

The Child Welfare System and Foster Care in Wisconsin



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Family Impact Seminar
February 4, 2015

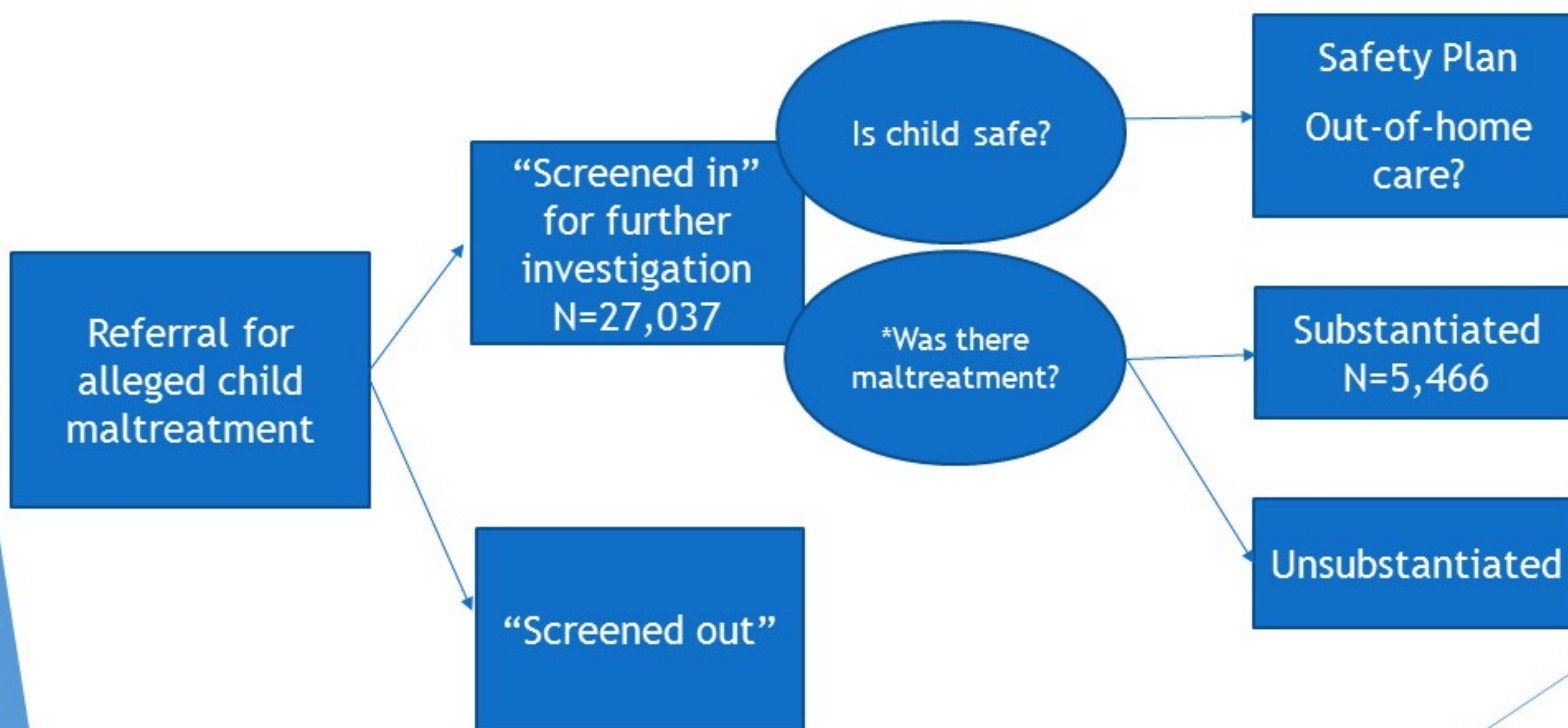
Wisconsin's Child Welfare System: Desired Outcomes

- ▶ Children are cared for in safe, permanent, and nurturing families who have the necessary skills and resources to provide for their physical and mental health as well as their behavioral and educational needs.
- ▶ Through effective intervention, parents, caregivers, and families improve their ability to develop and maintain a safe, stable environment for their children.
- ▶ Children are safely maintained in their own home, families, and communities with connections, culture, and relationships preserved and established. When it is necessary to place children in out-of-home care, it is a safe, short, and stable experience.

Wisconsin's Child Welfare System: Organizational Structure

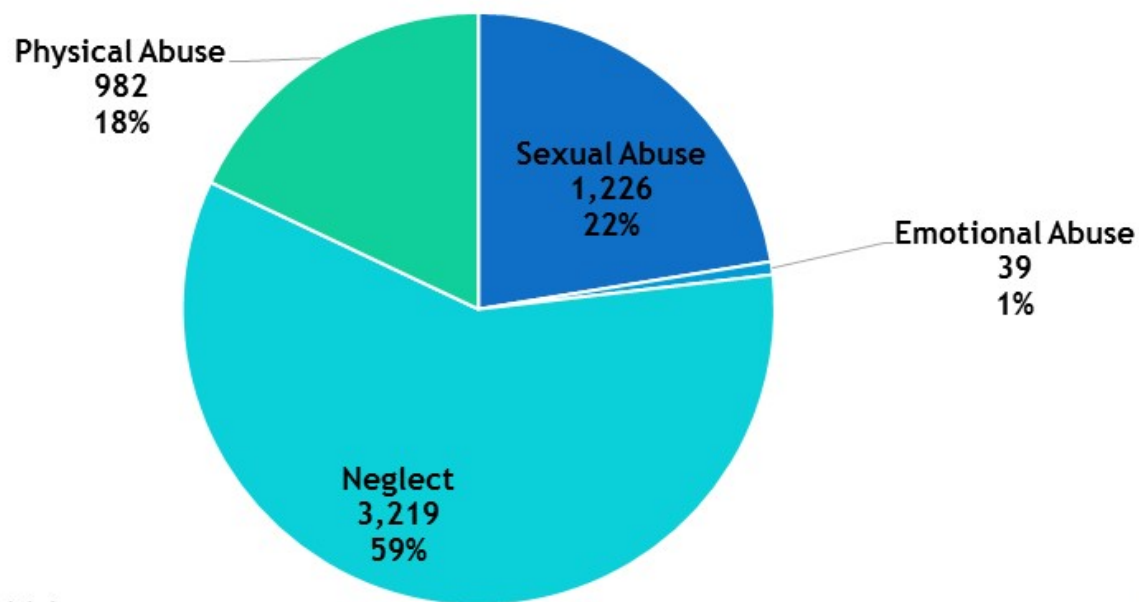
- ▶ State-supervised
 - ▶ WI Department of Children and Families
- ▶ County-administered, except Milwaukee
 - ▶ Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW)
- ▶ Federal, state, tribal requirements and practice standards
 - ▶ Trauma-informed principles
- ▶ Many actions require review and approval of court system
- ▶ Training (initial and ongoing) for foster parents required

Entry into the Child Welfare System and Out-of-Home Care



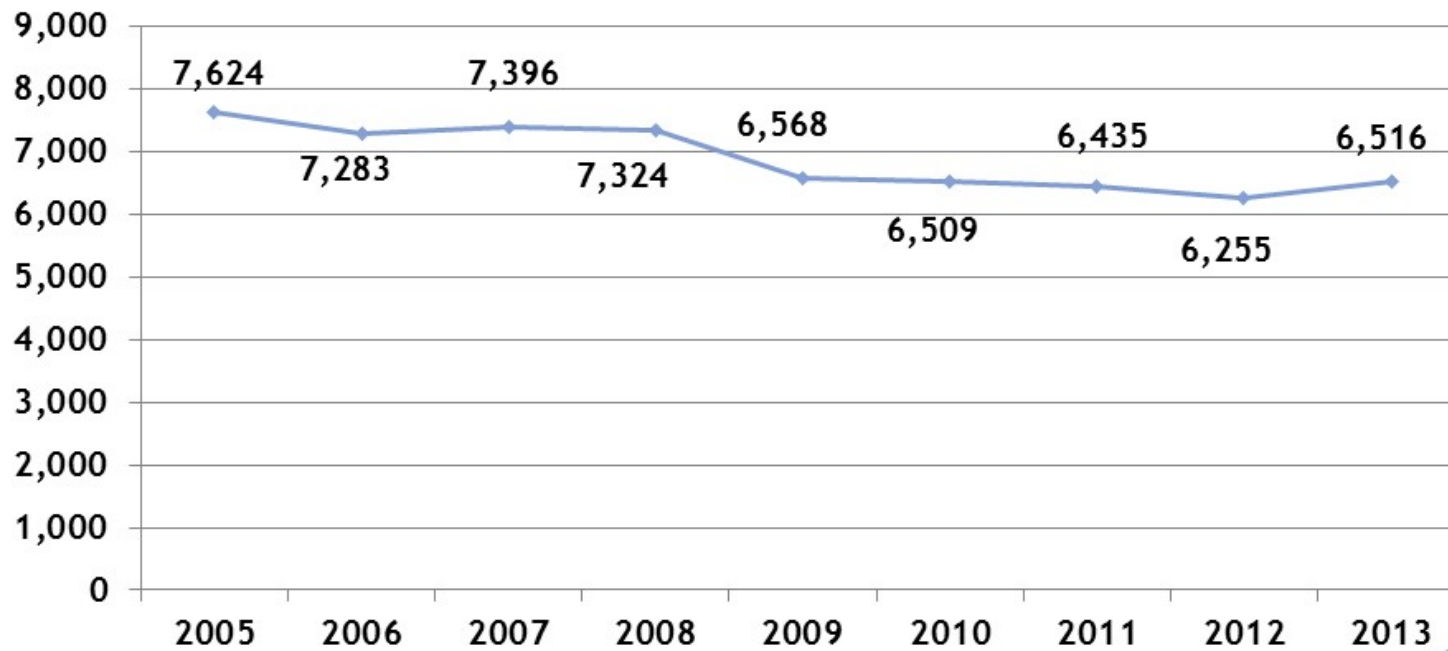
*Alternative Response

Substantiated Allegations of Child Abuse and Neglect (2013)

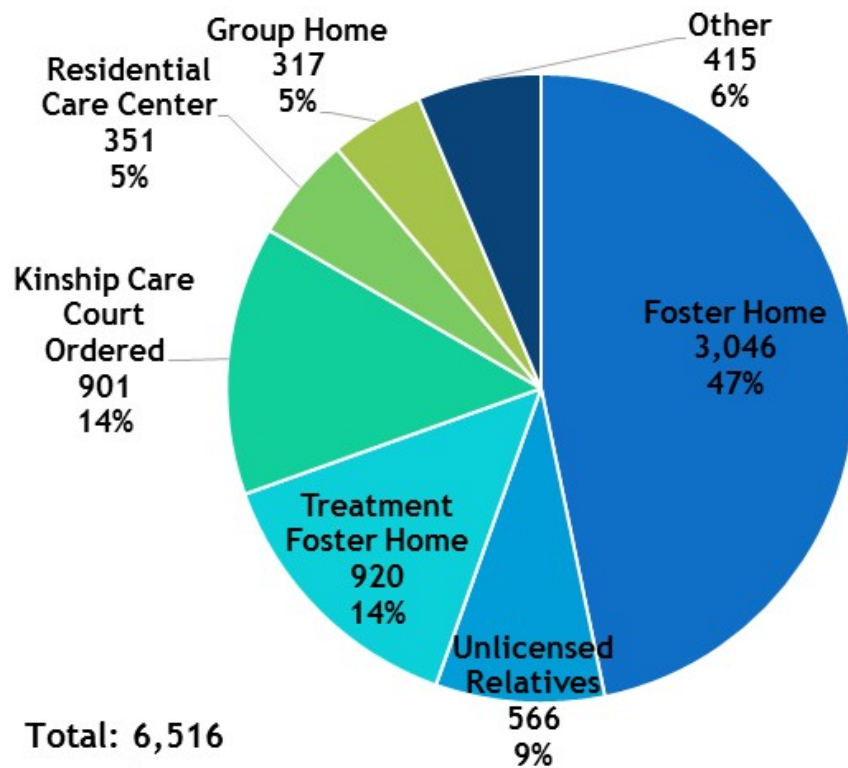


Total: 5,466

Total Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care on December 31



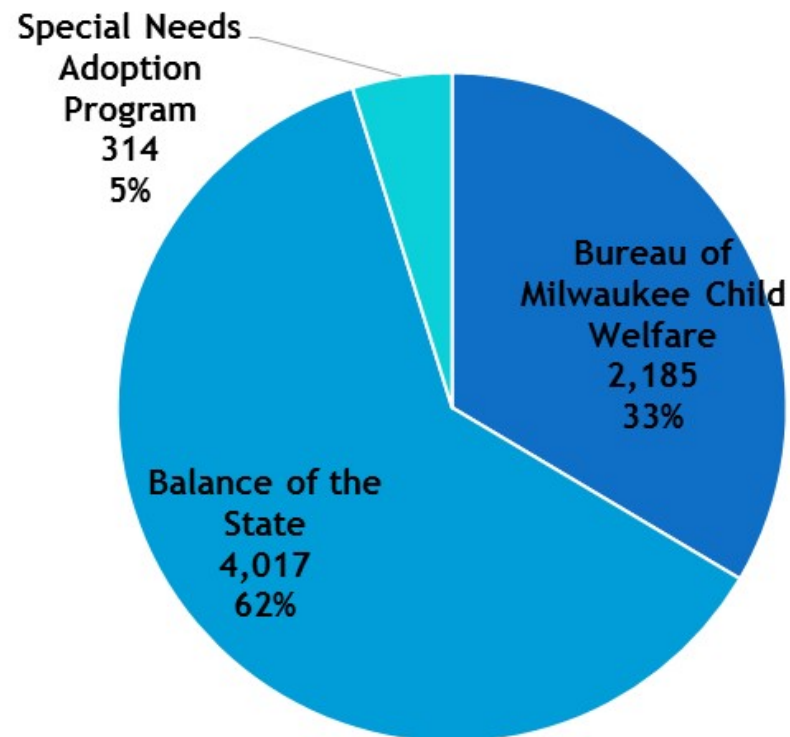
Setting Distribution of Children in Out-of-Home Care



Total: 6,516
December 31, 2013

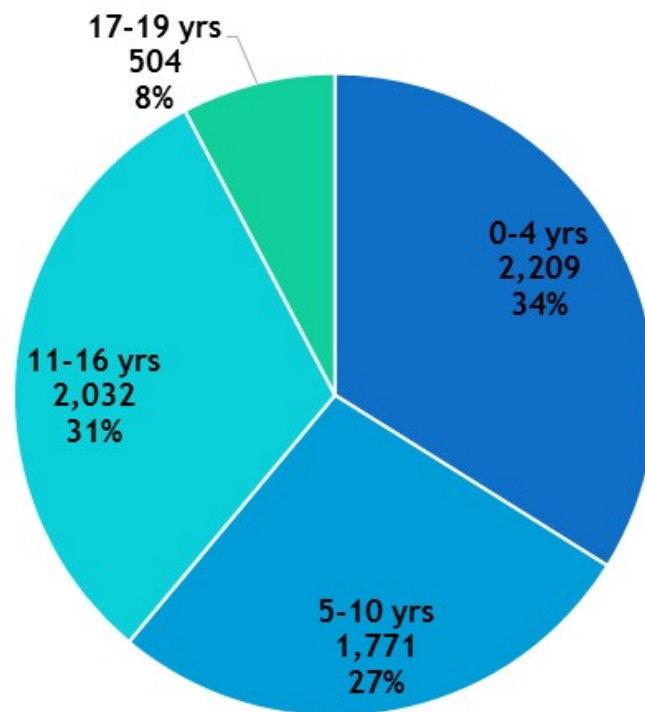
- 34% with relatives (N = 2,201)
- 66% with non-relatives (N = 4,315)
- Median length of stay = 11.5 months
- Average # of placements = 2.5

Geographic Distribution of Children in Out-of-Home Care



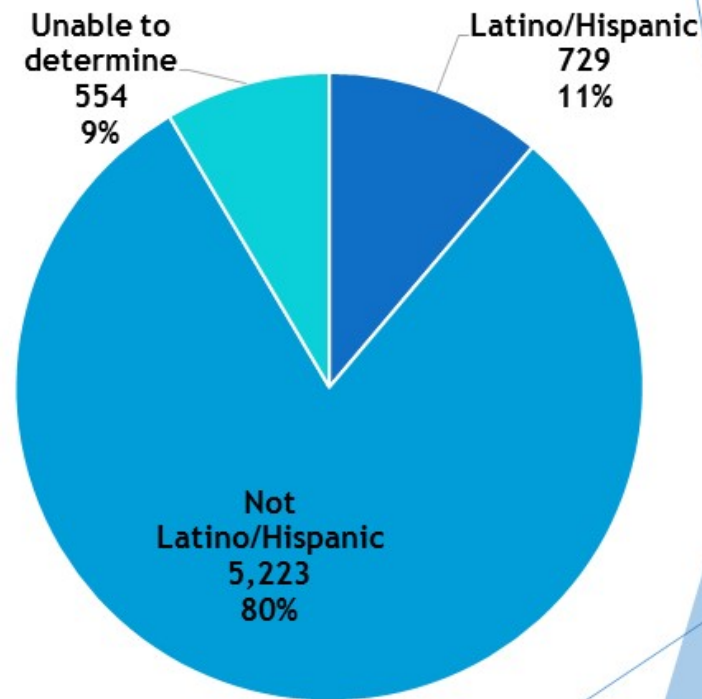
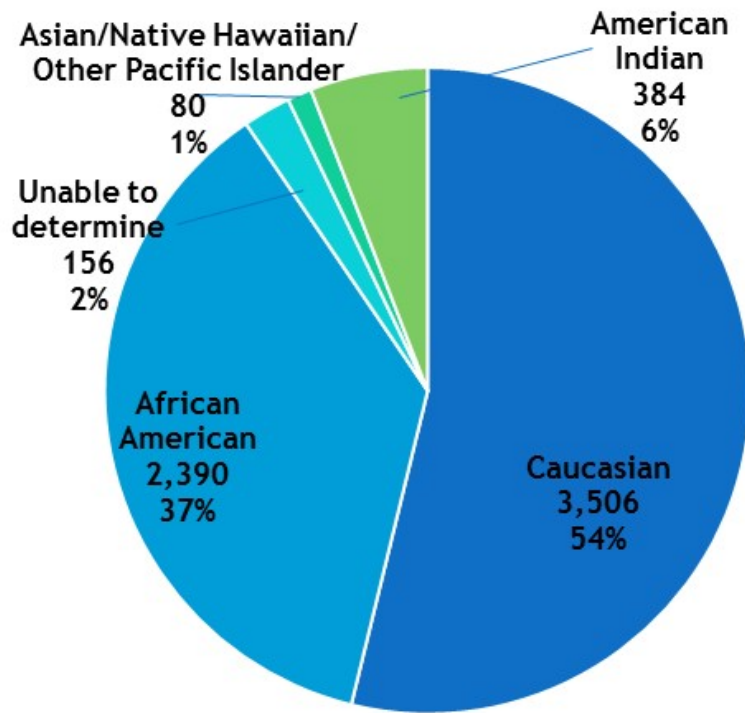
Total=6,516
December 31, 2013

Age Distribution of Children in Out-of-Home Care



Total=6,516
December 31, 2013

Racial and Ethnic Distribution of Children in Out-of-Home Care

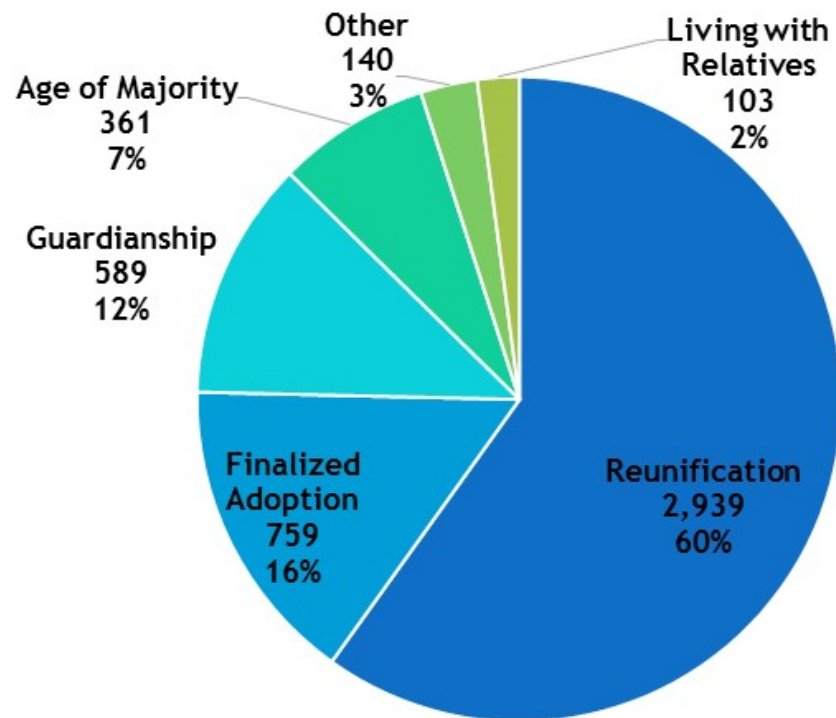


Total=6,516
December 31, 2013

Race

Ethnicity

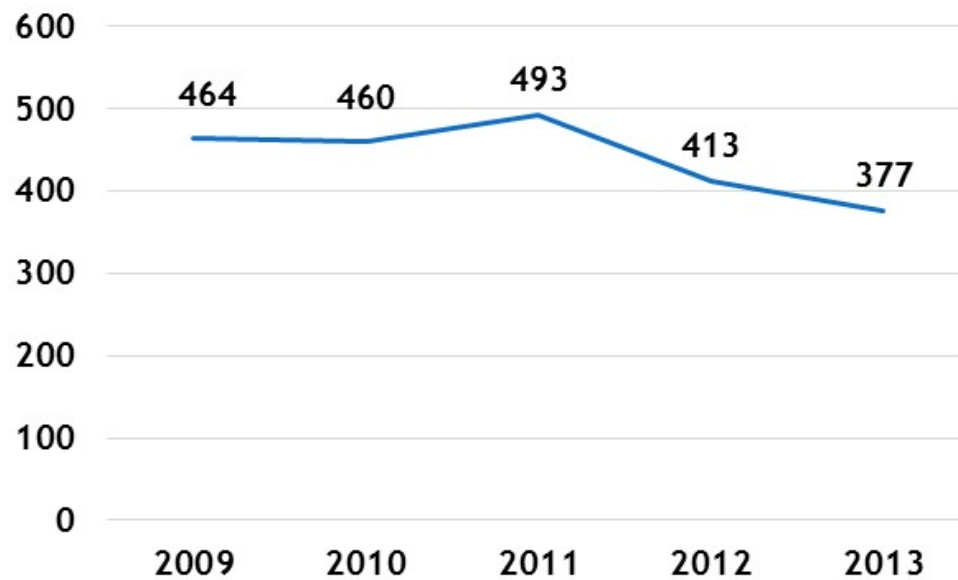
Outcomes for Children in Out-of-Home Care (2013)



Total=4,891

- In WI, approximately 20% of children re-enter out-of-home care within 12 months of reunification

Number of Youth Aging Out of Foster Care



- Eligibility ends at 18 or 19, depending on high school graduation
- Individualized Education Plan (IEP) may extend eligibility to age 21