

Brian Sandoval
Governor

Richard Whitley
Director



State of Nevada

Department of Health and Human Services—
Division of Child and Family Services
Clark County Department of Family Services
Washoe County Human Services Agency

Child Welfare Presentation
January 24, 2018

Agenda Item IX (CHILD WELFARE)
Meeting Date: 01-24-18

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.

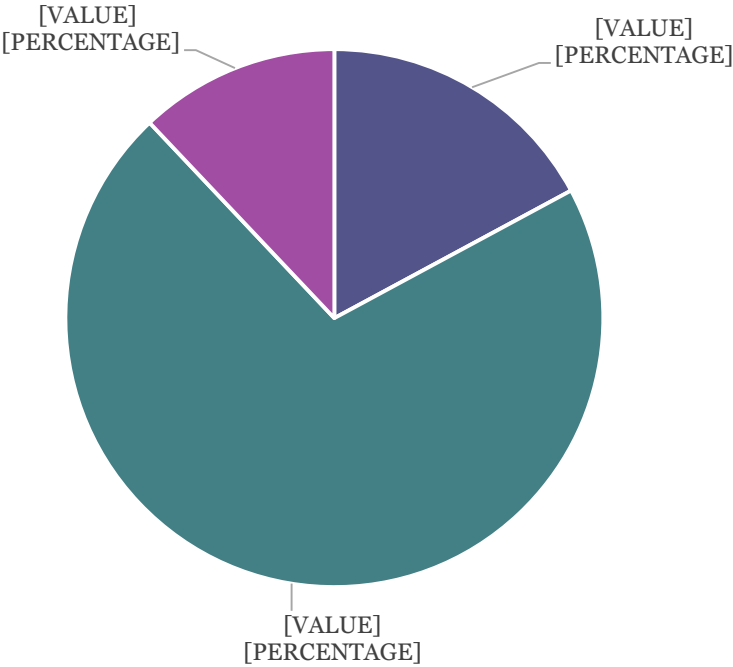
Nevada's Child Welfare Structure



- Per NRS 432B.180, Nevada uses a state-supervised, county-administered structure for the management of child welfare services. DCFS has state oversight for county administered child welfare services delivery providing technical assistance, policy development and review, fiscal oversight for federal monies, and quality improvement activities.
- Per NRS 432B.030, In counties whose population is 100,000 or more (Clark County and Washoe County) the county agency is responsible for child welfare services.
- In the remaining 15 Rural counties, DCFS provides the direct child welfare services.

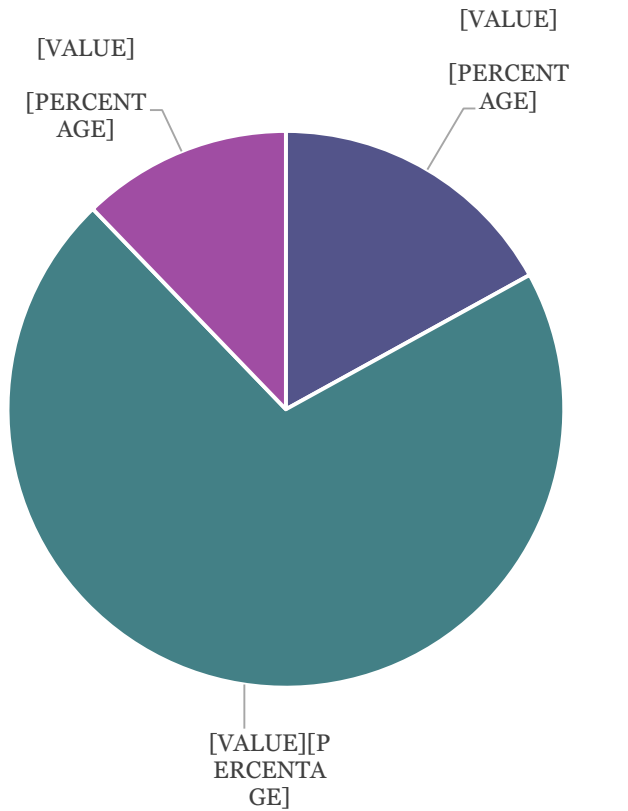
Funding Child Welfare in Nevada

SFY 18



- Administrative and Other Services
- CPS and Welfare Services- Urban Counties
- CPS and Welfare Services- Rural

SFY 19

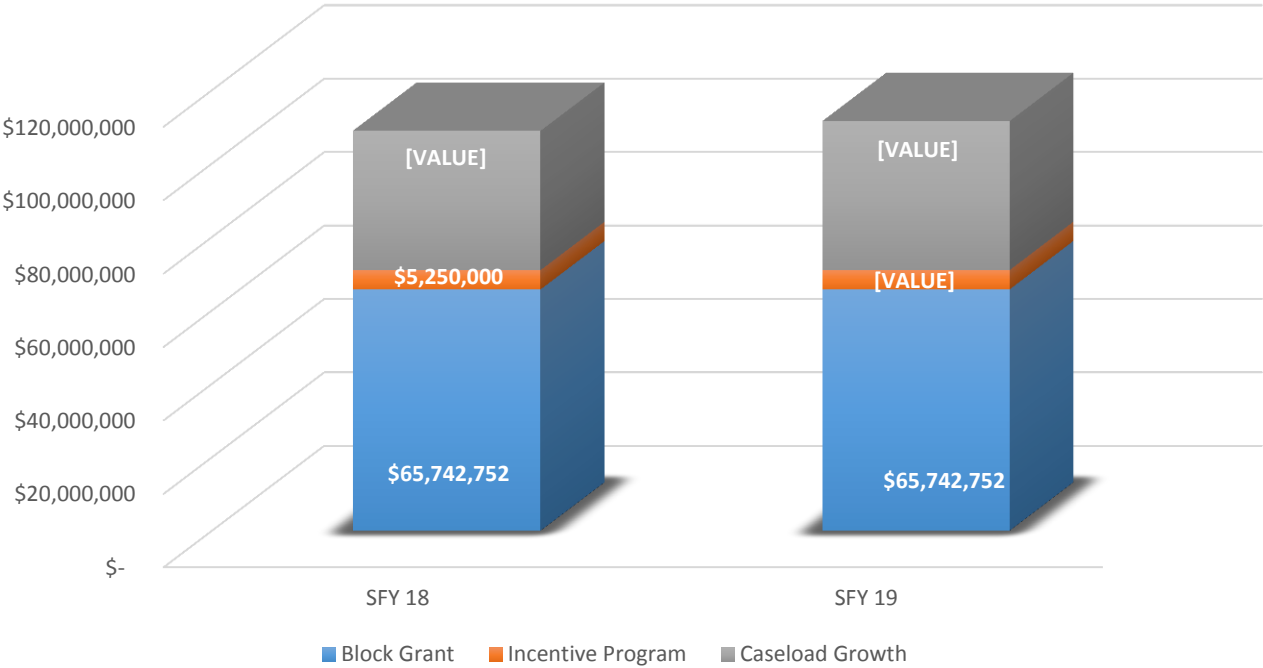


- Administrative and Other Services
- CPS and Welfare Services- Urban Counties
- CPS and Welfare Services- Rural

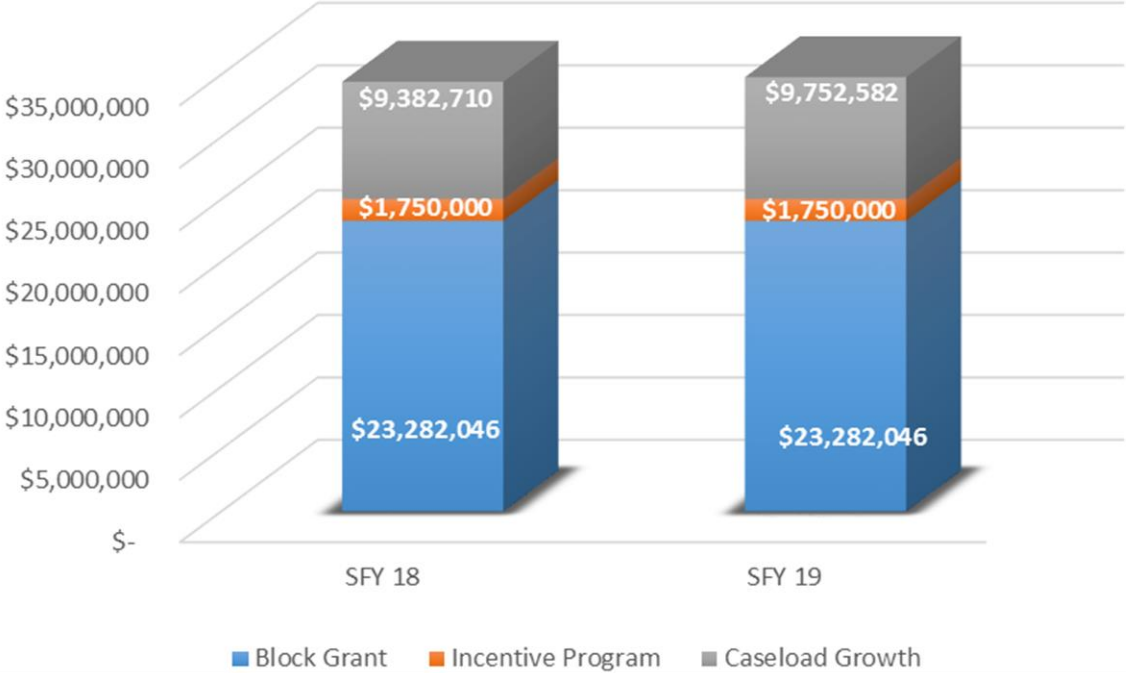
Funding Child Welfare in Nevada

- **Clark County Department of Family Services and Washoe County Department of Social Services receive an annual capped block grant each year to support child welfare services. The block grant is divided into two allocations:**
 - A base allocation for each biennium which is based on the total State General Fund appropriated for the previous biennium.
 - A second allocation which would include the estimated cost attributable to projected caseload growth for the adoption assistance program.
- **Clark County Department of Family Services and Washoe County Department of Social Services are eligible to receive incentive funds to stimulate and support improvement in key areas identified in the agency improvement plan.**

Clark County Funding (BA3142)



Washoe County Funding (BA3141)





Child Welfare Services and Programs



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, 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.

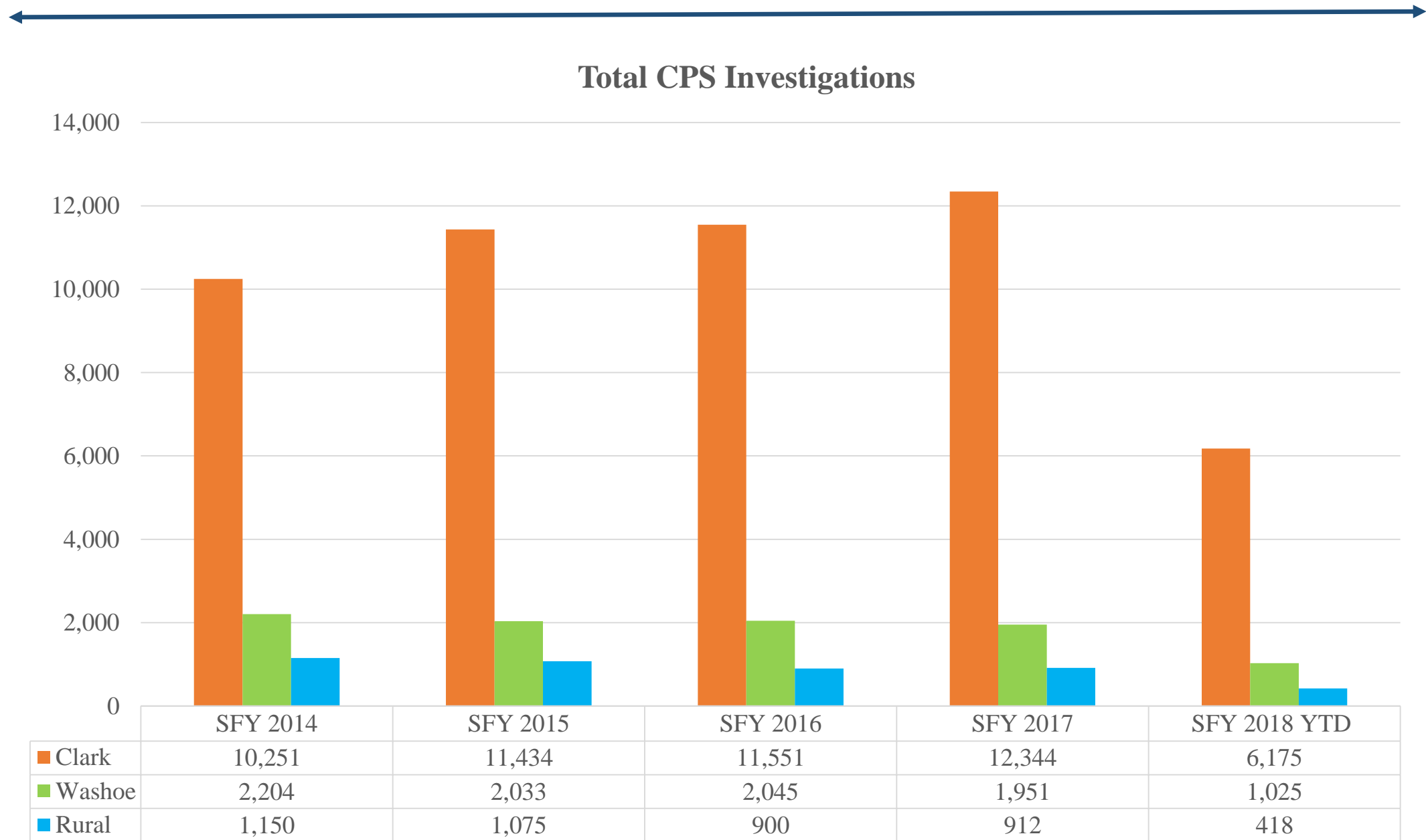
Child Protective Referrals and Investigations

Statewide CPS Referrals Received by Disposition

	SFY2015		SFY2016		SFY2017		SFY2018 Year-To-Date	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Clark								
Total New Referrals	21,068	100%	22,883	100%	25,040	100%	13,807	100%
Information Only	8,866	42%	10,650	47%	12,356	49%	7,481	54%
Differential Response	768	4%	682	3%	340	1%	151	1%
Investigations	11,434	54%	11,551	50%	12,344	49%	6,175	45%
Washoe								
Total New Referrals	5,680	100%	5,936	100%	5,554	100%	2,784	100%
Information Only	3,419	60%	3,639	61%	3,379	61%	1,665	60%
Differential Response	228	4%	252	4%	224	4%	94	3%
Investigations	2,033	36%	2,045	34%	1,951	35%	1,025	37%
Rural								
Total New Referrals	3,803	100%	4,155	100%	4,034	100%	1,937	100%
Information Only	2,294	60%	2,747	66%	2,619	65%	1,300	67%
Differential Response	434	11%	508	12%	503	12%	219	11%
Investigations	1,075	28%	900	22%	912	23%	418	22%
Statewide								
Total New Referrals	30,551	100%	32,974	100%	34,628	100%	18,528	100%
Information Only	14,579	48%	17,036	52%	18,354	53%	10,446	56%
Differential Response	1,430	5%	1,442	4%	1,067	3%	464	3%
Investigations	14,542	48%	14,496	44%	15,207	44%	7,618	41%

Source: DCFS Data Book

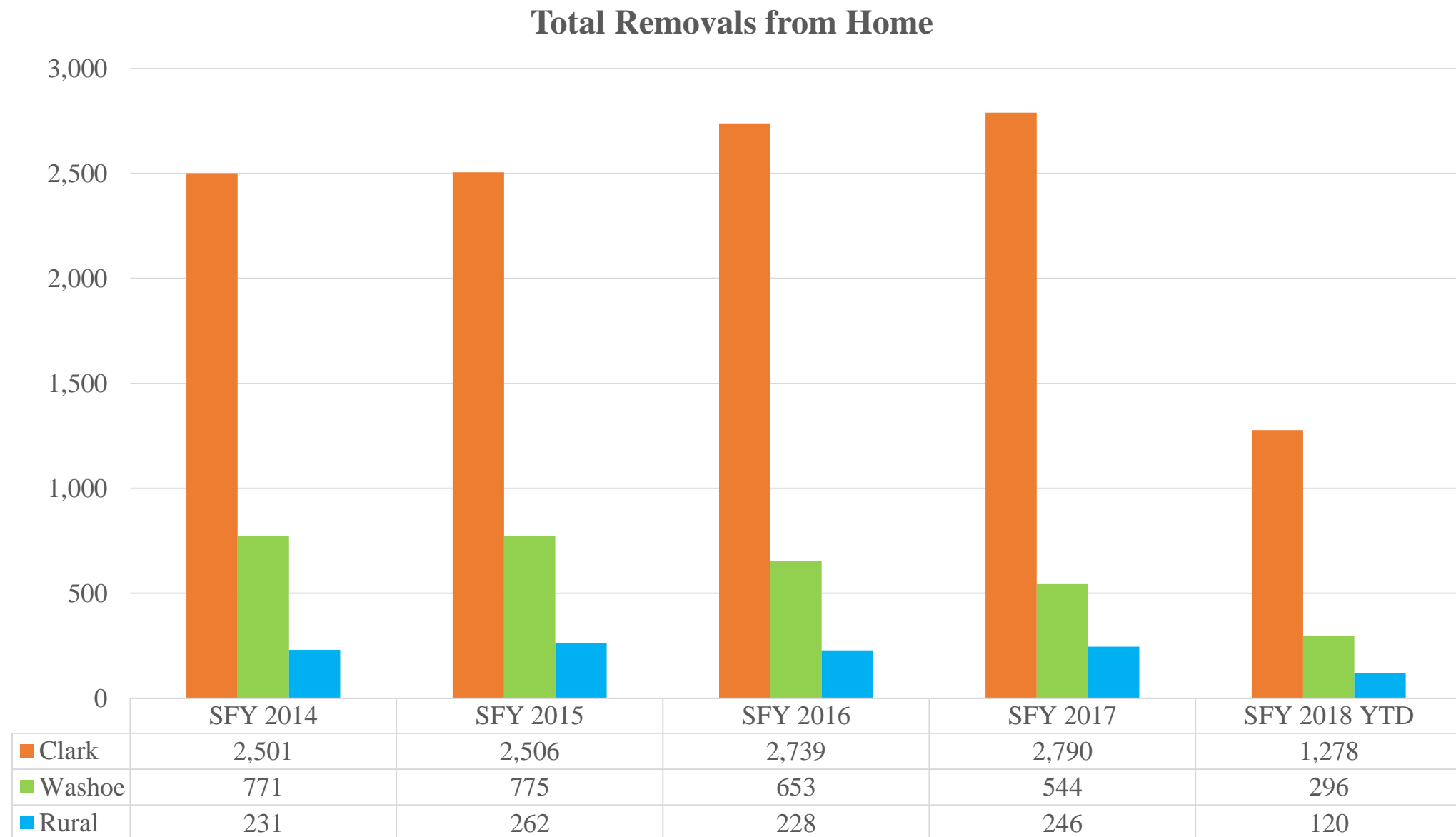
Statewide Investigations



SFY 2018 Year-To-Date (YTD) includes data from July through December 2017

Source: DCFS Data Book

Removals from the Home



SFY 2018 Year-To-Date (YTD) includes data from July through December 2017

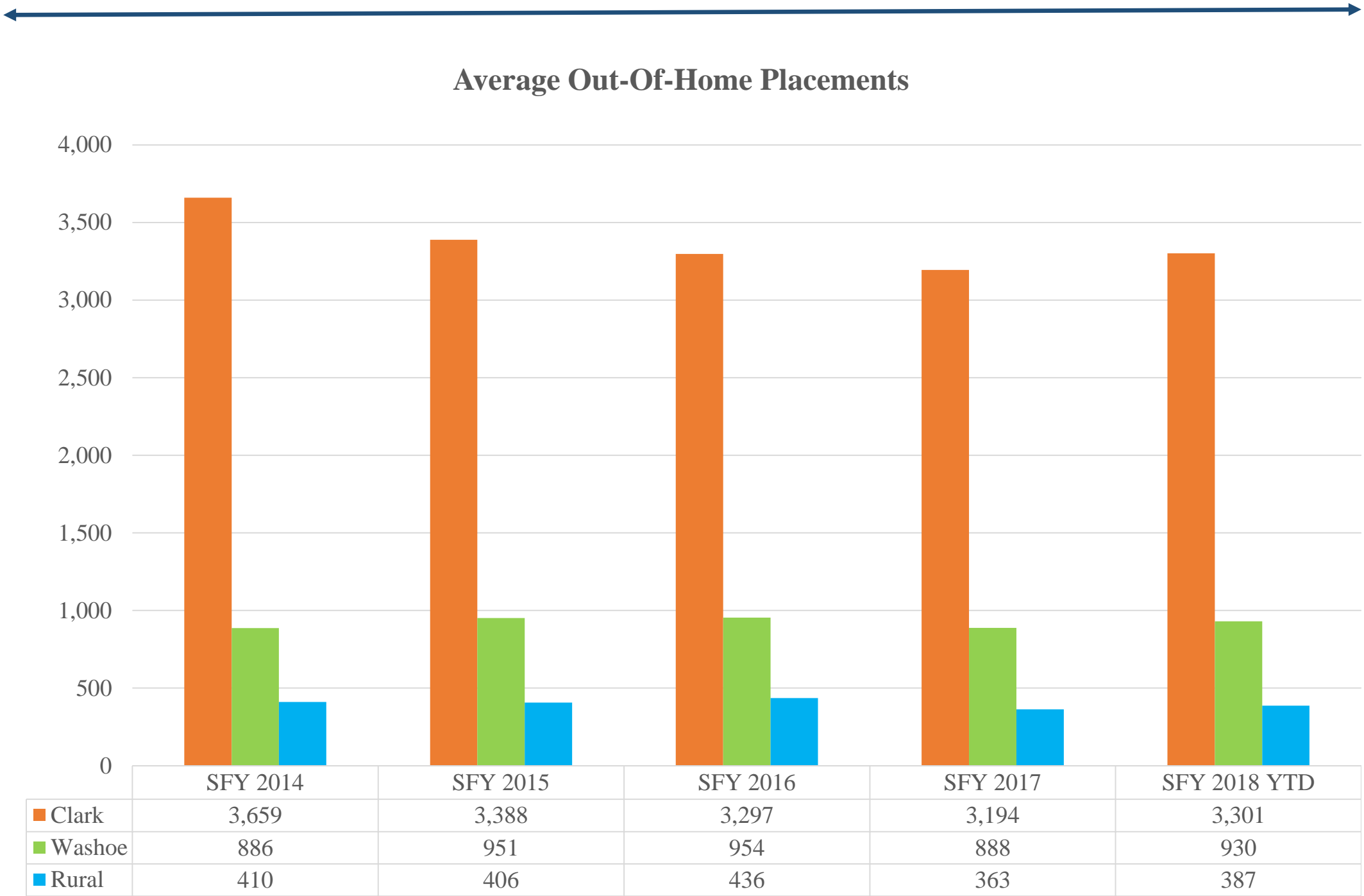
Source: DCFS Data Book

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 preferences are:
 - Placement with relatives/fictive kin
 - Regular family foster care or specialized level care if needed
 - Shelter care
- It is a priority to place and to maintain siblings together in the same placement.
- 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 permanency plans are explored such as adoption, guardianship, or Other Planned Living Arrangement (OPPLA).

Out of Home Placements

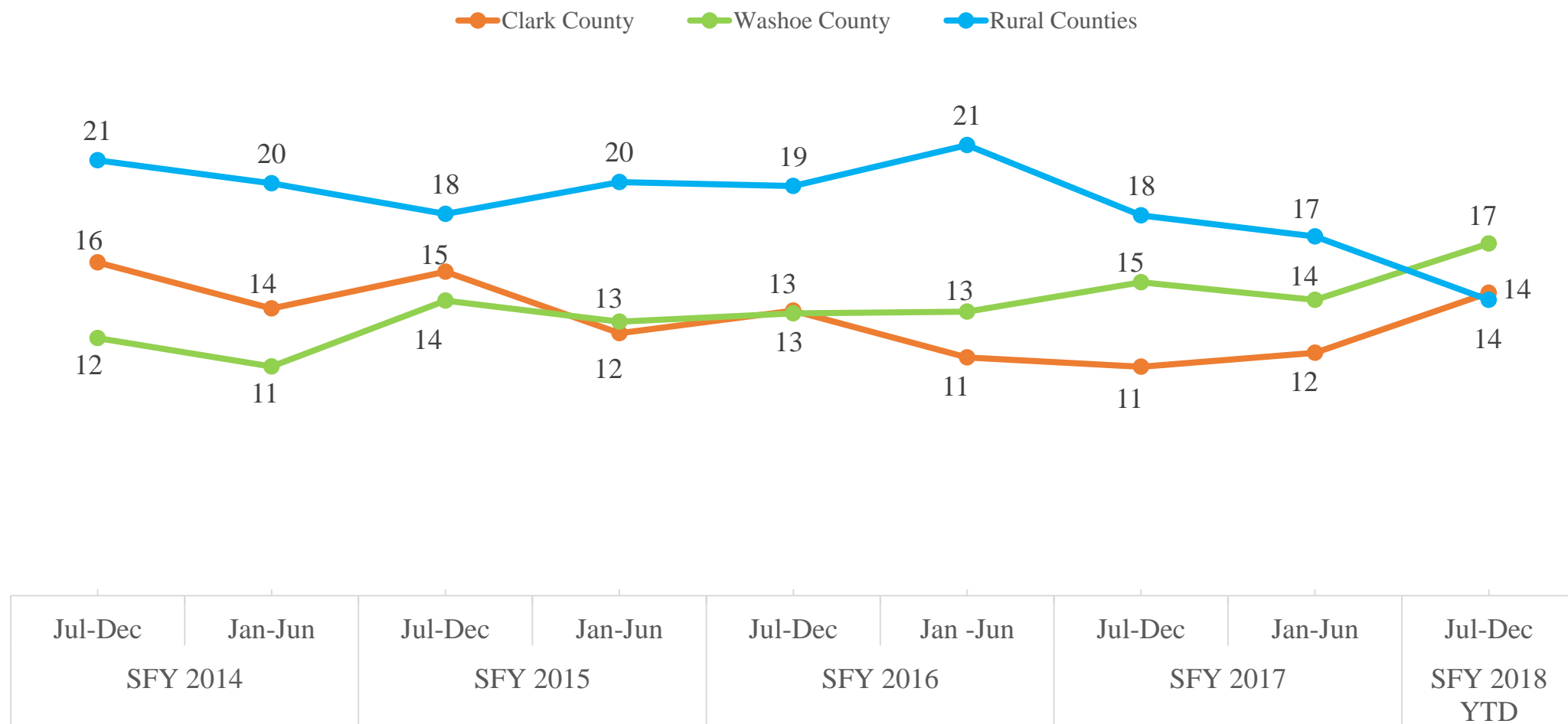


SFY 2018 Year-To-Date (YTD) includes data from July through December 2017

Source: DCFS Data Book

Average Length of Stay For Children Exiting Foster Care

Average Length of Stay in Months for Children Exiting Foster Care



SFY 2018 Year-To-Date (YTD) includes data from July through December 2017

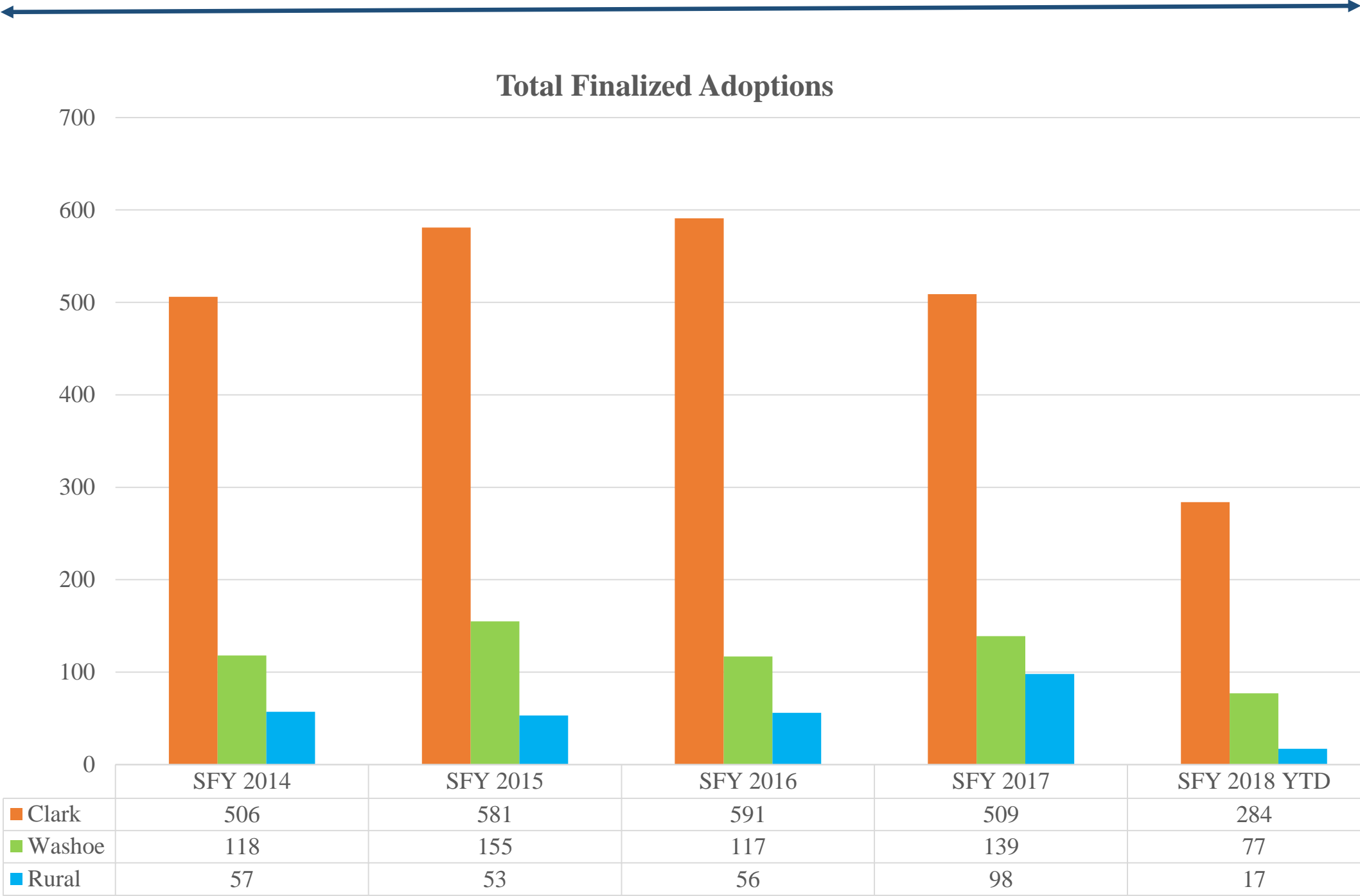
Source: DCFS Data Book

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 children in foster care 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.

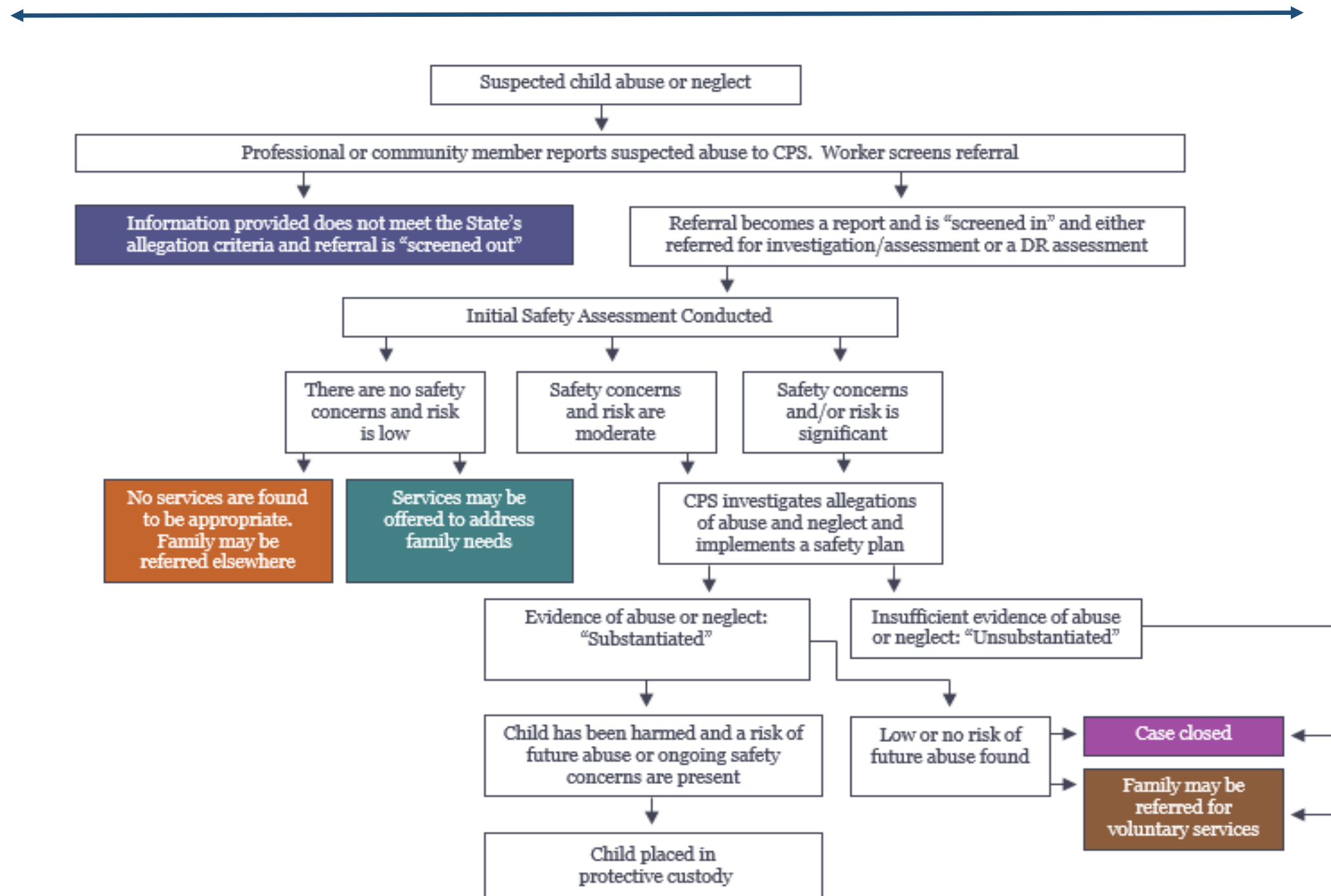
Statewide Finalized Adoptions



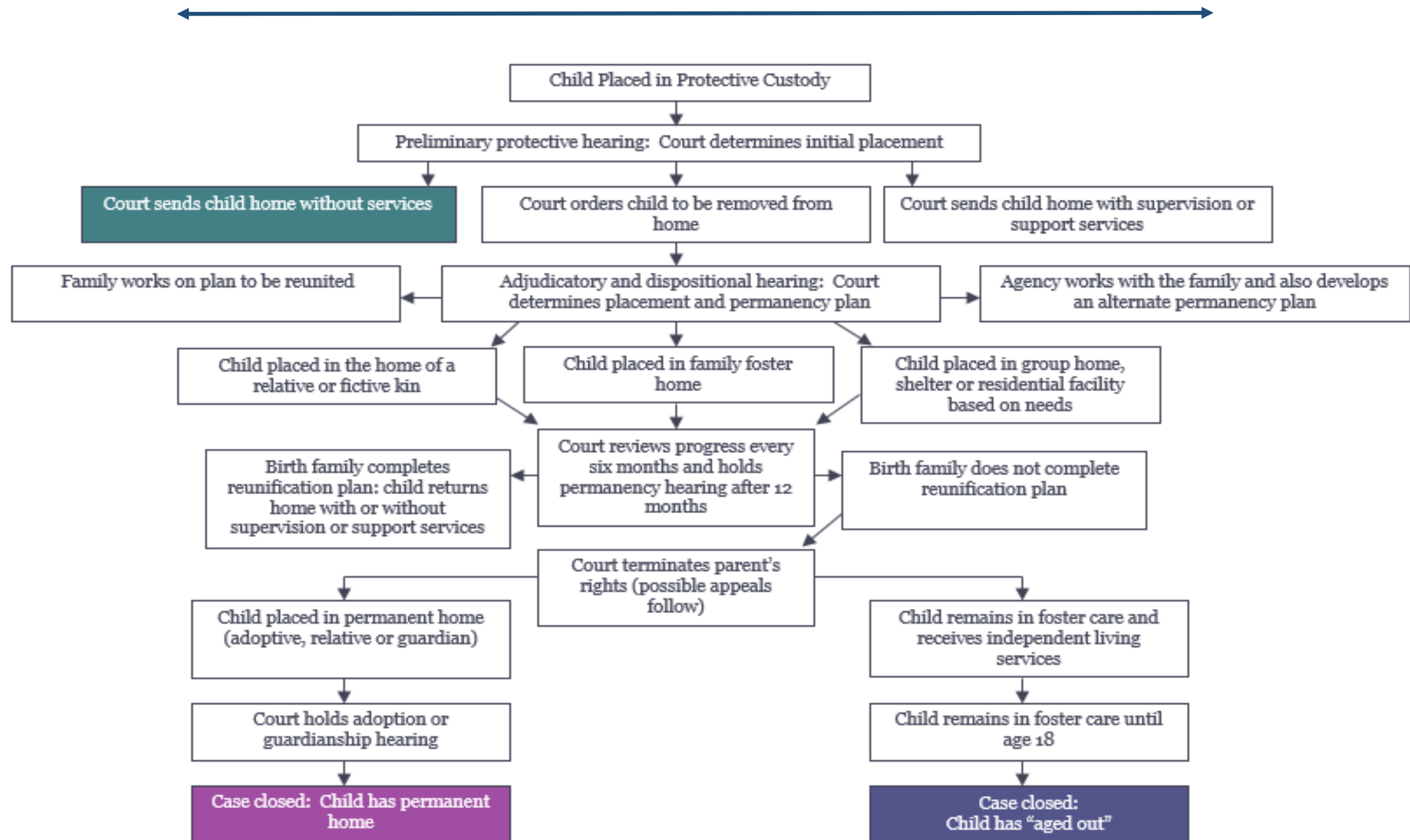
SFY 2018 Year-To-Date (YTD) includes data from July through December 2017

Source: DCFS Data Book

A Family's Journey Through the Child Welfare System (continued)



A Family's Journey Through the Child Welfare System (continued)



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 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.

Court Jurisdiction

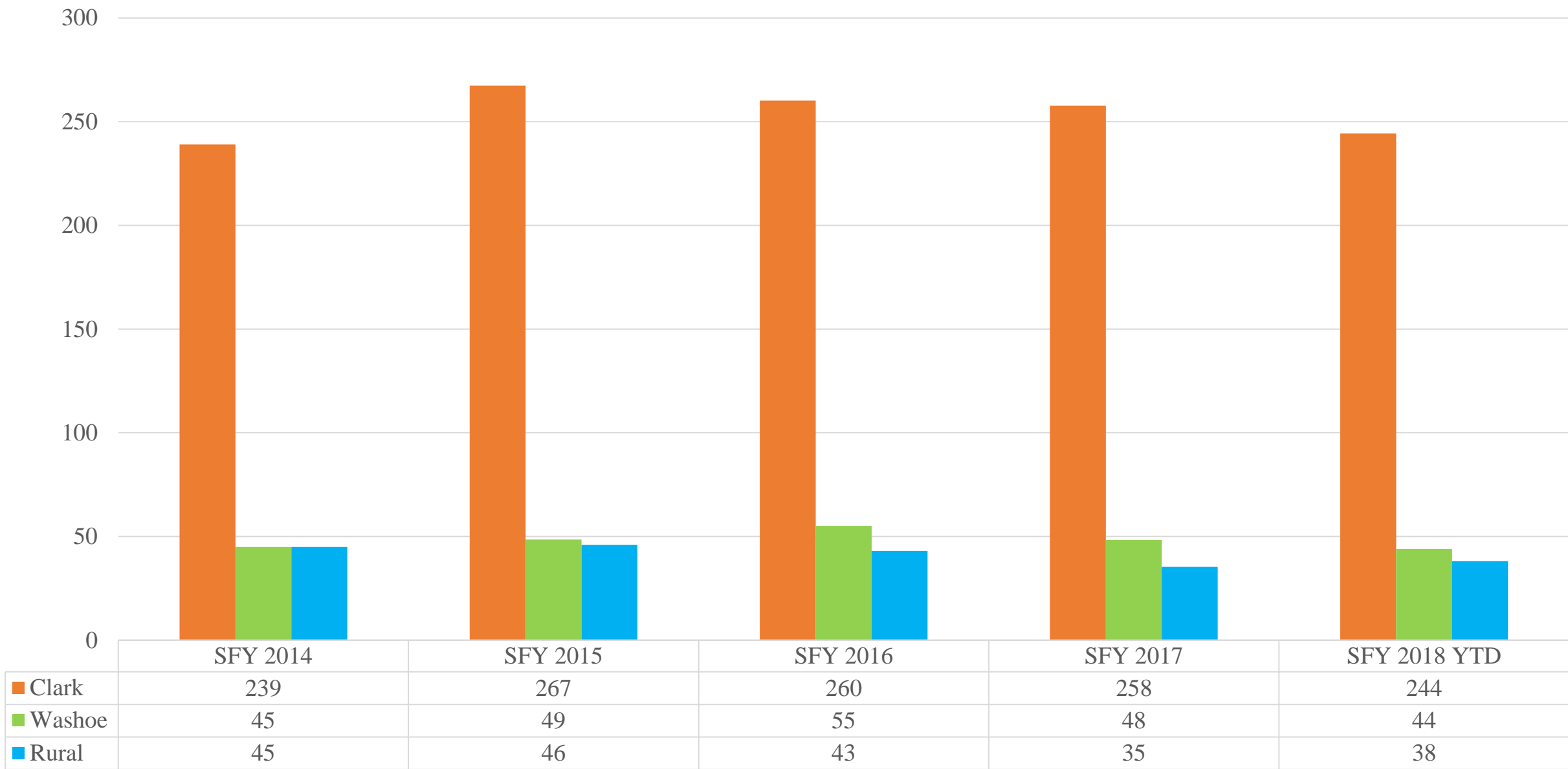


- NRS 432B.591-595 were enacted during the 2011 Legislative Session.
- Creates an opportunity for youth aging out of foster care to have additional assistance to support successful transition to adulthood.
- Youth may opt-in to this program, and have access to funds equal to the state foster care rate until age 21 and are provided case management support.
- Youth are required to comply with a transition plan and make positive steps towards self sufficiency to remain in the program.

Court Jurisdiction



Average Number of Youth in Court Jurisdiction



SFY 2018 Year-To-Date (YTD) includes data from July through December 2017

Source: DCFS Data Book

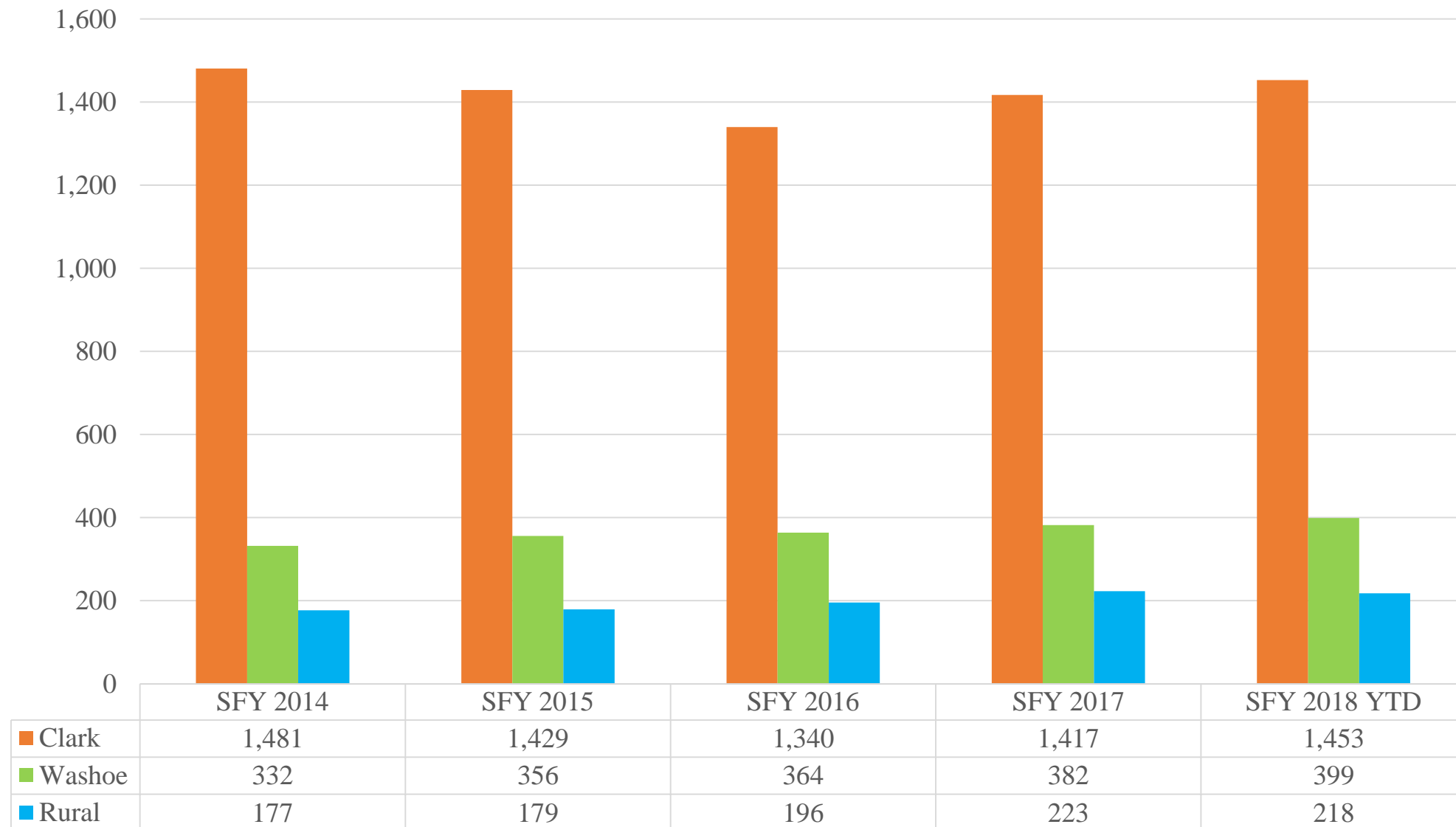
Foster Parent Recruitment, Licensing and Training



- New children come into the foster care system daily resulting in a continuous need for new, qualified foster parents.
- NRS 424 is followed for the foster care licensing process to identify suitable foster families.
- 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.
- 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
 - Trauma Informed Care
 - Safe Sleep
 - Suicide Prevention
 - Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, transgender and questioning children

Family Foster Homes

Average Family Foster Home Licenses



SFY 2018 Year-To-Date (YTD) includes data from July through December 2017

Source: DCFS Data Book



Child Welfare Initiatives/Accomplishments



Specialized Foster Care—Medicaid State Plan Amendment



- Specialized foster care was implemented on a pilot basis in 2013-2015 throughout Clark County, Washoe County, and the state's rural regions. Following the successful completion of the pilot, creation of the new model of the Specialized Foster Care Program (SFCP) was approved through the 2015 Legislature, not only to improve outcomes for foster children with special needs, but to also improve the effectiveness of monies spent for foster children suffering severe emotional disturbance (SED) within Nevada's Child Welfare System.
- Implementation of the programs have continued by child welfare agencies.
- Data collection requirements being completed by all three jurisdictions.
- Statewide workgroup with child welfare agencies and stakeholders working with Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (Medicaid) to amend the state plan to allow for providers to bill for services using a daily rate when medically necessary for children in foster care.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)



- Public Law (PL) 113-183 (Sections 101-105) enacted by the United States Congress, amended the federal foster care system to require state child welfare agencies, in collaboration with law enforcement, juvenile justice systems, health care providers, education agencies and organizations with experience in dealing with at-risk children to develop and implement procedures for identifying documentation in agency records, and determining appropriate services for commercially sexually exploited children both those who are victims or at risk of victimization.
- Executive Order 2016-04 established the Nevada Coalition to Prevent the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children on May 16, 2016.
- Statewide coordinated response protocol is being developed through 6 subcommittees—prevention, engagement, care coordination, training, data analysis and legal.
- Annual report is posted on DCFS website.
- CSEC Legal Subcommittee in process of reviewing NRS432B.130 to determine revisions needed to comply with CAPTA requirements.

Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act (CARA)



- Federal law enacted on July 22, 2016 in response to the national opioid epidemic.
- NRS changed during 2017 Legislative Session to include mandatory reporting on all substances not just illegal substances as was previously in statute.
- Child welfare agencies working collaboratively with Department of Public and Behavioral Health in meeting with hospitals regarding reporting requirements and the development of plans of safe care prior to release of an infant affected by substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms to ensure their safety and well-being.
- Child welfare agencies developing statewide policies and practice guidelines.

Children's Commission



- Children's Commission established on August 12, 2016, under the supreme court, pursuant to ADKT 0514
- Commission comprised of child welfare stakeholders such as: Judges, legislators, child and parent attorneys, child advocacy, education representatives.
- Commission will further reform initiatives and provide support for local dependency courts in their efforts to best serve the needs of children and families in various judicial districts.
- Commission's Focus:
 - Develop training programs based on evidence-based considerations of policy changes, initiatives, and nationally recognized standards of practice for court personnel and multi-disciplinary groups who serve the dependency population.
 - Strengthen system improvements for technology capability and statewide data sharing.
 - Enhance public awareness of challenges facing children and families involved in the dependency system
 - Combine efforts of multiple statewide dependency drive committees, task forces and initiatives within one commission to better utilize scarce judicial and other resources.

Clark County Department of Family Services



Accomplishments in 2017

- 1,226 children were successfully reunified with their parents and exited care
- 521 children were adopted (Calendar Year 2017)
- 40% reduction in use of congregate care (Child Haven)
- The At Risk Youth Support program (ARYS) was successfully implemented in 2017. The program is designed to identify and assist youth in the child welfare system who are at-risk for sex trafficking and provide additional support and intervention when needed.
- Safe Families was successfully launched in 2017 with the assistance of Olive Crest. This is a community-based program focused on preventative services.
- The Safe@Home program (Clark Title IV-E waiver) has successfully served 291 families and 814 children in 2017. The program launched in 2015 and is designed to provide services so that children can remain safely within their biological home.
- In partnership with Annie E. Casey, the Family Matters initiative was launched in 2017 and focuses on reducing the use of congregate care by focusing on CPS and Placement, streamlining Foster Care Licensing, and improving Kinship Support services.

Washoe County Human Services Agency



Accomplishments in 2017

- 143 children were adopted (calendar year 2017)
- 386 children were successfully reunified with their parents and exited the foster care system.
- Number of children removed from their homes and placed in foster care decreased from 653 to 551: 16%
- Average number of children placed in congregate care (kids kottage) went from an annual average of 60 kids to 31, and the last 6 months census has been under 25, a record for Washoe County. This shows children upon removal, being placed in a family like setting and reducing the number of placements and increases stability for foster children.
- The successful opening of the Family Engagement Center occurred November 2017. The first Family Visitation Center in the state of Nevada. The center is aimed at increasing reunifications and providing a healthy, nurturing and supportive environment for families in the foster care system.
- Number of Foster care licenses has increased by 33%, and relatives becoming licensed has increased 16%, a critical piece of the child welfare system to place foster children in the least intrusive placement possible which reduces multiple placements and decreases trauma to children.
- Foster care children placed out of state for mental health treatment has decreased by 64%, serving Washoe County's children within our own community and connected to their families, social activities and support networks
- HSA received the Kristine Nagy-Johnson Quality Public Service Award for the Family Engagement Center
- Beginning in January 2018, HSA will open the first Crossroads program aimed at housing women who have children in the child welfare system and are struggling with addiction to attempt to reunify quicker and decrease wait time for substance abuse treatment openings. The first ever for HSA merging it's Nationally recognized Crossroads program with child welfare families.

Division of Child and Family Services-Rural Region

Accomplishments in 2017

- 71 children reached permanency through adoption in calendar year 2017, 100 children achieved permanency through adoption in calendar year 2016. Past years average has been 55 youth adoptions.
- Completed Implementation of SAFE practice model in 15 Rural counties.
- Trained Judges, attorneys, CASA and GAL's from 6 District Courts (Eighty eight (88) trained so far) on SAFE practice Model, 2 more court trainings pending.
- Implemented enhanced Diligent Search procedure for absent parents and relatives in 432B cases.
- In 2017, we had our lowest year of removals for kids under 5 in the past 4 years.

STATE FISCAL YEAR	AGE	COUNT OF CHILDREN ENTERED CUSTODY
SFY14	0-4 years of age	85
SFY15	0-4 years of age	94
SFY16	0-4 years of age	108
SFY17	0-4 years of age	80

- Advanced Foster Care Program continues to grow and have positive outcomes. Currently have 19 AFC Homes.
- DCFS used grant money to improve service array and quality of services for rural families by funding several evidenced based trainings for rural mental health providers IN rural counties on topics which included: Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), Parent Management Training (PMT), Coping CAT - strategies to cope and improve symptoms of depression and anxiety.
- In the process of adopting the newest version of the Foster/Adoptive PRIDE curriculum. Current version is 2006 or older.

Questions?



- Reesha Powell, Deputy Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services
(775) 684-7956
rpowell@dcfs.nv.gov
- Paula Hammack, Acting Director, Clark County Department of Family Services
(702) 455-5484
hammacpm@clarkcountynv.gov
- Amber Howell, Director, Washoe County Human Services Agency
(775) 337-4488
ahowell@washoecounty.us



Appendix



Division of Child and Family Services, Acronyms

A

ABA – Applied Behavioral Analysis
ACA – Affordable Care Act
ACF – Administration of Children and Families
ACL – Administration for Community Living
ADSD – Aging and Disability Services Division
AFDC – Aid Families with Dependent Children
AGP – Amerigroup
AMCHP – Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
AOD – Alcohol & other Drugs
AOT – Assisted Outpatient Treatment
ASPR – Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
ASTHO – Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
ARRA – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
ATAP – Autism Treatment Assistance Program

B

BEARS – (Baby) Birth Evaluation and Assessment of Risk Survey
BHCQC – Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance
BHWC – Behavioral Health and Wellness Council
BIPP – Balancing Incentive Payment Program

C

CASAT – Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies
CCDP – Child Care and Development Program
CCHD – Critical Congenital Heart Disease
CDPHP – Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
CDS – Core Data Set
CFR – Code of Federal Regulations
CHIP – Children’s Health Insurance Program
CMO – Care Management Organization
CMS – Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
COA – Commission on Aging
COD – Co-Occurring Disorder
COOP – Continuity of Operations Plan
CPC – Civil Protective Custody
CPS – Child Protective Services
CSA – Core Standardized Assessment
CSPD – Commission on Services to Persons with Disabilities

D

DAFS – District Attorney Family Support
DBT – Digital Breast Tomosynthesis
DCFS – Division of Child and Family Services
DHCFP – Division of Health Care Financing and Policy
DPBH – Division of Public and Behavioral Health
DSH – Disproportionate Share Hospitals
DSM-IV – Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV
DSRIP – Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment
DWSS – Division of Welfare and Supportive Services

E

ECHO – Extension for Community Health Outcomes
EI – Early Intervention
EITS – Enterprise IT Services
EMS – Emergency Medical Systems
EMSC – Emergency Medical Services for Children
EMR – Electronic Medical Record
EPSDT – Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services
EQRO – External Quality Review Organization

F

FDA – Federal Drug Administration
FFI – Federal Fiscal Year
FFS – Fee For Service
FMAP – Federal Medical Assistance Percentage

H

- HAZTRAK** – Hazardous Materials Notification System
- HCGP** – Health Care Guidance Program
- HCBW-AL** – Home and Community Based Waiver for Assisted Living
- HCBW-FE** – Home and Community Based Waiver for the Frail Elderly
- HCQC** – Health Care Quality and Compliance
- HER** – Electronic Health Record
- HIPPA** – Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act
- HPN** – Health Plan of Nevada
- HPV** – Human Papillomavirus
- HRSA** – Health Resources and Services Administration
- HSAG** – Health Services Advisory Group

I

- ICJ** – Interstate Compact For Juveniles
- ICPC** – Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children
- ICWA** - Indian Child Welfare Act
- IMS** – Information Management Systems

J

- JJ** – Juvenile Justice
- JD** – Juvenile Delinquency
- JJAC** – Juvenile Justice Advisory Council
- JJAG** – Juvenile Justice Advisory Group
- JJIS** – Juvenile Justice Information System
- JJRC** – Juvenile Justice Resource Center
- JJPO** – Juvenile Justice Programs Office

K

- Kinship** – Kinship in Nevada Project
- KinGAP** – Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program

M

- MCRT** – Mobile Crisis Response Team
- MDHS** – Mental Health and Development Services
- MOU** – Memorandum of Understanding

N

- NNCAS** – Northern Nevada Child and Adolescent
- NYTC** – Northern Nevada Youth Training Center
- NCANS** – National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System
- NCJA** – National Criminal Justice Association
- NIC** – National Institute of Corrections
- NPT** – Nevada Partnership for Training

O

- OPPLA** – Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement

P

- PREA** – Prison Rape Elimination Act

S

- SACWIS** – Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System
- SED** – Severe Emotional Disturbance
- SFCP** – Specialized Foster Care Program
- SNCAS** – Southern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services
- SOC** – System of Care
- SOW** – Scope of Work
- SVYCC** – Summit View Youth Correctional Center

T

- TIR** – Technology Investment Request

U

- UNITY** – Unified Nevada Information Technology for Youth
- UNLV** – University of Las Vegas, Nevada
- UNR** – University of Reno, Nevada

V

- VOCA** – Victims of Crime Act

W

- WDSS** – Washoe County Department of Social Services
- WIN** – Wrap-around in Nevada