

## CHILD IN NEED OF PROTECTION OR SERVICES WITH OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS

JANUARY 2024

The Working Group requested data from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) on youth with out-of-home placements recorded in the Social Service Information System (SSIS). SSIS does not have a specific indication of whether a case is a Child in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) case; instead, they limited the study population to youths under 18 placed involuntarily due to a court order or protective hold which should approximate CHIPS placements. DHS provided counts of youth with current out-of-home placements in December of 2023 and looked specifically at those most likely to meet the criteria of currently in out-of-home placement due to “behavior health needs” based on the following criteria:

Numbers showing children in a treatment facility require the child to meet both, A and one aspect from B, below:

A) Correctional facility (locked), Juvenile correctional facility (non-secure, 13 or more children), Juvenile correctional facility (non-secure, 12 or fewer children), Group home - staff operated, Residential program, Psychiatric facility (PRTF)

B) Show at least one: a primary removal reason related to child behavioral / mental health / sex trafficking, a location reason related to treatment or detention, or an out-of-home care (OHC) target population of Mental Health.

Of the youths currently involuntarily placed in out-of-home placements recorded in SSIS, 234 youths (4.7% of all youths) met the above criteria and are identified as youth most likely to be placed due to behavioral health needs.

# children currently involuntarily placed in out-of-home care (OHC)

<b>Placement authority</b>	<b># all children</b>	<b># children placed due to behavioral health needs</b>
Court ordered	4,938	234
Protective hold	59	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,997</b>	<b>234</b>

Youth placed due to behavioral health needs are older than the full complement of youth involuntarily placed. Of those placed due to behavioral health needs, about a quarter are between 12-14 years of age and just over 70% are between 15-17 years of age at the time the data were collected.

# children currently involuntarily placed in out-of-home care (OHC) by current age

<b>Age of child</b>	<b># all children</b>	<b># children placed due to behavioral health needs</b>
0 - 2 yrs.	1,137	0
3 - 5 yrs.	849	0
6 - 8 yrs.	760	5
9 - 11 yrs.	650	11
12 - 14 yrs.	710	53
15 - 17 yrs.	891	165
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,997</b>	<b>234</b>

Most youths (63%) placed for behavioral health needs are male.

# children currently involuntarily placed in out-of-home care (OHC) by sex

<b>Sex</b>	<b># all children</b>	<b># children placed due to behavioral health needs</b>
Female	2,489	86
Male	2,508	148
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,997</b>	<b>234</b>

Compared to all youths in Minnesota, youths currently in involuntary out-of-home placements are more likely to be BIPOC youths. According to the 2020 US Census, 79% of Minnesota youths between the ages of 10 and 17 are white while only 33% of youth currently in involuntary out-of-home placements are white.<sup>1</sup> While American Indian/Alaskan Native youths comprise 1% of the total population, they represent 22% of youths currently placed out of the home involuntarily.

Looking specifically at the subpopulation of youths placed for behavioral health needs, 41% are white and 24% are two or more races. 18% are Black or African American (compared to 10% of youths in Minnesota) and 12% are American Indian/Alaskan Native.

<sup>1</sup> Census data from US Census Bureau American Communities Survey 2021.

# children currently involuntarily placed in out-of-home care (OHC) by race

Race (alone)	All Children		Children placed due to behavioral health needs		Census Bureau Data All MN Youths 10-17
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
African American / Black	714	14%	43	18%	9%
American Indian / Alaska Native	1,116	22%	29	12%	1%
Asian / Pacific Islander	80	2%	8	3%	6%
Two or more races	1,353	27%	55	24%	6%
Some Other Race <sup>2</sup>	-	-	-	-	0%
Unknown / declined <sup>3</sup>	101	2%	3	1%	-
White	1,633	33%	96	41%	69%
Total	4,997	100%	234	100%	- <sup>4</sup>

Hispanic/Latinx youths make up 10% of youths involuntarily placed out of the home, similar to the total Minnesota youth population. Slightly more are placed for behavioral health needs (14%).

Ethnicity	All Children		Children placed due to behavioral health needs		Census Bureau Data All MN Youths 10-17
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Hispanic / Latinx (any race)	490	10%	33	14%	9%
Not Hispanic	4,507	90%	201	86%	-
Total	4,997	100%	234	100%	-

<sup>2</sup> Some other race category not included in DHS data.

<sup>3</sup> Unknown/declined not included in census data.

<sup>4</sup> Census data includes race and ethnicity as one variable therefore they do not total 100%

Youths are most often removed from the home due to caretaker alcohol or drug abuse (44%) followed by alleged neglect (19%) and alleged abuse/threatened injury (13%).

<b>Caretaker / child reasons</b>	<b>Removal reason (group)</b>	<b>Number of All Children</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Caretaker	Abandonment	168	3%
Caretaker	Access to services	75	2%
Caretaker	Alleged neglect	939	19%
Caretaker	Alleged physical abuse / threatened injury	663	13%
Caretaker	Alleged sexual abuse	196	4%
Caretaker	Caretaker detainment / death	156	3%
Caretaker	Caretaker drug / alcohol	2,203	44%
Caretaker	Caretaker impairment / illness	277	6%
Child	Child behavioral health	235	5%
Other	Other reason	85	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,997</b>	<b>100%</b>

For the subpopulation of youths placed for behavioral health needs, 61% have a removal reason related to child behavioral health. Within the category of child behavioral health, the most common reasons were child behavior – delinquency (28%), child behavior problem (16%), and child mental health issues (12%).

<b>Caretaker / child reasons</b>	<b>Removal reason (group)</b>	<b>Number of Children placed due to behavioral health needs</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Caretaker	Abandonment	8	3%
Caretaker	Access to services	1	0%
Caretaker	Alleged neglect	17	7%
Caretaker	Alleged physical abuse / threatened injury	21	9%
Caretaker	Alleged sexual abuse	10	4%
Caretaker	Caretaker detainment / death	1	0%
Caretaker	Caretaker drug / alcohol	17	7%
Caretaker	Caretaker impairment / illness	5	2%
Child	Child behavioral health	142	61%
	<i>Child behavior problem - delinquency</i>	66	28%
	<i>Child behavior problem</i>	37	16%
	<i>Child mental health issues</i>	29	12%
	<i>Child diagnosed condition</i>	2	1%
	<i>Child drug abuse</i>	3	1%
	<i>Child behavior problem - family conflict</i>	5	2%
Other	Other reason	12	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>100%</b>

The vast majority of youths currently in an involuntary out-of-home placement are placed in a family setting (90%). These include relative and non-relative foster homes, child’s reunification home, and pre-adoptive home. Within the subpopulation of youths placed for behavioral health needs, about 30% are in a corrections setting, 38% are in a residential program and 26% are in a staff operated group home.

Setting (group)	Setting (detail)	All children <sup>5</sup>		Children placed due to behavioral health needs	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Authorized temporary location	Authorized temporary location	19	0%	0	0%
Corrections	Correctional facility (locked)	45	1%	44	19%
Corrections	Juvenile correctional facility (non-secure, 13 or more children)	33	1%	21	9%
Corrections	Juvenile correctional facility (non-secure, 12 or fewer children)	10	0%	7	3%
Facility	Group home - staff operated	172	3%	61	26%
Facility	Residential program	122	2%	88	38%
Facility	Hospital	20	0%	0	0%
Facility	Psychiatric facility (PRTF)	15	0%	13	6%
Facility	Foster home - corporate/shift staff - Legacy	15	0%	0	0%
Facility	Residential SUD program with parent	3	0%	0	0%
Facility	ICF-DD	3	0%	0	0%
Family setting	[All family settings including foster homes, reunification, pre-adoptive home]	4,473 <sup>6</sup>	90%	0	0%
Unauthorized absence	Unauthorized absence	34	1%	0	0%
Total		4,997	100%	234	100%

Looking at children whose out-of-home placement episode ended in 2022, there were 4,345 exits. Of those, 426 had at least one behavioral health needs placement. The median number of months spent in continuous out-of-home care was similar between all youths and the subpopulation (15.5 months and 14 months respectively). Most youths with at least one behavioral health needs placement had a discharge reason of reunification with parents/primary caretakers (56%), however, 1-in-5 were discharged because they reached age of majority or emancipated compared to 1-in-20 for all youth. The duration of the out-of-home placement varied greatly between these two cohorts.

<sup>5</sup> Note: Due to timing of data entry, unique count will not sum completely to the total shown.

<sup>6</sup> A small number of children may be counted twice if they have multiple concurrent placements.

# children in out-of-home care (OHC) episodes which ended in 2022 by discharge reason (i.e., outcome)<sup>7</sup>

Discharge reason (group)	Discharge reason	# episodes closing	Average (median) months spent in out-of-home care	# episodes closing w/ at least one behavioral health needs placement	Average (median) months spent in out-of-home care for cases w/ at least one behavioral health needs placement
Adoption / Tribal customary adoption	Adoption / Tribal customary adoption	1,050	27.4	35	45.5
Other non-permanency	Transfer to another agency	35	2.1	11	9.6
Other non-permanency	Runaway from placement/placement no longer planned	17	3.4	9	10.5
Other non-permanency	Reached age of majority or emancipated	207	53.1	87	53.4
Other non-permanency	Death of client	6	* <sup>8</sup>	1	*
Other permanency	Residing with non-removal parent/guardian	32	7.9	7	8.1
Other permanency	Living with other relatives	212	6.4	13	12.7
Other permanency	Guardianship to an unrelated individual	27	39.4	4	*
Reunification / reestablishment	Reunification with parents/primary caretakers	2,122	8.1	238	6.2
Transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to a relative (TPLPC)	Transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to a relative (TPLPC)	637	21.9	21	26.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,345</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>14</b>

<sup>7</sup> Note: Includes only continuous placement episodes that began prior to a child turning 18 years old and only those where the final authority showed an involuntary placement (most due to court order).

<sup>8</sup> Note: "\*" signifies small counts (i.e., <7) which could lead to the identification of individuals, and so this information is suppressed.

Nearly 1-in-5 youths with a behavioral health needs placement who entered and exited out-of-home care in 2020 had a new placement record in SSIS within the next 12 months (13% for all youths, 19% for youths with at least one behavioral health needs placement).

# children experiencing re-entry into out-of-home care (performance year 2022) by treatment facility indicator<sup>9</sup>

Group	# re-entered	# eligible cases	% re-entered
All children	187	1,471	12.7%
Children w/ at least one behavioral health needs placement	35	183	19.1%

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<sup>9</sup> Note: Re-entry measure has specific requirements for eligibility in the performance measure. This data matches the public performance measure dashboard, with the exception that it is limited to only involuntary cases (which is the same for all other data in this file). The main characteristic is that the initial placement episode ended within 12 months, and potential re-entry into care occurred within the following 12 months. The performance year (2022) is based on those children who entered in 2020, were discharged within 12 months, and showed subsequent re-entry within the following 12 months. See Child Welfare Data Dashboard, here: <https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/news-initiatives-reports-workgroups/child-protection-foster-care-adoption/child-welfare-data-dashboard/>