

# State of Nevada Child Welfare Presentation



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February 22, 2013

# State of Nevada Demographics

## Nevada's Total Population

2,700,551

- 1,969,975 – Clark County
- 425,710 – Washoe County
- 351,866 – Rural Nevada

## Total Number of Children Statewide

658,934 children (ages 0-18)

## Land

109,781 square miles (making it the 7th largest of the 50 states)

## People Per Square Mile

22.7 persons per square mile (2011 estimate)

## Median Age

36

## Median income

\$48,927

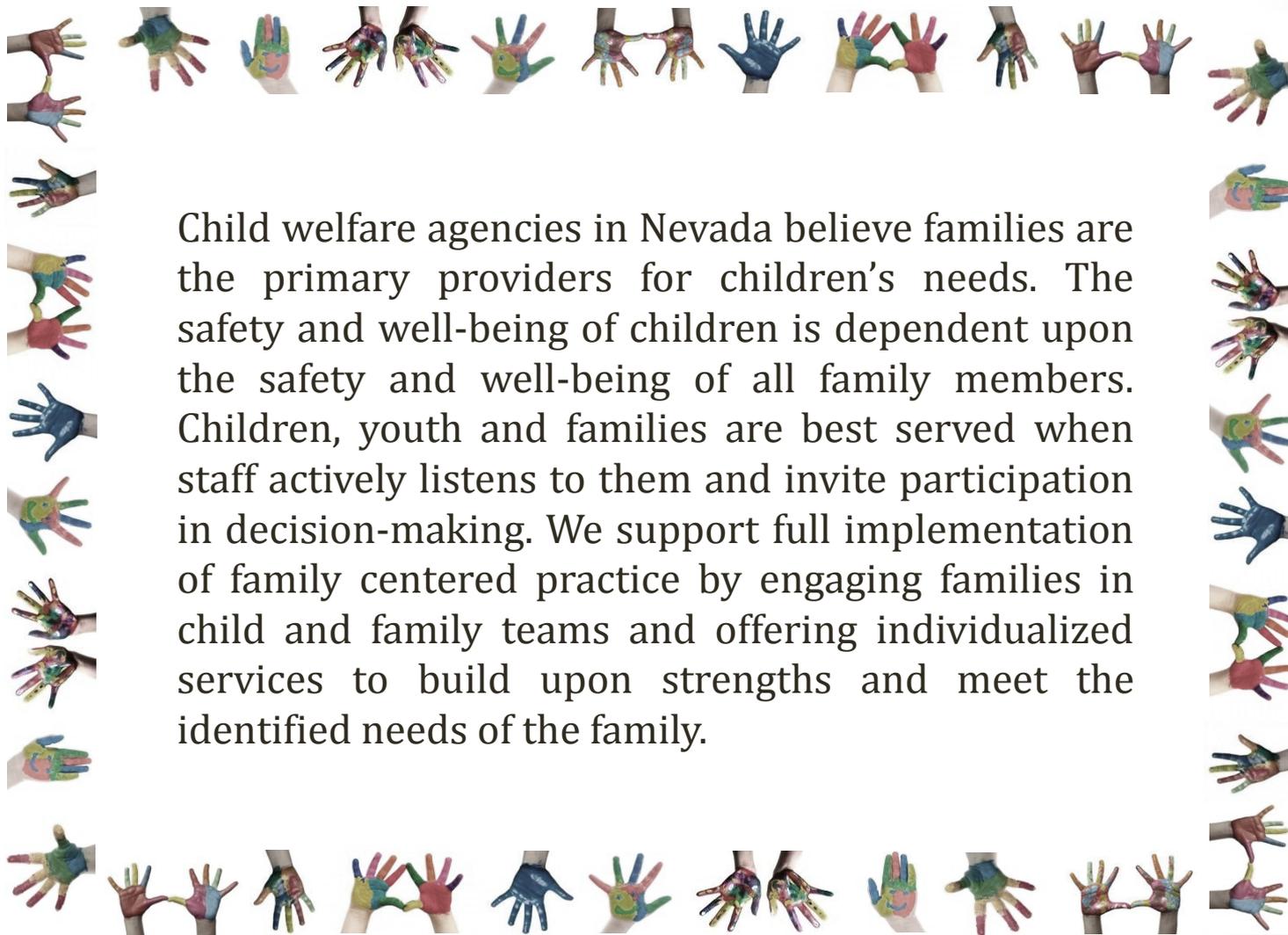
## % Child poverty rate

17.6%

## % Living in poverty

14.9%

# Mission



Child welfare agencies in Nevada believe families are the primary providers for children's needs. The safety and well-being of children is dependent upon the safety and well-being of all family members. Children, youth and families are best served when staff actively listens to them and invite participation in decision-making. We support full implementation of family centered practice by engaging families in child and family teams and offering individualized services to build upon strengths and meet the identified needs of the family.

# Nevada's Child Welfare Structure

- Child welfare in Nevada up until 2001 was bifurcated. The two urban counties (Las Vegas and Reno) were responsible for the FRONT END type services: Intake, investigations, removal and the State was responsible for the BACK END type services such as Foster Care and/or Adoption.
- In 2001, the Legislature changed this design of child welfare to a system where those counties that had populations of 100,000 or more were responsible for child welfare services and the State was responsible for the counties who had populations of less than 100,000.
- DCFS supervises and administers child welfare services in the 15 rural counties.
- Nevada uses a state-supervised, county-administered structure for the management of child welfare services.
- Further, DCFS has state oversight for county-administered child protective and child welfare services delivery providing technical assistance, fiscal oversight for federal monies, and quality improvement activities.

# Senate Bill 447

Each Legislative session the State was historically required to submit a detailed line item budget on behalf of the urban counties outlining budgetary estimates for both revenue and expenditures. Even though the child welfare system changed programmatically in 2001, it did not change the funding streams until the 2011 Legislative session.

- Senate Bill 447 created an annual capped block grant each year (to be disseminated to the two Urban counties) to support child welfare services. The block grant is divided into two allocations:
  - A base allocation for each biennium which would be based on the total State General Fund appropriated for the previous biennium. The base allocation may be used for the delivery of child welfare and child protective services without category restriction. Any unspent State General Funds remaining in the base allocation at the end of the fiscal year may be retained and reinvested for the delivery of child welfare and child protective services.
    - *This requires the urban counties to meet a minimum maintenance of effort. Specifically, the counties must maintain the amount of local funds spent for child welfare and child protective services at a level equal to or greater than the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2011.*
  - A second allocation which would include the estimated cost attributable to projected caseload growth for the adoption assistance program. This was separated out of the block grant so there wasn't a cap on adoptions to avoid de-incentivizing this permanency option for children.
- Incentive funding:
  - In addition to the block grant, the legislation also included incentive funds (\$1,750,000 Washoe and \$5,250,000 Clark) to be allocated to the urban counties to support a fiscal incentive program designed to stimulate and support improvement in key areas identified in the agency improvement plan.
  - In order to access incentive funding, the urban counties would be required to submit an application odd number years targeting defined improvement goals, resources needed to achieve the goals, established baseline data and stretch goals they believe they could achieve within a one year period the baseline data used including a description of the process they used to solicit public input.
  - If the urban county does not meet the targeted outcomes, the incentive award amount will be adjusted based on the applicable percentage of performance level achieved and the subsequent fiscal year's payment will be adjusted accordingly.

# Strategies

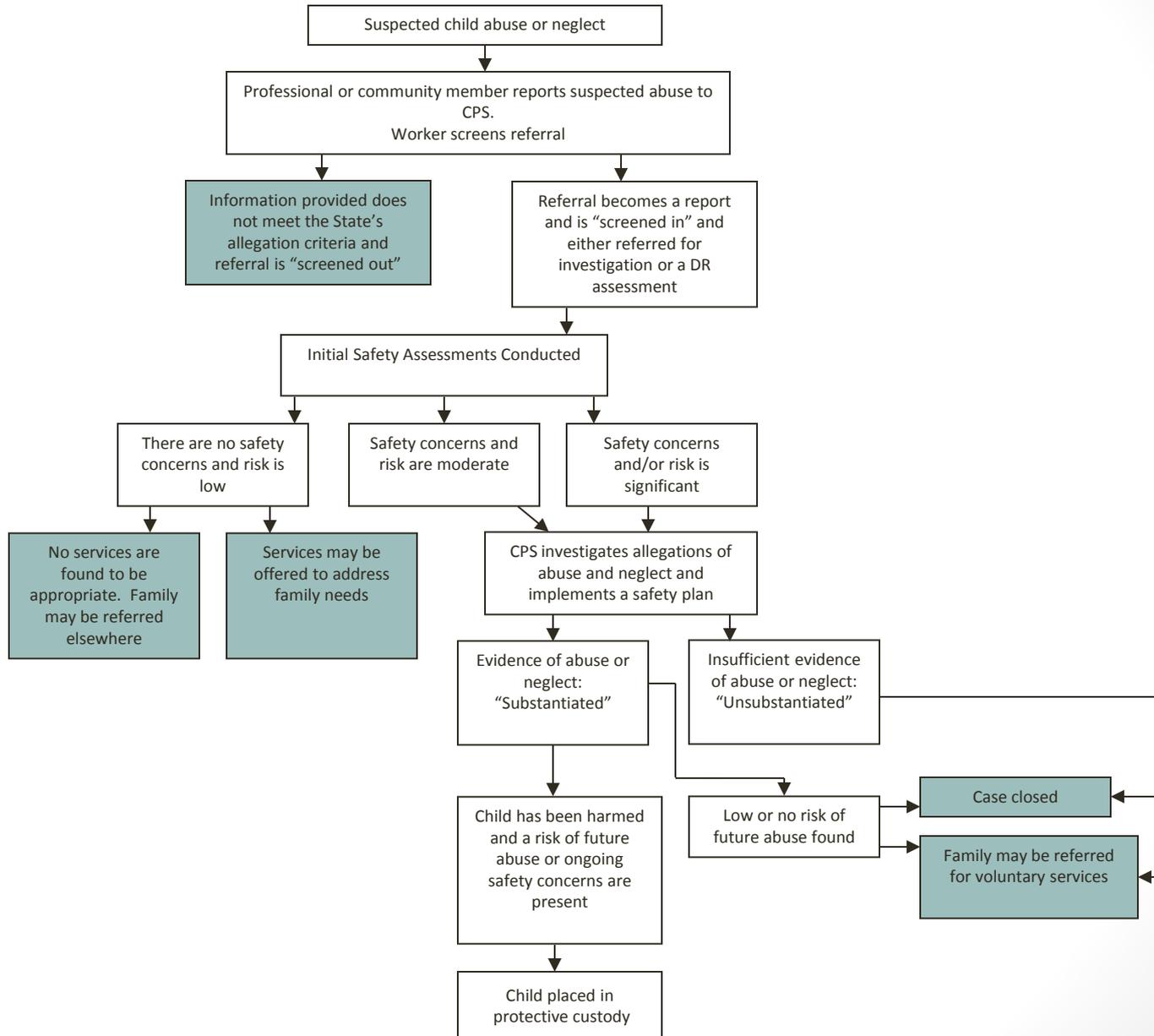


- Strengthen and reinforce safety practices by:
  - Continuing the development of Nevada’s safety assessment model, with expansion to all child welfare agencies.
  - Reinforcing assessing safety through the life of a case through implementation of the family assessment in concert with the safety model.
- Integrate a trauma-informed focus into child welfare practices throughout the state by:
  - Increasing trauma screening for all children who enter the foster care system.
  - Providing training to staff and providers regarding core components of a trauma informed care.
  - Developing services and treatment for children with a trauma focus.
- Redesign the specialized foster care system through a combination of implementing evidence based practices in foster care settings and fiscal reform.
- Improve the timeliness and appropriateness of permanency planning by:
  - Continuing a collaboration with the Court Improvement Project to bring court and child welfare agency practices in line with one another.
  - Reducing the number of children in out of home care for 18 months or longer.

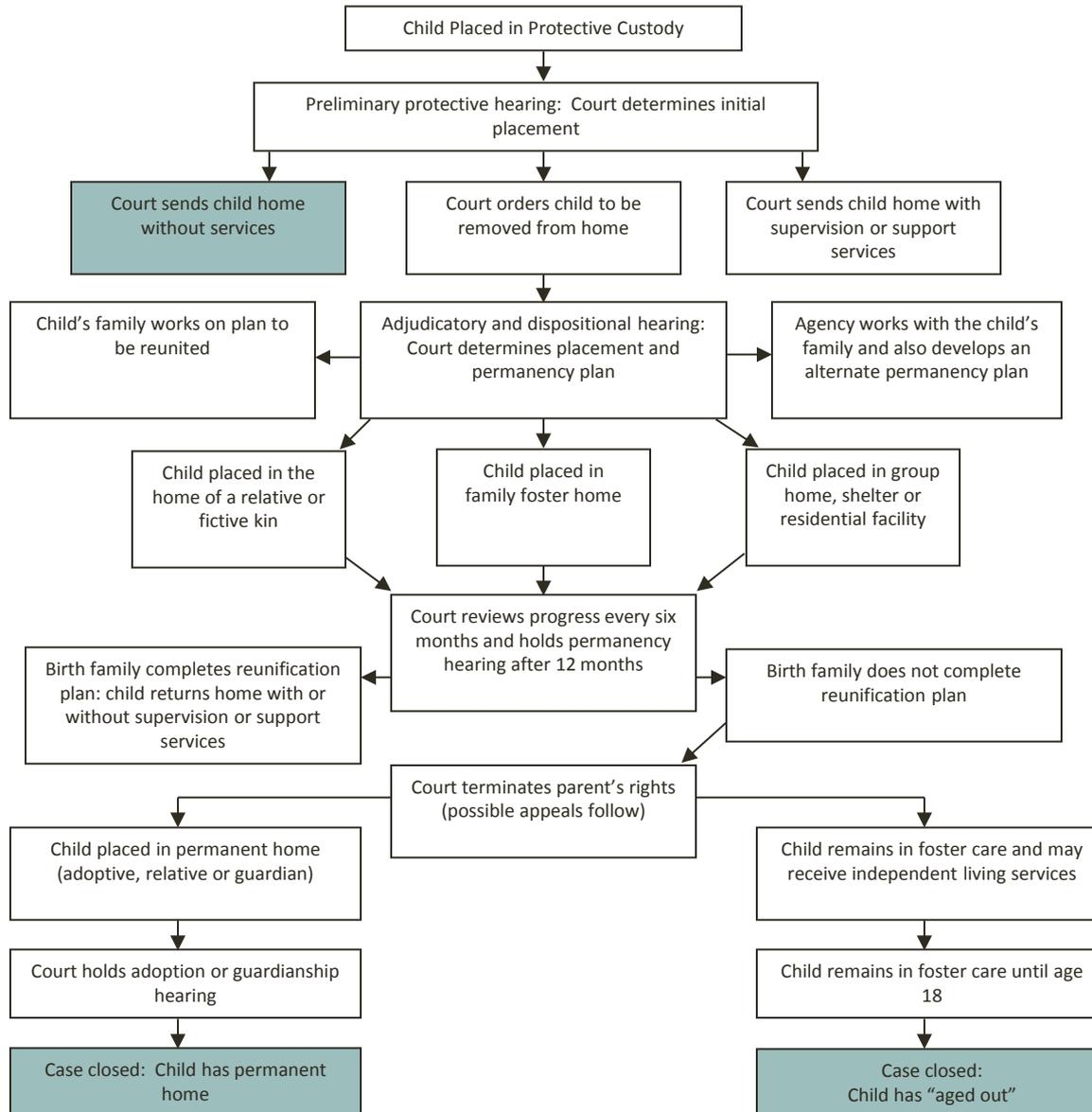
# Child Welfare Services and Programs



# A child's journey through the foster care system



# A child's journey through the foster care system (continued)



# Workforce Development



- NAC 432B.090 requires the state to provide a full staff development and training program related to the principles and practices of child welfare services, including specific training related to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).
- New Worker CORE is required for all new child welfare workers and is an intensive training consisting of 5 weeks of in-class instruction and on-the-job training. There are also specialty CORE modules available as well as certain online courses.
- Also provided is a mandatory 5 week Best Practices Supervisor Training program for all supervisors in child welfare agencies.
- Nevada's child welfare training program is funded through State General Funds and Title IV-E funds.
- Training is provided through contracts with UNR and UNLV schools of social work.
- To support a skilled child welfare workforce, a stipend program is offered in conjunction with the University of Nevada, Reno School of Social Work. In the 2012-2013 school year, 6 students were awarded stipends.

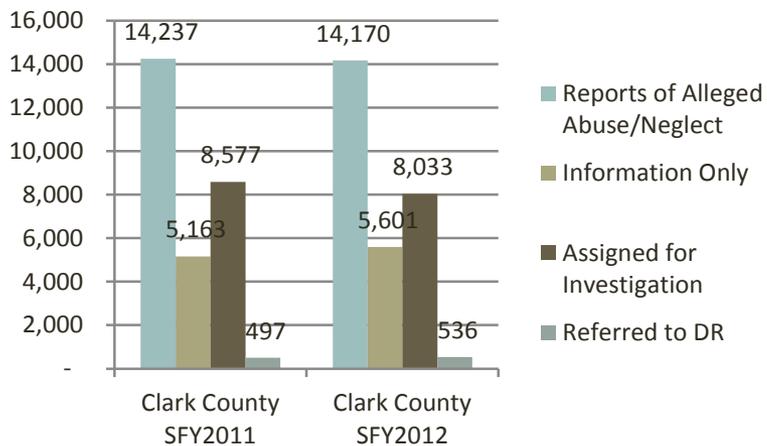
# Child Protective Services (CPS)



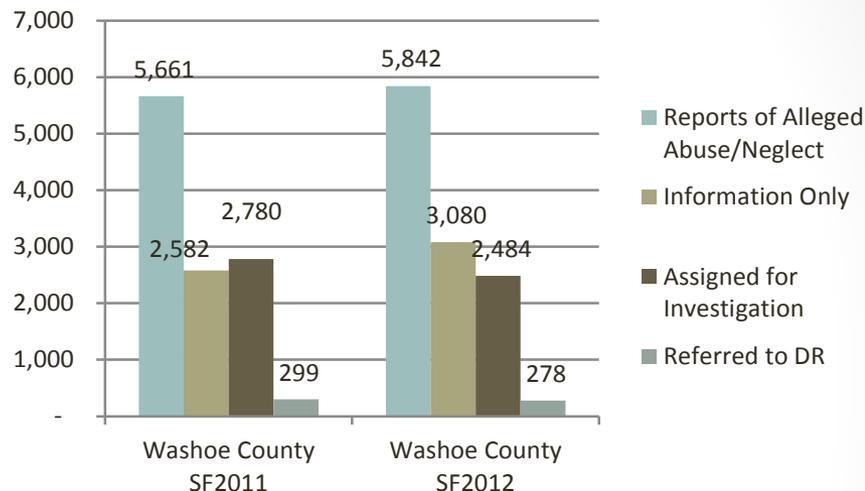
- Child Protective Services (CPS) is the first step to ensure the safety and permanency of children who are reported as being abused or neglected.
- The primary focus of CPS is to ensure that children are protected from harm or risk of harm and to make it safe for the child to live with the parent or caretaker.
- Nevada child protective service agencies conduct activities in preventing, investigating, and treating child abuse and neglect in accordance with Chapters 432 and 432B of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), and Nevada's Regulations for the Protection of Children From Abuse and Neglect (NAC 432B).
- Abuse or neglect complaints include mental injury, physical abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation, negligent treatment or maltreatment, and excessive corporal punishment.

# Number of Referrals and Dispositions of Alleged Abuse and/or Neglect SFY 2011 and 2012

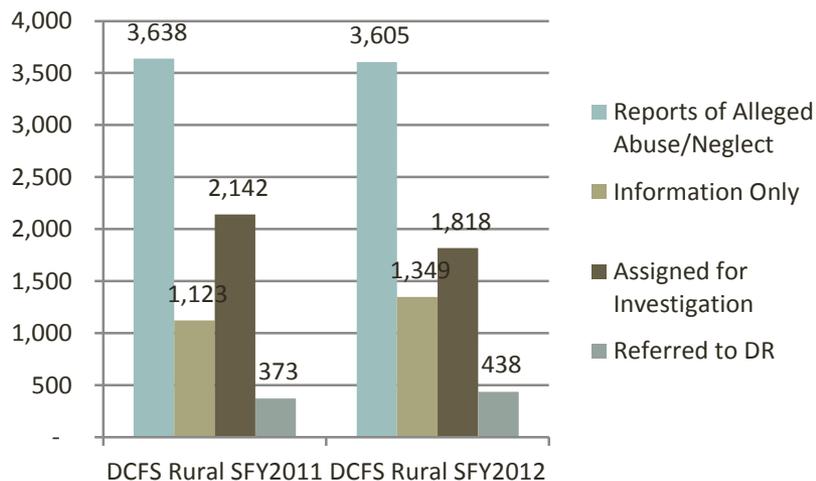
Clark County



Washoe County

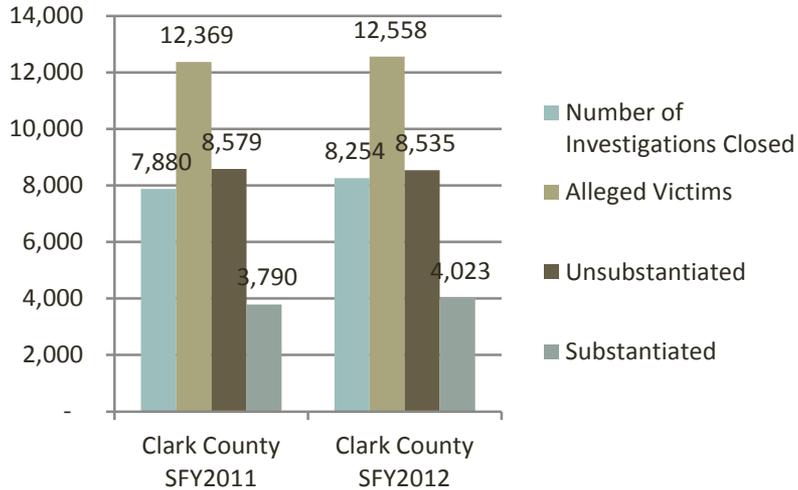


Rural Counties

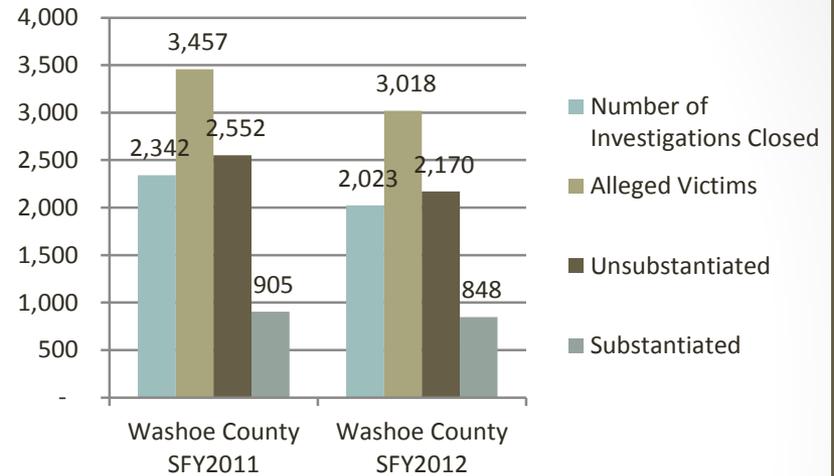


# Substantiations SFY 2011 and 2012

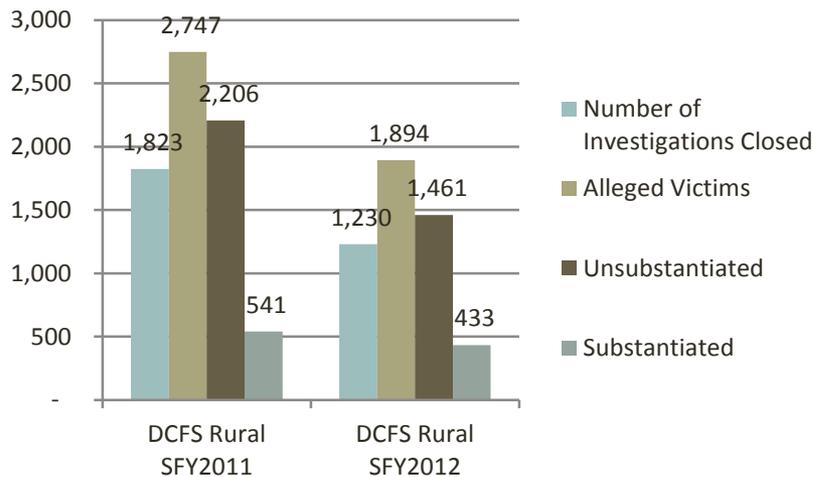
Clark County



Washoe County



Rural Counties

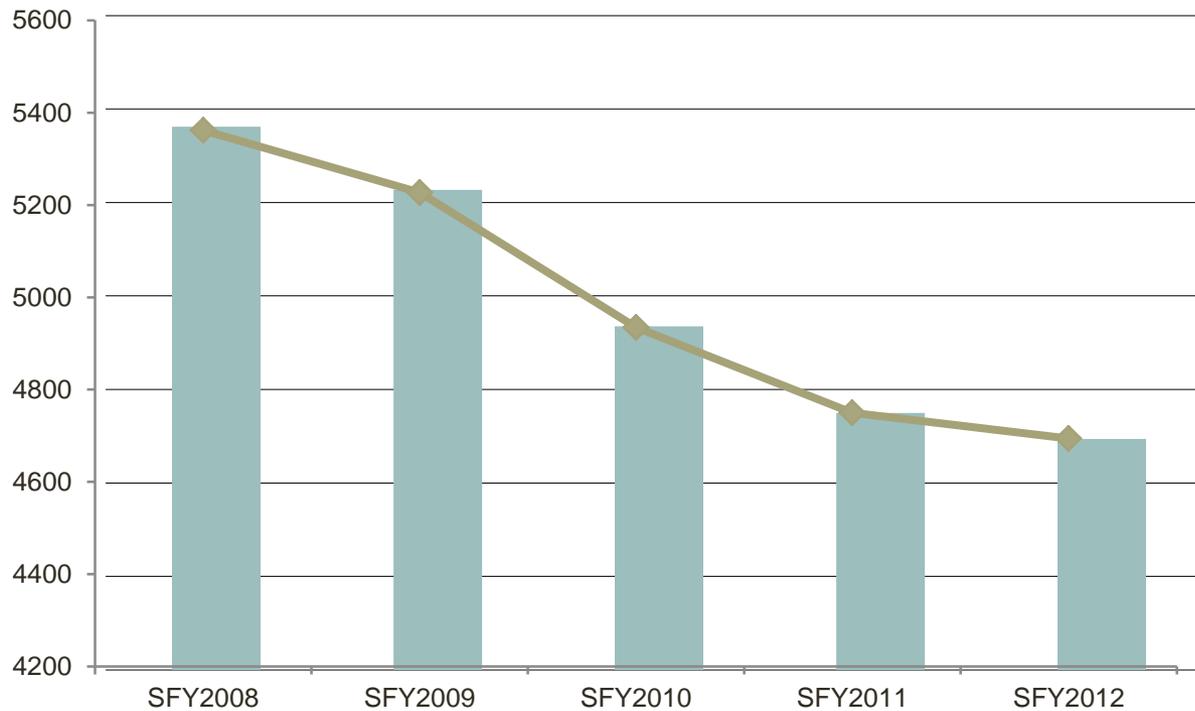


# Foster Care

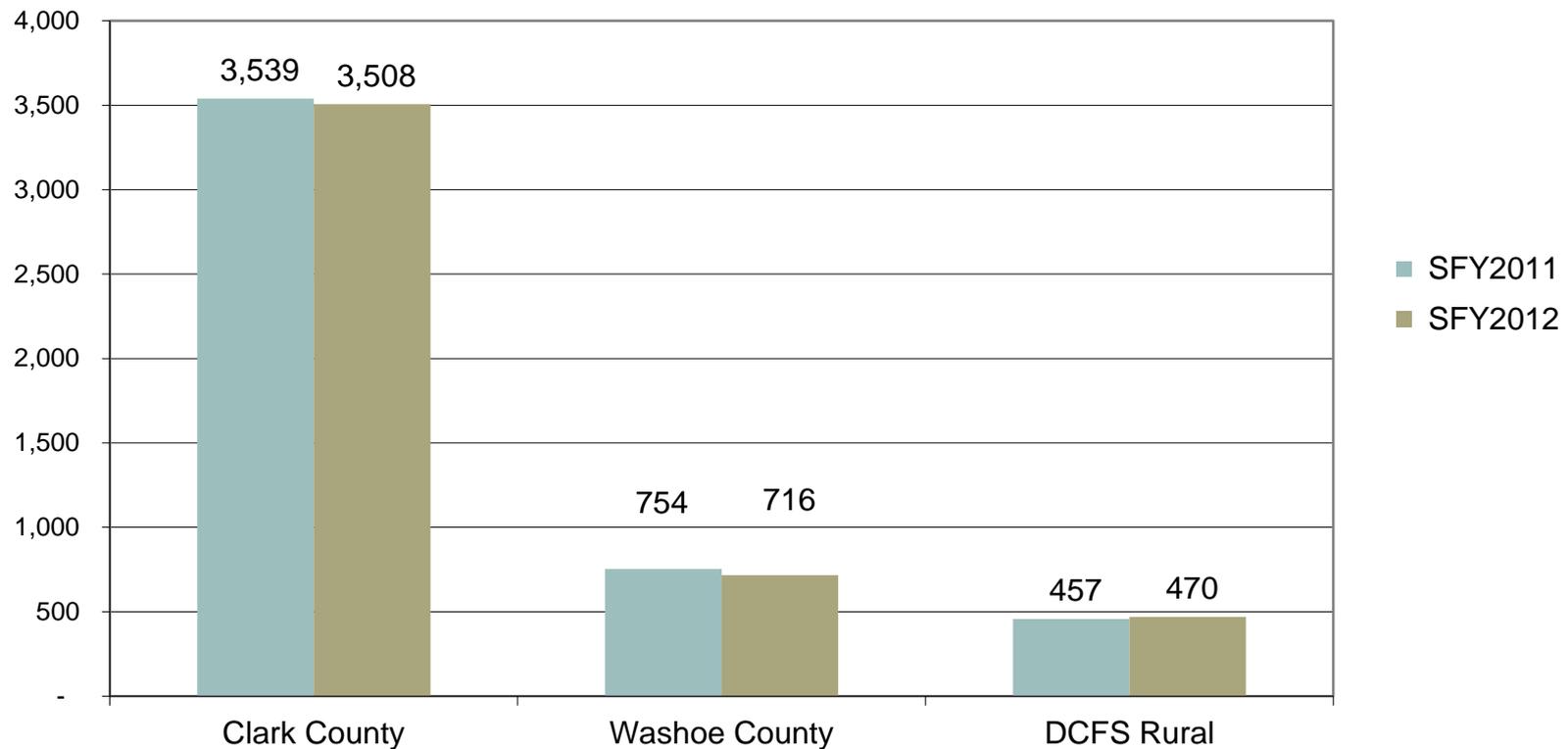


- The goal of the foster care system is to ensure the safety, permanency and well-being of children who either temporarily or permanently cannot be safely maintained in their own homes.
- Foster care is intended to be a short term situation until a permanent placement can be made.
  - Placement with relatives/fictive kin is first choice
  - Regular family foster care or specialized level care if needed
  - Shelter care
  - Adoption
  - Reunification
- While in foster care a case manager is assigned to the child and his/her family to assist with case plan development and to work on minimizing the safety threats in the family so the child can be safely returned home.
- If reunification is not an option, other permanent living situations are explored such as adoption, guardianship and OPPLA (Other planned living arrangement).

# Total Number of Children in Out of Home Placement by SFY



# Foster Care Monthly Average



source: CLEO Report

# Interstate Compact on Placement of Children (ICPC)

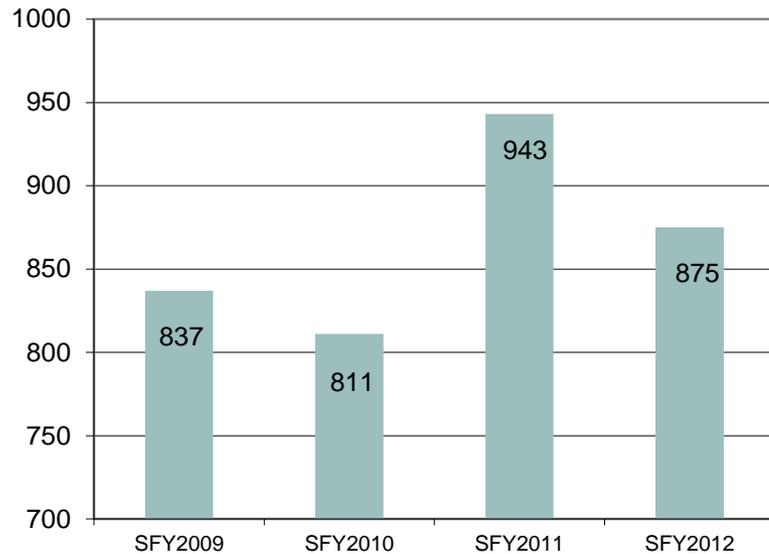
*Devoted to Every Child's Journey Home*



- There are times when the best placement resource for a child is located out of state.
- The primary purpose of ICPC is to ensure that children placed out-of-state are placed with care-givers who are safe, suitable and able to meet the child's needs.
- ICPC requires an assessment of these factors before a child is placed out-of-state.
- As a legally binding agreement between all states, ICPC ensures a uniform set of protections and benefits regardless of which state a child is moving to or from.
- ICPC ensures that the person or entity that places a child out-of-state retains legal and financial responsibility for the child after the placement occurs.

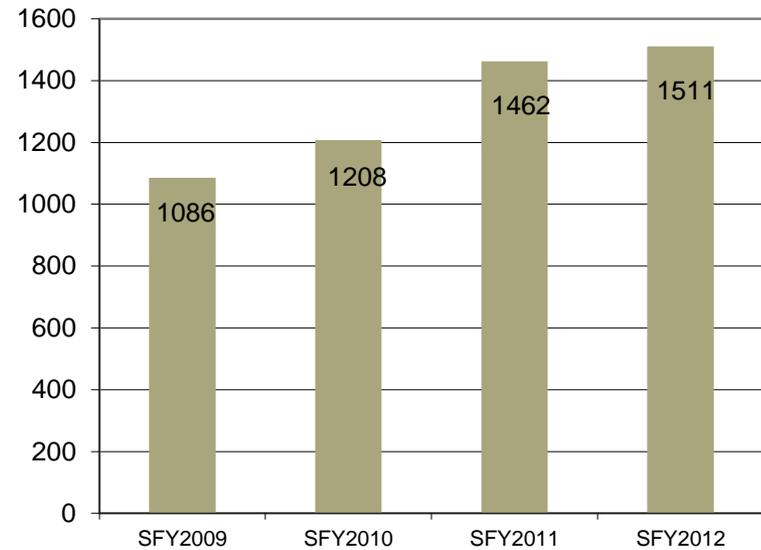
# Incoming and Outgoing Referrals SFY 2012

## Incoming ICPC Referrals



source: UNITY ICPC Report CFS312

## Outgoing ICPC Referrals

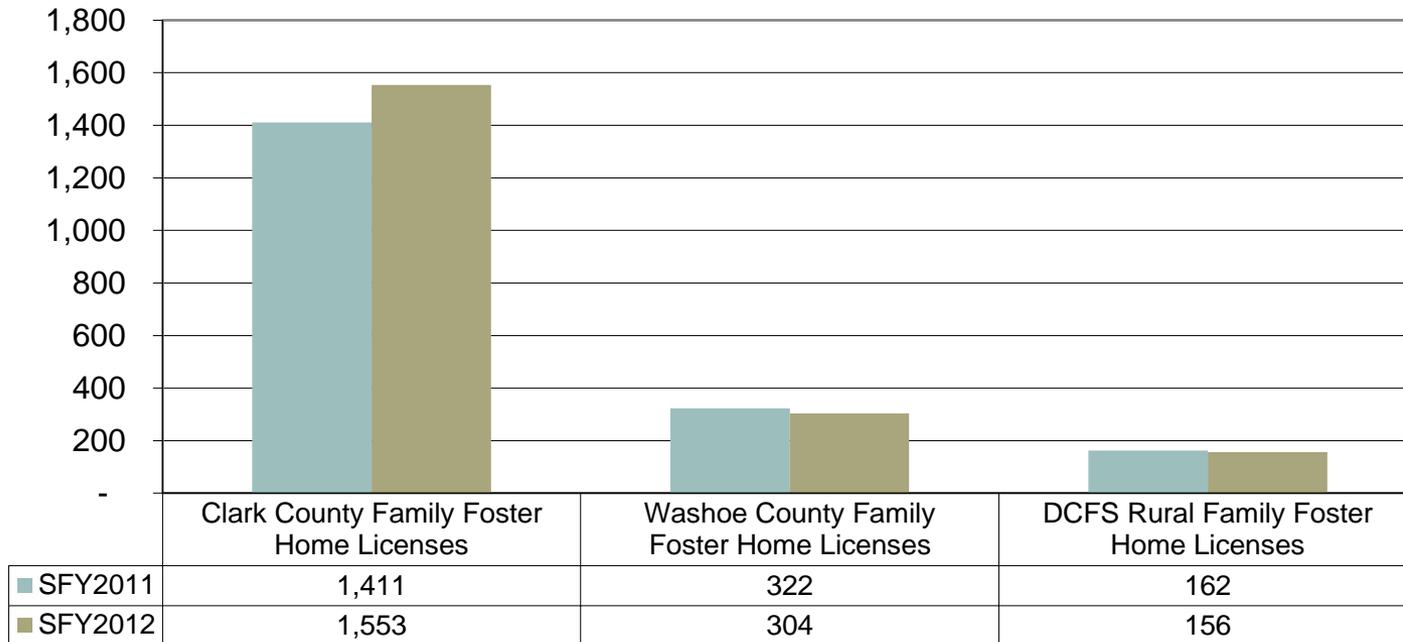


source: UNITY ICPC Report CFS312

# Foster Parent Recruitment, Licensing and Training

- New children come in to the foster care system daily resulting in a continuous for new, qualified foster parents.
- The licensing process is required by NRS 424 to determine if the placement is suitable.
- All applicants and residents 18 years of age or older living in the home must complete and pass a FBI background check, and state and local background checks.
- Each Child Welfare agency has a training program that all foster families must complete.
- All training curricula covers:
  - How to interact with foster children;
  - What behaviors to expect;
  - Appropriate discipline techniques;
  - Grief, loss and attachment issues; and,
  - Information on the child welfare agency

# Family Foster Homes SFY 2011 and 2012



source: CLEO Report

# Specialized Foster Care Pilot

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 580 from the 2011 Legislative session, the Department of Health and Human Services may, during the 2011-2013 biennium, implement a pilot project to provide therapeutic foster care for youths with serious emotional disturbances through nonprofit providers. The sums appropriated to the Division of Child and Family Services and the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy of the Department by section 18 of this act may be transferred between the various budget accounts of each Division for the purpose of implementing a pilot project with the approval of the Interim Finance Committee upon the recommendation of the Governor.

## System concerns:

- In total, there are about 580 children in specialized foster care at any given time.
- Long length of stay, high rate of placement disruption, and a lack of outcome based practice generally characterize the system.
- Fiscal system is a rate structure plagued with cost variability for similar care, fraud allegations, and denials resulting in placement delay/disruption.
- Increased reliance on Basic Skills Training (BST) and Psychosocial Rehabilitative Services (PRS), without improved outcomes.

On August 23, 2012 the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) approved DCFS and Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) to carve out funding from the current budget, BST General Fund, to redesign specialized foster care for seventy (70) children. This funding will expire June 30, 2013.

- 30 children from Clark and Washoe, 10 from Rural Nevada
- Pilot involves training identified foster parents in Together Facing the Challenge, a behavioral management program, trauma informed care, and medication administration. Additionally, the identified homes receive increased agency support.

# Specialized Foster Care Pilot (continued)

## Current Status:

Clark County Department of Family Services began enrolling children October, 2012.

- Children placed primarily in parental placement and regular family foster homes.
- One service provider overseeing the treatment and care of children.
- Program evaluation being completed by Pilot service provider.

Washoe County Department of Social Services began enrolling children January 2013.

- Children placed in either regular family homes or community foster care agencies.
- Combination of Washoe County staff and service provider oversight of children and increased family foster home support.
- Community foster care agencies providing oversight for children placed in community foster care agencies homes.
- Program evaluation being completed by DCFS-Program Evaluation Unit.

Division of Child and Family Services –Rural Region started the pilot on February 1, 2013.

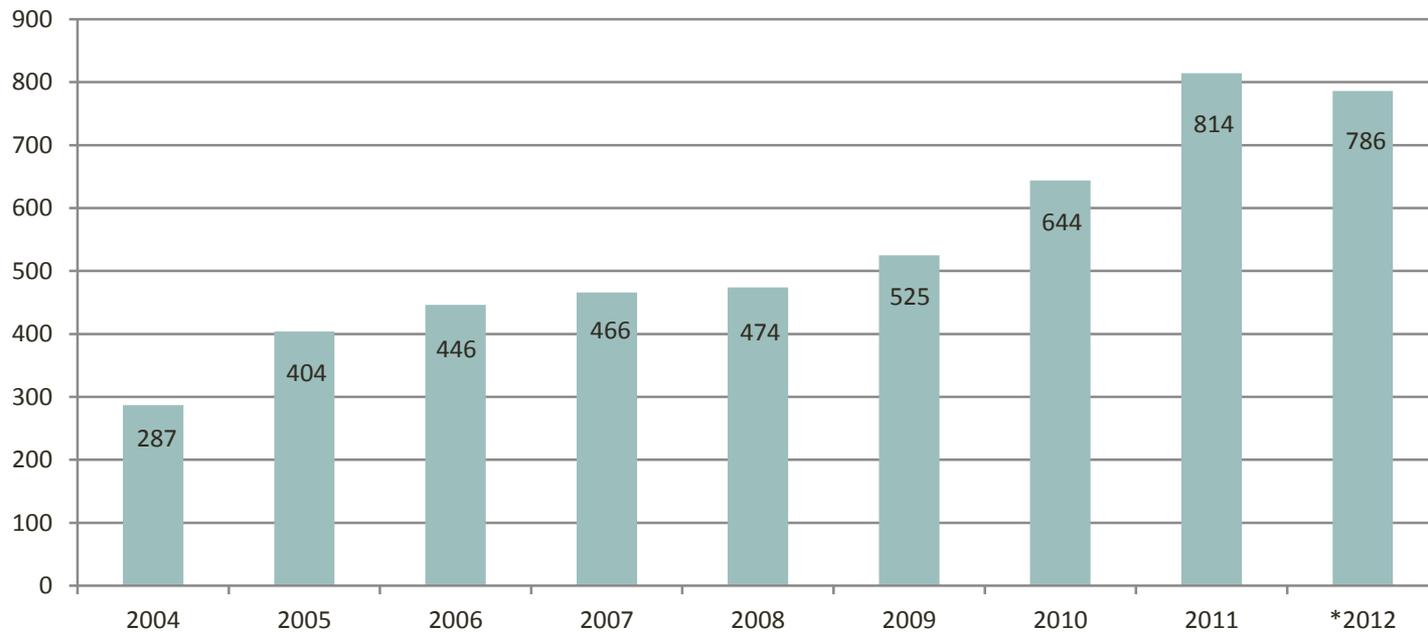
- Children placed in family foster homes located in the Fallon/Fernley and Pahrump communities.
- DCFS Children’s Mental Health Unit providing oversight of children and increased foster home support.
- Program evaluation being completed by DCFS-Program Evaluation Unit.

# Adoption



- The goal of Nevada's adoption program is to provide safe and permanent homes for children whose birth parents cannot care for them.
- The programs are child-focused, and designed to recruit and secure the best families available to meet children's needs.
- State and county child welfare agencies responsible for the child's care must ensure that permanent adoptive homes are identified in a timely manner.
- Most foster children are adopted by relatives and foster parents, while others require additional local and national recruitment efforts to locate appropriate adoptive families.
- Adoption Assistance, which may be a monthly reimbursement or medical insurance, is available to families to encourage and support the adoption of special needs children

# Finalized Adoptions FFY



source: Data Profile of February 13, 2013 \*2012 data source UNITY Report CFS794

# Adoption Incentive Grant

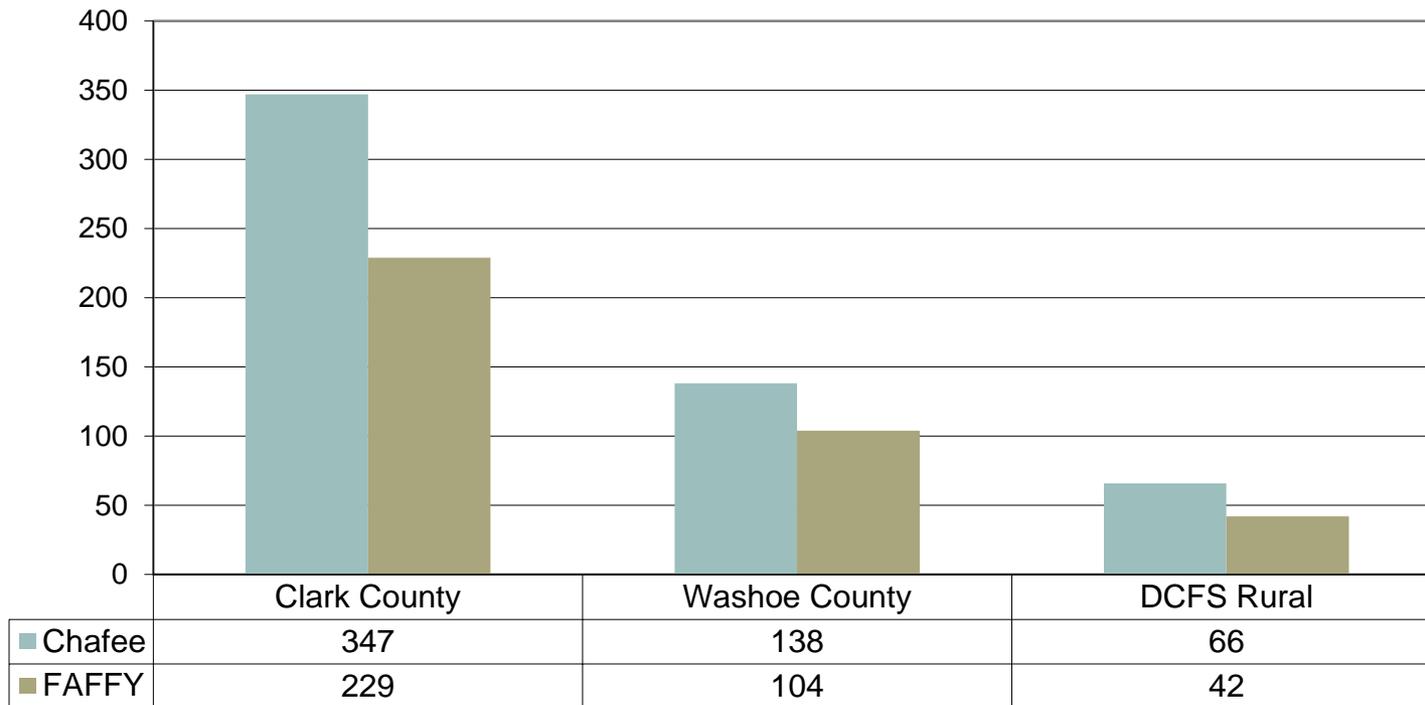
- In recognition of the State's efforts to finalize the adoptions of children in Foster Care, Nevada received a Federal Adoption Incentive Grant award in the amount of 2.5 million dollars - was an increase from the baseline year.
- The funds are used by DCFS, CCDFS and WCDSS to support special-needs adoption, recruitment, home study, and post placement services, and for post adoption services required to stabilize and maintain the placement.

# Independent Living



- The goal of Nevada's Independent Living Program (IL) is to prepare young adults for the transition to adulthood and to provide opportunities to obtain the skills necessary for self sufficiency.
- Independent Living, is not only a placement option, but also a set of services specifically designed around the needs of each youth in the program.
- Services provided are funded through two federal grants (the Chafee Independent Living (P.L. 106-169) and the Educational and Training Voucher Grants) and revenue generated from fees collected on the recording of documents.
- Additional funds for this population are made available through the fee based account, Funds to Assist Former Foster Youth (FAFFY), which is based on fees collected from an additional fee added to recorded documents in Nevada.

# Youth Served with Chafee and FAFFY SFY 2012



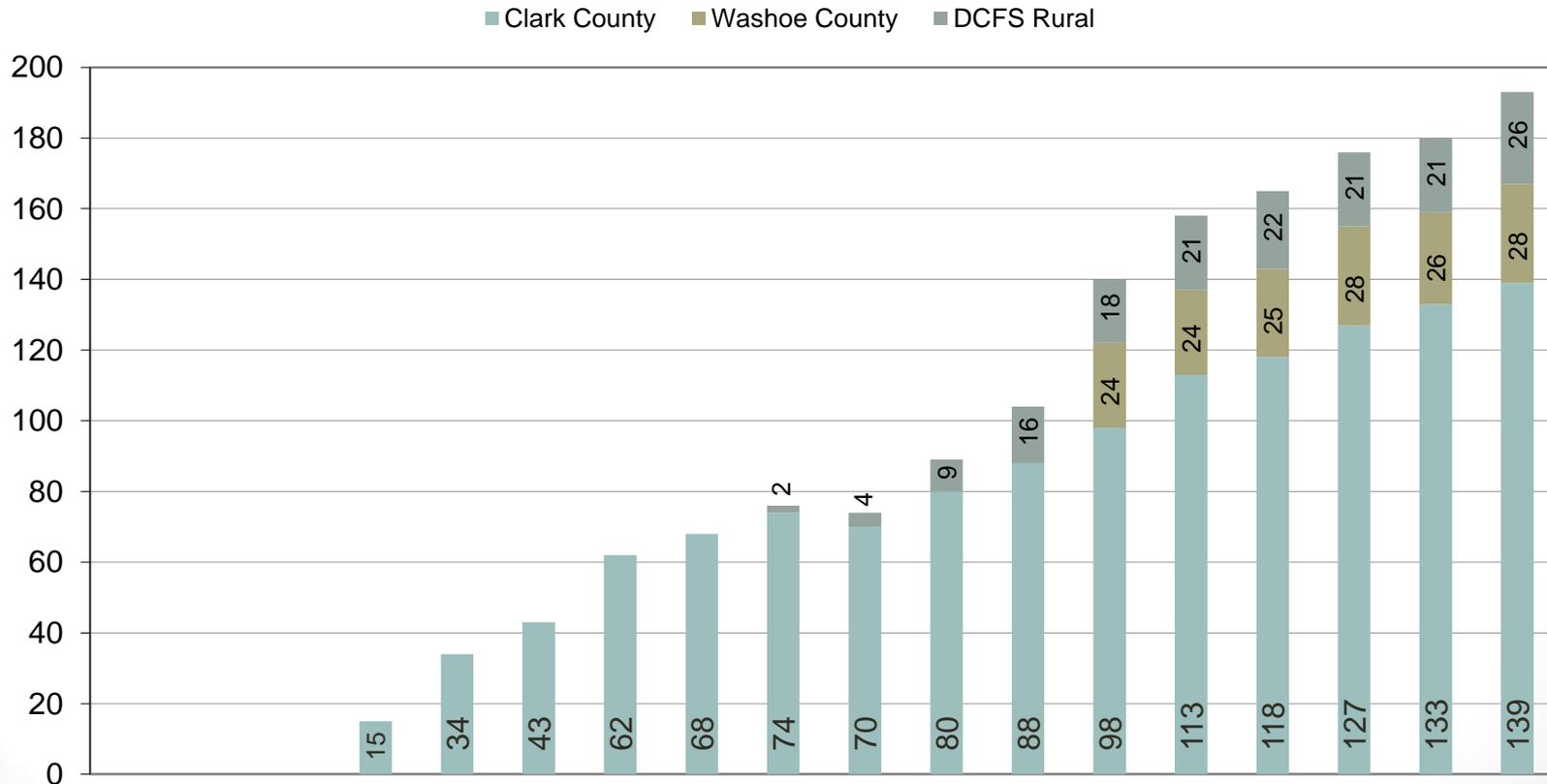
source: DCFS Independent Living Data Profile

# Court Jurisdiction

- During the 2011 legislative session Assembly Bill 350 was passed.
- Created an opportunity for youth aging out of foster care to have additional supports to support successful transition to adulthood.
  - Financial Assistance
  - Case Management Support
- Youth may opt-in to this program, and have access to funds equal to the state foster care rate until age 21.
- Youth are required to comply with a transition plan and make positive steps towards self sufficiency to remain in the program.

# Number of Foster Youth Remaining under Court Jurisdiction after Age 18

## Court Jurisdiction Youth by Agency



# Child and Family Service Review (CFSR)

- Provides an opportunity to review, analyze and improve internal child welfare policies and practices.
- Ensures compliance and conformity with the requirements of Title IV-B and Title IV-E of the Social Security Act and regulations identified by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.
- Conducted every five years, review teams assesses:
  - Child Protective Services
  - Foster Care
  - Adoption
  - Family Preservation and Family Support
  - Independent Living
- Outcomes from the CFSR are rolled up into 23 items related to:
  - Safety
  - Permanency
  - Child and Family Well Being
- 22 systemic factors related to:
  - The effectiveness of the State's systems for child welfare information, case review, and quality assurance
  - Training of child welfare staff, parents, and other stakeholders
  - The array of services that support children and families
  - The agency's responsiveness to the community
  - Foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention

# CFSR (continued)

- The second Child and Family Services Review was conducted in 2009. As all states, Nevada was placed on a 2 year Program Improvement Plan (PIP) to address the areas needing improvement that were found in the CFSR.
- The PIP was implemented on December 1, 2010 with a focus on 5 primary strategies to enhance child welfare practices:
  - Assessment of safety practices throughout the life of a case
  - Preserving connections and strengthening relationships
  - Improve timeliness and appropriateness of permanency planning
  - Strengthen child welfare supervision and middle management skills
  - Expand service options and create flexibility for services to meet the needs of children and families

Each of the 5 strategies branched out into a total of 8 goals and 41 action steps/benchmarks.

## **The Program Improvement Plan (PIP) was approved by the Administrator for Children and Families, February 2013!!!!**

- In addition to the PIP, the State must make improvements in all **9 items** found during the case reviews to be in need of improvement and must do so within the 2 years of the PIP and a non-overlapping data year (year 3). Nevada has passed 8/9 items to date.
- The third thing the state must pass is all 6 National Standard Indicators. Nevada has successfully passed 5/6 to date.
  - Annual financial penalties are assigned to every state that does not achieve every item, action step and indicator every year until those items are met.
- Nevada's CFSR and PIP can be located on the DCS website:
  - [http://www.dcss.state.nv.us/Reports/2009/NV2009\\_CFSR\\_Summary\\_FinalReport.pdf](http://www.dcss.state.nv.us/Reports/2009/NV2009_CFSR_Summary_FinalReport.pdf)
  - [http://www.dcss.state.nv.us/DCFS\\_PIP.htm](http://www.dcss.state.nv.us/DCFS_PIP.htm)

# CFSR Results, Case Reviews and National Standard Indicators

Outcomes	Items	2010 Baseline	Target	Status Quarter
Safety 1	1. Timelines of investigations	76.19	80.4	81.0(8)
Safety 2	3. Services to protected children in home	70.45	74.9	76.1(4)
	4. Risk of harm	48.39	52.5	54.8(4)
Permanency 1	7. Permanency goal for child	57.14	62	61.9(8)
	10. Other planned living arrangement	50	61.3	62.5(4)
Well-Being 1	17. Needs/services of child, parent and foster parents	41.94	46	46.8(4)
	18. Child/family involvement in case planning	44.07	48.2	54.2(4)
	19. Caseworker visits with child	56.45	60.5	71.0(7)
	20. Caseworker visits with parents	45.28	49.7	50.9(7)

National Standard Indicators	Standard	NSI at 2009 CFSR	Initial AAI	FFY Met
S1-Absence of maltreatment	94.6	93.6	94.2	95.1/2008
S2- Absence of child abuse and neglect in foster care	99.68	99.61	99.64	Not Met
P1- Timeliness and permanency of reunification	122.6	153	N/A	153/2009
P2- Timeliness of Adoptions	106.4	82.8	83.1	84.7/2009
P3- Timeliness for children and youth in foster care for long periods of time	121.7	120.3	123.7	132.3/2008
P4- Placement stability	101.5	83.1	85.6	86.6/2009

# Accomplishments



- The Program Improvement Plan (PIP) was approved by the Administration for Children and Families, ending in January 2013.
- With support from the Casey Family Programs, Differential Response has been extended and Permanency Roundtables were expanded statewide.
- A new safety model is in the process of being implemented statewide
- In collaboration with the Court Improvement Project , completed a statewide training with all dependency courts and child welfare agencies regarding the new safety model and developing strategies to achieve timely permanency for children.
- Developed strong oversight for foster children on psychotropic medication by implementing a person legally responsible for the prescription of psychotropic medications for all foster children.

# Questions?



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