

## About IARCA

IARCA's 82 member agencies are serving about 3900 children every day in foster homes, group homes, and residential treatment facilities. An additional 7000 children are being served in their families' homes. Of the 4,374 children discharged from services in 2014, almost 78% had a positive educational outcome and 63% achieved their required permanency plan. At 6 months follow-up, 98% of children had not suffered new abuse or neglect; and 82% had not been involved with the courts for new offenses.

### Growth in the number of Children in Need of Services (CHINS) and where they are placed:

	Monthly Average # CHINS	CHINS in Home	CHINS placed out of home	CHINS with Relatives	CHINS in Foster Family Homes	CHINS in Residential Care	Informal Adjustments (in home)
SFY 2016*	19,596	5,709	13,887	6,706	6,042	893	2,647
SFY 2015	16,934	4,947	11,986	5,471	5,508	796	2,410
SFY 2014	13,999	4,049	9,950	4,267	4,799	673	1,846
SFY 2013	13,074	3,999	9,076	3,637	4,559	712	1,850
SFY 2012	13,000	3,905	9,094	3,521	4,650	732	1,863
SFY 2011	14,306	4,167	10,139	3,625	5,284	1,012	1,792

\*July-December 2015 numbers, DCS Practice Indicator Reports

### IARCA's Values

We believe in the inherent worth and potential of children and families. | We believe in a safe and nurturing environment for children and families. | We believe that quality leadership by children and family service agencies is essential in a society that needs to be sensitive to children and families. | We believe in a full spectrum of quality treatment services for children and families, including prevention, early intervention, out-of-home care, and aftercare. | We believe in working collectively and collaboratively both inside and outside the Association and in the value of cultural and philosophical diversity. | We believe in adequate resources as a public priority and in the value of the public/private partnership to meet the needs of children and families.

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INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES  
AND CHILD ADVOCACY



Thank You for Caring!



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Indiana faces 40% growth over the past two years in the number of children who need protection from abuse or neglect. (refer to back page) The Family & Children Fund is appropriated by the General Assembly to the Department of Child Services (DCS) for the daily care, supervision, and treatment of children in the DCS system and for children from the county probation system. The Family & Children Fund also pays for services to families to protect the child's safety and improve family functioning in the home and to reunify families whose children were removed.

### **SFY 2016 monthly average number of CHINS, July – December 2015<sup>1</sup> :**

- 19,596 Children in Need of Services
  - 5,709 in their own home
  - 13,887 in out-of-home care
- 2,647 children with Informal Adjustment Agreements are in their own homes
- Average number of placements in out-of-home care per child = 2.1<sup>2</sup>
- Average length of stay = 491 days (average), 318 (median)
- % of children placed in the same county as their family's home = 67.2%
- Siblings placed together = 72.3% (average of 2.69 children/case)
- Absence of repeat maltreatment (no recurrence of abuse or neglect within 6 months) = 93.41%

### **Agencies which contract with DCS to provide foster family care, residential treatment, and home-based services face the following challenges:**

- There is a need for more foster families for children of all ages.
- There is a shortage of emergency shelter beds for youth in Central Indiana.
- There is a shortage of residential treatment program capacity for the highest needs children.
- Rural areas face a shortage of home-based services providers.
- Staff turnover is at 36% for those private agency staff members who are working most closely with the children and their families.
- Private agencies struggle to find qualified and licensed social workers, therapists, and counselors to work with these high-need children and their families.
- The Family & Children Fund, which pays for these services, has been a flat appropriation for several years.

### **Of the 5,584 children that IARCA member agencies assessed at intake, the following risk factors applied:**

- Children had an average of 4.4 risk factors each.
- 48.1% had a parent with confirmed substance abuse.
- 38.5% had a parent with a history of incarceration.
- 31.0% witnessed domestic violence.

These risk factors are additional to child neglect (45.2%), child physical abuse (21%), and child sexual abuse (15.3%) that children suffered.<sup>3</sup>

### **IARCA thanks the members of the Indiana General Assembly for better protecting and caring for Indiana's most vulnerable children through your actions over the past several sessions that:**

- Funded the State Adoption Assistance program which helps families to adopt Indiana's special needs children who are in the foster care system.
- Supported the development of the Children's Mental Health Initiative which helps families voluntarily get mental health treatment for their emotionally disturbed children without requiring court intervention.
- Provided funding for additional DCS Family Case Managers to address the growing number of Children in Need of Services (CHINS).
- Established the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana to address the needs of children affected by a variety of social concerns, including substance abuse, teen suicide, trafficking of youth, and infant mortality.
- Enacted legislation that permitted the juvenile court, probation offices, and DCS to consider the appropriate services for youth who are dually involved as CHINS and delinquents.

## **WE ASK THAT YOU:**

**Learn** more about the role of providers in taking care of the daily needs of children, providing treatment to the children and their families, finding and preparing foster and adoptive families, and providing services in the homes of abused/neglected children to enable them to safely remain in the home.

**Respond** to the increasing number of children coming into the child services system and the increasing acuity of children's needs, by supporting any call from DCS for funding augmentation to the Family & Children's Fund, so that providers can deliver appropriate services to those vulnerable children and their families without delays.

As a member of the Indiana General Assembly, **you are** an essential partner in **parenting** Indiana's **19,596** abused and neglected children.

For the 13,887 children in foster and residential care in Indiana, the State of Indiana serves as their parent. As a partner in parenting these children, **you must assure**, just as you would for your own children,

that **they have food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, medical care, educational opportunities**, and

the most appropriate services that meet their special needs.

<sup>1</sup> Department of Child Services (DCS) Practice Indicator Reports, July-December 2015

<sup>2</sup> DCS Indicator Reports, December 2015

<sup>3</sup> S.M. Koch and J.R. Wall. The IARCA Outcome Measures Project Annual Report for Calendar Year 2014