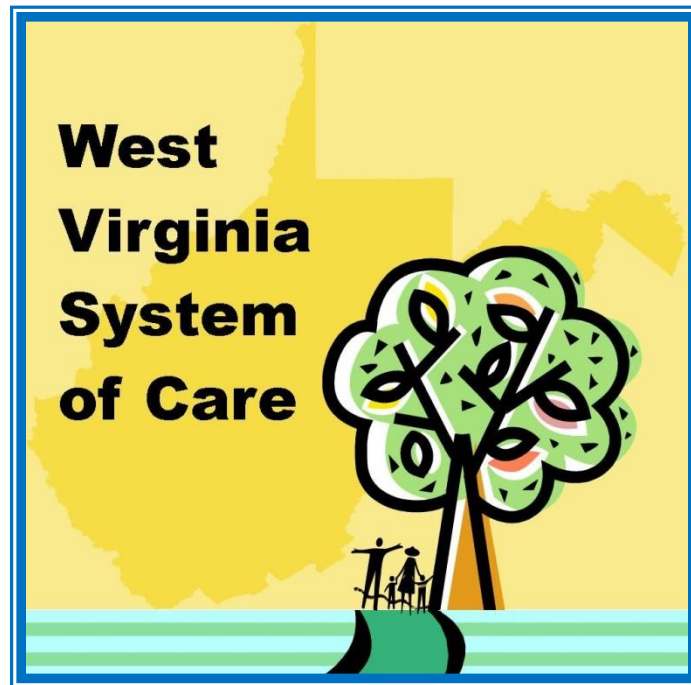


Youth in Foster Care Point in Time



WV System of Care is a public/private/consumer partnership dedicated to building the foundation for an effective community-based continuum of care that empowers children at risk of out-of-home care and their families.

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Table of Contents

Purpose , Population, and Data Collection	Pg. 2
Summary of Findings	Pg. 3
Number of Youth in Foster Care Point in Time	Pg. 4
Number of Youth in Foster Care by Age Point in Time	Pg. 5
Placements Point in Time	Pgs. 6-13
Certified Kinship/Relative, Kinship/Relative/Department Adoptive Homes	Pg. 6
Temporary Foster Care, Therapeutic Foster Care and Permanent Foster Care	Pg. 7
Group Residential and Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities	Pg. 8
Agency Emergency Shelter	Pg. 9
Psychiatric Acute Care and Medical Hospitals	Pg. 10
Specialized Family Care Homes	Pg. 11
Transitional Living Program (Modify) and Transitional Living Facilities	Pg. 12
Miscellaneous Placements	Pg. 13
Youth in Foster Care-October 2017	Pg. 14

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to review the placement and ages of youth who are in the custody of the state. The report will review the changes over the last four (4) years at a specific point in time for each year.

Population

The term “foster care” in this report means all youth in the custody of the state regardless of placement.

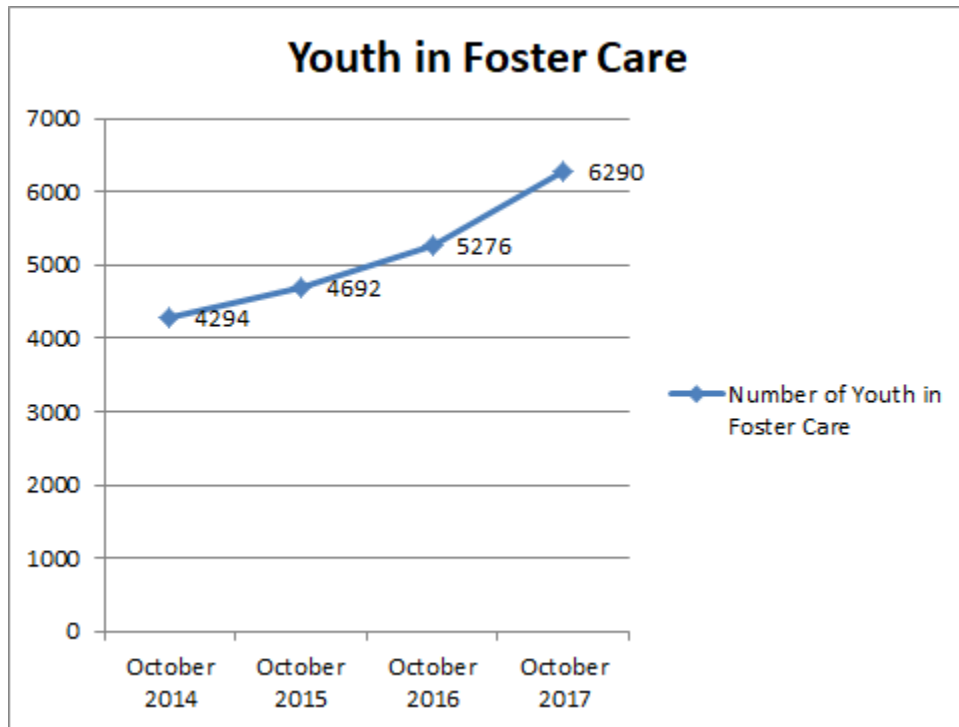
Data Collection

Data was obtained through the plc5161 FACTS report for October 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. This information was unduplicated by using the client ID, Client Name. Since this information is a point in time, it is limited by the information that may or may not be in the system at the time of the FACTS report.

Summary of Findings

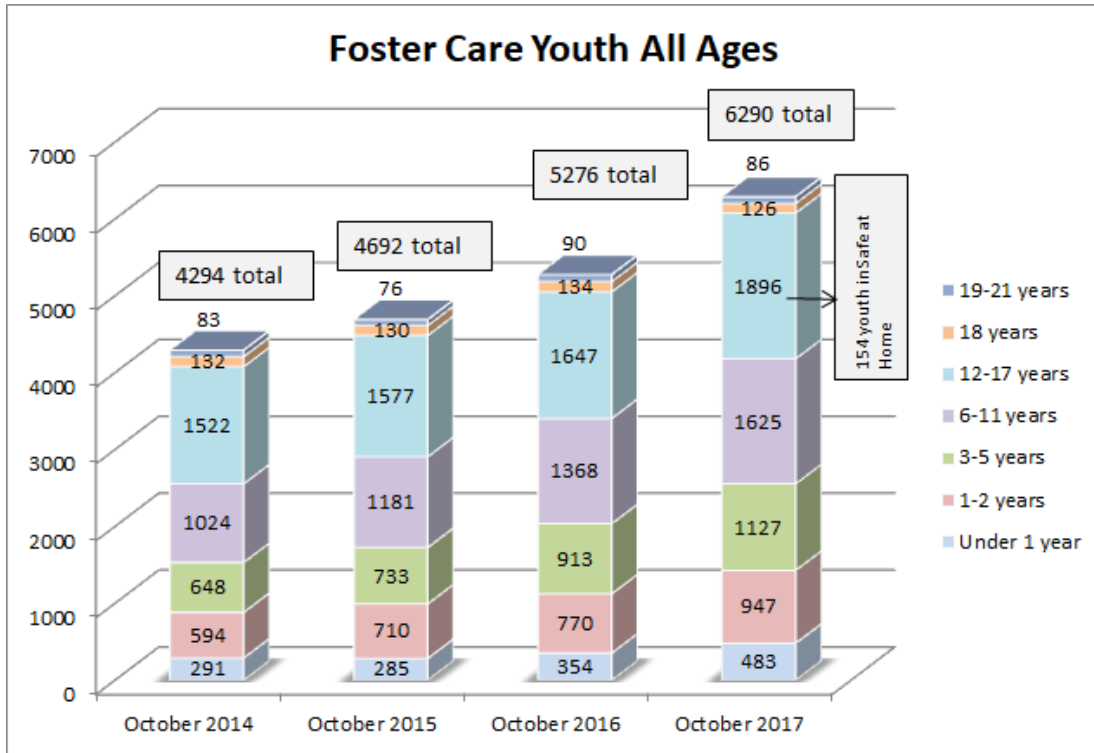
- Since 2014 the number of youth in the custody of the state has steadily increased. When comparing October 2014 with October 2017, there was a 46% increase.
- An increase in the number of youth ages 11 and younger has been seen from 2014 to 2017. This most likely is due to substance abuse issues in the biological family.
- In October 2014 only 18% of the youth in state's custody were in a certified kinship/relative, kinship/relative or department adoptive home. In October 2017 50% of the youth were in this type of placement.
- In October 2017, 81% of the youth were in a home type setting. Meaning only 20% of the youth were in congregate care.
- Over 800 less kids were being served in foster care placements in October 2017 than were in October 2016. This may be due to an increase in the number being served by kinship and relatives.
- The total number of youth in custody of the state has increased, as has the number of youth being placed in out-of-state group residential and psychiatric treatment facilities. If you look at the number of youth out-of-state as compared to the entire population of youth in custody of state, the percentage has not changed.

Number of Youth in Foster Care Point in Time October 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017

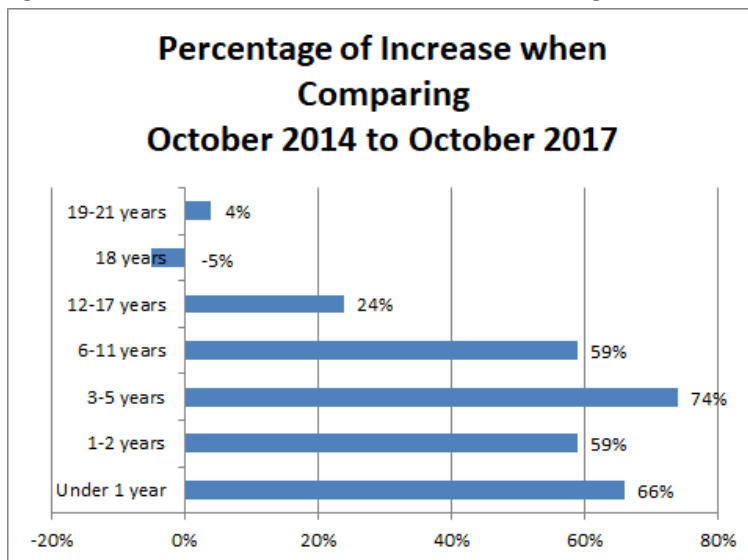


- There has been a steady increase in the number of youth in the custody of the state.
- When comparing October 2014 with October 2017, there was a 46% increase.

Number of Youth in Foster Care by Age Point in Time October 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017



- The chart above shows the number of youth in each age category at the end of October of each year.
- The chart below shows the percentage of increase when comparing October 2014 and October 2017. Youth age 18 showed a decrease with all others showing an increase.



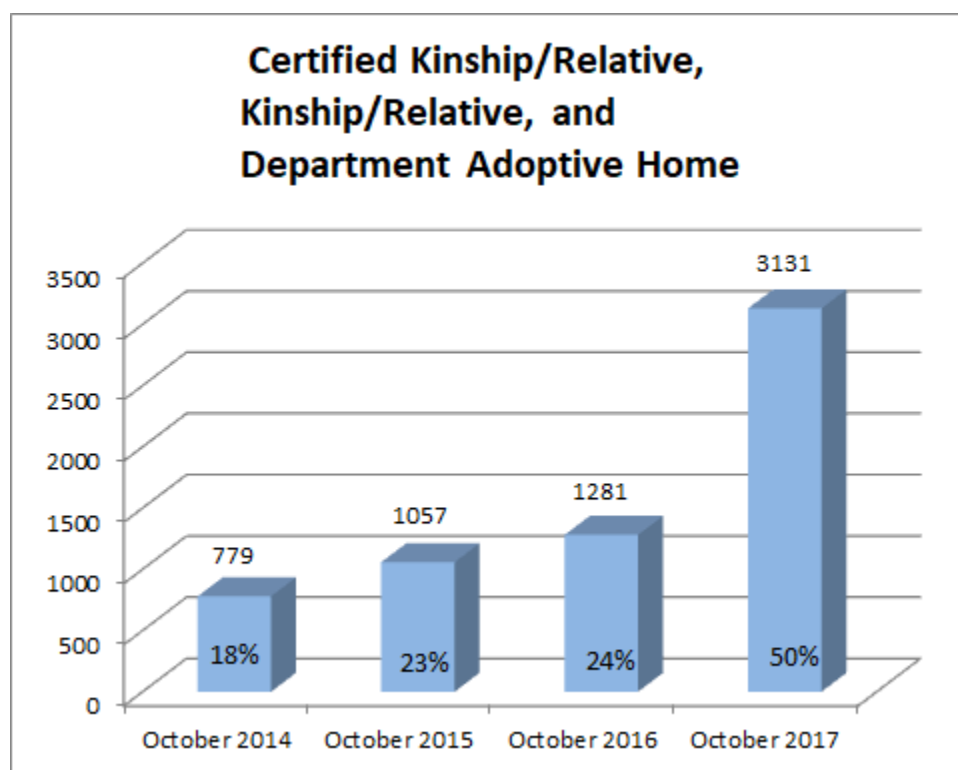
Placements Point in Time October 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017

Certified Kinship/Relative, Kinship/Relative and Department Adoptive Homes

Certified Kinship/Relative can be either family members or other adults, such as a friend of the family, that are caring for the youth. The certification means they have been certified as a foster care family and receive the foster care boarding stipend for the youth.

Kinship/Relative placements can be either family members or other adults, such as a friend of the family, that are caring for the youth but they have not been certified as a foster care family. They receive a stipend through TANF funds.

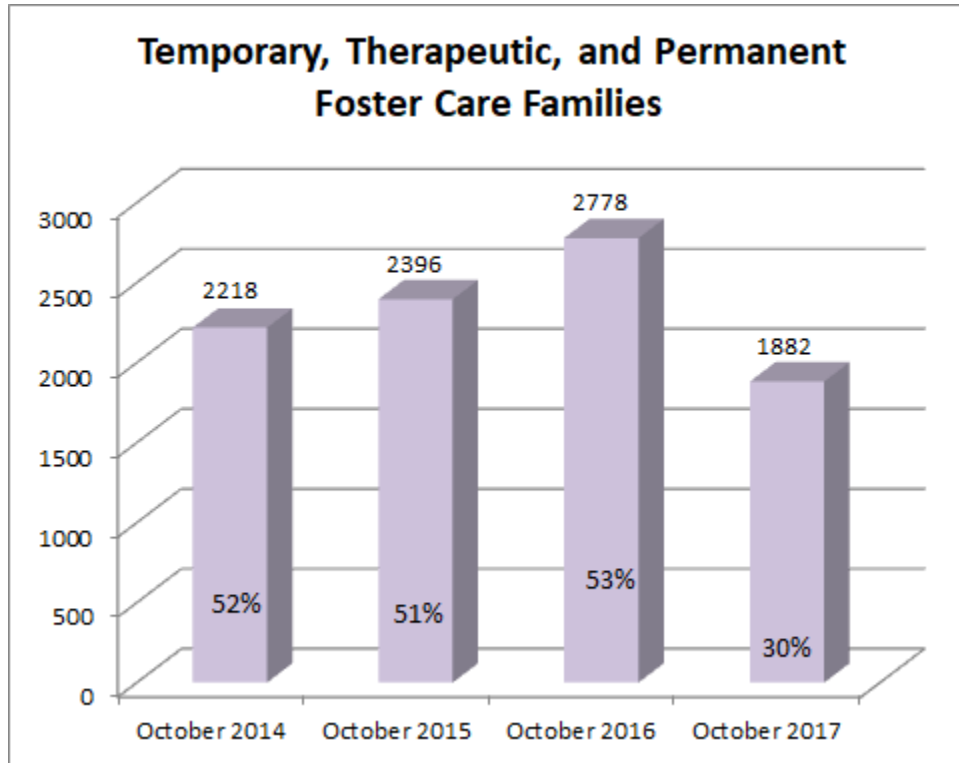
Department Adoptive Homes are homes through DHHR that are in the process of legally adopting a youth.



- In October 2014 only 18% of the youth in state’s custody were in a certified kinship/relative, kinship/relative or department adoptive home. In October 2017 50% of the youth were in this type of placement.

Temporary Foster Care, Therapeutic Foster Care and Permanent Foster Care

Temporary Foster Care Homes refer to homes that are certified through DHHR. Therapeutic Foster Care Homes have several levels and are provided through foster care providers in the community. There were only 2 youth reported as being in permanent foster care in October 2014. These refer to long term foster care placements and this term is no longer used but is included here since it was in the data for 2014.

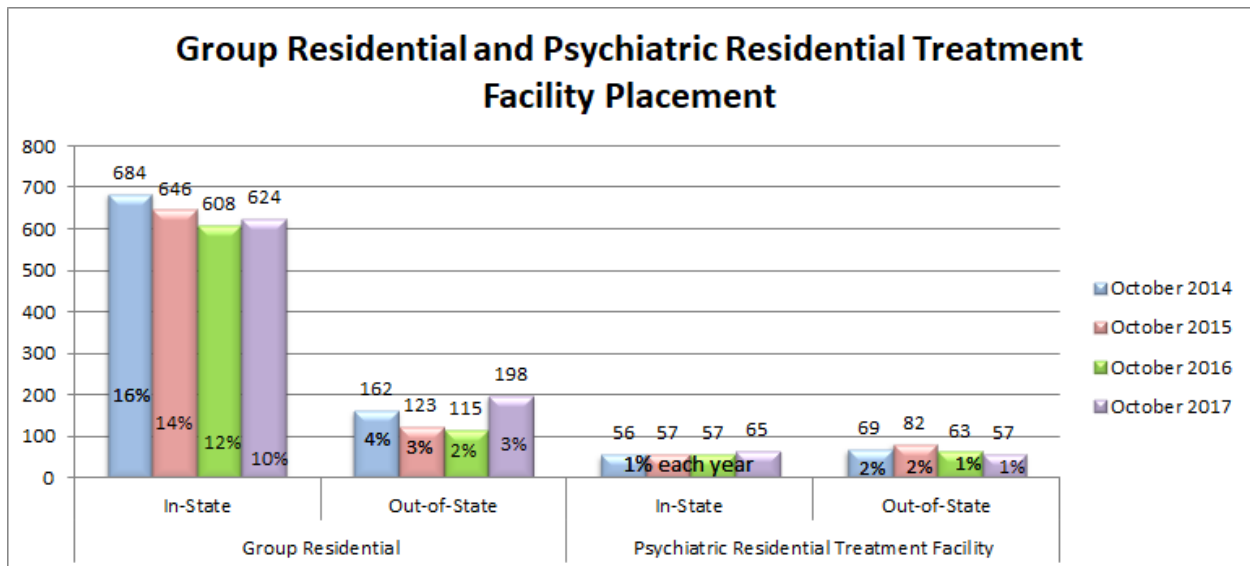


- Over 800 less kids were being served in foster care placements in October 2017 than were in October 2016. This may be due to an increase in the number being served by kinship and relatives.

Group Residential and Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility Placements

A group residential facility is a structured 24 hour group setting that is based on the level of needs of the youth. WV has 3 levels of group residential care Level I, II and III. If a youth is placed out-of-state, only levels II and III can be utilized. The youth usually has adjustment problems in school, home and/or the community and the youth is unable to be cared for in the home or with community based services. Mental health needs vary by level. Some group residential facilities have on-ground schools, while other levels utilize the public school system.

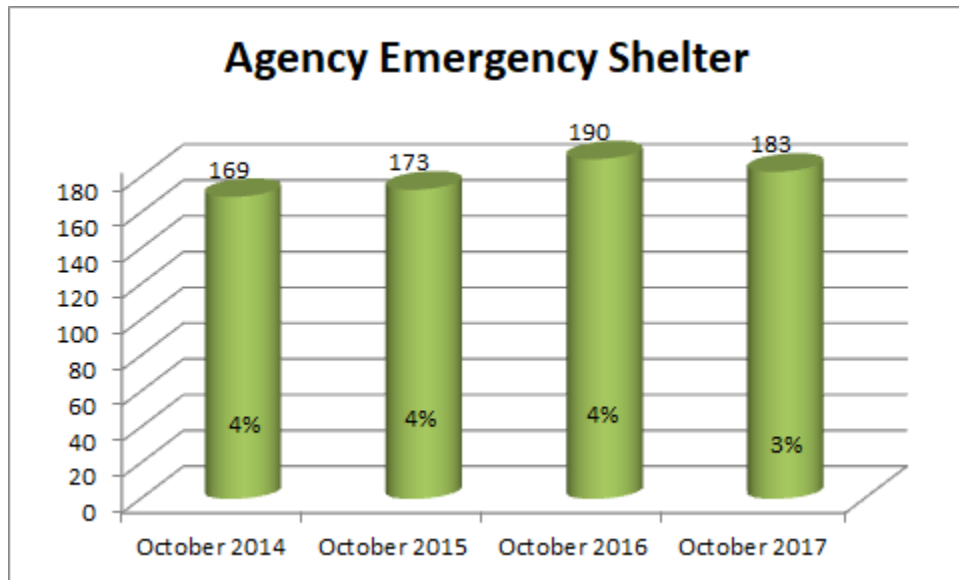
A psychiatric residential treatment facility is a structured setting with 24 hours a day supervision. It provides therapeutic service to address intense needs of youth. Sometimes these facilities specialize in certain populations, such as, sex offenders, trauma, substance abuse or severe mental health issues. Due to the specializations, sometimes youth are placed out-of-state because the specific need is not available in-state.



- Although the number of youth in the custody of the state has increased, percentages for out-of-state group residential and psychiatric treatment facilities placements have remained the same.
- Also a lower percentage of youth are being placed in in-state group residential facilities.

Agency Emergency Shelters

Agency Emergency Shelters are group facilities through contracted providers for youth that need a placement while waiting to return to family, foster care or a higher level of care. The main goals of shelters are to meet the child's emergent need for residential care in a safe, supportive setting and to provide a period of time for the Department of Health and Human Resources and shelter staff to assess the child's needs and develop the most suitable plan for continued care and protection.

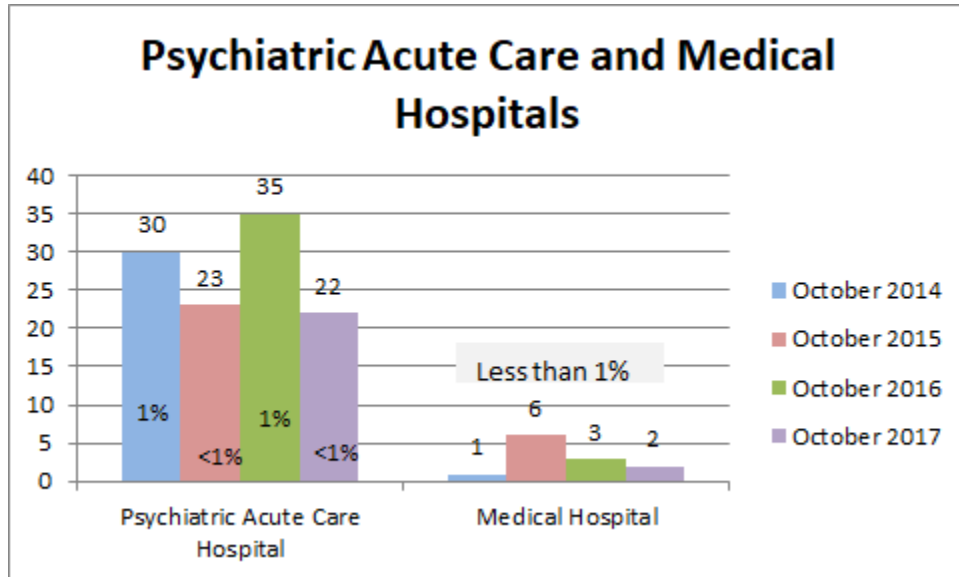


- The percentage of youth in a shelter has remained consistent.

Psychiatric Acute Care Hospital and Medical Hospital Placements

A youth who is placed in psychiatric acute care hospital is a danger to themselves or other or is not functioning at a level that is safe in a home setting. The goal is get the youth stabilized through therapy and medication so he or she will be able to function at a lower level of care.

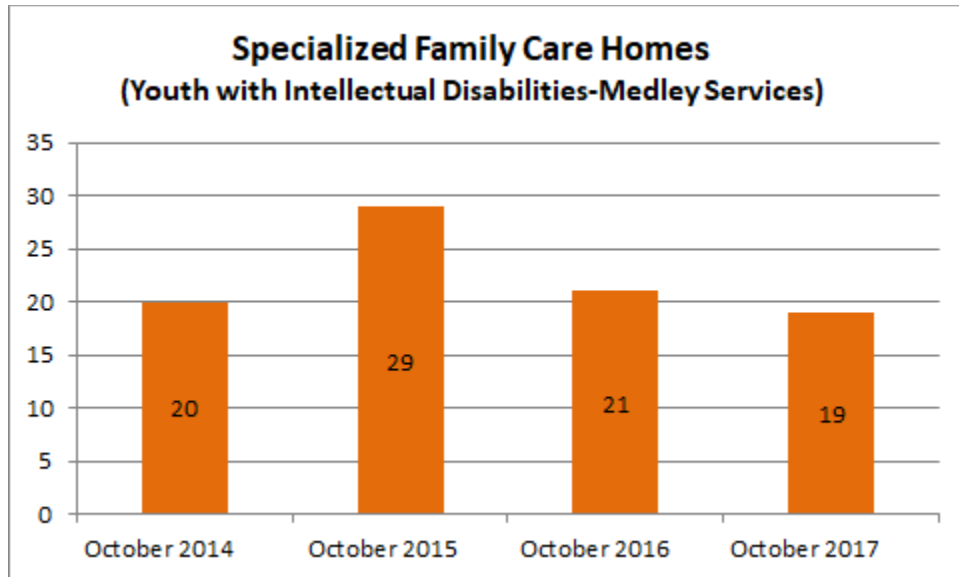
Youth in a medical hospital are ones requiring some type of treatment for an illness or in need of surgery, etc.



- Usually less than 1% of the youth are in one of these facilities.

Specialized Family Care Homes

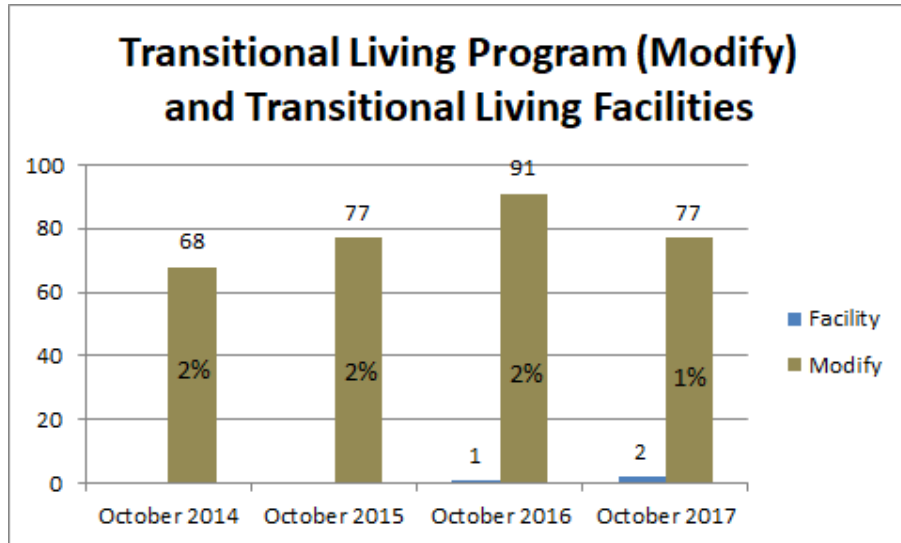
Specialized family care homes are foster care or adoptive homes that specifically are trained to care for youth with an intellectual disability. The youth must meet waiver eligibility.



- Limited services available for youth in need of this service.

Transitional Living Facilities and Homes

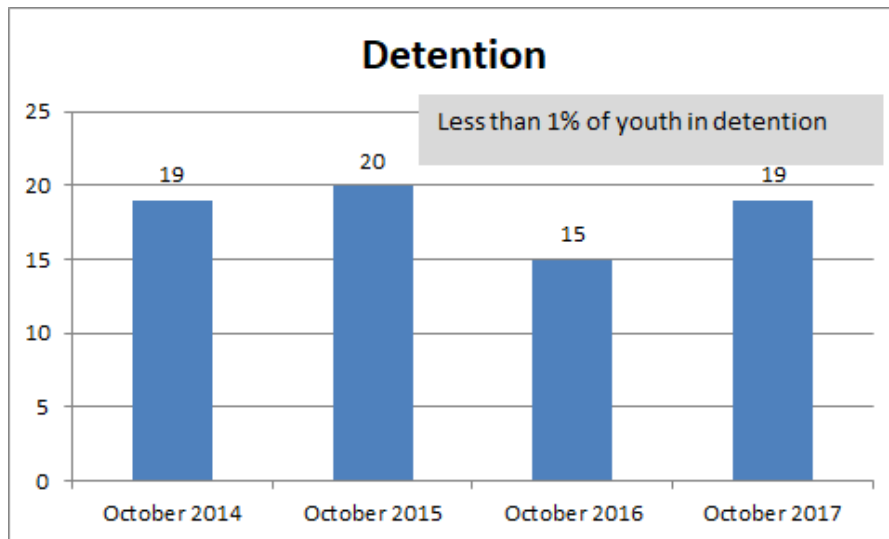
Some youth in October 2016 and 2017 were in transitional living facilities run by providers in the state. Most of the youth in the transitional categories are youth who have signed an FC-18 and are in a school setting, such as college or vocational center. They are involved in the Modify program and live in a home or school setting.



- Number of youth in transitional living program youth remains at about 2%.

Detention

Some youth may be placed in detention but are in the custody of the Bureau for Children and Families.

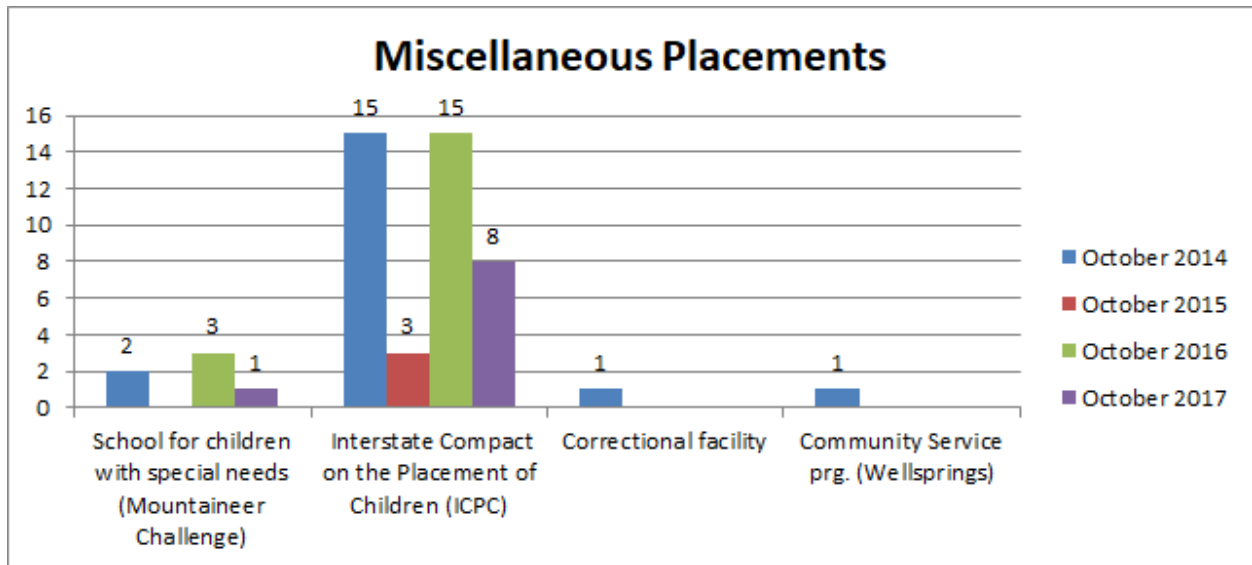


Miscellaneous Placement

Some youth fall into the category of school for children with special needs. This is West Virginia’s Mountaineer Challenge Academy. This residential program is for youth who are educationally at risk of not completing high school.

Youth in the category Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, are youth who are in the custody of the state on that date but are living with family, kinship or another relative out-of-state. They may be in the process of transferring custody to another state. There are other youth who fall in the ICPC category but are not reported under this category.

One youth in October 2014, was reported as being in a correctional facility at the time of the data report. Another youth in October 2014 was in a community service program at Wellsprings. These categories were not seen in the other data.



Youth in Foster Care-October 2017

- In October 2017, 80% of the youth in states custody were in a home setting and not congregate care.

