



Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families



Picture Source: KVC Health Systems <http://www.kvc.org/>

# Removals Brief

## Entry Cohort of Children in Foster Care

### FFY22-FFY24

### (October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2024)

Data and Evaluation

November 2024

# Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families (RI DCYF)

## Removals Brief

### Entry Cohort of Children in Foster Care FFY22-FFY24 (October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2024)

The Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families is pleased to share with you *The Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families removals Brief, Entry Cohort of Children in Foster Care FFY22-FFY24*. This report provides summary information on children, youth and families who enter out-of-home placement and information about their removal. A primary aim of the report is to provide data and information to Rhode Island agencies and communities to guide their efforts in supporting the well-being of children, families, and communities in Rhode Island.

The Department's approach in this report was to use an entry cohort in each of the federal fiscal years, FFY22-FFY24. The data presented in this report is based on federal fiscal year entry cohorts. The FFY22-FFY24 entry cohorts include only children who were removed from their homes during each of these fiscal years and entered into an out-of-home placement. *It is important to note* that during those same time periods there were children and youth who were in out-of-home placements however, they entered during a previous fiscal year. This report presents data only on the entry cohorts for the FFY22-FFY24 fiscal years identified and does not include data on children and youth who are not part of the respective fiscal year cohorts. Another note regarding the data analysis, statistical analyses for significant differences was conducted only in the sections on disproportionality.

The data presented throughout reflect an unduplicated count of all children under 18 years old removed from home and entering a RI DCYF out-of-home placement between October 1, 2021-September 30, 2024 (FFY22-FFY24), by federal fiscal year. The data include children in congregate care, specialized foster care, independent and semi-independent living, relative foster care, nonrelative foster care and court ordered.

#### Report data notes:

- If a child had multiple removals in a fiscal year, the first removal record was selected to analyze unduplicated count.
- These figures may be slightly different from State Fiscal year that report on July 1 to June 30

### **Why an entry cohort?**

The advantage of an entry cohort over other approaches such as an exit cohort or point-in-time, is in its ability to better assess the impacts of system interventions and link observed impacts to the interventions. Relatedly, entry cohorts provide an accurate picture of patterns of change over time making it easier to understand policy or program intended effects compared to an exit cohort or point in time data. Further, analyzing entry cohort outcomes is consistent with the Children's Bureau National Child Welfare Outcomes.

### **Highlights**

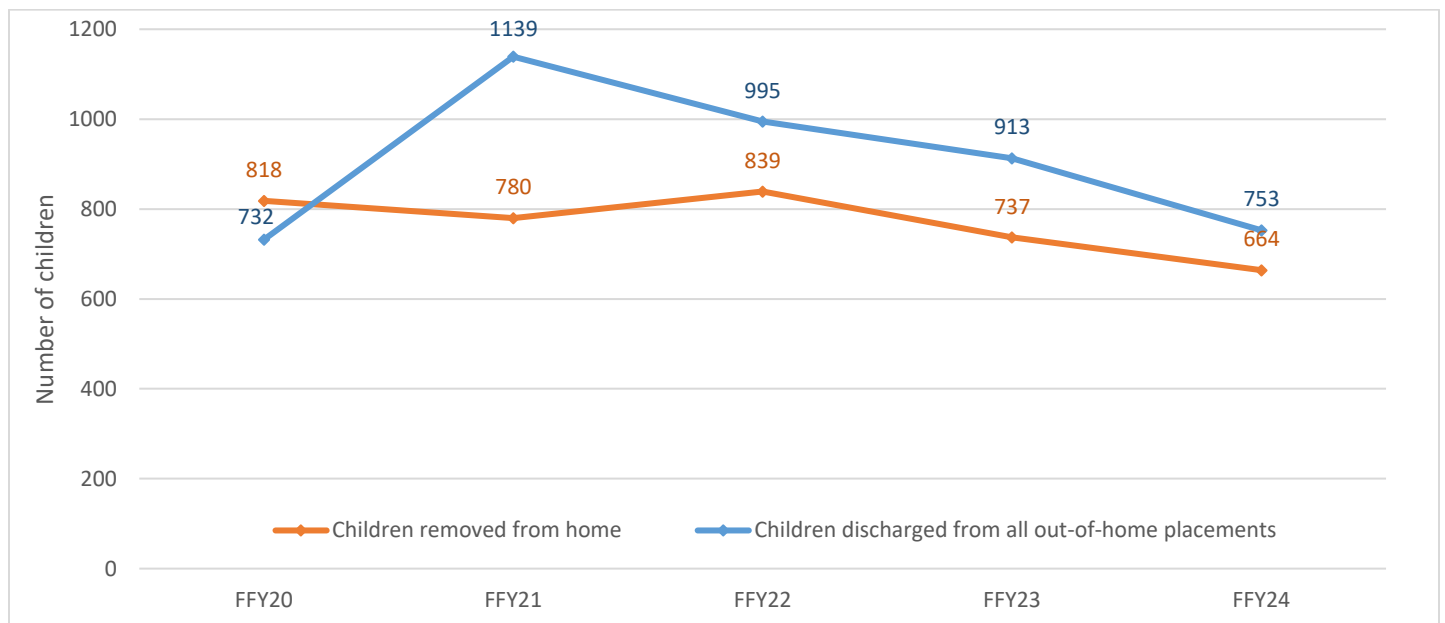
- From FFY23 to FFY24, the removal rate decreased from 3.4 per 1,000 children to 3.0 per 1,000 children. This reflects the total number of children removed from home decreasing from 737 in FFY23 to 664 in FFY24.
- Among the children who entered RI DCYF out-of-home placement in FFY24, the greatest proportion of children removed occurred among children aged 0-5 years old, 36.1%, followed by the 12-16 age group, 34.6%.
- The FFY24 cohort trended older regarding removal, with a median age of 9, whereas the past two cohorts had a median age of 7. This is especially true when stratified by race/ethnicity. While all racial and ethnic groups had an increase in median age of removal, the largest increases were among Black non-Hispanic youth (5.5 in FFY23, 12 in FFY24) and Multiracial/Other (4 in FFY23 and 9 in FFY24)
- Black or African American children, Multiracial children and Hispanic any race children were removed disproportionately compared to their census representation, regardless of age group (0-9 and 10-17). The magnitude of disproportionality was largest among the 0-9 age group.
- In FFY24, neglect is the most common removal reason for children aged 0-11, 60.6%. Inadequate housing for those aged 0-11 was a removal reason 10.3% of the time, which is the highest it has been in recent cohort years.

Child behavior followed by neglect is the most common removal reason for children aged 12 and older, 42.5% and 34.5%. Parent drug/alcohol use was in the top 3 most common removal reasons among children aged 0-11 (46.2%) and children aged 12+ (14.6%).

- Among children entering an out-of-home placement in FFY24, all are most frequently placed in a foster family setting for their first placement. However, the percent of children aged 12 and older who are first placed in a congregate setting has increased slightly over the last fiscal years.

## Snapshot of Children Removed and Children Discharged From All Placements Over Time

**Figure A. Number of children removed from home and number of children discharged from all out-of-home placements, FFY20-FFY24.**



Notes: Data source: RICHIST report 460; data are current as of 10/10/2024.

- If a child had multiple removals in a fiscal year, the first removal record was selected to analyze unduplicated count.

**Table 1. Stats at a Quick Glance: Among children under 18 years of age entering out-of-home placement in 12-month period – *The number of children removed decreased between FFY22, FFY23 and FFY24***

	FFY22 entry cohort	FFY23 entry cohort	FFY24 entry cohort
Number of children (unduplicated)	839	737	664
Median age at removal	7	7	9
Removal rate (per 1,000 children under 18 years old in Rhode Island)	3.7	3.4	3.0

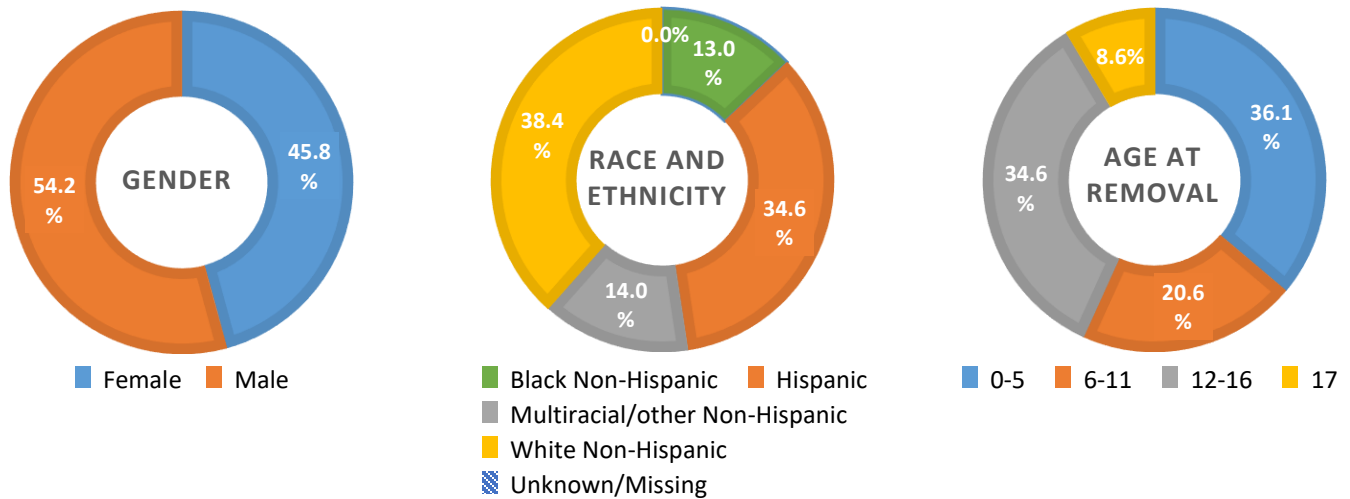
Notes: Data source: U.S. Census population estimate 2021, RICHIST report 460; data are current as of 10/10/2024.  
 \*Permanency: discharge to all out-of-home placements to reunification, adoption, guardianship and living with a relative.

**FFY24 Highlights: Demographics among children entering out-of-home placement**

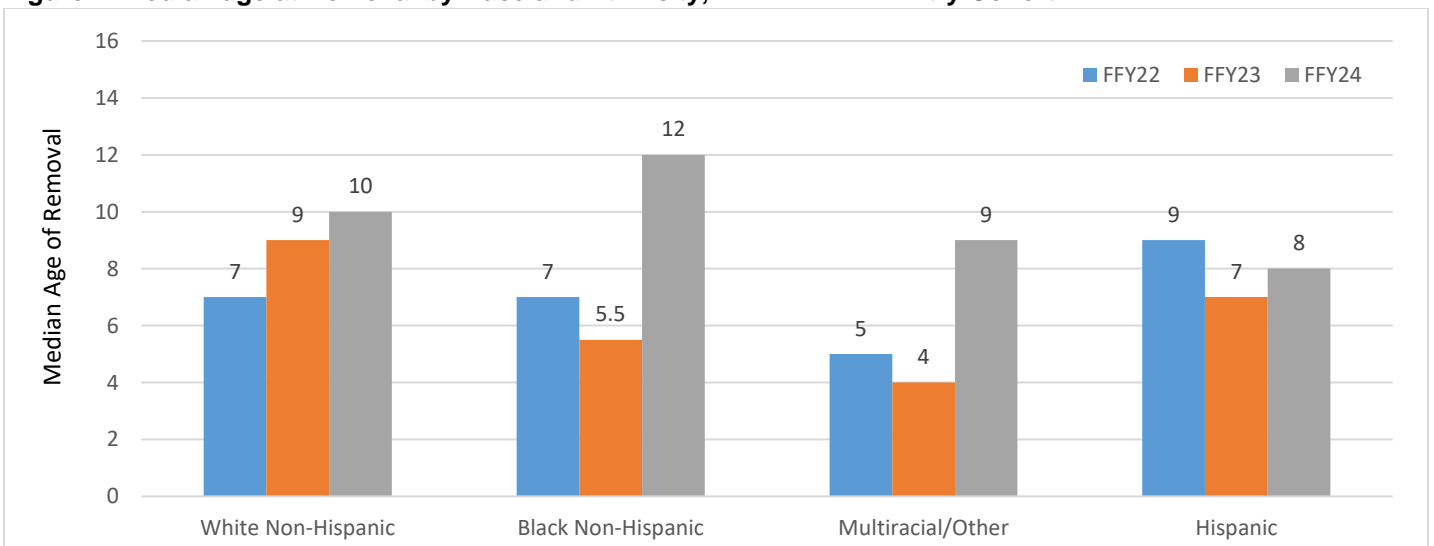
*Children aged 0-5 and 12-16 entering out-of-home placement made up about 70% of the cohort.*

*Across all race and ethnicities, median age of removal increased in FFY 24, and in some categories – substantially.*

**Figure 1. Demographics of children entering out-of-home placement, FFY24 entry cohort (N=664)**



**Figure 2. Median age at Removal by Race and Ethnicity, FFY22-FFY24 Entry Cohort**



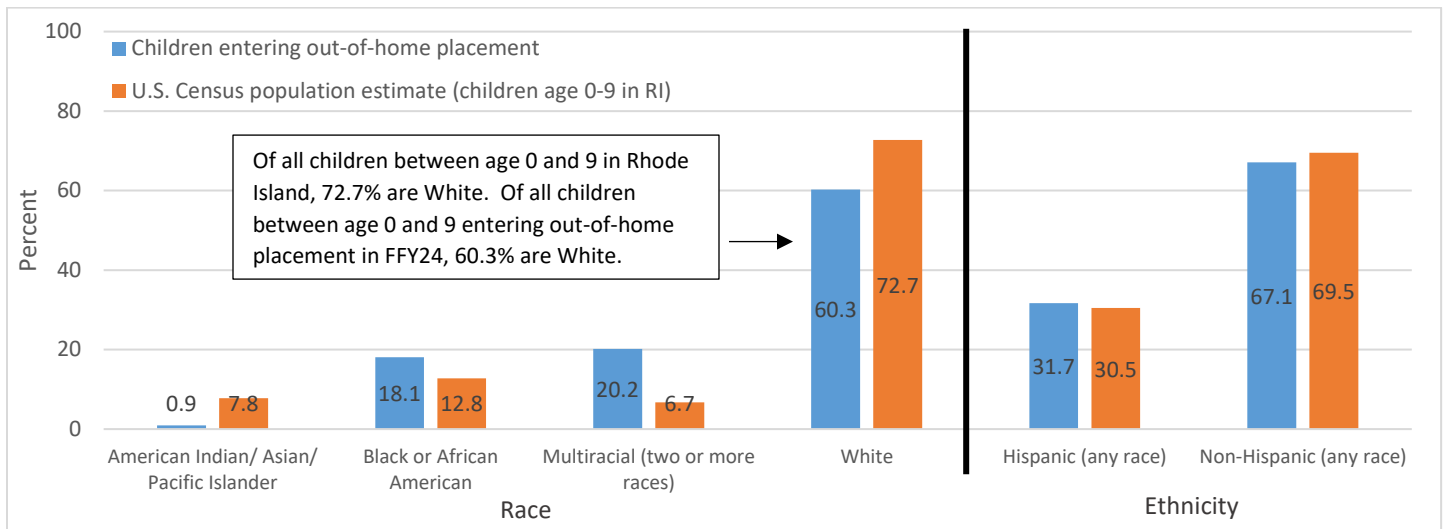
Notes: Data source: RICHIST report 460; data are current as of 10/10/2024.  
 • Multiracial/other includes Multiracial Non-Hispanic, Asian, American Indian and Pacific Islander.

## FFY24 Highlights: Disproportionality, percent of children entering out-of-home placement compared to population estimate of children in RI

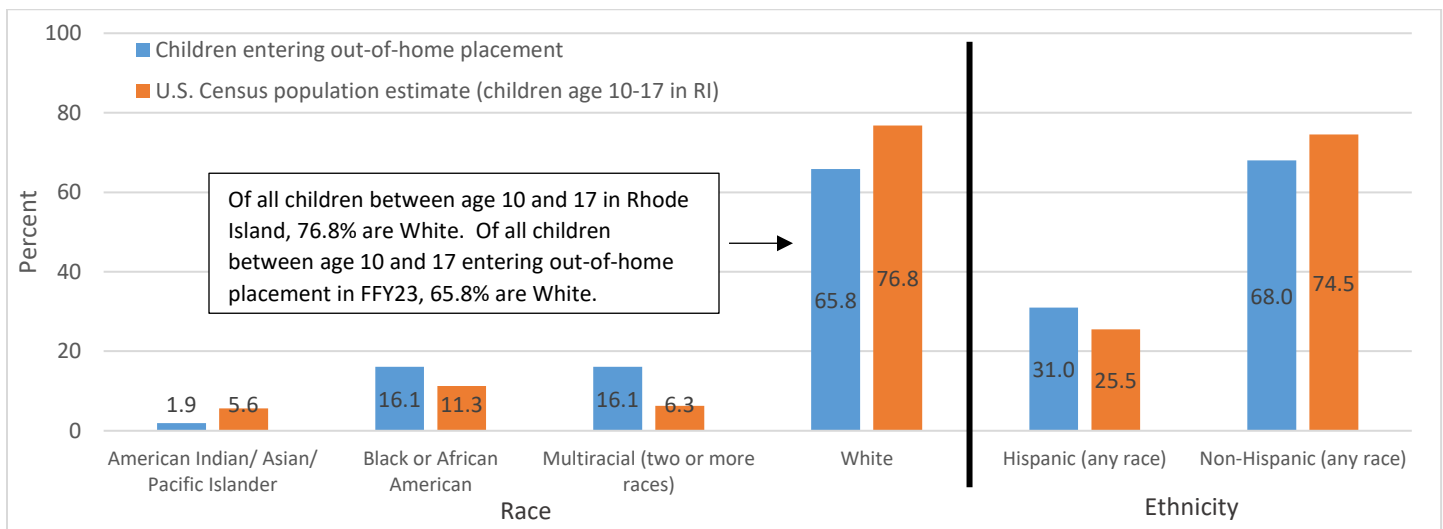
Children age 0-9 who are Black or African American, Multiracial or Hispanic were overrepresented in entering an out-of-home placement compared to their RI census population.

Children age 10-17 who are Black or African American, Multiracial or Hispanic were overrepresented in entering into an out-of-home placement compared to their RI census population.

**Figure 3. Percent of children entering out-of-home placement and population estimate of children age 0-9 in Rhode Island, by race and ethnicity, FFY24 entry cohort**



**Figure 4. Percent of children entering out-of-home placement and population estimate of children age 10-17 in Rhode Island, by age group, FFY24 entry cohort.**



Data Source: U.S. Census population estimate 2021, RIC HIST report 460; data are current as of 10/10/2024.

Notes:

- Children with unknown race and ethnicity are not shown.
- Children with out-of-state case address are excluded

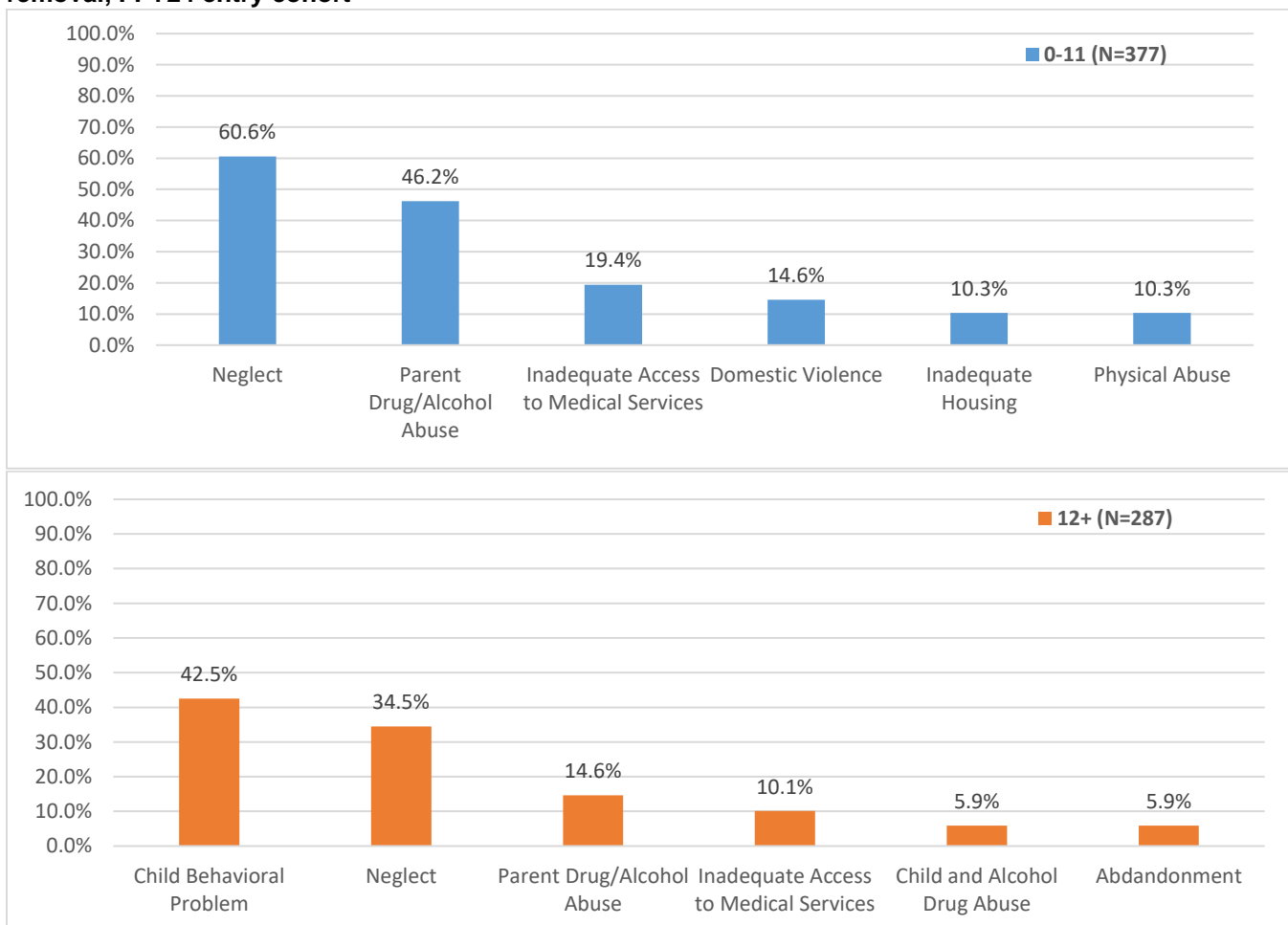
## FFY24 Highlights: Most frequent removal reasons among children entering out-of-home placement, by age

**Children can be removed for multiple removal reasons, and often are, perhaps reflecting the complexity of removals.** Children age 0-11 most frequent removal reasons were neglect, parent drug/alcohol abuse, inadequate medical services. Domestic Violence consistently is a frequent removal reason. This fiscal year, inadequate housing became frequent, although often paired with neglect. Though not pictured, homelessness was 10.1%, just outside the 5 most frequent, and only 1 child was removed for homelessness as a single removal reason. The relationship between young age and maltreatment observed in RI is consistent with national data.

Children age 12 and older most frequent removal reasons were child behavior problem, neglect and parent drug/alcohol abuse. This fiscal year, abandonment became a frequent removal reason.

For both age groups, neglect and parent drug/alcohol abuse is in the top 3 reasons for removal.

**Figure 5. Percent of children entering out-of-home placement, by most frequent removal reasons and age at removal, FFY24 entry cohort**



Notes: Data source: RIC HIST report 460; data are current as of 10/10/2024.

- Percentages may add up to over 100% because a youth may have multiple removal reasons.
- Only the most frequent removal reasons are shown (5 highest percentages by age category)

**FFY24 Highlights: Disproportionality in removal reasons among children entering out-of-home placement, most frequent reasons across ages as shown in Figure 5.**

To test for disproportionality among racial and ethnic groups, an odds ratio, controlling for age was conducted. The reference group (comparison group) is White Non-Hispanic. Racial and ethnic groups are compared to White Non-Hispanic.

In FFY24, Black Non-Hispanic and Hispanic any race children had statistically significantly higher odds of being removed for physical abuse in comparison to White Non-Hispanic children.

Hispanic any race children had statistically significantly lower odds of being removed for parent drug/alcohol abuse in comparison to White Non-Hispanic children.

**Table 3. Disproportionality in most frequent removal reasons for children entering out-of-home placement, by race and ethnicity, FFY24 entry cohort**

	White Non-Hispanic (reference group) (N=255)	Black Non-Hispanic (N=86)	Multiracial/other Non- Hispanic (N=93)	Hispanic (N=230)
<b>Median age at removal</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Removal Reasons</b>				
Neglect	49.2%	58.1%	45.2%	51.3%
Parent drug/alcohol abuse	35.3%	24.4%	45.2%	26.1%**
Domestic Violence	9.4%	*	11.8%	10.4%
Inadequate medical	16.9%	12.8%	11.8%	16.1%
Physical abuse	4.7%	11.6%**	*	16.5%**
Child behavior problem	18.4%	18.6%	23.7%	18.3%
Inadequate housing	11.0%	8.1%	6.5%	6.5%
Child drug/alcohol abuse	2.4%	*	*	2.6%
Abandonment	3.1%	*	*	2.6%

Notes: Data source: RICHIST report 460; data are current as of 10/10/2024.

\*denotes small numbers – per state policy N <6 suppressed

\*\* : odds ratio statistically significant compared to reference group (White Non-Hispanic), controlling for age.

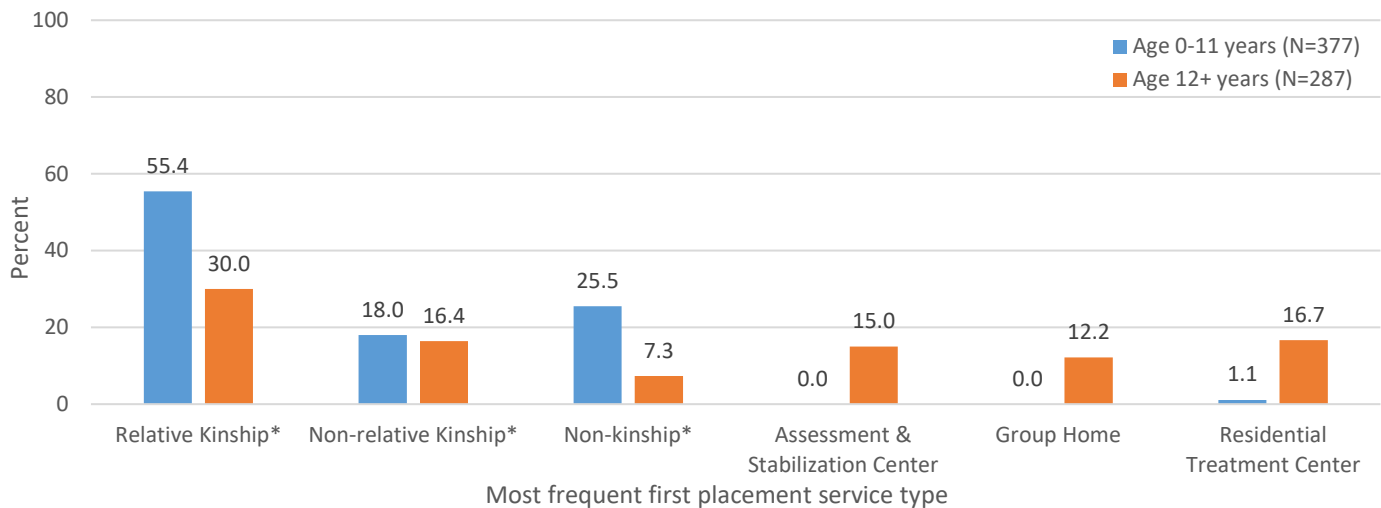
- Percentages may add up to over 100% because a child may have multiple removal reasons.
- Children with unknown race and ethnicity are excluded from the table because of small number.
- Denominator is all children in each race and ethnicity. Numerator presents percent removed by removal reason among the given race and ethnicity.
- Multiracial/other includes Multiracial Non-Hispanic, Asian, American Indian and Pacific Islander.

### FFY24 Highlights: First Placement among children entering out-of-home placement

Children age 0-11 in FFY24 are almost exclusively placed in a family like setting for their first placement.

Among Children age 12 and older, about 50% have a first placement in a family like setting, and a greater percentage of those are in a kinship placement.

**Figure 6. Percent of children entering out-of-home placement, by most frequent first placement service types of current removal and age at removal, FFY24 entry cohort**



Notes: Data source: RIC HIST report 460; data are current as of 10/10/2024.

- \* Indicates non-congregate care placement service types
- Above figure reflects only the most frequent first placement types. Children may also enter into acute residential treatment, independent living, semi-independent living, psychiatric hospital or medical hospital.

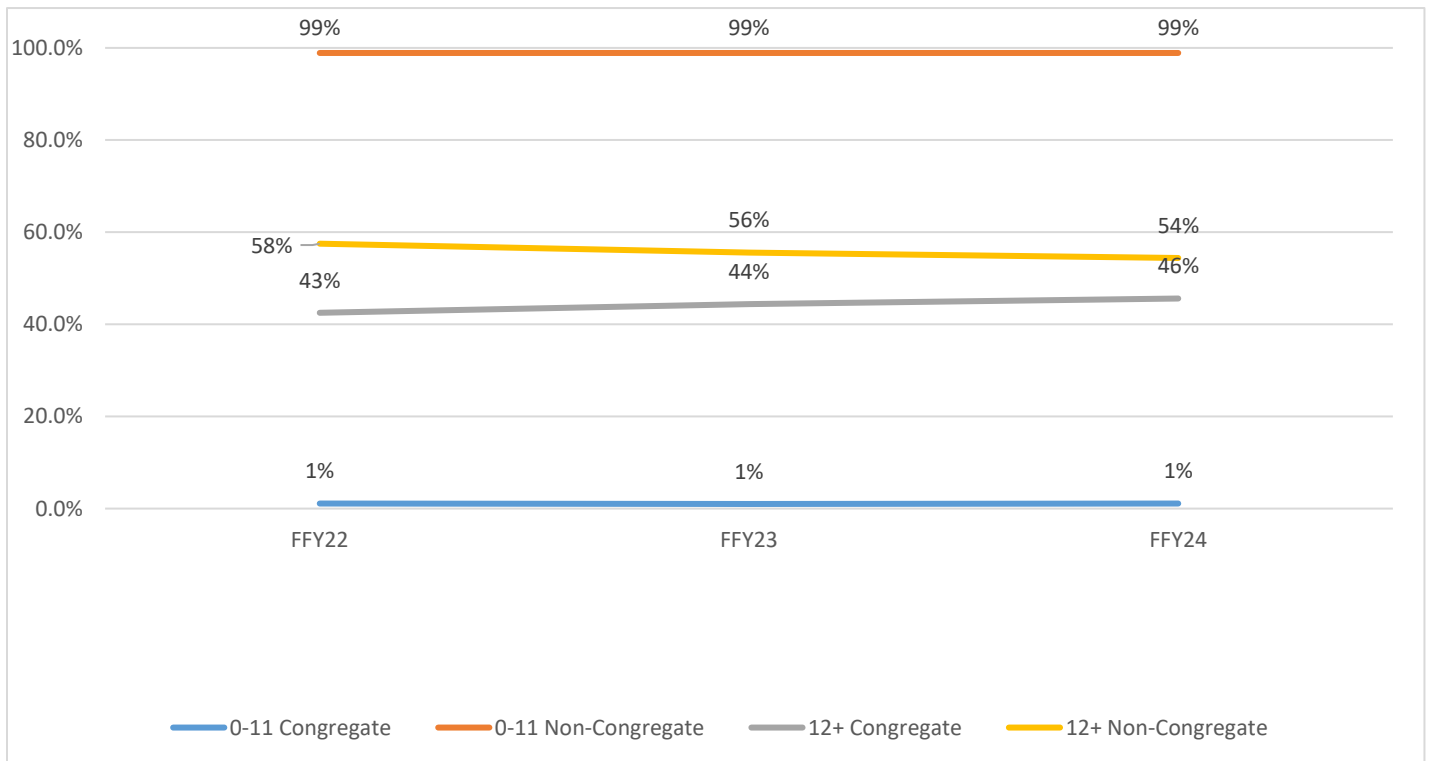


## FFY22-FFY24 Highlights: First placement among children entering out-of-home placement

Across both age groups, the percentage of children placed in non-congregate care is the most common first placement type across all federal fiscal years.

Across both federal fiscal years, children age 0-11 are almost exclusively placed in a family like setting as their first placement. Over the past three federal fiscal years, the percentage of children age 12 and older first placement in non-congregate care has slightly increased. In this age group, the largest increases in family like settings first placement type occurred in relative kinship.

**Figure 7. First Placement Service Type of Current Removal by Age Category, FFY21-FFY23 entry cohorts**



Notes: Data source: RICHIST report 460; data are current as of 10/10/2024.

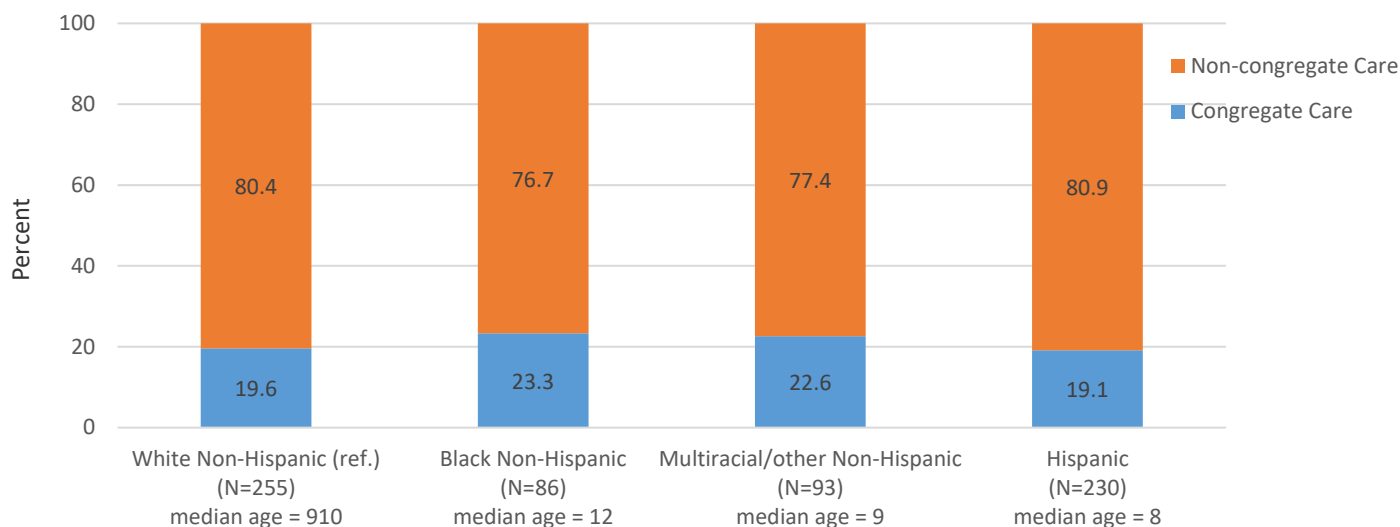
- Congregate care includes acute residential treatment, assessment & stabilization center, group home, medical hospital, psychiatric hospital, semi-independent living, RCC, residential treatment – substance abuse and residential treatment center.

**FFY24 Highlights: Disproportionality in first placement among children entering out-of-home placement**

To test for disproportionality among racial and ethnic groups, an odds ratio, controlling for age was conducted. The reference group (comparison group) is White Non-Hispanic. Racial and ethnic groups are compared to White Non-Hispanic.

*There is no statistically significance in the odds of being placed in congregate care when comparing children of color to White Non-Hispanic children.*

**Figure 8. Disproportionality in first placement service types of current removal for children entering out-of-home placement, FFY24 entry cohort**



**Table 4. Disproportionality in most frequent first placement service types of current removal for children entering out-of-home placement, by race and ethnicity, FFY24 entry cohort**

	White Non-Hispanic (N=255)	Black Non-Hispanic (N=86)	Multiracial/other Non-Hispanic (N=93)	Hispanic (N=230)
<b>Median age at removal</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>First Placement Service Type</b>				
Relative Kinship	46.7%	47.7%	40.9%	42.2%
Non-relative Kinship	18.2%	16.3%	11.8%	19.1%
Non-kinship	15.7%	12.8%	24.7%	18.7%
Assessment & Stabilization Center	5.5%	8.1%	7.5%	6.5%
Group Home	6.7%	*	6.5%	3.9%
Residential Treatment Center	7.1%	10.5%	6.5%	8.3%

Notes: Data source: RICHIST report 460; data are current as of 10/10/2024.

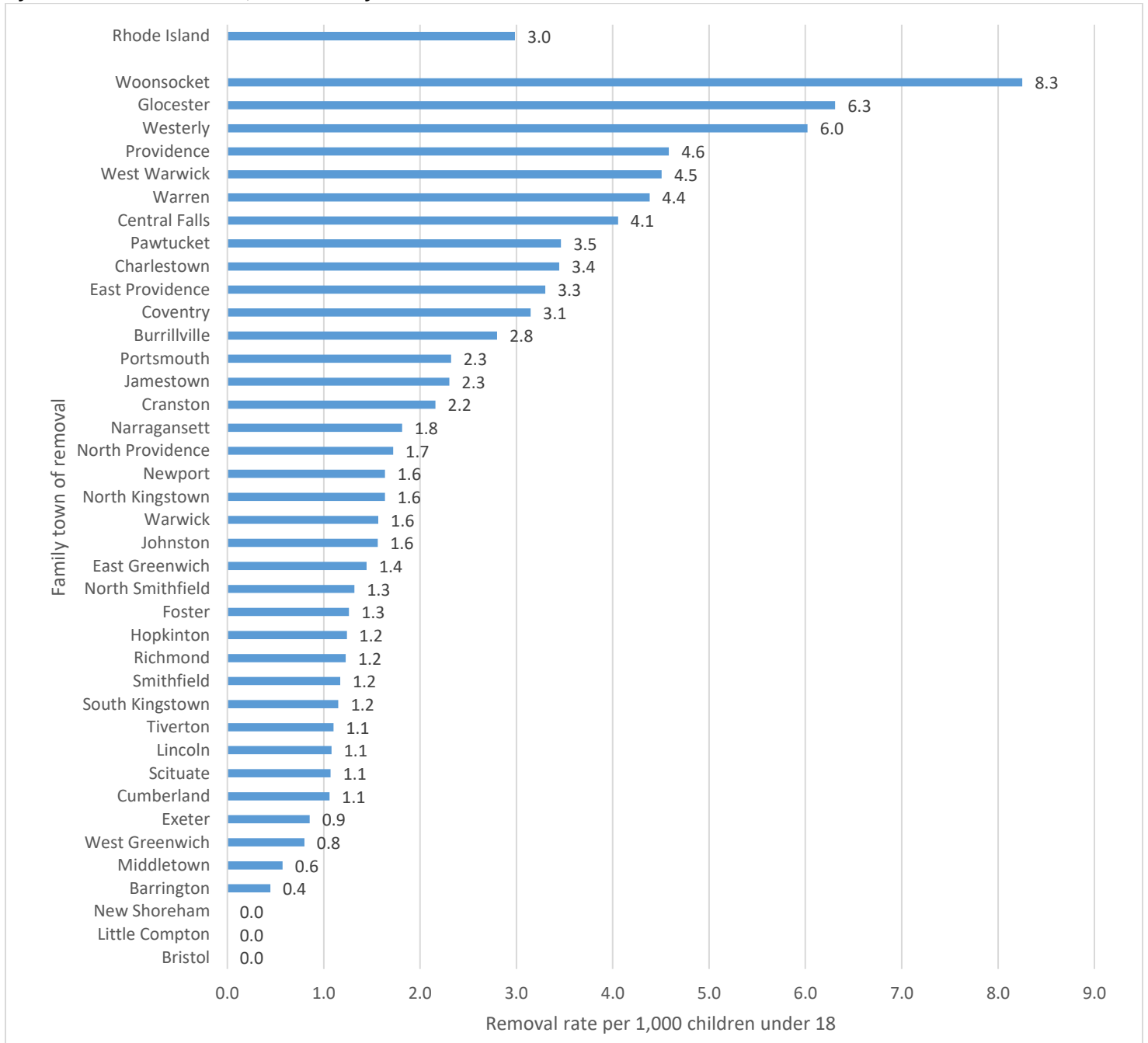
\*denotes small numbers – per state policy N <6 suppressed

- Children with unknown race and ethnicity are excluded from the table because of small number.
- Denominator is all children in a given race and ethnicity. Numerator presents percent entered into first placement service type among the given race and ethnicity.
- Congregate care includes acute residential treatment, assessment & stabilization center, group home, medical hospital, psychiatric hospital, semi-independent living, RCC, residential treatment – substance abuse and residential treatment center.
- Multiracial/other non-Hispanic includes Multiracial Non-Hispanic, Asian, American Indian and Pacific Islander

**FFY24 Highlights: Geographic location of children entering out-of-home placement**

*In FFY24, the removal rate of children (age less than 18) entering an out-of-home placement in RI was 3.0 per 1,000 children. Figure 9. provides removal rates of children entering an out-of-home placement for the State and by city/town.*

**Figure 9. Rate of children entering out-of-home placement per 1,000 children under 18 years old in Rhode Island, by case town of removal, FFY24 entry cohort**



Data Source: U.S. Census 2020 population estimate for children under 18. RICHIST report 460; data are current as of 10/10/2024.

Notes:

- Children with out-of-state or unknown case addresses are excluded.
- If a child moved to a different address after removal, the case town may not reflect the town at the time of removal