



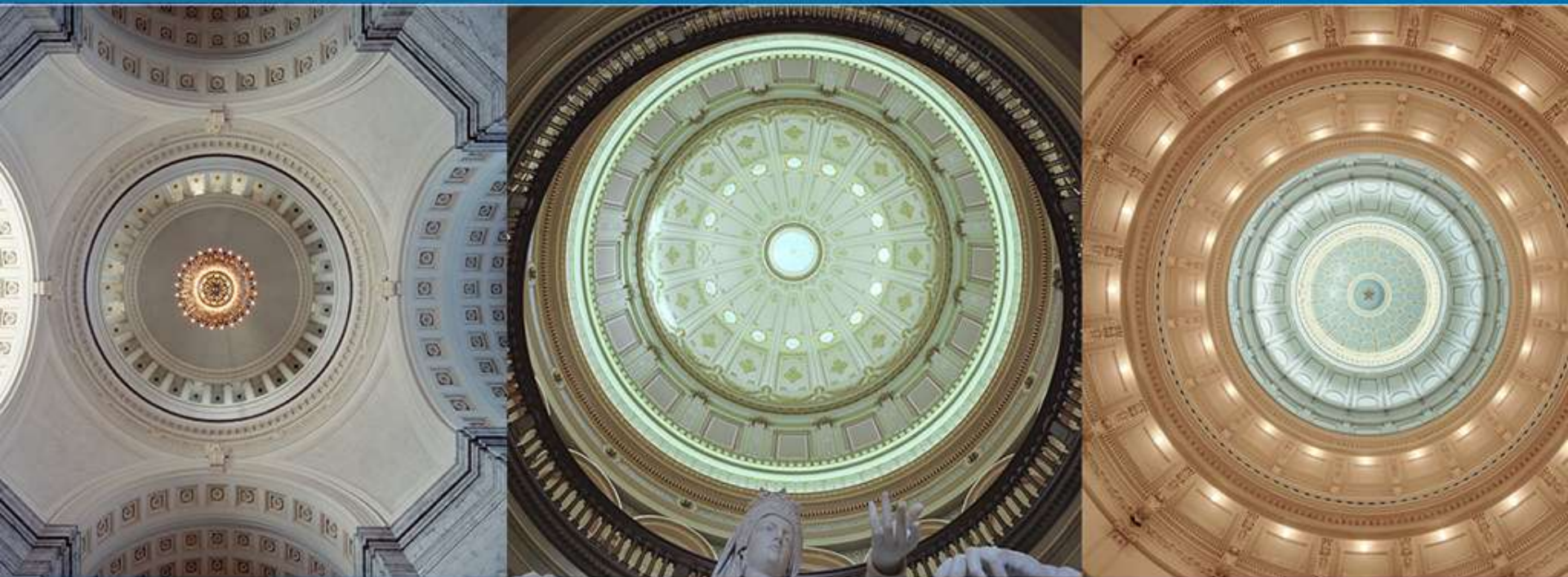
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# Guidance on New Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration Projects

May 22, 2012



Dial: 888-437-3195 for webinar audio



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# Presenter



## **Bryan Samuels**

**Commissioner, Administration on  
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Administration for Children and Families  
U.S. Department of Health and Human  
Services**

# Opportunity to Reframe Child Welfare through Waiver Demonstration Projects & Upcoming Funding Opportunities

*Bryan Samuels, Commissioner*

*Administration on Children, Youth and Families*

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families



# Expectations from Congress for Child Welfare Waivers

- “The legislation renews [child welfare waiver authority], which is designed to improve State effectiveness in protecting children and assisting families as well as point the way to potential broader national reforms to benefit children and families in the coming years.”
  - H. Rept 112-210 to accompany H.R. 2883, Sept. 19, 2011.
- “[Child welfare] waivers present states with the opportunity to innovate, and they do so while laying a strong foundation for comprehensive reform of the child welfare system.”
  - Sen. Baucus, Statement at Finance Committee Markup of Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act, Sept. 20, 2011
- “My hope is that giving states flexibility in administering their title IV-E funding will not merely serve as experiments, but rather will become the blueprints of overall reform.”
  - Senator Hatch, Statement at Finance Committee Markup of Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act, Sept. 20, 2011

# Purpose of Waiver Demonstration Projects

Applicants must demonstrate that the proposed project is designed to accomplish one or more of the following goals:

- **Increase permanency** for all infants, children, and youth by reducing the time in foster placements when possible and promoting a successful transition to adulthood for older youth.
- Increase positive outcomes for infants, children, youth, and **families in their homes** and communities, including tribal communities, and improve the safety and well-being of infants, children, and youth.
- **Prevent** child abuse and neglect and the **re-entry** of infants, children, and youth into foster care.

# Risk & Opportunity: Two Approaches



## Comparison County Design

- If Federal reimbursements of title IV-E costs grow by X% in the comparison counties, then costs could grow by X% in the demonstration counties with authority to spend title IV-E flexibly and receive Federal reimbursement
- Growth over X% in the demonstration counties would not be reimbursed



## Statewide Capped Allocation

- All title IV-E Foster Care costs, with the exception of SACWIS costs, are included in the capped allocation.
- The base amount is based on the Federal payments made to the State in a given fiscal year.
- Statewide growth over 3% would not be reimbursed.

# Opportunity to Change Expectations

A focus on well-being promotes the development of a child welfare workforce marked by:

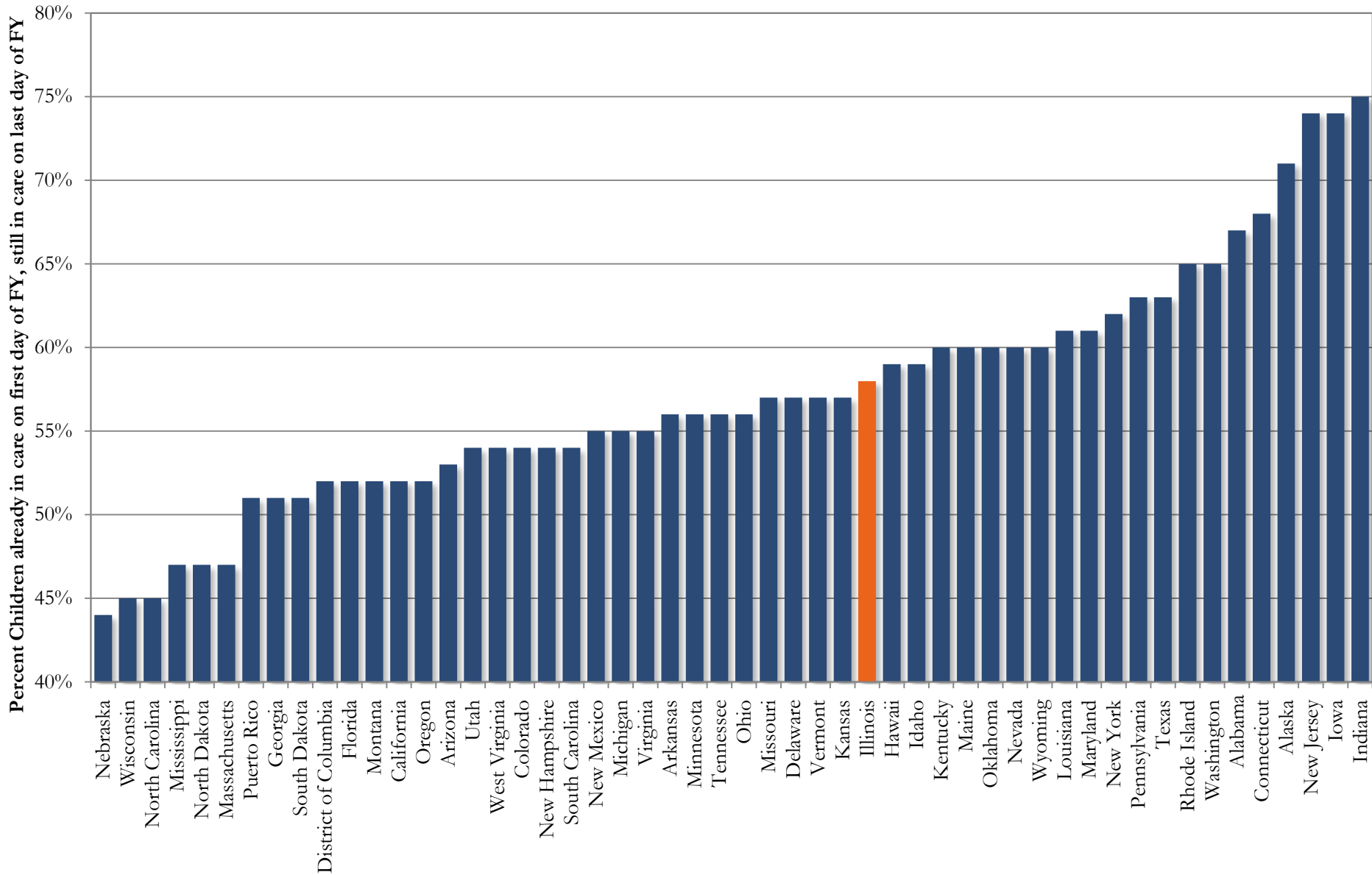
- Focus on child & family level outcomes
- Progress monitor/screen for improved child/youth functioning
- Proactive approach to social and emotional needs
- Developmentally specific approach
- Promotion of healthy relationships



## IMPLICATIONS FOR CASE-LEVEL WORK WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH

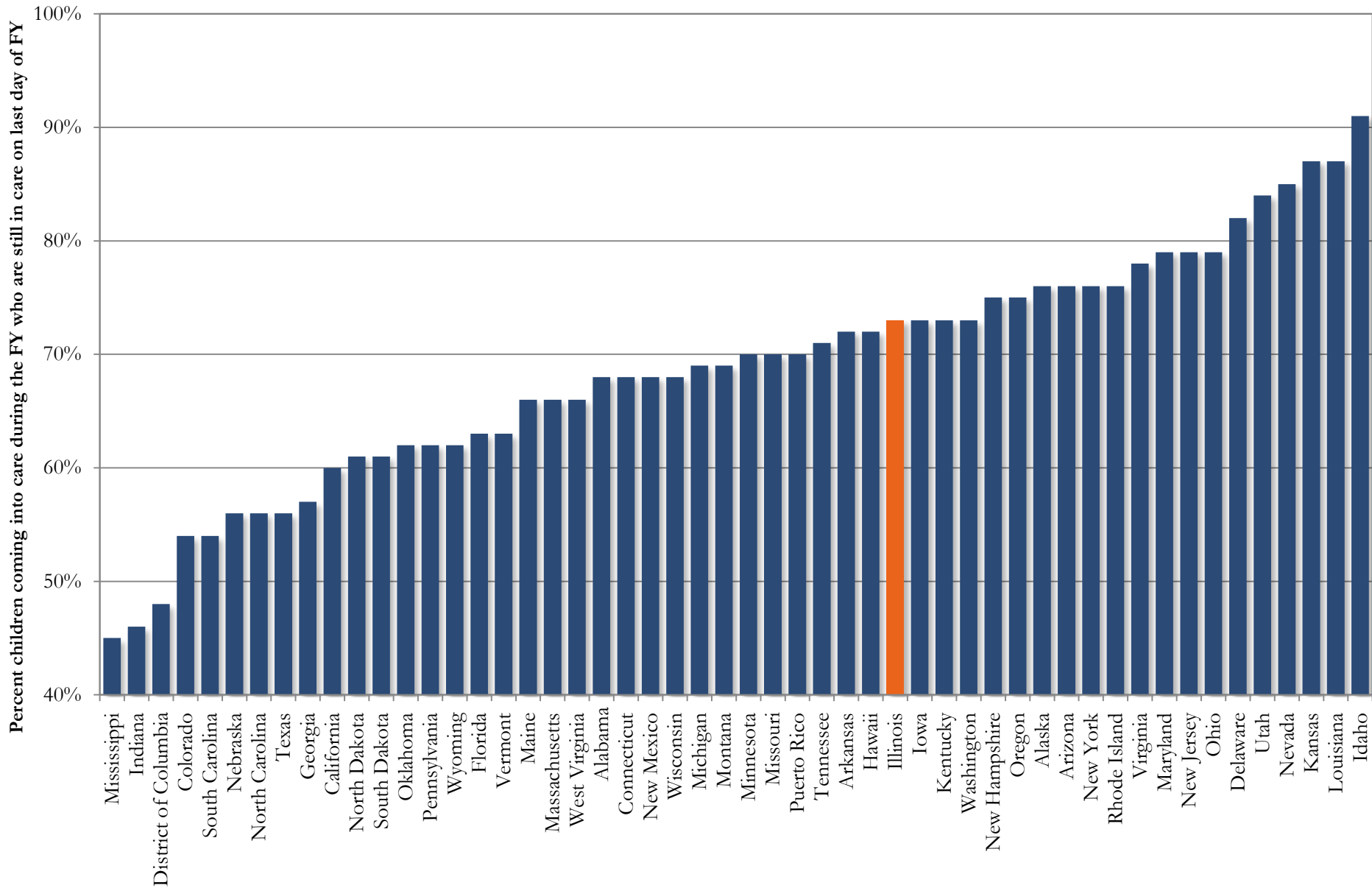
- Caseworkers are more aware of trauma, mental health needs, and evidence-based practices to get youth the right services at the right time.
- Caseworkers better understand, anticipate, and screen for the trauma-related challenges that children and bring with them when they enter care.
- Transition planning and promotion of social/emotional skills for adulthood begin well in advance of exit from care.
- Service plans include activities to promote relational competencies and efforts to find/engage siblings, relatives, etc.

# Permanence: Children Already in Care, 5-Year Average

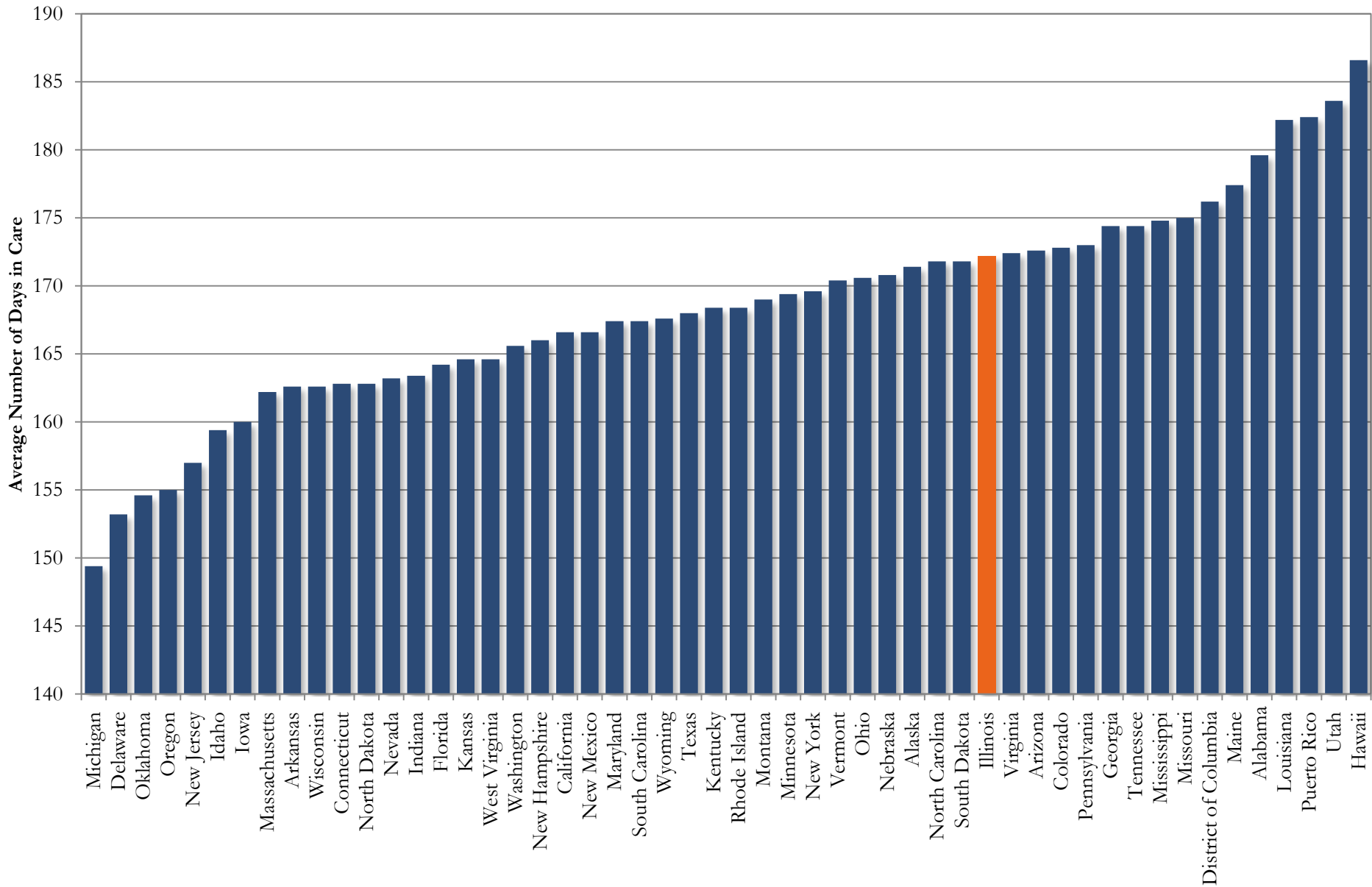




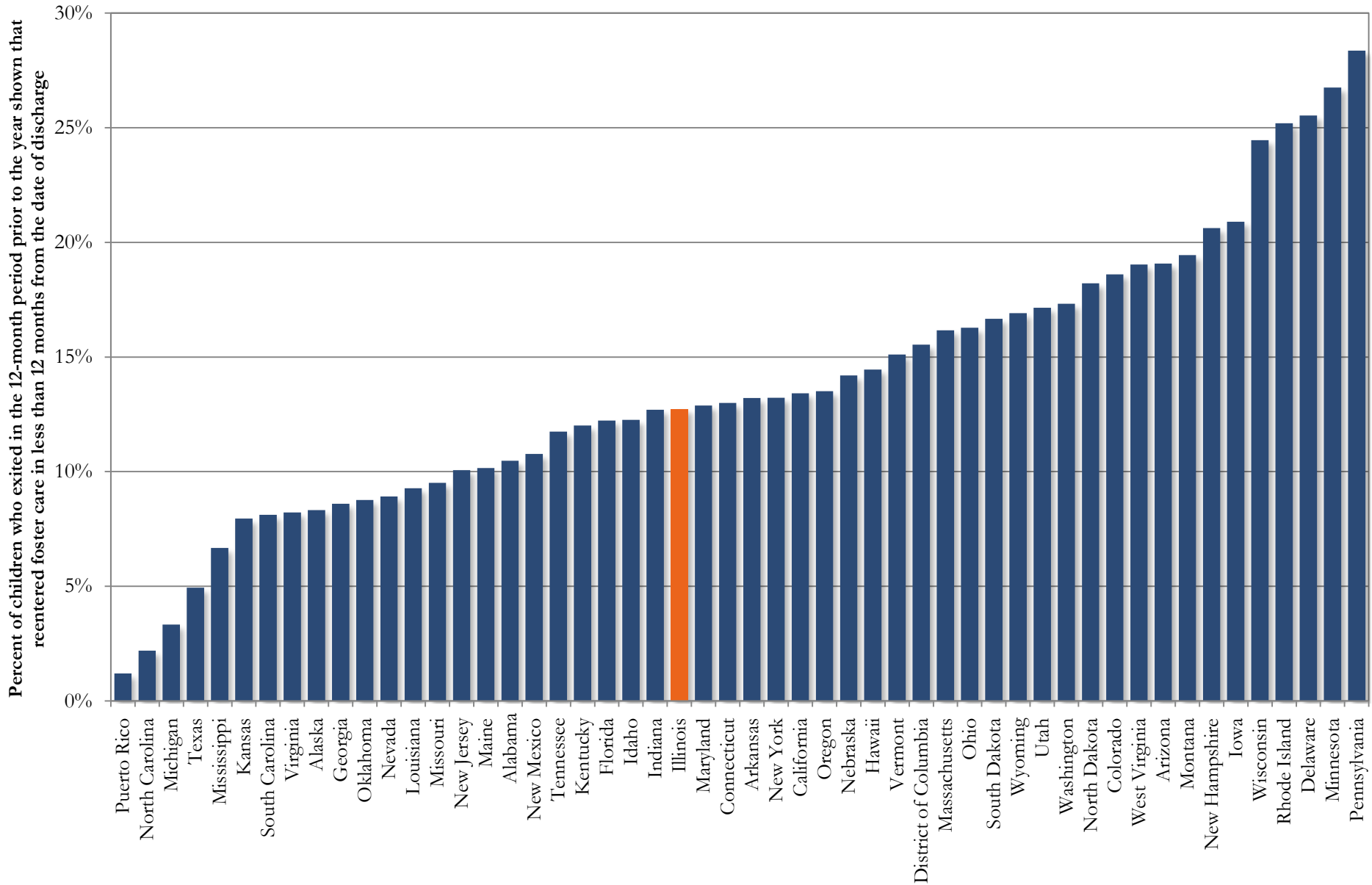
# Permanence: Children Entering Care, 5-Year Average



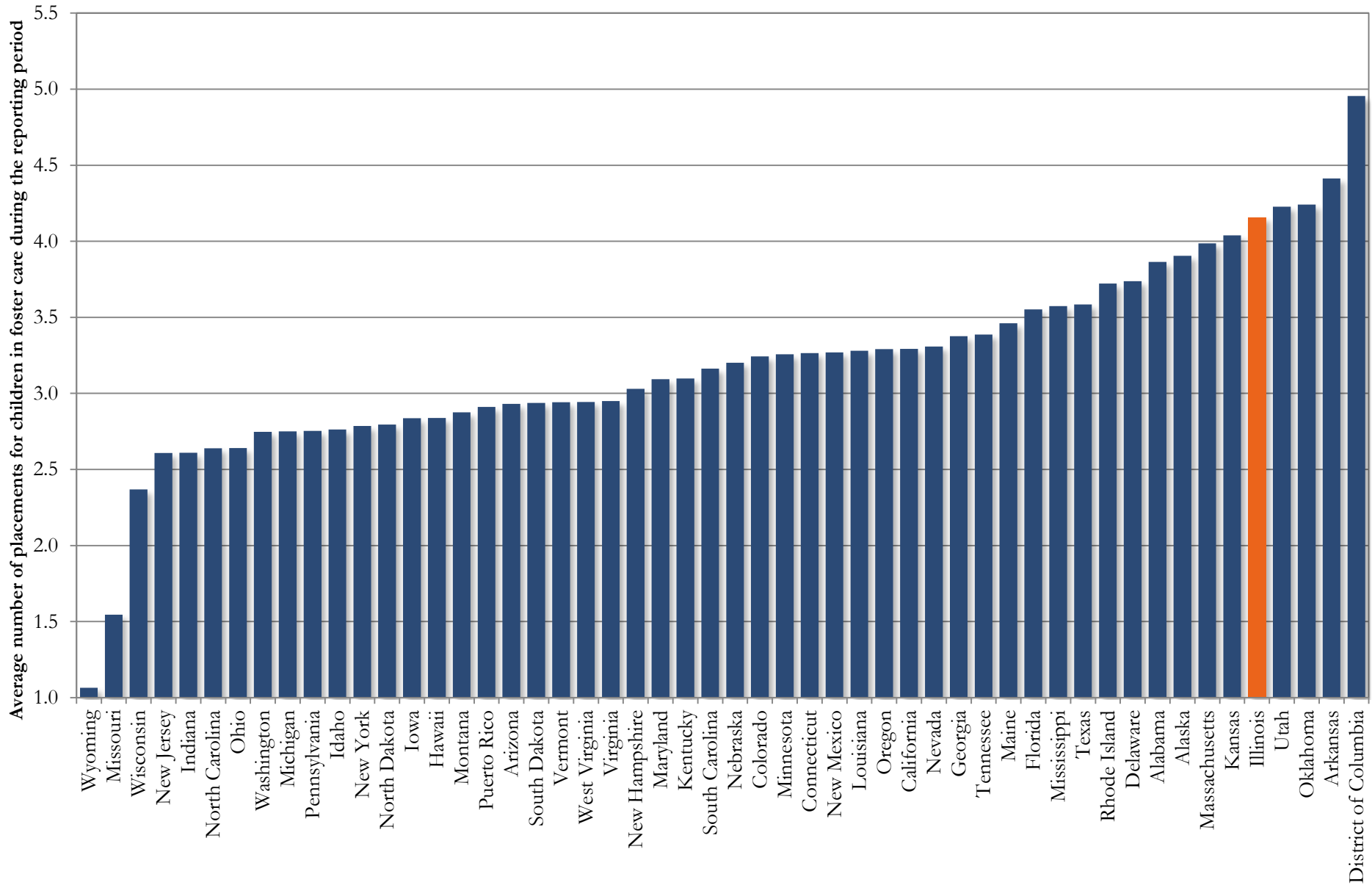
# Length of Stay, 5-Year Average



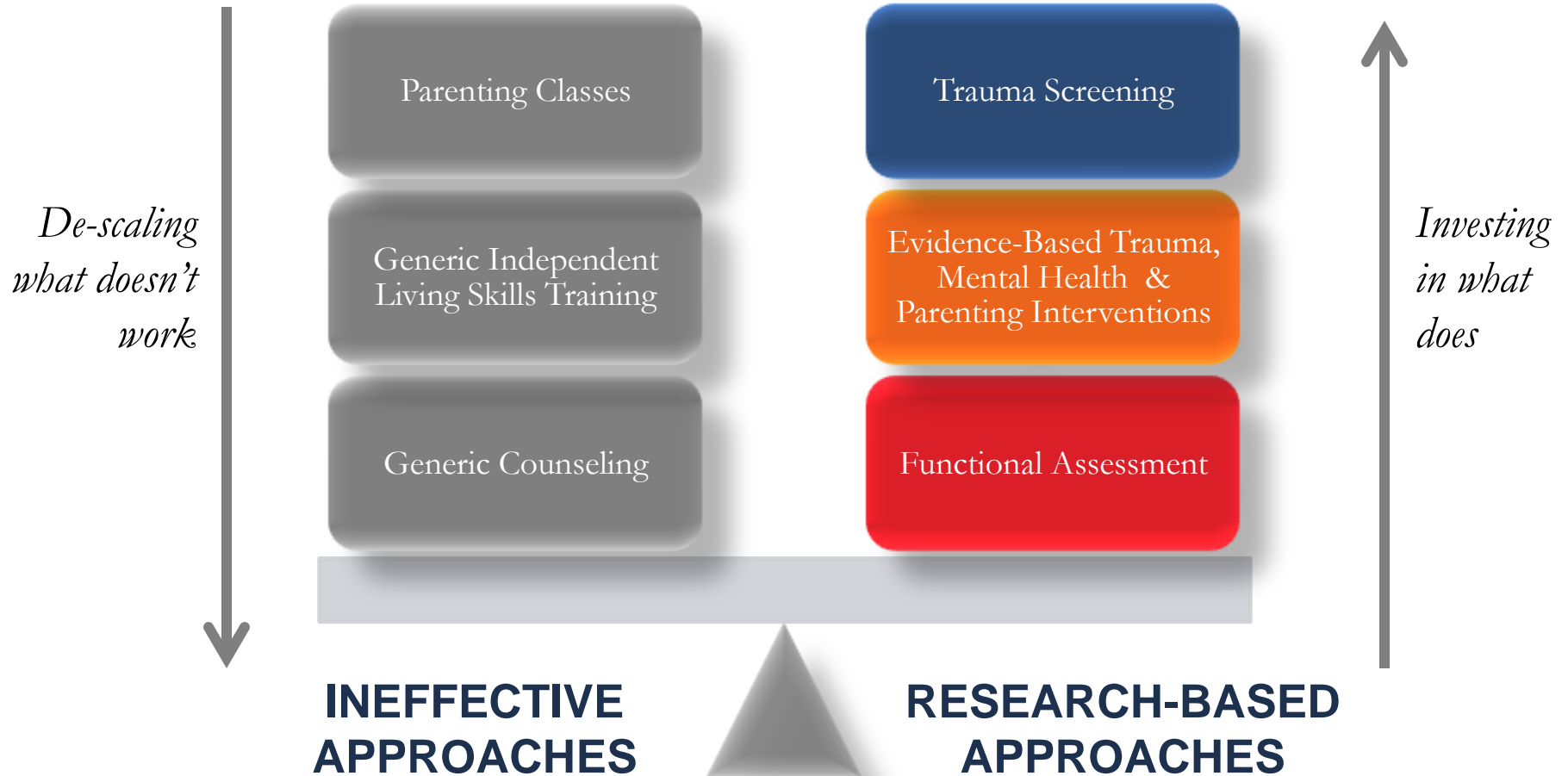
# Reentry into Foster Care, 5-Year Average



# Placement Stability, FY 2009



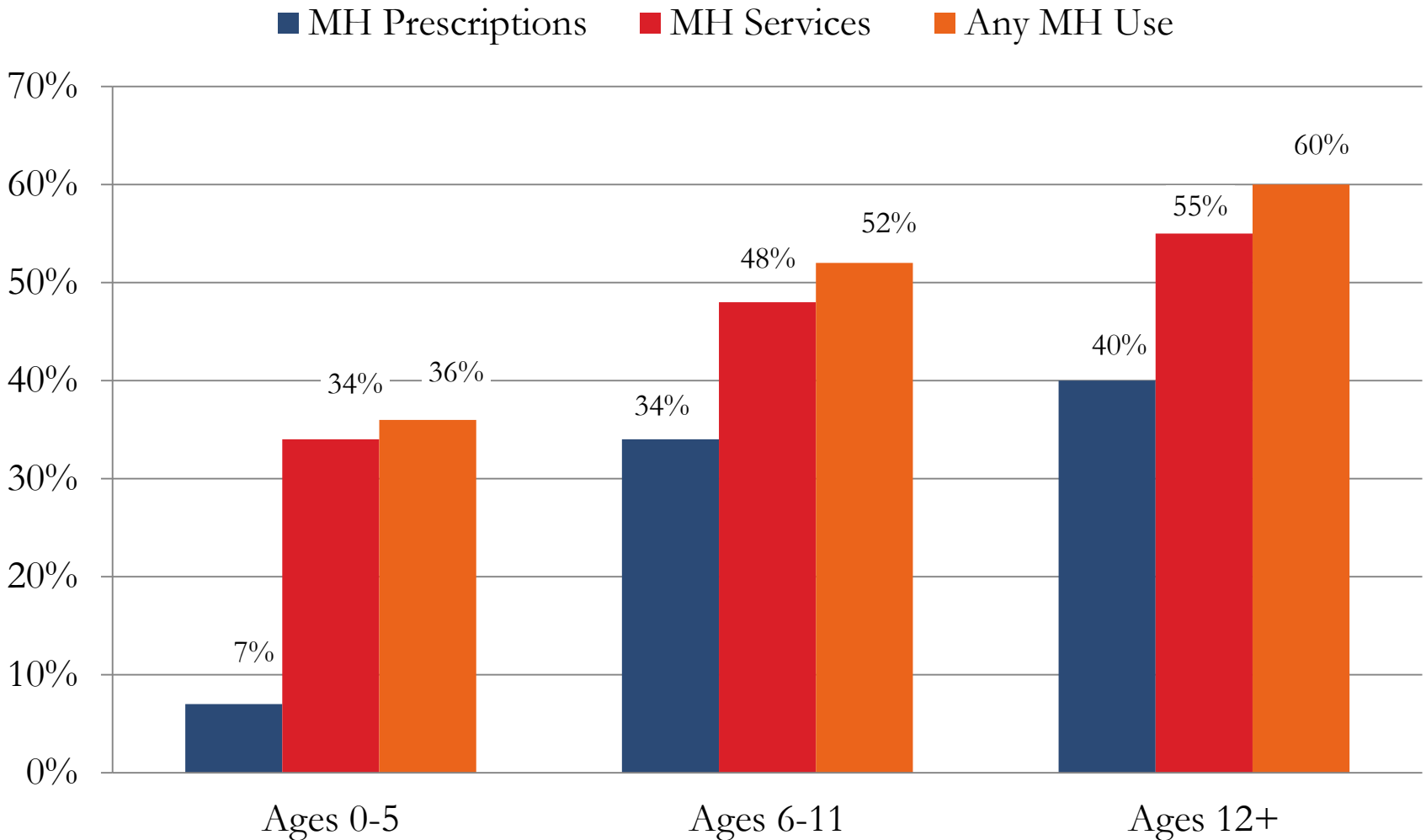
# De-scaling What Doesn't Work, Scaling Up What Does



# The Role Medicaid Can Play in Positive Outcomes

- Title IV-E agencies are encouraged to engage in a dialogue with State Medicaid and mental health agencies and consider new and existing opportunities in Medicaid and/or other program areas to complement Medicaid's efforts to serve children with special needs.
- Proposals aligning a title IV-E waiver project with a Medicaid waiver will be strongly considered. Some strategies include:
  - Allowing for a behavioral health intervention to be provided in a Home and Community Based setting
  - Allowing parents to participate in an evidence-based intervention with their child
  - Targeting a particular part of a State without implementing statewide

# Important Role Medicaid Plays in Serving Children and Youth in Foster Care



Data source: HHS, 2010

# Funding Opportunity Announcements

- Child Welfare-Education System Collaborations to Increase Educational Stability
- Child Welfare-Early Education Partnerships to Expand Protective Factors for Children with Child Welfare Involvement
- Regional Partnership Grants to Increase the Well-Being of, and to Improve the Permanency Outcomes for, Children Affected by Substance Abuse
- Initiative to Improve Access to Needs-Driven Evidence-Based/Evidence-Informed Mental and Behavioral Health Services in Child Welfare
- Partnerships to Demonstrate the Effectiveness of Supportive Housing for Families in the Child Welfare System



# What Can Child Welfare Agencies Do Today to Shift to a Focus on Improving Well-Being?

- Instead of classroom-based parenting classes, use evidence-based interventions that increase parenting skills
- Instead of generic counseling services, use interventions that have been shown to improve outcomes for specific populations with particular needs
- Restructure ILOs and TLPs to provide services that build relational skills and increase connections
- Train front-line staff and foster parents on trauma and social-emotional well-being
- Use contracts to require that group homes and residential facilities utilize evidence-based interventions
- Build consideration of social and emotional well-being into case planning and transition planning

# Application, Review, and Approval of Title IV-E Waivers

- **May 14:** Release of Information Memorandum
- Technical assistance provided through application
- **June 4:** Letters of Intent due (*optional, but not required*)
- **July 9:** Proposals due (*may be submitted earlier*)
- Federal review begins promptly upon receipt of proposals
- Negotiation with States
- **September 28:** Waiver terms and conditions signed

See ACYF-CB-IM-12-05: Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration Projects for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2012-2014

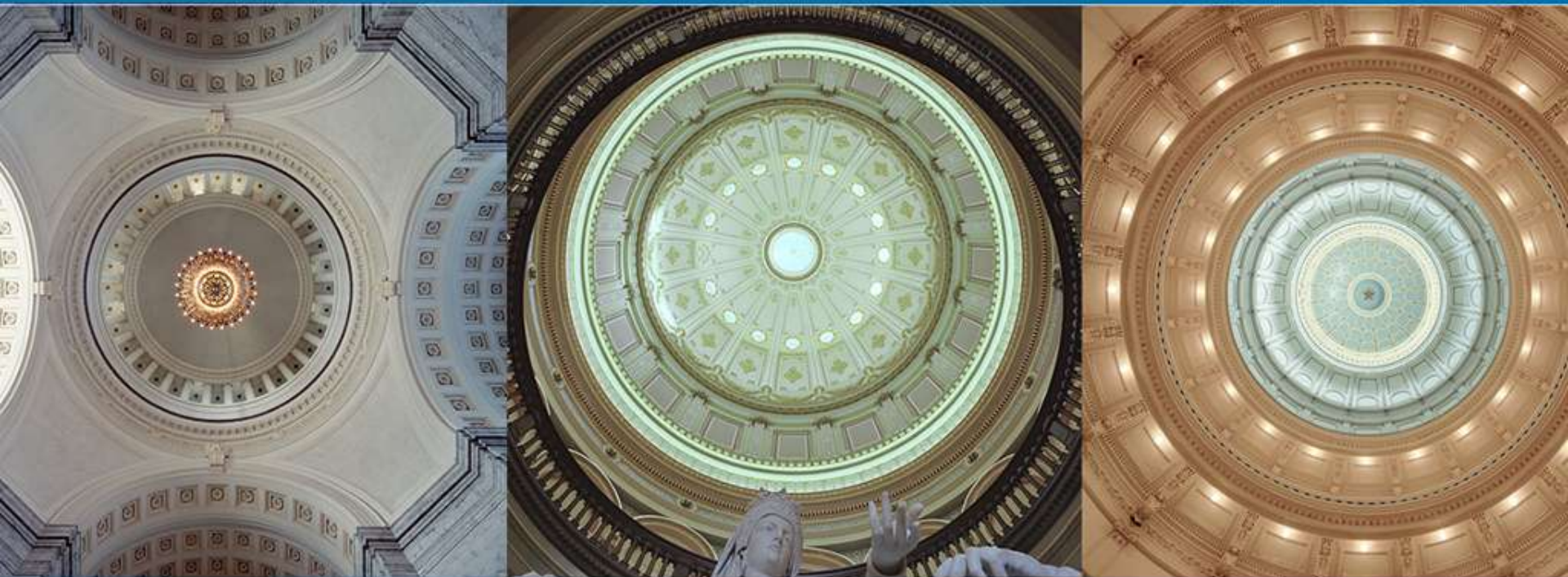


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# Questions?



**Thank you for attending!**



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# Thank you!

