

# Division of Children and Family Services: Child Welfare Overview



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# Children and Family Services Priorities

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- ▶ Ensure child safety in the family home with primary prevention
- ▶ Improve family engagement to preserve and strengthen the family so parents can safely raise their children in their home without entering child welfare
- ▶ Provide the most appropriate supports and services in the family home to reduce the potential trauma experienced by children and parents
- ▶ Lower caseloads so CFS teammates can spend more time with their families

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# Prevention Initiatives

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## Bring Up Nebraska

**Foundations**

**Community Response**

**Faith-based  
Organizations**

**Community  
Agencies**

**MCO Collaboration**



**CarePortal**

**Schools**

**FAST**

**DHHS Programs**

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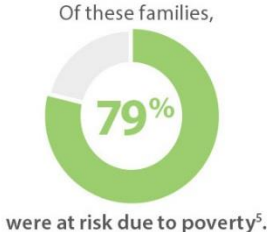
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# PREVENTION WORK IS VITAL TO NEBRASKA'S CHILDREN

## THE NEED

Over  
**1,500 families**  
families and more than  
**10,000 children**  
were served by community collaboratives  
in the past 12 months<sup>5</sup>.



And of the  
over 10,000 children served  
by the community collaboratives,  
**only 20**  
had a substantiated case  
of child abuse or neglect<sup>5</sup>.

5. UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute for Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (October 2018). Community Well-Being 2017-2018 Evaluation Report.



SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES ▲ THRIVING FAMILIES

Bring Up Nebraska is administered by Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.

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# Court vs. Non-court

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## Court involved

- Safety concern that cannot be addressed through safety plan
- Law enforcement removes child from home due to safety concern
- Parents unable or unwilling to meet child's needs through safety plan
- Violation of safety plan
- County attorney files a petition for court involvement

## Non-court involved

- Parents have protective capacities
- Families acknowledge concern and express desire to improve family function
- Support resources provided, accepted by parents
- Safety network willing/available to participate to ensure child safety
- CFS safety assessment identifies safety/support network

*Both include CFSS Structured Decision Making.  
All child welfare services are available whether or not the court is involved.*

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# Alternative Response

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- Helps connect families with supports and services to safely care for their children
- Addresses needs of families with less severe reports of abuse or neglect
- Helps families avoid further/future involvement in the child welfare system
- Launched in five counties in October 2014, now utilized in ALL Nebraska counties

Nebraska Families Served in 2018

Alternative Response:	686
Court and Non-Court Families	3271
Total Families:	3957

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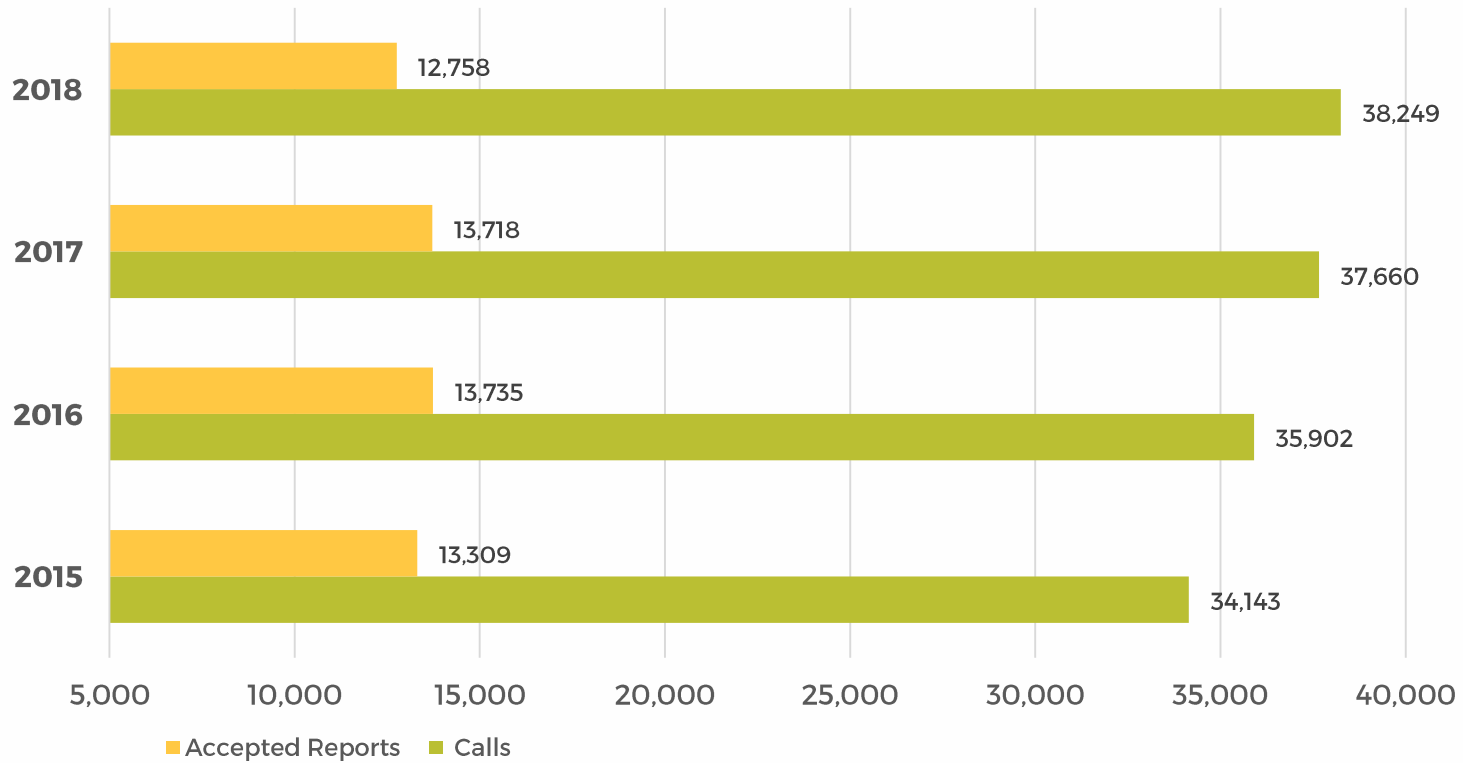
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# Abuse and Neglect Hotline:

## Child Abuse/Neglect Reports



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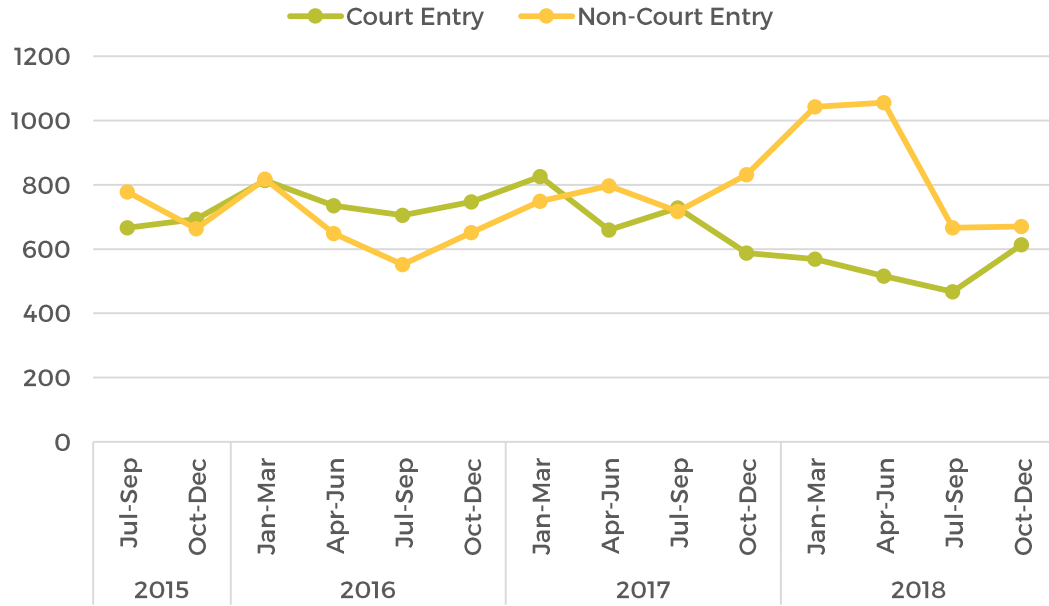
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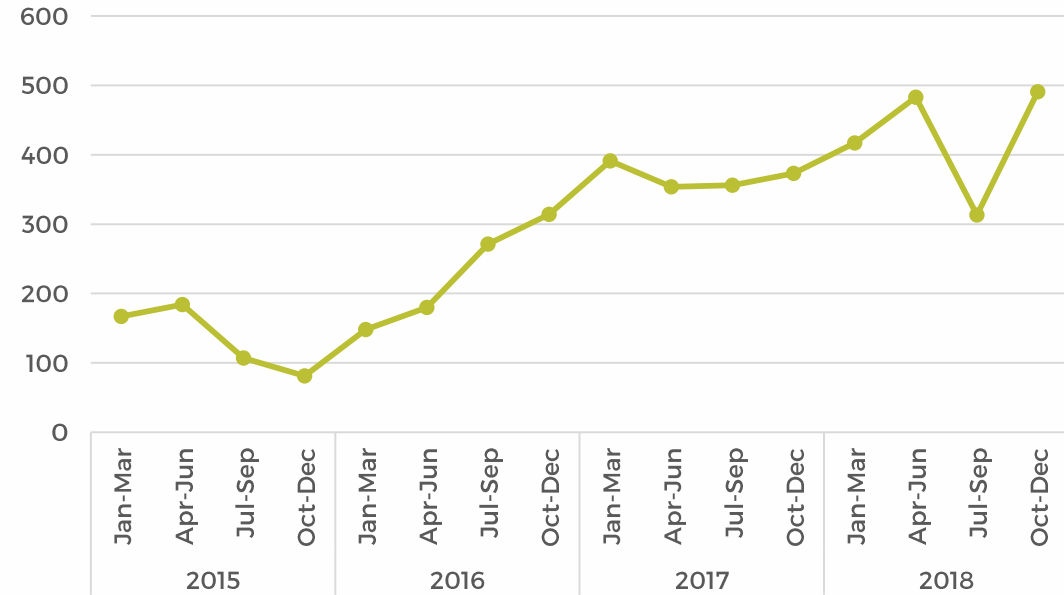
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# Accepted Reports of Abuse and Neglect

## Youth Entries into Care



## Alternative Response Entries into Care



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# Out-of-Home Care

On January 1, 2018

**3,494**

Nebraska children/youth were in out-of home care

On December 31, 2018

**3,067**

Nebraska children/youth were in out-of home care

That difference represents a

**12.2%**

reduction in Nebraska children/youth in out-of home care

**60% of Nebraska children/youth in out-of-home care were placed with family or kin in 2018**

On February 1, 2019

**3,032**

Nebraska children/youth were in out-of-home care.<sup>1</sup>

Statewide,  
between January 1, 2018  
and December 31, 2018



**305**

Nebraska youth were at risk of aging out of foster care.<sup>3</sup>

**46% of state wards ages 0-5**  
had a least one parent who  
was also a state ward<sup>2</sup>.

Sources: 1. Foster Care Review Office. Total Includes youth in DHHS and youth on probation. 2. DHHS CFS, based on data known to the department. 3. Child Trends (August 29, 2017) Foster Care Facts in Nebraska, Federal Fiscal Year 2015.

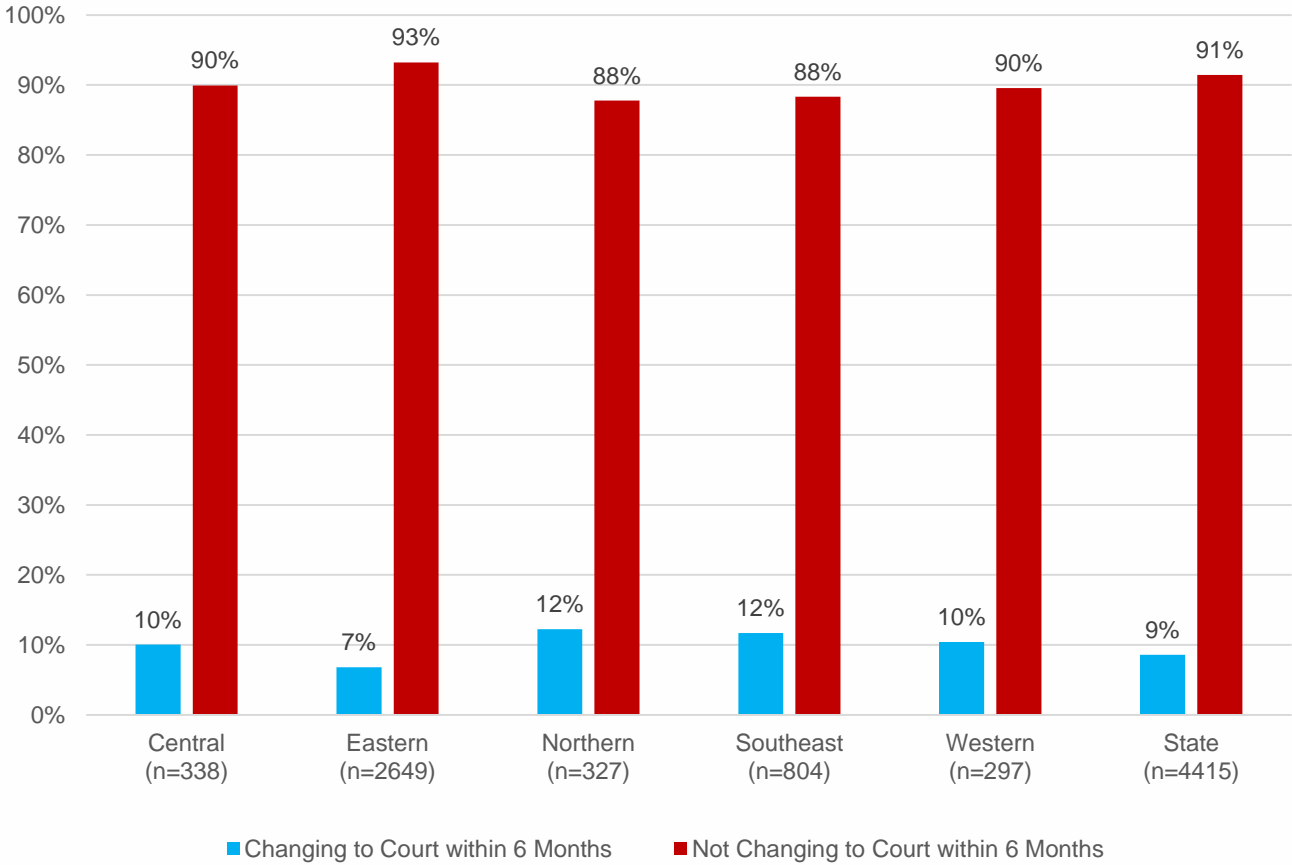
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# Over 91% Success in Non-Court Services in 2018



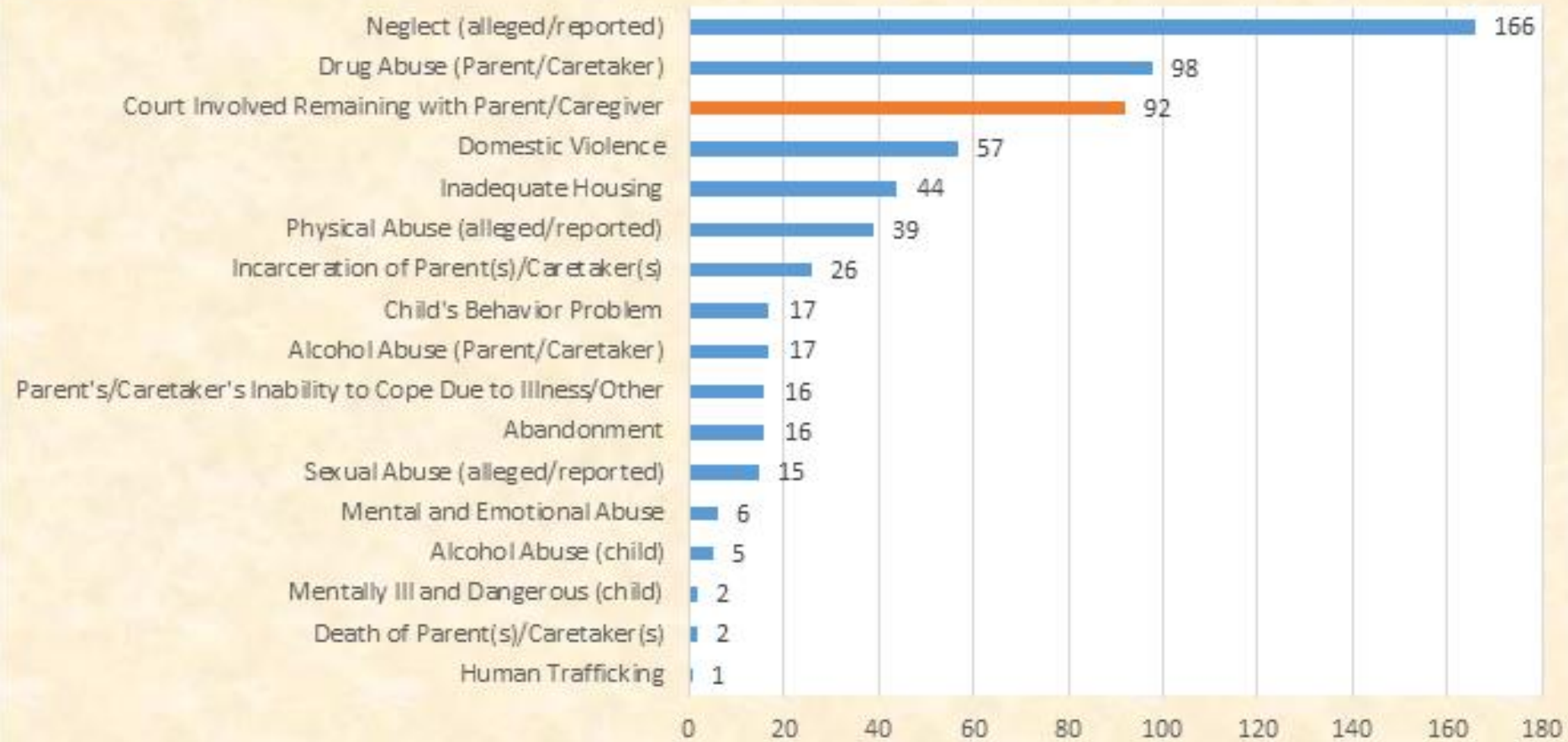
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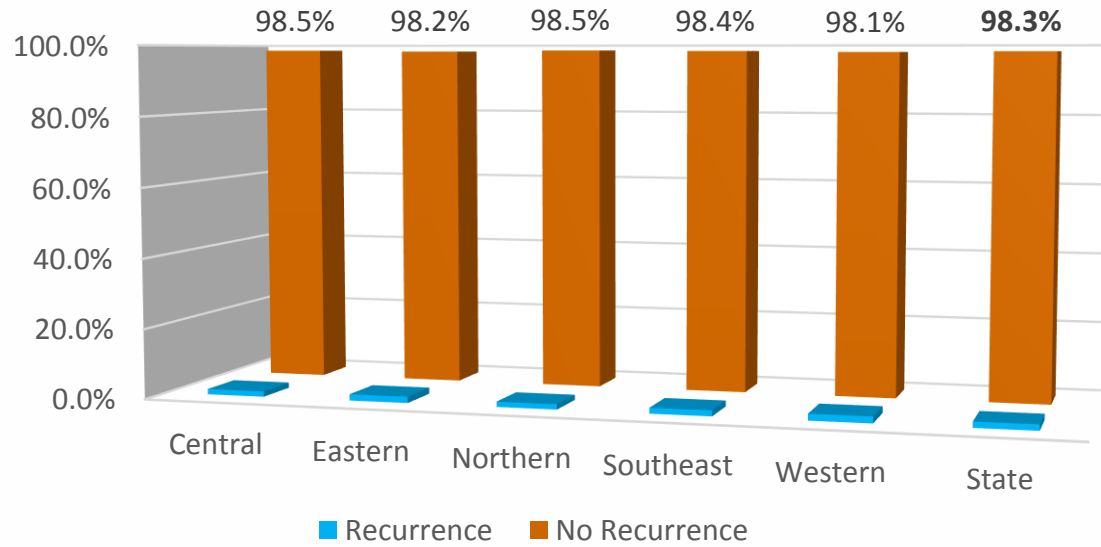
## Removal Reasons for Non-Court Children Entering DHHS Custody



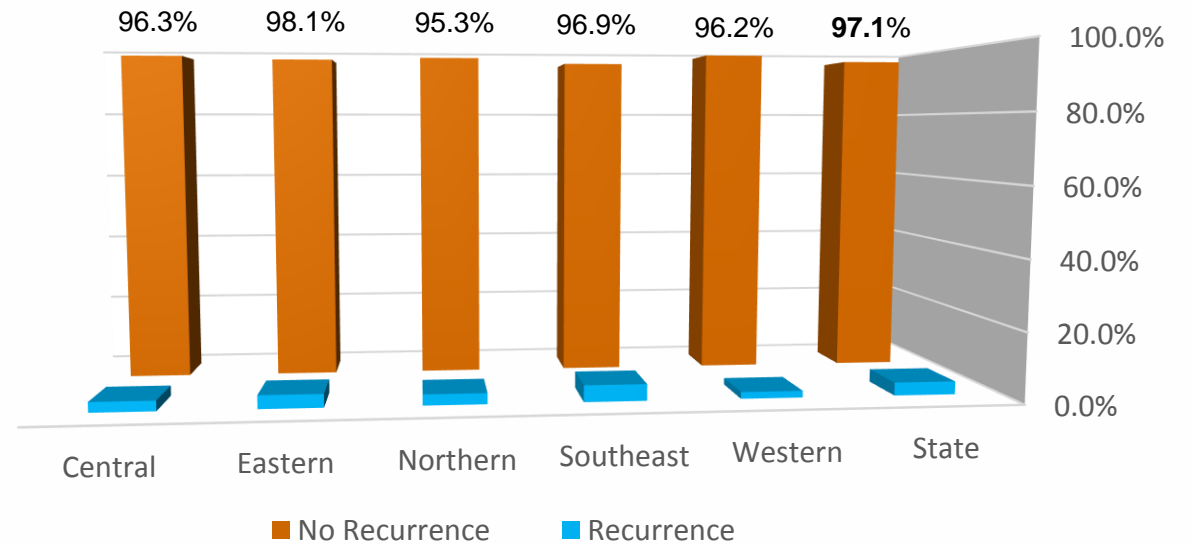
*Graph includes children who whose non-court status ended between 1/1/2018 and 12/31/2018.*

# Court and Non-Court Children Safely Served

## Court Children



## Non-court Children



Cases open between 1/1/2018 and 12/31/2018.

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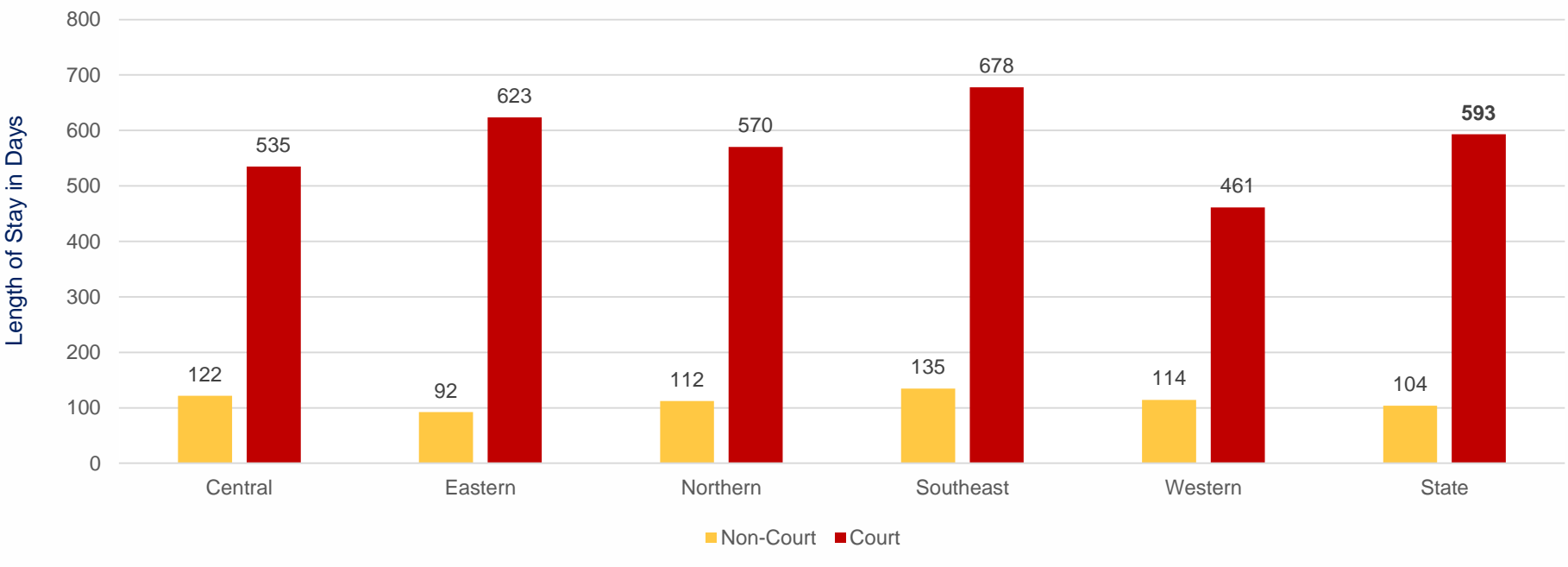
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# Moving Toward Permanency

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### Average Length of Stay in Days for Children Exiting Non-Court and Court Care in 2018



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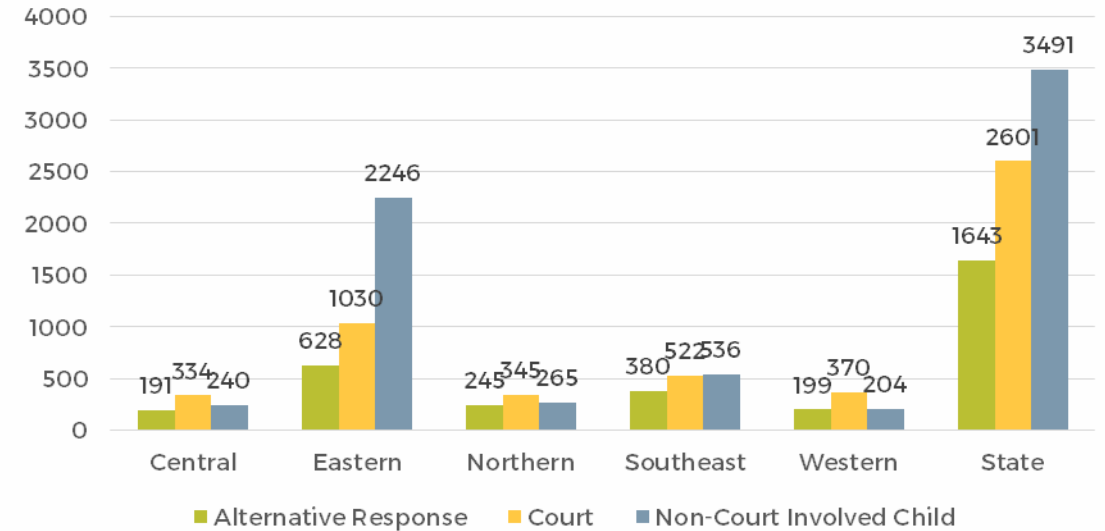
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# Finding Permanency in 2018

- 1,600 Youth Were Reunified with Parent
- 534 Youth Were Adopted to Forever Families
- 232 Youth were placed into Guardianships
- 165 Youth Aged-Out of Foster Care

\*534 is the third highest total in last 20 years  
2008 (572) 2017 (542)

Count of Children Exiting Care in 2018



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# Family Services Paid for Youth Involved in Non-court Cases

<u>Service Type</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
Parenting Services	\$1,725,791
Intensive Family Preservation/Reunification	\$709,789
Out of Home Care	\$251, 252
Drug Testing	\$159,110
Transportation	\$91,322
Safety Services	\$73,193
Support Services	\$55,546
Household/Personal Needs	\$37,402
Psychological Services	\$18,573
Child Supervision	\$17,242
Respite Services	\$10,360
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,149,579</b>

*Services were paid between 1/1/2018 and 12/31/2018. Services paid for by PromiseShip are excluded.*

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# Equip and Empower Child Protection & Safety Team

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- Safety Organized Practice (SOP)
- QIC-WD (Quality Improvement Center for Workforce Development)
- Utilize Workplace Flexibility Alternatives e.g. flex scheduling
- Develop CFSS Career path

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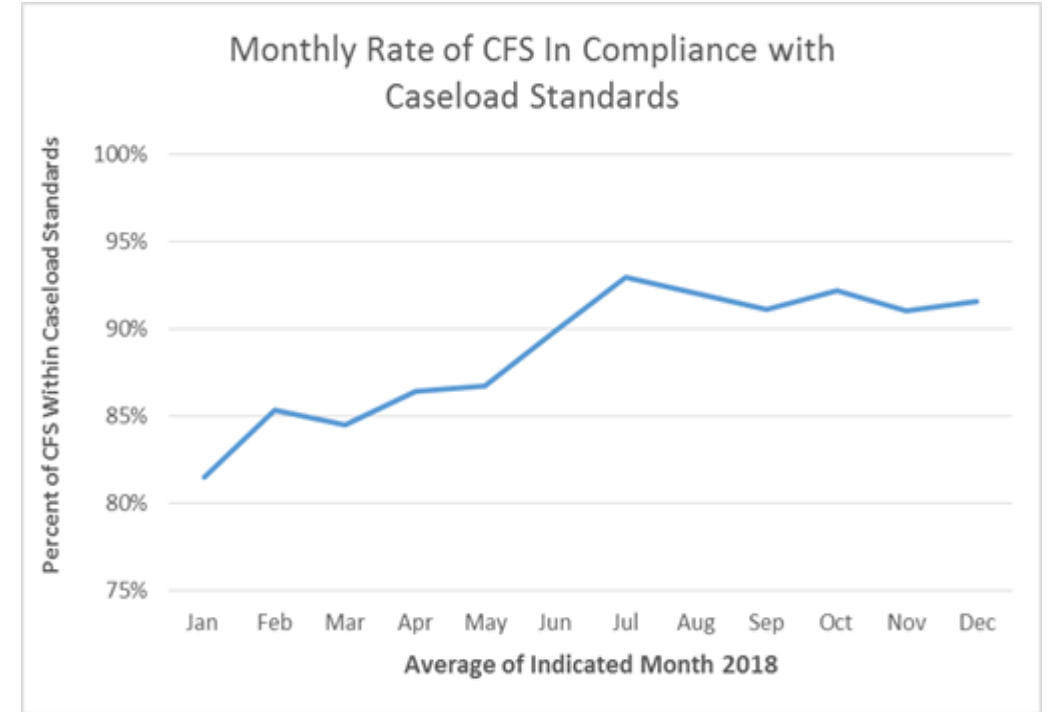
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# CFS Teammates

CFSS Monthly Turnover Rate (DHHS Staff Only)				
Year	Month	Count of CFSS at End of Month	CFSS Separating Position During Month	CFSS Monthly Turnover
2018	January	422	12	2.8%
2018	February	419	18	4.3%
2018	March	422	11	2.6%
2018	April	411	17	4.1%
2018	May	415	9	2.2%
2018	June	424	9	2.1%
2018	July	427	7	1.6%
2018	August	428	19	4.4%
2018	September	430	10	2.3%
2018	October	427	11	2.6%
2018	November	417	14	4.1%
2018	December	417	11	3.4%

Note: Data excludes PromiseShip Staff and includes all CFS employees with the CFSS Position Title



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# Family First Prevention Services Act

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Enacted into law February 9, 2018

All the provisions have different effective dates

New federal funds to increase, not replace, state funds for prevention

Purpose is to provide support to children and families to **prevent foster care** placements

# FFPSA: Monumental Shift in Child Welfare Funding



Most significant federal child welfare legislation in decades



Substantial changes to federal child welfare financing



Currently States can only receive federal foster care funding for children placed in foster care who were removed from very low income families and to support adoption/guardianship

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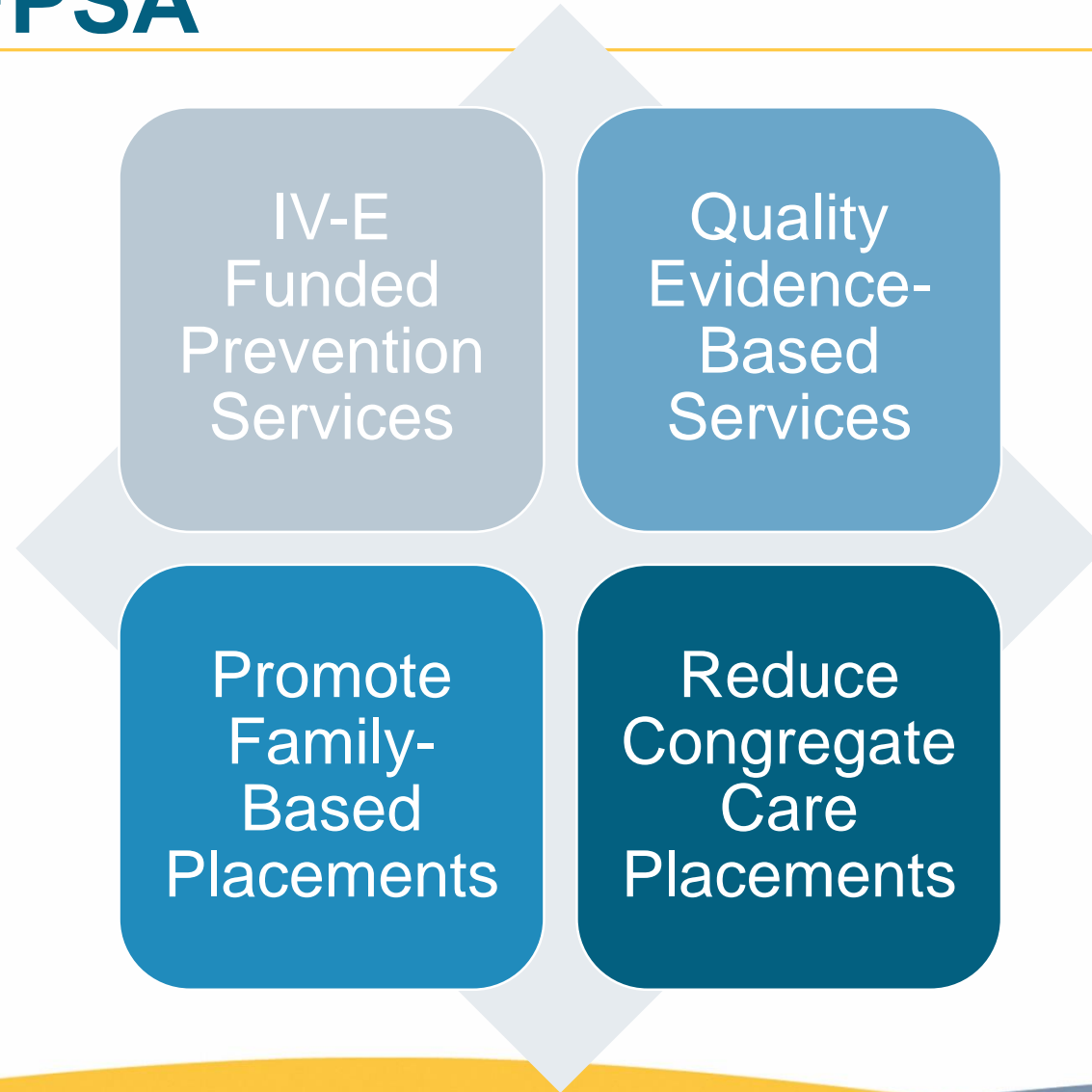
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# Goals of FFPSA

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# Families Behind the Data

## AR, Lincoln

- Called due to school attendance issues
- Lived in roach-infested housing
- Very standoffish, untrusting of CFSS
- Found new housing, CarePortal helped with furnishings
- AR helped with funds during the holidays
- Dad was able to get a new job
- Built up parents' relationship with school
- Family thankful after learning about new resources

## AR, Nebraska City

- Client has a long history of contact with the department
- Very negative feeling toward DHHS
- Volunteer guardianship of grandchildren
- On the verge of removal
- Meet monthly to provide supports
- Have not needed to open an ongoing case

## Non-court, Kearney

- Father was in jail, mother left daughter with extended family
- CFSS engaged both parents to encourage them to better themselves
- County attorney wanted to file to make child ward, CFSS assured parents were coming around
- Father release from jail, mother completed alcohol and drug treatment, both committed to following case plan
- Mom and dad still separated, but now working together to do what's best for their daughter

## Non-court, Omaha

- Prior HHS ward homeless, tested positive for cocaine and marijuana after giving birth
- CFSS worked with mother to set up co-occurring evaluations with healthcare provider
- Helped mother locate affordable housing, find a job and identify appropriate informal supports
- Connected mother to ongoing resources
- Mother was successful maintaining her new baby safely in her care and was very engaged in services throughout the case

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