

Children Thrive in Family-Based Care



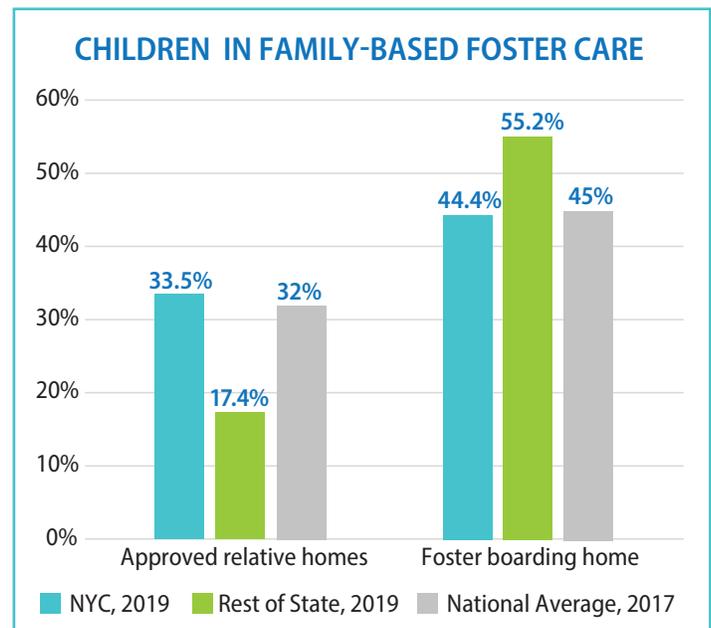
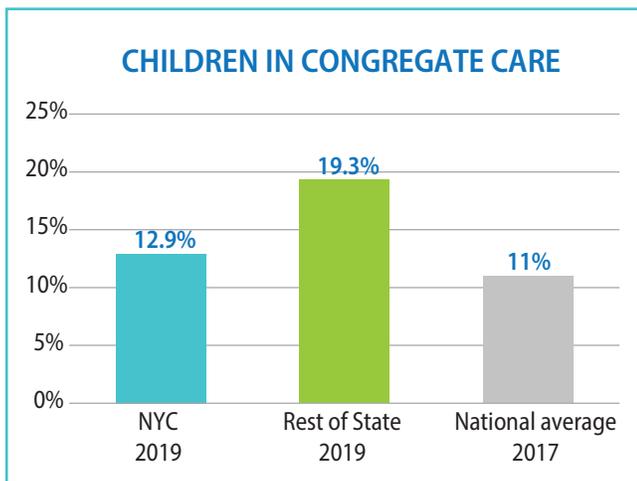
Children experience better outcomes when they are cared for by supportive families. However, too few children in foster care across the state are placed with kin, and New York State struggles to recruit and retain enough families to adequately support the children who come into care.



ON DECEMBER 31, 2018 **15,820** CHILDREN WERE IN FOSTER CARE ACROSS NY

2,497 OF THOSE CHILDREN LIVED IN CONGREGATE CARE, **89%** OF WHOM WERE 11 YEARS OLD OR OLDER

CHILDREN WHO ARE PLACED WITH FAMILIES EXPERIENCE BETTER HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELL-BEING OUTCOMES



Young people in foster care who are placed with families experience better outcomes:

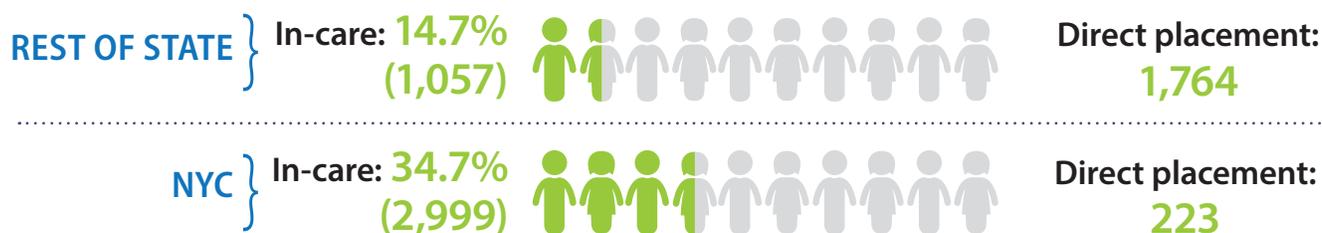
- ✓ Experience fewer placements
- ✓ Spend less time in out-of-home care
- ✓ Are less likely to be re-abused
- ✓ Are more likely to be placed near their community of origin
- ✓ Are more likely to be placed with their siblings

When young people are placed with kin they experience:

- ✓ Minimized trauma
- ✓ Improved well-being and improved mental & behavioral health
- ✓ Increased permanency
- ✓ Increased likelihood of remaining with siblings
- ✓ Continued ties to community & culture



However, too few children in foster care across the state are placed with kin (or are placed with kin without receiving the full support of formal foster care).



Direct placement: children are cared for by relatives outside of the foster care system, without the accompanying financial supports of foster care.

PRINCIPLES

- 1) All children need and **do best in families**. When foster care becomes necessary, quality foster parenting must be a priority. New York State policy should support county efforts to transition their practice model to better support children in families.
- 2) Children benefit from continued relationships with **relatives and other kin**. Whenever appropriate, children should be placed with kin, who are adequately supported to care for them.
- 3) Foster parents are **relationship builders**. They provide mentorship to birth parents and help nurture the parent-child bond, and support other family connections. Supportive policy and practice should bolster these efforts.
- 4) **Data drives innovation** and will lead to improved practice and better outcomes for children. Data analysis and evaluation should be an integral part of the state's child welfare work.
- 5) **Permanency** is important and attainable for all children. New York should prioritize and adequately support permanency options for all children and young people.
- 6) Foster parents are the **primary intervention** for ensuring the safety and well-being of children in foster care. They require adequately support from the system—reimbursement, training, guidance, and additional supports—so that they are able to appropriately care for the children in their homes.