



**Department of Human Services  
Division of Child Welfare/Adult Protection**



**2012 Garfield County Annual Evaluation Report**

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Garfield County Department of Human Services

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Department of Human Services  
Mary Baydarian, Director

### **VISION**

To increase the quality of life in the community by taking a proactive and innovative leadership role. Our work embodies the professional values and best practices of the human services field.

### **MISSION**

Garfield County Department of Human Services staff is committed to developing and providing collaborative services to assist and promote the safety, well being and self-sufficiency of individuals and families.

### **CHILD WELFARE VALUES**

#### **SAFETY, PERMANENCY, WELL-BEING**

- Child and youth safety is paramount. Children and youth have a right to live in a safe and stable home.

#### **COMMUNITY COLLABORATION**

- Garfield County's child welfare division will engage in mutually beneficial relationships with individuals, families, agencies, foster families and communities to work toward common goals by sharing responsibility, authority and accountability for achieving successful outcomes.

#### **FAMILY FOCUSED**

- Garfield County's child welfare division has the responsibility to make reasonable efforts to assess and meet individual and family needs. Being family focused includes:
  - Understanding that families have the right and responsibility to raise their own children.
  - Recognizing that families are knowledgeable regarding their family's strengths & needs.
  - Assuring that families and extended families have a decision-making role in the care of their own children.

### CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE

- Garfield County's child welfare division has a responsibility to understand and respond to children, youth and families with sensitivity to their unique beliefs, values, race, ethnicity, history, culture, religion, language, educational level, sexual orientation and economic status.

### ORGANIZATIONAL COMPETENCE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Garfield County's child welfare division recognizes its responsibility to demonstrate:
  - Leadership in a professional manner through competent, well-trained and supported workforce.
  - Continuous self improvement through ongoing assessment and being informed by data and research to support decision making.
  - Service delivery that is fully defined, explained, and understood.

### Child Welfare Customer Service Statements

- 1.) We strive to listen to families and youth, including them in planning and decision making; recognizing that families have rights and responsibilities.
- 2.) We strive to keep children with their families when safely possible.
- 3.) We strive to communicate clearly with families so there is transparency, honesty and understanding in our interactions.
- 4.) We strive to be child centered, family focused and community based in service planning and delivery.
- 5.) We strive to foster community collaboration and partnerships.
- 6.) We strive to be culturally responsive and recognize that individual families are unique.
- 7.) We strive to be a competent and ethically based staff.
- 8.) We strive to recognize that Garfield County Department of Human Services is accountable to families and the community through a continuous quality improvement process.

## **Introduction**

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Garfield County Division of Child Welfare's 2012 annual evaluation report has four objectives:

1. To describe services provided to families.
2. To provide an overview of 2012 work load data.
3. To look at the 2012 out of home placement data compared to previous years.
4. To present Garfield County outcomes for children, youth & families from the Child and Family Services Review.

Garfield County Division of Child Welfare works with families on a voluntary and court ordered basis providing services and support for families to address safety, permanency, and well being for children. The information in this report will provide an overview of services provided by Garfield County's Division of Child Welfare, along with Adult Protection intake numbers.

Garfield County continues to see an increase of child abuse & neglect reports. This report will provide an overview of the workload data analyzed yearly. Consistent with the Division of Child Welfare's value of keeping children in the least restrictive setting that appropriately addresses the needs of the child; the majority of children in open involvements (cases) were served in their own homes. While it's Garfield County's goal to keep families intact and to place children in the most appropriate setting, children are removed from their homes if safety concerns exist within the home that cannot be mediated and/or an appropriate caretaker is not available.

The state of Colorado is measured nationally by the "Child and Family Services Review," which enables the Children's Bureau to ensure conformity with federal child welfare requirements, determine what is happening with children and families as they are engaged in state child welfare services, and assist states to enhance their capacity to help children, youth, and families achieve positive outcomes.

Garfield County was able to successfully meet 14 of the 23 identified goals from the Child and Family Services Review for the first half of fiscal year 2012/13. This report will present data for each of the 23 outcome areas. Garfield County will continue to track these outcomes measurements to help understand agency strengths, and areas needing improvement for continuous quality improvement in our child welfare practice.

## Child Welfare Services

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The Department works closely with doctors, hospitals, law enforcement officials, schools, and others to identify maltreatment and intervene with families where children have been abused or neglected. While every attempt is made to keep the family together, if children are in immediate danger, they are removed from the home on a temporary basis.

**Child welfare intake** assesses and checks into all child abuse and neglect allegations. Specific protocols are followed for each report. Services are directed toward alleviating danger in order to protect children, and if possible, keep the family intact. **A 24-hour child abuse hotline, 970-945-9193**, is available for reporting child abuse and neglect situations. All requests for child welfare services must be initiated through Child Welfare or Adolescent Intake.

**Adolescent assessment & services** are available to families whose youths are experiencing severe parent-child conflicts, truancy, or delinquency.

**Sexual abuse intervention and family education** handles the majority of parent/child and/or sibling incest cases. The team works with local law enforcement, community agencies, and other treatment providers to ensure maximum protection for incest victims and maximum accountability and containment for offenders.

**Child protective ongoing services** provide home-based services to families who have allegations of physical abuse, neglect or are at high risk for these factors. They are assessed, then referred by child welfare intake if they need continued services to protect children and rehabilitate families. Services include individual, group, or family therapy, parenting classes, domestic violence treatment, drug/alcohol treatment; crisis intervention, and life skills training. When children cannot be maintained or reunited with their parents within a reasonable time, efforts are dedicated to provide alternative living arrangements that are most beneficial to the child which preserve emotional kinship, identity, and continuity.

**Chafee foster care independent program** is emancipation/interdependent living program for youth 16 and over in foster care or group home care. Counselors teach skills such as budgeting and banking, apartment finding, job seeking, scholarship applications, problem solving and use of community resources. Youth must be or have been in the custody of the Department of Human Services. Some financial incentives are available to help with household items or book fees.

### **Foster care and adoption**

There is no "typical" child who comes into care. The children are boys and girls of all ages and from all ethnic backgrounds. They enter the foster care system when their birth families are unable to protect them and keep them safe. Our primary goal is to have children return home. However, some will not and will require permanent adoptive families.

# Child Welfare Services

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## **Core Services**

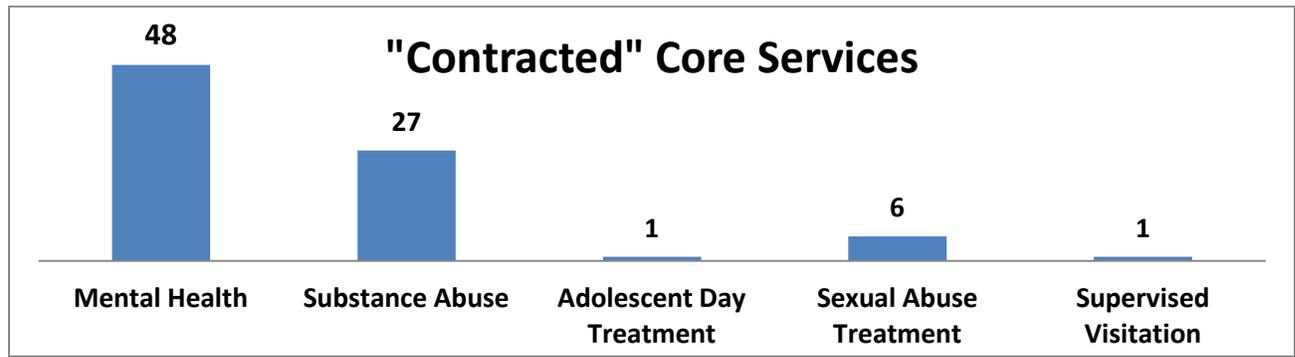
The primary goal of the Core Services program is to keep children and families together, whenever appropriate and possible, by serving children who are at risk for out-of-home placement. In Garfield County a total of 84 cases were identified in the Trails data system as having received at least one Core Service during 2012.

Garfield County offers and provides a variety of services to the children and families we work with. The services listed below are broken down between “In-House” (DHS Staff) services and “Contracted” (Community Providers).

### **“In-House” CORE SERVICES (DHS Staff)**



### **“Contracted” CORE SERVICES (Community Providers)**



## **Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF)**

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PSSF aims to prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their families, improve the quality of care and services to children and their families, and ensure permanency for children by reuniting them with their parents, through adoption, or other permanent living arrangement. Colorado’s PSSF program provides funding to thirty-three program sites (Including Garfield County), comprised of 41 counties and one tribe. PSSF aides Human Services efforts in the engagement of local communities in order to develop and implement innovative, collaborative ways to deliver services that promote safety, permanency and well-being for families. In 2012 the Garfield County PSSF program served 69 requests for services and support for Garfield County Families.

# Child Welfare Services

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## **STEPS PROGRAM-**

(STRATEGIES TOWARD EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT PROGRESS AND SAFETY)

This program came to Garfield County in 2009 and is assisting youth from age 14-21. Youth who are homeless, or at risk of being homeless. S.T.E.P.S. works with youth to help them move into their future as an adult, by offering an assessment and case management that can provide assistance in a variety of areas, ranging from housing to education and more.

- **In 2012 the S.T.E.P.S. program received 27 Referrals from the community**
- **DHS Staff were able to assist 15 different youth in 2012 with STEPS services**

## **SUPERVISED VISITATION SERVICES**

DHS Staff are providing supervised visitation services for parents and children who have been separated due to child welfare concerns. DHS staff attempts to be flexible to allow families to maintain contact when children are separated from their parents or caregivers.

- **346 supervised visits were completed**

## **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

DHS staff provides transportation for families who may not have means to obtain transportation for visits or necessary appointments. This service is usually offered for families to participate in visitation services.

- **449 Transports visits were completed**

## **FAMILY GROUP DECISION MAKING (FGDM)**

FGDM - a family engagement strategy where families and family support networks are identified and invited to meet with DHS to participate in decision making and planning for their child welfare case. Family Group Decision-Making is a process where a trained meeting facilitator is responsible for coordinating, facilitating and then summarizing the meeting in a report that is distributed to all participants. These meetings are offered to all families when DHS is looking at making any placement or permanency decisions for children.

- **DHS staff coordinated and facilitated 173 family meetings in 2012**

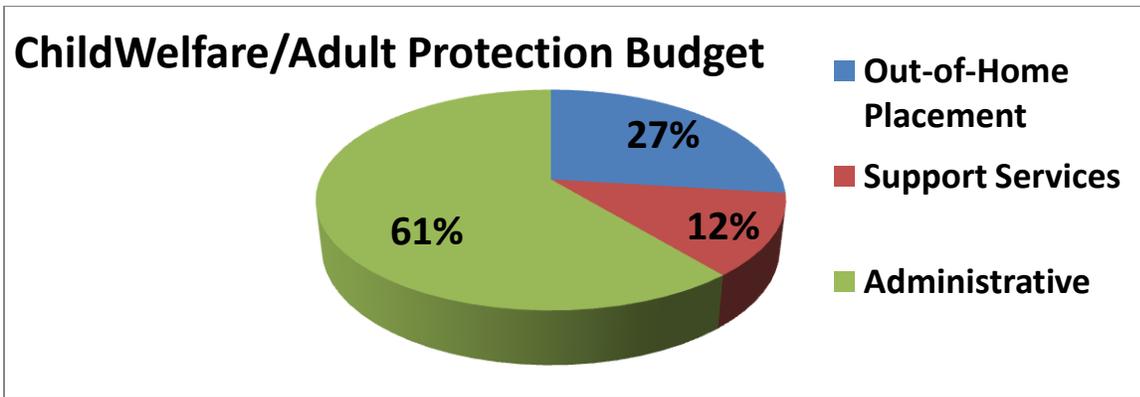
## **ADULT PROTECTION**

- **DHS staff responded to 83 Adult Services reports**

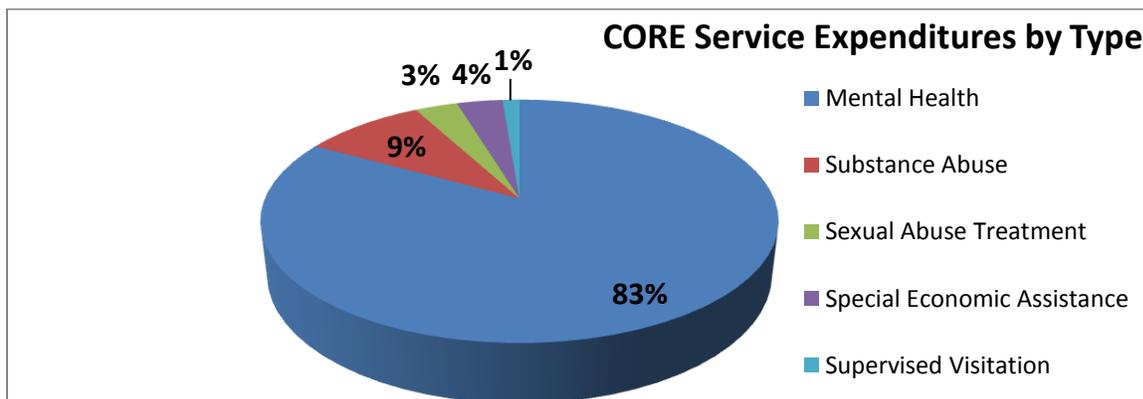
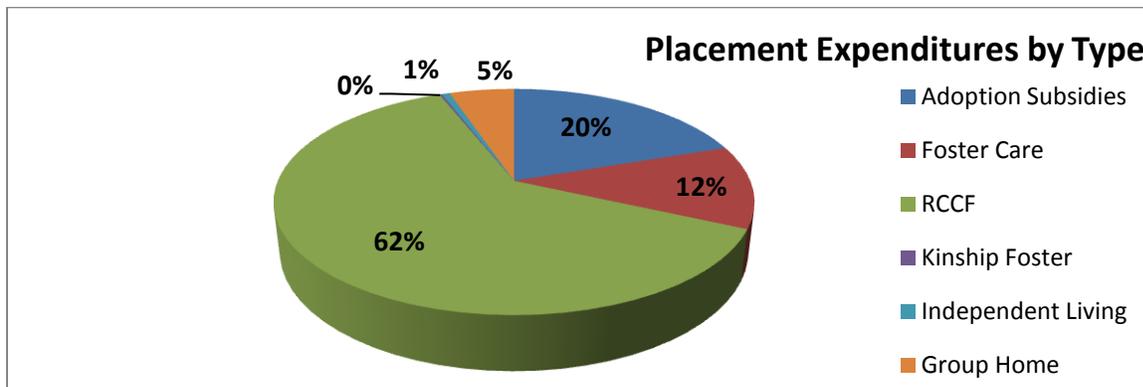
## Budget Information

Garfield County's Division of Child and Adult Protection is operating on \$3,818,221.10 budget for fiscal year 2012/2013.

- Out-of-Home Placement costs include Adoption Subsidies, all Foster Care placements, Residential Child Care Facilities (RCCF) and Group home placements
- Support Services include all Case Services, CORE services, and Child Care Services
- Administrative costs include Staff Salaries, Trainings, Travel, Office Supplies



### Garfield County Service Expenditures (2012-2013 Fiscal Year)\*as of 12-31-2012

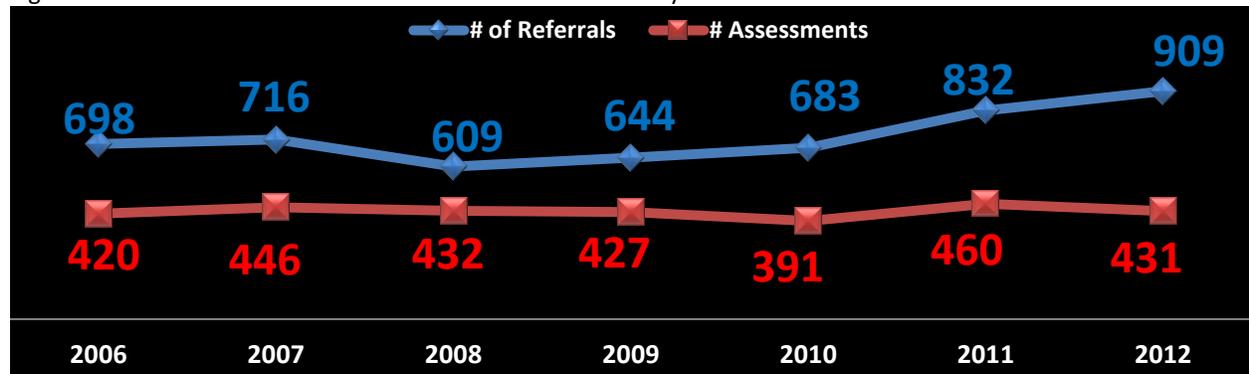


## Referral and Assessment

Garfield County received 909 referrals in 2012 (see Figure 1). A referral can be made to a county for several reasons:

- (a) A report of possible abuse or neglect,
- (b) A report that a child is beyond the control of their parent,
- (c) A report that a child is a danger to self or others, and/or
- (d) A report that an adopted child needs services.

Figure 1: Number of Child Welfare Referrals & Assessments by Year



It is important to note that referrals represent a count of reports and not the potential number of children referred. Of those referrals, 431 (47%) were opened for investigation also known as an assessment. This percentage is a decline from the previous year's 55%. (See Figure 2) The state's overall referral response percentage was 44.73% for state fiscal year 2012.

Figure 2: Response Percentage by year

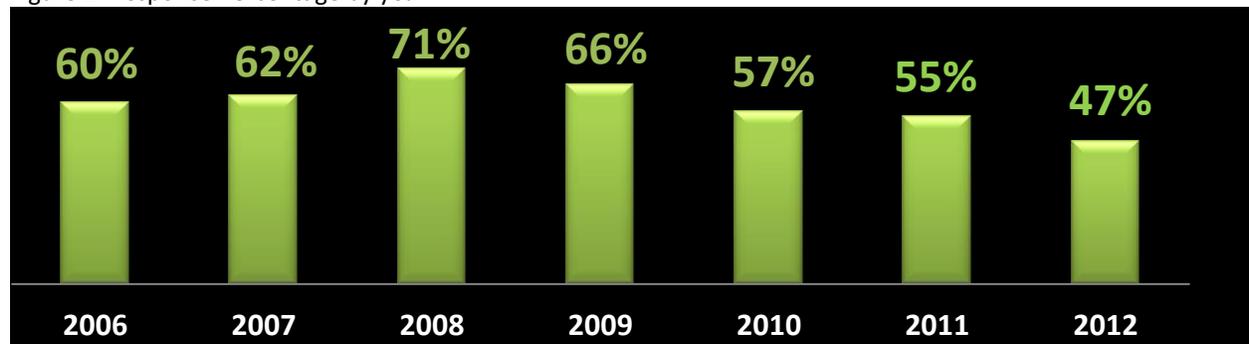
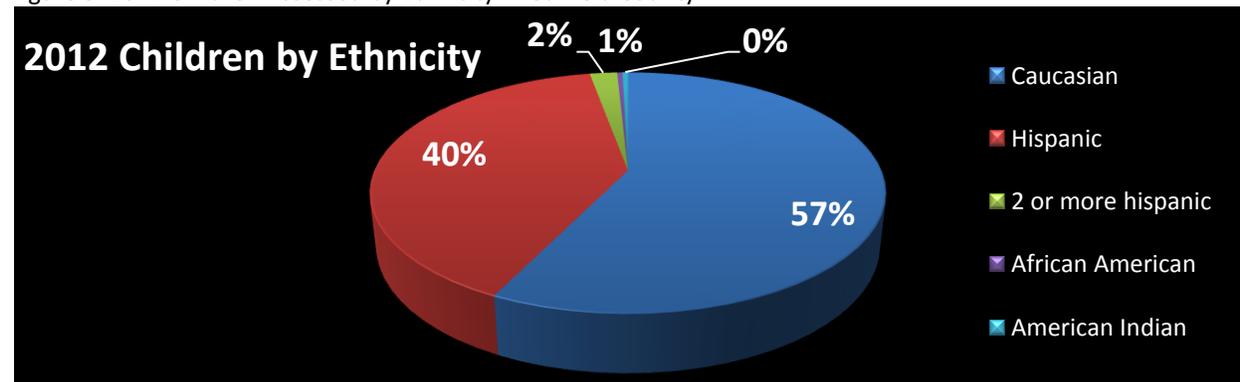


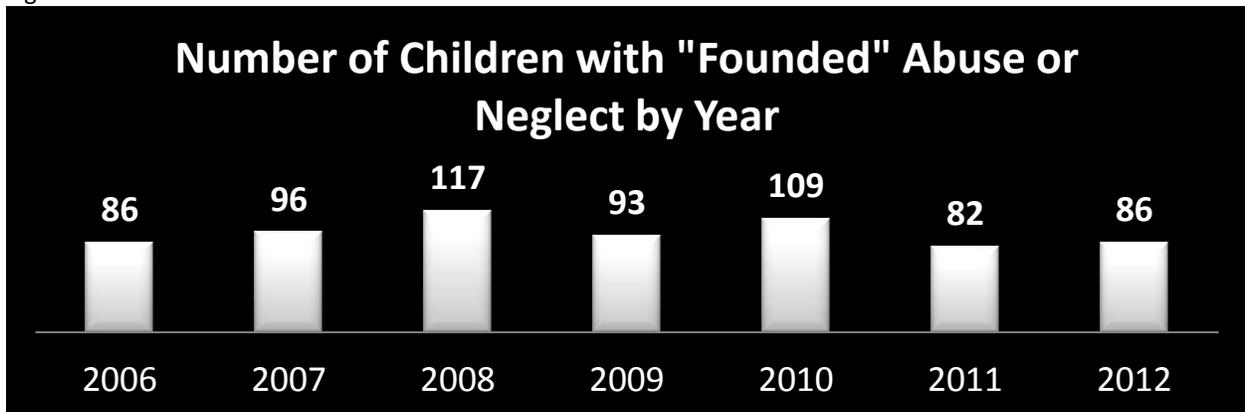
Figure 3: 2012 Children Assessed by Ethnicity in Garfield County:



## Abuse Neglect Findings

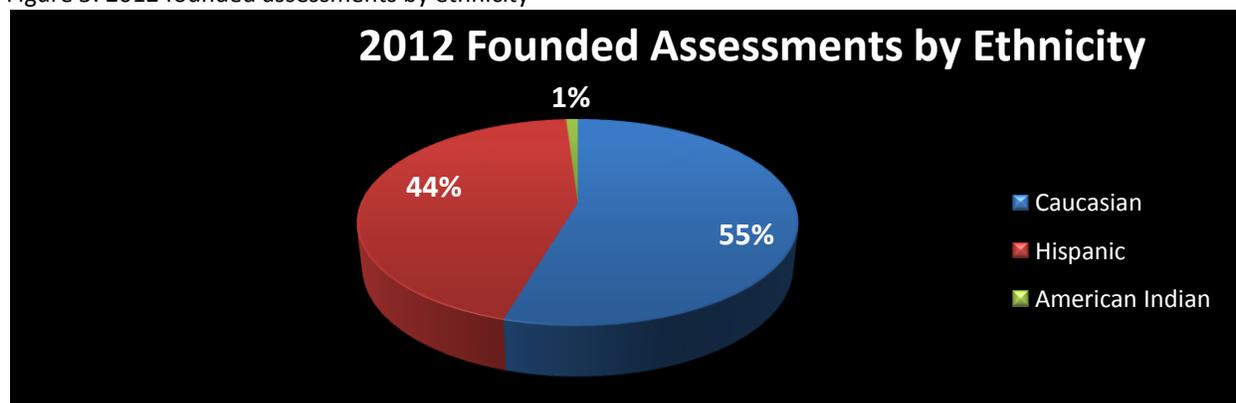
Caseworkers are asked to assess for child safety and at times, investigate whether or not abuse or neglect has occurred. Below is the number of children with substantiated abuse or neglect by year.

Figure 4:



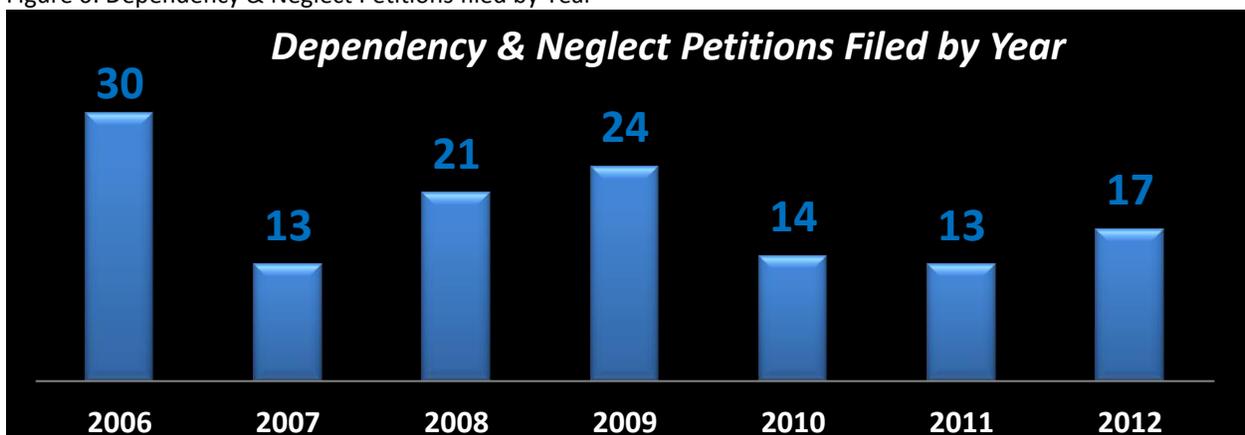
\**Differential Response* starting in November 2010 changed legislation on how findings are made; therefore a lower number of Assessments require findings; which could contribute to lower numbers of "Founded" cases of Abuse/Neglect since November 2010.

Figure 5: 2012 founded assessments by ethnicity



At times Court Involvement is necessary to support child safety, permanency and wellbeing. Figure 6, below shows the number of cases in Garfield County where court involvement was necessary by year.

Figure 6: Dependency & Neglect Petitions filed by Year



## Out-of-Home Involvements

While Colorado’s goal is to keep families intact and to place children in the least restrictive setting, children are removed from their homes if safety concerns exist within the home that cannot be mediated and/or an appropriate caretaker is not available. In 2012, 35 children were placed (37 new removals) in an Out of Home (OOH) setting. Since 2006 there has been a decline in overall placement numbers. However, Garfield County saw an increase in new removals for 2012.

Figure 7: New Removals by Year

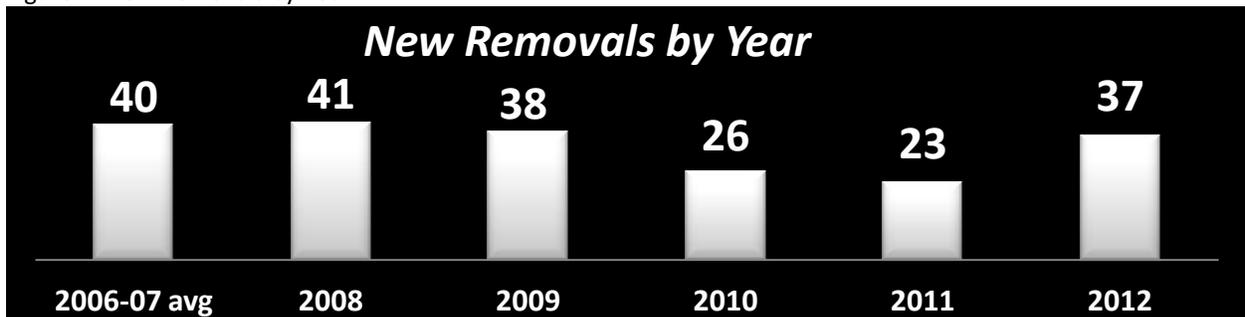


Figure 8: Total Children in Care by Year

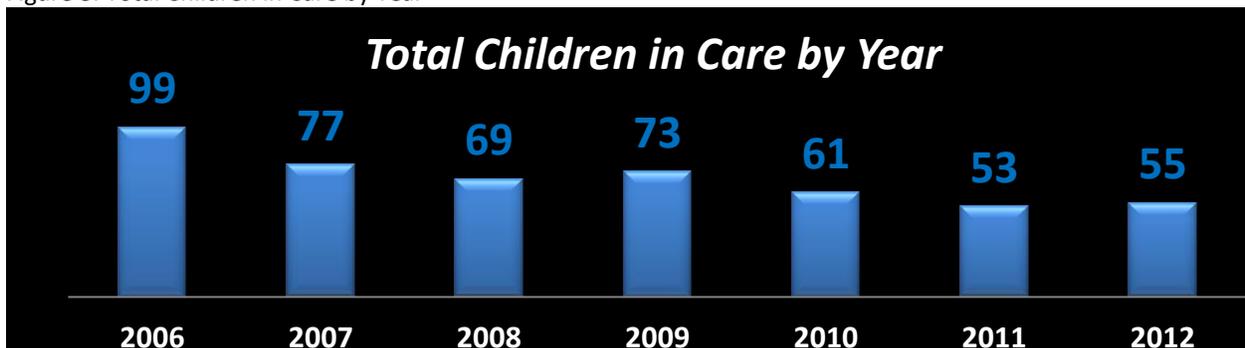
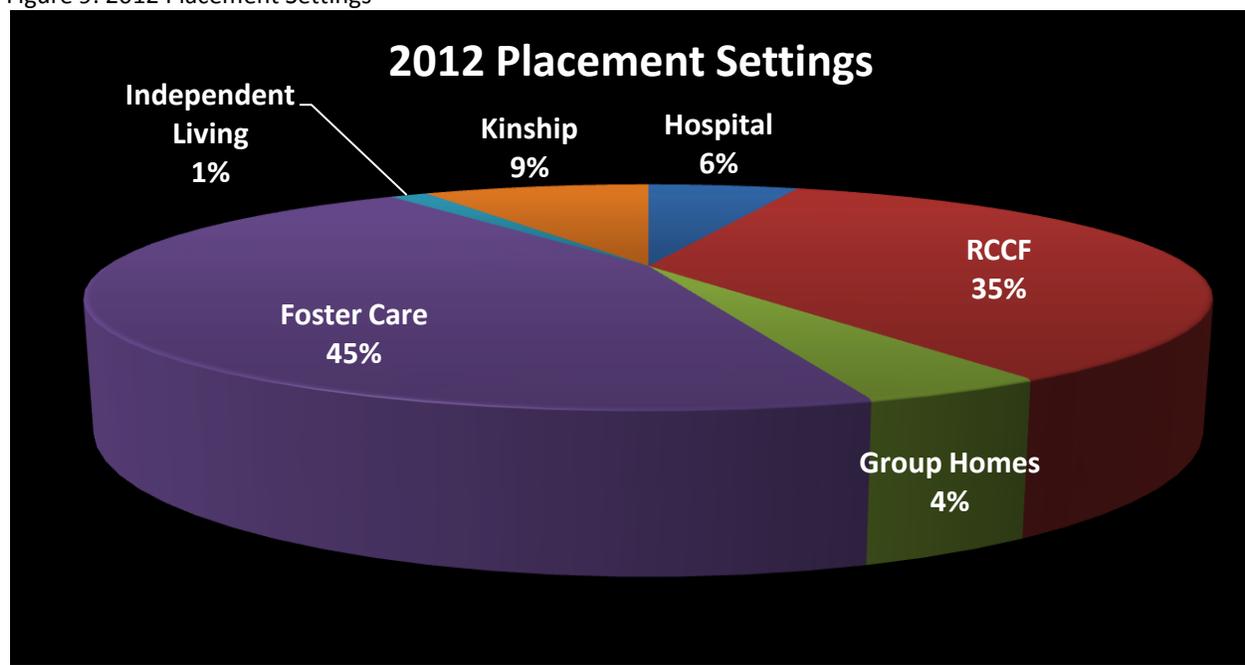


Figure 9: 2012 Placement Settings



## Out-of-Home Involvements

Figure 10: 2012 Child in Placement by Gender

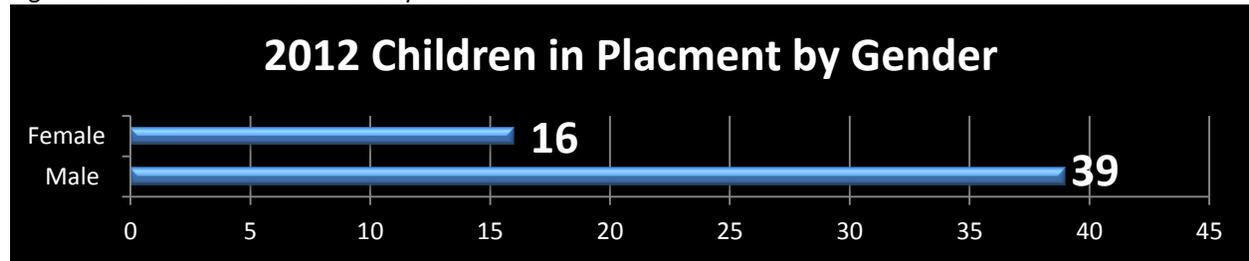


Figure 11: 2012 Children in Placement by Ethnicity

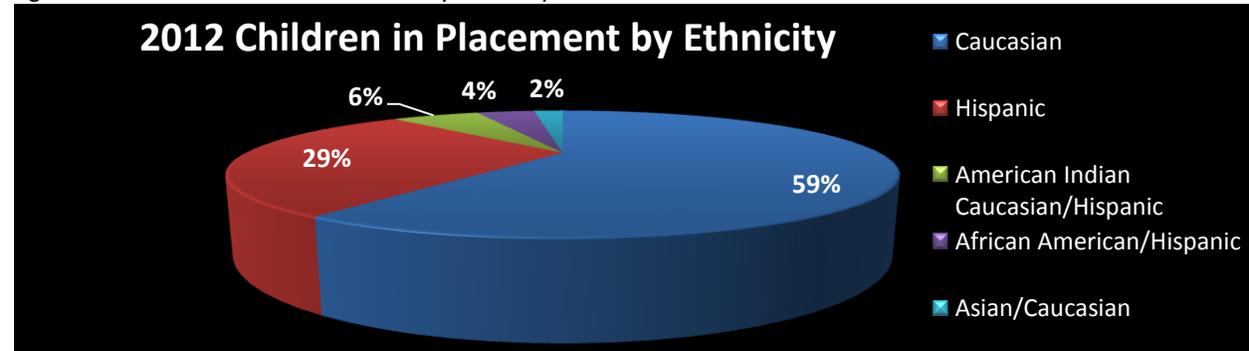


Figure 12: Closed Removals by Year

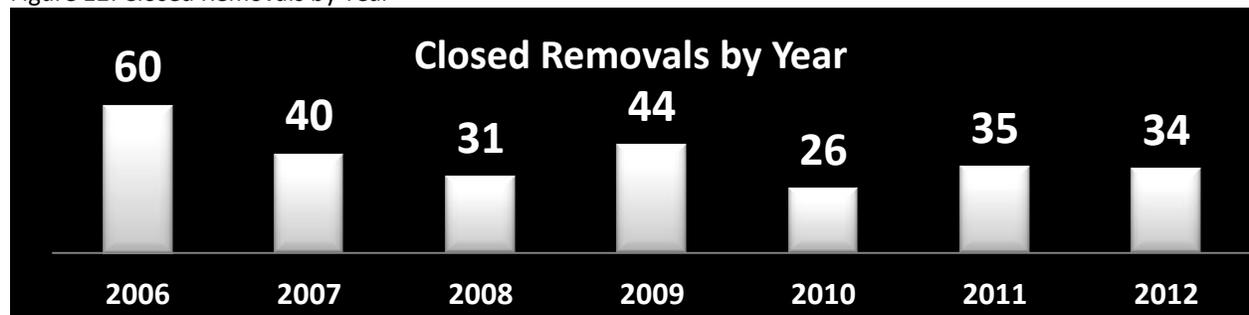


Figure 13: Average number of days for children in care by year

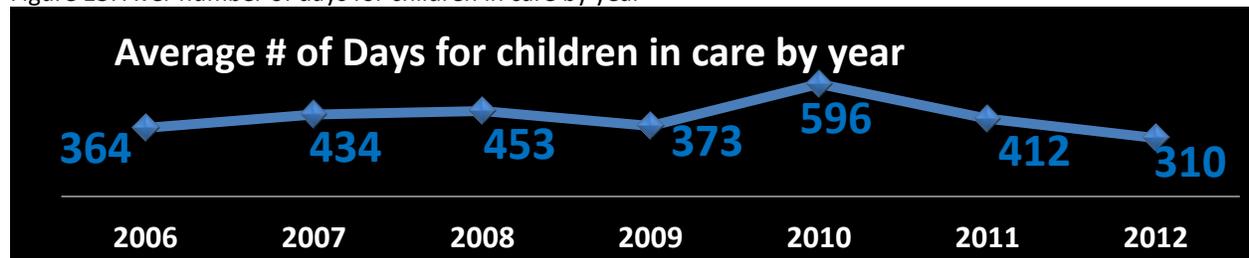
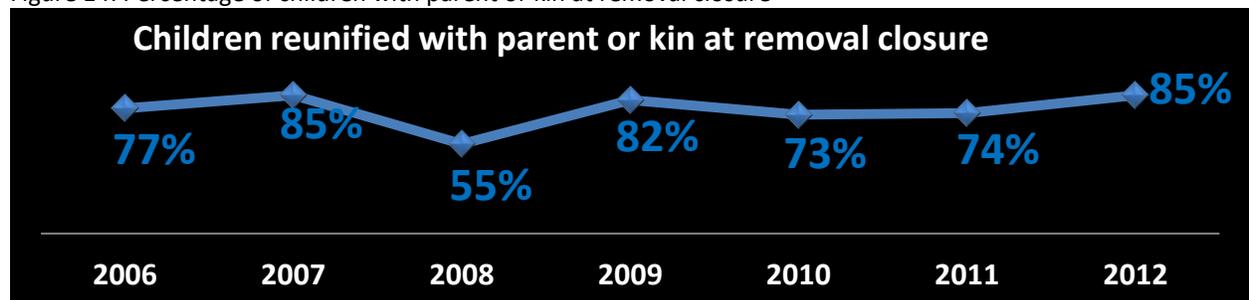


Figure 14: Percentage of children with parent or kin at removal closure

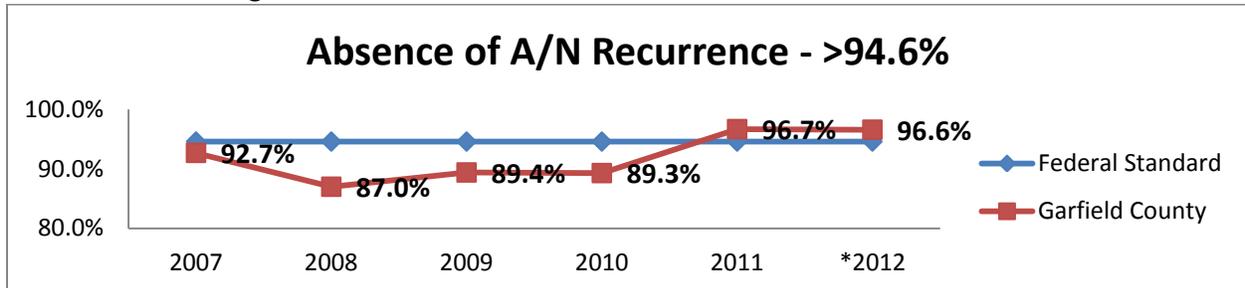


## Garfield County Department of Human Services (Child Welfare Outcomes)

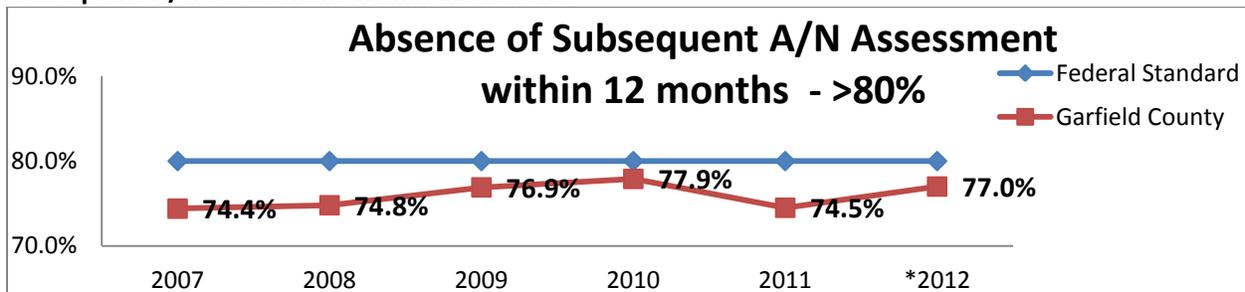
*Federal Safety Measures by year*

\*2012 Fiscal Year data- (07-01-2011-6-30 2012)

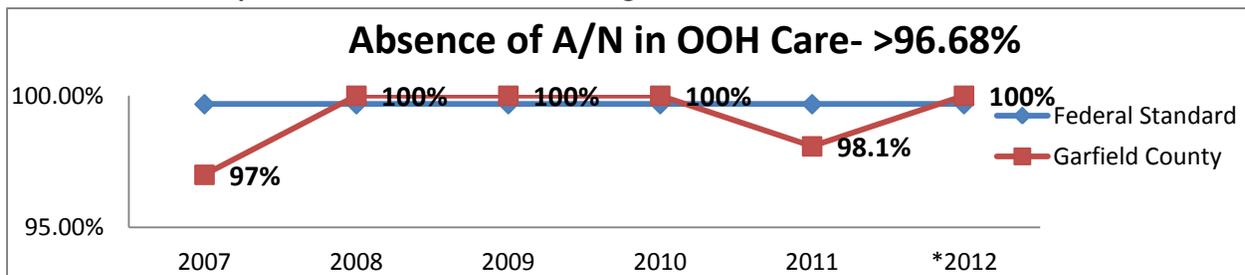
Children do not experience repeat maltreatment within 6 months of a confirmed report of intra-familial Abuse or Neglect.



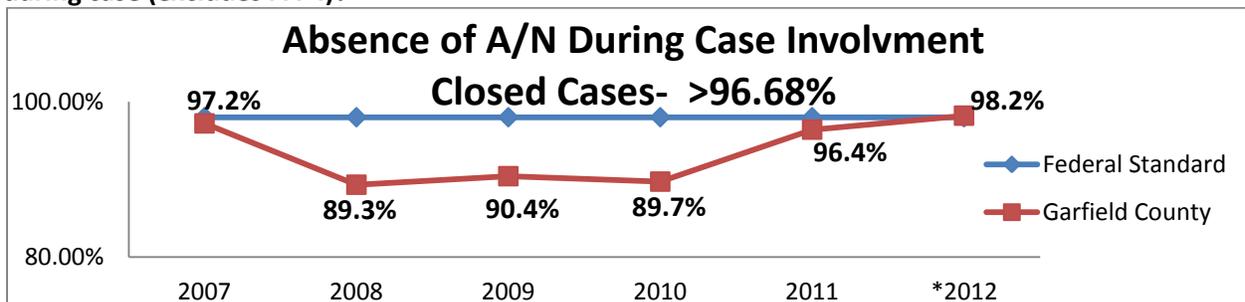
Children who had an Abuse/Neglect (PA-5) assessment closed during period, what percent had a subsequent A/N assessment within 12 months?



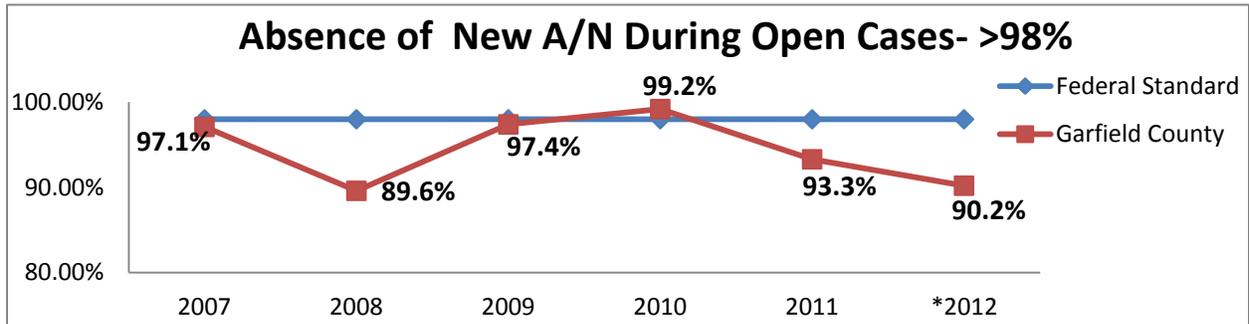
Children will not experience confirmed abuse or neglect in out-of-home care.



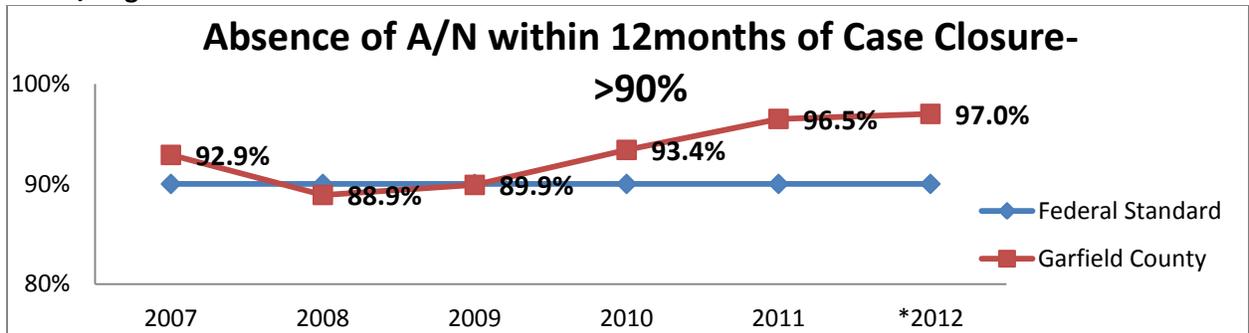
Children who case closed within a period, what percentage did not have founded abuse or neglect during case (excludes PA-4)?



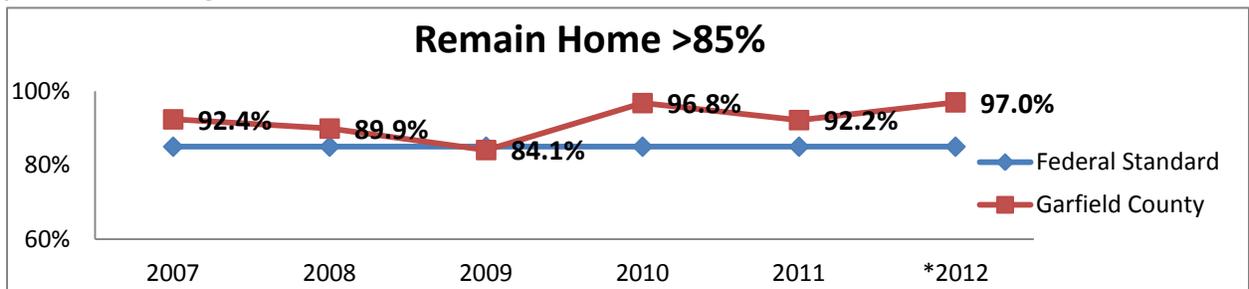
Children who were involved in an abuse/neglect case during period, what percentage did not have a new founded A/N report during the period?



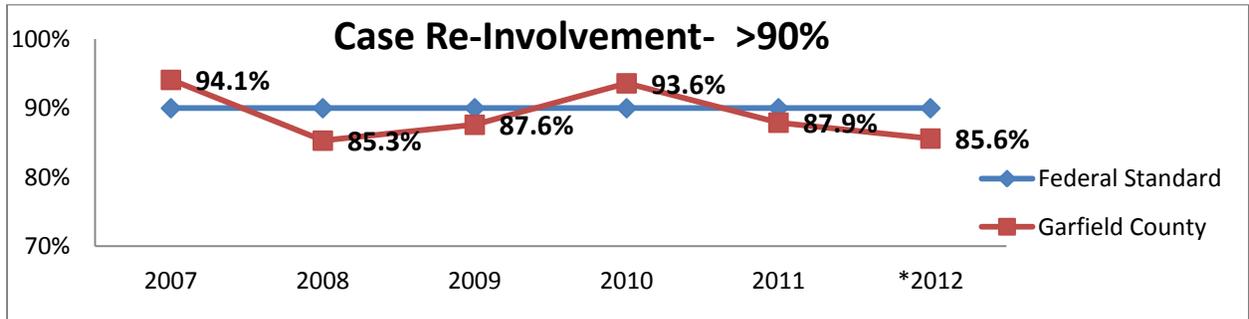
Children whose case closed within period, what percent did not have subsequent founded Abuse/Neglect within 12 months of case closure?



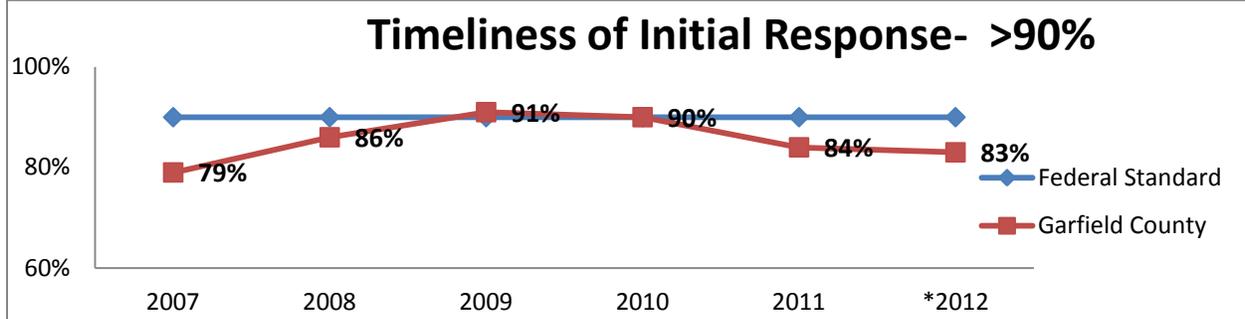
Children who were not initially (first 30 days) in Out-of-Home placement and did not enter OOH placement during case involvement.



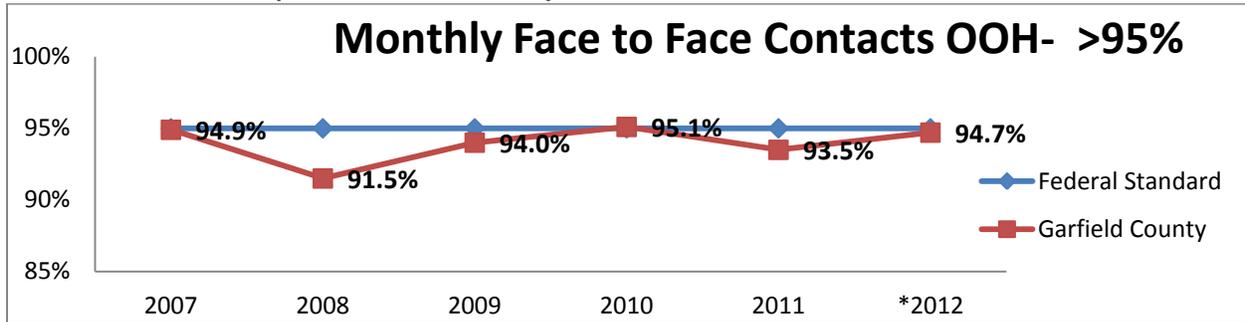
Children whose case involvement closed within period, what percentage did not have subsequent case involvement in 12 months?



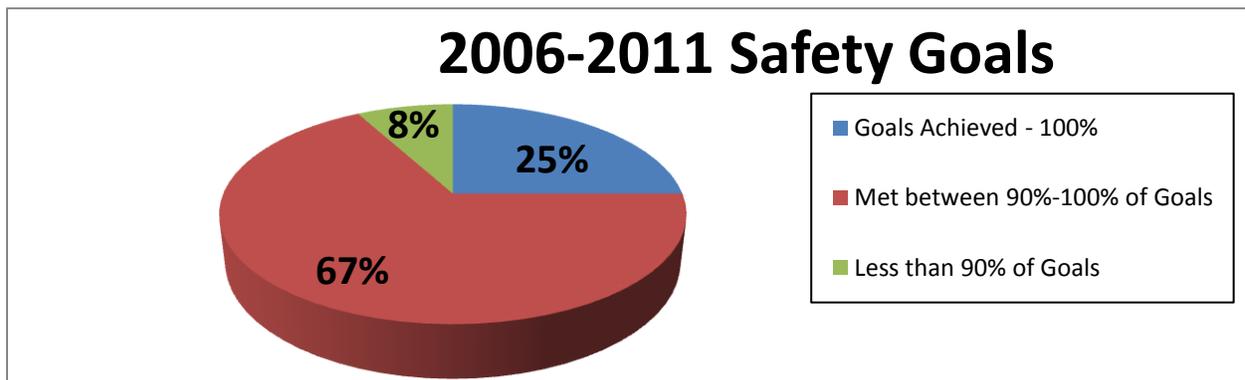
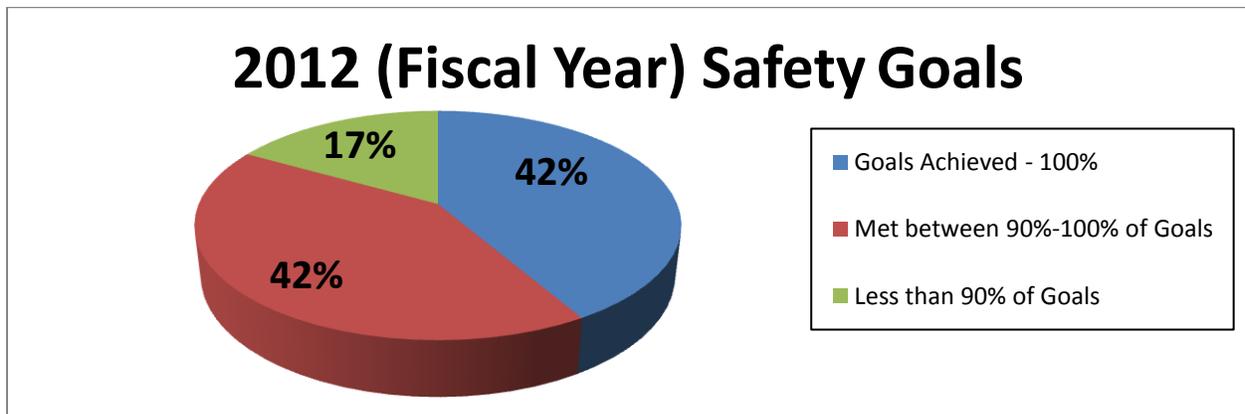
What percent of alleged victims in abuse/neglect or institutional investigations were seen within the indicated response time?



Were the volume 7 requirements for monthly contacts in Out of Home care met?



**Safety Measure Totals: How did Garfield County DHS do with federal safety measures?**

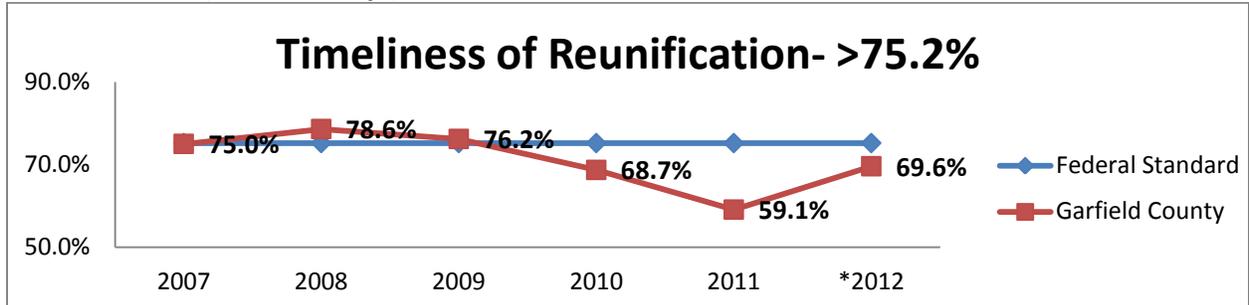


## Garfield County Department of Human Services (Child Welfare Outcomes)

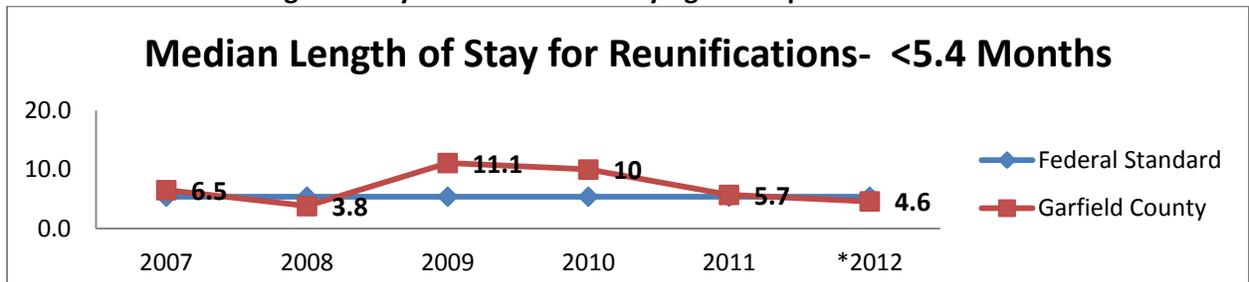
*Federal Permanency Measures by year*

\*2012 Fiscal Year data- (07-01-2011-6-30 2012)

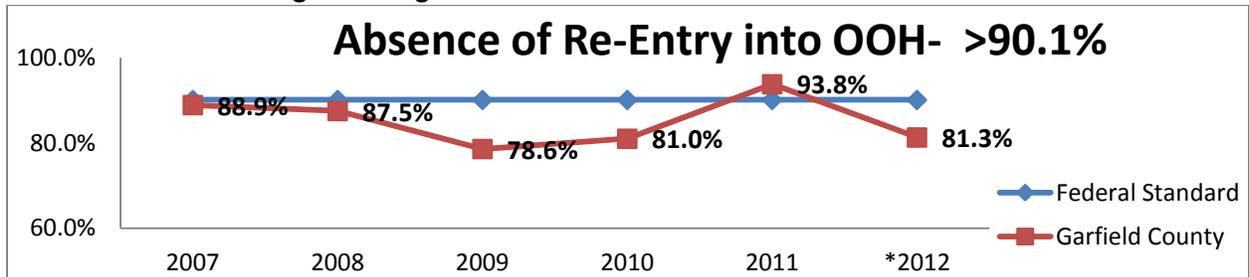
Reunifications (reunification, living with parent or other relative) occurred within 12 months of the date of removal (in care 8+ days).



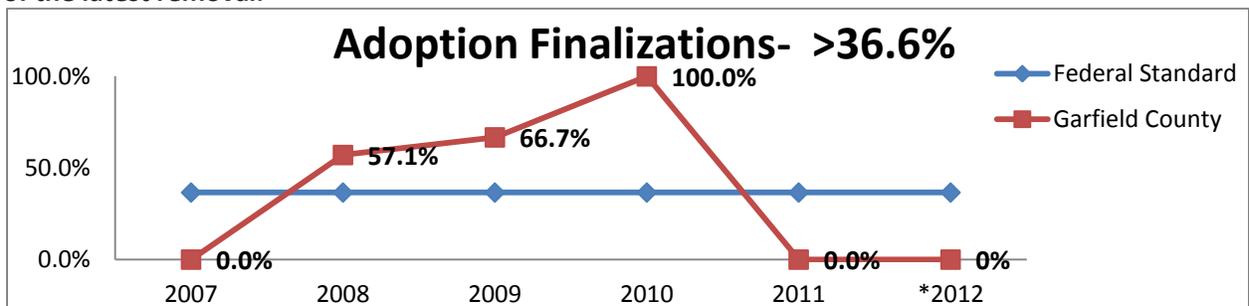
What is the median length of stay for children re-unifying with a parent or other relative?



Children reunified during date range that did not re-enter Out-of-Home care within 12 months.

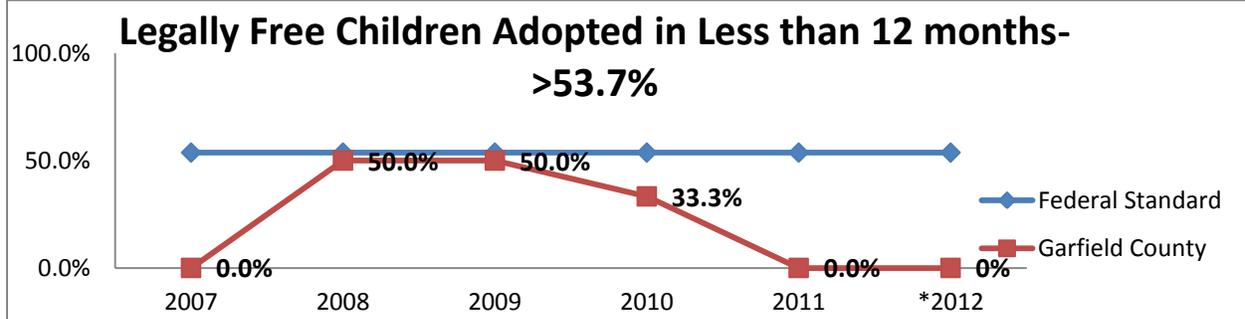


Children who exited care to a finalized adoption were finalized in less than 24 months from the time of the latest removal.

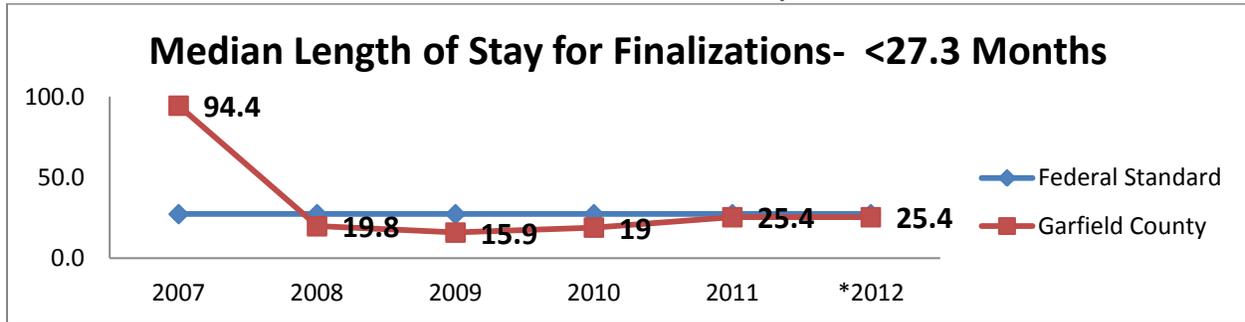


\*2007(had no children freed for adoption)

Children freed for adoption will be adopted in less than 12 months after termination of parental rights.



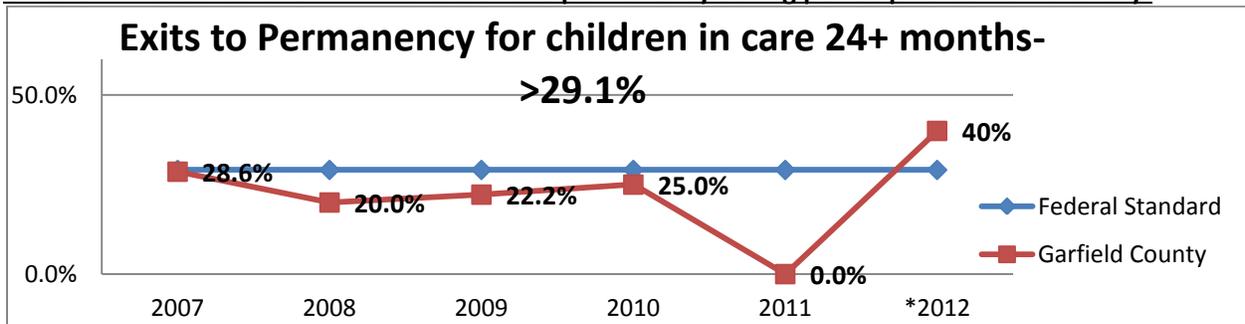
Median time in care for children who exit care to a finalized adoption.



\*2007(had no children freed for adoption)

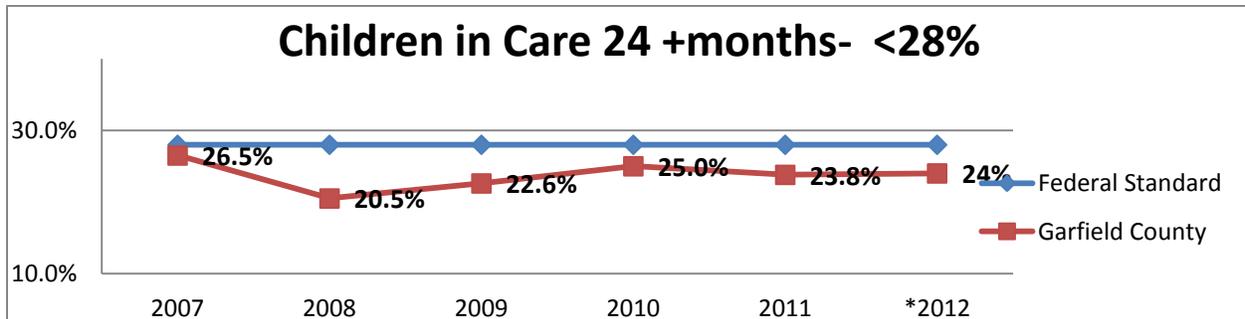
\*2010 (0 out of 3 children were adopted within 12 months)

Children in Foster Care for 24+ months exit to permanency during period prior to 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

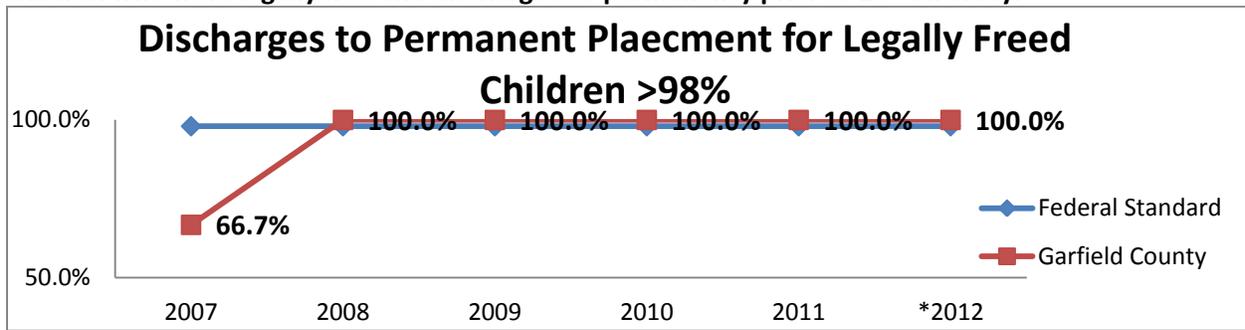


\*2011 (0 out of 8 children in care 2 years or more exited to permanency prior to 18<sup>th</sup> birthday)

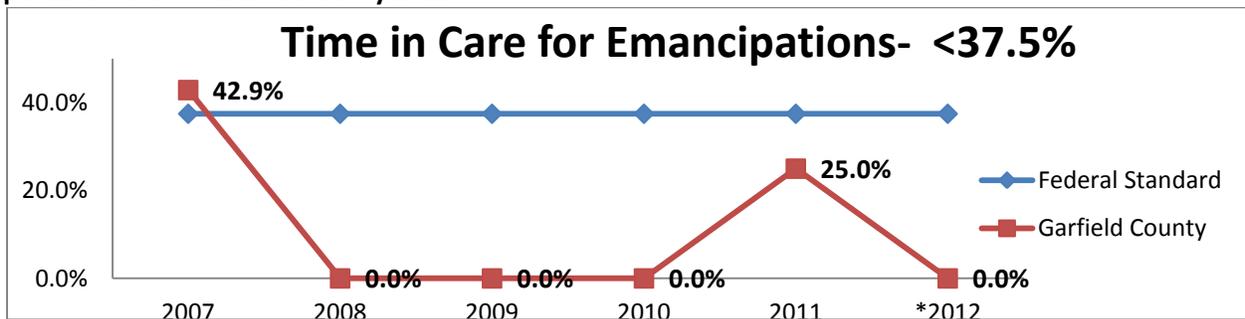
Of all children in foster care on the last day of period, what percent have been in care for more than 24 months.



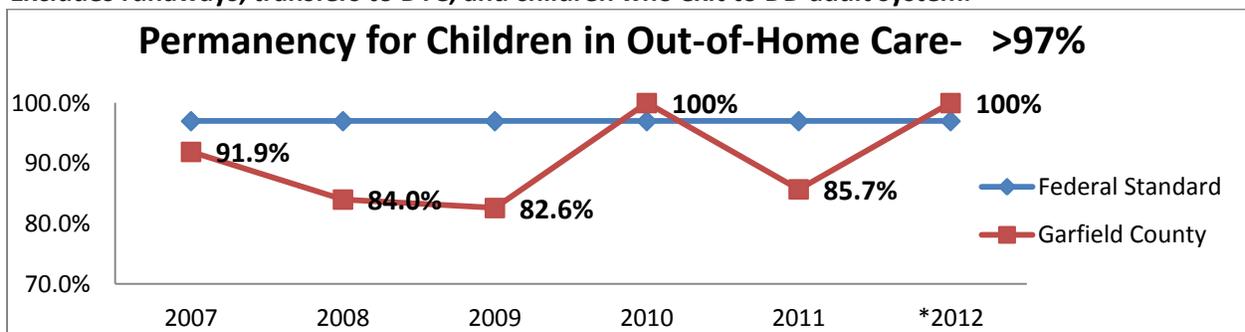
Children who were legally free and discharged to permanency prior to 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.



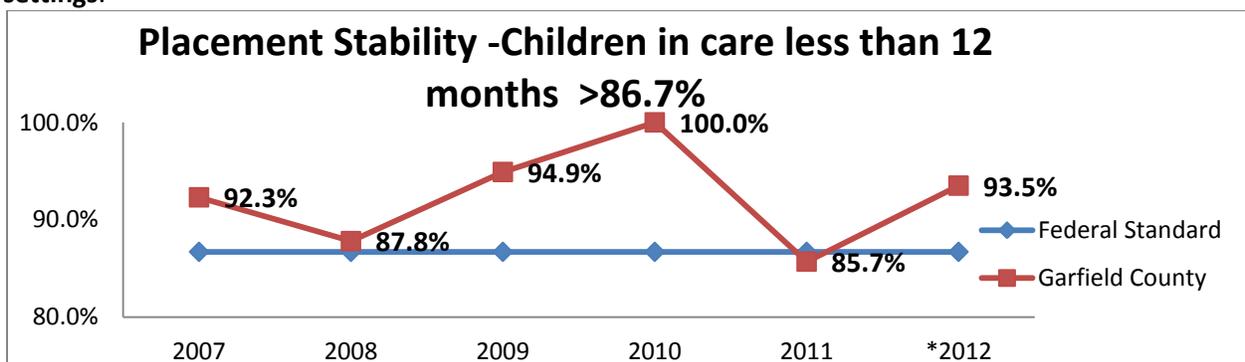
Of all children who either (1) were, prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, discharged from foster care in FY with a discharge reason of emancipation, or (2) Reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in FY while in foster care, what percent were in foster care 3+ years?



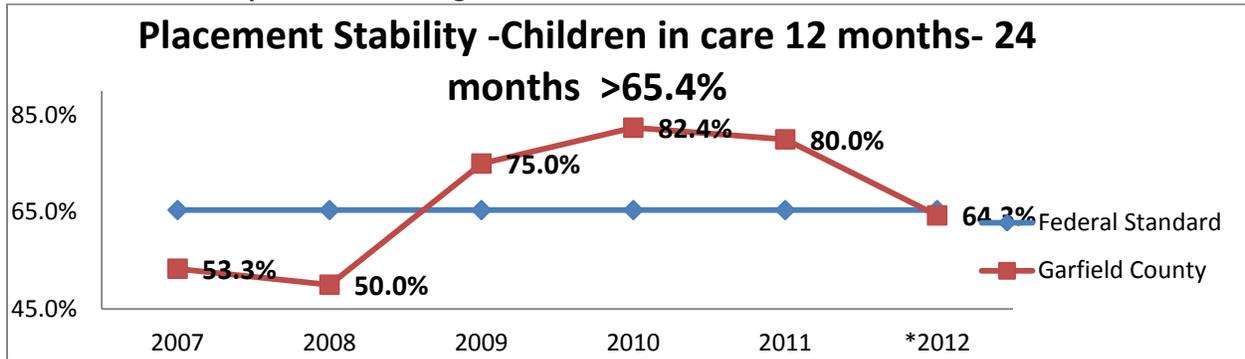
Children in Out-of-Home care 8 days or longer who exit to permanency (do not emancipate); Excludes runaways, transfers to DYC, and children who exit to DD adult system.



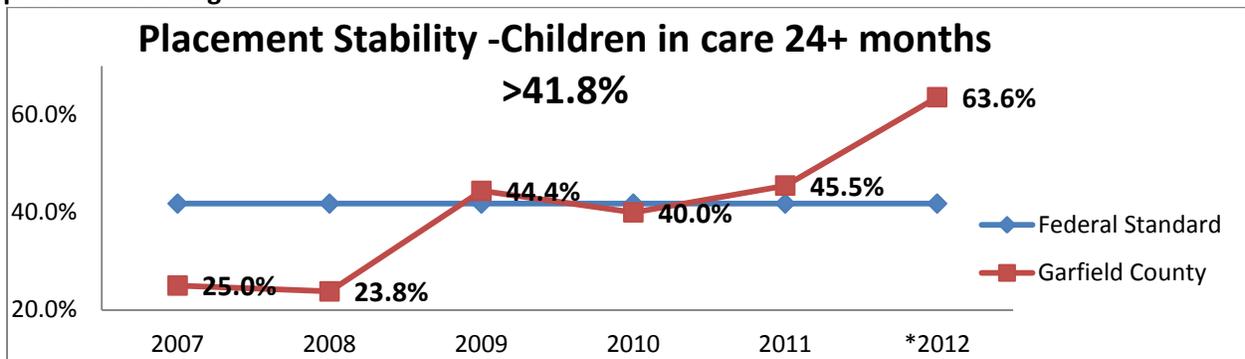
Children who have been in foster care less than 12 months that have had no more than 2 placement settings.



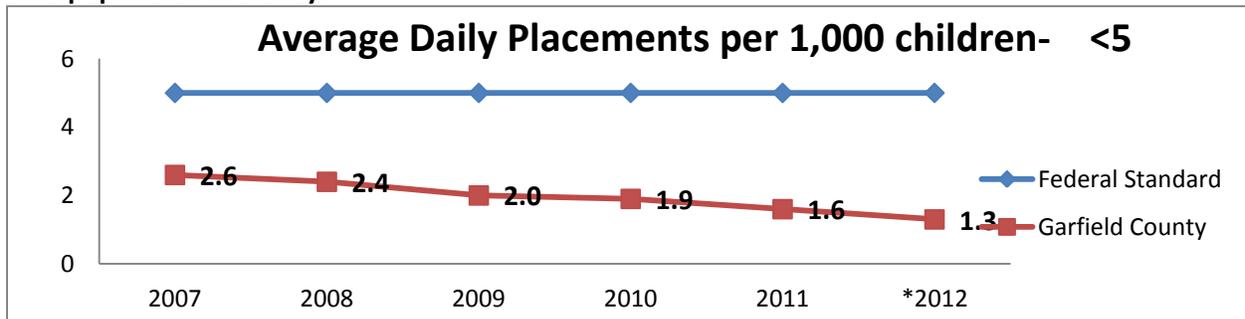
Children who have been in foster care for more than 12 months, but less than 24 months that have had no more than 2 placement settings.



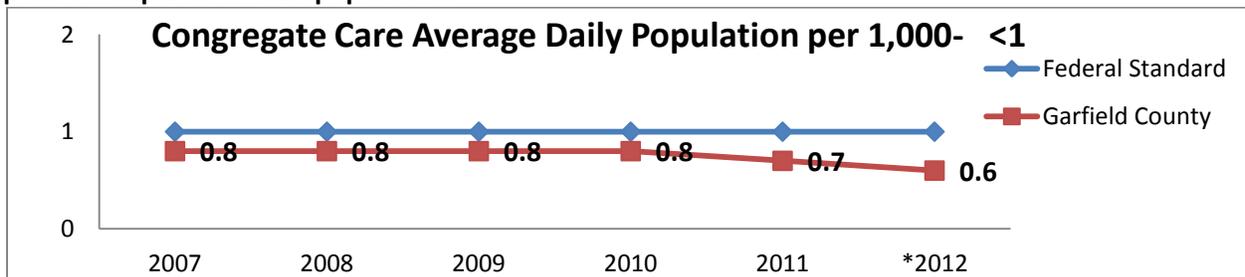
Children who have been in foster care for more than 24 months that have had no more than 2 placement settings.



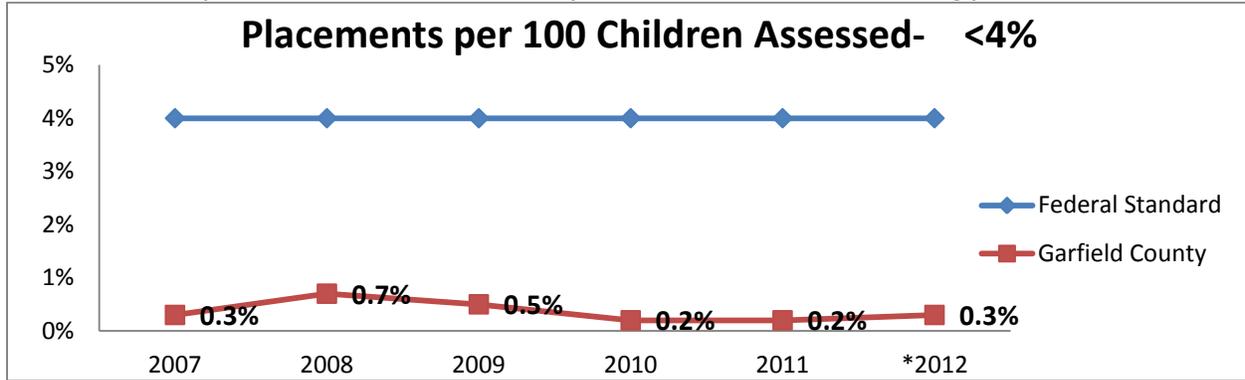
Average daily population of children placed in Out-of-Home care (all types) during period compared to child population in county.



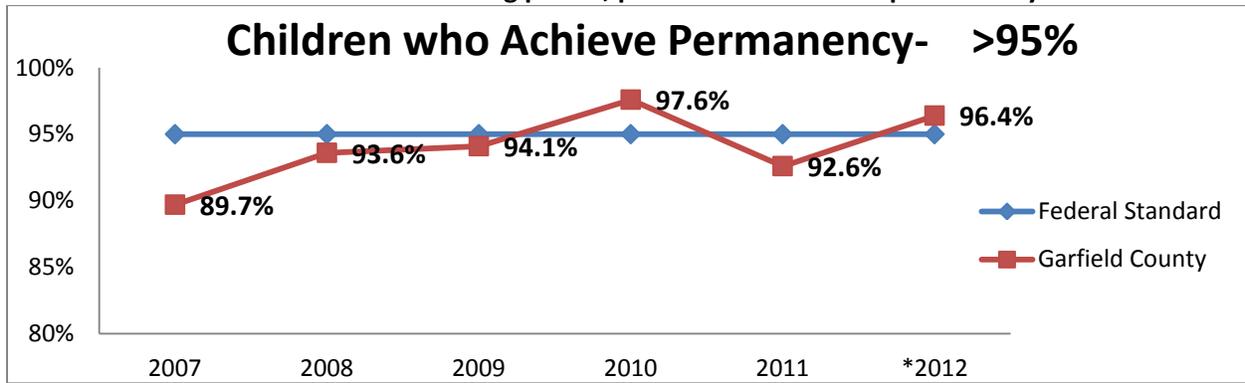
Average daily population of children placed in congregate care (residential or group home) during period compared to child population.



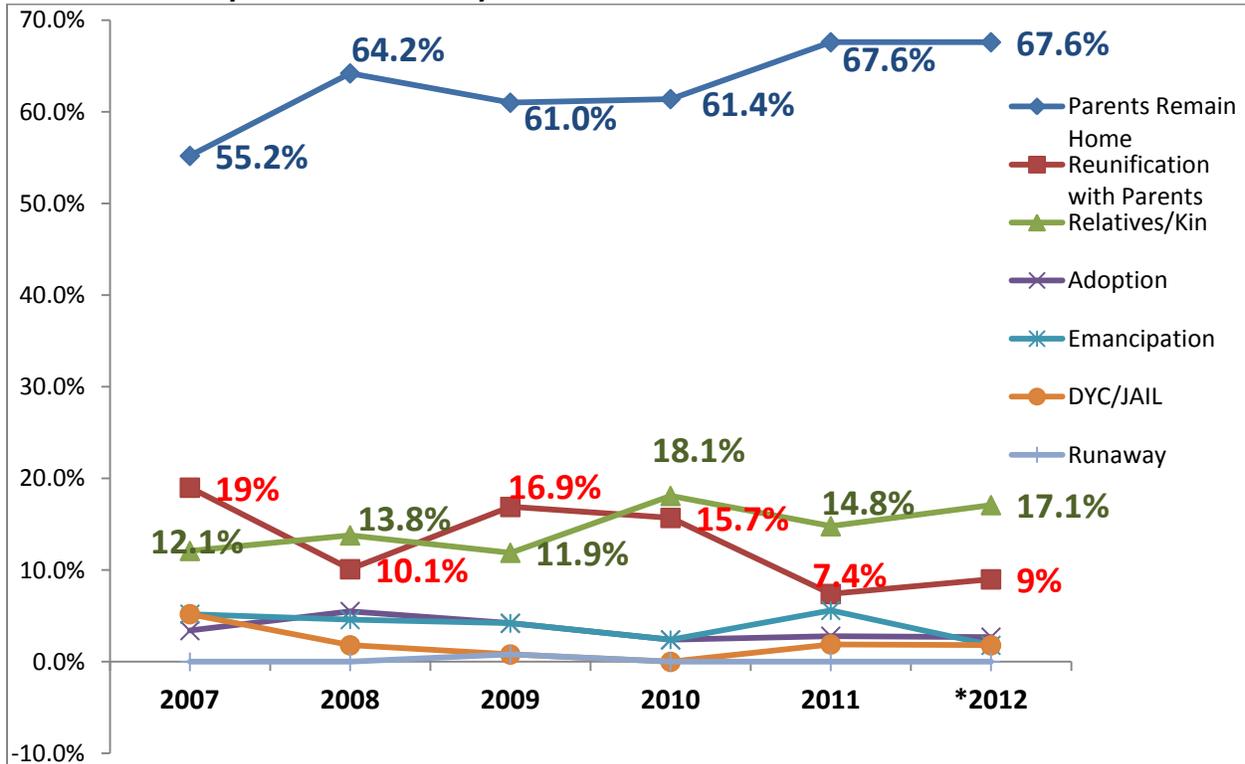
Rate of children placed into Out-of-Home care per 100 children assessed during period.



Children closed in a traditional case during period, percent that achieved permanency.

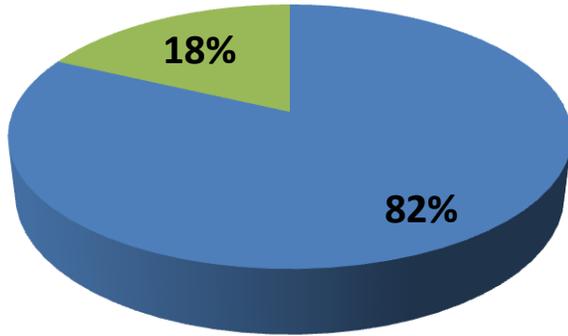


Child Permanency Goals Achieved by Year at Case Closure

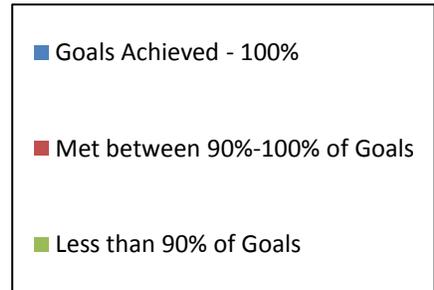
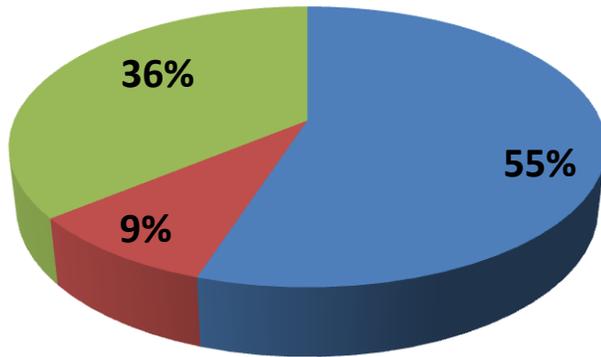


**Permanency Measure Totals: How did Garfield County DHS do with federal permanency measures?**

## 2012 (Fiscal Year) Permanency Goals



## 2006-2011 Permanency Goals



## **CONCLUSIONS**

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Garfield County's Division of Child Welfare continues to see an increase of referrals received. The Garfield County Department of Human Services received 909 referrals in 2012, continuing a trend of growth over the past seven years. On the other hand, the percentage of referrals opened to investigations (i.e., assessments) declined, which has kept the total number of assessments steady over the past seven years, with an average of 430 assessments each year. (431 Assessments Completed in 2012)

The majority of services provided for children, youth, and families in Garfield County are mental health and substance abuse services, accounting for 92% of CORE services provided this far for fiscal year 2012/13. Many families are still experiencing financial hardships, exhibited by 4% of CORE services going into Special Economic Assistance funds to assist families with emergency and basic needs requests.

When examining out of home placements over the past five years, Garfield County's rate of children in out of home care has declined 38.7% overall. Garfield County continues to have a low rate of child placements compared with federal standards. Garfield County is well below the standard of less than 5 daily placements on average for every 1,000 children. Garfield County averages 1.3 daily placements for every 1,000 children. Child placement settings also show Garfield County's success with placement stability, showing that children in Garfield County's care are not experiencing multiple placement settings. Last year, 93.5% of Garfield County children in out of home care had no more than 2 placement settings when in care less than 12 months. Along with minimizing placement moves, Garfield County children experienced less time in care last year, averaging 310 days out of home, down from an average of 412 days in 2011. The majority of children needing placement were placed in family foster care settings, accounting for 54% of all placements. A high percentage of Garfield County children (35%) are going into Residential Child Care Facilities, however Garfield County continues to meet the federal standard of having less than 1 child per thousand in a congregate care setting. Permanency Goals at case closure show that 93.7% of Garfield County children are with family or kin at case closure. Another 3% are finding permanency through adoption.

Garfield County continues to show positive outcomes for children, youth and families and scored well on the Child and Family Services Review. These outcomes show that Garfield County Child Welfare services are having a positive impact. Thanks to all the hard work by Garfield County Child Welfare staff, community partners, and providers! Moving into 2013, Garfield County staff will continue to utilize data analysis to improve our child welfare practice.