

## JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

NC Department of Health and Human Services

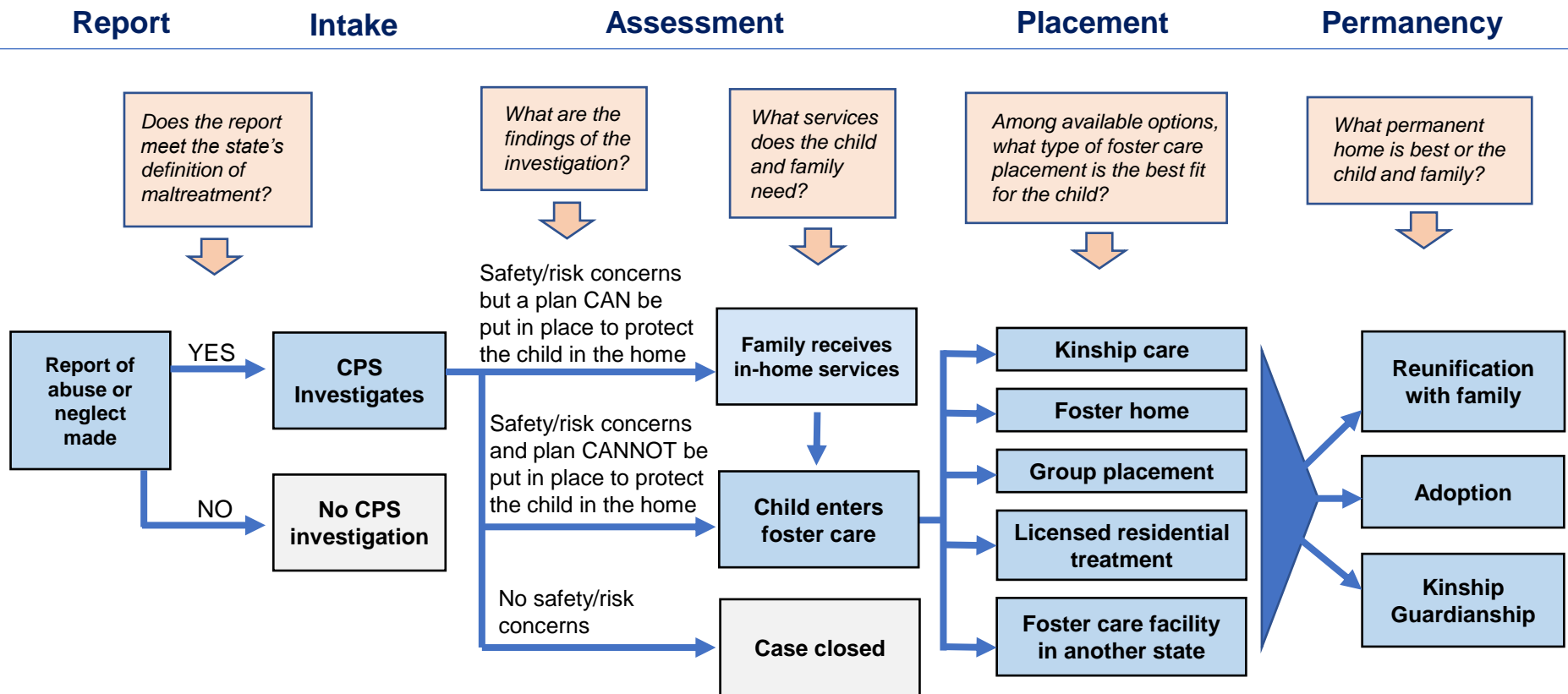
# Adoption from Foster Care

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# RECAP: Child Welfare Overview



# Living Arrangements for Children in Foster Care in July 2022

Living Arrangement Type	Count of Children	% of Total Children
Licensed Foster Home	4,437	42%
Relative or Kin*	2,670	25%
Licensed Foster Home (Treatment)	870	8%
Congregate Care (Residential)	641	6%
Home of Parent/Legal Guardian	456	4%
Congregate Care (Treatment)	396	4%
Adoptive Home	193	2%
Hospital	160	2%
Other	799	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,622</b>	<b>100%</b>

*\*Research shows that when children cannot live safely in their homes, the next best option is for them to be placed with a relative. However, NC does not currently provide financial assistance to relative or kin providers.*

## Total Placement Moves Across Entire Foster Care Episode By Year Child Exited Foster Care – SFY 2020 - 2022

Total Moves Across FC Episode	% of Children			Total Children	Total % of Children
	2020	2021	2022		
No Moves	33%	35%	34%	<b>5263</b>	34%
1	24%	23%	22%	<b>3555</b>	23%
2	14%	13%	13%	<b>2139</b>	14%
3	8%	9%	9%	<b>1364</b>	9%
4	5%	6%	5%	<b>860</b>	6%
5	4%	3%	4%	<b>593</b>	4%
> 5	12%	11%	12%	<b>1842</b>	12%

# Foster Care Exits

## SFY 2021-2022

Reasons	Number of Children	% of Total Children
Custody/Guardianship	1,629	32.8%
Reunification	1,578	31.8%
Adoption	1,222	24.6%
Emancipation	484	9.7%
Other	59	1.2%
<b>Distinct Children</b>	<b>4,965</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Note: A small number of children exited foster care multiple times during SFY 21-22 with different termination reasons. Therefore, the total Distinct Children (4,965) is greater than the sum of all children in the column (4,972)*

# Adoption Costs

- **DSS covers most costs of adopting children from DSS foster care.**
- **The costs associated with adopting children from foster care that are covered generally include:**
  - Filing fee in NC-\$120
  - NC Vital records report \$39 certified copies (1 copy)
  - Travel reimbursements for recruited families
  - Any other reasonable and necessary expenses such as private agency home study fees and attorney fees
- **Some costs that may not be covered include:**
  - Costs for expenses related to training, inspections, certifications (e.g. local fire inspections, costs for CPR training, fingerprint background checks) if adoptive parent is not a licensed foster parent
- **Independent, step-parent, relative and international (private) adoption costs can range between \$500 to \$50,000 depending on the type of adoption**

# Adoption Assistance:

AGE	RATE
0-5	\$514
6-12	\$654
13-18	\$698

- **Monthly Benefit to families who adopt children with special needs**
- **Benefits are for children 18 years and younger (or for children to age 21 years, if adopted after the child's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday and meeting criteria)**
- **State, Title IV-E, and IV B funding supports this program**
- **Matches the Foster Care board rate to incentivize foster parent adoptions**

# Prescription Medications Among Foster Children

## Rate of Medication Prescriptions (All Types) Amongst Foster Children January 2022-August 2022

Age Group	Rate Per Child w/ Prescription	Rate of Med Prescriptions Per All Children in Foster Care
0-4	5.1	1.3
5-9	4.2	1.6
10-14	4.6	2.4
15-17	4.7	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>1.8</b>

## Rate of Psychotropic Medication Prescriptions Amongst Foster Children January 2022-August 2022

Age Group	Rate Per Child w/ Psy Med Prescription	Rate of Med Prescriptions Per All Children in Foster Care
0-4	1.6	0.0
5-9	2.2	0.6
10-14	2.9	1.3
15-17	2.9	1.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>

# Prescription Medications Among Foster Children

- Between January 2022 and August 2022, there were **10,495 children** (0-17) in Foster Care each month on average:
  - Of those 10,495, **4,092 (39%)** had a prescription for any medication
    - The rate of medication prescriptions (of any type) for those children with at least 1 prescription was **4.6 medications per foster child with a prescription**
    - The rate of medication prescriptions (of any type) for all children in Foster Care was **1.8 medications per child in Foster Care**.
  - Of those 10,495, **2,542 (25%)** had a prescription for a psychotropic medication
    - The rate of psychotropic medication prescriptions for those children with at least 1 psychotropic prescription was **2.7 per foster child with a psychotropic prescription**
    - The rate of psychotropic medication prescriptions for all children in Foster Care was **0.7 psychotropic medications per child in Foster Care**.

**Note:** These statistics count the same medication being prescribed at different dosage amounts as separate prescriptions. Therefore, the rates of prescriptions per child may be lower than the number of distinct medications a child is prescribed.