

CASE PROGRESSION & COURT IMPROVEMENT DATA REPORT

2014 - 2015

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The Court Improvement Project produces annual data reports that include demographics, case progression, data on entry into foster care and permanency, and juvenile justice data. The following sources are referenced throughout the report, including full citation information for data that is publicly available.

- ¹United States Census Bureau. "State and County Estimates for 2013." 2014. Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. Accessed August 2015. http://www.census.gov/did/ www/saipe/data/statecounty/data/2013.html.
- ²Tonkinson, Chrissy. 2015. 2014 Kids Count in Nebraska Report. Voices for Children in Nebraska. Accessed August 2015. http://voicesforchildren.com/wp-content/ uploads/2011/07/2014-Kids-Count-Book-Final.pdf.
- ³ Fostering Court Improvement. 2015. Accessed August 2015. FosteringCourtImprove-
 - Fostering Court Improvement gathers data from Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) data
- ⁴ Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Data provided to Court Improvement Project August 2015.
- ⁵ JUSTICE. Child Welfare 3(a) Data. Data provided to Court Improvement Project
 - JUSTICE is the Nebraska Court's data management system.
- ⁶ JUSTICE. Juvenile Justice Data. Data provided to Court Improvement Project August 2015.

- ⁷The Nebraska Crime Commission. Youth in Diversion Data. Data provided to Court Improvement Project August 2015.
- ⁸ Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services: Division of Children & Family Services Office of Juvenile Justice. 2014. Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center-Geneva: SFY 2013/14 Annual Report. Accessed August 2015. http://dhhs.ne.gov/children-family-services/Documents/YRTC-GAnnualReport.pdf.
- Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services: Division of Children & Family Services Office of Juvenile Justice. 2014. Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center-Kearney: SFY 2013/14 Annual Report. Accessed August 2015. http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Documents/YRTC-KAnnualReport.pdf.
- ¹⁰ Nebraska Probation. Youths Placed on Probation/Completing Probation 2014 Data. Data provided to Court Improvement Project August 2015.
- Fisher, Darrell and Hoffman, Amy. March 2015. FY 2014 Annual Report to the Governor & Nebraska Legislature: Juvenile Diversion in Nebraska. Accessed August 2015. http://uniweb.legislature.ne.gov/FloorDocs/104/PDF/Agencies/Crime Commission/527 20150330-083533.pdf.

DEMOGRAPHICS^{1,2}

The Child Poverty Rate is from the 2013 Small Area Income and Poverty Data, U.S. Census Bureau and estimates the number of children under 17 living in poverty. Population 19 and Under and Population 19 and Under of Color are from the 2014 Kids Count Voices for Children Report. Information regarding the youth population in your area can be helpful to determine what resources may be needed. Children living in poverty are at a higher risk of maltreatment and offending and may need access to increased resources.



	STATE	TEAM
CHILD POVERTY RATE	17.1%	19.9%
POPULATION UNDER 19	27.7%	30.3%
UNDER 19 OF COLOR	28.3%	50.8%

Data Tips



The data in this report is meant to aid teams in prioritizing goals and projects and identifying problem areas. Data never tell the entire story of child welfare and juvenile justice cases, but can provide a starting point from which to investigate potential issues that need improvement. Your team can begin discussing why the data looks like it does and planning what can be done to improve your data. Teams can use case progression data to see how quickly cases are moving from each stage of the proceeding. If there is a hearing taking longer than your team would like, you can discuss reasons for this and what can be changed to address it. If your team has a high amount of missing data, your team may want to discuss why this is occurring and how your team can improve data entry and management.

STATE | TEAM



This section presents data on youth in the Nebraska Child Welfare System looking at three key populations of youth: annually reported and substantiated maltreatment, youth who entered foster care on an annual basis, and point-in-time data for all youth in foster care.

REPORTED AND SUBSTANTIATED CHILD MALTREATMENT

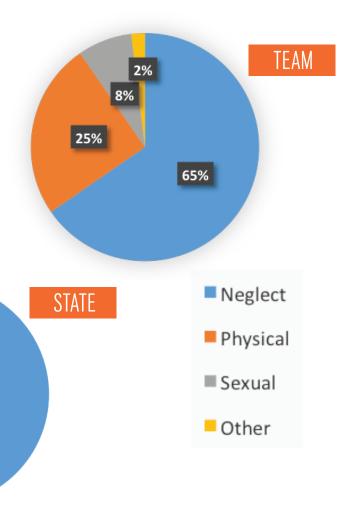
1%

85%

10%

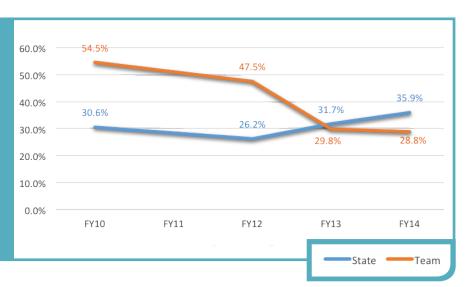
Types of Substantiated Maltreatment³

The state of Nebraska received 22,049 reports of maltreatment during October 2013 through September 2014. DHHS substantiated (found evidence of maltreatment) **2,985**, or **13.5**%, of those reports. For your team, DHHS substantiated **52** (**11.0**%) of **472** maltreatment reports. The graphs breakdown the type of maltreatment in substantiated reports.



VICTIMS REMOVED TO FOSTER CARE³

This graph charts the percent of children removed from the home after a substantiated report of maltreatment. For your team, the percent of children removed to foster care has **increased** over the last year.



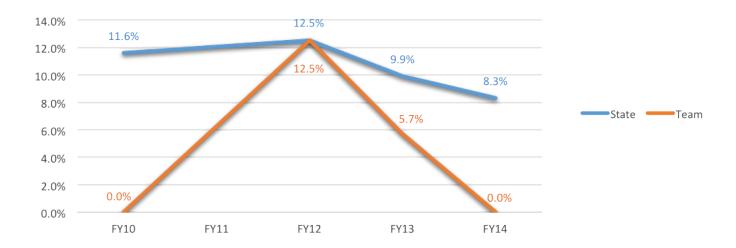


MEDIAN DAYS TO REMOVAL³

In reported cases of child maltreatment that warrant removal of the child from the home, the median time from report to removal for the state was **11** days during October 2013 through September 2014. In that same time frame, the median time from report to removal for your team was **5** days.

NON-REMOVED VICTIMS REVICTIMIZED WITHIN 6 MONTHS³

The data depicted here represent the percent of children with substantiated maltreatment reports who initially remained at home, but were re-victimized within six months of the previous report. This data may represent children who should have been removed from the home following the first substantiated report or who should have received more intensive support or intervention.



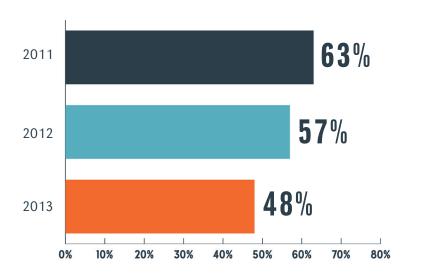
REPORTS TO DHHS AND FOSTER CARE POPULATION

Child maltreatment is the most common way children enter the child welfare system, however children can enter into the system for several other reasons, including a caretaker's drug or alcohol use, a caretaker's inability to cope, inadequate housing, incarceration, or a child's behavioral problems. The data in this section examine all children entering the child welfare system through DHHS and those who were removed from the home and placed in foster care during April 2014 through March 2015.

Court Involved Cases and Out-of-Home Care²

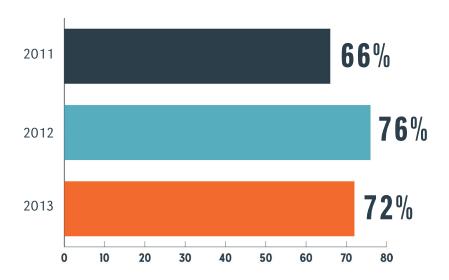
Of the **6,584** kids who entered the child welfare system in 2013, **48**% of the State's cases were court involved. Of these, **72**% were initially placed in out-of-home care. In comparison, **57**% of the State's cases 2012 cases were court involved, **76**% of which were initially placed in out of home care. Non-court involved cases are managed by DHHS in a voluntary capacity.

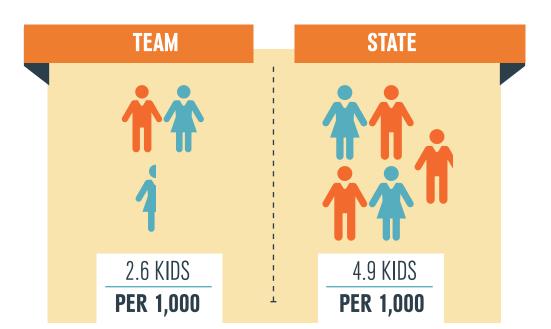
PERCENT OF COURT INVOLVED CASES OVER TIME - STATE DATA ONLY



n = 6,584

COURT INVOLVED CASES
INITIALLY PLACED IN
OUT-OF-HOME CARE STATE DATA ONLY



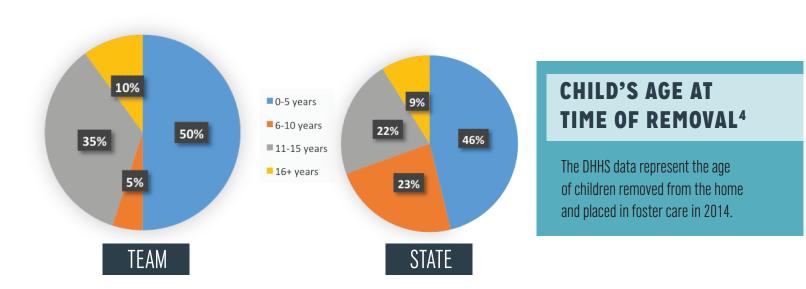


RATE OF REMOVALS³

Each figure in the infograph represents one child removed per **1,000** youth in the area during April 2014 through March 2015.

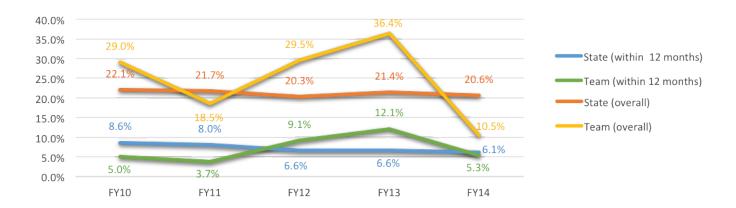
Discharges within 1 month³

For the state of Nebraska, **5**% of children removed from the home were discharged within one month of removal. For your team, **11**% of removed children were discharged within one month. Teams can use this data to investigage why some cases are discharged quickly and assess if removal is necessary for these children.



RATE OF RE-ENTRY TO FOSTER CARE³

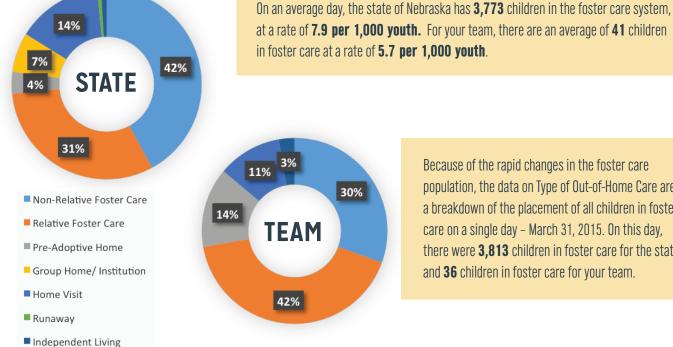
Re-entry to foster care is when a child who was previously removed and placed in foster care later returns home, but is again removed from the home. This does not include cases where a family with a prior removal later becomes involved in a voluntary case.



TYPE OF OUT-OF-HOME CARE³

1%

1%



Because of the rapid changes in the foster care population, the data on Type of Out-of-Home Care are a breakdown of the placement of all children in foster care on a single day - March 31, 2015. On this day, there were **3,813** children in foster care for the state and **36** children in foster care for your team.

CHILD WELFARE CASE

JUSTICE PROGRESSION DATA



The child welfare case progression data is obtained from **JUSTICE**, the court's data management system.

Courts enter data on hearings and orders in **JUSTICE** as they occur in a case. The Court Improvement Project received data directly from **JUSTICE**; the data presented here is current as of June 2015 and exclude all cases with transfer in and/or transfer out dates. This section includes case progression data for seven important points in a child welfare case.

O PROTECTIVE CUSTODY HEARING

O ADJUDICATION HEARING

O REVIEW HEARING

CASE **TERMINATION**

FIRST APPEARANCE HEARING

O DISPOSITION HEARING

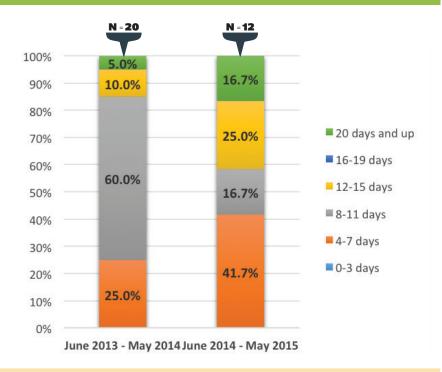
For each hearing, only cases open long enough to progress to that hearing are included in the analysis. There are several data points for the teams to review: a breakdown of the time between hearings based on the date the hearing order is filed, the number of cases for the time analysis, the number of cases with missing data, and the percent of cases with missing data. If your team did not have enough cases (less than 5) or had too much missing data to accurately represent the progression to a hearing (50% or more), the graph is not shown for that hearing.

Your team may have significant missing data for some of the measures presented here. Although time frames were set to include the maximum number of cases, it is possible that some cases included in the analysis had not yet reached that stage of the proceeding, and that is why no data is entered. However, it is also possible that hearings are not entered into **JUSTICE** properly. Teams may find it helpful to discuss why data is missing.

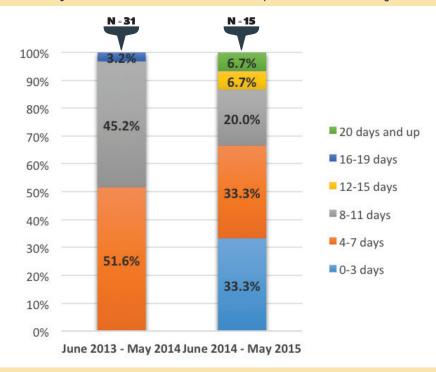
PETITION TO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY HEARING⁵

This analysis includes cases with a *petition filed* date between June 1 and May 31. It includes only cases where a child was removed from the home.

	JUNE 2013 - MAY 2014	JUNE 2014 - MAY 2015
Cases Missing Data	7	1
% of Cases Missing Data	25.9%	7.7%



The Protective Custody Hearing is the first hearing in any 3a case in which the child is removed. An ex parte order, issued prior to the hearing, must be within 48 hours of removal. In accordance with best practices, the protective custody hearing should be held within 3 days of removal. Nebraska case law requires that this hearing is held within 14 days of removal.



PETITION TO FIRST APPEARANCE ORDER⁵

This analysis includes cases with a *peti*tion filed date from June 1 to May 31. Cases dismissed by the prosecutor within 30 days of the file date are excluded.

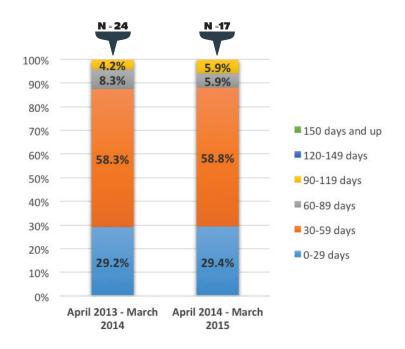
	JUNE 2013 - MAY 2014	JUNE 2014 - MAY 2015
Cases Missing Data	0	0
% of Cases Missing Data	0.0%	0.0%

The First Appearance Hearing is the first hearing at which one or both parents make a formal appearance in the case. The judge informs the parents of their rights and possible dispositions of the case. This hearing may happen at the same time as the Protective Custody Hearing if the children were removed, or may happen at a later date if the parents did not appear or were not served with a petition.

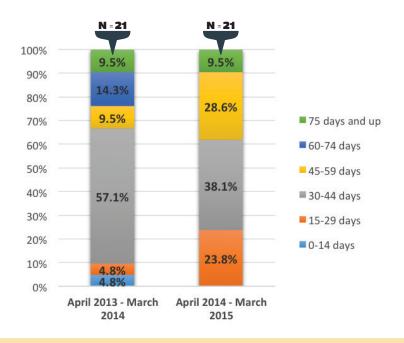
PETITION TO ADJUDICATION **HEARING ORDER**⁵

This analysis includes cases with a *petition filed* date from April 1 to March 31. Cases dismissed by the prosecutor within 30 days of the file date are excluded.

	APRIL 2013- MARCH 2014	APRIL 2014- MARCH 2015
Cases Missing Data	3	3
% of Cases Missing Data	11.1%	15.0%



The Adjudication Hearing is the hearing at which the judge determines whether the allegations in the petition are true and thus support state intervention on behalf of the children. Parents may admit or deny the allegations in the petition. Nebraska Revised Statute \$43-278 requires the adjudication hearing to be held within 90 days of the filing of the petition, unless there is good cause to extend the time period.



ADJUDICATION HEARING ORDER TO DISPOSITION HEARING ORDER⁵

This analysis includes cases with an *adjudication* hearing order date between April 1 and March 31.

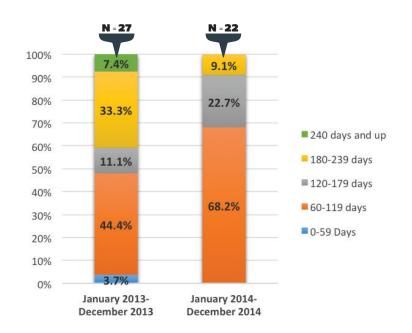
	APRIL 2013- MARCH 2014	APRIL 2014- MARCH 2015
Cases Missing Data	2	0
% of Cases Missing Data	8.7%	0.0%

The Disposition Hearing is the hearing at which the court formally determines the custody of the child and orders the parent to comply with the terms of the case plan. The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges recommends that the disposition hearing take place within 30 days of the adjudication hearing.

DISPOSITION HEARING ORDER TO FIRST REVIEW HEARING ORDER⁵

This analysis includes cases with a *disposition* hearing order date between January 1 and December 31.

	JAN 2013- DEC 2013	JAN 2014- DEC 2014
Cases Missing Data	4	4
% of Cases Missing Data	12.9%	15.4%



A Review Hearing is when the court reviews the status of the case, the parties' progress, and the adequacy of the offered services. Nebraska Revised Statute \$43-278 requires the court to review every case not less than once every 6 months.



FIRST REMOVAL TO FIRST PERMANENCY HEARING ORDER⁵

This analysis includes cases with a *petition filed date* between January 1 and December 31 of the prior year. Cases that were dismissed within 90 days of the petition date, did not have a removal date, or were closed in less than one year are not included.

	JAN 2012- DEC 2012	JAN 2013- DEC 2013
Cases Missing Data	6	15
% of Cases Missing Data	54.5%	46.9%

A Permanency Hearing is where the judge reviews the permanency plan for each child and determines the permanency goal. Nebraska Revised Statute \$43-1312 and federal IV-E law requires a permanency hearing no later than 12 months after the child enters foster care and annually thereafter.

TIME TO CASE **TERMINATION**⁵

This analysis includes cases with a petition filed date between January 1 and December 31 of the prior year. Cases dismissed by the prosecutor within 30 days of the file date are excluded.

The table below supplements the graph. The green section of the graph represents all cases with a status other than "Terminated." This table shows the case status of all cases for your team in order to assess why cases are not terminated as of June 30, 2015.

CASE STATUS	JAN 2012- DEC 2012	JAN 2013- DEC 2013
Closed	2	12
Terminated	16	28



Time to Case Termination is calculated based on the date the case is terminated within the court. In addition to Terminated, child welfare cases can have one of the following statuses: Closed (there are no current pending matters in the case), Open (the case is on-going), Reopened (the case is reopened after a previous closure), Appealed (the disposition in the case is in the appeals process), Mandate (a mandate has come back from the appeals process), or Waiting (waiting on an appeal while the case is still pending).

Child Welfare Critical Codes for Data Entry



- Date of Removal
- Ex parte Order
- Protective Custody Hearing
- First Appearance Hearing

- Adjudication Hearing
- **Disposition Hearing**
- **Review Hearing**
- Permanency Hearing

- Motion/Petition to Terminate Parental Rights
- Termination of Parental Rights Trial
- Termination of Jurisdiction
- Case Termination Date

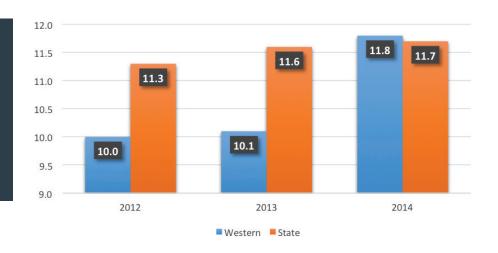
PERMANENCY OF CHILD WELFARE CASES

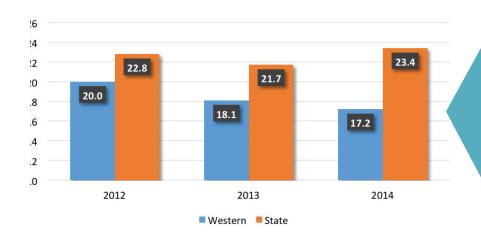


The data on reunification, termination of parental rights, and adoption are reported by DHHS service area due to the low number of permanency cases for several of the Through the Eyes of the Child teams. Team data are available from Fostering Court Improvement or can be provided by the Court Improvement Project Data Analyst upon request. Discharge data and data on permanency through the child's eyes are reported by team.

MEDIAN MONTHS FROM REMOVAL TO REUNIFICATION³

Of the **1,394** reunifications in Nebraska, your service area had **111** (**8.0**%).





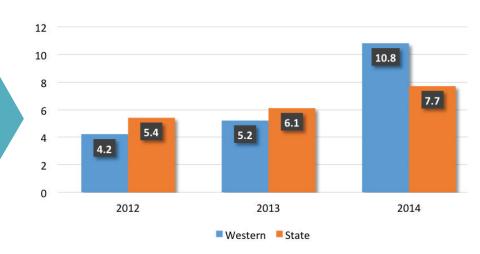
MEDIAN MONTHS TO TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS (TPR)3

Median months to termination of parental rights is calculated based on youth adopted during April 2014 through March 2015; 39 (8.5%) of Nebraska's 460 adopted youth came from your searvice area.

PERMANENCY OF CHILD WELFARE CASES

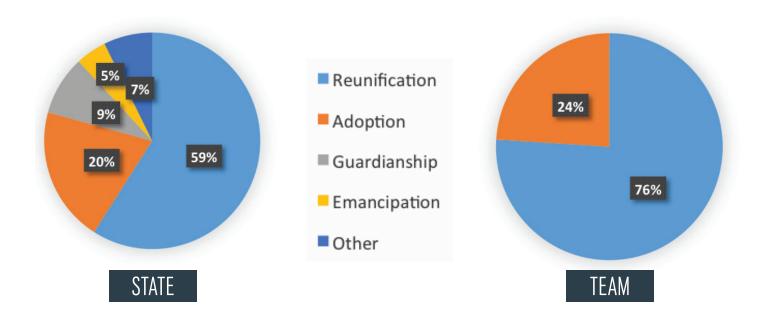
MEDIAN MONTHS FROM TPR TO ADOPTION3

Of the **463** adoptions in Nebraska, **41** (**8.9**%) were from your service area. For the state of Nebraska, **30**% of the children were adopted within **24** months of termination of parental rights, and 83% were adopted within 48 months. For your service area, 30% of the children were adopted within 24 months, and 95% were adopted within 48 months.



TYPE OF DISCHARGE³

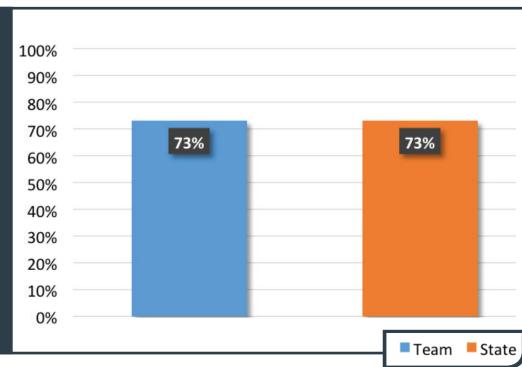
Between April 2014 and March 2015, **2,361** youth were discharged from the Nebraska Child Welfare System. Your team discharged **25** youth. The following graph displays the types of discharge for the state and your team.



PERMANENCY OF CHILD WELFARE CASES

IN PERMANENT HOME OR LEGALLY FREED FOR ADOPTION³

This data shows how quickly children are finding permanency through the children's, and not the court's, eyes. The graph represents the percentage of children who have completed TPRs and were freed for adoption or children living with a family reunified with their family, in a trial home visit, in relative foster care or in a pre-adoptive home within 15 months of removal.





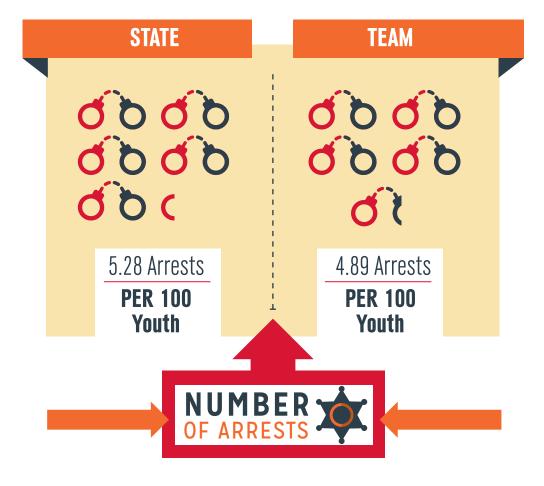
ENTRY INTO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM



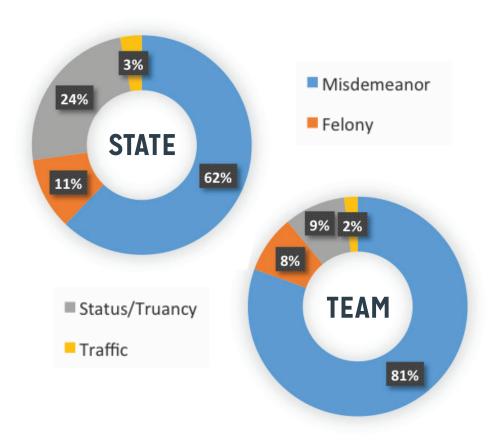
The Court Improvement Project is now working with juvenile justice cases. The data reports are expanding to include data about juvenile justice in the state and for your team.

ENTRY INTO THE **JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM²**

This data shows the number of arrests of youth 17 and under per **100** 10-17 year olds.



ENTRY INTO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

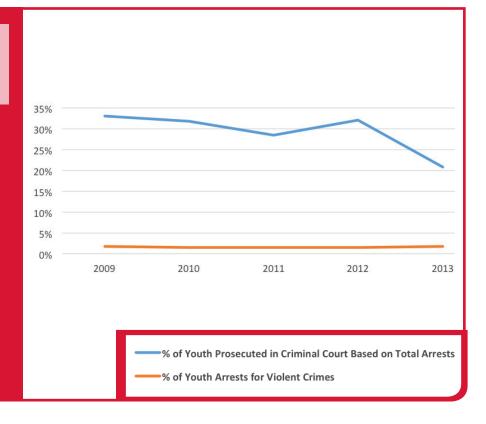


NUMBER OF JUVENILE **JUSTICE PETITIONS**⁶

These charts show the subtypes of juvenile justice petitions filed and entered into **JUSTICE** during 2014. The data represent the most serious charge from original filings only and do not include any charges filed as supplemental petitions. There were **5,679** juvenile justice petitions filed in Nebraska, 201 of which were filed in your team area.

YOUTH PROSECUTED IN ADULT CRIMINAL COURT²

This data compares the percent of youth arrested for violent crime in the state of Nebraska to the number of youth in the state prosecuted in adult criminal court. While the number of violent crime arrests has remained steady, fewer youth are prosecuted in criminal court. Next year, with the inclusion of the new **JUSTICE** critical codes that began **01/01/2015**, we will be able to provide data on the Filings to Adult Criminal Court, Prosecution in Adult Criminal Court, and Transfers to and from Juvenile Court and Adult Criminal Court by State and by Team.



ENTRY INTO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

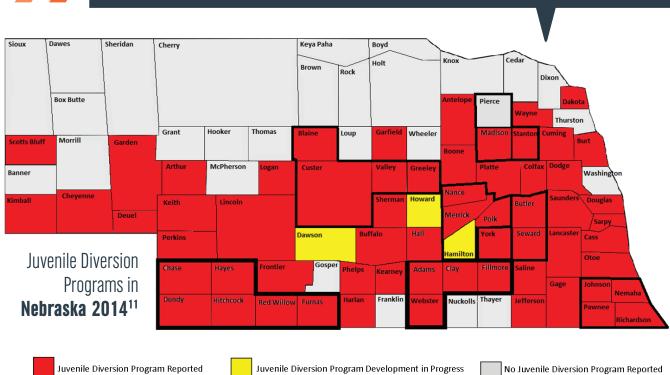
YOUTH IN DIVERSION⁷

Youth charged with minor offenses may have the chance to participate in voluntary pretrial diversion. The goal of pretrial diversion is to divert the youth from involvement in the juvenile justice system. 11 The data below, provided by the Nebraska Crime Commission, are for the 2014 calendar year.

	STATE	TEAM
YOUTH ENROLLED IN DIVERSION	2,991	0
YOUTH SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING DIVERSION	2,328	0
YOUTH UNSUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING DIVERSION	564	0



See below for a map of diversion programs in Nebraska.



62 of Nebraska's **93** counties offer a diversion program.



The juvenile justice case progression data is obtained from **JUSTICE**, the court's data management system.

- O DETENTION HEARING
- FIRST APPEARANCE/ARRAIGNMENT
- O- ADJUDICATION HEARING
- O DISPOSITION HEARING
- CASE CLOSURE

For each hearing, only cases open long enough to progress to that hearing are included in the analysis. There are several data points for the teams to review: a breakdown of the time between hearings based on the date the hearing order is filed, the number of cases for the time analysis, the number of cases with missing data, and the percent of cases with missing data. If your team did not have enough cases (less than 5) or had too much missing data to accurately represent the progression to a hearing (50% or more), the graph is not shown for that hearing.

Your team may have significant missing data for some of the measures presented here. Although time frames were set to include the maximum number of cases, it is possible that some cases included in the analysis had not yet reached the stage of that proceeding, and that is why no data is entered. However, it is also possible that hearings are not entered into **JUSTICE** properly. Teams may find it helpful to discuss why data is missing. During this discussion, please consider the following information:

- This is the first year the Court Improvement Project has analyzed the case progression for juvenile justice cases.

 We expect more missing data in the early years of the analysis and aim to work with the courts to improve data entry.
- Some of the important hearings in juvenile justice cases became 'critical codes' on January 1, 2015, limiting the time frame available for analysis.
- The Court Improvement Project intends to expand this section of the report in the coming years, based on feedback provided by the teams. Please communicate recommendations to CIP team members.

JUVENILE JUSTICE CRITICAL CODES FOR DATA ENTRY



The Court Improvement Project and JUSTICE have identified several critical codes that are especially important in tracking juvenile justice cases. The Through the Eyes Initiative and the JUSTICE staff will work with court clerks on data entry of these and other important codes. Please pay particular attention to the following codes when entering hearings and orders.

- **Detention Hearing**
- **Disposition Hearing**
- Reentry Hearing

- First Appearance Hearing/Arraignment Hearing
- Motion to Revoke **Probation**
- Seal Record

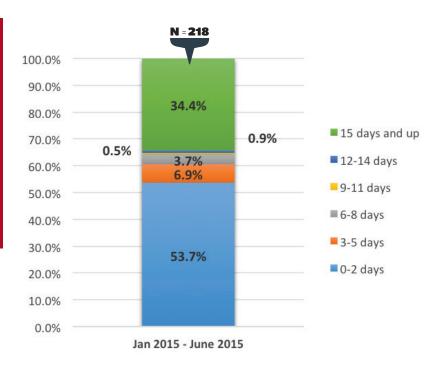
- Motion to Transfer to County Court/ **District Court**
- Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Release from Probation
- Adjudication Hearing
- Commitment to YRTC Hearing



PETITION TO DETENTION HEARING ORDER⁶- STATE DATA ONLY

The Detention Hearing/Order was considered a 'critical code' starting on January 1, 2015, therefore this analysis includes only cases with a petition filed date between January 1 and June 15 of 2015. Only juveniles with a removal date in **JUSTICE**, indicating they were held in detention, are included.

	JAN 2015 - JUNE 2015
Cases Missing Data	91
% of Cases Missing Data	29.4%

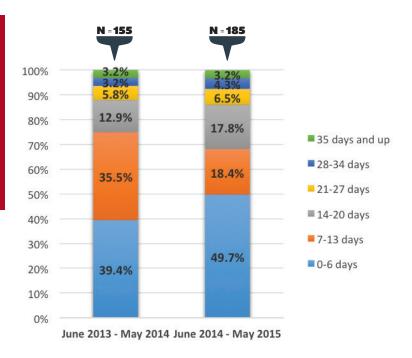


The Detention Hearing is the first hearing in any Juvenile Justice case when the juvenile has been detained. According to Supreme Court Rule \$6-104, juveniles should not be detained for more than 48 hours without a probable cause finding from the appropriate judicial authority.

PETITION TO FIRST APPEARANCE! ARRAIGNMENT ORDER⁶

This analysis includes cases with a petition filed date from June 1 to May 31. Cases dismissed by the prosecutor or the court within 30 days of the file date are excluded.

	JUNE 2013 - MAY 2014	JUNE 2014 - MAY 2015
Cases Missing Data	13	7
% of Cases Missing Data	7.7%	3.6%



The First Appearance/Arraignment Hearing is the hearing in which the juvenile is advised of the allegations contained within the petition and his/her due process rights. This may happen at the same time as the detention hearing for juveniles who are detained, or may happen at a later date.



PETITION TO ADJUDICATION HEARING ORDER⁶

This analysis includes cases with a petition filed date from April 1 to March 31. Cases dismissed by the prosecutor within 30 days of the file date are excluded.

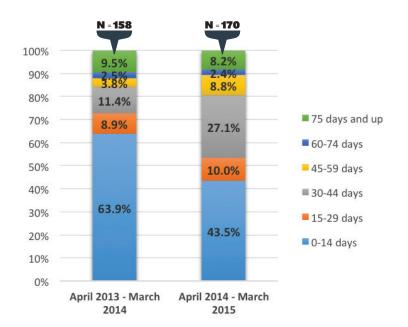
	APRIL 2013-MARCH 2014	APRIL 2014-MARCH 2015
Cases Missing Data	14	11
% of Cases Missing Data	7.7%	5.8 %

The Adjudication Hearing is the hearing at which the court determines whether the juvenile comes within the meaning of Nebraska Revised Statute \$43-247. This may be a formal trial, or the juvenile may admit to part or all of the allegations. Supreme Court Rule **\$6-104** requires the adjudication hearing to be held within **180 days** of the filing of the petition.

ADJUDICATION HEARING ORDER TO DISPOSITION HEARING ORDER⁶

This analysis includes cases with an adjudication hearing order date between April 1 and March 31.

	APRIL 2013 - MARCH 2014	APRIL 2014 - MARCH 2015
Cases Missing Data	8	14
% of Cases Missing Data	4.8%	7.6%



The Disposition Hearing is the hearing at which the court determines what services or rehabilitation efforts the juvenile will receive if the adjudication hearing determined the juvenile meets the criteria of Nebraska Revised Statute \$43-247. Supreme Court Rule \$6-104 requires the disposition hearing to be held within 60 days of the adjudication hearing unless there is good cause to extend beyond 60 days.



TIME TO CASE CLOSURE⁶

This graph depicts time to case closure for juvenile justice cases with a petition filed date during the 2013 calendar year. The data compares juvenile cases with a delinquency charge on the petition to juvenile cases with only status offenses or traffic charges on the petition. Cases dismissed by the court or prosecutor within 30 days of the petition filed date are excluded from the analysis.

COMMITMENTS AND PROBATION

YOUTH REHABILITATION TREATMENT CENTER COMMITMENTS^{8,9}

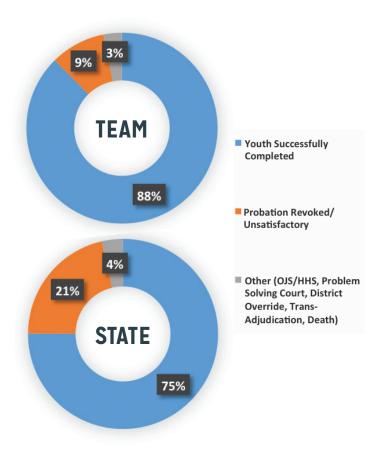
Data on the number of YRTC commitments in the State Fiscal Year 2013-2014 was provided by the YRTC's Annual Reports published by DHHS. Statewide, the number of YRTC commitments decreased from 460 in FY 2013 to 289 in FY 2014. Geneva commitments decreased by 20% and Kearney commitments decreased by 43%.



NUMBER OF YOUTHS PLACED ON PROBATION/ COMPLETING PROBATION¹⁰

The state of Nebraska placed **3.929** youth on probation in 2014. For your team, **136** youth were placed on probation in 2014.

The state of Nebraska discharged **2,857** youth from probation in 2014, **97** of which were from your team area. The charts to the right show what percentage of the youth completed probation successfully, unsatisfactorily completed probation or had their probation revoked, or were discharged for another reason.



^{*}Probation data is extracted from Probation's case management system (NPACS) according to the intended audience. The probation data in this report reflects the perspective of the court while similar data in other reports reflect the perspective of an individual's probation case. This has resulted in slight differences in data values that have been previously published in other reports.

