



Period Under Review: March 2014 – March 2015

Note: The state's target goal for each items is 95%. Scores below the 95% goal are highlighted in red in this report.

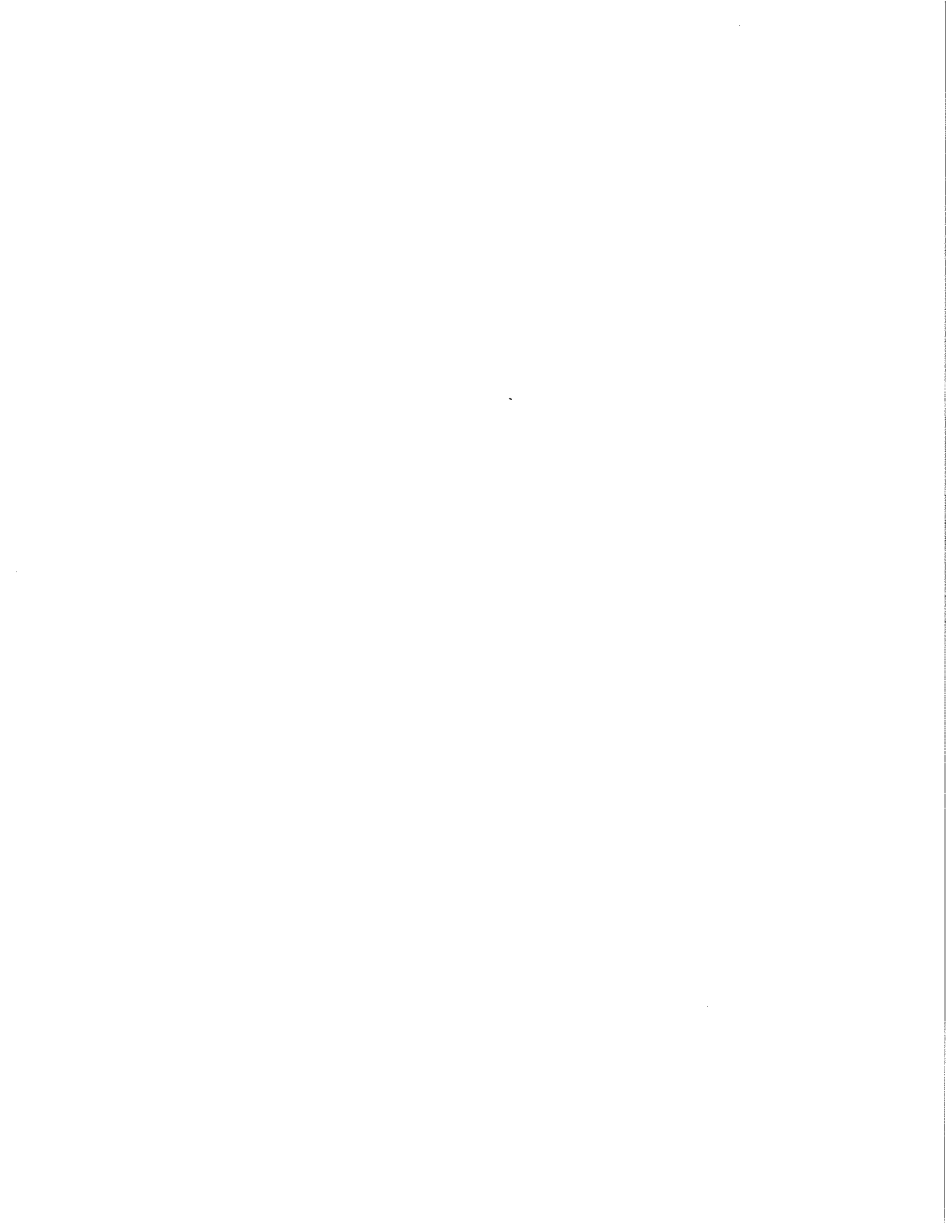
Service Area	CSA	ESA	NSA	SESA	WSA	TRIBES	State
Number of Cases	33	55	36	45	31	8	208
Item 1: Timeliness of Initiating Investigations	94%	79%	100%	85%	94%	0%	89%
Outcome: Safety 1 (Item 1)	94%	79%	100%	85%	94%	0%	89%
Item 2: Services to maintain in home	100%	100%	100%	95%	100%	0%	96%
Item 3: Risk and safety management	82%	78%	89%	89%	90%	37.5%	83%
Outcome: Safety 2 (Items 2 and 3)	82%	78%	89%	89%	90%	37.5%	83%
Item 4: Stability of foster care placement	75%	65%	79%	62%	84%	50%	70%
Item 5: Permanency goal for the child	45%	46%	62.5%	38%	47%	0%	45%
Item 6: Achievement of perm goal(s)	60%	43%	62.5%	59%	53%	37.5%	53%
Outcome: Permanency 1 (Items 4-6)	35%	24%	42%	21%	32%	0%	28%
Item 7: Placement with siblings	90%	100%	83%	73%	92%	67%	88%
Item 8: Visiting with parents and siblings	94%	88%	90%	92%	100%	37.5%	88%
Item 9: Preserving connections	90%	95%	92%	100%	95%	87.5%	94%
Item 10: Relative placement	68%	74%	62.5%	79%	89%	100%	76%
Item 11: Relationship-Child w/Parents	75%	87.5%	70%	78%	83%	43%	77%
Outcome: Permanency 2 (Items 7-11)	80%	89%	79%	90%	89%	50%	84%
Item 12A: Needs and Services – Child	97%	95%	97%	93%	94%	37.5%	93%
Item 12B: Needs and Services – Mother/Father	76%	69%	75%	77.5%	53%	17%	69%
Item 12C: Needs and Services – Foster Parent	95%	81%	91%	96%	89%	25%	86%
Item 13: Child & Family inv. In case planning	70%	60%	56%	69%	61%	17%	62%
Item 14: Caseworker visit with child	70%	69%	75%	82%	68%	37.5%	72%
Item 15: Caseworker visit with mother/father	46%	47%	44%	47.5%	41%	20%	45%
Outcome: Well-Being 1 (Items 12-15)	61%	47%	56%	58%	42%	25%	51%
Item 16: Educational needs of the child	100%	95%	96%	100%	87.5%	62.5%	94%
Outcome: Well-Being 2 (Item 16)	100%	95%	96%	100%	87.5%	62.5%	94%
Item 17: Physical health needs of the child	73%	85%	71%	89%	77%	25%	78%
Item 18: Mental/Beh. Health Needs of child	90%	93%	80%	100%	73%	60%	87%
Outcome: Well-Being 3 (Items 17 and 18)	76%	84%	70%	90%	68%	25%	77%

Data Source: N-FOCUS Documentation and Interview with the Case Manager, Parents, Foster Parents and Youth when applicable.

***Notes:**

Item Rating: The CFSR instrument allows each ITEM to be rated in one of three levels, **Strength, Area Needing Improvement** or **Not Applicable**. The percentage shown here next to each outcome represents the items marked as Strength.

Outcome Rating: The CFSR instrument allows each OUTCOME to be rated in one of four levels: **Substantially Achieved** (all applicable items rated as a strength), **Partially Achieved** (at least one item rated as a strength), **Not Achieved** (all applicable items rated as an area needing improvement), or **Not Applicable** (all items are not applicable). The percentage shown here next to each outcome represents the outcomes marked as **Substantially Achieved**.



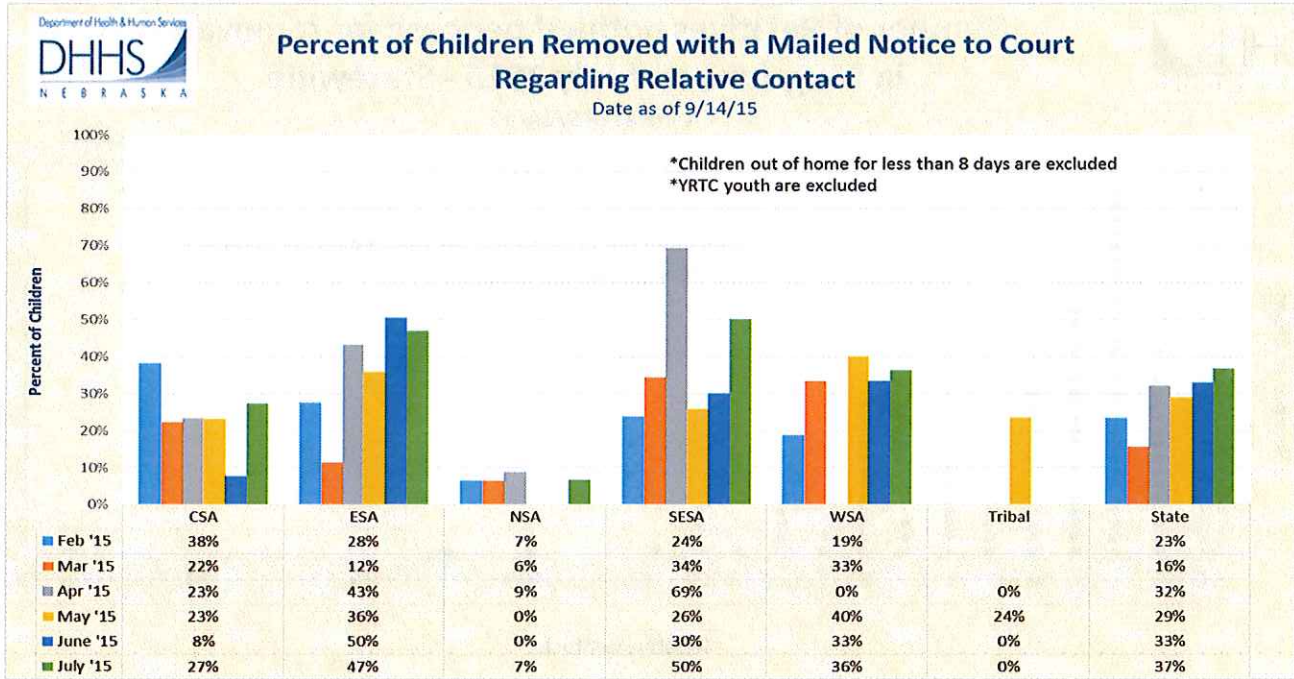


Children and Family Services Continuous Quality Improvement

Relative Notification for State Wards with a Removal as of 9/14/15

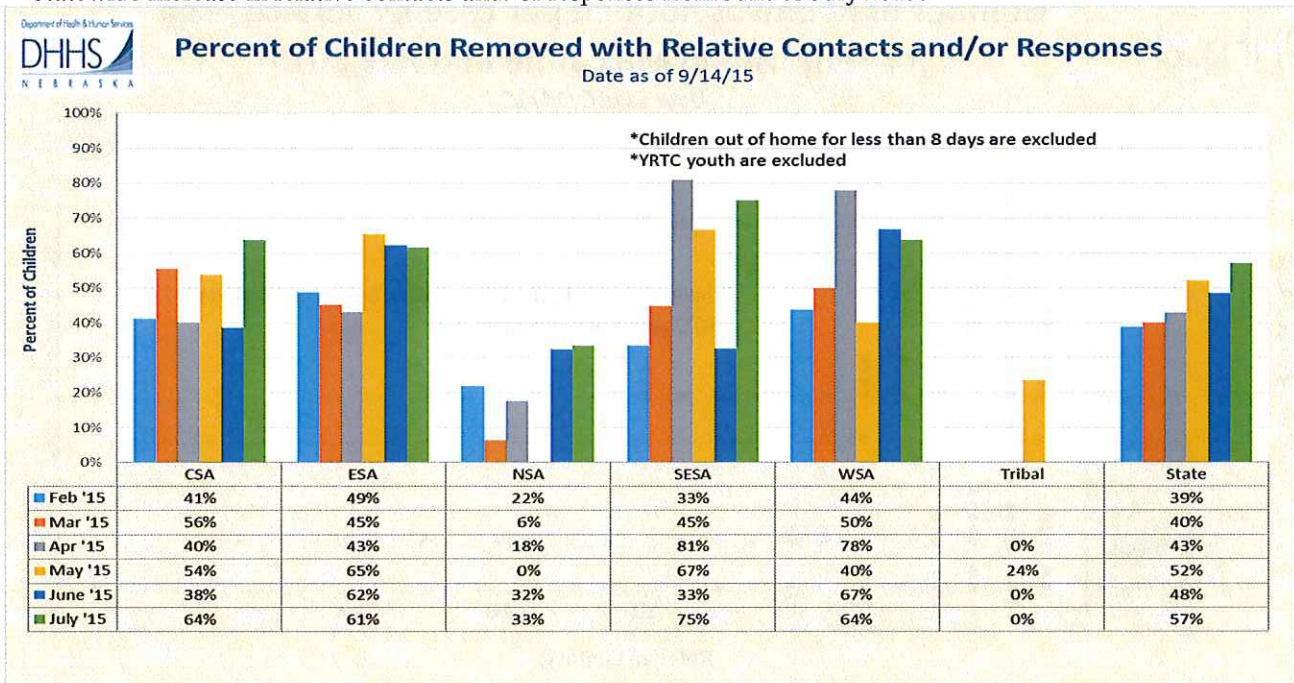
Notice to the Court:

- Statewide increase in mailed notices to the court in the last 3 months.



Relative Contacts & Responses:

- Statewide increase in relative contacts and/or responses from June to July 2015.

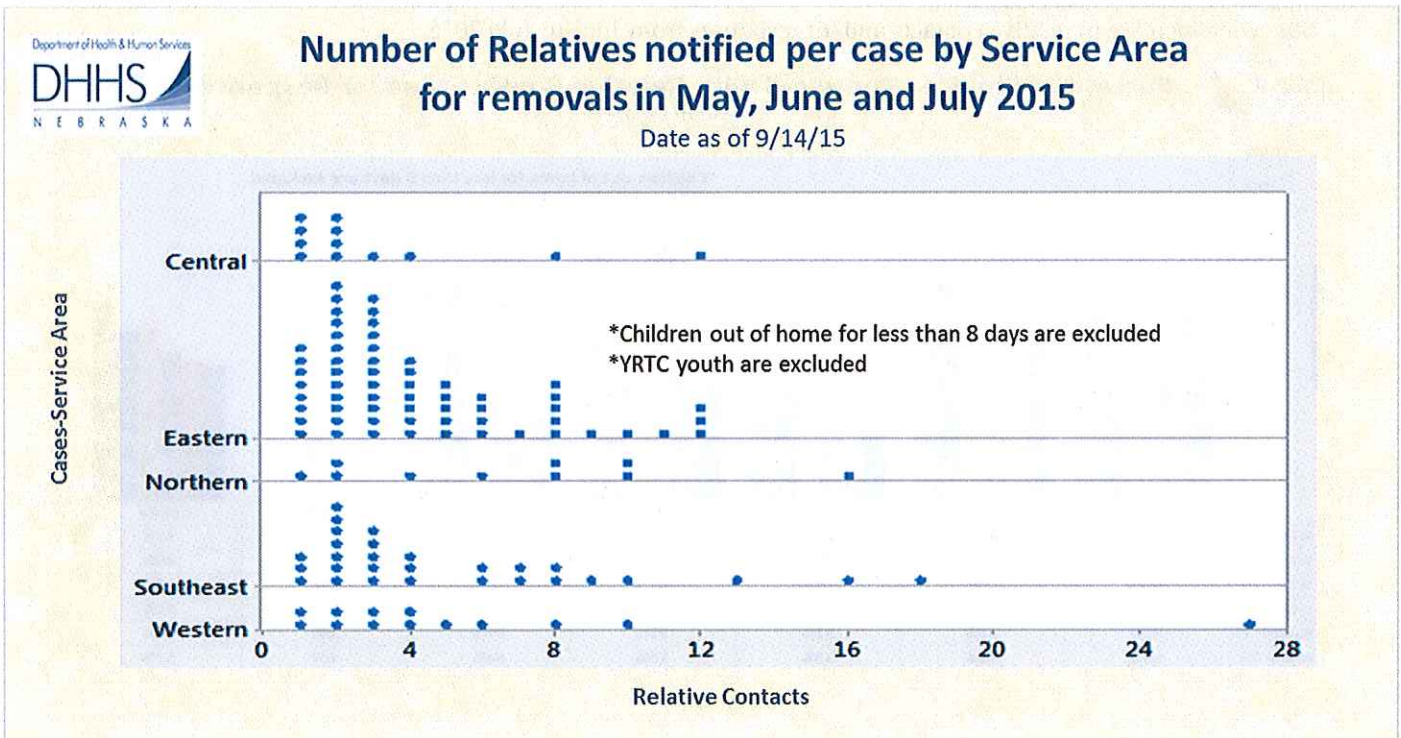
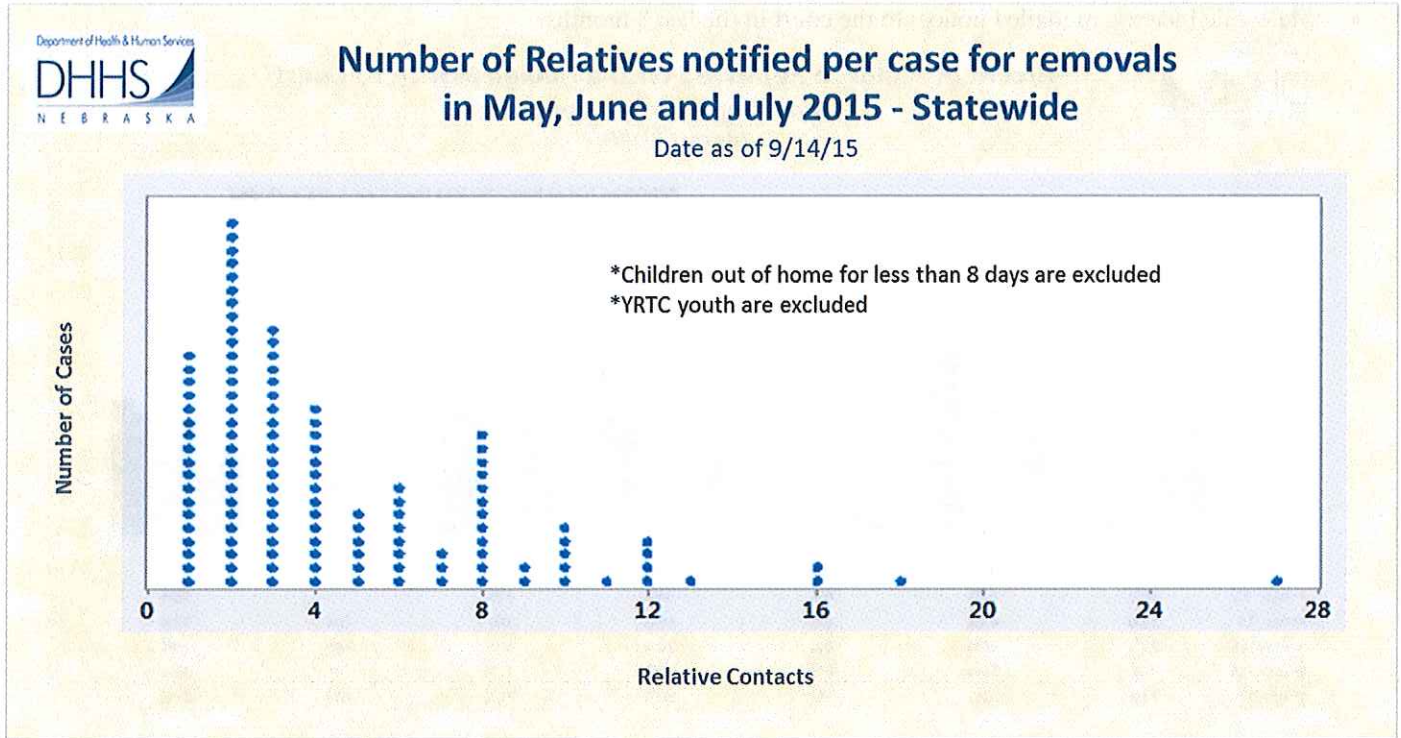




Children and Family Services Continuous Quality Improvement

Contact Distribution:

- Majority of the cases show contacts with 1-4 relatives. However, there are cases that show contacts with over 10 relatives and one with over 20 relatives.

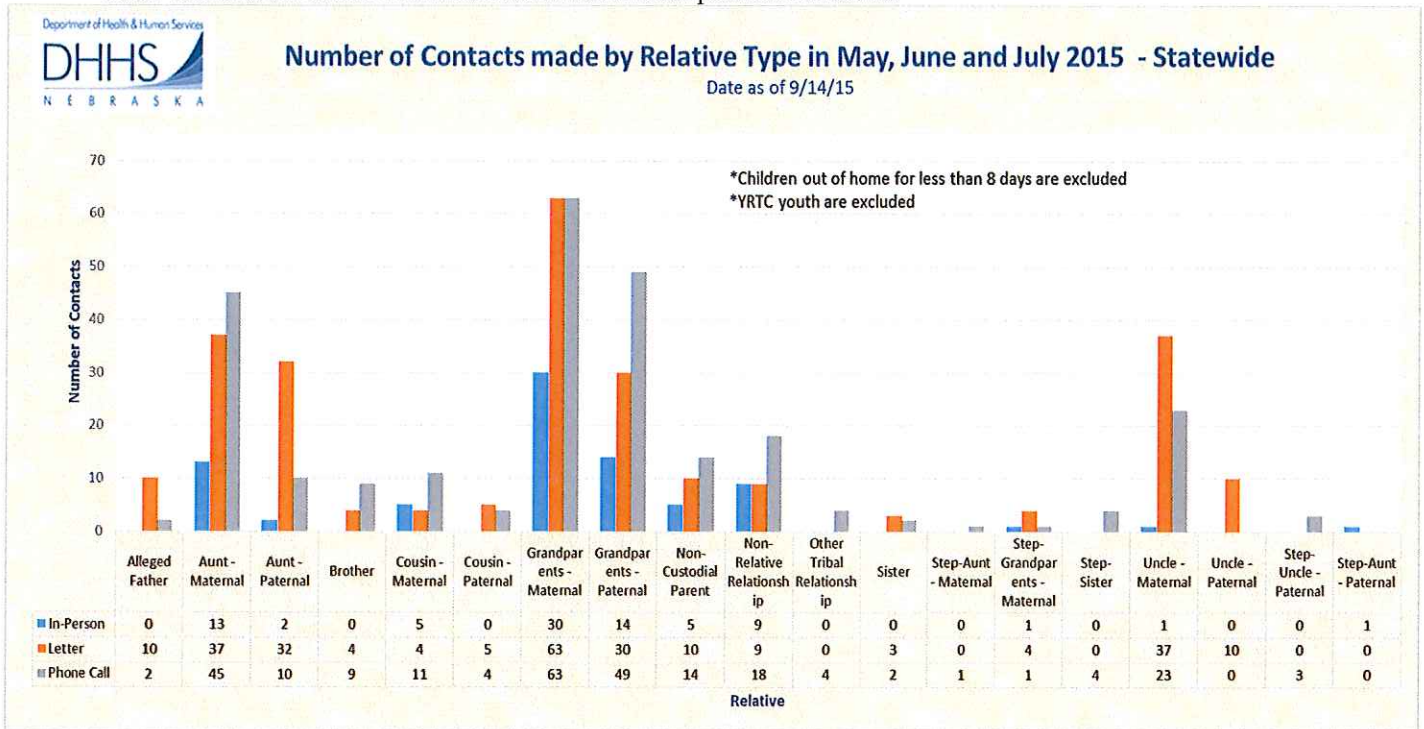




Children and Family Services Continuous Quality Improvement

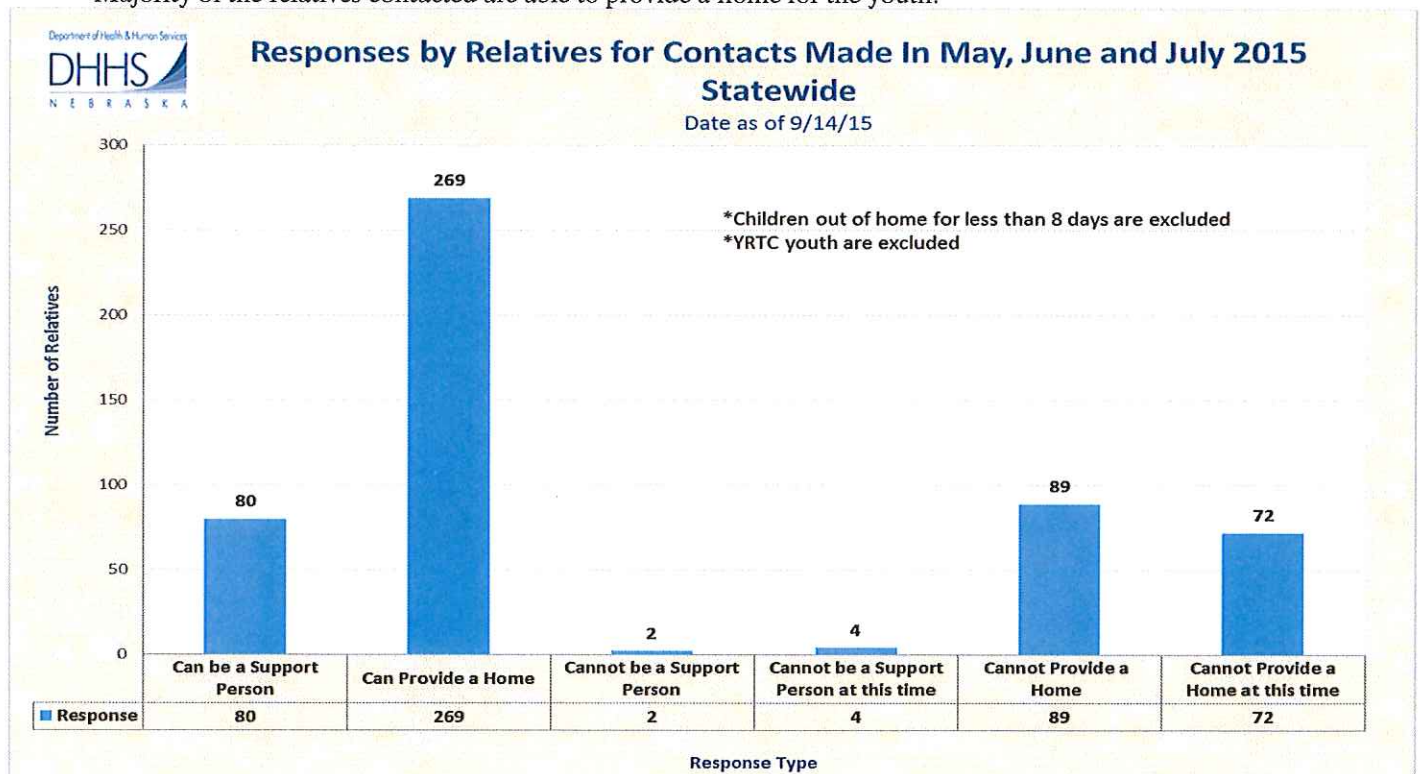
Contacts By Relative Type:

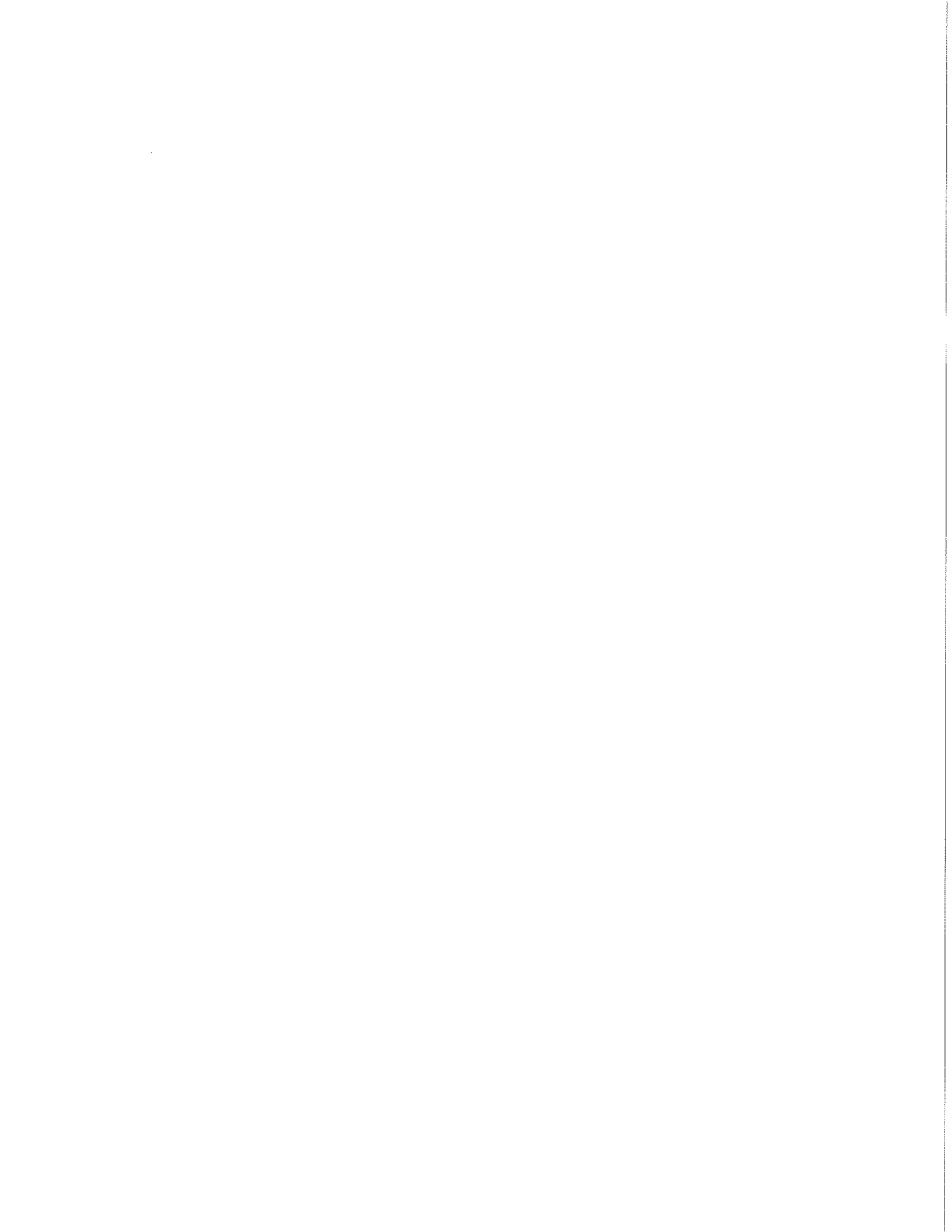
- More contacts are made with maternal relatives than paternal relatives.



Relative Contacts – Responses Received

- Majority of the relatives contacted are able to provide a home for the youth.





CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (CQI)



Child Protection & Safety

Supplemental Handouts for the July 24, 2014 CQI Meeting

Contents

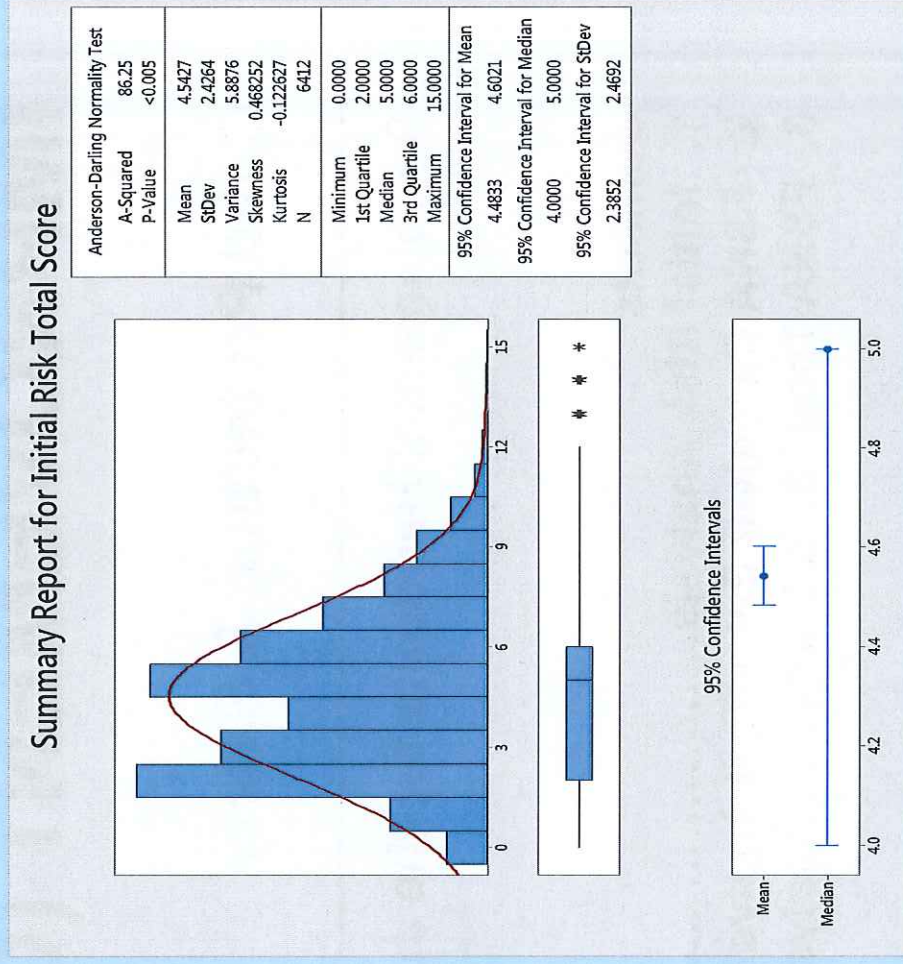
1. Initial Risk Analysis.....Page 2
2. FSNA Caregiver Entry/Exit Analysis.....Page 5
3. FSNA Total Child Entry/Exit Analysis.....Page 8

Initial Risk Assessments Completed between 10/01/2013 and 05/31/2014

- The IA Risk Assessment has an Neglect Score and an Abuse Score. The higher Risk Level is the overall Risk Level for the Assessment.

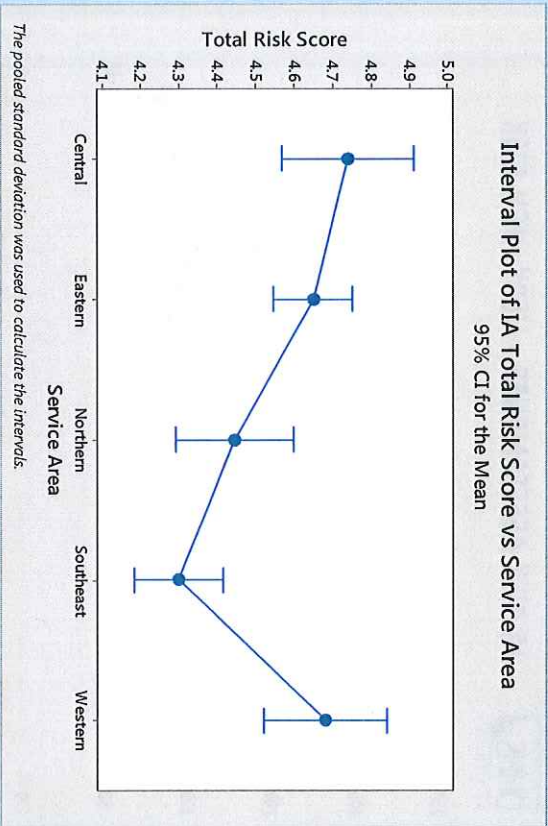
<u>Neglect Score</u>	<u>Abuse Score</u>	<u>Risk Level</u>
0-1	0-1	Low
2-4	2-4	Moderate
5-8	5-7	High
9+	8+	Very High

The mean total score is 4.5 and the median total score is 5. The central tendency is towards the upper end of the moderate level/lower end of the high level.



ANOVA – Total Initial Risk Score Assessments Completed between 10/01/2013 and 05/31/2014

The P-Value = 0.000 meaning the variance between service areas is not random. SESA is only overlapping with one other service area.

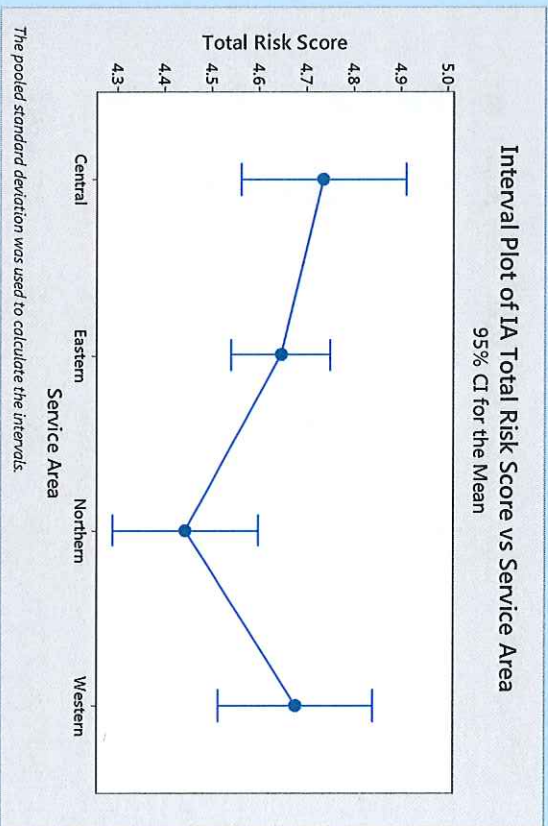


Means

Service Area	N	Mean	StDev	95% CI
Central	767	4.7405	2.4268	(4.5692, 4.9119)
Eastern	2111	4.6509	2.5138	(4.5476, 4.7542)
Northern	968	4.4483	2.3887	(4.2958, 4.6009)
Southeast	1694	4.3011	2.3203	(4.1857, 4.4164)
Western	872	4.6812	2.4173	(4.5204, 4.8419)

Pooled StDev = 2.42143

When SESA is removed from the analysis, the P-Value = 0.061 which shows there is no significant difference between the other four service areas.



Means

Service Area	N	Mean	StDev	95% CI
Central	767	4.7405	2.4268	(4.5666, 4.9145)
Eastern	2111	4.6509	2.5138	(4.5460, 4.7557)
Northern	968	4.4483	2.3887	(4.2935, 4.6032)
Western	872	4.6812	2.4173	(4.5181, 4.8443)

Pooled StDev = 2.45675

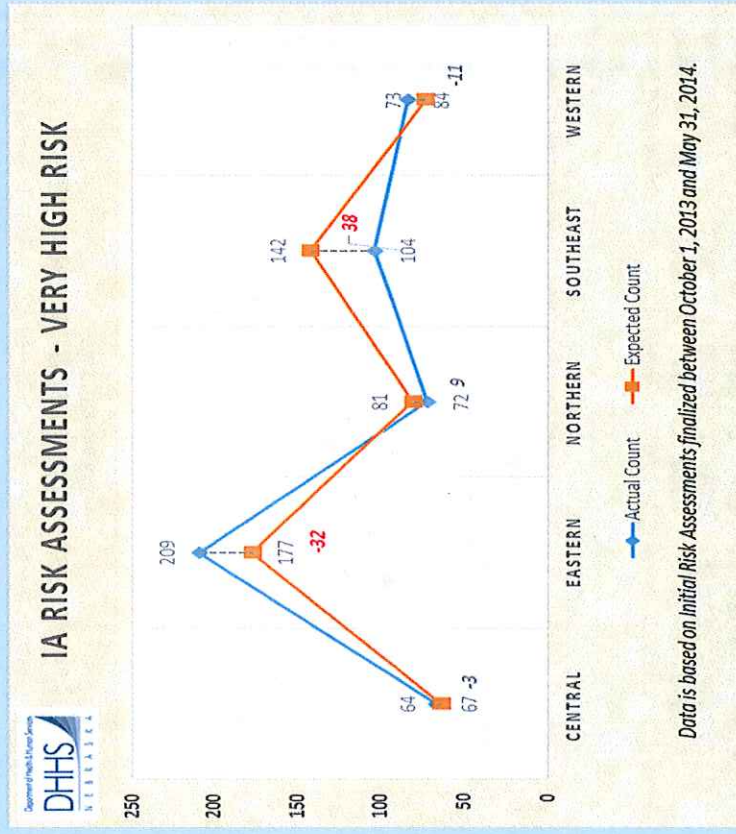
Chi-Square – Initial Risk Assessments

Assessments Completed between 10/01/2013 and 05/31/2014

The Southeast Service are is less likely to identify families as Very High risk and more likely to identify families as low risk.

According to the Chi-Square test, 38 more SESA families should have been identified as Very High risk and in ESA, 32 fewer families should have been identified as Very High risk.

Rows: Service Area	Columns: Risk Level				All
	Low	Moderate	High	Very High	
Central	58	281	361	67	767
	54.1	324.0	324.8	64.1	
	0.5347	-2.3914	2.0106	0.3602	
Eastern	128	895	879	209	2111
	148.8	891.9	893.8	176.5	
	-1.7059	0.1047	-0.4967	2.4492	
Northern	77	412	407	72	968
	68.2	409.0	409.9	80.9	
	1.0608	0.1499	-0.1420	-0.9914	
Southeast	144	752	694	104	1694
	119.4	715.7	717.3	141.6	
	2.2498	1.3570	-0.8693	-3.1603	
Western	45	369	374	84	872
	61.5	368.4	369.2	72.9	
	-2.1007	0.0307	0.2484	1.3009	
All	452	2709	2715	536	6412
Cell Contents:	Count	Count	Count	Count	
	Expected count	Expected count	Expected count	Expected count	
	Standardized residual	Standardized residual	Standardized residual	Standardized residual	





Children and Family Services Continuous Quality Improvement

Children and Family Services Review (CFSR)

Permanency Outcome 1:

Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

OVERVIEW

Item #5: Permanency Goal for Child.

Purpose: To determine whether appropriate permanency goals were established for the child in a timely manner.

Applicability: All foster care cases are applicable for this assessment unless the child has not been in foster care long enough (at least 60 days) for the agency to have developed a case plan and established a permanency goal. If the child has been in foster care for less than 60 days, but a permanency goal has been established, the case is applicable for this assessment.

Item Rating Criteria:

Note: This item applies to all permanency goals in effect during the period under review. If there are concurrent goals, the questions for this item applies to both goals.

- Item 5 is rated as a **Strength** if all of the following apply:
 - The child's permanency goal(s) was/were documented in the case file.
 - Permanency goal(s) were established timely
 - Child's first permanency goal should be established no later than 60 days from the child's entry into foster care, consistent with the federal requirement.
 - Changes to the child's permanency goal are assessed based on the length of time in foster care and the circumstances of the case.
 - Permanency goal(s) were appropriate for the child's needs and the circumstances of the case.
 - Requirements were met for termination of parental rights under the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA).
 - The ASFA requires an agency to seek termination of parental rights when the child has been in care for at least 15 of the most recent 22 months, or a court of competent jurisdiction has determined that:
 - The child is an abandoned infant, or
 - The child's parents have been convicted of one of the felonies designated in Section 475(5)(E) of the Social Security Act:
 - Committed murder of another child of the parent
 - Committed voluntary manslaughter of another child of the parent
 - Aided or abetted, attempted, conspired, or solicited to commit such a murder or such a voluntary manslaughter
 - Committed a felony assault that resulted in serious bodily injury to the child or another child of the parent



Children and Family Services

Continuous Quality Improvement

Item 5 is rated as an **Area Needing Improvement** if any of the following apply:

- There are no permanency goals specified in the case file
- The permanency goals that were in effect were not established in a timely manner.
- The permanency goals were not appropriate to the child's needs for permanency and to the circumstances of the case.
- The child has been in foster care for 15/22 months or meets the criteria for termination of parental rights under ASFA and,
 - A termination of parental rights (TPR) was not filed in a timely manner and there is no documentation to support an exception to the requirement to file for TPR.
 - Termination exceptions include:
 - The child is being cared for by a relative at the 15/22 month time frame
 - The agency documented in the case plan a compelling reason for determining that termination of parental rights would not be in the best interests of the child.
 - The state has not provided to the family the services that the state deemed necessary for the safe return of the child to the child's home.

Source of Information:

- Case Plan
- Court Report
- Required contacts and consultation points
- Family team meetings
- Interview with the case manager

CASE EXAMPLES

Examples of cases that were rated as an Area Needing Improvement:

- Example 1:

The child's current permanency goals of Reunification and Adoption are specified in the case plan.

 - *The child's initial goal of Reunification was not established in a timely manner. The goal was documented after the child had been in care over 60 days.*
 - *A concurrent goal of adoption does not appear to be appropriate as it was established after the child was returned home to their mother. It is unclear why the goal of adoption was not established until after the child was reunified with their parent.*

The child had been in care 15 out of the most recent 22 months and

 - *A Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) motion was not documented in the case file. The case is largely about the child's behaviors and reunification took place during the period under review. However, there was no exception located in the case file to support not filing for TPR.*
- Example 2

The child's current permanency goals of reunification and adoption were established timely and within 52 days of the child's entry into foster care. The child has been in out of home care for 15 of the most recent 22 months.

 - *The agency has not filed termination of parental rights (TPR) petition as of the review date and there is no information to support exception to TPR filing.*
 - *The mother has not made significant progress prior to and during the period under review to achieve the goal of reunification, and TPR is appropriate based on these circumstances. According to documentation, the father stated that he wanted to relinquish his rights 01/2014 and on 3/2014, however, there is no information to support the relinquishment took place during the period under review.*



Children and Family Services

Continuous Quality Improvement

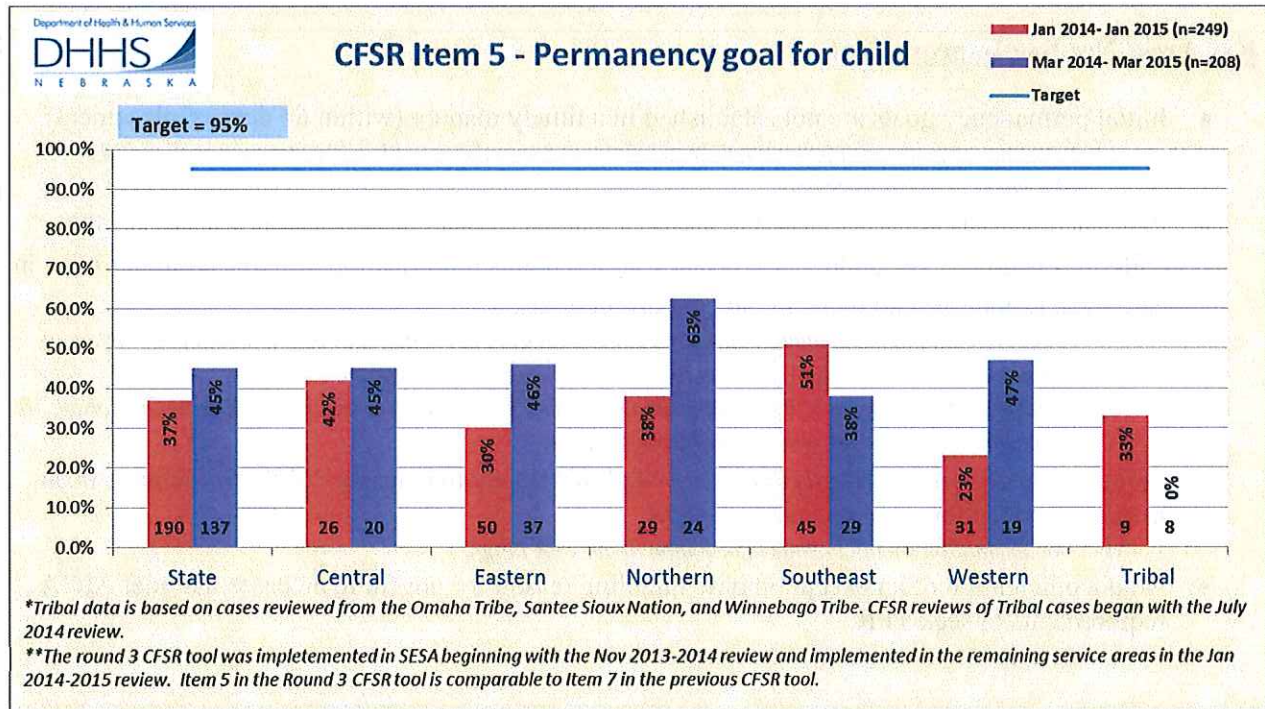
Examples of cases that were rated as Strengths:

- Example 1:
This Item is a Strength as the permanency goal of Reunification was established six days after the youth entered foster care.
 - *This goal is appropriate as the agency is working to reunify the youth with his father and step mother. The child was in care 9 months at the end of the PUR.*
 - *The Adoption and Safe Families Act does not apply. The caseworker reports that the county attorney is talking about filing a Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) as the parents are not making sufficient progress on case plan goals, but this was not decided or needed by the end of the PUR.*

- Example 2:
This item is a Strength as case plan goals were established in a timely manner and were appropriate for case circumstances
 - *The child's original goal of reunification was established in a timely manner (within 31 days of removal) and it is specified in the case plan.*
 - *The child's current permanency goals of guardianship/adoption were also appropriate due to the child's age, the child being placed in a home that would provide permanency and the child and the child's mother was supportive of the guardianship/permanency with the current foster placement.*
 - *The case plan goals of adoption/guardianship were timely as they were established within five months of the removal.*

The child has not been in out of home care for more than 15 of the last 22 months and does not meet other Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) criteria for termination of parental rights.

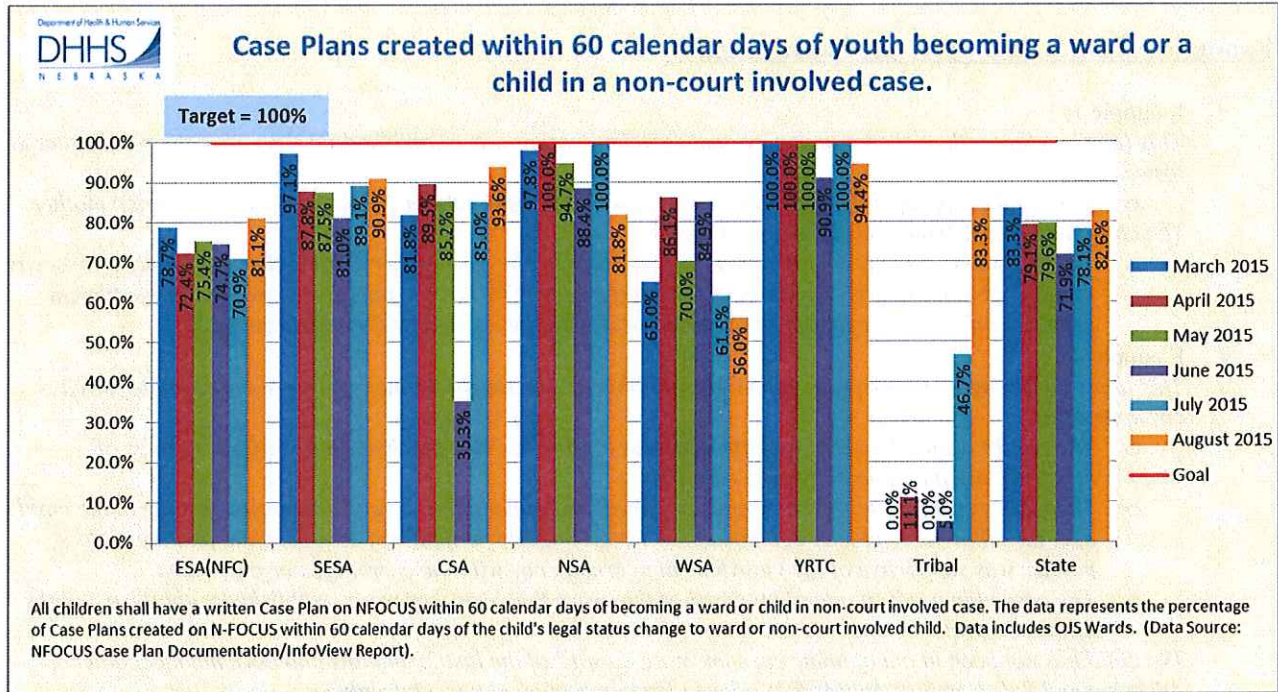
STATEWIDE CFSR PEFORMANCE





Children and Family Services Continuous Quality Improvement

RELATED DATA & REPORTS



COI ACTION STEPS

The following areas needing improvement are based on QA staff observations from the CFSR reviews.

Key Areas Needing Improvement

- Initial permanency goals are not established in a timely manner (within 60 days of placement).
 - *Permanency goals must be established and documented in the case file within 60 days of the child's placement in out of home care.*
- Permanency goals are not changed in a timely manner to meet the permanency needs for the child. For example, the child's permanency goal remains reunification after the child has been in care over 12 months and there are no concurrent goals.
 - *Concurrent planning should be considered when it appears likely that the current permanency objective will not be achieved within a reasonable amount of time (regardless of the objective).*
 - *CFSR guidelines indicate, "Reasonable amount of time", in most cases, is 12 months for reunification, 18 months for guardianship, and 24 months for adoption.*
- Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) not filed in a timely manner for children who have been in care 15 out of the most recent 22 months.
 - *Documentation should include information about TPR filing.*
- No documentation of an exception or compelling reason for not filing on cases that met AFSA requirements to seek TPR.
 - *Exceptions must be clearly documented in the case file.*



Children and Family Services Continuous Quality Improvement

The following barriers and strategies to address barriers are taken from information presented by the CFSR champions and discussions during the CQI meetings in the past 6 months.

<u>Identified Barriers:</u>	<u>Strategies to Address Barriers:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lack of understanding by workers on when the 60 day timeframe starts when a child is placed in foster care. Need a better understanding on when the official 60 day count starts.</i> • <i>Lack of clear documentation of the established permanency objective for the child prior to the development of the initial case plan</i> • <i>Lack of understanding and consistent use of concurrent permanency goals by case managers and at times lack of support of concurrent permanency objectives by the courts.</i> • <i>Lack of understanding and lack of clear documentation in the case file regarding ASFA requirements when exceptions or compelling reasons not to file for TPR exist in the case.</i> • <i>County Attorneys and GALs not willing to file TPR's and TPR Appeals are not timely.</i> • <i>Inconsistent or ineffective communication with the court regarding youth who have been in care for 15 out of 22 months. Need to re-evaluate and change method of notification or communication to the judges and County Attorneys.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Clarification provided during the statewide meeting on 3/26/15. The official 60 day count starts when the child's legal status is changed to reflect that they are placed in out of home care.</i> • <i>The new Family Team Meeting procedure update (effective 6/15/15) includes instructions to discuss the child's permanency goal and include the permanency goal in the documentation of the family team meeting on N-FOCUS within 7 days following the Family Team Meeting.</i> • <i>DHHS Policy team distributed a new Protection and Safety Procedure memo (11-2015) addressing Concurrent Planning for Children in Out of Home Care. The new memo was effective 5/8/15.</i> • <i>N-FOCUS changes have been made to allow workers to document TPR hearing and exception information and decisions in the Parental Rights field on N-FOCUS. A quick tip was developed to promote understanding of the new fields on N-FOCUS.</i> • <i>Neligh will convene a legal issues sub-committee to address delays with appeals, concurrent planning education with external stakeholders and other court related issues.</i> • <i>New reports/or lists of youth who have been in care 15 out of the most recent 22 months have been developed and awaiting distribution to the judges, county attorney and Service Area Administrators.</i>



Children and Family Services Continuous Quality Improvement

N-FOCUS Related Tips:

15 Out of 22 Months in Out of Home Window within the Parental Rights section

A new window has been created to track hearings related to parental rights for children who have been in out of home care for 15 of the last 22 months. The window can be accessed from the Parental Rights window. From the Parental Rights window, select the '15 of 22 OH' pushbutton.

The new window allows workers to enter the following:

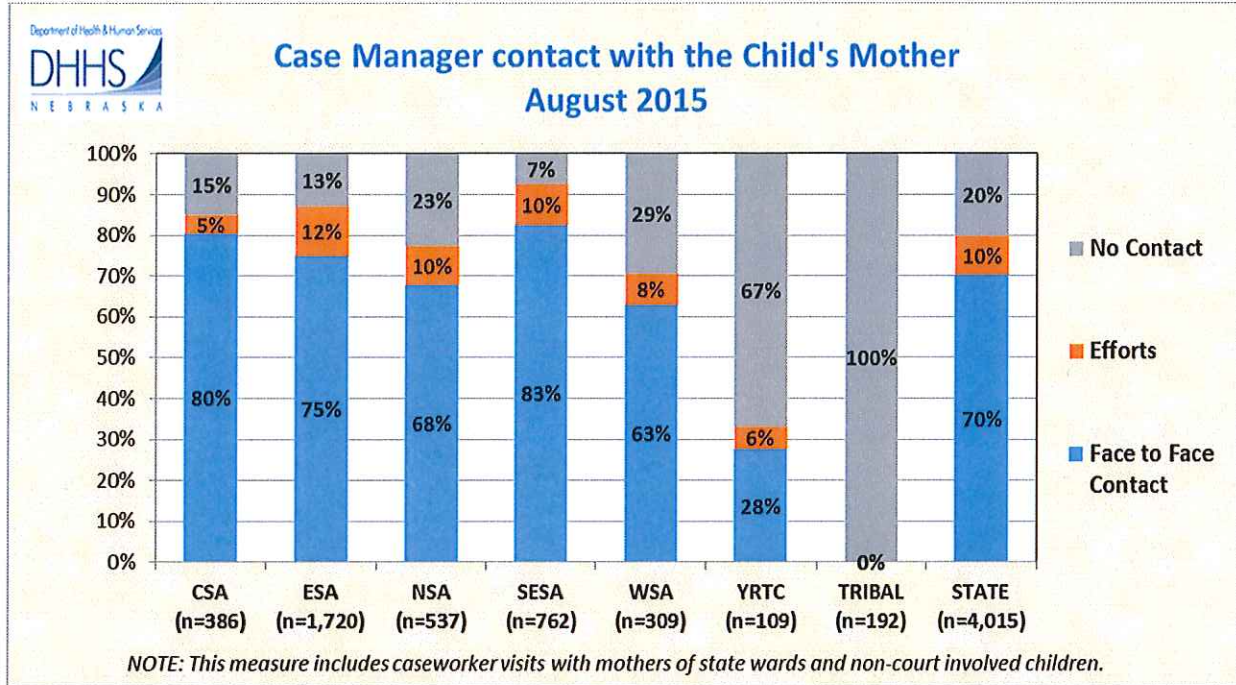
- Date the case manager sent a request to the County Attorney or Guardian ad Litem to file for TPR
- Response from the County Attorney or Guardian ad Litem
- Date TPR was filed by the County Attorney or Guardian Ad Litem
- Date the TPR hearing is scheduled (1st scheduled hearing date)
- Date the TPR hearing was held (Last day of the TPR hearing when a decision is made)
- When an exception hearing is scheduled and held



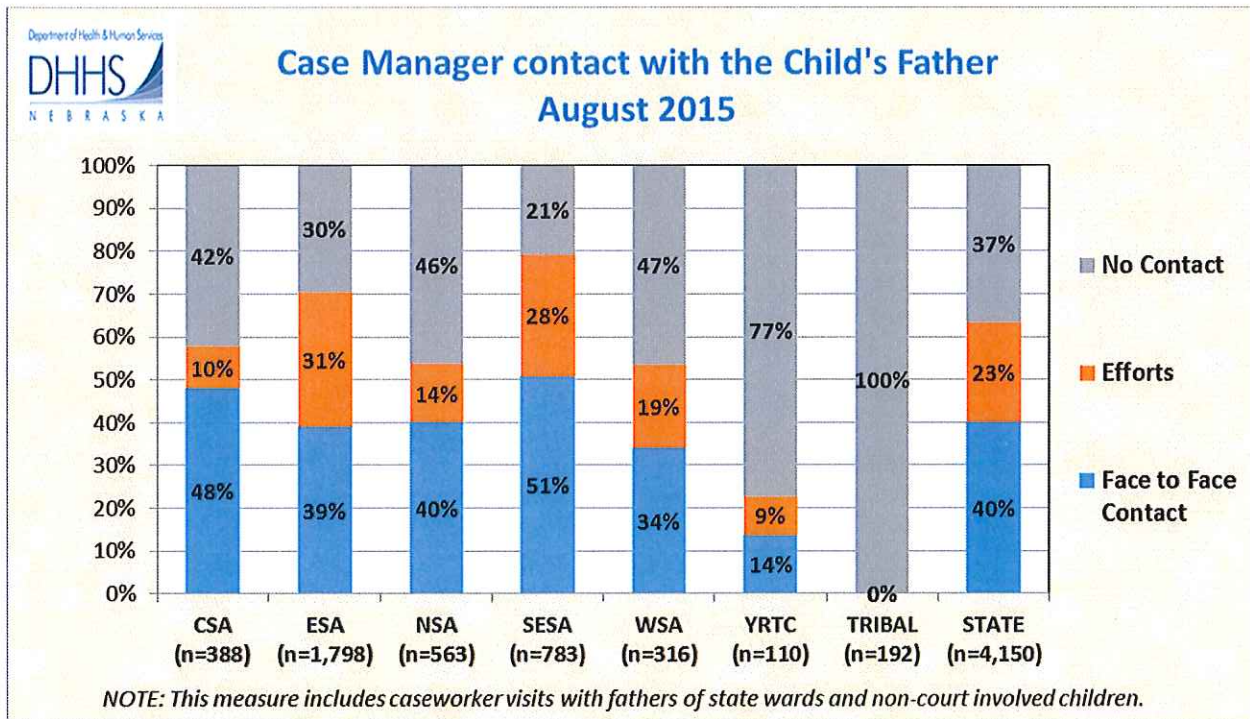
Children and Family Services Continuous Quality Improvement

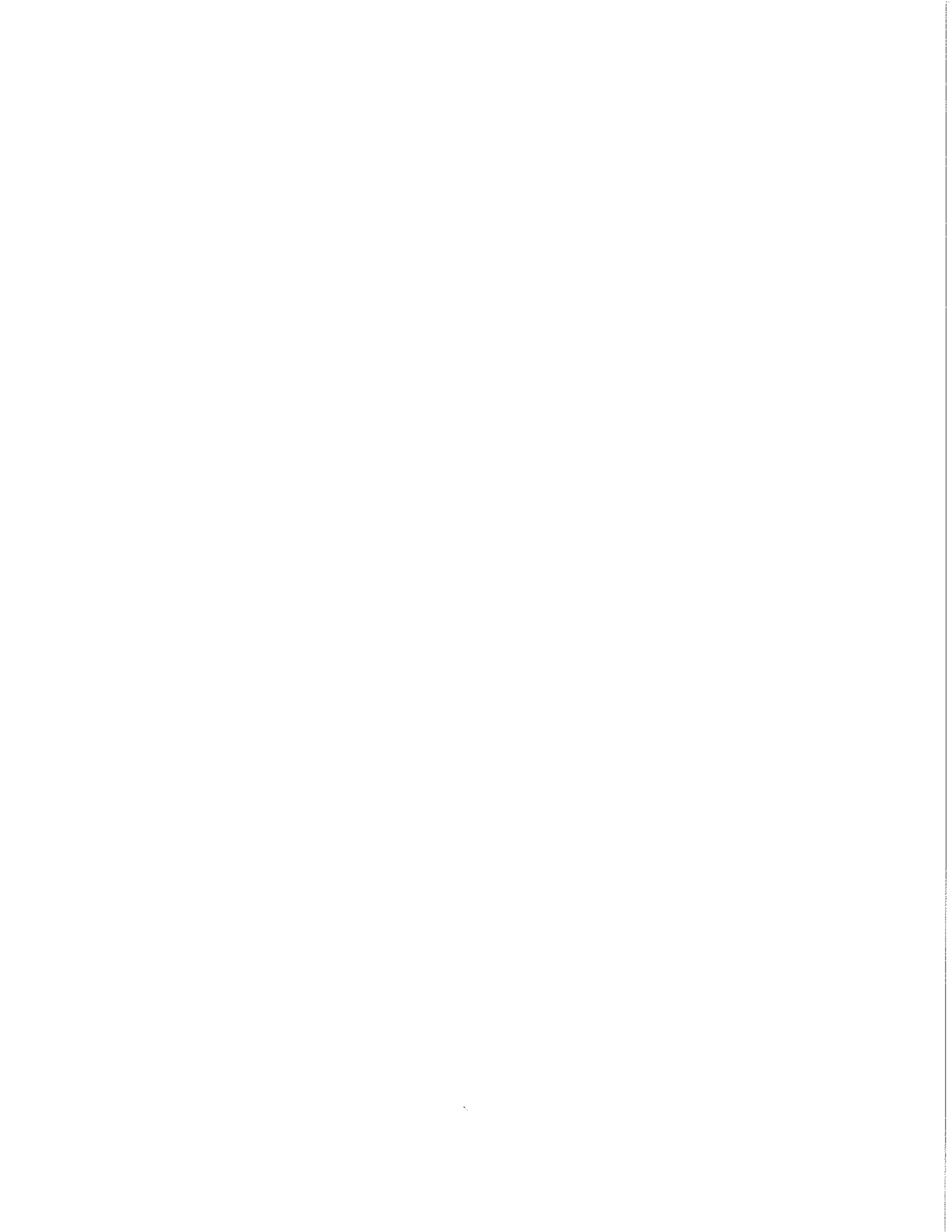
Contacts with Parents By Service Area August 2015

Contact with the Mother:



Contact with the Father:





Certificate of Achievement

Awarded to

Central Service Area

CFS Specialists who achieved 80% or above in the following measures:

- FSNA's completed within 90 days.
- Reunification Assessments and Risk Reassessments complete within 90 days.
- FTM narratives from April to June 2015 contained 1200 characters and quality information.
- Children reunified between 08/01/2014 and 07/31/2015 were reunified within 12 months.

The following is a list of the outstanding case managers in the Central Service Area who achieved this amazing accomplishment:

- Sarah Buchholz
- Lacey Farrington



Presented by:
CFS Research, Planning and Evaluation Team
August 27th 2015

