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Foster Care and Placement Stability



Utah Department of
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Introduction

The Utah Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) is responsible for managing child and family welfare programs and services throughout the state of Utah. As the state's child welfare agency, DCFS establishes practice standards for programs and services administered by DCFS and contract providers, coordinates the delivery of these services, collaborates with state legislators, and implements and coordinates child welfare programs utilizing both state and federal funds.

DCFS's practice model and practice standards reflect its charge to keep children safe from abuse and neglect. Following a referral made to Child Protective Services (CPS) alleging child abuse or neglect, CPS Intake workers determine whether the referral meets the minimum standards to be accepted and referred to CPS caseworkers for investigation. Should a CPS case be opened, a determination is made based on case findings and the level of risk present to the child whether to open a case for further services. In most of these cases, interventions and safety planning can be provided to allow children to remain safely in their home of origin, while providing families with the skills and community-based resources needed to resolve the issues which warranted intervention.

When a child cannot safely remain in their home, DCFS provides short-term foster care, with case activities designed to prepare for the child's return to their original parents or caregivers if safely possible. It is in the best interest for a child in foster care to be placed with a relative whenever safely possible. When reunification is not an appropriate goal, or if reunification is not successful, then adoption with a safe nurturing family, preferably a relative, is pursued as the best alternative to reunification. In some cases that safe, nurturing family will be given permanent custody or guardianship. Individualized permanency, or preparing the child to live on their own, is pursued only when all other alternatives have been exhausted.

This report examines trends in Utah foster care provided by DCFS, with timeframes for each measure selected where comparable and relevant data exists. It examines the number of children in care over time, as well as the number of children entering foster care according to multiple demographics (assigned sex, race and ethnicity, and age when entering care). Introductory placement settings for foster care are examined, as well as foster duration, foster re-entries, and placement stability within foster care. Where feasible, census population figures are incorporated so that these figures can be understood as a rate compared to the representation of that youth group within the state. Census data reflect

population estimates for July 1 of each year, and have been interpolated into January 1 measures by averaging with counts for the prior year.

All primary data (except for Census population figures) have been retrieved from DCFS databases in which Division caseworkers have recorded case management and service data. As appropriate, data is aggregated throughout the body of the report, and then reported in full in the Appendices.

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Key Findings

Children in Foster Care

Following a steep increase throughout much of the 2000s, the number of children in foster care has kept pace with the state's child population since, before decreasing to a recent low in 2019 and 2020. This recent stability is driven largely by a modest downward trend in new foster cases opened in the past decade, even as Utah's child population increases. Consistency in closing cases has also helped to reduce the relative prevalence of foster care in the state; in only one year since 2015 have notably more foster cases been opened than were closed.

Foster Removals From CPS

The number of CPS cases initiated within the state has increased or remained steady every year since 2012, followed by a drop of more than 10% in 2020, the year in which the COVID-19 pandemic began. The percent of CPS cases resulting in a foster removal has remained steady over the past decade at slightly over 4%, with very little variance.

Children Entering Their First Foster Care

Over the past 24 years, rates of children entering first foster care have decreased consistently, falling to an average at or below 2.0 children per 1,000 in the past decade (these rates are equitable by assigned sex). Meanwhile, the number of older children entering first foster care has dropped substantially, paired with an increase of infants under the age of one entering care.

First foster entry rates by race and ethnicity show promising trends as first foster entry rates for children who are Hispanic and Black or African American have dropped sharply over time, with several other groups seeing downturns as well. However, rates for American Indian and Alaskan Native children have remained relatively high, suggesting the need for continued attention to prevention services and foster care alternatives for children of color who may have experienced, or be at risk of experiencing, abuse or neglect.

First Placements

In the last 20 years, the number of children first placed in homelike environments for their first foster care episodes has increased from about one in four to two-thirds of all children, emphasizing caseworker effort to find home environments early in the process of securing custody, and to seek out viable kin for placement. Simultaneously, the proportion of children placed in residential treatment, and in institutional or correctional facilities for their first placements has plummeted, from more than a third of children for much of the 2000s to only 5% of children for the last decade. However, initial shelter placements have moved upward over the same timeframe from 23% to 32% of first placements.

Foster Duration and Timely Exits

Average foster duration is generally higher for older children entering care, with the longest cases for children first entering care between the ages of 11 and 15. Over time, average durations for first foster

care increased by several months both for infants under one year of age and for children from age 1-5. Foster durations decreased substantially for children aged 6-15, which when combined with smaller numbers of these clients entering care equates to far fewer days spent in care overall for older children. Children over the age of 16 have seen cases lengths increase slightly over time since 2004, but are also more likely than other groups to age out of care, making duration of care a less relevant measure for this group.

As average case lengths have fallen, the gap between longer and shorter cases has closed somewhat, with slightly fewer cases closing in more than 24 months, and fewer cases closing in under 12 months as well. This is associated with a consistent increase in the percentage of cases closing between 12 and 24 months, from 20% to 40% over time.

Foster Closure Reasons

The proportion of clients exiting foster care to desirable positive permanency outcomes has increased consistently since the early 2000s, from a low four-year average of 81% to a high of 88% for the years 2017-2020. This is largely the result of more cases closing to a finalized adoption, though the percentage of children being reunified with their parents or caretakers has increased modestly as well over the last 20 years.

Foster Re-entries

Foster re-entry rates (children re-entering care within 12 months of their release from Division custody) have decreased notably from the mid-2000s to the present day for all clients on average, and generally across lines of assigned sex, age, race, and ethnicity. From 2005-2007, approximately 11% of children exiting care re-entered within 12 months; for cases ending in 2017-2019, only 6% re-entered.

Re-entry rates for children of all age groups at first case end decreased from the earliest years studied. Since 2015, however, only children aged 11-15 saw notably decreased re-entry rates, while most others remained steady or increased slightly, and re-entry rates for infants increased notably between the years of 2018 and 2020.

Foster Placement Stability

Placement stability (measured by the number of formal setting changes per 1,000 days spent in care for all clients) has generally improved over time, from around 4.0 moves per 1,000 days in care for all children between 2006-2008 to 3.4 moves per 1,000 days in care from 2018-2020, the lowest rate measured. In terms of race and ethnicity, both Hispanic children of any race and non-Hispanic White children also saw improvements in placement stability for the full report range of 2006 through 2020. Most other racial and ethnic groups saw relative decreases in stability (more disruptions on average) over the years studied.

When limiting to the first 365 days spent in care (a crucial timeframe for gauging early placement stability), older children experienced more placement setting changes overall than younger children, and most age groups saw relatively less stability over time (more placement setting changes on average) when discounting the earliest years studied.

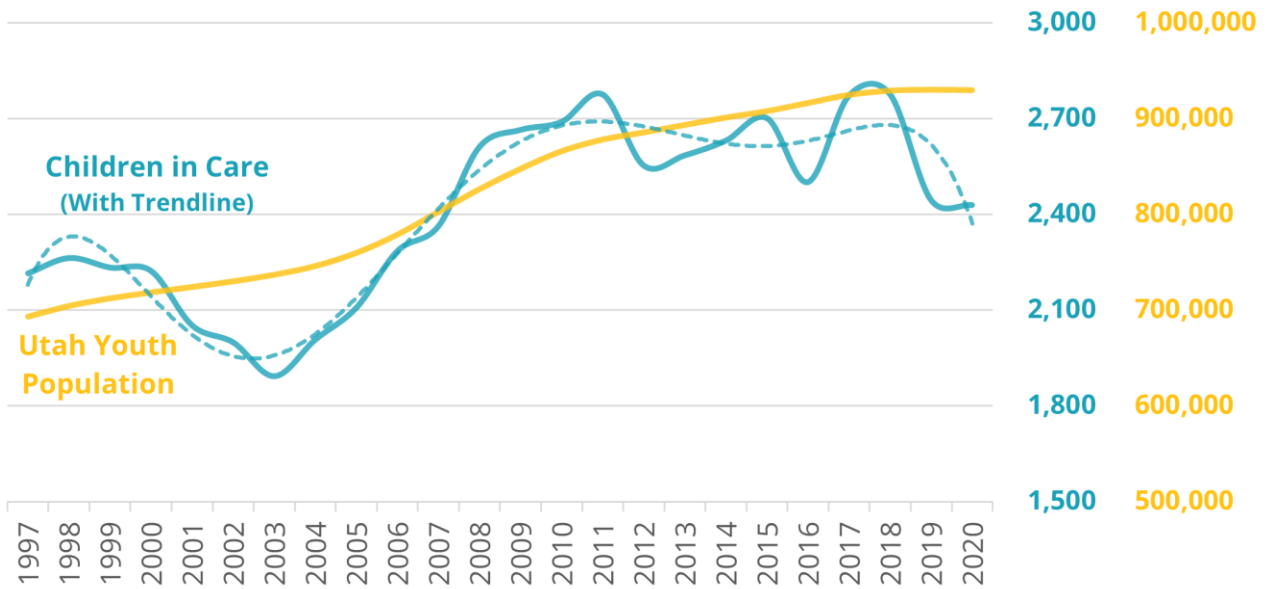
Foster Care Measures

Children in Foster Care

The number of children in foster care statewide is a simple but important measure of the state of Utah’s child welfare system. This measure accounts not only for the prevalence of abuse and neglect necessitating foster removal within the state, but for DCFS efforts to provide alternatives to foster care where feasible following supported allegations of abuse or neglect. It is also affected by Division efforts to ensure that foster care services are oriented around allowing children to return to their home of origin—or to another safe, stable, and loving environment when reunification is not appropriate—as quickly as possible.

Figure 1 shows the number of children in foster care on the first day of each year from 1997 to 2020, and includes a smoothed trendline for easier comparisons. To help control for the rising state population over the same period, the Utah youth population is also depicted, with the two overlaid at different scales for comparison. Counts of children in care trended roughly upward from 2003 to 2011, and despite the rising youth population in the state, have trended downward overall since, with recent lows in 2019 and 2020. For complete figures, and this data expressed as a population ratio, see Appendix A.

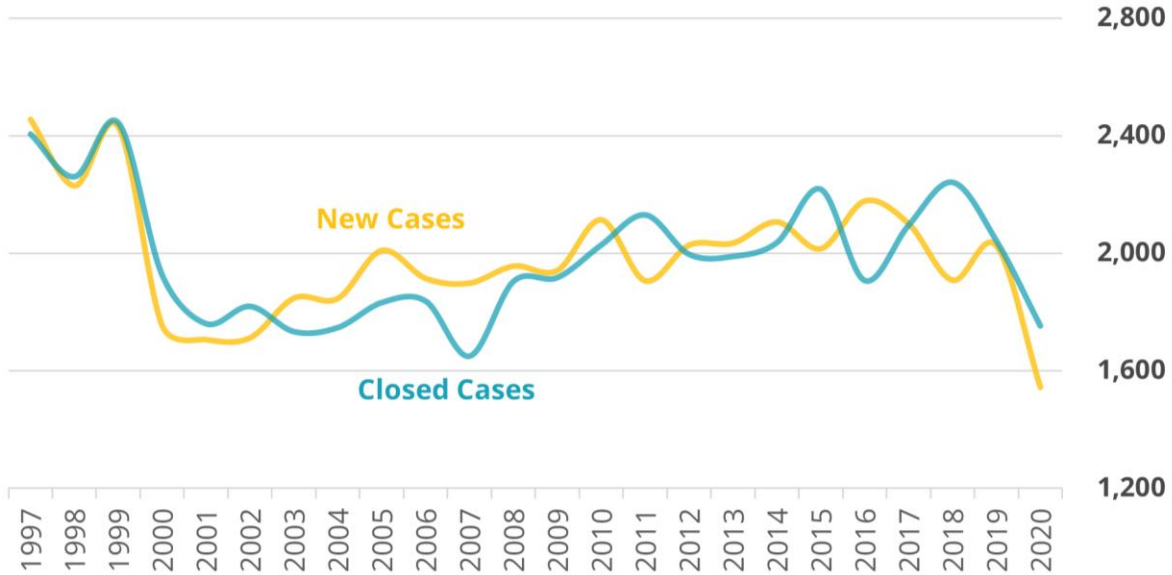
Figure 1 Number of children in foster care on January 1 of each year (with trendline), 1997-2020



A smaller foster care population may be the result of fewer new foster cases initiated, or more existing cases closed, or both. Figure 2 shows the number of new and closed foster cases for the years 1997-2020.

Since 2011, spikes in case closures have largely driven the reduction in overall foster care cases—particularly in 2018, when 332 more cases were closed than were opened, and in 2020, when 208 more cases were closed than were opened. For a table of these figures, see Appendix A.

Figure 2 Number of new and closed foster cases each year, 1997-2020

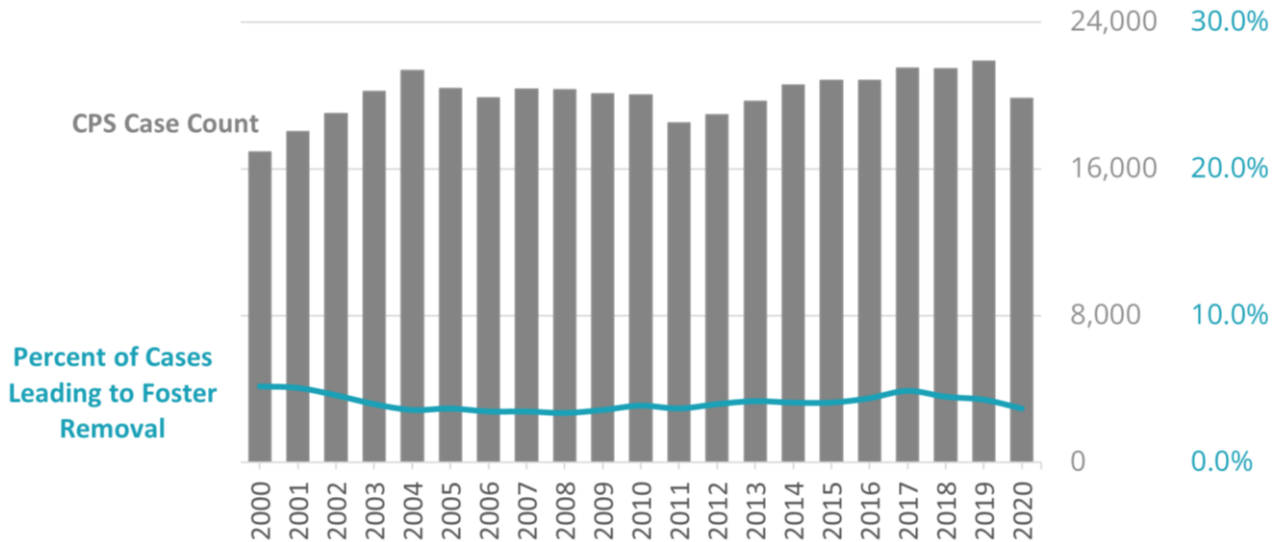


Child Protective Services (CPS) Investigations and Foster Removals

While Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations are not a focus of this report, foster care is generally preceded by CPS involvement, and so two CPS measures will be covered here.

Figure 3 shows the number of CPS investigations completed for calendar years 2000-2020, and the percentage that resulted in a foster removal. Please note that the axis for this latter measure is not scaled from 0-100% but from 0-30% to better show changes in this measure. A very small proportion of CPS cases have resulted in a foster removal in any year, with a low of 3.4% in 2008 and a high of 5.2% in 2000. While the number of CPS cases investigated has increased yearly over the past decade with few exceptions, the proportion resulting in a foster removal has generally varied by only a fraction of a percent. This measure has a standard deviation of only half of a percent overall, making it very consistent, and has turned downward since 2018.

Figure 3 Number of CPS investigations, and percent leading to foster care removal, 2000-2020

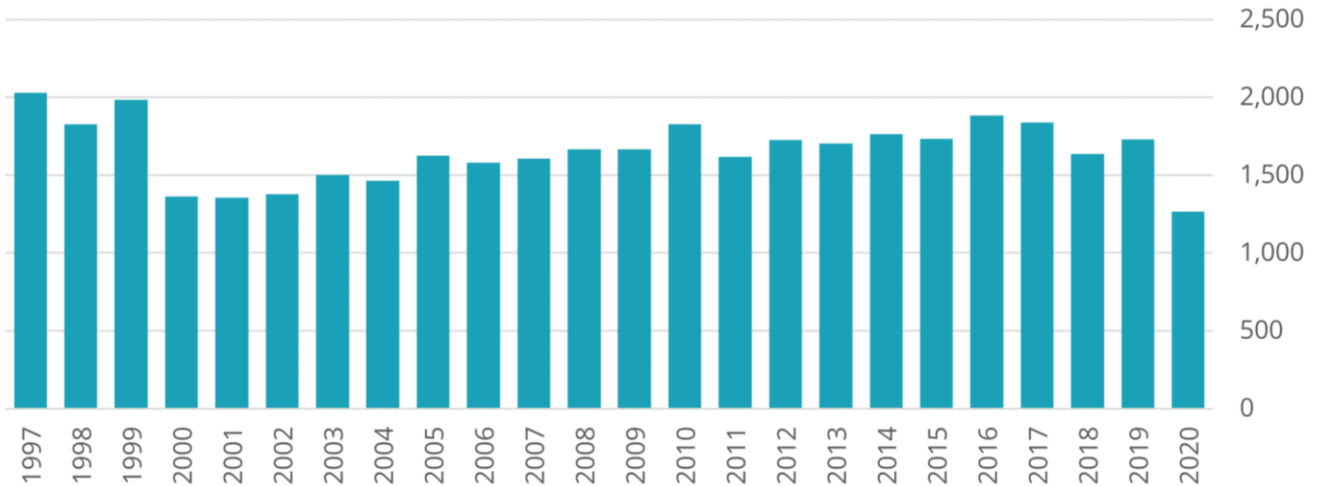


Children Entering First Foster Care

Of all Utah children with a foster removal episode occurring in 2010 or later, 86% have experienced no more than one incidence of foster care to date. Figure 4 shows the number of children who entered their first foster care each year from 1997-2020. To see full yearly counts for this data, consult Appendix B.

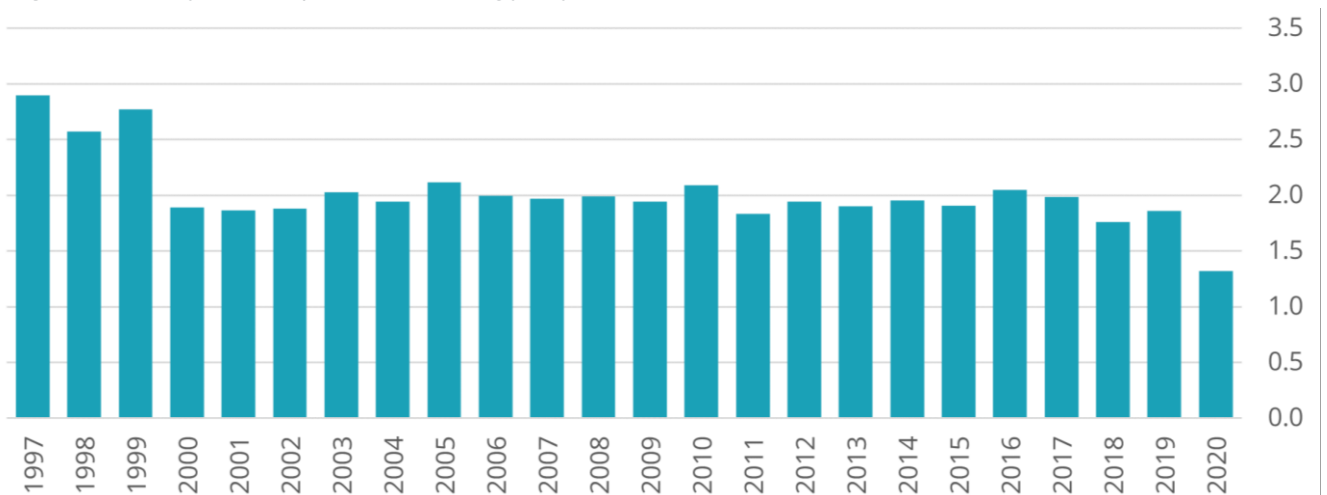
Foster entry counts increased relatively slowly through the mid-2000s, peaking in 2017 before decreasing to a recent low in 2020. Counts are similar for children of either assigned sex.

Figure 4 Number of children entering first foster care, 1997-2020



Due to the increasing state population, this measure should also be expressed as a population rate. Figure 5 shows the number of children entering first foster care per 1,000 children in Utah from 1997-2020. Child population figures by assigned sex were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau. From this data fairly consistent downturns since the mid-2000s can be seen.

Figure 5 Rate of children per 1,000 entering first foster care, 1997-2020



Children of different ages often differ in their reasons for entering foster care, are more or less likely to achieve particular outcomes for care, and demonstrate different needs and vulnerabilities. Figure 6 shows the number of clients within various age groups who entered foster care from 1997 through 2020, with data divided into four-year averages. Note that each of these age bands do not contain the same number of years, so Figure 6 should be used only to evaluate changes within each age band over time rather than to compare counts between groups.

Data for all age groups shows a dramatic drop in foster entries in 2020. For younger children (those from under one year of age to 10 years of age), data before 2020 shows a proportional increase in foster entries beginning in the early 2000s. For children between the ages of 11 and 15, foster entries trend steadily downward over the examined period, while for children 16 and older, foster entries peak in 2009, before a steady downward trend leading to the current year.

Figure 6 Number of children entering first foster care by age group, 1997-2020

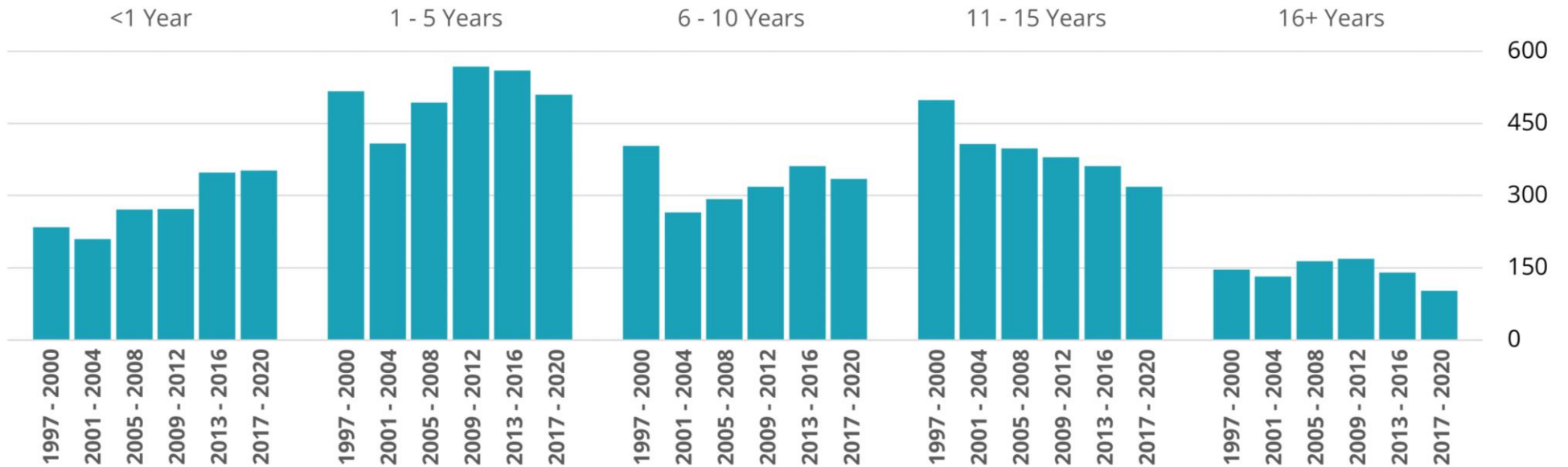
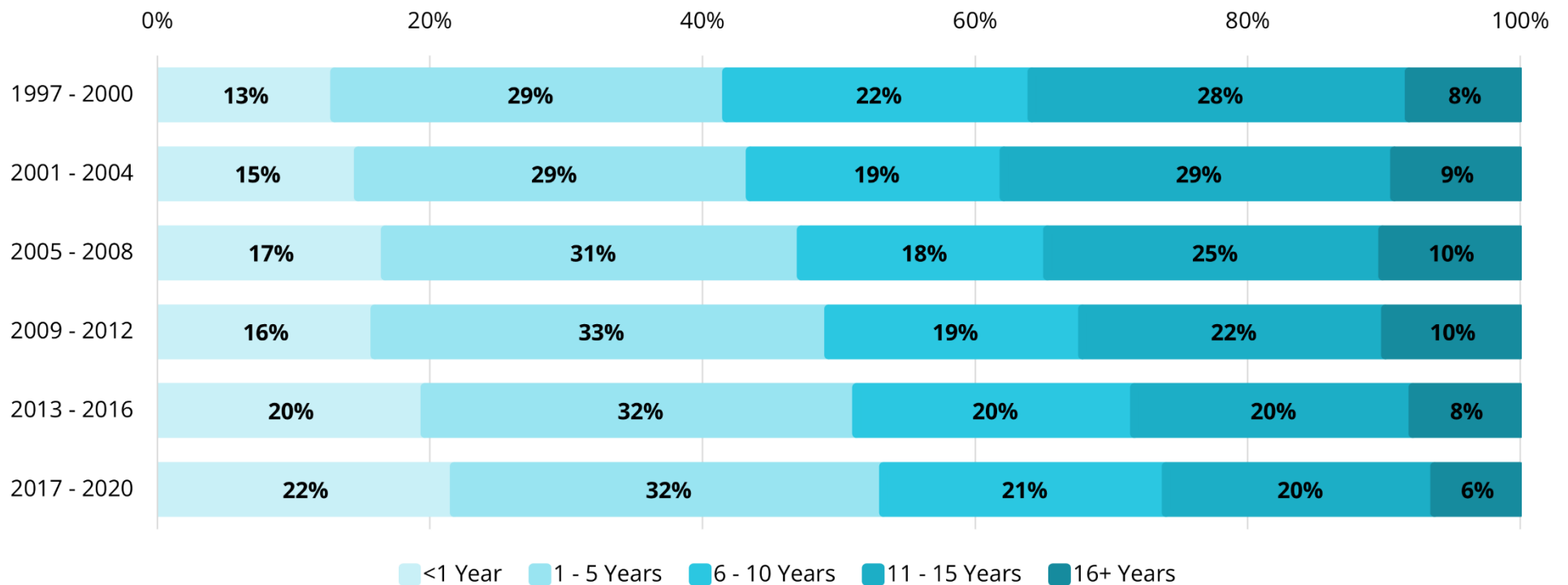


Figure 7 shows the proportion of each age group within the new foster care population from 1997 through 2020. Note that the leftmost band (infants under the age of one) contains only one year, and the rightmost band (children aged 16 and 17) contains only two, while each of the others contain five. Infants under one year of age make up a plurality of children entering care for any single year of age.

The Utah child welfare system has trended notably away from new foster entries by children aged 11 and older. Conversely, infants under the age of one have increased as a proportion of entries, from 13% of entries from 1997-2000, to 22% of entries from 2017-2020. The proportion of entries by children over the age of 1 and under the age of 10 has stayed relatively steady for the last two decades. Children aged 11 to 15 decreased from 28% of the new foster population to 20%, and children aged 16 and 17 decreased from a high of 10% from 2005-2012 to 6% from 2017-2020.

Figure 7 Proportion of children who entered first foster care by age group, 1997-2020

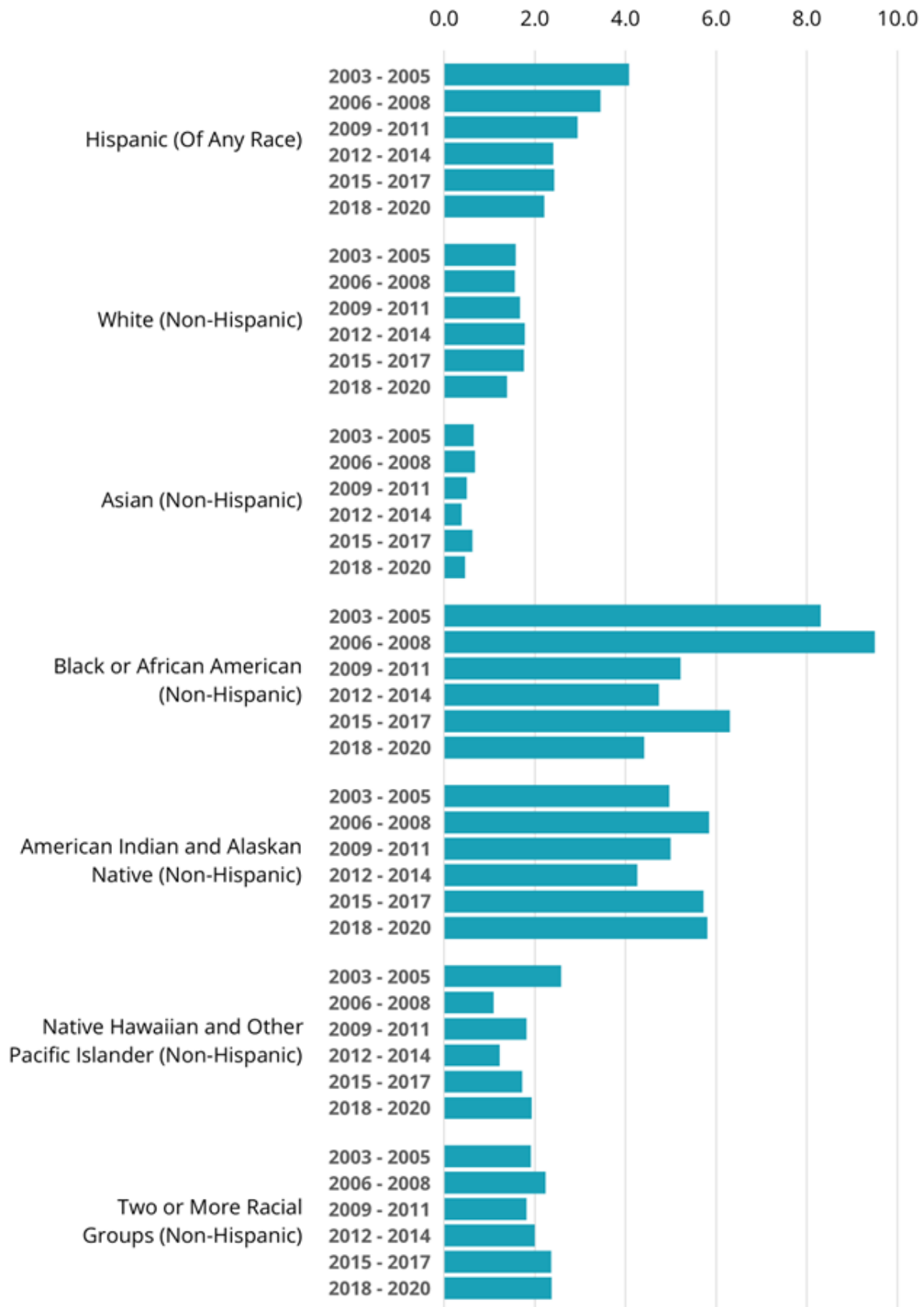


As a signatory to 2020's "Utah Compact for Racial Justice, Diversity, and Inclusion," the Utah Department of Human Services has made achieving racial equity in public services a priority. This includes the study and correction of inequitable service experiences and outcomes for people of color.

Figure 8 on the next page shows, by race and ethnicity, the rate per 1,000 of children entering first foster care from 2003-2020. Reliable client race and ethnicity data is not available before 2003. Due to major differences in racial and ethnic groups as a proportion of Utah's population, this rate measure allows for direct comparison between group experiences. Child population figures by race and ethnicity were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Asian children entered first foster care at the lowest rates, averaging 0.5 per 1,000 across the years studied, followed by non-Hispanic white children, at 1.6 per 1,000, and non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander children, at 1.7 per 1,000. Non-Hispanic Black or African American children entered care at the highest rates, at 6.2 per 1,000, followed by Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native children, at 5.3 per 1,000. Rates for Hispanic children and Black or African American children trended notably downward over time, while other groups either remained relatively steady or had such small base rates within the population that rates spike and dip erratically, making observed trends less conclusive.

Figure 8 Rate of children per 1,000 entering first foster care by race and ethnicity, 2003-2020 (three-year averages)

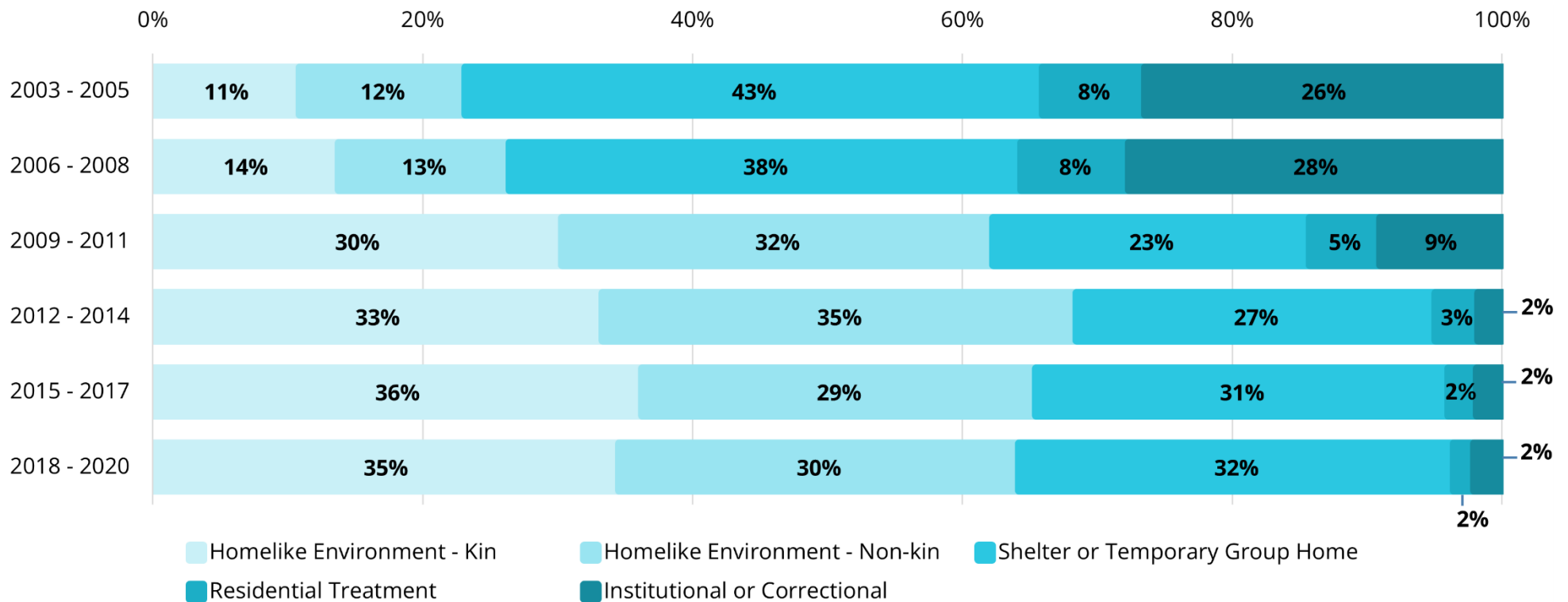


First Placement Types for Foster Care

Agency practice guidelines mandate that children in DCFS custody be placed in the most homelike and least intensive setting appropriate to their care and safety needs. Efforts are made to locate kin for placement, and to reserve the use of shelters, residential, and institutional settings for cases in which these environments are not available or appropriate. These considerations are especially important for first placements, where achieving a homelike setting, preferably with kin familiar to the child, can help to ease the potential trauma of leaving their home of origin.

Figure 9 shows the distribution of all first placements for first foster care from 2003 through 2020. First placements for first foster care have overwhelmingly trended toward homelike environments over time, with homelike placements being 23% of all first placements from 2003-2005 (11% with kin, and 12% not with kin), to 65% of all first placements from 2018-2020 (35% with kin, and 30% not with kin). Previously a plurality of first placements, shelter placements have fallen to similar levels as these individual homelike categories, while the use of residential care (an intensive twenty-four-hour setting) has dropped to a quarter of its rate in the 2000s (ending at just over 2%). Institutional or correctional settings have dropped from rates in the mid-to-high twenties to only 2% of all first placements for first foster care. For yearly data, see Appendix C.

Figure 9 First placement types for first foster care, 2003-2020 (three-year averages)

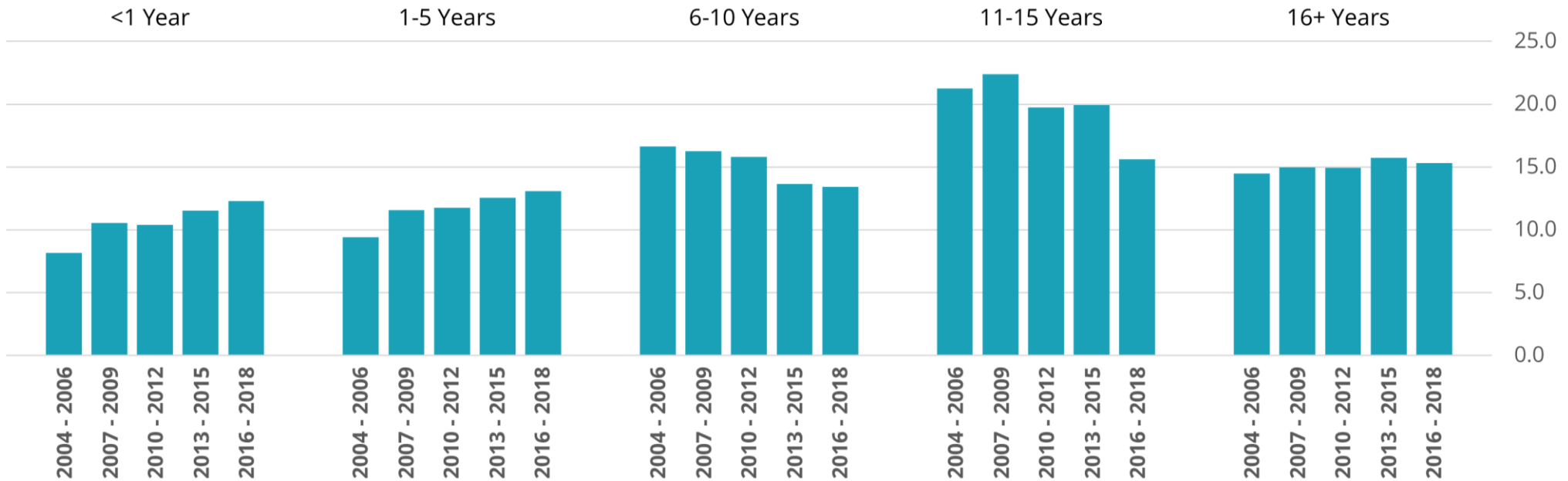


Duration of First Foster Care, by Age at Case Start

Since 2004, the average length of first foster care has varied between 12 and 15 months, with a median case length of about one year. Expectations for care duration may vary based on a child’s age on entering care. Should adoption be pursued as a permanency goal, prospective families are often easier to find for infants than for older children. A child aged 16 or 17 who cannot return to their home of origin will be more likely to leave foster care for independent living upon reaching their age of majority (and to have a firm date on which they will be expected to transition out of care). Age is an important demographic to consider when evaluating Division success in reducing length of foster care.

Figure 10 shows the average duration in months of first foster care for children whose cases began between 2004 and 2018, by three-year averages and age group. In this time, the average case length for infants increased steadily from just under 8 months to just over 12 months. Length of care for children from 1-5 years of age trended upward but at a slightly slower rate, resting at similar levels. Duration of care for children 6-10 years of age and 11-15 years of age both dropped substantially, with the former shortening by more than three months to 13.4 months, and the latter by nearly six months to 15.6 months. Case duration for children aged 16 and up increased slightly but have remained fairly steady over time at around 15 months. These oldest children are most likely to age out of care, setting an upper bound for their expected length of care. The significant reduction in the count of children aged 11-15 entering care, combined with a shortening of the average length of their care, significantly reduces the number of days spent in foster care for this group.

Figure 10 Average duration in months of first foster care, by age at entry and year of entry, 2004-2018 (three-year averages)



Children Exiting Care Within 12 Months, Between 12 and 24 Months, and More than 24 Months from Entry

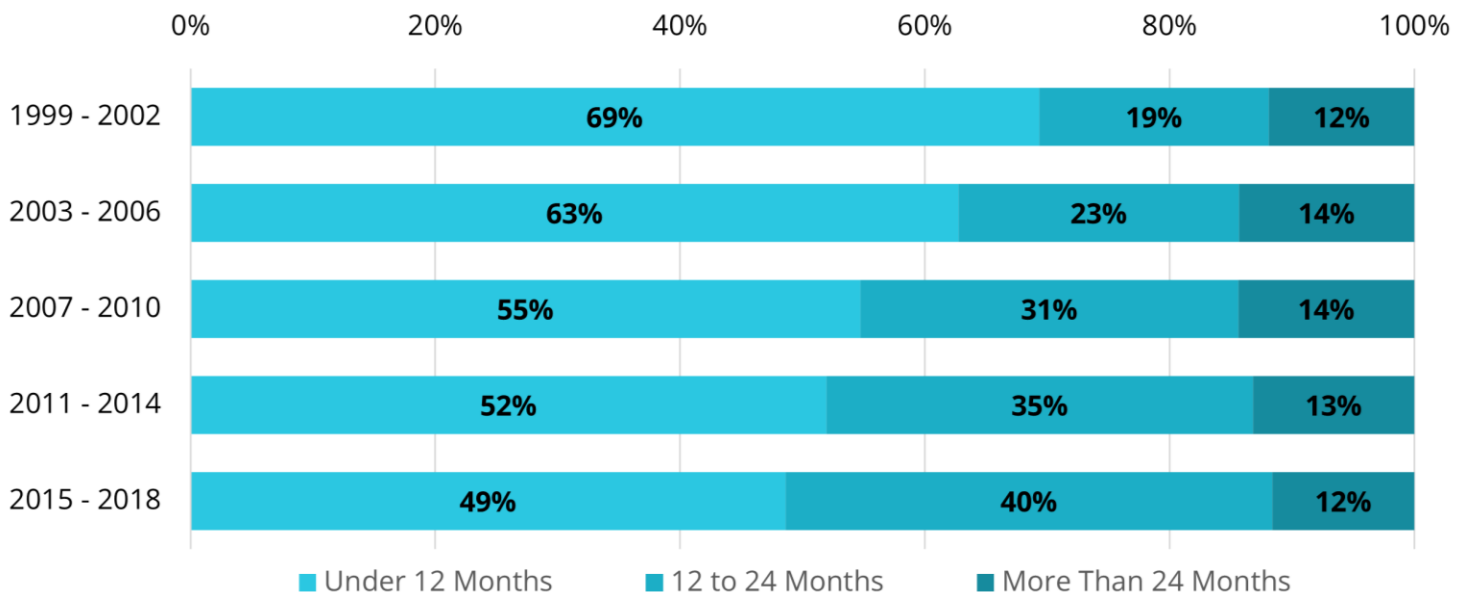
The 12- and 24-month junctures following foster removal hold meaning for state child welfare services. The Children’s Bureau has established the percent of children achieving permanency within 12 months of foster removal as a performance measure. Utah state code §80-3-409 establishes the 12 month-mark as a deadline upon which reunification services are to be no longer offered barring circumstantial extensions, and a permanency hearing held to establish a final permanency plan for the child.

DCFS regional committees and Utah courts regularly review cases where children have been in care for 24 months or longer. DCFS establishes specialized permanency efforts for these children, and, in cases where adoption is a goal of care, attempts to achieve adoption within 24 months of the child entering Division custody. In some cases, children have particular needs, such as behavioral or mental health concerns, which can complicate many permanency outcomes, and can often be expected to extend care.

Figure 11 details the percentage of foster children who exited care within 12 months, between 12 and 24 months, and more than 24 months from entry, for cases beginning between 1999 and 2018, by four-year averages. While average foster length has trended downward since 2008, the proportion of children achieving permanency within 12 months has dropped over time from percentages in the 60s to about half of all cases. With median case length being approximately one year, even small changes in typical case lengths at this end of the scale can result in fewer cases closing within the one-year mark. The percentage of children exiting care in more than 24 months has dropped as well, with 2017 and 2018 being the two lowest years this data covers.

These trends are accompanied by a consistent increase in the percentage of children exiting care between 12 and 24 months, which has nearly doubled from early percentages ranging from 19% and 23%, to 40% for the most recent time period.

Figure 11 *Percent of children exiting care within 12 months, between 12 and 24 months, and more than 24 months from entry, by year of entry, 1999-2018 (four-year averages)*

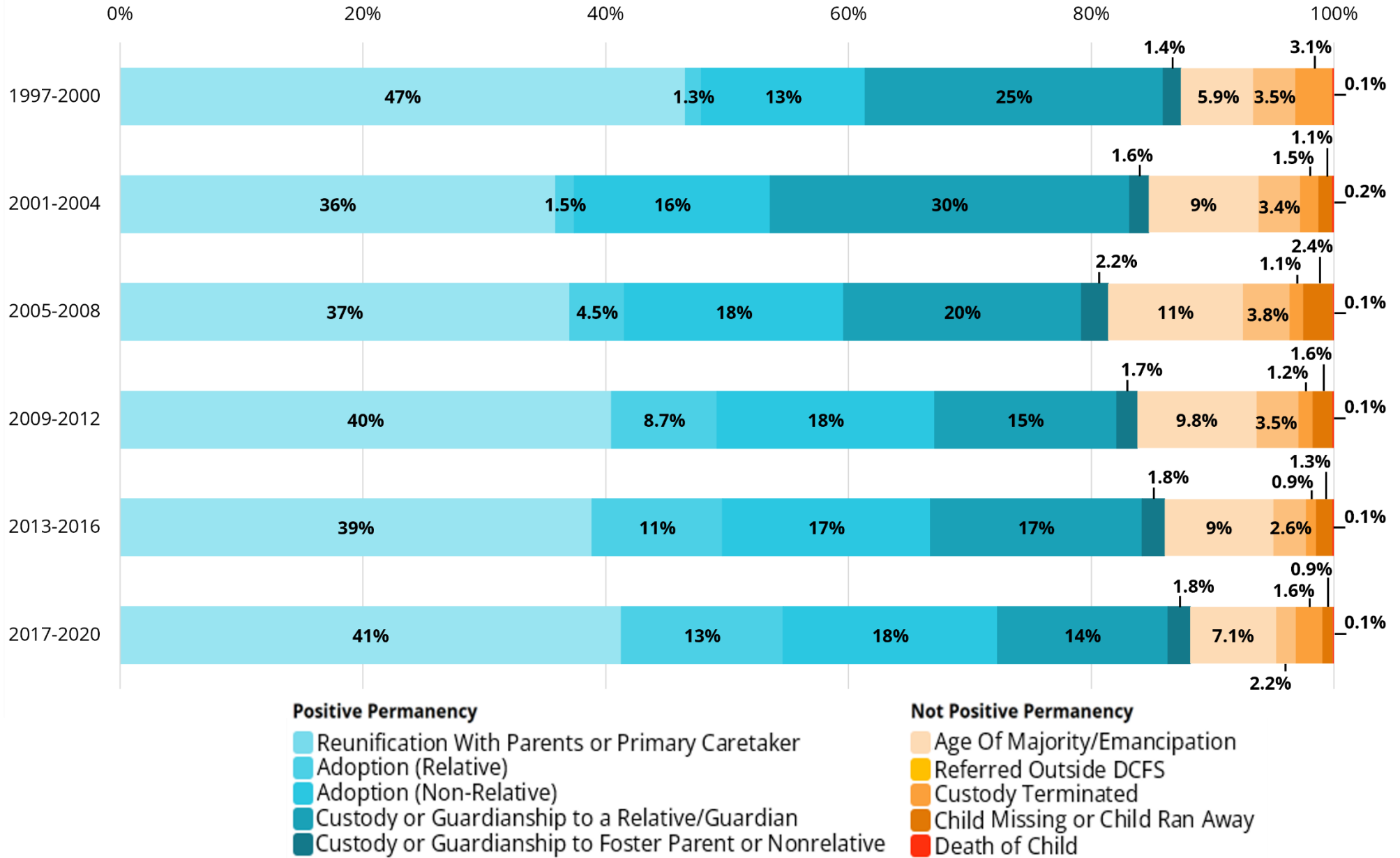


Positive Permanency and Foster Closure Reasons

DCFS strives not only to reduce a child's time spent in foster care, but also to achieve foster exits to permanent settings when a child is released from Division custody. Figure 12 details the closure reasons for all foster cases from 1997-2020 by four-year averages. Cases which exited to more desirable positive permanency settings (including family reunification, final adoption, custody or guardianship to a relative or guardian, and custody or guardianship to a foster parent or nonrelative) are colored in shades of blue and made up 81-88% of total foster outcomes, with the highest proportion of positive outcomes being achieved between 2017-2020.

Undesirable exit outcomes are colored in shades of orange and red, and include the child reaching their age of majority, being referred outside DCFS, having state custody terminated, or (in very rare cases representing a small fraction of a percent) the death of the child. These make up a distinct minority of foster outcomes, ranging from 12-19% in total. The proportion of positive permanency foster outcomes achieved has been steadily increasing since the early 2000s. As adoptions have increased, so has the proportion of foster closing to adoption with a relative. For complete yearly figures, see Appendix F.

Figure 12 Reasons for foster care closure, and proportion closing to positive permanency, 1997-2020 (four-year averages)

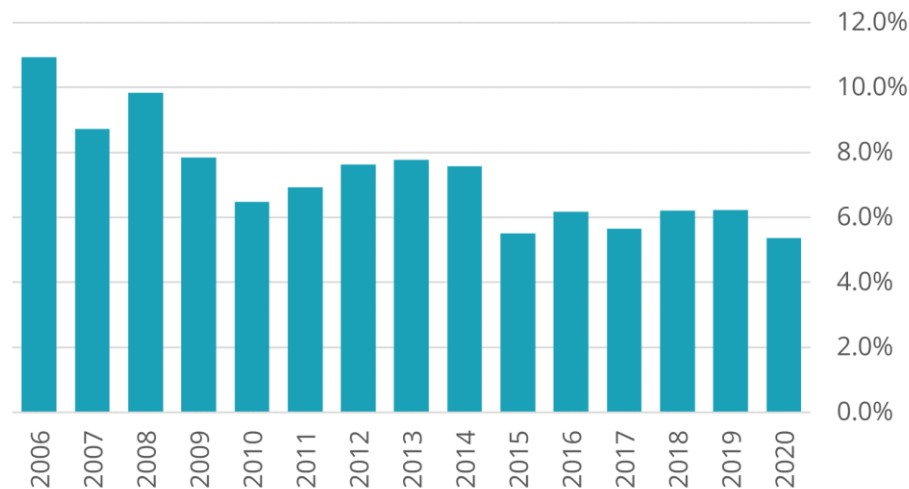


Children Re-entering Foster Care Within 12 Months

True permanency is not just a child exiting foster care to a home setting, but to a safe and stable home environment free of abuse and neglect. Care may end with the child returned to their home of origin, with a completed adoption, or with the child in another custody or guardianship arrangement. Regardless of how a child exits foster care, it is imperative that circumstances of abuse or neglect, which may lead to further CPS involvement and foster care, do not occur.

Figure 13 shows the percent of children exiting foster care who re-entered foster care within 12 months of case exit from 2006-2020. Data excludes children who were 18 years old or older at first case end, and excludes cases with a closure reason of "Age of Majority/Emancipation" or "Death of Child." Though not depicted here, rates show equity by assigned sex, with male and female children both re-entering at a rate of 7.2% for the full time period. Rates of re-entry have trended downward during the analysis period. For the most recent years of 2018-2020, this rate was 5.9%, lower than the average.

Figure 13 *Percent of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of case exit, 2006-2020*

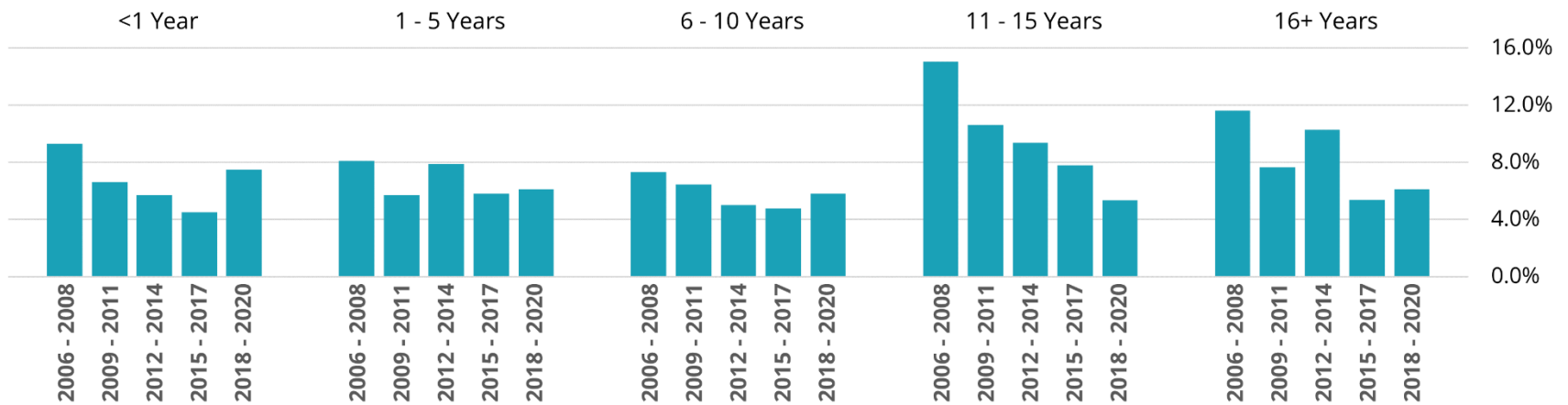


For a full table with yearly re-entry rates by assigned sex and race/ethnicity, see Appendix D. Note that due to the small number of children from most racial groups in care aside from Hispanic and non-Hispanic White children, results for some of these groups fluctuate substantially and are less conclusive than they would be with larger sample sizes.

Figure 14 shows re-entry trends by age group from 2006-2020, by three-year averages. All age groups achieved reductions in re-entry from the earliest years measured (with these reductions being particularly substantial for older children), though all groups except children aged 11-15 experienced an uptick from 2018-2020, with rates increasing sharply for infants. Future observation will determine whether this is an outlier or indicative of a trend toward higher re-entry rates for this group.

For complete figures, see Appendix E. It should be noted that many children who enter care as infants will have aged into the next age band before exiting care, so case counts for infants are significantly lower for this measure than for others.

Figure 14 *Percent of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of case exit, by age at first case end, 2006-2020 (three-year averages)*



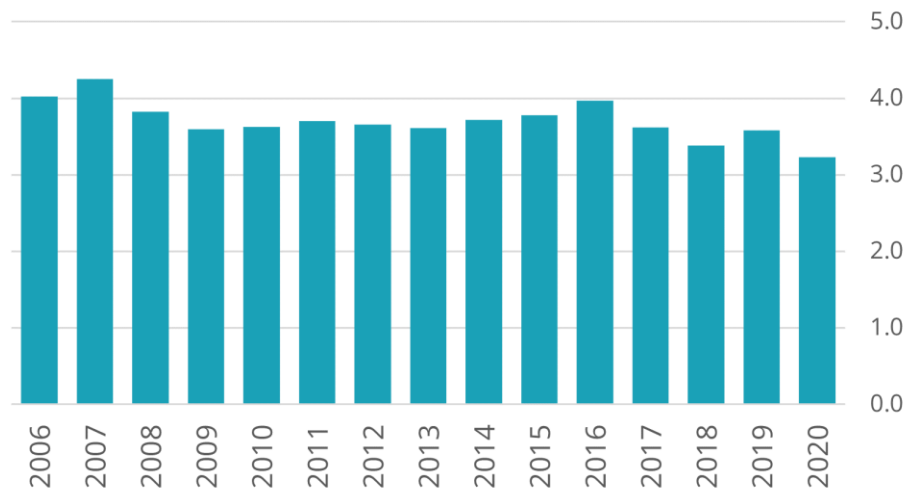
Foster Placement Stability Measures

Placement Setting Changes Per 1,000 Days in Care

Achieving a stable environment for children in care is an agency priority. Fewer placement setting changes over time means more stability while in care, and is generally preferable.

Figure 15 details the number of placement setting changes experienced per 1,000 days in care for all clients from 2006-2020, limited to cases which were open eight days or longer. The highest placement setting change rates were experienced from 2006-2008, followed by a pattern of increasing stability (lower rates of placement setting change) over time through 2020. Clients experienced their lowest recorded averages from 2018-2020, or 3.4 placement setting changes per 1,000 days, amounting to one change in placement setting per 298 days for female children, and per 291 days for male children.

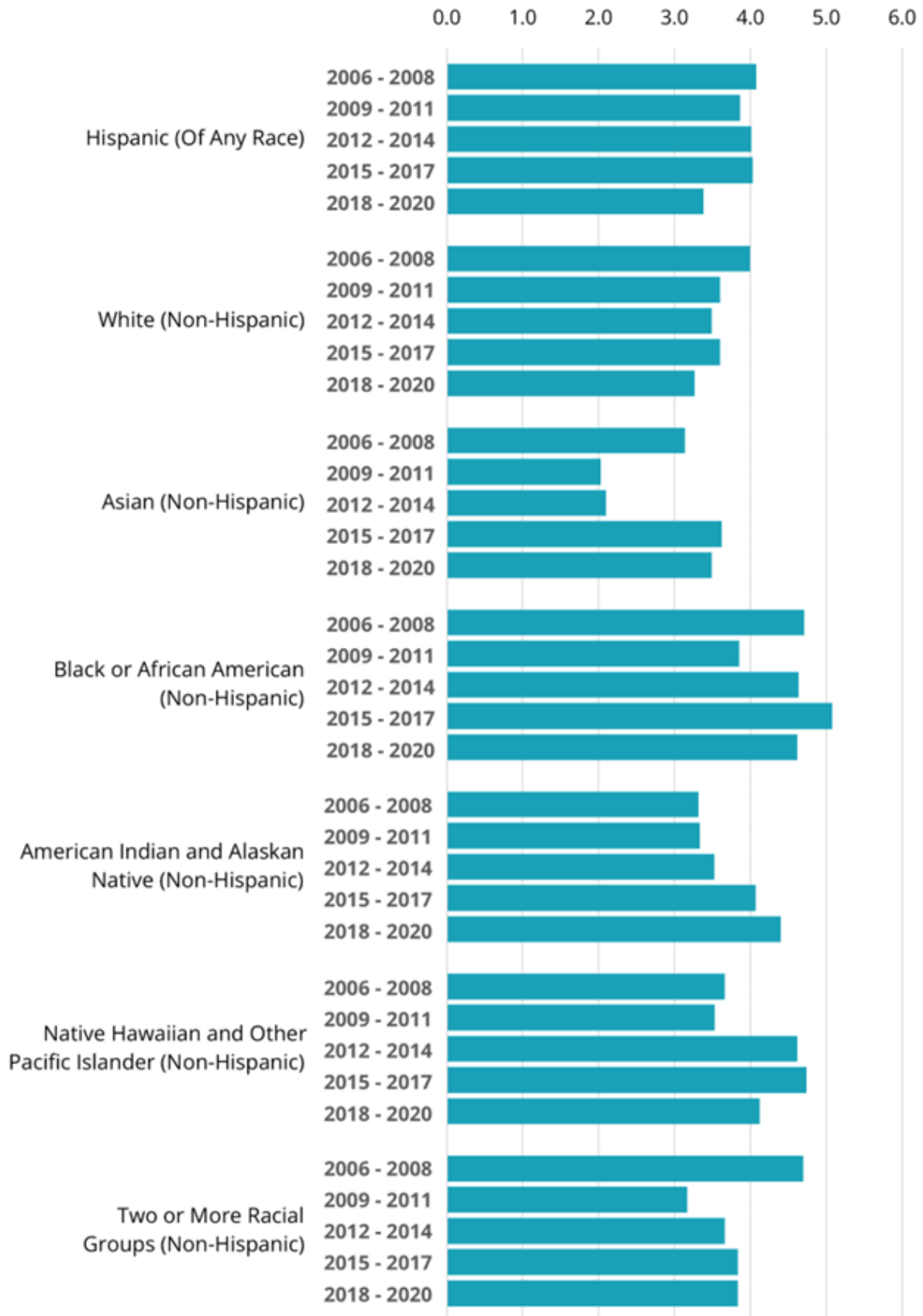
Figure 15 Placement setting changes per 1,000 days in care, 2006-2020



While aggregate improvements in placement stability are welcome, interests of racial equity demand that all children benefit from positive trends, particularly children from disadvantaged or vulnerable groups. Figure 16 details placement setting changes per 1,000 days in care by race and ethnicity for the years 2006-2020. While each group differs substantially in its sample size, concerns about potential data fluctuation are less applicable here as even the smallest groups spent days in foster care measuring in the thousands. Still, the placement stability of clients from smaller foster populations such as Asian and Pacific Islander children will be more subject to influence by clients who are outliers than for other groups.

Children recorded as Hispanic or Non-Hispanic White experienced substantial improvements in placement stability from 2006 to 2020, with Hispanic children experiencing 3.4 placement setting changes per 1,000 days in care, and White children 3.3 changes per 1,000 days for the years 2018-2020. Rates for Asian children fluctuated with an overall increase to slightly higher levels than these first two groups. Rates of placement setting changes for Black, American Indian, and Pacific Islander children overall increased as well, to rates of 4.6, 4.4, and 4.1 placement setting changes per 1,000 days respectively. Rates for children recorded as multiracial stayed relatively steady over 9 years in the range of 3.7-3.8 changes per 1,000 days.

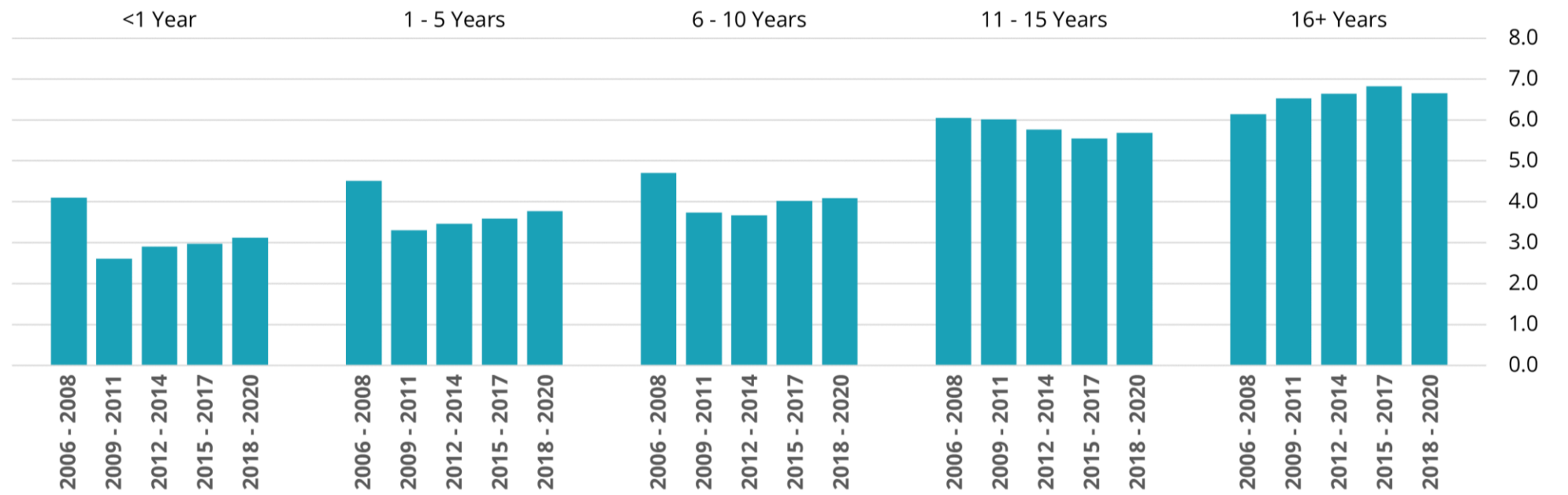
Figure 16 Placement setting changes per 1,000 days in care by race and ethnicity, 2006-2020 (three-year averages)



Placement setting changes are often more frequent during the first 365 days a child spends in care. Early placement instability can be an indicator of future case instability. For this reason, focusing on placement stability within the first year spend in care can be an effective way of gauging a typical client’s experience in foster care, without the need to control for the influence of outliers who stay in care well beyond one year. Figure 17 details placement setting changes per 1,000 days in care from 2006-2020, by three-year averages, limited to the first 365 days each client spent in care. Data is grouped by client age at case start.

Placement instability is positively associated with age: each older band of children experienced more disruptions per 1,000 days at every timeframe measured than did each younger band. All groups except children aged 16 and older experienced overall decreases in placement setting changes over the full time period, due to particularly high rates for 2006-2008. When those earliest years are excluded, only children aged 11-15 actually experienced a decrease, while children aged 16 and older remained fairly steady in their placement disruption rate.

Figure 17 Placement setting changes per 1,000 days in care by age at case start, limited to first 365 days in care, 2006-2020 (three-year averages)



Appendices

Appendix A *Number of Children in Care (and Rate Per 1,000 Utah Children in Care) on January 1 of Each Year, and Foster Cases Opened and Closed Per Year, 1997-2020*

	Children in Foster Care on January 1	Children Per 1,000 in Foster Care on January 1	Foster Cases Opened	Foster Cases Closed
1997	2,215	3.2	2,455	2,405
1998	2,263	3.2	2,230	2,260
1999	2,233	3.1	2,430	2,443
2000	2,222	3.1	1,754	1,925
2001	2,051	2.8	1,707	1,760
2002	1,998	2.7	1,713	1,819
2003	1,892	2.6	1,848	1,733
2004	2,007	2.7	1,847	1,747
2005	2,107	2.8	2,010	1,832
2006	2,285	2.9	1,915	1,837
2007	2,363	2.9	1,899	1,650
2008	2,612	3.2	1,957	1,904
2009	2,665	3.1	1,942	1,917
2010	2,690	3.1	2,114	2,028
2011	2,776	3.2	1,907	2,130
2012	2,553	2.9	2,028	1,996
2013	2,585	2.9	2,035	1,989
2014	2,631	2.9	2,107	2,036
2015	2,702	3.0	2,016	2,217
2016	2,501	2.7	2,178	1,907
2017	2,772	3.0	2,101	2,095
2018	2,777	3.0	1,909	2,241
2019	2,445	2.6	2,026	2,042
2020	2,429	2.6	1,545	1,753

Appendix B Assigned Sex, Race, and Ethnicity for First Foster Care, 2003-2020

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Child Count																			
	1,500	1,463	1,625	1,578	1,605	1,666	1,667	1,826	1,615	1,725	1,704	1,764	1,734	1,883	1,839	1,636	1,730	1,266	
Sex																			
Female	759 (51%)	730 (50%)	786 (48%)	736 (47%)	740 (46%)	797 (48%)	794 (48%)	897 (49%)	774 (48%)	818 (47%)	852 (50%)	845 (48%)	850 (49%)	931 (49%)	900 (49%)	795 (49%)	849 (49%)	602 (48%)	
Male	741 (49%)	732 (50%)	839 (52%)	842 (53%)	865 (54%)	869 (52%)	873 (52%)	929 (51%)	841 (52%)	907 (53%)	852 (50%)	919 (52%)	884 (51%)	952 (51%)	939 (51%)	841 (51%)	881 (51%)	664 (52%)	
Race and Ethnicity																			
White *	981 (65%)	907 (62%)	965 (59%)	989 (63%)	947 (59%)	1,010 (61%)	1,057 (63%)	1,159 (63%)	1,103 (68%)	1,191 (69%)	1,187 (70%)	1,228 (70%)	1,194 (69%)	1,234 (66%)	1,184 (64%)	1,060 (65%)	1,055 (61%)	751 (59%)	
Hispanic (Of Any Race)	363 (24%)	388 (27%)	470 (29%)	402 (25%)	461 (29%)	414 (25%)	426 (26%)	472 (26%)	371 (23%)	373 (22%)	353 (21%)	369 (21%)	337 (19%)	425 (23%)	411 (22%)	369 (23%)	433 (25%)	321 (25%)	
Asian *	7 (<1%)	7 (<1%)	6 (<1%)	4 (<1%)	10 (<1%)	9 (<1%)	6 (<1%)	5 (<1%)	9 (<1%)	4 (<1%)	6 (<1%)	6 (<1%)	11 (<1%)	5 (<1%)	12 (<1%)	2 (<1%)	6 (<1%)	16 (1%)	
Black or African American *	45 (3%)	53 (4%)	83 (5%)	79 (5%)	56 (4%)	119 (7%)	50 (3%)	71 (4%)	31 (2%)	56 (3%)	44 (3%)	45 (3%)	66 (4%)	80 (4%)	62 (3%)	33 (2%)	60 (4%)	66 (5%)	
American Indian and Alaska Native *	53 (5%)	29 (3%)	55 (5%)	40 (3%)	63 (6%)	52 (4%)	48 (4%)	48 (3%)	34 (3%)	42 (3%)	33 (3%)	35 (3%)	39 (3%)	46 (3%)	62 (4%)	63 (4%)	51 (4%)	34 (3%)	
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander *	14 (1%)	28 (2%)	15 (1%)	10 (<1%)	10 (<1%)	7 (<1%)	18 (1.1%)	13 (<1%)	19 (1%)	9 (<1%)	7 (<1%)	18 (1%)	15 (<1%)	17 (1%)	17 (<1%)	22 (2%)	19 (1%)	16 (1%)	
Two or More Races *	32 (3%)	47 (4%)	30 (3%)	52 (4%)	54 (4%)	49 (3%)	55 (4%)	50 (4%)	41 (3%)	44 (4%)	67 (5%)	61 (5%)	67 (4%)	70 (5%)	83 (6%)	81 (6%)	96 (7%)	61 (5%)	
Race Unknown *	5 (<1%)	4 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	2 (<1%)	4 (<1%)	6 (<1%)	7 (<1%)	8 (1%)	7 (<1%)	6 (<1%)	7 (<1%)	2 (<1%)	5 (<1%)	6 (<1%)	8 (<1%)	6 (<1%)	10 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	

*Non-Hispanic

Appendix C First Placement Type for Foster Care, 2003-2020

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Child Count																			
	1,448	1,395	1,575	1,535	1,584	1,635	1,627	1,796	1,593	1,685	1,675	1,723	1,710	1,861	1,811	1,586	1,694	1,246	
Setting of First Placement																			
Homelike - Kin	101 (7%)	143 (10%)	238 (15%)	270 (18%)	92 (6%)	293 (18%)	488 (30%)	527 (29%)	505 (32%)	564 (34%)	540 (32%)	590 (34%)	602 (35%)	701 (38%)	649 (36%)	509 (32%)	569 (34%)	485 (39%)	
Homelike - Non-Kin	183 (13%)	141 (10%)	217 (14%)	197 (13%)	186 (12%)	219 (13%)	385 (24%)	627 (35%)	592 (37%)	563 (33%)	633 (38%)	590 (34%)	543 (32%)	557 (30%)	471 (26%)	472 (30%)	527 (31%)	342 (27%)	
Residential Treatment	104 (7%)	110 (8%)	121 (8%)	125 (8%)	118 (7%)	136 (8%)	115 (7%)	98 (6%)	49 (3%)	50 (3%)	50 (3%)	61 (4%)	34 (2%)	51 (3%)	29 (2%)	24 (2%)	17 (1%)	27 (2%)	
Institutional, Correctional or Shelter	1,060 (73%)	1,001 (72%)	999 (63%)	943 (61%)	1,188 (75%)	987 (60%)	639 (39%)	544 (30%)	447 (28%)	508 (30%)	452 (27%)	482 (28%)	531 (31%)	552 (30%)	662 (37%)	581 (37%)	581 (34%)	390 (31%)	

Appendix D Foster Re-Entry Rates Within 12 Months, by Assigned Sex, Race, and Ethnicity¹, 2006-2020

		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
		Total Case Count														
		1,611	1,388	1,668	1,669	1,746	1,860	1,730	1,713	1,823	1,979	1,684	1,892	2,044	1,881	1,602
Assigned Sex	Average Closed Cases Per Year	Re-Entry Rate by Sex														
Female	843	12%	8%	11%	8%	7%	6%	9%	7%	7%	6%	5%	6%	6%	6%	6%
Male	910	10%	9%	9%	8%	6%	8%	6%	8%	8%	6%	7%	5%	7%	7%	5%
Race	Average Closed Cases Per Year	Re-Entry Rate by Race and Ethnicity														
White *	1,131	11%	9%	9%	7%	6%	7%	7%	7%	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%
Hispanic (Of Any Race)	420	11%	9%	11%	9%	8%	7%	8%	13%	7%	5%	5%	6%	7%	6%	5%
Asian *	7	33%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	0%
Black or African American *	62	8%	9%	12%	7%	6%	3%	9%	2%	16%	0%	12%	6%	9%	9%	2%
American Indian and Alaska Native *	49	15%	11%	15%	6%	8%	8%	13%	7%	13%	13%	2%	4%	6%	7%	17%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander *	14	8%	0%	0%	9%	8%	10%	8%	0%	17%	0%	18%	10%	0%	0%	20%
Two or More Races *	63	12%	10%	2%	11%	4%	6%	9%	7%	8%	0%	9%	3%	11%	11%	9%
Race Unknown *	6	0%	0%	14%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	40%	0%	8%	0%

*Non-Hispanic

¹ Excluding children age 18 or older at first case end, or cases with closure reason of "Age of Majority/Emancipation" or "Death of Child."

Appendix E Foster Re-Entry Rates Within 12 Months, by Age at First Case End², 2006-2020

		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
		Total Case Count														
		1,611	1,388	1,668	1,669	1,746	1,860	1,730	1,713	1,823	1,979	1,684	1,892	2,044	1,881	1,602
Age Group	Average Closed Cases Per Year	Re-Entry Rate by Age Group														
<1 Year	126	14%	6%	7%	10%	6%	4%	7%	4%	6%	3%	4%	6%	7%	8%	6%
1 - 5 Years	687	9%	6%	8%	6%	5%	6%	9%	7%	8%	5%	7%	6%	6%	5%	6%
6 - 10 Years	406	9%	6%	7%	6%	7%	6%	5%	5%	6%	5%	6%	4%	6%	5%	7%
11 - 15 Years	349	14%	18%	14%	13%	7%	12%	9%	11%	8%	8%	7%	8%	6%	7%	3%
16+ Years	184	12%	7%	16%	7%	9%	7%	7%	13%	10%	6%	6%	4%	6%	11%	2%

² Excluding children aged 18 or older at first case end, or cases with closure reason of "Age of Majority/Emancipation" or "Death of Child."

Appendix F Reasons for Foster Care Closure, 1997-2020

Closure Year	Case Count	Positive Permanency					Not Positive Permanency				
		Reunification With Parents or Primary Caretaker	Adoption (Relative)	Adoption (Non-Relative)	Custody or Guardianship to a Relative/ Guardian	Custody or Guardianship to Foster Parent or Nonrelative	Age Of Majority/ Emancipation	Referred Outside DCFS	Custody Terminated	Child Missing or Child Ran Away	Death of Child
1997	2,430	1,258 (52%)	19 (0.8%)	297 (12%)	518 (21%)	37 (2%)	101 (4%)	86 (4%)	110 (5%)	-	4 (0.2%)
1998	2,283	1,072 (47%)	32 (1%)	322 (14%)	536 (24%)	37 (2%)	126 (6%)	80 (4%)	75 (3%)	-	3 (0.1%)
1999	2,470	1,128 (46%)	42 (2%)	318 (13%)	686 (28%)	22 (0.9%)	133 (5%)	80 (3%)	58 (2%)	-	3 (0.1%)
2000	1,941	792 (41%)	28 (1%)	291 (15%)	501 (26%)	36 (2%)	181 (9%)	73 (4%)	36 (2%)	1 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)
2001	1,766	678 (38%)	26 (2%)	305 (17%)	493 (28%)	24 (1%)	152 (9%)	60 (3%)	25 (1%)	3 (0.2%)	-
2002	1,829	670 (37%)	37 (2%)	283 (16%)	535 (29%)	35 (2%)	164 (9%)	56 (3%)	38 (2%)	8 (0.4%)	3 (0.2%)
2003	1,751	573 (33%)	18 (1%)	316 (18%)	536 (31%)	29 (2%)	143 (8%)	66 (4%)	24 (1%)	41 (2%)	5 (0.3%)
2004	1,765	632 (36%)	28 (2%)	243 (14%)	540 (31%)	24 (1%)	184 (10%)	61 (4%)	20 (1%)	29 (2%)	4 (0.2%)
2005	1,846	629 (34%)	44 (2%)	324 (18%)	489 (27%)	39 (2%)	186 (10%)	68 (4%)	22 (1%)	44 (2%)	1 (0.1%)
2006	1,851	634 (34%)	65 (4%)	306 (17%)	436 (24%)	56 (3%)	206 (11%)	74 (4%)	28 (2%)	45 (2%)	1 (0.1%)
2007	1,650	625 (38%)	91 (6%)	325 (20%)	217 (13%)	34 (2%)	211 (13%)	74 (5%)	16 (1%)	53 (3%)	4 (0.2%)
2008	1,903	798 (42%)	128 (7%)	352 (19%)	279 (15%)	30 (2%)	202 (11%)	60 (3%)	16 (0.8%)	35 (2%)	3 (0.2%)
2009	1,927	810 (42%)	144 (8%)	339 (18%)	284 (15%)	37 (2%)	195 (10%)	57 (3%)	22 (1%)	35 (2%)	4 (0.2%)
2010	2,030	798 (39%)	203 (10%)	354 (17%)	316 (16%)	31 (2%)	201 (10%)	63 (3%)	19 (0.9%)	43 (2%)	2 (0.1%)
2011	2,131	842 (40%)	216 (10%)	402 (19%)	300 (14%)	24 (1%)	201 (9%)	83 (4%)	29 (1%)	32 (2%)	2 (0.1%)
2012	1,996	824 (41%)	140 (7%)	352 (18%)	314 (16%)	43 (2%)	198 (10%)	76 (4%)	23 (1%)	23 (1%)	3 (0.2%)
2013	1,989	792 (40%)	200 (10%)	306 (15%)	336 (17%)	47 (2%)	202 (10%)	59 (3%)	21 (1%)	24 (1%)	2 (0.1%)
2014	2,037	798 (39%)	226 (11%)	335 (16%)	367 (18%)	32 (2%)	174 (9%)	51 (2%)	23 (1%)	29 (1%)	2 (0.1%)
2015	2,217	838 (38%)	233 (11%)	435 (20%)	391 (18%)	43 (2%)	178 (8%)	52 (2%)	11 (0.5%)	30 (1%)	6 (0.3%)
2016	1,908	742 (39%)	218 (11%)	317 (17%)	330 (17%)	27 (1%)	177 (9%)	54 (3%)	15 (0.8%)	27 (1%)	1 (0.1%)
2017	2,096	795 (38%)	311 (15%)	380 (18%)	316 (15%)	31 (2%)	172 (8%)	39 (2%)	27 (1%)	23 (1%)	2 (0.1%)
2018	2,241	925 (41%)	332 (15%)	424 (19%)	258 (12%)	47 (2%)	154 (7%)	26 (1%)	48 (2%)	26 (1%)	1 (0.0%)
2019	2,043	880 (43%)	272 (13%)	339 (17%)	290 (14%)	31 (2%)	122 (6%)	38 (2%)	56 (3%)	11 (0.5%)	4 (0.2%)
2020	1,756	761 (43%)	169 (10%)	293 (17%)	277 (16%)	41 (2%)	128 (7%)	28 (2%)	46 (3%)	12 (0.7%)	1 (0.1%)