



Safely Home - Families First

David Judkins

May 5, 2011

Indianapolis, Indiana



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

Mission and Vision

- **Mission: The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) protects children from abuse and neglect. DCS does this by partnering with families and communities to provide safe, nurturing, and stable homes.**
- **Vision: Children thrive in safe, caring, supportive families and communities.**



Values

DCS Values:

- **We believe every child has the right to be free from abuse and neglect.**
- **We believe every child has the right to appropriate care and a permanent home.**
- **We believe parents have the primary responsibility for the care and safety of their children.**
- **We believe the most desirable place for children to grow up is with their own families, when these families are able to provide safe, nurturing and stable homes.**



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

Where are we now?

- **In 2010 DCS hit record highs in each of our 10 Practice Indicators**
- **FCMs visit 97% + of our children monthly: 17,000 children monthly**
- **Indiana leads nation in exits to permanency (up 34%, when most states are down 15%)**
- **2nd in nation for reaching permanency in 24 months**



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

Federal CFJR Outcomes

- **Permanency Composite 1: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification**
 - **Indiana ranks 10th out of 50 States**
- **Permanency Composite 2: Timeliness of Adoptions**
 - **Indiana ranks 2nd out of 50 States**
- **Permanency Composite 3: Permanency for Children and Youth in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time**
 - **Indiana ranks 3rd out of 50 States**
- **Permanency Composite 4: Placement Stability**
 - **Indiana ranks 11th out of 50 States**



Indiana's Foster Care System

- **Still...we remove too many (Top 10 in nation)**
- **Indiana removals up 21%**
- **Removals down 18% nationally**



Indiana Foster Care

- **Currently we run a very large foster care system**
- **We do it very well- Nationally recognized for our outcomes**
- **13,924 CHINS**
- **9,891 Out of Home**
- **We can achieve even better outcomes by keeping children with their families**

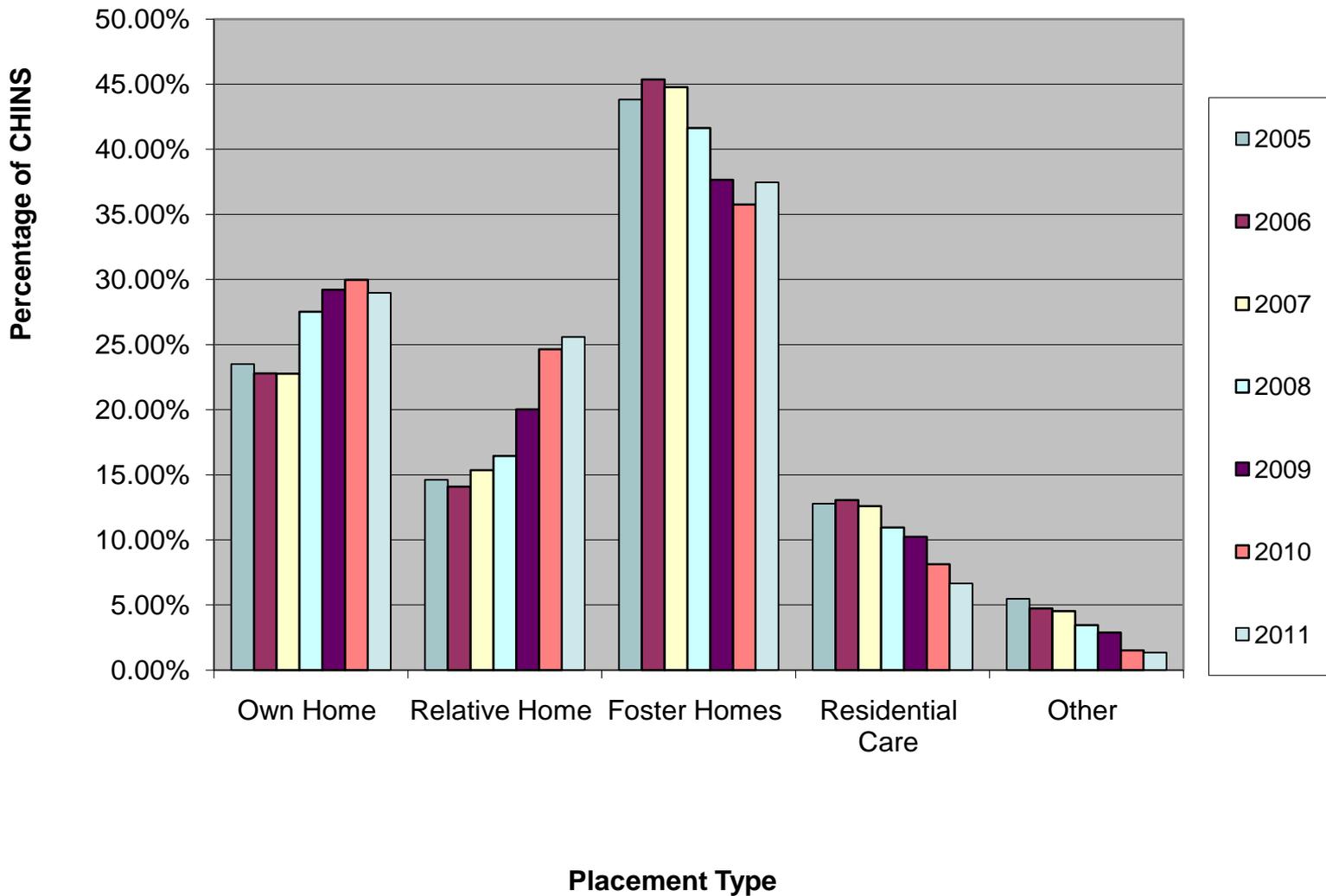


INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

**WHERE DO
WE PLACE
NOW?**



Placement Type by Category





INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

TRENDS



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

Average Number of Placements

Month/Year	Average # of Placements per child
Mar-08	2.85
Mar-09	2.79
Mar-10	2.50
Mar-11	2.50

Each placement move disrupts the child's environment. The fewer times we must move a child the more likely the child can remain in the same school and keep the same routine.



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

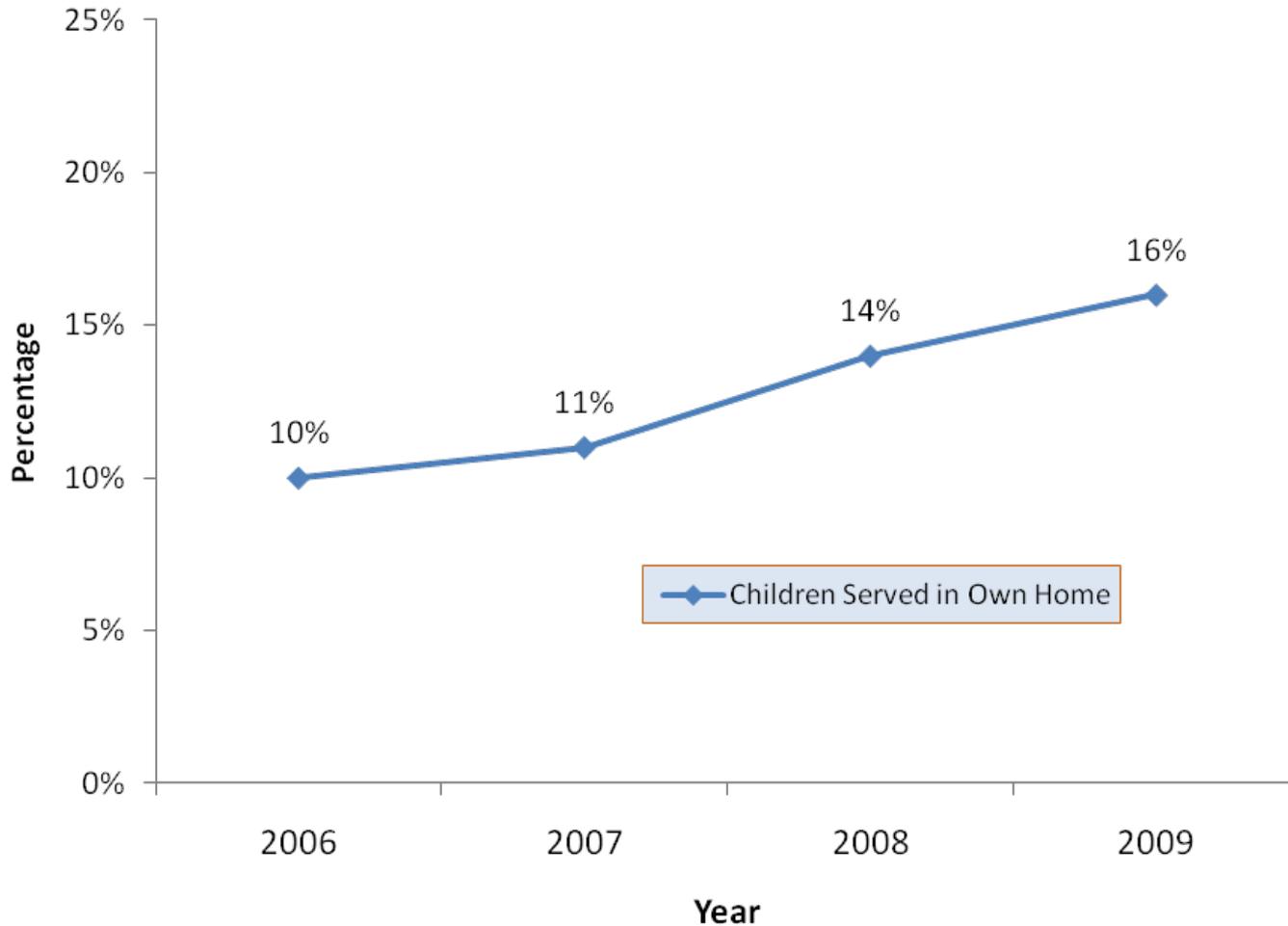
Siblings Placed Together

Month/Year	#of Sibling Cases (Cases with more than 1 child in the family)	#of Cases with all Children Placed Together	% Placed Together of All Sibling Cases
Mar-07	2441	1519	62.23%
Mar-08	2434	1599	65.69%
Mar-09	2556	1756	68.70%
Mar-10	2739	1963	71.70%
Mar-11	2448	1760	71.90%

DCS believes siblings should always be together. Any time children must be removed from home we want to preserve their connections with their siblings.

More Children are Being Served in Their Own Homes

Percentage of 'CHINS' Children Served in Own Home

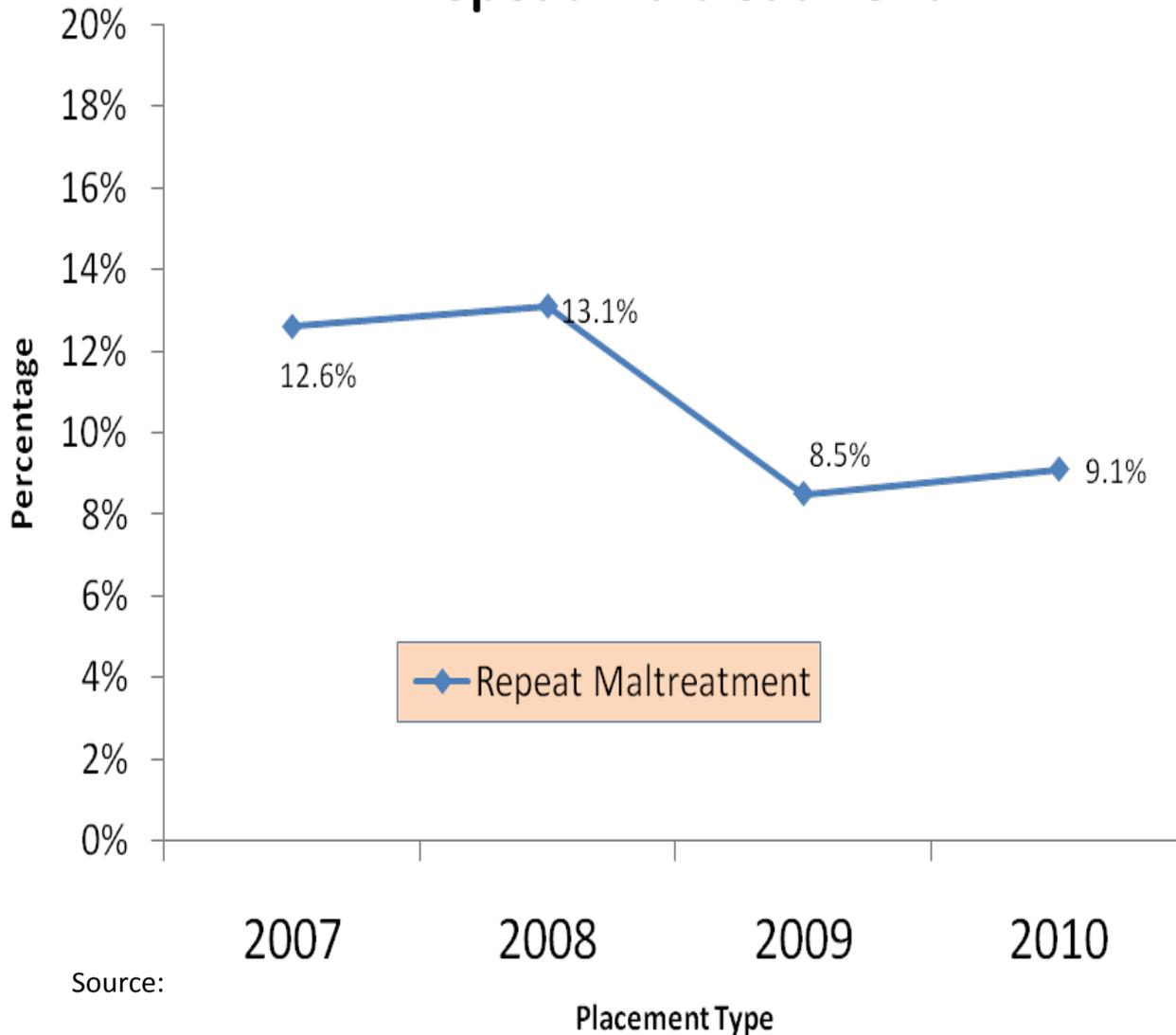


Percentage Change

+60.0%

More Children are Served at Home Safely

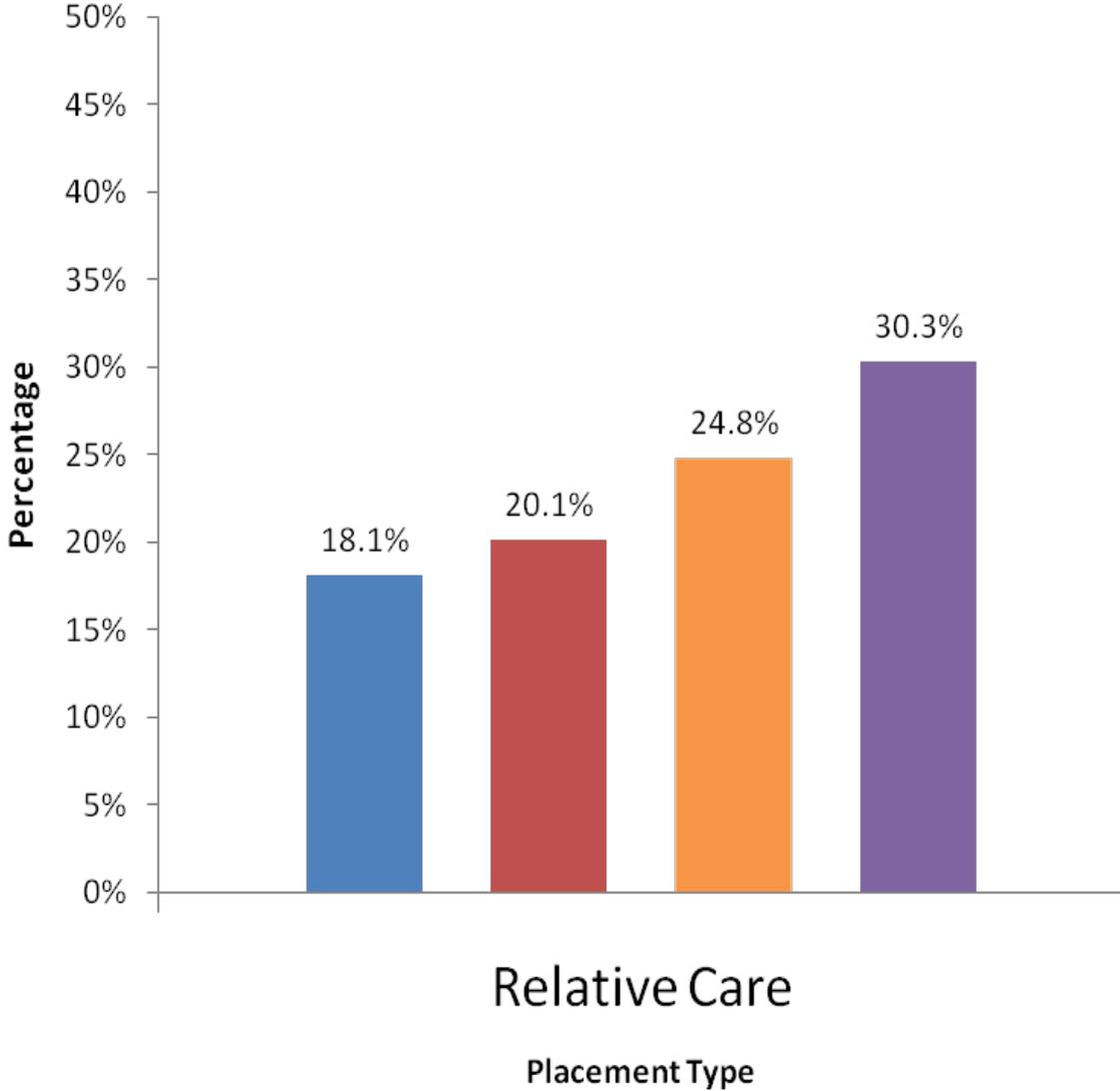
Repeat Maltreatment



Percentage
Change

-27.8%

Placements with Relatives Have Risen Substantially



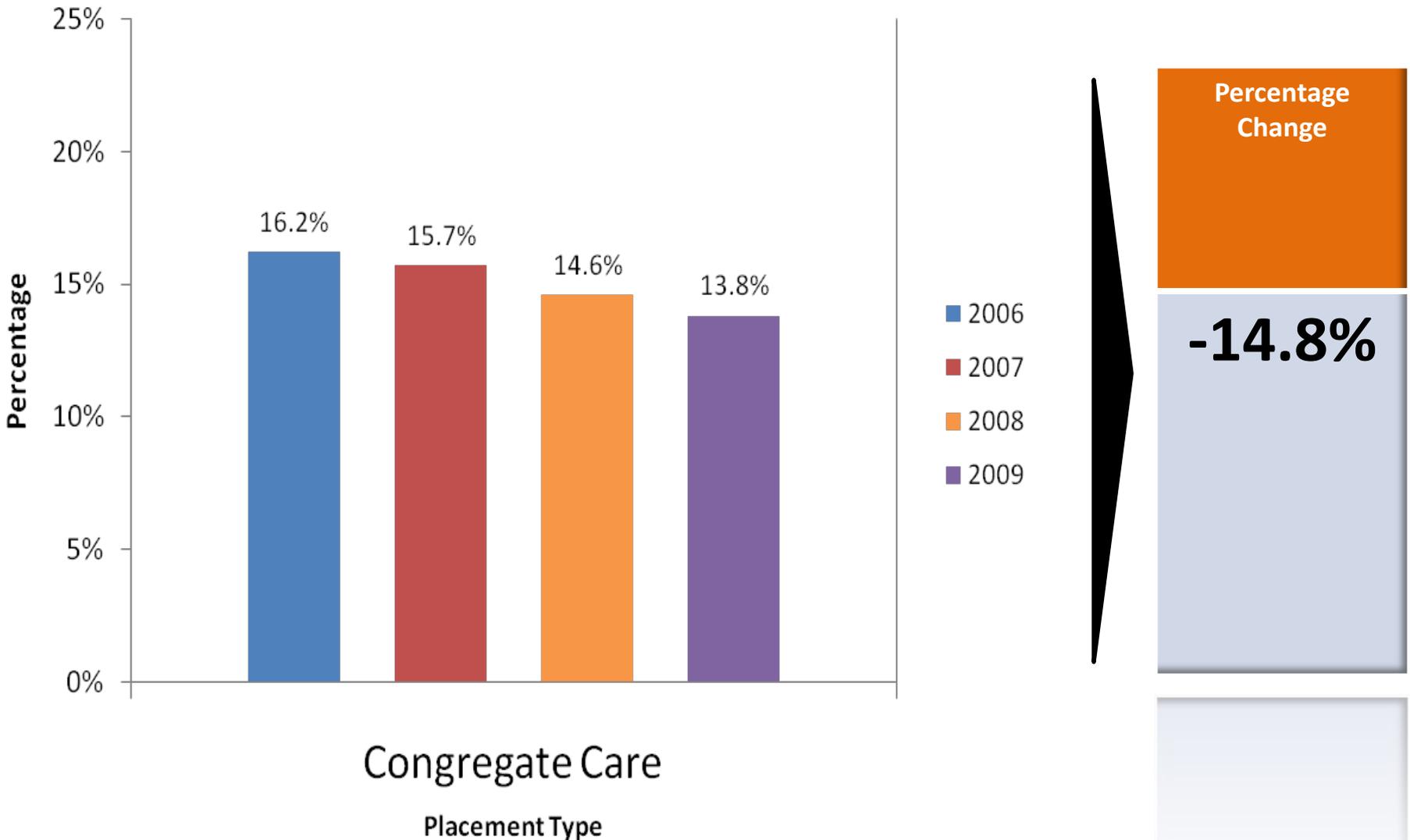
- 2006
- 2007
- 2008
- 2009



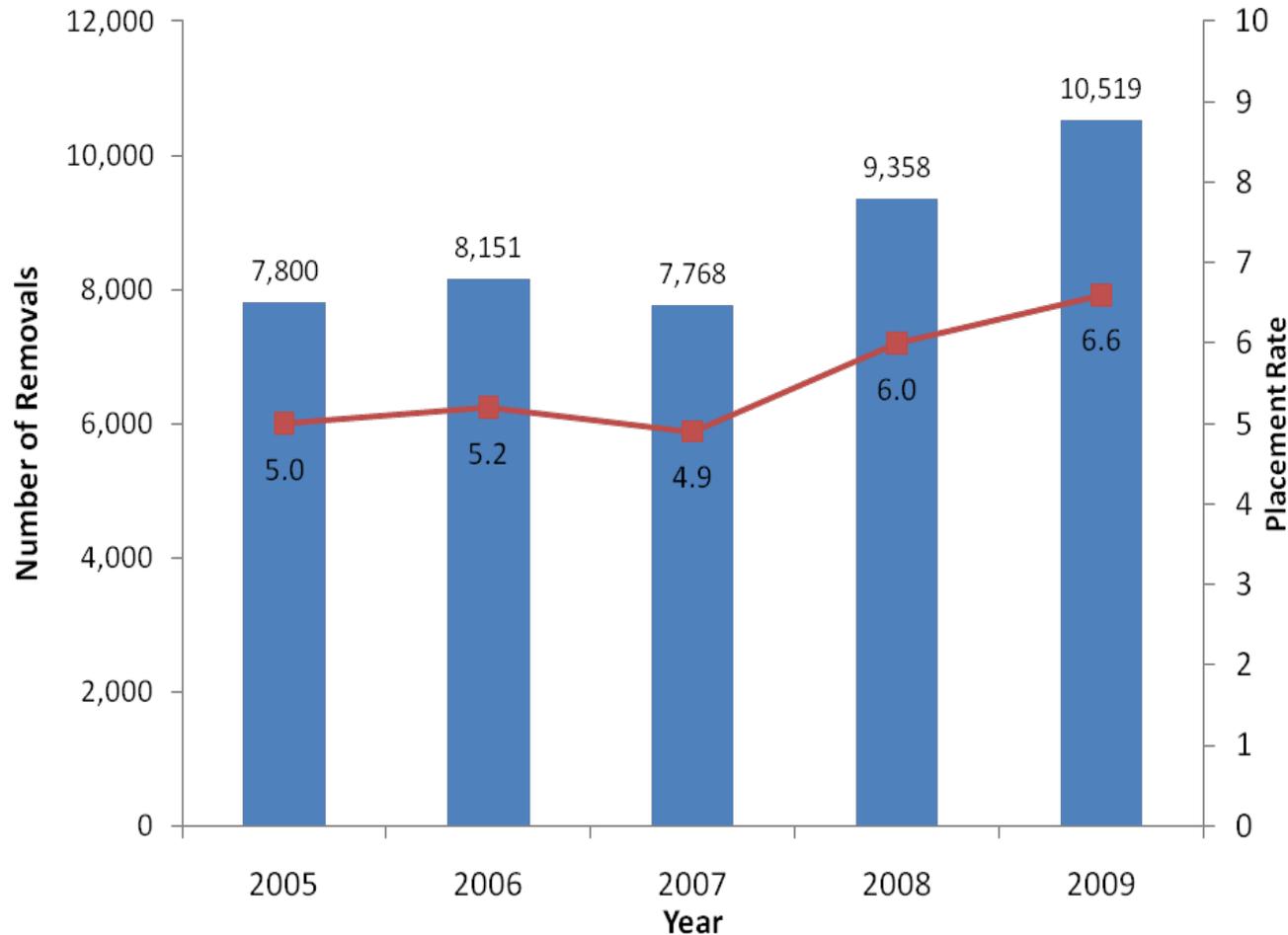
Percentage Change

+67.4%

Congregate Care Placements are Steadily Declining



Indiana's Removal and Placement Numbers are Rising, Placing Additional Pressure on the System

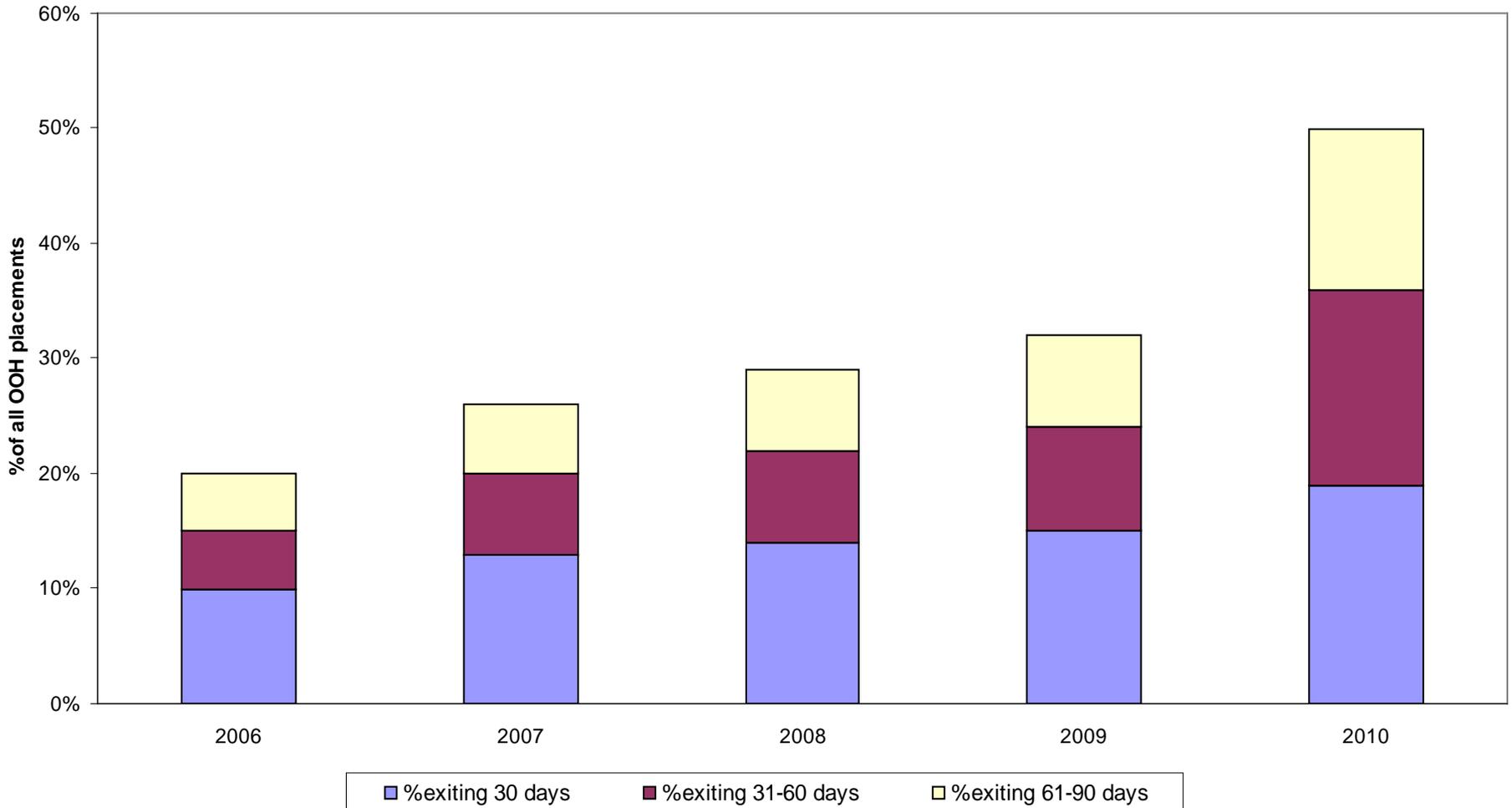


Placement Rate

Indiana's placement rate was 6.6 per 1000 in 2009—almost twice the national average of 3.4.

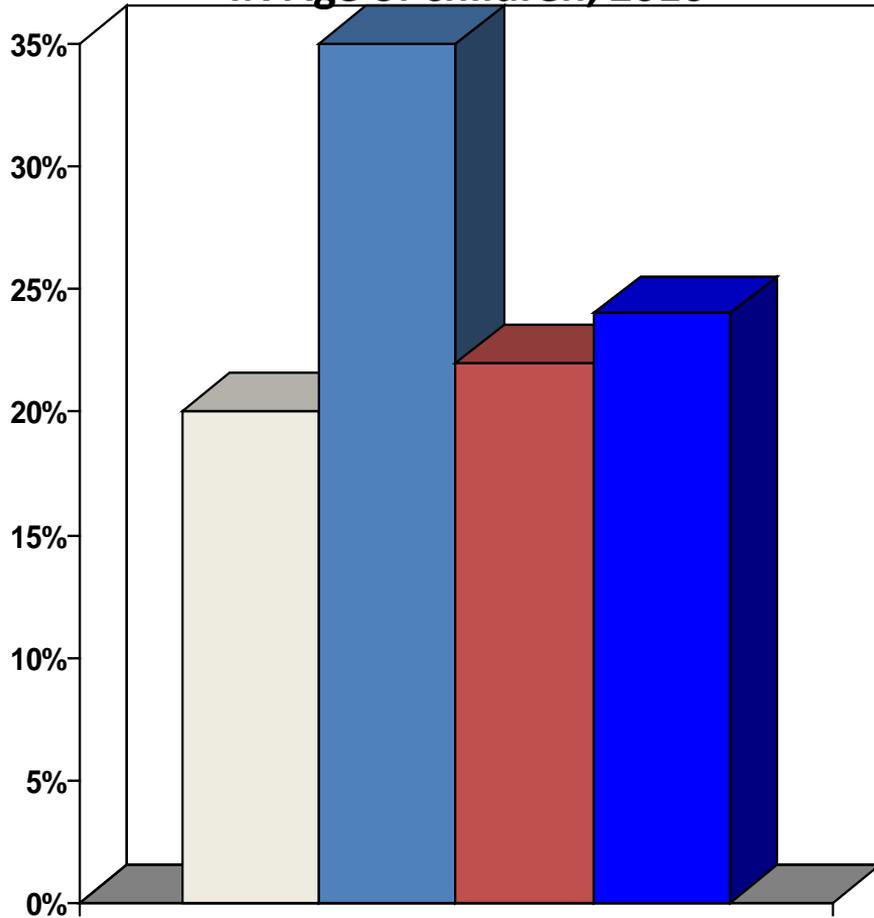
Short Stays in Out-of-Home Placement Indicate That Some Placements May Have Been Preventable

Patterns of Exit from OOH Placement within first 3 months of Case Opening

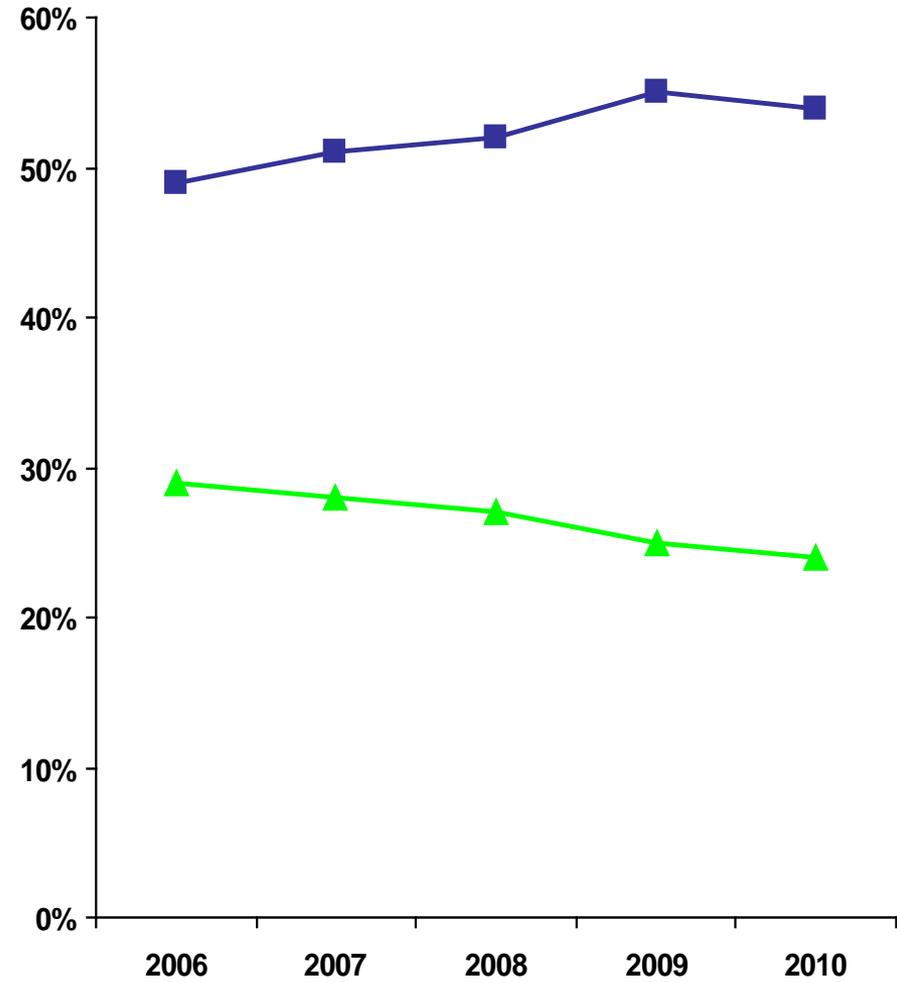


Indiana's out-of-home placement population is getting younger

IN Age of children, 2010



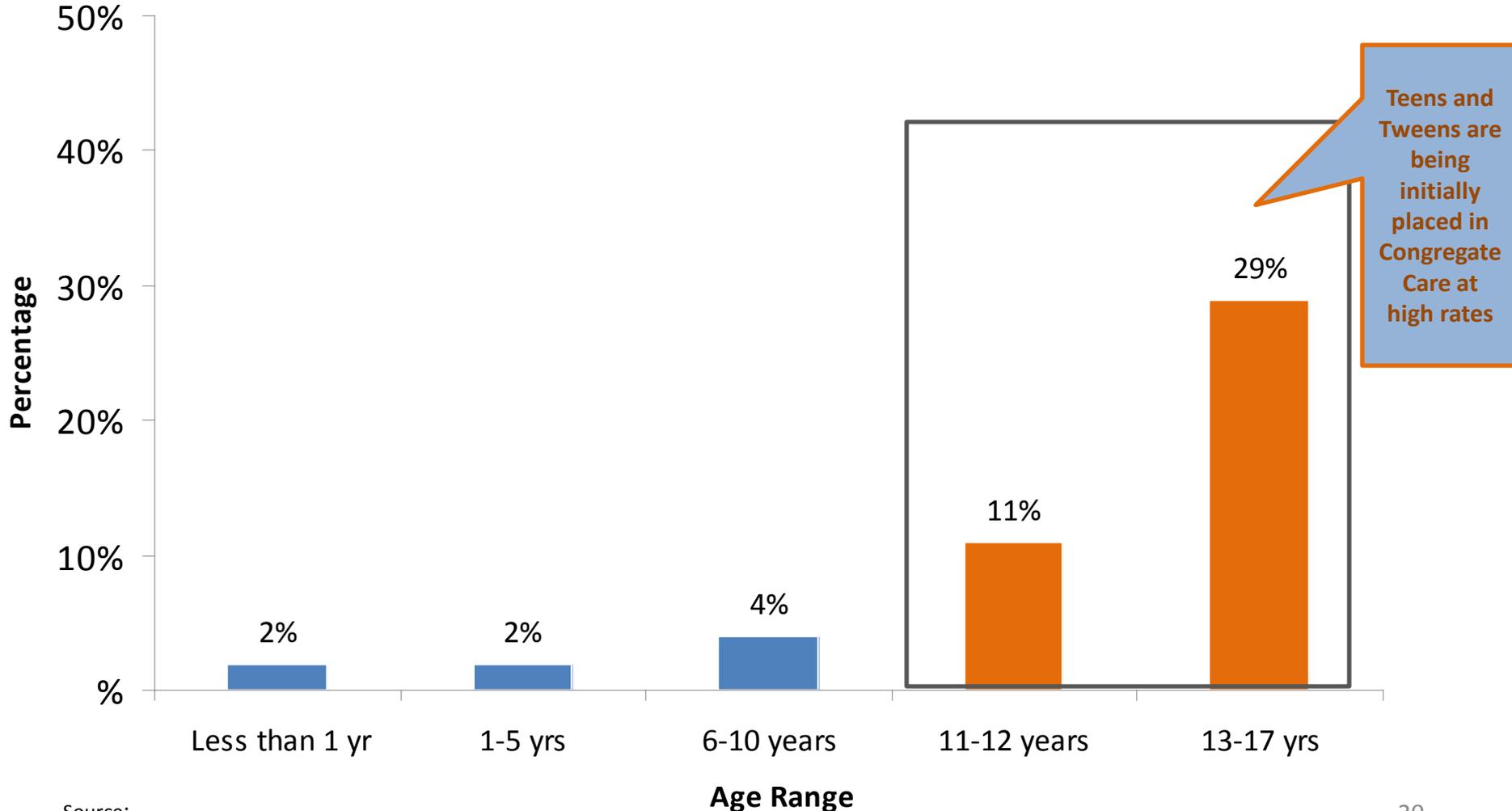
Less than 1 yr 1-5 yrs 6-10 years 11-17 years



Under 6 11-17 years

For Older Children, a Sizeable Percentage of First Placements Are in Group Care Settings

Percentage of Children in Age Group Initially Placed in Congregate Care





INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

**ONE
PRIORITY FOR
2011-2012**



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

Safely Home – Families First

Safely Home



Families First



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

Safely Home - Families First

What is Safely Home - Families First?

Our Goal:

- 1. Children are safely home with resources available and in place to support the family; or**
- 2. They are with appropriate relatives who can lessen the effects of removal and increase their likelihood of achieving the permanency they deserve.**



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

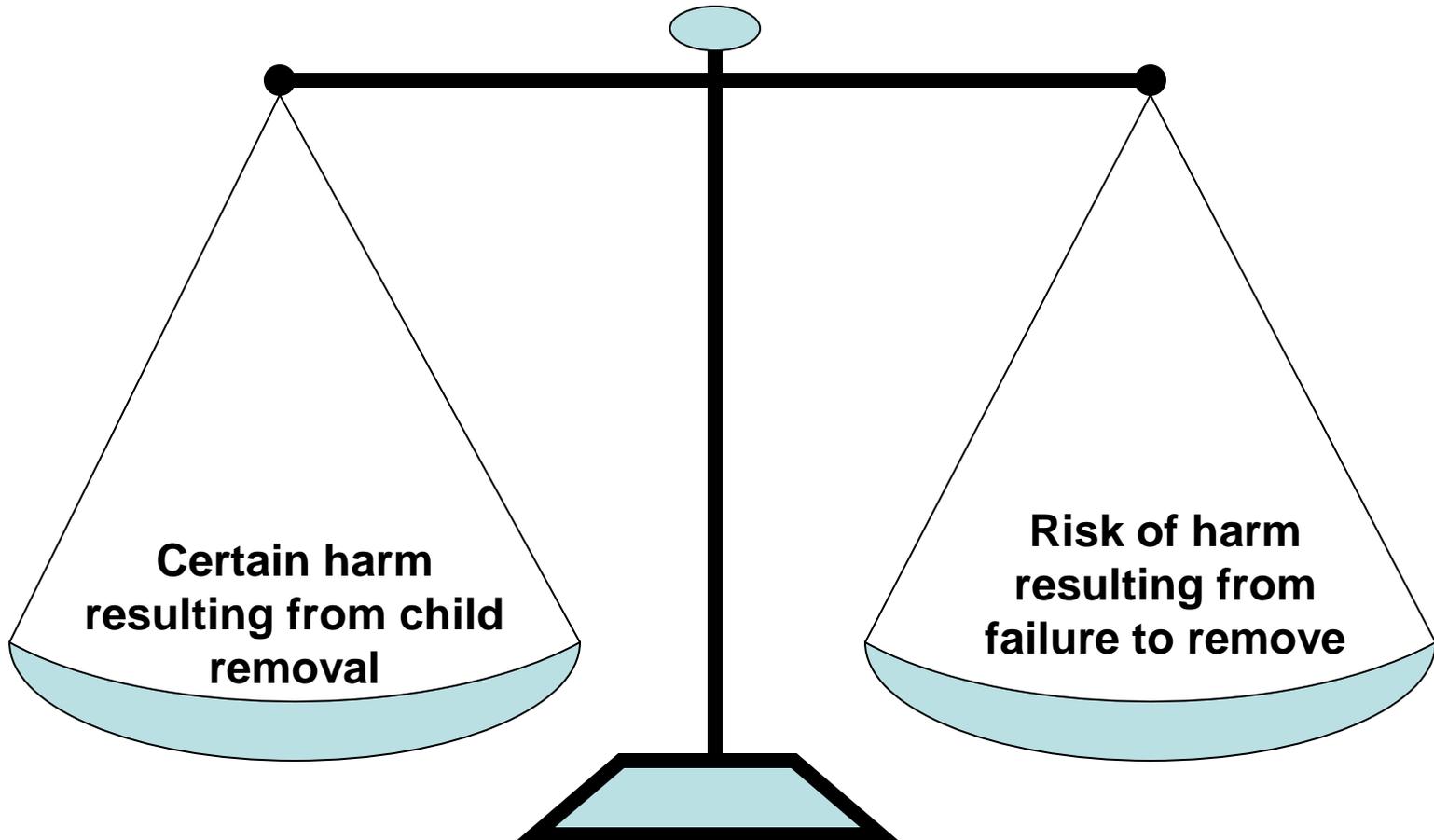
Safely Home - Families First

What is Safely Home – Families First?

- **Renewed and heightened effort to keep kids safely at home or with appropriate relatives**
- **Natural evolution of the DCS Practice Model:**
 - **Provide for the well-being of our children;**
 - **Identify those protective factors that will help keep a child at home safely;**
 - **Help family members find resources and their own informal supports; and**
 - **Quickly locate relatives in the event a child is not able to remain in the home.**

Utilizing Protective Factors to Make Safety Decisions

Weighing Potential Outcomes





INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

Safely Home - Families First

FCMs draw on the DCS Practice Model skills to help families develop

Protective Factors:

- Nurturing and Attachment Conditions**
- Knowledge of Parenting Skills and Youth Development**
- Family Resilience**
- Social Connections**
- Concrete Supports**



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

Safely Home - Families First

- **Fostering Connections Act**
- **Adoption and Safe Families Act**
- **The Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978**
- **Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980**
- **1989 Revision of Federal for Services Act 392**
- **Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996**
- **Kinship Caregiver Support Act- “Kinship Navigator”**



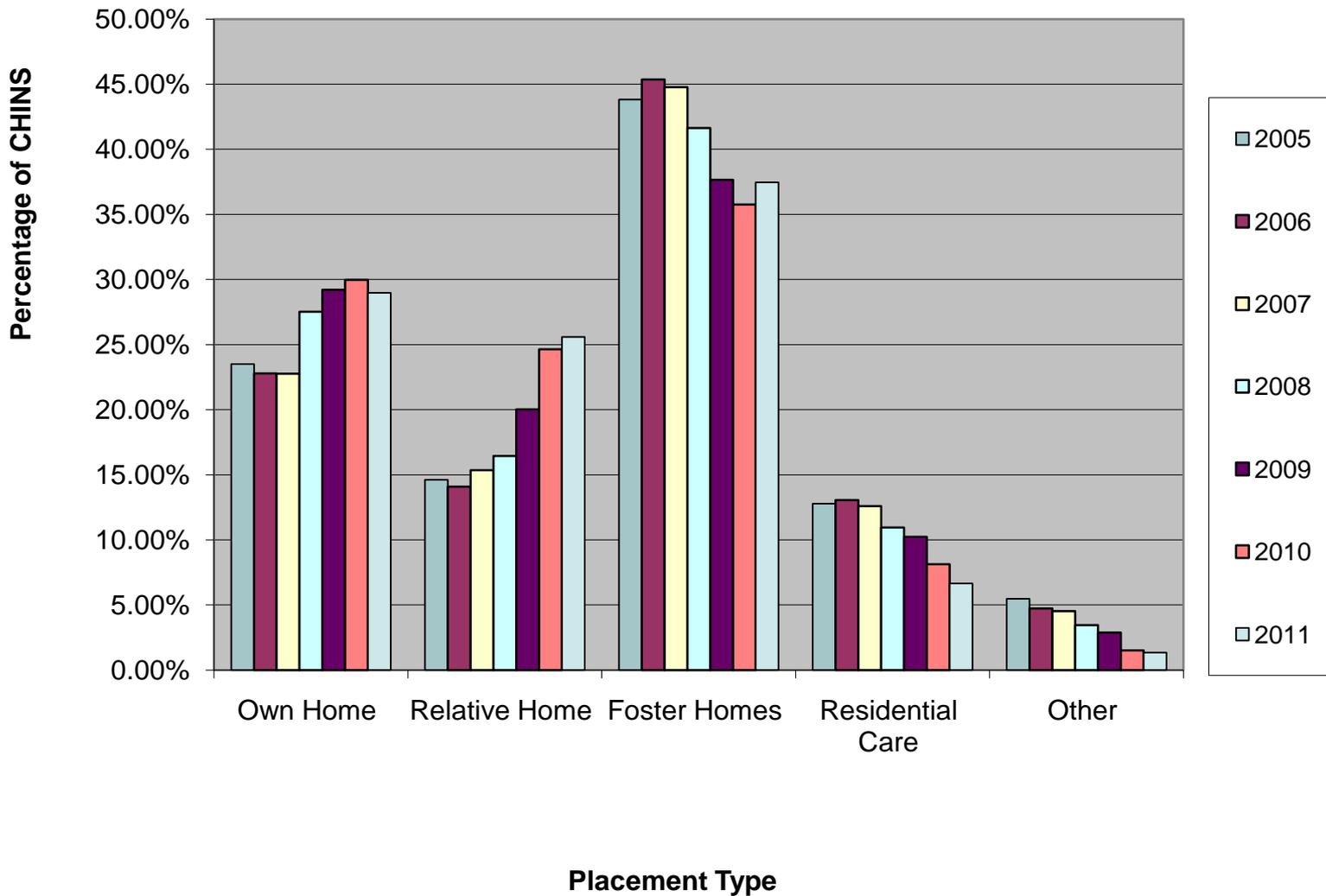
INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

Safely Home - Families First

- **Better for children**
- **Tougher on caregivers**
- **70% of relative caregivers do not access TANF or any other public financial assistance**
- **When caregivers can access TANF child-only grants, this amounts less than 2,000 per year**
- **Relatives need supportive services too**

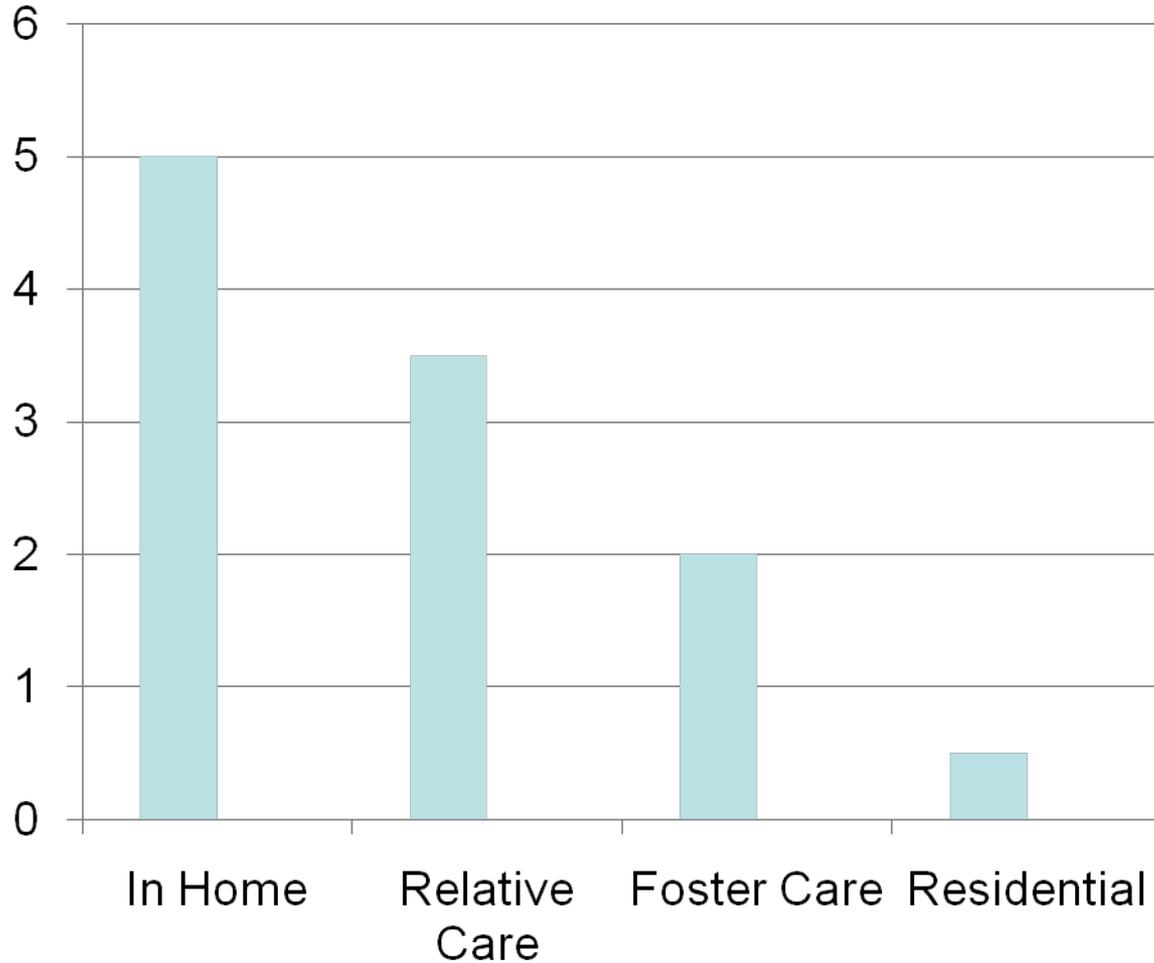


Placement Type by Category





Casey 2020 Project





INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

The Biggest Challenge: The Urban Myth

**“The apple doesn’t fall far from
the tree”??**





INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

Advantage to Relative Care

Nationwide, studies comparing relative placement versus foster care show:

- **More children were with the same placement for one year (82% vs. 65%)**
- **Fewer children changed schools (63% vs. 80%, with that number increasing to 93% for group care)**
- **More children liked those with whom they lived (93% vs. 79%)**
- **More children wanted their current placement to be their permanent home (61% vs. 27%)**
- **More children felt they “were always loved” (94% vs. 82%)**



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

Safely Home - Families First

Children placed in relative foster homes more likely to be placed in their neighborhoods & remain in their schools of origin

Because schools are typically community-based, relative foster care promotes the maintenance of children's ties to a network of friends, teachers, coaches & other potentially significant supports



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

Safely Home - Families First

One analysis showed that half of the children placed with relatives never changed homes during their stay in care; whereas 80% of children placed with non-relatives had one or more placement moves while in foster care



Safely Home - Families First

- **Children in foster care express desire to be with siblings**
- **Research has shown that children in foster care are more likely to live with siblings if placed with relatives**



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

Safely Home - Families First

- **Children placed into relative care had fewer behavioral problems 3 years after placement than children who were placed into foster care**
- **This finding supports efforts to maximize the placement of children with willing/available relative when they enter out-of-home care**
- **Even children who moved to relative care after sustained periods of foster care showed some benefit**



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

Safely Home - Families First

- **Because relatives are more likely to take in larger sibling groups than non-relative caregivers, siblings placed in relative care are more likely to achieve permanency together**
- **When permanency is not achieved for all siblings together, relatives are more likely to maintain siblings' relationships with one another**
- **Children with relatives were more likely to visit with their siblings (62%) than children living with non-relatives (30%)**



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

Safely Home - Families First

In a number of cultures, the family and home are understood to include the extended family and in some cases the community



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

Safely Home - Families First

Research sponsored by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, found the large majority of relatives (80%) viewed the children in their care as “already home” and made clear their commitment to raising the children to adulthood

The perception that relative foster care was a barrier to adoption appears to have been largely a self-fulfilling prophecy: caseworkers acted on the belief that relatives were not willing to adopt

Illinois found that children in relative care are at a lower risk for maltreatment than are children in either specialized or non-relative foster care



Relative Placements

**Average length of stay for
children in relative care is 403**



Foster Home Placement

State average

- **5,218 children**
- **3,530,124 days**

**Average length of stay for
children in foster care- 686 days**



To Sum it Up

Average Days in Care:

- **Relative----- 403**
- **Foster----- 686**

What is best for kids?



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

Safely Home – Families First

Why Safely Home – Families First?

- **Research shows children do better when they remain in their home or have connection with relatives**
- **Younger children who enter care experience more physical, mental and educational challenges than children remaining in their own home**
- **Studies demonstrate that children thrive in the least-restrictive, most home like setting**
- **Community-based interventions provide a more appropriate alternative to placing children in restrictive settings**



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
CHILD
SERVICES

Current DCS Initiatives in Place to Support Staff

- **Child and Adolescent Strength and Needs (CANS)**
- **DDRS/DCS MOU**
- **Permanency Teams/Roundtables**
- **Clinicians**
- **Safety and Risk Assessment Tools**



Current DCS Initiatives in Place to Support Staff

- **Protective Factor Training**
- **Foster Care Reorganization/Specialists**
- **Services RFP**
- **Referral Wizard**
- **Foster Parent Training**
- **Licensing Rule Changes**
- **Institutional Unit**
- **MaGIK**
- **PIP**



How Can Providers Support Safely Home - Families First?

- One hour crisis response
 - Home-based casework
 - Homemaker
 - Home-based therapy
- Homebuilders
- Flexibility in serving families
- Working with fathers and relatives
- Support children in resource homes



How Can Providers Support Safely Home - Families First?

- Medicaid and MRO
- CMHC Initiatives
- Cross System Care Coordination
- Community Alternatives to PRTF
- Integrated Services Pilot (ISP)
- Northern Indiana Team Choices
(NITCH)



Interested in Hearing More?

- **Attend Regional Service Council Meetings**
- **Contact us at:
field.operations@dcs.in.gov**