



THE STATE OF CHILD WELFARE IN GEORGIA: UNDERSTANDING THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

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Child Welfare System Considerations

OUTCOMES

- **Safety**
 - Parental prerogative v. compelling state interest
 - Children's rights?
- **Permanency**
 - Family preservation/reunification v. adoption
 - Adoption v. guardianship
 - Aging-out
 - Preference for relatives
- **Well-Being**
 - Health
 - Education
 - Life skills
 - Family (including sibling) and community connections

DRIVERS

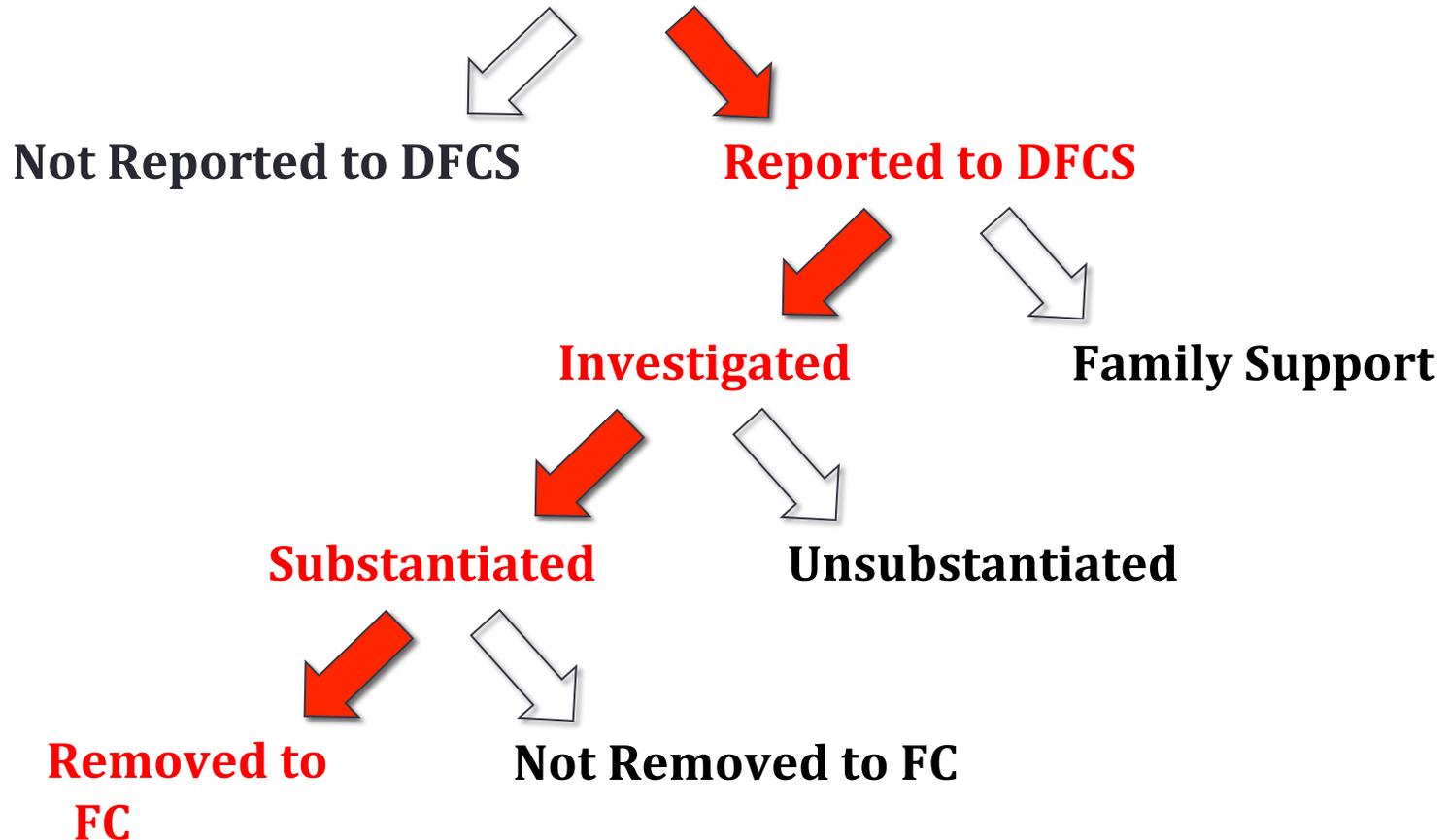
- Federal and state law
- Federal and state funding
- High profile cases
- Class action litigation
- Emerging/best practices
- Leadership philosophy
- Erosion of public confidence

From Referral to Removal

How it Works



Child Abuse in the Community



CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Simplified Flowchart for Accepted Intakes



Children Reported to DFCS for Abuse or Neglect



Refer to Family Support



Investigate for Abuse or Neglect



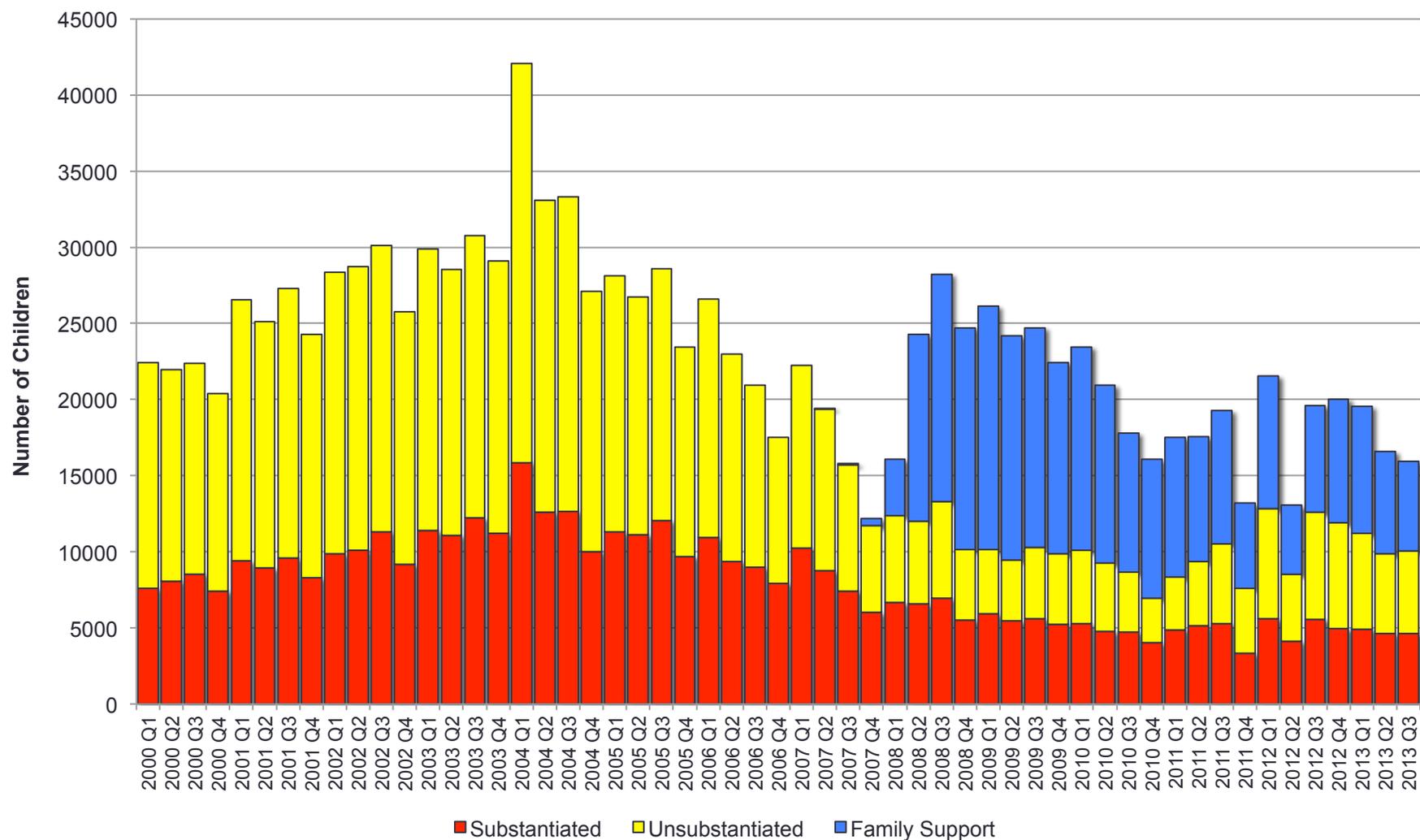
Report is Substantiated



Report is Unsubstantiated

Georgia CPS Dynamics

Jan 2000 to Sept. 2013



Measuring Child Safety



Children Reported to DFCS for Abuse or Neglect



Refer to Family Support



Subsequent Report is Made



Investigate for Abuse or Neglect



Report Substantiated



Subsequent Report is Made



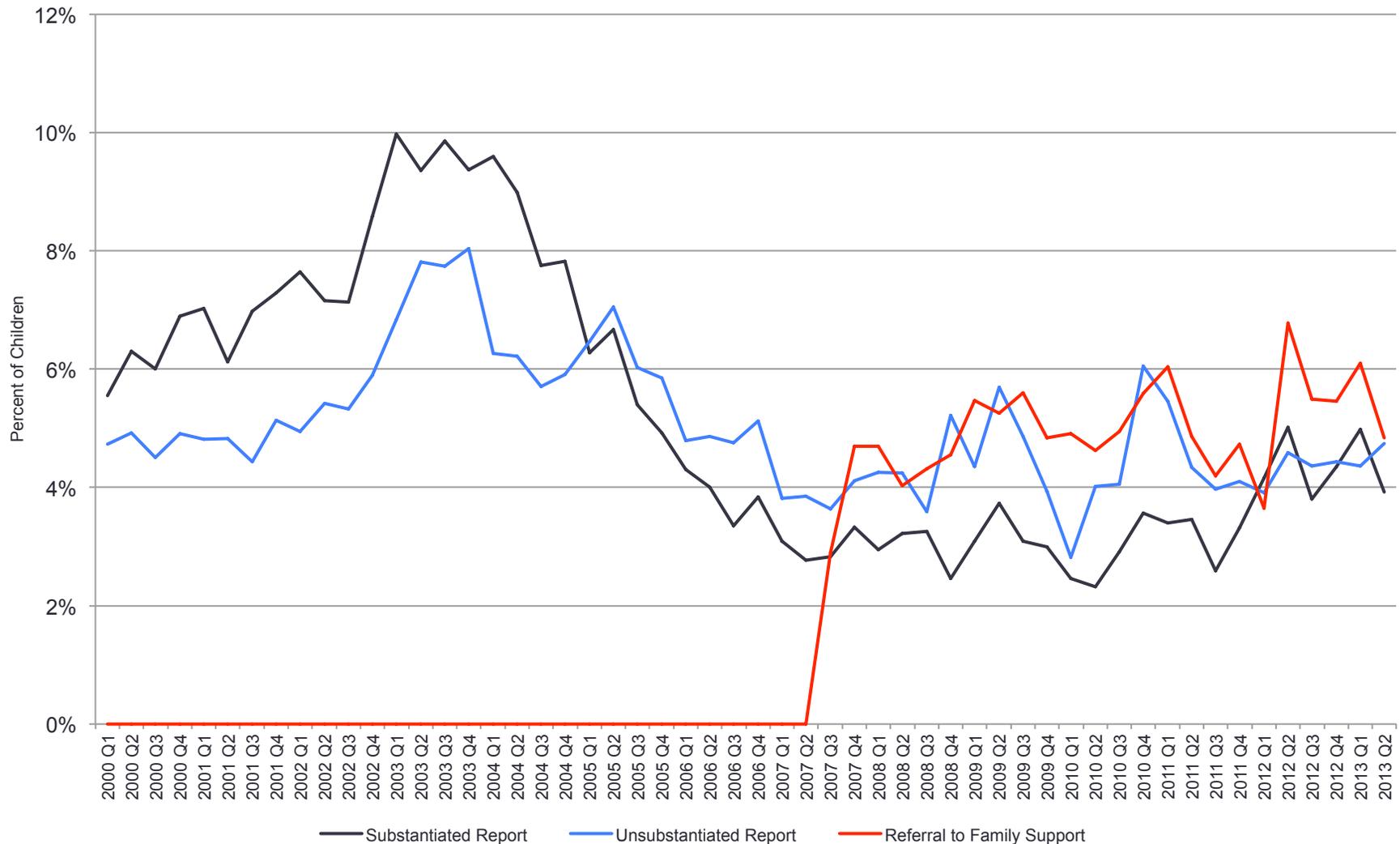
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Subsequent Report is Made

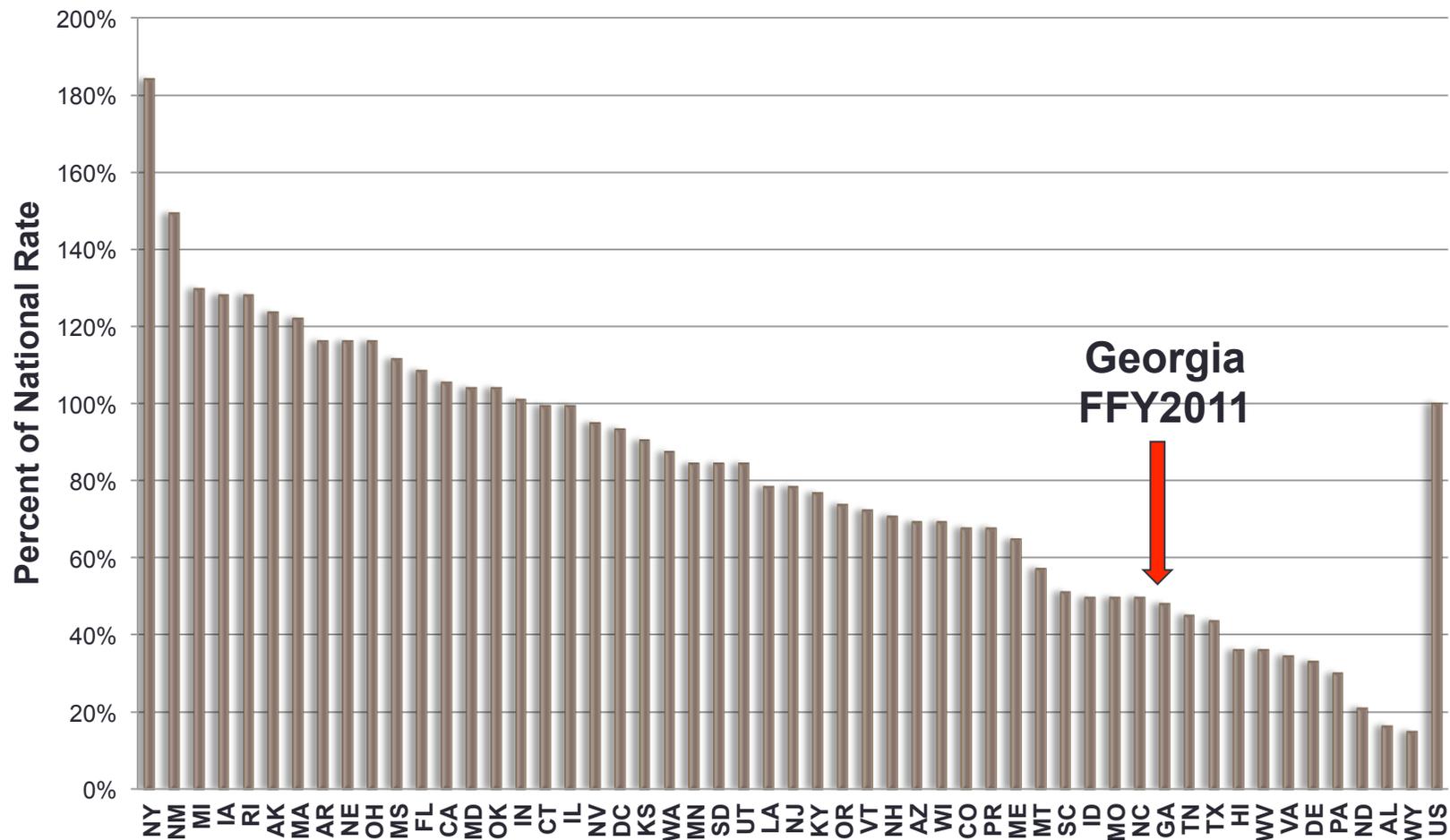
Recurrence of Accepted Intake

By Initial Disposition, Jan 2001 to June 2013



National Perspective: Recurrence of Maltreatment

FFY2011 6-Month Recurrence of Maltreatment (%)



<http://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/data>

FOSTER CARE

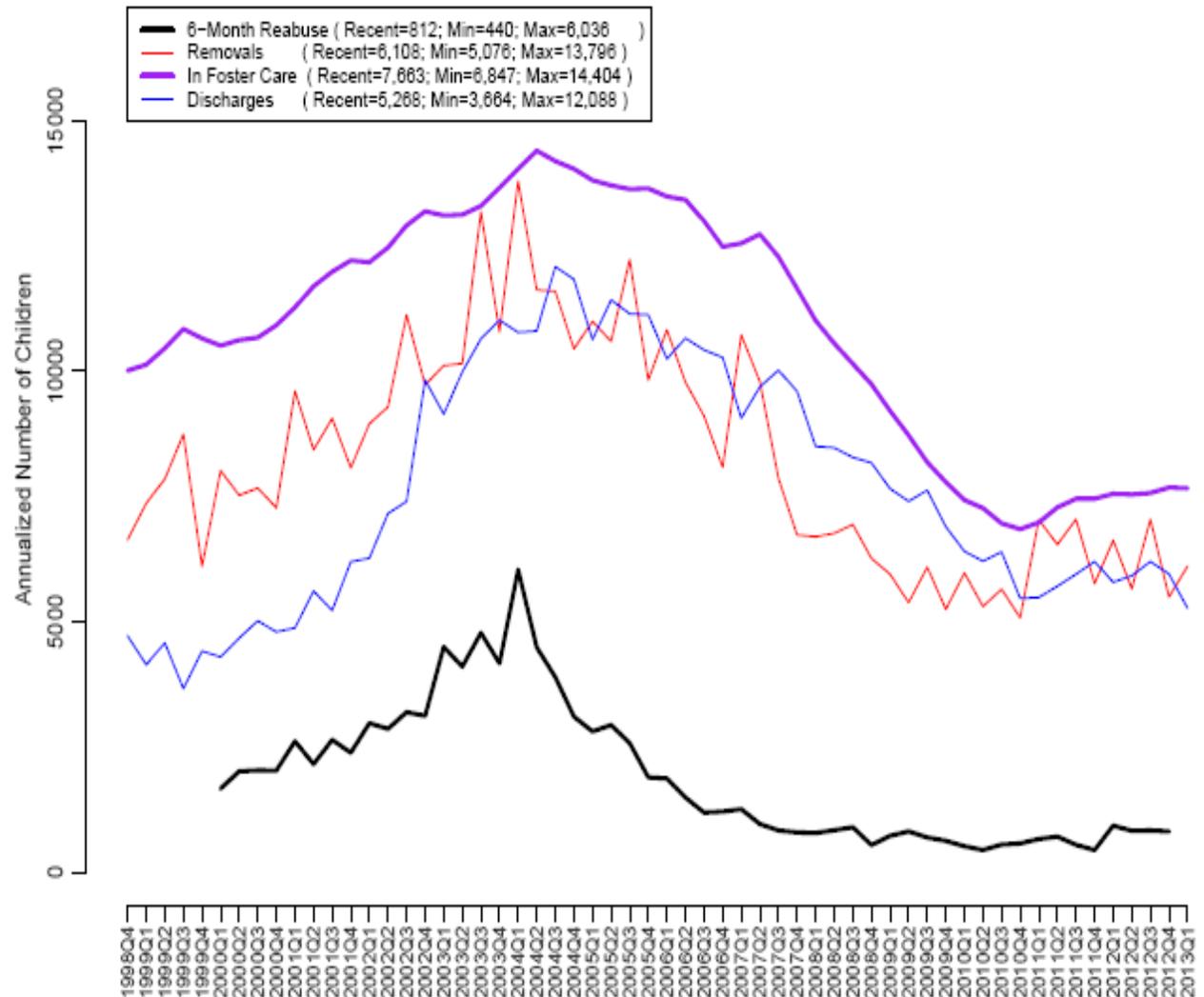


Georgia's Foster Care Profile

- See handout

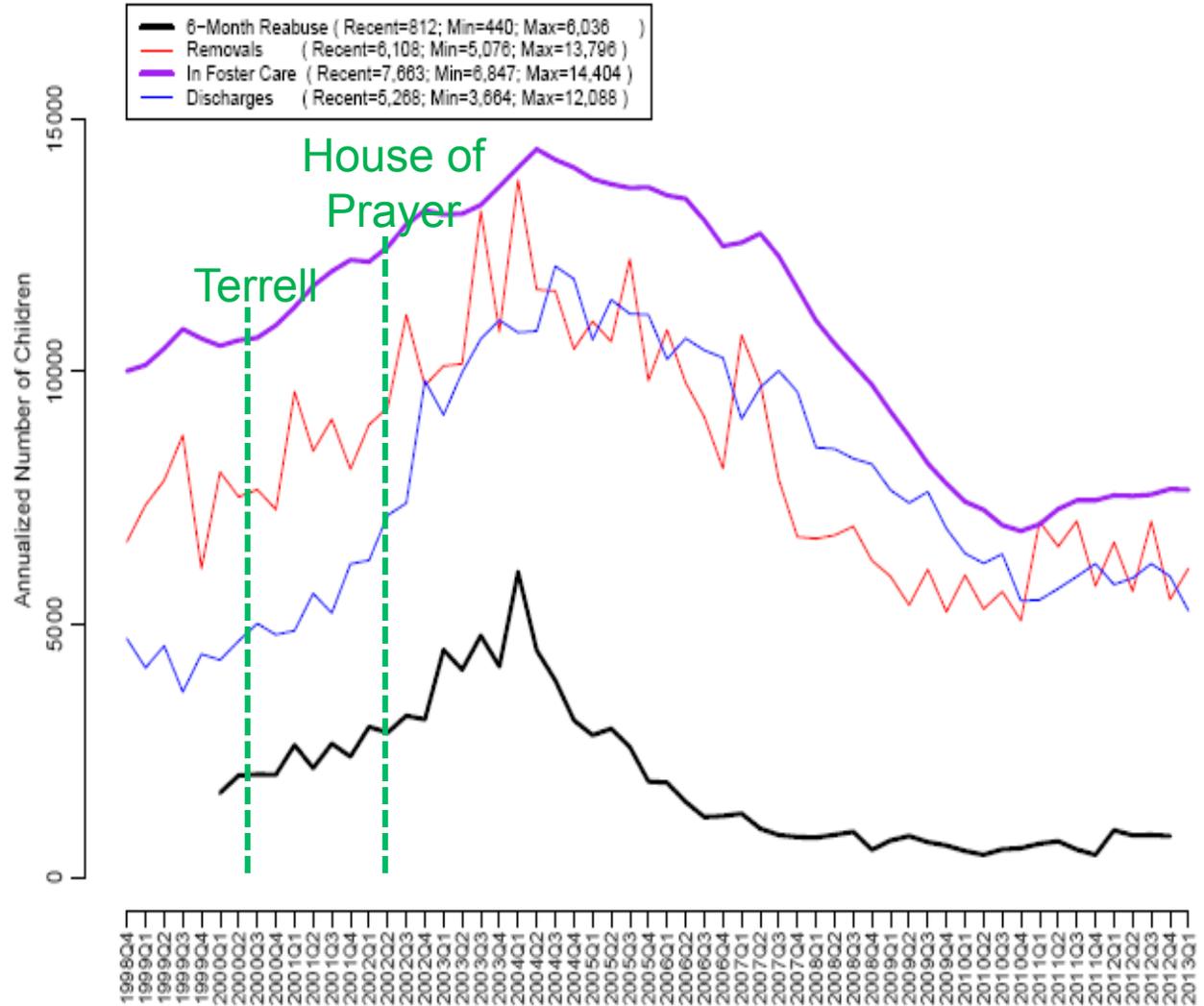
Georgia Foster Care Dynamics

- 2004:
 - 11,964 children removed (4.2/10K);
 - 14,511 children in care;
 - **4,631** (9%) re-abused in 6 months (**6 times** today's).
- 2012:
 - 6,108 children removed (1.8/10K);
 - 7,663 children in care;
 - **812** (4.1%) re-abused in 6 months.



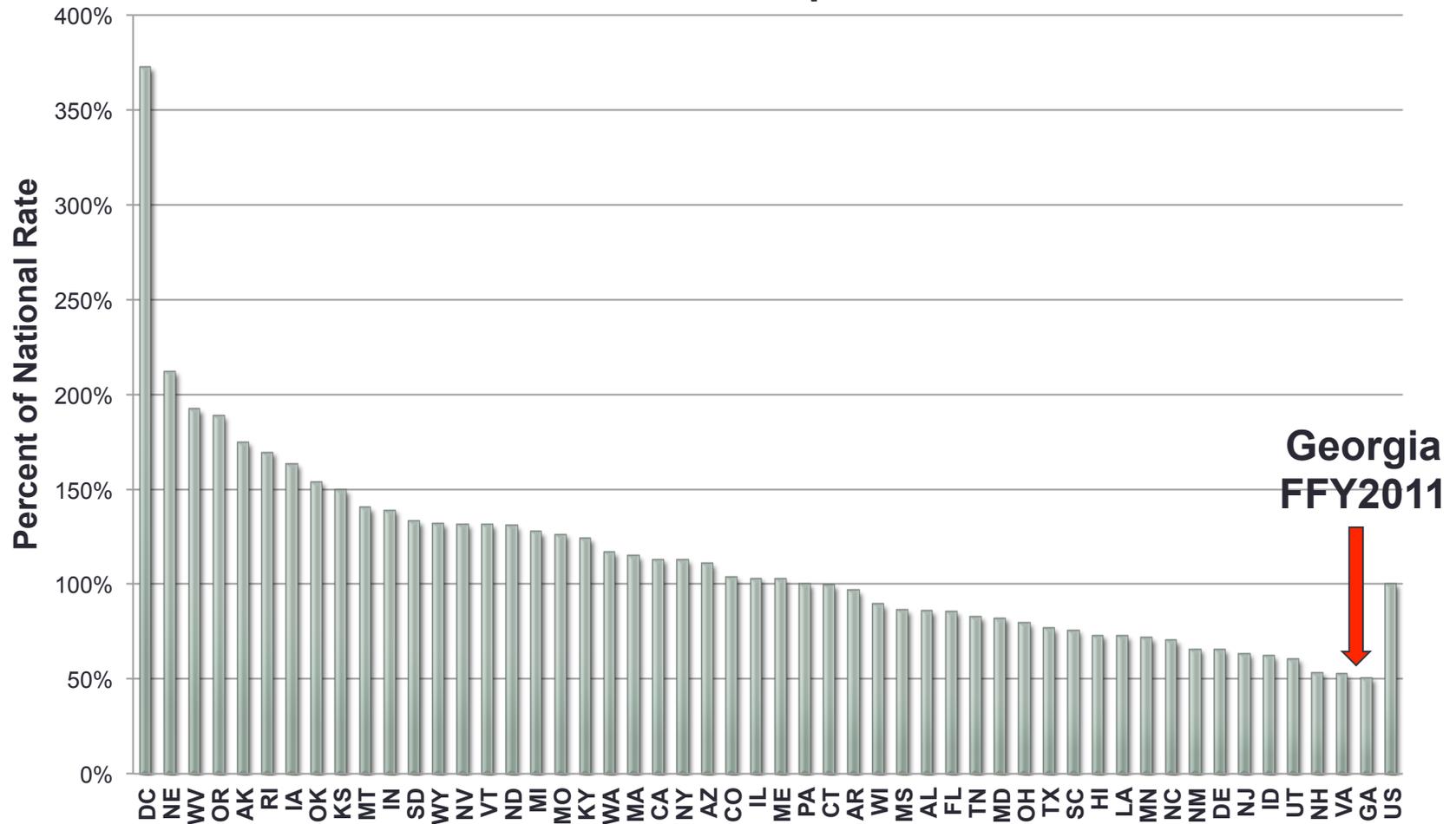
The Stories Behind the Numbers:

- 2000: Terrell Peterson, cover of Time Magazine
- 2001:
 - Governor's Task Force
 - CFSR Round 1
 - House of Prayer
 - \$110 million annual increase
- 2002: Kenny A Class Action Filed
- 2004: DFCS Mandatory Reporter Investigation Policy Change
- 2006: Safe Reduction



National Perspective: Children in Foster Care

FFY2011 In-Care per 10K



www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/entryexit2011.pdf

OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

Challenges and Opportunities

- Safety
 - Detecting Child Abuse in the Community
 - CPS Workforce Challenges
- Permanency
 - Placement Stability
- Well-Being
 - Health
 - Education
 - ILP
 - Family and community connections
 - Youth engagement
 - Trauma-informed care

SAFETY

Detecting Child Abuse in the Community

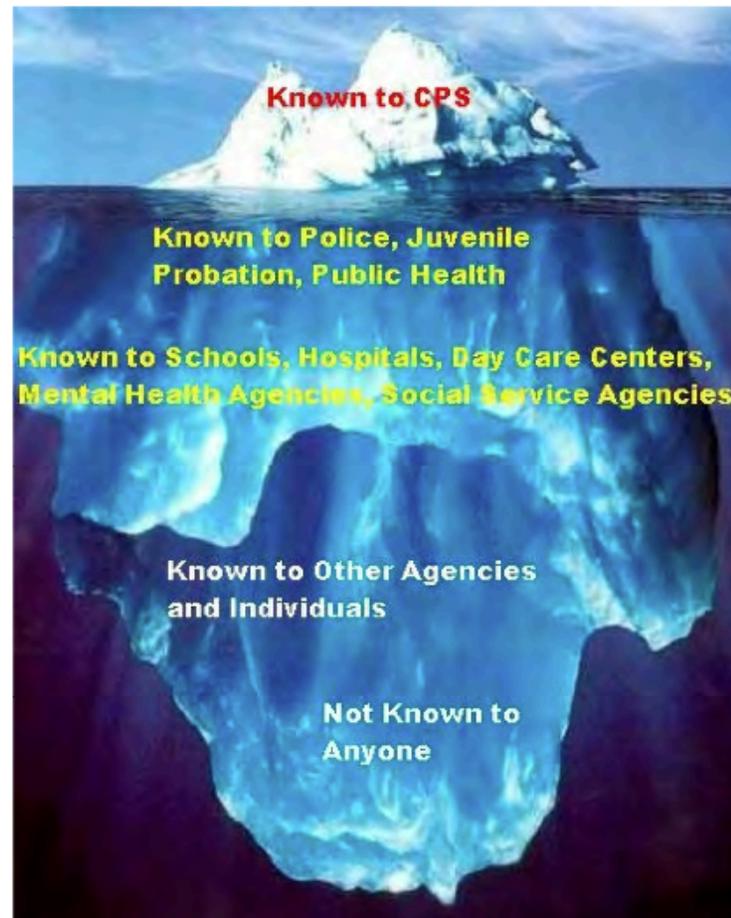
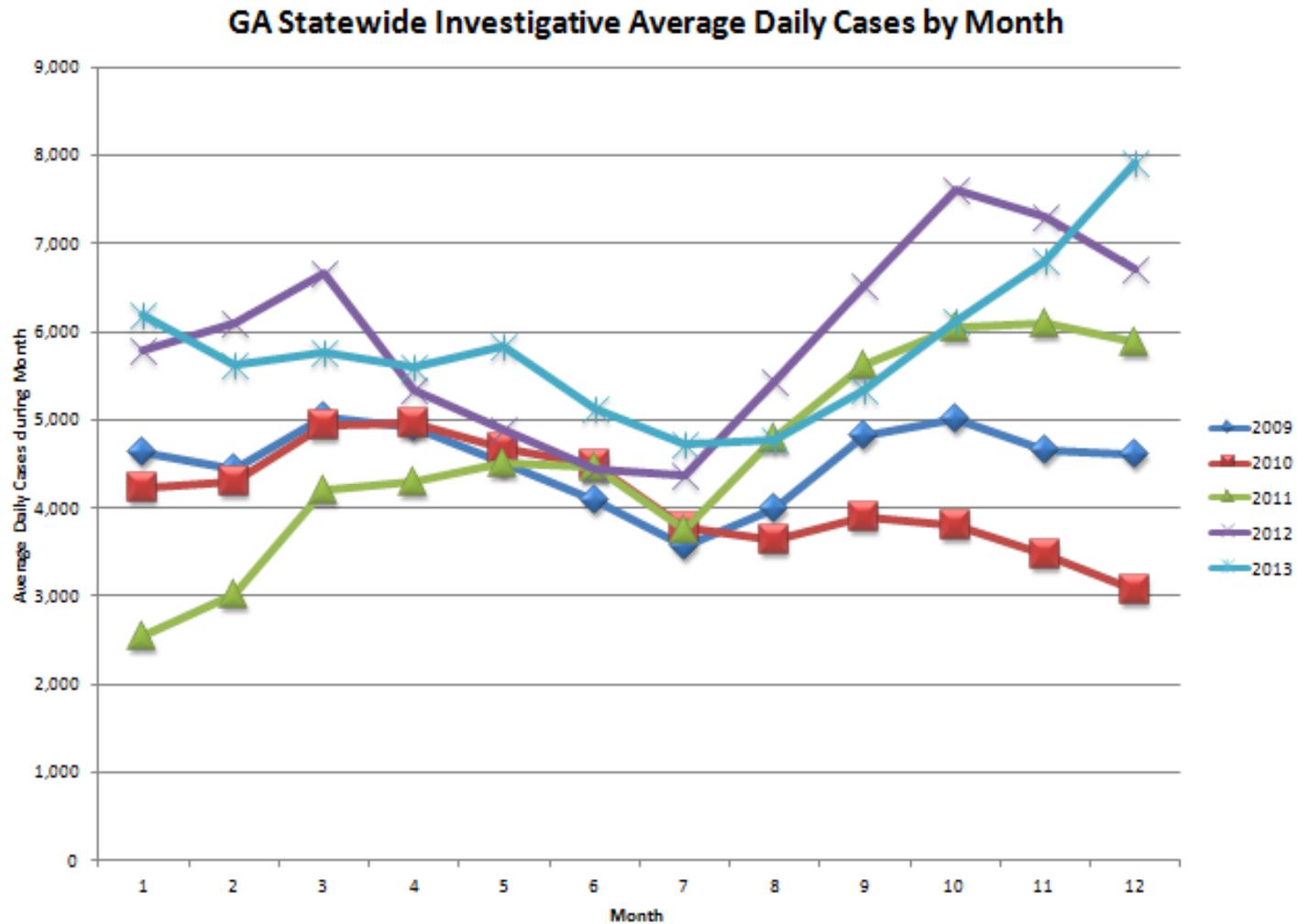


Figure 2-1. Levels of Recognition of Child Abuse and Neglect.

CPS Caseload Trends



PERMANENCY

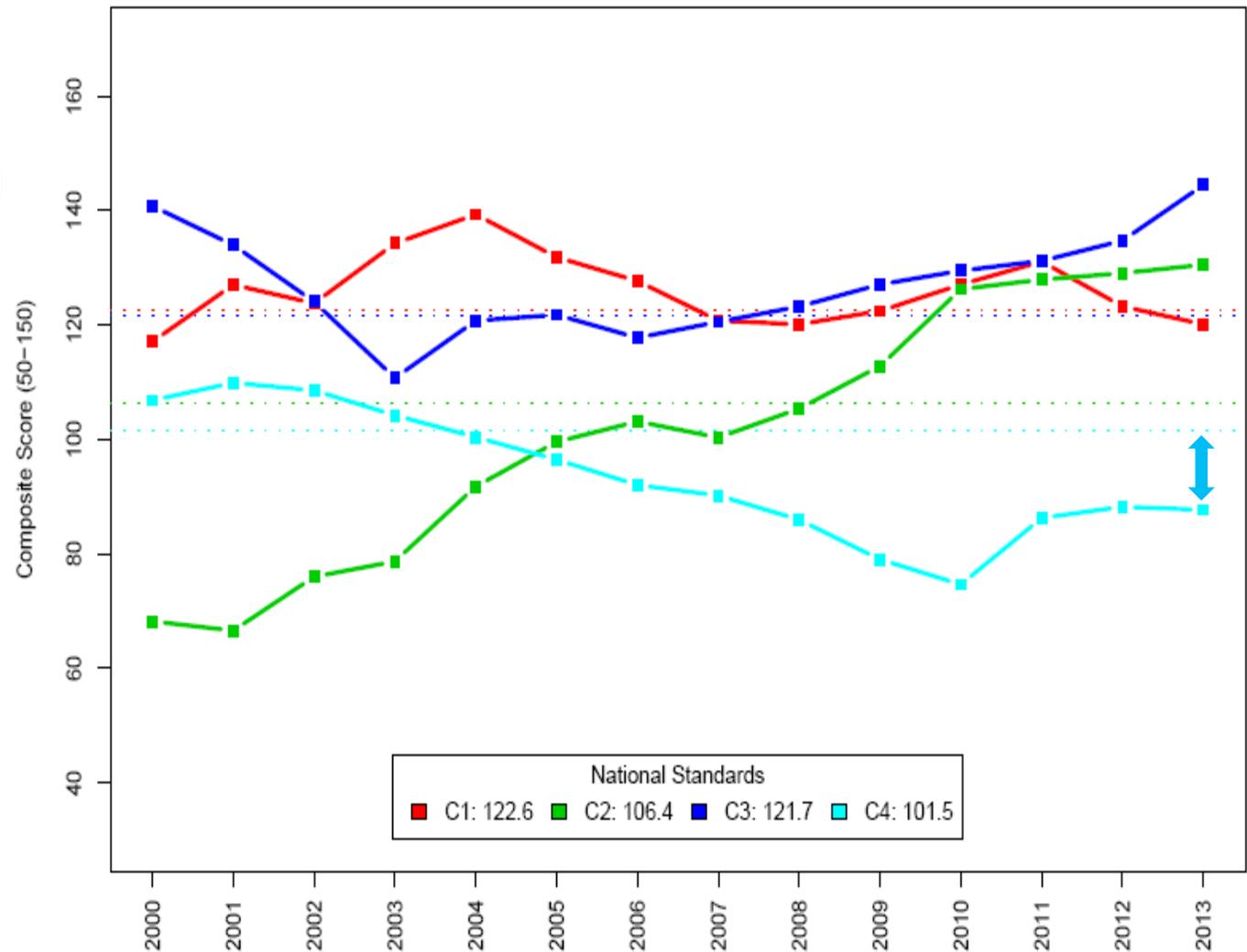
Georgia CFSR Permanency Composite Scores

1 Timely Reunification

2 Adoption

3 Long Stays in Foster Care

4 Placement Stability



Placement Stability

- 2 or fewer placement changes for children in foster care:
 - In care less than 12 months: 79.2%
 - In care less than 24 months: 55%
 - In care longer than 24 months: 33%

Year	DFCS Foster/ Adopt Homes	Non-DFCS Foster/Adopt Homes	Total
2010	2328	1538	3866
2011	2579	1749	4328
2012	2544	1884	4428
2013	2439	2215	4654

WELL BEING

Focusing on Well-Being

- Health
 - Psychotropic medications

Age Group:	Under 5 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-13 yrs	14-17 yrs
% w/ Rx:	3.08%	30.05%	45.87%	48.40%

- Educational achievement
- Independent and transitional living (self-sufficiency)
- Sibling, family, and community connections
- Youth engagement
- Trauma-informed care

ILP Funded Supports/ Services

Education & Enrichment Expenses

- Tutoring , Summer School, Community Activities, Driver's Education, GED Preparation

Transitional Living

- Partial Rental Reimbursement, Utility Deposits, Rental Deposits, Emergency Assistance

Post Secondary Educational Expenses

- Tutoring, Tuition, Books, Room and Board, Transportation Assistance.

Individual Development Account (IDA)

- Savings Account Matching, Stipends.

Q&A

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