



TEXAS CENTER
 FOR THE JUDICIARY

2018 Child Welfare Judicial Conference

Jim Sylvester, Associate Commissioner for Investigations

Kristene Blackstone, Associate Commissioner for CPS

November 13, 2018

Investigations Division: Structure

- Investigative functions of CPS, CCL, RCCL, and Special Investigations joined the new DFPS Investigations Division in September 2017.
 - Regulatory functions of Child Care Licensing and Residential Child Care Licensing moved to HHS.
- DFPS Investigations Division continues to implement and support Alternative Response.
- DFPS Investigations also assists with the Governor's Human Sex Trafficking Prevention program.

Investigations Division: What does it mean for CCL?

- DFPS CCL Investigators:
 - Investigate allegations of abuse/neglect in child care settings (daycare and residential care)
 - Remain trained on Minimum Standards
 - Make determinations if abuse/neglect occurred in child care settings
 - Send information to HHS CCL Regulatory on any possible deficiencies
- DFPS conducts Administrative Reviews of Investigative Findings if Reason to Believe findings are made.

Investigations Division: What does it mean for Special Investigators?

- Increased collaboration with staff across DFPS.
- Utilization of their experience to enhance training opportunities for DFPS staff in all stages of service.
- Special Investigators will continue to investigate and consult on DFPS investigations involving child abuse and/or neglect.

Goal 1: Maximize Child Safety

- Increase the percent of timely initial contacts
- Improve Safety and Risk Assessments/Reduce recidivism
- Human Trafficking prevention efforts
- Collaboration between SIs and CCL Investigators

Goal 2: Partnership and Collaboration

- Internal Partnerships:
 - Maintain partnership with CPS
 - Increase teamwork across DFPS
 - Enhanced training opportunities for DFPS
- External Partnerships:
 - Maintain partnership with HHSC CCL Regulatory
 - Communication and education for child care providers
 - Collaboration with stakeholders

Goal 3: Ensure a Professional and Stable Workforce

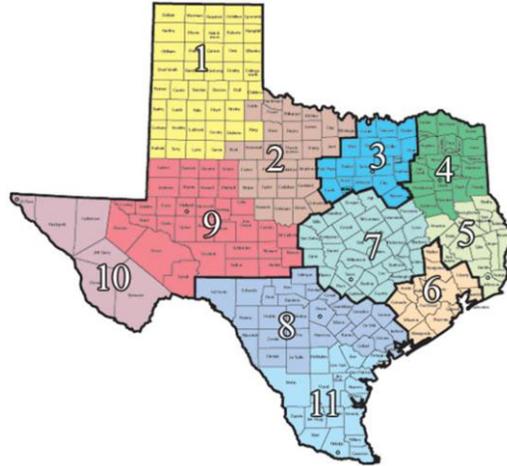
- Assess workforce and training needs for CCL
- Ensure staff are properly screened and trained
- Technology supports
- Promote retention

Special Investigations How did we get here?

The Special Investigations program was created as a result of Senate Bill 6 during the 79th Legislature in 2005, introduced by Senator Jane Nelson.

Special Investigations Organizational Structure

- 306 FTEs
- 5 Program Administrators
- 27 Program Directors
- 2 Project Specialist
- 1 Director
- 254 Counties
- 268,597 Square Miles



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Special Investigations Skills and Experience

- Former and/or current Law Enforcement professionals
- Preferred previous child abuse, family violence, elder abuse and homicide experience
- Intermediate to advanced interview and interrogation
- Skill in technology-facilitated crimes, NCMEC child pornography submissions
- Skill in crime scene detection, recognition, documentation and photography
- Skill in injury recognition and documentation of sexual abuse
- Skill in understanding dynamics, power and control of domestic violence
- Skill in mechanism of injury in physical child abuse cases
- Skill in medical recognition of mechanism and onset of symptoms in abusive head trauma
- Skill in collaborative investigation and working in a multiple disciplinary team
- Skill in working with trafficked youth, trauma bonds, trauma informed interviews

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Special Investigations Roles and Responsibilities

- Child Fatalities
- Unable to locate children during an open investigation
- Drug Endangered cases/Law Enforcement raids
- Human Trafficking cases
- Serious physical and sexual abuse cases
- Cases in which family has extensive dangerous criminal history
- Serves as law enforcement liaison
- Works closely with advocate agencies to assist or enhance investigations
- School Investigations
- Runaways from Conservatorship
- High-profile media cases
- Assist CPS, APS, RCCL and CCL
- Train CPS staff: interview techniques, safe interview locations, signs of aggression
- Search for and enter CSCAL cases

Special Investigations Critical Incident Response Team

- Formerly Continuity of Operations Plans
- Currently Continuity of Business Plans
- COO
- Special Investigators Utilized primary
- Incident mitigation and stabilization
- Respond to employee critical incidents, suicidal, natural disaster

Special Investigations Who do we support?



Special Investigations Continuous Performance Improvement

In Fiscal Year 2017, Special Investigations:

- Restructured the SI division and job duties
- Provided training to DFPS staff
- Collaborated with regional stakeholders
- Increased involvement with Human Trafficking
- Completed and Supported Complex Investigations
- Enhanced agency practice involving Child safety Check Alert List (CSCAL)

Special Investigations Law Enforcement Partners

- Office of the Governor, Human Trafficking
- Attorney Generals Office, On line solicitation of Minors, Be the One training
- Texas Department of Public Safety, CID Joint Operations, Texas Ranges case consultation
- Sheriffs Association
- Chief Deputies Association
- Police Chiefs Association
- Homeland Security
- FBI
- Countless contacts with Sheriff's Offices and Municipal Police departments across Texas
- Local School District Police Departments, School Investigations

Special Investigations Collaboration: External Stakeholders

- Key to success when involving external stakeholders is the multiple disciplinary team model.
- Special Investigators have a seat at the table with CPS case workers, CPI Investigators, Law Enforcement, District Attorneys, County Attorneys, Medical Examiners, Forensic Interviewers, Family Advocates, Victim Services and Domestic Violence Shelters.
 - Improved Multi-Disciplinary relationships among the entire team
 - Improved legal factors and outcomes
 - Increased rates of victim referrals to services

Special Investigations Facilitating Change Through Leadership

- Model the Way
- Inspire a Shared Vision
- Challenge the Process
- Enable Others to Act
- Encourage the Heart

The Leadership Challenge: <http://www.leadershipchallenge.com/home.aspx>

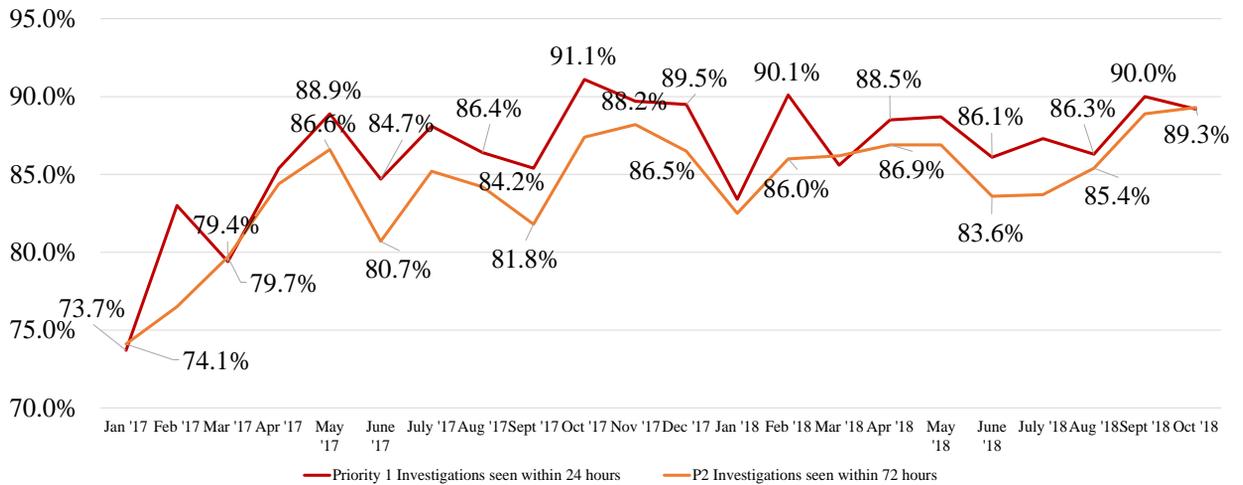
Special Investigations Steps to Success

- Communication is key.
- No goal surpasses the team goal and the team goal is to ensure the success of each team member.
- Be prepared to have hard conversations - most change is hard but inevitable.
- Strategic thinking is paramount - have a plan in place, identify potential barriers to success.
- Incorporating paramilitary mindset into a why centered environment.

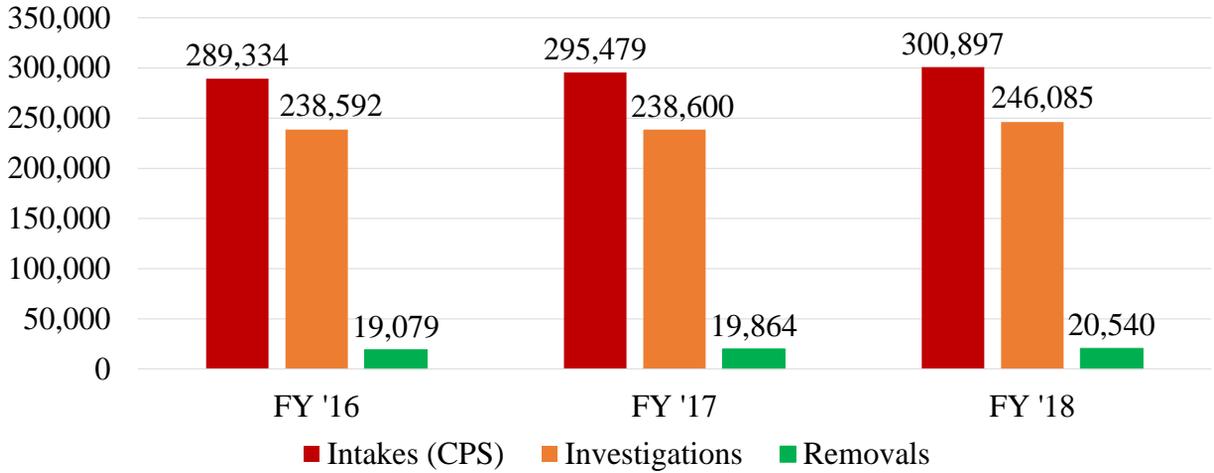
Special Investigations Future Initiatives

- Human Trafficking and child abuse is often facilitated by technology.
- To address this issue, DFPS is asking for 36 crime analysts in the next legislative session.
- The analysts will be DFPS employees housed at DPS and will work along side other analysts.
- This organizational structure will allow real-time, seamless research and information-sharing for better case outcomes.

Face-to-Face Contacts



Intakes, Investigations & Removals



Community-Based Care



Rollout of CBC

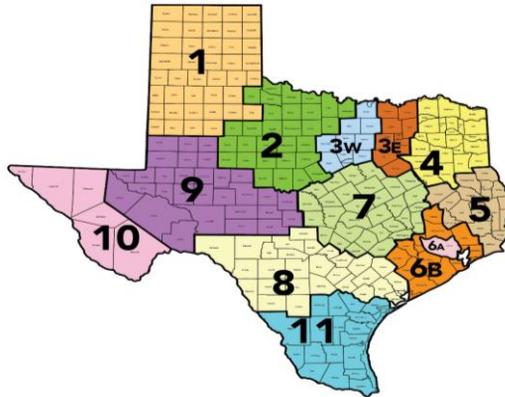
REGION 3B

REGION 2

REGION 8A

REGION 1

REGION 8B



Contract Performance Measures



CBC Improvements

CBC Process, Outcome and Financial Evaluations used to inform and improve the CBC model



Family First Prevention Services Act



Family First Prevention Services Act

- On February 9, 2018, U.S. Congress passed the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA).
- FFPSA restructures child welfare Title IV-E and Title IV-B funding that pays for children in foster care and services for families.
- Effective date of key provisions is October 1, 2019, or Texas can request an effective date of September 29, 2021.
- DFPS has until November 6, 2018, to request an effective date delay for certain provisions.

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FFPSA Prevention Services

- Federal funding available for up to 12 months for services for:
 - Families of children who, without services, would likely enter foster care
 - Pregnant and parenting foster youth
- Services would include:
 - Mental health services
 - Substance abuse services
 - In-home parent “skill-based” programs
- Services must be evidenced-based using promising, supported, or well-supported practices



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FFPSA Placement Limitations

Limits foster care placements other than:

- Family foster homes
- Placements for pregnant or parenting youth
- Supervised independent living for youth 18+
- Qualified Residential Treatment Programs
- Specialized placements for victims of sex trafficking
- Family-based residential treatment facility for substance abuse

FFPSA Additional Provisions

- **Regional Partnership Grants**
 - Partnerships to address parental substance abuse (only 1 currently in Texas)
- **Chafee**
 - Education/training funds for youth aging out of foster care
- **Interstate Placement**
 - Using electronic system when placing children across state lines
- **Licensing standards**
 - Ensuring states work with for relatives to take in children
- **Kinship Navigator Program**

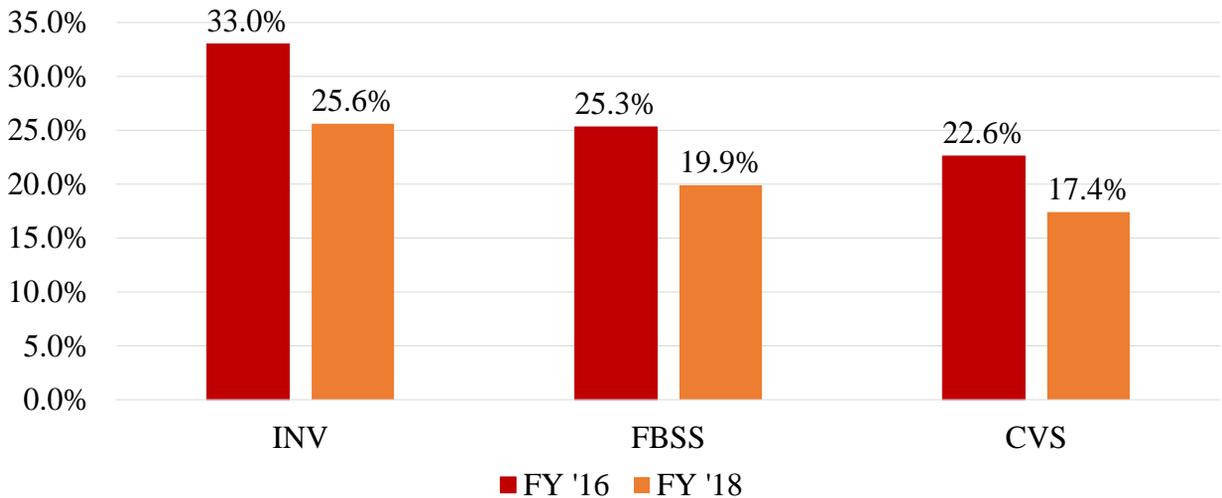
Family First Prevention Services Act

Throughout the analysis process of FFPSA, DFPS is focused on:

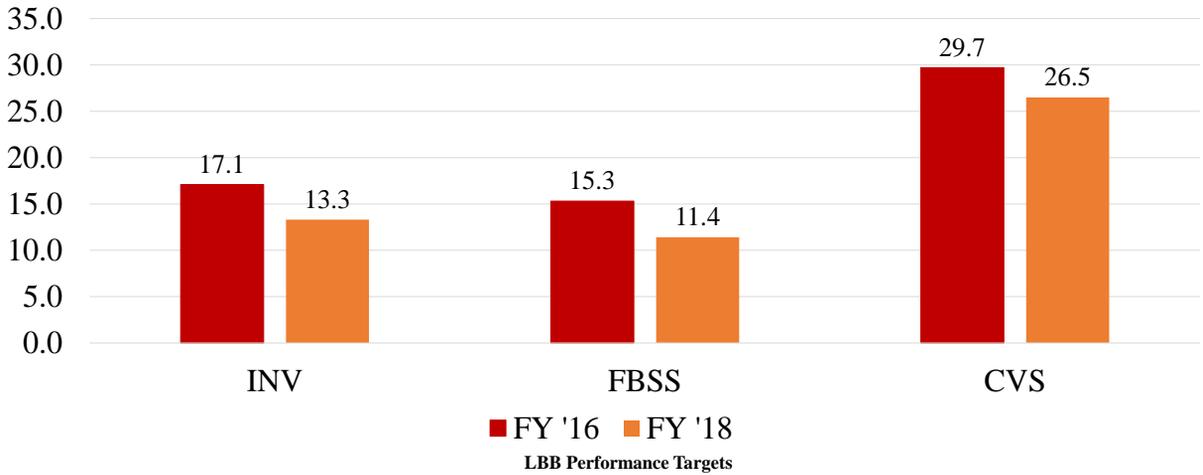
- Child Safety
- Quality of Care and Services for Children
- Working with Stakeholders, including Providers



Staff Turnover



Caseloads

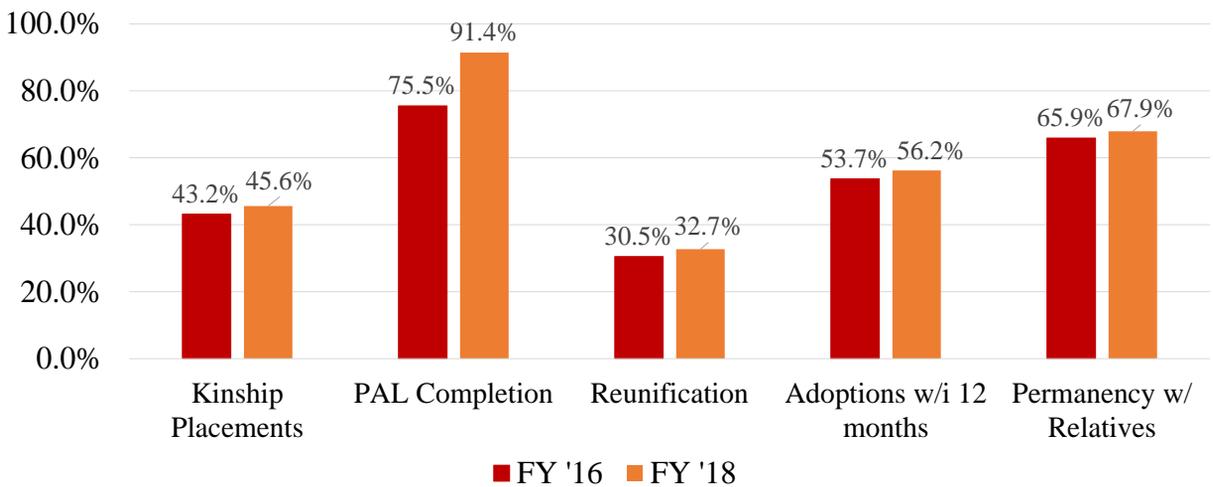


2018 INV Caseload: **14**
2019 INV Caseload: **13.9**

2018 CVS Caseload: **24.1**
2019 CVS Caseload: **23.1**

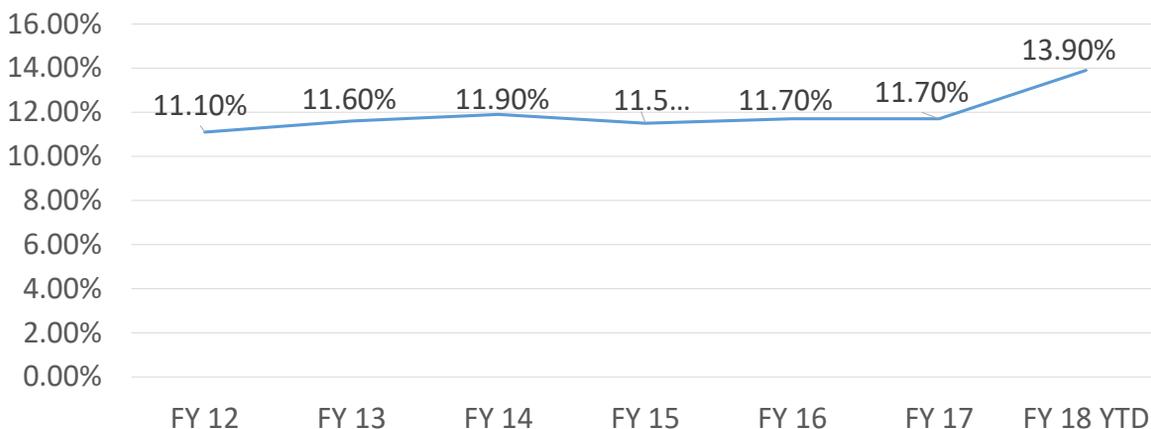
2018 FBSS Caseload: **11.5**
2019 FBSS Caseload: **11.2**

Improved Outcomes for Children & Families



Safety Outcomes

Conservatorship Recidivism (%)

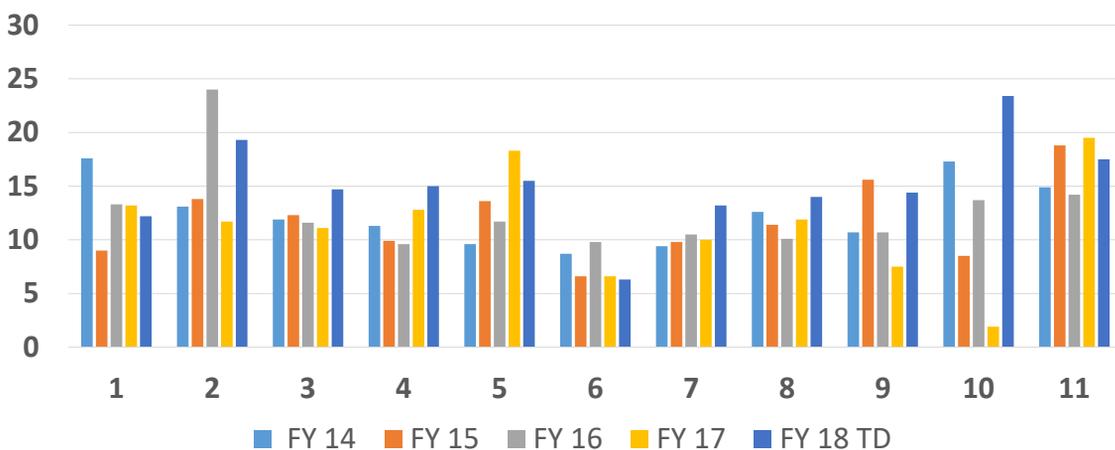


Source: DFPS Data Warehouse - DFPS Executive Dashboard



Safety Outcomes

Conservatorship Recidivism by Region (%)

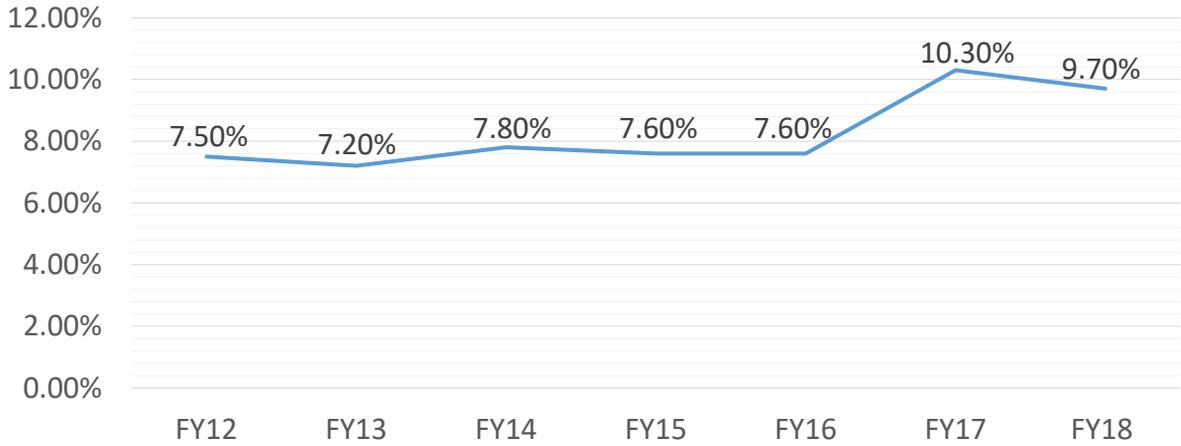


Source: DFPS Data Warehouse - DFPS Executive Dashboard



Safety Outcomes

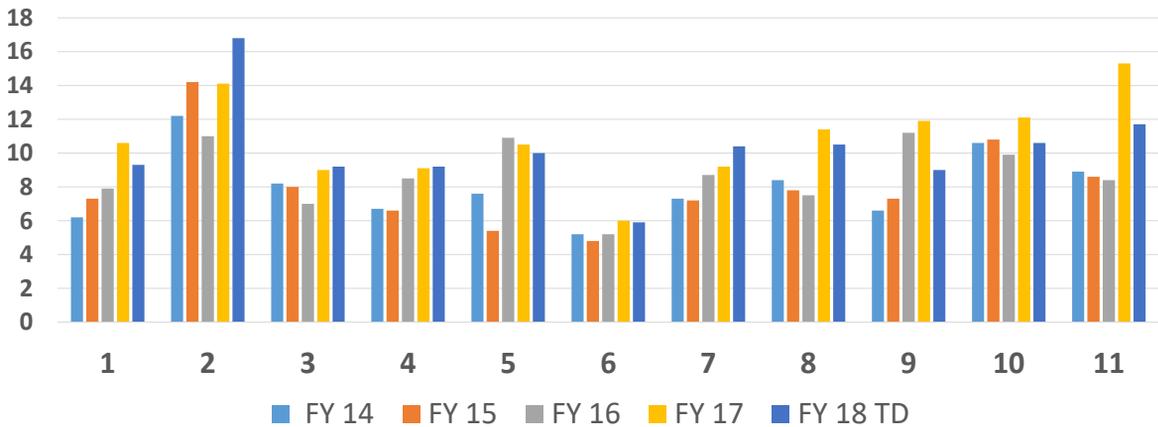
Family Based Safety Services Recidivism (%)



Source: DFPS Data Warehouse - DFPS Executive Dashboard

Safety Outcomes

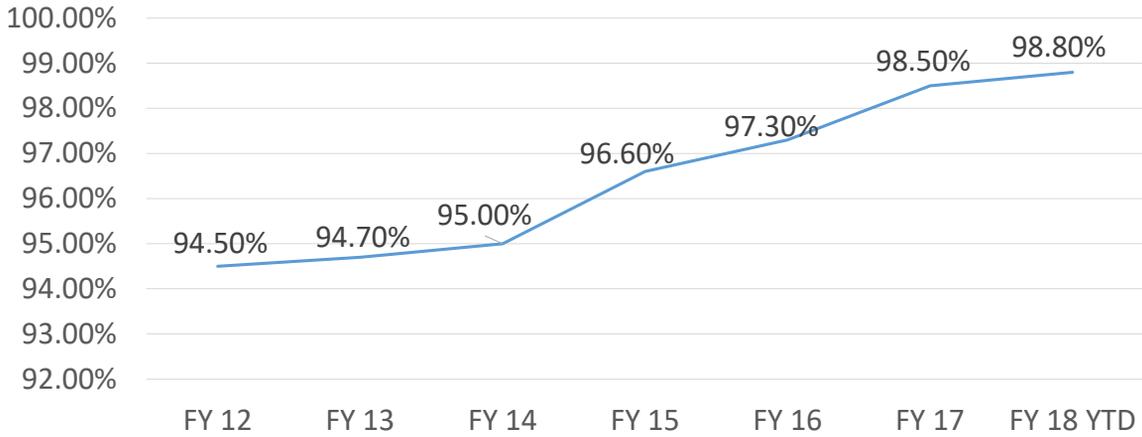
Family Based Safety Services Recidivism by Region (%)



Source: DFPS Data Warehouse - DFPS Executive Dashboard

Safety Outcomes

Timely Face-to-Face Contacts: Conservatorship (%)

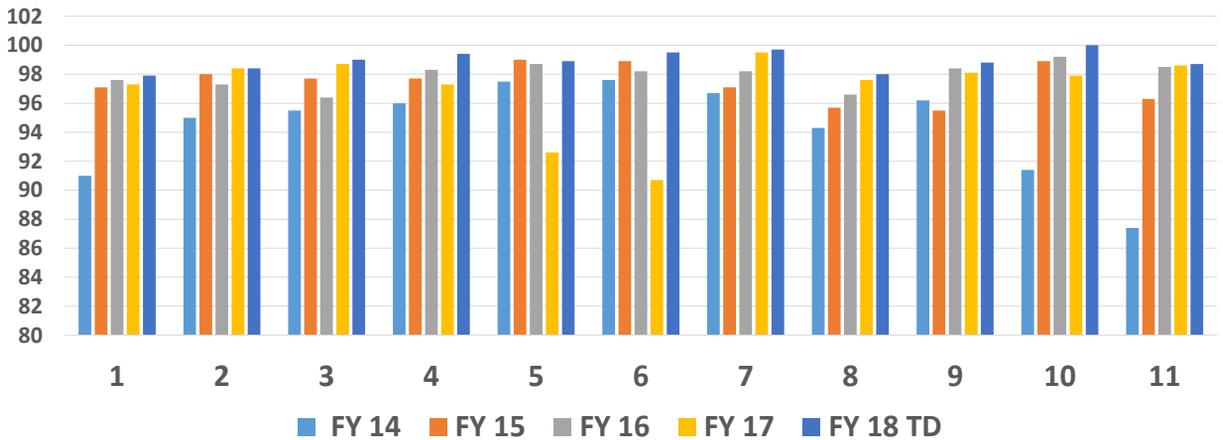


Source: DFPS Data Warehouse - Report SA_42



Safety Outcomes

Timely Face-to-Face Contacts by Region: Conservatorship (%)



Source: DFPS Data Warehouse - Report SA_42



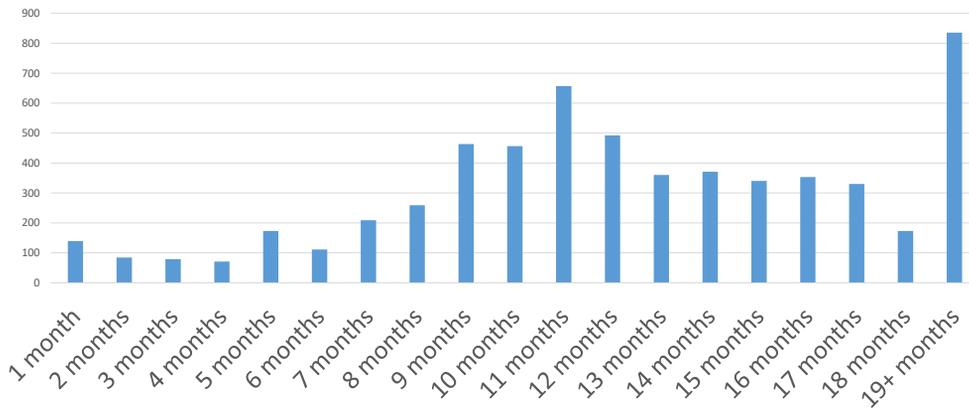
Permanency Outcomes

	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18 YTD
Time to permanency in months	18.5	18.9	18.8	18.4	18.3	17.8	17.4
Time to reunification	13.3	13.2	13.2	13.3	12.8	13.1	12.7
Time to Relative PMC (no PCA)	12.8	13.3	13.1	13.3	13.3	12.9	13
Time to Relative PCA	25.7	25.7	24.2	24.9	25.1	24.2	24
Time to Relative Adoption	25.7	25.7	26.6	24.9	25.1	25.6	24.6
Time to Non-Relative Adoption	32.3	32.1	30.8	29	29	28.1	27.6

Sources: DFPS Data Warehouse - DFPS Executive Dashboard, Report PP_20

Exits to Reunification

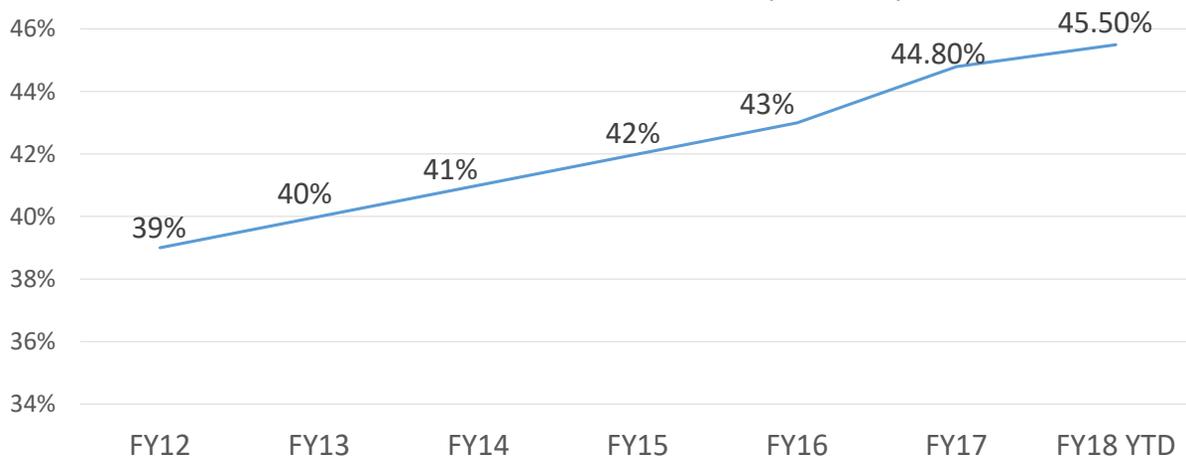
Months to Reunification in FY 18



Data Source: DRIT 91511 - Does not include children exiting within first 30 days - Data subject to year end refresh

Permanency Outcomes

Children Placed with Relatives (Subcare)

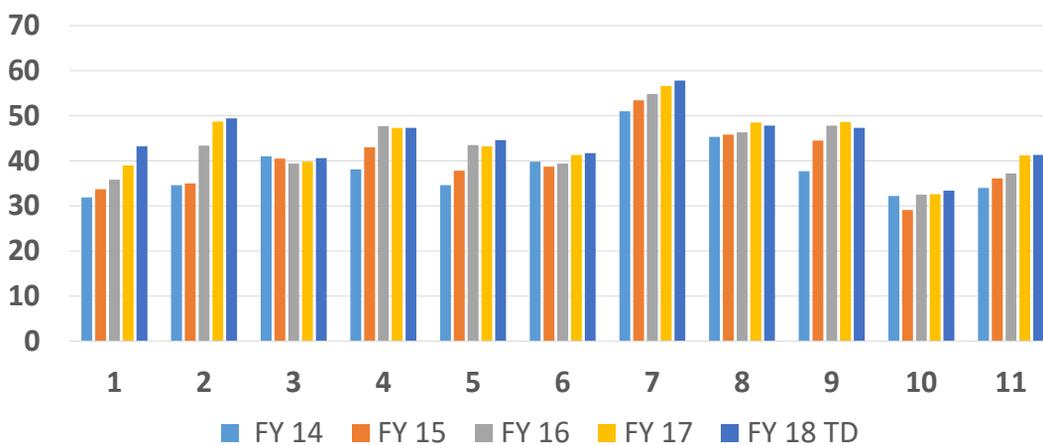


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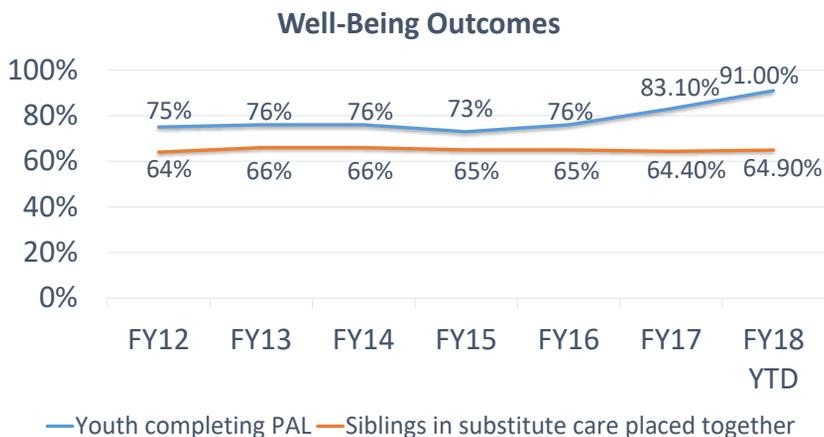


Permanency Outcomes

Children Placed with Relatives by Region (Subcare - %)



Well-Being Outcomes

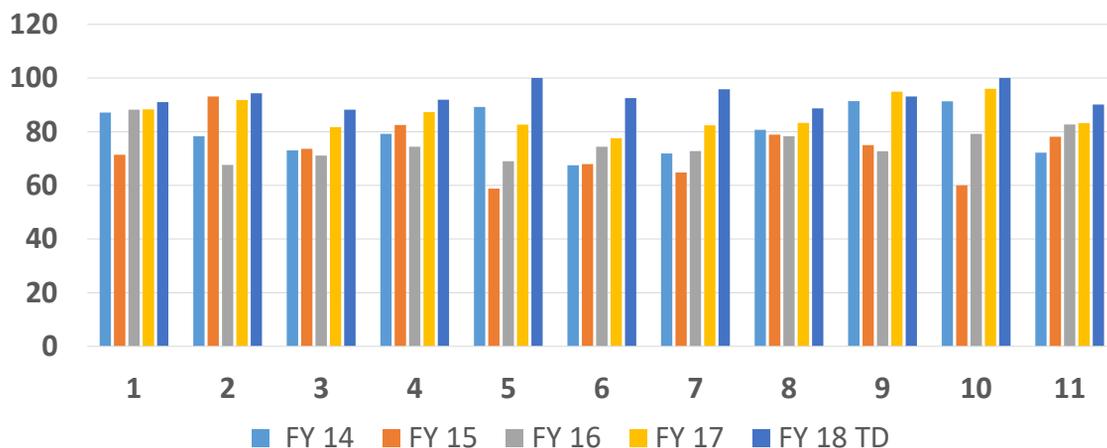


Source: DFPS Data Warehouse - DFPS Executive Dashboard



Well-Being Outcomes

Youth Completing PAL by Region (%)

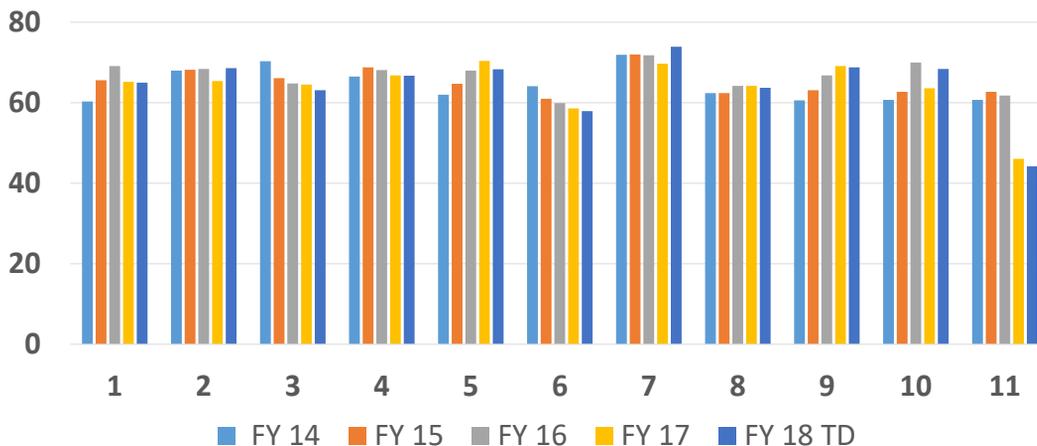


Source: DFPS Data Warehouse - DFPS Executive Dashboard



Well-Being Outcomes

Siblings in Substitute Care Placed Together by Region (%)



Source: DFPS Data Warehouse - DFPS Executive Dashboard



Question & Answer