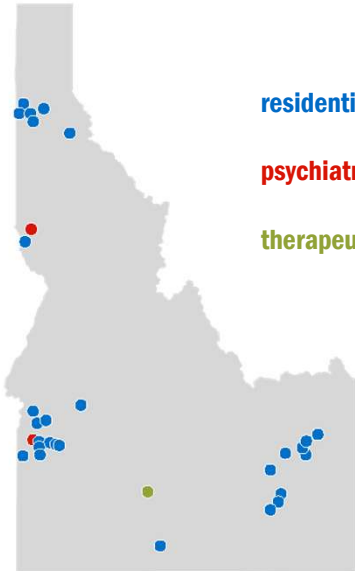


STATE OVERSIGHT OF CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CARE



1

What is children's residential care?



residential care facilities

psychiatric residential treatment facilities

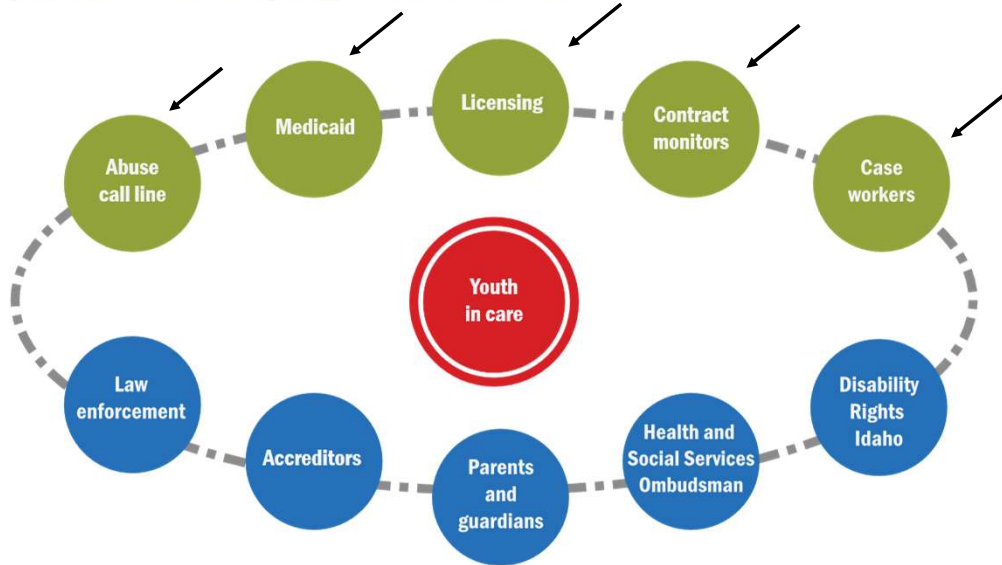
therapeutic outdoor program



2

2

Who is responsible for keeping children safe?



The image shows a close-up of a hand holding a pen over a checklist. To the right, a large green circle contains the word "Licensing". Below it, a smaller grey circle contains the text "Children in foster care".



Licensing's scope of enforcement is limited.

Licensing does not assess treatment quality.

Children's rights are not enumerated or communicated.

Licensing does not know how often high-risk strategies like restraint are used.



5

Licensing

Children
in foster
care



5



Licensing processes limit knowledge of what is happening in facilities.

6

Licensing

Children
in foster
care



6

Scheduled surveys allow facility administrators to curate what Licensing staff see.



The department should amend administrative rule to require at least one annual unannounced survey.

7

Licensing

Children in foster care



7

Licensing relies on facility administrators to choose child and staff interviewees.



The department should revise the child and staff interview process.

8

Licensing

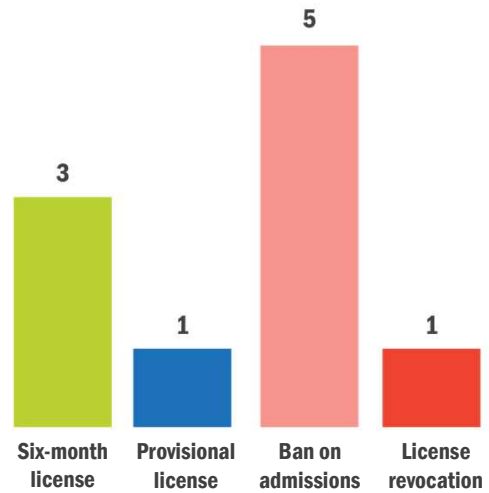
Children in foster care



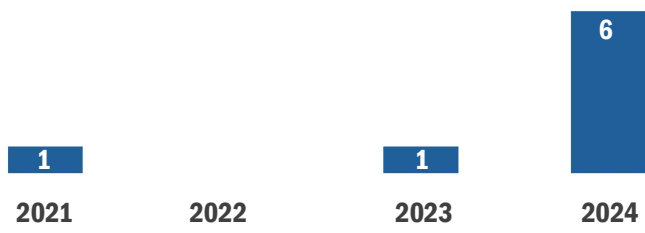
8

Licensing took minimal enforcement actions.

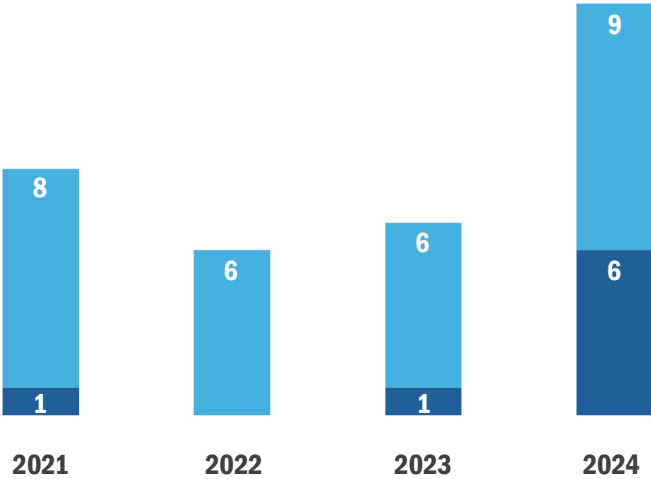
Of the 271 surveys that Licensing conducted, 225 required the facility to create and adhere to a plan of correction, but only 10 led to enforcement actions.



Licensing took 8 enforcement actions before the matrix.



When retroactively applied, the matrix would have indicated **21** additional enforcement actions.



**Children
in foster
care**

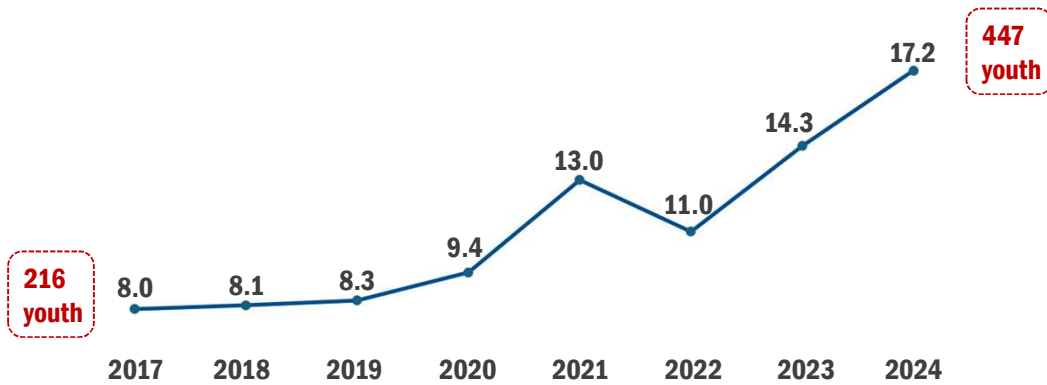


Licensing

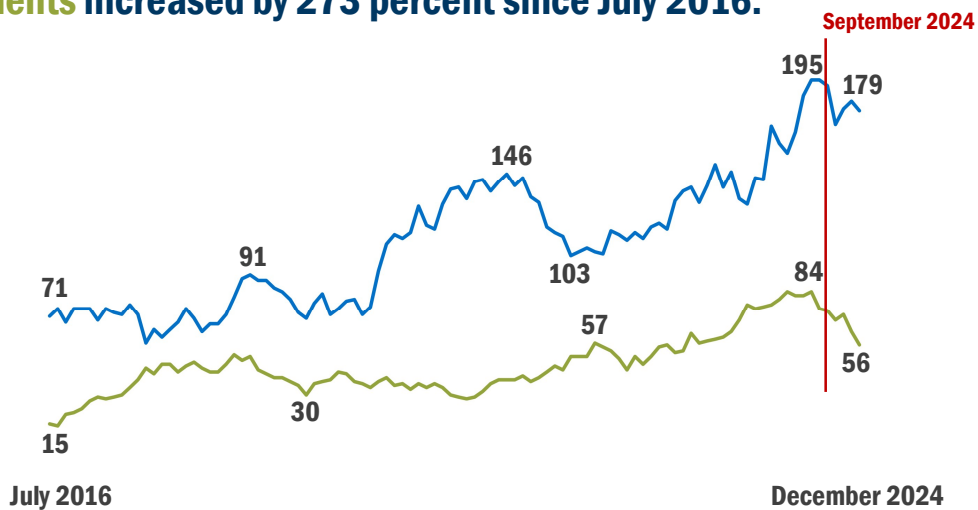
Children
in foster
care



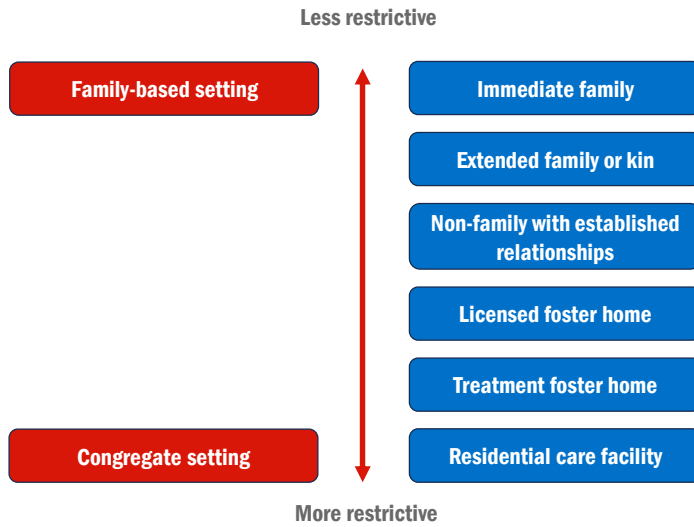
Since fiscal year 2017, the proportion of youth in foster care who experienced residential care increased from 8 to 17 percent.



In-state placements increased by 152 percent and out-of-state placements increased by 273 percent since July 2016.

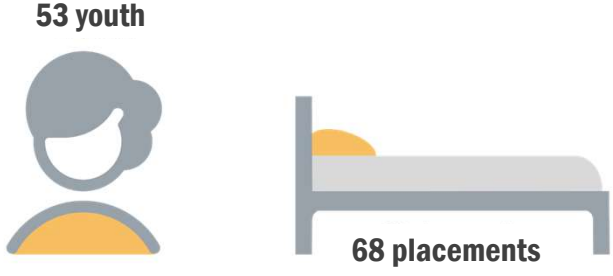


The department does not track placements based on childrens' needs.



We recommend the department track the ideal placement type for children in care.

The department opened the Payette Assessment and Care Center in May 2024.



The new state-run facility faces oversight concerns.

Contract monitoring has no oversight of the facility
Licensing issued a provisional license in November 2024 after safety issues

The role of contract monitors was unclear.

No formal guidance for:

documentation

how often to visit

how to respond to safety issues

when to coordinate with Licensing and case workers

corrective action



19

Licensing

Children
in foster
care



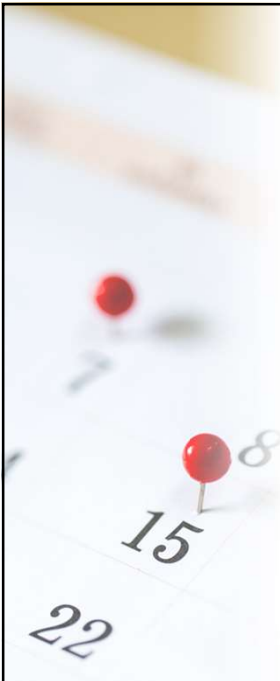
19

Case workers are not required to respond to abuse allegations of children in facilities as quickly as for other children in foster care.

Most abuse calls about children in foster care require an immediate to 5-day response

Children in facilities are excluded from response timelines

Some waited days or weeks for a visit after serious incidents



20

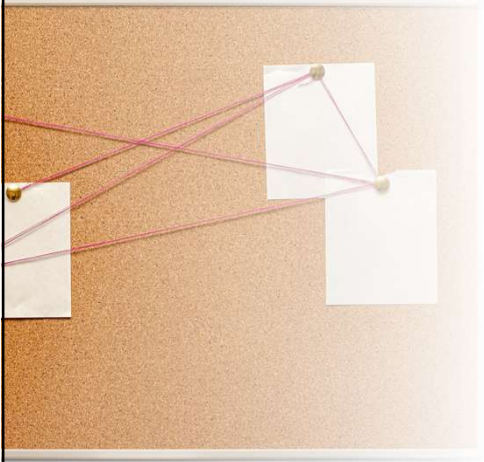
Licensing

Children
in foster
care



20

The department does not investigate abuse in facilities the same way it does in homes.



In homes, a safety assessment substantiates whether or not abuse occurred.

In facilities, no investigation is done to substantiate abuse.

Staff in facilities are not included on Idaho's Child Protection Central Registry.



The department should develop a process to include perpetrators of abuse in facilities on Idaho's Child Protection Central Registry.



The Legislature should consider assigning an entity responsible for investigating abuse in facilities.



State Oversight of Children's Residential Care

Evaluation Report
June 2025



Promoting confidence and accountability in state government.

Questions?

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