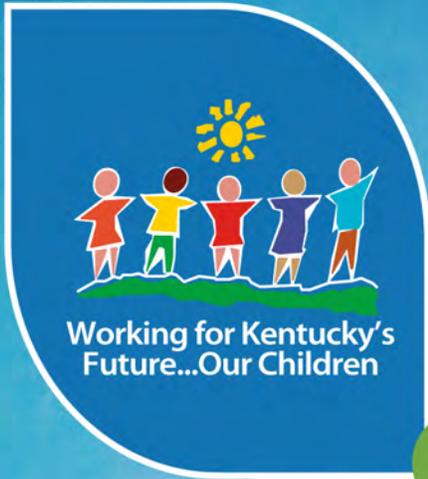


ANNUAL REPORT

Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Board



2014





CFCRB volunteers help Kentucky children in care find permanent homes

John D. Minton Jr.
Chief Justice of Kentucky

I want to commend the nearly 700 Citizen Foster Care Review Board volunteers for carrying out their work in an exemplary manner. Each year we produce a progress report on the boards that review the cases of foster children in Kentucky. Fiscal Year 2014 was another exceptional year for this important program.

State law requires CFCRB volunteers to regularly review the case of every child in the custody of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services due to dependency, neglect and abuse. Their findings and recommendations help Kentucky judges make informed decisions about permanent placements for these children.

The CFCRB operates under the auspices of the Department of Family and Juvenile Services of the Administrative Office of the Courts. I appreciate the support and resources the Family Services staff provide to the CFCRB program.

This annual report offers a comprehensive analysis of the CFCRB program through updates, statistics, legislative recommendations and much more. As the number of foster children in Kentucky continues to increase, so does the workload of the CFCRB volunteers.

Their hard work continues to make a difference for thousands of Kentucky youth. I appreciate the many volunteers who are committed to giving our children hope for a better tomorrow.

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Progress Report on Kentucky Children in Foster Care

Rachel Bingham, Executive Officer
Department of Family and Juvenile Services, Administrative Office of the Courts

Highlights for Fiscal Year 2014: July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

Volunteers for the Citizen Foster Care Review Boards provide a direct service to Kentucky judges by monitoring children placed in out-of-home care and submitting findings and recommendations to the court on every child reviewed by local boards.

This report provides an in-depth look at the children served by the CFCRB and an update on the activities of the volunteers. I am pleased to report that all key indicators for this important program moved in the right direction for Fiscal Year 2014.

The numbers are impressive. In the last year alone, 673 CFCRB volunteers conducted 20,476 reviews of 11,008 children. The volume of cases represents a huge commitment from the unpaid volunteers who serve on the review boards.

While the numbers are impressive, the results are equally striking. The following highlights from FY 2014 attest to the quality of work being done by CFCRB volunteers across the state:

Length of stay. One of our primary goals is to reduce the length of time that children stay in care. In FY 2014, the average length of stay decreased slightly to 18.4 months from 18.7 months in FY 2013.

Release to parents/relatives. Forty percent of children reviewed were reunited with parents or primary caregivers and 26 percent were released to relatives, findings consistent with the previous year.

Placements per child. The number of placements fell slightly to 2.15 from 2.3 the prior year. This moves Kentucky even closer to the federal expectation of no more than two placements until a child achieves permanency.

Finalized Adoptions. There was a slight increase in the children who achieved adoption, with 19 percent exiting from care due to a finalized adoption compared

with 17 percent in FY 2013. Children who exited care due to adoption spent the same amount of time in care the last two fiscal years – 37 months in FY 2014 and 36.7 months in FY 2013

Interested Party Reviews. CFCRB volunteers conducted 4,203 interested party reviews in FY 2014, a 30 percent increase over FY 2013. The IPRs focused on 3,028 children, also a 30 percent increase over the number of children receiving an IPR last year.

CFCRB meetings. Volunteers stepped up to handle a growing workload by holding 1,828 meetings in FY 2014, a substantial increase over 1,628 meetings the prior year. The increase was due to more interested party reviews and the addition of reviews for committed status offenders.

I applaud the CFCRB volunteers for their devotion to the welfare of those in out-of-home care. I hope you will enjoy reading this report and learning more about how the CFCRB program continues to benefit the children of Kentucky.



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CFCRB Mission

To ensure safe, permanent, timely placement of Kentucky's children in out-of-home care.

CFCRB Vision

- » With respect to children in care: To ensure adequate and necessary services are provided to families and children with the utmost importance given to safety, well-being and permanency.
- » With respect to the judges we serve: To provide timely, accurate and sufficiently detailed information about children in care so as to promote knowledgeable permanency decisions.
- » With respect to CFRB volunteers: To promote awareness and understanding regarding children's issues through educational opportunities at local, regional and state levels.
- » With respect to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services: To provide meaningful, respectful feedback regarding paths to permanency.

Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards 2014 Recommendations for Legislative and Policy Reform

Kentucky Revised Statute 620.320(5) requires the Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards to evaluate and make annual recommendations to the Supreme Court of Kentucky, the governor of the commonwealth of Kentucky and the Legislative Research Commission regarding the laws of the commonwealth and the practices, policies and procedures within the commonwealth that affect permanence for children in out-of-home placement.

Meet the educational needs of children.

- ☞ Amend KRS 620.250(1) to require that the most recent educational record of the child be supplied by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and obtained by the Cabinet via any electronic portal or system maintained by the Kentucky Education Cabinet. This information could include, but not be limited to, the child's grades, absences, homework, suspension, expulsion, detention or other disciplinary measures taken by the school, as well as any individual education plan relating to the child. This would also include that all youth would have access to their educational record at age 18, as many youth exiting from the Cabinet's custody at this age do not have parents who can access this information. These youth need this information for workforce readiness programs.

Support the statewide expansion of Family Court.

- ☞ While the Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards recognize that the current economic downturn directly impacts the state budget, the CFCRB would like to encourage the chief justice of Kentucky, the governor of the commonwealth of Kentucky and the Kentucky General Assembly to make the expansion of Family Court into all 120 Kentucky counties a high priority as funds become available.



Questions & Answers

Out-of-Home Care Demographics

What are the ages of children in foster care?

In FY 2014, the youngest child reviewed by CFCRB volunteers was 2.4 months old and the oldest was 22 years old (due to extended commitment). The average age remained constant at 10 years. Children age 5 and younger were the largest age group (33 percent) to be reviewed. Children between the ages of 16 to 20 were the next largest age group (23 percent) to be reviewed.

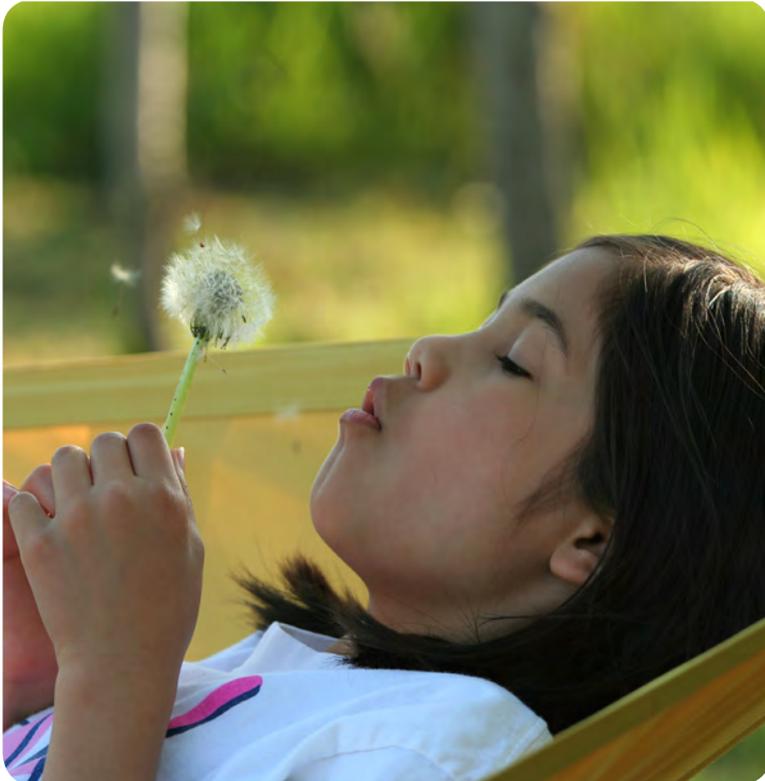
The age analysis is based on children who were in out-of-home care on June 30, 2014, and includes children who were released from the Cabinet's custody any time during the fiscal year.

What gender are children in out-of-home care?

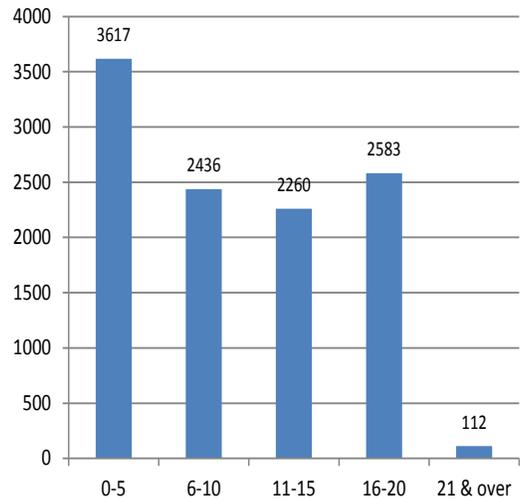
The gender of children in out-of-home care is almost evenly split, with 53 percent male and 47 percent female.

What race are children in foster care?

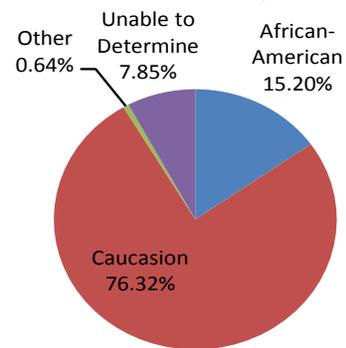
Of the children in foster care, 76 percent are Caucasian, 15 percent are African-American, 8 percent are unable to be determined and the remaining 1 percent are other races. The other races include American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander. In addition, 4 percent of the children in foster care have Hispanic ethnicity.



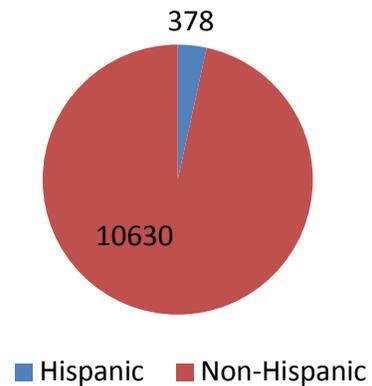
Foster Care Children by Age



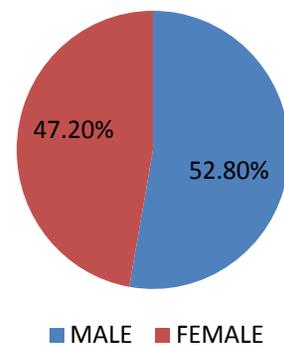
Foster Care Children by Race



Foster Care Children by Ethnicity



Foster Care Children by Gender



Questions & Answers

Time in Out-of-Home Care

What is the average length of stay by age group for children in out-of-home care?

Active children – children who were still in care at the end of FY 2014 – experienced an average length of stay of 20.7 months. Inactive children – children released at any time during the fiscal year – experienced an average stay of 15.7 months. The overall average length of stay for FY 2014 was 18.4 months, which represents a slight decrease from the average length of stay of 18.7 months reported for FY 2013.

The chart illustrates the average length of stay for children by age. Children over age 15 continue to remain in care longer than younger children and are experiencing an average of 26 months in care, compared with 14 months in care for children age 5 and younger.

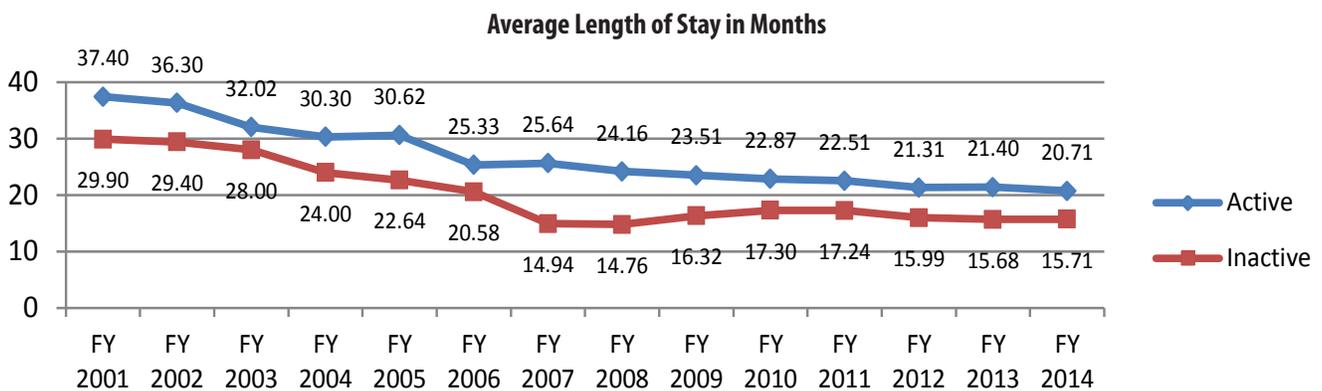
It should be noted that in calculating the average length of stay, children who were in care less than 24 hours are counted as “zero” on the spectrum of length of time in care. These are children who may have been in the process of being removed from the home when a suitable relative assumed custody of the child. When taking into account these zeros, it may actually skew the average to the lower end of the spectrum.

Note: Statistics captured in this chart represent all children whose cases were reviewed between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014. The term “active children” describes those whose cases were reviewed during the fiscal year and who were still in care on June 30, 2014. “Inactive children” describes those whose cases were reviewed during the fiscal year but were released prior to June 30, 2014.



Average Length of Stay in Months

Age in Years	Active	Inactive	All
0-5 Years	16.6	11.6	14.1
6-10 Years	18.5	13.6	16.3
11-15 Years	20.6	14.1	18.1
Over 15 Years	27.7	23.9	25.9
Overall	20.7	15.7	18.4



Exiting Out-of-Home Care

Why are children released from out-of-home care?

The majority of children – 40 percent – were released from care through reunification with parents or primary guardians. The next largest group of children exiting care – 26 percent – was through placement with relatives. These percentages are consistent with FY 2013.

You will also notice on the chart that six children reviewed in FY 2014 died during the review period. Three of these children died from medical conditions and not as a result of maltreatment. One child died from a medical condition that was caused by a previous incident of maltreatment and another youth's death was suicide. The remaining child died as a result of maltreatment. This child was placed in the custody of the Cabinet after the police learned of the child's injuries and the child died the following day.

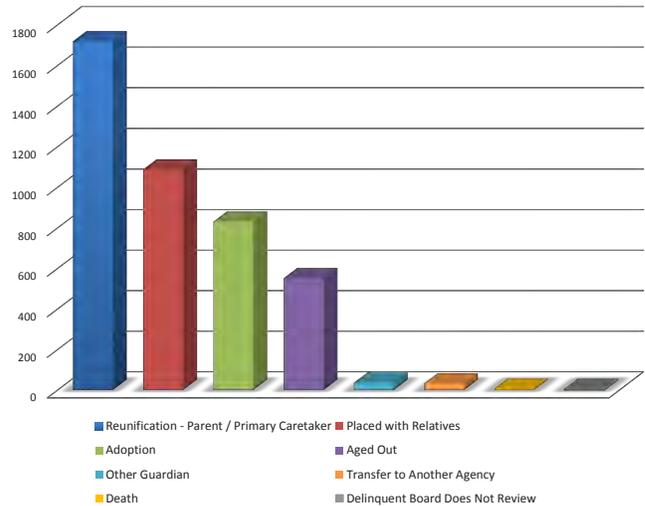
What percentage of children in out-of-home care were adopted?

Nineteen percent of the children released from out-of-home care achieved permanency through adoption in FY 2014. Children who exited care because of a finalized adoption spent 37 months in care prior to adoption. The percentage of children achieving adoption increased slightly over FY 2013, which saw 17 percent of children released through adoption. The months in care before achieving a finalized adoption remained consistent with the previous fiscal year.

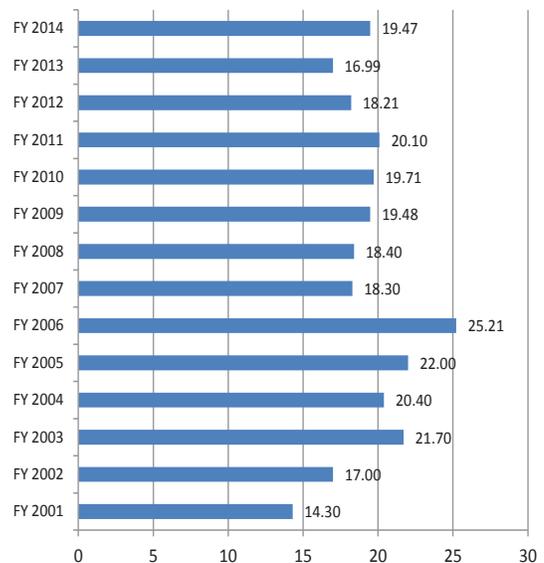
These two charts show the percentage of adoptions and average number of months to finalized adoptions.

Note: The variance in the statistical comparison between FY 2005 and FY 2006 may be due to the implementation of CATS, the Children's Automated Tracking System. In FY 2005, the reasons for release were gathered from individual CFCRB case reviews. With CATS in place, the release information is obtained primarily through downloads from TWIST, the data-tracking system for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

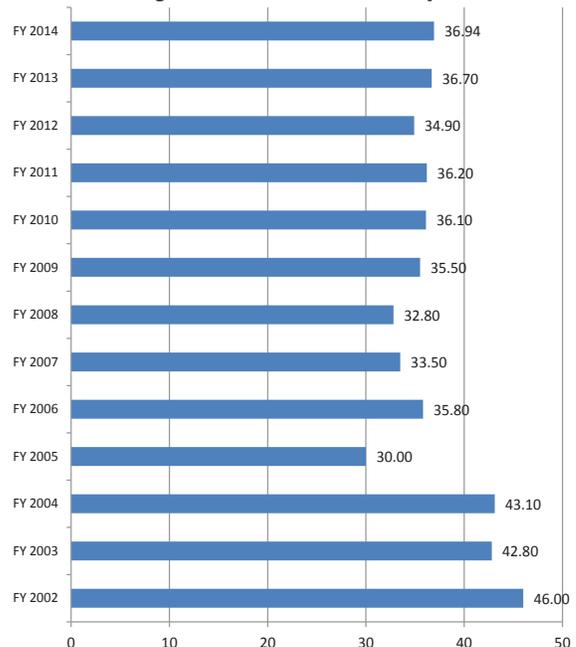
Foster Care Children by Exit Type



Percent of Adoptions Per FY



Average Months to Finalized Adoption



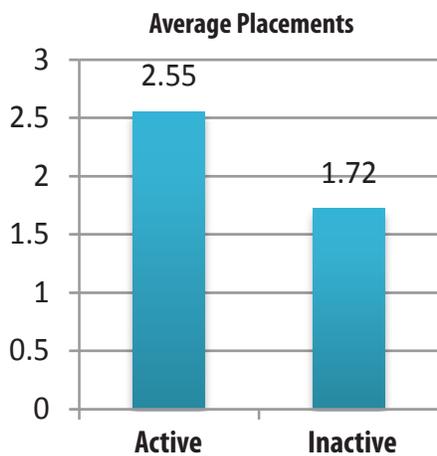


Placement Stability

What do fewer out-of-home placements mean for children in foster care?

Fewer placements create stability and lessen the trauma for children in care. Children experienced an average of 2.15 placements per commitment in FY 2014. The average number of placements is an improvement over the last three fiscal years, which reported 2.3 placements per commitment in FY 2013, 2.7 placements per commitment in FY 2012 and 3 placements per commitment in FY 2011. This number is also closer to the federal expectation of 2 placements for a child in out-of-home care.

The number of placements per commitment for children still active as of June 30, 2014, has continued to decrease. There were 2.6 placements per commitment for active children in FY 2014, 2.8 placements per commitment for active children in FY 2013, 3.3 placements in FY 2012, 3.5 placements in FY 2011 and 3.8 placements in FY 2010. The number of placements per commitment for children who were released from care decreased over the prior fiscal year, with 1.7 placements per commitment for FY 2014, 1.8 placements per commitment for FY 2013, 2.1 placements for FY 2012 and 2.5 placements for FY 2011 and FY 2010.



The Cabinet for Health and Family Services reports that 54.8 percent of the children in their custody in FY 2014 were placed in private child-care arrangements, which is a slight increase from the 52.4 percent reported in FY 2013. Children in foster care are in placements determined by the level of care necessary to meet their special needs. Level 5 is the level of care representing the most needs. Of the children in private child care, 6.4 percent are in level 5 placements with an additional 2.1 percent placed in therapeutic foster care at level 5.¹

When determining placement for a child, the Cabinet considers the least restrictive and most appropriate placement. The Cabinet may change the placement of a child for a variety of reasons, such as safety concerns or the need for more intensive services.



¹ Cabinet for Health and Family Services, TWS-058 report for SFY 2012, SFY 2013 and SFY 2014; Foster Care Facts for July 2012, July 2013 and July 2014.

How many of these placements were out of state?

Based upon information provided by the Cabinet, 65 children were placed out of state in FY 2014. Children are often placed out of state when the Cabinet locates a relative living outside of Kentucky who is willing to accept the child for placement.² Out-of-state placements are approved through the Interstate Compact process.

² Cabinet for Health and Family Services, TWS-058 report for SFY 2012, SFY 2013 and SFY 2014; Foster Care Facts for July 2012, July 2013 and July 2014.

Establishing Permanency Goals

How is the permanency goal established and defined?

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services establishes a permanency plan for each child who enters foster care and his or her family. The plan is filed with the court and addresses the reason the child is in custody. The plan focuses on achieving objectives and completing tasks to ensure the child obtains a permanent home as quickly as possible.

The chart defines permanency goals that have been established for children. Return to parent and adoption remain the permanency goals for the majority of children reviewed by the CFCRB.

Per KRS 610.125, children who remain in the custody of the Cabinet for 12 months after initial placement are scheduled for a permanency hearing through the local court to determine their future status. At this hearing, the court addresses whether the child should be returned to the parents, placed for adoption, placed with a permanent custodian or provided with another type of permanent living arrangement.

CFCRB Overview

What is the Citizen Foster Care Review Board?

The Kentucky General Assembly created the Citizen Foster Care Review Board in 1982 in response to federal legislation aimed at decreasing the amount of time children spend in foster care. Today 673 volunteers serve on 158 review boards throughout Kentucky.

CFCRB volunteers are appointed by their chief Family Court or District Court judge to review the cases of children placed in the custody of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services due to dependency, neglect or abuse.

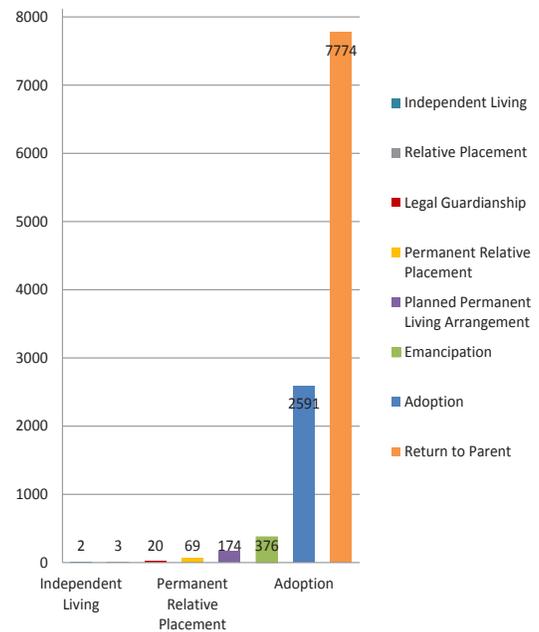
Volunteers regularly review each child's case with a particular focus on the out-of-home placement and the permanency plan established by the Cabinet. Based on information obtained from the reviews, the volunteer makes recommendations to the judge to ensure the child is placed in a safe and permanent home in a timely manner.

In FY 2014, the volunteers held 1,828 meetings and conducted 20,476 reviews on 11,008 children in out-of-home care. The increase in board meetings can be attributed in part to the addition of nine new review boards and the increase in interested party reviews.

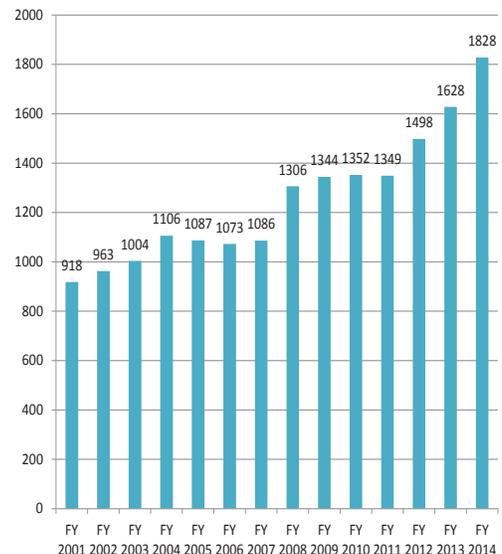
The CFCRB operates within the Department of Family and Juvenile Services of the Administrative Office of the Courts in Frankfort. The AOC is the administrative arm of the Kentucky Judicial Branch.



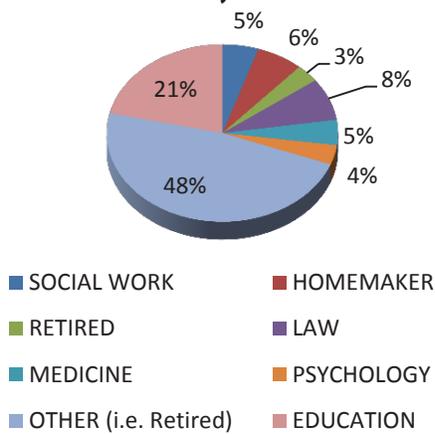
Permanency Goals of Children in Foster Care



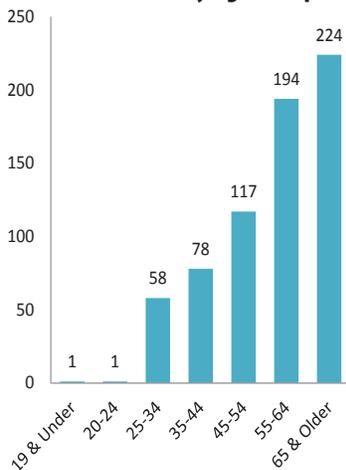
Board Meetings Per Fiscal Year



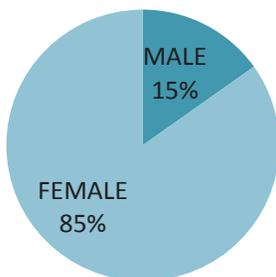
Volunteers by Profession



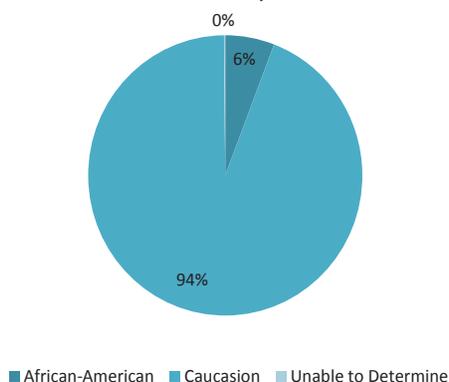
Volunteers by Age Group



Volunteers by Gender



Volunteers by Race



Who are CFCRB volunteers?

CFCRB volunteers come from a variety of educational and professional backgrounds, but all share a genuine concern for children and their welfare.

Of the 673 volunteers, 85 percent are female and 43 percent have backgrounds in education, medicine, law, social work and psychology. The volunteers range in age from 19 to 87, with an average age of 57. The average length of service is seven years, which demonstrates their commitment to the children they serve.

What are the requirements for becoming a CFCRB volunteer?

Those interested in volunteering must complete an initial six-hour training session and consent to a criminal record report from the Administrative Office of the Courts and a Central Registry check from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

New volunteers are trained on the following topics:

- CHFS procedures
- Department for Community Based Services procedures
- Dependency, neglect and abuse case forms
- Court processes
- Mental health needs of children in out-of-home care
- Process for conducting a review

Once a volunteer has provided the background checks and completed the initial training, a recommendation is made to the chief judge of the local Family Court or District Court for the volunteer to be appointed to the local board. Judges appoint volunteers for three-year terms. Volunteers are given a comprehensive handbook on the program and opportunities to earn six hours of continuing education, which is required each year.

What cases do CFCRB volunteers review?

Pursuant to KRS 620.270, CFCRB volunteers review the case of each child who is placed into the custody of the CHFS by a court order for temporary custody or commitment. The reviews are conducted in the county or counties served by the local CFCRB board.

The cases include those youth whose commitments have been extended, children placed for adoptions that have not been finalized, children who have been returned home but remain committed and young adults whose out-of-home commitments have been extended. Children and young adults are also subject to review if they were originally committed as dependent, neglected or abused but have been recommitted as status or public offenders, provided the commitment was not interrupted.

CFCRB Activity by IPR Review Board for Fiscal Year 2014

What resources are needed to conduct a review?

The CFCRB reviews the case of each child or young adult who is in temporary custody or is committed by the court in the county or counties served by the board. The reviews are conducted through the paper case file or an interactive meeting called an interested party review.

Each review board has access to all pertinent information and records maintained by the Cabinet on the parents or person exercising custodial control or supervision for the child being reviewed. The board also has access to all pertinent information and records of the court, the Cabinet, and public and private child-care facilities for the child the CFCRB is reviewing. Information and records include, but are not limited to, case permanency plans, case progress reports and case records.

Each local board may request in writing, with a notice of five work days, for the employees of the Cabinet and other agencies to appear at local board meetings.

How often are reviews conducted?

According to KRS 620.270, every child must be reviewed at least once every six months. But CFCRB volunteers may review cases more often if deemed necessary by the board. The CFCRB reports its findings to the court and to the Cabinet.

Where are reviews conducted?

Reviews are conducted in every county in Kentucky. Larger counties may have multiple boards. Smaller counties in the same judicial circuit or district may join together for a combined board.

The chief Family Court or chief District Court judge designates where the review will take place. Reviews are often conducted at the local office of the Department for Community Based Services. Many of the interested party reviews are conducted in local judicial centers.

Where are CFCRB reviews conducted if a child moves to another county?

Pursuant to KRS 620.270(1), if a child moves to another county due to a pre-adoptive placement or if the Cabinet has moved the child, the responsibility for reviewing cases remains with the local review board that serves the county of commitment/temporary custody.

When does the CFCRB stop conducting reviews?

Pursuant to KRS 620.270, reviews by a CFCRB shall cease when the child is no longer in the custody of the Cabinet or an adoption has been finalized. The case record will document the release.

	IPR Reviews	Children Reviewed
ADAIR	28	19
ALLEN	97	58
BALLARD/CARLISLE	17	12
BARREN RIVER	25	25
BLUEGRASS RURAL	33	32
BOYLE	18	18
BOYLE COUNTY IPR	13	13
BREATHITT	33	22
BRECKINRIDGE	70	46
BULLITT	54	51
BULLITT B	61	41
CALDWELL/LYON	27	17
CALLOWAY	91	60
CAMPBELL 4 IPR	5	5
CASEY	42	20
CHRISTIAN	87	66
CLAY COUNTY IPR	9	9
CLINTON	25	13
CRITTENDEN	13	7
CUMBERLAND VALLEY	47	44
DAVISS A	77	55
DAVISS B	34	33
DAVISS C	81	53
EDMONSON	41	32
ELLIOTT/MORGAN	54	37
ESTILL	33	25
FAYETTE	40	40
Fayette 1 IPR	3	3
Fayette 2 IPR	2	2
Fayette 3 IPR	8	8
Fayette 4 IPR	9	9
FAYETTE ONE	1	1
Fayette Permanency IPR	2	2
Fayette Permanency IPR Board	31	30
Fayette Status IPR	20	17
FIVCO	53	53
FLOYD	74	61
FULTON/HICKMAN	23	15
GARRARD	88	69
GATEWAY/BUFFALO TRACE	74	72
GRAVES	74	44
GREEN	21	16
HARDIN A	80	69
HARDIN B	92	80
HARDIN C	23	23
HARRISON/PENDLETON IPR	16	16
HART	19	12
HENDERSON	66	51
HENRY	28	18
HOPKINS	94	63
JACKSON	19	12
JEFFERSON	72	66
JEFFERSON 5	101	73
JEFFERSON 5A	24	24
JEFFERSON 7	85	66
JEFFERSON 7A	25	25
JEFFERSON 7B	3	3
JOHNSON	56	43
JOHNSON COUNTY IPR	9	9
KENTON 4 IPR	6	6
KENTON 5 IPR	4	4
KENTON 8 IPR	45	42
Kenton Status IPR	40	26
KENTUCKY RIVER	31	30
KIPDA RURAL	30	24
KNOX COUNTY IPR	3	3
LAWRENCE	54	37
LEE/OWSLEY	45	28
LESLIE	20	12
LETCHER	24	18
LIVINGSTON	7	3
Madison A	140	104
MAGOFFIN	33	26
MARSHALL	135	95
MARTIN	48	34
MCCRACKEN B	61	35
MCCREARY	98	63
MCLEAN	7	5
MEADE	112	70
MERCER	43	30
METCALFE	5	5
Monroe/Cumberland	13	8
MONTGOMERY	50	30
MUHLENBERG	41	25
NELSON	61	37
NORTHERN KENTUCKY	55	49
OHIO	58	43
OLDHAM	55	40
PENDLETON	37	22
PULASKI	83	59
RUSSELL	35	26
SPENCER	32	25
TAYLOR	50	30
TRIGG	38	18
TRIMBLE	4	4
UNION	59	36
WARREN A IPR	11	11
Warren Status IPR	18	14
WAYNE	29	19
WEBSTER	19	13
WOLFE	14	5
STATEWIDE	4,203	3,028



CF CRB Activity by Review Board for Fiscal Year 2014

	Paper Reviews	Children Reviewed		Paper Reviews	Children Reviewed
ADAIR	14	14	JEFFERSON 7	35	34
ALLEN	15	15	JEFFERSON 8	282	121
ANDERSON	168	86	JEFFERSON 9	302	145
BALLARD/CARLISLE	13	13	Jefferson Status IPR	10	8
BARREN	142	96	JESSAMINE	100	56
BATH/MENIFEE	93	56	JOHNSON	85	76
BELL	75	46	KENTON 1	291	164
BOONE/GALLATIN	209	101	KENTON 2	290	181
BOURBON	46	30	KENTON 3	221	114
BOYD A	191	120	KENTON 4 IPR	2	2
BOYD B	201	116	KENTON 5	17	17
BOYLE	141	93	KENTON 6	368	191
BREATHITT	24	20	KENTON 7	115	54
BRECKINRIDGE	37	35	KENTON 8 IPR	14	14
BULLITT	72	62	KENTON STATUS IPR	15	15
BULLITT B	39	36	KNOTT	50	32
BUTLER	89	50	KNOX	113	91
CALDWELL/LYON	16	16	KNOX COUNTY IPR	2	2
CALLOWAY	46	46	LARUE	62	38
CAMPBELL 1	255	127	LAUREL 1	148	91
CAMPBELL 2	248	146	LAWRENCE	39	39
CAMPBELL 4 IPR	1	1	LEE/OWSLEY	37	34
CARROLL	95	33	LESLIE	23	23
CARTER	147	90	LETCHER	73	61
CASEY	3	3	LEWIS	46	22
CHRISTIAN	54	54	LINCOLN	98	54
CLARK	378	169	LIVINGSTON	13	13
CLAY	151	114	LOGAN	132	99
CLINTON	5	5	MADISON A	34	31
CRITTENDEN	5	5	MADISON B	133	72
DAVISS A	30	30	MADISON C	286	121
DAVISS B	79	67	MAGOFFIN	49	47
DAVISS C	31	31	MARION/WASHINGTON	74	45
EDMONSON	33	28	MARSHALL	78	78
ELLIOTT	10	10	MARTIN	54	53
ELLIOTT/MORGAN	3	3	MASON/BRACKEN	292	166
ESTILL	40	32	MCCRACKEN A	248	83
Fayette 2 IPR	1	1	MCCRACKEN B	25	25
FAYETTE A	302	123	MCCREARY	70	59
FAYETTE B	271	119	MCLEAN	2	2
FAYETTE C	180	94	MEADE	18	18
FAYETTE D	213	89	MERCER	22	22
FAYETTE E	140	80	METCALFE	20	16
FAYETTE F	176	104	MONROE/CUMBERLAND	7	7
FAYETTE G	160	79	MONTGOMERY	20	20
FAYETTE H	175	95	MORGAN	1	1
FAYETTE I	267	97	MUHLENBERG	13	13
FAYETTE J	227	68	NELSON	19	18
Fayette K	101	67	OHIO	66	66
Fayette Status IPR	15	14	OLDHAM	33	29
FLEMING/ROBERTSON	124	68	OWEN	32	11
FLOYD	88	68	PENDLETON IPR	3	3
FRANKLIN	182	71	PERRY	218	128
FULTON/HICKMAN	8	8	PIKE	144	83
GARRARD	49	39	POWELL	95	74
GRANT	159	77	PULASKI	112	107
GRAVES	26	26	ROCKCASTLE	117	69
GRAYSON	278	166	ROWAN	150	102
GREEN	5	5	RUSSELL	48	45
GREENUP	139	88	SCOTT	203	106
HANCOCK	53	18	SHELBY	181	93
HARDIN A	109	100	SIMPSON	64	43
HARDIN B	71	66	SPENCER	12	12
HARDIN C	48	48	TAYLOR	23	23
HARLAN	50	30	TODD	61	41
HARRISON/NICHOLAS	77	64	TRIGG	5	5
HART	21	21	TRIMBLE	81	41
HENDERSON	53	52	UNION	6	6
HENRY	19	19	WARREN A	260	184
HOPKINS	52	52	WARREN B	216	137
IPR CUMBERLAND VALLEY REGION	4	4	WARREN C	183	122
JACKSON	31	26	WARREN STATUS IPR	7	7
JEFFERSON 1	455	184	WAYNE	24	24
JEFFERSON 10	327	149	WEBSTER	3	3
JEFFERSON 2	292	131	WHITLEY	211	144
JEFFERSON 3	294	126	WOLFE	1	1
JEFFERSON 4	274	144	WOODFORD	141	67
JEFFERSON 5	44	44	STATEWIDE	16,273	9,254
JEFFERSON 5A	11	11			
JEFFERSON 6	355	142			

News & Updates

Regional trainings provide timely education to CFCRB volunteers

The Citizen Foster Care Review Board hosted regional training programs in Eddyville, Elizabethtown, Hazard and Lexington from Oct. 17 to Nov. 9, 2013.

The educational programs give CFCRB volunteers the required six hours of annual continuing education and are designed to help them conduct thorough, informed reviews and make meaningful recommendations to the court.

The 2013 regional trainings included the following topics:

A Child's Journey Through Foster Care. This session examined a child's timeline while in out-of-home care, including the differences in foster homes, how foster home placement is determined, how placements are counted, the changes in levels of care, types of available therapy, goal changes, independent living components and the adoption process.

Judicial Expectations of the CFCRB. Judges weighed in on this session, which explored the importance of the findings and recommendations that CFCRB volunteers submit to judges after conducting a case review.

Status Offenders. This session focused on the differences of committed status offenders and included descriptions of cross-over youth and adolescent brain development.

Foster Care Panel. An independent living coordinator facilitated a panel discussion of older youth who had recommitted or recently left care, with the primary focus on services available to this age group.

The CFCRB State Board held its annual meeting on Nov. 9, 2014, to let chairs of the local boards attend the State Board meeting and the final regional training for the calendar year.

CFCRB volunteers speak up for Kentucky youth at Children's Advocacy Day

Citizen Foster Care Review Board volunteers traveled to Frankfort on Jan. 16, 2014, to attend the annual Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol in Frankfort. The CFCRB program helped sponsor the event and several volunteers met with state legislators while in Frankfort.

This year's CFCRB legislative recommendation focused on giving the Cabinet for Health and Family Services access to the Department of Education's educational portal as a way to improve the use of educational records for foster children. While no legislation came to fruition based on this recommendation, CFCRB volunteers continue their efforts to achieve success in this area.

Children's Advocacy Day began in 2004 to provide an opportunity for advocates throughout Kentucky to come together to promote the safety, health, education and economic well-being of children and families.

Interested Party Review continues to experience rapid growth statewide

The number of Citizen Foster Care Review Boards that use IPR as the standard for reviewing all cases continues to grow rapidly. Eighty-four boards representing 76 counties now use IPR as the standard for review. The following shows the increase in the use of IPR since 2008:

FY 2014 - 53 percent	FY 2012 - 29 percent	FY 2010 - 18 percent	FY 2008 - 1.4 percent
FY 2013 - 37 percent	FY 2011 - 24 percent	FY 2009 - 16 percent	

CFCRB volunteers conducted 4,203 intensive reviews in Fiscal Year 2014, which is a 30 percent increase over the previous fiscal year. The number of children receiving an intensive review also increased 30 percent over last fiscal year, with 3,028 children being reviewed through the IPR process.

Interested Party Review is an interactive review process that involves CFCRB volunteers, parents, care providers, service providers, personnel for the Department for Community Based Services, volunteers for the Court Appointed Special Advocates, and attorneys for the child and parents.

The IPR focuses on case plans for the parents and child and the progress being made to secure permanency for the child. Upon completion of the mandatory review, the Family Services coordinator submits a comprehensive report of findings and recommendations to the judge responsible for the case review.

Interested Party Review Boards by County

Adair, Allen, Ballard/Carlisle, Boyle, Breathitt, Breckinridge, Bullitt, Bullitt B, Caldwell/Lyon, Calloway, Campbell 4, Casey, Christian, Clay, Clinton, Crittenden, Daviess A, Daviess B, Daviess C, Edmonson, Elliott/Morgan, Estill, Fayette 1, Fayette 2, Fayette 3, Fayette 4, Floyd, Fulton/Hickman, Garrard, Graves, Green, Hardin A, Hardin B, Hardin C, Hart, Harrison/Nicholas, Henderson, Henry, Hopkins, Jackson, Jefferson 5A, Jefferson 5B, Jefferson 7A, Jefferson 7B, Johnson, Kenton 4, Kenton 5, Kenton 8, Kenton Status, Knox, Lawrence, Lee/Owsley, Leslie, Letcher, Livingston, Madison A, Magoffin, Marshall, Martin, McCracken B, McCreary, McLean, Meade, Mercer, Metcalfe, Monroe/Cumberland, Montgomery, Muhlenberg, Nelson, Ohio, Oldham, Pendleton, Pulaski, Russell, Spencer, Taylor, Trigg, Trimble, Union, Warren A IPR, Warren Status, Wayne, Webster, Wolfe

Children's Automated Tracking System continues to evolve to meet needs

The Administrative Office of the Courts continues to improve the functionality and efficiency of the Children's Automated Tracking System, which tracks children in care. One goal is to automate the notification letters sent to parties involved with the Interested Party Review process. The AOC is also working to increase quality assurance by tracking staff workflow.

CATS houses all reviews conducted by CFCRB volunteers on children in out-of-home care and provides case information to the AOC, judges, the Citizen Foster Care Review Boards and the Department for Community Based Services.

CATS receives weekly downloads from The Worker Information System (TWIST), the statewide child welfare system operated by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. These downloads ensure timely reviews by allowing CFCRB volunteers to be notified when new children enter care.

CATS also does the following:

- » Supplies review forms for paper and interested party reviews.
- » Tracks and records removal and placement information, sibling visitation, and permanency and case planning.
- » Tracks the number of prior entries into foster care and the number of moves.
- » Maintains identifying and other key information from the CFCRB Findings and Recommendations forms as permanent records.
- » Records volunteer hours by training hours and hours spent at board meetings.
- » Records the parties notified of an interested party review.

The information available from CATS is instrumental in helping judges and child advocates improve the outcomes of children in foster care. The CFCRB also uses the CATS database to fulfill its statutory requirement for reporting on children in out-of-home care to the Supreme Court of Kentucky, the governor and state legislators.

AOC Family Services Coordinators

Area 1

Counties: Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Trigg, Union, Webster

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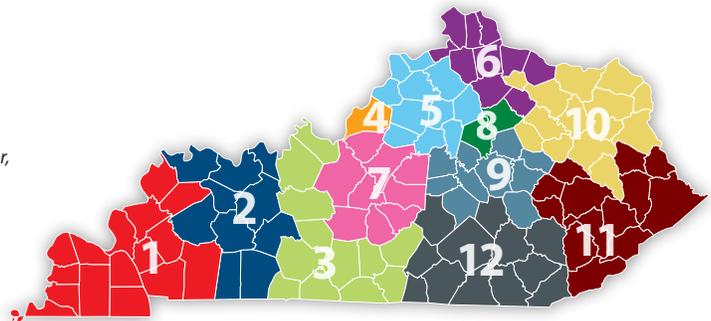
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