Foster Care Awareness Day at the Capitol
February 7, 2022

The purpose of the Foster Care Awareness Day is to provide lawmakers with education and first-hand experiences related to foster care in Idaho. This year, the day is hosted by Idaho Voices for Children and welcomes statewide attendees, including foster care alumni, volunteers, providers, parents, youth and child welfare advocates.

Last year, 1,346 children entered foster care in Idaho. Most of these children (82 percent) entered care due to neglect and other reasons, and about 18 percent entered due to physical or sexual abuse.

A vast majority (91 percent) of children in foster care in Idaho are placed in a family setting, either with a foster family or with relatives. Last year, there were a total of 1,198 licensed foster families – a decrease from the previous year.

Almost two-thirds of children in foster care were safely reunited with their birth parents or caregiver last year, and 29 percent were adopted. Additionally, 12 children were able to extend their foster care services under HB336 passed in 2021.

Foster care in Idaho was struggling before the pandemic to adequately address the needs of children. The last two years have only exacerbated existing gaps, as the issues have compounded and are now in a crisis. The stress of the pandemic on families, inaccessible health care services, ongoing foster parent losses, and a significant workforce shortages have all resulted in troubling trends that need attention from Idaho lawmakers.

Sources: Idaho Dept. of Health & Welfare, 2021

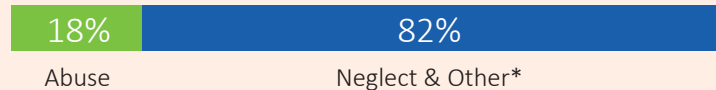## At a Glance: Foster Care in Idaho

10,606
children were involved in investigations.

2864
children were served in foster care for SFY 2021.

Reasons Idaho children enter foster care:

18%	82%
Abuse	Neglect & Other*

*Other includes substance abuse, child behavior problems, parent death, parent incarceration, relinquishment or inadequate housing

Idaho's average foster parent monthly maintenance rates are significantly lower than surrounding states.

Annual Legislative Foster Care Report for SFY 2021

IDAHO VOICES FOR CHILDREN