



Plenary 6: Role of Child Welfare in Ending Youth Homelessness

The child welfare system is guided by three principles: ensuring children's safety, achieving permanency of placements, and promoting well-being. The system confronts many issues leading to youth homelessness, including abuse and neglect, addiction, mental health issues, and lack of education and employment.

Child welfare agencies generally have the power to intervene only when threats to a child's safety have been identified and reported. Their primary responsibilities include responding to reports of child abuse and neglect, providing temporary in-home services, and managing foster care and adoptions when warranted.

Overview

The management and responsibility of child welfare services rest primarily with the states. The federal government supports states' efforts by funding programs, services, and legislative initiatives. The primary responsibility for implementing federal child and family legislation rests with the Children's Bureau within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Children's Bureau works with state and local agencies to develop programs that focus on preventing child abuse and neglect by strengthening families, protecting children from further maltreatment, reuniting children safely with their families, and finding permanent families for children who cannot safely return home. The Child Welfare Information Gateway (www.childwelfare.gov), a service of the Children's Bureau, offers comprehensive information about child welfare systems, as well as general information about abuse, neglect, foster care, adoption, and other topics.

Involvement with the child welfare system is most often initiated through a report of suspected child abuse or neglect (also termed "child maltreatment") caused by primary caregivers, such as parents, household members, extended family members, or babysitters.

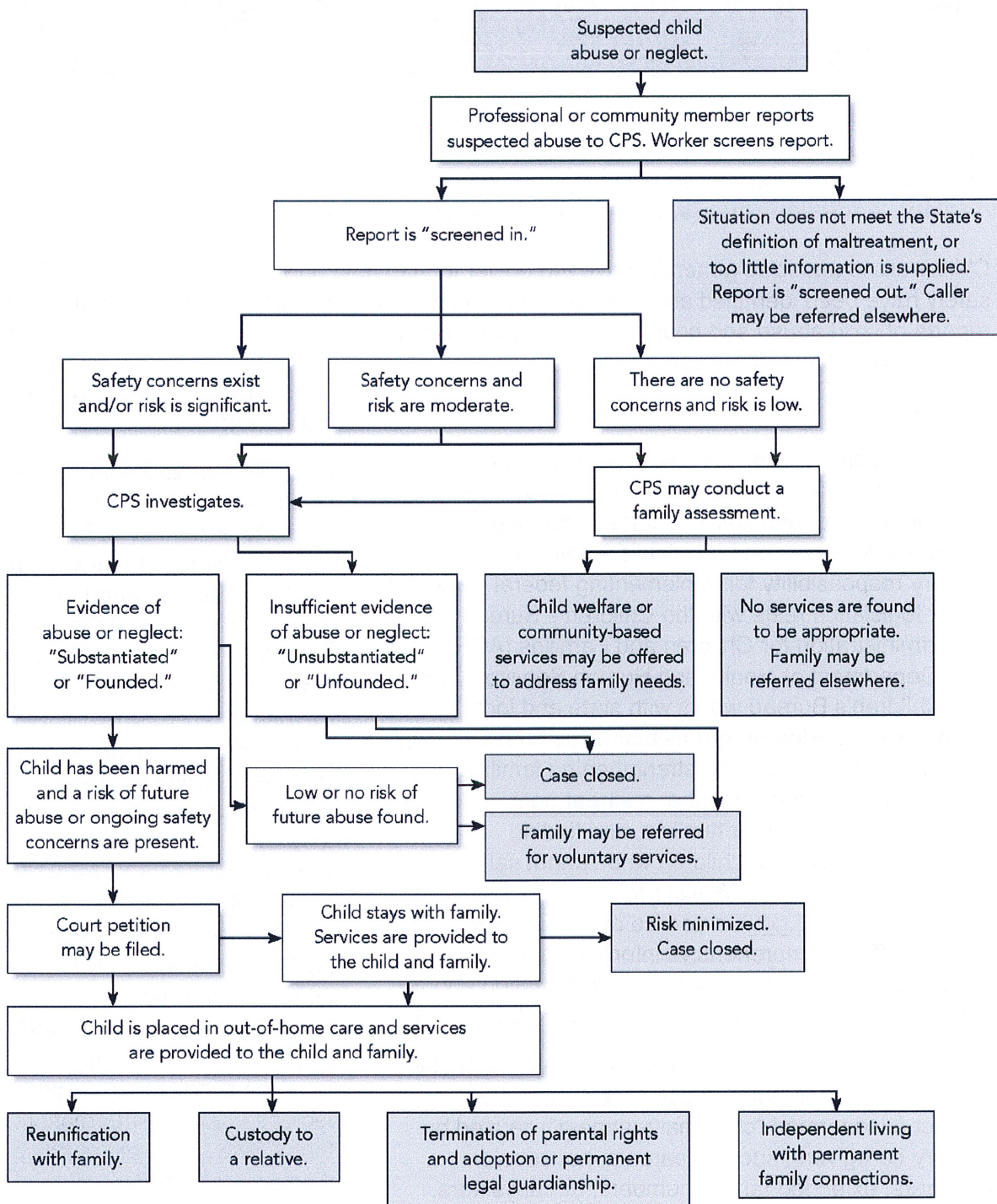
Child maltreatment is defined in the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) as serious harm (e.g., neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect) caused by an individual who is or individuals who are responsible for the child's care. Cases involving acquaintances or strangers fall within the jurisdiction of law enforcement and not the child welfare system.

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), originally passed in 1974, brought national attention to the need to protect vulnerable children in the United States. CAPTA provides federal funding to states in support of prevention, assessment, investigation, prosecution, and treatment activities, as well as grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for demonstration programs and projects. Additionally, CAPTA identifies the federal role in supporting research, evaluation, technical assistance (TA), and data collection activities. CAPTA also sets forth a minimum definition of child abuse and neglect. For more information: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/about/>



How the Child Welfare System Works



Source: Child Welfare Information Gateway, Children's Bureau/ACYF. (2013, February). *How the child welfare system works*. Retrieved from <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubpdfs/cpswork.pdf>



State and Community-based Child Welfare Systems and Organizations

The child welfare system is not a single entity but is instead a complex system of many organizations working together to strengthen families and protect children. Successful collaboration requires an understanding of who is responsible for child welfare in the community.

Each state has a wide range of discretion for how child welfare services are implemented. Some states provide both the oversight and delivery of child welfare services and programs, whereas in others, the state provides oversight, but counties provide the actual services and programs. Services may be privatized, and some services may be contracted out.

It is important that communities understand the system of organizations that operate their local child welfare system and that the proper entities are involved in youth homelessness collaboration efforts.

POTENTIAL CHILD WELFARE PARTNERS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Public Child Welfare Agency

Each state or locality has a public child welfare agency (PCWA), which is led by a child welfare agency director. However, PCWAs do not operate alone in many states. PCWAs often collaborate with private child welfare agencies, community-based organizations, and other public agencies.

Public Agencies

State and local departments of social services, child and family services, and other departments may provide various roles with youth and families involved with the child welfare system. Public agencies may provide services such as counseling, mediation, family education and support, domestic violence services, and housing stability resources. Public agencies may also help oversee adoption and foster care placements and monitor the delivery of services by county and private children and youth social service agencies.

Private Child Welfare Agencies

Private for-profit and nonprofit entities play an essential role in extending the reach of the government organizations, collaborating to provide services to families, such as in-home family preservation services, foster care, residential treatment, mental illness care, substance use treatment, parenting skills classes, domestic violence services, employment assistance, and financial or housing assistance.



Engagement of Community-based Services and Resources

Once an abuse or neglect report is made, families and individuals may be referred to community resources and services. Depending on the level of risk, the child welfare agency will either provide limited, temporary in-home services or seek a court order for an out-of-home placement. Out-of-home placement may include placement with a relative, family foster care, treatment foster care, or group or residential care. Child welfare agencies must carefully balance the right of parents to raise their children with the need to prevent abuse and neglect.

When out-of-home placements are deemed appropriate, the child welfare agency will most often work to mitigate safety risks so that the child can return home. Services to that end may include some combination of the following (or other more appropriate) services.

CHILD WELFARE COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES AND RESOURCES	
Parent Education	Parent education programs focus on enhancing parenting practices and behaviors, such as developing and practicing positive discipline techniques, learning child development skills and milestones, promoting positive interactions between parents and children, and locating and accessing community services and supports.
Child Care	Child care services provide support for families with children to enable the caretaker to hold a job, obtain training, or meet special needs of the parent or child.
Counseling	Individual, group, and family counseling services may include problem identification and resolution, identification of feasible goals, emotional support and guidance, exploration of possible alternative behavior patterns, and strengthening the capacity for personal and social functioning.
Safety Planning	A safety plan is a written agreement that the child protective services (CPS) caseworker develops with the family that clearly describes the safety services that will be used to manage threats to a child's safety.
Housing Assistance	Child welfare agencies may provide families with time-limited rental or utility assistance, housing advocacy to prevent out-of-home placement, and connections to rapid re-housing, transitional housing, or supportive housing options.
Mental and Behavioral Health Therapy	Individuals and families may be referred for mental or behavioral health treatment and support in applying treatment gains to family management and child safety.
Substance Use Treatment	Individuals and families may be referred for substance use treatment and skill-building services to enhance coping/replacement behaviors.



The Intersection of Homelessness and Child Welfare

The services and expertise of child welfare agencies may be of great value to those assisting youth experiencing homelessness because a high percentage of those youth have experienced abuse or neglect. The National Evaluation of Runaway and Homeless Youth found that 46 percent of youth surveyed reported being physically abused, 38 percent reported being emotionally abused, and 17 percent reported being forced into unwanted sexual activity by a family or household member.

It should be noted that a high percentage of abuse and neglect cases is never reported to child welfare agencies. Thus, many youth who have experienced abuse and neglect have never been involved in the child welfare system. In a [study](#) conducted by the State of Washington with funding from ACF, several risk factors for youth homelessness were identified.

RISK FACTORS FOR YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Family Problems

Many youth run away and, in turn, become homeless due to problems in the home, including physical and sexual abuse, mental health condition(s) of a family member, substance use and addiction of a family member, and parental neglect. In some cases, youth are asked to leave the home because the family is unable to provide for their specific mental health condition or disability needs. Other youth are pushed out of their homes because their parents cannot afford to care for them.

Transitions from Foster Care and Other Public Systems

Youth who have been involved in the foster care system are more likely to become homeless at an earlier age and remain homeless for a longer period. Youth aging out of the foster care system often have little or no income support and face limited housing options, and they are at a higher risk of ending up on the streets. Youth who live in residential or institutional facilities often become homeless upon discharge. In addition, very few youth experiencing homelessness find housing in emergency shelters due to the lack of shelter beds for young adults or the shelter's admission policies.

Economic Problems

Some youth become homeless when their families fall into difficult financial situations due to insufficient affordable housing, difficulty obtaining or maintaining a job, or a lack of medical insurance or other benefits. Youth may become homeless with their families but later live on the streets (or shelters) alone, often due to shelter policies relating to age or gender.

The State of Washington's study clearly underscores the need for a comprehensive and coordinated youth services system that includes supports and services from local and state government resources and community-based organizations that are on the front lines of the effort to protect children.



The Role of Child Welfare Agencies in Housing

The Children's Bureau within ACF is committed to better addressing homelessness among families who are in or at risk of involvement in the child welfare system and youth who are emancipating from foster care. In January 2017, the Children's Bureau released an [information memo](#) to highlight work at the federal level and provide guidance to strengthen state and local efforts.

The Children's Bureau advises that as child welfare agencies take a greater role in securing stable and affordable housing for youth and families, there are several strategies they can employ in their state and communities.

CHILD WELFARE AGENCIES: HOUSING STRATEGIES

Actively consider and prioritize the role of safe, stable, and affordable housing in child welfare outcomes.

It is important for child welfare leaders to articulate a clear vision of the relationship between safe and stable housing and achieving positive child, youth, and family well-being outcomes across the child welfare system. At the state and local level, child welfare agencies may designate an individual to be the point person on housing resources for families and youth, as well as attend community meetings on housing and community development to make the housing needs of children and youth involved in the child welfare system a priority.

Use and link child welfare administrative data with other available data to understand and document the housing needs of families and youth.

Administrative data systems should be used to understand the scope of housing issues among families and youth involved in the child welfare system as well as to drive targeting decisions for available housing services and interventions. More importantly, documenting the needs of families and youth can be used to advocate for additional housing resources and supports. Under the updated Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) regulations, state child welfare agencies must document whether inadequate housing and homelessness were circumstances contributing to the child's removal and placement.

The Children's Bureau encourages the use of administrative data to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of work within child welfare agencies as well as data sharing between systems to foster coordination and maximize resources across systems that are available for families and youth involved in the child welfare system. States and counties have used other federal administrative data sources, including Unemployment Insurance, National Student Clearinghouse, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and their child welfare data to understand how their families and youth are faring after service provision.



Attend and participate in Continuum of Care (CoC) meetings.

Involvement with the CoC can give child welfare agencies the opportunity to partner with many different homelessness and crisis response providers that may not be part of the traditional array of child welfare service providers. Furthermore, CoCs have the ability to prioritize housing and services based on the needs of the community, including child welfare-involved families and youth. By being a part of the CoC, the child welfare agency can assure that the needs of some of the most vulnerable and at-risk families and youth are represented.

Meet the public housing authorities (PHAs) in the community.

Developing a relationship with PHAs is a key strategy in understanding how the housing resources are being allocated at the local level. PHAs, with HUD's approval, may create priorities for vouchers and other resources. For example, some PHAs have institutionalized preferences for youth and families who are child welfare involved.

Having a clear understanding of what resources, programs, and services are available creates the framework for partnership. It is also important for the PHA to understand the role of the child welfare agency in supporting the needs of families experiencing homelessness and at-risk youth in HUD-assisted housing.

Partner with housing providers, including landlords.

It is important to know the service providers addressing both housing and homelessness in the community. In addition, at the child welfare agency leadership level, it is important to develop relationships with landlords and understand the needs of landlords. Child welfare agencies can help service providers and landlords understand the needs of their families and youth, and housing experts can help child welfare agencies with landlord engagement strategies. Often the families and youth involved with child welfare have specific needs in terms of housing location and size.

Use case management as a method to leverage housing resources and support services.

The provision of case management is an important support for families and youth that can be used to leverage housing resources. Case management services provided by child welfare can be a major incentive to housing and service providers serving child welfare youth and families. Child welfare agencies should not underestimate how the provision of case management to youth and families involved with child welfare can serve as an asset that helps landlords and housing programs see them as desirable clients and tenants. Furthermore, when caseworkers are involved with families that are housed, they should take an active role in ensuring that housing is safe and affordable and work collaboratively with housing providers.



Ensure a range of safe and appropriate housing options through transition planning and extend foster care for young adults.

Child welfare agencies are required to plan for a youth's transition from foster care prior to aging out at age 18 or older. The transition plan is required to address the housing needs of the youth. Due to their high risk of homelessness, youth/young adults should be well connected to a range of housing options, programs, and providers in the community to ensure all youth have a long-term sustainable plan for housing. It is also important to consider how friends and families are a natural support network for housing and how the child welfare agency can support those people close to the youth. Finally, it is important to develop a response system to create immediate access to housing and services when youth are in crisis or homeless.

Create conversations outside of the immediate community.

In urban areas with competitive housing markets, as well as rural areas with limited housing options, families and youth may need to consider relocating to find viable long-term housing options. Planning a state or regional approach to service delivery and housing supports from the outset will help to ensure a more robust system to address the long-term needs of families and youth. Partnering with housing and service providers both inside and outside the traditional boundaries of states, communities, and child welfare services may be the most beneficial for families and youth.



Financing Child Welfare Services

Financing child welfare programs is a complicated and complex mix of funding streams, initiatives, and programs. The federal government is the largest funding agency of child welfare programs via formula grants or as federal reimbursement for eligible programs such as foster care. The table below lists the primary federal funding streams and a brief description of each.

KEY FUNDING STREAMS	
Title IV-E	Title IV-E constitutes the largest pool of federal funds used by states, totaling just over \$6 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2012 and nearly \$7 billion in FY 2014. States, tribes, and territories with approved Title IV-E plans may be reimbursed for the cost of foster care, adoption assistance, or kinship guardianship assistance, in addition to services for older youth who have aged out or emancipated from foster care. (Source: NCSL Child Welfare Financing)
CAPTA State Grants	The CAPTA State Grants, first enacted 40 years ago and re-enacted most recently in 2010, seek to improve child protective systems with an emphasis on collaboration between child protective services, health, mental health, juvenile justice, education, and other public and private agencies. CAPTA funds are authorized to help states make improvements to child protective services, such as intake, assessment, screening, and investigation of reports of child abuse and neglect; help states develop, improve, and implement risk and safety assessment tools and protocols; and help states with their case management and monitoring processes. Finally, CAPTA houses the statutory authority for the Children's Justice Act. These grants are administered by HHS and are available to states and territories to improve the assessment, investigation, or prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases. (Source: NCSL Child Welfare Financing)
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	<p>TANF, Title IV-A of the Social Security Act, provides federal block grants to states. This flexible funding stream can be used for any purpose, as long as it furthers one of the four main goals of TANF, including providing assistance to families so children can be safely cared for in their own homes. These funds may also be used for foster care or adoption assistance for children who are not Title IV-E eligible.</p> <p>In addition, up to 10 percent of TANF funds may be transferred to the Social Services Block Grant. The use of these funds is limited to assisting families with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty line. (Source: NCSL Child Welfare Financing)</p>



Social Services Block Grants (SSBGs)

SSBGs allow states to implement locally appropriate social services to increase self-sufficiency and independence, thereby reducing the dependence on social services. SSBG funds can be used for more than child welfare services. With five policy goals—one being the reduction and prevention of child abuse—and 28 service categories, states can tailor services to meet the needs of their residents. Categories include foster care, substance use, case management, adoptive services, counseling, protective services, housing, employment services, and more. See the [SSBG 2014 Annual Report](#) for more on how states use this funding source. (Source: [NCSL Child Welfare Financing](#))

Medicaid

Medicaid is an important source of funding for health services, which can include medically necessary health care and mental health, for children and youth in foster care. It is an open-ended entitlement. States must provide a match based on their population. Key services include early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment (EPSDT) and optional targeted case management (limited); rehabilitation services; Medicaid-funded therapeutic foster care; and certain administrative costs. All children eligible for Title IV-E are eligible for Medicaid, and states may extend Medicaid to adopted children or former foster youth ages 18–21 who are not eligible for Title IV-E. As of January 1, 2014, the Affordable Care Act extended Medicaid coverage for former foster youth up to age 26. Medicaid is an open-ended entitlement equal to each state's Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) rate, between 50–82 percent depending on per capita income. (Source: [NCSL Child Welfare Financing](#))

Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Payments

Adoption and legal guardianship incentive payments were established in 1997 as part of the Adoption and Safe Families Act. They are designed to encourage states to increase the number of children who were adopted from foster care, adoptions of older children (age 9 or older), and adoptions of children with “special needs” under the age of 9.

The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 extended funding for the incentive payments through 2016 and revised the instances in which a state may receive adoption and legal guardianship incentive payments to include improvements in the rate of children who are adopted at any age; leave foster care for legal guardianships at any age; are pre-adolescents (defined as between 9 and 13 years of age) and leave foster care for adoption or legal guardianship; or are older (defined as 14 years of age or older) and leave foster care for adoption or legal guardianship. (Source: [NCSL Child Welfare Financing](#))



Case Studies

INTENSIVE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR FAMILIES (CONNECTICUT)

The Intensive Supportive Housing for Families (ISHF) Program is a statewide initiative to house families with child welfare involvement, behavioral health needs, and lack of stable housing. Funded by ACF, ISHF is a collaboration among the state's Department of Housing and Department of Children and Families, the University of Connecticut, and the service provider The Connection, Inc. Child welfare workers use a simple instrument at intake to assess a family's housing needs. Project staff created the Quick RAFT tool, a short version of the Risk Assessment for Family Triage (RAFT). Among families with substantiated child welfare cases, about 1 in 10 had severe or very severe housing concerns, and another 1 in 10 had unsuitable housing. The project revealed the value of a simple assessment in facilitating housing referrals.

MAINE YOUTH TRANSITION COLLABORATIVE

The Maine Youth Transition Collaborative (MYTC) is made up of public and private partners who work with youth, the child welfare system, and community members to ensure that youth transitioning from the foster care system to adulthood have the resources and personal connections they need to be successful. MYTC worked extensively with the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, a national initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Resources

Background

- **The Child Welfare Information Gateway**: Contains a wealth of information on all aspects of the child welfare system; this information portal provides resource links to publications, research, and best practices both inside and outside HHS
- **State Statute Index and Search**: Resource of the Child Welfare Information Gateway allowing a search of statutes by individual states on issues related to child abuse and neglect, child welfare, and adoption
- **How the Child Welfare System Works**: February 2013 fact sheet by the Child Welfare Gateway on the process and partners involved in the child welfare system
- **Children's Bureau Annual Child Maltreatment Reports**: The Children's Bureau develops the annual child maltreatment reports, which include data provided by the states to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data Systems
- **Child Welfare Enacted Legislation Database**: Database operated by the National Conference of State Legislatures that allows you to search 2012–2017 enacted child welfare legislation in the United States

Housing, Homelessness, and the Child Welfare System

- **Families at the Nexus of Housing and Child Welfare**: 2014 report by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago that summarizes what is currently known about the relationship between housing and child welfare, describes ways child welfare agencies are addressing the housing needs of families, and explores the use of housing interventions to reduce child welfare involvement among families experiencing homelessness



- **Housing for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care**: 2014 report by the HUD Office of Policy Development and Research; discusses the link between aging out of foster care and the experience of homelessness, how communities can use the Family Unification Program to address the housing needs of youth aging out of foster care, and strategies for evaluating housing programs
- **Efforts by Child Welfare Agencies, Local Communities, and Federal Agencies to End Family and Youth Homelessness**: January 2017 information memorandum by the Children's Bureau in the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families developed to share information on federal efforts and resources to enhance child welfare's response to family and youth homelessness
- **Housing & Child Welfare: State and Local Examples**: State and local examples from the Child Welfare Information Gateway of collaboration between housing and child welfare systems

Child Welfare System Partners

- **Ending Youth Homelessness Guidebook Series: Mainstream System Collaboration**: August 2016 HUD publication for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) on coordinating with mainstream systems to design and implement an effective system for preventing and ending youth homelessness
- **Building and Sustaining Child Welfare Partnerships**: 2011 report by the National Technical Assistance and Evaluation Center for Systems of Care highlighting the importance of interagency collaboration and community partnerships for child welfare agencies and other systems of care

Trauma

- **National Child Traumatic Stress Network**: The National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) provides information and access to services for children and families who experience or witness traumatic events
- **Recognizing and Addressing Trauma in Infants, Young Children, and Their Families**: Tutorial by the Center for Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation to help early childhood mental health consultants as well as Early Head Start and Head Start staff understand what is meant by trauma, recognize the developmental context of trauma in early childhood, and extend their own knowledge for intervention through consultation
- **Resources from the American Psychological Association (APA) Task Force on Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Trauma in Children and Adolescents**: Resources for mental health professionals, policymakers, teachers, and others who interact regularly with children who have experienced trauma
- **Safe Start Center**: The Safe Start Center supports those working or interested in the field of Children Exposed to Violence (CEV); helps by raising awareness, raising effective community action, and moving from evidence to action to prevent and reduce the impact of violence on children and their families
- **Culture and Trauma Brief: Trauma Among Homeless Youth**: 2007 issue brief by the NCTSN on the consequences of trauma and homelessness for youth



Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders

- **Impact of Child Abuse and Neglect:** Resources from the Child Welfare Information Gateway on how child abuse and neglect affect children, adolescents, adult survivors, and society
- **American Academy of Pediatrics, Healthy Foster Care America:** Healthy Foster Care America (HFCA) is an initiative of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and its partners to improve the health and well-being outcomes of children and teens in foster care
- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Administration for Children and Families National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare:** NCSACW is a national resource center providing information, expert consultation, training, and technical assistance to child welfare, dependency court, and substance use treatment professionals to improve the safety, permanency, well-being, and recovery outcomes for children, parents, and families
- **Technical Assistance Partnership for Child and Family Mental Health:** Child welfare resources from the American Institutes for Research (AIR)
- **Mental Health Practices in Child Welfare Guidelines Toolkit:** 2009 toolkit on guidelines for mental health screening, assessment and treatment, parent support, and youth empowerment in the child welfare system

Intensive In-home Services

- **In-home Services in Child Welfare:** March 2014 issue brief by the Children's Bureau providing an overview of child welfare in-home services and examines issues related to service delivery, funding, and program evaluation

Funding

- **Child Welfare Financing SFY 2014: A Survey of Federal, State, and Local Expenditures:** October 2016 report by Child Trends on national survey of child welfare agency expenditures for SFY 2014
- **Child Welfare: An Overview of Federal Programs and Their Current Funding:** January 2015 Congressional Research Service report on federal child welfare programs and their funding levels as of FY 2015
- **Casey Family Programs State-by-State Data:** November 2017 data from Casey Family Programs about individual states' approaches to child welfare, facts about children in care, and how money is invested in foster care compared to preventive and permanency services.

Note: This document was generated by technical assistance (TA) providers to support direct TA for the Forum on Ending Youth Homelessness, and it incorporates information from multiple sources without attribution to the original source material. References to original source material are provided in the relevant resource sections of this document. The information was collected from publicly available online sources and, therefore, not every piece of information may be completely accurate or up to date. Participants who notice incorrect or outdated information are encouraged to speak up so that everyone at the forum receives the most complete and current information available. This document is not endorsed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), or any other federal agency, and it is not intended for distribution outside the Forum on Ending Youth Homelessness.



Appendix A: Relevant Federal Child Welfare Resources to Help Communities End Youth Homelessness¹

TARGETED RESOURCES FOR PREVENTING AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS

Family Unification Program Voucher Program

Provides vouchers to promote unification of families for whom the lack of adequate housing is a primary factor in the separation, or the threat of imminent separation, of children from their families or the delay in discharge from out-of-home care. Also for 18- to 21-year-olds who left foster care at age 16 or older and lack adequate housing.

NON-TARGETED RESOURCES FOR PREVENTING AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS

Child Care and Development Fund

Funds states to provide child care services, including provisions that specifically benefit children and families experiencing homelessness.

John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood

Provides funds to states and eligible tribes to support services to youth who have experienced foster care at age 14 or older or other young adults who have left foster care. Chafee funds may be used to provide housing assistance, including short-term rental assistance, to youth who have left foster care.

¹ U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2018, March). *Federal homelessness assistance programs that can help communities end youth homelessness*. Retrieved from https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Federal_Homelessness_Assistance_Programs_that_Can_Help_Communities_End_Youth_Homelessness.pdf

U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2018, May). *Non-targeted federal programs that can help communities end youth homelessness*. Retrieved from https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/nontargeted-programs-for-ending-youth-homelessness.pdf



Profiles in Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness: Child Welfare

The following profiles on child welfare have been curated from the Coordinated Community Plans of Round 1 YHDP grant recipients.

Connecticut Balance of State

Connecticut's child welfare agency, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), has approximately 4,000 children and youth in its care. In addition to child welfare services, DCF's statutory mandate includes prevention, children's behavioral health, and education.

DCF administers Connecticut's only state-funded program specifically dedicated to youth experiencing homelessness as well as youth aging out of DCF care who are at risk of homelessness. DCF contracts with a private agency, the Connection, Inc., to manage the Start Program, which provides street outreach and emergency apartments in Hartford and a statewide rental assistance program for up to 2 years with intensive case management services, financial literacy, and skill development for 18- to 24-year-old youth. In state fiscal year (FY) 2017, 90 percent of youth were discharged to stable housing and 84 percent were enrolled in school or employed during program participation. This program currently has a waitlist of approximately 370 youth.

Adolescent and Transition Services

Connecticut has statutorily implemented three of the five prongs of the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act. Recognizing the individualized needs of youth, DCF has integrated all elements of the Act into agency policy and practice that allow youth to remain in care until age 21, and sometimes 23, while partnering with Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to support appropriate transitions into the adult service system.

For youth who left care after age 18, DCF has a policy that allows them to re-enter DCF care before age 21 under certain conditions. This re-entry policy enables youth to apply if they meet the following conditions:

- Were committed as abused/neglected at the time of their 18th birthday;
- Left DCF after age 18, are reapplying before age 21, and have not participated in two post-secondary education or employment training programs;
- Had their case closed or services discontinued for at least 90 days;
- Have proof of an educational plan or employment; and
- Are not married or on active duty in the military.

DCF has Memoranda of Understanding with the adult mental health and developmental services systems, DMHAS, and DDS to transition older youth into their services. Youth may continue to receive post-majority support from DCF while engaging in services with the adult systems.



Key Strategies: Role of Child Welfare in Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness

- Collaborate with child welfare to achieve the following outcomes:
 - Advance permanency outcomes for youth to further decrease the risk of homelessness in their adulthood. Such activities include enhancing permanency teaming for all adolescents in care, monitoring discharge planning, and emphasizing education, work, and independent living skills through case planning.
 - Provide safe and developmentally appropriate crisis housing for minors experiencing homelessness without requiring a legal commitment to the child welfare system.
 - Implement a Housing First approach for youth in care, including those in danger of being discontinued from care.
 - Develop data to understand who is exiting child welfare and later experiencing homelessness and be able to address those gaps.
 - Continue to educate stakeholders on DCF eligibility and services.
- Convene a new Engaged Systems to Prevent and End Youth Homelessness Subgroup under the Youth and Young Adult Workgroup to focus on addressing the prevention of homelessness through systems collaboration, including preventing homelessness for youth involved or formerly involved with child welfare.
- Ensure each Youth Engagement Team Initiative (YETI) has a regional DCF representative participating in meetings (several do already).

Ohio Balance of State and Cincinnati/Hamilton County¹

Ohio recently launched the Bridges Program, which will provide extended care to youth aging out of foster care at 18. The voluntary program extends housing and other supportive services to eligible young adults who leave foster care on or after their 18th birthday but are not yet 21.

To be eligible, former foster youth must be in school, working, participating in an employment program, or have a medical condition that prevents them from going to school or working. If they do not qualify for Bridges, or if they choose not to participate, they can still seek supportive services from their county public children services agency. Ohio's county agencies are required to provide services and supports to 18-, 19-, and 20-year-olds who aged out of foster care and who request help. Ideally, these services will help youth become eligible for Bridges so they can get additional supports toward independence.

Kentucky Balance of State

The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program provides federal dollars to states to equip older foster youth with the skills, supports, and resources to be self-sufficient upon leaving

¹ Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. (2018, February 2). Press release: *New Bridges Program to help former foster youth achieve independence*. Retrieved from <http://jfs.ohio.gov/RELEASES/pdf/020218-New-Bridges-Program.stm>



care. Kentucky utilizes these funds to provide a variety of services focused on education attainment, employment, financial literacy, and career exploration. These federal dollars also provide education training vouchers to former foster youth participating in a post-secondary program as well as a Room & Board Program for aged-out youth at risk of homelessness. In addition, a Kentucky statute also provides the Tuition Waiver for Foster and Adopted Youth to attend any public state institution. Youth do not have to extend their commitment to utilize these benefits and are eligible for all of them if they were in foster care on their 18th birthday.

Extended Care

Kentucky affords foster youth the opportunity to extend their commitment until their 21st birthday. Youth who choose to leave at 18 have until their 19th birthday to change their mind and request to be returned to care. Youth who extend their commitment are provided housing and support services. However, many youth in the Promise Zone—the eight rural counties in southeastern Kentucky that are participating in the YHDP and that have been federally classified as experiencing persistent poverty—are hesitant to extend their commitment and decide to leave at 18. Youth in the Promise Zone may be hesitant to extend their commitment because most of the available placements for older foster youth are in other parts of the state. Youth often state that they leave at 18 to move back to their home region to be closer to their family.

Strategies for Youth in Foster Care

- Improve transition planning for youth exiting the foster care system through enhanced partnerships with the Kentucky Department of Community-based Services (DCBS) independent living coordinators. (Components should include housing, education, employment, mental and physical health, connections with caring adults and mentors, and opportunities to connect with peer support networks.)
- Educate youth who have exited the foster care system to take advantage of supports they are entitled to, such as rental vouchers through the Chafee Room and Board Program, tuition assistance, training vouchers, the right to request to return to care until their 19th birthday, and the benefits of extending their commitment until 21 years old (which includes housing assistance and supports).
- Provide youth who have been involved with the foster care system leadership opportunities to improve the system.
- Provide additional supports, such as employment mentoring, to increase the number of youth from the Promise Zone participating in the Fostering Success Program (10-week program providing employment at the Department for Community-based Services).

Santa Cruz, CA

Encompass Community Services, the YHDP lead community agency, has developed a continuum of opportunities and services offered to youth (15–24) during their transition out of foster care, including multiple transitional housing programs.

- The Encompass Transition-age Youth (TAY) Program integrates a Housing First model through its Transitional Voucher Program (TVP), a joint program with the Santa Cruz County Housing Authority, to decrease barriers to housing. Through TVP, the housing



authority provides Section 8 Family Reunification Program (FUP) Housing Choice Vouchers to eight participants, ages 18–24, which allows TAY participants to secure scattered-site rental housing and receive federal assistance for rent support for up to 36 months.

- The Encompass TAY Program also offers the Transitional Housing Placement Plus Foster Care (THP+FC) program, which is transitional housing for youth ages 18–24 participating in extended foster care, as an entryway to living independently with the intensive wraparound support of a social worker, housing coordinator, and therapist.
- THP Plus is another Encompass TAY Program for youth ages 18–25 who have exited foster care, providing up to 2 years of transitional housing for former foster youth and an additional third year for youth who are going to school.

Strategies in Child Welfare to Address Minors and Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness

The County of Santa Cruz Human Services Department, Family and Children’s Services (FCS) focuses on child safety, child and family well-being, and permanency for all children. These conditions are critical for keeping children, youth, and families from experiencing homelessness. As part of the child welfare case plan, individualized services and supports are provided that focus on the specific needs of the children, youth, and adults in a family interacting with the Dependency Court system.

SANTA CRUZ FCS STRATEGIES FOR ADDRESSING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Bringing Families Home

Bringing Families Home (BFH) is a state-funded rapid re-housing program with the goal of significantly reducing the number of families in the child welfare system experiencing homelessness, increasing the number of families reunifying, and preventing foster care placement. Services include housing navigation to secure appropriate housing for program participants, case management to facilitate participants' ability to attain and maintain housing, and financial assistance for housing and related costs. Other supports to BFH-eligible families include emergency shelter and short-term housing.

Differential Response

In partnership with Encompass Community Services, FCS has developed the Families Together Program that Encompass provides for low- to moderate-risk families that are being diverted from the child welfare system. Families Together provides home-based, individualized services and supports with an emphasis on the parent–child relationship, child development, and parent education. Direct input from children, youth, parents, and social workers is incorporated into the service plan. Families Together implements the evidence-based parent education model, Positive Parenting Program.



Fostering Connections/ After 18 Program

The goal of this extended foster care program is to assist foster youth in maintaining a safety net of support while experiencing independence in a secure and supervised living environment. The extended time as a non-minor dependent (NMD) can assist the youth in becoming better prepared for a successful transition into adulthood and self-sufficiency through education and employment training. As part of child welfare services for foster youth, a Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP) must be developed for youth between the ages of 15 ½ and 16, with the active participation of the youth and other supporting adults. The TILP provides the "roadmap" for the youth and their support system. Youth are the "drivers" in identifying and achieving goals that prepare them for adulthood. This plan must be revisited at least every 6 months to highlight successes, identify new and continuing challenges/barriers, and focus on further work to overcome any challenges.

Child and Family Teams

FCS, as part of the state's Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) in child welfare, has started implementing Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings. A CFT is a group of individuals that includes the child or youth, family members, professionals, natural community supports, and other individuals identified by the family who are invested in the child, youth, and family's success. The CFT meeting is an evidence-based, child or youth and family-centered teaming process that shares responsibility to assess, plan, intervene, monitor, and refine services over time.

Resource Family Approval

As part of CCR, Resource Family Approval is a new family-friendly and child/youth-centered approval process that combines elements of the previous foster parent licensing, relative approval, and approvals from adoption and guardianship. The RFA process improves the way caregivers (related and non-related) of children in foster care are approved and prepared to parent vulnerable children, whether temporarily or permanently.

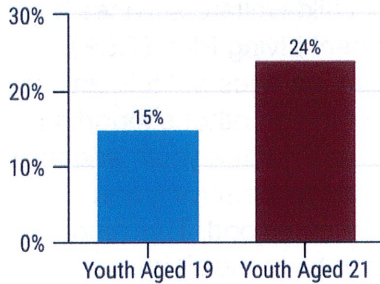
Safety Organized Practice

FCS is implementing Safety-organized Practice (SOP), an approach to day-to-day child welfare casework that is designed to help all the key stakeholders involved with a child keep a clear focus on assessing and enhancing child safety at all points in the case process. The overarching objectives of SOP are the development of good working relationships, use of critical thinking and decision-support tools, and creation of detailed plans for enhancing the daily safety of children.

San Diego, CA: Child Welfare Profile



Youth Homelessness and Foster Care System Involvement



As of 2016, **15%** of youth aged 19 and **24%** of youth aged 21 who had involvement in the California foster care system reported experiencing homelessness at some point over the past 2 years. During the 2018 San Diego Point-in-Time Count, **2%** of youth identified aging out of the foster care system as the primary cause of their homelessness.

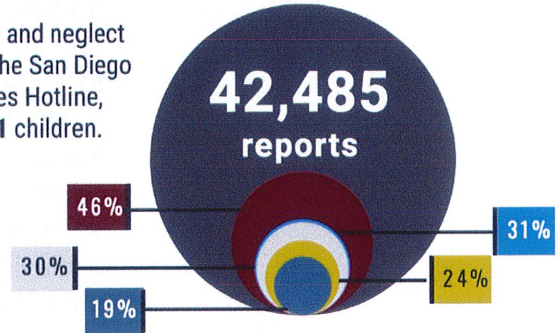
Out-of-Home Care for Youth in the Foster Care System



Of the **2,365** youth in the San Diego foster care system receiving out-of-home care in 2017, **40%** were in kinship care. Non-kinship care placements included foster family homes (**24%**), guardian and court specified homes (**12%**), foster family agency homes (**8%**), group homes (**8%**), adoptions (**4%**), and shelter care (**1%**).

Child Abuse and Neglect

In 2017, **42,485** abuse and neglect reports were made to the San Diego Child Welfare Services Hotline, representing **79,521** children.



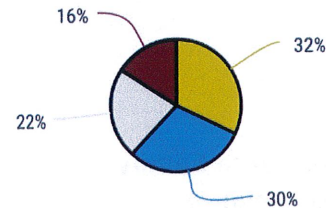
Of these reports, **46%** were regarding general neglect, **31%** physical abuse, **30%** emotional abuse, **24%** regarding a child being at risk of abuse or neglect due to the abuse or neglect of a sibling, and **19%** sexual abuse.

Demographics of Youth Referred for Child Welfare Services

The majority of children referred for child welfare services in San Diego County are **Hispanic or Latino (45%)** and **between the ages of 0 and 5 years old (30%)**.

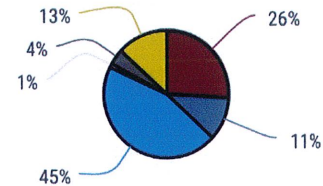
Age

- 0-5 years old
- 6-10 years old
- 11-14 years old
- >14 years old

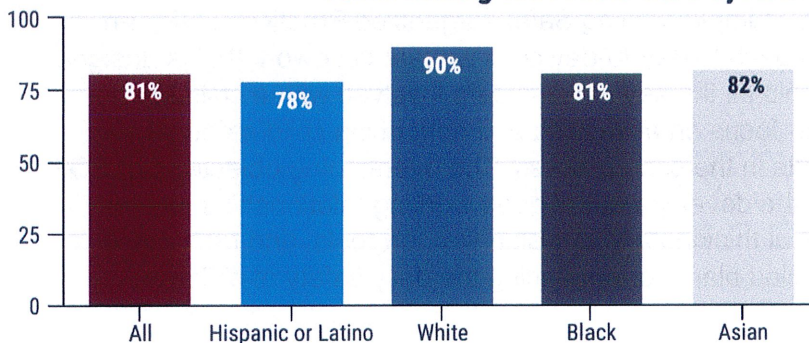


Race/Ethnicity

- White
- Black
- Hispanic or Latino
- Native American
- Asian
- Other



Youth Exiting the Foster Care System to Permanency

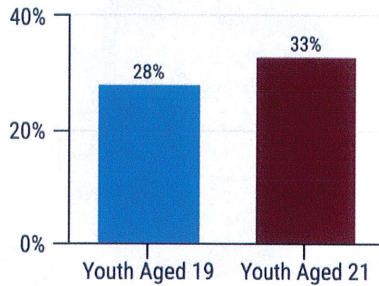


As of 2013, **81%** of youth exited the San Diego foster care system to permanency within 3 years of their entry into the system. **White youth** experienced the highest rates (**90%**) of exiting to permanency within 3 years, while **Hispanic and Latino youth** experienced the lowest rates (**78%**).

Louisville, KY: Child Welfare Profile



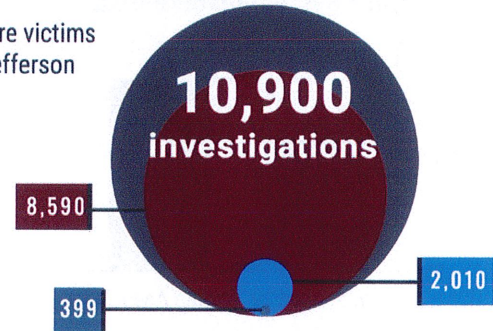
Youth Homelessness and Foster Care System Involvement



As of 2016, **28%** of youth aged 19 and **33%** of youth aged 21 who had involvement in the Kentucky foster care system reported experiencing homelessness at some point over the past 2 years.

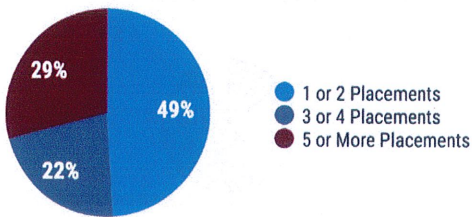
Child Abuse and Neglect

In 2016, **2,464** children were victims of abuse or neglect in Jefferson County.



In 2016 there was a total of 10,900 investigations into child abuse and neglect in Jefferson County, **79% were reports of neglect**, **18.4% were reports of physical abuse**, and **3.6% were reports of sexual abuse**.

Number of Out-of-Home Placements for Youth in Foster Care



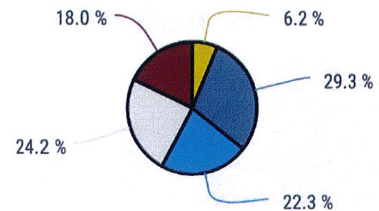
In 2016, **29%** of transition-age youth (ages 16 to 21) in foster care in Kentucky had experienced **five or more out-of-home placements**. **12.4%** of youth in Jefferson County re-entered the foster care system within 12 months of their most recent placement.

Demographics of Youth in Foster Care

In 2016, **7,812** youth were in foster care in Kentucky, including **1,758** youth in out-of-home care in Jefferson County.

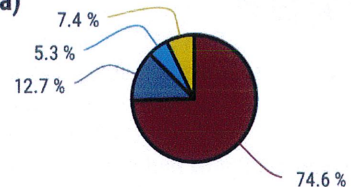
Age (State Level Data)

- <1 year old
- 1-5 years old
- 6-10 years old
- 11-15 years old
- 16-20 years old

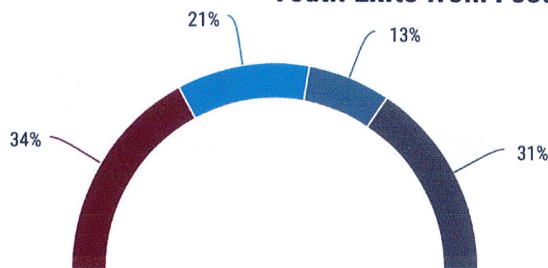


Race/Ethnicity (State Level Data)

- White
- Black
- Hispanic or Latino
- Multiple Races



Youth Exits from Foster Care

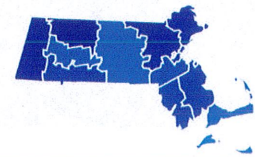


In 2016, the **majority (34%)** of youth who exited foster care in Kentucky were **reunified with a parent or primary caretaker**.

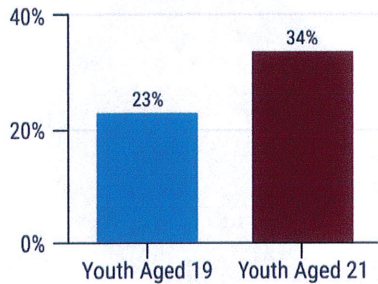
611 youth in Jefferson County exited out-of-home care in 2016.

- Reunification
- Adoption
- Emancipation
- Living with Other Relatives

Boston, MA: Child Welfare Profile

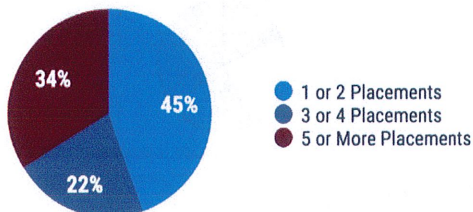


Youth Homelessness and Foster Care System Involvement



As of 2016, **23%** of youth aged 19 and **34%** of youth aged 21 who had involvement in the Massachusetts foster care system reported experiencing homelessness at some point over the past 2 years. **31%** of youth experiencing homelessness surveyed for Voices of Youth Count reported that they had been in foster care at some point in their lives.

Number of Out-of-Home Placements for Youth in Foster Care



In 2016, **34%** of transition-age youth (ages 16 to 21) in foster care in Massachusetts had experienced **five or more out-of-home placements**, slightly higher than the national average (33%).

Child Abuse and Neglect

In 2016, **32,093 children** were victims of abuse or neglect in Massachusetts, a **66.9% increase** since 2012.

In 2014 there were **6,521 reports** of child abuse or neglect and **4,195 investigations** in the Boston metropolitan area.



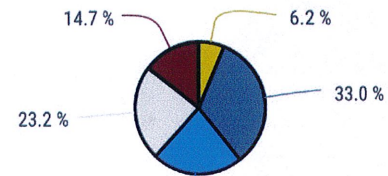
Of the **32,093 children** who were victims of abuse or neglect in Massachusetts, **95% experienced neglect**, **9% experienced physical abuse**, and **2.4% experienced sexual abuse**. Some children experienced multiple forms of maltreatment, therefore total percentages are equal to greater than 100%.

Demographics of Youth in Foster Care

In 2016, **10,909 youth** were in foster care in Massachusetts. Most recent data from 2014 indicated that there were **1,077 youth** in foster care placements in the Boston metropolitan area.

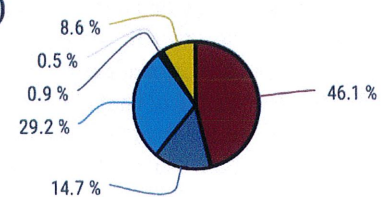
Age (State Level Data)

- <1 year old
- 1-5 years old
- 6-10 years old
- 11-15 years old
- 16-20 years old

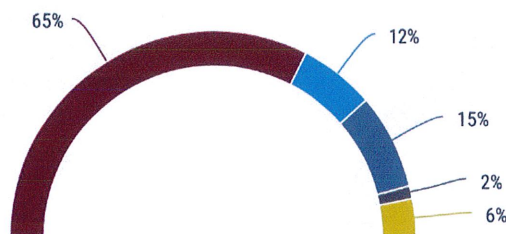


Race/Ethnicity (State Level Data)

- White
- Black
- Hispanic or Latino
- Asian/Native Hawaiian
- Native American
- Multiple Races



Youth Exits from Foster Care



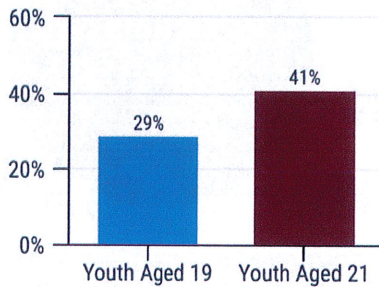
In 2016, **more than half (65%)** of youth who exited foster care in Massachusetts were **reunified with a parent or primary caretaker**.

- Reunification
- Adoption
- Emancipation
- Living with Other Relatives
- Guardianship

Northwest Minnesota: Child Welfare Profile



Youth Homelessness and Foster Care System Involvement



As of 2016, **29%** of youth aged 19 and **41%** of youth aged 21 who had involvement in the Minnesota foster care system reported experiencing homelessness at some point over the past 2 years.

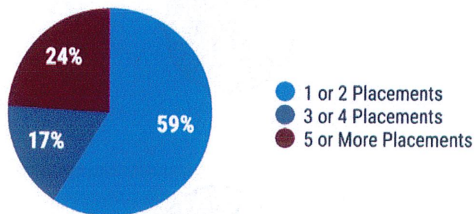
Child Abuse and Neglect

In 2016, **7,941** children were victims of abuse or neglect in Minnesota, an **87.4% increase** since 2012.



Of these children, **63% experienced neglect**, **32% experienced physical abuse**, and **16% experienced sexual abuse**. **Less than 1% of children experienced psychological maltreatment and medical neglect.** Some children experienced multiple forms of maltreatment, therefore total percentages are equal to greater than 100%.

Number of Out-of-Home Placements for Youth in Foster Care



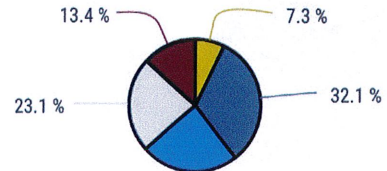
In 2016, **24%** of transition-age youth (ages 16 to 21) in foster care in Minnesota had experienced **five or more out-of-home placements**, lower than the national average (**33%**).

Demographics of Youth in Foster Care

In 2016, **8,793** youth were in foster care in Minnesota. That is **2%** of the total number of youth in foster care in the United States.

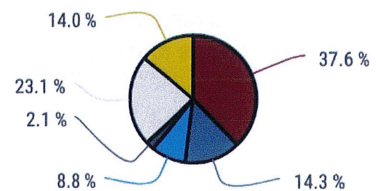
Age

- <1 year old
- 1-5 years old
- 6-10 years old
- 11-15 years old
- 16-20 years old

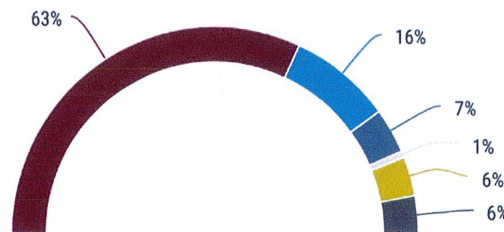


Race/Ethnicity

- White
- Black
- Hispanic or Latino
- Asian/Native Hawaiian
- Native American
- Multiple Races



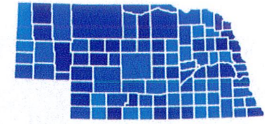
Youth Exits from Foster Care



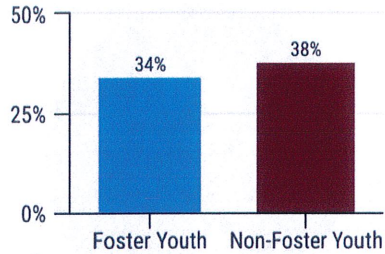
In 2016, **more than half (63%)** of youth who exited foster care in Minnesota were **reunified with a parent or primary caretaker**. **46 youth (1%)** who exited foster care in 2016 ran away from their foster care placement.

- Reunification
- Adoption
- Emancipation
- Transfer to another agency
- Guardianship
- Living with Other Relatives

Nebraska Balance of State: Child Welfare Profile

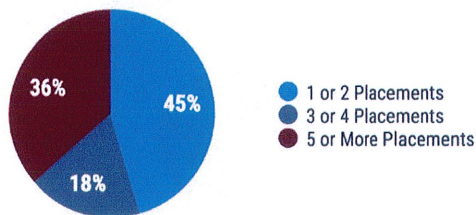


Youth Homelessness and Foster Care System Involvement



As of 2016, **34%** of youth aged 19 and **38%** of youth aged 21 who had involvement in the Nebraska foster care system reported experiencing homelessness at some point over the past 2 years. A 2015 study found that **24%** of youth with involvement in the Nebraska foster care system have experienced homelessness.

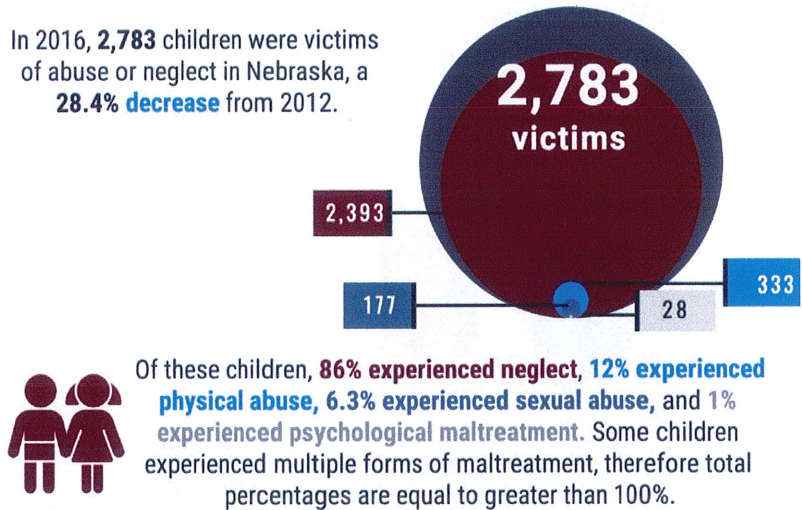
Number of Out-of-Home Placements for Youth in Foster Care



In 2016, **36%** of transition-age youth (ages 16 to 21) in foster care in Nebraska had experienced **five or more out-of-home placements**, higher than the national average (**33%**).

Child Abuse and Neglect

In 2016, **2,783** children were victims of abuse or neglect in Nebraska, a **28.4% decrease** from 2012.

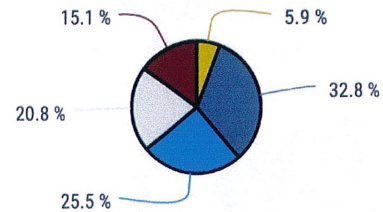


Demographics of Youth in Foster Care

In 2016, **4,012** youth were in foster care in Nebraska. That is **less than 1%** of the total number of youth in foster care in the United States.

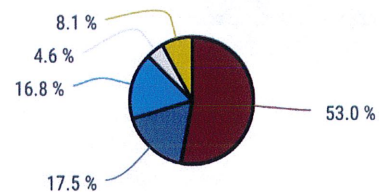
Age

- <1 year old
- 1-5 years old
- 6-10 years old
- 11-15 years old
- 16-20 years old

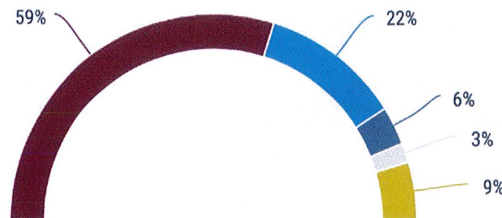


Race/Ethnicity

- White
- Black
- Hispanic or Latino
- Native American
- Multiple Races



Youth Exits from Foster Care



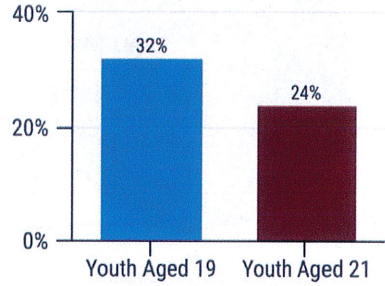
- Reunification
- Adoption
- Emancipation
- Transfer to another agency
- Guardianship

In 2016, **more than half (59%)** of youth who exited foster care in Nebraska were **reunified with a parent or primary caretaker**. **Less than 1%** of youth who exited foster care in 2016 ran away from their foster care placement.

New Mexico Balance of State: Child Welfare Profile



Youth Homelessness and Foster Care System Involvement



As of 2016, **32%** of youth aged 19 and **24%** of youth aged 21 who had involvement in the New Mexico foster care system reported experiencing homelessness at some point over the past 2 years.

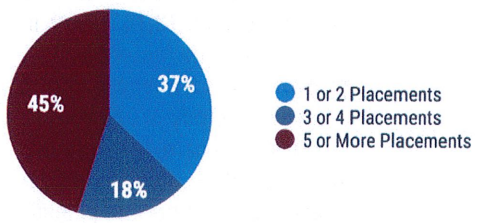
Child Abuse and Neglect

In 2016, **7,526** children were victims of abuse or neglect in New Mexico, a **27.9% increase** since 2012.



Of these children, **81%** experienced neglect, **23%** experienced psychological maltreatment, **12%** experienced physical abuse, **4%** experienced medical neglect, and **2.5%** experienced sexual abuse. Some children experienced multiple forms of maltreatment, therefore total percentages are equal to greater than 100%.

Number of Out-of-Home Placements for Youth in Foster Care



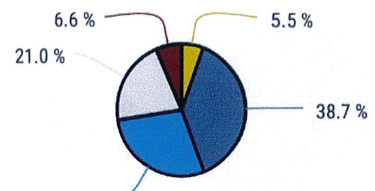
In 2016, **45%** of transition-age youth (ages 16 to 21) in foster care in New Mexico had experienced **five or more out-of-home placements**, higher than the national average (**33%**).

Demographics of Youth in Foster Care

In 2016, **2,610** youth were in foster care in New Mexico. That is **less than 1%** of the total number of youth in foster care in the United States.

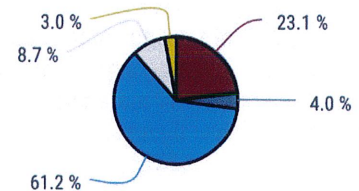
Age

- <1 year old
- 1-5 years old
- 6-10 years old
- 11-15 years old
- 16-20 years old

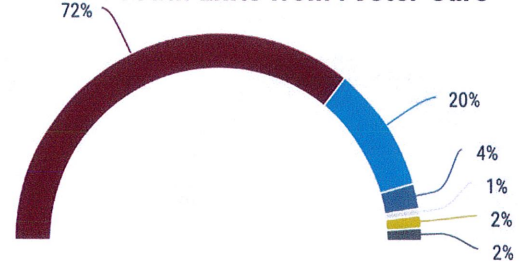


Race/Ethnicity

- White
- Black
- Hispanic or Latino
- Native American
- Multiple Races



Youth Exits from Foster Care



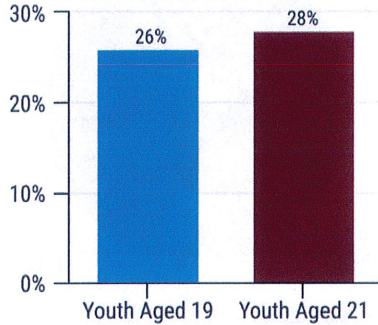
- Reunification
- Adoption
- Emancipation
- Transfer to another agency
- Guardianship
- Living with Other Relatives

In 2016, **nearly three-fourths (72%)** of youth who exited foster care in New Mexico were **reunified with a parent or primary caretaker**. **Less than 1%** of youth who exited foster care in 2016 ran away from their foster care placement.

Columbus, OH: Child Welfare Profile



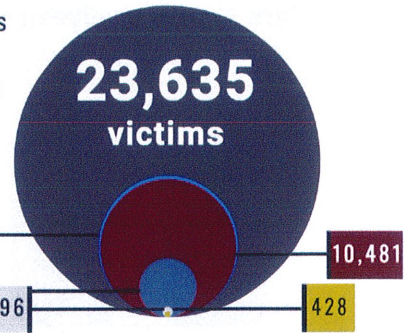
Youth Homelessness and Foster Care System Involvement



As of 2016, **26%** of youth aged 19 and **28%** of youth aged 21 who had involvement in the Ohio foster care system reported experiencing homelessness at some point over the past 2 years.

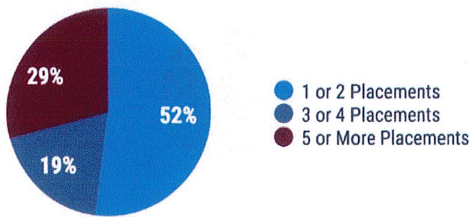
Child Abuse and Neglect

In 2016, **23,635** children were victims of abuse or neglect in Ohio, a **19.2% decrease** since 2012. **1,650** children in Franklin County were victims of abuse or neglect in 2016, a rate of **8.8 per 1,000 children**.



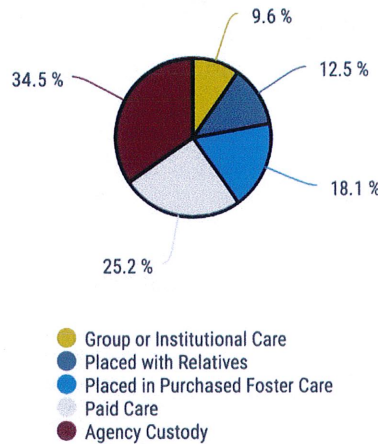
Of the **23,636** children who were victims of abuse or neglect in Ohio, **45% experienced physical abuse**, **42% experienced neglect**, **19% experienced sexual abuse**, **3% experienced psychological maltreatment**, and **1.8% experienced medical neglect**. Some children experienced multiple forms of maltreatment, therefore total percentages are equal to greater than 100%.

Number of Out-of-Home Placements for Youth in Foster Care



In 2016, **29%** of transition-age youth (ages 16 to 21) in foster care in Ohio had experienced **five or more out-of-home placements**, lower than the national average (**33%**).

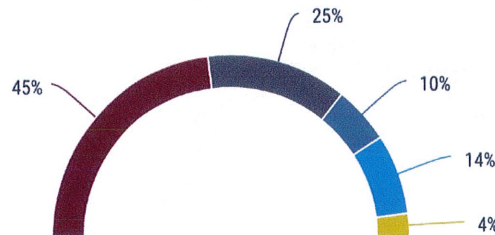
Youth in Out-of-Home Placements in Franklin County



In 2016, Franklin County Children Services served **13,162** youth in out-of-home foster care placements. **4,547** youth were in agency custody, **3,320** youth were in paid care, **2,383** youth were placed in purchased foster care, **1,651** youth were placed with relatives, and **1,261** youth were placed in group or institutional care.

Youth Exits from Foster Care

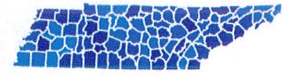
In 2016, **nearly one half (45%)** of youth who exited foster care in Ohio were **reunified with a parent or primary caretaker**. **Less than 1%** of youth who exited foster care in 2016 ran away from their foster care placement.



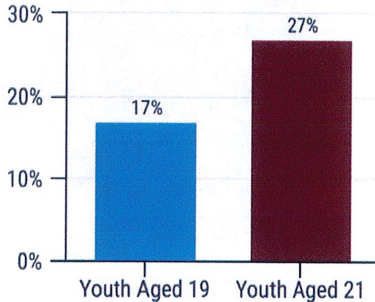
In 2016, Franklin County Children Services legalized **170** adoptions and **359** emancipation cases for older youth were referred to services and resources focused on achieving independence and sufficiency.

■ Reunification ■ Living with Other Relatives ■ Emancipation ■ Adoption ■ Guardianship

Nashville, TN: Child Welfare Profile

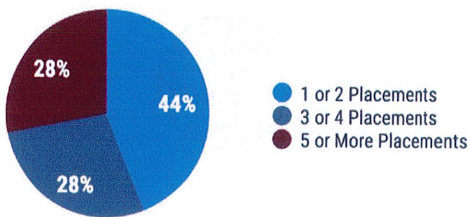


Youth Homelessness and Foster Care System Involvement



As of 2016, **17%** of youth aged 19 and **27%** of youth aged 21 who had involvement in the Tennessee foster care system reported experiencing homelessness at some point over the past 2 years.

Number of Out-of-Home Placements for Youth in Foster Care



In 2016, **28%** of transition-age youth (ages 16 to 21) in foster care in Tennessee had experienced **five or more out-of-home placements**, lower than the national average (**33%**).

Child Abuse and Neglect

In 2016, **9,665** children were victims of abuse or neglect in Tennessee, a **4% decrease** since 2012.



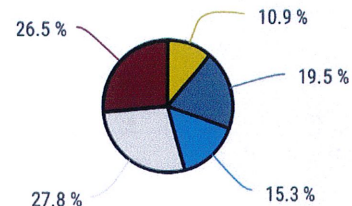
Of these children, **61%** experienced physical abuse, **27%** experienced sexual abuse, **26%** experienced neglect, **2.8%** experienced psychological maltreatment, and **1.5%** experienced medical neglect. Some children experienced multiple forms of maltreatment, therefore total percentages are equal to greater than 100%.

Demographics of Youth in Foster Care

In 2016, **6,423** youth were in foster care in Tennessee. **391** youth under the age of 20 were committed to state custody in Davidson County in 2016, and **448** youth were committed to state custody in 2017.

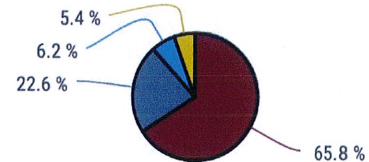
Age

- <1 year old
- 1-5 years old
- 6-10 years old
- 11-15 years old
- 16-20 years old

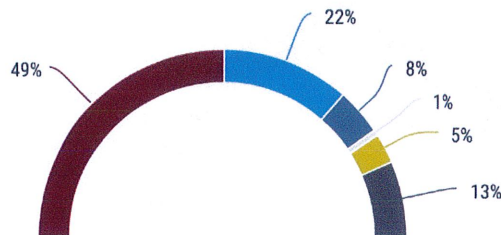


Race/Ethnicity

- White
- Black
- Hispanic or Latino
- Multiple Races



Youth Exits from Foster Care



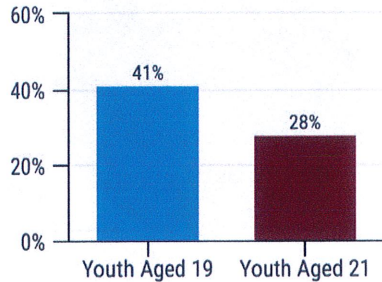
In 2016, **nearly half (49%)** of youth who exited foster care in Tennessee were **reunified with a parent or primary caretaker**. **33 youth (1%)** who exited foster care in 2016 ran away from their foster care placement.

- Reunification
- Adoption
- Emancipation
- Transfer to another agency
- Guardianship
- Living with Other Relatives

Vermont Balance of State: Child Welfare Profile

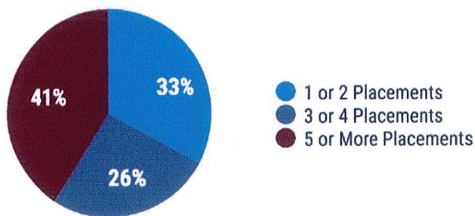


Youth Homelessness and Foster Care System Involvement



As of 2016, **41%** of youth aged 19 and **28%** of youth aged 21 who had involvement in the Vermont foster care system reported experiencing homelessness at some point over the past 2 years.

Number of Out-of-Home Placements for Youth in Foster Care



In 2016, **41%** of transition-age youth (ages 16 to 21) in foster care in Vermont had experienced **five or more out-of-home placements**, higher than the national average (**33%**).

Child Abuse and Neglect

In 2016, **822** children were victims of abuse or neglect in Vermont, a **26.7% decrease** since 2012.



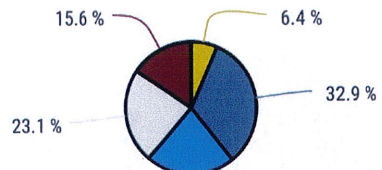
Of these children, **53%** experienced **physical abuse**, **46%** experienced **sexual abuse**, **1%** experienced **neglect**, and **1%** experienced **medical neglect**. **Less than 1%** of children experienced **psychological maltreatment**. Some children experienced multiple forms of maltreatment, therefore total percentages are equal to greater than 100%.

Demographics of Youth in Foster Care

In 2016, **1,332** youth were in foster care in Vermont. That is **less than 1%** of the total number of youth in foster care in the United States.

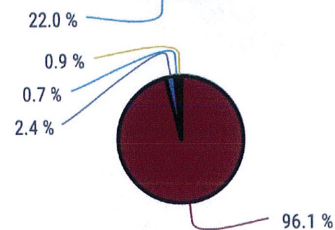
Age

- <1 year old
- 1-5 years old
- 6-10 years old
- 11-15 years old
- 16-20 years old

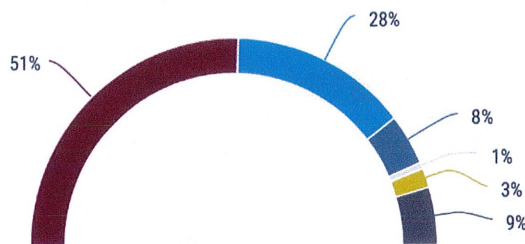


Race/Ethnicity

- White
- Black
- Hispanic or Latino
- Multiple Race Groups



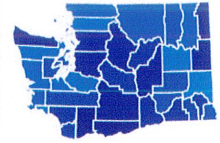
Youth Exits from Foster Care



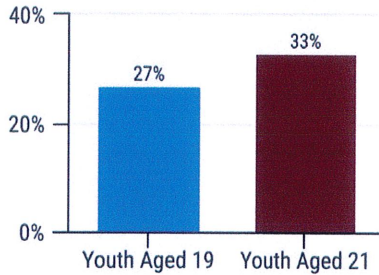
In 2016, **more than half (51%)** of youth who exited foster care in Vermont were **reunified with a parent or primary caretaker**.

- Reunification
- Adoption
- Emancipation
- Transfer to another agency
- Guardianship
- Living with Other Relative

Washington Balance of State and Snohomish County: Child Welfare Profile

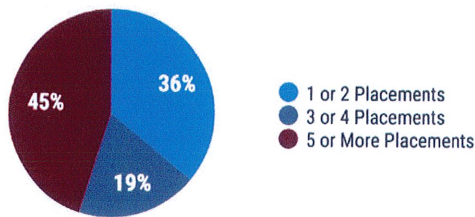


Youth Homelessness and Foster Care System Involvement



As of 2016, **27%** of youth aged 19 and **33%** of youth aged 21 who had involvement in the Washington foster care system reported experiencing homelessness at some point over the past 2 years. An estimated **28%** of youth aging out of the Washington foster care system at age 18 experience homelessness within 12 months.

Number of Out-of-Home Placements for Youth in Foster Care



In 2016, **45%** of transition-age youth (ages 16 to 21) in foster care in Washington had experienced **five or more out-of-home placements**, higher than the national average (**33%**).

Child Abuse and Neglect

In 2016, **4,725** children were victims of abuse or neglect in Washington, a **27.8% decrease** since 2012.



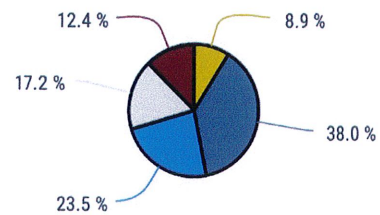
Of these children, **78% experienced neglect**, **22% experienced physical abuse**, and **10% experienced sexual abuse**. Some children experienced multiple forms of maltreatment, therefore total percentages are equal to greater than 100%.

Demographics of Youth in Foster Care

In 2016, **10,944 youth** were in foster care in Washington. As of most recent data from 2013, there were **658 youth** under the age of 18 in foster care placements in Snohomish County.

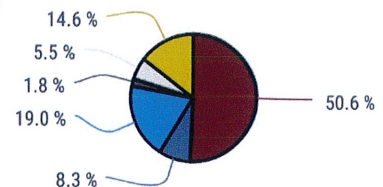
Age (State Level Data)

- <1 year old
- 1-5 years old
- 6-10 years old
- 11-15 years old
- 16-20 years old

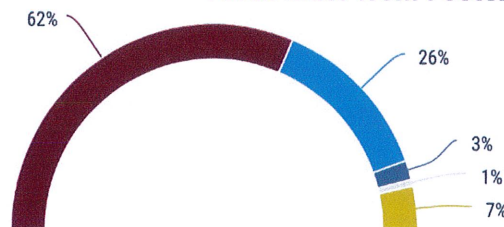


Race/Ethnicity (State Level Data)

- White
- Black
- Hispanic or Latino
- Asian/Native Hawaiian
- Native American
- Multiple Races



Youth Exits from Foster Care



In 2016, **more than half (62%)** of youth who exited foster care in Washington were **reunified with a parent or primary caretaker**.

- Reunification
- Adoption
- Emancipation
- Transfer to another agency
- Guardianship

