

# Foster Care Review Office (FCRO)

## 2021 Annual Report



# FCRO BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

**Mission:** To provide oversight of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems by tracking and reviewing children in out-of-home care, reporting on aggregate outcomes, and advocating on individual and systemic levels to ensure that children's best interests and safety needs are met.

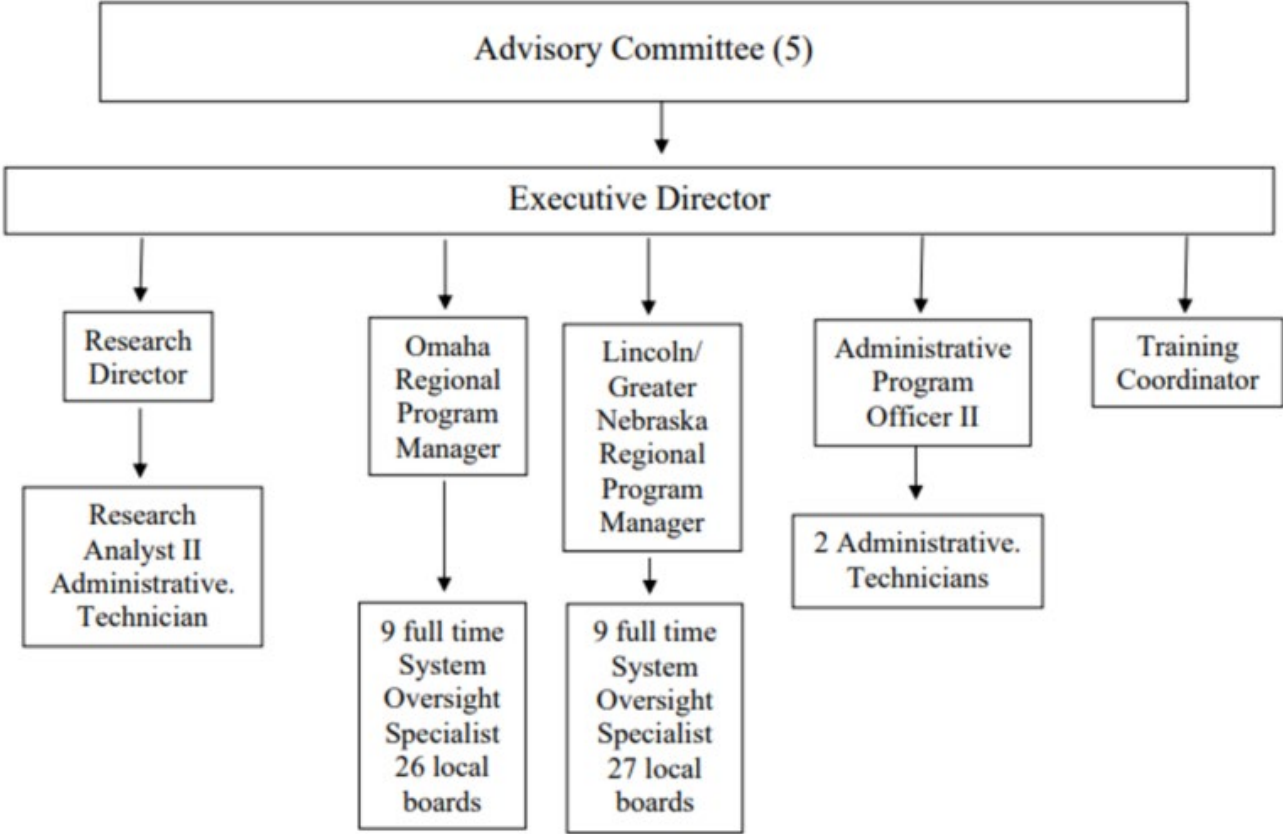
**Vision:** Every child involved in the child welfare or juvenile justice system becomes resilient, safe, healthy, and economically secure.

# Statutory Duties of FCRO

Purpose of FCRO (Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-1302)

- To provide information and direct reporting to the courts, DHHS, and the Legislature regarding Nebraska Foster Care system
- To provide oversight of the foster care system
- To make recommendations to the Legislature regarding foster care policy
- Title IV-E review process

# FCRO Agency Structure

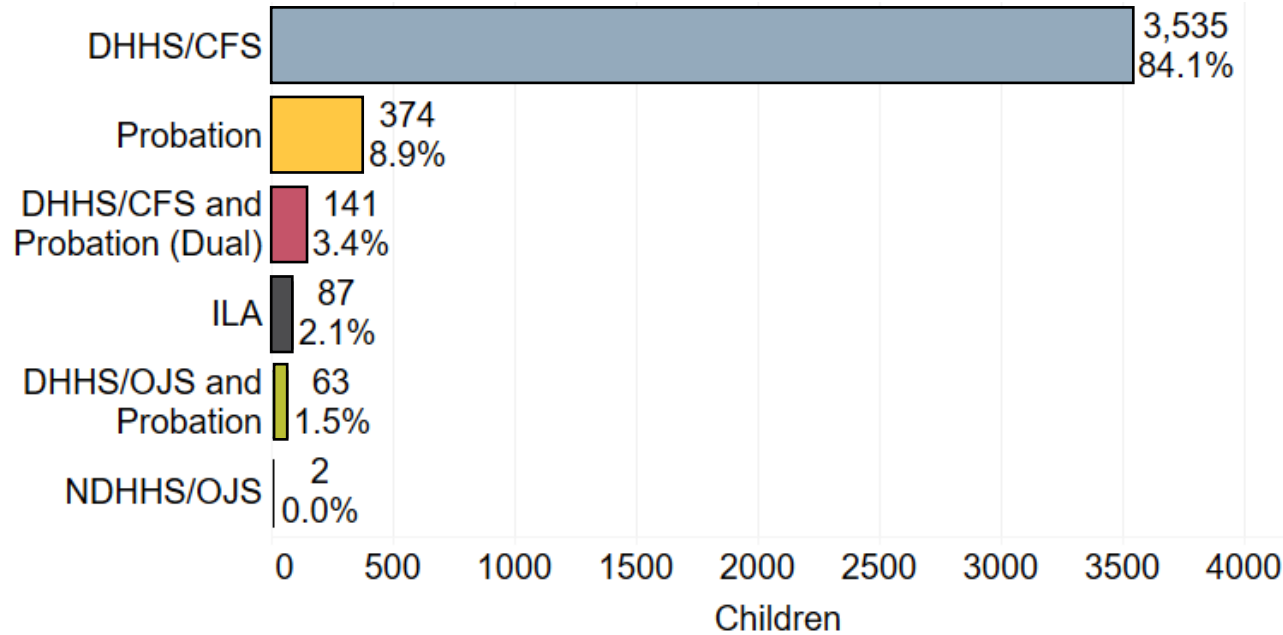


# FCRO Data Review and Reporting

- **The Nebraska Foster Care Review Office (FCRO) independently tracks children and youth in out-of-home care, reviews their cases, collects and analyzes data related to the children and youth, and reports on these findings.**
- We value opportunities to share this data with communities and system partners across Nebraska.

4,202

All Court-Involved Children in Out-of-Home Care or Trial Home Visit by Agency Involved on 6/30/21 (Including Informal Living Arrangements)

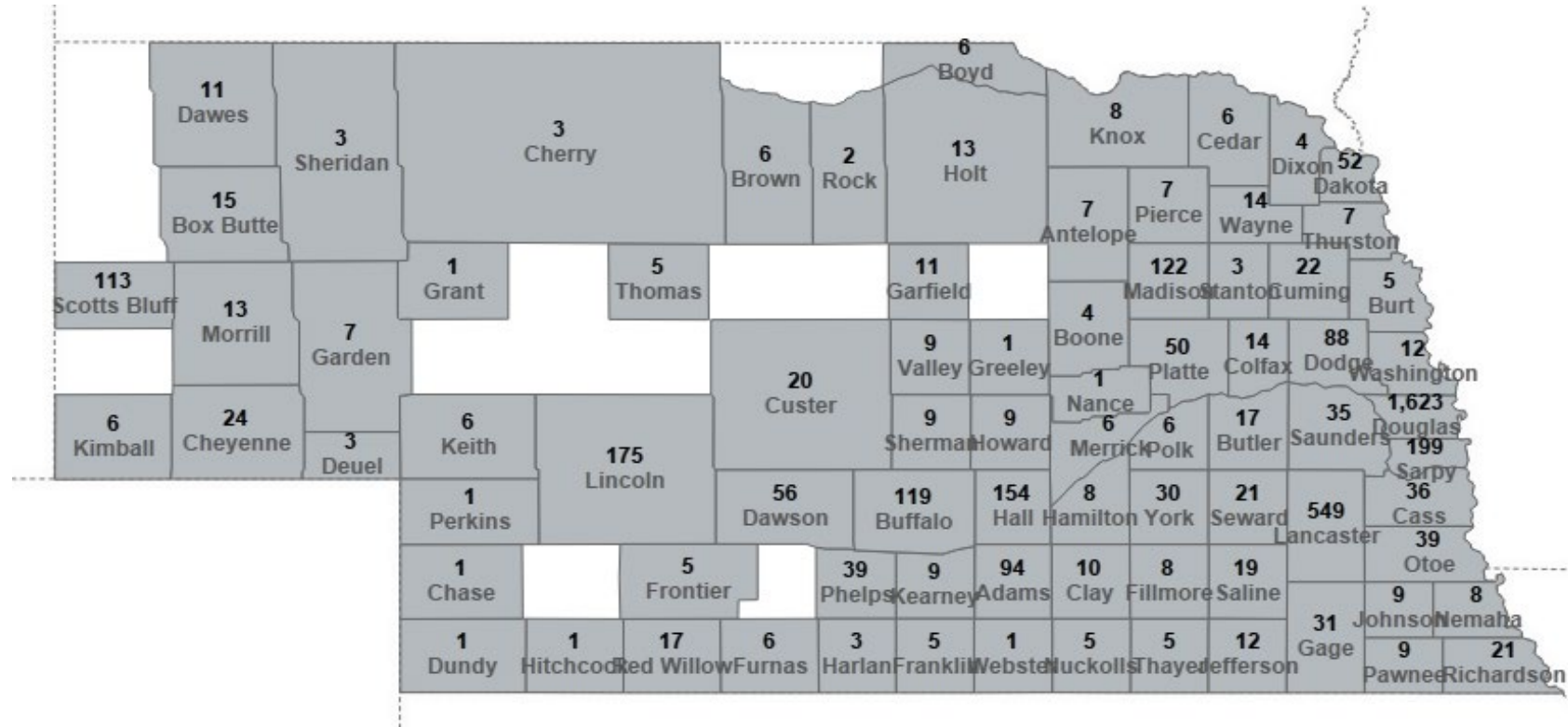


Over the course of a year, a child may enter or exit out-of-home care one or more times and may be involved with one or more state agencies. Additionally, children may be involved in voluntary placements, court-ordered placements, or both throughout a year.

During FY2020-21, there was a total of 6,792 Nebraska children were in out-of-home care or trial home visit for at least one day and tracked by the FCRO.

4,115\*

Number of Nebraska children in out-of-home or trial home visit placements under DHHS/CFS, DHHS/OJS, and/or the Office of Juvenile Probation on 6/30/21

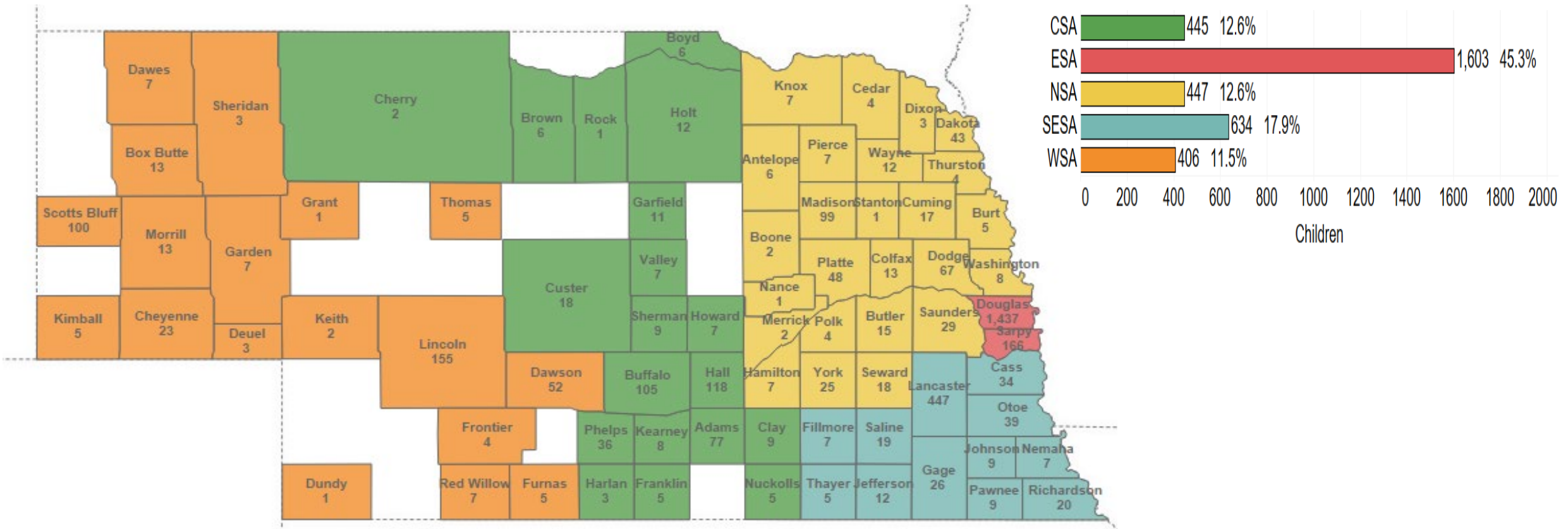


The 4,115 shown above is a 4.1% increase compared to 6/30/2020 when 3,953 court-involved children were in out-of-home care.

\*Excludes Informal Living Arrangements (ILAs)

3,535

DHHS/CFS Wards in Out-of-Home or Trial Home Visit Placement on 6/30/21

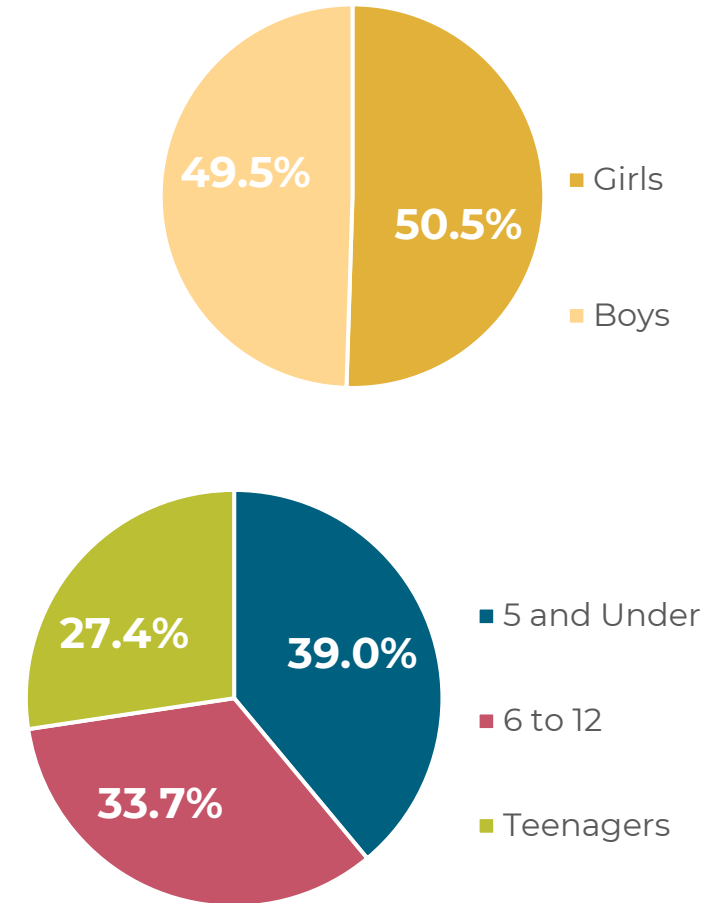
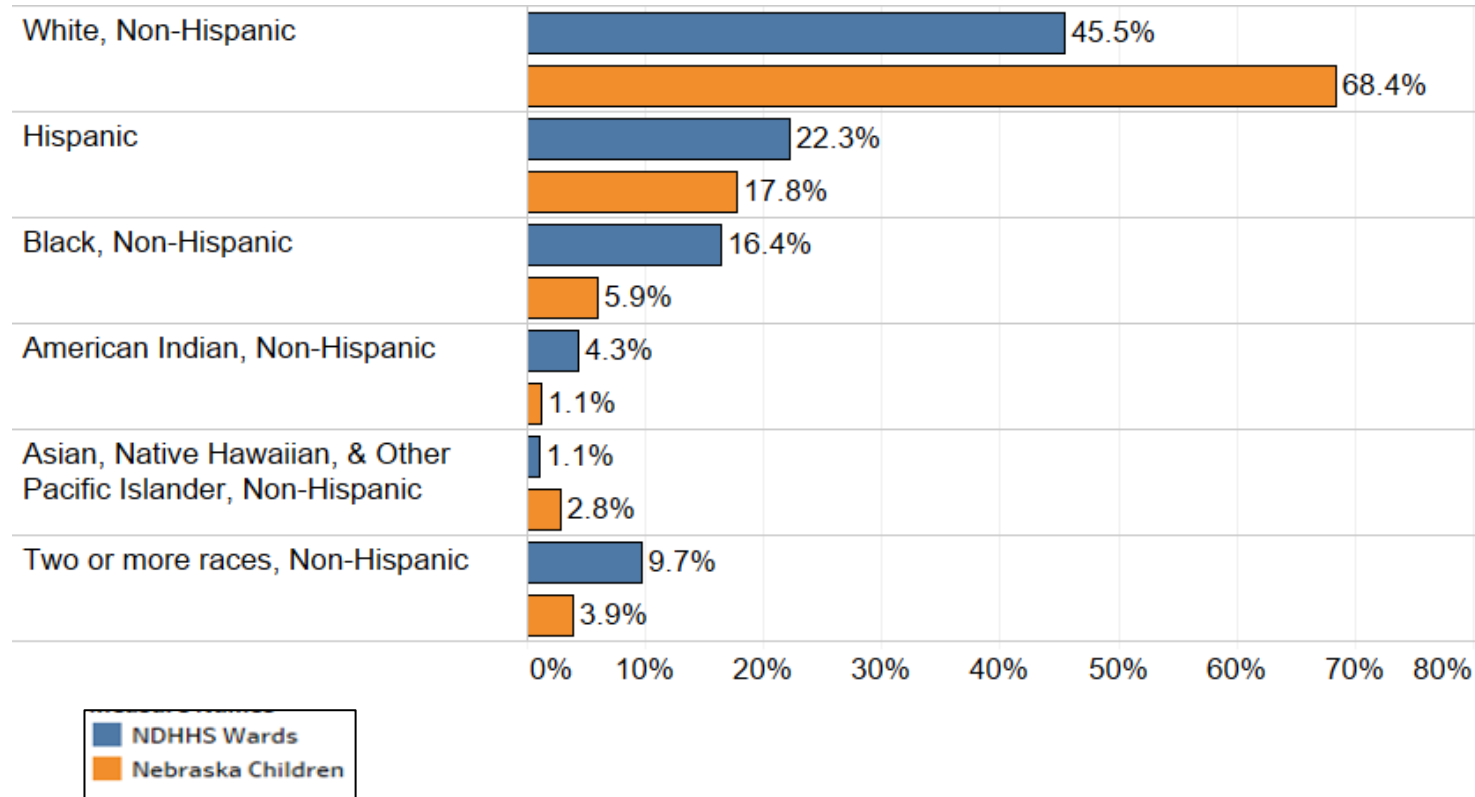


Most of the children solely involved with DHHS/CFS are from the larger urban areas located in the Eastern and Southeast service areas. Counties with the most children in care included Douglas (1,437), Lancaster (447), and Sarpy (166).



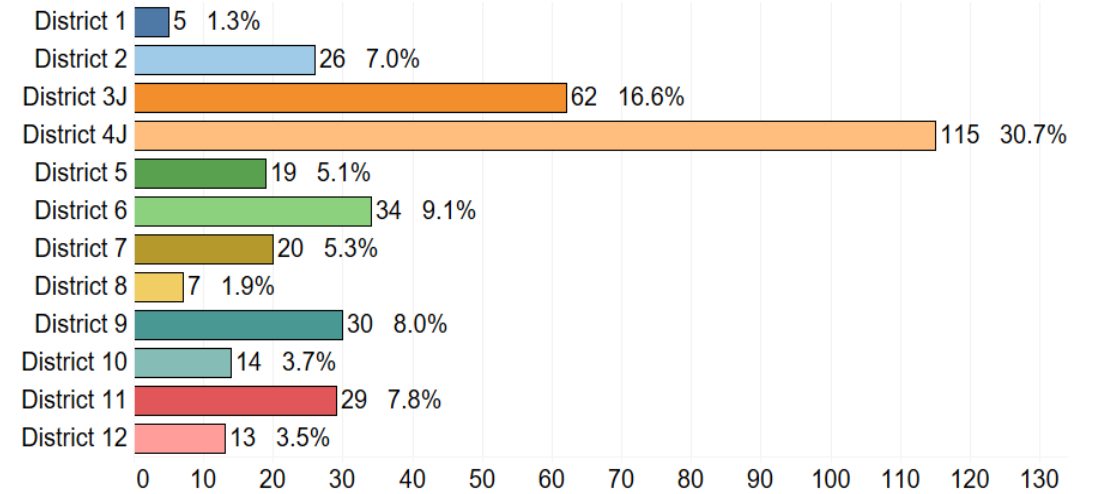
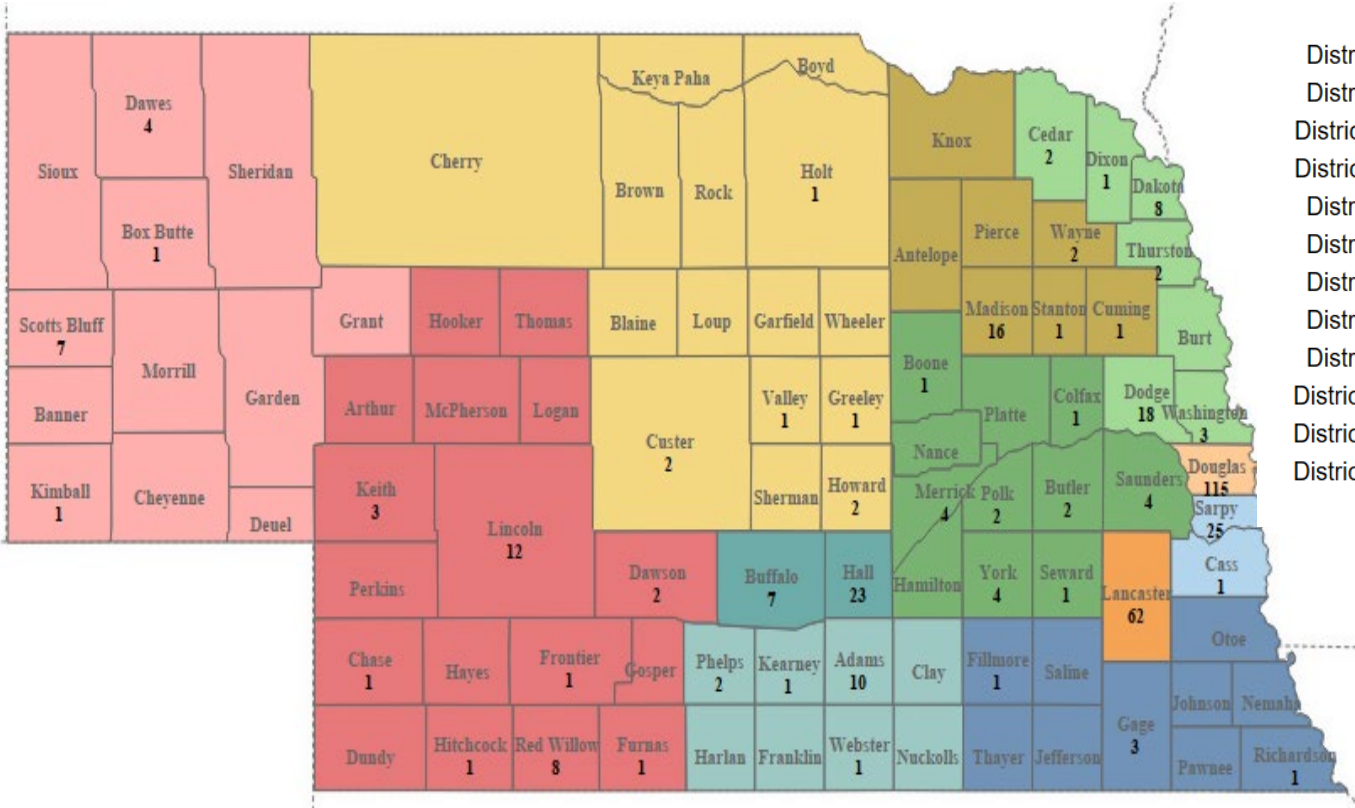
3,535

## Race and Ethnicity of NDHHS Wards in Out-of-Home Care and Trial Home Visit on 6/30/2021 Compared to Census



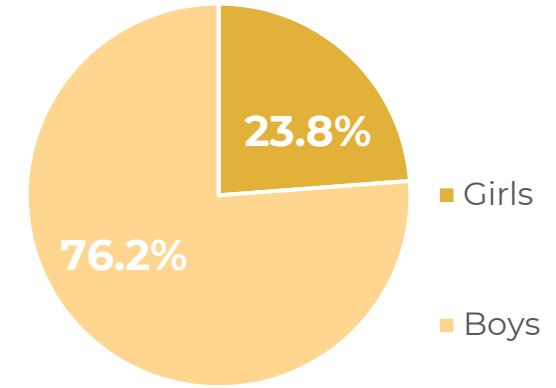
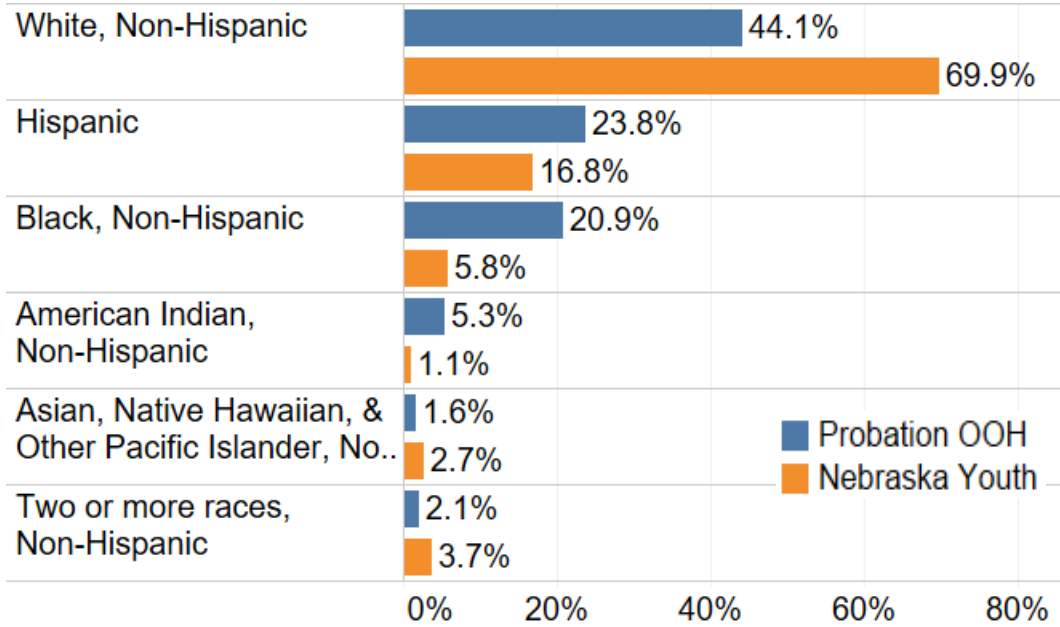
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Probation Supervised Youth in Out-of-Home Placement on 6/30/21

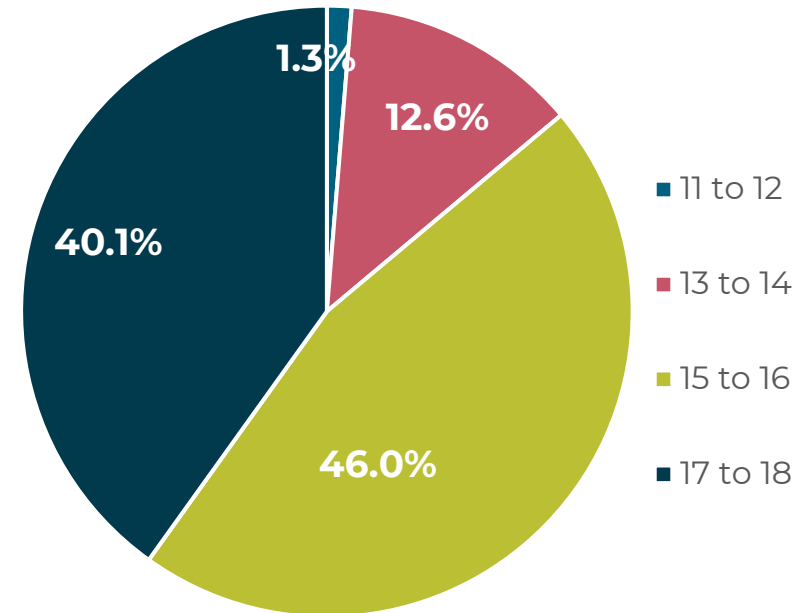


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Probation Supervised Youth in Out-of-Home Placement on 6/30/21

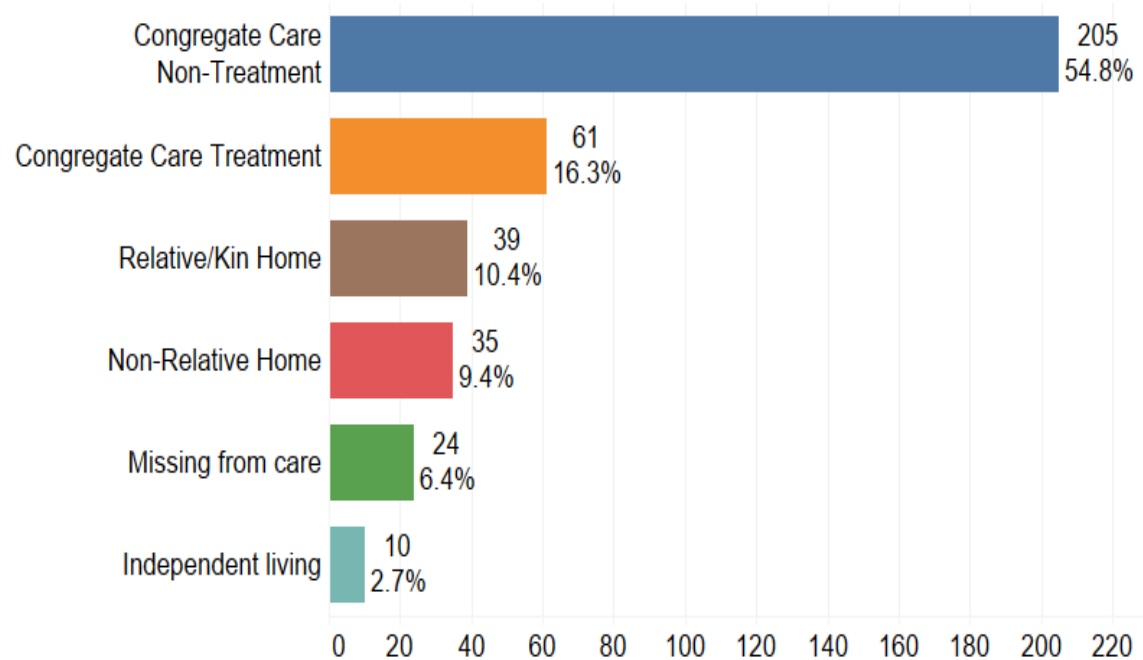


Offense Type	Boys with Active	Girls with Active
Non-violent misdemeanor	55.6%	65.9%
Non-violent felonies	16.5%	7.3%
Violent misdemeanor	34.6%	22.0%
Violent felonies	20.3%	12.2%

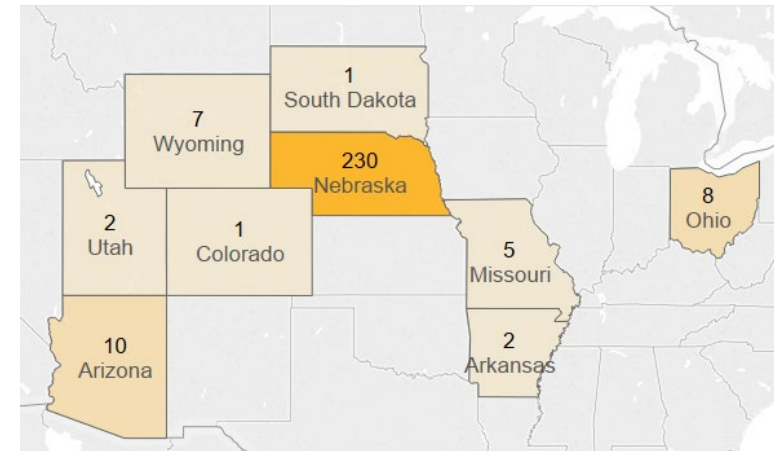


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## Probation Supervised Youth in Out-of-Home Placement on 6/30/21



## Probation Supervised Youth in Congregate Care on 6/30/2021 by State of Placement (n=266)

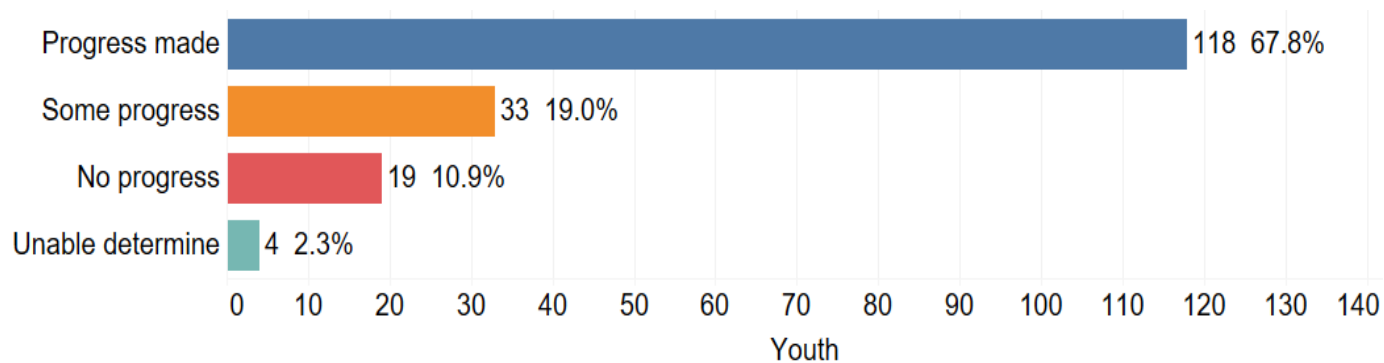


- In 90.8% of FY2020-21 reviews, the placement was evaluated as safe, down from 98.2% in the previous fiscal year.
- In 85.1% of reviews, the board found the placement to be appropriate.

## Plan Objectives:

- return to parent/guardian (56.3%)
- permanent placement with relative (5.7%)
- independent living (6.9%), other (12.6%)
- unable to determine (18.4%)

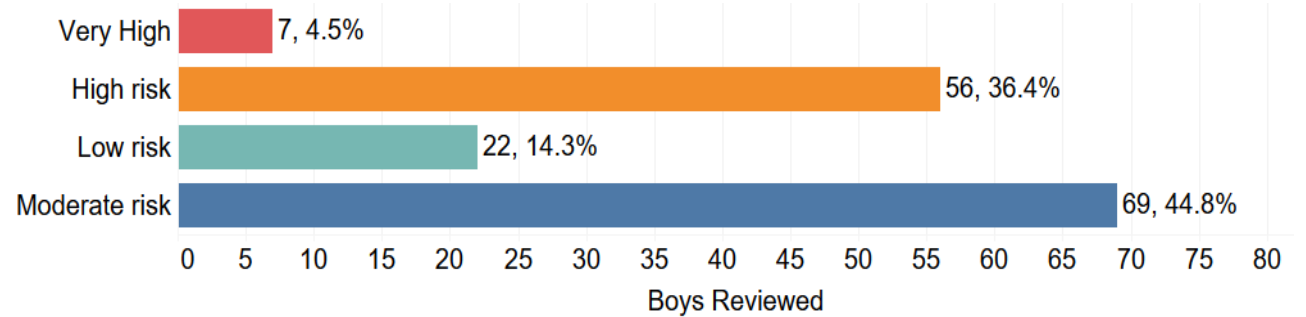
Progress toward Successful Completion of Probation at Time of Review for Probation Supervised Youth Reviewed FY2020-21 (n=174)



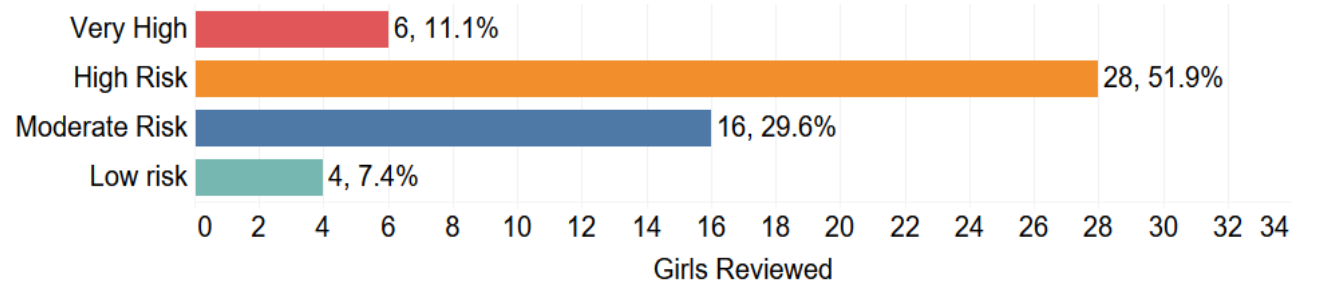
- 19.5% of the girls and 9.8% of the boys were not having contact with their mothers at time of review; 46.3% of the girls and 25.6% of the boys were not having contact with their fathers.

- In the majority of cases (70.7%) all needed services are offered.
- An additional 14.4% had some services offered.
- In 91.4% of the cases reviewed, there was a recognized need to continue out-of-home placement.
- In 93.1% of reviewed cases, the board found that Probation supervision needed to continue.

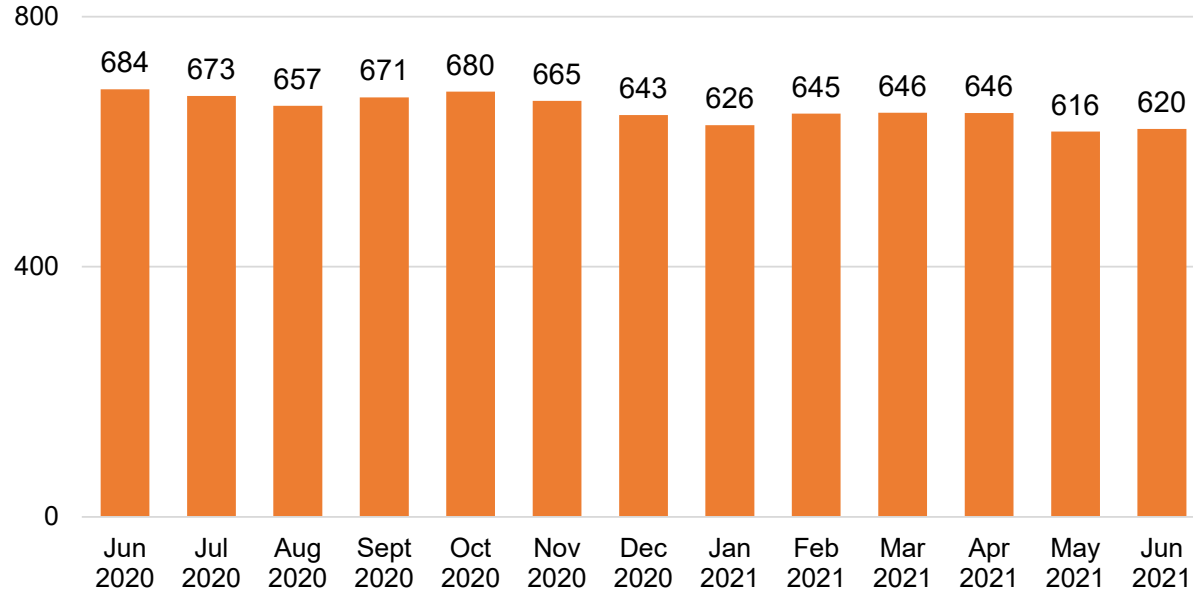
### Most Recent YLS Score Category for Probation Supervised Boys Reviewed FY2020-21 (n=154)



### Most Recent YLS Score Category for Probation Supervised Girls Reviewed FY2020-21 (n=54)

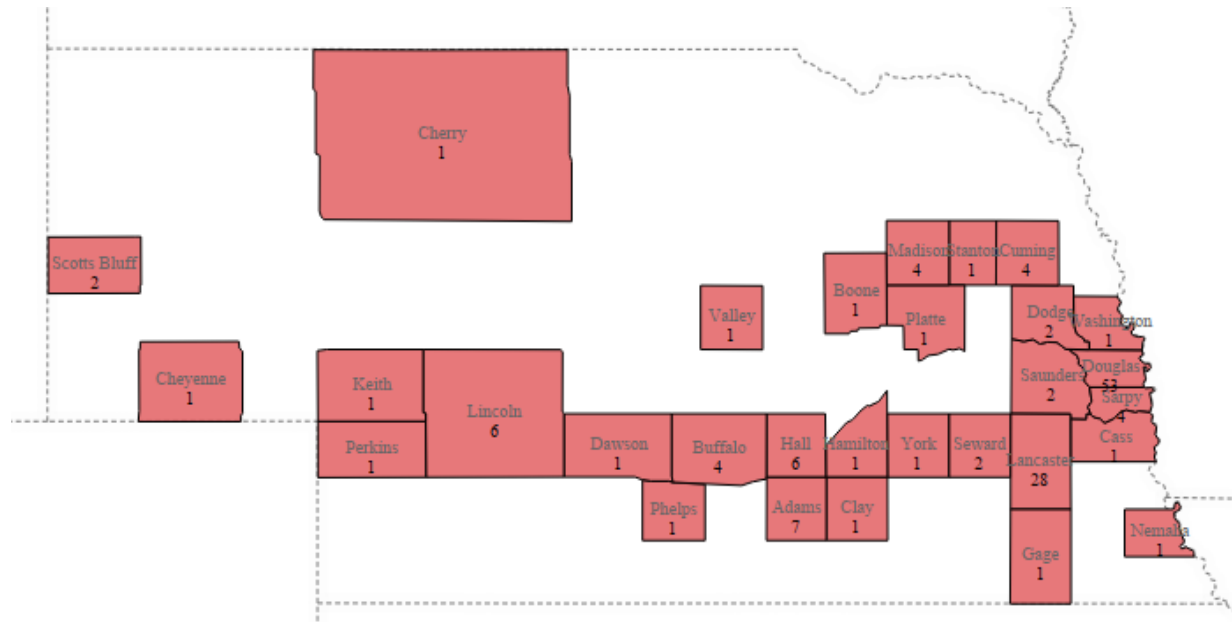


Average Daily Population of Probation Supervised Youth in Out-of-Home Care, June 2020-June 2021



Average Daily Population of Probation Supervised Youth in Out-of-Home Care by Probation District, June 2020-June 2021

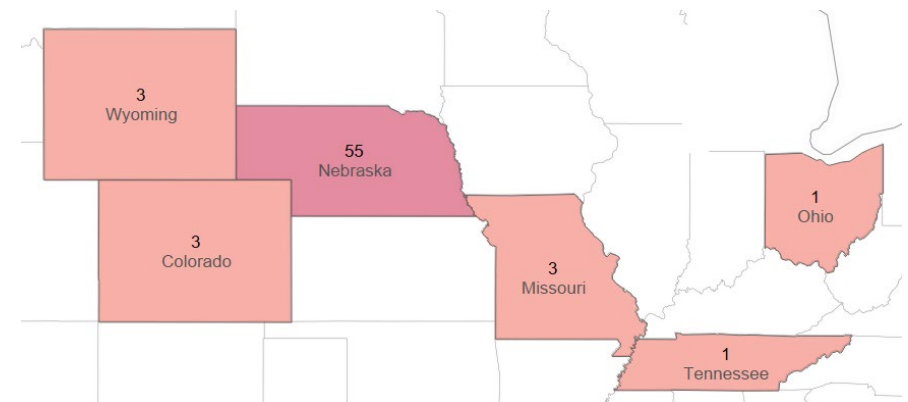
	June 2020	Youth Out-of-Home	June 2021
District 1	15		9, -41.2%
District 2	37		41, 10.8%
District 3J	139		114, -18.3%
District 4J	239		200, -16.6%
District 5	26		31, 17.0%
District 6	48		40, -16.8%
District 7	30		33, 11.0%
District 8	5		9, 100.0%
District 9	62		53, -14.9%
District 10	23		23, 3.1%
District 11	37		43, 14.9%
District 12	24		26, 10.4%
Nebraska	684		620, -9.3%



### Placement Types. On June 30, 2021:

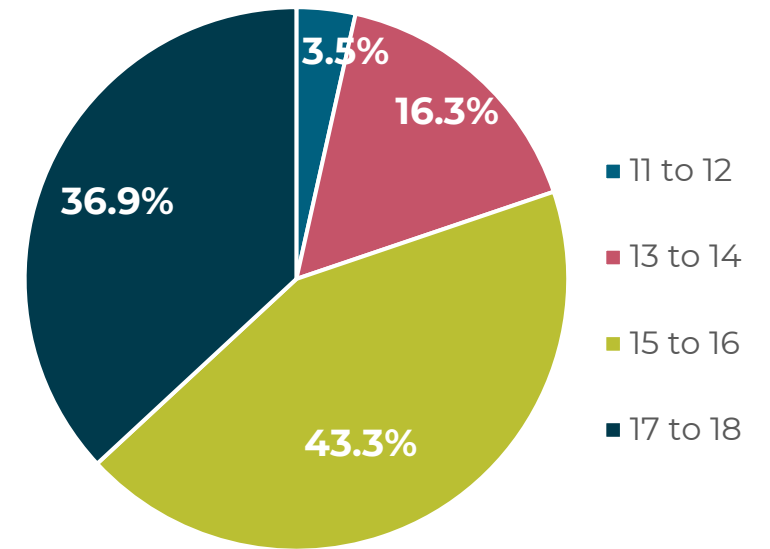
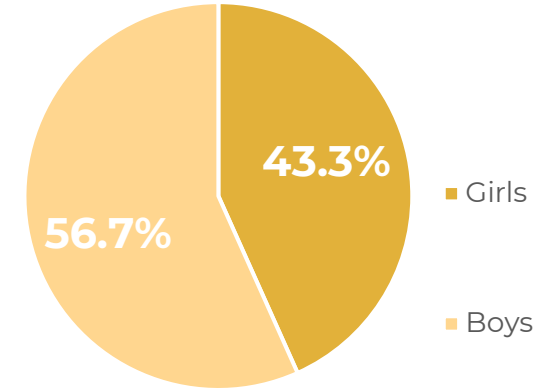
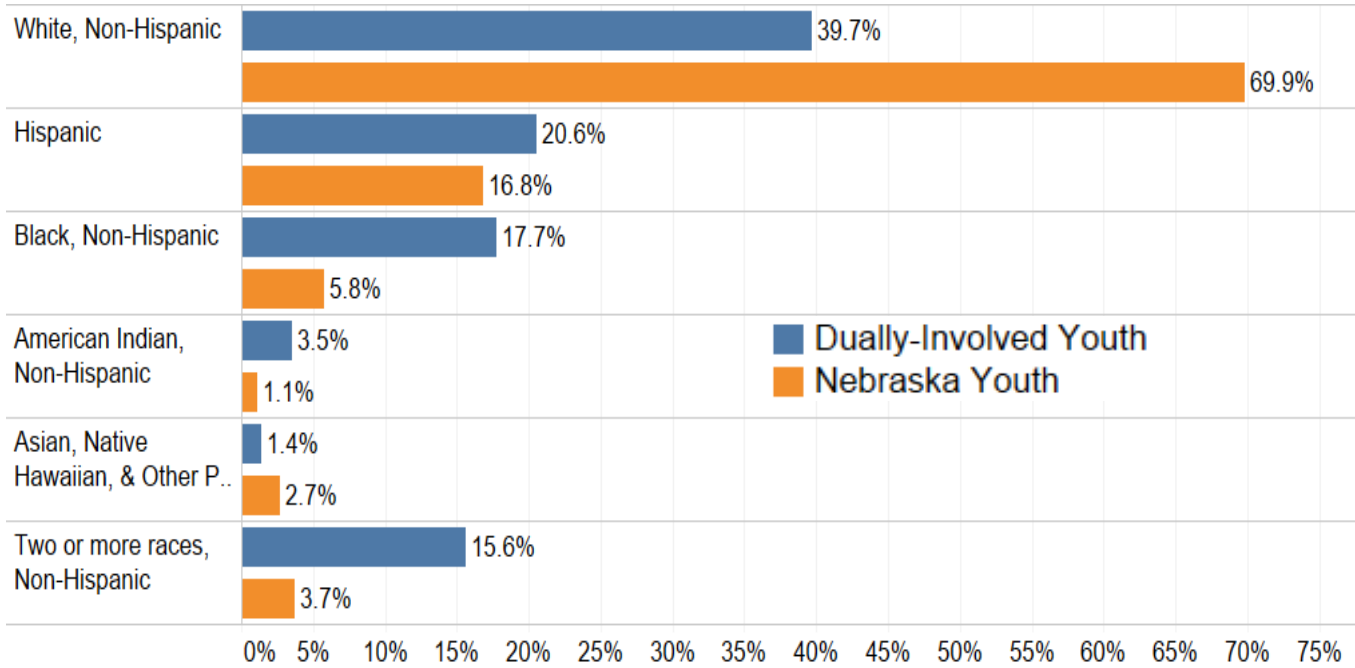
- 33.3% were in non-treatment congregative care.
- 24.1% were in non-relative foster homes.
- 14.2% were in treatment congregative care.
- 10.6% were in a relative home.
- 8.5% were in a kinship home.
- 7.8% were missing from care.
- 0.7% were in independent living.
- 0.7% were in a trial home visit.

### Placement State for Dually-Involved Youth in Congregative Care on 6/30/2021 (n=66)



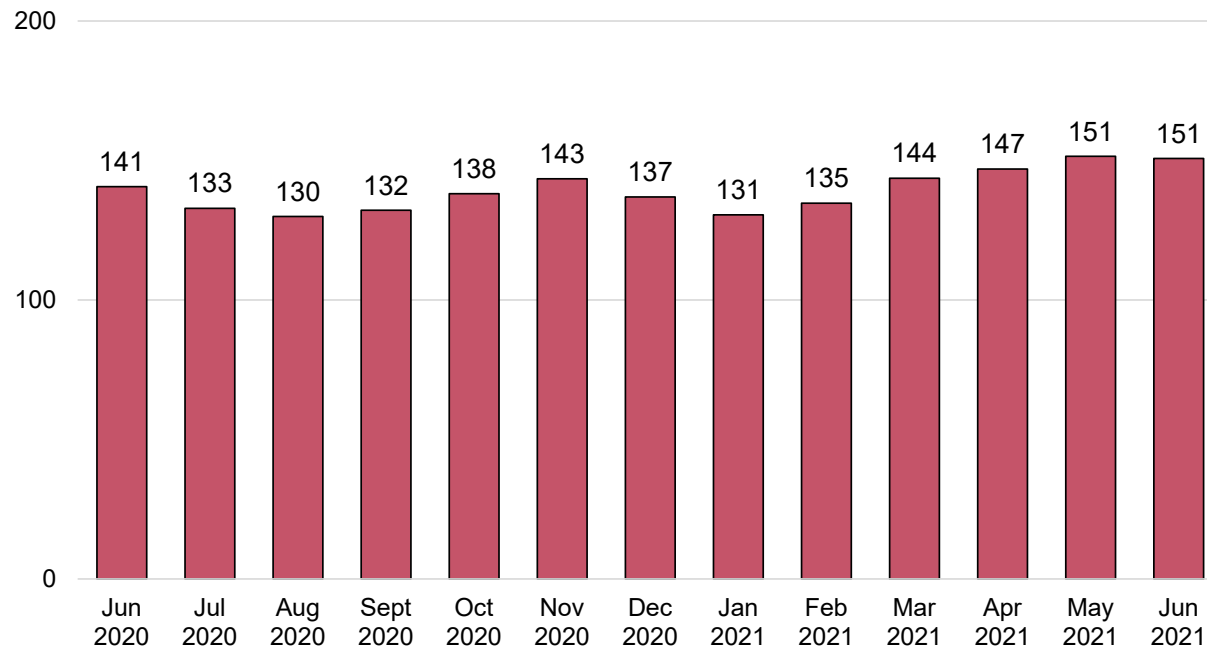


Dually-Involved Youth in Out-of-Home Placement on 6/30/21

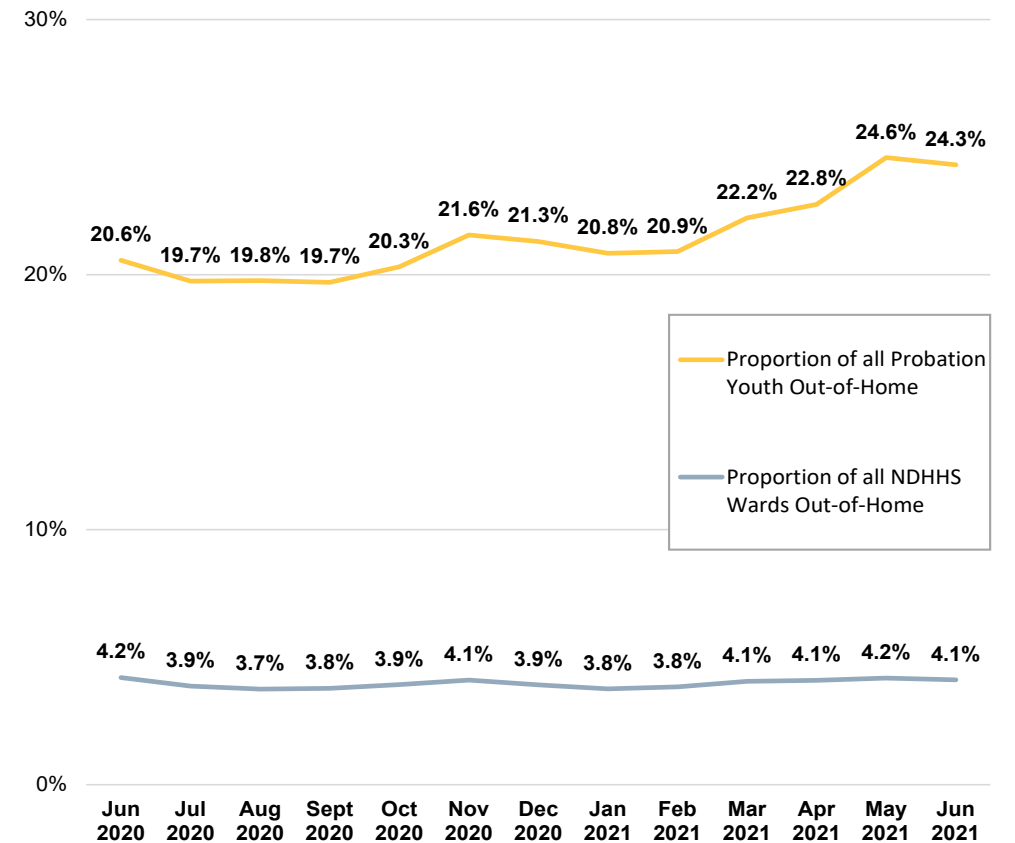


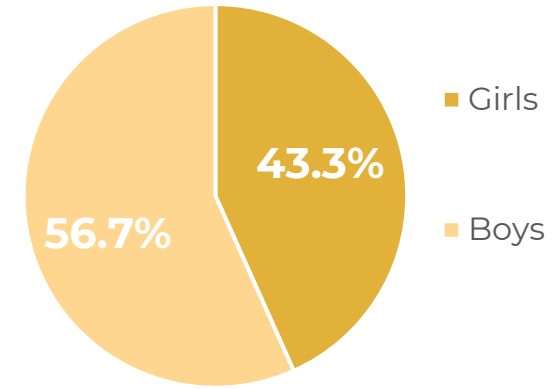
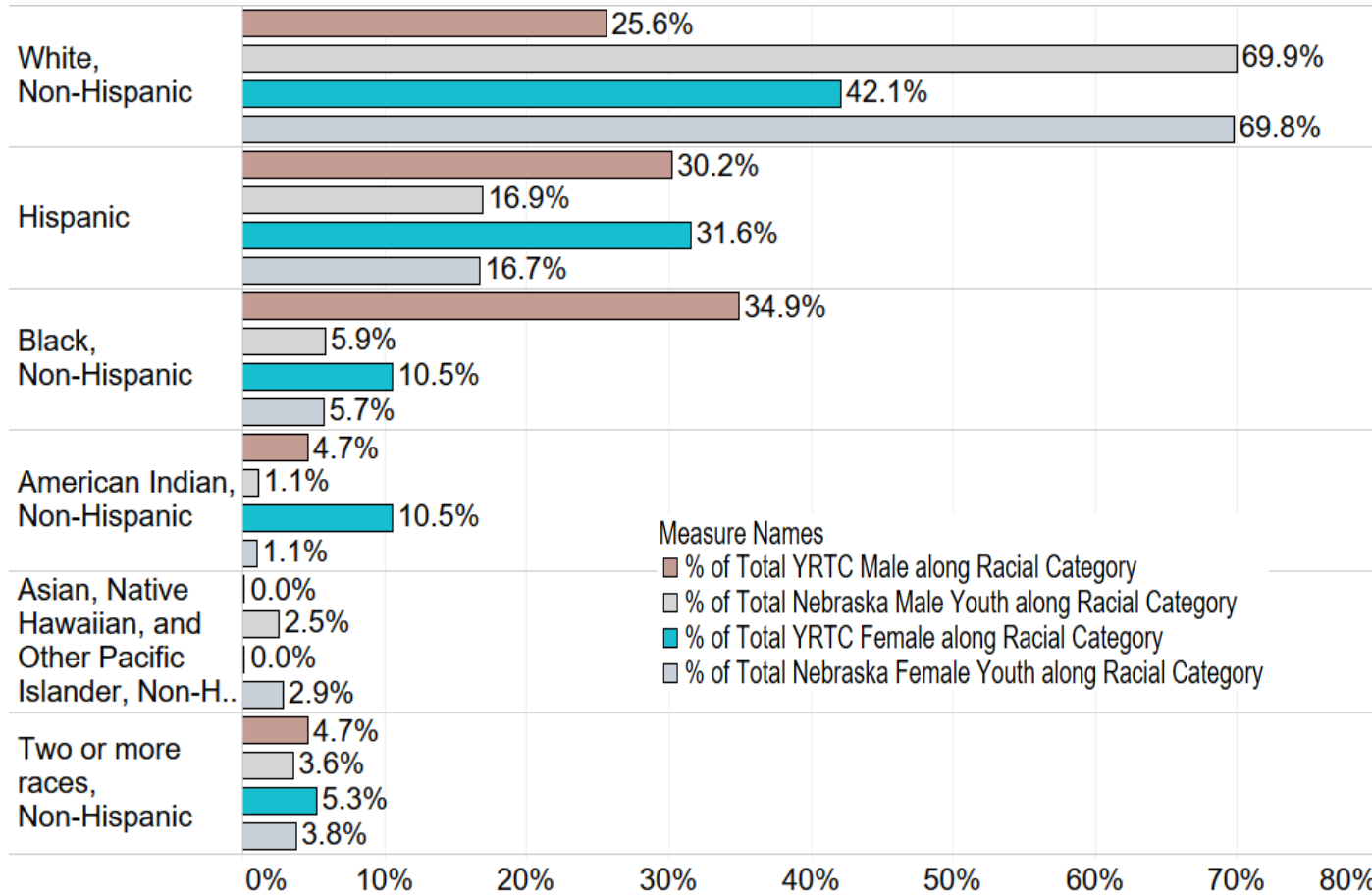
Measure	Child Welfare Only (ages 13-18)	Dually-involved	Probation Only
Mental health diagnosis	75.8%	89.3%	94.3%
Prescribed psychotropics	42.9%	53.4%	45.7%
Substance use diagnosis	12.1%	34.8%	51.7%
Academic performance on track for all core classes	45.9%	25.9%	80.6%

## Average Daily Population of Dually-Involved Youth, June 2020 to June 2021

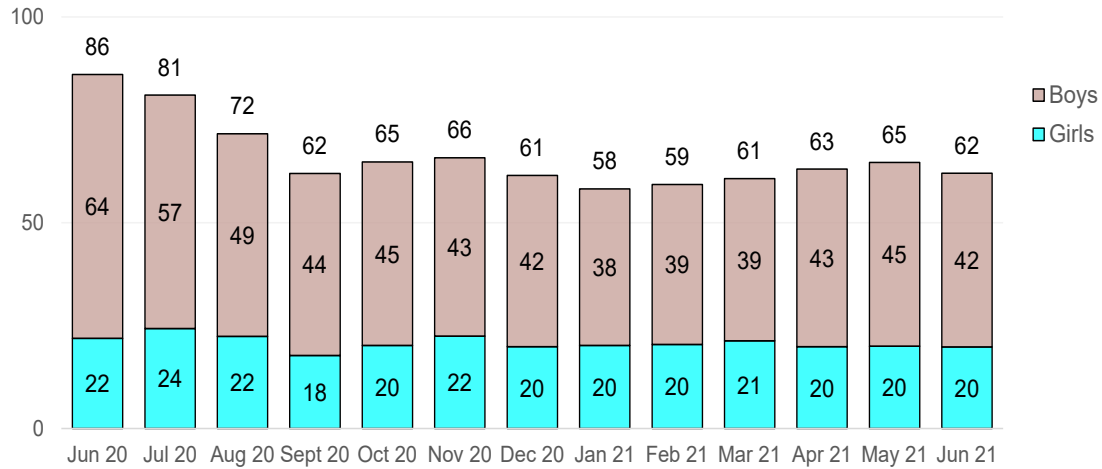


## Dually-Involved Youth as Proportion of NDHHS Wards and Probation Supervised Youth, June 2020 to June 2021



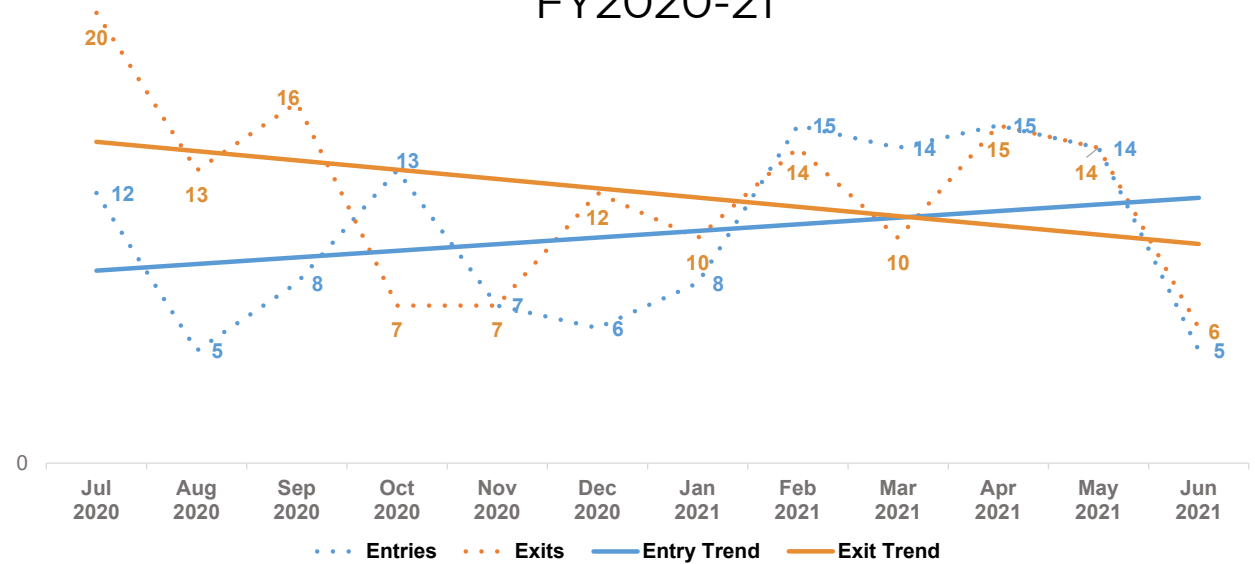


# Average Daily Population of Youth Placed at a YRTC, June 2020 to June 2021

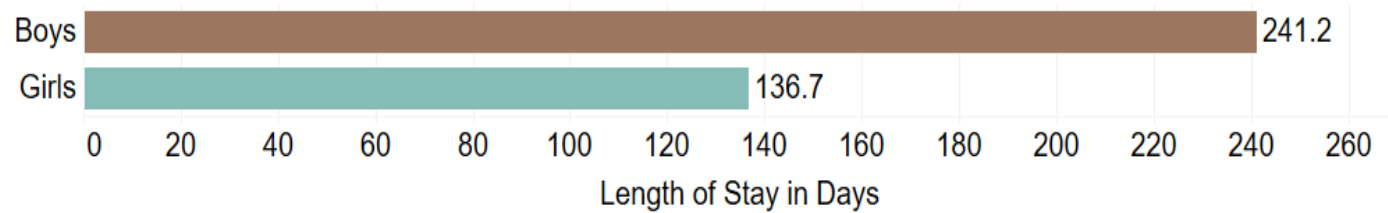


	June 2020	June 2021	% Change
<b>Girls</b>	22	20	-9.6%
<b>Boys</b>	64	42	-34.1%
<b>State</b>	86	62	-27.9%

## Exits and Entries of Youth at a YRTC, FY2020-21



## Average Lifetime Days at YRTC by Gender for Youth who Exited Care During FY2020-21



Offense	Boys	Girls
Non-violent misdemeanor	81.0%	92.3%
Non-violent felony	52.4%	23.1%
Violent misdemeanor	61.9%	23.1%
Violent felony	19.0%	15.4%

Measure	Boys	Girls
Mental health diagnosis	100.0%	100.0%
Prescribed psychotropics	47.6%	76.9%
Substance use diagnosis	76.2%	61.5%
Behavioral concerns impacting learning	40.0%	66.7%
Academic performance on track for all core classes	75.0%	66.7%

# Recommendations to Probation

1. Explore ways to support parents and families of youth involved with Probation.
2. Use transition plans as guides for readying youth in juvenile justice to their communities.
3. Better engage parents. Having a relevant transition plan can help with that goal.
4. Create concrete steps when parents' issues prevent a youth in juvenile justice from returning home.

# Recommendations to Multiple Agencies

1. All the major agencies/stakeholders involved in the lives of children in out-of-home care and their families collaborate on means to improve overall and specific educational outcomes. Specifically, the FCRO, DHHS/CFS, Probation, the Department of Education, and representatives of the Courts need to meet regularly to create, implement, and monitor action plans for improvements.
2. DHHS/CFS and Probation must collaborate with the FCRO to determine why so many case file records are missing documentation on academic progress and work to correct the issue.
3. DHHS, Probation, and system partners need to explore ways in which the needs of LGBTQIA youth can be met and these youth can be supported.
4. All agencies need to use the crisis caused by COVID-19 to identify opportunities to make system improvements based on lessons learned.

## Contact:

Monika E. Gross, JD

Executive Director

[monika.gross@nebraska.gov](mailto:monika.gross@nebraska.gov)

402-310-9618

Heather Wood, MS

Research Director

[heather.wood@nebraska.gov](mailto:heather.wood@nebraska.gov)

402-937-2923



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