



Case Progression and Court Improvement Data Report for 2009



District 3: Lancaster County

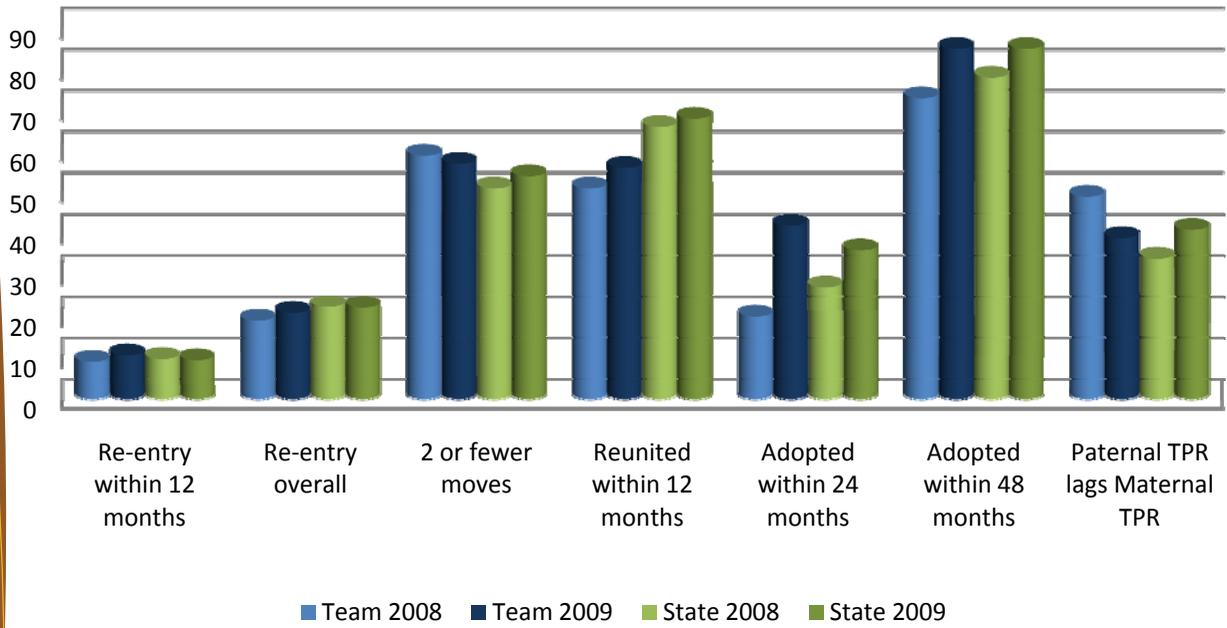


Information provided in this document is designed to help your team improve case progression, as this is one area the courts can control. Timeliness of hearings has a significant impact on time to case closure, which means that courts can make a difference in the lives of children in the system. Data on page 1 and 2 come from Fostering Court Improvement (fosteringcourtimprovement.org/ne) and data on pages 3-8 were collected through JUSTICE to track case progression timelines for all abuse/neglect cases that closed in 2008 and 2009.

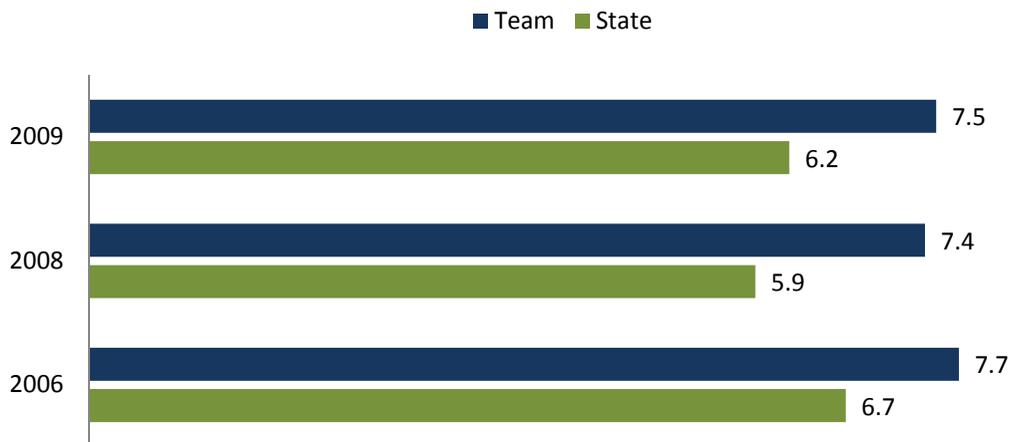
	District 3		Nebraska		Missouri	National
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2009	2008-2009
Poverty rate*	11.3%	Not available	13.4%	14%	20%	18%
Median length of stay	17 months	17 months	13 months	12 months	13 months	16 months
Median months to reunification	12 months	10 months	7 months	7 months	8 months	7 months
Median months to adoption	35 months	27 months	34 months	29 months	27 months	29 months

* 2008 county data comes from the U.S. Census Bureau. NE, MO, and National data are from Kids Count. 2009 is considered October 2008 through September 2009

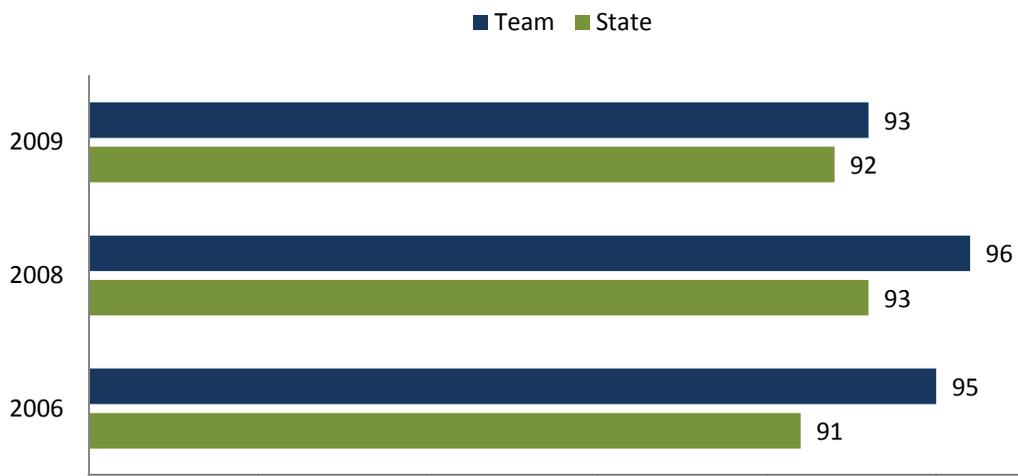
Percentages for 2008 and 2009 Fiscal Years



Rates of Removal per 10k Children



Percent of Children over 12 in Group Home or Institutional Placements



In Lancaster County, there were 197 abuse and neglect cases that closed between January 1 and December 31, 2008. In 2009, 207 abuse and neglect cases closed. The following analyses are based on that data.

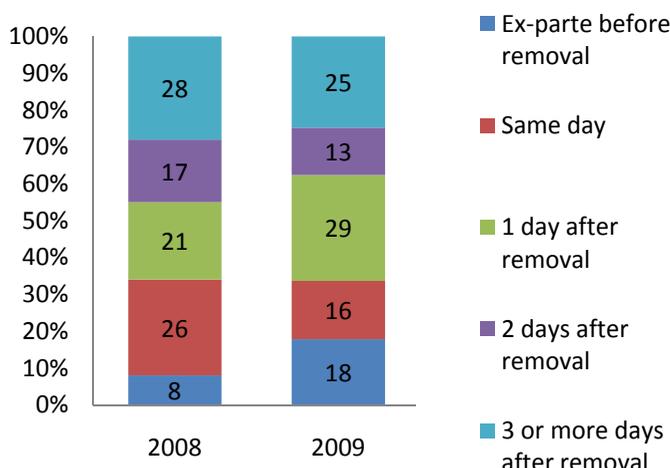
As you look through the data provided below, keep in mind that medians represent the center-point for cases in your team. Half of your cases had time that was shorter than the median, and half of cases had time longer than the median. When medians are different from 2008 to 2009, you should also see differences in the bar charts. This will help you to identify where differences are occurring, and is meant as a visual aid to interpreting medians.

Timeline progression: All ages

Removal to ex-parte

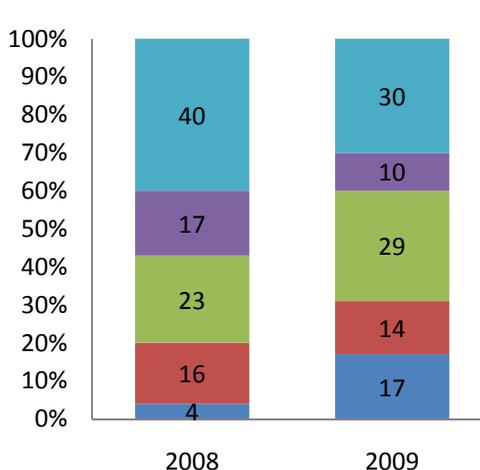
Nebraska

2008 Median = 1 day
2009 Median = 1 day



District 3

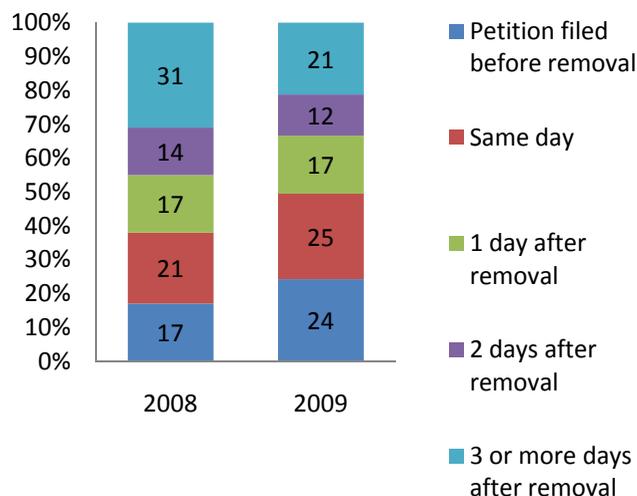
2008 Median = 1 day
2009 Median = 1 day



Removal to Petition Filing

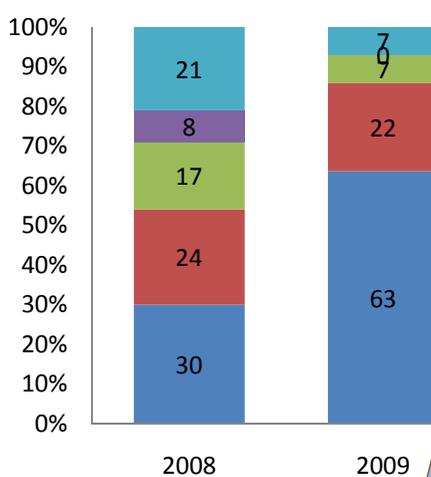
Nebraska

2008 Median = 1 day
2009 Median = 1 day



District 3

2008 Median = 0 days
2009 Median = 0 days



* Note:
All data presented uses initial removal date to court closure date and may not match HHS reports

Best practice recommendations

Removal to first hearing – 3 days

First hearing not consistently reported in JUSTICE

Removal to adjudication – 60 days

55% of 2009 District 3 cases held the adjudication within 60 days of removal

Adjudication to disposition – 30 days

11% of 2009 District 3 cases held the disposition within 30 days of adjudication

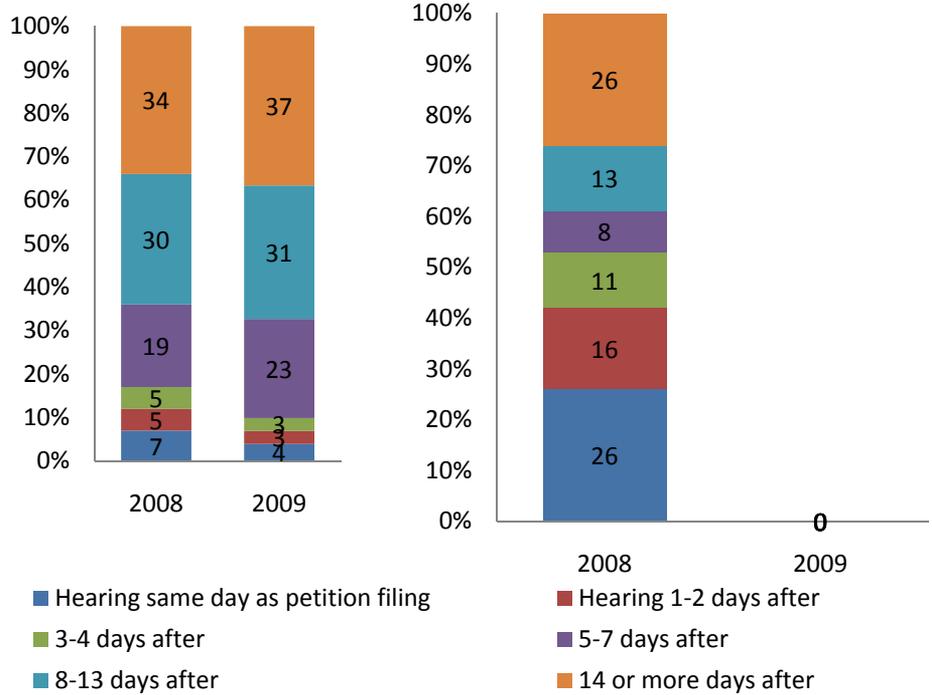
Petition to First Hearing

Nebraska

2008 Median = 9 days
2009 Median = 10 days

District 3

2008 Median = 4 days
2009 Median = Not reported



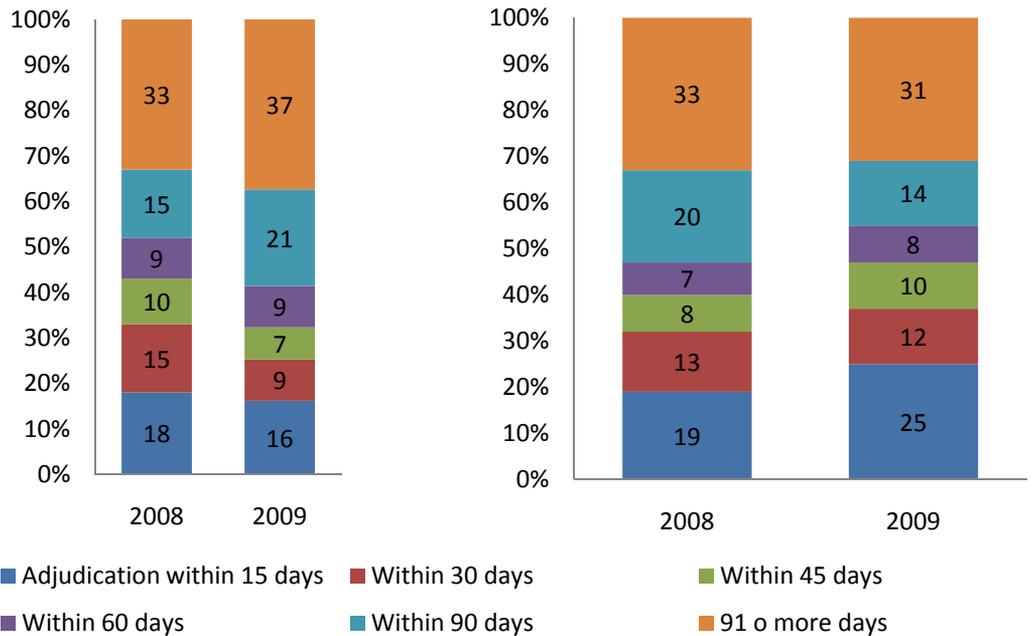
Removal to Adjudication

Nebraska

2008 Median = 57 days
2009 Median = 72 days

District 3

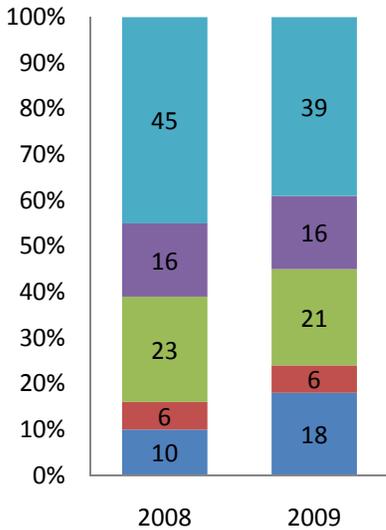
2008 Median = 69 days
2009 Median = 51 days



Adjudication to Disposition

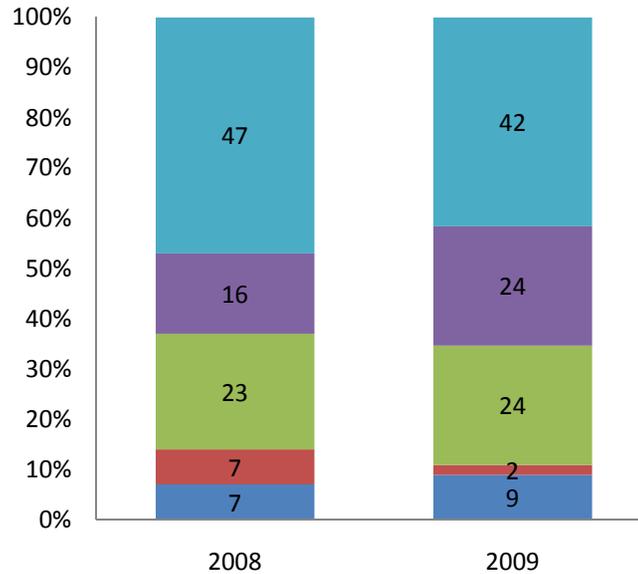
Nebraska

2008 Median = 56 days
2009 Median = 49 days



District 3

2008 Median = 57 days
2009 Median = 53 days

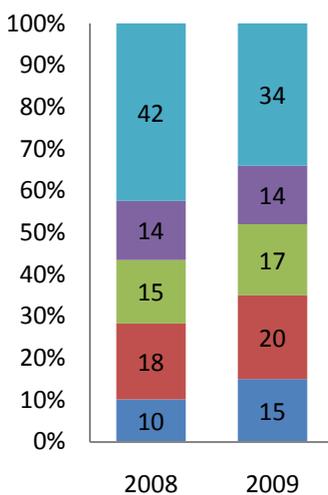


- Disposition within 15 days
- Within 30 days
- Within 45 days
- Within 60 days
- 61 or more days

Removal to Case Closure

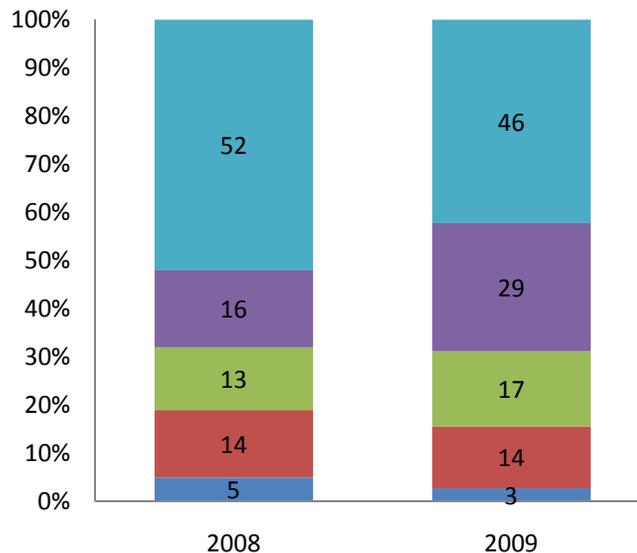
Nebraska

2008 Median = 23 months
2009 Median = 18 months



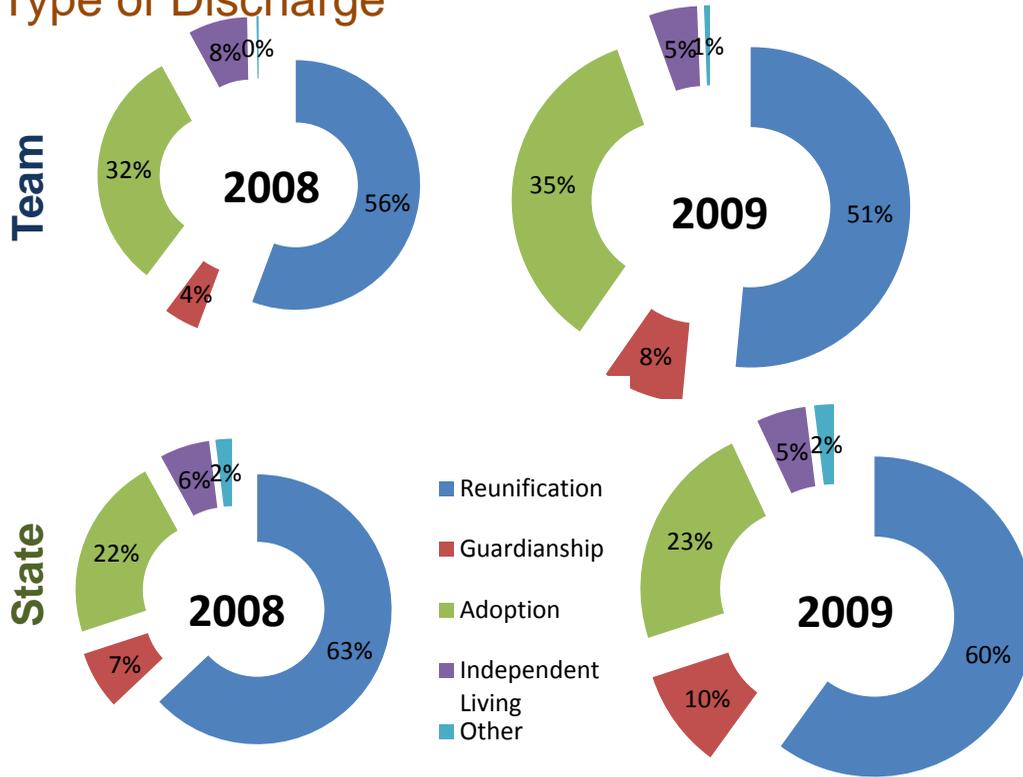
District 3

2008 Median = 27 months
2009 Median = 23 months



- Within 6 months
- Within 12 months
- Within 18 months
- Within 24 months
- 25 or more months

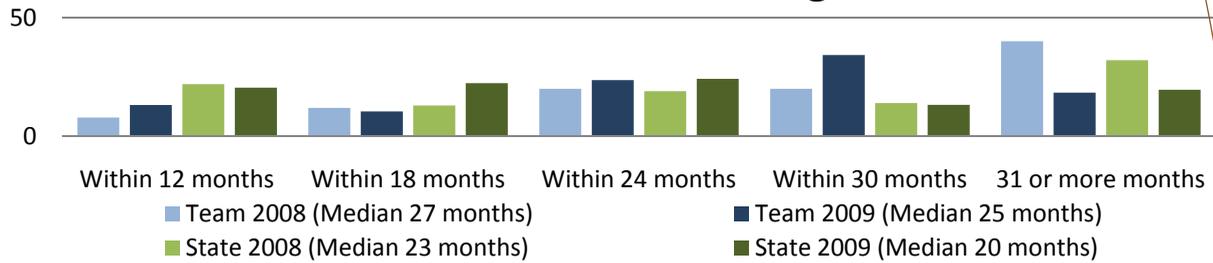
Type of Discharge



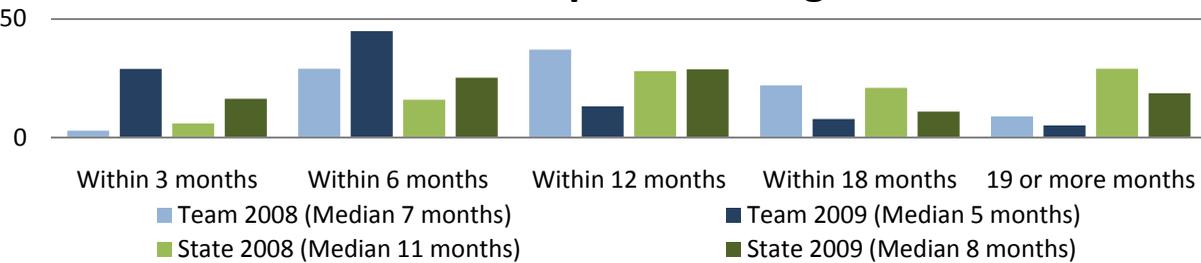
Trends

Lancaster County has made significant progress in timelines for permanency but reunifications are still taking longer than state and national averages. The team may want to identify and address existing barriers to timely reunification. Lancaster County has significantly more adoptions than the rest of the state and the adoptions increased.

Removal to TPR - All Ages



TPR to Adoption - All Ages



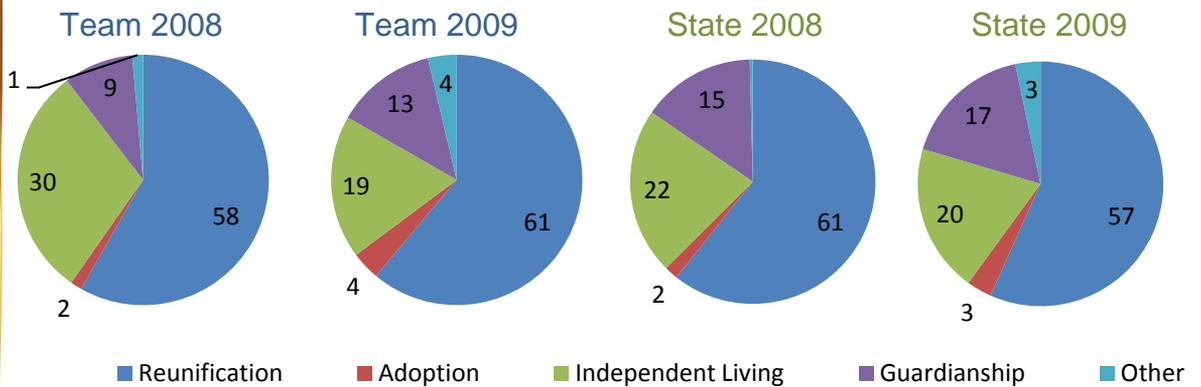
Case Progression for Zero to Three

Median Times	Team		State	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
Early Stages				
Removal to Ex-parte	2 days	1 day	1 day	1 day
Removal to Petition	0 days	0 days	1 day	0 days
Petition to first hearing	3 days	n/a	9 days	10 days
Removal to Adjudication	75 days	62 days	62 days	70 days
Permanency Stages				
Adjudication to Disposition	62 days	59 days	58 days	49 days
Removal to Case Closure	29 months	23 months	21 months	19 months
TPR Stages				
Removal to TPR	27 months	21 months	23 months	19 months
TPR to adoption	8 months	6 months	9 months	7 months



Adolescent Case Progression and Outcomes

Permanency Types for Youth 12 and older – 3a cases only



Median Times	Team		State	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
Removal to Adjudication	22 days	40 days	53 days	79 days
Adjudication to Disposition	55 days	51 days	49 days	49 days
Average Number of Review Hearings	4	3	3	3
Removal to Case Closure	20	22	17	17
	months	months	months	months
Removal to TPR	12 months	n/a	n/a	16 months
TPR to case closure	15 months	n/a	26 months	12 months

The sharp drop in youth being discharged to independent living (aging out) is positive, but there continues to be a high percentage of 3a youth leaving the foster care system without having found a permanent home. The team may want to explore some avenues to address this. One possibility might be Family Group Conferences for all youth who are not soon to be reunified or adopted or placed in a guardianship.