

KANSAS DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM OVERSIGHT

SECRETARY LAURA HOWARD | 8.4.2025

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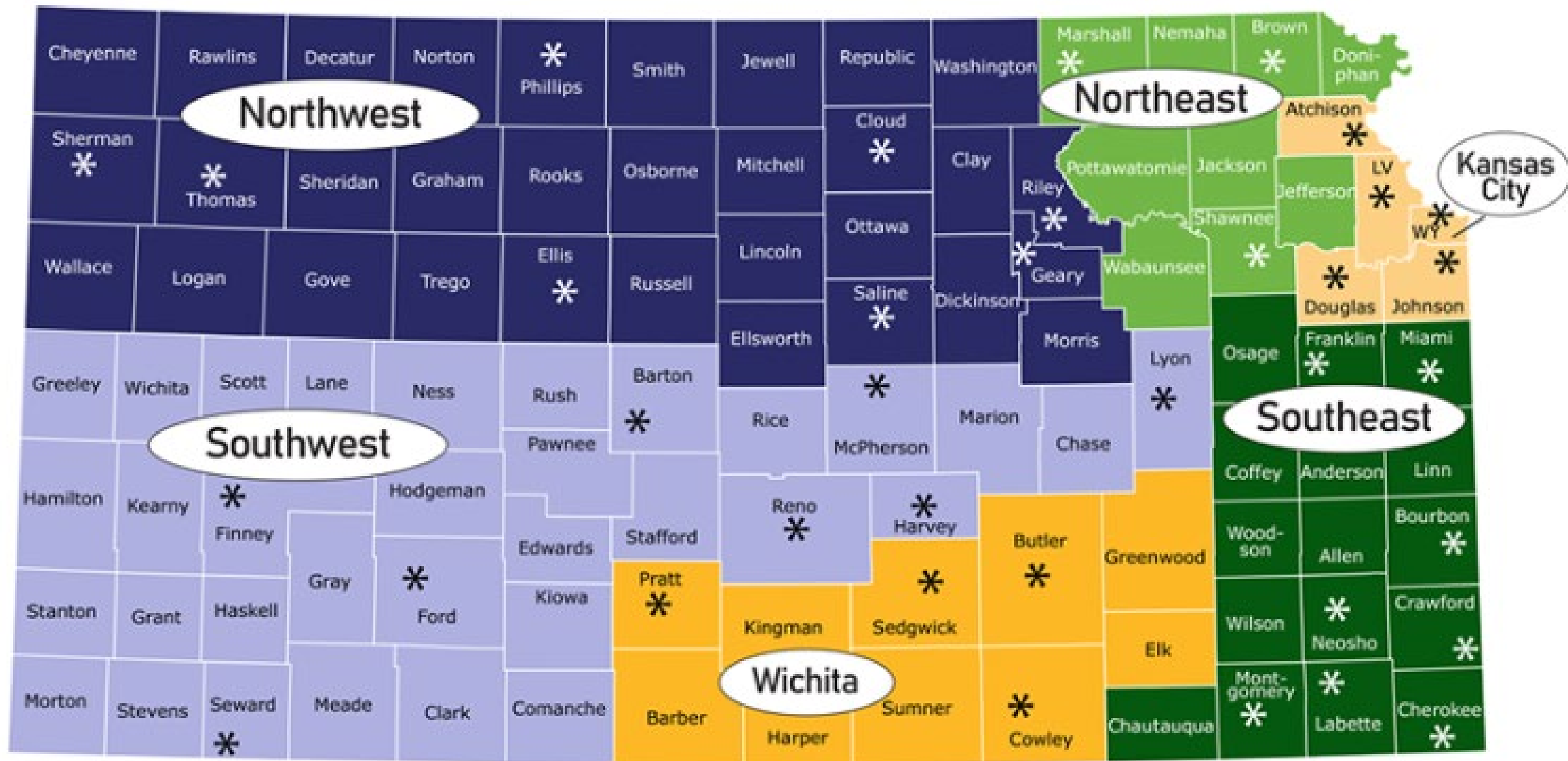
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DCF REGIONAL LEADERSHIP



Regional Director Contacts

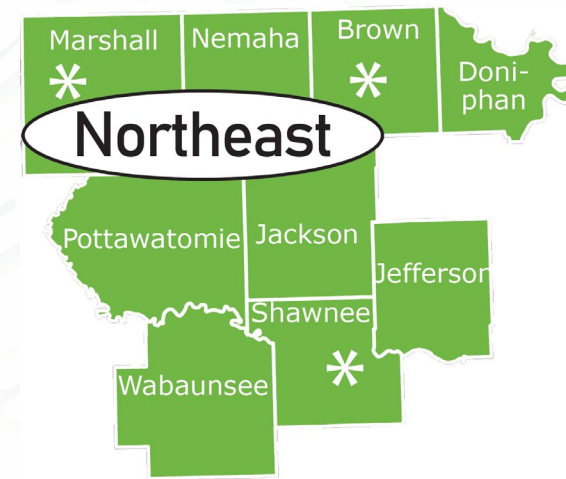
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Southeast Regional Director	—	Stefanie Senf Stefanie.Senf@ks.gov
Wichita Regional Director	—	Dee Nighswonger Dee.Nighswonger@ks.gov
Southwest Regional Director	—	Stacey Tweedy Stacey.Tweedy@ks.gov



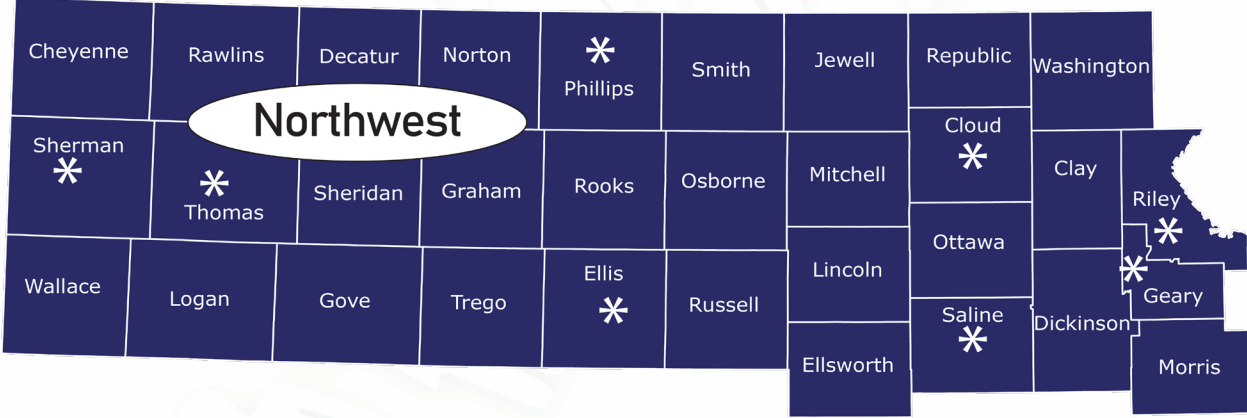
* DCF Service Center

NORTHEAST REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: CAROLINE HASTINGS



- **HB2075 Implementation:** We have two temporary staff who are the primary responders on weekends, with our other staff on a stand-by rotation to help if needed.
- **Regional Prevention Strengths:**
 - Northeast has had **24% decrease** in out of home foster care from **Nov. 2021 to July 2025**.
 - Initial placement with relatives up to **50.38%**.
 - Recurrent maltreatment numbers is at **2%**.
 - *After a child is determined to be a victim of abuse or neglect, only 2% had a subsequent substantiated finding within 12 months.*
- **Regional Highlight:** For our child protection field staff, we only have 2 vacancies and have been able to do very well with retention.



NORTHWEST REGION



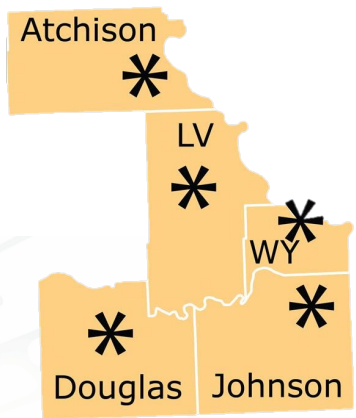
REGIONAL DIRECTOR: PAMELA BEACH | ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR: DENISE VOSS

- **HB 2075 Implementation:** Partners have been receptive and engaged in conversations.
- **Regional Prevention Strengths:**
 - Four Questions & Bridging the Gap presentations.
 - Targeted work with Grantees & Contractors: TDM Pilot
- **Regional Highlight:**
 - Legal trainings with court partners and DCF, SFM and TFI
 - Strategic work with hospital systems surrounding prevention for most vulnerable population using shared understandings of "Immediate Safety", "Risk", "Neglect", and "Poverty."

KANSAS CITY REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: DAVID ARNOLD

ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR: ERICA HUNTER



- **HB 2075 Implementation:** The Kansas City Region CPS Leadership Team and Practitioners are working diligently to connect with law enforcement agencies in the region to build relationships and establish lines of communication during weekends and holidays.
- **Regional Prevention Strengths:**
 - Reduction in the need for Foster Care – **Out of Home (OOH) placements are below 1,000 for the first time in over 14 years.**
 - Working with DCCCA to train the region on Risk, Danger, and Safety.
- **Regional Highlight(s):**
 - Connecting Families Community Forums we host for our 5 counties each year.
 - Concentrated Foster Care Prevention – Connecting with PRTFs/ Acutes to not place kids in PPC and instead to engage DCF who bring alongside DCCCA to help determine ways to support these families.

SOUTHEAST REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: STEFANIE SENF

ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR: SHANA McCLURE

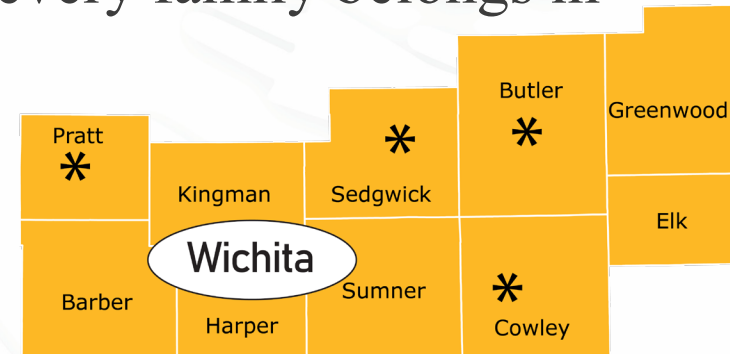
- **HB2075 Implementation:** Increased engagement with our law enforcement partners which has positively impacted information sharing.
- **Regional Prevention Strengths:**
 - Early investment in family engagement strategies has led to identifying relatives and kinship supports earlier in the process.
- **Regional Highlight:**
 - Our **Agencies Working Together** approach to supporting families as well as the community partners that work so hard to provide community support.
 - Through intentional collaboration, we have been able to bring community partners together, so they can support each other and better serve families.



WICHITA REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: DEE NIGHSWONGER | ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR:
ELIZABETH GREGG

- **HB 2075 Implementation:** Wichita Region hosted several virtual, townhall style meetings focused on providing information and addressing questions from our stakeholders in preparation.
- **Regional Prevention Strengths:**
 - Implementation of a Family and Child Well-being Continuum of Care Coalition in Sedgwick County. [Gathered Strong Sedgwick County - Gathered](#)
 - Care for Every Family is a movement within the faith-based community working to ensure that every child belongs in a safe, loving family and every family belongs in a supportive, thriving community.
- **Regional Highlight:**
 - Cowley ACTs brings together local energy, practical solutions and community voices to make upward mobility and community connection possible.

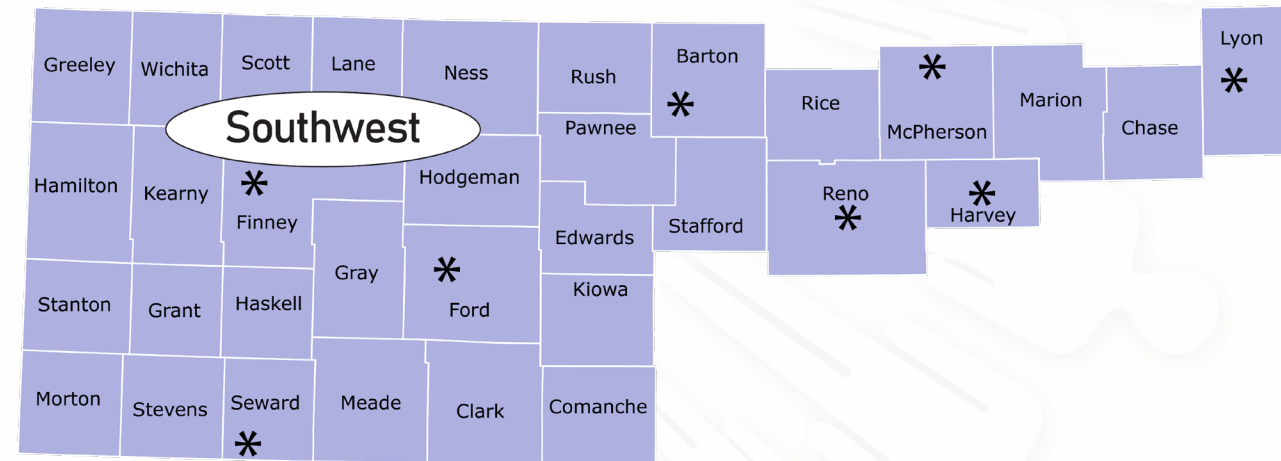


SOUTHWEST REGION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: STACEY TWEEDY |

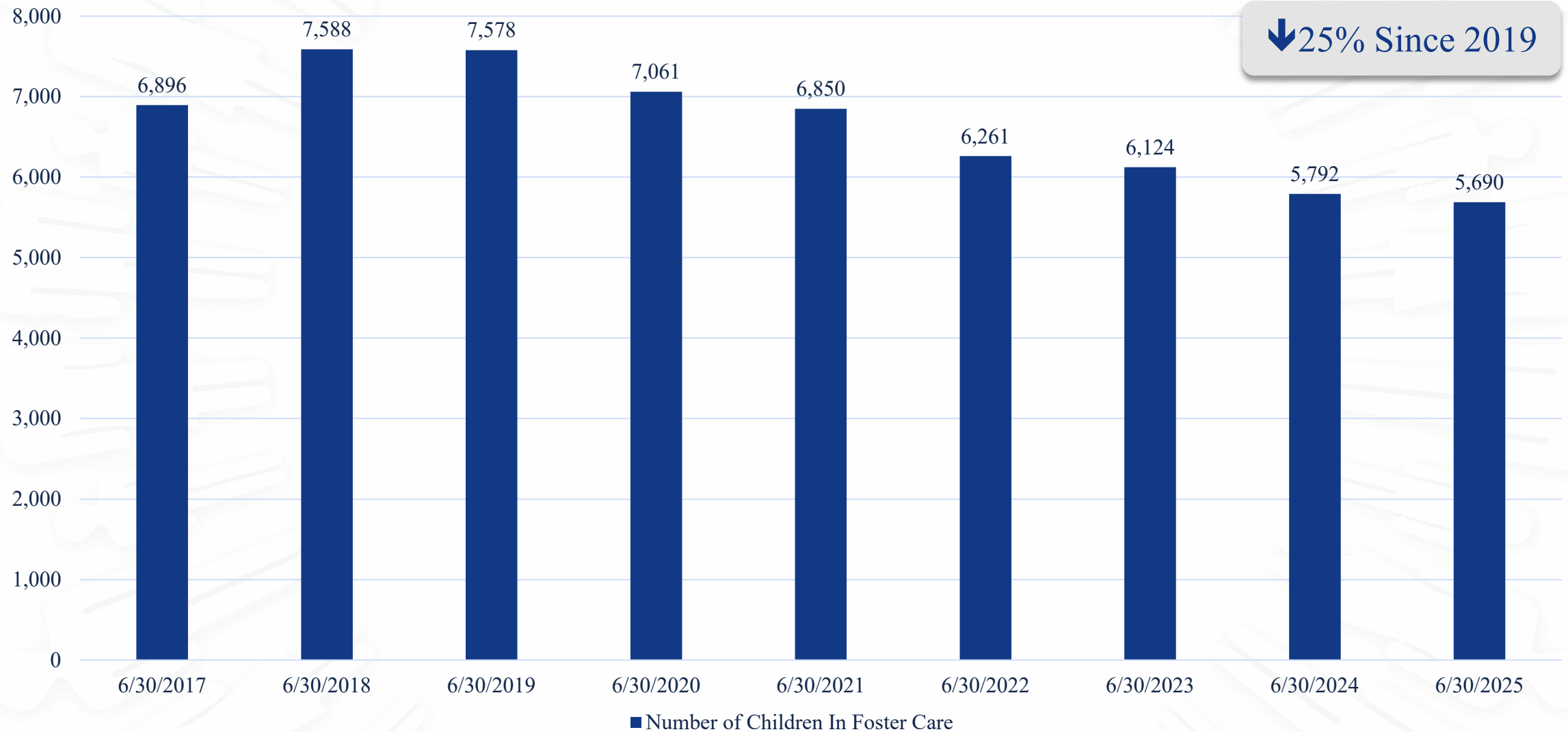
ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR: TERRI MARTINEZ

- **HB 2075 Implementation:** Regional staff met with local Law Enforcement partners and implementation is going well
- **Regional Prevention Strengths:**
 - Celebrating continued reduction in the need for OOH placements in the Region.
 - Communities Supporting Families work continues in the Hutchinson school district and Emporia school district.
- **Regional Highlight:** The Southwest Region has incredible staff!

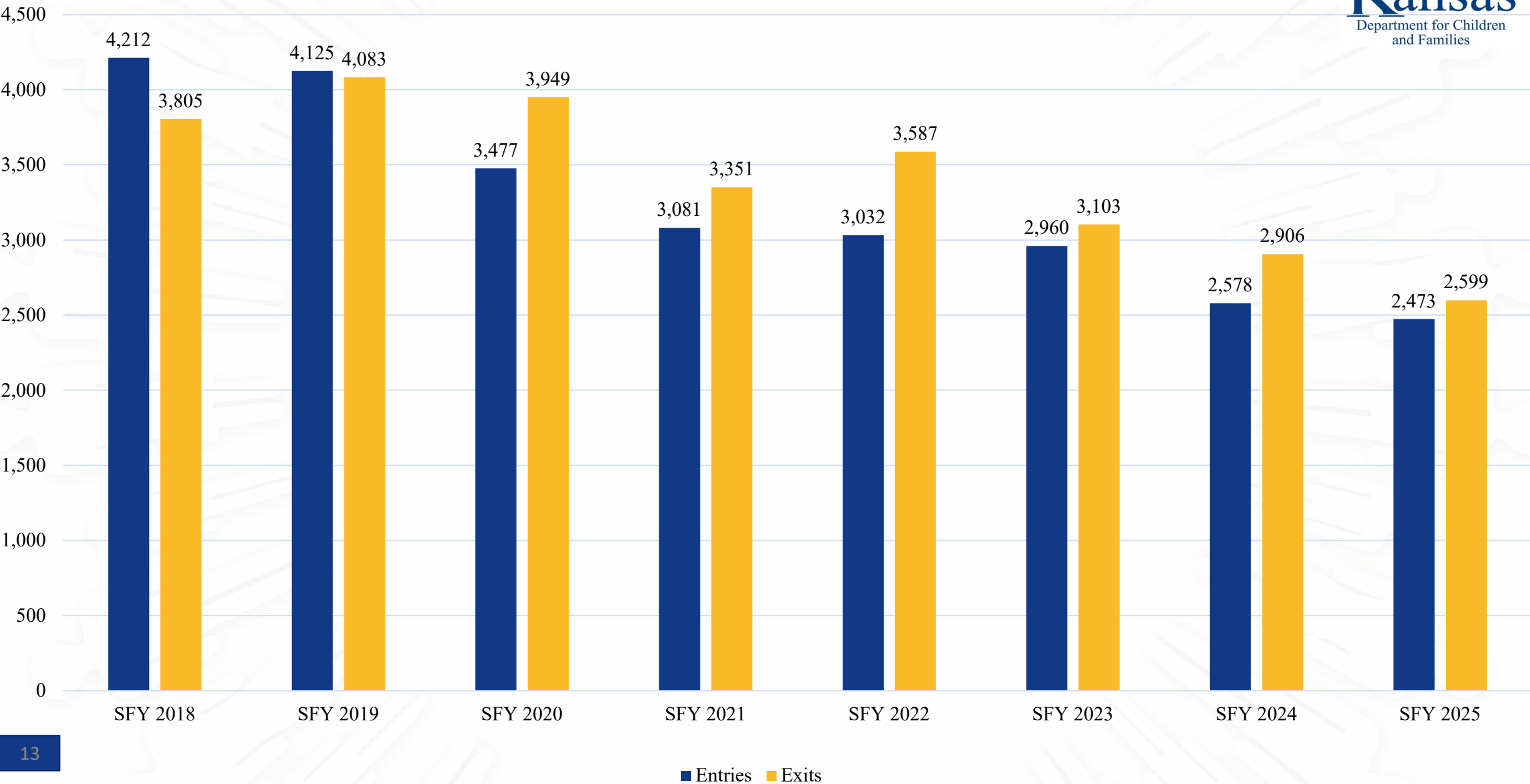


BY THE NUMBERS

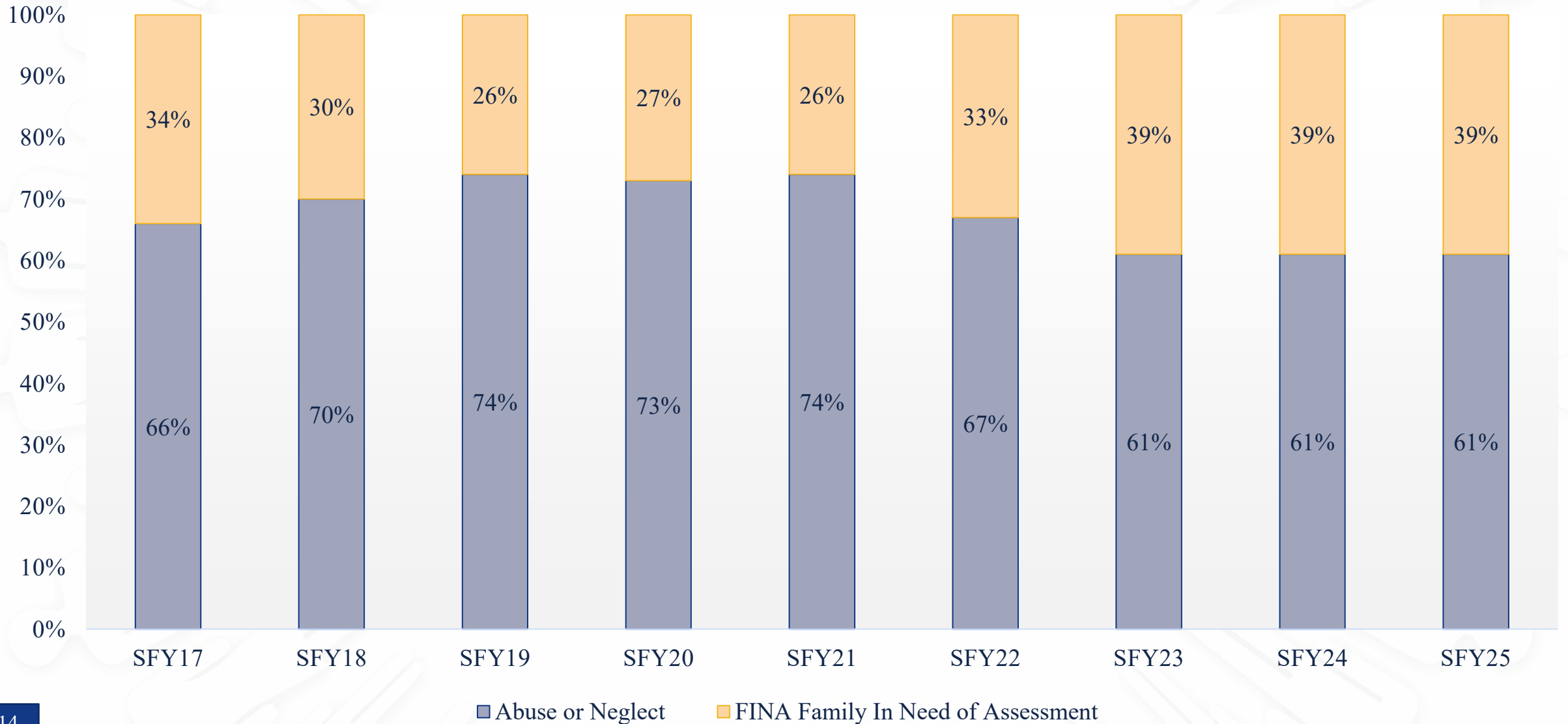
NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE



CHILDREN ENTERING & EXITING FOSTER CARE ACROSS YEARS



STATEWIDE CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE PRIMARY REMOVAL REASON



FOSTER CARE UPDATES

HOLIDAY AND WEEKEND RESPONSE



HOUSE BILL 2075 IMPLEMENTATION

- On July 1, 2025, DCF began initiating contact with families every day of the week including Saturdays, Sundays and holidays when there is a report from a law enforcement officer about a child in a family who might be a victim of abuse or neglect.
- DCF now responds within 24 hours by initiating contact of individuals named and responding back to the referring law enforcement agency.
- The reports received have been a mix of reports from officers and police department records departments. Regional staff received positive comments from local law enforcement.
 - July 1st – 20th 444 total reports were received from Law Enforcement

CCWIS CONTRACT AWARDS

CONTRACTS ANNOUNCED ON JULY 22, 2025



The CCWIS project will modernize DCF's child welfare information systems and develop interfaces between the various agencies serving DCF's Prevention and Protection Services (PPS) and Adult Protective Services (APS) programs.

DDI Contract – RedMane Technology LLC

Design, Development, and Implementation (DDI)

The DDI contract is the largest contract for the project and the contractor will work alongside DCF staff to develop and roll out the new system. RedMane Technology is a Chicago-based software solutions and systems integration company.

IV&V Contract – Maximus US Services Inc.

Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V)

Maximus brings 23 years of experience, providing IV&V and real-time objective assessment services to the CCWIS project as well as independent oversight of the DDI contractor's project performance and adherence to schedules and scope of work.

Quality Assurance (QA) - CSG Government Solutions

Quality Assurance (QA)

The CSG team offers 25 years of experience delivering quality assurance services for complex health and human services agencies across the country, including multiple active CCWIS projects.

REQUESTED QUARTERLY DATA

SEE PDF REPORT

QUESTIONS?
