ANNUAL REPORT 2015

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES
Department of Human Services | State of Utah

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Director's Message 2

Prevention Services 3

Child Protective Services 4

In-Home Services 7

Domestic Violence Services 8

Kinship Services 9

Adolescent Services 10

Foster Care Services 11

Adoption Services 14

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. We are continually working to fulfill our mission of "Safe Children, Strengthened Families" and build a foundation that is reflective of the innovative, pioneering spirit of our great state.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about DCFS, 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

PREVENTION SERVICES

Child and Family Services provides nearly $3 million annually to support community partners with child abuse and neglect prevention.This support is dedicated to programs like Crisis Respite Nurseries. Each nursery is designed to provide a safe, homelike environment where caregivers can bring their children during times of stress.

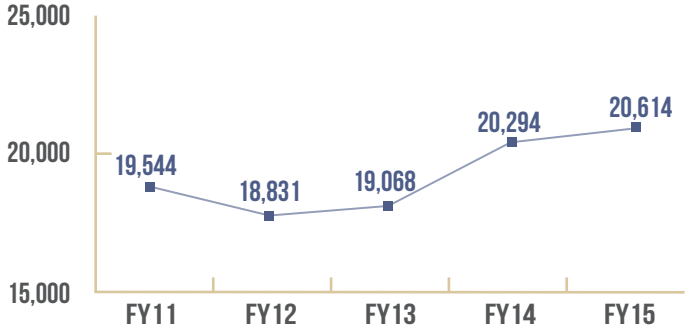
5 PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Knowledge of parenting and child development
- Concrete supports in times of need
- Healthy social and emotional development of chidren

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Child Protective Services (CPS) is a resource for potential abuse, neglect or dependency of children in the community. Individuals can report allegations of abuse or neglect 24/7 by dialing **855-323-3237.**

NUMBER OF CASES

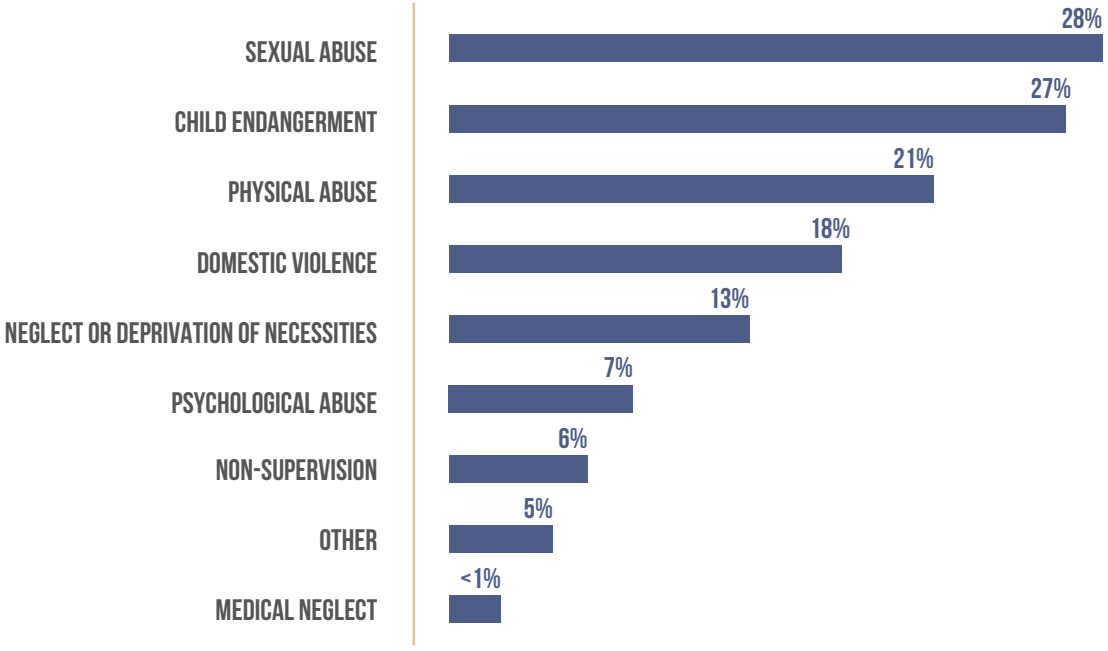


RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

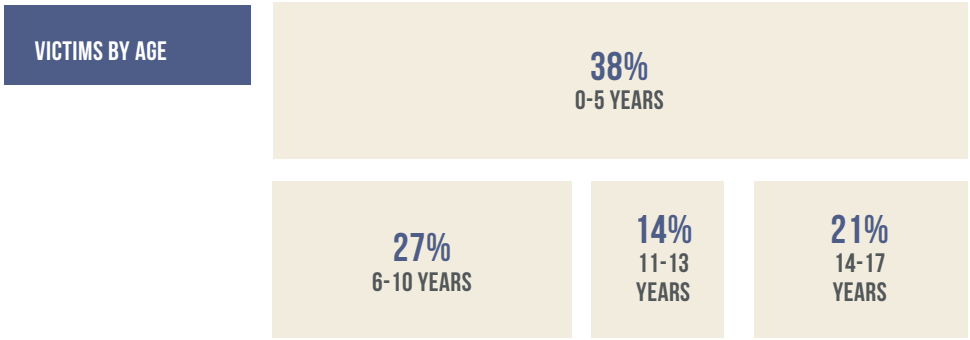
61% UNSUPPORTED		34% SUPPORTED	
3% UNABLE TO COMplete	2% UNABLE TO LOCATE	2% WITHOUT MERIT	0% FALSE REPORT

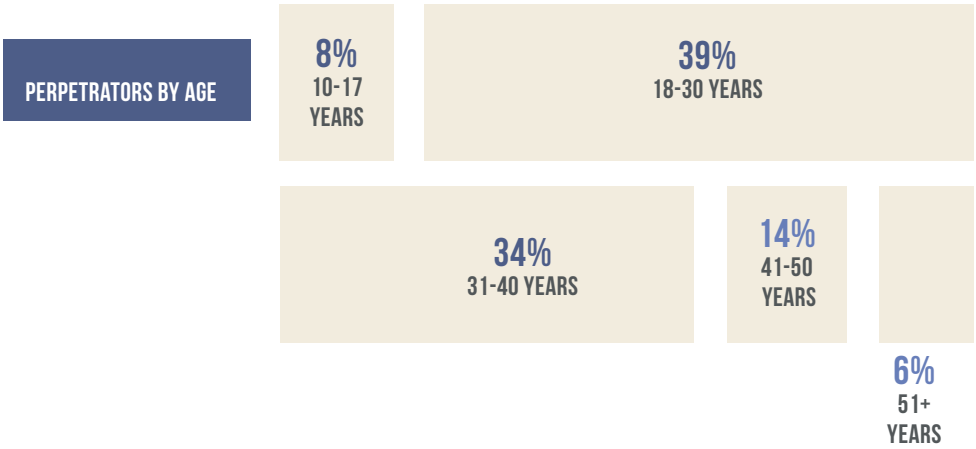
During FY 2015, sexual abuse was the most frequently confirmed allegation. The "other" category includes allegations of safe relinquishment of a newborn child, dependency, and failure to protect. Note that one case may have more than one supported allegation. Therefore, the percentages in the chart below add up to more than 100%.

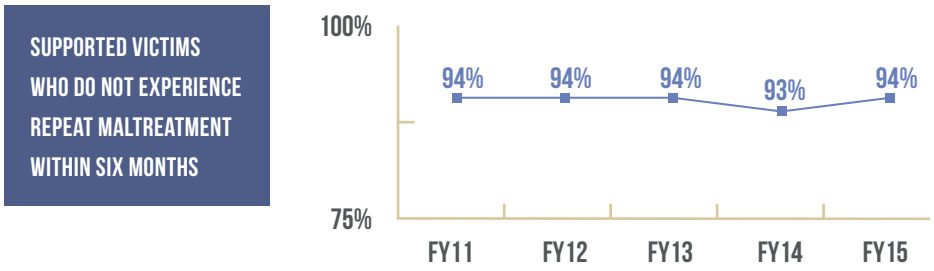
ALLEGATION FOR SUPPORTED CPS CASES



Of the 9.626 abused and neglected children, 54% were female and 46% were male. Approximately 73% of perpetrators were the victim's parents, and 15% were other relatives.





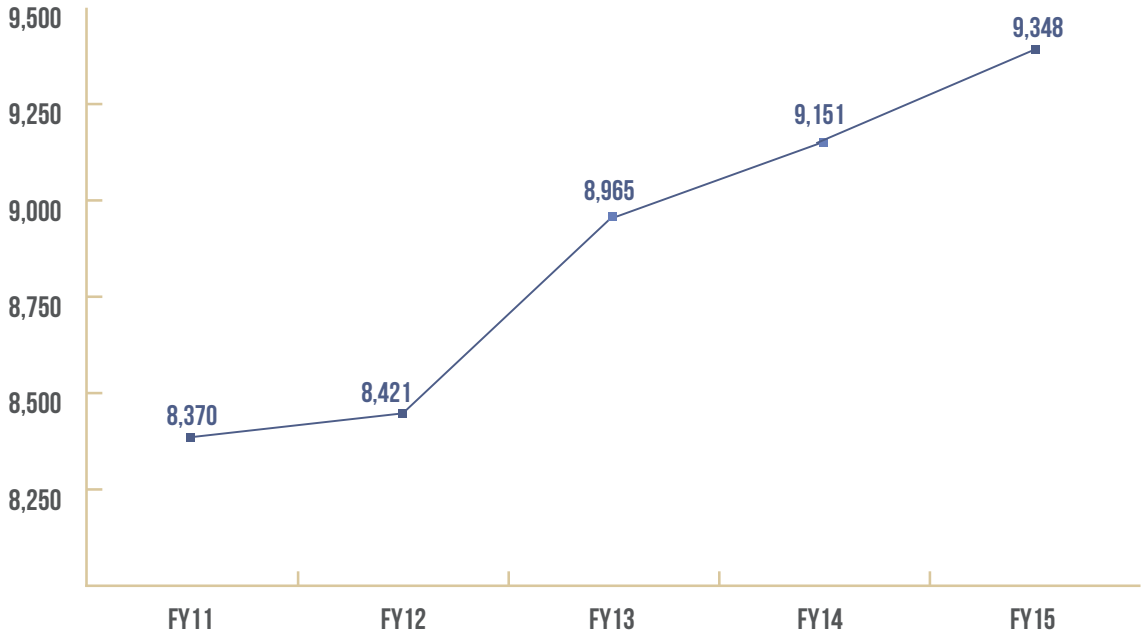


IN-HOME SERVICES

In-Home Services is an array of supports and interventions to ensure the safety and well-being of children in their homes. In-Home Services not only helps children remain home rather than coming into foster care, but they can also help expedite a child's safe return from foster care. In-Home Services can also be provided to relatives who have temporary custody of a child.

The increased focus on In-Home Services will result in a greater capacity to help families make changes to safely care for their children in their own home. Child and Family Services operates from a philosophy that children are best served when they can safely remain at home with their families.

CHILDREN SERVED IN THEIR HOMES



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

In 2015, DCFS received and distributed state and federal dollars to domestic violence shelters across Utah. Referrals come from many sources, including law enforcement, community agencies and self-referrals.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS SHELTERED

	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15
Children	1,479	1,468	1,368	1,215	1,056
Women	1,539	1,758	1,526	1,564	1,480
Men	44	33	28	24	77

KINSHIP SERVICES

If a child cannot remain safely in their home, with their parents, Kinship caregivers are individuals who provide a temporary or permanent home for relative children who cannot remain in the home of their parents due to the threat of further abuse or neglect.

RELATIONSHIP OF KINSHIP CAREGIVER TO THE CHILD

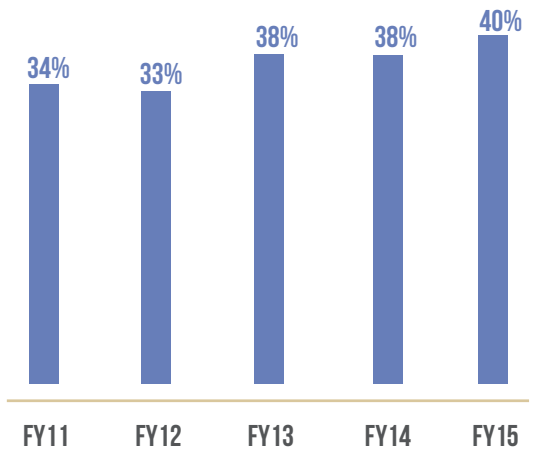
49% GRANDPARENT	38% AUNT OR UNCLE

12% OTHER*	5% NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT	2% SIBLING	1% STEP-PARENT

*Other includes first cousins, in-laws, or family friends.

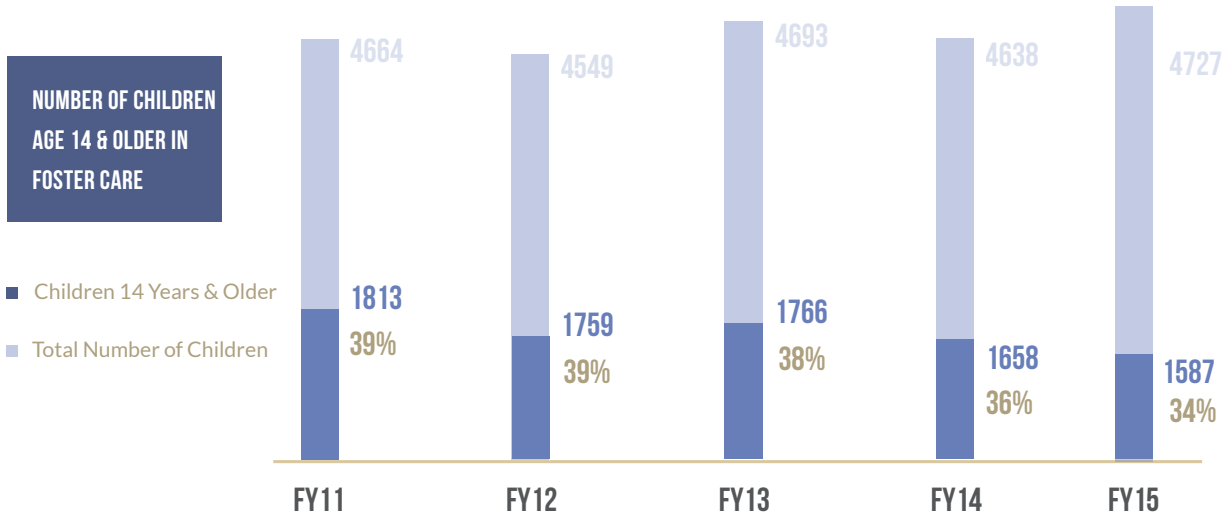
If kinship caregivers become foster parents and attend training, they can receive the same resources available to all licensed foster parents.

CHILD IN FOSTER CARE PLACED WITH KINSHIP CAREGIVERS



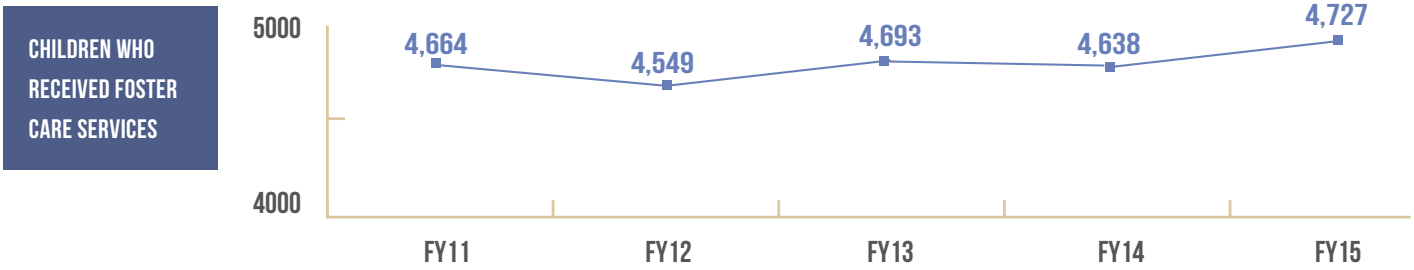
ADOLESCENT SERVICES

The Transition to Adult Living (TAL) program offers a continuum of services for youth ages 14 and up. In FY15, 1360 youth received TAL services like career preparation, financial assistance for higher education, budget and financial management education, and vocational training.

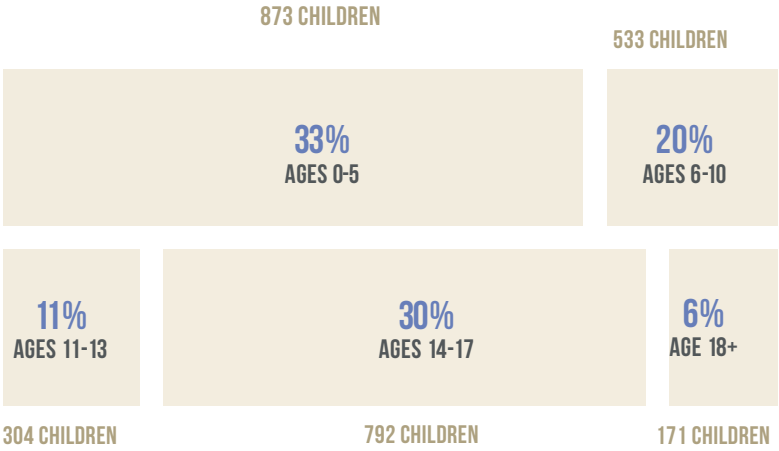


FOSTER CARE SERVICES

To ensure that children are placed in an environment that best meets their needs, DCFS maintains a number of foster care placements that offer an increasing intensity of services.

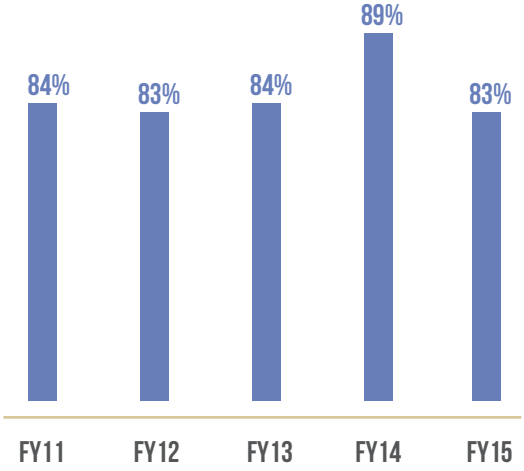


CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE BY AGE

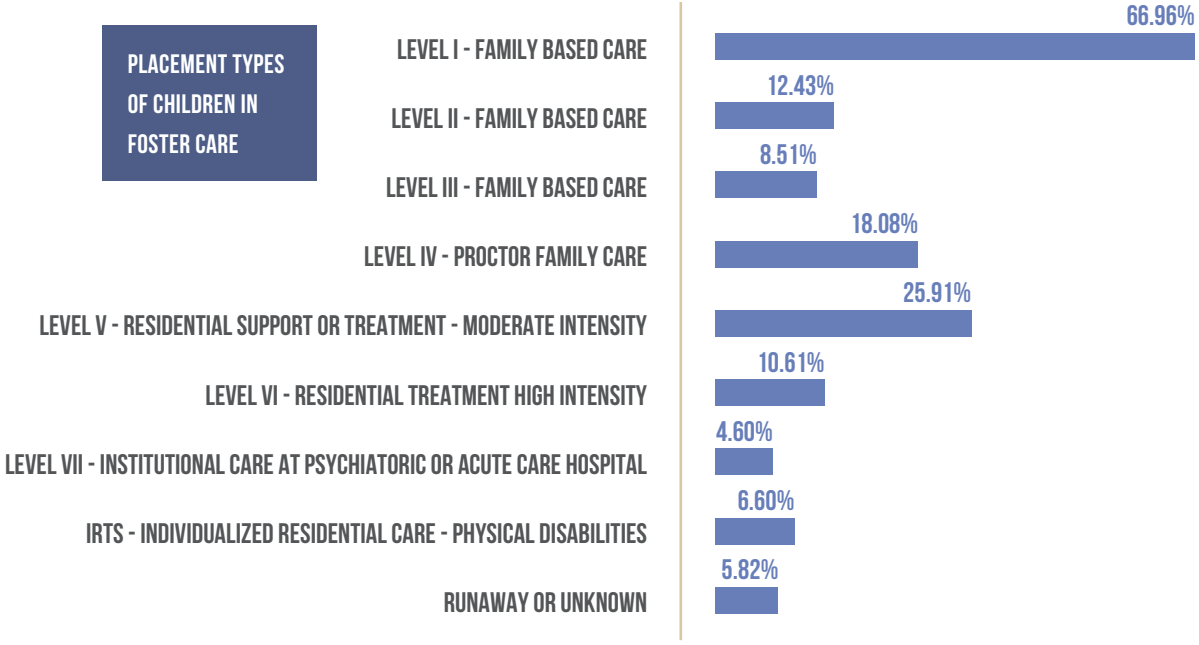


Assuring permanency for children is a key value of DCFS, and ensuring that children are involved in as few placements as possible is a major objective.

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE LESS THAN 12 MONTHS WHO HAD TWO OR FEWER PLACEMENTS



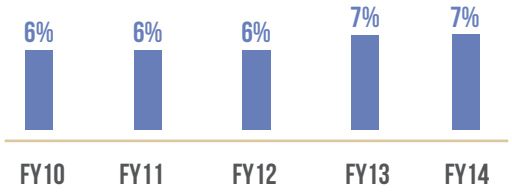
PLACEMENT TYPES OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE



OUTCOMES

Reason for Exiting	Percent
REUNIFICATION WITH PARENTS/PRIMARY CAREGIVER	40%
ADOPTION BY NON-RELATIVE	18%
ADOPTION BY RELATIVE	10%
CUSTODY & GUARDIANSHIP TO RELATIVE	18%
AGE OF MAJORITY/EMANCIPATION	9%
CHILD RAN AWAY	2%
CUSTODY TO JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES	2%
CUSTODY TO FOSTER PARENT	2%
REFERRED OUTSIDE DCFS	1%

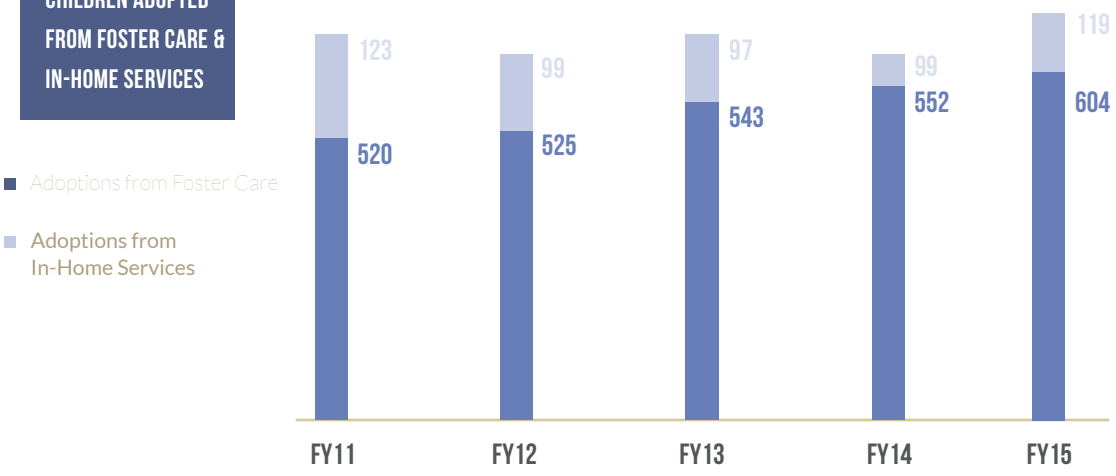
CHILDREN EXITING CUSTODY WITH A FOSTER CARE EPISODE WITHIN 12 MONTHS



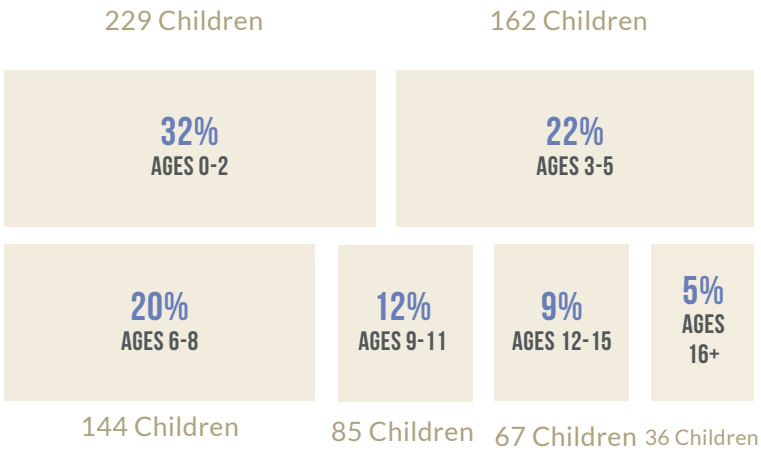
ADOPTION SERVICES

The adoption program's purpose is to assure every child and teenager has a permanent and supportive family. During the adoption process, the caseworker helps the adoptive parents assess what services the child may need, then identify and connect them to the community resources that may be helpful.

CHILDREN ADOPTED FROM FOSTER CARE & IN-HOME SERVICES



CHILDREN ADOPTED FROM FOSTER CARE



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