THE PUTTING FAMILIES FIRST DASHBOARD

DIVISION OF SAFETY AND PERMANENCE

Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families

Purpose and Overview

The Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) created the Putting Families First Data Dashboard in response to county and tribal feedback requesting a publicly accessible, transparent, and aesthetically pleasing source of county specific digestible data. Its intended purpose is to share with local stakeholders, to identify trends, and to inform decisions. This dashboard highlights data relevant to Putting Families First, particularly data regarding keeping children in-home or placed in family settings. This dashboard transparently represents the racial/ethnic disproportionality of Wisconsin's child welfare system.

The Putting Families First Data Dashboard provides detailed information on screen-in/screen-out numbers, removals/discharges, open placements, and racial disparity. The dashboard is anticipated to be used by the state and local child welfare agencies to analyze county performance, identify potential service needs/gaps, assist data-informed decision-making, and support a less intrusive system involvement approach. It can be publicly accessed through the Child Welfare Reports and Dashboards site and the data can be viewed by specific county or statewide. Hover-over text, information buttons on each tab, and the option to download PDFs promote transparency and accessibility.

To encourage locally relevant information, all dashboards are filterable by county.

All counts are of children that experienced each intervention.

Use in Practice

This dashboard is to assist all users in:

Understanding large trends in child welfare. Identifies the total number of children each year that interact with different parts of the system.

Understanding racial disproportionality at the local level. Users can filter to their own county to see the proportion of children of different races and ethnicities in child welfare in their area. To protect the identity of children and families, all data is presented in aggregate as percentages.

Availability

The Putting Families First Dashboard will be publicly available at the following website: https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/family-first/data-dashboard.

Features

Clicking each dashboard tab will bring you to that screen.
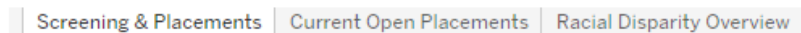
Every metric is filterable by county using the drop-down menu in the upper right.

Filter by County

All
All
Adams
Ashland
Barron
Bayfield
Brown
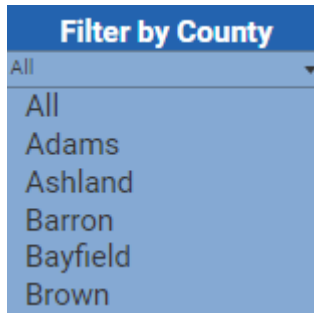
This dashboard has been developed to print cleanly. Click the download PDF button to download a PDF for easy printing.

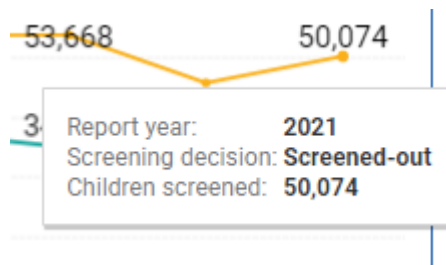Moving your mouse over these information icons will bring up definitions for each element.

Color legends accompany color-coded graphs to clarify what the colors refer to.

■ Screened-in   ■ Screened-out

Moving your mouse over the data without clicking will bring up more information about the data.

53,668   50,074

Report year: 2021
Screening decision: **Screened-out**
Children screened: **50,074**

2

Screening & Placements Tab

SCREENING DECISIONS

Filter by County: All

Screened-in   Screened-out

Distinct children

| 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |

Screened-out values: 44,371 — 46,099 — 49,612 — 50,965 — 51,746 — 53,573 — 53,668 — 45,645 — 50,074

Screened-in values: 33,813 — 34,893 — 36,090 — 35,656 — 35,800 — 35,535 — 37,214 — 34,827 — 29,413 — 31,434

43,674

Data updated on 11/7/2022

REMOVALS, DISCHARGES, AND OUT-OF-HOME CARE POPULATION

Discharges   Removals   Children in open placements: 12/31 of each year (bars)

Children in open placements (bars): 6,248 — 6,522 — 6,869 — 7,172 — 7,472 — 7,786 — 7,818 — 7,555 — 7,095 — 6,887

Removals: 4,941 — 5,220 — 5,234 — 5,182 — 5,258 — 5,500 — 5,380 — 5,383 — 4,581 — 4,109

Discharges: 4,743 — 4,894 — 4,866 — 4,870 — 4,962 — 5,198 — 5,344 — 5,118 — 4,125 — 3,905

| 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |

This tab provides calendar year trend line screen-in/screen-out data on all Child Protective Services (CPS) reports on one chart and trend line child removals, discharges, and out-of-home care population numbers on another.

Example usage in practice: Allows agencies to compare the connection between their screen-in and removal rates to analyze variations.

Screening Decisions

Screening Decision: A child welfare professional will determine if the allegation(s) meet the legal definition of child abuse and/or neglect according to Wisconsin State Statutes and the urgency of the response time, if needed.

The screening decision is the formal decision to accept or not accept a report of alleged or threatened child maltreatment for further assessment.
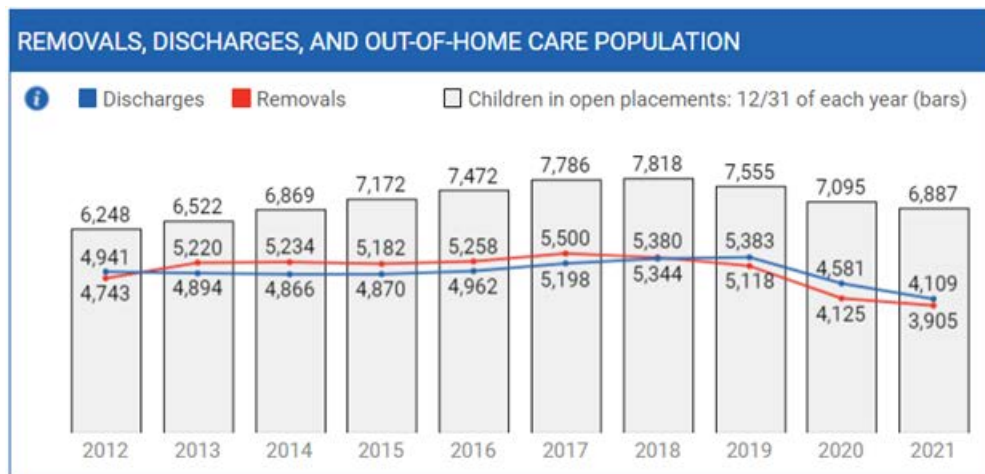
Screened-in: One or more allegations of suspected or threatened child maltreatment in the CPS report (which may include one or more children in a family) that constitutes a reasonable suspicion of maltreatment, as defined in Wisconsin State Statutes. The local CPS agency initiates an assessment of child safety and family strengths.

Screened-out: All allegations of suspected or threatened child maltreatment in the CPS report are deemed as not rising to the level of maltreatment or threat of maltreatment as defined by Wisconsin statutes. No further assessment of the allegation is required. The family may be referred for voluntary services or other appropriate community services.

How to read this graph

■ Screened-in   ■ Screened-out

The green line indicates children who were screened in. The gold line indicates children that were screened out. Following each line over time will give an idea of whether more or less children are screened in or out compared to prior years.

REMOVALS, DISCHARGES, AND OUT-OF-HOME CARE POPULATION

ⓘ ■ Discharges   ■ Removals   ☐ Children in open placements: 12/31 of each year (bars)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Children in open placements	6,248	6,522	6,869	7,172	7,472	7,786	7,818	7,555	7,095	6,887
Removals	4,941	5,220	5,234	5,182	5,258	5,500	5,380	5,383	4,581	4,109
Discharges	4,743	4,894	4,866	4,870	4,962	5,198	5,344	5,118	4,125	3,905

Removals, Discharges, and Out-of-Home Care Population

Removal: A child's placement episode begins with the date of the child's removal from their home. The child is taken into physical custody and enters into Out-of-Home Care (OHC) under a court order or via a formal voluntary placement agreement among the agency, the parents, and the placement provider.

4

Discharge: A child's placement episode ends with the date a child is discharged from OHC. This discharge may include reunification, guardianship, or adoption, among other discharge types. The discharge date represents the date the child's placement and episode are closed.

End of year count: End of year counts represent a point-in-time number of children in OHC on a given day. As a child can only be in one placement at a time, this snapshot of the data acts as a point in time to compare trends over time.
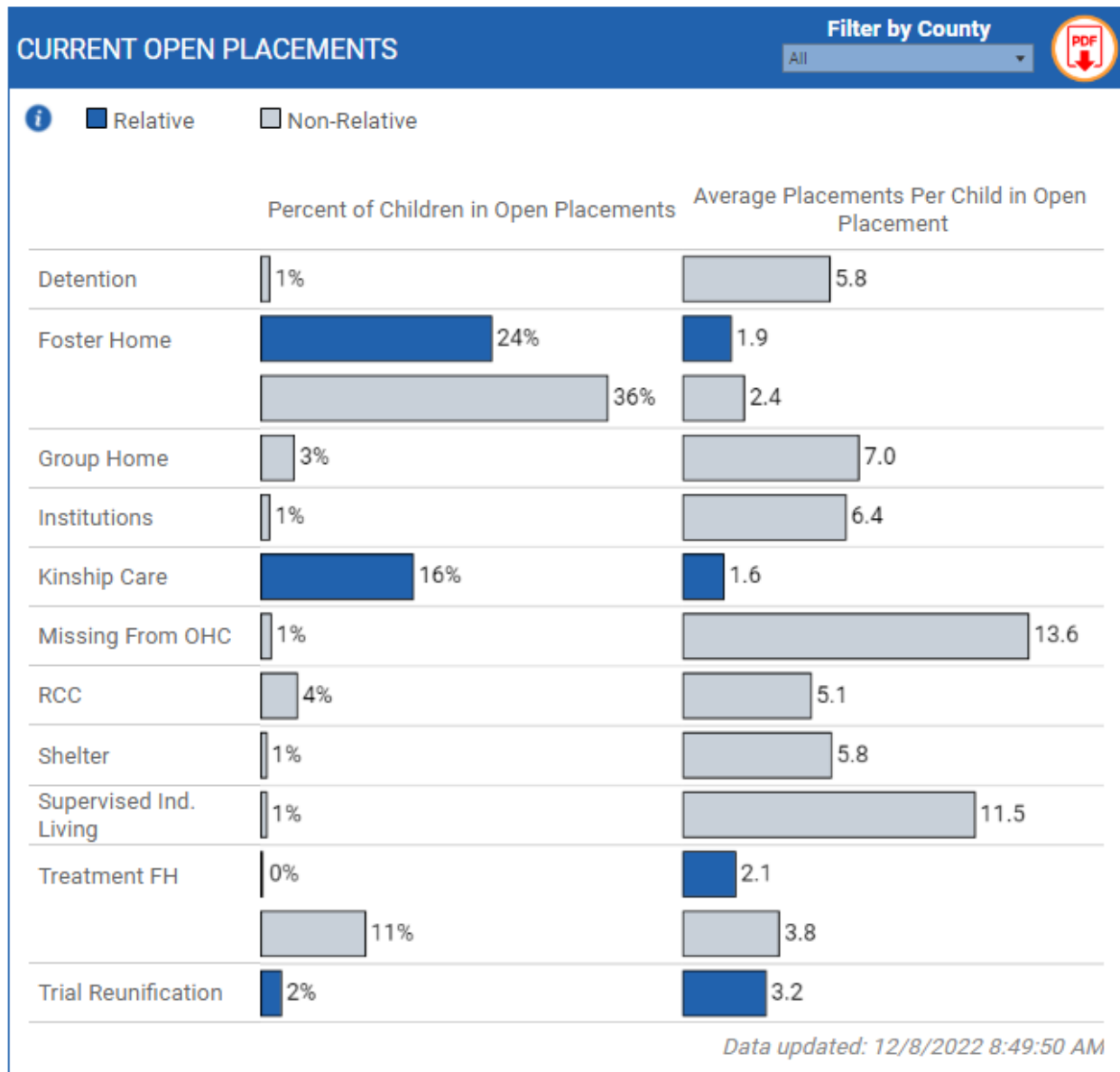
How to read this graph

■ Discharges   ■ Removals

The blue line indicates children who were discharged. The red line indicates children that were removed. Following each line over time will give an idea of whether more or less children are removed or discharged from Out-of-Home Care compared to prior years.

☐ Children in open placements: 12/31 of each year (bars)

The bars behind the lines on this figure represent the total number of children that were in Out-of-Home Care on the final day of each calendar year. Taller bars indicate a higher overall number of children in care at one time.

Current Open Placements

Filter by County
All

☑ Relative   ☐ Non-Relative

	Percent of Children in Open Placements	Average Placements Per Child in Open Placement
Detention	1%	5.8
Foster Home	24% (Relative)	1.9 (Relative)
	36% (Non-Relative)	2.4 (Non-Relative)
Group Home	3%	7.0
Institutions	1%	6.4
Kinship Care	16% (Relative)	1.6 (Relative)
Missing From OHC	1%	13.6
RCC	4%	5.1
Shelter	1%	5.8
Supervised Ind. Living	1%	11.5
Treatment FH	0% (Relative)	2.1 (Relative)
	11% (Non-Relative)	3.8 (Non-Relative)
Trial Reunification	2%	3.2

Data updated: 12/8/2022 8:49:50 AM

This tab provides the percentage of children by placement setting type in currently open placements. It includes a breakdown of whether the placement was with a relative.

Example usage in practice: Allows agencies to compare the placement stability of family vs non-family settings to promote and set goals for family setting placements.

Relative vs. Non-relative Placements

If is child is not able to remain safely in their home, Putting Families First prioritizes placement with relatives. Wisconsin's goal is to rarely places children outside of the family's support system, and only as a collaborative decision with the family. Relatives may be a kinship care or licensed foster care provider.

How to read this graph (relative placements)

■ Relative   □ Non-Relative

If a bar is blue, it indicates children who are currently placed with relatives. Gray bars indicate children in other placements.

The larger the size of the blue bar, the more children are placed with relatives. This reflects how aligned Wisconsin is with its goal to place children within the family.

Open Placement Types

Open placements means children who are currently in care as of the data update. This date is listed in the bottom right of this screen.

When children are placed in out-of-home care, the majority of children are placed in family-based settings, such as a kinship or foster home. In accordance with the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), Wisconsin's goal is to reduce congregate care (group homes, residential care centers, and shelters) stays to minimal, short periods of time to address acute clinical treatment needs.

How to read this graph (open placement types)

The size of each bar is determined by what percent of children in open placements are currently in each placement type. Higher percentages mean a larger proportion of children are placed there.
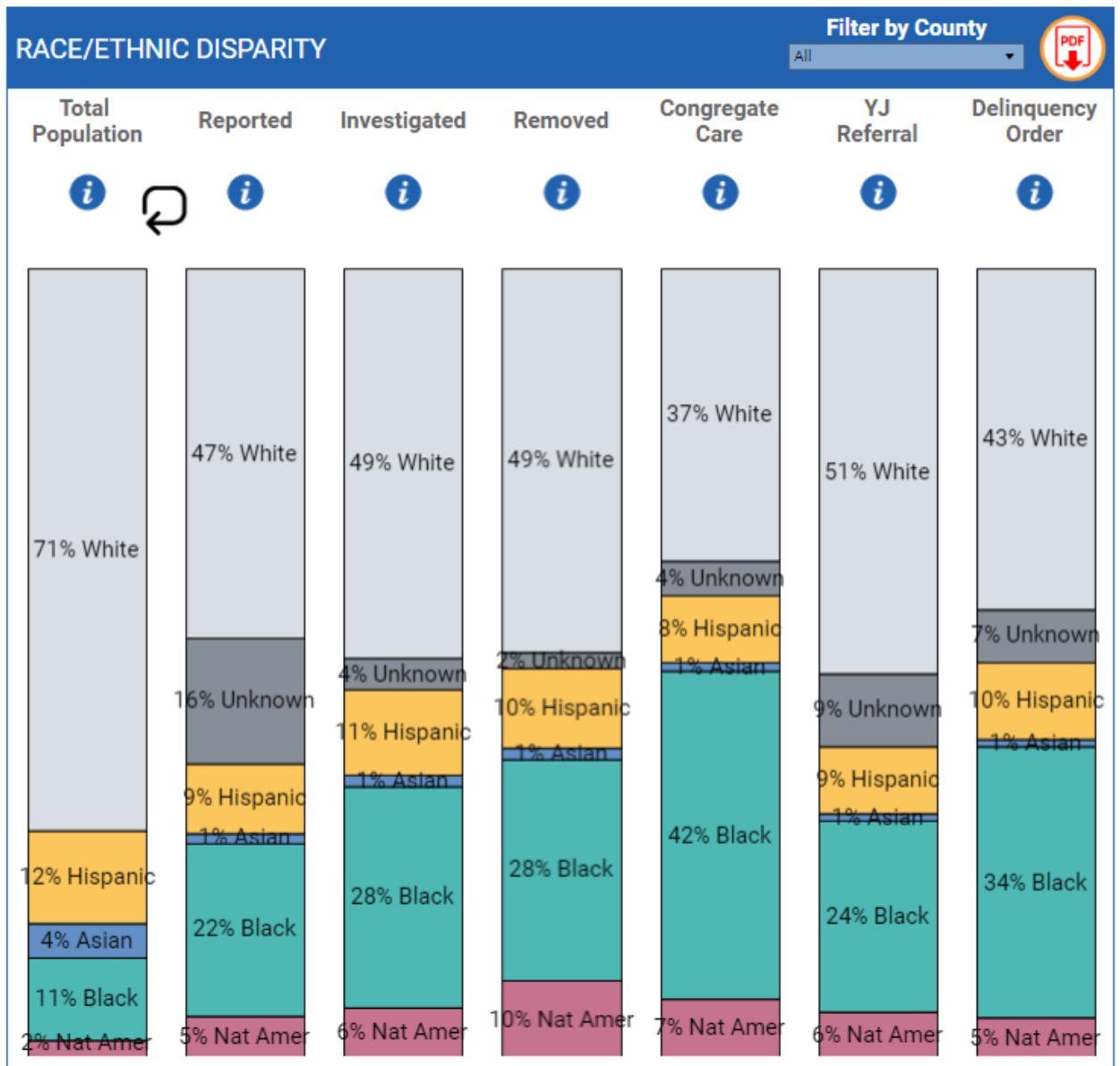
Average Placements Per Child in Open Placement

Placement Stability. Child welfare agencies attempt to maintain stability in a child's placement whenever possible. However, in some cases a child may be placed with multiple providers or in different placement facilities. Placement changes may occur due to actions initiated by the agency, the provider, the child, the parent, or the court.

How to read this graph (placements per child)

The size of each bar is determined by the average number of placements each child in the placement type has had, broken down by where they are placed currently. If a certain placement setting has a larger number, it means children currently in that placement have had, on average, more prior placements since they were first removed into out-of-home care.

Racial Disparity Overview

RACE/ETHNIC DISPARITY

Filter by County: All

Total Population	Reported	Investigated	Removed	Congregate Care	YJ Referral	Delinquency Order
71% White	47% White	49% White	49% White	37% White	51% White	43% White
	16% Unknown	4% Unknown	2% Unknown	4% Unknown	9% Unknown	7% Unknown
		11% Hispanic	10% Hispanic	8% Hispanic	9% Hispanic	10% Hispanic
12% Hispanic	9% Hispanic	1% Asian	1% Asian	1% Asian	1% Asian	1% Asian
4% Asian	1% Asian			42% Black		
11% Black	22% Black	28% Black	28% Black		24% Black	34% Black
2% Nat Amer	5% Nat Amer	6% Nat Amer	10% Nat Amer	7% Nat Amer	6% Nat Amer	5% Nat Amer

Context

Research has clearly shown that certain racial and ethnic groups are over-represented in the child welfare system. This is true in Wisconsin, as well as across the nation. There are various contributing factors to racial disparities in the child welfare system. Some of these factors may be internal to the system (i.e. resource availability), or may be related to factors outside of the child welfare system (poverty). Further information on this important topic can be found here: https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/racial_disproportionality.pdf

Because there is not one cause of over-representation in the child welfare system, it is vital to have conversations locally about ways to support equity for families at multiple stages of child welfare involvement. This data can play a key role in supporting these conversations.

This tab provides the current racial and ethnic make-up in Wisconsin according to the US census. It is further broken down by the following levels of system involvement for the most recently completed calendar year:

- CPS Report Occurred
- Initial Assessment Conducted
- A Substantiated Finding
- Unique Child Removals into Out-of-Home Care
- Unique Child Placements in a Residential Care Center, Group Home, or Shelter Facility
- A Youth Justice Referral and Intake Process was Initiated
- A Youth Justice Delinquency Petition was Filed

Disclaimer: Data for less populated counties may see small differences amplified in these figures due to the small sample size. In an effort to provide transparency regarding racial disparity data, DCF is releasing this information despite the small sample size. In counties with a small sample size, it is particularly important to have conversations locally about what the racial disparity data may have to say about local practice.

A child's Native American status is determined based on race, ethnicity, or status related to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) status. This includes children who are tribal members, eligible for membership, and whose membership is pending. The percentage of Native American children includes all Native American children, including those under tribal court jurisdiction who have their care paid for by the county through a 161 agreement. Please note that these data sets include children who may be under a tribal court jurisdiction. For children eligible for tribal membership, placements into OHC can be made through tribal courts.

To protect the identity of children and families, all data is presented in aggregate as percentages. For more information about how DCF calculates disparities, please contact DCFCWRA@wisconsin.gov.
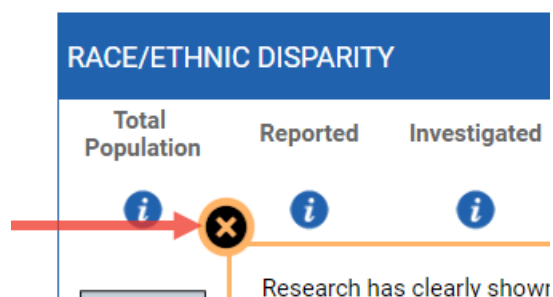
Click here to close the context box. Click again to bring it back.

How to read this graph

Interpreting this chart requires looking at the first bar (Total Population) and comparing the others to it. If there were no racial or ethnic disparity, all bars would look exactly the same as the total population bar, i.e. the proportions as seen in the first Total Population bar would remain the same proportions regardless of intervention type.

Example usage in practice: This information can be used locally in child welfare agencies and by external partners to support conversations about the ways all community members can support families, prevent further child welfare system involvement, and reduce system disparities.

Glossary of Terms

The following table lists the terms from this dashboard tab along with their definitions and data sources.

Screening & Placements Terms

Term	Definition	Data Source
Screening Decision	A child welfare professional will determine if the allegation(s) meet the legal definition of child abuse and/orneglect according to Wisconsin State Statutes and the urgency of the response time, if needed. The screening decision is the formal decision to accept or not accept a report of alleged or threatened child maltreatment for further assessment. Screened-in: One or more allegations of suspected or threatened child maltreatment in the CPS report (which may include one or more children in a family) that constitutes a reasonable suspicion of maltreatment, as defined in Wisconsin State Statutes. The local CPS agency initiates an assessment of child safety and family strengths. Screened-out: All allegations of suspected or threatened child maltreatment in the CPS report are deemed as not rising to the level of maltreatment or threat of maltreatment as defined by Wisconsin statutes. No further assessment of the allegation is required. The family may be referred for voluntary services or other appropriate community services.	Data Warehouse – CPS Reports History
Removal	A child's placement episode begins with the date of the child's removal from their home. The child is taken into physical custody and enters into Out-of-Home Care (OHC) under a court order or via a formal voluntary placement agreement among the agency, the parents, and the placement provider.	eWReport – SM10A112 – Placement Activity and Detail
Discharge	A child's placement episode ends with the date a child is discharged from OHC. This discharge may include reunification, guardianship, or adoption, among other discharge types. The discharge date represents the date the child's placement and episode are closed.	
End of Year Count	End of year counts represent a point-in-time number of children in OHC on a given day. As a child can only be in one placement at a time, this snapshot of the data acts as a point in time to compare trends over time.	

Current Open Placement Tab Terms

Term	Definition	Data Source
Open Placements	Open placements means children who are currently in care as of the data update. This date is listed in the bottom right of this screen.	Data Warehouse – OHC Placement Hub Extract
Relative v. Non-relative Placements	If is child is not able to remain safely in their home, Putting Families First prioritizes placement with relatives. Wisconsin's goal is to rarely places children outside of the family's support system, and only as a collaborative decision with the family. Relatives may be a kinship care or licensed foster care provider.	
Placement Settings	When children are placed in out-of-home care, the majority of children are placed in family-based settings, such as a kinship or foster home. In accordance with the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), Wisconsin's goal is to reduce congregate care (group homes, residential care centers, and shelters) stays to minimal, short periods of time to address acute clinical treatment needs.	
Average Placements Per Child in Open Placement	Placement Stability. Child welfare agencies attempt to maintain stability in a child's placement whenever possible. However, in some cases a child may be placed with multiple providers or in different placement facilities. Placement changes may occur due to actions initiated by the agency, the provider, the child, the parent, or the court.	

Racial Disparity Overview Terms

Term	Definition	Data Source
Population	The total population of the selected area according to the census.	Census 2020
	DCF's race counts are based on logic as follows.	
	1. First it identifies Native American children if any race field indicates that heritage.	
	2. Of those children who are not identified as Native American, children with Hispanic ethnicity are identified as Hispanic.	
	3. Of those children who are not identified as Native American or with Hispanic ethnicity, the primary race field is indicated.	

Term	Definition	Data Source
Reported	Mandated and non-mandated reporters contact a local CPS agency with information regarding alleged or threatened maltreatment of a child or children, as defined in Wisconsin State Statutes. Child welfare professionals ask a series of questions to gather relevant information about child safety and family characteristics to determine the need for CPS intervention. A child welfare professional then will determine if the allegation(s) meet the legal definition of child abuse and/or neglect according to Wisconsin State Statutes and the urgency of the response time, if needed. The screening decision is the formal decision to accept or not accept a report of alleged or threatened child maltreatment for further assessment. Screened-in: One or more allegations of suspected or threatened child maltreatment in the CPS report (which may include one or more children in a family) that constitutes a reasonable suspicion of maltreatment, as defined in Wisconsin State Statutes. The local CPS agency initiates an assessment of child safety and family strengths. Screened-out: All allegations of suspected or threatened child maltreatment in the CPS report are deemed as not rising to the level of maltreatment or threat of maltreatment as defined by Wisconsin statutes. No further assessment of the allegation is required. The family may be referred for voluntary services or other appropriate community services.	Data Warehouse – CPS Reports History Distinct children with at least one CPS report in calendar year 2020.
Investigated	An initial assessment is a comprehensive assessment conducted in response to a report of alleged child maltreatment. A CPS initial assessment is completed in order to: assess and analyze threats to child safety; take action, when necessary to control threats to child safety; determine the need for CPS ongoing services (court-ordered or voluntary); determine whether maltreatment occurred; and assist families in identifying useful community resources.	Data Warehouse – CPS Reports History Distinct children with at least one screened-in CPS report in calendar year 2020.

Term	Definition	Data Source
Removed	The total number of unique children removed into out-of-home-care (OHC) during the entire year as a result of a CPS assessment. A child's placement episode begins with the date of the child's removal from their home. The child is taken into physical custody and enters into Out-of-Home Care (OHC) under a court order or via a formal voluntary placement agreement among the agency, the parents, and the placement provider. Child-parent separation is an adverse event that can contribute to negative lifelong health and well-being outcomes. If is child is not able to remain safely in their home, Putting Families First prioritizes placement with relatives and rarely places children outside of the family's support system, and only as a collaborative decision with the family.	Data Warehouse – OHC Entries Distinct children with at least one removal in calendar year 2020.
Congregate Care	The total number of unique children with a placement in a residential care center (RCC), group home, or shelter during the entire year. In accordance with the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), Wisconsin's goal is to reduce congregate care stays to minimal, short periods of time to address acute clinical treatment needs by supporting providers to transition to the Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) service model and planning for the development of high-quality clinical care when clinically necessary.	Data Warehouse – OHC Placement Hub Extract Distinct children with at least one open placement in congregate care in calendar year 2020.
YJ Referral	The YJ referral and intake process is initiated after a young person receives a referral to the YJ system. Referrals typically come from law enforcement, schools, and parents or guardians. Depending on the circumstances, it is possible for a young person to arrive at intake with multiple referrals and multiple referral types.	eWReport – YM01X100 - Youth Justice Referral Report Distinct youth with at least one YJ referral in calendar year 2020.

14

Term	Definition	Data Source
Delinquency Order	One potential result of a YJ intake is the filing of a delinquency petition (by the District Attorney). If a youth is adjudicated delinquent for an offense, the petition may result in a disposition with court ordered rules and conditions of supervision. A delinquency order is an available disposition for any person over the age of 10 who is alleged to have violated any state or federal criminal law.	eWReport – YM01X100 - Youth Justice Referral Report Distinct youth with at least one YJ referral with offense-specific outcome of delinquency order in calendar year 2020.

15