



Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children

**2019 Data Users Conference:
*Utilizing Data to Inform Statewide Child
Welfare Advocacy Efforts***

May 8, 2019

Presenter Background

Kelly Hoffman, *Vice President of Data and Strategy*

Rachael Miller, *Child Welfare Policy Director*

Mission

PPC is a strong, effective and trusted voice to improve the health, education, and well-being of children and youth in the Commonwealth.

We focus our advocacy efforts in several key areas:

- Child Welfare
- Early Learning
- Health Care
- Home Visiting
- K-12 Education

Long-Term Policy Goals

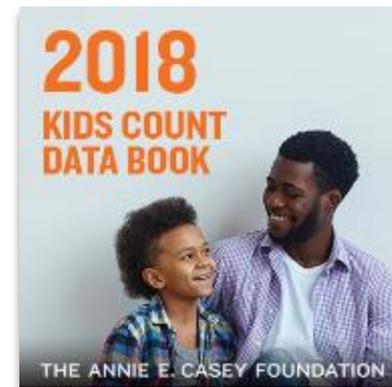
- **Child Welfare**: All children are raised in loving and knowledgeable families free from abuse and neglect
- **Early Learning**: All children enter school ready to learn
- **Health Care**: All children have access to health care that assures their healthy development
- **Home Visiting**: All parents and others raising children receive support necessary to improve the health, safety, education and economic security of the family
- **K-12 Education**: All children receive a high-quality public education that is supported by a rational school funding system

PPC Policy Framework

- Public policy agenda follows the legislative term (two-year cycle), and must be approved by the PPC Board of Directors
- Grant-funded priorities are a portion of the public policy agenda
- Takes a data- and research-driven approach to identify advocacy efforts
- Utilizes *State of Child Welfare* report to identify priority areas

KIDS COUNT

- PPC's vision is to make Pennsylvania one of the top 10 states to be a child and to raise a child
- Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation
 - KIDS COUNT Data Center
 - KIDS COUNT Data Book
- Pennsylvania is currently 17th in the nation for its overall child well-being



State of Child Welfare

- PPC issued its first annual *State of Child Welfare* report in 2009 to educate and monitor, through the use of data, how well Pennsylvania's child welfare system is performing in meeting the needs of children and families impacted by the system.
- Report format revamped in 2014 to include five year comparison

State of Child Welfare

- Comprehensive data package that provides a five-year analysis
- Focus on:
 - Child Protective Services (CPS) and General Protective Services (GPS) referrals, and in-home services
 - Placement
 - Permanency
- Sources: AFCARS longitudinal files, Annual Child Protective Services reports, CY-28 reports

Referral Statistics

Indicator

Child Abuse and Neglect Reports

Total reported incidents of suspected child abuse and neglect through the ChildLine Registry.
(Number and rate per 1,000 children age 0-17)

	State					% Change 2013 to 2017
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
	26,944	29,273	40,590	44,359	47,485	76.2%
	9.6	10.5	14.5	15.9	17.0	

Child Abuse and Neglect

Founded or indicated reports of child abuse and/or neglect.

	12.7%	11.4%	10.4%	10.4%	10.2%	-19.9%
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Repeated Child Abuse and Neglect

Children with another substantiated incident of abuse and/or neglect following the first reported incident.
(Data may be overstated.)

	8.8%	7.2%	6.5%	5.7%	5.6%	-36.9%
	1 in 11	1 in 14	1 in 15	1 in 18	1 in 18	

Referral Statistics

Indicator

GPS Reports

Total reported concerns of general neglect, not alleging child abuse.

State					% Change 2013 to 2017
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
-	-	131,953	151,087	163,852	-

Valid GPS Reports

Reports in which the allegations were found to have merit. Includes reports accepted for in-home services and reports referred out to community agencies for services.

-	-	18.4%	20.9%	22.8%	-
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Children with Valid Allegations

Number of children with a valid GPS allegation by valid report. Children may be counted more than once if more than one report was found to have merit.

State					% Change 2014 to 2018
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
167,582	181,371	190,413	186,855	194,761	16.2%

Unduplicated Number of Children Served

Children who received in-home services along with parents to address concerns related to child safety and well-being.

Public Policy Agenda on Referral Reduction

- Legislation Passed in 2018:
 - Family First Prevention Services Act
- Opportunity to advance increased utilization of Evidence Based Practices
- Legislative Strategy:
 - Fact sheet
 - Legislative Meetings
 - Legislative Hearing

Placement Data

Indicator

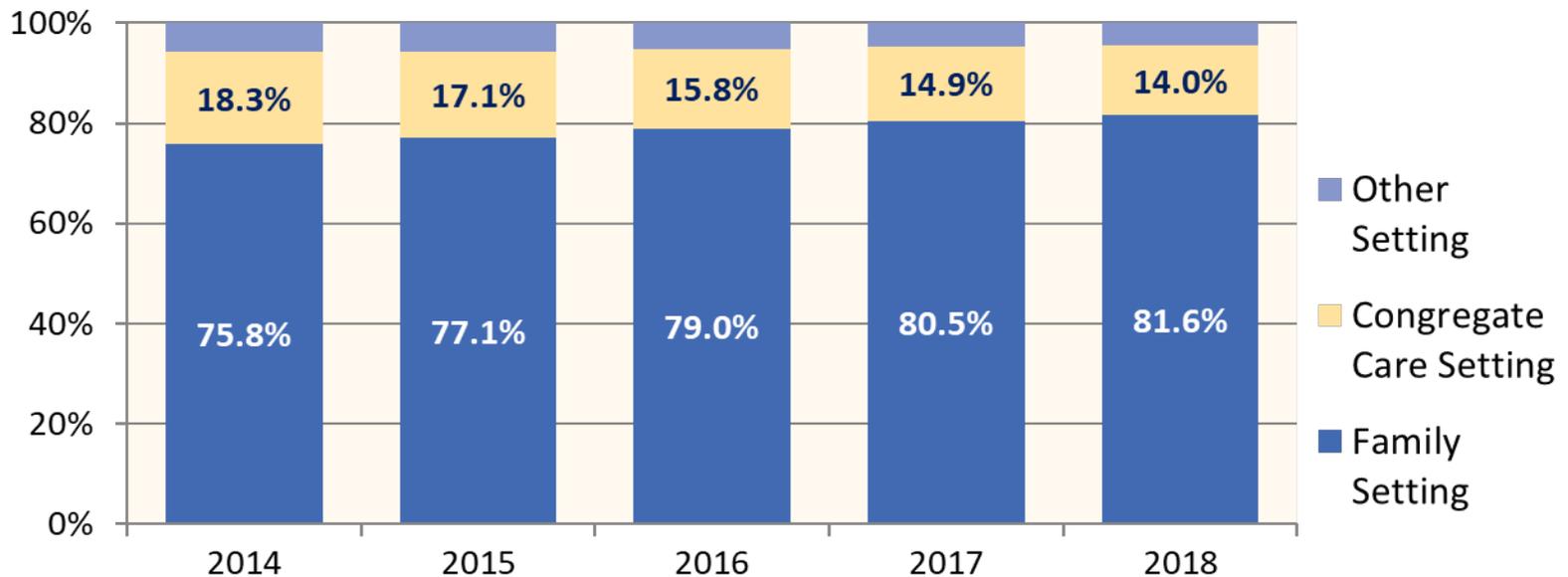
Unduplicated Number of Children

All Children in Foster Care During the Year
(Rate per 1,000 children age 0-20)

State				
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
22,510	22,980	24,543	25,381	25,441
6.7	6.8	7.3	7.5	7.5

% Change 2014 to 2018
13.0%

Latest Placement Setting of All Children Served in Foster Care



Source: AFCARS Report

Public Policy on Reduction of Placement into Foster Care

- Research surrounding diversionary systems and increasing kinship
- Kinship Navigator Program in NJ and NY
- Legislative Strategy:
 - Fact sheet
 - Legislative Meetings
 - Assisting with drafting language
 - Act 89 of 2018 passes

Permanency Data

33% of PA's foster youth are transition age youth



47% of transition age youth are in group homes or institutions

49% age out of care, instead of being connected to family

25% of transition age youth have been in 2+ placements while in care

42% of have been in 3+ placements



37% experience homelessness or unstable housing

Just 44% of transition age youth have full- or part-time employment



Only 75% earn a GED or high school diploma, compared to 92% of their peers

Public Policy to Increase Protections for Older Youth in Care

- Partnership with other organizations, like the Juvenile Law Center
- Obtaining Youth vision and voice
- Legislative Hearing on May 14th
 - Following will be a Resolution making May, Foster Care Month, in PA
 - House Bill 856

Data Challenges

- Case Management System vs. CWIS
- Statewide Data Collection Requirements
- Data Governance
- AFCARS

Questions

- Open Forum

Contact Information

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