



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

Presentation to the House Committee on Human Services

DFPS Overview

Commissioner Stephanie Muth

February 28, 2023

Mission and Vision

DFPS Mission

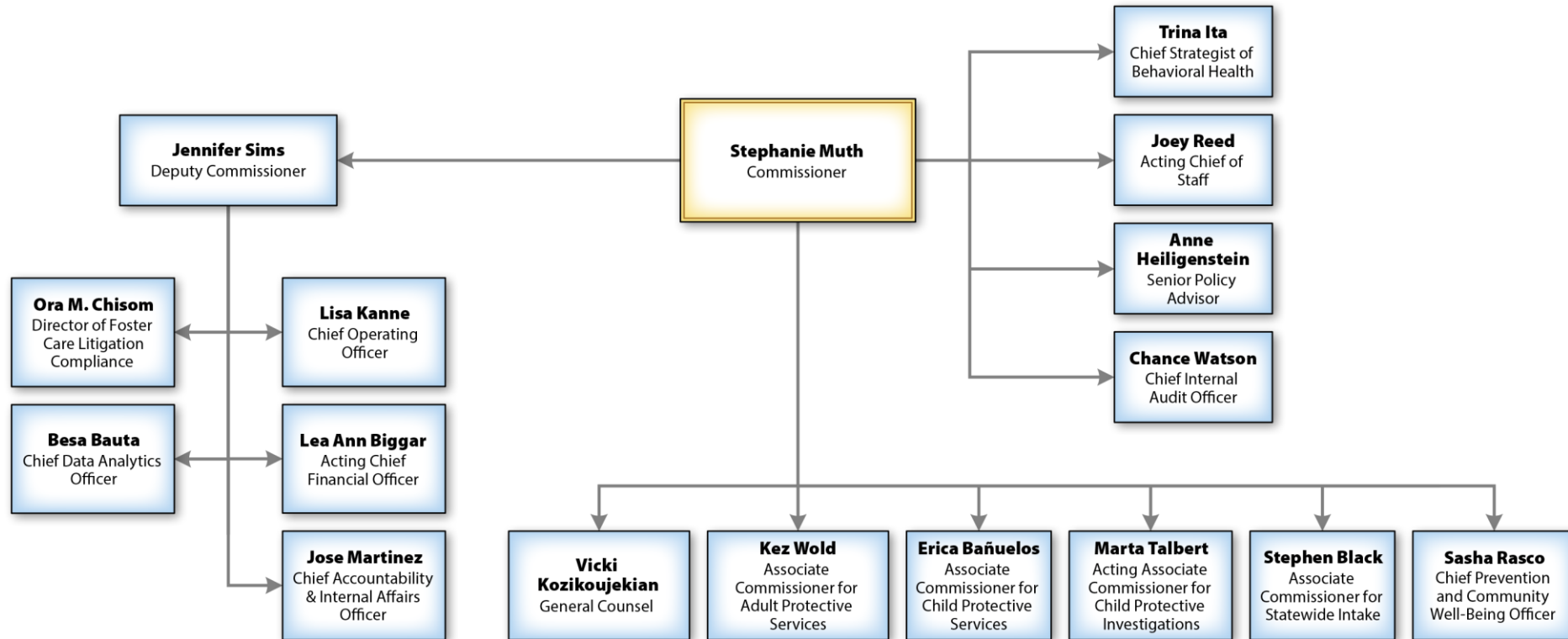
We promote safe and healthy families and protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation

DFPS Vision

Improving the lives of those we serve



DFPS Overview



Revised 2/8/2023



DFPS Overview:

Core Functions

Statewide Intake (SWI)

operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, as the centralized point of intake for reporting suspected incidents of abuse, neglect, and exploitation and childcare licensing standards violations

- SWI received 802,606 reports, approximately 480,000 were handled via phone calls
- SWI met or exceeded the LBB hold time benchmark of 7.4-minutes

Child Protective Investigations (CPI)

investigates reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation, including those within certain residential facilities

- CPI Investigations opened 229,726 investigations and closed 230,407
- 22% percent of all cases received a reason to believe finding

Child Protective Services (CPS)

assesses and places children in foster care when they are not safe in their own homes, and for ensuring the best permanency outcomes for children in care

- There were 21,583 children in conservatorship at the end of FY 2022
- 698 children were in an adoptive placement on average each month
- 4,483 children were adopted

Adult Protective Services (APS)

protects adults living in their own homes who have disabilities or who are 65 years old or older by investigating reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation and providing short-term services

- APS completed 84,655 investigations and provided services to over 35,000 elderly and disabled Texans

Prevention and Community Well-Being (PCW)

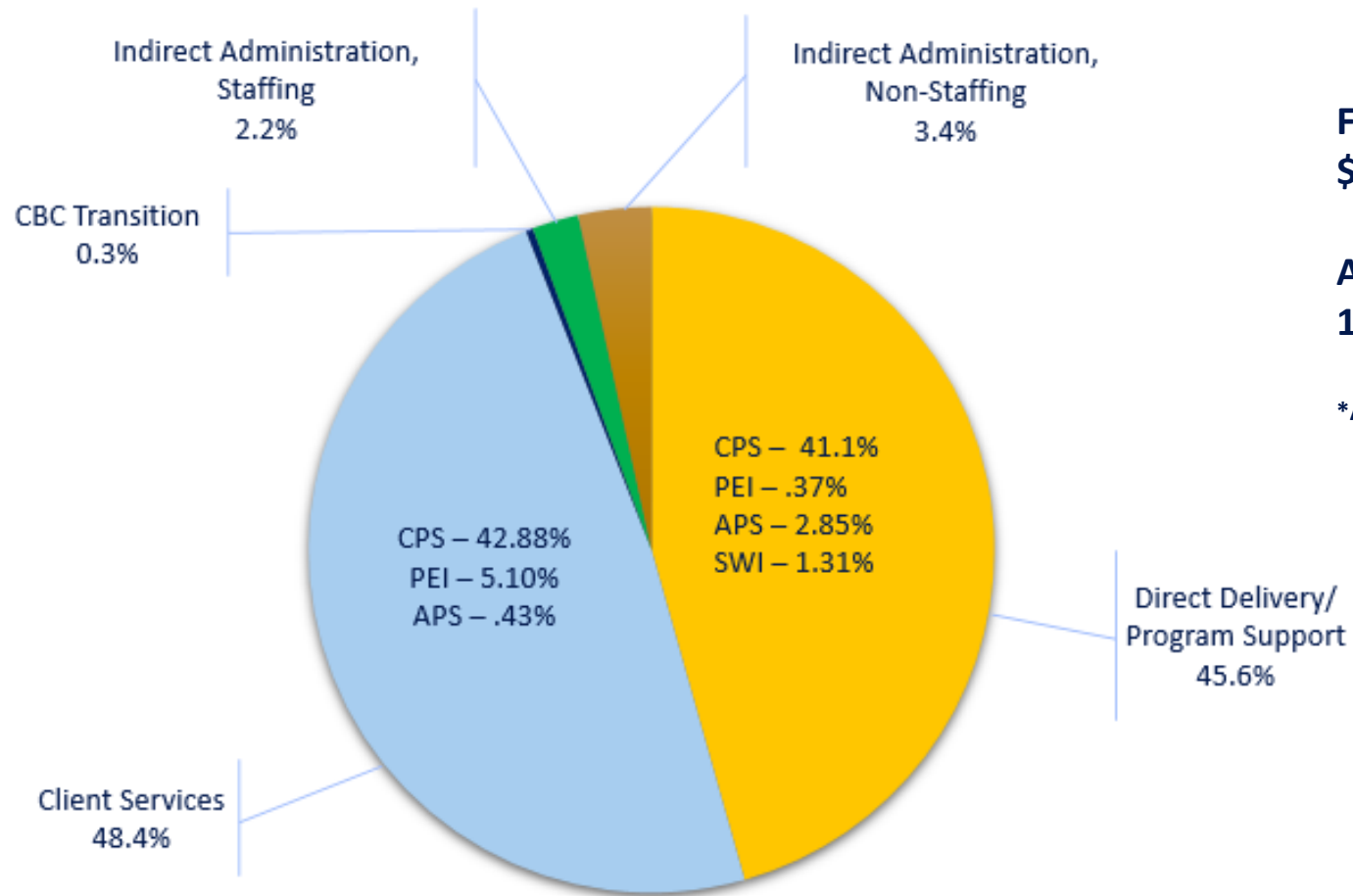
improves the safety and well-being of children and families by overseeing a network of programs and initiatives to support parents and youth, and partners with stakeholders to strengthen outcomes for all DFPS clients

- PCW managed 131 grants and 42 contracts, 60,077 families and youth served, and 97 percent of children remained safe during services

Note: All Data is for FY 2022



DFPS Overview: Budget



**FY 2022-23 Appropriation:
\$4.6 Billion**

**Appropriated FTEs:
12,825.5**

*Amounts from the LBE

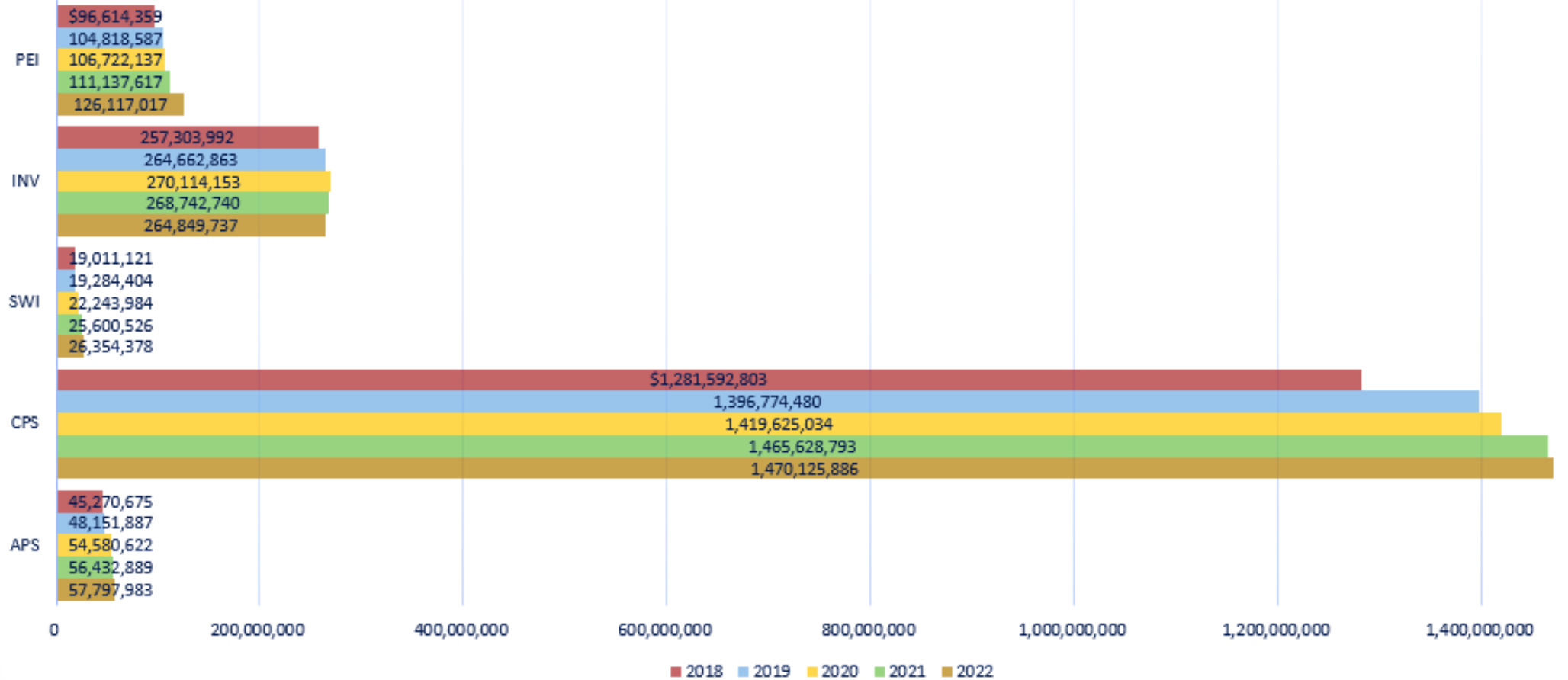


DFPS Expenditures (FY 2002-2022)

General Revenue and Federal/Other Funds



DFPS Expenditures by Program (FY 2018-22)



Statewide Intake

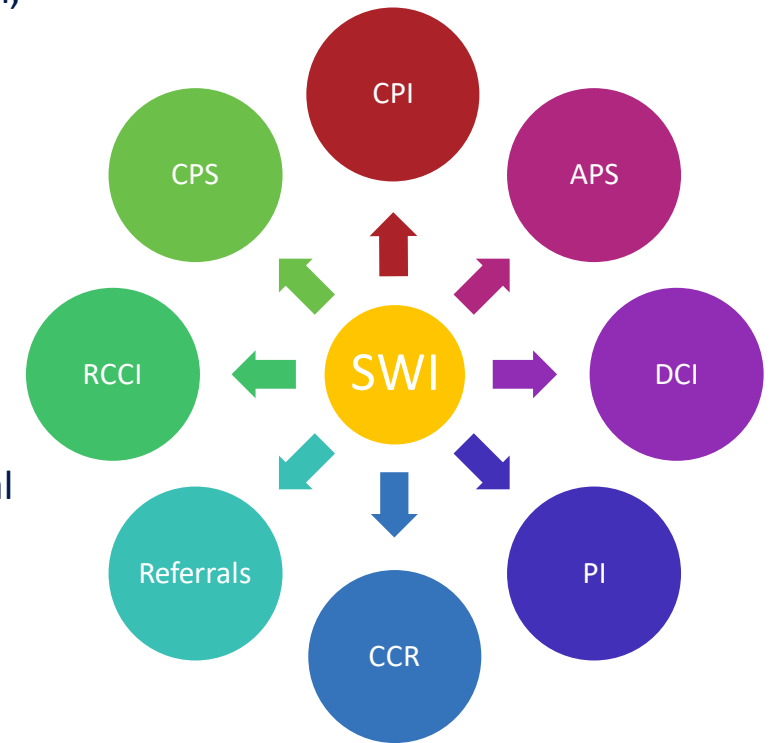
Statewide Intake (SWI) assess all reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation, and routes them to the right program for investigation

SWI responsibilities include receiving reports for:

- Child abuse, neglect and exploitation in the child's own home or in child-care facilities or treatment centers
- Abuse, neglect, and exploitation of the elderly or adults with disabilities living at home
- Abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults and children who live in state facilities or are being helped by programs for people with mental illness or intellectual disabilities

SWI also serves as a referral center for reports not involving abuse or neglect and concerns out of DFPS jurisdiction

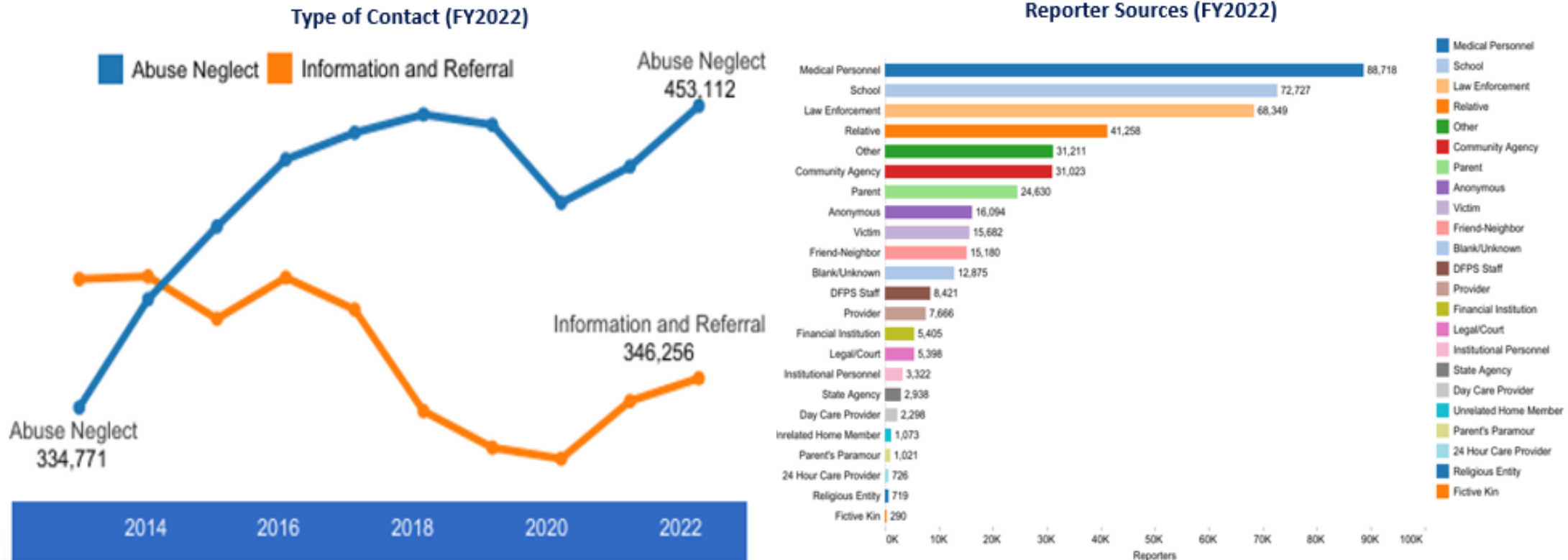
Callers may be referred to other state agencies, helplines and hotlines, or resources in the caller's community



24-hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year

Statewide Intake – Reporting

State law mandates that everyone in Texas report child abuse, neglect, and exploitation



NOTE: Special Request not notated on chart (7,066 in FY2022)



Statewide Intake – Priorities

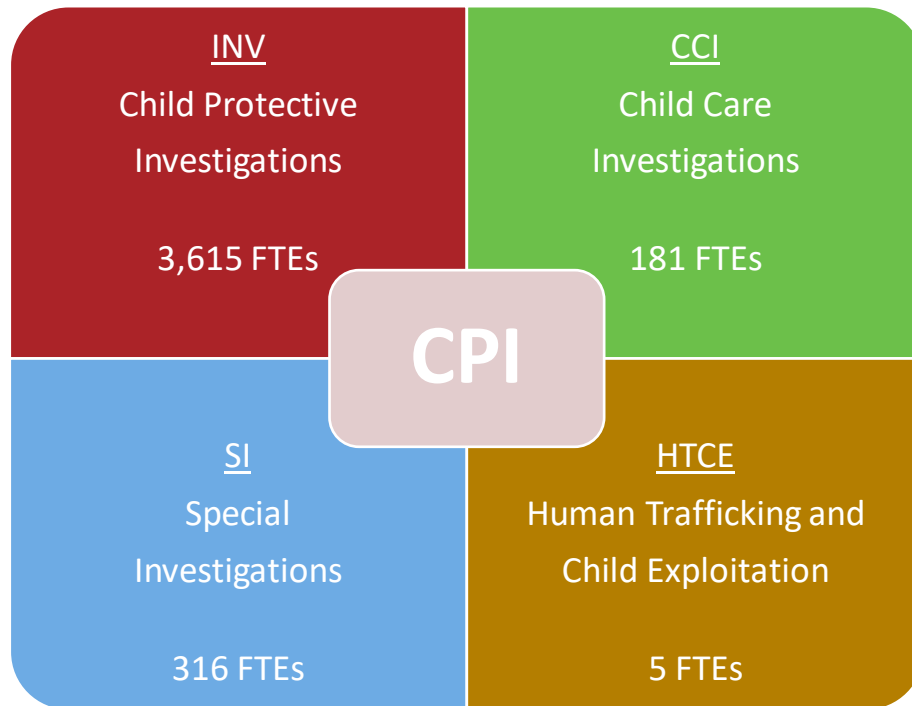
SWI recommends intakes for investigation that meet the statutory definitions of abuse, neglect, or exploitation

Based on the alleged severity of harm to the victim, intakes are classified as:

Priority 1	Used for all programs; reports that appear to face an immediate risk of abuse, neglect, and exploitation that could result in death or serious harm
Priority 2	Used for all programs; allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation in which there does not appear to be an immediate threat of serious harm or death
Priority 3	Only used for APS when there are allegations beyond exploitation, and the impact is not life-threatening to the client
Priority 4	Only used for APS when the only allegation is exploitation, and the client is not in danger of deprivation
Priority N	Report may involve abuse or neglect but needs additional information or the situation has already been investigated



Child Protective Investigations



INV – Investigates allegations of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation in family settings

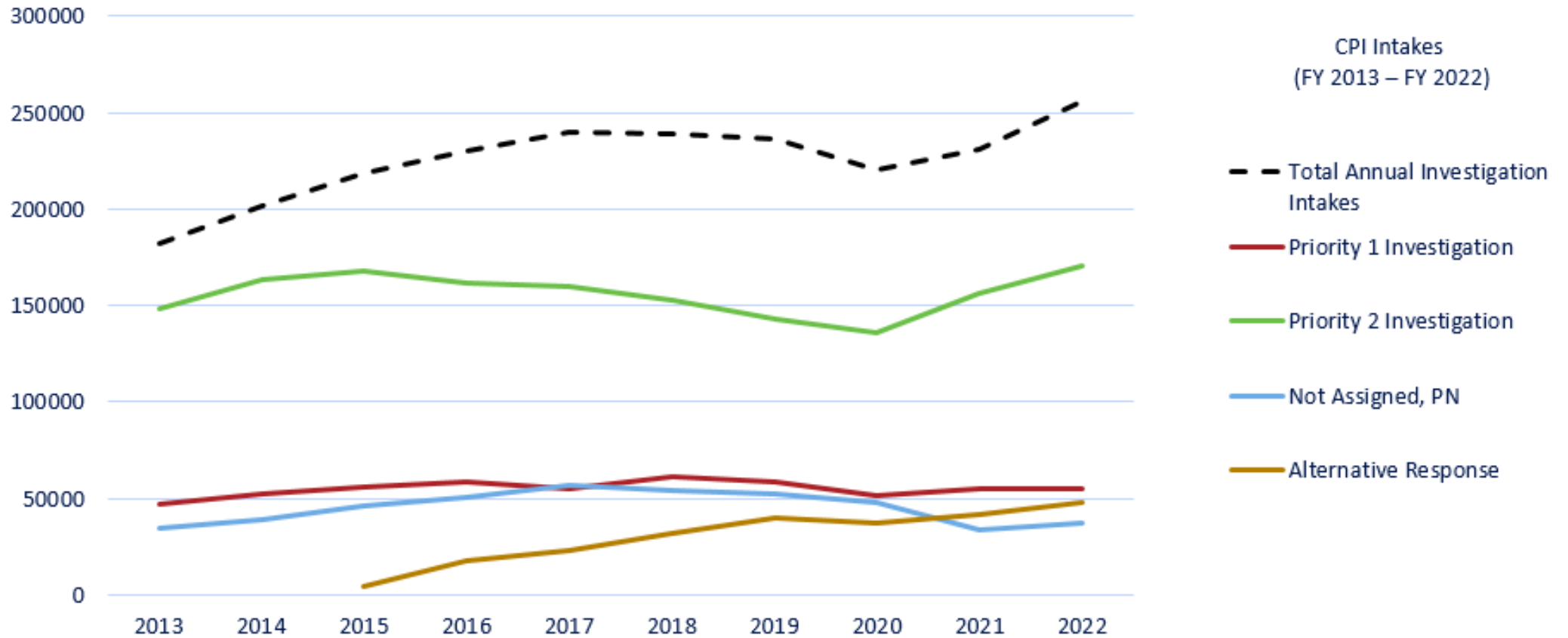
CCI – Investigates allegations of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation in licensed residential settings

SI – Mentors caseworkers and assists with complex and human trafficking investigations, search for runaway children, acts as liaisons with law enforcement, conducts investigations in schools and involving DFPS personnel

HTCE – Researches models of services, develops trainings and partners with DFPS staff and community members on identifying and supporting recovery of victims of human trafficking



Child Protective Investigations Intakes



Child Protective Investigations

P1 and P2 Investigation

Examines reports of child abuse or neglect to determine if any child in the family has been abused or neglected. Investigators decide if there are any threats to the safety of all children in the home. If so, they determine whether the parents are willing and able to adequately manage those threats to keep children safe. If DFPS decides that children aren't safe, the investigator starts protective services



Parental Child Safety Placement (PCSP)

Parental Child Safety Placements allows a child to leave the home for a temporary timeframe when DFPS identifies a danger in the home. Historically, PCSPs were utilized, often as the first safety plan option recommended to the parents by DFPS

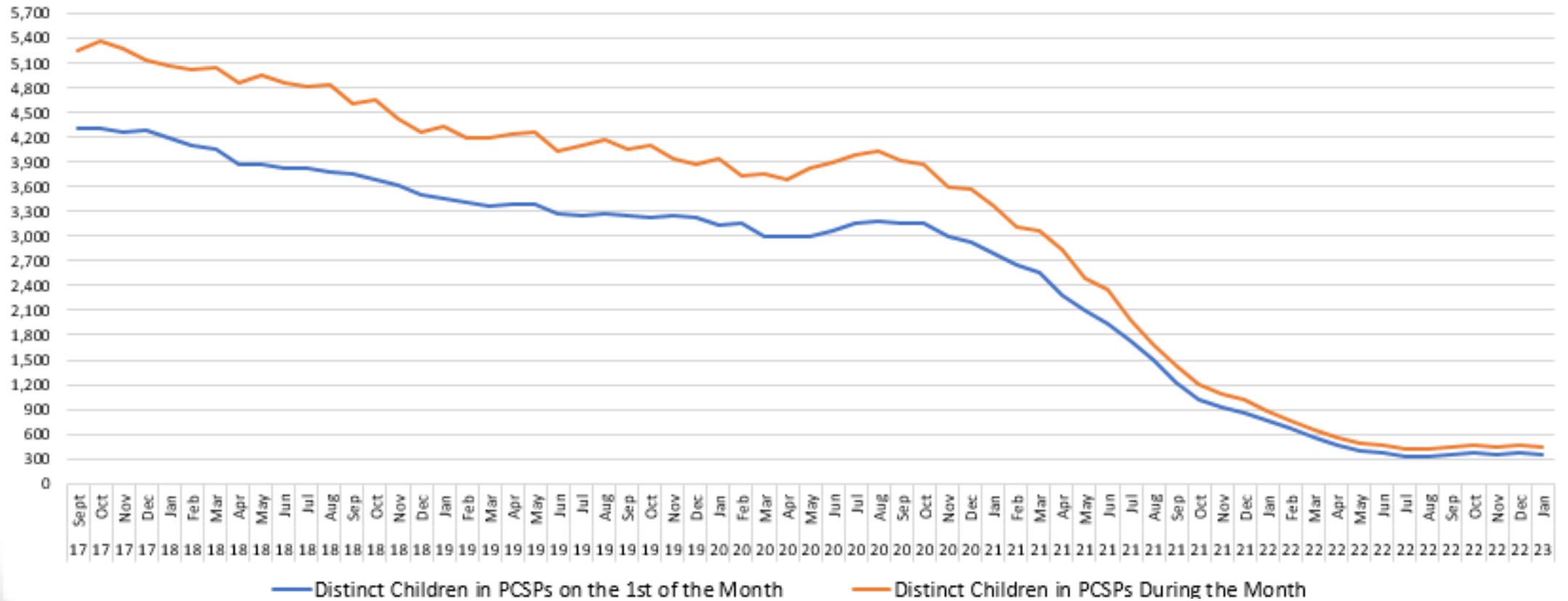
- In March 2022, practice changes were implemented to ensure family-initiated PCSPs were being utilized as a safety plan intervention only if a parent or legal guardian decided the short-term placement was necessary and a safety plan allowing the parent and child to remain together in home under supervision was not possible
- This change prompted a decrease in the number of PCSPs initiated by DFPS

PCSP's Initiated	
FY 2021	6,192
FY 2022	1,481



Parental Child Safety Placement (PCSP)

Parental Child Safety Placement (Sept. 2017 – Jan. 2023)

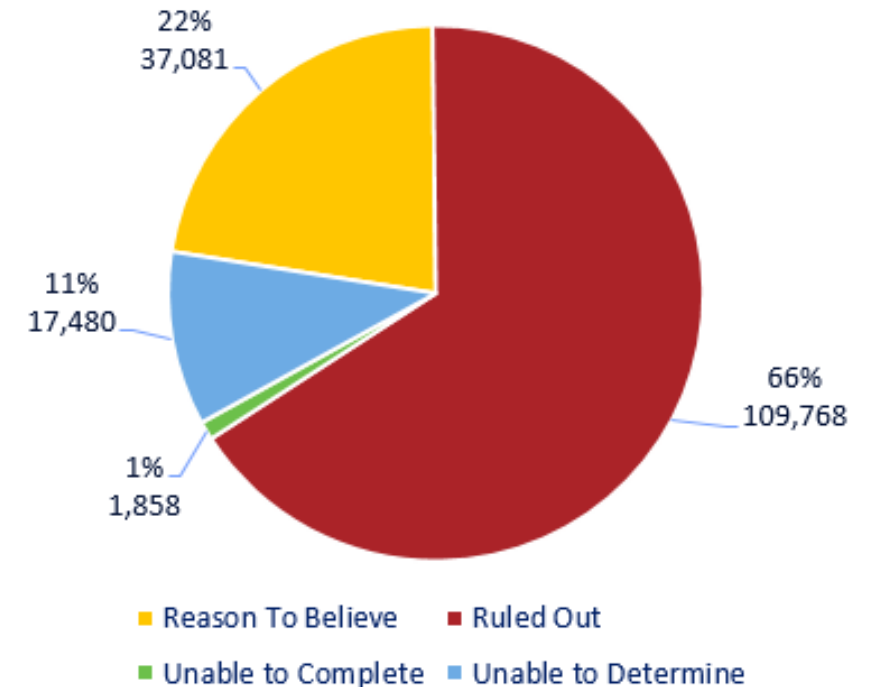


Case Disposition

At the end of an investigation, the caseworker assigns a disposition to each allegation identified in the investigation:

- **Ruled Out** – It is reasonable to conclude that the abuse, neglect, or exploitation has not occurred based on the information that is available
- **Reason to Believe** – Abuse, neglect, or exploitation occurred based on a preponderance of the evidence
- **Unable to Complete** – The investigation cannot be concluded for reasons such as, the family could not be located, was contacted but later moved, or unwilling to cooperate with the investigation
- **Unable to Determine** – None of the dispositions above is appropriate

Investigation Dispositions
(FY 2022)



Child Protective Services

Family-Based Safety Services (FBSS)

When a child's safety can be reasonably assured, CPS provides in-home services to help stabilize the family and reduce the risk of future abuse or neglect

Conservatorship (CVS)

Substitute care is provided from the time a child is removed from his or her home and placed in DFPS conservatorship until the child returns home safely or is permanently placed in another living arrangement and a court dismisses the state's conservatorship



Legal Status

Temporary Managing Conservatorship (TMC):

- Courts have 12-months to issue final orders for children in DFPS conservatorship
- 6-month extensions are available in special circumstances

Permanent Managing Conservatorship (PMC):

- Courts continue to review the cases of children in DFPS conservatorship until custody is given to another person or the child emancipates
- DFPS continues providing substitute care services to the child and, in some circumstances to the family
- The court reviews these cases every six months after DFPS has been appointed as the Permanent Managing Conservator

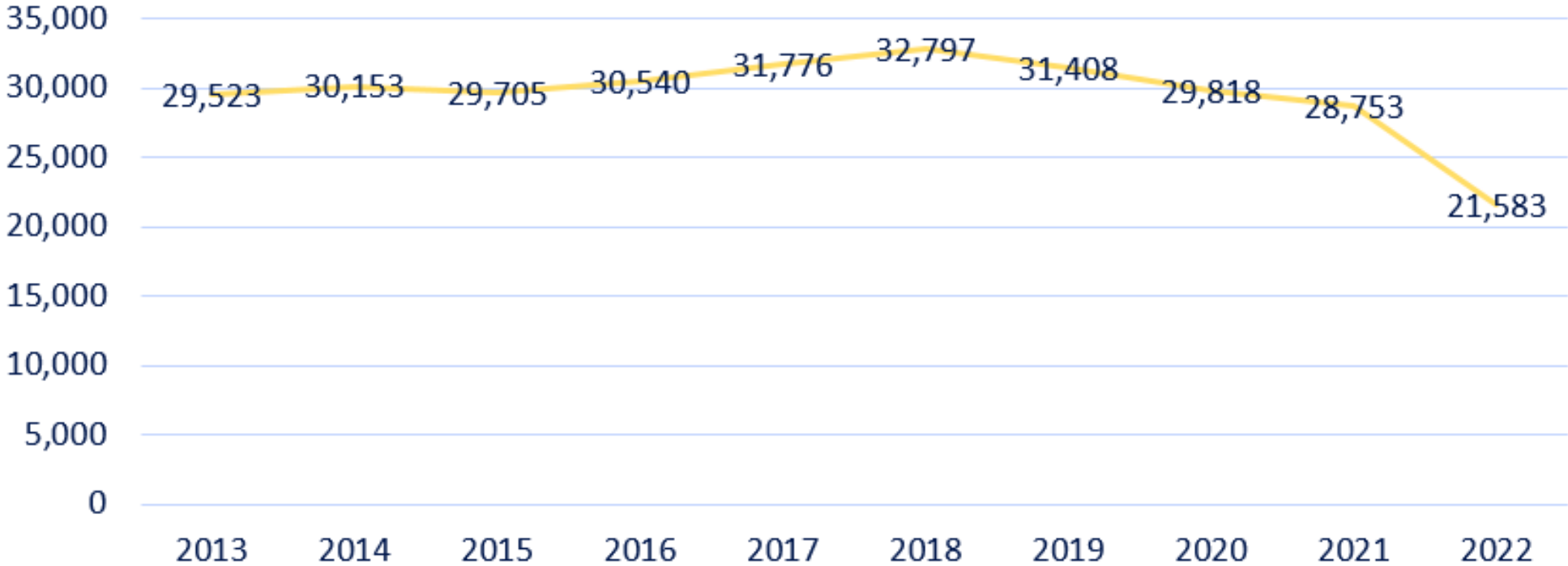
Joint Managing Conservatorship (JMC):

- A legal status where two or more parties share the parenting rights and duties related to a child, such as an agreement with parents solely for the purposes of obtaining mental health services for a child
- A judge will oversee the case and issue court orders. The judge presiding over the case may assign specific duties to one of the Joint Managing Conservators based on the needs of the child



Conservatorship: Child Census

Children in DFPS Legal Responsibility on August 31 of Each Year



Conservatorship : Substitute Care

A court can give conservatorship to DFPS when a child cannot live safely at home and no appropriate person close to the child is able to care for them

12,569 (60.9%) in Foster Care						8,044 (39.1%) in Other Types of Substitute Care			
8,741 (42.4%)	693 (3.3%)	1,196 (5.8%)	672 (3.2%)	403 (2%)	755 (3.6%)	7,182 (34.8%)	501 (2.4%)	287 (1.4%)	74 (.35%)
Child Placing Agency Foster Homes	DFPS Foster Homes	Residential Treatment Centers	General Residential Operation	Emergency Shelters	Other Foster Care	Kinship Care (Unverified)	Independent Living and Other	CPA Adoptive Homes	DFPS Adoptive Home
					109 (.52%)				
					Other Substitute				



Permanency Services

Permanency

- Permanency planning starts as soon as DFPS removes a child from a home and ends when the child leaves DFPS conservatorship
- Reunification services are provided to families immediately before and after a child returns home

Kinship Services

- Kinship care is care provided to a child in DFPS conservatorship by relatives or fictive kin who lives outside of the child's home
- As of January 2023, approximately 42% of the children and youth in DFPS conservatorship reside in both verified and unverified kinship placements

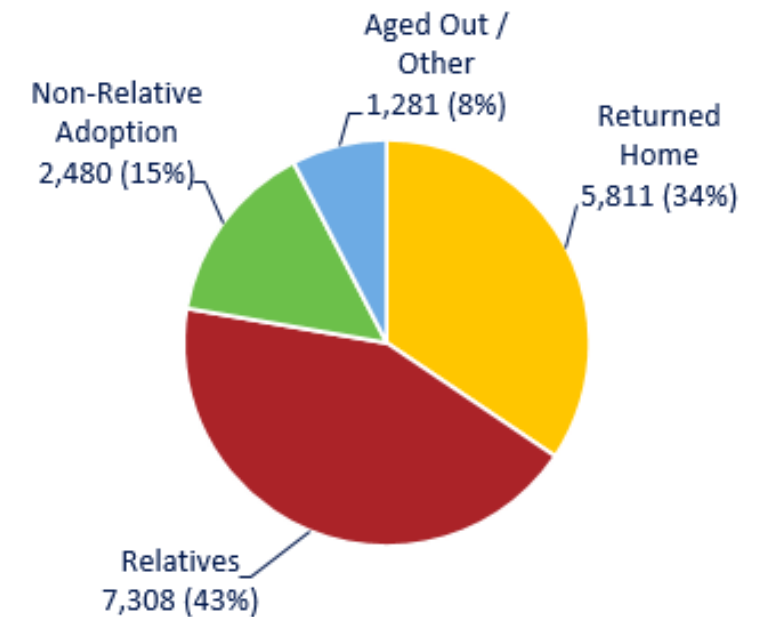
Adoption

- Before the adoption is finalized, DFPS monitors adoptive families and children for at least six months to assess their adjustment and transition to adoption
- DFPS has an adoption assistance program to help defray some of the costs associated with adoption of a child with special needs
- Post-adoption services help the child and family adjust to the adoption and avoid adoption disruption

Transition to Adulthood

- Transitional Living Services offer a multiservice approach in transition planning, including services and resources available to current and former foster youth ages 14 to 23

Exits from DFPS Legal Custody
(FY 2022)



* Relatives include permanent custody to relative/kinship through fictive kin PCA and Non PCA, as well as consummated adoption with relatives.



Children Without Placement (CWOP)

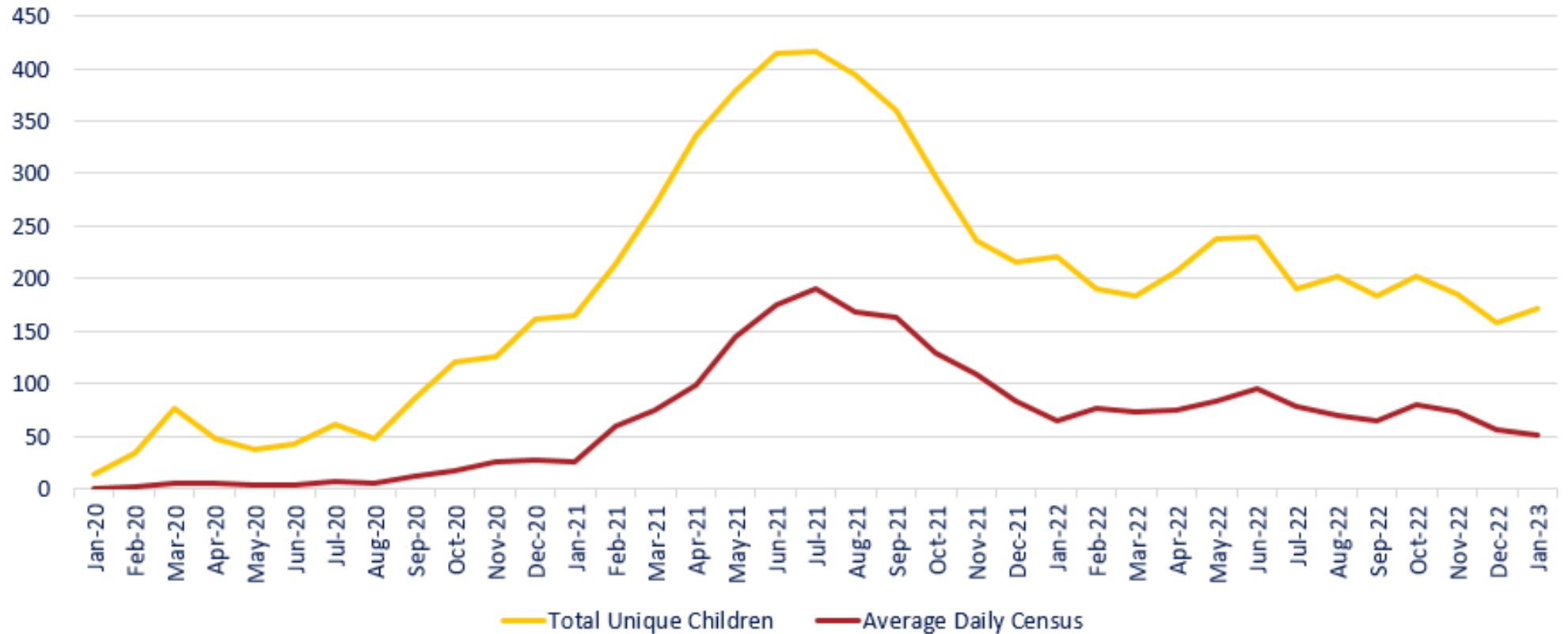
DFPS makes a diligent effort to secure an appropriate placement for the child or youth with a licensed and contracted provider and placements with family members or fictive kin

If a child or youth in DFPS conservatorship does not have a placement, the child or youth must, as a last resort, stay in a hotel or other location supervised by DFPS staff

Primary Characteristics	Age	Service Level	Removal Reason	Where are the children coming from?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical aggression – 79%• Psychiatric hospitalizations – 78%• History of running away – 74%• Involvement with juvenile justice – 56%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14 - 17 years old – 77%• 16 - 17 years old – 48%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 67% are specialized or intense/intense plus service levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approx. 34% of children without placement have a removal reason of RAPR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychiatric hospitals – 25%• Runaway – 17%• Kinship Homes – 12%• Jail/Juvenile Detention – 12%• Own Home – 11%

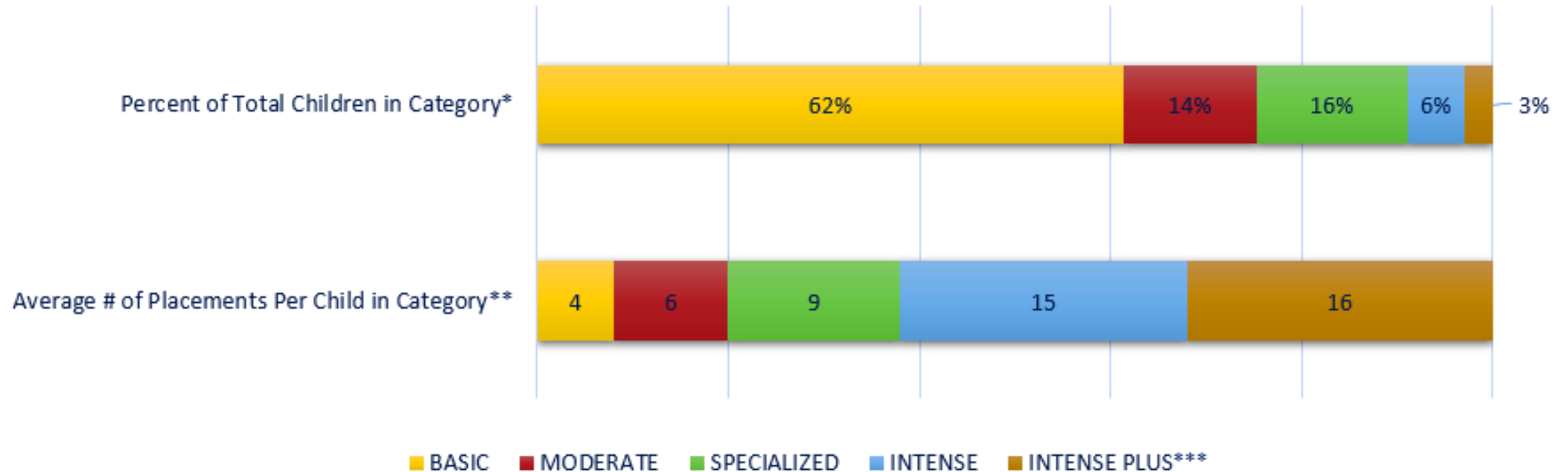


Children Without Placement Trends



DFPS Overview:

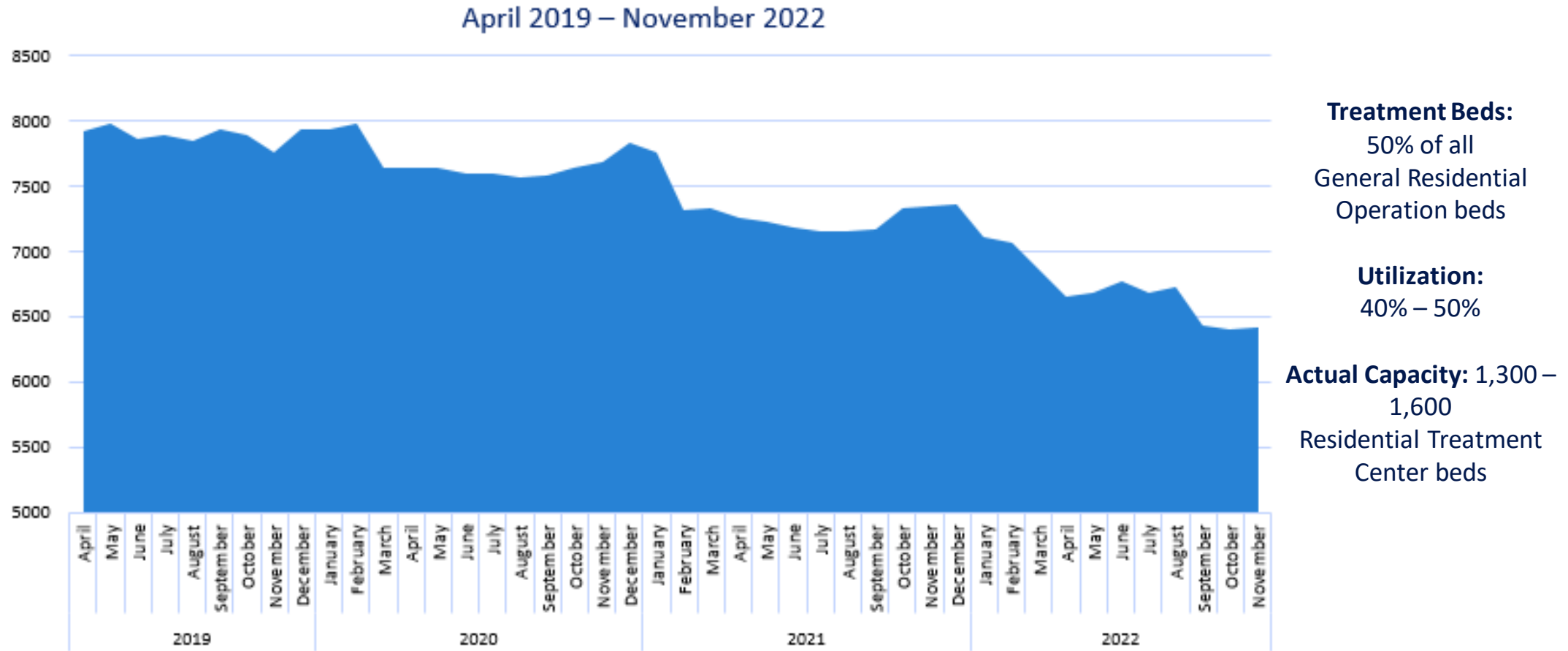
Level of Care by Average # of Placements



*Average # of placement by category for current removal episode
 **Legacy Only. Excludes children in SIL and SSCC placements and those without a level of care. FY 2022.
 ***Intense Plus category includes Intense Plus, Child Specific Contract Placements, and Psychiatric Transition



General Residential Operation: Capacity Over Time



Source: DRIT 108190



Capacity Building

HB 5 (87th – 2nd) Capacity Fund

- For FY 2022, the HB5 supplemental payments were 11.5% increases to moderate and above levels of care then applied to the CBC blended rates based on each catchment's projected case mix
- For FY 2023, due to reduced child population, reevaluation of capacity needs resulted in an 11.38% increase to blended rate and applying percentage increases based on most pressing needs in the legacy rates

Intensive Psychiatric Stabilization Program (IPSP)

- Serves youth without placement or who have a history of placement instability due to psychiatric hospitalizations
- These youth need a continuum of inpatient services to stabilize and allow them to step down into placements that accommodate their needs
- IPSP is a time-limited 90-day program intended specifically for youth who require significant support with their mental health in order to transition into a less restrictive placement setting

Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)

- Placement setting designed to meet the needs of children and youth who have complex mental and behavioral health needs in a residential treatment setting using short-term trauma-informed treatment models

Treatment Foster Family Care (TFFC)

- Program designed to provide innovative, multi-disciplinary treatment services to a child or youth in a highly structured family home environment that is a cost-effective alternative to residential treatment

Temporary Emergency Placement (TEP)

- Program provides highly-structured, short-term residential care and services for a child with high needs and who are without a placement while DFPS seeks a longer-term placement

Transitional Living Programs (TLP)

- Residential services specifically designed to serve youth 14 years old or older for whom transitional living services or treatment goals include basic life skills training towards independent living



Community-Based Care

Senate Bill 11, 85th Texas Legislature, transformed Foster Care Redesign into the model known today as Community-Based Care (CBC)

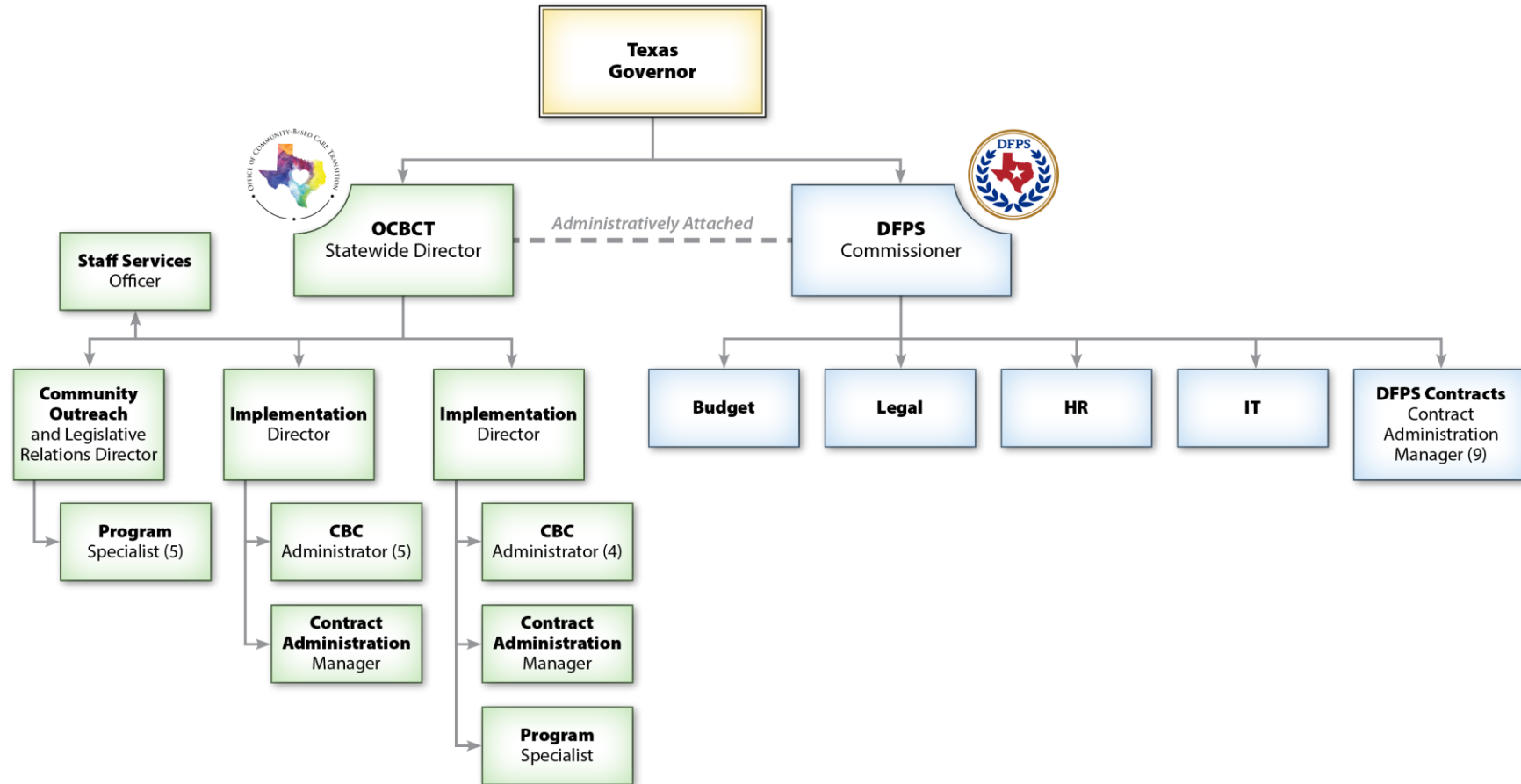
Senate Bill 1896, 87th Texas Legislature, established an independent office, the Office of Community-Based Care Transition (OCBCT), to focus on the implementation of the CBC model statewide

CBC is a community-based approach to meet the unique needs of families and children by contracting with a nonprofit or governmental agency to provide direct case management to:

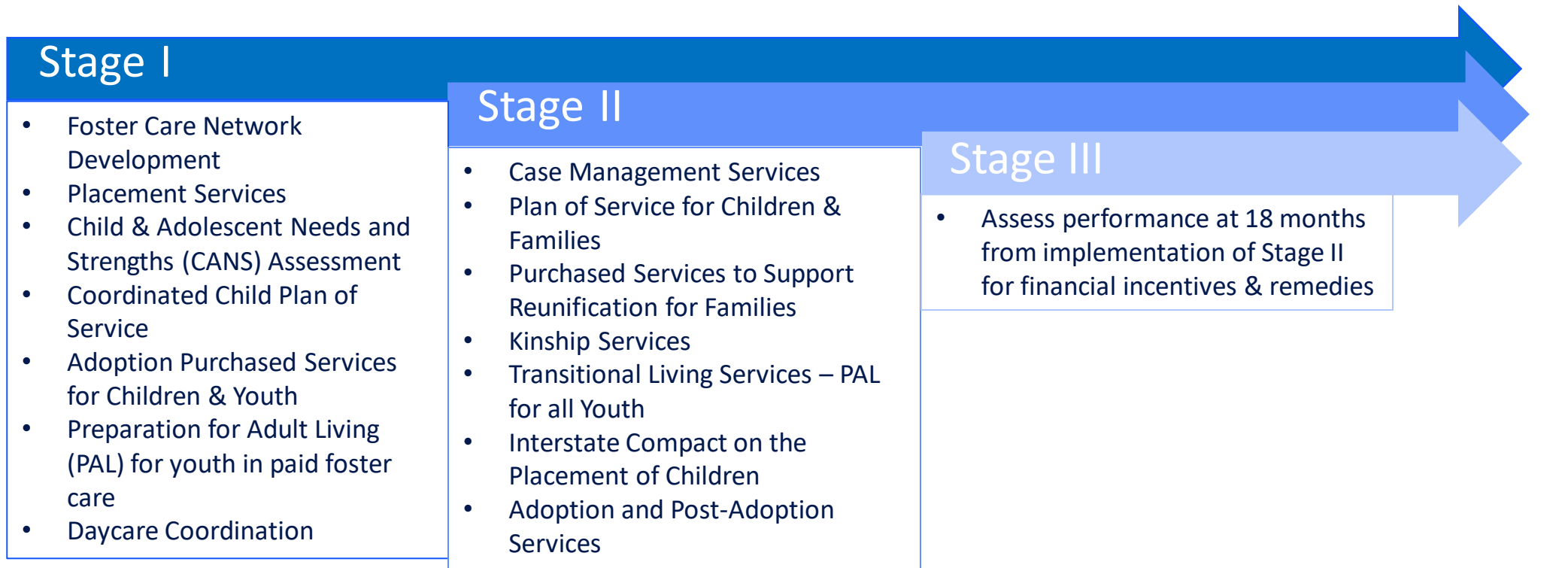
- Prevent entry in foster care
- Reunify and preserve families
- Ensure child safety, permanency, and well-being
- Reduce further referrals of children and families to DFPS



OCBCT Organization Chart



CBC: Implementation Stages



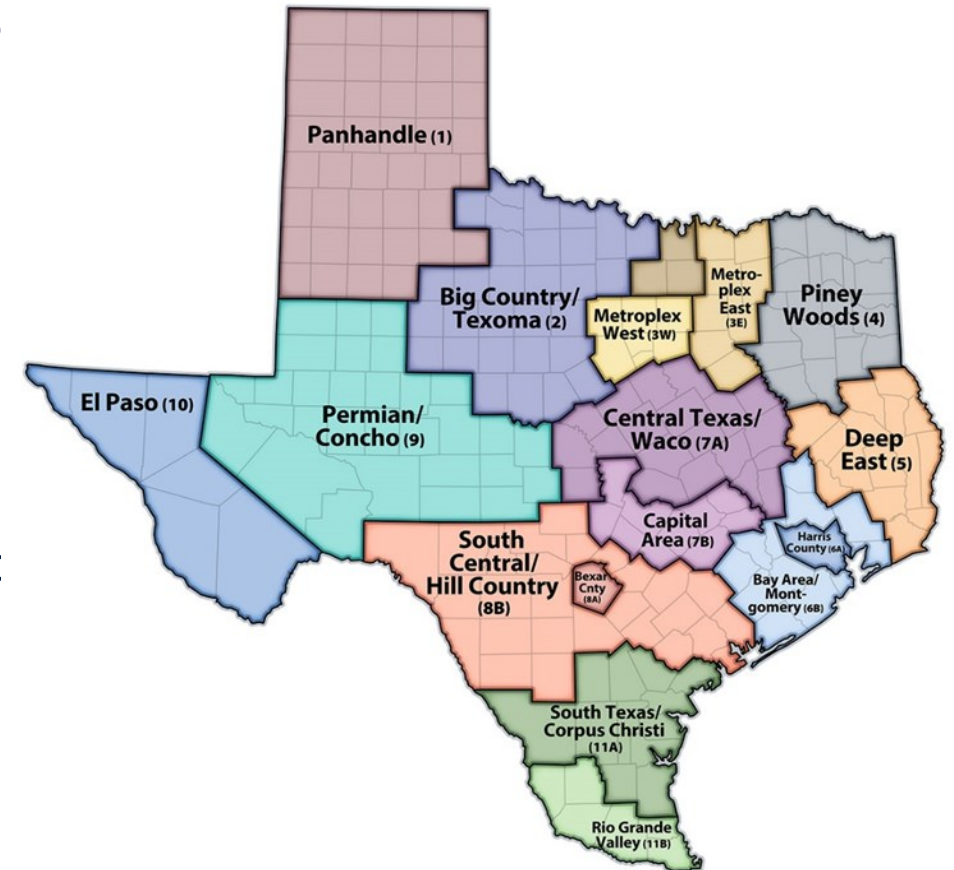
CBC: Community Areas

As of January 17, 2023, 4,862 children in conservat (24%) are served by four CBC Community Areas:

- Metroplex West (3B)
- Big Country/Texoma (2)
- Panhandle (1)
- South Central/Hill Country (8B)

In February 2023, contracts were signed for two ne areas. DFPS will begin preparations for the transitic CBC in these areas on March 1, 2023

- Metroplex East (3E)
- Piney Woods (4)



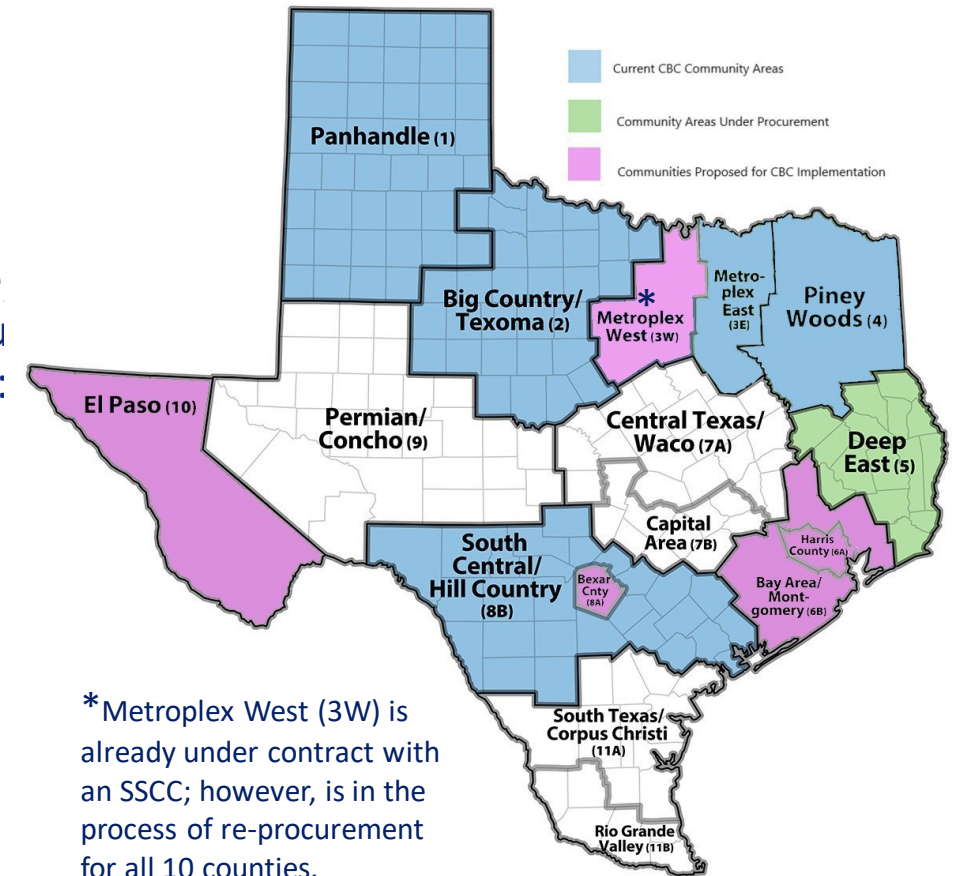
FY 2024-25 CBC Expansion

CBC Implementation Plan published by the Office of Community-Based Care Transition (OCBCT) in December 2022

As included in the base budget bill for Senate and House plans to post Requests for Application to expand into four additional community areas in the FY 2024-25 biennium:

- Bexar County (8A)
- Harris County (6A)
- Bay Area/Montgomery (6B)
- El Paso (10)

By the end of the FY24-25 biennium, approximately 66% of the children in conservatorship will be served under the Community-Based Care model



Adult Protective Services

Adult Protective Services (APS) conducts investigations of alleged abuse, neglect or exploitation of persons age 65+ and persons with disabilities living in the community

APS Investigates:

- Individuals in state of self-neglect
- Caretakers
- Family members
- Individuals who have an ongoing relationship with alleged victim
- Paid caretakers who are paid out-of-pocket or by Medicare
- Financial Exploitation



APS Investigations & Service Delivery

Investigations

- Contacts a person with current and reliable information about the client within 24-hours of intake
- Makes fact-to-face contact with client
- Ensures client safety throughout the life of the case
- Completes a thorough investigation
- Identifies client's risk of recidivism and provides intensive case services, as appropriate

Services

- Immediate intervention when client is unsafe
- Services to address presenting problems
- Services to address root causes
- Assistance with utilities, rent, personal care services, transportation
- Environment – animal control, extermination, appliances, home repair
- Medical – medical supplies, medication, adaptive equipment
- Residential – temporary room/board, emergency shelter, adult foster care
- Other Services – home delivered meals, emergency response services

542 Caseworkers

89 Casework Supervisors

119,448 Intakes

84,655 Investigations

38,860 Clients Served

88,700 Services Provided

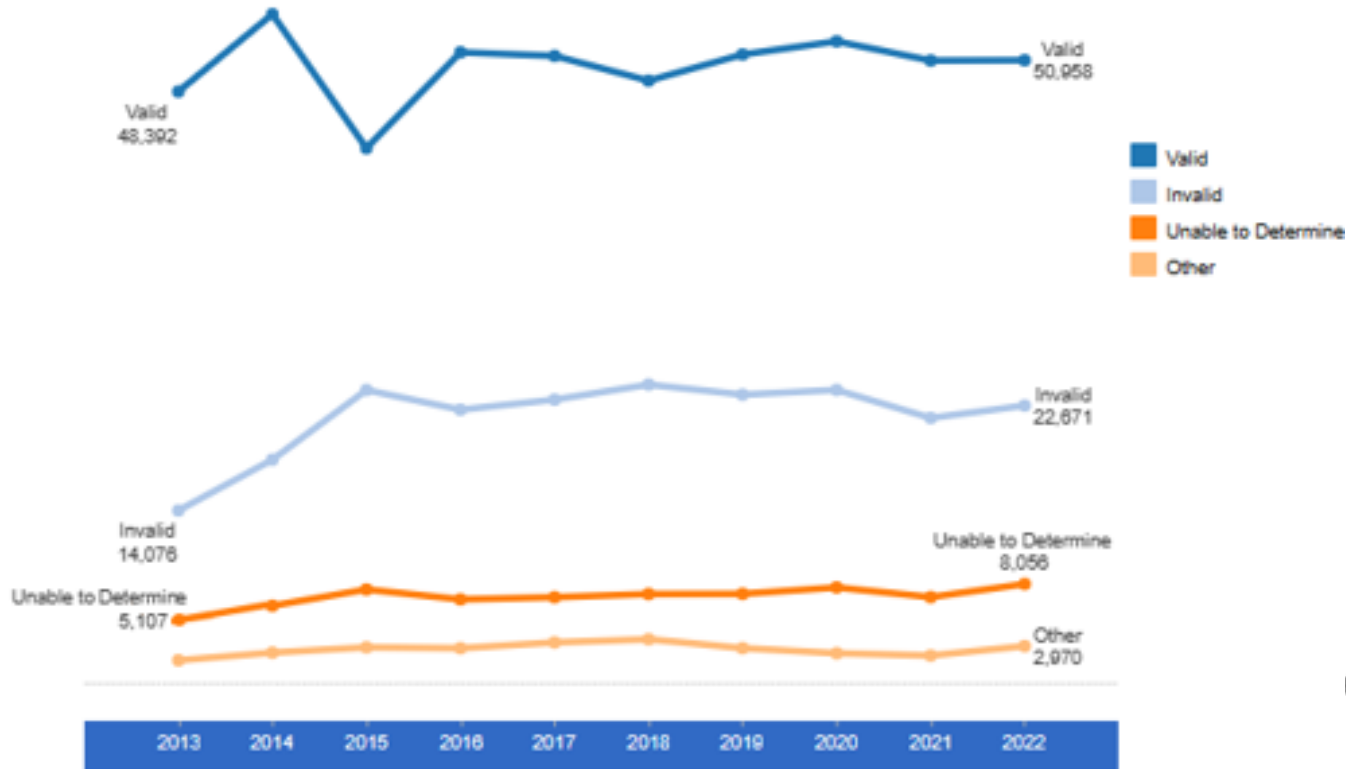
-- Purchased 6,604

-- Not Purchased 82,096

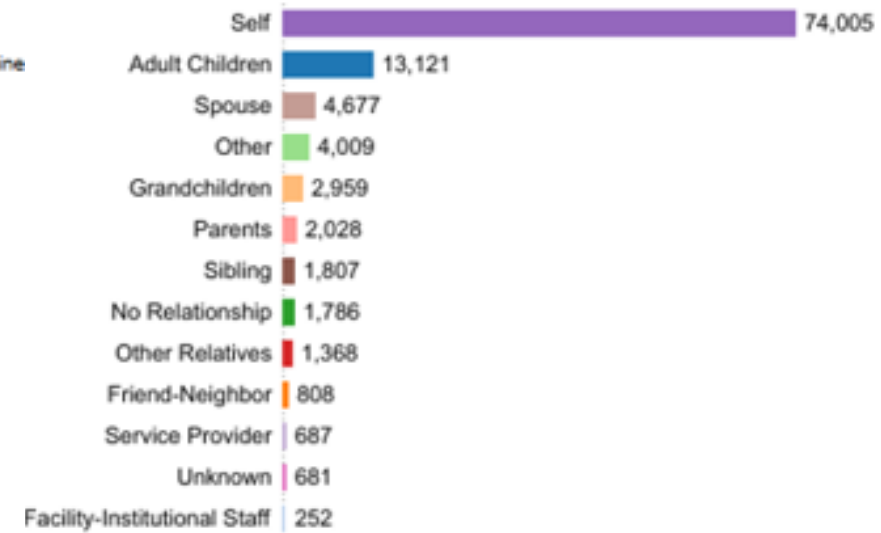


APS Investigations Data

APS Completed Investigations by Outcome



Alleged and Validated Perpetrators, Including Self-Neglect (FY 2022)



APS Financial Exploitation Investigations

Financial exploitation drains the monetary resources of vulnerable adults, and victims may lose their means to provide self-care

Due to the complexity, cases require more time to investigate and collect financial documents, and require specialized training to assess paper trails and other evidence

APS has exploitation units consisting of caseworkers with expertise in banking, financial institutions, accounting practices, penal code and laws regarding fiduciary responsibilities, and civil and criminal financial investigation techniques



Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)

- Funding community level programs designed to promote positive outcomes for children, youth, and families and create thriving communities
- Working with communities to implement programs that address community level needs
- Helping normalize the challenges of parenting and encourages seeking help through parenting tips, articles, information, and resources
- Recommending best practices and policies for building on the strengths of both caregivers and children to promote strong families and resilient children



Programs Providing Support to Families

With Young Children

Healthy Outcomes through Prevention and Early Support (HOPES)

Provides community-driven initiatives and supports for families with children 0-5 of age

Texas Home Visiting (THV)

Provides in-home parent education for families with children who are 0-5 years of age

Texas Nurse Family Partnership (TNFP)

Provides nurse home visiting for first-time low-income families

With Children of All Ages

Fatherhood EFFECT (Educating Fathers for Empowering Children Tomorrow)

Provides parent education and resources to fathers

Family and Youth Success Program (FAYS)

Provides coaching, counseling, and group-based learning for youth and parents

Service Members, Veterans and Families (SMVF)

Provides parenting, education, counseling, and youth development programs for military and veteran families

With Youth

Community Youth Development (CYD)

Provides positive youth development programs in zip codes with high incidences of juvenile crimes

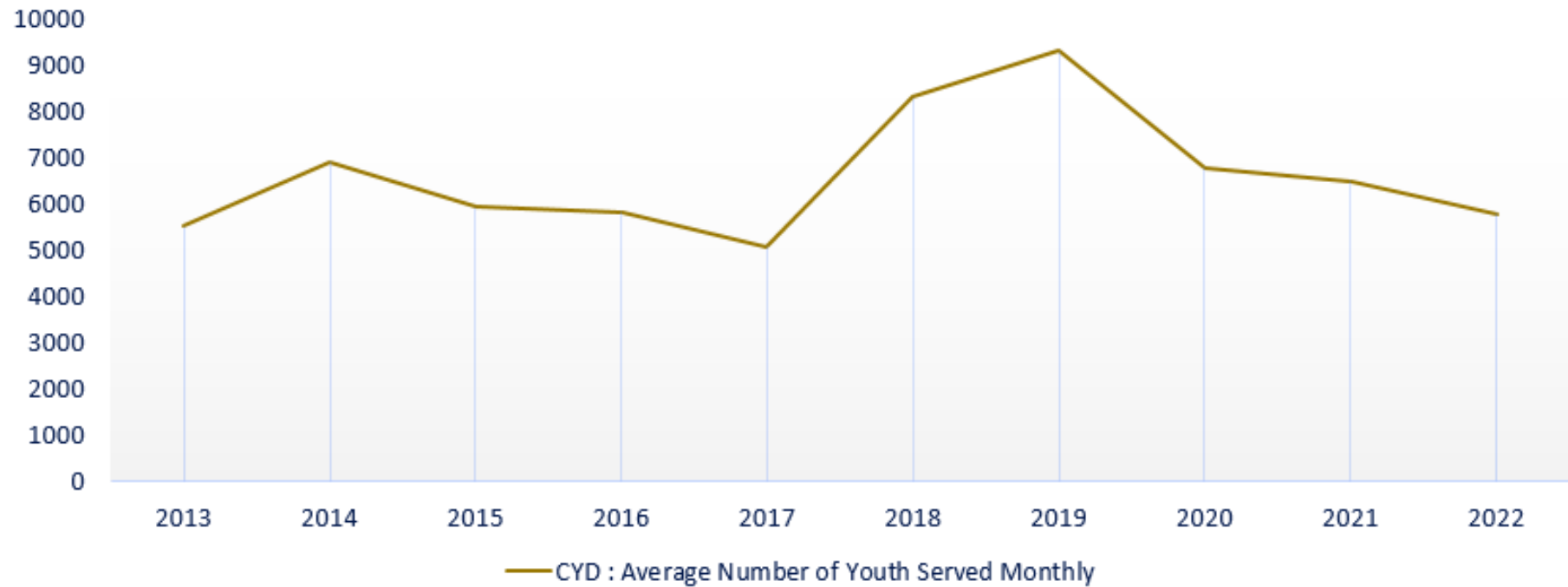
Statewide Youth Services Network (SYSN)

Provides a statewide network to support positive youth development



PEI Historical Trend

Youth and Families Served by PEI Programs (FY2013-22)



PEI By the Numbers – FY 2022

