

State of the State

2021 Texas Child Protection System Trends



Overview

TexProtects' *State of the State* is our annual presentation on the data and trends shaping the current landscape of our child protection system. It shares child welfare outcomes in Texas and how we compare nationally, as well as the state's progress towards shifting the conversation upstream to focus on prevention. In 2021, Texas' child protection system faced many challenges. The data indicate the urgency with which we must part from the status quo and do more to ensure children and families in Texas receive the support they need to remain together.



Mission and Focus

TexProtects is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization dedicated to protecting Texas children from the trauma of abuse and neglect and empower families to thrive through education, research and advocacy

CHILD PROTECTION

Child Abuse
Prevention

Family Preservation

CPS System and
Workforce

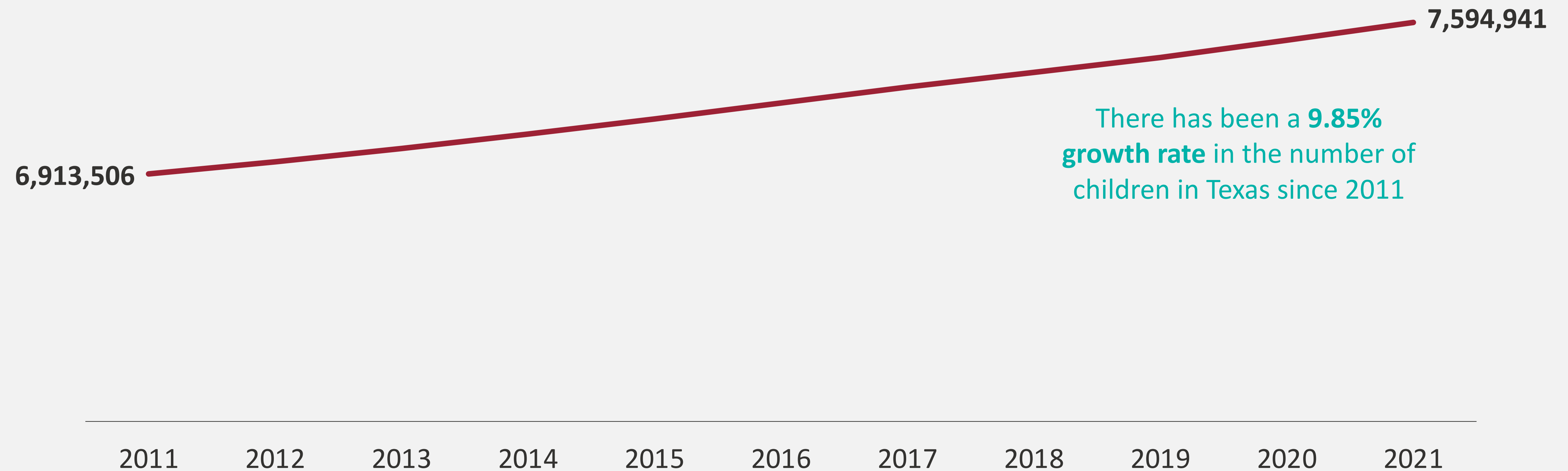
Foster Care

Transition and
Support Services
for Youth

Healing and Trauma-Informed Care

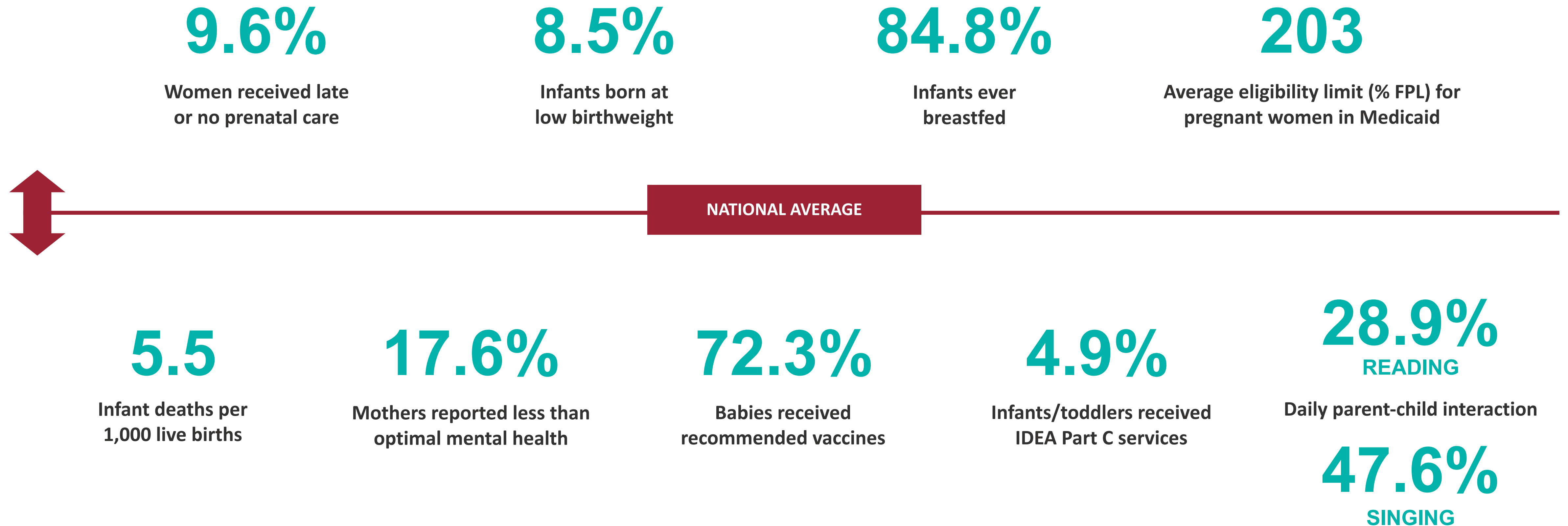
1 in every 10 children in the U.S. live in Texas

Number of U.S. children ages 0-17 years living in Texas, 2011-2021



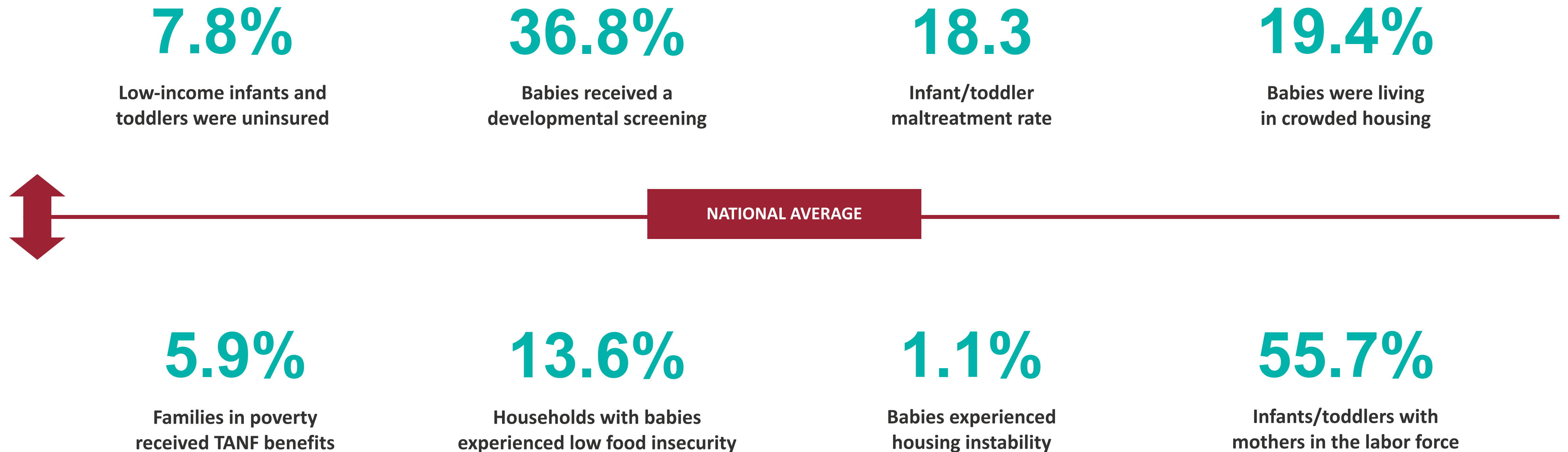
Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, [Texas Child Population](#)

According to the 2021 **State of Texas' Babies Report**, Texas ranked well in some areas and poorly in others...



Source: Zero to Three (2021), [State of Babies Yearbook](#)

Signaling a need to **scale up support services** for families



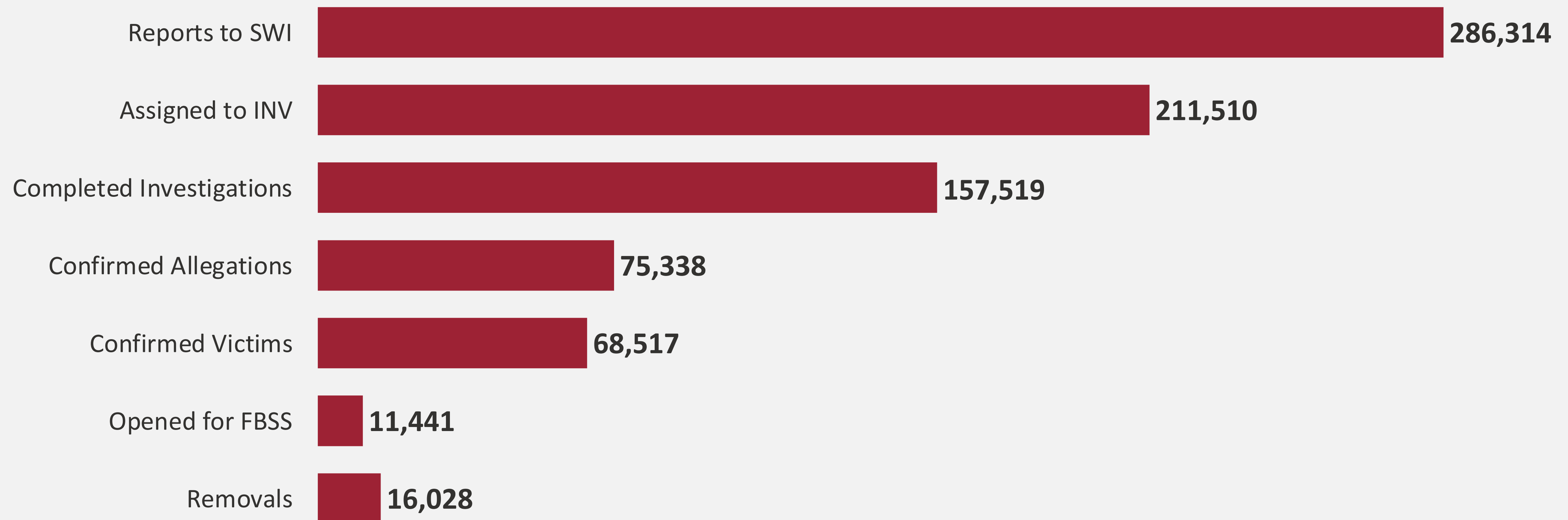
Source: Zero to Three (2021), [State of Babies Yearbook](#)

Overview of the Child Protection System in Texas



The current child protection system is **primarily reactive**, taking action **after** a report has been made

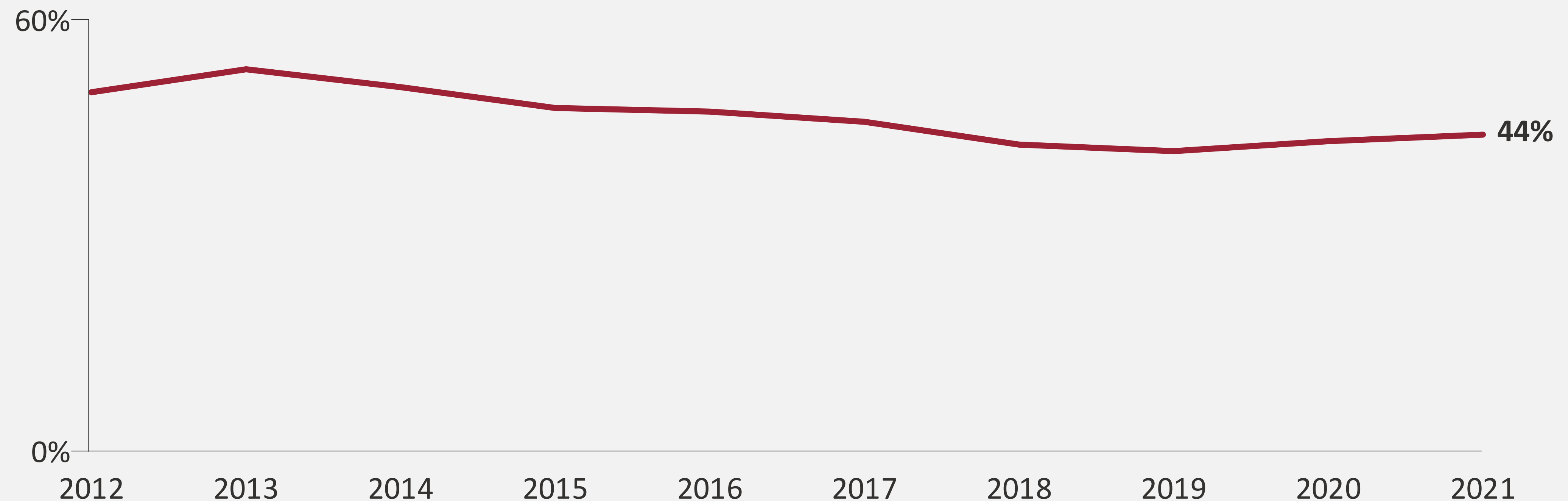
Number of statewide intake reports, assignments, and outcomes in 2021



Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, [CPI Intakes: Priority, Screening, and Assignment](#); [CPI Completed Abuse/Neglect Investigations: Activity](#); [CPI Completed Investigations: Alleged and Confirmed Types of Abuse](#); [Completed Child Protective Investigations: Referred to Family Preservation](#); [Child Protective Services \(CPS\): Removals](#)

More than 4 in 10 statewide intake reports seek other support

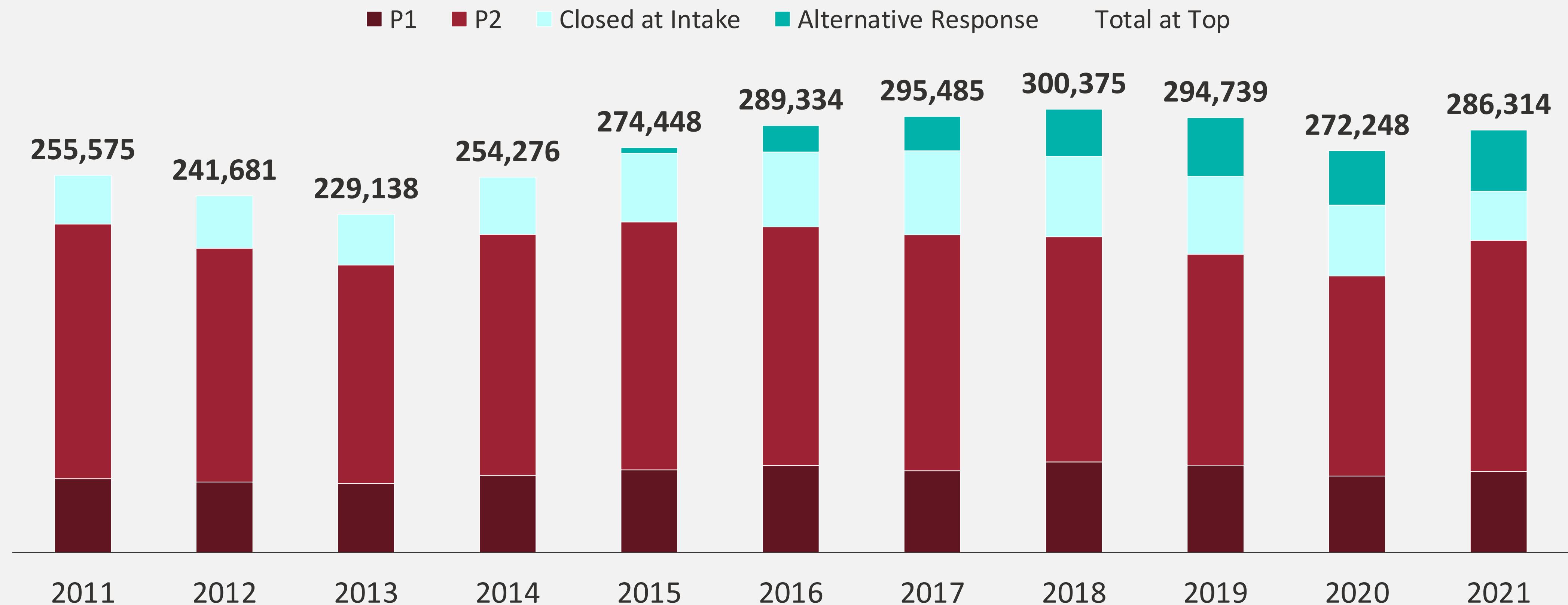
Percent of calls to statewide intake that are made for a referral to somewhere in the community, 2012-2021



Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, [Statewide Intake: Type of Contact and Method of Receipt](#)

A large share of intakes **result in investigation**

Number of statewide intake reports by intake decision, 2011-2021

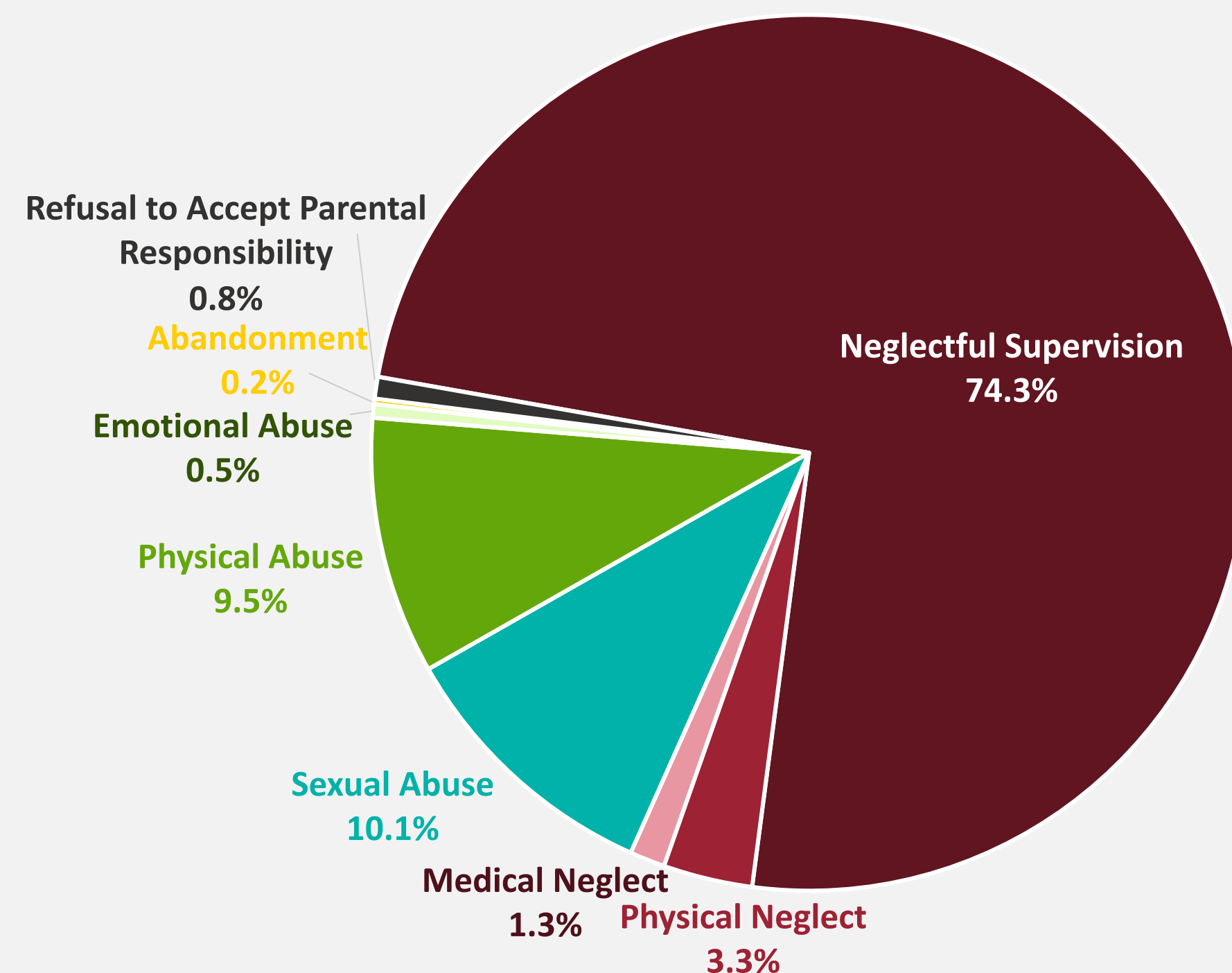


Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, [CPI Intakes: Priority, Screening, and Assignment](#)

Most allegations confirmed by CPS are **neglect** and primarily occur between **0 and 5 years**

Percent of confirmed allegations by type of child maltreatment and age in 2021

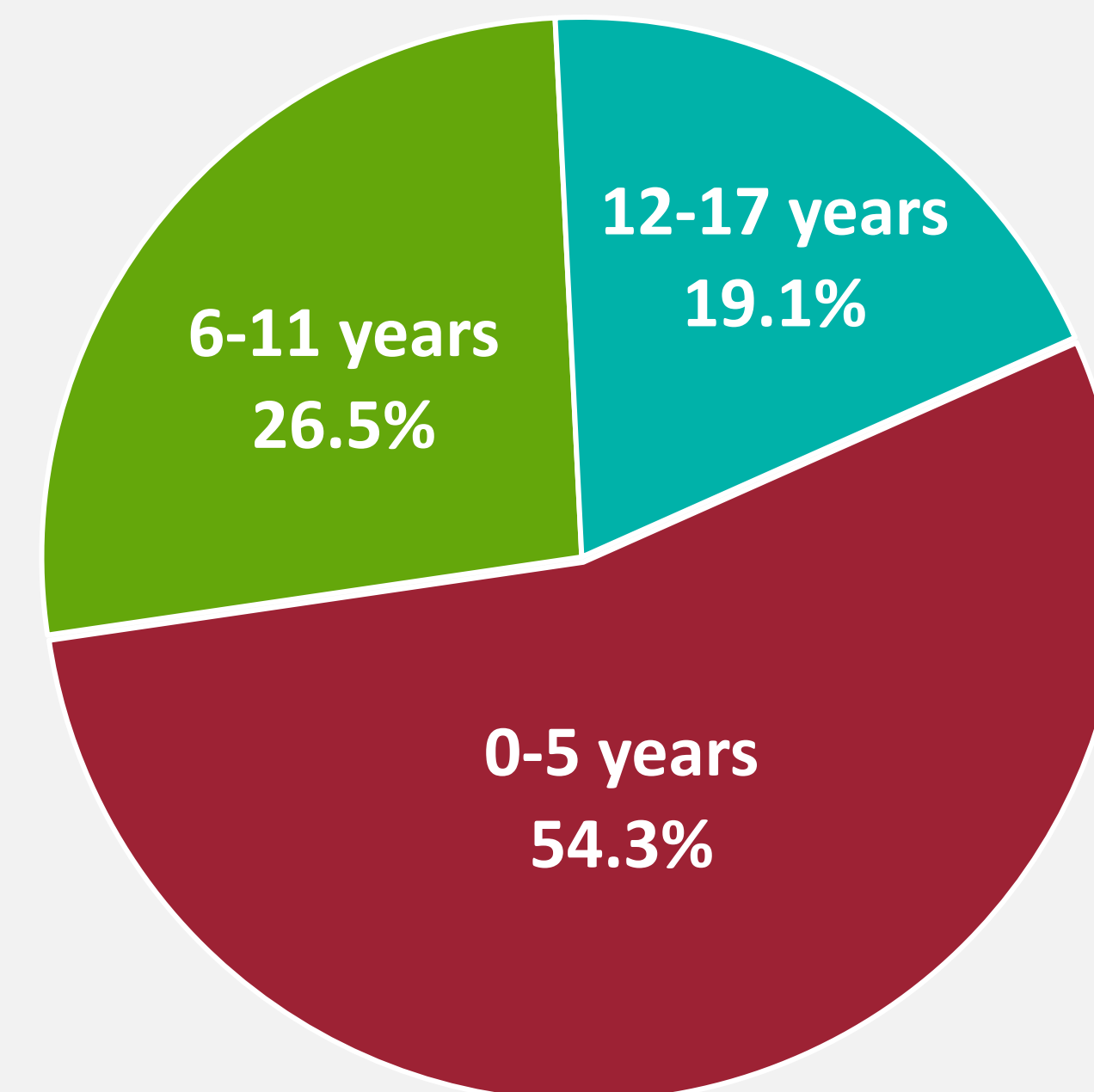
Types of Child Maltreatment



Confirmed Victims:
68,517

Confirmed Allegations
0-3 years:
28,200 (41.2%)

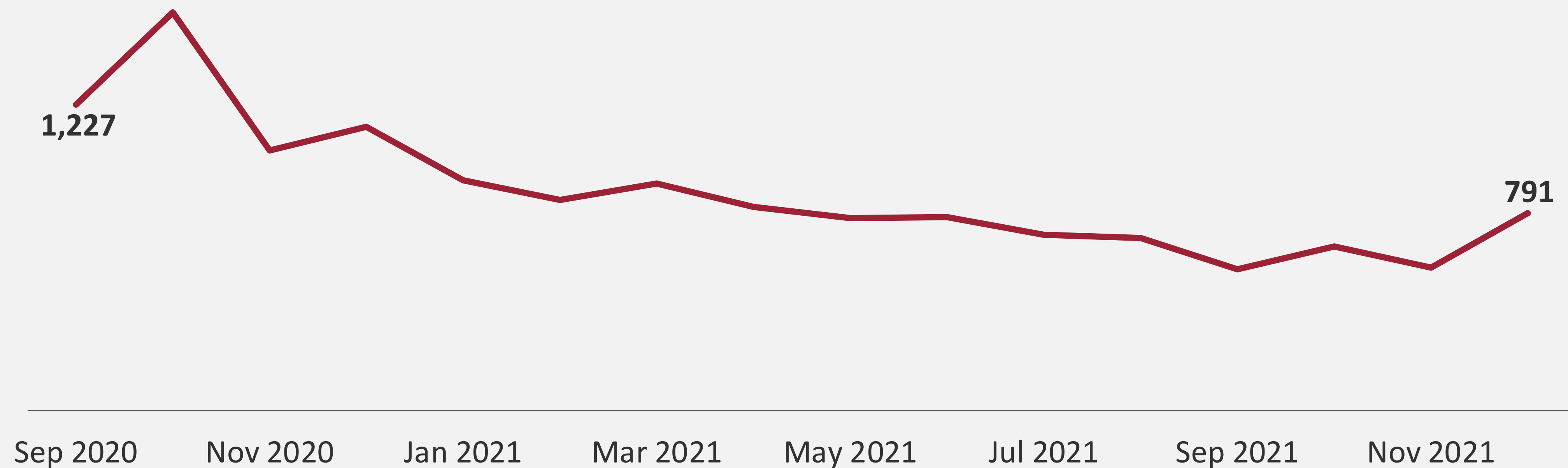
Victims By Age



Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, [CPI Completed Abuse/Neglect Investigations: Victims](#); [CPI Completed Investigations: Alleged & Confirmed Types of Abuse](#)

Families are **not receiving** the ongoing support they need

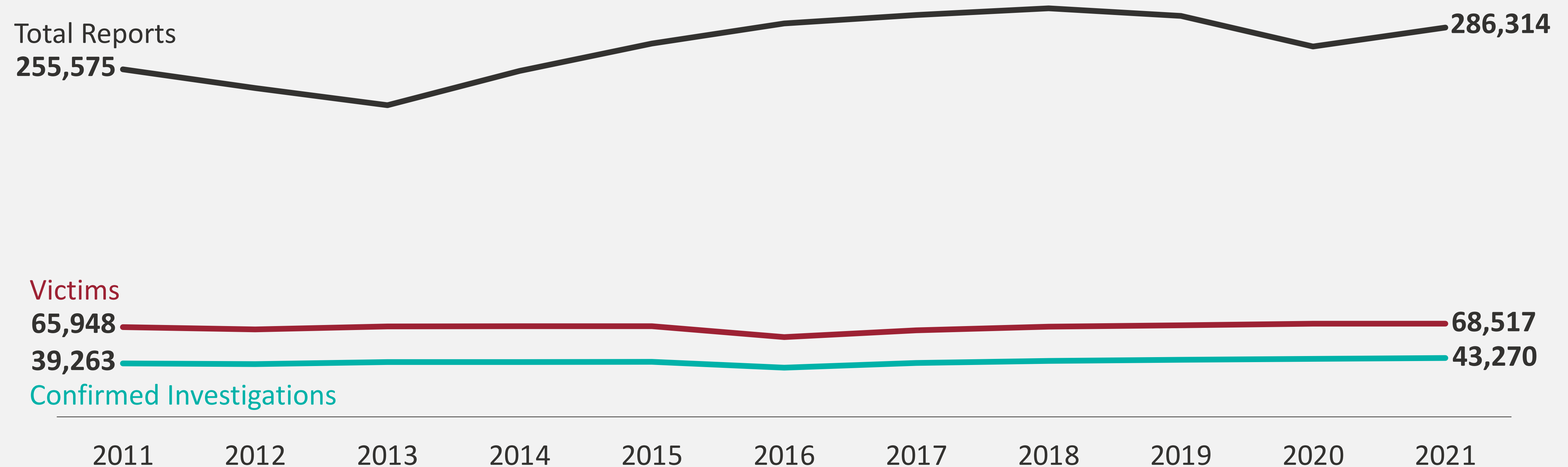
Number of families referred to family-based safety services, September 2020-December 2021



Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, Number of Completed Investigations by Disposition and Closure Action by State/Region/Stage County

Data indicates the System has not **reduced or prevented** child abuse and neglect in a **decade**

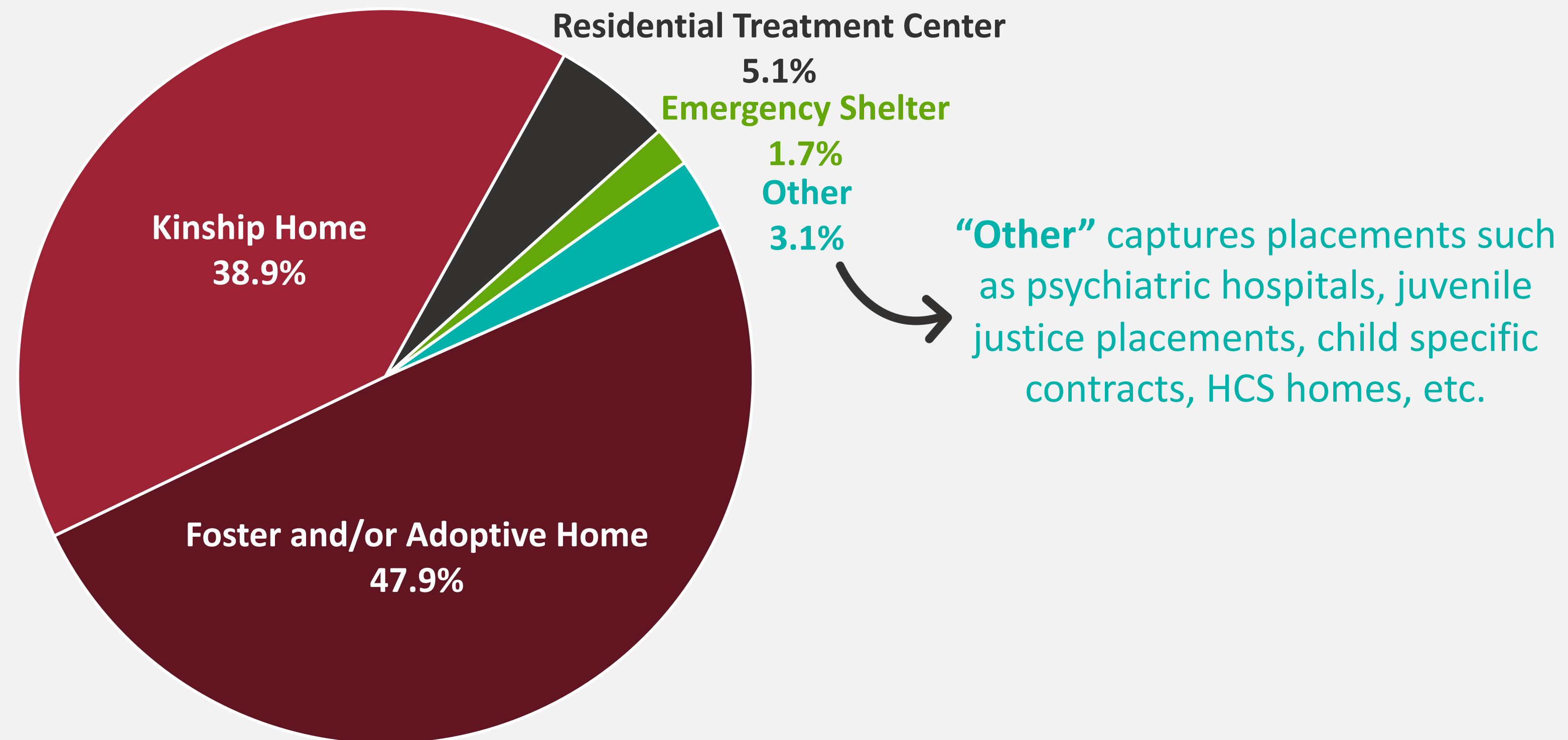
Number of total reports, victims, and confirmed investigations, 2011-2021



Current State of Texas Foster Care

Children are most often placed in a **foster and/or adoptive** home or with **kin**

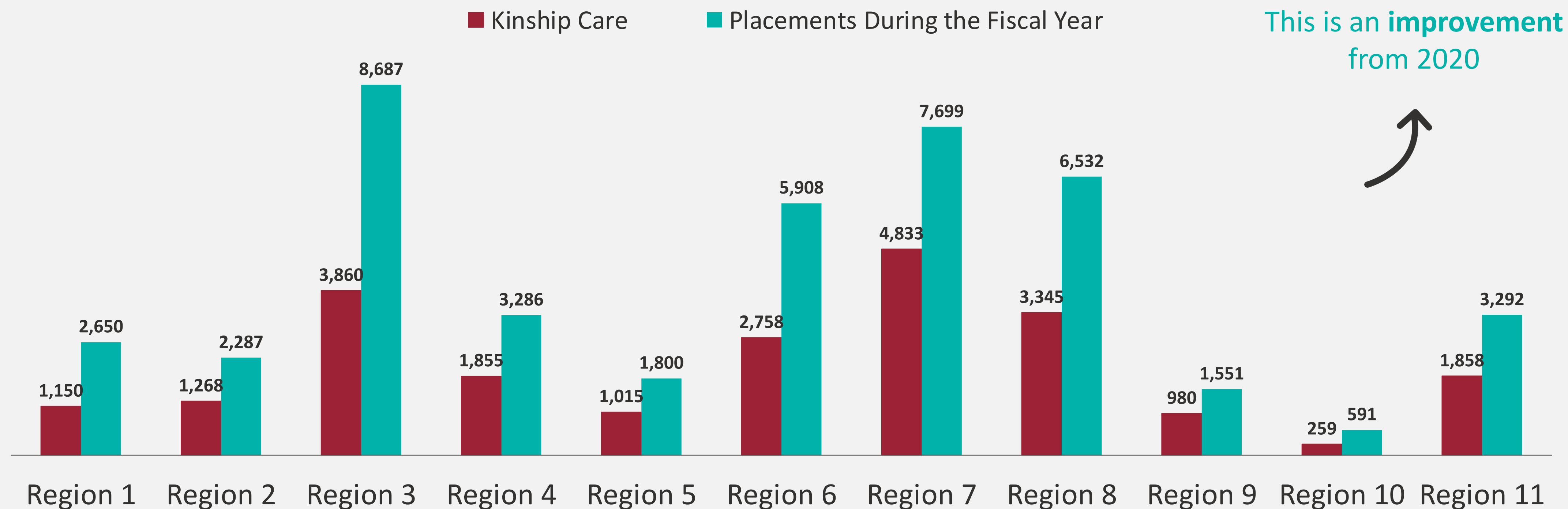
Percent of children in substitute care by placement type as of 8/31/2021



Source: Department of Family and Protective Services 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 43% of children in substitute care were placed in a kinship home in 2021

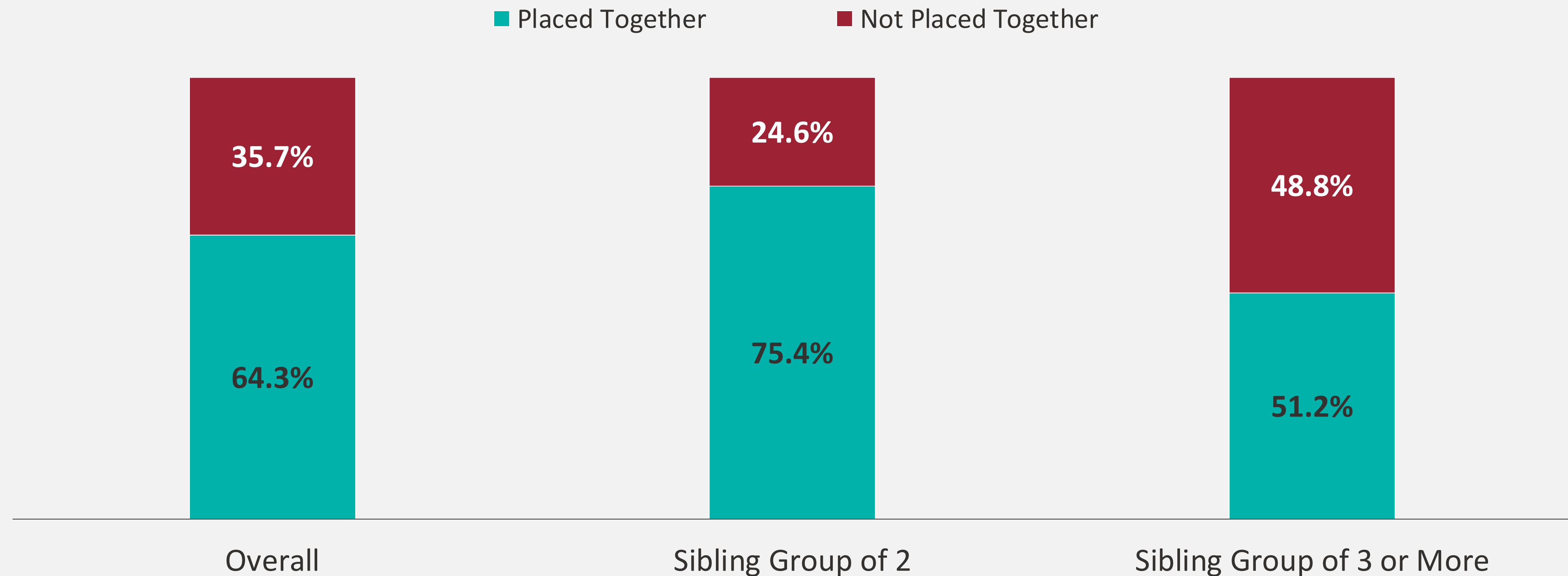
Number of children placed in kinship care compared to total number of placements in 2021, by region



Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, [CPS Substitute Care: Placements During Fiscal Year](#)

Nearly two-thirds of siblings are placed together

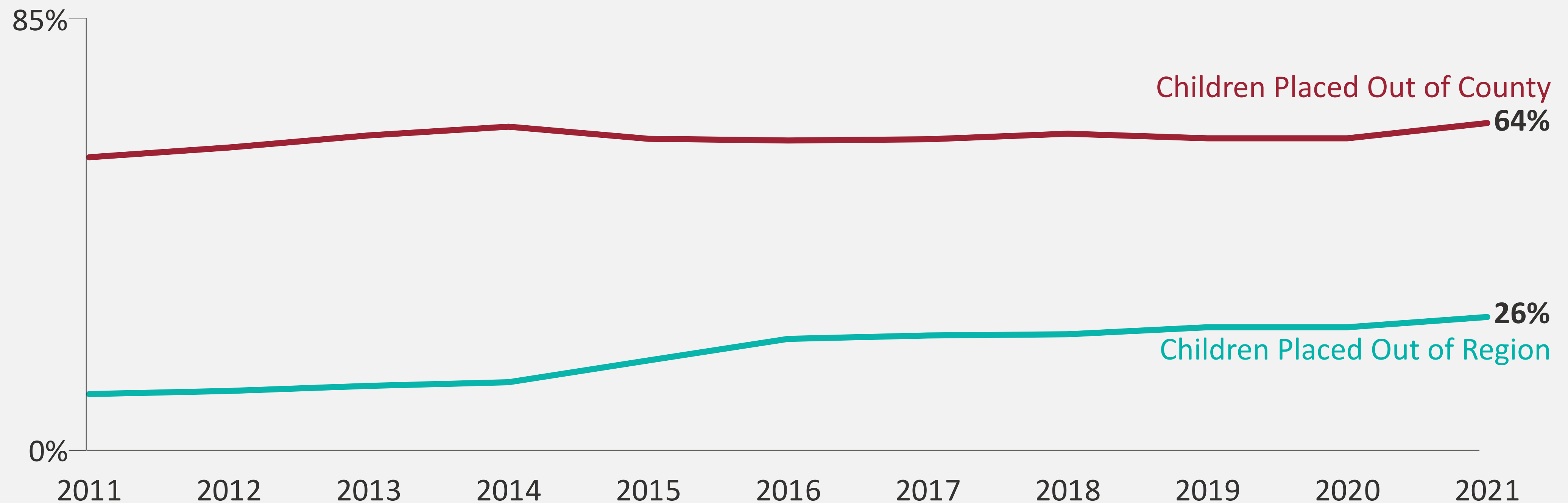
Percent of sibling groups placed together



Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, [CPS Placements: Sibling Groups in Substitute Care Placed All Together on August 31](#)

More than 6 in 10 kids are not placed in their home county

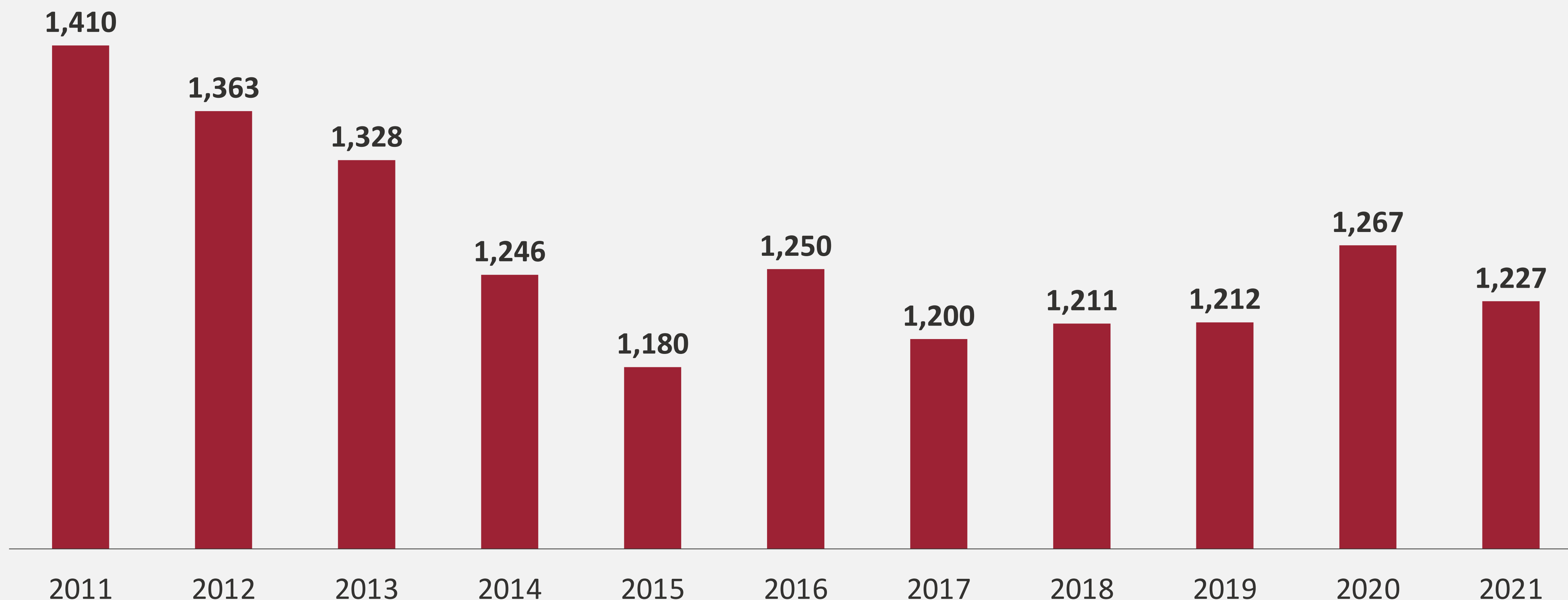
Percent of children placed out of county and out of region, 2011-2021



Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, [CPS Foster Care Placements: Children \(0-17\) Placed in Originating County/Region on August 31](#)

There has been a **13% drop** in youth aging out since 2011

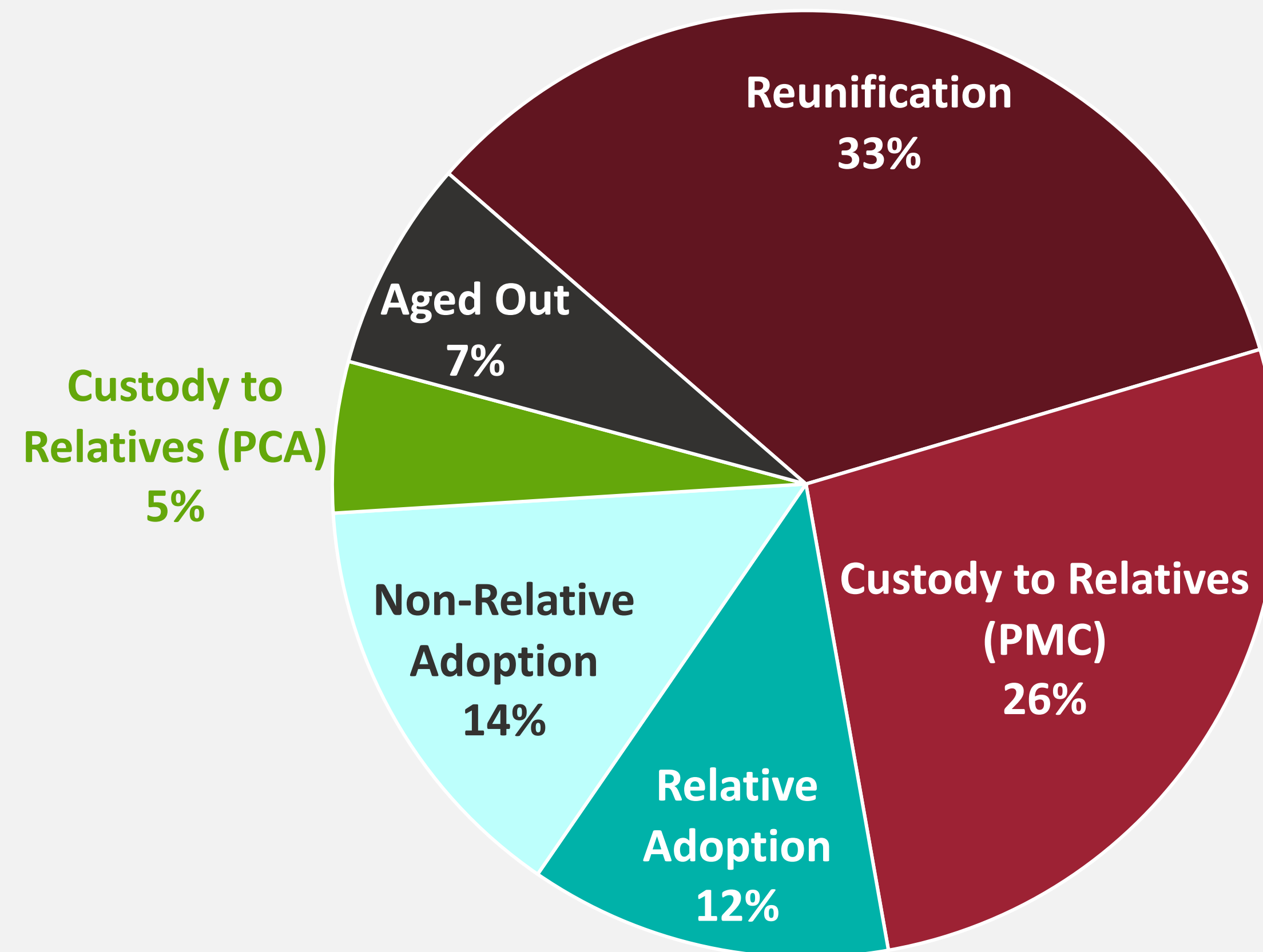
Number of youth aging out of the foster care system, 2011-2021



Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, [Child Protective Services \(CPS\): Children Exiting DFPS Legal Custody](#)

One-third of kids were reunified with their family

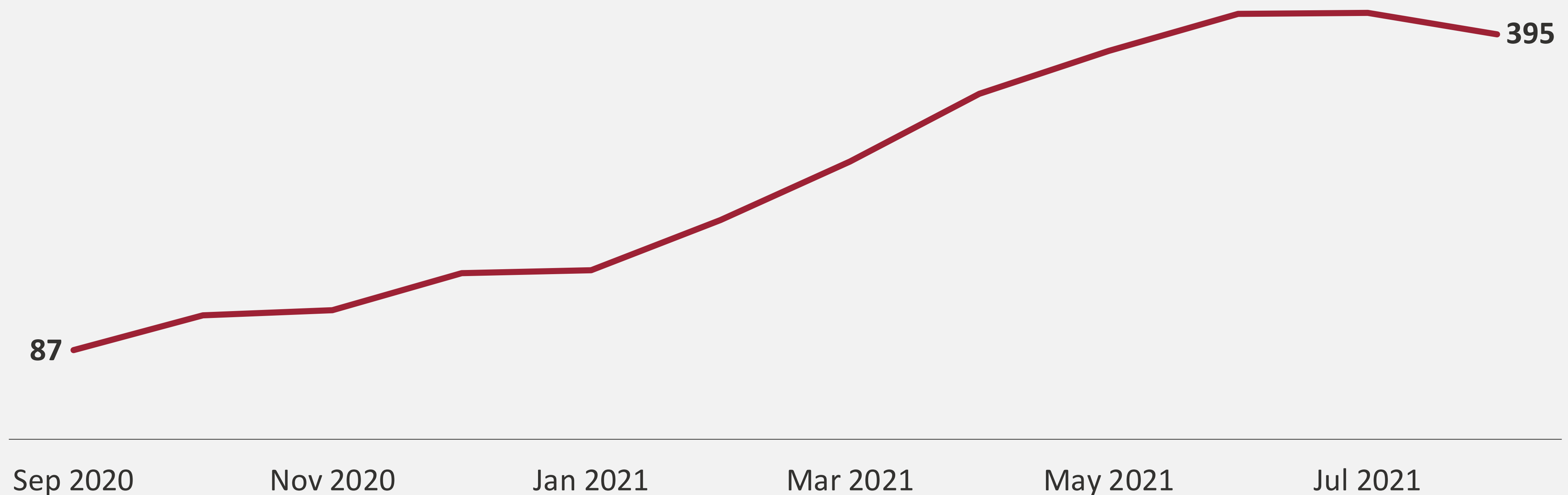
Percent of children exiting DFPS legal custody in 2021, statewide



Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, [Child Protective Services \(CPS\): Children Exiting DFPS Legal Custody](#)

The number of children in unregulated settings has **more than quadrupled**

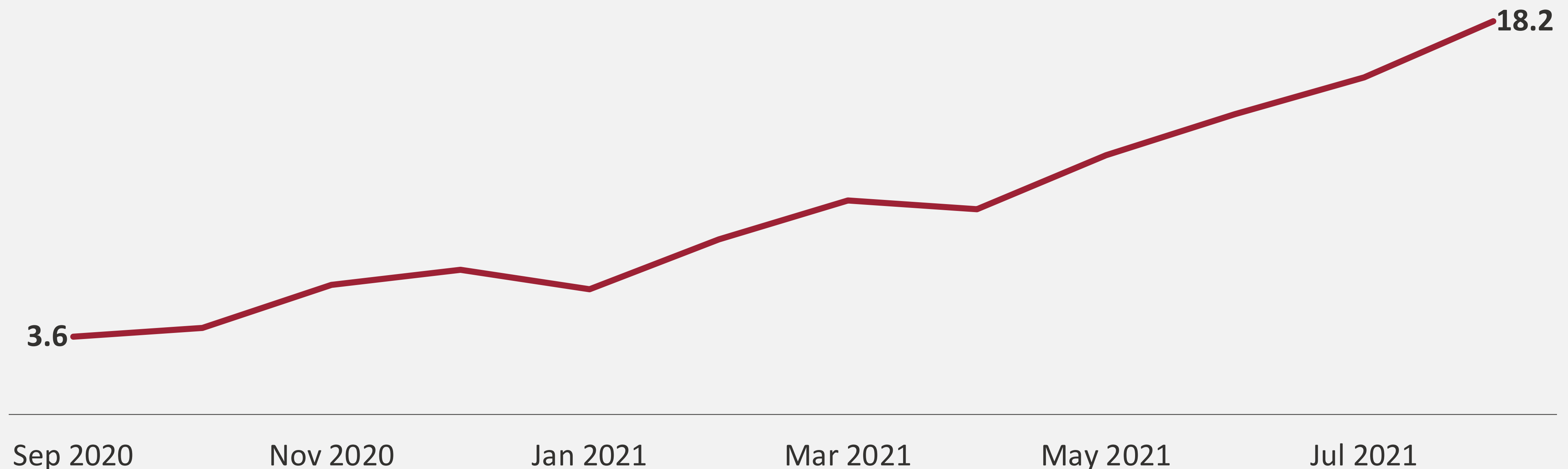
Number of children without placement in unregulated setting, September 2020-June 2021



Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, Children Without Placement Report

Children are staying in unregulated settings **five times longer**

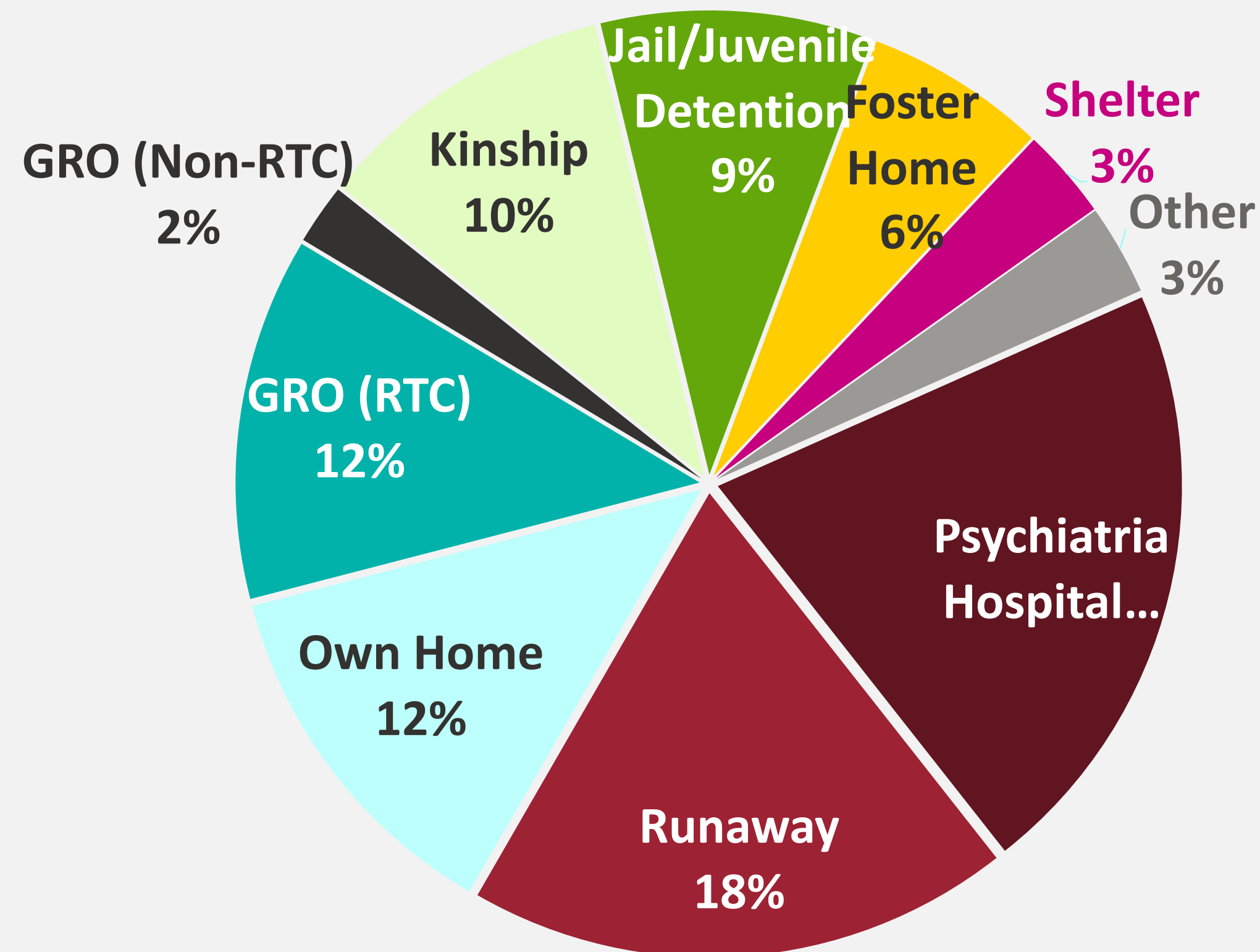
Average number of nights children without placement spent in unregulated setting, September 2020-June 2021



Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, Children Without Placement Report

Children Without Placement (CWOP) came from **different places**

Percent of children in custody by placement prior to CWOP status in 2021



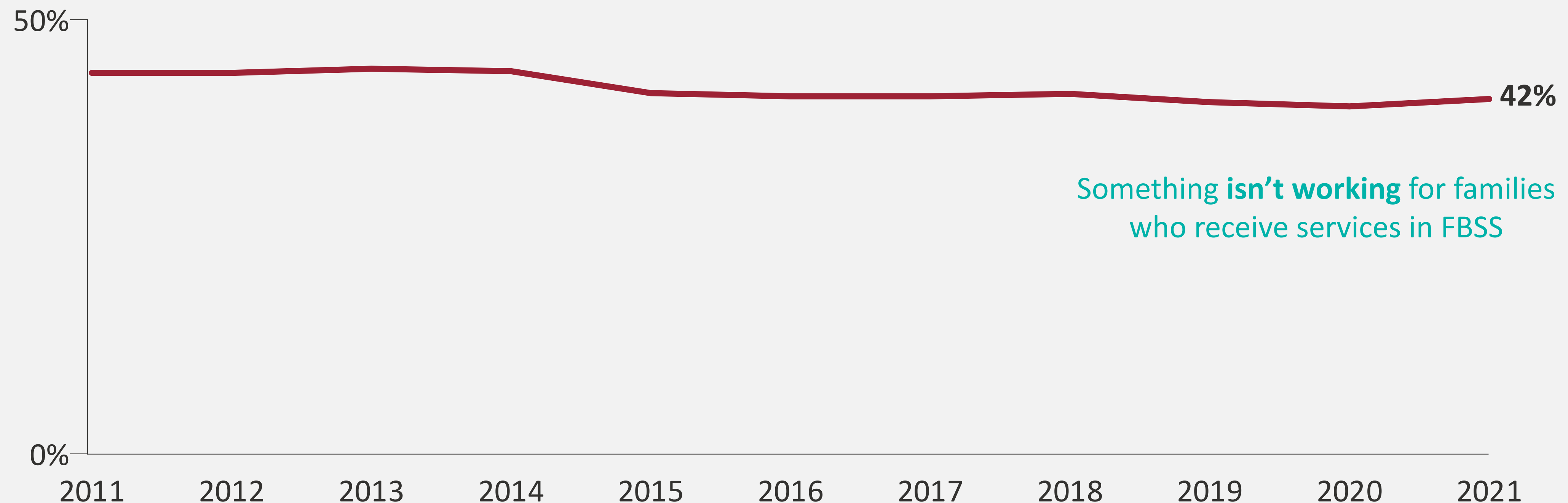
Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, Children Without Placement Report

Texas Child Welfare Outcomes



4 in 10 families have consistently been **re-reported** for abuse/neglect within 5 years of participating in FBSS

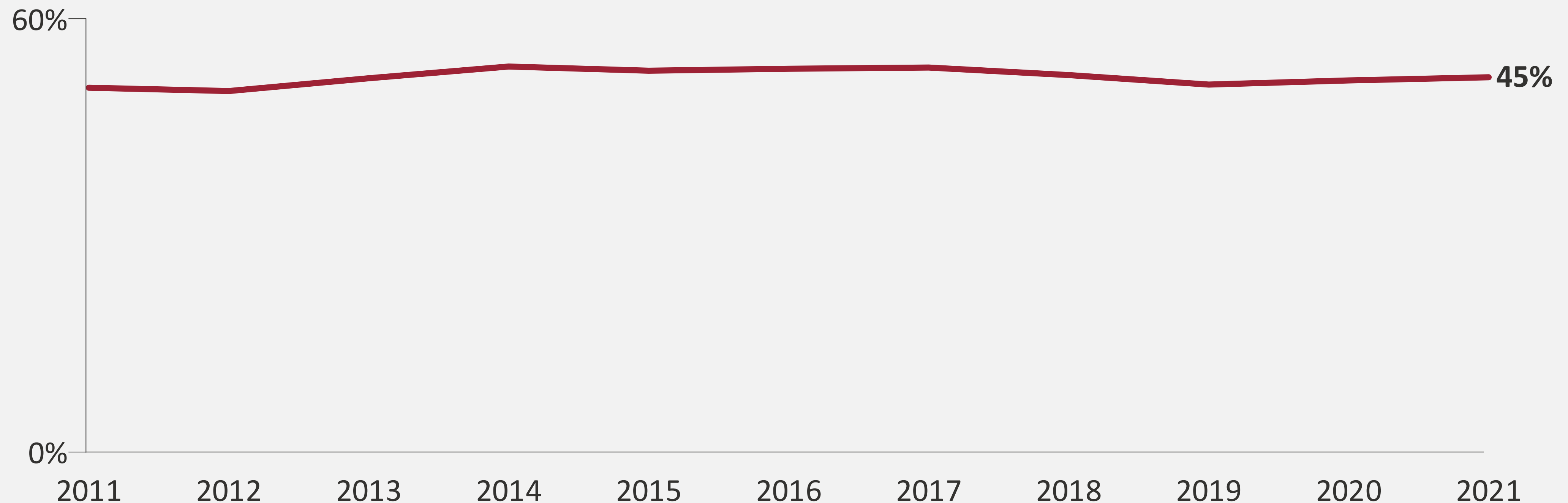
Percent of families re-reported for abuse/neglect within 5 years of completing family preservation services, 2011-2021



Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, [CPS Family Preservation: Six Month, One Year, and Five Year Outcomes](#)

Within 5 years of exiting DFPS custody, nearly half of the children are victims in another investigation

Percent of recurrence within 5 years of service for children in custody, 2011-2021

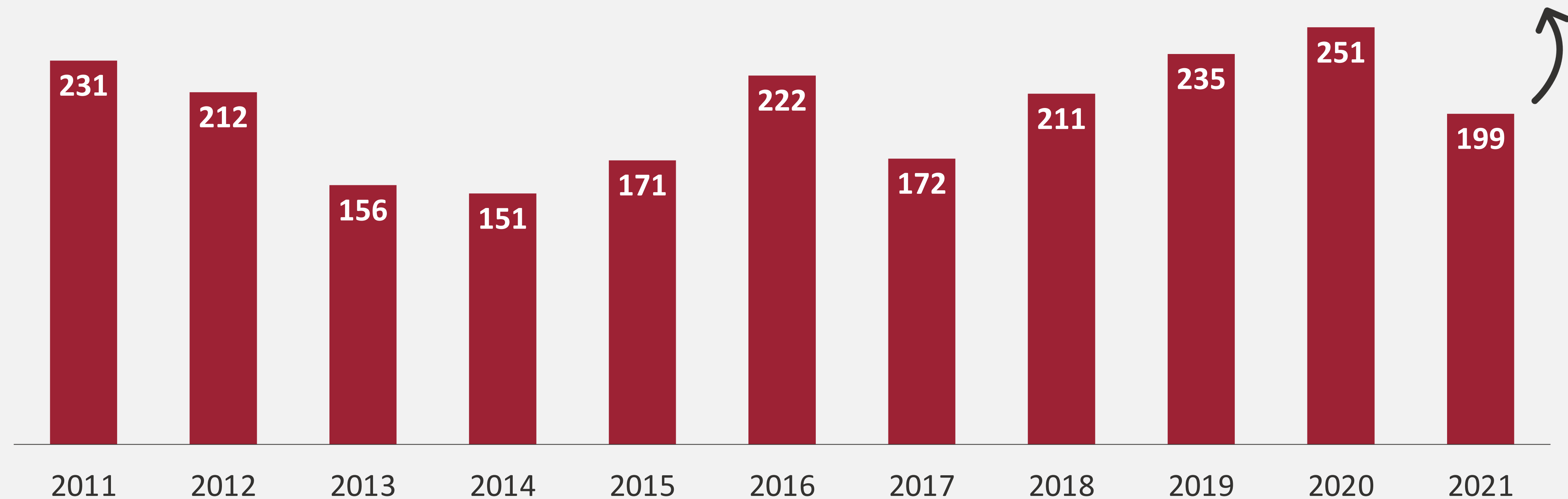


Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, [CPS Conservatorship: Six Month, One Year, and Five Year Outcomes](#)

Child abuse and neglect related fatalities **decreased** **by 20%** in 2021

Number of child abuse and neglect related fatalities, 2011-2021

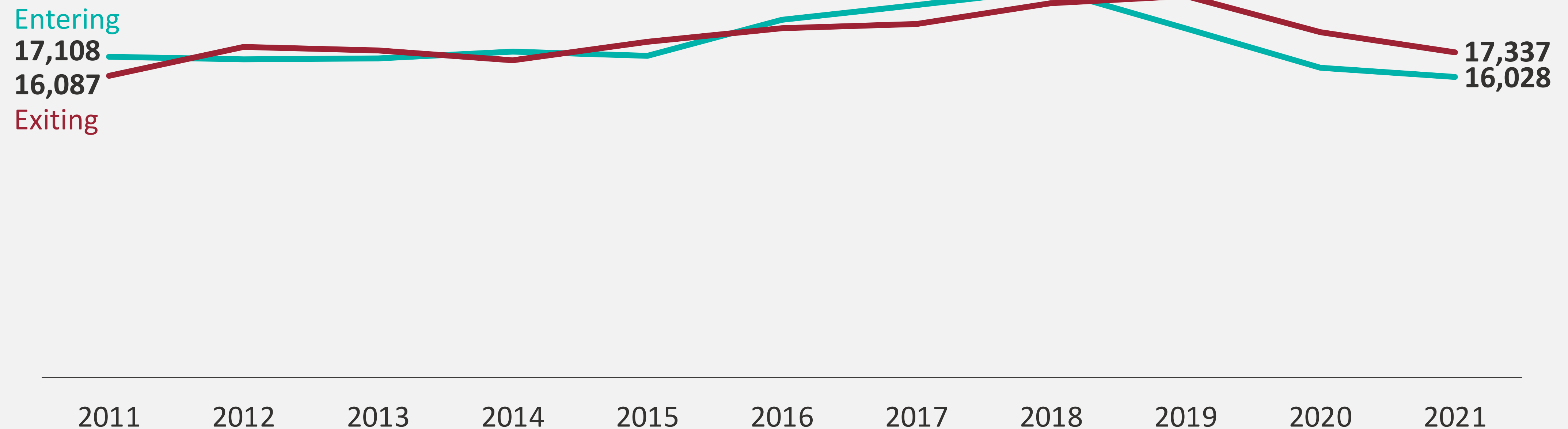
Almost half (48%) of child maltreatment fatalities in 2021 had prior involvement with DFPS



Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, [Texas Child Fatality Investigations: Abuse/Neglect Related Texas Child Fatalities](#)

More kids left foster care **than entered** in 2021

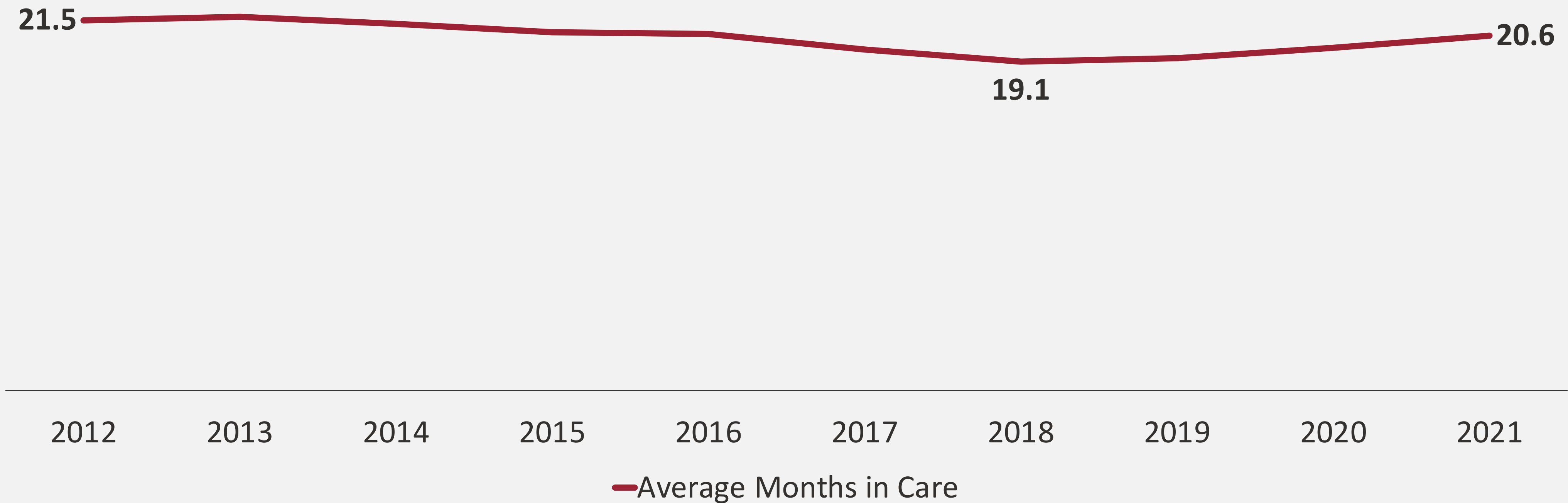
Number of children entering and exiting foster care, 2011-2021



Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, [Child Protective Services \(CPS\): Children Exiting DFPS Legal Custody](#); [Child Protective Services \(CPS\): Removals](#)

The average time in care has **increased** since 2018

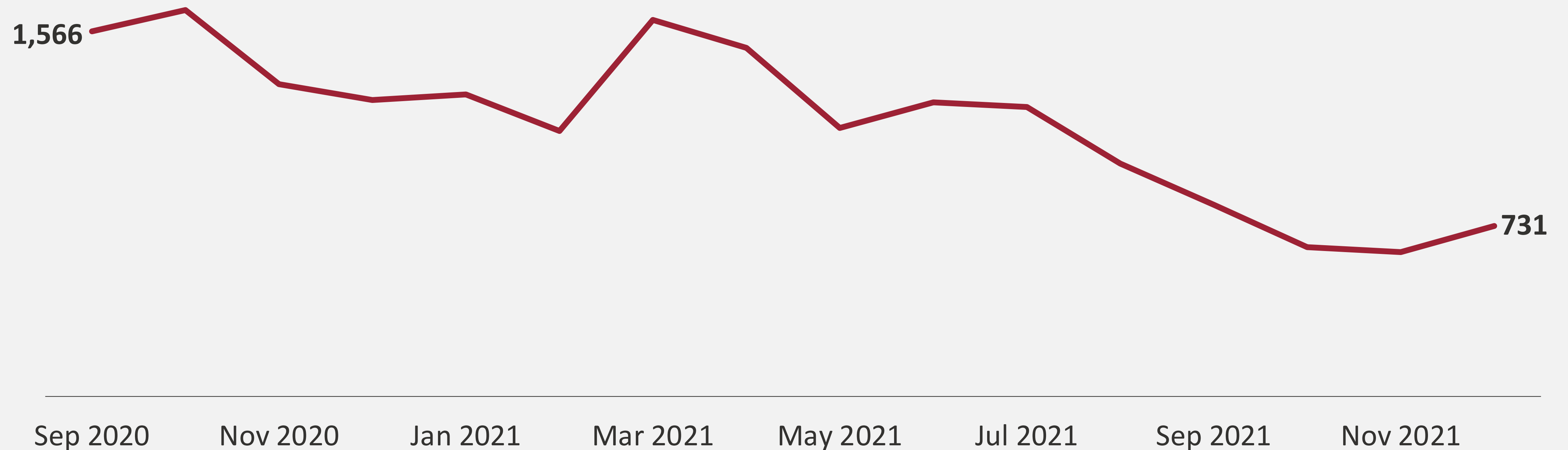
Average amount of months in care, 2012-2021



Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, [Child Protective Services \(CPS\): Children Exiting DFPS Legal Custody](#)

Overall, child removals have **decreased**

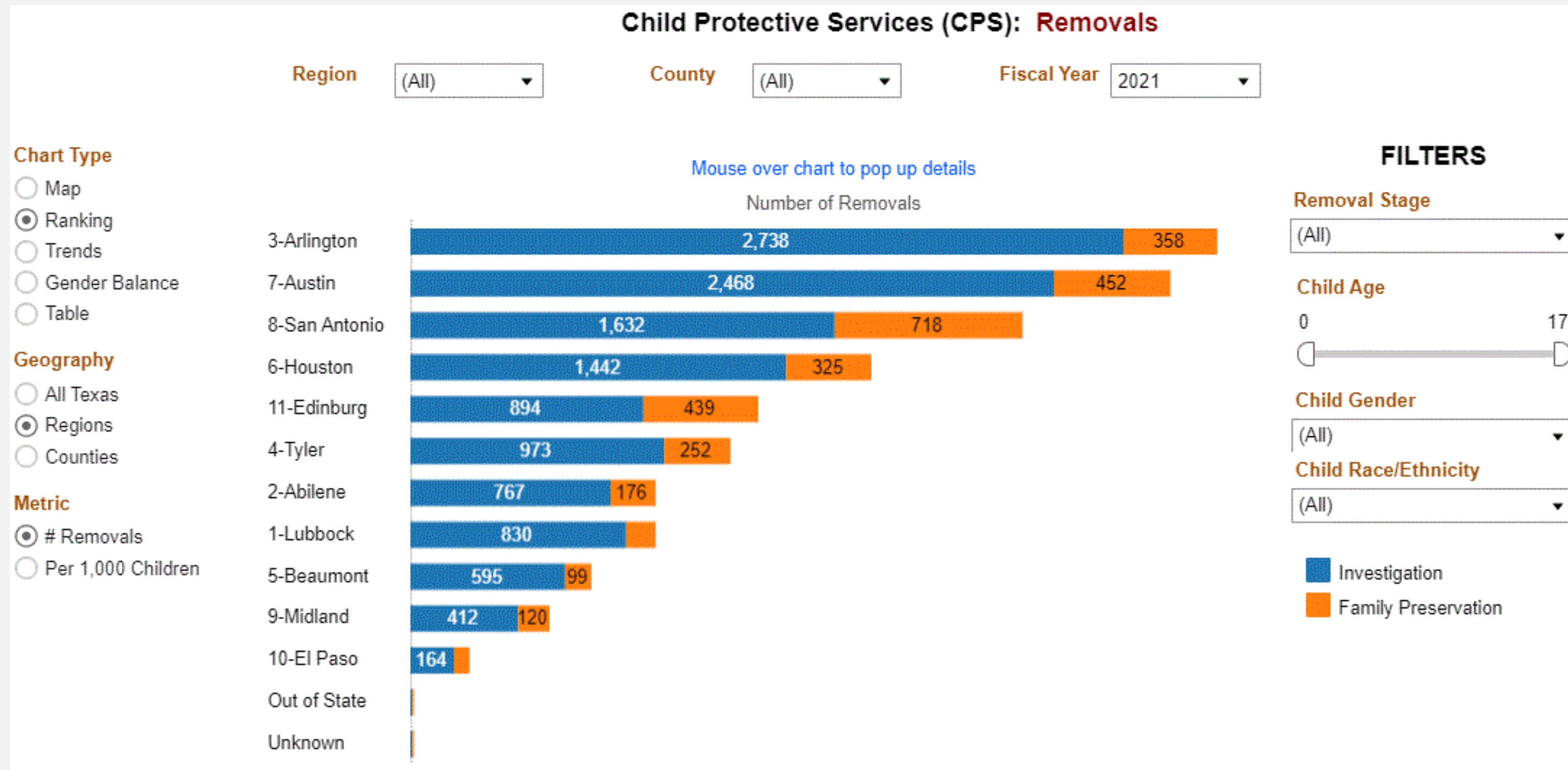
Number of children being removed from homes, September 2020-December 2021



Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, Demographics of Children New in Substitute Care for Children Age 0-17

Families experiencing removals are **not receiving FBSS**

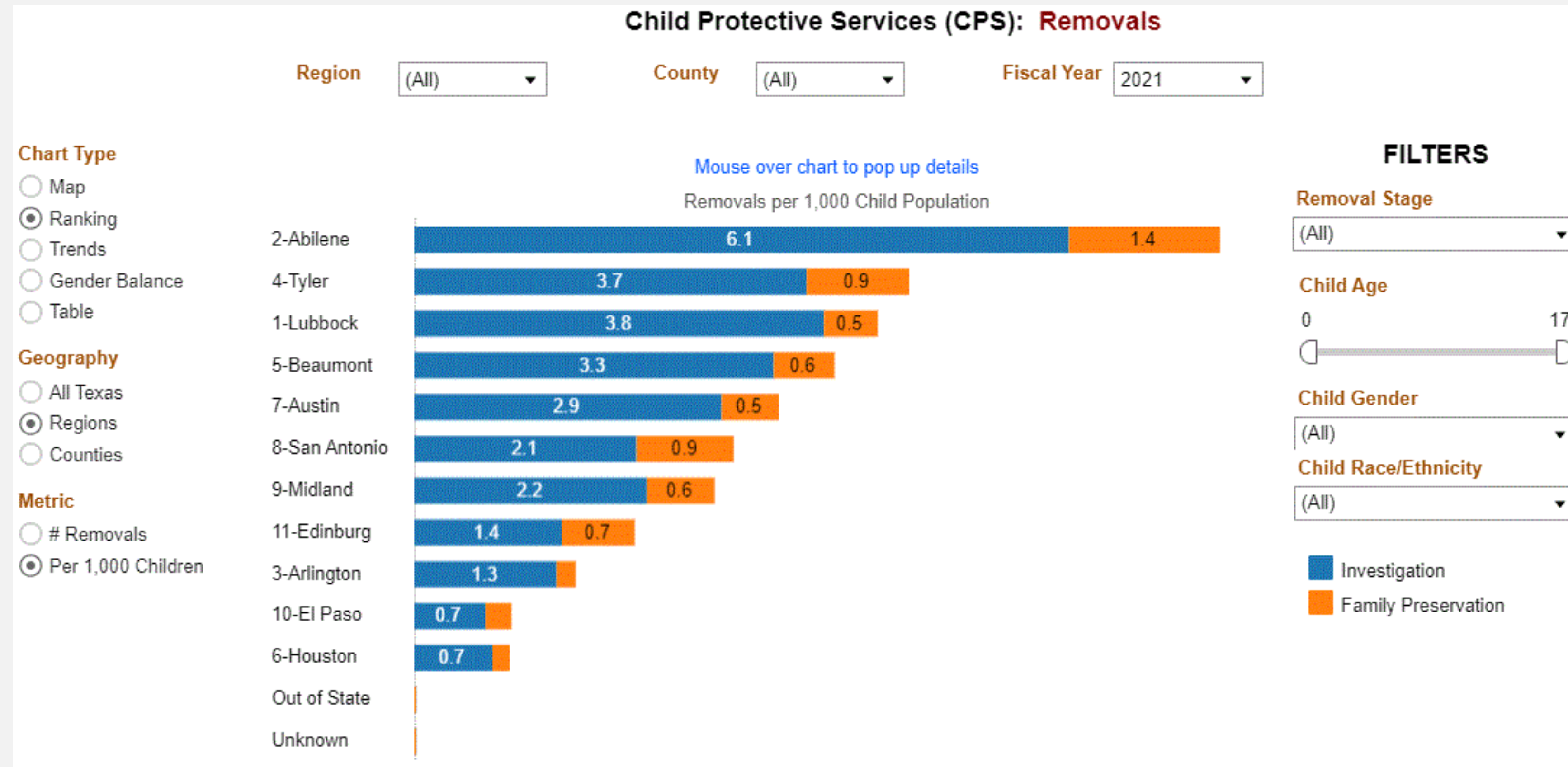
Number of annual removals in investigations versus family-based safety services in 2021, by region



Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, [Child Protective Services \(CPS\): Removals](#)

Families experiencing removals are **not receiving FBSS**

Rate of annual removals in investigations versus family-based safety services in 2021, by region



Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, [Child Protective Services \(CPS\): Removals](#)

Federal Outcome Performance Measures

	PROGRESS 2014 - 2018	TX 2018	FEDERAL MEDIAN	TX COMPARED TO FEDERAL MEDIAN
OUTCOME 1: Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect				
Measure 1.1: Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of the year, what percentage had another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period?	5.9% BETTER	2.6%	5.5%	BETTER
OUTCOME 2: Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care				
Measure 2.1: Of all children who were in foster care during the year, what percentage were the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff?	25.9% BETTER	0.23%	0.26%	COMPARABLE
OUTCOME 3: Increase permanency for children in foster care				
Measure 3.1: Of all children who exited foster care during the year, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?	NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE	93.5%	90.3%	BETTER
Measure 3.2: Of all children who exited foster care during the year and were identified as having a diagnosed disability, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?	NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE	79.4%	82.4%	WORSE
Measure 3.3: Of all children who exited foster care during the year and were older than age 12 at the time of their most recent entry into care, what percentage left to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?	8.5% BETTER	63.1%	63.1%	COMPARABLE
Measure 3.4: Of all children exiting foster care during the year to emancipation, what percentage were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into care?	28.3% BETTER	24.4%	15.8%	WORSE
OUTCOME 4: Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing reentry				
Measure 4.1: Of all children reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care during the year, what percentage were reunified less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care?	10% BETTER	52.3%	63.6%	WORSE
Measure 4.2: Of all children who entered foster care during the year, what percentage reentered care within 12 months of a prior foster care episode?	15.5% WORSE	3.4%	7.1%	BETTER

Federal Outcome Performance Measures

	PROGRESS 2014 - 2018	TX 2018	FEDERAL MEDIAN	TX COMPARED TO FEDERAL MEDIAN
OUTCOME 5: Reduce time in foster care to adoption				
Measure 5.1: Of all children discharged from foster care during the year to a finalized adoption, what percentage exited care less than (a) 12 months from the time of latest removal from home?	12.3% WORSE	2.8%	2.7%	COMPARABLE
(b) At least 12 months but less than 24 months	15.4% BETTER	53.8%	28.7%	BETTER
OUTCOME 6: Increase placement stability				
Measure 6.1: Of all children served in foster care during the year who had been in care for the time periods listed below, what percentage had no more than two placements within (a) 12 months from the time of latest removal from home?	NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE	83.1%	83.5%	COMPARABLE
(b) At least 12 months but less than 24 months	NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE	56%	65.8%	BETTER
(c) At least 24 months but less than 36 months	NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE	23.2%	41.1%	BETTER
OUTCOME 7: Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions				
Measure 7.1: Of all children who entered foster care during the year and were age 12 or younger at the time of their most recent placement, what percentage were placed in a group home or an institution?	38.3% BETTER	4.9%	3.1%	WORSE

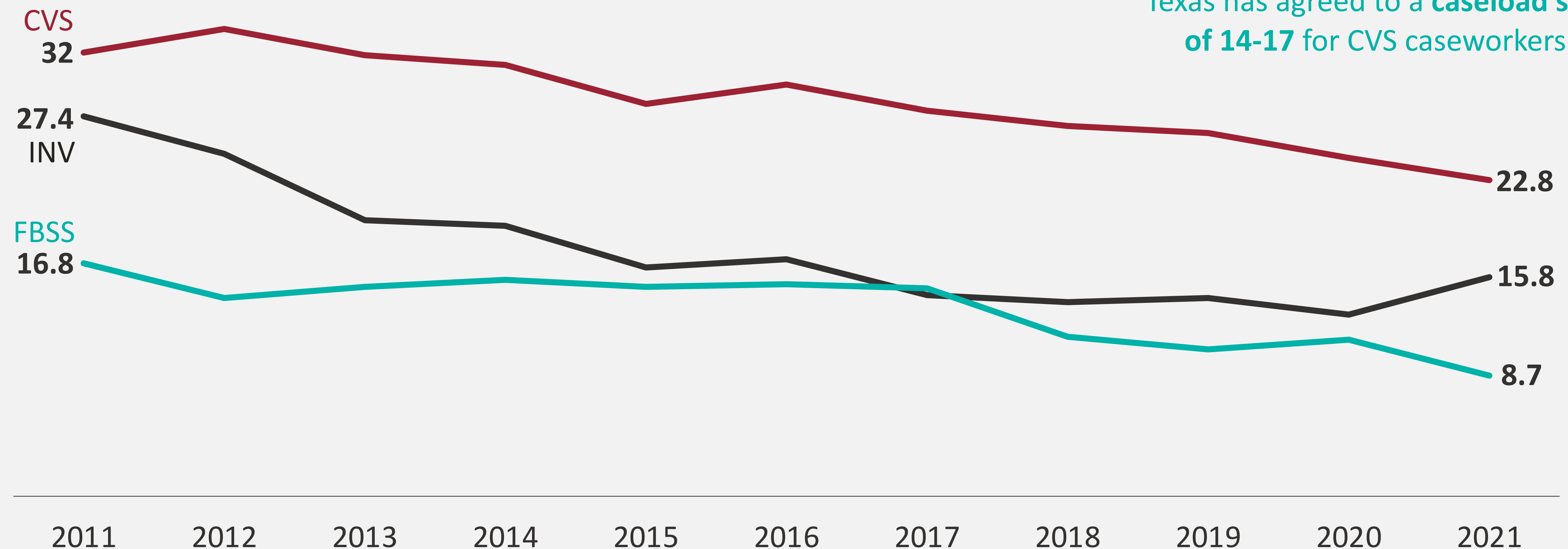
Texas Child Protection System Workforce



Decreased caseloads **increases safety outcomes** for kids

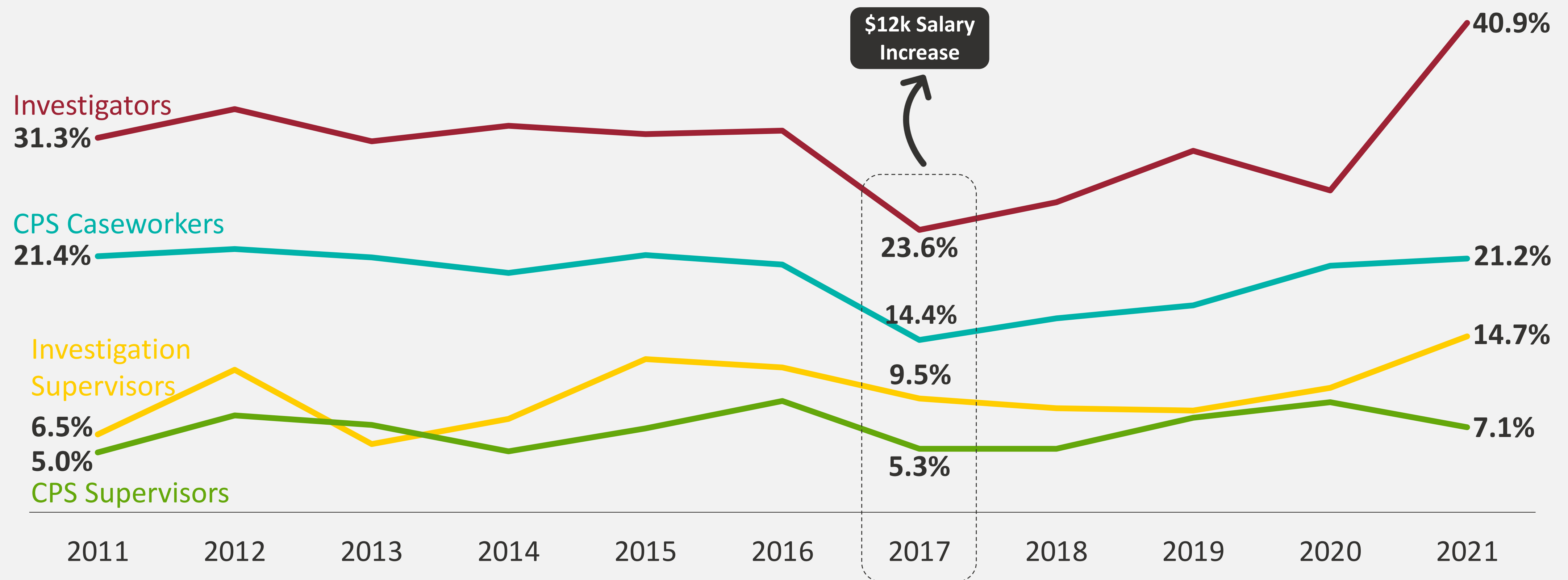
Average daily caseload, 2011-2021

Based on the lawsuit against DFPS,
Texas has agreed to a **caseload size
of 14-17** for CVS caseworkers



Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, [Child Protective \(CPI / CCI / CPS\): Average Daily Caseload](#)

Workforce turnover has **increased for staff** since 2017

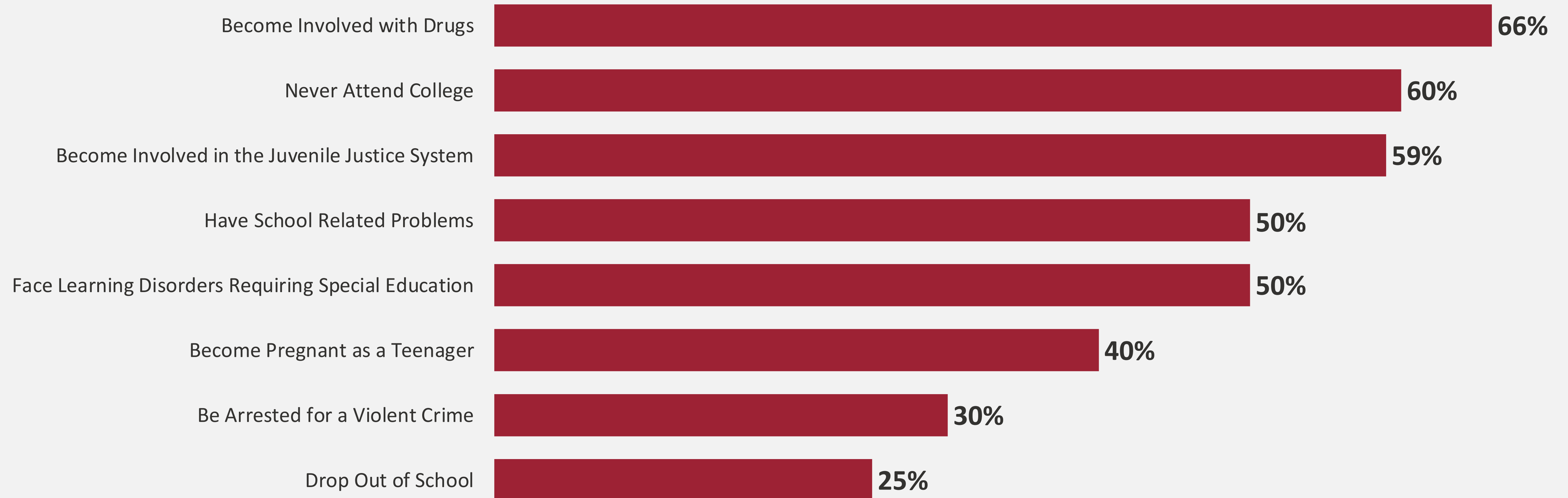


Source: Department of Family and Protective Services Data Book, [Child Protective \(CPI/CCI/CPS\): Staff Turnover](#)

Moving The System Upstream

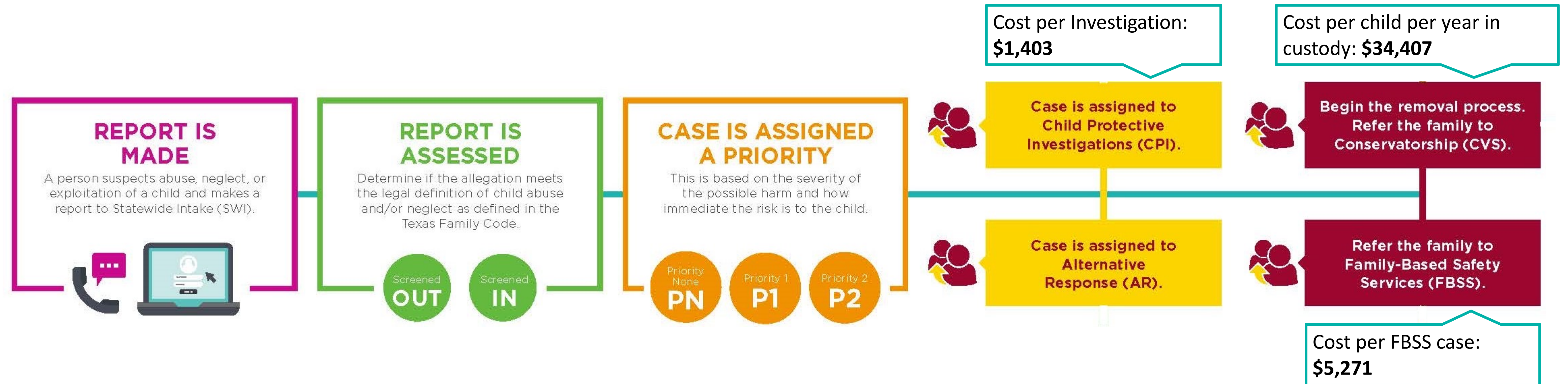


As a result of trauma/abuse, at-risk children are **more likely to...**



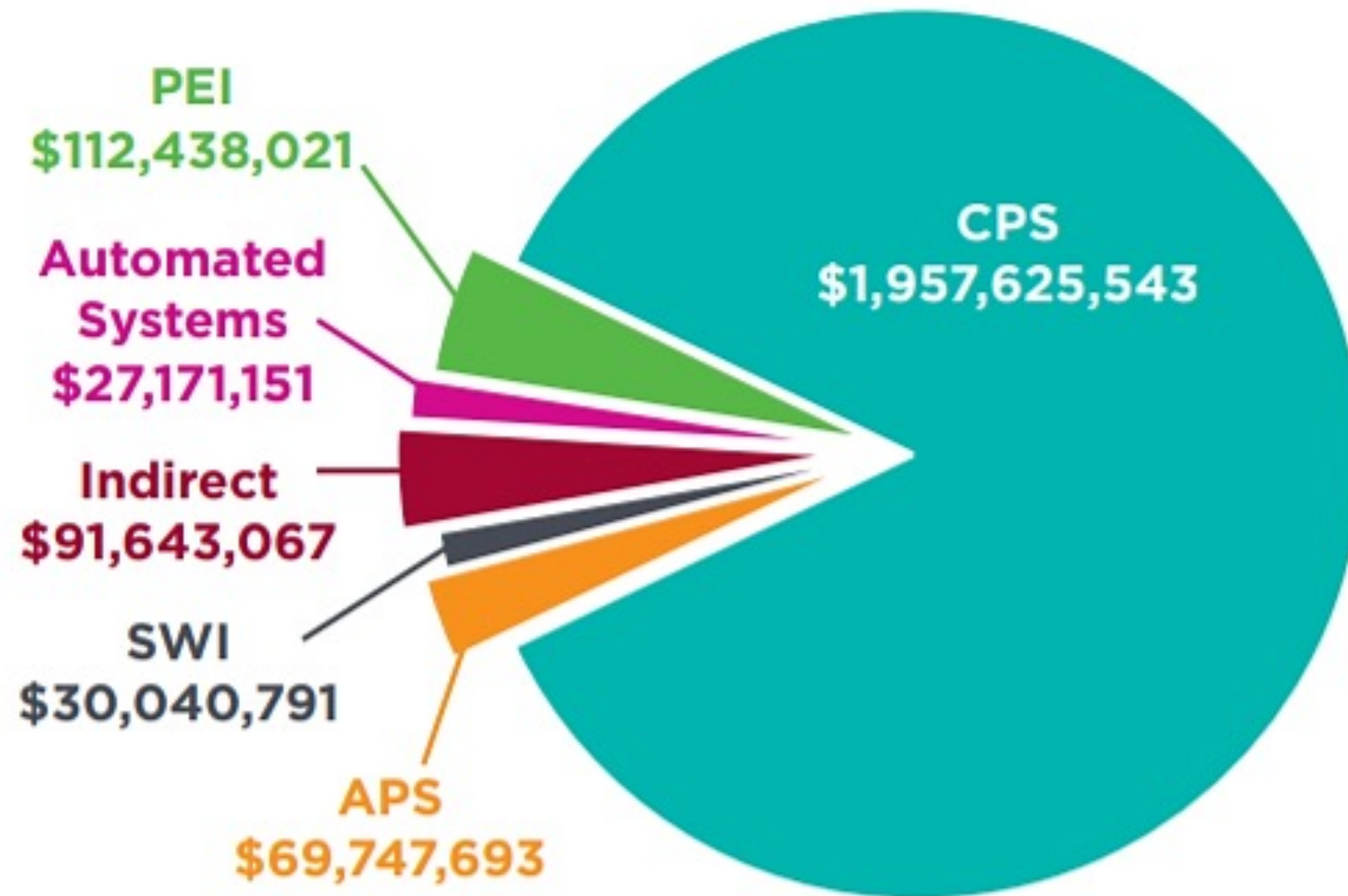
Source: Barnett, W.S., & Masse, L.N. (2002).; Swan, N. (1998).; Campbell, F.A., et al. (2002).; Widom, C., & Maxfield, M. (2001).

As a case flows **further into the system**,
it becomes **more expensive**



Just 5% of Texas' budget is spent on early prevention efforts in comparison to Child Protection Services

Texas prevention budget versus child protection budget approved for 2022



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



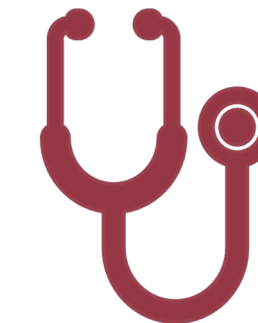
Treatment for mental illness



Substance use treatment



Support for low-income families



Access to healthcare



High quality childcare



Support programs for parenting teens



Prevention of domestic violence



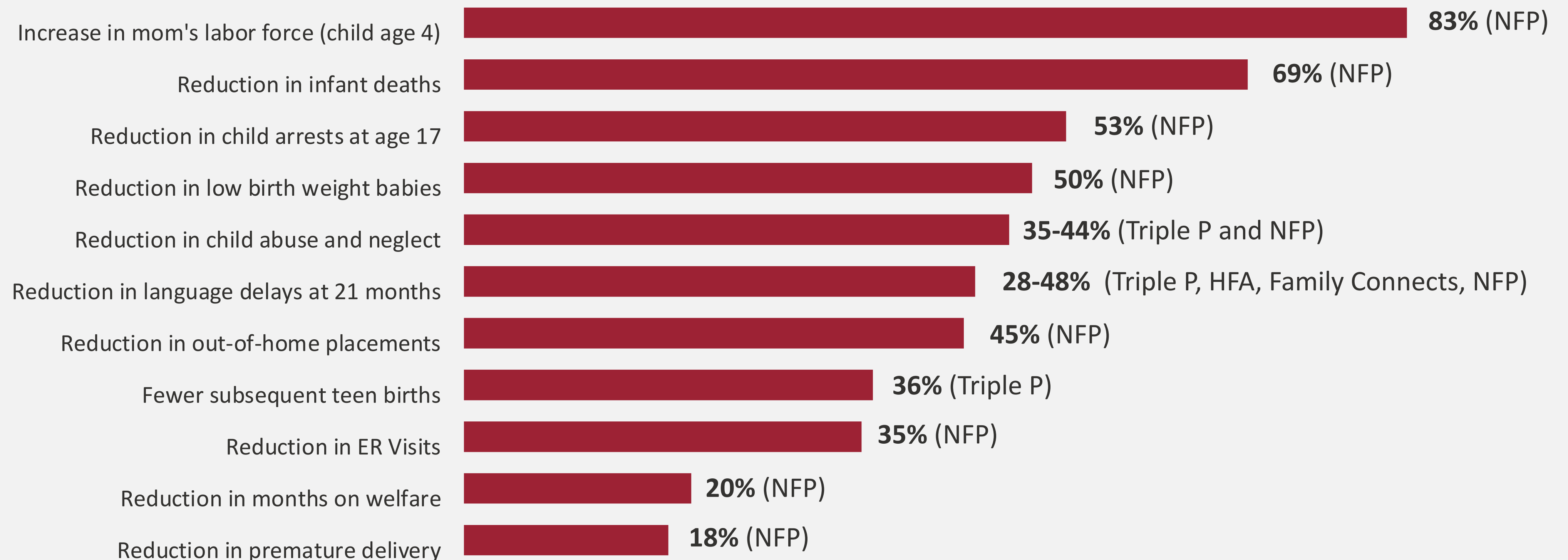
Parent training and support



Trauma-Informed Training In all Sectors

Evidence-based home visiting programs **improved** health and well-being outcomes

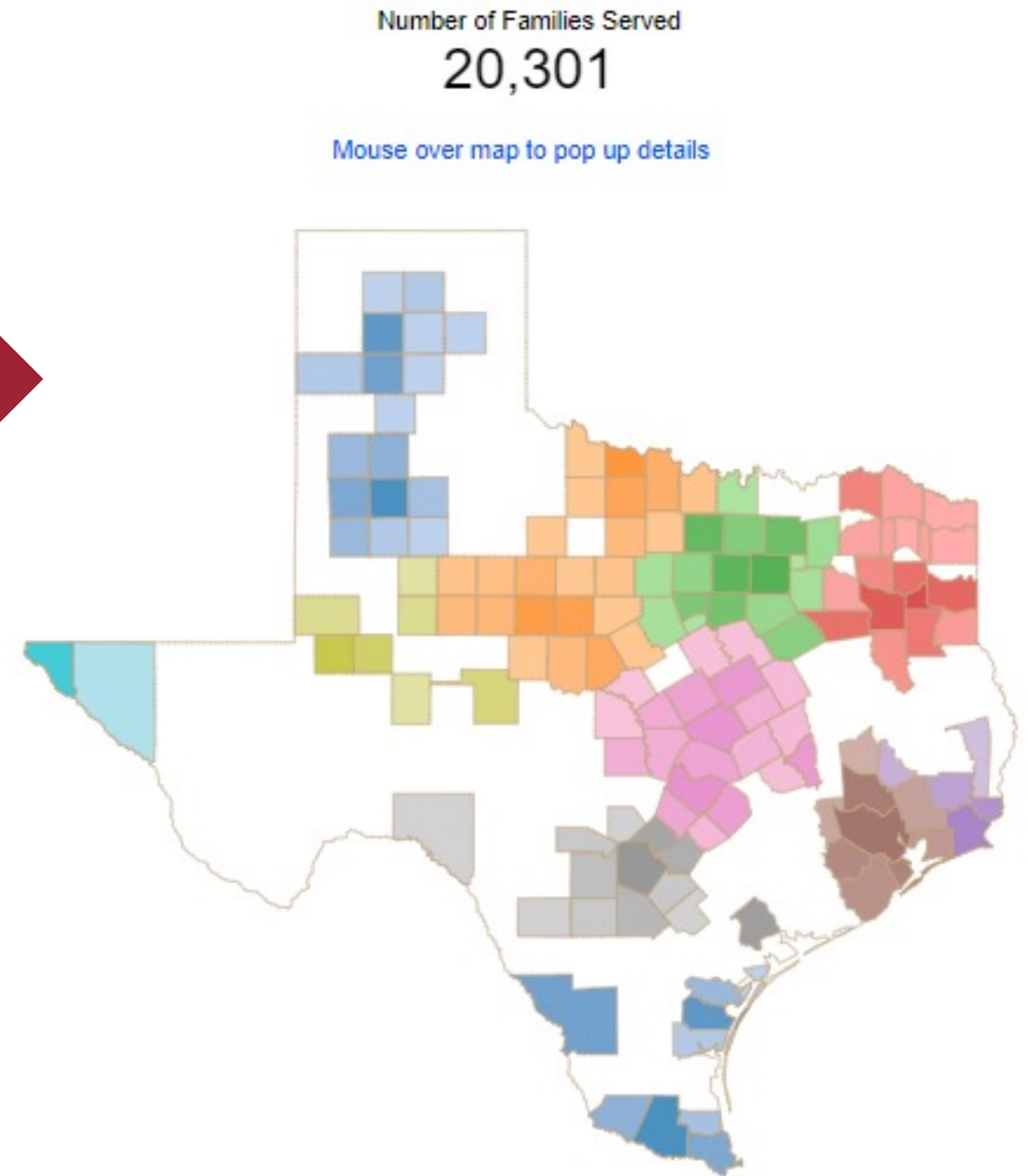
Percent of improvement in health and well-being outcomes from evidence-based home visiting



Who has **access** to these prevention services?

Families Served in Child Abuse/Neglect Prevention Programs – SFY 2021 DFPS Prevention and Early Intervention

- 1.8 million families in Texas with children under age 6
- 413,000 of these families may benefit from Home Visiting services
- *Less than 5% of families who could benefit from Home Visiting receive it*



*Chart from DFPS PEI website

*Data: Wilson, A.C. & Whitfield, B. (2020). Profiles of Families in Texas who could benefit from home visiting services. State profile created for use by TexProtects with Texas policymakers and state officials.

In order to **prevent** the occurrence of abuse and neglect, families must be **supported** as early as possible



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

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