

Annual Report 2013



**Child and Family Services
Department of Human Services
State of Utah**

Gary Herbert, Governor

Ann Silverberg Williamson, Executive Director, Department of Human Services

Brent Platt, Director, Division of Child and Family Services

This document was prepared by Utah's Division of Child and Family Services.

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Internet Address: http://www.dcfh.utah.gov/reports_forms.htm



 Utah
Heart Gallery

The children pictured throughout the annual report are youth featured in Utah's adoption Heart Gallery. The Heart Gallery is an event in which youth, who are orphans of the state, are photographed by professional photographers who generously donate their talents, materials, and time to capture the individual personality of each young person. The portraits then become part of a traveling exhibit designed to heighten awareness of the need to find families for our community's forgotten children – older youth and sibling groups without permanent families.

Table of Contents

Director's Message	4
Prevention	6
Child Protective Services	7
Domestic Violence Services	11
In-Home Services	13
Kinship Services	17
Foster Care Services	19
Adolescent Services	22
Adoption Services	26
Workforce	29
Funding	30
Heart Gallery Pictures	31

Director's Message



The work we do at the Division of Child and Family Services is not just important to the children and families we serve directly - it is important to all Utahns, because the very foundation for success and prosperity in our state is relies on the fulfillment of our mission - "Safe Children, Strengthened Families". We are continually working to fulfill our mission and build a foundation that is reflective of the innovative, pioneering spirit of our great state. This year was filled with unprecedented innovation for child welfare in Utah. Two of our largest initiatives focused on improving educational outcomes for youth in care, and the expansion of our in-home programs with the goal of keeping children safe with their families. These initiatives are groundbreaking because they are transformational – they allow children and families to break the cycle of poverty, abuse, and neglect while building their capacity to thrive.

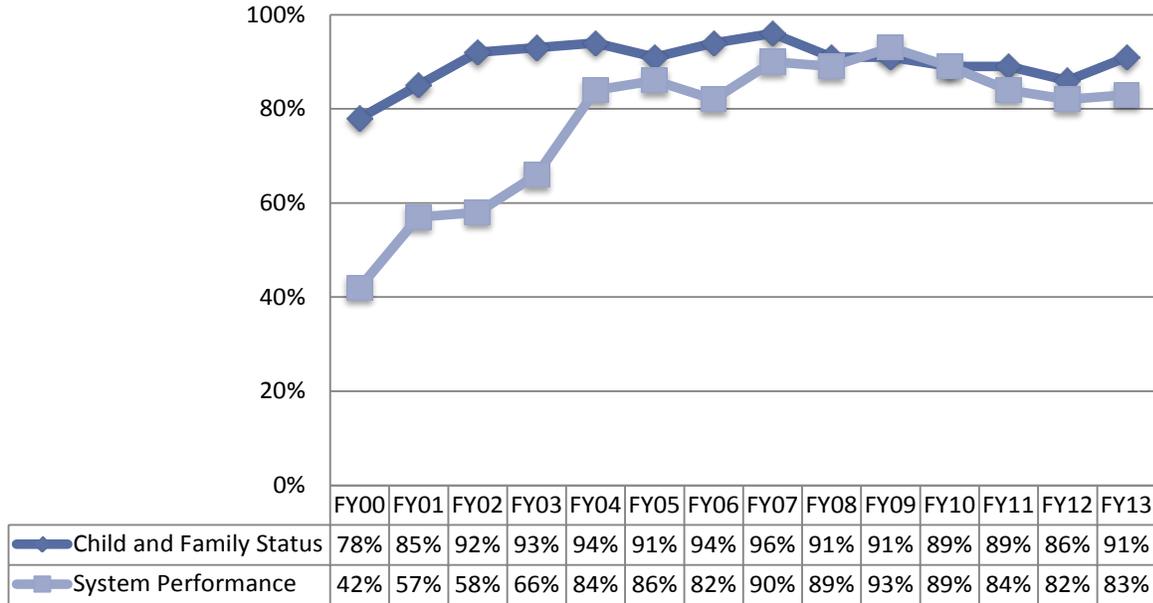
Thank you for taking the time to learn more about these initiatives and the Division of Child and Family Services, and for your continued support of the children and families of our state.

Brent Platt, L.C.S.W.

Director, Utah Division of Child and Family Services

On the next page you will find graphs of the findings for the two reviews performed by the Office of Services Review (OSR) for Child and Family Services each year. The top graph is for the Qualitative Case Review (QCR), which measures both status and system performance as they relate to client outcomes. The bottom graph is for the Case Process Review (CPR), which measures compliance with policy for each of the program areas. Last year we experienced a slight downturn in the numbers for each of the reviews. Part of the decrease is some modification made to both reviews. This year we began to see an increase in the numbers for the QCR. We expect further improvement in both of the reviews in the next year and in the coming years.

Qualitative Case Review Performance



Case Process Review Performance

Statewide Results		CPS	Unable to Locate	Unaccepted Referrals	Removals	In Home Services	Foster Care Services	Total
FY2013	Sample	906	227	405	421	2937	3993	8889
	Yes answers	854	196	403	326	2376	3229	7384
	Partial score	0	0	0	0	27	12.75	39.75
	Performance Rate	94%	86%	100%	77%	82%	81%	84%
FY2012	Sample	906	195	399	387	1003	3007	5907
	Yes answers	852	177	396	301	807	2581	5114
	Partial score	0	0	0	0	18.75	21.75	40.5
	Performance Rate	94%	91%	99%	76%	82%	87%	87%
FY2011	Sample	651	258	402	460	1006	3035	5812
	Yes answers	617	232	400	276	813	2650	4988
	Partial score	0	0	0	0	12.75	12	24.75
	Performance Rate	95%	90%	100%	60%	82%	88%	86%
FY2010	Sample	743	185	438	246	655	3640	5907
	Yes answers	697	147	436	215	540	3307	5342
	Partial score	0	0	0	0	21	33	63
	Performance Rate	94%	79%	100%	87%	85%	91%	91%
FY2009	Sample	932	255	396	344	618	3707	6259
	Yes answers	856	211	393	275	518	3365	5622
	Partial score	9	0	0	0	21	33	63
	Performance Rate	93%	83%	99%	80%	87%	92%	91%

Prevention

Child and Family Services provides nearly \$3,000,000.00 to help community partners with Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention by building protective factors to strengthening families. Families thrive when protective factors are strong in their homes and communities.

The five protective factors are:

- parental resilience
- social connections
- knowledge of parenting and child development
- concrete supports in times of need
- healthy social and emotional development of children

The four funding streams we use are:

- Utah Children's Account: funds are collected from the sale of birth certificates
- Crisis Respite Nurseries: general fund
- Community Based Child Abuse Prevention: Federal
- Promoting Safe and Stable Families: Federal

During 2013 we hosted a national training of trainers on "Bringing the Protective Factors to Life in your Work." Three community partners received the training: United Way of Utah County, Volunteers of America (Homeless Youth Outreach) and the Utah Afterschool Network. The Division and these partners are able to do free or low cost community training on the Protective Factor Framework.

Child and Family Services helps fund Crisis Respite Nurseries. There are 14 located around Utah: Child and Family Support Center of Cache County, Family Support Center of Box Elder County, Family Support Center of Ogden, Family Connection Center of Davis County (Clearfield), Family Support Center (3 in Salt Lake Valley), Family Support and Treatment Center (Orem), Family Support Center of Carbon County, Family Support Center of the Uintah Basin, Family Support Center of Southwestern Utah (Cedar City), Grand County Family Support Center, Family Support Center of Central Utah (Richfield) and the Washington County Family Support Center.

Each Crisis Respite Nursery is designed to provide a safe, homelike environment where caregivers can bring their children, ages 0-11 years, during times of stress. The primary purpose of the Nursery is child abuse prevention. Examples of possible reasons for using the nursery include: medical emergencies, financial stress, family violence, divorce, parenting difficulties, and previous abuse issues. The Nursery is not designed for use as a daycare.

Prevention Grantees:

- Asian Association of Utah - Parenting classes
- Box Elder Family Support Center - Family counseling
- Carbon County Family Support Center - Home visiting
- Child & Family Support Center - School Based "Good Touch Bad Touch"
- Children's Service Society - Grandfamilies and Parents as Teachers home visiting
- Family Support and Treatment Center - School presentations 8th - 12th grades
- Family Support Center - Family mentor home visiting
- Family Support Centers in Southwest Region - In-home support services
- Granite School District - Parenting Classes for families about Autism
- Guadalupe School - Counseling and Parents as Teachers home visiting
- Prevent Child Abuse Utah - Community and school presentations, Safe Families
- United Way of Utah County - Help Me Grow
- Utah County Health Dept. - Parents as Teachers home visiting
- Utah Youth Village - Families First: Intensive in-home support services
- YWCA - After School program and parenting classes

Child Protective Services

Child Protective Services (CPS) responds to reports concerning potential abuse, neglect, or dependency of children in the community. There is now a statewide toll-free number to call to report allegations of child abuse or neglect. The number - (855) 323-3237 - is toll-free from anywhere in the state. Centralized Intake operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

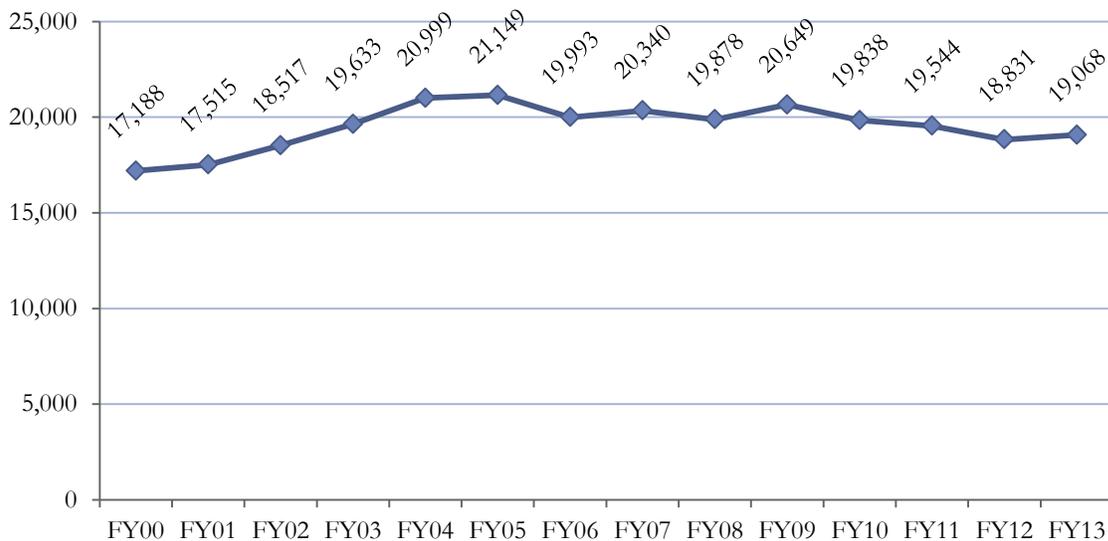
The referrals that were not investigated were either requesting information or determined not to fit the Utah definition of abuse or neglect, many of which were referred to community resources. Before a referral is determined to be “unaccepted”, the Intake worker refers to statute definitions for abuse, neglect and dependency, and policies and procedures that guide how the case is staffed, identifies documentation needed, and recommends required actions. The Case Process Review (CPR) looks at referrals that were not accepted and if the actions of the Intake worker met policy requirements.

Case Process Review Results for Referrals of Child Abuse and Neglect

	Goal	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13
Was the nature of the referral documented?	85%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Did the Intake worker staff the referral with the supervisor or other Intake CPS worker?	85%	100%	100%	99%	99%	100%	100%	99%	99%
Does the documentation adequately support the decision to accept the referral?	85%	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	98%	99%

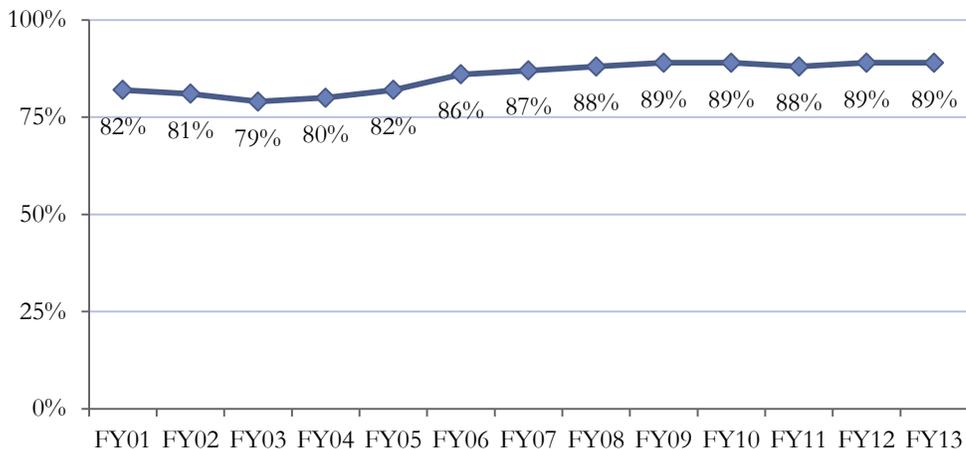
CPS investigated 19,068 cases in FY13. Of those, 6,519 (34 percent) were supported.

Number of CPS Cases Investigated

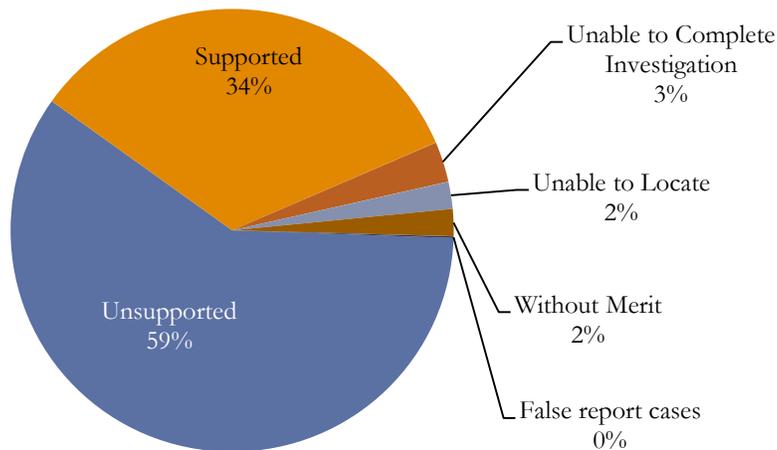


Based on the information given by the referent, Intake workers prioritize CPS cases based on the risk of harm to the child. Priority 1 involves cases where there is an imminent threat to the safety and well-being of a child. Priority 2 is assigned to cases where the child is at risk of further abuse or neglect or the child has immediate protection and safety needs. Priority 3 is assigned to cases where there is an allegation of abuse or neglect that does not require an immediate response. The three priority levels have required time frames for face-to-face contact with the alleged child victim.

Percent of CPS Cases Meeting Face-to-Face Contact Requirement



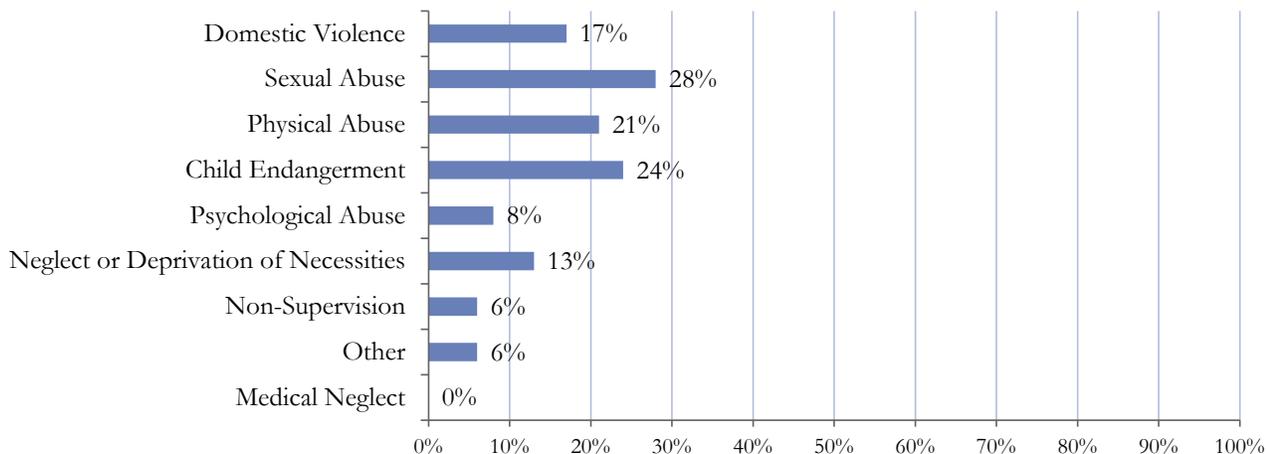
Results of Investigations



Seventy-four percent of families who had a supported case of abuse or neglect were referred to community services. Of the supported child victims, 17 percent received subsequent In-Home Services and 15 percent received subsequent Foster Care Services from Child and Family Services.

During FY 2013, Sexual Abuse was the most frequently supported allegation category. The “Other” allegation category includes allegations of Safe Relinquishment of a Newborn Child, Dependency, and Failure to Protect. Note that one case may have more than one supported allegation; therefore, the percentages in the chart below add up to more than 100 percent.

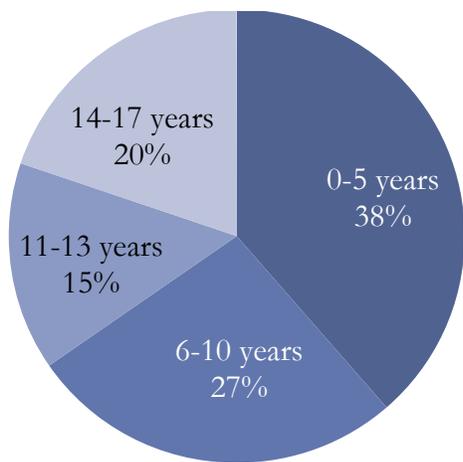
Percent of Allegation Type for Supported CPS Cases



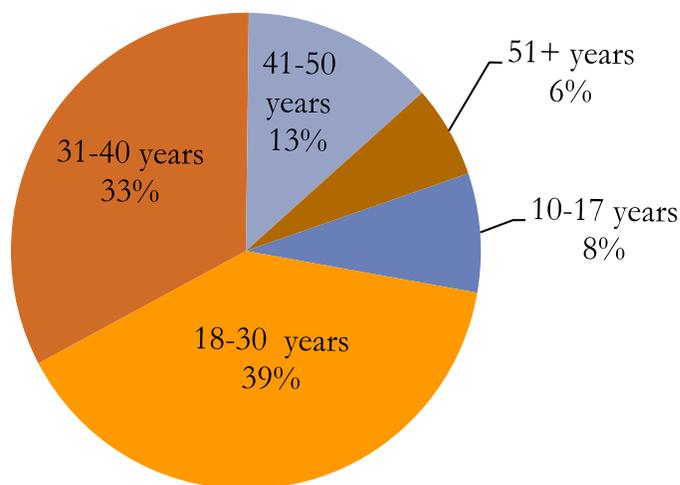
Thirty-five percent of supported abuse or neglect cases had alcohol or drug abuse as a contributing factor as reported by caseworkers, which is an increase of 4% over the last two years.

Of the total abused and neglected children, 9,233, in FY13, 54 percent were female and 46 percent were male. Approximately 72 percent of perpetrators were the victim’s parents, and 16 percent were other relatives

Victims by Age



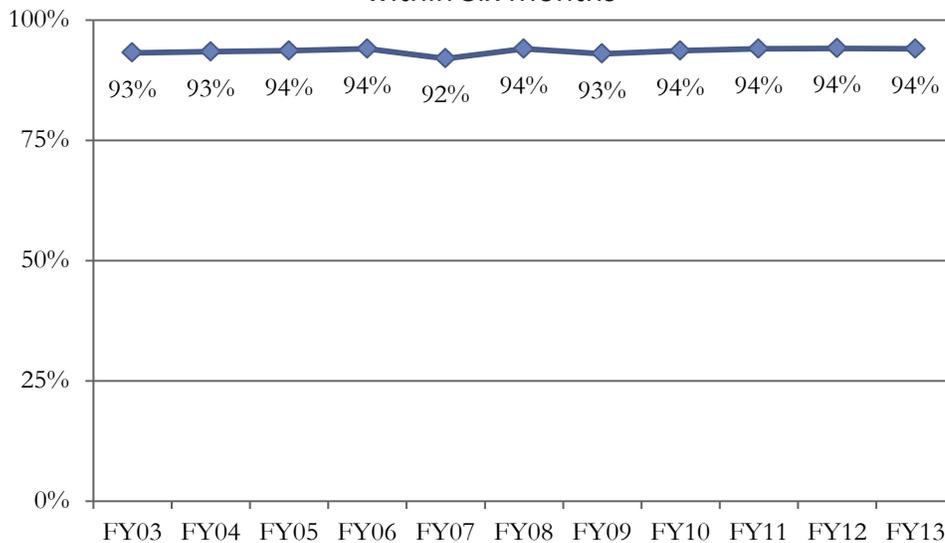
Perpetrators by Age



Outcomes

Recidivism occurs when a child who had previously been found to be a victim of a supported allegation of abuse or neglect at some time in the past is a victim in a new investigation because of a new allegation. If a caseworker determines that the child is at-risk and intervention is required, CPS caseworkers, in partnership with a variety of community-based organizations such as education, governmental, non-profit, faith-based, tribal, have the ability to provide a wide range of support to the family and child. A new Safety Decision Making (SDM) Risk Assessment has been implemented in an effort to target those families who would benefit the most from services and thus reduce the number of children experiencing additional abuse or neglect.

Percent of Supported Victims Who Do Not Experience Repeat Maltreatment within Six Months



Initiatives

In the coming year we will continue to implement SDM tools for assessing safety and risk of harm to be used during investigations. We will also be developing a new safety planning protocol.



Domestic Violence Services

Domestic violence is defined as a pattern of abusive behaviors by one partner against another in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family, or cohabitation. Domestic violence, so defined, has many forms, including physical aggression or assault (hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, restraining, slapping, throwing objects), or threats thereof; sexual abuse; emotional abuse; controlling or domineering; intimidation; stalking; passive/covert abuse (e.g., neglect); and economic deprivation.

Child and Family Services recognizes domestic violence as a significant challenge facing many of our families. Caseworkers may provide many direct and indirect services to families with a supported allegation related to domestic violence. Direct and indirect services may include:

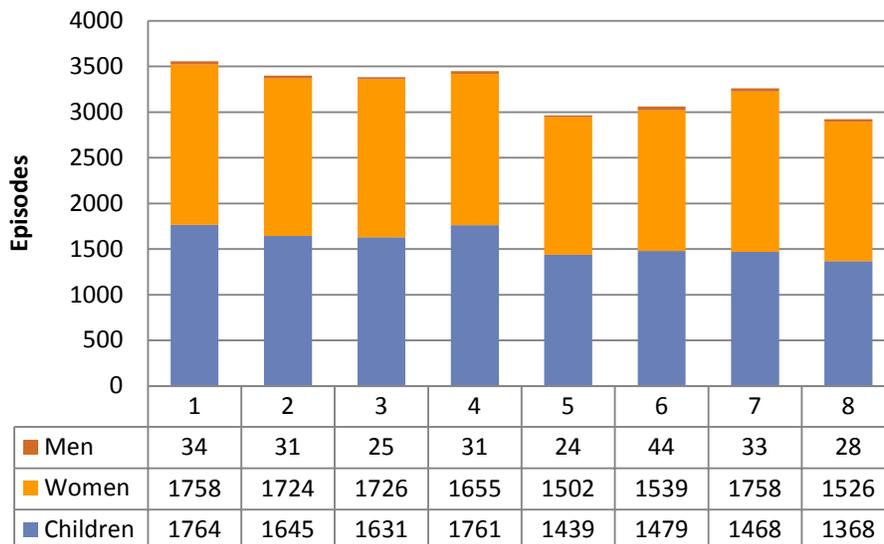
- Case management services such as safety planning.
- Referral to community supports/agencies that may provide contracted treatment/intervention.
- Direct clinical services.

Child and Family Services received and distributed state and federal dollars to domestic violence shelters across the state of Utah. Shelters provide services to men, women and children. Referral for services may come from many sources including Child and Family Services, law enforcement, community agencies, or self-referral. Shelters provide:

- Direct clinical services
- Direct casework
- Safety planning
- Individual and group counseling
- Community outreach and education
- Referral to community supports
- Assistance in acquiring protective orders
- Direct shelter service

Due to federal privacy guidelines, data collected on clients served in domestic violence shelters do not identify the client. Because clients may enter the same shelter or different shelters during the time period, the client counts are considered duplicated (the same person may be counted more than once). The chart below shows shelter episodes. An episode may last just one day or may last for many days.

Number of Domestic Violence Victim Episodes in Shelters Statewide



According to the Center for Disease Control, Utah’s rate of domestic violence currently exceeds the national average and the need for shelter services continues to exceed our resources. Child and Family Services recognizes domestic violence as a significant challenge facing many of our families. Over the past five years, Utah’s domestic violence shelters have increased shelter nights by 41.1 percent (from 76,767 domestic violence shelter nights served in 2008 to 108,377 nights in 2012). However, for that same five year period, Utah’s unmet shelter need also increased by 67 percent (CCJJ 2012 NMS report). In Utah, female victims of domestic violence have higher rates of mental illness (29.8 percent vs. 13.7 percent) and binge drinking (9.8 percent vs. 4.3 percent) than women who have not experienced intimate partner violence (VIPP). There are at least three domestic violence-related suicides every month in Utah (Utah Violent Death Reporting System). Since 2000, domestic violence-related homicides accounted for 39.9% of all adult homicides in Utah (DOH/VIPP).

Due to federal privacy guidelines ensuring victim safety, domestic violence shelters do not collect personally identifying client data. Because clients may engage in more than one event of domestic violence service, program data is aggregated and is primarily collected and analyzed on the basis of episodes of service.

The following chart shows the number of days provided during the fiscal year. This is also a duplicate count. It is different than an episode count in that an episode is likely to include more than one day, with 33.6 as the average number of days for an episode this year.

Shelter Days Provided

	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13
Children	33,805	38,275	38,766	46,369	40,683	47,364	59,544	51,319
Women	32,713	33,391	37,391	36,214	35,951	42,687	47,647	45,891
Men	743	638	610	464	556	912	1,175	1,069
Total Days	67,261	72,304	76,767	83,047	77,190	90,963	108,377	98,417
Average Days				24.1	26.0	29.7	33.2	33.6

Initiatives

Child and Family Services is committed to working in partnership with the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health and the public behavioral health system, the Utah Suicide Prevention Coordinators, the Utah Domestic Violence Coalition, the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, the Office of Victim Services, and the Utah Department of Health to develop and implement integrated solutions and reliable performance measurements to drive down rates of domestic violence in Utah. Efforts will continue to protect funding for domestic violence programming, ensuring access to quality services for families and individuals impacted by domestic violence.

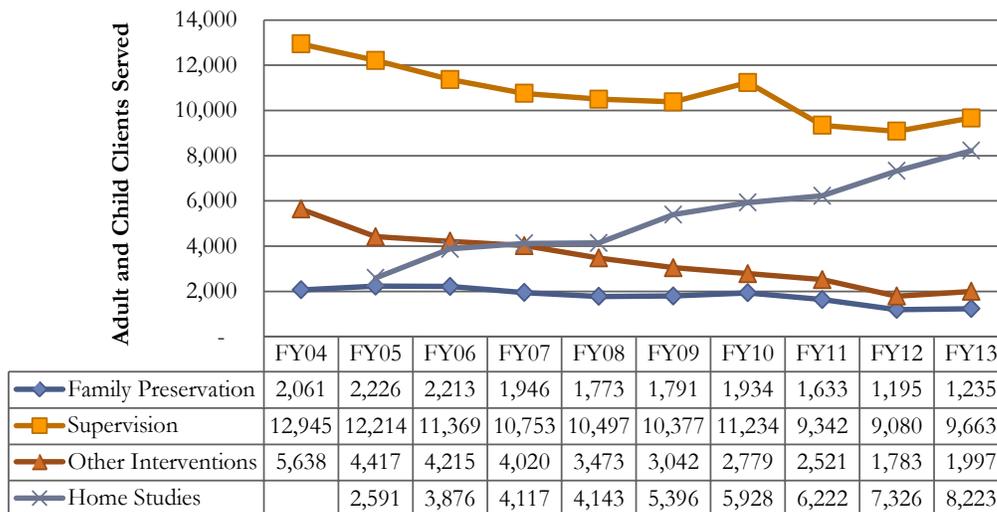


In-Home Services

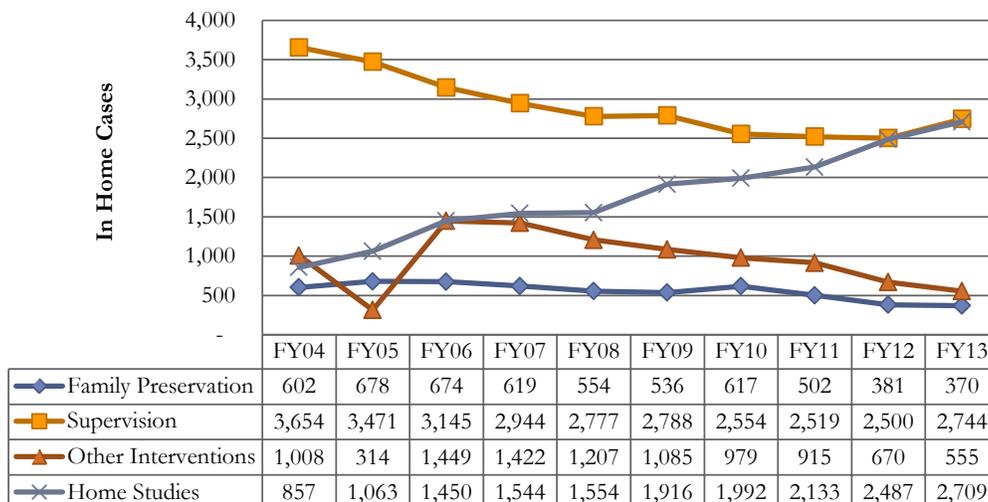
Utah's In-Home Services program is an array of supports and interventions provided to ensure the safety and well-being of children in their homes while stabilizing, supporting, preserving, and reunifying their families. In-Home Services not only help children remain home rather than coming into foster care, but they can also help expedite a child's safe return home from foster care. In-Home Services can also be provided to relatives who have temporary custody of a child while Child and Family Services works with the parents on reunification services. In-Home Services may be voluntary or court ordered.

Child and Family Services continues to work to elevate the profession of child welfare in order to take our practice to a higher level. One of the ongoing primary areas of focus this year is the enhancement of In-Home Services. The increased focus on In-Home Services will result in a greater capacity to help families make changes enabling them to safely care for their children in their own home. Child and Family Services operates from a philosophy that children are best served and permanency and well-being outcomes are enhanced when children can safely remain at home with their families.

In-Home Services Adult and Child Clients Served



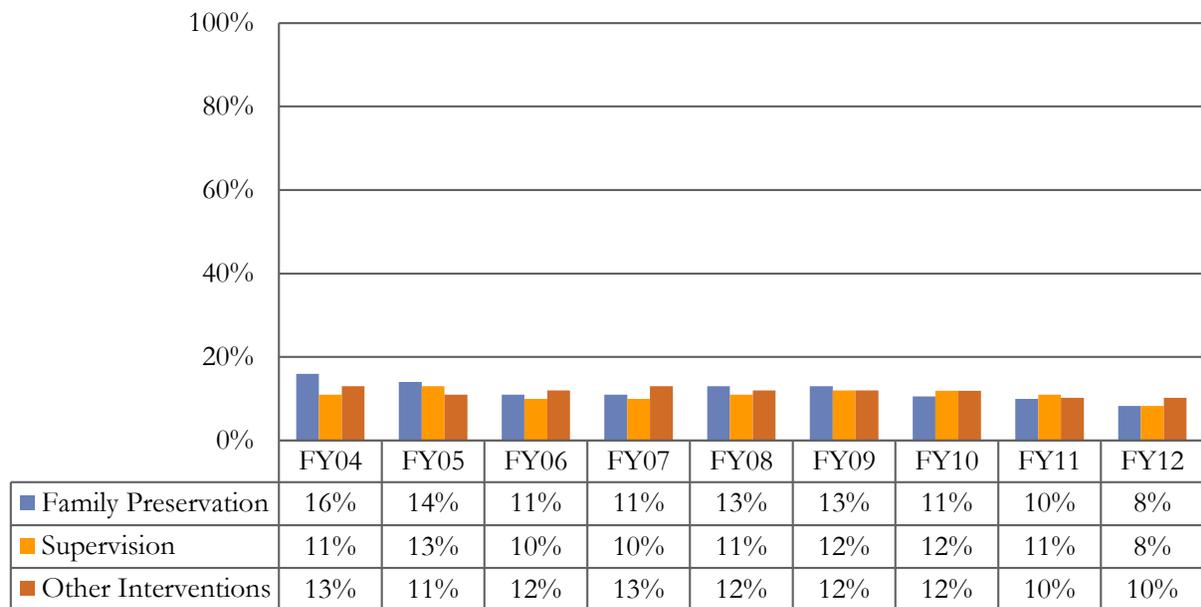
In-Home Services Cases



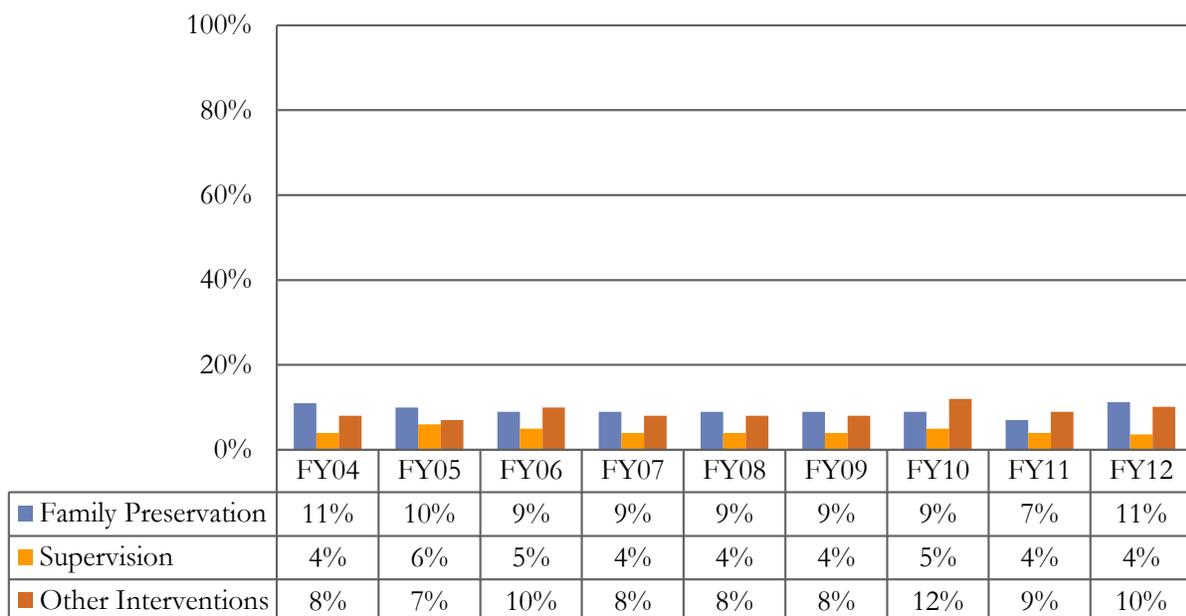
Outcomes

Child and Family Services provides In-Home Services in an effort to mitigate family issues that lead to abuse and neglect as well as to prevent the recurrence of child abuse and neglect. The success of these efforts is proven by the low incidence of subsequent supported CPS allegations as well as the future need for children to enter a Foster Care placement.

Percent of Children Who Exited an In-Home Services Case Who Subsequently Have a Supported CPS Case Within 12 Months



Percent of Children Who Exited an In-Home Services Case who Subsequently Have a Foster Care Case Within 12 Months



Initiatives

Child and Family Services is committed to safely reducing the need for foster care for Utah's children. One of the primary ways this will be accomplished is through a significant enhancement to In-Home Services. During 2013, Child and Family Services began rollout of the enhanced In-Home Services program, "HomeWorks". HomeWorks is a set of evidence-based services, strategies, and tools that best support safety, permanency, and well-being of children and the strengthening of their family. The HomeWorks model includes five primary elements:

- A foundation of Practice Model skills which have been proven effective at elevating child welfare practice in Utah, specifically: engaging, teaming, assessing, planning, and intervening. We have demonstrated that when followed, outcomes are better for children and families.
- Structured Decision Making (SDM). The SDM system is a set of research- and evidence-based tools that assist with each important decision in the life of a case. The SDM system is operational in the CPS and In-Home Services program areas throughout the state. The SDM system serves as an improved in-home framework that is harmonious with Utah's existing Practice Model and Safety Model. The SDM tools help identify those families who would most benefit from In-Home Services and when it would be appropriate to close an In-Home Services case. The SDM framework also provides a recommended level of intervention intensity based on the assessed risk level. That risk level then translates to contact standards for In-Home cases. Incorporating formalized caseworker contact standards helps build confidence in the ability of Child and Family Services to respond to more cases of abuse and neglect without having to remove a child from the home. It also assists with reducing the time children spend in foster care by providing an enhanced supportive resource during the transition home.
- An evidence-based functional assessment specifically designed to serve in-home cases. The Utah Family and Children Engagement Tool (UFACET) is being used in the HomeWorks Pilot Sites of Logan and Ogden. UFACET is based on the Child and Adolescent Strengths and Needs Assessments (CANS). UFACET works as a framework for engaging families to get critical case information early in a case and provide guidance for plan creation. Caseworkers work with the families to score the UFACET assessment to achieve better understanding of what the families' strengths and areas of concern are.
- Enhanced caseworker skills and tools which include incorporating the Strengthening Families Protective Factors into day-to-day frontline casework. The Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework was developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy. The purpose is to further enhance caseworker's core skills in a way that is directly focused on assisting parents in maximizing their capacity to protect and care for their own children. Incorporating the Protective Factors framework into our day-to-day work such as home visits can help to reduce child abuse and neglect, strengthen families, and promote optimal child development. The five Protective Factors include: Parental Resilience; Social Connections; Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development; Concrete Support in Times of Need; and Social Emotional Competence of Children.
- A statewide inventory of both contracted and non-contracted community resources available to families receiving in-home services is currently being conducted. The purpose of this inventory is to assess across both rural and urban Utah the availability of the most critically needed resources that support children remaining at home safely. As part of this inventory, community resource providers are asked to participate in a survey that captures the types of services their agency provides, capacity to provide services, accessibility and the extent to which they utilize evidence-based and trauma informed practices. The data obtained through this process and other ongoing assessments will be used to help DCFS administration identify where there are gaps in services, make decisions and plans regarding the development of additional community resources and adjust policies and practices where needed.

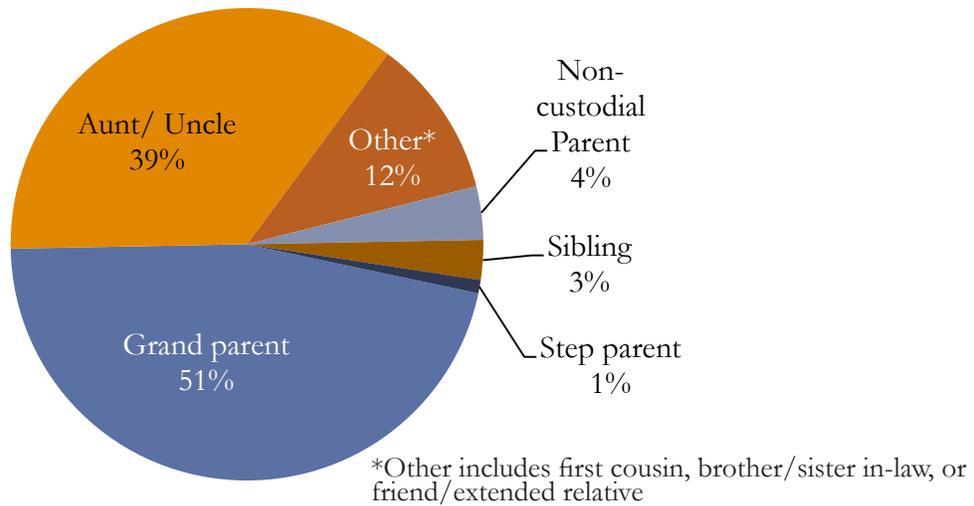
- Three of the key elements of the HomeWorks program (In-Home Assessment, Enhanced Caseworker Skills, and Resources) have been incorporated into Utah's Child Welfare Demonstration Project. This will provide an opportunity for Child and Family Services to shift resources that have historically only been available to foster care to now support in-home services. The demonstration project is a five year project. A key component of the demonstration project is a rigorous evaluation from an independent evaluator to see if the changes being made to in-home services are leading to better outcomes for children and families. The demonstration project will be evaluated by the University of Utah Social Research Institute along with evaluation experts from the University of South Florida and the University of Colorado.
- Initial implementation of Utah's HomeWorks program began on October 1, 2013. Implementation began in the pilot sites in the Northern Region at one urban site (Ogden office) and one rural site (Logan office). HomeWorks will continue to be rolled out systemically throughout the rest of the Northern Region and the remaining four regions.
- Contracts for resources that support in-home services continue to be expanded. One example is the Peer Parenting services which go into the home and provide direct parenting services to the family using an evidence-based core curriculum. That curriculum is the Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP) program. The program will be administered one-on-one in the home with families, rather than in group classroom setting or through individual reading of materials. STEP allows for use of supplemental materials to help meet a family's individual needs, such as budgeting or home management.



Kinship Services

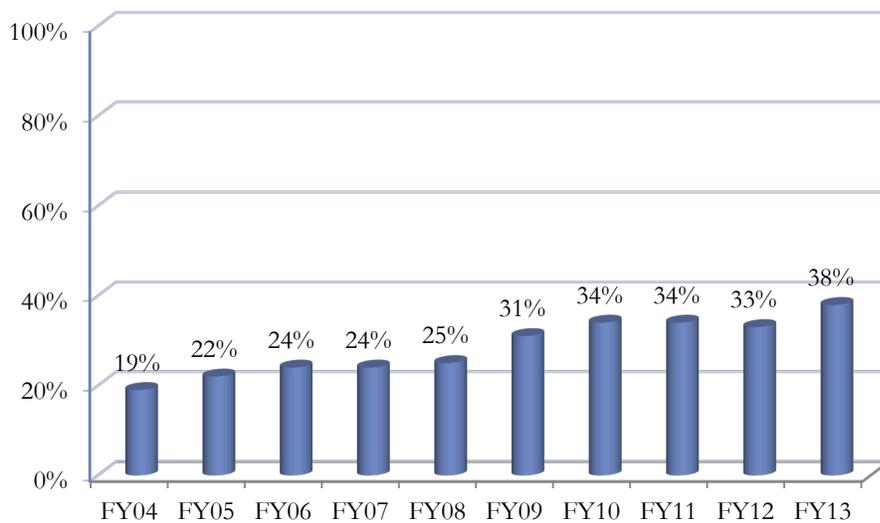
Kinship caregivers are individuals who provide a temporary or permanent home for a relative child or children who cannot remain in the home of their parents due to the threat of further abuse or neglect. Kinship caregivers include grandparents, aunts, uncles, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, stepparents, siblings, stepsiblings, and first cousins to the child.

For Children in Foster Care - Relationship of Kinship Caregiver to the Child



If kinship caregivers become licensed child-specific foster parents and attend foster care training they can receive the same supports available to all licensed foster parents.

Percent of Children in Foster Care Placed with Kinship Caregivers at Some Point in Time During the Year

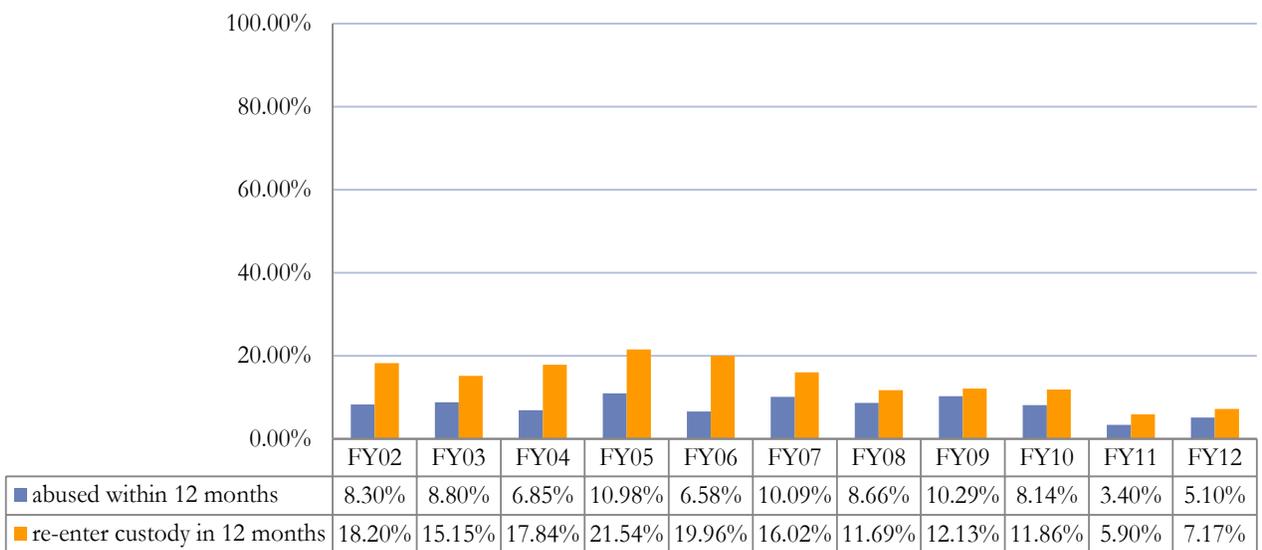


Other placement options open to kinship caregivers include assuming guardianship or taking legal custody of the child. In these instances, the kinship caregiver may receive In-Home Services. The SACWIS system made changes to better track kinship placements that occur on in-home cases; however, training of workers on this new system has not yet occurred. Consequently, we cannot get complete information on the number of in-home kinship cases that are being served by the division. The training on this module is scheduled to take place during the next year.

Outcomes

More children released from custody to live with kin achieve lasting stability as evidenced by the reduction in the rate of children re-entering custody. This graph also show the percentage of children who again experienced abuse after being released to kin.

**Percent of Children Who Exited Custody to a Relative
Who Were the Victims of Abuse and Children Who Reentered Custody Within 12 Months**



Initiatives

Child and Family Services has trained and licensed twenty-five employees who are now using an internet-based search engine called CLEAR to locate relatives for possible kinship placements of children entering custody.

Training of workers is planned on the new kinship placement tracking system located in the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS or SAFE system), which will allow Division employees to better track In-Home Services cases. This system will allow the Division to gather information on the number of In-Home Services kinship cases that are being served by Child and Family Services.

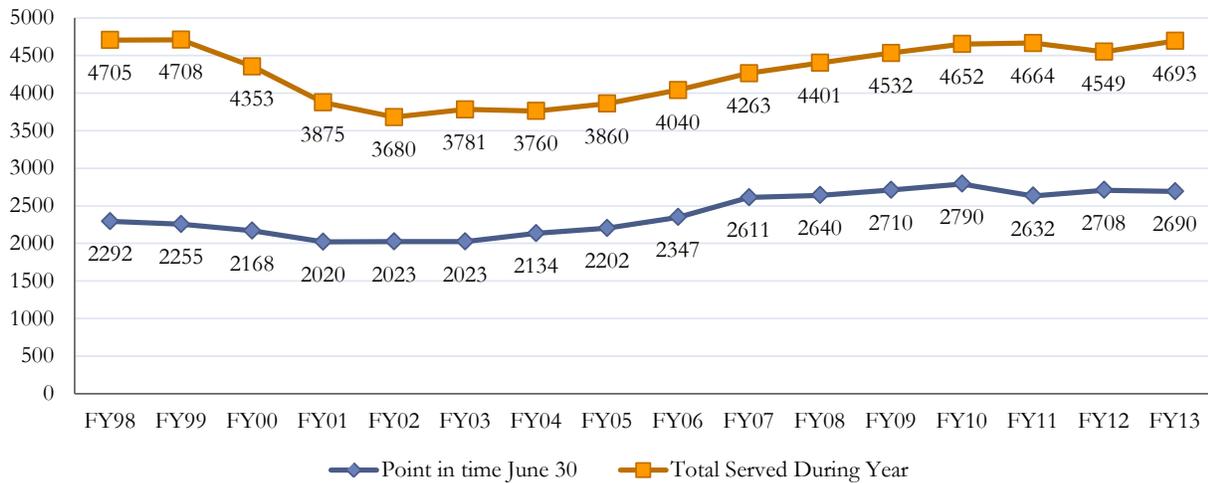
Grandfamilies is a service of Children's Service Society serving Davis, Salt Lake and Utah County. Grandfamilies focuses on meeting the growth and developmental needs of children and promoting positive relationships in families. The new website grandfamiliesutah.org educates relative caregivers on additional community and statewide resources.

Child and Family Services will be implementing a kinship guardianship assistance program to provide kinship guardianship assistance payments on behalf of children to grandparents and other relatives who have assumed legal guardianship of the children for whom they have cared for as foster parents and committed to care for on a permanent basis.

Foster Care Services

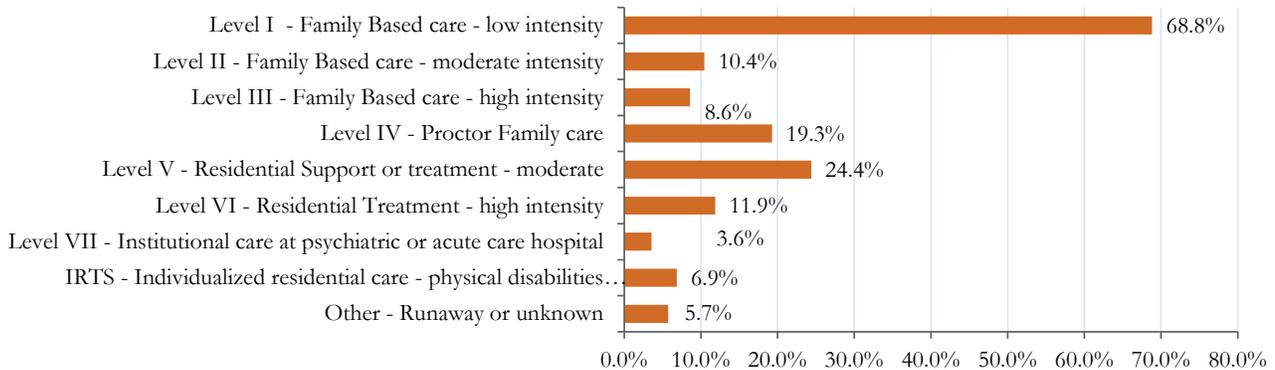
A child may be placed in foster care when it is determined that the child is unsafe due to inadequate parental protective capacities or other safety interventions or by court order.

Number of Youth Receiving Foster Care Services Point-in-Time and Total Served

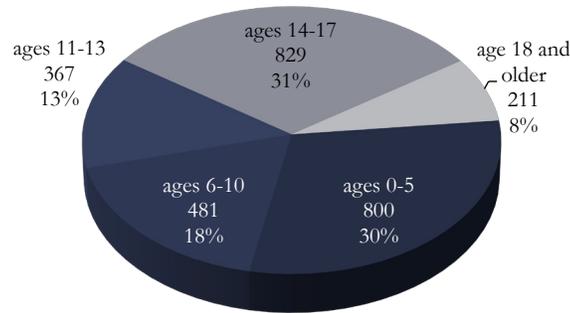


To ensure that children are placed in the environment that best meets their needs, Child and Family Services maintains a number of foster care placements that, based on the child’s needs, offer an increasing intensity of services. Levels I through IV are family-based settings. Levels V and above are institutional settings. If a child must be placed in an institutional setting a plan is developed to move that child to a family setting as quickly as possible. Children do better when living in a family. Below are the placement types children were in at some point during the year. Note that children may be in more than one placement setting during the year. Consequently, the percentages add to more than 100 percent.

Placement Types of Children in Foster Care at Some Point During the Year

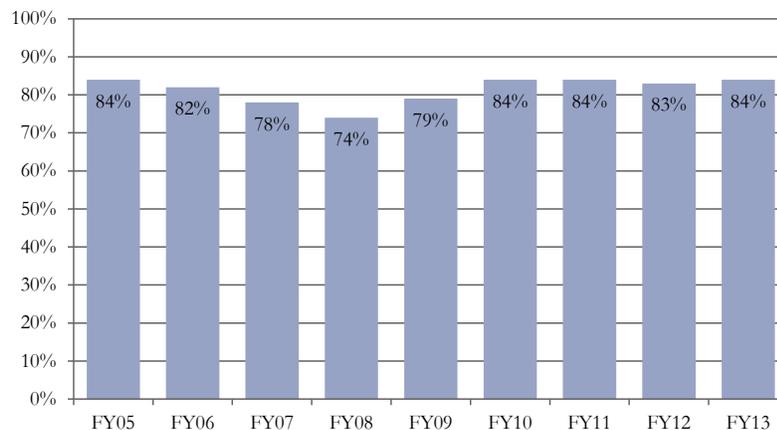


Percent and Total Number of Children in Foster Care Point-in-Time June 30, 2012 by Age Group



Assuring permanency for children is a key value of Child and Family Services, and ensuring that children are involved in as few placements as possible is a major objective.

Percent of Children in Foster Care Less Than 12 Months who had Two or Fewer Placements



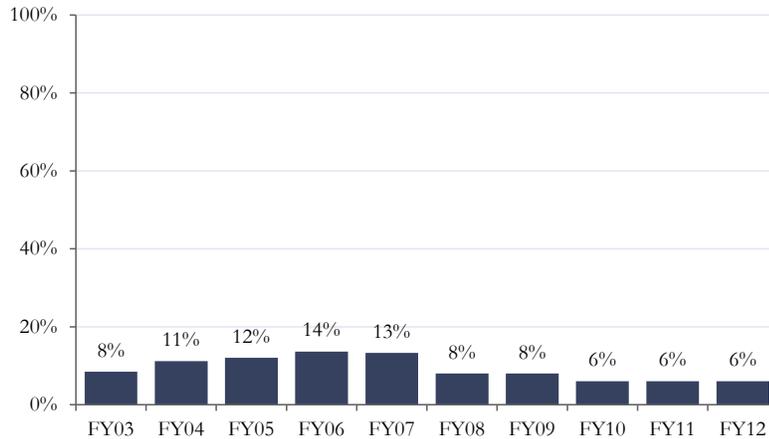
For the past nine years, the average number of placements for children exiting custody has been three.

Outcomes

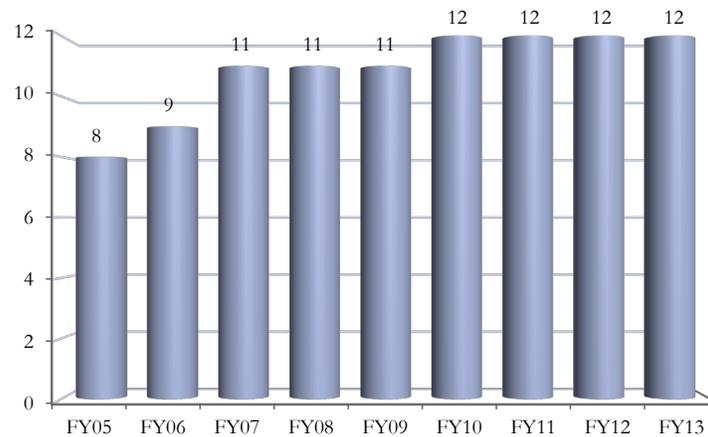
Once children are placed into the custody of the state for their safety, the goal of Child and Family Services becomes to reunify them with their parents. If reunification is not possible, Child and Family Services focuses on finding another permanent home. The chart below shows where children went at the close of the foster care case for the past year and the median length of time they were in custody. Fifty-five percent of children either returned to live with a parent or went to live with a relative. Note that relative adoptions show in the Adoption Final category and not in the Custody and Guardianship to a Relative category.

Reason for Exiting	Percent	Median Months in Custody
Reunification with Parent(s)/ Primary Caregiver(s)	43%	11
Adoption Final	26%	14
Custody and Guardianship to Relative	16%	4
Age of Majority/ Emancipation	9%	35
Child Ran Away	1%	15
Custody to Juvenile Justice Services	3%	13
Custody/Guardianship to Foster Parent/Other Nonrelative	2%	5
Referred Outside Organization	0%	38
Death of Child	0%	29
Total	100%	

Percent of Children Exiting Custody with a Subsequent Foster Care Episode within 12 Months



Median Months in Custody for Children Exiting Care During the Year



Initiatives

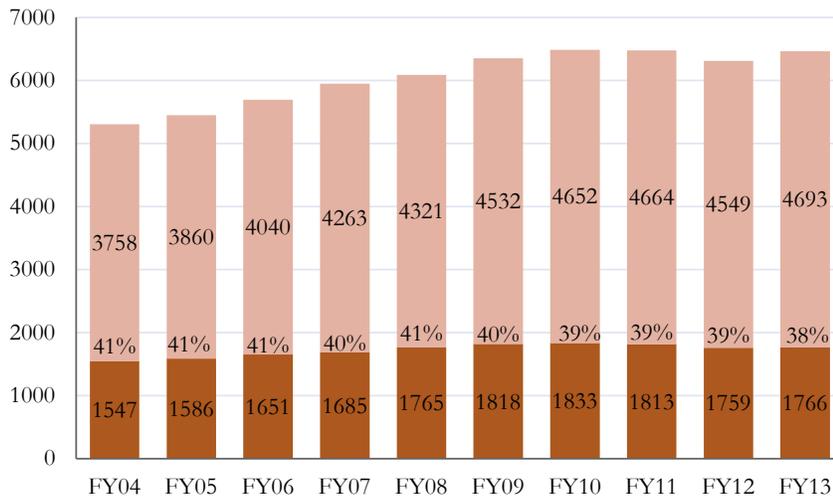
Child and Family Services will continue to:

- Improve educational outcomes for children in foster care by working with school districts to implement federal and state laws that strongly encourage educational stability for children in foster care. A mandatory training regarding improving educational outcomes for children in foster care will be released for all workers in the second quarter of the year.
- Increase the number of home-based foster placement options available for children with more difficult emotional and behavioral problems to prevent them from being placed in more restrictive residential placements.
- Strengthen and increase the skills of our foster care families who are willing to work with children needing intensive services.
- Develop additional wrap-around services that will support keeping children in their foster home rather than moving them to residential care.
- Continue to update and expand the Peer Parent program curriculum.
- Continue to develop and provide training for staff and partners to raise awareness about the importance of providing permanency for all children we serve.
- Update the assessment tool used for children in out of home care and further training for workers on its benefit and use.

Adolescent Services

The Transition to Adult Living (TAL) program offers a continuum of services and supports to youth age 14 years and older in the care of Child and Family Services. Since 2008 the percentage of youth age 14 years and older in Foster Care has decreased from 41 percent to 39 percent.

Number of Children Age 14 and Older In Foster Care



■ Total number of children in care ■ Number of Children 14 years and older

TAL services prepare young people to meet the challenges of transitioning to adulthood by helping them develop skills in five fundamental areas of adult life:

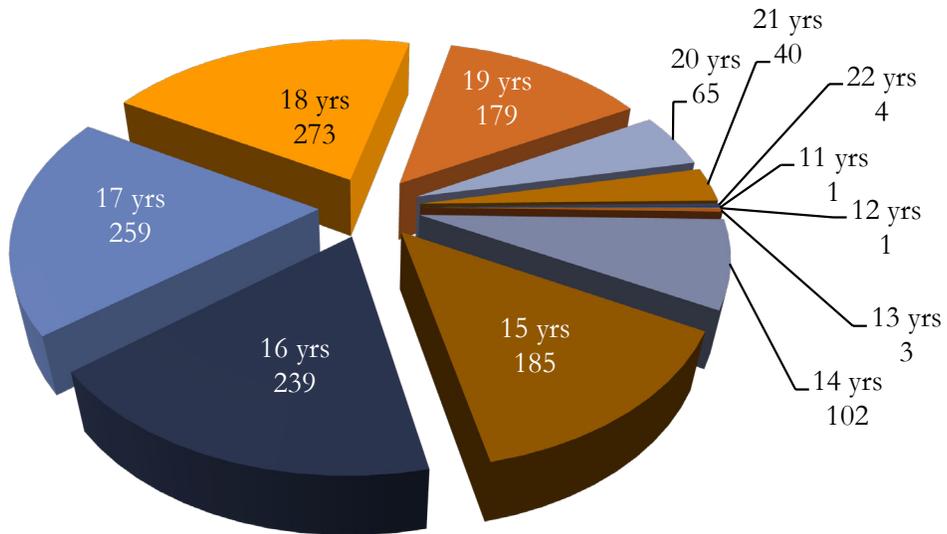
- Self-care and health education
- Communication, social relationships, family and marriage
- Home life and daily living
- Work and career planning, and education
- Housing and money management

Emancipation from Child and Family Services custody occurs when a child 18 years or older is released from the custody of the state. Although youth can remain in foster care up to age 21 years, most leave soon after their 18th birthday.

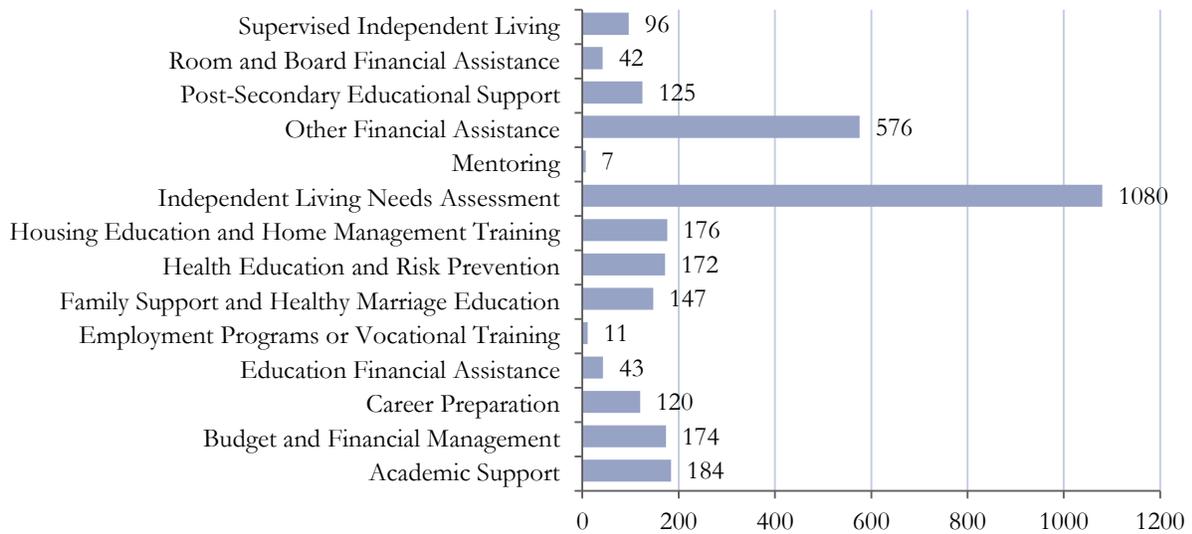
Youth Emancipating from Foster Care by Age



Number of Youth by Age Receiving TAL Services in 2012



TAL Services Received During 2012



Outcomes

During FY13, 228 youth were invited to take a 17-year-old National Youth Transition Database (NYTD) survey. 153 were invited to take the 19-year-old follow up survey. 224 of the 17-year-old youth participated, and 142 of 19 year olds participated. The results were as follows:

Employment:

Age 17: 35 (15 percent) reported either full or part time employment

Age 19: 71 (46 percent) reported either full or part time employment

School:

Age 17: 7 (3 percent) reported that they had already achieved their high school diploma/GED; 215 (94 percent) were still in school

Age 19: 100 (65 percent) reported that they had already achieved their high school diploma/GED; four (3 percent) reported the achievement of a Vocational Certificate; one youth had achieved an Associate's Degree; and, 47 (31 percent) were still in school

Positive Connection With Adult (Other than Caseworker):

Age 17: 217 (95 percent) reported a positive connection with an adult (not their caseworker)

Age 19: 134 (87 percent) reported a positive connection with an adult (not their caseworker)

Homelessness:

Age 17: 44 (19 percent) reported that they had been homeless at some point in their life

Age 19: 31 (20 percent) reported that they had been homeless in the last two years

Substance Abuse Referral:

Age 17: 99 (43 percent) reported a substance abuse referral at some point

Age 19: 27 (18 percent) reported a substance abuse referral at some point in the last two years

Parenting Youth:

Age 17: 9 (4 percent) reported giving birth or fathering a child

Age 19: 12 (18 percent) reported giving birth or fathering a child in the last two years

Incarceration:

Age 17: 139 (61 percent) reported being jailed for committing a crime

Age 19: 39 (25 percent) reported being jailed for committing a crime in the last two years



Initiatives

During the 2013 calendar year, the focus for Adolescent Services was to increase the youth voice within Utah's foster care system. This was accomplished by creating state and regional youth councils that focus on providing the youth perspective at many levels. The State Youth Council is comprised of several youth from each of the Child and Family Services Regions who meet monthly to discuss policy and practice directly effecting youth through the services they receive. The State Youth Council also planned the 11th annual Youth Leadership Summit held at Weber State University that was attended by 175 youth from around the state.

The biggest accomplishment this year was the creation of the Foster Youth Bill of Rights, which is an internal document to help youth understand what their rights are while they are in foster care. This document addresses issues that are important to the youth and was created by the State Youth Council.

The State Youth Council spent much of their time this last year preparing and planning for the Youth Leadership Summit. They took an active leadership role during the conference that included facilitating breakout sessions, and presenting the ideas and concerns of all youth in care during the Youth Speak Out. The Youth Leadership Summit focused on setting and achieving goals to help in the transition to adulthood. The State Youth Council members along with local DCFS leadership are currently planning their local regional summits that will focus on the needs of youth in their regions.

One of the highlights of the year was the State Youth Council's opportunity to speak to the Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel addressing some of the biggest issues facing youth in foster care in Utah. The desire for normalcy in the life of a youth in foster care was the main issue the youth chose to speak on. Normalcy refers to the ability to participate in activities, particularly extracurricular activities that youth who are not in foster care can participate including such simple things as sleepovers with friends and important rights of passage such as learning to drive and getting a drivers license. It allows caregivers to make decisions about what activities youth participate in without having special permission from the courts; a reasonable and prudent parenting standard. This has translated to action by legislators to address normalcy for youth in care, which may take place during the 2014 legislative session.

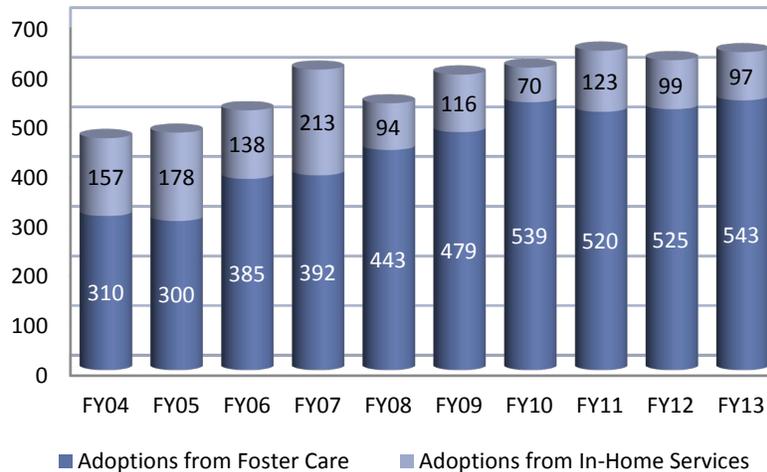
During the 2014 calendar year, each of the five Child and Family Services regions will be hosting their own Youth Leadership Summits which will allow a greater number of youth to participate in building leadership skills in where they live. This also allows each region to address the needs of the youth in their region. The implementation of the Foster Youth Bill of Rights into Practice Guidelines will be a focus for the next year as well. As the youth are presented with more opportunities to share their experiences, ideas, strategies and goals for improving Utah's foster care system they become more empowered to affect change in the system not only for themselves but for all children in foster care. This leads to better outcomes for children and families that are served by the child welfare system in Utah. It also gives these youth an invaluable experience in how government works and grassroots change initiatives.

Child and Family Services will continue striving to reach the goals set out in our strategic plan to improve outcomes for youth by finding permanent families and other permanent connections for each youth. The best independent living skill you can give a youth is a family.

Adoption Services

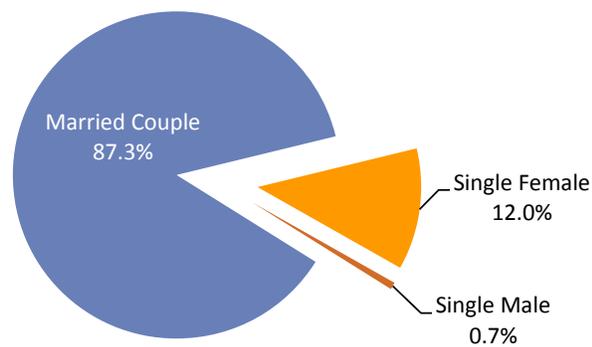
The adoption program's purpose is to assure every child and teenager who cannot safely be raised by their parents has a permanent family through adoption.

Number of Children Adopted from Foster Care Services and from Kinship In-Home Services



Relatives, foster care families, and other families in the community may be able to adopt a child once parental rights have either been relinquished or legally terminated. Many kinship families become licensed as foster parents and later adopt the relative child for whom they care. These families are included in the number of children adopted from foster care.

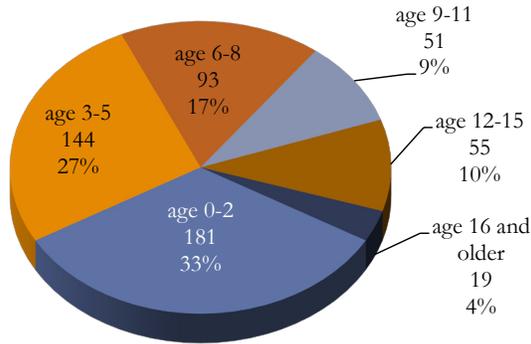
Structure of Families Adopting from Foster Care



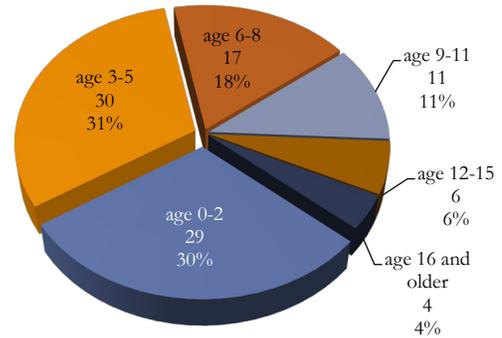
Most children are adopted by the foster care or kinship family that is caring for them. The child's caseworker helps the adoptive parents assess what services the child may need currently or in the future, then helps identify community resources that may be helpful in raising the adopted child. Adoption assistance is available for adopted children who qualify.

While children under the age of nine years old account for most adoptions in Utah, we know all youth need a family. We recruit adoptive families specifically for older youth and sibling groups in state care with help from our community partner, The Adoption Exchange. The Adoption Exchange sponsors Wednesday's Child televised in collaboration with KSL Television, the Heart Gallery which travels the state with beautiful portraits of youth in need of a family and Wendy's Wonderful Kids through Dave Thomas Foundation based on an evidence based model to target recruitment for specific youth.

Ages of Children Adopted from a Foster Care Case



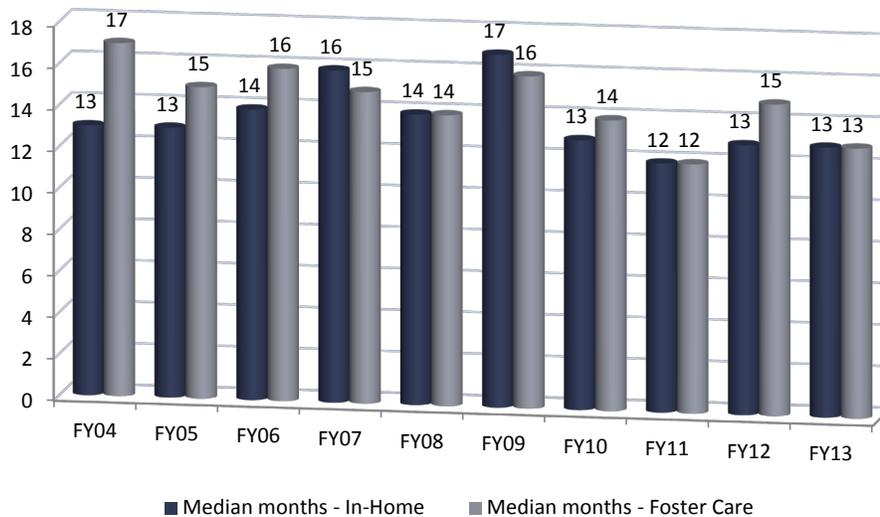
Ages of Children Adopted from a Kinship In-Home Services Case



Outcomes

Adoption is a successful way for children in foster care to obtain a permanent family. There is a myth that children adopted from foster care do not do well after adoption. While a small minority of children are not maintained in their adoptive families, the vast majority become a permanent part of their new families. With the increased emphasis on providing adoptive parents with the services and resources they need to raise their adopted child, approximately 97 percent of the adoptions of children from state care have been successful since 2001.

Median Months Cases are Open Prior to Adoption



These data look at children who were adopted within the given fiscal year and came back into foster care at any time after their adoption. Thus the children adopted in FY 2001 could have come back into foster care within a 12-year period; while the children adopted in FY 2013 only had a few months to re-enter foster care. Many children come back into foster care temporarily to resolve a crisis and then return to live with their adoptive family. Others are not able to return.

Number of Children Adopted who Received State Adoption Assistance who Returned to Custody

	Total adopted	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	Total to date
FY00	319	5	22	7	5	5	3	8	6	5	9	18	4	1	98
FY01	506	0	3	1	4	6	3	2	2	6	7	1	3	4	41
FY02	443		2	3	3	2	7	4	9	6	8	6	1	5	55
FY03	452			0	1	0	6	2	3	3	5	4	4	4	31
FY04	427				1	2	1	3	4	1	2	2	5	2	12
FY05	456					1	2	2	2	2	8	2	3	4	16
FY06	503						2	1	3	1	2	1	1	5	15
FY07	561							1	1	7	5	6	7	4	31
FY08	513								0	1	1	6	5	4	16
FY09	530									1	2	2	2	1	6
FY10	597										0	4	4	3	10
FY11	570											1	6	3	7
FY12	578												1	7	8
FY13	614													2	2

Initiatives

Child and Family Services continues to:

- Implement training to help caseworkers understand the need for every child to obtain a permanent family and eliminate the number of teenagers who age out of foster care without adult support.
- Work with the Heart Gallery to achieve permanency through recruitment of adoptive parents for older youth.
- Develop a contract to obtain three more Wendy's Wonderful Kid workers to help target child-specific recruitment efforts.
- Continue to implement the Casey Family Program's Permanency Round Table (PRT) program throughout the state. PRT's are a concentrated effort to increase permanency options find permanent connections for children in foster care.
- Participate in a workgroup to integrate trauma informed care into mental health treatment for children who suffered abuse and neglect.
- Implement an adoptive parent training called Pathways to Adoption to address the effect of trauma on early brain development, help parents handle children's survival behaviors, grief and loss and to use a family's strength to heal a child.

Workforce

Utah has a highly qualified cadre of workers. The average Child and Family Services employee is 41 years of age and has worked for the agency an average of 112 months (nine years). All caseworkers have at least a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, Psychology, Sociology, or a closely-related field of study.

Child and Family Services Workforce Demographics

Race	Number	Percentage
American Indian/Alaska Native	9	1%
Asian	15	1%
Black	4	0%
Hispanic	66	6%
Pacific Islander	5	0%
White	1005	90%
Multiracial	2	0%
Declined to disclose/Unknown	9	1%
Total	1115	99%

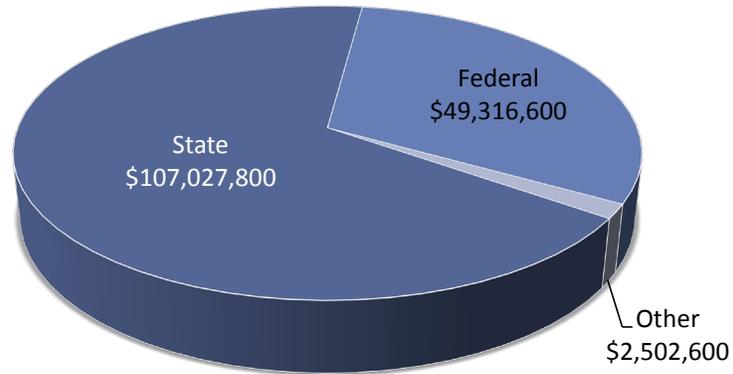
Gender	Number	Percentage
Male	257	23%
Female	858	77%

During FY13, 984 employees received ongoing in person training delivered by Child and Family Services. Eighty-six courses were taught. Some of the most frequently attended courses included SDM Assessment Tools, Regional Inservice training, Mandatory Information Communications, and Bridges Out of Poverty. Additionally, Child and Family Services provided 16 web-based training courses



Funding

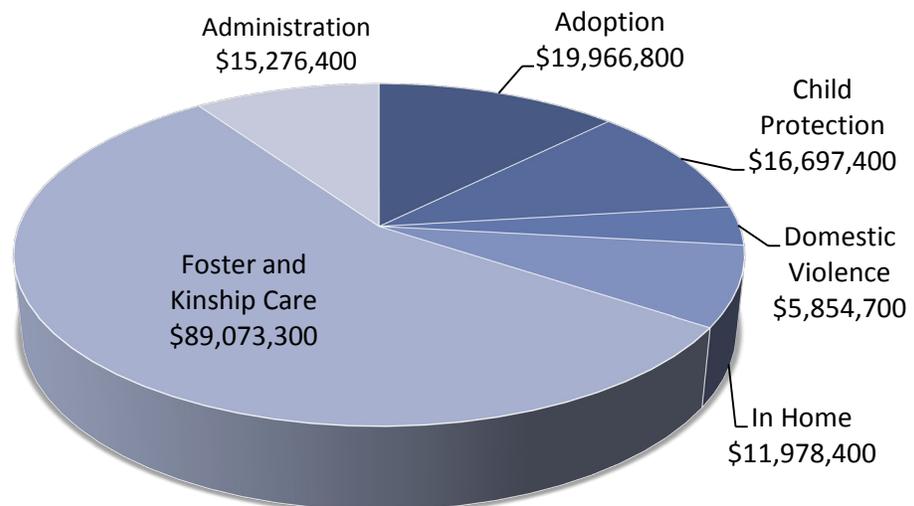
Revenue - Actual



Expenditures



Services



Heart Gallery Pictures



