

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE



2025 Data Report

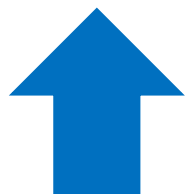
January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

Pennsylvania's Family Engagement Initiative (FEI) is designed to assist select counties in furthering collaborative efforts between the judiciary and the child welfare agency to enhance family involvement in the child welfare system. **The overall purpose of the FEI is to reduce trauma and promote healing for children, parents, and families.** The FEI focuses on three core components designed to meaningfully involve family: **Enhanced Legal Representation; Family Finding – Revised; and Crisis/Rapid Response Family Meetings.** This data report includes progress and outcomes for FEI Counties from their implementation date through December 2025.

Family Engagement Initiative Counties

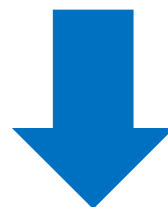
Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5
<i>Started 2018</i>	<i>Started 2019</i>	<i>Started 2020</i>	<i>Started 2022</i>	<i>Started 2024</i>
Clinton	Beaver	Dauphin	Bradford	Erie
Northampton	Butler	Lehigh	Lycoming	Juniata
Union	Fayette	Philadelphia	Washington	Luzerne
	Snyder			Potter
	Tioga			Warren
	Venango			

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE DESIRED OUTCOMES



INCREASE...

- Meaningful Family Involvement
- Timely Permanence
- Use of Kinship Care
- Youth and Family Well-being



DECREASE...

- Children Entering Foster Care
- Children Re-entering Foster Care
- Use of Congregate Care

ENHANCED LEGAL REPRESENTATION

FEI County Oversight Teams select two of the four standards of practice listed in the table below to enhance quality legal representation. The chart below indicates the number of action items and the progress made during the year by all FEI Counties.

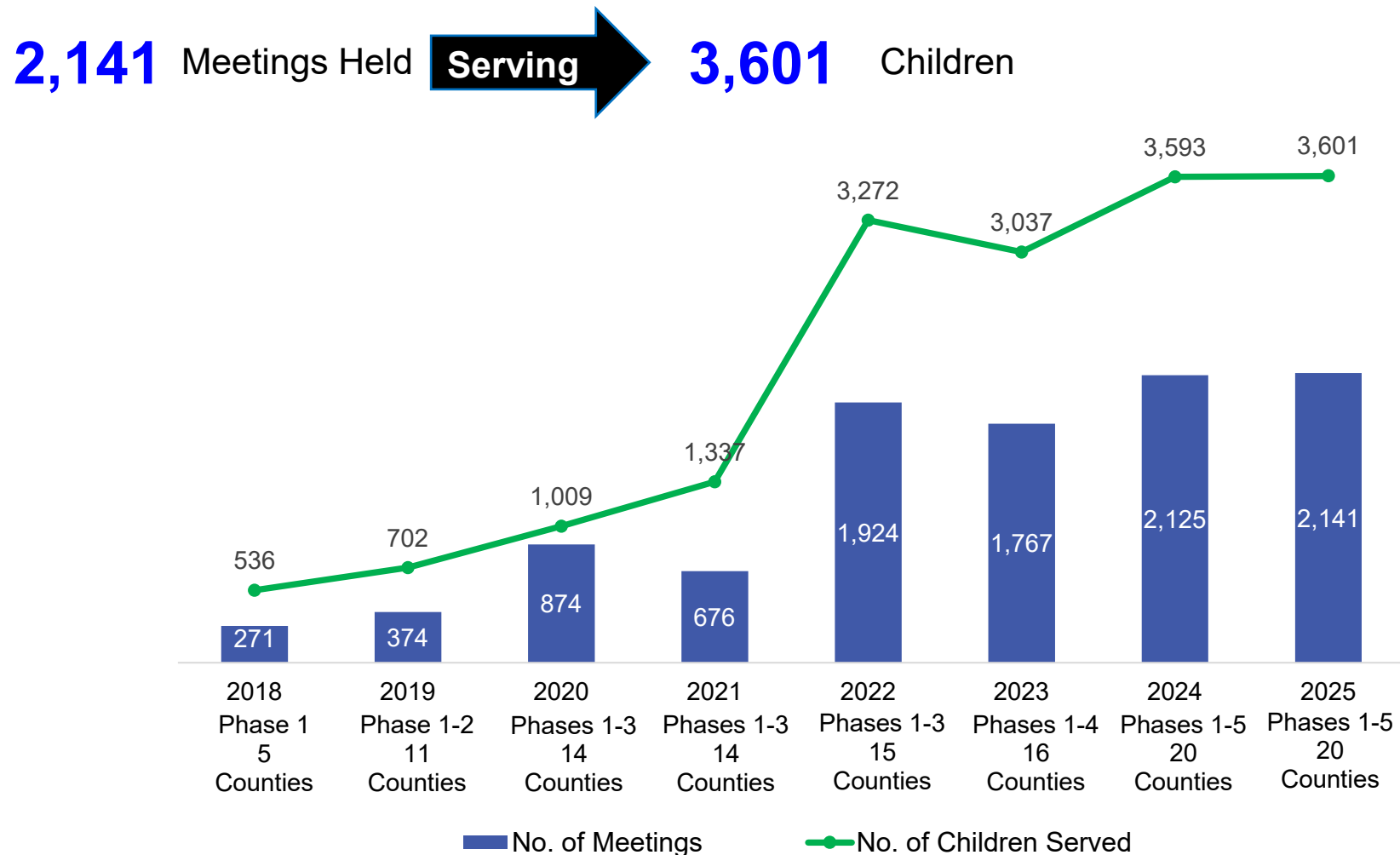
Standard of Practice	ACTION ITEMS			
	Not Started	In Progress	Completed	Ongoing/ Monitoring
Client Relationship & Contact	28	68	44	140
Case Preparation	16	78	35	113
Advocacy	4	17	10	33
Attorney Feedback Mechanism	7	5	0	25
TOTAL	55	168	89	311

- The top two standards of practice focused on were **Client Relationship and Contact** and **Case Preparation**.
- FEI Counties collectively completed **89** action items to enhance quality legal representation, with **168** items in progress and **311** items ongoing or being monitored.

CRISIS/RAPID RESPONSE FAMILY MEETINGS

Crisis/Rapid Response Family Meetings involve gathering family/kin and community supports directly following an emergent event, that will likely result in an out-of-home placement for the child. This inclusive, family-centered approach is designed not only to give the family a voice but to actively involve them in decision-making.

In 2025 ...

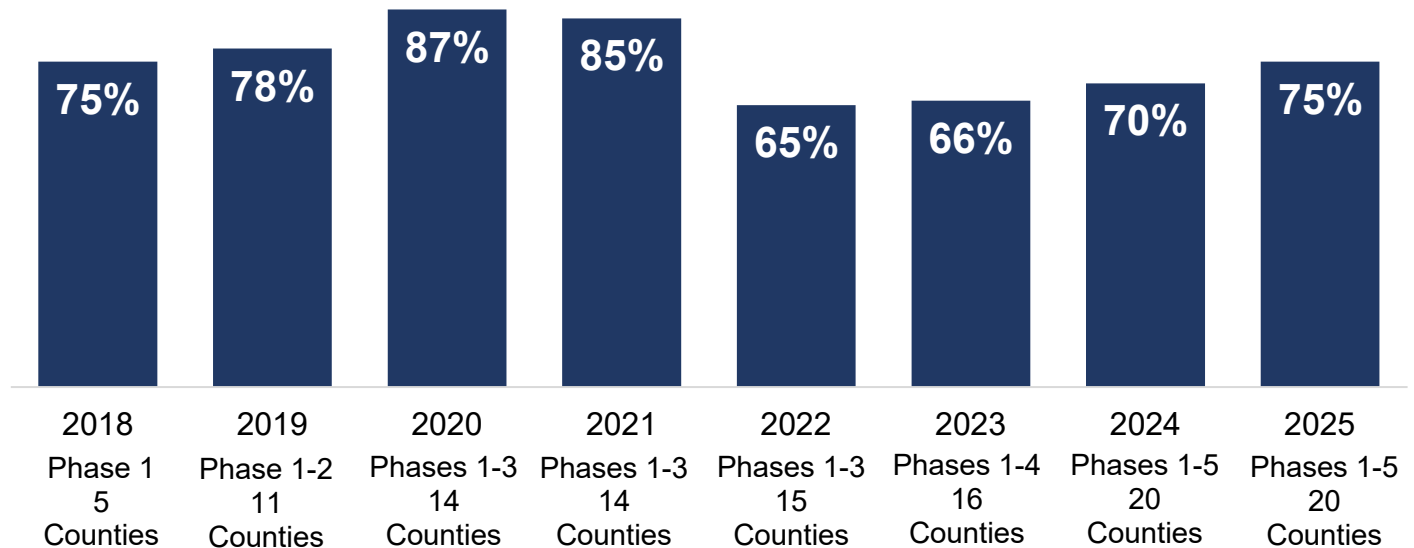


CRISIS/RAPID RESPONSE FAMILY MEETINGS

One fidelity measure for Crisis/Rapid Response Family Meetings (CRRFM) is that there should be more family, kin, and community members present at the meeting than professionals. This approach strengthens partnerships between family and child welfare professionals with the common goals of the child's safety, permanency, and well-being.

Of the **3,601** children served in 2025, **75%** had more family/kin in attendance than professionals present, which increased by **5%** when compared to the previous year.

Percentage of Children Had More Family/Kin In Attendance



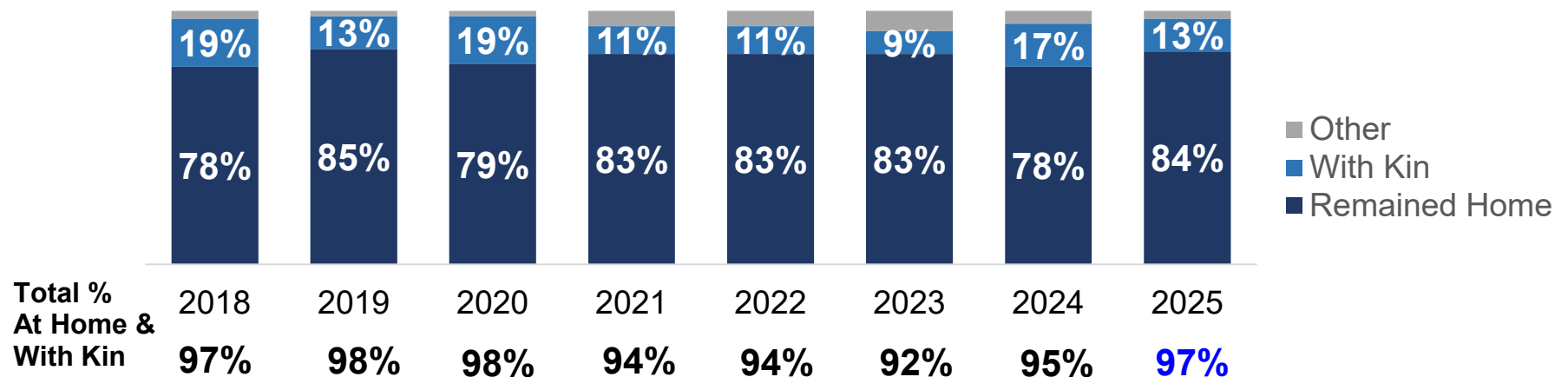
CRISIS/RAPID RESPONSE FAMILY MEETINGS

These family meetings aim to empower families to create plans addressing immediate concerns that could lead to child removal, prioritizing keeping children safely at home, or, if necessary, residing with kin to minimize trauma and maintain connections.

In 2025, **3,601** children had family meetings. Of these children, **2,048** were residing at home prior to the family meetings. At the conclusion of the family meetings, the percentage of children who remained safely at home or are now with family/kin:

	Initial Family Meeting	30-Day Follow-Up
Children remained at home:	84% (1,717)	78% (1,591)
Children went with kin:	13% (264)	10% (212)
Children remained at home or with kin:	97% (1,981)	88% (1,803)

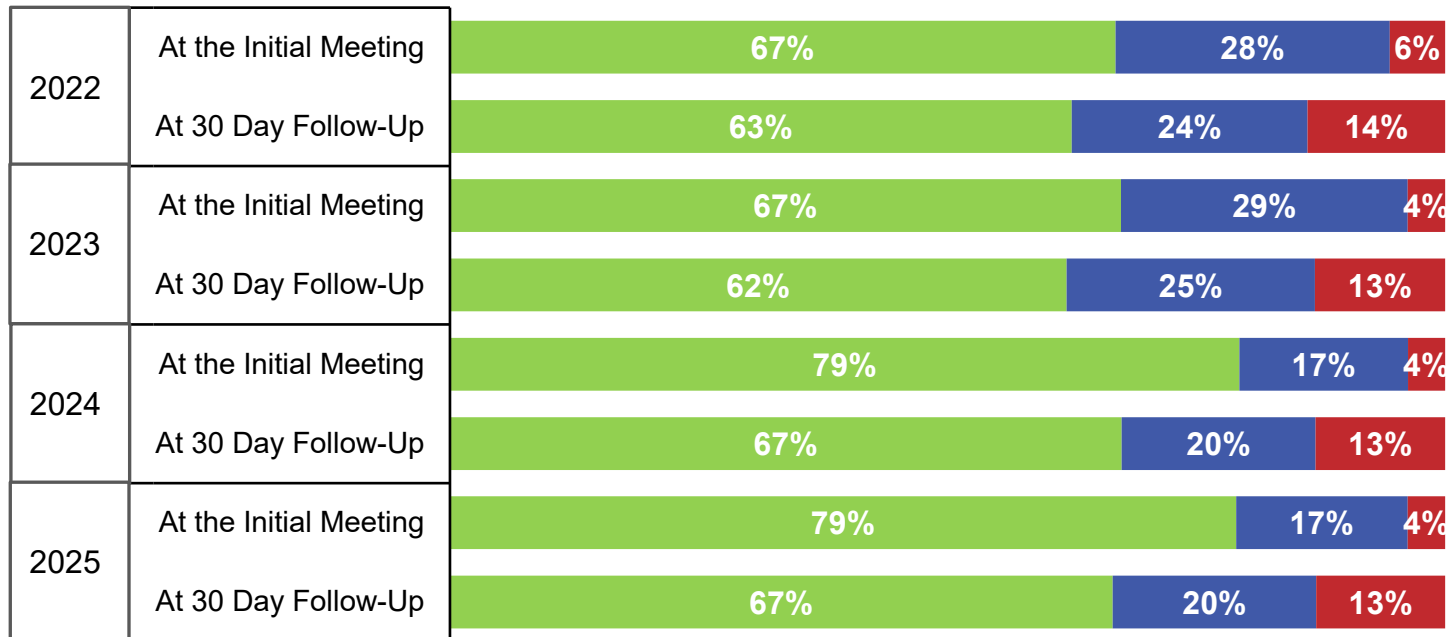
Over the past eight years (2018 - 2025), most children residing at home at the time of the family meeting remained safely at home or with kin.



CRISIS/RAPID RESPONSE FAMILY MEETINGS

Crisis/Rapid Response Family Meetings are offered directly following an emergent event that likely would have resulted in the children being placed out-of-home and becoming involved with the court.

Court Involvement

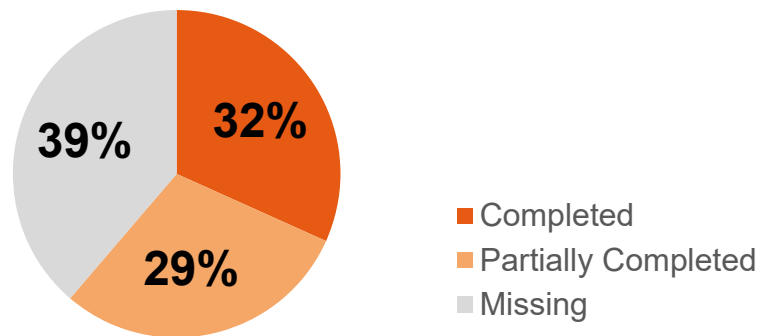


■ No Court Involvement
 ■ Alleged Dependent
 ■ Adjudicated Dependent or Dually Adjudicated

FAMILY FINDING REPORT TO THE COURT

FEI Counties file Family Finding Reports to the Court for every dependency hearing. These reports provide information on the child welfare agency's family finding efforts since the previous hearing, the child's Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) score, and the child's resilience through the Child's Connection Circle, Child's Activity Calendar, and the identification of adults helping the child/family.

In 2025, of the **1,097** hearings reviewed from **645** court records, **61% (672)** had a Family Finding Report to the Court filed with the court.



	Of the 1,097 hearings:	Of the 672 filed reports:
ACE Score Recorded:	46%	75%
Adult Relationships Identified:	49%	79%
Child's Connections Circle Completed:	55%	90%
Child's Activity Calendar Completed:	53%	87%

FAMILY FINDING REPORT TO THE COURT



Children's Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Trauma

The ACE score ranges from 0-10. As the number of ACEs rise, so does the risk for negative health and behavioral outcomes later in life. An ACE score of 4 or higher is of particular concern.

Of the **505** Family Finding Reports to the Court with an ACE score, **57%** of ACE scores were 4 and above.

Children's Resilience

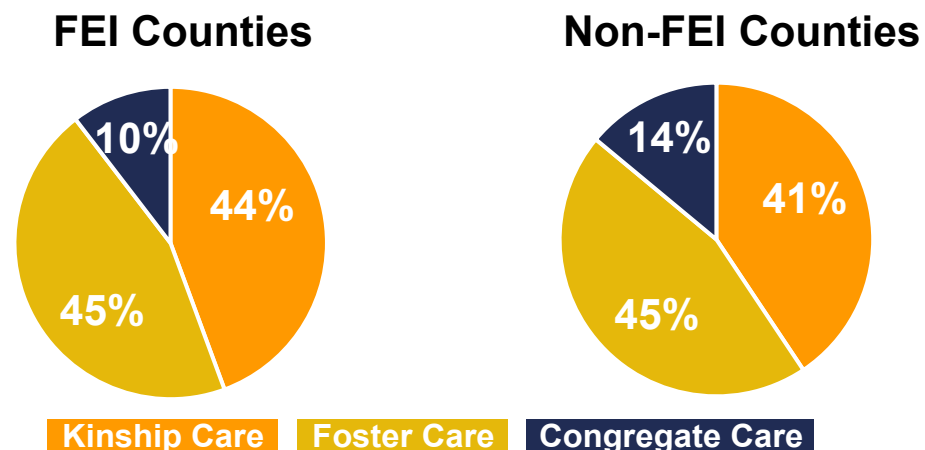
Resilience can mitigate the trauma of ACEs and allow children to thrive even with a history of adversity. The single most important factor for improving resilience is for children to have at least one safe, stable, and committed adult involved in their lives. Building positive connections for children is crucial for their overall well-being and promotes healing.

Of the **645** court records reviewed,
389 (60%) children were found to have **at least one adult committed to being involved in their lives**,
with the number of connections ranging from **1 to 24**.

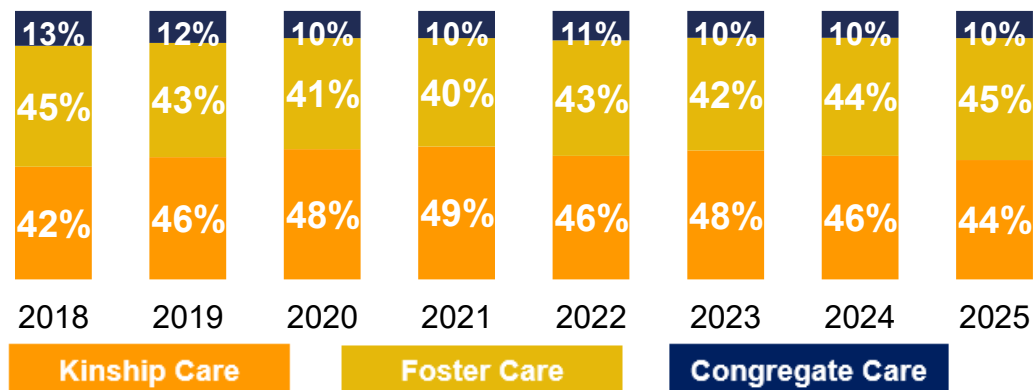


FEI OUTCOMES: COURT SUPERVISION & PLACEMENTS

In 2025, the number of children placed Out-of-Home is less in FEI counties **4,487** vs. those in NON-FEI counties **5,513**.



Of the children in FEI Counties placed in Out-of-Home care for 2018 - 2025, the breakdown of placements are as follows:



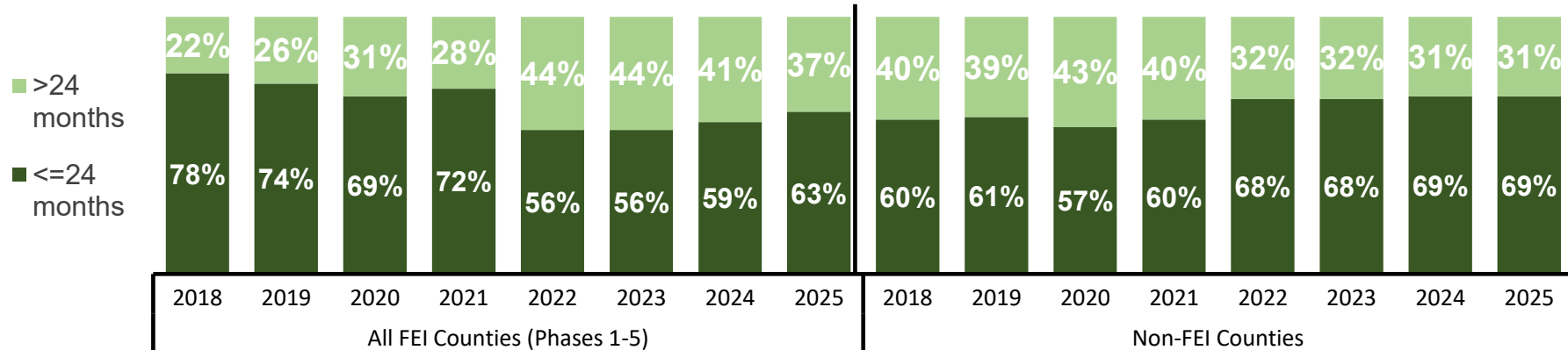
Since 2018:

- The percentage of children in **Kinship Care** has increased by **2** percentage points.
- The percentage of children in **Foster Care** has remained the same.
- The percentage of children in **Congregate Care** has decreased by **3** percentage points.

FEI OUTCOMES: LENGTH OF COURT SUPERVISION & TERMINATION

In 2025, **12,465** children were under court supervision, with **5,406 (43%)** children in FEI Counties.

Of the children under court supervision, the percent of cases that were court involved for 24 months or less (from point of adjudication forward) are as follows for FEI Counties vs. Non-FEI Counties, 2018 - 2025.



Children in **FEI Counties** are under court supervision for a shorter time period on average in comparison to children in Non-FEI Counties.

There was an overall **5%** reduction of **701** children from court supervision from the end-of-year **2024 (13,166)** to **2025 (12,465)**.

FEI Counties vs. Non-FEI Counties:

- FEI Counties had an **11%** reduction of **699** children from court supervision from end-of-year **2024 (6,105)** to **2025 (5,406)**.
- Non-FEI Counties had a **0%** reduction of **2** children from court supervision from end-of-year **2024 (7,061)** to **2025 (7,059)**.
- The overall reduction of **701** children from court supervision was by FEI Counties (**99.7%**) vs. Non-FEI Counties (**0.3%**).