



**ANNUAL**

**20  
22**

**REPORT**



LUCAS COUNTY  
**CHILDREN**  
**SERVICES**

# Message from the Executive Director

For Lucas County Children Services, 2022 was a year of change – most significantly, a change in agency leadership, as executive director Robin Reese retired after 38 years of service to the children of Lucas County. I was humbled by the Board’s request that I serve as interim executive director while they conducted a national search for a new leader. Thank you for your support, and to the other directors for their assistance.

In 2022, LCCS employees across departments were asked to examine their mission – to lead the community in the protection of children – through a diversity, equity, and inclusion lens. This generated more inclusionary strategies to create equitable service delivery and begin the process of reducing implicit bias in child welfare decision-making processes. LCCS has been gaining recognition in this discipline, sponsoring programs such as joint diversity training with local law enforcement officers and participating in state and national initiatives that are poised to change the face of child welfare and social work practice on a global scale.

Change came in other forms – internally and externally, and at the state and federal levels. Internally, LCCS realigned its departmental structure, as the former Community Development Department became Family and Community Engagement, a name that more accurately describes the support these caseworkers provide to families and children.

Also in 2022, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) modified practice rules and programs to help more families keep their children safe at home, or with kin, instead of entering foster care. LCCS participated in developing and piloting several of these state-level programs; as a result, more than 70 percent of children receiving services from LCCS remained in their own home when safe to do so, or with a kinship caregiver. All of this was accomplished as our employees continued to meet state and federal mandates despite the challenges brought on by the nationwide shortage of child welfare professionals.

Again, none of this would have been possible without the support this agency receives from its board of trustees, Lucas County residents, the Lucas County Commissioners and Administrator, and our bargaining units. We appreciate their collaboration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna Seed', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Donna Seed  
Interim Executive Director

# Acknowledgements

## 2022 Board of Trustees

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The 2022 Annual Report was prepared by the LCCS Quality Assurance and Evaluation Department.

Patricia Daher - Manager, Quality Assurance

# Table of Contents

Key Statistics	_____	<b>01</b>
Financial Summary	_____	<b>02</b>
Referrals and Investigations	_____	<b>04</b>
Ongoing Cases	_____	<b>08</b>
Custody and Placement	_____	<b>11</b>
Disproportionality	_____	<b>16</b>



# Key Statistics

12,571 children and  
4,866 families were  
served in 2022

The number of children served decreased 7% from 2021; the number of families served decreased 8%.



## REFERRALS

4,005 Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals  
561 Family in Need of Services Referrals  
5,417 Children on referrals  
1,584 Substantiated child victims

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## ONGOING CASES

431 New cases opened  
565 Average family services cases open  
491 Cases closed

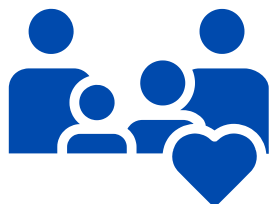
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## CUSTODIES

624 Kids entered agency or relative custody  
874 Average kids in custody per month  
525 Exits from custody

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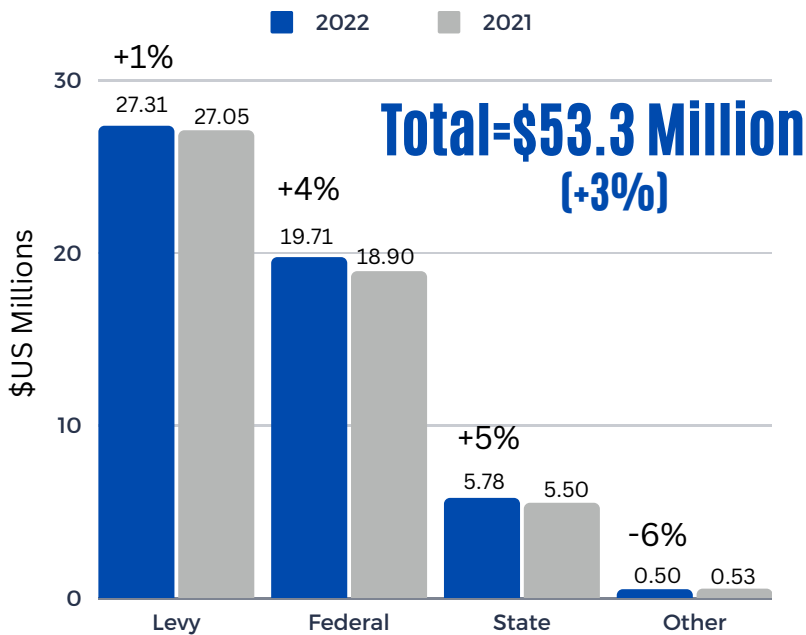


## PERMANENCY

164 Children reunified  
95 Permanent custodies received  
88 Adoptions finalized  
19 Emancipations

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# Financial Summary

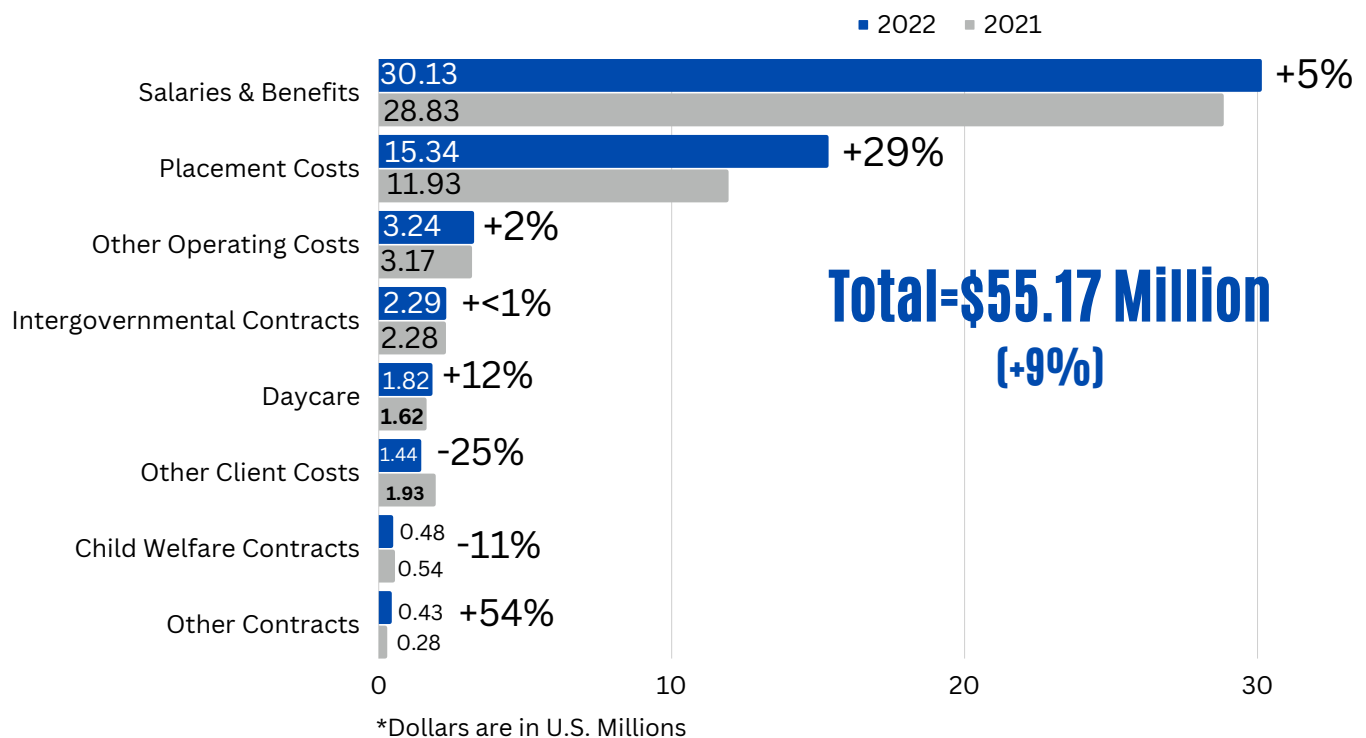


## REVENUE

Total agency revenue for 2022 was \$53.3 million. Federal revenue increased by 4% over 2021 because of our federal Title IV-E Administrative Cost reimbursement receipt. State revenue increased by 5% compared to 2021 because of the additional investment in Kinship Care funding.

## EXPENSES

Total agency expenses for 2022 were \$55.17 million. Slightly more than half (\$30.13 million) were attributed to payroll costs, which were 5 percent higher than in 2021. Placement costs were the second-largest spending category (\$15.34 million). The significant increase in placement spending (+29 percent) was attributable to increased rates charged by congregate care providers.



# Financial Summary (cont'd)

The third-largest spending category was Other Operating costs, which at \$3.24 million, was fairly stable when compared to 2021 spending.

Daycare was up by 12% compared to 2021 because of an increase in kids in kinship placement.

Other contract costs increased by 54% over 2021 due to costs associated with implementing the new Oracle payroll system.

Expenses exceeded revenue, resulting in a \$1.87 million dollar decrease in the fund balance.



To address the increasing placement costs, we have intensified our collaboration with our strategic partners (Board of Developmental Disabilities, Juvenile Court, Lucas County Children and Family First Council) to cost share children that cut across multiple systems. We have also emphasized programs like the Kinship Guardianship assistance program (KGAP), Kinship State payment (KSP) and Prevention Retention and Contingency (PRC) Kinship Childcare funding to reduce the number of kids coming into care.

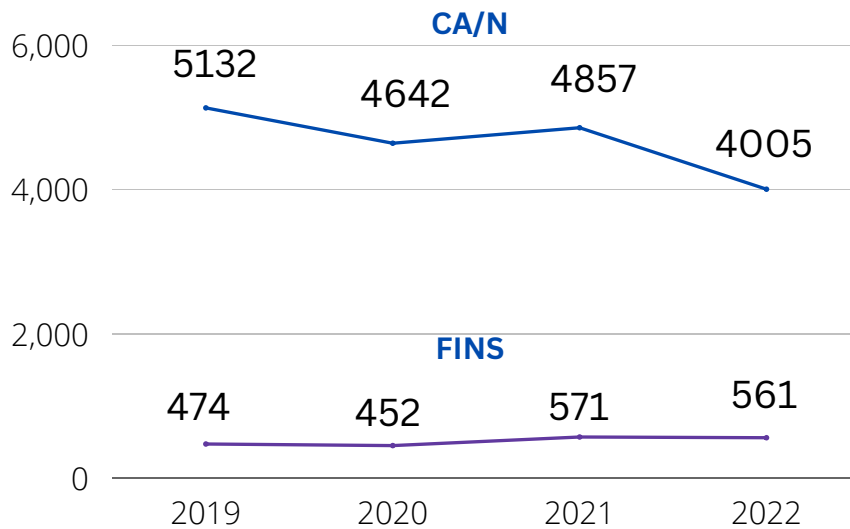


# Referrals and Investigations

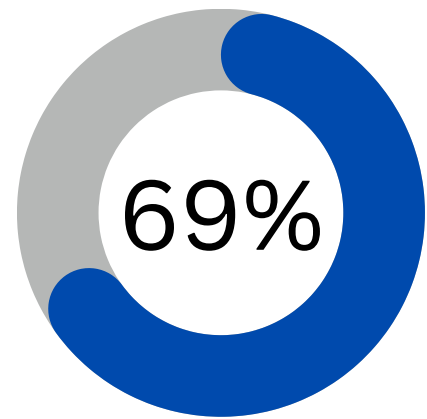
The number of child abuse and neglect (CA/N) referrals accepted for investigation decreased 18% in 2022. Sixty-nine percent of these referrals were assigned to the traditional response pathway.

Family in Need of Services (FINS) referrals decreased 2%. These were referrals that did not meet the criteria for abuse or neglect but were opened to provide supportive services to a family.

## REFERRALS SCREENED-IN



## TRADITIONAL RESPONSE



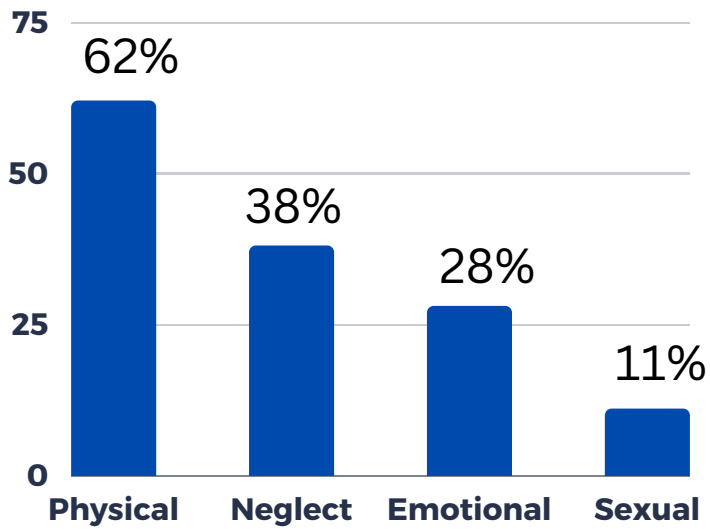
5,417 Alleged Victims ↓ 15%



1,584 Substantiated Victims ↓ 13%

There were a total of 5,417 unduplicated alleged child victims of abuse/neglect in 2022. This is a decrease of 15% from 2021. There were a total of 1,584 substantiated victims of abuse/neglect, a decrease of 13%. The decrease in the number of substantiated victims is related to the decline in referrals screened in and the number of children on referrals, as opposed to a decline in the rate of substantiation (see page 7).





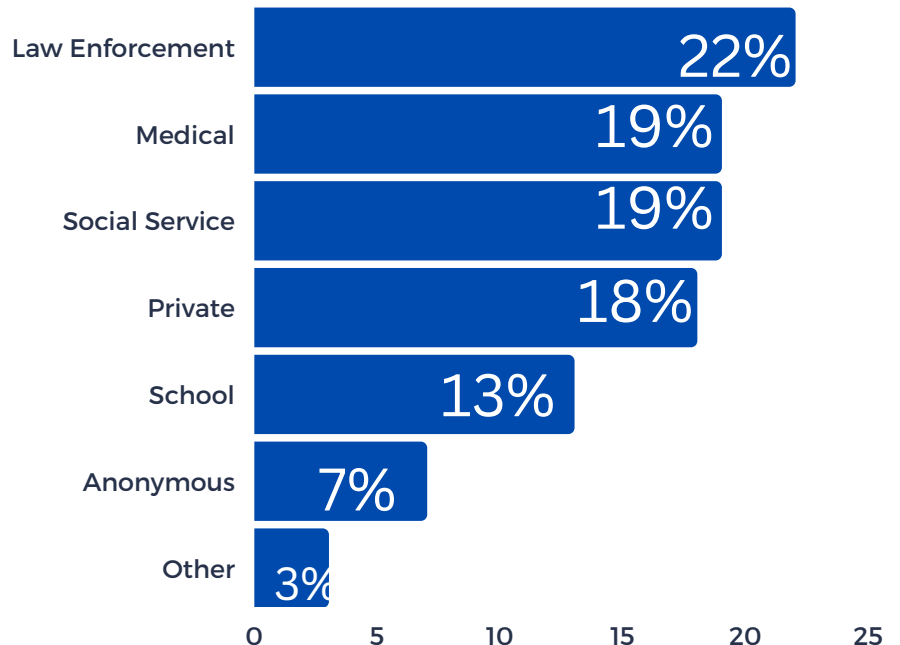
### REFERRALS BY ABUSE TYPE

Physical abuse continued to be the most commonly alleged abuse type for screened-in referrals at 62%, followed by neglect at 38%. Little change was found in these percentages from 2021. Physical abuse referrals include allegations of domestic violence and infants being exposed to substances in utero.



### REFERRALS BY SOURCE

Law enforcement continued to be the largest referral source at 22% followed by medical and social service agencies at 19%. These percentages have remained largely unchanged from 2021, although the percentage of referrals from law enforcement and schools each increased by 2%.



## REFERRALS SCREENED IN BY ZIP CODE

The 43605 and 43609 zip codes were the source of almost a quarter of screened in referrals during 2022. Seventy-six percent of referrals screened in originated from the 11 zip codes shown below.

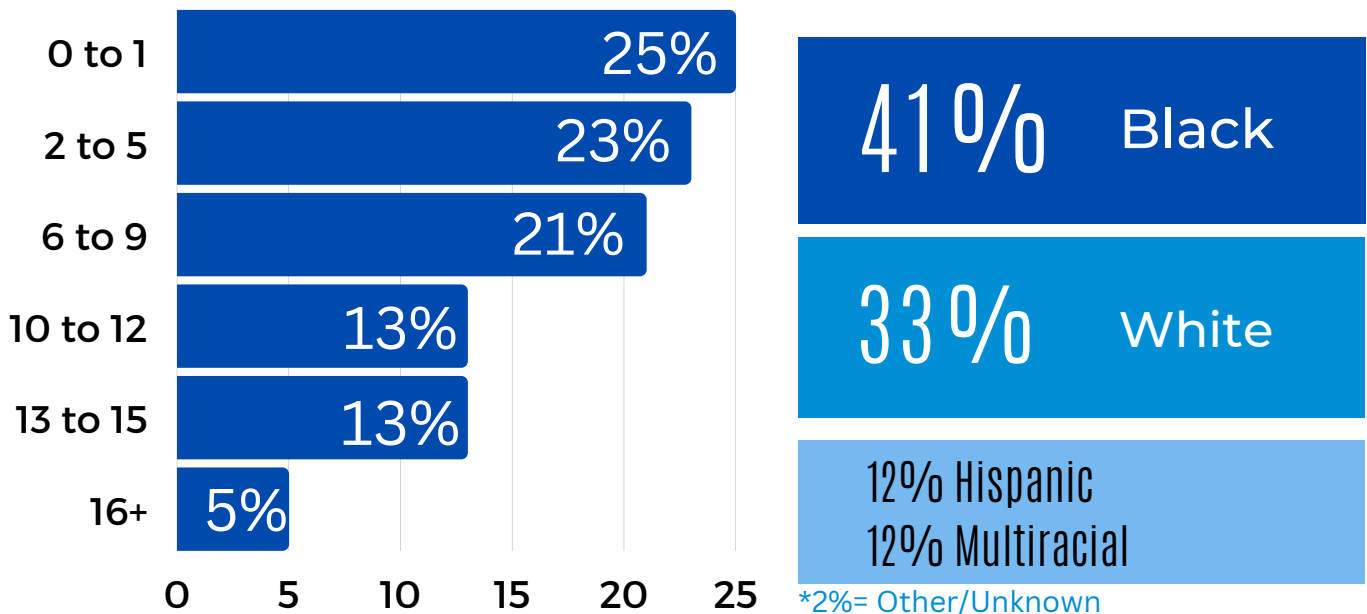
Zip Code	2020	2021	2022	Trend
43605	13%	12%	12%	NC
43609	10%	9%	10%	+1%
43612	9%	8%	9%	+1%
43615	7%	7%	7%	NC
43608	8%	6%	7%	+1%
43613	6%	6%	6%	NC
43607	6%	6%	6%	NC
43604	6%	5%	6%	+1%
43611	5%	4%	5%	+1%
43614	4%	3%	4%	+1%
43606	3%	4%	4%	NC

Note: All other zip codes each made up <3% of referrals; NC=No change.

**83% of CA/N referrals originated in the city of Toledo.  
All suburban areas each represented 2% or less of all referrals.**

## DEMOGRAPHICS OF CHILDREN ON REFERRALS

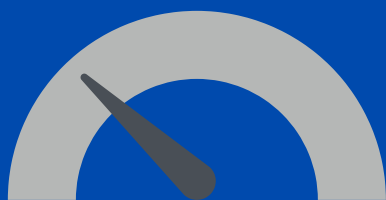
The demographics of children on screened in referrals remained largely unchanged from 2021. Forty-eight percent of children on referrals were 0 to 5 years of age. Forty-one percent of children were Black and 33% were White.



Fifty-one percent of children on referrals were female and 48% were male.

## SUBSTANTIATION AND CASE OPENING

Forty-one percent of child abuse/neglect referrals investigated received a disposition of substantiated or indicated. This is an increase of 1% from 2021. Alternative response referrals do not receive a disposition, thus were not included in the calculation of substantiation rate.

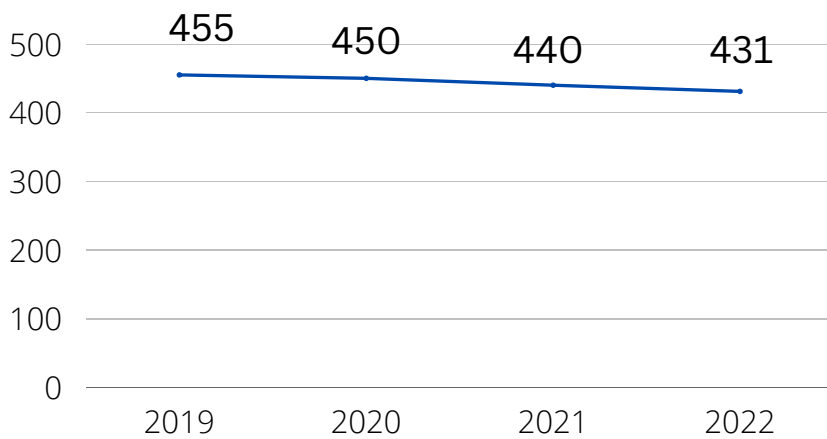


**12% of CA/N Referrals investigated resulted in a case being opened for ongoing services (a 1% increase from 2021).**

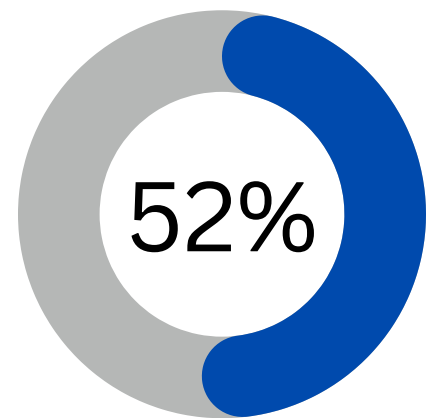
# Ongoing Cases

A total of 431 new cases were opened for ongoing services following the agency's investigation of child abuse/neglect allegations. This is a decrease of 2% (9 cases) from 2021. Fifty-two percent of new cases opened as custody cases, 38% were non-custody and 10% were protective supervision cases at the time they opened to Family Services. The percentage of new cases that opened as custody cases declined 2% from 2021.

## TOTAL NEW CASES OPENED



## CUSTODY CASES



## RACE OF FAMILIES ON CASES OPENED



35% White  
29% Black  
22% Multiracial  
13% Hispanic

Thirty-five percent of families on newly opened Department of Family Services cases were White, while 29% were Black. The percentage of families on cases opened that were Black decreased by 3% in 2022; the percentage of families that were Hispanic increased 2%.

## CASES OPENED BY ZIP CODE

Slightly more than a quarter of cases opened in the 43605 and 43609 zip codes. The percentage of cases opened by zip code has remained largely stable across the last three years.

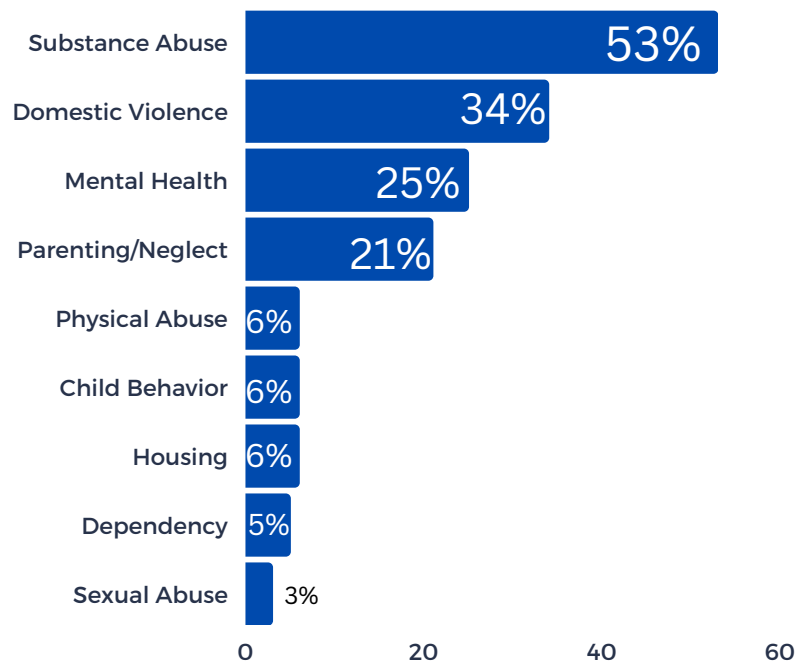
Zip Code	2020	2021	2022	Trend
43605	17%	15%	15%	NC
43609	8%	11%	11%	NC
43612	7%	8%	10%	+2%
43604	9%	8%	9%	+1%
43608	6%	7%	6%	-1%
43607	6%	7%	6%	-1%
43611	6%	4%	6%	+2%
43614	6%	4%	6%	+2%
43615	5%	5%	4%	-1%
43613	6%	6%	4%	-2%
43606	2%	4%	3%	-1%
43620	2%	3%	3%	NC

Note: All other zip codes each make up <3% of referrals; NC=No change

Eighty-three percent of cases opened in these 12 City of Toledo zip codes.

## REASONS FOR CASE OPENING

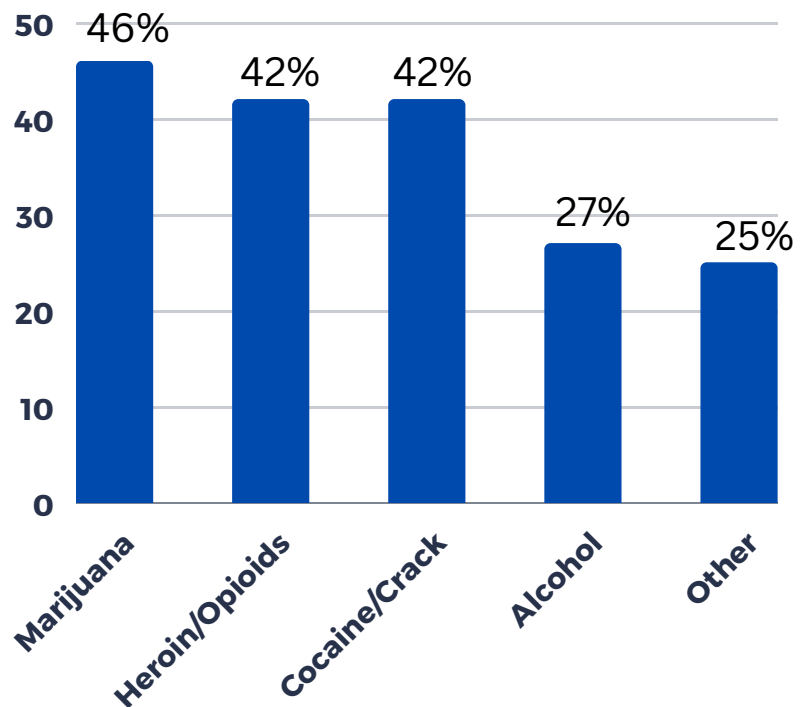
Parent/caregiver substance abuse continued to be the most prevalent reason for case opening, followed by domestic violence and mental health. The percentage of cases with these three presenting issues increased slightly in 2022. Most cases involved multiple issues resulting in the need for ongoing services.



**61%** of substance abuse involved cases were custody cases; 74% of heroin cases were custody cases

## SUBSTANCES BEING USED

Marijuana was again the most common drug of abuse at 46% of cases with substance abuse concerns. The percentage of substance abuse cases involving heroin/opioid use increased 5% after a decline in 2021. The percentage of substance abuse cases involving the use of cocaine also increased 5% from 2021.



Note: Percentages do not total to 100%; multiple substance were being used in 55% of cases.

# Custody and Placement

Children receive ongoing services while either remaining in their own home or while residing in substitute care. Substitute care settings can include kinship, foster home, group home, residential or other care depending on the availability of appropriate relatives and needs of the child. Below is the breakdown of placement types for children receiving services in 2022.

47% \_\_\_\_\_

## Own Home

This is a decrease of 3% from 2021 and 5% from 2020.

25% \_\_\_\_\_

## Kinship Home

Kinship placements increased 3% from 2021 and 6% from 2020.

22% \_\_\_\_\_

## Foster/Resource Home

This is a decrease of 1% from 2021 and 2% from 2020.

4% \_\_\_\_\_

## Group Home or Residential

This is an increase of 1% from 2021 and 2020.

2% \_\_\_\_\_

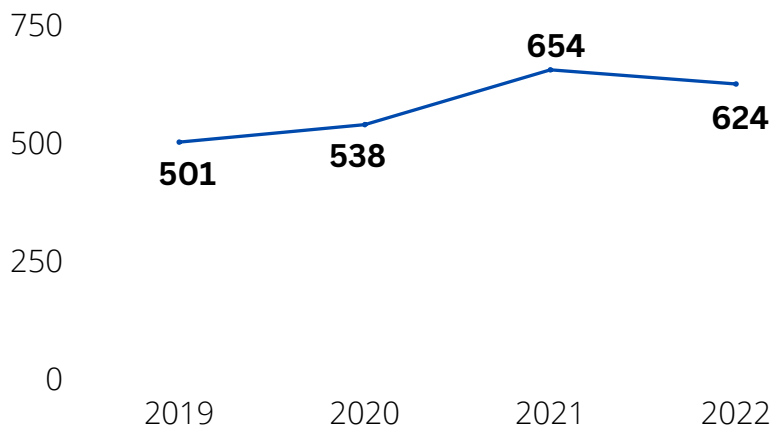
## Other

Other placements include adoptive home, hospital, detention, or independent living, with the majority being adoptive placements. This is unchanged from 2021 and 2020.

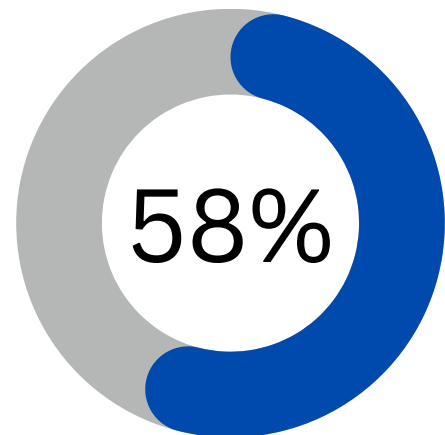
**Seventy-two percent of children on open cases were receiving services while living in their own home or in relative/kinship care.**

New children entering custody decreased by 5% following an increase of 22% during 2021. Fifty-eight percent of children that entered custody were placed with a relative/kinship caregiver at the time of removal. This is a 1% increase from 2021. The increased number of children entering custody during 2021 and 2022 reflects the increasing complexity and severity of cases opened to the agency.

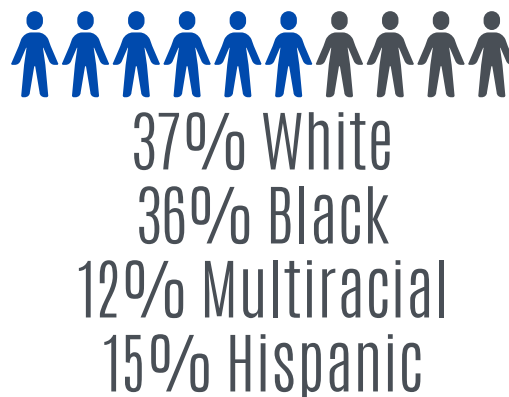
### CUSTODY ENTRIES



### KINSHIP PLACEMENT



### RACE OF CHILDREN ENTERING CUSTODY



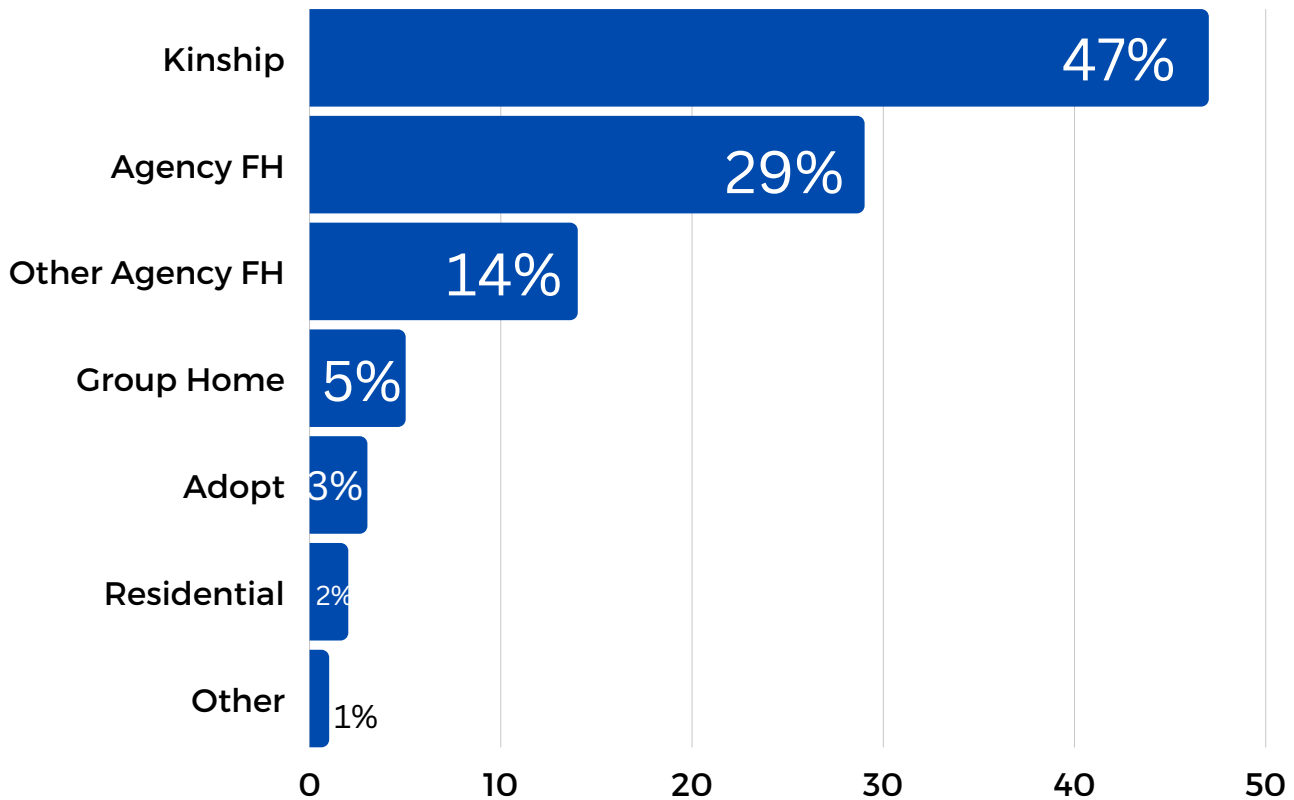
Thirty-seven percent of children entering custody during 2022 were White and 36% were Black. The percentage of children entering custody that were White or Hispanic each increased by 2% from 2021 while the percentage that were Black or multiracial both decreased 2%.



## AVERAGE CHILDREN IN CUSTODY

There was an average of 874 children in custody per month during 2022. This is an 11% increase from 2021. This includes children in the temporary, permanent and legal custody of the agency or a relative. On average, 47% of these children were placed with a relative while in custody\*.

## PLACEMENTS OF CHILDREN IN CUSTODY



\*This includes all children in custody on average (not just new custody entries discussed on page 12).

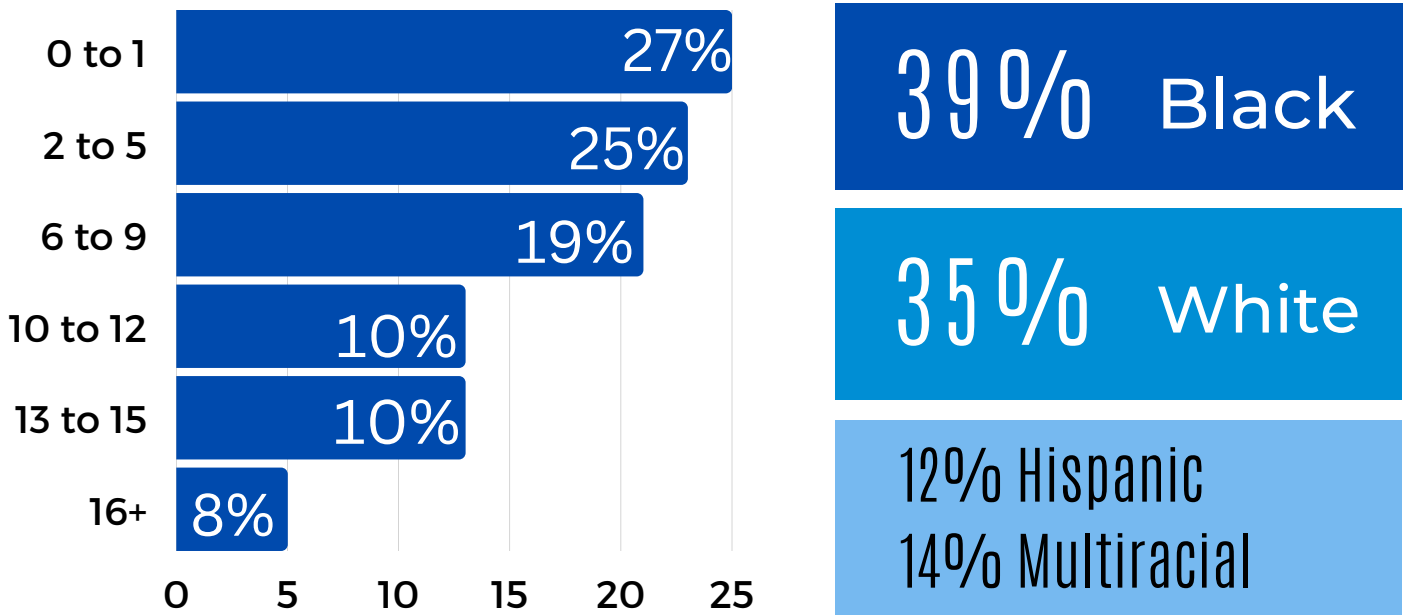
**The percentage of children placed with a kinship caregiver increased 3%.**



On average, 29% percent of children in custody were placed in an agency foster home. LCCS had a total of 193 licensed foster homes as of the end of 2022. This is a decrease of 8% from the prior year when the agency had 210 foster homes licensed at the end of that year.

## DEMOGRAPHICS OF CHILDREN IN CUSTODY

The majority (52%) of children in agency custody were aged 0 to 5, which is a 1% decrease from 2021. Thirty-nine percent of children in custody in 2022 were Black, while 35% were White. The percentage that were Black decreased 2% from 2021, while the percentage that were White increased 2%. The percentage of children that were Hispanic or multiracial did not change.



Fifty-four percent of children in custody were male and 46% were female.



## Exits from Custody and Cases Closed

A total of 525 children left agency custody during 2022, an increase of 29% from 2021. The number of children leaving due to reunification and custody to their non-custodial parent both increased. Exits from custody are correlated with the number of children in custody.

### Reunifications

**164**

- 110 in 2021
- 49% increase

### Custody to Non-custodial Parent

**49**

- 48 in 2021
- 2% increase

### Legal Custody to Relative

**204**

- 144 in 2021
- 42% increase

### Adoptions

**88**

- 83 in 2021
- 6% increase

### Emancipations

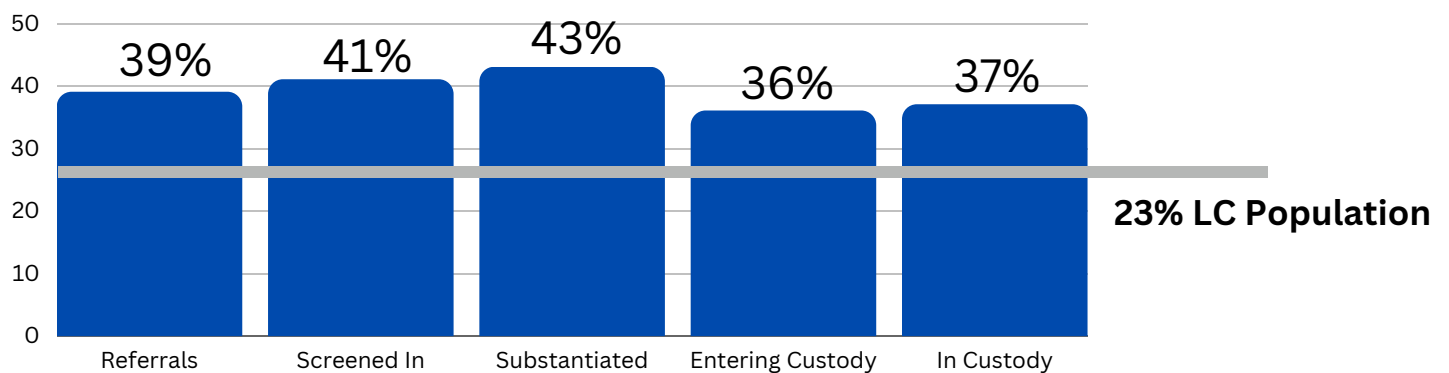
**19**

- 21 in 2021
- 10% decrease

A total of 491 cases were closed in 2022, an increase of 1% (7 cases) from 2021. This includes 414 Department of Family Services, 17 Independent Living and 60 Adoption cases that were closed.

# Disproportionality

The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Strategy Division has the goal of reducing racial and ethnic disproportionality of children in the LCCS system through equity-driven decision making at all levels of agency practice. Our data continues to show black children being overrepresented at all points in the system compared to their representation in the Lucas County population. Although we are making progress to reduce disproportionality, there is still work to be done. In 2022, 39% of referrals made to the agency and 41% of referrals screened in for investigation involved African American children, while African American children make up only 23% of the Lucas County population. The graph below shows how this disproportionality continues into other points in the LCCS system.



However, there are some strategies and services that we have put in place to help create more equitable outcomes for children and families in Lucas County:



Developed a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Strategy Division (DEIS Core Team, Training & Development, Quality Assurance)

Implemented mandatory implicit bias and trauma-informed trainings



Conducted deep data-dive presentations to examine disproportionality data related to referrals, custodies, and placements more in-depth;

Collaborated across all agency departments to address implicit bias and create specific strategies to reduce disproportionality



Developed pilots for internal and external practice to reduce disproportionality across agency domains and with community stakeholders that aim to create equitable service delivery practices and address internal/external implicit bias (mandated reporter training and deep data-dive presentations)

Developed multiple DEIS agency initiatives for participation, engagement, and promoting awareness

The implications of disproportionality include inequitable decision-making and the perpetuation of trauma to families from both internal and external operations. We recognize that many of our barriers to eradicate disproportionality are rooted in systemic practices that are layered with complexity. It is essential that as a child welfare agency, we aim to create improved, equitable outcomes by further examining our practices, policies, and procedures through an equity lens, at every interval throughout our system.

