

State of the State

Texas Child Welfare System Trends



Mission and Focus

TexProtects protects Texas children from the trauma of abuse and neglect and empowers families to thrive through education, research, and advocacy.

CHILD PROTECTION

Child Abuse
Prevention

Family
Preservation

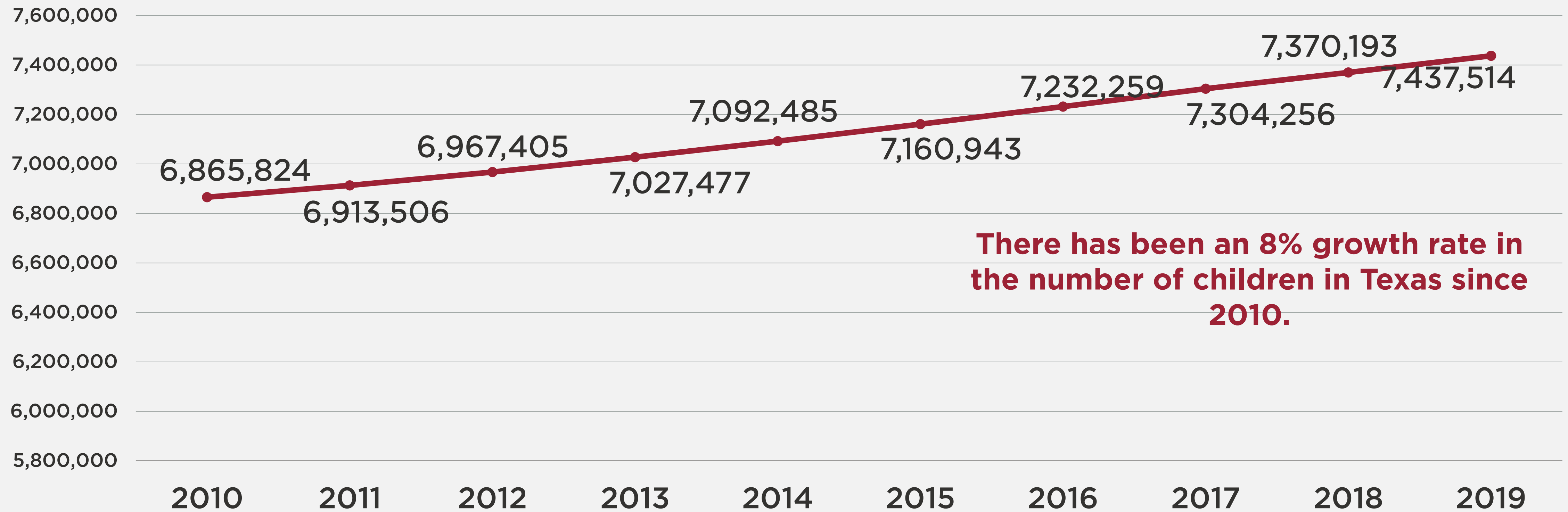
CPS System and
Workforce

Foster Care

Transition and
Support
Services for
Youth

Healing and Trauma-Informed Care

1 in Every 10 US Children Live in Texas



DFPS Data Book - Child Protective Populations at Risk: Texas Child Population



The State of Texas' Babies Report



Late or no prenatal care received 10.4%



Mothers reporting less than optimal mental health 28.1%



Crowded housing 20.4%



Eligibility limit (%FPS) for pregnant women in Medicaid avg. 203

NATIONAL AVERAGE



TANF benefits receipt among families in poverty 5.2%



Housing instability 1.1%



Mothers in the Labor Force 53.7%



Daily parent-child interaction (reading 35.7% and singing 45.4%)

Zero to Three (2019). State of babies yearbook. Retrieved from; https://stateofbabies.org/?utm_source=ZTT%20website&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=SOBY&utm_content=landingpage-02252019

The State of Texas' Babies Report



Low or very low food insecurity 21.6%



Uninsured low-income infants/toddlers 7.8%



Babies with low birth weight 8.4%



Developmental screening received 34.1%



Infants ever breastfeed 85%

NATIONAL AVERAGE



Infant mortality rate 5.7 deaths per 1,000



Infant/toddler maltreatment rate 15.9



Infants/toddlers receiving IDEA Part C services 2.1%

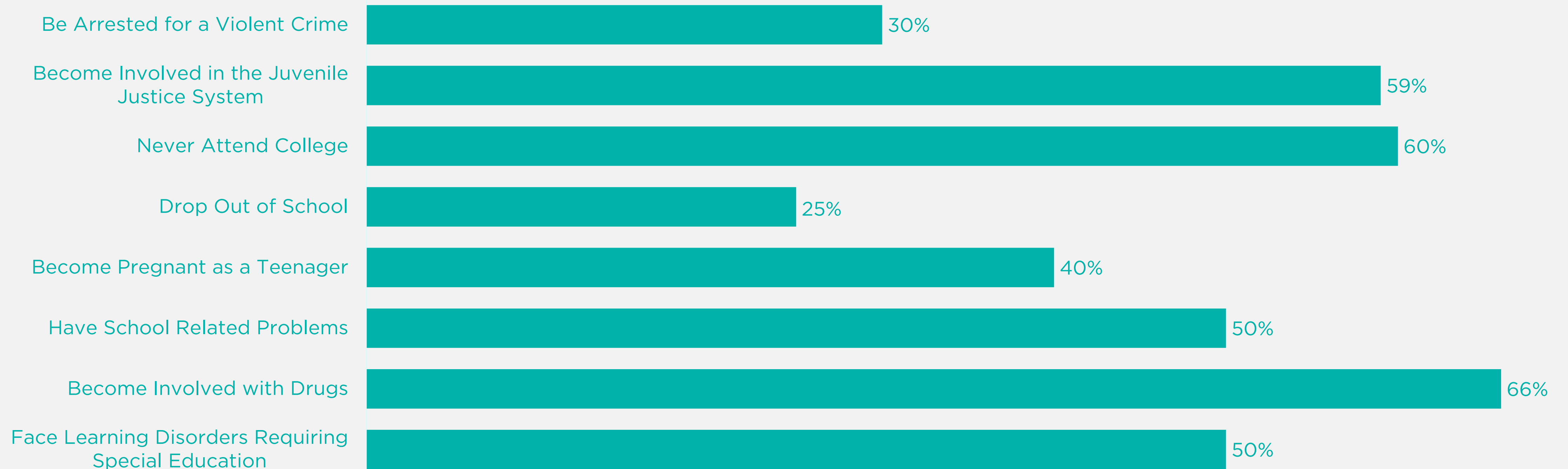


Received recommended vaccines 69.5%

Zero to Three (2019). State of babies yearbook. Retrieved from; https://stateofbabies.org/?utm_source=ZTT%20website&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=SOBY&utm_content=landingpage-02252019

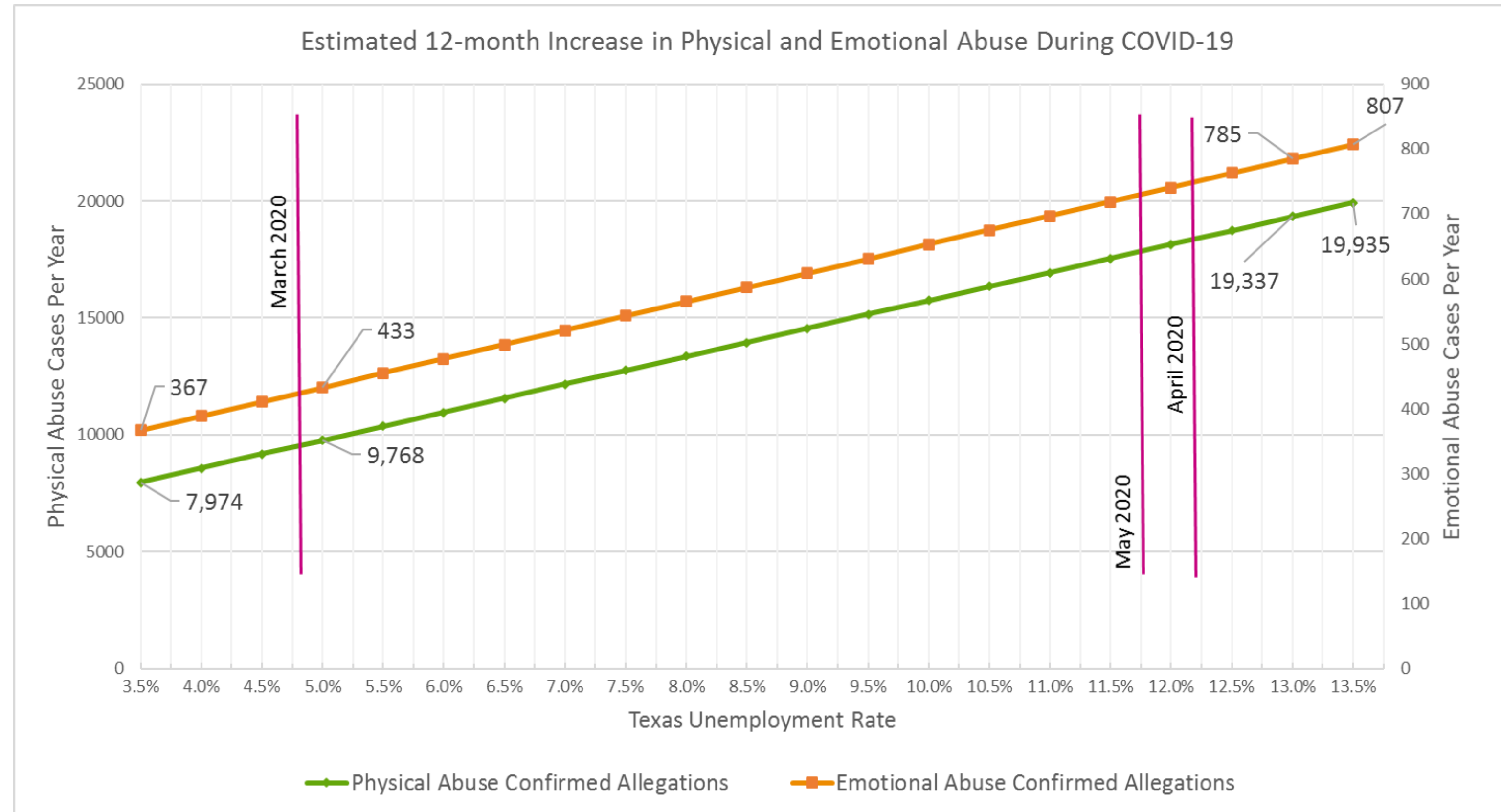
The Impact of Trauma/Abuse

At-risk children are more likely to...

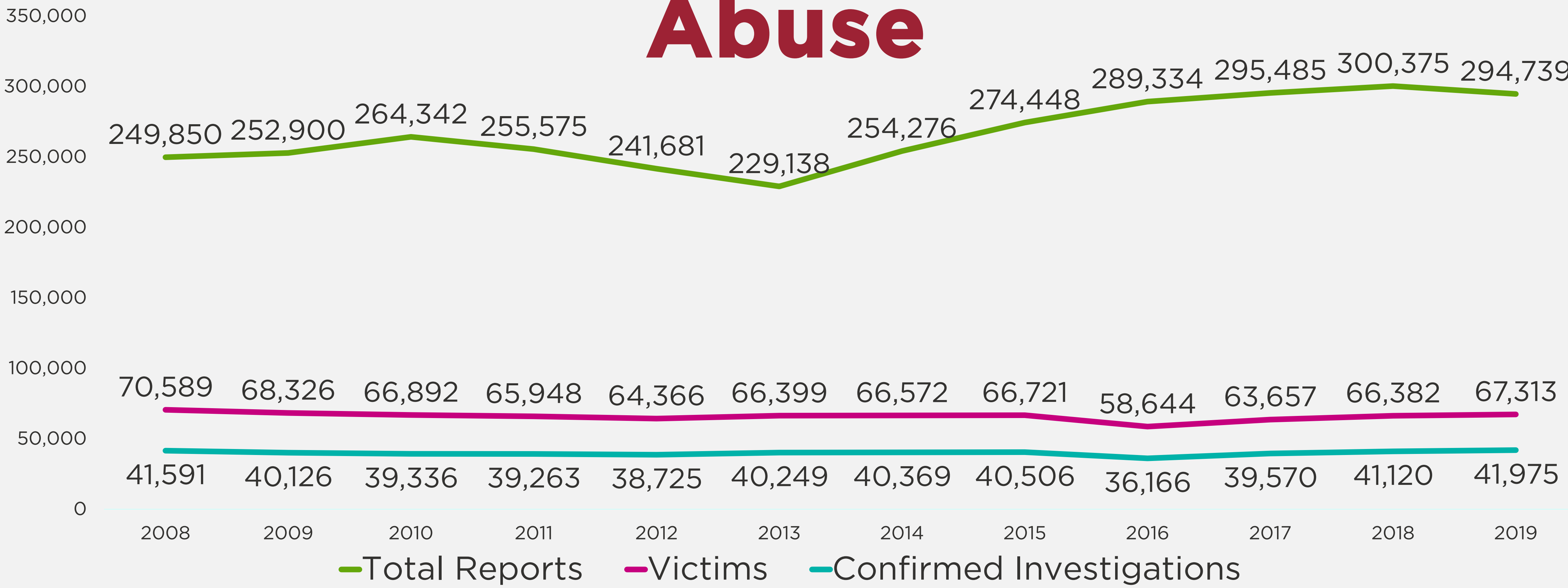


Barnett, W.S., & Masse, L.N. (2002).; Swan, N. (1998).; Campbell, F.A., et al. (2002).; Widom, C., & Maxfield, M. (2001).

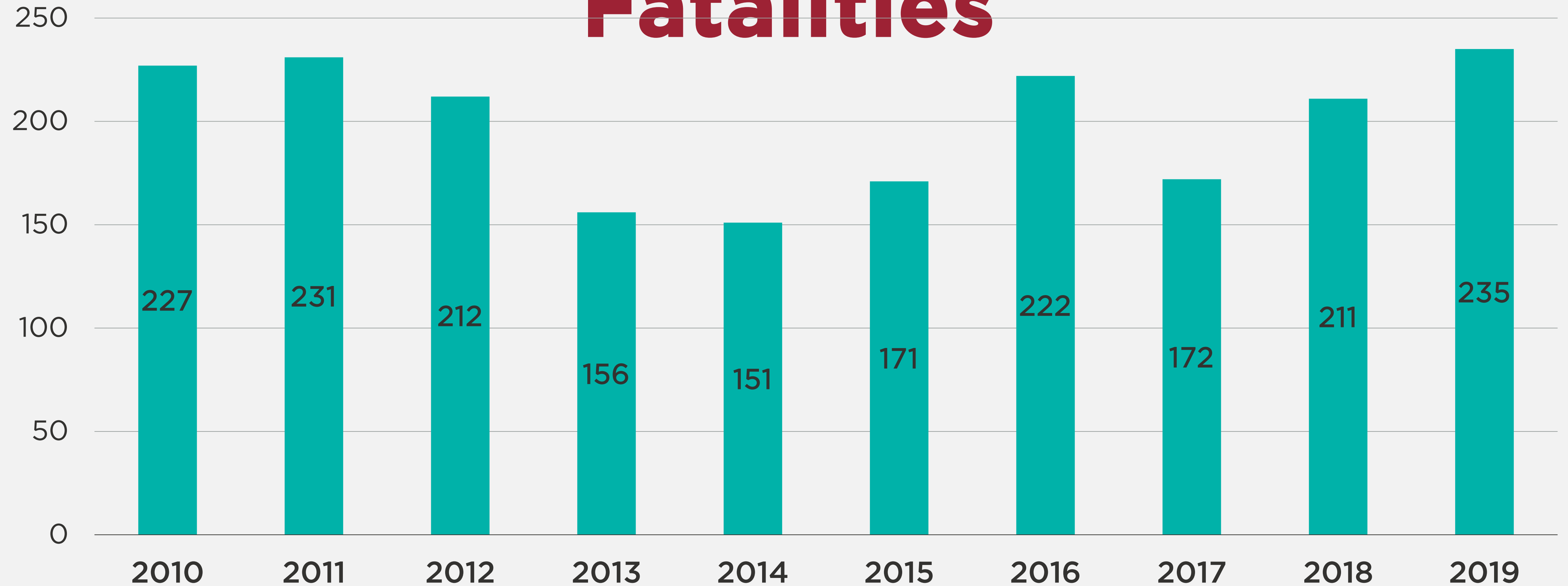
Increased Risk for Child Abuse During COVID-19 Pandemic



Incidences of Abuse



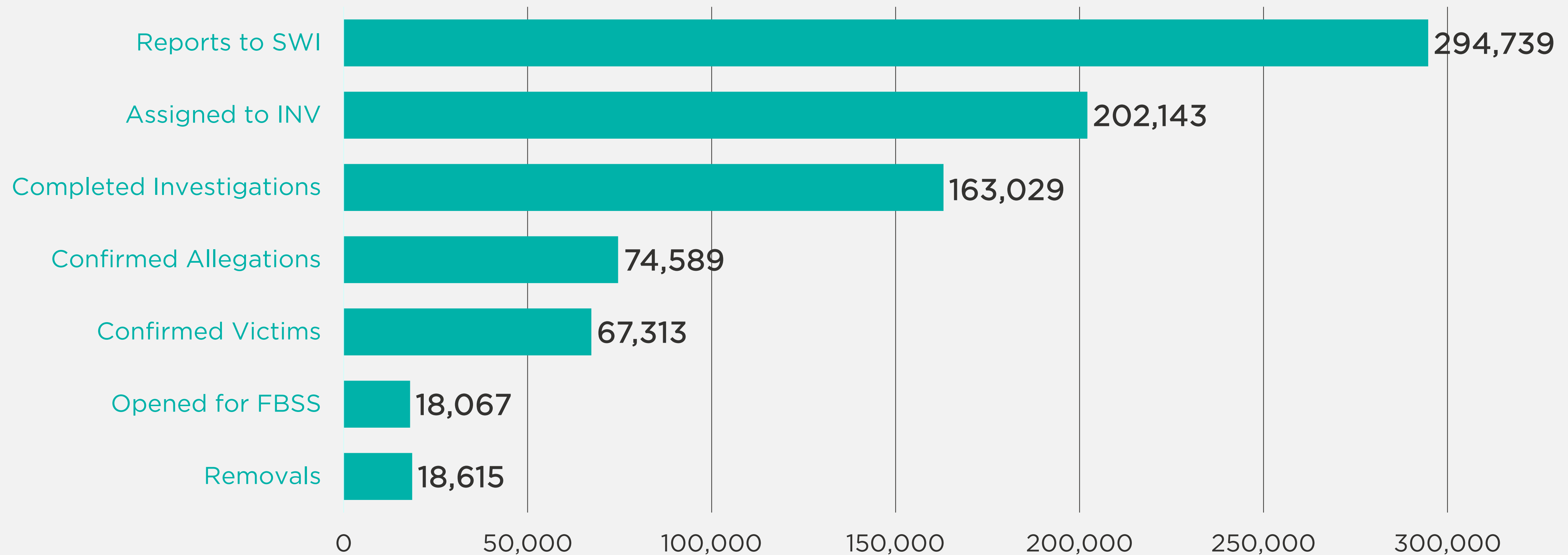
Child Abuse/Neglect Related Fatalities



DFPS Data Book - Texas Child Fatality Investigations: Abuse/Neglect Related Texas Child Fatalities



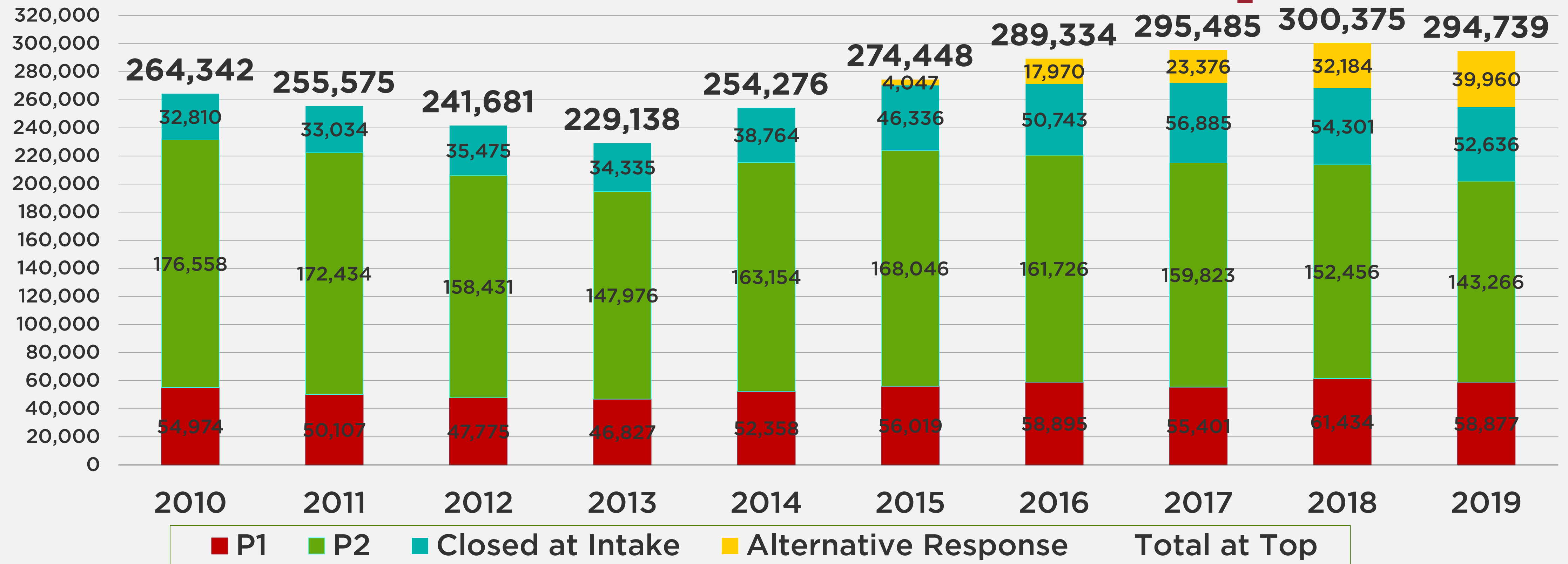
State Intakes, Assignments, Outcomes (2019)



DFPS Data Book: - CPI Intakes: Priority, Screening and Assignment; CPI Completed Abuse/Neglect Investigations: Activity; CPI Completed Investigations: Alleged & Confirmed Types of Abuse; Completed Child Protective Investigations: Referred to Family Preservation; Child Protective Services (CPS): Removals



More Intakes Are Being Closed or Referred to Alternative Response

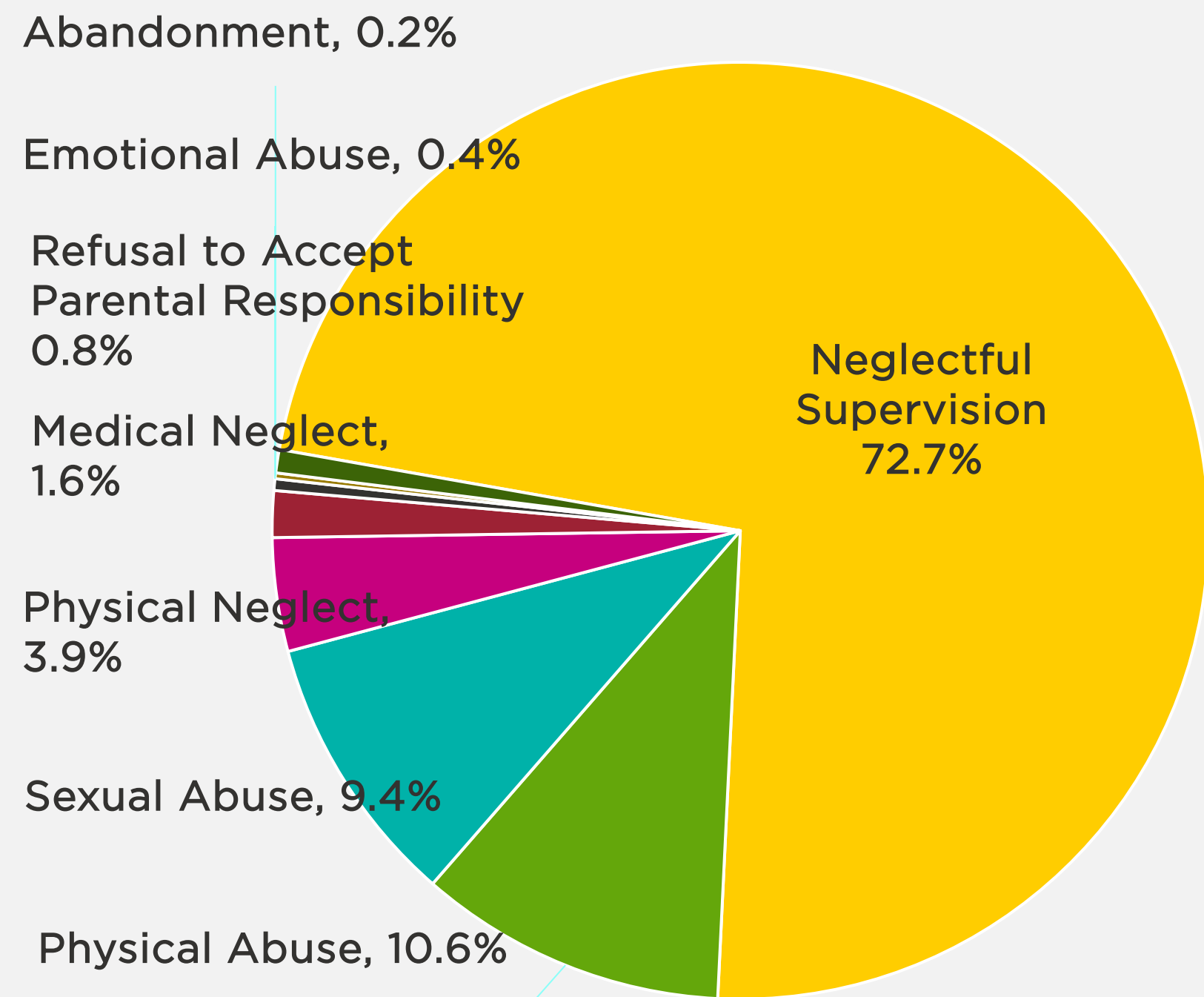


DFPS Data Book - CPI Intakes: Priority, Screening and Assignment



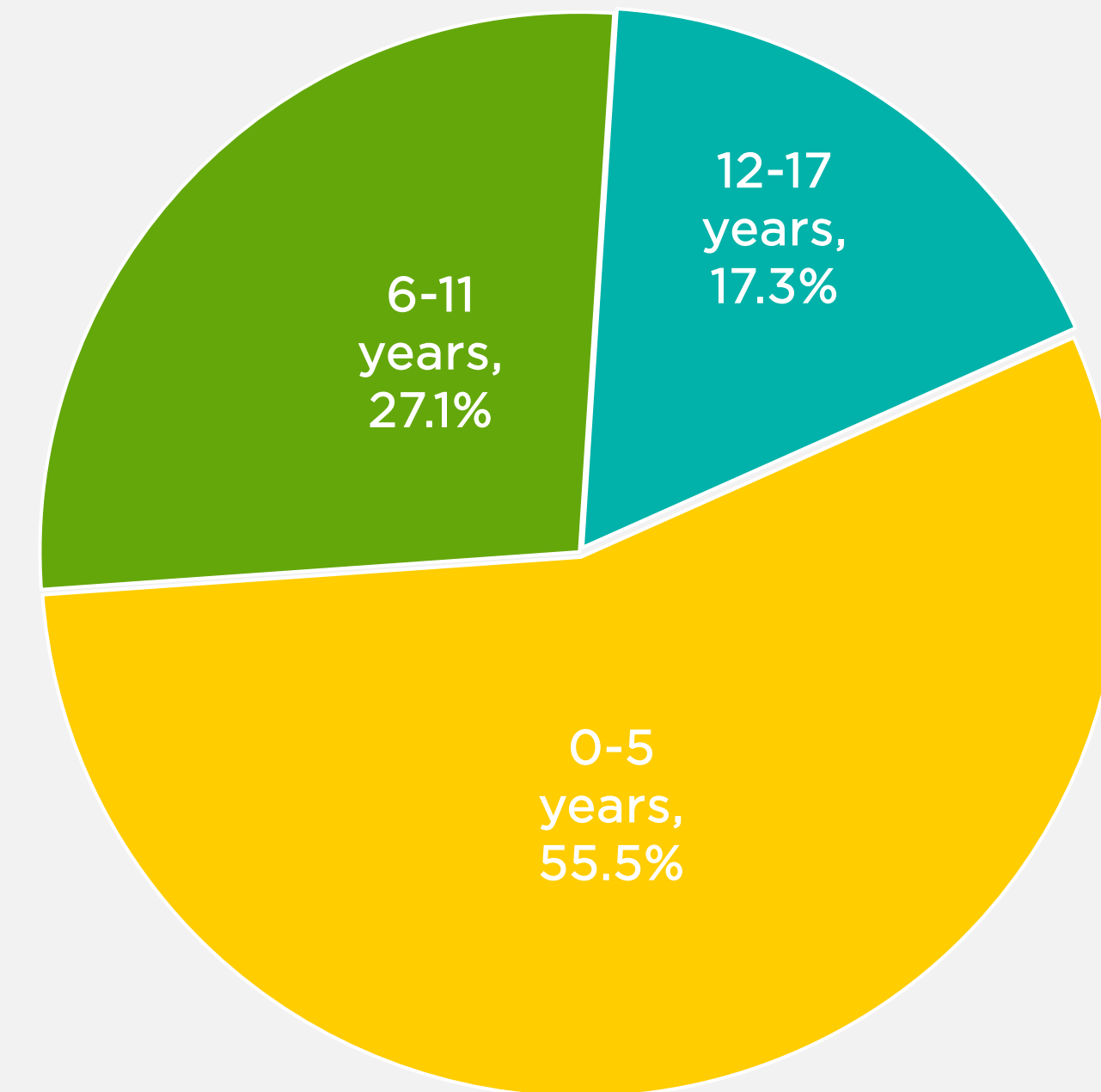
Confirmed Allegations (2019)

Types of Child Maltreatment



67,313 Confirmed Victims

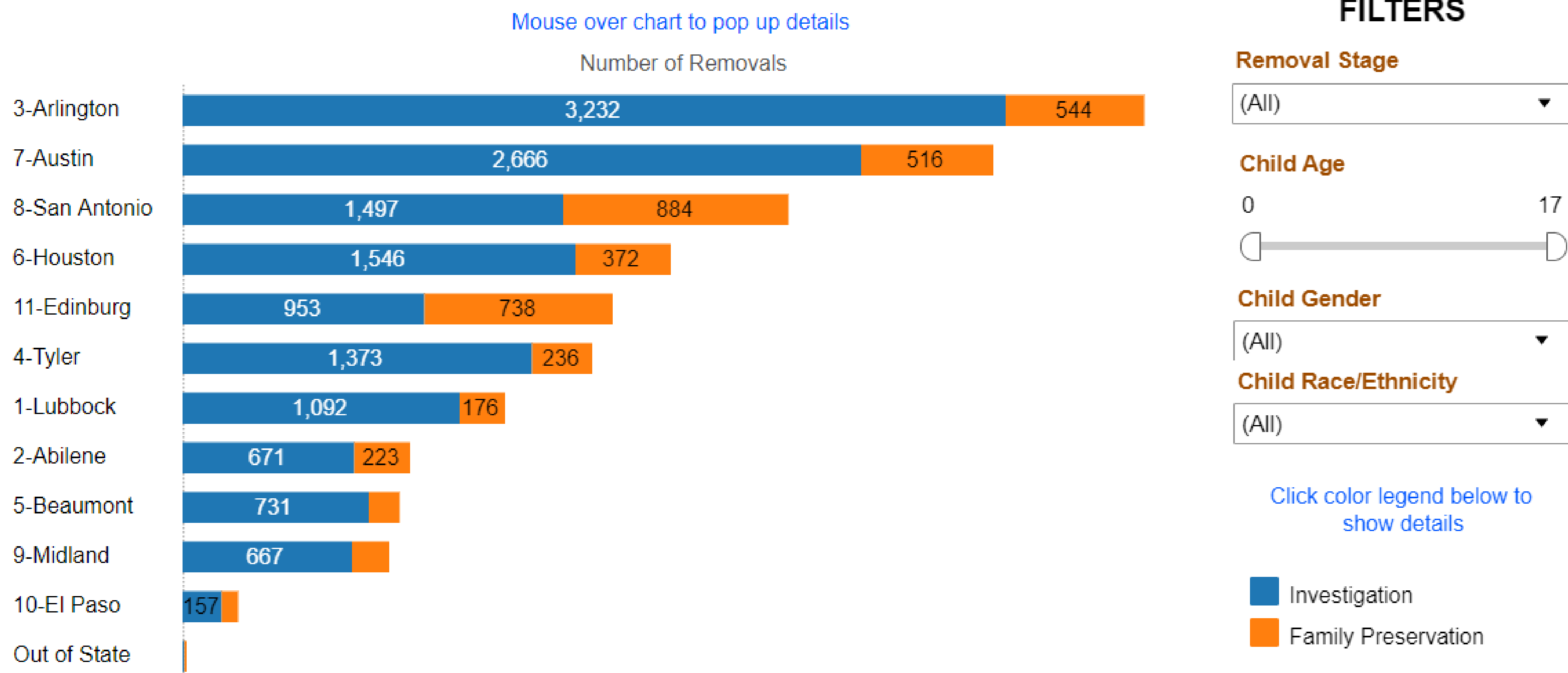
Victims By Age



Confirmed Allegations 0-3 years: 28,157 (41.8%)

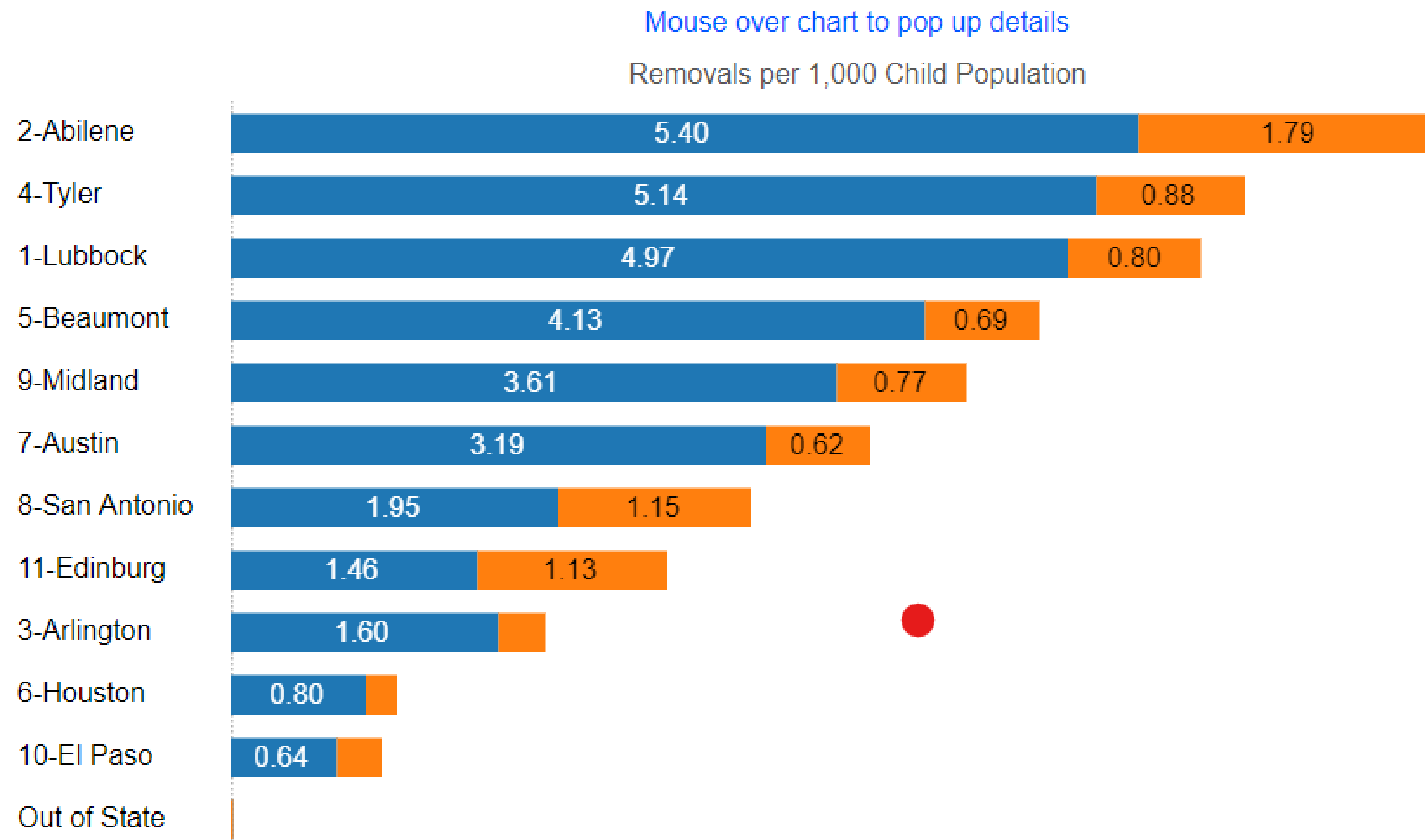
DFPS Data Book - CPI Completed Abuse/Neglect Investigations: Victims; CPI Completed Investigations: Alleged & Confirmed Types of Abuse

Removals by Region (2019)



DFPS Data Book - Child Protective Services (CPS): Removals

Removal Rates by Region (2019)



FILTERS

Removal Stage

(All) ▼

Child Age

0 17

Child Gender

(All) ▼

Child Race/Ethnicity

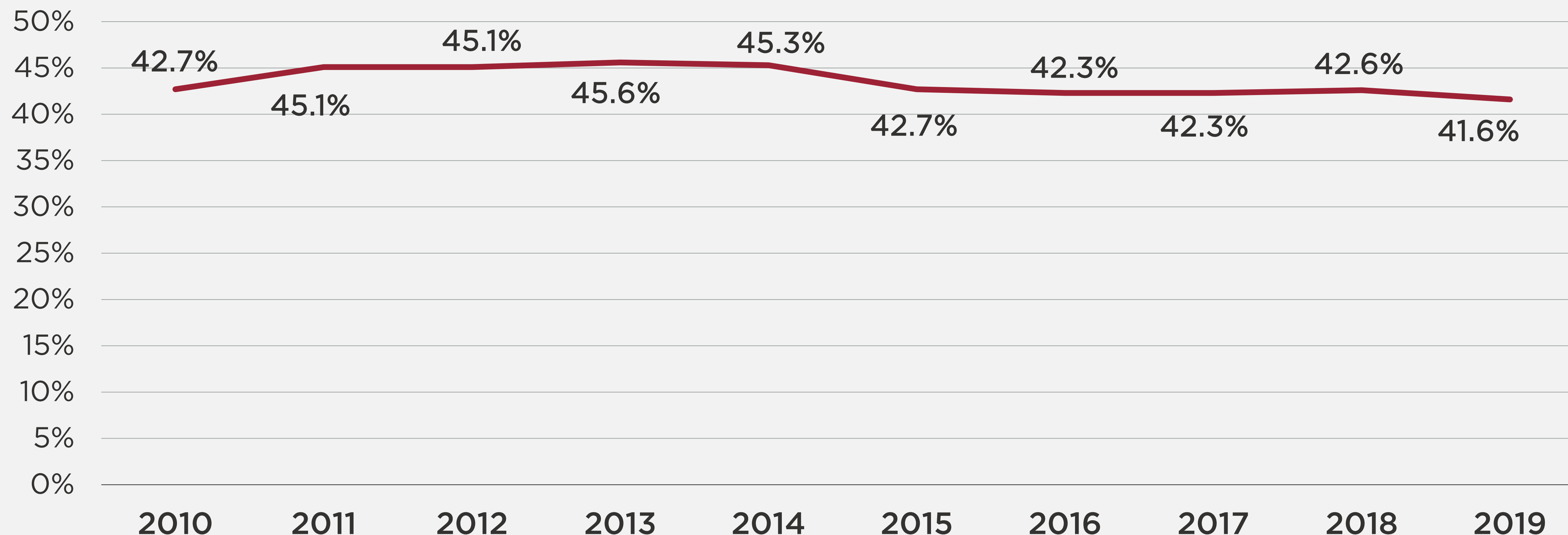
(All) ▼

[Click color legend below to show details](#)

- Investigation
- Family Preservation

DFPS Data Book - Child Protective Services (CPS): Removals

4/10 Families Were Re-reported for Abuse/Neglect within 5 Years of Family Based Safety Services

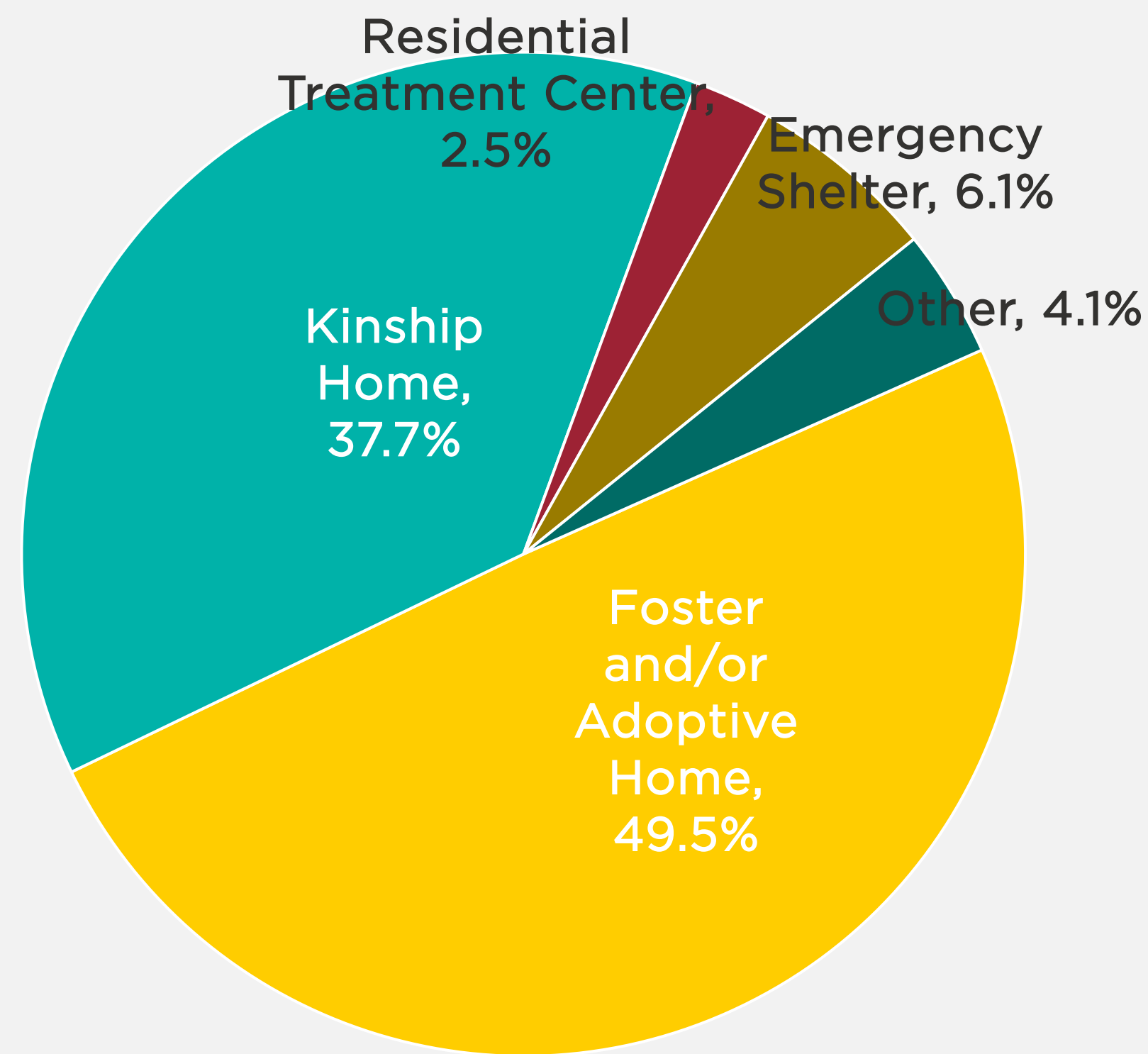


DFPS Data Book - CPS Family Preservation: Six Month, One Year, and Five Year Outcomes

Something isn't working for families who receive services in FBSS. Recurrence has remained fairly steady.



Children in Substitute Care by Placement Type on 8/31



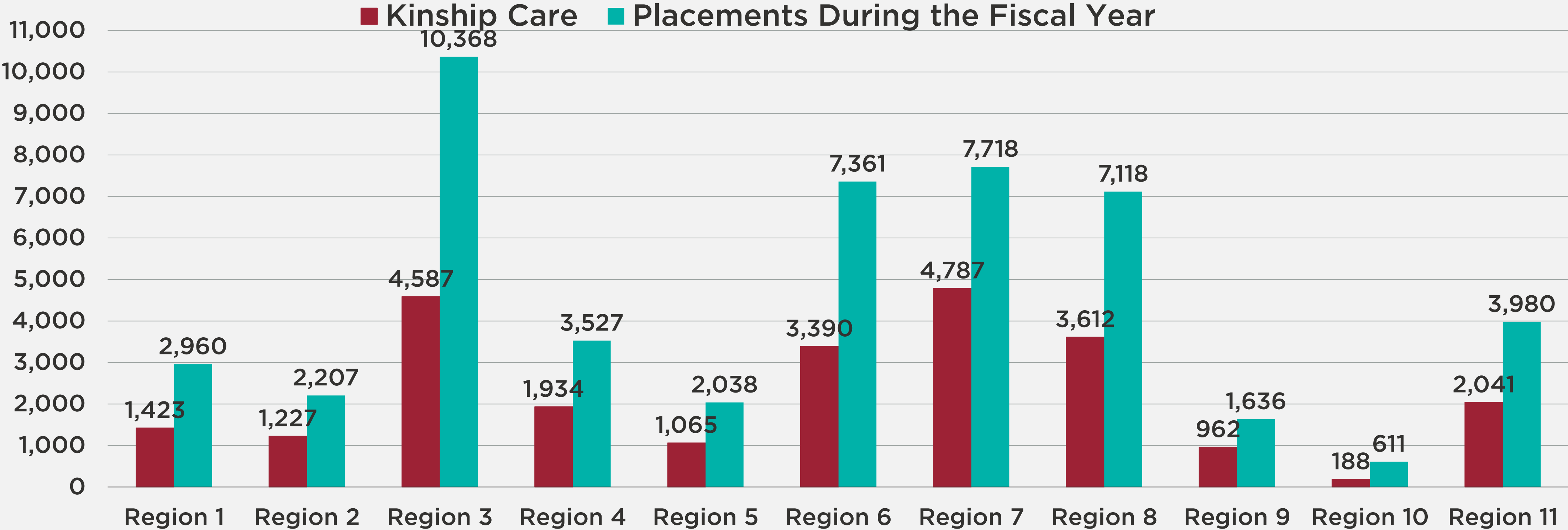
Total children in custody during FY 2019: 51,471

Children in Substitute Care on 8/31: 29,242

“Other” captures placements such as psychiatric hospitals, juvenile justice placements, child specific contracts, HCS homes, etc.

DFPS Data Book - Child Protective Services (CPS): Children in DFPS Legal Responsibility during the Fiscal Year; CPS Placements: Children in Substitute Care on August 31

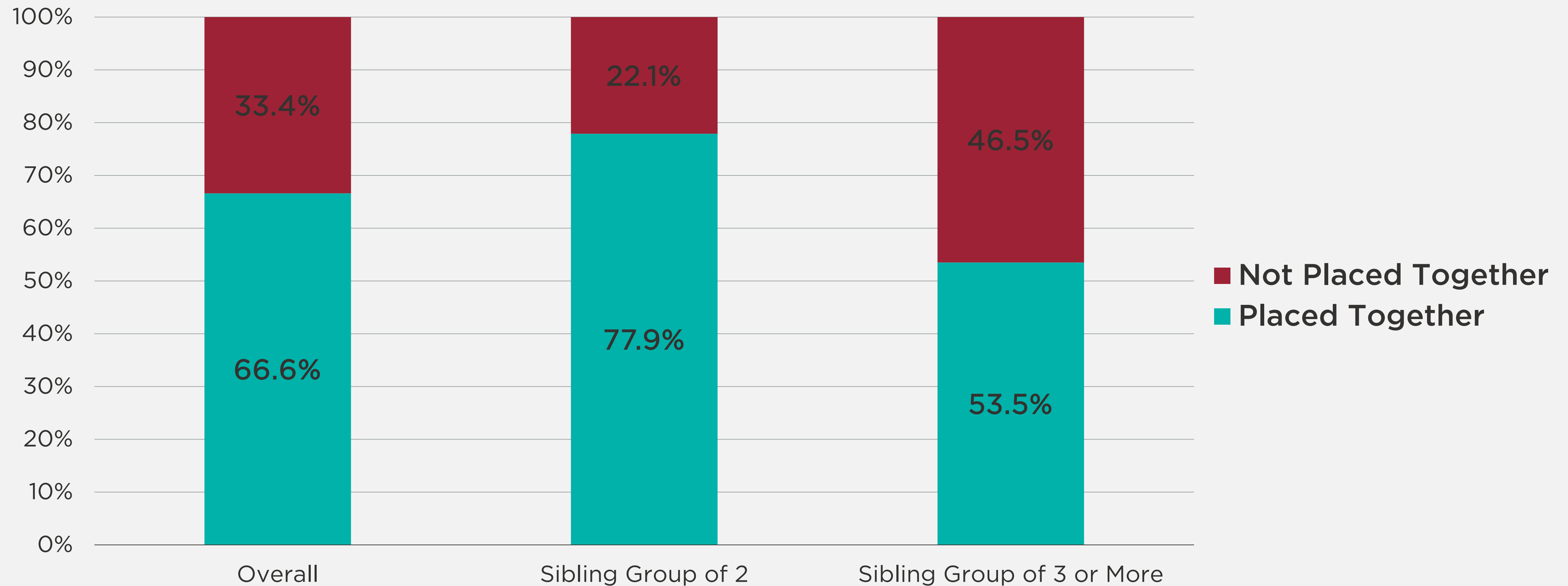
More Than 40% of Children in Substitute Care are Placed in a Kinship Home Across Most Regions



DFPS Data Book - CPS Substitute Care: Placements During Fiscal Year

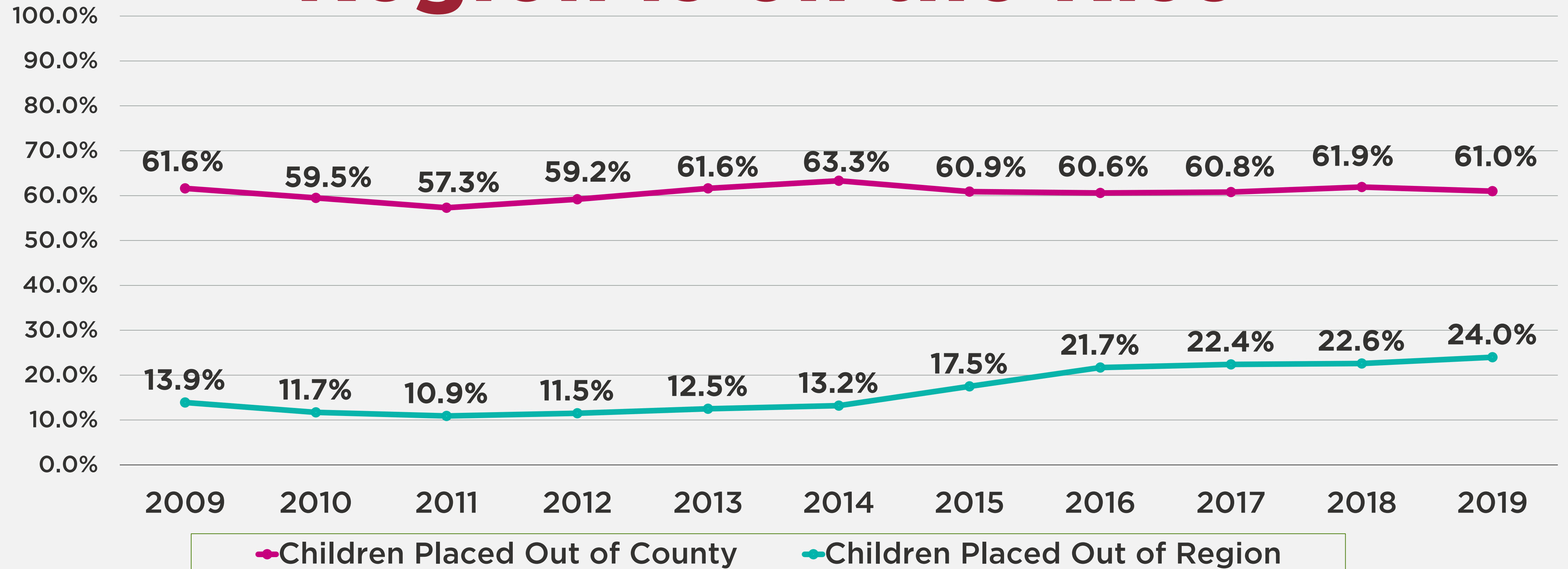


Sibling Groups Placed Together (2019)



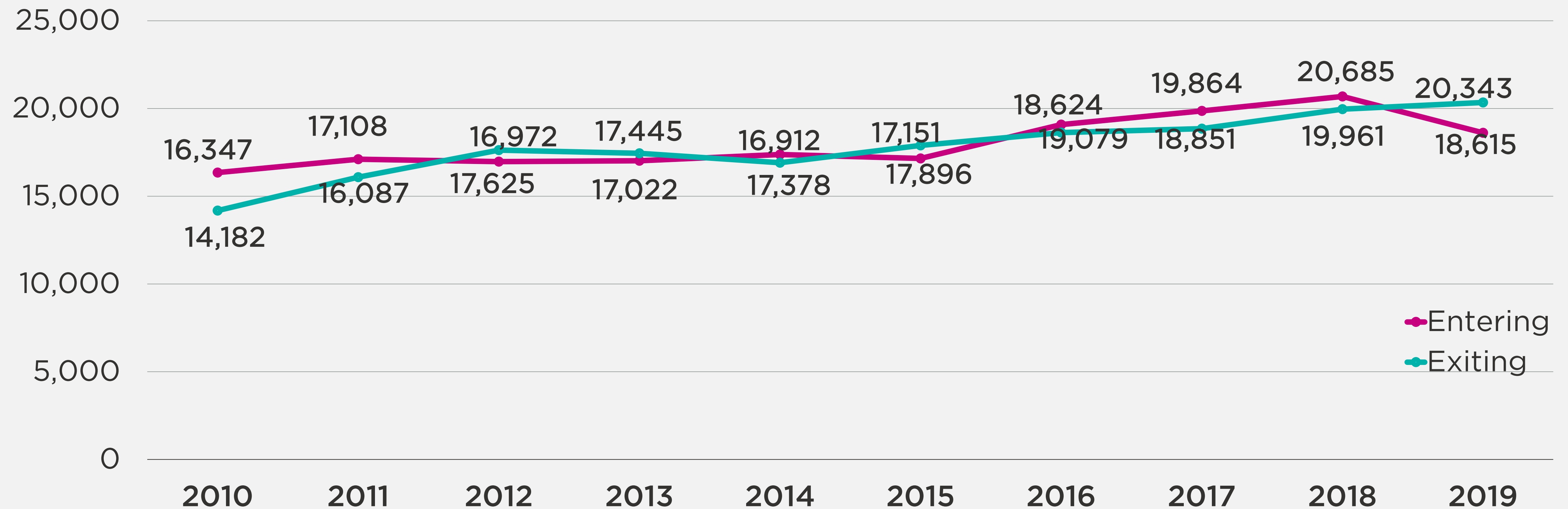
DFPS Data Book - CPS Placements: Sibling Groups in Substitute Care Placed All Together on August 31

Children Being Placed Out of Region is on the Rise



DFPS Data Book - CPS Foster Care Placements: Children (0-17) Placed in Originating County/Region on August 31

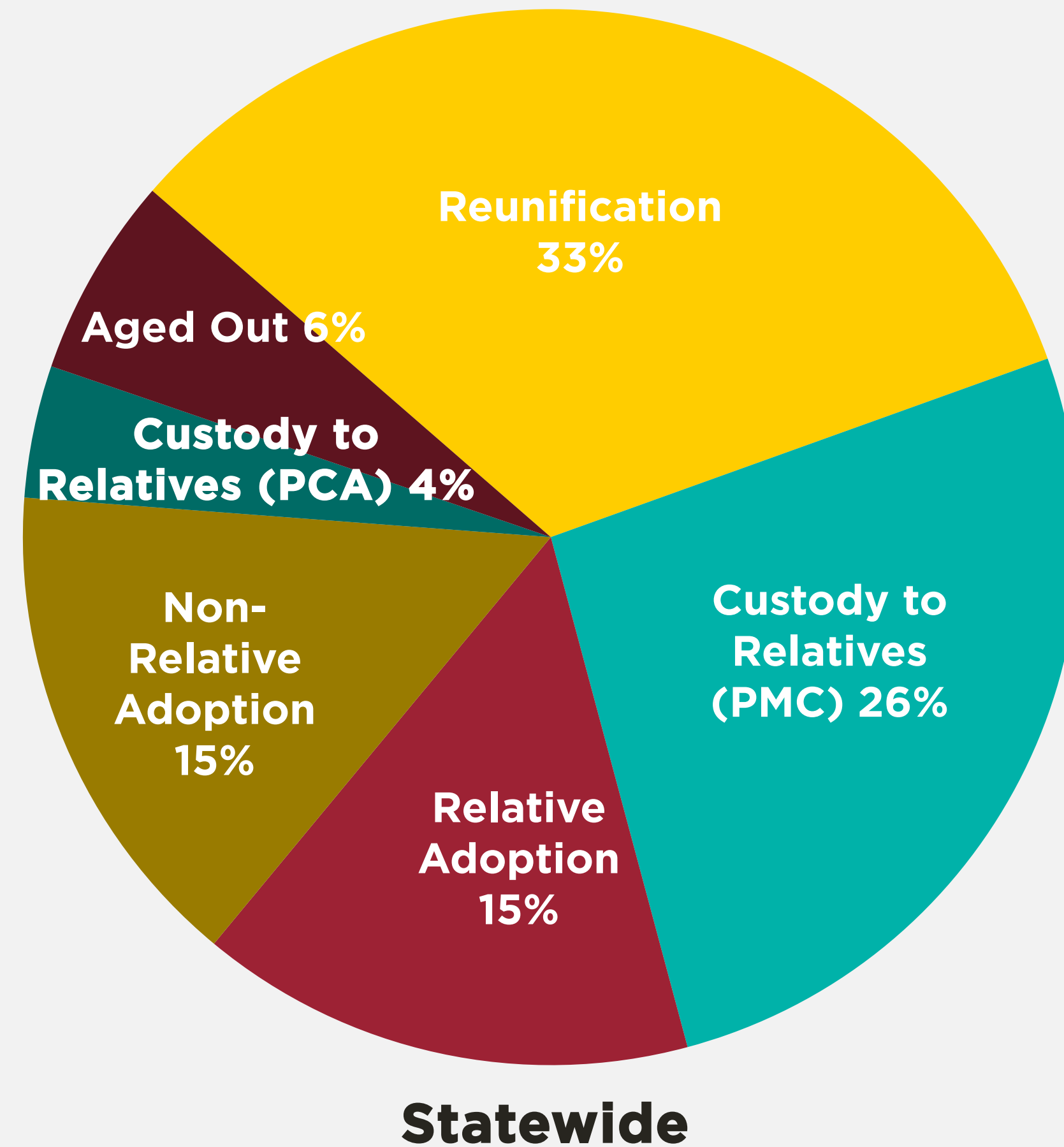
In 2019, More Kids Left Foster Care Than Entered



DFPS Data Book - Child Protective Services (CPS): Children Exiting DFPS Legal Custody; Child Protective Services (CPS): Removals

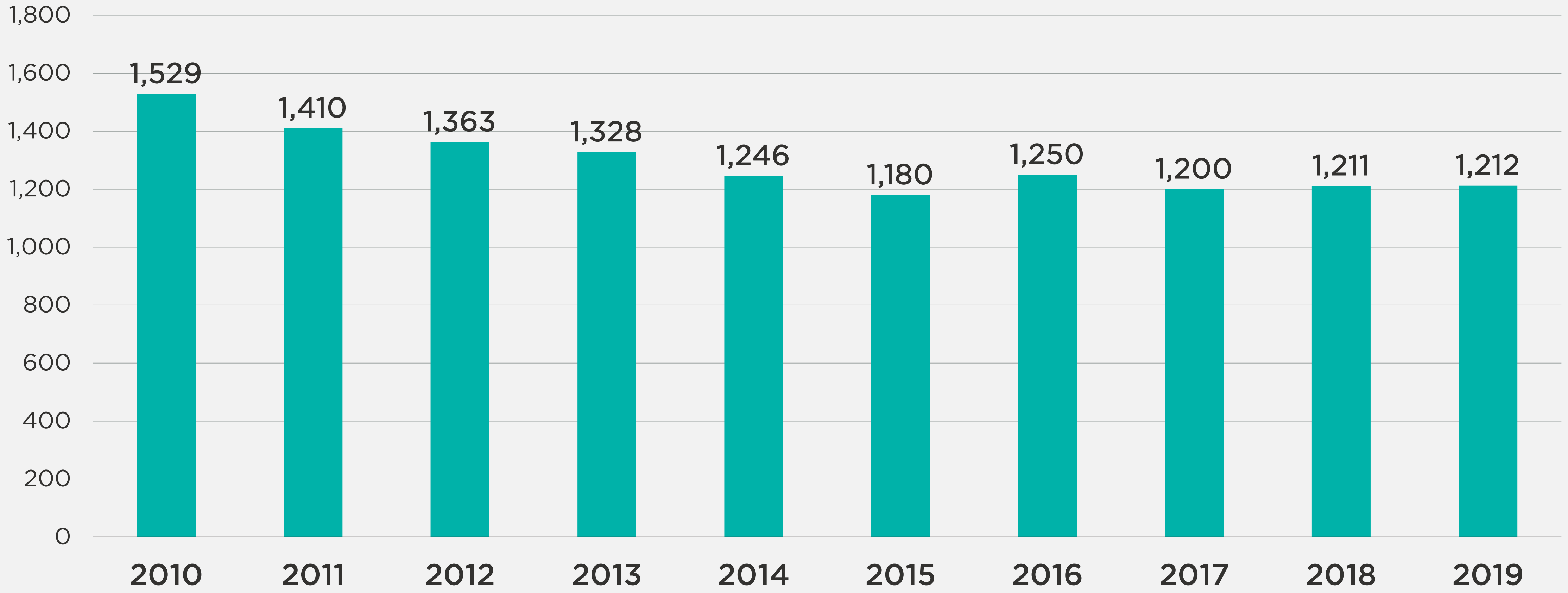


Exits from Substitute Care (2019)



DFPS Data Book - Child Protective Services (CPS): Children Exiting DFPS Legal Custody

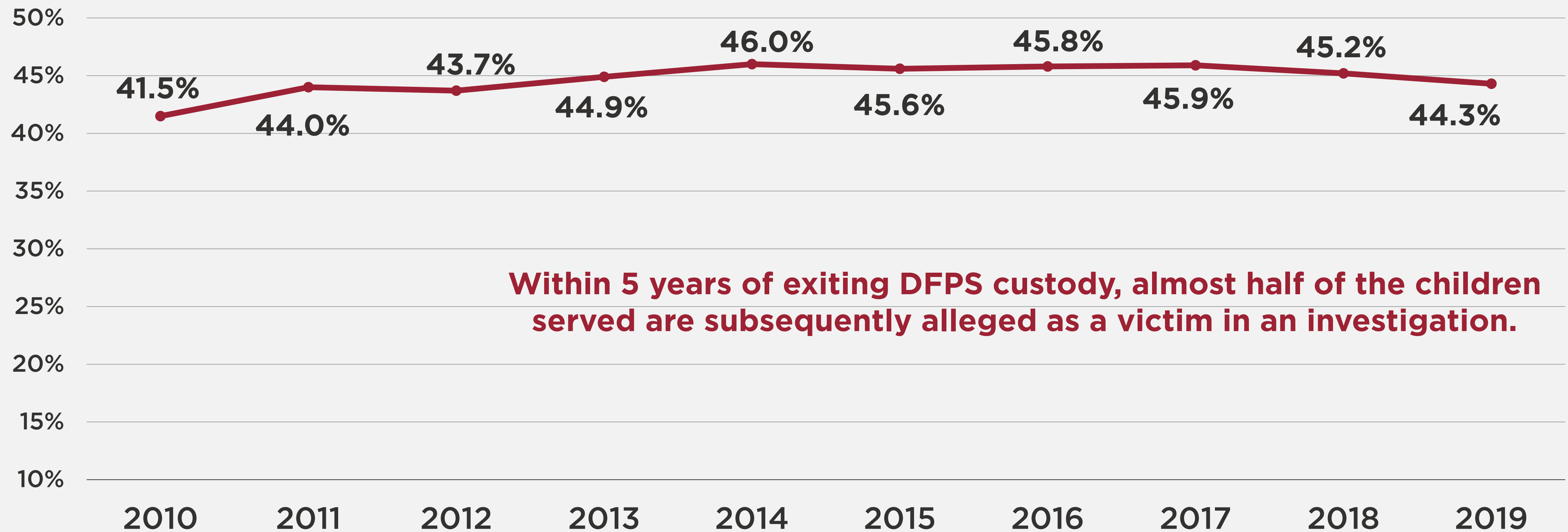
of Youth Aging Out



DFPS Data Book - Child Protective Services (CPS): Children Exiting DFPS Legal Custody



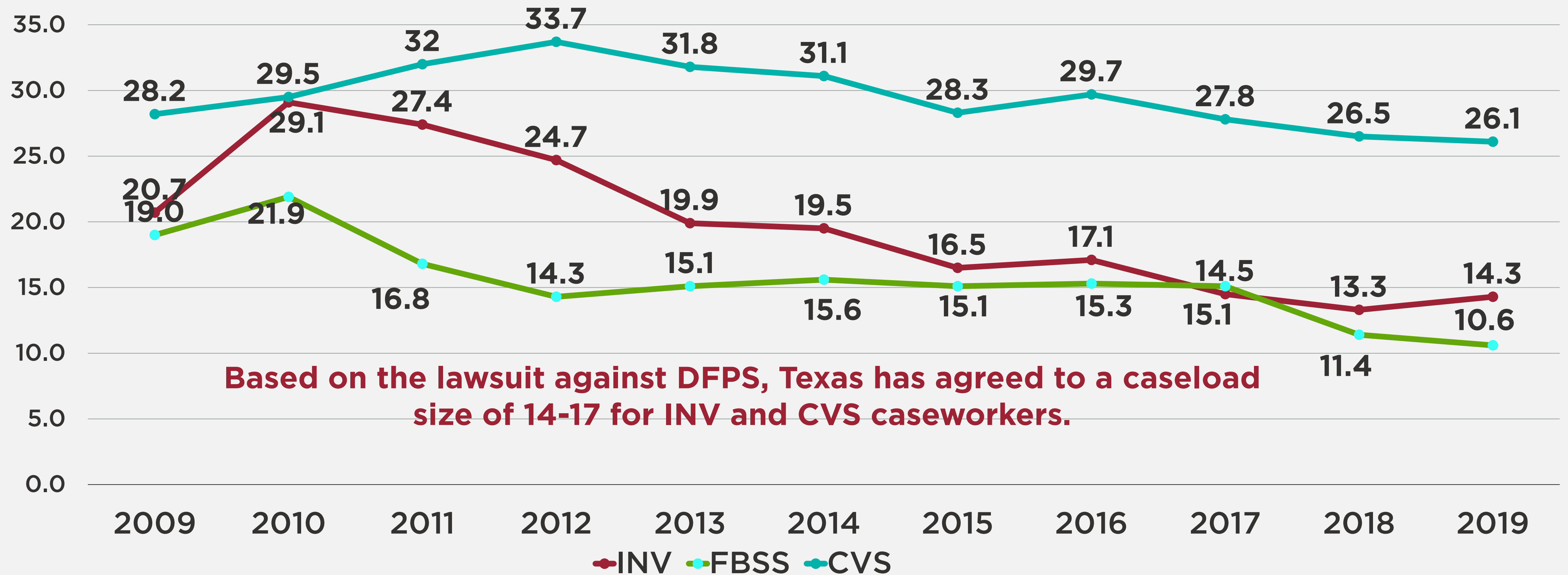
Recurrence within 5 Years of Service for Children in Custody



DFPS Data Book - CPS Conservatorship: Six Month, One Year, and Five Year Outcomes

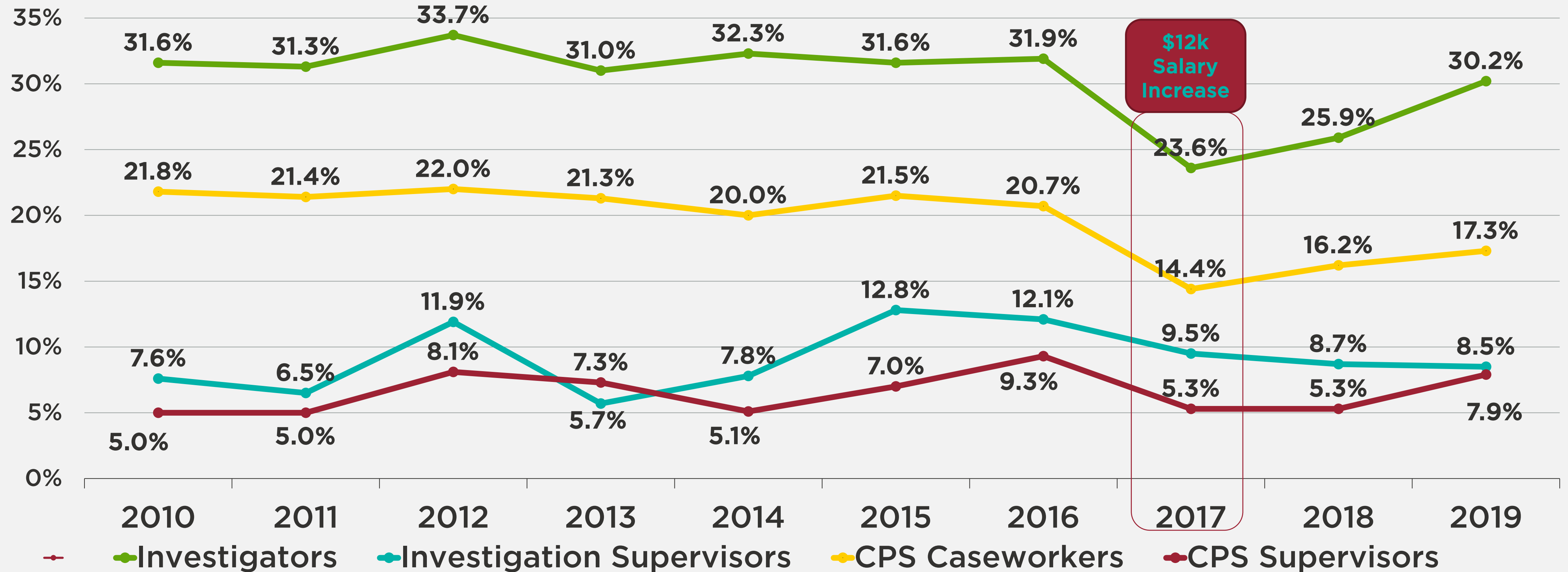


Decreased Caseloads Increase Safety Outcomes for Kids



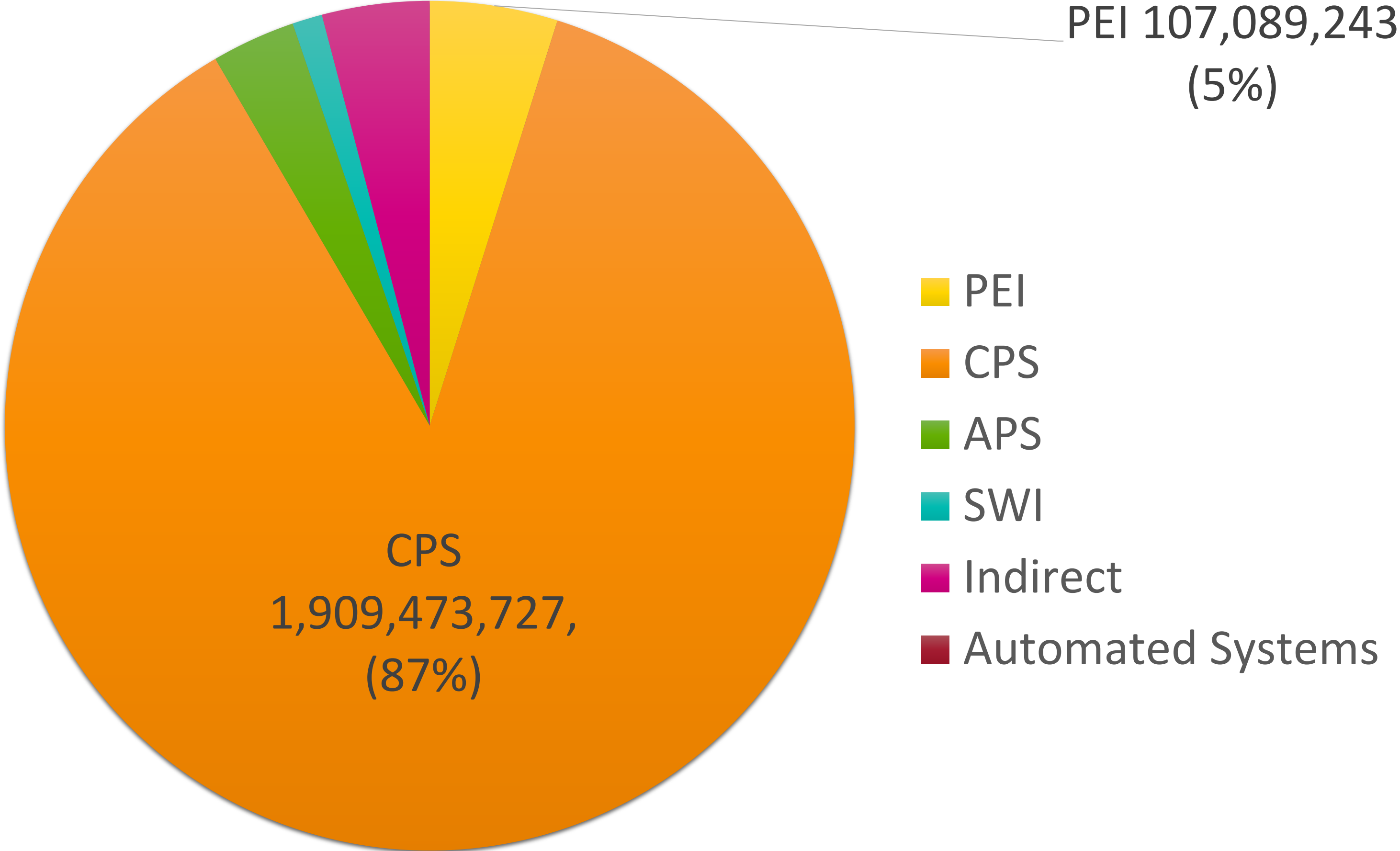
DFPS Data Book - Child Protective (CPI / CCI / CPS): Average Daily Caseload

Caseworker Turnover



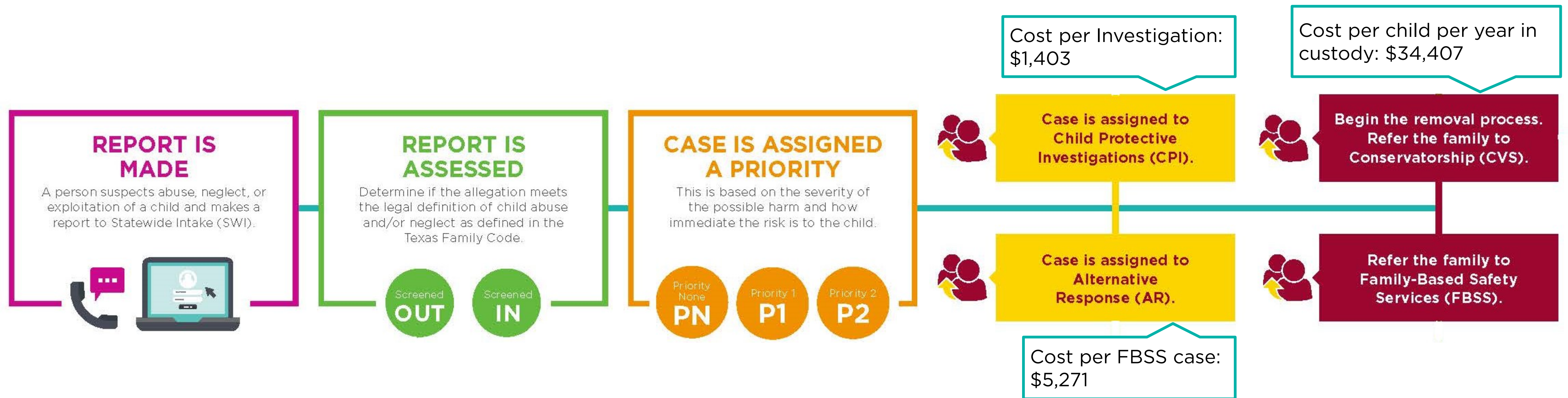
DFPS Data Book - Child Protective (CPI / CCI / CPS): Staff Turnover

Texas Prevention vs. Child Protection Budget (2021)



5% of Texas' budget is spent on early prevention efforts in comparison to CPS

The further into the system a case flows, the more expensive it is



Texas can expect to spend \$55 billion across the lifetime for confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect that occurred in 2019

Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect



Prevention Spectrum

Primary

Primary prevention focuses on reaching families **before** the first occurrence of child maltreatment.

Secondary

Secondary prevention focuses on efforts to prevent maltreatment among families considered to be at **high risk**.

Tertiary

Tertiary prevention focuses on mitigating the negative effects and prevent re-occurrence in families where **maltreatment has already occurred**.

Intervening with families to meet their needs can occur at various times to prevent child maltreatment

Paths to Prevention

The early support of a caring adult can build a child's resiliency and prevent/mitigate the damaging effects of stress responses to ACEs.



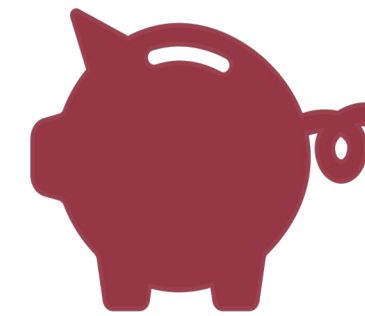
Home visiting programs



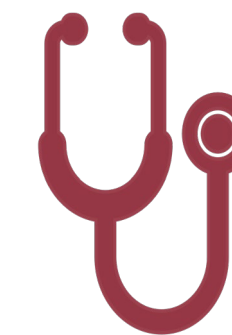
Treatment for mental illness



Substance use treatment



Support for low-income families



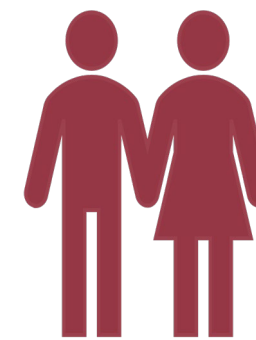
Access to healthcare



High quality childcare



Support programs for parenting teens



Prevention of domestic violence

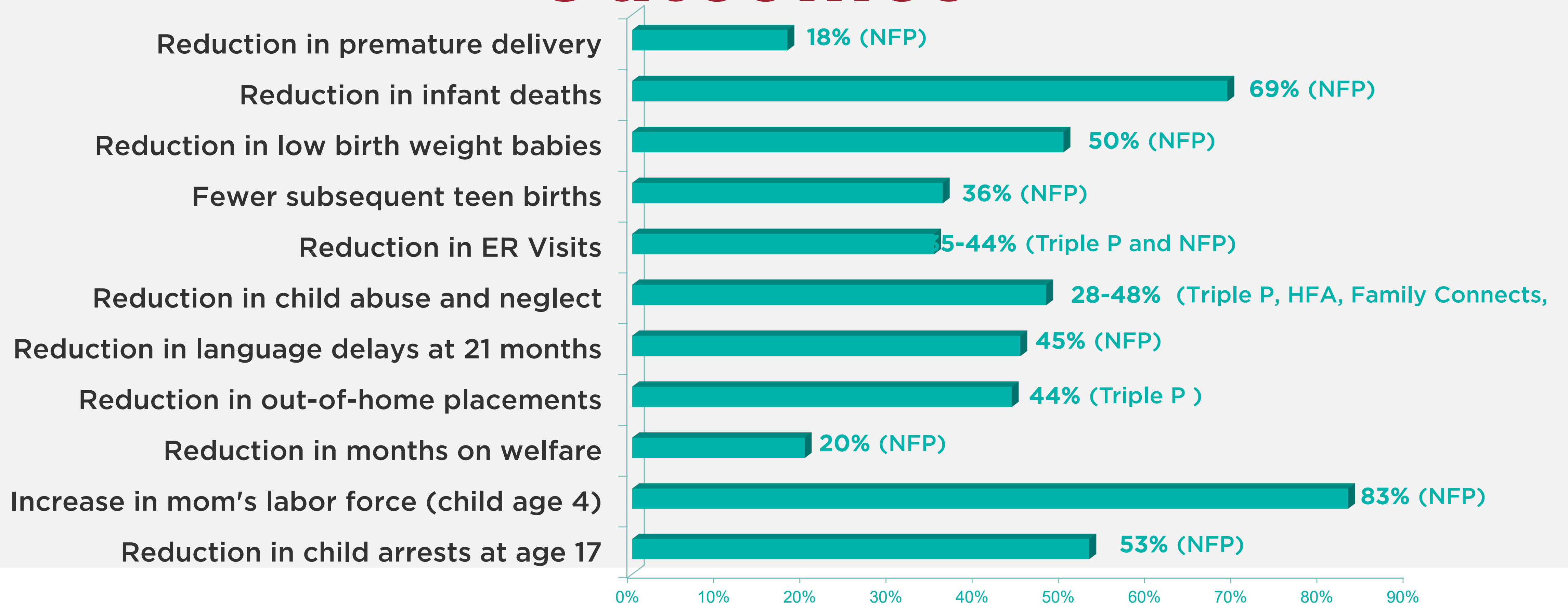


Parent training and support



Trauma-Informed Training In all Sectors

Evidence Based Home Visiting Outcomes



Family First Prevention Services Act

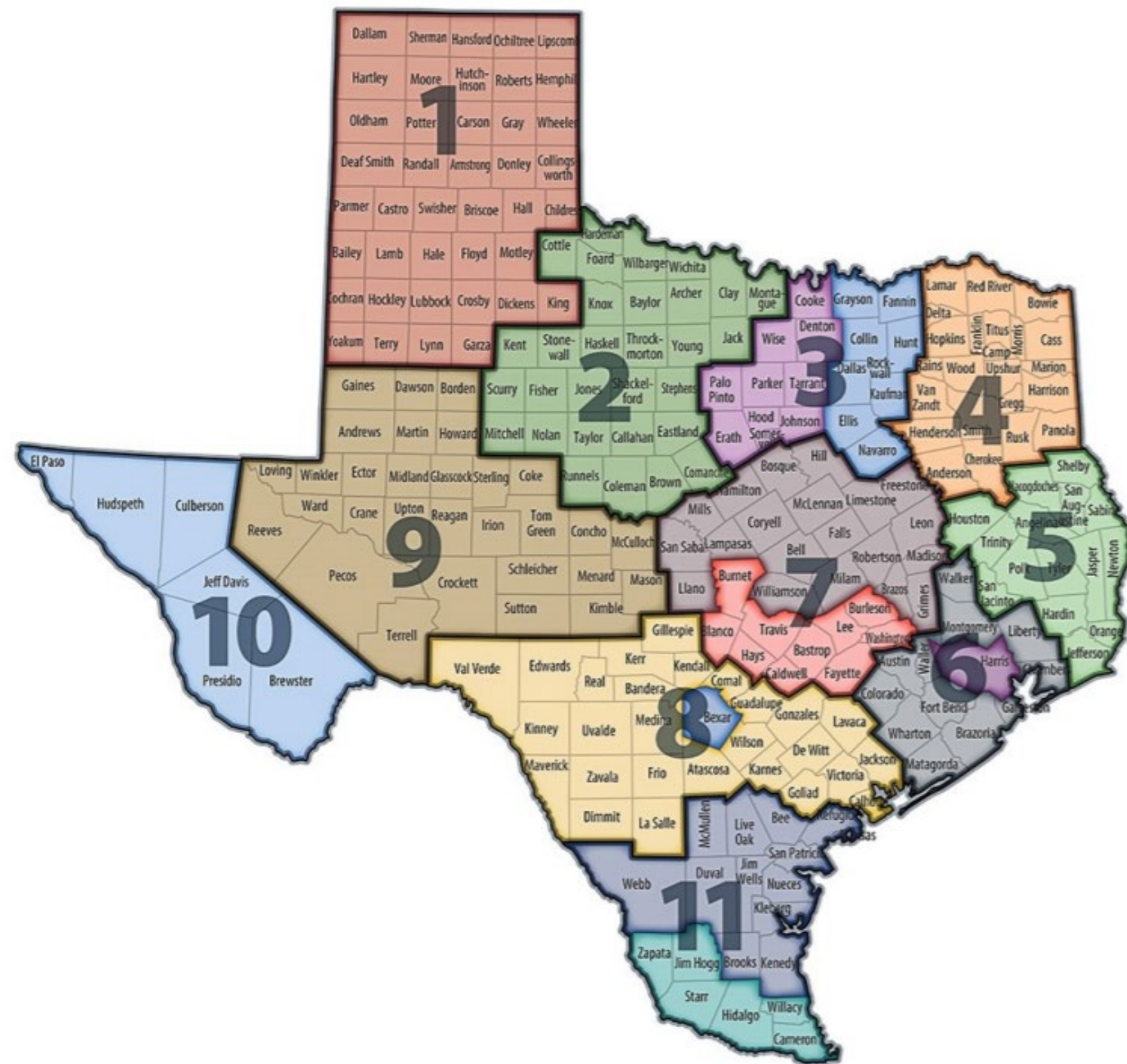
Family First Act is a significant victory for Texas families!

Invests in prevention services for children at risk of entering foster care	Supports kinship caregivers & provides targeted investments to keep children safe with families	Funds evidence-based services & substance use treatment	Ensures children in foster care are placed in least restrictive, most family-like setting	Promotes permanency	Supports youth transitioning from foster care into adulthood
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Authorized by Congress **February 9, 2018**
State strategic plan provided to Legislature **September 2020**
Implementation **October 2021**



Community Based Care Updates



Region 3W (formerly 3B)

- Contracted with OCOK
- Stage II (case management) implemented in March 2020

Region 2

- Contacted with 2INgage
- Stage II implemented in June 2020

Region 8A

- Contracted with Family Tapestry
- Stage I implementation began February 2018

Region 1

- Contracted with Saint Francis Ministries
- Stage I implementation began January 2020

Region 8B

- Re-procured and still accepting applications for Single Source Continuum Contractors

DFPS: Community-Based Care Implementation Plan

Community Based Care - Stage I Performance Outcomes (FY20 Q1)

Measure	OCOK	2INgage	Family Tapestry
Safe in care	100%	100%	100%
Close to home*	74% <i>74%</i>	47% <i>47%</i>	82% <i>75%</i>
Family home setting	79% <i>75%</i>	76% <i>78%</i>	72% <i>70%</i>
Siblings placed together	66% <i>63%</i>	57% <i>67%</i>	66% <i>64%</i>

Italicized numbers are the historical baseline for those areas.

* FY19 Q1 pending

Numbers received from DFPS at DFPS Council Meeting on February 14, 2020



Federal Foster Care Lawsuit Timeline

2011 class action lawsuit by Children's Rights

2015 Judge Jack found Texas liable for violating rights - kids aged out more damaged than entered

Texas opposed the lawsuit and appealed - saying mandates were expensive and unnecessary - 5th Circuit Court of Appeals

Jan. 2018 Judge Jack ordered permanent injunction against Texas with 100 actions that had to be taken - appointed 2 "special masters" to monitor for 3 years

Oct. 2018 5th Circuit Court upheld some of Judge Jack's rulings but struck down cap on caseloads and many others

Nov. 2018 Judge Jack issues new injunction to strengthen oversight of licensed foster care and data system

July 2019 Fifth Circuit Court overturned several of Judge Jack's mandates but upheld that no children could be placed in group homes (more than 6 children) without 24-hour supervision

Oct 2019 Plaintiffs in case asked Judge Jack to hold state in contempt of court because of false statements about overnight supervision

December 2019 Texas agrees to caseload size of 14-17 for investigators and conservatorship caseworkers

February 2020 Judge Jack expresses continued concern about overnight supervision and demands information from one facility about a child death and another regarding use of restraints

June 2020 Special Monitors publish report outlining their findings as to how "the Texas child welfare system continues to expose children in permanent managing conservatorship to an unreasonable risk of serious harm."

Sept 2020 DFPS and HHSC are found to be in contempt.

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