



Child Protection & Adoption Services

Standing Committee on Community Services

January 2011

Community Services



NOVA SCOTIA

Children in Care

- As of March 31, 2010, 1154 children in Permanent Care and Custody
- 235 children came into Permanent Care and Custody in 2009/10



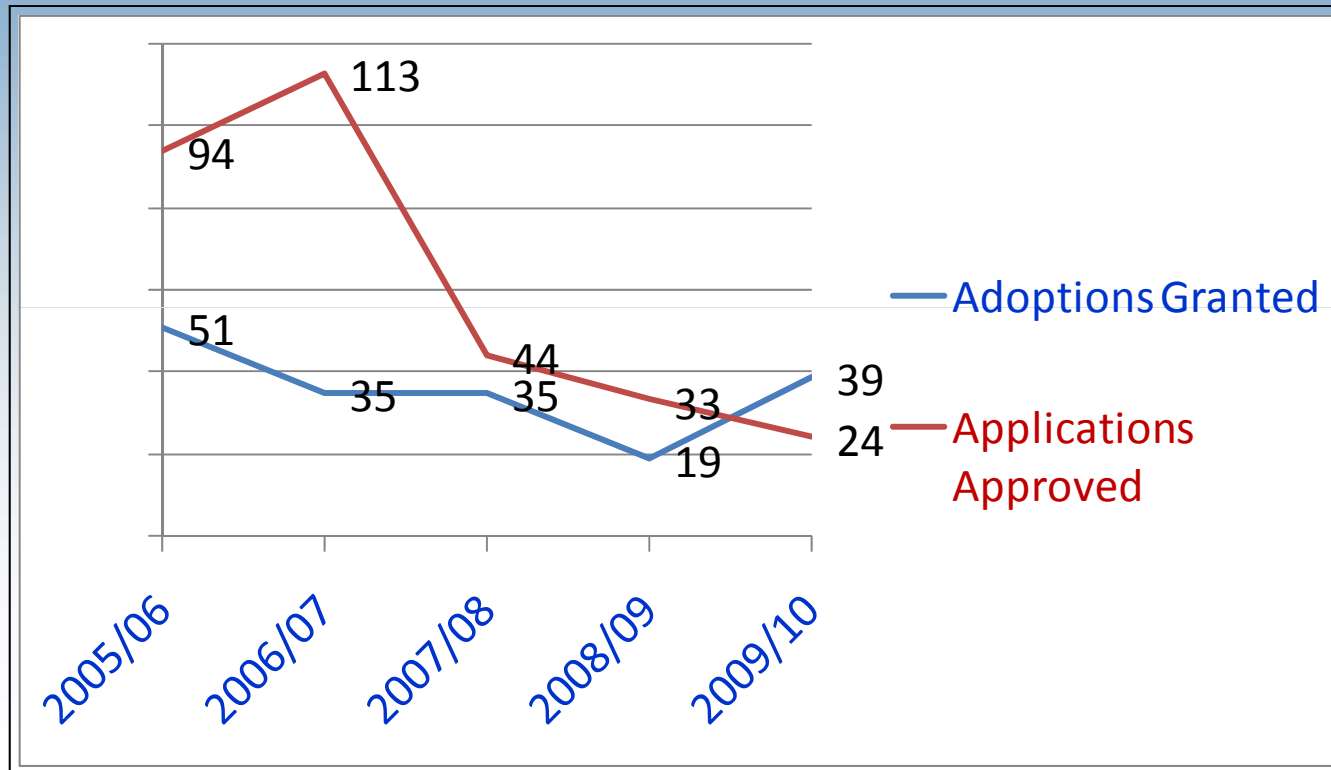
Adoption Re-Design

- Added 9 new social work positions to provide pre-assessment and assessment services
- Introduced standardized training program (SAFE)
- Introduced standardized assessment tool for adoptive families (SAFE)
- Established Adoption Information Line: 1-866-259-7780 (toll free line for all adoption related inquiries)
- Introduced amendments to *Children and Family Services Act* which reduced access to birth families as barrier to adoption and promoted greater openness in adoption
- Established web-based Adoption Exchange for use by District Offices to feature children with special needs waiting for adoption

Adoption Placements

- 125 children placed for adoption in 2009-2010:
 - 17 were 0 – 1 year of age
 - 64 were 1 – 4 years of age
 - 29 were 5 – 10 years of age
 - 15 were 11 – 16 years of age
- Recruitment efforts focused on families for school-aged children

International Adoption



Adoption Trends

- Number of foster parents who adopt is increasing
 - 57% of adoptions in 2009-2010 were by foster parents
- Children have complex needs:
 - Autism, Developmental Delays, Fetal Alcohol, Syndrome or Effects, Significant Attachment Disorders
- Recruitment efforts focused on school-aged children

Adoption Inquiries

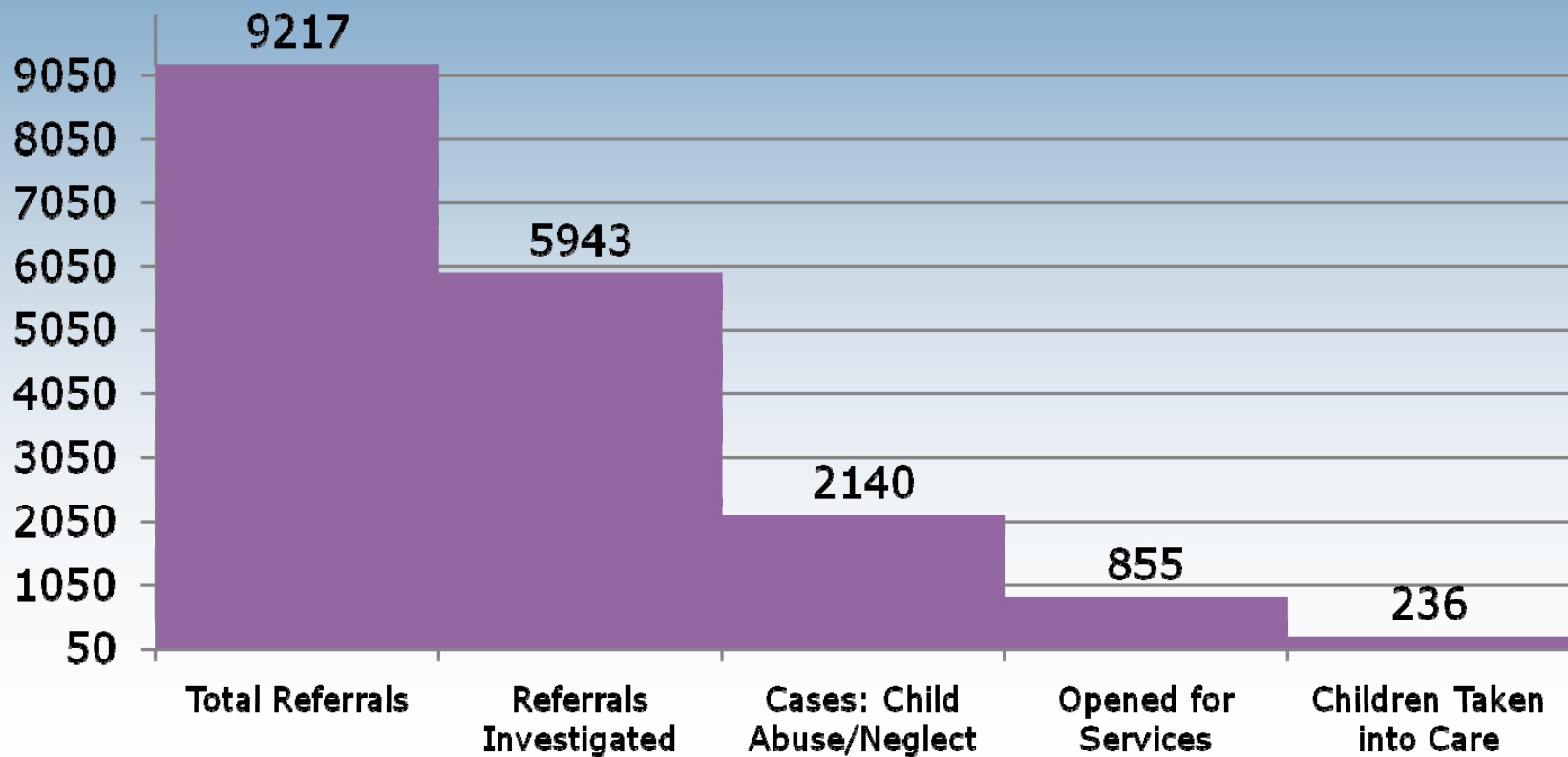
1-866-259-7780



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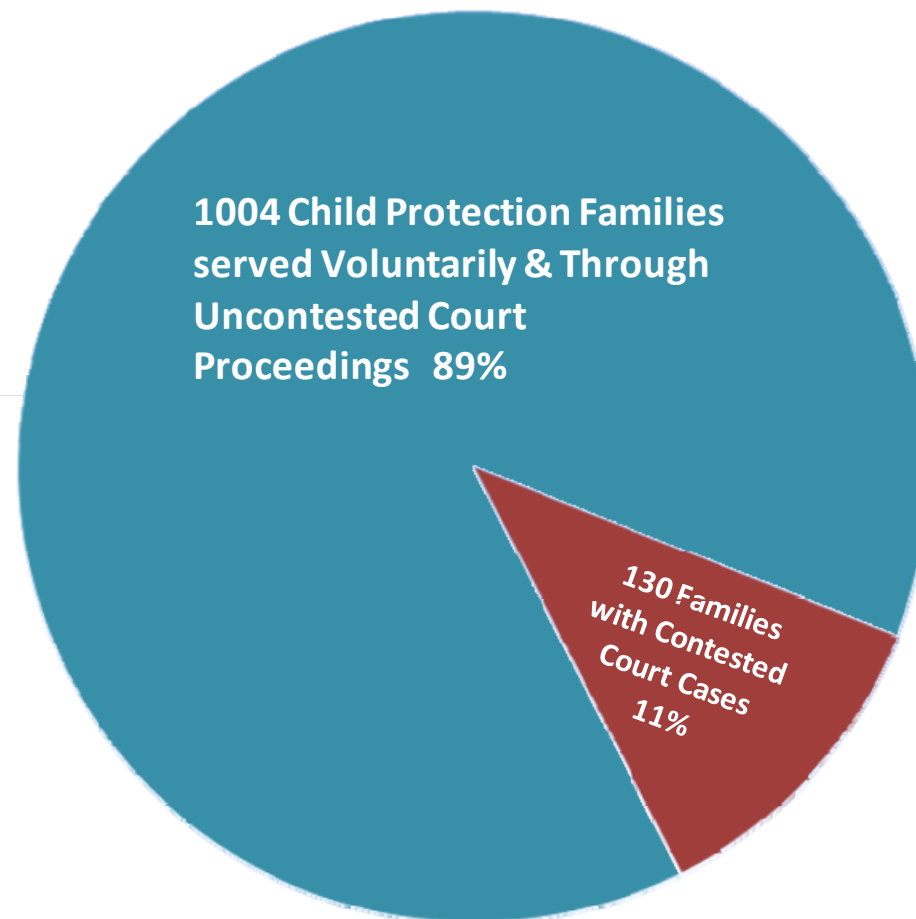
Child Protection at a Glance



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Family Support Services: Child Protection Families 2009-2010



Maintaining Family Ties

- Consistent with the principles of the *Act*, importance is placed on:
 - Keeping siblings together
 - Maintaining contact with the child's relatives and friends
 - Preserving the child's cultural, racial, linguistic heritage
- 33% of children in care are placed in a kinship home

**Thank You
Questions?**

Community Services

