



# **Foster Care Presentation**

## **Saline County**

October 9, 2018

# Coalition:

- Independent advocacy organizations
- Youth leaders and families with direct experience
- Came together over concerns about the record number of children in foster care
  - How did we get here?
  - What can we do about it?

# Goals for this presentation:

- Share information
- Provide a common foundation for discussion

# Goals for the child welfare system:

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# Number of kids in foster care:

- 7,588 children in foster care at the end of June 2018
- 2,361 more children in foster care than June 2010
- 396 more children in just last year
- 45% increase in 8 years; 6% increase in 1 year

Kansas - Out of Home Care Population at End of Month



Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.

# Number of kids in foster care:

- **Entries**

- SFY 2010: 3,444
- SFY 2018: 4,212 (+22%)

- **Exits**

- SFY 2010: 3,347
- SFY 2018: 3,805 (+14%)
- Not Keeping Pace

- **Average Length of Stay**

- SFY 2014: 16.7 months
- SFY 2015: 18.2 months
- SFY 2016: 18.2 months
- SFY 2017: 18.9 months
- SFY 2018: 19.1 months

# Number of kids in foster care:

- Kansas is outpacing the national increase in foster care.
  - US: +9%
  - Kansas: +22%

Sources: National increase of number of children in care as of September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012, compared to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016:  
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Kansas: 11

United States: 6

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# Number of kids in foster care:

- Kansas is outpacing the national increase in foster care.
  - US: +9%
  - Kansas: +22%
- More kids in foster care per 1,000 kids than in 42 other states.

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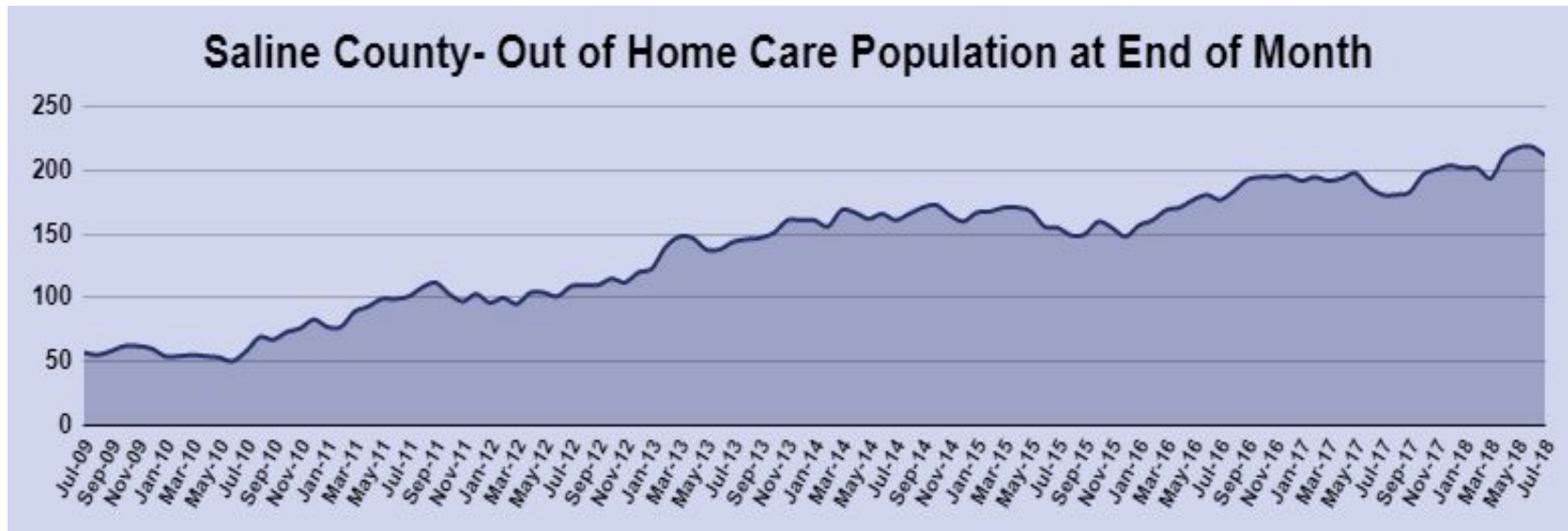
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# Number of kids in foster care:



The growth in Out of Home Care in Saline County has been even greater than it has statewide.

Year	Statewide #	% Increase	Saline County #	% Increase
June 2010	5,227	+45%	50	+338%
June 2018	7,588		219	

Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.



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Statewide	SFY 2010	SFY 2018	% change	Saline County	SFY 2010	SFY 2018	% change
Intake reports	55,730	72,683	+30%	Intake reports	1,473	1,703	+16%



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Assigned reports	27,915	40,623	+46%	Assigned reports	714	1,044	+46%

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Removals	3,444	4,212	+22%	Removals	102	124	+22%

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Removals	3,444	4,212	+22%	Removals	102	124	+22%
Referrals to FPS	2,870	2,705	-6%	Referrals to FPS	75	67	-11%

Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.



# Potential improvement:

Goal: Help struggling families at the first sign of trouble, while children can safely be kept in the home, in an effort to reduce the number of children placed in out-of-home care

Potential improvement: Allow more families to benefit from family preservation services

# Reasons for entering care:

- Primary removal reason cited by DCF

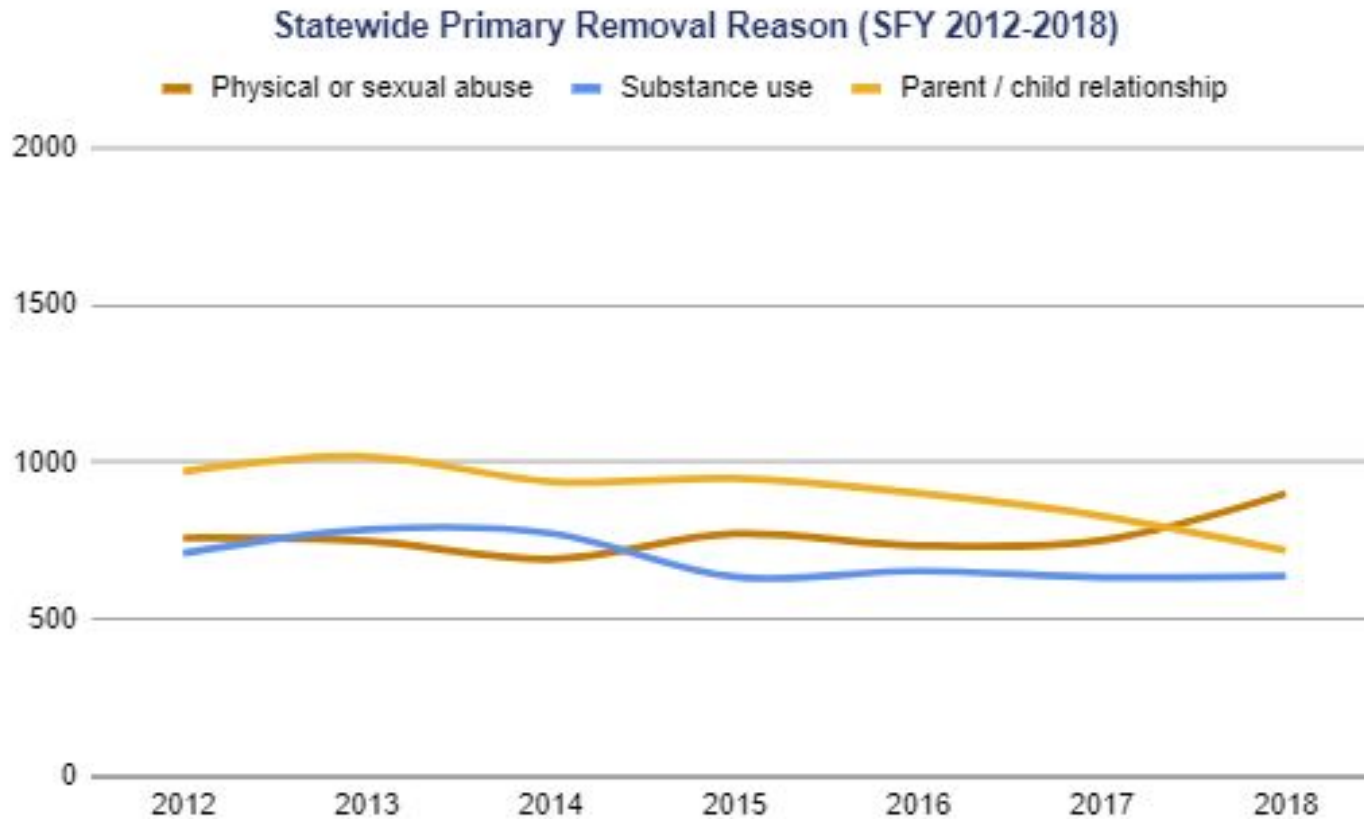
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- As in other states, more removals for neglect than abuse or other reasons
- The recent growth in children entering foster care statewide has largely been related to neglect

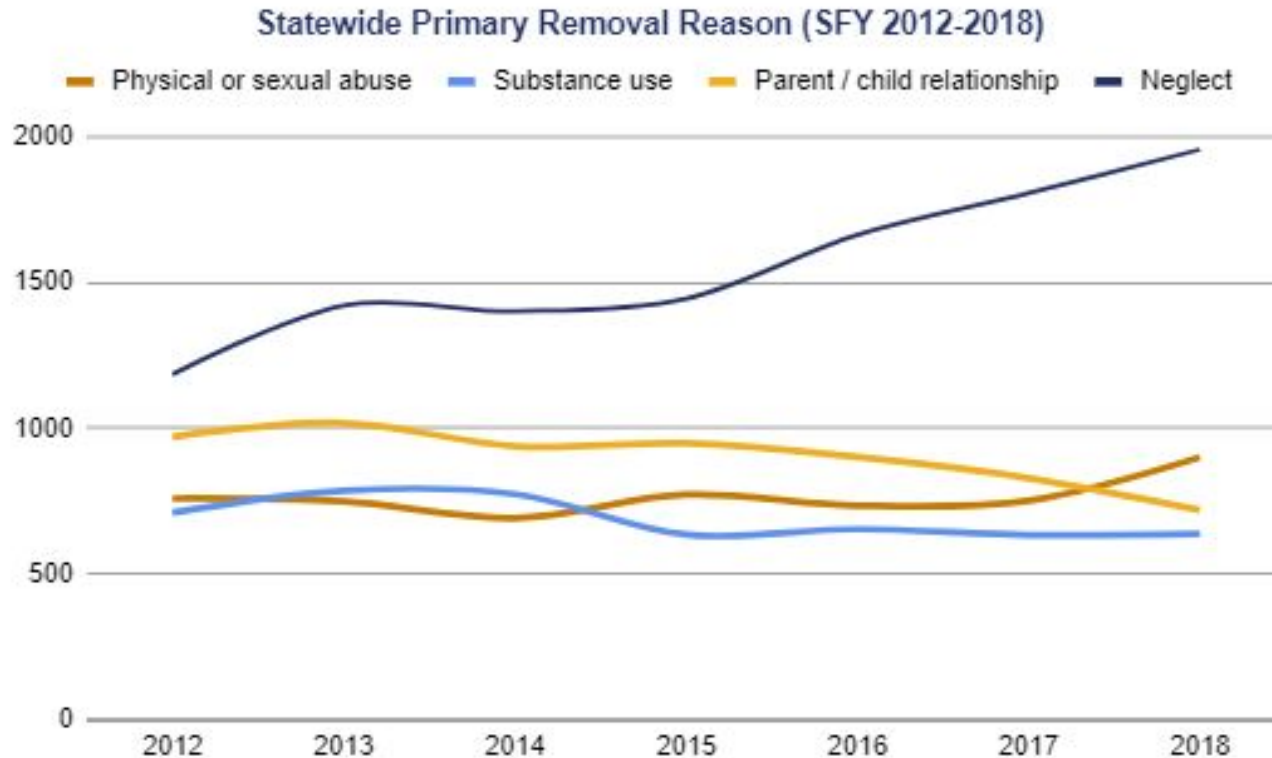
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Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.



# Reasons for entering care:



**DCF Tracked Categories**

**Neglect:** physical neglect, lack of supervision, abandonment, incarceration of parents, medical neglect, inadequate housing, death of parents, failure to thrive

**Physical or sexual abuse:** physical abuse, sexual abuse

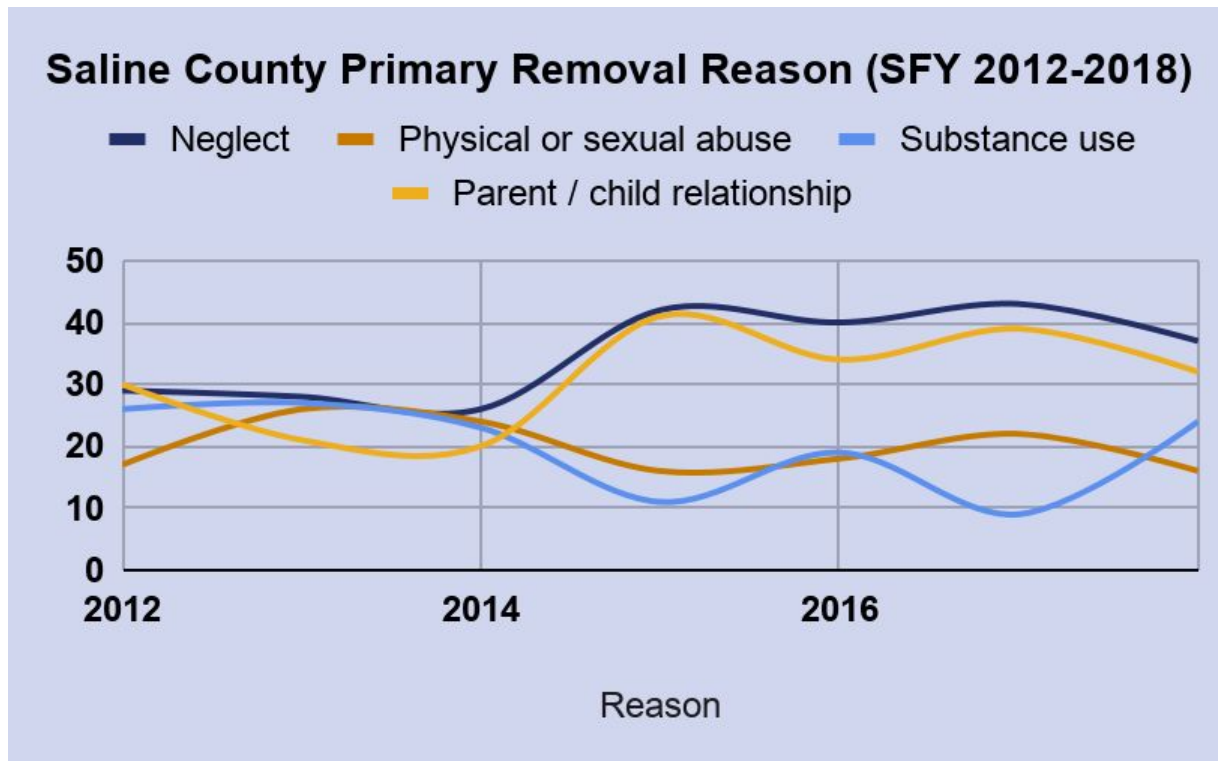
**Substance use:** drug abuse-parent, methamphetamine use, alcohol abuse-parent, drug abuse-child, alcohol abuse-child

**Parent / child relationship:** emotional abuse, child behavior problem, caretaker inability to cope, runaway, not attending school, relinquishment, child disability

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**\*Note:** County level data is only estimated because it is tracked differently than statewide data. Some categories are omitted or combined.

Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.



# Potential contributing factor:

- Social safety net programs in Kansas have assisted many fewer children and families in recent years.

Number of children served by <b>TANF</b>		
	Saline	Statewide
Jan 2011	536	26,642
Jan 2018	325	7,363

Number of children served by <b>Child Care Assistance</b>		
	Saline	Statewide
Jan 2011	544	19,629
Jan 2018	305	9,337

- Research demonstrates a causal connection statewide between these decreases, and increases in kids in care

# Potential improvement:

Goal: Help struggling families at the first sign of trouble, while children can safely be kept in the home, in an effort to reduce the number of children placed in out-of-home care

Potential improvement: Strengthen safety net supports.

# Potential improvement:

Goal: Help struggling families at the first sign of trouble, while children can safely be kept in the home, in an effort to reduce the number of children placed in out-of-home care

Potential improvement: Think about what might be unique to Saline County

# Goals for the child welfare system:

2. Provide a more stable environment for children in out-of-home care by avoiding multiple transfers of custody and school placements

# Placement stability:

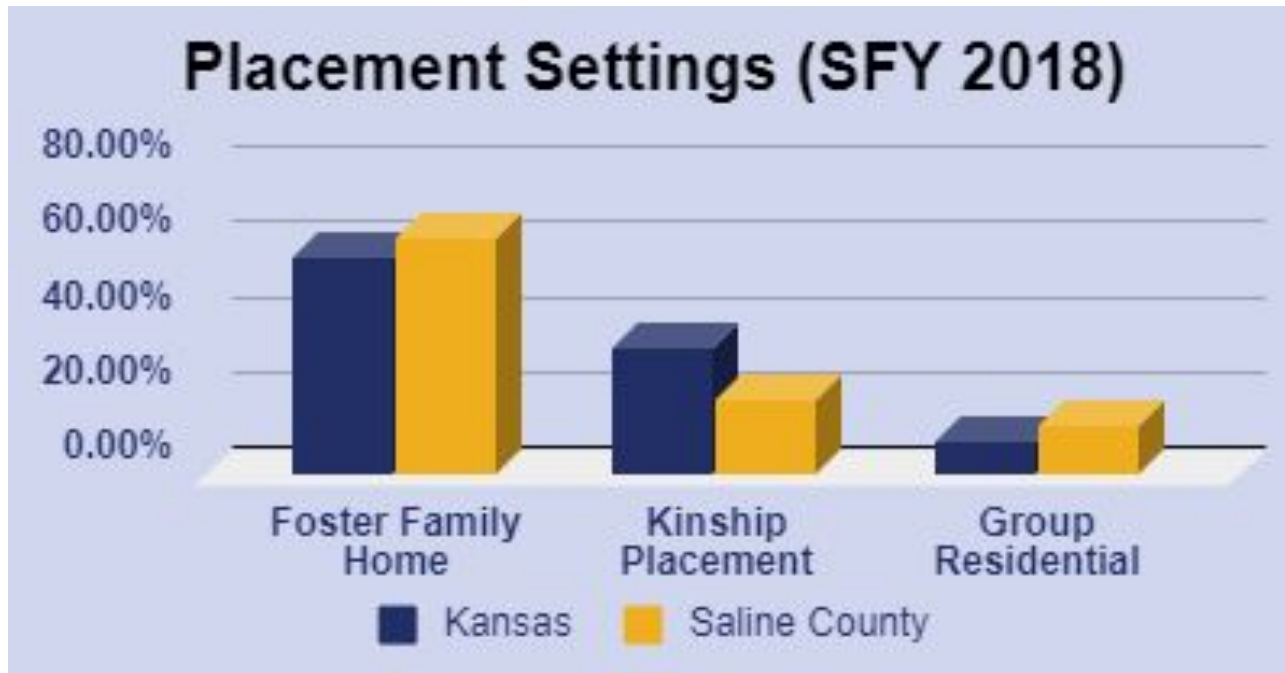
- Standard: 4 or fewer placements per 1,000 days in FC
- Kansas in FY2018: 9 placements per 1,000 days
- Ed continuity standard: 25% attend same school
- Kansas in FY2018: 16% attend same school

# Placement stability:

- Nationally, placements with relatives are generally more stable
- Saline County has a much smaller percentage of kinship placements than Kansas statewide
- Saline County also has a larger percentage of Non-Relative Foster placements and Group Residential placements than Kansas statewide



# Placement stability:



Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.



# Potential contributing factor:

- Many relative homes are not licensed and receive a lower rate of payment

<b>Statewide, SFY 2017</b>	<b>Average # of kids per month</b>
Non-relative licensed foster home (standard)	2,152
Relative, non-licensed	2,182

# Potential contributing factor:

- Many relative homes are not licensed and receive a lower rate of payment

<b>Statewide, SFY 2017</b>	<b>Average # of kids per month</b>	<b>Average daily rate paid</b>
Non-relative licensed foster home (standard)	2,152	\$21
Relative, non-licensed	2,182	\$3



# Potential improvement:

Goal: Provide a more stable environment for children in out-of-home care by avoiding multiple transfers of custody and school placements

Potential improvement: Provide relative placements more financial support and address potential licensing barriers

# Goals for the child welfare system:

3. Provide permanency for children in a shorter period, whether through reintegration back into their home, or, if needed, adoption

# Permanency:

- Average months spent in foster care for children exiting in SFY 2018 to:
  - Reunification: 10 months
  - Adoption: 38 months

# Potential contributing factors:

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  - Services parents need as part of their reunification plans may not be available or may have waiting lists

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  - Services parents need as part of their reunification plans may not be available or may have waiting lists
  - High caseloads can make it difficult for social workers to work with families intensively, and contribute to turnover
  - Additional services may be needed for higher-acuity youth

# Potential improvement:

Goal: Provide permanency for children in a shorter period, whether through reintegration back into their home, or, if needed, adoption

**Potential improvement: Create conditions through policy for successful reunification or adoption: sufficient services, caseworker attention**

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# Potential improvements:

- Allow more families to benefit from family preservation services
- Strengthen safety net supports
- Provide relative placements more financial support and address potential licensing barriers
- Create conditions through policy for successful reunification or adoption: sufficient services, caseworker attention

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