



CABINET FOR HEALTH  
AND FAMILY SERVICES

## Out-of-Home Care Trends

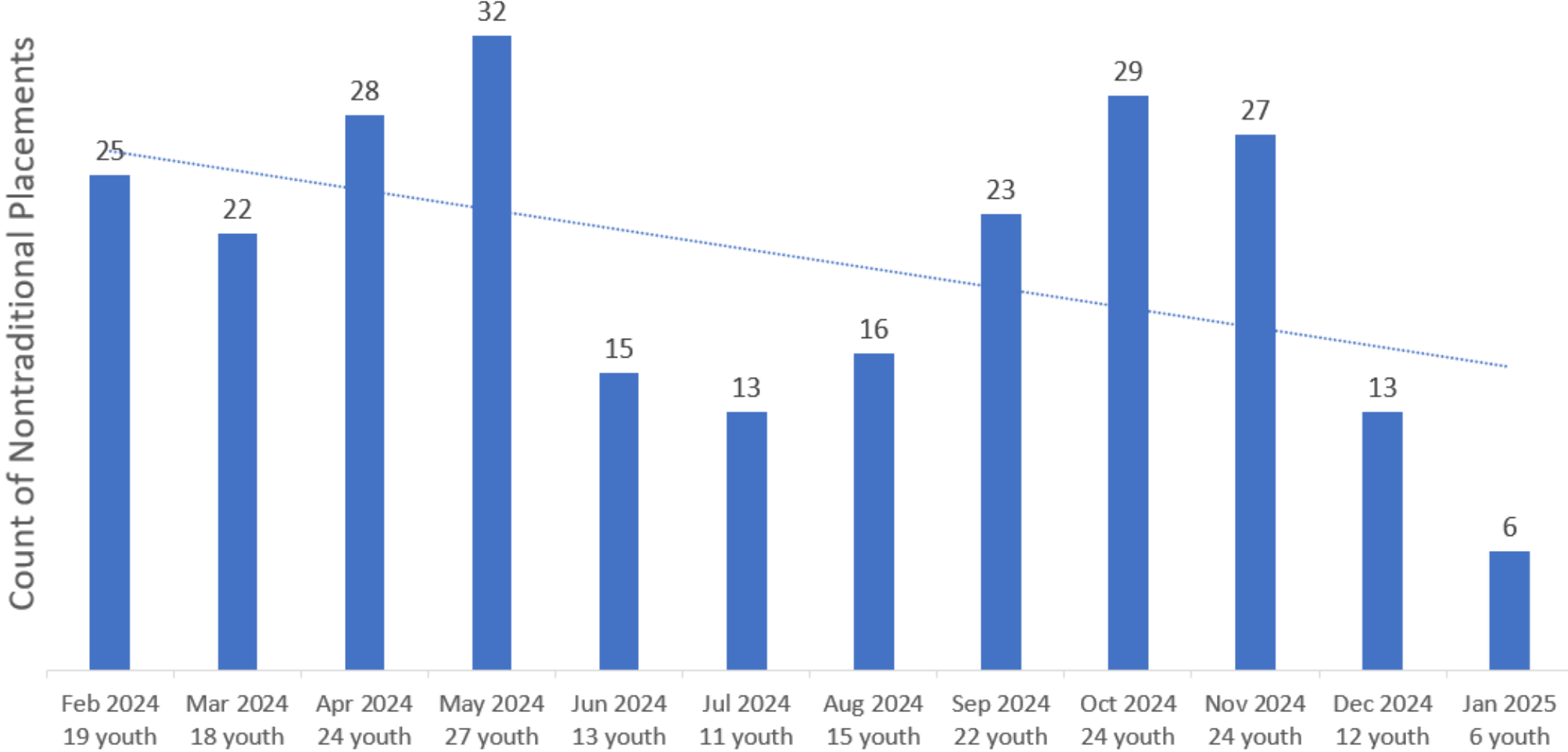
Youth with Specialized Placement and Treatment Needs

February 11, 2025

## National Landscape

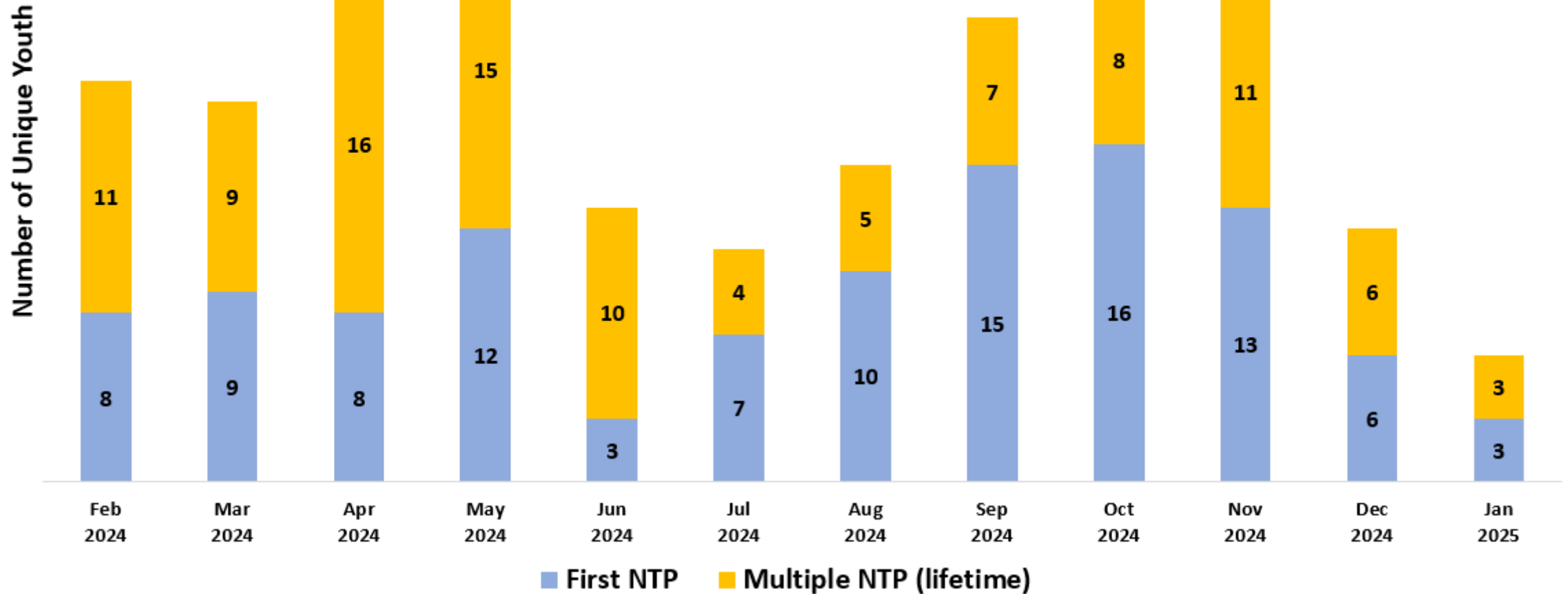
- In January 2025, The American Public Human Services Association released a report: Addressing the Complex Needs of Youth: A Call to Action
- This report explored survey results from 125 health and human services agencies across the country and looked at high acuity needs, placement challenges, and systems of care.
- Agencies reported increased challenges in meeting the treatment and placement needs of high acuity youth. **57%** of agencies reported increased out-of-state or out-of-jurisdiction placements.
- While Kentucky has not experienced the volume of youth in non-traditional placements that some states have reported, it has been a persistent issue throughout the Commonwealth since Spring of 2022.

# Nontraditional Placements: 2/1/2024 – 1/31/2025



# Unique Youth in Nontraditional Placement:

2/1/2024 – 1/31/2025



# Nontraditional Placement Trends

2/1/2024 – 1/31/2025

## Nontraditional Placement Trends

Average number of consecutive days in nontraditional placement	2.82
Range of consecutive days in nontraditional placement	1 - 25

## Child Trends

Average age of youth	15.1 years
% Male	66%
% Female	34%
Average # of days in care at the time of nontraditional placement	791
Range of days in care at the time of nontraditional placement	0 - 4,703

# DCBS Response and Initiatives

- **Enhanced Rates for Specialized Care**
- **Multi Agency Collaboration – Daily Status Calls**
- **Data Driven Planning with Placement Providers**
- **Implementation of Intensive Therapeutic Support Programs to stabilize youth**
- **Major Financial Investments: Increase daily rates for providers and foster parents**
- **New Emergency Shelter Services**
- **Pilot Programs for Specialized Care**
- **Specialized Psychiatric Care at River Valley**
- **Contract with a provider to provide therapeutic supports for youth in a non-traditional placement.**
- **High acuity specialists hired in each service region to support the needs of youth with complex treatment and placement needs**
- **DCBS has launched a variety of new trainings for foster and adoptive parents that provides additional tools and resources to meet the needs of youth with complex needs.**

# DCBS Collaborations

**DCBS has collaborated with the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental, Intellectual Disability, KY Hospital Associations, Department of Medicaid, Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Administrative Office of the Courts. This collaboration has allowed multi agency collaboration on how to best address the needs of youth with complex placement and treatment needs.**

**DCBS is receiving technical assistance from two national centers to help build supports in the continuum of care. The first center is the National Center for Diligent Recruitment. This center supports child welfare agencies in developing strategies for recruitment of foster parents that can support the needs of complex youth. The second national center is the National Center for Post- Permanency Supports. Many of the youth that enter non-traditional placement are prior adoption cases. The national center is working with the agency in building out supports and services for adoptive families to prevent adoption disruption.**

# Youth In NTP

## February 7, 2025

- At 8:15AM – 3 youth in NTP however by mid-day one youth had found placement
  - 11-year-old male; 17-year-old female; 15-year-old female
  - Two youth were at risk of NTP within 24 hrs.
  - Three youth in contracted Emergency Shelter Beds
- The 11-year-old male and 17-year-old female remained in NTP at the end of the day



# Youth Characteristics In NTP on 2/7/25

- 11yr old male
  - He has a Diagnosis of Attention Deficient Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and is on medication
  - He entered Out Of Home Care (OOHC) Early in 2024 due to Neglect; parent incarcerations, housing and food insecurity; and exposure to inappropriate sexual material
  - His initial 2 placements were in Foster Care; In Oct 2024 he became physically aggressive with foster mother, and was admitted to the hospital
  - In January, 2025 he was discharged from the hospital and placed in Emergency Shelter
  - On January 31, 2025, disrupted from Emergency Shelter and began boarding at a DCBS office
    - His Disruption from Emergency Shelter was due to inappropriate behavior regarding other children. Staff was unable to redirect his behaviors.
    - During placement in Emergency Shelter, he had multiple hospitalizations for suicidal ideations
  - All Private Child Placing agencies have denied

# Youth Characteristics In NTP on 2/7/25

- 17-year-old female
  - She currently has an Individualized Educational Plan(IEP) and an IQ of 83
  - She has been diagnosed with multiple conditions including Bipolar, Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
  - She entered Out of Home Care in 2020;
    - Significant abuse history of sexual abuse, physical abuse and neglect
  - She has experienced multiple placements at all levels of care
  - She was in a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility for suicidal ideations; while there she and a peer stole a staff's badge and eloped from the facility resulting in multiple criminal charges
  - She then went to detention where she remained until 2/5/25 when she began boarding in a DCBS office
  - All in-state and out-of-state placements have denied

# Accommodations for youth in NTP

- 2 to 1 staff to youth ratio
- Security guard on site
- Furnished bedrooms with desk/study area, television, and technology access
- Access to mental health, medical, and therapeutic supports and services
- Food and everyday essentials purchased and provided
- Transportation provided to and from school daily if youth is enrolled in a local school district
- Access to maintain daily personal hygiene
- Laundry services
- Recreational activities, game room and enhanced visitation room access



# TEAM KENTUCKY<sup>®</sup>

CABINET FOR HEALTH  
AND FAMILY SERVICES

Thank you