

About IARCA

IARCA's 90 member agencies are serving about 4500 children every day in foster homes, group homes, and residential treatment facilities. An additional 7700 children are being served in their families' homes. Of the 5,573 children discharged from services in 2016, almost 78% had a positive educational outcome and 61% achieved their required permanency plan. At 6 months follow-up, 98% of children had not suffered new abuse or neglect; and 85% 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 2017*	23,208	6,718	16,490	8,258	6,959	987	4,065
SFY 2016	20,152	5,824	14,328	6,955	6,210	912	2,742
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

*DCS Practice Indicator Reports

Child Welfare Statistics – DCS Practice Indicator Report, November 2017

- Average number of placements per child = 2.0
- Average length of stay = 513.4 days; median is 378 days.
- Siblings placed together = 70% (2.68 children/case)
- % of children placed in same County as their family's home = 65.5%
- Absence of repeat abuse/neglect in prior 6 months = 93%
- # of children adopted through DCS in SFY 2017 = 1,812

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.



Thank You for Caring!

Indiana's number of Children in Need of Services (CHINS) grew by 66% between SFY 2014 and SFY 2017, with an additional 9,209 children receiving services through the Department of Child Services (DCS), under the supervision of the juvenile court. The average number of CHINS was 23,208/month in SFY 2017, and an additional 4,065 children were served through informal adjustment agreements with their parents. These 27,273 children rely on DCS, with support from legislators and the general public, to ensure their safety and well-being.

The DCS Family & Children Fund is appropriated by the General Assembly for the daily care, supervision, and treatment of children in the DCS system and for juveniles 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.

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, abilities, and cultures.
- There is a need for assistance with child care costs for foster parents of infants and young children, as 57% of the children needing out-of-home placement are age four and under. The foster parent per diem rate does not cover the costs of child care, and the waiting list for CCDF vouchers is about 14,000 children.
- There is a shortage of emergency shelter beds for youth.
- There is a shortage of residential treatment program capacity for the highest needs children.
- There is a shortage of 10-bed group homes for children who have completed residential treatment and need a step-down level of care.
- Rural areas face a shortage of home-based services providers.
- Staff turnover is at 48% for direct care staff and 24% for private agency case managers 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.

Of the 6,384 children that IARCA member agencies assessed for services at intake, the following risk factors were found:

- Children had an average of 4.2 risk factors each.
- 50% had a parent with confirmed substance abuse.
- 38% had a parent with a history of incarceration.
- 31% witnessed domestic violence.
- 21% had a parent with a psychiatric diagnosis.

These risk factors are additional to child neglect (50%), child physical abuse (21%), and child sexual abuse (13%) that children suffered.¹

IARCA thanks the members of the 2017 General Assembly for better protecting and caring for Indiana's most vulnerable children through your actions that:

- Funded the Family and Children Fund with an additional \$29 million for SFY 2018 and \$49 million for SFY 2019 and continued the ability to augment the Fund as needed.
- Provided funding for additional DCS Family Case Managers to address the growing number of Children in Need of Services (CHINS).
- Enacted SEA 366 that assists foster youth ages 16-18 in obtaining a driver's license.
- Enacted SEA 497 that provides for continuous coverage under Medicaid for foster youth up to age 26.

IN 2018, WE ASK THAT YOU:

- Support SB 184 to permit foster families to have a total of six children in their home.
- Continue to spread the word that more foster and adoptive parents are needed and provide support to current foster parents.
- Support SB 224 to address barriers to professional licensing for staff of agencies working with abused and neglected children.
- Support HB 1314 regarding educational outcomes for children in foster care.
- 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 to increase safety for abused/neglected children in their own homes.
- Respond to the increasing number of children coming into the child services system and the increasing acuity of children's needs by supporting any necessary funding augmentation to the Family & Children's Fund.

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

For the 16,490 children in kinship, 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 are safe and have food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, medical care, educational opportunities**, and the most appropriate services that meet their special needs.

¹ S.M. Koch and J.R. Wall. The IARCA Outcome Measures Project Annual Report for Calendar Year 2016