



The Future of Foster Care in North Carolina

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Current State of Foster Care

Reasons Children Enter Foster Care

Neglect (81%)

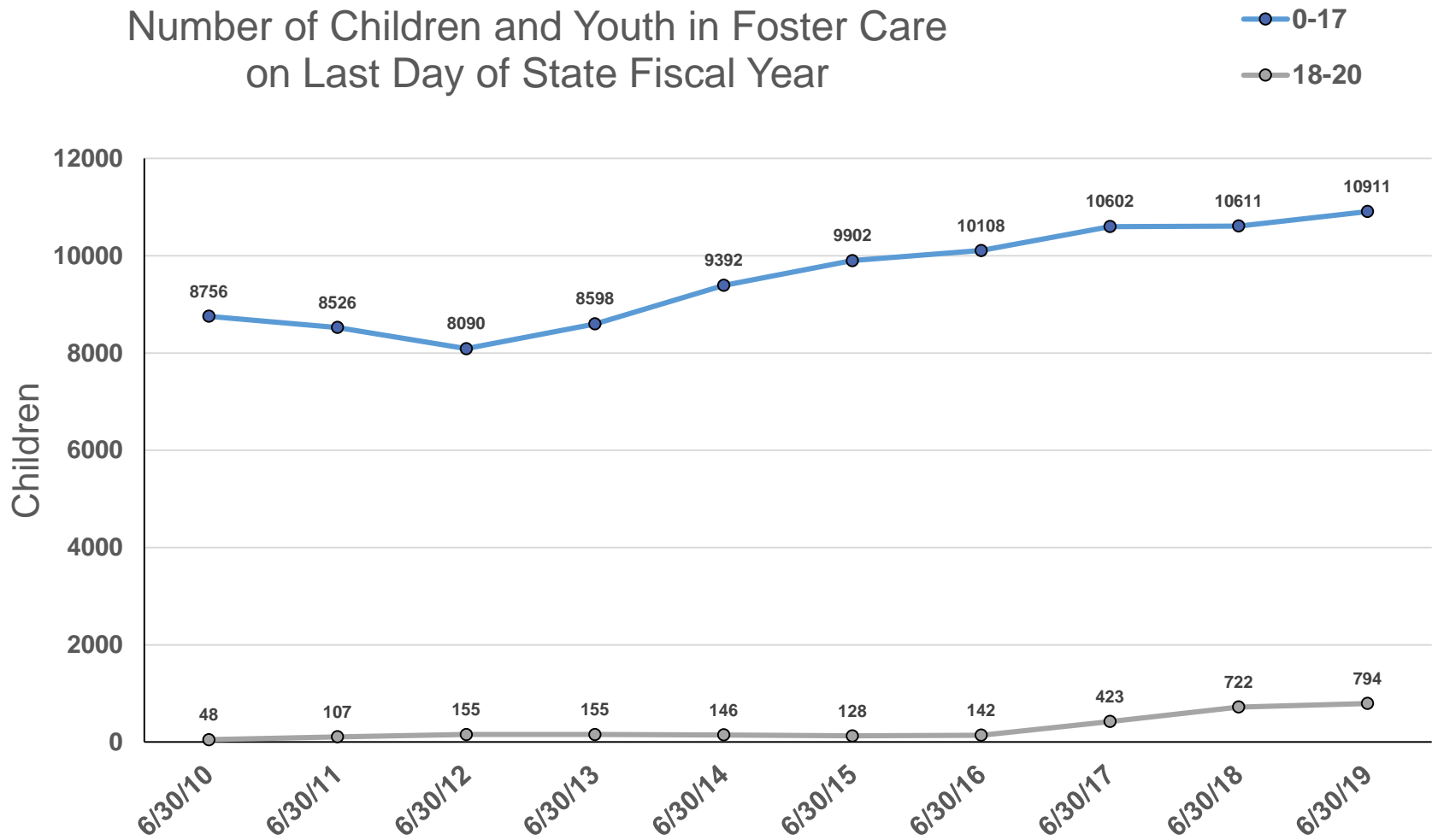
Parental drug
abuse (36%)

Dependency
(1 in 4
children)

Inadequate
housing (15%)

Physical Abuse
(9%)

Statewide Point-in-Time Count of Children in Foster Care: Number of Children and Youth in Foster Care on Last Day of State Fiscal Year



Source: NCDHHS Client Services Data Warehouse Child Placement and Payment System and NC FAST Child Services



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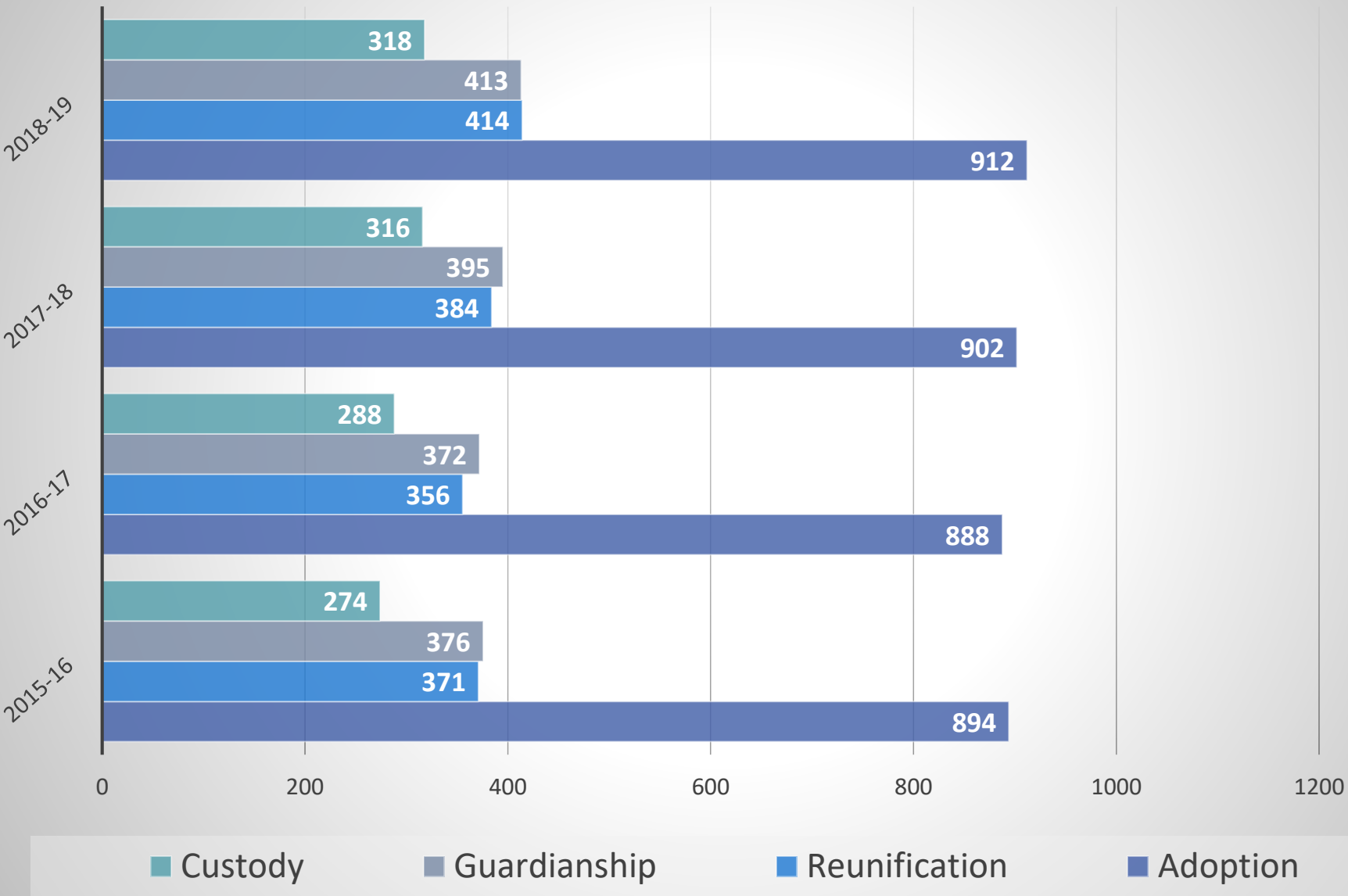
Children Exiting to Identified Permanent Plan

54% of the children whose permanency plan is reunification exit care through reunification

74% of the children whose plan is adoption exit through adoption

69% of the children whose plan is guardianship exit through guardianship

Annual Statewide Exits from Foster Care: Median Days in Care by Exit Type by SFY



Source: NCDHHS Client Services Data Warehouse Child Placement and Payment System and NC FAST Child Services





The Future of Foster Care

Child Welfare Reform in North Carolina: Rylan's Law*

- Requires adoption of a practice model
- Efforts to increase permanency
- Services to older youth and youth aged out of foster care



Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

Family First is a significant victory for families

- Funds evidence-based prevention services for children at risk of foster care
- Focuses on ensuring children in foster care are placed in the least restrictive, most family-like setting
- Supports kinship caregivers and provides other targeted investments to keep children safe with families
- Supports youth transitioning from foster care
- Promotes permanent families for children

Family First: the Family of Origin

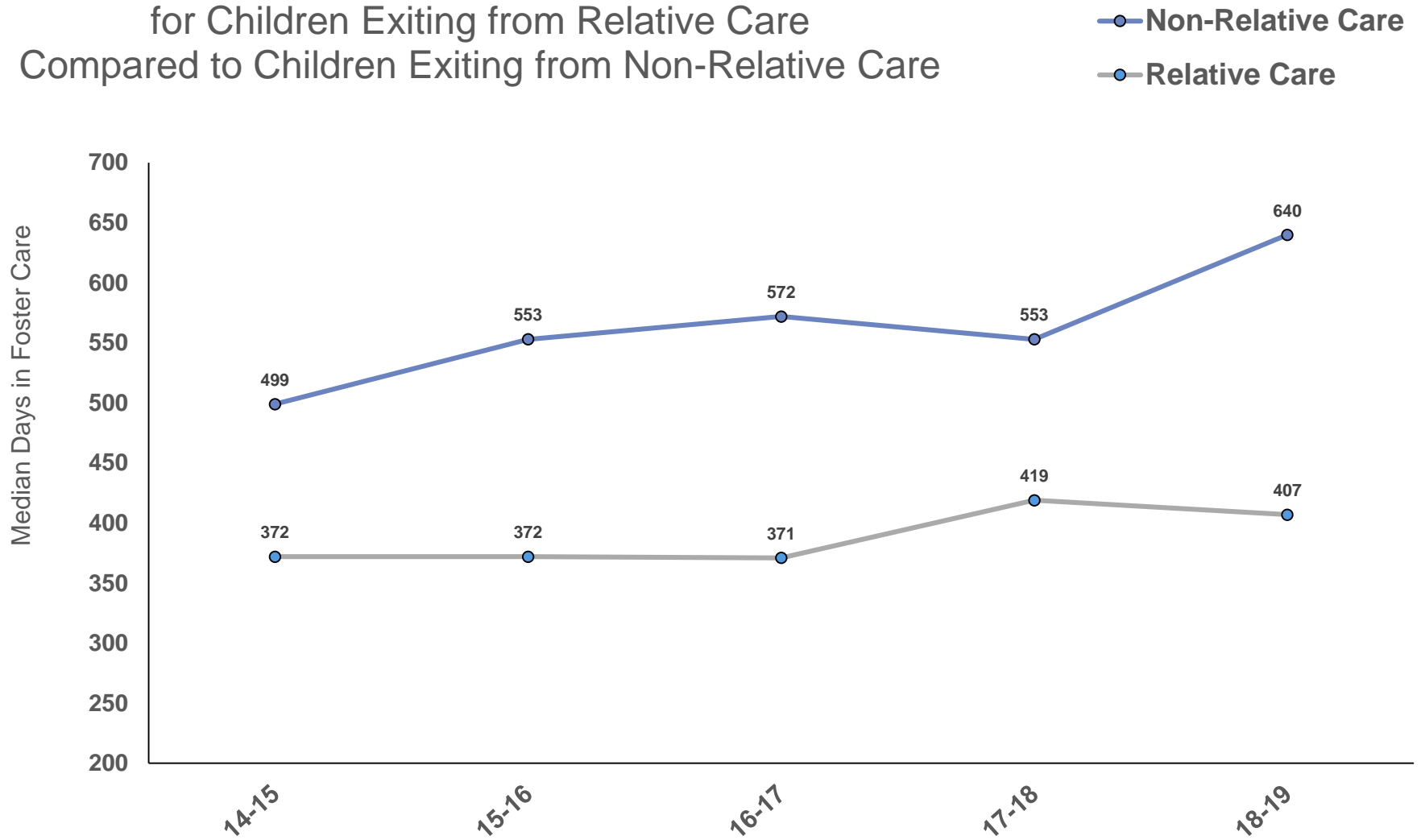
In North Carolina substance abuse and neglect are two factors that contribute to children entering and staying in foster care

- FFPSA will provide services to address parental substance use disorder and parenting skills
 - FFPSA will not address the impact of poverty on neglect – this will require additional programs and services
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Family First: Kinship Care Givers

- The Fostering Connections Act established that relatives are the preferred placement for children in the foster care system if they can provide a safe home.
 - In North Carolina, when children do not reunify they exit foster care sooner when they exit to relative care.
 - North Carolina's Kinship Navigator Program, kiNCare, is being developed to offer kinship providers a platform to find resources and services tailored to their needs.
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Length of Foster Care Episode: Median Days in Care for Children Exiting from Relative Care Compared to Children Exiting from Non-Relative Care



Source: NCDHHS Client Services Data Warehouse Child Placement and Payment System and NC FAST Child Services



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Engaging Caregivers

Education about permanency options



Family and youth have a voice in decision making



Licensure for Kinship Caregivers



KinGAP utilization

Family First: Children and Youth

With only half of all children exiting foster care to reunification, actively working a concurrent plan is essential to expediting permanency.



Why Concurrent Planning?

- Expedites timely permanence and increases placement stability
 - Promotes continuity of care for children and youth which leads to healthier attachments to caretakers
 - Utilizing available resources maximizes outcomes
 - NC Kids – Child Specific Recruitment for Adoption
 - PII – Child Specific Recruitment for Reunification, Guardianship and Adoption
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Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP)

Permanency Target (aligns with Early Childhood Action Plan)

- Safely decrease the number of days it takes a child to exit foster care and increase the rate of permanent exits
 - Increase placement stability by recruiting and maintaining a sufficient pool of ethnically and racially diverse families who have the skills needed to provide ongoing safety and meet the needs of children served by the foster care program
 - Maximize the use of the Foster Care 18-21 Program for eligible youth
 - Will be updated with prevention plan for FFPSA
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