

Child Welfare in Washington

Jennifer Strus, Assistant Secretary
DSHS Children's Administration

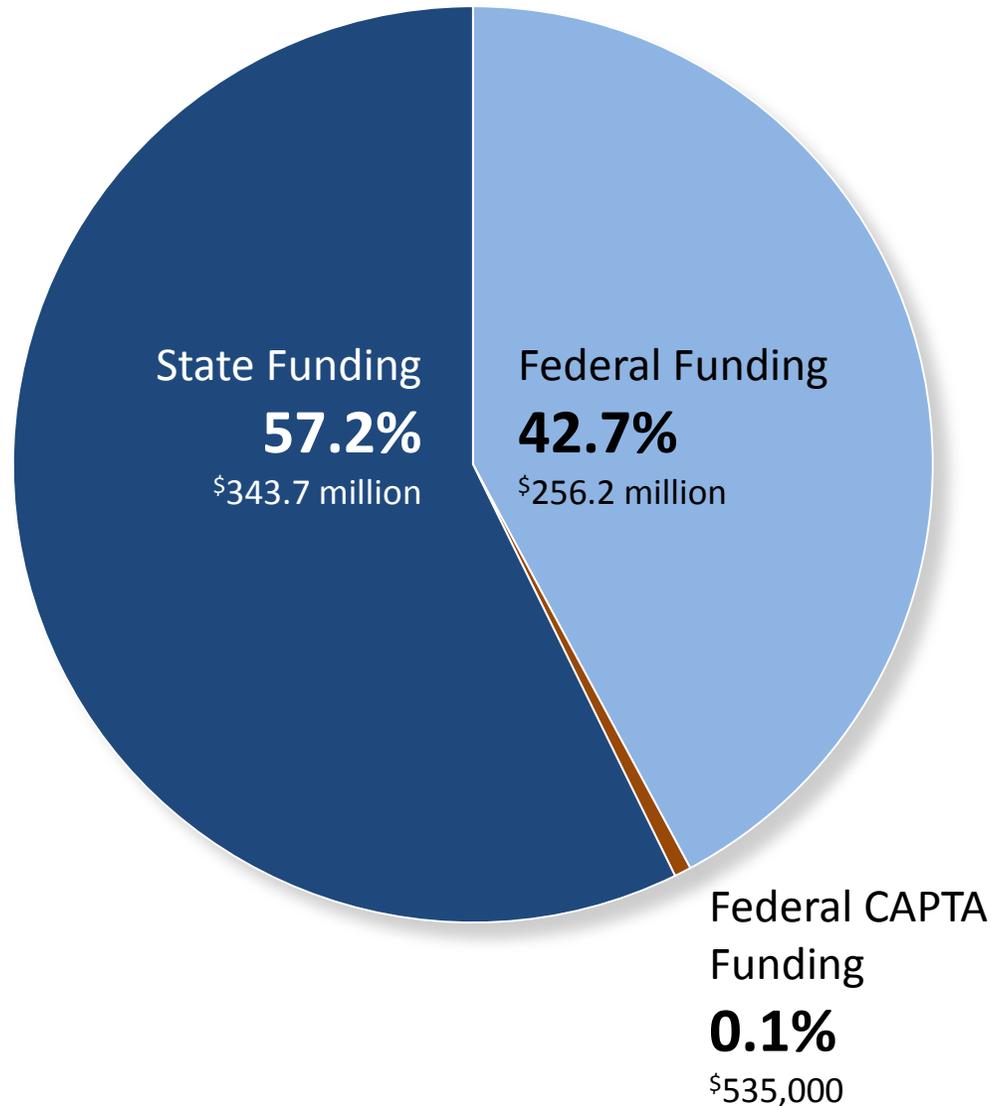


Washington State Child Welfare System

- DSHS Children's Administration is responsible for child welfare in Washington
- State operated system
- Operates in compliance with state and federal law
- Mandated by law to become involved in families' lives only when necessary to keep children safe from abuse and neglect
- Mission is to protect vulnerable children from abuse and neglect and achieve safe permanency as quickly as possible for children who must be placed away from their families



Funding Supports Intervention



Funding for Staffing and Services

2,500 FTEs

- CPS: Investigation & FAR
- Out-of-Home: CFWS & Adoption
- In-Home: FVS & FRS
- Licensing

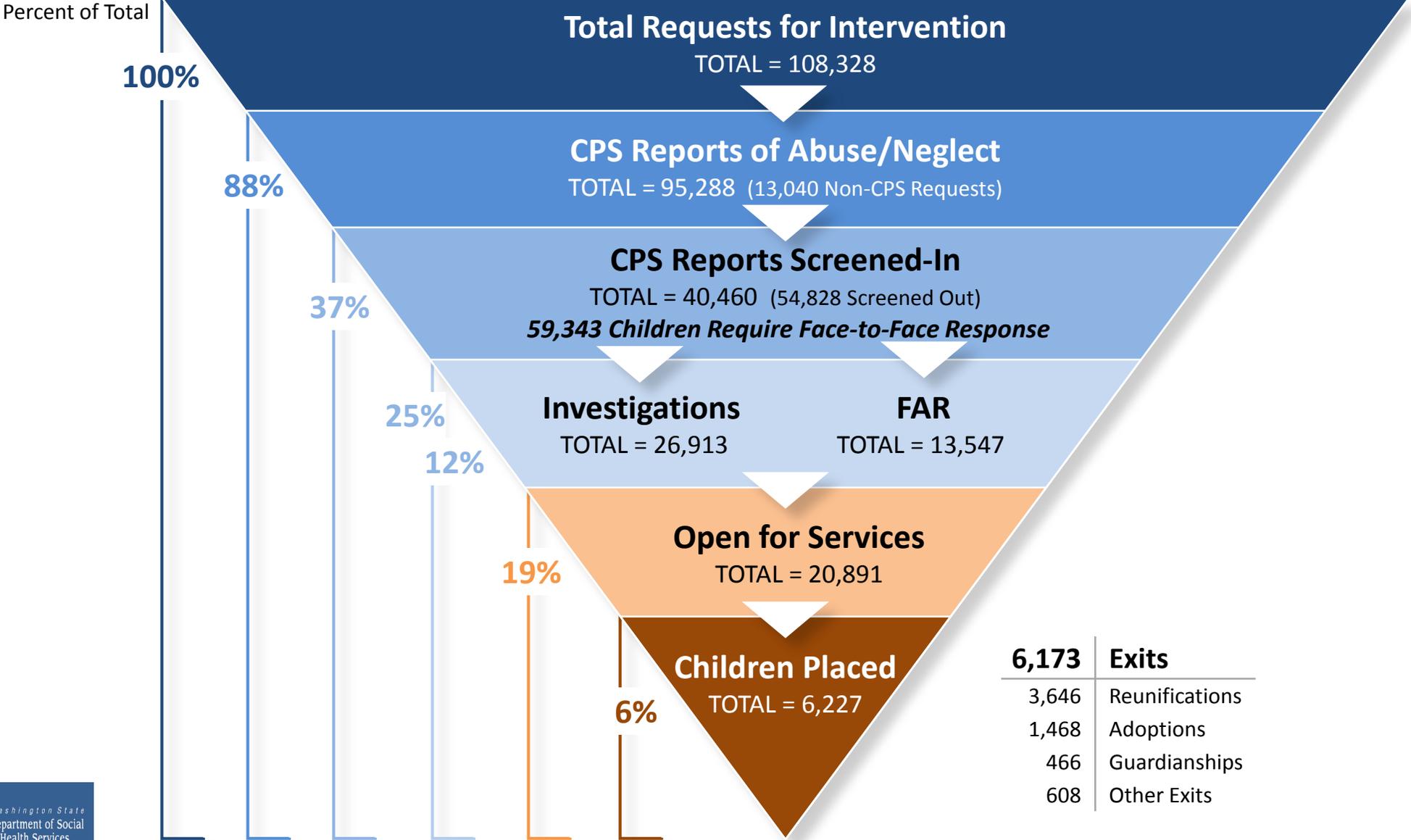
Placement & Permanency Resources

- Foster Care & BRS
- Relative Care
- Adoption Support

EBPs to Increase Parenting Capacity

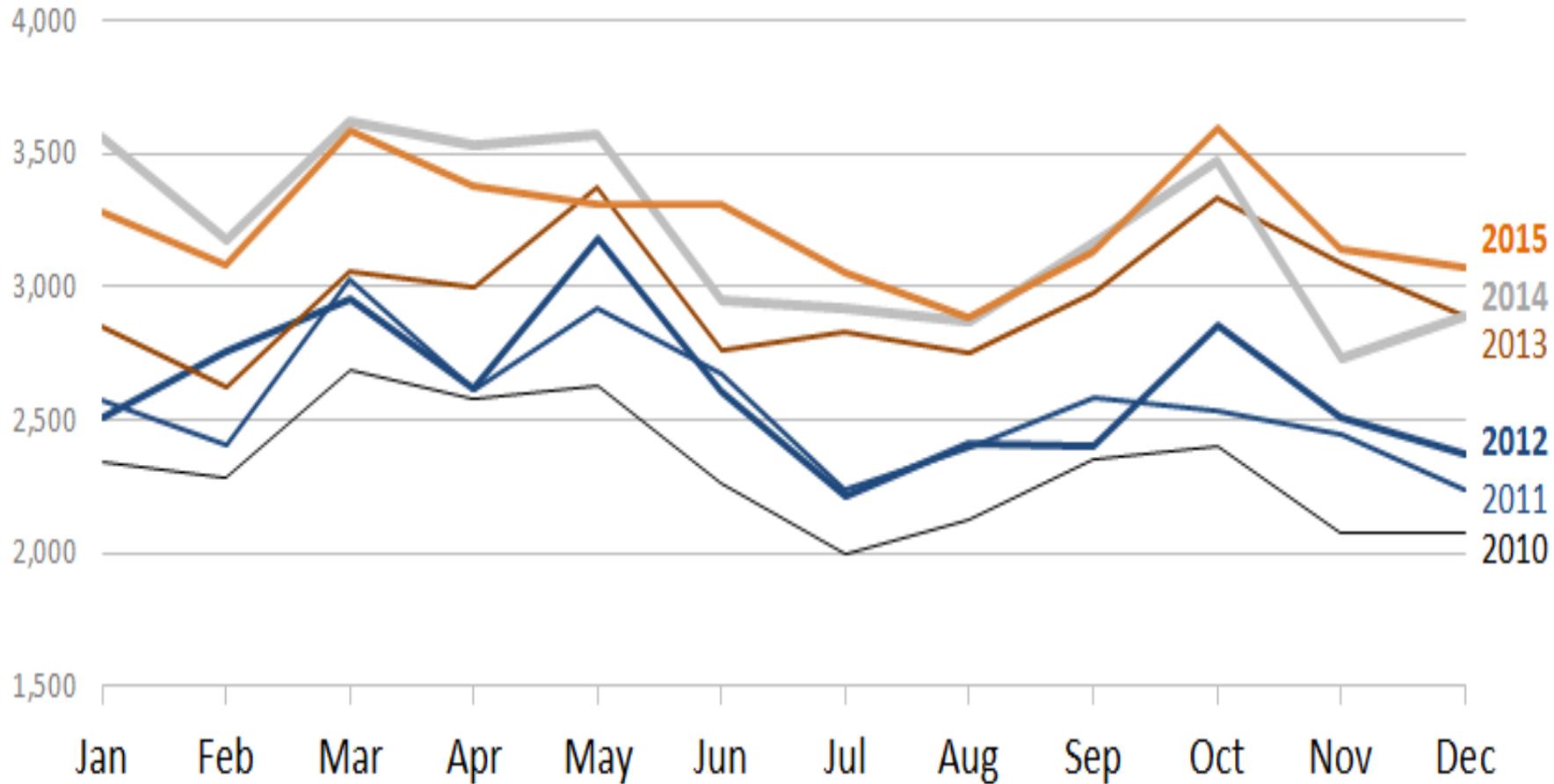
- Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
- HomeBuilders
- Incredible Years
- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)
- Promoting First Relationships
- SafeCare
- Triple P (Positive Parenting Program)

Washington Overview CY 2015



CPS Reports Requiring Face-to-Face Response by Year

Monthly View Shows Seasonality



Increasing Trends

Reports of child abuse (all CPS intakes)

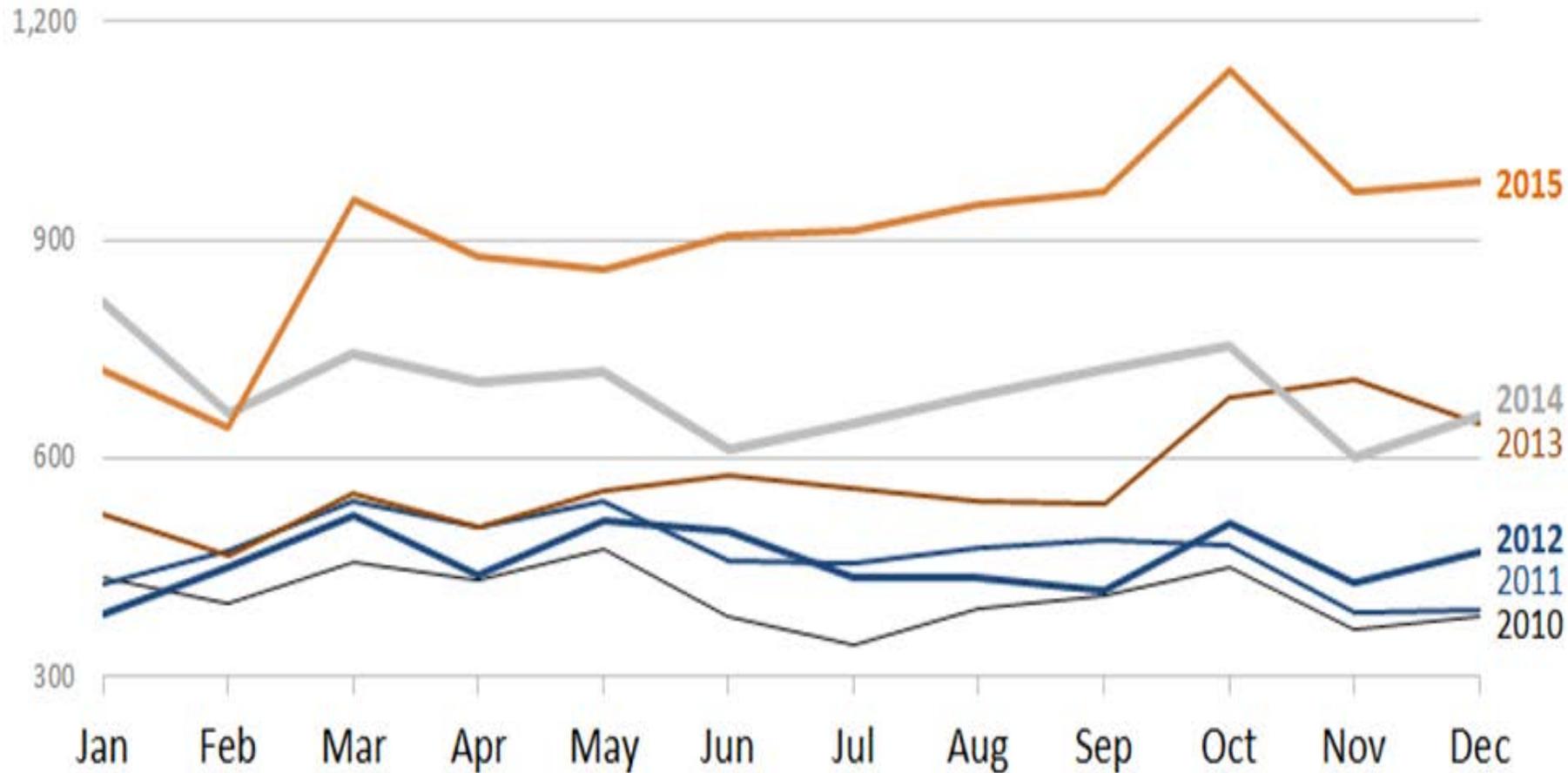
- ▶ 27 percent increase between December 2010 and December 2015

Intakes screened in for a face-to-face CPS response

- ▶ 48 percent increase between December 2010 and December 2015

CPS Reports Requiring 24-Hour Response by Year

Monthly View Shows Seasonality



Increasing Trends

Emergent intakes screened in for a response within 24 hours

- ▶ 156 percent increase between December 2010 and December 2015

CPS-FAR (Family Assessment Response) Pathway

CPS RESPONSES

Investigations

** Serious physical abuse, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and serious neglect*

- Staff have 24 or 72 hours to complete a face-to-face contact with the identified victim(s)
- Children are typically interviewed before notifying parents
- Founded or unfounded decisions will be made on child abuse and/or neglect
- A subject is identified

ALL CPS Responses

- Focus on child safety and well being
- Assess for risk and safety
- Assess the family's strengths and needs
- Offer services as needed
- Complete a safety assessment and interview all children in the home
- Gather additional information about the safety of the children
- May include notification of law enforcement

Family Assessment Response (FAR)

** Low to moderate physical abuse, and non-emergent neglect*

- Staff have 72 hours to complete face-to-face with the identified victim(s)
- Parents may be contacted before interviewing children
- Families can choose FAR or an investigation
- No decisions will be made on child abuse and/or neglect
- No subject is identified



Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services
DSHS 24-498 (Rev. 5/16)

Most FAR Families Have Abuse or Neglect History

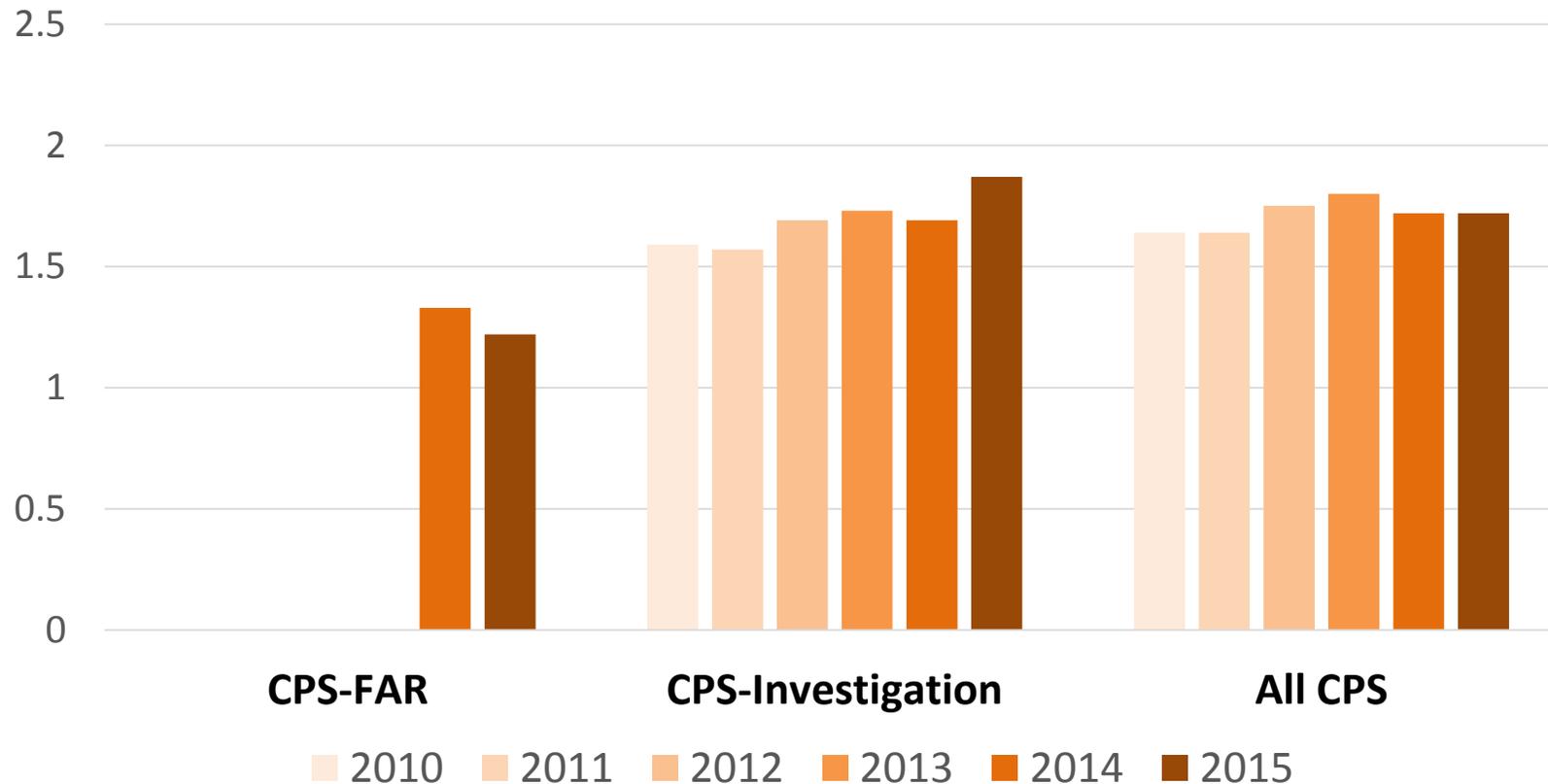
	January - June		July - December	
	COUNT	PROPORTION	COUNT	PROPORTION
No prior intakes	176	26.5%	806	30.6%
One prior abuse	130	19.6%	277	10.5%
Two plus prior abuse	42	6.3%	137	5.2%
One or two prior neglect	393	59.2%	1,426	54.2%
Three plus prior neglect	79	11.9%	229	8.7%
Missing entries	10	1.5%	132	5.0%



Transforming lives

CPS Families Average More than One Risk Factor

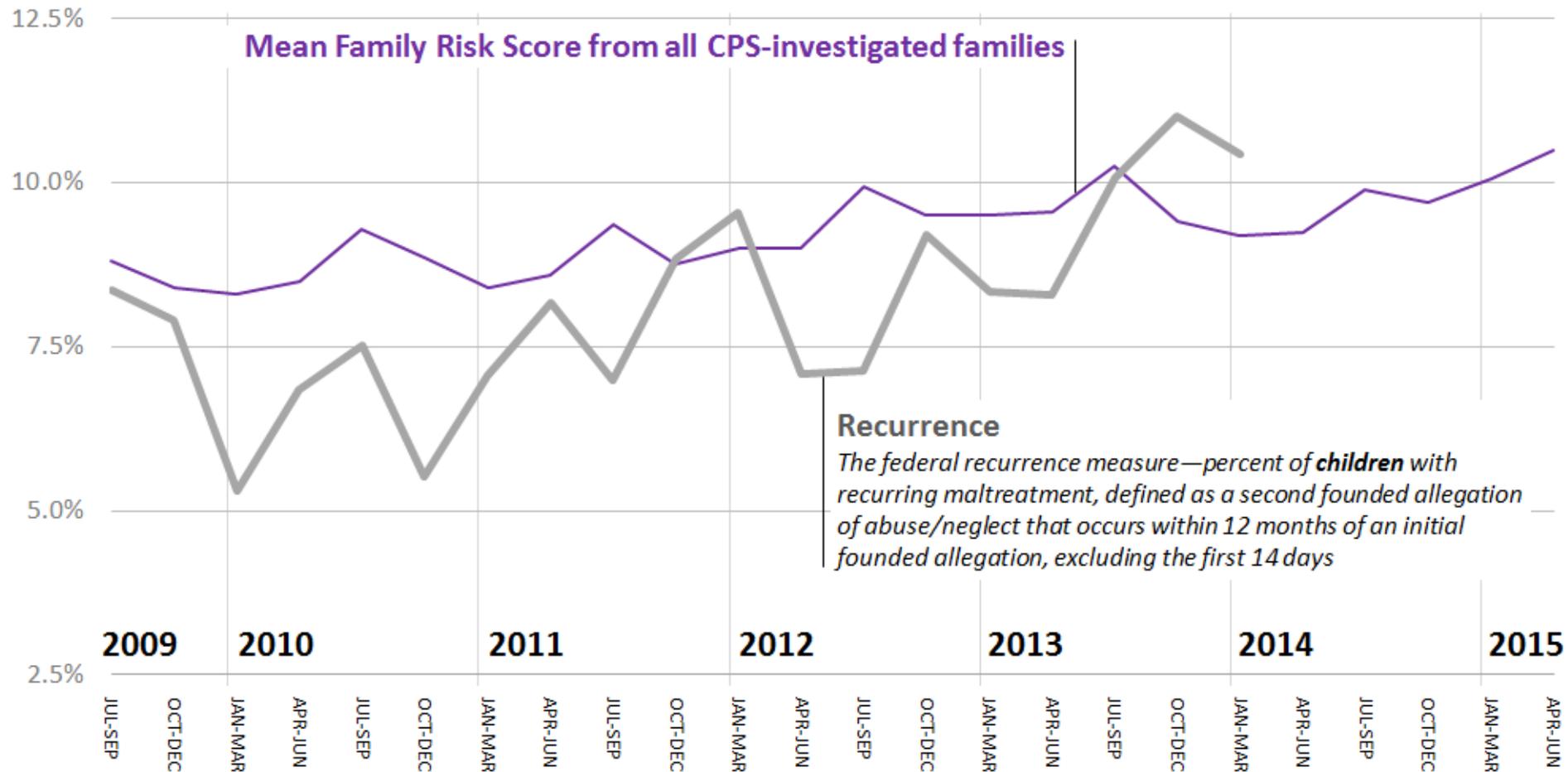
Mean Family Risk Score At First Intake



Family Risk Score is the sum of any occurrence of the following 6 factors

1. Parent criminal justice system involvement
2. Parent mental illness
3. Parent substance abuse
4. Family economic stress
5. Domestic violence
6. Family homelessness

Families with Multiple Risk Factors Have Increased



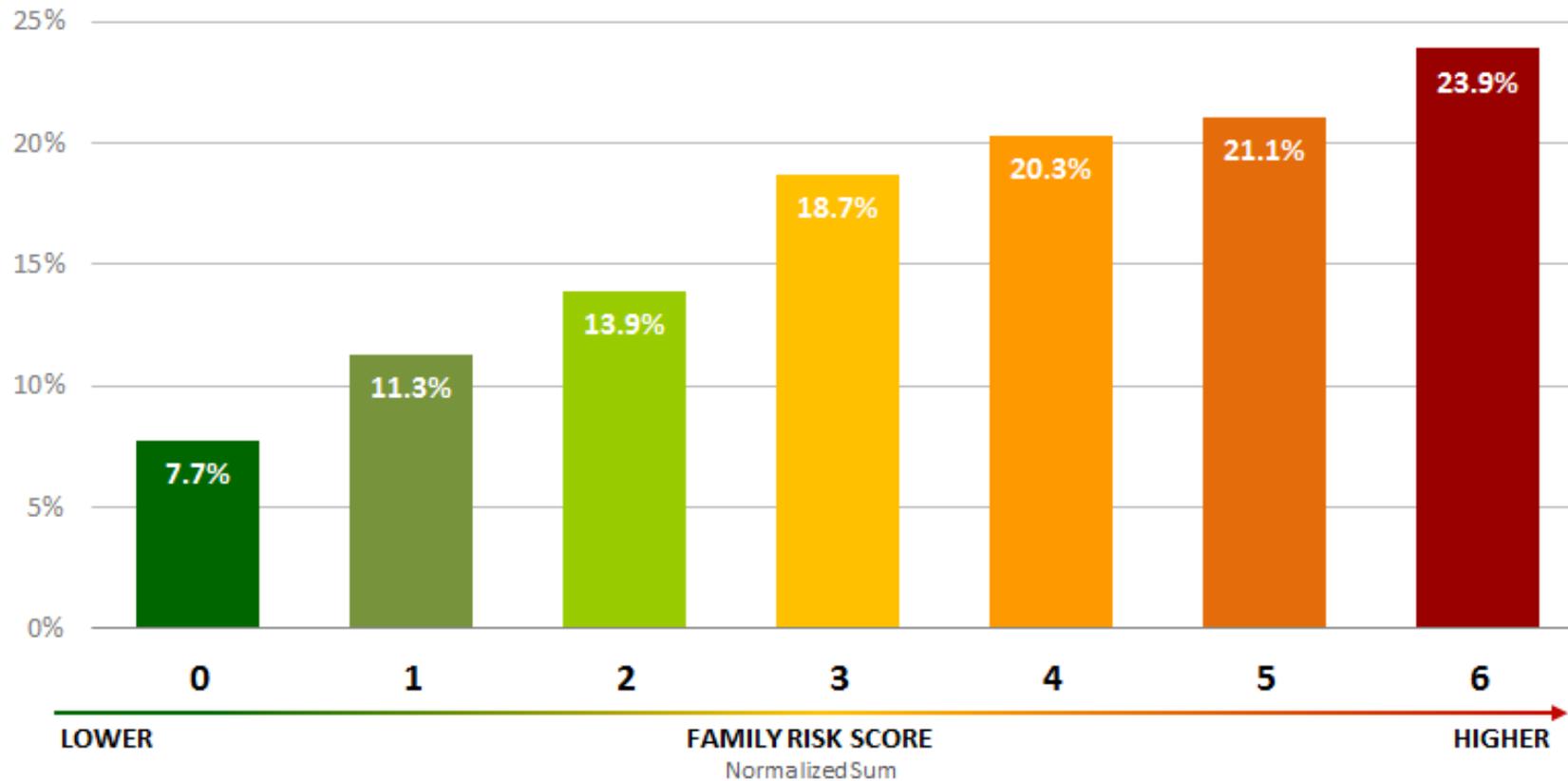
Increased Risk Score:

- ▶ Is associated with **Increased Recurrence of Maltreatment**
- ▶ Recurrence rate was 5.3 percent in Jan-Mar 2010 increasing to 10.4 percent in Jan-Mar 2014

Note: The sum of parental substance abuse, mental illness, criminality, economic stress, domestic violence, and homelessness, multiplied by 5 for ease of trend comparison.

Families with More Risk Factors Have Significantly Higher Negative Outcomes

Percent Families With a New Finding or Placement within One Year of Case Closure



Families with higher family risk scores at the initial intake experience higher rates of negative outcomes – new founded allegations or placements within one year of case closure.

6 Risk Factors:

1. Parent criminal justice system involvement
2. Parent mental illness
3. Parent substance abuse
4. Family economic stress
5. Domestic violence
6. Family homelessness

► Risk factors for families are determined at CPS intake and investigation

- Families are tracked for a period of one year after case closure, using administrative data.