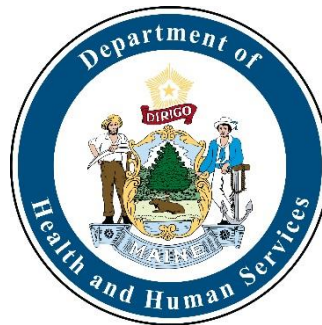


Office of Child and Family Services

Briefing to the Health and Human Services Committee

Dr. Todd A. Landry
September 1, 2021



Child Welfare Efforts

Date of Implementation	Strategic Priority/Program Improvement Activity
May 2017 to September 2020	<p>Implemented Structured Decision Making© Intake Assessment and Safety and Risk Assessment Tools, as well as permanency tools for reunification, case planning and risk re-assessment</p> <p>Established a Team Decision Making process for critical child welfare decisions</p> <p>Developed criteria for family team meetings to be convened at critical decision points</p> <p>Increased the placement reimbursement rates for resources parents</p> <p>Established a Background Check Unit to provide criminal history information on individuals in investigations and cases per LD 1923</p>

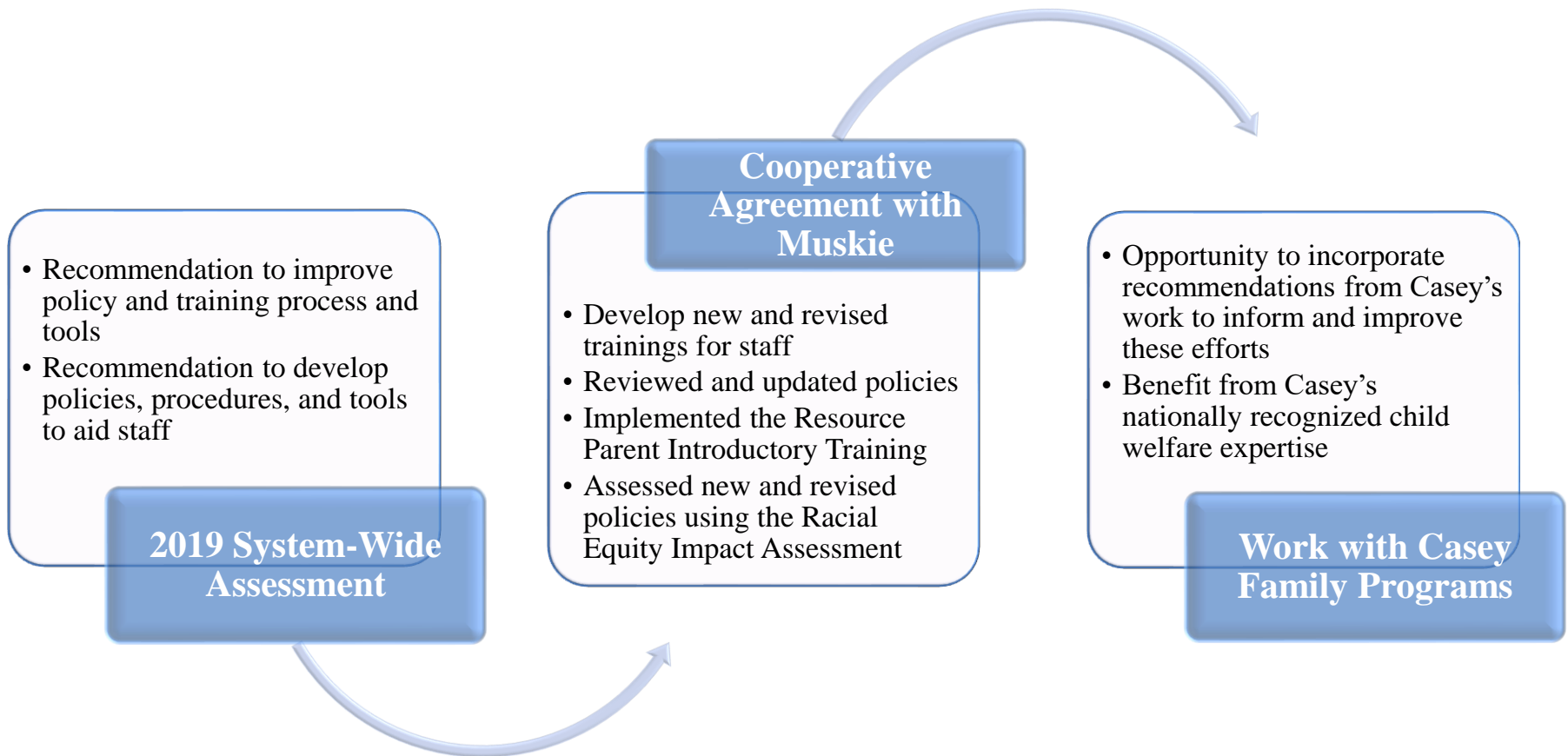
Child Welfare Efforts

Date of Implementation	Strategic Priority/Program Improvement Activity
April 2019	Implemented a Family Visitation Coaching Pilot
August 2019	Updated the Rehabilitation and Reunification Plan in collaboration with the AAG's Office, and incorporated feedback from parents, parents' attorneys and other stakeholders
September 2019	Invested in coaching support for caseworker staff through supervision and quality assurance practice reviews
April 2021	Implemented a permanency review process for children in care at 6 months and for those in care for 2+ years to remove barriers to achieving successful permanency

Child Welfare Staffing Efforts

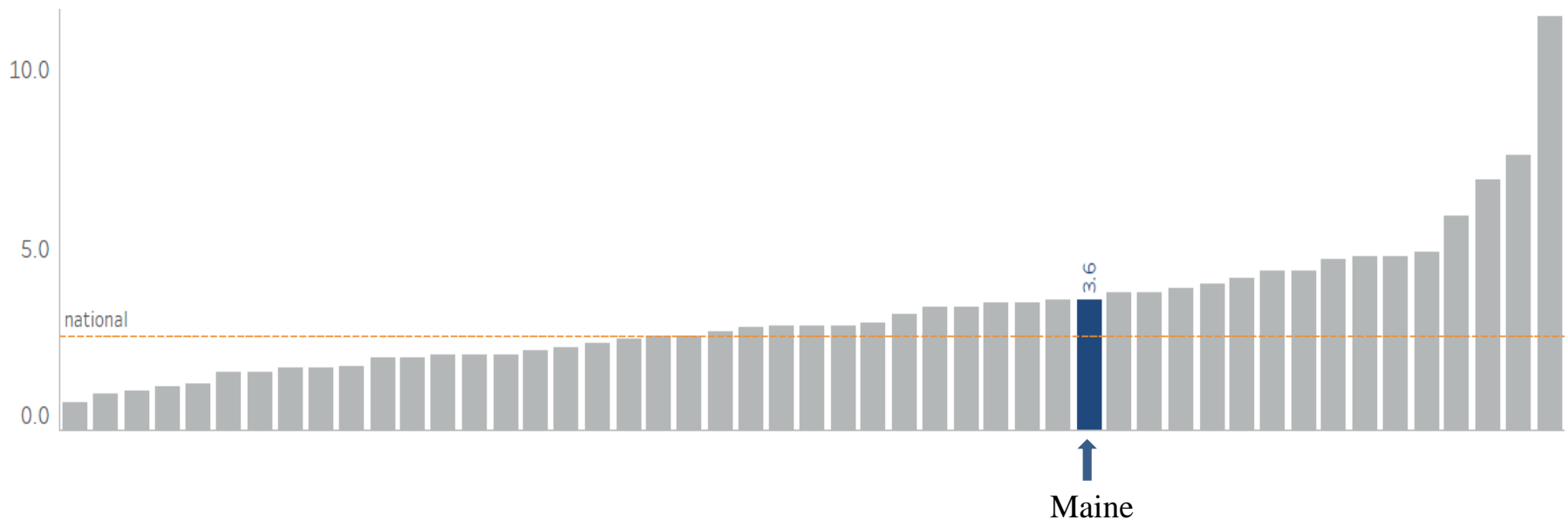
CY	New Caseworker Lines	Supervisor Lines	Support Staff Lines	Total Authorized Child Welfare Positions
2018	+16 (10 case carrying; 5 Intake; 1 Background Check)	+ 16	+8 (effective 10/1/18)	578 (as of October 1, 2018)
2019	+41 (33 case carrying; 8 Intake)	+8	+5 (effective 9/1/19)	632 (as of September 1, 2019)
2020	+16 (all case carrying)	+2	+2 (effective 7/1/20)	654 (as of July 1, 2020)

Policy and Training Efforts



Rates of Children Entering Care

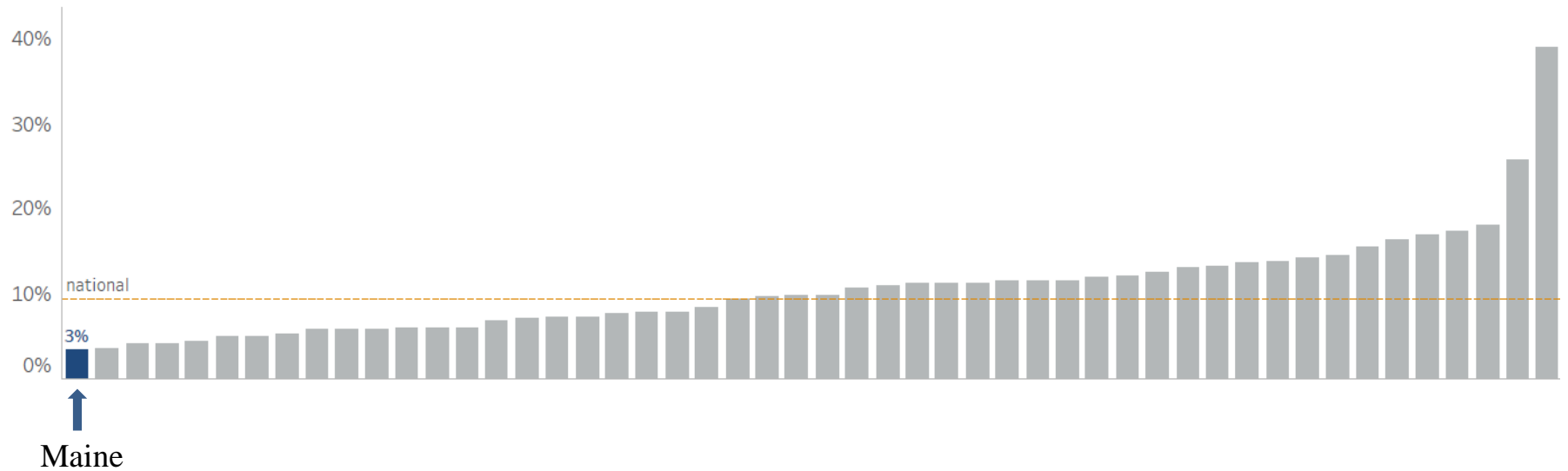
Number of children entering care under age 18 per 1,000 children in the general population (2020)



Data source: State-submitted NCANDS and AFCARS files

Percent of Children in Congregate Care

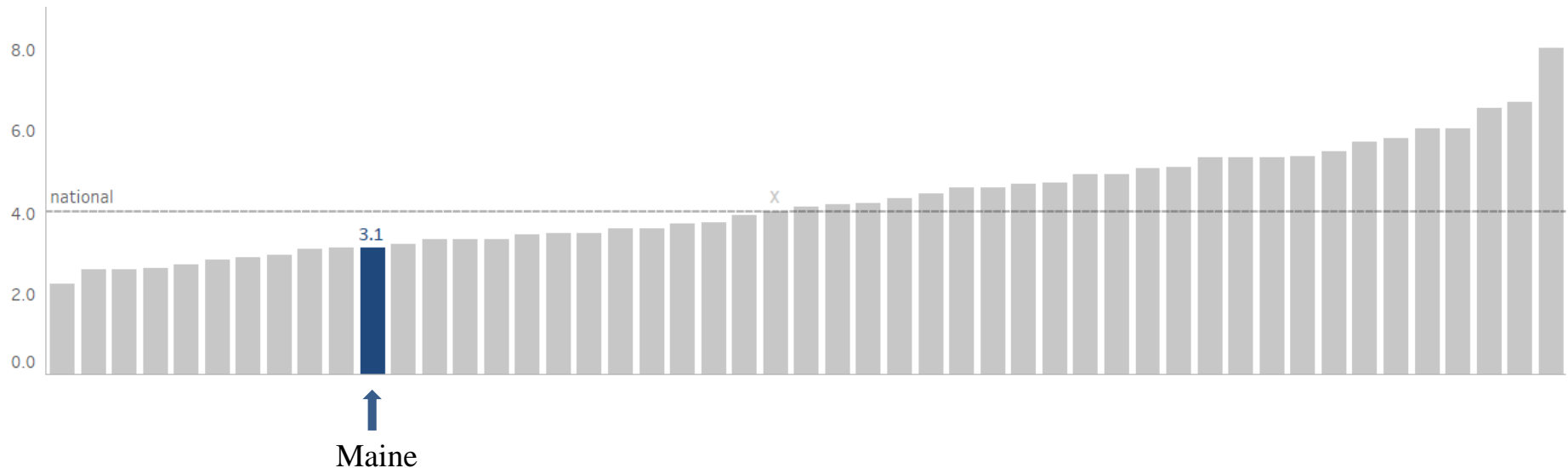
Percent of children in care placed in a group home or residential treatment facility (2021)



Data source: State-submitted NCANDS and AFCARS files

Placement Stability (CFSR Data)

Rate of placement moves per 1,000 days of foster care of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period (2020)



Data source: State-submitted NCANDS and AFCARS files

Child Fatalities (all causes, totals and rates) National and Maine

Location	Data Type	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
United States	Total	9,376	9,548	9,451	9,280	9,173
	Rate per 100,000	16	17	17	16	16
Maine	Total	25	31	29	22	26
	Rate per 100,000	13	16	15	11	14

Data source: National KIDS COUNT

Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities National and Maine (totals and rates)

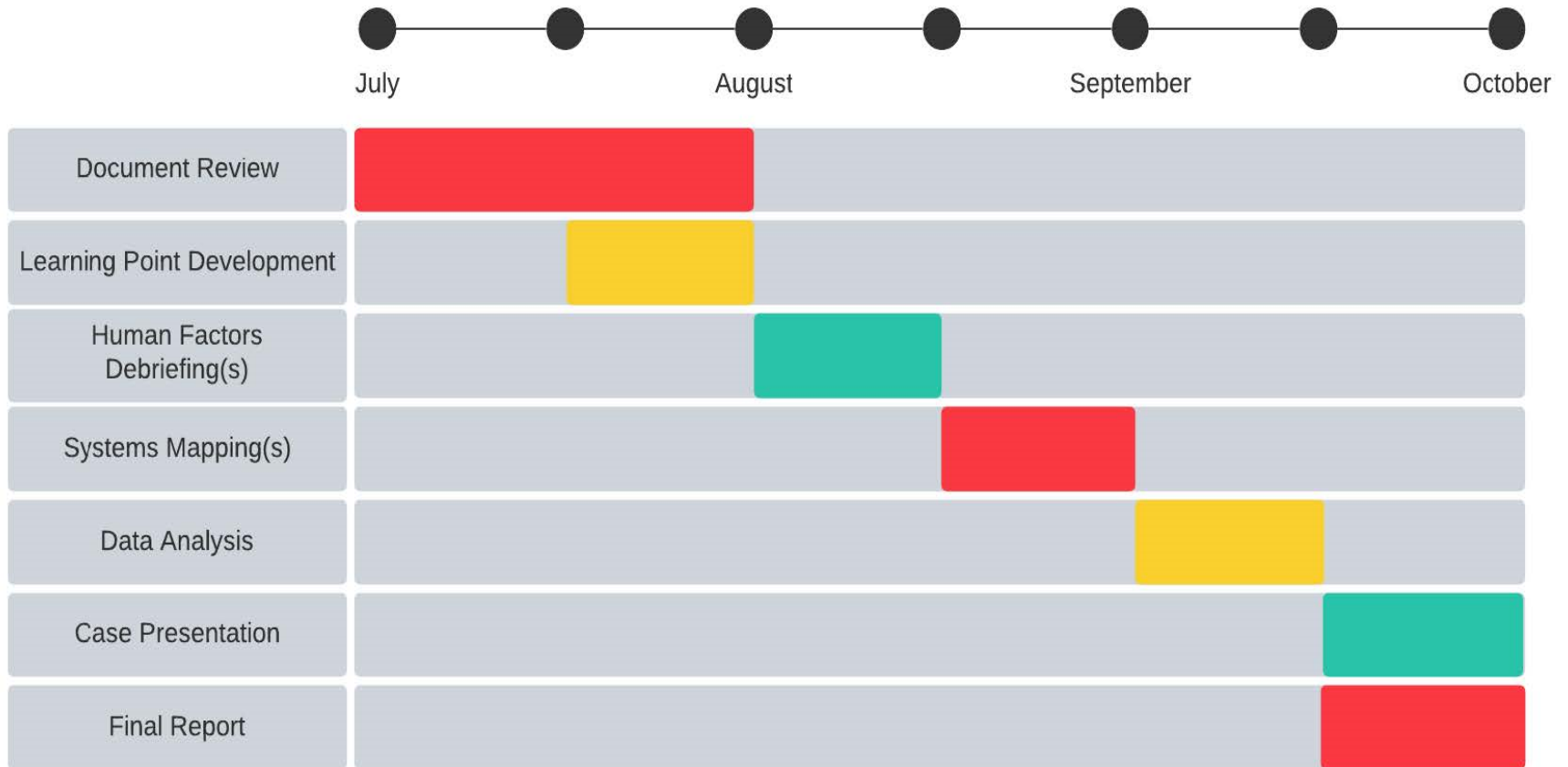
Location	Data Type	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
United States	Total	1,670	1,750	1,720	1,770	1,840
	Rate per 100,000	2.25	2.36	2.32	2.39	2.50
Maine	Total	-	-	-	3	3
	Rate per 100,000	-	-	-	1.20	1.21

Data source: Administration for Children and Families Annual Child Maltreatment Reports 2015-2019

Casey Family Programs/Collaborative Safety

- Casey Family Programs is the nation's largest operating foundation focused on safely reducing the need for foster care in the United States.
 - Focus on:
 - Supporting more effective public investments in strengthening families to keep children safe
 - Promoting a shared sense of responsibility for ensuring the well-being of every child and family
 - Safely reducing the need for foster care
 - Provides:
 - Consulting services to child welfare systems
 - Direct services to children and families
 - Public policy resources
 - Research and analysis
- Casey Family Programs partners with Collaborative Safety, LLC for these systemic/case reviews
- Collaborative Safety's approach is founded in Safety Science which is commonly championed in industries such as aviation, healthcare and nuclear power.

Project Timeline



Next Steps – Policy and Practice Improvements

- The following are some activities planned for future development and implementation in collaboration with the Muskie School:
 - Creation of a Field Instruction Unit to increase training for and build a cadre of students to transition into caseworker positions
 - Complete an update of all OCFS child welfare policies
 - Development of a Supervision Framework that includes:
 - Policy and practice expectations
 - Updated Supervisory Competencies
 - Updated Supervisory Academy Training
- Planning and preparing for implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Plan
 - Maine was the first state in New England to submit its plan to the federal government for approval
 - Awaiting final approval from ACF

OCFS looks forward to the report and recommendations from Casey Family Programs and Collaborative Safety to consider other changes to the child welfare strategic priorities and improvement plans.

Questions?

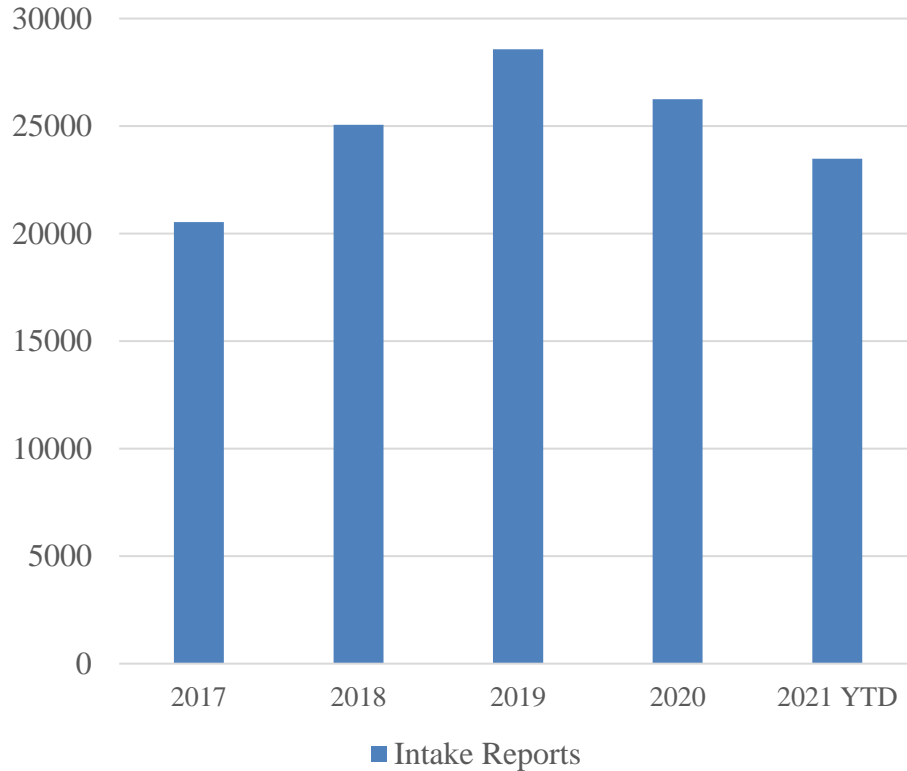
Todd A. Landry, Ed.D.
Director
Office of Child and Family Services



Appendix

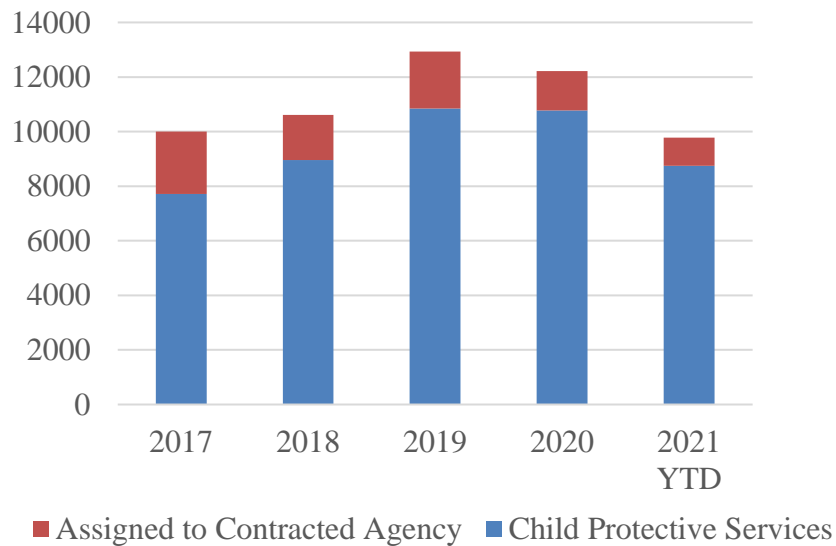
The remaining slides include additional data that may be of interest to the Committee

Intake Reports (Annual Totals)



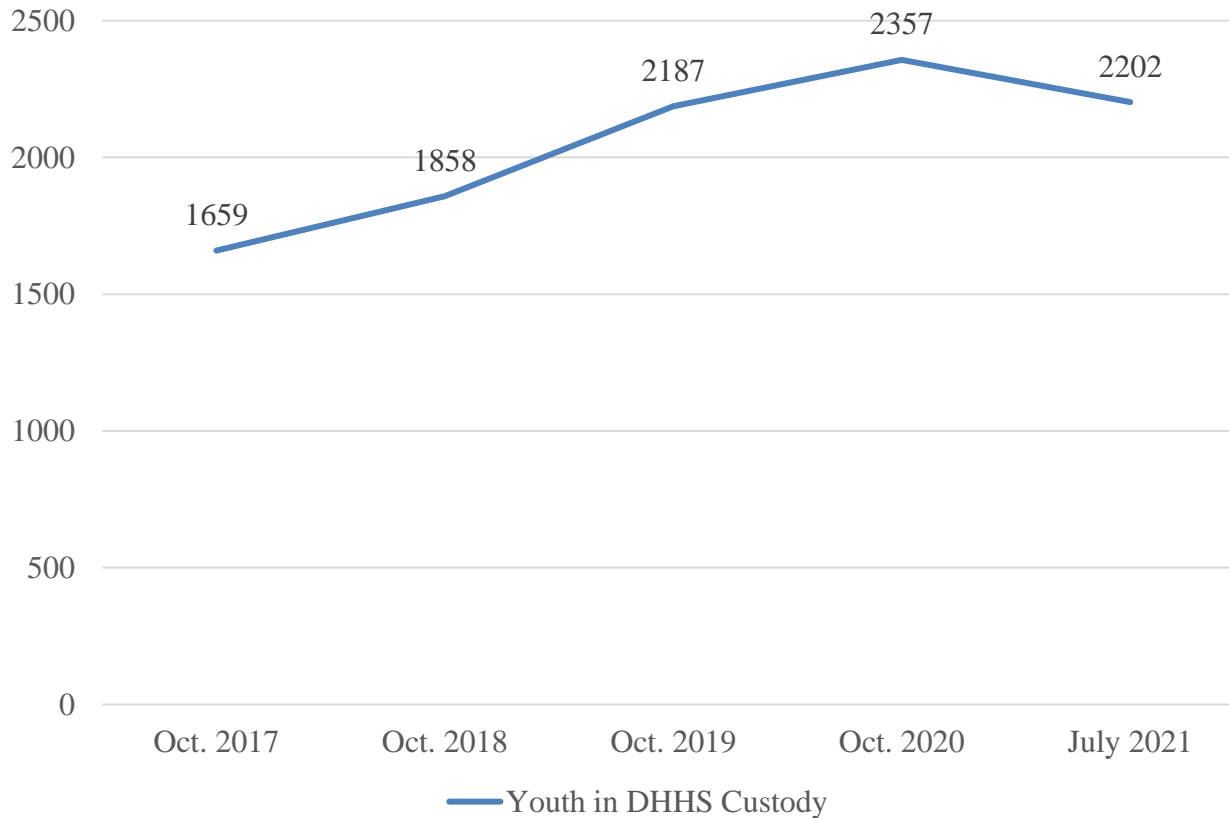
Federal Fiscal Year (Oct-Sept)	Intake Reports	Assigned for Assessment or Alternative Response
2017	20,530	10,003 (49%)
2018	25,063	10,616 (42%)
2019	28,567	12,993 (45%)
2020	26,243	12,215 (47%)
2021 YTD	23,486	9,778 (42%)

Investigations/Assessments (Annual Totals)



Federal Fiscal Year	Child Protective Services Assessment	% CPS	Assigned to Alternative Response	% ARP
2017	7715	77%	2288	23%
2018	8956	84%	1660	16%
2019	10844	84%	2089	16%
2020	10773	88%	1442	12%
2021 YTD	8743	89%	1035	11%

Youth in DHHS Custody (Point in Time)

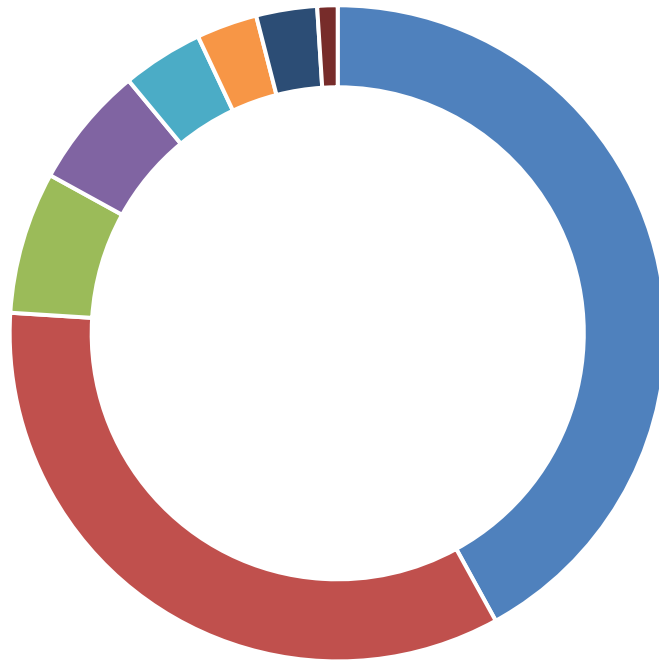


This chart shows the number of youth in care as of October of each year and July 2021. Since FFY 2017, these figures have steadily increased. In FFY 2018, there was a 12% increase followed by another 18% increase in FFY 2019. FFY 2020 numbers slowed to a 7.5% increase. **So far in FFY 2021, OCFS is seeing a slight decrease in the population in care.**

**this includes youth over age 18 on a V9 agreement.*

Placements (Point in Time – August 2021)

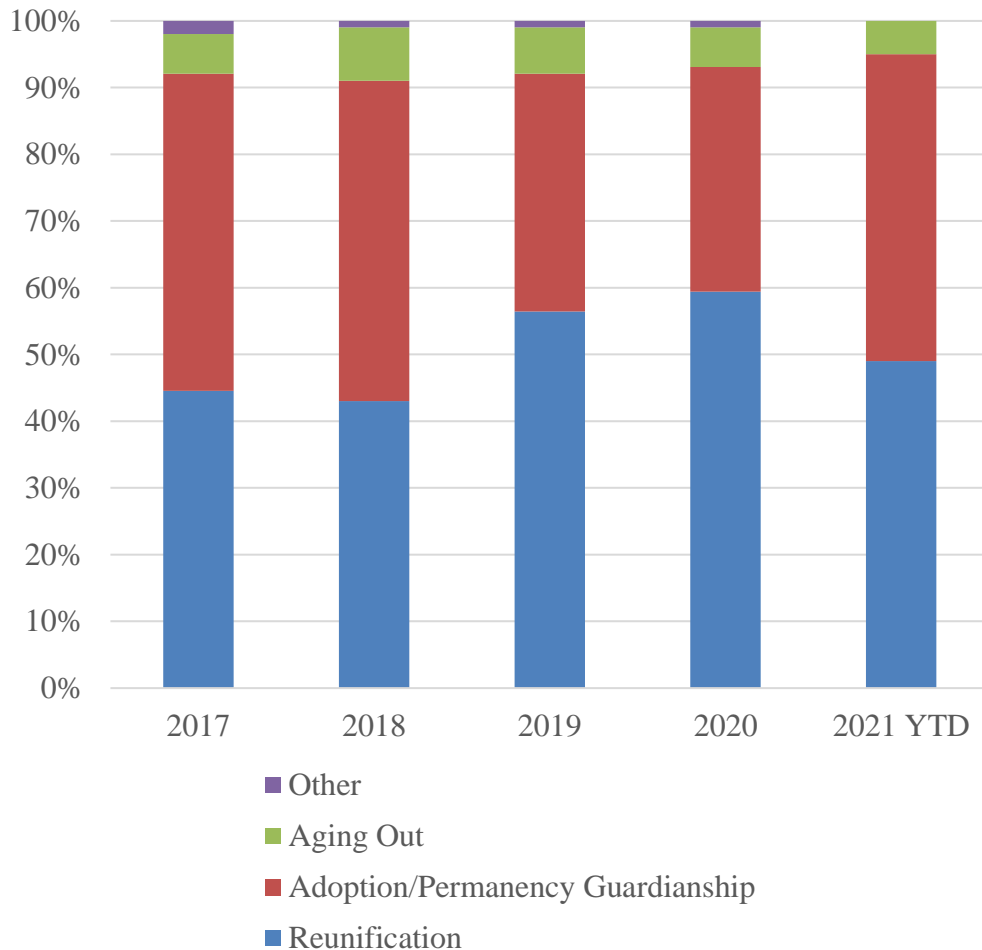
Placement Type



- Relative/Kinship Care
- Traditional Foster Care
- Therapeutic Foster Care
- Trial Home Placement
- Adoption
- Residential
- Other
- Unlicensed-Non Relative

Placement Type	Percent
Relative/Kinship Care	42%
Traditional Foster Care	34%
Therapeutic Foster Care	7%
Trial Home Placement	6%
Adoption	4%
Residential	3%
Other	3%
Unlicensed-Non Relative	1%

Outcomes for Youth Exiting DHHS Custody



OCFS defines reunification as when custody returns to a parent(s) or relative(s). “Aging Out” includes youth that exit care after the age of 18 and did not achieve a permanent outcome. On average, between FFY 2017 and FFY 2020, 92% of youth achieved permanency through reunification, adoption, or permanency guardianship. **Of the 851 youth that exited custody in FFY 2021 to date, 46% were placed with adoptive or permanency guardianship families, and 49% were reunified**

	Reunification	Adoption/ Permanency Guardianship	Aging Out	Other
2017	45%	48%	6%	2%
2018	43%	48%	8%	1%
2019	57%	36%	7%	1%
2020	60%	34%	6%	1%
2021 YTD	49%	46%	5%	0%

Safety in Foster Care – July 2021

Safety While in State Custody

The goal for children while in State custody is to remain safe while in custody. This report shows the rate of abuse of children while they are in State custody. The number is calculated by dividing the number of instances of abuse/neglect by the total number of days that all children spent in State custody. The ratio of this report is per 100,000 days spent in State custody.

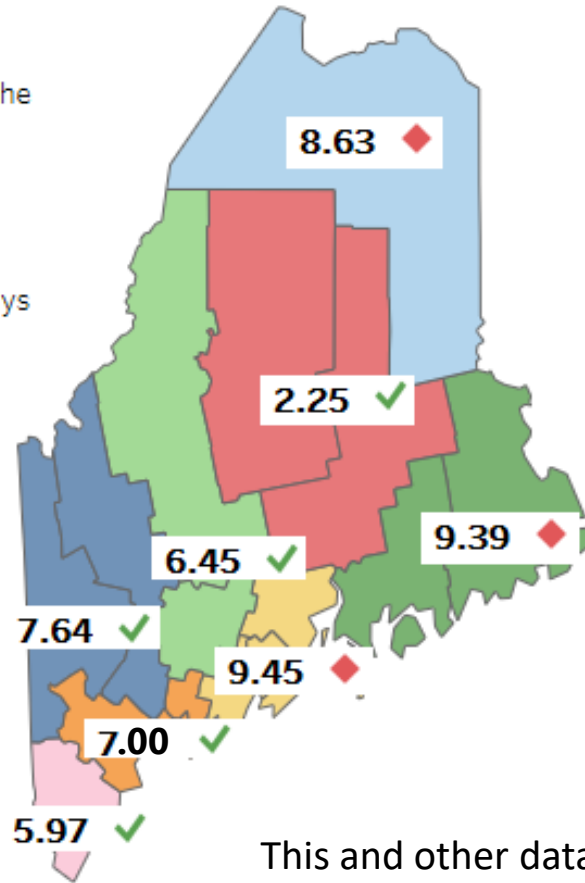
STATE AVERAGE

6.43 ✓

National Standard:

8.5 or less (a lower rate is better)

The National Standard is an average set by the Federal government to monitor each State's performance on key child welfare outcomes.



Select Month/Year

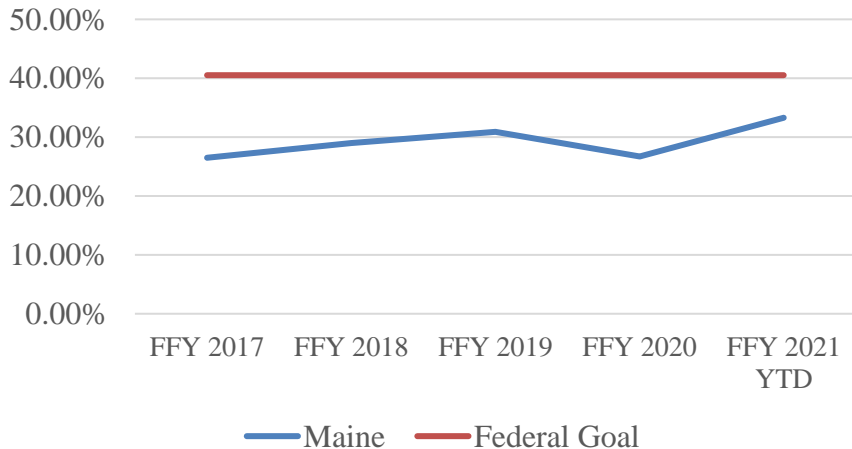
July 2021

This and other data are updated monthly on the [Child Welfare Data Dashboard](#)

Federal Measures - Permanency

Federal Measures	Federal Goal	FFY 2017	FFY 2018	FFY 2019	FFY 2020	FFY 2021 YTD
Permanency in 12 Months of Removal Of all children who enter foster care in a target 12-mo period, percent discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering foster care.	40.5%	26.5%	29.0%	30.9%	26.7%	33.3%
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-mo 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-mo period.	43.6%	64.4%	61.6%	50.7%	40.0%	43.6%

Permanency in 12 Months of Removal



Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Foster Care 12 to 23 Months

