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and Protective Services  
*Child Protective Services*

# **Children's Commission: CPS Updates**

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**September 26, 2025**

**Erica Bañuelos, MSW, LCPAA**

**CPS Associate Commissioner**



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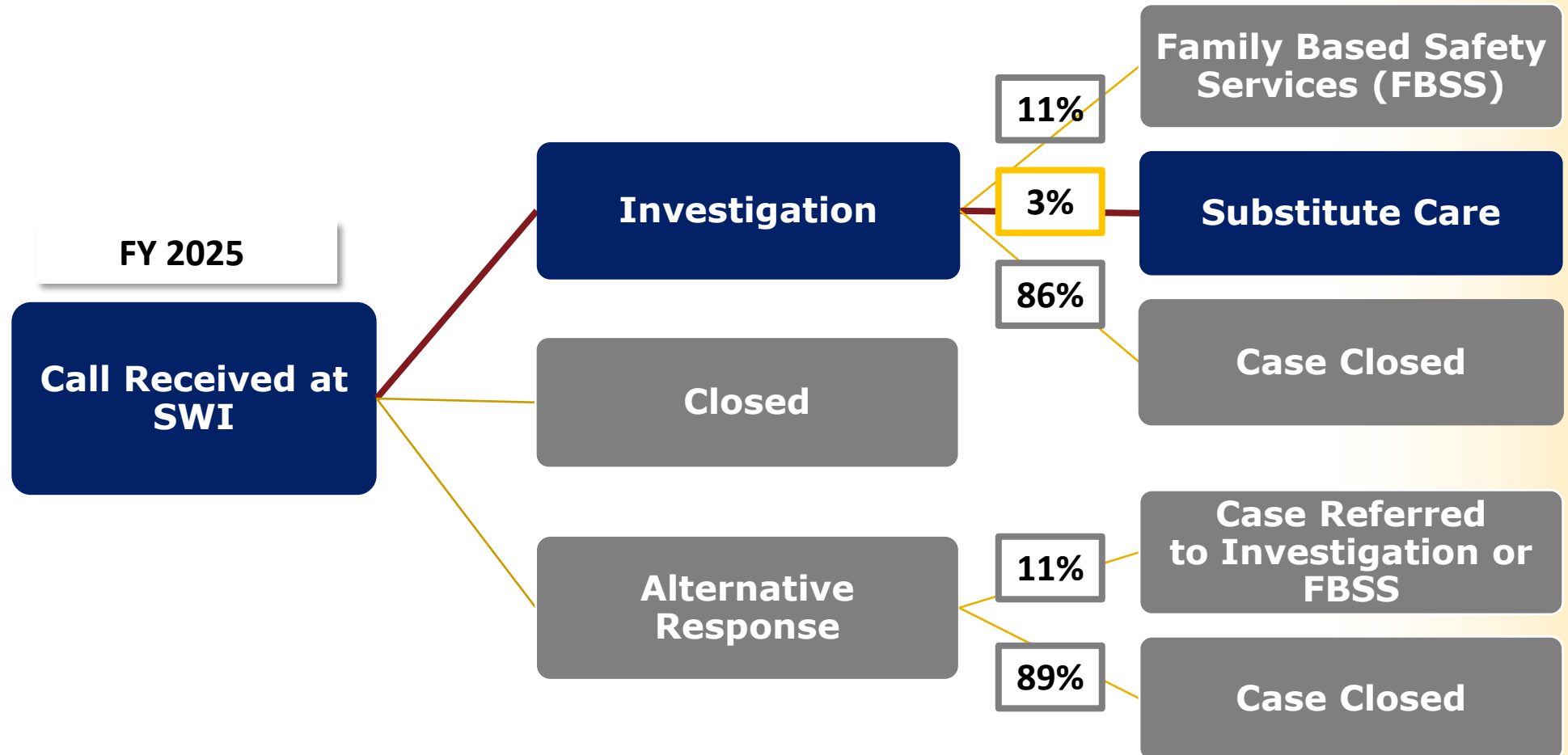
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# **Conservatorship and Permanency Trends**

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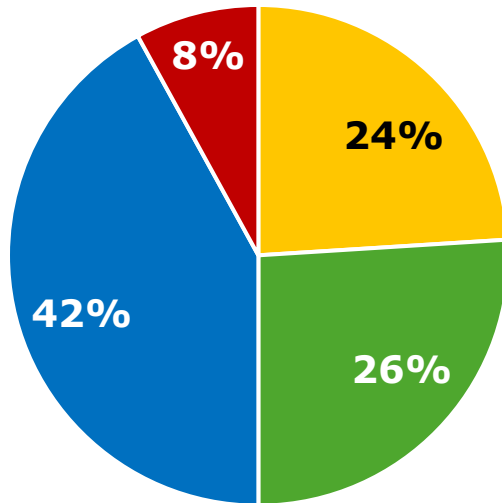
# Intake and Referral Process





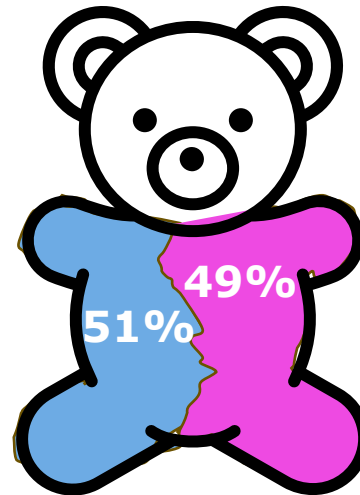
# Children New to Care Demographics FY 2025\*

## Race/Ethnicity

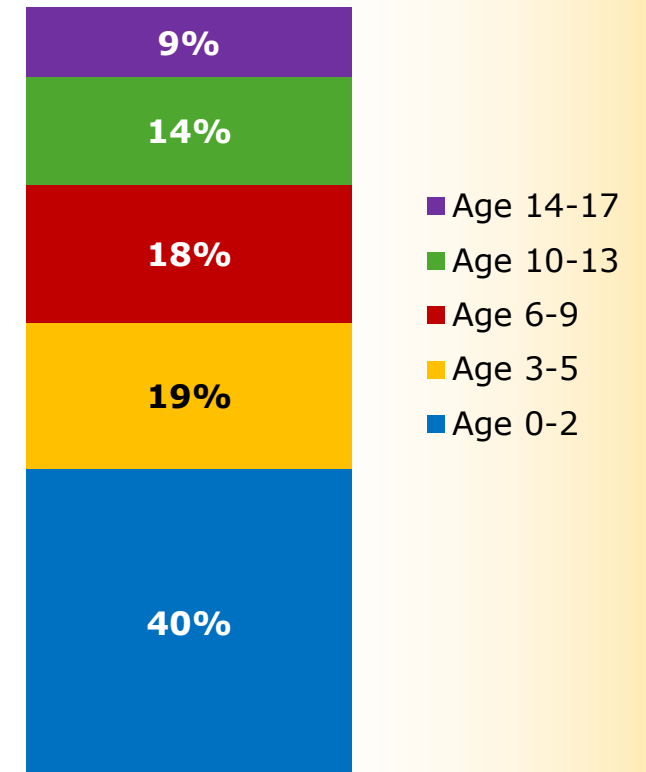


- African American
- Anglo
- Hispanic
- Another Race/Ethnicity or Unable to Determine

## Sex



## Age



- Age 14-17
- Age 10-13
- Age 6-9
- Age 3-5
- Age 0-2



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# Substitute Care

Of the 16,251 children in care (ages 0-17) at the end of August 2025, a total of 13,381 (82.3%) reside in a family-like home setting.

## 9,353 or 58% Foster Care

6,758 or 41.6%  
Foster Family  
Homes

1,232 or 7.6%  
Residential  
Treatment Centers

21 or 0.1%  
Children without  
Placement

801 or 4.9%  
GRO Childcare  
Only

317 or 2.0%  
Emergency  
Shelters

224 or 1.4%  
Other Foster Care

## 6,898 or 42% Other Substitute Care Types

6,417 or 39.5%  
Kinship Care (unverified)

275 or 1.7%  
Independent Living and Other

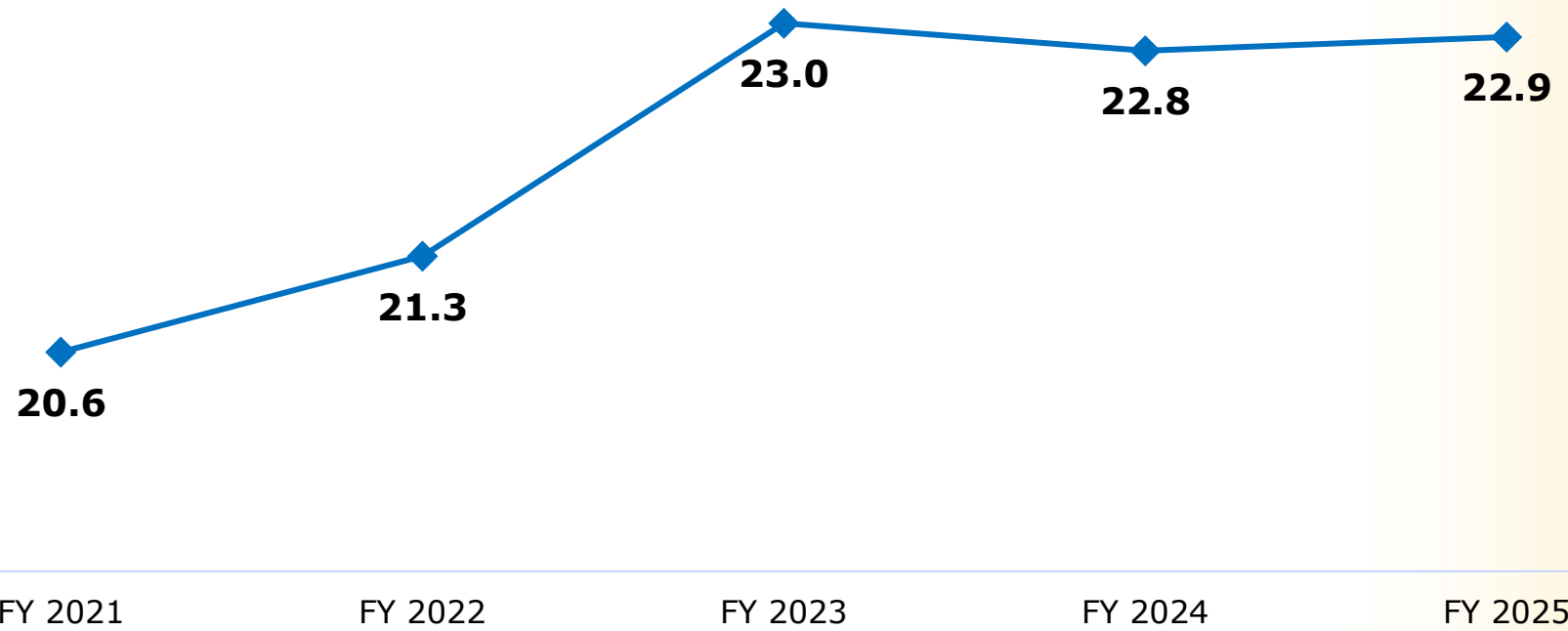
206 or 1.3%  
Adoptive Homes

Data source: sa\_05, CWOP\_Tracker  
\*FY 2025 data is provisional and may change.

# Time in Care (1 of 2)

The average time in care for children exiting the system has remained consistent over the past three fiscal years.

**Average Months in Care**



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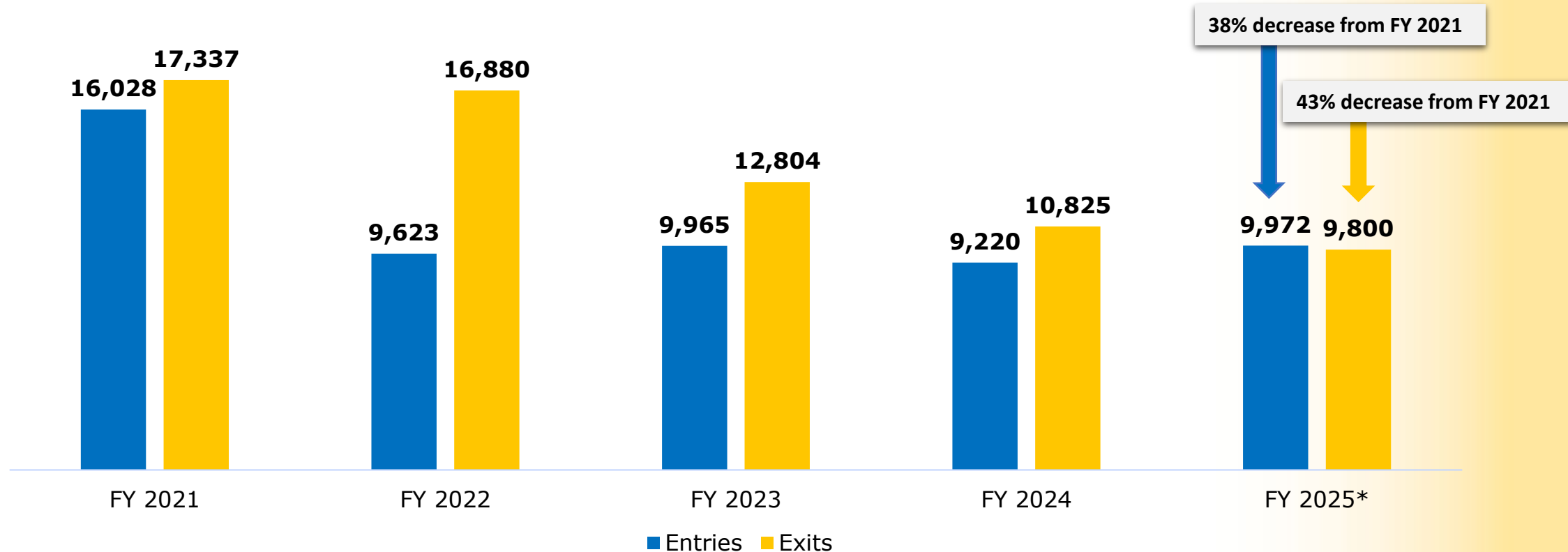
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# Time in Care (2 of 2)

Statewide **exits** from care have **decreased** over the past five fiscal years, driven by a decrease after FY 2021 in removals.

## Entries into Substitute Care and Exits from DFPS Responsibility



9/26/2025

Data Source: sa\_19, cps\_pp\_20

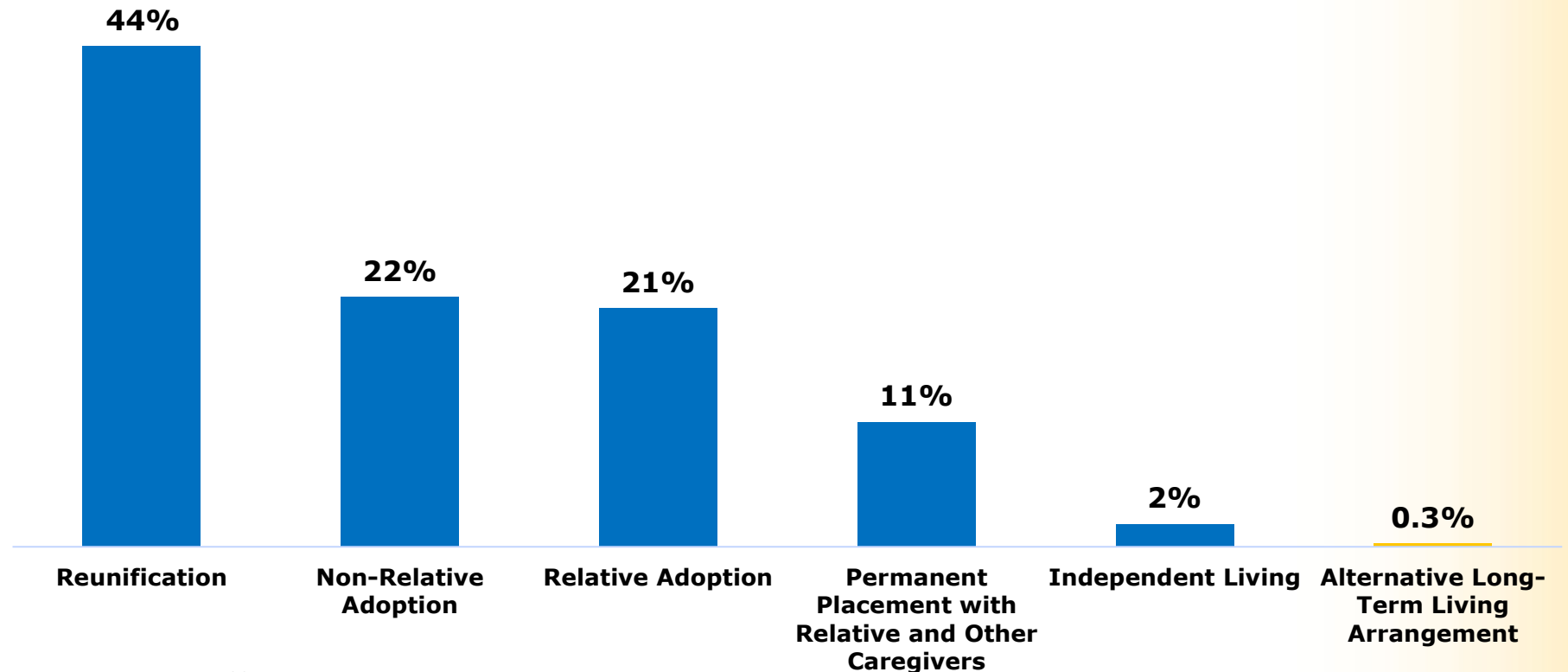
\*FY 2025 Data is provisional and may change.



# Permanency Goals (1 of 2)

Reunification is the most common permanency goal.

## Permanency Goals of Children in DFPS Conservatorship on August 31, 2025\*



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9/26/2025

Data source: sa\_02

\*FY 2025 data is provisional and may change.





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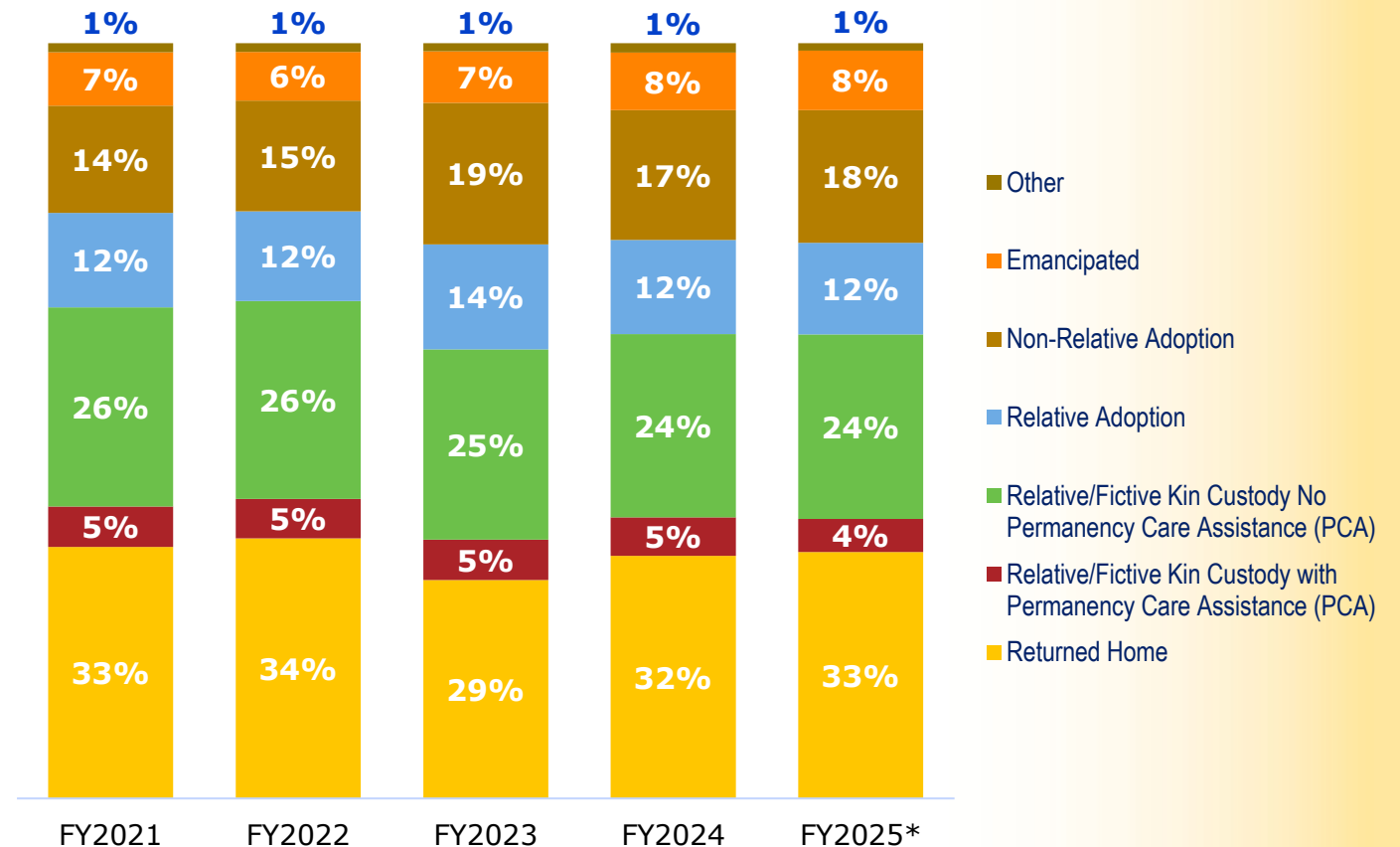
# Permanency Goals (2 of 2)

Most children return home or exit to relatives or kin.

- About one-third of children are reunified.
- A total of 8% of exits are youth aging out (emancipation).
- Although there are fewer exits overall, the proportion of each exit type has stayed about the same over the last five fiscal years.
- One key difference is a larger proportion of children exited to a non-relative adoption in FY 2023-25 compared to FY 2021-22.

## Exits from DFPS Responsibility

(data source: pp\_20)





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# Kinship Care

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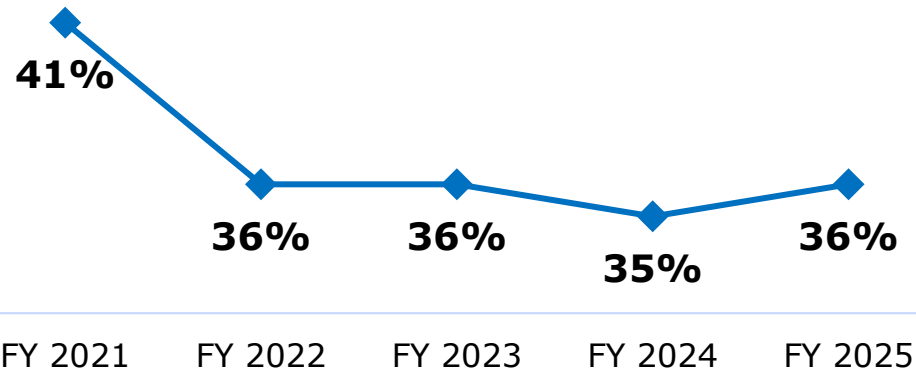
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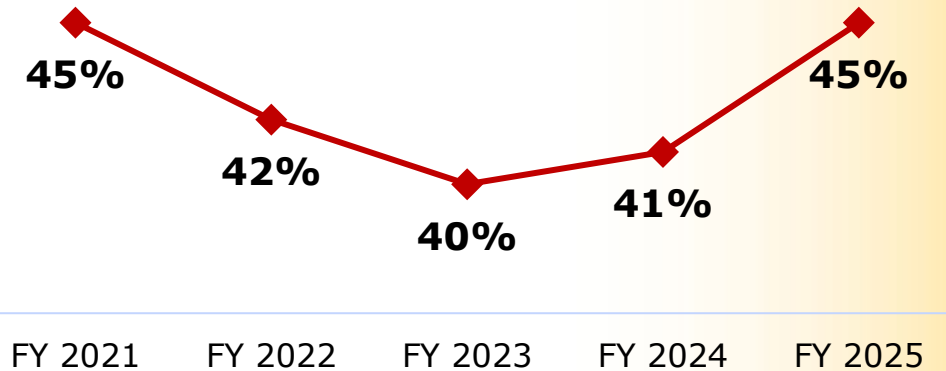
# Kinship First

## First Placement with Kinship



data source: inv\_cps\_26

## Children in Kinship on the Last Day of the Fiscal Year



data source: CPS Placements: Children in Substitute Care on August 31, sa\_09, sa\_05)



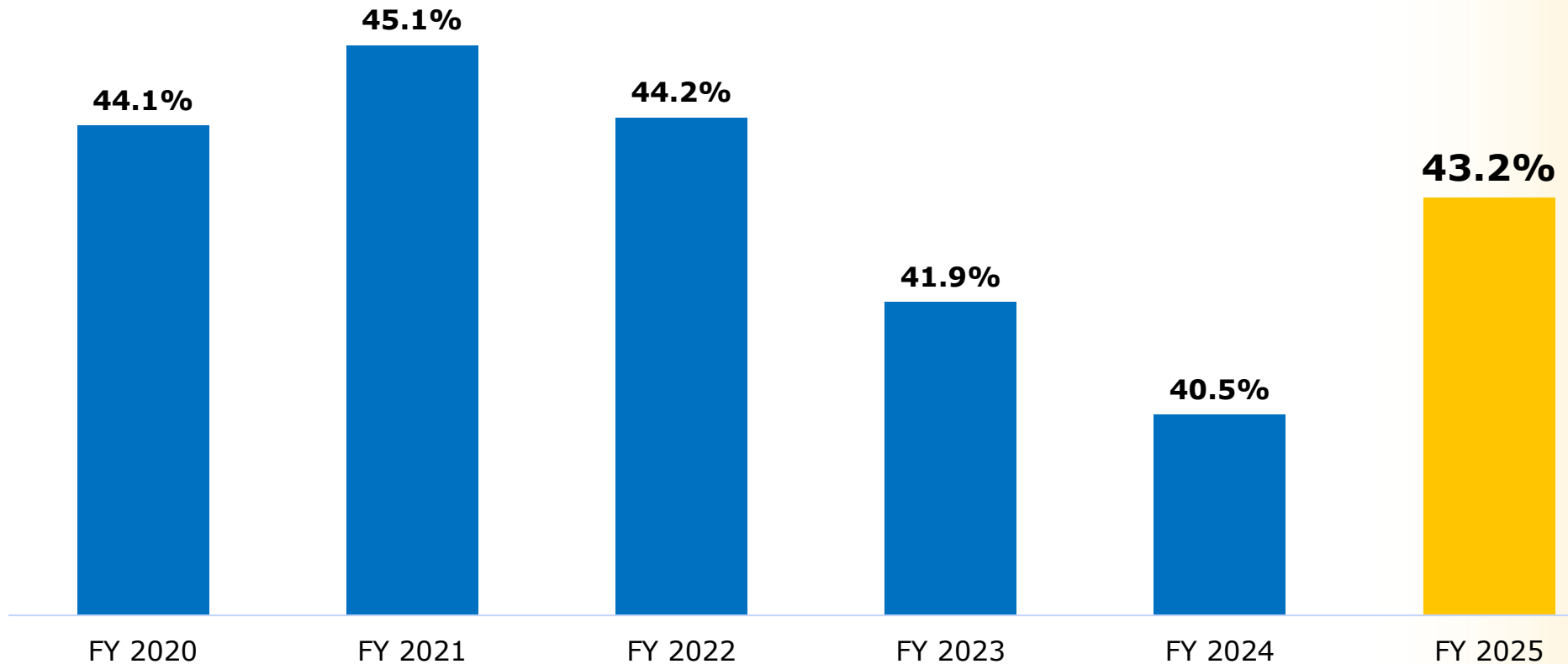
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# Kinship Placements Over Time

Kinship efforts have resulted in a marked rebound in FY 2025.





# 89th Legislative Session Kinship Updates

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- **HB 5394:** Prohibits Single Source Continuum Contractors and child-placing agencies (CPAs) from pre-empting promulgated kinship rules currently being developed by HHSC and disallows these agencies from adding any other requirements.
- **HB 2350:** Prevents caregivers, including kinship caregivers, from intervening in a lawsuit or filing an original lawsuit in response to a DFPS conservatorship case until they have maintained the child in their care for a minimum of 12 months, except if both parents agree to allowing the caregiver to intervene earlier.



# 89th Legislative Session Kinship Updates

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- **Kinship Day Care Funding:** DFPS secured funding to expand day care eligibility for children with kinship caregivers who are 65 or older, have a documented disability, or are employed at least 20 hours per week.
- **Rider 40:** Requires DFPS to establish and promote a statewide campaign on kinship care funds to begin no later than December 1, 2025.
- **Support Kinship Families Caring for Youth with High Acuity Needs:** \$3 million for the biennium to support kinship families of children with high acuity behavioral health in CBC regions.



# New Kinship Licensing Standards

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DFPS and HHSC have worked together to update kinship standards since the Federal Administration for Children and Families changed their rules to allow Title-IVE agencies to have separate standards for kinship.

## **Implementation Status:**

- Proposed draft amendments to kinship rules were posted in the *Texas Register*, and the public comment period ended Aug. 1, 2025.
- Proposed changes to minimum standards for child-placing agencies is anticipated to take effect November 2025.





# Kinship Financial Assistance

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- Relative and Other Designated Caregiver Reimbursement Payment
- Kinship Placement Assistance
- Kinship Verification Reimbursement
- Permanency Care Assistance
- Post Permanent Managing Conservatorship Payment



# Supporting Kinship Families

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Kinship support must begin at placement to ensure safety and stability. To ensure success, in addition to the financial and daycare support, the kinship program provides:

- Case management
- Support navigating other systems
- Referral to local resources
- Advocacy
- Regular visits
- Training
- Continual assessments



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# **Thank you**

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