

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 and families.
- We work to influence long-lasting improvements to the safety and success of children, families and the communities where they live.
 - Operating in all 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.
 - Direct agreements with 16 tribes.
 - 9 field offices provide direct services to youth in care.

What the presentation will cover

- Goals and expectations for child welfare systems
- Data: what it tells us and how it can be used to improve systems
- Evidence- based approaches that improve progress

Congratulations on Kentucky's outstanding progress on Family First!

- One of the first states to gain federal approval of a Family First Prevention Services Plan.
- A leader among states: robust planning, implementation of prevention services.
- Kentucky is positioned to leverage its return on investment (ROI) and build on a strong foundation of prevention programs.



The Family First Prevention Services Act

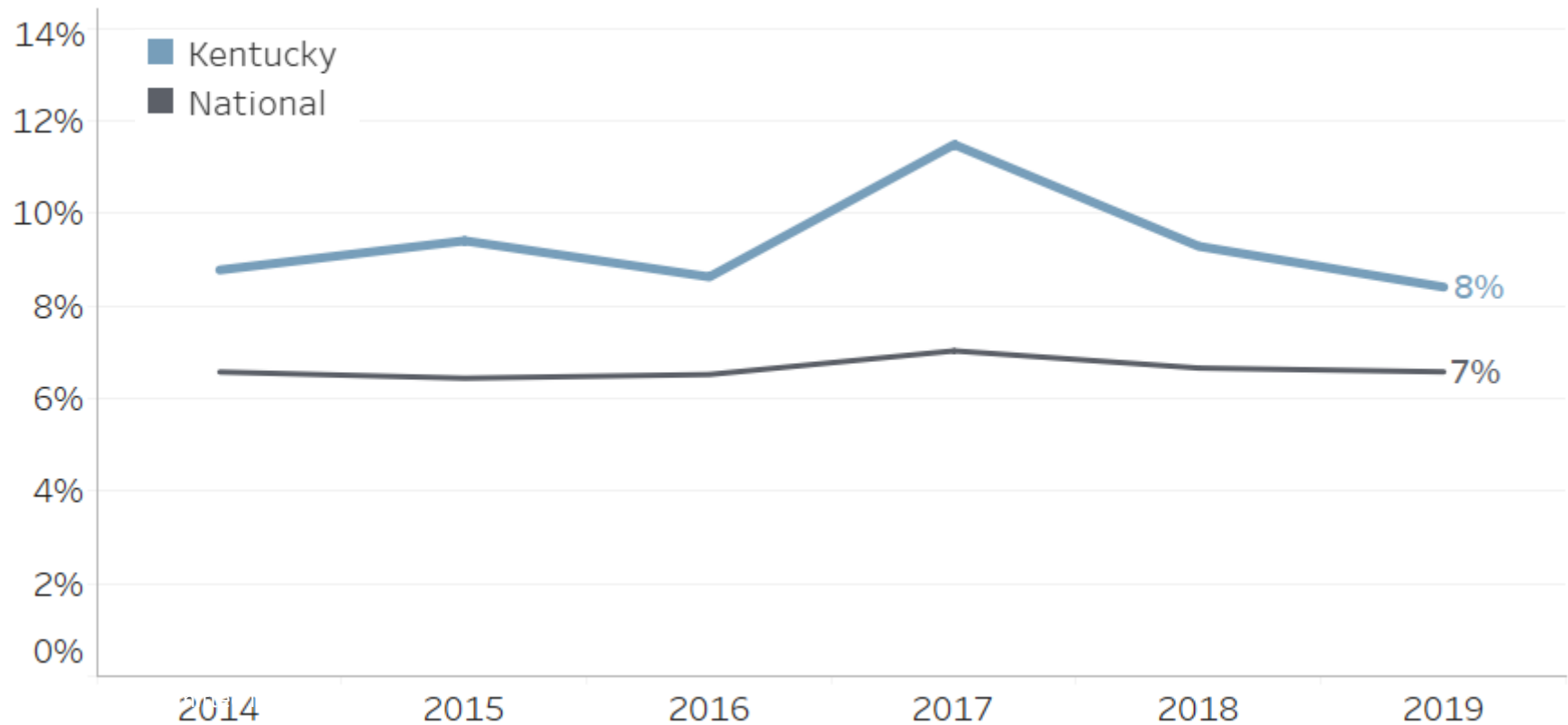
- Bipartisan federal legislation passed and signed into law in February 2018.
- Federal Funding for Prevention Services: States and Tribes may claim 50% federal Title IV-E reimbursement for evidence-based programs that prevent the need for foster care, related administration and training activities.
- Who is eligible?
 - 1) Children at imminent risk of placement in foster care
 - 2) Pregnant and parenting youth in foster care
 - 3) Their parents and kinship caregivers also are eligible.

What do research and experience tell us about Child Safety and Well-Being?

- The goal should be to ensure the safety, permanency and well-being of children ***and their families***.
- To support child well-being and prevent crises, it is important to intervene as early as possible.
- Infants and toddlers are at high risk of an abuse or neglect fatality compared to other age groups.
- Nationally, more than one-quarter (28.7% in 2018) of children who experience maltreatment are younger than 3 years old.
- In Kentucky, 42% of children in foster care in 2018 were 5 years of age or younger.
- A call to a CPS hotline is the best predictor of a later child abuse or neglect fatality.

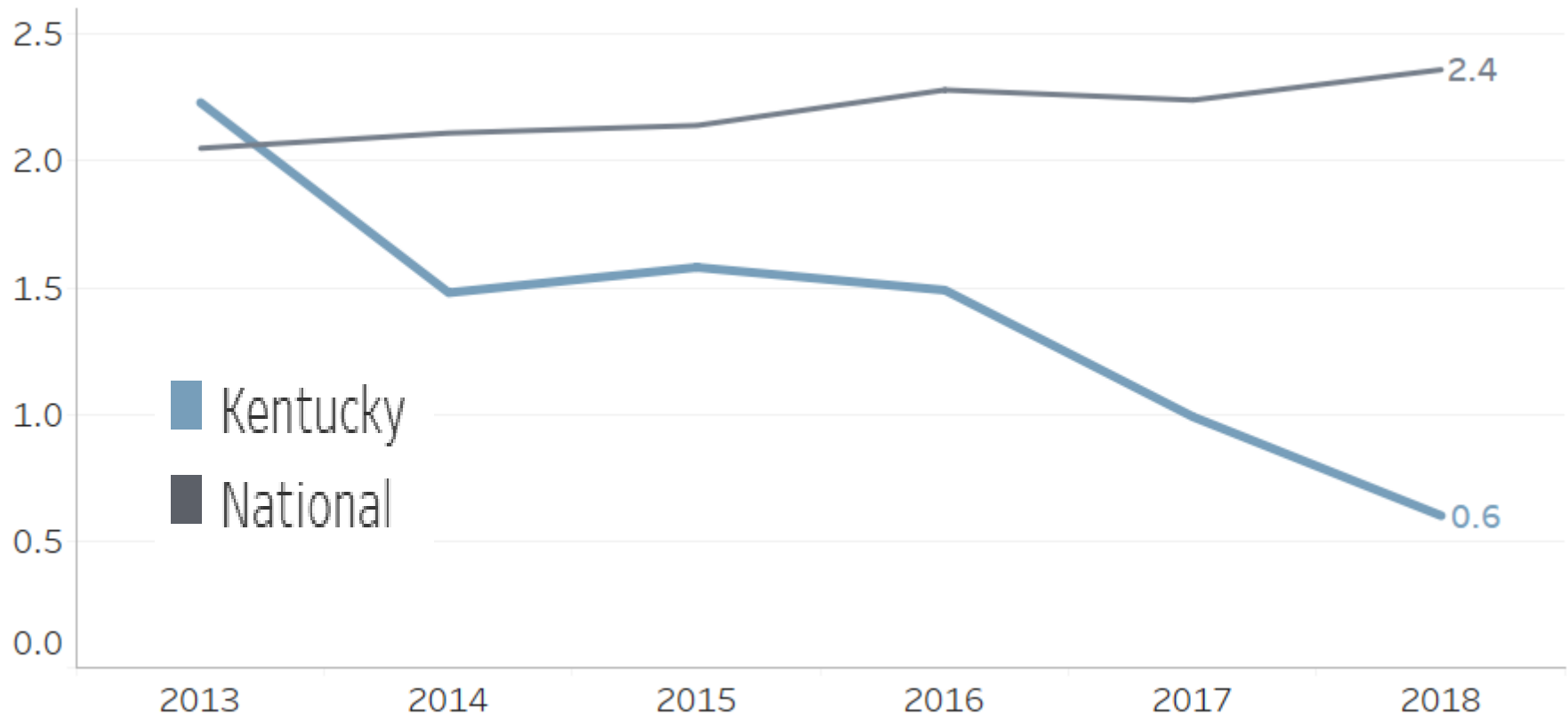
Keeping Children Safe: Decrease Recurrence of Maltreatment

What percent of children experience repeat maltreatment within 6 months?
(ages < 18)



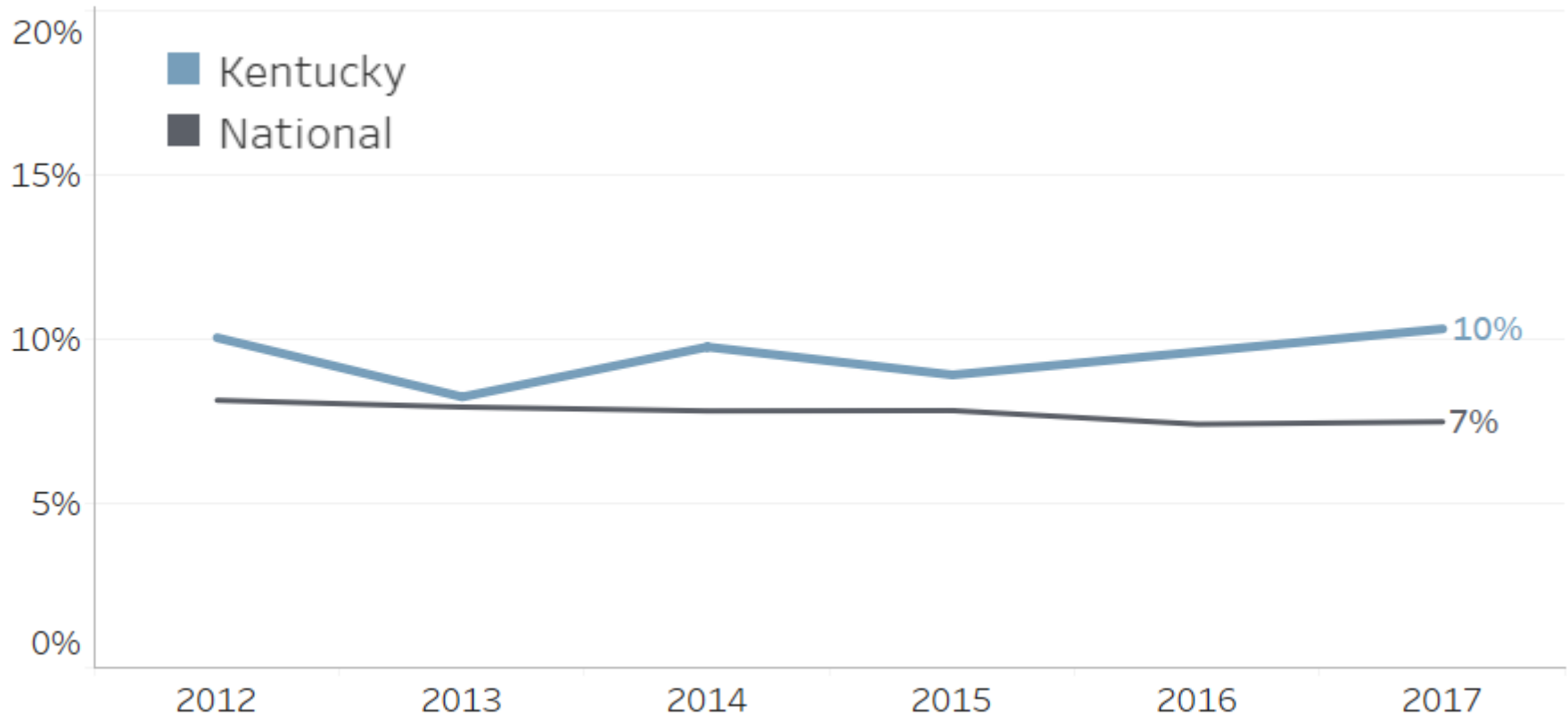
Decrease Child Maltreatment Fatalities

What rate of children are involved in a maltreatment related fatality? (ages < 18; per 100,000)



Decrease Re-Entry into Care

What percent of children re-enter care within 12 months of timely permanency?
(ages < 18)



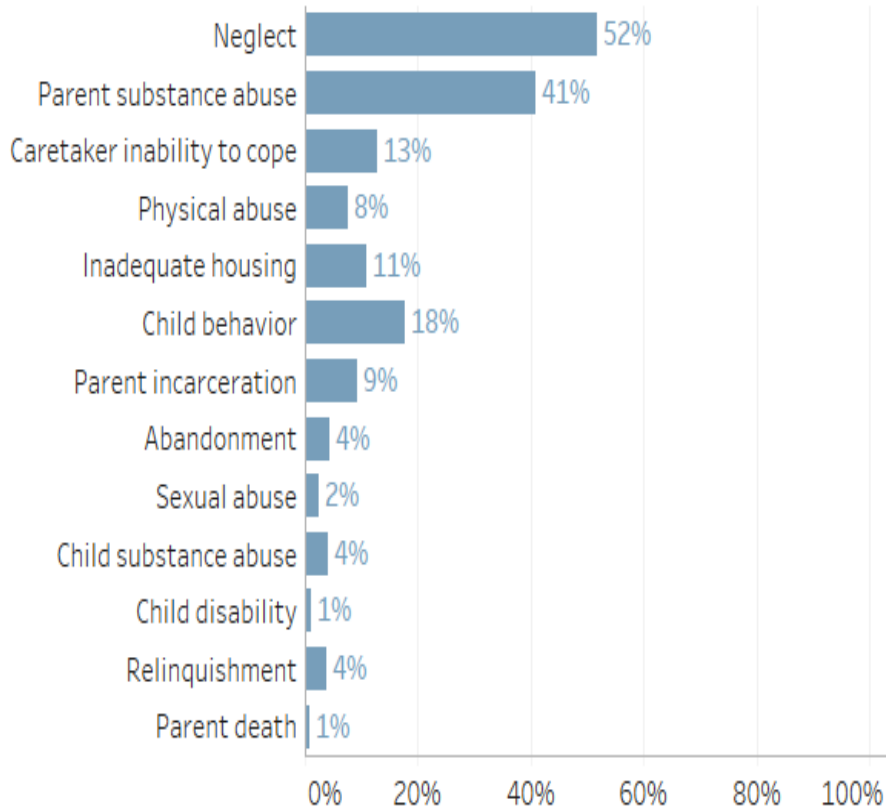
What do data, research and experience tell us about removal of children from their families?

- The majority of children are removed from their families due to child neglect (52% in Kentucky). Another 11% are removed in KY due to inadequate housing. 10% are removed due to physical or sexual abuse.
- The act of removing children from their families and homes creates additional emotional distress and trauma that should be avoided whenever possible.
- Many children can be better served by remaining safely at home while their parents receive the community services and support they need.

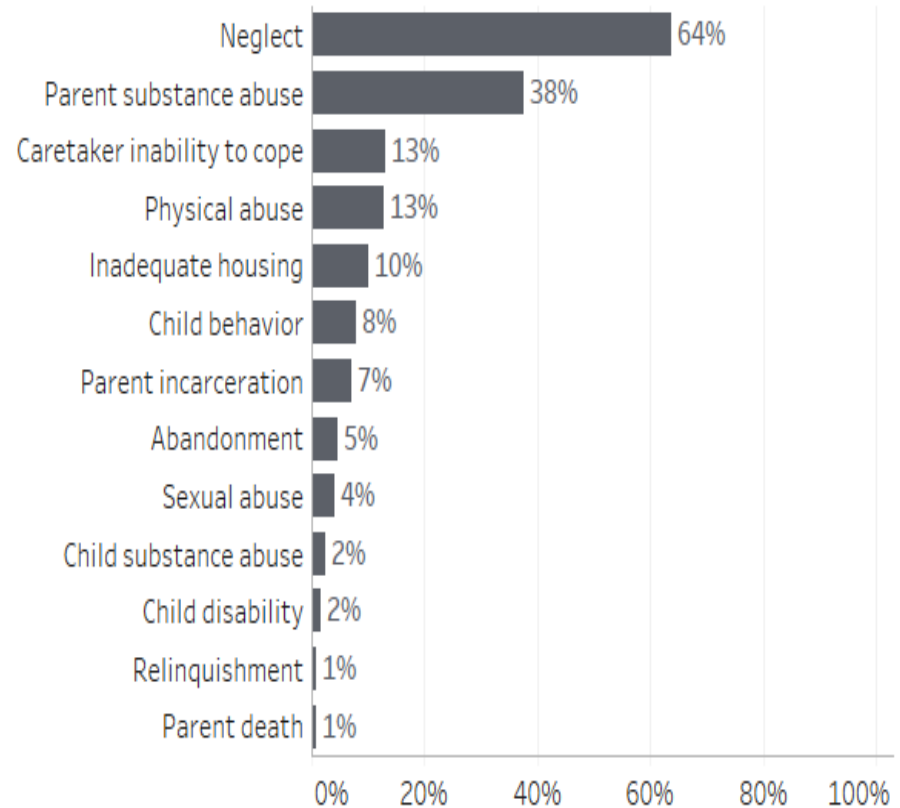
Reasons Children Enter Care

What is the percent of children entering care by reason for removal?
(age < 18)

Kentucky



National



In Kentucky, Family First Prevention Services are safely keeping families together.

- Family Preservation Program: 93% of families safely remained together at closure. 86% still safely together 1 year later. 4,665 child removals prevented.
- KSTEP: 93% of families safely remained together at closure. 356 removals prevented.
- START serves the families with highest risks to child safety plus parent substance use: 91% of children safely remained with a parent or relative at closure.

State investment in programs that safely prevent child maltreatment and placement has a high return on investment.

- Estimated cost of nonfatal child abuse: \$830,928 over the course of a child's lifetime for child welfare costs, medical care, special education, criminal justice, and lost productivity.
- The lifetime economic burden of substantiated child abuse and neglect cases in Kentucky in 2018: \$19.7 billion.

Leveraging Federal Funding

- The average cost of foster care for a child in Kentucky: \$52,481.
- Federal reimbursement for foster care is declining nationwide: Fewer children meet the 1996 income eligibility requirements.
- Federal reimbursement for evidence-based prevention programs: 50% with no income requirements.
- Starting in FFY 2026, federal reimbursement will be the state's FMAP rate. (72.05% is KY's FMAP rate for FY2021.)

Kentucky Family First Prevention Program Costs Per Child

Kentucky Foster Care Average Cost per Child

Family Preservation Program:
\$3,495

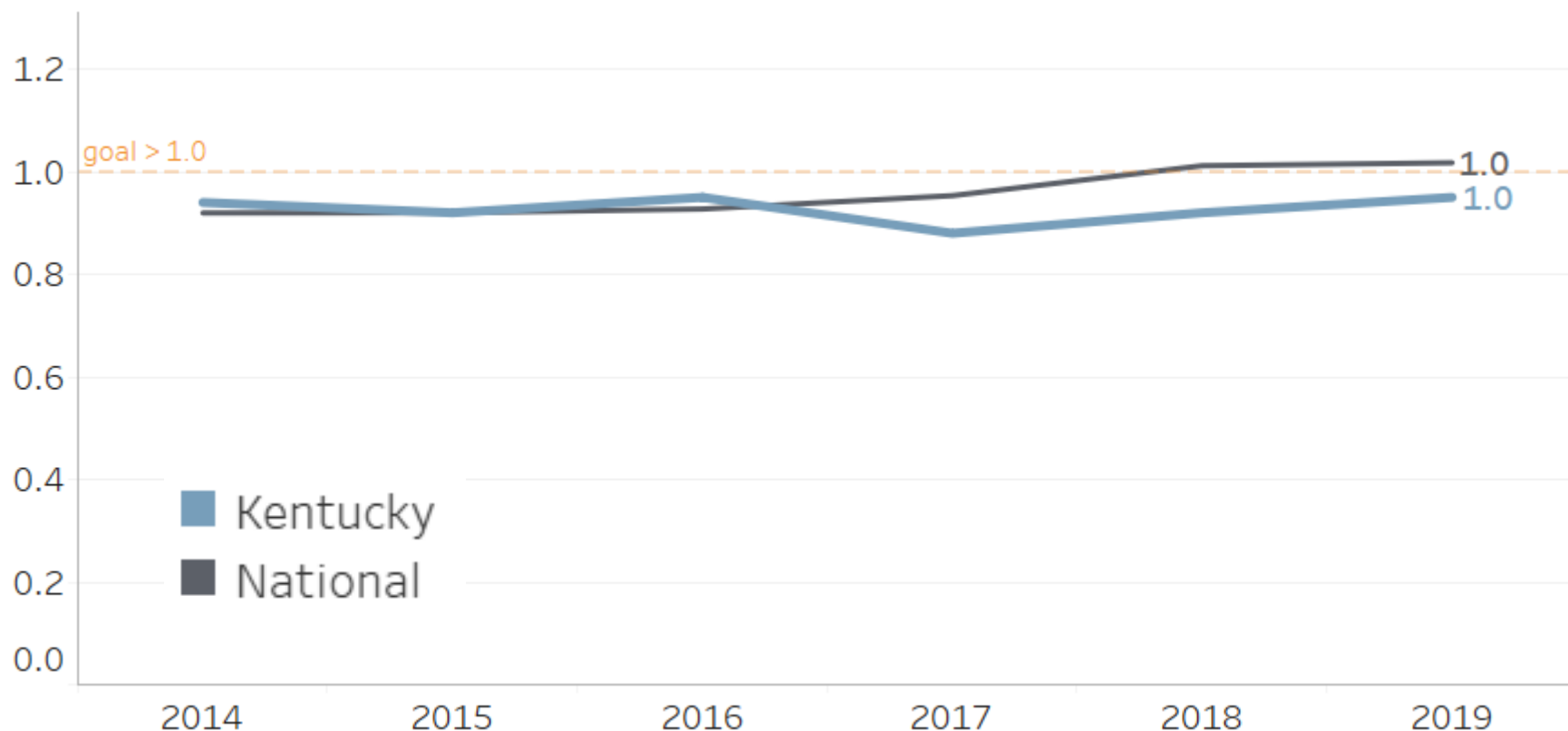
Kentucky Strengthening Ties and
Empowering Parents: \$5,028

Sobriety Treatment and Recovery
Teams: \$4,105

\$52,481

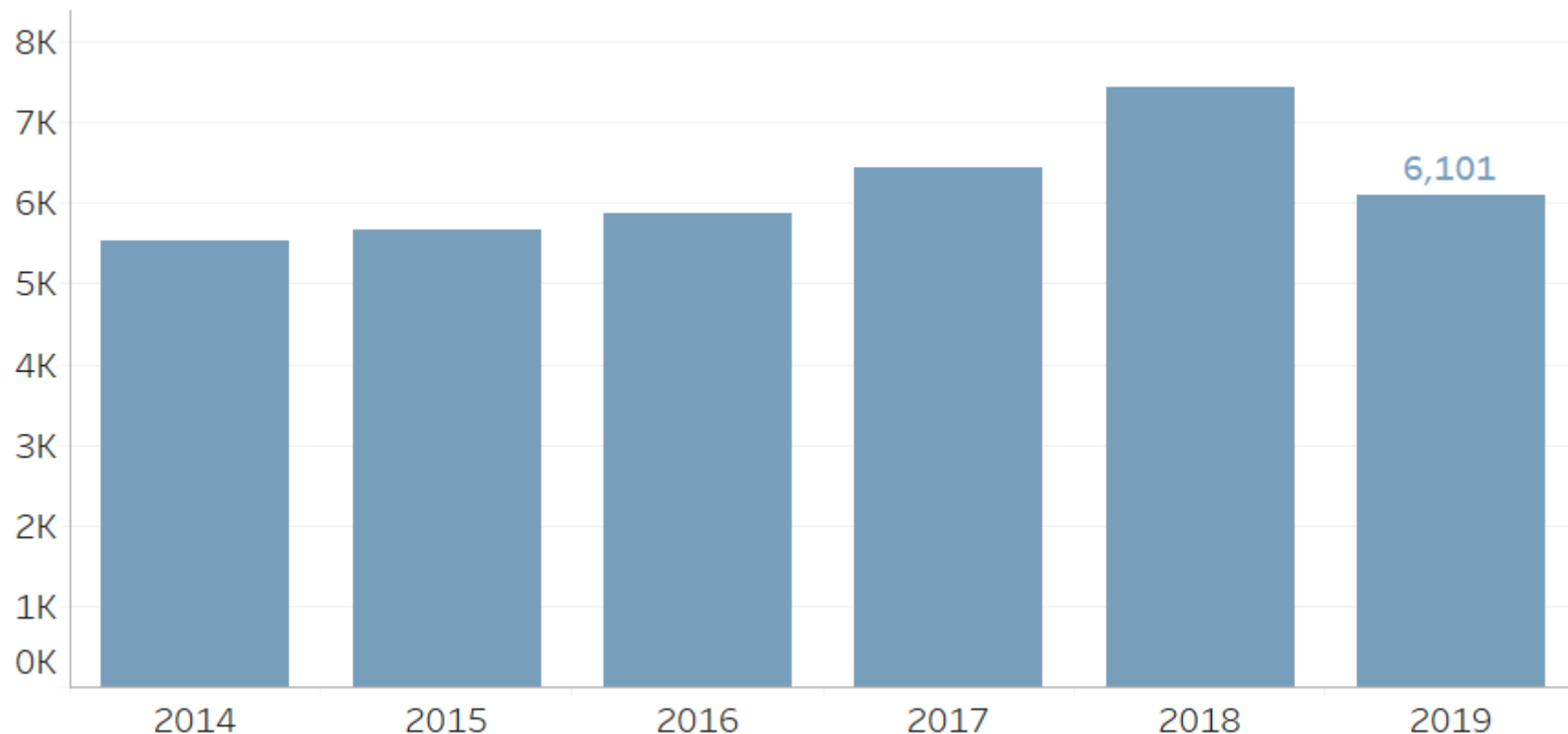
Keeping Families Together: Increase the Ratio of Foster Care Exits to Entries

How many children are entering and exiting care?
(entries age < 18; exits age < 24)



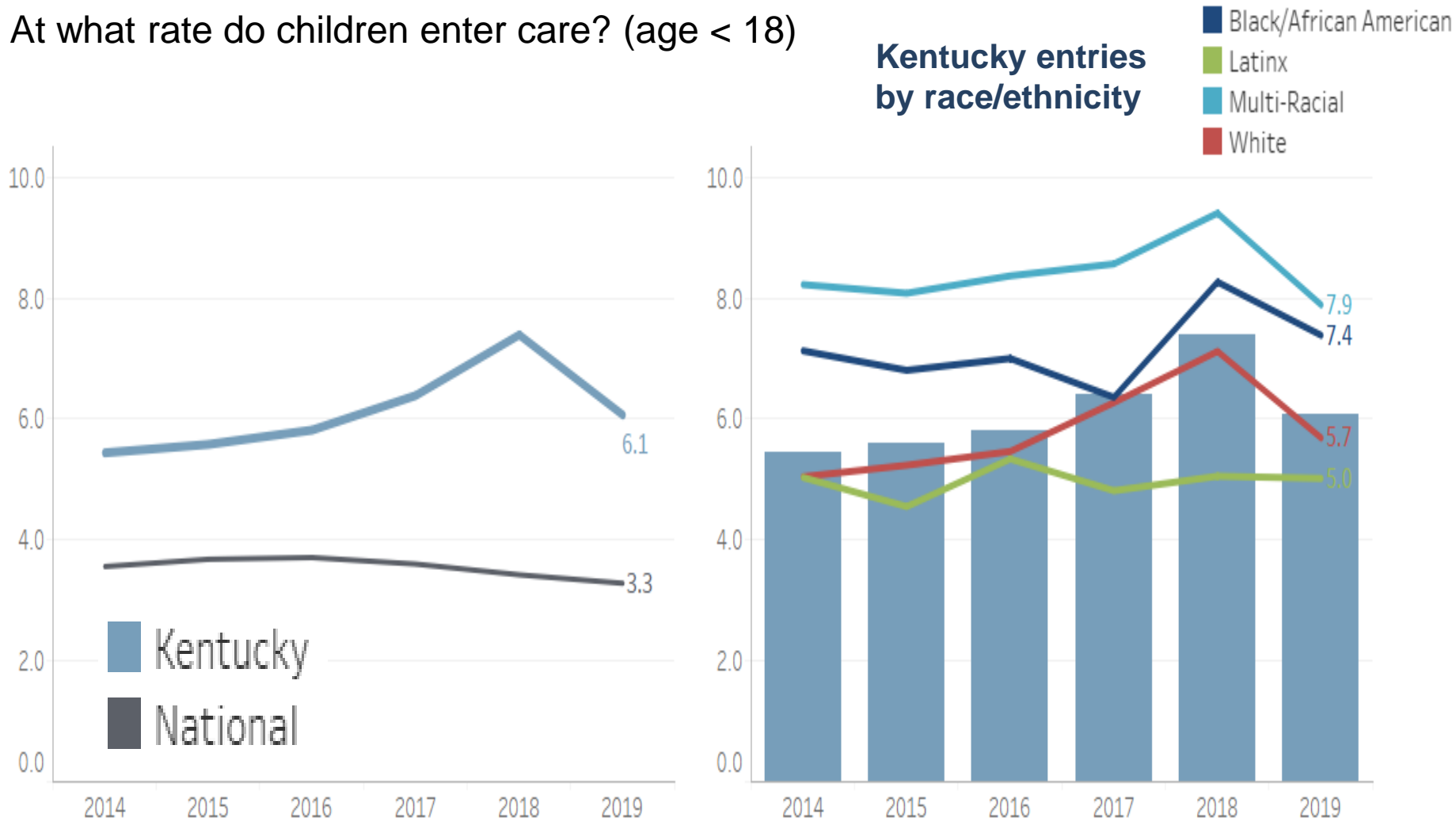
Decrease the Number of Children who Enter Foster Care

How many Kentucky children are entering care? (< age 18)



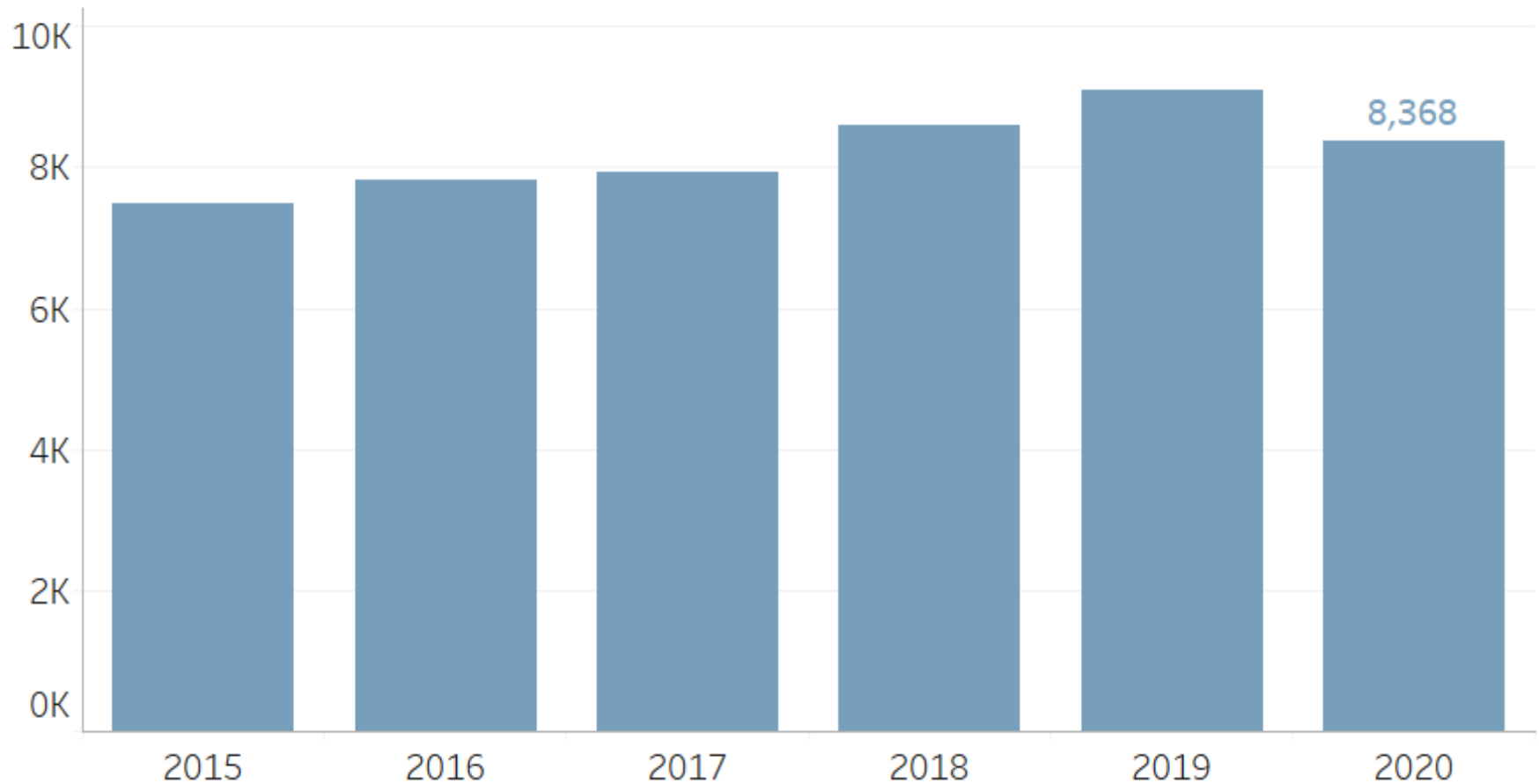
Decrease the Rate of Entries into Care

At what rate do children enter care? (age < 18)



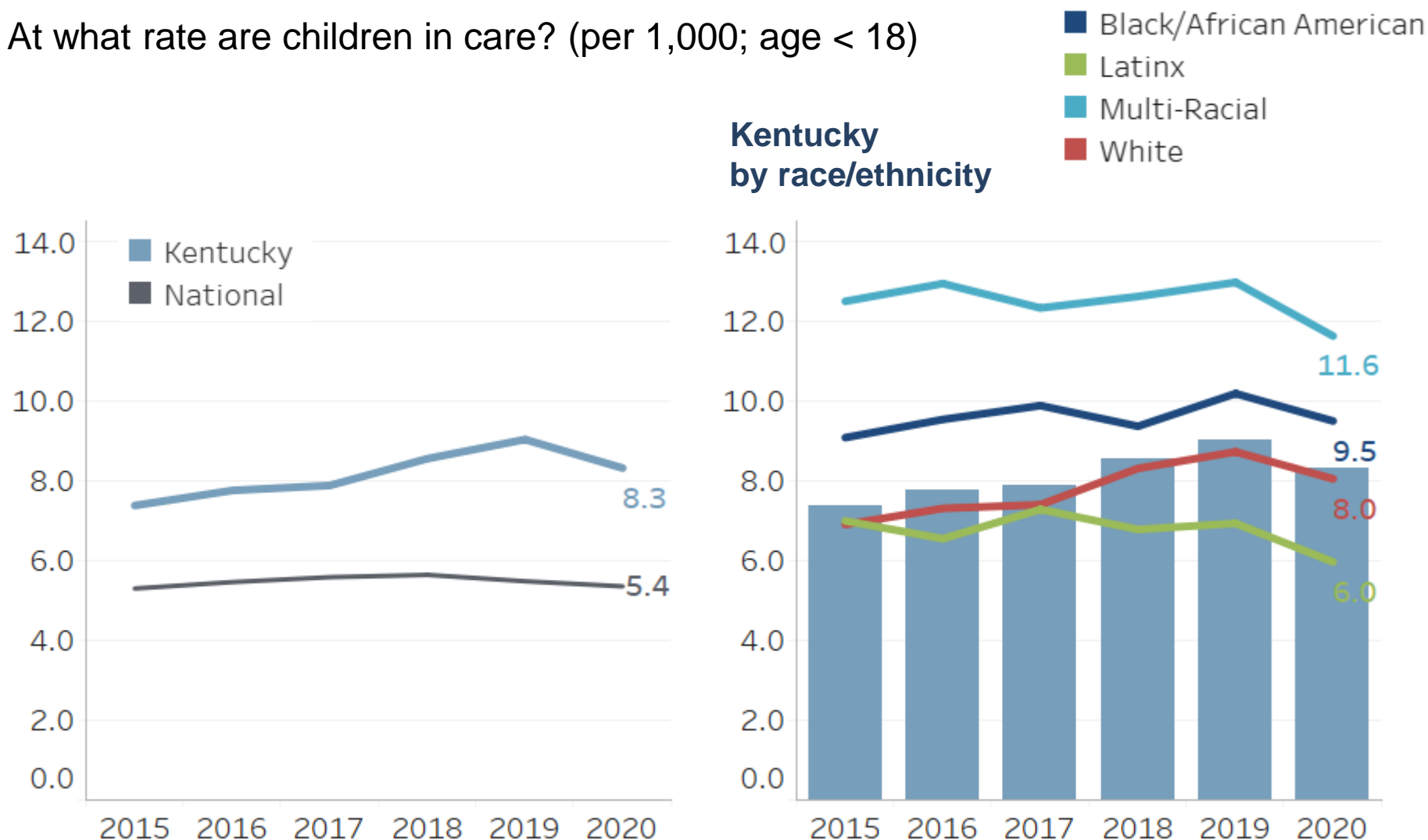
Decrease Number of Children in Care

How many Kentucky children are in care? (age < 18)



Decrease Rate of Children in Care

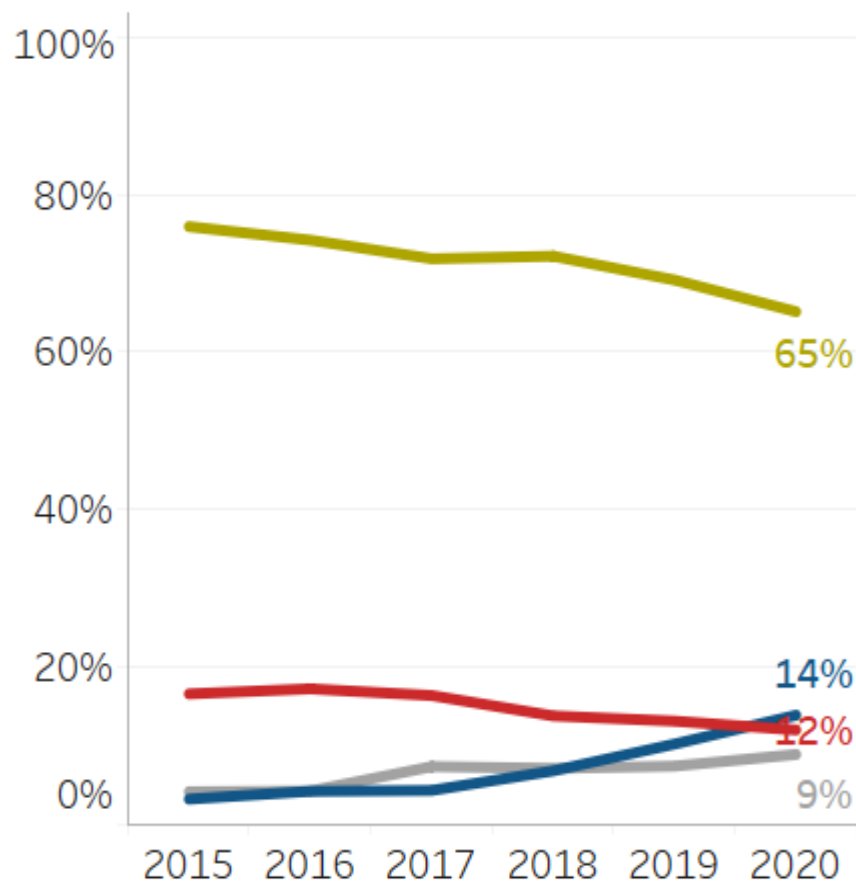
At what rate are children in care? (per 1,000; age < 18)



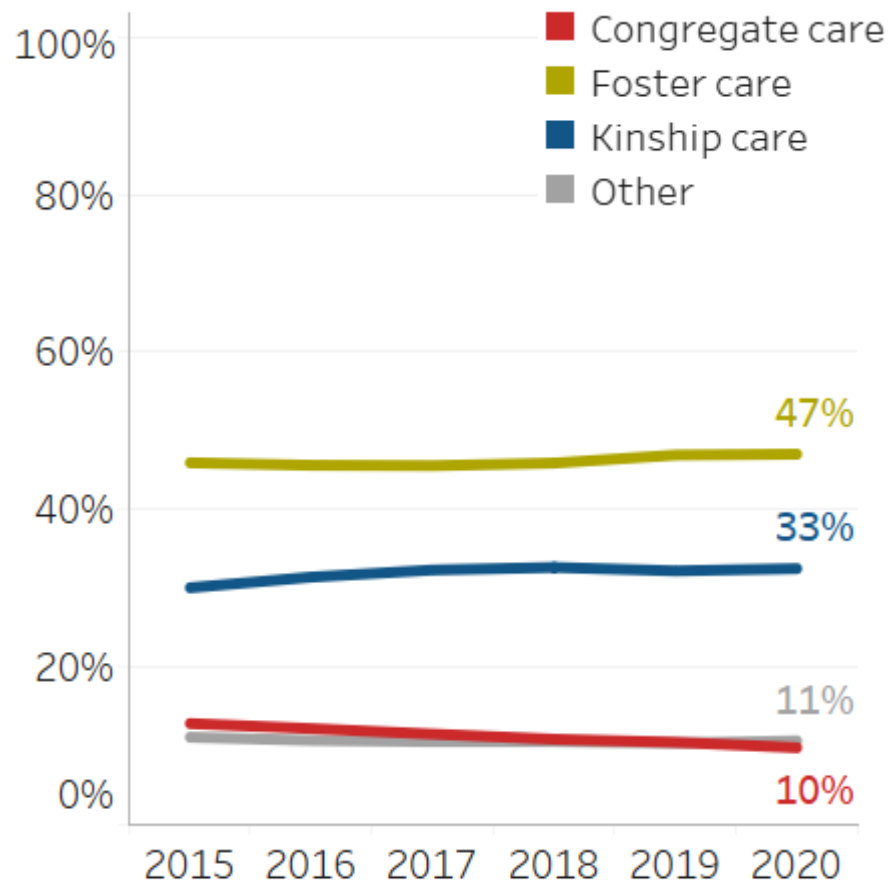
Where are Children Placed?

What is the percent of children in care by placement setting? (age < 18)

Kentucky



National



Conclusions

- Kentucky is a leader among states on Family First implementation.
- Upstream investment in children and families pays dividends in child and family safety and well-being, and in public spending.
- Investing in programs that have a high return on investment (ROI) is important.
- Leveraging federal reimbursement for prevention services can help to reduce expenditures for foster care and congregate care.
- In turn, safely reducing the use of foster and congregate care can allow more money to be invested in community-based prevention.

Emerging Approaches to Consider

- New types of partnerships between birth parents and foster parents.
- Authentic and ongoing engagement of individuals with lived experience in the system: birth parents, kinship caregivers, foster youth and alumni, foster and adoptive parents.
- New types of partnerships across all 5 sectors: government, business, nonprofit and faith-based, philanthropic, community members.
- A “public health approach” to child well-being.

Questions for Legislators to Consider

- What does the data tell us about how our children are doing?
 - Monitor key outcomes for children and families.
 - Look at data disaggregated by race, age, regions/counties/communities.
- What does the research tell us will have the greatest impact on the safety and well-being of children and families? On the Commonwealth's future?
- What is the advice of individuals with lived experience, including birth parents?
- What is the return on investment of state dollars?