

**Nancy T. Buckner, *Commissioner***

Wednesday, August 15

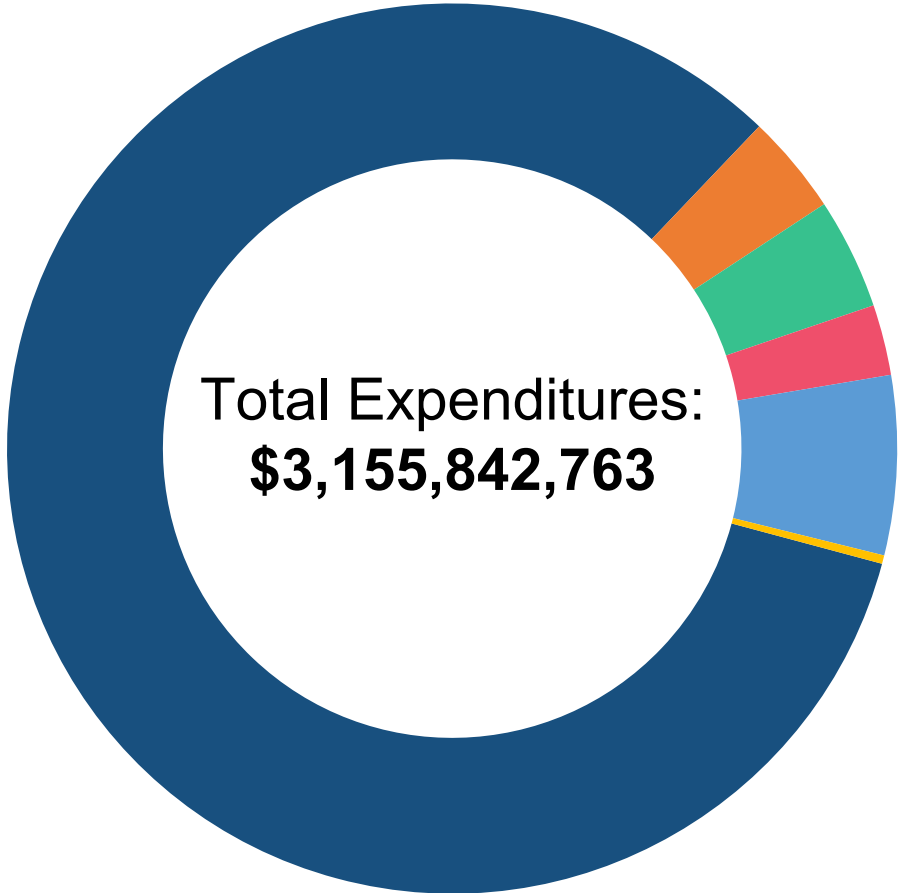
**Joint Legislative Budget Committee**

# About DHR

- **Mission:** To provide for the protection, well-being, and self-sufficiency of children and adults.
- **Major Programs:**
  - Food Assistance (SNAP)
  - Family Assistance (TANF)
  - Child Support
  - Child Care Services
  - Adult Protective Services (APS)
  - Child Welfare Services
  - Emergency Welfare Services (Executive Order of Governor)



# FY 2024 Estimated Expenditures by Source



- Federal Funds - \$2,617 (82.95%)
- Federal COVID - \$114 (3.63%)
- State General Fund - \$127 (4.04%)
- State Education Trust Fund - \$80 (2.56%)
- Other State & Local Funds - \$205 (6.51%)
- Children First Trust Fund - \$9 (0.31%)

*Value in Millions*



# FY 2025 Estimated Expenditures by Source



Value in Millions

- Federal Funds - \$2,386 (83.31%)
- Federal COVID - \$0 (0.0%)
- State General Fund - \$146 (5.10%)
- State Education Trust Fund - \$99 (3.46%)
- Other State & Local Funds - \$223 (7.79%)
- Children First Trust Fund - \$9 (0.34%)



# Food Assistance (SNAP)

- **Recipient Statistics:**

- Households: **392,000**
- Individuals: **776,000**
- Children: **331,000**
- Heads of households 60+: **96,000**
- Students who received P-EBT in FY 2023: **718,000**
- Applications denied per month: **18,000**

- **Education and training programs**

- Nutritional education programs
- Work training and education

- Total benefits issued in FY 2023: **\$2,207,474,619**



# Family Assistance (TANF)

- **Program Statistics:**

- TANF cases: **5,673**
- Recipients: **12,881**
  - 1996 = Over **48,000** recipients
- Children: **10,484**
- Children only in budget: **59%**
- Average monthly payment per case: **\$192.12**
- JOBS Program: **2,372** adult clients required to participate; **1,468** are employed (62%)

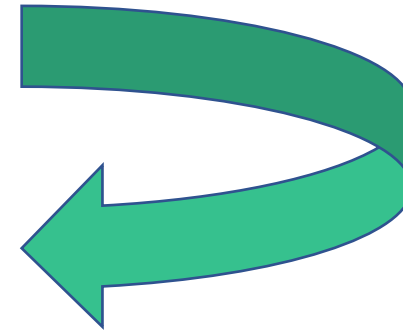
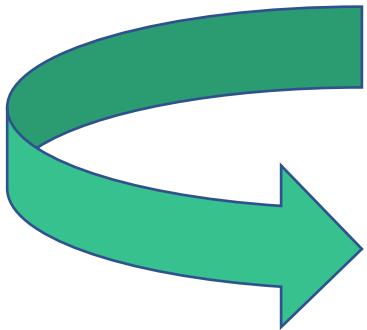


# SNAP E&T and TANF/JOBS

Adult education/GED/  
soft skills/jobs (insurance)

Careers with surrounding supports;  
resources and removal of barriers

- ACCS Partnership
- WIOA
- Apprenticeships
- Job training/classes
- Budgeting and financial knowledge
- Transportation
- Literacy classes
- Mentoring



# Child Support

- **Program Statistics:**
  - Families served: **182,325**
  - FY 2023 collections: **\$357 million**
  - Paternity establishment rate: **98.81%**
    - 15th consecutive year we have exceeded 90% (federal requirement)
- Most benefits are distributed via card





# Child Care Services

- Administers the state's child care subsidy program, which pays for child care for low-income working families
- Approximately **41,000** children receive child care subsidies each month
- Subsidies averaged **\$524** per child, per month in FY 2023
- **\$262 million** was paid to child care providers in FY 2023 for child care slots
- DHR licenses and inspects child care providers

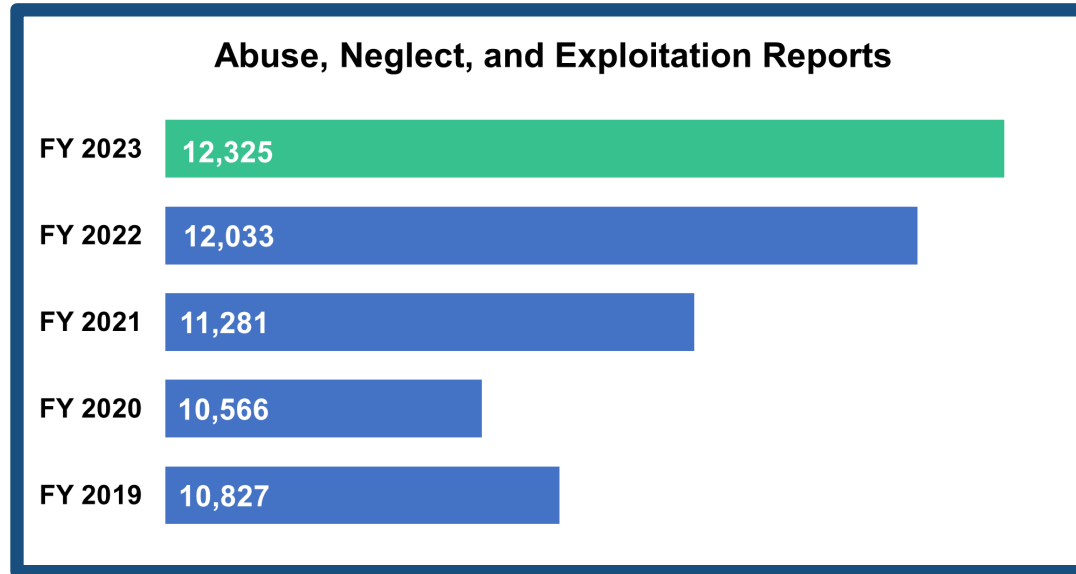


# Child Care Services

- Child Care Facilities
  - Licensed centers: **1,326**
  - Licensed child care homes: **565**
  - Exempt child care facilities: **472**
- Federal ARPA Funds Awarded in FY 2023:
  - Child Care Stabilization Grants - \$220,897,125
  - Child Care Workforce Bonuses - \$109,011,000
- Alabama Quality STARS (QRIS) is part of a national systematic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education programs. There are currently 1,930 participating providers.
- QRIS Incentive Bonuses Awarded in FY 2023 - \$21,163,850



# Adult Protective Services



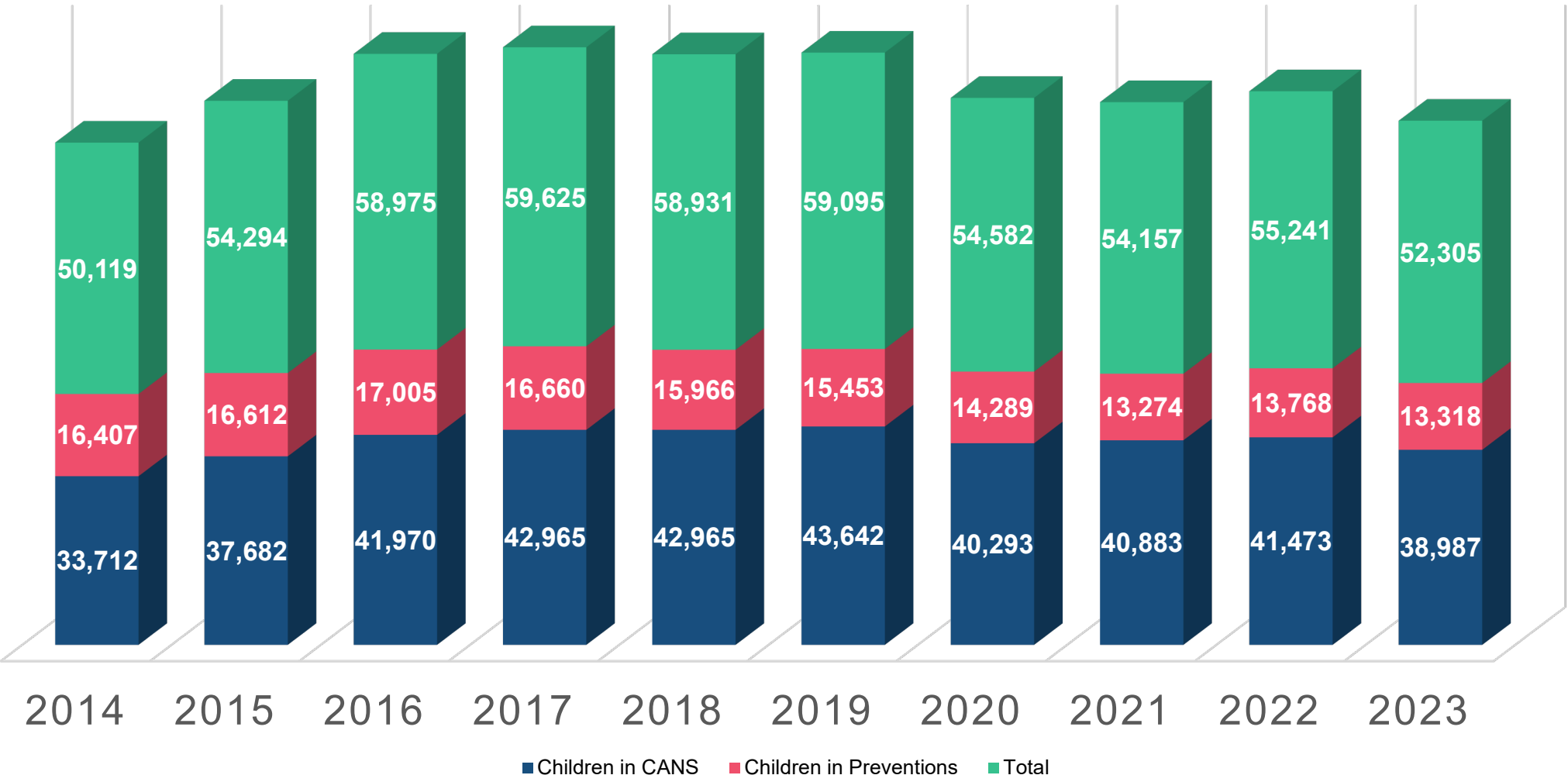
- Investigates reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults
- DHR provides protective services for vulnerable adults who may be victims of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation

# Child Welfare

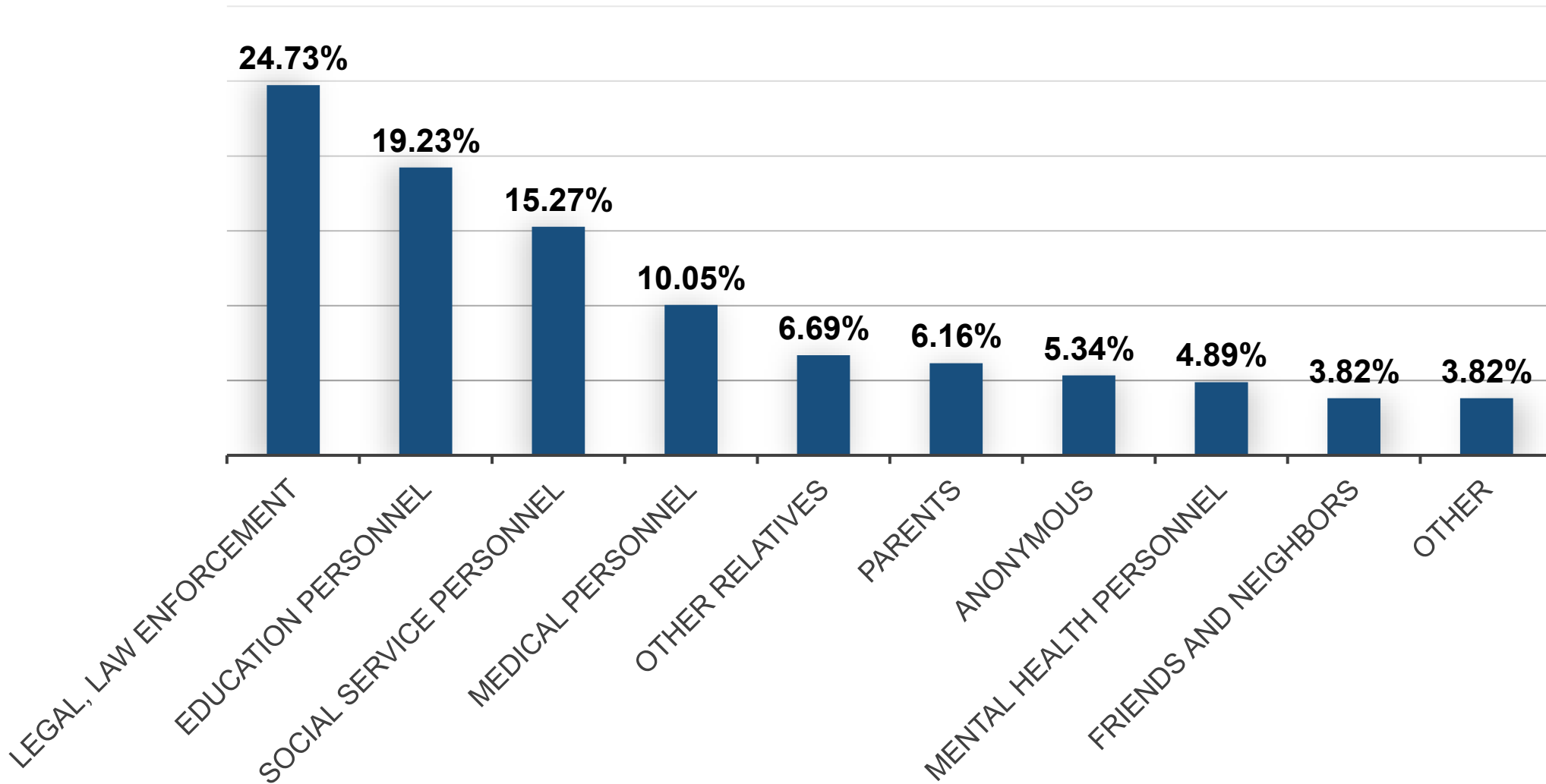
- DHR provides for the investigation and prevention of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation of children in Alabama



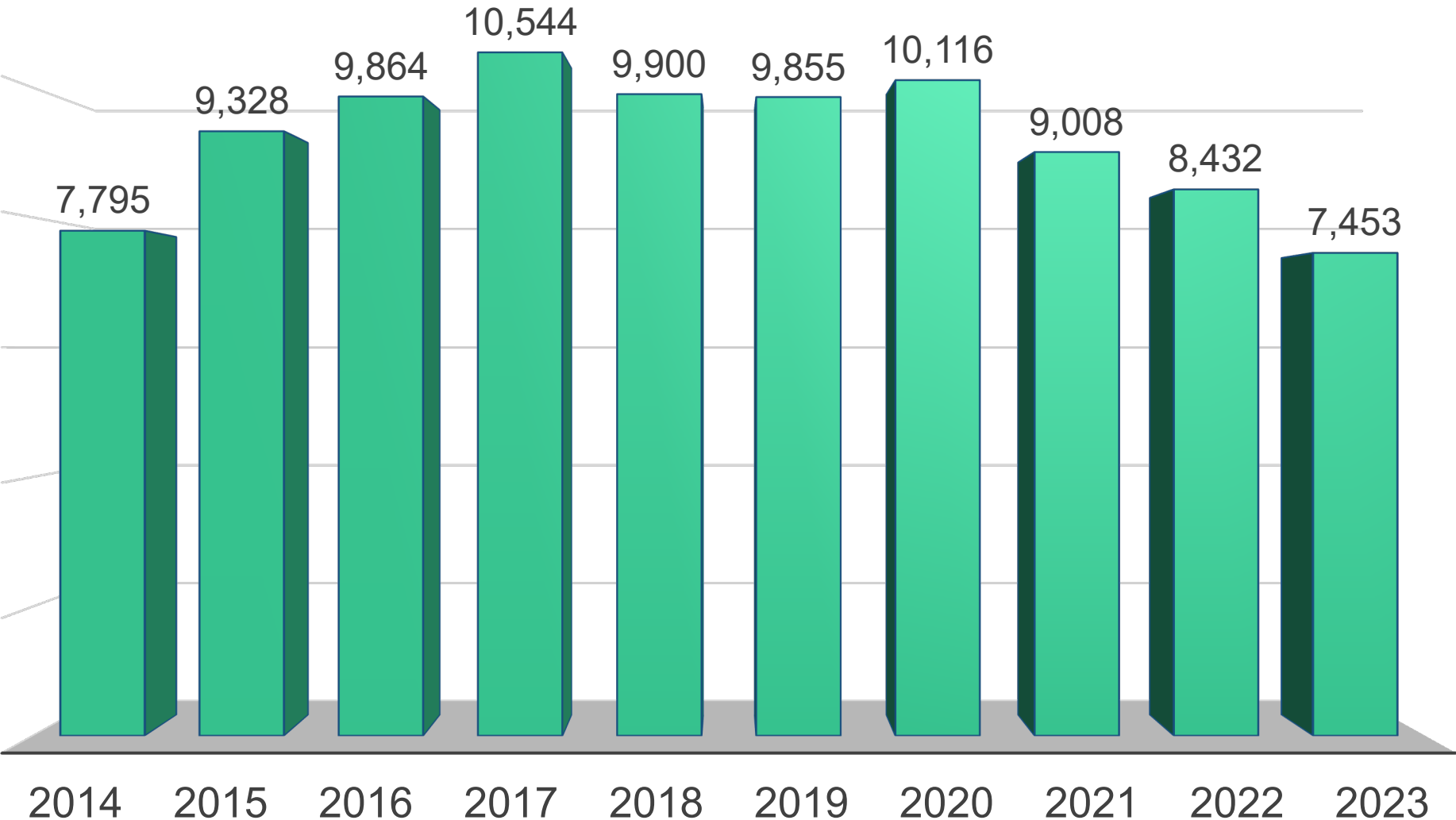
# Children in CANs & Preventions



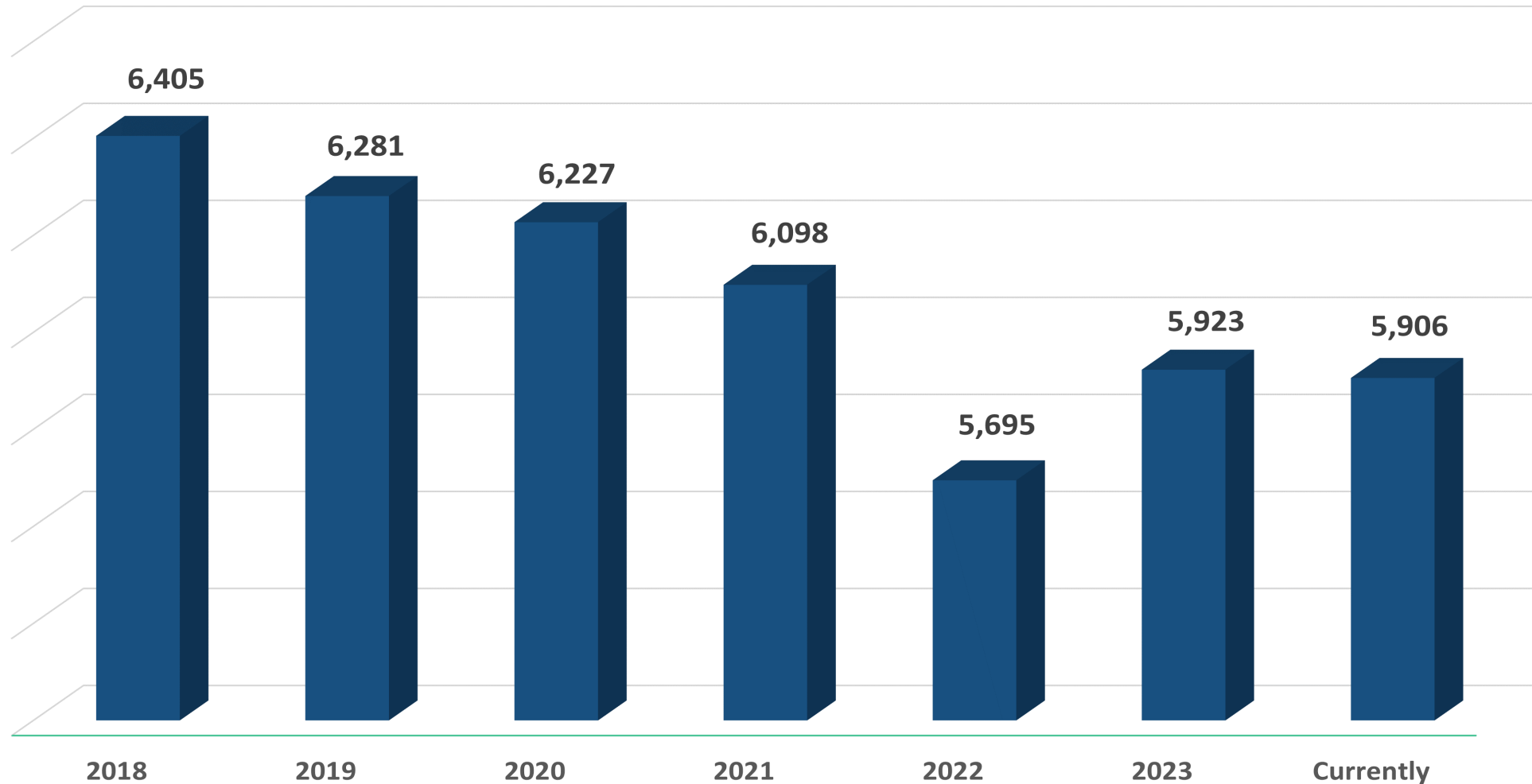
# CAN Reporter Source



# Children in CPS Cases



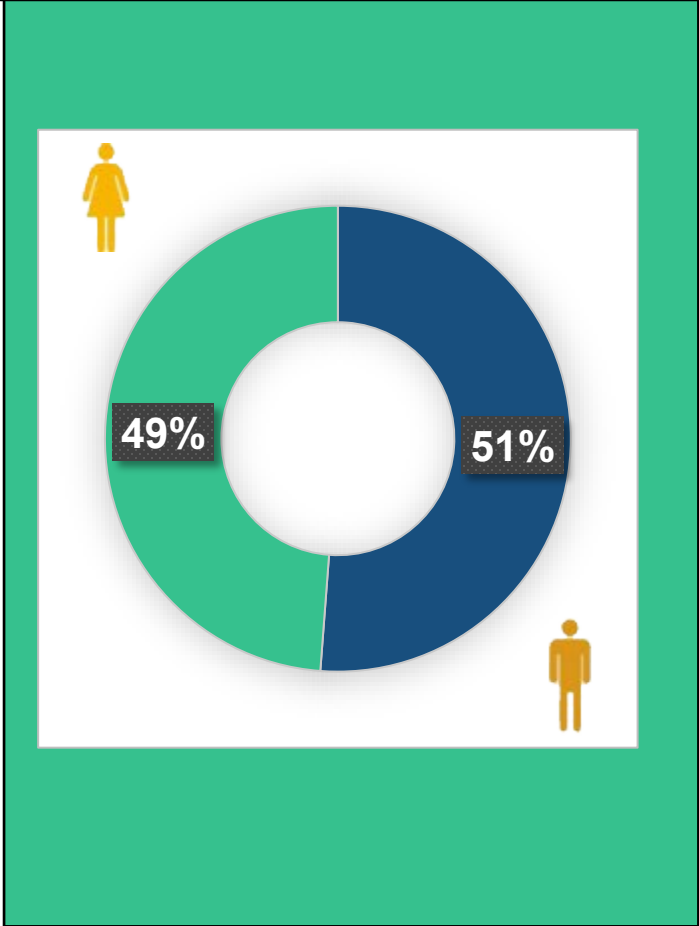
# Children in Care



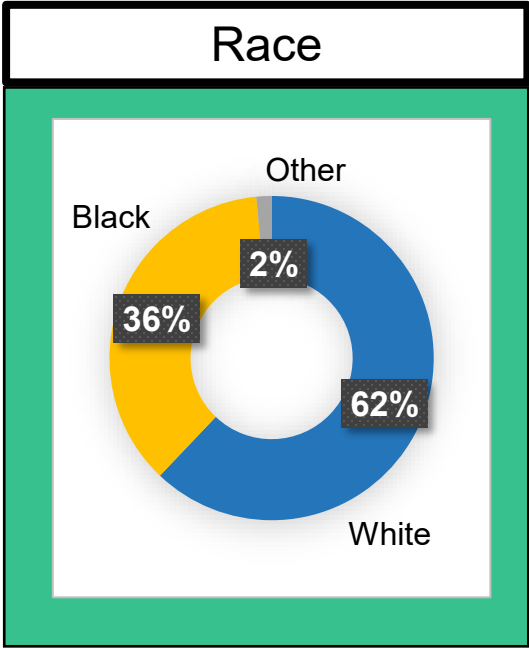


# Children in Care (5,906 children)

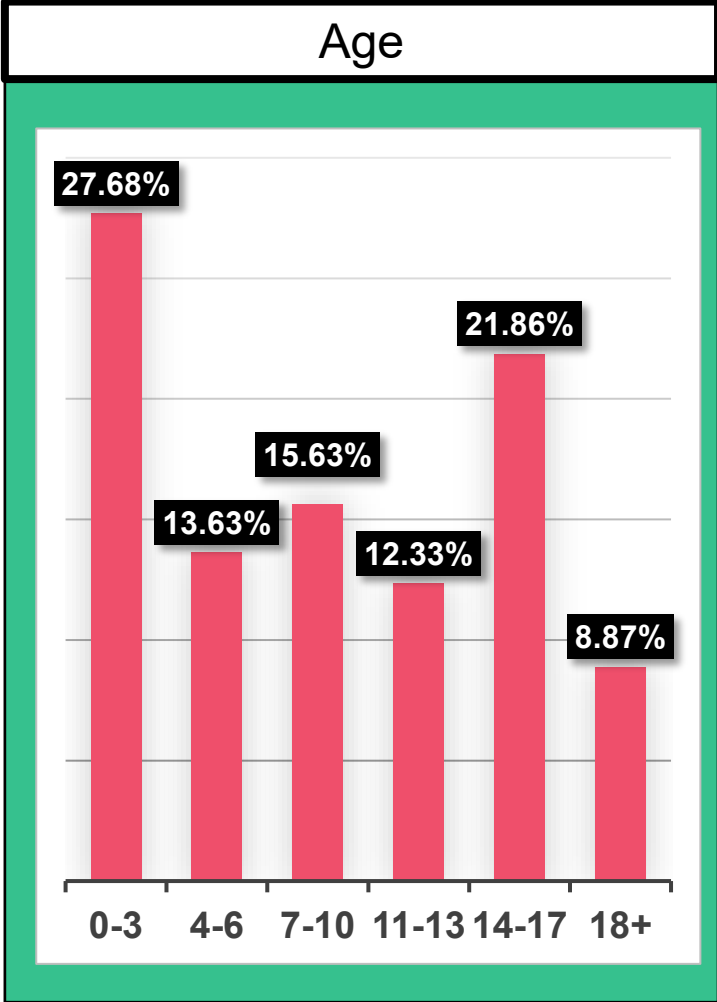
Gender



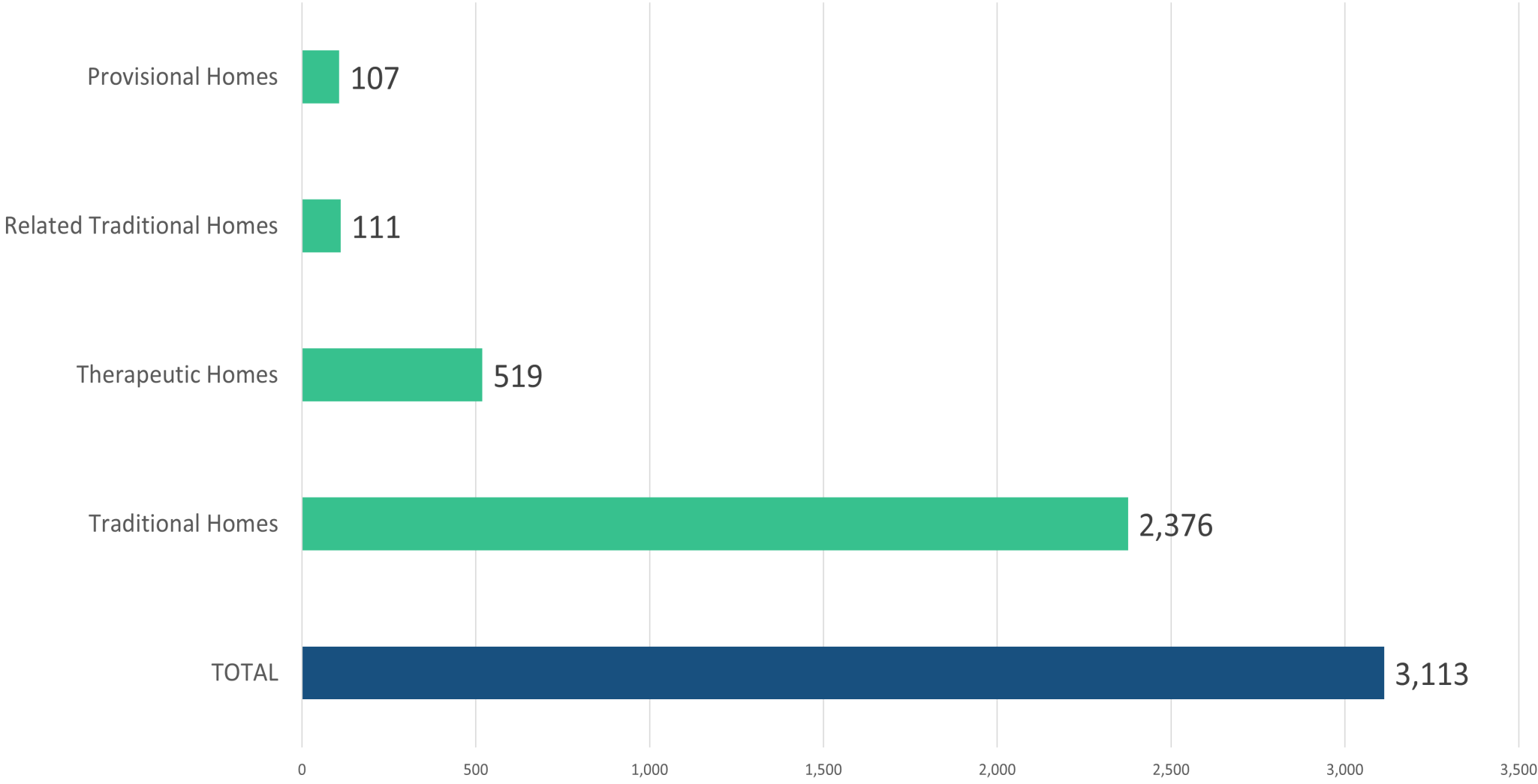
Race



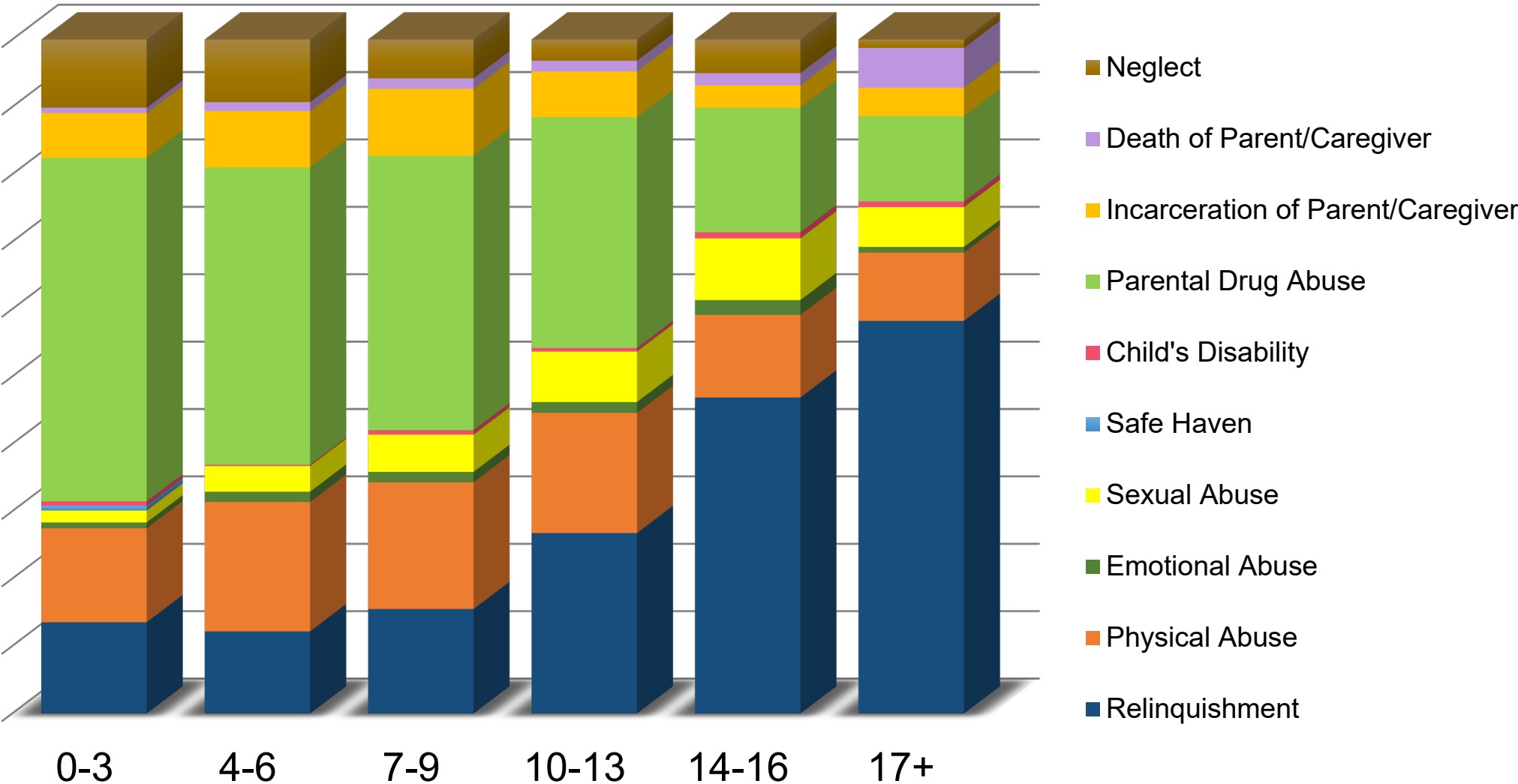
Age



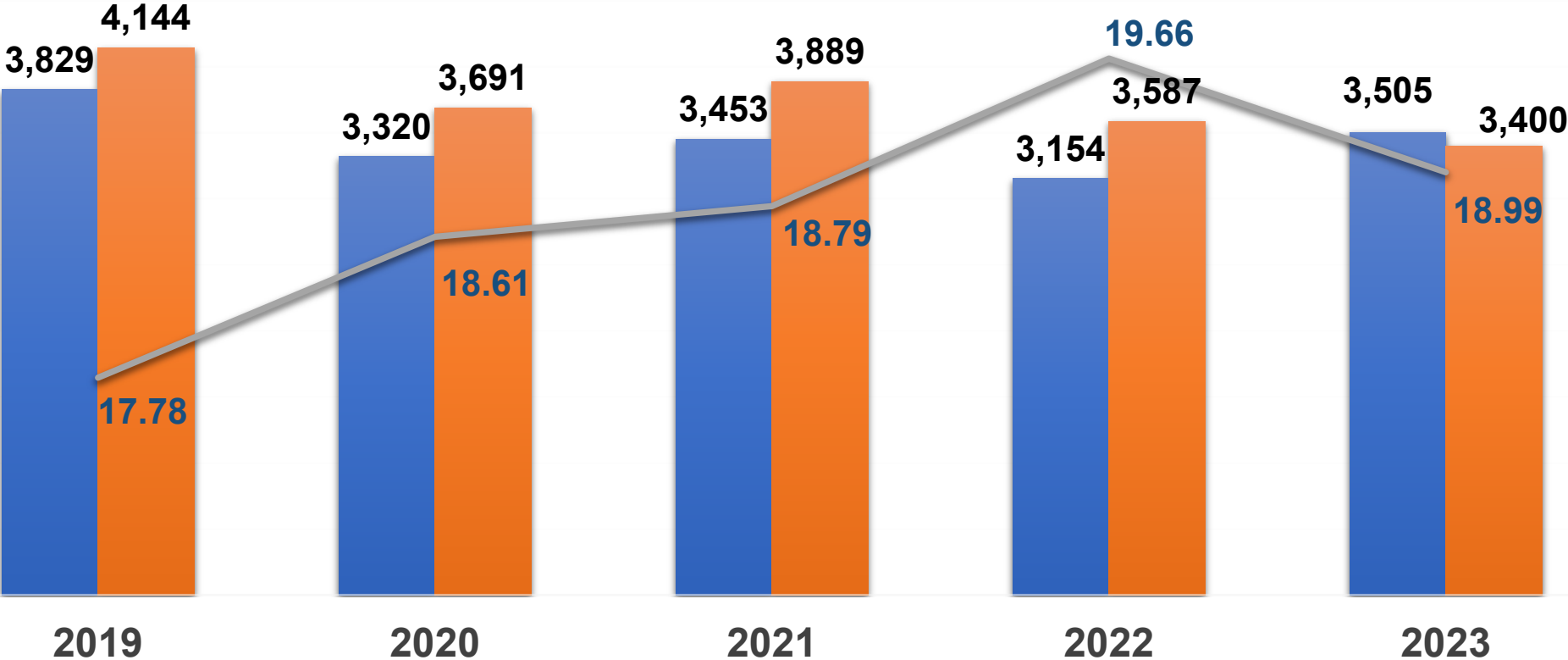
# Foster Homes



# Entry to Care Reasons by Child's Age (FY23)



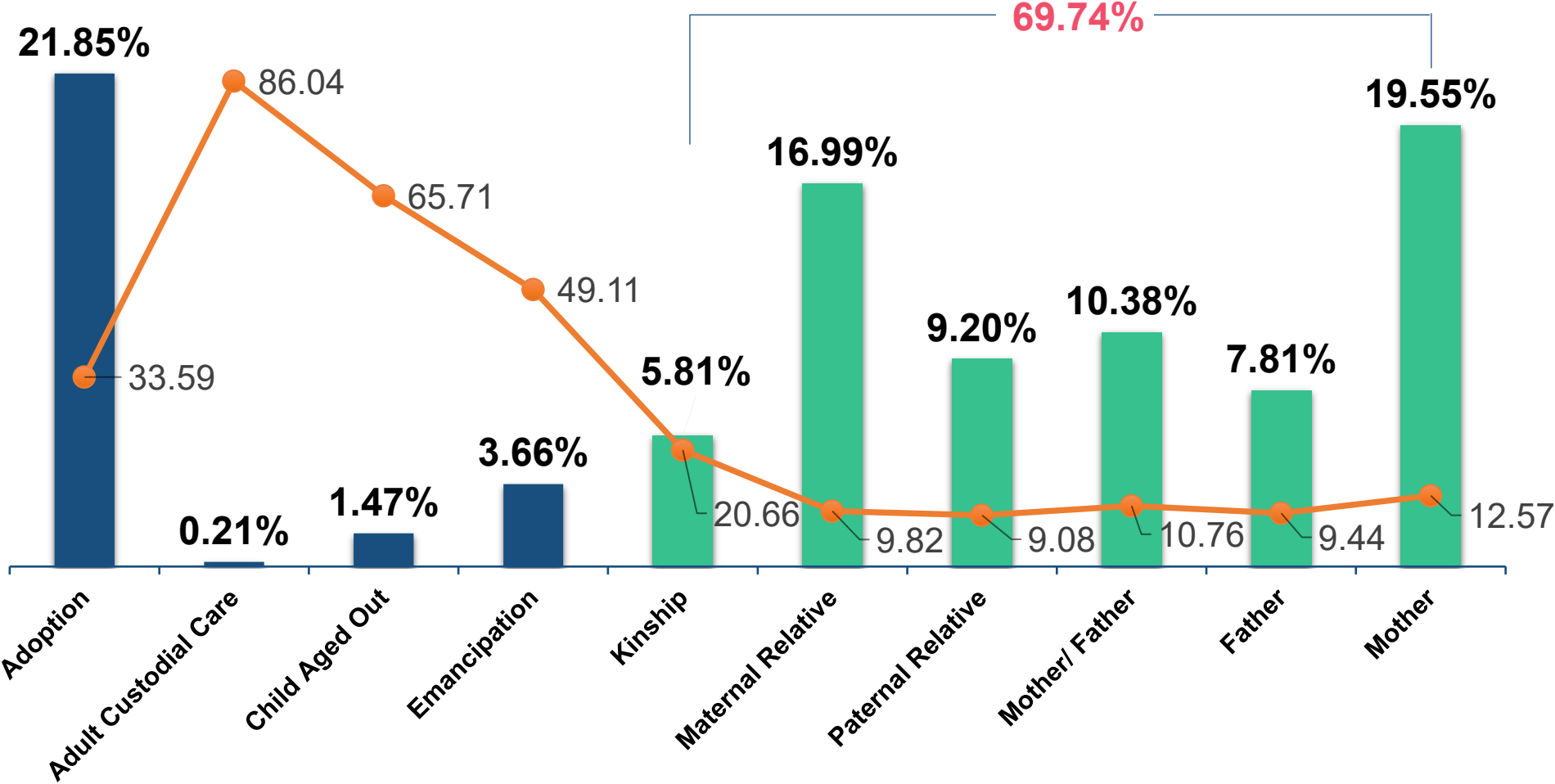
# Entries & Exits From Care



■ Entries ■ Exits — ALOC



# FY 2023 Discharges from Care



**NATIONAL**  
Median LOC for Children

**17.5 Months**

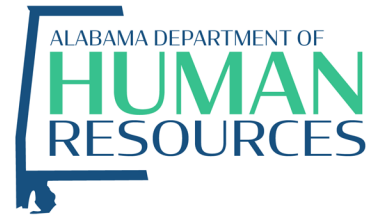
**ALABAMA**  
Median LOC for  
Children D/C

**13.1  
Months**

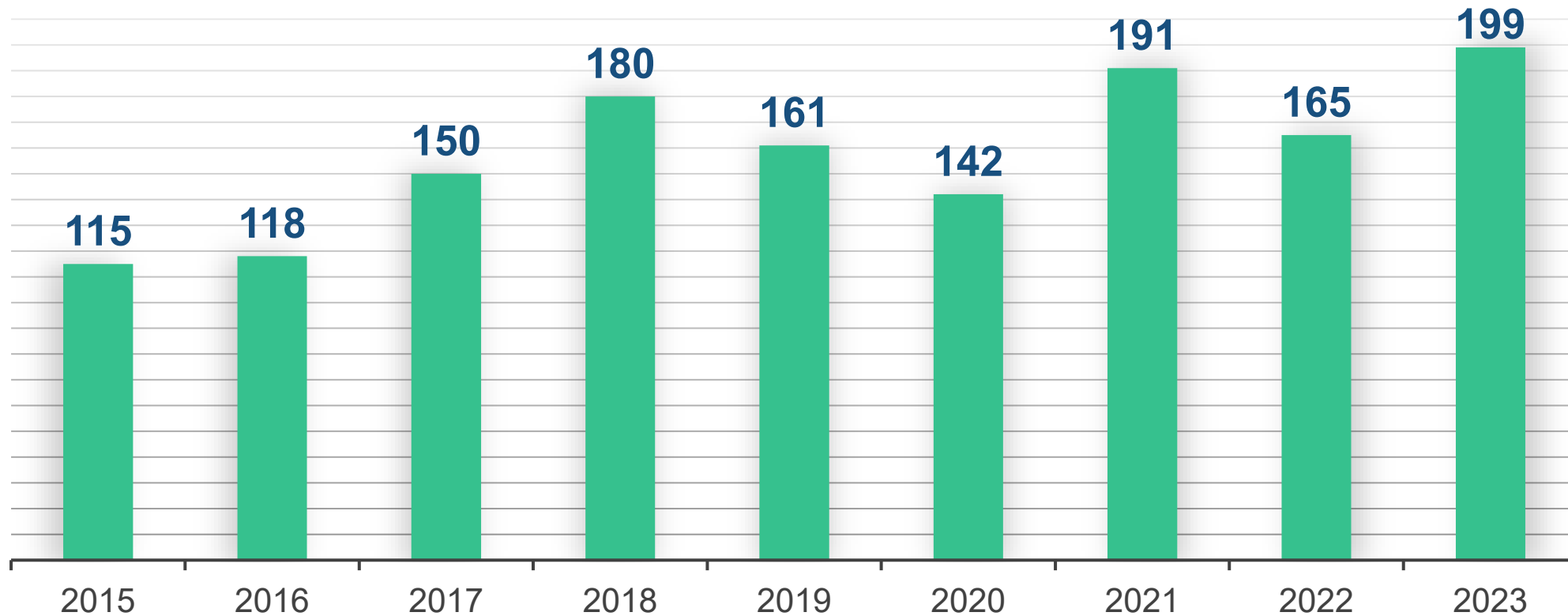
**Children Discharged to  
FAMILY**

**>70 %**

**5 Year Average**



# High School Graduates



- Currently
  - **99** Enrolled in College
  - **117** Enrolled in Trade Programs

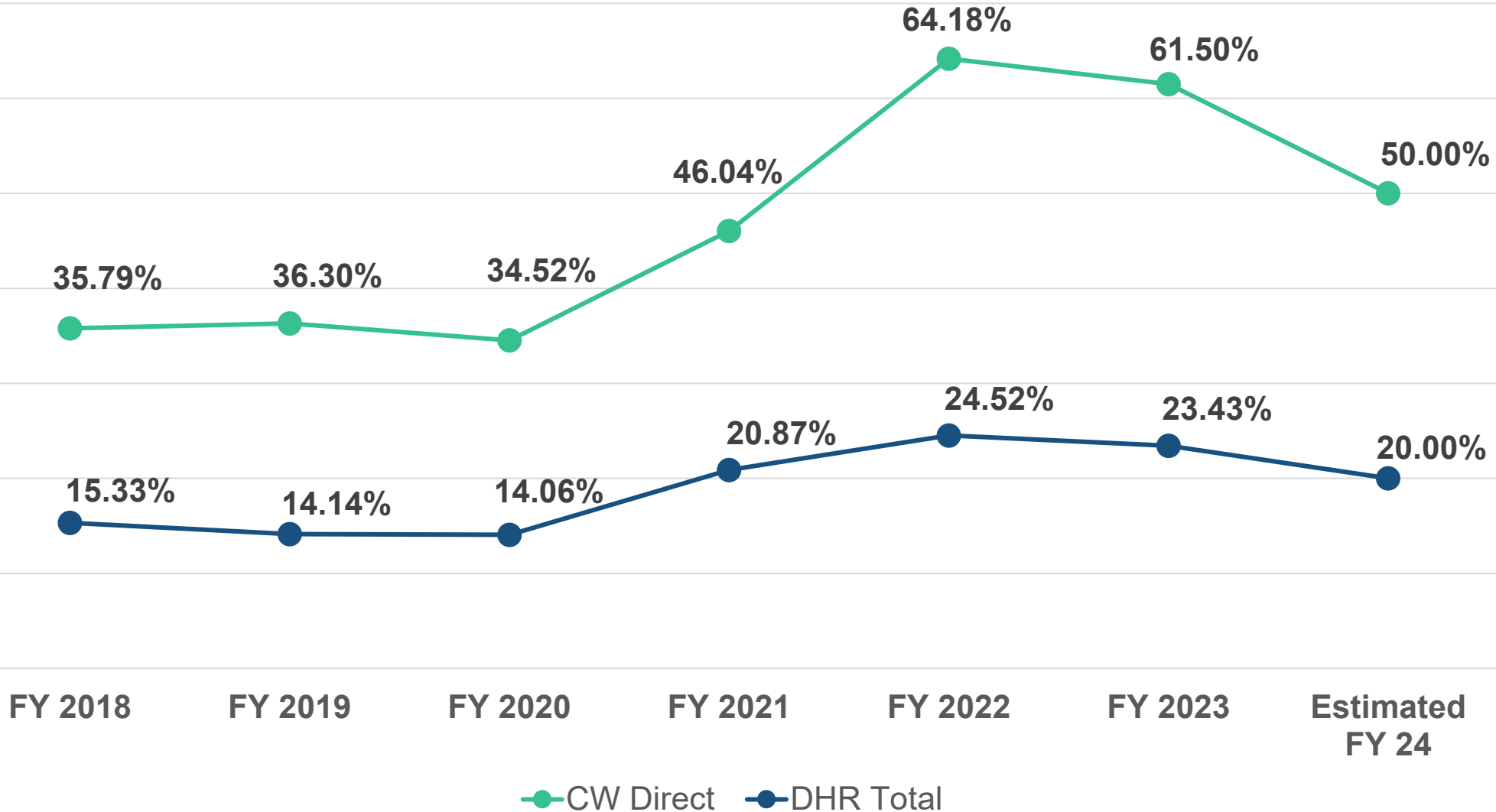
# Greatest Challenges

- Over **61%** turnover rate of Child Welfare Direct Workers
- Placements
  - Children & Youth with Mental Health Needs
  - Juvenile Delinquency Issues
- Lawsuits
- Social Media
- Outdated Computer Systems: SNAP, TANF, Child Care

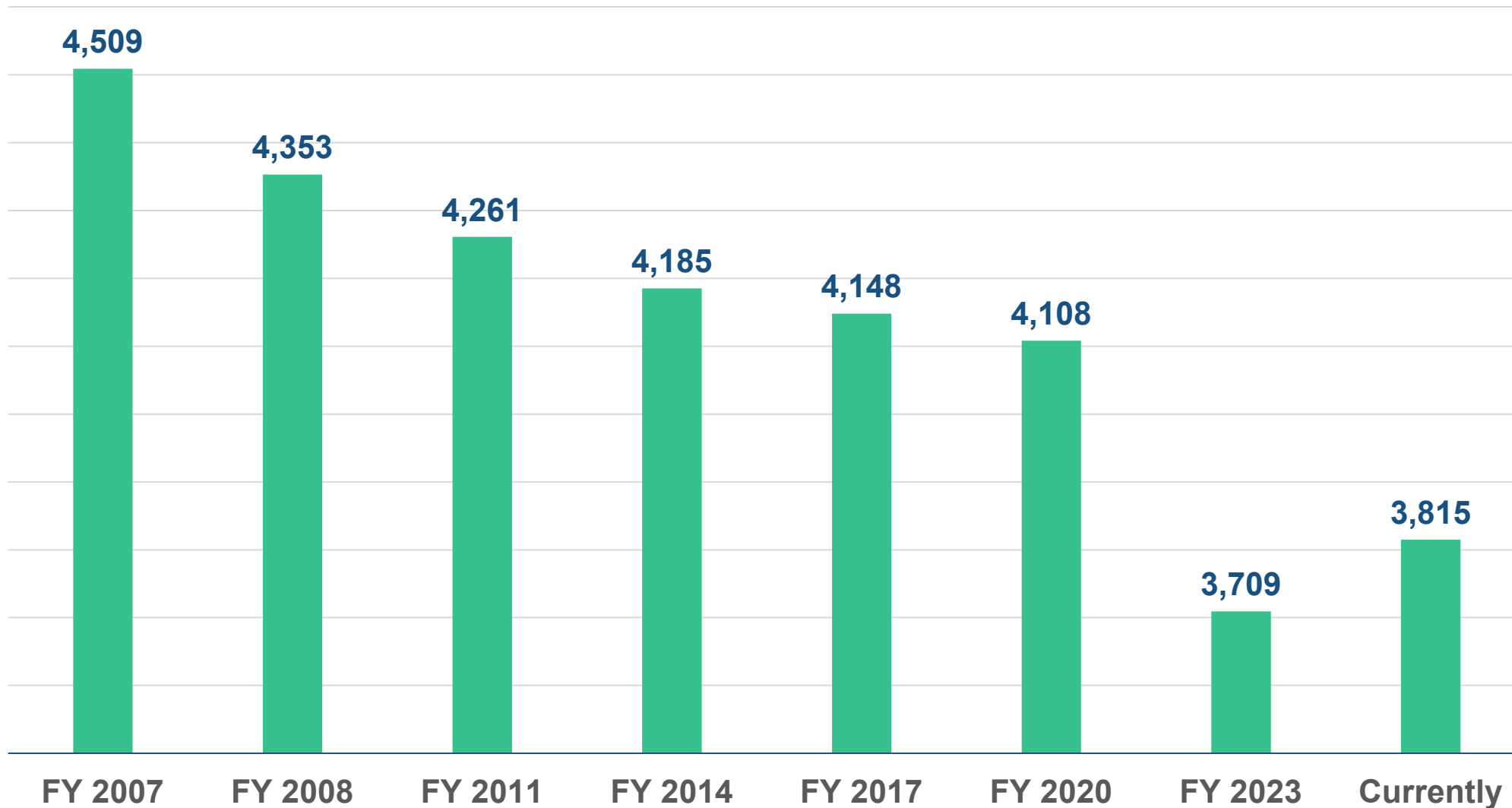




# Staff Turnover Rates



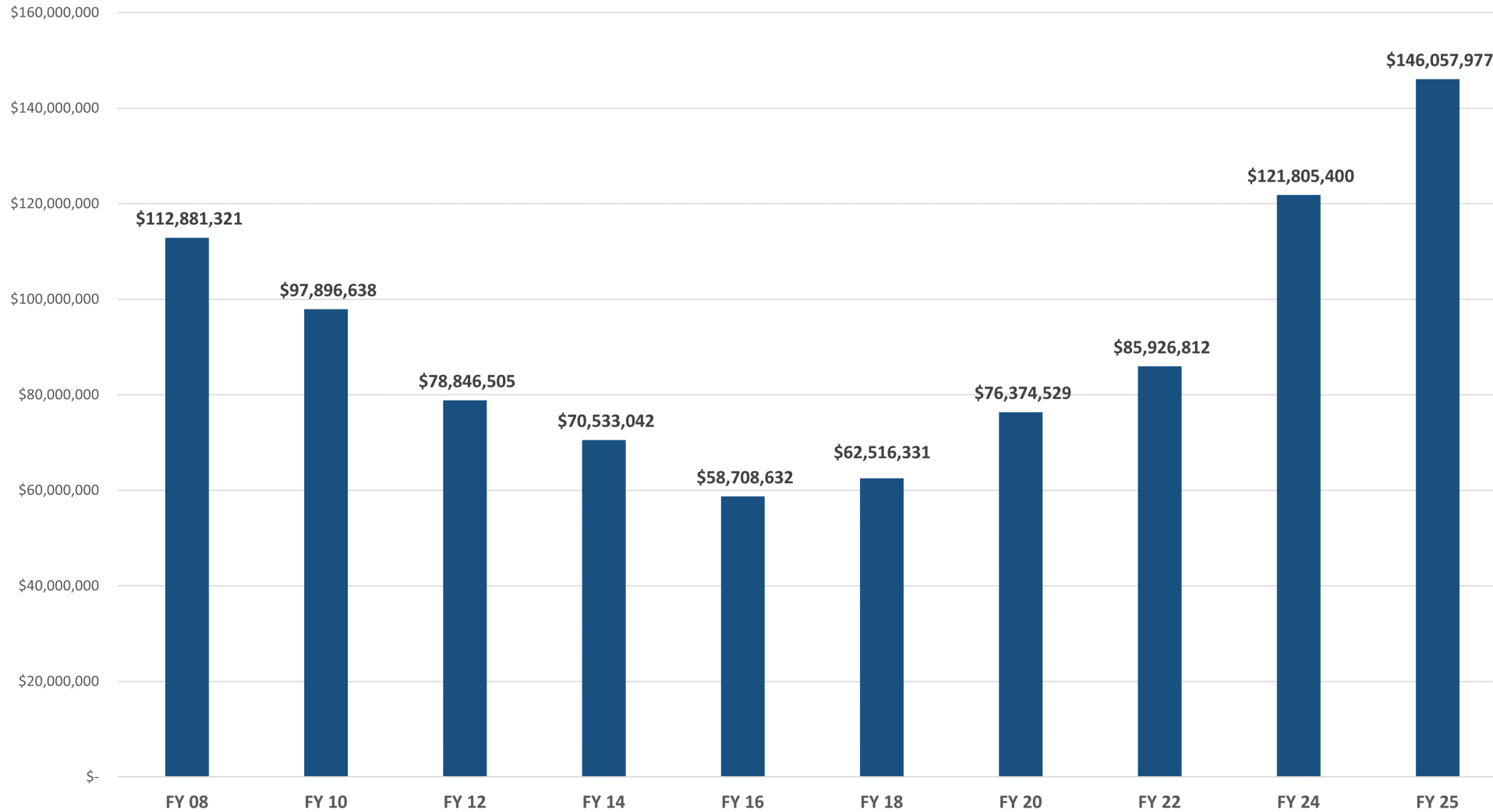
# Staffing Levels By Fiscal Year



# Challenges to Hiring and Retention

1. Often cannot compete with wages paid by other employers
2. In child welfare:
  - Hours required (night & weekend time calls and field work)
  - Nature of the job (entering homes; handling emergencies; threats)
  - Lack of placements for certain youth
3. Often encounter dangerous and traumatic situations
4. Many other entities competing for same staff now
  - More pay and predictable work environment with no field or after hours work
5. Social media
6. Lawsuits (including a Federal Class Action)

# State General Fund Appropriations



# DHR By the Numbers – FY 2023

- **776,000\*** Alabamians fed per month (18,000 applications ineligible)
- **718,000\*** Children received summer meals
- **10,484** Children received TANF benefits
- **2,372** Adults participated in JOBS work program
- **182,325** Child Support cases
- **\$357 million\*** in Child Support collections
- **38,000\*** Cases in court for routine legal matters
- **41,000\*** Children of low-income parents received child care
- **\$262 million\*** Paid to support families in need of child care
- **\$351+ million** Paid to providers to support child care industry
- **4,273** Licensing/inspection visits to child care providers
- **12,325** Elderly and vulnerable adults were protected
- **52,000+** Children involved in reports of Child Abuse/Neglect
- **5,923** Children protected and cared for in Foster Care
- **7,453** Children protected and cared for in their own homes
- **2,000+** Foster Homes for children approved/inspected
- **47,327** Central Registry checks
- **26,195** Criminal History checks
- **4,533** SNAP recipients in Employment & Training programs
- **1,700** Participants in Fatherhood programs
- **700** Individuals received assistance for domestic violence

*\* Numbers are approximate*

# Contact Information

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  - (334) 242-1854

