



# Report to Commissioners Court 2009-2012

Travis County Child Protective Services Board  
with  
Travis County Health and Human Services and  
Veterans Service

# Travis County Children Protective Services Board

## WHO WE ARE WHAT WE DO

- 15 members, created by state statute, appointed by Commissioners Court
- Oversee County appropriated funding (annual budget of \$372,000) and evaluate expenditure requests for Child Protective Services
- Respond to concerns of CPS and the community
- Facilitate development of coordinated community child welfare services
- Participate in assessment and planning for the future
- Support the valuable work of CPS staff in improving outcomes for Travis County's children

# Key Responsibilities of Children's Protective Services Board

- **Oversight** of the County appropriated funding for Child Protective Services Cooperate with all local, state, and federal agencies in developing and coordinating community child welfare programs
- **Cooperate** and assist CPS with developing local resources for child care, interpreting CPS to the community, and encouraging high standards of casework
- **Participate** in assessing and planning for the needs of children in Travis County, and make an annual report to the County Commissioners' Court
- **Advise** Commissioner's Court and DFPS on matters concerning the welfare of children in Travis County
- **Advocate** for appropriate services and supports to meet the needs of vulnerable children and families in Travis County

# Travis County's **partnership** with Child Protective Services

Travis County provides **direct support** to the CPS system through:

- Local **Judges** who manage the CPS docket
- Family Services Division of the **DA's office** who prosecutes the legal cases
- Funding for legal positions within the **DA's office**
- **Constable's office** who facilitates the serving of petitions
- **DRO** who provides statistical analysis and oversight of CPS cases
- **Children F.I.R.S.T.**, County funded program directly supporting CPS families
- Funding for **CASA** and the **Austin/Travis County Children's Shelter**
- **PIR (Parenting in Recovery) / Family Drug Treatment Court**
- Community **Re-integration Project**

## FY '12 Budget

Adoption Fees	\$0
Day Care Center (Child Care Discretionary)	\$26,703
Birthday, Xmas, Graduation (Gifts)	\$21,000
Medications (Pharmaceuticals)	\$0
Bus Passes (Transportation-Indigent)	\$1,500
Dental Appts not covered by Insurance (Dental Care – Indigent)	\$400
UA's on Parents (Medical Care – Indigent)	\$139,550
Clothing (Clothing, Uniforms – Indigent)	\$132,000
Adoption Picture Development (Volunteer Recruitment)	\$1,200
Enrichment (Camps, Drivers Ed) (Human Services, Other)	\$0
Sexual Abuse Exams (Medical Exams/Victims)	\$0
Assessment/Evaluation, Counseling (Psychiatrist/Psychologist)	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$322,353</b>

# Travis County Board Budget In Support of DFPS

Fiscal Year	CW Budget
FY 2004	\$483,492
FY 2005	\$472,492
FY 2006	\$449,272
FY 2007	\$449,272
FY 2008	\$322,353
FY 2009	\$322,353
FY 2010	\$322,353
FY 2011	\$322,353
FY 2012	\$322,353
FY 2013	\$372,353*

\*\$50,000 increase in drug testing line item

# Capital Area Safe Kids Fund

Children's Protective Assistance, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation doing business as (d.b.a.) the Capital Area Safe Kids Fund, or the Safe Kids Fund for short. It is the nonprofit arm of the Travis County CPS Board, and the members and officers of the Travis County CPS Board comprise the board of the Safe Kids Fund as well. The Safe Kids Fund raises funds to supplement state and Travis County funding for children and families in the CPS system. Its activities are conducted entirely by volunteers.

## Examples of Expenditures:

- Beds for children,
- Travel for parents to visit children who are in out-of-county placements,
- The prom project for foster teens, and
- Recognition events for foster parents and CPS staff.

## TRENDS 2008 – 2012



Child population

Children in foster care

Legislative reform

Kinship care

Travis County Model Court

Adoption

Growing as the county grows

Increasing as child abuse rises

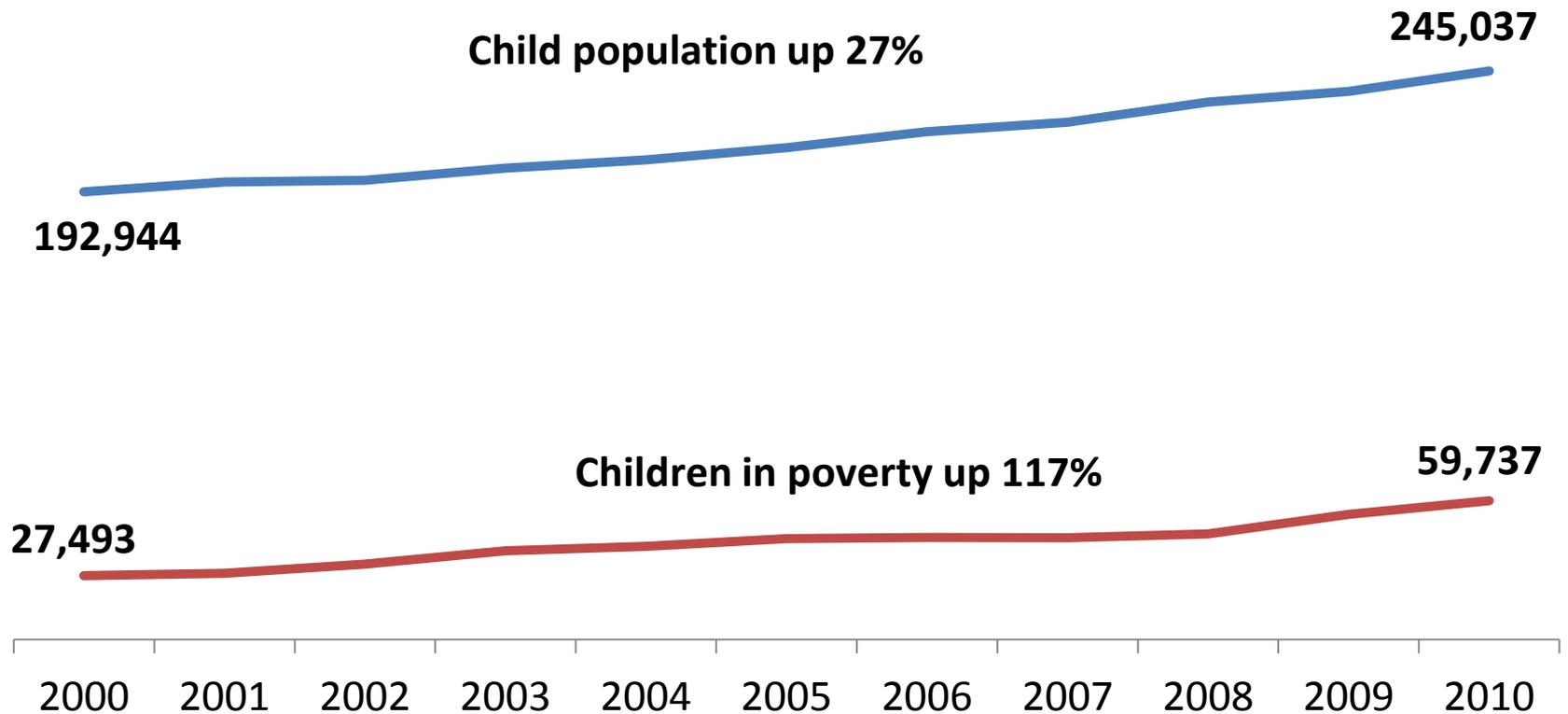
Mandating systemic reform

Keeping families together

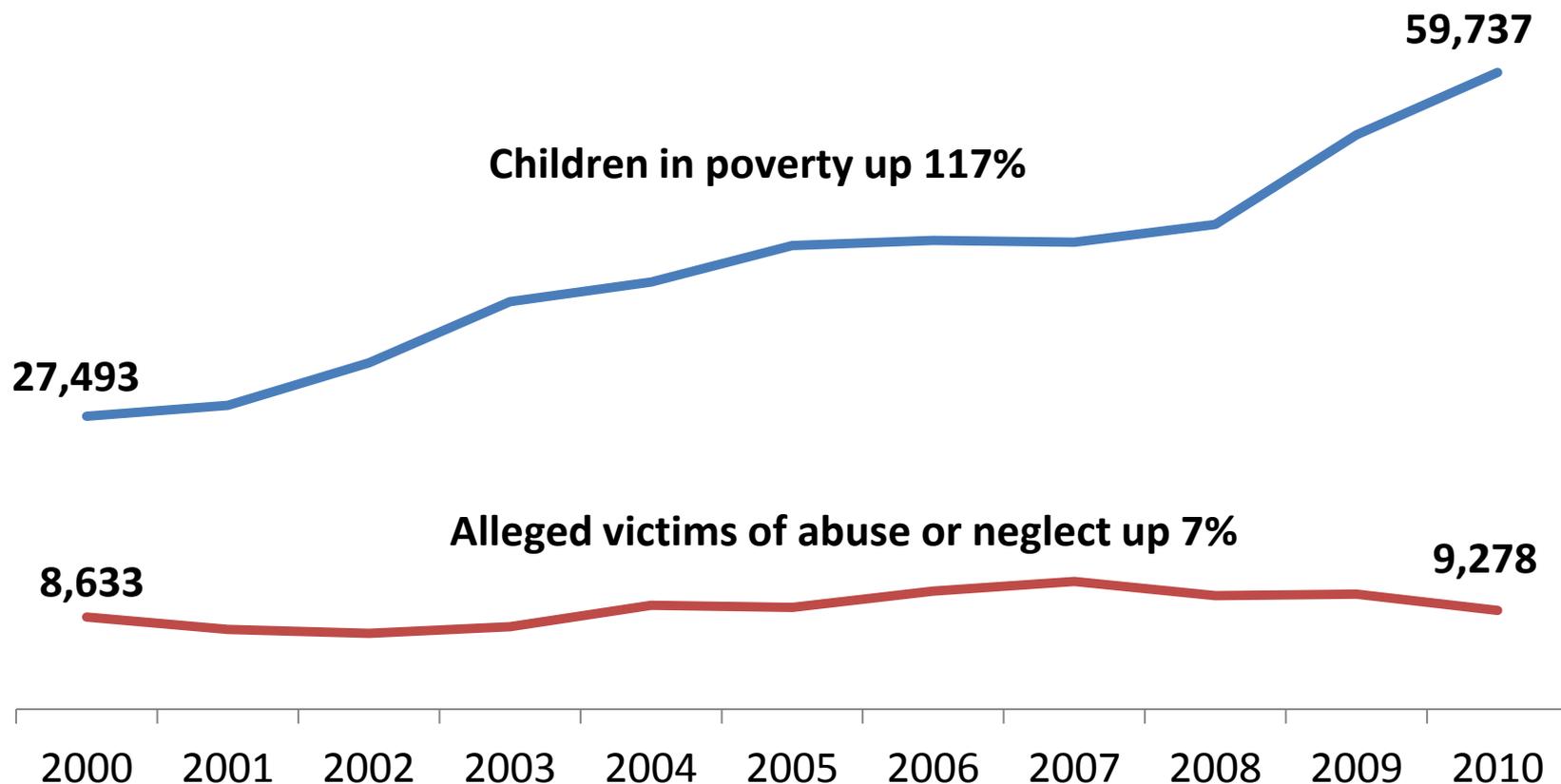
Implementing best practices

Increases in permanency

# Travis County Has a Fast Growing Child Population, Many of Whom Live in Poverty



# Number of Alleged Victims in Travis County Has Grown at a Much Slower Pace than Poverty

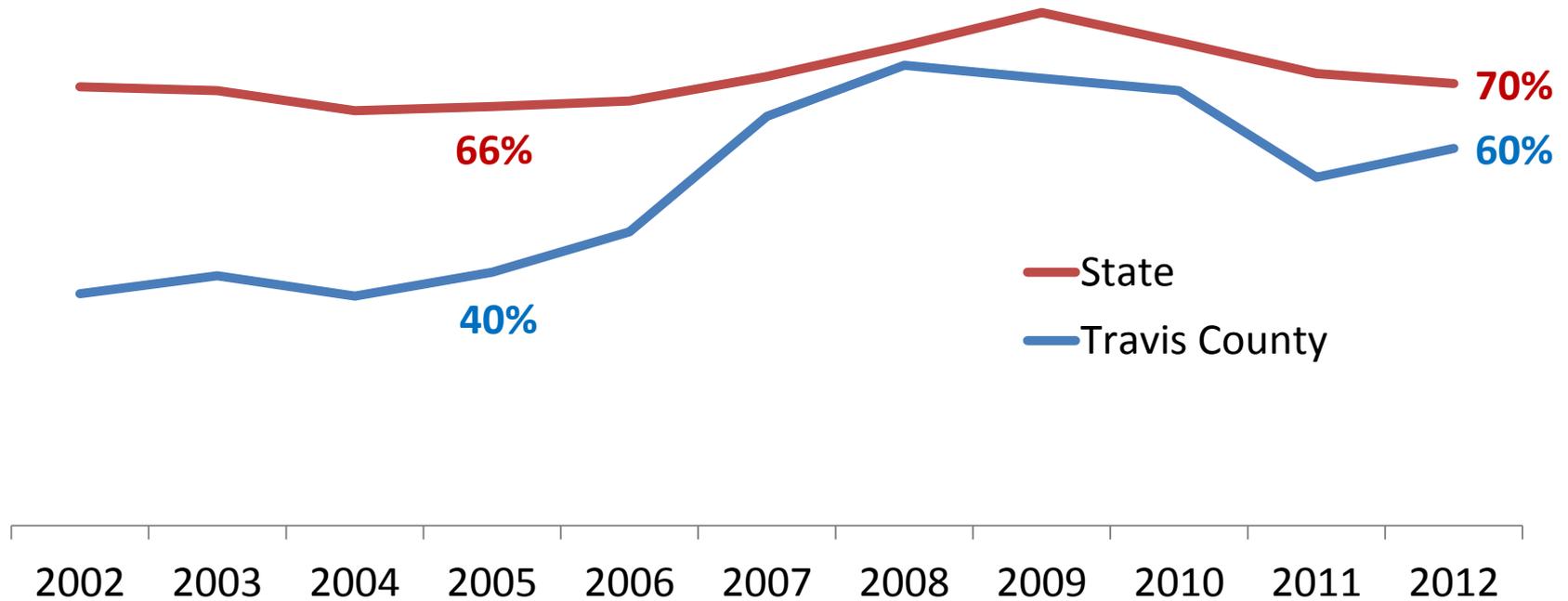


# CPS Reform

- Governor's executive order in 2004 to start comprehensive reform of CPS
- 79<sup>th</sup> Legislature (2005) enacts SB 6 with focus on improving investigations and using relatives as caregivers
- 80<sup>th</sup> Legislature (2007) enacts SB 758 with focus on keeping children safe at home
- 81<sup>st</sup> (2009) and 82<sup>nd</sup> (2011) Legislature continue reforms with focus on improving permanency

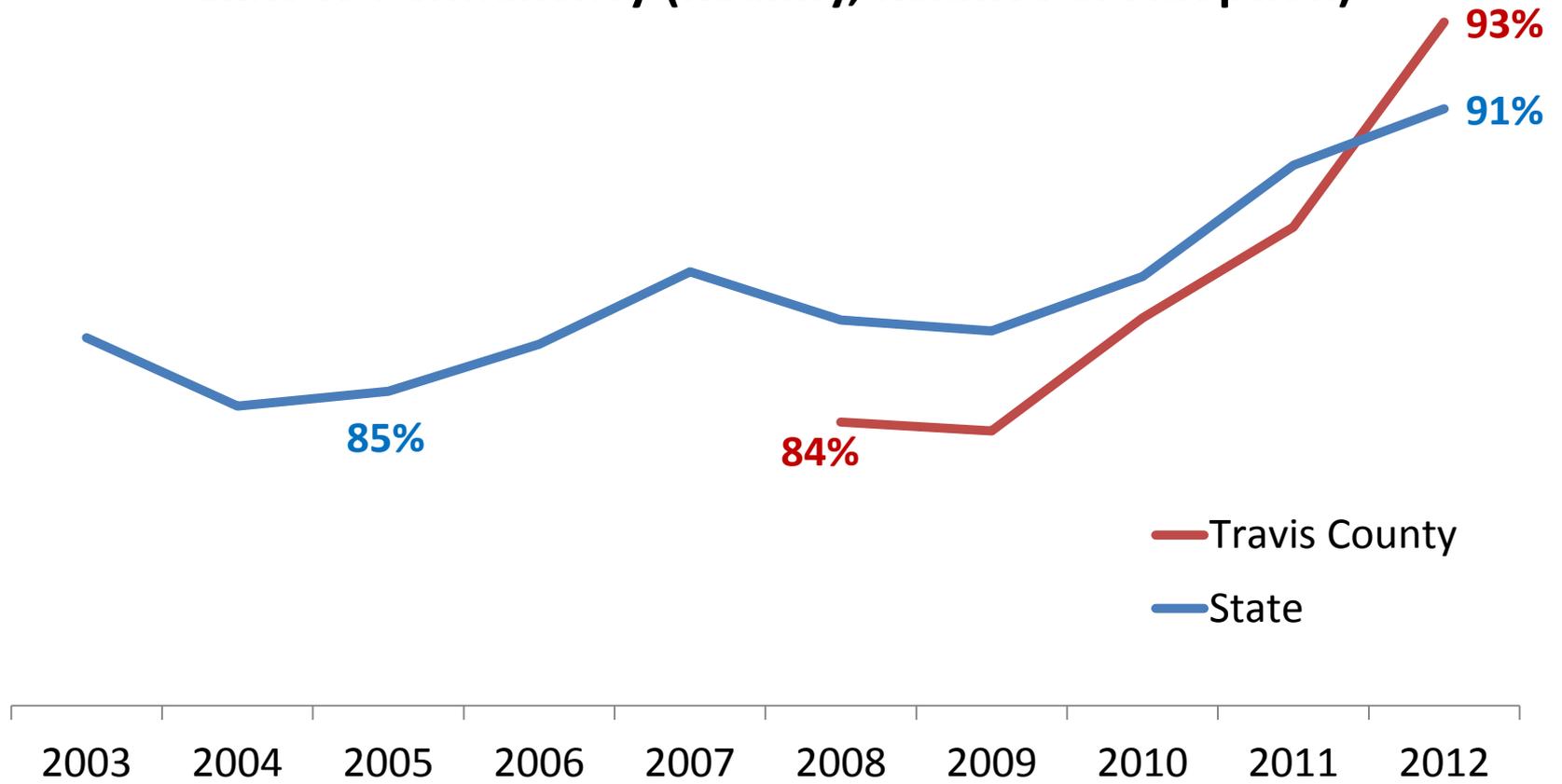
# Children Are More Likely to Receive Family Based Safety Services

## Of Cases Opened, Percentage in Family Based Safety Services

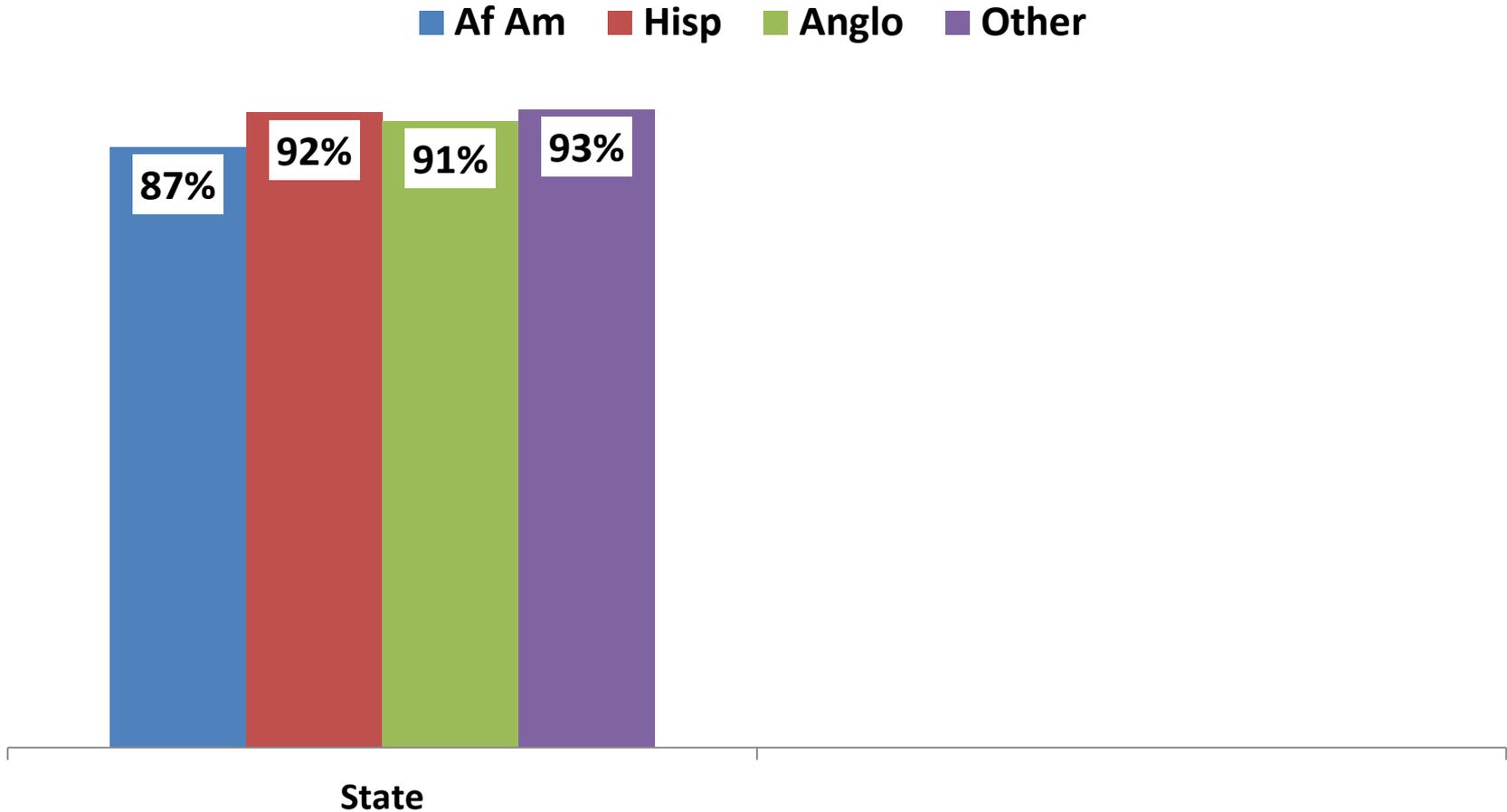


# Children Are More Likely to Exit to Permanency

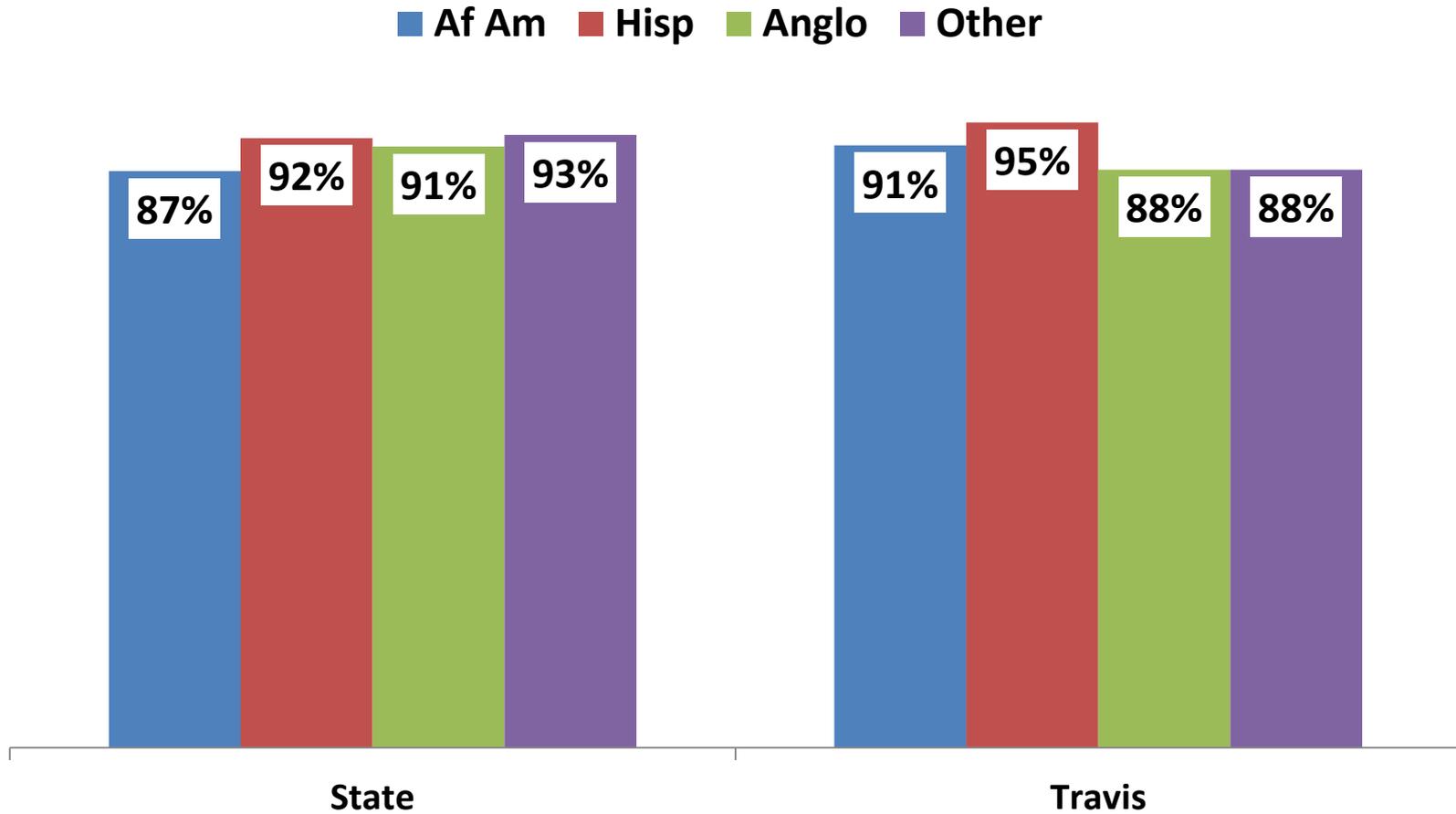
## Exits to Permanency (Reunify, Relative or Adoption)



# Statewide, Other Races Have Highest Permanency while African Americans Have Lowest



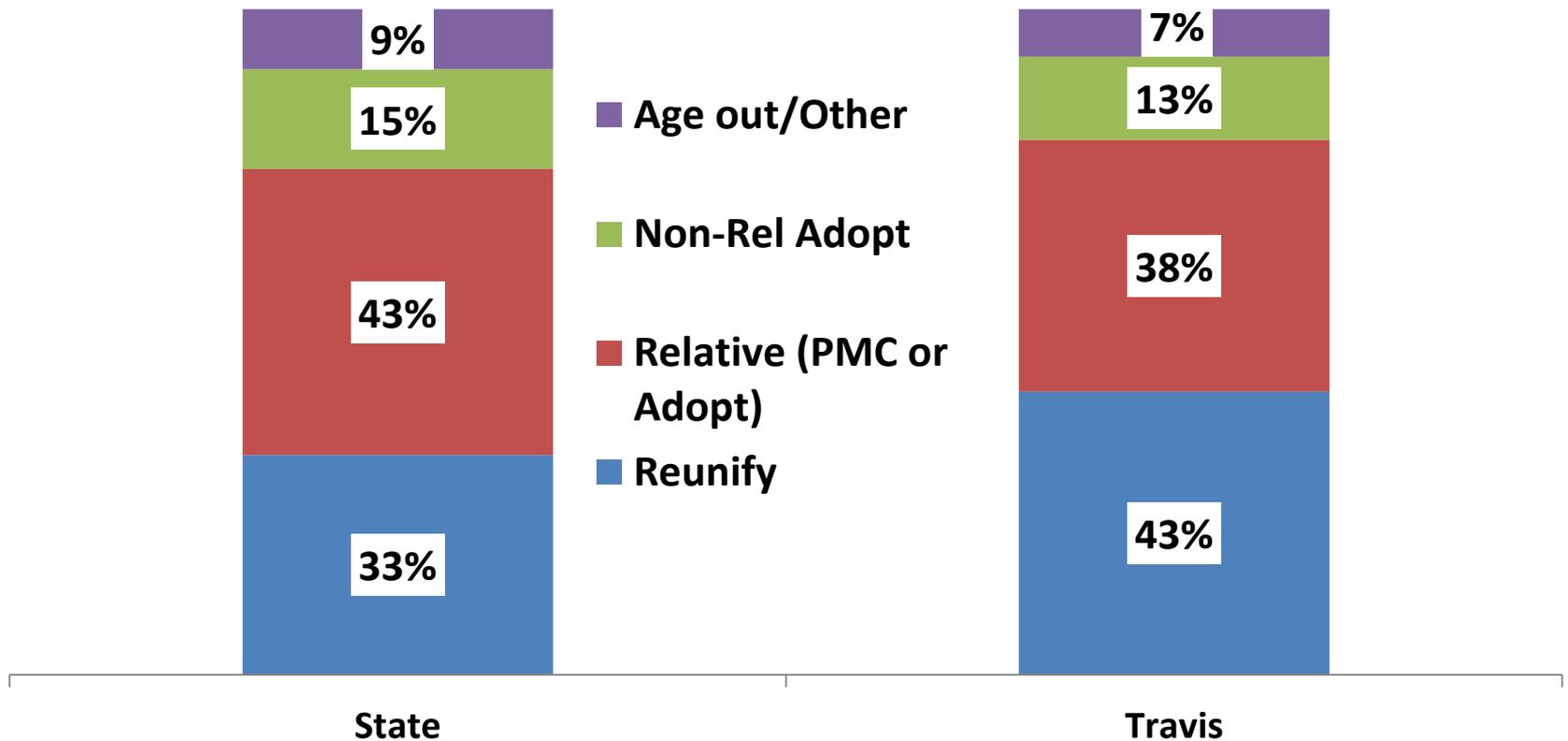
# In Travis, Hispanics Have Highest Permanency while Anglos and Other Races Have Lowest



Source: DFPS data warehouse report PP\_20 and CIP\_09 – Data as of Oct 7 2012

# Reunification Most Common Exit in Travis

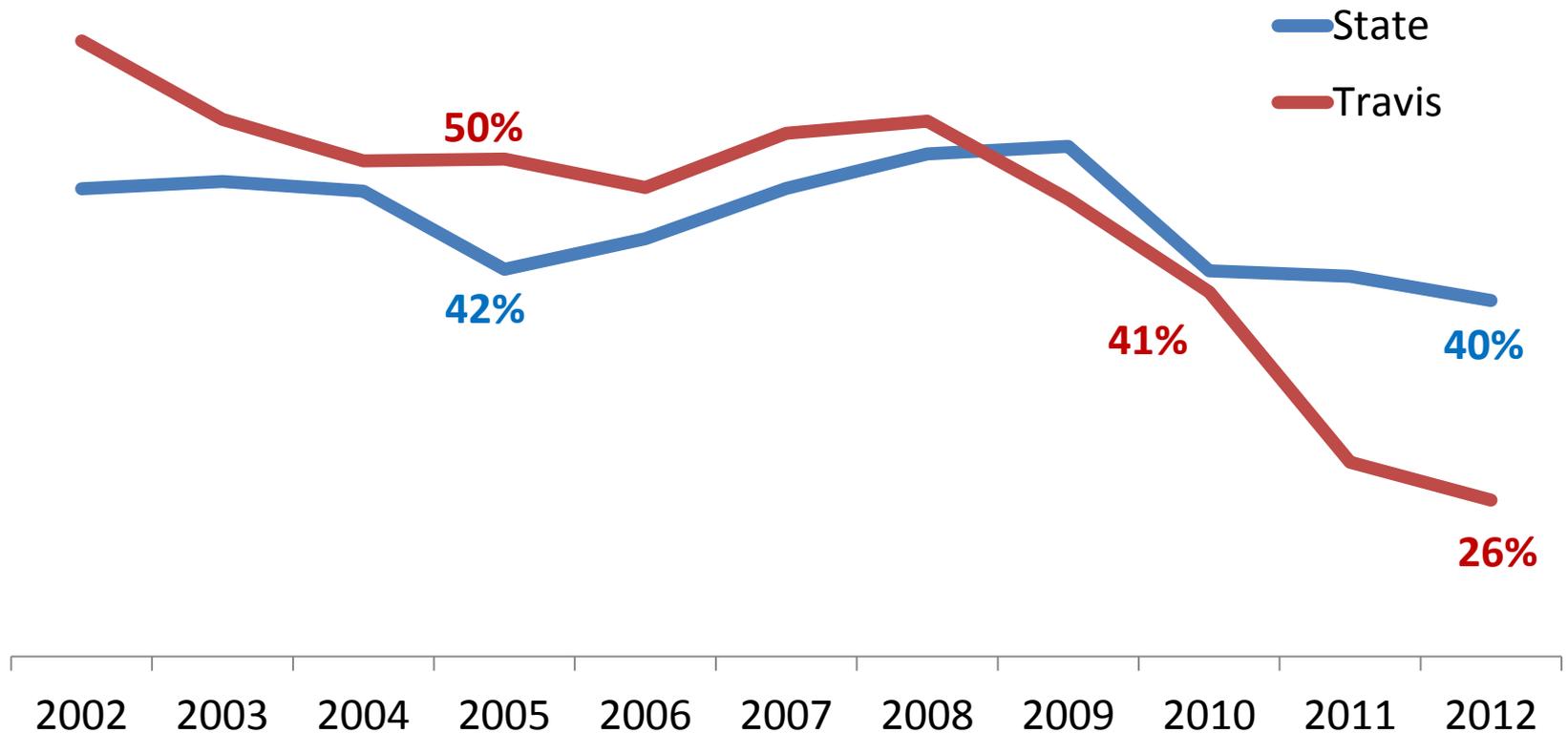
## Exits in 2012



Source: DFPS databooks and data warehouse report PP\_20 – 2012 is data available as of September 7, 2012

# Travis Has Significantly Reduced Children in PMC

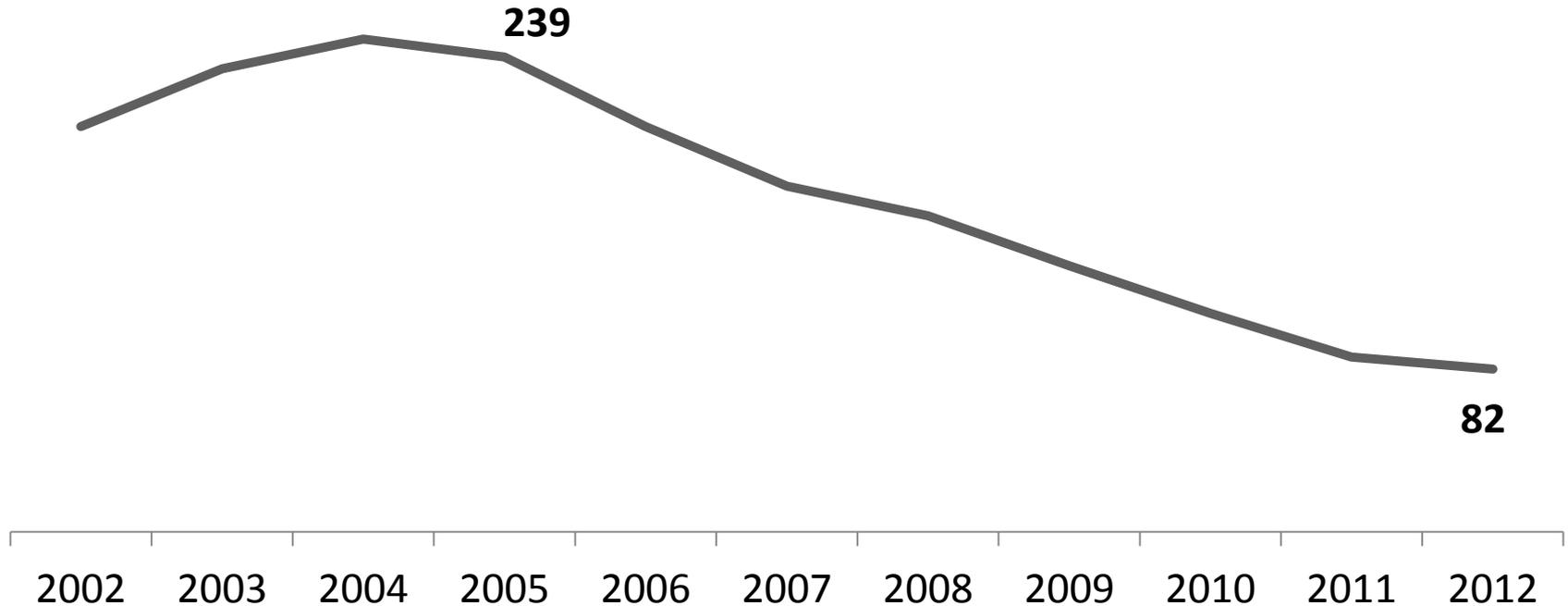
## Children in PMC at End of Year



Source: DFPS data warehouse report PP\_03 – 2012 is data available as of September 7, 2012

# Fewer Children in DFPS Custody Long Term

## Children in DFPS Custody in Travis County for 3 or More Years at End of Fiscal Year



Source: DFPS data warehouse report PP\_01 – 2012 is data available as of September 7, 2012

Presented by:

Carole Hurley, J.D. —Chair, Travis County Child Protective Services Board

Jane Burstain, PhD—Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Andrea Colunga Bussey, LCSW—Division Director Office of Children Service, Travis County  
Health and Human Service and Veterans Service