



Results-Oriented Accountability 2024 Annual Performance Report

Office of Quality and Innovation

Fiscal Year 2023-24

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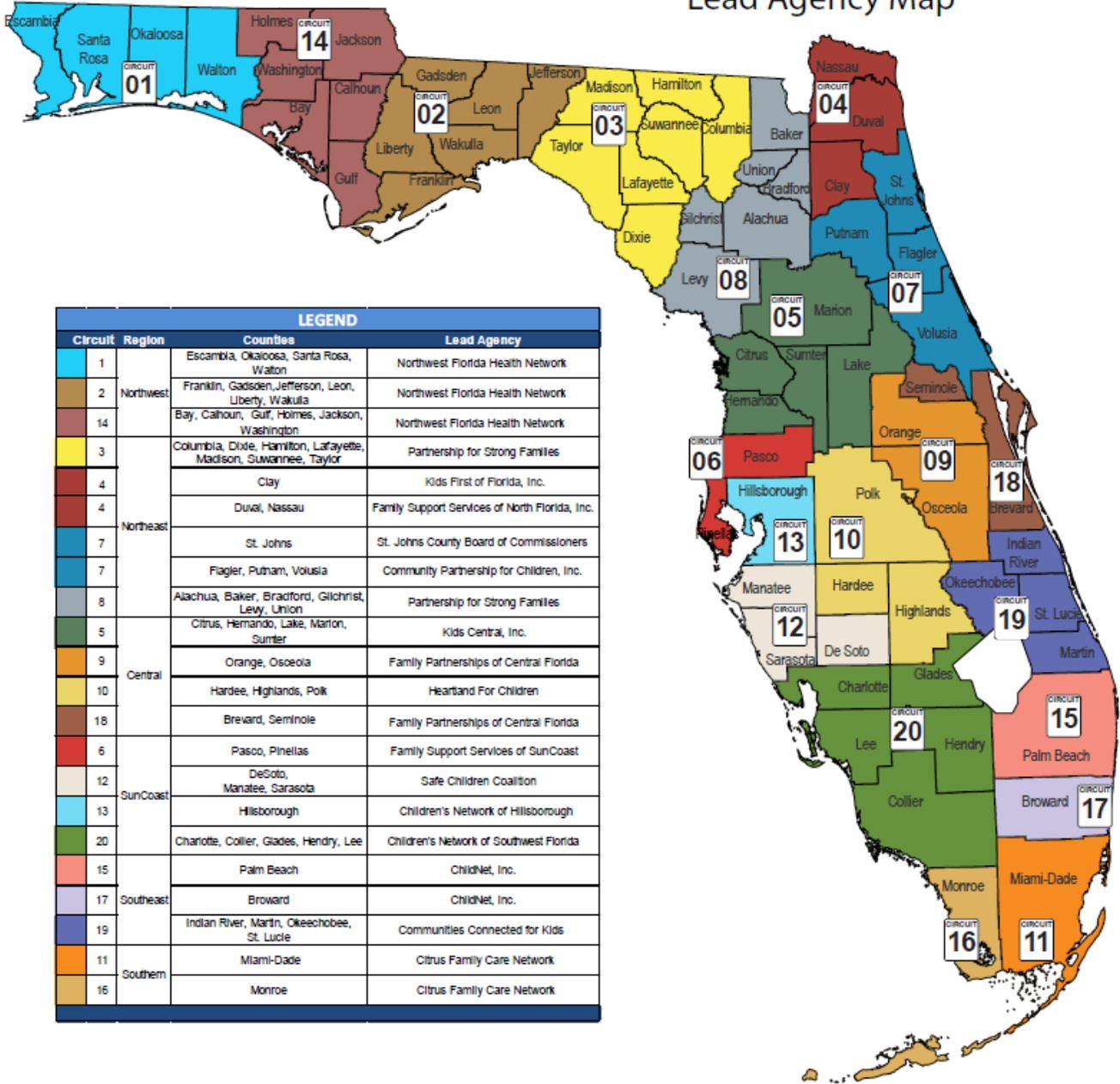
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Community-Based Care Lead Agency Map



LEGEND			
Circuit	Region	Counties	Lead Agency
1		Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton	Northwest Florida Health Network
2	Northwest	Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Wakulla	Northwest Florida Health Network
14		Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Washington	Northwest Florida Health Network
3		Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor	Partnership for Strong Families
4		Clay	Kids First of Florida, Inc.
4	Northeast	Duval, Nassau	Family Support Services of North Florida, Inc.
7		St. Johns	St. Johns County Board of Commissioners
7		Flagler, Putnam, Volusia	Community Partnership for Children, Inc.
8		Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, Union	Partnership for Strong Families
5		Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion, Sumter	Kids Central, Inc.
9	Central	Orange, Osceola	Family Partnerships of Central Florida
10		Hardee, Highlands, Polk	Hearthand For Children
18		Brevard, Seminole	Family Partnerships of Central Florida
6	SunCoast	Pasco, Pinellas	Family Support Services of SunCoast
12		DeSoto, Manatee, Sarasota	Safe Children Coalition
13		Hillsborough	Children's Network of Hillsborough
20		Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee	Children's Network of Southwest Florida
15		Palm Beach	ChildNet, Inc.
17	Southeast	Broward	ChildNet, Inc.
19		Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, St. Lucie	Communities Connected for Kids
11	Southern	Miami-Dade	Citrus Family Care Network
16		Monroe	Citrus Family Care Network

List of Abbreviations Used

- Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)
 - CFSR measure with specific definition (CFSR-xx)
- Child Protective Investigator (CPI)
- Family Support Services (FSS)
- Federal Fiscal Year (FFY)
- Florida Continuous Quality Improvement Reviews (FL CQI)
- Florida Department of Children and Families (Department)
- Florida Institute for Child Welfare (FICW)
- Foster Care (FC)
- Foster Home (FH)
- Lead Agency for Community-Based Care (Lead Agency)
- Office of Child Welfare (OCW)
- Out-of-Home Care (OHC)
- Quality Assurance (QA)
- Quality Improvement (QI)
- Rapid Safety Feedback Reviews (RSF)
- Results-Oriented Accountability Program (ROA)
- State Fiscal Year (SFY)

Executive Summary

The Results-Oriented Accountability (ROA) Annual Report for state fiscal year (SFY) 2023-24 is submitted by the Department pursuant to Section 409.997, Florida Statutes (F.S.). This report describes the status of Florida's community-based child welfare system and offers insight into statewide trends that indicate the quality of services year over year. This report follows the flow of Florida's child welfare system, from the Florida Abuse Hotline (Hotline) through child protective investigations and case management services.

The ROA report complements the child welfare accountability system, which the Department implemented in collaboration with its community partners in accordance with Senate Bill 1326 of the 2020 Legislative Session. The accountability system assesses the health of the child welfare system in each circuit and reflects the collective contributions of child protective investigators, community-based care lead agencies, and children's legal services.

The data demonstrated throughout this report highlights several key areas in which the State has continued to provide excellent services to the most vulnerable, a summary of which is outlined below.

Key Insight #1: Florida Prioritizes Family-Based Child Placement and Community Integration

In Florida, the removal of a child from their parents is a measure of last resort, reflecting the state's commitment to keeping children within family settings and their communities. The rate at which children enter foster care has been on a downward trajectory, reaching its lowest point in nearly two decades. Currently, about 4% of cases investigated by the Department due to allegations of abuse, neglect, or abandonment have resulted in removal of a child from the home.

Florida's children who are removed from their parents experience shorter durations in foster care, both in the short and long term, compared to national averages. When removal is necessary, the foremost aim is to safely reunify the child(ren) with their parents, with adoption by relatives a close second permanency option for the lifelong success of the child. Notably, 49% of children in Florida's foster care system are adopted by relatives, which is significantly higher than the national average of 34%.

These achievements are the result of proactive and strategic measures taken by the State to enhance its child welfare system, consistently prioritizing the well-being of its children. Over the past year, both the number of entries into out-of-home care (OHC) and the overall number of children in OHC have declined. This indicates that discharge rates are increasing at an inverse rate to entries, resulting in historically low rates of children in care. It is critical that Florida continue to ensure the safety and well-being of children exiting care through the mitigation of safety concerns and risk factors leading to our initial involvement with the family.

In the upcoming year, as part of its ongoing efforts to refine the child welfare accountability framework, the Department will conduct an extensive system analysis to identify and address root causes that hinder permanent placements.

Key Insight #2: Florida Protects Children from Abuse and Neglect

Florida consistently exceeds national standards for the percentage of children who do not experience repeated verified maltreatment within a year following an initial incident. Regular home visits by caseworkers are crucial to ensuring the safety and well-being of at-risk children. As of 2021, the most recent year through which federal data is available, Florida ranked seventh in the nation for the proportion of caseworker visits conducted in children's homes. The effectiveness of this case management approach is reflected in improved outcomes related to maltreatment indicators for both in-home and OHC over the past six years. Additionally, at 99.99%, Florida ranks fourth for the percentage of children who are not maltreated while in OHC.

Key Insight #3: Florida Delivers Timely Responses to Maltreatment Allegations

Recent data shows Florida has the fastest response time to allegations of maltreatment in the country averaging approximately eight times quicker response than the national average. Nearly 92% of alleged child victims are seen within 24 hours and performance in 18 of 20 judicial circuits exceeds the 90% federal target. In addition, 99% of investigations are commenced timely.

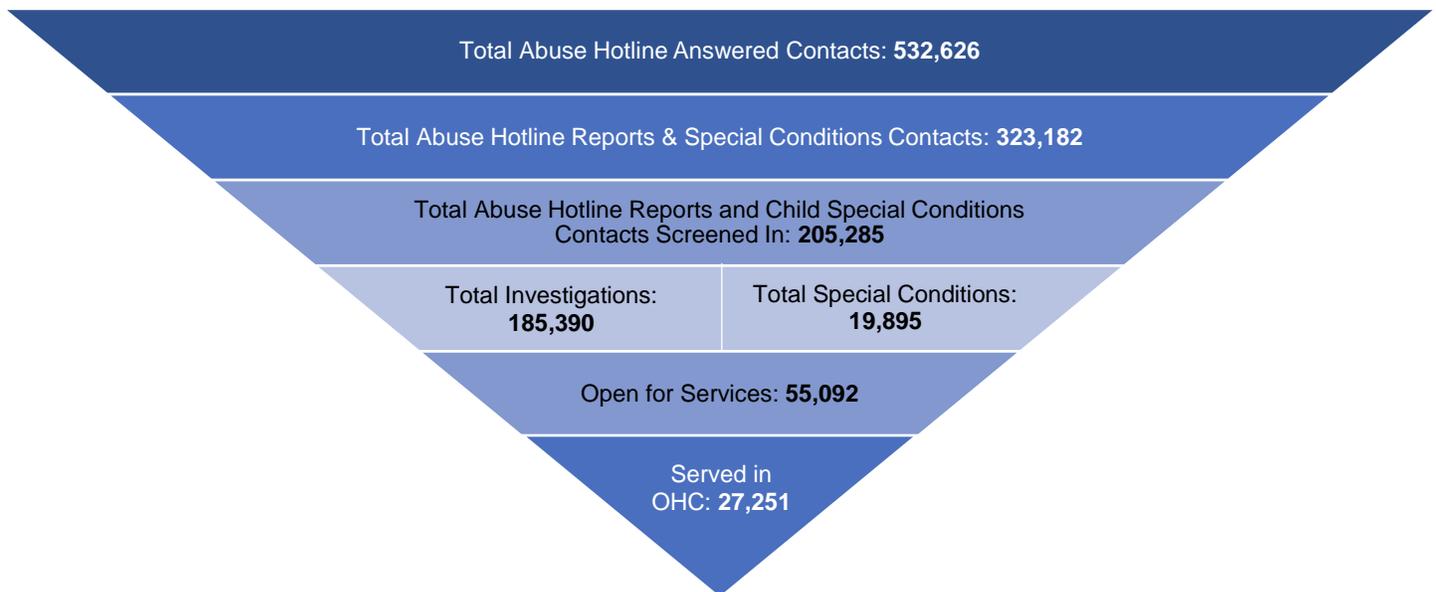
Overview of Child Welfare in Florida

System Goals

Florida’s community-based child welfare system was created to protect and prevent children from abuse, neglect, and abandonment through the Department’s partnership with other state agencies, the courts, law enforcement agencies, service providers, and local communities. The system is designed to protect children by implementing consistent decision-making, establishing local systems of care to meet the needs of families with community resources, and implementing evidence-based approaches to achieve the following state outcomes, pursuant to Section 409.986, F.S.:

- Children are first and foremost protected from abuse and neglect.
- Children are safely maintained in their homes, if possible and appropriate.
- Services are provided to protect children and prevent their removal from their home.
- Children have permanency and stability in their living arrangements.
- Family relationships and connections are preserved for children.
- Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children’s needs.
- Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.
- Children receive services to meet their physical and mental health needs.
- Children develop the capacity for independent living and competence as an adult.

Florida Child Protection Overview SFY 2023-24



System Overview

- Annually, the Florida Abuse Hotline (Hotline) receives more than 320,000 allegations of abuse, abandonment, or neglect via phone calls, web reports, and faxes. The Hotline screens-in those that meet the requirements for investigation or assessment of special conditions with no alleged maltreatment.
- Child Protective Investigators determine the need for post-investigative services, including protecting the child through removal and placement in OHC, case-managed in-home services (by court order or non-judicially), or informally through voluntary family support services (FSS). Pursuant to Section 409.986(1), F.S., post-investigation services are provided through contracted Community-Based Care Lead Agencies (Lead Agencies). Lead Agencies have statutory and contractual responsibility for, and participation in, ensuring safety, permanence, and well-being for the children in the state in their care. The Department ensures comprehensive oversight of the programmatic, administrative, and fiscal operations of these contracted entities.

Child Protective Investigations

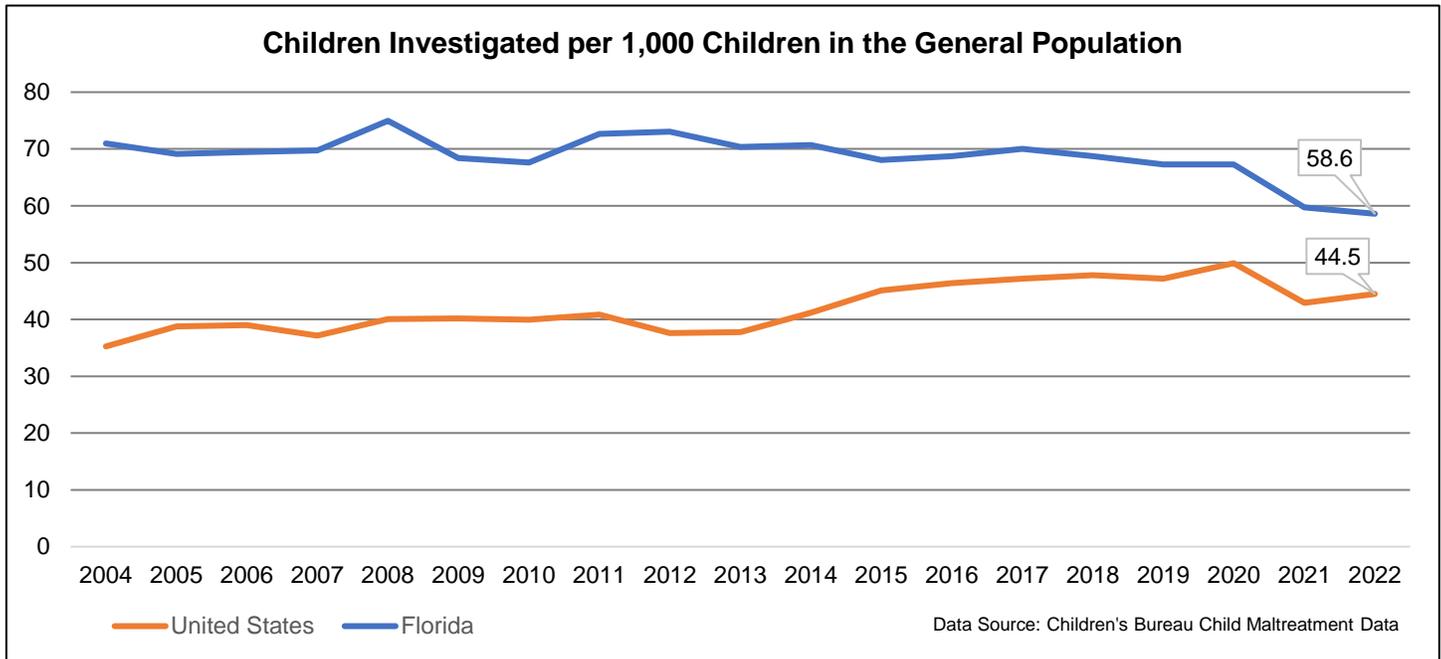
Intakes into the Child Welfare System

Reporting Rate: Children Investigated Compared to the Population

The Hotline and child investigations have been used as the “front door” to Florida’s child welfare system since it was established by the Florida Legislature in 1971.

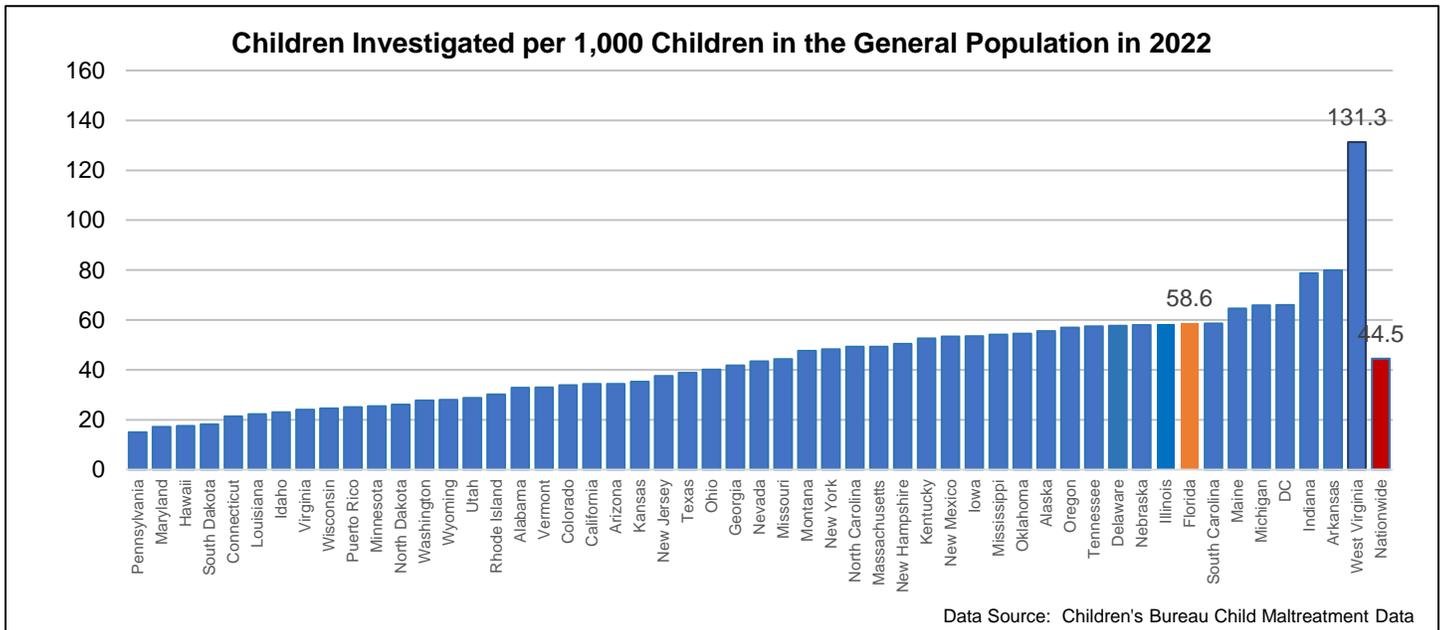
Long-Term Trends: Florida vs. National Average

Florida’s investigation rate historically has been consistently higher than the national average, although both rates decreased significantly between 2020 and 2022.



Florida Compared to Other States

Florida’s investigation rate was the eighth highest in the nation in FFY 2022.

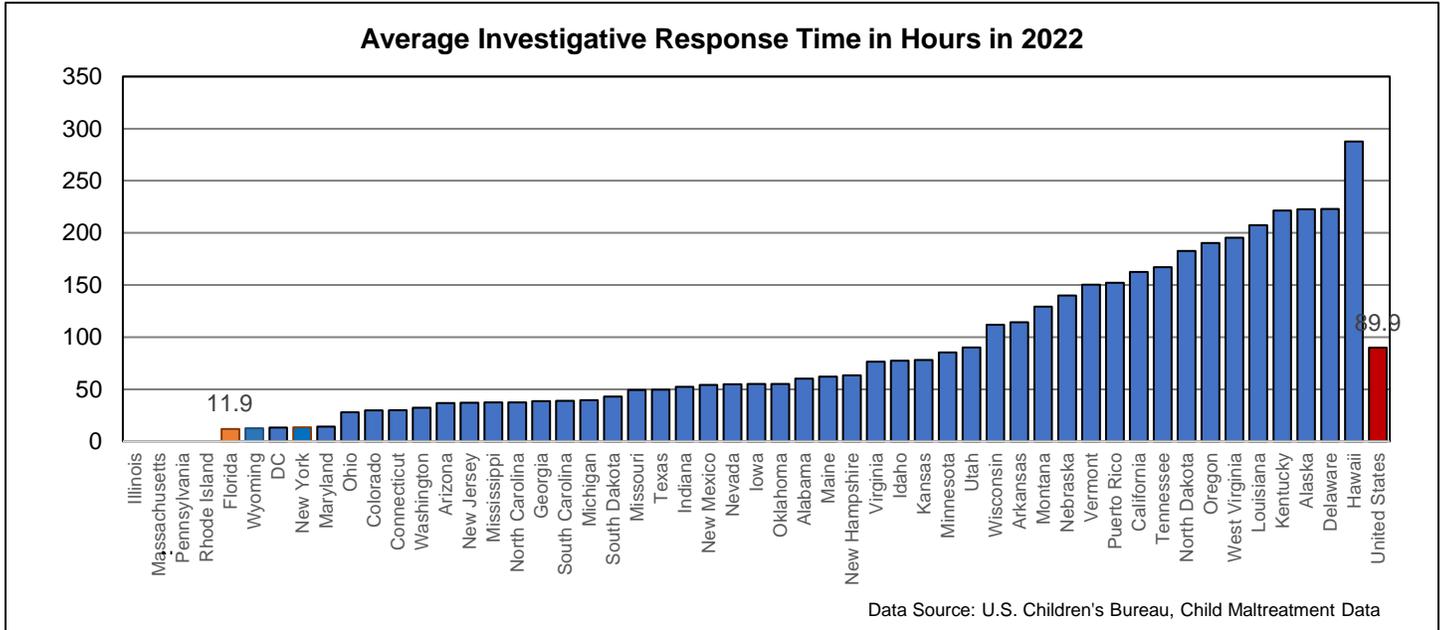


Active Investigative Response Time

Timeliness in responding to alleged maltreatment is important. Florida law requires some investigations to be commenced immediately while others must be commenced within 24 hours. These requirements have contributed to Florida having an extremely fast investigative response time when compared to the national average.

Florida Compared to Other States

In FFY 2022, the most recent available data, Florida had the fastest investigative response time of all states reporting this data.

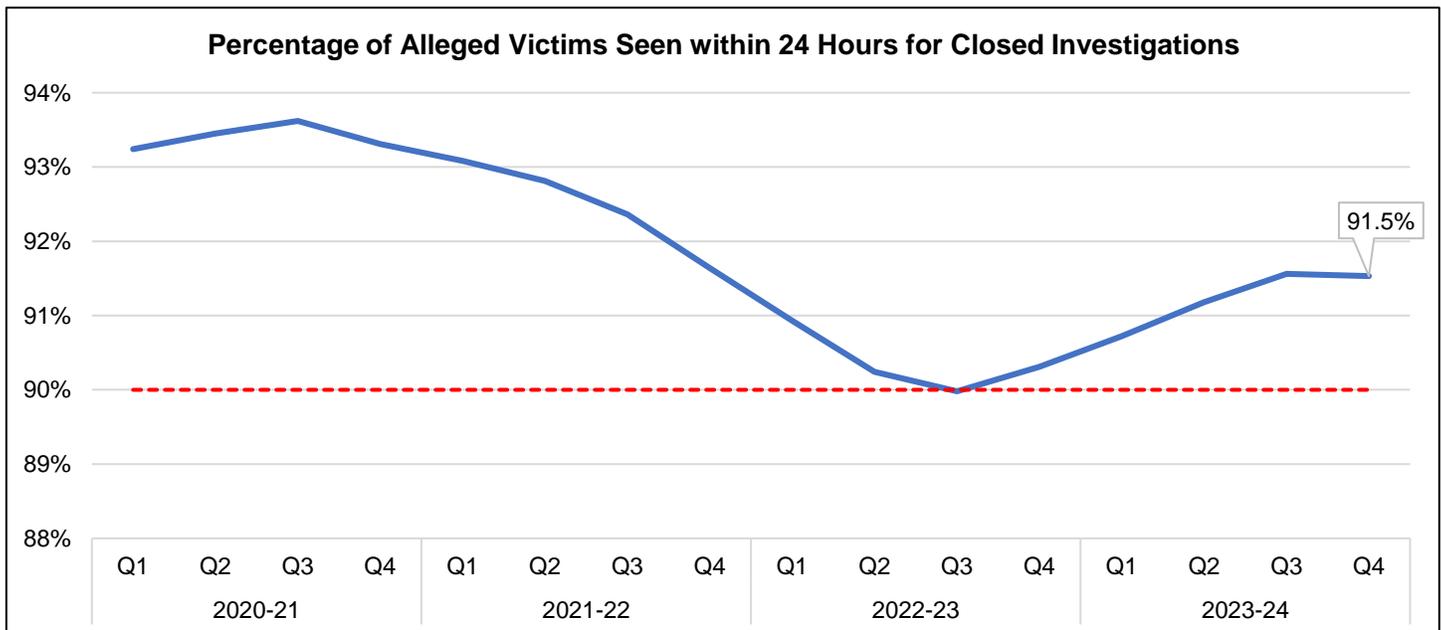


Percent of Alleged Victims Seen within 24 Hours

In addition to initiating investigations in a timely manner, Florida also requires investigators to make timely face-to-face contact with each alleged victim.

Florida Statewide Trend

Florida's performance in timely investigative response has traditionally been high and has remained at or above the target of 90% for the past four state fiscal years.



Circuit Comparisons

As of June 2024, 18 of the 20 (90%) DCF investigative areas achieved the 90% standard for the percentage of alleged victims seen within 24 hours.

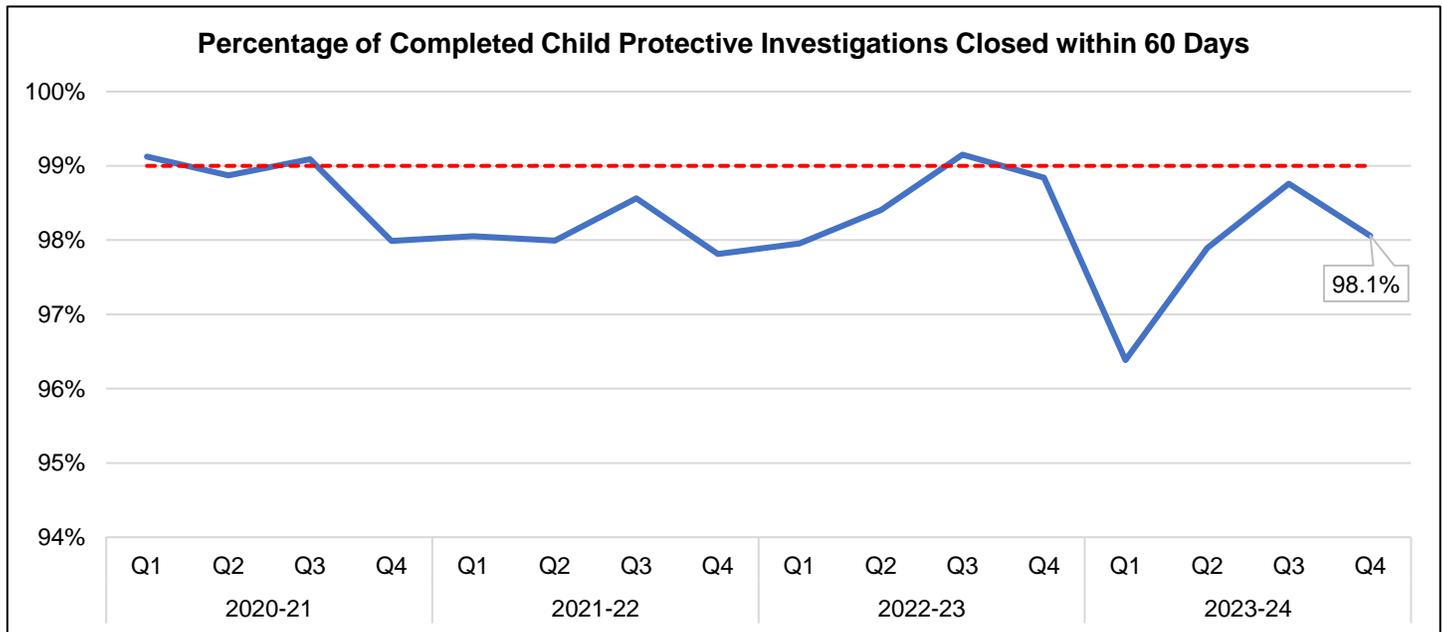
Percentage of Alleged Victims Seen within 24 Hours (DCF Target 90% or Higher)																	
Region	Investigative Area	SFY 2020-21				SFY 2021-22				SFY 2022-23				SFY 2023-24			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4												
Central	Circuit 5	94.84%	94.68%	94.71%	94.60%	94.78%	95.03%	95.04%	94.61%	94.03%	93.19%	92.36%	92.30%	92.24%	92.25%	92.48%	92.64%
	Circuit 9	93.49%	93.79%	94.28%	94.32%	94.16%	93.94%	93.38%	92.74%	92.62%	92.48%	92.94%	93.21%	93.23%	92.99%	92.57%	92.35%
	Circuit 10	93.92%	93.53%	94.15%	94.18%	93.93%	94.23%	93.48%	92.70%	91.88%	90.83%	90.25%	89.95%	89.73%	89.88%	90.43%	90.65%
	Circuit 18	95.94%	95.42%	94.79%	94.22%	93.67%	93.51%	93.60%	93.43%	93.20%	93.26%	93.19%	93.49%	93.94%	93.61%	93.55%	93.06%
Northeast	Circuit 3	95.34%	94.08%	93.32%	92.09%	91.78%	92.45%	92.78%	93.31%	93.30%	92.67%	92.54%	92.66%	92.73%	92.51%	91.51%	90.36%
	Circuit 4	91.90%	91.83%	91.47%	91.31%	91.03%	91.41%	91.53%	90.38%	88.07%	84.75%	83.09%	84.62%	86.98%	90.32%	93.04%	92.82%
	Circuit 7	93.55%	94.12%	94.40%	94.05%	93.90%	93.49%	93.15%	92.78%	91.85%	90.91%	90.02%	89.95%	90.97%	92.22%	93.46%	93.93%
	Circuit 8	91.60%	91.04%	90.83%	89.48%	88.31%	86.90%	85.43%	85.14%	86.07%	87.80%	89.39%	91.13%	91.71%	91.60%	91.68%	91.21%
Northwest	Circuit 1	92.40%	92.63%	92.82%	92.64%	93.12%	92.92%	93.03%	92.51%	91.44%	90.86%	90.38%	90.16%	90.72%	92.29%	92.54%	92.62%
	Circuit 2	93.32%	93.58%	93.02%	92.96%	91.17%	90.41%	90.63%	90.73%	92.56%	93.64%	93.90%	94.19%	94.02%	94.00%	93.77%	94.20%
	Circuit 14	91.43%	92.04%	92.62%	92.22%	92.48%	93.11%	92.54%	91.85%	91.54%	91.68%	92.02%	92.52%	93.21%	92.80%	93.58%	93.67%
Southeast	Circuit 15	94.33%	95.15%	96.01%	95.69%	95.40%	95.37%	94.62%	94.16%	93.73%	93.16%	92.52%	92.03%	91.66%	90.98%	90.99%	90.65%
	Circuit 17	93.44%	93.72%	94.09%	93.50%	93.15%	92.49%	92.39%	92.58%	92.45%	92.62%	92.71%	92.31%	91.71%	91.59%	91.82%	92.27%
	Circuit 19	96.13%	96.15%	96.34%	96.49%	96.34%	96.09%	95.82%	95.30%	95.20%	94.81%	94.58%	94.66%	94.69%	94.29%	93.86%	93.48%
Southern	Circuit 11	94.94%	95.07%	95.50%	95.13%	94.60%	94.06%	93.20%	91.68%	90.09%	89.24%	88.93%	90.04%	91.62%	92.72%	93.83%	94.49%
	Circuit 16	95.06%	94.67%	94.26%	93.74%	93.69%	94.55%	94.53%	93.50%	92.99%	92.86%	90.36%	91.18%	90.61%	90.12%	91.71%	92.13%
SunCoast	Circuit 6	91.18%	92.18%	92.88%	92.26%	91.55%	90.99%	90.80%	91.00%	91.13%	90.85%	90.73%	90.16%	89.91%	89.61%	89.60%	90.66%
	Circuit 12	92.25%	93.28%	94.04%	94.02%	94.08%	93.90%	94.07%	93.05%	92.35%	91.98%	91.72%	92.88%	93.68%	93.65%	93.07%	91.92%
	Circuit 13	92.32%	92.87%	92.94%	92.43%	92.40%	91.72%	90.83%	90.14%	89.19%	88.03%	87.96%	87.69%	86.85%	86.93%	87.34%	88.20%
	Circuit 20	90.66%	90.92%	90.73%	90.67%	90.83%	89.54%	87.11%	83.52%	80.70%	78.94%	79.21%	81.48%	83.21%	84.85%	84.46%	82.81%
Statewide		93.24%	93.45%	93.62%	93.31%	93.08%	92.81%	92.36%	91.64%	90.93%	90.24%	89.98%	90.31%	90.72%	91.18%	91.56%	91.53%

Percent of Investigations Completed within 60 Days

Florida has a statutory requirement to complete all investigations within 60 days with some exceptions (death, missing children, and those with a specified concurrent criminal investigation).

Florida Statewide Trend

Statewide performance initially experienced difficulty in reaching the target beginning in SFY 2021-22.



Circuit Comparisons

As of June 2023, eight of 20 circuits met the target of 99% of child protective investigations closed within 60 days of the decision date¹.

Percentage of Investigations Closed within 60 Days (DCF Target 99% or Higher)																	
Region	Investigative Area	SFY 2020-2021				SFY 2021-2022				SFY 2022-2023				SFY 2023-2024			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Central Region	Circuit 05	99.94%	99.80%	99.90%	99.86%	99.85%	99.83%	99.82%	99.92%	99.91%	99.83%	99.80%	99.88%	99.90%	99.87%	99.83%	99.46%
	Circuit 09	99.80%	99.48%	99.75%	99.15%	98.79%	98.80%	99.19%	99.47%	99.61%	99.64%	99.74%	99.81%	99.75%	99.45%	99.76%	99.18%
	Circuit 10	99.65%	99.76%	99.69%	99.47%	98.94%	98.48%	98.70%	98.10%	98.93%	99.08%	98.64%	99.10%	98.53%	98.60%	98.92%	98.14%
	Circuit 18	99.16%	98.19%	97.76%	97.69%	95.02%	95.95%	98.42%	98.94%	98.78%	99.42%	98.97%	99.01%	98.80%	97.99%	98.34%	99.38%
Northeast Region	Circuit 03	99.56%	99.13%	98.75%	99.38%	98.32%	99.55%	99.75%	98.84%	99.61%	99.59%	99.47%	100.00%	100.00%	99.76%	99.75%	98.49%
	Circuit 04	99.51%	98.82%	97.77%	98.37%	98.21%	99.71%	99.92%	99.22%	98.72%	99.01%	99.72%	99.83%	99.80%	99.51%	99.58%	96.66%
	Circuit 07	99.74%	99.42%	99.66%	98.77%	99.20%	99.48%	99.81%	99.85%	99.78%	99.32%	99.89%	99.89%	100.00%	100.00%	99.66%	98.91%
	Circuit 08	99.86%	99.59%	99.60%	99.06%	98.42%	99.35%	99.87%	99.56%	100.00%	99.78%	99.65%	99.81%	100.00%	99.61%	99.67%	98.99%
Northwest Region	Circuit 01	96.30%	97.35%	97.24%	95.51%	89.37%	92.42%	96.40%	97.90%	97.64%	96.50%	98.65%	98.31%	100.00%	99.37%	99.59%	97.83%
	Circuit 02	96.09%	95.04%	92.47%	84.15%	93.77%	99.84%	99.47%	100.00%	100.00%	99.88%	100.00%	100.00%	99.73%	99.87%	99.65%	99.72%
	Circuit 14	98.25%	94.31%	96.09%	91.74%	93.95%	98.12%	97.42%	99.18%	98.33%	99.46%	99.88%	99.90%	99.63%	99.64%	100.00%	99.19%
Southeast Region	Circuit 15	100.00%	99.93%	100.00%	99.90%	99.82%	99.56%	99.43%	99.41%	99.94%	99.54%	99.04%	98.26%	98.74%	97.67%	98.21%	97.56%
	Circuit 17	99.66%	99.13%	98.92%	98.72%	98.97%	99.76%	99.67%	99.65%	99.50%	99.50%	99.32%	98.97%	98.84%	99.76%	99.62%	99.41%
	Circuit 19	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	99.89%	100.00%	100.00%	99.71%	99.46%	99.36%	99.91%	99.91%	99.45%	99.13%	99.21%	98.46%
Southern Region	Circuit 11	100.00%	99.60%	99.61%	99.70%	99.31%	99.51%	99.14%	98.55%	99.29%	99.56%	99.30%	99.52%	99.56%	99.81%	99.76%	99.55%
	Circuit 16	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	98.81%	100.00%	100.00%	93.97%	100.00%	100.00%	99.07%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	98.88%
Suncoast Region	Circuit 06	99.82%	99.84%	99.82%	99.55%	99.23%	99.15%	99.12%	99.31%	99.04%	99.24%	98.91%	99.56%	97.06%	95.66%	97.81%	98.21%
	Circuit 12	99.44%	98.99%	98.83%	98.93%	98.05%	98.97%	95.31%	90.44%	94.84%	92.24%	96.67%	99.49%	99.46%	97.00%	94.58%	97.88%
	Circuit 13	99.62%	99.62%	99.03%	98.48%	97.87%	97.67%	97.12%	96.69%	97.36%	97.16%	98.20%	96.92%	81.90%	98.66%	99.16%	99.69%
	Circuit 20	96.55%	97.47%	97.90%	97.65%	97.66%	90.79%	91.55%	84.12%	78.44%	82.03%	90.75%	93.62%	88.90%	86.74%	83.28%	88.56%
Statewide		99.20%	98.94%	98.84%	98.34%	97.94%	98.11%	98.33%	97.78%	97.73%	97.82%	98.72%	98.92%	97.44%	98.15%	98.14%	97.97%

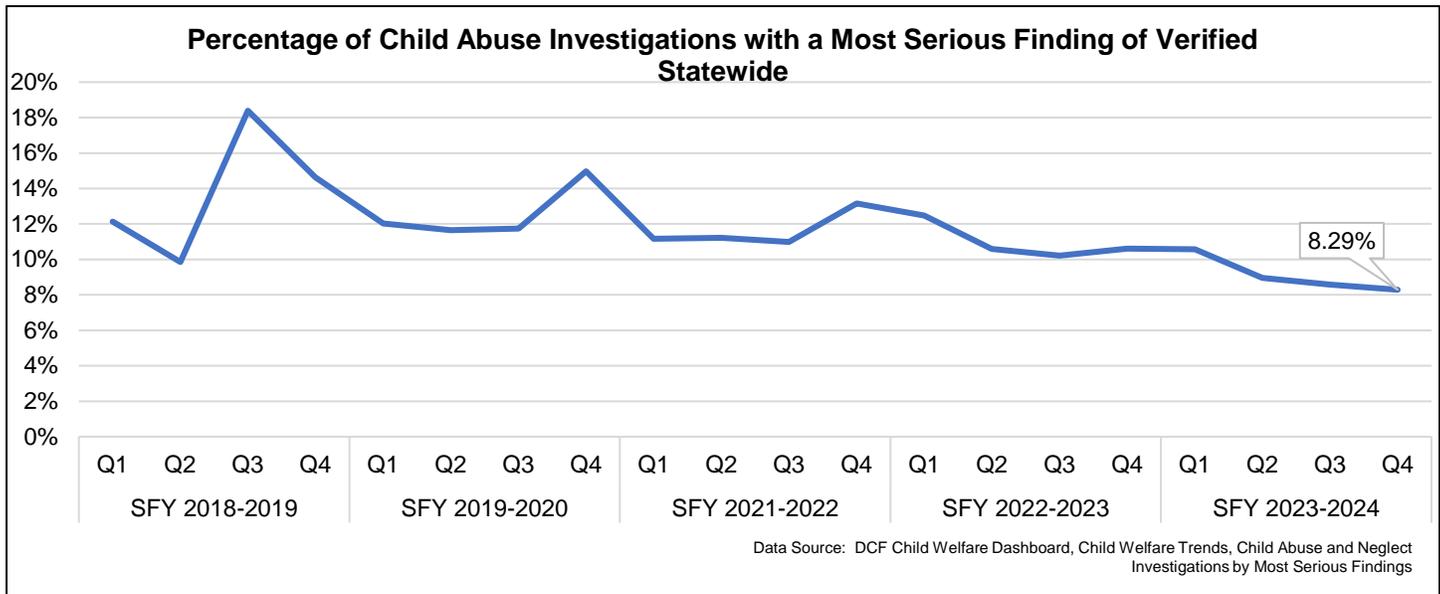
¹ As of June 2023, the Department assumed responsibility for child protective investigations from local sheriff's offices in Pinellas, Pasco, Manatee, Hillsborough, Seminole, Broward, and Walton counties.

Verification Rates

While evidence of maltreatment is important, the decision to provide community referrals for services should be based on child safety determinations and holistic family needs rather than simply verified evidence of maltreatment. A “verified” finding of maltreatment indicates an allegation in the investigative report that can be proven and supported by evidence in the case file.

Florida Statewide Trend

The percent of children in investigations with at least one finding of "verified" maltreatment has declined over the past five years, with monthly averages declining by 32% from SFY 2019-20 to SFY 2023-24. A national comparison is not available for this measure due to state differences in definitions, terminology, and thresholds for determining the severity of the findings.



Circuit Comparisons

Percentage of Investigations with Most Serious Finding of Verified (No DCF Target)					
Investigative Area	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Circuit 1	19.6%	18.4%	19.5%	19.6%	16.6%
Circuit 2	12.4%	11.7%	11.5%	14.4%	11.2%
Circuit 3	9.0%	7.6%	8.5%	6.8%	4.7%
Circuit 4	16.9%	15.1%	11.6%	9.4%	7.4%
Circuit 5	8.1%	8.3%	7.9%	7.4%	5.1%
Circuit 6	18.3%	19.4%	18.0%	14.2%	10.1%
Circuit 7	15.4%	13.4%	11.2%	10.9%	5.5%
Circuit 8	8.0%	8.5%	7.7%	7.9%	7.3%
Circuit 9	10.5%	9.9%	9.6%	8.4%	6.5%
Circuit 10	11.4%	13.3%	11.5%	11.8%	11.0%
Circuit 11	8.3%	7.6%	6.8%	6.7%	5.9%
Circuit 12	18.4%	17.5%	17.1%	15.9%	8.1%
Circuit 13	14.9%	16.3%	15.2%	15.3%	9.3%
Circuit 14	12.2%	14.3%	12.5%	12.2%	18.9%
Circuit 15	10.2%	9.8%	9.1%	8.0%	6.7%
Circuit 16	14.6%	13.0%	12.9%	14.5%	4.8%
Circuit 17	14.2%	12.9%	11.4%	9.7%	6.1%
Circuit 18	10.0%	11.4%	10.5%	9.0%	8.1%
Circuit 19	13.6%	11.0%	11.8%	13.0%	8.6%
Circuit 20	14.2%	12.4%	10.6%	11.3%	9.2%
Statewide	13.5%	12.7%	11.7%	11.3%	8.3%

Date Source: DCF Child Welfare Dashboard, Child Welfare Trends, Child Abuse and Neglect Investigations by Most Serious Findings

Efforts to Prevent Removals

Florida's practice model requires child welfare professionals work diligently to prevent removals and provide families with on-going case management in the least restrictive setting possible. Instances of unsafe cases with no ongoing case management services typically occur because the cases do not meet the requirements for judicial intervention and the parents have refused services. When this occurs, the Department works with the family to mitigate any risk by engaging the family in voluntary services or referrals to community partners.

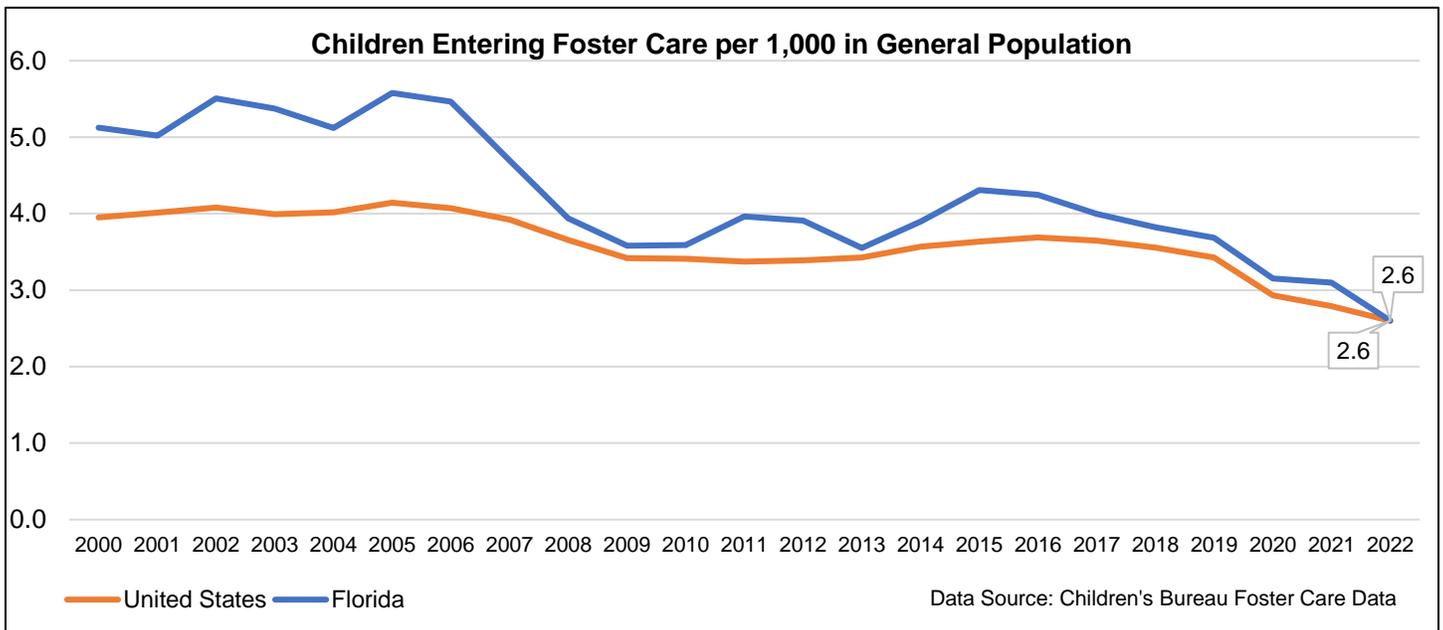
Removals to Prevent Abuse, Abandonment, and/or Neglect

Removal Rates per 1,000 Children in the General Population

To compare removals across circuits and geographical regions, removal rates per 1,000 children in the general population and per 100 children in investigations are calculated. The removal rate per 100 children in investigations indicator is more directly related to investigative decision-making because it focuses solely on the population of children involved in investigations and therefore at risk of removal.

Long-Term Trends: Florida vs. National Average

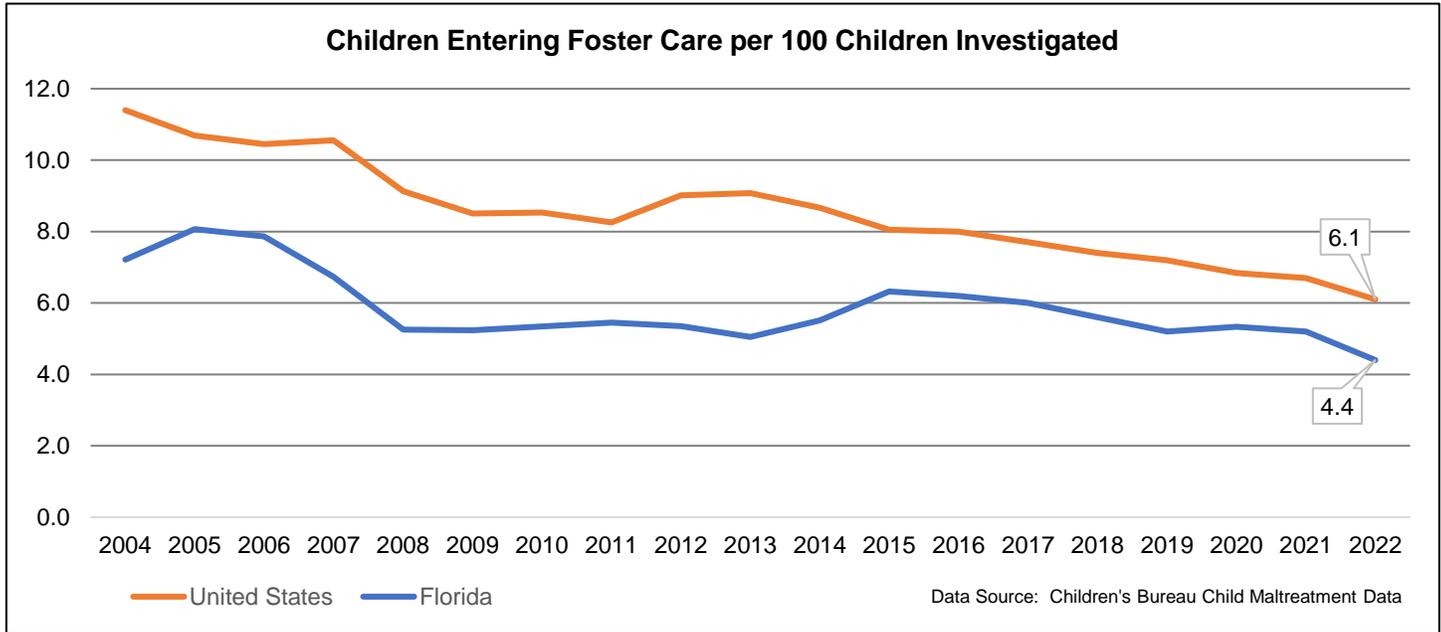
In FFY 2022, Florida's entry rate into foster care per 1,000 children in the general population was consistent with the national average. Historically, Florida has been higher than the national average though the state's rate has been declining since FFY 2006.



Removal Rates per 100 Children Investigated

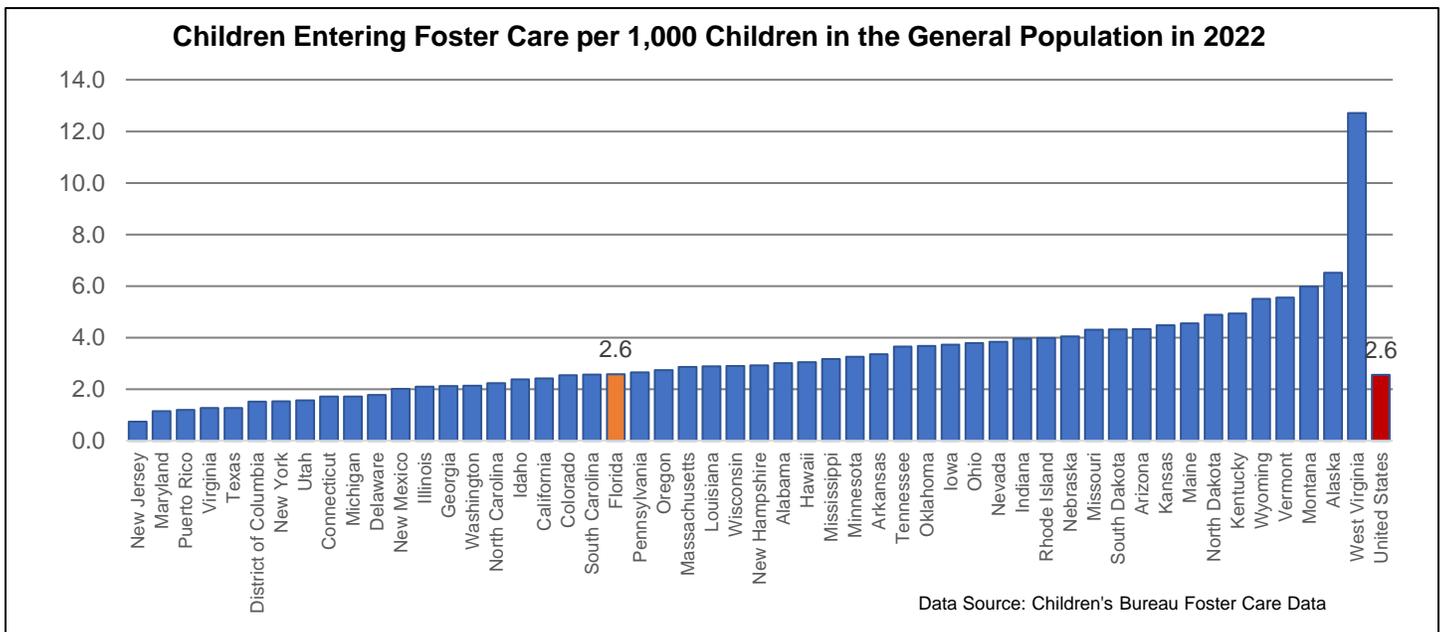
Long-Term Trends: Florida vs. National Average

Florida's rate of children entering care per 100 children investigated remains below the national average as of FFY 2022, the most recent year of data available. Historically, Florida has been lower than the national rate on this indicator with both the state and national rate declining since FFY 2015.



Florida Compared to Other States

Florida ranked 21st in 2022, the most recent year that national data are available, in children investigated per 1,000 children in the general population. When making state-by-state comparisons, differences in state policies and practices, including variations in the legal definitions of maltreatment, affect rates and should be considered. For example, states with very low reporting rates tend to have relatively high removal rates, whereas states with a very high reporting rate tend to have a relatively low removal rate.



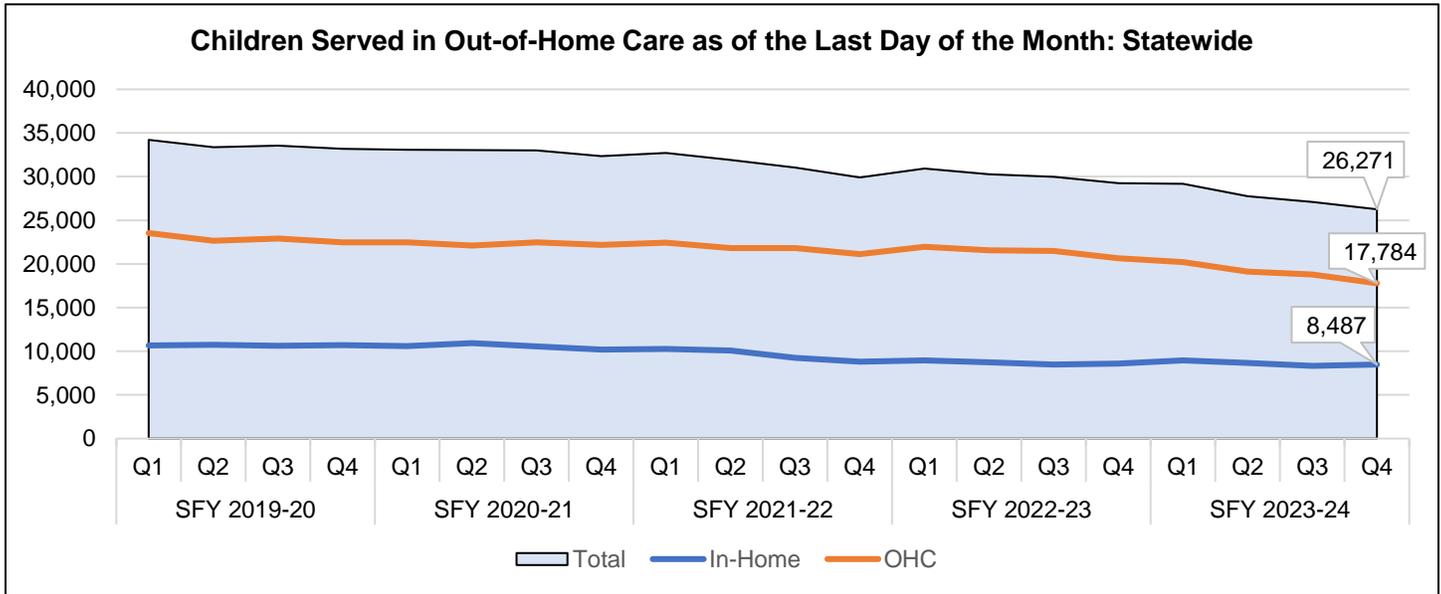
Case Management and Ongoing Services

Mix of Case Managed Services: In-Home Services vs. Out-of-Home Care

Two Lead Agency outcomes are “Children are safely maintained in their homes, if possible and appropriate” and “Services are provided to protect children and prevent their removal from their home.”

Florida Statewide Trend

From the beginning of SFY 2019-20 to the end of SFY 2023-24, the total number of children in care has decreased by 23.09%. This measure comprises the number of children in OHC, which has decreased by 23.75%, and the number of children in in-home care, which has decreased by 21.68%.

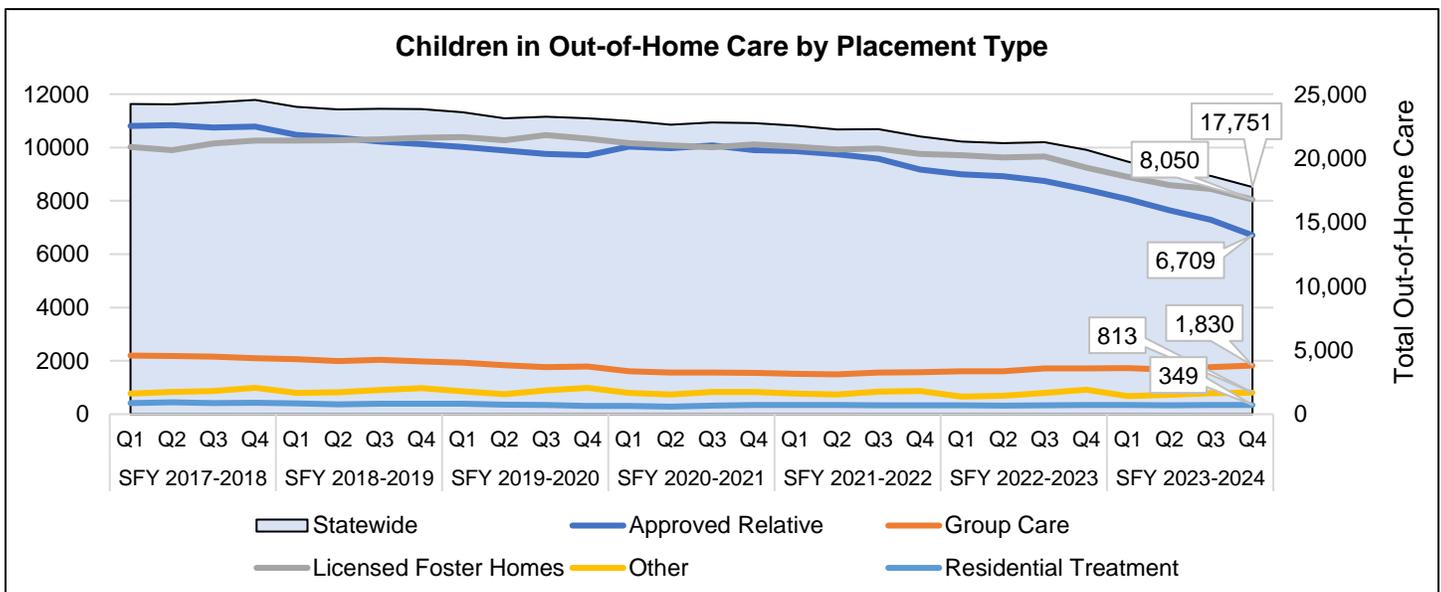


Trends and Variations in Placement Types

When the goal is reunification, Federal law requires case plans be designed to achieve safe placements in the least restrictive, most family-like setting available within proximity to a parent(s) home. When children must be removed, priority is given to placement with kin, both relatives and unrelated persons, with significant relationship to the child before removal.

Florida Statewide Trend

Since SFY 2017-18, data on OHC by placement type have been stable. In SFY 2019-20, a new licensure type, Level I, was added, allowing relatives and non-relatives who have an existing relationship with the child to be

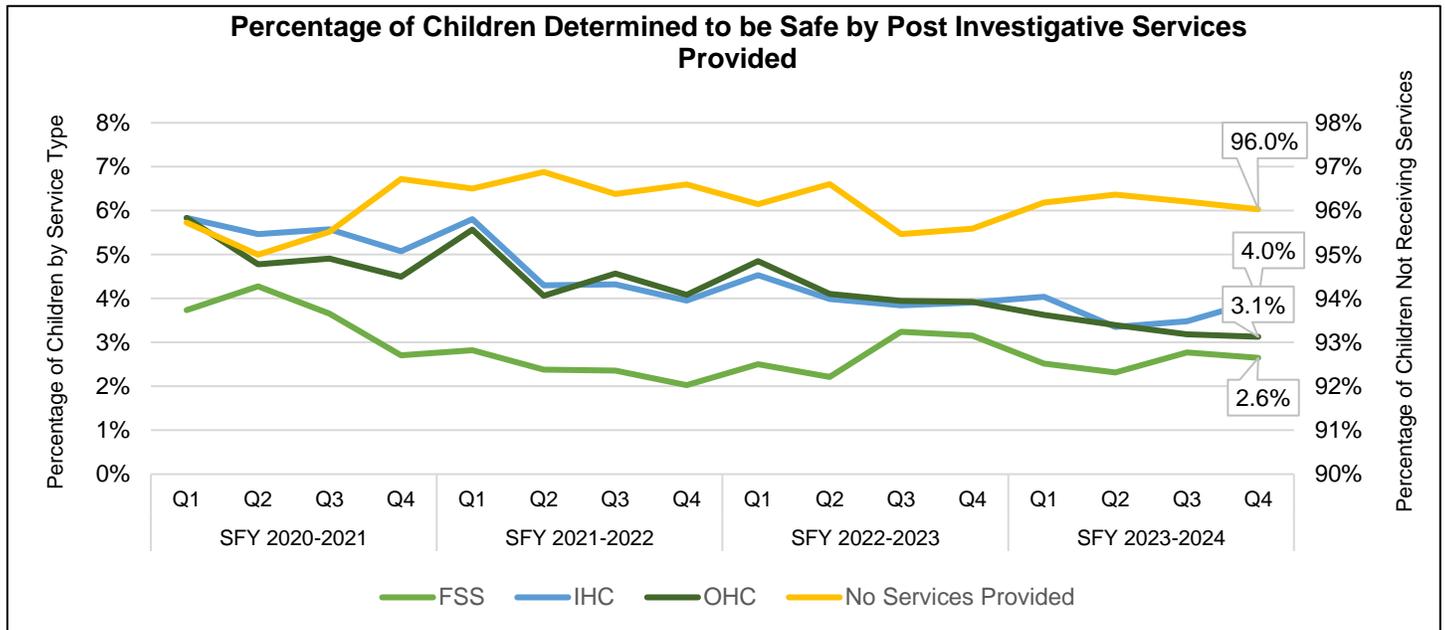


licensed. This has led to a decrease in relative and non-relative care while increasing family licensed care placements. In general, the number of children placed in a traditional foster home has remained stable.

Services for Safe Children

Services Provided for Safe Determinations

This chart looks at all children with a safety determination of 'safe' in investigations closed during the month and shows post-investigation services (if any) the child is receiving. The no services - percentages are charted on the right axis due to the disproportionately high percentage of children closed with a safety determination of safe who do not receive formal post-investigation services. In many cases in which children who are determined to be safe receive formal case management services as outlined below, it is because these same children were already receiving services at the time of the determination.



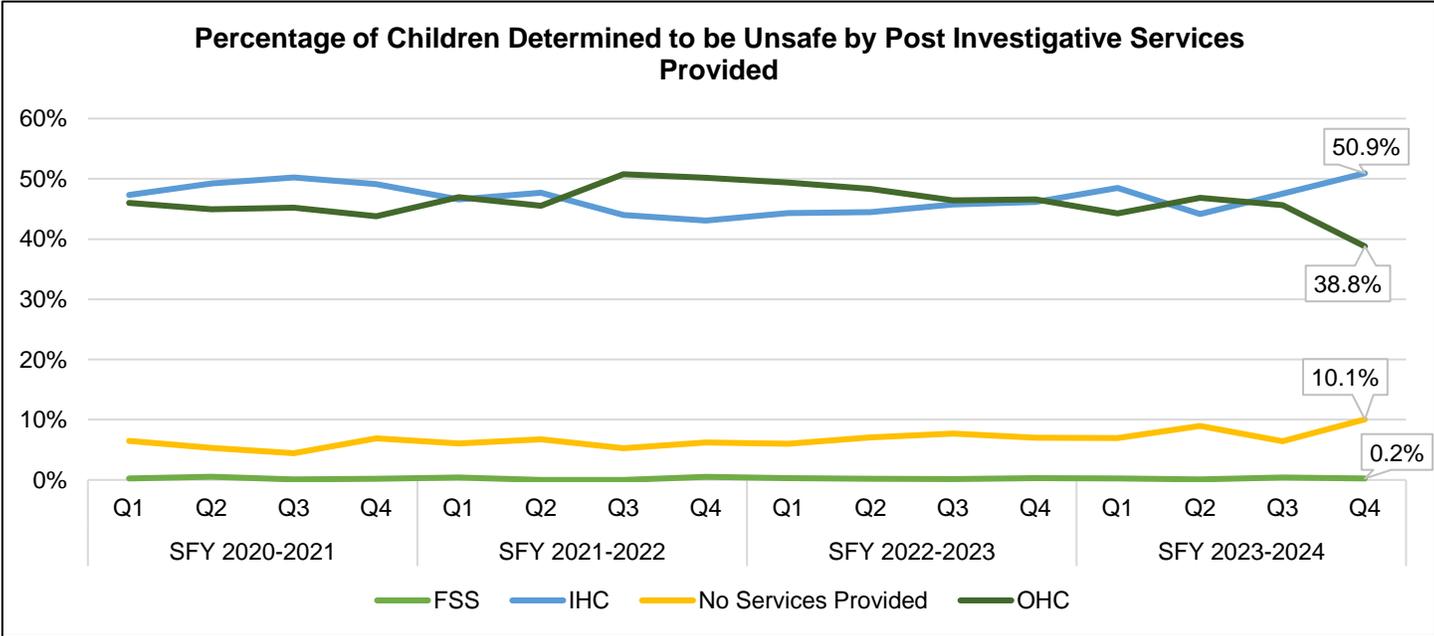
Lead Agency Comparison

Between Lead Agencies, there is variation in service provision for safe children, based on risk level and community referrals, with some Lead Agencies providing services to more than 10% of the safe population in closed investigations, and others providing services to less than 5%.

Percentage of Children Determined to be Safe at Investigation Closure by Post Investigation Services Provided, SFY 2023-2024				
	Family Support Services (FSS)	In-Home Care	Out-of-Home Care	No Services Provided
ChildNet-Broward	0.11%	2.12%	2.78%	94.99%
ChildNet-Palm Beach	0.98%	2.88%	3.29%	92.86%
Childrens Network of SW Florida	2.09%	6.61%	2.77%	88.53%
Childrens Network-Hillsborough	0.40%	4.94%	3.02%	91.65%
Citrus Health Network	3.05%	1.37%	3.99%	91.60%
Communities Connected for Kids	1.87%	2.74%	3.54%	91.85%
Community Partnership for Children	2.85%	4.11%	2.62%	90.42%
Family Integrity Program	1.01%	1.66%	1.17%	96.16%
Family Partnerships of Central Florida	2.57%	1.89%	2.84%	92.70%
Family Support Services of North Fla	8.21%	5.99%	2.94%	82.86%
FSS Suncoast	7.87%	3.86%	3.43%	84.84%
Heartland for Children	1.34%	2.56%	4.33%	91.77%
Kids Central, Inc.	1.03%	2.43%	3.63%	92.91%
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	0.05%	3.68%	2.18%	94.09%
NWF Health Network - East	0.77%	6.10%	2.69%	90.44%
NWF Health Network - West	0.95%	5.67%	3.64%	89.73%
Partnership for Strong Families	0.09%	4.92%	3.83%	91.16%
Safe Children Coalition	7.70%	2.33%	2.80%	87.17%
Statewide	2.53%	3.63%	3.19%	90.65%

Services for Unsafe Children

As shown below, children determined to be unsafe at case closure are more likely to receive formal case management services, which may include both in home and out of home services to mitigate identified risks. Instances in which children are deemed unsafe but do not receive services include, for example, children who are found unsafe by the investigator but are denied probable cause and instead instructed to complete in-home non-judicial services that the family then refused.



Lead Agency Comparison

There is variation between Lead Agencies in service provision for unsafe children, ranging from as few as 1.66% with services not provided to as high as 19.93%.

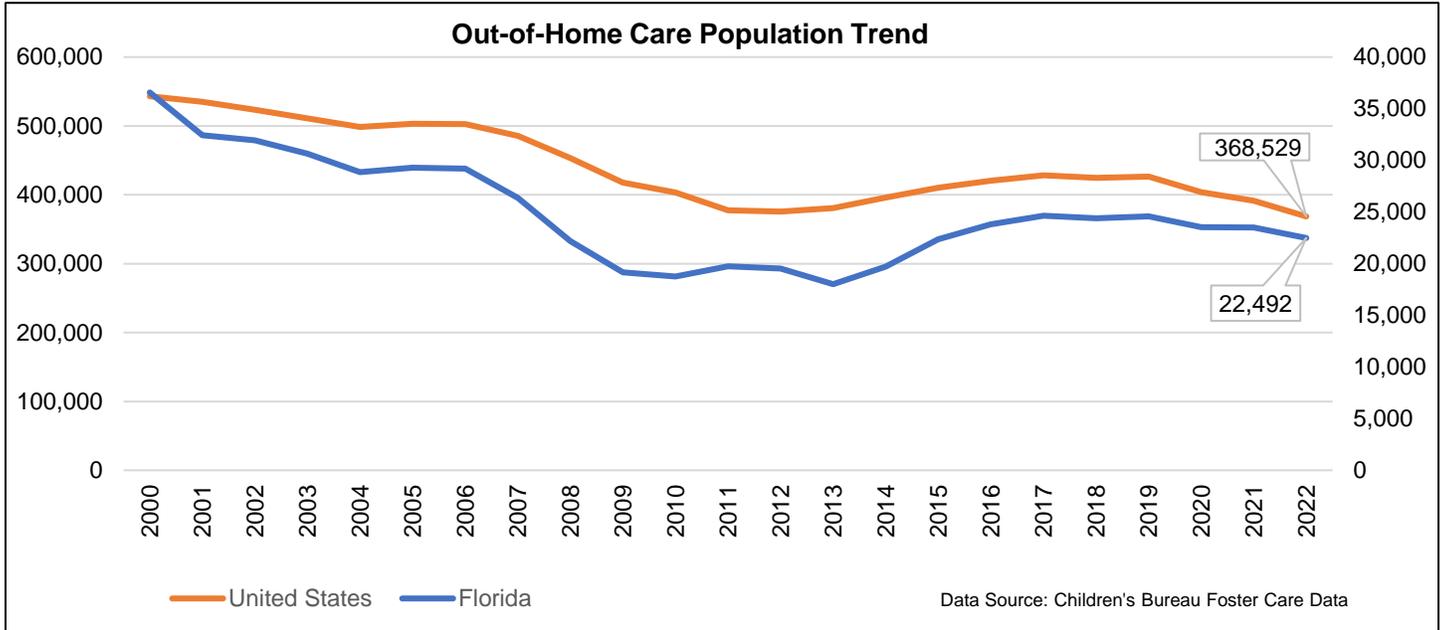
Percentage of Children Determined to be Unsafe at Investigation Closure by Post Investigation Services Provided, SFY 2023-2024				
	Family Support Services (FSS)	In-Home Care	Out-of-Home Care	No Services Provided
ChildNet-Broward	0.16%	29.06%	63.05%	7.72%
ChildNet-Palm Beach	0.00%	37.80%	53.07%	9.14%
Childrens Network of SW Florida	0.00%	62.07%	27.90%	10.04%
Childrens Network-Hillsborough	0.07%	52.84%	27.16%	19.93%
Citrus Health Network	0.54%	23.85%	72.90%	2.71%
Communities Connected for Kids	0.64%	39.92%	51.17%	8.28%
Community Partnership for Children	0.14%	55.68%	35.09%	9.09%
Family Integrity Program	6.12%	53.06%	26.53%	14.29%
Family Partnerships of Central Florida	0.07%	35.30%	59.09%	5.54%
Family Support Services of North Fla	0.55%	64.43%	27.56%	7.46%
FSS Suncoast	0.30%	46.65%	41.78%	11.26%
Heartland for Children	0.24%	31.11%	62.71%	5.93%
Kids Central, Inc.	0.12%	34.28%	59.01%	6.60%
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	0.00%	54.71%	38.24%	7.06%
NWF Health Network - East	0.31%	70.60%	27.43%	1.66%
NWF Health Network - West	0.35%	58.89%	37.03%	3.73%
Partnership for Strong Families	0.00%	53.17%	41.70%	5.13%
Safe Children Coalition	0.00%	35.53%	59.43%	5.03%
Statewide	0.23%	48.28%	43.53%	7.96%

Florida's Out-of-Home Care Population in Context

Changes in Florida's OHC population parallel national trends, both showing significant decline over the past several years. These charts show trends and the relative size of Florida's OHC population to the general population of children and children in investigations.

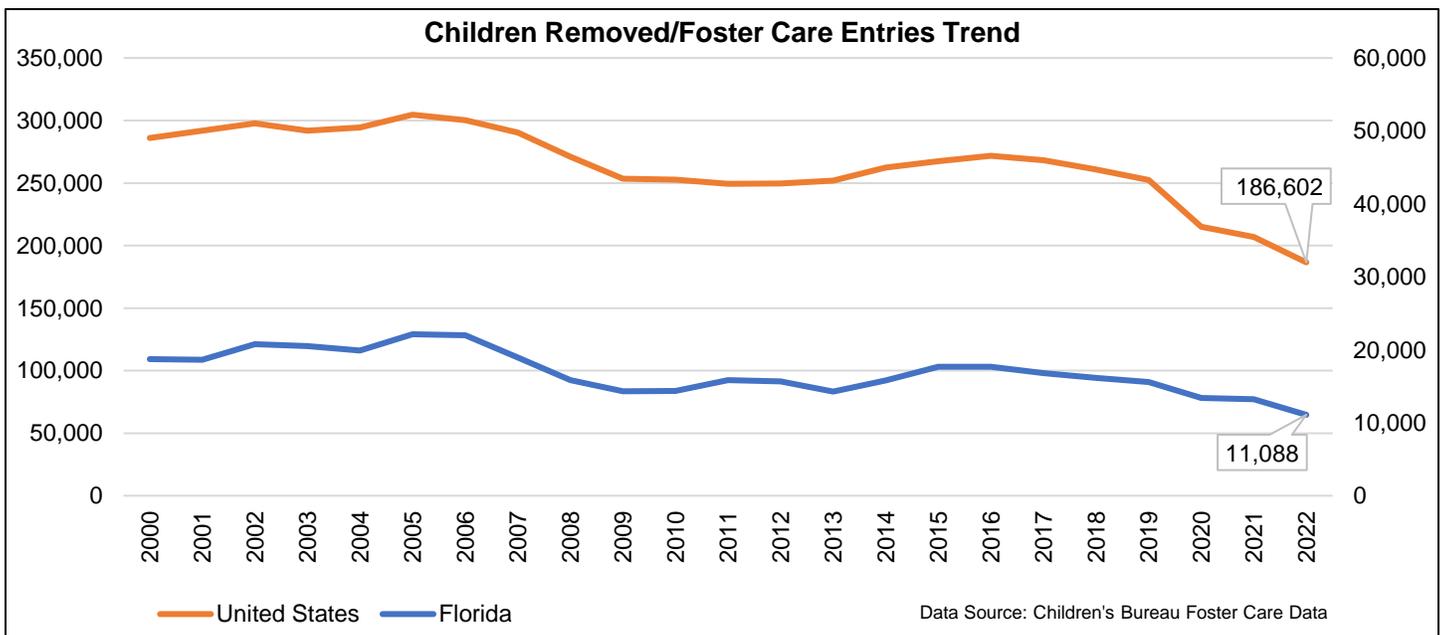
Long-Term Trends: Florida vs. National Average

After increasing between 2013 and 2019, the OHC population trend has decreased, both nationally and in Florida, and is nearing historic lows.



Children Removed/Foster Care Entries Trend

Since 2016, the number of children removed from home has declined across the nation and in Florida, where it has decreased by more than 37%.

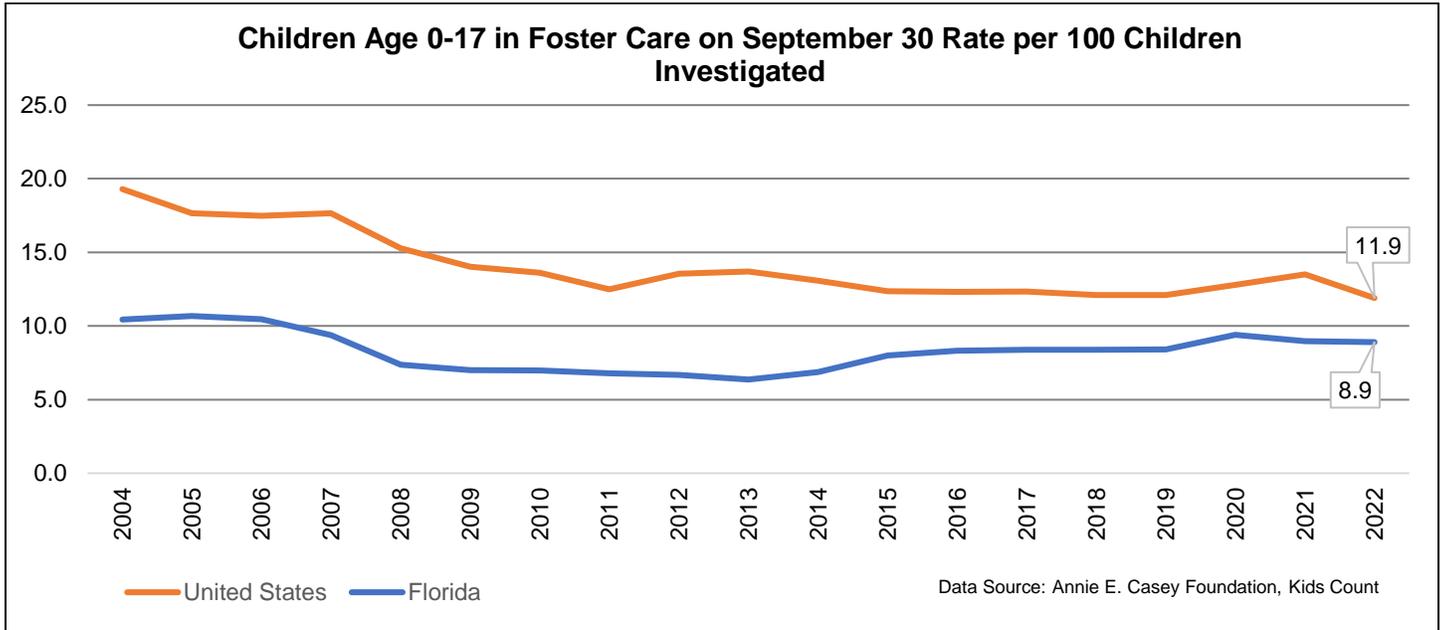


Children in Out-of-Home Care Compared to Children Investigated

To account for national differences in reporting rates, it is important to normalize OHC data by comparing the rate of children investigated. The relative size of the OHC population is also affected by both permanency performance and the removal rate.

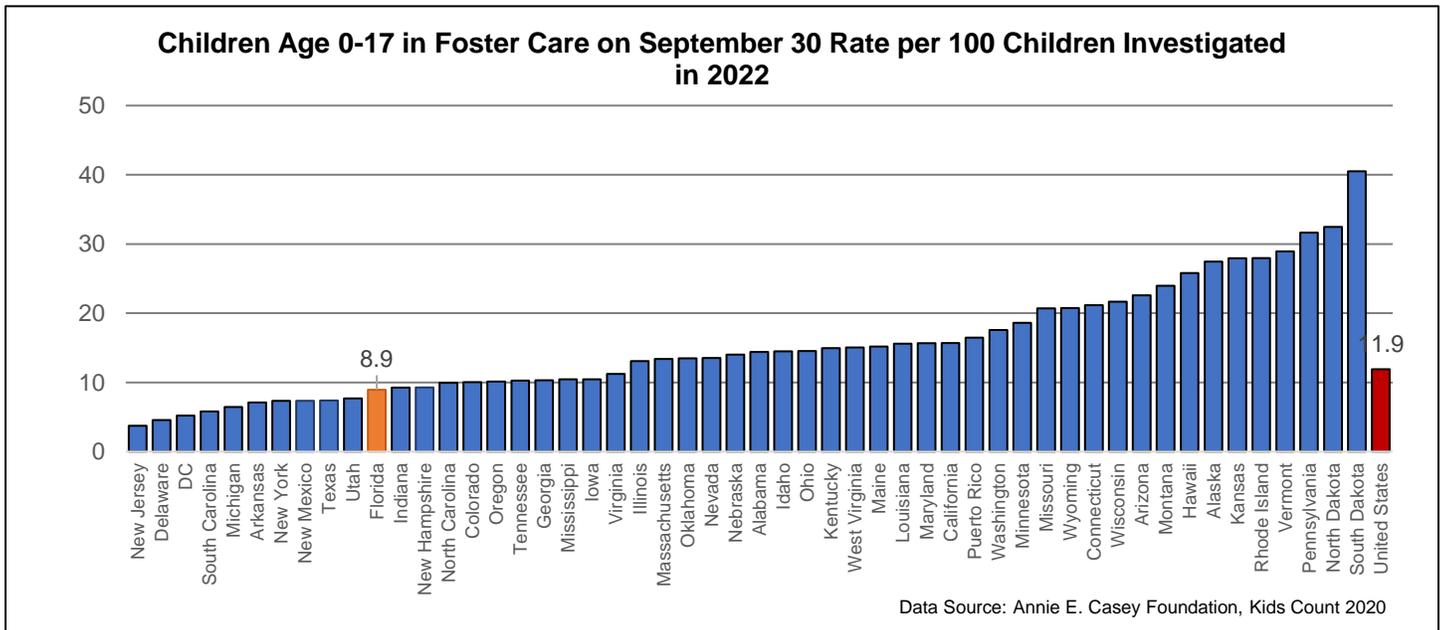
Long-Term Trends: Florida vs. National Average

The most recent data for this measure indicates both Florida and national OHC rate per 100 children investigated has been generally stable over the past five years, although the nationwide trend showed a sharp decline in the most recent federal fiscal year for which data is available.



Florida Compared to Other States

Based on the most recent national data available for this metric, Florida's OHC rate per 100 children investigated was amongst the lowest in the nation in FFY 2022.

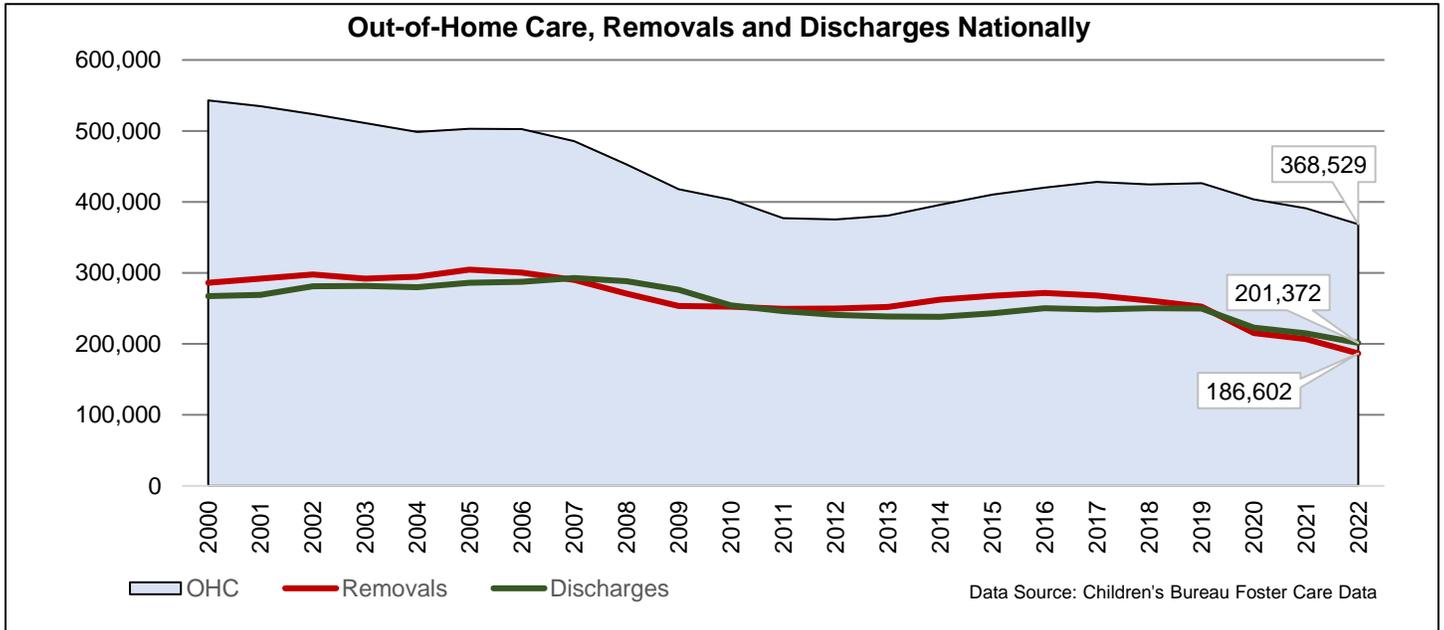


Relationship between Out-of-Home Care, Removals, and Discharges

Changes in the children in the OHC population are driven by changes in removals/entries and discharges/exits.

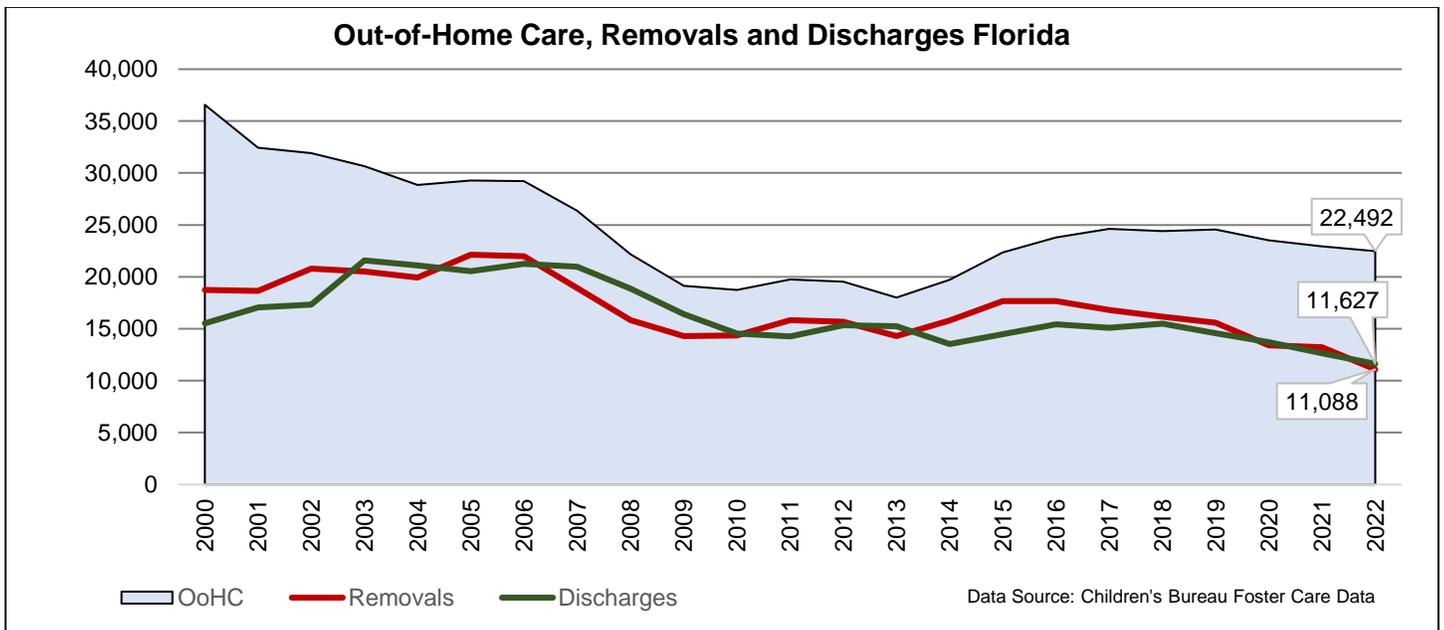
National Trend

This chart shows long-term decreases in the number of children in OHC, with more significant decreases occurring between FFY 2007 and FFY 2011, and more recently, between FFY 2018 and FFY 2022. These decreases were primarily driven by a reduction in removals.



Florida Statewide Trend

Florida metrics are like the national trend, but with steep reductions in removals and OHC in FFYs 2007-09. Between FFY 2014 and FFY 2018 the number of children in OHC began to increase due to a rise in removals and decline in discharges. Reductions in removals have since led to more recent reductions in OHC.



Safety Outcomes

Individual Safety Indicators

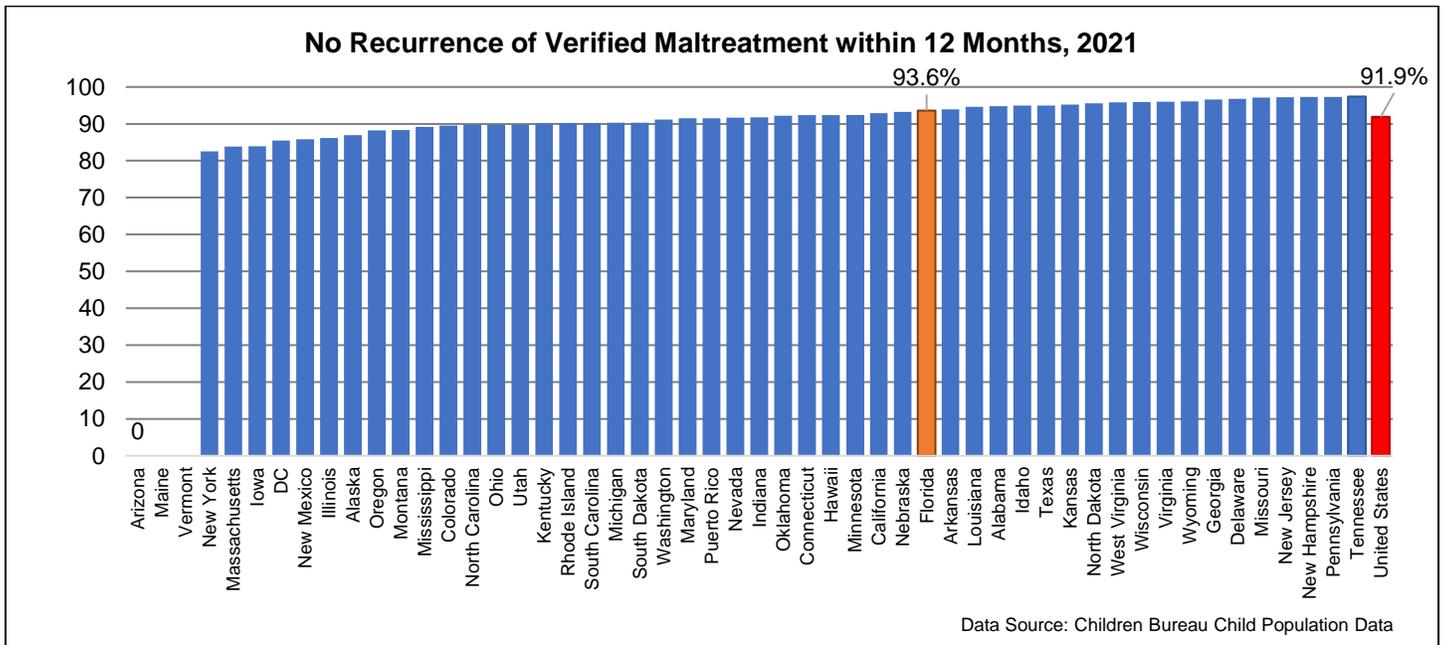
Except for Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment, these are post-investigation measures, therefore, analysis is shown at the Lead Agency level rather than the circuit level.

No Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment

This safety outcome measures recurrence of maltreatment within 12 months of verified maltreatment, regardless of whether services were provided. This national data indicator for CFSR-3, answers the question, “Of all children who were victims of a substantiated maltreatment report during a 12-month period, what percent were victims of another substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months?”

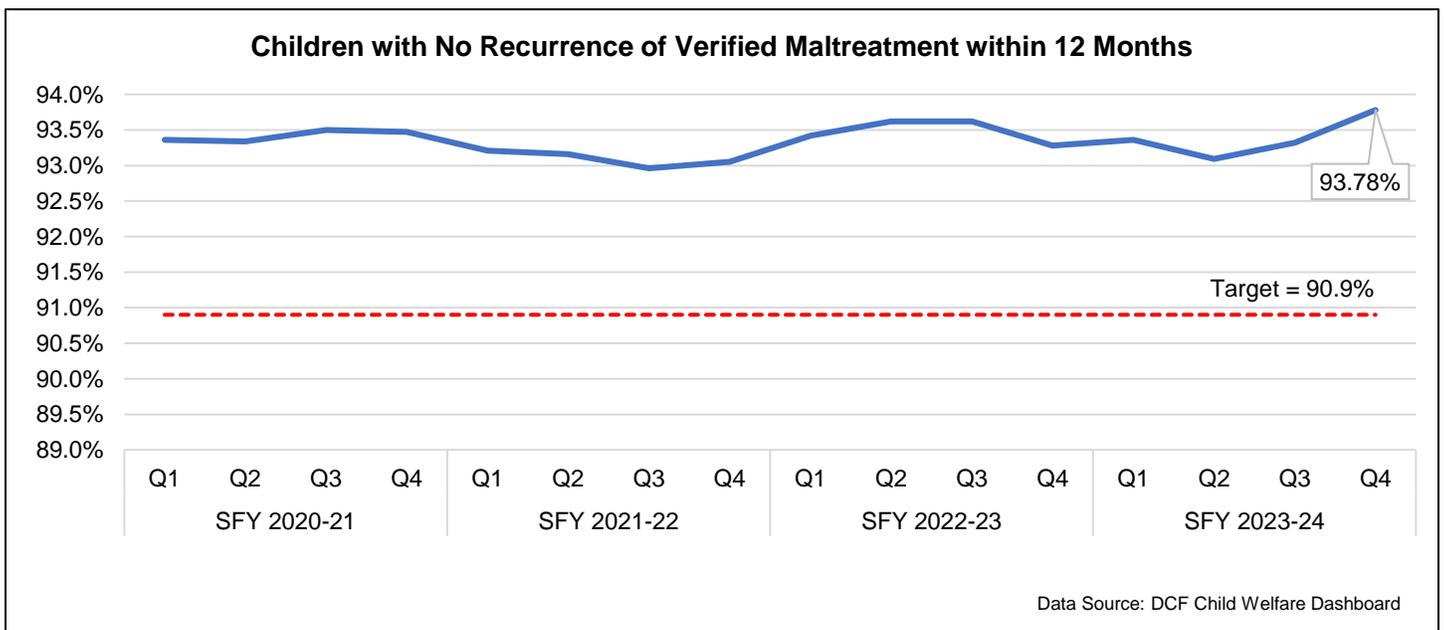
Florida Compared to Other States

In FFY 2020-21 (the most recent data available), Florida’s performance of 93.6% exceeded the national average of 91.9%, and Florida’s performance was higher than the national average for each of the three years prior.



Florida Statewide Trend

Florida’s performance on this indicator has stabilized at a level that is well above the national standard of 90.9%.



Circuit Comparisons

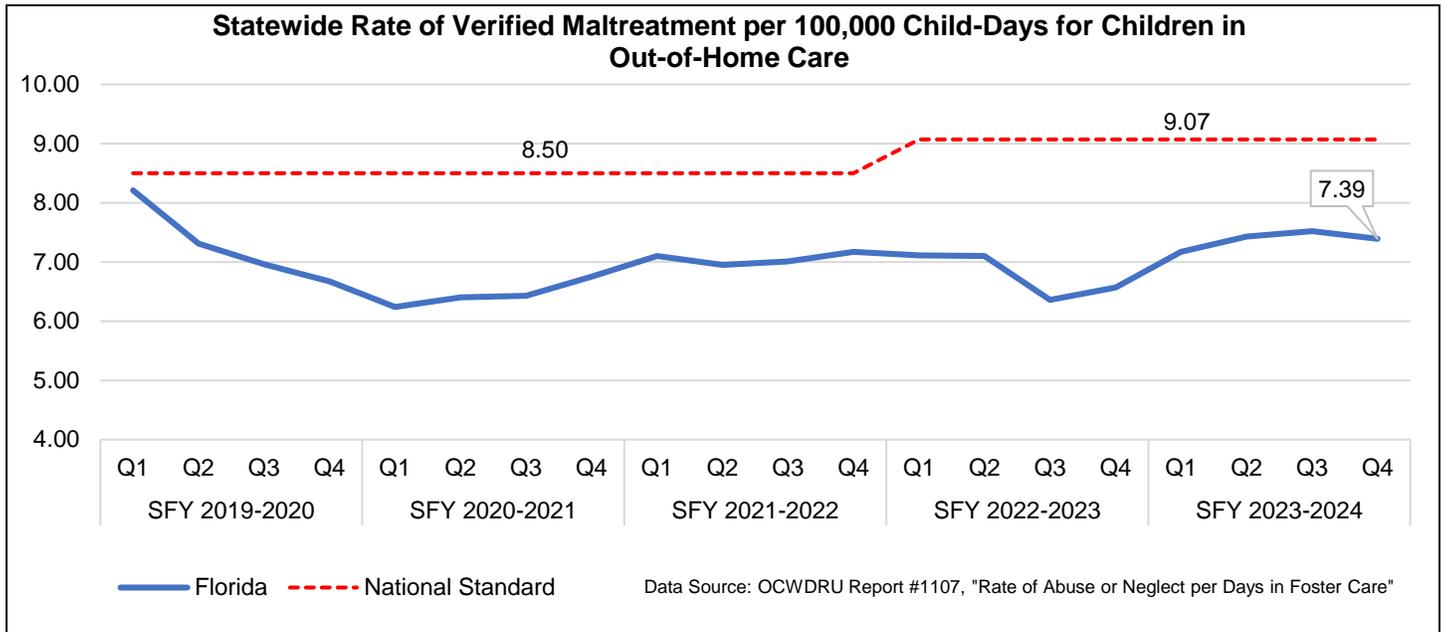
All but one circuit met the national standard for this metric as of the end of SFY 2023-24.

Percentage of Children with no Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment in 12 Months (DCF Target 90.3% or Higher)																	
Region	Investigative Area	SFY 2020-21				SFY 2021-22				SFY 2022-23				SFY 2023-24			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4												
Central	Circuit 5	94.07%	93.99%	93.99%	94.09%	93.25%	94.19%	94.34%	94.50%	94.57%	95.14%	95.51%	93.80%	94.81%	93.84%	93.52%	95.41%
	Circuit 9	94.51%	94.24%	95.13%	95.06%	95.12%	95.21%	94.15%	93.94%	94.11%	92.95%	93.26%	92.93%	92.54%	93.95%	94.54%	94.45%
	Circuit 10	92.20%	92.13%	92.97%	94.26%	94.25%	94.18%	94.07%	93.67%	93.97%	93.60%	92.68%	92.32%	92.14%	92.78%	93.97%	92.63%
	Circuit 18	92.91%	92.47%	92.63%	93.32%	91.90%	92.48%	92.52%	91.42%	93.02%	92.94%	93.54%	95.33%	94.86%	94.97%	94.58%	93.68%
Northeast	Circuit 3	92.94%	92.28%	93.92%	95.80%	94.95%	94.51%	93.35%	93.80%	95.20%	96.06%	97.33%	97.68%	95.74%	95.12%	95.45%	95.42%
	Circuit 4	92.08%	92.34%	93.05%	92.36%	92.19%	92.60%	93.68%	94.07%	94.95%	95.08%	95.02%	95.11%	95.09%	95.02%	94.12%	94.37%
	Circuit 7	92.27%	92.02%	92.31%	92.63%	93.63%	93.89%	94.78%	94.86%	95.01%	94.39%	94.09%	93.64%	93.72%	93.93%	94.45%	95.16%
	Circuit 8	93.14%	95.53%	95.62%	96.83%	97.41%	95.70%	95.33%	94.78%	94.37%	95.80%	95.68%	94.01%	94.81%	93.54%	93.85%	95.34%
Northwest	Circuit 1	91.72%	91.33%	91.16%	91.26%	91.30%	91.40%	91.31%	92.43%	92.37%	92.61%	92.28%	91.82%	90.89%	89.78%	89.69%	90.01%
	Circuit 2	95.02%	95.80%	94.88%	93.81%	92.50%	91.75%	93.26%	94.54%	94.68%	95.70%	94.17%	93.39%	94.06%	93.58%	93.84%	94.65%
	Circuit 14	95.63%	95.33%	95.92%	94.29%	93.55%	94.10%	94.08%	94.33%	94.94%	95.63%	94.48%	95.91%	96.00%	94.98%	94.69%	93.26%
Southeast	Circuit 15	94.64%	94.77%	94.62%	94.37%	93.90%	93.69%	93.81%	94.76%	93.91%	94.13%	93.48%	93.68%	94.83%	95.00%	95.97%	96.50%
	Circuit 17	94.61%	94.28%	94.79%	95.06%	94.74%	94.37%	94.27%	93.77%	93.58%	93.84%	92.91%	92.52%	93.33%	92.69%	93.90%	93.74%
	Circuit 19	94.72%	95.45%	95.62%	95.47%	96.97%	96.34%	95.80%	94.84%	93.22%	93.96%	93.77%	94.42%	94.51%	93.78%	94.77%	93.87%
Southern	Circuit 11	94.53%	94.92%	94.56%	93.83%	92.99%	92.08%	91.22%	92.79%	95.03%	95.87%	97.15%	97.43%	97.48%	96.98%	95.95%	95.31%
	Circuit 16	96.67%	97.50%	98.33%	98.61%	98.61%	97.18%	97.40%	95.31%	95.08%	95.77%	97.26%	98.70%	98.51%	98.63%	94.74%	94.52%
SunCoast	Circuit 6	92.32%	92.13%	91.73%	91.96%	90.65%	89.84%	89.28%	88.88%	90.14%	91.72%	92.33%	91.30%	91.51%	90.84%	91.67%	93.15%
	Circuit 12	93.16%	93.52%	93.13%	92.66%	92.90%	93.06%	92.47%	92.91%	92.56%	91.84%	93.25%	92.51%	93.17%	93.42%	93.16%	94.54%
	Circuit 13	93.99%	94.23%	94.03%	93.34%	92.95%	93.37%	92.81%	93.37%	94.15%	93.91%	93.30%	92.14%	91.55%	90.61%	90.68%	92.98%
	Circuit 20	93.80%	93.44%	93.78%	93.97%	94.54%	94.30%	92.93%	92.41%	92.07%	92.19%	92.67%	93.14%	93.86%	94.51%	94.62%	94.97%
Statewide		93.36%	93.34%	93.50%	93.47%	93.21%	93.16%	92.96%	93.05%	93.42%	93.62%	93.62%	93.28%	93.36%	93.09%	93.32%	93.78%

Data Source: DCF Child Welfare Dashboard

Maltreatment in Foster Care

Maltreatment in Florida's foster care system is a rare event. As a result, the federal CFSR-3 measures it as a rate per 100,000 days in care. It answers the question, "Of all children in foster care during a 12-month period, what is the rate of victimization, per day of care?" Florida's rates have consistently exceeded national standards.



Circuit/Lead Agency Comparisons

As of the end of SFY 2023-24, 15 of the 18 (83%) Lead Agencies met the 9.07 standard established for the rate of abuse per 100,000 bed days in OHC (source: DCF Child Welfare Dashboard).

Lead Agency	Rate of Abuse in per 100,000 days in Out-of-Home Care (DCF Target 9.07 or Lower)															
	SFY 2020-21				SFY 2021-22				SFY 2022-23				SFY 2023-24			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
ChildNet-Broward	5.11	4.57	6.66	7.14	7.24	5.57	5.60	8.11	8.59	9.37	6.30	6.08	5.97	6.90	8.49	7.32
ChildNet-Palm Beach	5.06	6.90	5.92	5.42	6.21	4.40	5.46	7.76	10.42	10.89	10.05	7.88	8.62	8.08	7.77	8.70
Childrens Network of SW Florida	8.16	7.62	8.08	7.95	8.86	9.78	7.36	7.47	7.01	4.49	5.05	4.65	4.71	4.36	3.55	4.51
Childrens Network-Hillsborough	5.39	5.72	5.07	6.89	7.55	7.37	8.89	7.40	7.43	7.22	7.28	7.31	6.10	8.39	7.15	6.67
Citrus Health Network	7.28	6.87	7.05	7.39	6.82	6.36	5.78	3.40	2.84	2.48	1.68	4.16	4.95	6.01	6.42	5.29
Communities Connected for Kids	2.75	5.71	6.43	7.21	7.62	6.53	6.30	6.69	8.13	8.91	8.93	9.04	10.35	9.64	11.73	13.98
Community Partnership for Children	5.08	5.27	5.61	5.56	8.19	3.83	3.00	6.06	5.27	8.27	6.94	6.89	6.51	6.02	7.60	8.51
Family Integrity Program	5.03	4.80	6.33	7.76	8.05	6.81	3.72	4.06	2.24	2.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.83	9.56
Family Partnerships of Central Florida	7.34	7.67	7.18	6.57	8.56	8.38	8.80	9.44	8.12	7.88	8.47	8.14	9.74	9.83	9.63	9.45
Family Support Services of North Florida	8.70	7.85	7.34	8.26	8.58	9.29	7.86	6.64	5.34	5.42	4.87	5.75	7.38	6.54	6.03	5.59
FSS Suncoast	9.23	8.33	6.72	5.87	5.20	6.44	7.95	8.05	8.42	7.84	5.68	6.84	7.08	5.66	6.00	5.91
Heartland for Children	5.25	4.85	7.21	8.56	7.40	9.10	8.61	9.75	8.82	8.47	7.21	6.52	7.98	8.55	7.76	6.33
Kids Central, Inc.	6.03	5.44	4.96	4.63	3.58	4.08	4.04	4.17	4.99	3.79	2.75	2.58	4.45	5.94	5.09	6.12
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	5.45	8.13	7.64	6.13	5.23	2.61	5.27	5.38	4.73	7.11	4.40	4.75	3.75	1.32	0.00	1.53
NWF Health Network - East	4.19	5.50	5.13	3.22	3.83	3.40	4.39	5.74	5.00	5.09	4.19	6.12	5.34	7.14	7.78	6.03
NWF Health Network - West	4.27	5.55	7.82	8.18	7.71	6.82	5.11	6.84	9.34	11.01	11.44	10.22	12.76	11.95	12.87	13.46
Partnership for Strong Families	3.97	3.83	3.02	5.19	4.44	6.30	6.82	4.29	5.82	6.48	7.17	8.46	9.06	8.49	8.18	8.27
Safe Children Coalition	6.58	6.30	7.11	10.27	12.35	12.09	11.97	8.69	5.89	5.79	4.41	5.68	4.95	5.87	7.42	6.92
Statewide	6.24	6.40	6.43	6.75	7.10	6.95	7.01	7.17	7.11	7.10	6.36	6.61	7.17	7.43	7.52	7.39

Maltreatment During Case-Managed Services

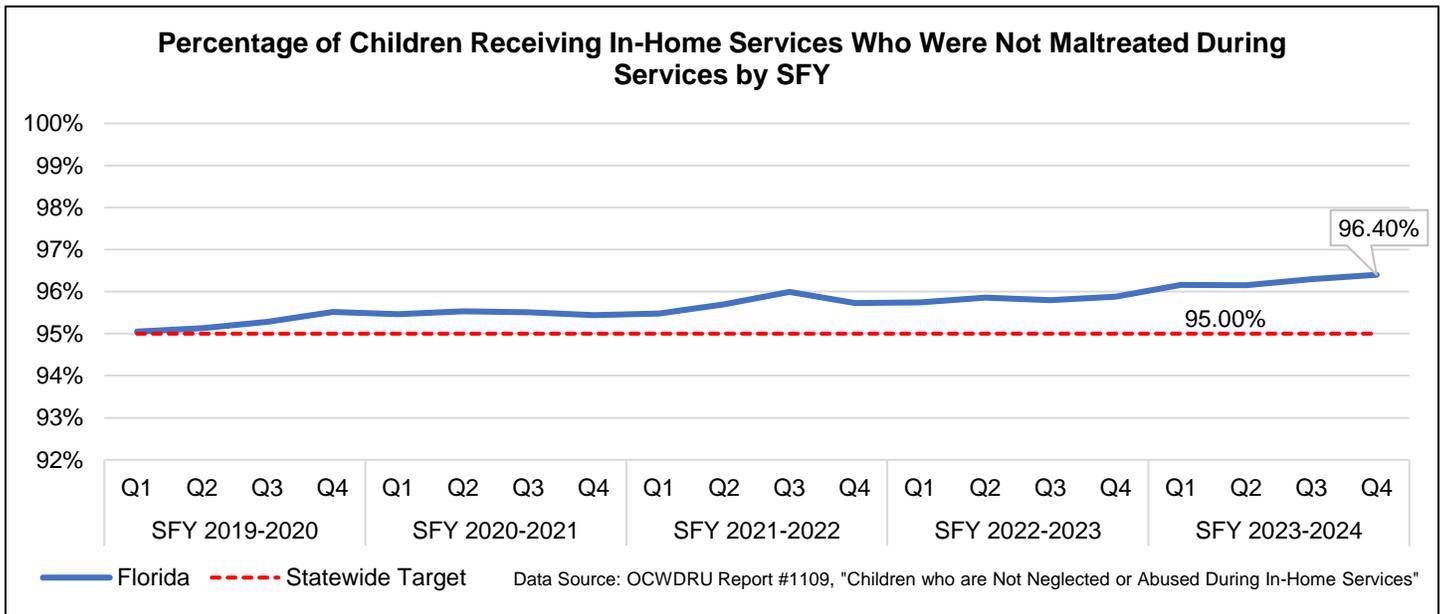
Children receiving case-management in-home services include:

- Children found to be unsafe and needing ongoing assessment, planning, services, and frequent case manager visits to ensure safety while preventing removal and placement.
- Children receiving post-placement supervision.

Florida’s practice model requires services to be provided by the least intrusive means necessary and requires reasonable efforts to allow children to remain in their home. As a result, there may be a greater likelihood of verified maltreatment during the in-home service provision. As with other recurrence indicators, measurement is influenced by verification rates.

Florida Statewide Trend

Performance for this metric has remained above the established target since FY 19-20 despite significant declines in Florida’s removal rates. This supports the assertion that Florida’s children remain safe during the provision of in-home services.



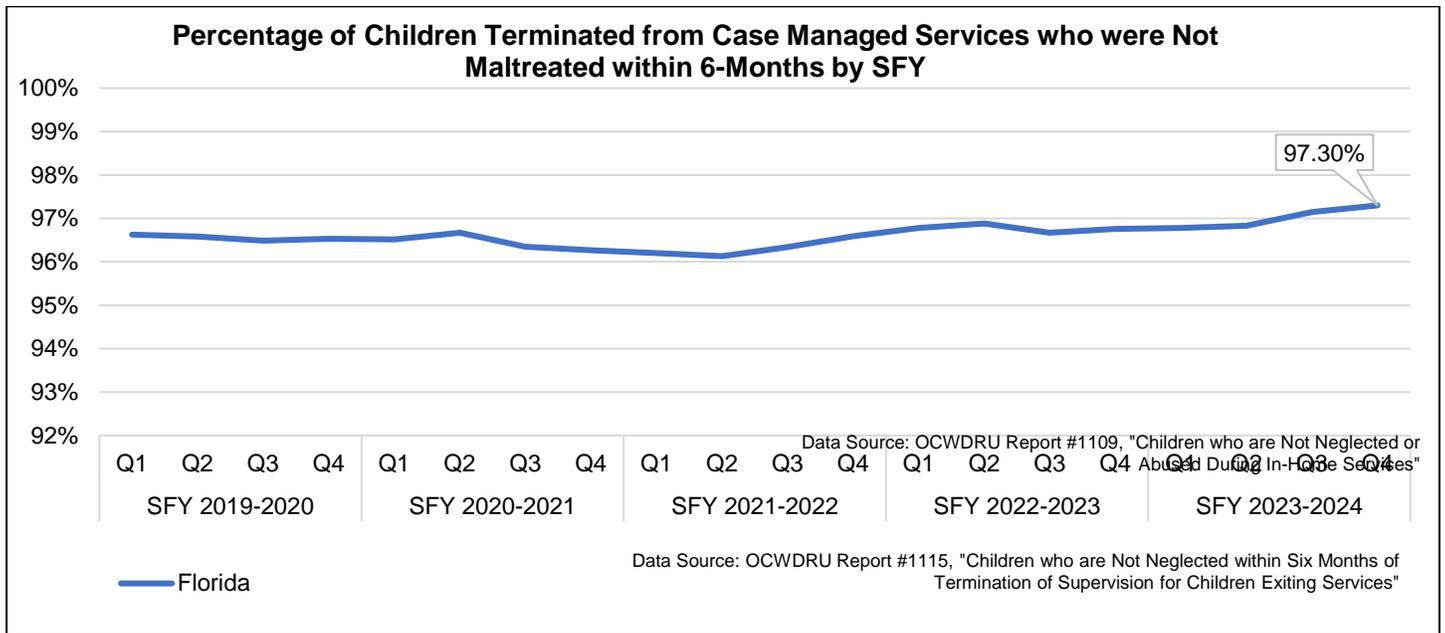
Circuit/Lead Agency Comparisons

As of the end of SFY 2023-24, 15 of the 18 (83%) Lead Agencies met the 95% standard established for the percentage of children not abused during in-home services.

Lead Agency	SFY 2020-21				SFY 2021-22				SFY 2022-23				SFY 2023-24			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4												
ChildNet-Broward	96.06%	95.50%	95.67%	95.89%	96.09%	96.73%	97.11%	96.51%	96.80%	96.22%	95.86%	95.63%	95.85%	95.72%	94.63%	94.68%
ChildNet-Palm Beach	95.74%	95.95%	96.16%	96.37%	96.60%	96.13%	95.82%	95.98%	95.72%	96.48%	97.14%	96.89%	96.78%	96.43%	96.20%	96.26%
Childrens Network of SW Florida	96.53%	96.17%	96.00%	96.00%	95.17%	95.75%	96.36%	96.55%	97.35%	97.80%	96.50%	96.32%	97.07%	97.00%	98.17%	98.12%
Childrens Network-Hillsborough	95.56%	94.90%	95.09%	95.02%	94.90%	96.02%	96.76%	96.92%	96.10%	95.93%	96.42%	96.00%	97.43%	97.65%	97.37%	97.78%
Citrus Health Network	97.05%	97.13%	96.80%	96.49%	97.24%	96.66%	96.55%	95.50%	95.61%	96.67%	96.47%	96.54%	96.06%	95.76%	96.06%	97.12%
Communities Connected for Kids	96.15%	97.06%	97.00%	97.53%	97.25%	96.08%	95.69%	94.48%	94.68%	94.51%	93.94%	93.26%	93.96%	94.13%	95.01%	95.86%
Community Partnership for Children	94.41%	94.02%	94.78%	94.48%	95.27%	96.15%	96.16%	95.46%	94.24%	94.19%	95.70%	96.09%	97.27%	97.44%	96.93%	97.44%
Family Integrity Program	93.20%	95.17%	96.77%	95.85%	97.86%	97.90%	98.65%	98.50%	96.13%	95.09%	94.70%	95.36%	98.52%	98.45%	96.52%	98.02%
Family Partnerships of Central Florida	94.24%	95.33%	95.59%	95.10%	95.08%	95.46%	95.26%	95.07%	94.39%	94.87%	95.03%	94.74%	95.13%	94.95%	94.71%	94.36%
Family Support Services of North Florida	94.85%	95.13%	95.38%	96.35%	96.21%	96.29%	96.83%	96.67%	96.59%	96.60%	95.71%	95.38%	96.12%	96.35%	96.60%	96.58%
FSS Suncoast	94.84%	95.04%	93.89%	94.32%	94.23%	94.27%	94.51%	93.24%	93.96%	94.03%	94.77%	95.93%	96.53%	96.72%	96.92%	97.26%
Heartland for Children	94.23%	95.29%	96.21%	96.96%	96.97%	96.42%	96.04%	95.38%	95.09%	94.95%	94.58%	94.60%	94.37%	93.98%	95.03%	95.72%
Kids Central, Inc.	95.92%	94.74%	93.88%	93.91%	94.78%	95.39%	95.96%	95.69%	95.71%	95.45%	95.41%	95.48%	95.45%	99.54%	96.08%	96.19%
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	94.89%	94.74%	96.50%	96.37%	94.93%	95.88%	95.92%	96.65%	98.84%	99.04%	99.27%	99.61%	99.58%	99.54%	99.53%	99.53%
NWF Health Network - East	96.72%	96.59%	96.65%	95.82%	95.40%	95.22%	95.50%	95.83%	96.36%	97.10%	97.20%	97.53%	97.19%	96.65%	96.33%	95.93%
NWF Health Network - West	96.44%	95.77%	94.81%	94.42%	93.01%	93.22%	94.78%	95.18%	95.15%	94.90%	94.26%	94.48%	93.68%	94.18%	94.58%	94.10%
Partnership for Strong Families	96.10%	96.48%	96.21%	95.32%	95.38%	95.75%	95.67%	96.75%	97.58%	97.67%	97.69%	97.42%	97.72%	96.51%	96.92%	95.97%
Safe Children Coalition	94.54%	96.42%	96.41%	96.07%	96.90%	97.41%	98.18%	97.90%	97.34%	96.95%	96.90%	97.23%	97.39%	97.38%	97.45%	97.32%
Statewide	95.46%	95.53%	95.51%	95.44%	95.48%	95.70%	95.99%	95.73%	95.74%	95.86%	95.80%	95.86%	96.16%	96.15%	96.30%	96.38%

Florida Statewide Trend

Just as it is important to ensure safety of children receiving services, it is also important that supervision is not terminated prematurely; otherwise, the risk of subsequent maltreatment remains high. Florida has shown progress on this indicator over the past five years, though there is no national target to measure against nor is it consistently tracked across states.

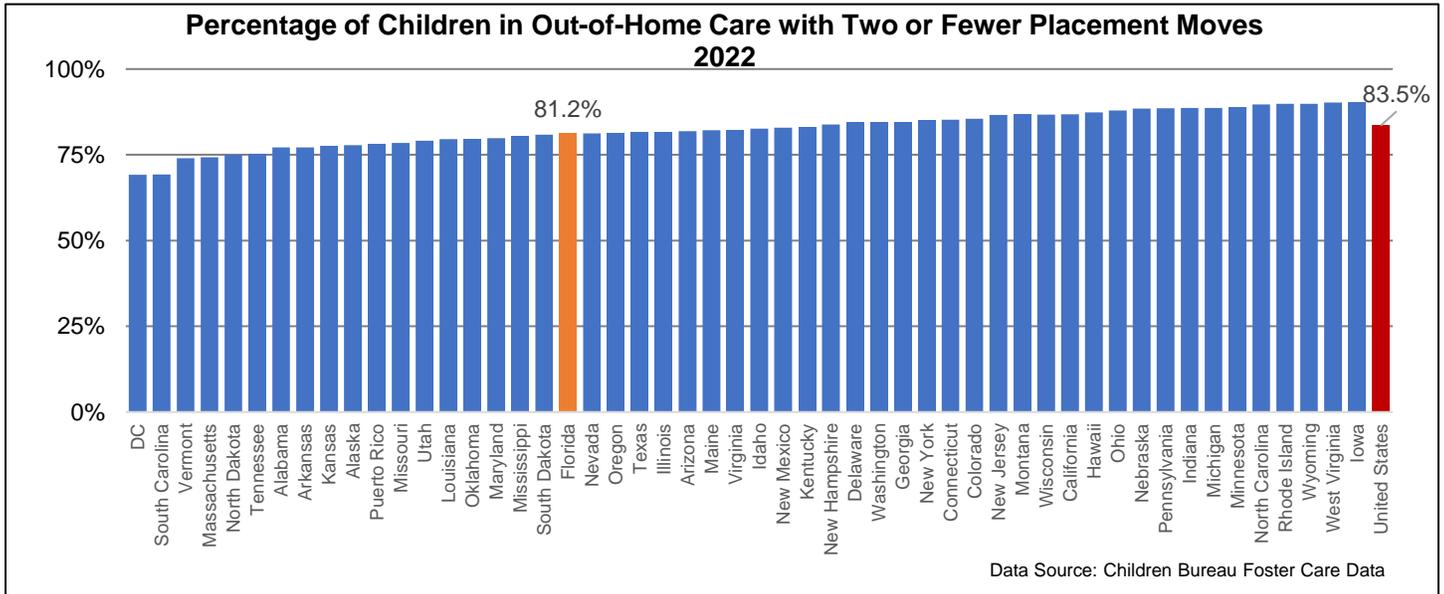


Permanency Indicators

Placement Stability

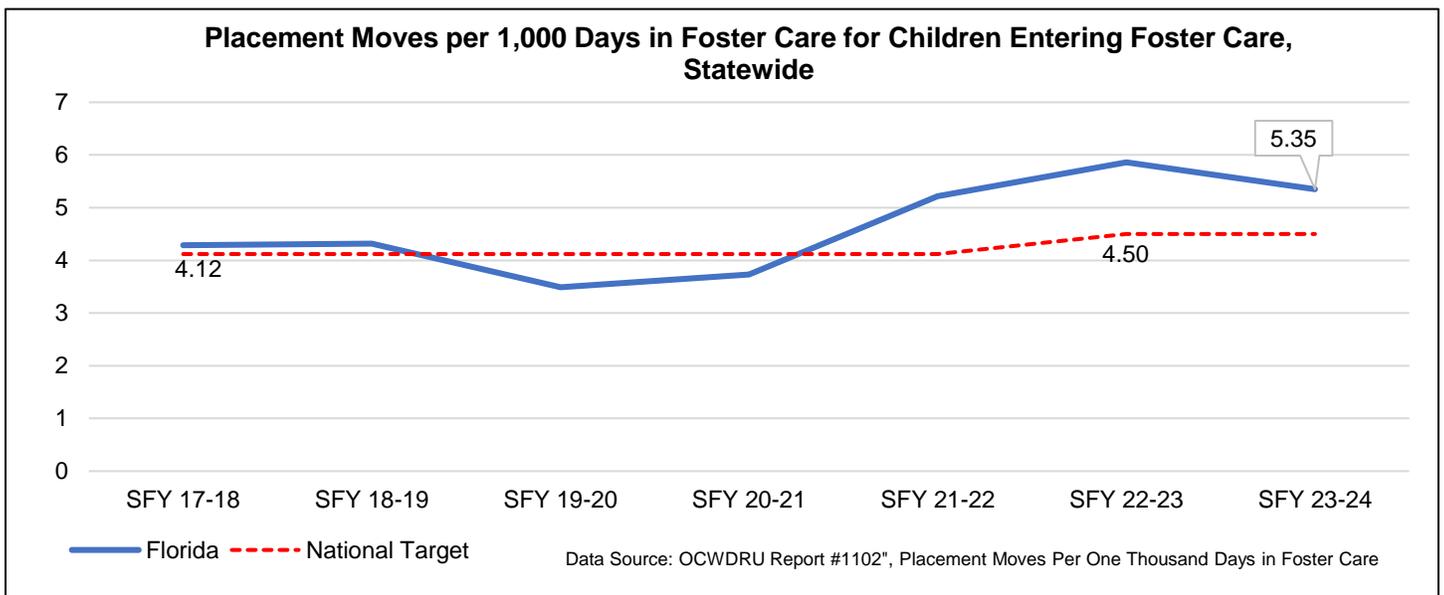
Florida Compared to Other States

Based on the most recent available FFY data, in a comparison of placement stability among ranked states, Florida fell within the second quartile and slightly below the national average for the percentage of children with two or fewer placement moves. Note that this measure differs from the rate of placement moves, which is the indicator used in Florida to evaluate placement stability.



Florida Statewide Trend

Although the rate of moves per 1,000 days in care has increased, there has been a significant and steady decline in the total number of placement moves since SFY 2018-19. Over the past four years, placement moves have declined by 39% and bed days have declined by 45%. Because the decline in total bed days has outpaced the decline in placement moves, the rate of placement moves per 1,000 bed days has increased at the statewide level, contradicting the overall positive progress Florida has made in both placement moves and total bed days.

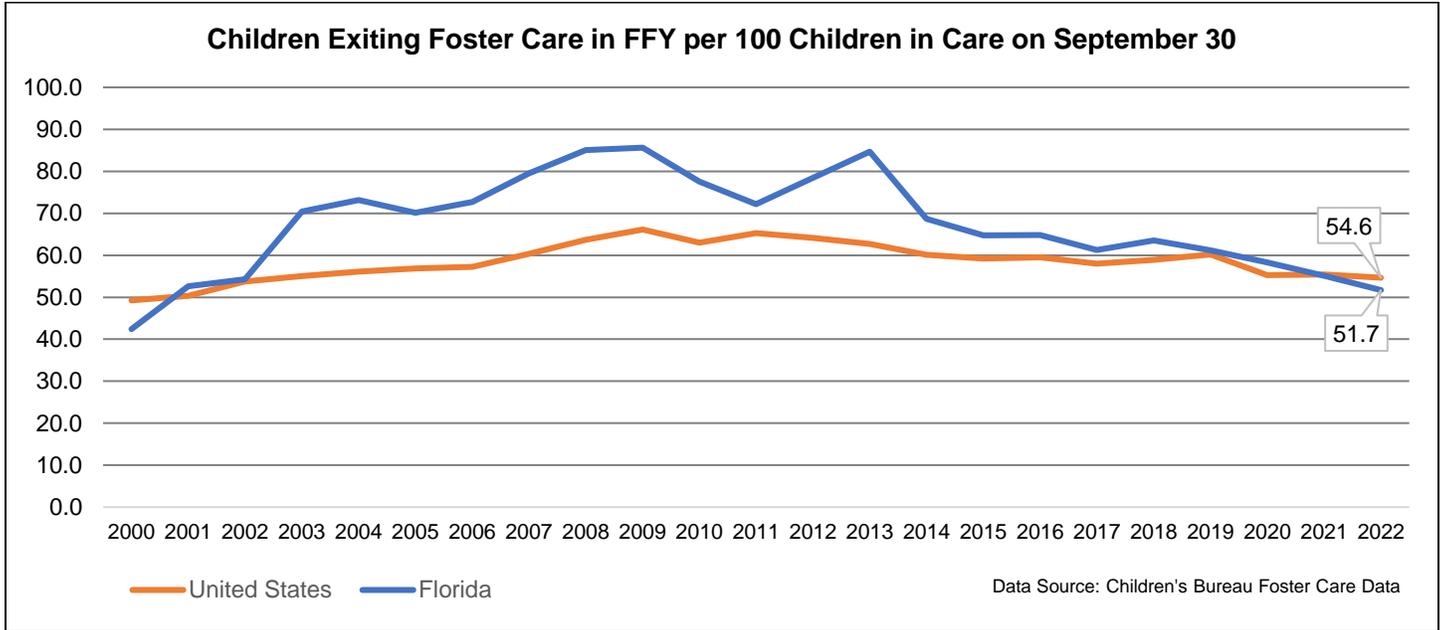


Children Exiting Foster Care per 100 Children in Care

To compare states and communities, discharges in each period are compared to the number of children in OHC at the end of the period.

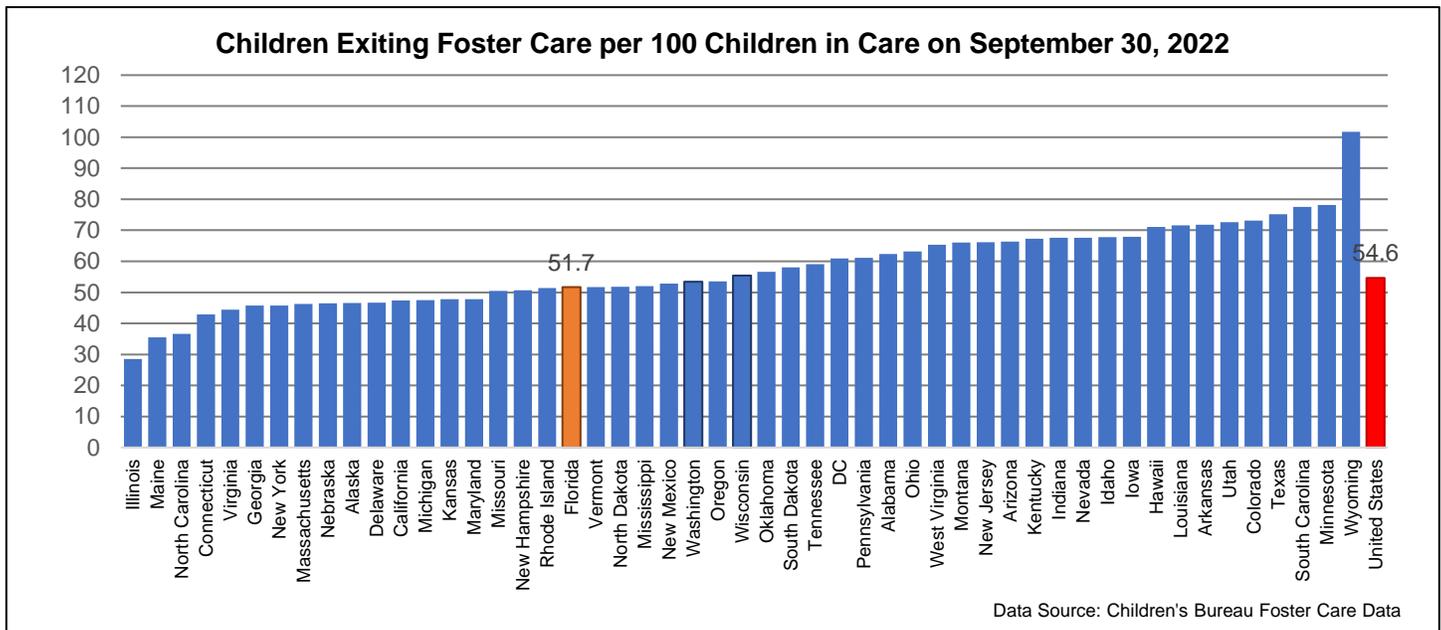
Long-Term Trends: Florida vs. National Average

Florida's exit rate from Foster Care has been declining since FFY 2013 and fell below the national average for FFY 2022, the most recent year of available data.



Florida Compared to Other States

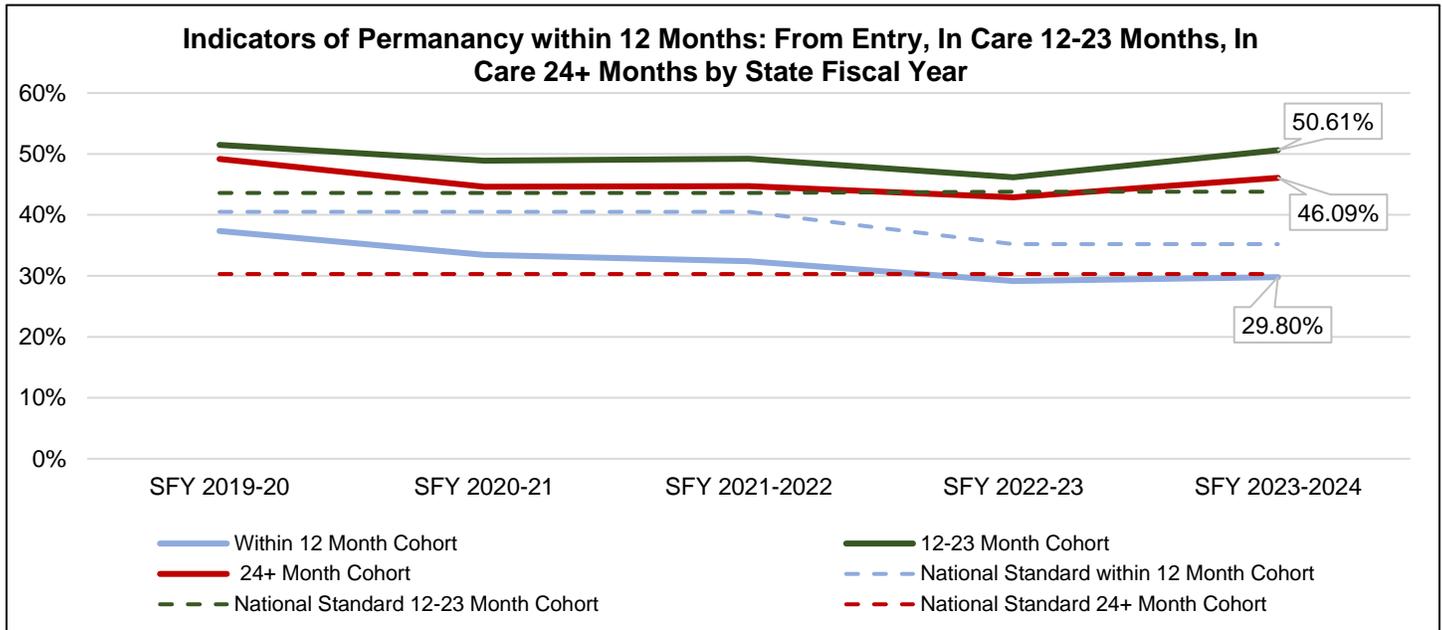
The most recent available national data indicates that Florida's exit rate of 51.7 per 100 children in OHC was below national averages and in the second quartile among ranked states.



Permanency in 12 Months for Children Entering Care

Florida Statewide Trend

Permanency in 12 months is measured based on the time in care for the children achieving permanency – those in care less than 12 months, 12-23 months, and 24 or more months. The percentage of children achieving permanency has declined for each cohort over the past five years, with the most pronounced decline occurring in children achieving permanency within 12-months of entering OHC, we suspect the declining numbers of children entering care due to robust diversion efforts, to be impacting this measure due to a higher proportion of complex cases being placed in OHC



Circuit/Lead Agency Comparisons

As of the end of SFY 2023-24, 5 of 18 (28%) Lead Agencies met the established target of 35.2% for the percent of children in OHC less than 12-months achieving permanency².

Lead Agency	Permanency in 12 Months (DCF Target 35.2% or Higher)															
	SFY 2020-21				SFY 2021-22				SFY 2022-23				SFY 2023-24			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
ChildNet-Broward	42.86%	38.16%	34.63%	31.90%	33.77%	35.08%	35.35%	35.75%	32.05%	30.57%	31.49%	32.56%	31.91%	33.74%	32.99%	31.89%
ChildNet-Palm Beach	40.95%	42.48%	42.70%	45.32%	43.28%	38.30%	36.48%	33.33%	32.31%	34.80%	34.92%	35.39%	35.87%	35.30%	35.65%	35.98%
Childrens Network of SW Florida	42.89%	40.99%	41.46%	42.92%	43.90%	42.53%	38.56%	37.39%	33.64%	33.21%	36.30%	34.37%	33.48%	34.07%	35.24%	39.63%
Childrens Network-Hillsborough	29.65%	30.08%	28.53%	26.98%	27.29%	26.68%	26.89%	25.35%	27.19%	27.41%	28.24%	28.65%	24.60%	23.05%	19.68%	17.63%
Citrus Health Network	35.44%	36.39%	35.10%	36.48%	36.62%	35.82%	33.27%	30.74%	27.87%	25.49%	25.04%	22.92%	23.89%	24.19%	24.45%	23.37%
Communities Connected for Kids	39.96%	43.01%	40.90%	46.30%	45.02%	44.08%	46.29%	45.54%	45.48%	43.73%	38.68%	39.00%	37.06%	36.93%	35.51%	34.45%
Community Partnership for Children	32.75%	29.36%	28.43%	29.60%	30.77%	28.49%	27.83%	26.88%	24.95%	25.89%	26.00%	25.81%	26.91%	27.07%	27.02%	26.46%
Family Integrity Program	53.85%	49.22%	39.23%	35.71%	32.58%	33.88%	36.36%	48.75%	49.15%	38.81%	42.37%	29.41%	27.27%	27.03%	25.71%	28.57%
Family Partnerships of Central Florida	37.64%	36.68%	35.89%	34.74%	31.51%	30.34%	30.33%	31.54%	31.10%	31.16%	29.47%	25.99%	28.08%	27.87%	25.17%	24.38%
Family Support Services of North Florida	45.00%	42.28%	40.40%	34.77%	35.09%	34.71%	36.13%	37.12%	34.44%	31.43%	28.97%	27.51%	23.33%	23.16%	21.97%	22.58%
FSS Suncoast	29.43%	28.94%	27.06%	26.30%	26.43%	25.78%	27.28%	27.18%	26.07%	25.05%	26.07%	26.43%	26.29%	28.71%	29.17%	30.65%
Heartland for Children	38.41%	37.95%	33.52%	30.88%	30.97%	30.08%	33.42%	34.79%	35.50%	34.19%	29.20%	29.26%	28.71%	28.61%	34.19%	35.61%
Kids Central, Inc.	39.87%	40.78%	38.24%	37.21%	37.41%	35.08%	34.48%	33.26%	31.91%	31.72%	29.45%	28.83%	25.28%	24.58%	27.01%	26.20%
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	30.65%	34.75%	31.88%	32.56%	29.11%	28.67%	31.17%	30.41%	32.75%	34.52%	34.81%	30.48%	21.79%	12.66%	13.19%	18.75%
NWF Health Network - East	26.74%	25.68%	27.68%	28.47%	30.92%	31.31%	31.44%	30.77%	28.98%	30.25%	31.77%	33.05%	34.89%	33.53%	34.50%	38.58%
NWF Health Network - West	34.75%	32.62%	29.01%	28.11%	24.80%	25.25%	23.00%	23.08%	24.42%	24.17%	27.30%	25.45%	27.81%	28.49%	29.08%	30.57%
Partnership for Strong Families	37.68%	35.74%	33.39%	28.11%	29.80%	27.05%	22.92%	23.48%	23.35%	25.29%	26.11%	25.95%	24.50%	22.25%	23.78%	24.48%
Safe Children Coalition	37.46%	35.43%	33.15%	33.19%	34.25%	34.38%	38.63%	38.74%	39.18%	35.95%	35.90%	34.07%	36.75%	41.25%	40.55%	41.40%
Statewide	36.97%	36.18%	34.43%	33.59%	33.36%	32.29%	32.11%	31.88%	30.91%	30.37%	30.13%	29.31%	28.86%	29.17%	29.17%	29.71%

Data Source: DCF Child Welfare Dashboard

² Family Partnerships of Central Florida was awarded the lead agency contract for Circuits 9 and 18 on May 1, 2024.

Circuit/Lead Agency Comparisons (continued)

For children in care 12-23 months achieving permanency, 13 of 18 (83%) Lead Agencies met the federal target of 43.8%, while 17 of 18 (94%) met the target for children in OHC 24 or more months achieving permanency.

Children in Care 12-23 Months and Achieving Months Permanency within 12 Months (DCF Target 43.8% or Higher)																
Lead Agency	SFY 2020-21				SFY 2021-22				SFY 2022-23				SFY 2023-24			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4												
ChildNet-Broward	64.20%	63.19%	52.26%	50.76%	52.61%	56.18%	54.48%	50.76%	52.11%	54.22%	57.82%	56.67%	50.17%	57.99%	49.51%	49.66%
ChildNet-Palm Beach	58.10%	53.87%	53.50%	59.27%	61.47%	64.95%	61.94%	61.67%	61.79%	58.21%	56.84%	61.06%	60.89%	59.41%	55.61%	61.58%
Childrens Network of SW Florida	61.17%	63.75%	60.06%	54.49%	58.33%	61.75%	60.12%	61.00%	57.75%	58.67%	59.13%	61.16%	59.95%	59.94%	66.56%	63.16%
Childrens Network-Hillsborough	45.28%	42.99%	42.08%	42.55%	39.49%	40.63%	40.37%	38.45%	33.86%	32.11%	31.32%	32.31%	35.34%	36.11%	37.21%	38.97%
Citrus Health Network	60.25%	59.76%	49.59%	47.60%	44.48%	45.39%	49.09%	48.21%	44.10%	44.29%	39.74%	46.22%	46.15%	52.28%	51.81%	44.17%
Communities Connected for Kids	55.36%	50.00%	46.80%	57.02%	66.01%	69.32%	81.76%	77.61%	76.61%	62.92%	65.91%	71.03%	67.54%	70.18%	58.27%	64.80%
Community Partnership for Children	53.76%	45.45%	41.05%	34.13%	34.54%	37.95%	45.23%	52.06%	53.48%	57.66%	56.37%	56.66%	53.67%	50.57%	45.95%	58.22%
Family Integrity Program	68.00%	69.39%	71.15%	70.37%	50.00%	53.85%	59.62%	63.93%	87.93%	88.10%	80.00%	80.95%	85.71%	65.38%	65.22%	78.95%
Family Partnerships of Central Florida	46.33%	45.12%	49.32%	51.37%	46.80%	50.14%	48.34%	49.52%	49.20%	47.26%	48.24%	46.46%	45.88%	44.67%	43.47%	46.42%
Family Support Services of North Florida	64.56%	63.24%	67.57%	64.42%	68.25%	63.18%	61.89%	63.38%	63.30%	65.93%	60.26%	58.19%	52.98%	53.48%	49.81%	41.39%
FSS Suncoast	47.02%	48.31%	48.91%	48.88%	47.66%	46.12%	44.79%	44.05%	42.62%	38.18%	38.36%	40.35%	46.73%	49.73%	49.93%	52.12%
Heartland for Children	53.11%	57.26%	54.20%	52.07%	51.36%	50.59%	52.91%	50.00%	43.75%	49.23%	43.89%	44.11%	45.64%	47.04%	45.99%	48.23%
Kids Central, Inc.	47.78%	50.53%	46.11%	46.17%	43.02%	37.10%	33.33%	43.22%	39.55%	40.23%	37.32%	37.53%	31.21%	35.27%	32.72%	36.42%
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	56.70%	51.85%	50.00%	53.08%	51.24%	55.14%	49.48%	45.98%	45.65%	53.41%	48.81%	39.29%	53.26%	60.98%	54.17%	60.47%
NWF Health Network - East	48.70%	49.01%	50.34%	50.99%	47.30%	47.99%	53.79%	49.82%	51.45%	56.16%	54.20%	64.93%	60.82%	53.08%	53.27%	47.57%
NWF Health Network - West	45.99%	46.61%	44.02%	48.05%	41.92%	41.58%	45.17%	41.51%	41.75%	47.00%	49.65%	45.78%	47.80%	63.40%	60.66%	65.48%
Partnership for Strong Families	60.47%	55.02%	55.03%	53.33%	62.44%	64.66%	60.00%	61.03%	56.98%	46.47%	41.83%	41.25%	44.71%	49.45%	55.67%	55.47%
Safe Children Coalition	53.90%	46.99%	48.93%	51.84%	44.52%	38.75%	41.29%	54.82%	46.15%	49.80%	55.78%	54.01%	50.21%	55.34%	49.56%	51.52%
Statewide	52.57%	51.33%	49.57%	49.88%	48.58%	49.22%	49.57%	50.39%	48.56%	48.07%	47.26%	47.39%	47.38%	49.83%	48.48%	49.53%

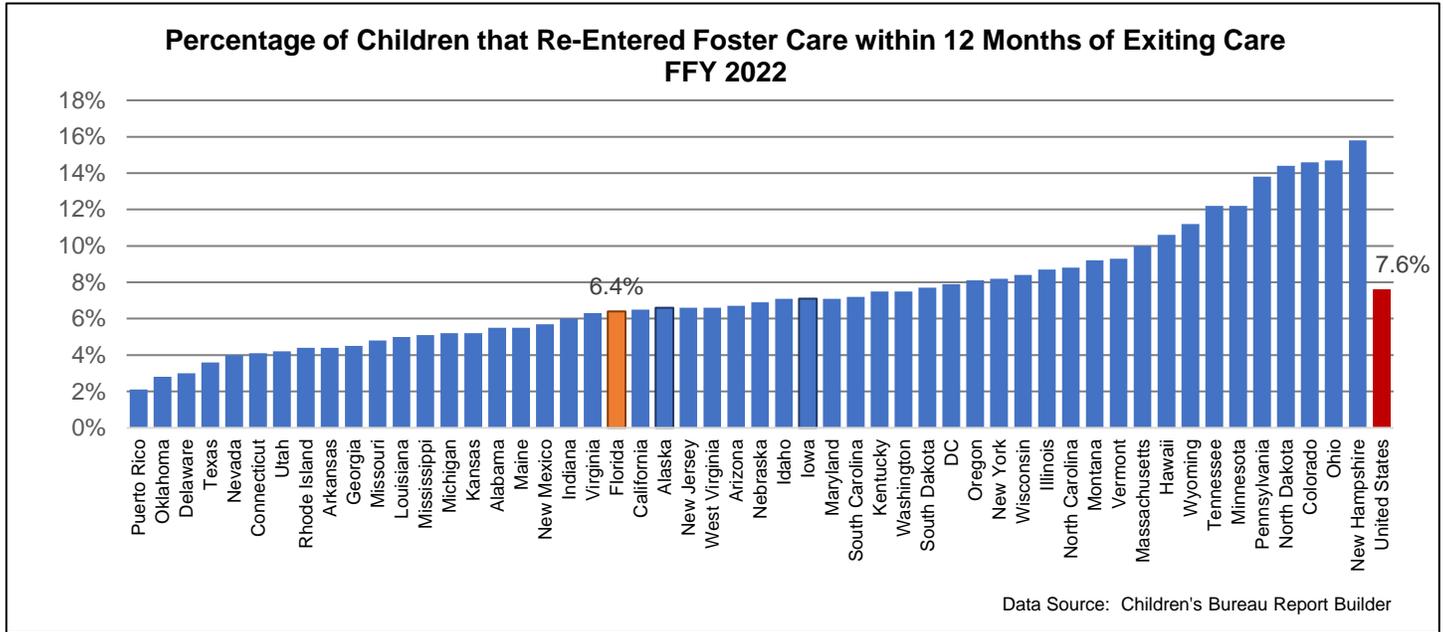
Children in Care 24+ Months and Achieving Months Permanency within 12 Months (DCF Target 30.3% or Higher)																
Lead Agency	SFY 2020-21				SFY 2021-22				SFY 2022-23				SFY 2023-24			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4												
ChildNet-Broward	50.71%	48.47%	51.26%	42.38%	38.02%	39.86%	44.11%	39.79%	36.69%	34.35%	36.05%	37.89%	38.78%	32.52%	35.98%	37.14%
ChildNet-Palm Beach	39.26%	44.24%	44.51%	44.91%	44.25%	42.70%	49.50%	49.20%	50.79%	48.86%	42.33%	48.43%	48.70%	45.70%	47.31%	43.75%
Childrens Network of SW Florida	48.72%	54.38%	53.33%	53.15%	51.53%	44.68%	47.00%	54.67%	54.94%	46.88%	49.32%	51.90%	49.32%	55.88%	55.84%	53.39%
Childrens Network-Hillsborough	46.21%	44.81%	47.99%	47.46%	42.69%	37.28%	33.76%	34.62%	35.00%	35.98%	36.94%	34.46%	35.56%	40.94%	46.85%	47.07%
Citrus Health Network	38.76%	36.87%	39.35%	31.03%	33.91%	36.72%	36.69%	34.49%	34.86%	33.99%	36.09%	34.47%	36.09%	38.87%	45.17%	36.05%
Communities Connected for Kids	50.86%	51.04%	50.88%	51.56%	48.15%	59.85%	63.45%	64.34%	57.50%	47.19%	27.69%	28.57%	32.79%	37.70%	38.98%	38.60%
Community Partnership for Children	56.78%	53.67%	47.66%	34.12%	34.02%	36.29%	41.84%	46.59%	53.46%	57.40%	51.63%	52.33%	52.28%	53.42%	55.75%	53.58%
Family Integrity Program	45.00%	36.84%	37.50%	25.00%	50.00%	50.00%	47.83%	52.38%	48.28%	56.00%	66.67%	58.62%	44.44%	23.08%	30.77%	30.00%
Family Partnerships of Central Florida	46.02%	45.38%	47.02%	49.89%	54.83%	56.19%	53.86%	51.35%	47.45%	43.37%	43.68%	49.46%	50.66%	49.28%	46.21%	43.70%
Family Support Services of North Florida	43.21%	33.33%	30.14%	36.26%	39.33%	47.62%	45.88%	39.77%	43.01%	38.14%	41.23%	38.46%	39.37%	31.45%	41.03%	41.36%
FSS Suncoast	42.28%	40.79%	38.87%	40.36%	40.58%	40.73%	39.79%	38.85%	40.28%	42.67%	41.49%	38.83%	40.99%	42.64%	42.38%	48.62%
Heartland for Children	48.68%	51.11%	45.93%	44.90%	43.56%	41.96%	46.01%	51.42%	47.73%	46.26%	48.49%	46.31%	45.20%	44.11%	43.51%	45.14%
Kids Central, Inc.	51.26%	46.45%	47.84%	51.21%	47.30%	41.62%	39.62%	39.77%	40.87%	44.58%	44.80%	42.96%	40.88%	41.43%	40.34%	38.28%
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	55.36%	60.38%	51.22%	43.18%	48.44%	64.71%	54.79%	58.23%	58.82%	53.73%	55.84%	66.22%	55.26%	61.29%	59.09%	58.21%
NWF Health Network - East	50.00%	46.29%	47.35%	53.11%	55.27%	53.65%	47.35%	54.13%	55.65%	54.26%	49.79%	49.12%	51.61%	52.17%	52.65%	50.57%
NWF Health Network - West	52.90%	55.05%	57.28%	55.14%	53.81%	51.99%	53.35%	48.82%	50.80%	48.28%	51.77%	58.90%	54.05%	59.47%	59.29%	56.82%
Partnership for Strong Families	47.17%	43.69%	41.35%	43.24%	38.58%	39.85%	42.97%	48.15%	43.26%	46.05%	40.24%	32.50%	31.28%	39.42%	43.70%	43.67%
Safe Children Coalition	44.50%	46.63%	44.39%	44.56%	48.62%	50.97%	50.50%	50.73%	53.52%	54.37%	55.08%	48.34%	54.08%	52.86%	52.24%	48.97%
Statewide	47.19%	46.30%	46.49%	45.48%	45.02%	44.60%	44.36%	44.85%	44.95%	44.39%	43.99%	44.05%	44.16%	45.44%	46.72%	46.09%

Re-Entry into Foster Care

This permanency indicator reflects the percentage of children re-entering care after being discharged within the prior 12 months.

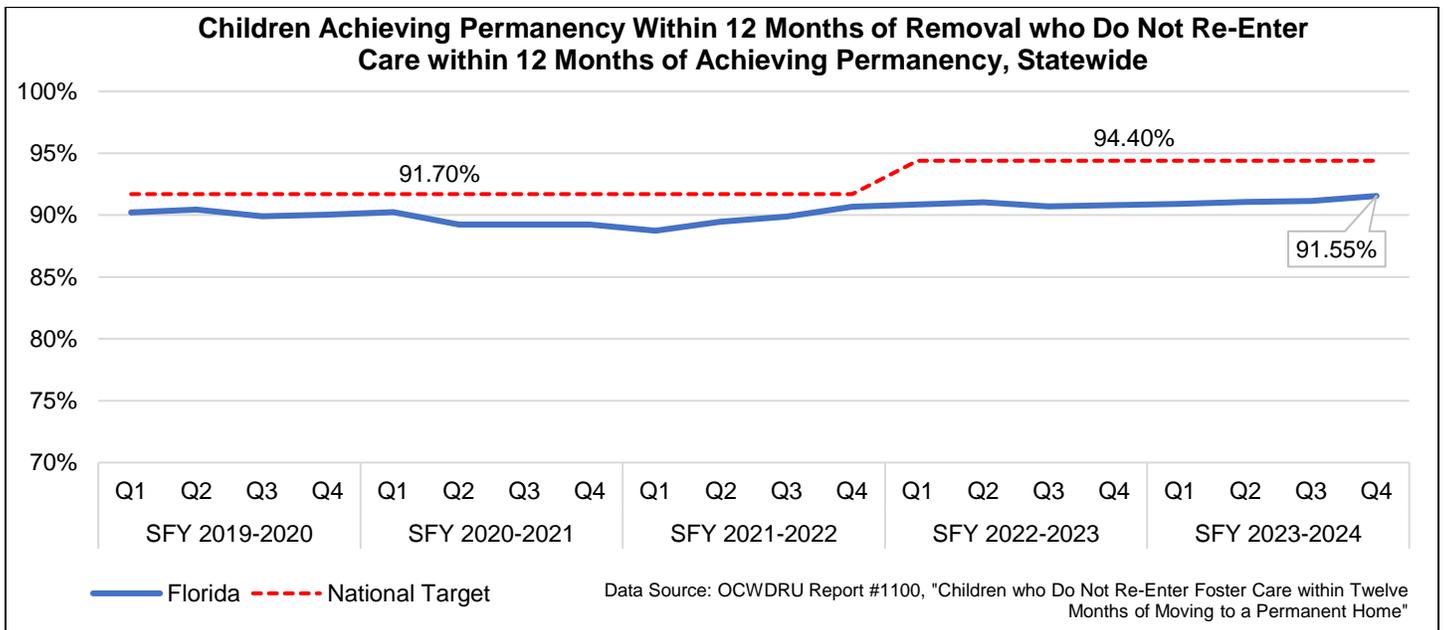
Florida Compared to Other States

Florida's rate of re-entry into Foster Care within 12-Months of exiting care during FFY 2022 was in the second quartile among nationally ranked states and below the national average of 7.6%.



Florida Statewide Trend

Although the national CFSR-3 indicator is the percent of children who re-entered care, Florida tracks this indicator as the percent who did not re-enter care. Florida's performance has shown some improvement, with the average quarterly performance increasing by 1.1% from SFY 2019-20 to SFY 2023-24.



Circuit/Lead Agency Comparisons

By the end of SFY 2023-24, 12 of 18 (67%) Lead Agencies met the federal target for the percentage of children that achieved permanency that did not reenter OHC within 12-months.

Children Who do not Re-Enter Out-of-Home Care within 12 Months of Permanency (DCF Target 91.7% or Higher)																
Lead Agency	SFY 2020-21				SFY 2021-22				SFY 2022-23				SFY 2023-24			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4												
ChildNet-Broward	91.04%	89.41%	91.75%	90.71%	89.11%	87.68%	84.26%	83.03%	80.22%	83.51%	81.82%	82.86%	86.63%	86.21%	91.49%	94.54%
ChildNet-Palm Beach	88.98%	86.80%	86.01%	88.76%	90.49%	92.12%	93.75%	92.72%	92.83%	94.30%	95.45%	97.13%	95.98%	96.05%	92.94%	93.06%
Childrens Network of SW Florida	90.13%	89.06%	89.76%	89.00%	87.92%	91.35%	91.69%	94.68%	95.17%	95.37%	92.90%	91.59%	93.12%	92.49%	94.76%	95.24%
Childrens Network-Hillsborough	88.97%	88.84%	89.80%	88.89%	88.42%	89.78%	88.35%	89.59%	94.03%	91.40%	92.38%	91.67%	86.96%	87.93%	89.24%	91.39%
Citrus Health Network	87.54%	88.85%	89.45%	93.09%	87.98%	86.96%	87.10%	87.57%	95.17%	92.48%	91.27%	89.57%	90.60%	92.74%	93.10%	92.19%
Communities Connected for Kids	87.65%	85.29%	85.33%	88.67%	89.35%	90.16%	88.20%	90.38%	92.25%	89.92%	92.13%	90.23%	88.89%	91.91%	91.47%	91.94%
Community Partnership for Children	87.50%	87.32%	88.21%	87.50%	86.19%	87.00%	86.73%	86.41%	86.64%	88.04%	86.96%	90.44%	85.45%	80.70%	81.74%	80.58%
Family Integrity Program	91.80%	89.23%	85.53%	79.17%	77.94%	72.22%	77.27%	88.68%	93.02%	90.48%	90.00%	79.41%	76.00%	86.36%	80.00%	92.31%
Family Partnerships of Central Florida	91.28%	89.96%	91.08%	90.37%	90.33%	90.86%	90.68%	92.34%	91.97%	93.82%	92.05%	92.06%	90.11%	89.65%	89.21%	87.83%
Family Support Services of North Florida	89.36%	88.44%	88.83%	89.69%	85.92%	85.78%	86.14%	86.39%	83.15%	87.82%	87.38%	89.06%	95.26%	94.41%	95.54%	96.33%
FSS Suncoast	90.51%	89.41%	87.72%	89.33%	88.78%	92.04%	92.63%	93.51%	93.67%	91.05%	92.48%	88.86%	90.81%	91.01%	89.64%	92.35%
Heartland for Children	88.14%	87.50%	86.06%	83.98%	83.69%	83.65%	86.57%	92.00%	92.31%	94.26%	92.95%	92.27%	93.05%	92.43%	90.21%	93.23%
Kids Central, Inc.	92.18%	92.08%	92.46%	91.94%	90.73%	89.43%	88.92%	86.21%	87.92%	85.19%	85.48%	88.74%	88.58%	93.36%	93.70%	92.37%
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	97.67%	97.50%	95.83%	91.53%	89.61%	89.87%	86.89%	90.74%	86.05%	87.80%	86.67%	87.50%	96.08%	92.45%	95.35%	93.33%
NWF Health Network - East	87.59%	85.91%	86.90%	85.81%	91.30%	90.24%	91.18%	92.36%	91.82%	94.51%	94.67%	95.90%	95.90%	91.87%	91.74%	88.36%
NWF Health Network - West	91.83%	90.61%	88.72%	87.45%	90.48%	89.93%	94.29%	92.89%	89.62%	91.38%	90.57%	95.21%	92.41%	93.67%	93.87%	91.04%
Partnership for Strong Families	94.07%	92.37%	89.95%	92.27%	92.99%	94.16%	97.01%	93.71%	94.44%	94.93%	95.45%	95.28%	93.97%	94.40%	93.23%	96.12%
Safe Children Coalition	90.58%	91.01%	90.97%	90.27%	88.26%	88.43%	89.18%	92.34%	91.79%	91.58%	91.52%	92.07%	92.13%	92.11%	91.89%	88.20%
Statewide	90.25%	89.25%	89.23%	89.25%	88.74%	89.46%	89.89%	90.67%	90.85%	91.04%	90.70%	90.80%	90.91%	91.07%	91.14%	91.55%

Well-Being of Children in Out-of-Home Care

Caseworker Visits with Children in Care

According to the Children’s Bureau, achieving permanency in a timely manner for children in foster care can be linked in part to the frequency and quality of caseworker visits with children. During the first and second rounds of the CFSR, an association was found between the caseworker-visits measures and positive outcomes for children in foster care. For example, frequent contact between the caseworker and the child was associated with better ratings on the CFSR Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

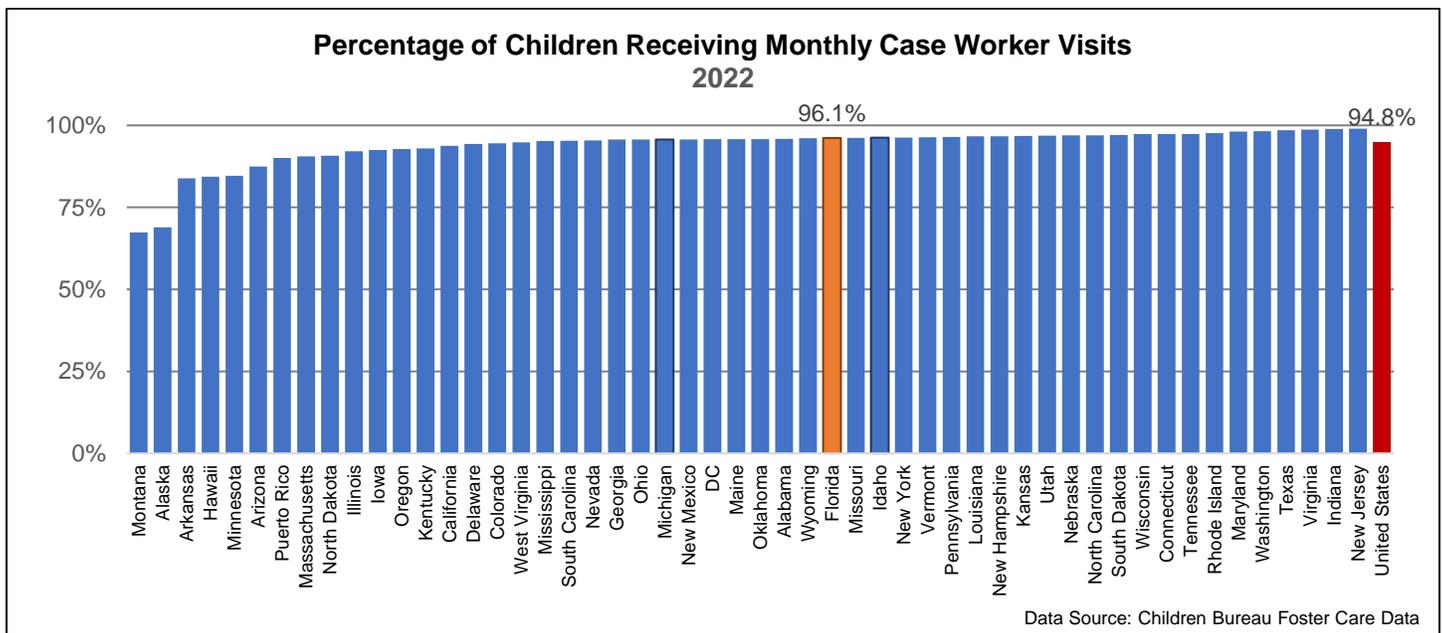
Title IV-B of the Social Security Act requires states to collect data on monthly caseworker visits for children in foster care. The caseworker-visit data includes the percentage of children visited each full month they were in care, as well as the proportion of those visits that occurred in the homes where the children were living at that time.

Percentage of Children Receiving Monthly Caseworker Visits

This federal indicator answers the question, “Of the children in care, what percent received monthly caseworker visits?”

Florida Compared to Other States

Based on the most recent FFY data available for this indicator, Florida outperforms national averages for case worker visits with children and has done so for the past several years.

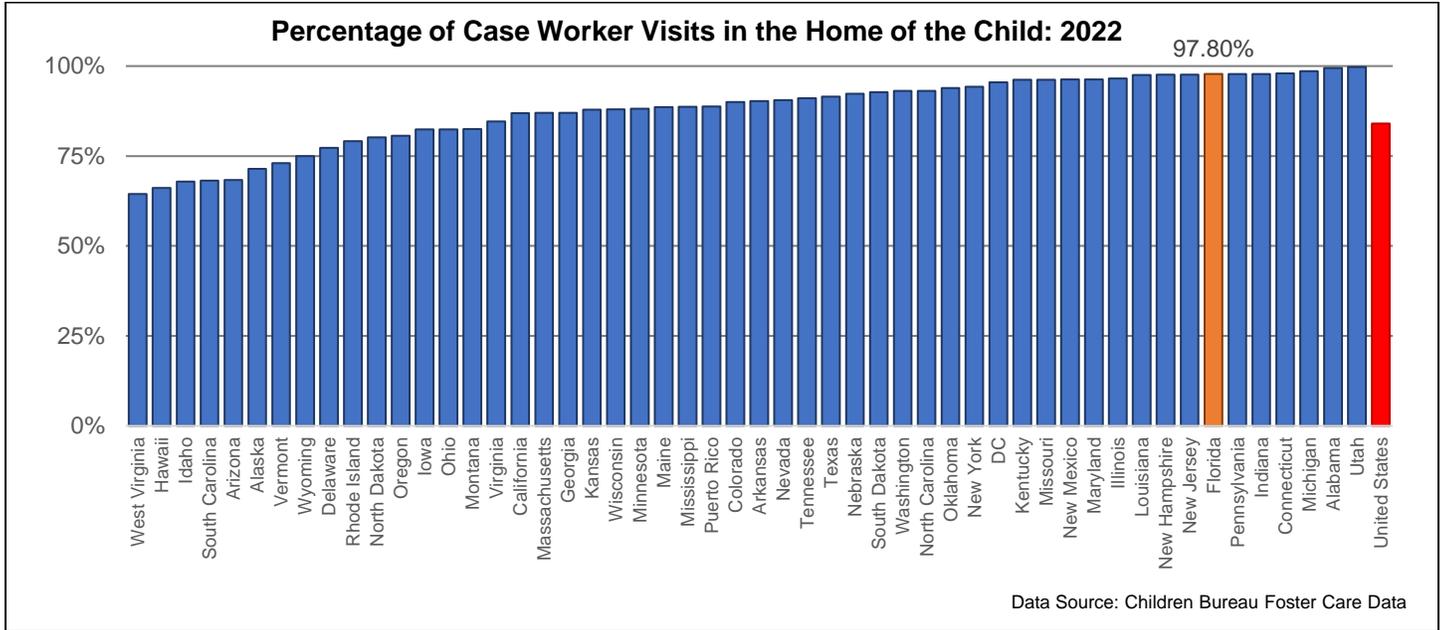


Percentage of Monthly Visits that Occurred in the Home of the Child

This related federal indicator answers the question, "Of the children visited, what percent of the visits were in the home of the child?"

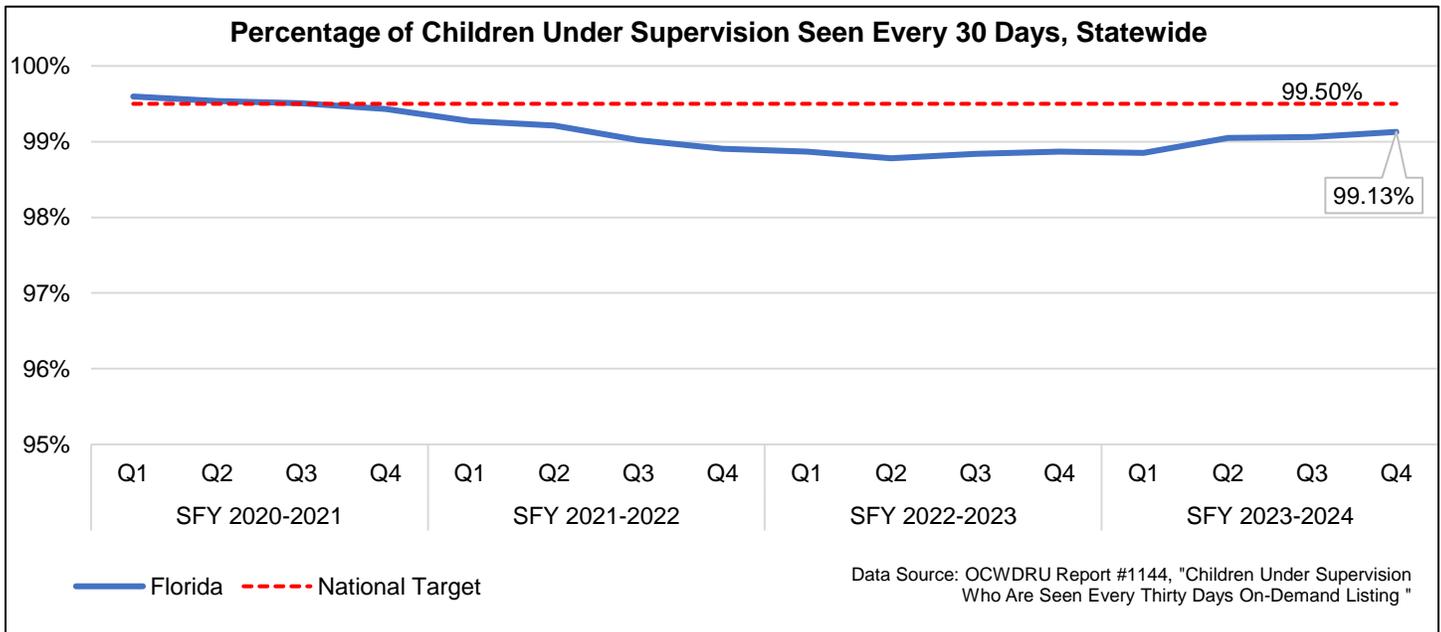
Florida Compared to Other States

Based on the most recent FFY data available for this indicator, Florida is among the nationwide leaders when comparing the percentage of monthly visits that were made in the child's home.



Florida Statewide Data

Following a slight decline between SFY 2020-2021 and SFY 2021-2022, the percentage of children under supervision who are seen every 30 days has demonstrated consistent improvement throughout SFY 2022-2023 and SFY 2023-2024.

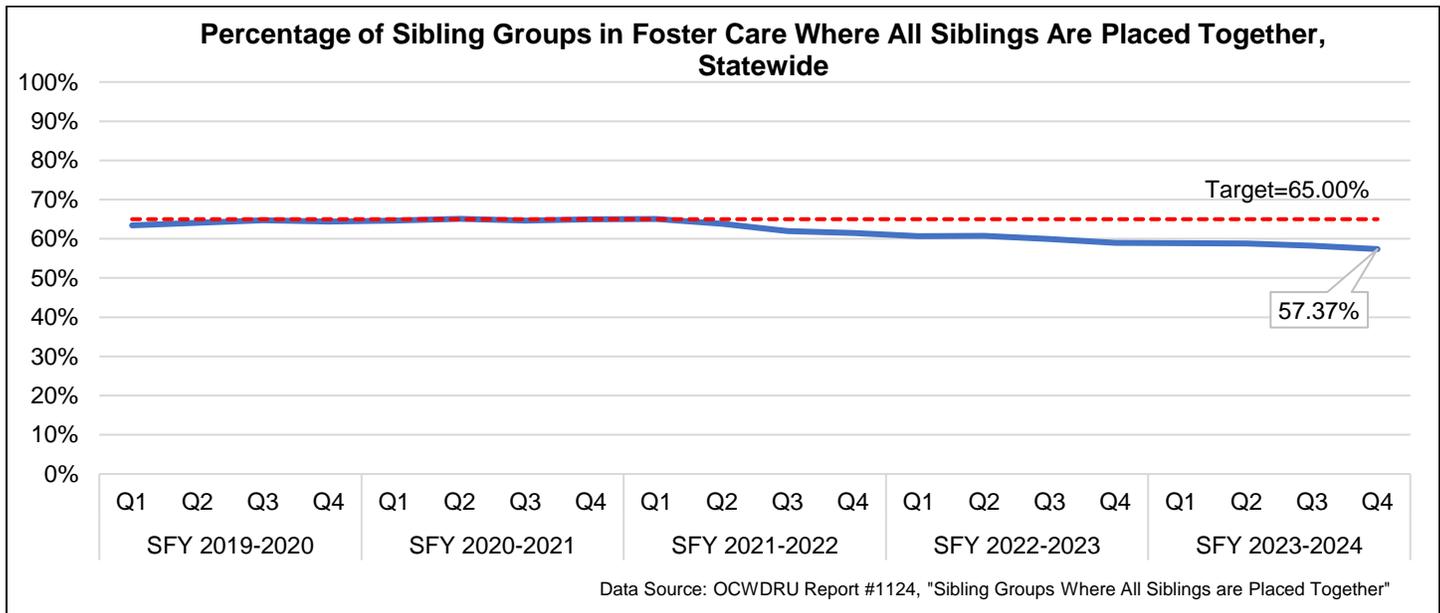


Percent of Siblings Placed Together

Research demonstrates that sibling relationships are important to children’s development and emotional well-being. Sibling relationships play a vital role in helping children achieve developmental milestones, providing emotional support, companionship, and comfort and helping maintain a sense of identity and belonging in times of change.

Florida Statewide Trend

Statewide performance for this measure has declined over the past three years, from a quarterly average of 63% in SFY 2019-2020 to 58% in SFY 2023-24. Although no federal target exists, Florida has established a statewide target of 65% and prioritizes sibling placements in Ch. 39.4022, F.S., which states that in instances in which sibling groups are removed from the home, a multidisciplinary staffing must be held to determine and assess the sibling relationships from the perspective of each child to ensure the best placement of each child. Performance for this metric can be negatively impacted by the prevalence of large sibling groups, with current performance indicating that sibling groups of four or more are only placed together 33.7% of the time.



Circuit/Lead Agency Comparisons

By the end of SFY 2023-24, two of the 18 (11%) Lead Agencies met the 65% standard established for the percent of sibling groups placed together.

Lead Agency	Children Placed with Siblings (DCF Target 65% or Higher)															
	SFY 2020-21				SFY 2021-22				SFY 2022-23				SFY 2023-24			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
ChildNet-Broward	68.67%	67.08%	69.41%	70.90%	66.53%	65.93%	64.56%	64.90%	64.82%	64.54%	66.80%	65.83%	65.07%	67.00%	64.79%	60.40%
ChildNet-Palm Beach	64.68%	65.12%	63.41%	69.19%	67.89%	65.92%	64.74%	62.98%	60.34%	57.40%	58.14%	62.50%	63.31%	63.35%	65.70%	67.13%
Childrens Network of SW Florida	67.64%	65.89%	64.08%	64.63%	64.52%	61.51%	59.69%	62.14%	59.06%	60.23%	58.40%	56.96%	59.41%	61.21%	57.56%	58.12%
Childrens Network-Hillsborough	60.85%	62.13%	60.10%	61.50%	63.08%	60.23%	58.20%	59.70%	59.10%	59.29%	57.91%	58.09%	56.58%	55.38%	54.77%	53.61%
Citrus Health Network	61.86%	59.52%	60.09%	61.84%	63.27%	62.82%	65.43%	63.67%	59.48%	61.43%	61.03%	58.52%	60.36%	61.57%	60.35%	61.20%
Communities Connected for Kids	64.38%	66.14%	61.34%	60.16%	63.56%	59.22%	53.00%	56.84%	58.00%	62.50%	67.27%	71.31%	70.16%	73.15%	67.89%	60.20%
Community Partnership for Children	67.19%	66.87%	65.71%	66.45%	67.11%	65.10%	65.58%	61.22%	61.99%	59.22%	60.62%	65.50%	62.20%	56.58%	55.56%	54.11%
Family Integrity Program	65.31%	68.89%	79.55%	80.00%	76.32%	77.78%	66.67%	59.09%	61.11%	56.25%	53.85%	58.33%	40.00%	33.33%	28.57%	57.14%
Family Partnerships of Central Florida	64.40%	67.39%	67.29%	66.05%	66.93%	65.36%	61.34%	61.33%	58.46%	58.27%	58.24%	57.44%	57.55%	57.06%	56.48%	55.64%
Family Support Services of North Florida	65.07%	63.09%	61.76%	58.40%	59.83%	61.79%	60.63%	56.74%	56.16%	55.83%	48.87%	52.70%	52.19%	55.31%	53.36%	50.21%
FSS Suncoast	59.93%	60.72%	61.31%	60.13%	61.27%	61.65%	62.04%	61.97%	62.42%	63.88%	60.89%	58.12%	57.14%	57.70%	59.35%	57.50%
Heartland for Children	60.88%	63.73%	61.37%	63.38%	65.24%	63.40%	58.95%	59.50%	59.09%	56.51%	58.75%	56.00%	54.75%	55.74%	60.14%	59.35%
Kids Central, Inc.	72.73%	71.88%	72.41%	72.48%	70.50%	70.38%	67.00%	64.34%	65.17%	63.17%	63.18%	63.45%	63.96%	63.42%	60.76%	60.53%
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	68.18%	66.67%	73.33%	71.79%	71.08%	70.27%	64.71%	66.67%	63.79%	64.71%	59.09%	58.70%	62.79%	60.61%	55.56%	48.65%
NWF Health Network - East	66.18%	64.26%	65.73%	63.11%	62.78%	62.50%	61.46%	59.00%	61.76%	64.36%	63.41%	55.34%	53.85%	51.34%	51.14%	56.90%
NWF Health Network - West	63.71%	61.00%	62.32%	63.50%	63.16%	62.88%	62.79%	60.55%	60.00%	61.02%	61.17%	60.14%	58.74%	59.27%	56.56%	54.58%
Partnership for Strong Families	63.24%	61.32%	61.67%	64.38%	62.01%	57.32%	56.30%	56.64%	55.86%	52.68%	53.13%	54.67%	48.85%	51.15%	50.25%	52.91%
Safe Children Coalition	63.33%	68.62%	66.67%	67.46%	68.80%	68.00%	65.49%	67.61%	65.30%	65.42%	66.34%	63.84%	65.85%	66.67%	65.67%	65.91%
Statewide	64.68%	65.09%	64.66%	64.94%	65.08%	63.83%	61.99%	61.46%	60.65%	60.71%	59.97%	59.31%	58.90%	58.80%	58.26%	57.37%

Placement in Family Setting

Federal law mandates that a case plan include a discussion of how the plan is designed to achieve a safe placement for the child in the least restrictive (most family-like) setting available.

Although there is an appropriate role for group care in the continuum of foster care settings, there is consensus across stakeholders that most children and youth, especially young children, are best served in a family-like setting. Stays in group care should be based on the specialized behavioral and mental health needs or clinical disabilities of the child. It should be used only for as long as is necessary to stabilize the child or youth so they can return to a family-like setting. One of the original seven Adoption and Safe Families Act (AFSA) outcomes was “Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions.”

Percent of Children in Licensed Care Placed in Group Care

Circuit/Lead Agency Comparisons

There is variance in the percent of children placed in group care settings across the state. The percent of children in group care settings increases with age, with averages of 35% of children ages 13-17 in group care, 9% of children ages 6-12, and less than one percent of children ages 0-5. Note that the below data represents a snapshot of group home populations as of June 30, 2024.

Children in Licensed Care Placed in Group Care by Age (as of June 30, 2024)			
	Age 0-5	Age 6-12	Age 13-17
ChildNet-Broward	2.02%	5.13%	41.30%
ChildNet-Palm Beach	1.27%	10.41%	49.07%
Childrens Network of SW Florida	0.00%	11.15%	41.85%
Childrens Network-Hillsborough	0.42%	3.69%	40.67%
Citrus Health Network	0.00%	14.50%	23.13%
Communities Connected for Kids	2.69%	6.25%	36.80%
Community Partnership for Children	0.00%	1.22%	37.25%
Family Integrity Program	0.00%	11.17%	4.17%
Family Partnerships of Central Florida	0.00%	0.00%	42.89%
Family Support Services of North Fla	0.00%	10.96%	42.11%
FSS Suncoast	0.65%	7.28%	39.88%
Heartland for Children	0.19%	3.01%	30.18%
Kids Central, Inc.	0.27%	0.00%	26.46%
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	0.00%	5.13%	2.08%
NWF Health Network - East	0.27%	9.78%	39.88%
NWF Health Network - West	0.00%	3.77%	38.83%
Partnership for Strong Families	0.00%	3.23%	26.92%
Safe Children Coalition	0.00%	7.49%	35.63%
Statewide	0.39%	8.97%	34.59%

Proximity of Placement to Community of Removal

Normalcy for foster children, maintenance of family connections, parent-child visitation, and school stability require that children be placed in proximity of the neighborhood or community of removal. Keeping the child in the same community from which the child was removed also promotes family reunification.

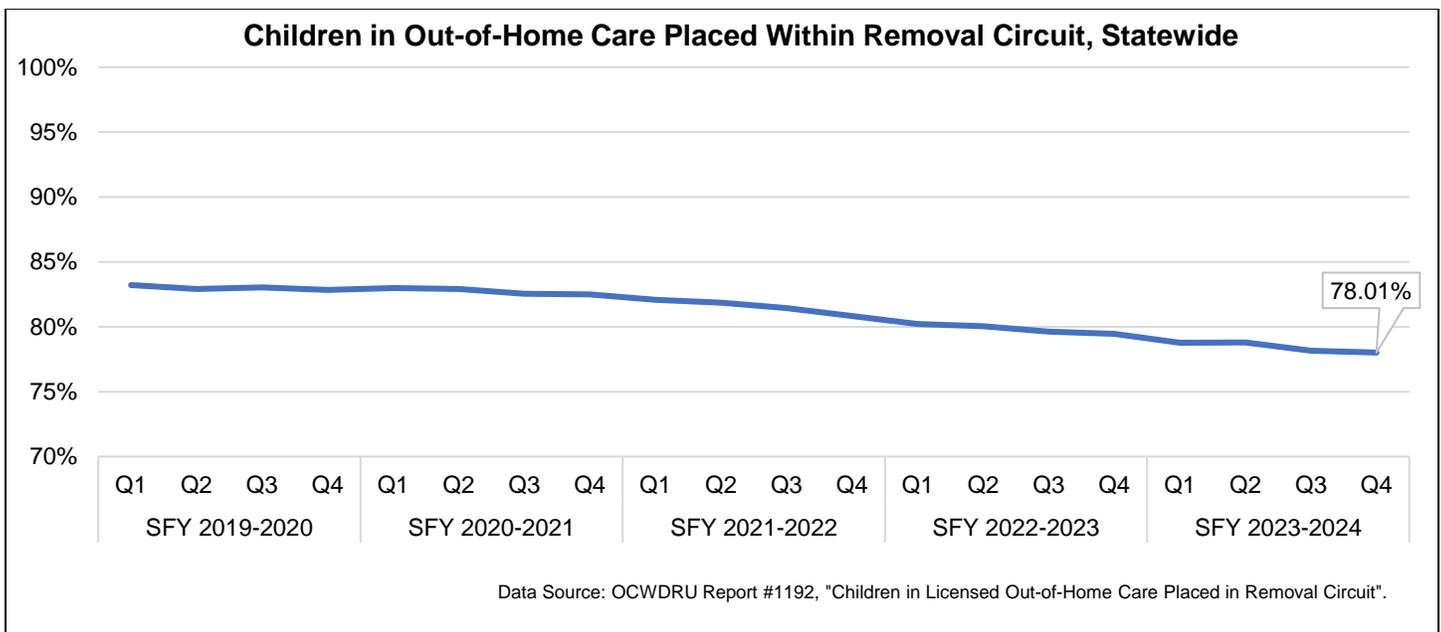
Title IV-E of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 674) requires:

“A plan for ensuring the educational stability of the child while in foster care, including assurances that each placement of the child in foster care takes into account the appropriateness of the current educational setting and the proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of placement; and an assurance [of coordination with] local educational agencies to ensure that the child remains in the school in which the child is enrolled at the time of each placement,” and that “each child has a case plan designed to achieve placement in a safe setting that is the least restrictive (most family like) and most appropriate setting available and in close proximity to the parents’ home, consistent with the best interest and special needs of the child.”

Children in Licensed Out-of-Home Care Placed Outside Removal Circuit

Florida Statewide Trend

The percent of children placed outside their removal region and circuit has declined over the past five years, with the quarterly average decreasing 5.2% from SFY 2019-20 to SFY 2023-24.



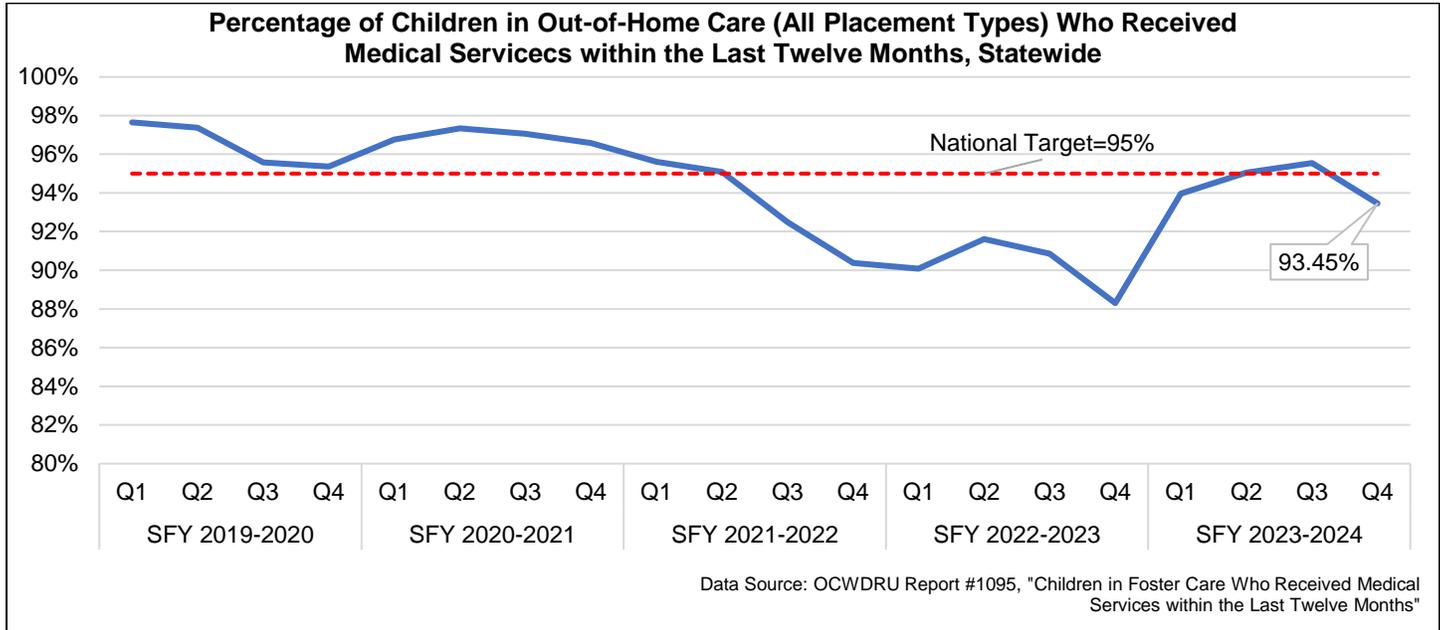
Physical and Mental Health Needs

One of nine statutorily outlined Lead Agency outcomes is that “Children Receive Services to Meet their Physical and Mental Health Needs.”

Medical Services

Florida Statewide Trend

The percentage of children in OHC who received medical services within the last twelve months increased in SFY 2023-24.



Circuit/Lead Agency Comparisons

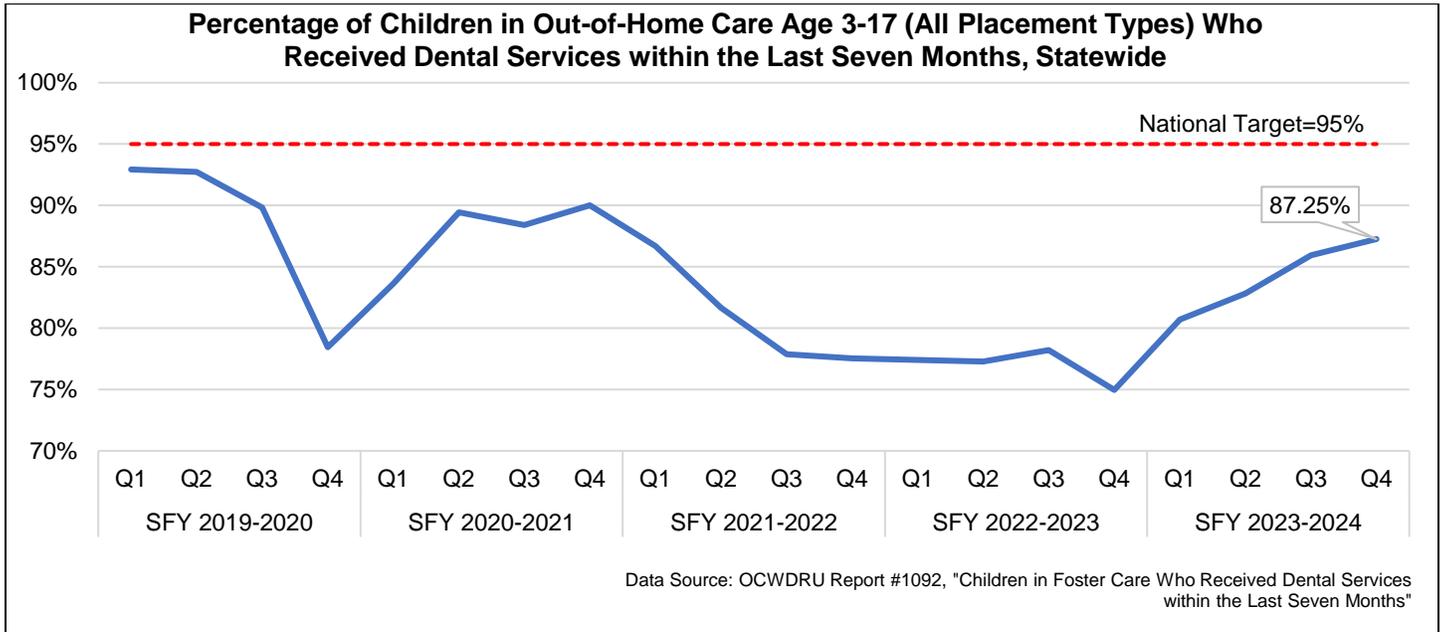
By the end of SFY 2023-24, 13 of the 18 (72%) Lead Agencies met the 95% federal standard established for the percent of children in OHC receiving medical services within the last 12-months.

Lead Agency	Percent of Children in Out-of-Home Care who Received Medical Services in the Last 12 Months (DCF Target 95% or Higher)															
	SFY 2020-21				SFY 2021-22				SFY 2022-23				SFY 2023-24			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
ChildNet-Broward	97.25%	98.68%	98.02%	97.92%	98.90%	96.70%	97.51%	97.19%	96.51%	97.26%	96.81%	98.24%	96.68%	97.84%	97.63%	96.06%
ChildNet-Palm Beach	96.70%	97.72%	98.45%	98.95%	98.36%	97.22%	97.67%	98.16%	97.87%	97.87%	97.63%	97.94%	98.47%	97.58%	97.77%	92.07%
Childrens Network of SW Florida	97.91%	98.38%	98.42%	99.14%	98.34%	98.36%	97.76%	97.38%	97.47%	97.42%	97.29%	96.72%	98.04%	98.40%	98.13%	98.13%
Childrens Network-Hillsborough	98.19%	98.40%	97.33%	97.54%	97.36%	97.03%	96.32%	93.39%	87.54%	88.66%	86.54%	89.80%	93.98%	96.94%	97.22%	96.82%
Citrus Health Network	97.25%	98.47%	97.65%	98.00%	98.50%	98.95%	98.20%	97.66%	97.40%	98.08%	97.57%	98.48%	96.63%	98.01%	97.89%	97.53%
Communities Connected for Kids	98.65%	98.70%	99.61%	97.99%	97.65%	98.04%	97.76%	96.91%	98.63%	98.38%	98.78%	97.97%	98.98%	98.91%	97.80%	96.65%
Community Partnership for Children	96.67%	96.44%	95.55%	95.57%	98.20%	98.60%	96.85%	95.90%	96.28%	96.28%	93.54%	94.14%	98.13%	98.28%	98.39%	98.08%
Family Integrity Program	98.92%	97.60%	100.00%	98.59%	98.50%	98.40%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	98.31%	100.00%	100.00%	98.08%	100.00%
Family Partnerships of Central Florida	96.94%	97.03%	96.79%	95.14%	93.30%	90.61%	83.44%	76.52%	76.95%	88.72%	91.26%	89.36%	89.13%	92.12%	94.21%	92.65%
Family Support Services of North Fla	96.61%	97.80%	97.80%	96.40%	97.64%	97.18%	95.31%	96.29%	97.70%	96.38%	95.86%	96.52%	97.44%	96.08%	97.04%	95.16%
FSS Suncoast	96.29%	97.40%	97.42%	95.53%	92.60%	88.77%	80.03%	77.32%	81.34%	84.41%	81.56%	82.48%	83.87%	88.92%	90.78%	89.93%
Heartland for Children	98.75%	98.78%	98.84%	98.89%	98.69%	98.96%	98.84%	97.75%	98.30%	99.12%	99.21%	98.03%	98.67%	98.13%	98.90%	96.43%
Kids Central, Inc.	97.46%	98.28%	97.90%	97.32%	97.06%	95.99%	91.13%	88.58%	84.66%	83.43%	80.35%	86.02%	90.73%	89.30%	89.35%	84.66%
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	91.28%	95.33%	97.55%	97.11%	89.41%	95.19%	96.27%	91.95%	94.35%	92.66%	95.43%	98.97%	100.00%	96.15%	90.38%	83.23%
NWF Health Network - East	97.03%	96.95%	96.52%	97.30%	94.36%	92.81%	94.76%	95.26%	94.36%	95.44%	95.38%	98.19%	98.03%	97.99%	98.30%	96.80%
NWF Health Network - West	94.43%	95.62%	97.43%	94.98%	93.65%	96.04%	95.70%	94.01%	95.18%	90.89%	92.91%	93.13%	96.01%	97.09%	95.11%	95.43%
Partnership for Strong Families	97.20%	97.72%	97.00%	96.21%	95.67%	96.07%	91.15%	90.65%	89.41%	86.17%	77.12%	90.50%	93.92%	96.95%	97.09%	95.59%
Safe Children Coalition	97.44%	98.19%	97.55%	97.55%	97.45%	98.17%	98.06%	96.13%	97.92%	97.29%	97.18%	98.39%	98.71%	97.98%	97.30%	95.55%
Statewide	96.76%	97.34%	97.06%	96.58%	95.62%	95.08%	92.49%	90.38%	90.08%	91.62%	90.86%	92.49%	93.97%	95.05%	95.55%	93.45%

Dental Services

Florida Statewide Trend

The percent of percent of children who received dental services in the past seven months increased during SFY 2023-24.



Circuit/Lead Agency Comparisons

By the end of SFY 2023-24, three of the 18 (17%) Lead Agencies met the 95% federal standard established for the percent of children in OHC ages 3-17 receiving dental services within the last seven months.

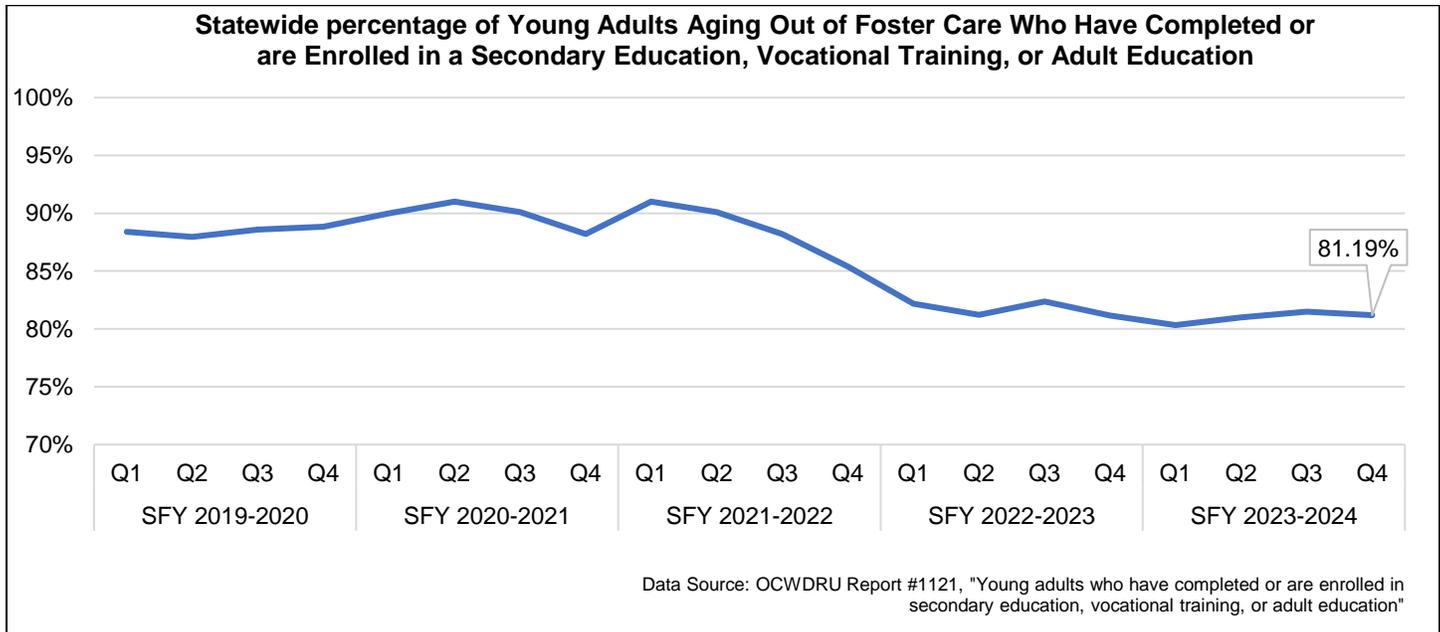
Lead Agency	Percent of Children in Out-of-Home Care Aged 3-17 who Received Dental Services within the Last 7 Months (DCF Target 95% or Higher)															
	SFY 2020-21				SFY 2021-22				SFY 2022-23				SFY 2023-24			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
ChildNet-Broward	90.95%	92.63%	94.70%	95.87%	96.08%	91.86%	90.36%	91.46%	90.70%	85.46%	90.13%	91.67%	91.86%	94.85%	94.17%	91.43%
ChildNet-Palm Beach	85.04%	92.83%	94.25%	97.26%	95.26%	93.69%	90.68%	93.20%	90.75%	90.42%	92.13%	94.44%	94.77%	92.70%	93.12%	88.45%
Childrens Network of SW Florida	95.77%	96.43%	95.99%	96.69%	97.04%	96.54%	96.59%	96.60%	95.76%	92.91%	96.27%	96.63%	95.80%	97.77%	98.13%	98.99%
Childrens Network-Hillsborough	79.97%	79.76%	78.77%	84.10%	84.42%	77.03%	76.06%	77.17%	68.96%	67.83%	71.21%	72.61%	76.12%	82.21%	89.57%	90.86%
Citrus Health Network	90.81%	96.32%	94.57%	97.30%	94.12%	96.13%	96.69%	96.45%	96.78%	97.29%	97.30%	96.47%	97.01%	96.50%	96.97%	96.25%
Communities Connected for Kids	92.68%	95.24%	95.49%	96.70%	95.15%	93.81%	95.97%	96.03%	92.14%	92.15%	97.07%	96.54%	97.13%	95.94%	96.13%	94.46%
Community Partnership for Children	62.26%	74.01%	73.50%	75.20%	73.84%	72.15%	66.80%	72.51%	73.19%	75.81%	79.52%	77.82%	80.13%	86.59%	92.07%	92.02%
Family Integrity Program	64.13%	86.60%	91.26%	95.79%	91.11%	95.00%	100.00%	96.49%	97.87%	100.00%	100.00%	97.78%	97.50%	97.22%	100.00%	100.00%
Family Partnerships of Central Florida	83.11%	91.37%	86.88%	85.49%	77.08%	70.94%	61.83%	54.17%	58.99%	71.20%	76.11%	76.51%	72.99%	73.37%	79.74%	84.12%
Family Support Services of North Fla	81.71%	88.01%	92.49%	94.93%	92.49%	89.72%	88.33%	87.05%	92.40%	91.13%	88.37%	85.71%	83.09%	84.82%	87.02%	81.15%
FSS Suncoast	75.97%	88.07%	87.80%	87.09%	83.29%	65.57%	48.83%	48.88%	59.78%	59.70%	48.62%	50.71%	58.42%	65.29%	72.96%	74.69%
Heartland for Children	92.02%	96.53%	96.07%	96.14%	90.61%	94.39%	91.77%	93.39%	93.86%	91.11%	95.38%	95.15%	92.84%	94.95%	95.50%	91.73%
Kids Central, Inc.	90.62%	93.16%	91.36%	92.56%	83.23%	76.52%	72.84%	69.73%	64.64%	61.73%	63.69%	66.57%	69.56%	66.44%	68.31%	61.20%
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	72.69%	78.20%	60.20%	79.49%	74.35%	68.34%	84.42%	80.56%	72.02%	77.03%	88.57%	90.00%	85.00%	83.64%	68.75%	56.70%
NWF Health Network - East	86.42%	92.04%	92.20%	92.59%	91.06%	81.77%	83.96%	92.01%	90.34%	87.95%	87.41%	90.67%	91.67%	87.69%	88.69%	89.67%
NWF Health Network - West	81.08%	87.98%	89.72%	92.31%	86.82%	88.66%	85.71%	87.80%	88.39%	78.13%	75.54%	83.88%	86.01%	86.94%	89.03%	86.80%
Partnership for Strong Families	87.18%	88.01%	83.61%	86.75%	87.28%	80.24%	78.89%	75.49%	65.72%	61.31%	58.20%	60.90%	57.48%	69.30%	71.89%	63.67%
Safe Children Coalition	77.46%	92.13%	89.74%	89.97%	88.13%	85.67%	86.85%	87.89%	86.29%	87.78%	88.97%	91.27%	91.15%	91.50%	92.93%	88.54%
Statewide	83.62%	89.43%	88.40%	90.00%	86.70%	81.67%	77.88%	77.53%	77.41%	77.28%	78.20%	79.74%	80.71%	82.82%	85.93%	83.99%

Preparation for Independent Living as Adults

Two of the nine Lead Agency outcomes identified in Florida Statutes are that “Children Receive Appropriate Services to Meet their Educational Needs” and that “Children Develop the Capacity for Independent Living and Competence as an Adult.”

Young Adults Aging Out Who Are Enrolled in Education Programs

For children who do not achieve permanency prior to reaching adulthood, it is crucial that they are prepared for life after foster care by the time they “age out” of care (18 years old or judicial emancipation). While education is one indicator of preparation for adulthood, other variables that influence this measure, including time in care, the child’s education level when entering care, developmental delays, and level and type of trauma experienced by the child. During the fourth quarter of state fiscal year 2023-24, 577 of 704 (81.2%) young adults exiting care in Florida met this requirement.



Circuit/Lead Agency Comparisons

Nine of the 18 Lead Agencies met the 80% target established for this metric in SFY 2023-24.

Lead Agency	Percent of Young Adults Aging Out with Educational Achievements											
	SFY 2021-22				SFY 2022-23				SFY 2023-24			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
ChildNet-Broward	93.94%	95.00%	91.80%	92.19%	83.93%	83.33%	80.30%	73.53%	71.23%	71.43%	70.00%	79.25%
ChildNet-Palm Beach	95.00%	88.89%	79.63%	73.17%	57.14%	62.00%	84.62%	84.62%	90.20%	92.86%	88.10%	85.11%
Childrens Network of SW Florida	87.80%	92.11%	90.24%	92.31%	90.24%	84.09%	85.71%	86.96%	88.64%	95.00%	95.12%	97.14%
Childrens Network-Hillsborough	78.33%	74.65%	71.64%	60.00%	61.84%	58.21%	61.33%	72.73%	67.92%	72.22%	77.19%	76.27%
Citrus Health Network	88.89%	91.78%	92.77%	94.81%	96.05%	98.65%	100.00%	97.26%	92.42%	91.76%	90.12%	89.87%
Communities Connected for Kids	90.91%	91.30%	95.45%	85.00%	82.61%	84.62%	86.36%	86.21%	84.62%	73.91%	70.00%	72.73%
Community Partnership for Children	88.89%	89.66%	88.89%	92.31%	87.50%	92.59%	93.94%	91.18%	94.12%	96.67%	85.71%	79.31%
Family Integrity Program	100.00%	100.00%	83.33%	66.67%	75.00%	66.67%	100.00%	87.50%	85.71%	87.50%	57.14%	66.67%
Family Partnerships of Central Florida	93.20%	92.23%	90.63%	89.47%	86.27%	82.52%	82.26%	79.03%	78.57%	80.00%	84.71%	84.62%
Family Support Services of North Fla	97.83%	100.00%	100.00%	96.88%	96.88%	94.29%	92.11%	93.02%	88.10%	90.24%	95.24%	90.00%
FSS Suncoast	97.44%	95.06%	96.51%	94.19%	86.90%	79.31%	69.62%	61.54%	66.25%	60.61%	58.62%	58.49%
Heartland for Children	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	97.37%	97.22%	97.30%	88.89%	86.84%	86.05%	84.62%
Kids Central, Inc.	88.89%	86.84%	80.00%	73.08%	73.33%	78.13%	80.56%	80.56%	82.86%	80.56%	85.71%	75.61%
Kids First of Florida, Inc.	81.82%	87.50%	83.33%	57.14%	60.00%	50.00%	53.33%	53.33%	58.33%	55.56%	62.50%	85.71%
NWF Health Network - East	100.00%	100.00%	93.10%	89.66%	86.21%	82.14%	79.17%	79.17%	82.61%	84.62%	92.86%	93.75%
NWF Health Network - West	88.89%	91.89%	87.50%	80.00%	76.47%	83.87%	85.71%	90.91%	91.18%	91.43%	93.55%	93.55%
Partnership for Strong Families	86.36%	75.00%	80.00%	86.36%	92.59%	93.10%	92.59%	91.67%	73.91%	72.73%	67.86%	61.54%
Safe Children Coalition	80.00%	80.56%	77.78%	69.23%	72.09%	75.68%	73.53%	85.29%	72.73%	70.97%	73.33%	69.23%
Statewide	90.64%	89.85%	87.82%	84.85%	81.94%	80.86%	81.64%	81.54%	80.33%	81.00%	81.50%	81.19%