



# TRENDS and OPPORTUNITIES in YOUTH PERMANENCE

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National Foster Care Review  
Coalition

# “What is the most valuable part of today’s review?”-youth answers

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“Trying to get me back with my family.”

“The acknowledgements and the positive feedback.”

“The most helpful was getting to know a little bit about my younger siblings.”

“Just talking about where I’m at and having a responsible conversation on what I need to do.”

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# INTRODUCTIONS

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Denise Barker – South Carolina

Julia Pearce – Delaware

Mary Bush – Colorado

- Name
  - State
  - Role
  - What would you like to get from today's session?
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# PERMANENCY

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Permanency – n. 1. Same as permanence  
2. The state or quality of being permanent

Permanent – adj. To remain 1. Lasting or intended to last indefinitely without change  
2. Lasting relatively long time

# PERMANENCY

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“Permanency is not a process, a plan or a placement – permanency is a **family relationship** that is intended to last a lifetime.”

*The Casey Center for Effective Child Welfare Practice*

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# Purpose of Independent Foster Care Review (FCR)

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Assure that children do not linger in foster care but rather that they receive the support and benefits of a **permanent** home.

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# How Did FCR Start?

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- ASPCA - CPS New York City 1900's
  - 1970's – Identified “foster care drift”
  - Crowded Court Dockets
  - Overworked CW Agencies
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# South Carolina starts Advocacy Efforts

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- DSS, citizens, professionals, legislators
  - Grant received from Clark foundation
  - 1974 South Carolina becomes the first state in the US to have a citizen review system
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# PL 96-272 The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980

- Provide financial incentives to states through Titles IV-B and IV-E
- Prevent unnecessary foster care placements Erickson 2000
- Reunify families when foster care placement had occurred whenever possible Erickson 2000
- Limit time spent in foster care whenever possible Erickson 2000
- Written Case Plans
- Establish a Case Review System
- Review each child/youth in care every 6 months
- Requires reasonable efforts for prevention and reunification
- A Permanent Plan within 18 months
- Requires parental involvement – due process

# ASFA – Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997

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- Requires that safety and permanency be the paramount concern
  - Reasonable Efforts to Reunify may not be required in certain circumstances
  - Notice and Opportunity to be Heard for Caretakers
  - Permanency Hearings within 12 months
  - Case Plan and Case Reviews Must consider Child's Safety
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# What do Independent Foster Care Reviews Look Like?

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1. External Citizen Review
  2. Administrative Review
  3. Judicial/Court Review
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# What have other states done?

Types of Reviews	# of States
Citizen Review	20
Administrative Review	25
Court Review	5

## Foster Care Review Programs

Prepared by the National Foster Care Review Coalition (NFCRC)

State	Admin. Review	Citizen Review	Court Review
Alabama	AL	X	
Alaska	AK	X	
Arizona	AZ		X
Arkansas	AR		X
California	CA		X
Colorado	CO	X	
Connecticut	CT	X	
Delaware	DE		X
Florida	FL	X	
Georgia	GA	X	
Hawaii	HI		X
Idaho	ID	X	
Illinois	IL	X	
Indiana	IN		X
Iowa	IO	X	
Kansas	KS	X	
Kentucky	KY	X	
Louisiana	LA	X	
Maine	ME	X	
Maryland	MD	X	
Massachusetts	MA	X	
Michigan	MI	X	
Minnesota	MN	X	
Mississippi	MS	X	
Missouri	MO	X	

State	Admin. Review	Citizen Review	Court Review
Montana	MT	X	
Nebraska	NE	X	
Nevada	NV		X
New Hampshire	NH	X	
New Jersey	NJ	X	
New Mexico	NM	X	
New York	NY	X	
North Carolina	NC	X	
North Dakota	ND	X	
Ohio	OH	X	
Oklahoma	OK	X	
Oregon	OR	X	
Pennsylvania	PA	X	
Rhode Island	RI	X	
South Carolina	SC	X	
South Dakota	SD	X	
Tennessee	TN	X	
Texas	TX	X	
Utah	UT	X	
Vermont	VT	X	
Virginia	VR	X	
Washington	WA	X	
West Virginia	WV	X	
Wisconsin	WI	X	
Wyoming	WY	X	

Administrative Review Program: 25  
 Citizen Review Board: 20  
 Court Only: 5

NFRC Member State  
 Roundtable Member State  
 Non-Affiliated State

# South Carolina's Citizen Review System

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- Panels of local citizen volunteers
  - Recommendations issued and sent
  - Housed in Governor's Office
  - Members are nominated for 4 yr. term
  - Each board has a professional staff serves as liaison and attends all reviews
  - All interested parties are invited to reviews
  - Two attorneys represent board on disputed cases
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# Colorado's Administrative Review

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- Independent 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Review under CDHS
  - Reviews every 6 months
  - Can take the place of the court hearing
  - CW and JJ Populations
  - QA System
  - In-Home Reviews
  - Professional Staff
  - Data Collection and Analysis
  - Research
  - Ad Hoc Reviews
  - IV-E Maximized
  - CFSR & PIP
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# Delaware's Citizen Review System

- Review both CW and JJ populations
- Use panels of local citizen volunteers- serve 3 yr. term
- Review 10- 18- 30 months, then annually
- Recommendations issued and sent
- Housed in Administrative Offices of the Courts
- Each Committee has a professional staff serves as liaison and attends all reviews
- All interested parties are invited to reviews
- One Deputy Attorney represents the Board when petition to be a party in a case

# Benefits of FCR

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- Objective, fresh perspective by knowledgeable people
  - Comprehensive and in-depth
  - Rich data collection
  - Supplements or substitutes for Court
  - Independent assessment of outcomes
  - Focus is on Safety, Best Interest and Well Being of the child
  - Brings all parties together in a non-adversarial setting
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# Limitations of Court Review Only

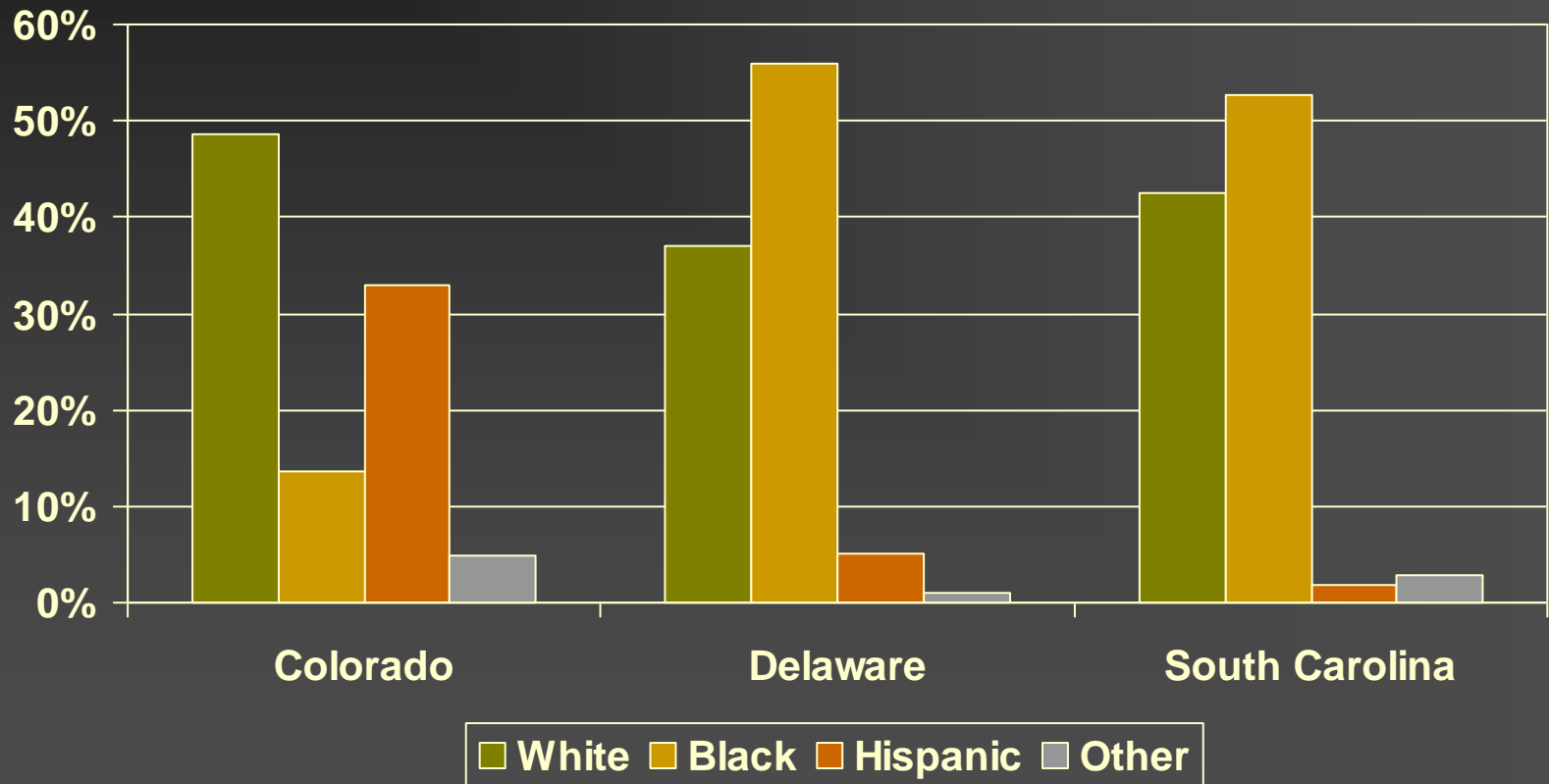
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- Inequitable distribution of power between Courts and Child Welfare agency
  - Court room procedures are structured and formal
  - Legal review does not always ensure in depth exploration of best practice standards
  - Cost per review for court is higher
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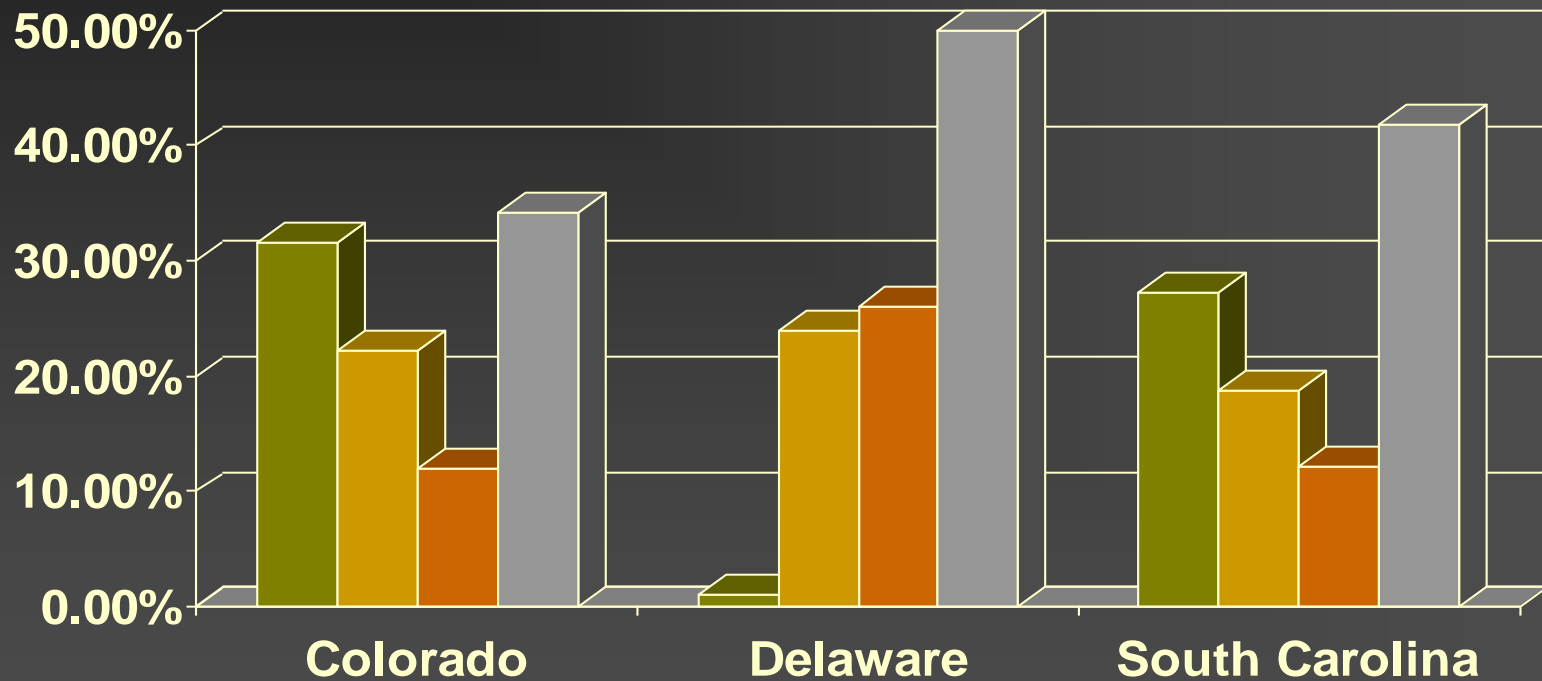
# Review Numbers

	Colorado	Delaware	South Carolina
Total Number Reviewed	6,857	882	5,347
Number 12 and older	3544	422	2,241
% 12 and Older	52%	48%	42%

## Race of Children Age 12 and Older Reviewed during CY 2007

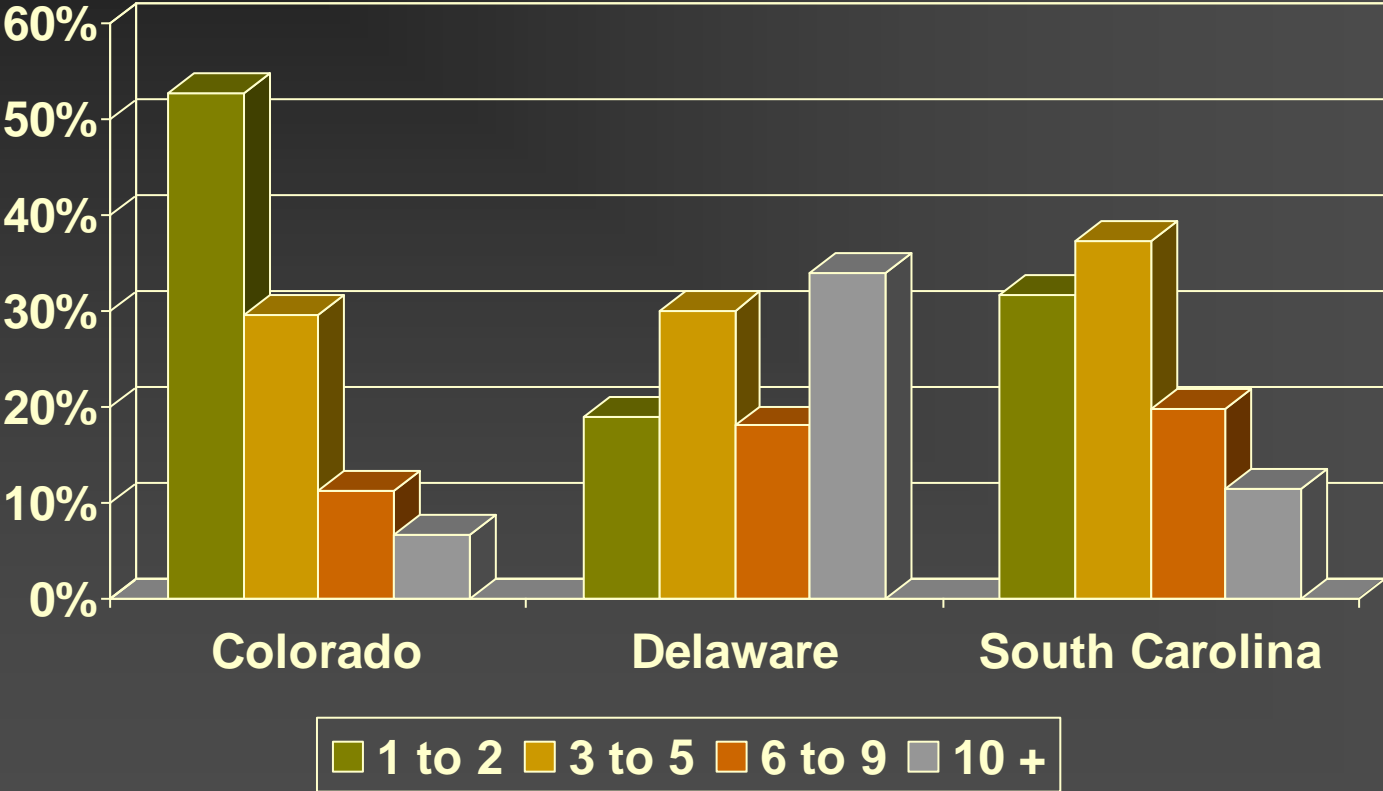


## Length of Time in Care at Time of Review for Children/Youth Age 12 or Older CY 2007

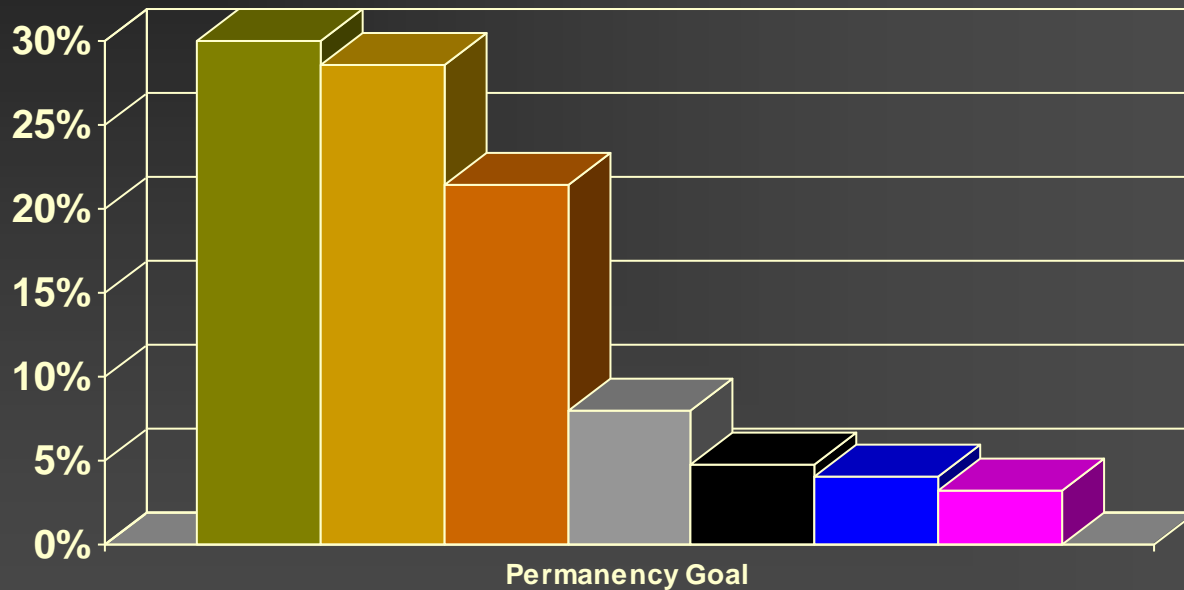


0 - 12 Months 12 - 24 Months 24 - 36 Months 36 + Months

# Number of Placements for Children/Youth Age 12 or Older CY 2007



# Permanency Goal at Time of Review for Children/Youth Age 12 or Older CY 2007 Colorado



■ Long Term Foster Care

■ OPPLA/Emancipation

■ Unable To Report

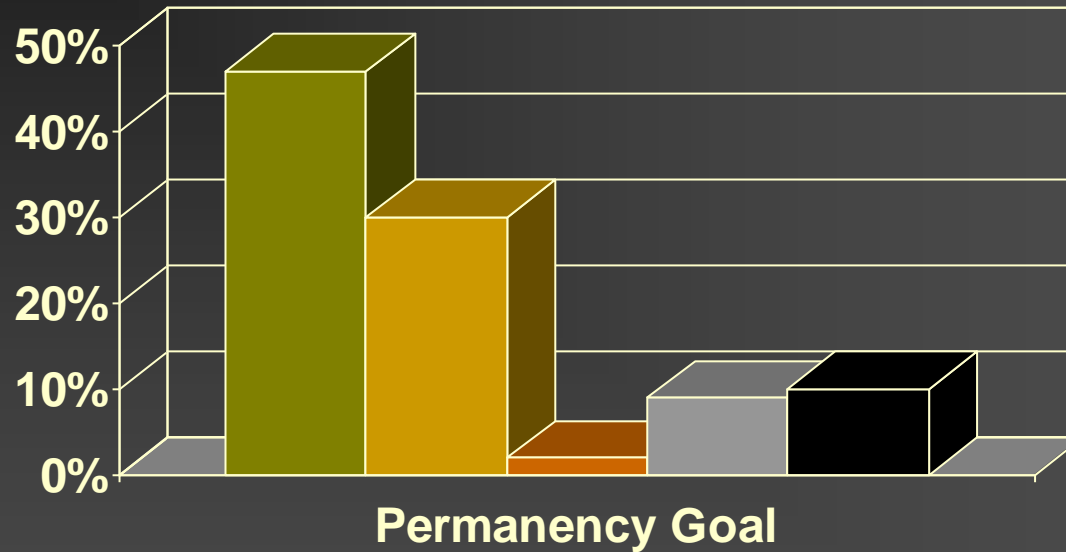
■ Legal Guardianship/Permanent Custody

■ Return Home

■ Adoption

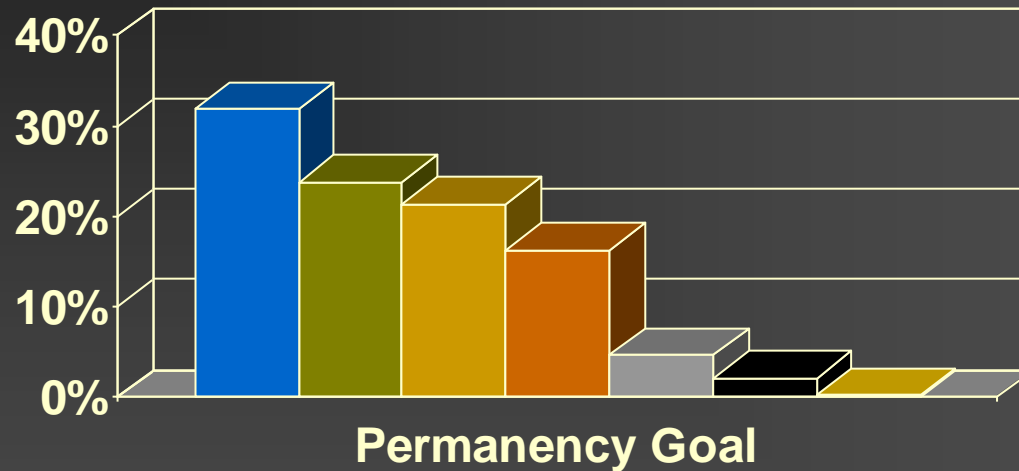
■ Remain Home

# Permanency Goal at Time of Review for Children/Youth Age 12 or Older CY 2007 Delaware



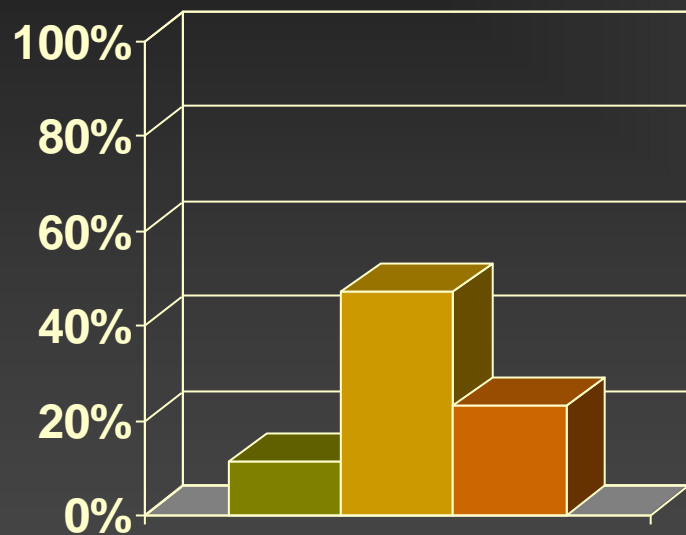
- APPLA/OPPLA
- Return Home
- TPR/Adoption
- Guardianship
- Relative Custody

# Permanency Goal at Time of Review for Children/Youth Age 12 or Older CY 2007 South Carolina



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|-------------------------|-----------------|
| ■ Independent Living    | ■ Reunification |
| ■ Adoption/TPR          | ■ PFC           |
| ■ Relative              | ■ Other         |
| ■ Residential Treatment |                 |

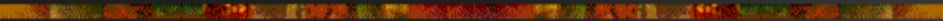
# The Number of Children/Youth Age 12 or Older Emancipating from Out of Home Care CY 2007



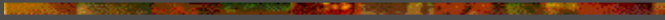
Percent of all  
children/youth exiting  
during CY 2007

- Colorado – 411
- Delaware – 122
- South Carolina - 410

■ Colorado ■ Delaware ■ South Carolina



What questions do you think  
would be important for us to  
ask in reviews?



# National Collaboration of Review Programs

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- Creation of National Foster Care Review Coalition (NFCRC) April 2006
  - Web site and Membership Development-  
[www.nfcrc.net](http://www.nfcrc.net)
  - Steering Committee-Administrators from:
    - Colorado
    - Delaware
    - Maryland
    - New Mexico
    - Oklahoma
    - Oregon
    - South Carolina
    - Utah
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# National Foster Care Review Coalition

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- Partnering with foster care review programs around the country to compile CFSR data on all children in care.
  - Joining forces to:
    - **Influence and Inform** individual state and national policy makers, as well as the public;
    - **Promote** the establishment of an independent review system in each state to assess the status of these children; and
    - **Support** the work of active independent review systems.
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# NFCRC Working to Improve Services to Youth

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- Collaborating with the Children's Bureau- data development for State CFSRs
  - Permanency Planning Committee National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
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# Questions?

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Thank you for working with your  
FCR systems to promote  
permanency for our youth!