



Pathways to Progress: Data at a Glance

April 25 2011

Children Served

[Click here for definition](#)

State wards: **6,200**

Non-wards or
"Voluntary": **3,130**

[Click here for detail](#)

Families Served

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Court families: **4,221**

Non-court or
"Voluntary": **403**

[Click here for detail](#)

Living Arrangements

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In-home: **5,032**

Out-of-home: **4,298**

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Out-of-State

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Children in care
outside of Nebraska:

100

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Safe in Foster Care

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Percent of children
safe in foster care:

99.54%

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Entries & Exits

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Entries: **427**

Exits: **468**

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Foster Care Reentry

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Percent of children in
out-of-home care who
reenter care:

13.0%

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After Care

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Families receiving after
care services:

1,534

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[Click here to read an introduction to this report or to learn about the data in this report.](#)



Pathways to Progress: Data at a Glance

April 25 2011

- Families Matter is a multiyear statewide initiative to reform Nebraska's child welfare and juvenile services and is driven by the desire to serve more children in their own homes and to improve achievement of the federal outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being. We believe that:
 - Children grow best in their own homes.
 - Children should be reunified or moved to permanency through adoption or guardianship in a timely manner.
 - Families should get services earlier and be offered services after they leave DHHS.
- Our vision is that Nebraska will be a national leader in serving children and families in need.
- “Pathways to Progress Report” represents a picture of some of the key data indicators to assess in determining the progress Families Matter is making to have a positive difference in the lives of children and families being served. Some of these key data indicators were identified with input from stakeholders in a meeting facilitated by the Casey Family Programs Foundation. The data indicators include:
 - Children and families in care, including entry and exit data
 - Living arrangements, including kinship care
 - Children in care outside of Nebraska
 - Children safe in care, reflecting the absence of maltreatment while in foster care
 - Children who reenter foster care
 - Families receiving after care services
- Statewide data is provided as well as data for the Eastern and Southeast Service Areas specific to the lead case management contractors for those areas (KVC and NFC). Similar charts will be presented in the future for the Western, Central, and Northern Service Areas.
- The “Pathways to Progress Report” will be updated quarterly. This report includes monthly data with three exceptions (‘Safe in Foster Care,’ ‘Foster Care Reentry,’ and ‘After Care’) but future reports will show quarterly data. The report and the data indicators will continue to evolve. They may be modified and updated based on the identification of additional information that the Families Matter stakeholders and/or consumers find helpful or to help provide context to data indicators. Your questions and suggestions are welcome and can be sent to childrenandfamilyservices@nebraska.gov.

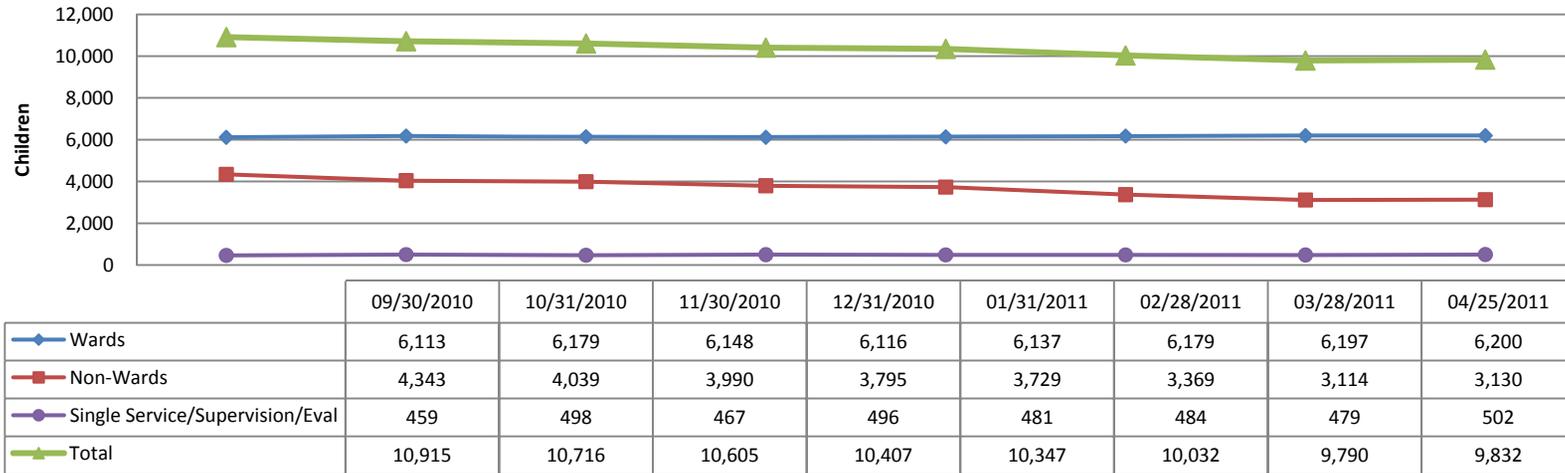
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Notes About this Report

- Statewide data reflects numbers from all five service areas. Charts displaying data from the Central, Northern, and Western Service Areas are currently under development but coming soon.
- Data on children and families served, living arrangements, out-of-state placements, entries and exits, and after care are point-in-time as of April 25, 2011.
- Safe in foster care is based on quarterly averages and display the average for January 2010 through May 2011.
- Reentry into foster care displays the average percent of reentries into foster care each quarter, from January 2010 through May 2011.

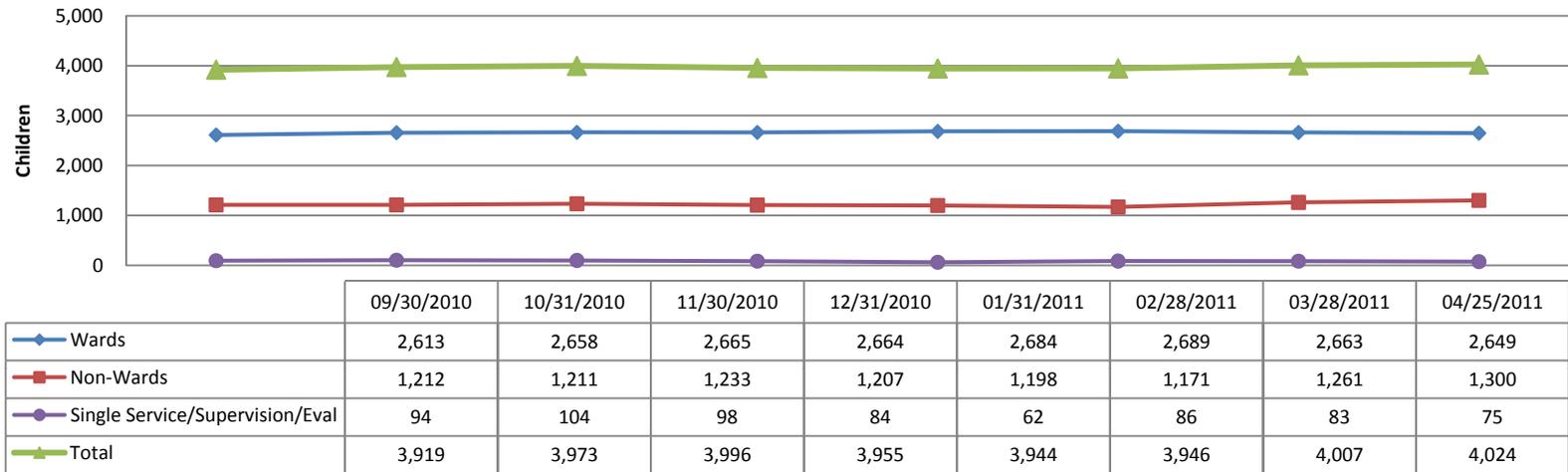
Children Served Statewide



Overall, the total number of children served statewide has decreased from September 2010 to April 2011, despite an increase in January 2011. The data will continually be monitored to identify any issues or trends that best describe any changes to the population being served.

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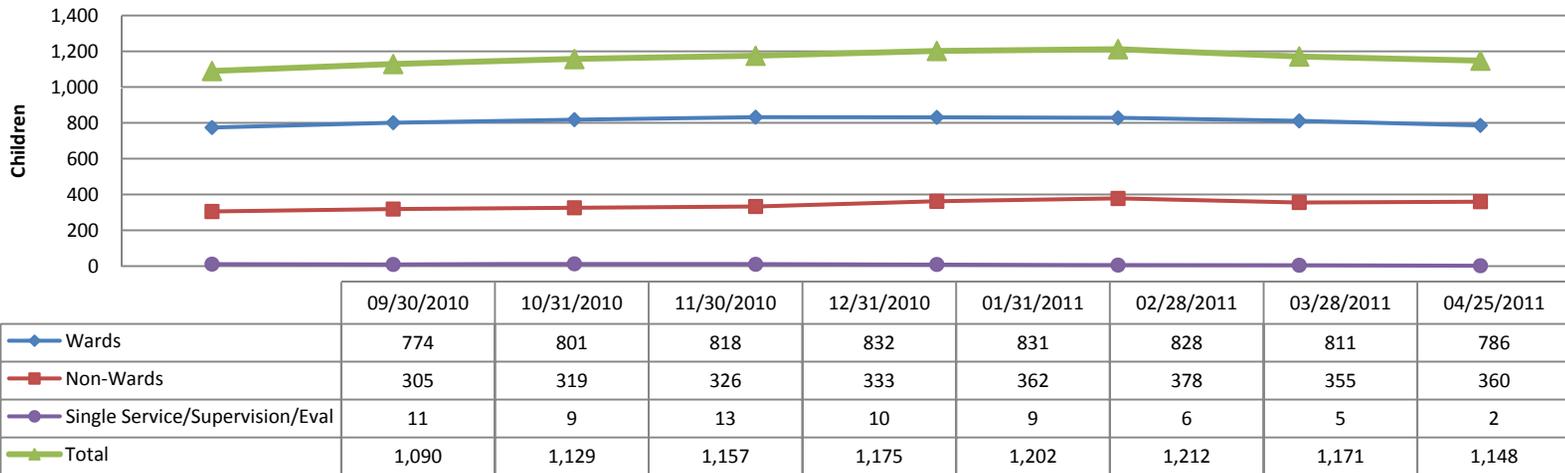
Children Served in the Eastern Service Area



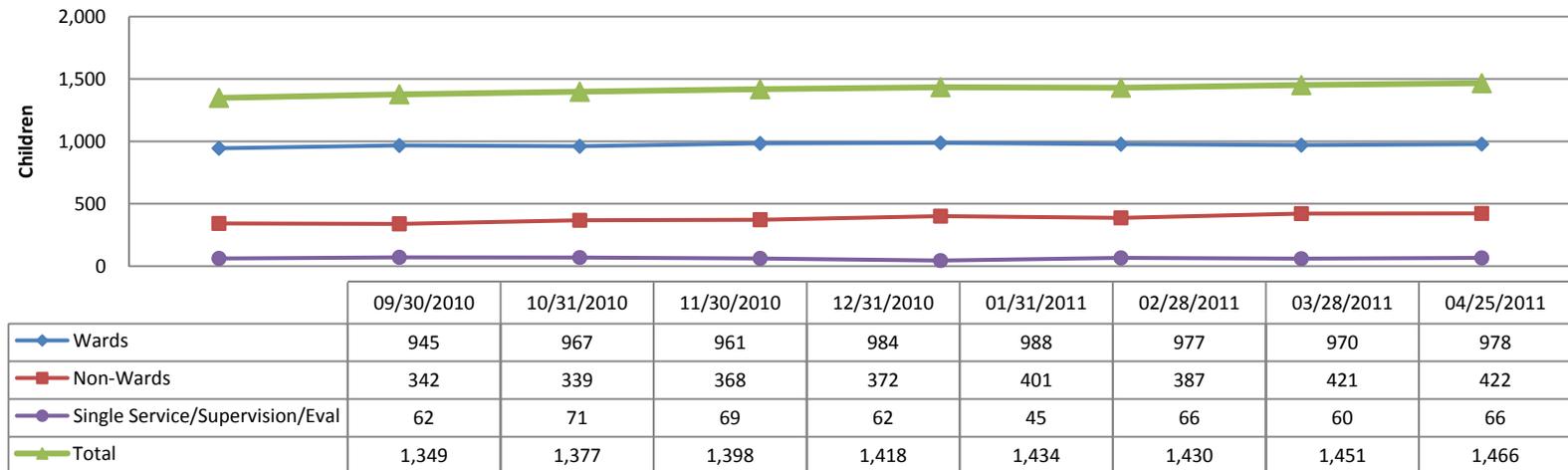
Children served in the Eastern Service Area are served by DHHS and two contractors – KVC and NFC. The following slides provide detail by agency. The values from the DHHS, KVC, and NFC charts do not sum to the number of children served in the Eastern Service Area because some children have not yet been associated with a contractor at the time the data was pulled.

The number of children in the Eastern Service Area has increased since September 2010, with KVC seeing the largest increase in children. KVC serves the most children in the area. See the following slides for details.

Children Served in the Eastern Service Area by DHHS

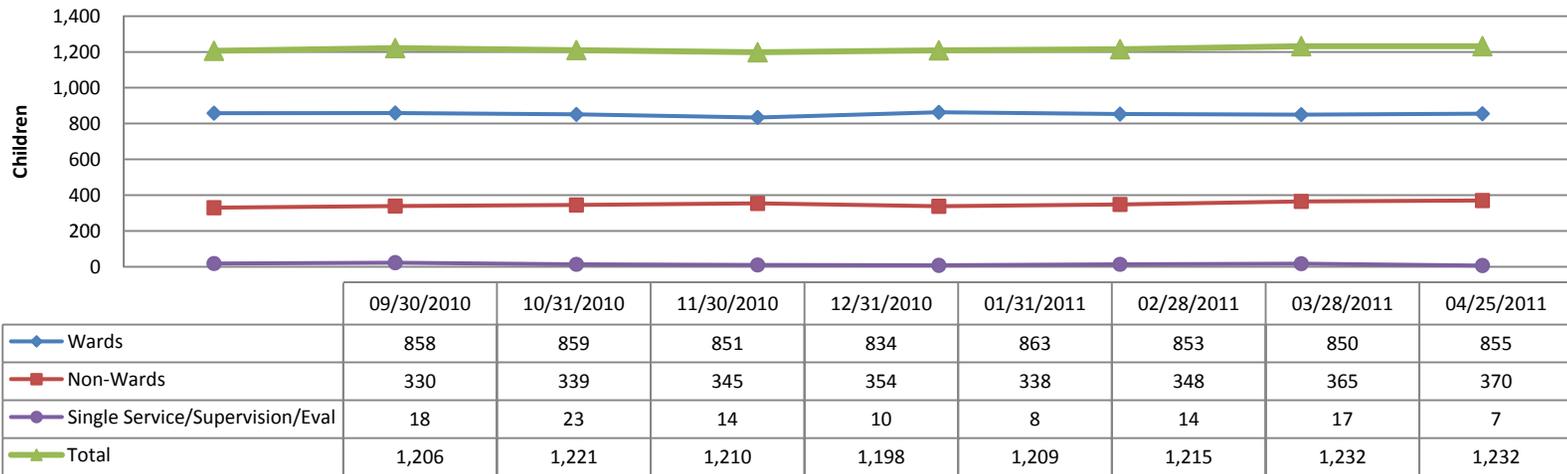


Children Served in the Eastern Service Area by KVC



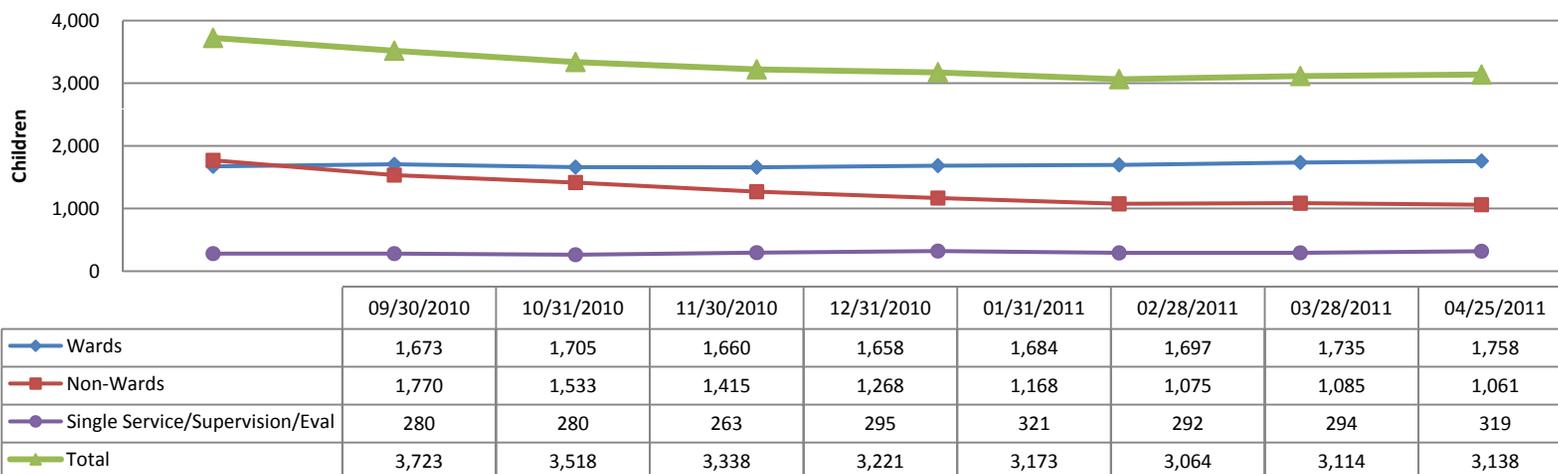
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Children Served in the Eastern Service Area by Nebraska Families Collaborative



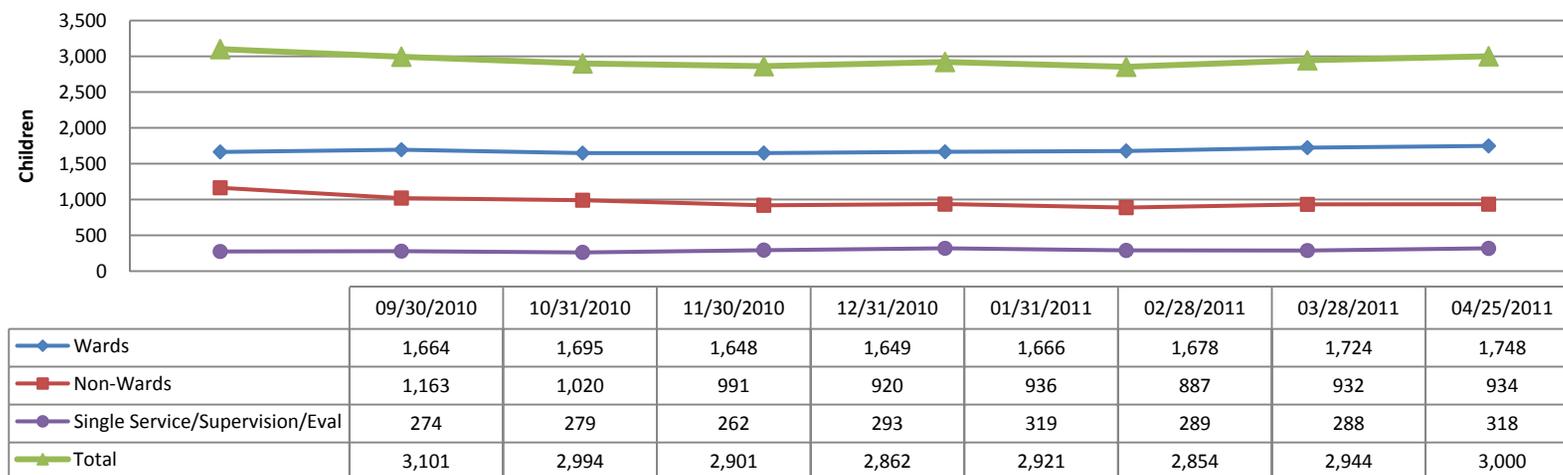
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Children Served in the Southeast Service Area



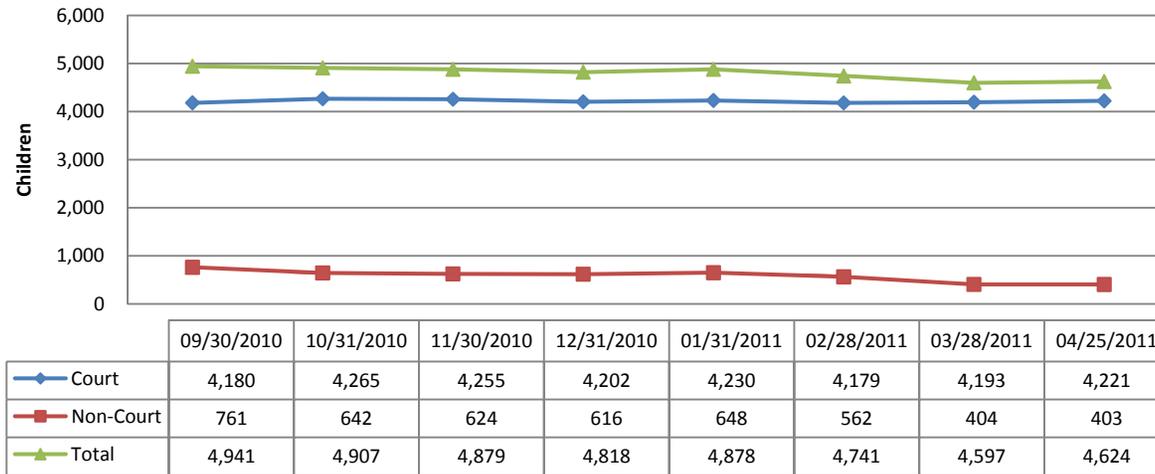
Children served in the Southeast Service Area are served by KVC. Because some children were not yet associated with KVC at the time the data was pulled, the number of children in the Southeast Service Area chart are higher than those displayed in the Southeast Service Area KVC chart.

Children Served in the Southeast Service Area by KVC



The number of children served in the Southeast Service Area decreased from September to December 2010, but increased from January to April 2011. KVC is the only contractor serving children in this area.

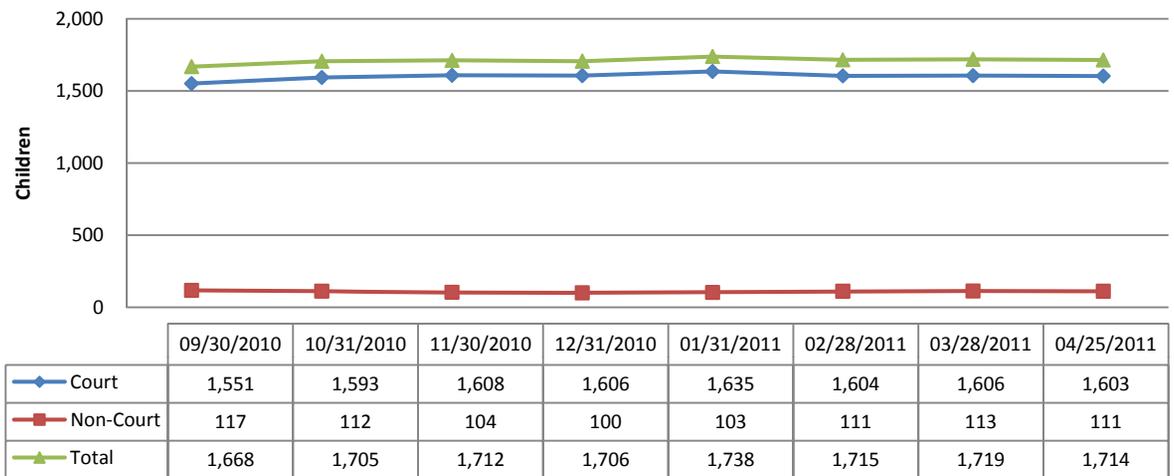
Families Served Statewide (Court and Non-Court)



Similar to the total number of children served statewide, the total number of families served statewide has decreased since September 2010, although the number has increased in the last month.

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Families Served in the Eastern Service Area (Court and Non-Court)

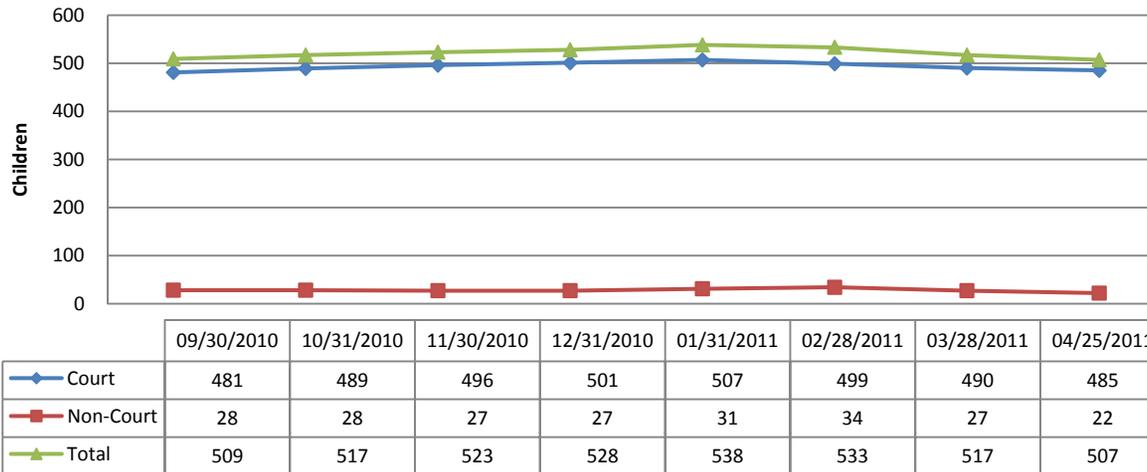


Children served in the Eastern Service Area are served by DHHS and two contractors – KVC and NFC. The following slides provide detail by agency.

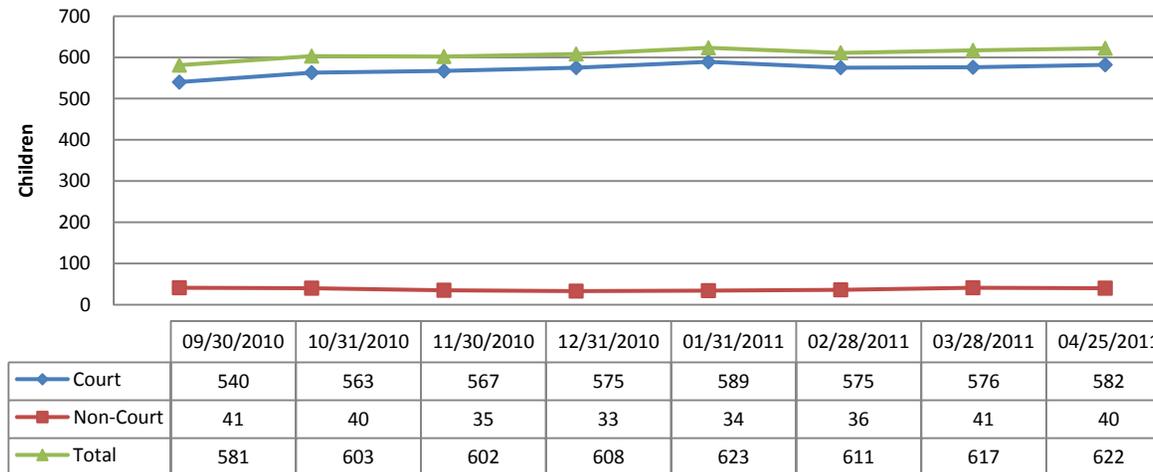
The number of families served in the Eastern Service Area has increased. KVC experienced the largest increase in families and Nebraska Families Collaborative experienced the smallest increase in families. KVC serves the most families in the area. See the following slides for details.

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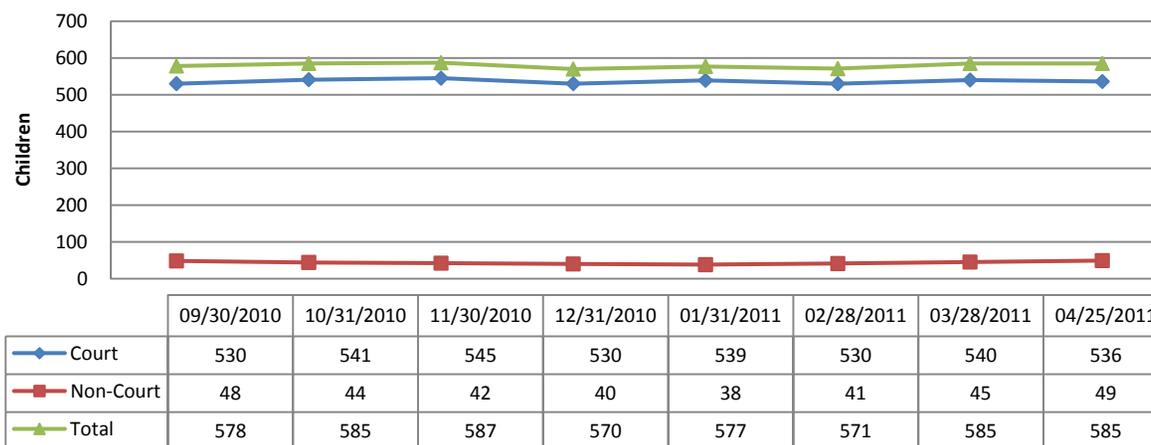
Families Served in the Eastern Service Area by DHHS (Court and Non-Court)



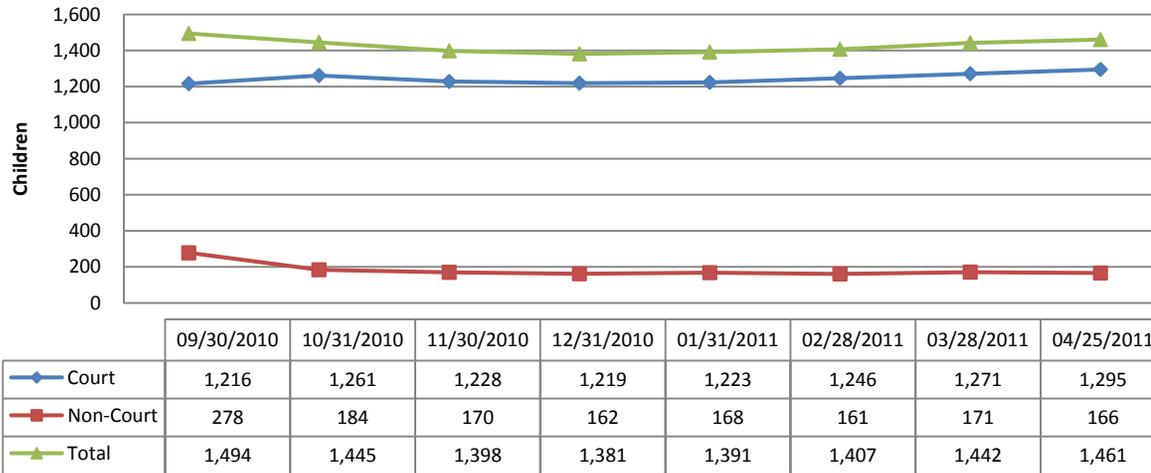
Families Served in the Eastern Service Area by KVC (Court and Non-Court)



**Families Served in the Eastern Service Area by Nebraska Families Collaborative
(Court and Non-Court)**



Families Served in the Southeast Service Area (Court and Non-Court)



Children served in the Southeast Service Area are served by KVC .

The number of families served in the Southeast Service Area has remained fairly consistent since September 2010. KVC is the only contractor serving families in this area.

Living Arrangement

- Nebraska has one of the nation's highest rates of children in out-of-home care. Children grow up best in their own homes; therefore, Nebraska is focusing on ways to keep children in their own homes whenever possible. The following data displays the total number youth being served by living arrangement. Historically, DHHS had about 70% of state wards in out-of-home care and 30% remaining in their homes with the goal to 'flip the pyramid.'
- After careful assessment with the Families Matter contractors, the Department determined the need to also include children who are not involved in the system as state wards, but that are involved in the system and receiving non-court involved services. Therefore, the data reflect the total number of children being served regardless of court involvement and by living arrangement. The goal is to continue to pursue serving more children in their own homes whenever it can be safely accomplished.
- The number of children entering and exiting the system will impact the percentages of children reported below. The goal is to keep children safely at home or to return them to home as soon as child safety is ensured.

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Living Arrangement

- To provide some context we thought it would be helpful to show historical data in addition to data from the last seven months. Please note that the average percent of children by placement for State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2009, SFY 2010, and SFY 2011 to date are for wards only; whereas the charts display data for all youth (wards and non-wards).

Time Period	In Home	Out of Home
State Fiscal Year* 2009	28.72%	71.28%
State Fiscal Year* 2010	23.99%	76.01%
State Fiscal Year* 2011	30.74%	69.26%

State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2009 is July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009; SFY 2010 is July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010; SFY 2011 is July 1, 2010 to the current date.

- While the table above shows an increase in in-home placements for wards over the last two years, the following charts show a decrease in in-home placements for all youth (wards and non-wards) over the last seven months.

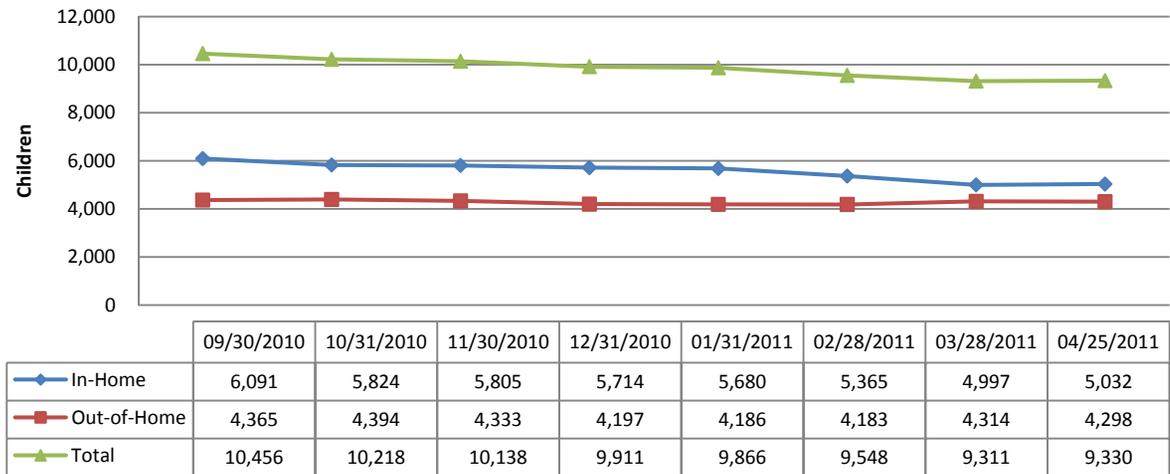
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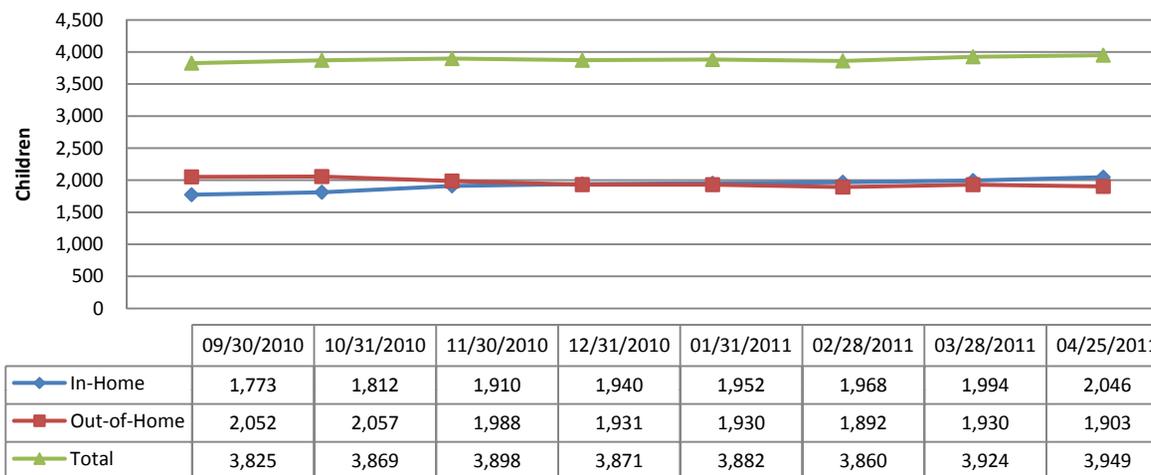
Living Arrangements for Wards and Non-Wards Statewide



The data shows a decrease in the in-home population and out-of-home population due to a decrease in the number of youth overall. This will continue to be monitored as the goal for the Department is to serve as many children as possible safely in their own homes.

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Living Arrangements for Wards and Non-Wards in the Eastern Service Area

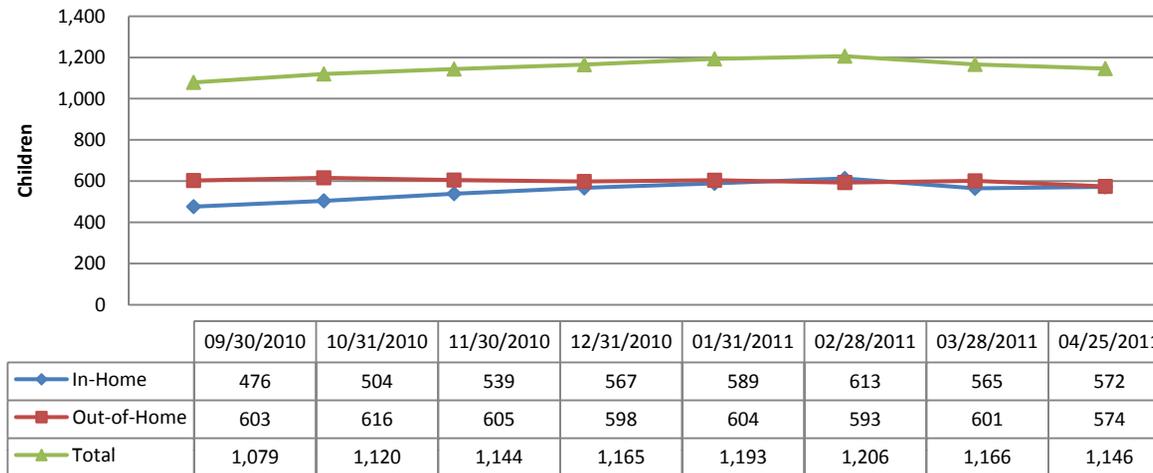


Children served in the Eastern Service Area are served by DHHS and two contractors – KVC and NFC. The following slides provide detail by agency. The values from the DHHS, KVC, and NFC charts do not sum to the number of children served in the Eastern Service Area because some children have not yet been associated with a contractor at the time the data was pulled.

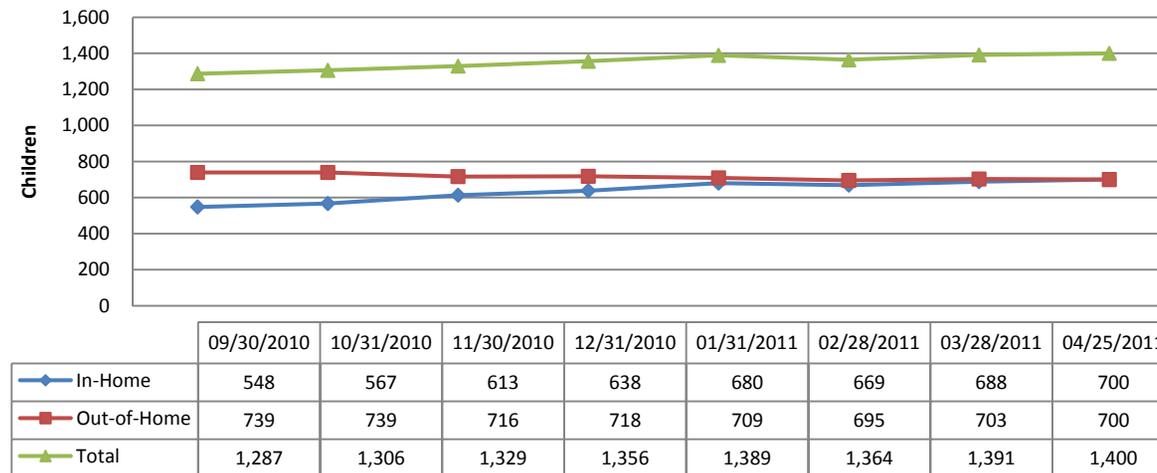
The number of all youth in out-of-home placements decreased and the number of all youth remaining in the home increased since September 2010. This trend exists in the cases assigned to both contractors. See the following slides for details.

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Living Arrangements for Wards and Non-Wards in the Eastern Service Area - DHHS

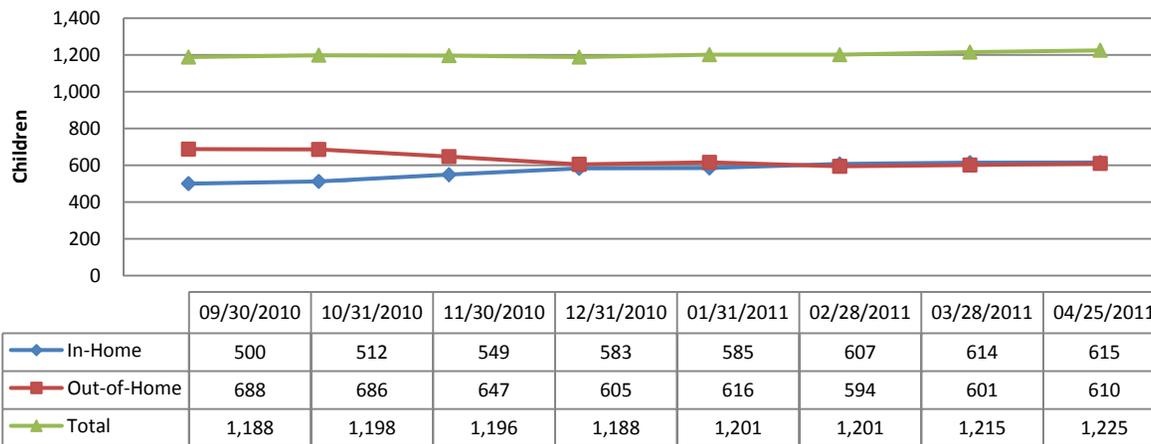


Living Arrangements for Wards and Non-Wards in the Eastern Service Area - KVC



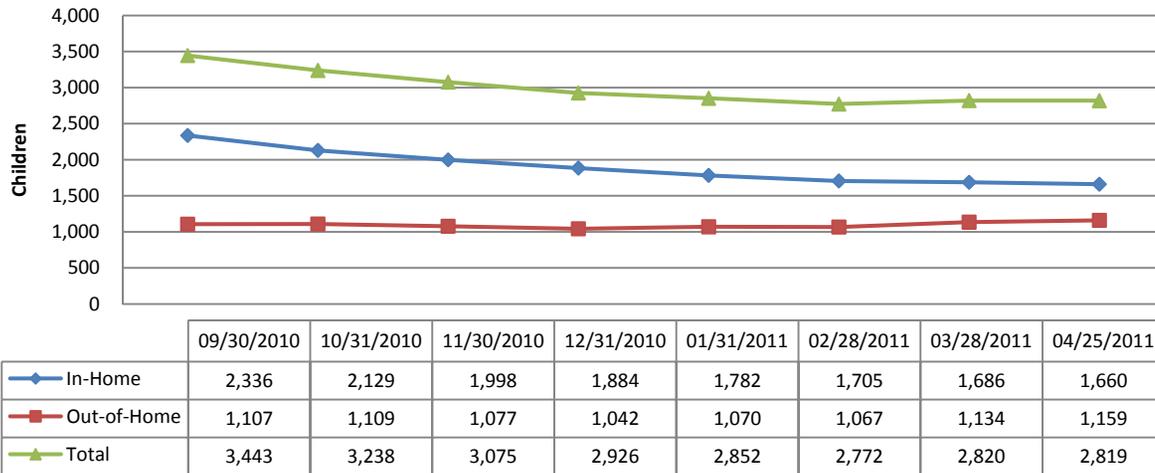
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**Living Arrangements for Wards and Non-Wards in the Eastern Service Area -
Nebraska Families Collaborative**



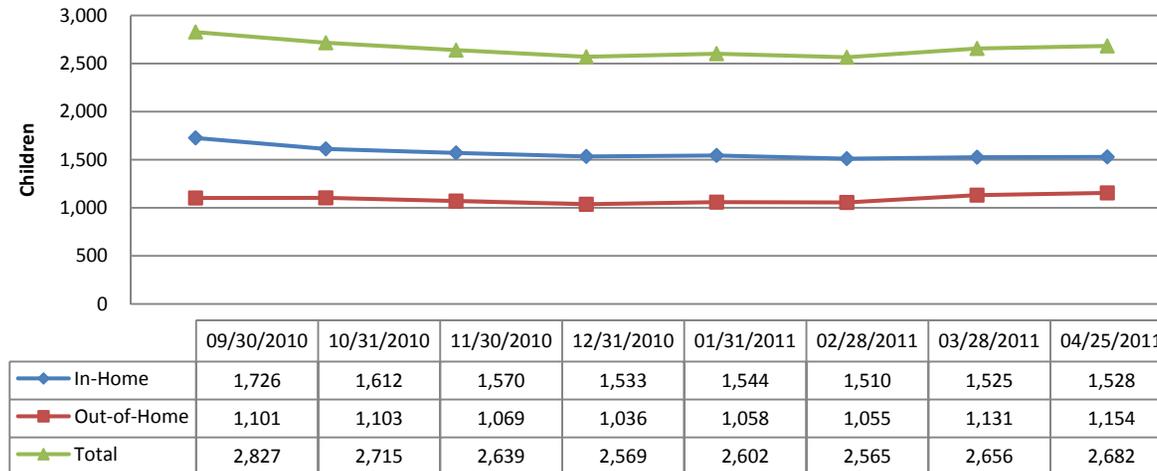
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Living Arrangements for Wards and Non-Wards in the Southeast Service Area



Children served in the Southeast Service Area are served by KVC . Because some children were not yet associated with KVC at the time the data was pulled, the number of children in the Southeast Service Area chart are higher than those displayed in the Southeast Service Area KVC chart.

Living Arrangements for Wards and Non-Wards in the Southeast Service Area - KVC



The Southeast Service Area experienced an increase in youth in out-of-home placements and a decrease in youth remaining in the home since September 2010.

Family-Like Placements

- There are some situations in which there is not a way to keep the child safe in their own home. In these cases the goal is to have a child reside in a family-like placement, such as with a relative, someone known to them, or in a licensed foster home. The last option is for a child to reside in a group home or congregate care setting. There are some youth that need to receive inpatient mental health or substance abuse treatment which is in a congregate care setting, but upon discharge the hope is that they could either return home or be placed in a family-like placement.
- The following slides display progress in keeping youth in family-like placements. Family-like placements are broken out into placements in which the child knows or is related to the caregiver (i.e., kinship) and placements in which the child does not know or is not related to the caregiver (i.e., non-kinship).

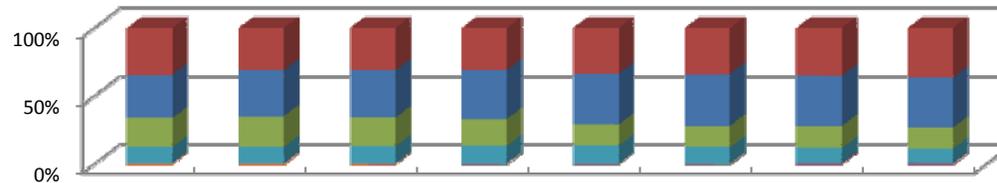
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Placements Statewide

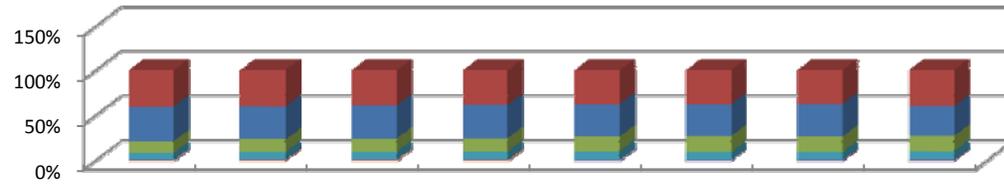


	09/30/2010	10/31/2010	11/30/2010	12/31/2010	01/31/2011	02/28/2011	03/28/2011	04/25/2011
■ Family Non-Kinship	34%	31%	31%	31%	33%	34%	35%	36%
■ Family Kinship	32%	34%	35%	36%	38%	38%	37%	37%
■ Congregate	21%	23%	21%	20%	15%	16%	16%	15%
■ Detention	12%	12%	13%	13%	13%	12%	11%	10%
■ Medical	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%
■ School	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Family-like placements comprise the majority of placements statewide, with slightly more of these placements being kinship placements. These patterns have remained fairly consistent from month to month. The majority of placements in the Eastern and Southeast Service Area are family-like placements as well, although more of these placements are non-kinship placements. These patterns have remained fairly consistent from month to month.

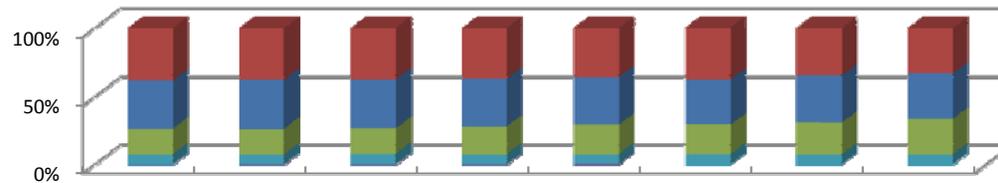
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Placements in the Eastern Service Area



	09/30/2010	10/31/2010	11/30/2010	12/31/2010	01/31/2011	02/28/2011	03/28/2011	04/25/2011
Family Non-Kinship	40%	40%	39%	38%	37%	37%	37%	39%
Family Kinship	39%	37%	37%	37%	36%	35%	36%	33%
Congregate	13%	14%	15%	15%	17%	18%	17%	17%
Detention	8%	8%	9%	9%	10%	9%	9%	10%
Medical	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
School	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

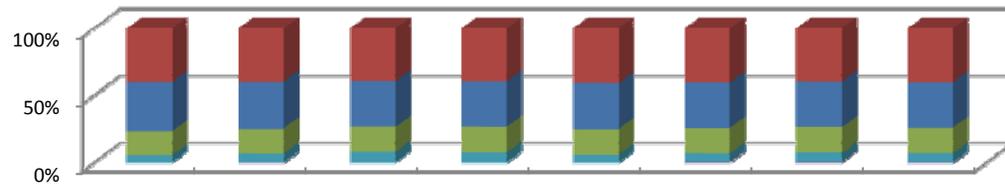
Placements in the Eastern Service Area - DHHS



	09/30/2010	10/31/2010	11/30/2010	12/31/2010	01/31/2011	02/28/2011	03/28/2011	04/25/2011
Family Non-Kinship	38%	38%	37%	37%	35%	37%	34%	33%
Family Kinship	35%	36%	36%	35%	35%	33%	35%	34%
Congregate	19%	19%	19%	20%	22%	22%	23%	26%
Detention	8%	7%	8%	7%	7%	8%	8%	8%
Medical	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
School	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

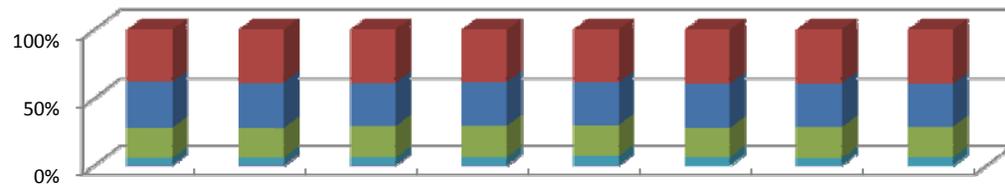
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Placements in the Eastern Service Area - KVC



	09/30/2010	10/31/2010	11/30/2010	12/31/2010	01/31/2011	02/28/2011	03/28/2011	04/25/2011
Family Non-Kinship	40%	40%	39%	40%	41%	40%	40%	40%
Family Kinship	37%	35%	34%	34%	34%	34%	34%	34%
Congregate	18%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%
Detention	6%	6%	8%	7%	6%	6%	7%	7%
Medical	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
School	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

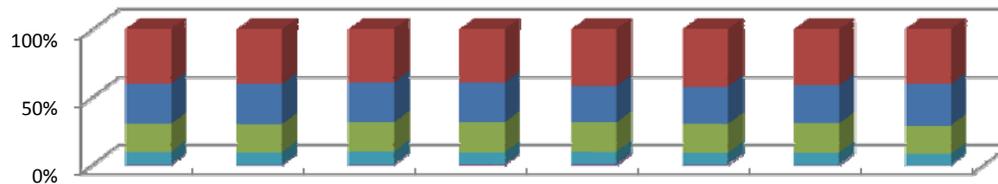
Placements in the Eastern Service Area - Nebraska Families Collaborative



	09/30/2010	10/31/2010	11/30/2010	12/31/2010	01/31/2011	02/28/2011	03/28/2011	04/25/2011
Family Non-Kinship	38%	39%	38%	38%	38%	39%	39%	39%
Family Kinship	34%	34%	32%	32%	32%	33%	32%	32%
Congregate	23%	22%	24%	24%	23%	22%	23%	23%
Detention	5%	5%	5%	6%	7%	6%	5%	6%
Medical	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
School	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

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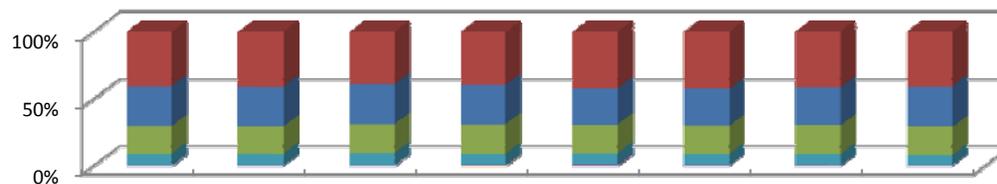
Placements in the Southeast Service Area



	09/30/2010	10/31/2010	11/30/2010	12/31/2010	01/31/2011	02/28/2011	03/28/2011	04/25/2011
Family Non-Kinship	40%	40%	39%	39%	42%	42%	41%	40%
Family Kinship	30%	30%	29%	29%	27%	28%	28%	30%
Congregate	21%	21%	22%	22%	22%	21%	22%	21%
Detention	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	8%	9%	8%
Medical	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%
School	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Children served in the Southeast Service Area are served by KVC .

Placements in the Southeast Service Area - KVC



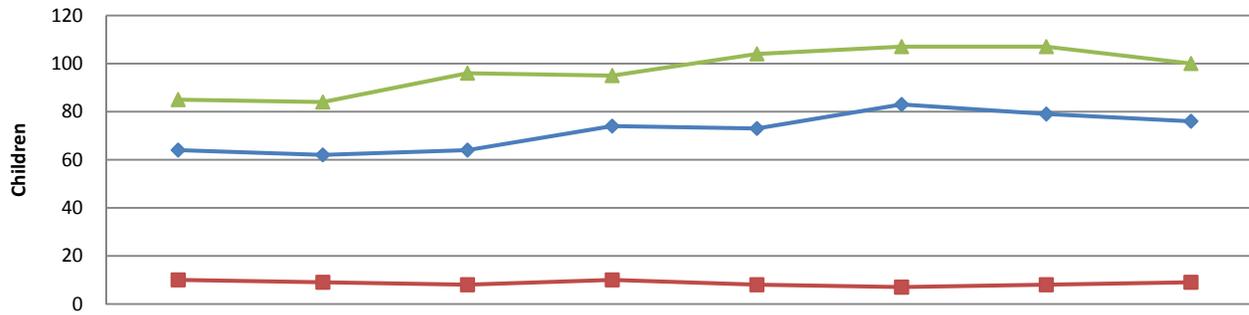
	09/30/2010	10/31/2010	11/30/2010	12/31/2010	01/31/2011	02/28/2011	03/28/2011	04/25/2011
Family Non-Kinship	40%	41%	39%	40%	42%	43%	41%	40%
Family Kinship	30%	30%	30%	29%	27%	27%	28%	30%
Congregate	21%	20%	22%	22%	22%	21%	21%	21%
Detention	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	8%	9%	8%
Medical	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
School	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

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Out-of-State Placements

- Children reside out of state when no placement that can meet the child's needs can be located or is available in Nebraska. These numbers are monitored closely.
- Children residing with non-custodial parents, relatives, or in a foster home out of state are not included in these numbers. The report only includes youth in out-of-state congregate care settings.

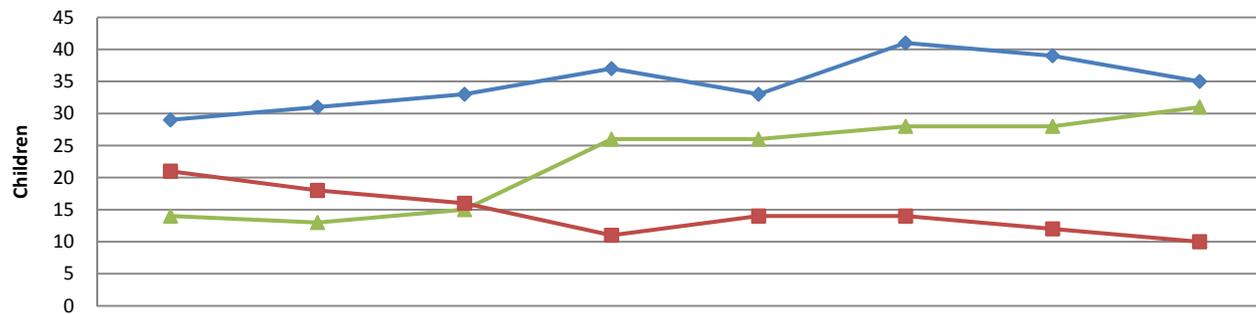
Out of State Placements by Service Area



	09/30/2010	10/31/2010	11/30/2010	12/31/2010	01/31/2011	02/28/2011	03/28/2011	04/25/2011
Statewide	85	84	96	95	104	107	107	100
Eastern Service Area	64	62	64	74	73	83	79	76
Southeast Service Area	10	9	8	10	8	7	8	9

Children in the Eastern Service Area are served by DHHS and two contractors – KVC and NFC. The chart below displays detail by agency. Children in the Southeast Service Area are served by KVC.

Eastern Service Area Out of State Placements by Agency



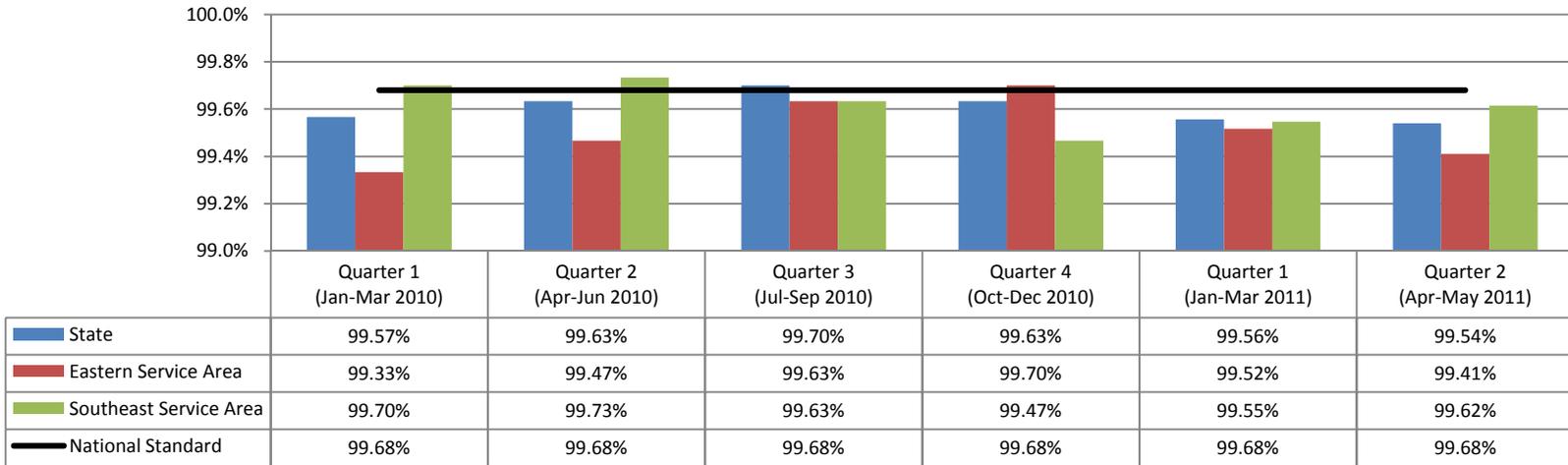
	09/30/2010	10/31/2010	11/30/2010	12/31/2010	01/31/2011	02/28/2011	03/28/2011	04/25/2011
DHHS	14	13	15	26	26	28	28	31
KVC	29	31	33	37	33	41	39	35
NFC	21	18	16	11	14	14	12	10

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Safe in Foster Care

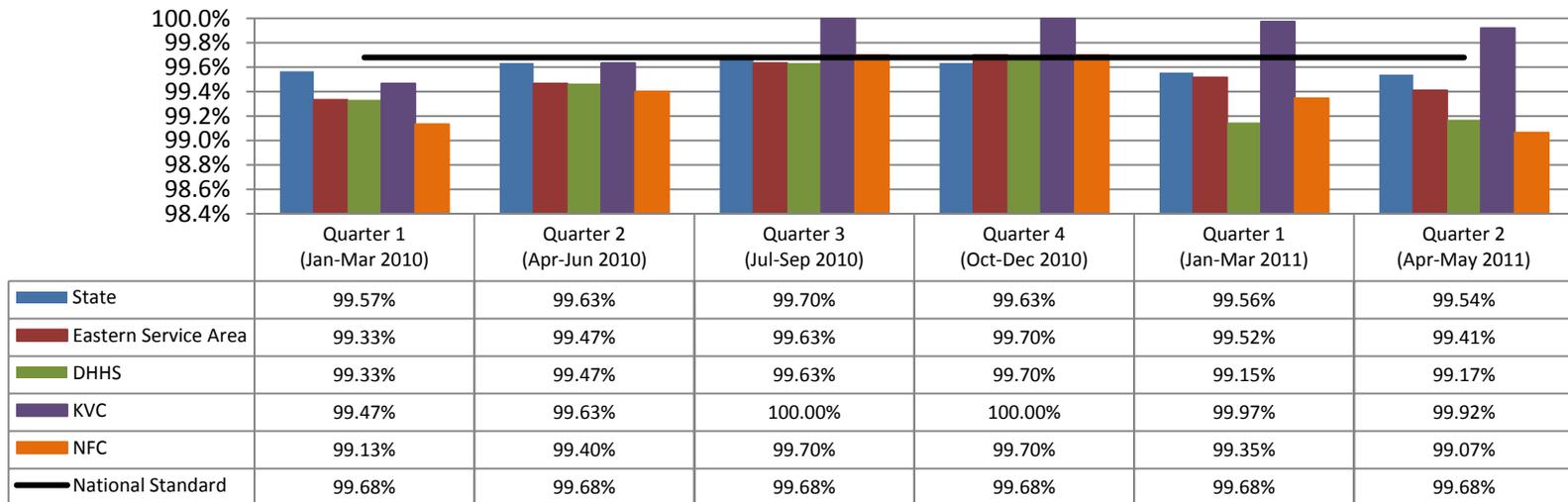
- Child safety, while in foster care, is a paramount concern to DHHS. DHHS uses the federal measure of Absence of Maltreatment in Foster Care to monitor this issue. DHHS reports on the number of youth in foster care who were not the victims of abuse or neglect by their foster parents or other substitute caregivers. The Federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has prescribed and has placed the National Standard at 99.68%. A high percentage for this measure is positive.
- The safety of children in foster care has decreased statewide in the last two quarters, as displayed in the chart on the following slide. The Eastern Service Area experienced a decrease in the safety of children in foster care and the Southeast Service Area experienced an increase in the safety of children in foster care.

Absence of Maltreatment in Foster Care

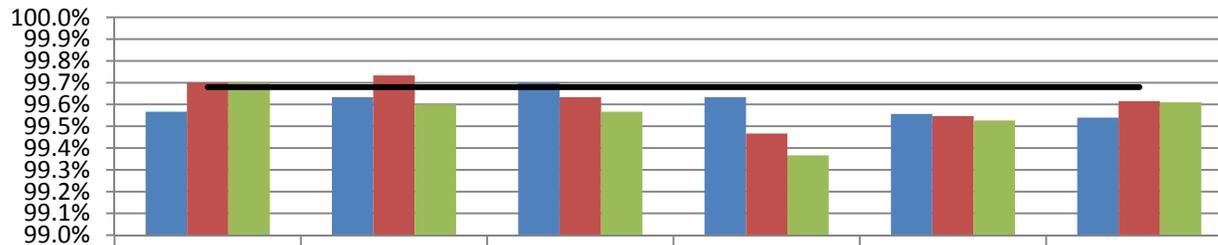


Children in the Eastern Service Area are served by DHHS and two contractors – KVC and NFC. The chart below displays detail by agency. Children in the Southeast Service Area are served by KVC.

Absence of Maltreatment in Foster Care Eastern Service Area



Absence of Maltreatment in Foster Care Southeast Service Area



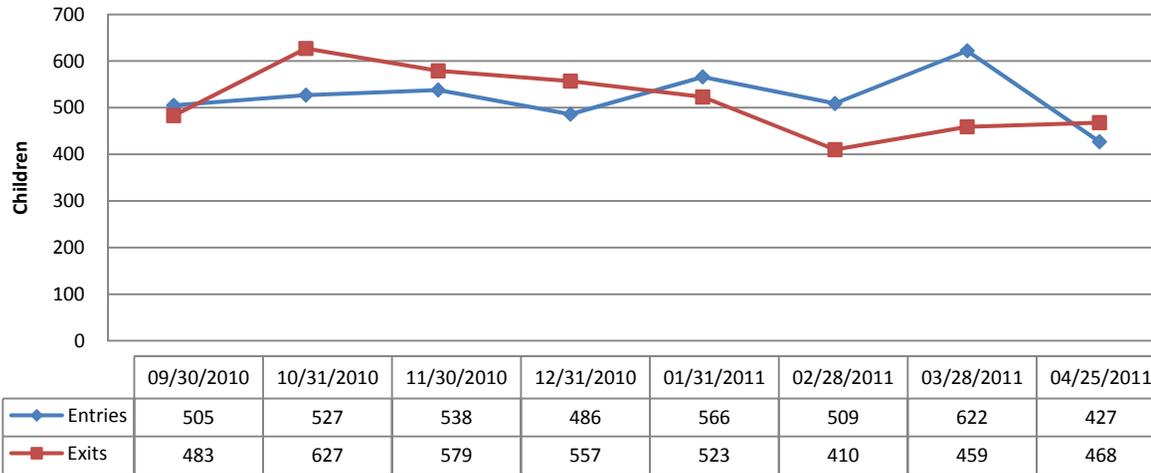
	Quarter 1 (Jan-Mar 2010)	Quarter 2 (Apr-Jun 2010)	Quarter 3 (Jul-Sep 2010)	Quarter 4 (Oct-Dec 2010)	Quarter 1 (Jan-Mar 2011)	Quarter 2 (Apr-May 2011)
State	99.57%	99.63%	99.70%	99.63%	99.56%	99.54%
Southeast Service Area	99.70%	99.73%	99.63%	99.47%	99.55%	99.62%
KVC	99.70%	99.60%	99.57%	99.37%	99.53%	99.61%
National Standard	99.68%	99.68%	99.68%	99.68%	99.68%	99.68%

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Entries & Exits

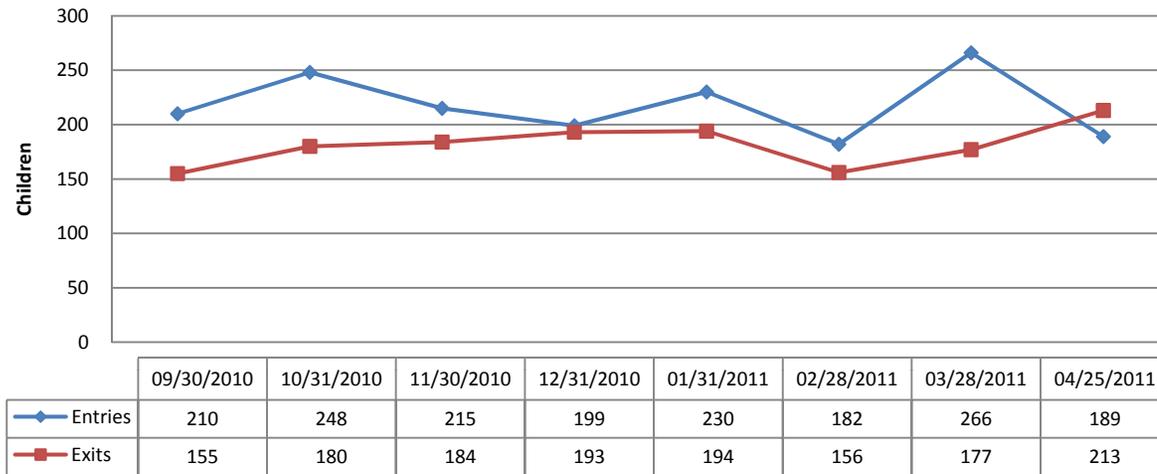
- Entries and exits of children within the system is monitored. The goal is to provide the right service at the right time for the right length of time in order to minimize disruption to the family and achieve family and community safety. We know that Nebraska has one of the highest rates of children involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice system and is also one of the states with the highest rate of children in out-of-home care. A goal of Families Matter is specifically geared to evaluate entry and exit into the DHHS system of care.
- There are two primary entry points into the system: 1) DHHS determines that one or more children in a family are unsafe and offers non-court involved services; 2) A court of competent jurisdiction determines that a family involved with child abuse or neglect or juvenile delinquency needs court and DHHS involvement.

Entries & Exits Statewide (Wards and Non-Wards)



The total number of children entering and exiting care decreased from September 2010 through April 2011.

Entries & Exits in the Eastern Service Area (Wards and Non-Wards)

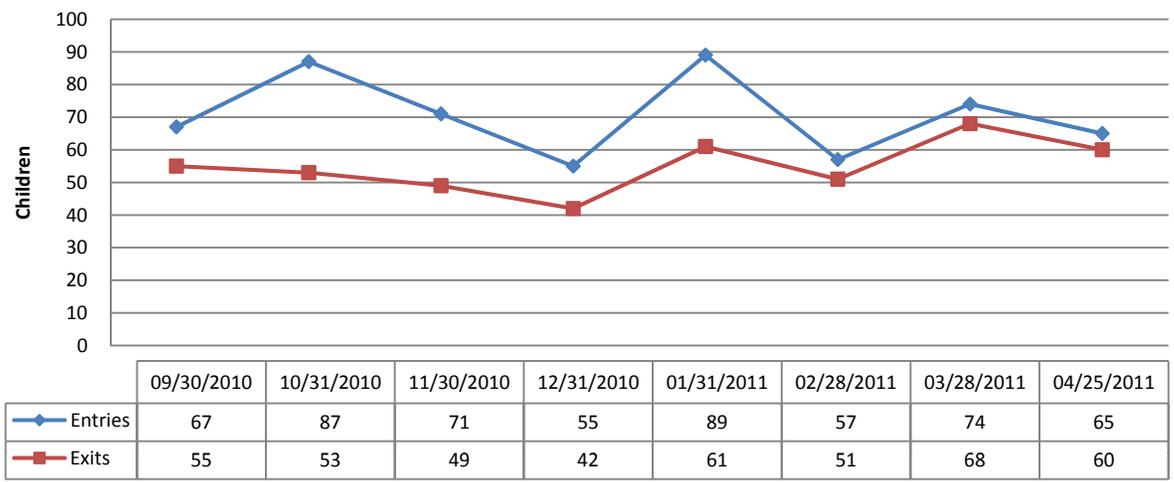


Children served in the Eastern Service Area are served by DHHS and two contractors – KVC and NFC.

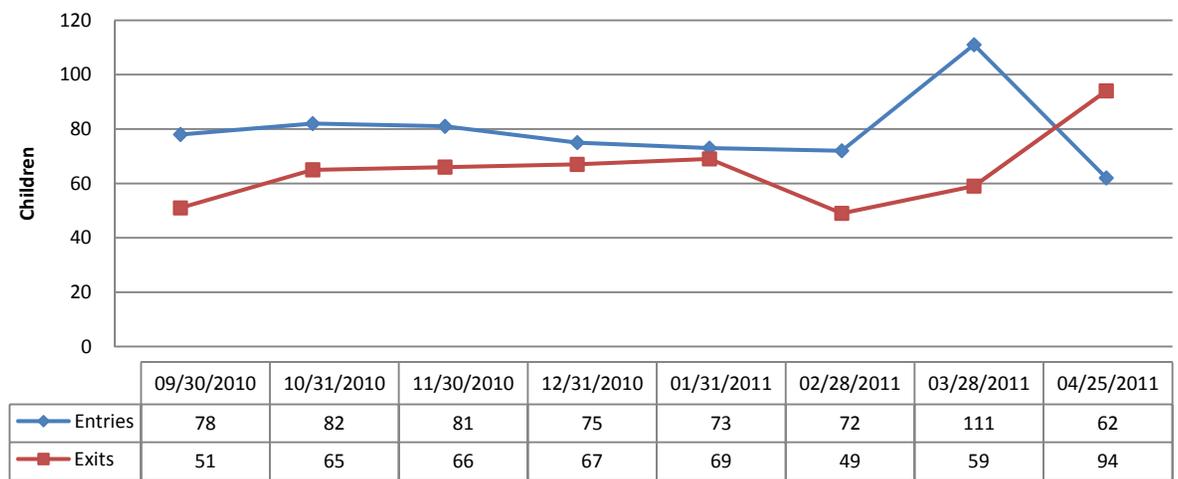
The total number of children entering care in the Eastern Service Area has decreased since September 2010, although the number peaked in October 2010 and January and March 2011. The number of exits increased over the same time period, peaking in December 2011 and January and April 2011.

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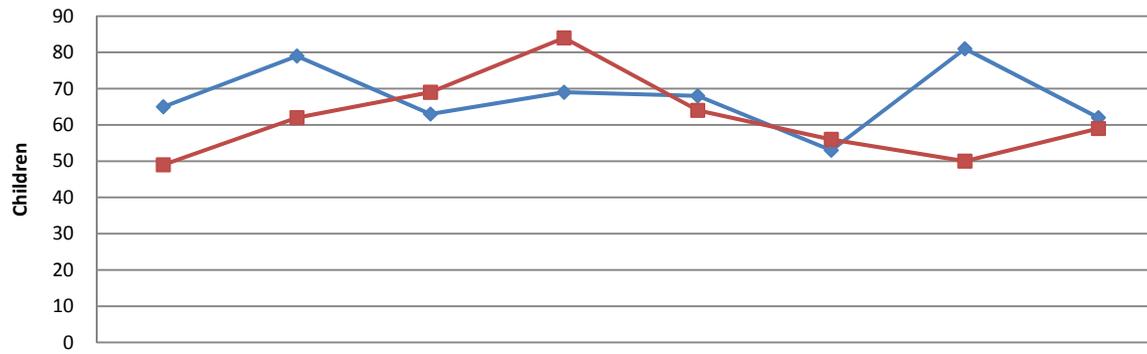
Entries & Exits in the Eastern Service Area by DHHS (Wards and Non-Wards)



Entries & Exits in the Eastern Service Area by KVC (Wards and Non-Wards)

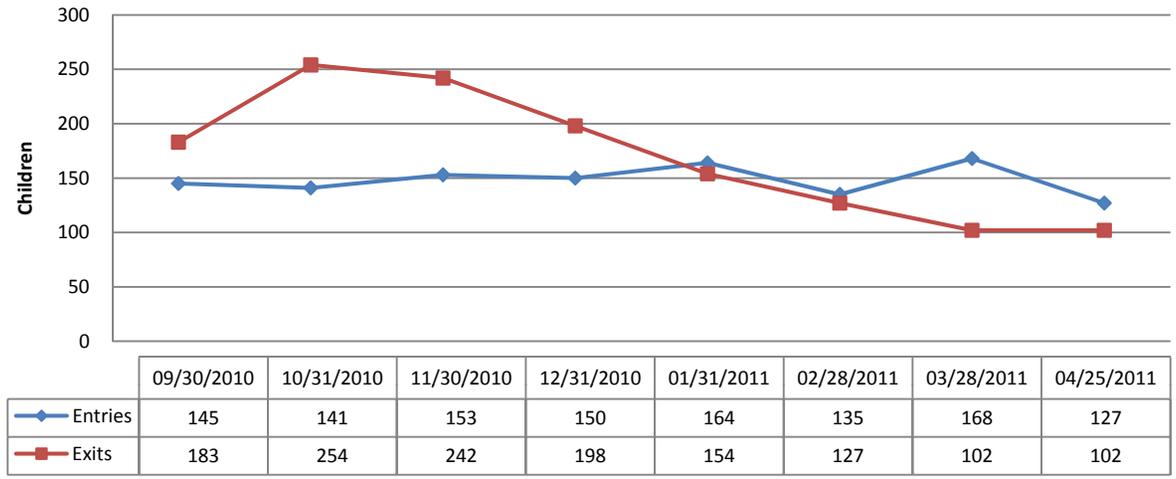


Entries & Exits in the Eastern Service Area by NFC (Wards and Non-Wards)



	09/30/2010	10/31/2010	11/30/2010	12/31/2010	01/31/2011	02/28/2011	03/28/2011	04/25/2011
—◆— Entries	65	79	63	69	68	53	81	62
—■— Exits	49	62	69	84	64	56	50	59

Entries & Exits in the Southeast Service Area (Wards and Non-Wards)



Children served in the Southeast Service Area are served by KVC .

The total number of children entering care in the Southeast Service Area has decreased since September 2010. The number of exits decreased as well after peaking in October and November 2010

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Foster Care Reentry

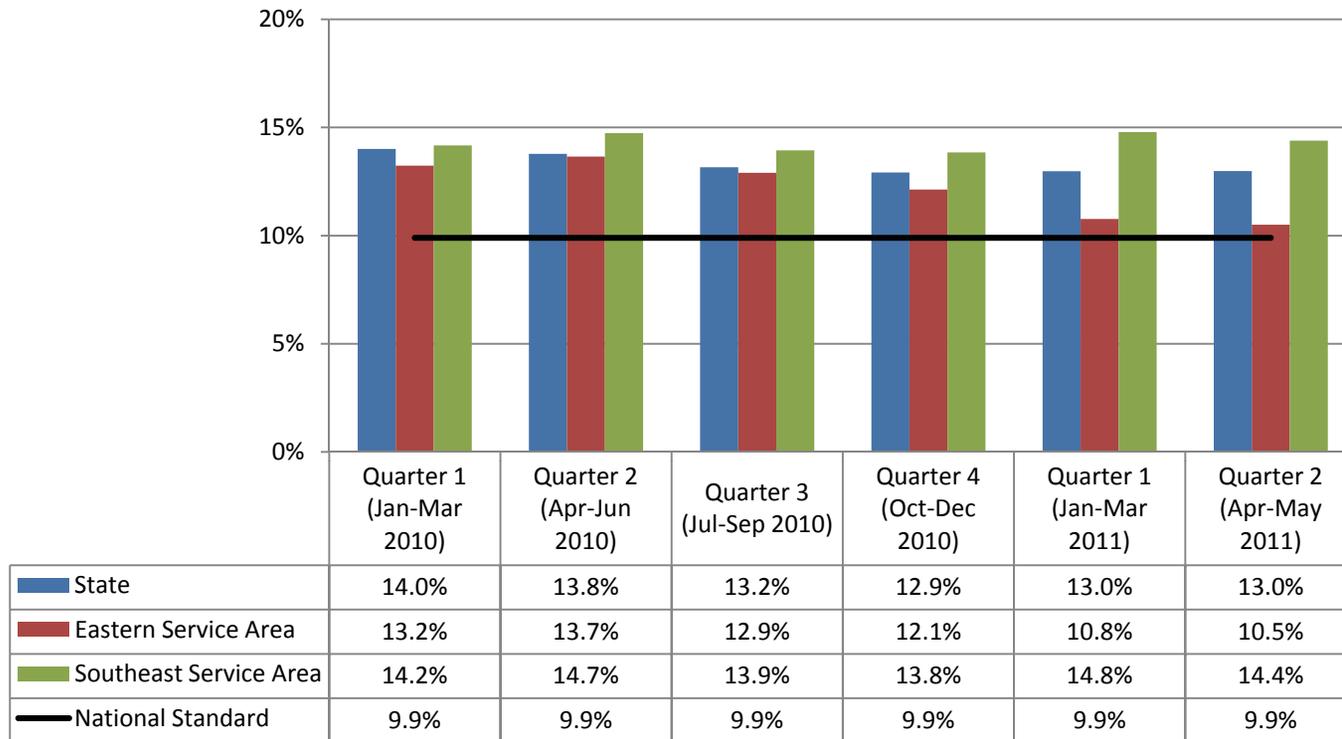
- The Federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has established a federal measure of youth in out of home care who were discharged to reunification 12 to 24 months ago and who reentered care within 12 months of discharge. For example, the Quarter 2 (April – May 2011) data includes youth who exited out of home care between June 1, 2009 and May 31, 2010. The measure includes youth who discharged to reunification up to 24 months ago to allow for the full 12 months post discharge to expire.
- There are three possible outcomes for youth exiting out of home care:
 - The youth do not reenter out of home care;
 - The youth reenter out of home care within 12 months;
 - The youth reenter out of home care after 12 months.
- The Eastern and Southeast Service Areas numbers include more youth in the first category than the contractors, resulting in a lower percent of reentry. This is because service area numbers include youth who exited care prior to November 2009, when implementation of the contracts had just began. The contracts were not fully implemented until April 2010. Thus, contractor numbers will not approach the same levels as the service area numbers until April 2012, at which time a full 24 months since implementation will have expired.

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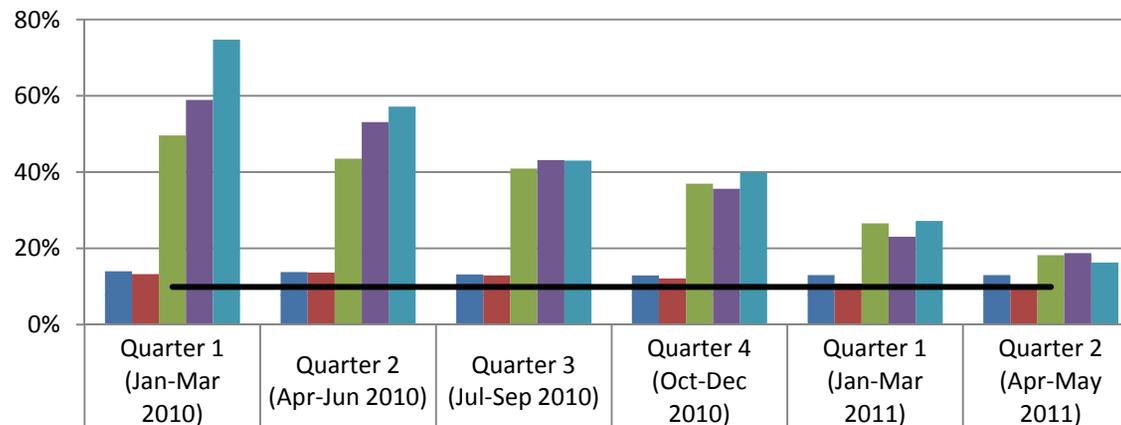
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Federal Reentry Measure



The percent of youth reentering care has decreased statewide. The Eastern Service Area experienced a steady decrease in reentry. Reentry in the Southeast Service Area has fluctuated from quarter to quarter and has increased slightly.

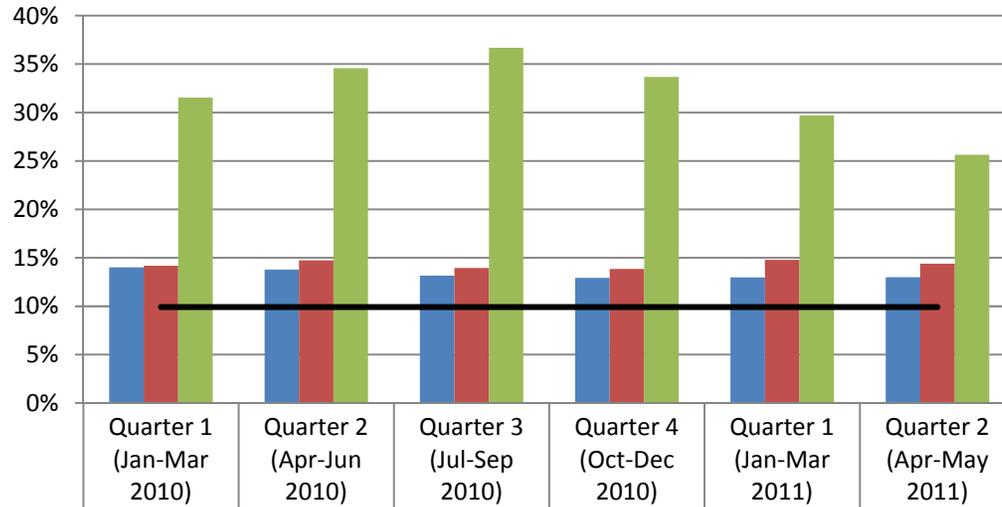
Federal Reentry Measure Eastern Service Area



State	14.0%	13.8%	13.2%	12.9%	13.0%	13.0%
Eastern Service Area	13.2%	13.7%	12.9%	12.1%	10.8%	10.5%
DHHS	49.6%	43.5%	40.9%	36.9%	26.6%	18.2%
KVC	58.9%	53.1%	43.2%	35.6%	23.1%	18.8%
NFC	74.7%	57.2%	43.0%	39.9%	27.2%	16.3%
National Standard	9.9%	9.9%	9.9%	9.9%	9.9%	9.9%

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Federal Reentry Measure Southeast Service Area



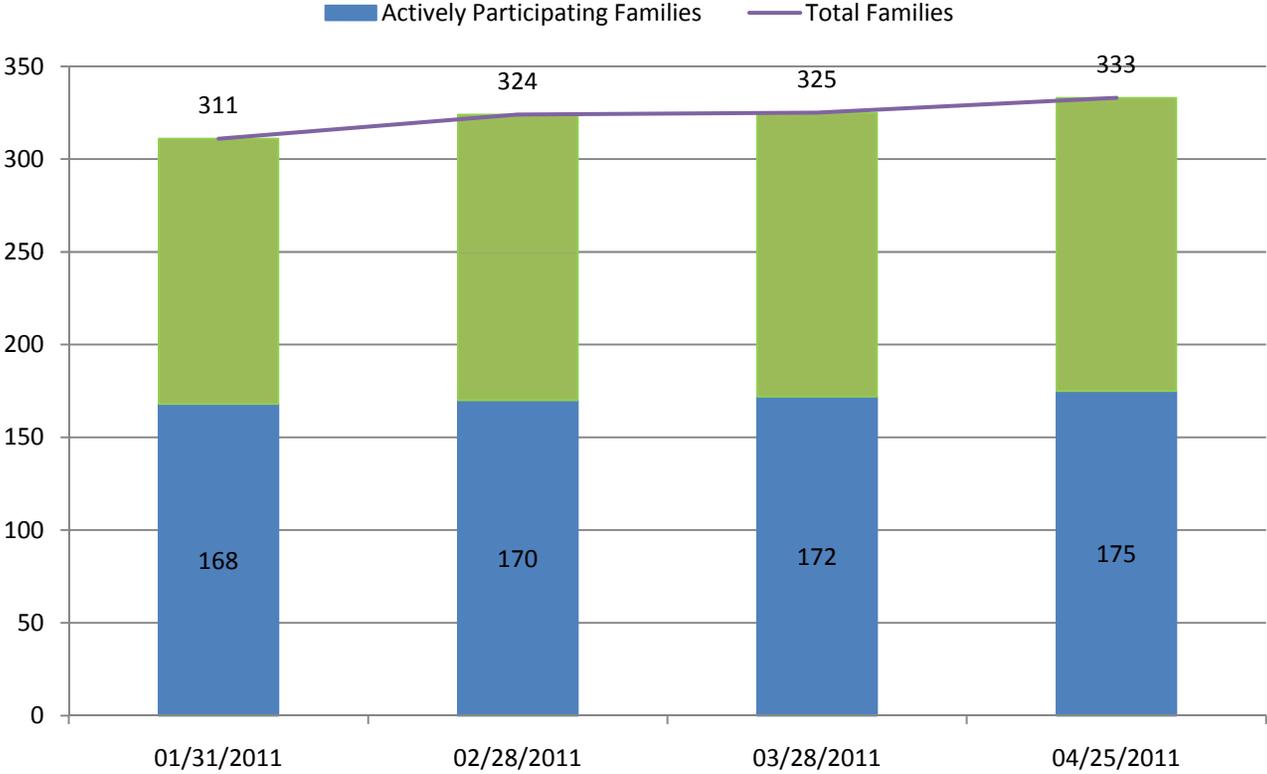
	Quarter 1 (Jan-Mar 2010)	Quarter 2 (Apr-Jun 2010)	Quarter 3 (Jul-Sep 2010)	Quarter 4 (Oct-Dec 2010)	Quarter 1 (Jan-Mar 2011)	Quarter 2 (Apr-May 2011)
State	14.0%	13.8%	13.2%	12.9%	13.0%	13.0%
Southeast Service Area	14.2%	14.7%	13.9%	13.8%	14.8%	14.4%
KVC	31.5%	34.6%	36.7%	33.7%	29.7%	25.6%
National Standard	9.9%	9.9%	9.9%	9.9%	9.9%	9.9%

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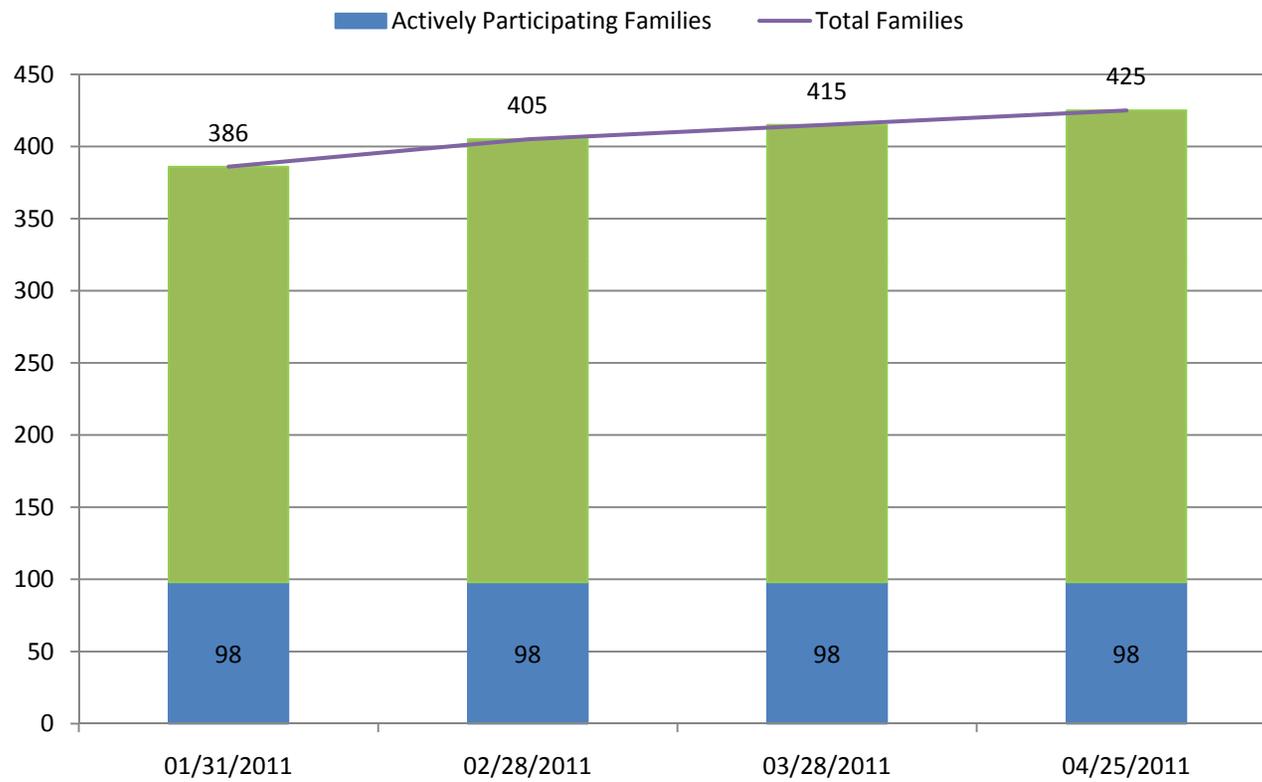
After Care

- After care services are provided and available to children and families once a determination is made that the children can remain safely in their own homes and communities after court systems and DHHS involvement ends. One of the goals of Families Matter is to ensure that children are cared for safely by their families whenever possible. After care is available to enable families to access immediate support and guidance when and if situations arise for which they need assistance to prevent reentry into the system and to reassure the family that they are on the right track.
- After care is not a service that has been available to families historically. Families Matter contractors and DHHS are now gathering baseline data to track the number of children and families eligible for and receiving aftercare. The data on aftercare services provided for the families served by DHHS in the Eastern Service Area is under construction.
- Families are defined as actively participating when they take advantage of and utilize the resources available to them that will support them in being successful.

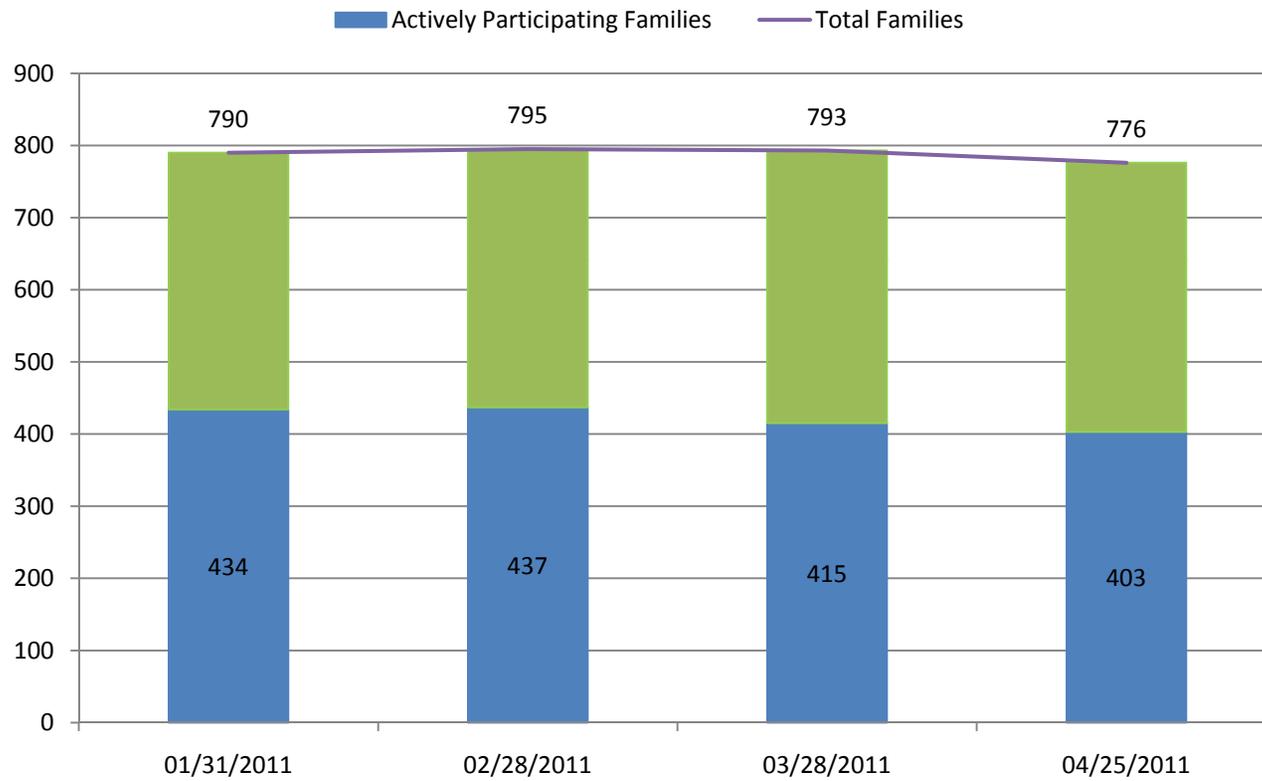
Eastern Service Area - KVC After Care



Eastern Service Area - Nebraska Families Collaborative After Care



Southeast Service Area - KVC After Care



Definitions

- Children Served: The total number of children under state care (e.g., ward and non-ward and youth receiving a single service, evaluation only, or under court supervision).
- Families Served: The total number of families receiving services (e.g., court and non-court). This number excludes families who are receiving safety assessment or evaluation services only.
- Living Arrangements: The type of living arrangement in which children reside while under state care (e.g., in-home, out-of-home).
- Out-of-State: The total number of children whose living arrangement is outside of the state for various reasons (e.g., to receive a specific treatment, to reside closer to home or school, etc.). Only children residing in non-family-like placements are reported.
- Safe in Foster Care: The percent of children who do not experience any maltreatment while in care.
- Foster Care Reentry: The percent of children who were in foster care and who reentered care within 12 months of being discharged and reunified with their families.
- Entries & Exits: The total number of children who enter and exit state care.
- After Care: A range of services provided by contractors to children and families who exit state care.