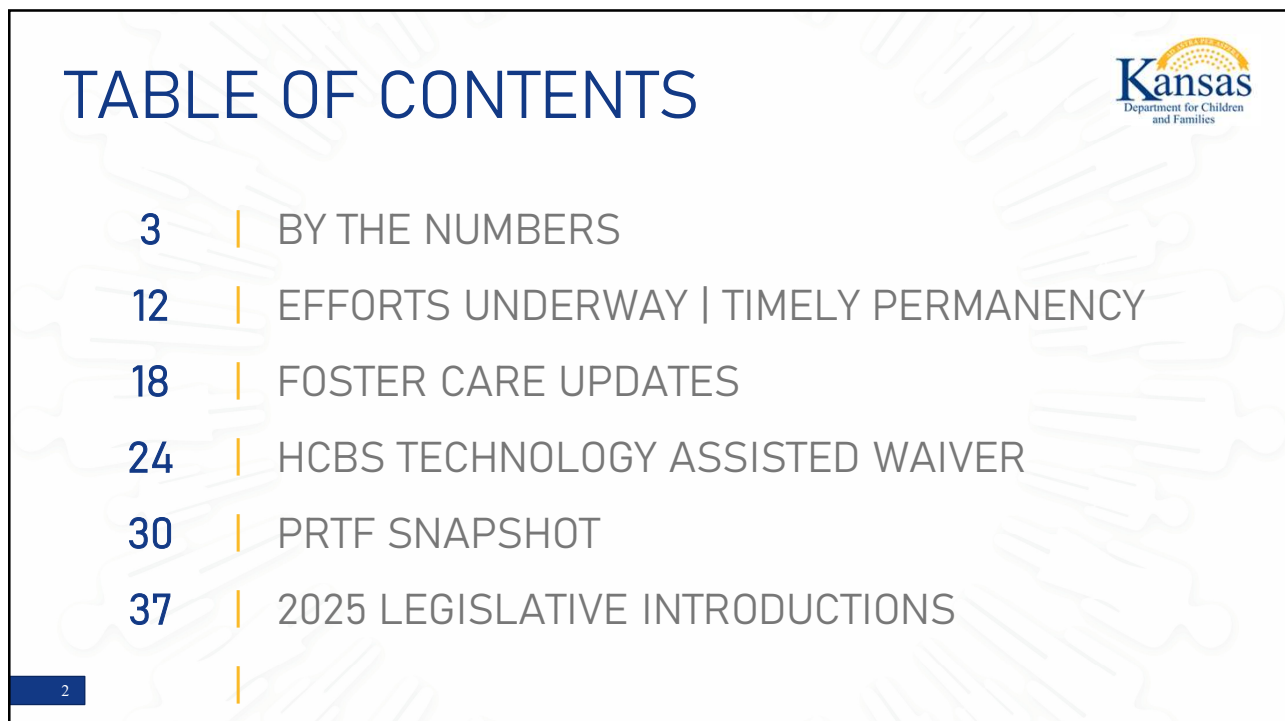


Kansas
Department for Children
and Families

KANSAS DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM OVERSIGHT
SECRETARY LAURA HOWARD | 11.13.2024

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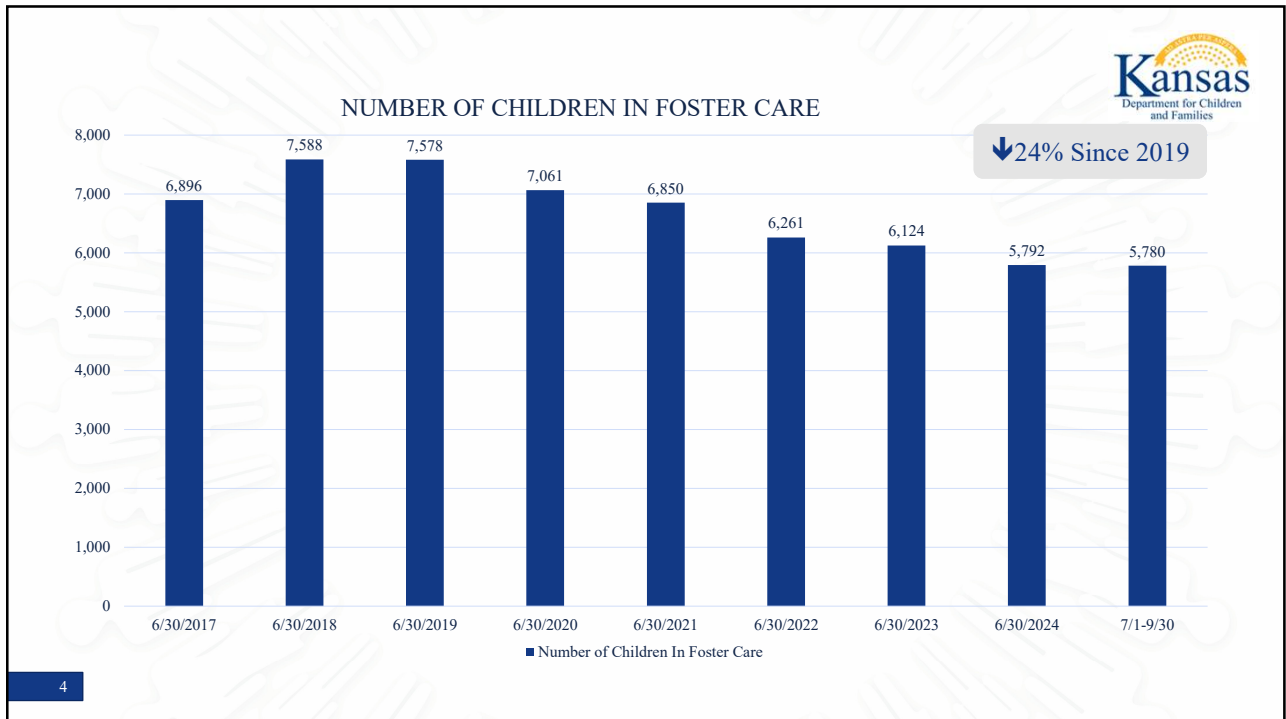
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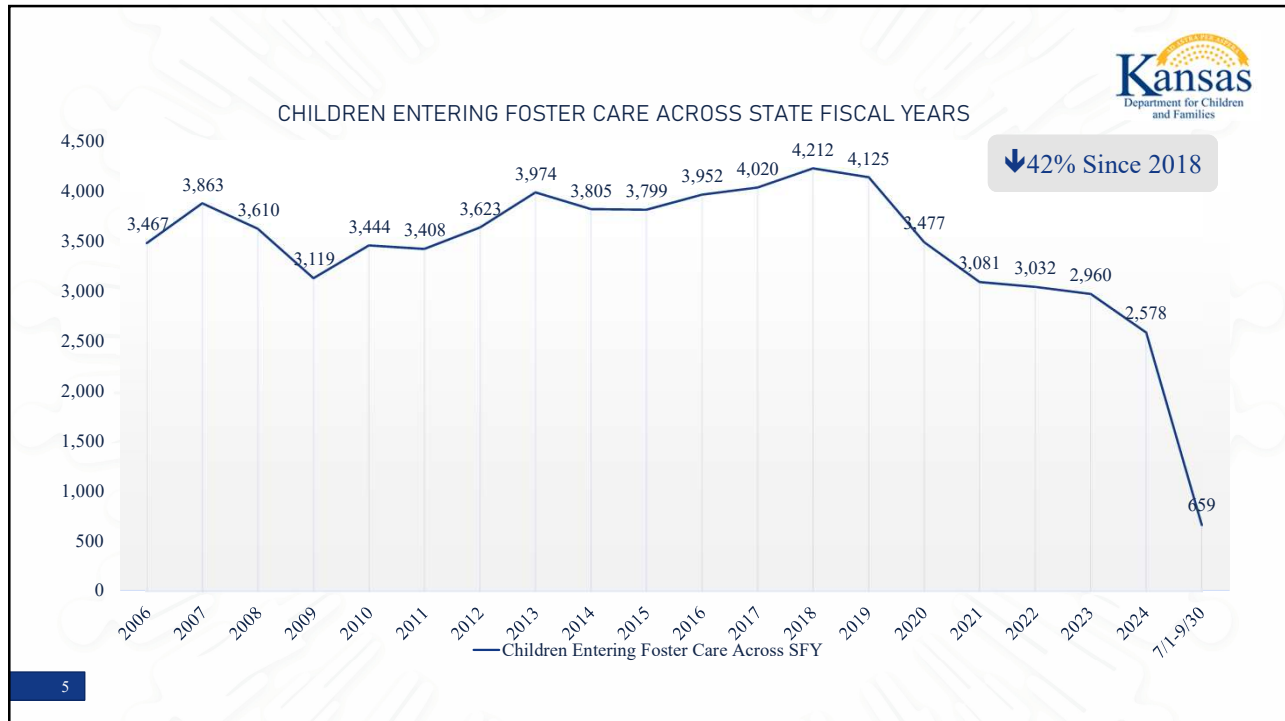
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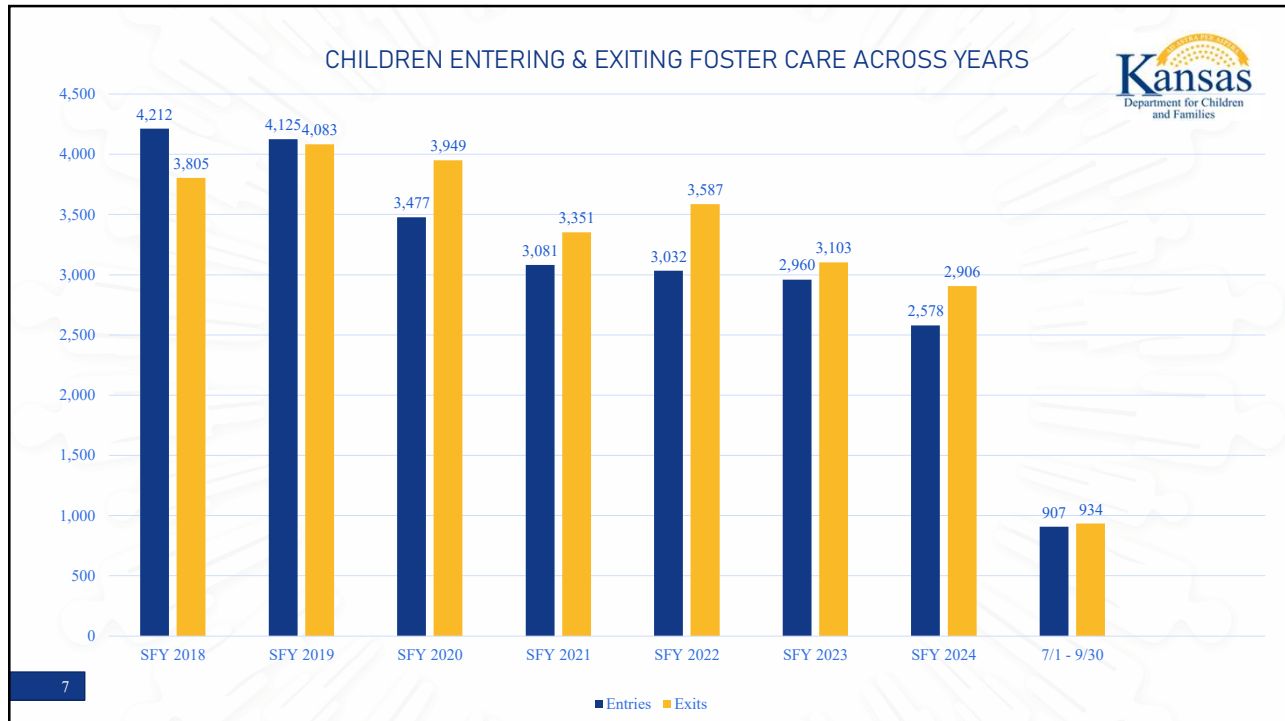
DECREASED RATE OF ENTRY INTO FOSTER CARE
MARCH 2024 FEDERAL DATA PROFILE

Department for Children and Families

Across years:
 Rate of Removal of Children into Foster Care per
 1,000 Child Population

	FFY19	FFY20	FFY21	FFY22	FFY23
National	3.14	2.69	2.56	2.34	2.22
Kansas	5.70	4.19	4.42	4.40	3.84

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DECREASED RATE OF ENTRY INTO FOSTER CARE MARCH 2024 FEDERAL DATA PROFILE

For FFY 24 through March 2024, Kansas ranks 41 of 52 jurisdiction for the rate of entry into care, improved from the prior fiscal year. Data is available by county.

Highest Rank of Removal Rate per 1,000 child population				
	FFY23	entry rate	FFY24	entry rate
1	West Virginia	11.26	West Virginia	12.05
2	Alaska	5.62	Alaska	6.10
3	Montana	5.25	Wyoming	5.64
4	Wyoming	5.18	Montana	5.11
5	Kentucky	4.52	South Dakota	4.70
6	Maine	4.21	Maine	4.30
7	South Dakota	4.08	Kentucky	4.29
8	Missouri	4.01	Indiana	4.26
9	Iowa	3.9	Nevada	3.89
10	Kansas	3.84	Vermont	3.79
			Kansas	3.75

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STORY: CHILDREN ENTERING CARE



NARROWING THE FRONT DOOR

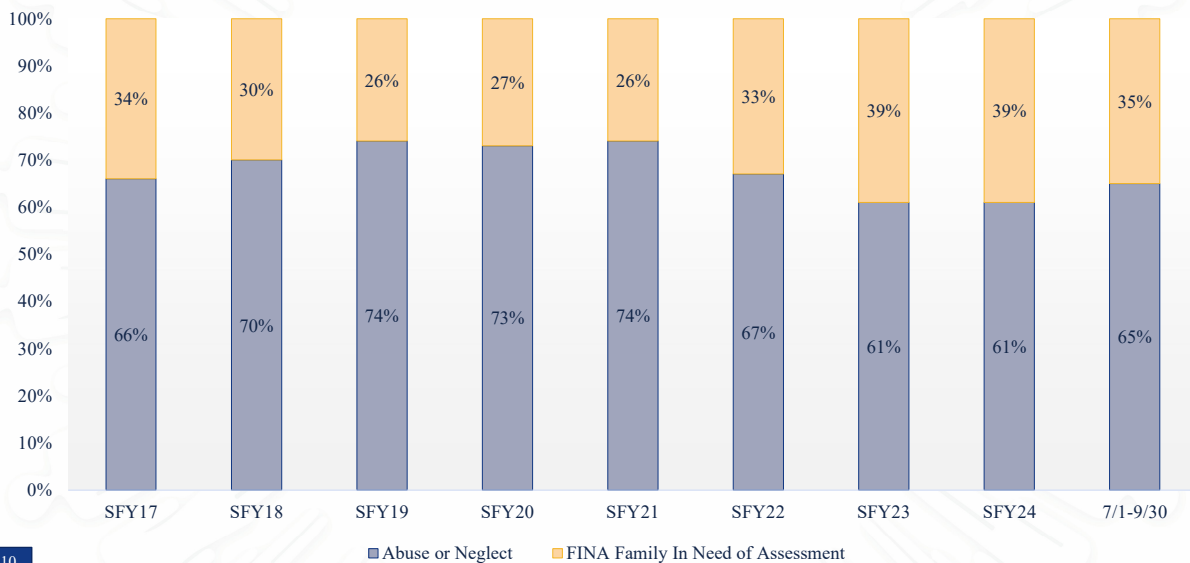
Statewide between 2023 and 2024

- 13% decrease in children entering care and the decrease was evenly distributed across all age groups (n=382).
- 108 fewer youth aged 13 and older entering care, however, not a substantive difference in the percentage of youth age 13+ who entered care as a proportion of total entries into care.
- No substantive difference in the % of youth age 13+ removed for FINA (36% in both years)

Number of Children removed by Age in Years at Removal				
	SFY2023	%	SFY2024	%
<1 year	402	13.6%	331	12.8%
1-6 years	915	30.9%	784	30.4%
7-12 years	741	25.0%	669	26.0%
13-17 years	902	30.5%	794	30.8%
Grand Total	2960	100.0%	2578	100.0%

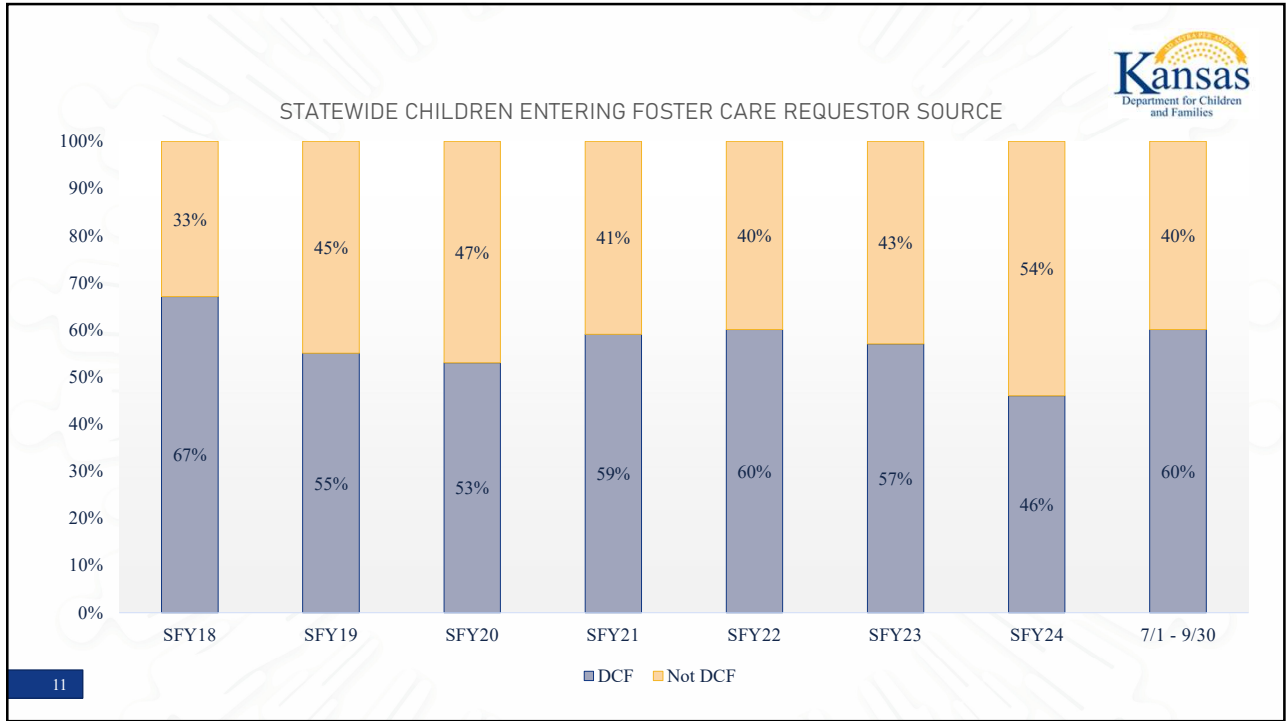
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STATEWIDE CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE PRIMARY REMOVAL REASON



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**EFFORTS UNDERWAY
TIMELY PERMANENCY**

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4 PERMANENCY PROGRESS QUESTIONS



Inspired by the April Child Welfare Summit

- DCF participates in local implementation teams statewide and integrating 4 permanency questions into court report format.
 - 4 Judges from DG, GE, LY and WY working with KU on implementation of the 4 permanency questions
- Highlight: Shawnee County is a local implementation team for the 4 Permanency Questions
 - The SN county team is reviewing questions for any adjustments and considering how to include in court reports.
 - KVC is using the questions in their work and documents alongside families in SN county

Four possible questions to ask related to timely permanency

1. What is the current safety concern that prevents us from sending child home?
2. If there is a current safety concern, are there after-care services that can address that concern?
3. If not, what needs to happen by next (week) to satisfy that safety concern?
4. If a safe return is not possible, is the current permanency plan appropriate?

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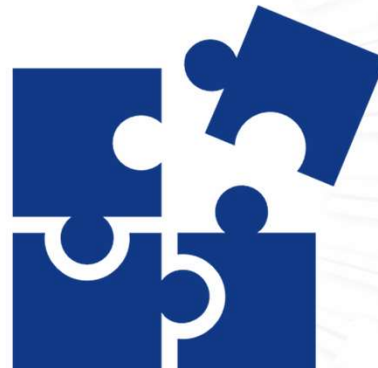
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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND OTHER EFFORTS



Also impact placement stability

- Functional Family Therapy statewide
- Mental Health Intervention Treatment in Schools
- Children's Behavior Interventionist Medicaid services for in home supports.
- Therapeutic Family Foster Homes model coaching positive supports with parents.
- Children's Mental Health services codes open to more providers.
- Lasting Safety Planning included in court reports.
- Awarding a Parent Peer Program.
- Caseload size reduced 7/1/24.



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KEY DATA INDICATORS



Length of Stay

- The average time in foster care for all children who ended care in SFY 24 was 24 months.
- Most children have achieved permanency through reunification (53%.)
- Children whose legal permanency is reunification are in care an average length of 11 months.

Kansas is in a federal performance improvement plan (PIP) to improve timely permanency closer to national performance.

SFY24 Exit Reason from Care	% of Exits	Avg. Months in Care
Reunification	53%	11
Adoption	26%	42
Emancipation/ Adult transition	15%	41
Custodianship/ Guardianship	4%	24
Transfer to another Agency	2%	20
Other Reason	1%	30
All children	100%	24

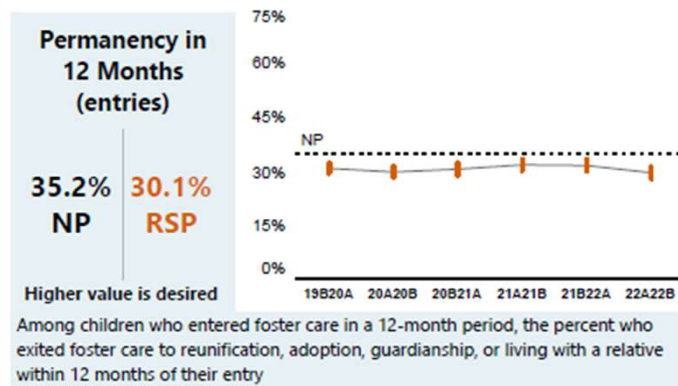
KEY DATA INDICATORS



CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR) PERMANENCY PROFILE

Children in Kansas stay in foster care longer than children nationally.

Kansas is in a federal performance improvement plan (PIP) to improve timely permanency closer to national performance. Recent federal data profiles that include March 2024 data reflect 30.1%, short of national performance of 35.2%

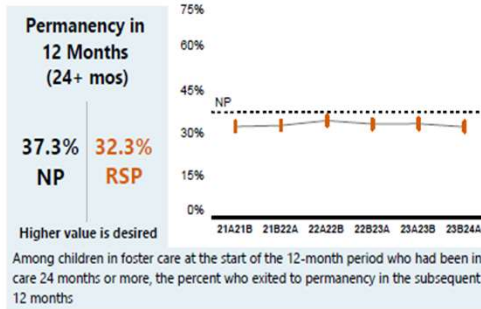
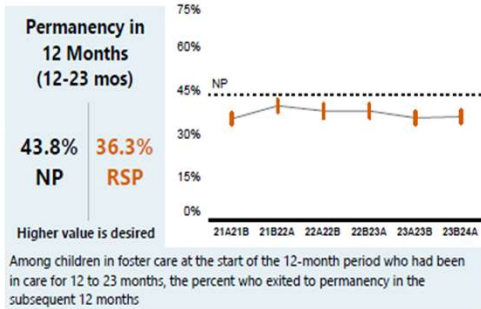


KEY DATA INDICATORS



CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR) PERMANENCY PROFILE

Kansas is in a federal performance improvement plan (PIP) to improve timely permanency for children in care longer than 12 months.

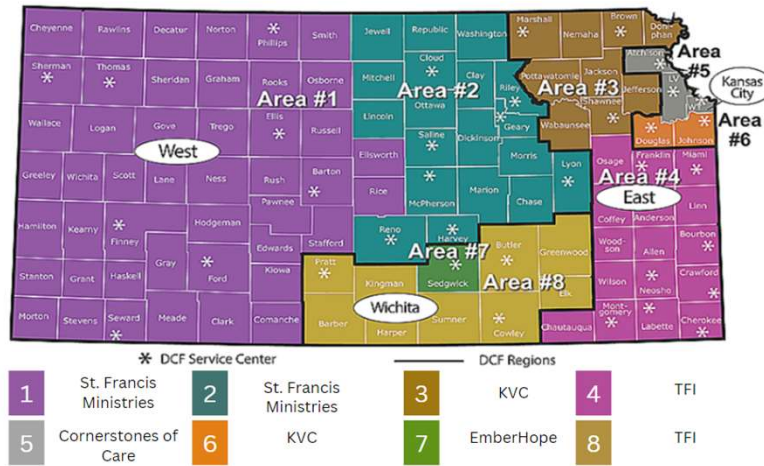


FOSTER CARE UPDATES

FOSTER CARE CASE MANAGEMENT 7/1/24



FOSTER CARE CONTRACT EFFECTIVE 7/1/24



FOSTER CARE UPDATES



TITLE IV-E FEDERAL FUNDING FOR LEGAL REPRESENTATION OPPORTUNITY

In August 2024, DCF notified OJA and Tribes of our intent to take advantage of the federal fund opportunity. On 10/29/24, A letter has been sent to Tribes. OJA collaborated with DCF in a virtual information session call for counties. The information call was sent to county courts, managers and the Kansas Association of Counties.

When a county is ready to begin, they can contact DCF. DCF has drafted a MOU to engage with interested counties to facilitate reimbursing the eligible costs.

Assume a county pays an appointed attorney \$1,000.

- The total allowable Title IV-E costs would be \$230 at the 23% (KS) eligibility rate, 50% of which (\$115) can be drawn from the IV-E foster care grant, with a state match requirement of the other 50%.
- Counties will provide the \$115 state match, and DCF will reimburse the county with \$115 federal funds.
- The county would then reimburse the attorney or use the funds otherwise for allowable foster care legal representation activities.
- With a total service cost of \$1,000, the county will cover \$885, or about 89% of the total \$1,000 cost.
- The county will incur the balance of cost not received through federal IV-E reimbursement

[Link to Title IV-E Foster Care Legal Representation Cost Reimbursement Information session on DCF Website here](#)

FOSTER CARE UPDATES



SUPPORT – OPPORTUNITY – UNITY – LEGAL RELATIONSHIPS

SOUL Family Legal Permanency allows teens in foster care, ages 16-18, to establish legal caregiving relationships with one or more adults (called SOUL Family Legal custodians) while still maintaining existing family connections and access to important benefits to support their transition into adulthood.

Since the effective date on July 1st, the first two SOUL Family Legal Permanencies have been finalized in the state of Kansas.

These youth achieved permanency through SOUL with the help and advocacy of their case team and Guardian Ad Litem.

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FOSTER CARE UPDATES



FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

Family Support Network providing parent peer support is nearing completion.

Outcomes listed in the RFP include:

- Outcome 1: The Contractor shall develop, recruit, and support a statewide psychoeducational support groups for parents.
- Outcome 2: The Contractor shall provide advocacy services and assist parents who may be facing barriers in the Child and Family Well-Being System.
- Outcome 3: The Contractor shall work in partnership with each CWCMPs Permanency Department to provide educational materials, resources, advocacy and supports to parents of youth in foster care with a goal of reintegration.

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FOSTER CARE UPDATES

KSDE / DCF DATA MATCHING



DCF, KSDE, and KDHE, have found an effective solution to the longstanding worry of children in foster care not reflecting correctly in KSDE systems. When children are not correctly matched between DCF and KSDE systems and accurately reflected as placed out-of-home, they can lose access to free and reduced lunch and increased supports from their districts.

Due to compatibility issues many children were not being captured by KSDE and thus incorrectly matched due to inconsistencies in dates of birth and names such as spelling, hyphens, apostrophe's, etc.

From further collaboration, DCF was able to work with the 2 other agencies to reduce this number to 150 through automatic matching and a process for school districts to "claim" unmatched children and youth in foster care. In the month of October KS went from having over 1,000 children incorrectly matched to 150.

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HCBS TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE WAIVER



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FOSTER PAYMENT RATES

RATE SELECTION



DCF provides a foster care maintenance payment based on level of care information provided in CareMatch. The foster care maintenance payment and admin payment goes to either the CMP or CPA for payments to family-like placement providers.

- All licensed family type settings receive their daily rate reimbursement from their sponsoring Child Placing Agency.
- All unlicensed family-like settings (Relative and NRKin only) receive their daily rate reimbursement from the Case Management Provider for the child placed in their home.
 - The CMP shall determine whether or not a non-licensed relative home meets required standards through a relative placement assessment.

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RATES FOR CHILDREN ON TA WAIVER

RATE SELECTION



DCF does not currently have a rate available exclusively to youth on a TA waiver.

The only population of youth who are eligible for specific rates as a result of their HCBS waiver status are youth who are on the waitlist for the HCBS I/DD waiver.

Youth who are on the TA waiver, along with all other youth in the custody of the Secretary who are not on the HCBS I/DD waiver waitlist, are eligible to receive any standard rate Basic 1-Intensive 2 and TFFH.

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T.A. FOSTER YOUTH

RATE SELECTION



Determination of which of these rates they receive is made through assessment by the Case Management Provider for the child.

- All youth in the custody of the Secretary may also receive Treatment Transition or any other applicable add-on rate if they meet DCF identified eligibility criteria.
- When a Case Management Providers assess the level of care for any child and determines the child’s needs cannot be met at the maximum eligible rate, a DCF exception to increase the maintenance payment corresponding with the assessed rate may be requested.

Prior practice when an exception request is received for a youth on the TA Waiver, is to increase the maintenance payment to the highest eligible rate (usually Intensive 2).

- Then the DCF I/DD Tier amounts are used to determine what the exception maintenance rate will be.

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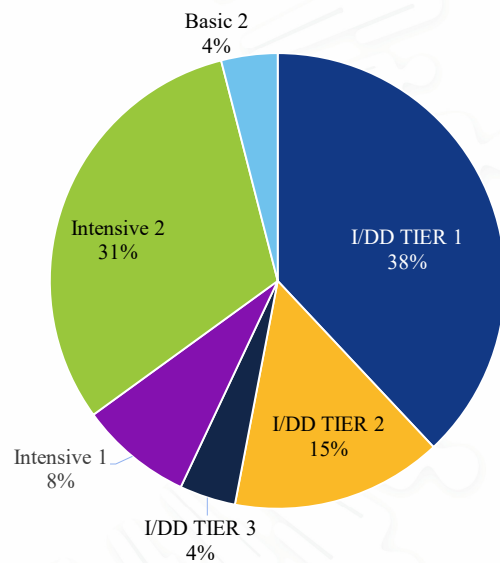
LEVEL OF CARE DCF PAYMENTS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN ACTIVE ON THE T.A. WAIVER

AUGUST 2024 (STILL IN CARE ON 10/28/2024)



Out of the 26 youth

- 38% Receive the highest level of care rate possible for any child in the custody of the Secretary (IDD Tier I equivalent)
- 58% Receive an exception for an I/DD DCF Tier rate equivalents. (usually only available to those on IDD waitlist)
- 88% Receive a rate of more than \$90/ day



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T.A. FOSTER YOUTH

YOUTH REVIEW AND WORK GROUP EFFORTS



Basic 2 – 1 youth;
I/DD Tier 1 – 10 youth; I/DD Tier 2 – 4 youth; I/DD Tier 3 – 1 youth;
Intensive 1 – 2 youth; Intensive 2 – 8 youth

To better identify and fulfill the needs of youth moving from the waitlist to the waiver, a work group has been created to better assist foster placements of waiver youth – both I/DD and T.A.

Processes and rate structures are being created that does not call out any particular waiver so anything that is available to I/DD waiver youth would be available to TA waiver youth as well.

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FOSTER YOUTH EXPERIENCING PRTF WAITLIST

OCTOBER 2024 SNAPSHOT



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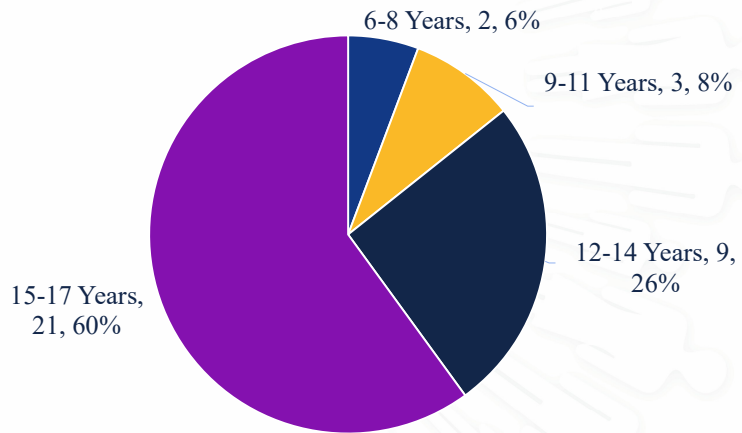
YOUTH AWAITING ADMISSION TO PRTF

OCTOBER 2024 CASE REVIEW

The week of October 21st, 2024, DCF completed a review of the 32 youth on the PRTF waitlist and 3 youth who were considered but had been recently denied admission to a PRTF.

The review of youth was performed to help understand this population and concentrate future efforts.

Age in Years for Children in Foster Care Waiting a PRTF Admission 10/21/24



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YOUTH AWAITING ADMISSION TO PRTF

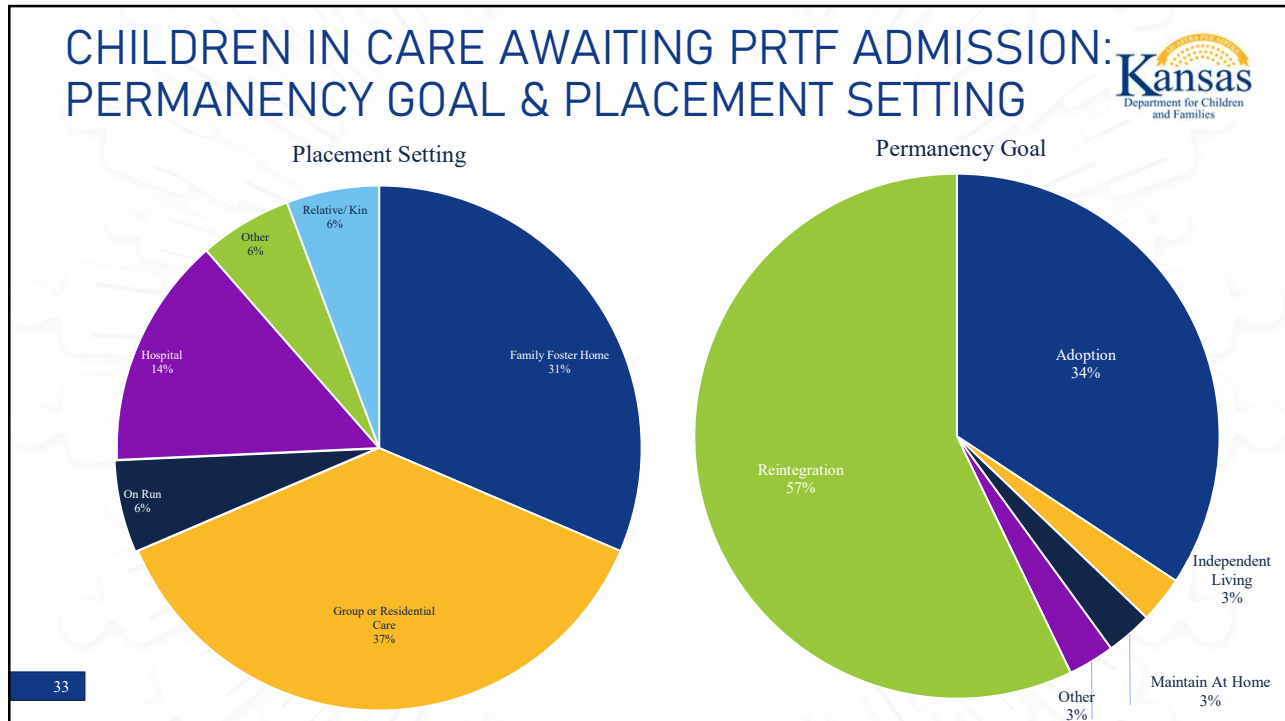
PERMANENCY DATA

- 57% of children have a goal of reunification, consistent with the total foster care population
- Less than 6% of children are placed with a relative or kin, compared to 47% in the general foster care population.
- Nearly 70% of children are included in current regular staffing review approaches and tools by the foster care case management agencies

Month in Foster Care	Adoption	Independent Living	Maintain At Home	Other	Reintegration	Total	%
0-11 months	0	1	1	0	12	14	40%
12-23 months	3	0	0	1	5	9	26%
24-35 months	0	0	0	0	2	2	6%
36-47 months	1	0	0	0	0	1	3%
48-60 months	2	0	0	0	1	3	9%
>60 months	6	0	0	0	0	6	17%
Total	12	1	1	1	20	35	100%

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YOUTH AWAITING ADMISSION TO PRTF

PLACEMENT STABILITY

- Nearly one third (32%) are placed in a family foster home, compared to 47% of children in the total foster care population.
- Group Care placements at 13% are higher than the general foster care population of about 8%.

Detail: Placement Type	# children	Placement as %
Family Foster Home	11	31.4%
QRTF	5	14.3%
PRTF*	3	8.6%
Hospital **	3	8.6%
Secure Care	2	5.7%
Acute Care	2	5.7%
Relative or Kin	2	5.7%
On Run	2	5.7%
Pending	1	2.9%
YRC II	1	2.9%
Emergency Shelter	1	2.9%
Detention	1	2.9%
Parental	1	2.9%
Grand Total	35	100.0%

* Child was placed in PRTF during the week of the case read and removed from the waitlist but remained included in the review.
** Placement type for 2 of the 3 children denied is a hospital.

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YOUTH AWAITING ADMISSION TO PRTF



PLACEMENT STABILITY

- 57% had 6 or more placements in the past 12 months
- 40% experienced no one-night placements in the past 6 months.
 - Over ¾ of youth experienced 2 or fewer 1-night placements in the past 6 months.

Number of Placements in the past 12 months		
0-1	3	8.6%
2-3	4	11.4%
4-5	3	8.6%
6-7	5	14.3%
8-9	5	14.3%
10-11	4	11.4%
12-13	3	8.6%
14-15	1	2.9%
>16	7	20.0%
Total	35	100.0%

Number of 1-night stays in the past 6 months		
	# of children	% percent
0, None	14	40.0%
1	7	20.0%
2	6	17.1%
3	3	8.6%
4	1	2.9%
7	1	2.9%
8	1	2.9%
> 8	2	5.7%
Total	35	100.0%

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YOUTH AWAITING ADMISSION TO PRTF



PLACEMENT STABILITY

- 83% have not experienced a PRTF admission in the past 6 months
- 48% have not been placed in a Qualified Residential Treatment Provider residential facility (QRTP) in the past 12 months
- 57% had 6 or more placements in the past 12 months

Number of Prior PRTF admissions in the past 6 months		
0	29	83%
1	6	17%
Grand Total	35	100%

Number of prior QRTP placements in the past 12 months		
0, None	17	48.6%
1	11	31.4%
2	1	2.9%
3	3	8.6%
4	2	5.7%
6	1	2.9%
Grand Total	35	100.0%

Failure to Place Instances in past 6 months						
	CoC	Emberhope	KVC	SFM	TFI	Grand Total
0	7	2	3	8	9	29
1	0	0	0	1	0	1
3	0	0	2	0	0	2
6	0	0	1	0	0	1
7	0	0	1	0	0	1
8	0	0	1	0	0	1
Grand Total	7	2	8	9	9	35

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2025 LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES



DCF has selected three priorities that we hope to work with you all on during the upcoming 2025 Legislative Session:

<p>SECURE CARE:</p> <p>Reducing the number of days a child in the custody of the secretary can be authorized for secure care placement by a court from 60 to 45 days.</p>	<p>PERMANENCY:</p> <p>Reducing the number of months within which courts must hold a CINC permanency hearing.</p>	<p>NEGLECT DEFINITION:</p> <p>Distinguish that poverty is not neglect and prevent separation of a child from a parent solely due to poverty</p>
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QUESTIONS?

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