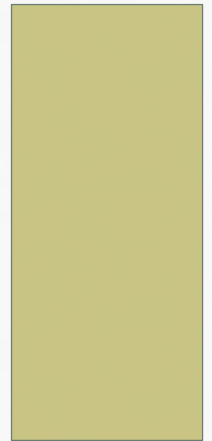


NEBRASKA CAREGIVER RESPONSIBILITY SURVEY

FOSTER CARE REIMBURSEMENT RATE COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 10, 2016



PURPOSE AND DISCLAIMER

- This information has been gathered from a survey of foster parents and is intended to help inform the work and recommendations of the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee.
- The information contained within this PowerPoint and any accompanying documents is meant to represent an aggregate of information received through the Nebraska Caregiver Responsibility Survey, and not meant to represent the viewpoints or recommendations of the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee, its individual members, or staff.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Survey planning began with the intention to gather information on the experiences of foster parents with the Nebraska Caregiver Responsibility (NCR) Tool.
- During survey planning, members identified a need to expand the scope of the survey to include more specific information regarding the NCR, and more general information about foster parent experiences.
- This survey does not capture information regarding Probation foster care placements.

SURVEY INFORMATION

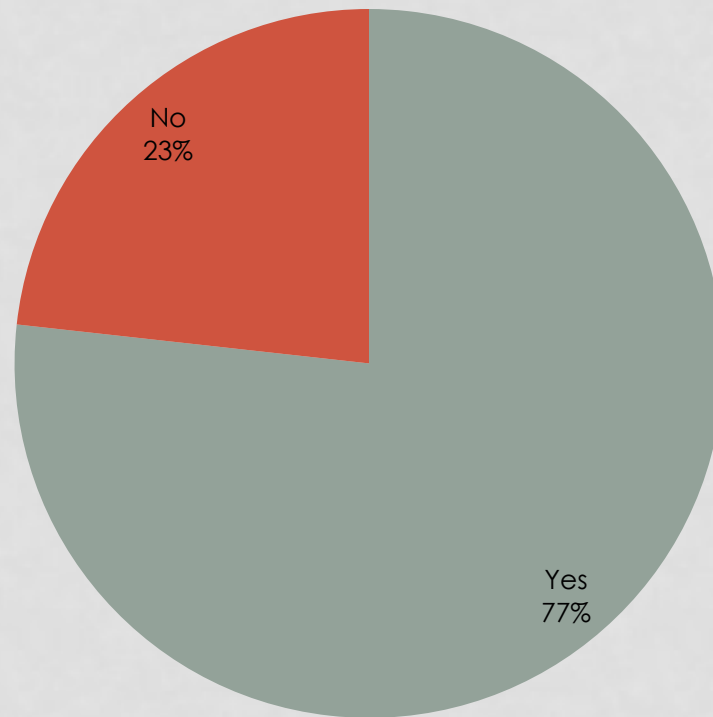
- The survey is 15 questions long, with sections including Foster Parent Information, Nebraska Caregiver Responsibility Tool, Transportation Experiences, and Foster Parent Experiences.
- The survey was administered through HHS, FFTA, and NFAPA. Responses were collected by NCC staff. No identifying information, including IP addresses, was collected.
- The survey opened on January 18, 2016, and closed on February 2, 2016.
- 232 foster parents responded to this survey.

FOSTER PARENT INFORMATION

SURVEY RESPONSES

Foster parents with a completed NCR within the past six months

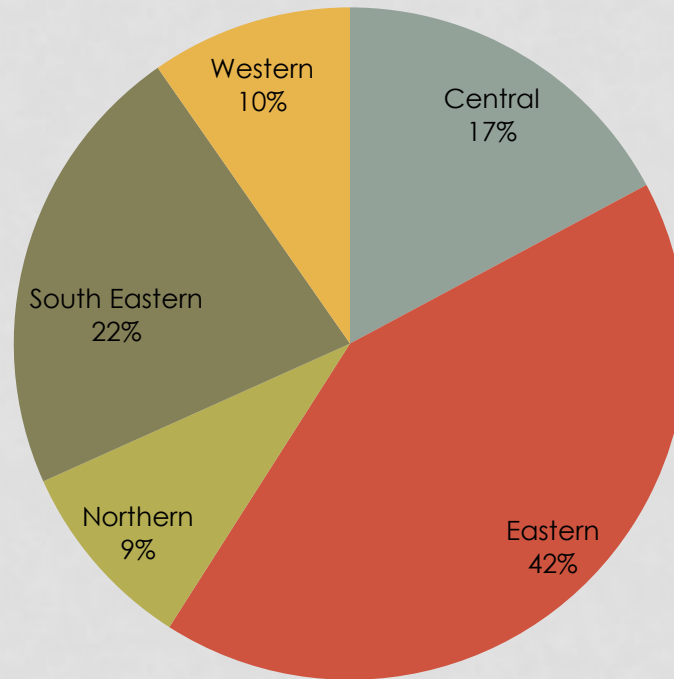
Foster Parent Response



- Have you had an NCR Tool completed on a child in your home in the last six months?

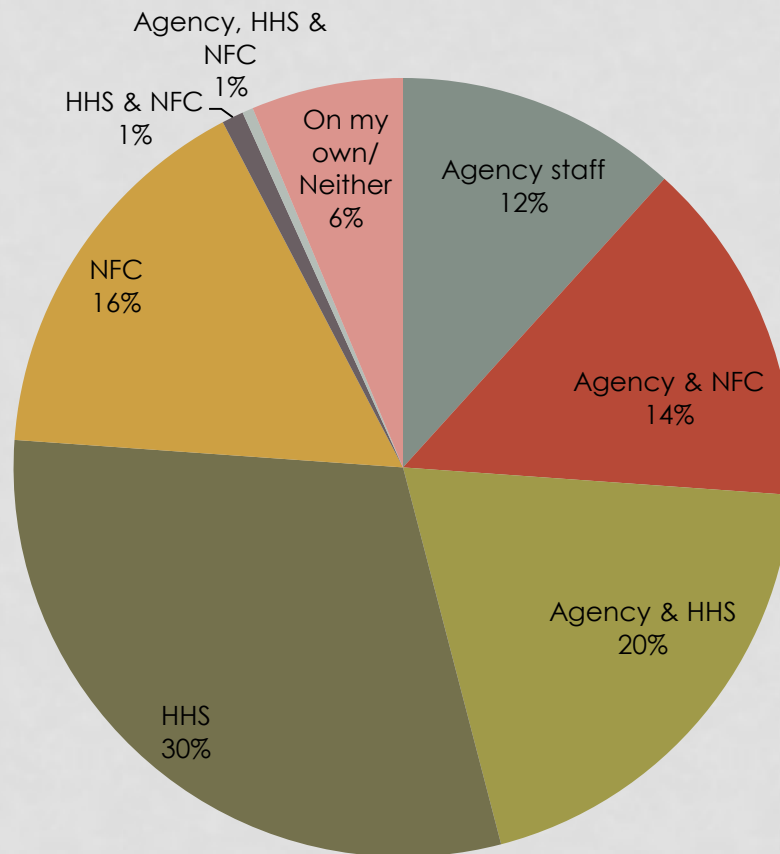
Foster parent service area of residence

Foster Parent Response



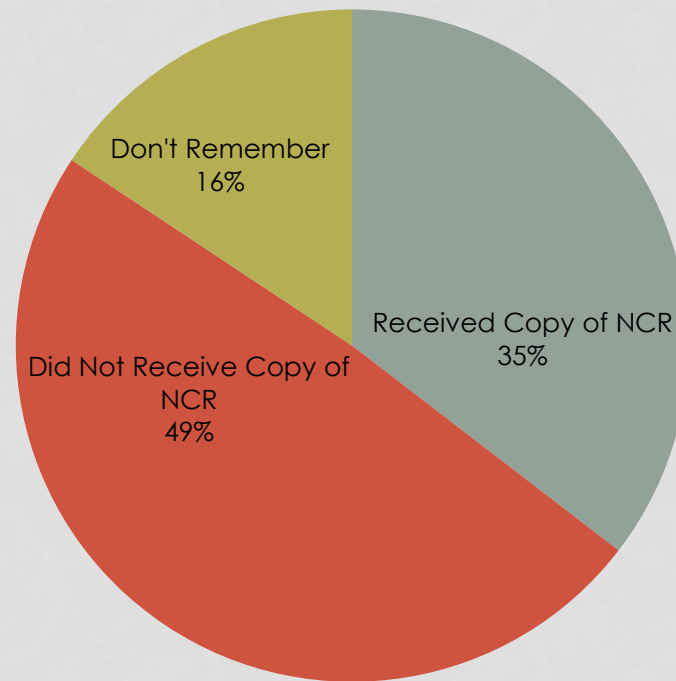
Who completed the NCR

Foster Parent Response



Distribution of NCR copies

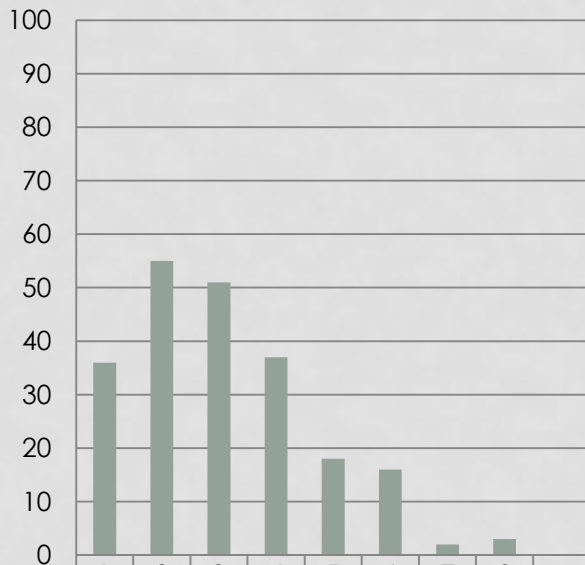
Foster Parent Response



Children in Home During Last NCR

Children in Home

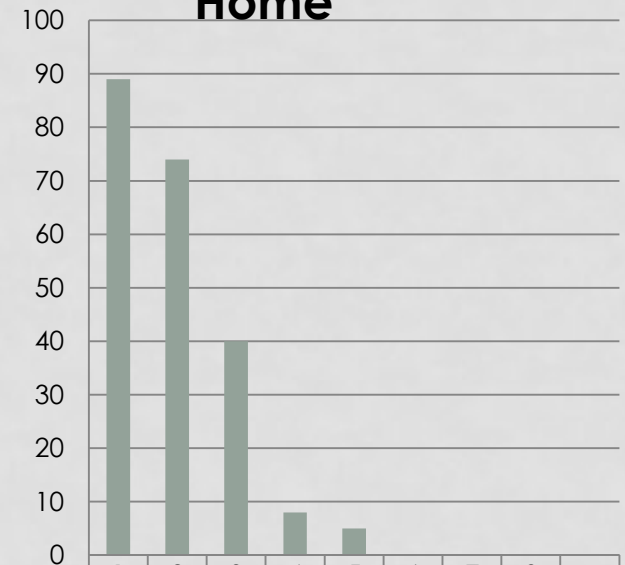
Number of Children in Home



Number of Children in Home	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Number of Children in Home	36	55	51	37	18	16	2	3

Foster Children in Home

Number of Foster Children in Home

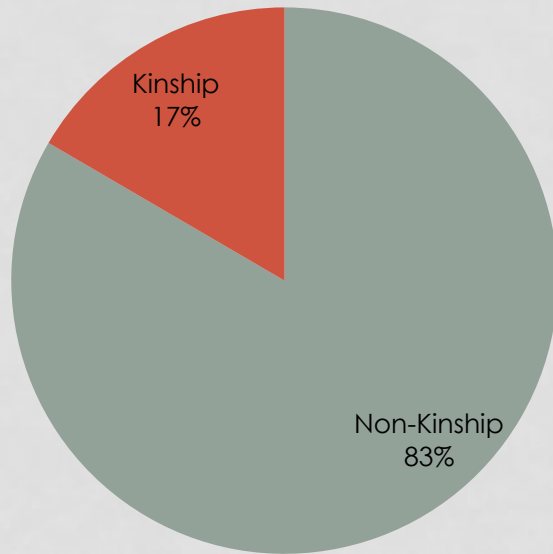


Number of Foster Children in Home	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Number of Foster Children in Home	89	74	40	8	5	0	0	0

Kinship and Licensed Foster Parents

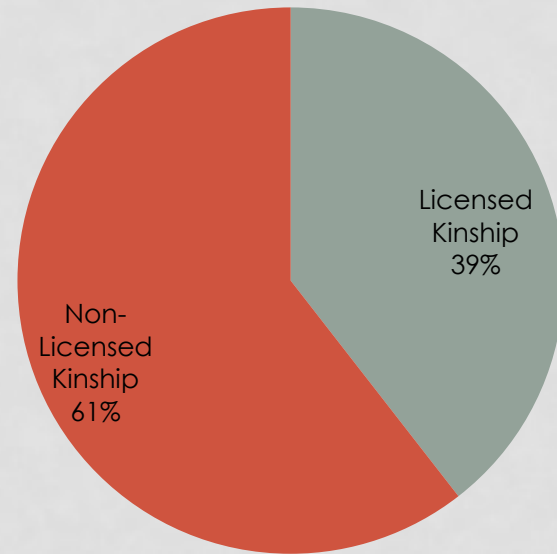
Kinship and Non-Kinship Foster Parents

Foster Placement Type



Licensed and Non-Licensed Kinship Foster Parents

Foster Placement Type



NEBRASKA CAREGIVER RESPONSIBILITIES TOOL

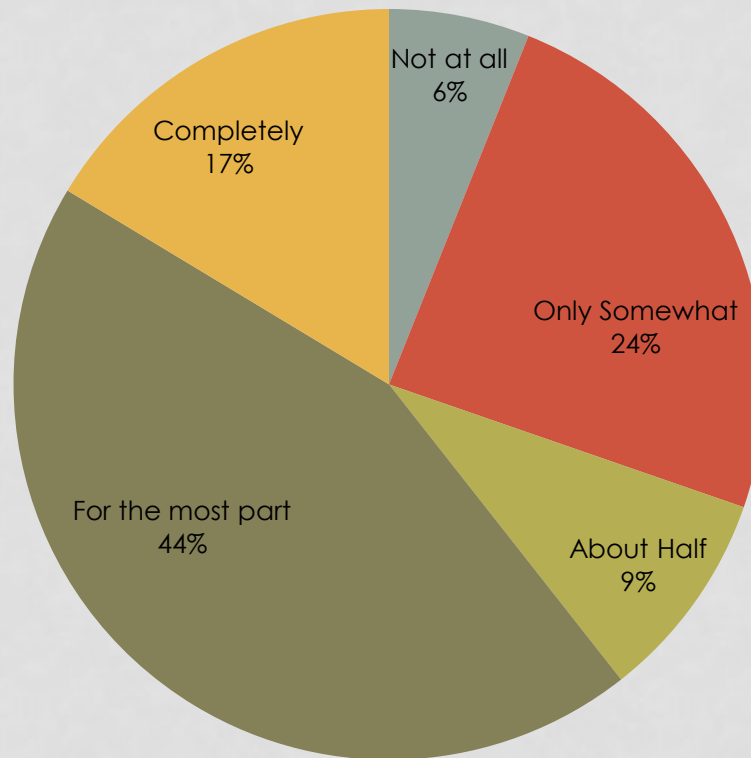
SURVEY RESPONSE INFORMATION

Likert Scale Weights

- Not at all = 0
- Only somewhat = 1
- About half = 2
- For the most part = 3
- Completely = 4

“I feel that the last time I filled out the NCR, it captured all of the services I provide for that child”

Foster Parent Response



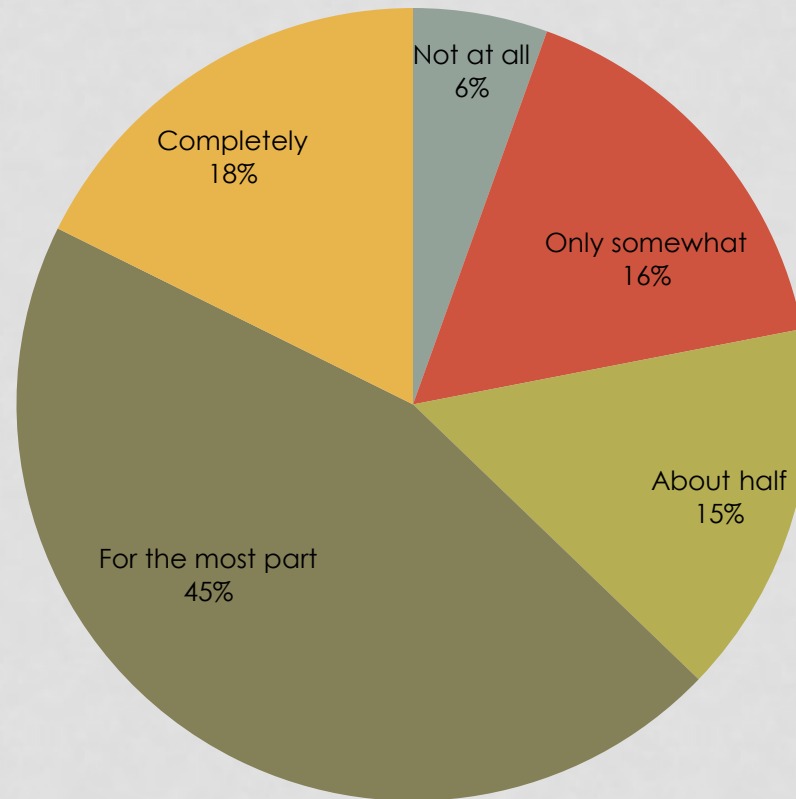
- Weighted Average – 2.41

“I feel that the last time I filled out the NCR, it captured all of the services I provide for that child.”

- Foster Parents reported that:
 - The NCR did not capture services provided for foster youth's child
 - The NCR did not capture time off work to attend foster child's appointments
 - Gap between rates is too wide
 - The NCR did not cover transportation to appointments and visits (2 comments) (*Note: changes to transportation in NCR have been made*)
 - The NCR did not capture care for infants
 - Foster parents do not have control over their payment rate

“The last time I filled out the NCR, it adequately described foster parent responsibilities”

Foster Parent Response



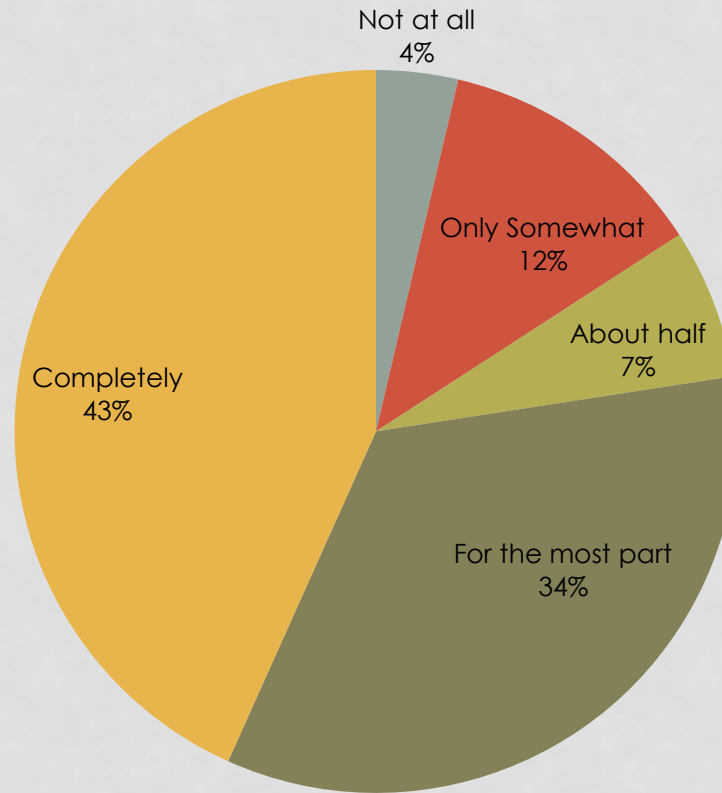
- Weighted average: 2.53

“The last time I filled out the NCR, it adequately described foster parent responsibilities”

- Foster Parents reported that
 - The NCR describes responsibilities too narrowly
 - The NCR needs additional place for more information
 - Infuse life skills and independent living skills throughout the tool (*Note: changes to the independent living section have been made*)
 - Build in costs of transportation (*Note: changes to transportation in NCR have been made*)
 - Foster parents often “fill in gaps” when professional help is unavailable to foster youth, and payment rates are not raised
 - Foster parents feel that when children have high needs but do not have a diagnosis, the high levels of foster parent care are not accurately reflected
 - Does not capture time spent navigating child welfare system

“The last time I filled out the NCR, I understood the purpose of the NCR.”

Foster Parent Response



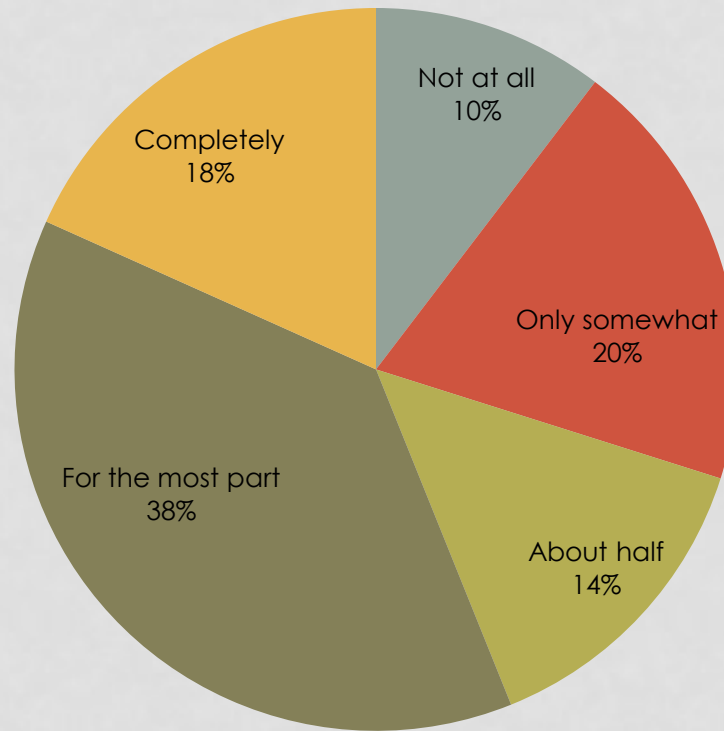
- Weighted Average – 3.01

“The last time I filled out the NCR, I understood the purpose of the NCR.”

- Foster Parents reported that
 - NCR levels selected did not reflect foster parent responsibility (3 comments)
 - Foster Parent did not believe NCR should be done on adoptive child
 - The NCR was filled out with limited knowledge about the youth (2 comments)

Medical/Physical Health and Well-Being

Foster Parent Response



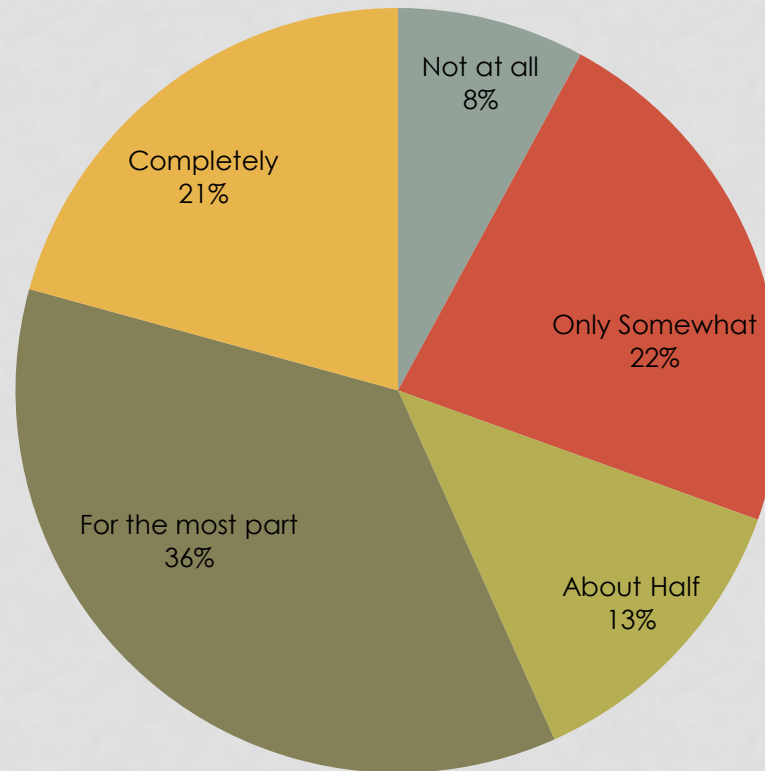
- Weighted Average – 2.34

Medical/Physical Health and Well-Being

- Foster Parents reported that:
 - The NCR does not reflect foster parent's lost sleep (2 comments)
 - The NCR does not reflect transporting youth to appointments
 - The NCR's categories are too broad and general
 - The NCR's categories are not broad enough
 - The NCR was filled out with limited information about the child (5 comments)
 - The NCR does not capture transportation to appointments (*Note: changes to transportation in the NCR have been made*)

Family/Relationships/Cultural Identity

Foster Parent Response



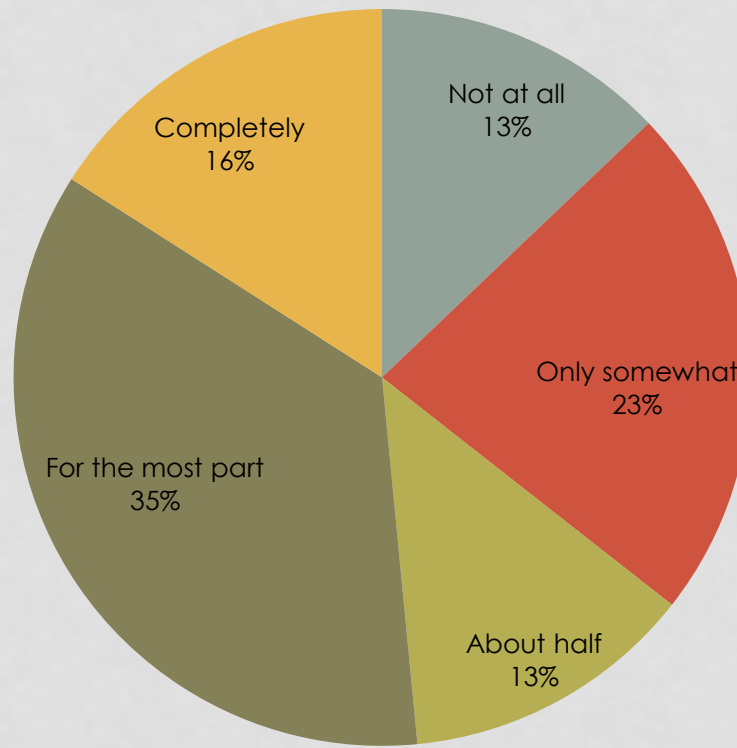
- Weighted Average – 2.39

Family/Relationships/Cultural Identity

- Foster Parents reported that
 - The NCR does not address services provided when biological parents are incarcerated
 - Some children require all contact with specific family members to be monitored, this means monitoring computers, phones, visits, and this is not reflected in NCR (2 comments)
 - The NCR was filled out with limited information on youth (2 comments)
 - Foster parents go beyond what is required and this is not reflected (3 comments)

Supervision/Structure/Behavioral and Emotional Services

Foster Parent Response



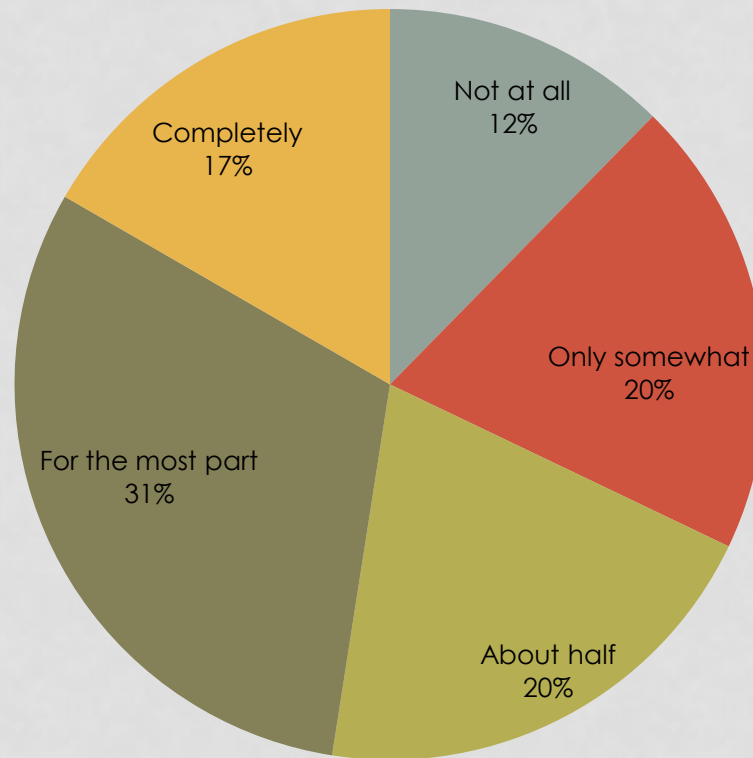
- Weighted Average – 2.19

Supervision/Structure/Behavioral and Emotional Services

- Foster Parents reported that:
 - Foster parent did not agree with worker's selections
 - Foster parent believed worker did not know where to put the services she provided in NCR categories
 - Foster parent believed that the only way to reach a higher score was to work with professionals
 - The NCR did not include extracurricular activities, lessons, trips to zoo and museums
 - The NCR was completed with limited information on child (2 comments)
 - Youth need counseling but none has been provided

Education/Cognitive Development

Foster Parent Response



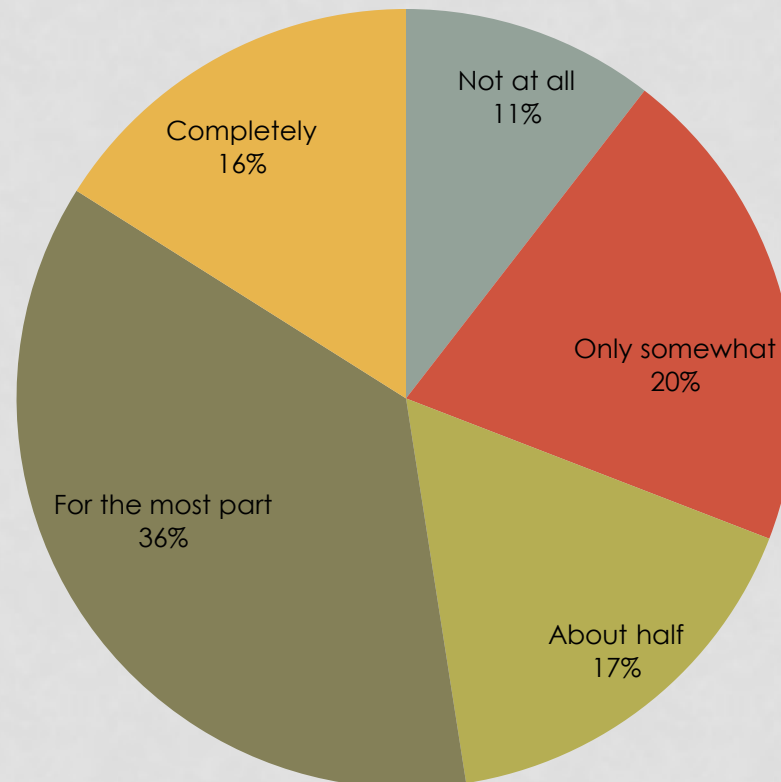
- Weighted Average – 2.20

Education/Cognitive Development

- Foster Parents reported that:
 - Foster Parent did not agree with worker's LOR selection
 - The NCR did not capture level of contact with school staff due to student's behaviors in school
 - Foster parents were able to raise grades with significant work at home, but did not receive a higher level payment because they did not require use of a professional (2 comments)
 - The NCR does not reflect that foster parents must work with biological parents on some educational aspects (parents retain educational rights)
 - The NCR was filled out with limited information on the youth

Socialization/ Age Appropriate Expectations

Foster Parent Response



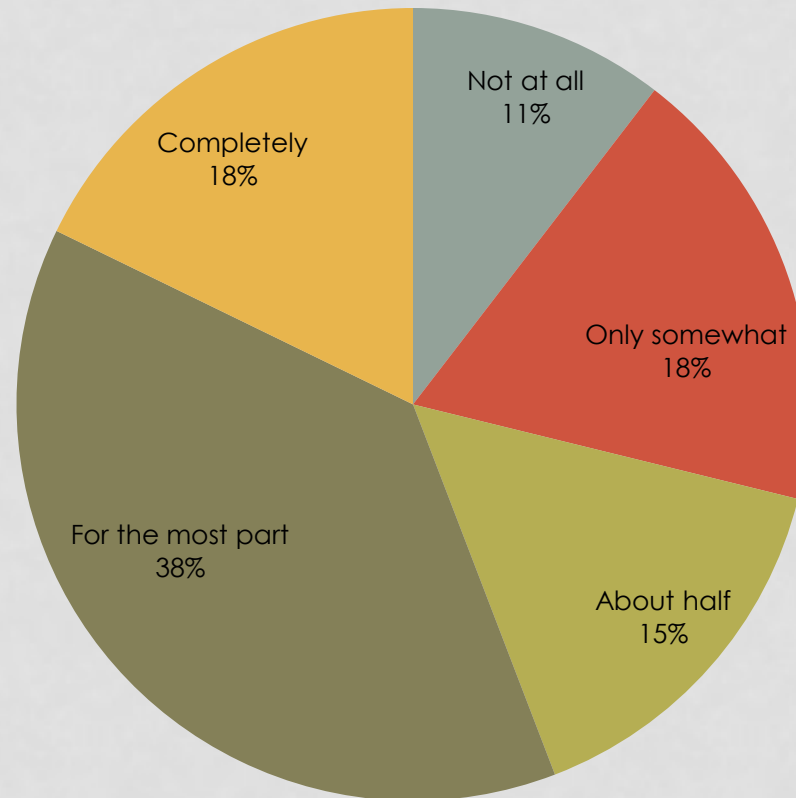
- Weighted Average – 2.27

Socialization/ Age Appropriate Expectations

- Foster Parents reported that:
 - Gap between levels is too large
 - The NCR should consider the context of children's behaviors in determining what is and is not age appropriate
 - The NCR was completed with limited information on youth (2 comments)
 - Foster youth with very limited social skills are not reflected on NCR

Support/Nurturance/Well-Being

Foster Parent Response



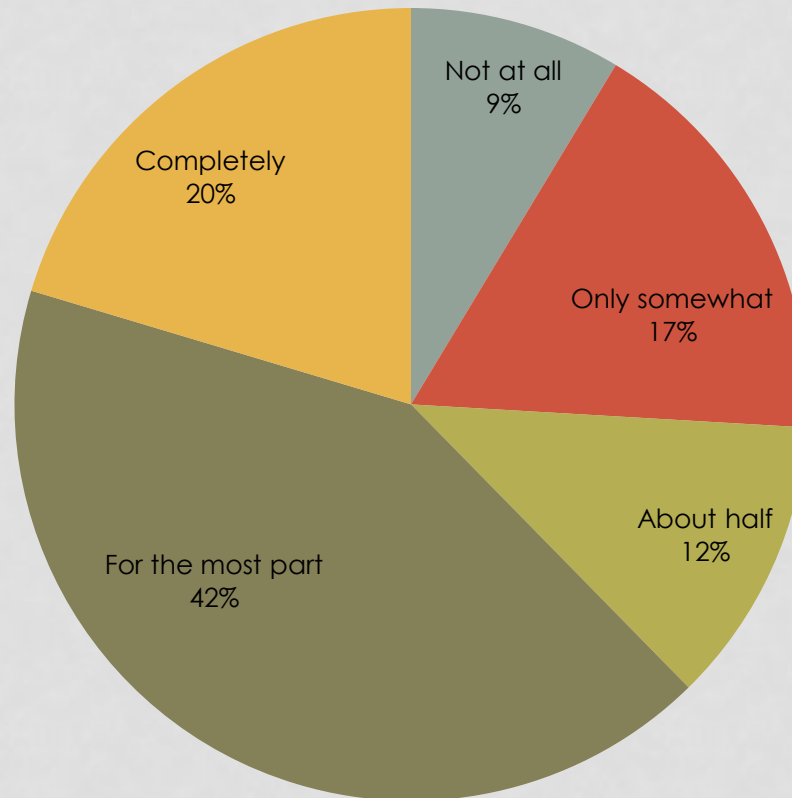
- Weighted Average – 2.34

Support/Nurturance/Well-Being

- Foster Parents reported that:
 - NCR was filled out with limited information about youth (3 comments)

Placement Stability

Foster Parent Response



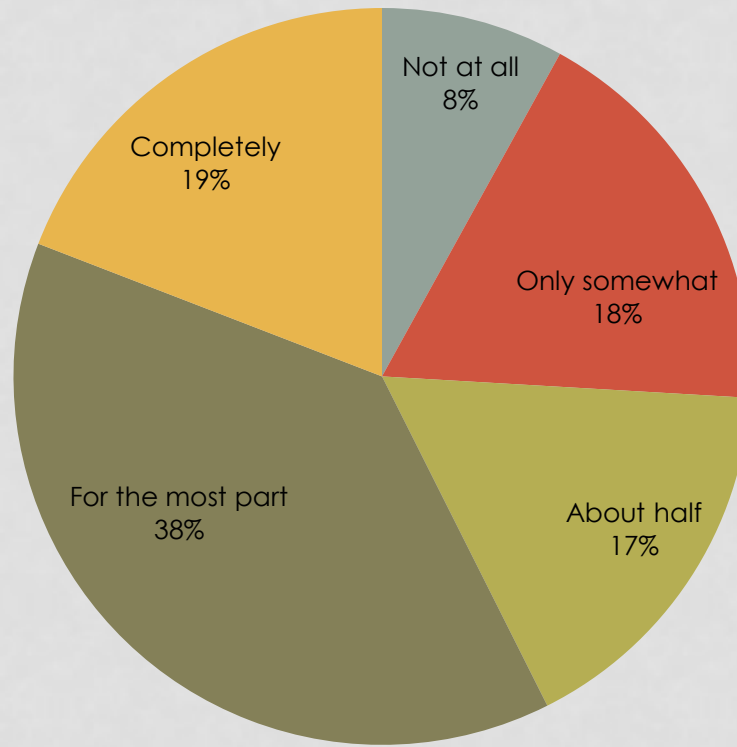
- Weighted Average – 2.48

Placement Stability

- Foster Parents reported that:
 - The NCR is too vague
 - Foster Parent feels abandoned for services after adopting
 - The NCR was filled out with limited information on youth

Transition to Permanency and/or Independent Living

Foster Parent Response



- Weighted Average – 2.43

Transition to Permanency and/or Independent Living

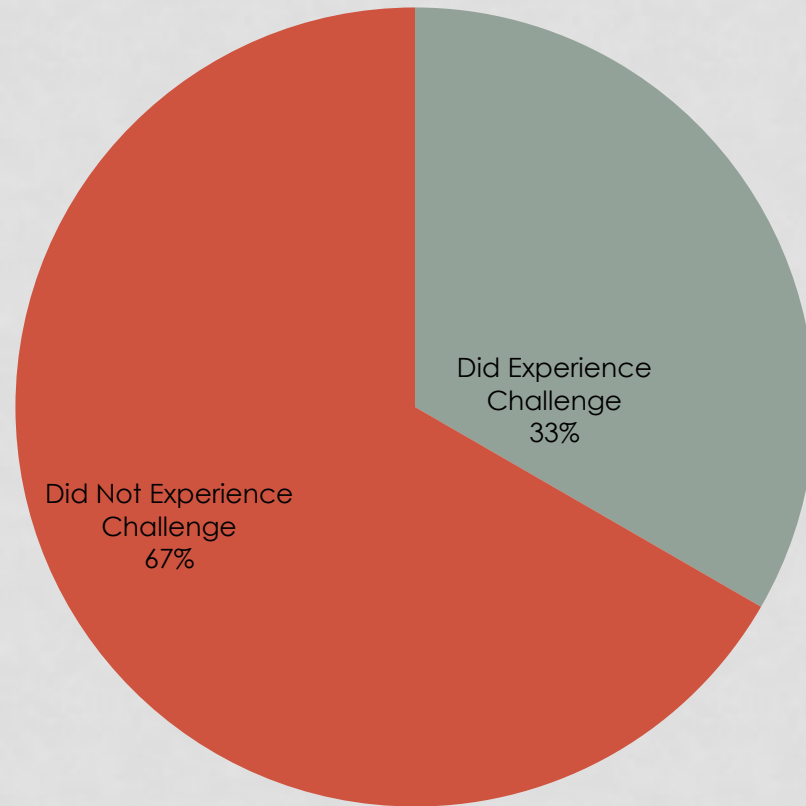
- Foster Parents reported that:
 - NCR should consider youth who will not be transitioning to independent living
 - The NCR does not cover all issues that come up with transitioning to permanency or independent living
 - The NCR filled out with limited information on the youth
 - Foster Parent was unsure of the permanency goal and unable to obtain a clear answer

TRANSPORTATION EXPERIENCES

SURVEY RESPONSE INFORMATION

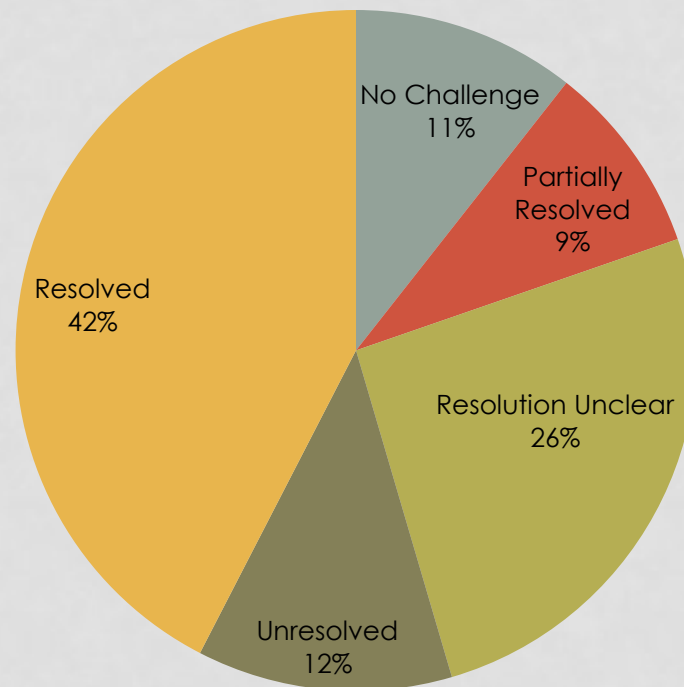
Foster parents experience with challenges providing transportation

Foster Parent Response



Foster parents experience with challenges providing transportation

Foster Parent Response



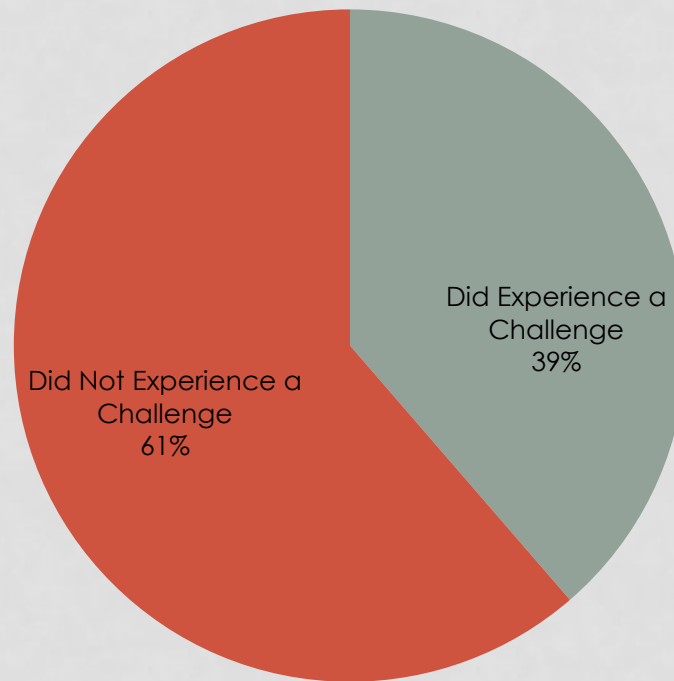
- 54 foster parents provided a narrative response about transportation challenges

Foster parents experience with challenges providing transportation

- Two foster parents requested mileage reimbursement and did not receive it
- One foster parent unable to take youth for visits with extended families
- One foster parent ended a placement due to transportation
- Three foster parents requested help and did not receive assistance
- One foster parent unable to take youth to therapy often enough

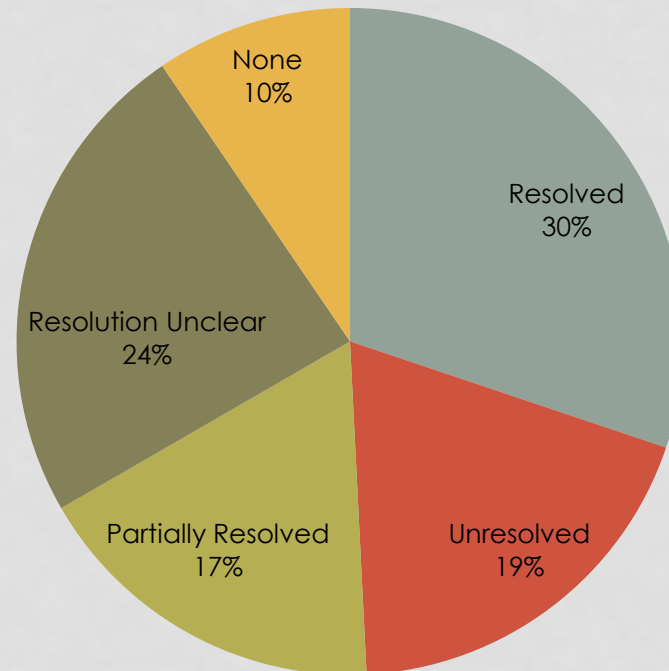
Foster parent experiences with challenges meeting the needs of the child

Foster Parent Response



Foster parent experiences with challenges meeting the needs of the child

Foster Parent Response



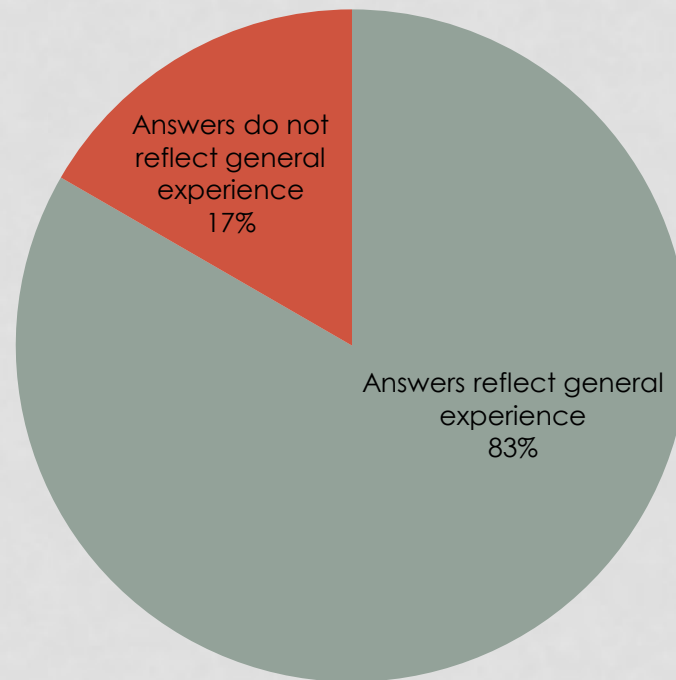
- 63 foster parents provided a narrative response to this question.

Foster parent experiences with challenges meeting the needs of children

- The majority of challenges included access to mental, behavioral, or medical supports.
- Not all challenges included efforts to remedy the challenge, so it is difficult to know whether DHHS, NFC, and the agencies have been notified of these particular challenges.

General Experiences with the NCR

Foster Parent Response



General Experiences with the NCR

- Foster Parents reported that:
 - The NCR describes services for children with lower needs better than for children with higher needs
 - The NCR does not always capture transportation and visitation (*Note: changes to transportation in the NCR have been made*)
 - Different workers categorize services differently

WHAT FOSTER PARENTS WANT
AGENCIES, HHS, AND NFC TO KNOW

SURVEY RESPONSE INFORMATION

What Foster Parents want agencies, HHS, and NFC to know

- 5 foster parents had concerns about court related issues, including length of time to permanency, GAL contact, and biological parent visitation and contact
- 4 foster parents had concerns that they were not be adequately reimbursed for their services
- 4 foster parents felt they needed more support for their placements
- 11 foster parents felt they needed more information or communication
- 20 foster parents gave feedback on the NCR, that it should cover more services and be more specific

What Foster Parents want agencies, HHS, and NFC, to know

- 4 comments noted concerns with foster child visitation with parents, specifically that visitation occurred when it was not in the child's best interest
- 2 parents noted concerns receiving services for the foster children
- 5 foster parents felt there should be more training for workers and foster parents
- 24 foster parents gave feedback relating to workforce
 - Some concern over turnover
 - Some foster parents named specific caseworkers, CASA workers or agency staff to give kudos for their work