

Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families

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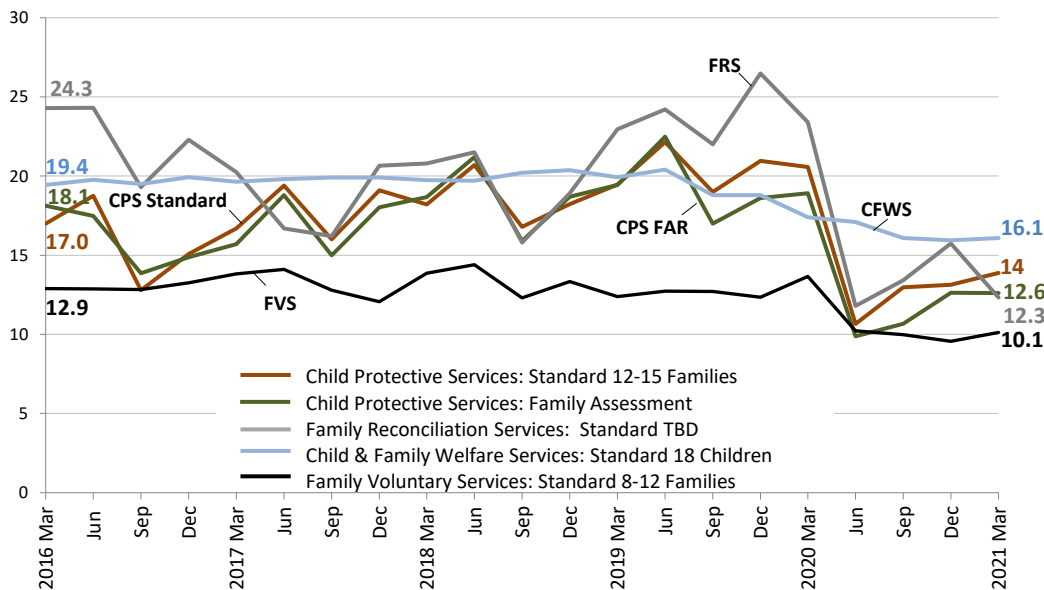
Department of Children, Youth, and Families



DCYF clients receive protective services

Average active caseload for Child Welfare social workers

Caseload average for case carrying social workers (CPS, FVS, FRS, CFWS) - Statewide Ratio



SUMMARY

- This measure displays data from the on-line child welfare caseload report, which is designed to display caseload by major program area and help us examine caseload and staffing differently than in the past.
- March 2021 data shows 1,105 direct service social workers serve 16,196 cases. Except for the Child & Family Welfare Services program which counts children, case counts are the number of families served. Program areas are at or near suggested caseload standards with the exception of Child Protective Services (CPS).
- More than half of the total caseload (60.7%) is in the Child and Family Welfare Services program, 18.6% in the Child Protective Services program, and 15.8% in the Child Protective Services Family Assessment program. Family Voluntary Services (3.3%) and Family Reconciliation Service (1.6%) make up the rest of the caseload for direct services case carrying staff.

ACTION PLAN

- This report helps managers determine and monitor case assignments, and more appropriately target caseload reduction strategies, as well as better describe who we are serving and determine trends.
- Request local Human Resources staff to provide lists of recently (within the past 6 months) retired, transferred or separated staff to the Regions within 5 days. The Regions will contact these identified staff to ask if they are interested in returning to employment with DCYF in a non-permanent capacity.
- Deploy program management staff with CPS experience to the field.
- Offer overtime to CPS staff and other DCYF staff with recent CPS experience to complete casework and close cases.

DATA SOURCE: FamLink On-Line Workload Report; supplied by Alisha Vilela, Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

MEASURE DEFINITION: Average caseload assigned to case carrying social workers in the major program areas. These programs include Child Protective Services Standard, Child Protective Services Family Assessment, Child and Family Welfare Services, Family Voluntary Services, and Family Reconciliation Services. The program ratio (average) is based on the number of 'cases' based on assignments counted in the report divided by the number of workers, by program type.

DATA NOTES: 1 Core Metrics chart shows the last month of each quarter. 2 "Total workers" does not include homestudies workers who were transitioned to a specialized caseload under the supervision of the Division of Licensed Resources (DLR). *Click below for additional data notes.*

TO DATA: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/data/metrics/C1.1.xlsx>

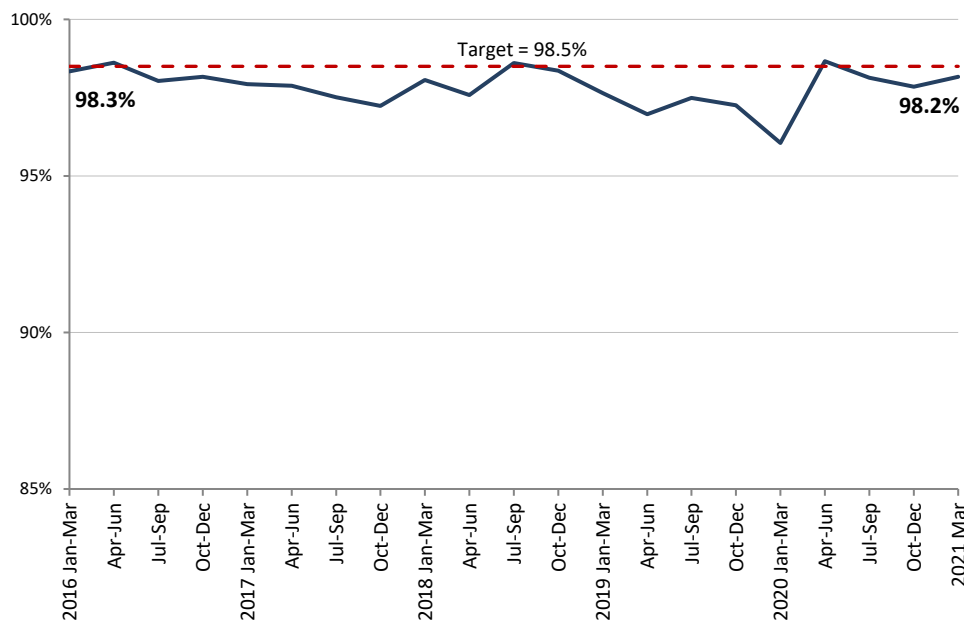
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DCYF clients receive protective services

Percent of alleged child victims in emergent Child Protective Service intakes who were seen by a social worker within 24 hours of the intake

Statewide Average



SUMMARY

- Statewide in the quarter January to March 2021, 98.2% of children in intakes requiring an emergency response (4,988 out of 5,081 children) were seen or attempts made within 24 hours.
- The initial response time may be longer than 24 hours when:
 - Based on new information gathered throughout the intake process, the screening decision is changed from 72 hour response or an alternate intervention to 24 hour emergency response to ensure child safety.
 - Supervisory approved extensions are not yet documented. (Approved extensions include when law enforcement takes the lead on investigations, delaying a DSHS response, and when a neutral setting is required for safe access to a child.)

DATA SOURCE: InfoFamLink; supplied by Alisha Vilela, Department of Children, Youth, and Families.
MEASURE DEFINITION: Rate of child victims in emergent referrals (response within 24 hours) seen or attempted within policy requirements.
DATA NOTES: 1 Alleged victims in CPS referrals with a documented face-to-face visit or attempt within policy expectations. Excludes DLR-CPS intakes and alleged victims with exclusions or extensions.

TO DATA: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/data/metrics/C1.3.xlsx>

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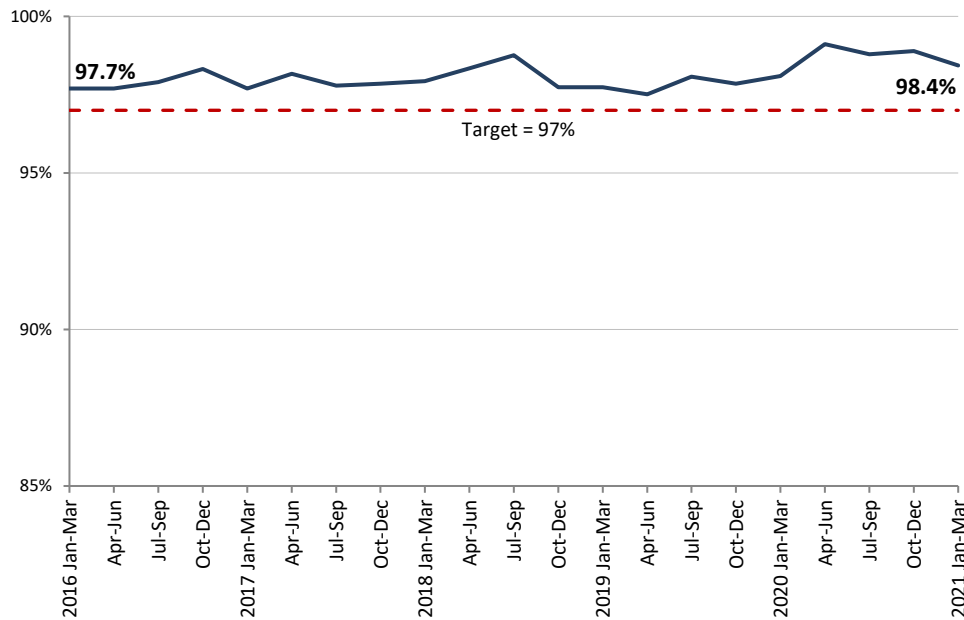


DCYF clients receive protective services

Percent of alleged child victims in Child Protective Service non-emergent intakes who were seen by a social worker within 72 hours of the intake

Statewide Average

SUMMARY



DATA SOURCE: InfoFamLink Initial Face to Face (IFF) Report; supplied by Alisha Vilela, Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

MEASURE DEFINITION: Rate of child victims in non-emergent referrals (response within 72 hours) seen or attempted within policy requirements.

DATA NOTES: 1 Victims in CPS referrals with a documented face-to-face visit or attempt within policy expectations. Excludes DLR-CPS.

TO DATA: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/data/metrics/C1.4.xlsx>

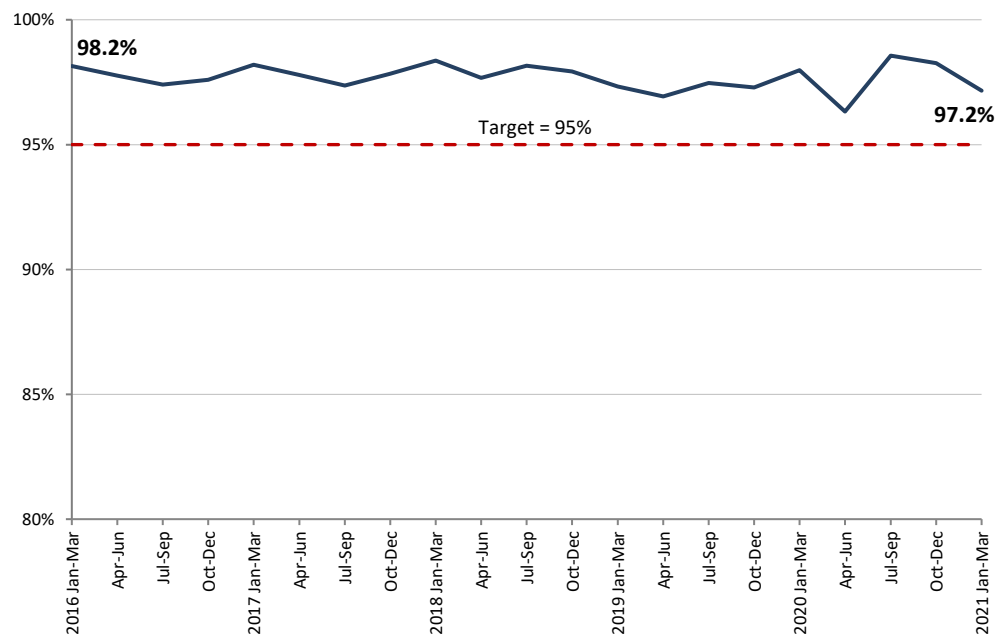
Department of Children, Youth, and Families



DCYF clients receive protective services

Percent of children in placement who received a visit to evaluate their health and safety during a calendar month they were in care

Statewide Average



SUMMARY

- 97.2% of children requiring health and safety visits—25,919 children out of 26,678—were visited in the quarter 2021 January-March.

DATA SOURCE: FamLink; infoFamLink 9-26-12; supplied by Alisha Vilela, Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

MEASURE DEFINITION: This measure evaluates whether or not a child in an out-of-home placement or an in-home dependency received a health and safety visit from their social worker during a single calendar month.

DATA NOTES: **1** Population includes children in out-of-home placement and on a trial home visit under the age of 18, their placement or visit was open during the entire month (in placement on the 1st day of the month and no discharge during the month), and currently in DCFS care and custody. **2** Includes visits by others (e.g., Child Placing Agency, Interstate Compact). Excludes attempted visits. *Click below for additional data notes.*

TO DATA: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/data/metrics/C1.5.xlsx>

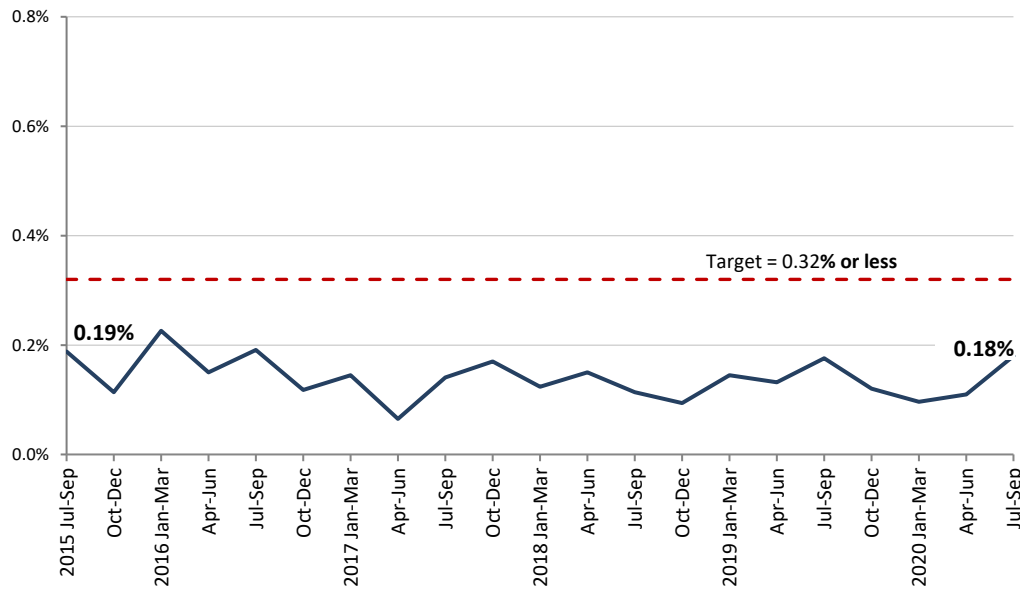
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DCYF clients receive protective services

Percent of children in out-of-home placement who experience a founded allegation of abuse and/or neglect

Statewide Average



SUMMARY

- The national standard is 0.32 percent or less. Because the numbers are small, there can be significant variation in the regional data.
- To assure children are safe in out-of-home placements, state-authorized caregivers undergo background checks, participate in training, and receive regular health and safety checks by licensors.

DATA SOURCE: FamLink; supplied by Alisha Vilela, Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

MEASURE DEFINITION: Percent of children in out-of-home care with a founded allegation of abuse or neglect by a foster parent or facility staff person, including non-licensed relatives.

DATA NOTES: 1 The federal Child and Family Services Review standard is 0.32 percent or less. 2 Excludes parents as perpetrators.

TO DATA: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/data/metrics/C1.7.xlsx>

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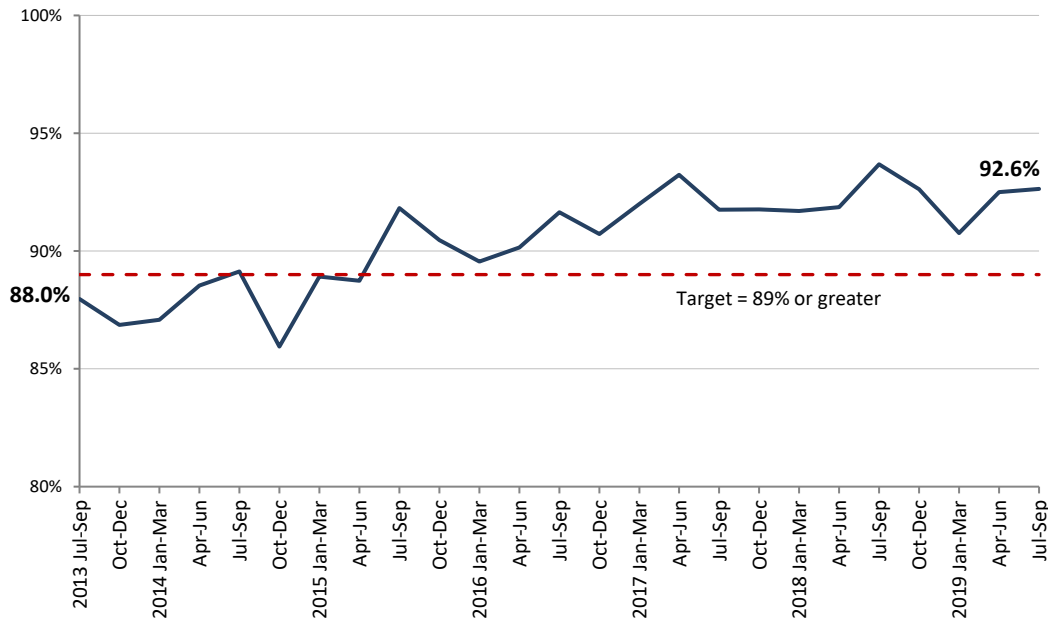
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Jay Inslee, Governor

DCYF clients receive protective services

Percent of children not re-entering placement within 12 months of reunification

Statewide

SUMMARY



DATA SOURCE: FamLink; supplied by Alisha Vilela, Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

MEASURE DEFINITION: The percent of children not re-entering placement within 12 months of reunification.

DATA NOTES: 1 Excludes children returned to care from in-home dependencies through the first 6 months of trial return home.

TO DATA: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/data/metrics/C1.8.xlsx>

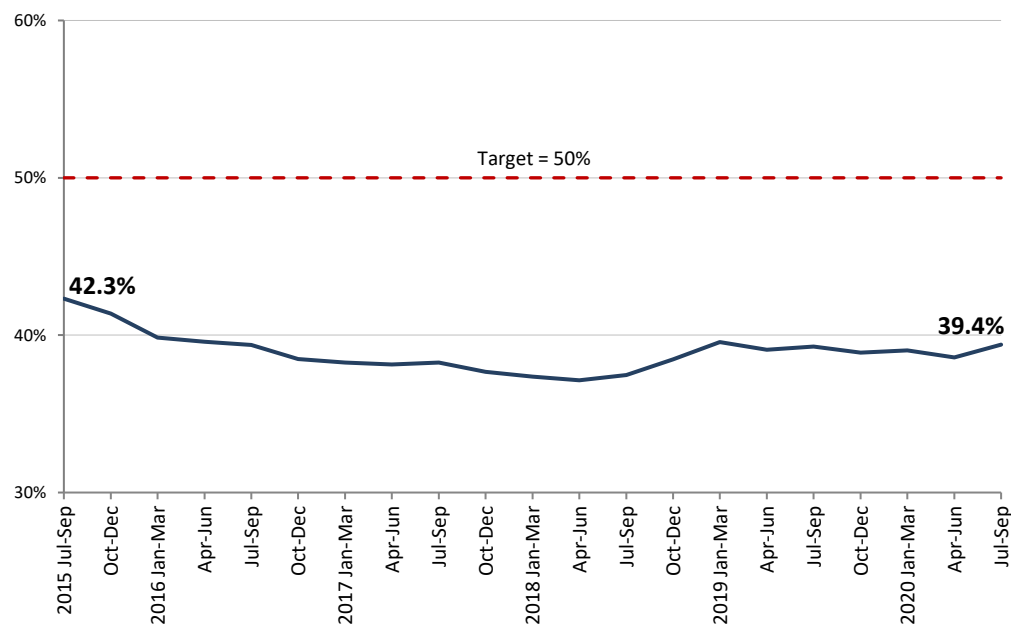
Department of Children, Youth, and Families



Improve stability of living situation

Percent of all children currently in care for at least 1 year who have not moved within 12 months of their previous move or their entry into placement

Statewide



DATA SOURCE: FamLink; supplied by Alisha Vilela, Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

MEASURE DEFINITION: The percent of all children in care for at least 1 year who have not moved within 12 months of their previous move or their entry into placement.

DATA NOTES: **1** Based on open/exit cohorts for a given reporting period for children in care with LOS >= 1 year. **2** Uses Washington State exclusion rules that classifies more moves as temporary and excludes them from the count of moves in comparison to the Federal measure. **3** Excludes children > 17 as of the beginning of the cohort period. **4** Return Home for this measure is defined as the start of a Trial Return Home or the date of formal discharge from care, whichever comes first.

TO DATA: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/data/metrics/C2.1.xlsx>

SUMMARY

- Less than half (39.4 percent) of the children in out-of-home care for at least a year have remained in the same placement for the past 12 months in care.
- While placement stability and continuity is important for children's personal development and achievement, some placement moves are positive, such as transitions to relative care, adoptive homes, or to other permanent settings.
- Placements with relatives generally are the most stable of the placement types for children who need out-of-home care (other types include foster and group care).
- Social workers use Family Team Decision Making meetings when making placement decisions. If a child changes placement within a 6 month period, it must be explained to the courts. Regional administrators must approve most placement moves for children who have been in the same homes for 12 months or longer.

ACTION PLAN

- Increase supports for relatives caring for children in the child welfare system, including creating regional teams to address licensing barriers and providing staff and caregiver training to meet the unique needs of relatives caring for children.
- Revise minimum licensing standards to simplify language so rules are easily understood and to provide flexibility in meeting standards while assuring child safety.

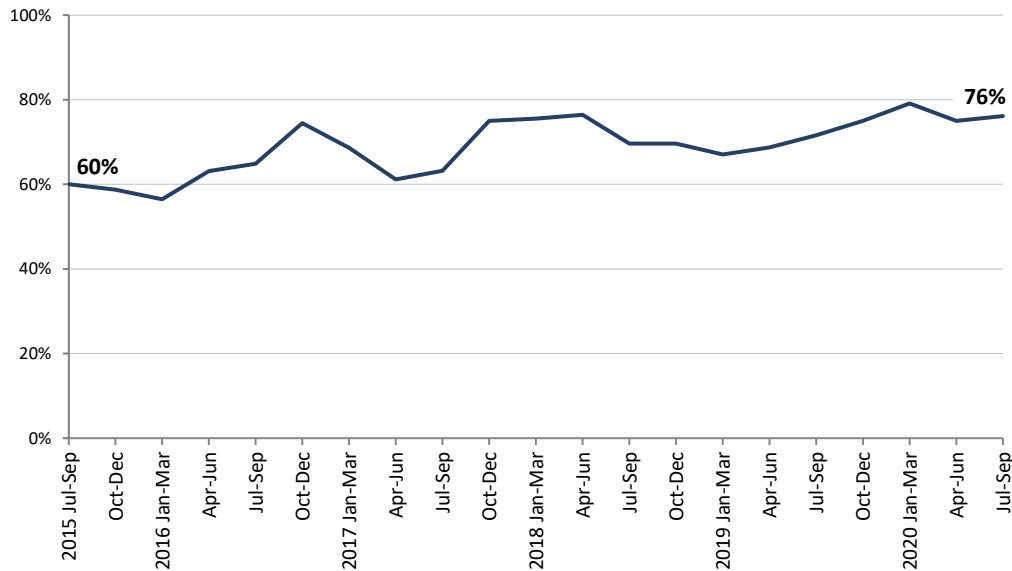
Department of Children, Youth, and Families



Improve stability of living situation

Percent of youth transitioned to independence who had no placement moves during their last year in care

Statewide Average



SUMMARY

- Well-supported licensed and unlicensed persons caring for children in the child welfare system are more likely to remain committed to the children and youth in their care.
- Social workers convene a multi-disciplinary staffing meeting six months prior to a youth exiting foster care to address issues related to the transition and develop a transition plan. Meetings include the youth, caregiver, service providers, and others.

DATA SOURCE: FamLink; supplied by Alisha Vilela, Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

MEASURE DEFINITION: Percent of youth transitioned to independence because of age or emancipation who had no placement moves during their last year in care.

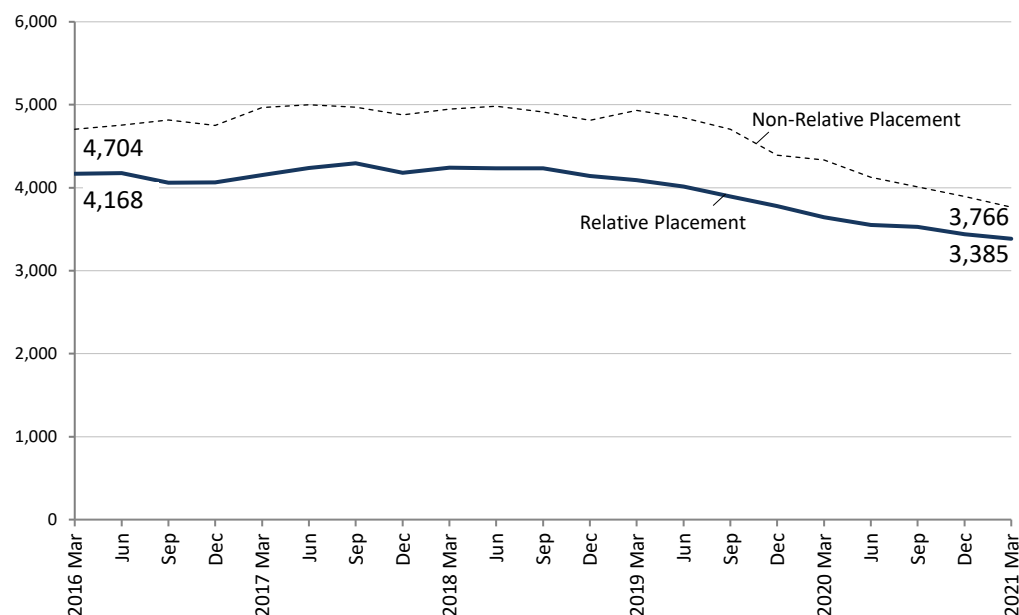
DATA NOTES: 1 Percent of youth who left foster care due to age, including emancipated youth at an earlier age. Values for all periods recalculated Oct 2010 after FAMLINK data cleanup to remove duplicate records. 2 Does not include 18-24 year olds who are voluntarily in foster care.

TO DATA: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/data/metrics/C2.2.xlsx>

Improve stability of living situation

Number of DCYF children in relative and non-relative placements

Statewide - Number of children by type of placement



DATA SOURCE: FamLink Data Warehouse, Children’s Administration Technology Services (CATS); supplied by Alisha Vilela, Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

MEASURE DEFINITION: Number of children in out-of-home care living with relative caregivers - Count of persons in out-of-home placement on the 15th day of the month. Limited to cases with full DCFS case management responsibility, and children < 18 years.

DATA NOTES: 1 Counts are for the last month of the quarter. 2 Number of children placed in licensed or unlicensed foster homes with relative caregivers of a specified degree.

TO DATA: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/data/metrics/CX.3.xlsx>

SUMMARY

- When placement of child is necessary Department of Children, Youth, and Families always places the child in the least restrictive setting available and considers relatives to be the first priority for placement.
- March 31, 2021, 47 percent of the children placed in out-of-home care were with relative caregivers – 3,385 children of the 7,151. Washington’s 47 percent relative placement rate is well above the 29 percent of children placed with relatives nationally, (AFCARS Report – July 2012).

ACTION PLAN

- Family Team Decision Making (FTDM) meetings determine the safest, least restrictive and least intrusive placement decisions for a child. The meeting ensures all available and relevant information and the perspective of birth families, community members, resources, families and agency staff are taken into consideration in all placement decisions.
- DCYF recognizes that involvement of father and paternal relatives is important to the well-being of children. Statewide DCYF has implemented an awareness campaign aimed at social workers, and information for Department of Children, Youth, and Families leadership, emphasizing the importance of fathers and paternal relatives in improving outcomes for children.

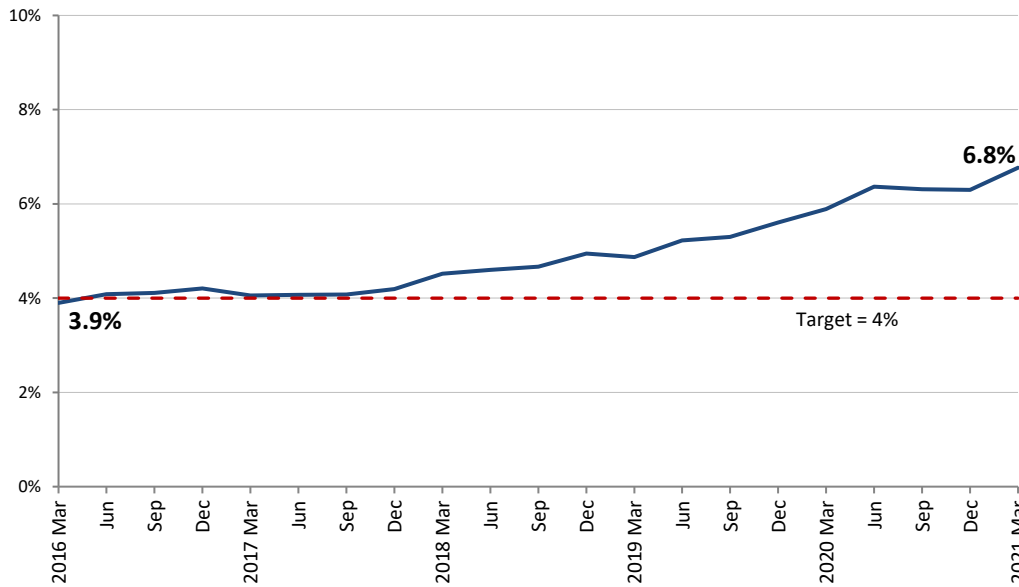
Department of Children, Youth, and Families



Improve stability of living situation

Percent of DCYF children in out-of-home placement longer than 5 years

Statewide



SUMMARY

- During 2011, in partnership with Casey Family Programs, Children’s Administration provided Permanency Roundtable Values and Skills training to CA staff and held Permanency Roundtable consultations with the focus of achieving permanency for the children in care the longest. Since this time there has been a 9 percent decline in the children in care longer than 5 years (September 2010 to March 2021).
- December 1, 2010 to the end of January 2013 a policy change regarding Voluntary Placement Agreements (VPAs) was made to limit the use of agreements to specific circumstances that are time-limited and approved as part of a short-term placement plan. The reduced use of VPAs may have impacted length of stay (LOS) because CA was utilizing the court process for placement cases in which a VPA would have been used in the past. This policy has been overturned and is expected to reduce the length of stay for children returning home.

DATA SOURCE: FamLink Data Warehouse, Children’s Administration Technology Services (CATS); supplied by Alisha Vilela, Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

MEASURE DEFINITION: Length of Stay for children in out-of-home care on the last day of the period. Limited to cases with full DCFS case management responsibility, and children < 18 years old.

DATA NOTES: 1 Counts are for the last month of the quarter.

TO DATA: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/data/metrics/CX.4.xlsx>

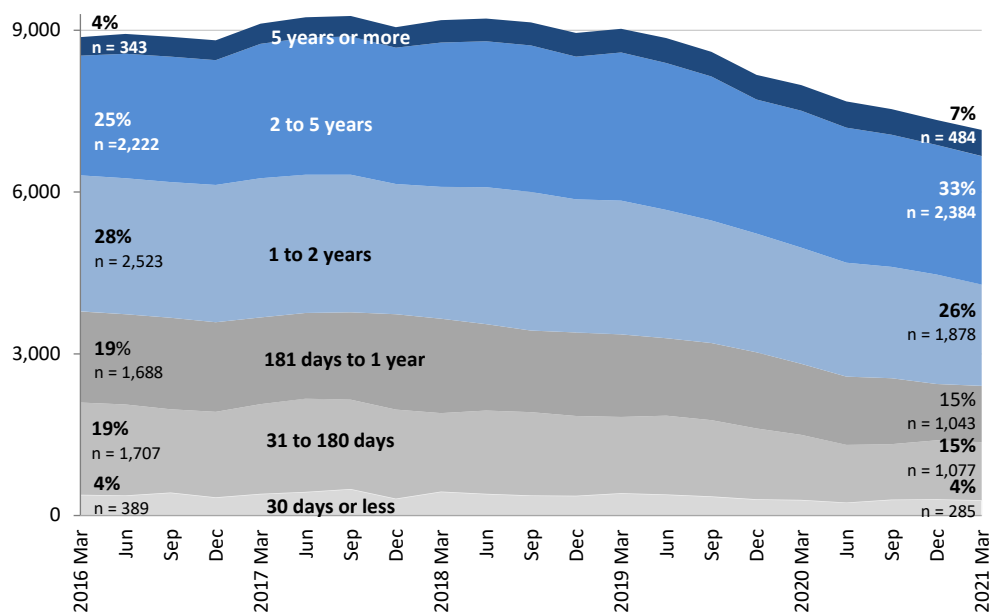
Department of Children, Youth, and Families



Improve stability of living situation

Number of DCYF Children by length of stay in out-of-home placement

Statewide



SUMMARY

- During 2011, in partnership with Casey Family Programs, Children’s Administration provided Permanency Roundtable Values and Skills training to CA staff and held Permanency Roundtable consultations with the focus of achieving permanency for the children in care the longest. Since this time there has been a 9 percent decline in the children in care longer than 5 years (September 2010 to March 2021).
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DATA SOURCE: FamLink Data Warehouse, Children’s Administration Technology Services (CATS); supplied by Alisha Vilela, Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

MEASURE DEFINITION: Length of Stay for children in out-of-home care on the last day of the period. Limited to cases with full DCFS case management responsibility, and children < 18 years old.

DATA NOTES: 1 Counts are for the last month of the quarter.

TO DATA: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/data/metrics/CX.4.xlsx>

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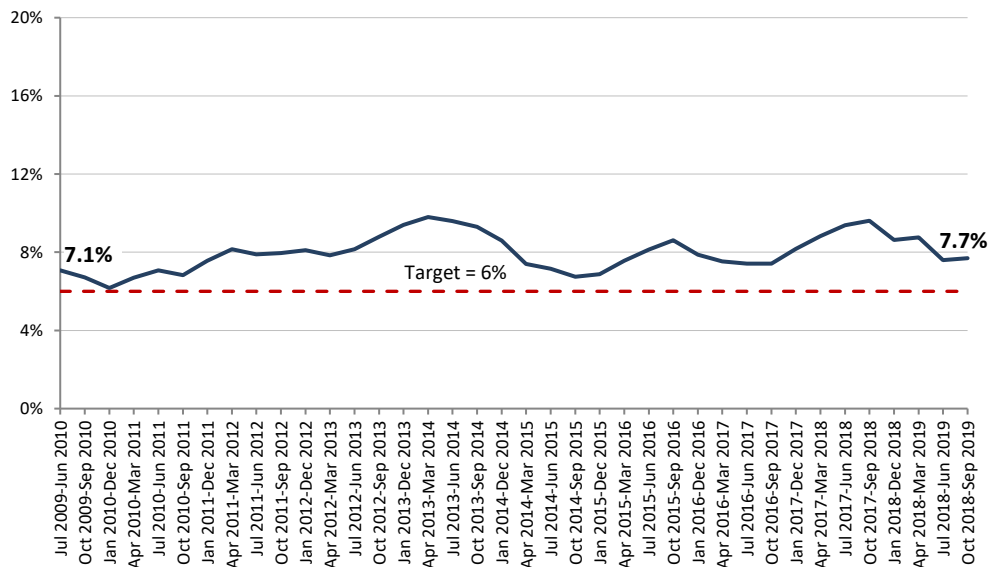


DCYF clients receive protective services

Percent of children with a founded allegation of abuse or neglect who have a new founded allegation within 12 months, excluding reports in the first 14 days

Statewide - 12 month rolling average

SUMMARY



DATA SOURCE: FamLink; supplied by Alisha Vilela, Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

MEASURE DEFINITION: Percent of children with a founded allegation of abuse or neglect who have a new founded allegation within 12 months, excluding reports in the first 14 days.

DATA NOTES: 1 Repeat maltreatment is measured by a second “founded” allegation within 12 months, excluding reports in the first 14 days. Founded means that the child has, more likely than not, been abused or neglected by a parent or caregiver. Most reports received in the first 14 days are duplicate reports of the same incident made by different reporters. The 12 month period reported is the period of the first founded allegation. Each data point shows the recurrence for the most recently available 12 month period. The measure is calculated 18 months after the end of the reporting period. *Click below for additional data notes.*

TO DATA: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/data/metrics/CX.6.xlsx>

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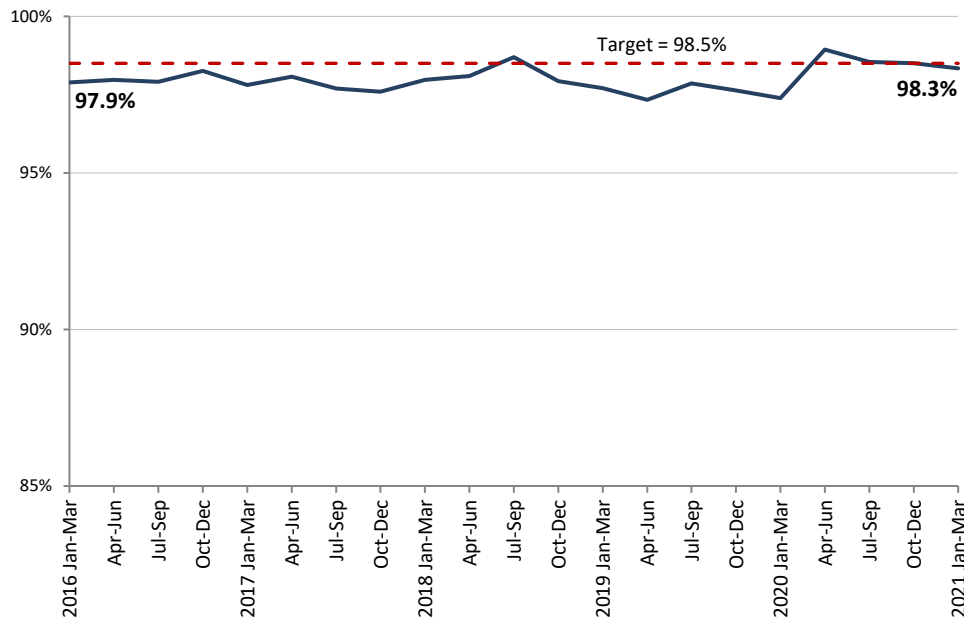


DCYF clients receive protective services

Percent of Child Protective Service responses initiated timely

Statewide Average

SUMMARY



DATA SOURCE: InfoFamLink; supplied by Alisha Vilela, Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

MEASURE DEFINITION: Rate of child victims in emergent and non-emergent referrals (response within 24 and 72 hours) seen or attempted within policy requirements.

DATA NOTES: 1 Alleged victims in CPS referrals with a documented face-to-face visit or attempt within policy expectations. Excludes DLR-CPS intakes and alleged victims with exclusions or extensions.

TO DATA: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/data/metrics/CX.9.xlsx>