

KANSAS DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

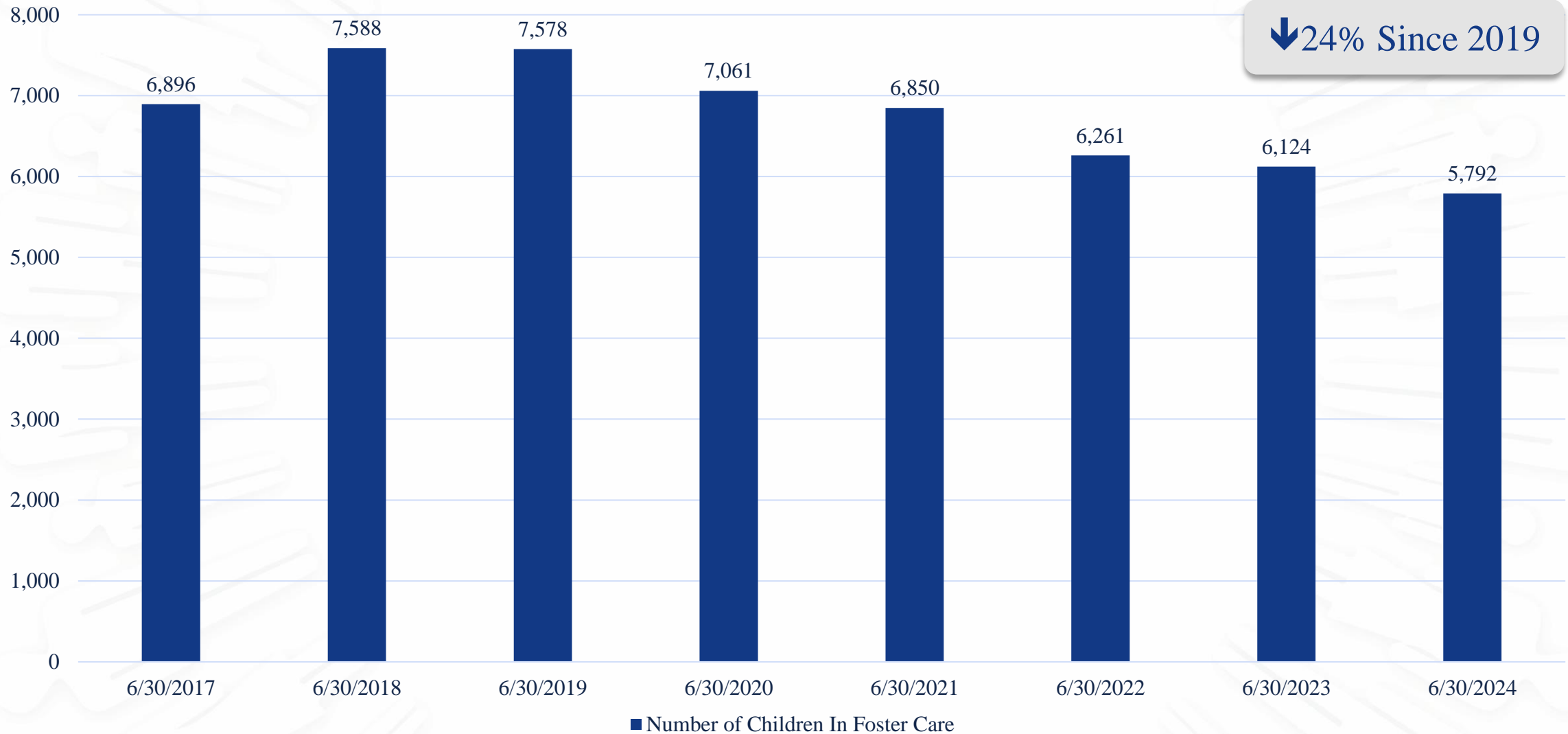
JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM OVERSIGHT
SECRETARY LAURA HOWARD | 9.11.2024

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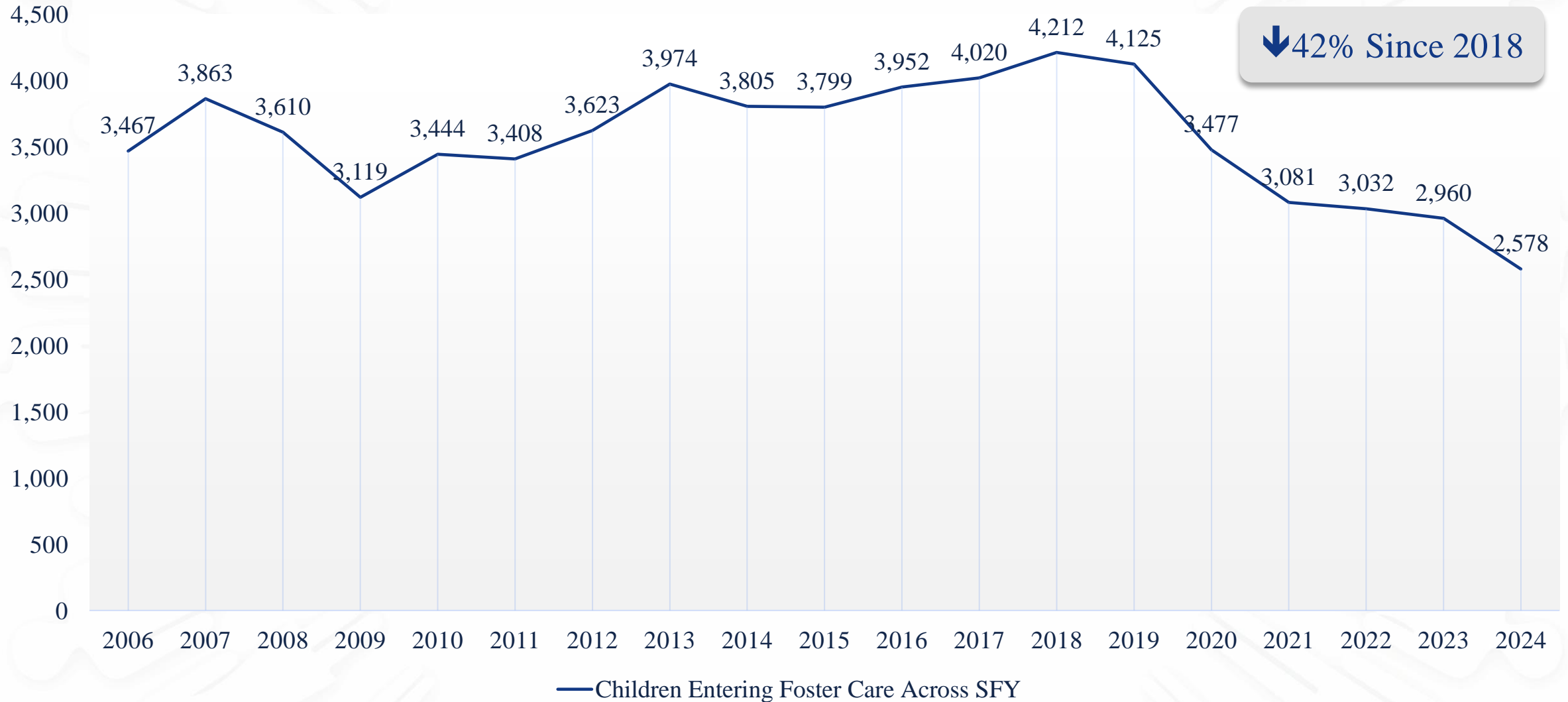
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BY THE NUMBERS

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE



CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE ACROSS STATE FISCAL YEARS



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



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

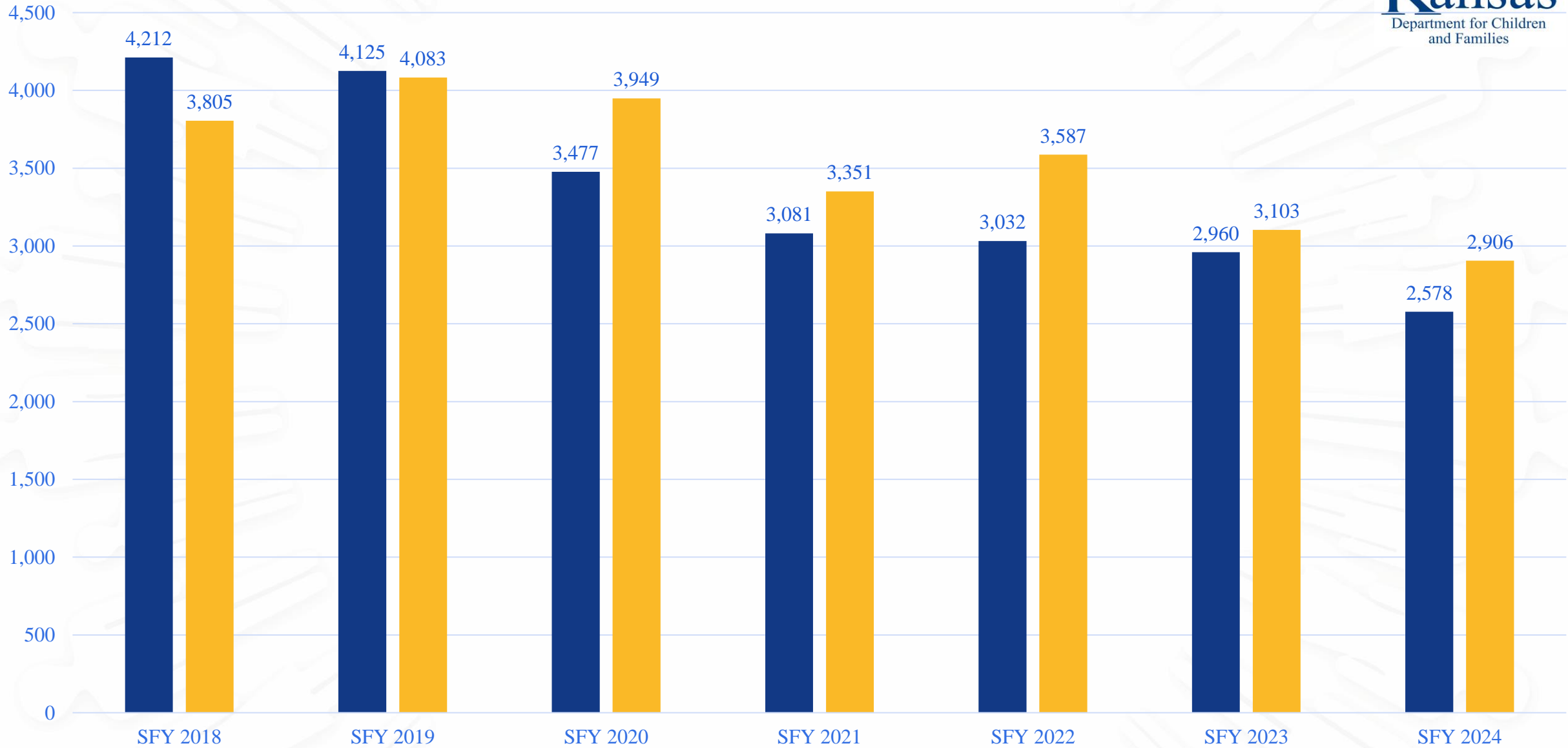
DECREASED RATE OF ENTRY INTO FOSTER CARE MARCH 2024 FEDERAL DATA PROFILE



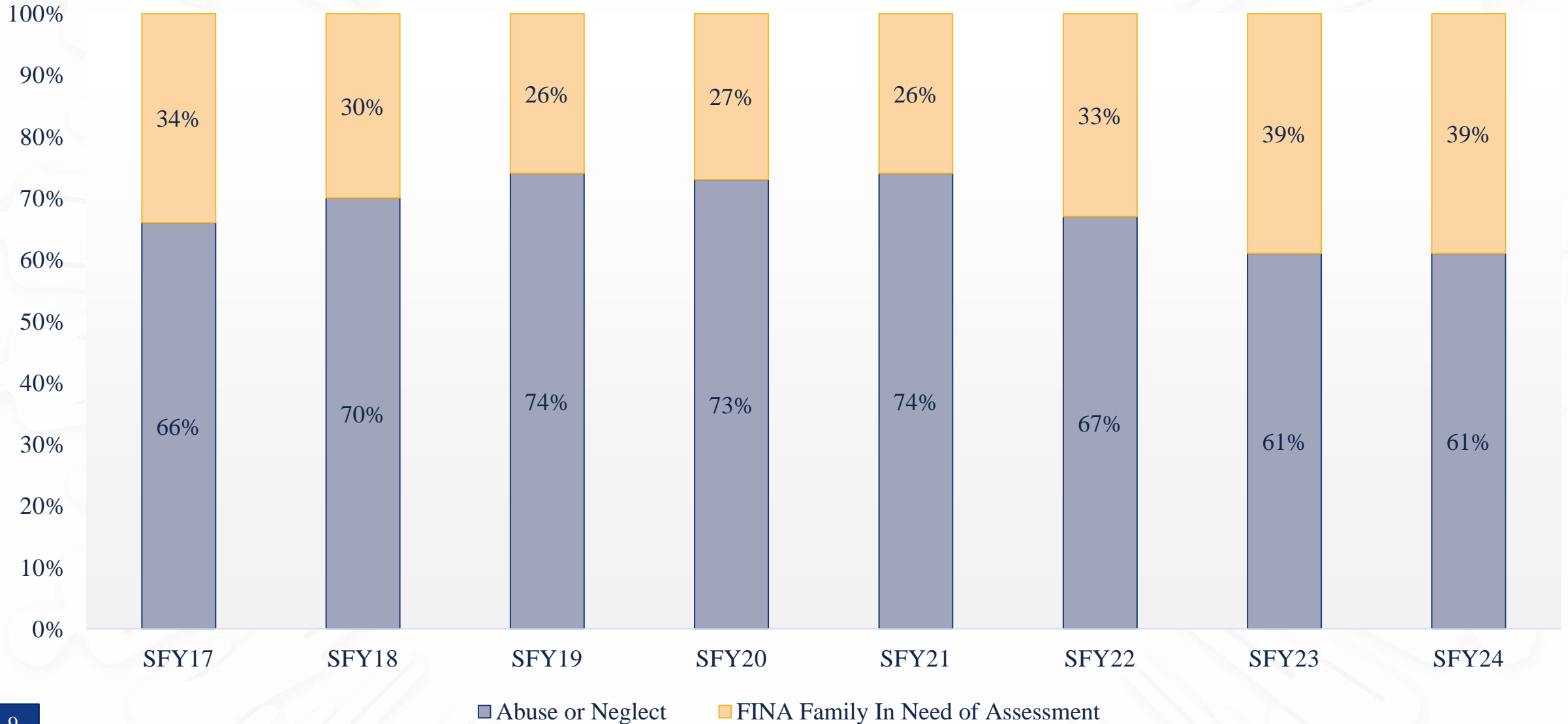
For FFY 23 that ended September 2023, Kansas ranks 42 of 52 jurisdiction for the rate of entry into care, improved from the prior fiscal year.

Highest Rank of Removal Rate per 1,000 child population				
	FFY22	entry rate	FFY23	entry rate
1	West Virginia	8.88	West Virginia	11.26
2	Alaska	6.28	Alaska	5.62
3	Montana	5.65	Montana	5.25
4	Vermont	5.01	Wyoming	5.18
5	Wyoming	4.84	Kentucky	4.52
6	Kentucky	4.55	Maine	4.21
7	Kansas	4.40	South Dakota	4.08
8	Missouri	4.23	Missouri	4.01
9	Maine	4.22	Iowa	3.90
10	Rhode Island	4.01	Kansas	3.84

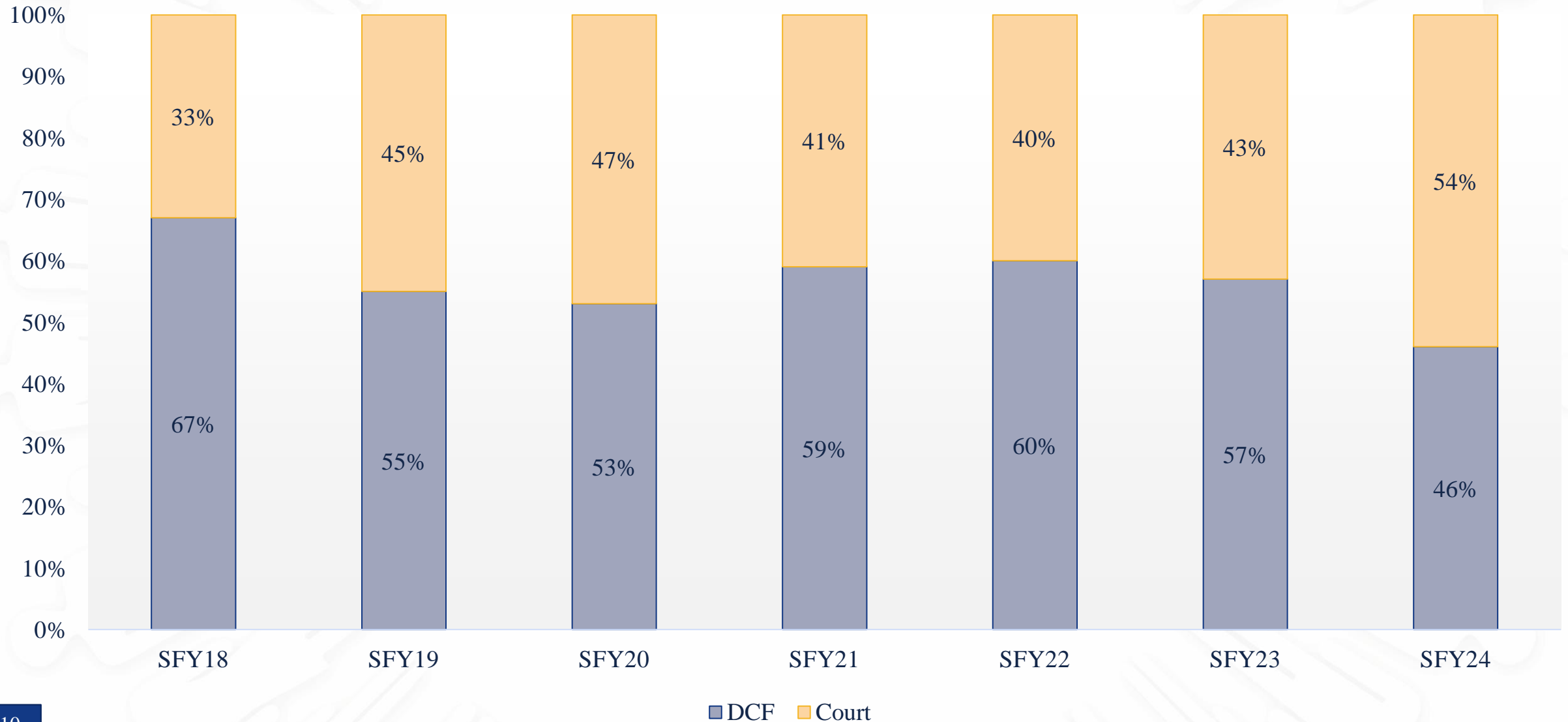
CHILDREN ENTERING & EXITING FOSTER CARE ACROSS YEARS



STATEWIDE CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE PRIMARY REMOVAL REASON



STATEWIDE CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE REQUESTOR SOURCE



PREVENTION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CHILD WELFARE SUMMIT



WORKING TOGETHER TO CREATE LASTING IMPROVEMENT IN CHILD WELFARE

Updates since April 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

Refresher: 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?

4 QUESTIONS PROGRAM APPROACH

Update: The 4 questions continue to be shared with courts and law enforcement and most recently have been added to the Team Decision Making meetings and shared with local schools



**Before removing a child from a home,
have you asked:**



1. What can we do to remove the **danger** instead of the child?



2. Can someone the child or family knows **move into the home** to remove the danger?



3. Can the caregiver and the child go **live with a relative or family friend**?



4. Could the child **move temporarily** to live with a relative or family friend?

DCF REGIONAL 4-QUESTIONS UPDATES

BUILDING AWARENESS WITH SCHOOLS AND OTHER LOCAL HELPING ORGANIZATIONS

- Sparked from A DCF intern, Northeast created care packages to share with schools that include a QR code and video NE Four Questions Video on Vimeo
- KC, Northwest and Southwest doing lunch and learns or community meetings for stakeholders.
- Southeast Region doing lunch and learns on the 4 questions with courts in September.
- Wichita Region counties will have in all court reports by 1/1/25



PLACEMENT STABILITY

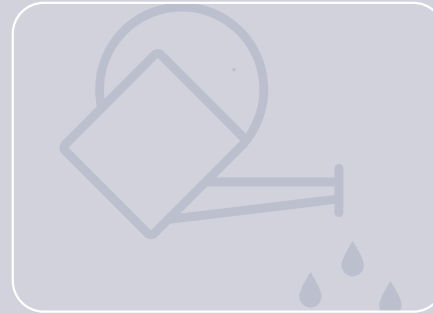
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2023 REPORT: TOP THREE ROOT CAUSE REASONS FOR PLACEMENT INSTABILITY



Community Prevention

- Inadequate prevention resources for older youth



Front Door to Child Welfare is Too Wide

- Due to a lack of understanding of the role of foster care



Foster Care Placements

- Lack of placements for high needs youth

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INTERVENTION, TESTING, PILOTING AND STAGING A PATHWAY TO CHANGE

Community Prevention Implementation

- Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) now statewide
- Four (4) questions initial implementation
- Family Resource Centers
- Building in-home supports such as Childrens Behavior Interventionist via Medicaid

THE CENTER FOR STATES

INTERVENTION, TESTING, PILOTING AND STAGING A PATHWAY TO CHANGE

Narrowing the
Front Door:
preventing the
need for foster
care

- Multi Systemic therapy now statewide
- Educating law enforcement and schools on four (4) questions
- Family Resource Centers
- Dialogue around legal standards for removal

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COMMUNITY PREVENTION AND NARROWING THE FRONT DOOR BY THE NUMBERS

Reports involving a presenting situation of a family in need of behavior health support for their child.

- There was an **18% decrease** in overall reports received about child behavior problems (compare month March 2023, 775 with and March 2024, 637).
- Overall, there is a **15% decrease** in the monthly average number of child behavior problem reports assigned from SFY 2023 (average of 347) to SFY 2024 (average of 296).

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COMMUNITY PREVENTION AND NARROWING THE FRONT DOOR BY THE NUMBERS

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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INTERVENTION, TESTING, PILOTING AND STAGING A PATHWAY TO CHANGE

Placement Stability and foster care Placements for older youth

- Family Origins relative caregiver supports
- Grants for Therapeutic FC
- 23 foster homes licensed to care for youth with therapeutic needs
- Family Finding system augmentation
- Pressley Ridge curriculum with group care providers
- Interconnected systems conversations in the child welfare summit

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PLACEMENT STABILITY LEADING FOR RESULTS WORKGROUP 2.0 EFFORTS

The Leading for Results 2.0 groups (Year 2 of the Center's help)

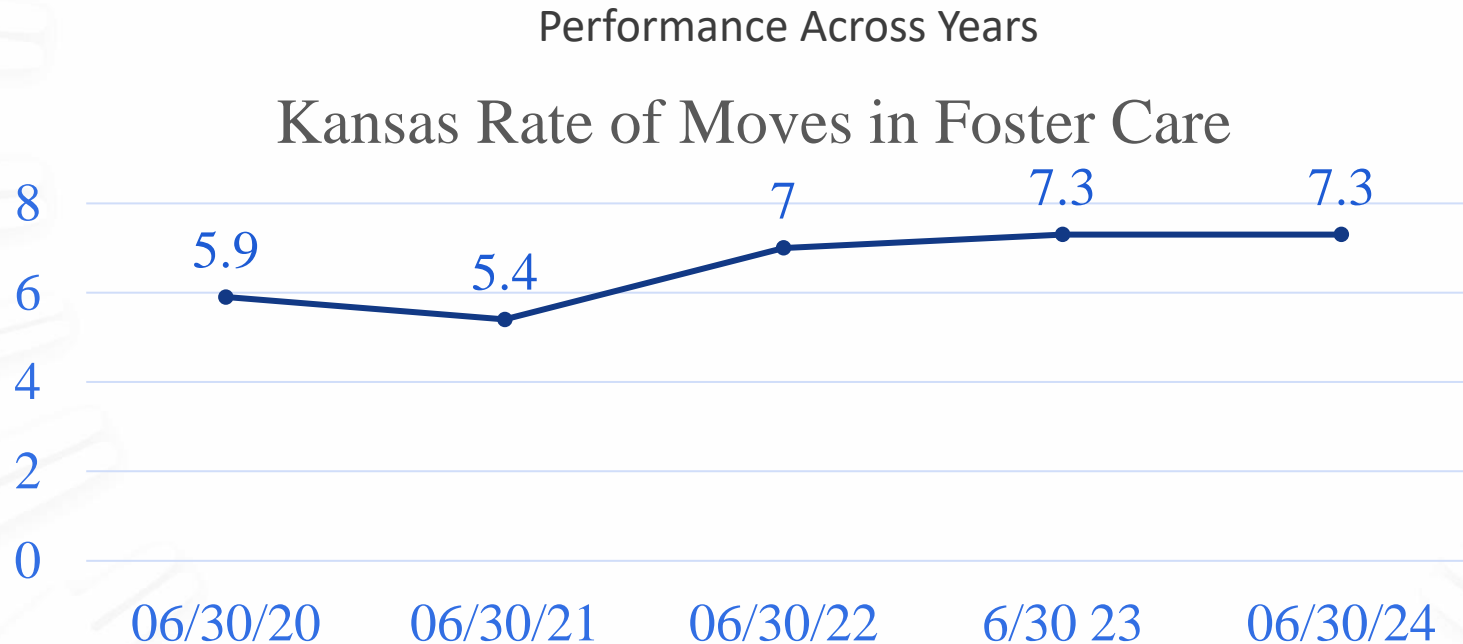
- Focused on regional work customized to their challenges, with administration and Center support for their local projects focused in on local data.
 - Conducting analysis of reason for entry into care for children with high number of moves
 - Exploring approaches or models that increase support from child Placing Agencies within the first 3 days of a new placement to support stability
 - Engaged a peer to learning exchange with State of Ohio regarding supports to relative placement providers.

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PLACEMENT STABILITY FEDERAL MEASURE:

Performance Progress : Achieve a rate of moves over the first 1,000 days of care at 4.4 or less

Current: July of SFY25 (July 2024) shows slight statewide decrease in the rate of moves to 7.2.



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PLACEMENT STABILITY FEDERAL MEASURE: A RATE OF MOVES AT 4.4 OR LESS

Performance Progress : Achieve a rate of moves over the first 1,000 days of care at 4.8 or less

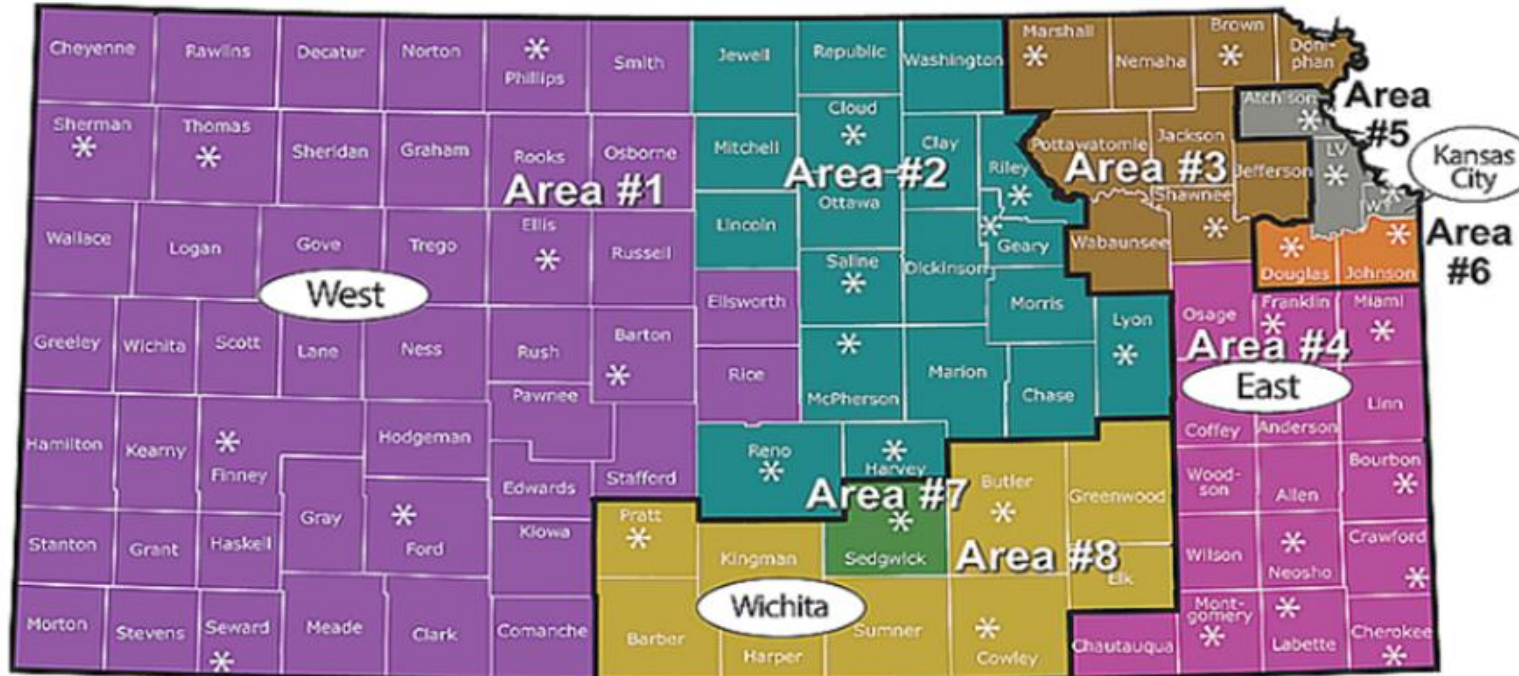
TFI in Area 4, southeast Kansas, met performance in June 2024

June 2024 Performance	Placement Stability Rate
Area 1 – Saint Francis	5.7
Area 2 - Saint Francis	11.3
Area 3 - KVC	8.6
Area 4 - TFI	4.1
Area 5 - Cornerstones of Care	10.6
Area 6 - KVC	6.4
Area 7 – Saint Francis (in SFY24)	6.9
Area 8 - TFI	5.3

FOSTER CARE UPDATES

FOSTER CARE CASE MANAGEMENT 7/1/24

FOSTER CARE CONTRACT EFFECTIVE 7/1/24



* DCF Service Center		DCF Regions	
1	St. Francis Ministries	3	KVC
2	St. Francis Ministries	4	TFI
5	Cornerstones of Care	7	EmberHope
6	KVC	8	TFI

EMBERHOPE TRANSITION

WORKFORCE UPDATE

- 84% staffed as of 8/28/24.
- Recently added permanency specialists for families whose children are placed at home, which impacted the staffing level percentage.
- Highlight: focused efforts to improve placement stability for a set of children in families experiencing high needs.
 - Two Comcare clinicians are co-located at EHC sites (one at the Family Engagement Center and one at the Connect 4 Success site in Goddard). Comcare is the area 7 local community mental health center which is also a fully Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic. EHC has signed an MOU with KU School of Medicine and EHC is early in the process of consulting with them about complex youth with Autism in night-to-night placements.

FAMILY TREATMENT COURTS (FTC)



FOSTER CARE UPDATES

Family-centered court dockets for cases of child maltreatment in which parental substance use is a contributing factor. The Chief Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court is convening local implementation teams focused on FTC to reduce the time in care.

- Outcomes: Recovery, Reunification, (no) Repeat Maltreatment or Re-Entry, Remain at Home.
- Local teams visited Oklahoma courts this spring.
- Cowley: Starts 9/20/24 so that families can begin to be referred.
- Lyon: Next implementation meeting is 9/10/24. 4-5 families have been identified
- Miami : Starts 9/1/24 and when families are identified, docket will be on Mondays.

CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (IDD)

I/DD IN FOSTER CARE

FOSTER CARE RATE STRUCTURE



In October 2019, DCF implemented a statewide rate structure to provide consistent reimbursement to placement providers who meet the daily needs of children experiencing foster care.

The DCF rate structure includes a general schedule of rates, as well as a second schedule of rates available only to youth who have been assessed as eligible and placed on the waitlist for the HCBS I/DD Waiver.

While there is reserved capacity for youth with I/DD placed in foster care, some children remain on the waiting list as they are otherwise receiving services (ex: school), family choice, waiver capacity, or waiver household rules requiring an exception be granted.

I/DD IN FOSTER CARE

FOSTER CARE RATE STRUCTURE



To ensure I/DD waiver eligible youth who have not accessed the waiver through an exception can access disability related services, the DCF I/DD Tier rates encompass 3 separate things:

1. A foster care maintenance payment (which goes to the placement provider to support care of the child)
2. An Administrative Rate (which is paid to the CPA to provide supports to the placement provider)
3. Service payment (goes to the placement provider to be used to purchase services which would have otherwise been provided by the active waiver)

Payments for categories 1 and 3 are made directly to the placement provider in a monthly lump sum for youth receiving a DCF I/DD Tier rate as a result of being on the waitlist. Payments for categories 1 and 2 are made on behalf of all youth placed in licensed foster homes.

When a youth becomes active on the waiver (receiving waiver services) the additional DCF funding for services drops off and the home receives a lower total check.

I/DD IN FOSTER CARE



FOSTER CARE RATE STRUCTURE - CONTINUED

The current foster care maintenance payment provided for each child on any DCF I/DD Tier rate is set at approximately \$25 per day (roughly equivalent to the Basic 1 daily rate). The rates provide service funds in amounts correlating to the KDADS rate schedule so placement providers caring for waitlisted youth can procure disability related services for them.

When determining eligibility for the HCBS I/DD Waiver, KDADS uses the BASIS tool. When a child is assessed as eligible and placed on the waiver waitlist, the CMP uses the results of the BASIS assessment to determine the youth's DCF I/DD Tier level of care. This tool will be replaced in the future with the MFEI assessment tool which would require an eventual revision to the rate chart as well.

Any child not on the HCBS I/DD waiver waitlist, including those who are not on the waitlist due to accessing the waiver, are assessed by the CMP to determine the level of care.

Experience shows that most of the youth actively receiving services through the I/DD waiver score at either Intensive 1 or Intensive 2. There is an exception process in place if the family has additional needs which are not met by the standard rate chart or if the needs of the youth change.

I/DD IN FOSTER CARE

RATE CORRECTION



In July of 2023, DCF provided notification to CMP's and CPA's that a procedural oversight had been discovered regarding I/DD Tier service payments rates where youth on the waiver were receiving both the waiver services and the DCF service payment.

This was due to no consistent process in place to identify youth in the custody of the Secretary who leave the waitlist to access the waiver through an exception so rates could be adjusted accordingly.

After a review, 37 youth were discovered to be receiving both full DCF I/DD Tier service payments and services provided through the HCBS I/DD waiver.

DCF outlined the issue, possible resolutions, and allowed the Case Management Providers to collaborate with guardian, placement and care teams for a 6-8 month period before communicating a final determination back to DCF of which option was in the best interest of the youth.

I/DD IN FOSTER CARE

WORK GROUP



To catch future instances of youth moving from the waitlist to the waiver and to fill needs made evident by this incident, a work group was created to better assist foster placements of waiver youth.

Parties include DCF and KDADS staff and representatives from both the Disability Rights Center and Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities. They meet next in October.

The work group is assessing several details surrounding this scenario including:

- Consistent process to identify youth who have moved off the waiver through exception
- Understanding KDADS on capacity to move youth onto the waiver
- Reconfiguration of the DCF Rate structure for youth with I/DD
 - How waiver youth who are unable to access services due to capacity may still have their disability needs met.
- Resolving the number of youth in care on the waitlist versus the waiver
 - August 2024 youth on I/DD waiver waitlist: 243
 - July 2024 youth on I/DD waiver: 29
 - July 2024 youth on TA waiver: 30

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

HB 2381 DCF FOLLOW UP



TITLE IV-E LEGAL REPRESENTATION REIMBURSEMENT ILLUSTRATION

In August 2024, DCF notified OJA and Tribes of our intent to take advantage of the federal fund opportunity. and will begin to work with counties after OJA initial meeting.

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.
- In other words, a county incurs the balance of cost not received through federal IV-E reimbursement.

S.O.U.L. INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION



SUPPORT – OPPORTUNITY – UNITY – LEGAL RELATIONSHIPS

- Effective 7/1/24
- 5 training sessions:
- Booster sessions and advanced topic workshops planned for Fall 2024
- As of August, no youth yet have had the permanency goal change to SOUL. Data is reviewed monthly.

CCWIS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL UPDATES

The new system would standardize programmatic practices, lead to consistent and improved services, and lead to more informed management decisions.

- The project includes 3 RFPs, internal staff costs, hardware and licenses. RFPs are:
 - Design, Development and Implementation (DDI),
 - Quality Assurance Contractor (QI), and
 - Independent Verification and Validation Contractor (IVV).
- The Design Development, and Implementation RFP is the largest, providing most of the work.
- Bidders have been narrowed with reviews and documents being completed with Department of Administration and the federal agency toward a contract award in 2024.
- Because the project is currently under a competitive bid process, we are unable to give additional details.

QUESTIONS?
