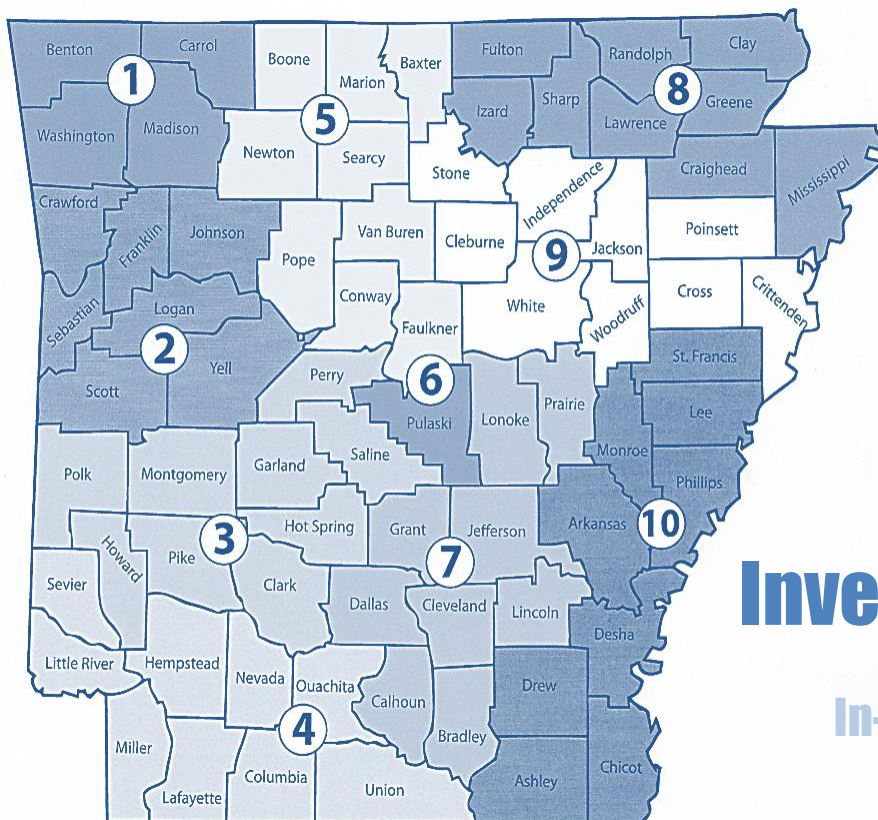


QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

4th QUARTER
SFY 2024

April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024



Investigations

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

In-home Protective Services

ADOPTIONS

**Differential Response
Foster Care**

Produced for
Arkansas Department of Human Services
Division of Children and Family Services
by
Evident Change

Table of Contents

Reports of Child Maltreatment	1
Volume and Description of Child Maltreatment Reports	1
Meeting Agency Policies	4
Benefits to Children and Families	6
In-Home Services	7
Volume and Description of Cases	7
Meeting Agency Policies	8
Benefits to Children and Families	9
Foster Care	10
Volume and Description of Cases	10
Meeting Agency Policies	13
Benefits to Children and Families	15
Adoption	16
Volume and Description of Cases	16
Meeting Agency Policies	17
Benefits to Children and Families	18
Resources	19
Caseworkers and Caseloads	19
Foster Homes	20
Appendices	23
<i>Appendix A: Breakdown of Child Maltreatment Reports</i> Received During the Quarter and Substantiation Rates of Maltreatment Investigations	23
<i>Appendix B: Average Caseload by County</i>	24
<i>Appendix C: Foster Home Closure Reasons</i>	25
<i>Appendix D: Summary of Foster Care Maltreatment Reports</i>	27

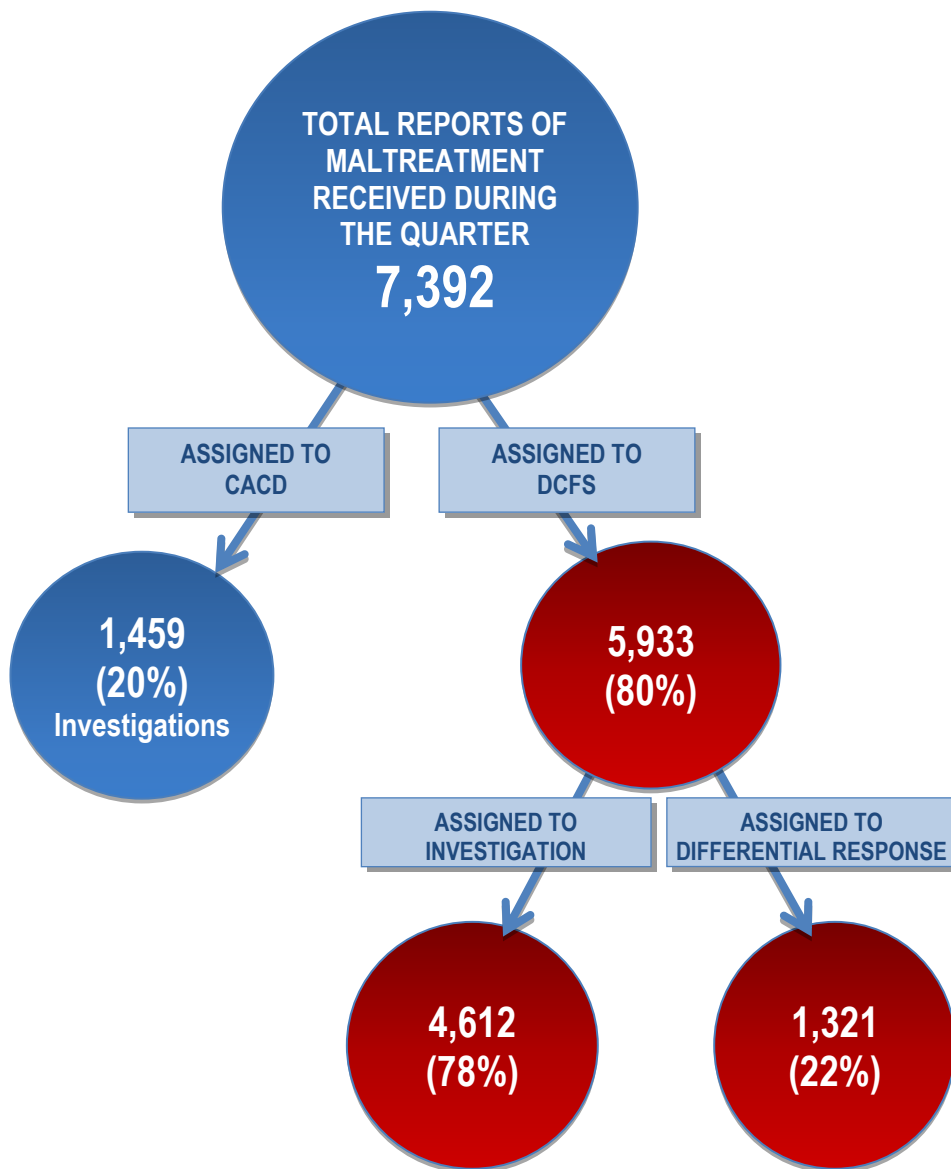
Reports of Child Maltreatment

Quick Facts

Volume and Description of Child Maltreatment Reports

Volume of Incoming Reports

Maltreatment Reports Received During
4th Quarter SFY 2024



Of the 7,392 reports of child maltreatment accepted by the Arkansas Child Abuse Hotline during the fourth quarter, 80 percent were assigned to DCFS and 20 percent were assigned to the Crimes Against Children Division (CACD) of the Arkansas State Police, which is responsible for investigating the most serious allegations of maltreatment.

Of the reports assigned to DCFS, 78 percent were assigned for an investigation and 22 percent were handled through differential response (DR).

DR allows the Division to respond to specific, low-risk maltreatment reports through a family assessment and provision of services rather than a traditional investigation.

The following types of allegations can qualify for DR:

- Inadequate supervision if children are at least five
- Environmental neglect if children are at least three
- Medical neglect if children are at least thirteen
- Lock out if children are at least ten
- Inadequate food, inadequate shelter, inadequate clothing, or educational neglect with no age restrictions
- Certain allegations of abuse where the incident occurred at least one year prior to the report date

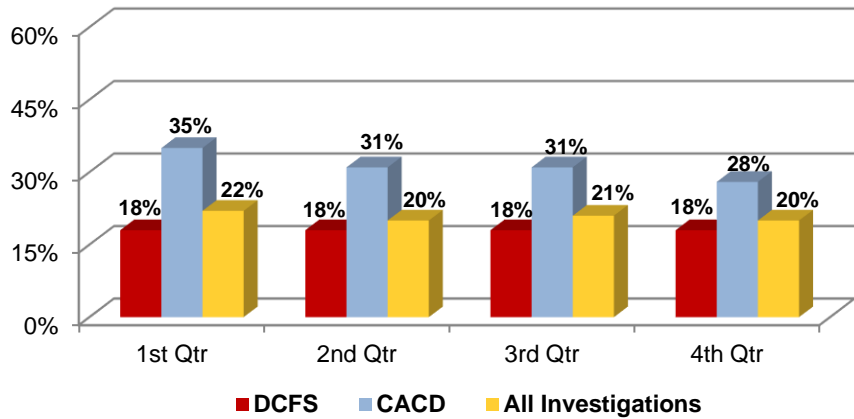
Quick Facts

Findings of Child Maltreatment Investigations

Eighteen percent of the investigations assigned to DCFS during the fourth quarter were found true, compared to 28 percent for CACD. The overall substantiation rate stood at 20 percent.

Appendix A provides further detail on the number of referrals accepted for investigation and those found true in the most recent quarter.

Percentage of Investigations Found True



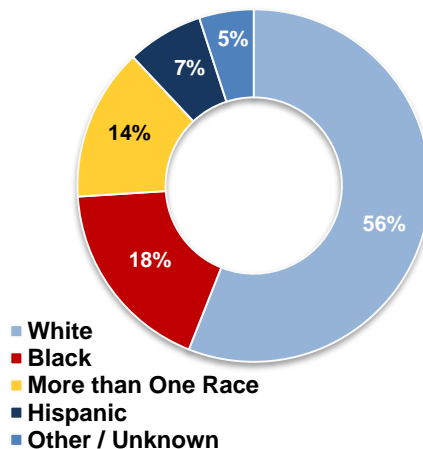
Characteristics of Children Involved in True Investigations

There were 1,596 victim children involved in substantiated maltreatment investigations during the quarter.

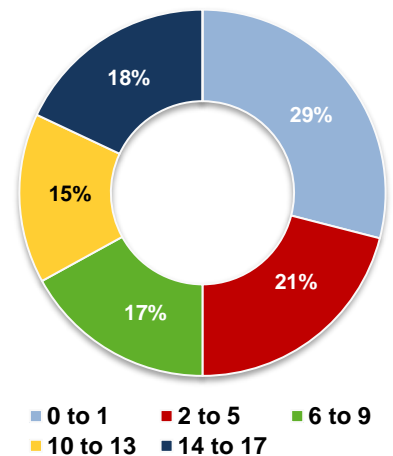
Of those children, 56 percent were white, 18 percent were black, and 14 percent were multiracial. Half (50 percent) were under six years of age.

The majority of victim children (54 percent) were female.

Race/Ethnicity of Children in True Reports



Age of Children in True Reports



Types of Allegations in True Investigations

Neglect was the most commonly reported allegation for the 1,596 victim children, followed by allegations of physical abuse and sexual abuse.

Percentage of Children in True Allegations of Maltreatment

	Number of Children Cited in True Allegation	Percentage of Children Cited in True Allegation
Neglect	1,048	66%
Physical Abuse	390	24%
Sexual Abuse	307	19%
Sexual Exploitation	38	2%
Abandonment	17	1%

A child may have more than one allegation.

Quick Facts

Reports Involving Fatalities or Near Fatalities

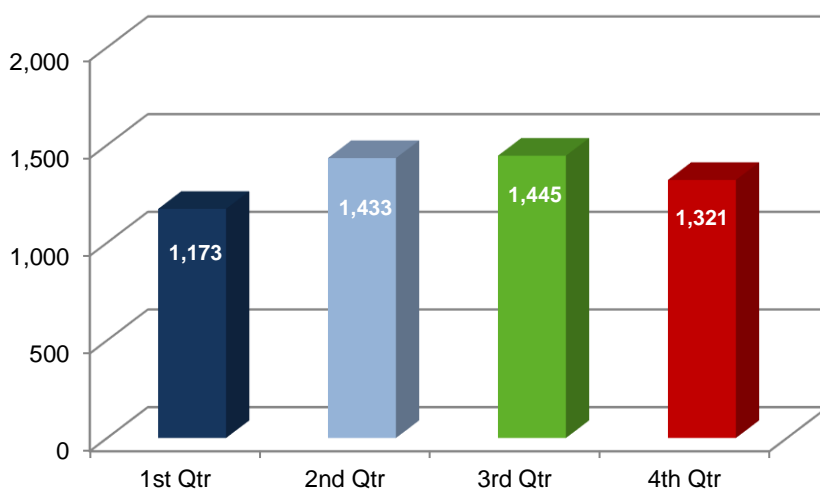
Findings of Maltreatment Reports Involving Fatalities or Near Fatalities		
Finding	Child Fatality	Child Near Fatality
True	6	5
Unsubstantiated	2	0
Inactive	0	0
Pending	6	1

During the fourth quarter, there were 14 maltreatment investigations of child fatalities. Of those, six were found true, two were unsubstantiated, and six were still pending.

Over the same period, there were six investigations of near fatalities. Five were found true, and one was pending.

Reports Assigned for Differential Response (DR)

Number of Reports Assigned for Differential Response



The number of reports assigned for DR during the fourth quarter (1,321) decreased by nearly nine percent from the previous quarter.

Quick Facts

Meeting Agency Policies

Timeliness of Initiating Investigations

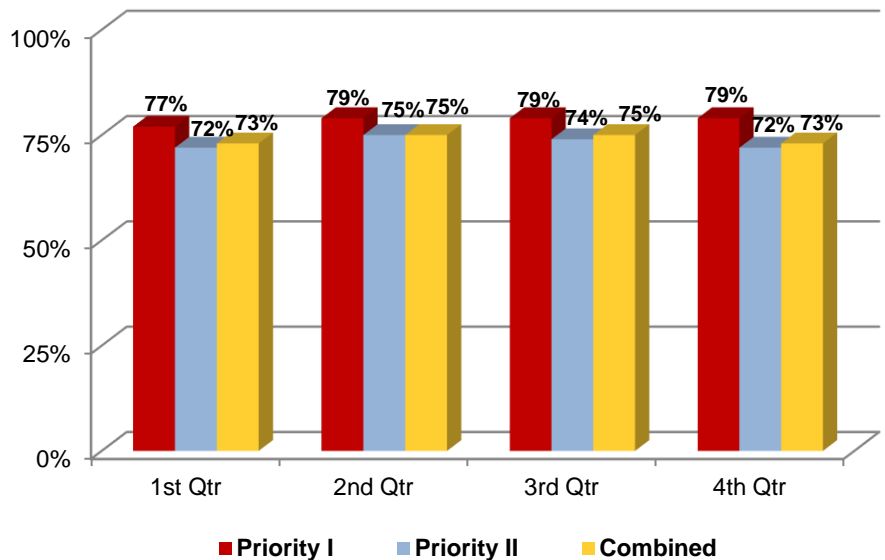
The law requires reports of maltreatment to be initiated within 24 hours of receipt of a Priority I report or within 72 hours for a Priority II report.

Priority I reports cite more severe allegations while Priority II reports cite comparatively less serious allegations.

Initiation occurs when all victim children are interviewed or observed (if too young for an interview) within the designated timeframes.

DCFS initiated 73 percent of its investigations on time during the fourth quarter, slightly lower than its performance during the previous quarter.

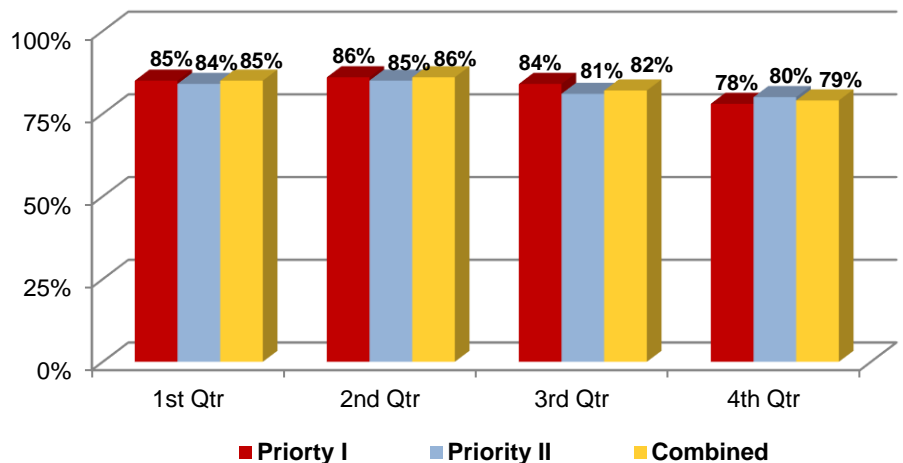
Timely Initiation of Child Maltreatment Assessments (DCFS Only)



Timeliness of Completing Investigations

DCFS completed 79 percent of its investigations on time (within 45 days of receipt of the report) during the quarter, less than its performance during the previous quarter (82 percent).

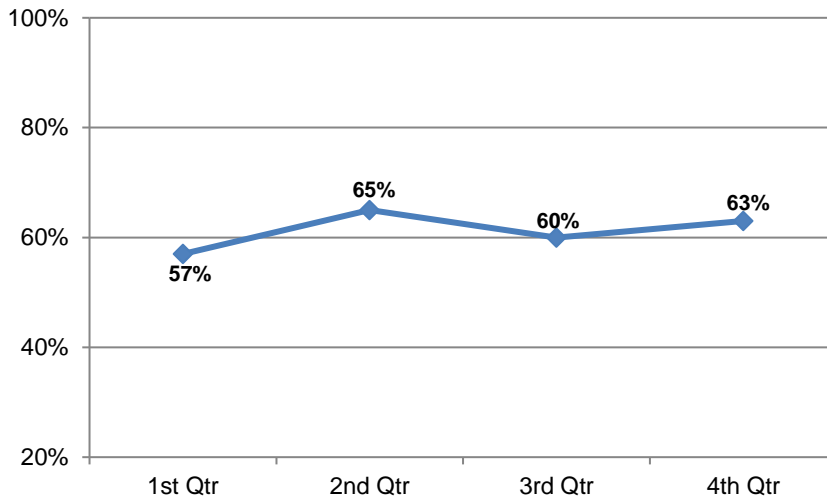
Timely Completion of Child Maltreatment Assessments (DCFS Only)



Quick Facts

Timeliness of Initiating Reports Assigned to DR

Timely Initiation of DR Reports

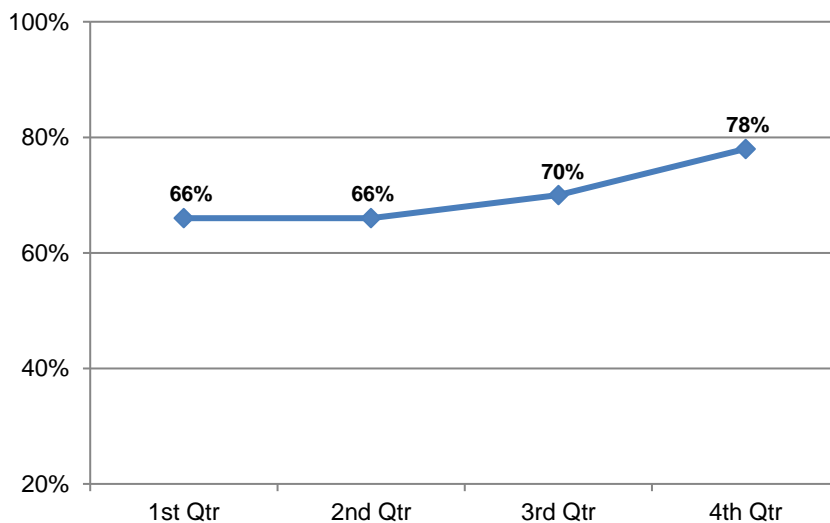


DR referrals must be initiated within 72 hours of receipt of the report.

DCFS initiated 63 percent of its DR reports on time during the fourth quarter, higher than its performance during the previous quarter (60 percent).

Timeliness of Completing Reports Assigned to DR

Timely Closure of DR Reports



Reports assigned to DR must be closed within 30 days of receipt of the report. In certain instances where the family's needs necessitate longer involvement, two 15-day extensions can be granted, for a total of 60 days.

The Division closed 78 percent of DR reports on time during the fourth quarter, taking into account reports in which extensions were granted.

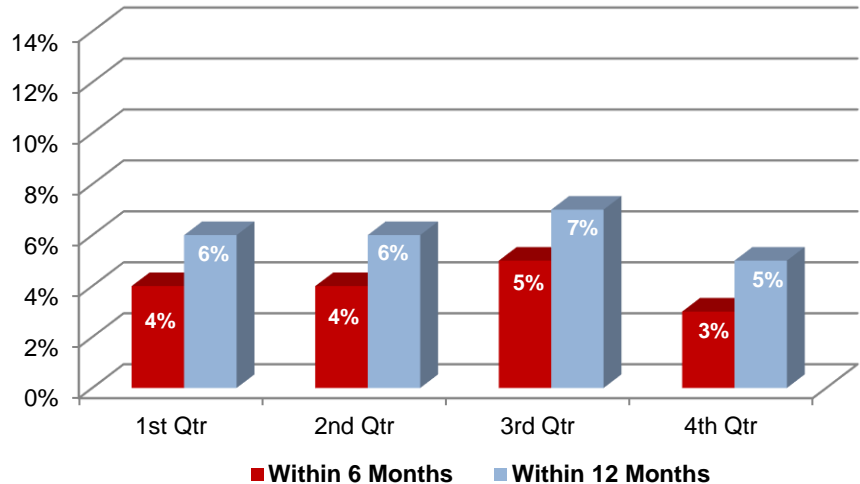
Quick Facts

Benefits to Children and Families

Preventing the Recurrence of Maltreatment

Five percent of the victim children involved in true investigations during the fourth quarter of SFY 2023 experienced a recurrence of maltreatment within 12 months. Three percent experienced a recurrence of maltreatment within six months.

Recurrence of Maltreatment within 6 and 12 Months

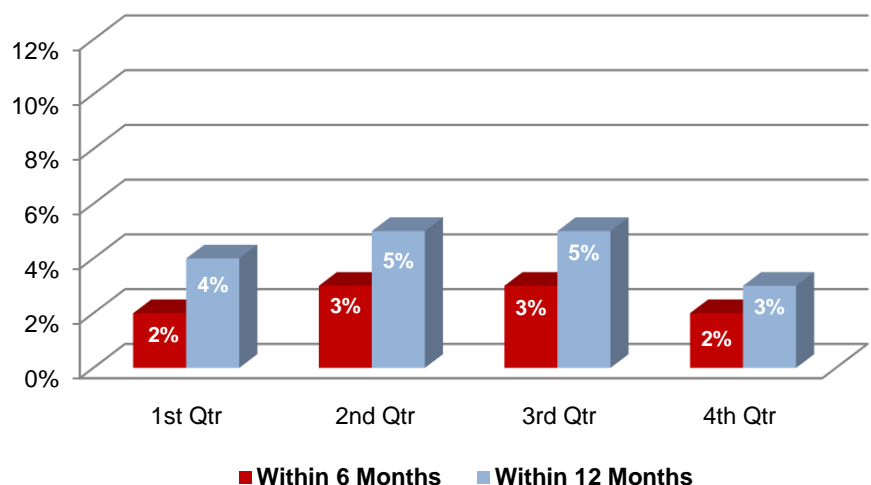


The National Standard for recurrence within 12 months is 9.1 percent or less

Recurrence of Maltreatment Among Families Who Received DR Services

Three percent of the children who began receiving DR services during the fourth quarter of SFY 2023 were involved in a true investigation of child maltreatment within 12 months, and two percent were involved within six months.

Involvement in True Maltreatment Reports within 6 and 12 Months of Receiving DR Services

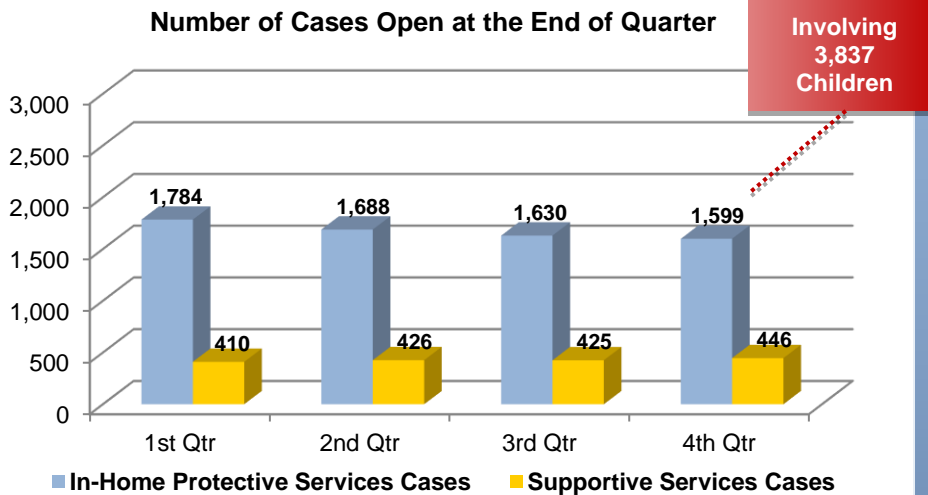


In-Home Services

Quick Facts

Volume and Description of Cases

Volume of Cases

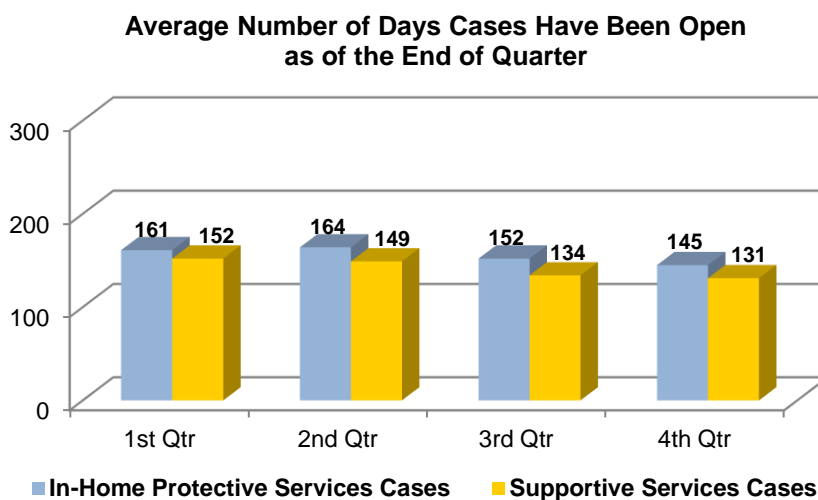


In most instances, DCFS offers in-home services through a protective services case, which is opened when a true maltreatment report or court order necessitates DCFS' involvement with a family but there is not an immediate threat to any child's safety in the home.

The number of in-home protective services cases decreased slightly during the quarter. There were 1,599 in-home protective services cases, involving 3,837 children, open across the state at the end of the quarter.

The Division also offers in-home supportive services to families on a voluntary basis. DCFS was responsible for 446 supportive services cases at the end of the quarter.

Length of Time Cases Have Been Open



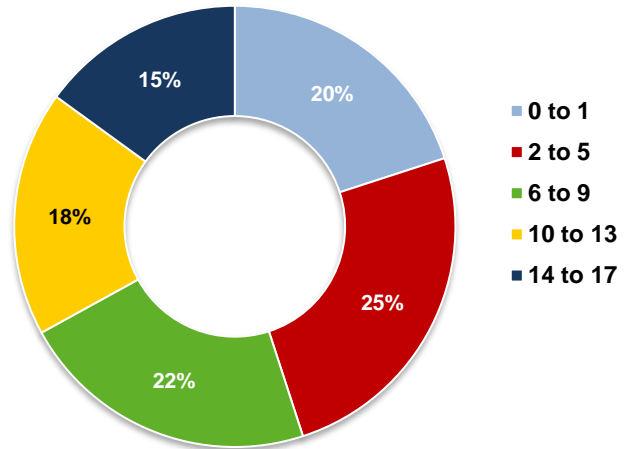
In-home protective services cases that were active as of the end of the quarter had been open, on average, for almost five months. Supportive services cases had been open, on average, for nearly four and one-half months.

Quick Facts

Age of Children in In-Home Protective Services Cases

Over half (55 percent) of the children involved in in-home protective services cases at the end of the quarter were ages six or older.

Age of Children in In-Home Cases



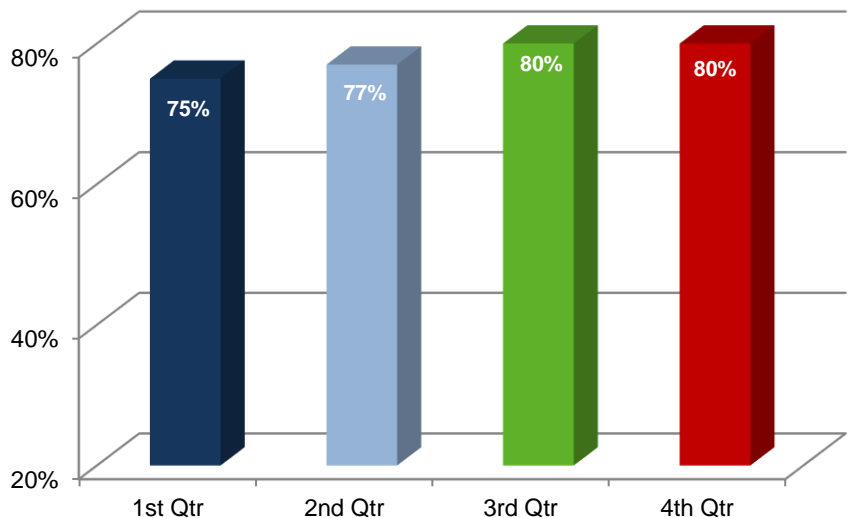
Meeting Agency Policies

Monthly Visits to In-Home Protective Services Cases

Families with an open in-home protective services case must receive a face-to-face visit from a caseworker each month. Caseworkers made 80 percent of these required visits during the fourth quarter.

This is identical to the in-home visitation rate observed for the previous quarter. The Division's goal is 85 percent.

Required Monthly Visits to In-Home Cases

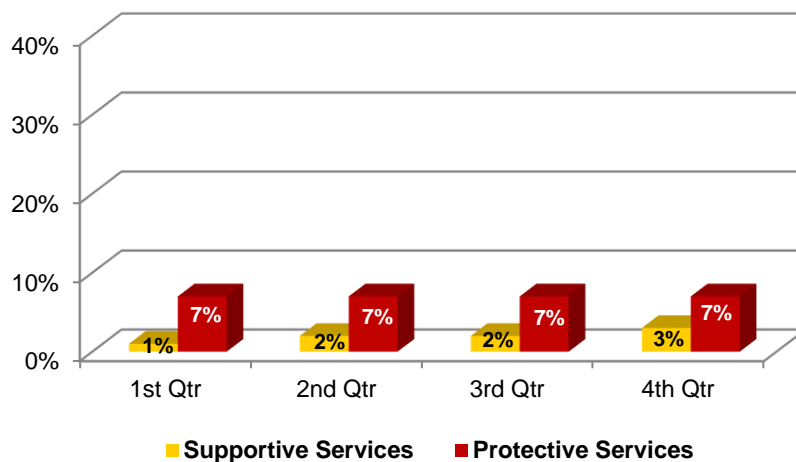


Quick Facts

Benefits to Children and Families

Victimization Rate Among Children Who Received Protective and Supportive Services

Percentage of Children Receiving Supportive and Protective Services who were Abused or Neglected within One Year of the Initiation of Service

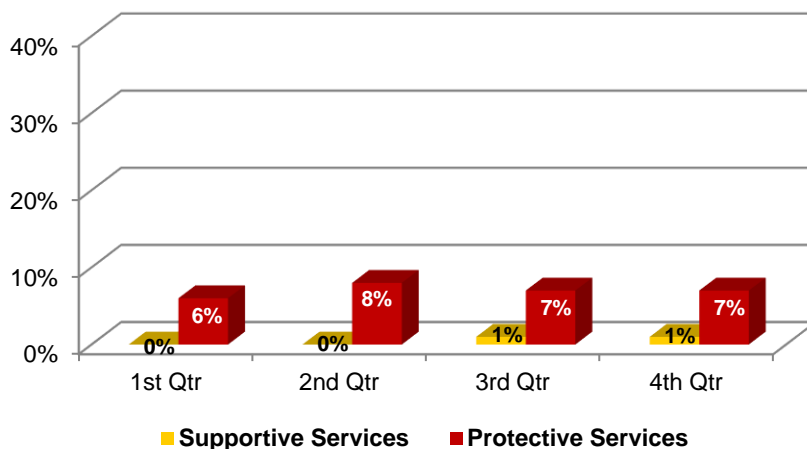


The percentage of children involved in a protective services case who were maltreated within one year of service initiation was seven percent for the fourth quarter.

The rate of maltreatment for children involved through a supportive services case was three percent for the fourth quarter.

Rate of Entry Into Foster Care Among Children Who Received Protective and Supportive Services

Percentage of Children Receiving Supportive or Protective Services who Entered Foster Care within One Year of the Initiation of Service



Of the children who began receiving protective services during the fourth quarter one year ago, seven percent entered foster care within one year of the initiation of those services.

One percent of the children who began receiving supportive services during the same timeframe entered care within one year.

In-home services prevent the vast majority of children from being re-victimized or entering foster care within one year.

Quick Facts

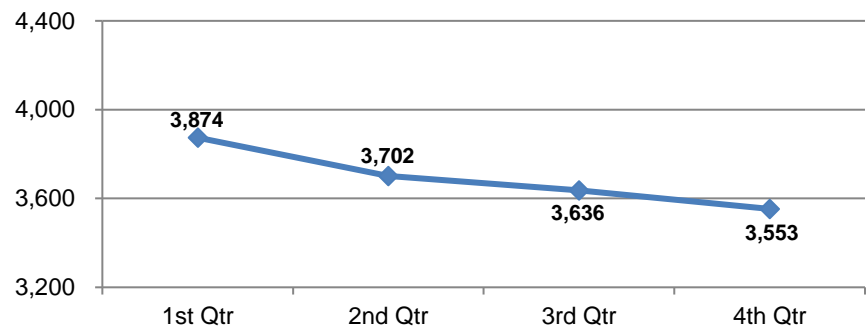
Foster Care

Volume and Description of Cases

Number of Children in Foster Care

There were 3,553 children in foster care at the end of the fourth quarter of SFY 2024, a decrease of two percent from the previous quarter (3,636).

Number of Children in Foster Care

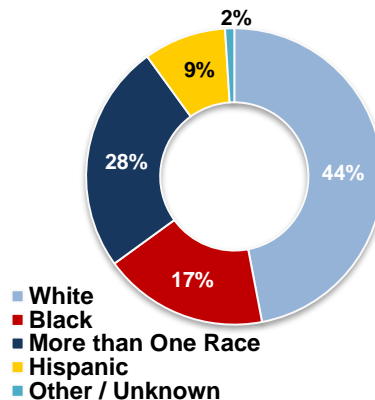


Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

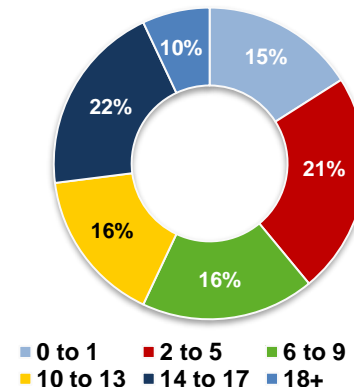
At the end of the quarter, children ages five years or younger made up 36 percent of all children in foster care. Forty-four percent of those in care were white, 28 percent were multiracial, and 17 percent were black.

Of the children in foster care at the end of the quarter, 50 percent were male and 50 percent were female.

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Care at the End of Quarter



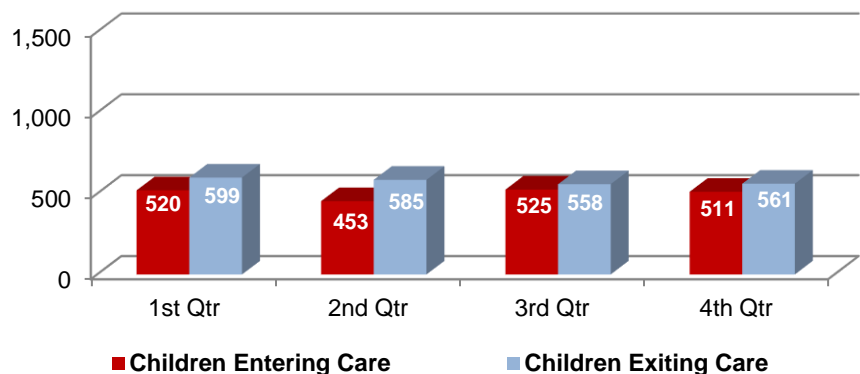
Age of Children in Care at the End of the Quarter



Admissions Into and Discharges From Foster Care

More children exited foster care during the fourth quarter than had entered.

Number of Admissions into and Discharges from Foster Care During the Quarter



Quick Facts

Reasons for Children's Entry Into Foster Care

Reasons for Children's Entry Into Foster Care 4th Quarter SFY 2024

Placement Reason	Number of Entries	Total
Neglect	264	52%
Substance Abuse	210 ¹	41%
Parent Incarceration	102	20%
Inadequate Housing	78	15%
Physical Abuse	73	14%
Caretaker Illness	23	5%
Abandonment	22	4%
Sexual Abuse	21	4%
Child's Behavior	16	3%
Court Ordered Foster Care in FINS Case	11	2%
All Other Reasons	24	5%

A child may have more than one reason for entry.

Neglect and substance abuse were the most common reasons for children entering foster care during the fourth quarter, similar to the previous quarter.

Reasons for Children's Discharge from Foster Care

Reasons for Children's Discharge from Foster Care 4th Quarter SFY 2024

Discharge Reason	Number of Discharges	Total
Reunification	246	44%
Adoption	166	29%
Guardianship	49	9%
Relative Custody	44	8%
Child Aged Out	37	6%
Non-Custodial Parent Custody	11	2%
Non-Relative Custody	4	1%
All Other Reasons	4	1%

National data² indicate that the three most prevalent reasons children leave care are reunification (46%), adoption (27%), and guardianship (11%).

Forty-four percent of the children who left foster care during the quarter were reunified with their own family, and 29 percent were adopted.

Overall, 93 percent of the children exiting care in Arkansas achieved permanency either by returning home or via discharge to relatives, an adoptive home, or another permanent living arrangement.

¹ These 210 cases of substance abuse include 184 instances of parental drug abuse, 21 instances of parental alcohol abuse, and 5 instances of drug abuse by children.

² National data from the Children's Bureau (May 2023).

Quick Facts

Length of Stay in Foster Care

Of the children in foster care at the end of the fourth quarter, 57 percent had been in care for 12 months or longer.

Placements of Children in Foster Care

Overall, 76 percent of the children in foster care at the end of the quarter resided in a family-like setting (i.e., relative placement, foster family home, therapeutic foster home, trial home visit, pre-adoptive home).

Seven percent resided in congregate care, which represents placement in a qualified residential treatment program (QRTP), residential treatment care or residential care only program, or emergency shelter.

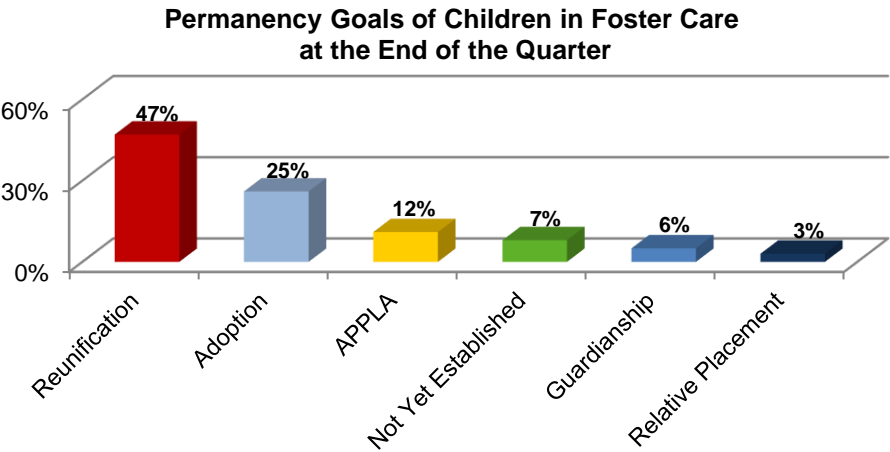
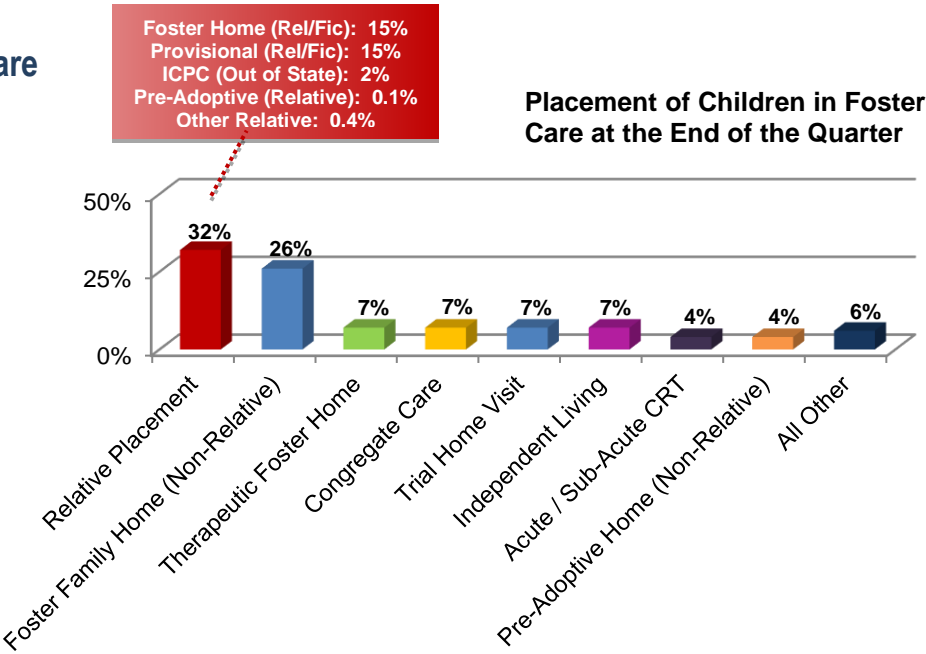
Permanency Goals of Children in Foster Care

Forty-seven percent of the children in care at the end of the quarter had a permanency goal of reunification (return home) and 25 percent had a goal of adoption.

These figures differ slightly from national data from the Children’s Bureau as of May 2023, with averages of 52 percent for reunification and 28 percent for adoption.

Length of Stay in Foster Care for Children in Care
4th Quarter SFY 2024

Length of Stay	Number	Percentage	National
Less than 30 days	122	3%	4%
1-3 Months	315	9%	18%
3-6 Months	404	11%	
6-12 Months	712	20%	18%
12-24 Months	908	26%	26%
24-36 Months	421	12%	14%
36+ Months	671	19%	20%
Total	3,553	100%	100%



Quick Facts

Meeting Agency Policies

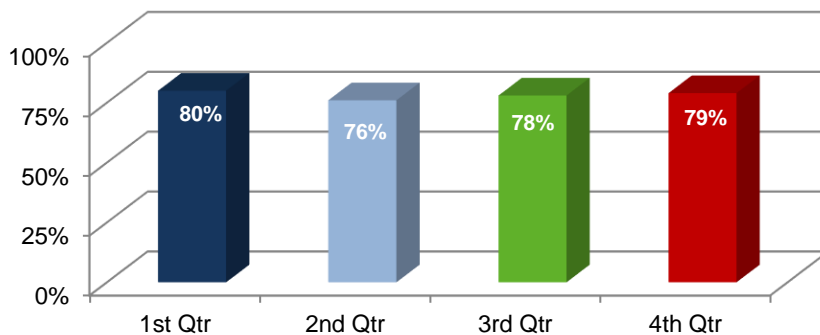
Monthly Visits to Children in Foster Care

To ensure their safety and well-being, best practice requires children in care to be visited in their placement by a caseworker monthly (measured in this chart). The Division's goal is 95 percent.

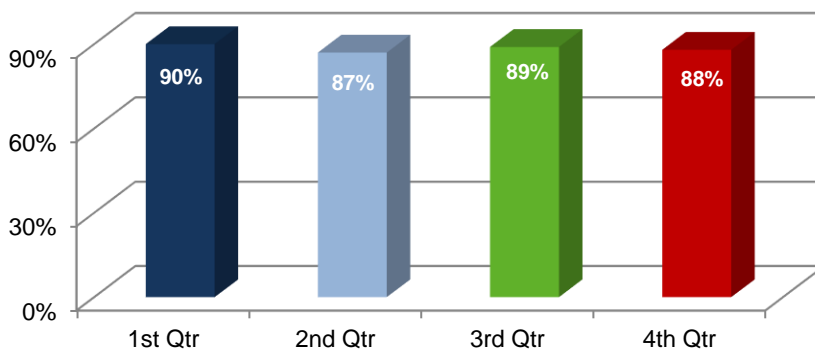
DCFS caseworkers made 79 percent of their required monthly face-to-face visits with children in care during the fourth quarter. This was in line with the visitation rates observed for previous quarters.

Eighty-eight percent of the foster children received a monthly face-to-face contact from *any* DCFS staff member, regardless of the staff member's position, location of the visit, or the purpose.

Children in Care who Received Monthly Face-to-Face Visits by Caseworkers

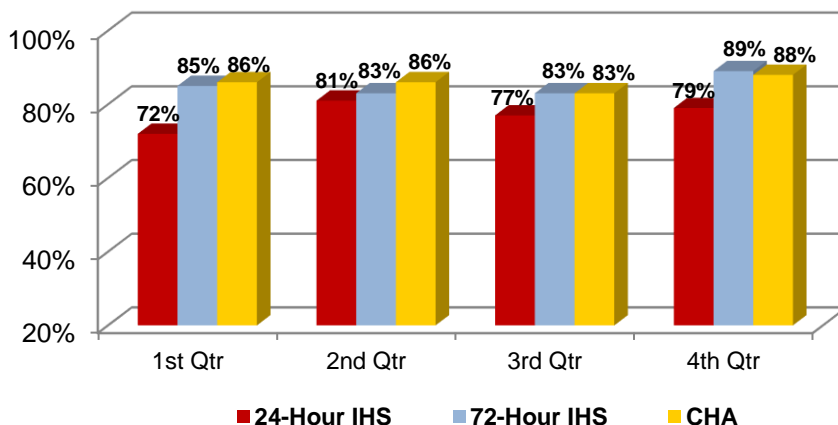


Children in Care who Received Monthly Face-to-Face Visits from Any DCFS Staff



Initial Health Screenings and Comprehensive Health Assessments

24-Hour and 72-Hour Initial Health Screenings and Comprehensive Health Assessments



When a child enters foster care due to an allegation of severe maltreatment, DCFS must conduct an Initial Health Screening (IHS) within 24 hours. All other incoming foster children require an initial screening within 72 hours.

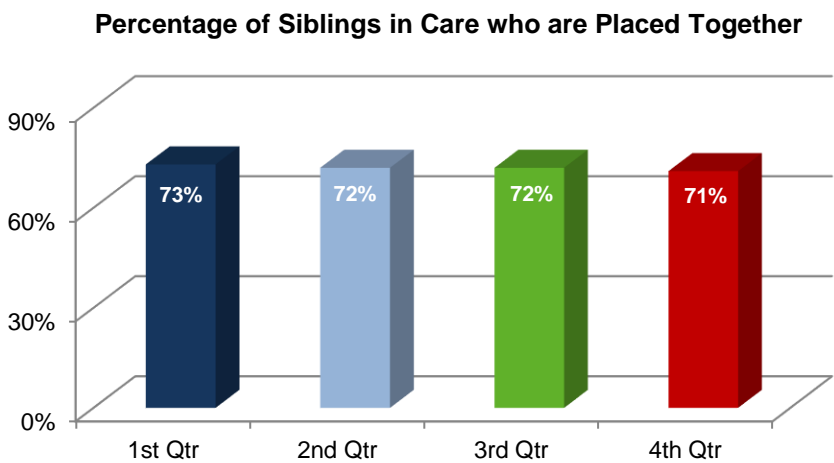
Children must also receive a Comprehensive Health Assessment (CHA) within 60 days of entering foster care.

Quick Facts

Siblings in Care Who Are Placed Together

At the end of the quarter, 71 percent of the children with siblings in foster care were placed with at least one of their siblings, while 51 percent were placed with all of their siblings.

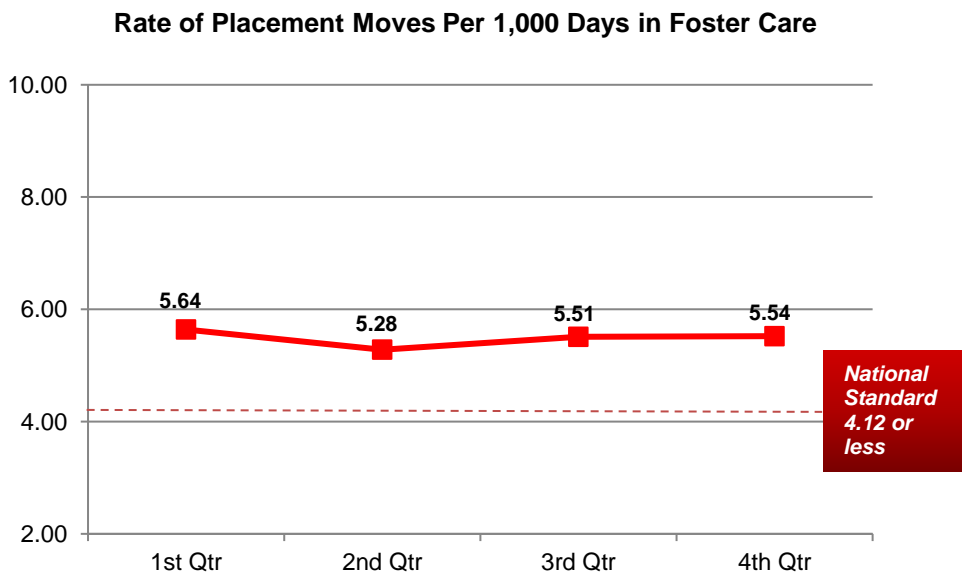
These figures do not exclude children who were placed separately for valid reasons such as safety issues or court orders.



Placement Stability of Children in Foster Care

Placement stability is measured by the rate of placement moves per 1,000 days in foster care for children who enter care over a 12-month period.

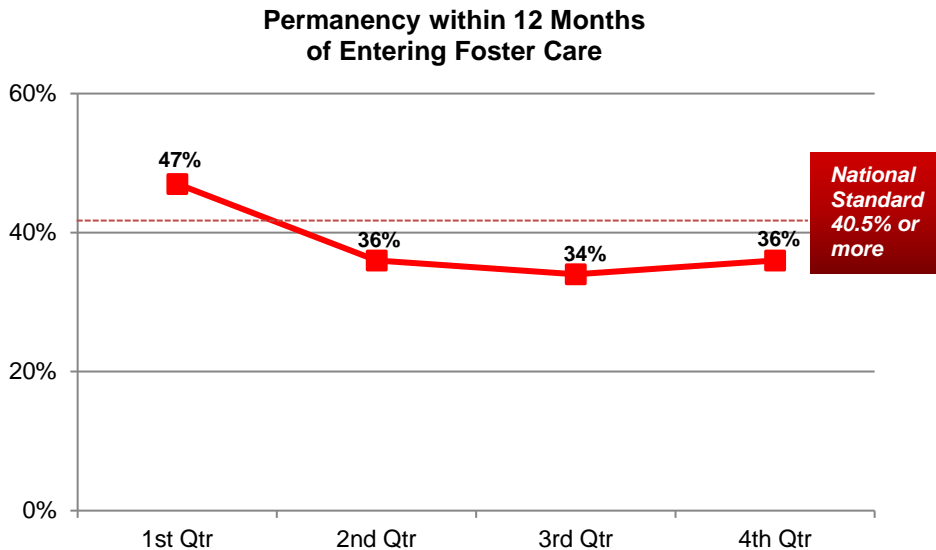
For the fourth quarter, the placement stability rate was 5.54, similar to the rates observed for previous quarters. The national standard is 4.12.



Quick Facts

Benefits to Children and Families

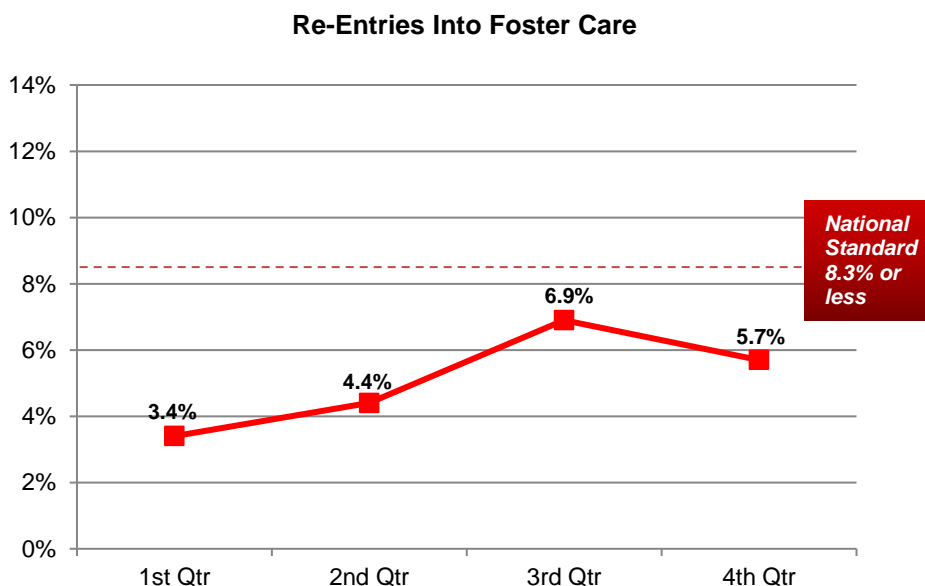
Achieving Permanency Within Twelve Months



The national standard is for 40.5 percent of all children entering foster care to achieve permanency (i.e., exiting foster care to a permanent living situation) within 12 months of removal. Discharges from foster care due to reunification, relative custody, non-custodial parent custody, guardianship, adoption, and non-relative custody are considered to be permanent living situations.

For the fourth quarter of SFY 2024, 36 percent of the children entering care in Arkansas achieved permanency within 12 months. This is lower than the national standard.

Preventing Children's Re-Entry Into Foster Care



Less than six percent of children who had reunited with their families re-entered foster care within 12 months of discharge for the fourth quarter of SFY 2024. This is less than the national standard (8.3 percent).

Quick Facts

Adoption

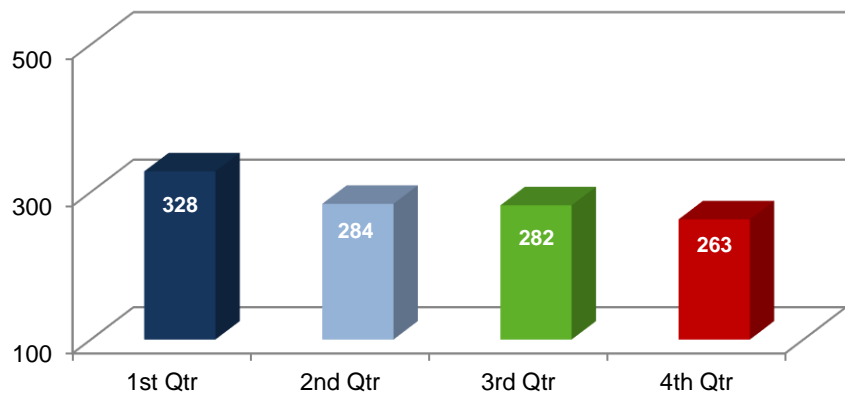
Volume and Description of Cases

Children Available for Adoption³

At the end of the fourth quarter, 263 children were available for adoption.

DCFS estimates that it has identified a possible pre-adoptive placement for approximately 20 percent of the children available for adoption.

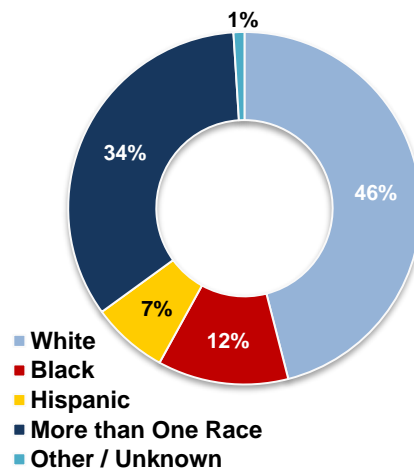
Number of Children Available for Adoption at the End of the Quarter



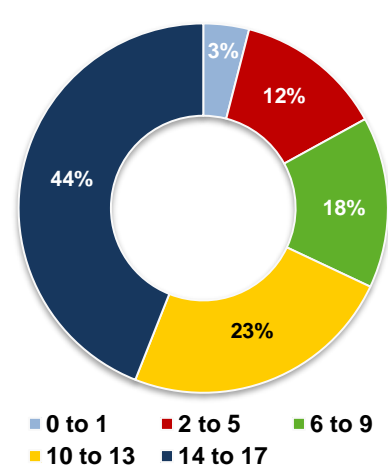
Characteristics of Children Available for Adoption

Of the available children, 46 percent were white, 34 percent were multiracial, and 12 percent were black. Children ages ten and older made up 67 percent of the children available for adoption.

Race/Ethnicity of Children Available for Adoption



Age of Children Available for Adoption



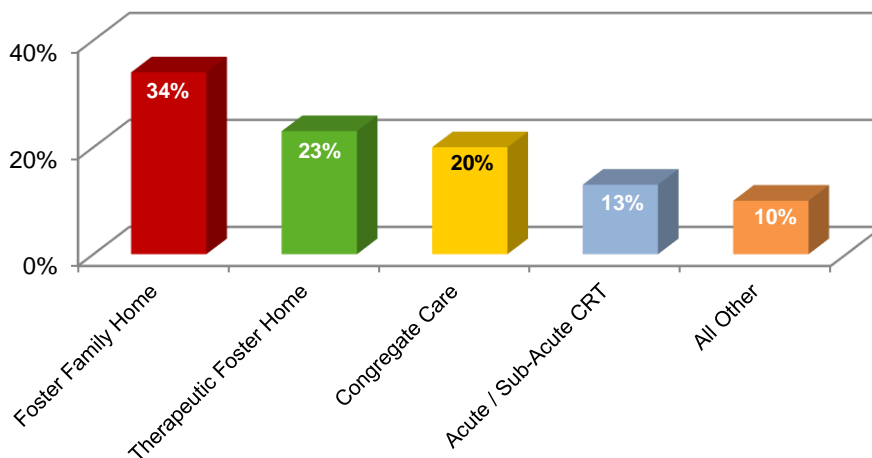
³ Children available for adoption are defined as those who (1) have a termination of parental rights on both parents, (2) have a permanency goal of adoption, and (3) are not placed with relatives, fictive kin, or a pre-adoptive family.

Quick Facts

Placement of Children Available for Adoption

Fifty-seven percent of the children available for adoption resided in either a foster family home or therapeutic foster home at the end of the quarter.

Placement of Children Available for Adoption at the End of the Quarter

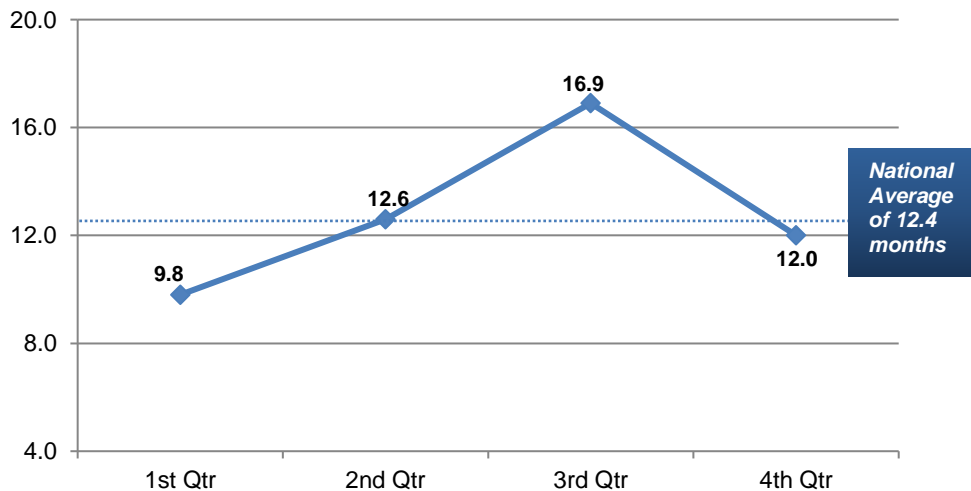


Meeting Agency Policies

Length of Time to Adoption

Arkansas' average length of time from termination of parental rights (TPR) until adoption finalization was 12 months during the quarter, five months shorter than the previous quarter and less than the national average (12.4 months).

Length of Time From TPR to Finalization of Adoption (Months)



Quick Facts

Benefits to Children and Families

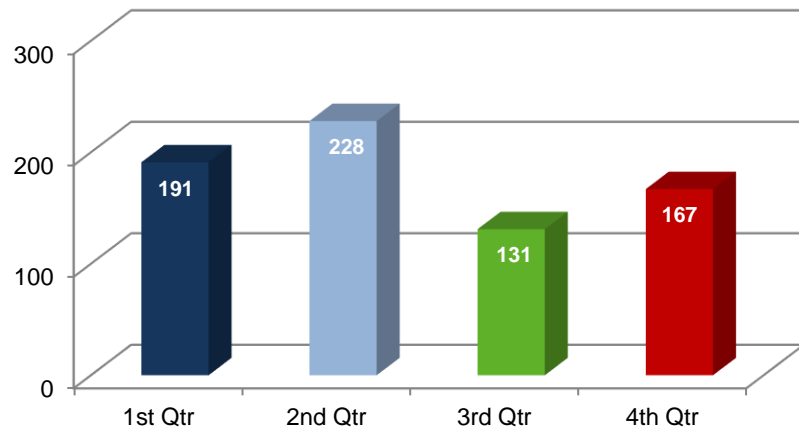
Finalized Adoptions

One-hundred and sixty-seven adoptions were finalized during the fourth quarter of SFY 2024.

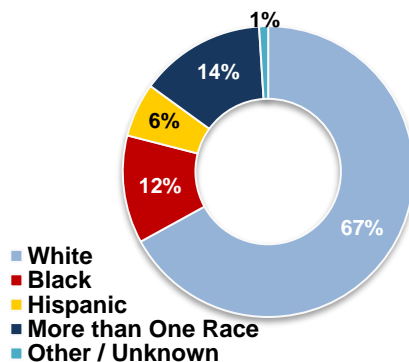
Of those adoptions, 37 percent were finalized by relatives.

Children ages two to five made up the largest group (39 percent) among those adopted during the quarter, followed by those ages six to nine (23 percent).

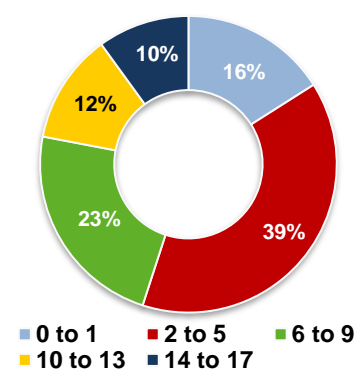
Number of Adoptions Finalized During the Quarter



Race/Ethnicity of Children with Finalized Adoption



Age of Children with Finalized Adoption



Subsidized Adoptions

Subsidies are given to children with special needs, defined as:

- Caucasian and over nine
- Healthy child of color and at least two years of age
- Member of any sibling group placed together, sharing at least one biological parent, who develop a bond
- Children who have severe medical or psychological needs that require ongoing treatment
- Children at high risk for the development of serious physical, mental, or emotional conditions documented by a medical professional

During the fourth quarter, **184** children began receiving adoption subsidies. Of those, 178 were federally funded subsidies and 6 were state funded subsidies.

During the quarter, a total of **8,297** children received adoption subsidies.



Resources

Quick Facts

Caseworkers and Caseloads

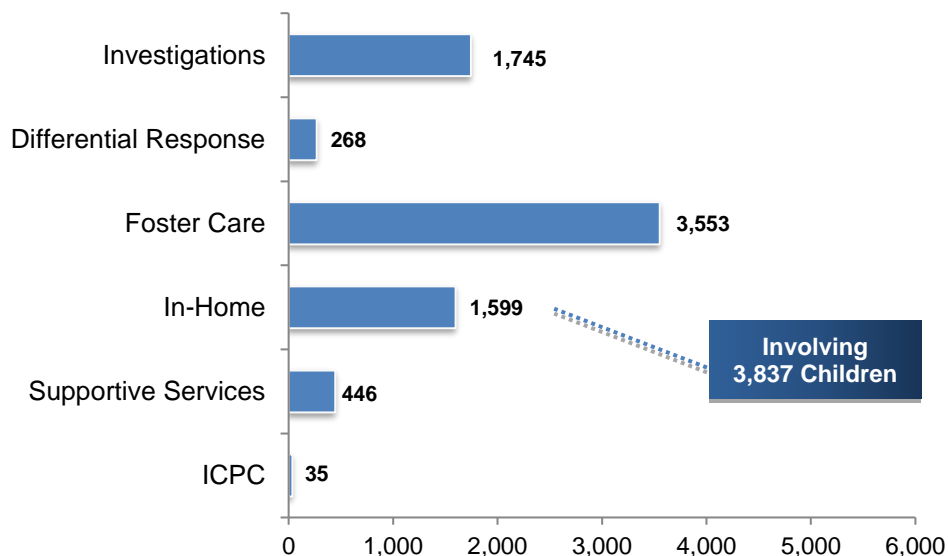
Caseloads at the End of the Quarter

At the end of the fourth quarter, the Division was responsible for:

- 1,745 investigations of child maltreatment and 268 DR cases;
- 3,553 foster care cases;
- 1,599 in-home protective services cases, involving 3,837 children;
- 446 supportive services cases and 35 interstate compact for the placement of children (ICPC) cases.

This is while the Division was staffed with 396 family service workers who were responsible for handling these cases.

Types of Cases at the End of the Quarter



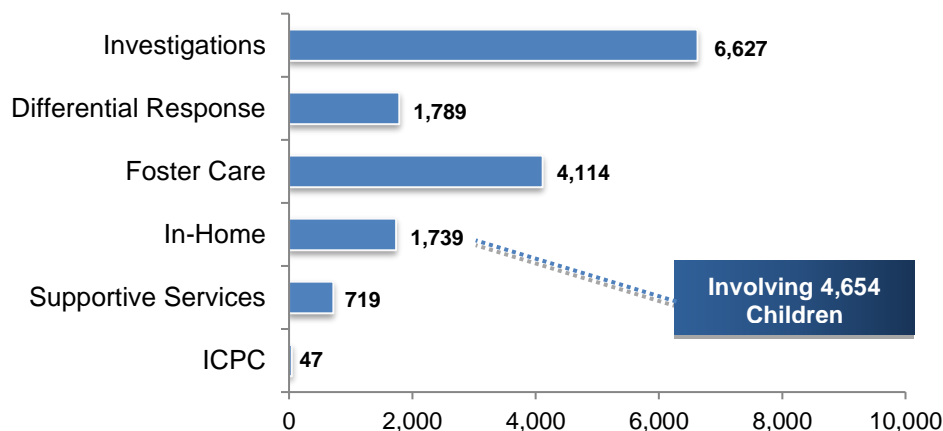
One foster care case is equal to one child in care; one in-home or supportive services case constitutes an entire family, many of which have multiple children.

Caseloads Handled *During* the Quarter

This figure illustrates the number of cases that cycled through the system anytime during the quarter (as opposed to those open at the end of the quarter, described above).

The Division oversaw 6,627 investigations, 1,789 DR cases, 4,114 children in foster care, 1,739 in-home protective services cases, 719 supportive services cases, and 47 ICPC cases.

Types of Cases Served During the Quarter



Quick Facts

Average Caseload

The average caseload statewide was just under 19 cases per worker at the end of the quarter. The Division's goal is 20 or fewer cases per worker.

The average caseload for each county as of June 2024 is presented in Appendix B.

Foster Homes

Foster Homes and Beds

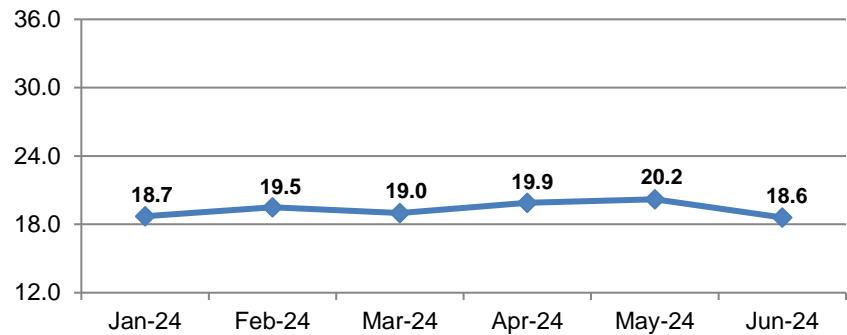
There were 1,369 licensed foster family homes open statewide at the end of the fourth quarter, providing a total of 2,670 available beds.

The number of available beds decreased from the previous quarter.

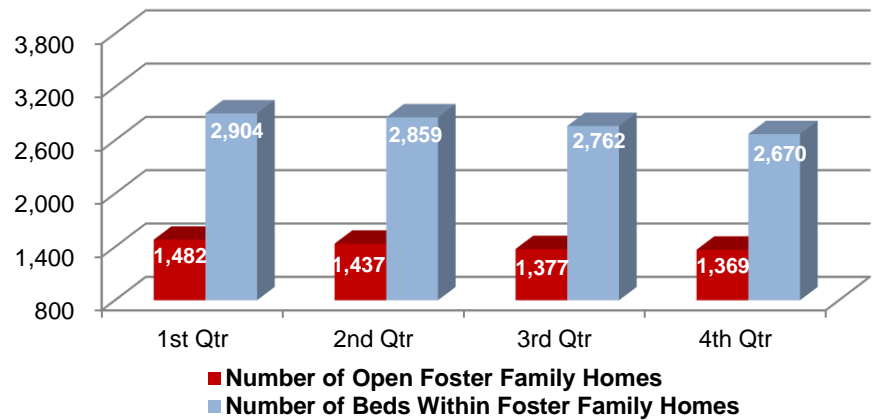
During the most recent quarter, 237 foster homes were closed.

Appendix C displays the closure reasons for the foster homes that closed during the quarter.

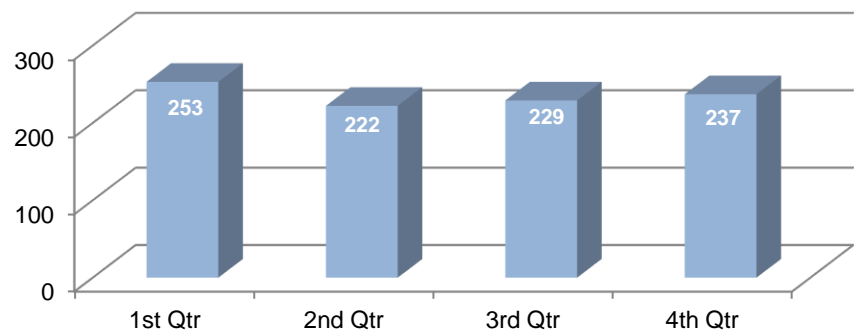
Average Caseload at the End of Month



Number of Foster Homes and Beds at the End of Quarter



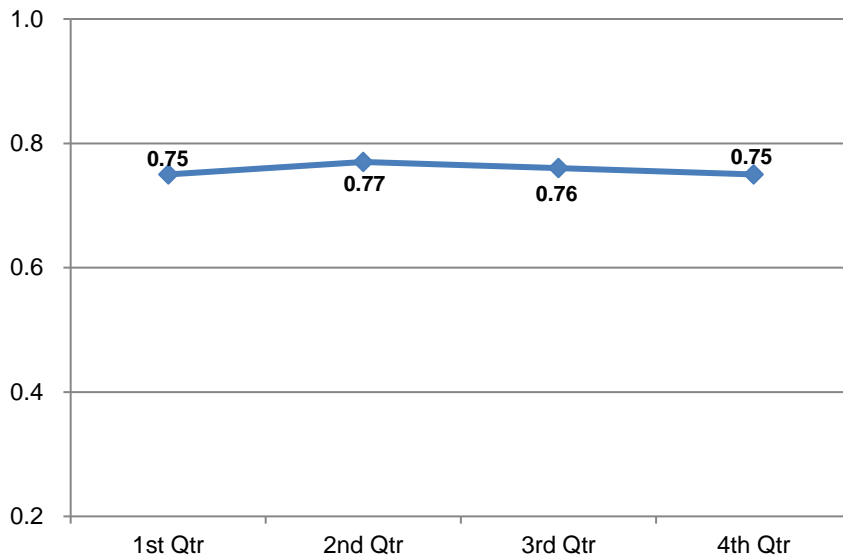
Number of Foster Homes Closed During the Quarter



Quick Facts

Ratio of Foster Home Beds to Foster Children

Foster Home Bed to Foster Child Ratio

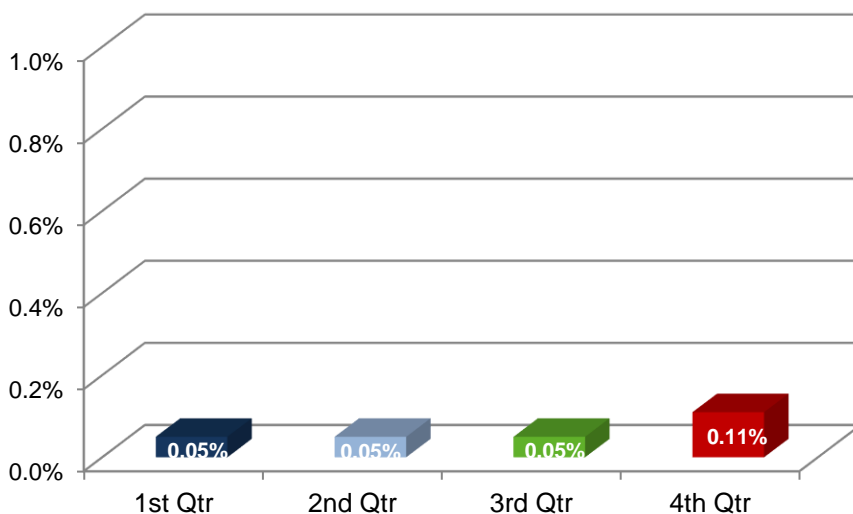


The ratio of licensed foster home beds to children in foster care stood at 0.75 at the end of the fourth quarter, similar to previous quarters.

The Division's goal is to have at least one foster home bed available for each child in foster care.

Percentage of Foster Families with True Reports of Maltreatment

Percentage of Foster Families with True Reports of Maltreatment



Two reports in which a foster parent was identified as an alleged offender was determined to be true during the fourth quarter. Based on the 1,829 foster homes active during that period, the percentage of foster families with a true report of maltreatment was 0.11 percent.

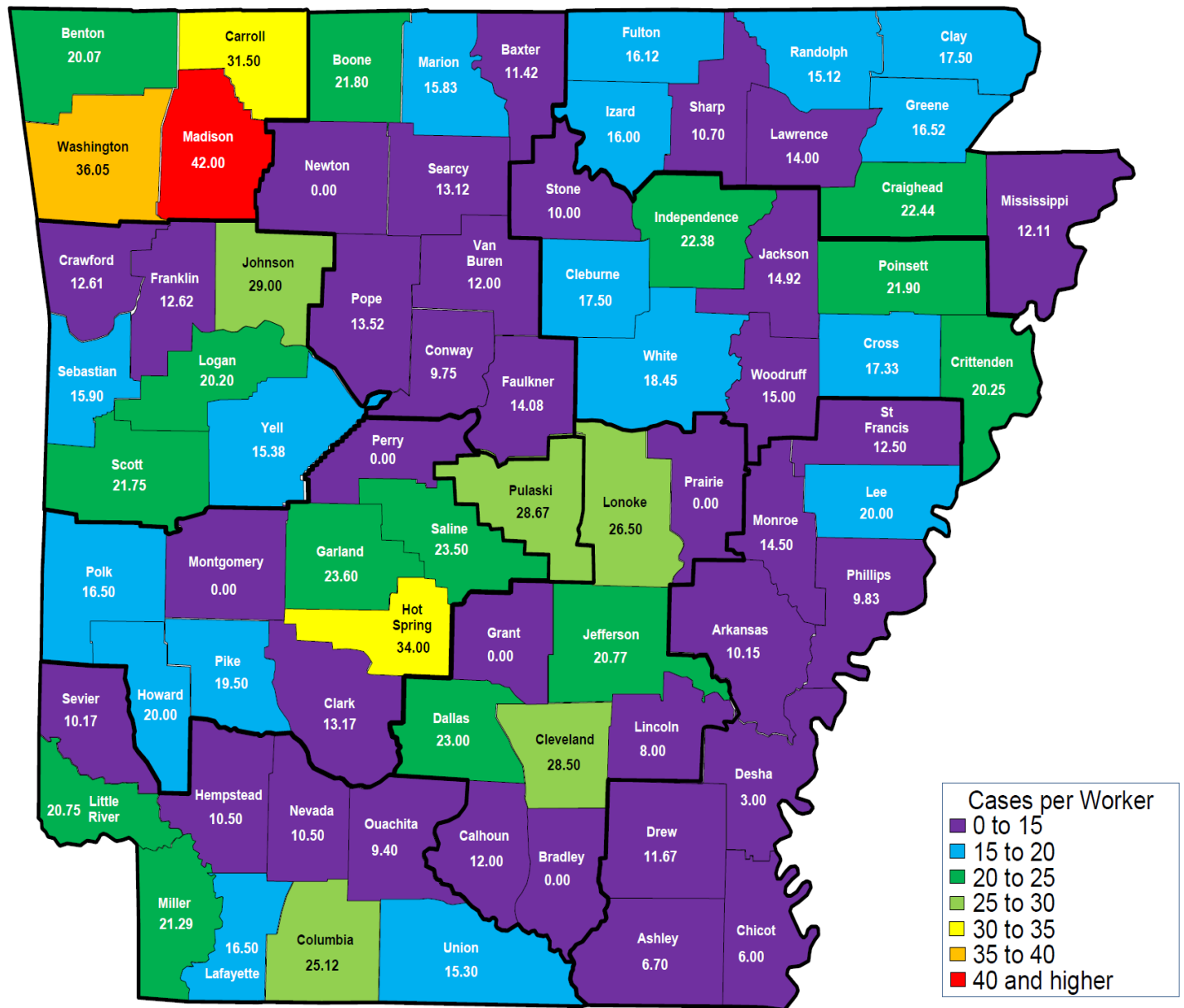
Appendix D provides more detail on maltreatment reports concerning foster homes.

Appendix A: Breakdown of Child Maltreatment Reports Received During the Quarter and Substantiation Rates of Maltreatment Investigations⁴

	DCFS				CACD		
	Total Assessments Assigned for DR	Total Assessments Assigned for Investigation	True Investigations	Percent True	Total Assessments Assigned for Investigation	True Investigations	Percent True
First Quarter 2024	1,032	4,835 <i>4,797 Closed</i>	862	18%	1,431 <i>1,337 Closed</i>	464	35%
Second Quarter 2024	1,447	5,126 <i>5,111 Closed</i>	894	17%	1,481 <i>1,362 Closed</i>	422	31%
Third Quarter 2024	1,361	4,394 <i>4,374 Closed</i>	789	18%	1,279 <i>1,208 Closed</i>	377	31%
Fourth Quarter 2024	1,524	4,915 <i>4,798 Closed</i>	850	18%	1,412 <i>1,336 Closed</i>	374	28%

⁴ The data cited in this appendix run two months behind the referenced quarter (e.g., the fourth quarter refers to 2/1/2024 through 4/30/2024); as a result, the numbers cited in this appendix differ from those cited throughout the report, which considers the actual quarter. This is because investigations have a 45-day completion timeframe and this allows enough time to pass to measure the disposition of the investigations. An investigation is excluded from the calculation of the substantiation rate in the event that it has not yet been closed (and thus a disposition has not yet been rendered).

Appendix B: Average Caseload as of June 30, 2024, by County



Bradley, Grant, Montgomery, Newton, Perry, Prairie counties did not have any family service workers at the end of the quarter; their cases were assigned to workers from other counties.

Appendix C: Foster Home Closure Reasons

Area	County	Change in Family Circumstances	Foster Family's Decision	No Longer Meets Requirements	Adopted / Custody / Guardianship / Relative Only	Founded Abuse / Neglect	Provider / Services No Longer Needed	Other	Total
1	Benton (Bentonville)	0	7	3	1	0	1	0	12
1	Carroll (Berryville)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
1	Madison (Huntsville)	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
1	Washington (Fayetteville)	1	10	1	2	0	2	0	16
2	Crawford (Van Buren)	0	9	0	3	0	3	0	15
2	Franklin (Ozark)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
2	Johnson (Clarksville)	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
2	Logan (Booneville)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Logan (Paris)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
2	Scott (Waldron)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Sebastian (Fort Smith)	1	6	0	7	0	1	0	15
2	Yell (Danville)	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
3	Clark (Arkadelphia)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Garland (Hot Springs)	0	4	0	3	0	2	0	9
3	Hot Spring (Malvern)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Howard (Nashville)	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
3	Montgomery (Mount Ida)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Perry (Perryville)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
3	Pike (Murfreesboro)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
3	Polk (Mena)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
3	Saline (Benton)	2	5	0	3	0	0	0	10
4	Columbia (Magnolia)	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	4
4	Hempstead (Hope)	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
4	Lafayette (Lewisville)	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
4	Little River (Ashdown)	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	3
4	Miller (Texarkana)	0	5	1	3	0	0	0	9
4	Nevada (Prescott)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Ouachita (Camden)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
4	Sevier (DeQueen)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
4	Union (El Dorado)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
5	Baxter (Mountain Home)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
5	Boone (Harrison)	0	2	1	1	0	2	0	6
5	Conway (Morrilton)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
5	Faulkner (Conway)	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	5
5	Marion (Yellville)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Newton (Jasper)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Pope (Russellville)	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	4
5	Searcy (Marshall)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
5	Van Buren (Clinton)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Pulaski (Jacksonville)	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
6	Pulaski (North)	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	9
6	Pulaski (South)	2	5	4	5	0	1	0	17
6	Pulaski (Southwest)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
7	Bradley (Warren)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
7	Calhoun (Hampton)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
7	Cleveland (Rison)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
7	Dallas (Fordyce)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Grant (Sheridan)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Jefferson (Pine Bluff)	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
7	Lincoln (Star City)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Lonokey (Lonokey)	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	4
7	Prairie (DeValls Bluff)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Area	County	Change in Family Circumstances	Foster Family's Decision	No Longer Meets Requirements	Adopted / Custody / Guardianship / Relative Only	Founded Abuse / Neglect	Provider / Services No Longer Needed	Other	Total
8	Clay (Piggott & Corning)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
8	Craighead (Jonesboro)	0	7	0	2	0	1	0	10
8	Fulton (Salem)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Greene (Paragould)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
8	Izard (Melbourne)	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
8	Lawrence (Walnut Ridge)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
8	Mississippi (Blytheville)	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
8	Mississippi (Osceola)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Randolph (Pocahontas)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
8	Sharp (Ash Flat)	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3
9	Cleburne (Heber Springs)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
9	Crittenden (West Memphis)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
9	Cross (Wynne)	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	4
9	Independence (Batesville)	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	3
9	Jackson (Newport)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Poinsett (Harrisburg)	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	4
9	Stone (Mountain View)	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
9	White (Searcy)	1	6	0	5	0	1	0	13
9	Woodruff (Augusta)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
10	Arkansas (Dewitt)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Arkansas (Stuttgart)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Ashley (Hamburg)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Chicot (Lake Village)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
10	Desha (McGehee)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
10	Drew (Monticello)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
10	Lee (Marianna)	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
10	Monroe (Brinkley)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Monroe (Clarendon)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Phillips (Helena)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	St. Francis (Forrest City)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Out of State		1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3
Total		13	109	30	58	0	26	1	237

Details of the Major Closure Categories Above (Statewide)		
Closure Reason	Specific Reason	Number of Homes Closed
Adopted / Custody / Guardianship / Relative Only	Custody / Guardianship	31
	Child(ren) Left Care	27
Change in Family Circumstances	Moved	6
	Health of Parent	3
	Personal Issues	3
	Divorce	1
Foster Family's Decision	Provider Request	93
	Changed to Adopt Only	15
	Taking a Break	1
No Longer Meets Requirements	DHS Request	27
	Failed Re-Evaluation / Non-Compliance	3
Other	Contract Ended	1
Provider / Services No Longer Needed	Provider / Services No Longer Needed	26

Appendix D: Summary of Foster Care Maltreatment Reports

Characteristics of Children in Foster Care Involved in Allegations of Maltreatment, 4th Quarter SFY 2024

One-hundred and forty-four reports of alleged maltreatment involving children in foster care were received by the hotline during the fourth quarter of SFY 2024.

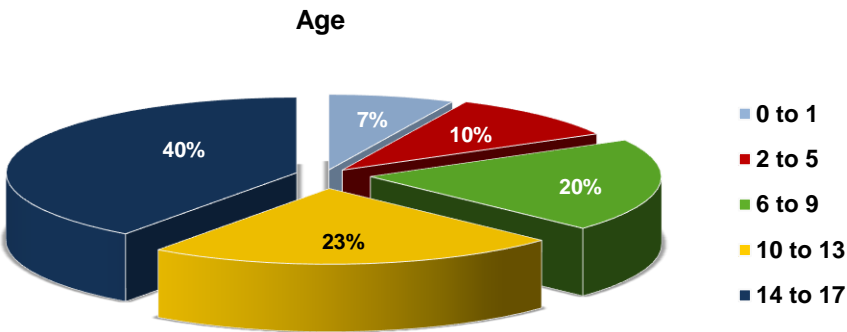
In 28 reports involving 30 children, foster parents⁵ were identified as the alleged offenders. As shown in the following table, two of those reports were found to be true. The foster homes identified in those two reports were subsequently closed.

Foster Home Maltreatment Reports
4th Quarter SFY 2024

True	Unsubstantiated	Pending
2	25	1

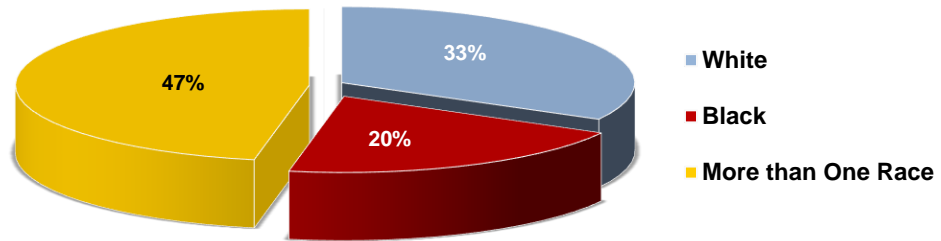
All allegations of maltreatment concerning foster homes are investigated by the Crimes Against Children Division (CACD) of the Arkansas State Police. DCFS staff do not actively participate in the investigation of these reports. Allegations of maltreatment regarding foster homes require the agency to assess the safety of all children residing in the home.

The following charts describe the characteristics of the 30 children in foster care who were involved in allegations of maltreatment with foster parents identified as the alleged offenders.

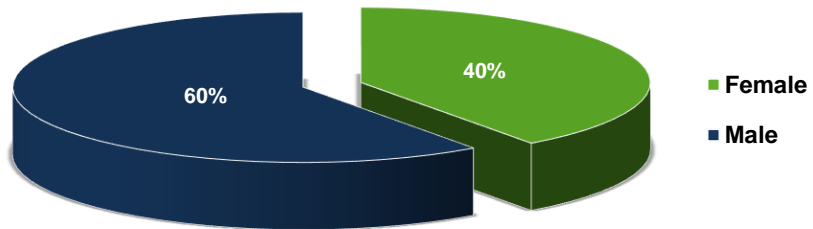


⁵ This includes foster family homes and therapeutic foster homes.

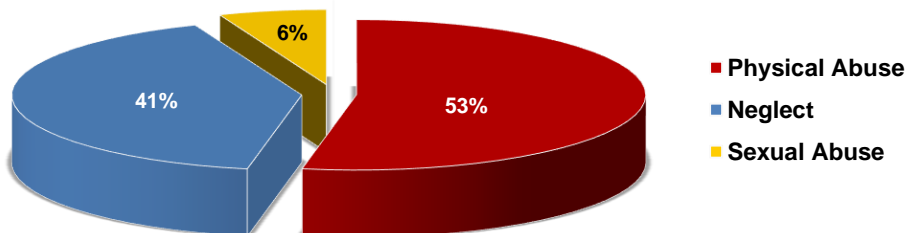
Race / Ethnicity



Gender



Allegations



Location of Foster Homes in Which Alleged Maltreatment Occurred

County	Number of Children Involved in Maltreatment Report(s)
Garland	5
Pulaski	4
Columbia	3
Benton	2
Craighead	2
Faulkner	2
Sebastian	2
Conway	1
Crawford	1
Crittenden	1
Drew	1
Greene	1
Hot Spring	1
Poinsett	1
Pope	1
Sevier	1
Yell	1
Total	30