

“One Unified Volunteer
Voice for Safety,
Permanency and
Advocacy “

Citizens Review Board for Children

2012 Annual Report

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About Us

Program Description

The Citizens Review Board for Children supports all efforts to provide permanence for children in foster care. This state board provides oversight to Maryland's child protection agencies and trains volunteer citizen panels to aid in child protection efforts.

The Citizens Review Board for Children now has two major components – out of home care and child protection. Each component has three major modalities: case review, program monitoring and advocacy.

The Citizens Review Board for Children consists of volunteer representatives from state and local boards in each county. There are currently 54 local review boards throughout the state with 165 number of Governor appointed volunteers serving on local boards in each jurisdiction. . CRBC reviews cases of children in out-of-home placement and monitors child welfare programs making recommendations for system improvements.

The State Board reviews and coordinates the activities of the local review boards. The board also examines policy issues, procedures, legislation, resources, and barriers relating to out-of home placement and the permanency of children. The state board makes recommendations to the General Assembly around ways of improving Maryland's child welfare system.

Mission

Volunteer reviewers monitor child welfare systems and review cases, make findings, and recommendations, and advocate improving the administration of the system and the management of individual cases. As a result, children will be safe; be placed in stable, permanent living arrangements without undue delay; enjoy continuity of relations; and have the opportunity to develop to their full potential.

Vision

The child welfare community, General Assembly, other key decision-makers, and the public will look to the Citizens Review Board for Children for objective reports on vital child welfare programs and for consistent monitoring of safeguards for children. The State of Maryland will investigate child maltreatment allegations thoroughly, protect children from abuse and neglect, give families the help they need to stay intact, place children in out-of-home care only when necessary, and provide placements that consider all the child's needs. Casework will combine effective family services with expeditious permanent placement of children.

Legislative Agenda

The children's legislative action committee (CLAC) is the legislative committee under the authority of State Board charged with implementing CRBC's legislative agenda. CLAC's advocacy priorities include a broad range of family services. Maryland's child welfare budget is disproportionately spent on keeping children in high-cost out of home placements while many thousands of children and families do not have access to high quality family services. The Department of Human Resources Secretary sought to change this dynamic with innovative initiatives. Savings from reducing inappropriate placements are reinvested to fund the following:

- Family team decision-making and other techniques for involving parents and other family members in planning for safety and permanency
- Intensive family preservation services, which can be cost-effective while protecting children from further abuse or neglect
- Strengthening family support services in order to prevent child abuse and neglect
- Increasing funding for and integration of mental health and substance abuse treatment services with child welfare programs
- Finding ways to identify, locate, notify, and support tens of thousands of grandparents and other relatives who are caring for children so that these children do not require State care
- Support for kinship care providers at the same level as foster parents

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Summary

Citizens Review Board for Children (CRBC), reviews cases of youth in each of the 23 Counties plus Baltimore City. As with the previous fiscal year and in accordance with DHR's Place Matters criteria, these 24 areas are classified as large, medium, and small jurisdictions based on the caseload size.

Fiscal year 2012 marked the second year of CRBC's work plan agreement with the Department of Human Resources (DHR). In accordance with the continued work plan agreement, CRBC reviewed cases of youth with a permanency plan of adoption or Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA). This focus allowed CRBC to review these vulnerable and often overlooked populations.

Cases were reviewed that met the following criteria:

Adoption:

- Youth with newly established primary permanency plans of adoption
(Reviewed three months after the plan has been changed)
- Youth with existing plans of adoption for twelve months or longer
(Reviewed three months before next court review date)

APPLA:

- Youth with newly established primary permanency plans of APPLA
(Reviewed three months after the plan has been changed)
- Youth age 17 or 20 years old with existing or new cases
(Reviewed three to five months after the youth's birthday)
- Youth 15 years old and younger with existing plans of APPLA

Reunification:

- Youth age 10 and older with newly established permanency plans of reunification
(Reviewed three months before the youth's 18-month court hearing)
- Youth age 10 and older with established permanency plans of reunification and who have been in care for longer than one year
(Reviewed three months before next court review date)

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Goals of the adoption reviews were to ensure:

- Youth are receiving the services necessary to prepare them and their pre-adoptive families for adoption
- Barriers are identified and removed so the adoption process progresses in a timely manner
- The local departments are adequately searching for and recruiting adoptive resources

Goals of the APPLA reviews were to ensure:

- That youth are receiving the services necessary to prepare them to live independently
- That the local departments are working alongside the youth to identify a permanent connection for the youth
- That APPLA is not viewed as a “catch-all” without exploring other permanency options
- That youth are made part of the service and case planning processes

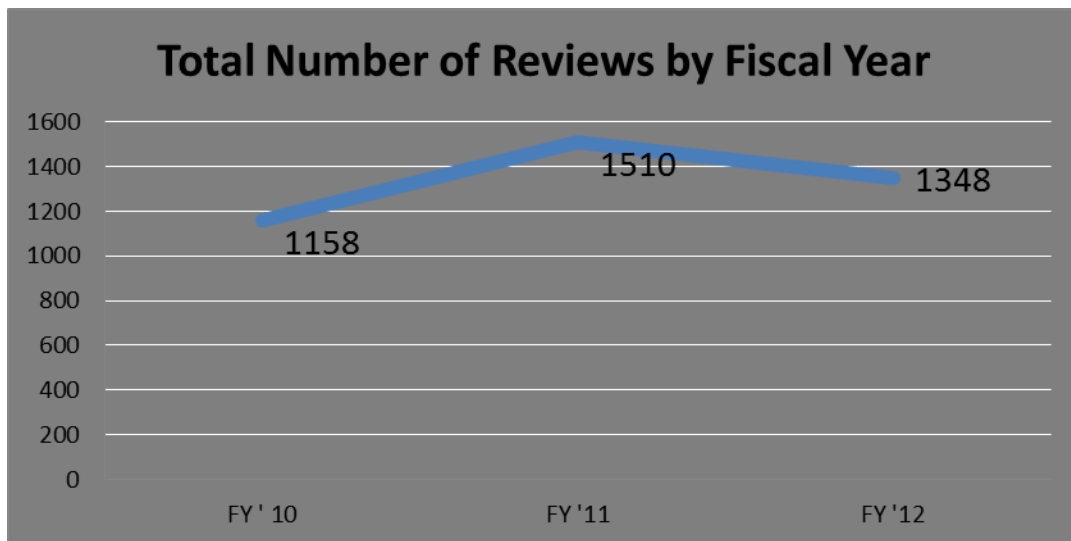
Goals of the reunification reviews were to ensure:

- That youth and their families are receiving necessary services to reunify
- That the local departments have identified and are working towards a concurrent plan that will allow cases to move forward more quickly and lessen the time youth spend in out of home care
- Barriers are identified and removed so youth can reunify with their families
- That the local departments identify and work with all family members (including fictive kin) in an effort to lessen the time youth spend in out of home care

Case Reviews

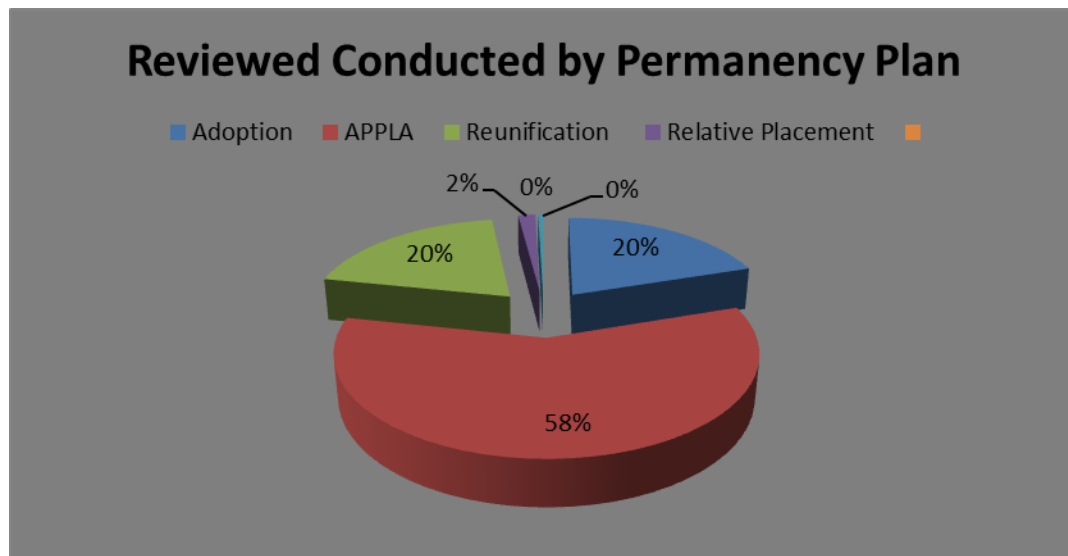
Out of Home Reviews Overview

During fiscal year 2012 the Citizens Review Board for Children (CRBC) reviewed 1348 cases of youth in out of home placements. Included in the total number of cases are cases that were re-reviewed by local jurisdictions and accounted for n=304 of the total number of cases reviewed. Re-reviewed cases were cases designated by local boards for re-review in the 4th quarter of the fiscal year to assess if progress has been made or board recommendations implemented by local jurisdictions.



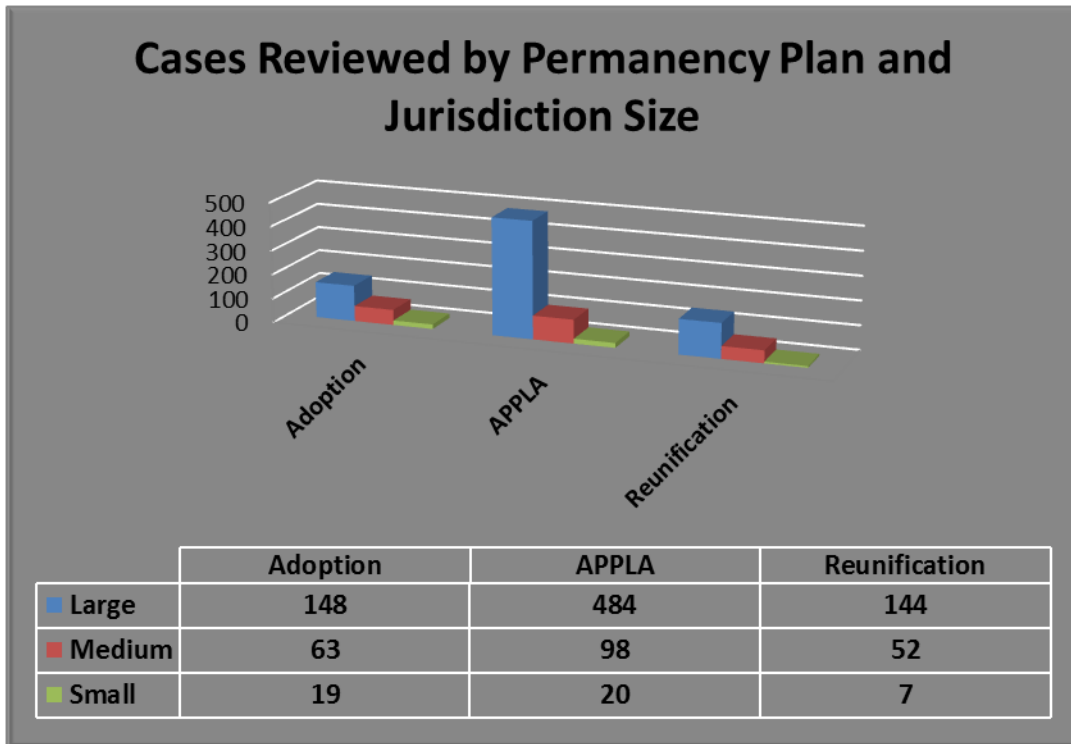
Out of Home Review Findings

The Citizens Review Board for Children reviewed 1348 cases of youth in out of home placements. The majority (58%) of these youth had primary permanency plans of APPLA. In addition to these cases, CRBC reviewed advocacy cases. These are cases of youth in which the local boards, courts, or other interested parties feel needed extra attention so as to prevent them from being overlooked.

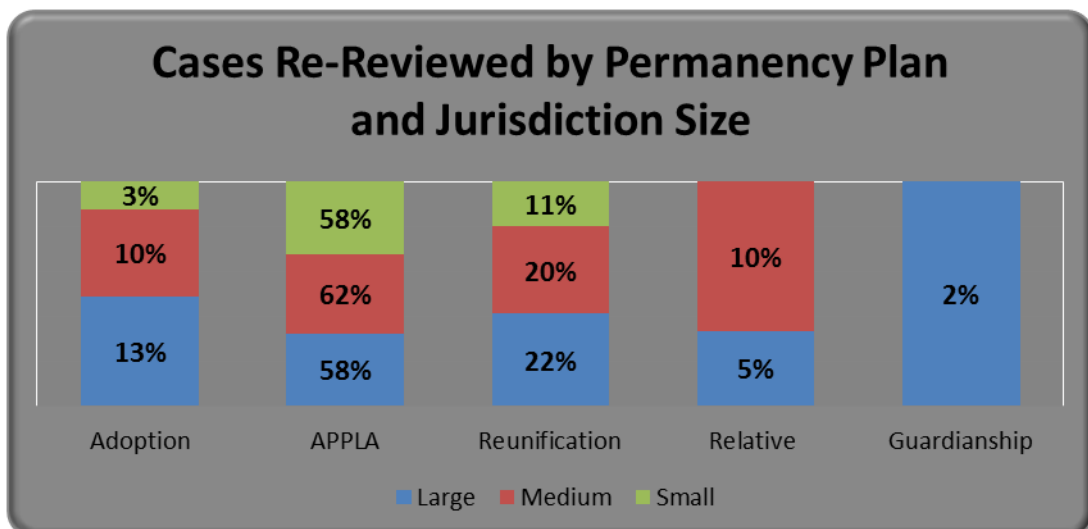


CITIZENS REVIEW BOARD FOR CHILDREN

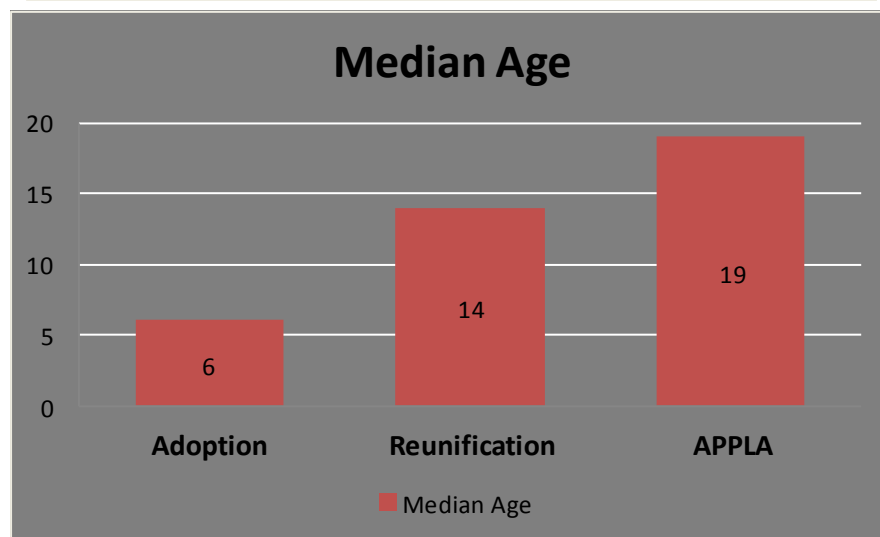
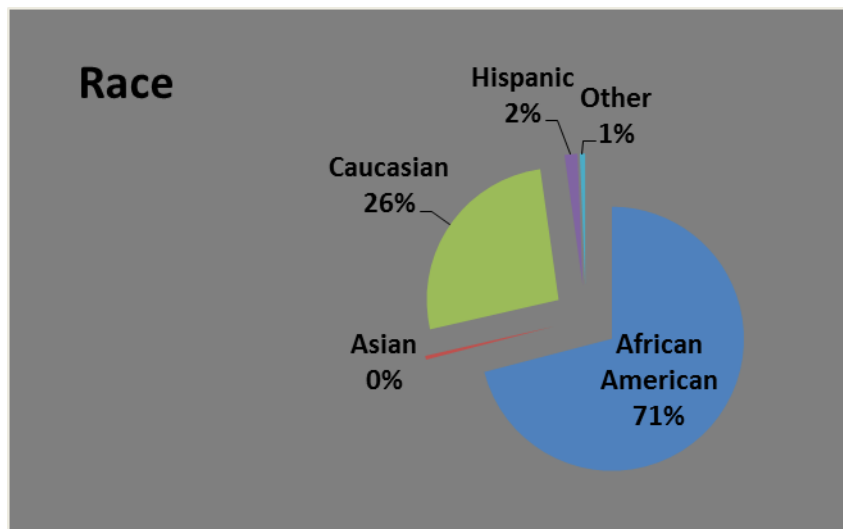
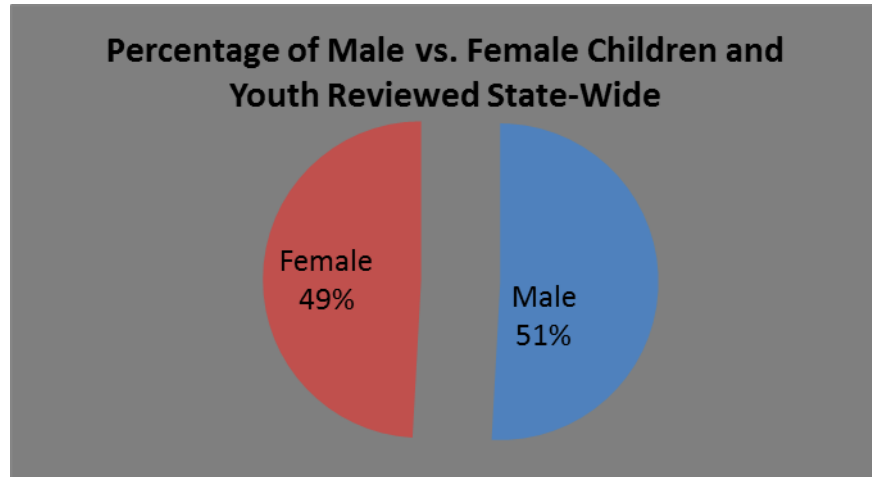
Large jurisdictions accounted for 782 reviews (75%) of the total number of reviews conducted in the first, second, and third quarters).



The continued implementation of the re-review of designated cases by local boards in the 4th quarter assessing progress made or board recommendations implemented by local jurisdictions accounted for 304 cases reviews. This practice leads to more specific cases being reviewed during the 4th quarter by local boards. Cases that were re-reviewed accounted for cases that included children and youth with permanency plans of reunification, relative placement, Adoption, APPLA, and Guardianship which are reflected in percentages.



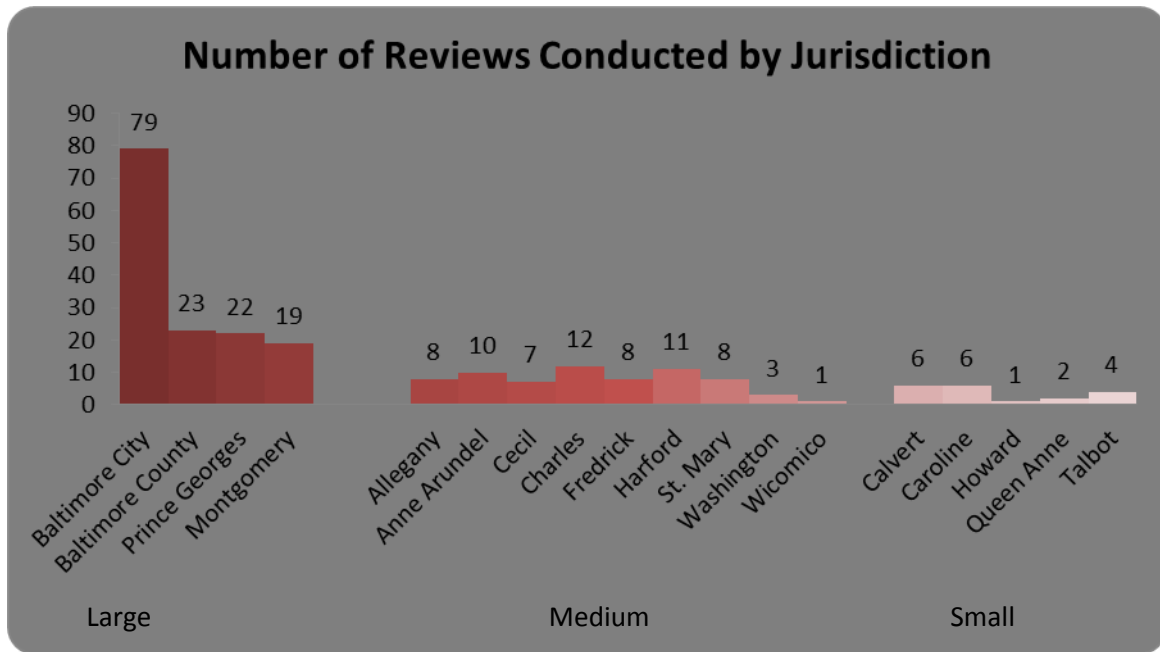
Demographics of Children and Youth Reviewed State-wide¹



¹ Does not include data from cases that were re-reviewed. In 4th quarter. Demographic information was not captured for re-reviewed cases in the 4th quarter.

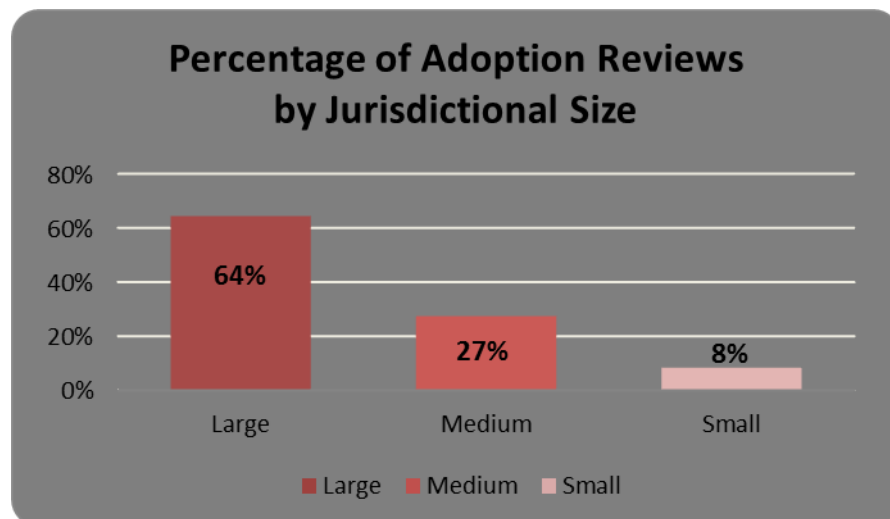
Adoption Reviews

Citizen Review Board for Children local boards reviewed two-hundred and sixty-nine adoption cases State-wide during fiscal year 2012. Sixty-nine of those cases was cases that met the re-review criteria and were re-reviewed during the 4th quarter of FY12. This section will address case that was reviewed in the first three quarters of the fiscal year.

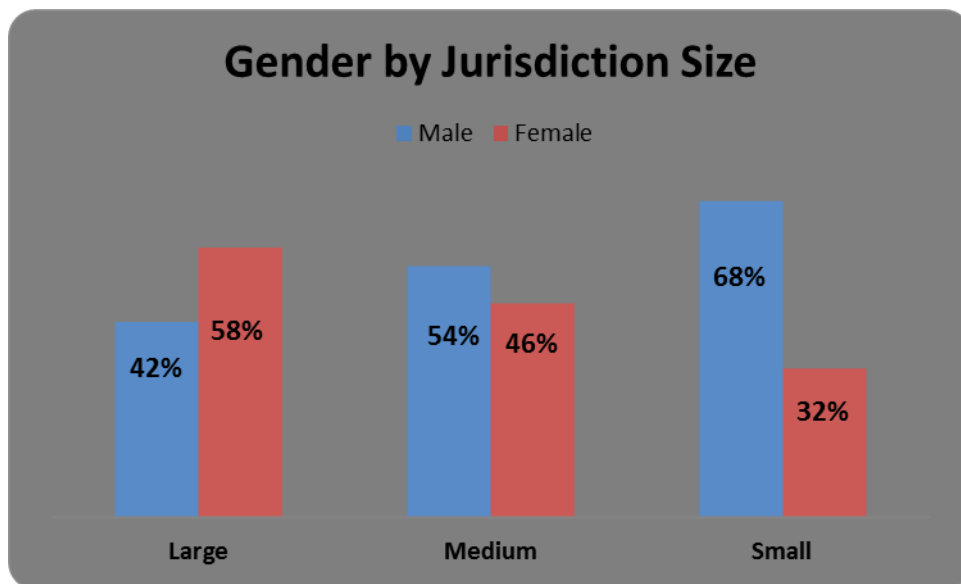
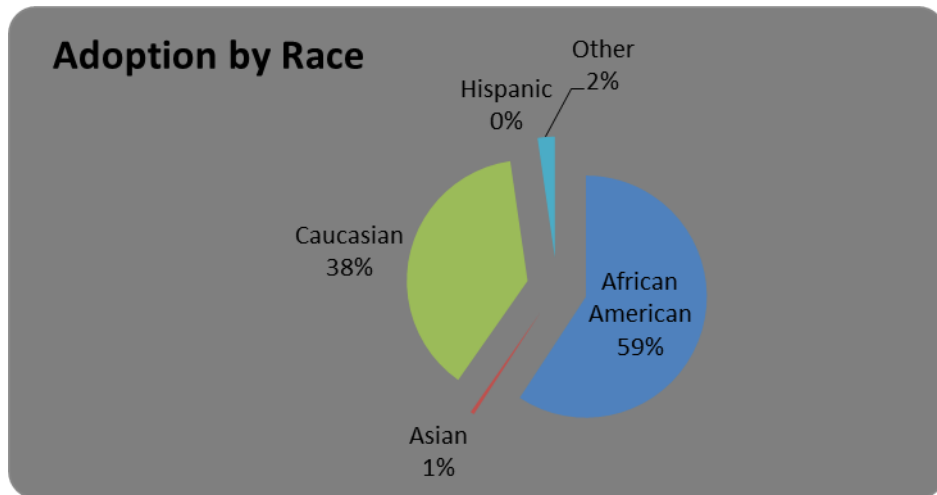


Jurisdictional Overview

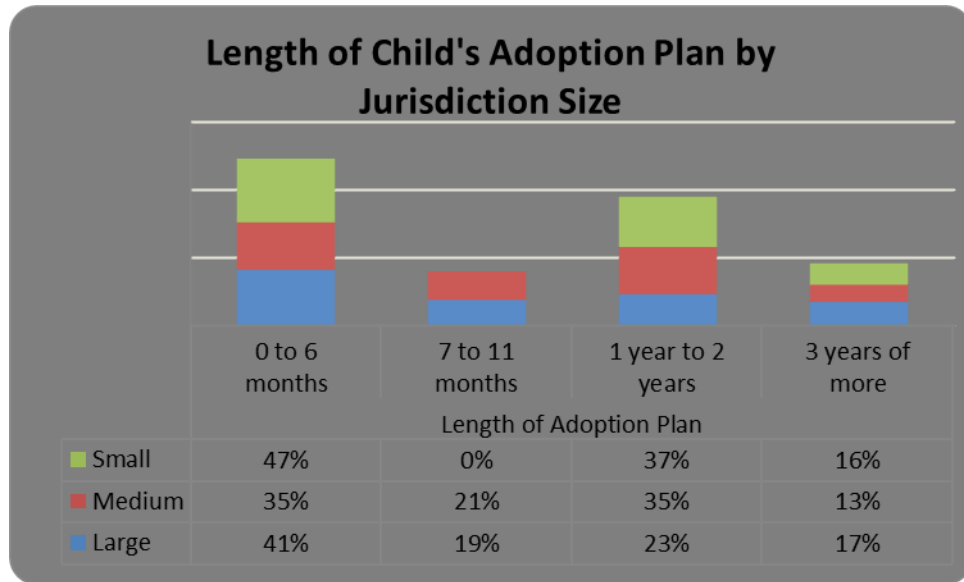
Large jurisdictions accounted for one-hundred and forty-eight (n=148) adoption reviews in FY12, with medium size jurisdictions reviewing sixty-three (n=63), and small jurisdiction reviewing nineteen (n=19). The median age of a child reviewed was 6 years of age. African-Americans continued to outnumber their cohorts and accounted for 59% of the population reviewed. There were a slightly higher number of female identified cases reviewed than males at forty-percent.



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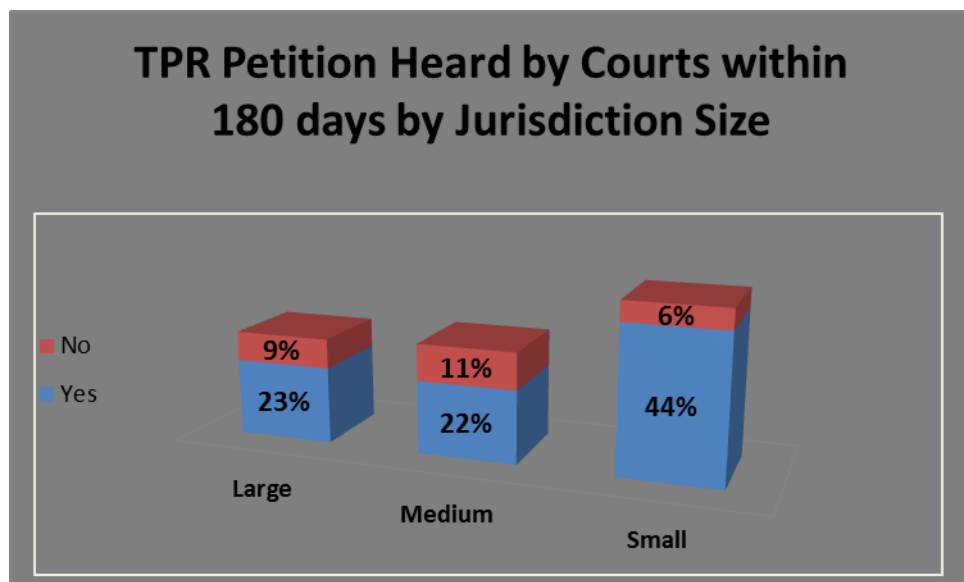


Sixty percent of adoption cases reviewed state-wide was children and youth that had an existing plan of adoption for 12 months or longer. Twenty-two of children and youth identified were reviewed because they had a recent permanency plan change to adoption.



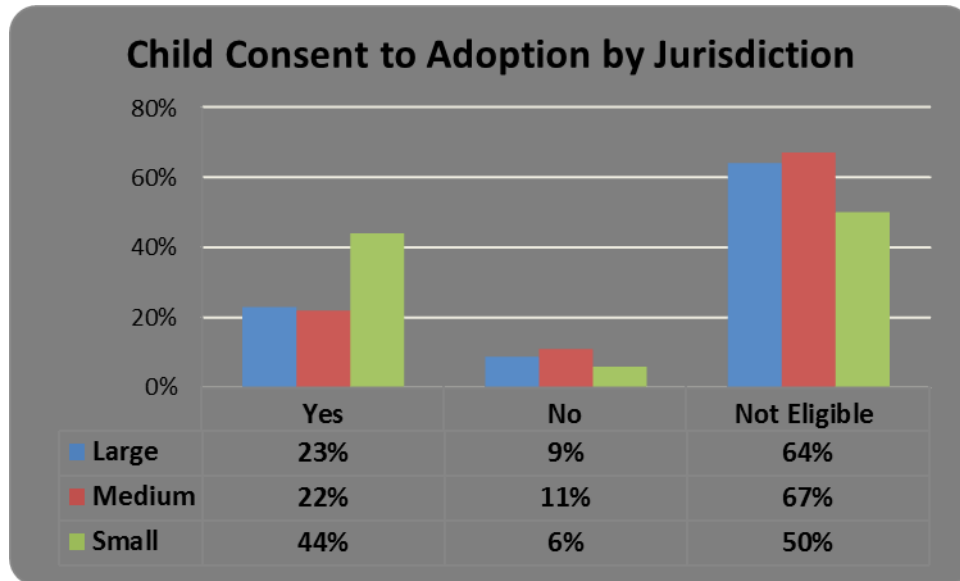
Local boards found that local departments established the child's permanency plan timely in seventy-two percent (72%) of cases reviewed and that concurrent planning had taken place in seventy-five (75%) of cases reviewed state-wide.

In cases reviewed local boards found that termination of parental rights (TPR) was filed timely by local jurisdictions in sixty-six percent (66%) of cases. In thirty-six percent of cases the TPR petition was heard by the courts within 180 days. In 45% of cases the parent did not file an appeal to TPR. In 40% of cases TPR was granted.



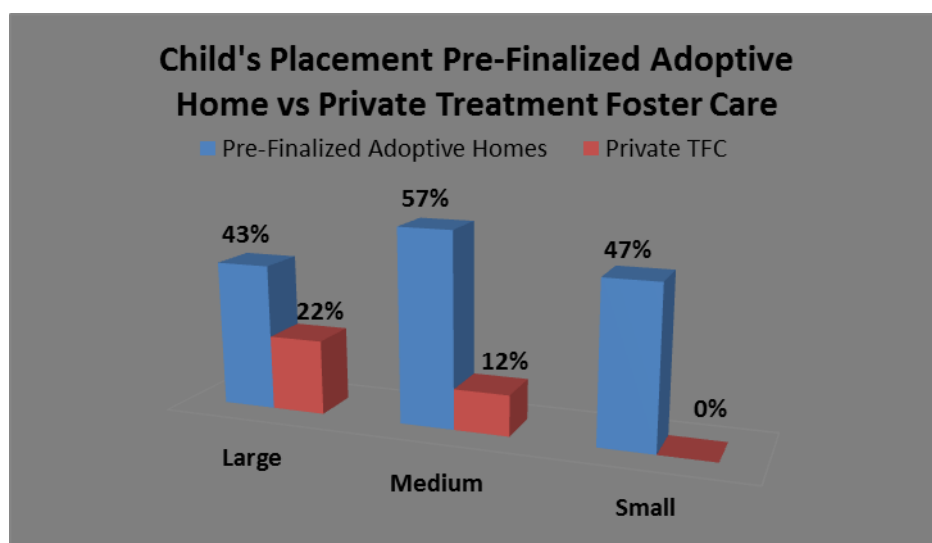
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Of youth ten years and older that were eligible to consent to adoption twenty percent (20%) consented. With the average age of a child reviewed at 6 years old the percentage of youth not able to consent at 50% was consistent with findings.



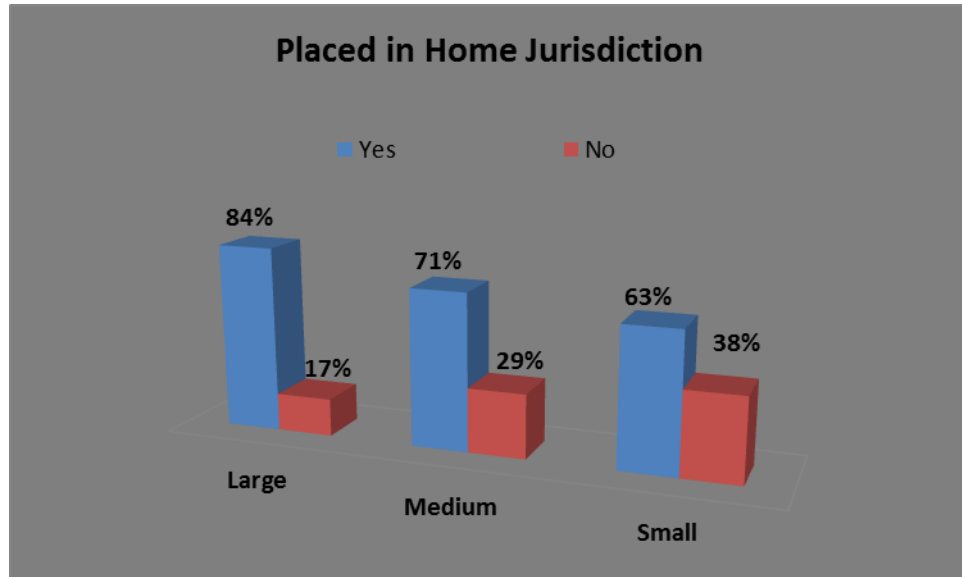
Of the jurisdictions reviewed 37% of children and youth had siblings with a plan of Adoption. Sixty-one percent did not reside with their sibling(s) and efforts by the local departments of social services to place siblings together were only accounted for in 32% of cases reviewed. Sibling visits took place in 38% of cases reviewed.

Placement. The majority of children and youth reviewed; thirty-eight percent resided in a pre-finalized adoptive home. Other types of placements comprised Regular foster care (15%), Relative foster care (4.4%), Treatment foster care (2.5%), Private Treatment Foster Care (14.5%), Group home care (2.5%), and Residential Treatment Centers (1.5%). Local boards agreed with the child's pre-adoptive placement in 67% of cases reviewed.

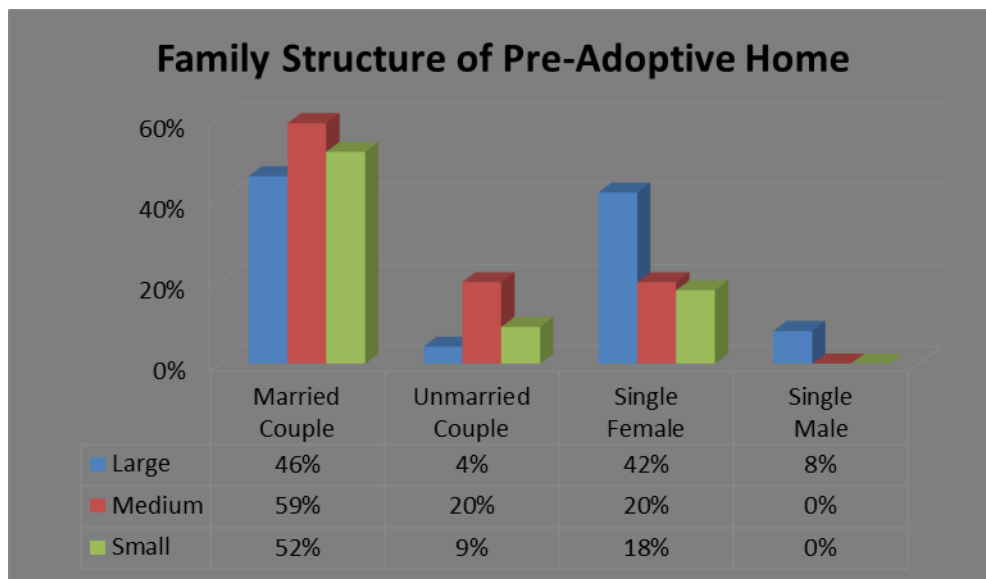


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The average number of placements for a child or youth with a plan of adoption was 1 placement within each jurisdiction. Forty-percent of youth were placed with their home jurisdiction.

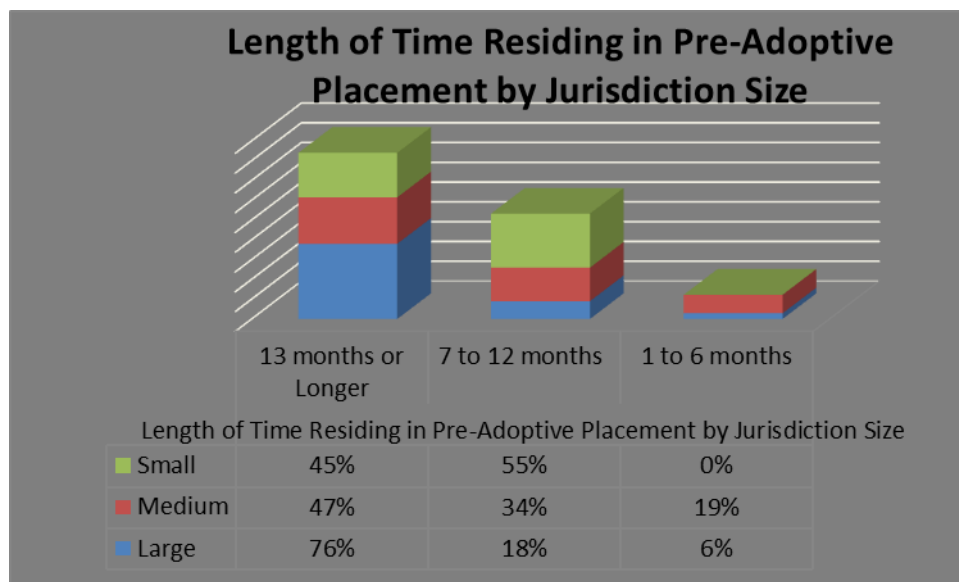
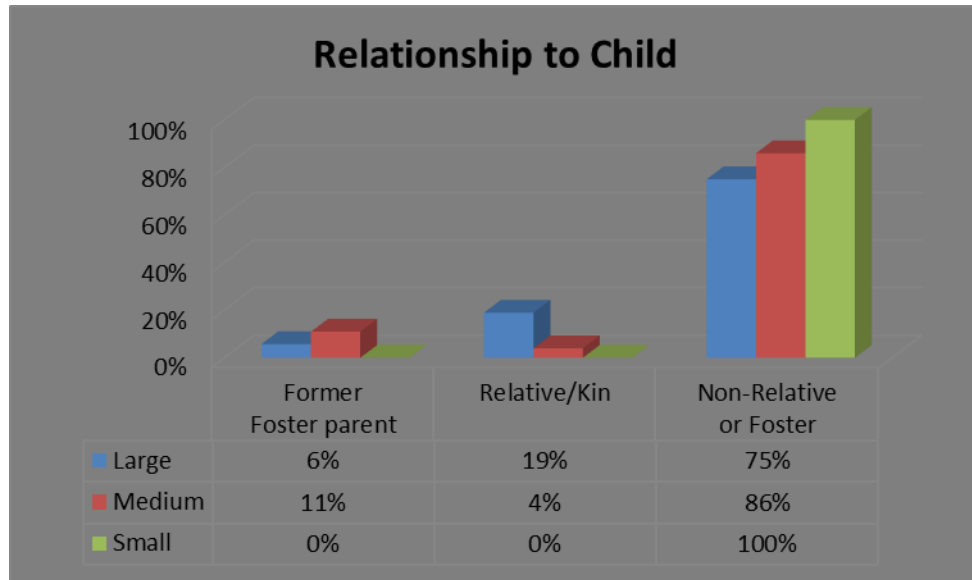


Local review boards found that thirty-three percent of children placed where designated as a legal risk placement. Forty-four percent of children reviewed have resided in their pre-adoptive placement for thirteen (13) months or longer, eleven percent 10 to 12 months.

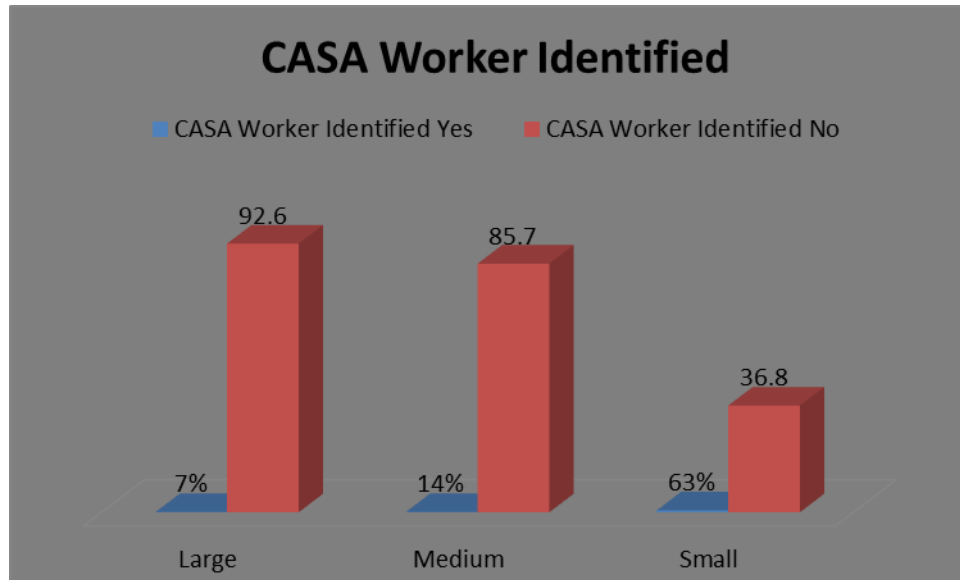


Married couples were the more likely identified adoptive resource for the child. Single fathers continue to be identified at lower rates than their counterparts' single female women. Pre-adoptive parents were identified as either a no-relative or non-foster parent to the child. In large jurisdictions Former foster parents were least likely to be identified as an adoptive resource and relatives/kin in medium size jurisdictions.

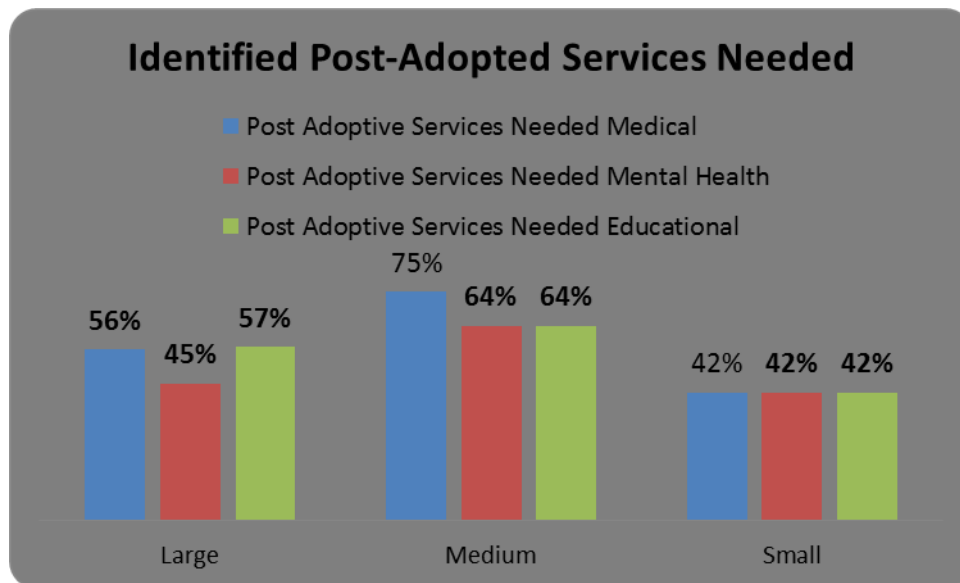
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Services Provided to Families. Local Boards found that state-wide fifty-one percent of families were provided with the child's social summary. Local boards found that in sixty-seven percent of cases reviewed the local departments were providing appropriate support to the foster or pre-adoptive family to adequately meet the child's needs. Local departments reported and documented that they visited the child less than twice a month but at least once a month in 77% of cases. **CASA:** Eleven percent (11%) of children and youth had an identified CASA worker state-wide.



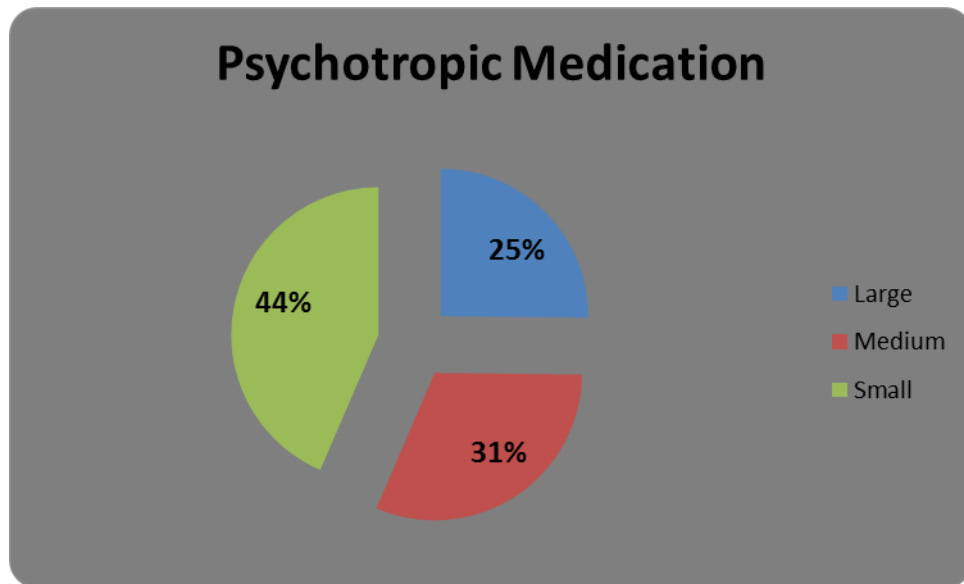
Post-Adoptive Services. Local boards identified that the top three types of post-adoptive services needed for children, youth, and families to are: Medical, Mental Health, and Educational Services. Services least needed were identified as services with the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), Respite, and Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS).



Open Adoption and Efforts to Find Adoptive Resource: Local Departments reported that in 52% of cases reviewed, families had chosen not to have an open adoption agreement with the birth parents or family. It was identified that local departments made effort to find an adoptive resource for children and youth in 58% of cases reviewed.

Educational and Health Needs. Local Department meet the child's health and educational needs in 81% of cases reviewed. When health needs were not met it was due to related issues of lack of timely dental visits (2.5%) and physical exams (1.1%). Issues related to educational needs not met it was due

to child not being enrolled in school (1.1%). Sixty percent of children and youth reviewed were prescribed psychotropic medication for issues related to mental issues and treatment.



Barriers

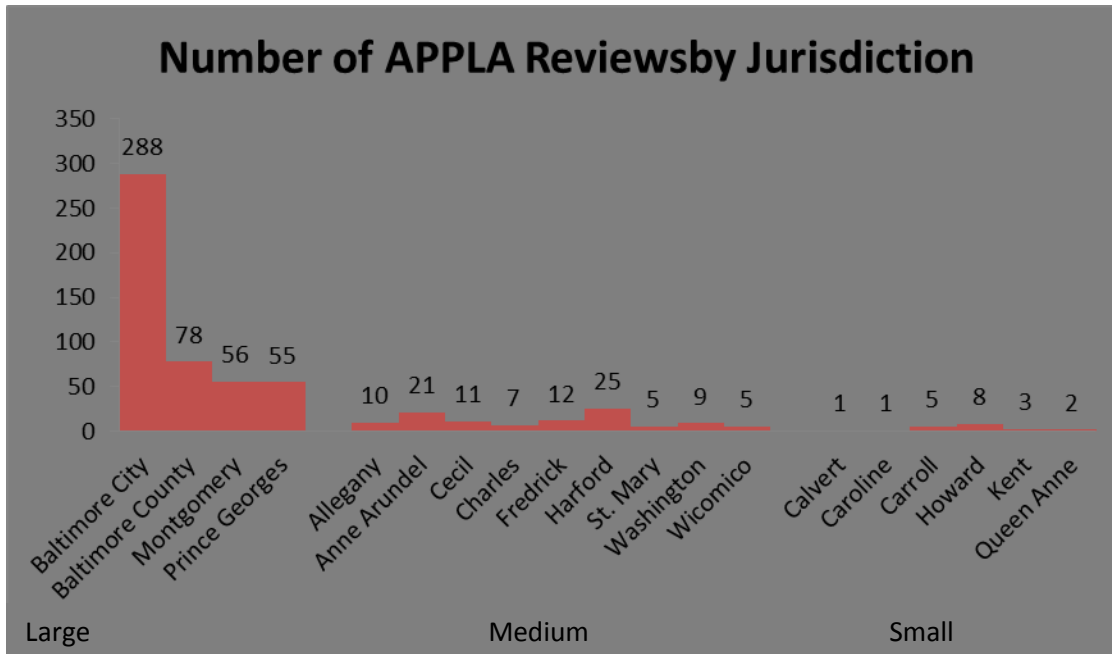
Local boards did not find significant agency, court, family, or child related barriers to adoption. While reported at lower percentages barriers identified to moving children and youth toward or finalizing adoption were identified as:

- Length of stay in pre-adoptive home for 13 months or longer without finalization;
- Pre-Adoptive Resources not identified for child;
- Denial of termination of parental rights;
- Appeals by Birth parents;
- Lack of child consent;
- Child Behavior issues in the home;
- Disrupted pre-adoptive placement; and
- Pre-adoptive parent undecided on whether to adopt child.

Local boards either agreed or agreed with further board recommendations (70%) with the permanency plan identified by the local departments.

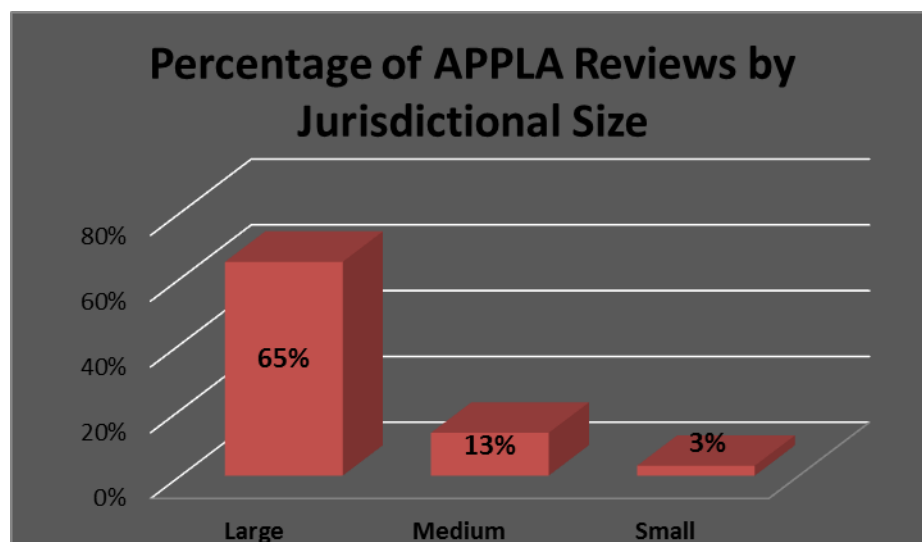
Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) Reviews

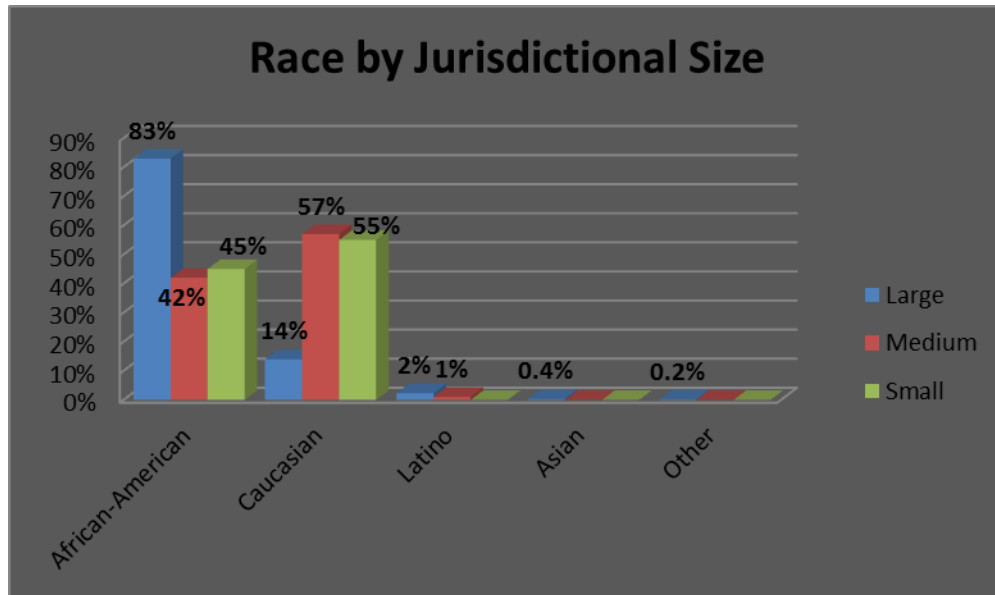
Citizen Review Board for Children local boards reviewed seven hundred and seventy-nine (n=779) APPLA cases State-wide during fiscal year 2012. One hundred and seventy-seven (n=177) of those cases were cases that met the re-review criteria and were re-reviewed during the 4th quarter of FY12. This section will address case that was reviewed in the first three quarters of the fiscal year.



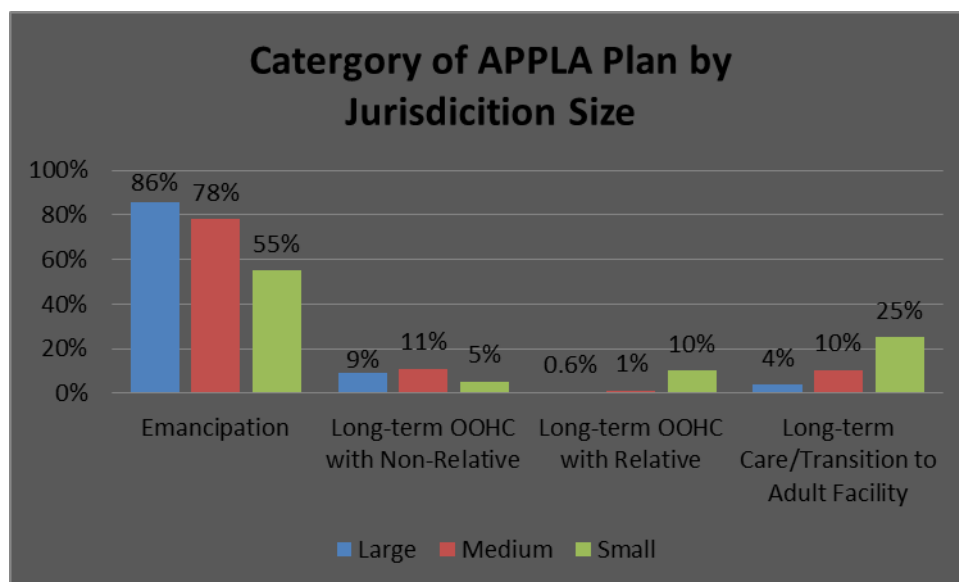
Jurisdictional Overview

Large jurisdictions accounted for four hundred and eighty-four (n=484) APPLA reviews in FY12, with medium size jurisdictions reviewing ninety-eight (n=98), and small jurisdiction reviewing twenty (n=20) cases. The median age of a child reviewed was eighteen (18) years of age. African-Americans continued to outnumber their cohorts and accounted for 61% of the population reviewed. Male and female cases were reviewed at the same percentage.



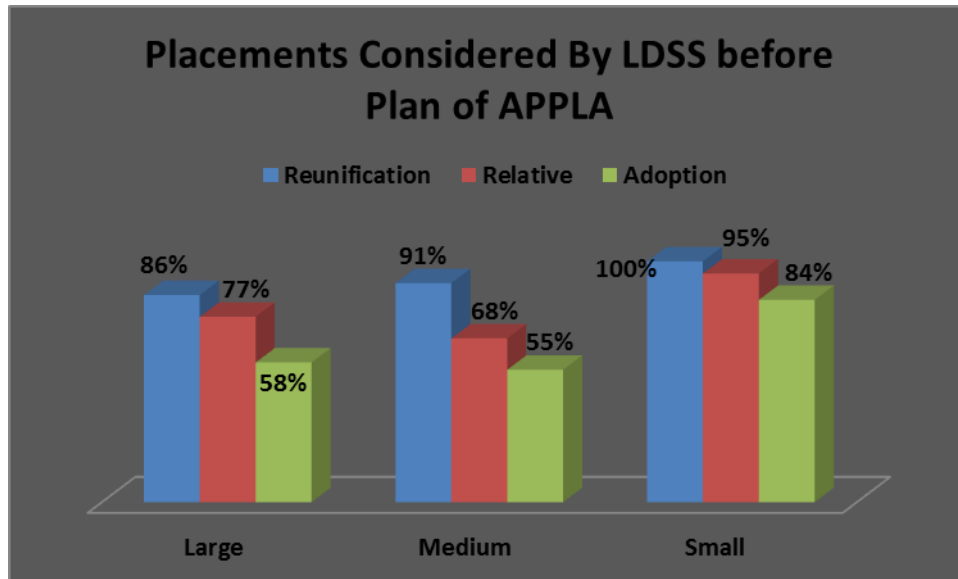


Age. Forty-two percent of youth reviewed with plans of APPLA had existing plans of APPLA. Twenty-one percent of youth were reviewed were 20 years of age. Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Cecil, Fredrick, Harford, Anne Arundel, Montgomery, and Prince Georges Counties had youth 13 years of age and younger with a plan of APPLA. Cases were reviewed in Baltimore and Montgomery was children were identified between the ages of 2 and 3 years of age. Often times when young children have plans of APPLA at such a young age they are mostly likely medically fragile. Sixty-eight percent of youth had goals of Emancipation/Independence.



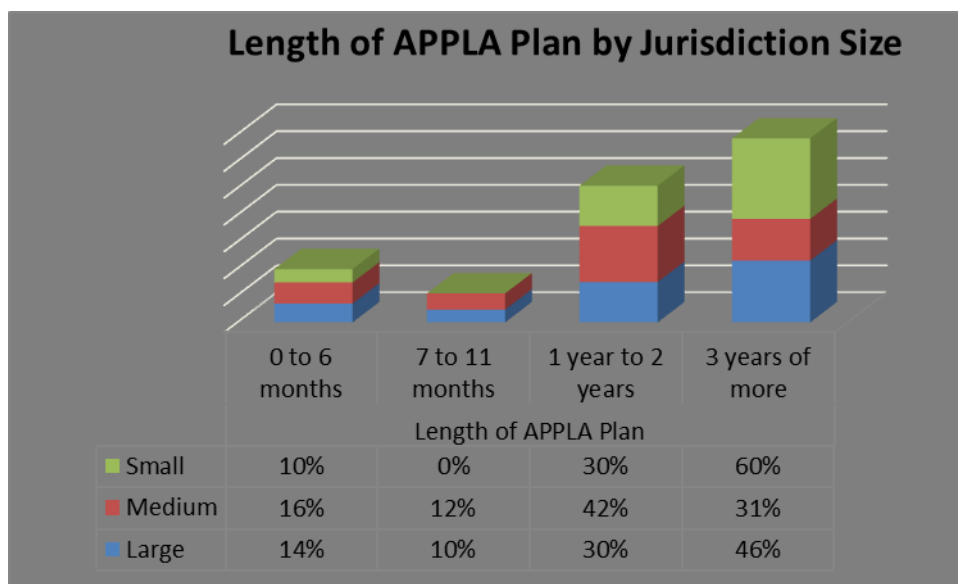
Other Permanency Plans

In 80% of the cases reviewed, other permanency plans were considered prior to the plan of APPLA such as reunification, relative/kin, and adoption.



In 71% of cases the youth did not want to be adopted. However 77% of youth reviewed had not received adoption counseling in the last 6 months prior to the review. It was determined that 157 youth reviewed had established plans of adoption because they did not consent to being adopted.

Thirty-five percent (35%) of youth reviewed had plans of APPLA for 3 years or more, 25% had APPLA plans for 1 to 2 years. Of the 20 cases reviewed in the smaller jurisdiction 60% of youth had plans of APPLA for 3 or more years.



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Length of APPLA Plan by Jurisdiction					
		0 to 6 months	7 to 11 months	1 year to 2 years	3 or more years
Jurisdiction	Allegany	1	1	4	2
	Anne Arundel	5	2	5	9
	Baltimore County	14	12	28	23
	Calvert	0	0	0	1
	Caroline	0	0	1	0
	Carroll	1	0	1	3
	Cecil	1	1	4	5
	Charles	1	0	3	3
	Fredrick	2	6	0	4
	Harford	2	2	15	6
	Howard	1	0	1	6
	Kent	0	0	2	1
	Montgomery	11	4	11	30
	Prince Georges	6	5	23	19
	Queen Anne	0	0	1	1
	St. Mary	0	0	2	3
	Washington	3	0	6	0
	Wicomico	0	0	4	1
	Baltimore City	35	23	77	144
Total		Count	83	56	188

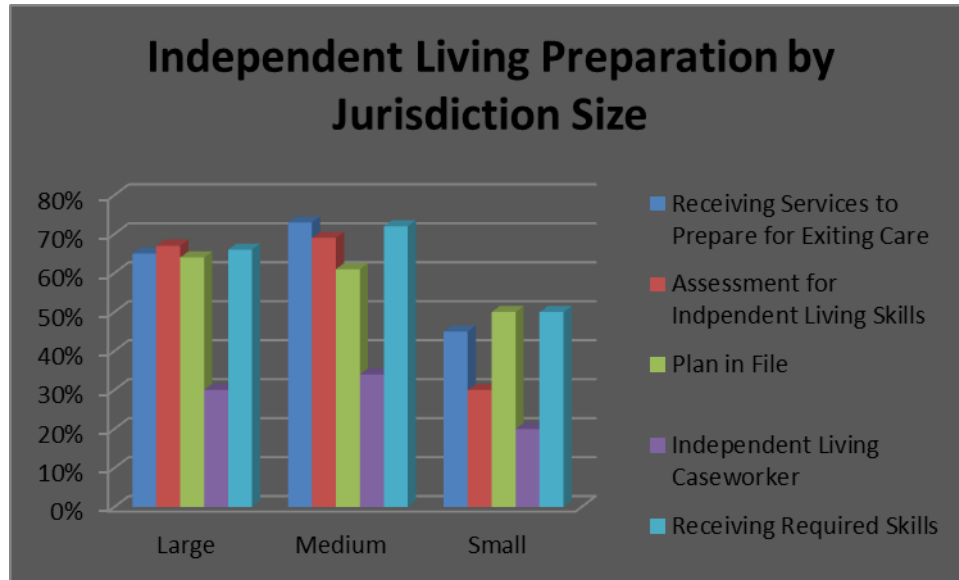
Independent Living Preparation

Sixty-eight percent of the youth reviewed have APPLA plans with a goal of emancipation/independence. Fifty-two percent of youth were receiving appropriate services to prepare them of independent living when they exited care. Fifty-three percent were receiving required independent living skills.

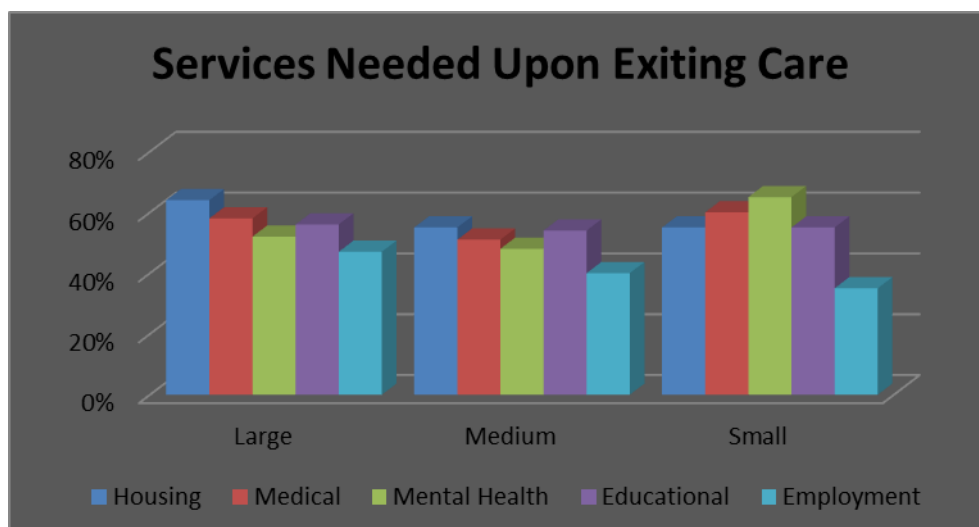
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While State-wide:

- 53% of youth have completed an independent living skills assessment;
- 50% of youth reviewed have an independent living plan in their file
- 22% of youth have been assigned an Independent Living Case Worker

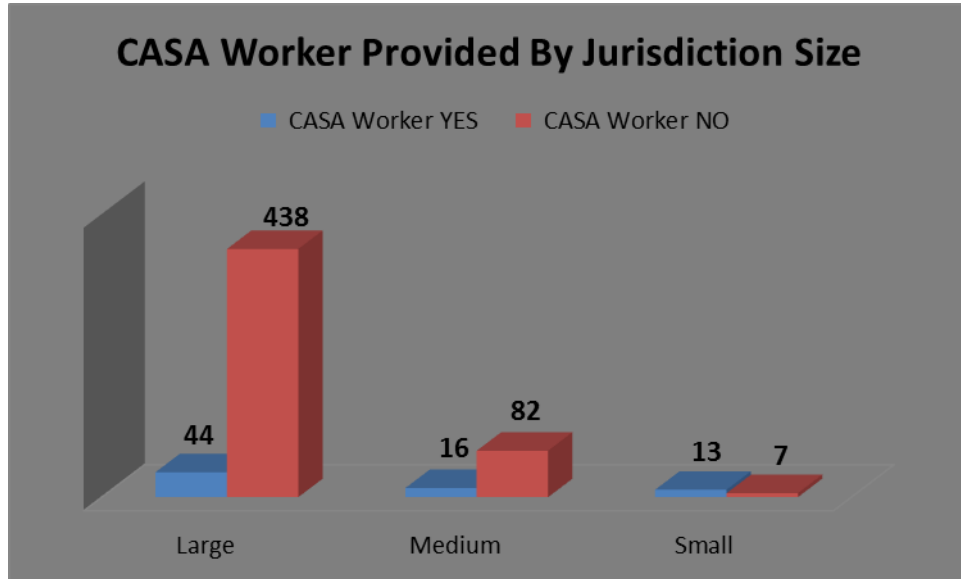


During reviews, youth have reported they feel the independent living skills trainings are not effective. Youth have reported a more “hands-on” approach would be more beneficial to them than what is currently offered (memorization). It was determined that seventy-three percent of youth reviewed needed additional services at discharge to be successful. Housing, medical, mental health, educational, and employment services were identified as top services needed for when exiting care.



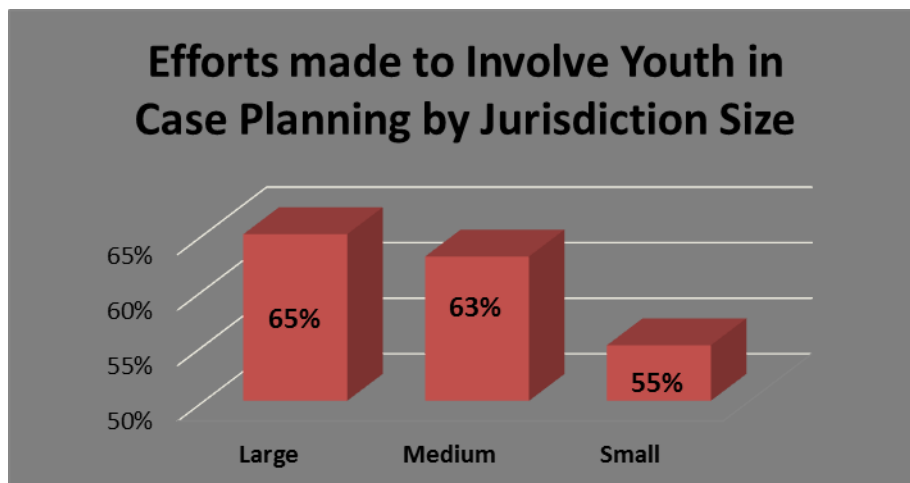
Service Planning

CASA: 70% of youth reviewed did not have a CASA worker provided by local jurisdictions.



Service Agreements:

- Youth had signed service agreements in 40% of the cases reviewed where the youth were eligible to sign services agreement;
- In 17 cases reviewed in Harford County where youth were qualified for a service agreement 16 did not have a service agreements recorded;
- Kent County had 1 youth eligible for a service agreement and that youth did not have a service plan recorded;
- Of the 51 youth eligible for a service agreement in Prince George's County 30 had service agreements recorded;
- Washington County had 4 out of 5 agreements recorded; and
- Alleghany, Baltimore County, Carroll, Charles, Howard, and Montgomery Counties had 70% and over youth service agreements signed and provided.



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Workers reported efforts were made to involve youth in the case planning process in 51% of the cases reviewed. In 49% of the cases reviewed, the youth had not had their required family investment meeting (FIM); however, the meeting was scheduled in 10% of the cases.

The majority of youth reviewed resided with Private Treatment Foster Care providers (n=147) or in Independent Living Residential programs (n=130). Fifty-three percent of youth had 3 or less placements. Thirty-six percent had 1 or less placements. Youth were placed in their home jurisdiction in thirty-five percent of cases reviewed. Of youth not placed in home jurisdiction they were often placed in Baltimore (n=27) or Prince George's (n=15) Counties. The local Board agreed with the youth's placement plan in 27% of cases.

Youth's Current Placement by Jurisdiction

	Formal Kinship Care	Regular Foster Care	Restrictive (Relative) foster care	Treatment Foster Care	Treatment Foster care (Private)	Residential Group Home	Therapeutic Group Homes	Independent Living Residential Program	Residential Treatment Centers
Allegany		1					2	4	2
Anne Arundel	1	3	1		6		1	6	2
Baltimore County	4	7	2	5	21	11	3	13	6
Calvert									1
Caroline				1					
Carroll	1	1			1		1	1	
Cecil				1	2		5	1	1
Charles				1			1	4	1
Fredrick					2		8	1	1
Harford		7	1	2	4		3		5
Howard	1				3		3	1	
Kent				1	1			1	
Montgomery		5	2	1	17		12	16	
Prince Georges	1	2		2	22	7		10	4
Queen Anne				1			1		
St. Mary				0	2		2		
Washington	1	4		1	1	1			1
Wicomico			1		2		1	1	
Baltimore City	22	21	23	14	63	10	23	71	4

Educational, Medical, Employment. The local boards agreed that 60% of youth were having their health and mental needs met by local departments. Local boards also agreed that in 45% of cases youth were being prepared to meet educational goals. Local Boards agreed that youth were prepared to meet employment goals in 18% of cases.

- Youth had completed medical records in 67% of cases reviewed,
- Youth received health and mental health assessments timely in 70% of cases;
- Twenty-eight percent of youth were taking psychotropic medication to address mental health issues. In 14% of those cases of cases a plan was identified for youth to obtain services in adult mental health system upon discharge;
- 70% of youth did not have a substance issue reported by local departments.
- Forty-seven of youth did not have reported behavioral issues reported.

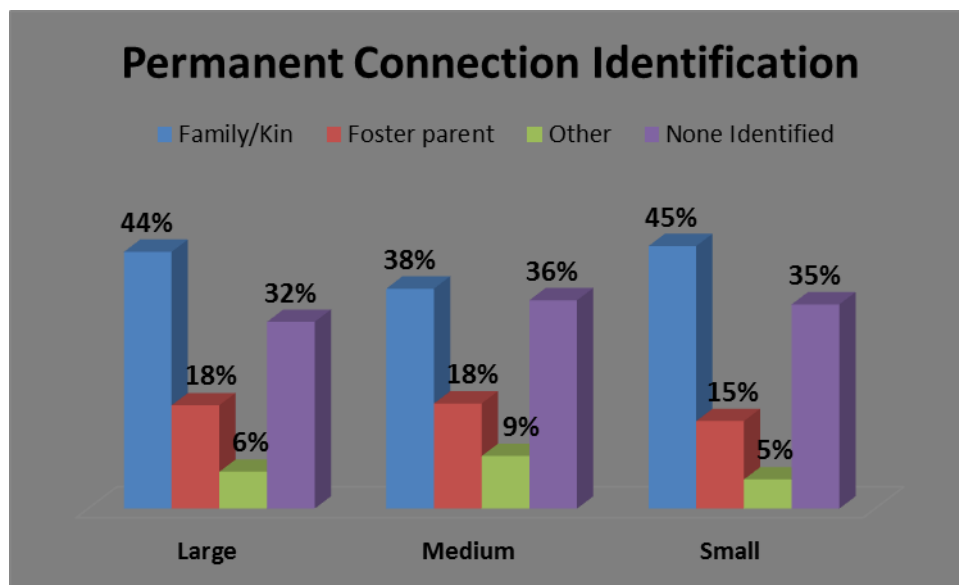
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- Thirty-nine percent of youth had a plan to complete high-school/GED. With 21% having a plan for post-secondary education. Twenty-five percent had post-secondary support services identified.
- Twenty-Three percent had a plan for specific educational and financial goals.
- Twenty-five percent of youth were employed with 8% working in a relevant career field of choice. Of youth that were employed 6% were earning a living wage with 5% being referred to MD Rise.

Permanent Connection

A permanent connection is someone a youth can depend on for financial and emotional support long after they have reached adulthood. Although identifying a permanent connection is important for all youth, it is especially crucial for those about to exit out of home care, as they will no longer have the State and their Social Workers to depend on. The local boards agreed in 53% of cases with the permanent connection identified by the local department.

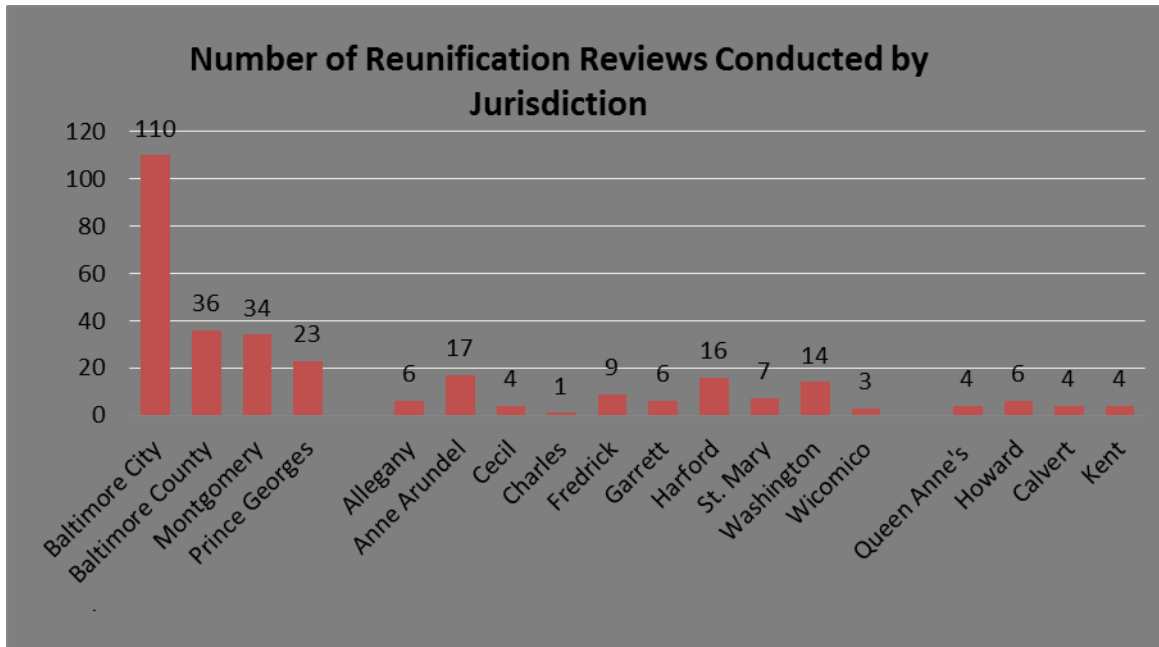
- In 53% of the cases reviewed, youth had a permanent connection identified.
- In 33% of the cases, the permanent connection identified was a family member



Notably when factor in relative or kin as a permanent connection for youth; smaller jurisdictions did not identify extended family members such as aunts, uncles, or other kin as a resource for a permanent connection.

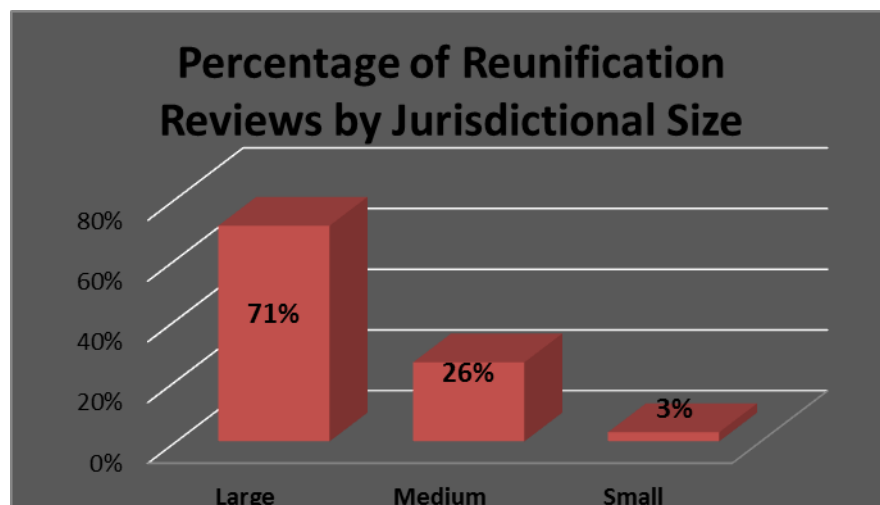
Reunification Reviews

Citizen Review Board for Children local boards reviewed two-hundred and sixty-five (n=265) Reunification cases State-wide during fiscal year 2012. Sixty-two (n=62) of those cases were cases that met the re-review criteria and were re-reviewed during the 4th quarter of FY12. This section will address case that was reviewed in the first three quarters of the fiscal year.



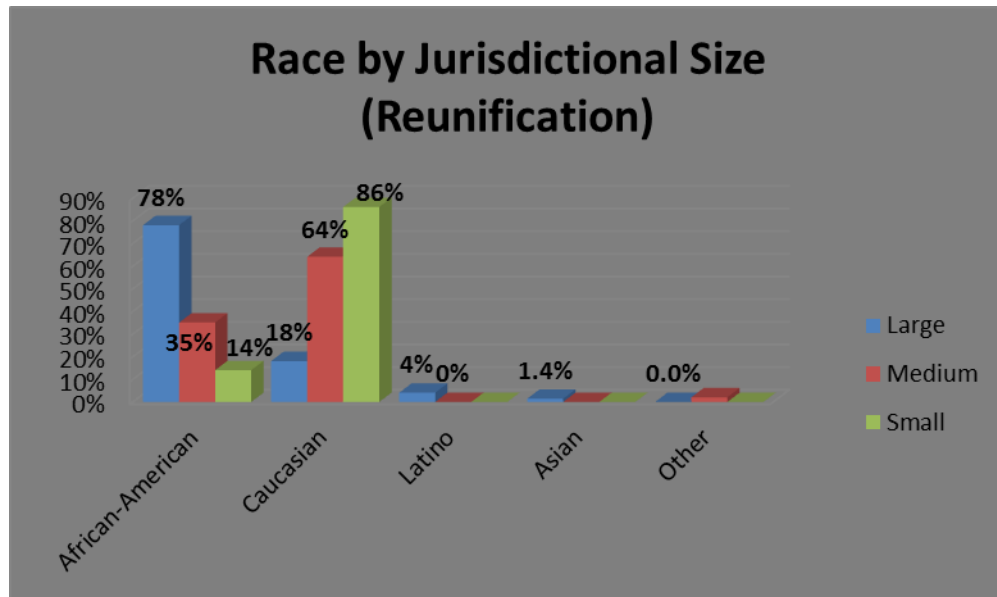
Jurisdictional Overview

Large jurisdictions accounted for one-hundred and forty-four (n=144) reunification reviews in FY12, with medium size jurisdictions reviewing fifty-two (n=52), and small jurisdiction reviewing seven (n=7) cases. The median age of a child reviewed was fourteen (14) years of age.

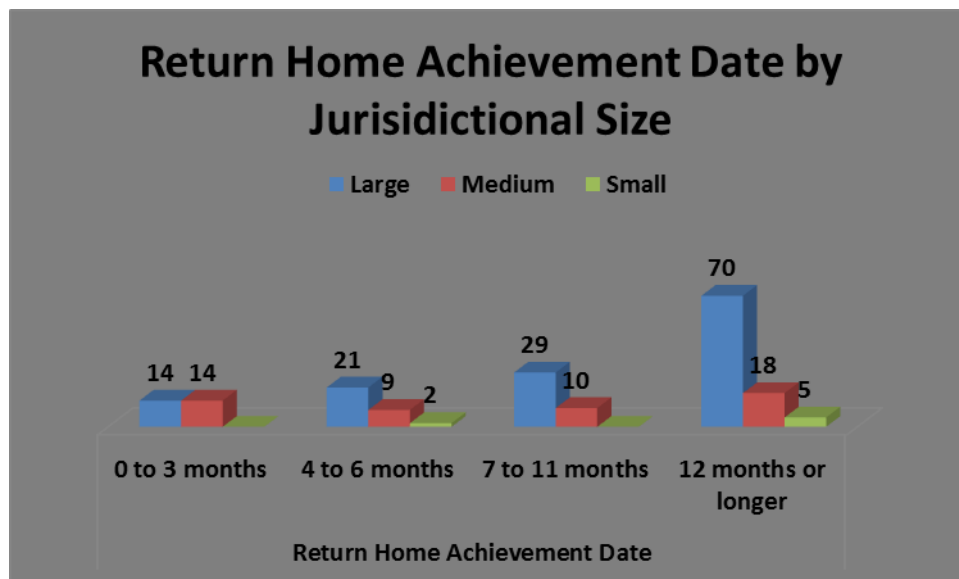


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African-Americans continued to outnumber their cohorts and accounted for 63% of the population reviewed. Male's outnumbered females by accounting for 57% of reviews.



Ninety –five percent of youth reviewed had existing plans of reunification that met the review criteria. Mothers identified as the return home plan in 65% of cases. Forty-six percent had a return home achievement date of 12 months or longer.

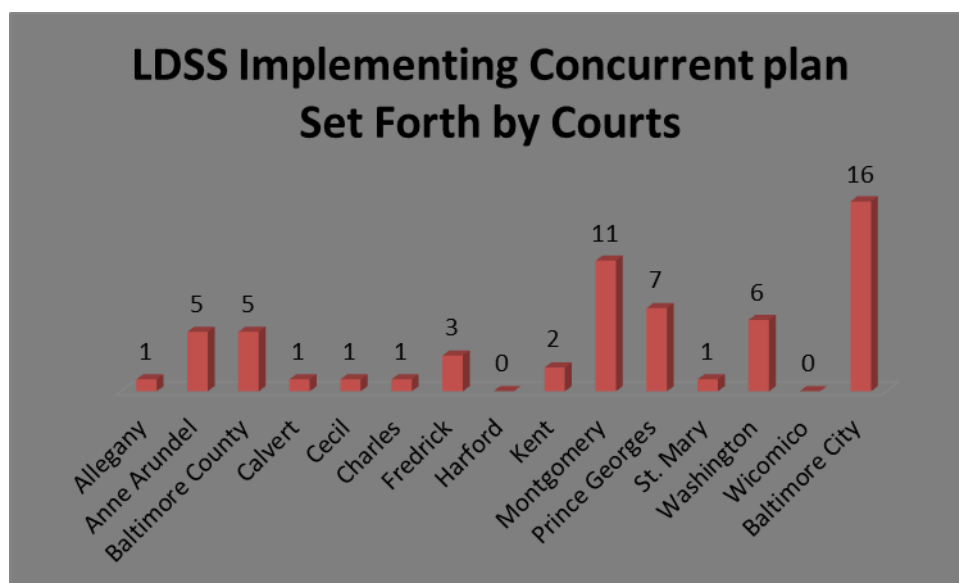


- Prince George's (n=15) had 71% of cases with a return home achieve date for 12 months or longer; Baltimore County (n=12) had 63% of cases reviewed with a return home achievement date of 12 months or longer.

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- Charles (n=1) and Kent (n=3) Counties had 100% of cases reviewed with a return home achievement date of 12 months or longer
- Alleghany, Cecil, Fredrick, and Anne Arundel Counties were the jurisdictions' that had achievement dates of 6 months or less.

Concurrent Planning. Local Boards found that twenty-one percent (21%) of cases had an identified concurrent plan identified by the Courts. Of the 21% with an identified concurrent plan 10% had a concurrent plan of Relative placement.

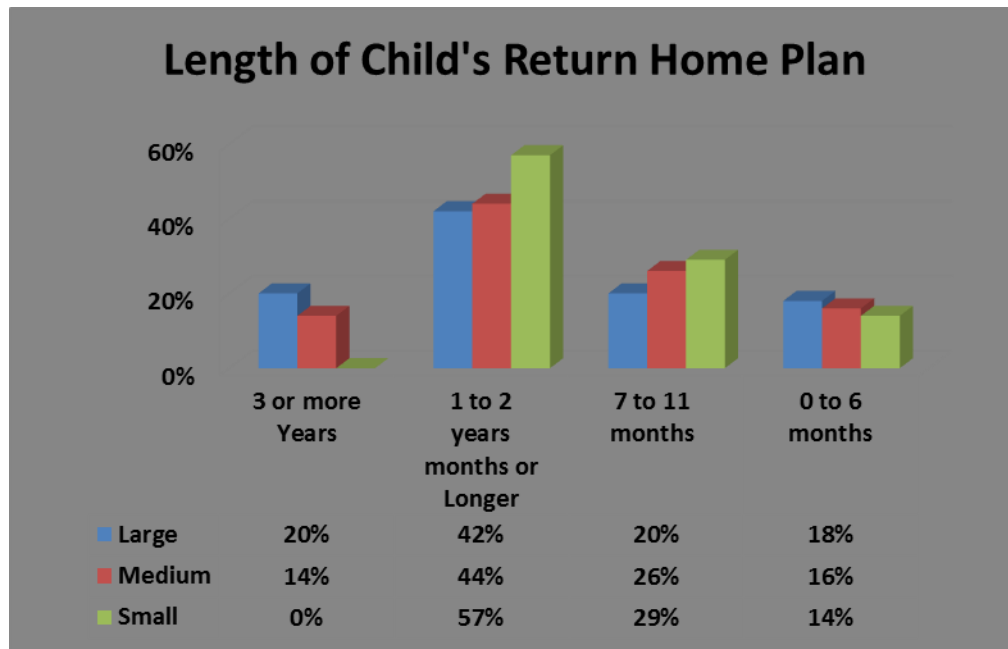


In cases where the local department was not implementing the concurrent plan set forth by the courts they were pursuing concurrent plans of APPLA (18%) and Relative Placement (18%).

Concurrent Plan LDSS is Implementing Other than Courts					
	APPLA	Relative Placement	Adoption	None	Unknown
Anne Arundel	4	6	1		
Baltimore County	4				
Cecil				2	
Charles			1		
Fredrick	4	3	1	1	
Kent		1			
Montgomery	11	9	3	2	
Prince Georges	2	3			
St. Mary	1				
Washington		5			
Baltimore City	11	10	1		1

CITIZENS REVIEW BOARD FOR CHILDREN

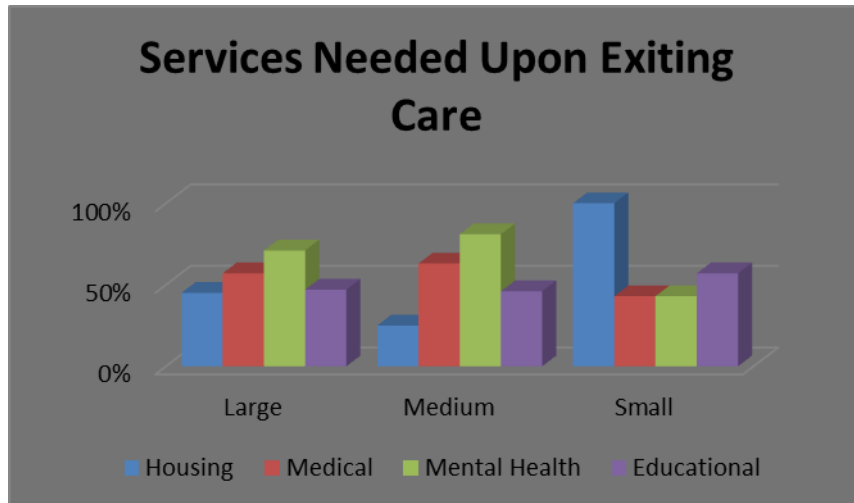
Forty-one percent of youth have had a plan of reunification/return home for 1 to 2 years. Seventeen percent of youth had plans for 3 or more years. Sixteen of youth had been in care previously and re-entered and 5 % had previously been adopted. Local boards agreed with the child's permanency plan in 71% of cases reviewed. In cases where the local board did not agree with the plan the local boards recommended that the child's plan should be APPLA (11%), Relative Placement (10%), and Adoption (5%).



Placement. The majority of youth reviewed resided in Private Treatment Foster Care (22%), with other majorities residing in Regular Foster Care (13%), Residential Treatment Center (12%), Treatment Foster Care (11%), and Therapeutic Group Homes (10%). Notably 6.4% of youth resided in a Formal Kinship Care placement. Forty-eight percent of youth had 1 placement in the last 12 months prior to being reviewed. Seventy percent of youth were placed in their identified home jurisdictions. Local departments reported that they had visited with the child less than twice a month but at least once a month in 90% of cases.

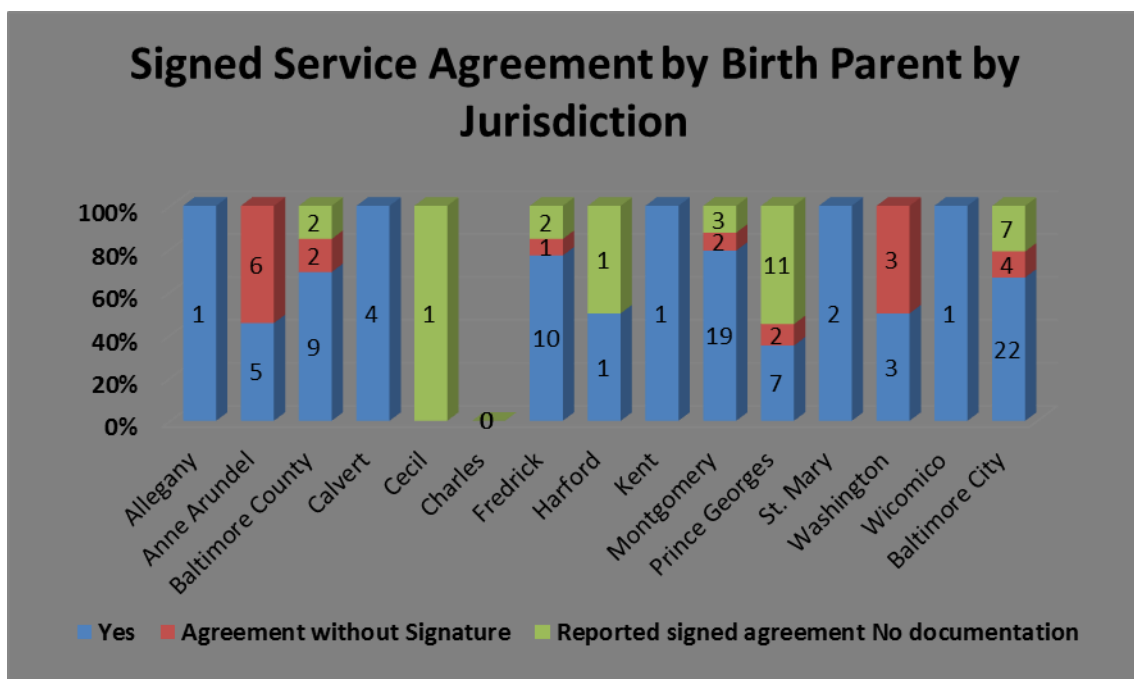
In forty percent of cases where the child was moved a family involvement meeting took place. Twenty percent of youth were moved to a less restrictive placement. Twenty-four percent of placement changes were due to the child's behavior. Thirty-six percent of foster parents received specific support services. Seventy-five percent of cases reviewed the local boards found that there was a match between the child's needs and provider's ability to meet those needs.

Local boards agreed with the child's placement plan in 93% of cases reviewed and found the appropriate services are being provided to 96% of children and families. Local boards also found that appropriate services were being offered to birth families in 88% of cases reviewed. It was found that children and families needed services related to housing (39%), medical (53%), mental health (67%), and educational services (44%).



Local board recommended that identified services continue during aftercare in 55% of where support services were identified as needed. Of youth eligible for independent living preparation 60% were identified as receiving appropriate services and had been assessed for independent living skills.

Service and Case Planning. In service agreements signed by birth parents local board found that 42% of parents signed the plan and in 13% of cases the local departments reported that the agreement had been signed but could not provide the documentation to confirm. While service agreements were only signed in 42% of cases local boards still found that local departments made effort to involve the family in case planning in 97% of cases. Sixty percent of youth were provided with a FIM prior to entry.



Medical and Educational. Local boards agreed that the health needs of the child were being met in 86% of cases and mental health needs met in 83% of cases.

- 93% of youth had complete medical records;
- 90% had physical and mental health assessments completed;
- 51% take psychotropic medication to address mental health treatment needs; and
- 43% had identified behavioral issues.

Local Board agreed that educational needs were being met by the local departments in 87% of cases.

- 83% of youth were enrolled in school;
- 44% of youth remained in the same school at entry;
- 46% had developmental needs that were being addressed;
- 43% of youth had an individual treatment plan (IEP) and 39% of the plans were being implemented;
- 57% had a concrete plan detailing graduation/GED; and
- 12% of youth had a CASA worker.

Siblings. Fifty-one percent of youth have a sibling also in care.

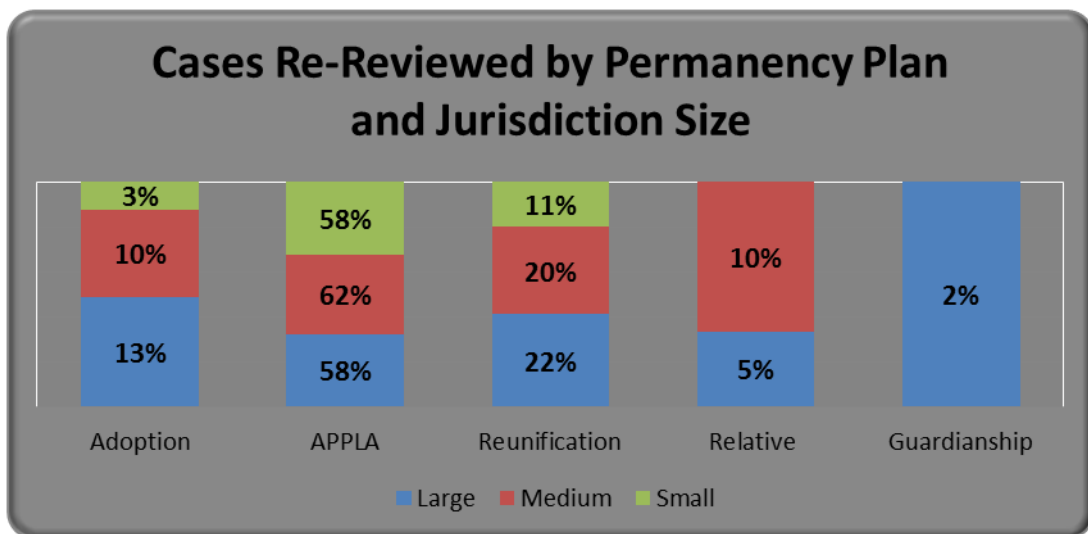
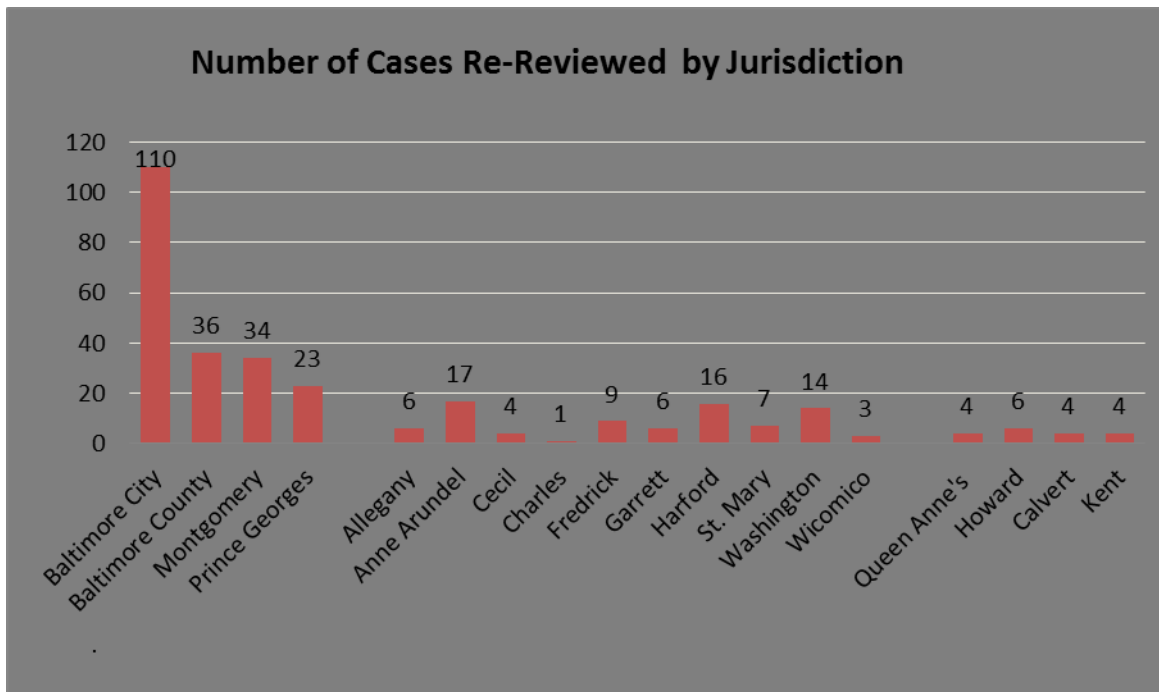
- Thirty-five percent also had plans of reunification however local boards found that in 46% of cases local departments did not report the sibling's plan;
- In 30% of cases, local departments made efforts to place the child with their sibling and 17% did reside together.; and
- Siblings were allowed to visit in 46% of cases.

Reasonable Efforts and Safety. Local boards found that reasonable efforts with made by the local departments in 93% of cases. Local boards also agree that appropriate safety protocols were followed in 77% of cases reviewed.

- 87% of cases reviewed there was either a Safe C or G indicated;
- Local boards found that the used the applicable safety assessment in 87% of cases;
- There were 93% of cases reviewed with NO risk indicators and where there were there was a CPS report under review;

Adoption, APPLA, Reunification Cases Re- Reviewed for Progress

The continued implementation of the re-review of designated cases by local boards in the 4th quarter assessing progress made or board recommendations implemented by local jurisdictions accounted for 304 cases reviews. This practice leads to more specific cases being reviewed during the 4th quarter by local boards. Cases that were re-reviewed accounted for cases that included children and youth with permanency plans of reunification, relative placement, Adoption, APPLA, and Guardianship which are reflected in percentages.



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Local boards reported concerns in the following areas of cases and requested to re-review those cases to determine if progress had been made and if board recommendations were implemented:

- Permanency (n=97)
- Placement (n=32)
- Safety (n=4)
- Educational (n=34)
- Mental Health (n=42)
- Physical Health (n=47)
- Independent living (n=37)
- With Youth's Family (n=18)
- Courts (n=2)
- Youth (n=25)
- DHR/DSS (n=26)
- Other (n=57)

Local boards found that issues and concerns were resolved in the following areas at the following percentages:

- Permanency (n=74)
- Placement (n=29)
- Safety (n=2)
- Educational (n=19)
- Mental Health (n=21)
- Physical Health (n=29)
- Independent living (n=17)
- With Youth's Family (n=8)
- Courts (n=1)
- Youth (n=10)
- DHR/DSS (n=12)
- Other (n=5)

Local Boards determined that adequate progress was made in 69% of cases re-reviewed. Local department's implemented local board recommendations in 35% (n=109) of cases where they had previously made recommendations.

Child Protection Panel Reviews

In 1998, CRBC became a Citizen Review Panel in response to the Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and State law requiring citizen oversight of the child protection system.

CRBC's reviews emphasize policies, procedures, and cases pertaining to reports of child abuse and neglect. A local panel may be established in each jurisdiction. It reports its findings and recommendations to CRBC's State Board and to the local department of social services.

The reviews address five child welfare outcomes that are aligned with the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). For each review the panels decide if the outcome is substantially achieved, partially achieved, not achieved, or not applicable. During FY12, five jurisdictions jointly completed reviews. The jurisdictions are: Allegany, Anne Arundel, Queen Anne's, Montgomery, Worcester Counties and Baltimore City.

Outcome Area	Measure	Effectiveness Rating by Panel
Safety Outcome 1	Children and first and foremost protected from abuse and neglect	The outcome was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantially achieved in 94% of cases Partially achieved in 6% of cases
Safety Outcome 2	Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate	The outcome was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantially achieved in 78% of cases Partially achieved in 6% of cases Not achieved in 17% of the cases
Well Being Outcome 1	Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their needs	The outcome was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantially achieved in 61% of cases Partially achieved in 26% of the cases Not achieved in 13% of the cases

Outcome Area	Measure	Effectiveness Rating by Panel
Well Being Outcome 2	Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs	The outcome was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantially achieved in 42% of the cases Partially achieved in 6% of the cases Not achieved in 13% of the cases Not applicable in 39% of

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		the cases
Well Being Outcome 3	Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs	<p>The outcome was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantially achieved in 48% of cases • Partially achieved in 16% of cases • Not achieved in 6% of cases • Not applicable in 29%

Local Child Protection Panel's Recommendations:

- Need to have documentation of work the Department is doing with fathers, including attempts to locate when their whereabouts are unknown.
- Local Departments should have service agreements with fathers and documentation of father involvement in case planning when it takes place.
- Local Departments need consistent standards to adhere to when providing services.
- Local Departments should provide complete and accurate documentation of medical and educational.
- Local Departments should enhance protocol for working with parents with mental health issues.

Recommendations to the Department of Human Resources and State of Maryland

The Citizens Review Board for Children **recommends** the following to the Department of Human Resources to improve service delivery to youth and families:

- Local Departments should increase the number of youth with plans of APPLA with placements in their home jurisdictions when it can be safely done.
- Local Departments should increase efforts to develop plans for youth with mental health issues to seek services as adults when exiting care.
- Local Departments should increase the use of CASA workers for eligible children and youth.
- Local Departments should ensure that youth are receiving ongoing adoption counseling every 6 months even when the child did not consent to being adopted.
- Local Departments should increase the development of transitional plans for youth exiting care that include transitional housing and viable employment.
- Local Departments should increase concurrent planning for children and youth in care. Local boards reported found that some local department staff was not clear on the implementation of concurrent planning.
- Local Departments should increase exploring the use of relatives/kin as viable placement options for children in care and explore ways to increase those numbers.
- Ensure Social Workers understand the importance of permanent connections for youth in out of home care. During reviews, many identified permanent connections were younger siblings who may not be able to provide the support young people need.
- Assist CRBC as we measure our effectiveness. Recommendation reports are reviewed and returned to CRBC indicating an agreement (and implementation plan) or disagreement with the local board's recommendations. During the 2010 fiscal year, local departments accepted and agreed to implement the board's recommendations ninety-eight percent of the time. However, approximately half of the reports were returned from the local departments

Citizens Review Board for Children Goals

Looking forward, CRBC has identified the following goals:

- Increase the number of youth who attend reviews
- With the implementation of Alternative Response by DHR, CRBC will begin to work toward the monitoring of those cases and establishing criteria.

Volunteers

CRBC's volunteers are a group of highly motivated and deeply committed individuals. They range from working professionals to retirees with expertise in child welfare, education, health, families, and young people. CRBC has new volunteers who began service during the fiscal year and those who have served since the inception 30 years ago. On average, volunteers have served 12 years.

Below is a list of our dedicated volunteers:

<i>Delores Alexander</i>	<i>Jackie Donowitz</i>	<i>Judith Ingold</i>
<i>Nettie Anderson-Burrs</i>	<i>Margaret Drury</i>	<i>Beulah Jackson</i>
<i>Diane Asher</i>	<i>Patricia Duncan</i>	<i>Britonya Jackson</i>
<i>Doris Asti</i>	<i>Scott Durum</i>	<i>Carmen Jackson</i>
<i>Pam Baer</i>	<i>Russell Ebright</i>	<i>Kenneth Jackson Sr.</i>
<i>Anna Mae Becker</i>	<i>Cheryl Emery</i>	<i>Ernestine Jackson-Dunston</i>
<i>Juanita S. Bellamy</i>	<i>Sandra Farley</i>	<i>Eunice Johnson</i>
<i>Roberta Berry</i>	<i>Ruth Fender</i>	<i>Helen Diane Johnson, MSW</i>
<i>Fred Bowman</i>	<i>Susan Fensterheim</i>	<i>Roslie Johnson</i>
<i>Sarah Boyd-Walker</i>	<i>Allyn Fitzgerald</i>	<i>Portia Johnson-Ennels</i>
<i>George Braxton</i>	<i>Robert Foster Jr.</i>	<i>Denise Joseph</i>
<i>Kay Brazile</i>	<i>Dianne Fox</i>	<i>Gilda Kahn</i>
<i>Barbara Brown</i>	<i>Nina Gallant</i>	<i>Mae Kastor, LCSW-C</i>
<i>Erwin Brown Jr.</i>	<i>Carol Geck</i>	<i>Gail Kaufmann</i>
<i>John Brown</i>	<i>Bernard Gibson</i>	<i>Dr. Fatai Kazeem</i>
<i>Nefertiti Brown</i>	<i>Dr. Walter Gill</i>	<i>Darlene Kennedy</i>
<i>Sharon Broy</i>	<i>Betty Golombek</i>	<i>Pamela King</i>
<i>Michele Burnette</i>	<i>Carolyn Goodrich</i>	<i>Clarice Knotts</i>
<i>Heidi Busch</i>	<i>Nancy Graham</i>	<i>Bernard Lake</i>
<i>Frances Carr</i>	<i>Carolyn Gregory</i>	<i>Janice Lake</i>
<i>Carol Carson</i>	<i>Lauretta Grier</i>	<i>Pat Latkovski</i>
<i>Rev. Cameron Carter</i>	<i>Charles Grinnell</i>	<i>Evelyn Lawson</i>
<i>Diana Christian</i>	<i>Jeffery Grotsky</i>	<i>Lois W. Levy</i>
<i>Jacqueline Coe</i>	<i>Sharon Guertler</i>	<i>Denise Lienesch</i>
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<i>Janet Cole</i>	<i>Kirkland Hall</i>	<i>Dian MacNichol</i>
<i>John Collier</i>	<i>Rosina Handy</i>	<i>Joanne Magness</i>
<i>Mary Jo Comer</i>	<i>Brad Hartin</i>	<i>Cathy Mason</i>
<i>Emily Cooke</i>	<i>Rebecca Hartman</i>	<i>Margaret Mattson</i>
<i>Nicole Cooksey</i>	<i>Naomi Hayes</i>	<i>Dianne Mayfield</i>
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<i>Beverly Corporal</i>	<i>Ruth Hayn</i>	<i>Rosemarie Mensuphu-Bey</i>
<i>Sheila Craig Whiteman</i>	<i>Lettie Haynes</i>	<i>Deanna Miles-Brown</i>
<i>Barbara Crosby</i>	<i>Virginia Heidenreich</i>	<i>Cynthia Miraglia</i>
<i>Chera Culbreath</i>	<i>Doretha Henry</i>	<i>Beatrice Moore</i>
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<i>Tracey Curtis</i>	<i>Cathy Hodin</i>	<i>Sadie Nelson</i>
<i>Cheri Dallas</i>	<i>Dee Hoffman</i>	<i>Nakia Ngwala</i>
<i>Jodi M. Davis</i>	<i>Wesley Hordge</i>	<i>Judith Niedzielski</i>
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<i>Ardena Dixon</i>	<i>Holly Hutchins</i>	<i>Franklin Parker</i>
<i>Sean Doherty</i>	<i>Reed Hutner</i>	<i>Melissa Parkins-Tabron</i>

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