

Connecticut Department of Children and Families

# Family Assessment Response

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August 28, 2015

**Data Prepared by:**

Performance Improvement Center, UConn School of Social Work

# Family Assessment Response

Connecticut's Differential Response System, Family Assessment Response (FAR), connects low to moderate risk families with no safety factors to community supports and services.

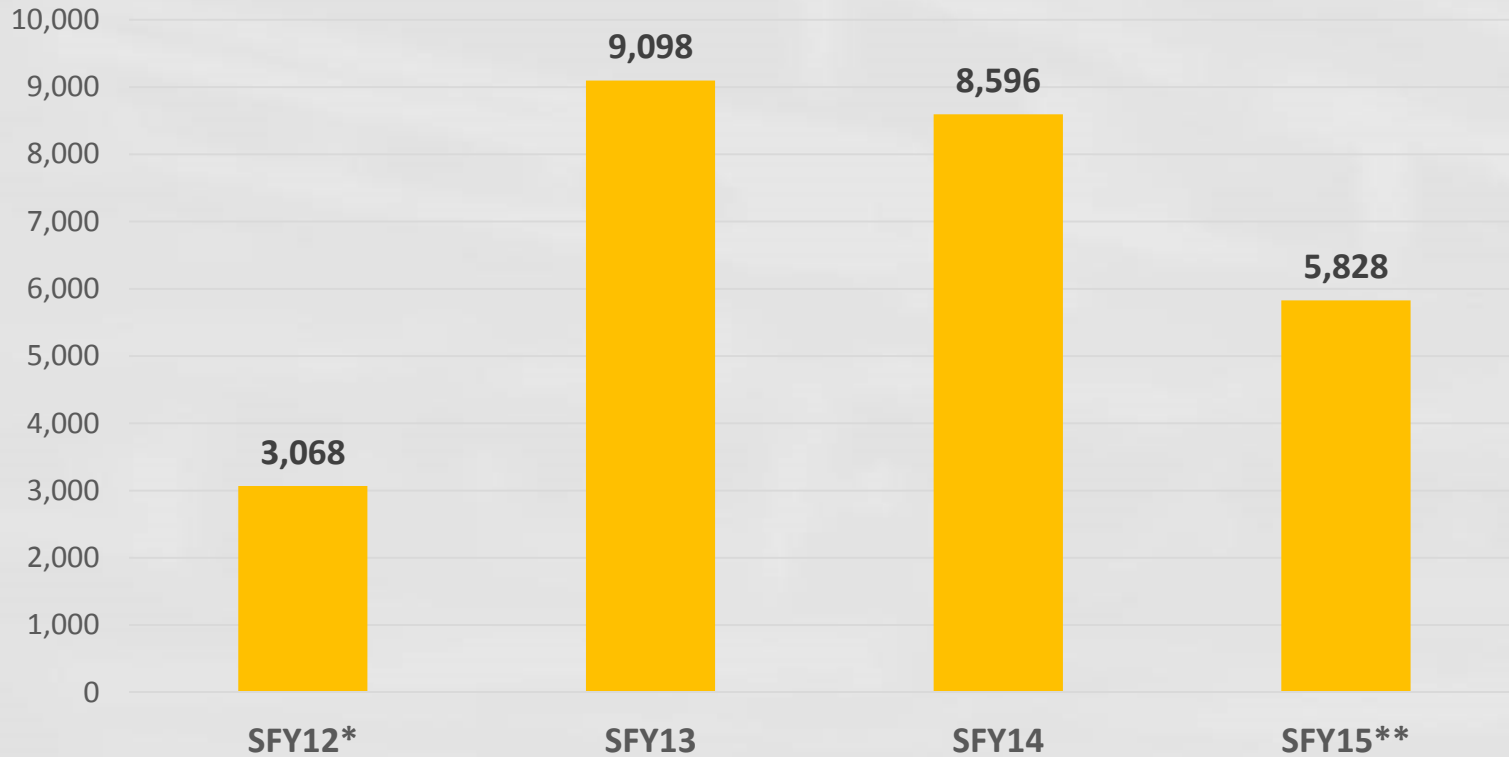
- The Family Assessment Response model is a strength-based, family -centered approach to partnering with families and their supports to protect children and enhance parental capacity.
- The Community Support for Families Program (CSF) is a family driven program designed to connect families to informal/formal supports and resources within their community to meet their individual needs.

# FAR- Overview

- A total of 26,590 unique families were served by FAR since March 2012.
  - 27% of those families have children under the age of four at index.
  - School personnel and the police were most often the reporters.
- The percentage of Child Protective Service (CPS) reports designated as FAR has increased from 36% to 44% since January, 2014.
- The percentage of FAR cases that change track to investigation has remained relatively stable ranging from 11%-14%.
- FAR case dispositions were stable between SFY 2014 and SFY 2015. The majority of families had no further agency involvement. In both fiscal years, 16% of families were referred to Community Partner Agencies (i.e. Community Support for Families)

# FAR – Unique Families by State Fiscal Year (N=26,590)

LINK Data Extract: 3/5/2012-4/14/2015



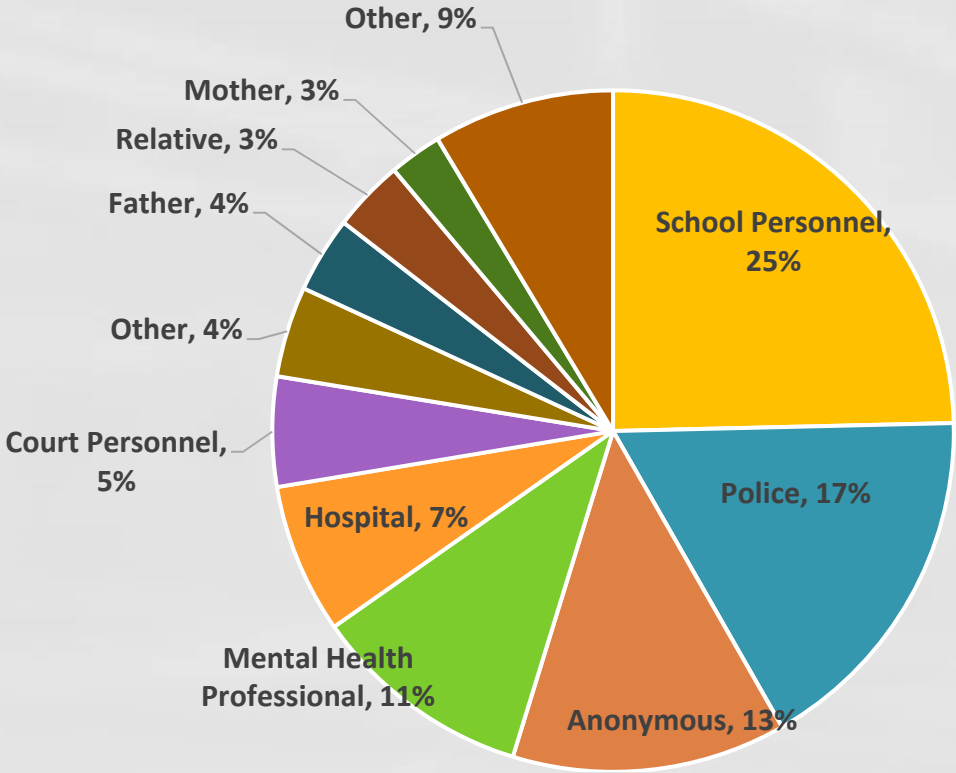
**A total of 26,590 unique families were served by FAR since March 2012.**

\*SFY2012: 3/5/2012-6/30/2012; \*\*SFY2015: 7/1/2014-4/14/2015

*Unique families - Families served by FAR for the first time.*

# FAR – Who Was the Reporter

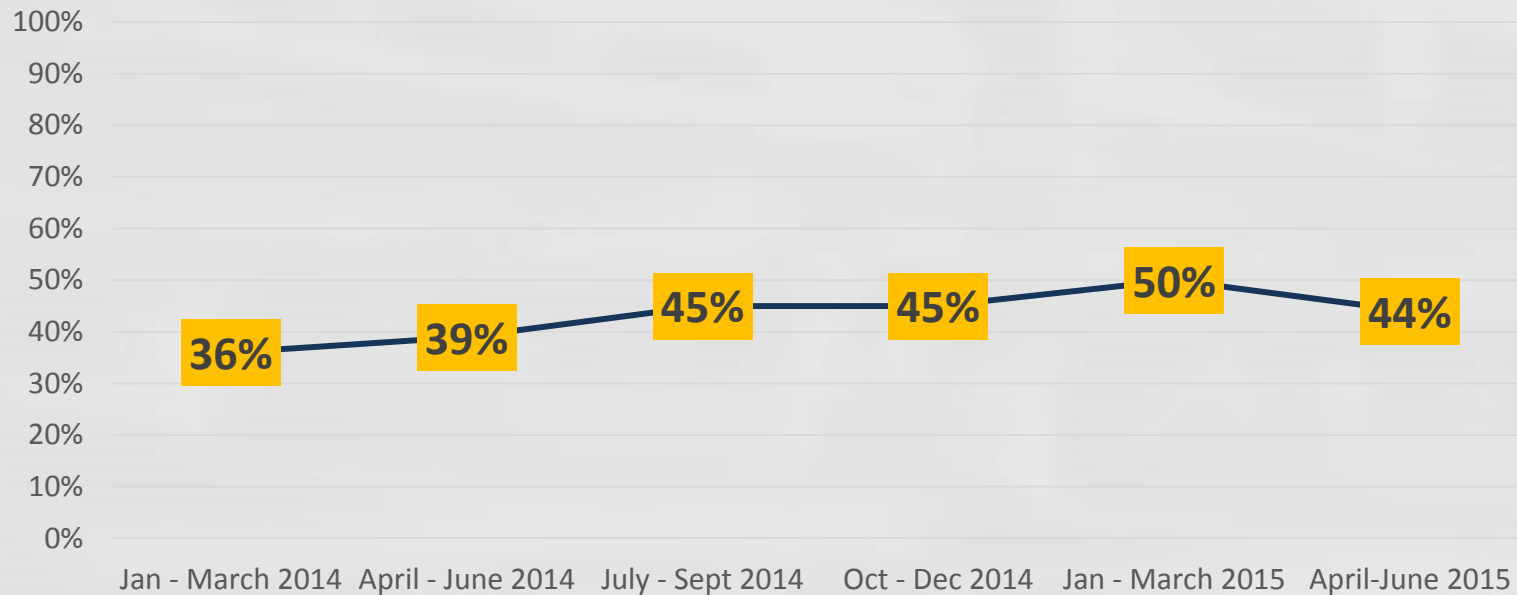
LINK Data Extract: 3/5/2012-4/14/2015



The largest group that made reports that were referred to FAR was school personnel followed by police. Over half of those who made reports included other groups such as mental health professionals, hospitals, and various family members.

# Percent of CPS Reports Designated as FAR

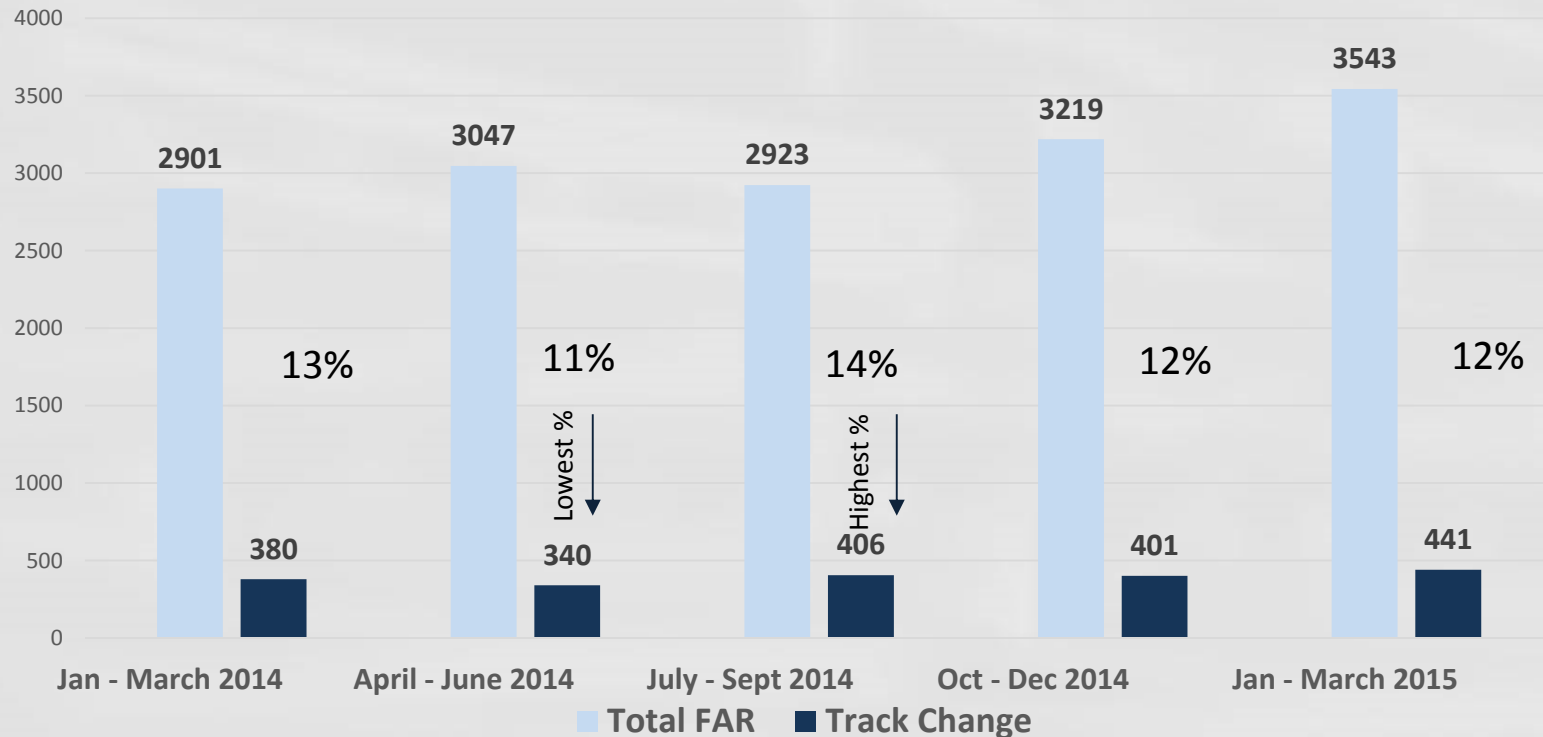
LINK Data as of 07/01/15.



**The percentage of Child Protective Service (CPS) reports designated as FAR has increased from 36% to 44% since January, 2014.**

# FAR Reports and Track Change by Quarter

LINK Data as of 4/14/15.



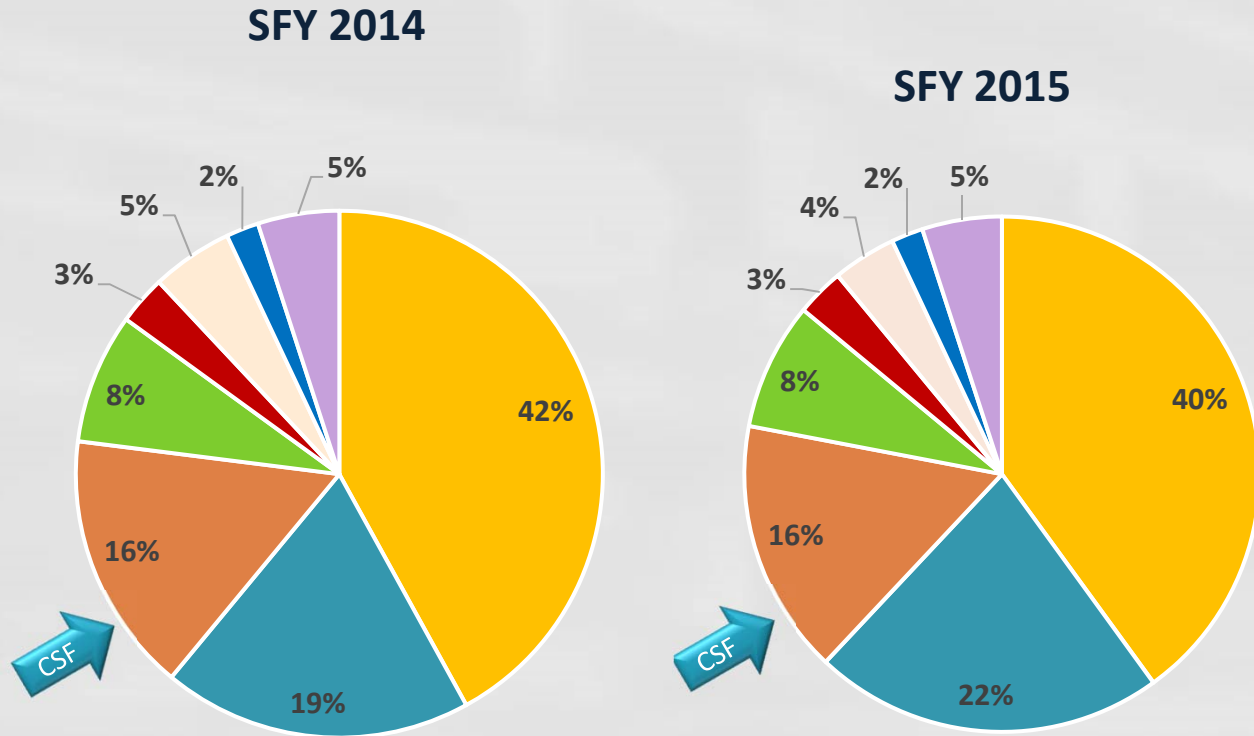
**The percentage of FAR cases that change track to investigation has remained relatively stable ranging from 11%-14%.**

2014: 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (Apr-Jun): 11% lowest track change; 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter (July-Sept): 14% highest track change.

# FAR Disposition – By State Fiscal Year

LINK Data as of 08/26/15

- No further Agency Involvement
- Services Declined, No Safety Factors
- Referred to Community Partner Agency Assessment Closed, Trans to Invest
- Transferred to Ongoing Services
- Unable to Complete Assessment



**The majority of FAR dispositions are “No further agency involvement.” In SFY 2014 & 2015 16% of FAR cases were referred to a Community Partner Agency (i.e. the Community Supports for Families program).**

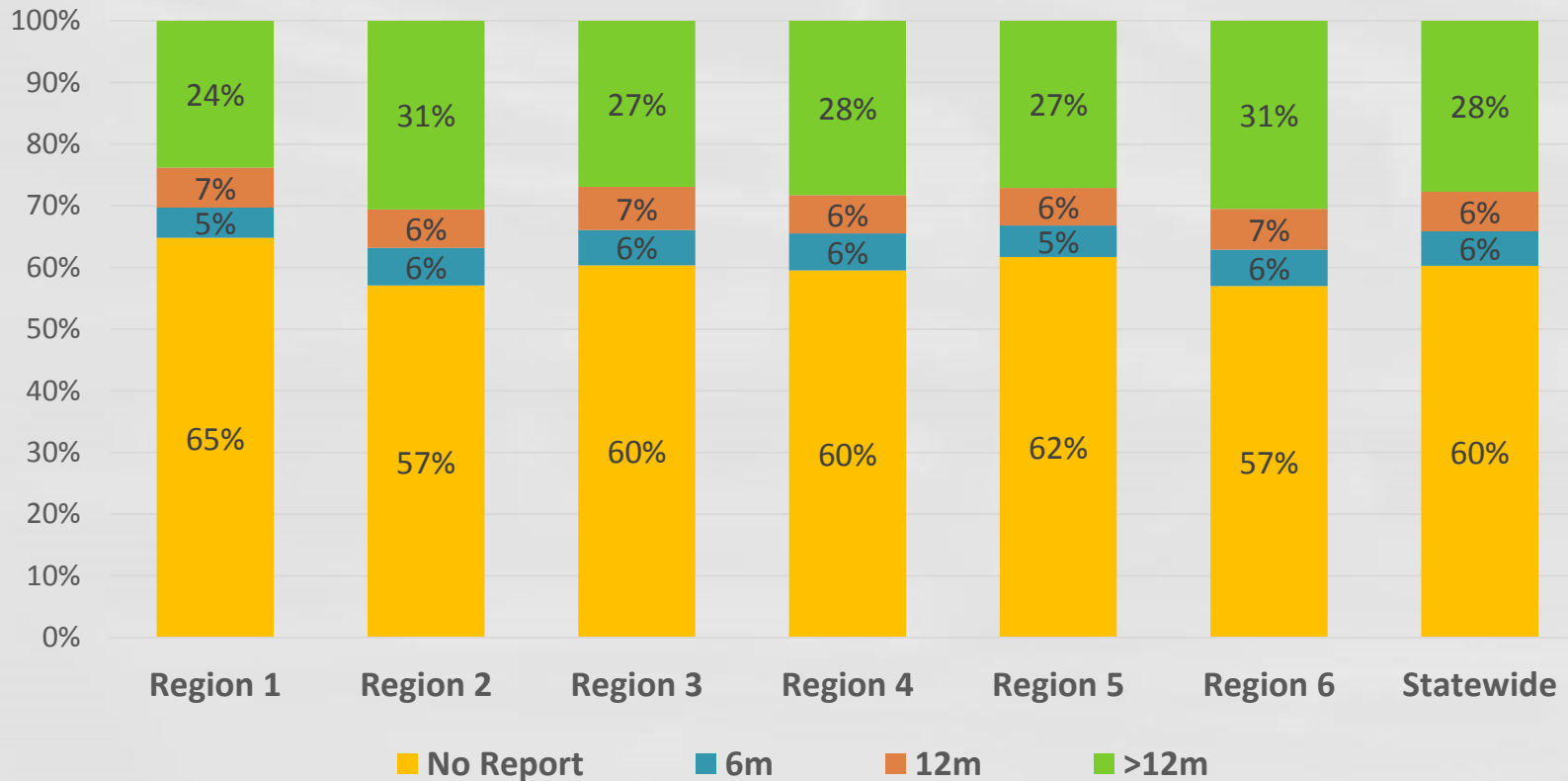


# FAR - Prior and Subsequent DCF Involvement

- Overall, 40% of FAR families had prior DCF history with 28% occurring 12 months or more prior to their first FAR referral.
- 69% of FAR families have not had subsequent reports\*. Of those with a subsequent report, 23% occurred within 12 months after the first FAR referral.
- 38% of families with a prior history had subsequent reports compared with 18% families with no prior child welfare history.
- Families with four or more prior reports, 44% of these families had subsequent reports.
- 42% of families with moderate to high risk levels had subsequent reports.
- Families with children 0-3 are no more likely to have a subsequent report than families with children over the age of 3. However, among families who have subsequent reports, families with children 0-3 are more likely to be in the investigation track.

# FAR – Time from Prior Reports

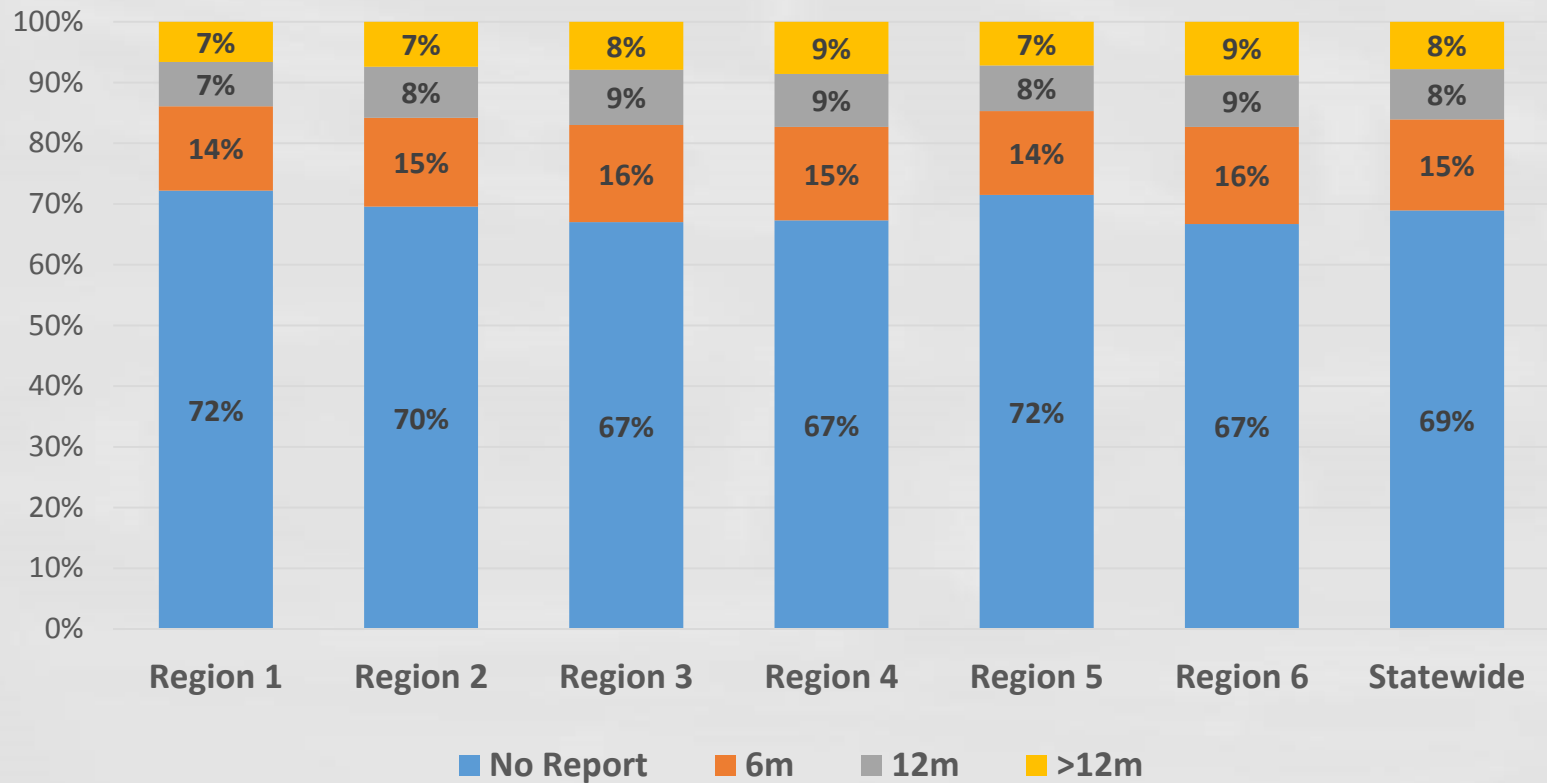
LINK Data Extract: 3/5/2012-4/14/2015



**40% of families assigned to FAR had prior reports**

# FAR – Time to Subsequent Report

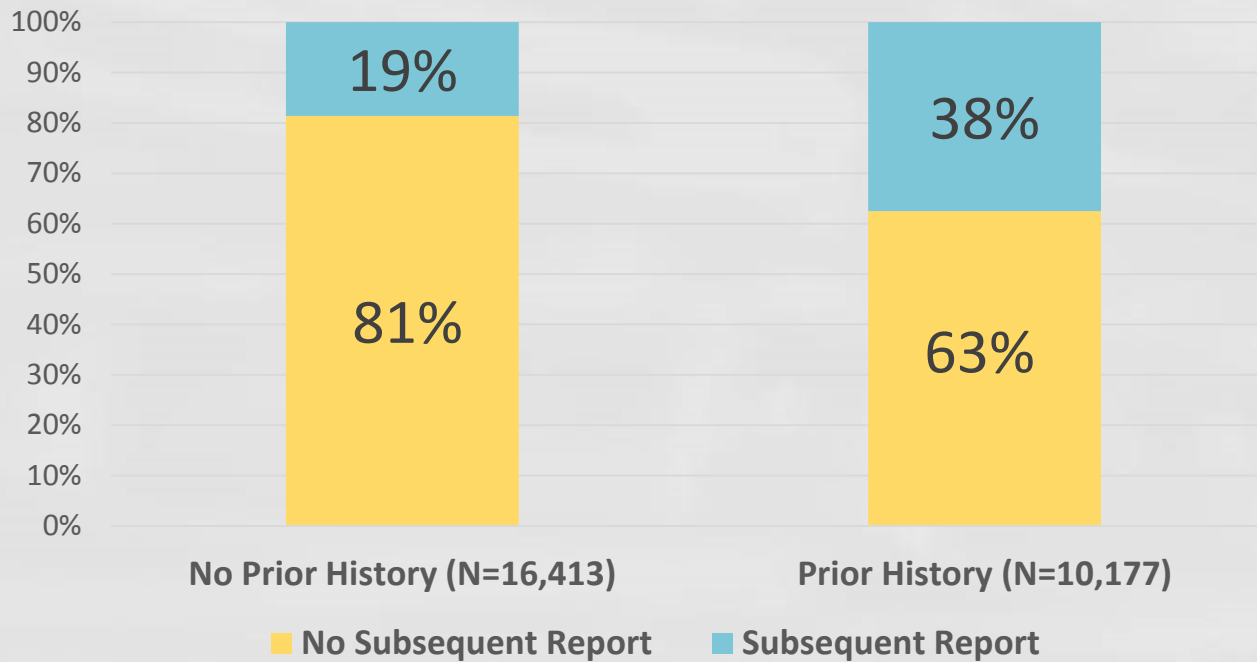
LINK Data Extract: 3/5/2012-4/14/2015.



**69% of families assigned to FAR did not have subsequent reports. Of the 31% that did have subsequent reports, 23% occurred between 6-12 months after the first FAR referral.**

# FAR - Subsequent Reports by Prior DCF History

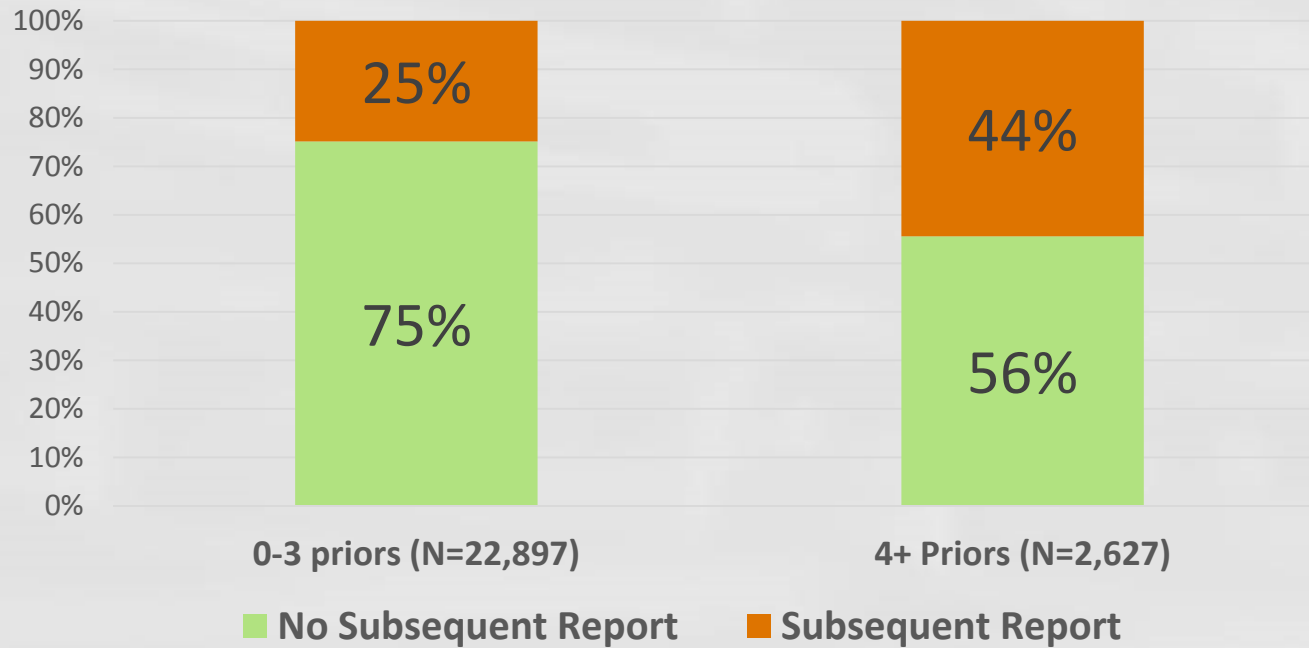
LINK Data Extract: 3/5/2012-4/14/2015



**Families with prior DCF history are more likely to have subsequent reports**

# FAR – Subsequent Reports by Families with 4+ Prior Reports at Intake

LINK Data Extract: 3/5/2012-4/14/2015

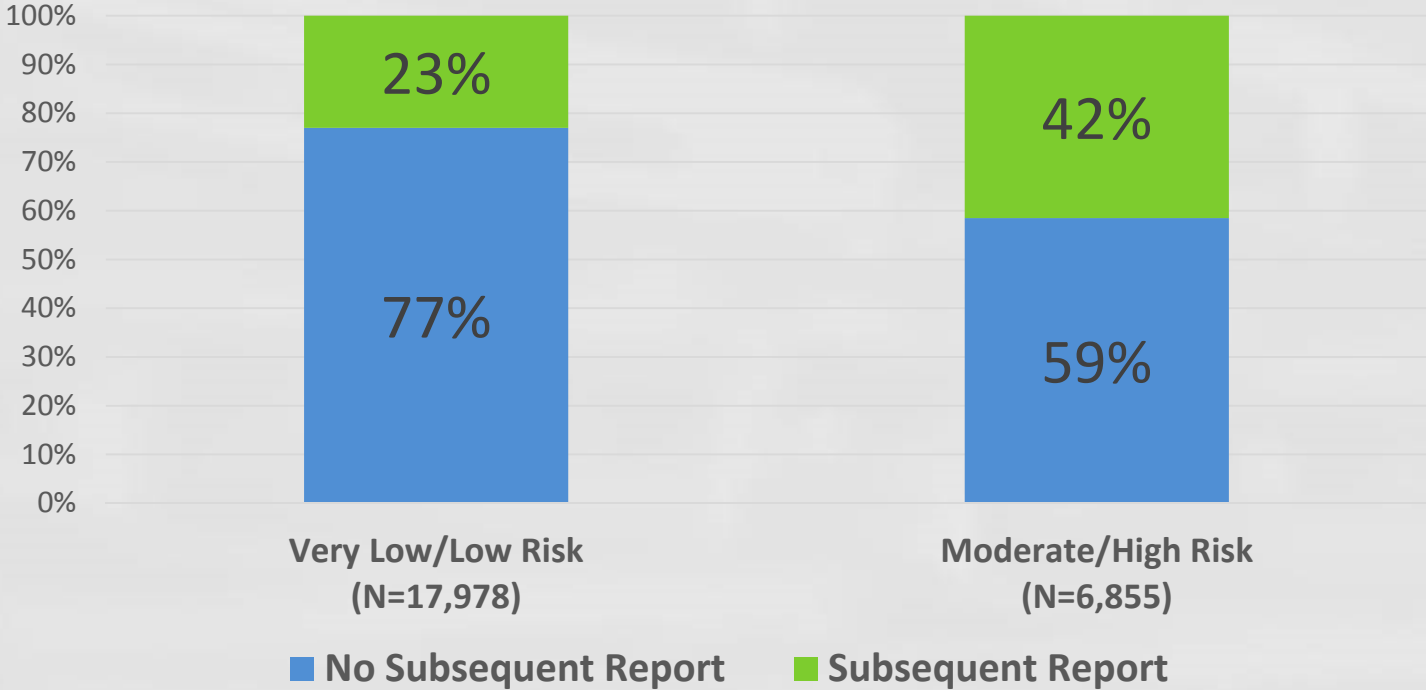


**Families that have four or more prior reports are more likely to have subsequent reports.**

Missing data (N=1,066)

# FAR - Subsequent Reports by Risk Level

LINK Data Extract: 3/5/2012-4/14/2015

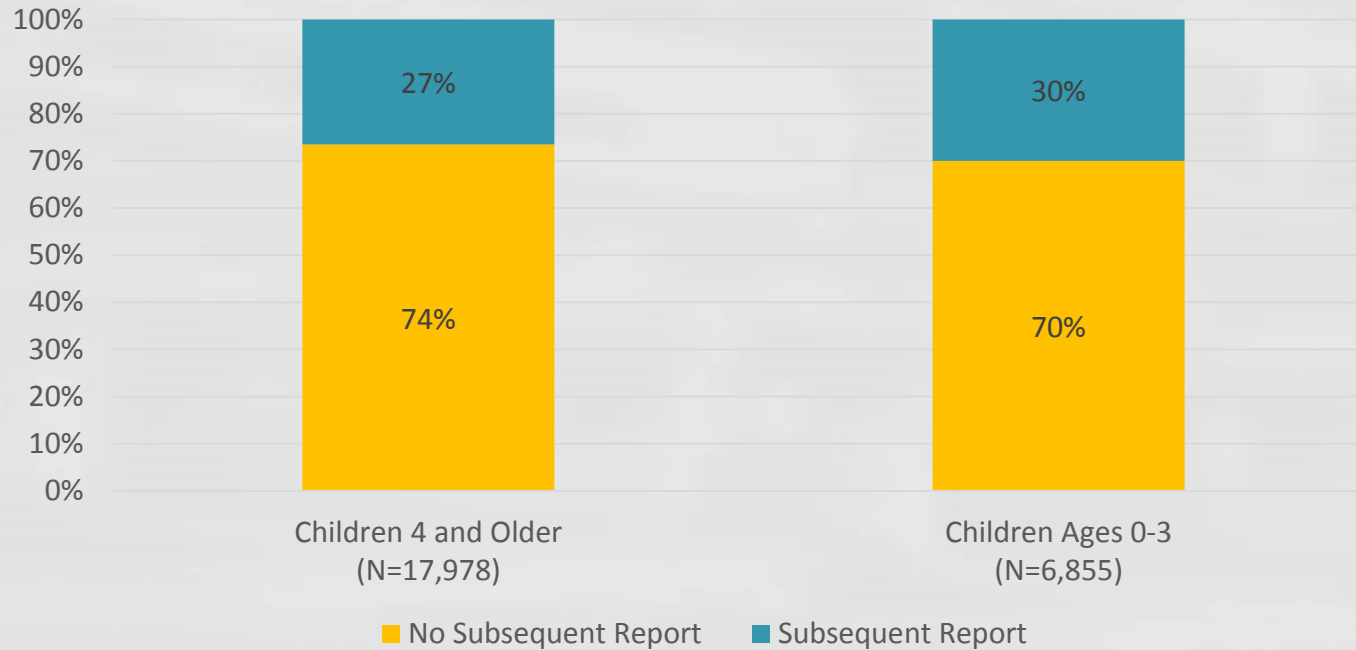


**Families that are moderate/high risk are more likely to have subsequent reports.**

Missing index admission data (N=1,757)

# FAR – Subsequent Reports by Families with Children 0-3

LINK Data Extract: 3/5/2012-4/14/2015

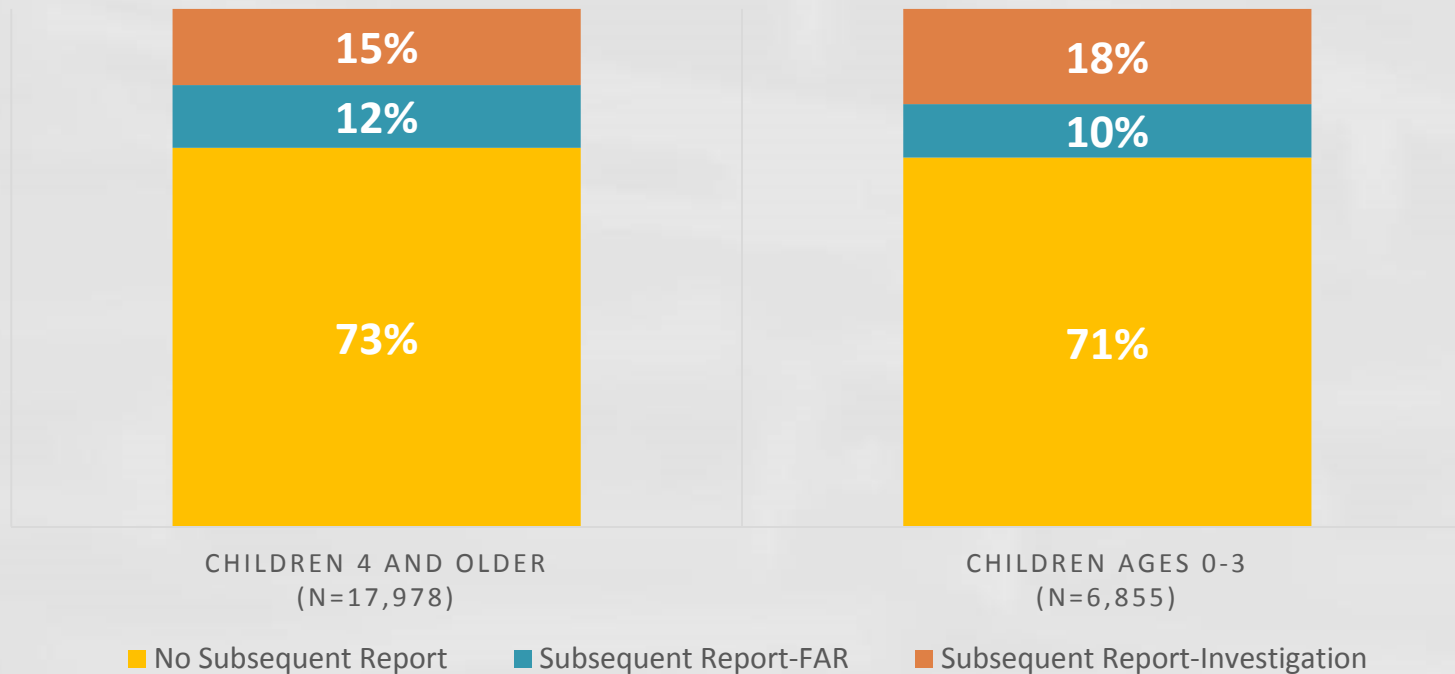


**Families with children 0-3 are no more likely to have a subsequent report than families with children over the age of 3.**

Missing index admission data (N=1,757)

# FAR – Subsequent Reports by Families with Children 0-3

LINK Data Extract: 3/5/2012-4/14/2015



**Among families with subsequent reports, those with children 0-3 are slightly higher in the investigation track.**

Missing index admission data (N=1,757)



# Child Fatalities in Families Served by DCF

- 134 total child fatalities were reported to DCF Risk Management between March 2012 and April 2015
- 89 (66.4%) of the child fatalities were **not** the result of child maltreatment
  - Of those 89, 3 (3%) were children in cases with FAR history
  - Of those 89, 6 (7%) children were in active FAR cases at the time of the fatality
- 45 (33.6%) of the child fatalities were found to be due to some form of child maltreatment
  - Of those 45, **6** (13%) were children in cases with FAR history
  - Of those 45, **1** (2%) child was in an active FAR case

Note: 1 additional fatality was reported in June 2015 on a case with FAR history; maltreatment determination is pending as of 8/27/15.

# FAR - Summary

- Overall, referrals to FAR have been appropriate:
  - Only a small percentage of families changing track to investigation;
  - Most of the families who have received a FAR do not have prior history with DCF.
- As expected, those families with a prior history and those who were moderate to high risk were more likely to have subsequent reports than those families without any prior DCF involvement.
- For FAR cases, families with children 0-3 are no more likely to have a subsequent report than families with children over the age of 4.

# Community Support for Families

- **The CSF program aims to:**
  - Decrease rate of repeat maltreatment;
  - Reduce likelihood of families being re-referred to DCF;
  - Reduce the number of children entering care.
- **Program Components**
  - Assisting the family in meeting their basic needs
  - Assisting in the development of a Family Team and facilitating Family Team Meetings
  - Developing Plan of Care in partnership with families
  - Identifying and helping facilitate familial and social connections
  - Assisting with conflict resolution as necessary
  - Assisting with connections to concrete, traditional and non-traditional supports and services
  - Assuring that identified services are in place and family needs have been addressed
  - Providing limited parenting skills, education and support

# CSF – Demographic Overview

- A total of 4,371 unique families were served by CSF since March 2012.
- Mean age of children is 7.84 years (range 0 - 17).
- 32% of the children served in CSF were ages 0-3.
- Racial breakdown of CSF participants:
  - Black/African American - 17%
  - White - 42%
  - Hispanic/Latino - 35%
  - Other - 6%

# CSF – Number of Families Served Per Year

PIE Extract 3/1/12-5/20/15

	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	TOTAL
<b>2012*</b>	59	115	119	163	141	109	706
<b>2013</b>	134	232	353	309	234	254	1,516
<b>2014</b>	184	196	378	347	248	238	1,591
<b>2015**</b>	73	67	120	147	83	68	558
<b>TOTAL</b>	450	610	970	966	706	669	4,371

Not complete fiscal years

\* 3/5/2012 – 6/30/2012 \*\* 7/1/2014 – 4/14/2015

# Community Support for Families – Data Summary

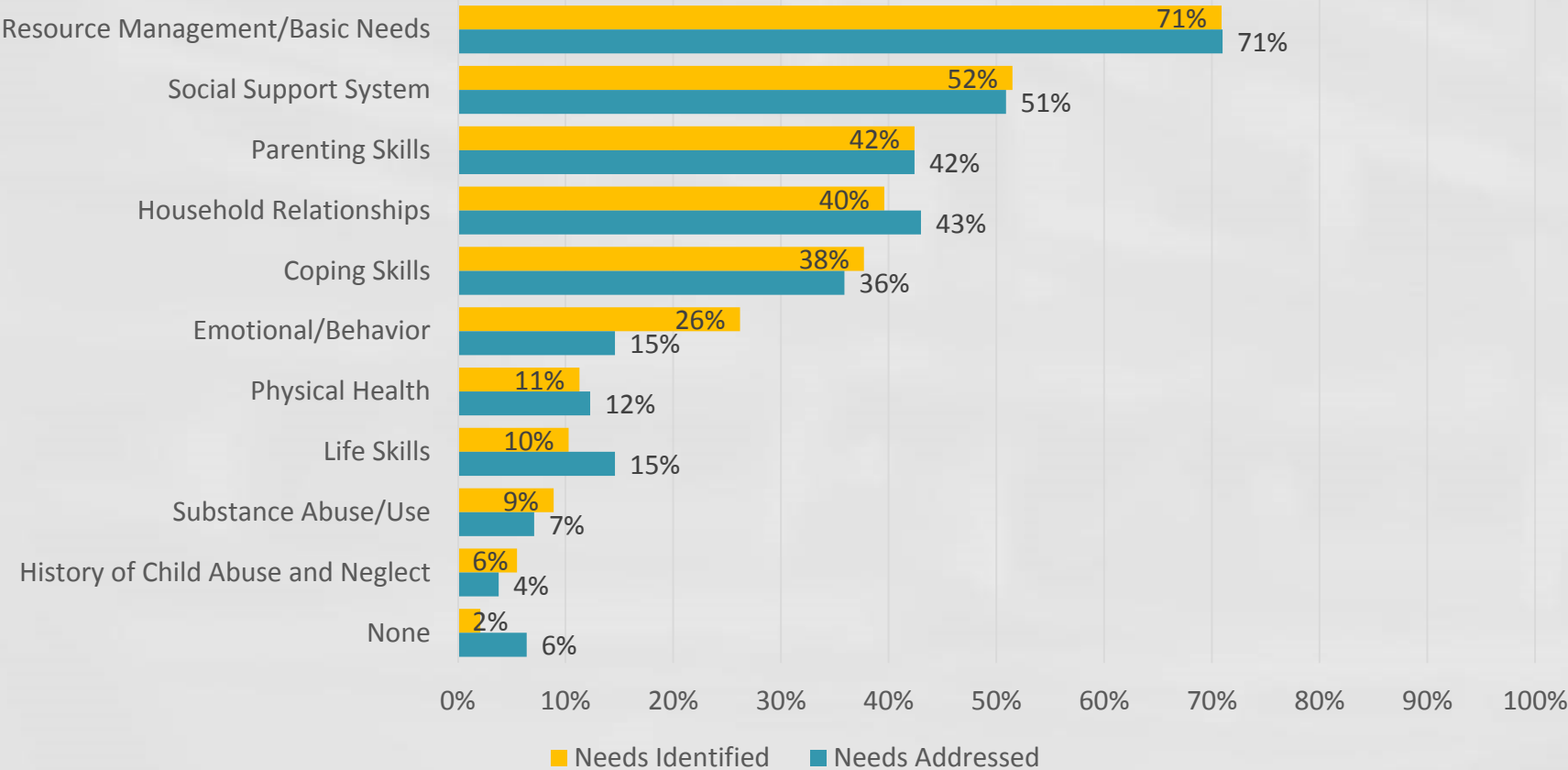
- The top 5 needs assessed were: resource management/basic needs, social support system, parenting skills, household relationships, and coping skills.
- Average length of service statewide for CSF was 4 months.
- Those with a longer length of services have higher incidences of meeting treatment goals.
- 74% (N=3,150) of families were discharged having met treatment goals. This did not vary substantively by race. Overall, families were satisfied with services received.
- 60% of families did not have a subsequent report.
  - Families with a prior child welfare history were more likely to have subsequent reports.
  - Families with a longer length of service were less likely to have subsequent reports.

\*Referral Only: Potential families that were referred to CSF by DCF, but elected not to engage in the CSF program.

\*\*Evaluation Only: Families that had an episode of care open less than 45 days and/or there was no Plan of Care (POC) established.

# CSF – Family Needs Identified/Addressed

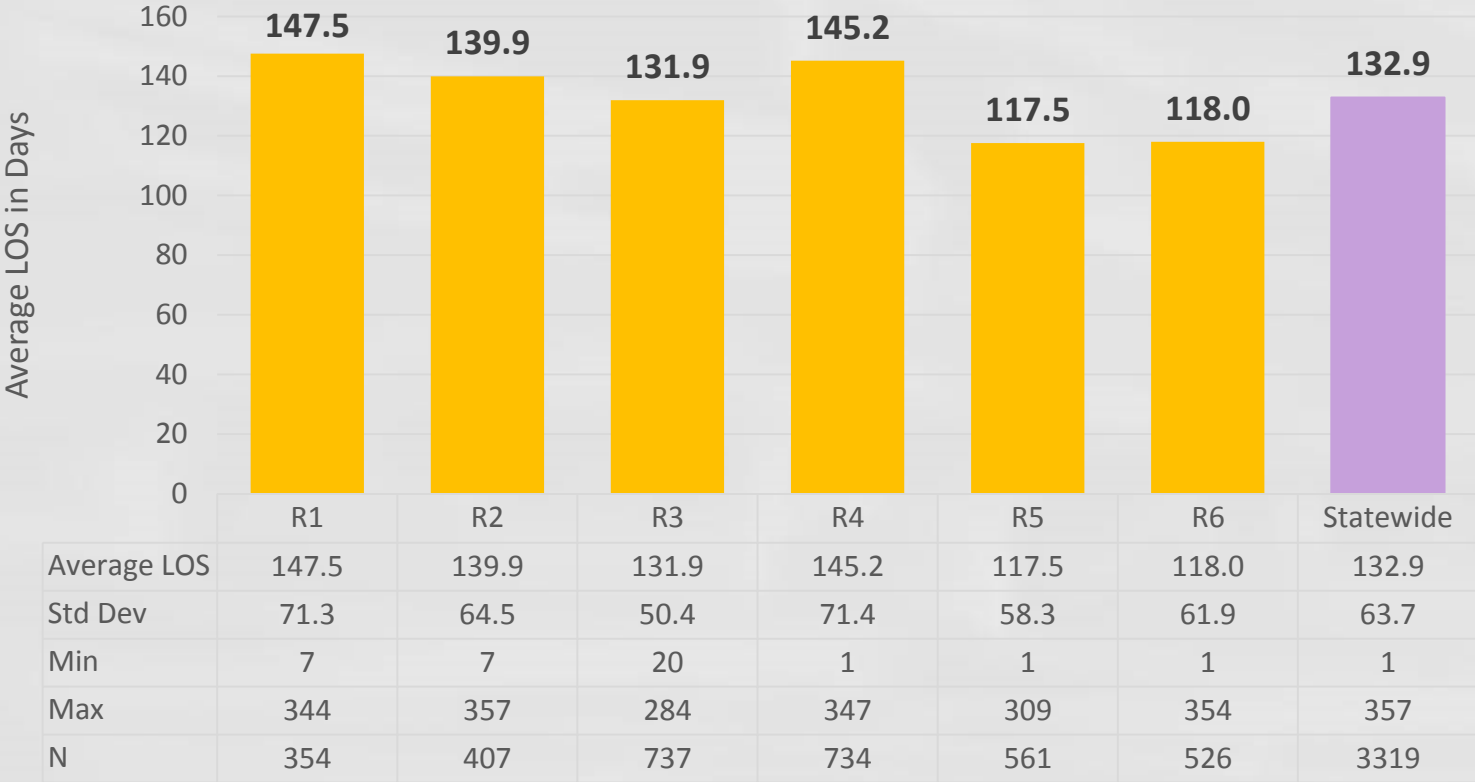
PIE Extract 3/1/12-5/20/15



**The needs assessed at intake closely mirror those that are addressed during program participation.**

# CSF – Average Length of Service in Days by Region

PIE Extract 3/1/12-5/20/15

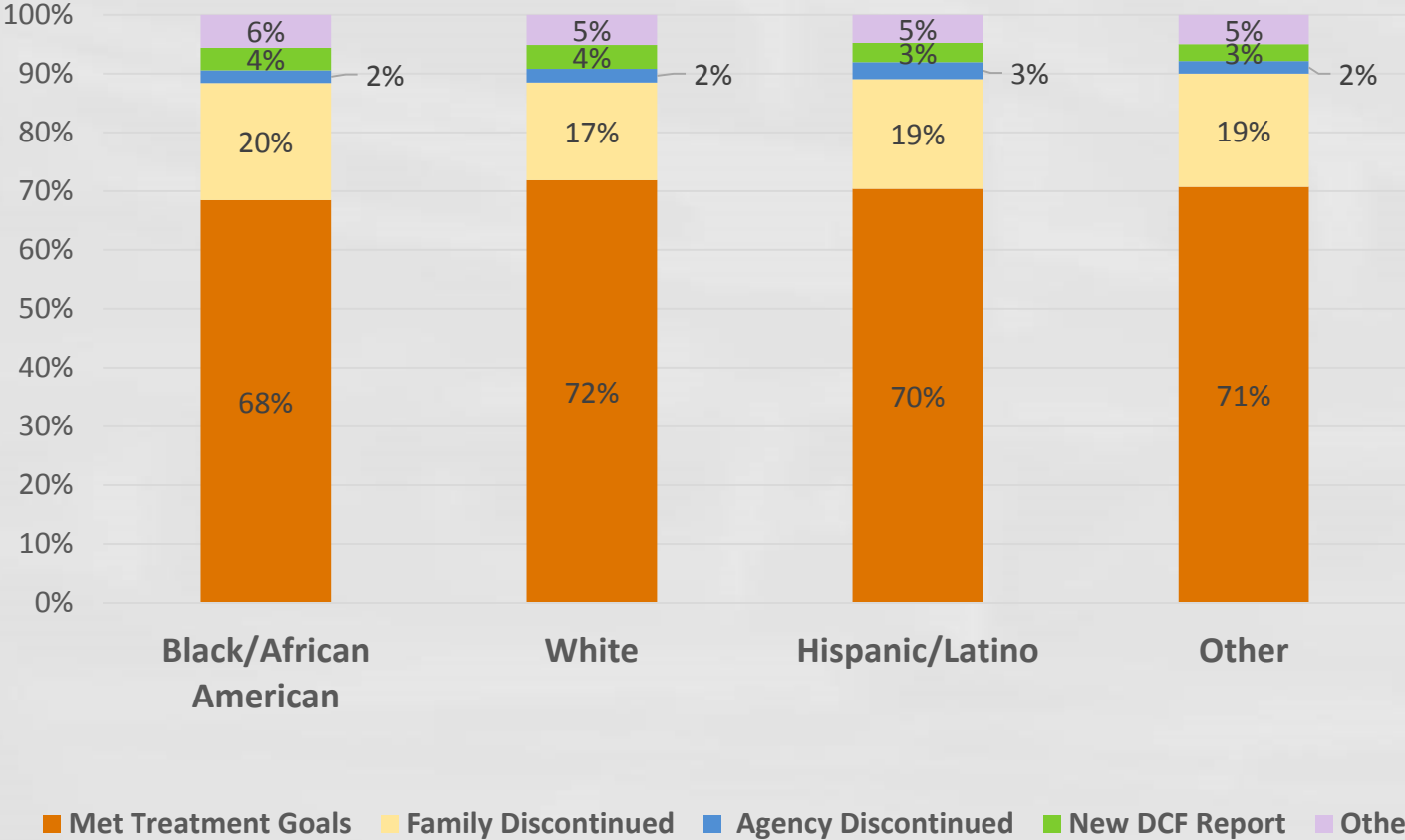


**The average length of service in the program was 133 days or just over four months.**



# CSF – Reason for Discharge by Race

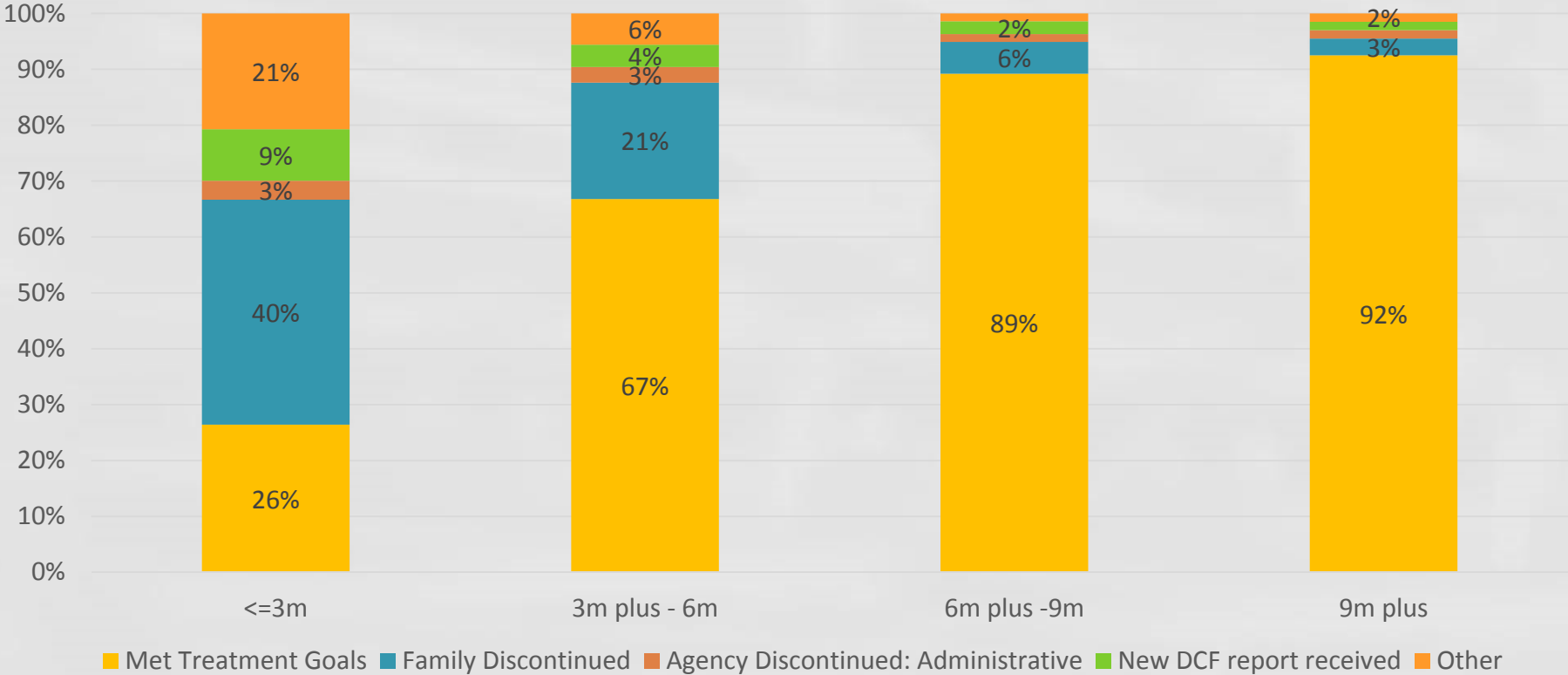
PIE Extract 3/1/12-5/20/15



**The majority of participants left the program because they met treatment goals. This did not vary substantively by race.**

# CSF –Discharge Status by Length of Service

PIE Extract 3/1/12-5/20/15

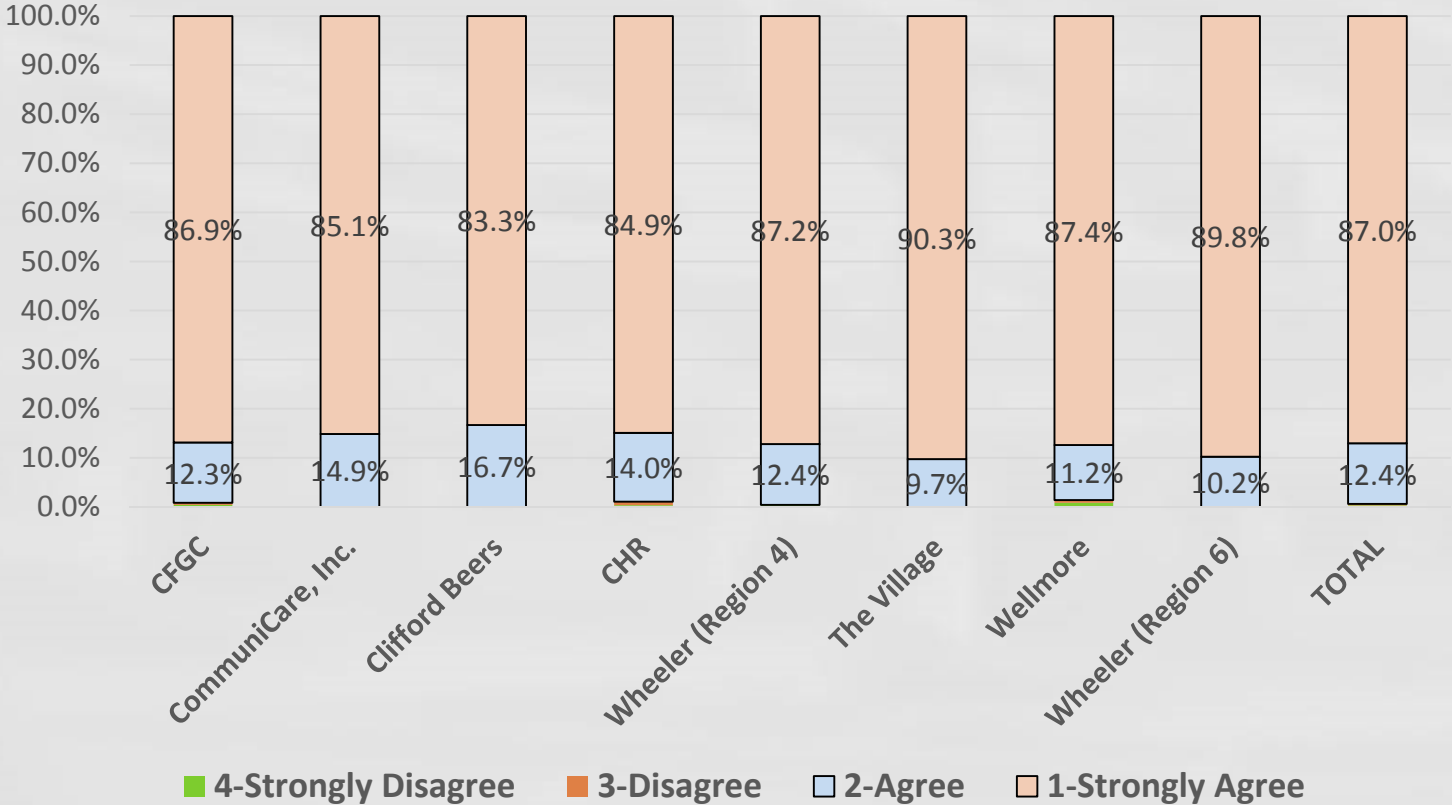


**Those with a longer length of services have higher incidences of meeting treatment goals.**

# CSF— Family Satisfaction by Community Partner Agency

PIE Extract 3/1/12-5/20/15

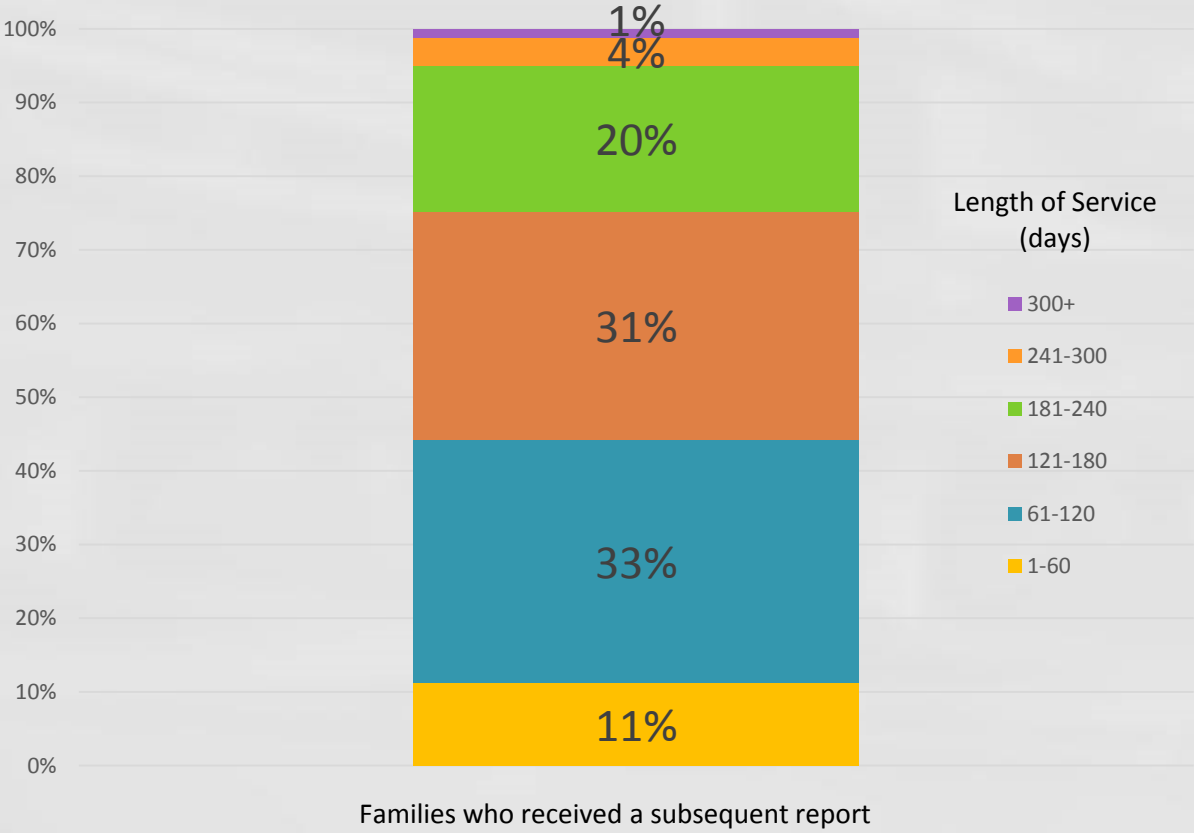
SATISFACTION – Overall Services Received



**Overall, participants were highly satisfied with the services they received through CSF. Satisfaction with the program did not vary substantively by Community Partner Agency.**

# CSF – Subsequent Reports by Length of Service

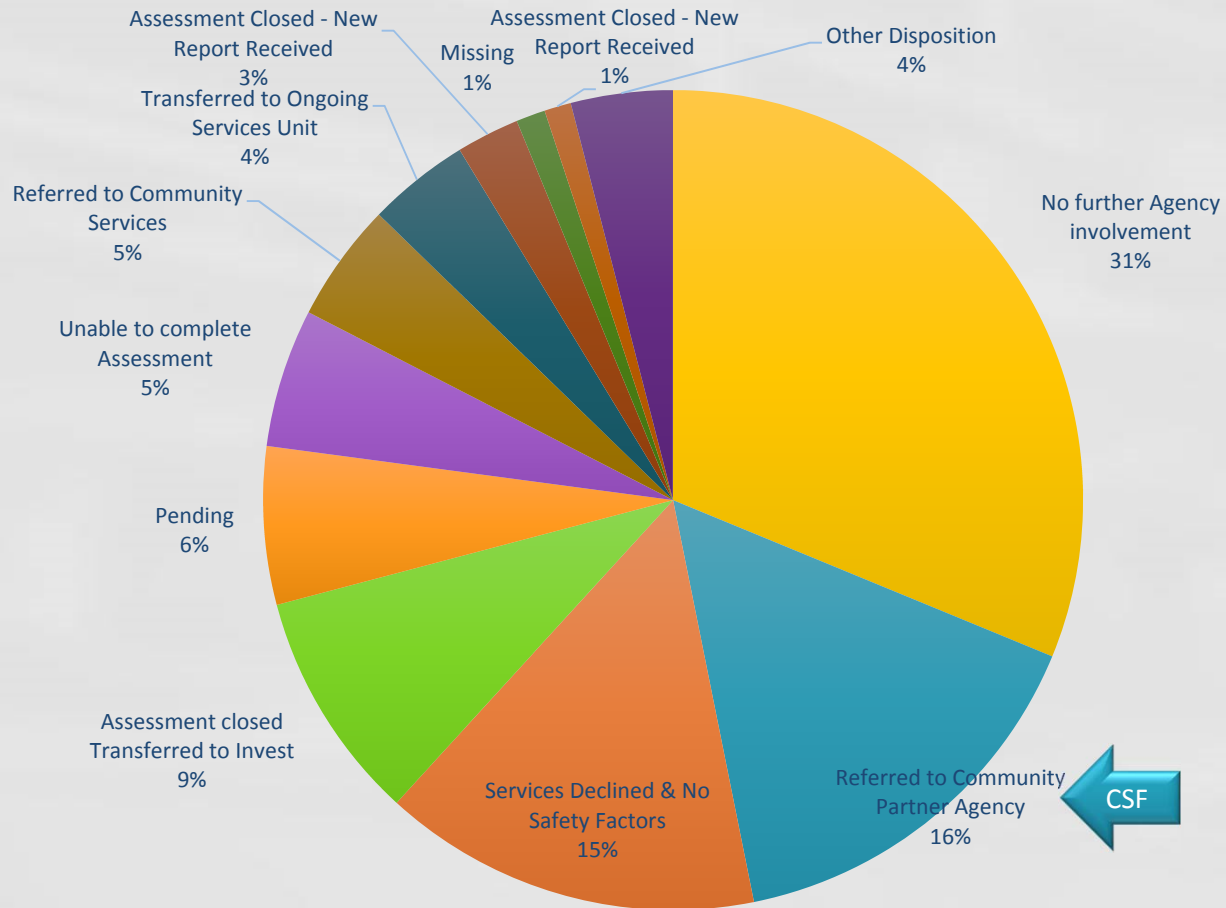
PIE Extract 3/1/12-5/20/15; LINK Data Extract 3/5/12-4/14/15



**Those families with the longest length of service were less likely to receive a subsequent report.**

# Subsequent Reports by FAR Disposition

LINK Data Extract 3/5/12-4/14/15



**Of all of the FAR families, those most likely to have a substantive report are those with the disposition “no further agency involvement.”**

# Conclusions

- Overall, families assigned to the FAR track remain on the FAR track.
- Prior history and risk factors are related to the occurrence of subsequent reports.
- The services being delivered by the Community Partner Agencies through Community Supports for Families (CSF) match the services needed.
  - Longer length of service in the CSF program is related to fewer subsequent reports.
  - Most families are discharged from CSF because they meet treatment goals.
- For FAR cases, families with children 0-3 are no more likely to have a subsequent report than families with children over the age of 4.