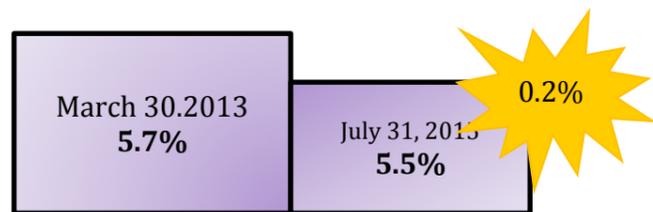


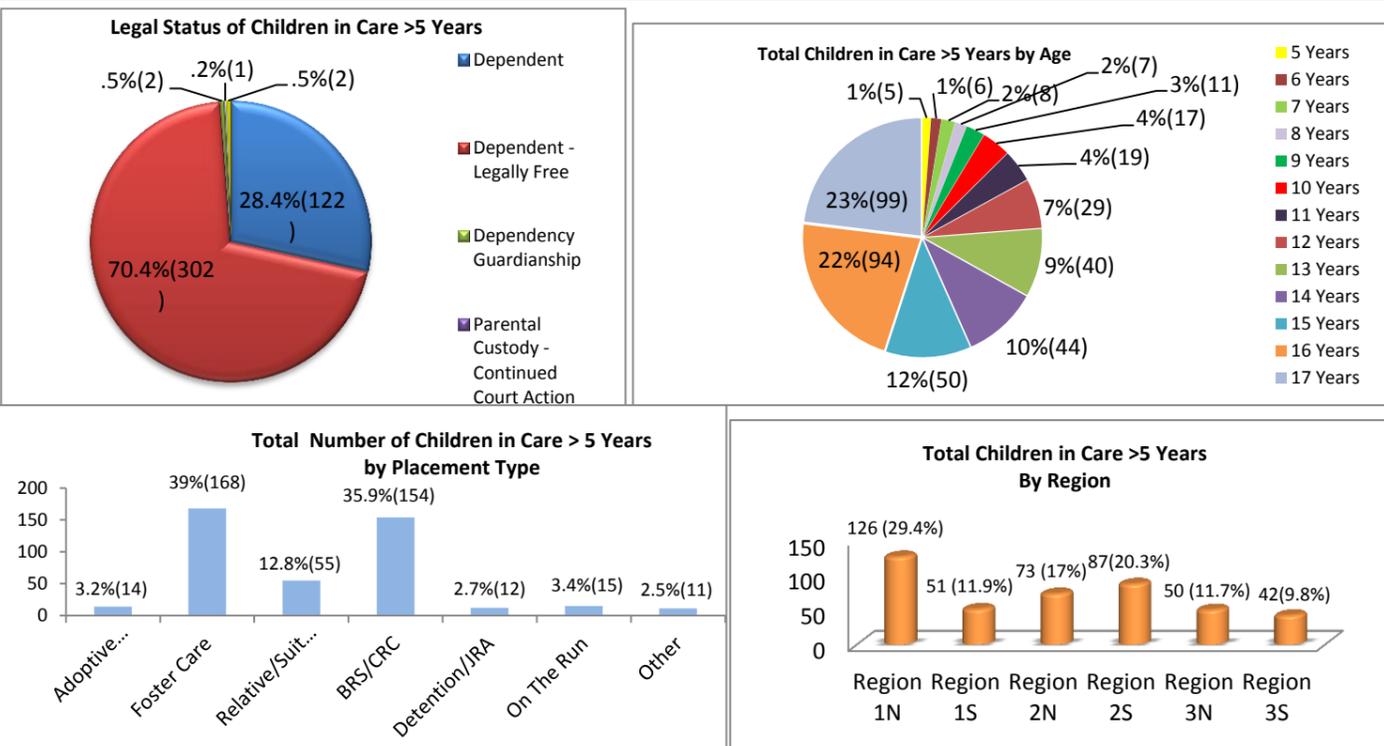
Clarify the Problem

As of March 30, 2013, 5.7% of children in out of home care with the Division of Children and Family Services had been in placement for five or more years. Children want and deserve life-long families. The Results Washington Leading Indicator goal is to decrease percentage of children in out of home care for five or more years from 5.7% to 5.5% by July 31, 2015.**



**If the total number of children in out of home care decreases, the ability to reduce the percentage (vs. the total number) will be more difficult. If the out of home population remains current, the goal would be to reduce to 374 children in care for more than five years.

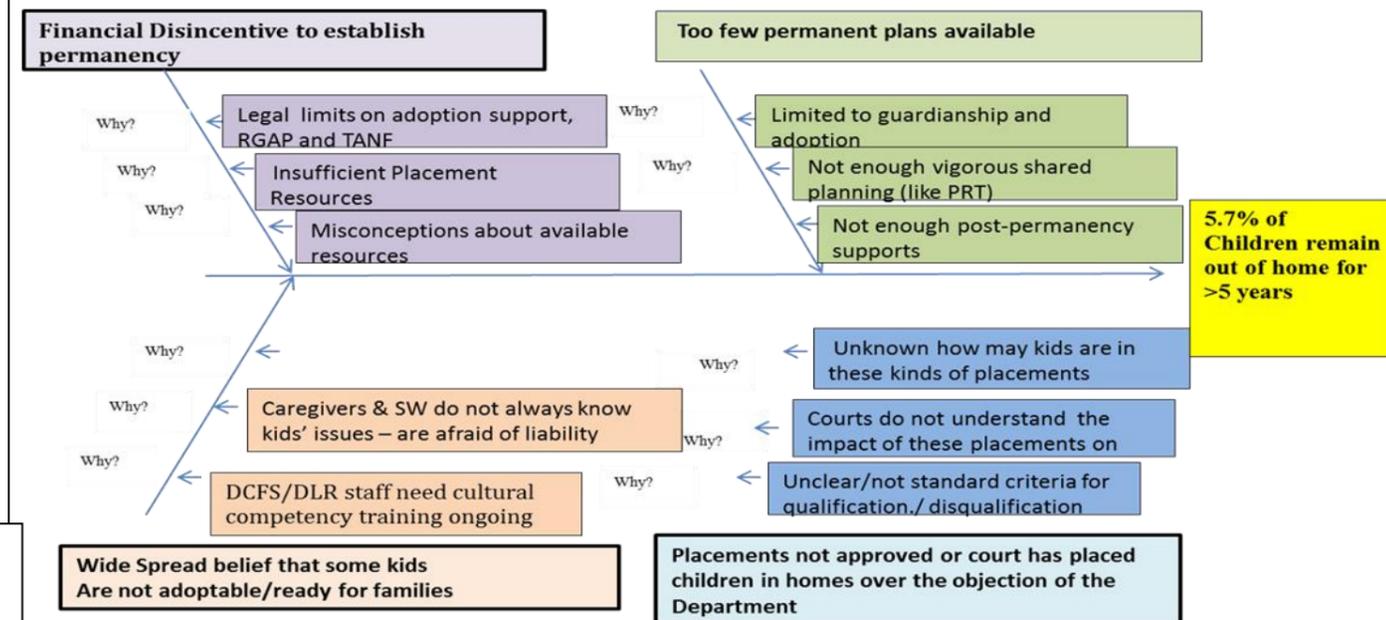
Breakdown the Problem



Target Setting



Identify Root Cause



Identify Countermeasures & Action Plan

| Root Cause | Proposed Countermeasure | Who | Status |
|--|--|-----------------------|--|
| Insufficient Placement Resources | Institute monthly RDS (Recruitment, Development, Strategy) meetings standard in every area to network with caregivers and recruit | RAs/AAs | Completed. Groups in process |
| Caregiver misconceptions about what is available post-permanency | Create a clear plain-talk hand out for caregivers detailing post-permanency benefits, eligibility, and educational benefits; make widely available and widely distributed | Debbie Lynn/ Chris K. | Completed. Document updated and posted |
| Not frequent enough vigorous shared planning (like PRTs) | Standardize/integrate Permanency Round Tables and other shared planning meetings | Chris Kerns | In process. |
| Not enough post-permanency support | Find out if it is possible to create a mechanism for IFPS (Intensive Family Preservation Services) to be approved and referred by adoption support | Melanie Meyer | In process |
| Staff unwilling/afraid to pursue permanency for ICW youth when tribes disagree w/ department | Mechanism for technical support from HQ/Regional ICW (Indian Child Welfare) staff to assist/support permanency decisions and plans | Bob Smith | In process |
| DCFS/DLR staff need ongoing cultural competency training | Continue to provide prejudice reduction training and develop plan for standard ongoing cultural competency conversations in all-staffs and supervision | Jennifer J. & Jose | Completed |
| Some youth placed in unapproved placements | Find out how many/which kids are in these homes & develop a system/team to support social workers in busting barriers (crafting argument to court/working to make home approvable) | Shawna | Updated target: 7/31/14 |
| Unclear/not standard criteria for placement or disqualification | Create a clear plain-talk hand out with criteria for qualification and disqualification on character and suitability issues and make it widely available | Edith | Policy is being updated and provides more clear guidance |
| Courts do not understand impact of unapproved homes | Work with CITA to educate courts and attorneys about these issues | Chris R. | In process |

Evaluate Results Standardize , then Repeat