

Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee

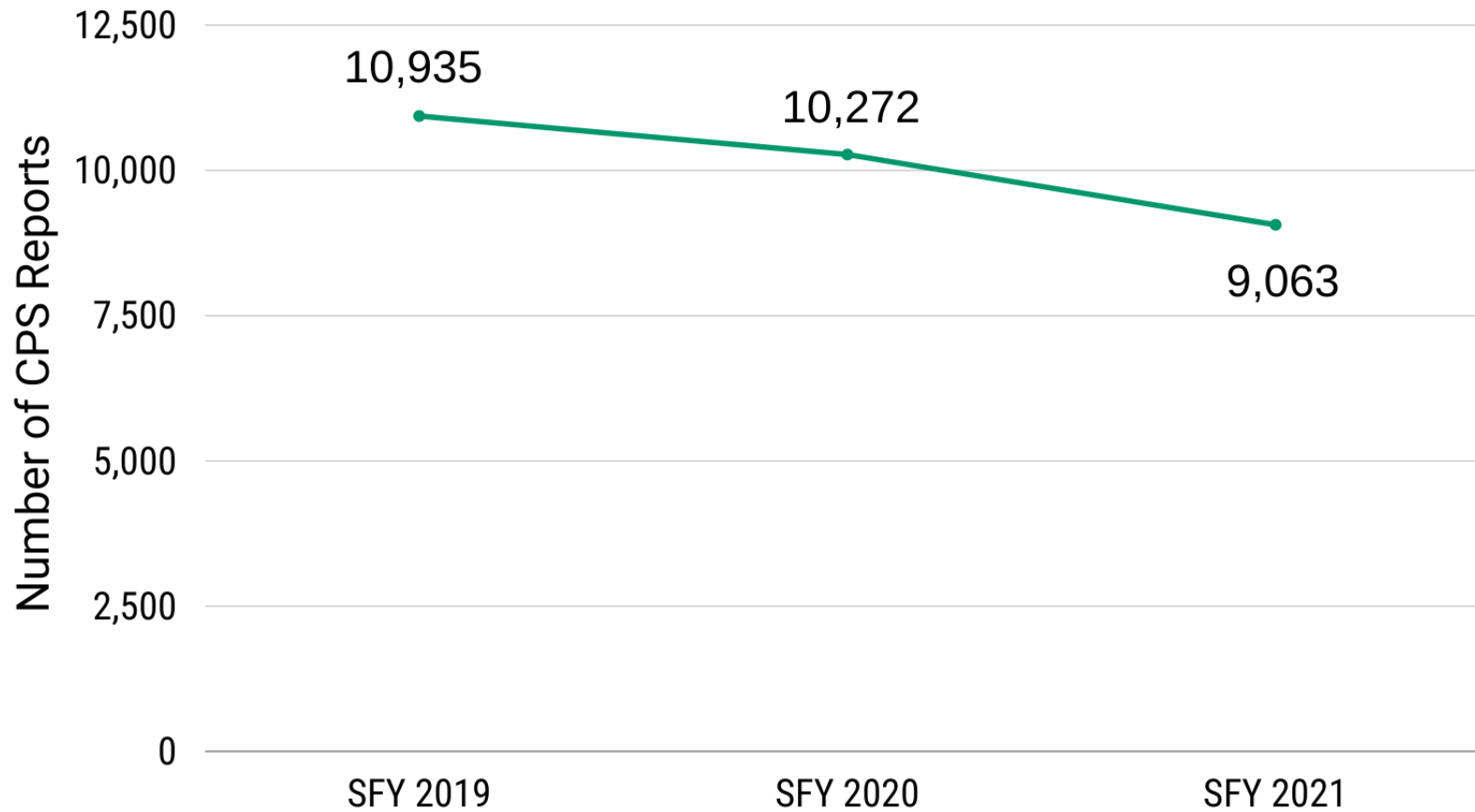
March 15, 2022

Child and Family Services Division Presentation HJR45

Erica Johnston, Executive Director, DPHHS
Nikki Grossberg, Acting Administrator, CFSD
Karen Kane, Supervising Attorney, Child Protection Unit, DOJ

Child and Family Services Division

Number of CPS Reports

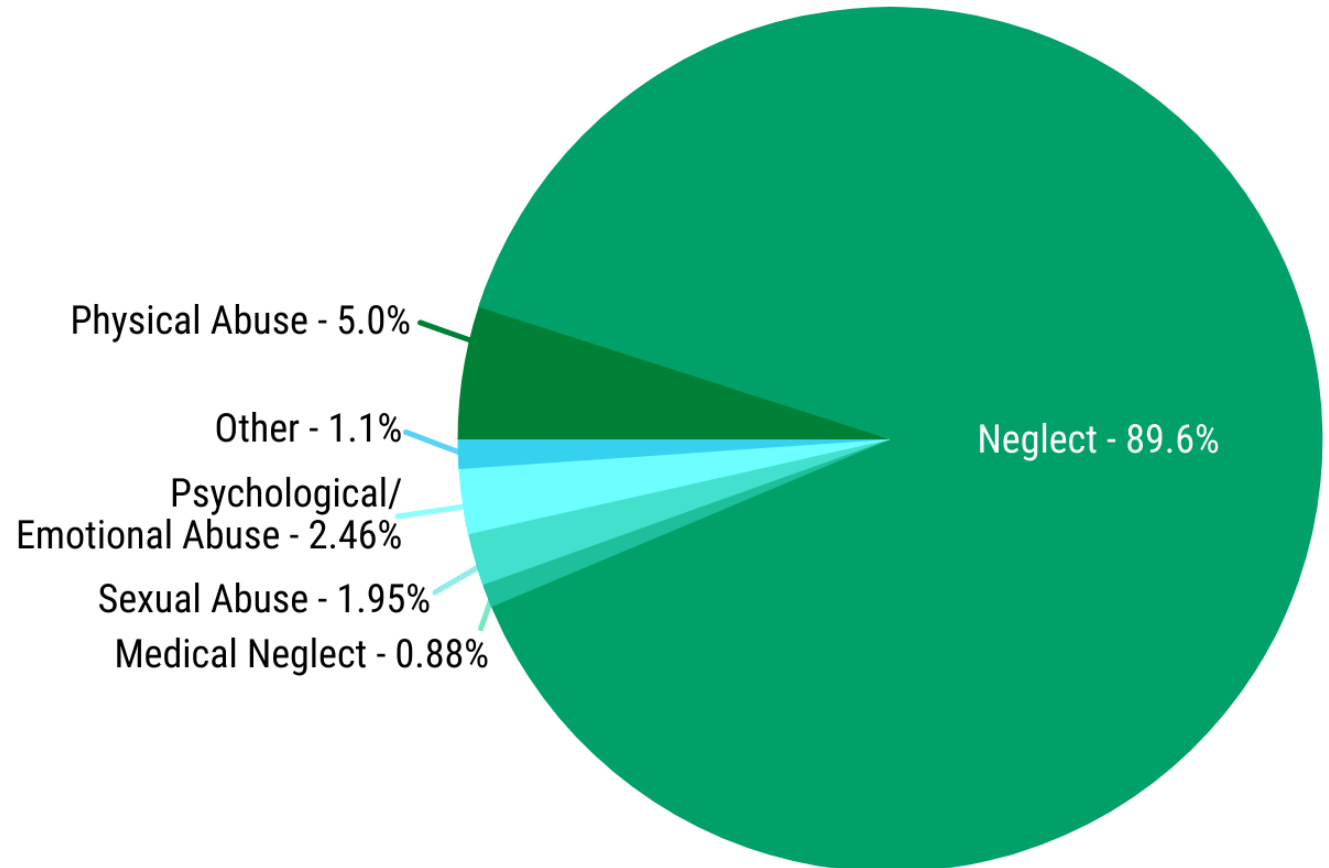


Child and Family Services Division

Types of Allegations

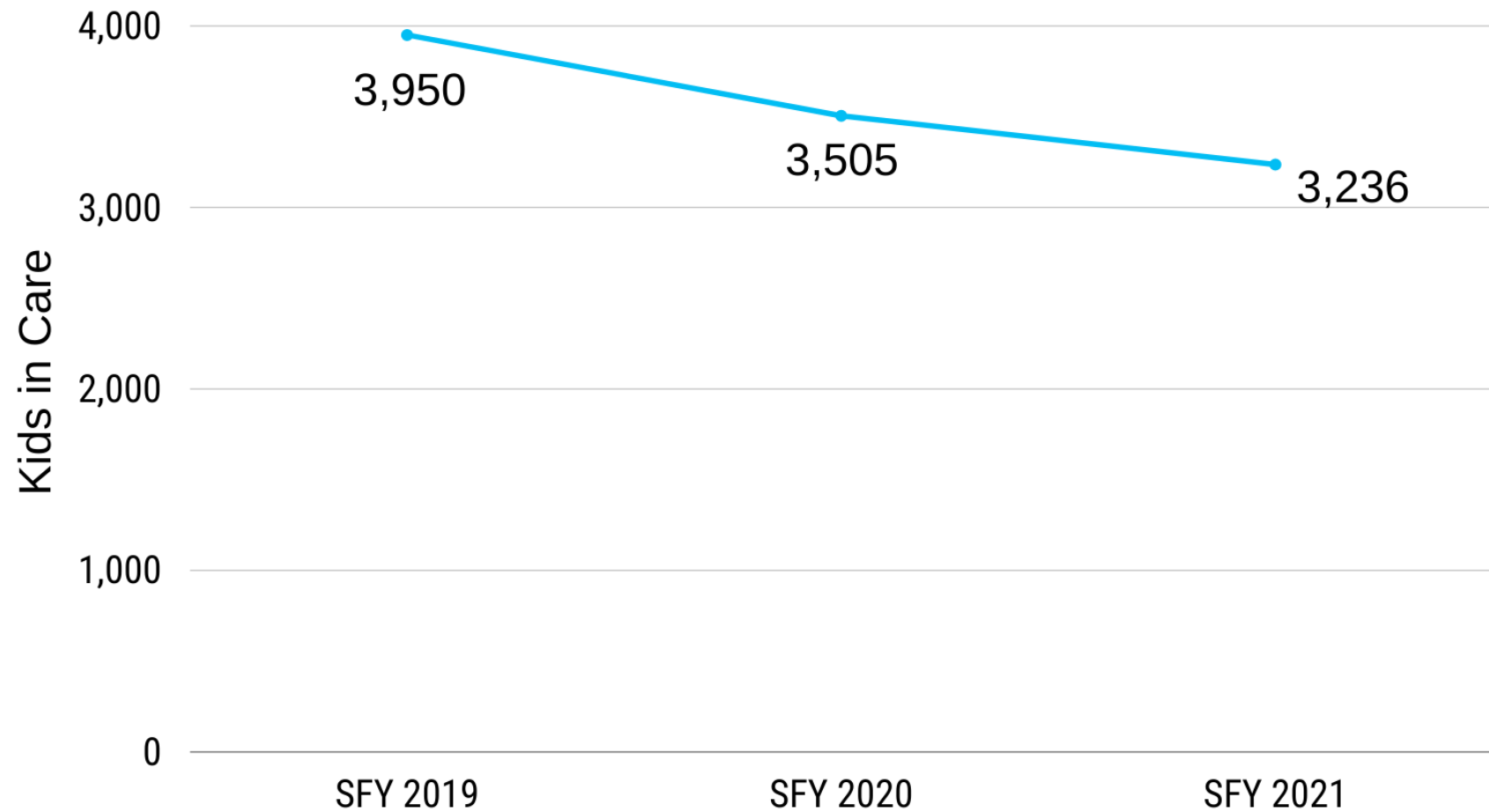
State Fiscal Year 2021

Type of Allegation	SFY 18	SFY 19	SFY 20	SFY 21
Neglect	92.36%	91.08%	90.91%	89.60%
Physical Abuse	3.08%	4.44%	4.61%	5.00%
Psychological/ Emotional Abuse	1.61%	1.61%	1.73%	2.46%
Sexual Abuse	1.88%	1.72%	1.68%	1.95%
Medical Neglect	1.06%	1.11%	0.99%	0.88%
Other	0.04%	0.04%	0.08%	1.10%



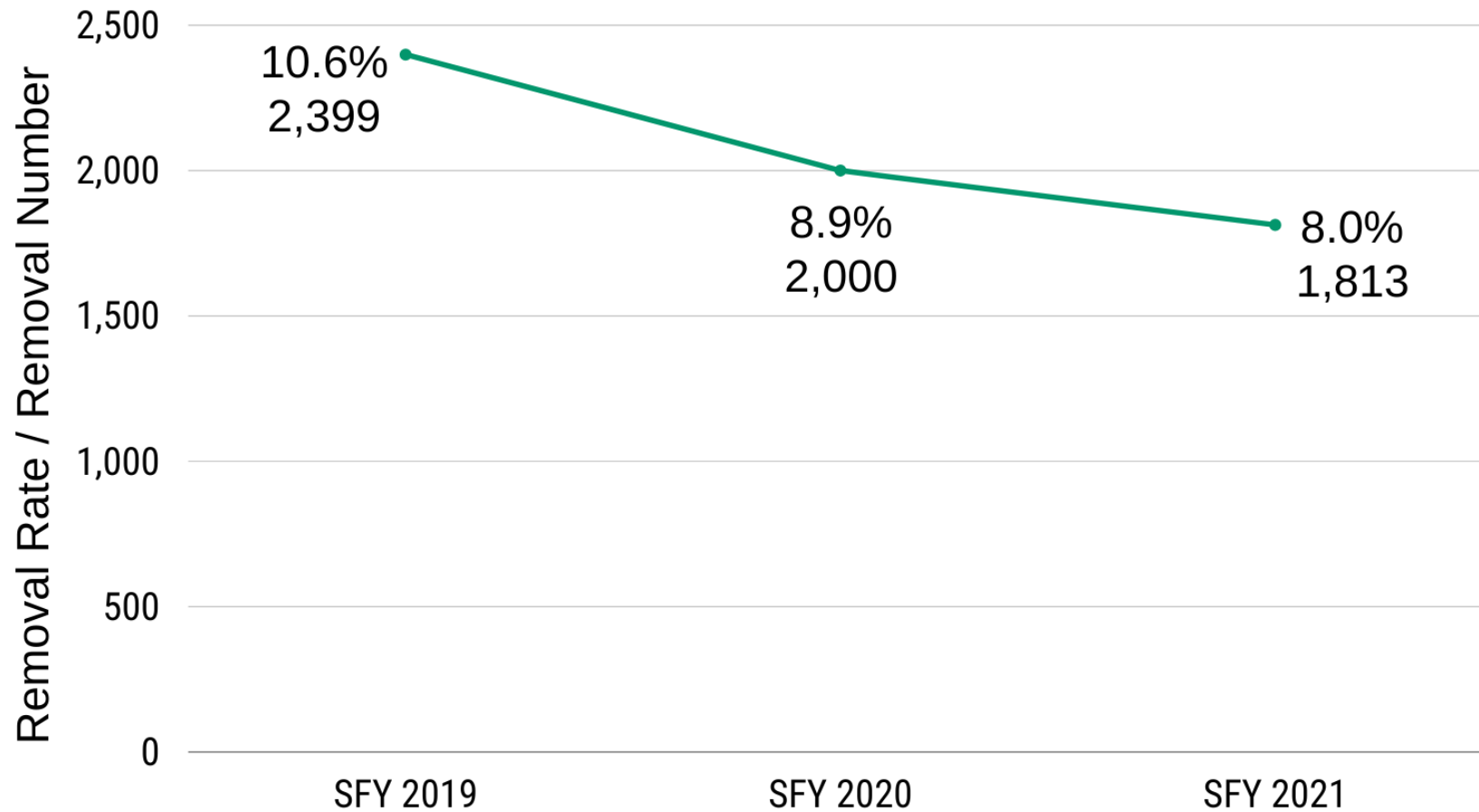
Child and Family Services Division

Kids in Care



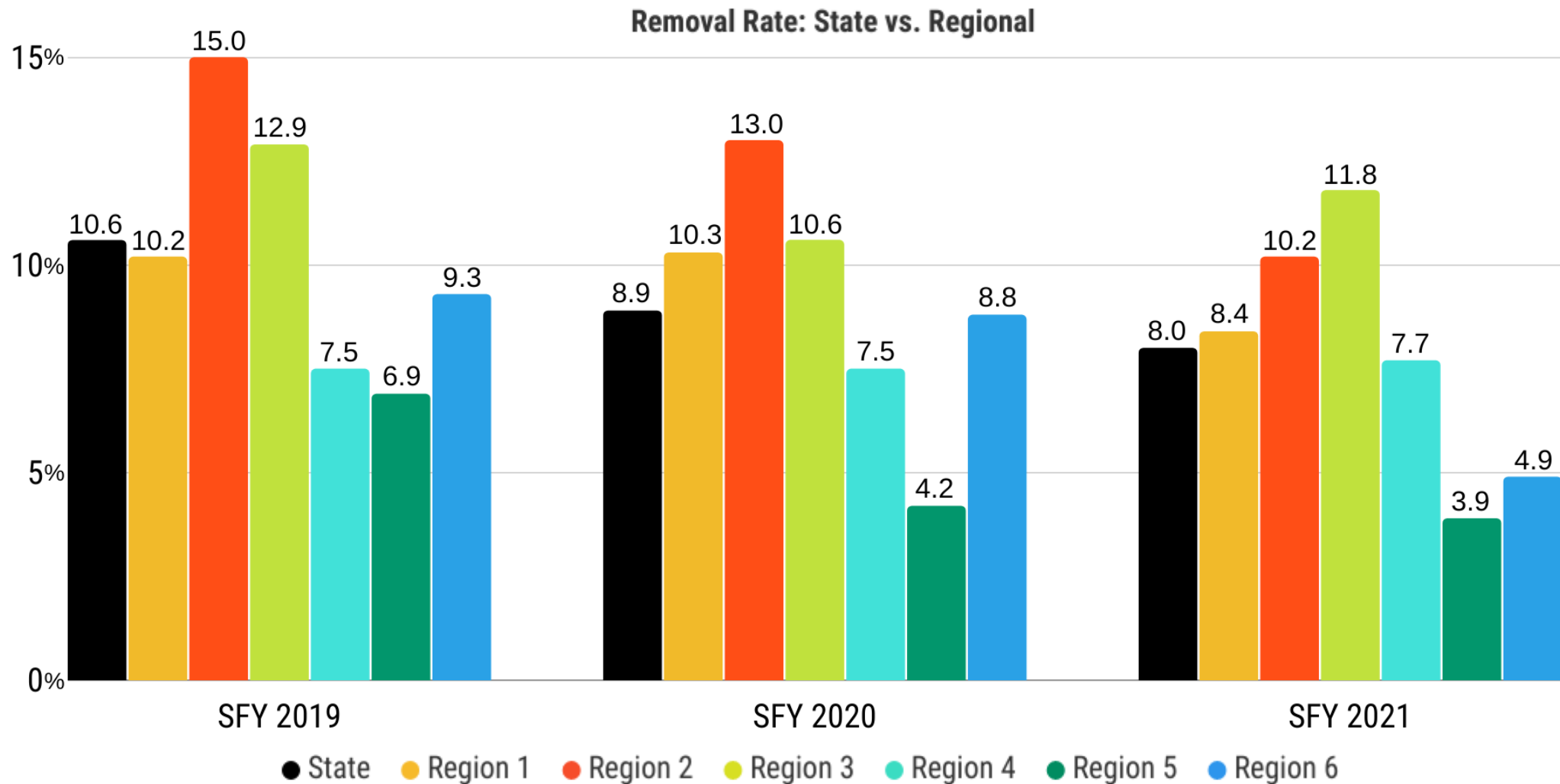
Child and Family Services Division

Removal Rate / Removal Number



Child and Family Services Division

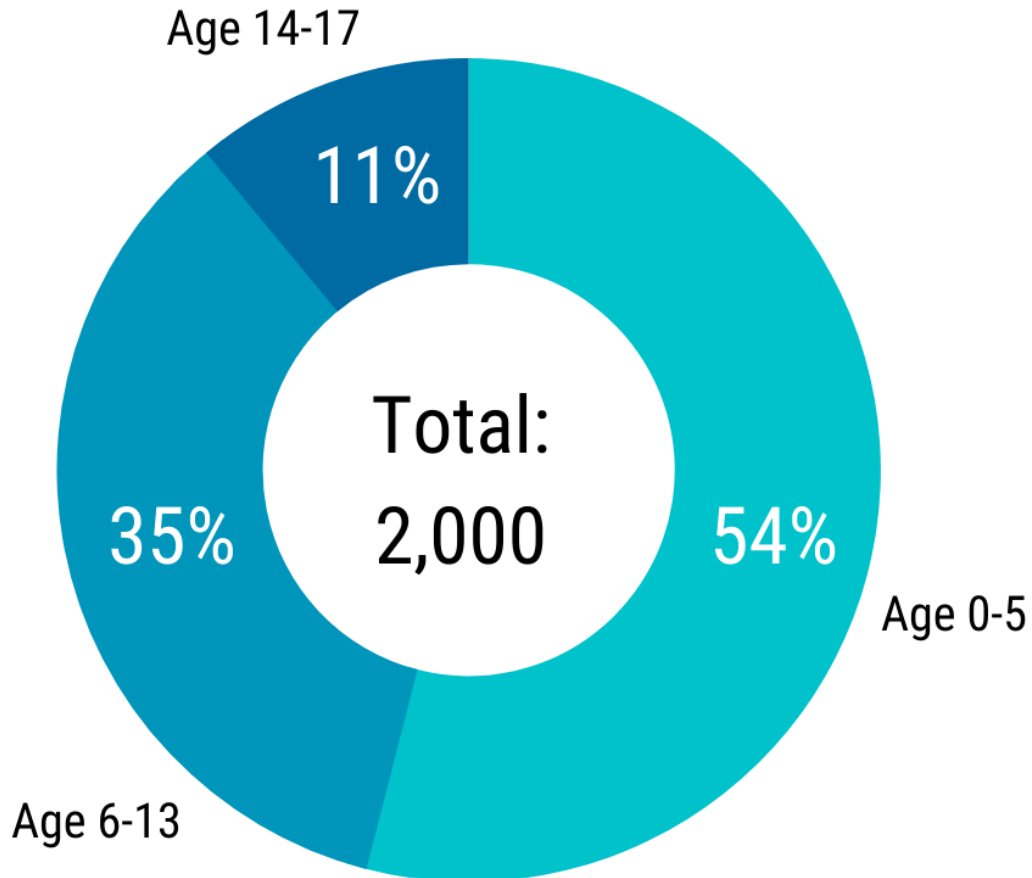
State and Regional Removal Rates



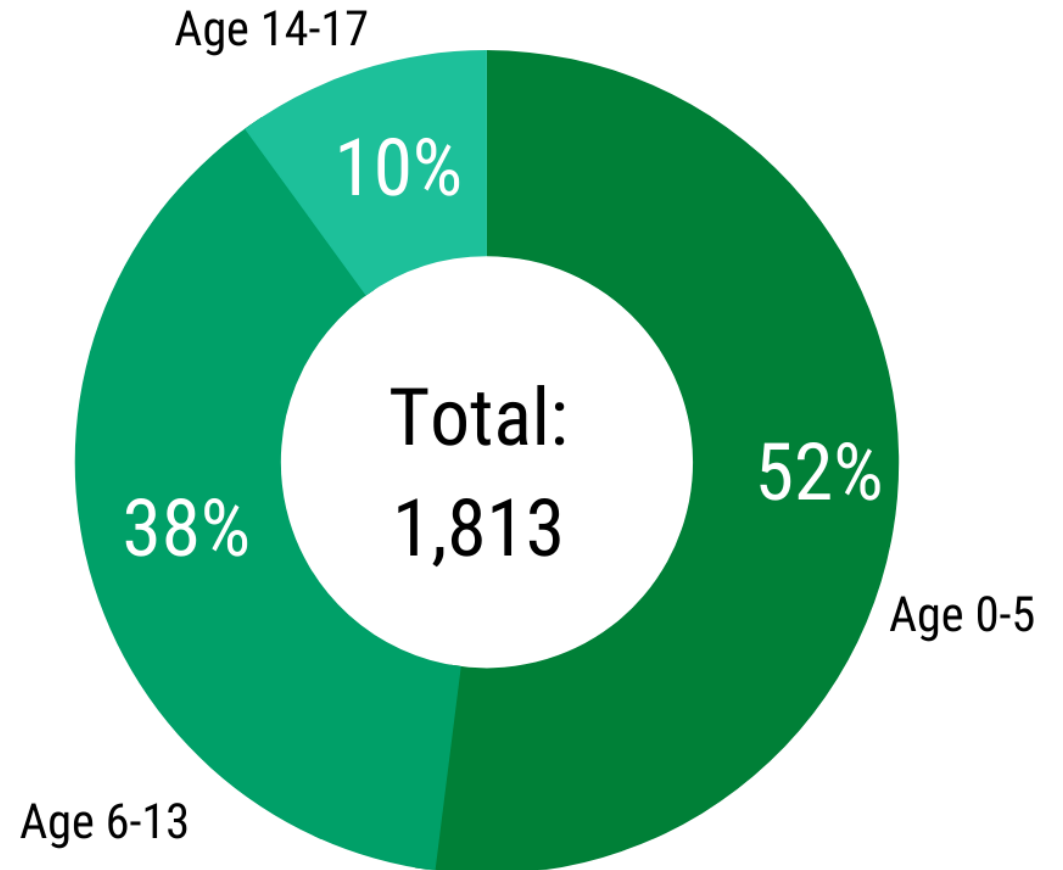
Child and Family Services Division

Number of Children Removed by Age

State Fiscal Year 2020



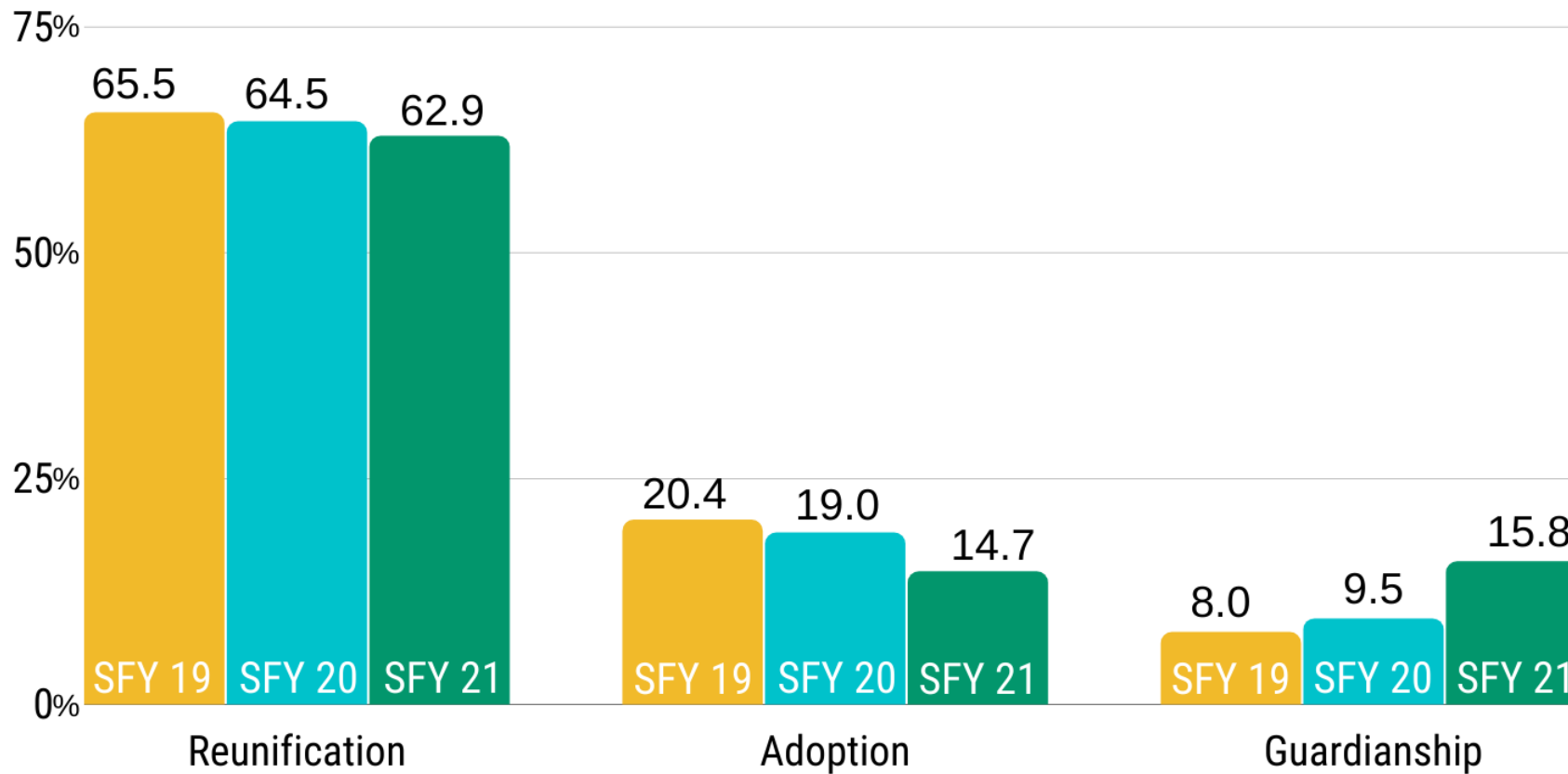
State Fiscal Year 2021



Child and Family Services Division

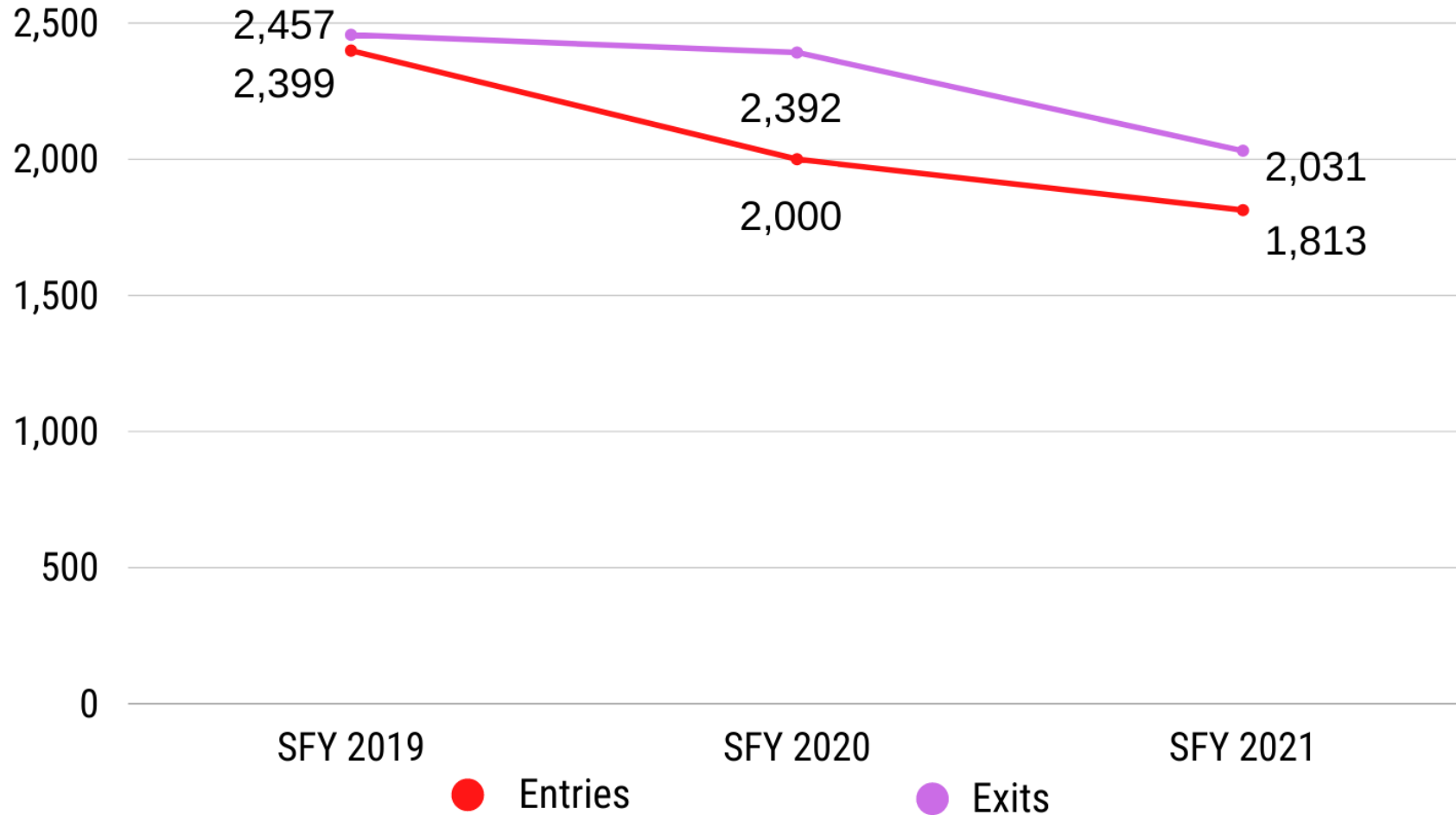
Permanency Outcomes

Permanency Outcomes



Child and Family Services Division

Exits and Entries



Understanding the CPS Role with Children and Families

- Safety is the top priority
 - Safety of children is kept at the forefront of all decisions
- Entire child welfare system engages in this process
 - Families, Attorneys, Judges, Providers, Family Supports
- Right children in foster care for the right amount of time
- Provide the right services at the right time
 - Working together with service providers, families and attorneys to ensure services are beneficial to families
 - Team Decision Making and Collaboration

Child and Family Services Division

Understanding the CPS Role with Children and Families

- Montana Child and Families Services Division (CFSD) receives reports of alleged Child Abuse and Neglect every day
 - All allegations must be made against a person responsible for a child's welfare in order to be assessed by CFSD
 - These persons include (41-3-102 MCA):
 - Parents, guardians, foster parent, adults who reside in the same home as the child, day-care providers, staff at residential facilities
 - All allegations must meet the statutory definitions for maltreatment in order to be assessed
 - Physical Abuse
 - Physical Neglect
 - Psychological Abuse or Neglect
 - Sexual Abuse

Centralized Intake

- **CPI- Child Protective Services Information**
 - Information reported about a family does not meet the criteria of potential risk of harm to a child. These requests require no follow-up activity, and no agency action.
- **CFS- Request for Services**
 - Information reported does not meet the criteria for child abuse or neglect by Montana state statute but requires a response due to a request for services.
- **CPS- Child Protective Services**
 - Information reported of suspected abuse and neglect meets the criteria to be investigated and is assigned a response time.

Report Priority

Priority One

- Requires in-person contact be made with the child(ren) who are alleged to be in immediate danger of abused and/or neglected or who are alleged to be at immediate danger of substantial risk of abuse and/or neglect within a time not to exceed 24 hours **from the date and time of the receipt of the report by Centralized Intake.**

Priority Two

- Requires in-person contact be made with the child(ren) who are alleged to be in an impending state of danger of abused and/or neglected or at who are alleged to be at substantial risk of abuse and/or neglect assigned to the report within a time not to exceed 72 hours **from the date and time of the receipt of the report by Centralized Intake.**

Priority Three

- Requires in-person contact be made with the child(ren) who are alleged to have been abused and/or neglected or at who are alleged to be at substantial risk of abuse and/or neglect report within a time not to exceed 10 days **from the date and time of the receipt of the report by Centralized Intake.**

Interview Protocol For Child Protection Services Reports

- Reporter
- Interview with identified child(ren)
- Interview with siblings
- Interview with both parents
- Collateral sources

Investigation Process

- **Immediate Danger Assessment**
 - Assessment of safety threats that are actively occurring or in process of occurring and will likely result in an actual or substantial risk of physical or psychological harm to the child.

Protection Plan

- **Protection Plans** (short term)
 - A plan that describes an immediate, short term, sufficient protective action(s) from identified safety threats in order to allow for completion of the Family Functioning Assessment.
 - In-home Protection Plans (60 days)
 - Out of home Protection Plans (30 days)
 - Parents must agree
 - ICWA – must be signed in front of Judge

Investigation Process

- **Family Functioning Assessment**
 - Wholistic assessment of the family including impending dangers, vulnerability of children and protective capacities of parents.
 - Impending Danger refers to a child in continuous state of danger due to parent/caregiver behaviors, attitudes, motives, emotions and/or situations posing a specific threat of actual or substantial risk of harm to a child.

Reunification

- **Safety Plan Determination**
 - Is there a homelike setting where the parent(s) and child(ren) live?
 - Is the home calm enough to allow safety service providers and activities to occur?
 - Is at least one parent willing to cooperate with the safety plan?
 - Are the necessary safety activities and resources available to implement the plan?
- **Conditions for Return**
 - Written statement of specific *behaviors, conditions, or circumstances* that must exist in the home before a child can safely return and remain in the home under an In-Home Safety Plan.
 - Essential for parent(s) to participate in the development of Conditions For Return.

Safety Plans

- **Safety Plans** (life of case)
 - In-home Safety Plan
 - A plan with safety services, actions and responses that assure a child can be kept safe in his/her home.
 - Out of home Safety Plan
 - A plan that depends primarily on a separation of the child from his/her home to separate from impending danger and caregivers who lack sufficient protective capacities.

Service Delivery

- **Prevention Plans**
 - In-home Safety Plan
 - Safety Plan Determination met
 - Parents agree and are engaged with services
- **Court Ordered Treatment Plans**
 - Out of home Safety Plan
 - Conditions for Return are not met
 - Parents are not engaged or need judicial oversight for continued engagement

Engagement in Services to Create Behavior Change

Legal Process

Permanency Outcomes

- Reunification
- Adoption
- Guardianship
- Age Out

Child and Family Services Division

Successful Child Welfare System

- Right children in foster care for the right amount of time
- Increase use of community prevention services
- Data-driven decision making
- System approach to improvement
- Communication and engagement
- Increase knowledge and reduced bias/ stigma around substance use disorders
- Safely reduce number of children in foster care
- Reduce number of child fatalities caused by abuse or neglect
- Resilient child welfare workforce