



# HB1012 Overview – Children & Family Svc

House Appropriations | Human Resources Division  
Representative Jon Nelson, Chairman

---

January 30, 2025, Cory Pedersen | Director, Children & Family Services Section

NORTH  
**Dakota**  
Be Legendary.

Health & Human Services

# CFS Program Purpose and ND Century Code Reference(s)

Facilitate delivery of services that support child safety, child permanency, and well-being, which together are designed to prevent and reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect and support family reunification and stability whenever possible.

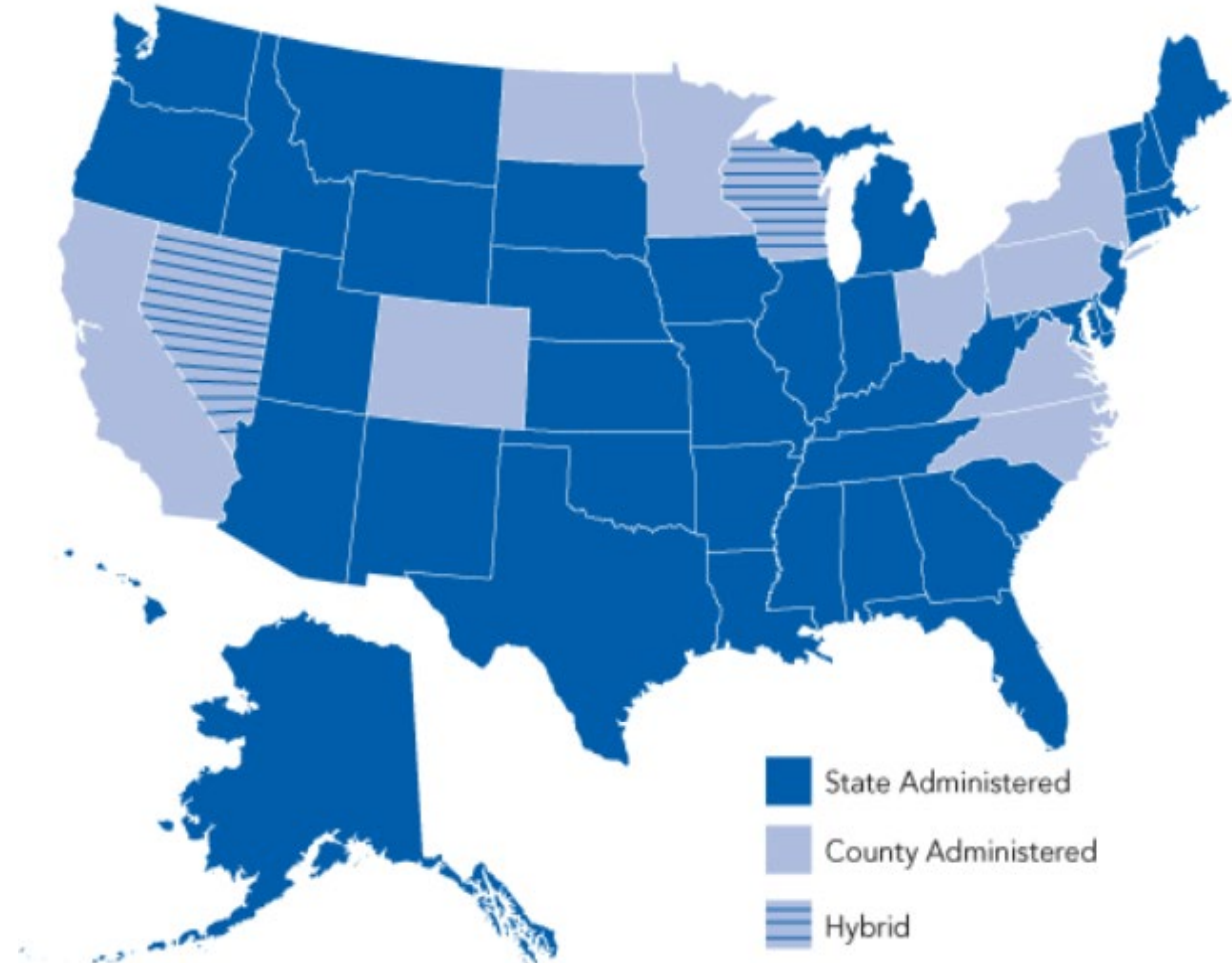
Chapter	Chapter Name
50-25.1	Child Abuse and Neglect
50-11	Foster Care
14-15	Adoption for Children
27-20.3	Children in Need of Services (CHINS)





# Administrative Structure for Child Welfare

- All States are responsible for compliance with Federal and State requirements; however, they may differ in the way child welfare services are operated and delivered.
- Client Serving Child Welfare Functions in ND are delivered by Human Service Zones
  - Hotline to report suspected abuse or neglect
  - Screening and determining need for response
  - Conducting assessments
  - Safety/risk and family functioning assessments
  - Assigning cases to response track



Source: "State vs. County Administration of Child Welfare Services", Fact Sheet from Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2018.



# ND Child Welfare System Mission: Safe Children and Strong Families

## Safety

### Protection

- Child protection services
- Safe Planning with Families
- Shelter Care
- Foster Care
- Child fatality review panel

## Prevention

- Parent Resource Centers
- Home Visiting Services
- Behavioral Health & Substance Abuse Services
- In-home Service
- IV-E Prevention Services
- Kinship ND

## Permanency

- Family Reunification
- Adoption
- Guardianships
- Interstate compacts for the placement of children
- Independent living services
- Licensing for Foster homes, QRTPs and LCPAs

## Well-being

- Family preservation services
- In-home case management
- Children in Need of Services
- Respite care
- Nurturing Parent programs
- Parent aides
- ICWA Family Preservationist (IFP)
- Family centered engagement

# The Child Welfare System in North Dakota includes both public and private sector partners



- **627** children receiving **prevention** service through FFPSA
- Serving over **950** approved **kinship caregivers** who are caring for **1,700 children**
- **750** licensed **foster providers** caring for **1,170 children**
- **36** licensed Qualified Residential Treatment Program (**QRTP**) beds available; 75% average utilization rate
- **0 children in out of state placements**



# North Dakota Child Welfare System

## Dept of Health & Human Services

### Human Service Centers

- Crisis teams
- Intensive In-home services (therapy & treatment, skills training, behavior mod)
- Targeted case management
- FFT/MSFT

### Children & Family Services

- Training/coaching of field staff
- Oversee quality service and system delivery
- Administration of policy
- License foster homes
- IV-E and Adoption Eligibility

## Private Providers

- Foster homes, including therapeutic foster care
- Safe shelter for crisis
- Human trafficking supports
- Targeted case management
- Adoption services for children in foster care and the families adopting them
- Title IV-E Prevention Services

## Tribal Social Services

- FRAME entry and foster eligibility determinations
- Joint practice model and ICWA training
- Native American Training Institute supports (training, billing, IEP (ICWA Family Preservation))
- FMAP service contracting
- IV-E agreements boost access to funding

## Human Service Zones

- Assess present and impending danger
- Safety planning
- Case management
- Assess and build parent capacities
- Provide safe supports for children and families
- In home supports
- Parent aides
- Recruitment and Retention
- Intake for child abuse and neglect reports
- CHINS (Children in Need of Services)

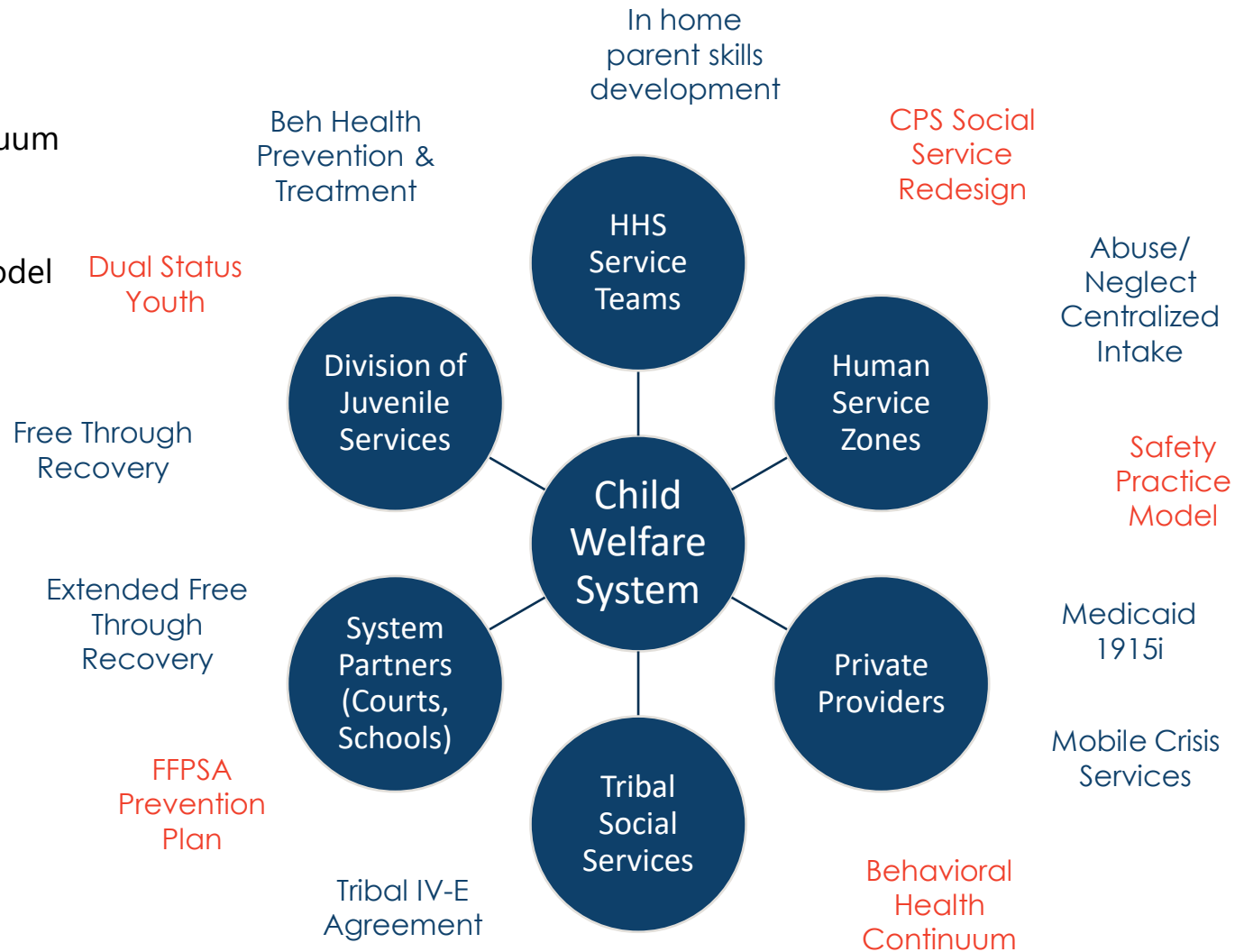
## Division of Juvenile Services (DJS)

CFS works closely with DJS specific to children in need of out of home treatment, which results in a foster care placement.

# Helping keep kids with their families is a massive undertaking that requires Multi-System Change over a period of years

## Strategy

Dual Status Youth  
 Behavioral Health Continuum  
 FFPSA Prevention  
 Social Svc Redesign  
 Child Welfare Practice Model



## Services

Medicaid 1915i  
 Free Through Recovery  
 Community Connect  
 Mobile Crisis  
 Abuse/Neglect Intake  
 In-home parent skills dev  
 Beh Health Prev/Trtmnt  
 Tribal IV-E Agreement





## What's the Big Idea?

- ✓ Keep families **together** whenever possible
- ✓ Prioritize safety and family **reunification** **whenever possible**
- ✓ **Prevent** kids **from** ever **entering** the child welfare system



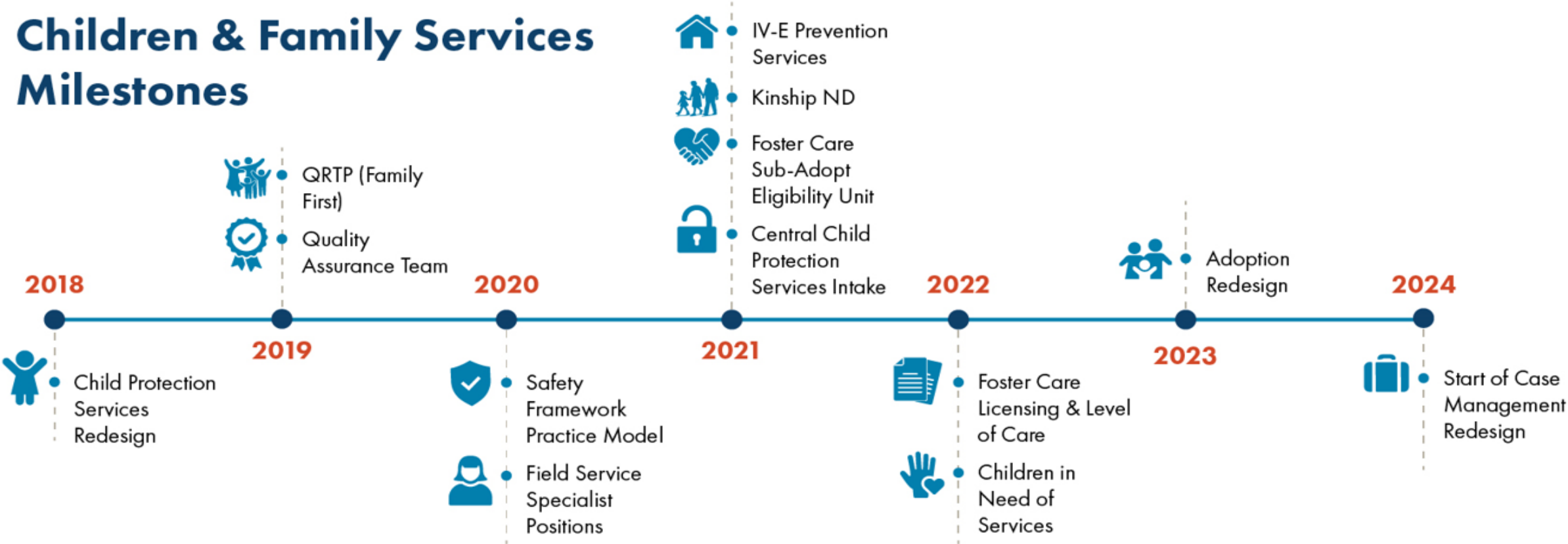


## In Child Welfare: What does “progress” look like?

- Reduce Foster Care Safely
- Reduce Institutional Placements
- Reduce Out of State Placements
- Reduce Substance Abuse as Abuse/Neglect factor
- Increase Kids receiving evidence-based supports
- Increase Kinship services

# North Dakota continues to make progress toward a more family-oriented system of care

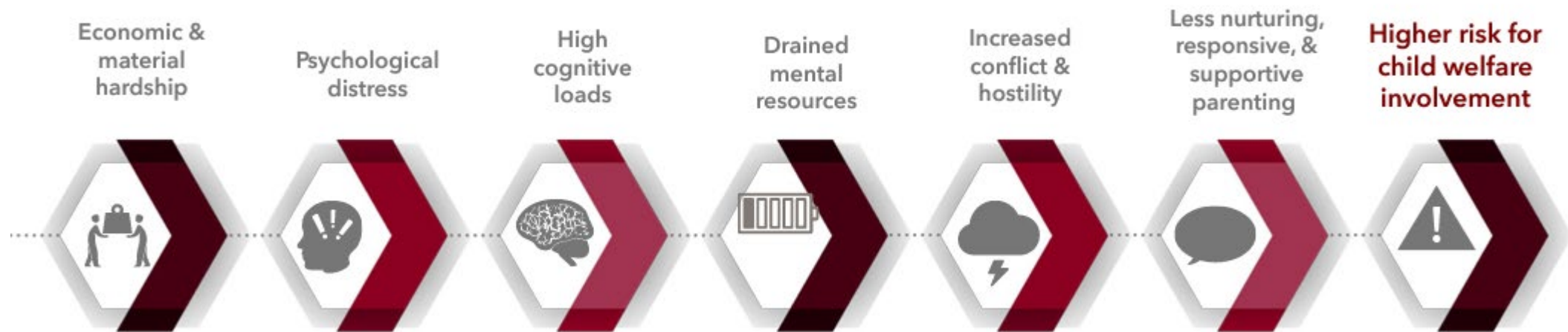
## Children & Family Services Milestones



Another frontier to explore

# How might economic and material hardship impact parenting and child wellbeing?

## Family Stress Model



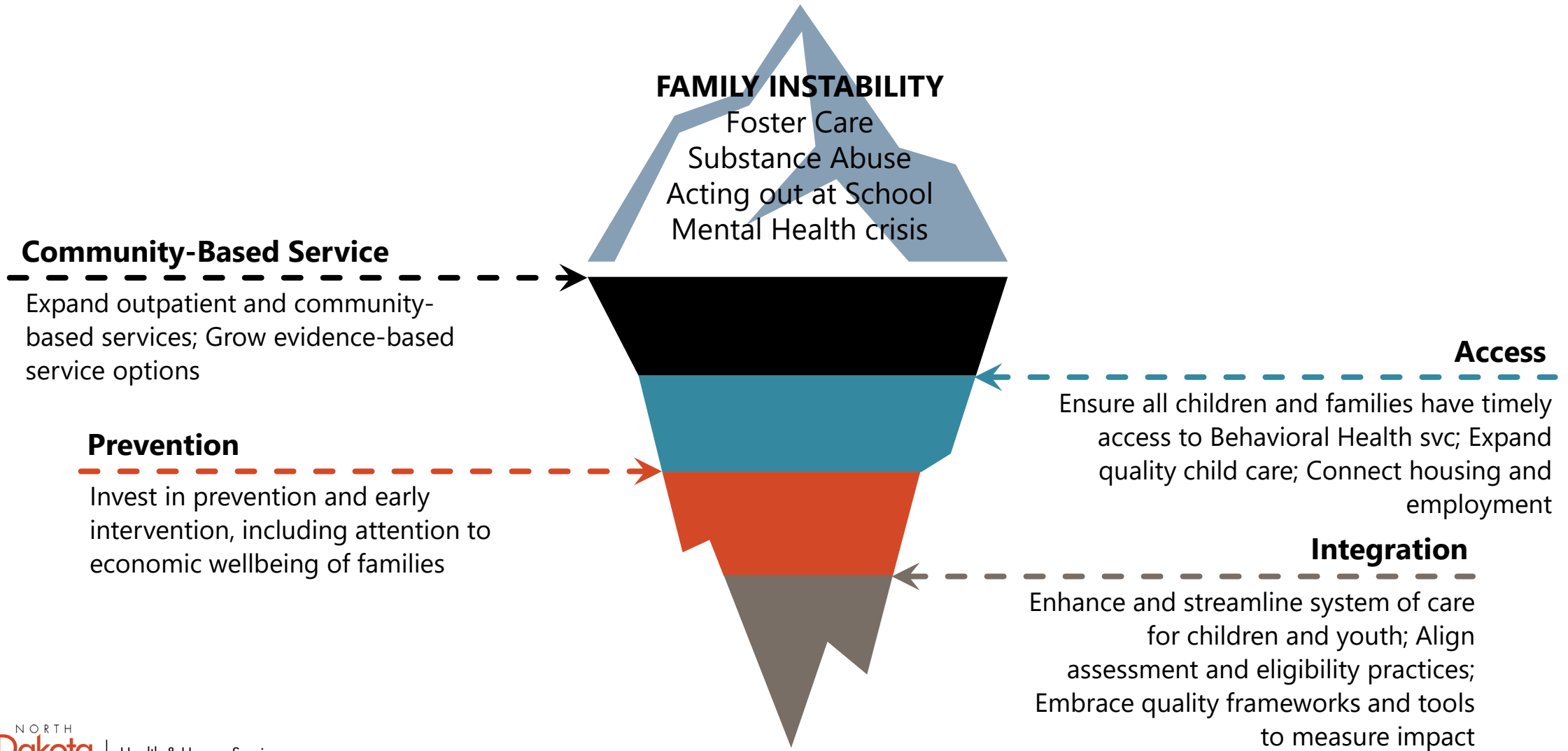
It's not that people who are struggling to make ends meet aren't well-qualified parents. It's that lack of financial resources creates stressors that make it more difficult to solve problems.



(Conger, 1994) (Neppl, 2016) (Duncan, 2014) (Mistry, 2002)



# Connecting what we see and what we need to do



# Opportunity for differentiated response to prevent crisis from spreading

## Most reliable economic predictors of child welfare involvement



(Conrad-Hiebner, 2020 systematic review)

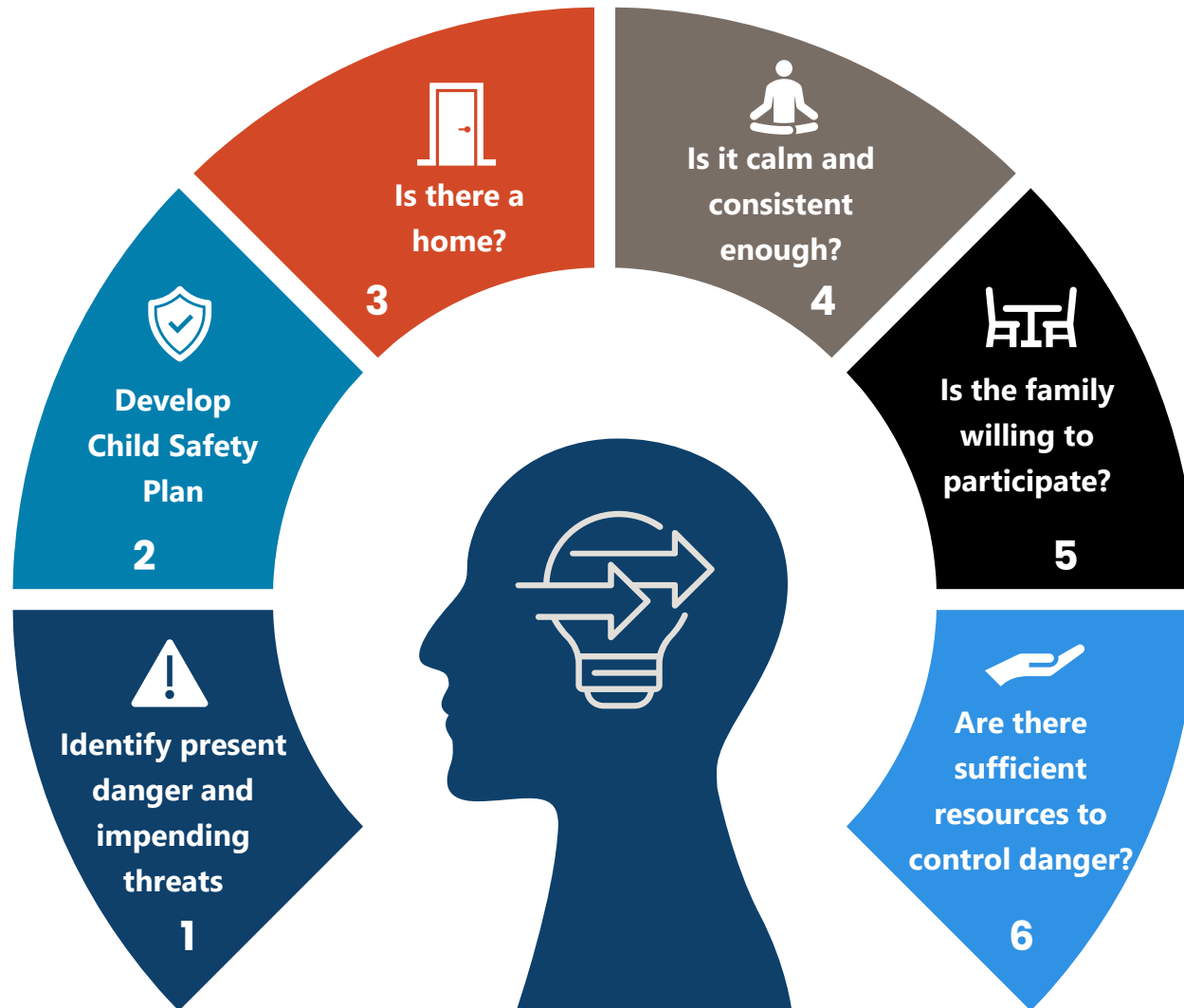
## Strongest predictors of investigated neglect reports



(Slack, 2011 cross-study comparison)

# What is Safety?

When can a child remain safely at home and when is removal necessary





# What is Safety?

When can a child remain safely at home and when is removal necessary

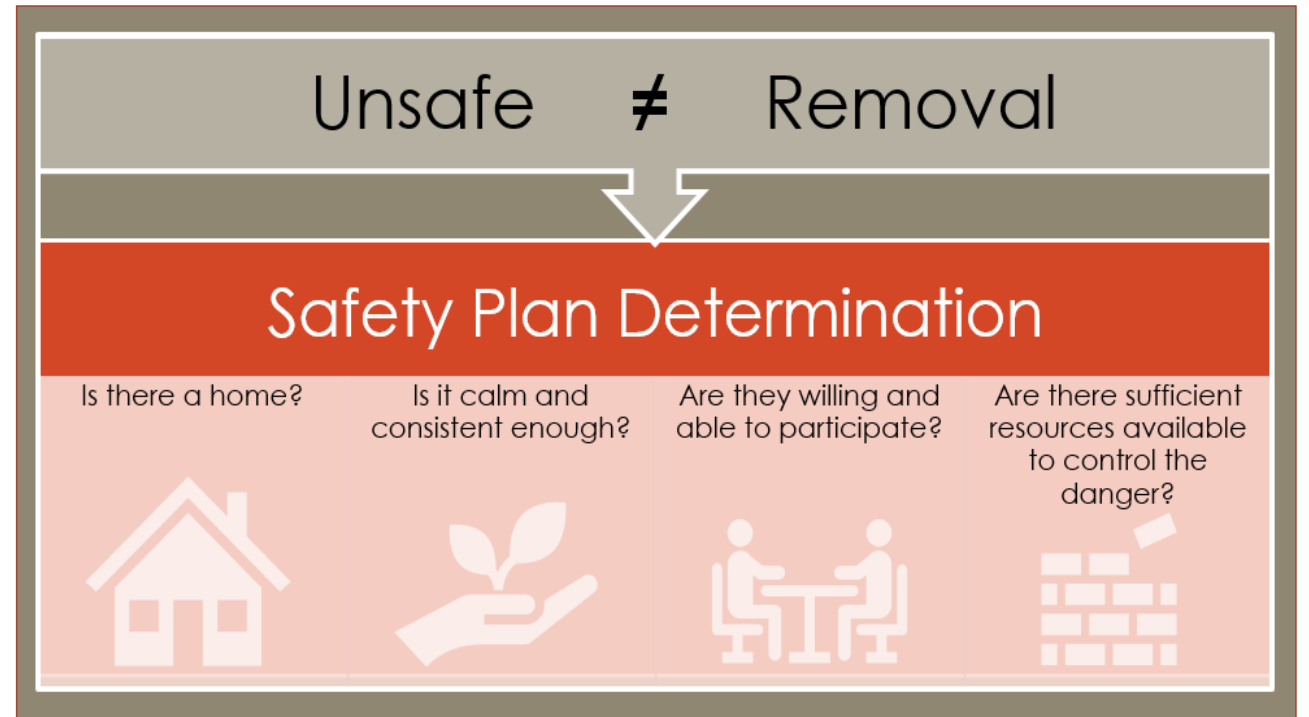
What does it look like when a child is:

**SAFE**

- ✓ No threats of danger exist within the family, **or**
- ✓ Parents/caregivers possess sufficient protective capacities to control any threat, **or**
- ✓ The child is not vulnerable to the existing danger.

**UNSAFE**

- ✓ Threats of danger exist within the family, **and**
- ✓ Children are vulnerable to such threats, **and**
- ✓ Parents/caregivers have insufficient protective capacities to manage or control the threats.



**IF ALL QUESTIONS ARE "YES" -**  
Child can remain in the home with necessary supports in place

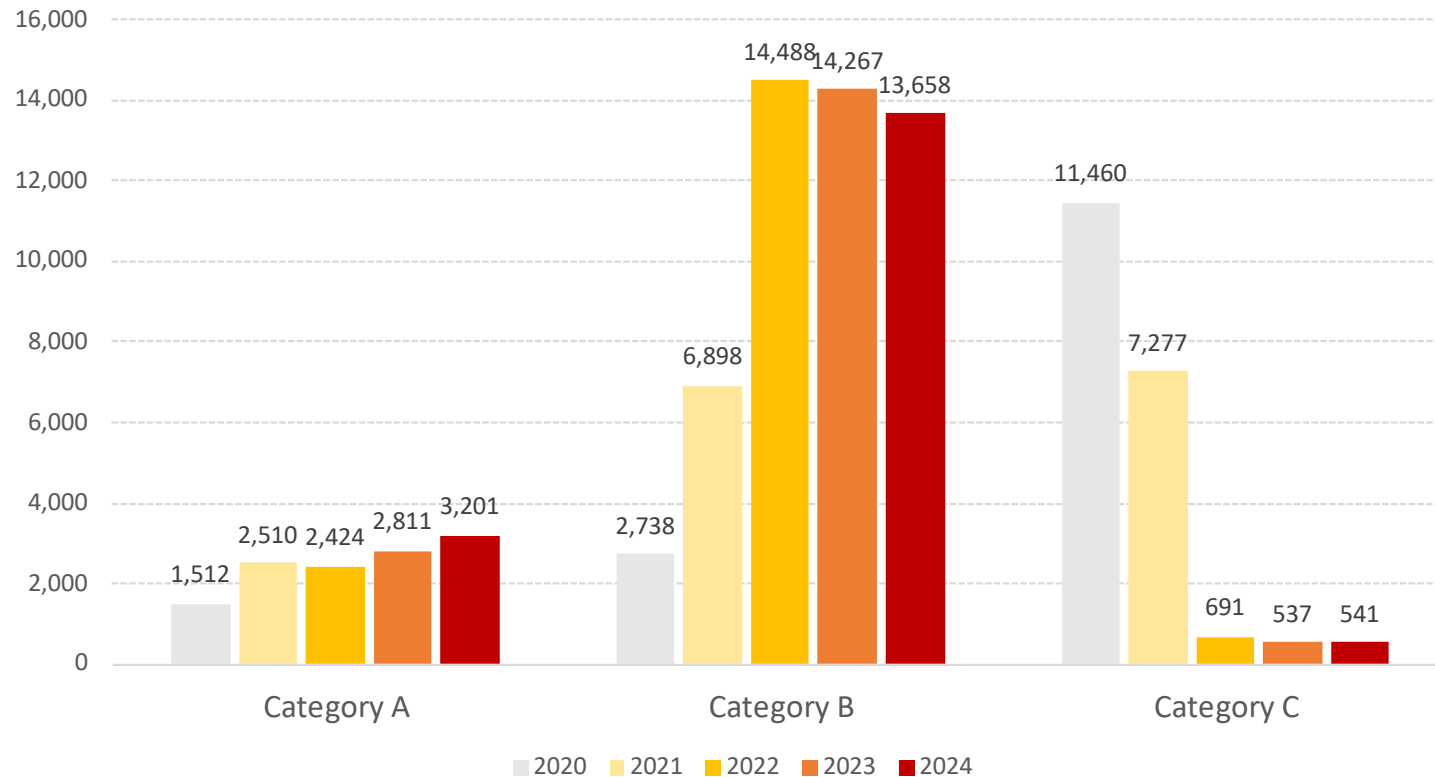


**IF ANY QUESTION IS "NO" -**  
Child safety not assured so removal is necessary

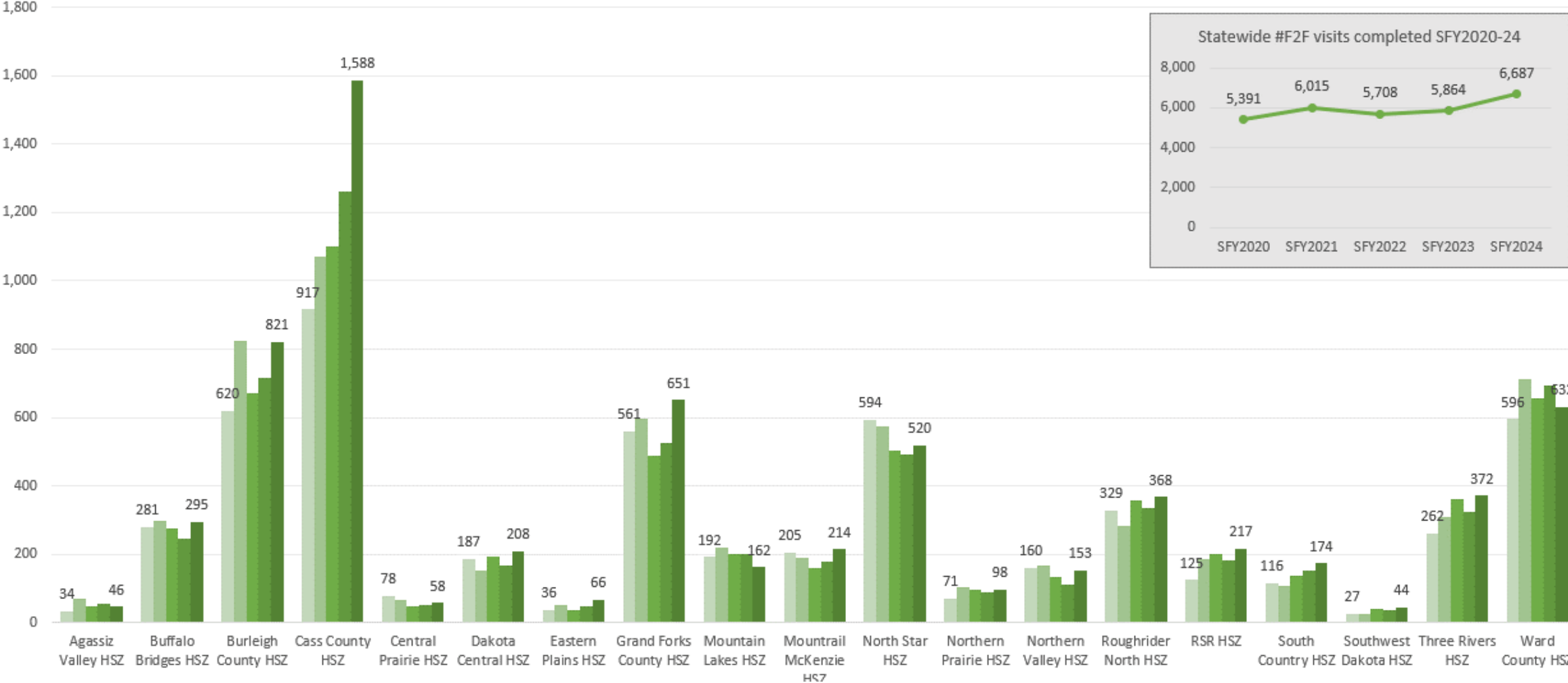
# HHS Operational Audit

## Finding 2023-03 | Children in suspected abuse situations not contacted timely

The Distribution of cases between Categories A, B and C has shifted with the adoption of a new child welfare practice model



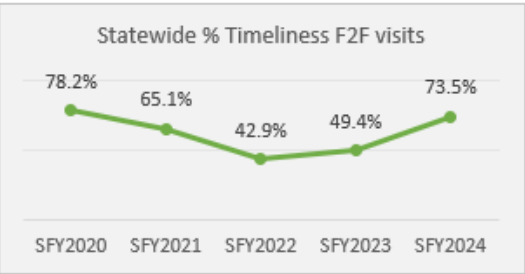
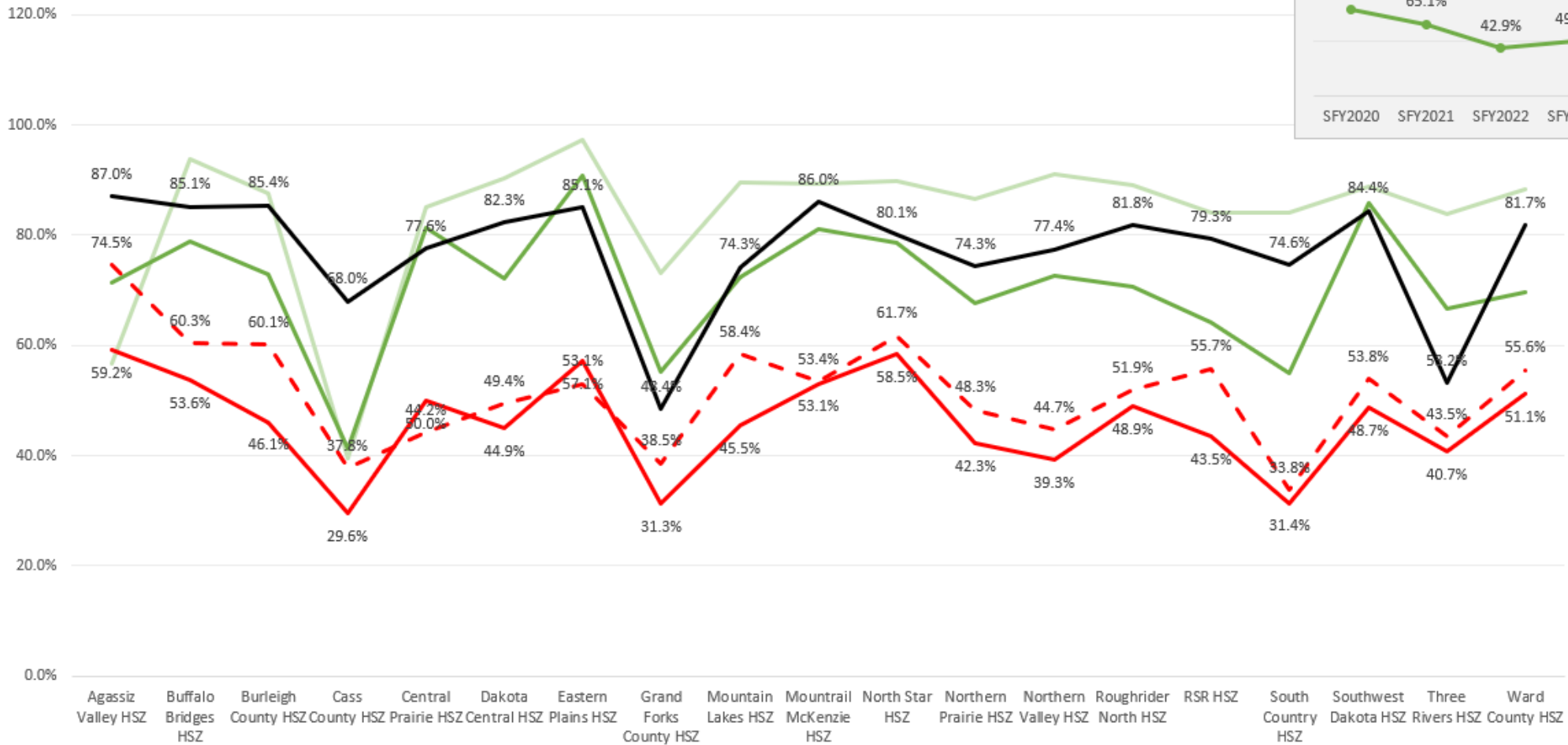
# Number of Face-to-Face visits completed by Zone from SFY 2020 – SFY 2024 increased by 24%





# Statewide timeliness rates for face to face CPS visits are highly influenced by large population centers

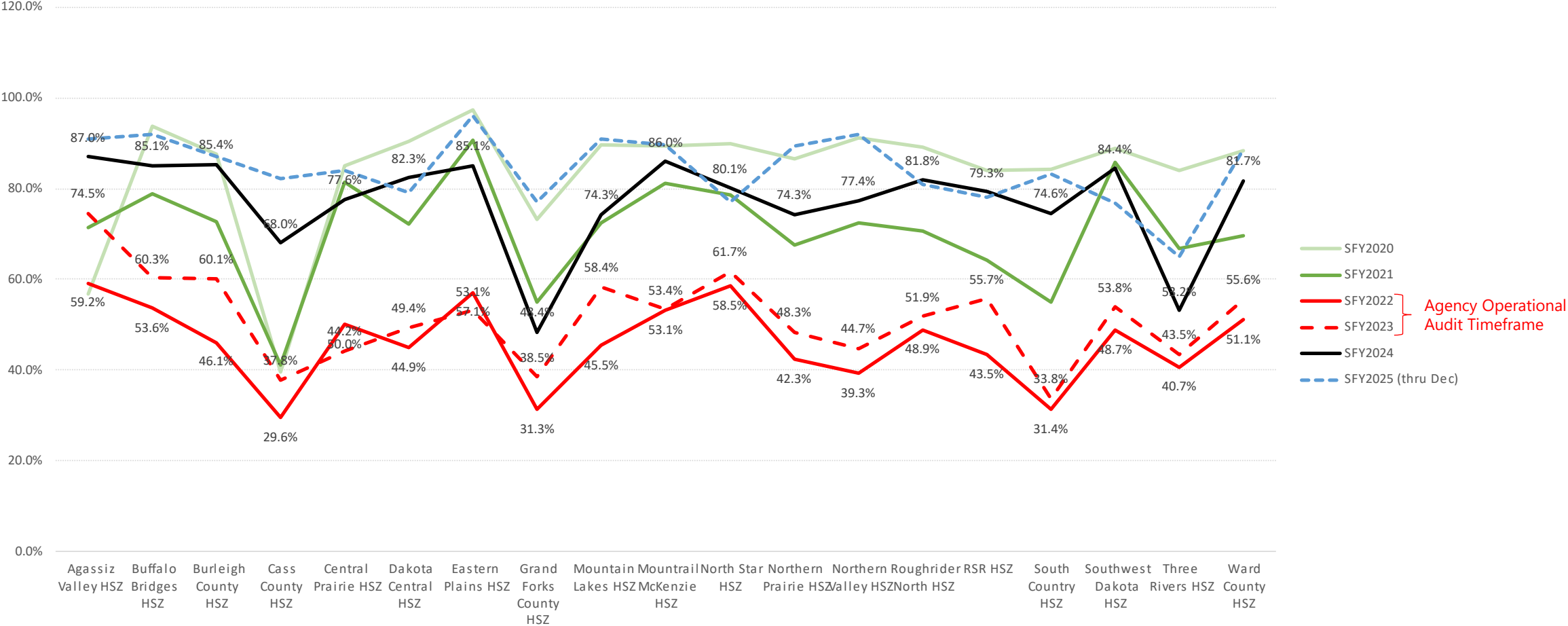
% Timely for Total Face to Face Visits completed by Zone from SFY2020 - SFY2024



SFY2020  
 SFY2021  
 SFY2022 } Agency Operational  
 SFY2023 } Audit Timeframe  
 SFY2024

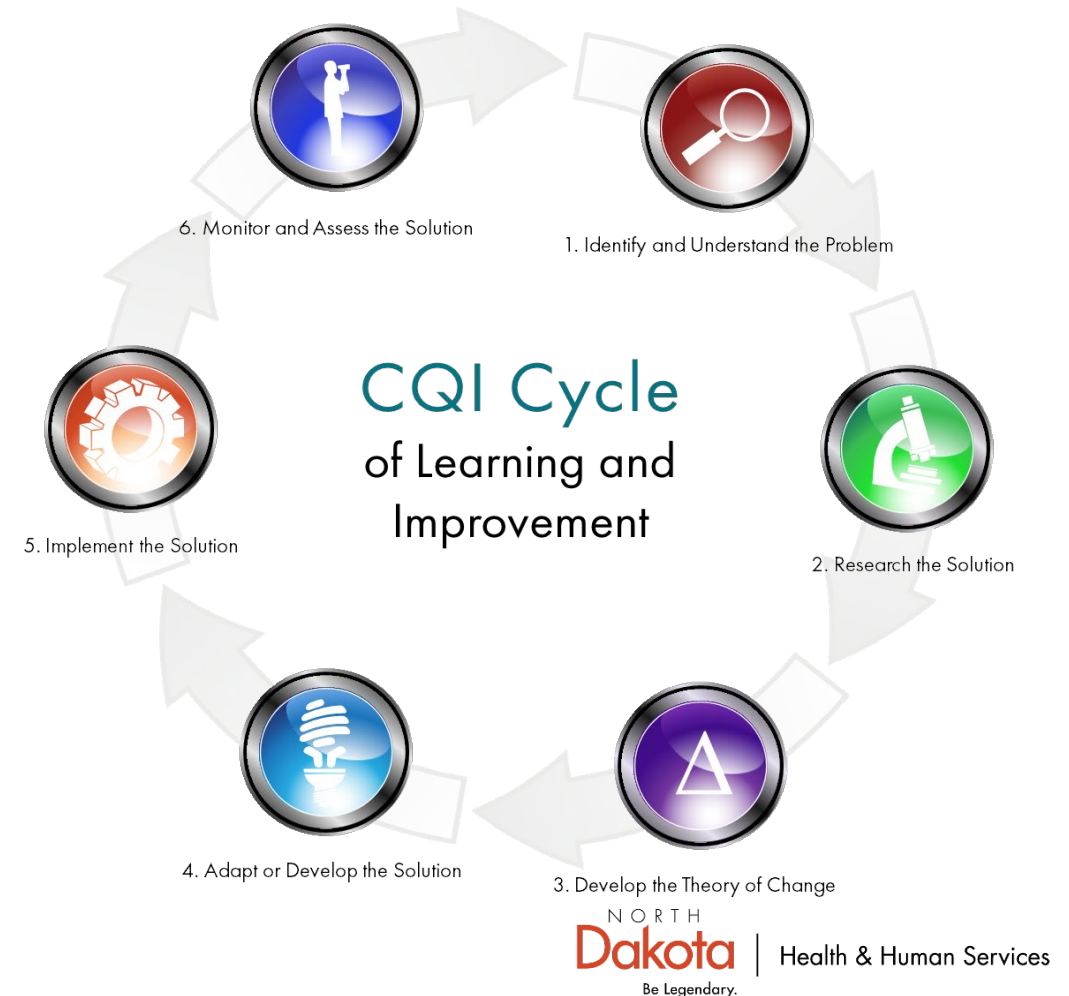
# The first few months of SFY2025 suggest that the positive trend toward stronger performance will continue

% Timely for Total Face to Face Visits completed by Zone  
from SFY2020- SFY2025 through December



# CFS Quality Assurance team conducts ongoing reviews for 7 outcome measures around safety, permanency and wellbeing of children

- Full review of 65 randomly selected cases every 6 months
- Reviewing for compliance with 7 federal outcome measures
- QA results shared with HSZs upon completion to help inform practice
- CQI Cross-Zonal teams take the results from the reviews and run through the CQI process



# Results of QA Reviews on Safety Outcome 1 (timeliness of face-to-face visits)

## Safety outcome 1: Timeliness to initiate a CPS response

Review period	# cases in sample	# that required a face-to-face visit (Measure 1 applicable)	Compliance with standard achieved
Jan 2020 - Mar 2020 (ND QA)	65	26	77%
Jun 2020 – Mar 2021 (ND QA)	65	32	40%
Oct 2020 – Sept 2021 (ND QA)	65	32	44%
Jun 2021 – Mar 2022 (ND QA)	65	27	67%
Oct 2021 – Sept 2022 (ND QA)	65	22	68%
2024 (ND Adhoc)	73	73	92%
2024 (CFSR R4 – 50% compl)	38	9	89%

PIP Compliance Benchmark: **82%**

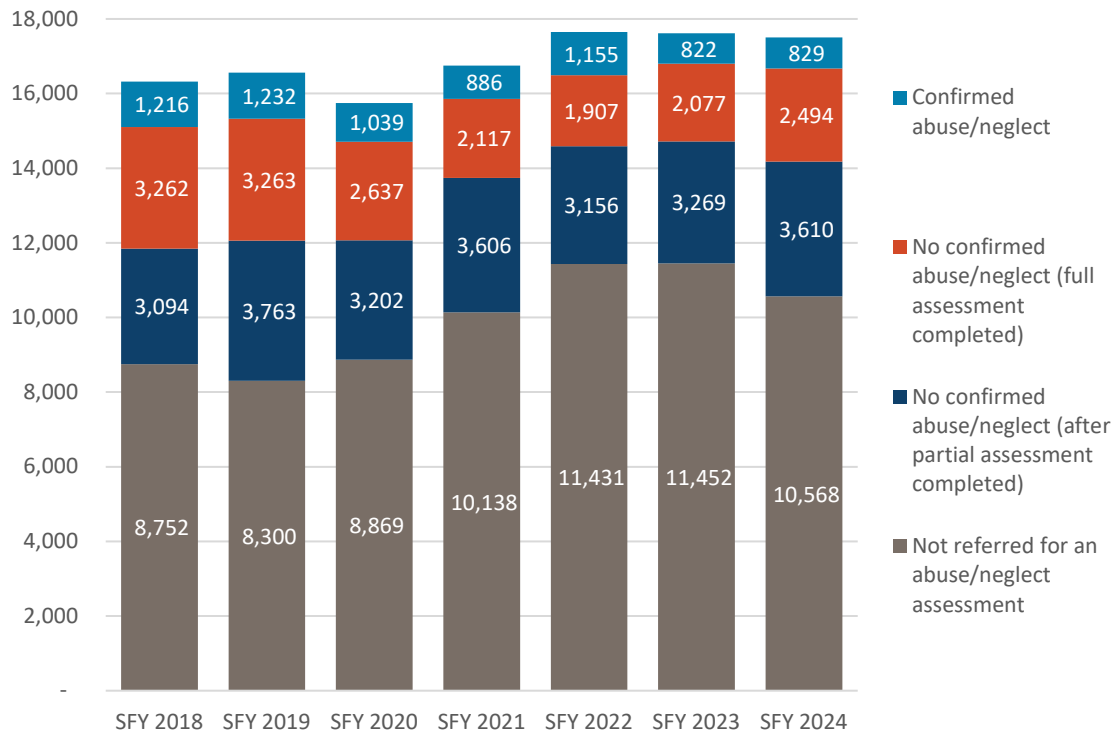
ND's Target Compliance Benchmark: **90%**



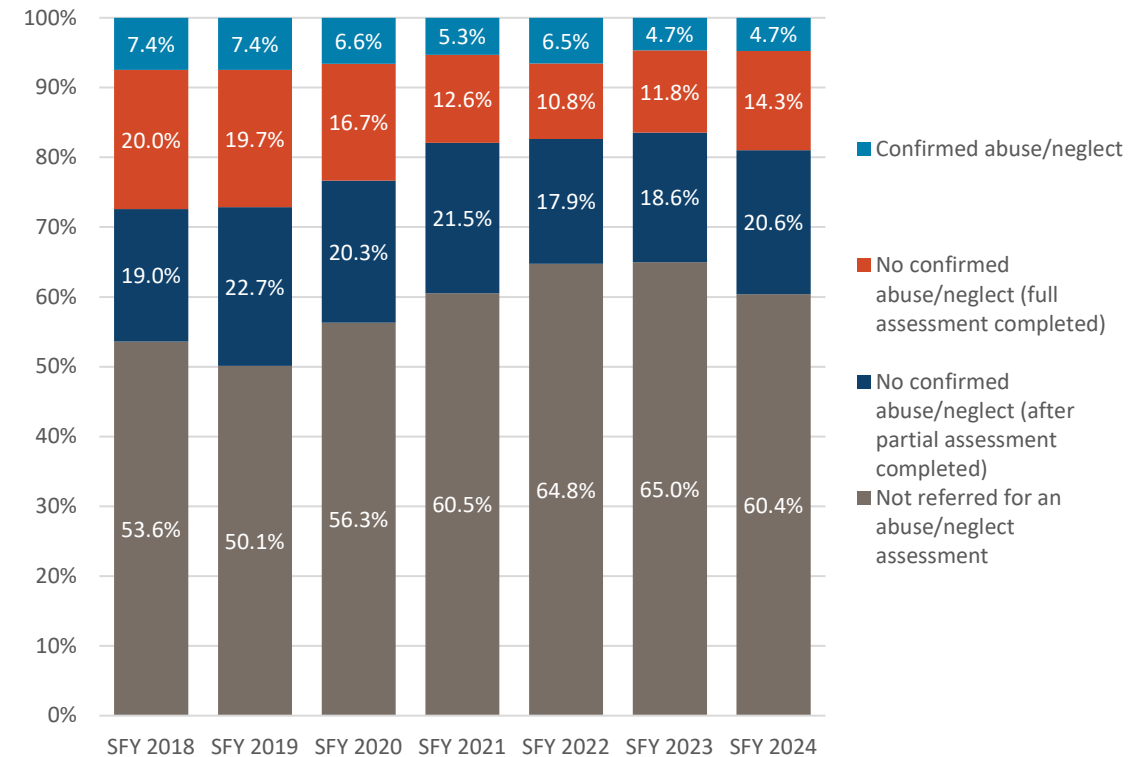
# ND sees approximately 800-900 confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect each year

Confirmed cases represent an average of 5% of total reports received

Over the last two years, ND has seen approximately 825 confirmed cases of child abuse and/or neglect each year



Over the last two years, 4.7% of reports of suspected child abuse/neglect are ultimately confirmed



# The body of evidence related to a concrete connection between material hardship and family distress has reached a tipping point

“Mothers entering substance use treatment who have difficulty securing child care are **82% more likely to self-report child neglect** (compared to mothers entering treatment who don’t have this difficulty)”

“Difficulty finding child care was a stronger predictor of maternal neglect than almost any other factor measured in this study, including mental health and severity of drug use.”

-Cash, 2003

“Nearly 85% of families investigated by child protective services have **incomes** below 200% of the federal poverty line (\$49,720 for a family of 3 in 2023) ”

-Dolan, 2011 – Nat’l Survey of Child & Adolescent Well-Being II Baseline

“Households that will experience a foreclosure filing in the next 6-12 months are at **70% greater risk of a CPS investigation** (compared to households that will not)”

-Berger, 2015 (WI data 2008-2011)

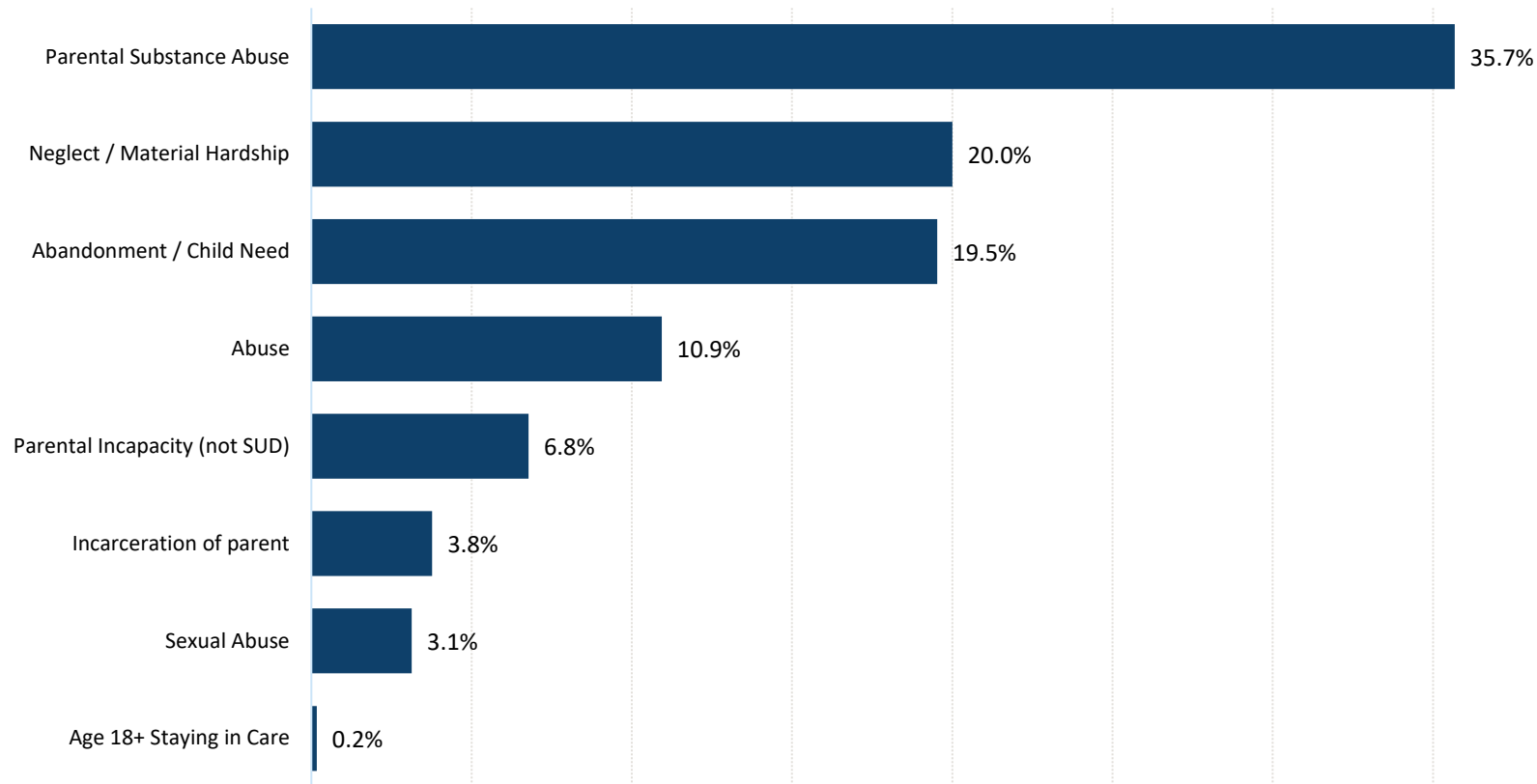
“Almost **70%** of families with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty line report experiencing a **material hardship** in the past year (difficulty paying for housing, utilities, food, or medical care. Of these families, **61%** experienced a **financial shock** in the past year.”

-Urban Institute, 2018

# Substance abuse and unaddressed mental health needs are major de-stabilizing forces in families

## Primary Removal Reasons

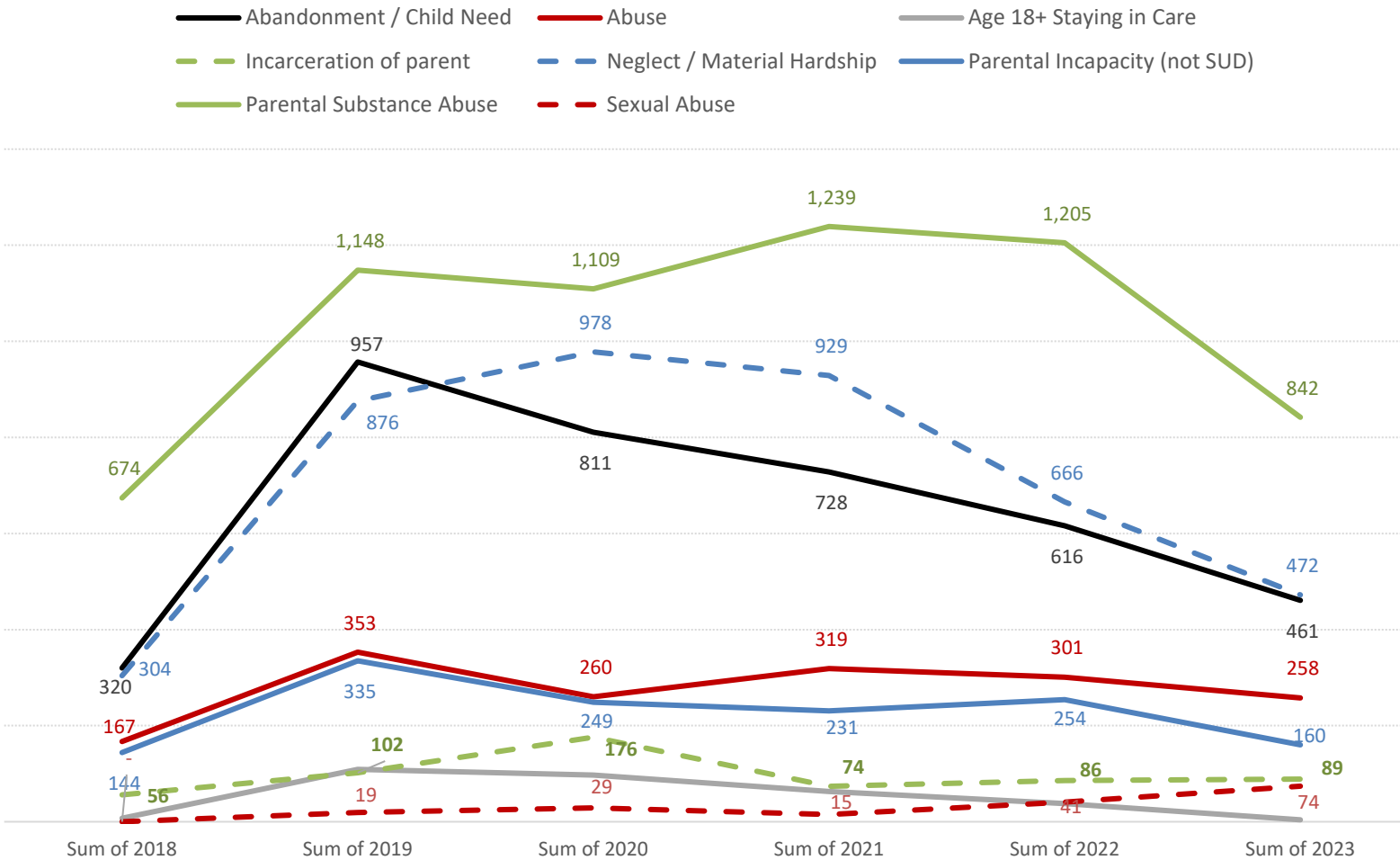
Percent of children entering care for each removal reason: SFY2023



Rethink child welfare

We need to **connect** behavioral health **resources to families** who are struggling while doing everything we can to help them **stay together safely.**

# Primary reasons for removal to foster care represent both changes in practice and changes in family needs



## Abandonment / Child Need

- Alcohol Abuse - Child
- Child Behavior Problem
- Child Disability/Handicap
- Drug Abuse - Child
- Failure to Return
- Parental Abandonment
- Parental Rights Relinquishment
- Runaway
- Safe Haven Infant
- Whereabouts Unknown

## Abuse

- Physical Abuse
- Psychological or Emotional Abuse

## Age 18+ Staying in Care

- 18+ Continued Care - Education
- 18+ Continued Care - Employment
- 18+ Continued Care - Empl Prep Program
- 18+ Continued Care - Medical Cond/Disab

## Incarceration of parent

## Neglect / Material Hardship

- Domestic Violence
- Homelessness
- Housing/Financial Hardship
- Medical Neglect
- Neglect
- Tribal Title IV-E Agreement

## Parental Incapacity (not SUD)

- Caretaker's Significant Impairment - Cognitive
- Caretaker's Signif Impair - Physical/Emotional
- Child Requested Placement
- Death of Caretaker
- Inadequate Access to Mental Health Svc

## Parental Substance Abuse

- Alcohol Abuse - Caretaker
- Drug Abuse - Caretaker
- Meth Impact (use, selling, manufacturing)
- Prenatal Drug Exposure

## Sexual Abuse

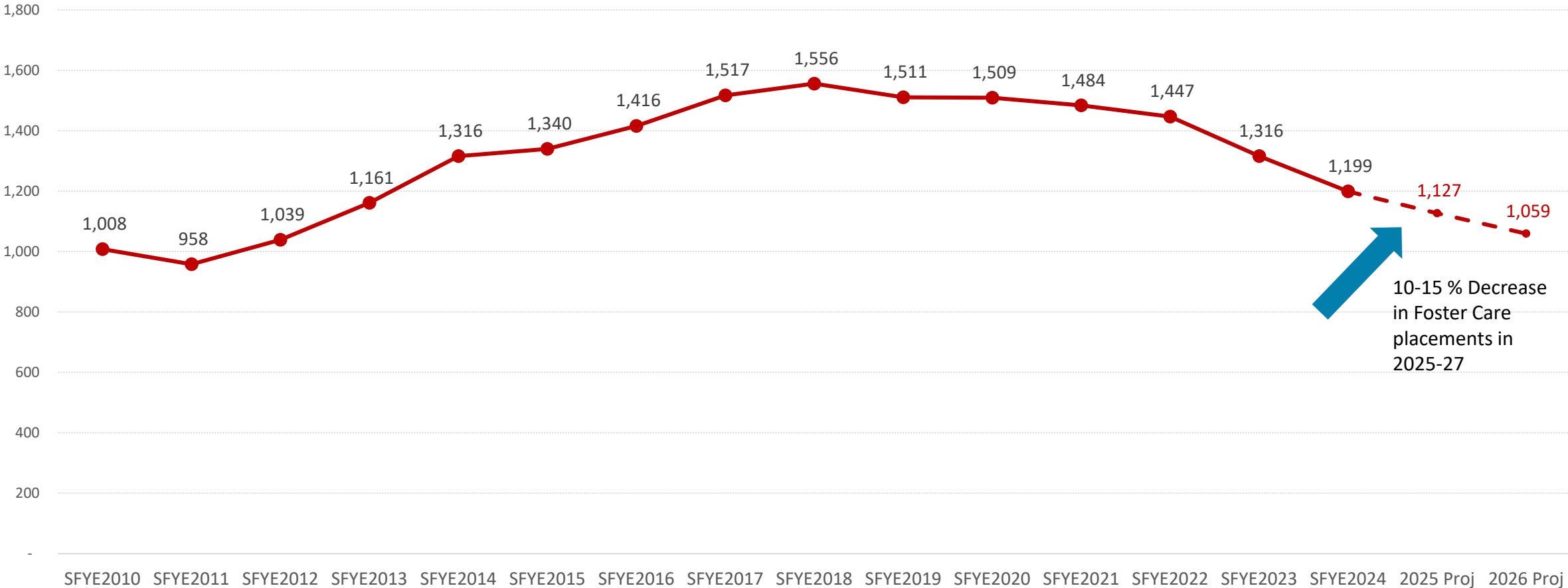


# Family foster homes provide care for 68% of children affected by an out-of-home placement

North Dakota Child Welfare System Continuum of Care



# The 25-27 budget anticipates a modest but steady reduction in foster care and residential placements

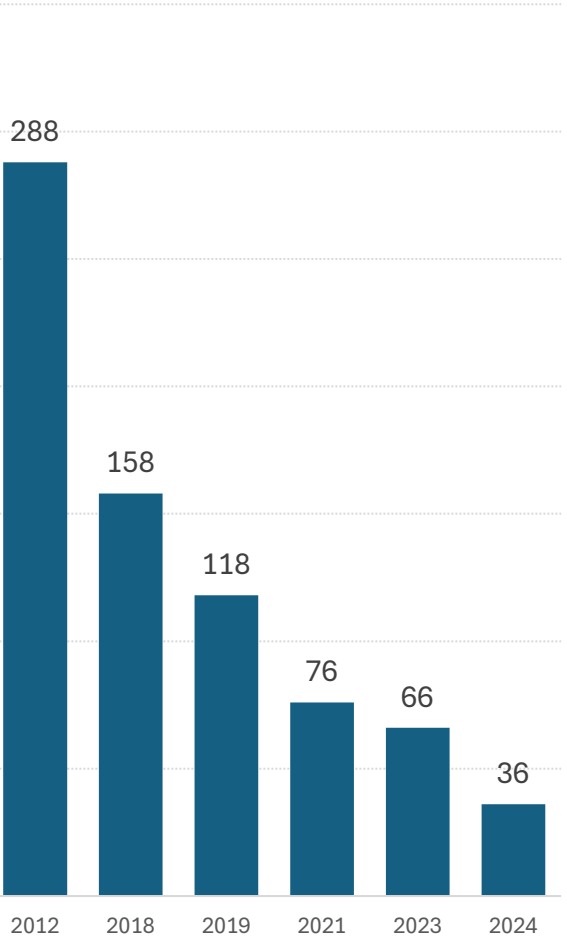


10-15 % Decrease in Foster Care placements in 2025-27

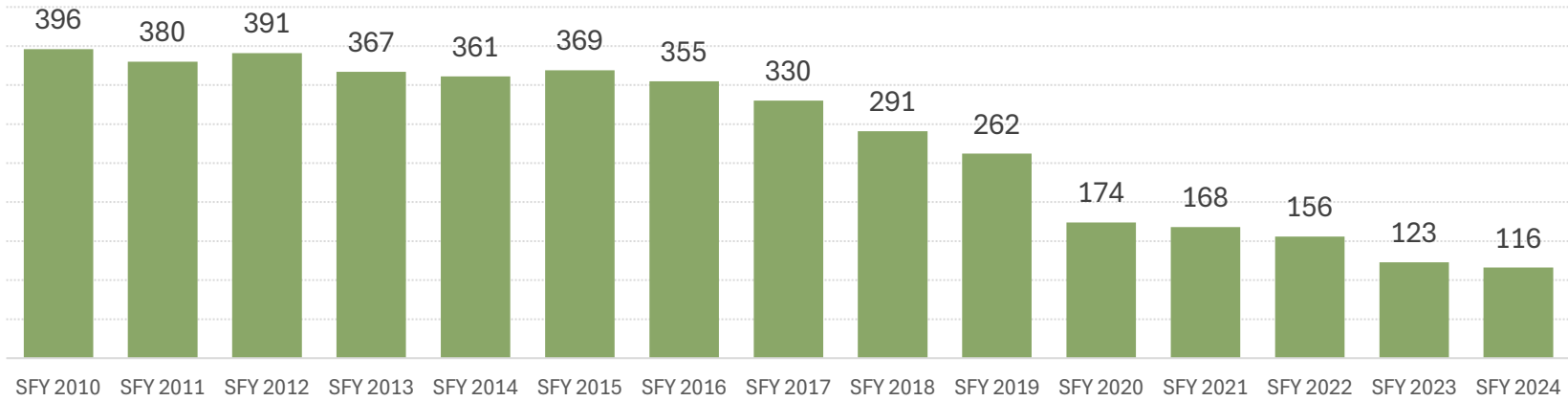
SFYE2010 SFYE2011 SFYE2012 SFYE2013 SFYE2014 SFYE2015 SFYE2016 SFYE2017 SFYE2018 SFYE2019 SFYE2020 SFYE2021 SFYE2022 SFYE2023 SFYE2024 2025 Proj 2026 Proj

# Implementation of Family First Prevention Act marked a shift in utilization of congregate care for children

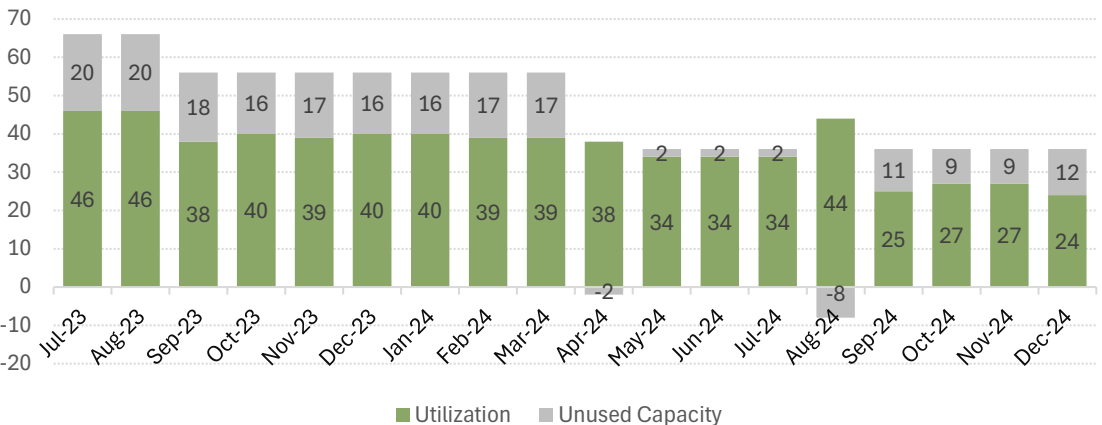
ND RCCF/Q RTP Beds 2012-2024



Children in Foster Care Placed in RCCF/Q RTP



Q RTP Utilization July 2023 - Dec 2024

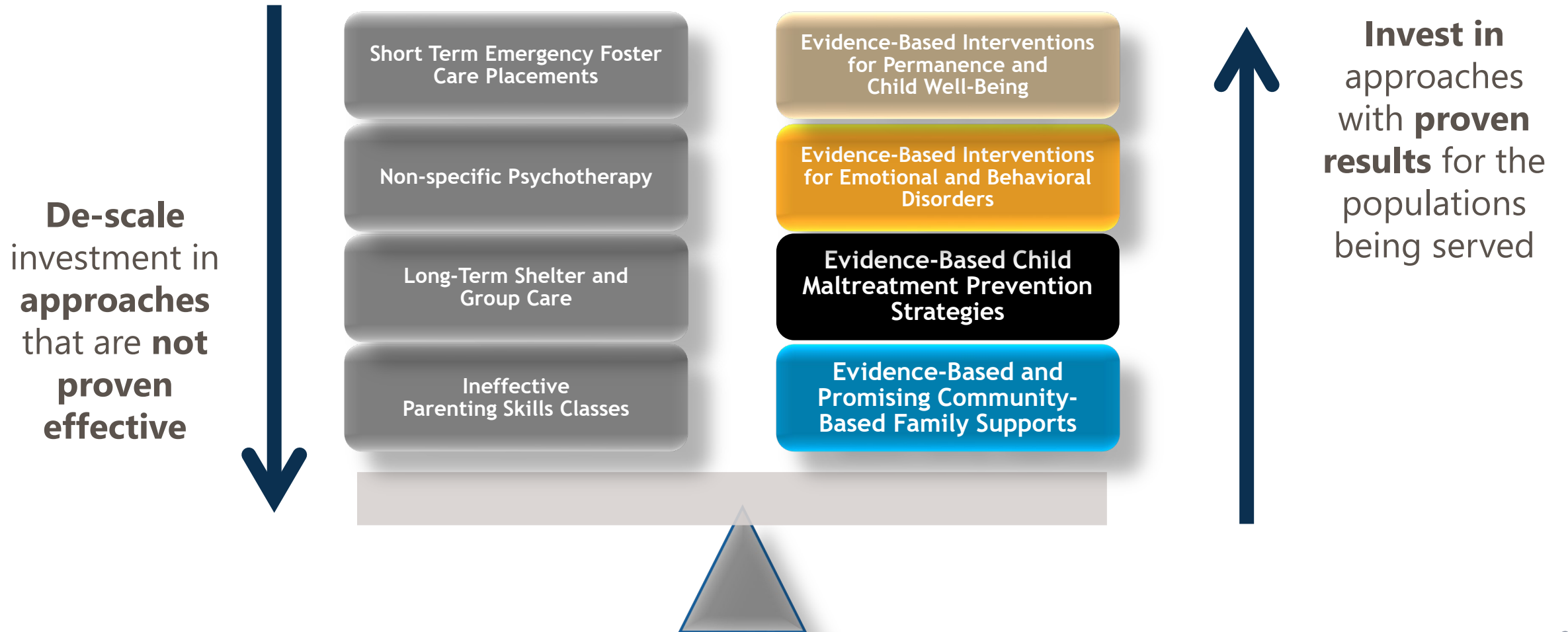


 **Rethink child welfare**

In 2024, **3%** of children in child welfare utilized a Q RTP setting

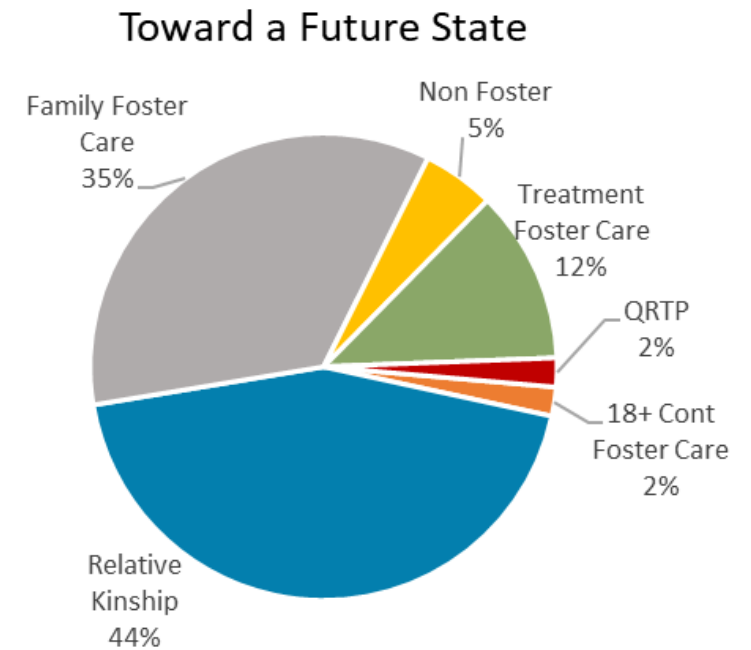
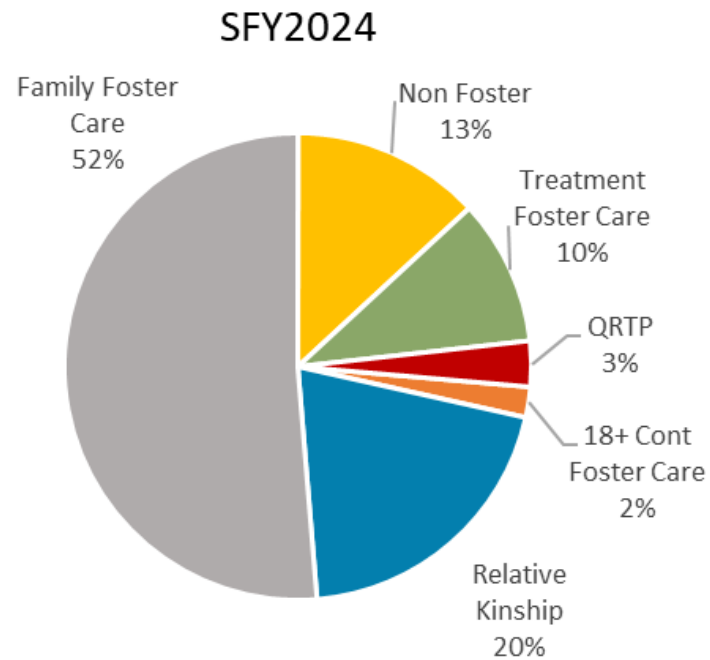
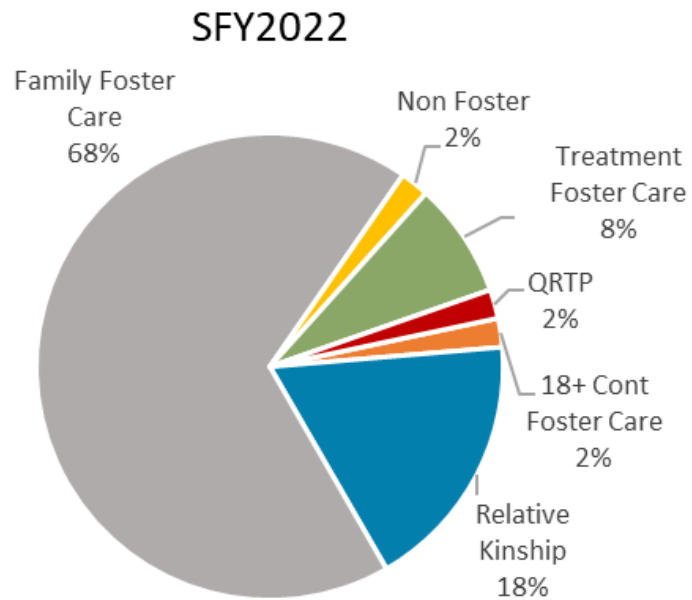
# Children and Family Services

Shifting Resources to Support What Research Indicates since 2018 has shown success for Children and Families





# Increasing the prevalence of Relative / Kinship Care in ND should support more positive outcomes for kids



**Rethink child welfare**

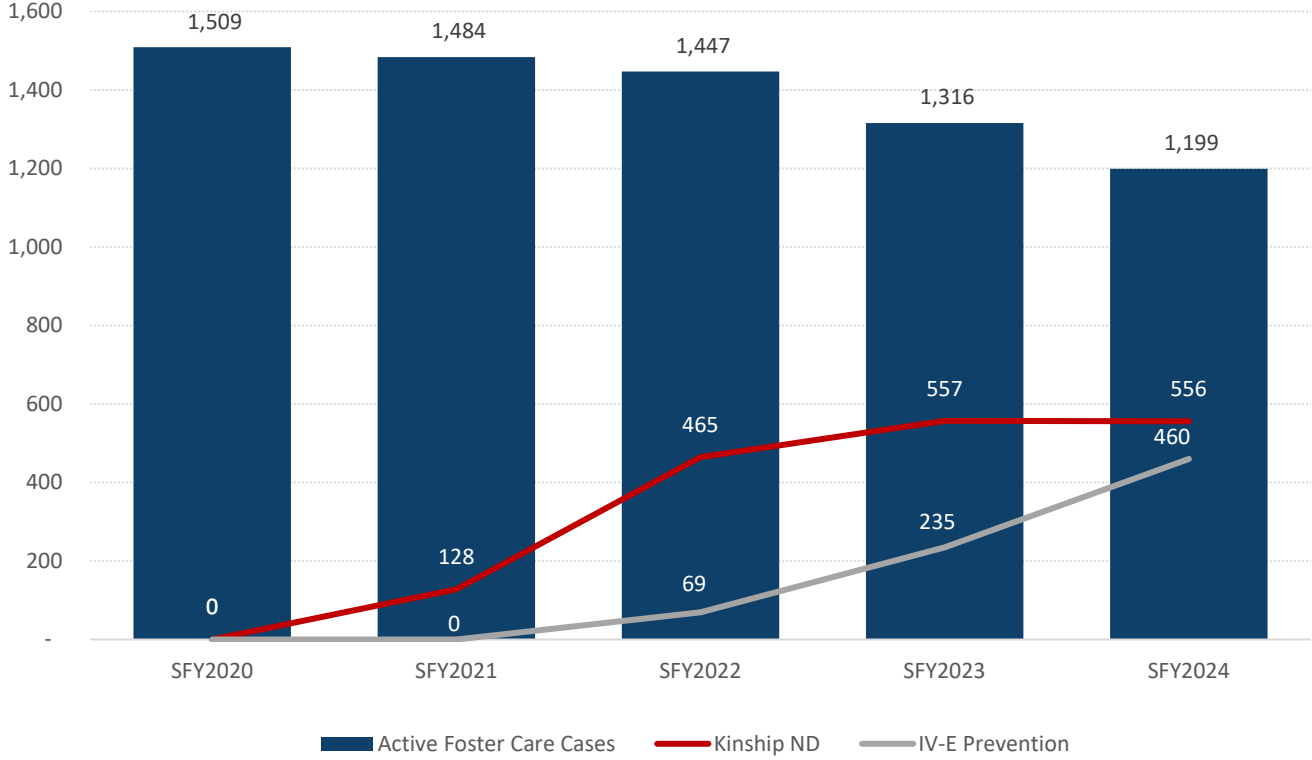
Finding ways for kids to be cared for by relatives or other adults with whom they have existing, significant relationships creates better outcomes

# Kin caregiving represents an increasing portion of services to children

Progress and Improvements for Children and Families



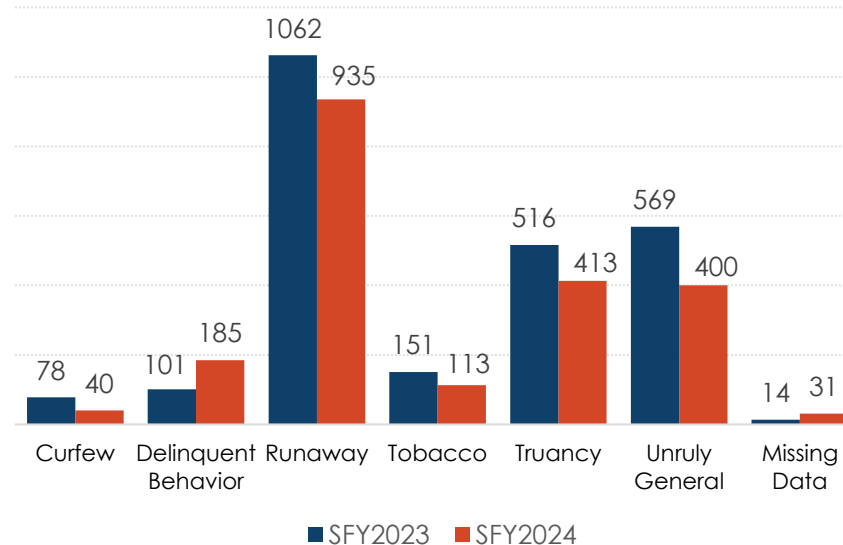
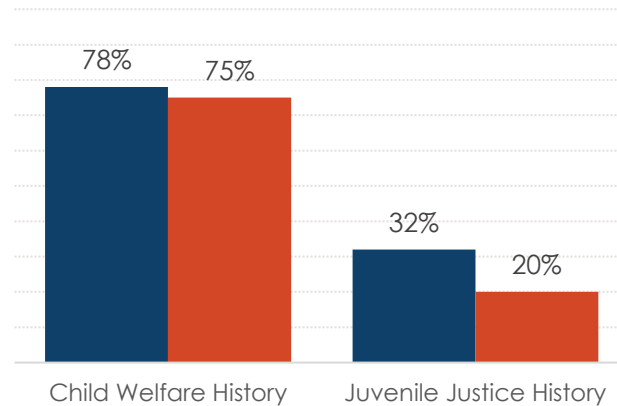
Youth in foster care, Kinshp ND, and Title IV-E prevention services



# Diverting children from “system” involvement can have long-lasting positive impacts

## CHINS

As part of *Juvenile Justice Reform* efforts in North Dakota, the 2021 Legislature approved changes to NDCC 27-20.3 for services to be provided by the child welfare system so that **children** in need of services **who have not committed crimes** can be **served** in the community and be maintained **outside of the Juvenile Court system**.



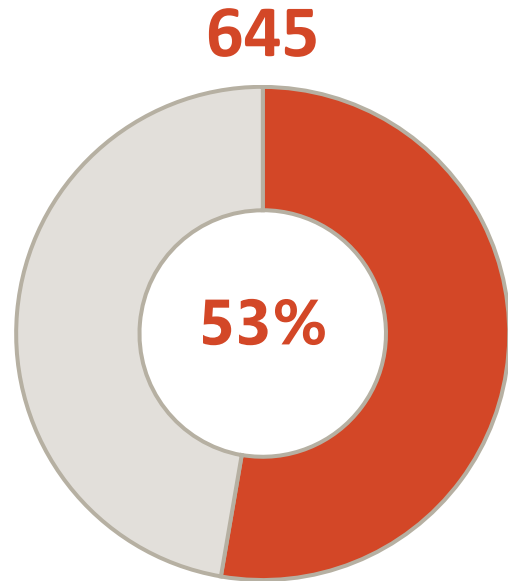
## CHINS Program Goals

- **Connect** children and their families to **appropriate services** in the community;
- Focus on **prevention, treatment** services and **support**; and
- **Divert** individuals **from** entering the **foster care** and **juvenile justice** system.

## Child behaviors appropriate for CHINS program

- Truancy from school
- Regularly disobeying their parents
- Using and possessing tobacco and related products under 14
- Running away/Curfew

# Foster Care in North Dakota – 2024 Snapshot



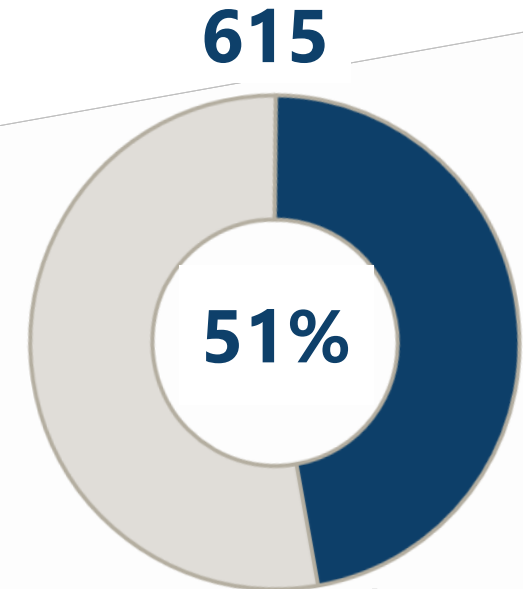
1 in 2 age 0-7

Half of the 1,199 children in foster care in North Dakota are age 7 or younger. (SFY2024)

44%

Intense level of care

Of the 169 kids receiving treatment foster care in SFY2024, 74 (44%) were age 7 or younger.



6x more likely

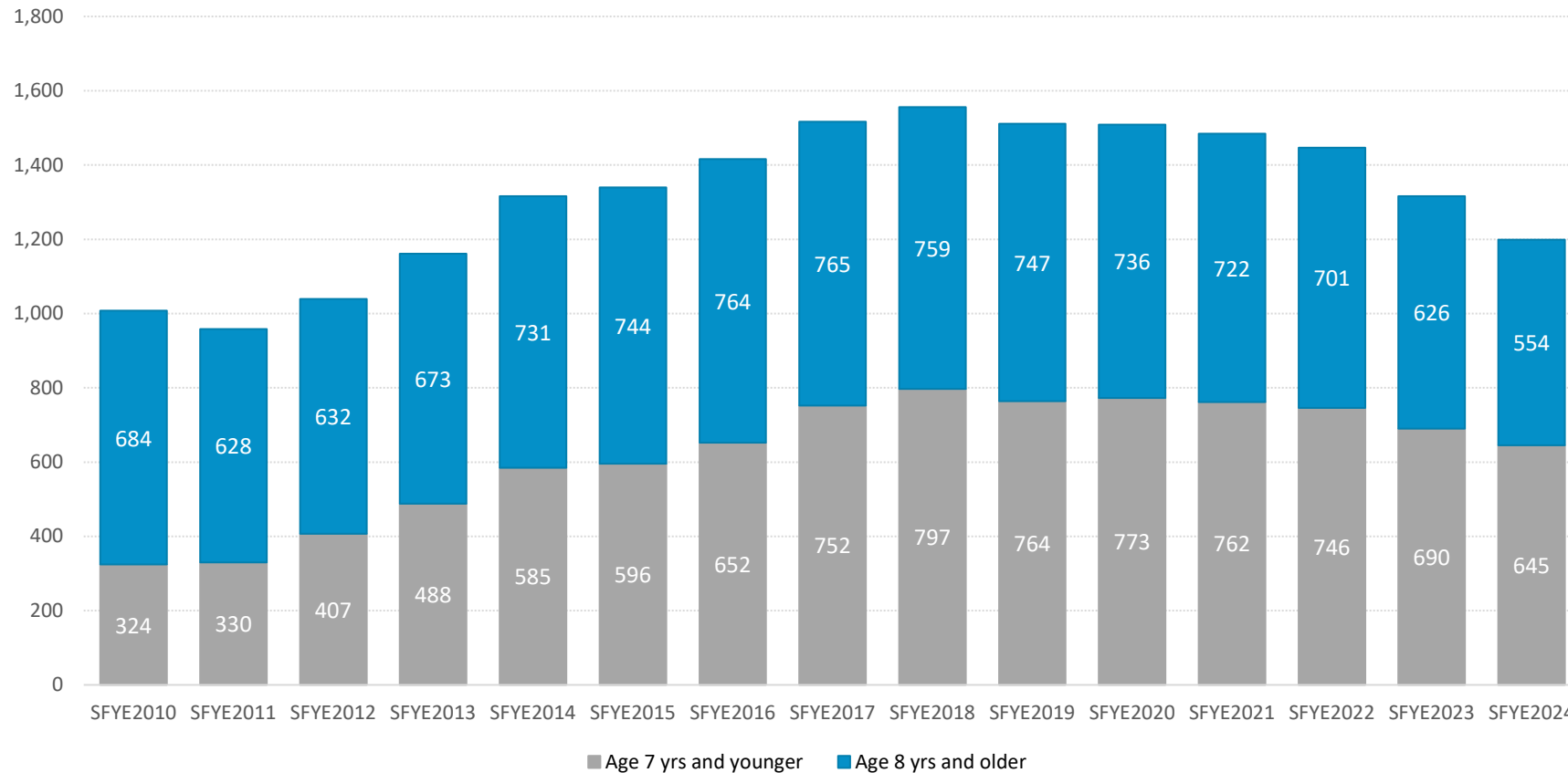
Native American children make up 47% of the total number of children in foster care in ND (615 of 1,199).

Native American children make up 8% of kids under age 18 in ND.



# In FY24 54% of the 1,199 children in foster care are younger than age 7

Point-in-Time ND foster care census by age, SFY 2010-2024

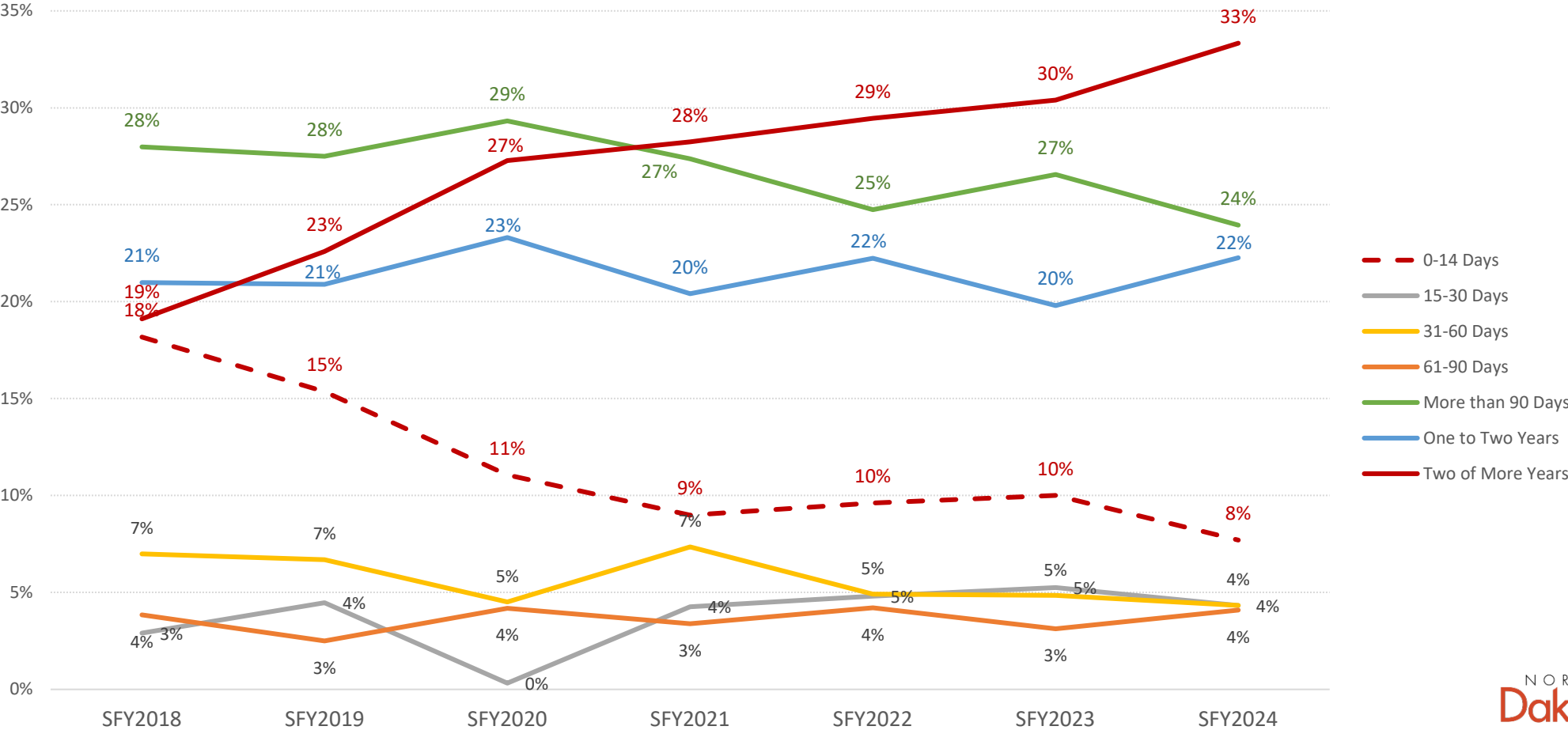


Rethink  
child  
welfare 

Early interventions with young families are key to reducing foster care placement for the youngest children.

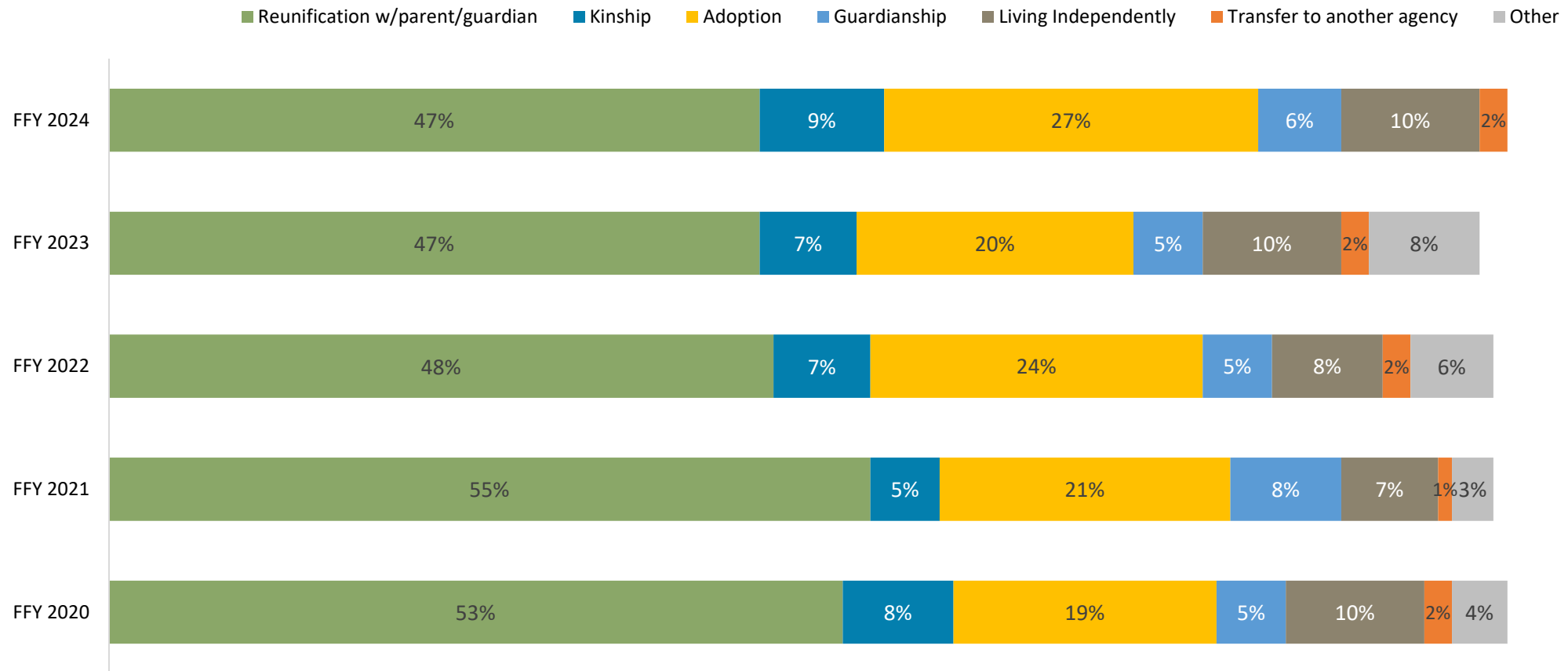
# Changes in the child welfare practice model are resulting in fewer short-stay placements and more long-stay exits

% of children exiting foster care by length of stay in foster care (SFY2018-2024)



# Almost half of children in foster care exit to reunify with family

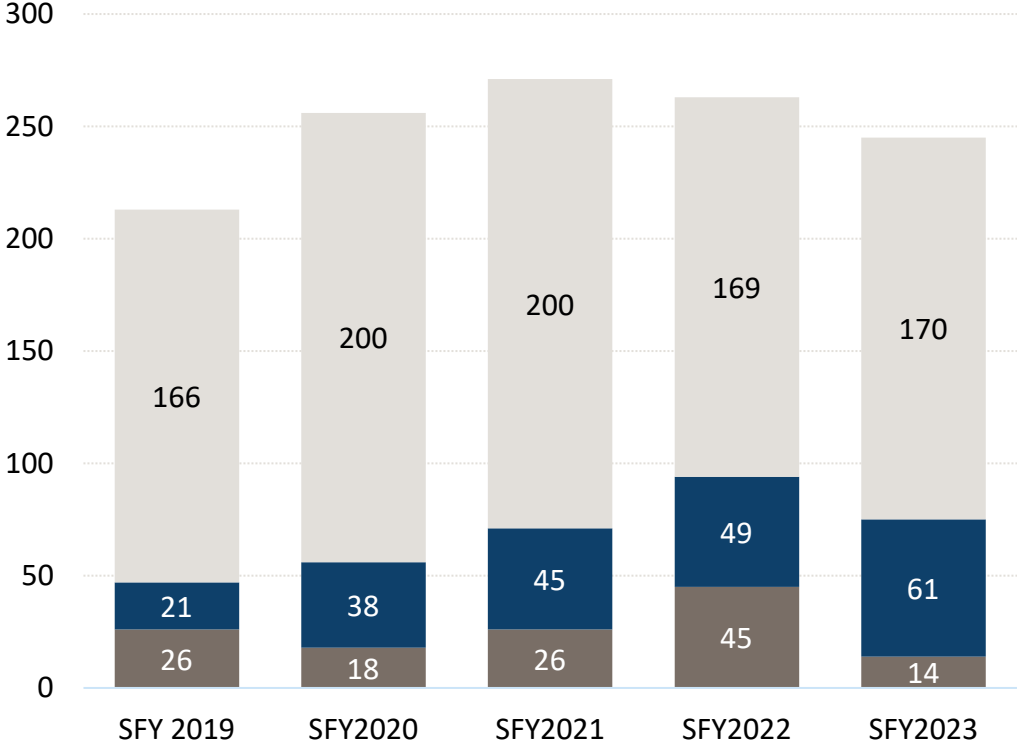
Reasons children exit foster care  
SFY2020 - SFY2024



Source: HHS FRAME, Jan 2025

# ND is seeing the impact of increased adoptions out of foster care and efforts to exit long-stayers

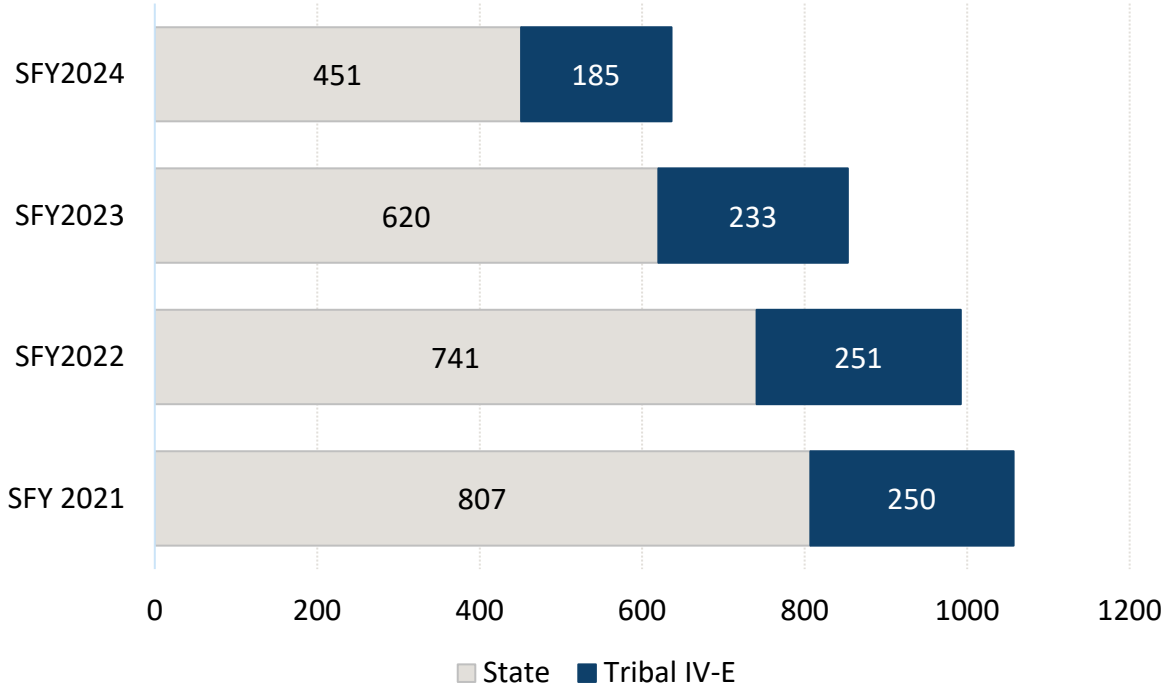
Finalizations of Public Agency Adoptions



■ Incoming ICPC ■ Tribal Adoptions ■ HSZ Adoptions

Source: 2023 AASK Agency Report

Children in Foster Care w/TPR & Goal of Adoption



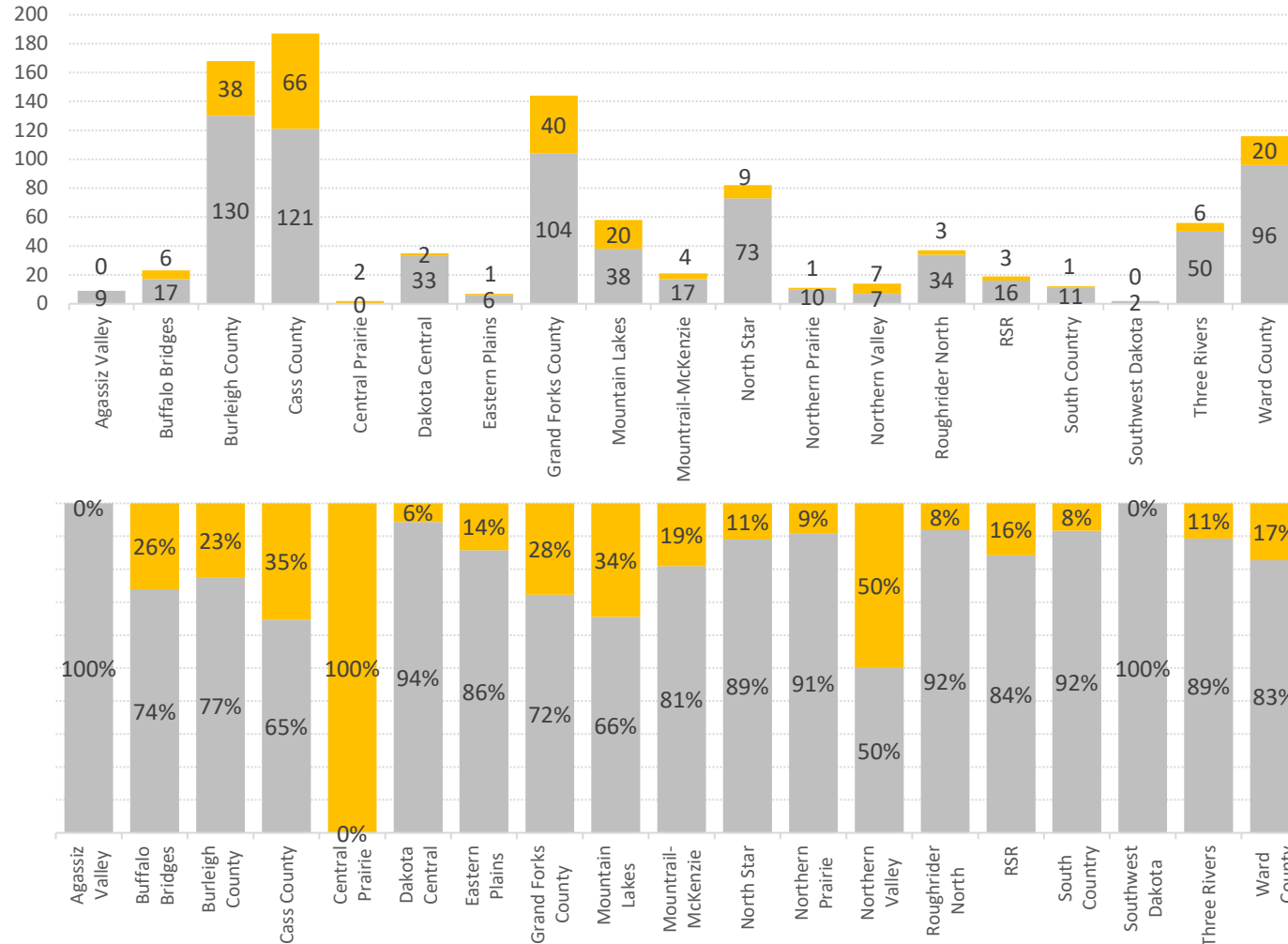
■ State ■ Tribal IV-E

# Children who are orphaned as a result of TPR (termination of parental rights) comprise 23% of all children in ND's foster care system in FY24

## 23%

### Parental Rights Terminated

Of the **1,003** children under the custody of the HSZs at the end of SFY2024, 229 (23%) have no legal connection to their biological parents due to Termination of Parental Rights (TPR).



### Rethink child welfare

There are both positive and negative consequences associated with terminating parental rights – the balance is different for every child



# Budget review



# Successes in the last year

- Cass HSZ Stabilization Plan
- Kinship First State
- Increase Prevention Services
- IV-E Federal Audit





# Re-thinking Child Welfare

Why | Who | How



## The Big Idea

- Why is this difficult?

Moving from Idea to Reality:

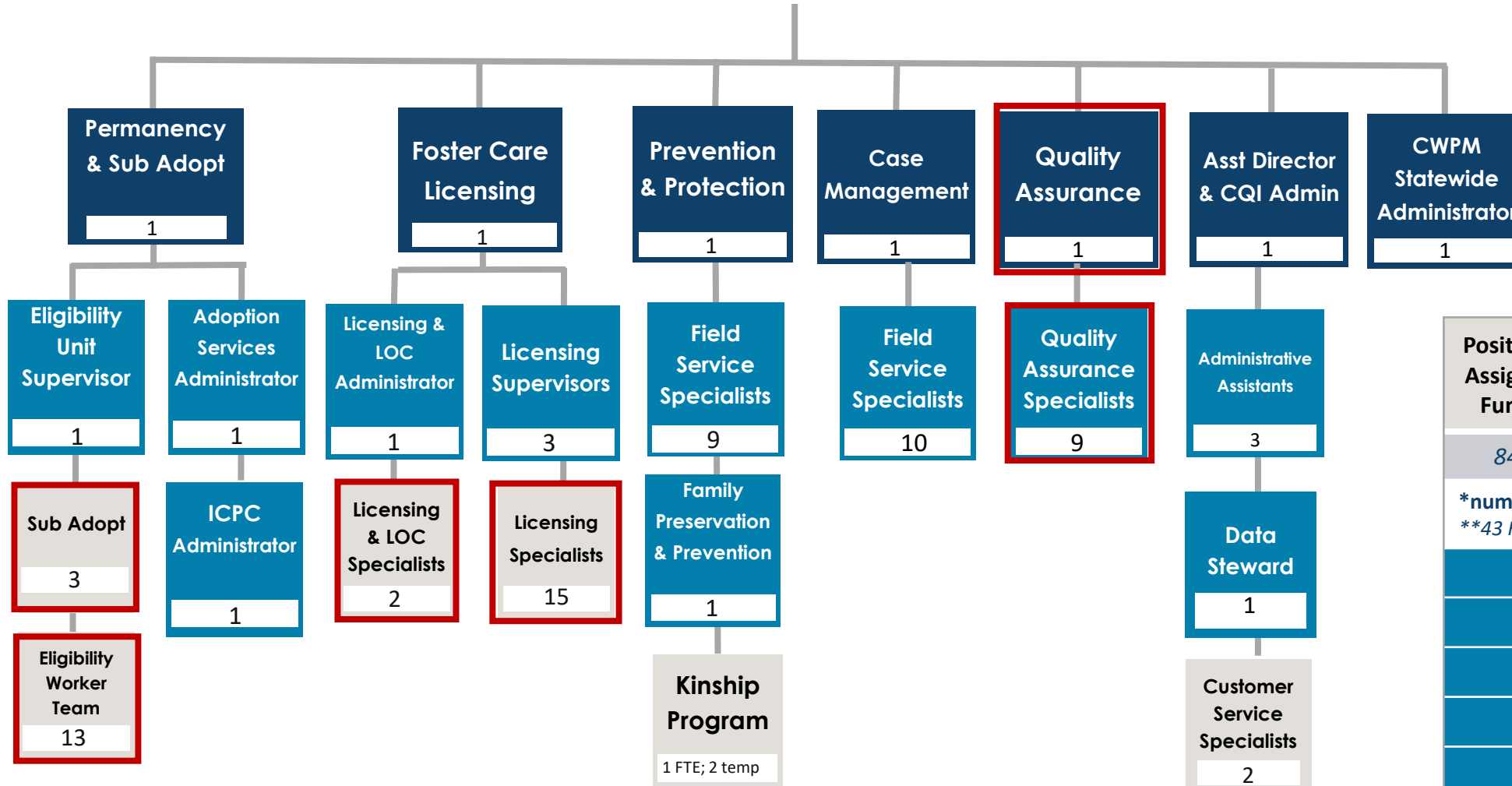
### Do more of what works

- Foster Care
- Kin Care
- Family First IV-E Prevention Services
- Family Engagement
- Certified Shelter Care

### On the Horizon

- Redesign Case Management
- Opportunities to improve quality of customer service
- Best of Field

# Children & Family Services Director Cory Pedersen



= funding included in HSZ Ops budget

Position #s Assigned / Funded	Positions Filled	# of Vacancies	# of Temp Staff
84**	82	2*	2*
<b>*numbers as of 12/1/2024</b>			
<b>**43 FTE in the HSZ Budget</b>			
Average Age			46
Avg Years of Service			11.7
Retirement Risk			3.5%
Turnover 2021			6%
Turnover 2022			5%
Turnover 2023			1%
Turnover 2024			3.5%



# Included in Executive Budget Request

## Quality Representation for Families

- States can leverage federal IV-E funds to make sure that families are well represented through what can be a complex and life-changing legal process.
- This request would support 2 defense attorneys to be contracted by ND Indigent Defense; the attorneys would be trained to specialize in child welfare law. These attorneys would be supported by a licensed social worker and parent with lived experience, to support the connection with families throughout the life of the case.
- The Quality Legal Representation team would utilize federal IV-E match; all funds would be passed through to ND Indigent Defense as the implementation partner for the initiative (50/50 match; total \$700,000).
- While the investment in legal representation for families is a new endeavor, HHS expects this group to be able to work with approximately 75-100 families over the course of the biennium (accounting for time it would take to start-up).

Total	General	Federal	Other
\$700,000	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$0

This is an ongoing funding request.





Included in Executive Budget Request  
**Cost to Continue Budget  
Correction / Adoption Savings  
delinked funding**

- Post Adoption Services
- Statewide ICWA Family Preservationist (NATI)
- Pre-Petition Legal Representation (Legal Services ND)
- UND SW Stipends
- Kinship Legal Representation for Legal Guardianship
- Nexus PATH – Chaffee/IL

Total	General	Federal	Other
\$4,883,205	\$4,883,205	\$0	\$0

This is an ongoing funding request.



# Comparison of budgets and funding

## By Budget Account Code

<b>Total General</b>	\$	<b>90,947,415</b>	\$	<b>103,526,347</b>	\$	<b>12,578,931</b>
<b>Total Federal</b>	\$	<b>82,736,976</b>	\$	<b>105,821,987</b>	\$	<b>23,085,011</b>
<b>Total Other</b>	\$	<b>2,840,345</b>	\$	<b>698,753</b>	\$	<b>(2,141,592)</b>

Description	2023-25 Legislative Base	2025-27 Executive Recommendation	Increase/ (Decrease)
511x Salaries - Regular	\$ 5,100,229	\$ 6,642,743	\$ 1,542,515
513x Salaries Temp	499,055	217,800	(281,255)
516x Salaries Benefits	2,281,406	2,874,625	593,219
<b>Total Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 7,880,690</b>	<b>\$ 9,735,168</b>	<b>\$ 1,854,478</b>
52x Travel	218,645	215,645	(3,000)
53x Supply	27,891	41,941	14,050
54x Postage & Printing	22,342	12,342	(10,000)
57x Insurance	24,000	30,000	6,000
58x Rent/Leases - Bldg/Equip	32,616	107,616	75,000
61x Professional Development	76,850	105,350	28,500
62x Fees - Operating & Professional	6,147,730	16,401,980	10,254,250
60x IT Expenses	-	2,651,285	2,651,285
71x Grants, Benefits, & Claims	162,093,973	180,745,760	18,651,786
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>\$ 168,644,047</b>	<b>\$ 200,311,919</b>	<b>\$ 31,667,872</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 176,524,737</b>	<b>\$ 210,047,087</b>	<b>\$ 33,522,350</b>

Children Family Service  
Budget as % of HHS Budget  
**3.3%**

Budgeted by Funding Source

- General 49%
- Federal 51%

Budget by Pass-Through

- 83% Paid to Private/Public providers
- 11% HHS Admin
- 5% HHS Direct Service's
- 1% Technology

# Operating Schedule

DESCRIPTION	2023-25 BIENNIUM AMOUNT	EXECUTIVE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION	INCREASE/ (DECREASE)
Adoption AASK Contract & De-link Adoption Savings	\$ 1,687,362	\$ 6,565,207	\$ 4,877,845
Pre-Petition Legal Representation	-	700,000	700,000
Special needs adoptions	4,168,368	5,020,603	852,235
Qualified Residential Treatment Program – Performance Based Contracts and Training – moved from Grants	30,000	2,459,670	2,429,670
Quality Legal representation for Indigent Children	-	800,000	800,000
Family's First Prevention Services – increasing prevention services for children and families	-	800,000	800,000
Adoption and birth parent	262,000	56,500	(205,500)
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$ 3,438,291</b>	<b>\$ 11,390,574</b>	<b>\$ 7,952,283</b>
<b>FEDERAL FUND</b>	<b>2,709,439</b>	<b>5,011,406</b>	<b>2,301,967</b>
<b>OTHER FUND</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 6,147,730</b>	<b>\$ 16,401,980</b>	<b>\$ 10,254,250</b>

# Grants Schedule

DESCRIPTION	2023-25 BIENNIUM AMOUNT	EXECUTIVE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION	INCREASE/ (DECREASE)
FFT, family prevention therapy, Well being- HSC (Clinics)	\$ 6,819,069	\$ 9,350,978	\$ 2,531,909
PCAND, nurturing parent	808,556	838,446	29,890
CBCAP – Community- Based Child Abuse Prevention – Parent and Family Resource Centers - NDSU	467,924	549,924	82,000
Child Advocacy Center	4,100,000	4,100,000	-
Nexus-Path	869,266	1,089,266	220,000
UND Training, NATI	2,226,991	2,226,991	-
Respite care/Shelter Care	1,000,000	3,000,000	2,000,000
Education Grants ETV	303,958	303,958	-
Tribal Family Preservation –IV-B Prevention	600,000	600,000	-
USPire – Healthy Families	600,000	600,000	-
Kinship, Care giver	1,630,006	2,330,006	700,000
Tribal Social Services - IV-E Agreements	2,583,918	2,583,918	-
NATI State Tribal Relationships	1,353,185	1,353,185	-
Juvenile Services – IV-E pass through	414,000	764,000	350,000
Juvenile Crisis Intervention	200,000	200,000	-
Delinked (Moved to Operating) Adoptions Savings	8,134,219	2,569,012	(5,565,207)
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$ 22,390,437</b>	<b>\$ 20,281,648</b>	<b>\$ (1,428,780)</b>
<b>FEDERAL FUND</b>	<b>9,720,655</b>	<b>12,178,036</b>	<b>1,777,372</b>
<b>OTHER FUND</b>			
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 32,111,092</b>	<b>\$ 32,459,684</b>	<b>\$ 348,592</b>

# Grants on a walkthrough

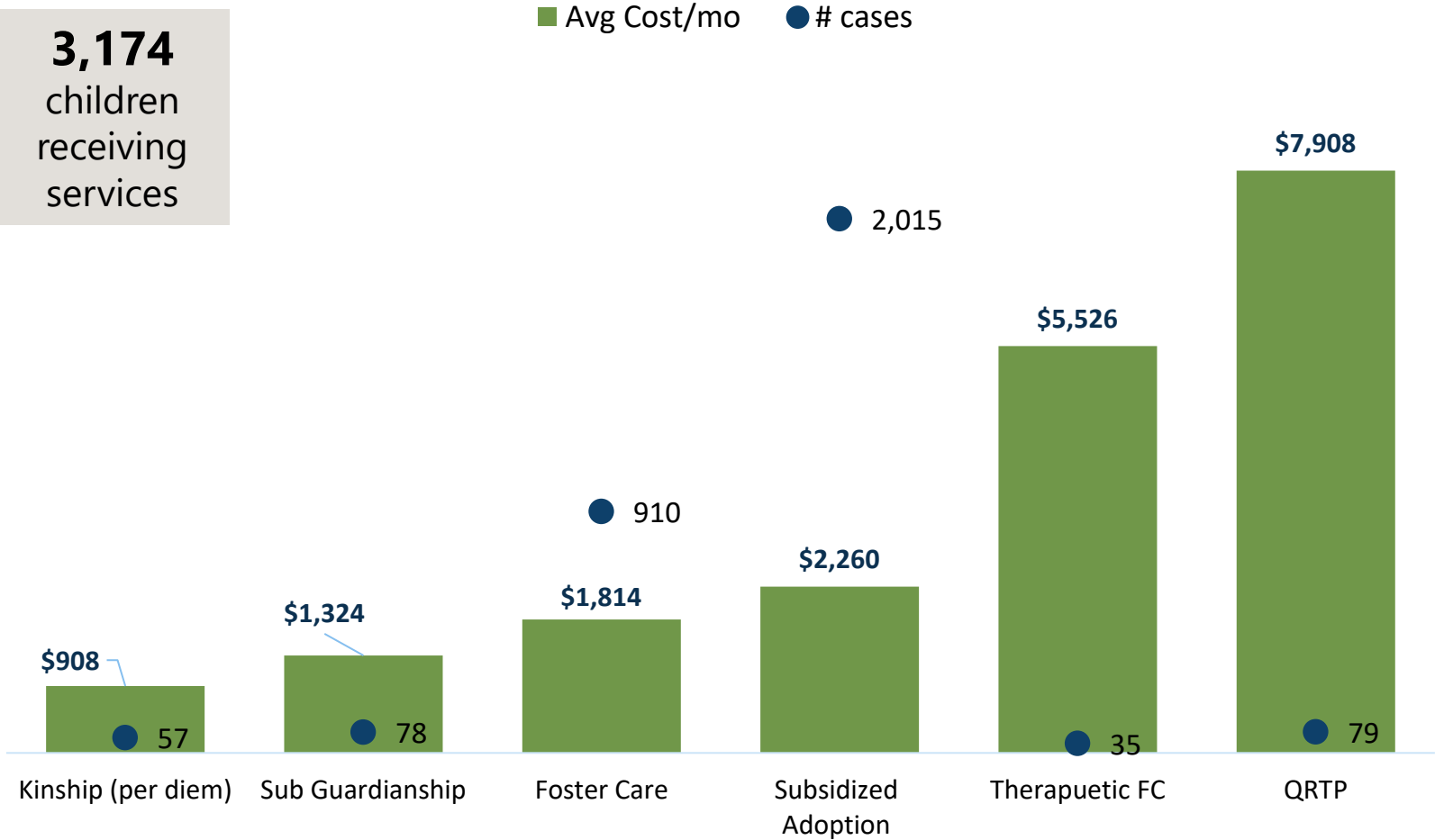
DESCRIPTION	2025-27 BASE BUDGET	COST CHANGES	CASELOAD CHANGES	COST TO CONTINUE	TOTAL CHANGES	TO GOVERNOR	INFLATION	TOTAL CHANGES	TO HOUSE
Foster Care IV-E	\$ 30,124,809	\$ 3,838,071	\$ (4,397,859)	\$ (559,788)	\$ (559,788)	\$ 29,565,021	\$ 673,667	\$ 673,667	\$ 30,238,688
Foster Care Regular	34,614,099	11,132,631	(2,592,009)	8,540,622	8,540,622	43,154,721	984,302	984,302	44,139,023
QRTP	1,737,206	(982,406)	3,529,200	2,546,794	2,546,794	4,284,000	98,734	98,734	4,382,734
Therapeutic Foster Care	4,470,849	(1,746,376)	167,395	(1,578,981)	(1,578,981)	2,891,868	60,878	60,878	2,952,746
Subsidized Guardianship	1,466,490	254,341	(95,137)	159,204	159,204	1,625,694	27,200	27,200	1,652,894
Foster Care IMD	362,578	61,712	411,433	473,145	473,145	835,723	18,887	18,887	854,610
Subsidized Adoption (w/fed match)	47,503,645	12,633,563	(4,449,949)	8,183,614	8,183,614	55,687,259	1,264,528	1,264,528	56,951,787
Subsidized Adoption (no fed match)	6,527,435	800,017	(372,434)	427,583	427,583	6,955,018	158,576	158,576	7,113,594
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$ 126,807,111</b>	<b>\$ 25,991,553</b>	<b>\$ (7,799,360)</b>	<b>\$ 18,192,193</b>	<b>\$ 18,192,193</b>	<b>\$ 144,999,304</b>	<b>\$ 3,286,772</b>	<b>\$ 3,286,772</b>	<b>\$ 148,286,076</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$ 58,898,531</b>	<b>\$ 9,366,165</b>	<b>\$ 476,190</b>	<b>\$ 9,842,355</b>	<b>\$ 2,497,418</b>	<b>\$ 61,395,949</b>	<b>\$ 1,417,116</b>	<b>\$ 1,417,116</b>	<b>\$ 62,813,065</b>



# Child Welfare Service Continuum

Cost per month per person per type of service – SFY24

**3,174**  
children  
receiving  
services



# Comparison of budget expenditures and projections

## By Budget Account Code

Description	2023-25 Legislative Base	Expended as of 12/31/2024	Projection through 6/30/2025	Under/ (Over) Budget
511x Salaries - Regular	\$ 5,100,229	\$ 4,814,342	\$ 6,238,230	\$ (1,138,001)
513x Salaries Temp	499,055	205,654	383,962	115,093
514x Salaries Overtime	-	6,305	7,055	(7,055)
516x Salaries Benefits	2,281,406	1,799,861	2,437,757	(156,351)
<b>Total Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 7,880,690</b>	<b>\$ 6,826,161</b>	<b>\$ 9,067,005</b>	<b>\$ (1,186,315)</b>
52x Travel	218,645	75,624	134,580	84,065
53x Supply	27,891	3,977	18,827	9,064
54x Postage & Printing	22,342	7,567	13,238	9,104
57x Insurance	24,000	27,012	33,012	(9,012)
58x Rent/Leases - Bldg/Equip	32,616	56,675	79,374	(46,758)
61x Professional Development	76,850	67,765	92,550	(15,700)
62x Fees - Operating & Professional	6,147,730	7,283,052	9,368,329	(3,220,599)
60x IT Expenses	-	49,150	51,650	(51,650)
71x Grants, Benefits, & Claims	162,093,973	92,386,551	139,876,474	22,217,499
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>\$ 168,644,047</b>	<b>\$ 99,957,373</b>	<b>\$ 149,668,033</b>	<b>\$ 18,976,014</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 176,524,737</b>	<b>106,783,535</b>	<b>\$ 158,735,038</b>	<b>\$ 17,789,699</b>

<b>Total General</b>	<b>\$ 90,947,415</b>	<b>\$ 47,249,909</b>	<b>\$ 71,893,434</b>	<b>\$ 19,053,981</b>
<b>Total Federal</b>	<b>\$ 82,736,976</b>	<b>\$ 58,025,615</b>	<b>\$ 84,911,783</b>	<b>\$ (2,174,806)</b>
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>\$ 2,840,345</b>	<b>\$ 1,508,011</b>	<b>\$ 1,929,821</b>	<b>\$ 910,524</b>

# CFS/HSZ-related Policy Bills with Budget Impact

		Federal	General
HB 1205	Safety devices for Abandon Infants		\$100,000
HB 1268	Drug Testing Parents		\$100,000
HB 1328	Expanding CHINS referrals by adding Schools at guardians in NDCC 27-20.3		Unknown
SB 2036	Juvenile competency add to CHIPS definition	\$965,538	\$965,538 (fiscal note est)





# Contact Info

## Cory Pedersen

Director, Children and Family  
Services Section

[ctpedersen@nd.gov](mailto:ctpedersen@nd.gov)

**Child Abuse & Neglect Line**

**833-958-3500**



# North Dakota Child Welfare Glossary

## CHILD PROTECTION

- **ASSESSMENT:** A fact finding process designed to gather information that allows for staff to determine if a child meets the definition of an abused or neglected child. A determination either unconfirmed or confirmed where the subject's name is placed on the ND CPS Index. An assessment could be terminated in progress, which would result in case closure with no further action required.
- **CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES (CPS):** Services performed by an agency after a report of child abuse or neglect has been conducted. Services include assessments, planning, referral of treatment, coordination with referral sources, monitoring and delivery of services.
- **CPS CENTRALIZED INTAKE:** North Dakota's CPS call center where professional staff accept reports of suspected child abuse and neglect over the phone via 1-833-958-3500.
- **CONFIRMED:** It is determined a child meets the definition of an abused or neglected child based on the evidence gathered.
- **UNCONFIRMED:** It is determined based upon the evidence, that a child does not meet the definition of an abused or neglected child.

## SERVICES/CASE MANAGEMENT

- **ADOPTION:** Safety decision when the court determines that a child in public custody will not be reunited with their parents. Adoption may be legally granted to an identified family as one of their own.
- **CASE MANAGEMENT:** Agency staff assigned to work with the family to determine the needs and services required to achieve a safe outcome. Staff is responsible to organize visitation, meet regularly with the parent and child/ren, work closely with referral sources for services, provide updates to the Court and coordinate various aspects of the case plan.
- **CASE PLAN:** Individualized set of goals developed with the family to enhance parental protective capacities and establish safety in the home.
- **CUSTODIAN:** Means a person or agency, other than a parent or legal guardian, given legal custody of the child by order of the Court. ND custodial agencies include a Human Service Zone, Division of Juvenile Services or a federally recognized Tribe.
- **GUARDIANSHIP:** Safety decision where the court determines that a child in public custody will not be reunited with their parents. Legal guardianship is permanent custody granted to a caregiver, but the child's parental rights remain intact.
- **PLACEMENT:** When it is determined a child is unsafe, a decision must be made regarding placement. A child may remain in their home with in-home safety plan and supports or a child may be placed in out-of-home care with relatives, placed in a licensed foster home, residential treatment facility, Supervised Independent Living setting, or other.
- **REUNIFICATION:** Safety decision to return the child to the parental home after determining impending danger threats can be controlled and the parent/caregiver protective capacities have been sufficiently enhanced.
- **SAFETY PLAN:** A written arrangement between parents/caregivers and the agency when a child is determined to be unsafe. A safety plan remains active as long as danger threats exist and may include in home or out of home placement arrangements.
- **SAFE CHILD:** When no threats of danger exist within the home, or parents/caregivers can protect the child from threats of danger, or the child is not vulnerable (age/development) to such threats.
- **UNSAFE CHILD:** When threats of danger exist in the home, and the child is vulnerable (age/development) to such threats, and parents/caregivers are unable to protect the child from the threats of danger.