

**Annual Accountability Report**  
ON THE  
**Health of Florida's Child Welfare System**  
Fiscal Year 2023-2024



**Shevaun L. Harris**  
*Secretary*

**Ron DeSantis**  
*Governor*



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# Message from Secretary Harris

*At the Florida Department of Children and Families, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Florida, and we are steadfastly committed to continuously enhancing policies and processes to meet Floridians' needs. Tracking progress at critical points in the process allows for collaboration with key stakeholders to continuously improve the services and resources with the greatest positive impact. Florida's child welfare system has experienced unprecedented support under the leadership of Governor Ron DeSantis, resulting in the implementation of powerful new programs and increased access to initiatives that have proven success in the state.*



*As part of the Department's continuous quality assurance efforts, we track and quarterly review previously established accountability and performance metrics, engaging with our community-based lead agencies, which provide child welfare services in local communities, to maximize outcomes for our state's children and families.*

*With this annual report, I am pleased to share that during Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024, Florida continues to lead the nation in investigative response times and surpasses national averages in safety and risk concerns for children, as well as in providing services to prevent entry into foster care.*

*Together with our partners, Florida is significantly outperforming established standards and national averages for safety metrics with 88 percent of the state's judicial circuits meeting or exceeding expectations, including the percentage of children not experiencing recurrent maltreatment within 12 months of a verified incident, the rate of children not abused while in in-home care, and the incidence of abuse in out-of-home settings.*

*Over the last three years, the Department has been laser-focused on working upstream, with the goal of connecting at-risk families to the care they need to limit or avoid their involvement with the child welfare system. We continued to make impressive strides toward that goal during FY 2023-2024, resulting in a 37 percent decrease in removals compared to FY 2020-2021. This accomplishment is only made possible through the enhanced prevention programs and initiatives that have been implemented across the state to support our most vulnerable families.*

*Alongside the decrease in the rates of removal of children from their homes, the ratio of children exiting out-of-home care compared to those entering has improved. In FY 2023-2024, exits from out-of-home care exceeded new entries by 24 percent — a significant improvement from the previous three years, where entries outpaced exits by an average of 2.93 percent.*

*In addition to the improved exit ratios, we have seen reductions in the time taken to achieve permanency. The statewide performance for percentage of children reaching permanency within 12 months of entering out-of-home care has increased by nearly three percent. Furthermore, the percentage of children achieving permanency within 12 to 23 months of entering out-of-home care has improved by nearly seven percent. While we still have work to do to meet and exceed all targets, these accomplishments are directly linked to innovative initiatives, such as the Permanency Pilot, which was instrumental in reducing bureaucratic red tape in the child welfare system and opening the path for expedited reunifications and adoptions. While we are encouraged by these highlights, we are also committed to addressing – alongside our partners – identified areas for improvement, so together we may maximize our potential.*

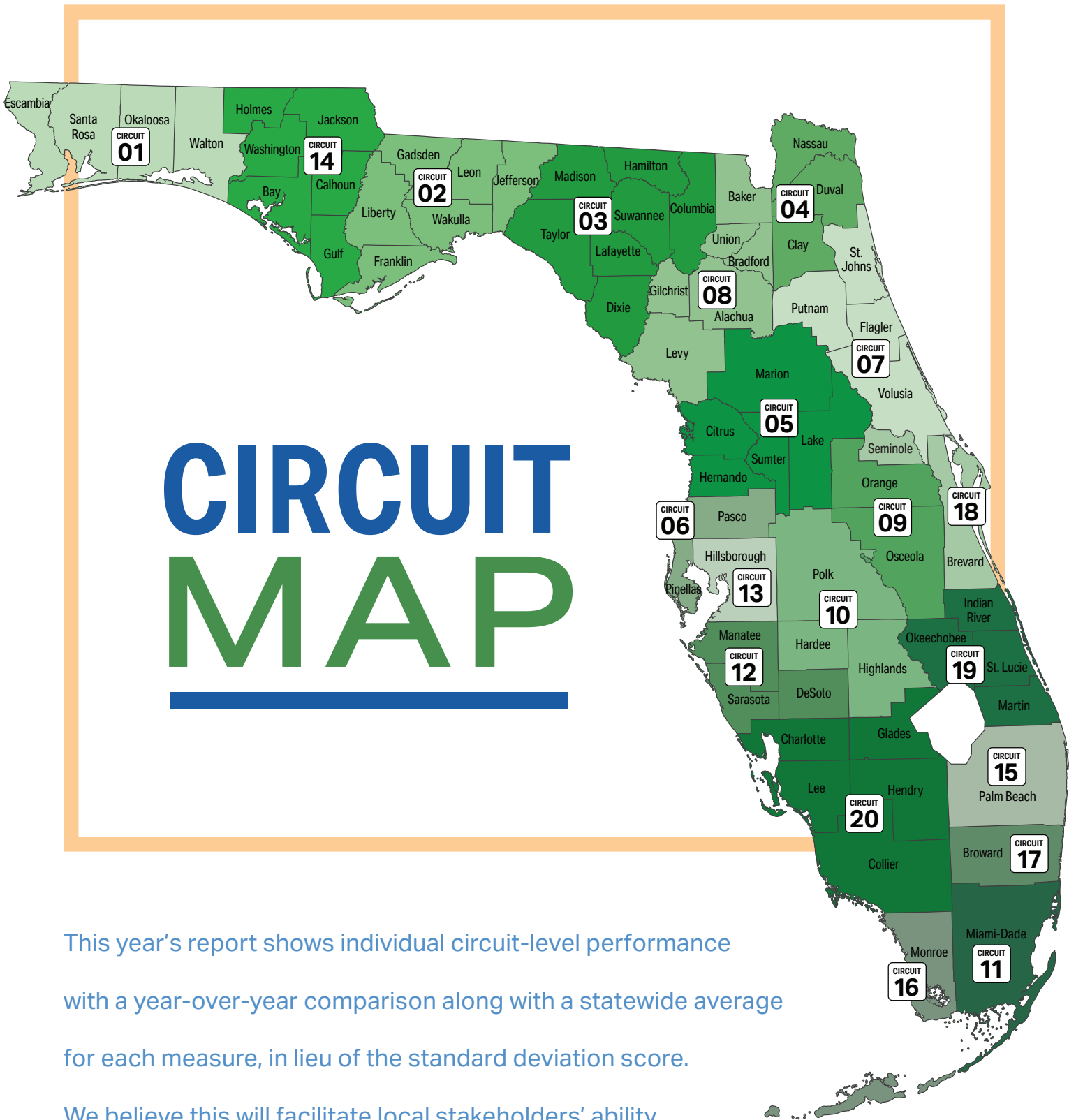
*It is a tremendous honor to play a role in ensuring the safety of Florida’s children, and to do so while strengthening our families, and helping them thrive.*

Shevaun L. Harris

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shevaun', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Secretary





# CIRCUIT MAP

This year's report shows individual circuit-level performance with a year-over-year comparison along with a statewide average for each measure, in lieu of the standard deviation score. We believe this will facilitate local stakeholders' ability to clearly see whether progress is being made within their community's system of care.



Escambia  
Okaloosa  
Santa Rosa  
Walton

# CIRCUIT 01

PERMANENCY



SAFETY



WELL-BEING



## Circuit Statewide

Total Population	798,929	21,634,529
Population Under 18	170,928	4,235,429
Investigations	7,206	142,301
Removals	1,688	26,857
Removal Rate Per 1,000 Investigations	2.34	1.89
Children Receiving Services	3,336	48,451
Children Entering Care	1,518	20,729
Children Exiting Care	1,633	24,041
Entry Rate Per 1,000 in the General Population	8.88	4.89
Unemployment Rate	2.80%	2.90%
Graduation Rate	88.63%	88.00%
Suicide Rate Per 100,000	19.74	14.06
Families Below Poverty Level	7.92%	9.12%



# METRIC PERFORMANCE

Investigations: DCF  
 Lead Agency: Northwest Florida Health Network\*  
 Legal Services: DCF

# CIRCUIT 01

## PERMANENCY

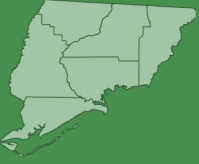
	FY 22-23 Circuit Performance	FY 23-24 Circuit Performance	Change	Statewide Average Performance
Children Achieving Permanency and Not Reentering within 12 Months	95.21%	91.04%	-4.17%	91.58%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months	25.49%	30.62%	5.13%	29.80%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Out-of-Home Care 12 to 23 Months	45.78%	65.48%	19.70%	50.61%
Children Placed with Relatives or Non-Relatives	61.47%	53.09%	-8.38%	54.14%
Placement Moves Per 1,000 Bed Days	7.33	5.89	1.44	5.42
Qualitative Index for Permanency	69.88%	72.10%	2.23%	71.75%

## SAFETY

Children Not Abused During In-Home Services	99.03%	98.98%	-0.05%	99.29%
Rate of Abuse in Out-of-Home Care per 100,000 Days in Care	10.23	11.96	-1.73	7.19
Children with No Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment within 12 Months of a Prior Verified Maltreatment	91.72%	90.01%	-1.71%	93.78%
Qualitative Index for Safety	80.70%	76.12%	-4.58%	75.57%

## WELL-BEING

Children Seen Every 30 Days	99.70%	99.84%	0.14%	99.08%
Children Placed with Siblings	61.04%	53.47%	-7.57%	57.55%
Qualitative Index for Well-Being	50.70%	55.13%	4.43%	59.96%



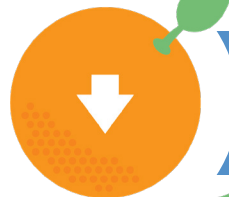
Franklin  
Gadsden  
Jefferson  
Leon  
Liberty  
Wakulla

# CIRCUIT 02

PERMANENCY



SAFETY



WELL-BEING



## Circuit Statewide

Total Population	406,044	21,634,529
Population Under 18	76,631	4,235,429
Investigations	3,386	142,301
Removals	511	26,857
Removal Rate Per 1,000 Investigations	1.51	1.89
Children Receiving Services	1,434	48,451
Children Entering Care	677	20,729
Children Exiting Care	829	24,041
Entry Rate Per 1,000 in the General Population	8.83	4.89
Unemployment Rate	3.10%	2.90%
Graduation Rate	78.52%	88.00%
Suicide Rate Per 100,000	9.12	14.06
Families Below Poverty Level	12.85%	9.12%

# METRIC PERFORMANCE

Investigations: DCF  
 Lead Agency: Northwest Florida Health Network  
 Legal Services: DCF

# CIRCUIT 02

## PERMANENCY

	FY 22-23 Circuit Performance	FY 23-24 Circuit Performance	Change	Statewide Average Performance
Children Achieving Permanency and Not Reentering within 12 Months	96.88%	88.57%	-8.31%	91.58%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months	33.02%	30.58%	-2.44%	29.80%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Out-of-Home Care 12 to 23 Months	61.86%	36.27%	-25.59%	50.61%
Children Placed with Relatives or Non-Relatives	57.27%	55.08%	-2.19%	54.14%
Placement Moves Per 1,000 Bed Days	5.93	5.47	0.46	5.42
Qualitative Index for Permanency	71.69%	61.92%	-9.77%	71.75%

## SAFETY

Children Not Abused During In-Home Services	99.47%	99.25%	-0.22%	99.29%
Rate of Abuse in Out-of-Home Care per 100,000 Days in Care	6.34	6.79	-0.45	7.19
Children with No Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment within 12 Months of a Prior Verified Maltreatment	93.39%	94.65%	1.26%	93.78%
Qualitative Index for Safety	70.90%	67.57%	-3.33%	75.57%

## WELL-BEING

Children Seen Every 30 Days	99.67%	99.82%	0.15%	99.08%
Children Placed with Siblings	55.85%	47.95%	-7.90%	57.55%
Qualitative Index for Well-Being	41.34%	42.52%	1.18%	59.96%



Columbia  
Dixie  
Hamilton  
Lafayette  
Madison  
Suwannee  
Taylor

# CIRCUIT 03

PERMANENCY



SAFETY



WELL-BEING



## Circuit Statewide

Total Population	191,456	21,634,529
Population Under 18	39,385	4,235,429
Investigations	2,004	142,301
Removals	620	26,857
Removal Rate Per 1,000 Investigations	3.09	1.89
Children Receiving Services	1,101	48,451
Children Entering Care	503	20,729
Children Exiting Care	548	24,041
Entry Rate Per 1,000 in the General Population	12.77	4.89
Unemployment Rate	3.40%	2.90%
Graduation Rate	86.74%	88.00%
Suicide Rate Per 100,000	19.82	14.06
Families Below Poverty Level	13.17%	9.12%

# METRIC PERFORMANCE

Investigations: DCF  
 Lead Agency: Partnership for Strong Families  
 Legal Services: DCF

## CIRCUIT 03

### PERMANENCY

	FY 22-23 Circuit Performance	FY 23-24 Circuit Performance	Change	Statewide Average Performance
Children Achieving Permanency and Not Reentering within 12 Months	93.88%	98.18%	4.30%	91.58%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months	21.89%	26.34%	4.45%	29.80%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Out-of-Home Care 12 to 23 Months	45.90%	56.20%	10.30%	50.61%
Children Placed with Relatives or Non-Relatives	67.57%	60.91%	-6.67%	54.14%
Placement Moves Per 1,000 Bed Days	8.65	6.46	2.19	5.42
Qualitative Index for Permanency	73.90%	75.20%	1.30	71.75%

### SAFETY

Children Not Abused During In-Home Services	99.17%	99.17%	0.01%	99.29%
Rate of Abuse in Out-of-Home Care per 100,000 Days in Care	9.94	11.53	-1.59	7.19
Children with No Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment within 12 Months of a Prior Verified Maltreatment	97.68%	95.42%	-2.26%	93.78%
Qualitative Index for Safety	76.50%	75.62%	-0.88%	75.57%

### WELL-BEING

Children Seen Every 30 Days	99.75%	99.77%	0.02%	99.08%
Children Placed with Siblings	57.31%	47.83%	-9.48%	57.55%
Qualitative Index for Well-Being	46.53%	56.12%	9.59%	59.96%



Clay  
Duval  
Nassau

# CIRCUIT 04

PERMANENCY



SAFETY



WELL-BEING



## Circuit Statewide

Total Population  
Population Under 18

1,306,896  
291,050

21,634,529  
4,235,429

Investigations  
Removals  
Removal Rate Per 1,000 Investigations

11,334  
1,750  
1.54

142,301  
26,857  
1.89

Children Receiving Services  
Children Entering Care  
Children Exiting Care  
Entry Rate Per 1,000 in the General Population

3,857  
1,934  
1,808  
6.64

48,451  
20,729  
24,041  
4.89

Unemployment Rate  
Graduation Rate  
Suicide Rate Per 100,000  
Families Below Poverty Level

3.10%  
89.69%  
18.07  
8.30%

2.90%  
88.00%  
14.06  
9.12%

# METRIC PERFORMANCE

# CIRCUIT 04

Investigations: DCF  
 Lead Agency: Family Support Services of North Florida, Inc (Duval and Nassau)  
 Kids First of Florida (Clay)  
 Legal Services: DCF

## PERMANENCY

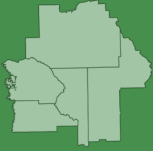
	FY 22-23 Circuit Performance	FY 23-24 Circuit Performance	Change	Statewide Average Performance
Children Achieving Permanency and Not Reentering within 12 Months	88.75%	95.68%	6.93%	91.58%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months	28.04%	22.49%	-5.55%	29.80%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Out-of-Home Care 12 to 23 Months	53.76%	47.78%	-5.98%	50.61%
Children Placed with Relatives or Non-Relatives	49.69%	47.92%	-1.77%	54.14%
Placement Moves Per 1,000 Bed Days	5.14	5.75	-0.61	5.42
Qualitative Index for Permanency	78.95%	73.60%	-5.35%	71.75%

## SAFETY

Children Not Abused During In-Home Services	99.18%	99.43%	0.25%	99.29%
Rate of Abuse in Out-of-Home Care per 100,000 Days in Care	5.55	4.99	0.56	7.19
Children with No Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment within 12 Months of a Prior Verified Maltreatment	95.11%	94.37%	-0.74%	93.78%
Qualitative Index for Safety	76.80%	73.78%	-3.02%	75.57%

## WELL-BEING

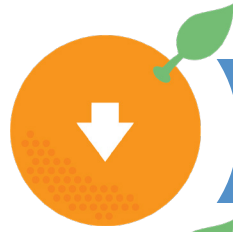
Children Seen Every 30 Days	99.67%	99.77%	0.10%	99.08%
Children Placed with Siblings	56.52%	49.81%	-6.71%	57.55%
Qualitative Index for Well-Being	60.00%	60.43%	0.43%	59.96%



Citrus  
Hernando  
Lake  
Marion  
Sumter

# CIRCUIT 05

PERMANENCY



SAFETY



WELL-BEING



## Circuit Statewide

Total Population	1,248,680	21,634,529
Population Under 18	212,213	4,235,429
Investigations	9,991	142,301
Removals	2,143	26,857
Removal Rate Per 1,000 Investigations	2.14	1.89
Children Receiving Services	3,476	48,451
Children Entering Care	1,224	20,729
Children Exiting Care	1,604	24,041
Entry Rate Per 1,000 in the General Population	5.77	4.89
Unemployment Rate	3.60%	2.90%
Graduation Rate	87.19%	88.00%
Suicide Rate Per 100,000	21.43	14.06
Families Below Poverty Level	8.30%	9.12%



# METRIC PERFORMANCE

Investigations: DCF  
 Lead Agency: Kids Central, Inc.  
 Legal Services: DCF

## CIRCUIT 05

### PERMANENCY

	FY 22-23 Circuit Performance	FY 23-24 Circuit Performance	Change	Statewide Average Performance
Children Achieving Permanency and Not Reentering within 12 Months	88.74%	92.37%	3.63%	91.58%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months	28.76%	26.23%	-2.53%	29.80%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Out-of-Home Care 12 to 23 Months	37.36%	37.01%	-0.35%	50.61%
Children Placed with Relatives or Non-Relatives	60.90%	59.98%	-0.92%	54.14%
Placement Moves Per 1,000 Bed Days	6.99	9.41	-2.42	5.42
Qualitative Index for Permanency	68.20%	64.56%	-3.65%	71.75%

### SAFETY

Children Not Abused During In-Home Services	99.16%	99.37%	0.21%	99.29%
Rate of Abuse in Out-of-Home Care per 100,000 Days in Care	2.58	6.14	-3.56	7.19
Children with No Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment within 12 Months of a Prior Verified Maltreatment	93.80%	95.41%	1.61%	93.78%
Qualitative Index for Safety	76.30%	71.70%	-4.60%	75.57%

### WELL-BEING

Children Seen Every 30 Days	97.97%	97.84%	-0.13%	99.08%
Children Placed with Siblings	63.13%	61.26%	-1.87%	57.55%
Qualitative Index for Well-Being	46.96%	53.83%	6.87%	59.96%



Pasco  
Pinellas

# CIRCUIT 06

PERMANENCY



SAFETY



WELL-BEING



## Circuit Statewide

Total Population	1,529,129	21,634,529
Population Under 18	265,781	4,235,429
Investigations	9,318	142,301
Removals	2,563	26,857
Removal Rate Per 1,000 Investigations	2.75	1.89
Children Receiving Services	4,326	48,451
Children Entering Care	1,443	20,729
Children Exiting Care	2,333	24,041
Entry Rate Per 1,000 in the General Population	5.43	4.89
Unemployment Rate	3.00%	2.90%
Graduation Rate	89.37%	88.00%
Suicide Rate Per 100,000	16.79	14.06
Families Below Poverty Level	7.70%	9.12%

# METRIC PERFORMANCE

Investigations: DCF  
 Lead Agency: Family Support Services  
 Legal Services: State Attorney's Office

# CIRCUIT 06

## PERMANENCY

	FY 22-23 Circuit Performance	FY 23-24 Circuit Performance	Change	Statewide Average Performance
Children Achieving Permanency and Not Reentering within 12 Months	88.86%	92.35%	3.49%	91.58%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months	26.47%	30.80%	4.33%	29.80%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Out-of-Home Care 12 to 23 Months	40.35%	54.02%	13.67%	50.61%
Children Placed with Relatives or Non-Relatives	57.25%	48.62%	-8.63%	54.14%
Placement Moves Per 1,000 Bed Days	7.30	5.39	1.91	5.42
Qualitative Index for Permanency	76.90%	68.06%	-8.84%	71.75%

## SAFETY

Children Not Abused During In-Home Services	99.19%	99.38%	0.19%	99.29%
Rate of Abuse in Out-of-Home Care per 100,000 Days in Care	6.84	5.92	0.92	7.19
Children with No Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment within 12 Months of a Prior Verified Maltreatment	91.30%	93.15%	1.85%	93.78%
Qualitative Index for Safety	79.70%	73.62%	-6.08%	75.57%

## WELL-BEING

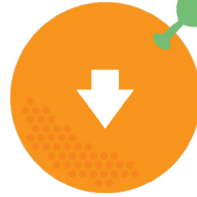
Children Seen Every 30 Days	98.36%	99.75%	1.39%	99.08%
Children Placed with Siblings	62.10%	57.59%	-4.51%	57.55%
Qualitative Index for Well-Being	54.29%	60.15%	5.86%	59.96%



Flagler  
Putnam  
St. Johns  
Volusia

# CIRCUIT 07

PERMANENCY



SAFETY



WELL-BEING



## Circuit Statewide

Total Population	1,028,361	21,634,529
Population Under 18	192,474	4,235,429
Investigations	7,694	142,301
Removals	1,079	26,857
Removal Rate Per 1,000 Investigations	1.40	1.89
Children Receiving Services	2,064	48,451
Children Entering Care	926	20,729
Children Exiting Care	1,084	24,041
Entry Rate Per 1,000 in the General Population	4.81	4.89
Unemployment Rate	3.30%	2.90%
Graduation Rate	90.57%	88.00%
Suicide Rate Per 100,000	18.26	14.06
Families Below Poverty Level	8.95%	9.12%

# METRIC PERFORMANCE

# CIRCUIT 07

Investigations: DCF  
 Lead Agencies: Community Partnership for Children, Inc. (Flagler, Putnam, Volusia)  
 St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners Family Integrity Program  
 Legal Services: DCF

## PERMANENCY

	FY 22-23 Circuit Performance	FY 23-24 Circuit Performance	Change	Statewide Average Performance
Children Achieving Permanency and Not Reentering within 12 Months	88.24%	81.90%	-6.34%	91.58%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months	26.14%	26.85%	0.71%	29.80%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Out-of-Home Care 12 to 23 Months	58.41%	59.84%	1.43%	50.61%
Children Placed with Relatives or Non-Relatives	51.85%	43.50%	-8.34%	54.14%
Placement Moves Per 1,000 Bed Days	4.10	4.17	-0.07	5.42
Qualitative Index for Permanency	81.87%	76.33%	-5.54%	71.75%

## SAFETY

Children Not Abused During In-Home Services	99.20%	99.51%	0.31%	99.29%
Rate of Abuse in Out-of-Home Care per 100,000 Days in Care	6.35	6.10	0.25	7.19
Children with No Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment within 12 Months of a Prior Verified Maltreatment	93.65%	95.16%	1.51%	93.78%
Qualitative Index for Safety	81.10%	80.89%	-0.21%	75.57%

## WELL-BEING

Children Seen Every 30 Days	99.70%	99.88%	0.18%	99.08%
Children Placed with Siblings	61.75%	55.92%	-5.83%	57.55%
Qualitative Index for Well-Being	67.78%	65.96%	-1.82%	59.96%



Alachua  
Baker  
Bradford  
Gilchrist  
Levy  
Union

# CIRCUIT 08

PERMANENCY



SAFETY



WELL-BEING



## Circuit Statewide

Total Population	412,376	21,634,529
Population Under 18	76,790	4,235,429
Investigations	3,600	142,301
Removals	575	26,857
Removal Rate Per 1,000 Investigations	1.60	1.89
Children Receiving Services	1,000	48,451
Children Entering Care	413	20,729
Children Exiting Care	458	24,041
Entry Rate Per 1,000 in the General Population	5.38	4.89
Unemployment Rate	3.10%	2.90%
Graduation Rate	84.34%	88.00%
Suicide Rate Per 100,000	13.92	14.06
Families Below Poverty Level	10.72%	9.12%

# METRIC PERFORMANCE

Investigations: DCF  
 Lead Agency: Partnership for Strong Families  
 Legal Services: DCF

# CIRCUIT 08

## PERMANENCY

	FY 22-23 Circuit Performance	FY 23-24 Circuit Performance	Change	Statewide Average Performance
Children Achieving Permanency and Not Reentering within 12 Months	96.49%	94.59%	-1.90%	91.58%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months	30.04%	22.95%	-7.09%	29.80%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Out-of-Home Care 12 to 23 Months	36.76%	55.46%	18.70%	50.61%
Children Placed with Relatives or Non-Relatives	58.42%	54.02%	-4.40%	54.14%
Placement Moves Per 1,000 Bed Days	6.80	7.87	-1.07	5.42
Qualitative Index for Permanency	80.67%	66.76%	-13.91%	71.75%

## SAFETY

Children Not Abused During In-Home Services	99.81%	99.27%	-0.54%	99.29%
Rate of Abuse in Out-of-Home Care per 100,000 Days in Care	6.96	5.35	1.61	7.19
Children with No Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment within 12 Months of a Prior Verified Maltreatment	94.01%	95.34%	1.33%	93.78%
Qualitative Index for Safety	79.20%	74.39%	-4.81%	75.57%

## WELL-BEING

Children Seen Every 30 Days	99.73%	99.26%	-0.47%	99.08%
Children Placed with Siblings	52.12%	58.76%	6.64%	57.55%
Qualitative Index for Well-Being	47.33%	42.31%	-5.02%	59.96%



Orange  
Osceola

# CIRCUIT 09

PERMANENCY



SAFETY



WELL-BEING



## Circuit    Statewide

Total Population	1,821,148	21,634,529
Population Under 18	403,227	4,235,429
Investigations	12,544	142,301
Removals	1,610	26,857
Removal Rate Per 1,000 Investigations	1.28	1.89
Children Receiving Services	2,513	48,451
Children Entering Care	1,011	20,729
Children Exiting Care	1,100	24,041
Entry Rate Per 1,000 in the General Population	2.51	4.89
Unemployment Rate	2.90%	2.90%
Graduation Rate	86.95%	88.00%
Suicide Rate Per 100,000	8.80	14.06
Families Below Poverty Level	10.62%	9.12%



# METRIC PERFORMANCE

Investigations: DCF  
 Lead Agency: Embrace Families\*/Family Partnerships of Central Florida  
 Legal Services: DCF

# CIRCUIT 09

## PERMANENCY

	FY 22-23 Circuit Performance	FY 23-24 Circuit Performance	Change	Statewide Average Performance
Children Achieving Permanency and Not Reentering within 12 Months	92.52%	90.35%	-2.17%	91.58%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months	20.43%	20.81%	0.38%	29.80%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Out-of-Home Care 12 to 23 Months	43.78%	41.33%	-2.45%	50.61%
Children Placed with Relatives or Non-Relatives	61.48%	54.55%	-6.93%	54.14%
Placement Moves Per 1,000 Bed Days	6.42	5.36	1.06	5.42
Qualitative Index for Permanency	74.62%	63.65%	-10.98%	71.75%

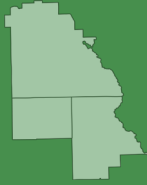
## SAFETY

Children Not Abused During In-Home Services	98.92%	98.72%	-0.20%	99.29%
Rate of Abuse in Out-of-Home Care per 100,000 Days in Care	9.06	9.34	-0.28	7.19
Children with No Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment within 12 Months of a Prior Verified Maltreatment	92.93%	94.45%	1.52%	93.78%
Qualitative Index for Safety	71.50%	72.76%	1.26%	75.57%

## WELL-BEING

Children Seen Every 30 Days	98.74%	98.81%	0.07%	99.08%
Children Placed with Siblings	57.98%	51.31%	-6.67%	57.55%
Qualitative Index for Well-Being	49.71%	50.39%	0.68%	59.96%

\*The lead agency contract for Circuit 9 transitioned from Embrace Families to Family Partnerships of Florida between 4/1/24 and 6/30/24.



Hardee  
Highlands  
Polk

# CIRCUIT 10

PERMANENCY



SAFETY



WELL-BEING



## Circuit Statewide

Total Population	864,096	21,634,529
Population Under 18	184,713	4,235,429
Investigations	7,751	142,301
Removals	1,832	26,857
Removal Rate Per 1,000 Investigations	2.36	1.89
Children Receiving Services	3,019	48,451
Children Entering Care	1,285	20,729
Children Exiting Care	1,430	24,041
Entry Rate Per 1,000 in the General Population	6.96	4.89
Unemployment Rate	3.70%	2.90%
Graduation Rate	79.68%	88.00%
Suicide Rate Per 100,000	19.13	14.06
Families Below Poverty Level	15.26%	9.12%

# METRIC PERFORMANCE

Investigations: DCF  
 Lead Agency: Heartland For Children  
 Legal Services: DCF

# CIRCUIT 10

## PERMANENCY

	FY 22-23 Circuit Performance	FY 23-24 Circuit Performance	Change	Statewide Average Performance
Children Achieving Permanency and Not Reentering within 12 Months	92.27%	93.23%	0.96%	91.58%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months	29.26%	35.65%	6.39%	29.80%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Out-of-Home Care 12 to 23 Months	44.11%	48.23%	4.12%	50.61%
Children Placed with Relatives or Non-Relatives	61.27%	62.74%	1.47%	54.14%
Placement Moves Per 1,000 Bed Days	4.18	3.27	0.91	5.42
Qualitative Index for Permanency	71.67%	69.40%	-2.28%	71.75%

## SAFETY

Children Not Abused During In-Home Services	99.13%	99.18%	0.05%	99.29%
Rate of Abuse in Out-of-Home Care per 100,000 Days in Care	6.52	6.10	0.42	7.19
Children with No Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment within 12 Months of a Prior Verified Maltreatment	92.32%	92.63%	0.31%	93.78%
Qualitative Index for Safety	79.00%	72.84%	-6.16%	75.57%

## WELL-BEING

Children Seen Every 30 Days	99.82%	99.71%	-0.11%	99.08%
Children Placed with Siblings	58.00%	59.71%	1.71%	57.55%
Qualitative Index for Well-Being	47.41%	63.95%	16.54%	59.96%



Miami-Dade

# CIRCUIT 11

PERMANENCY



SAFETY



WELL-BEING



## Circuit Statewide

Total Population	2,688,237	21,634,529
Population Under 18	540,286	4,235,429
Investigations	9,028	142,301
Removals	1,659	26,857
Removal Rate Per 1,000 Investigations	1.84	1.89
Children Receiving Services	2,358	48,451
Children Entering Care	985	20,729
Children Exiting Care	911	24,041
Entry Rate Per 1,000 in the General Population	1.82	4.89
Unemployment Rate	1.80%	2.90%
Graduation Rate	90.32%	88.00%
Suicide Rate Per 100,000	8.06	14.06
Families Below Poverty Level	11.88%	9.12%

# METRIC PERFORMANCE

Investigations: DCF  
 Lead Agency: Citrus Family Care Network  
 Legal Services: DCF

# CIRCUIT 11

## PERMANENCY

	FY 22-23 Circuit Performance	FY 23-24 Circuit Performance	Change	Statewide Average Performance
Children Achieving Permanency and Not Reentering within 12 Months	91.67%	92.38%	0.71%	91.58%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months	20.48%	21.58%	1.10%	29.80%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Out-of-Home Care 12 to 23 Months	44.44%	44.83%	0.39%	50.61%
Children Placed with Relatives or Non-Relatives	54.22%	52.20%	-2.02%	54.14%
Placement Moves Per 1,000 Bed Days	3.61	5.04	-1.43	5.42
Qualitative Index for Permanency	70.46%	66.72%	-3.74%	71.75%

## SAFETY

Children Not Abused During In-Home Services	99.41%	99.43%	0.02%	99.29%
Rate of Abuse in Out-of-Home Care per 100,000 Days in Care	4.36	4.87	-0.51	7.19
Children with No Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment within 12 Months of a Prior Verified Maltreatment	97.43%	95.31%	-2.12%	93.78%
Qualitative Index for Safety	77.10%	76.18%	-0.92%	75.57%

## WELL-BEING

Children Seen Every 30 Days	99.52%	99.69%	0.17%	99.08%
Children Placed with Siblings	60.53%	60.71%	0.18%	57.55%
Qualitative Index for Well-Being	53.28%	64.02%	10.74%	59.96%



DeSoto  
Manatee  
Sarasota

# CIRCUIT 12

PERMANENCY



SAFETY



WELL-BEING



## Circuit Statewide

Total Population	878,719	21,634,529
Population Under 18	138,993	4,235,429
Investigations	5,000	142,301
Removals	972	26,857
Removal Rate Per 1,000 Investigations	1.94	1.89
Children Receiving Services	1,548	48,451
Children Entering Care	551	20,729
Children Exiting Care	821	24,041
Entry Rate Per 1,000 in the General Population	3.96	4.89
Unemployment Rate	3.30%	2.90%
Graduation Rate	81.70%	88.00%
Suicide Rate Per 100,000	19.61	14.06
Families Below Poverty Level	10.26%	9.12%

# METRIC PERFORMANCE

Investigations: DCF  
 Lead Agency: Safe Children Coalition  
 Legal Services: DCF

# CIRCUIT 12

## PERMANENCY

	FY 22-23 Circuit Performance	FY 23-24 Circuit Performance	Change	Statewide Average Performance
Children Achieving Permanency and Not Reentering within 12 Months	92.04%	88.20%	-3.84%	91.58%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months	34.07%	41.44%	7.37%	29.80%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Out-of-Home Care 12 to 23 Months	54.20%	52.53%	-1.67%	50.61%
Children Placed with Relatives or Non-Relatives	62.18%	54.73%	-7.44%	54.14%
Placement Moves Per 1,000 Bed Days	4.79	5.60	-0.81	5.42
Qualitative Index for Permanency	79.05%	82.27%	3.21%	71.75%

## SAFETY

Children Not Abused During In-Home Services	99.35%	99.46%	0.10%	99.29%
Rate of Abuse in Out-of-Home Care per 100,000 Days in Care	5.67	7.29	-1.62	7.19
Children with No Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment within 12 Months of a Prior Verified Maltreatment	92.51%	94.54%	2.03%	93.78%
Qualitative Index for Safety	81.50%	77.37%	-4.13%	75.57%

## WELL-BEING

Children Seen Every 30 Days	99.35%	99.56%	0.21%	99.08%
Children Placed with Siblings	65.71%	66.67%	0.96%	57.55%
Qualitative Index for Well-Being	63.64%	71.44%	7.80%	59.96%



Hillsborough

# CIRCUIT 13

PERMANENCY



SAFETY



WELL-BEING



## Circuit Statewide

Total Population	1,468,560	21,634,529
Population Under 18	320,513	4,235,429
Investigations	9,612	142,301
Removals	2,555	26,857
Removal Rate Per 1,000 Investigations	2.66	1.89
Children Receiving Services	4,772	48,451
Children Entering Care	1,916	20,729
Children Exiting Care	2,285	24,041
Entry Rate Per 1,000 in the General Population	5.98	4.89
Unemployment Rate	2.90%	2.90%
Graduation Rate	86.17%	88.00%
Suicide Rate Per 100,000	13.67	14.06
Families Below Poverty Level	9.93%	9.12%



# METRIC PERFORMANCE

Investigations: DCF  
 Lead Agency: Children's Network of Hillsborough  
 Legal Services: DCF

# CIRCUIT 13

## PERMANENCY

	FY 22-23 Circuit Performance	FY 23-24 Circuit Performance	Change	Statewide Average Performance
Children Achieving Permanency and Not Reentering within 12 Months	91.97%	91.39%	-0.58%	91.58%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months	28.65%	18.08%	-10.57%	29.80%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Out-of-Home Care 12 to 23 Months	32.40%	41.56%	9.16%	50.61%
Children Placed with Relatives or Non-Relatives	60.52%	54.82%	-5.71%	54.14%
Placement Moves Per 1,000 Bed Days	8.92	5.08	3.84	5.42
Qualitative Index for Permanency	69.91%	71.47%	1.56%	71.75%

## SAFETY

Children Not Abused During In-Home Services	99.21%	99.59%	0.39%	99.29%
Rate of Abuse in Out-of-Home Care per 100,000 Days in Care	7.30	6.67	0.63	7.19
Children with No Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment within 12 Months of a Prior Verified Maltreatment	92.14%	92.98%	0.84%	93.78%
Qualitative Index for Safety	74.60%	73.71%	-0.89%	75.57%

## WELL-BEING

Children Seen Every 30 Days	98.13%	99.67%	1.54%	99.08%
Children Placed with Siblings	58.88%	53.22%	-5.66%	57.55%
Qualitative Index for Well-Being	48.93%	60.07%	11.14%	59.96%



Bay  
Calhoun  
Gulf  
Holmes  
Jackson  
Washington

# CIRCUIT 14

PERMANENCY



SAFETY



WELL-BEING



## Circuit Statewide

Total Population	302,057	21,634,529
Population Under 18	60,542	4,235,429
Investigations	3,835	142,301
Removals	698	26,857
Removal Rate Per 1,000 Investigations	1.82	1.89
Children Receiving Services	1,306	48,451
Children Entering Care	626	20,729
Children Exiting Care	750	24,041
Entry Rate Per 1,000 in the General Population	10.34	4.89
Unemployment Rate	2.90%	2.90%
Graduation Rate	83.89%	88.00%
Suicide Rate Per 100,000	17.29	14.06
Families Below Poverty Level	13.35%	9.12%

# METRIC PERFORMANCE

Investigations: DCF  
 Lead Agency: Northwest Florida Health Network  
 Legal Services: DCF

# CIRCUIT 14

## PERMANENCY

	FY 22-23 Circuit Performance	FY 23-24 Circuit Performance	Change	Statewide Average Performance
Children Achieving Permanency and Not Reentering within 12 Months	94.83%	88.16%	-6.67%	91.58%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months	33.07%	43.84%	10.77%	29.80%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Out-of-Home Care 12 to 23 Months	67.83%	59.62%	-8.21%	50.61%
Children Placed with Relatives or Non-Relatives	61.31%	57.80%	-3.52%	54.14%
Placement Moves Per 1,000 Bed Days	5.99	4.17	1.82	5.42
Qualitative Index for Permanency	77.39%	75.87%	-1.52%	71.75%

## SAFETY

Children Not Abused During In-Home Services	99.54%	99.06%	-0.49%	99.29%
Rate of Abuse in Out-of-Home Care per 100,000 Days in Care	5.93	4.76	1.17	7.19
Children with No Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment within 12 Months of a Prior Verified Maltreatment	95.91%	93.26%	-2.65%	93.78%
Qualitative Index for Safety	80.60%	80.09%	-0.51%	75.57%

## WELL-BEING

Children Seen Every 30 Days	99.49%	99.95%	0.46%	99.08%
Children Placed with Siblings	66.84%	64.21%	-2.63%	57.55%
Qualitative Index for Well-Being	54.26%	61.03%	6.77%	59.96%



Palm Beach

# CIRCUIT 15

PERMANENCY



SAFETY



WELL-BEING



## Circuit Statewide

Total Population	1,494,805	21,634,529
Population Under 18	281,121	4,235,429
Investigations	8,427	142,301
Removals	1,247	26,857
Removal Rate Per 1,000 Investigations	1.48	1.89
Children Receiving Services	2,246	48,451
Children Entering Care	1,066	20,729
Children Exiting Care	1,178	24,041
Entry Rate Per 1,000 in the General Population	3.79	4.89
Unemployment Rate	3.00%	2.90%
Graduation Rate	90.51%	88.00%
Suicide Rate Per 100,000	13.25	14.06
Families Below Poverty Level	7.88%	9.12%

# METRIC PERFORMANCE

Investigations: DCF  
 Lead Agency: ChildNet, Inc.  
 Legal Services: DCF

# CIRCUIT 15

## PERMANENCY

	FY 22-23 Circuit Performance	FY 23-24 Circuit Performance	Change	Statewide Average Performance
Children Achieving Permanency and Not Reentering within 12 Months	97.13%	93.06%	-4.07%	91.58%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months	35.39%	36.04%	0.65%	29.80%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Out-of-Home Care 12 to 23 Months	61.84%	62.07%	0.23%	50.61%
Children Placed with Relatives or Non-Relatives	53.80%	53.15%	-0.65%	54.14%
Placement Moves Per 1,000 Bed Days	4.12	3.83	0.29	5.42
Qualitative Index for Permanency	74.54%	80.09%	5.55%	71.75%

## SAFETY

Children Not Abused During In-Home Services	99.40%	99.33%	-0.07%	99.29%
Rate of Abuse in Out-of-Home Care per 100,000 Days in Care	7.88	8.71	-0.83	7.19
Children with No Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment within 12 Months of a Prior Verified Maltreatment	93.68%	96.50%	2.82%	93.78%
Qualitative Index for Safety	81.40%	73.04%	-8.36%	75.57%

## WELL-BEING

Children Seen Every 30 Days	99.71%	99.74%	0.03%	99.08%
Children Placed with Siblings	59.47%	66.67%	7.20%	57.55%
Qualitative Index for Well-Being	64.32%	64.12%	-0.20%	59.96%



Monroe

# CIRCUIT 16

PERMANENCY



SAFETY



WELL-BEING



## Circuit Statewide

Total Population	82,044	21,634,529
Population Under 18	12,862	4,235,429
Investigations	361	142,301
Removals	97	26,857
Removal Rate Per 1,000 Investigations	2.69	1.89
Children Receiving Services	172	48,451
Children Entering Care	97	20,729
Children Exiting Care	75	24,041
Entry Rate Per 1,000 in the General Population	7.54	4.89
Unemployment Rate	1.90%	2.90%
Graduation Rate	89.03%	88.00%
Suicide Rate Per 100,000	16.99	14.06
Families Below Poverty Level	6.86%	9.12%

# METRIC PERFORMANCE

Investigations: DCF  
 Lead Agency: Citrus Family Care Network  
 Legal Services: DCF

# CIRCUIT 16

## PERMANENCY

	FY 22-23 Circuit Performance	FY 23-24 Circuit Performance	Change	Statewide Average Performance
Children Achieving Permanency and Not Reentering within 12 Months	82.35%	91.30%	8.95%	91.58%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months	58.14%	46.43%	-11.71%	29.80%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Out-of-Home Care 12 to 23 Months	100.00%	57.14%	-42.86%	50.61%
Children Placed with Relatives or Non-Relatives	55.50%	54.73%	-0.77%	54.14%
Placement Moves Per 1,000 Bed Days	2.35	9.24	-6.89	5.42
Qualitative Index for Permanency	87.29%	88.73%	1.44%	71.75%

## SAFETY

Children Not Abused During In-Home Services	98.77%	100.00%	1.23%	99.29%
Rate of Abuse in Out-of-Home Care per 100,000 Days in Care	0.00	14.74	-14.74	7.19
Children with No Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment within 12 Months of a Prior Verified Maltreatment	98.70%	94.52%	-4.18%	93.78%
Qualitative Index for Safety	86.70%	84.58%	-2.12%	75.57%

## WELL-BEING

Children Seen Every 30 Days	99.94%	99.92%	-0.02%	99.08%
Children Placed with Siblings	77.78%	66.67%	-11.11%	57.55%
Qualitative Index for Well-Being	69.11%	67.45%	-1.66%	59.96%



Broward

# CIRCUIT 17

PERMANENCY



SAFETY



WELL-BEING



## Circuit Statewide

Total Population	1,940,907	21,634,529
Population Under 18	405,002	4,235,429
Investigations	9,577	142,301
Removals	1,460	26,857
Removal Rate Per 1,000 Investigations	1.52	1.89
Children Receiving Services	2,458	48,451
Children Entering Care	1,031	20,729
Children Exiting Care	1,138	24,041
Entry Rate Per 1,000 in the General Population	2.55	4.89
Unemployment Rate	2.90%	2.90%
Graduation Rate	88.69%	88.00%
Suicide Rate Per 100,000	10.65	14.06
Families Below Poverty Level	9.55%	9.12%



# METRIC PERFORMANCE

Investigations: DCF  
 Lead Agency: ChildNet, Inc.  
 Legal Services: DCF

# CIRCUIT 17

## PERMANENCY

	FY 22-23 Circuit Performance	FY 23-24 Circuit Performance	Change	Statewide Average Performance
Children Achieving Permanency and Not Reentering within 12 Months	82.86%	94.54%	11.68%	91.58%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months	32.61%	31.77%	-0.84%	29.80%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Out-of-Home Care 12 to 23 Months	56.81%	50.34%	-6.47%	50.61%
Children Placed with Relatives or Non-Relatives	48.49%	48.71%	0.22%	54.14%
Placement Moves Per 1,000 Bed Days	4.24	4.51	-0.27	5.42
Qualitative Index for Permanency	78.87%	77.65%	-1.22%	71.75%

## SAFETY

Children Not Abused During In-Home Services	99.32%	99.09%	-0.23%	99.29%
Rate of Abuse in Out-of-Home Care per 100,000 Days in Care	6.08	7.33	-1.25	7.19
Children with No Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment within 12 Months of a Prior Verified Maltreatment	92.52%	93.74%	1.22%	93.78%
Qualitative Index for Safety	81.50%	81.85%	0.35%	75.57%

## WELL-BEING

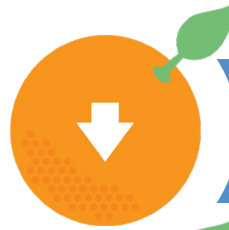
Children Seen Every 30 Days	99.71%	99.77%	0.06%	99.08%
Children Placed with Siblings	66.02%	61.62%	-4.40%	57.55%
Qualitative Index for Well-Being	69.41%	76.81%	7.40%	59.96%



Brevard  
Seminole

# CIRCUIT 18

PERMANENCY



SAFETY



WELL-BEING



## Circuit Statewide

Total Population	1,082,044	21,634,529
Population Under 18	208,014	4,235,429
Investigations	8,334	142,301
Removals	1,495	26,857
Removal Rate Per 1,000 Investigations	1.79	1.89
Children Receiving Services	2,418	48,451
Children Entering Care	967	20,729
Children Exiting Care	1,184	24,041
Entry Rate Per 1,000 in the General Population	4.65	4.89
Unemployment Rate	3.00%	2.90%
Graduation Rate	90.69%	88.00%
Suicide Rate Per 100,000	15.10	14.06
Families Below Poverty Level	6.78%	9.12%

# METRIC PERFORMANCE

# CIRCUIT 18

Investigations: DCF  
 Lead Agency: Embrace Families\*/Family Partnerships of Central Florida  
 Legal Services: DCF

## PERMANENCY

	FY 22-23 Circuit Performance	FY 23-24 Circuit Performance	Change	Statewide Average Performance
Children Achieving Permanency and Not Reentering within 12 Months	91.70%	86.32%	-5.38%	91.58%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months	30.85%	27.48%	-3.37%	29.80%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Out-of-Home Care 12 to 23 Months	49.46%	52.36%	2.90%	50.61%
Children Placed with Relatives or Non-Relatives	60.68%	60.23%	-0.44%	54.14%
Placement Moves Per 1,000 Bed Days	6.27	5.01	1.26	5.42
Qualitative Index for Permanency	76.54%	70.00%	-6.54%	71.75%

## SAFETY

Children Not Abused During In-Home Services	98.96%	98.88%	-0.08%	99.29%
Rate of Abuse in Out-of-Home Care per 100,000 Days in Care	7.15	9.57	-2.42	7.19
Children with No Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment within 12 Months of a Prior Verified Maltreatment	95.33%	93.68%	-1.65%	93.78%
Qualitative Index for Safety	78.90%	76.11%	-2.79%	75.57%

## WELL-BEING

Children Seen Every 30 Days	98.95%	99.63%	0.68%	99.08%
Children Placed with Siblings	59.59%	60.50%	0.91%	57.55%
Qualitative Index for Well-Being	54.07%	58.26%	4.19%	59.96%

\*The lead agency contract for Seminole County transitioned from Embrace Families to Family Partnerships of Central Florida between 4/1/24 and 6/30/24.



Indian River  
Martin  
Okeechobee  
St. Lucie

# CIRCUIT 19

PERMANENCY



SAFETY



WELL-BEING



## Circuit Statewide

Total Population	694,937	21,634,529
Population Under 18	124,425	4,235,429
Investigations	4,679	142,301
Removals	767	26,857
Removal Rate Per 1,000 Investigations	1.64	1.89
Children Receiving Services	1,489	48,451
Children Entering Care	649	20,729
Children Exiting Care	819	24,041
Entry Rate Per 1,000 in the General Population	5.22	4.89
Unemployment Rate	2.90%	2.90%
Graduation Rate	87.29%	88.00%
Suicide Rate Per 100,000	16.14	14.06
Families Below Poverty Level	9.04%	9.12%

# METRIC PERFORMANCE

Investigations: DCF  
 Lead Agency: Communities Connected for Kids  
 Legal Services: DCF

# CIRCUIT 19

## PERMANENCY

	FY 22-23 Circuit Performance	FY 23-24 Circuit Performance	Change	Statewide Average Performance
Children Achieving Permanency and Not Reentering within 12 Months	90.23%	91.94%	1.71%	91.58%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months	38.89%	34.45%	-4.44%	29.80%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Out-of-Home Care 12 to 23 Months	71.03%	64.80%	-6.23%	50.61%
Children Placed with Relatives or Non-Relatives	57.09%	54.63%	-2.46%	54.14%
Placement Moves Per 1,000 Bed Days	4.23	3.95	0.28	5.42
Qualitative Index for Permanency	79.33%	83.41%	4.08%	71.75%

## SAFETY

Children Not Abused During In-Home Services	98.56%	99.17%	0.61%	99.29%
Rate of Abuse in Out-of-Home Care per 100,000 Days in Care	9.04	13.44	-4.40	7.19
Children with No Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment within 12 Months of a Prior Verified Maltreatment	94.41%	93.87%	-0.54%	93.78%
Qualitative Index for Safety	82.90%	81.04%	-1.86%	75.57%

## WELL-BEING

Children Seen Every 30 Days	99.90%	99.92%	0.02%	99.08%
Children Placed with Siblings	63.64%	61.05%	-2.59%	57.55%
Qualitative Index for Well-Being	59.51%	63.02%	3.51%	59.96%



Charlotte  
Collier  
Glades  
Hendry  
Lee

# CIRCUIT 20

PERMANENCY



SAFETY



WELL-BEING



## Circuit Statewide

Total Population	1,395,104	21,634,529
Population Under 18	230,479	4,235,429
Investigations	8,620	142,301
Removals	1,536	26,857
Removal Rate Per 1,000 Investigations	1.78	1.89
Children Receiving Services	3,558	48,451
Children Entering Care	1,907	20,729
Children Exiting Care	2,053	24,041
Entry Rate Per 1,000 in the General Population	8.27	4.89
Unemployment Rate	3.20%	2.90%
Graduation Rate	83.92%	88.00%
Suicide Rate Per 100,000	14.97	14.06
Families Below Poverty Level	11.84%	9.12%

# METRIC PERFORMANCE

Investigations: DCF  
 Lead Agency: Children's Network of Southwest Florida  
 Legal Services: DCF

# CIRCUIT 20

## PERMANENCY

	FY 22-23 Circuit Performance	FY 23-24 Circuit Performance	Change	Statewide Average Performance
Children Achieving Permanency and Not Reentering within 12 Months	91.59%	95.24%	3.65%	91.58%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months	34.37%	39.63%	5.26%	29.80%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Out-of-Home Care 12 to 23 Months	61.26%	63.28%	2.02%	50.61%
Children Placed with Relatives or Non-Relatives	55.27%	54.84%	-0.43%	54.14%
Placement Moves Per 1,000 Bed Days	6.67	6.03	0.64	5.42
Qualitative Index for Permanency	85.45%	79.42%	-6.03%	71.75%

## SAFETY

Children Not Abused During In-Home Services	99.26%	99.58%	0.33%	99.29%
Rate of Abuse in Out-of-Home Care per 100,000 Days in Care	4.65	4.50	0.15	7.19
Children with No Recurrence of Verified Maltreatment within 12 Months of a Prior Verified Maltreatment	93.14%	94.97%	1.83%	93.78%
Qualitative Index for Safety	79.70%	75.48%	-4.22%	75.57%

## WELL-BEING

Children Seen Every 30 Days	99.89%	99.86%	-0.03%	99.08%
Children Placed with Siblings	58.72%	57.14%	-1.58%	57.55%
Qualitative Index for Well-Being	64.21%	68.61%	4.40%	59.96%

# Appendix 1: Methodology

## Metrics

Metrics included in the accountability system focus on child and family outcomes and the quality of services provided by each practice area within a circuit. There is a total of 13 accountability metrics, which have been established across the domains of permanency, safety, and well-being. Three of the accountability metrics are qualitative index measures, representing the percent of all qualitative standards met within each domain.

Each metric has been clearly defined with standard levels of quality prescribed. The majority of measures and performance standards are aligned with federal standards. For the three state-specific metrics without pre-established federal standards, standards were established based on historical statewide performance.

A complete listing of the accountability metrics is provided in Appendix 2 of this report, and a complete listing of the qualitative standards included in the qualitative index scores is provided in Appendix 3 of this report.

In addition to the accountability metrics, provided alongside each of the circuit scores throughout this report is data on relevant contextual factors. While these factors are not a part of the methodology used to score circuit health, they are highly relevant to understanding and interpreting performance on the accountability metrics. The contextual factors considered throughout this report include the following: numbers of total population and the population under age 18; numbers of investigations, removals, and removal rates; numbers of children receiving services, entering care, exiting care, and entry rates; and rates for unemployment, graduation, suicide, and poverty. Circuit-specific and statewide data is provided for each of these contextual factors.

## Data Sources

The Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN) is the data source for all quantitative measures, and the data source for all qualitative metrics is the Qualtrics Life of Case Tool, which collects the results of the quality reviews conducted by the Department's Quality Office. Quality reviews were established based on standards outlined in federal Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR), Florida Statute, and the Department of Children and Families Operating Procedures (CFOP).

Reviews are conducted across the lifecycle of a case to allow for near to real-time feedback and to provide supervisors opportunities to discuss or contest findings. Reviews are conducted using a representative, random population sample at a volume to provide results at 90 percent confidence with a 10 percent margin of error, by circuit. Additionally, the Department has deployed a quarterly "Benchmarking" process to ensure the inter-rater reliability and agreeability of findings. The results of this process have shown the quality review findings to be above industry standards for reliability.

## Scoring

This report provides data reflecting the performance of circuits over the twelve months of State Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24. The methodology for evaluating circuit performance was updated in FY 2023-24 to focus on year-over-year improvements within each circuit. Upward, downward, and inward-facing arrows are used to represent the performance trends across the domains of permanency, safety, and well-being, indicating whether most metrics showed improvement, did not show improvement decline, or remained unchanged compared to FY 2022-23. This approach fosters a culture of continuous quality improvement by recognizing progress and areas for growth.



# Appendix 2: Accountability Metric Targets

## PERMANENCY

Measure	Target
Children Achieving Permanency and Not Reentering within 12 Months	94.40%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months	35.20%
Children Achieving Permanency within 12 Months for Children in Out-of-Home Care 12 to 23 Months	43.80%
Children Placed with Relatives or Non-Relatives*	60.00%
Placement Moves per 1,000 Bed Days	<4.50
Qualitative Index for Permanency	90.00%

## SAFETY

Measure	Target
Children Not Abused During In-Home Services*	98.00%
Rate of Abuse in Out-of-Home Care per 100,000 Days in Care	<9.07
Children with No Reoccurrence of Verified Maltreatment within 12 Months of a Prior Verified Maltreatment	90.30%
Qualitative Index for Safety	90.00%

## WELL-BEING

Measure	Target
Children Seen Every 30 Days	99.50%
Children Placed with Siblings*	65.00%
Qualitative Index for Well-Being	90.00%

# Appendix 3: Qualitative Index Standards by Domain

## QUALITATIVE STANDARDS FOR PERMANENCY

CFSR Item #	CPI Criteria on LOC Tool	Case Management Criteria on LOC Tool
<b>Item 4:</b> Stability of Foster Care Placement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Were all placement changes planned by the agency to achieve the child's case goals or to meet the needs of the child?</li> </ul>
<b>Item 5:</b> Permanency Goal for the Child		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Did the agency make efforts to stabilize placements when there was an indication that the placement was not stable?</li> </ul>
<b>Item 6:</b> Achieving Permanency Goal		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Was the permanency goal appropriate for the child's permanency needs and circumstances of the case?</li> </ul>
<b>Item 7:</b> Placement with Siblings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Were concerted efforts made to place siblings together?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are the permanency goals for each child entered accurately in the FSFN?</li> </ul>
<b>*Item 8:</b> Visiting with Parents and Siblings in Foster Care		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Were efforts made to ensure visitation (or other contact) between the child and the mother, father, and the child's siblings of sufficient quality?</li> </ul>
<b>Item 9:</b> Preserving Connections		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Were efforts made to maintain the children's community connections?</li> </ul>
<b>Item 10:</b> Relative Placement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Were concerted efforts made to place children with relatives?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Were efforts made to identify and evaluate relatives as potential placements options until ruled out?</li> </ul>
<b>Item 11:</b> Relationship of Child in Care with Parents		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Were efforts made to support and maintain a positive relationship between the child and his or her mother?</li> <li>Were efforts made to support and maintain a positive relationship between the child and his or her father?</li> </ul>

## QUALITATIVE STANDARDS FOR SAFETY

CFSR Item #	CPI Criteria on LOC Tool	Case Management Criteria on LOC Tool
<b>Item 1:</b> Timeliness of seeing children in an investigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Were diligent efforts made to see all children in the household within the assigned response priority?</li> </ul>	
<b>Item 2:</b> Services to prevent removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Were concerted efforts made to provide services to prevent removal?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Were concerted efforts made to provide/arrange appropriate services for the family to protect the children and prevent their entry/re-entry into out of home care?</li> </ul>
<b>Item 3:</b> Risk and Safety Assessment and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Were maltreatments added during the investigation as new information was obtained?</li> <li>Were maltreatment findings supported within the totality of the investigation?</li> <li>Were risk assessment questions completed correctly based on the case record documentation?</li> <li>Is the Present Danger Assessment correct?</li> <li>Is the Impending Danger Assessment correct?</li> <li>Was the present danger safety plan sufficient to control identified threats?</li> <li>Was the impending danger safety plan sufficient to control identified danger threats?</li> <li>Was the present danger plan actively managed?</li> <li>Was the impending danger safety plan actively managed?</li> <li>Was an Immediate Child Safety Action Required?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Were background checks completed when required?</li> <li>Was background check information evaluated and used to address potential danger threats?</li> <li>Was the family assessment sufficient to document family dynamics?</li> <li>Was an Immediate Child Safety Action Required?</li> <li>Was there a sufficient safety plan to manage identified danger threats or safety concerns?</li> <li>Was the safety plan monitored and updated as needed to ensure it is working effectively to protect the children from identified danger threats?</li> <li>Were all new safety concerns adequately addressed for children remaining in the family home?</li> <li>Were all safety concerns related to visitation with parents or family members adequately addressed?</li> <li>Were all safety concerns pertaining to the child(ren) in out of home care adequately or appropriately addressed by the agency?</li> </ul>

## QUALITATIVE STANDARDS FOR WELL-BEING

CFSR Item #	CPI Criteria on LOC Tool	Case Management Criteria on LOC Tool
<b>Item 12:</b> Needs and Services of Child, Parents, and Foster Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were attempts made to connect the family to appropriate services for children determined to be safe but high risk?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Was a Comprehensive Behavioral Health Assessment (CBHA) completed for the child upon entering out of home care?</li> <li>• Was a CBHA updated based on case circumstances?</li> <li>• Was a CBHA or other mental health assessment used as part of the case manager's assessment?</li> <li>• Were assessments arranged that accurately identified the children's needs?</li> <li>• Were appropriate services provided to meet any additional needs of the children?</li> <li>• Were assessments arranged or conducted to accurately identify the mother's and father's needs?</li> <li>• Were appropriate services provided to meet the identified needs of the mother and father?</li> <li>• Were ongoing assessments conducted or arranged to identify the service needs of the caregiver or pre-adoptive parents?</li> <li>• Has the child welfare professional had ongoing contact with service providers involved with the family?</li> </ul>
<b>Item 13:</b> Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were efforts made to actively involve the child in the case planning process?</li> <li>• Were efforts made to actively involve the mother and father in the case planning process?</li> </ul>
<b>Item 14:</b> Caseworker Visits with the Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were quality interviews conducted with the child(ren)?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Was the frequency and quality of the visits with the child(ren) sufficient to address safety, permanency, and well-being and promote achievement of case goals?</li> </ul>
<b>Item 15:</b> Caseworker Visits with Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were quality interviews conducted with the parents/ caregivers/household members?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were quality of case manager visits with the mother and father sufficient to ensure child safety and evaluate case plan progress?</li> <li>• If no, select all that apply; if "conditions for return not discussed at frequency needed for circumstances of the case", is selected as the reason the visit was not of quality, this is counted negatively toward performance.</li> </ul>
<b>Item 16:</b> Educational Needs of the Child		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were appropriate services provided to meet the child's educational needs?</li> <li>• Did the child welfare professional conduct or arrange for formal or informal assessments that accurately and thoroughly identified the children's educational needs?</li> </ul>
<b>Item 17:</b> Physical Health of the Child		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were the child's health records up-to-date in the case plan and were identified issues in the case plan?</li> <li>• Did the child welfare professional conduct or arrange for formal or informal assessments that accurately and thoroughly identified the children's dental needs?</li> <li>• Did the child welfare professional conduct or arrange for formal or informal assessments that accurately and thoroughly identified the children's medical needs.</li> <li>• Were appropriate services provided to meet the child's identified dental needs?</li> <li>• Were appropriate services provided to meet the child's identified medical needs?</li> </ul>
<b>Item 18:</b> Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did the agency provide appropriate oversight of prescription medication for mental/behavioral health issues?</li> <li>• Did the child welfare professional conduct or arrange for formal or informal assessments that accurately and thoroughly identified the children's behavioral health needs?</li> <li>• Were appropriate services provided to meet the children's identified behavioral health needs?</li> </ul>

For more information and detailed data that was used in the creation of this report, please refer to: [www.MyFLFamilies.com/Accountability](http://www.MyFLFamilies.com/Accountability).

**ENDNOTES:** Data for the general population and population under the age of 18, and the graduation, suicide, and poverty rates provided throughout this report were obtained from the Florida Department of Health's Florida Health Charts.

