

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Jim Pillen, Governor

September 15, 2026

The Honorable Brian Hardin
Members of the Health & Human Services Committee
Nebraska Legislature
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

Subject: Child Welfare Services Report

Dear Chairman Hardin:

Pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute § 43-4406, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services, is submitting the following report on child welfare services, with respect to children served by the Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alyssa Bish".

Alyssa Bish, Ph.D.
Director, Division of Children and Family Services

Attachment

Division of Children and Family Services

Child Welfare Services Report

September 2026

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-4406

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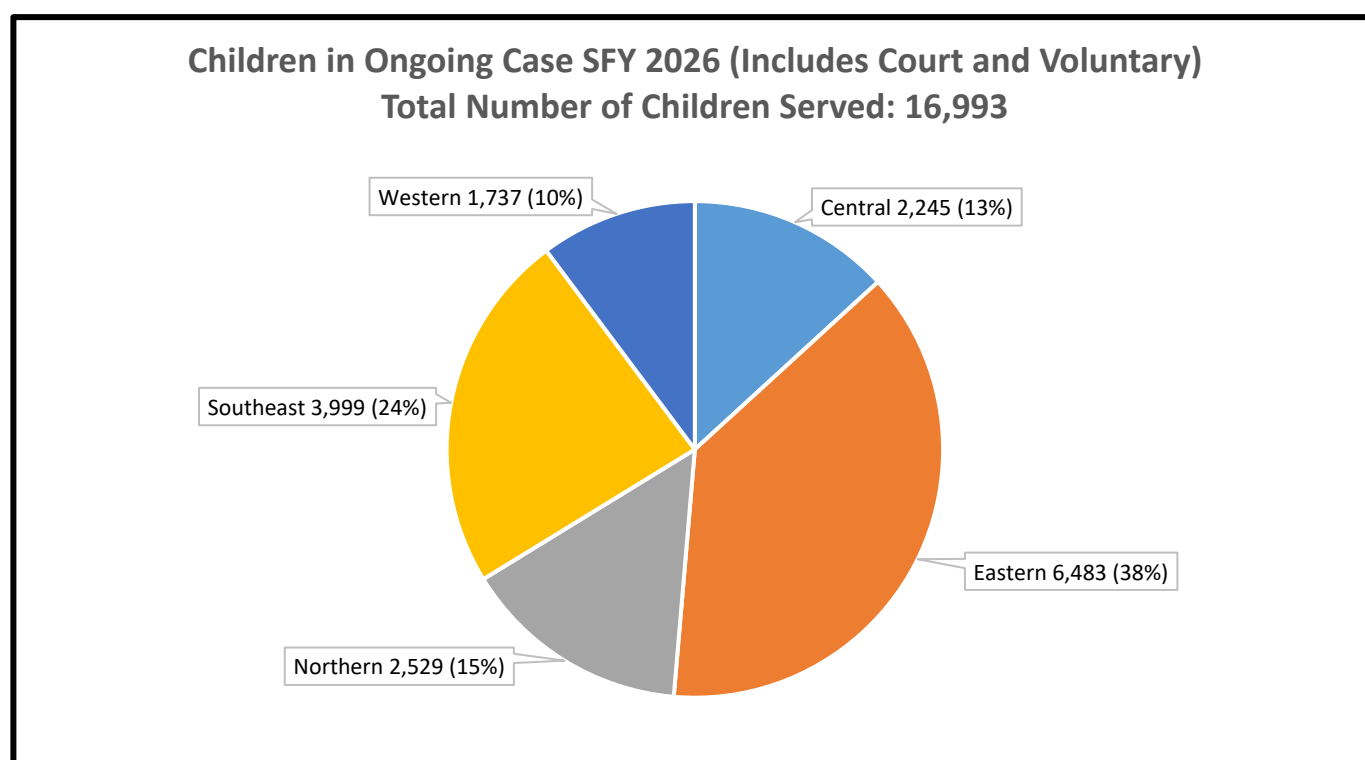
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1. Children Served Categorized by Service Area

a. All Children

Percentage by Service Area

Data includes youth with the following legal statuses: Office of Juvenile Services (OJS) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) state wards; court supervision youth; youth who have been directly relinquished to the state as DHHS state wards or OJS wards; non-court involved youth; youth in a police hold; youth in placement with DHHS and alternative response youth and families. The number of children served is an unduplicated count. The data extracted is from the N-FOCUS system.

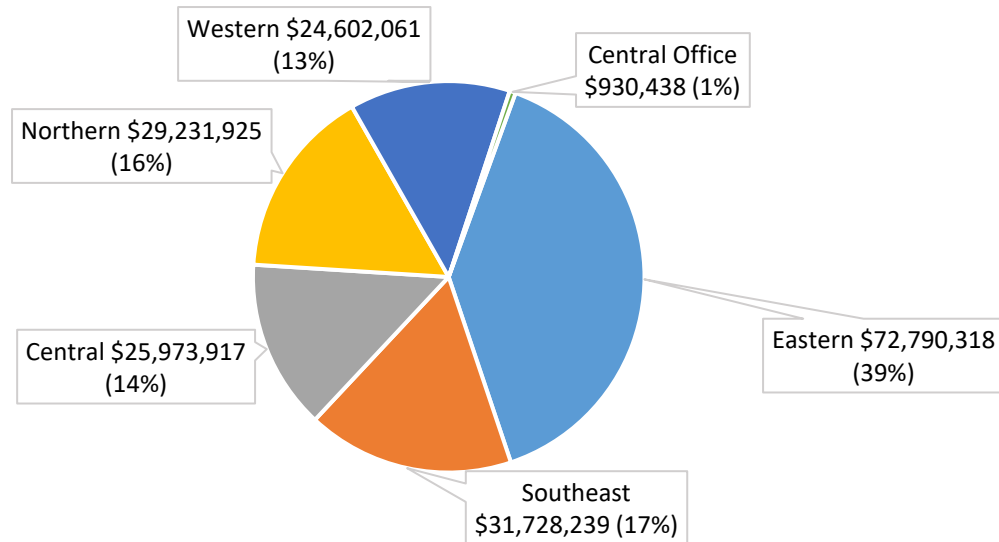


Expenditures by Service Area

The Children and Family Services (CFS) budget is not allocated by service area. CFS provides expenditure data to show the proportion per service area. Data includes expenditures for state wards, voluntary cases, subsidized guardianships, former ward services, and independent living services paid from N-FOCUS and outside of N-FOCUS. Data does not include expenditures paid from Medicaid. This data may not match Nebraska Information System (NIS) data due to refunds, cancellations, and/or other NIS payments that did not originate in N-FOCUS. Expenditure data for each service area does not include administrative costs such as staffing and office space.

The chart shows the breakout by service area for Program 354 (including Subprograms 30 and 48) and Program 345 (including Subprogram 10).

Gross Expenditures Paid SFY 2026 Total Expenditures: \$185,256,897

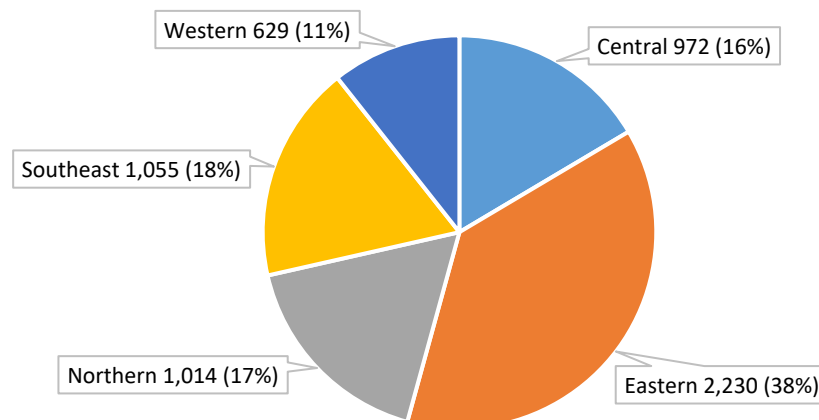


b. State Wards

Percentage by Service Area

Data includes all state wards with the legal status of DHHS ward, OJS ward, and DHHS/OJS ward. The number of state wards served is an unduplicated count. The data extracted is from the N-FOCUS system.

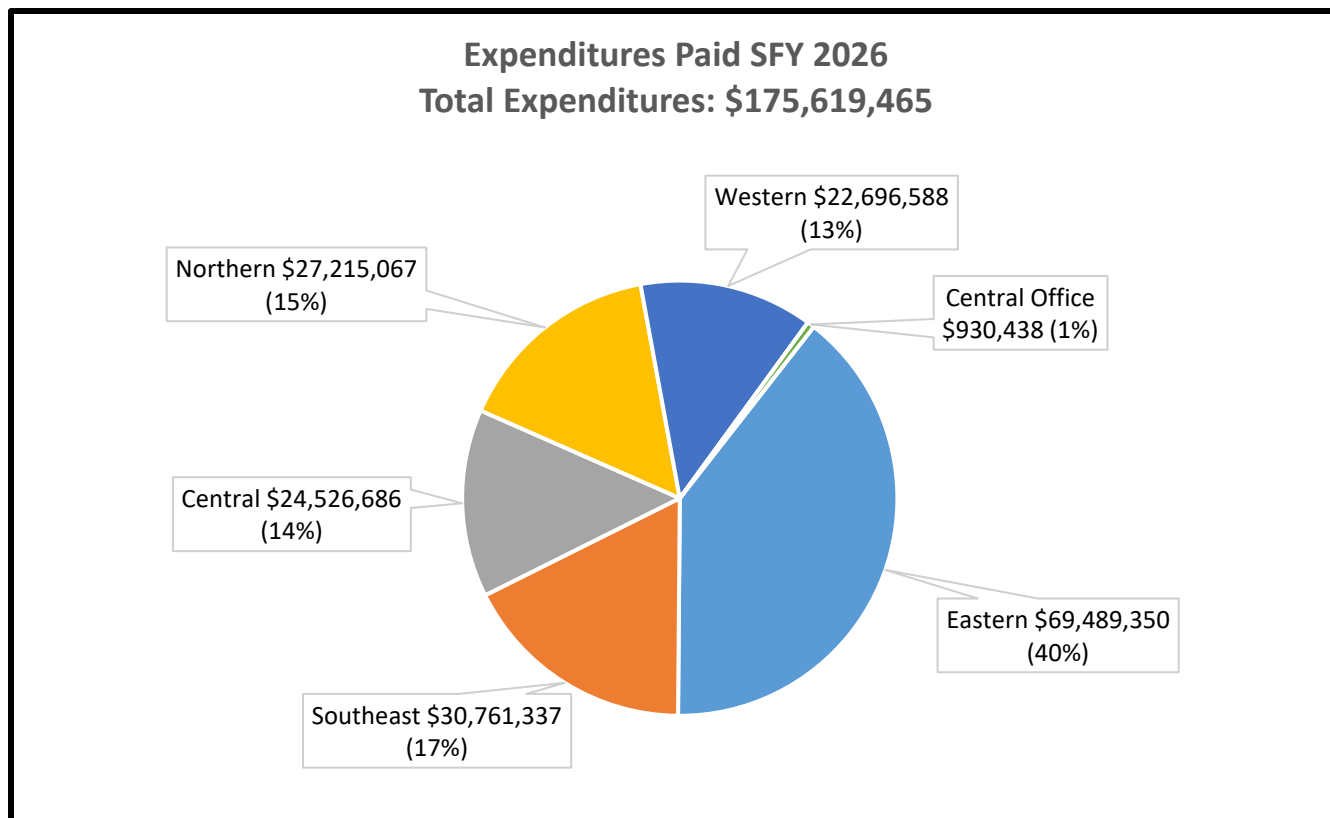
State Wards Served SFY 2026 Total Wards Served: 5,900



Expenditures by Service Area

Data includes payment for services to families of state wards for services paid from N-FOCUS and outside of N-FOCUS. Data does not include expenditures in the payment process or paid by Medicaid. Data may not match NIS (Enterprise One) data due to refunds, cancellations, and/or other payments made through NIS that did not originate in N-FOCUS. Expenditure data for all service areas do not include administrative costs such as staffing and office space.

The chart below shows the breakout by service area for Program 354, including Subprograms 30 and 48.



2. Siblings Placed with Siblings

The data includes children placed in out-of-home care who have siblings also in out-of-home care. The table shows the number of siblings in each sibling group and how many of those siblings are placed together. It includes the percentage placed with all siblings and the percentage placed with at least one sibling. The total represents the number of children in the sibling groups included in the data. Data is extracted from the N-FOCUS system.

Statewide - Children Placed with Siblings June 30, 2026													
		Number of Siblings Placed Together											
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Placed with Siblings	Total	Percent with All Siblings Together	Percent with at Least One Sibling
Siblings Out of Home	2	538	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	181	719	55.7%	80.6%
	3	106	324	0	0	0	0	0	0	92	522		
	4	94	39	156	0	0	0	0	0	39	328		
	5	46	18	40	45	0	0	0	0	41	190		
	6	14	24	20	*	12	0	0	0	9	80-84		
	7	12	9	0	*	0	0	0	0	*	23-31		
	8	6	6	0	0	6	7	0	0	7	32		
	9	10	9	*	0	0	0	0	0	*	21-29		
	Total	826	429	217-221	47-55	18	7	0	0	371-379	1915-1935		

* Indicates that counts are masked due to a low number (between 1-5)

Central Service Area - Children Placed with Siblings June 30, 2026													
		Number of Siblings Placed Together											
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Placed with Siblings	Total	Percent with All Siblings Together	Percent with at Least One Sibling
Siblings Out of Home	2	84	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	114	56.0%	78.5%
	3	16	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	96		
	4	8	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	8	28		
	5	0	0	8	*	0	0	0	0	*	10-18		
	6	6	6	*	*	0	0	0	0	*	15-27		
	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	8	0	0	0	0	6	7	0	0	*	14-18		
	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Total	114	69	21-25	2-10	6	7	0	0	58-70	277-301		

* Indicates that counts are masked due to a low number (between 1-5)

Eastern Service Area - Children Placed with Siblings June 30, 2026													
Number of Siblings Placed Together													
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Placed with Siblings	Total	Percent with All Siblings Together	Percent with at Least One Sibling
Siblings Out of Home	2	210	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	74	284	52.0%	79.4%
	3	32	135	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	204		
	4	50	21	56	0	0	0	0	0	21	148		
	5	22	12	24	10	0	0	0	0	27	95		
	6	6	9	12	0	12	0	0	0	*	40-44		
	7	*	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2-10		
	8	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	13-17		
	9	6	6	*	0	0	0	0	0	*	14-22		
	Total	333-337	190-194	93-97	10	12	0	0	0	162-174	800-824		

* Indicates that counts are masked due to a low number (between 1-5)

Northern Service Area - Children Placed with Siblings June 30, 2026													
Number of Siblings Placed Together													
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Placed with Siblings	Total	Percent with All Siblings Together	Percent with at Least One Sibling
Siblings Out of Home	2	84	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	118	56.5%	81.0%
	3	22	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	93		
	4	18	6	32	0	0	0	0	0	*	57-61		
	5	10	0	8	*	0	0	0	0	7	26-30		
	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	7	8	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	*	10-18		
	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Total	142	63	40	2-10	0	0	0	0	57-65	304-320		

* Indicates that counts are masked due to a low number (between 1-5)

Southeastern Service Area - Children Placed with Siblings June 30, 2026													
Number of Siblings Placed Together													
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Placed with Sibling s	Total	Percent with All Siblings Together	Percent with at Least One Sibling
Siblings Out of Home	2	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	131	57.3%	82.2%
	3	26	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	93		
	4	6	12	32	0	0	0	0	0	6	56		
	5	10	6	0	20	0	0	0	0	*	37-41		
	6	*	9	*	0	0	0	0	0	*	12-24		
	7	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	7-11		
	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	9	*	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	3-15		
	Total	144-152	85-89	33-37	20	0	0	0	0	57-73	339-371		

* Indicates that counts are masked due to a low number (between 1-5)

Western - Children Placed with Siblings June 30, 2026													
Number of Siblings Placed Together													
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Not Placed with Siblings	Total	Percent with All Siblings Together	Percent with at Least One Sibling
Siblings Out of Home	2	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	72	69.5%	86.4%
	3	10	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	36		
	4	12	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	36		
	5	*	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	*	3-15		
	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Total	83-87	18	24	1-5	0	0	0	0	21-25	147-159		

* Indicates that counts are masked due to a low number (between 1-5)

3. Waivers Granted Pursuant to § 71-1904(2)

During State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026, DHHS had 113 licensed relative foster homes with a waiver.

4. Information by Service Area

a. Child and Family Services Specialist (CFSS) Education

A bachelor's degree is required to be hired as a CFSS. The data includes the following position classifications: Child and Family Services Specialist (CFSS) and Child and Family Services Specialist Trainee (CFSS Trainee). CFSS Trainees are in training status for the first six months of employment. CFSS who have more than one degree are included for each degree.

Department of Health and Human Services, Children and Family Service Division Employee Education Level 2026						
Education Qualifications of CFSS (N=712)						
Field of Study/Major	Central	Eastern	Northern	Southeast	Western	Statewide
Bachelor's Degree	81	254	77	120	78	610
African American Studies		1				1
Agricultural Journalism				1		1
Animal Science					1	1
Anthropology			1			1
Art Education		1				1
Art History		1				1
Biology	1	2				3
Biopsychology		1				1
Business Administration	1	3	1	1	1	7
Business Administration/Management	1	2		2	1	6
Child Development	1	3	1	5		10
Clinical Psychology		1		3	1	5
Cognitive Psychology		1				1
Communications Studies/Speech Communication and Rhetoric		1		1		2
Computer and Information Science		1				1
Counseling		3	2	2		7
Creative Writing		1				1
Criminal Justice	12	47	10	15	10	94
Criminal Science	2	2	5	1	3	13
Criminology	4	14	4	7	4	33
Developmental Psychology		2				2
Early Childhood Education	4					4
Economics		2				2
Education	3	5	3	3	6	20
Elementary Education		2	1	2	2	7
English		4		2	1	7
English Literature					1	1
Family Studies	4	7	3	5		19

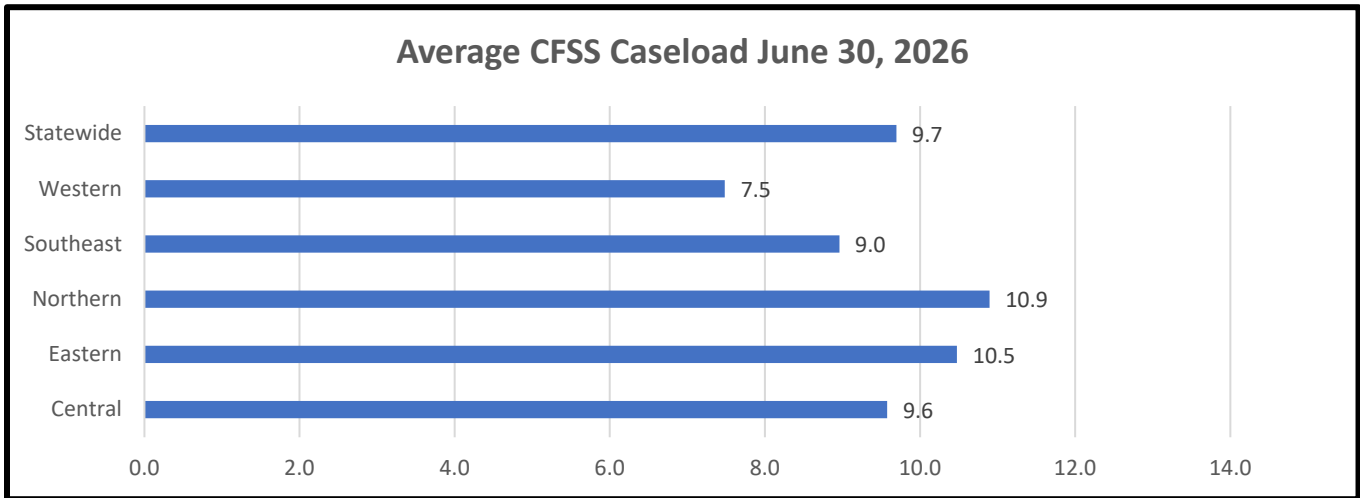
Field of Study/Major	Central	Eastern	Northern	Southeast	Western	Statewide
Bachelor's Degree (continued)						
Field of Study Not Found	2	2	3		1	8
Film				1		1
Finance		1				1
Forensic Science					1	1
General Education		1				1
German				1		1
Health Administration		3			1	4
Human Development	2	4	2	2	1	11
Human Resource Management				1		1
Humanities		4	1	1	1	7
Information Technology		2				2
International Studies		1				1
Journalism		1				1
Law					1	1
Marketing		1				1
Mental Health Services				1		1
Multi-Disciplinary Studies		2		1		3
Music				1		1
Music Education		1				1
Neuroscience		1				1
Nursing	1	1				2
Organizational Behavior Studies				1		1
Pastoral Studies				1		1
Physical Education					1	1
Physics	1					1
Psychological Psychology	1	1		1		3
Political Science		2				2
Pre-Law				1		1
Psychology	6	54	10	29	11	110
Public Administration		2				2
Public Health		2		1		3
Social Psychology	2					2
Social Work	14	26	13	13	12	78
Sociology	13	12	3	6	2	36
Spanish		1				1
Sports Management	1					1
Theatre		1		1		2
Theology			1			1
Women's Studies		1				1
Youth Ministries					1	1
(blank)	5	20	13	7	14	59
Master's Degree	7	54	15	14	8	98
Business Administration					1	1
Business Admin Mgmt.				1		1

Field of Study/Major	Central	Eastern	Northern	Southeast	Western	Statewide
Master's Degree (continued)						
Clinical Psychology			1			1
Counseling		2	2		1	5
Criminal Justice		11	1			12
Criminology	1	5			1	7
Education	1	2	1	1		5
Education Administration		1		1		2
Educational Psychology		1				1
Elementary Education				1		1
English	1					1
Field of Study Not Found				1		1
Forensic Science			1			1
Health Administration		2	1			3
History					1	1
Human Development		1				1
Human Resources Management			1			1
Kinesiology		1				1
Logistics Management				1		1
Mental Health Services	1	1				2
Museum Studies			1			1
Music				1		1
Philosophy		1				1
Physiological Psychology		1				1
Psychology		2	1	1		4
Public Administration		2	1	1		4
Public Health		1				1
Religious Studies		1				1
Social Psychology		1				1
Social Work	1	7	3	3	2	16
Sociology		2		1		3
Urban Planning			1			1
(blank)	2	9		1	2	14
Juris Doctor		1		1		2
Law		1		1		2
Doctor of Philosophy		1			1	2
Physiological Psychology		1				1
Psychology					1	1
Statewide	88	310	92	135	87	712

b. Caseload per CFSS

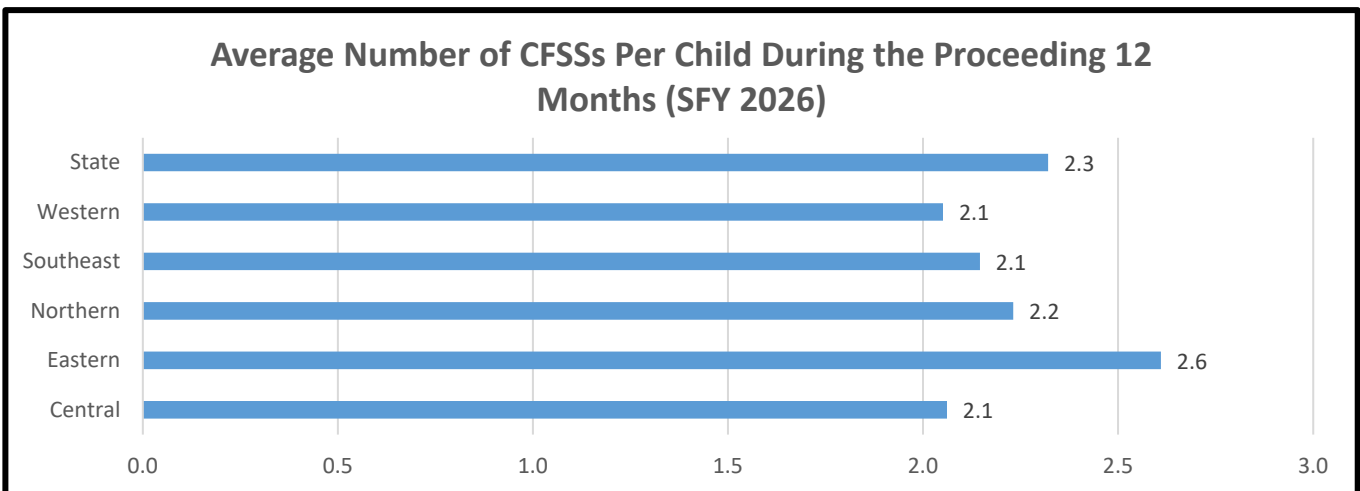
The following chart illustrates the average caseload for CFSS statewide and by service area. The data only includes CFSS and does not include supervisors, lead workers, or trainees who may have minimal cases assigned.

The measure includes all cases for Out-of-Home youth, In-Home families, Initial Assessment families, and Alternative Response families active on June 30, 2026. The measurement used is the same that is used for the caseload standard conformance: One case = one Report, one In-Home Family, or one Out-of-Home Child.



c. CFSS per Child During SFY 2026

This measure includes all youth who were active CFS court-involved youth on June 30, 2026. The count is the average number of CFSS assigned to a child's case during the past 12 months, rather than a measure of CFSS during the life of the child's case. The count includes the CFSS who conducted the initial assessment investigation within the past 12 months and the ongoing CFSS within the past 12 months. In many areas of the state, different CFSSs are assigned for the initial assessment and ongoing case management. In those areas, a transfer from initial assessment to ongoing shows two CFSSs early in the life of the case. Cases that do not progress beyond the initial assessment phase are excluded.



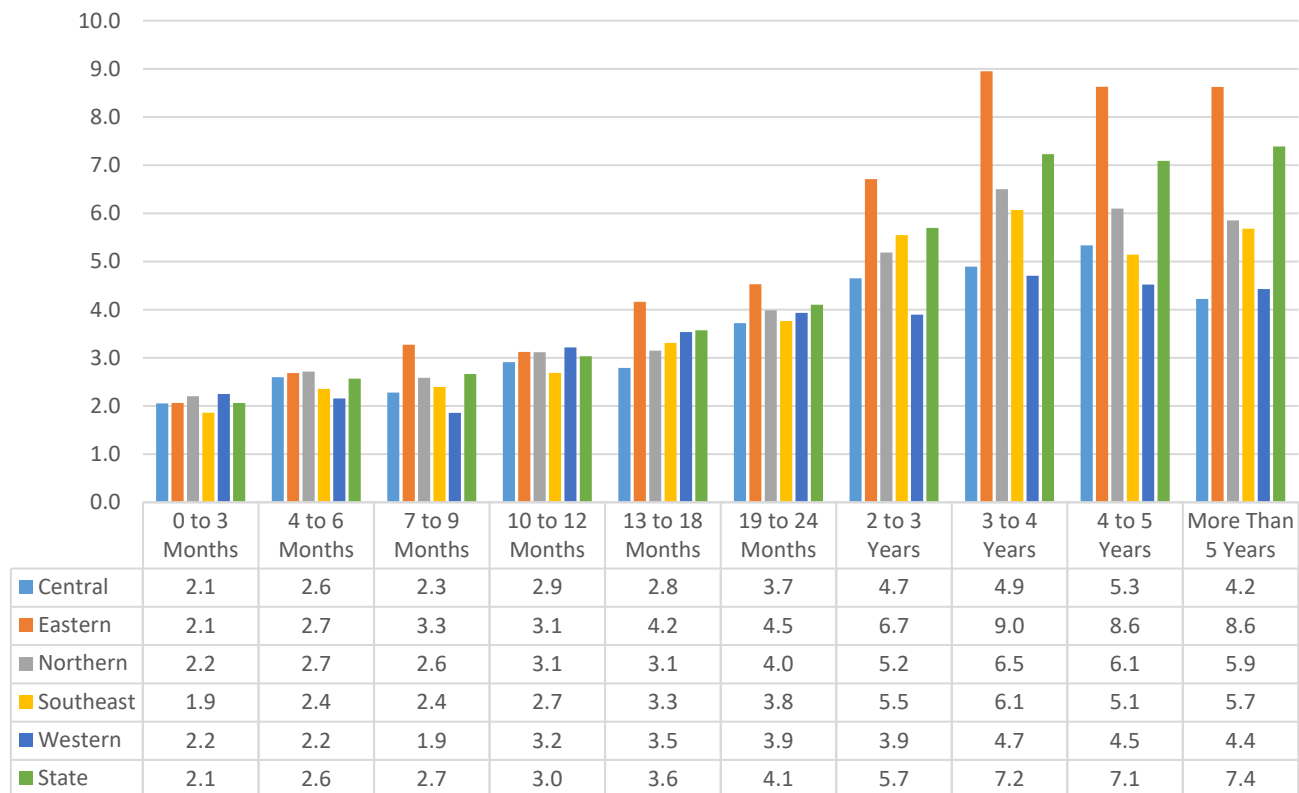
d. CFSSs During the Past Seven Years

The following data utilizes June 30, 2026 as the endpoint. CFSS case assignment data includes DHHS and Contracted Agency Staff from the last seven years. For the Eastern service area, the CFSS count includes the CFSS conducting initial assessments and contracted agency staff providing ongoing case management through June 2022. Data after June 2022 does not include contracted staff.

This data includes the average number of CFSSs per child's case for children in the child welfare system for three, six, twelve, and eighteen months, and the consecutive yearly average for children until the age of majority or permanency is attained.

The count consists of the CFSS, who conducts the initial assessment and the ongoing case management. In many areas of the state, different CFSSs are assigned for the initial assessment and ongoing case management. In those areas, a transfer from initial assessment to ongoing shows two CFSSs early in the life of the case. Other areas have the same CFSS conducting initial assessments and ongoing case management. Cases that do not progress beyond the initial assessment phase are excluded.

Average Number of CFSSs During the Past Seven Years including CFSS and Contracted Agency Staff



e. Monthly CFSS Turnover Rates

The following data is expressed as a count and proportion of CFSSs that are no longer in the position from the prior month. Those not in the position may have been promoted, accepted a different position, or separated their employment from DHHS. Turnover rates are limited to the CFSS position.

CFSS Monthly Turnover Rate				
Year	Month	Count of CFSS at End of Month	CFSS Separating Position During the Month	CFSS Monthly Turnover
2025	July	594	9	1.5%
2025	August	597	19	3.2%
2025	September	607	10	1.6%
2025	October	625	13	2.1%
2025	November	637	8	1.3%
2025	December	647	14	2.2%
2026	January	641	13	2.0%
2026	February	644	16	2.5%
2026	March	648	9	1.4%
2026	April	643	11	1.7%
2026	May	654	15	2.3%
2026	June	653	13	2.0%
			Monthly Average	2.0%

f. & g. Monthly Face-to-Face Child & Parent Contacts

Between Each CFSS and the Children on a Respective Caseload

Chart 1 below shows the statewide percentage of monthly visits with parents and children. Chart 2 shows the percentage of monthly visits by service area with parents and children. The outcome goal for each measure is currently set at 95% of all visits. The data extract is from the N-FOCUS system.

Between Each Case Manager and the Parent(s) of the Children on a Respective Caseload

Chart 1 below shows the statewide percentage of monthly visits with parents and children. Chart 2 shows the percentage of monthly visits by service area with parents and children. The outcome goal for each measure is currently set at 95% of all visits. The data extract is from the N-FOCUS system.

Chart 1

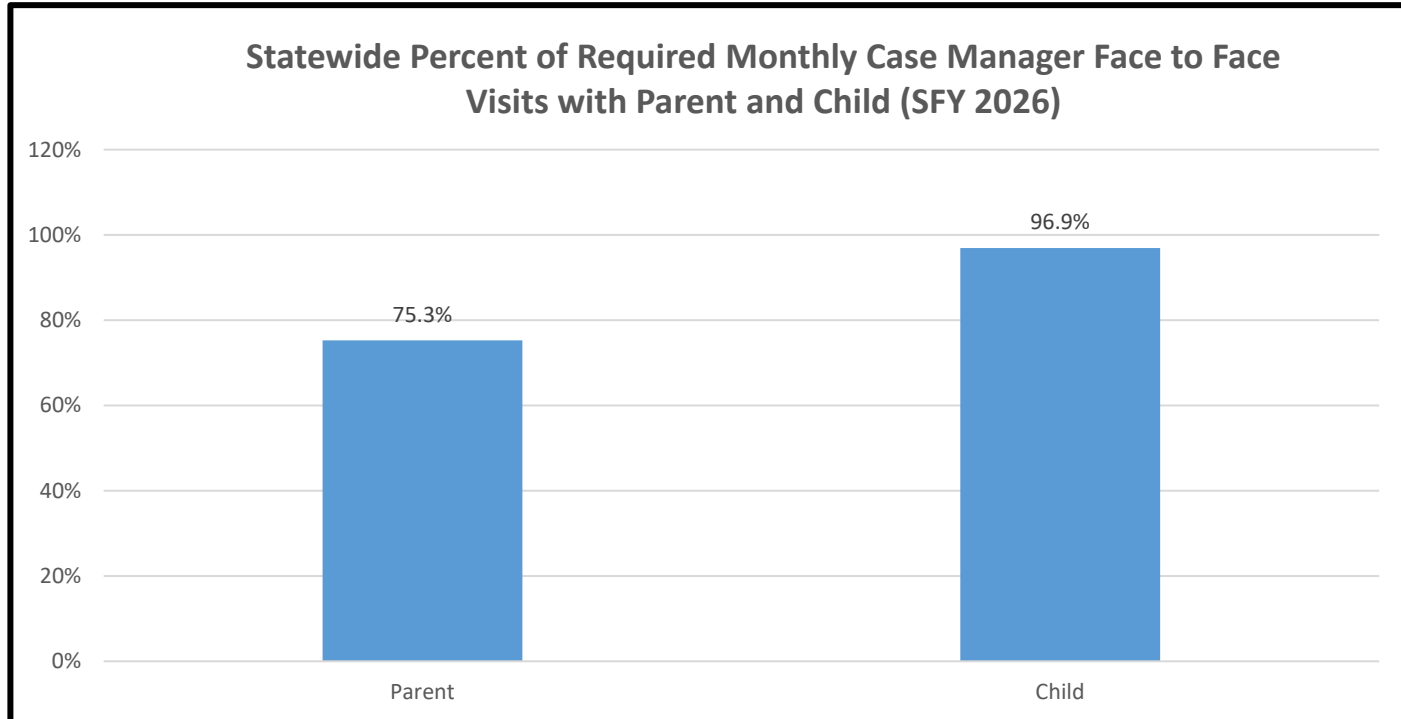
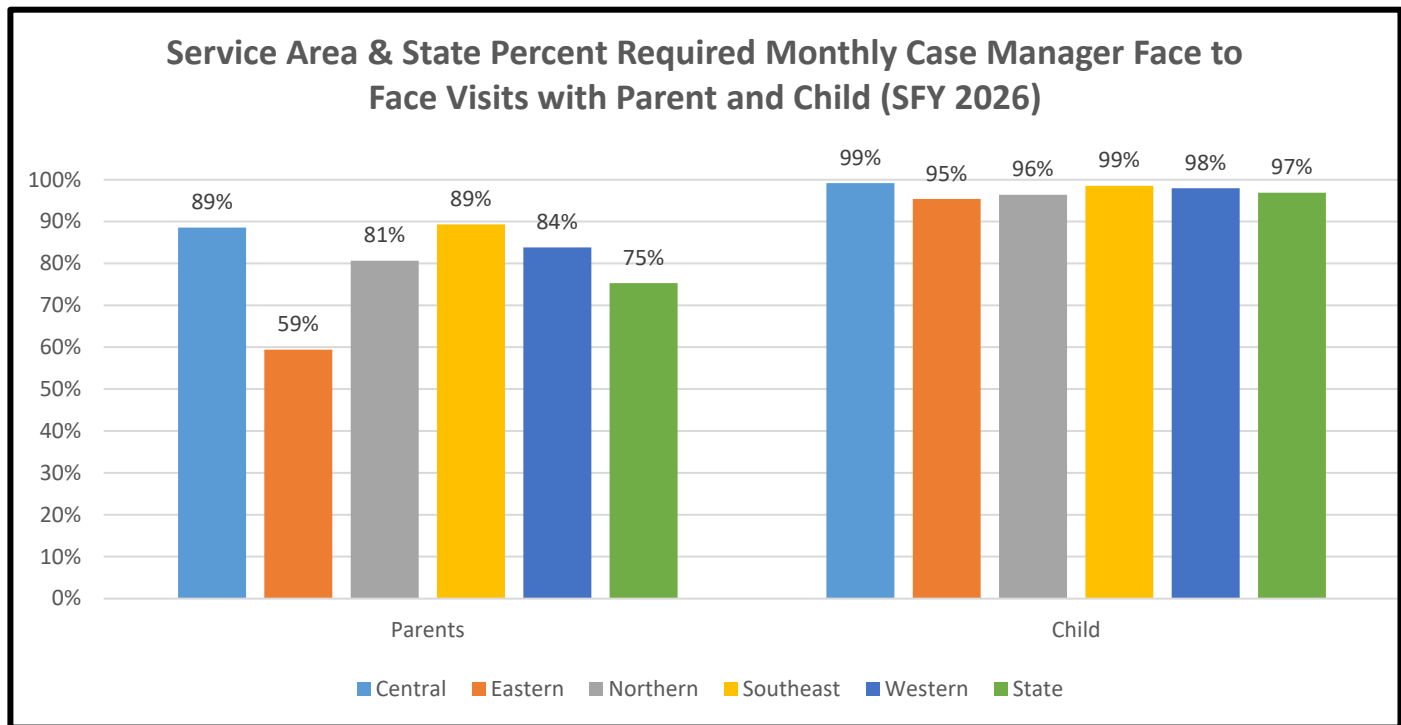
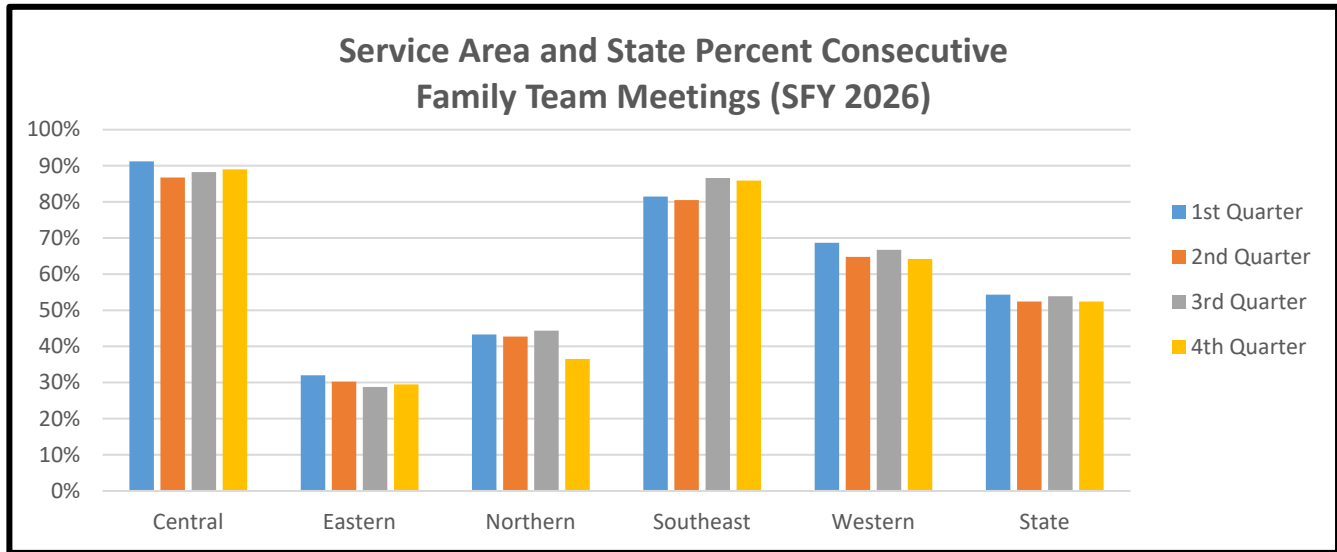


Chart 2



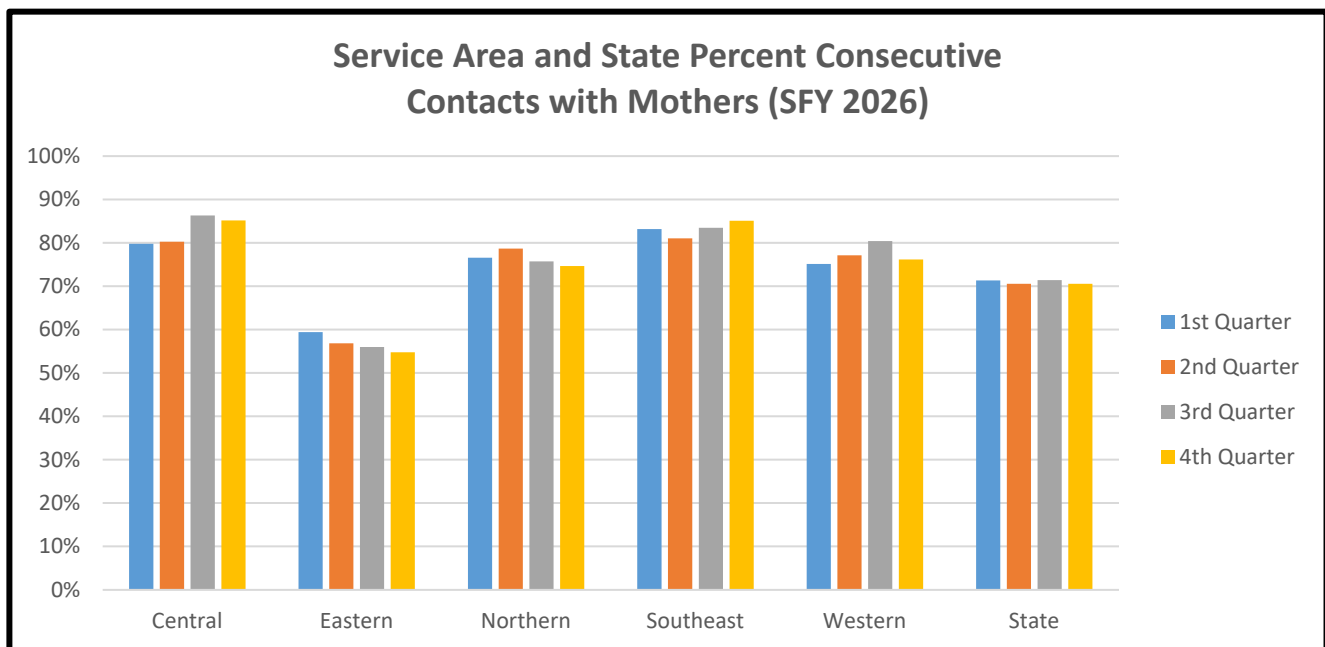
h. Monthly Consecutive Team Meetings

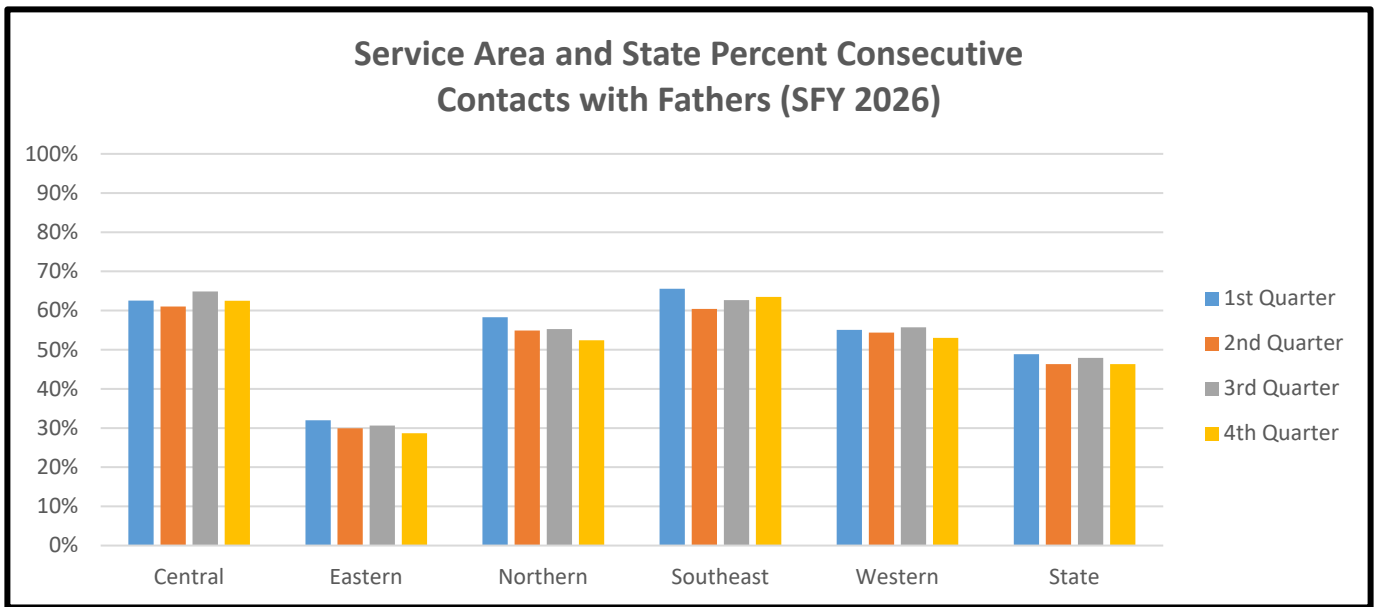
The chart below illustrates the percentage of consecutive monthly family team meetings by quarter documented in the N-FOCUS system.



i. Monthly Consecutive Parent Contacts with CFSS

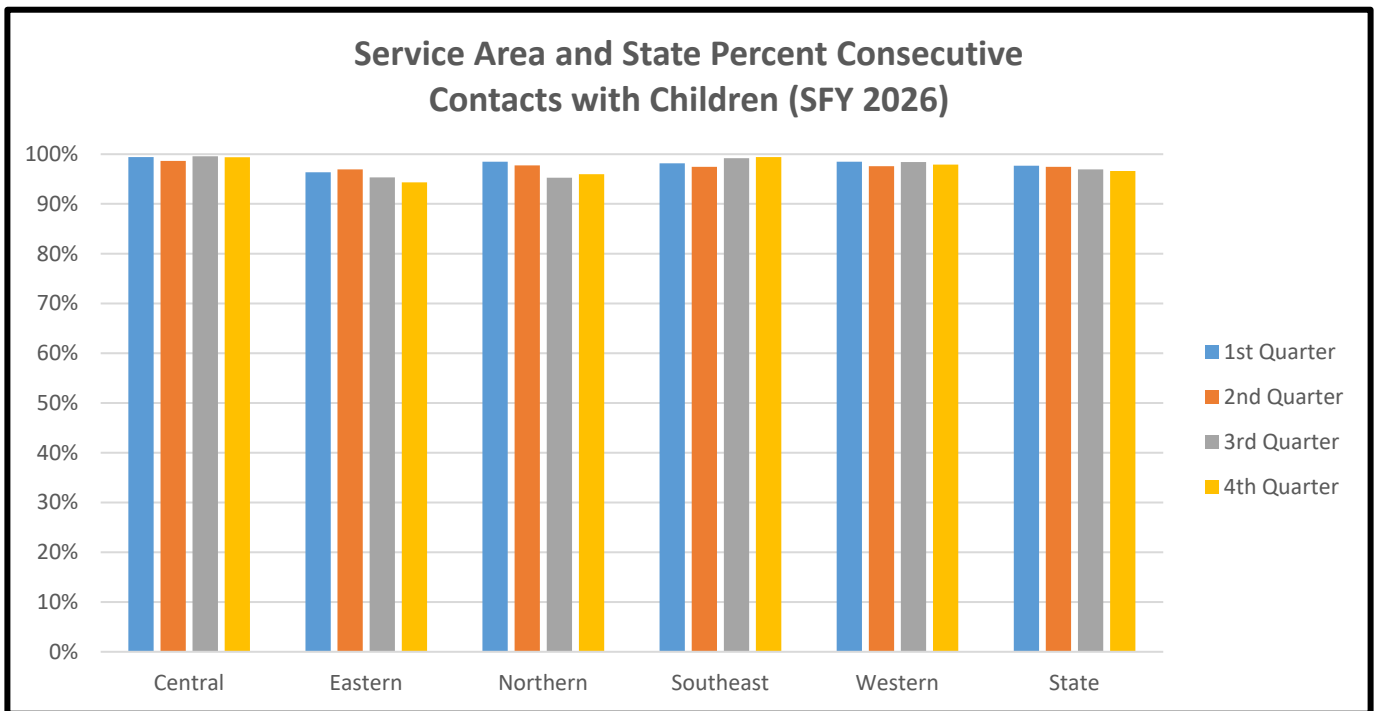
The charts below illustrate the percentage of consecutive monthly contacts with mothers and fathers by quarter documented in the N-FOCUS system.





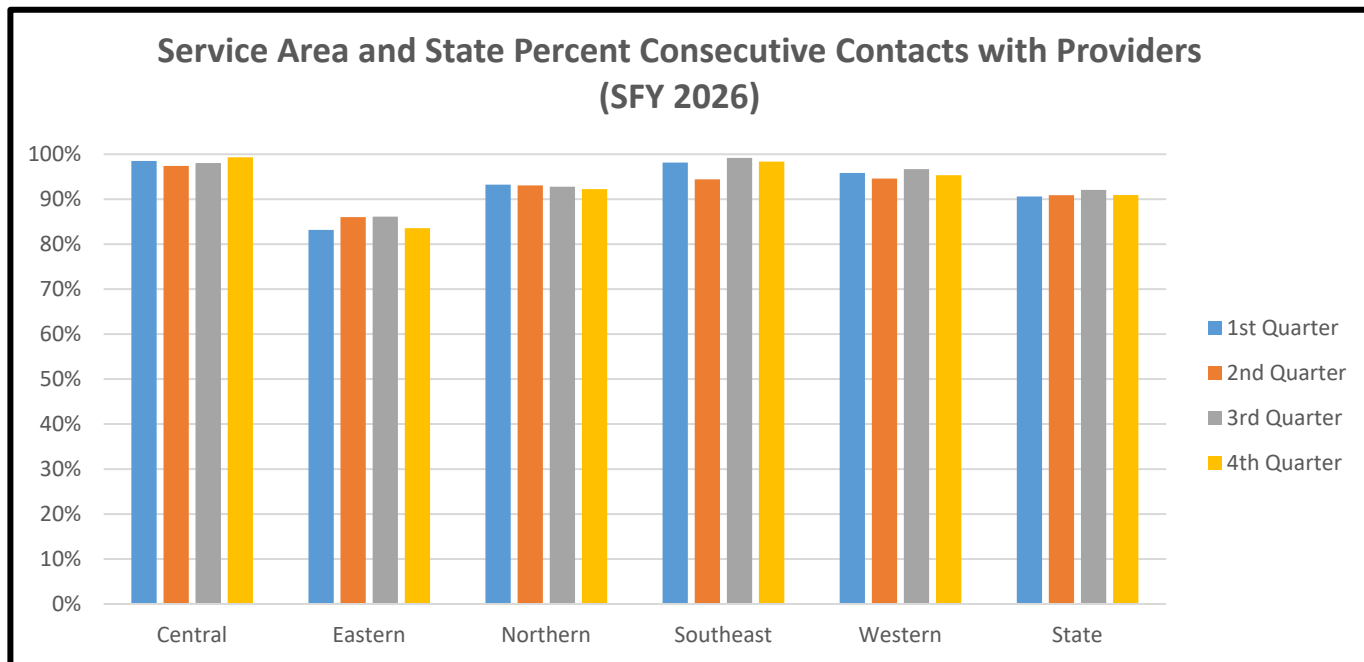
j. Monthly Consecutive Child Contacts with CFSS

The chart below illustrates the percentage of consecutive monthly contacts with children by quarter documented in the N-FOCUS system.



k. Monthly Consecutive Contacts Between Child Welfare Service Providers and CFSS

The chart below illustrates the percentage of consecutive monthly contacts with providers by quarter documented in the N-FOCUS system.



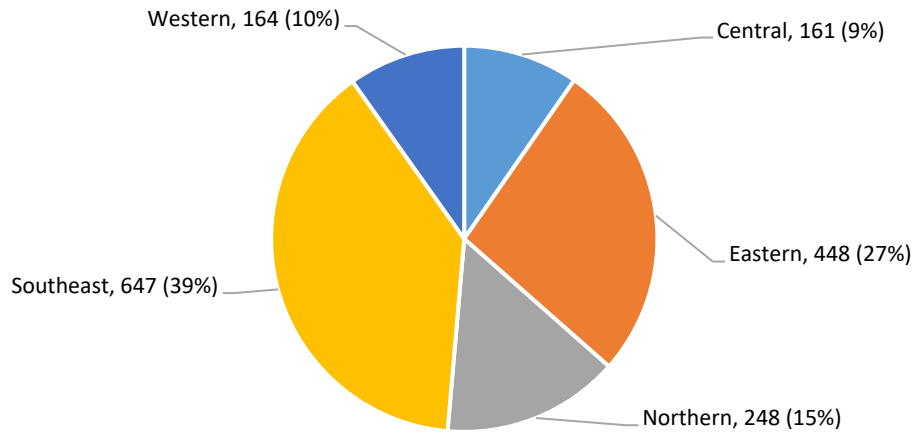
l. Timeliness of Court Reports

Data for the timeliness of court reports for SFY 2026 is not available. DHHS continues to explore changes to N-FOCUS to collect this data.

m. Non-Court-Involved Children (Includes Alternative Response)

The following data for non-court and Alternative Response children includes the number of children served, the types of services requested, the specific services provided, the cost of the services provided, and the funding source. Data extract is from the N-FOCUS system.

Non-Court and Alternative Response Children SFY 2026 Total Number of Children Served: 1,668

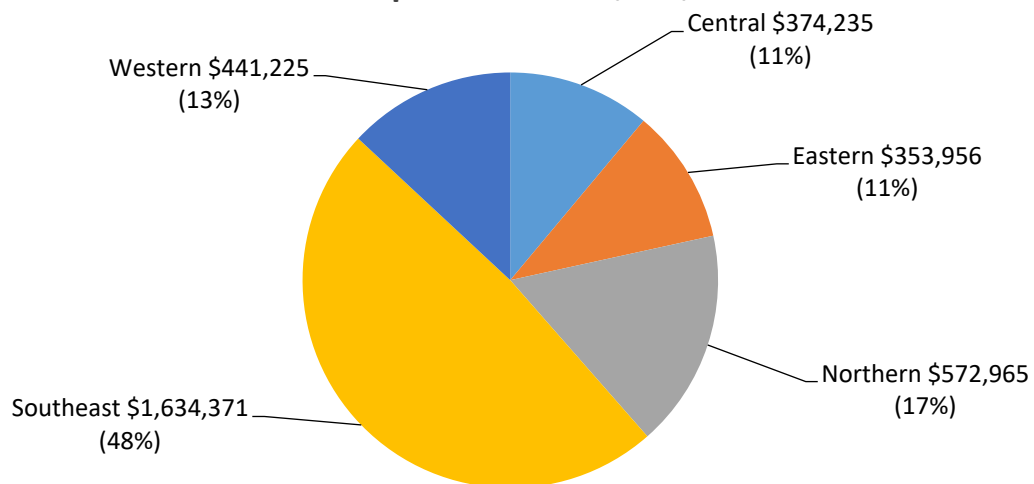


Expenditures for Non-Court and Alternative Response

Expenditure data includes claims entered and paid for or rejected via the N-FOCUS system as of June 30, 2026. Expenditure includes services provided to the parents of non-court-involved children and Alternative Response. Nebraska Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) claims are not included nor are outstanding unpaid expenditures.

Expenditures for Non-Court and Alternative Response Involved Children SFY 2026

Total Expenditures: \$3,376,753



Services Provided to Non-Court Families and Alternative Response Families with Expenditures

Services are those provided to youth and families entered in the N-FOCUS System. Nebraska Medicaid and CHIP claims are excluded.

Services and Funding for Non-Court Families with Expenditures Paid During SFY 2026				
Service Name	Alternative Response	Child Welfare	IV-E/Prevention	Grand Total
AGENCY SUPP FOSTER CARE	\$0	\$777	\$0	\$777
ASSESSMENT DRUG ALCOHOL	\$0	\$271	\$0	\$271
BOYS TOWN IN-HOME FAM SRV	\$0	\$30,815	\$0	\$30,815
CFS PRESCHOOL CARE	\$0	\$468	\$0	\$468
CFS TODDLER CARE	\$0	\$6,106	\$0	\$6,106
CLOTHING	\$0	\$2,664	\$0	\$2,664
COMMUNITY YOUTH COACHING	\$0	\$15,683	\$0	\$15,683
DRUG TEST LAB CONFIRM	\$0	\$3,913	\$0	\$3,913
ELECTRIC	\$0	\$3,444	\$0	\$3,444
FAMILY CENTERED TREATMENT	\$2,380	\$42,526	\$231,124	\$276,030
FAMILY PEER SUPPORT	\$0	\$2,711	\$0	\$2,711
FAMILY PEER SUPPORT ADMIN	\$0	\$6,797	\$0	\$6,797
FCT TREATMENT COSTS	\$0	\$69,499	\$429,269	\$498,268
GROCERY/MEAL PURCHASE	\$249	\$24,434	\$0	\$24,683
GARBAGE REMOVAL	\$0	\$2,352	\$0	\$2,352
HEALTHY FAMILIES AMERICA	\$0	\$7,286	\$152,232	\$159,518
HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES	\$0	\$88	\$0	\$88
HOUSING DEPOSIT	\$0	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500
IFP TIER 1	\$14,659	\$349,993	\$0	\$364,653
IFP TIER 2	\$1,878	\$338,903	\$0	\$340,782
IFP TIER 3	\$28,205	\$462,951	\$0	\$491,156
IFP TIER 4	\$0	\$180,947	\$0	\$180,947
IFRS – TIER 1	\$0	\$3,618	\$0	\$3,618
IFRS – TIER 3	\$0	\$23,244	\$0	\$23,244
IN-HOME FAMILY SUPPORT	\$7,353	\$373,746	\$0	\$381,099
INIT DIAGNOSTIC INTERVIEW	\$0	\$134	\$0	\$134
INTEGRATED FAMILY CARE	\$0	\$7,130	\$0	\$7,130
INTERPRETER	\$0	\$2,238	\$0	\$2,238
LEGAL FEES	\$0	\$21,850	\$0	\$21,850
MOTEL/HOTEL	\$0	\$10,569	\$0	\$10,569
MOTOR VEHICLE GAS	\$229	\$7,827	\$0	\$8,056
MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIRS	\$0	\$1,319	\$0	\$1,319

Service Name	Alternative Response	Child Welfare	IV-E/Prevention	Grand Total
MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES	\$0	\$234	\$0	\$234
NATURAL GAS	\$0	\$1,912	\$0	\$1,912
OUT OF HM MAINTENANCE	\$0	\$835	\$0	\$835
OUT OF HOME FAMILY SUPPORT	\$1,206	\$43,754	\$0	\$44,960
PARENT TIME/SUPERVISED VISIT	\$101	\$126,965	\$0	\$127,066
PAT – IN HOME PARENTING	\$0	\$1,493	\$3,035	\$4,528
PEST EXTERMINATION	\$0	\$6,182	\$0	\$6,182
PSYCHOTHERAPY INDIVIDUAL	\$0	\$121	\$0	\$121
PURCHASED WATER	\$0	\$173	\$0	\$173
RENT	\$1,000	\$16,062	\$0	\$17,062
SERV PREP IHFS	\$34	\$2,848	\$0	\$2,881
SERV PREP OHFS	\$34	\$302	\$0	\$335
SERV PREP PTSV	\$0	\$235	\$0	\$235
SOBER LINK ALCOHOL TESTING	\$0	\$7,726	\$0	\$7,726
SPCMN COLLN-URINE-INSTANT	\$0	\$20,423	\$0	\$20,423
SPECIMEN COLLECT REFUSAL	\$0	\$352	\$0	\$352
SPECIMEN COLLECTION HAIR	\$0	\$626	\$0	\$626
SPECIMEN COLLECTION-URINE	\$0	\$1,643	\$0	\$1,643
SPECIMENCOLLECTION-BREATH	\$0	\$626	\$0	\$626
SPCIMN COLLECTN ADMISSION	\$0	\$137	\$0	\$137
SPECMNCOLLECTIONSWEATPATCH	\$0	\$2,582	\$0	\$2,582
TRAIN INDEPEND SKILLS	\$0	\$534	\$0	\$534
TRANS COMMERCIAL	\$136	\$18,056	\$0	\$18,192
TRANS FAMILY VISITATION	\$0	\$16,589	\$0	\$16,589
TRANS COMM – NO SHOW	\$0	\$144	\$0	\$144
TRANSPORT - ADD'L PSSNGR	\$0	\$574	\$0	\$574
TRAVEL & DIST PARENT TIME	\$0	\$27,992	\$0	\$27,992
TRVL & DIST SPEC COLLECT	\$0	\$774	\$0	\$774
TRVL & DIST-FAMILY SUPPRT	\$3,661	\$189,935	\$0	\$193,597
UTILITY DEPOSIT	\$0	\$859	\$0	\$859
VIRTUAL IN-HOME FAMILY SU	\$0	\$1,457	\$0	\$1,457
VIRTUAL OOH FAMILY SUPPORT	\$0	\$134	\$0	\$134
VIRTUAL PRNT TIME/SUP VIS	\$0	\$754	\$0	\$754
Grand Total	\$61,125	\$2,499,344	\$815,661	\$3,376,753

5. Placements in Residential Treatment Settings

This section includes all placements made or paid for by the child welfare system, the Office of Juvenile Services, the State Department of Education, or local education agencies, through letters of agreement, and the medical assistance program.

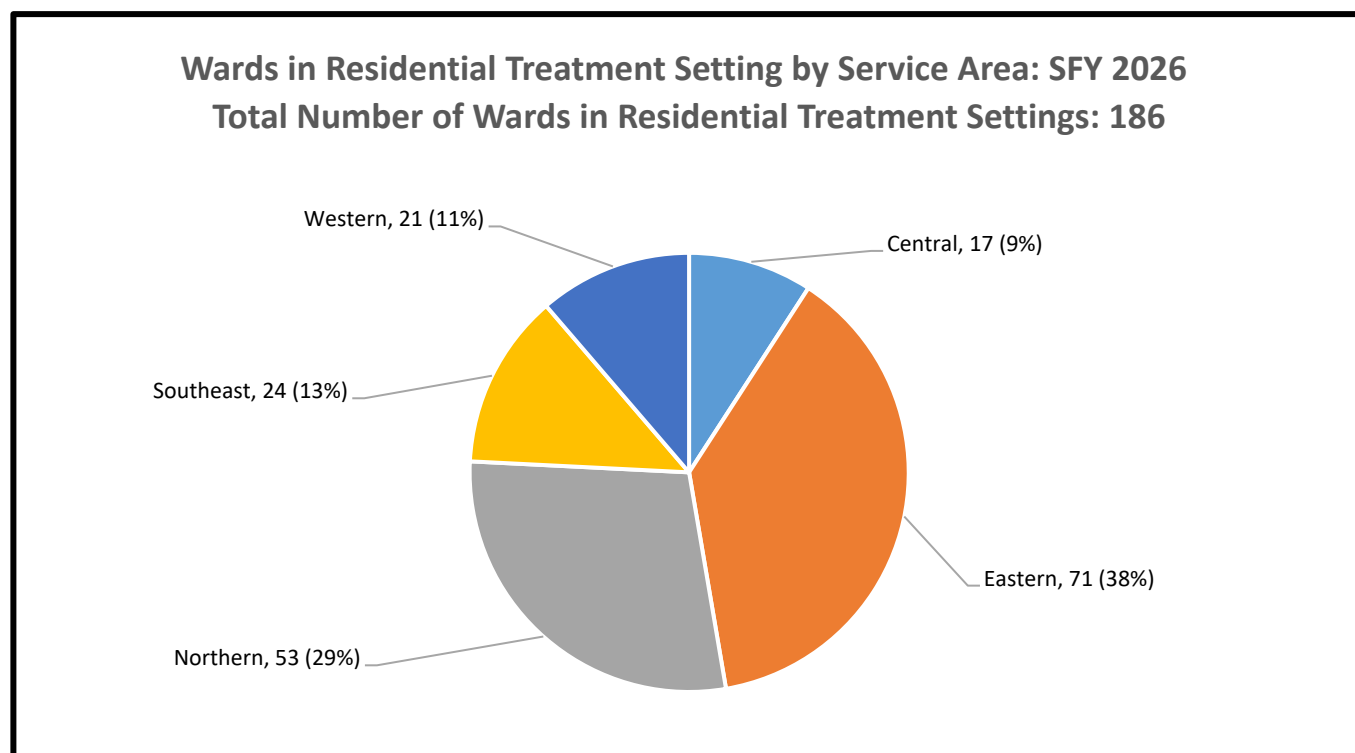
Residential treatment settings include the following facility types:

1. Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility
2. Psychiatric Hospital
3. Therapeutic Group Home
4. Institution for Mental Disease

a. Child Variables

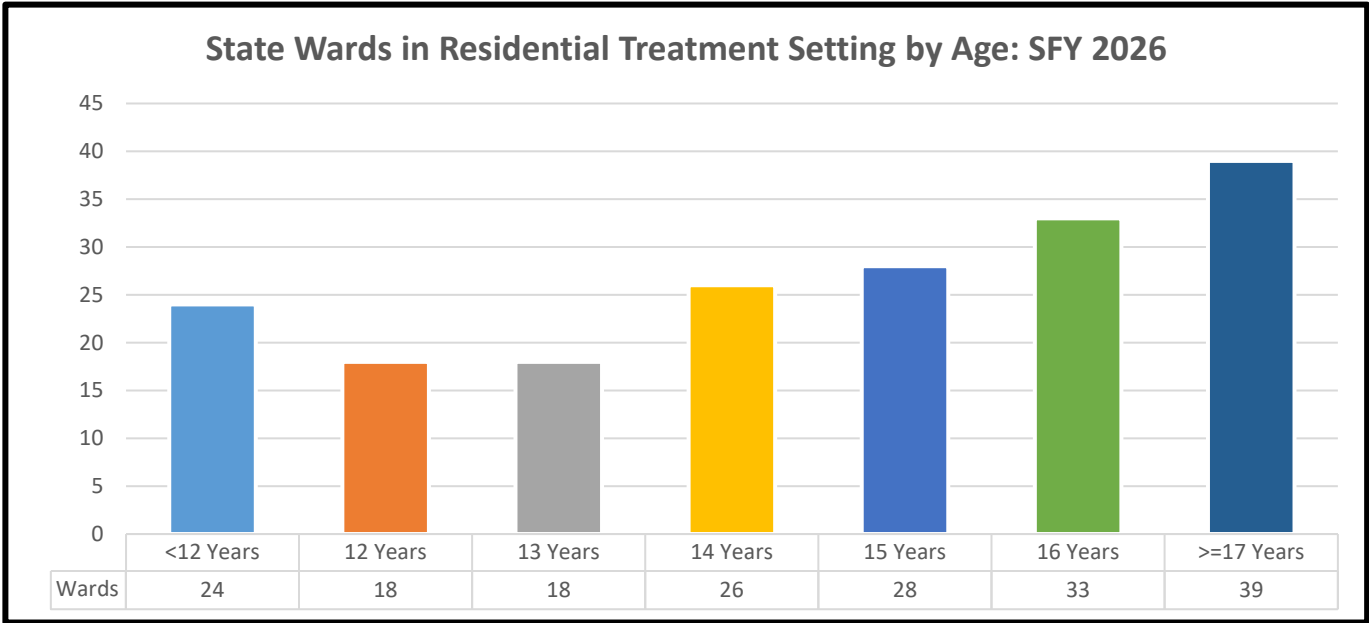
State Wards in Residential Treatment Settings by Service Area

Data extract is from the N-FOCUS system, and the number of state wards is an unduplicated count.



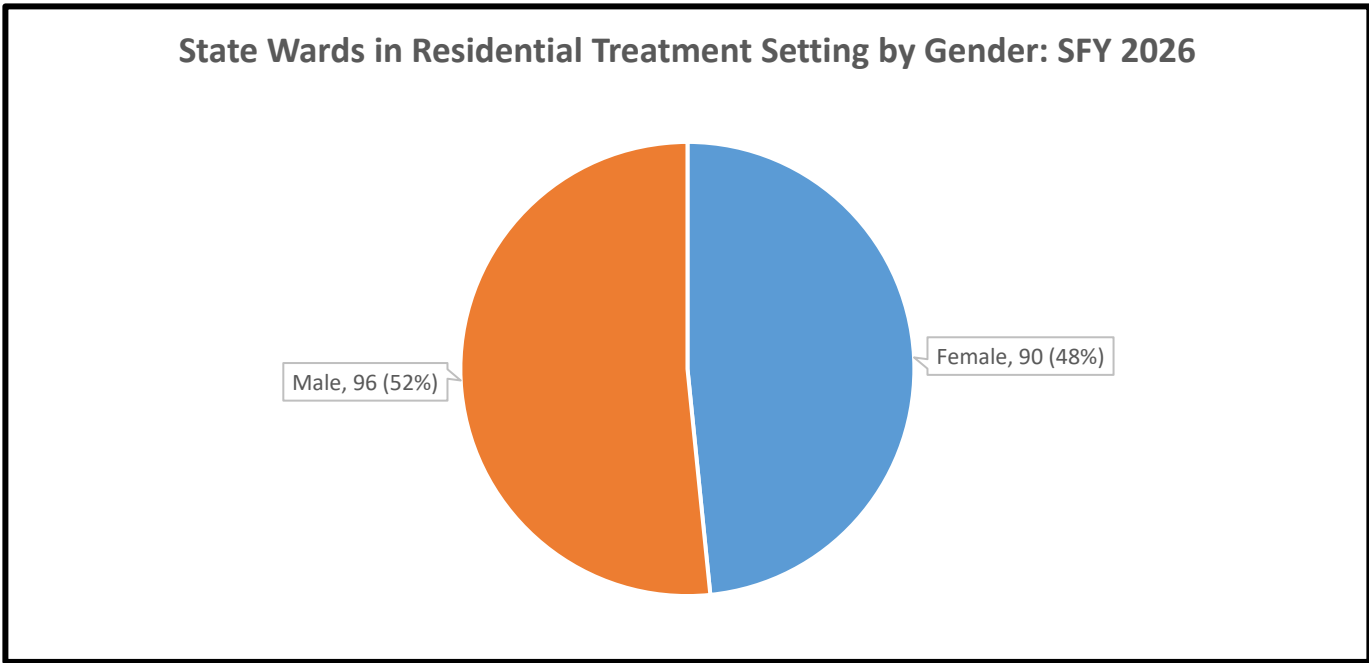
State Wards in Residential Treatment Settings by Age

Data extract is from the N-FOCUS system.



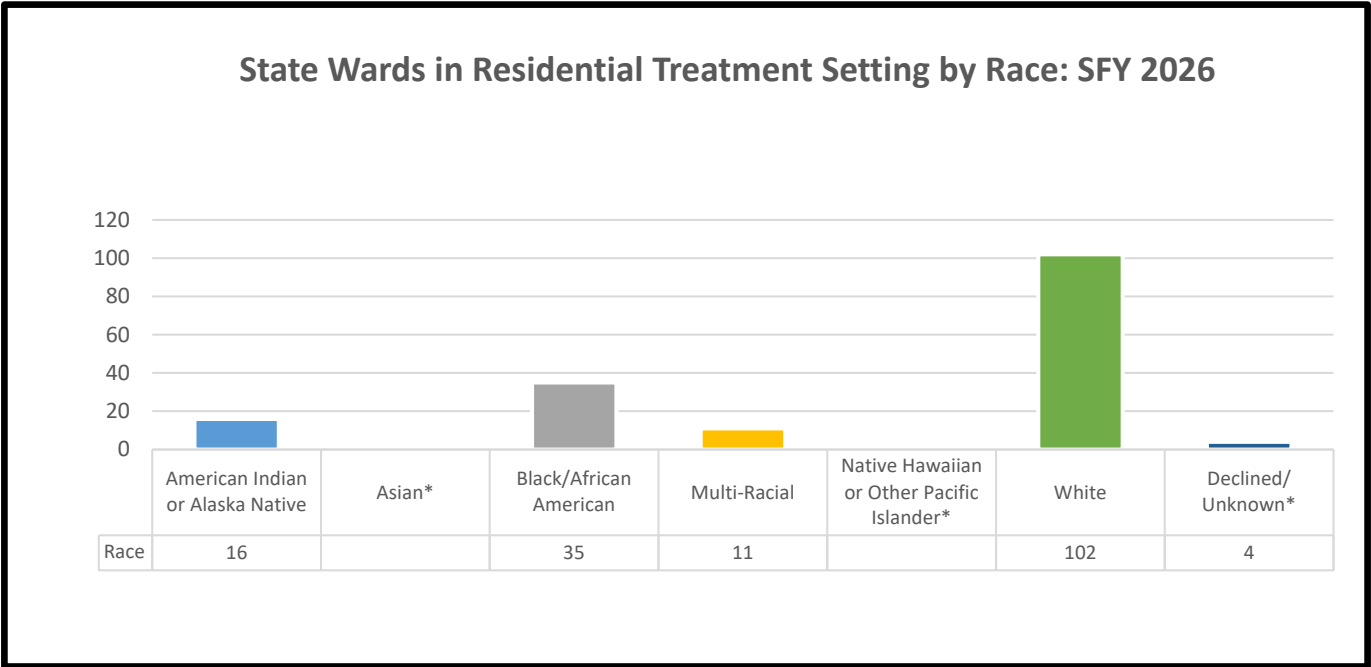
State Wards in Residential Treatment Settings by Gender

Data extract is from the N-FOCUS system.

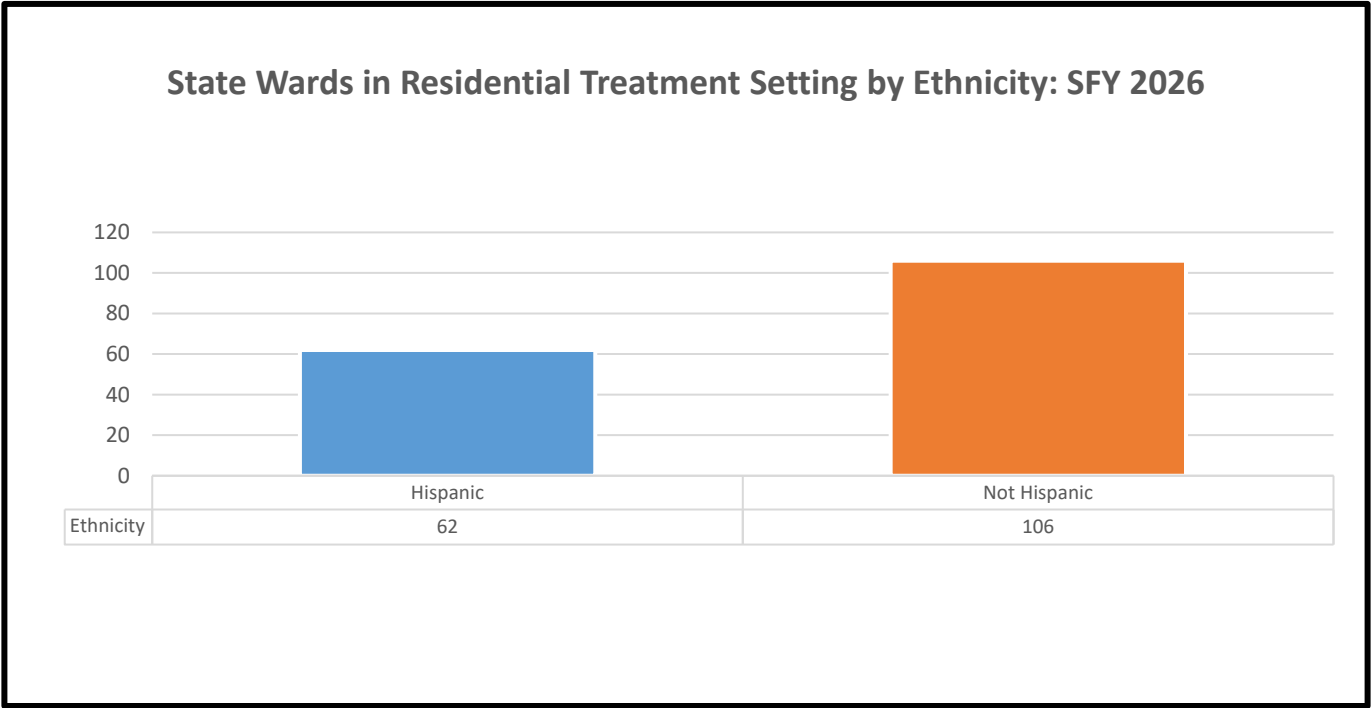


State Wards in Residential Treatment Settings by Race/Ethnicity

Data extract is from the N-FOCUS system.



* Indicates that counts are masked due to a low number (between 1-5)



b. Reasons for Placement

Below is a sample list of reasons for out-of-home placements in residential treatment centers, group homes, and other facilities:

1. Mental health
2. Drug and alcohol treatment
3. Nursing home level of care required to handle physical condition
4. Supervision and structure were needed that weren't available in the community
5. Child with a lower IQ needing sexual offender treatment
6. Transitional living group homes are not offered in the community
7. Sex offender treatment
8. Sexual victim treatment
9. Facility that can handle aggressive/assaultive behavior
10. Behavior and developmental disability needs

c. Denied Medicaid-Reimbursed Services and the Level of Placement Requested

Data was obtained from the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care for SFY 2026. The data population is from all Medicaid youth applications submitted for treatment. Data is not limited to state wards only.

United Health Care	Level Of Facility	Requests for Medicaid Placement	Medicaid Approved	Medicaid Denied	% Medicaid Denied
	PRTF	119	112	7	5.9%
	ThGH	14	11	*	21.4%
	Total	133	123	8-12	7.5%
Nebraska Total Care	Level Of Facility	Requests for Medicaid Placement	Medicaid Approved	Medicaid Denied	% Medicaid Denied
	PRTF	133	128	*	3.8%
	ThGH	18	17	*	5.6%
	Total	151	145	2-10	4.0%
Molina Healthcare of Nebraska	Level Of Facility	Requests for Medicaid Placement	Medicaid Approved	Medicaid Denied	% Medicaid Denied
	PRTF	111	93	*	2.7%
	ThGH	14	10	0	0.0%
	Total	125	103	1-5	2.4%

* Indicates that counts are masked due to a low number (between 1-5).

* PRTF is Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility, and ThGH is Therapeutic Group Home.

d. Data with Respect to Each Child in a Residential Treatment Setting

i. Length and Level of Placement After Denial

Data provided is for SFY 2026. Data was obtained from the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care. Data is not limited to the state ward population. The chart contains the mental health service activity, if any occurred, at the following points: immediately after, six months (180 days) after, and one year (365 days) after. Mental Health Services received between points are not reflected in the chart. WellCare of Nebraska had no denials.

United Health Care	Level of Care	Alternative Treatment Recommendation	Services confirmed at time of follow-up (For OP within 30 days)	6 months	12 months
	Community Treatment Aid	0	0	0	0
	Day Treatment	0	0	0	0
	Inpatient Hospitalization	*	0	0	*
	Intensive Outpatient	0	0	0	0
	Outpatient	6	*	0	*
	Partial Hospitalization	0	0	0	0
Nebraska Total Care	Level of Care	Alternative Treatment Recommendation	Services confirmed at time of follow-up (For OP within 30 days)	6 months	12 months
	Community Treatment Aid	0	0	0	0
	Day Treatment	0	0	0	0
	Inpatient Hospitalization	0	0	0	0
	Intensive Outpatient	0	0	0	0
	Outpatient	0	0	*	*
	Partial Hospitalization	0	0	0	0
Molina Healthcare of Nebraska	Level of Care	Alternative Treatment Recommendation	Services confirmed at time of follow-up (For OP within 30 days)	6 months	12 months
	Community Treatment Aid	0	0	0	0
	Day Treatment	0	0	0	0
	Inpatient Hospitalization	0	0	0	0
	Intensive Outpatient	0	0	0	0
	Outpatient	0	0	0	0
	Partial Hospitalization	0	0	0	0

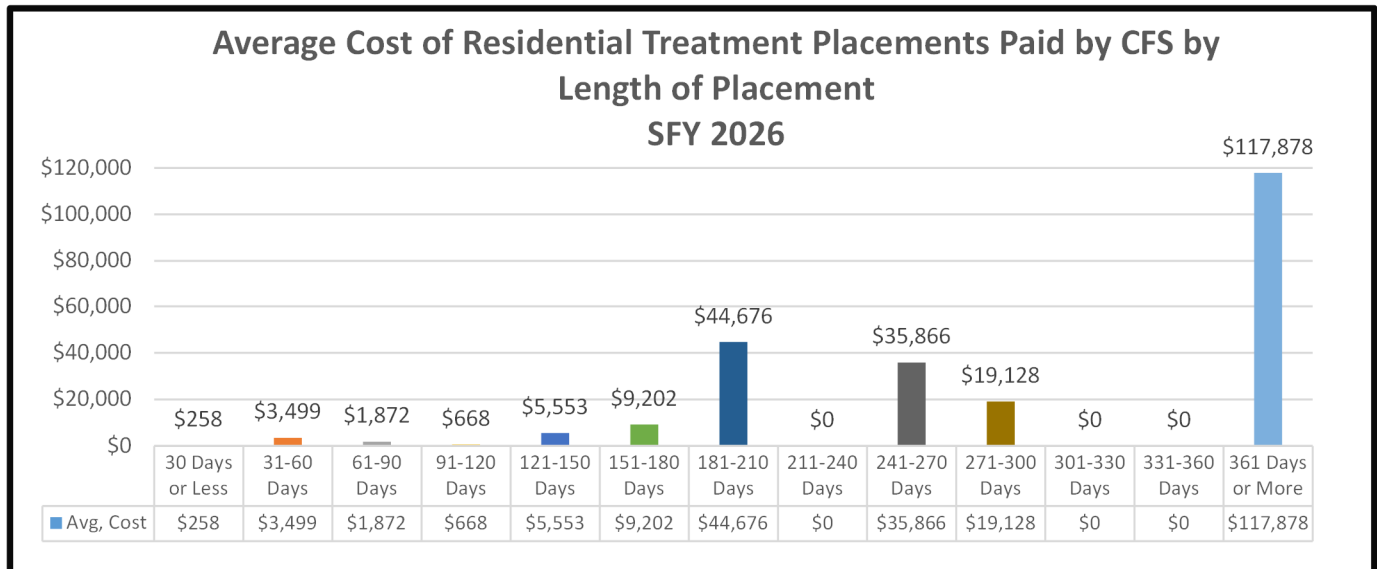
* Indicates that counts are masked due to a low number (between 1-5).

* OP is Outpatient.

ii. Funds Expended and Length of Placements

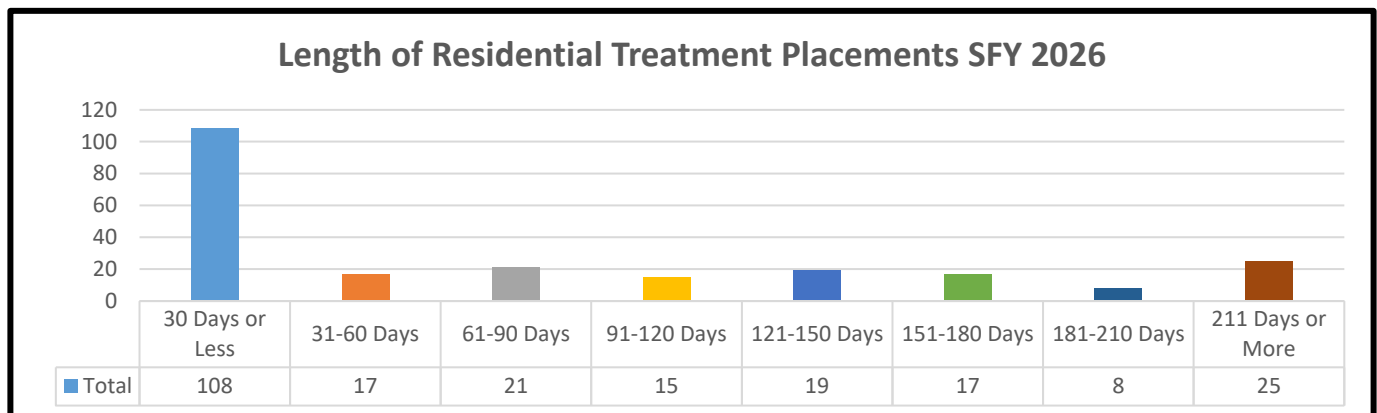
Average Cost of Residential Treatment Placements

Data includes the CFS state ward population whose placement was paid for by CFS via a letter of agreement, which is paid at the Medicaid rate. The data extract is from the N-FOCUS system.



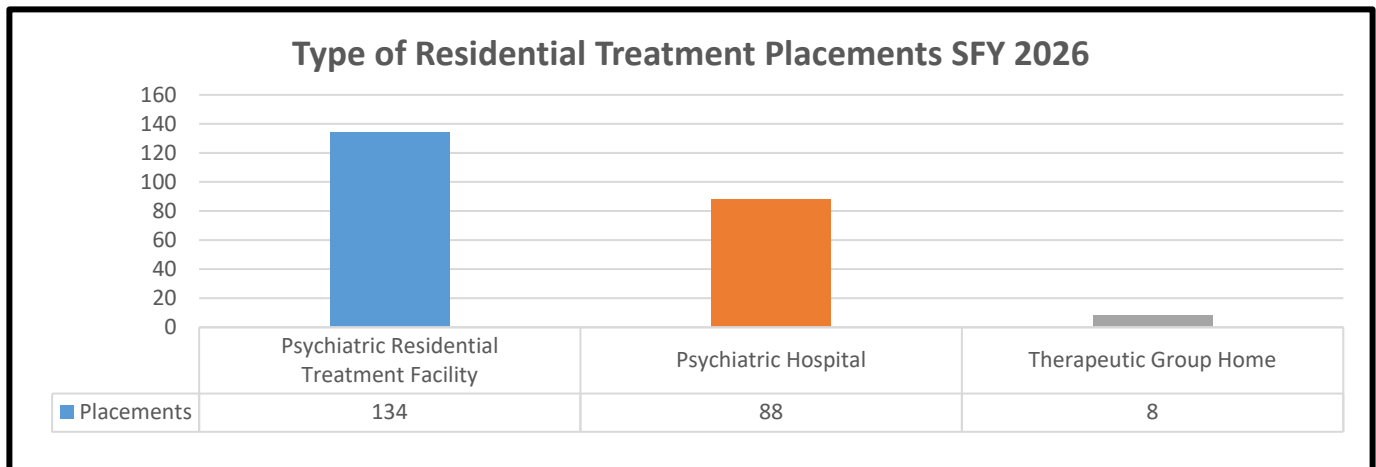
Length of Residential Treatment Placements

Data includes the CFS state ward population. Regarding the count of placements, one state ward may have more than one residential treatment placement. Data extract is from the N-FOCUS system.



iii. Number and Level of Placements

Residential treatment placement data includes the CFS state ward population. A state ward could be in more than one placement level during the time period. Data extract is from the N-FOCUS system.



iv. Facility Variables

Data includes the CFS state ward population. Data extract is from the N-FOCUS system.

Residential Treatment Facilities with Placements During SFY 2026	
Facility Type	Number of Placements
Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility	134
Psychiatric Hospital	88
Therapeutic Group Home	8
Group Total	230

v. Services that Could Prevent the Need for Residential Treatment

Identification of specific child welfare services unavailable in the child's community that, if available, could have prevented the need for residential treatment, and that, if available, could prevent out-of-state placements, including:

1. Intensive family preservation in the child's community
2. Intensive outpatient treatment-substance abuse and/or mental health
3. Intensive outpatient sex offender treatment
4. In-home multi-systemic therapy
5. Community treatment aides
6. Day treatment services for psychiatric needs
7. Treatment foster homes
8. Support services for mental health/substance abuse issues (children and parents)
9. Outpatient programs for mental health/substance abuse issues (children and parents)
10. Community support services in the child's community
11. In-home therapy providers in the child's community
12. Outpatient behavior programs
13. Parent mentors in the child's community
14. More services covered by Medicaid, and easier access to these services
15. Behavioral camp for parents and children
16. Day reporting center
17. Teenage daycare

e. Child Welfare Services that Could Prevent Out-of-State Placement:

The following unavailable child welfare services could have prevented out-of-state placements:

1. Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility
2. Group Home
3. Therapeutic Group Home

6. Referral Data

Data is unavailable for: any individual involved in the child welfare system receiving a service or a placement through DHHS or its agent for which referral is necessary, the date when such referral was made by DHHS or its agent, and the date and the method by which the individual receiving the services was notified of such referral. To the extent DHHS becomes aware of the date when individuals receiving the referral began receiving such services, DHHS or its agent shall document. Heritage Health plans can track referral dates for specialty care; however, there is no accurate methodology to track the date and the method by which the individual receiving the service was notified of such referral.

7. Sexual Abuse Allegations for Children Being Served

The number of sexual abuse allegations that occurred for children being served by CFS, and placed at a residential child-caring agency, and the number of corresponding:

1. Screening decision occurrences by category.
2. Open investigations by category; and,
3. Agency substantiations, court substantiations, and court-pending status cases.

Congregate facilities include Developmentally Disabled Group Homes, Group Homes, PRTFs, Psychiatric Hospitals, Therapeutic Group Homes, and Youth Rehabilitation Treatment Centers.

Sexual Abuse Allegations While Placed in a Congregate Facility SFY 2026	
Intake Disposition	DHHS Involved Children with Sexual Abuse Allegations
Accept	8-12
Court Pending	0
Findings not Entered	7
Unfounded	*
Additional Information	1-5
Additional Info	*
Law Enforcement	68
LE Only	68
Multiple Reporter	21
Multiple Reporter	21
Grand Total	98-106

* Indicates that counts are masked due to a low number (between 1-5)

8. Reported or Suspected Victims of Sex or Labor Trafficking

a. SFY 2026 Child Sex and Labor Trafficking Victims

SFY 2026 Child Sex and Labor Trafficking Victims	
Reported Sex Trafficking Victims	168
Reported Labor Trafficking Victims	7

b. SFY 2026 Substantiated Trafficking Victims

The charts below highlight the number of substantiated victims of sex trafficking or labor trafficking of a minor and include demographic information and information on whether DHHS has already served the children.

SFY 2026 Substantiated Trafficking Victims			
Victim Age	Prior Department Involvement		Grand Total
	Yes	No	
0-3 years	0	0	0
3-6 years	0	0	0
6-9 years	0	0	0
9-12 years	*	0	1-5
12-15 years	*	0	1-5
>15 years	*	*	2-10
Grand Total	3-15	1-5	4-20

* Indicates Cell counts of 1-5 suppressed for privacy reasons

SFY 2026 Substantiated Trafficking Victims			
Victim Race	Prior Department Involvement		Grand Total
	Yes	No	
American Indian or Alaska Native	*	*	2-10
Asian	0	0	0
Black or African American	*	0	1-5
White	*	*	2-10
Multi-Racial	0	0	0
Declined Unknown	0	*	1-5
Grand Total	3-15	3-15	6-30

* Indicates cell counts of 1-5 suppressed for privacy reasons

SFY 2026 Substantiated Trafficking Victims			
Victim Ethnicity	Prior Department Involvement		Grand Total
	Yes	No	
Hispanic	*	*	2-10
Not Hispanic or Latino	7	0	7
Unable to Determine	0	*	1-5
Grand Total	8-12	2-10	10-22

* Indicates cell counts 1-5 suppressed for privacy reasons

c. SFY 2026 Reported Trafficking Victims

The charts below include the number of children determined to be reported or suspected victims of sex trafficking or labor trafficking of a minor, including demographic information and information on whether DHHS previously served the children.

SFY 2026 Reported Trafficking Victims - Age			
	Prior Department Involvement		
Alleged Victim Age	Yes	No	Grand Total
0-3 years	0	*	1-5
3-6 years	*	*	2-10
6-9 years	6	*	7-11
9-12 years	9	*	10-14
12-15 years	22	15	37
>15 years	72	39	111
Grand Total	110-114	58-74	168-188

* Indicates cell counts of 1-5 suppressed for privacy reasons

SFY 2026 Reported Trafficking Victims - Race			
	Prior Department Involvement		
Alleged Victim Race	Yes	No	Grand Total
American Indian or Alaska Native	9	*	10-14
Asian	*	*	2-10
Black or African American	19	*	20-24
White	60	29	89
Multi-racial	14	*	15-19
Declined Unknown	8	21	29
Grand Total	111	64	168-180

* Indicates cell counts 1-5 suppressed for privacy reasons

SFY 2026 Reported Trafficking Victims - Ethnicity			
	Prior Department Involvement		
Alleged Victim Ethnicity	Yes	No	Grand Total
Hispanic or Latino	17	7	24
Not Hispanic or Latino	84	31	115
Unable to Determine	10	26	36
Grand Total	111	64	174

d. SFY 2026 Service for Families of Reported Trafficking Victims

This chart outlines the types and costs of services provided to children who are reported or suspected victims of sex trafficking or labor trafficking of a minor.

SFY 2026 Families of Reported Trafficking Victims - Services	
Service Type	Amount Paid
AGENCY SUPP FOSTER CARE	\$49,342
CLOTHING	\$941
EMERGENCY SHELTER CENTER	\$1,917
EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT	\$210
FAMILY CENTERED TREATMENT	\$3,292
FCT TREATMENT COSTS	\$5,820
GROCERY/MEAL PURCHASE	\$250
INTENSIVE FAMILY PRESERVATION TIER 1	\$8,377
INTENSIVE FAMILY PRESERVATION TIER 2	\$21,468
INTENSIVE FAMILY REUNIFICATION SERVICE – TIER 1	\$9,045
INTENSIVE PLUS – AGENCY SUPPORTED FOSTER CARE	\$768
INTENSIVE PLUS – OUT OF HOME MAINTENANCE	\$804
LOA PLACEMENT ASSESSMENT – AGENCY SUPPORTED FC	\$2,676
LOA PLACEMENT ASSESSMENT – OUT OF HOME MAINTN	\$3,730
MOTOR VEHICLE GAS	\$162
OUT OF HOME FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES	\$1,173
OUT OF HOME MAINTENANCE	\$72,164
PARENTING TIME/SUPERVISED VISITATION	\$9,648
RENT	\$1,400
REPORTING CENTER PROGRAMMING & SUPERVISION	\$473
SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION FOR CHILDREN IN PLACEMENT	\$741
SERVICE PREP – PARENTING TIME/SUPERVISED VISITATION	\$67
SPECIALIZED – AGENCY SUPPORTED FOSTER CARE	\$2,462
SPECIALIZED – OUT OF HOME MAINTENANCE	\$2,610
TRANSPORTATION COMMERCIAL	\$465
TRANSPORTATION FAMILY VISITATION	\$9,471
TRANSPORTATION YRTC	\$370
TRAVEL TIME AND DISTANCE – FAMILY SUPPORT	\$863
TRAVEL TIME AND DISTANCE – SUPERVISED VISITATION	\$6,179
TRIAGE FOSTER CARE – AGENCY SUPPORTED FOSTER CARE	\$525
TRIAGE FOSTER CARE – OUT OF HOME MAINTENANCE	\$875
Grand Total	\$218,288

e. Ongoing Cases Opened

These cases are listed by children and families involved in open cases due to allegations of sex trafficking or labor trafficking of a minor.

SFY 2026 Ongoing Cases Opened	
Children	11
Families	9

APPENDIX A

Report De-identification Standard

DHHS is a fully covered entity under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Covered entities are prohibited from the release of protected health information. As a fully covered entity, all DHHS data that is individually identifiable is protected health information, subject to HIPAA protection. Information that has been de-identified is not protected health information and can be lawfully released. HIPAA allows for two methods of de-identification: safe harbor or expert statistical analysis. De-identification under safe harbor requires the removal of 18 identifiers. When data cannot be de-identified under safe harbor, the data must be reviewed by a statistical expert to determine that it has been sufficiently de-identified.

Currently, DHHS has two roles that serve as statistical experts: the DHHS Data Officer and the DHHS Data Office Section Head. When assessing a report to determine if the information has been sufficiently de-identified, DHHS uses a probability calculation that considers the following factors:

- Data source and the associated nuances.
- Demographic characteristics, which include age, gender, race, ethnicity, and language spoken.
- Geographic location for both the service received and the residence of the person receiving services.
- Time period of the report. (If the time period of the report is shorter than a year, such as quarterly, this increases the probability of identification.)

In addition to the overarching HIPAA requirement, DHHS is subject to numerous statutory requirements that protect the identity and personal information of the youth served by DHHS. For example, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 28-725 and 28-726 require records related to child abuse and neglect reports and investigations to be confidential. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-2,108 governs the confidentiality of juvenile court and probation records. This statute specifically identifies records provided to the juvenile court by agencies and institutions as confidential record information. The same de-identification standards apply to meet the confidentiality requirement of the above-referenced statutes and the HIPAA de-identification statutes.

For these reports, the information being released (1) relates to the last quarter, (2) relates to a population that is between the ages of 14-18 years, (3) relates to a population served in three specific facilities in Nebraska, and (4) relates to incidents experienced by the population that may have occurred between one and five times during the period. The probability of identifying the individuals involved in the incidents being reported is high when using other publicly available information in combination with the information released. As such, the release of the actual number would allow for the re-identification of the individuals when the instance is between one and five. However, knowing that there were more than zero is still meaningful when interpreting this information. Masking those counts between one and five offers privacy protection for those children who were involved, while still releasing a level of meaning about those specific occurrences in the report population.