



# Family First Prevention Services Act:

Opportunities to  
Strengthen Children  
and Families  
Impacted by  
Substance Use  
Disorders and Keep  
Families Together

# SAFE STRONG SUPPORTIVE

casey family programs

SAFE CHILDREN STRONG FAMILIES SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SAFE CHILDREN STRONG FAMILIES SUPPORTIVE  
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CHILDREN STRONG FAMILIES SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES

safe children | strong families | supportive communities

# Casey Family Programs

- The nation's largest operating foundation focused on safely reducing the need for foster care and building Communities of Hope for children & families.
- We work to influence long-lasting improvements to the safety and success of children, families and the communities where they live.
  - We operate in all 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands
  - We have direct agreements with 16 tribes
  - We operate 7 field offices providing direct services to youth in care

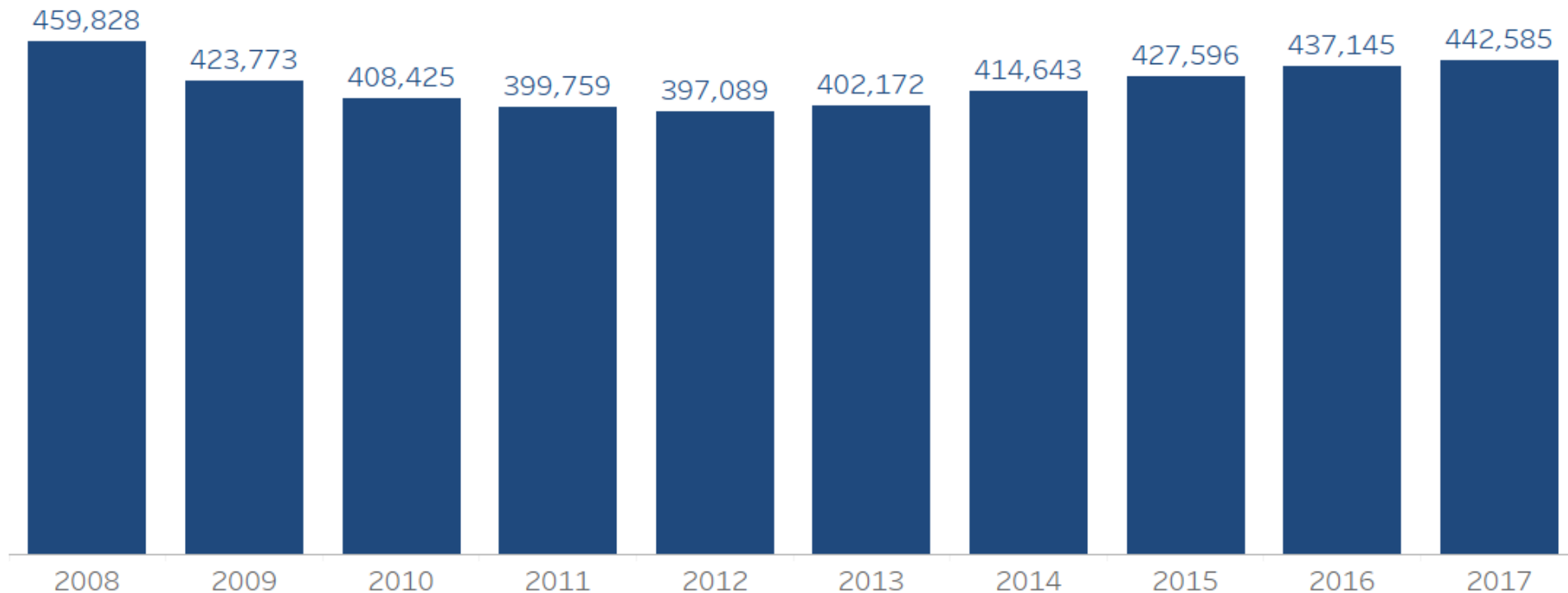
# Casey Family Programs

We believe:

- Every child should grow up in a safe, supportive and permanent family
- Every family should have access to the support of a strong and caring community
- Every community should determine how to create hope and opportunities for its children and families in need
- Everyone has a role to play in building communities of hope for all children

# After years of decline, the number of children in foster care has steadily risen in recent years.

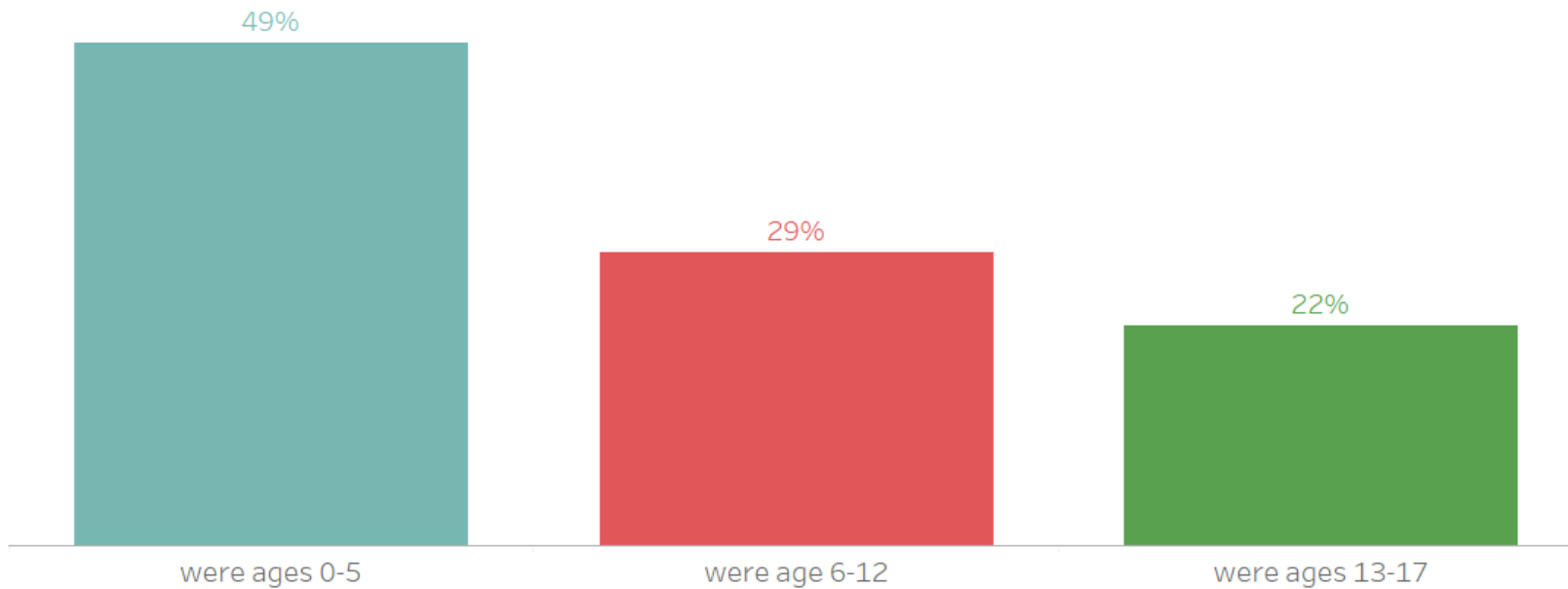
number in foster care on September 30 of the FY



Source: Adoption and Foster Care Reporting System (AFCARS) data available from National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) at Cornell University

# Children Entering Foster Care

among children who entered foster care in 2017:



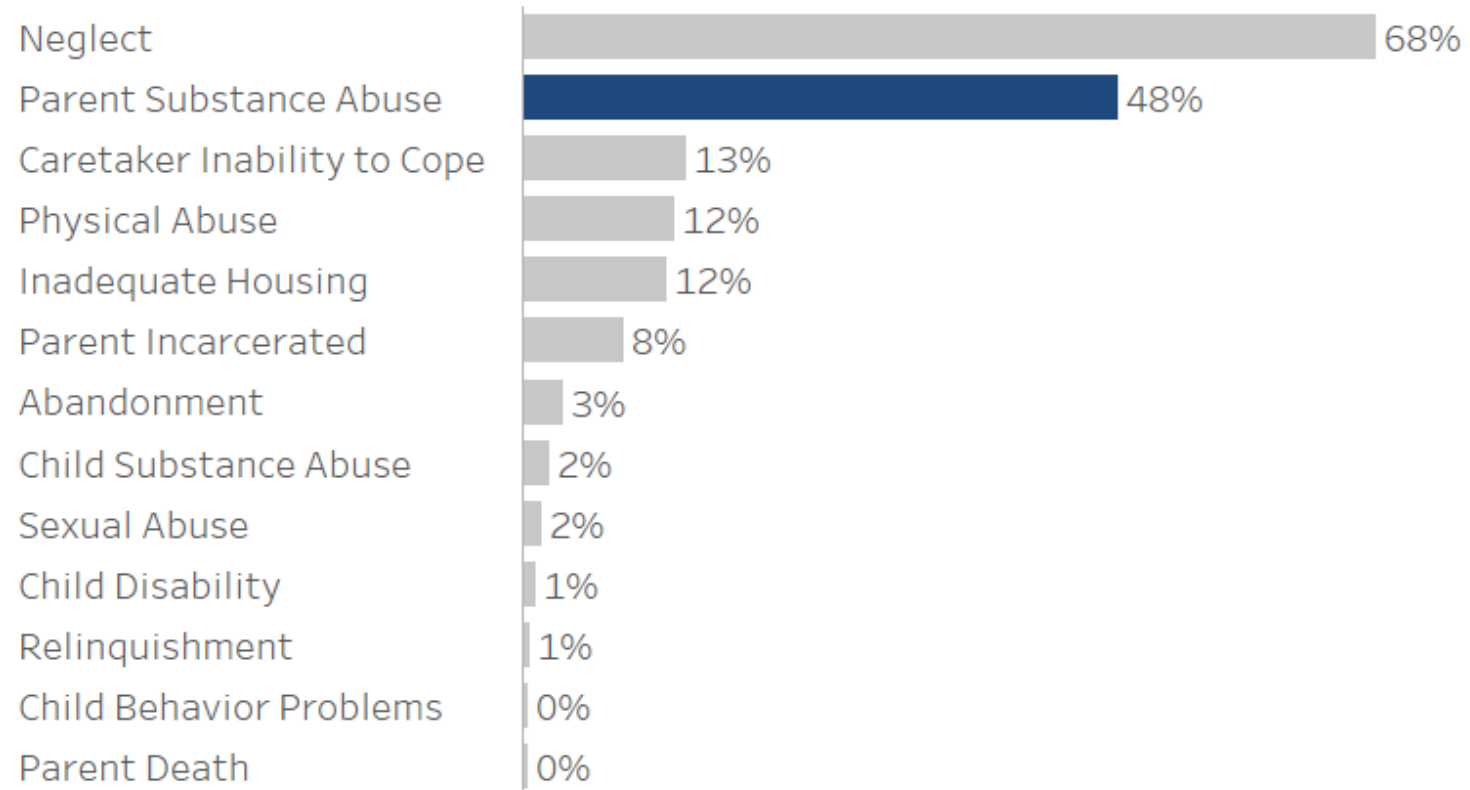
Source: Adoption and Foster Care Reporting System (AFCARS) data available from National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) at Cornell University



# Children enter foster care overwhelmingly due to neglect

percent of children entering care for each removal reason

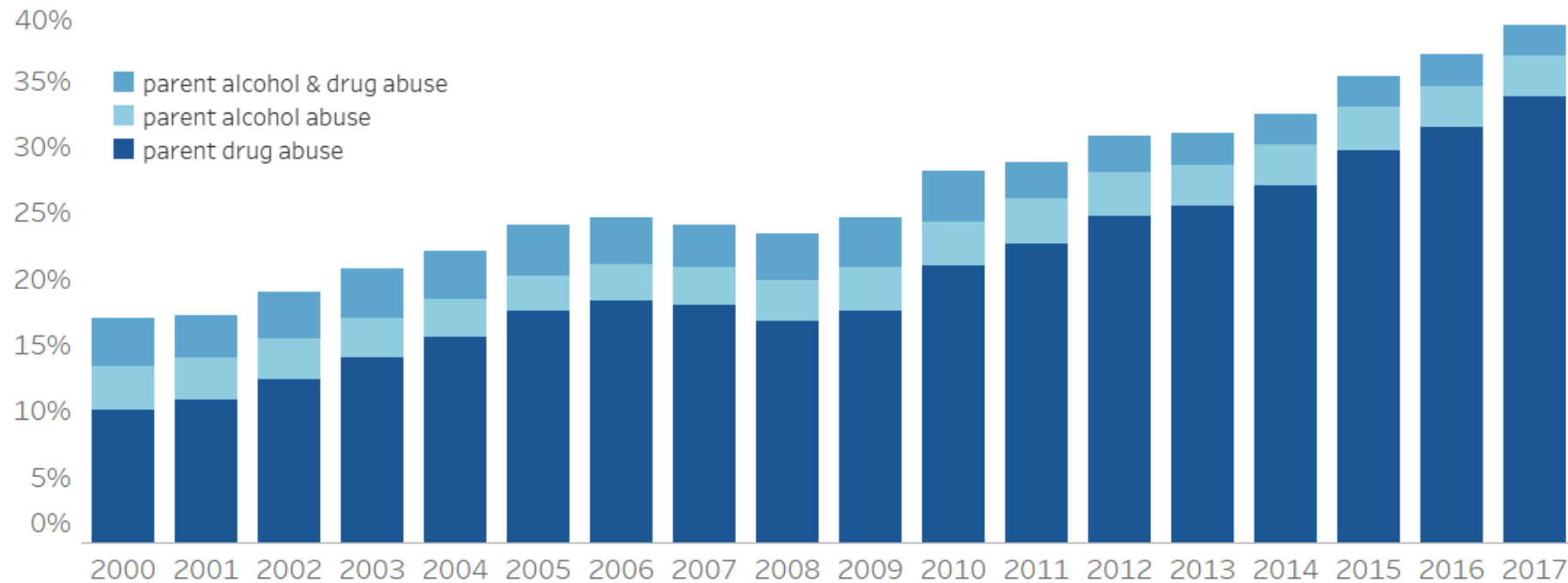
(note: multiple reasons may be selected for a single child, FY2017)



Source: Adoption and Foster Care Reporting System (AFCARS) data available from National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) at Cornell University

# Nationally, the percentage of children entering foster care due to parental substance use has risen

percent of children entering care with parental substance abuse as a removal reason  
(alone or in combination with other reasons)

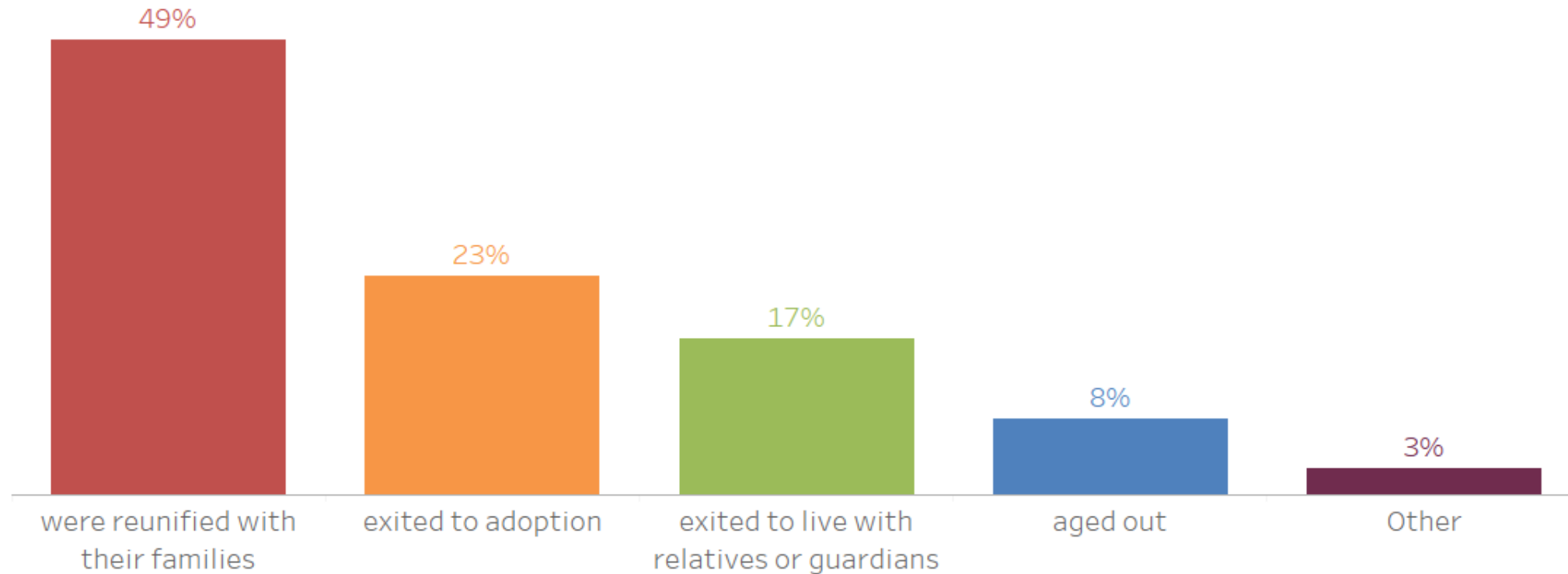


Source: Adoption and Foster Care Reporting System (AFCARS) data available from National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) at Cornell University

# Children Exiting Foster Care

What happens to children who end up in foster care? Most are safely reunited with their own parent or extended family. A significant number are adopted. Communities across America have shown that they can help more children to grow up in safe, stable families by providing appropriate and timely services after they return home.

among children who exited foster care in 2017:



Source: Adoption and Foster Care Reporting System (AFCARS) data available from National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) at Cornell University



# Child Welfare: What do we know is best for children and families?

- The goal in child welfare should be to ensure the safety, permanency and well-being of children ***and their families***.
- We know to support child well-being, it is important to intervene as early as possible.
- We know that the act of removing children from their families and homes creates emotional distress and trauma that should be avoided whenever possible.
- We know some children can be better served by remaining safely at home while their parents receive the community services and support they need.

# Family First Prevention Services Act (P.L. 115-123)

- Groundbreaking law that will provide communities across America the opportunity to strengthen families, keep children safe and build hope in their lives.
- Culmination of years of discussion among key Congressional leaders who share a vision and are passionate about keeping children safely with their families.
  - Over 500 organizations supported this Act

# What are some of the challenges Family First hopes to address?

- An inflexible funding structure where the majority of federal funding is only available once children are removed from their home.
- Consensus about the need for upfront services to strengthen families.
- An over-reliance on inappropriate congregate care with negative outcomes.
- Ending of child welfare waivers on September 30, 2019.

Source: Presentation on the Family First Prevention Services Act prepared by staff for the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance and the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means

# Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018

- New option for States and Tribes to claim Title IV-E funds for prevention activities
- New policy to ensure appropriate placements for children in foster care
- Reauthorization of numerous child welfare funding streams
- And much more

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opportunities for prevention



# New Funding for Prevention Services

- Beginning October 1, 2019, states may receive open-ended entitlement funding for evidence-based prevention services for candidates for foster care.
- ***How does Family First define who is a candidate for foster care?***
  - 1) Children at imminent risk of placement in foster care
  - 2) Pregnant and parenting youth in foster care
  - 3) Their parents or kinship caregivers also are eligible.
    - ❖ No income test for eligibility.
    - ❖ States will determine who are candidates.

# New Funding for Prevention Services

- Prevention services eligible for up to 12 months of federal reimbursement:
  - substance abuse prevention and treatment services
  - mental health services prevention and treatment services
  - in-home parenting skills

# New Funding for Prevention Services

- Services must be evidence-based and trauma informed.
- There is no limit on how many times a child parent, or kin caregiver can receive prevention services.

# New Funding for Prevention Activities

- **Federal reimbursement rates** for prevention activities are:
  - Beginning October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2026, Federal Financial Participation (FFP) is 50%.
  - Beginning October 1, 2026, FFP is the state's FMAP (Medicaid) rate.
  - At least 50% of the spending in every fiscal year must be for well-supported practices.

# New Funding for Prevention Activities

States and eligible tribes who opt to administer a prevention program also may claim Title IV-E reimbursement for administrative costs at 50% and training costs at 50%.

- As with the prevention services, these costs are not related to the income eligibility of the child or their family.



# Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse

First **Substance Abuse** Programs Selected for Review

Motivational Interviewing

Multisystemic Therapy<sup>2</sup>

Families Facing the Future

Methadone Maintenance Therapy

# Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse

## First **Mental Health** Programs Selected for Review

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy

Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Multisystemic Therapy<sup>1</sup>

Functional Family Therapy

# Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse

**First In-Home Parent Skill-Based** Programs Selected for  
Review

Nurse-Family Partnership  
Healthy Families America  
Parents as Teachers

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opportunities regarding the use of congregate care

# Ensuring Appropriate Placements in Foster Care

- Beginning October 1, 2019 there will be new requirements on what foster care placements receive federal reimbursement.
  - Goal is to encourage placement in family settings.
  - To address concerns around an overreliance on congregate care, the law creates “qualified residential treatment programs” with a number of requirements.



# Ensuring Appropriate Placements in Foster Care

The following placement options already are allowable under current Title IV-E and will continue under Family First:

- Facility for pregnant and parenting youth
- Supervised independent living for youth 18 years and older
- Specialized placements for youth who are victims of or at-risk of becoming victims of sex trafficking
- Foster Family Home (defined) – no more than 6 children in foster care, with some exceptions

# New Placement Option: Residential Family-Based Treatment Facility

Title IV-E foster care maintenance payments can be made on behalf of a child in foster care who is placed with their parent in a licensed residential family-based treatment facility for up to 12 months.

- No income test for eligibility, unlike other Title IV-E foster care placements.

# Ensuring Appropriate Placements in Foster Care

- Beginning as early as October 1, 2019, after 2 weeks in care, Title IV-E federal support will be available for foster care maintenance payments for eligible youth placed in a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP).
- States may opt to delay this provision for up to 2 years. However, delays in implementation of these provisions requires a delay in when they state may receive prevention services funding.

# What is a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)?

- Has a trauma informed treatment model and a registered or licensed nursing and other licensed clinical staff onsite, consistent with the QRTP's treatment model.
- Facilitates outreach and engagement of the child's family in the child's treatment plan
- Provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare supports for at least 6 months
- Licensed by the state and accredited

*There are no time limits on how long a child can be placed in a QRTP and receive federal support as long as the placement continues to meet his/her needs as determined by assessment.*

# Big Opportunities for Child Welfare

## Pre-2018 federal law

Most federal \$\$ for foster care

Services only for child

Income test to qualify

\$\$ for children placed in group homes with little oversight

No \$\$ for child placed with parent in residential treatment

## Family First

New federal \$\$ for prevention

Prevention for parents, child, kinship caregivers

No income test

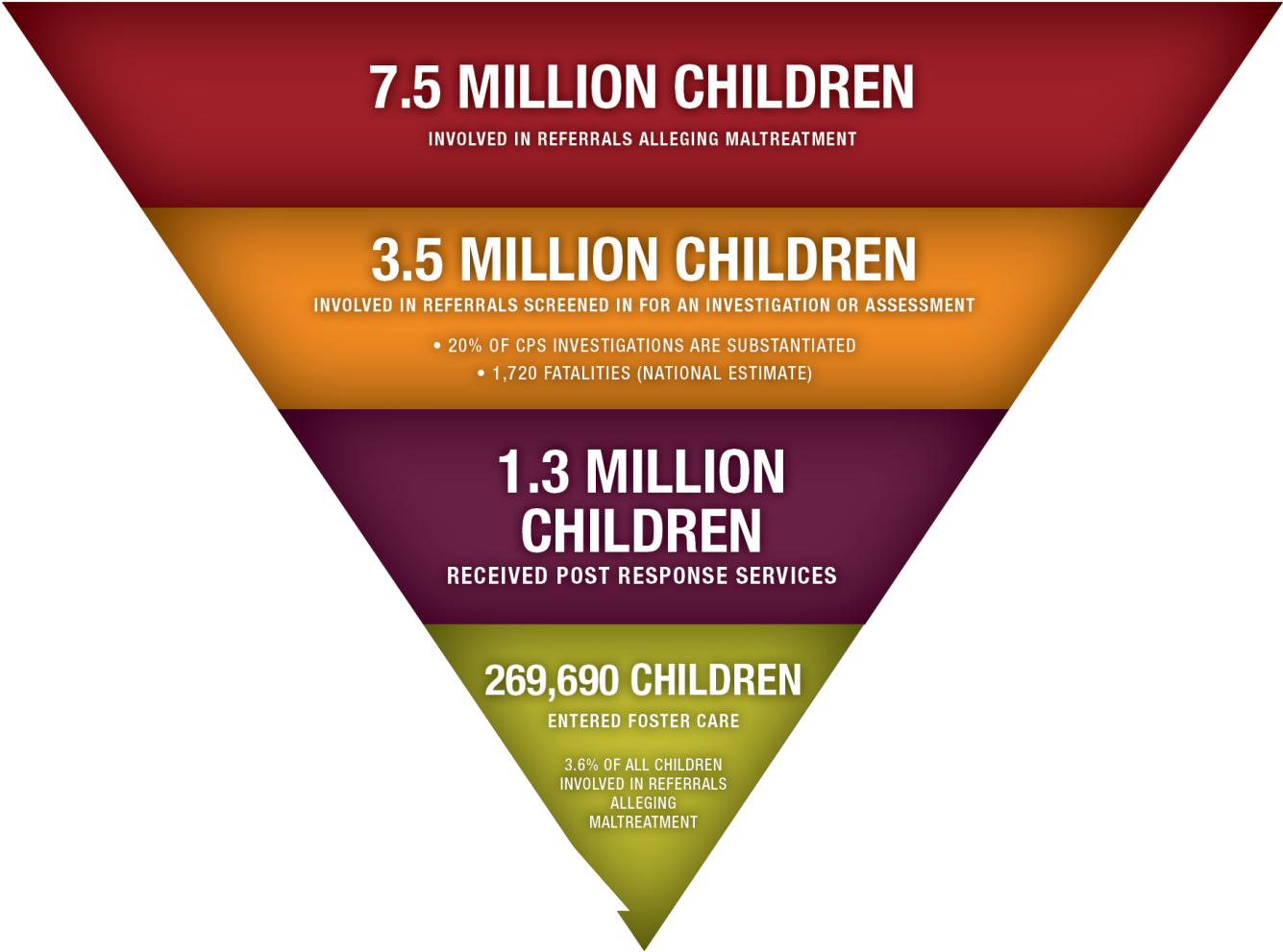
No \$\$ unless placements are quality settings and appropriate

12 months of federal \$\$ for such placements

**What opportunities does  
Family First provide to improve  
outcomes for children and families?**



# 1. Funding to help at-risk children and their families



Data source: Child Maltreatment Report, 2017

## 2. Supports to find families for children

### Select Outcomes for children who age out of foster care

#### MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

- 39.0% have at least one past-year mental health diagnosis
- 44.1% have had any substance abuse or dependence in their lifetime
- 30.3% have experienced PTSD in their lifetime

#### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- 48.4% have a high school diploma

#### EMPLOYMENT, FINANCES, AND ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS

- 46.9% are currently employed
- 29.2% have been unable to pay their rent or mortgage during the past year

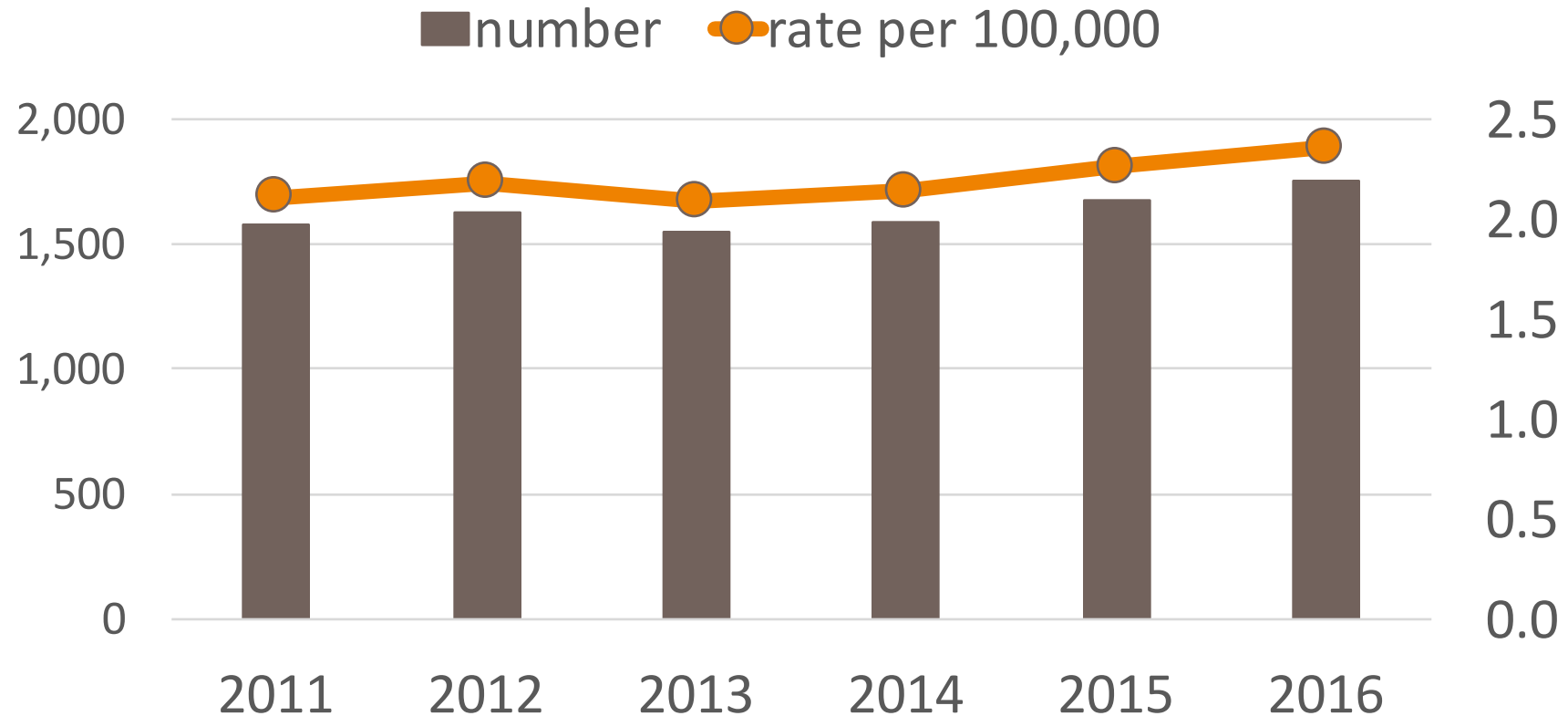
#### LIVING ARRANGEMENTS AND HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

- 37.7% have been homeless since leaving foster care
- 43.7% of those who were homeless have been homeless four or more times

Source: The Casey Texas Alumni Study interviewed 173 23-year-old alumni from Texas in 2008 and 2009.

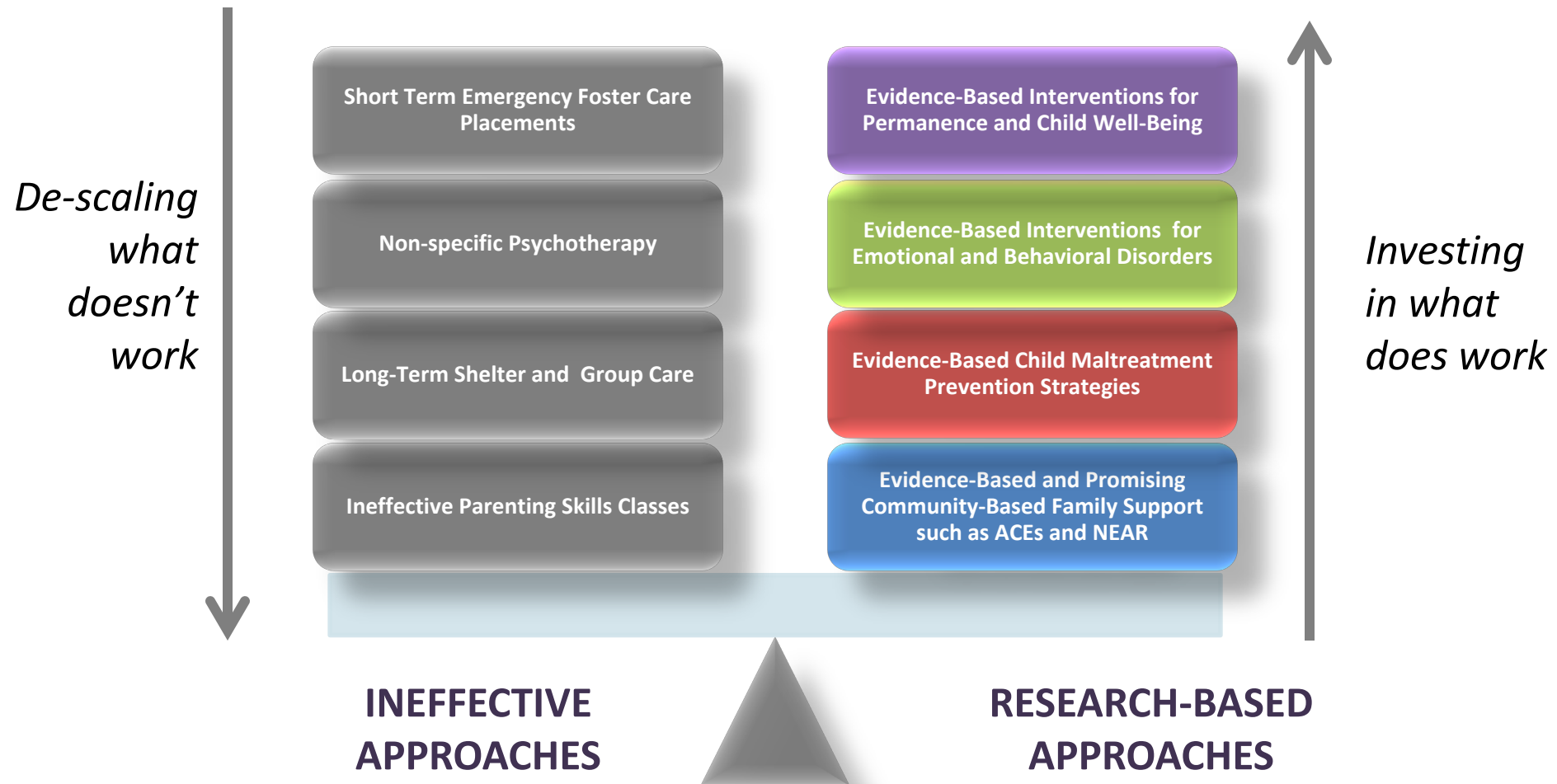
# 3.Supports to keep children safe

## Child Maltreatment Fatalities are Increasing



Data source: Child Maltreatment Report, 2016

# Shifting Resources to Support What Works



**Investing savings to bridge from ineffective to effective practices.**

Source: Casey reinvestment brief: <http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/pdf/ShiftingResources.pdf>

# Questions?

Contact Information:

Lauren Behsudi

Public Policy Advisor

Casey Family Programs

[Lbehsudi@casey.org](mailto:Lbehsudi@casey.org)