

OCFS Child Welfare Monthly Indicators

October 2019

CHILD WELFARE

The Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) focuses on preserving families and preventing the need to place youth outside of their homes. When youth must be removed from their homes to ensure their safety, efforts are made to return the youth home as soon as it is safely possible or to place them with another permanent family. Other permanent families may include adoptive families, guardians, or relatives who obtain legal custody.

While in foster care, OCFS's goal is to place youth in the least restrictive placement necessary. Page 2 shows the youth in care placed with a relative and those placed in a higher level of care, residential or therapeutic foster care. Page 3 provides a summary of the number of child protective intake reports of child abuse and neglect that have been received and the number assigned for assessment or alternative response. Page 3 also shows the federal measures for youth exiting DHHS custody.

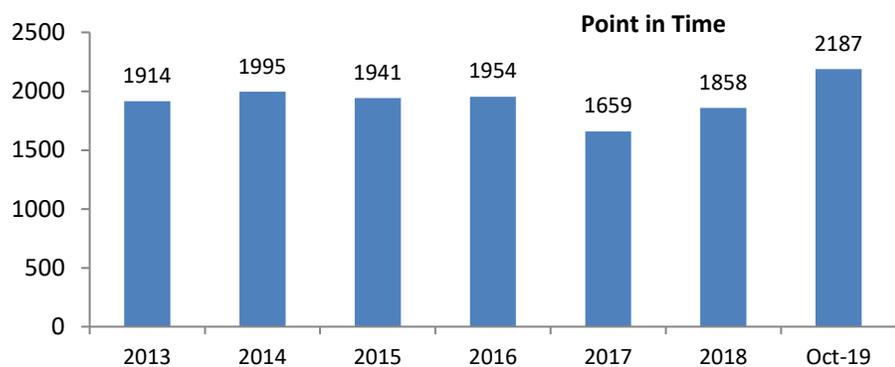
Page 4 shows the number of open service cases by district. Service cases are opened to provide services to families to prevent youth from entering custody.

Indicators

Youth in DHHS Custody (Point in Time)

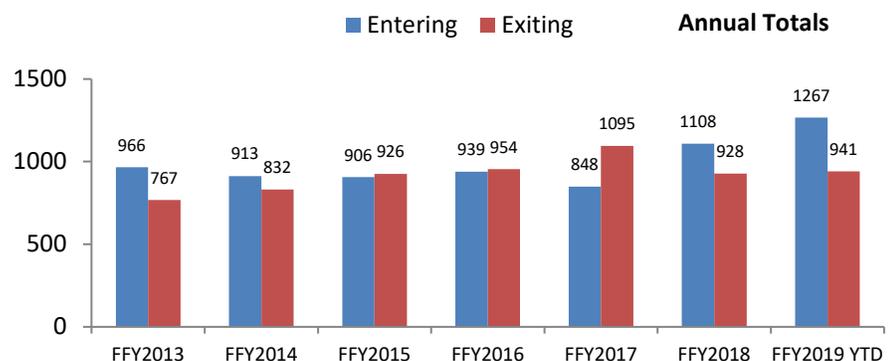
This chart shows the number of youth in care as of October of each year as well as the current month. Since FFY17 there has been a steady increase in the number of youths in custody. **In FFY18, there was a 12% increase followed by another 18% increase in FFY19.**

**Includes youth over age 18 on a V9 agreement*



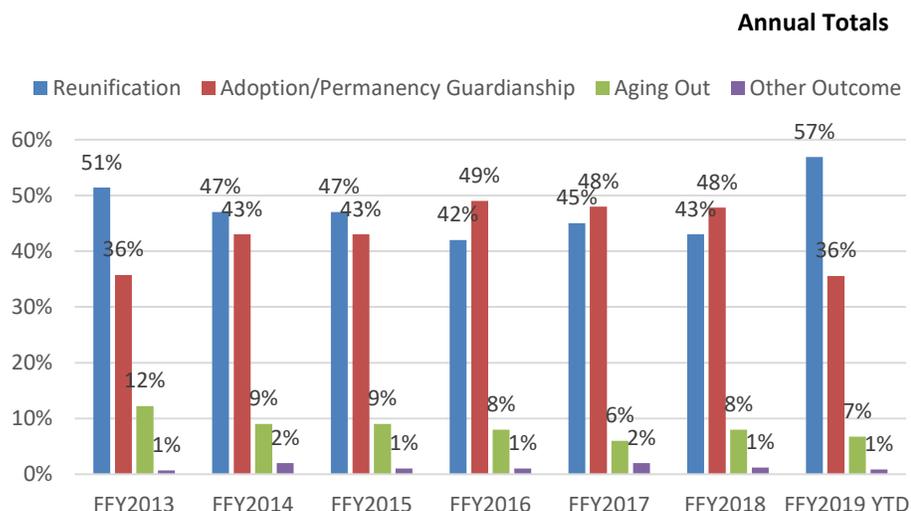
Youth Entering and Exiting DHHS Custody

In FFY13 and FFY14, the number of youth entering care exceeded the number of youth exiting care contributing to the increase youth in care. FFY15 and FFY16 had relatively equal numbers entering as exiting which contributes to the population holding steady. In FFY17 there were 252 more youth exiting as entering which contributes to the decrease in population in FFY17. **During FFY18 and FFY19 more youth entered custody than exited custody which attributed to the overall increase in the population.**



Outcomes for Youth Exiting DHHS Custody

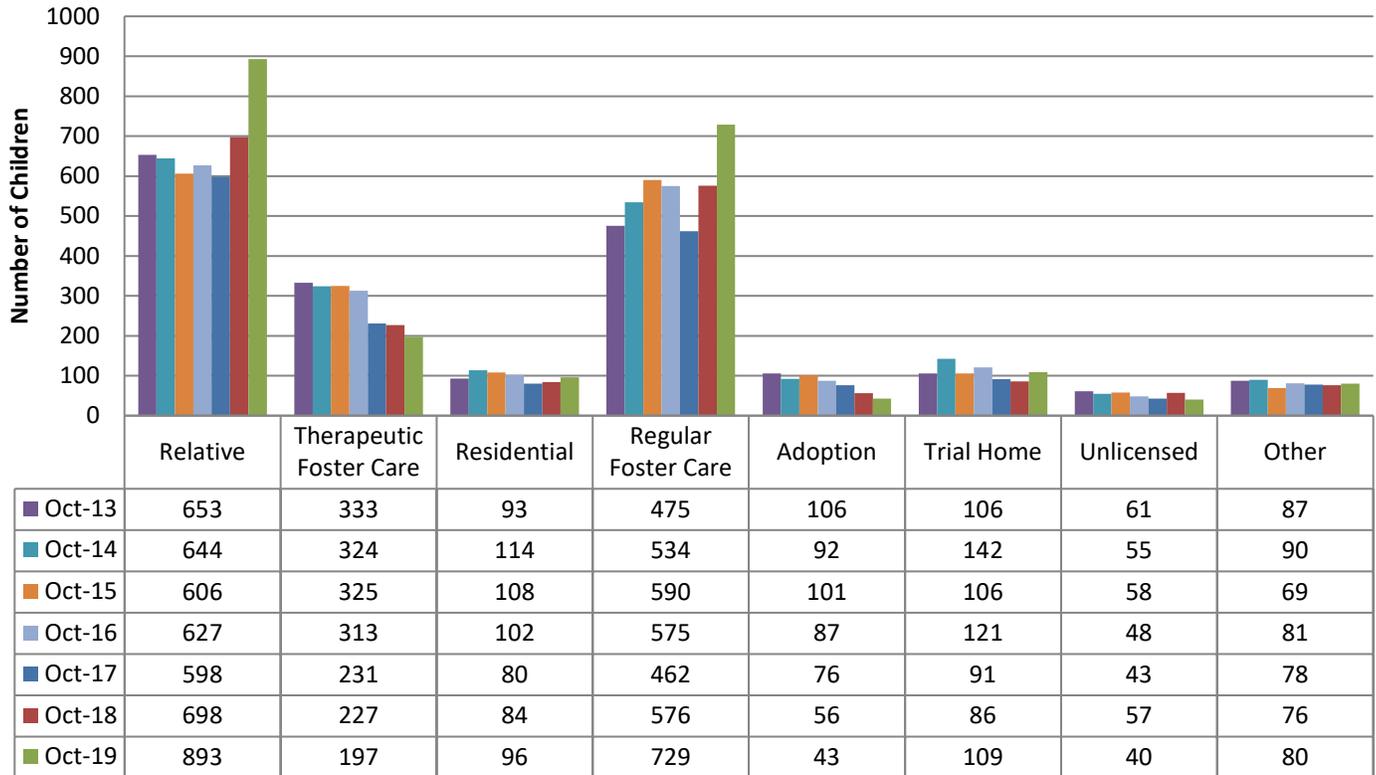
Reunification is defined as custody being returned to a parent(s) or relative(s). Aging out includes youth that exit care after the age of 18 that did not achieve a permanent outcome. On average, between FFY13 and FFY18, 90% of youth achieved permanency through reunification, adoption, or permanency guardianship. **Of the 941 youths that exited in FFY19, 36% were placed with adoptive or permanency guardianship families and 57% were reunified.**



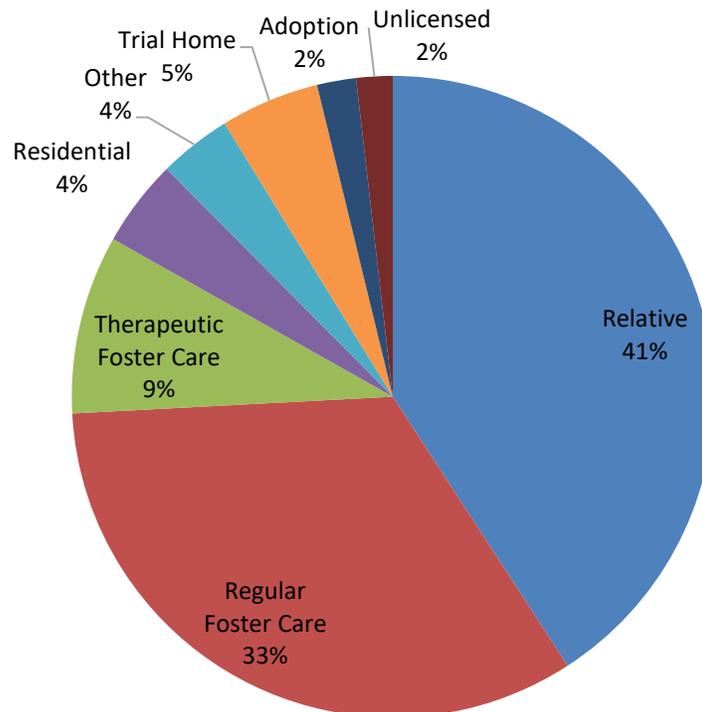
Youth in DHHS Custody by Placement Type

While in foster care, the Department's goal is to place youth in the least restrictive placement necessary. The following chart shows the number of youth by placement type as of October of each year compared to the current month.

PLACEMENTS (Point in Time)



Placements (October 2019)



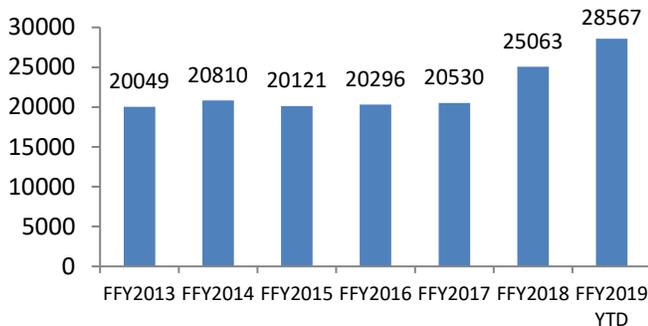
Child Protective Services

The following is a summary of the number of referrals to Child Protective Services and the number assigned for a Child Protective Services assessment or assigned to a Contract Agency for assessment.

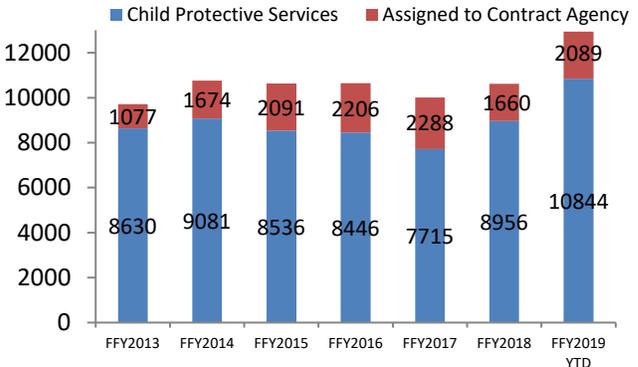
Over the past 5 years ending FFY17, an average of 20,300 intake reports were received each year with a high of 20,810 reports in FFY2014. On average, 10,300 (51%) are assigned annually for assessment which includes assigned to a contract agency for assessment.

In FFY19, 28,567 reports were received. Of those, 12,933 (45%) were assigned for assessment or alternative response.

Child Protective Intake Reports



Assessments



*Child Protective Services figures are annual totals

Federal Measures

The following federal measures are based on children removed two years prior to the FFY shown to allow for sufficient observation of their outcomes. Federal measures were established to monitor State's performance in safety, permanency and well-being. Data for most of the measures in these reports come from the Department's two national child welfare-related data systems - the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). Below are two of the federal measures for outcomes of youth exiting DHHS custody:

Federal Measure	Federal Goal	FFY14 Removals between Oct 2011- Sep 2012	FFY15 Removals between Oct 2012- Sep 2013	FFY16 Removals between Oct 2013- Sep 2014	FFY17 Removals between Oct 2014- Sept 2015	FFY18 Removals between Oct 2015 - Sep 2016	Oct-19 Removals between Oct 2016 - Sep 2017
Permanency in 12 Months of Removal Of all children who enter foster care in a target 12-month period, percent discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering foster care. Permanency is a discharge to reunification, other relative, guardianship, or adoption.	40.5 %	30.5 %	29.2 %	31.2 %	26.5%	29.0%	31.0%
Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Foster Care 12 to 23 Months Of all children in foster care on the first day of a 12-month period who had been in foster care between 12 and 23 months, percent discharged from foster care to permanency within 12 months of the first day of the 12-month period. Permanency is a discharge to reunification, other relative, guardianship, or adoption.	43.6 %	48.5 %	51.0 %	53.4 %	64.4%	61.6%	50.8%

Service Cases by District

Service cases are created when abuse and neglect of children has been found by their caregivers and the family is in need of services to ameliorate the abuse/neglect. These are usually low to moderate abuse/neglect findings. If the abuse is high severity, court action is pursued unless the children are safe with one parent and that safe parent is protecting them.

The following report details the number of service cases open by OCFS by district as of October of each of the years shown as well as the current month.

District	Oct-13	Oct-14	Oct-15	Oct-16	Oct-17	Oct-18	Sept-19
1 York	25	52	42	69	67	71	67
2 Cumberland	36	47	24	29	39	20	25
3 Western Maine	41	47	38	41	38	31	67
4 Mid Coast	28	16	17	29	24	32	35
5 Central Maine	73	82	63	81	90	61	82
6 Penquis	48	33	48	49	51	39	65
7 Down East	47	53	47	37	18	14	24
8 Aroostook	25	14	8	8	15	8	21
State Totals	323	344	287	343	342	276	386

** These numbers represent current open service cases at the time the document is published. Adding the totals from each month will not accurately reflect how many cases there were in a year, as a case that is open in January may still be open in June or September.*