



**DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES**  
*Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities*

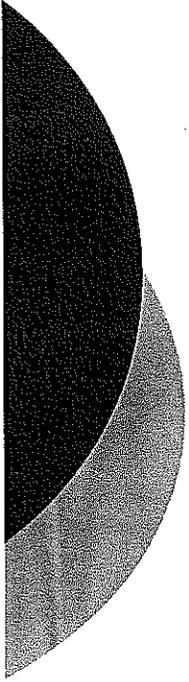
# Transformation of Connecticut's Child Welfare System

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**Connecticut Association of Nonprofits**

**October 14, 2014**

6115-1007004  
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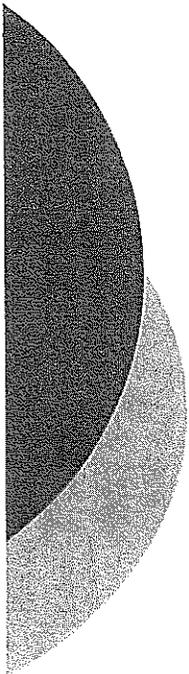
# DCF Mission & Cross-Cutting Themes

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***The mission of the Department is to work together with families and communities for children who are healthy, safe, smart and strong.***

## ***Seven Cross-Cutting Themes***

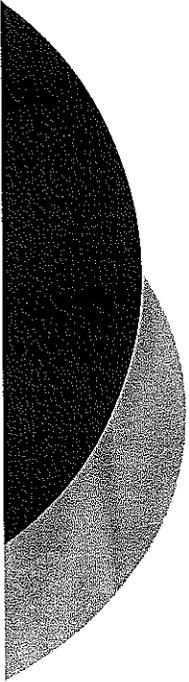
1. Implementing strength-based family policy, practice and programs.
2. Applying the neuroscience of early childhood and adolescent development.
3. Expanding trauma-informed practice and culture.
4. Addressing racial inequities in all areas of our practice.
5. Building new community and agency partnerships.
6. Improving leadership, management, supervision and accountability.
7. Becoming a learning organization.



# Achievements 2011-2014

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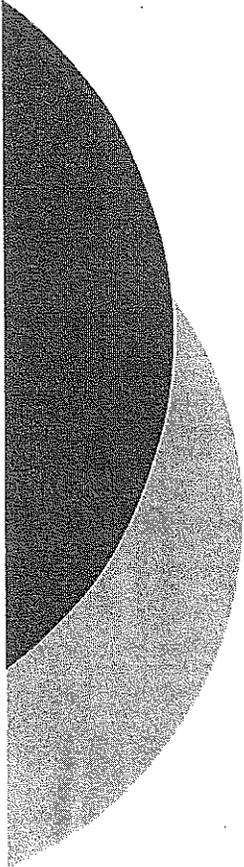
- Decreased Children in Placement by 16.2% (from 4784 to 4010)
- Increased relative/kin placement from 19% to 35.4%
- Reduced Out of State placement from 364 to 15
- 748 Fewer children in congregate care (52.4% decrease)
- Only 39 children under the age of 12 in congregate care (down from 202)
- Pre-certified 11 of the 22 Juan F. Outcome Measures
- Released from the federal Program Improvement Plan by achieving 8 federal measures needing improvement



# Vision for the Service Array

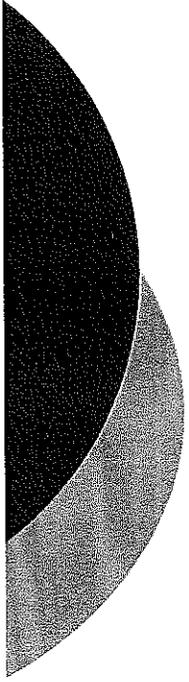
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- Children will remain with their family of origin whenever possible and appropriate
- 90% of the children in DCF placement will be served in community-based family settings
- Relative, core and TFC foster parents will have access to a broad array of supports



# Rightsizing the System

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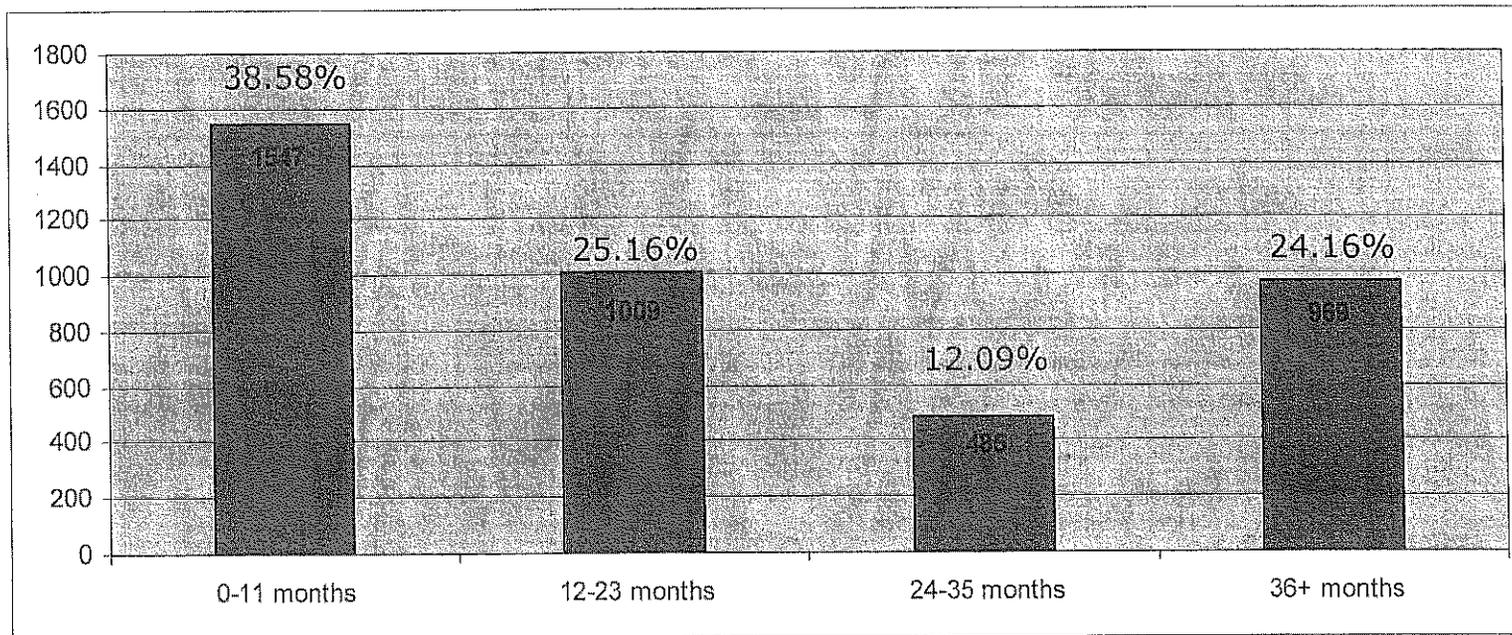
## Children in Placement (CIP)

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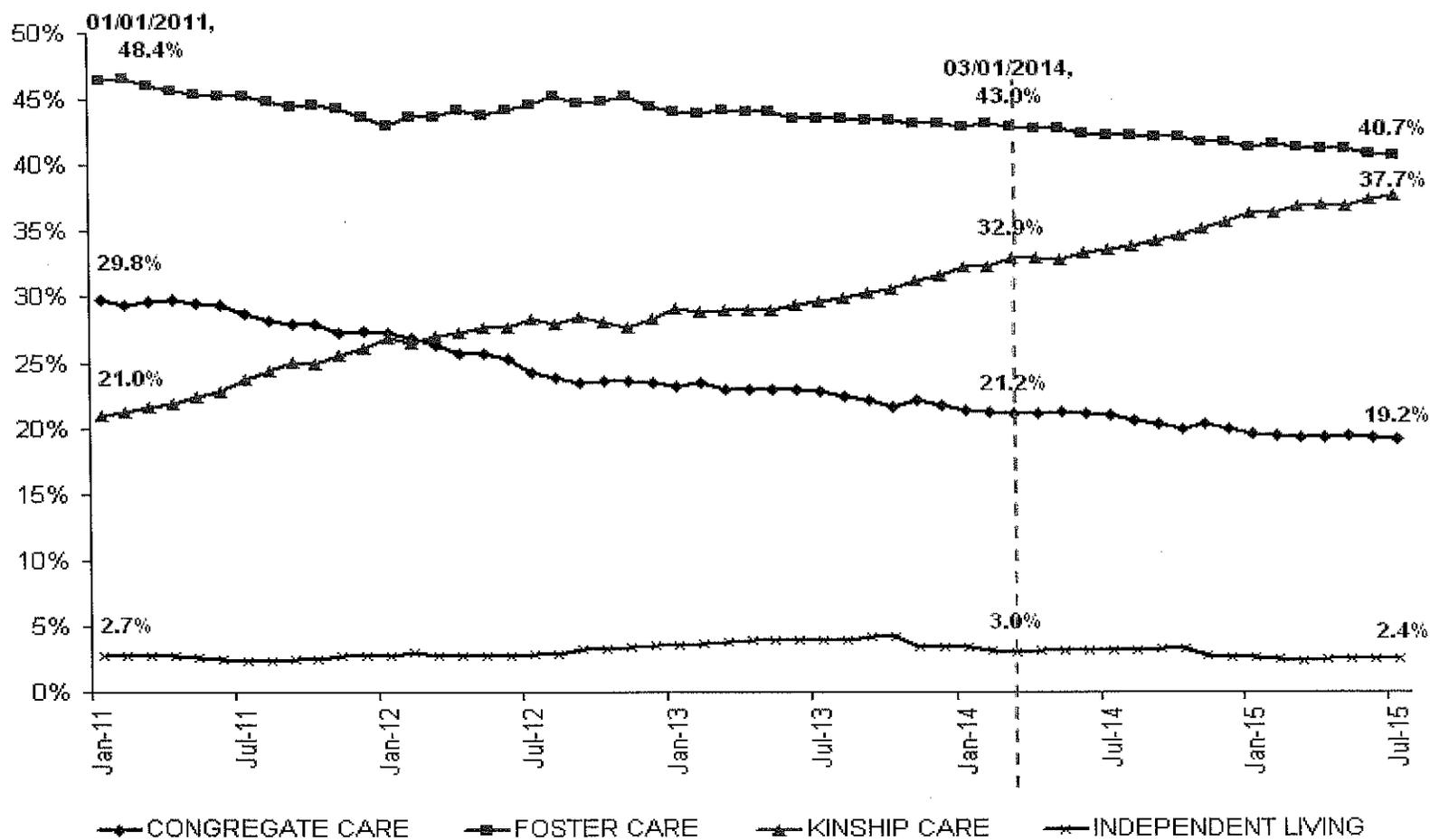
- 4,010 children placement
- 45.4% in Foster Care
- 34.9% with Relatives/Kin
- 16.8% in Congregate Care
- 2.9% in Independent Living
  
- 47.11% Female, 52.89% Male

# CIP by Length of Stay

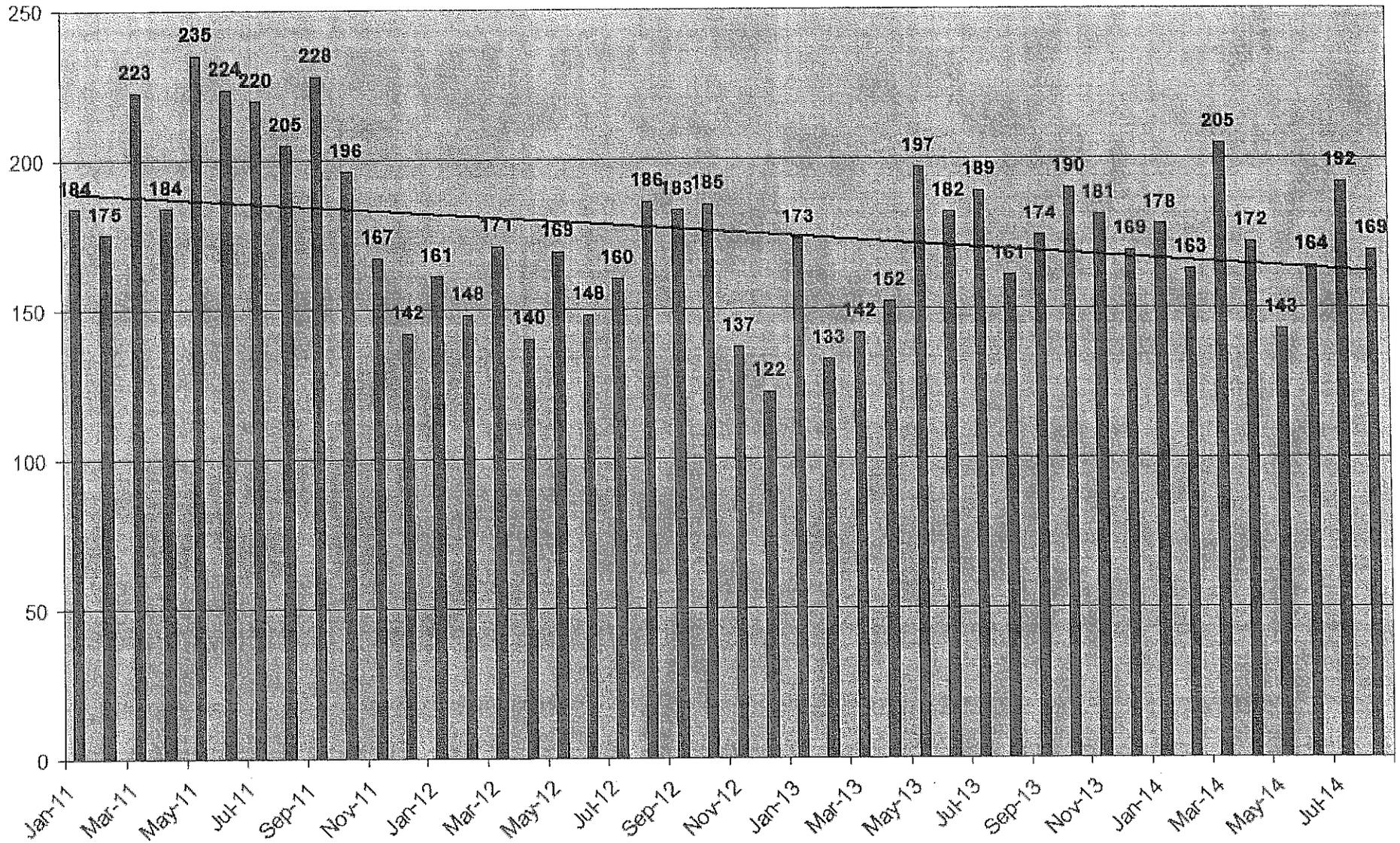
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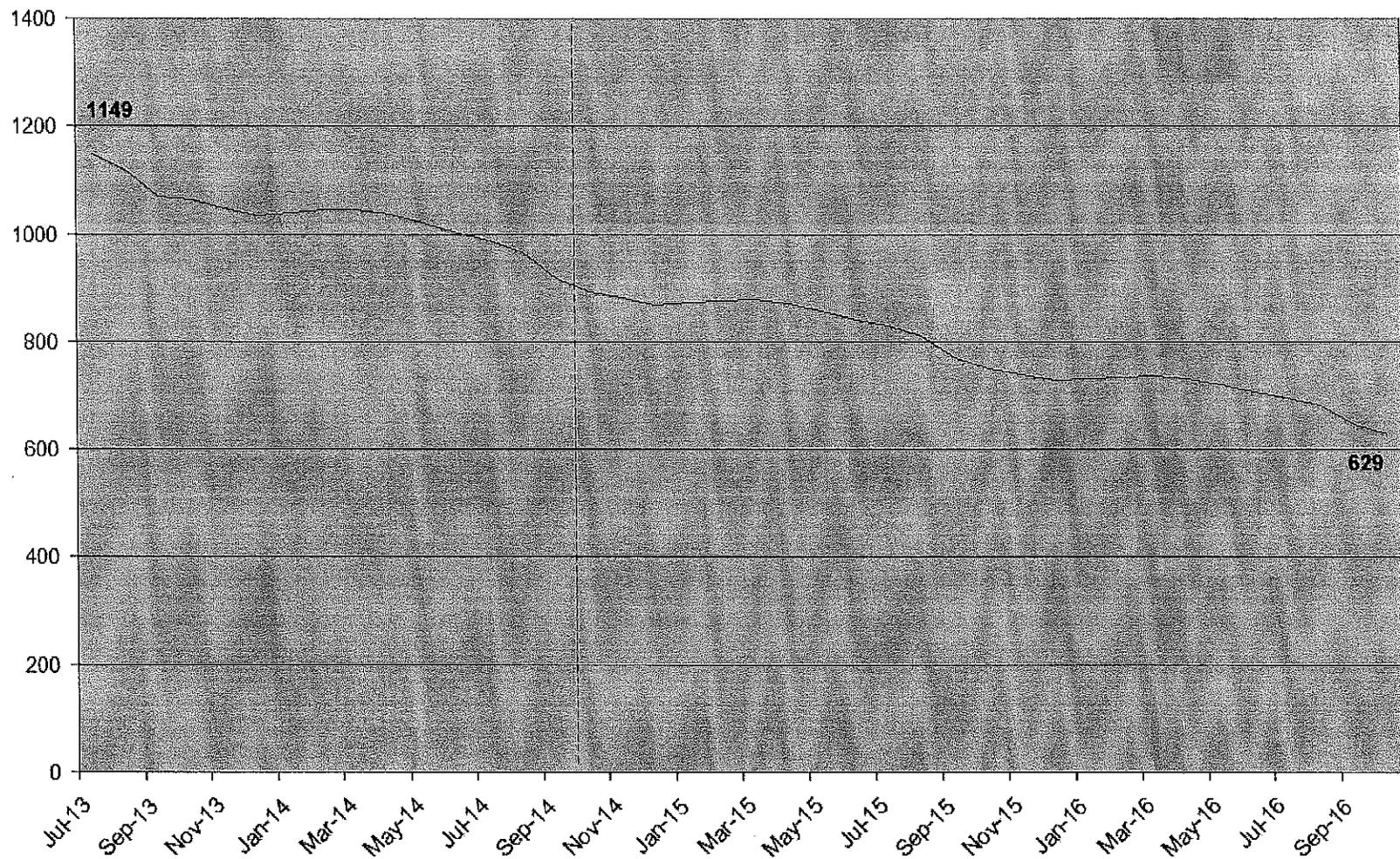
# Population Projection



Number of Children Entering DCF Care Per Month, Jan. 2011 - Aug. 2014



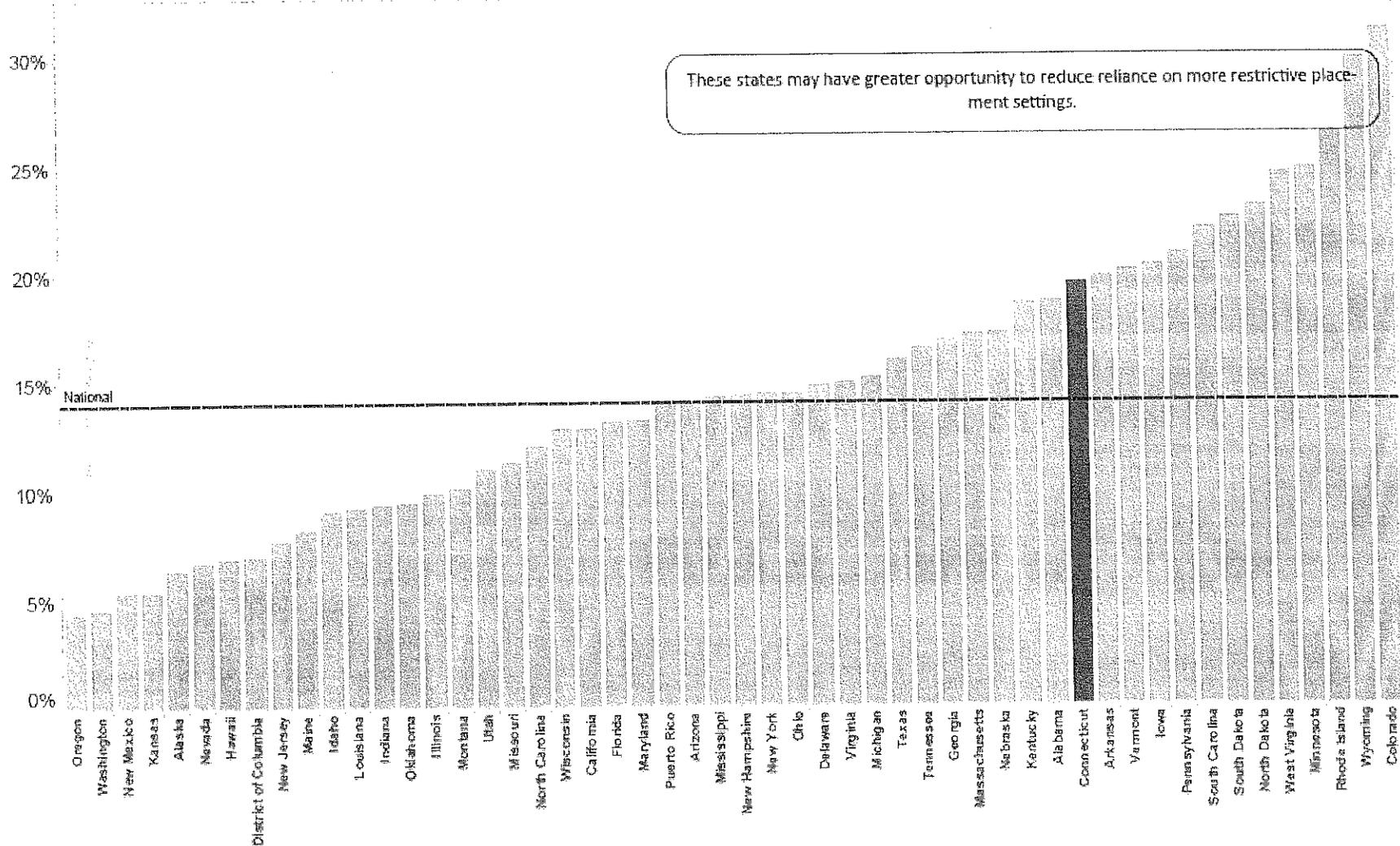
# Projected # of Children with APPLA Goals



# Key Child Welfare Indicators | Connecticut and National

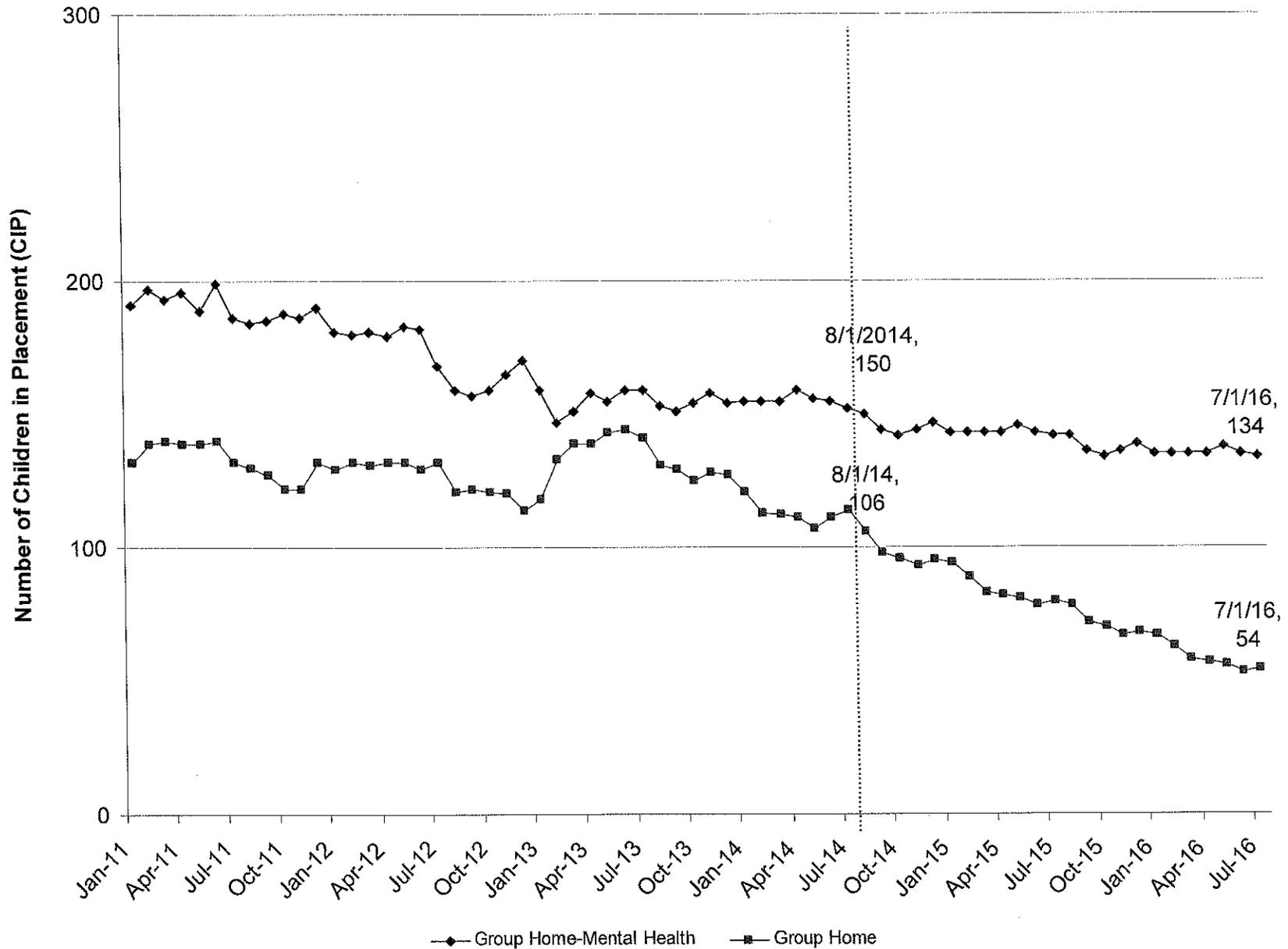
## Congregate Care by State (2012)

Of all the children (ages 0-17) in care on the last day of the fiscal year, what percent were placed in congregate care setting?

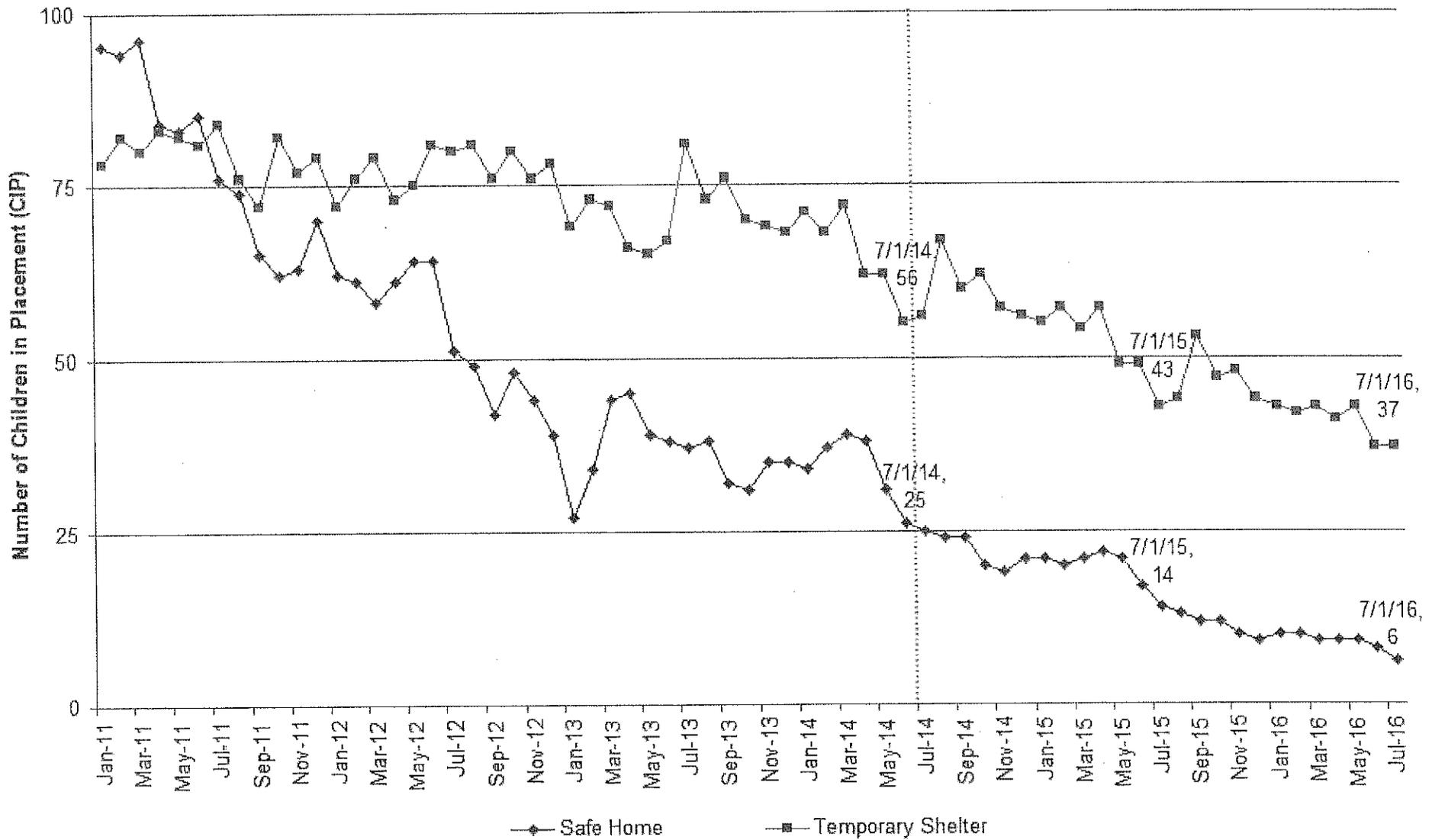


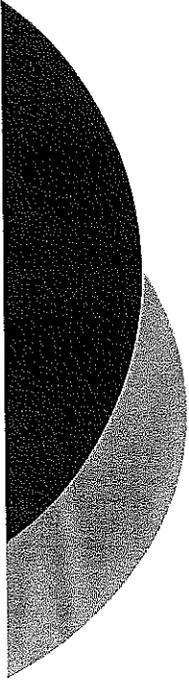
Produced by Casey Family Programs, Data Advocacy 1/21/2014  
 Data source: National AFCARS data, from NDACAN

**Number of Children in Group Home Settings on the 1st of each Month**  
**Actual Data from 1/1/11 - 8/1/14; Projected from 9/1/14 - 8/1/16**



**Number of Children in Safe Home and Shelter Settings on the 1st of each Month**  
**Actual Data from 1/1/11 - 6/1/14; Projected from 7/1/14 - 7/1/16**





# Congregate & Foster Care Need Projections

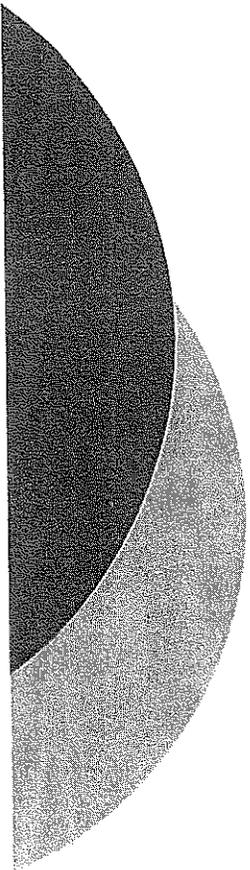
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## Sept. 2014

- 702 Private Congregate Beds:
  - 233 RTC
  - 222 TGH
  - 83 PASS
  - 78 STAR
  - 70 Safe Homes
  - 16 Maternity Homes
- 662 Core Foster Homes
- 890 TFC + FACT Homes

## Future (2 – 3 years)

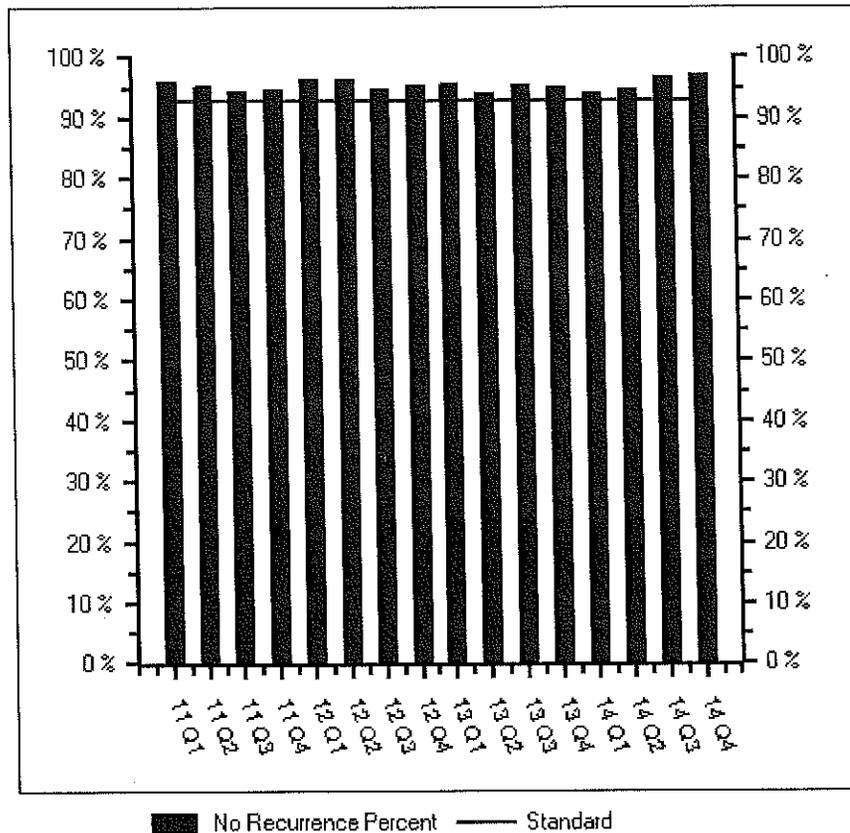
- 400 Private Congregate Beds
  - 200 RTC
  - 110 TGH
  - 40 Other GHs
  - 50 Temp settings
- 806 Core Foster Homes
- 1146 TFC + FACT Homes



# Trends in Child Safety and Stability

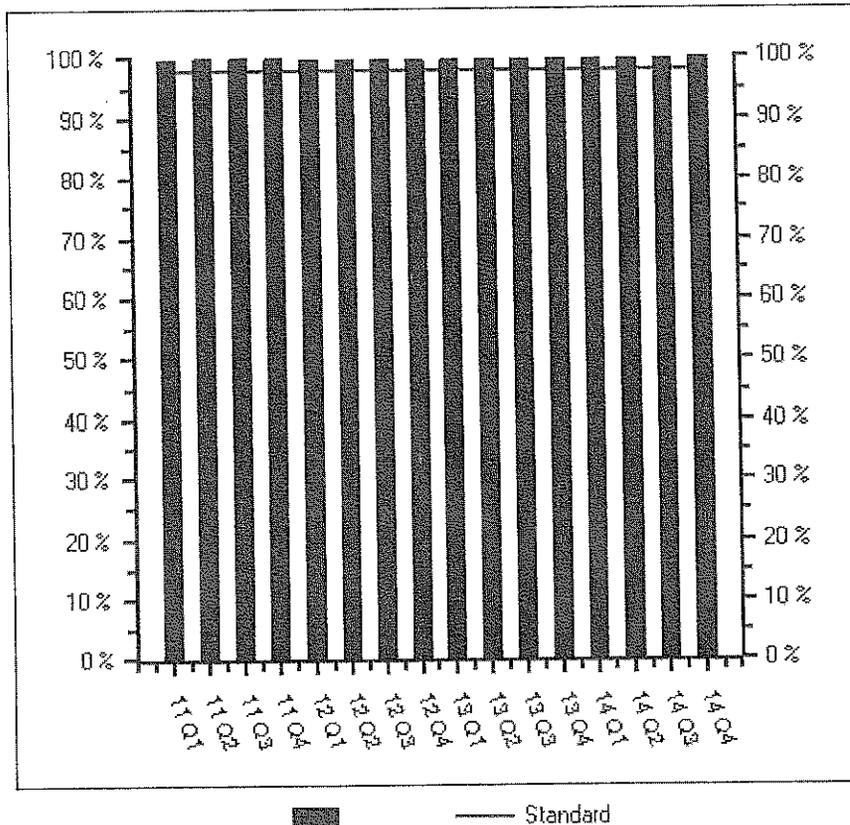
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# OM 5: Child Safety Maintained



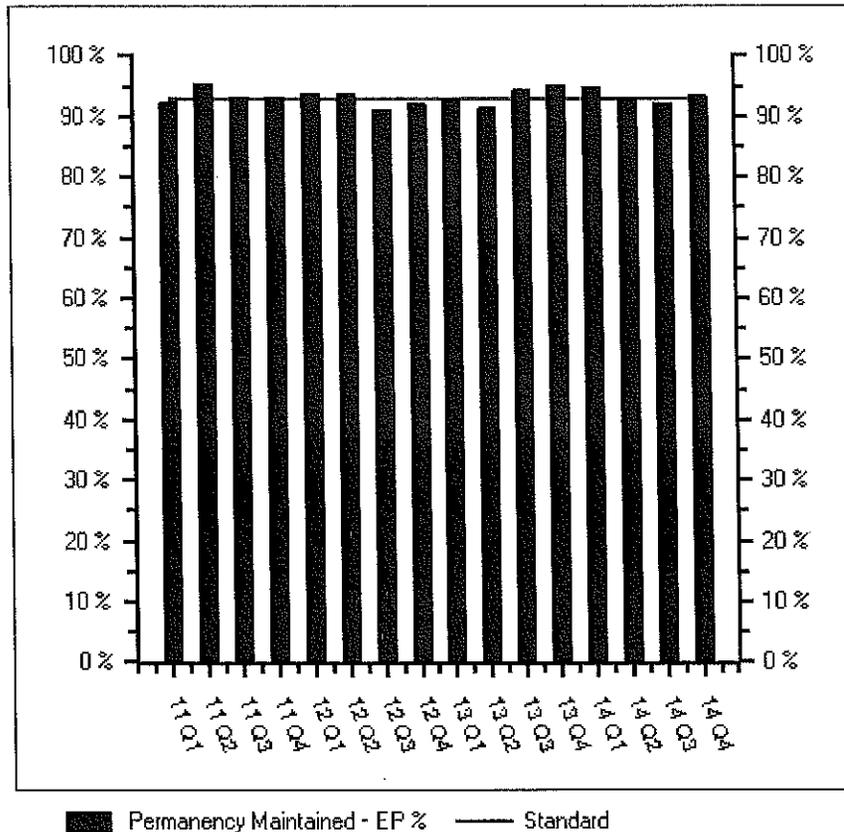
- Over 93% of children who were victims of substantiated maltreatment were not victims of additional maltreatment within 6 months

# OM 6: Child Safety in OOH Care

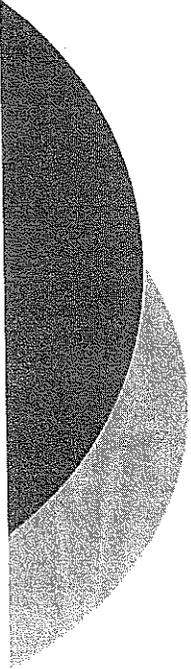


- Over 98% of children in care were not victims of substantiated maltreatment by their caregivers

## OM 11: Maintain Permanency (No Re-entry)



- Between 90% and 95% of children entering care did not have a prior episode within 12 months
- From 2011 to present, 26 to 40 children per quarter re-entered within 12 months of a previous episode
- From 2008 to 2010, 40 to 63 children per quarter re-entered care within 12 months of a previous episode



# Children Who Exit Congregate Care

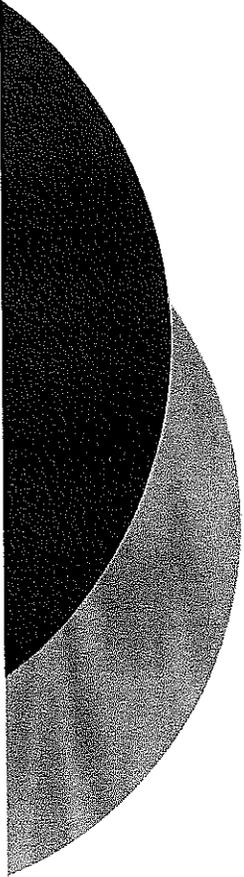
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## ○ Reviews

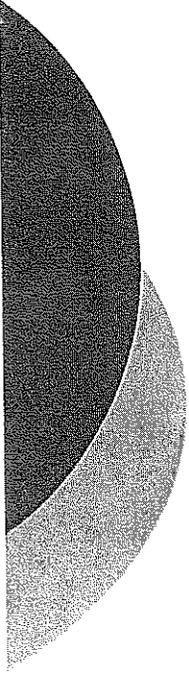
- Formal reviews conducted Q2 2011, Q1 2012 (one in partnership with the Court Monitor)
- Another formal review is currently underway
- Cohorts of children followed after closures

## ○ Major Findings

- Between 30-40% of the children who left congregate settings were discharged entirely from DCF care
- Majority of the children who remained in care did not experience a placement change within 6 months of exit from their congregate setting



# Expanding Community-Based Services



## Expanding Community Based Services

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- PA 13-178
- 2014 federal grant awards
  - \$9M in new fed grant funds effective October 1
- Social Impact Bond

# Elm City Project Launch (ECPL)

Grant	SAMHSA Project Launch
Award Details	\$4M over 5 years
PDOC	Michael Williams
Region(s)	Region 2/City of New Haven
Target population	ECPL will address the physical, social, emotional, cognitive and behavioral aspects of the development of young children in New Haven from birth to 8 years.
Summary	The ECPL project will use a public health approach to promote prevention, early identification and intervention of children's behavioral health needs. This 5-year initiative will focus on developing, implementing and studying the effectiveness of an integrated and collaborative health and mental health service system for children 0-8 and their families in targeted areas of New Haven.
Operational Strategies Impacted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieving and sustaining the 22 Juan F. Outcome Measures</li> <li>• 90% families served in community-based settings</li> <li>• Establishing comprehensive and integrated regional networks of care that adequately address the behavioral health needs of children</li> </ul>

# CONNECT Congregate Care Reduction & Diversion

## Grant

**SAMHSA System of Care Implementation**

## Award Details

\$4M over 4 years

## PDOC

Tim Marshall

## Region(s)

TBD

## Target Population

Children and youth with unmet behavioral health needs.

## Summary

The CONNECT Planning Grant awarded in 2013 enabled our state to develop the strategies and infrastructure necessary to build a more comprehensive, integrated system. Phase II funding will focus on implementing an integrated statewide

Network of Care (NOC) through four primary goals:

- 1) Implement and sustain the youth and family driven local, regional, and statewide infrastructure for the integrated NOC;
- 2) Implement and sustain a youth-guided, family-driven, and culturally responsive approach to statewide NOC expansion and

## Operational Strategies Impacted

- Achieving and sustaining the 22 Juan F. Outcome Measures
- 90% families served in community-based settings
- Establishing comprehensive and integrated regional networks of care that adequately address the behavioral health needs of children

# Connecticut HART Project

<b>Grant</b>	<b>ACF Combat Trafficking in CW</b>
Award Details	\$1M over 5 years (subject to annual renewal)
PDOC	Tammy Sneed
Region(s)	Statewide
Target Population	All children identified either as trafficking victims, or at high risk for being trafficked or commercially exploited.
Summary	<p>The project will focus on conducting an in-depth analysis of its Human Trafficking Response System and seek to accomplish 4 goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Conduct a needs assessment to determine gaps in service and services in need of replication and/or enhancement within the current response system;</li><li>2) develop inter- and intra-agency collaborations and infrastructures needed to enhance, expand and sustain delivery of service to victims in DCF care, victims who have aged or opted out of care, or victims living with a parent or guardian at the time of referral;</li><li>3) develop a data collection and reporting system to identify data trends to support improved identification and understanding of risk</li></ol>
Operational Strategies Impacted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Achieving and sustaining the 22 Juan F. Outcome Measures</li><li>• 90% families served in community-based settings</li><li>• Establishing comprehensive and integrated regional networks of care that adequately address the behavioral health needs of children</li></ul>

# DCF Social Impact Bond (SIB)

<b>Project</b>	<b>SIB to expand substance use interventions and supports for DCF clients</b>
Award Details	Funding TBD Project expected to result in scaling up of services in 2015
PDOC	Mary Painter
Region(s)	TBD
Target Population	Parents and Caregivers Adolescents
Summary	The SIB project will expand substance use services and aftercare supports through a 2-phase implementation to expand treatment and recovery supports for: 1) Parents and caregivers 2) Adolescents who are in foster care or juvenile justice involved
Operational Strategies Impacted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Achieving and sustaining the 22 Juan F. Outcome Measures</li><li>• 90% families served in community-based settings</li><li>• Sound fiscal management</li></ul>