DCS Public Dashboard Project

April 26, 2023

MISSION:

The Indiana Department of Child Services leads the state's response to allegations of child abuse and neglect and facilitates child support payments. We consider the needs and values of all we serve in our efforts to protect children while keeping families together whenever possible.
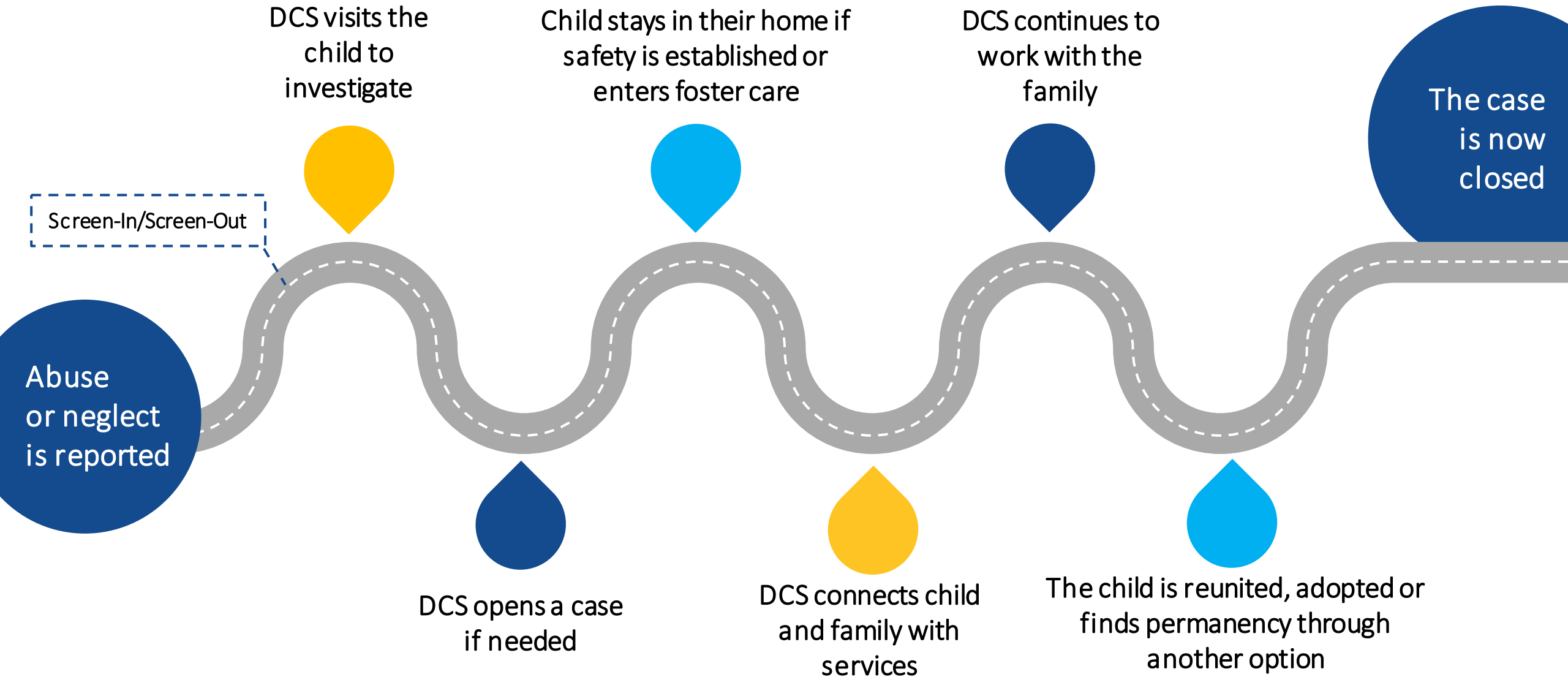
VISION

Children will live in safe, healthy and supportive families and communities.

VALUES

→ Respect for all
→ Racial justice
→ Diversity and inclusion
→ A culture of safety and transparency
→ Continuous improvement

Life of a DCS case

Abuse or neglect is reported

Screen-In/Screen-Out

DCS visits the child to investigate

DCS opens a case if needed

Child stays in their home if safety is established or enters foster care

DCS connects child and family with services

DCS continues to work with the family

The child is reunited, adopted or finds permanency through another option

The case is now closed

Public Dashboard Project

- Existing Reports
- Framework
- Goals and Go-Live
- Future Updates

Existing Reports

→ Reports are hard to navigate/find

To navigate to reports, there are multiple links and clicks required to get to one monthly report

→ Static monthly reports don't give the whole story

Difficult to understand trend over time or which geographic areas might need public assistance, such as additional foster homes.

Existing Reports: 1 click, 2 click

Existing Reports: 3 click, 4 click

Indiana Department of Child Services

MENU

January 2023

🏠 DCS > Reports & Statistics > Practice Indicator Reports > January 2023

Absence of Maltreatment in Foster Care

Absence of Repeat Maltreatment

Average Number of Placements

CHINS Placements by County

Length of Stay in Out of Home Placement

Locally Placed CHINS

Safely Home Family First by County

Sibling Placement Report

MaGIK Management Gateway for Indiana's Kids

Department Of Child Services
Practice Indicator Report
Absence of Repeat Maltreatment
For January 2023

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES

January 2023

Region	County Name	Victims from February 2022 to August 2022	Victims without recurrence within 6 months	Absence of Repeat Maltreatment Percent
Statewide Total		9,166	8,740	95.35%
Region 2	**All**	**315**	**302**	**95.87%**
	Benton	19	19	100.00%
	Jasper	27	27	100.00%
	Laporte	115	106	92.17%
	Newton	13	13	100.00%
	Porter	98	94	95.92%
	Pulaski	18	18	100.00%
	Starke	25	25	100.00%

Region Id	Report Date	Victims from February 2022 to August 2022	Victims without recurrence for within 6 months Region	Absence of Repeat Maltreatment Percent
2				
	January 2023	315	302	95.87%
	December 2022	306	290	94.77%
	November 2022	302	285	94.37%
	October 2022	327	310	94.80%
	September 2022	343	324	94.46%
	August 2022	355	339	95.49%
	July 2022	371	357	96.23%
	June 2022	375	363	96.80%
	May 2022	391	380	97.19%
	April 2022	379	363	95.78%
	March 2022	359	345	96.10%
	February 2022	383	369	96.34%
	January 2022	376	363	96.54%

Framework

What are our most important available data points?

- Wanted to use data currently available due to time and resources
- Decided PI reports covered the largest spectrum of information

What are our most important available data points

What does the general public want to know

How do we create a dashboard that all users could understand

Framework

What does the general public want to know?

Met with current foster parents to understand what they would like to see publicly available

- IN map of data
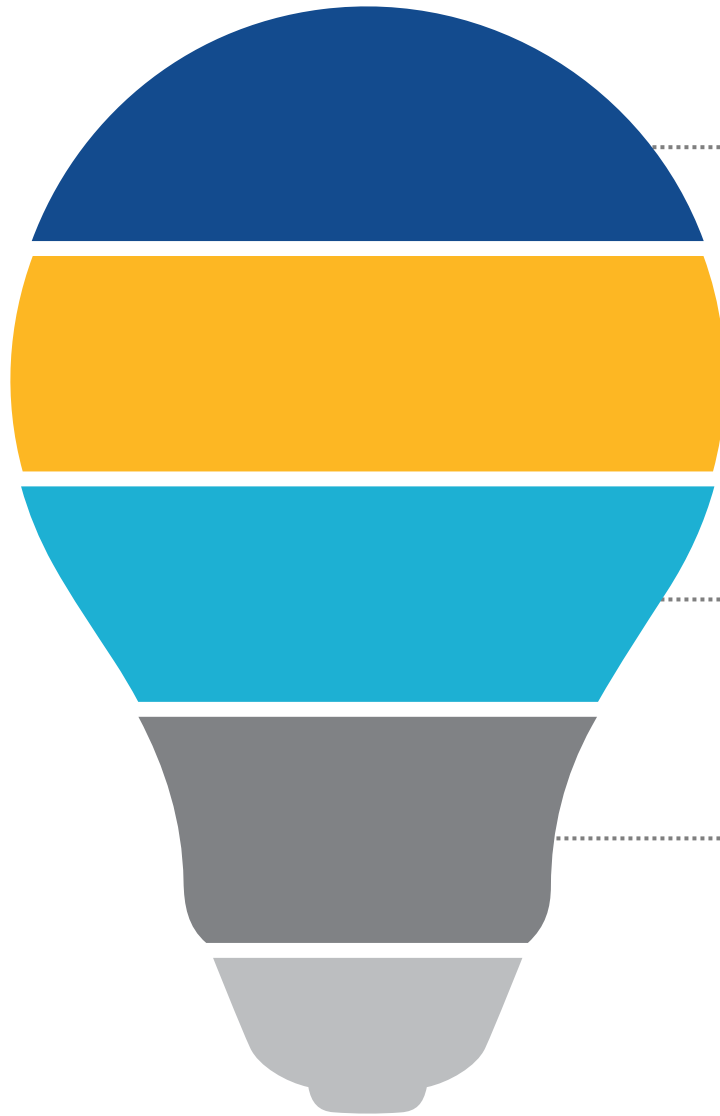- Compare county to county
- Simple yet informative

What are our most important available data points

↓

What does the general public want to know

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How do we create a dashboard that all users could understand

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Framework

How do we create a dashboard that all users could understand?

While DCS has built up its Tableau/reporting team, none of us had experience creating a dashboard for the general public

- **Problem**: DCS data is complicated, and at times, can be difficult to explain
  - **Solution**: Utilized Comms and Executive Team to provide concise and clear information in the dashboards
- **Problem**: No experience creating a dashboard like the ones already publicly available in other agencies
  - **Solution**: Partner with MPH to learn best practices

What are our most important available data points

What does the general public want to know

How do we create a dashboard that all users could understand

Goals

1 Easy to understand and navigate

Simple and informative – allows any level of users to be able to get the information they need as quickly as possible

2 Ability to see on a statewide and local level

Compare county to statewide – see where areas compare to one another and might need other assistance, such as recruiting more foster parents

3 Ability to see trends over time

Year by year, month by month – provide users ability to view trends over time in any way they want and in any timeframe they want

4 Data security and automation

Minimize work later – ensure data is on a separate server and can only access public data; automate refresh to minimize manual work

Go-Live: https://www.in.gov/dcs/data/
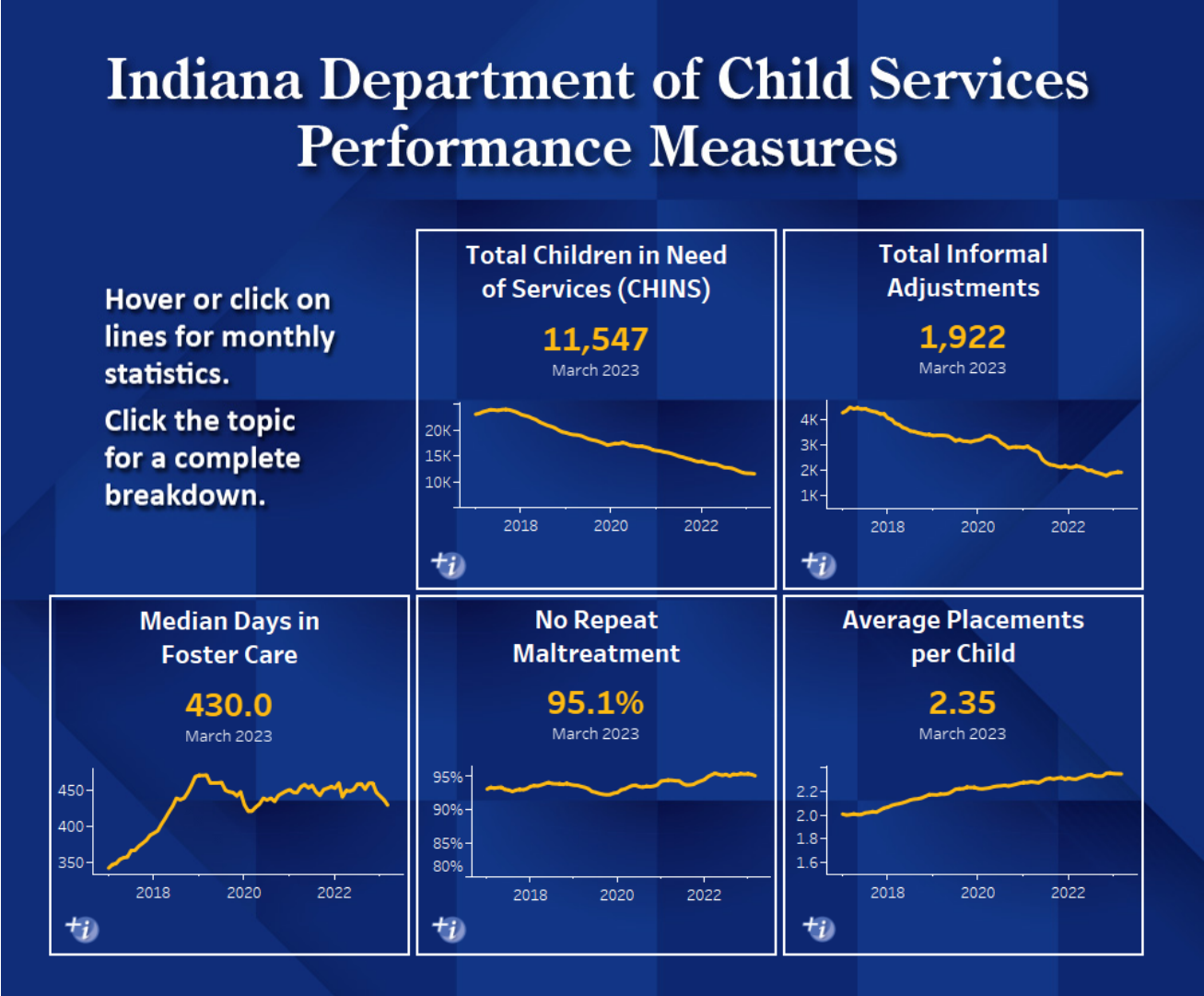
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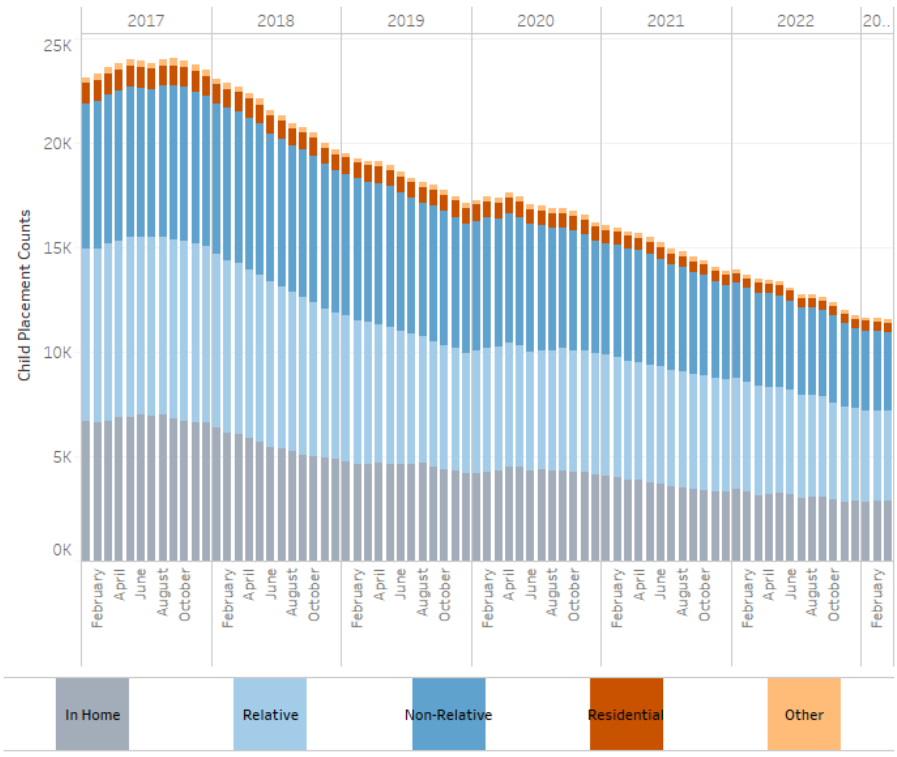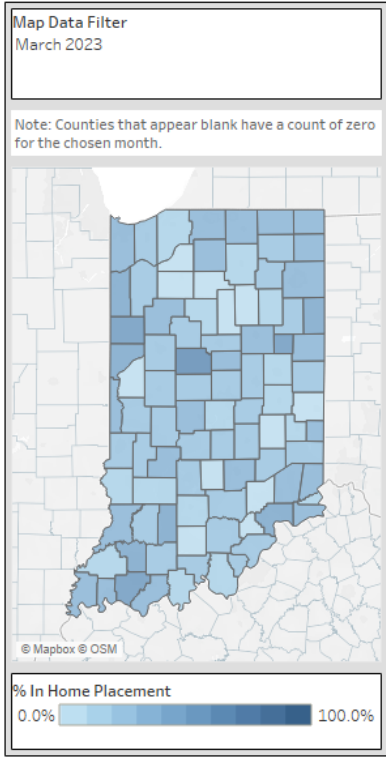
Future Updates

→ **Working on second phase**

Team is currently working on updating the dashboard with other key data points

→ **New System**

DCS is currently working on building a new child welfare system. The public dashboard will need to be updated at least on the back-end to utilize that data once the system is live.

→ **Future phases/dashboards**

DCS wants to provide as much transparency as possible and inform the general public on child welfare and our efforts on ensuring child safety

Contact Information

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