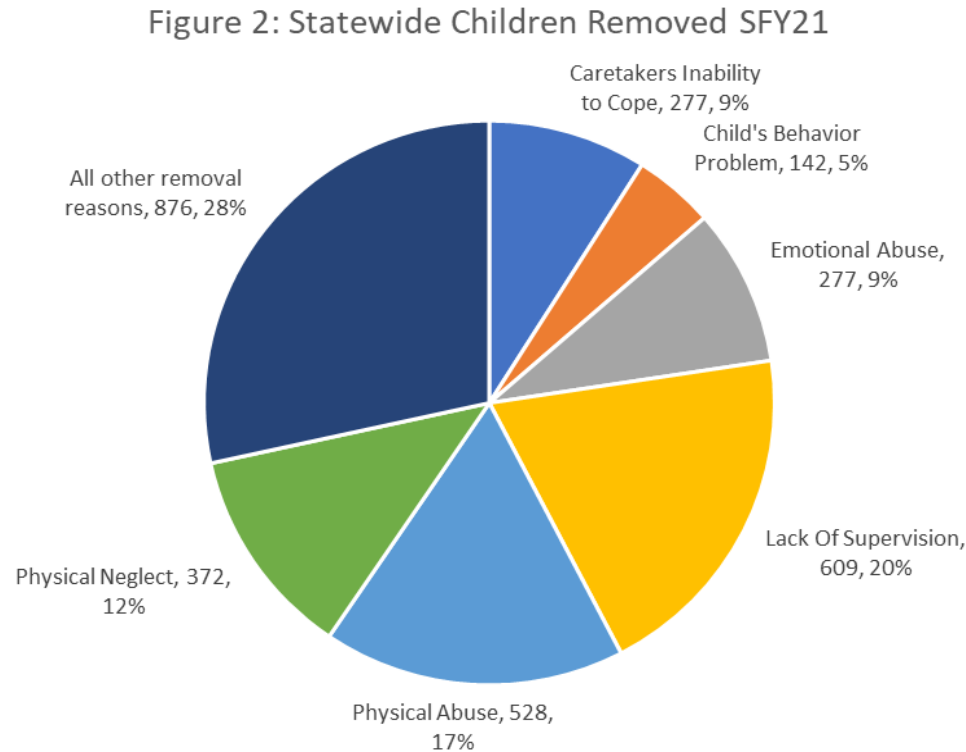
## Outcomes

- 89% of children and youth who have reached 12 months from time of referral remain home without need for foster care
  - Goal = 90%
- 0.1% of children and youth served have been placed in foster care during an open Family First case
  - Goal = >10%



# HIGHLIGHTS IN SFY21 CONSIDERING ALL POSSIBLE REASONS FOR REMOVAL:

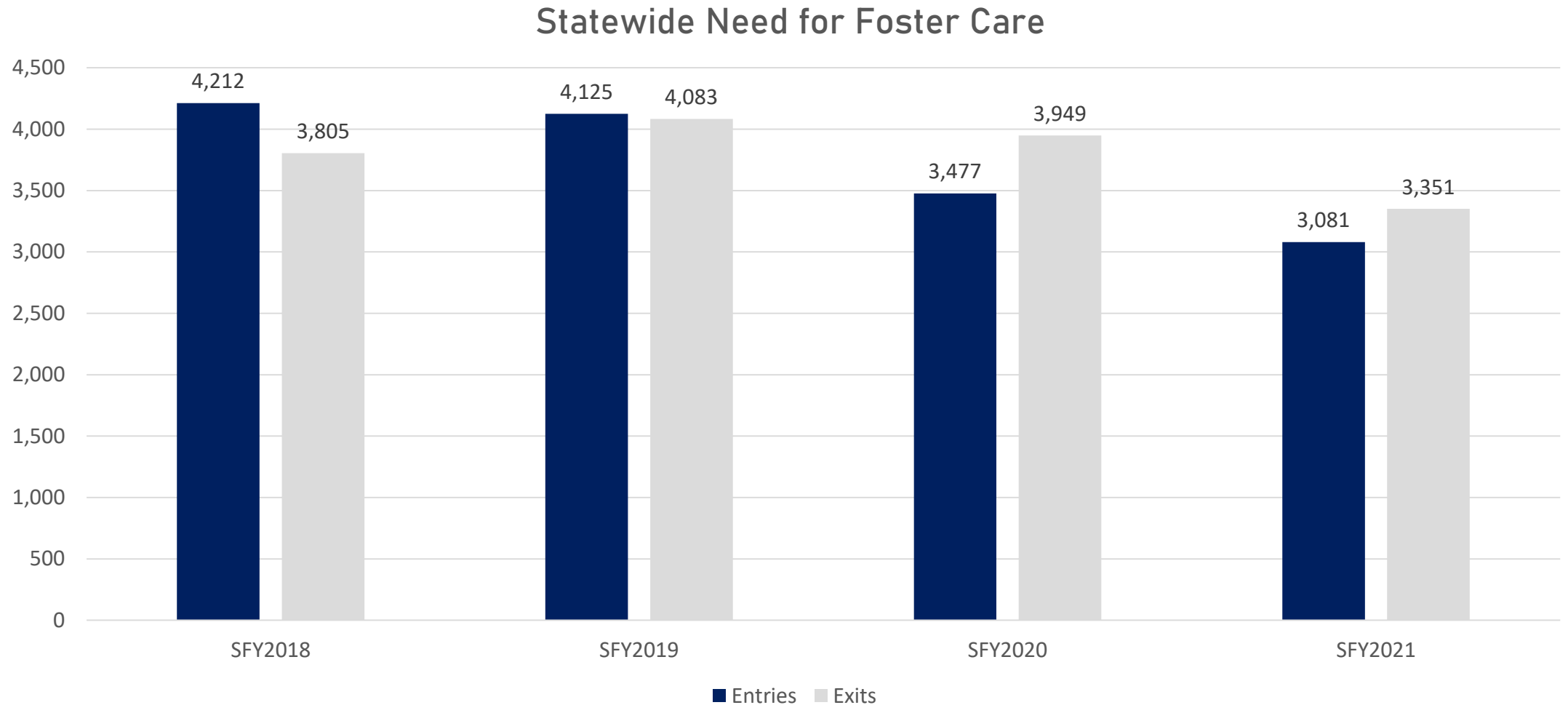
- 76% of all children removed were for reasons of abuse or neglect and 24% were for reasons related to a family in need of assessment which are not abuse or neglect.
- The most frequent reason for removal is related to neglect reasons (35%): Lack of supervision, 20%; physical neglect 12%; medical neglect 2%; and educational neglect 1%.



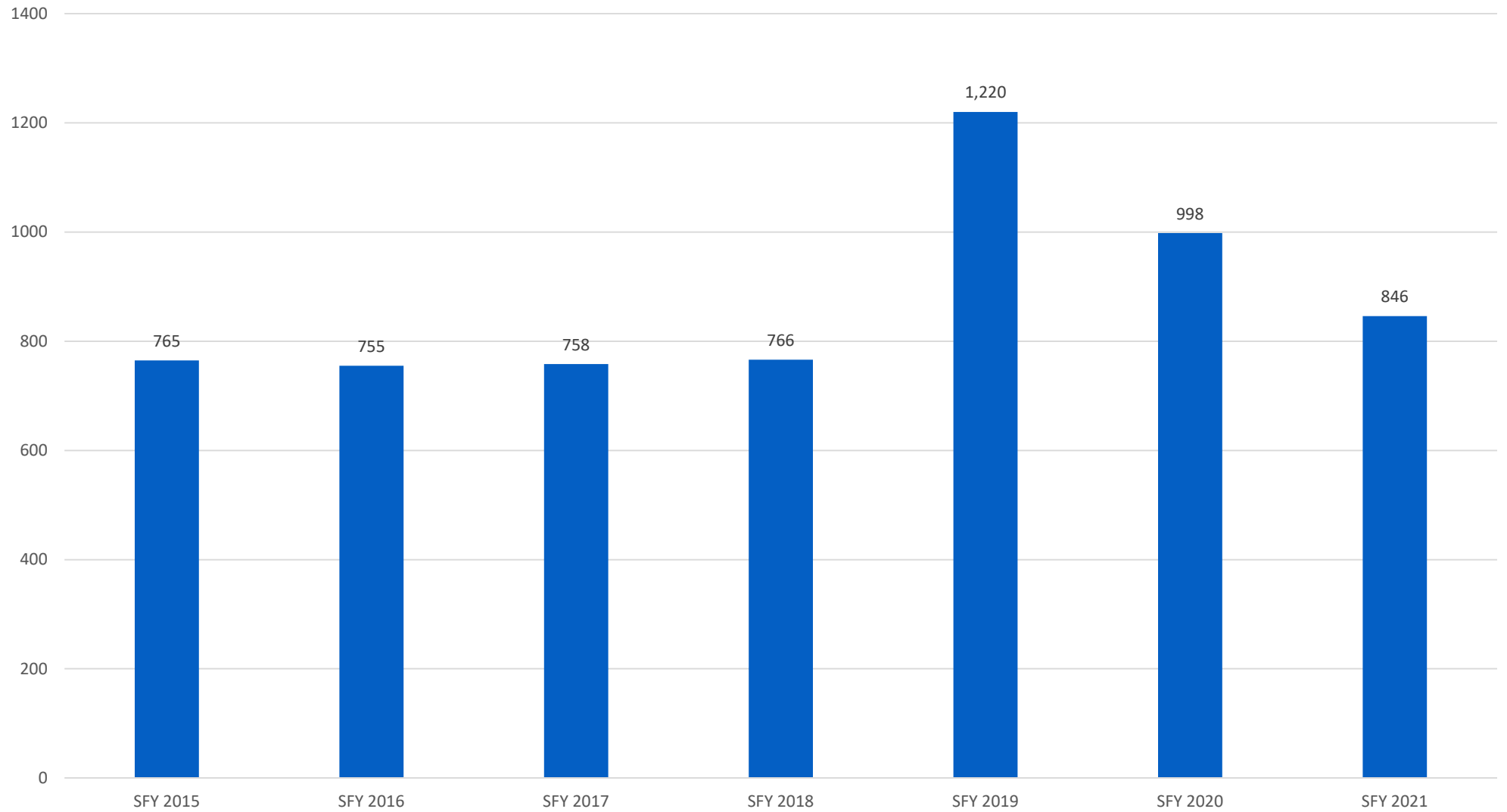
- 9% of children enter care related to a parent's inability to cope with circumstances of their situation to meet the child's needs that is not neglect.
- Across these reasons for removal, there were few differences between SFY20 and 21 with exception to lack of supervision, which increased from 15% in SFY20 to 20% in SFY21



# HOW IT'S GOING – BY THE NUMBERS



### Finalized Adoptions Across Years



- Temporary custody hearing held within 72 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) after CINC petition filing to determine if the child shall remain in the home or come into DCF custody
- An adjudication hearing to formally find the child of being “in need of care” usually must be held within 60 days of the filing of a CINC petition
  - The state’s burden of proof is clear and convincing evidence



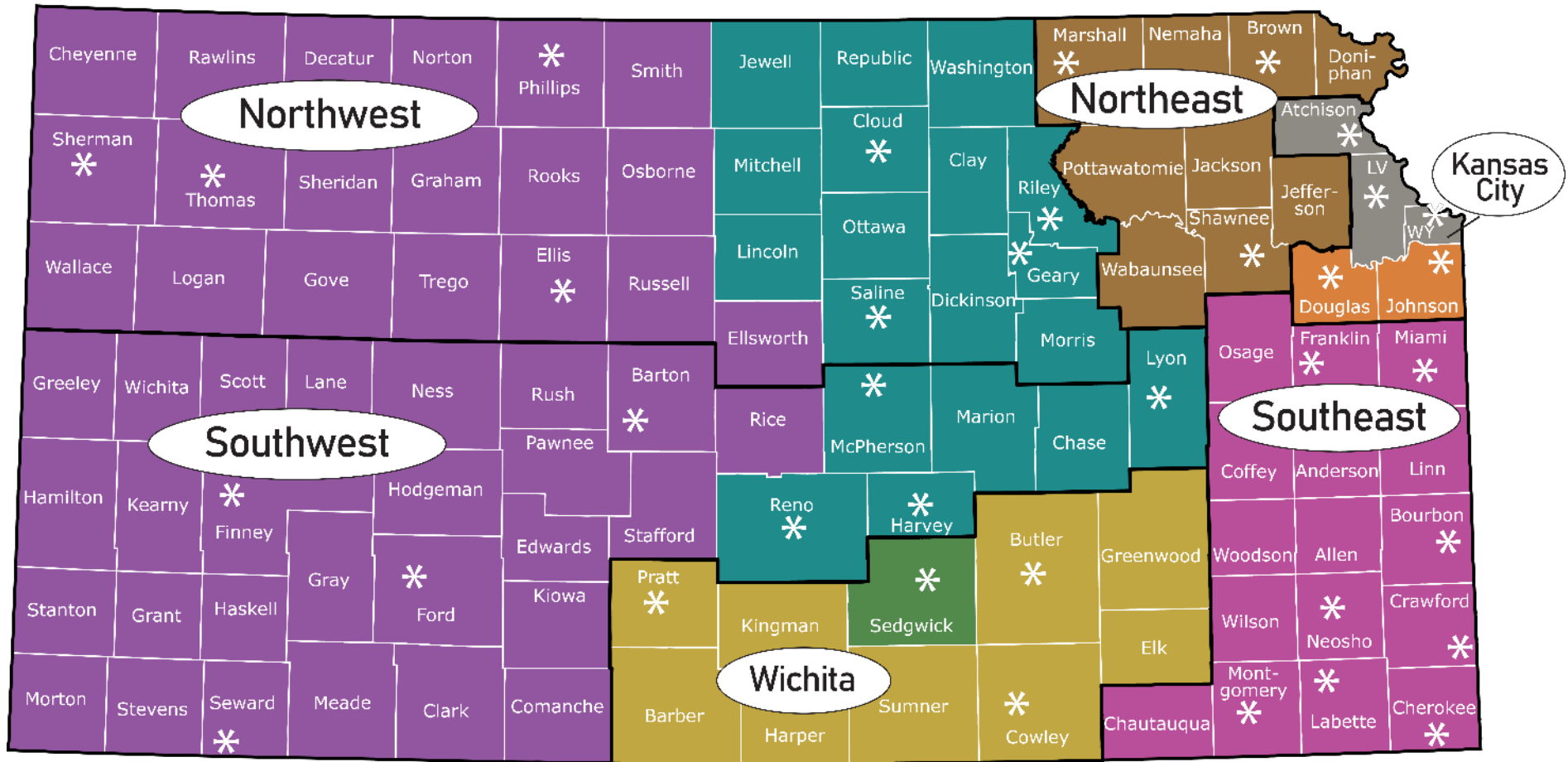
# ENTRY INTO FOSTER CARE

- Foster Care Case Management grantees work with grantees to support families, manage individual cases, and achieve case plan goals
- Four case management grantees:
  - Saint Francis Ministries
  - KVC Health Systems, Inc.
  - TFI Family Services
  - Cornerstones of Care
- Direct service to the child and family including case planning, placement, service delivery, reporting to court, and collaboration with community resources to ensure appropriate services are available near the child's home.



# FOSTER CARE CASE MANAGEMENT

# DCF Regions & Catchment Areas



- ✱ DCF Service Center
- |                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AREA #1<br/><i>Saint Francis Ministries</i></li> <li>AREA #2<br/><i>Saint Francis Ministries</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AREA #3<br/><i>KVC</i></li> <li>AREA #4<br/><i>TFI Family Services</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AREA #5<br/><i>Cornerstones of Care</i></li> <li>AREA #6<br/><i>KVC</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AREA #7<br/><i>Saint Francis Ministries</i></li> <li>AREA #8<br/><i>TFI Family Services</i></li> </ul> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

# CASE PLANS

- After a child is adjudicated to be a CINC, a disposition hearing is held in which the court will set the case plan goal for the child
- Placement decisions are a responsibility of case management providers.
- Following disposition, courts must have permanency hearings to evaluate progress towards case plan goals at a minimum of every 12 months
  - The court will continue to have final say over the child's case plan
- Case plan goals include: reintegration with the family, permanent guardianship/adoption, and other planned permanent living arrangements (OPPLA)



# SERVICES FOR FOSTER YOUTH AND FAMILIES



Services provided by case management grantees include:

- Initial and ongoing screenings and assessments
- Facilitation and engagement for family meetings
- Case plan development
- Placement stability support
- Facilitation of parenting time and parent/child interactions
- Parent skill building
- Coordination/referral to other services (ex: mental health, disability)
- Coordination with MCOs



- After a child has come into state care they will be placed in the setting with a level of care most appropriate for their individual needs
- Placements are reimbursed by DCF based on the type and the child's level of care needs.
- Types of placements include:
  - Relative placement
  - Family foster home
  - Residential facilities
  - Emergency shelters
  - QRTPs
  - Staff secure facilities



# FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS

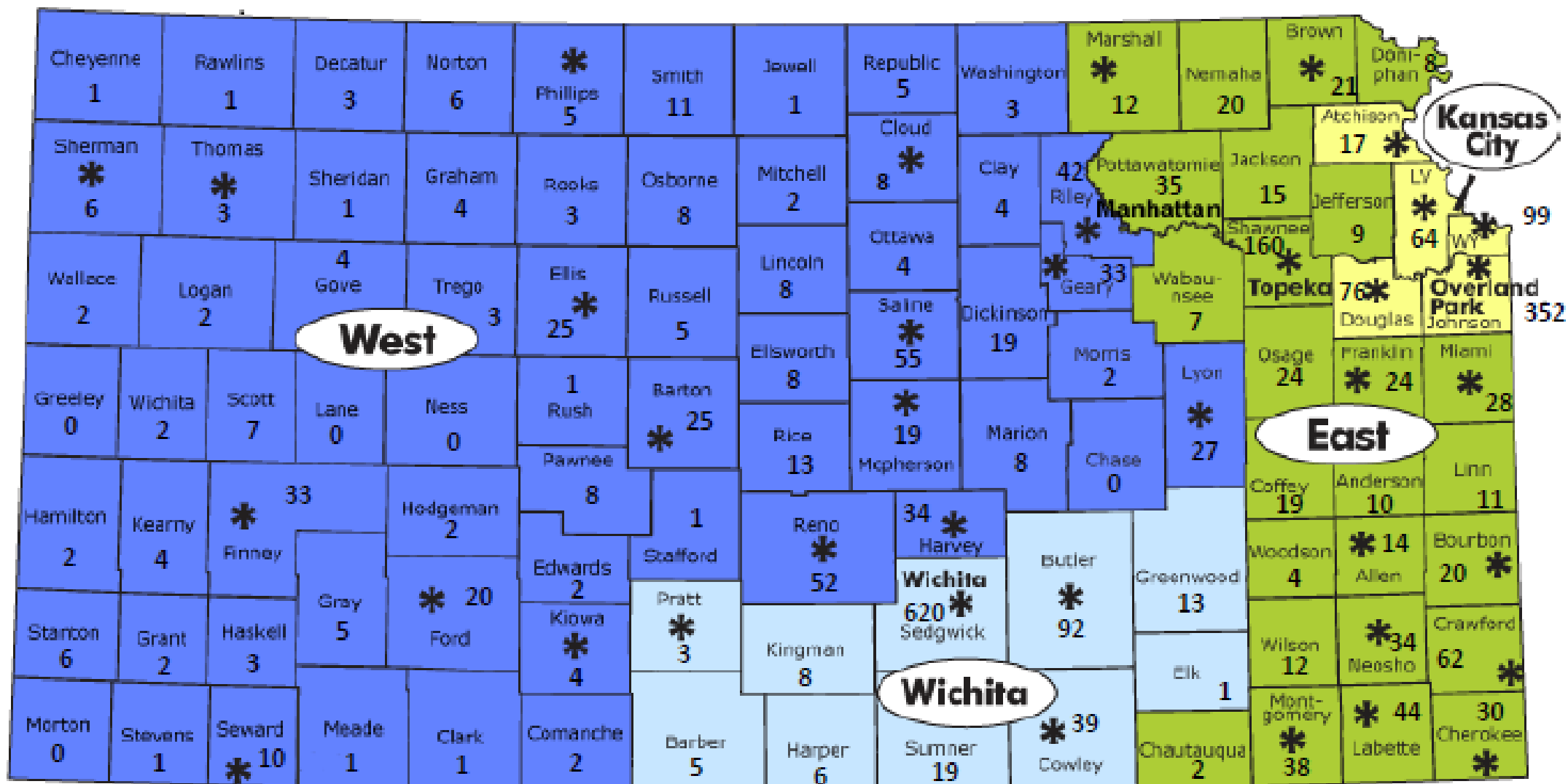
In FY 2021, among youth in out of home placement...

- ~ 51% were placed in a family foster home
- ~ 35% were placed with a relative
- ~ 8% were placed in a group or residential home
- ~ 42% of children are placed with either a relative or a kin caregiver.



**FOSTER CARE  
PLACEMENTS**

# FOSTER HOMES PER COUNTY



\* DCF Service Center

Foster Homes Per County as of 12-06-2021 Total: 2,659

# CAPACITY & NEED FOR FOSTER PARENTS

There is strong capacity in the number of foster homes; however, gaps and/or barriers are at times experienced when it comes to available placements being able to meet specialized identified needs, including but not limited to children and youth experiencing:

- High acuity
- Older than age 12
- Reservations about or refusal of a placement
- Medical or developmental disability concerns
- Emotional crisis to prevent PRTF/Acute care

# CAPACITY & NEED FOR FOSTER PARENTS AND SUPPORTS TO RELATIVES & KIN

- More specialized and in-home supports are needed to fill the identified gap
  - This would include a category of homes or level of care trained to meet children with higher needs and compensated accordingly.
  - DCF and KDADS researching professional foster home model in Missouri and treatment foster homes.
  - DCF engaging communities statewide through Families Over Facilities in effort to keep children in the custody of the Secretary in family-type settings. Part of focus is what is needed within communities for support and service provision to allow for successful placements.
- Children may experience failure to place due to
  - Relative or foster parents not trained or willing to serve high acuity needs of children.
  - Children often have reservations about or refuse placement.
  - Some foster homes not feeling comfortable taking teens.

# PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

- Quality Assurance
  - 15 Aggregate Data Performance Outcomes
  - Monthly data management reports
  - Quarterly case reviews
- Performance Improvement Plans
  - PIPs may be developed by Regions or Case Management Agencies when performance does not meet standard.
  - Agreed upon progress goals are developed.
- A penalty schedule may be applied at end of year if performance does not meet agreed upon after PIP implementation.
- Incentive schedule for success applied to outcomes met.

# PERFORMANCE TRENDS

## Federal Foster Care Outcome Data Indicators – Across Years

Statewide Indicator	SFY2020	SFY2021
Maltreatment in foster care ( 8.5 or fewer victimizations per 100,000 days in care)	3.76	3.82
Permanency in 12 months of entering foster care (40.6 or more)	35.8%	34.2%
Permanency for children in care 12-23 months (43.6 or more)	40.8%	35.6%
Placement Stability (4.4 or fewer)	5.9	5.4
Children in Care 3+ years (47.8% or less)	28.8%	34.6%





# PERFORMANCE TRENDS

## Timely Permanency Item (Data Insights: Item 6)

- Collaboration and Data Analysis: Achieving 40.5%
  - 4 Largest Counties / Judicial Districts not meeting timely permanency in first 12 months of care in SFY21.
    - Many permanencies are occurring in month 13 or 14.
  - DCF providing data to Office of Judicial Administration
  - Formal local PIPs developed by KVC, Cornerstones of Care and St. Francis Ministries.

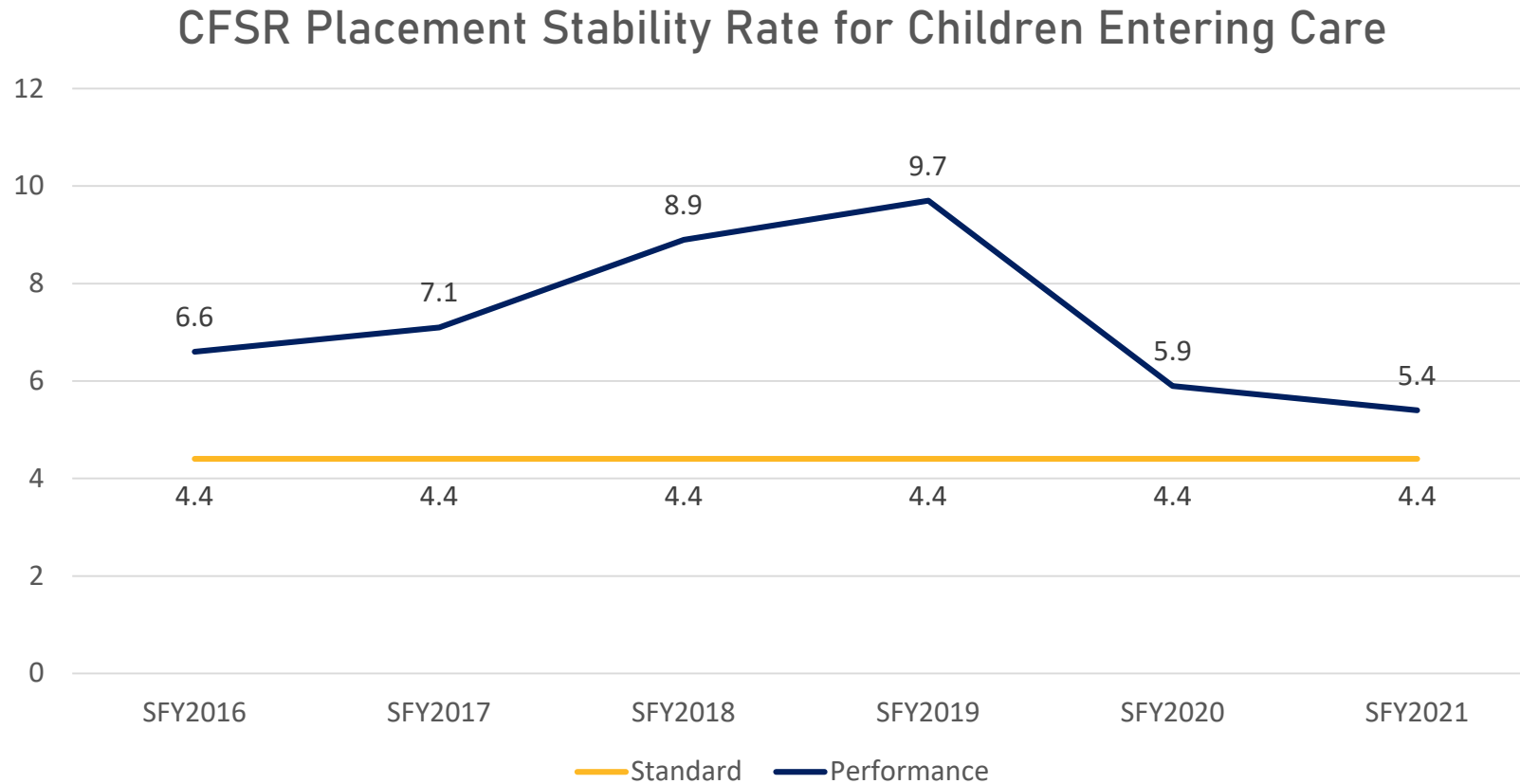
Area 3, KVC  
32.5%  
SN CO

Area 5, COC  
24.4%  
WY CO

Area 6, KVC  
22.7%  
SN CO

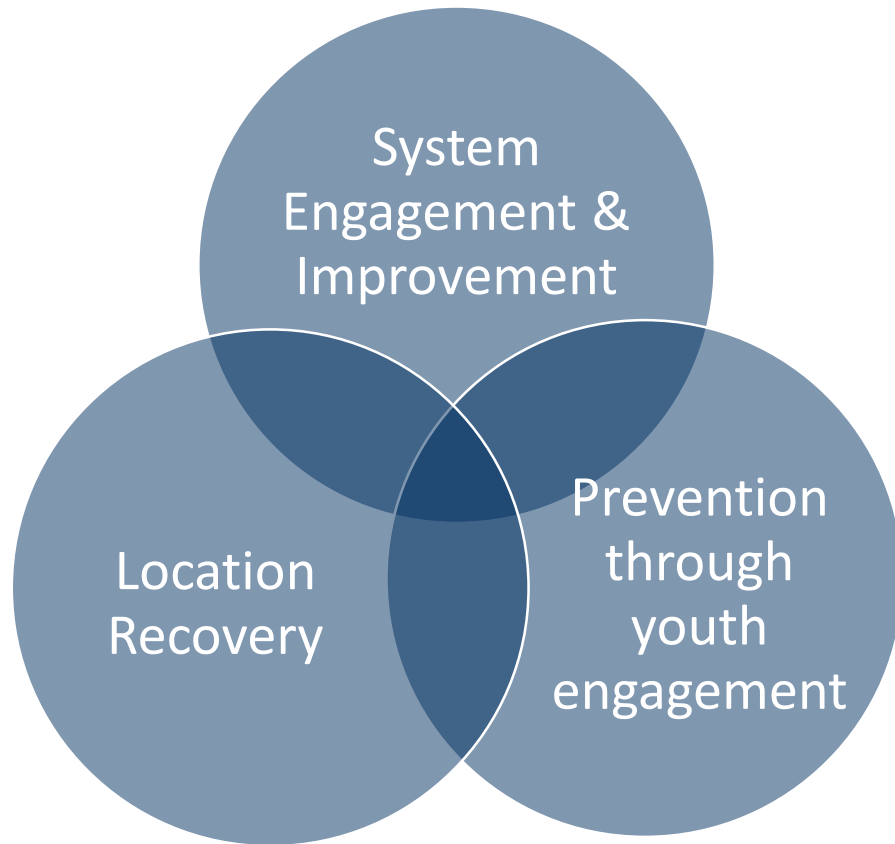
Area 7, SFM  
24.3%  
SG CO

# PERFORMANCE TRENDS



# CHILDREN MISSING FROM PLACEMENT

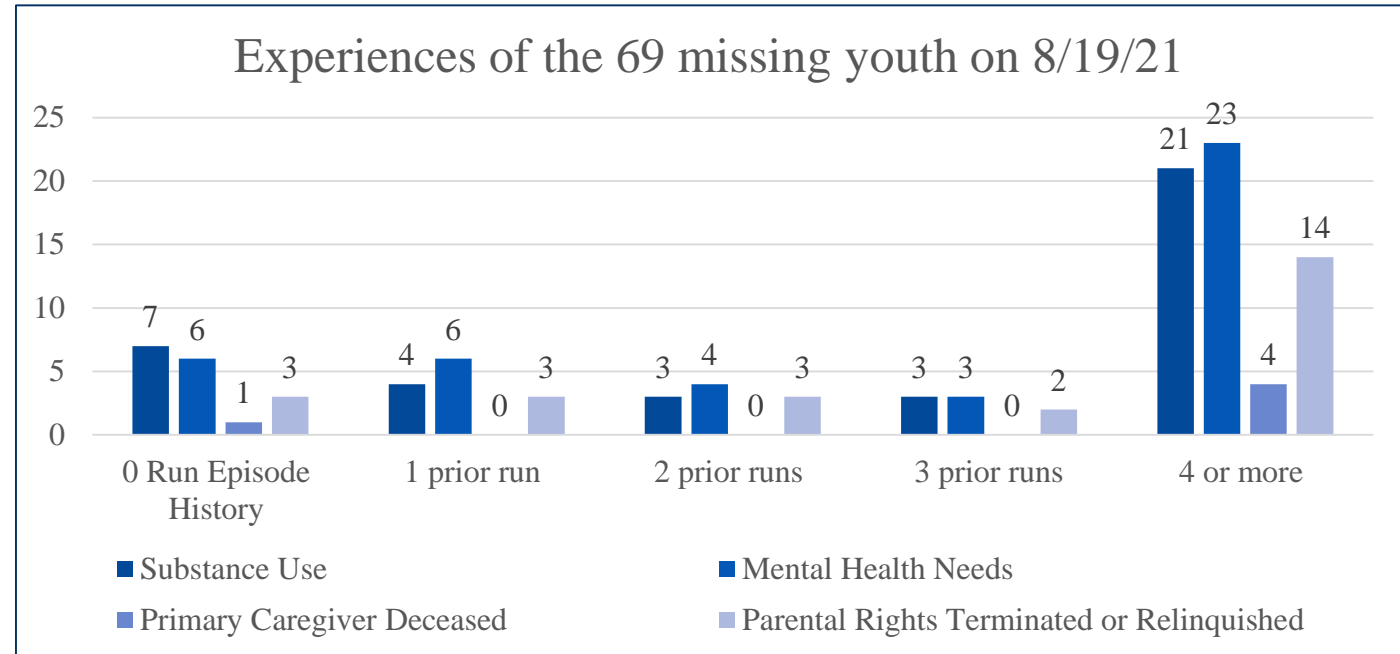
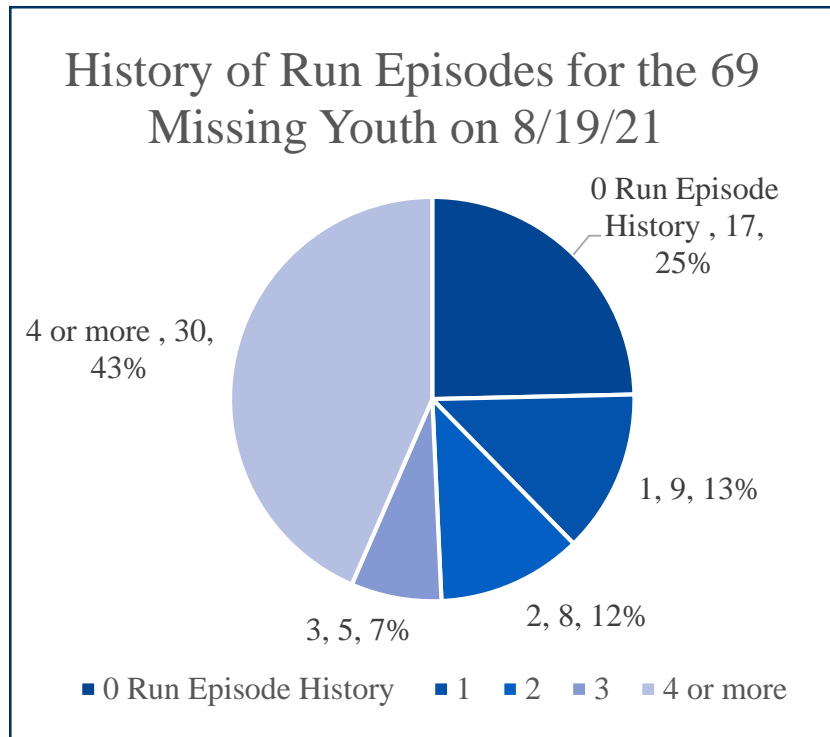
## Special Response Team



- Statewide network of DCF and foster care provider staff
- Expanded in 2019 to 10 members and in 2020 to 12 Response Team Specialists
- Non-caseload carrying positions for immediate specialized support

# CHILDREN MISSING FROM PLACEMENT

## SRT Snapshot and System Learnings



# CHILDREN MISSING FROM PLACEMENT

## What's Ahead

- Strengthen practice surrounding relational permanency: create lifelong stability for young people.
  - SOUL family permanency with Annie E. Casey Foundation and Think of Us (Support • Opportunity • Unity • Legal Relationship)
  - Family Finding/Seeing
- Enhance current approach by implementing a consistent Recovery Plan for each youth.
  - Continue work with National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) Child Sex Trafficking Recovery Services Team (RST) Leadership. The Recovery Plan will begin addressing needs and placement at the onset of running behaviors and pull together collective resources on behalf of the child or youth.
- Incorporate Authentic Youth Engagement and voice in all levels of services.

# FAILURE TO PLACE A CHILD

Children experiencing a failure to  
place staying overnight in case  
management offices

# FAILURE TO PLACE A CHILD

## Children in Offices

A child or youth is considered to have experienced a failure to place (temporarily housed or maintained overnight at a case management provider office) when that child has arrived at a case management agency office before 12:00 a.m. midnight of one day and there is failure to place the child in an appropriate placement before 6 a.m. of the following calendar day absent extraordinary circumstances

- No placement is located; or
- Placement located, but youth declines the placement



# FAILURE TO PLACE A CHILD

## Historical Data for State Fiscal Year 2018-2021

- DCF began instances tracking in April 2018
- Data in table represents # of instances, not the number of children
- In SFY22 as of 12/6/21, there have been 36 children involved in the 125 instances

Month	SFY18	SFY19	SFY20	SFY21	SFY22
JUL		4	33	7	11
AUG		9	9	5	13
SEP		11	17	8	45
OCT		0	12	7	44
NOV		0	9	9	8
DEC		0	18	8	4
JAN		4	19	2	
FEB		4	6	2	
MAR		12	6	4	
APR	85	35	1	4	
MAY	69	39	4	2	
JUN	6	21	17	5	

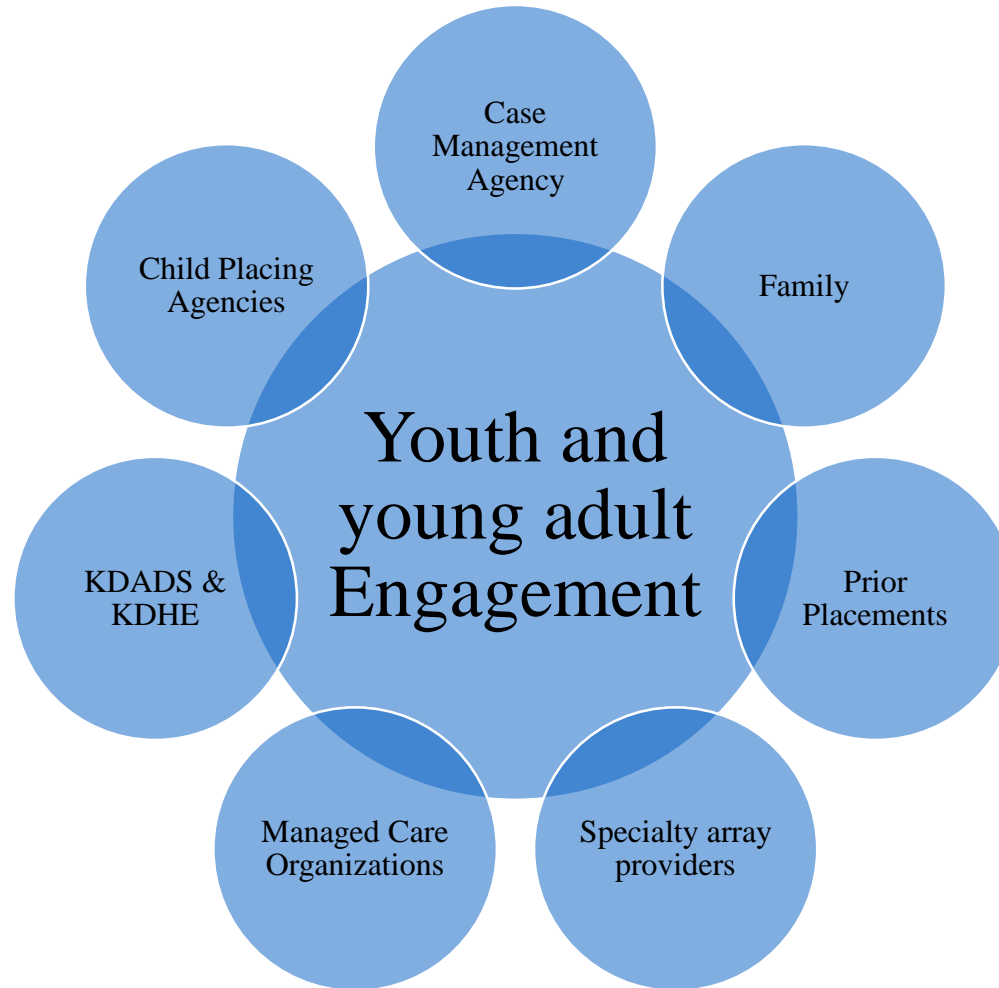
# FAILURE TO PLACE A CHILD

## Processes when there is a Failure to Place

- Case Management Provider submits a Critical Incident to DCF
- Within 48 hours DCF (both Administrative and Regional staff) discuss the incident with the CMP
- Topics include:
  - Family Finding efforts
  - Lessons learned
  - Opportunities/ Barriers with which DCF or KDADS can help
- There is continued encouragement to engage youth in where they would want to stay or feel the most safe

# FAILURE TO PLACE A CHILD

Collaboration: eliminate failure to place



# FAILURE TO PLACE A CHILD

Collaboration: eliminate failure to place

## Working Well

- Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) Border Agreement with MO
- Partnerships with group or foster providers/ family to assure openings for placement and supervision

## Opportunities

- Stronger youth engagement to support planning, their networks voice and choice for placements in an emergency.
- Increase service array for youth with high needs.
- More partnerships to help with emergency overnight traumatic disruptions.

# FOSTER CARE PAYMENTS & BUDGET

- For case management services, the current payment structure includes a monthly payment to case management providers based on caseload size on the last day of the month for case management.
- Direct Placement and Child Placing Agency Administration payments are paid twice a month based on days in placement and child's level of care.
- There are other various payments for adoption home studies, human trafficking assessments, and QRTP assessments. These expenditures consist of primarily Grants along with some smaller Contracts.
- The cost of the PRTF placements and other medical costs are covered by Medicaid or budgeted in other parts of the State budget.

# APPROVED FALL 2021 CONSENSUS CASELOAD ESTIMATES

	FY 2021	FY 2022
Item	Actual	CCE
Average Monthly Children	6,850	6,640
Average Monthly Cost Per Child	\$2,992	\$3,251
Approved/Adjusted Budget	\$245,965,785	\$259,000,000
Total	\$245,965,785	-

# FOSTER CARE BUDGET DETAILED FUNDING

Fund #	Fund Description	BU	FY 2022 Fall Consensus	FY 2023 Fall Consensus
1000	YOUTH SERVICES & ASSISTANCE	7020	174,000,000	185,000,000
2195	SOCIAL WELFARE FUND	110	6,094,015	3,000,000
2220	SSI-SSA FOSTERCARE MAINT REVRY	1160	6,500,000	6,500,000
3302	TITLE IVB-PROMTNG SAFE/STBL FMLY	344	837,162	837,162
3302	TITLE IVB-MNTHLY CSWRKR VIS PRG	348	109,667	109,667
3307	SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRNT	370	4,946,239	4,946,239
3307	Transfer TANF to SSBG	371	10,102,761	10,102,761
3323	TEMP ASST-NEEDY FAMILIES	530	32,447,186	31,879,465
3337	TITLE IVE-FOSTER CARE ASST	419	23,039,998	22,699,947
3357	TITLE IVE-ADOPTION ASST	418	722,972	724,759
3365	TITLE IVE-CHAFEE INDPNT LVNG	417	200,000	200,000
	Total Budgets		\$259,000,000	\$266,000,000



# FOUNDATIONAL CHANGES

## Becoming a child and family well-being system

- Collaboration
  - Communities and families are experts and innovators.
  - Cultivate community-based continuums of supports.
  - As a learning organization, engage others in co-design.
- Community Engagement
  - Prevent the need for a family or others to contact a child welfare formal system.
  - Earliest support possible.
  - Shift: from Mandated Reporters to *Mandated Supporters*.
  - Understanding responses to adversity related needs and distinguishing adversity from neglect.

# PREVENTION: THRIVING FAMILIES

- Partnered with the National Governor's Association and Casey Family Programs
- Child and family well-being national cohort
- Community Supporting Family model

# EMPORIA PILOT PROGRAM

- Partnered with schools and community service providers in Emporia
- Partners refer families to needed services before they have formal contact with DCF
- Previously, a DCF intake was necessary to access services

# SUMMARY FUTURE VISION

## Approaches:

- Movement towards thriving families
- Becoming a 'Kin First' state
- Child and family well-being system

## With these approaches we will:

- Advance racial equity
- Remove stigma from seeking help
- Strengthen communities' abilities to respond

## Examples:

- Family Resource Centers
- Warm line
- Intersection with school-based resources
- Universal home visiting

# QUESTIONS?

