



# Child and Family Unit 2023 Year End Report

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# Social Services

- Social Services includes programs to help vulnerable people be safe and successful in the community.
- Some programs are voluntary and some are involuntary.
- State statutes and Department of Human Services rules guide our work.
- While Social Services is split into four teams, we collaborate within GCHHS and with community partners to meet the needs of community members.
- We also manage contracts with community agencies to assure access to services.

# Social Services Intake

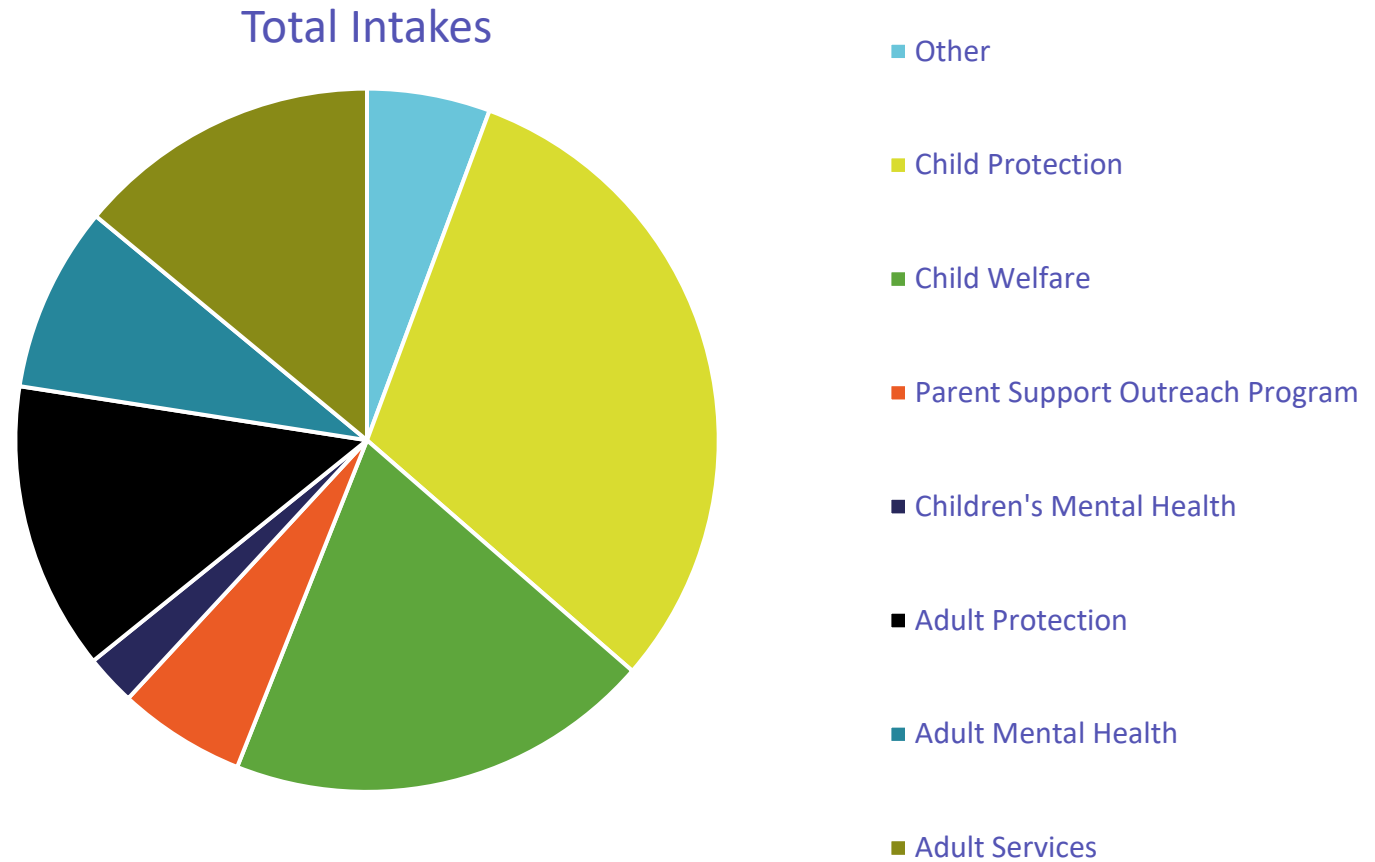
Intake is the first point of contact between the community and Goodhue County Social Services. Our agency values of Excellence, Collaboration, Respect, Safety, and Compassion are evident from this initial contact.

- Social Services Lead Workers handle the majority of intake responsibilities. As we implement the Social Services redesign, back up intake responsibilities will be managed by a smaller group of social workers in order to increase consistency and allow ongoing workers more opportunities to provide care and oversight to the families receiving case management services.
- Intake workers must have knowledge of community resources and use excellent engagement skills to gather information from the caller.
- Reports of child maltreatment decreased by nearly 6% from 2022 but remain more than 9% higher than 2021.
- The total number of intakes increased by nearly 3% from 2022, concentrated on the early intervention services like Child Welfare and Parent Support Outreach Program.

# Intake Statistics 2023

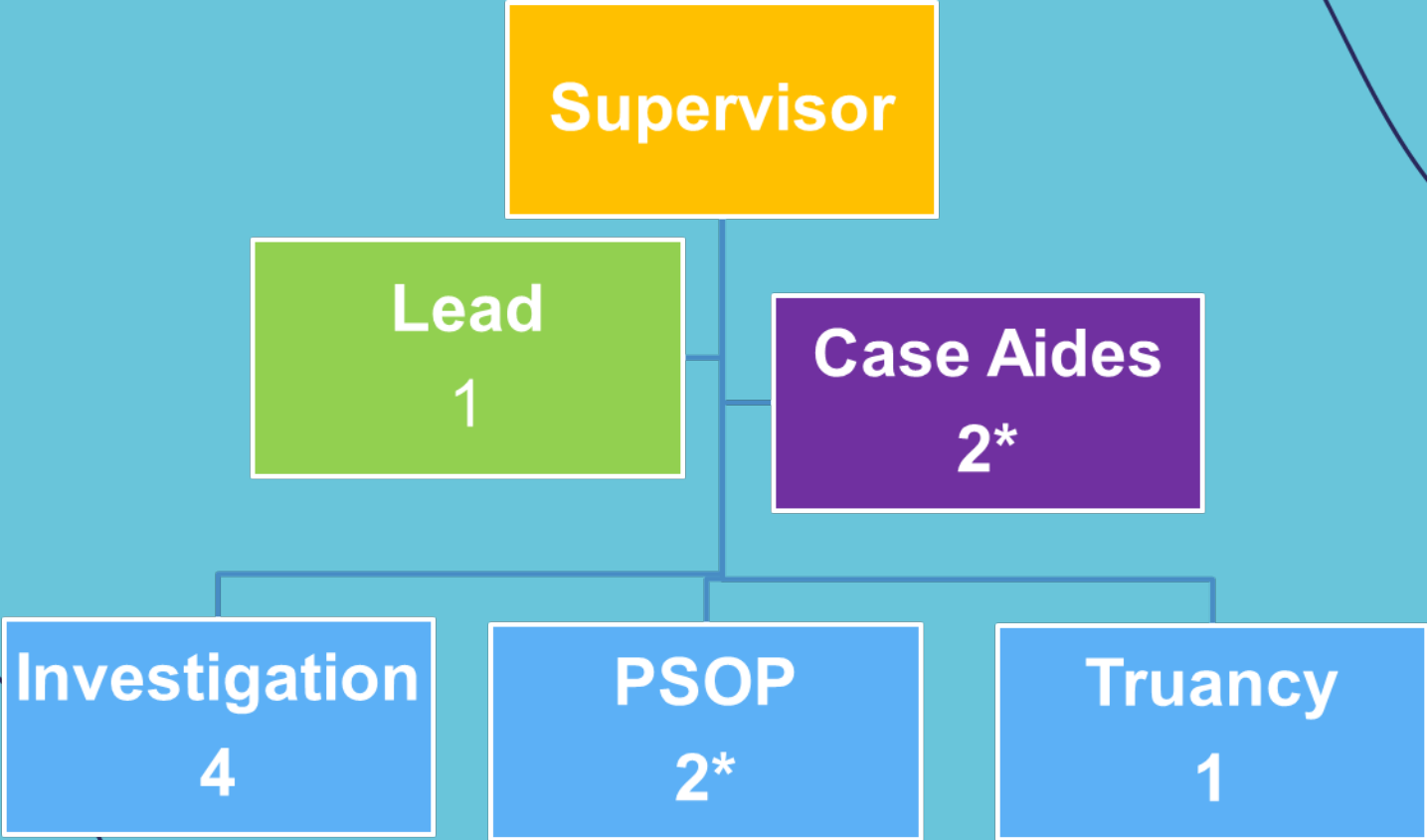
Program	Total Intakes
Adoption/Licensing requests or complaints	50
<b>Adult Mental Health</b>	217
<b>Adult Protective Services</b>	337
Adult Services (General)	356
Chemical Dependency (report/service request )	91
Child Protective Services	781
<b>Child Welfare</b>	499
<b>Children's Mental Health (report/service request)</b>	59
Developmental Disabilities	3
<b>Parent Support Outreach Program</b>	149
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2542</b>

# Intake Statistics 2023

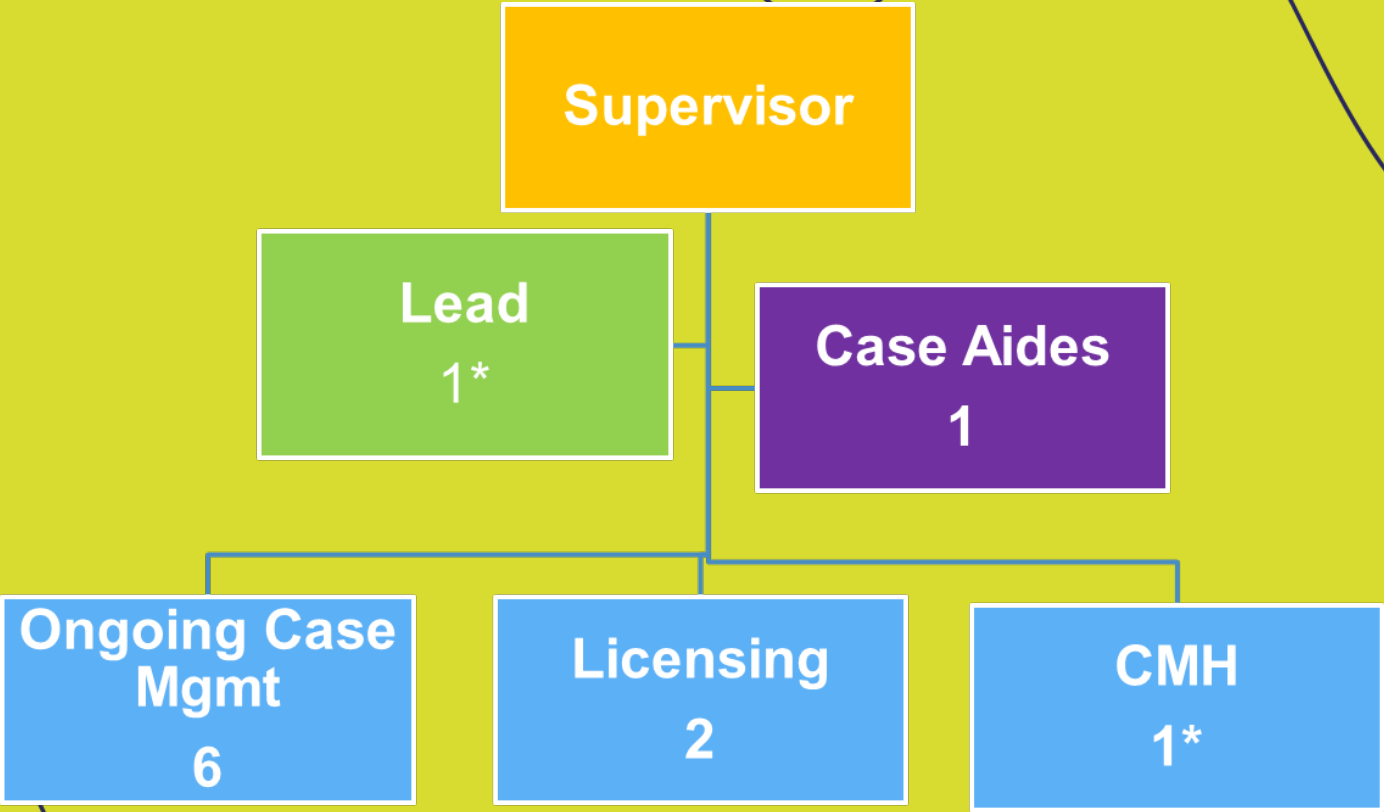


# Child and Family Services Redesigned

Child and Family Services-  
Intake and Assessment



Child and Family Services-Ongoing

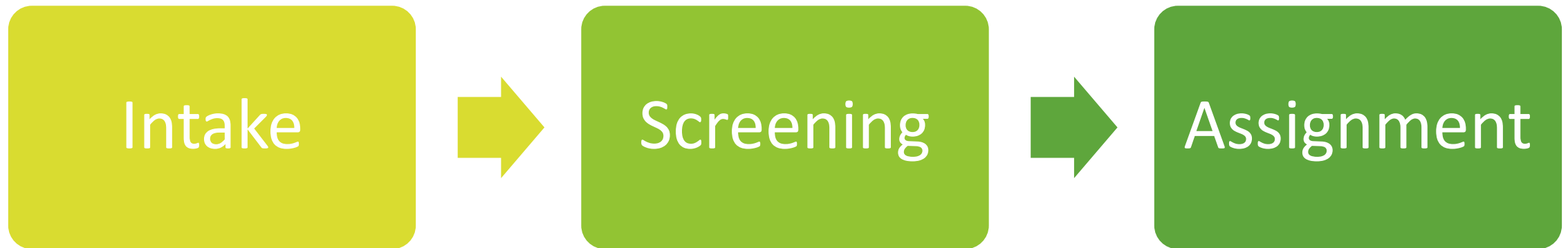




# Child and Family Services

Voluntary Services	Involuntary Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Parent Support Outreach Program</li><li>▪ Child Welfare- including truancy intervention</li><li>▪ Family Child Care Licensing</li><li>▪ Child Foster Care Licensing</li><li>▪ Adult Foster Care Licensing</li><li>▪ Children’s Mental Health Case Management (contracted services with Fernbrook Family Center)</li><li>▪ Extended Foster Care/ Successful Transition to Adulthood for Youth</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Child Protection<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Intake</li><li>▪ Assessment</li><li>▪ Investigation</li><li>▪ Case Management</li><li>▪ Out of Home Placement</li></ul></li></ul> <p>Minor Parent Case Management is required when a minor is parenting and receives support through MN Family Investment Programs, including child care assistance.</p>

# Intake and Assessment Process



# Intake

Social Services intake workers are required to collect a lot of information. The list below gives you an idea about what reporters, including you, can expect when making a report.

Child's name, date of birth, address (if the child lives in more than one home, please include all addresses)

Names, dates of birth, addresses, and telephone numbers of the child's parents and caretakers.

Does the child have any Native American heritage?

Name of child's school, child care setting, or other places the child may be located

Employment information for the caregivers

Summary of your concerns

Are there things that are going well for the child and family?

Has there been a stressful event for the child and family?

# Screening

Reports are reviewed by the screening team within 24 hours. The screening team includes the supervisor, lead worker, the assessment social workers, PSOP social workers, and the truancy intervention social worker.

The screening team may consult with the Goodhue County Attorney's Office, tribes, law enforcement agencies, and the Department of Human Services when we review reports.

**All child protection reports are cross reported to law enforcement.**

# Assignment- Accepted for Child Protection Response

If the reported information meets criteria for a child protection response, the screening team determines if a family assessment or a family investigation response is appropriate. Regardless, the report is sent to the proper law enforcement agency for review, to collect records, and determine if a law enforcement investigator will join child protection in the response.

# Child Protection Response

## Family Assessment

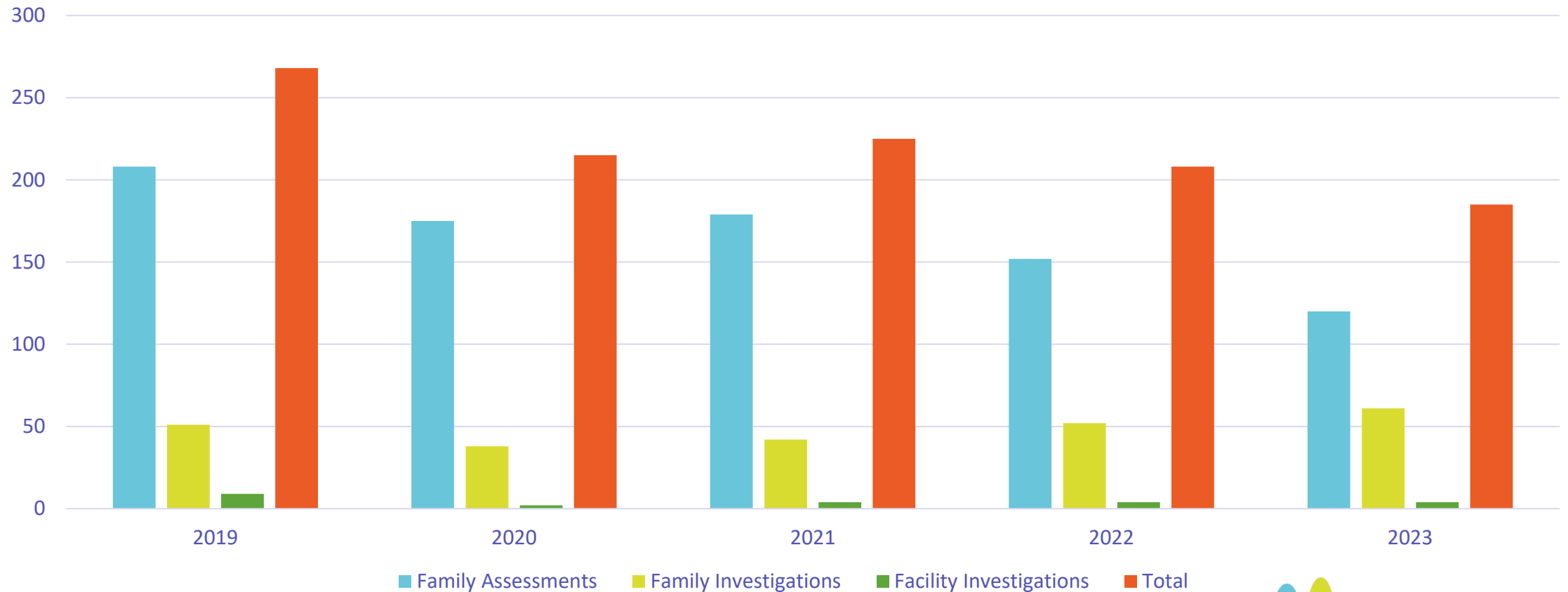
- Primary response to child protection concerns.
- Law enforcement is notified but may choose not to participate if the allegation does not meet criteria for criminal charges.
- Interviews are conducted with caregivers, children, and other important people to assess the family's strengths and needs in order to address the reported concern.
- The only findings are related to services that may be helpful.

## Family Investigation

- Required in situations of serious endangerment, egregious harm, and sexual abuse.
- Law enforcement typically works with child protection to complete the investigation, as criminal charges may be filed.
- All interviews are audio recorded.
- The information collected is reviewed to determine if there is a preponderance of evidence that maltreatment occurred and to determine if services are required.

# Assessments/ Investigations by Year

2019-2023



Family Assessments Family Investigations Facility Investigations Total

# Performance Measure- Timeliness

*For all screened in child maltreatment reports closed during the year, what percentage of alleged victims were seen in face-to-face visits within the time frame specified by MN State Statute.*

Performance Standard: 100%

Observed Performance: 91% (213/234)

While this is an improvement from last year, we continue to strive to reach 100%. For the 21 children who were not seen within the specified time frame, two were out of state visiting relatives, causing them to be seen 28 hours beyond the specified time frame. Nine were seen within two hours of the specified time frame and the remaining 10 were seen within 24 hours of the specified time frame.



# Assignment-

## Screened out for Child Protection Assessment or Investigation

If the reported information does not meet criteria for a child protection response, the screening team determines if the family may benefit from an offer of services through our voluntary Parent Support Outreach Program (PSOP).

If the reported information does not qualify for any additional services, the report is “screened out” and the record is maintained in our Social Services Information System.

No matter what the decision is, all maltreatment reports are sent to the proper law enforcement agency for their review.

# Voluntary Services Offered

	Child Welfare	Parent Support Outreach Program
2019	50	84
2020*	68	157
2021	63	110
2022	80	111
2023	80	119

\*The emergency executive order allowed counties to respond to educational concerns through child welfare and PSOP instead of requiring a child protection response.

# Child Protection On-Call

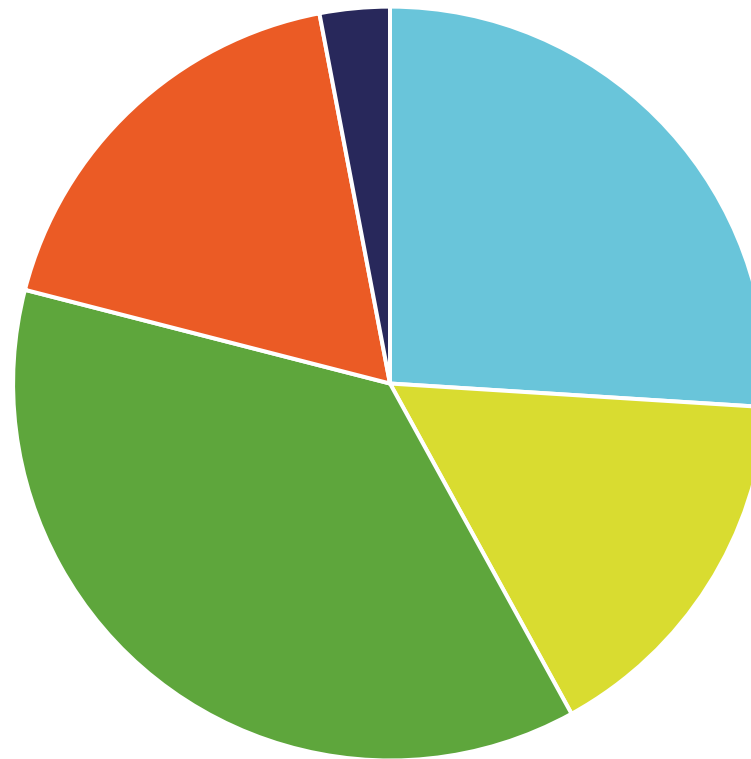
# 2023 On-Call Statistics

New Child Protection Report	Existing Child Protection Case	Other
46	28	3

Since 2017, Minnesota Statute requires all child protection agencies to have a mechanism to receive child protection reports from law enforcement and respond to child protection concerns alleging imminent danger 24 hours each day, 7 days per week.

# Children in Placement 2023

89 Unduplicated Children



■ substance use by parent

■ child behavior/ treatment needs

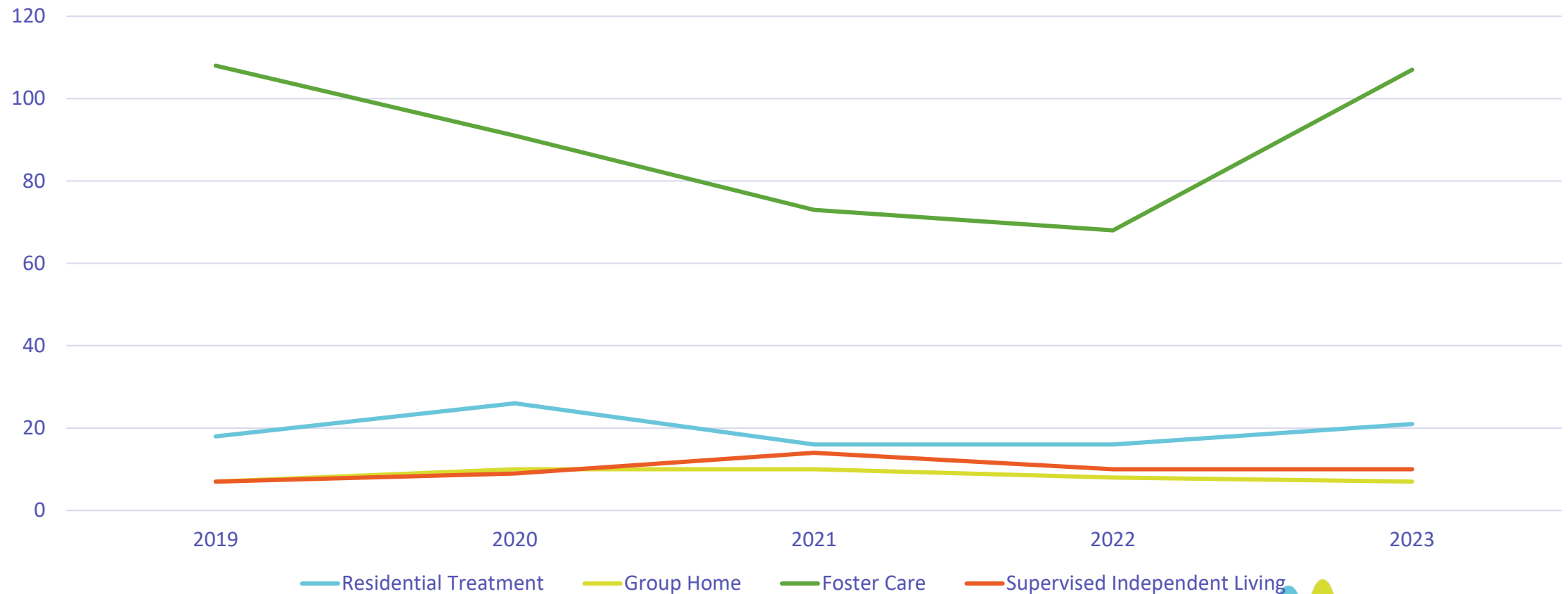
■ other neglect

■ physical abuse

■ sexual abuse\*includes threatened sexual abuse

# Placement by Setting 2018-2023

Duplicated Count— 1 child may have several placement settings



# Performance Measure- Placement

*All children in out of home care during the given period, a face to face contact is required between the social worker and child when the child is in care for the full month.*

Performance Standard: 95%

Observed Performance: 93.4%

This measures both our internal case managers and contracted case managers.

# Performance Measure

*The percentage of all days that children were in a family foster care setting that were spent with a relative during a given period.*

Performance Standard: 35.7%

Observed Performance: 39.8%

MN Statute requires that relatives are not only given consideration for placement, but that the agency will work to assist relatives and kin to become eligible, licensed placement options.



# Permanency Outcomes in 2023

Permanency Outcome	Percentage of Children in Placement (rounded to the nearest whole number)
Reunification with primary parent n= 15	17%*
Adoption n= 6	7%*
Transfer of Legal Custody to agency or relative n= 3	4%*
Working toward permanency as of 12/31/23 -Trial Home Visit Status n=3 -Pre-adoptive n=7	11%*

# Performance Measure- Permanency

*MN Department of Human Services measures the amount of time that is required to achieve permanency for children in out of home placement.*

- Performance Standards

- Permanency achieved within 12 months: 40.5%      **GC= 25%**
- Permanency achieved 12-23 months: 43.6%      **GC= 13.3%**
- Permanency achieved within 24 months: 30.3%      **GC= 42.9%**

# Licensing- Family Child Care

- One licensing social worker manages all family child care licensing duties- processing new applications, providing orientation, compliance with licensing regulations, annual home visits, and responding to reports of concern.
- DHS is projected to launch their Provider Hub in July 2024. This Hub will allow providers to apply for or maintain a license or certification, submit required reporting and register with the state's Child Care Assistance Program

# Licensing- Foster Care

- One foster care licensor carries a caseload of over 100 cases including Child Foster Care, Kinship Care, Adult Foster Care, Community Residential Setting, Child Welfare, Adoption/ Guardianship, and Interstate Compact referrals.
- The Rule 13 Audit completed in 2022 noted the competency of our licensor and her understanding of the regulations of each of these program areas.
- DHS staff also noted documentation deficiencies and we have implemented a plan to improve this by sending the home study documentation to DHS prior to the request for a license. However, delays with the review by DHS has created challenges.
- New licensing position is slated for 2025, which will also assist in increasing efficiency

# 2023 Summary

- The Child and Family Team added a new supervisor and split into two more specialized units: Intake/Assessment and Ongoing Case Management.
  - The Intake and Assessment Team added a second PSOP staff but struggled to maintain staffing numbers for assessors. Caseload numbers for assessors have been high.
  - The Ongoing Case Management Team also struggled with staffing. Caseload sizes have fluctuated greatly based on staffing levels, often being above the recommended caseload size
- We continue to build partnerships to meet the needs of the family's we serve.
- Our staff remain passionate and dedicating to supporting families in the community!
  
- Questions? Thank you!