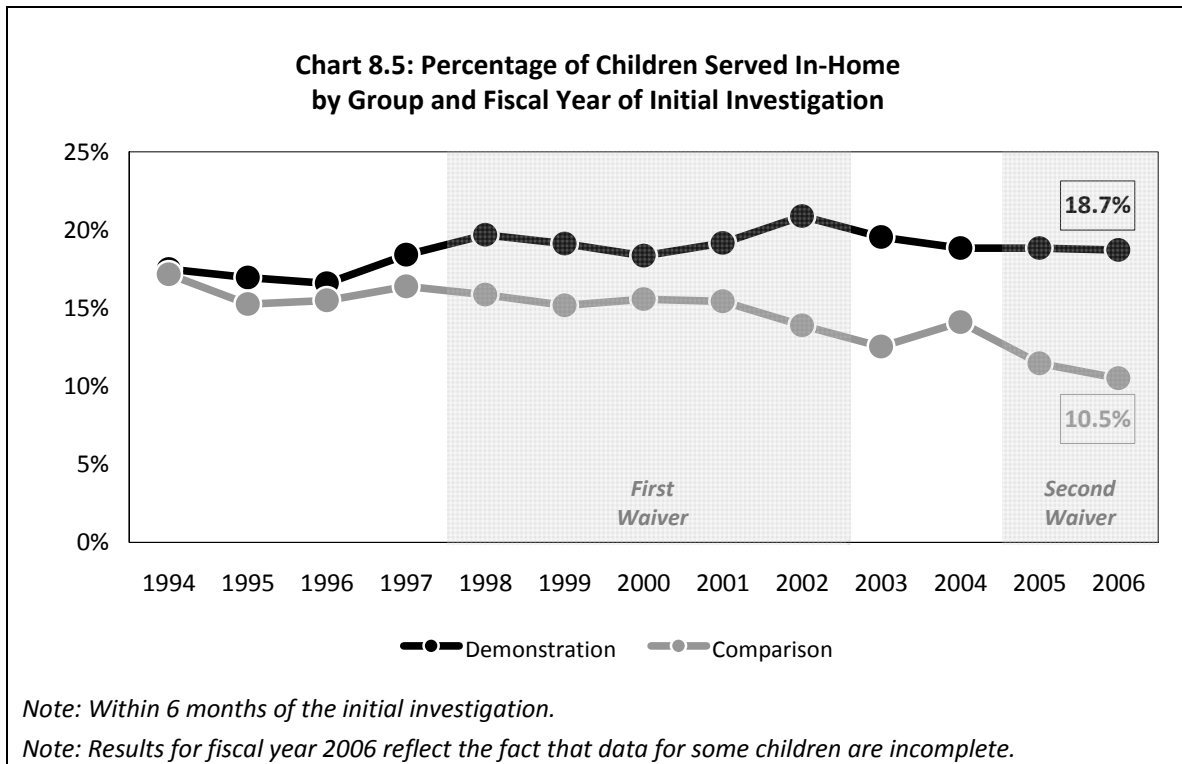


## PROTECTOHIO – FLEXIBLE FUNDING TITLE IV-E WAIVER ENHANCES CHILD OUTCOMES<sup>1</sup>

**Rigorous evaluation** (see *Comprehensive Final Evaluation Report: Ohio’s Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project “ProtectOhio”* submitted to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services by Human Services Research Institute in collaboration with Westat and Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago, May 2010) **has demonstrated that allowing federal Title IV-E funds to be used in partnership with state and local funds for any child welfare purpose (vs limiting those federal funds for foster care and adoption), results in improved outcomes for children and their families.** The budget neutral federal waiver has allowed eighteen counties in Ohio (comprising one-third of the state’s child welfare population) to intentionally invest in certain strategies – with clear results along a continuum of child safety and permanence. The waiver counties all invested in facilitated Family Team Meetings (FTMs), bringing together families, supports of their choice and other involved service providers. In addition to the FTMs, the counties also invested in at least one additional strategy - enhanced Kinship Supports, enhanced Supervised Visitation strategies, enhanced Mental Health/Substance Abuse strategies.

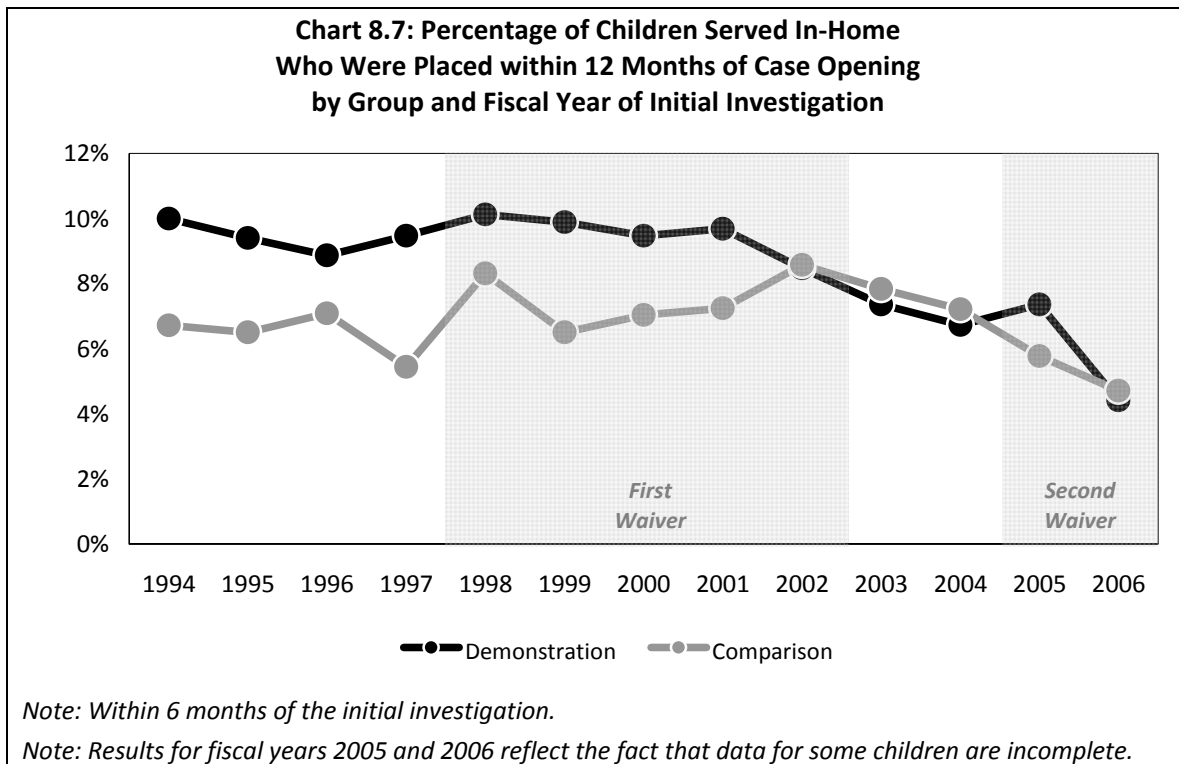
### Investing in Families to Prevent Out of Home Placement

More children referred to the child welfare system were provided family strengthening in-home services to prevent or divert placement. The use of Family Team Meetings, combined with flexible and predictable ProtectOhio budget allowed agencies the fiscal stability to invest in families, despite shaky state and local economies, while comparison counties without the waiver decreased in-home services to families (18.7% vs. 10.5%).



<sup>1</sup> All charts from the *Comprehensive Final Evaluation Report: Ohio’s Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project “ProtectOhio”* submitted to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services by Human Services Research Institute in collaboration with Westat and Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago, May 2010. ProtectOhio Evaluation Highlights summarized by Crystal Allen, PCSAO, [crystal@pcsao.org](mailto:crystal@pcsao.org).

Furthermore, the services were sustaining in terms of prevention of future placement - waiver counties decreased later out of home placement (within 12 months) for those children being served in-home, from 10% in 1994 to 4% in 2006. Comparison counties went from 6.5% to 4.5% during that time.



**Reduction in Use of Paid Placement Days**

A simple measure [from ODJFS tracking of IV-E FCM Allowable Setting Days for ProtectOhio Waiver, chart created by PCSAO] of the reduction rate of paid placement days used among waiver counties, compared to control counties simply demonstrates the reduced use of paid placement days experienced by Ohio’s children (and the accompanying trauma), thus allowing a greater investment in family strengthening services to allow children to be safely maintained in their own homes.

Quarterly Count	Reduction Rate of Paid Placement Days	
	Waiver Counties	Control Group
Oct. – Dec. 2002	553,182	492,396
Jan. – March 2010	336,086	372,728
% Change over time	39% reduction	24% reduction

**Using Safe, Kinship Families When Placement is Needed**

Evaluation of the regular use of Family Team Meetings showed a statistically significant more frequent use of safe, familiar Kinship families when safety concerns required out of home placement – 47% of children placed with Kin families, vs 40% in the non-waiver counties.

A greater investment by enhanced Kinship Supports waiver counties for those Kin families was also more likely to result in permanency for those children fortunate enough to be cared for kin - 48% resulted in award of Legal Custody (akin to Guardianship) to the kin caregiver, vs. 28% in the non-waiver counties.

<b>Table 5.16: End of Placement: County Groupings</b>				
	Kinship	Other Demonstration	Comparison	Total
Legal Custody with Kinship Caregiver*	48% (21)	32% (25)	28% (41)	32% (87)
Reunification (Birth Parent)*	20% (9)	23% (18)	36% (52)	29% (79)
Substitute Care	23% (10)	30% (24)	23% (33)	25% (67)
Another Kinship Placement	9% (4)	15% (12)	13% (19)	13% (35)
Total	44	79	145	268

**Greater Exits to and Shorter Times to Permanency for those Children in Need of a Forever Family**

Improved permanency outcomes were also demonstrated for those children needing a forever family. Actual performance of waiver counties showed a statistically significant percentage increase of exits to adoptive and kin families over other outcomes (Table 9.3, page 7 of Chapter 9). The time to adoption also improved from 33 to 31 months, also statistically significant, as noted by the star in the table below.

<b>Table 9.4: Effects of the Second Waiver on Duration of First Placements in the Original Demonstration Counties Relative to Conditions Prevailing Prior to First Waiver</b>				
<b>First Placements Ending with:</b>	<b>Median Placement Duration in Months</b>		<b>Second Waiver Effect Relative to Pre-waiver</b>	
	<b>During Second Waiver Period</b>	<b>Counterfactual Projection to Pre-waiver Conditions</b>		
Reunification	3.74	3.54	0.20	
Custody to Kin or Third Party	5.41	5.70	-0.29	
Adoption	30.83	32.59	-1.77	*
Runaway	10.43	10.44	-0.01	
Other	14.81	21.45	-6.65	*
Any Type of Exit	7.09	7.05	0.04	

**Safety of Children is Steady**

Ohio’s child welfare system strives to keep all children safe from abuse or neglect. The ProtectOhio demonstration and evaluation shows that safety is NOT compromised when counties are allowed to invest federal funds in a full continuum of prevention and diversion services along with placement and adoption services – in fact, as noted below, the waiver counties experienced a decrease in subsequent investigations within 12 months of case opening (for in-home cases).

