

OCFS Child Welfare Monthly Indicators

November 2019

CHILD WELFARE

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

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

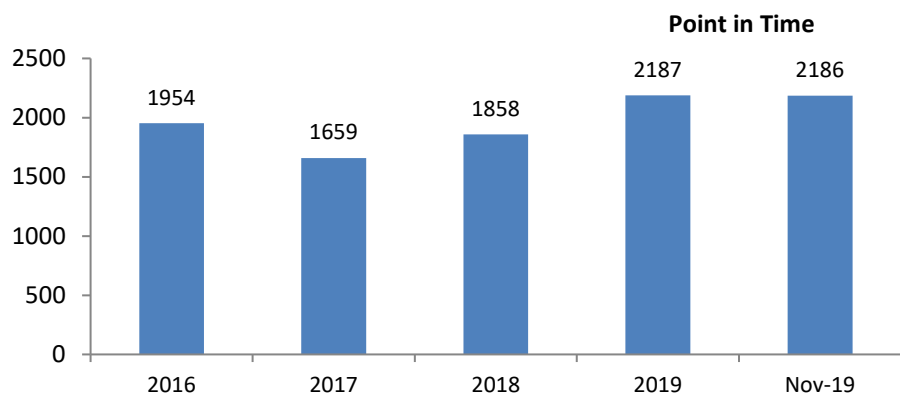
Page 4 shows the number of open service cases by district. Service cases are opened to provide services to families to prevent youth from entering custody.

Indicators

Youth in DHHS Custody (Point in Time)

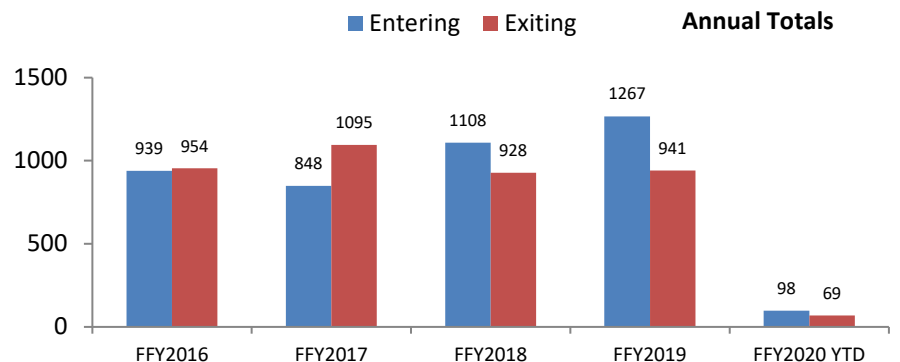
This chart shows the number of youths in care as of October of each year as well as the current month. Since FFY17 there has been a steady increase in the number of youths in custody. **In FFY18, there was a 12% increase followed by another 18% increase in FFY19. FFY20 numbers as of November 2019.**

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



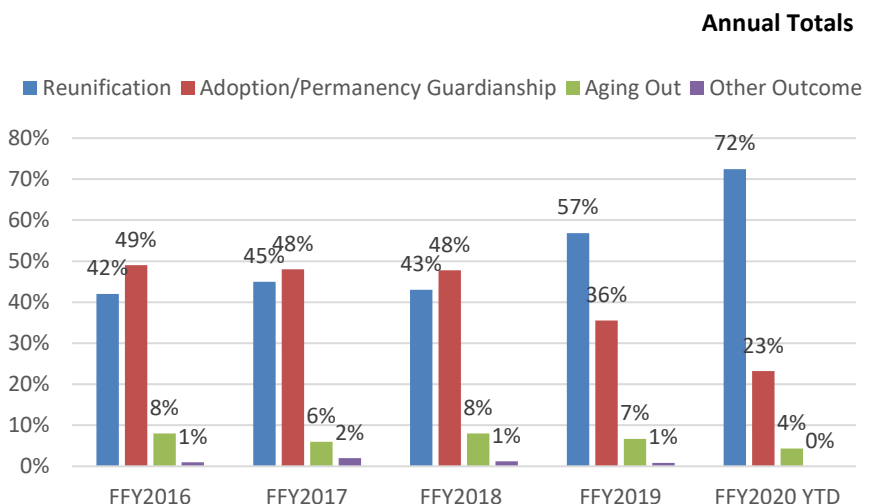
Youth Entering and Exiting DHHS Custody

In FFY17 there were 252 more youth exiting as entering which contributes to the decrease in population in FFY17. **During FFY18 and FFY19 more youth entered custody than exited custody which resulted in the overall increase in the population of children in custody.**



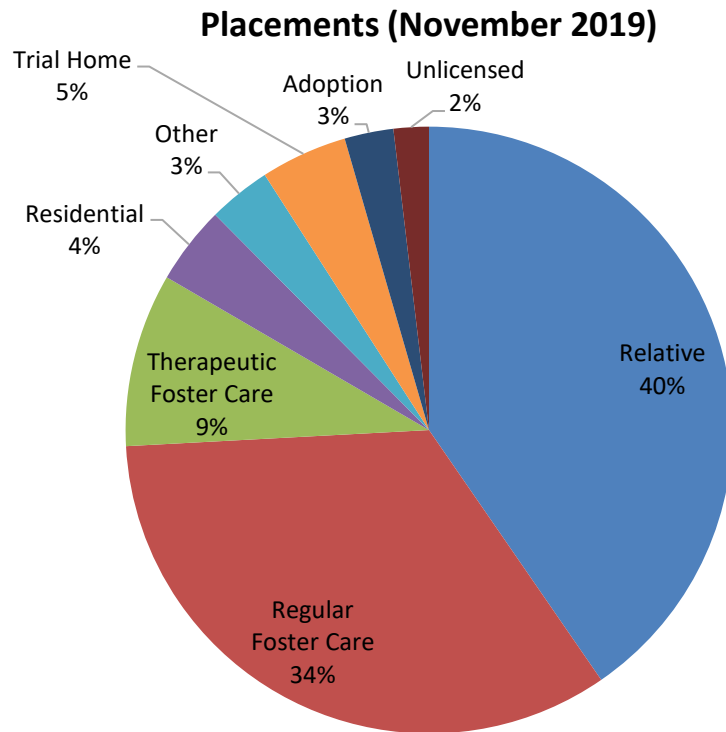
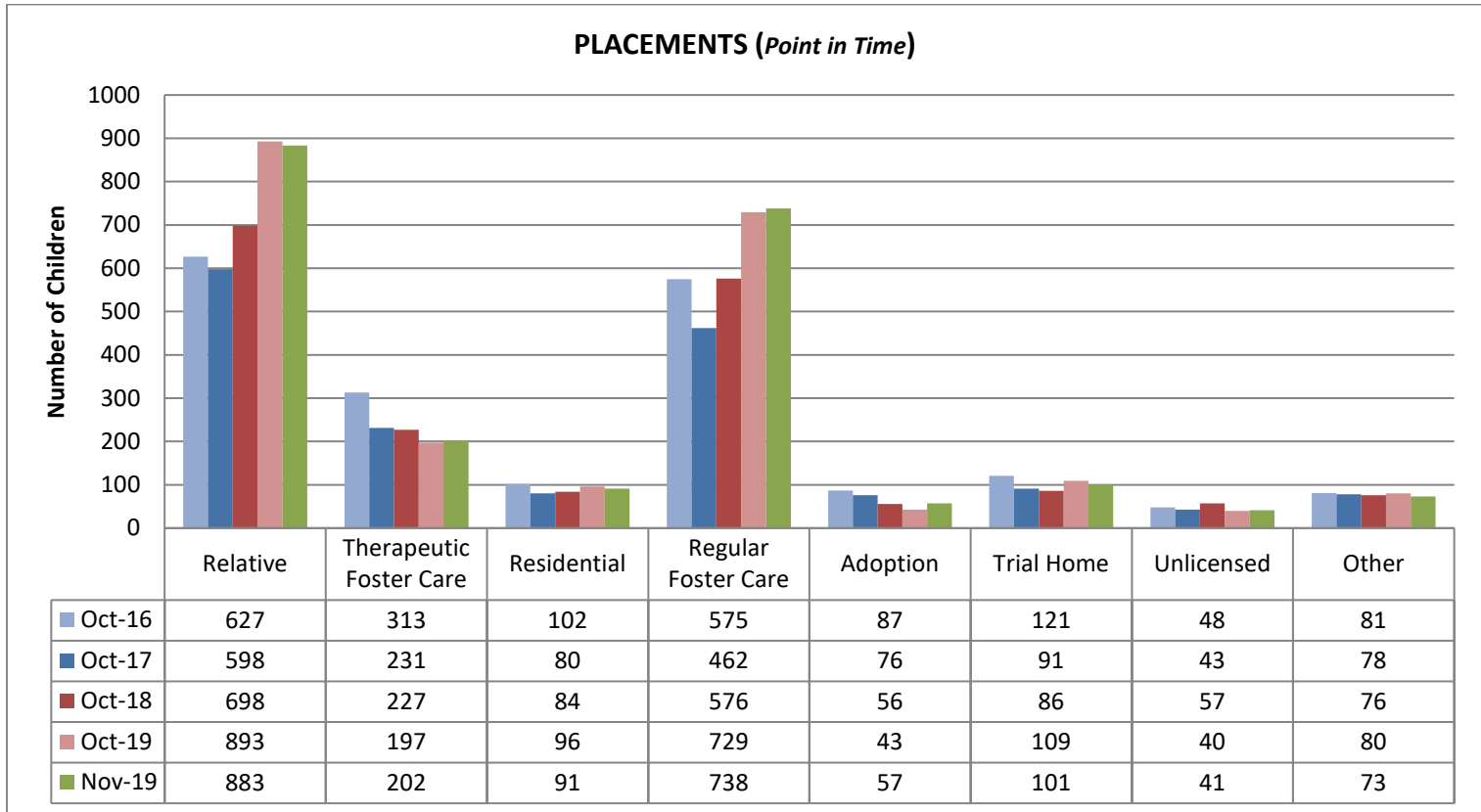
Outcomes for Youth Exiting DHHS Custody

Reunification is defined as custody being returned to a parent(s) or relative(s). Aging out includes youth that exit care after the age of 18 that did not achieve a permanent outcome. On average, between FFY16 and FFY19, 92% of youth achieved permanency through reunification, adoption, or permanency guardianship. **Of the 69 youths that exited in FFY20, 23% were placed with adoptive or permanency guardianship families and 72% were reunified.**



Youth in DHHS Custody by Placement Type

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



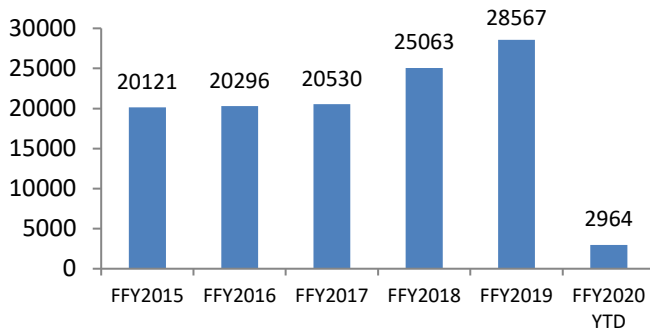
Child Protective Services

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

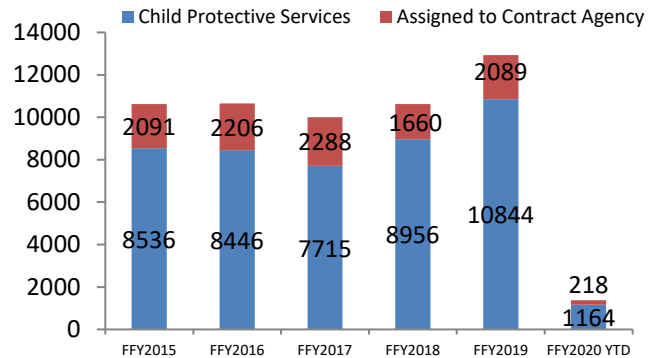
Over the past 5 years ending FFY19, an average of 22,915 intake reports were received each year with a high of 28,567 reports in FFY2019. On average, 10,966 (48%) are assigned annually for assessment which includes assigned to a contract agency for assessment.

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

Child Protective Intake Reports



Assessments



*Child Protective Services figures are annual totals

Federal Measures

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

| Federal Measure | Federal Goal | FFY15 Removals between Oct 2012- Sep 2013 | FFY16 Removals between Oct 2013- Sep 2014 | FFY17 Removals between Oct 2014- Sep 2015 | FFY18 Removals between Oct 2015- Sept 2016 | FFY19 Removals between Oct 2016 - Sep 2017 | Nov19 Removals between Nov 2016 - Oct 2017 |
|--|--------------|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| Permanency in 12 Months of Removal Of all children who enter foster care in a target 12-month period, percent discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering foster care. Permanency is a discharge to reunification, other relative, guardianship, or adoption. | 40.5 % | 29.2 % | 31.2 % | 26.5 % | 29.0% | 30.9% | 30.7% |
| Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Foster Care 12 to 23 Months Of all children in foster care on the first day of a 12-month period who had been in foster care between 12 and 23 months, percent discharged from foster care to permanency within 12 months of the first day of the 12-month period. Permanency is a discharge to reunification, other relative, guardianship, or adoption. | 43.6 % | 51.0 % | 53.4 % | 64.4 % | 61.6% | 50.7% | 48.7% |

Service Cases by District

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

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

| District | Oct-14 | Oct-15 | Oct-16 | Oct-17 | Oct-18 | Oct-19 | Nov-19 |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1 York | 52 | 42 | 69 | 67 | 71 | 67 | 57 |
| 2 Cumberland | 47 | 24 | 29 | 39 | 20 | 25 | 23 |
| 3 Western Maine | 47 | 38 | 41 | 38 | 31 | 67 | 67 |
| 4 Mid Coast | 16 | 17 | 29 | 24 | 32 | 35 | 36 |
| 5 Central Maine | 82 | 63 | 81 | 90 | 61 | 82 | 87 |
| 6 Penquis | 33 | 48 | 49 | 51 | 39 | 65 | 61 |
| 7 Down East | 53 | 47 | 37 | 18 | 14 | 24 | 25 |
| 8 Aroostook | 14 | 8 | 8 | 15 | 8 | 21 | 24 |
| State Totals | 344 | 287 | 343 | 342 | 276 | 386 | 380 |

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