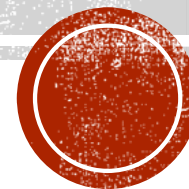


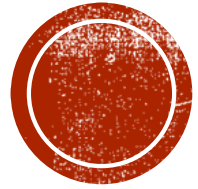
THE STATE OF CHILD WELFARE

The Summit: Georgia's Child Welfare Conference

November 27-29, 2017

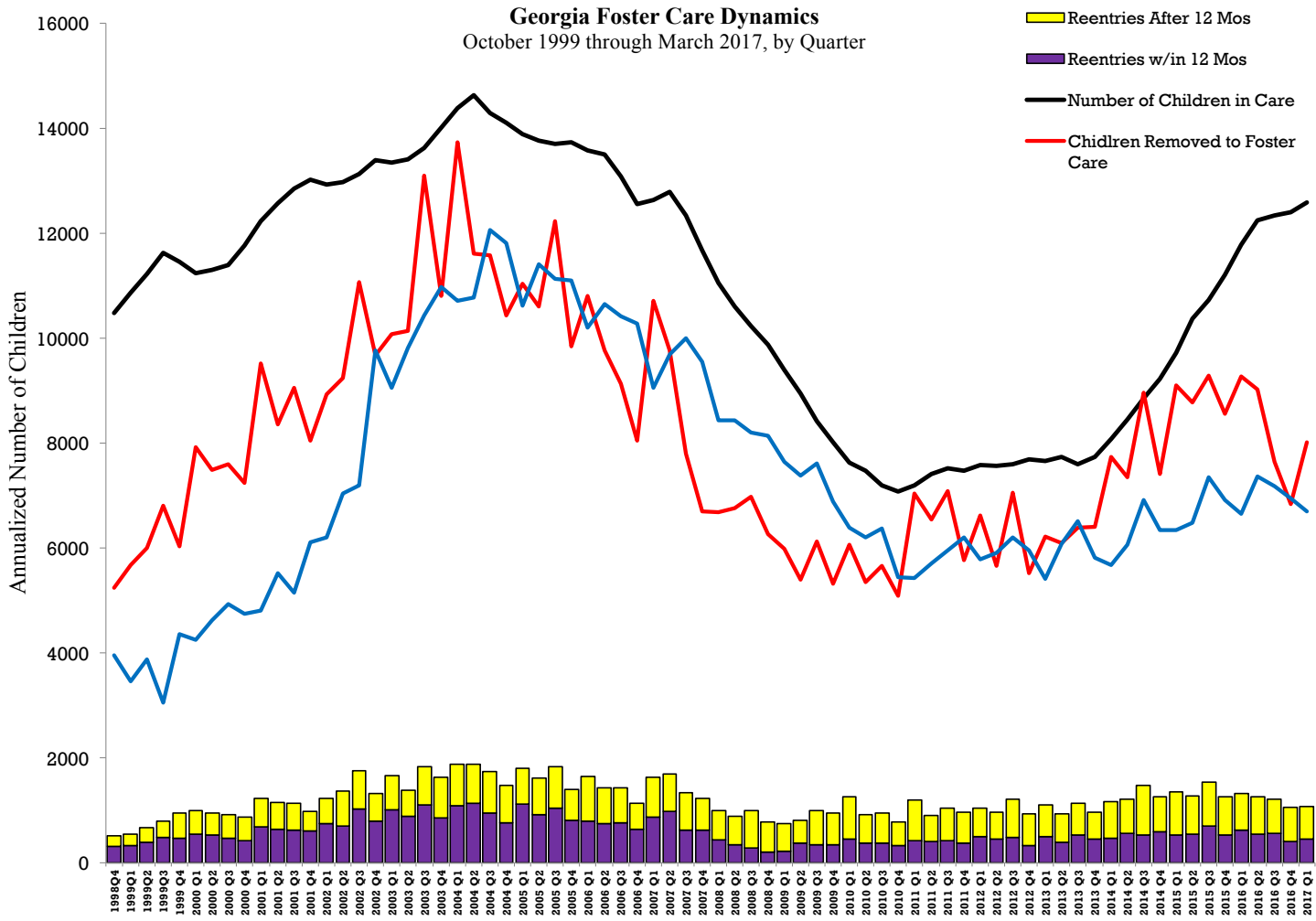
Atlanta, Georgia

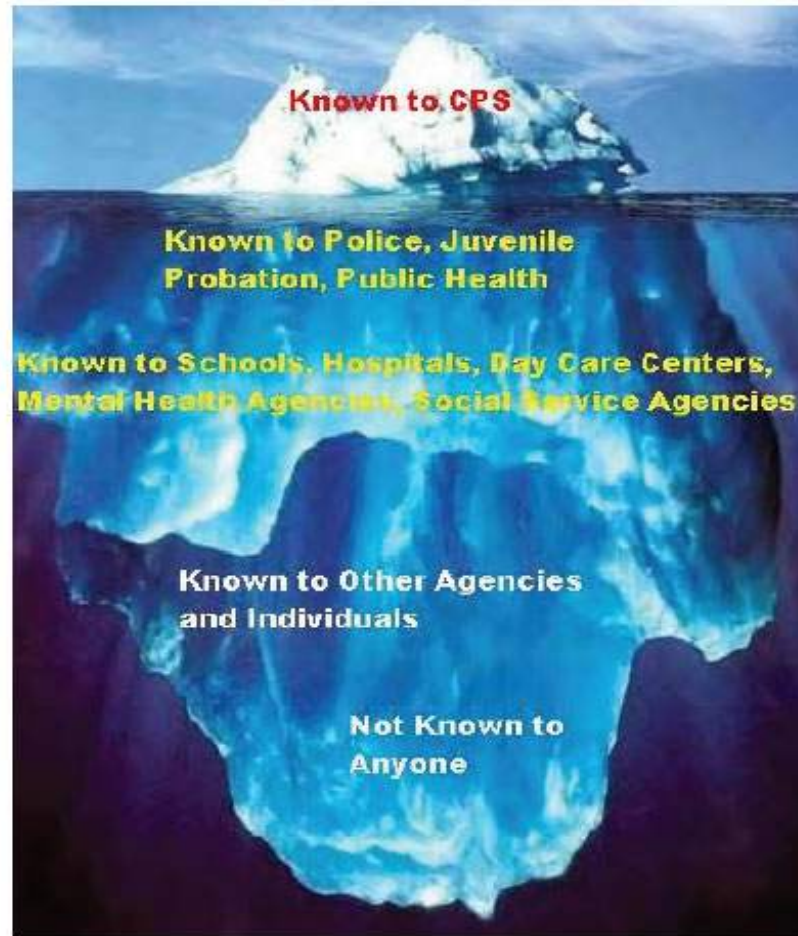




BY THE NUMBERS: REMOVAL, FOSTER CARE, AND EXIT TRENDS

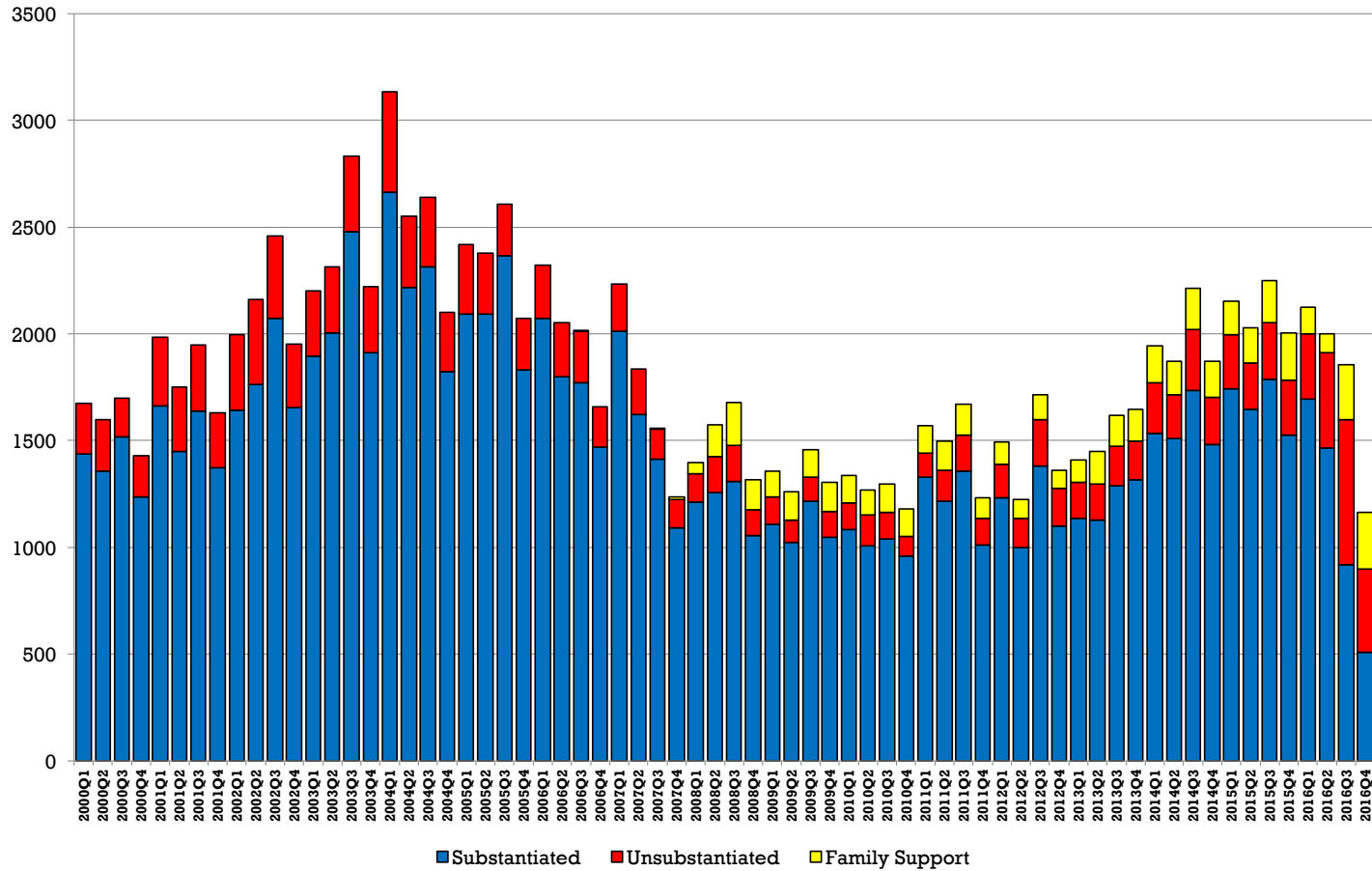


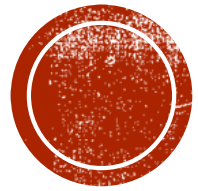




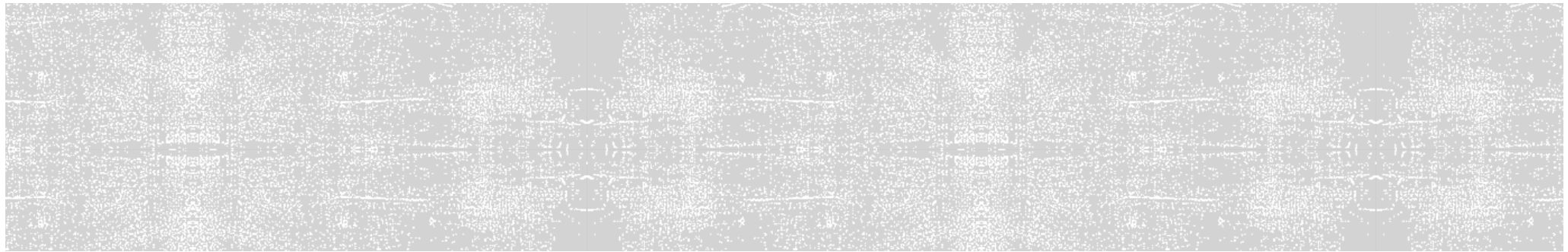
Georgia Removal Findings Dynamics, Statewide

Courtesy of Fostering Court Improvement, Jan 2000 to Dec 2016



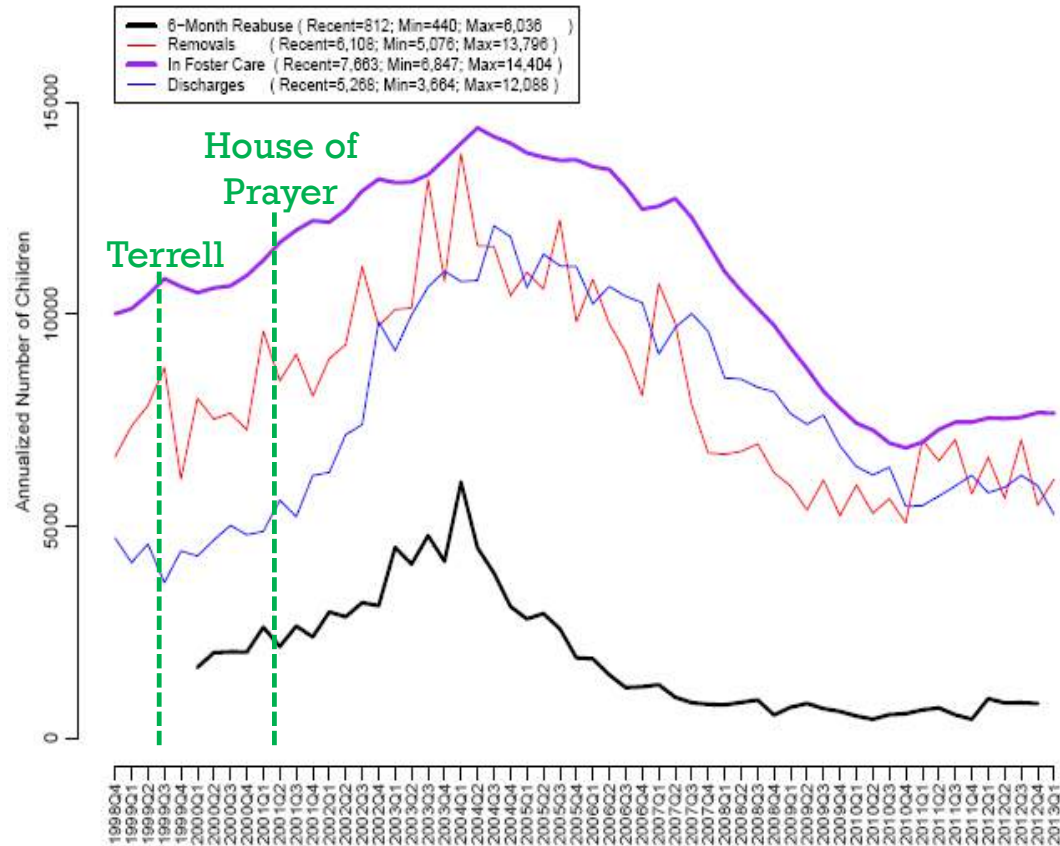


POLICY DRIVERS



POLICY IMPACT: A LOOK BACK (2000—2010)

- 2000: Terrell Peterson, cover of Time Magazine
- 2001:
 - Governor's Task Force
 - CFSR Round 1
 - House of Prayer
 - \$110 million annual increase
- 2002: Kenny A Class Action Filed
- 2004: DFCS Mandatory Reporter Investigation Policy Change
- 2006: Safe Reduction
- 2008: Initial Rollout of Centralized Intake + "Diversion"





DFCS chief: Georgia's most disposable leader

Greg Bluestein and Craig Schneider
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Nathan Deal orders new boss, focus for DFCS

© 5:33 p.m. Thursday, June 12, 2014 | Filed in: News

Children needing foster homes reaches alarming high

Posted: 11:40 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, 2015

DFCS using local hotels to house foster children

Georgia DFCS caseloads soar as reinforcements on way

By ANDY MILLER GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS – updated Friday, May 30, 2014 - 12:08pm 0 comments

ATLANTA | Georgia is hiring 175 case workers for its troubled Division of Family and Children Services program, with the new employees all expected on board by July 1.

61% increase in the number of children in care from Dec 2010 to Sept 2015



POLICY IMPACT: 2010-2016

2011: DFCS Leadership Change

2012: DFCS Leadership Change

2013: Imani Moss & Eric Forbes

2014:

- DFCS Leadership Change
- Governor's Child Welfare Reform Council

2015:

- CFSR Round 3
- Laila Daniel
- \$9 million to hire 128 CPS workers
- \$5.8 million for foster parent recruitment and training

2016:

- \$7.4 million to hire 175 additional CPS workers

2017:

- \$40 million for workforce supports and additional positions
- \$33.5 million to increase per diems for substitute caregivers
- DFCS Leadership Change



Director who steered DFCS through crisis leaving for Calif. post

By Any Miller

Georgia Health News Oct 20, 2017 (0)



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Incoming LA Child Welfare Chief to Find High Demand, Too Few Foster Homes

By Rachel Symons | November 13, 2017

Leadership changes at Georgia DFCS

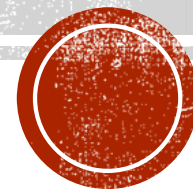
Deal appoints interim director as leader heads to LA



Virginia Pryor was appointed interim director of the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, effective Nov. 10, 2017.



CURRENT CHALLENGES



REMOVAL TRENDS

- Reasons for Removal (Georgia)
 - Neglect: 45%
 - Caretaker drug/alcohol use: 39%
 - Physical abuse: 9%
 - Caretaker inability to cope: 12%
 - Inadequate housing: 21%
 - Parental incarceration: 11%
 - Child behavior: 10%
 - Abandonment: 10%
 - Sexual abuse: 2%

Source: AFCARS, Georgia DFCS, FFY2016, provided by Fostering Court Improvement

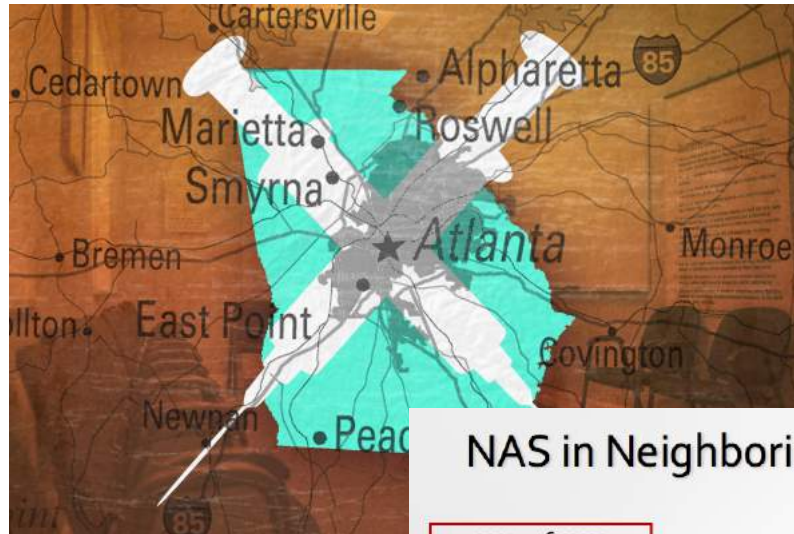
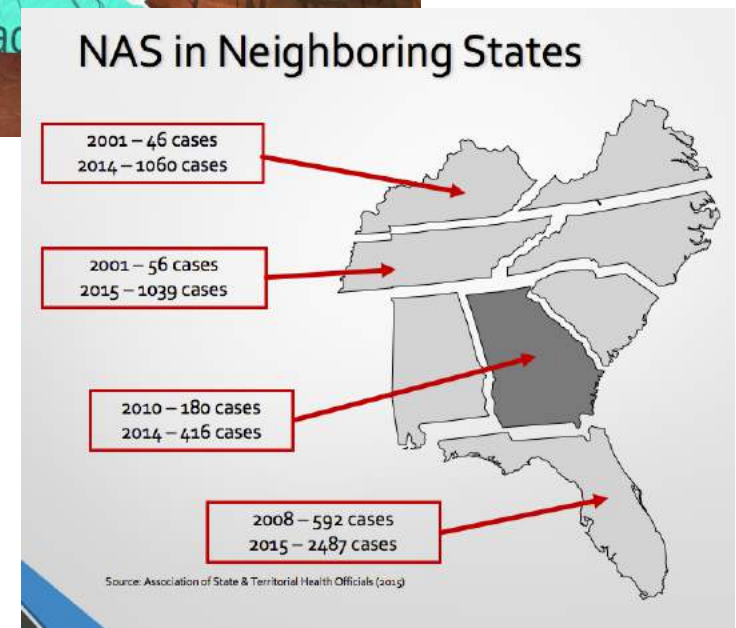
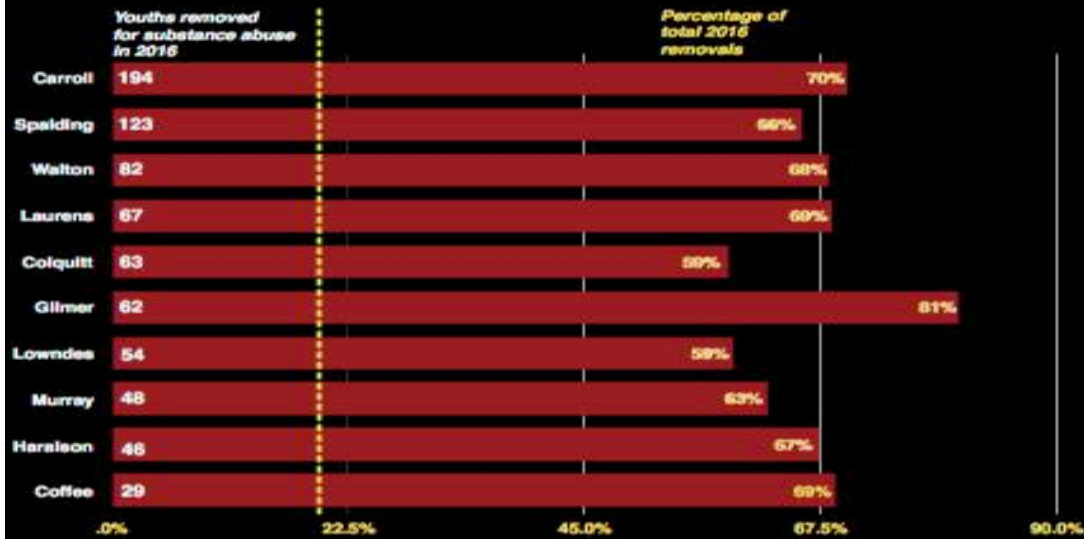


Image retrieved from GPB news





Georgia counties with highest percentage of foster care entries due to substance abuse



Source: Georgia Dept. of Family & Children Services

Graphic: Terry Richards | CNHI



Lack of foster homes in Carroll called 'critical'

Arthia Nixon/Times-Georgian Feb 29, 2016  0

With only 14 active foster homes in Carroll County, all of which are filled to capacity, the Department of Family and Children Services is in desperate immediate need of more.

Children needing foster homes reaches alarming high

Posted: 11:40 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, 2015

DFCS using local hotels to house foster children

DFCS officials offer solutions to rebuild GA's child welfare system

Published: Thursday, September 24th 2015, 10:26 pm EST
Updated: Friday, September 25th 2015, 10:38 am EST

Gordon County DFCS seeks foster homes

Story Comments

Print  Font Size:  

Posted: Wednesday, July 29, 2015 4:47 pm

Brandi Owczarz, Managing Editor
bowczarz@calhountimes.com

There are more than 70 children currently in foster care in Gordon County. For children in foster care, it is crucial to have a safe home to go to, and there are only 26 foster care homes available in the county at this time.



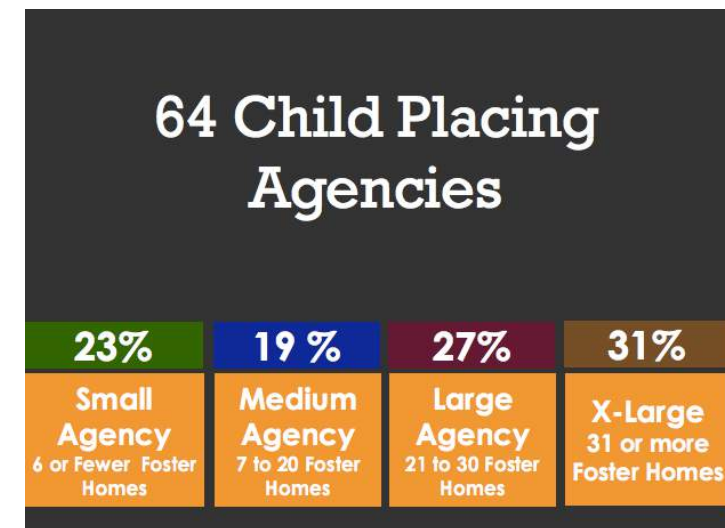
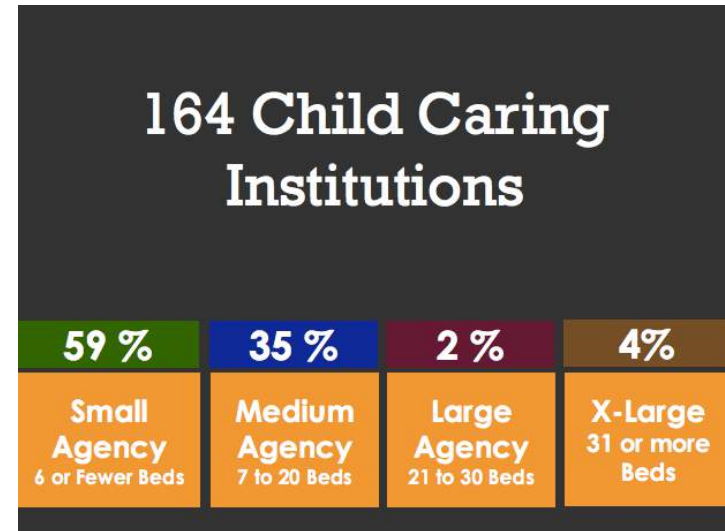
Georgia DFCS caseloads soar as reinforcements on way

By **ANDY MILLER** GEORGIA HEALTH NEWS – updated Friday, May 30, 2014 - 12:08pm **0 comments**

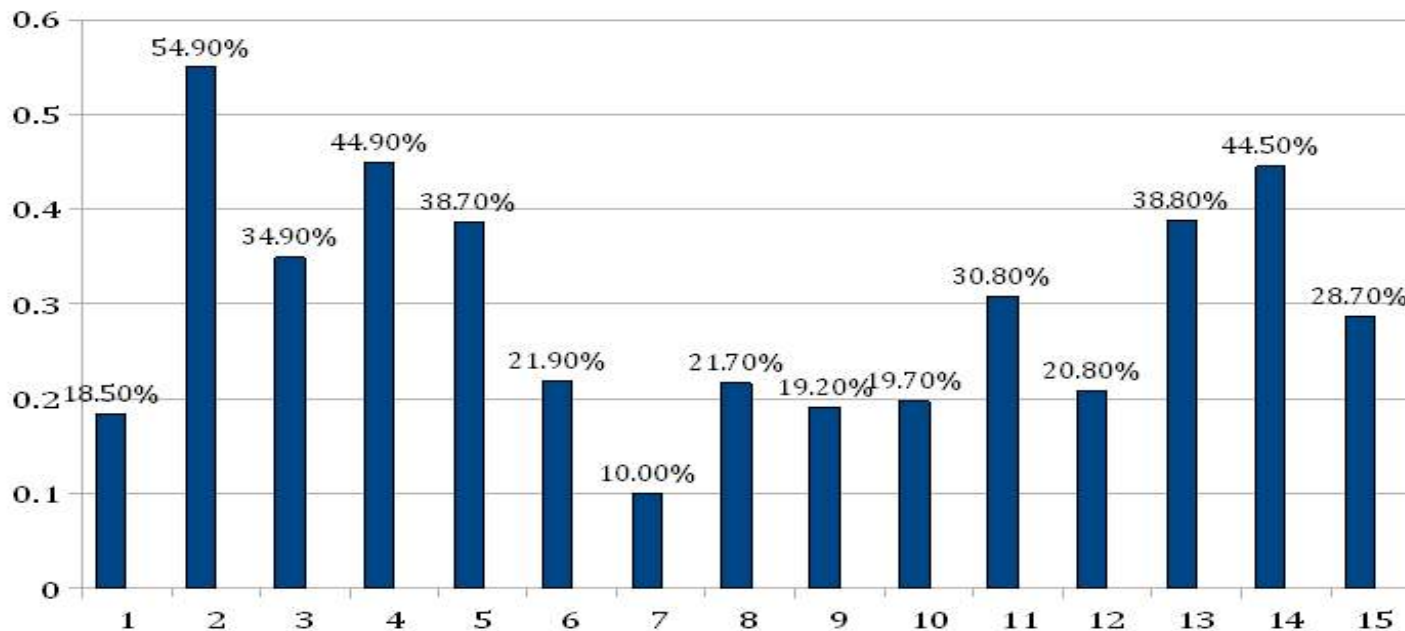
ATLANTA | Georgia is hiring 175 case workers for its troubled Division of Family and Children Services program, with the new employees all expected on board by July 1.



<u>Calendar Year</u>	<u>DFCS Foster/A dopt Homes</u>	<u>Non-DFCS Foster/A dopt Homes</u>	<u>Total</u>
2010	2328	1538	3866
2011	2579	1749	4328
2012	2544	1884	4428
2013	2439	2215	4654



PERCENT OF CHILDREN PLACED OUTSIDE OF THEIR REGIONS (APRIL 2014)



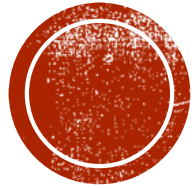
DFCS makes every attempt to place children as close to their home community and school as possible. Region 3 is the 6th highest in the state with 35% of children placed outside of the region, and Region 5 is the 4th highest with 39%. This suggests that both regions are challenged in developing placement resources within their own region.



THE PATH TO PERMANENCY


- Average Daily Children in Care: 12,394 / Total Children Served: 19.818
- Placement Stability (i.e., 2 or fewer placement moves)
 - In care < 12 months: 81%
 - In care 12-24 months: 62%
 - In care > 24 months: 35%
- Median Length of Stay in Foster Care: 11.9 months
 - Median LOS, discharge to reunification or relative: 9 months
 - Median LOS, discharge to adoption: 30 months
- Permanency Outcomes (Discharges from Foster Care)
 - Reunification: 55%
 - Relative: 13%
 - Adoption: 16%
 - Guardianship: 6%
 - Transfer: 2%
 - Emancipation: 8%
 - Runaway/Death/Unknown: 1%





CURRENT PRIORITIES





BLUEPRINT *for Change*

PRACTICE MODEL


- Adoption of a practice model that will serve as the foundation to keep kids safe and strengthen families
- Inclusion of guiding principles, vision and mission statement

ROBUST WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Increased staffing and expertise – Child Welfare and Family Independence
- Research-based caseload ratios
- Mentoring for supervisors
- Improved compensation – based on proven competency
- Development of a career path

CONSTITUENT ENGAGEMENT

- Creation of advisory boards at state and local levels
- Organized "roadshows" to engage the public, local stakeholders and media
- Build consensus and collaboration among partners, staff and stakeholders



Georgia Division of Family & Children Services

**BLUEPRINT FOR CHANGE + A STATE OF HOPE =
SAFE CHILDREN. STRENGTHENED FAMILIES.
STRONGER GEORGIA.**

DIVISION OF FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES

BE THE BLUEPRINT FOR



Hope



BLUEPRINT FOR CHANGE + A STATE OF HOPE
SAFE CHILDREN. STRENGTHENED FAMILIES. STRONGER GEORGIA.



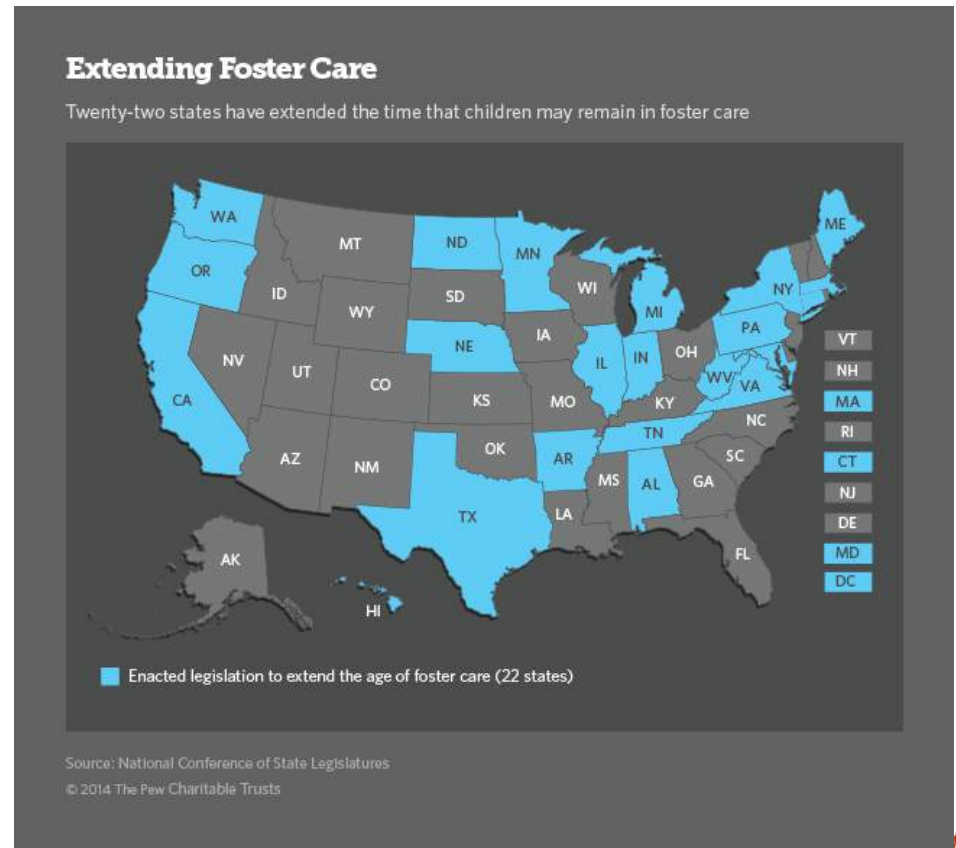
EMPHASIS ON KIN

- Currently, there are more than 12,000 children in Georgia's foster care system on any given day
- Roughly 30% of them are placed with relatives
- Georgia DFCS has set a goal of placing 50% of children in foster care in relative care by January 31, 2018
- Legislative amendments:
 - HB 887 (Efstration)
 - HB 962 (Abrams)
 - SB 186 (Tippens)*
- Quality Caregiving Initiative ("Kin-1st")
- Family Dependency Treatment Courts



CONNECTED BY 21 (CB21)

- CB21 is a strategic plan within the 2015-19 Child and Family Services Plan with the goal of ensuring emancipated youth have the same building blocks for success in family, work and life that are generally afforded to their peers in intact families.
- The **GOAL** is to create a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate extended youth support system for emancipated youth up to age 21 years.



CB 21 (FULL IMPLEMENTATION BY 2019)

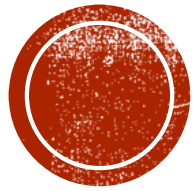
Key Components

- Life Coaching
 - Education
 - Health
 - Employment
 - WTLP
- Housing
- Connections/Permanency
- Financial Literacy/Saving
- Material Resources

Youth Responsibilities

- In School
- Working
- Participating in an Employment Program
- Incapable of work, school participation
- Actively involved in the Key Components





Q & A

Melissa D. Carter

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www.bartoncenter.net