



Case Progression and Court Improvement Data Report for 2010



District 11 Team 4:

Frontier, Hooker,
Lincoln, Logan,
McPherson, and Thomas Counties

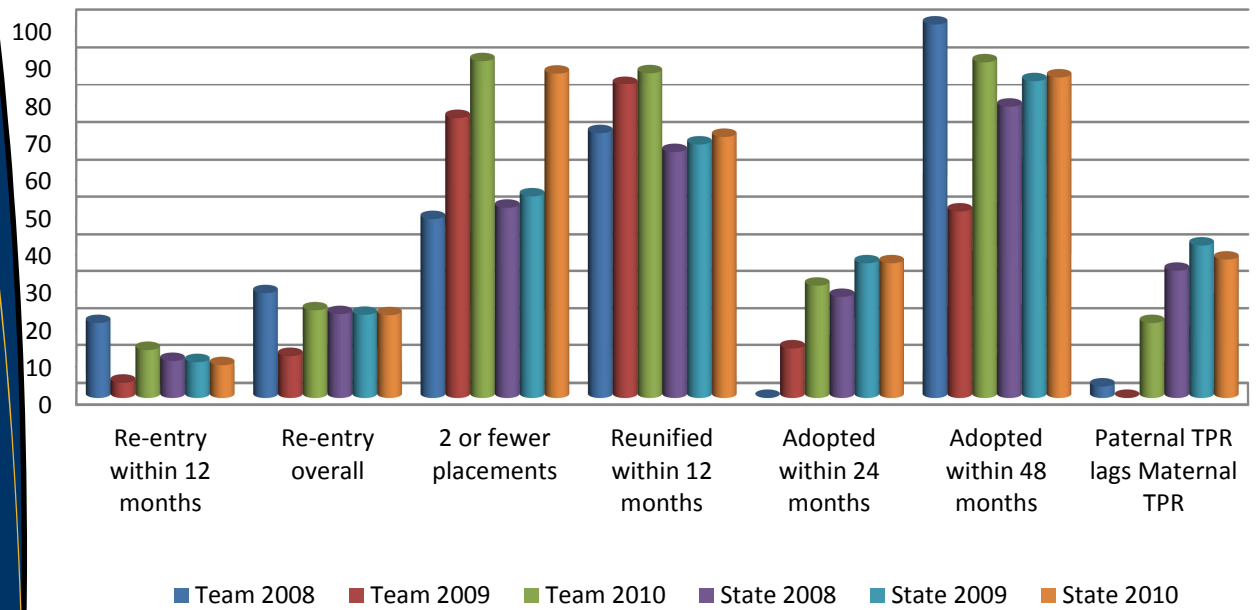


Information provided in this document is designed to help your team improve case progression, as this is one area the courts can control. Timeliness of hearings has a significant impact on time to case closure, which means that courts can make a difference in the lives of children in the system. Data on pages 1 and 2 come from Fostering Court Improvement (fosteringcourtimprovement.org/ne) and data on pages 3-8 were collected through JUSTICE to track case progression timelines for all abuse/neglect cases that closed in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

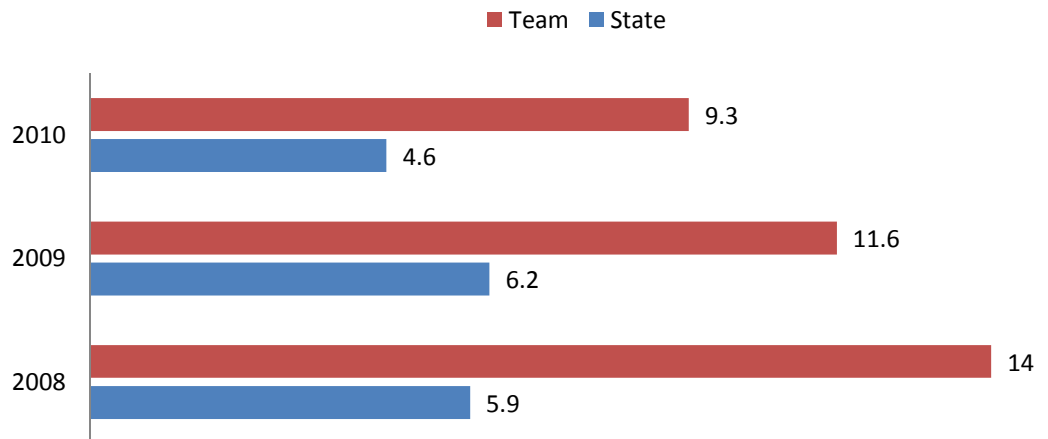
	2008	Team 2009	2010	2008	State 2009	2010	National 2009
Poverty rate*	17.4%	16%	n/a	13.7%	15.3%	n/a	20%
Median length of stay	11 months	35 months	10 months	13 months	12 months	14 months	14 months
Median months to reunification	7 months	14 months	8 months	7 months	7 months	11 months	n/a
Median months to adoption	30 months	46 months	35 months	34 months	29 months	29 months	n/a

* Poverty data comes from the U.S. Census Bureau. For the Fostering Court Improvement measures, 2010 refers to data from April 2010 through March 2011

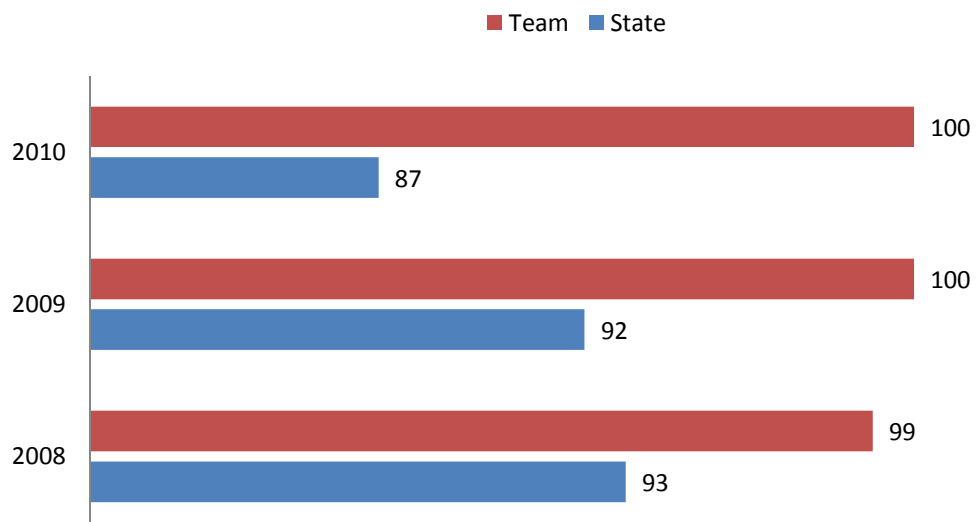
Percentages for 2008, 2009, and 2010



Rates of Removal per 10k Children



Percent of Children over 12 in Group Home



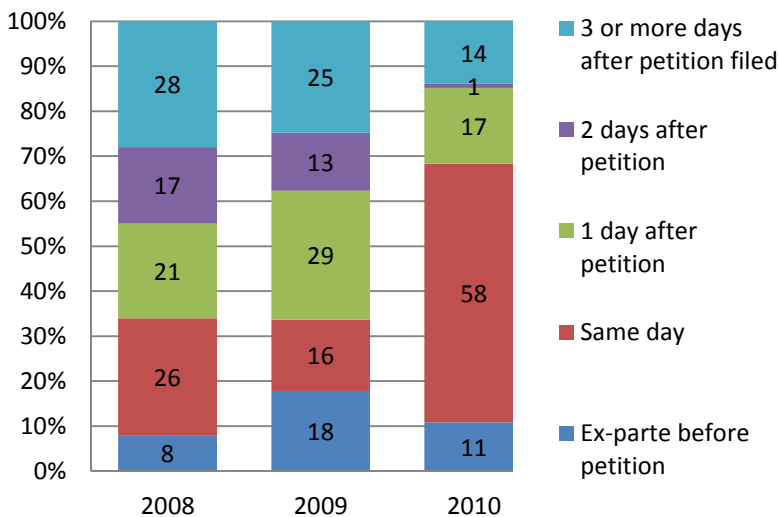
In District 11-4, there were 75 abuse and neglect cases that closed between January 1 and December 31, 2008. In 2009, there were 61 such cases. In 2010, 52 abuse and neglect cases closed. The below analyses are based on that data.

Medians represent the center-point for cases in your team. Half of your cases had time that was shorter than the median, and half of cases had time longer than the median. N/r means that values were "not reported."

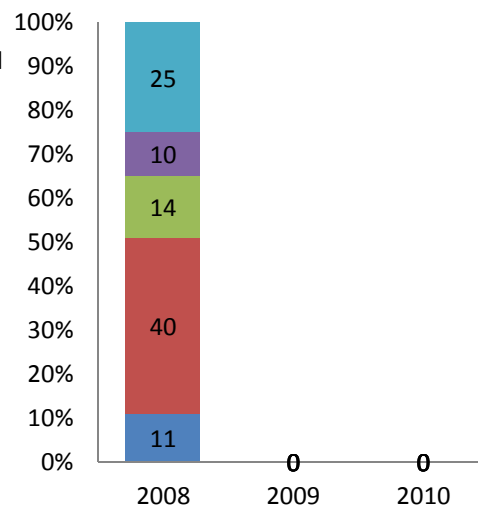
Timeline progression: All ages

Nebraska Petition to ex-parte

2008 Median = 1 day
2009 Median = 1 day
2010 Median = 0 days



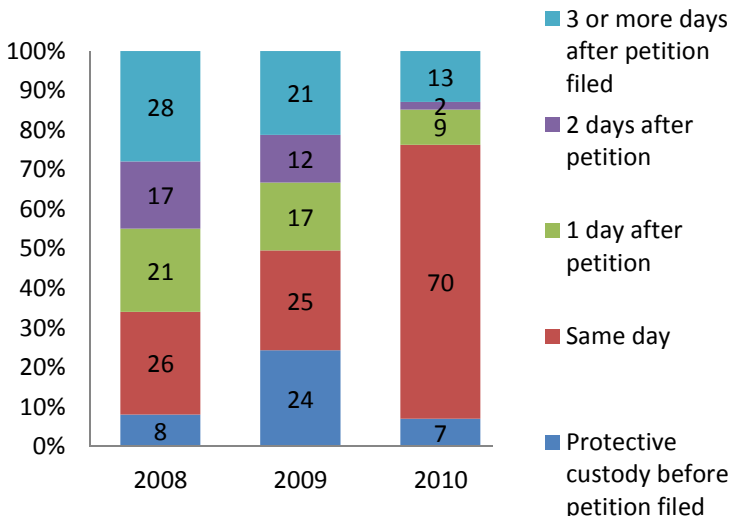
District 11-4 Team
2008 Median = 0 days
2009 Median = n/r
2010 Median = n/r



Petition Filing to Protective Custody

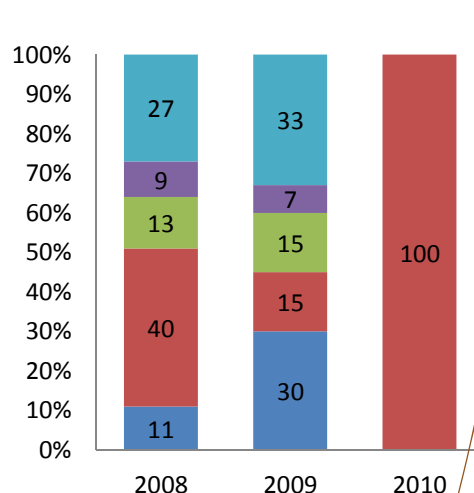
Nebraska

2008 Median = 1 day
2009 Median = 1 day
2010 Median = 0 days



District 11-4 Team

2008 Median = 0 days
2009 Median = 1 day
2010 Median = 0 days



* Note:
All data
presented
uses petition
date to court
closure date
and may
not match HHS
reports

Petition to First Appearance

Best practice recommendations

Petition to Protective Custody – petition prior to or same day

100% of 2010 District 11-4 cases filed the petition the same day as the protective custody order

Petition to adjudication – 60 days

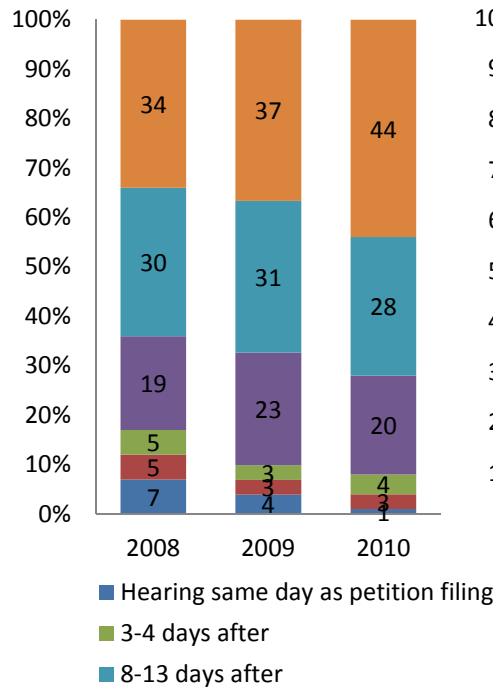
17% of 2010 District 11-4 cases held the adjudication within 60 days of petition filing

Adjudication to disposition – 30 days

27% of 2010 District 11-4 cases held the disposition within 30 days of adjudication

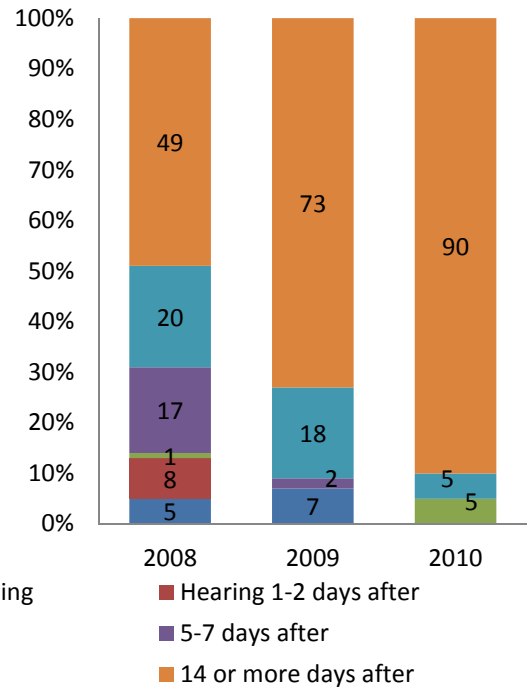
Nebraska

2008 Median = 9 days
2009 Median = 10 days
2010 Median = 12 days



District 11-4 Team

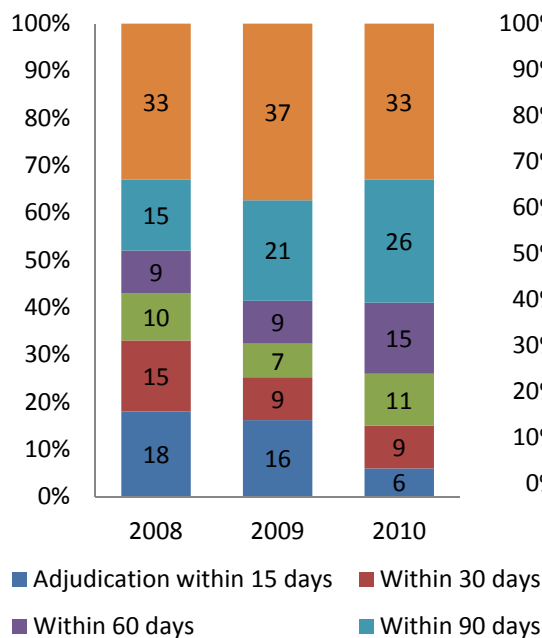
2008 Median = 19 days
2009 Median = 21 days
2010 Median = 26 days



Petition to Adjudication

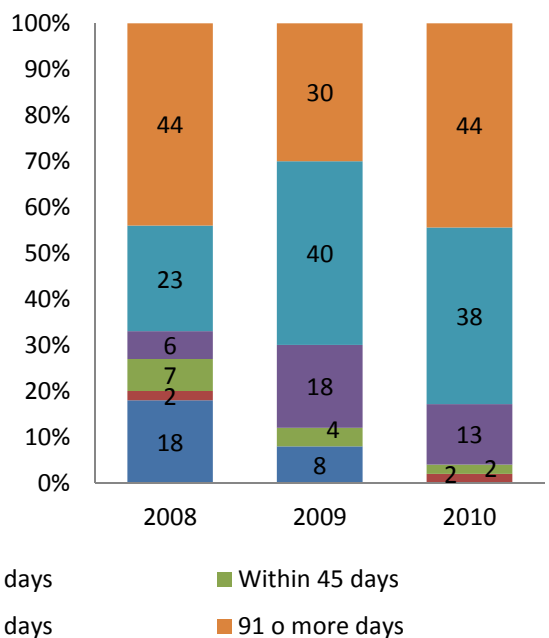
Nebraska

2008 Median = 57 days
2009 Median = 72 days
2010 Median = 73 days



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2008 Median = 96 days
2009 Median = 69 days
2010 Median = 85 days



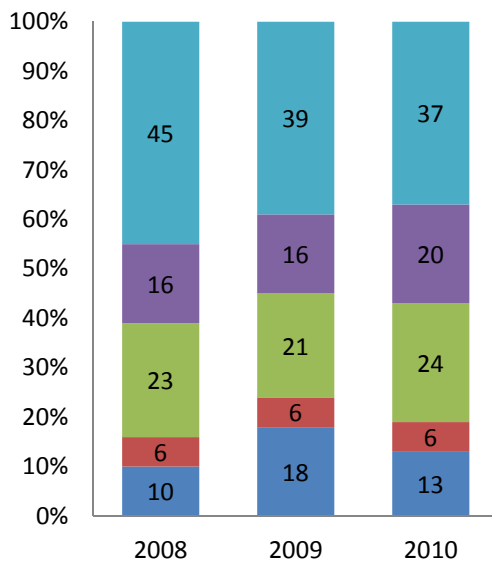
Adjudication to Disposition

Nebraska

2008 Median = 56 days

2009 Median = 49 days

2010 Median = 50 days



■ Disposition within 15 days

■ Within 30 days

■ Within 45 days

■ Within 60 days

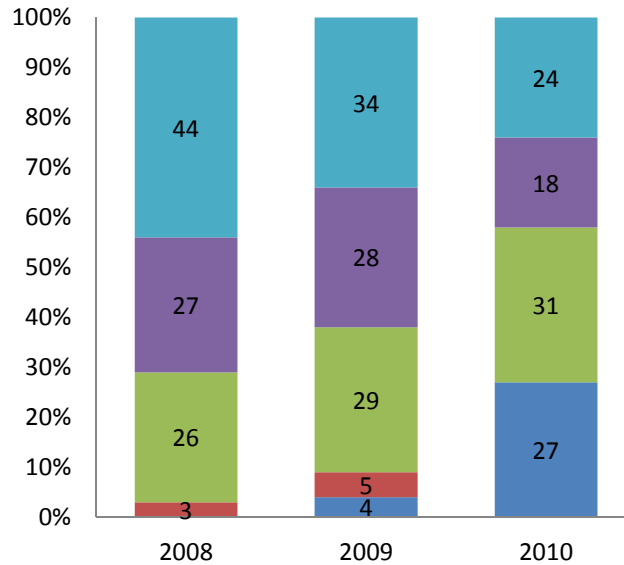
■ 61 or more days

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2008 Median = 56 days

2009 Median = 50 days

2010 Median = 43 days



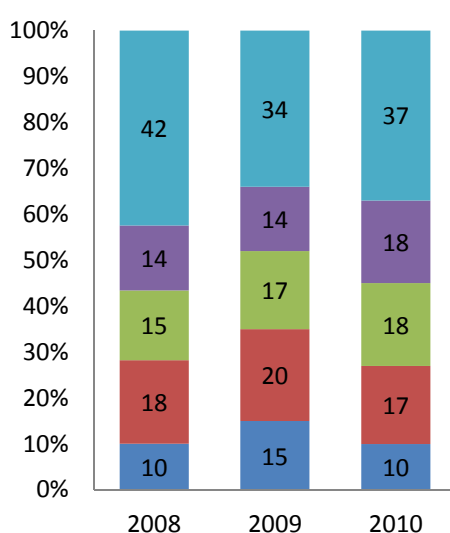
Petition to Case Closure

Nebraska

2008 Median = 23 months

2009 Median = 18 months

2010 Median = 19 months



■ Within 6 months

■ Within 12 months

■ Within 18 months

■ Within 24 months

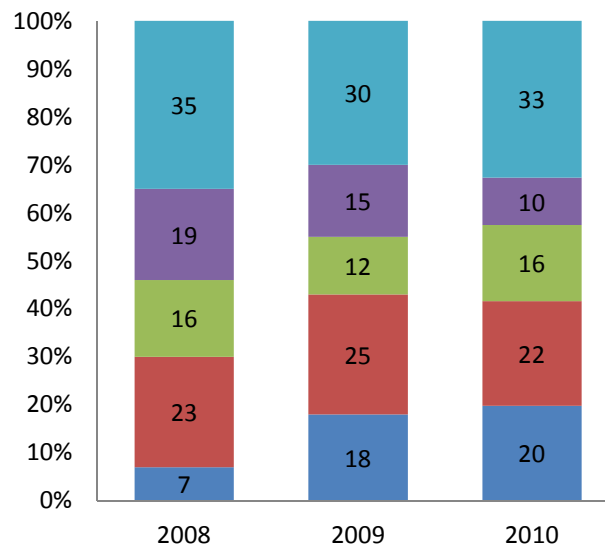
■ 25 or more months

District 11-4 Team

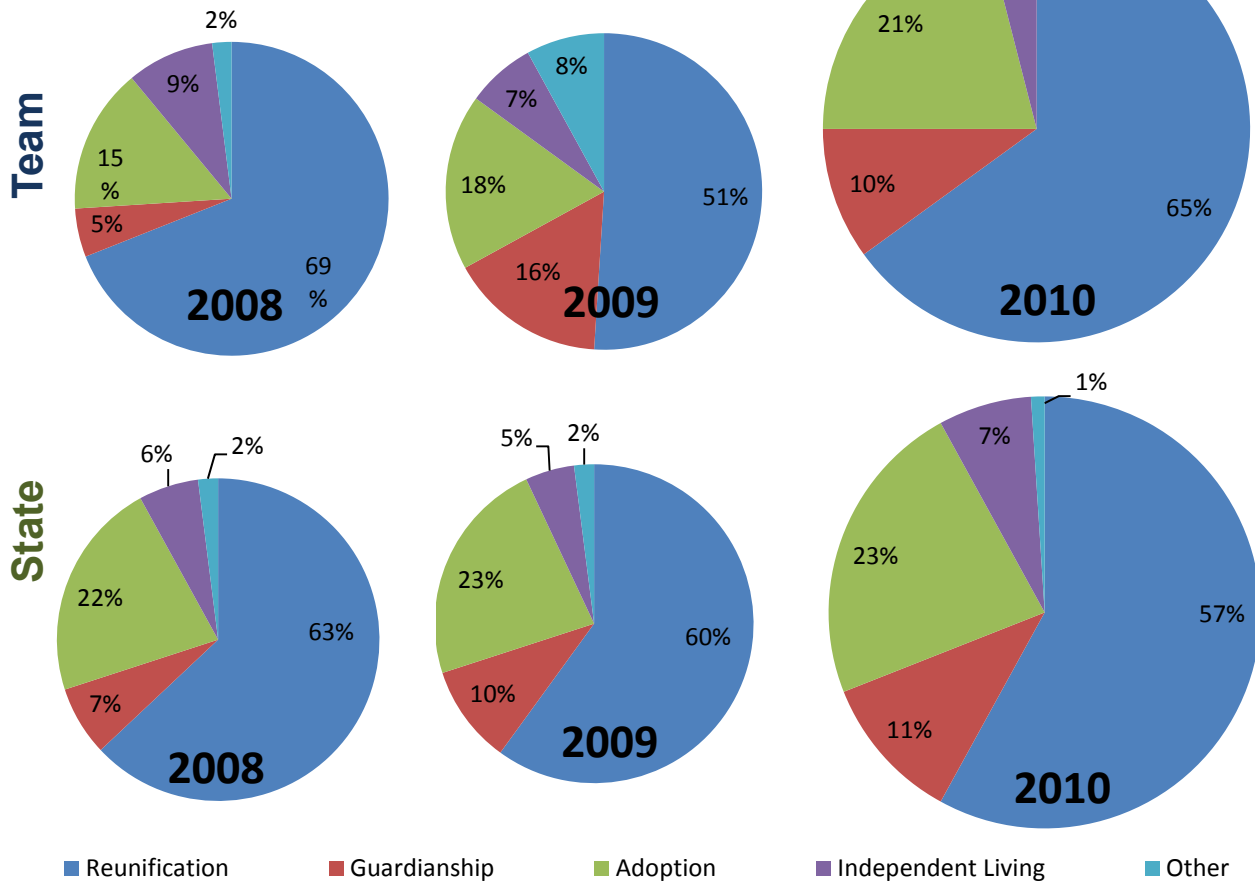
2008 Median = 18 months

2009 Median = 18 months

2010 Median = 15 months



Type of Discharge



Trends



The time frame for the first appearance seems to be excessively long. The team might explore whether this is a JUSTICE data entry issue or whether the information is accurate. If there are long delays for first hearings and they are due to limited judge presence in the county and/or difficulties in scheduling because of long distances, the team might consider whether using technology (e.g. video conferencing) might be able to address this issue. The rates of removal for this team are twice that of the state rate. Further, the rate of re-entry into foster care is increasing. The team might want to explore whether cases are closed prematurely or whether rehabilitative services for parents effectively address the problems contributing to the maltreatment.



Case Progression for Zero to Three

Median Times	2008	Team 2009	2010	2008	State 2009	2010
Early Stages						
Petition to Ex-parte	0 days	n/r	n/r	1 day	1 day	0 days
Petition to Protective Custody	0 days	1 day	0 days	1 day	0 days	0 days
Petition to First Appearance	18 days	22 days	26 days	9 days	10 days	13 days
Petition to Adjudication	77 days	82 days	70 days	62 days	70 days	70 days
Permanency Stages						
Adjudication to Disposition	63 days	49 days	50 days	58 days	49 days	50 days
Petition to Case Closure	18 months	13 months	22 months	21 months	19 months	20 months
TPR Stages						
Petition to TPR	31 months	51 months	23 months	23 months	19 months	21 months
TPR to Adoption	5 months	6 months	2 months	9 months	7 months	8 months

Infants and toddlers make up approximately one-third of children in foster care in Nebraska. This early stage of the child's life is crucial to his/her development. Therefore, the court system must do everything it can to ensure timely and safe permanency for them. Additionally, the courts need to assure that the health, mental health, and educational (school readiness) needs of these young children are met.

Your team might work on one or all of the following:

- Reducing time to permanency for infants and toddlers
- Ensuring that parenting time recommendations are followed
- Increasing the use of high quality and stable child care
- Ensuring CAPTA Part C evaluations are occurring and young children are getting services they need
- Ensuring that infants and toddlers with mental health needs get evidence based interventions



Improving Outcomes for Adolescents

Almost 40% of Nebraska youth in out-of-home placement are between 16 and 19 years old. Exiting foster care through "aging out" without a permanent family relationship is associated with a variety of serious negative outcomes including lack of a high school degree, unemployment, and homelessness.

The federal Fostering Connections Act and recent Nebraska legislation require a detailed written independent living transition plan for all youth age 16 and over. This plan is to be prepared by DHHS in conjunction with the youth and is to be reviewed at each review or permanency hearing by the court.

Your team might review the new state law and develop a plan to make the transition planning and review process meaningful and effective in preparing older youth for the challenges of adulthood.