

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

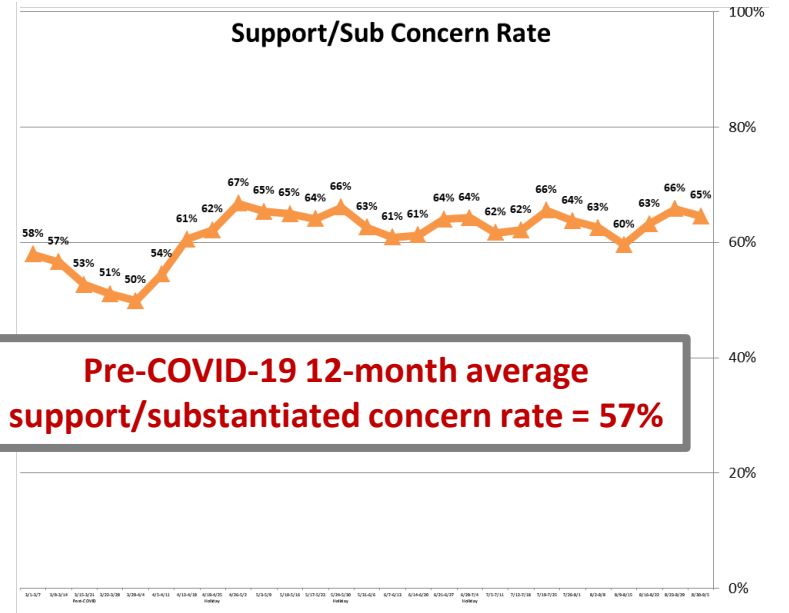
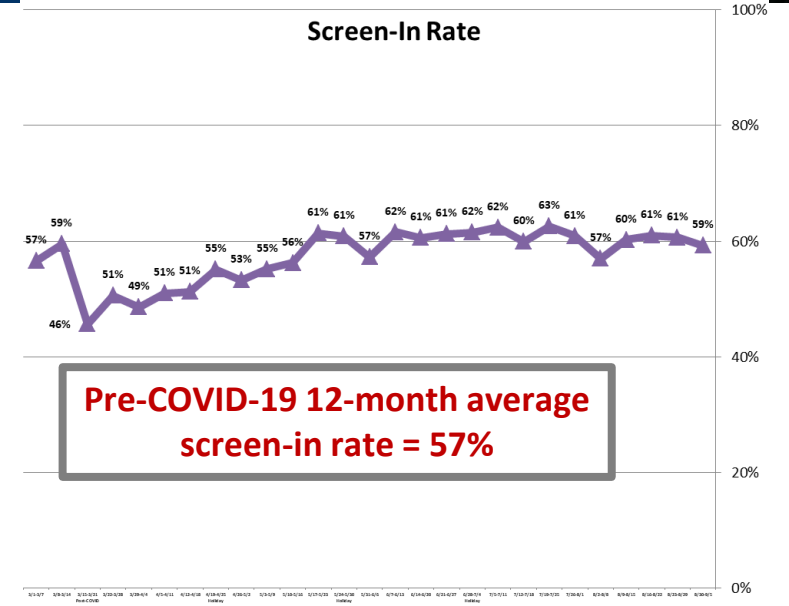
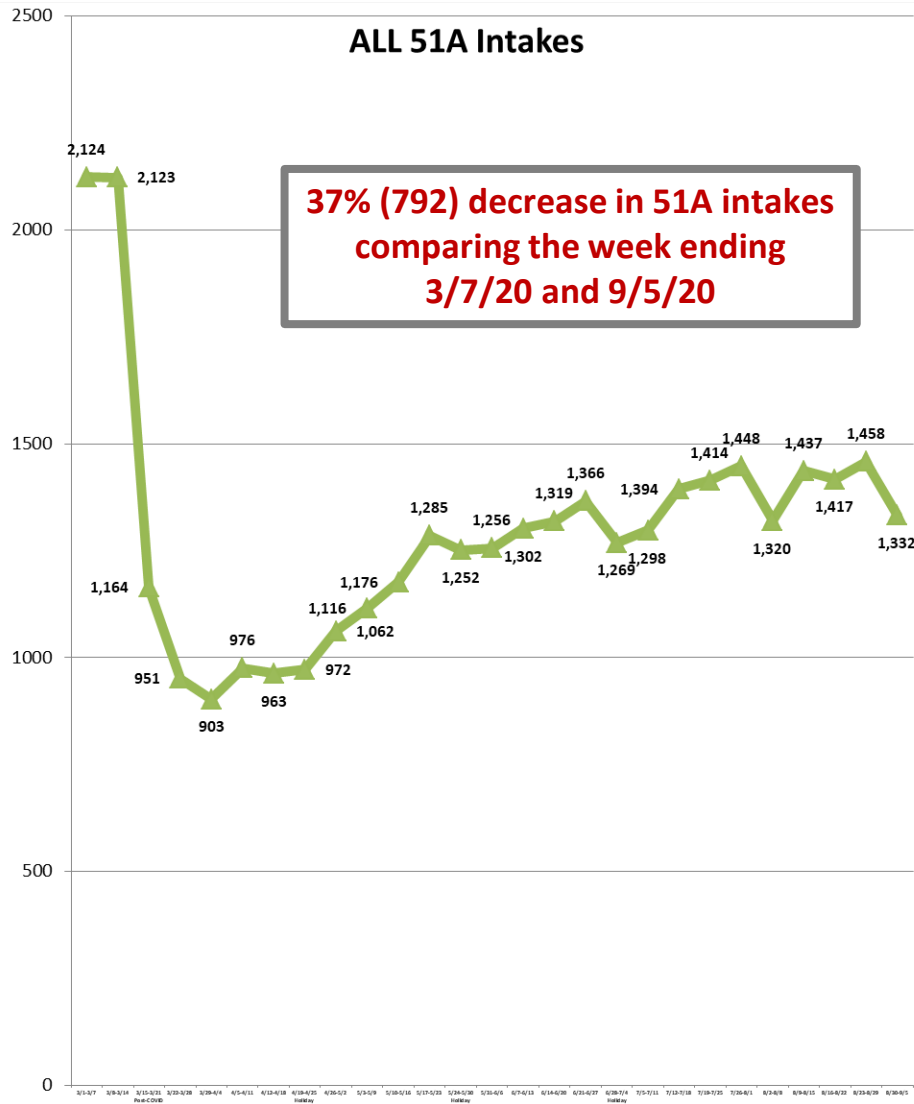


## Department of Children and Families – Agency Update

*September 15, 2020*

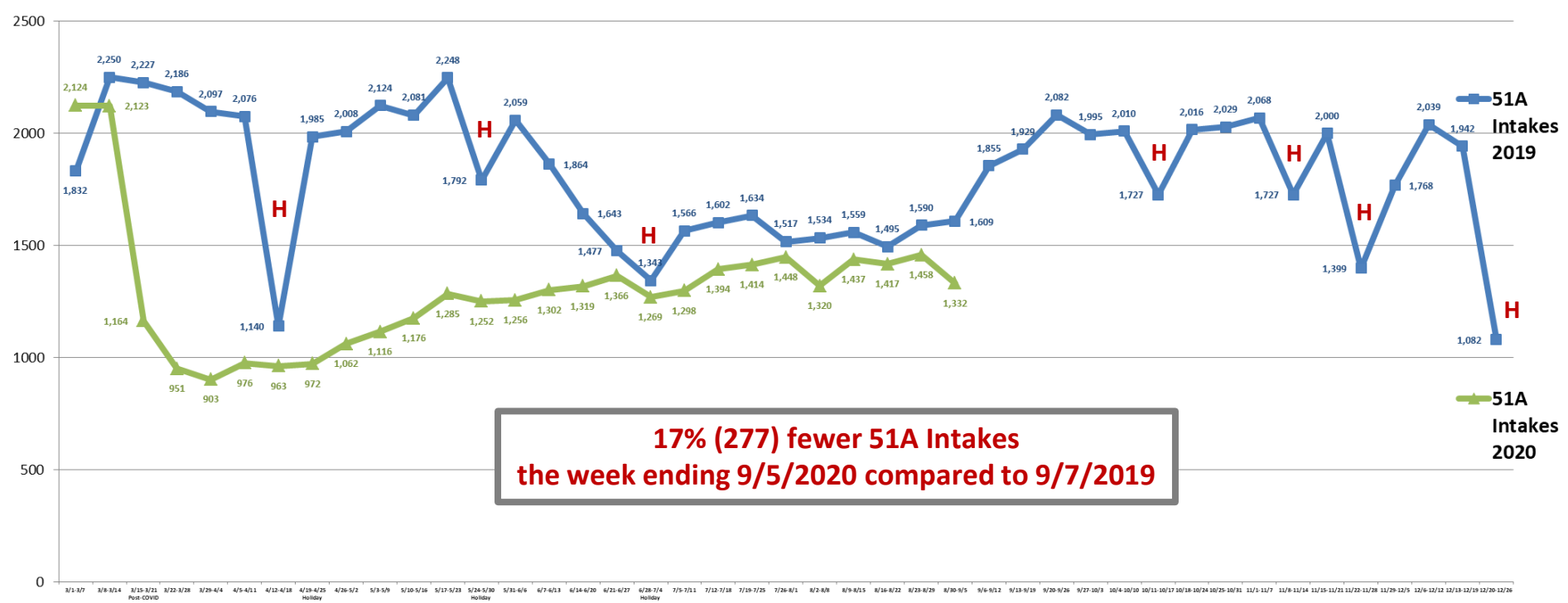


# 51A Intakes Pre vs Post COVID-19 03/01/2020 to 09/05/2020



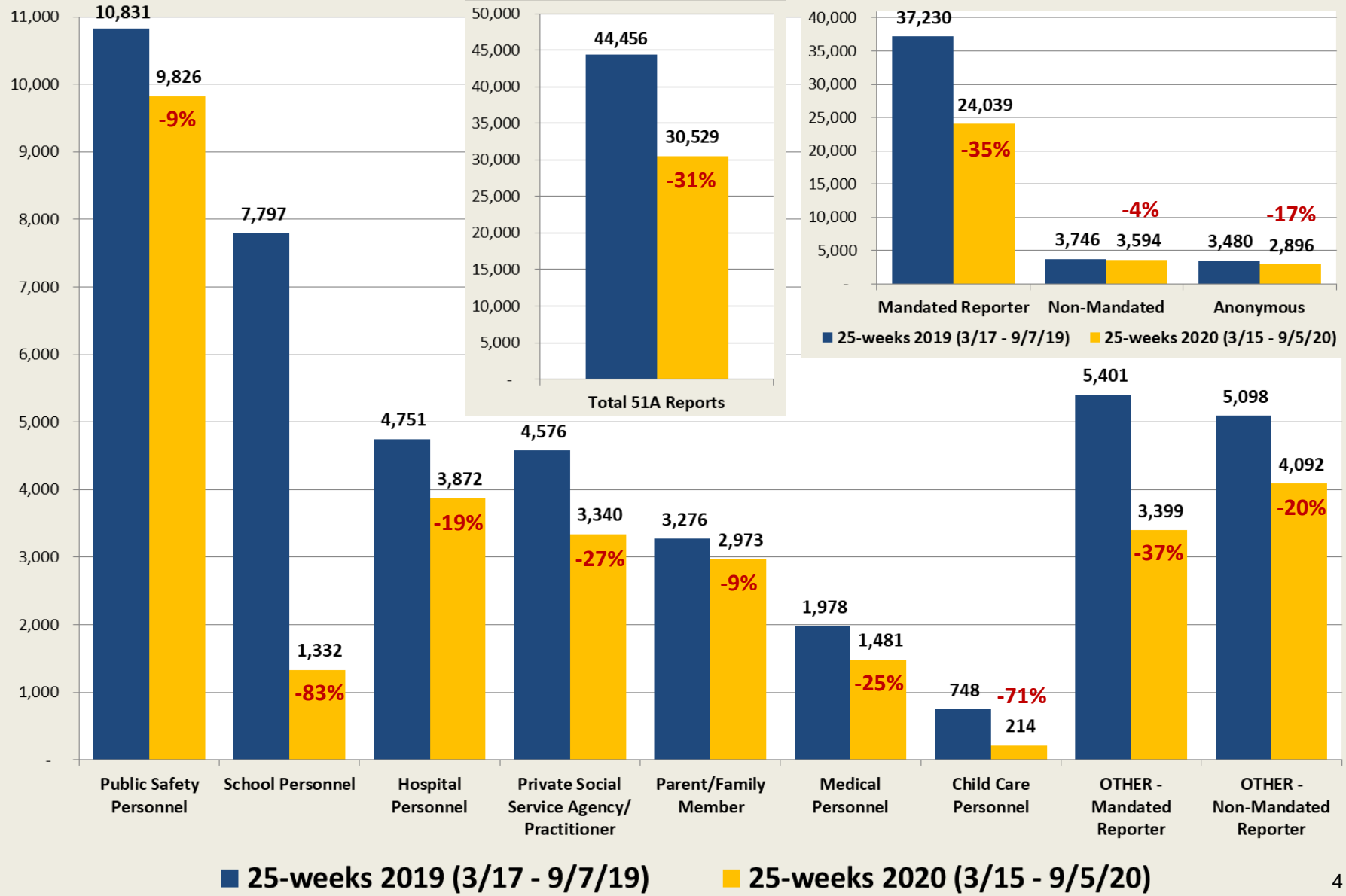


# 51A Intakes Pre vs Post COVID-19 03/01/2020 to 09/05/2020





# 51As have decreased by 31%, especially from mandated reporters

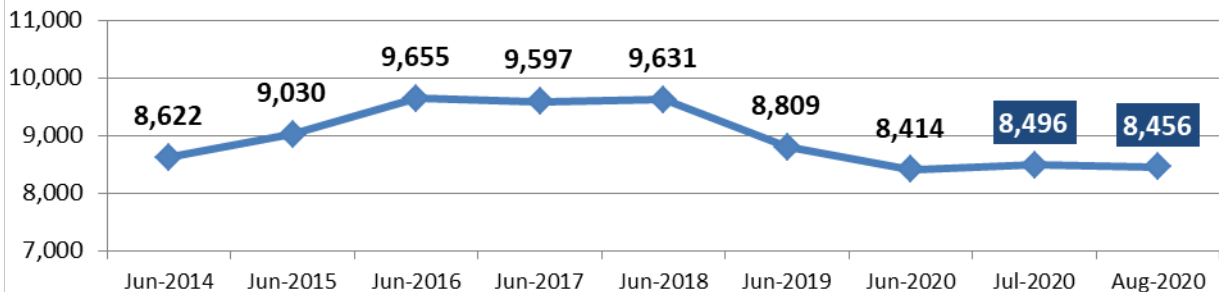




# Children (0-17) in DCF Placement

## All Placement Types

Children (0-17) in Placement



- The number of children in DCF placement at year-end decreased by 9% (-822) from FY18-19, and by 4% (-395) from FY19-20.

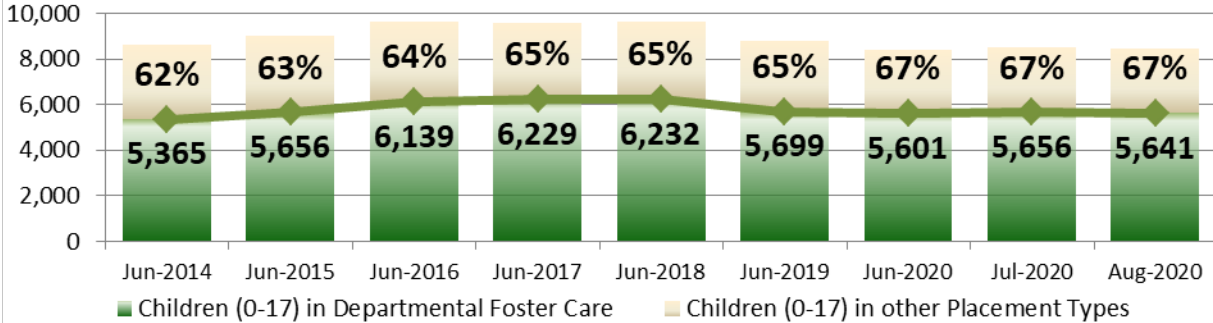


# Children in DCF Placement

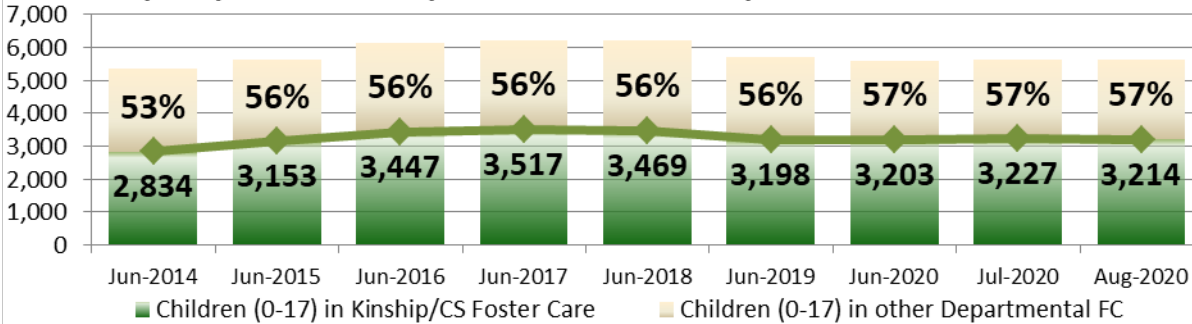
## Departmental FC: Non-Kinship and Kin/Child Specific



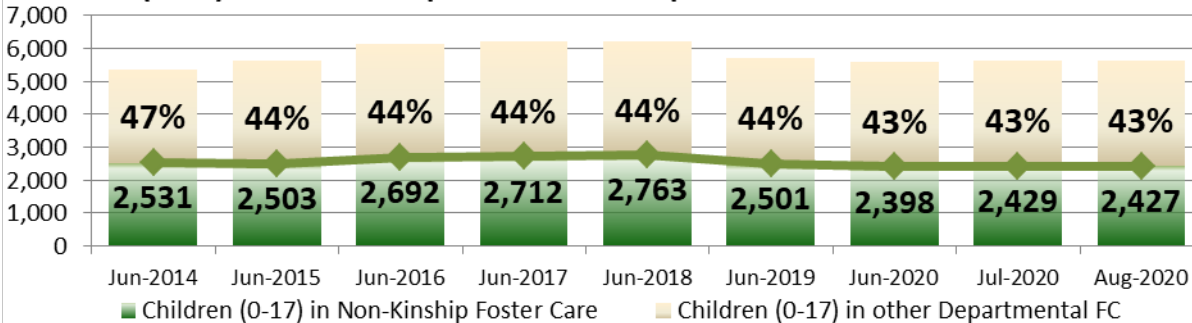
**Children (0-17) in Departmental FC as a % of All Placements**



**Children (0-17) in Kin/Child Specific FC as a % of Departmental FC**



**Children (0-17) in Non-Kinship FC as a % of Departmental FC**



- As of 08/31/2020, there were 5,641 children placed in a family setting (i.e., Departmental Foster Care).
- While the overall number of children in DCF placement has decreased, the proportion placed in Departmental Foster Care (DFC) has increased to 67%.
- As of 08/31/2020, there were 3,214 children placed in a Kinship/Child Specific DFC family setting.
- Recognizing that children/youth experience fewer placement disruptions and achieve greater well-being when placed with kin, the Department has increased the proportion of children placed with kin to 57% of all DFC.
- As of 08/31/2020, there were 2,427 children placed in a Non-Kinship DFC family setting.
- As a proportion of children placed in DFC, 43% are living in a non-kin family setting.

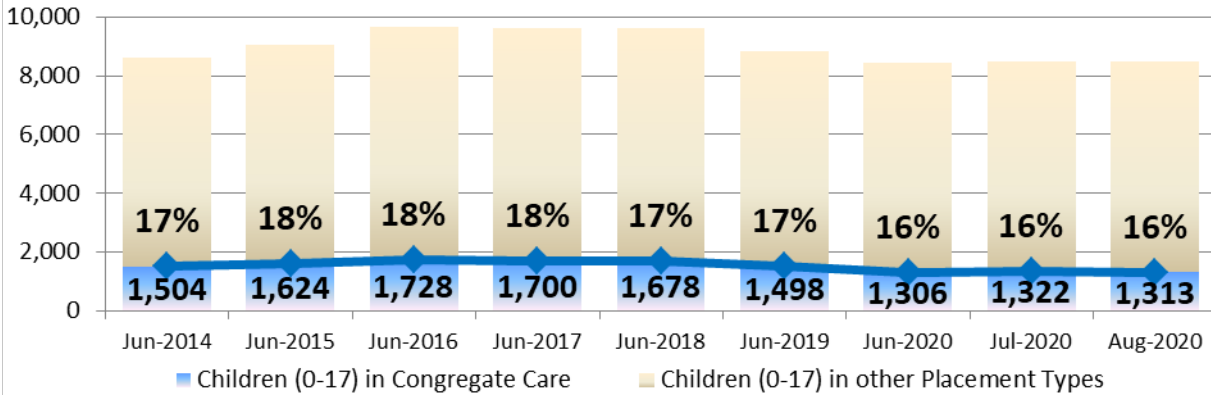


# Children in DCF Placement

## Congregate Care and Comprehensive Foster Care

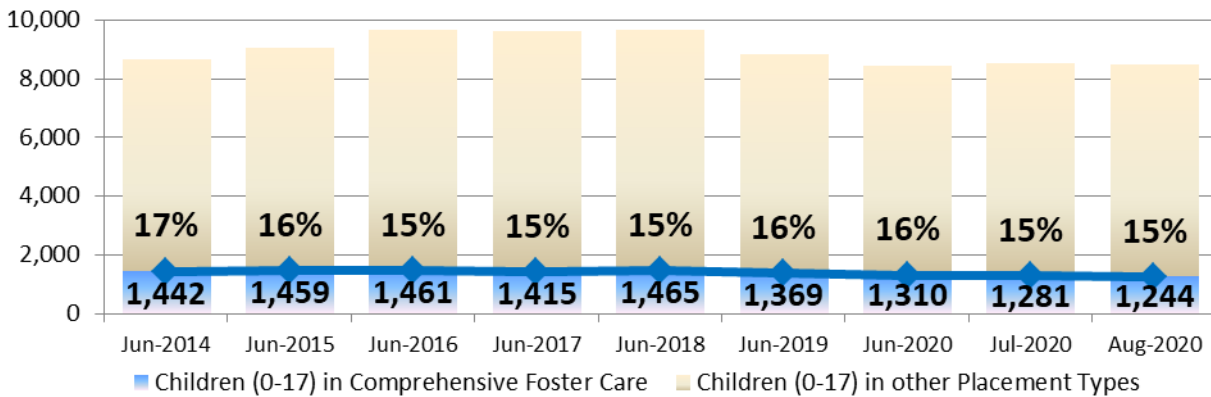


### Children (0-17) in Congregate Care as a % of All Placements



- As of 08/31/2020, there were 1,313 children placed in Congregate Care.
- Congregate Care represents 16% of all placement utilization.

### Children (0-17) in Comprehensive FC as a % of All Placements



- As of 08/31/2020, there were 1,244 children placed in Comprehensive Foster Care.
- Comprehensive Foster Care represents 15% of all placement utilization.

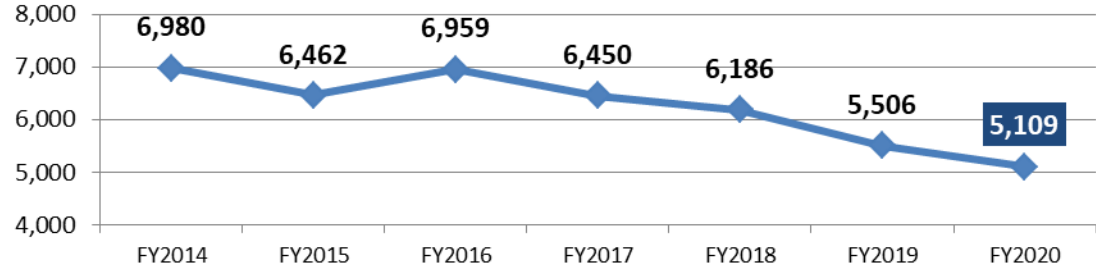
• *These contracted, intensive foster care services are generally provided for children/youth for whom a traditional foster care environment is not suitable or sufficiently supportive.*



# Home Removal Episodes

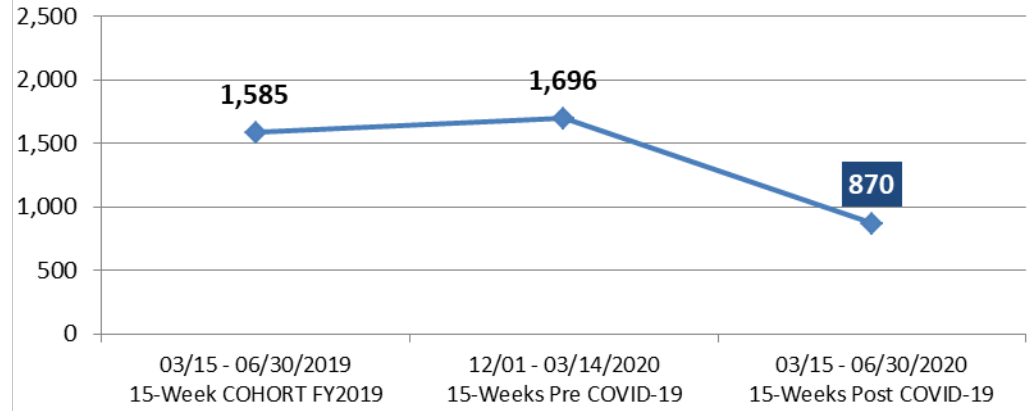


## Home Removal Episodes (HREs)



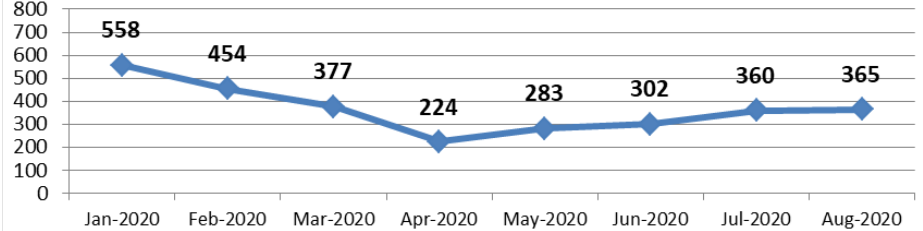
- Home Removal Episodes (HREs) decreased by 27% (-1,871) between FY14 & FY20.

## Home Removal Episodes (HREs): Pre vs. Post COVID-19



- The impact of COVID-19 on HREs is evident when comparing year-over-year HRE counts for comparable 15-week periods.
- Accounting for seasonal variation, HREs are down 45% (-715) compared to an equivalent 15-week period year-over-year.
- HREs are down 49% (-826) compared to the 15-week period immediately preceding the COVID-19 cohort.

## Home Removal Episodes (HREs) CY2020



- While Home Removal Episodes (HREs) decreased post COVID-19, a modest uptick is evident in last four months.

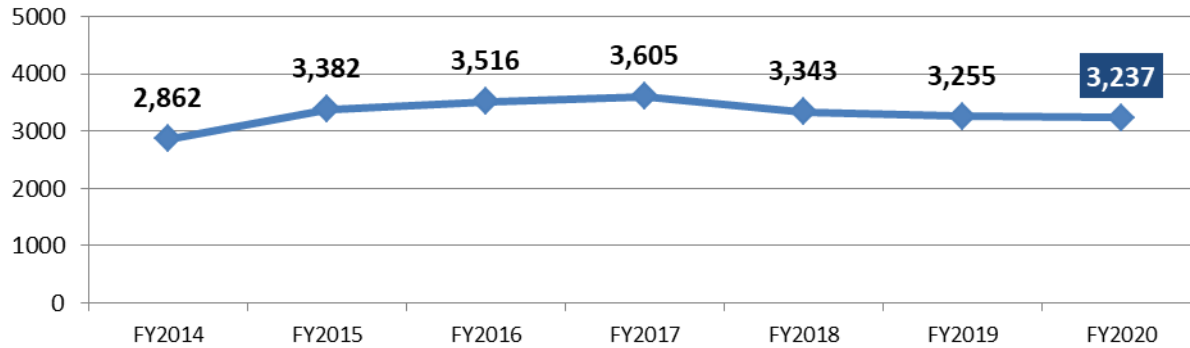




# Children Exiting Care to Reunification

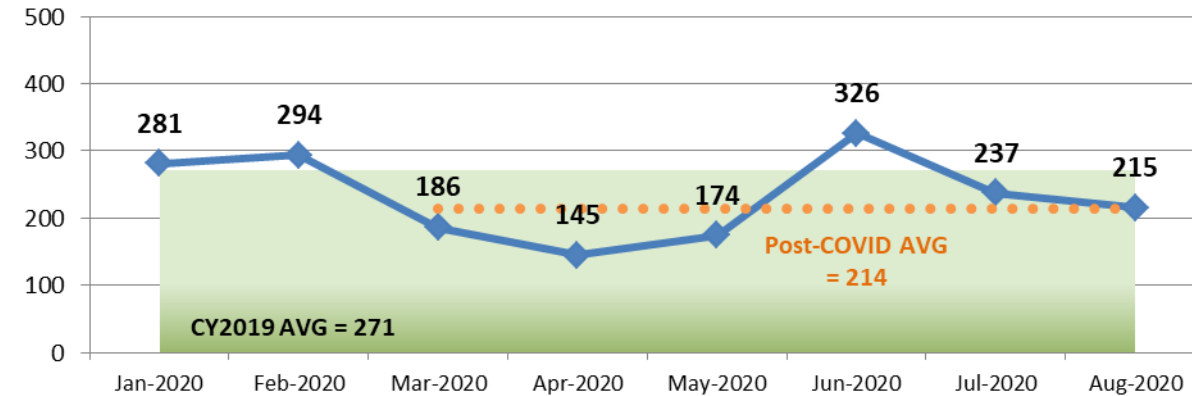


### Children (0-17) Exiting Care to Reunification



- Tracking with a 14% (-1,380) decrease in placed children since FY17, the number of children exiting placement to reunification has trended downward.
- Notwithstanding, the relative proportion of reunifications as a percent of placed children has remained fairly unchanged.

### Children (0-17) Exiting Care to Reunification CY2020



- These reunification counts are preliminary and may be adjusted upward as the dataset ages.

- On average, there were 271 reunification per month in CY19.
- Likely reflecting the impact of COVID-19—reunifications are averaging 214 per month since Mar-2020.

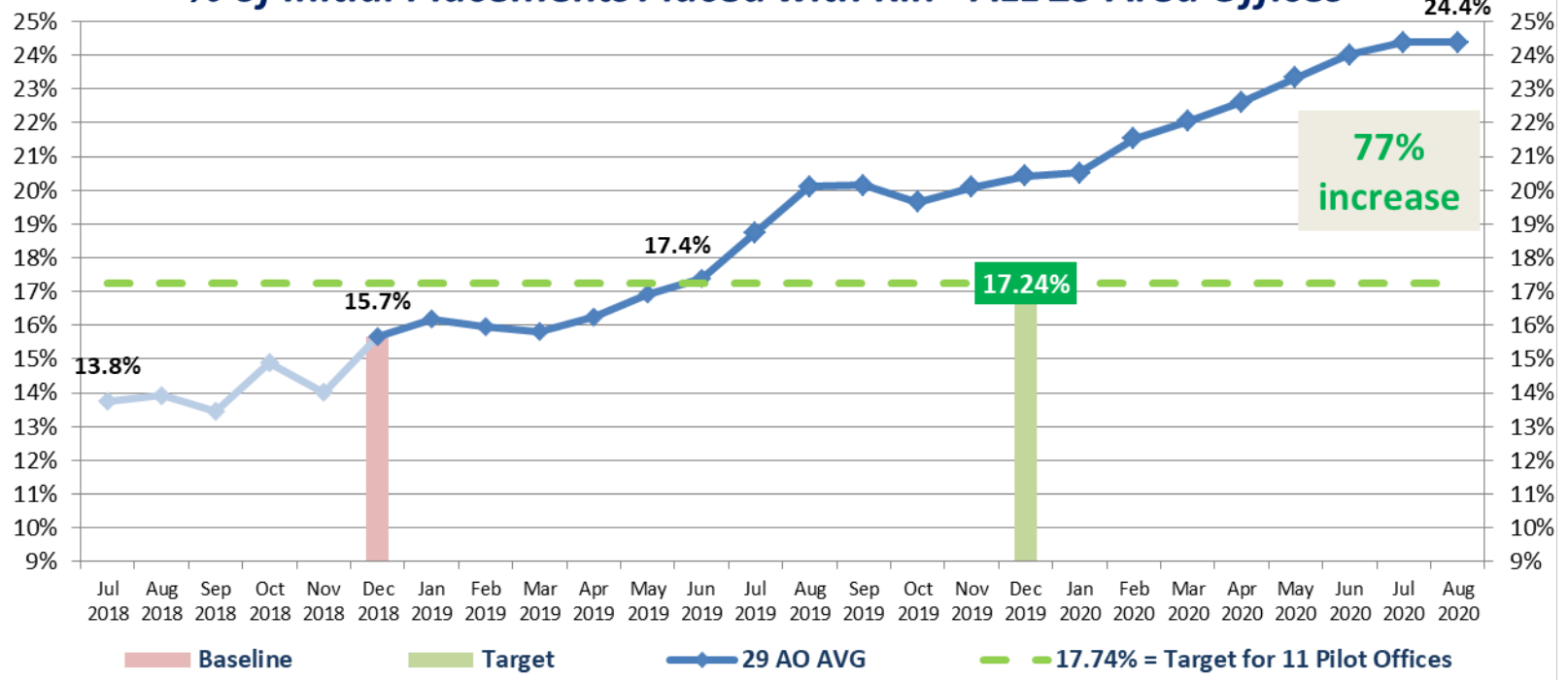


# Initial Placement with Kin

## Kin-First



**% of Initial Placements Placed with Kin - ALL 29 Area Offices**



- Extending the Kin-First metric across all 29 area offices, a 77% increase in kin as the initial placement was evidenced in FY19 and into FY20.
- While no statewide target was established, by Jun-2019 statewide performance exceeded the 17.24% target established for the 11 Pilot Offices.
- NOTE: kin placements account for 40% of ALL out-of-home placements; and 57% of all Departmental Foster Care placements.

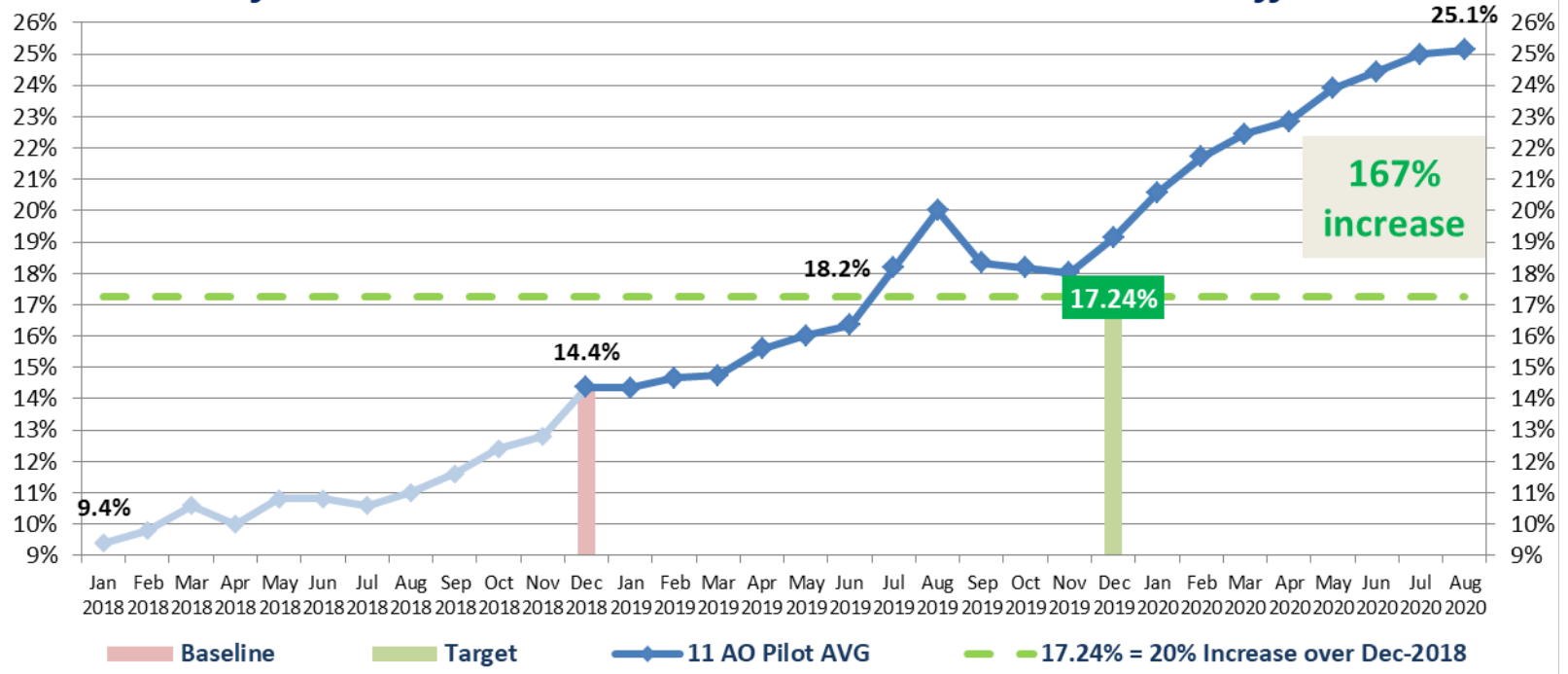


# Initial Placement with Kin

## Kin-First Pilot



### % of Initial Placements Placed with Kin - 11 Pilot Area Offices





# Case Closing Trend Pre vs Post COVID-19 Accounting for Seasonality



## CASE CLOSING TREND Pre vs Post COVID-19 (25 week intervals)

