The data in this report is measured by state fiscal year (July 1 through June 30) unless otherwise stated.

For a copy of this report, or to find previous annual reports please go to dcfs.utah.gov. For questions about this report please contact DCFS Public Information Officer Sarah Welliver at swelliver@utah.gov.
Safe Children
Safety is the reason we exist. The mission of the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) is to keep children safe from abuse and neglect and provide domestic violence services by working with communities and strengthening families.

Strengthened Families
A child’s physical and emotional well-being largely exists within the context of the adults in their life. When a family is strengthened through individualized, trauma-informed, community-based services that are both safety driven and family driven, an environment that promotes child safety and well-being is created.

Supported Workforce
Our most important resource in achieving success with children and families is our staff. They enter the lives of children and families at times of crisis and vulnerability. The professionalism and skill of our staff in engaging, teaming, assessing, planning, and intervening with children and families are essential to good outcomes. Due to the complex and critical nature of child welfare, our community expects and deserves a well trained, experienced, ethical, compassionate, and supported workforce.

Integrated Service Community
DCFS is not the child welfare system — we are the child welfare agency within a much larger social service system. Our ability to provide timely, effective, and extensive services to our most vulnerable populations is integrated within a robust network of legal partners and private and public community providers.
Family Engagement

The moment Child Protective Services (CPS) becomes involved with a family, our goal is to assess for safety concerns, work with the family to create an effective safety plan, and provide effective interventions that promote child safety and strengthen parents.

Geographic Breakdown of New Child Protective Services Cases by DCFS Region, FY 2020

Sources of CPS Reports of Abuse and Neglect Accepted for Assessment During FY 2020
Child victims in Utah:

10,564
Number of confirmed child victims of abuse or neglect

8,318
Confirmed child victims with referrals to community services without further DCFS involvement

93.7%
Victims with a supported finding who did not experience repeat maltreatment within 6 months

Race Among Confirmed Child Victims vs. Child Removals into Foster Care, FY 2020

- White: 90.2% Child Victims, 87.2% Removals
- Black or African American: 5.7% Child Victims, 8.4% Removals
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 3.7% Child Victims, 6.6% Removals
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: 2.4% Child Victims, 2.0% Removals
- Asian: 1.3% Child Victims, 1.8% Removals
- Multiracial, Other Race Not Known: 1.2% Child Victims, 1.8% Removals
- Unable to Determine: 0.2% Child Victims, 0.1% Removals

Hispanic Origin or Latino Ethnicity

- 25.18% Child Victims
- 24.21% Removals
**Other Neglect** includes: Abandonment, educational neglect, failure to protect, failure to thrive, sibling/child at risk.

**Other Abuse** includes: Dealing in material harmful to a child, human trafficking (sexual), lewdness, sexual exploitation.

PLEASE NOTE: Percentages shown in the chart at left are based on the total number of allegations received, NOT the total number of cases with each allegation. The total number of allegations in FY 2020 was 16,887.
The goal of in-home services is to keep children safely at home while addressing abuse or neglect through family-driven, solution-focused interventions.

In-home services can include:

- Child and Family Team Meetings that bring the family, members of their support system, and service providers together to help set solution-focused goals to address safety concerns.
- Developing child safety plans with the family to address and manage safety concerns.
- Linking the family to evidence-based community resources including mental health treatment, parenting skills, and substance use disorder treatment.

In some situations safety can be achieved when a family works collaboratively and voluntarily with DCFS to address risk factors. At other times these services are court ordered to ensure the best outcomes for children and their families.

Voluntary vs. Court-Ordered In-Home Services

- 3,285 Court-ordered cases
- 2,645 Voluntary cases
- 6,891 Total cases

161 days
Median length of cases that closed during FY 2020, compared to 12 months for foster care

4,877 Total number of adults receiving in-home services

5,071 Total number of children receiving in-home services

90.5%
In-home child clients who did not have a subsequent supported CPS case within 12 months of case closure (based on prior year’s case closures reported in FY 2020).
Placement with family best reduces trauma and preserves a child’s connection to their culture, biology, ancestry, and community.

Kinship care allows a child to stay in the care of a family member or friend who is willing to meet the child’s needs, including working with the child’s parent(s) toward reunification, or providing a permanent home.

1,934
Children served in kinship placement

94.3%
Children who exited foster care to a relative and did not re-enter foster care within 12 months.

4,226
Total children served in foster care at some point during the year

83.69%
Children in care less than 12 months with two or fewer placements

16.6%
Children in care on June 30, 2020, that have been in care for more than 24 months

94.5%
Children whose cases closed during previous fiscal year who did not re-enter care
Every child deserves safety, stability and permanency.

Continued efforts to find meaningful, loving, permanent, and safe living environments are critical for children who do come into foster care. Safe reunification with their families of origin is optimal.

For children who cannot reunify safely with their family, adoption services can connect children to a home through relatives, families who fostered them, or other families seeking to adopt.

**11 months**  
Median time in care for children who exited foster care to reunification

**453**  
Children who were adopted or achieved permanent custody with a relative

**18 months**  
Median time in care for children who exited foster care to adoption

**356**  
Children who were adopted or achieved permanent custody with a non-relative

Youth who exit foster care without a permanent home need added supports.

No service can replace the stability and connection of a family. We provide assistance to youth ages 14 to 21 and continue to work with community partners toward reunification, kinship care, or adoption until youth leave our care.

The Transition to Adulthood Living (TAL) program utilizes a network of organizations to offer services including academic mentoring, financial planning, career preparation, and limited financial assistance.

### Reasons Children Exited Foster Care During FY 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reunification</td>
<td>792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoption</td>
<td>543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custody/Guardianship to Relative</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age Of Majority/ Emancipation</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custody/Guardianship to Foster Parent/Other Non-Related</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to Juvenile Justice</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other includes: Child Missing/Ran Away; Referred Outside Organization; Petition for Temporary Custody Denied/Dismissal; Non-Petitional Release; Voluntary Custody Terminated; Death of Child.</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Aged 14+ Youth in Care:

- **1,132**  
  Total youth aged 14 and older served in foster care in FY 2020

- **949**  
  Total count of youth who received transition to adult services in FY 2020

- **123**  
  Total youth who exited foster care at age of majority/emancipation without a permanent home.
**Supporting Family Well-being**

Prevention of child abuse and neglect is a focus of DCFS through local community-based services that include:
- Parenting classes
- 5 evidence-based home visitation programs
- Statewide community and school-based education presentations
- Support to grandparents raising grandchildren
- 17 crisis nurseries in local Family Support Centers across the state

Over $2.5 million of federal and state funds were provided through DCFS for these community-based prevention services in FY 2020.

**Domestic Violence Services**

Connecting adults affected by domestic violence to trauma-informed services also enhances stability, safety and permanency for children. Domestic violence services provided by local shelter and treatment programs with federal and state funding through DCFS include:
- 15 domestic violence shelters
- Trauma-informed therapy, financial planning and safety planning
- Assistance with protective orders
- LINKline domestic violence crisis hotline
- Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) program utilized by law enforcement and victims advocates to assist and educate victims
- Trauma-focused treatment for both survivors and offenders.

Over $7.4 million dollars was provided through DCFS for domestic violence services in FY 2020.

**Impact of Substance Use Disorder:**

2,686
Confirmed cases of abuse and neglect involving substance use disorder

1,057
Victims of abuse and neglect involving substance use disorder who received subsequent in-home DCFS services

141
Victims of abuse and neglect involving substance use disorder who entered foster care when in-home services could not maintain safety

**Domestic Violence Services in Utah:**

31,451
Number of calls from the LINKline crisis hotline received by shelters

3,168
Number of adult and child clients served in domestic violence shelters

922
Number of cases that found homelessness/economic disadvantage to be a contributing factor

2,191
Number of requests for shelter that went unmet
The budget for the division is primarily made up of a mix of state general fund, federal funds and dedicated credits.

The following four general fund restricted accounts are appropriated by the Legislature and distributed through DCFS for services that focus on child abuse prevention and treatment programs, adoption, health and education programs for women and children, and domestic violence services:

- Children’s Account
- Choose Life Adoption Support Restricted Account
- National Professional Men’s Basketball Team Support Women and Children Issues Restricted Account
- Victims of Domestic Violence Services Account

### DCFS FY 2020 Actual Expenditures by Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Out-of-Home Services</td>
<td>97,726,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoption Services</td>
<td>31,729,703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>18,676,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protective Services</td>
<td>15,886,626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Home Services</td>
<td>15,455,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence Services</td>
<td>9,122,567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Abuse Prevention Services</td>
<td>3,109,375</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Fully Integrated Child Welfare System

As Utah’s child-welfare and legal communities work toward a fully integrated child-welfare system that is focused on best practices, we are united in our commitment to protecting children and strengthening families. As such, we have come together to develop the following core principles that reflect our overarching goals of child safety, well-being, and permanency.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Our interventions preserve and create safe family and community connections in ways that minimize loss, harm, and disruption.
2. Children and families receive early, intensive family engagement, advocacy, and access to services and supports.
3. All participants are empowered and valued within a trauma-informed environment that amplifies family voice.
4. Children and families are served by highly-skilled professionals, including the judiciary, attorneys, child-welfare staff, foster parents, and other community partners.
5. All participants experience hearings and judicial orders that are consistent, of high quality, embody best practices, and afford all participants due process of law.
6. All participants are committed to providing families with an experience that is safety-driven, compassionate, transparent, and forward-moving.
7. Our interventions in the lives of children and families will be effective and individualized regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, cultural heritage, country of origin, gender, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.

These core principles embody a collaborative, cross-system, statewide child-welfare transformation, supported by the following Utah child-welfare professionals:

- Board of Juvenile Court Judges
- Juvenile Court Improvement Program
- Office of Guardian ad Litem and Court Appointed Special Advocates
- Department of Human Services
- Utah Attorney General’s Office, Child Protection Division
- Parental Defense Alliance of Utah
- Division of Child and Family Services
- Lokken & Associates, P.C.