

# Re-Entry into Out-of-home Care in Milwaukee County

## Case Review Results for the Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council (MCWPC)

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# *Purpose of Presentation*

- The goal is to provide qualitative information on children who re-enter out-of-home care (OHC) within 12 months
- This presentation includes:
  - Background
  - Historical Data
  - Case Review information
  - Key Findings
  - Next Steps

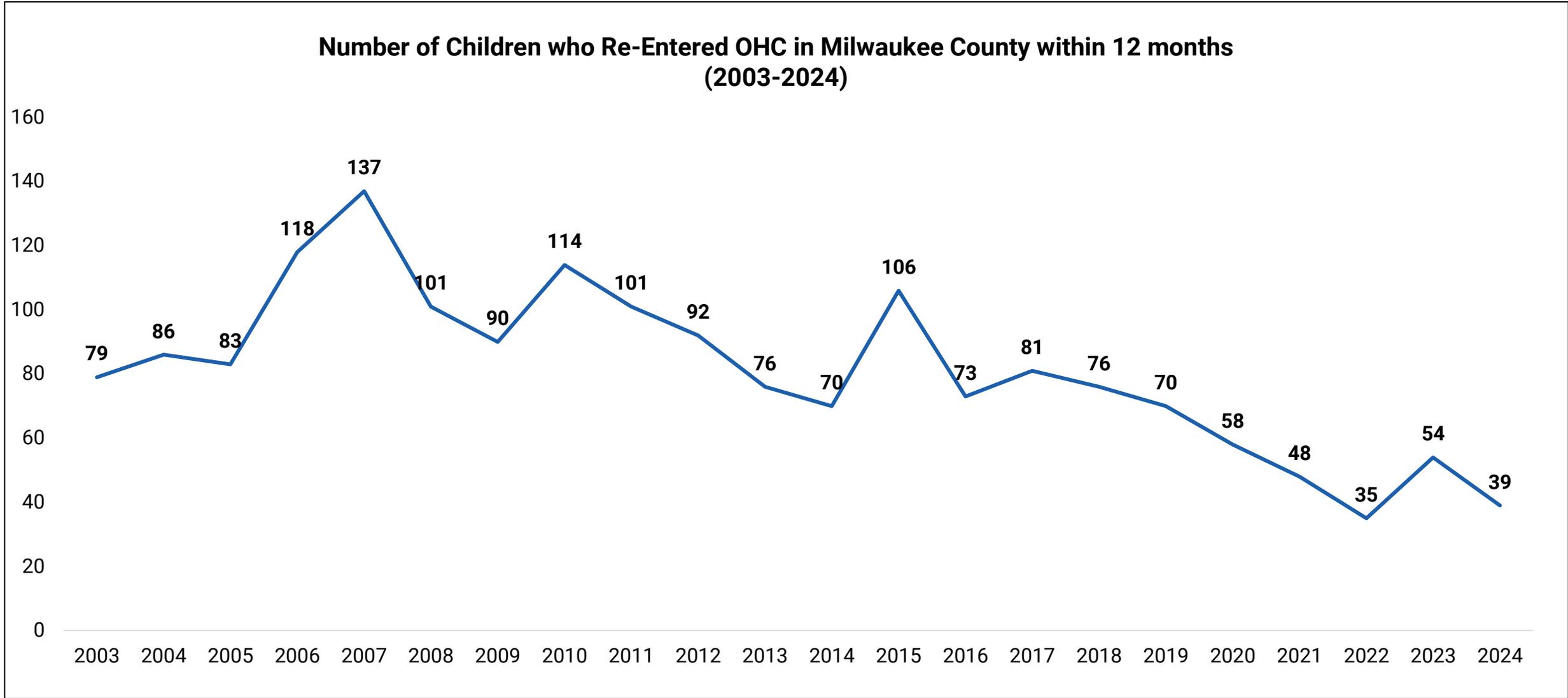


# *Background of the Re-Entry Measure*

- Re-entry is measured by counting the number of children who re-entered out-of-home care within 12 months of a prior discharge
- Historically, re-entry was a process indicator in the Jeanine B. Settlement Agreement (SA) and has been measured since 2003
- Re-entry data is reported in the Independent Monitoring Report (IMR) and in the Child Welfare Case Management Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP)
- The Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council (MCWPC) requested additional information about re-entry following the presentation of the 2023 annual IMR



# Historical Data and Context



Source: Historical Settlement Agreement Reports and Independent Monitoring Reports (2003-2024)  
University of Illinois School of School of Social Work, "The Wisconsin Post-reunification Support (P.S.) Program", page 2

# *Case Review Information*

## **Review Criteria**

- Case review occurred in fall 2024
- Reviewed children who re-entered OHC within 12 months from 2020 through July 2024
- Focused on re-entry after reunification or guardianship
- Period Under Review was 90 days prior to reunification
- Cases must have been assigned to one of the child welfare case management agencies

## **Review Instrument Components**

1. Case Information
2. Family Conditions
3. Trial Reunification
4. Service Provision
5. Face-to-Face Contact
6. Safety

## **Record Review only**



# Case Review Results - Demographics

- **A total of 172 children (194 instances)**
  - 2020: 48
  - 2021: 38
  - 2022: 33
  - 2023: 49
  - 2024: 26 (through 07/31/2024)
- **Gender:**
  - 49% were male
  - 51% were female
- **Race/Ethnicity:**
  - 66% were African American
  - 16% were White
  - 13% were Hispanic
  - 5% were American Indian/Alaskan Native
- **Age:**
  - 28% were ages 0 – 4
  - 25% were ages 5 – 11
  - 18% were ages 12 – 14
  - 29% were age 15+



# Summary of Key Takeaways

- ❖ The primary family conditions influencing re-entry into out-of-home care were child behavioral and mental health needs, parenting practices, domestic violence, and substance use.
- ❖ Of the instances reviewed, 13% had trial reunifications – in these instances, documentation does not support that required face-to-face contacts occurred.
- ❖ Most services the family received prior to reunification aligned with the family's needs.
- ❖ Approximately a third of the families did not receive any documented services during the period under review when there was information to support an identified need.
- ❖ Some children were reunified with a parent they had not previously lived with, nor had a relationship with, and there was no documentation to support services were provided.
- ❖ Children who were reunified were seen at least once per month in about 75% of the instances reviewed.
- ❖ Documentation indicates that efforts were made to identify and utilize natural supports in about half the instances.

# Next Steps

- Results were shared with each of the child welfare case management agencies in spring 2025
- DMCPS will continue to monitor performance in re-entry through the Independent Monitoring Report and quarterly Performance Monitoring Plan
- Assessing current policy related to Permanency Support requirements



***Any  
questions?***

