



# SAFE STRONG SUPPORTIVE

casey family programs

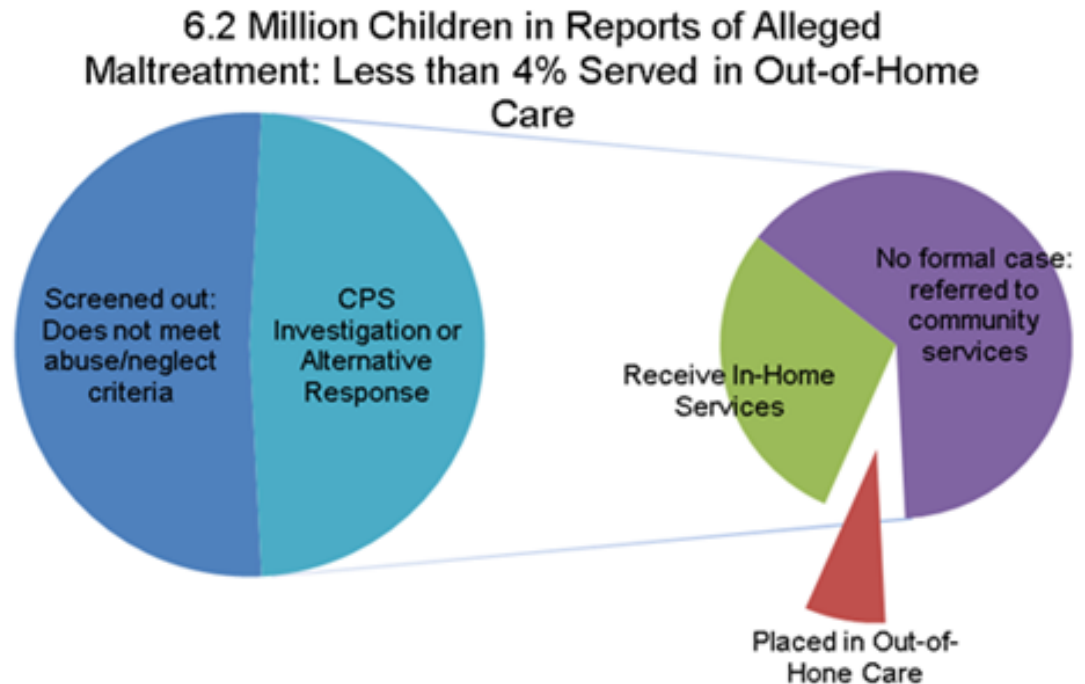
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Casey Family Programs  
November 20, 2015

# SAFE STRONG SUPPORTIVE

## WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE CHILDREN COMING TO THE ATTENTION OF CHILD WELFARE?

# Who comes to the attention of child welfare nationally in a given year?

Most children who come to the attention of child welfare systems nationwide are not placed in foster care. Nationally, the goal is to help all children grow up in safe, stable, and loving families.



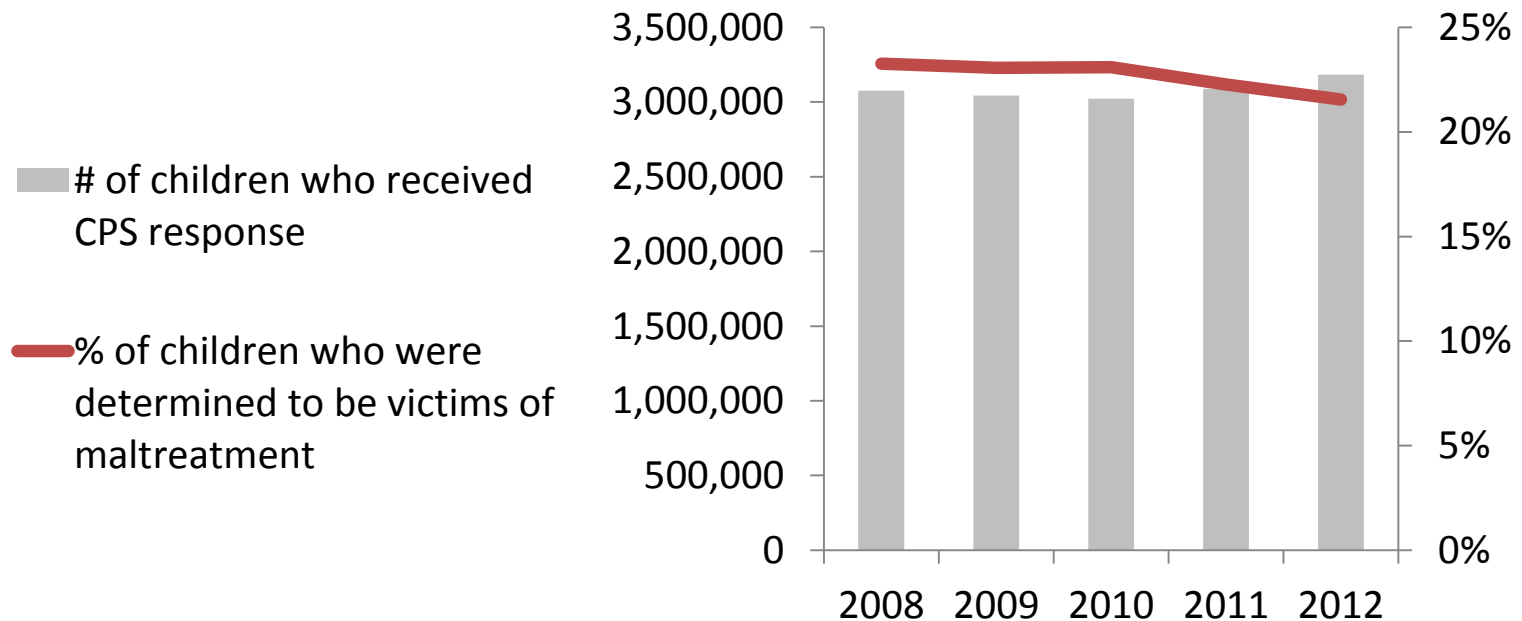
# What we know from the research:

- Predictive models can begin to identify young children at risk of foster care placement (Putnam-Hornstein, 2014; Needell, 2013)
- Regardless of initial decision and services provided, reports of maltreatment in the first year of life have almost the same chance of re-report (57-70%)
- While 1 in 100 (1%) US children is substantiated annually, 1 in 8 children (12.5%) has been a confirmed victim by age 18 (Putnam-Hornstein, 2014).

In 2012...

**3,184,000** children received a CPS response (unique count)

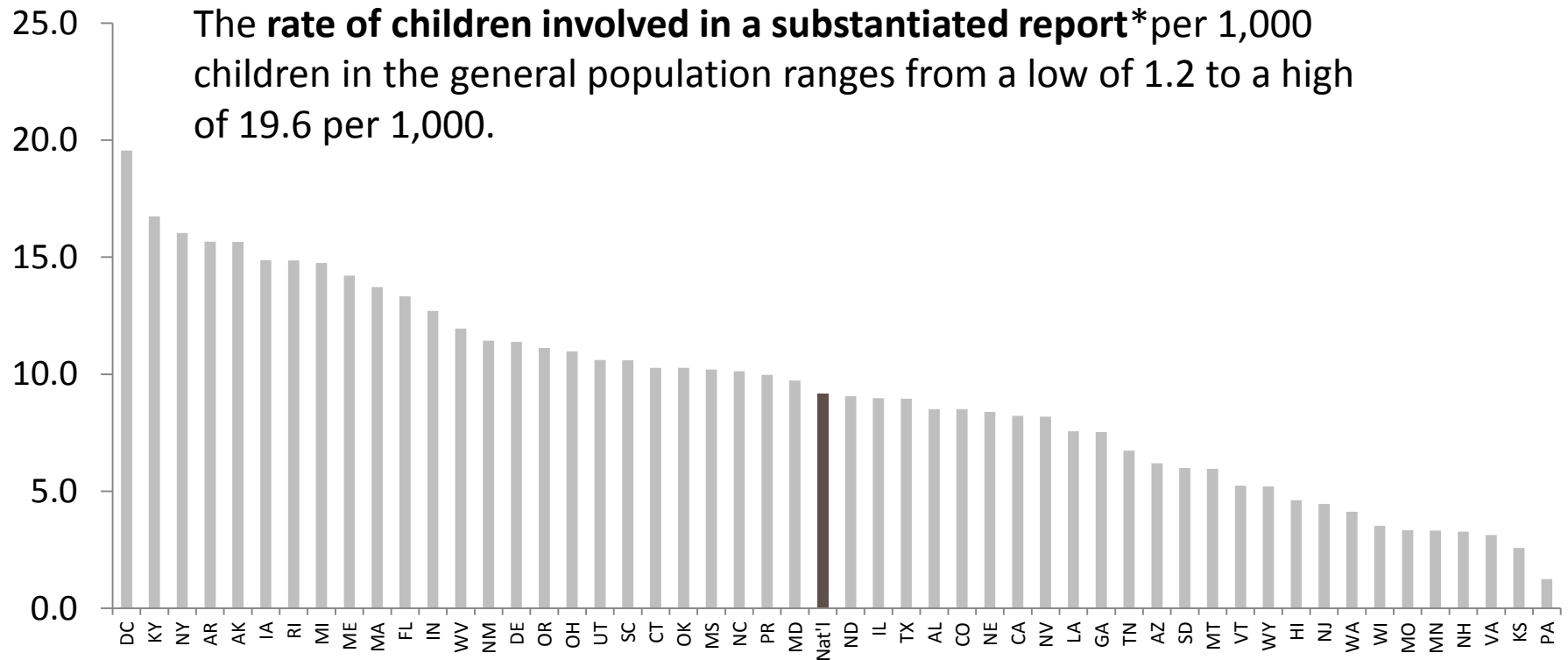
**22%** of these children were determined to be victims



Data based on national estimates from  
Child Maltreatment 2012



And again, we see **huge variation by state** at the front end due to differences in policy and practice.

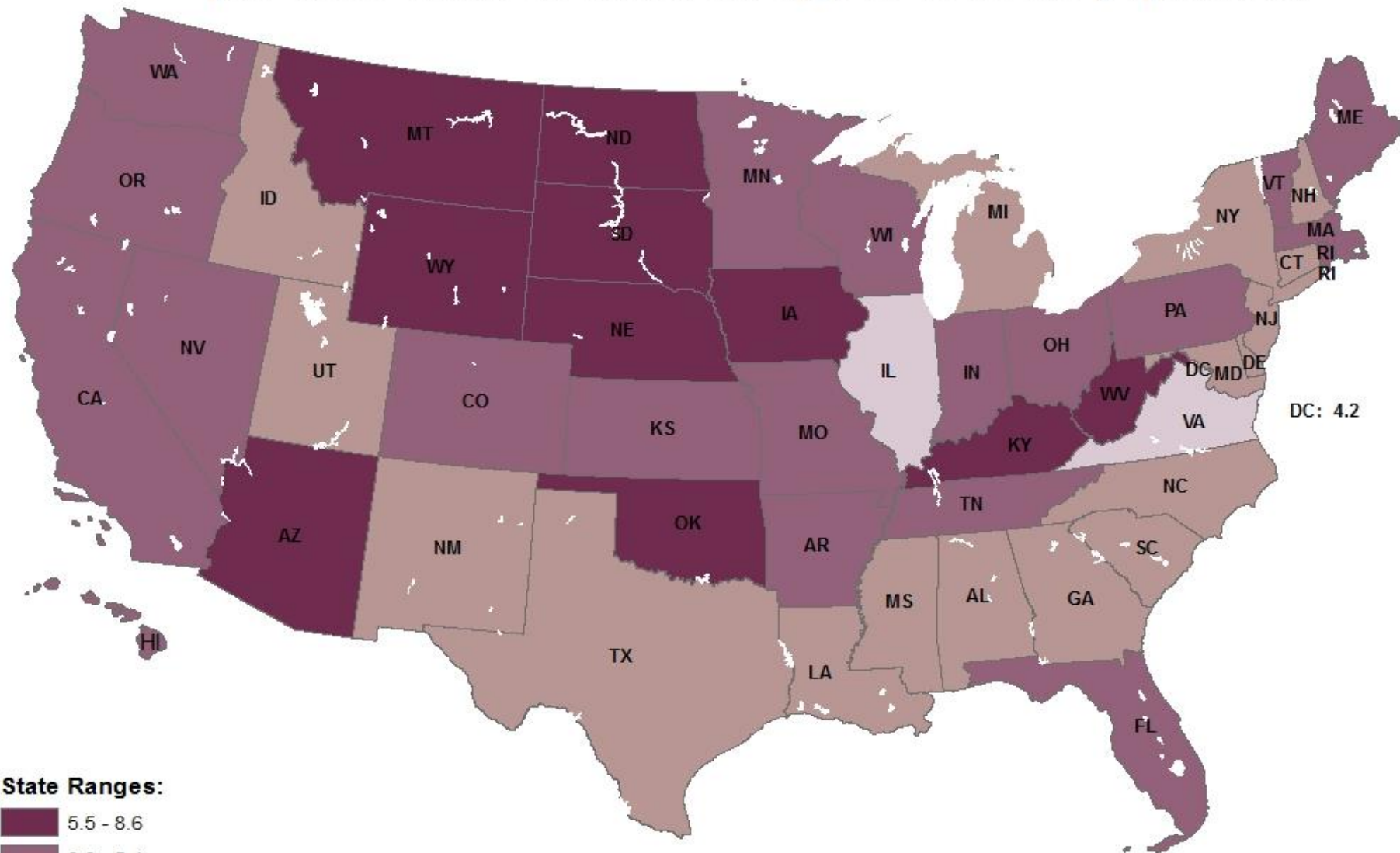


\* Child determined to be the victim of maltreatment.

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## WHO ULTIMATELY ENTERS CARE?

# State Rates of Children Entering Out-of-Home Care, FY12 per 1,000 children under the age of 18 in the population



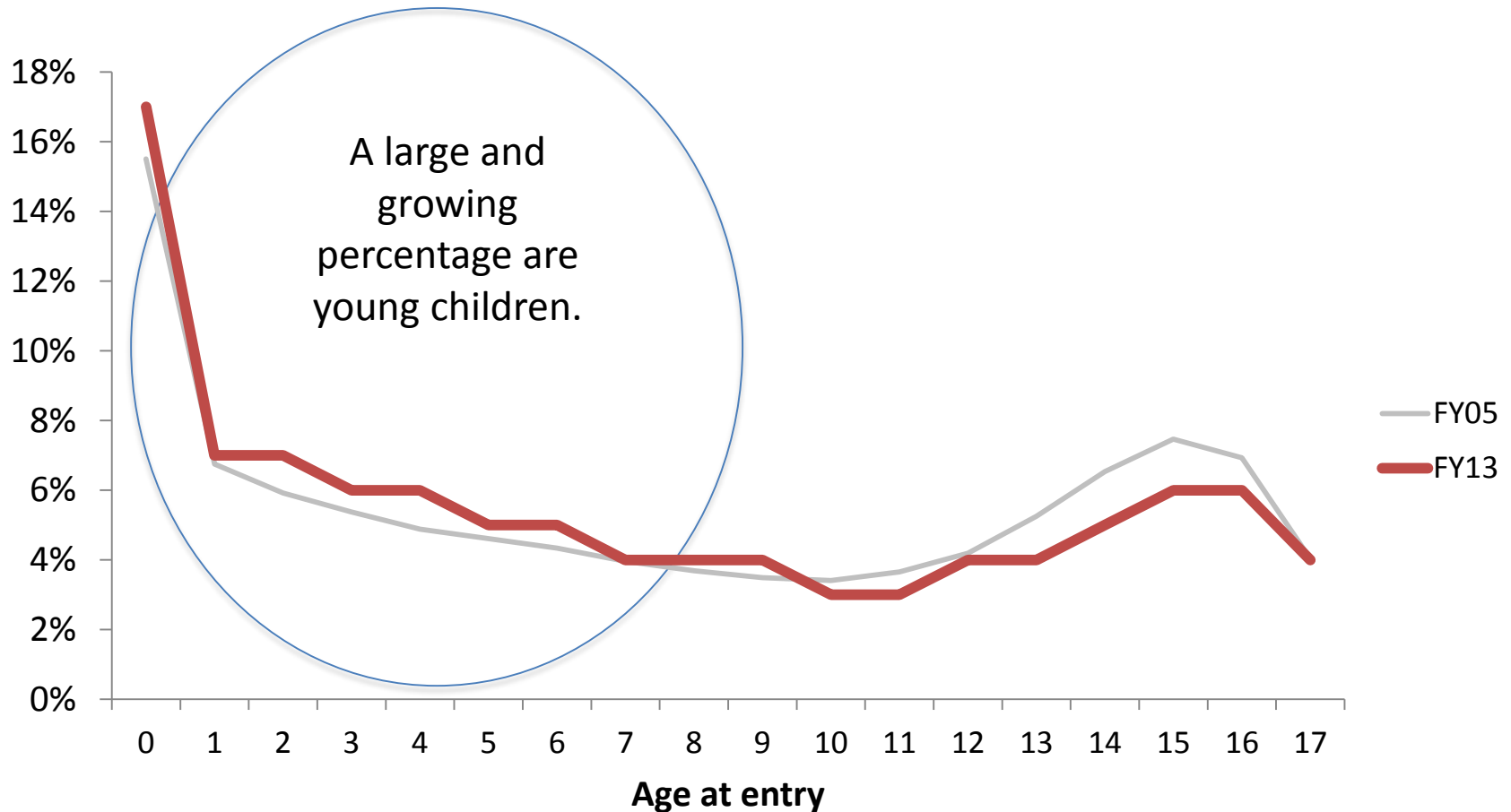
1/10/2014

Data sources: Children's Bureau Public File  
Produced by Data Advocacy, Casey Family Programs

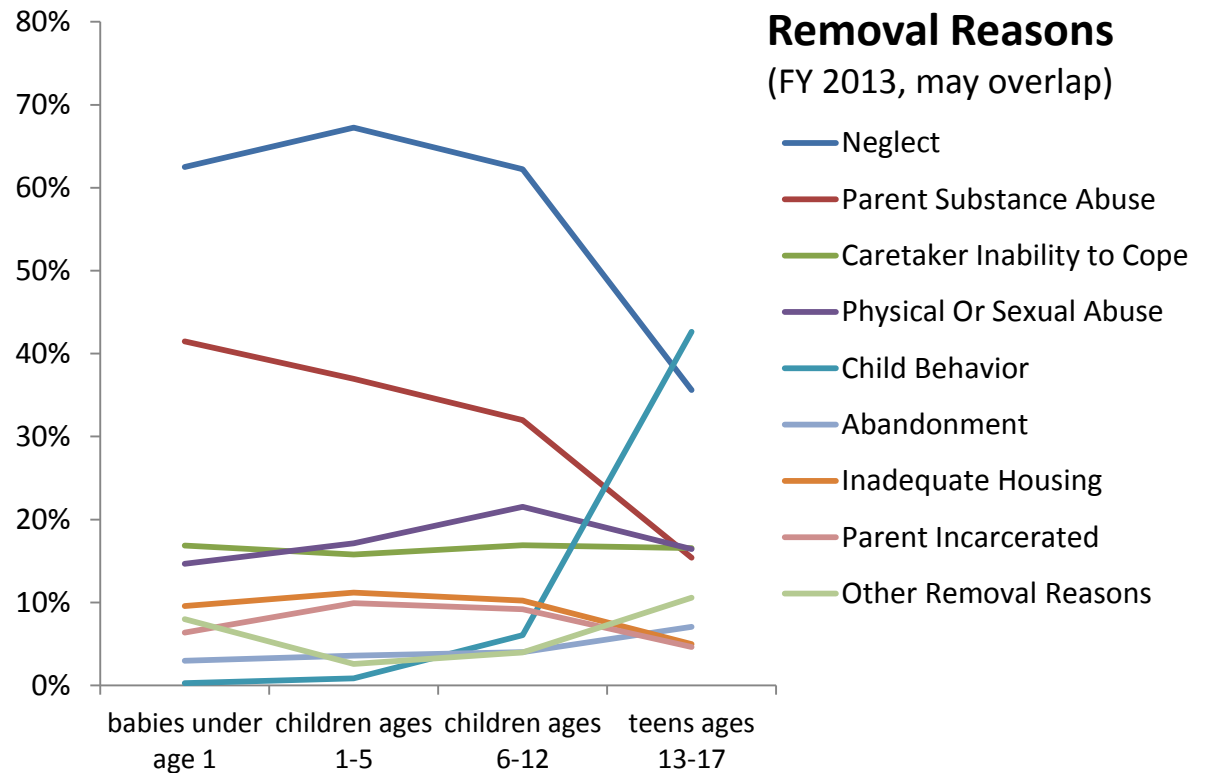
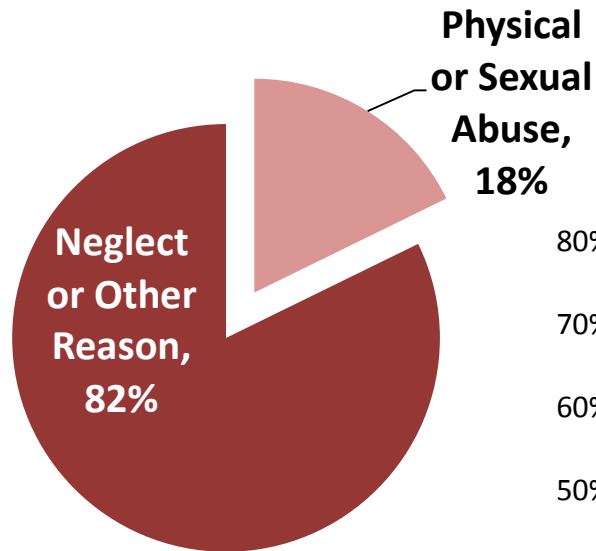


In 2013...

**253,372** children came into care (under age 18)

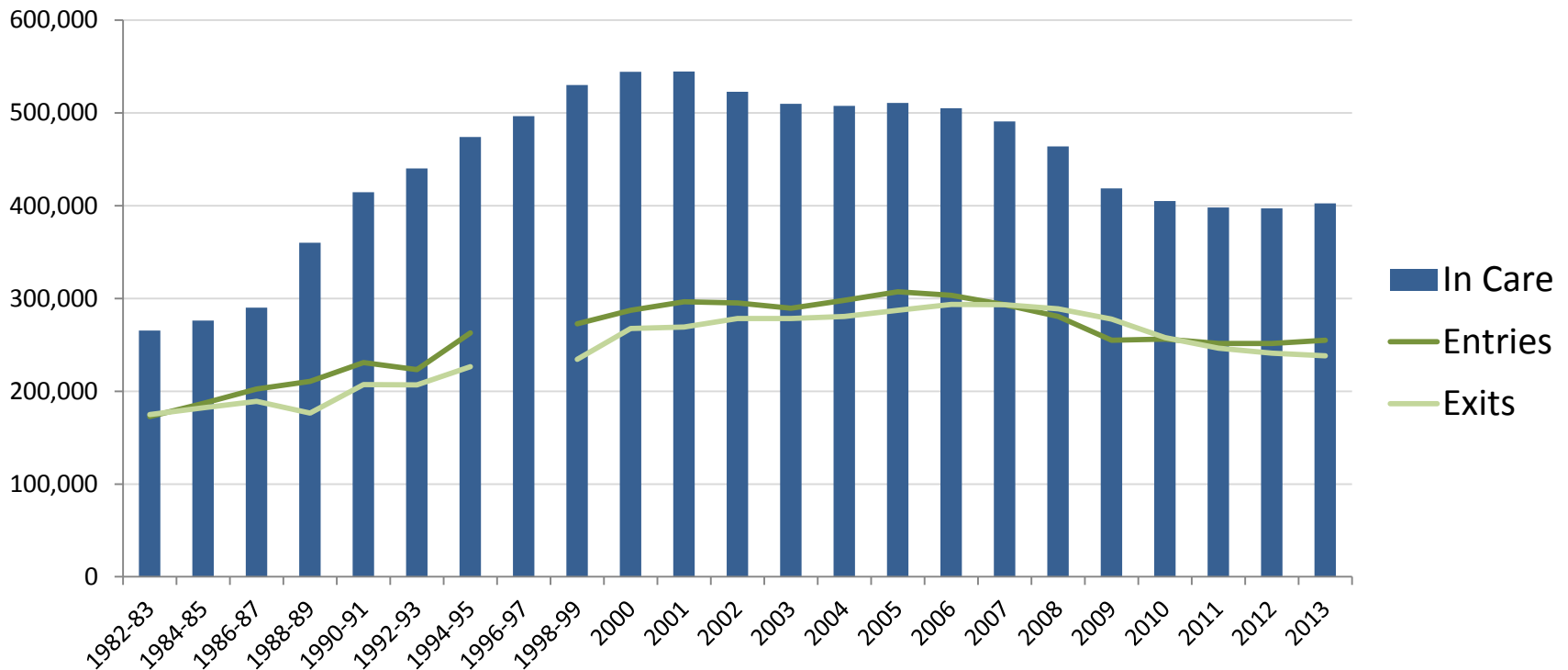


# Children enter care for a variety of reasons.



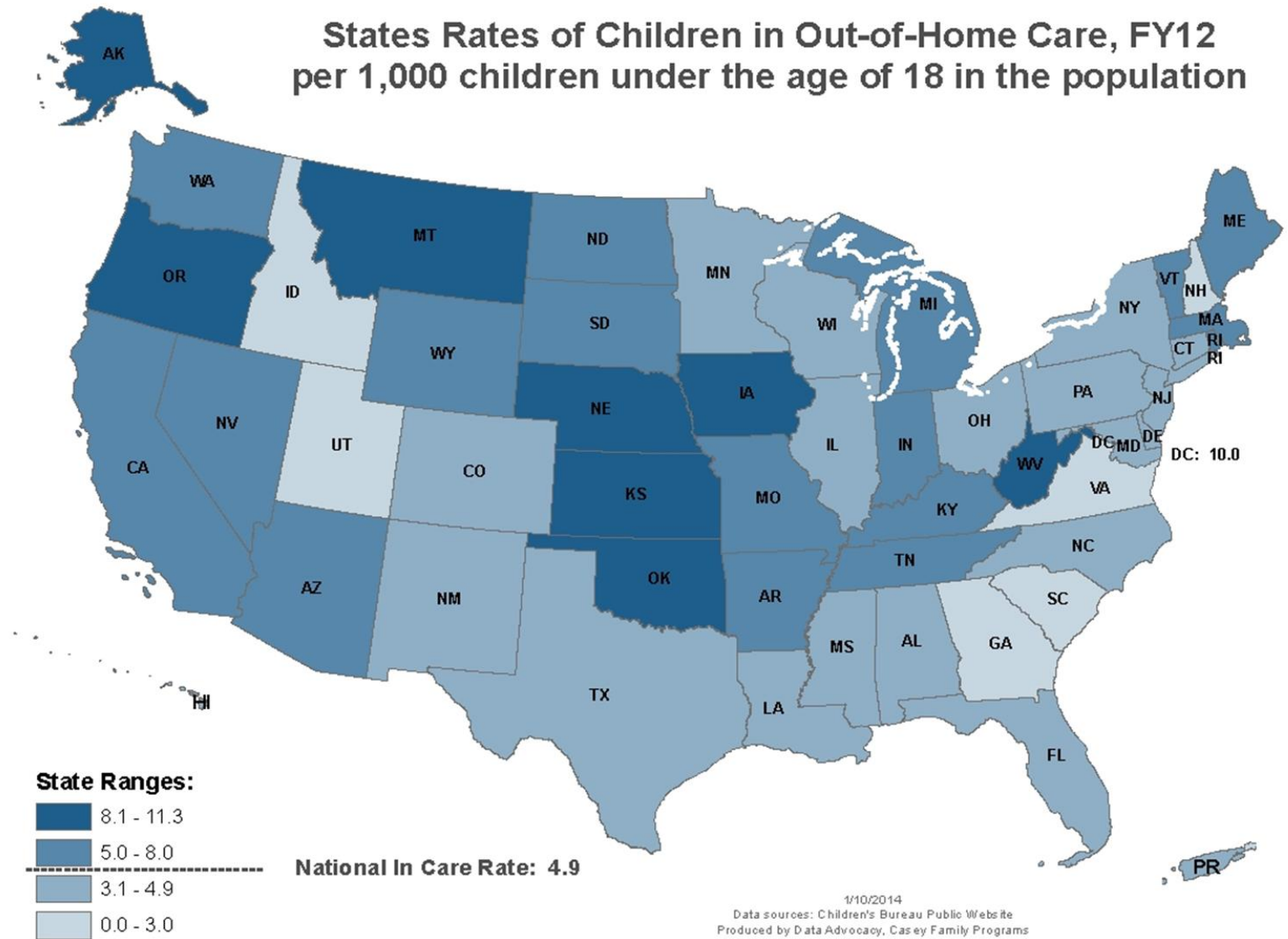
# Wide fluctuations in the number of children in care over the years

Total number of children in care on the last day of the fiscal year



Data sources: 1982-1989 American Public Welfare Association/VCIS; 1990-1994 VCIS/Children's Bureau Website; 1995-1998 NDAS; 1999-2008 Children's Bureau/AFCARS

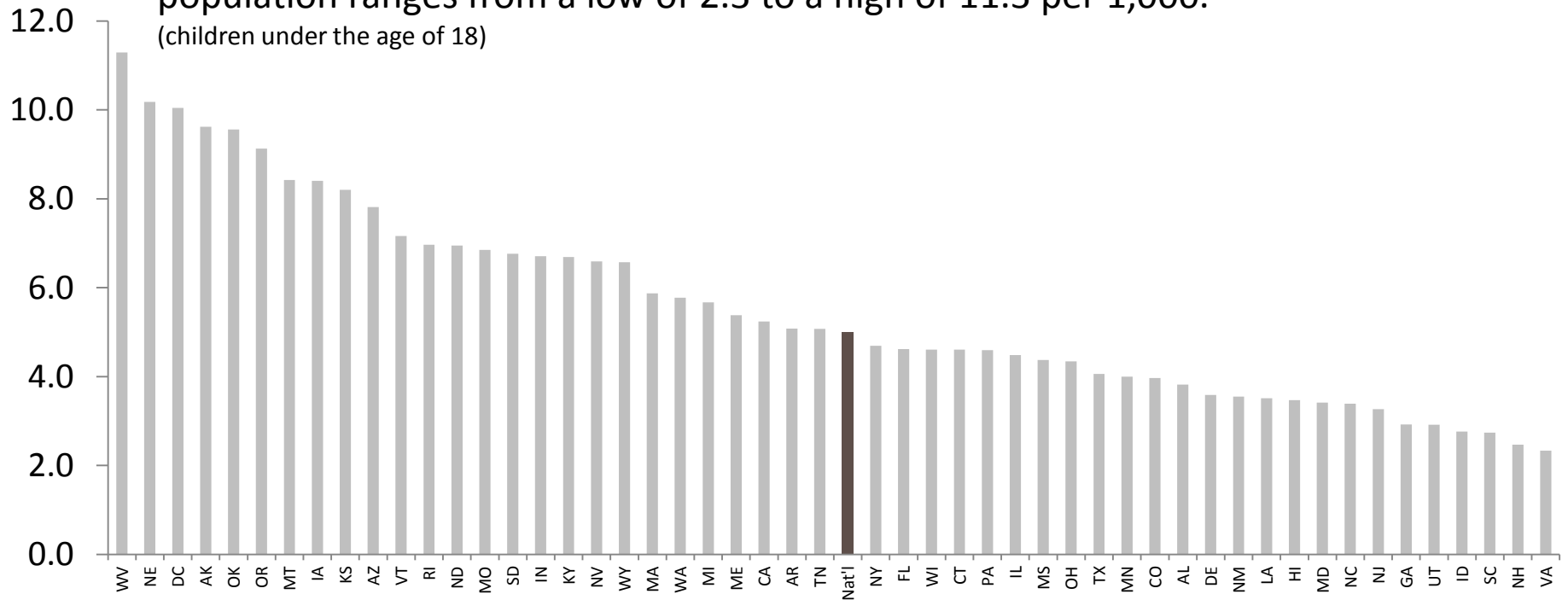
Some states have more children in foster care. When we control for the size of the population, we can see where foster care is used most heavily.



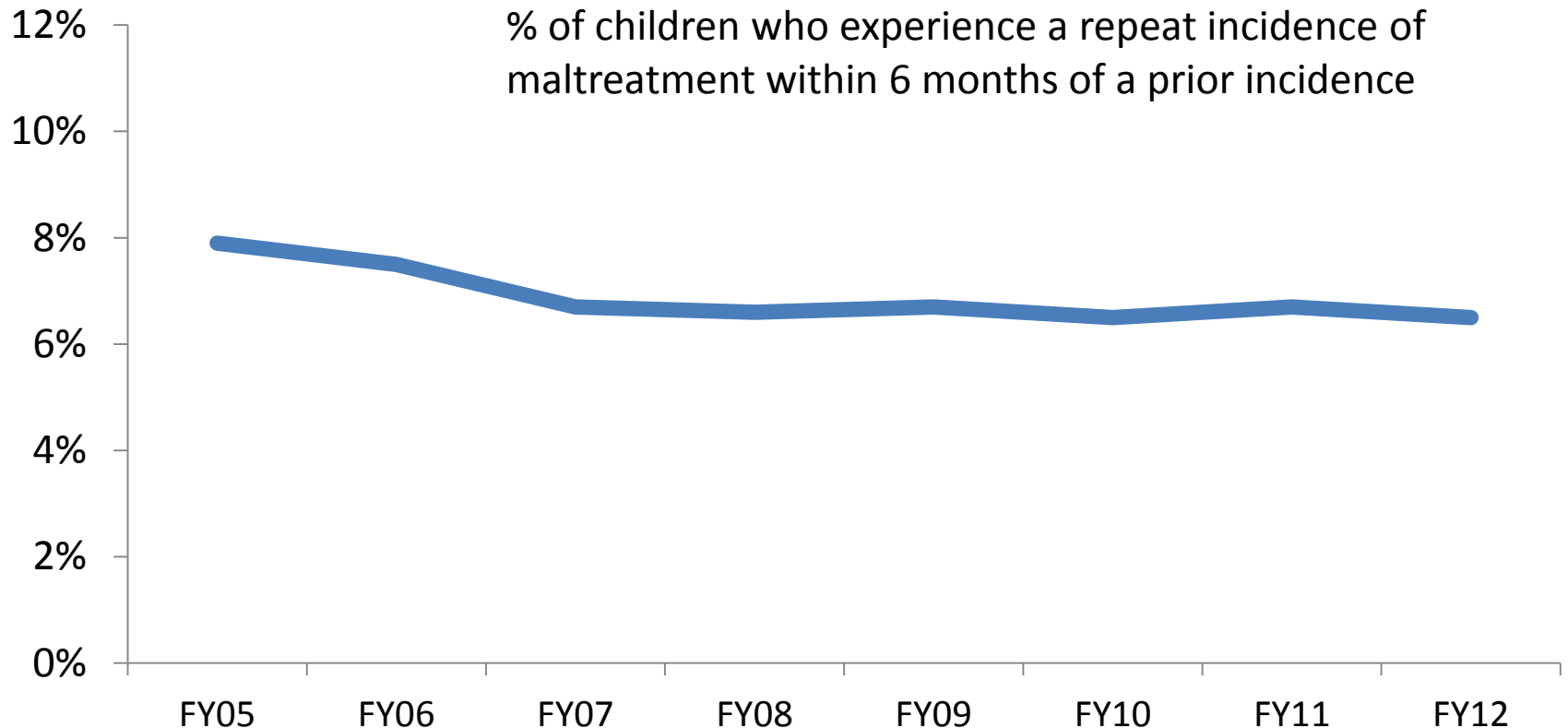


# the landscape varies across the country

The **rate of children in care** per 1,000 children in the general population ranges from a low of 2.3 to a high of 11.3 per 1,000.  
(children under the age of 18)



Recurrence of maltreatment is a **key indicator of safety** which has shown improvement during period of reduction.



Estimate based on weighted average of state percentages

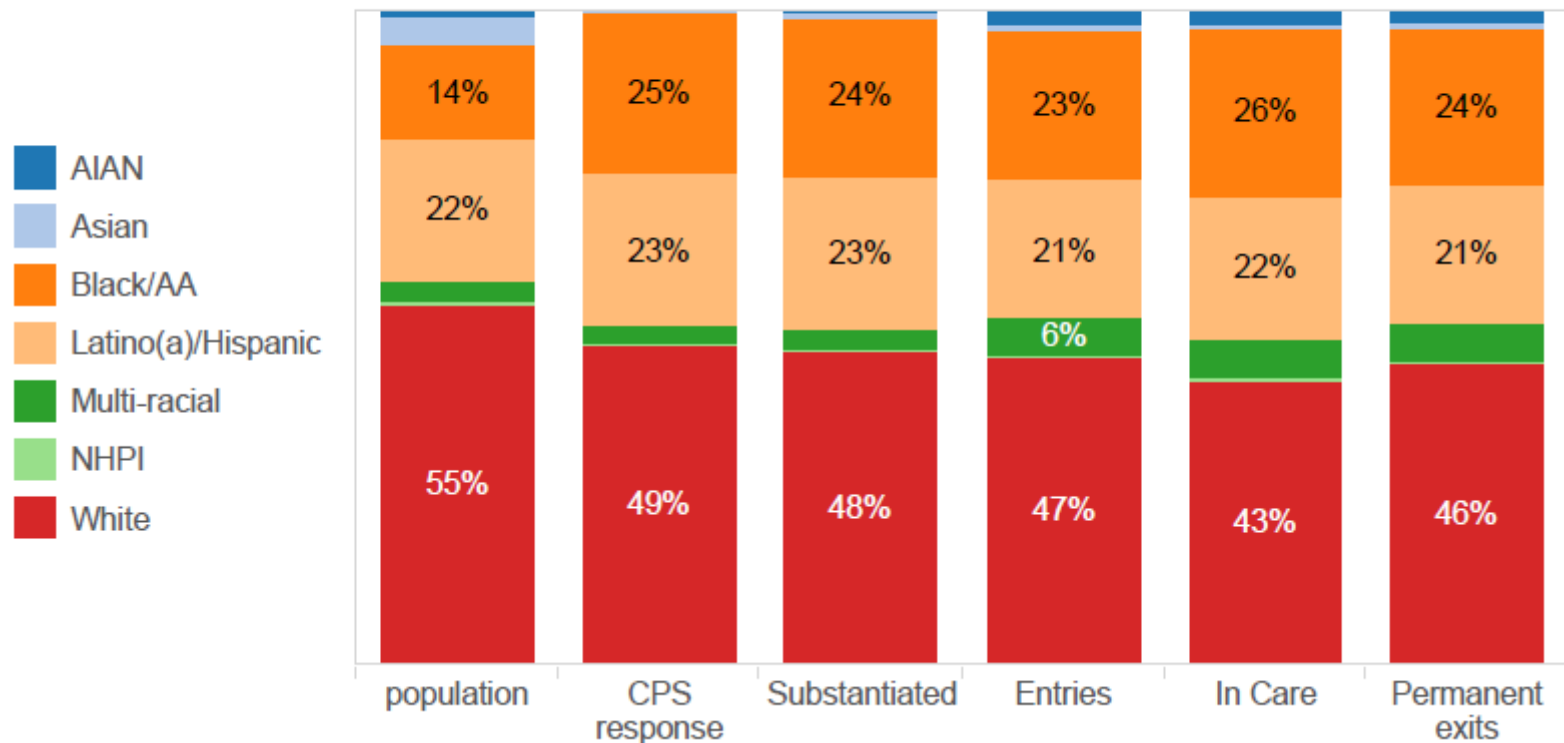
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## WHAT DO TRENDS LOOK LIKE BY RACE?

# Overview of Race/Ethnicity, FY12

## Children In Care

(FY12, as % of all children at each decision point)

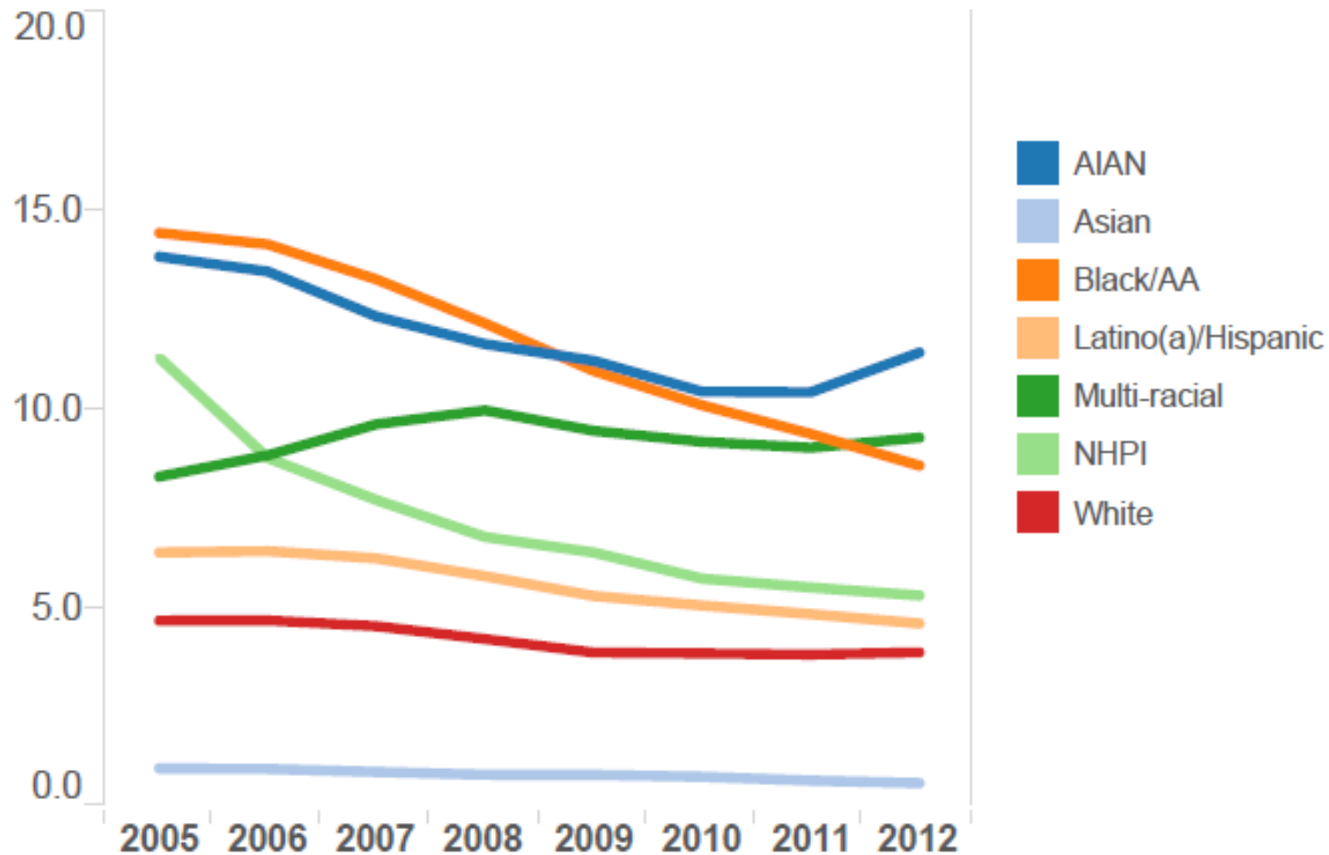




# Overview of Race/Ethnicity, FY12

## Rate of Children In Care

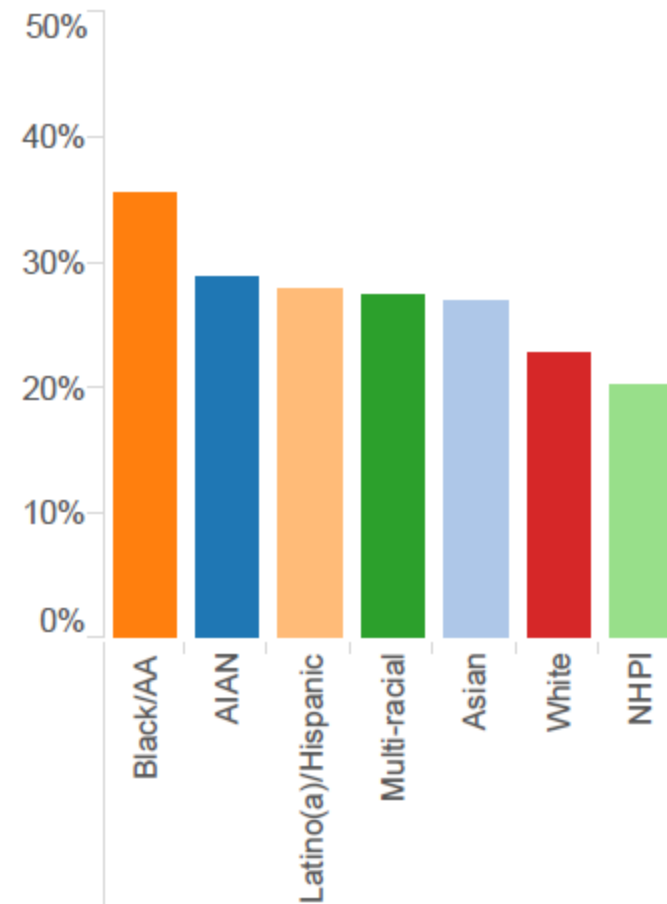
(per 1,000 children in population)



# Overview of Race/Ethnicity, FY12

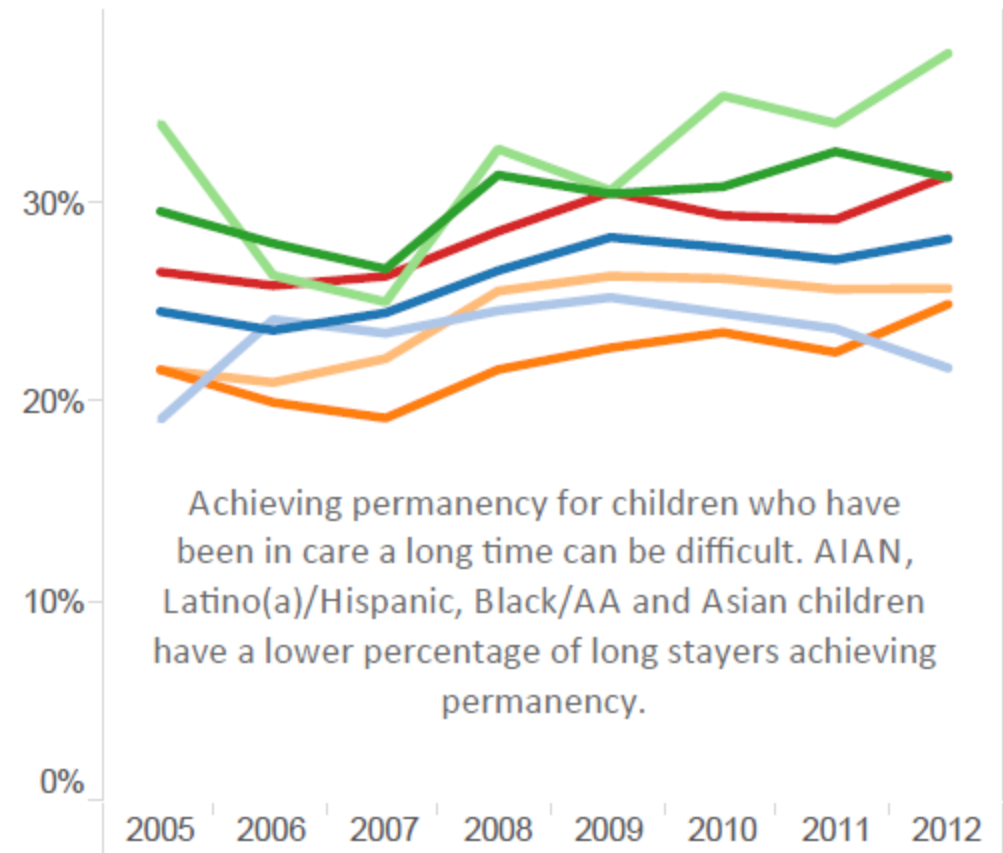
## % of Long Stayers In Care

(FY12, % of children in care 2+ years)



## Permanency for Long Stayers

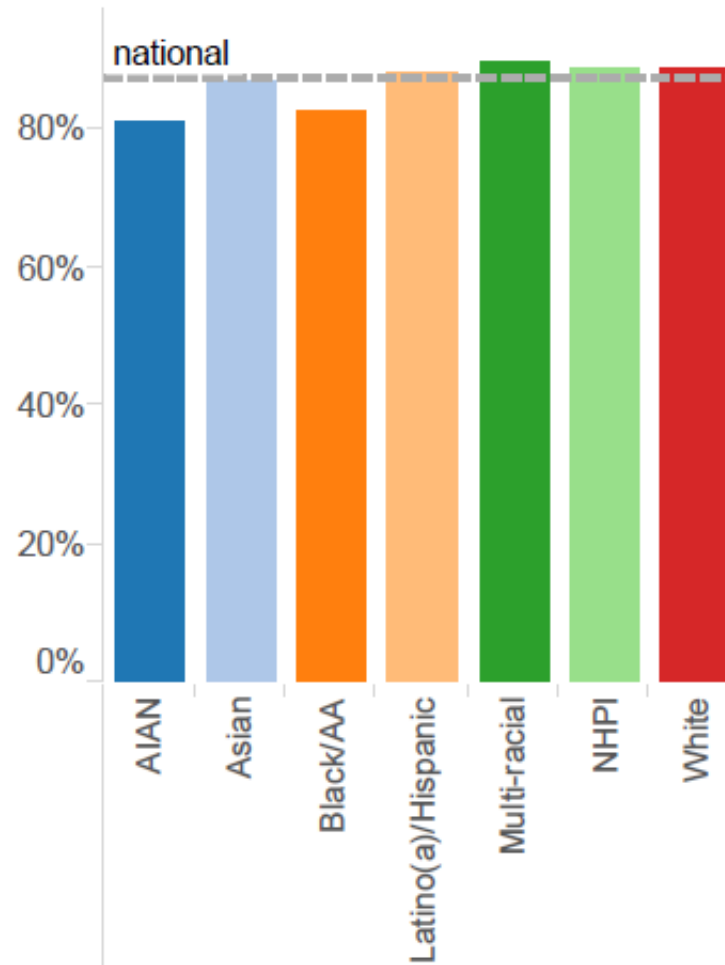
(of all children in care 2+ years at the start of the year, what % exit to permanency w/in 12 mos)



# Overview of Race/Ethnicity, FY12

## % Achieving Permanency

(FY12, as % of children exiting care)



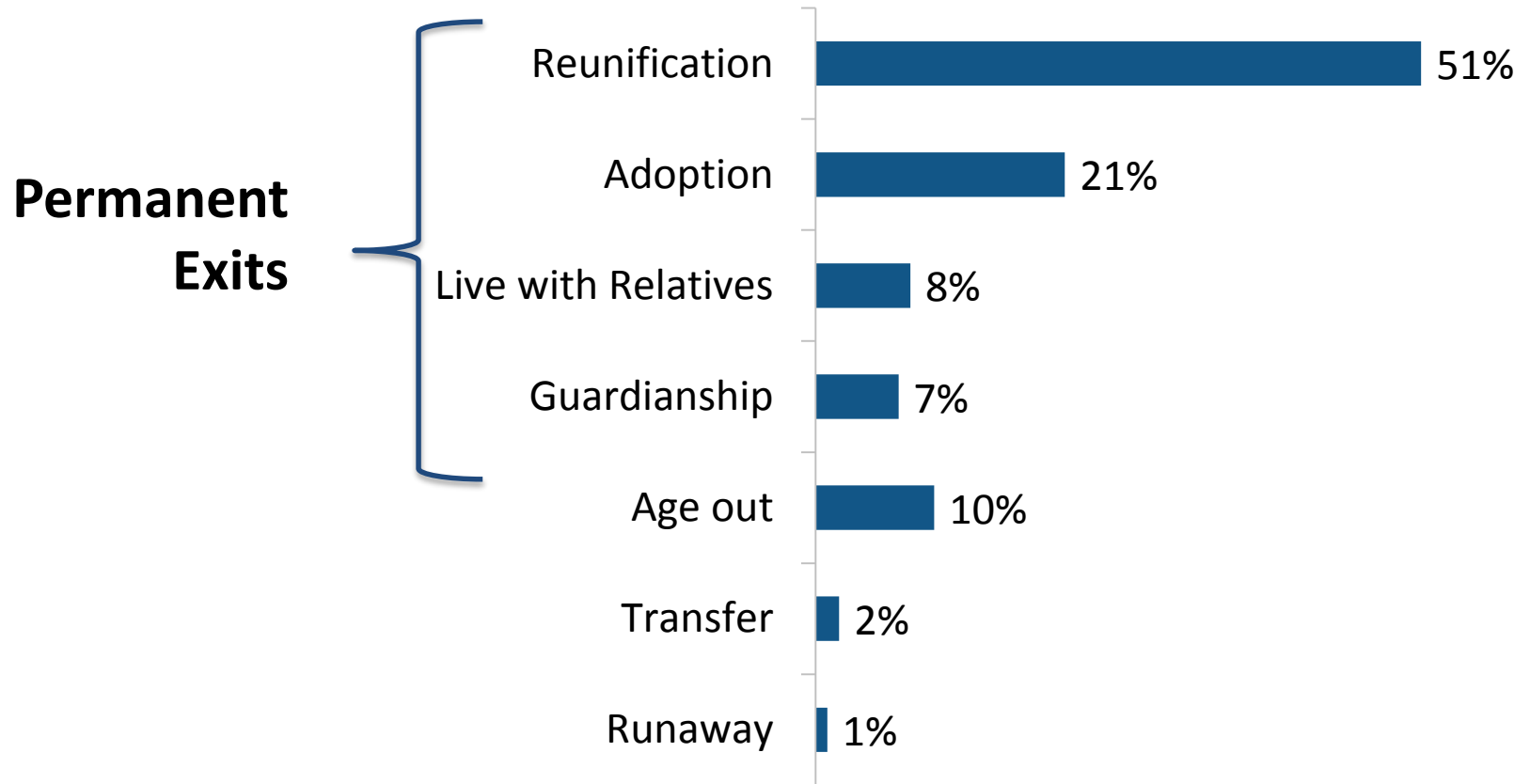
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## WHERE DO CHILDREN GO WHEN THEY LEAVE CARE?



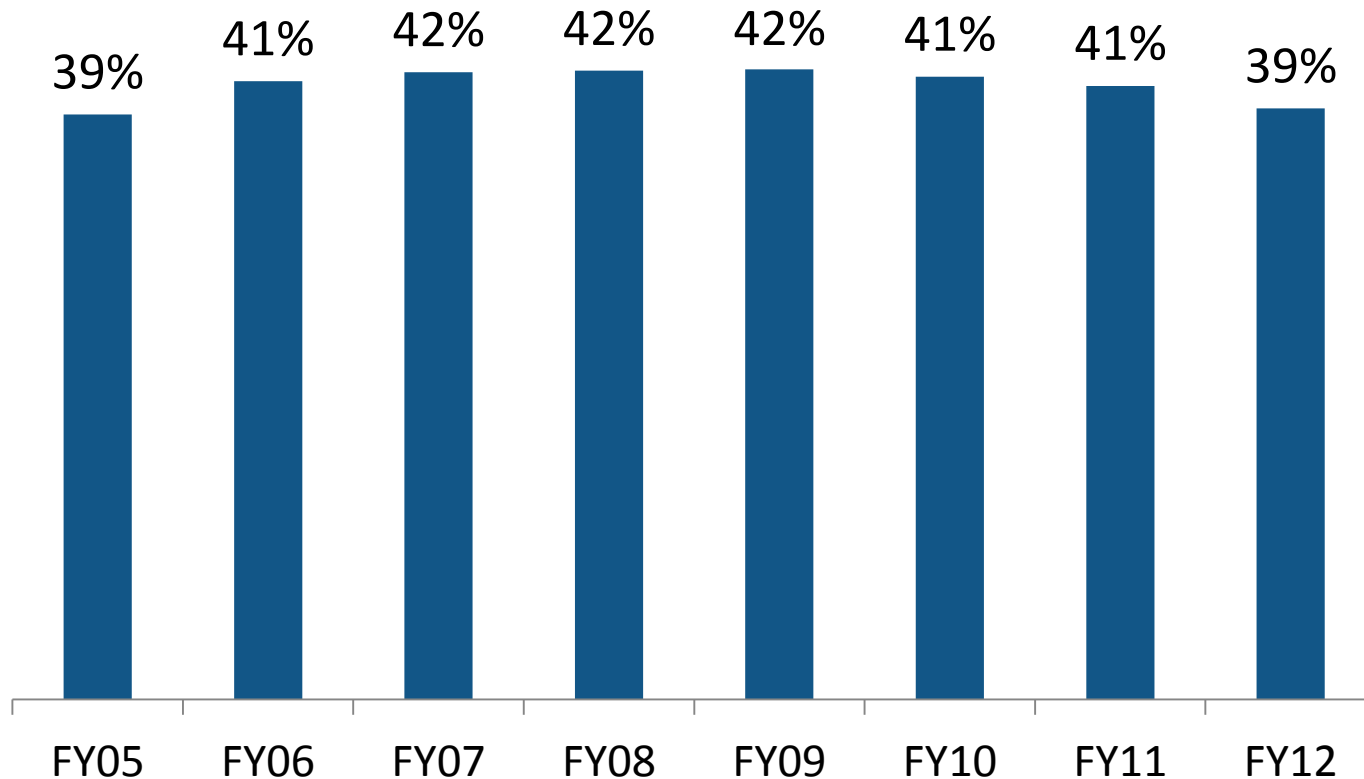
# How many children are reunified?

Of the 241,254 children who left care in FY2012,  
**51% were reunified**



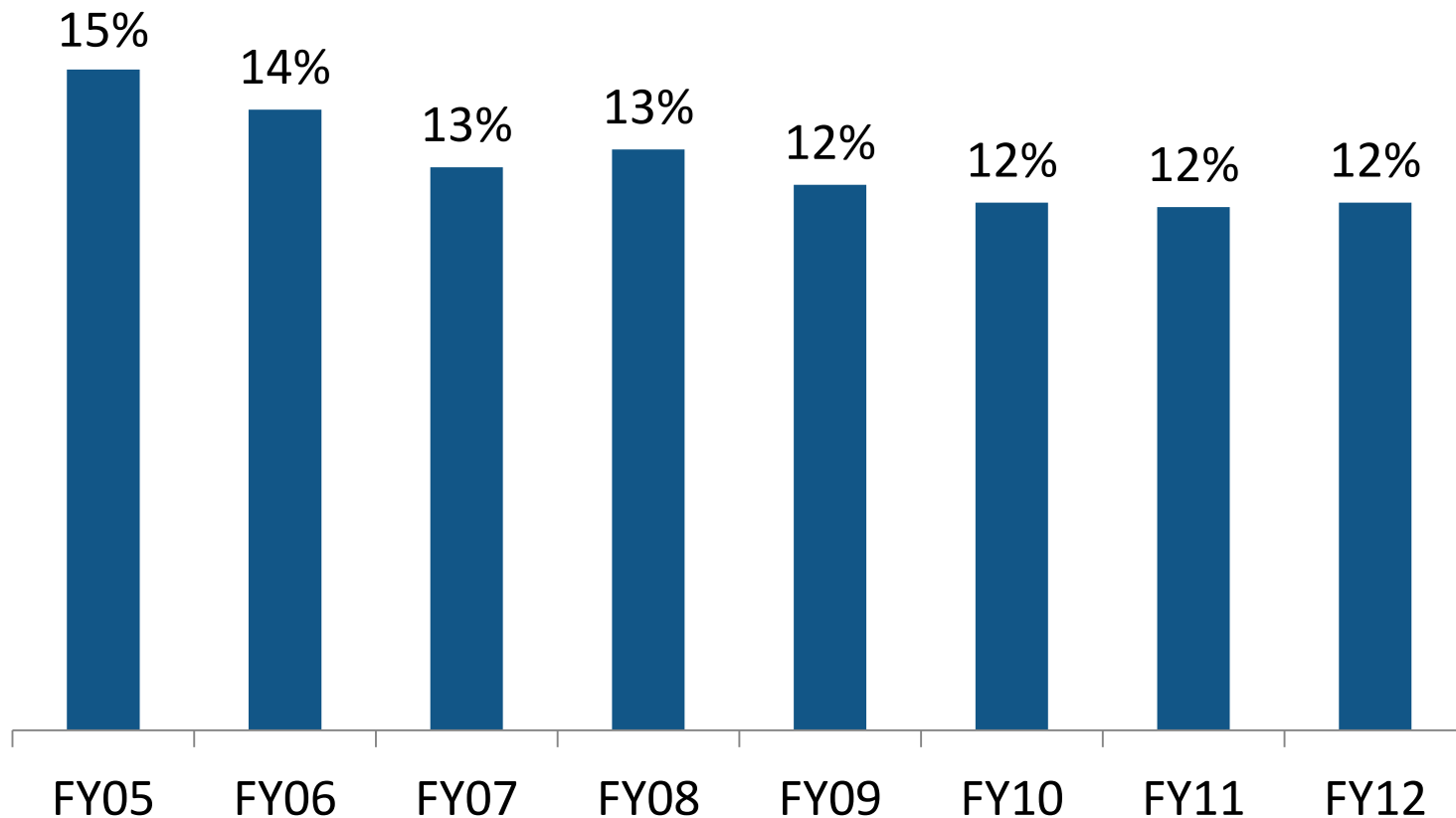
# How long does it take to reunify?

Of all the children who come into care in a given year, about **40% return to their families within 12 months.**



# Are reunifications stable?

About **12%** of all children who are reunified **return to foster care within a year.**



# What does it all mean?

- We can reduce the need for foster care by improving the quality and availability of home and community-based services.
- For children that do come into care, we can keep them connected to kin and extended family, shorten their time in care, and improve outcomes.
- Policy and funding opportunities exist to promote best practice and improve the lives of children and their families
- There is tremendous variation across jurisdictions: The judiciary plays an important role in spreading best practices
- Access to data helps identify areas of improved performance and target technical assistance