

Results of the 2001 & 2002

Child and Family Service Reviews

Children's Bureau

Administration for Children and Families

Department of Health & Human Services

The 17 States Reviewed in FY 2001

- Arizona
- Arkansas
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Georgia
- Indiana
- Kansas
- Massachusetts
- Minnesota
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Oregon
- South Dakota
- Vermont

The 15 States Reviewed in FY 2002

- Alabama
- Alaska
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Michigan
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- Texas
- West Virginia
- Wyoming

Scope of Child and Family Service Reviews

7 outcomes in the
areas of safety,
permanency, and
child and family
well being

7 systemic factors

Determining Substantial Conformity

Outcomes

- Case Record reviews and data indicators
- 90% of cases substantially achieved
- Meet national standards on data indicators

Systemic Factors

- Stakeholder interviews and statewide assessment
- State plan requirements in place
- State plan requirements function as required

Changes in Rating Criteria from 2001 to 2002

- **Foster Care Re-Entries:** Changed definition to correspond to data indicator
- **Recurrence of Maltreatment:** Changed definition to correspond to data indicator
- **Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, or Permanent Relative Placement:** Added an indicator to onsite review of cases
- **Independent Living:** Incorporated into other items

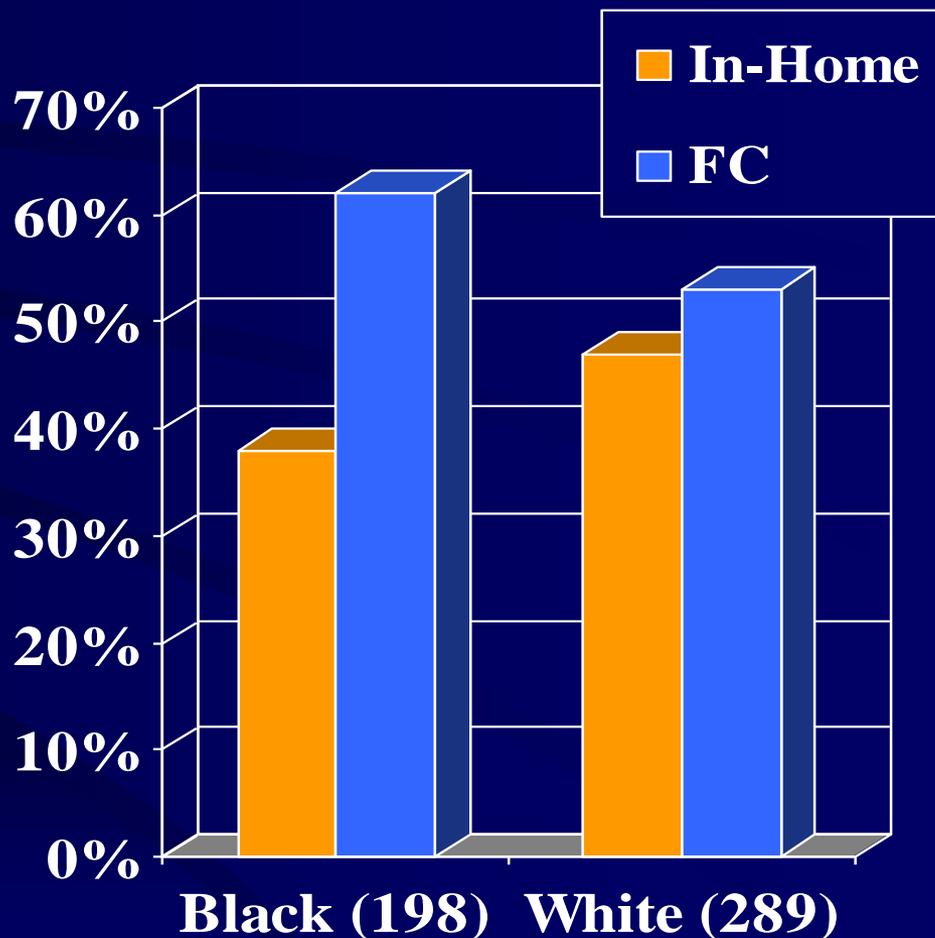
Number of Cases Reviewed

Total number of cases = 1584

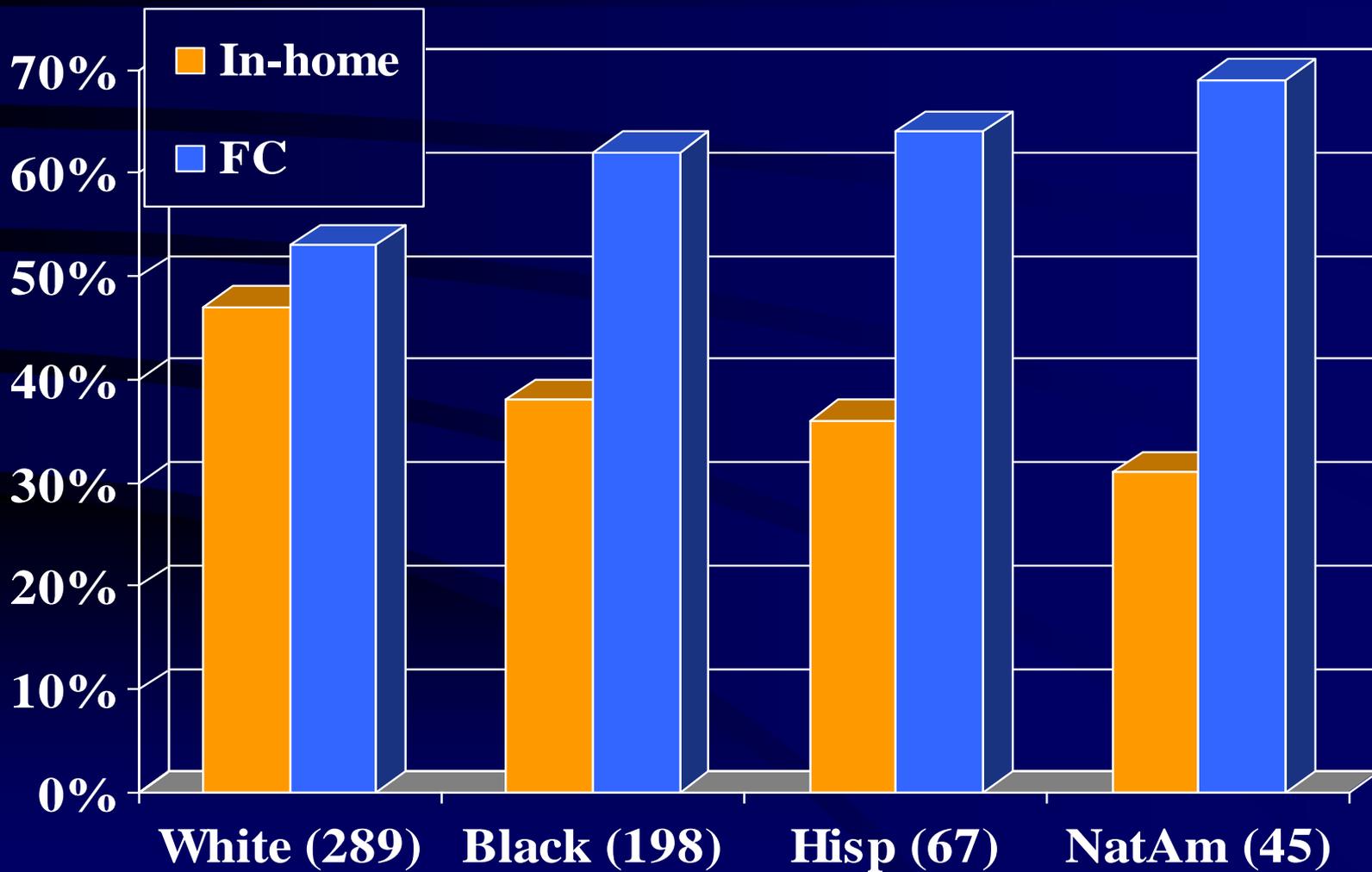
	2001	2002
Foster Care Cases	514	422
In-Home Cases	323	325
Totals	837	747

Percentage of African-American & White Children in the 2002 Cases

African-American children were more likely to be in foster care than served in their own homes, when compared to white children.



Over-Representation of Children of Color in the 2002 Foster Care Cases



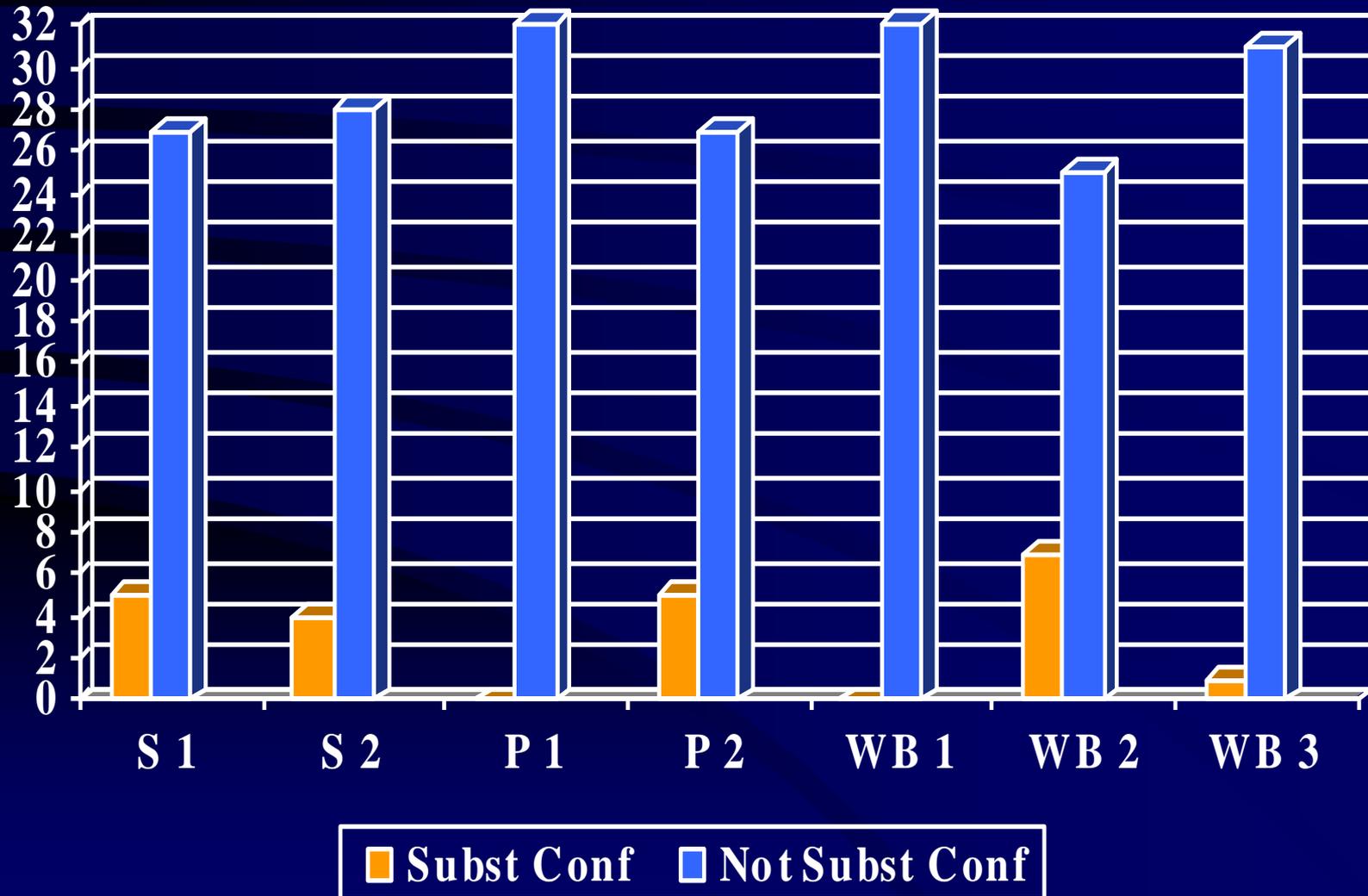
Relationship between Race/Ethnicity and Adoption Ratings - 2002 reviews

- Ratings for adoption (item 9) were not significantly associated with race/ethnicity of children
- 50% of cases with Native American children were rated “strength” for adoption, compared to 39% of all other cases
- 36% of cases with White children were rated “strength” for adoption, compared to 41% of all other cases

Relationship between Race/Ethnicity and Preserving Connections Ratings

- Ratings for preserving connections (item 14) were not significantly associated with race/ethnicity of children.
- Preserving connections was rated “strength” for 68% of Native American children, compared to 80% of all other children
- 81% of cases with white children were rated “strength” for this item, compared to 78% of all other children

Number of States in Substantial Conformity on the 7 Outcomes

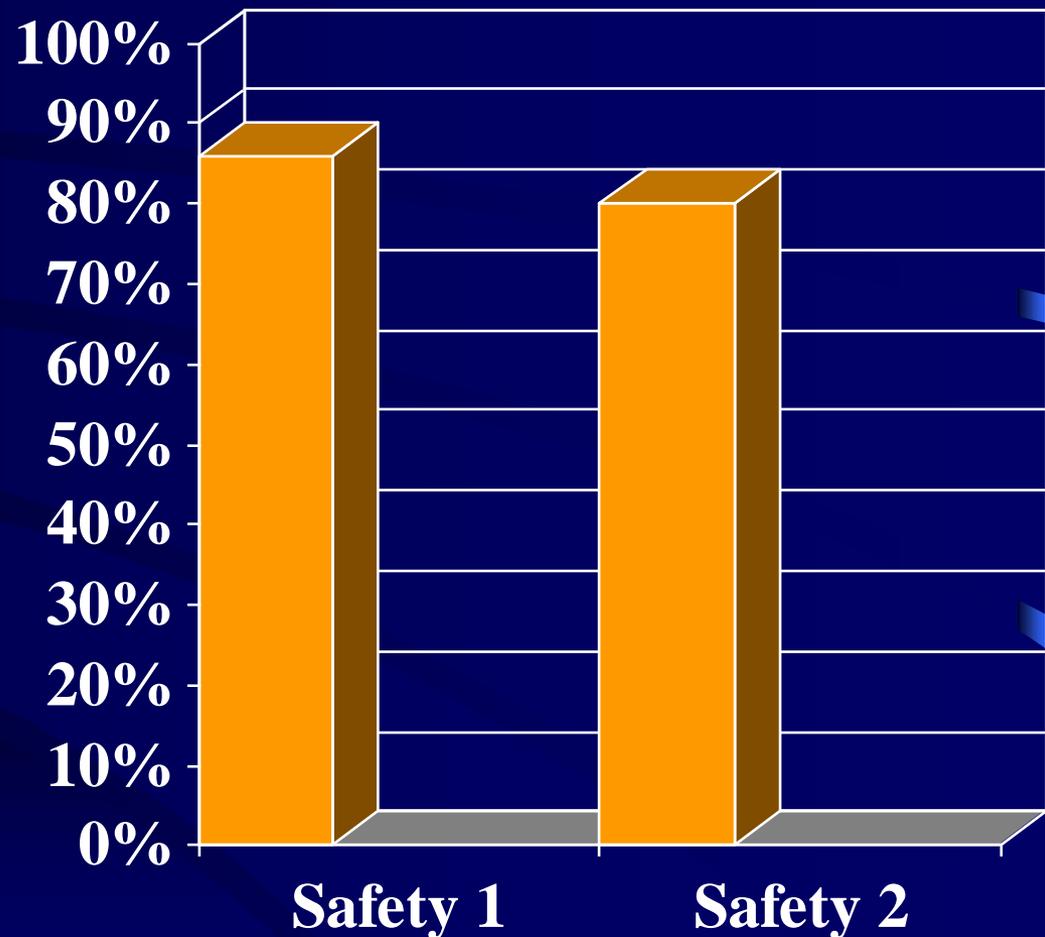


Safety Outcomes

1. Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect
2. Children are safely maintained in their own homes whenever possible and appropriate

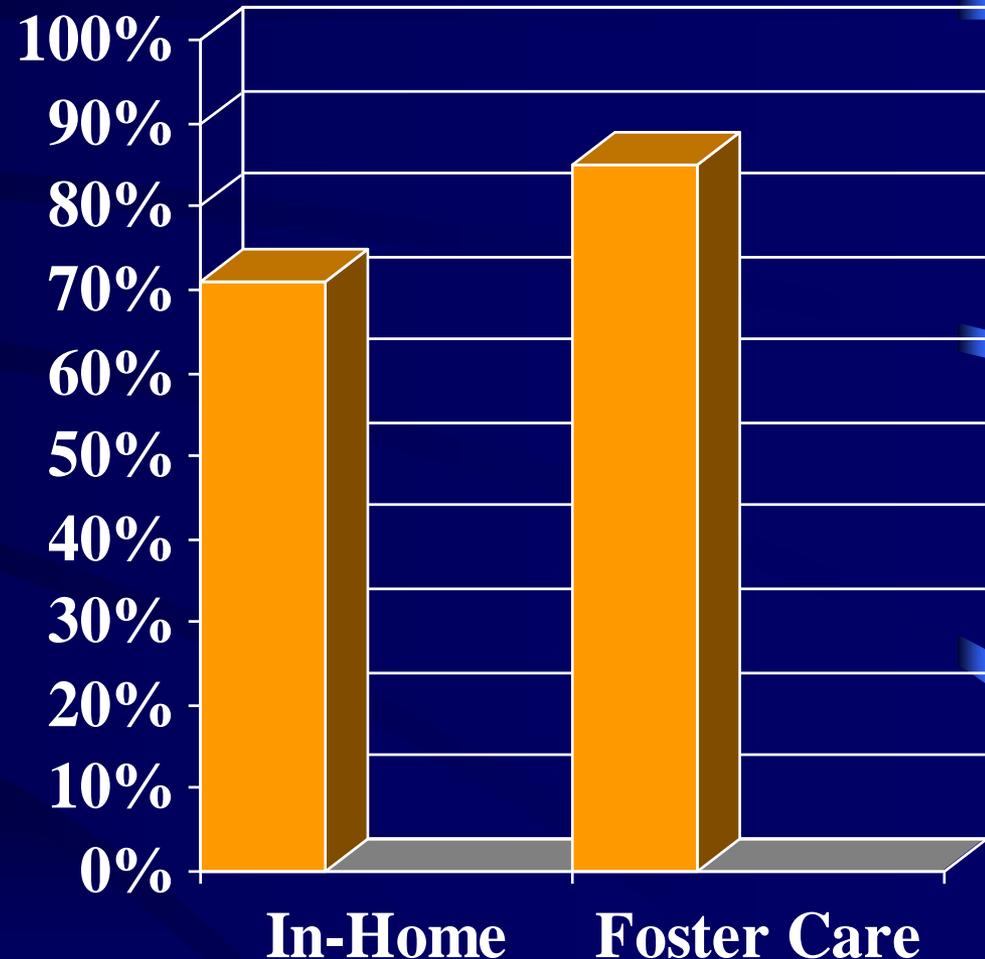
Case Ratings for the Two Safety Outcomes

Cases were rated stronger in achieving Safety Outcome 1 (86% of 1447 cases) than Safety Outcome 2 (80% of 1403 cases)



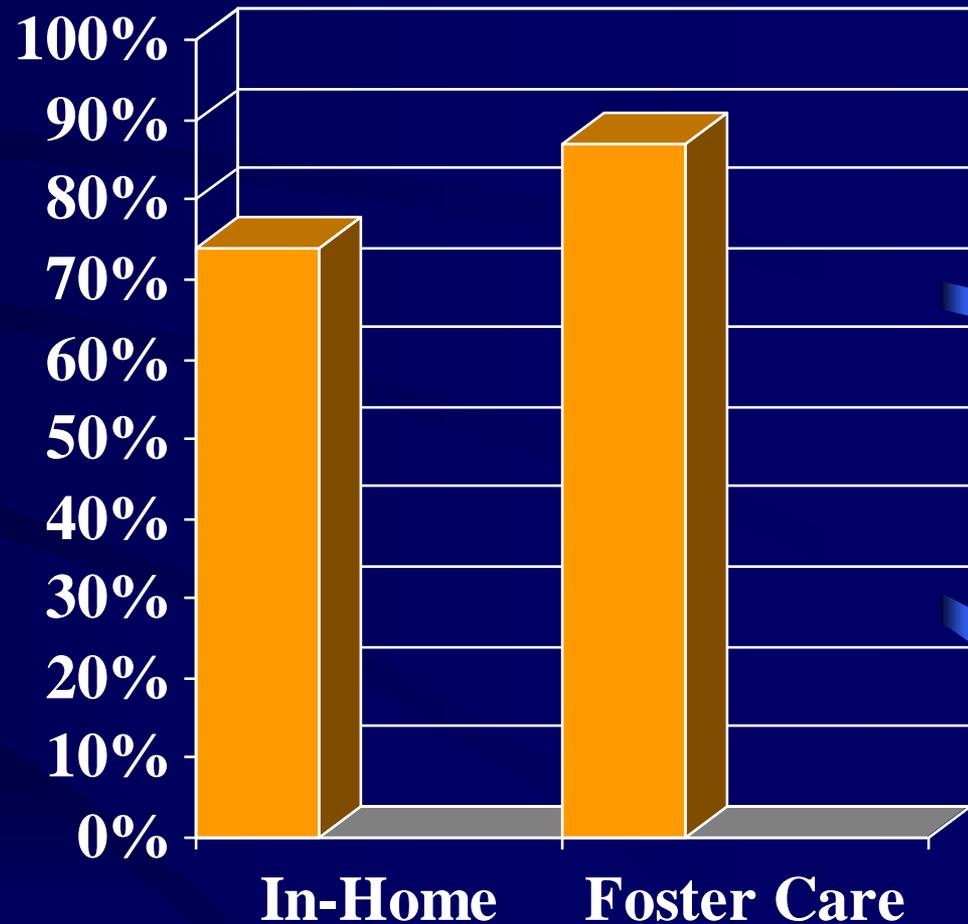
Ratings on Safety Outcome 2 for In-Home and Foster Care Cases

Safety outcome 2 was substantially achieved for only 71% of children receiving services in their own homes, compared to 85% of children in foster care.



Risk of Harm Ratings for In-Home and Foster Care Cases

The risk of harm was managed effectively for 74% of children receiving services in their own homes, vs. 87% of children in foster care



Common Concerns in “Risk of Harm” Ratings in 2002 States

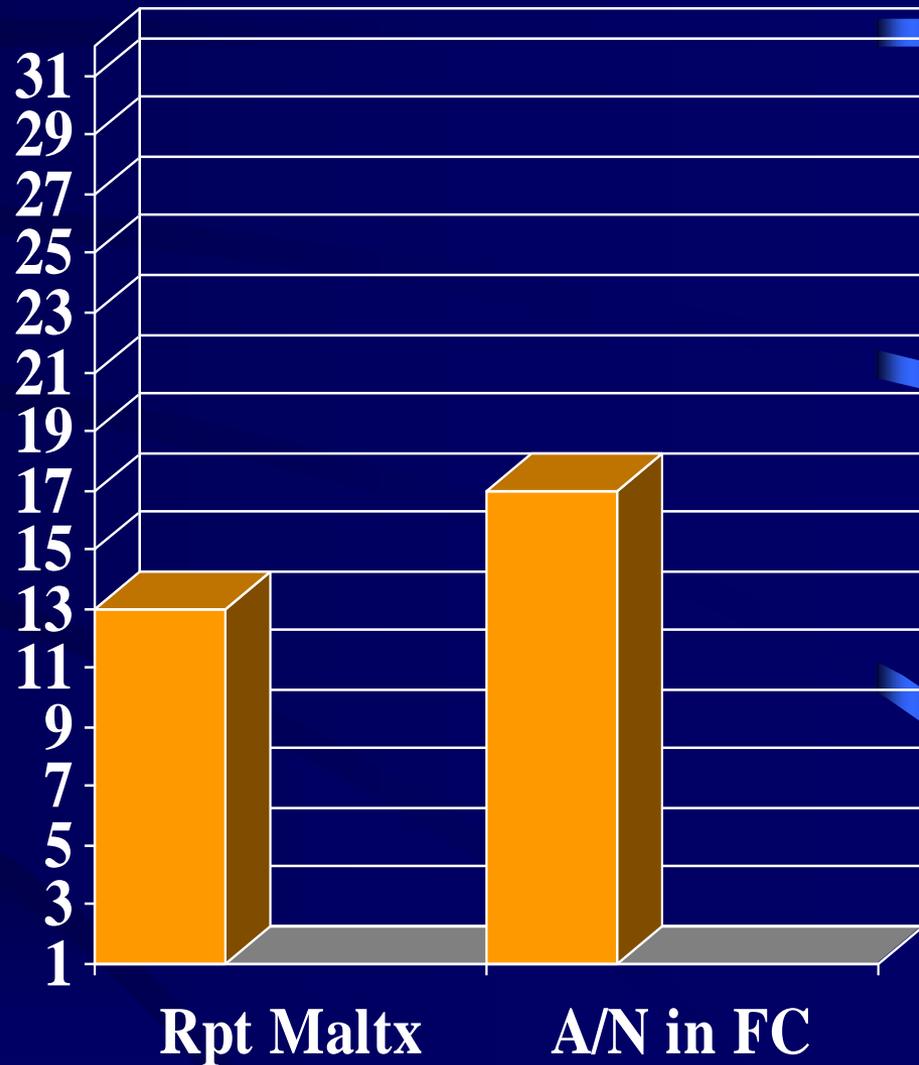
Common reasons why “risk of harm” was rated “area needing improvement” include:

- The services provided to the family were not always sufficient to reduce the risk of harm (10 States)
- The agency did not consistently monitor families to assess participation in services and associated changes in risk (10 States)

Compliance with National Standards for Safety

13 of 32 States met the repeat maltreatment standard

17 of 32 States met the maltreatment in foster care standard



Permanency Outcomes

1. Children have permanency and stability in their living arrangements
2. The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children

Permanency Goals for Children in 2002 Cases

- Reunification - 39.1%
- Adoption - 28.0 %
- LTFC/Emancipation - 20.1%
- Guardianship - 7.1%
- Perm.Place.W/ Relatives - 5.2%
- Other/Not Specified - .5%

Common concerns in 2002 States regarding permanency goals

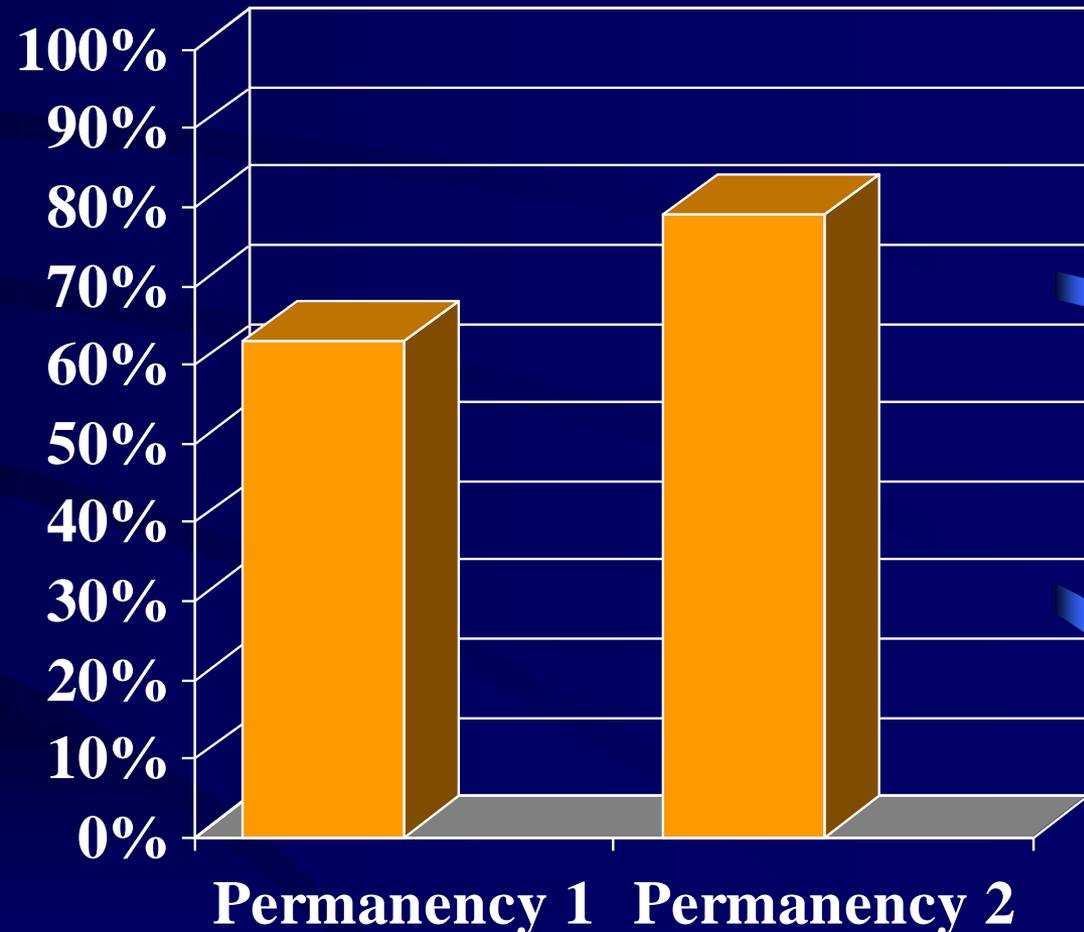
- The goal of LTFC is often established without thorough consideration of adoption or guardianship (11 States)
- Appropriate concurrent planning efforts were not being implemented on a consistent basis (11 States)

Common permanency concerns - continued

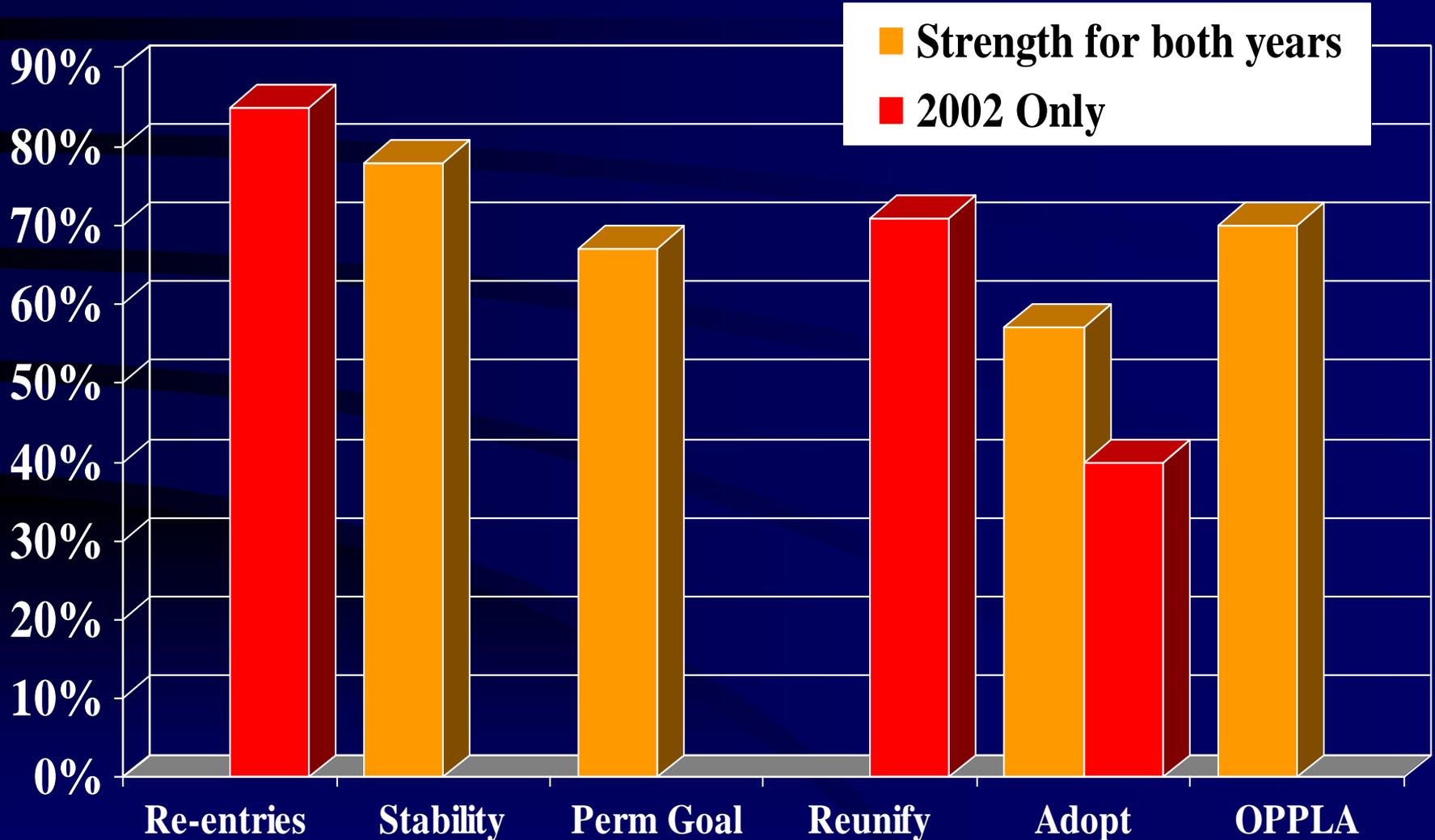
- The goal of reunification was maintained for too long before reconsidering/reviewing the goal (10 States)
- Agency did not routinely file for TPR in a timely manner and reasons for not filing were often not documented in the case files (6 States)

Case Ratings for Permanency Outcomes 1 & 2

Cases were rated
much higher in
achieving
Permanency
Outcome 2 (79%)
than Permanency
Outcome 1 (63%)

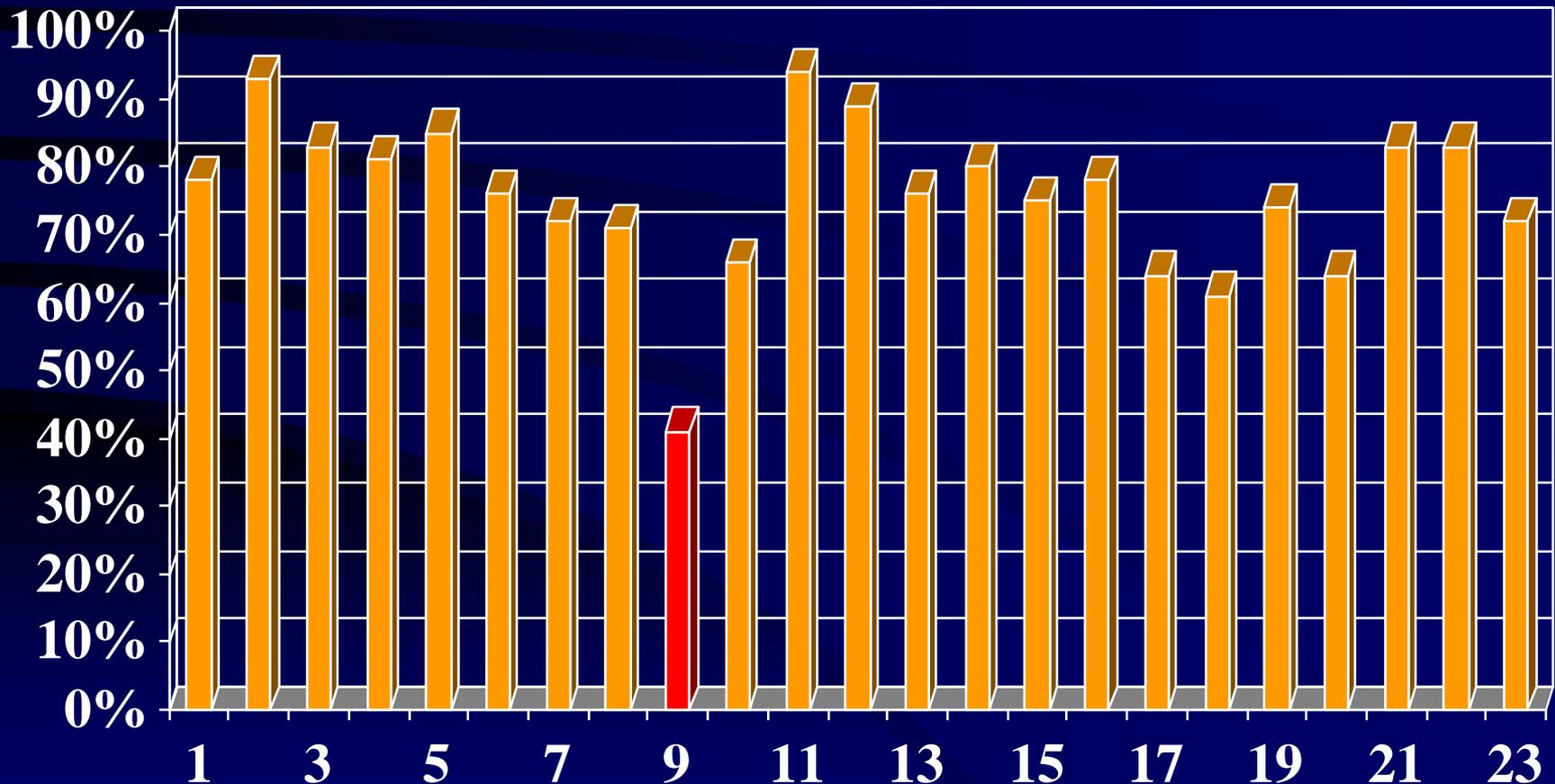


Strength Ratings for Permanency Outcome 1 Indicators



2002 Cases

Of all indicators in the 2002 cases, adoption was the least likely indicator to be rated a strength



Additional Adoption Information

Number of States with
adoption as a strength

2001 - 4 States

2002 - 1 States

Percentage of cases
with adoption as a
strength

2001 - 68 %

2002 - 41 %

Number of States
meeting adoption
national standard

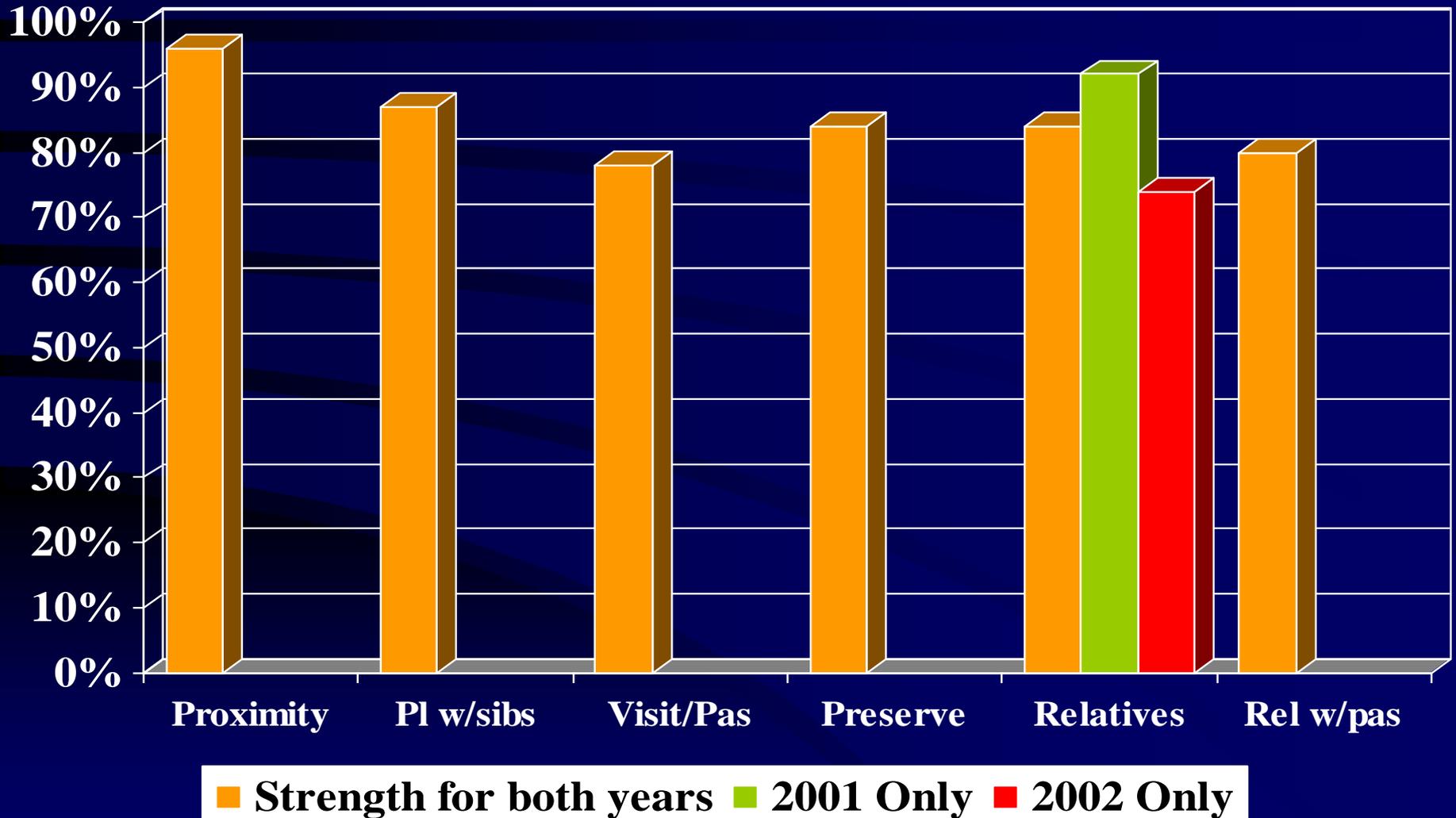
2001- 5 States

2002 - 4 States

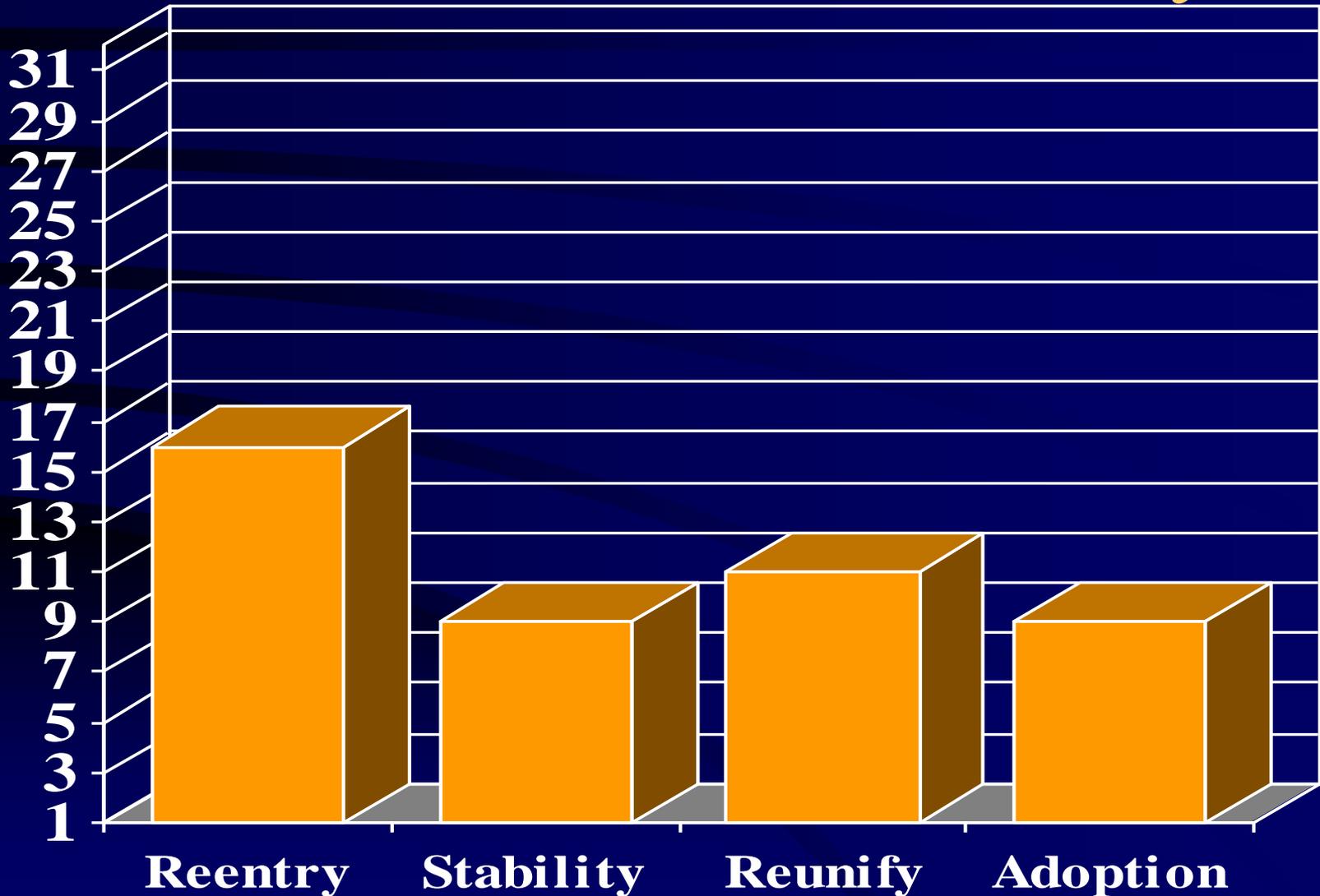
Common Concerns Regarding Adoption Delays in 2002 States

- Agencies did not consistently conduct home studies or complete adoption-related paperwork in a timely manner (9 States)
- Lengthy appeals of TPR (9 States)
- Agencies and/or courts were reluctant to establish a goal of adoption or seek TPR unless an adoptive family had been identified (6 States)

Strength Ratings for Permanency Outcome 2 Indicators



States Conforming to National Standards for Permanency

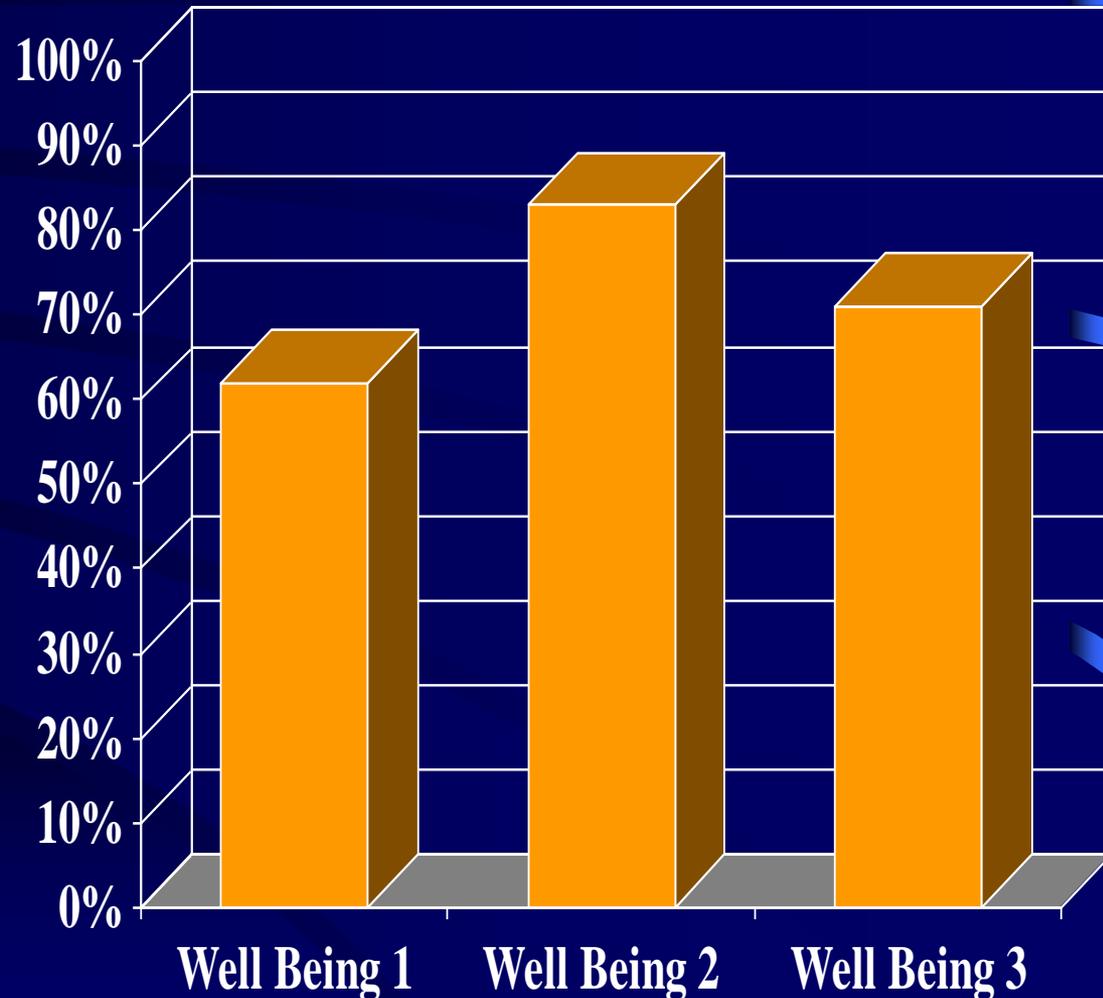


Well Being Outcomes

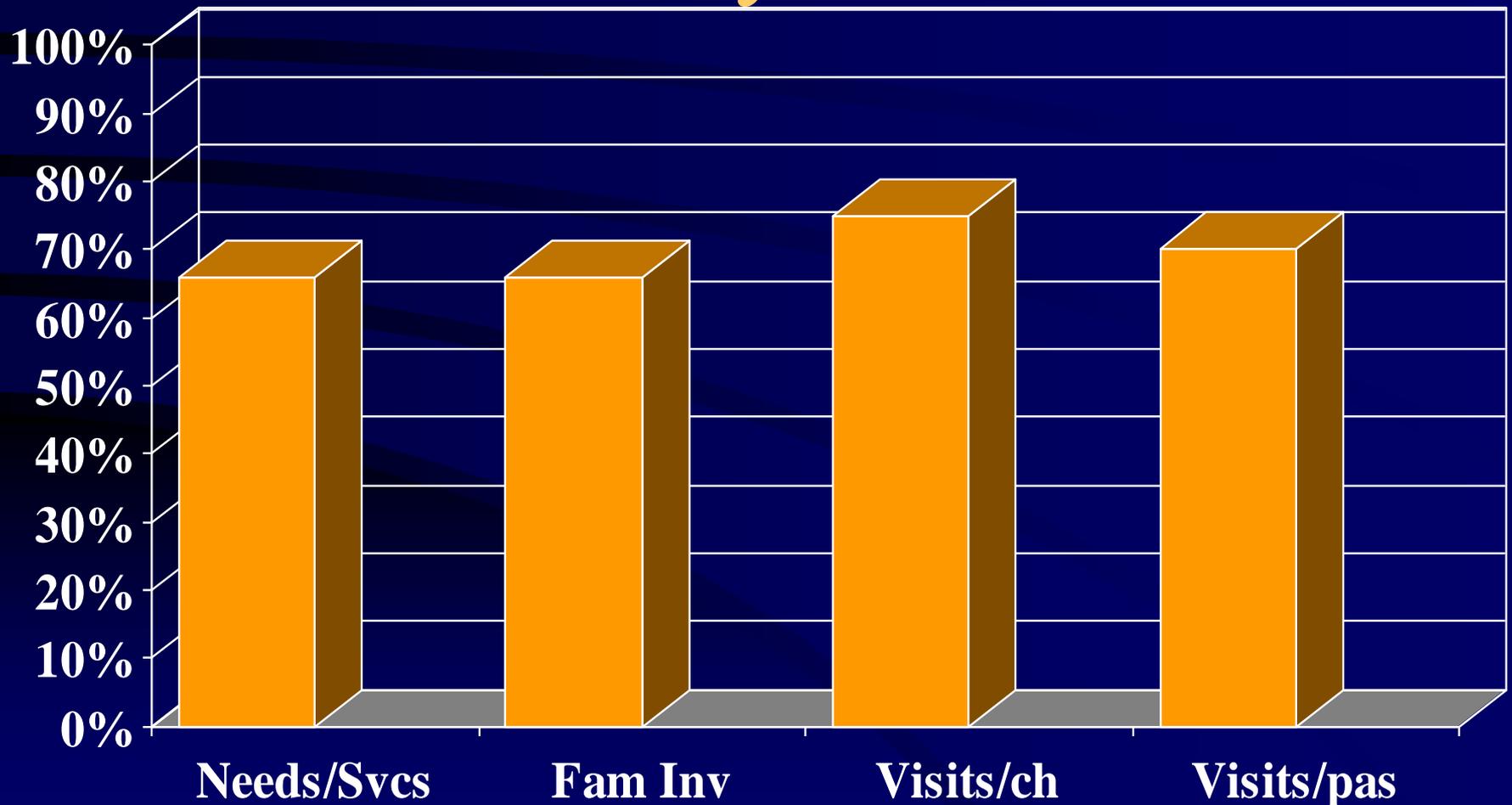
1. Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs
2. Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs
3. Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs

Percentage of Well Being Outcomes Rated Substantially Achieved

Cases were rated
stronger in WB
Outcome 2 (83%)
than in WB
Outcome 1 (62%)
or WB Outcome 3
(71%)



Strength Ratings for Well Being Outcome 1 Indicators for 2001 & 2002 by Cases

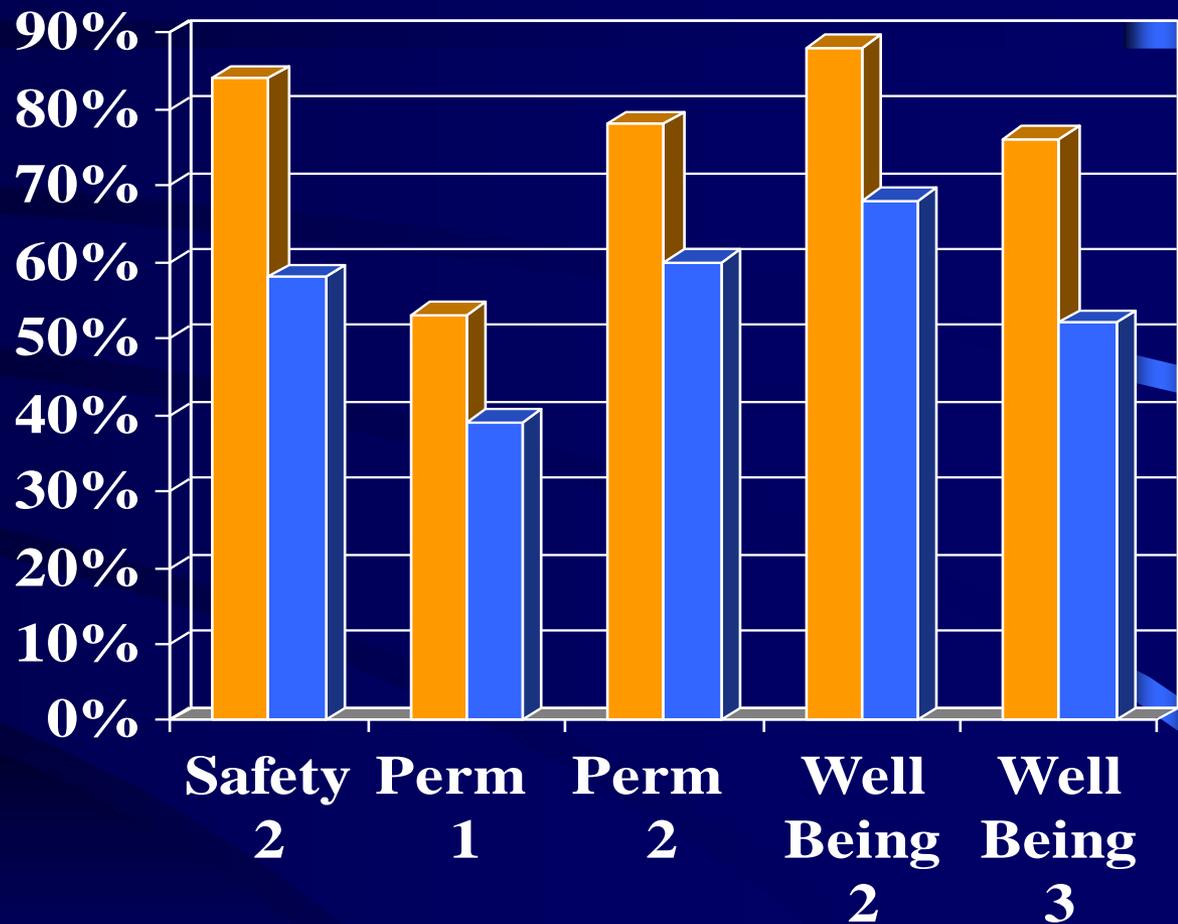


Strength Ratings for Well Being 1 Indicators for 2002 Only by States

- Assessing Needs and Providing Services (Item 17) - 0 States
- Family Involvement in Case Planning (Item 18) - 0 States
- Caseworker Visits with Children (Item 19) - 4 States
- Caseworker Visits with Parents (Item 20) - 0 States

Relationship of Caseworker Visits with Children and Other Outcomes in 2002 Cases

A “strength” rating for Item 19 (caseworker visits with child) was significantly associated with “substantially achieved” ratings for 5 of the 7 outcomes.



■ Item 19 "Strength"

■ Item 19 "ANI"

Relationship between Caseworker Visits with Children and Other Indicator Ratings in 2002 Cases (1)

Significant relationships were found between caseworker visits with children and

- ➔ Providing services to protect children in the home and prevent removal
- ➔ Managing the risk of harm to children
- ➔ Establishing permanency goals
- ➔ Achieving reunification, guardianship and permanent placement with relatives

Relationship between Caseworker Visits with Children and Other Indicator Ratings in 2002 Cases (2)

Significant relationships were also found between caseworker visits with children and . . .

→ Achieving goal of other planned living arrangement

→ Placement with siblings

→ Preserving children's connections while in foster care

→ Maintaining the child's relationship with parents

→ Assessing needs and providing services to children and families

Relationship between Caseworker Visits with Children and Other Indicator Ratings in 2002 Cases (3)

Finally, significant relationships were also found between caseworker visits with children and . . .

→ Involving children and parents in case planning

→ Caseworker visits with parents

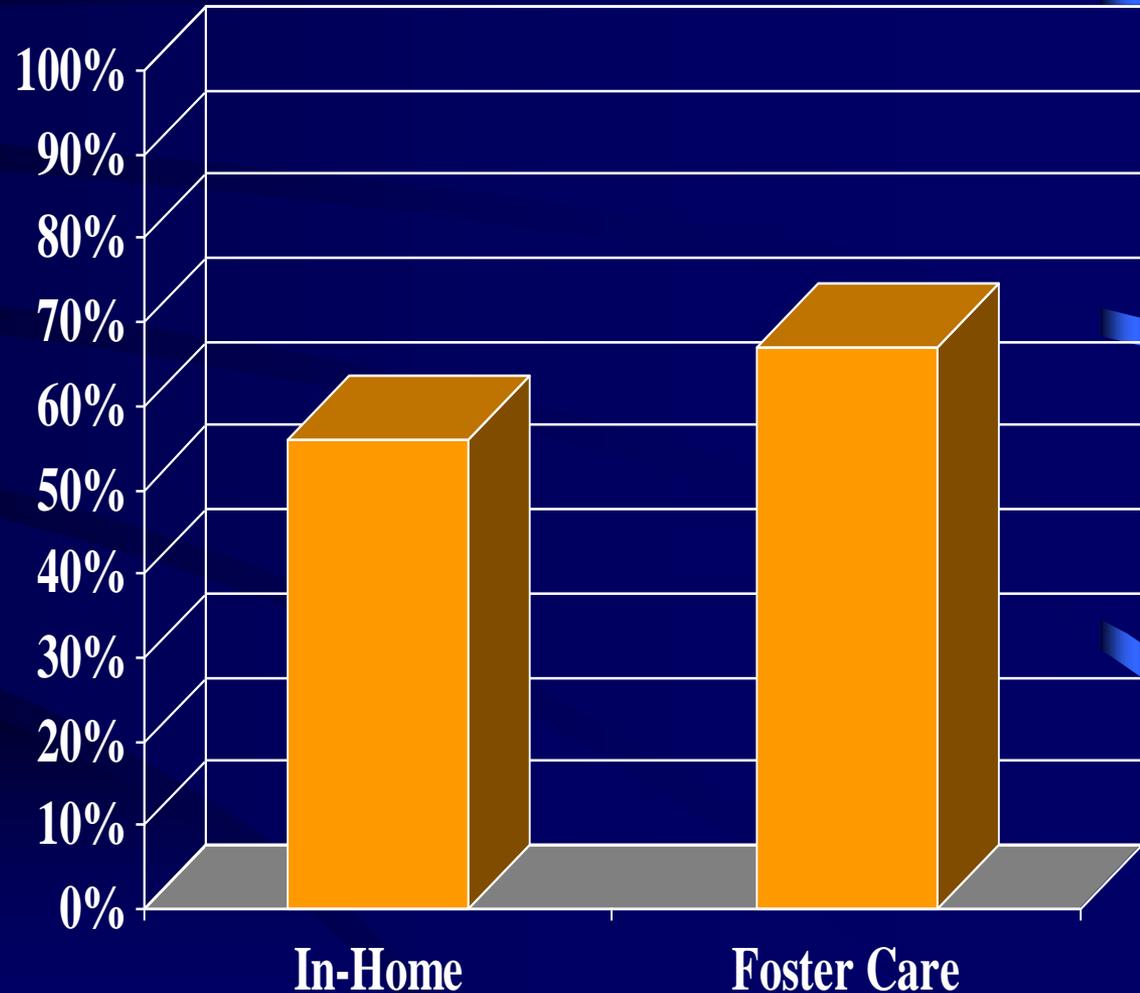
→ Meeting the educational needs of children

→ Meeting the physical health needs of children

→ Meeting the mental health needs of children

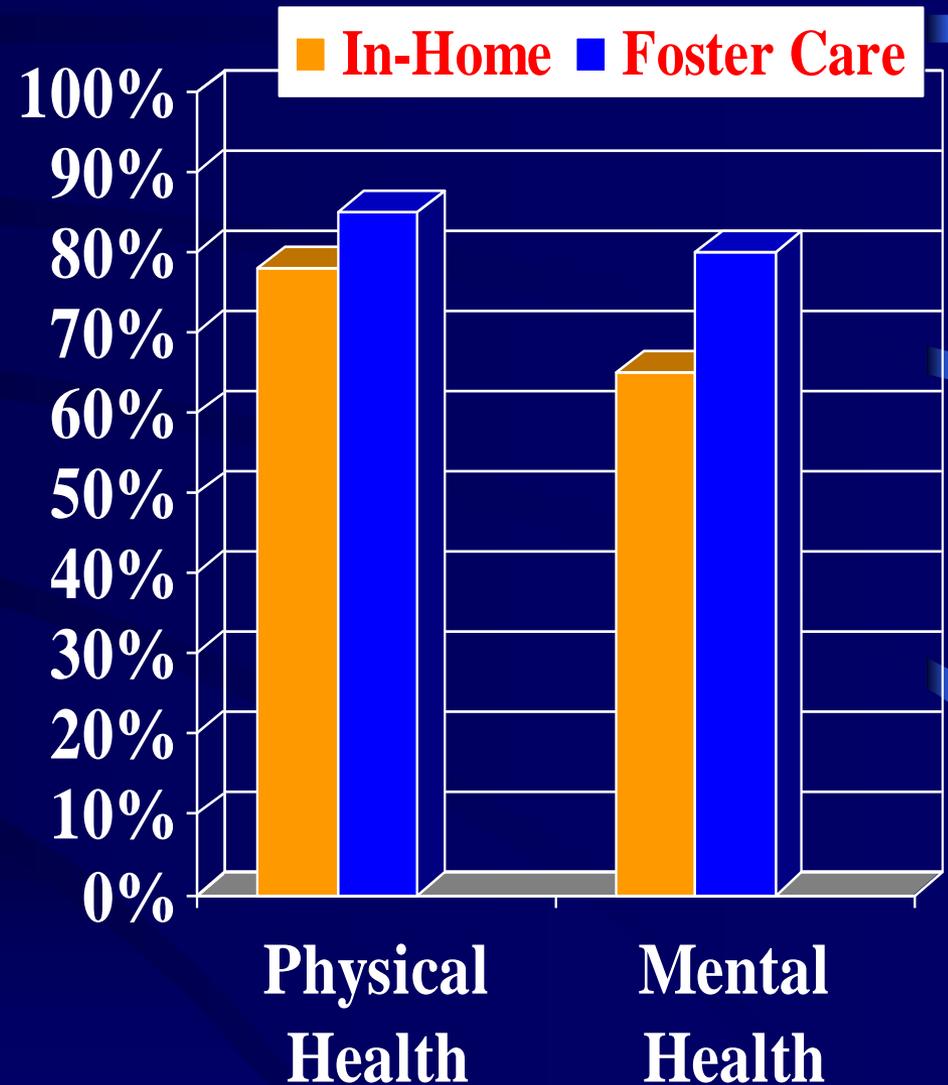
Well-Being Outcome 1 Ratings for In-Home and Foster Care Cases

Well-Being Outcome 1 was substantially achieved for only 56% of in-home cases, compared to 67% of foster care cases



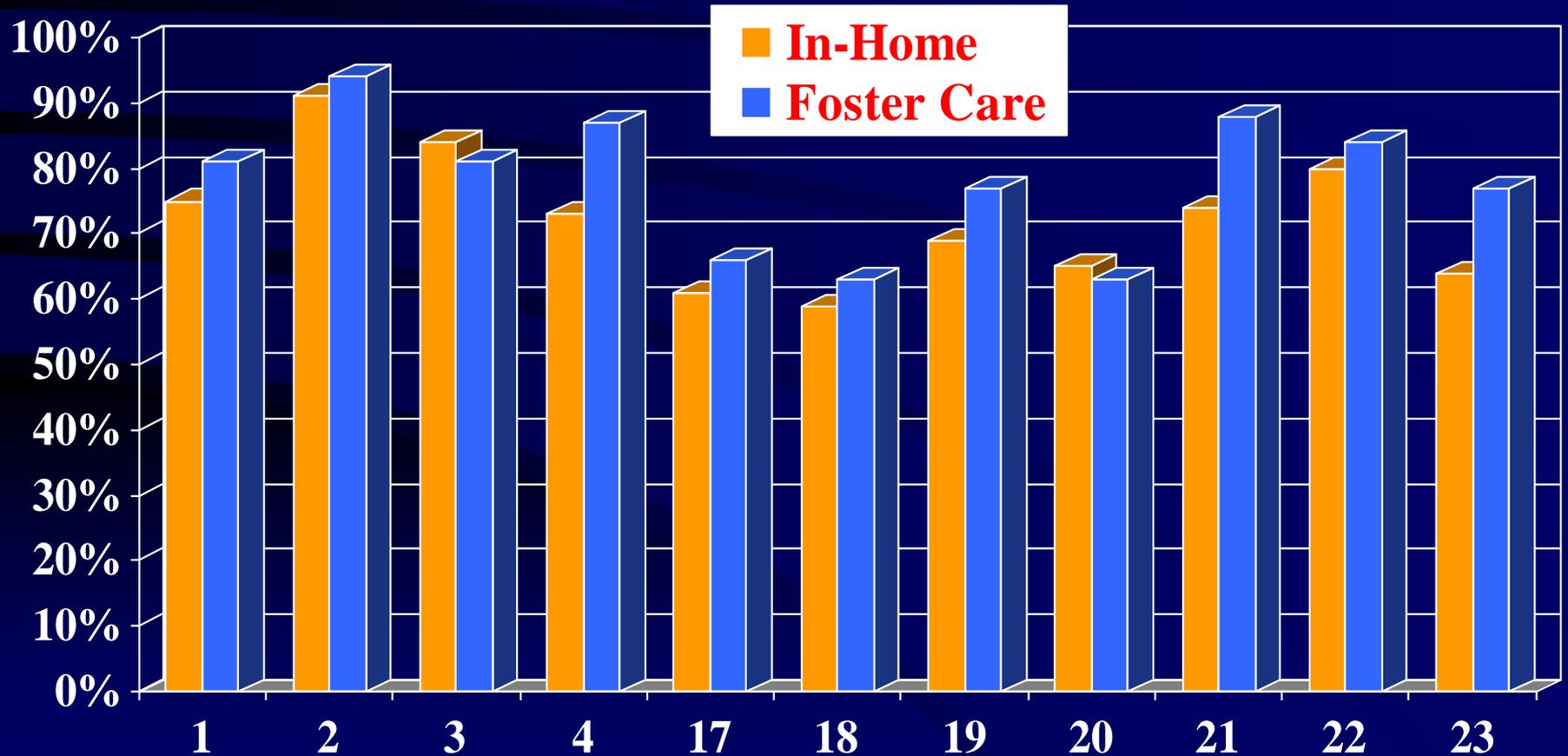
Physical & Mental Health Ratings for In-Home and Foster Care Cases

Children in foster care received services to meet their physical and mental health needs more often than children who were served in their own homes.

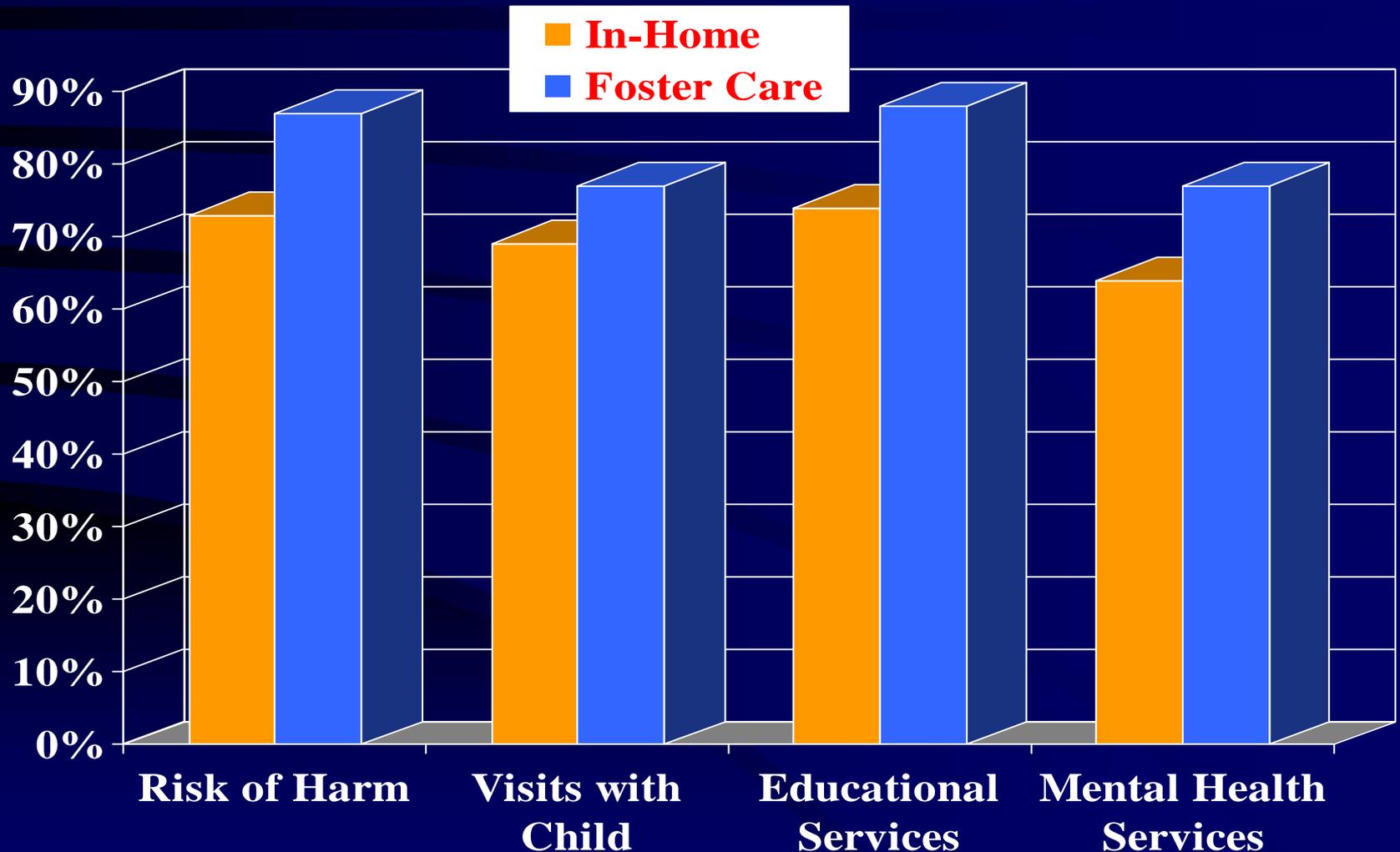


Comparison of item strengths for in-home cases vs. foster cases in the 2002 cases

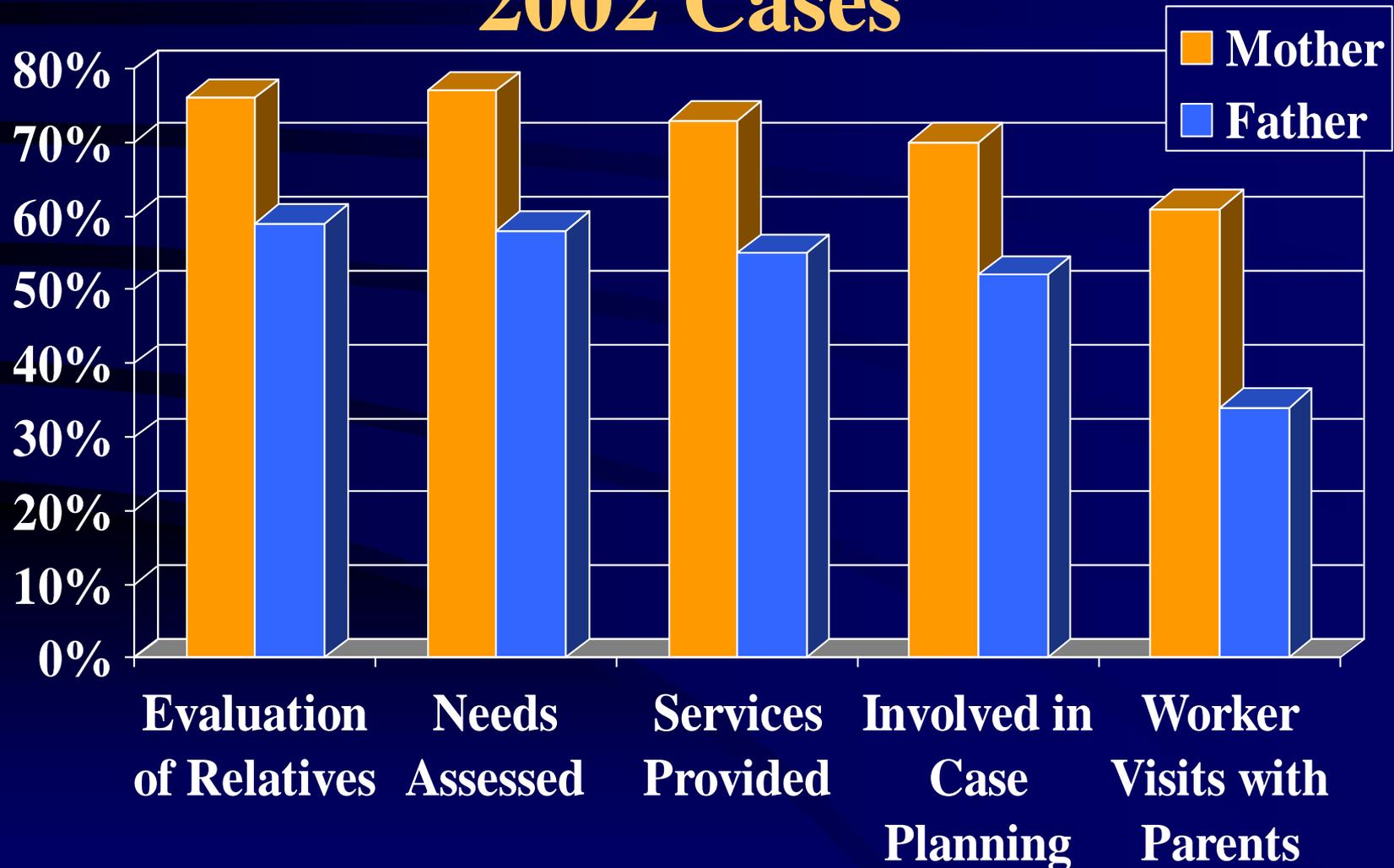
(Permanency indicators are not represented)



Statistically Significant Differences in Case Ratings for In-Home and Foster Care Cases



Statistically Significant Differences in Ratings for Fathers & Mothers in the 2002 Cases



Rank Order of Outcomes Across All Cases from Strongest to Weakest

1. Safety 1 (86%)

5. Well Being 3 (71%)

2. Well Being 2 (83%)

6. Permanency 1 (63%)

3. Safety 2 (80%)

7. Well Being 1 (62%)

4. Permanency 2 (79%)

Strongest and Weakest Outcome Indicators Across All Cases

Strongest Indicators

Placement Proximity (96%)

Recurrence of Maltx (92%)

Placement with siblings (87%)

Relative Placements (85%)

Weakest Indicators

Adoption (57%)

Needs & Services (66%)

Family Involvement (66%)

Permanency Goal (67%)

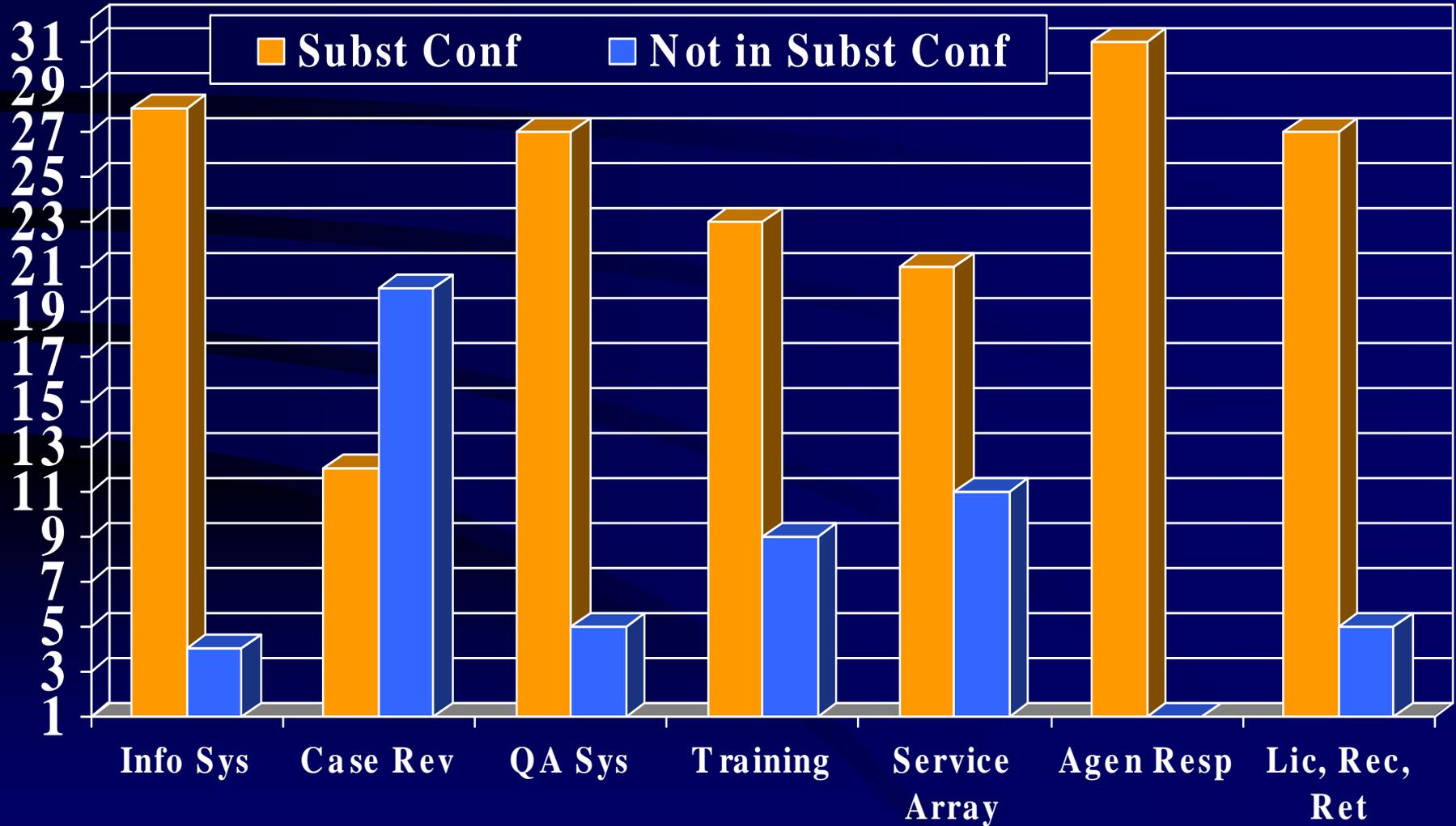
Systemic Factors

- Statewide Information System
- Case Review System
- Quality Assurance System
- Training
- Service Array
- Agency Responsiveness to the Community
- Foster & Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, & Retention

Determining Substantial Conformity for Systemic Factors

- Are State plan requirements and other program requirements attached to the systemic factor actually in place in the State?
- Are State plan requirements and other requirements attached to the systemic factor functioning as described in the applicable regulation or statute?

Substantial Conformity Ratings for Systemic Factors



Number of States in Substantial Conformity on Systemic Factors

Strongest Factors

Agency Responsiveness (31)

Information System (28)

Licensing/Recruit/Retention (27)

Quality Assurance (27)

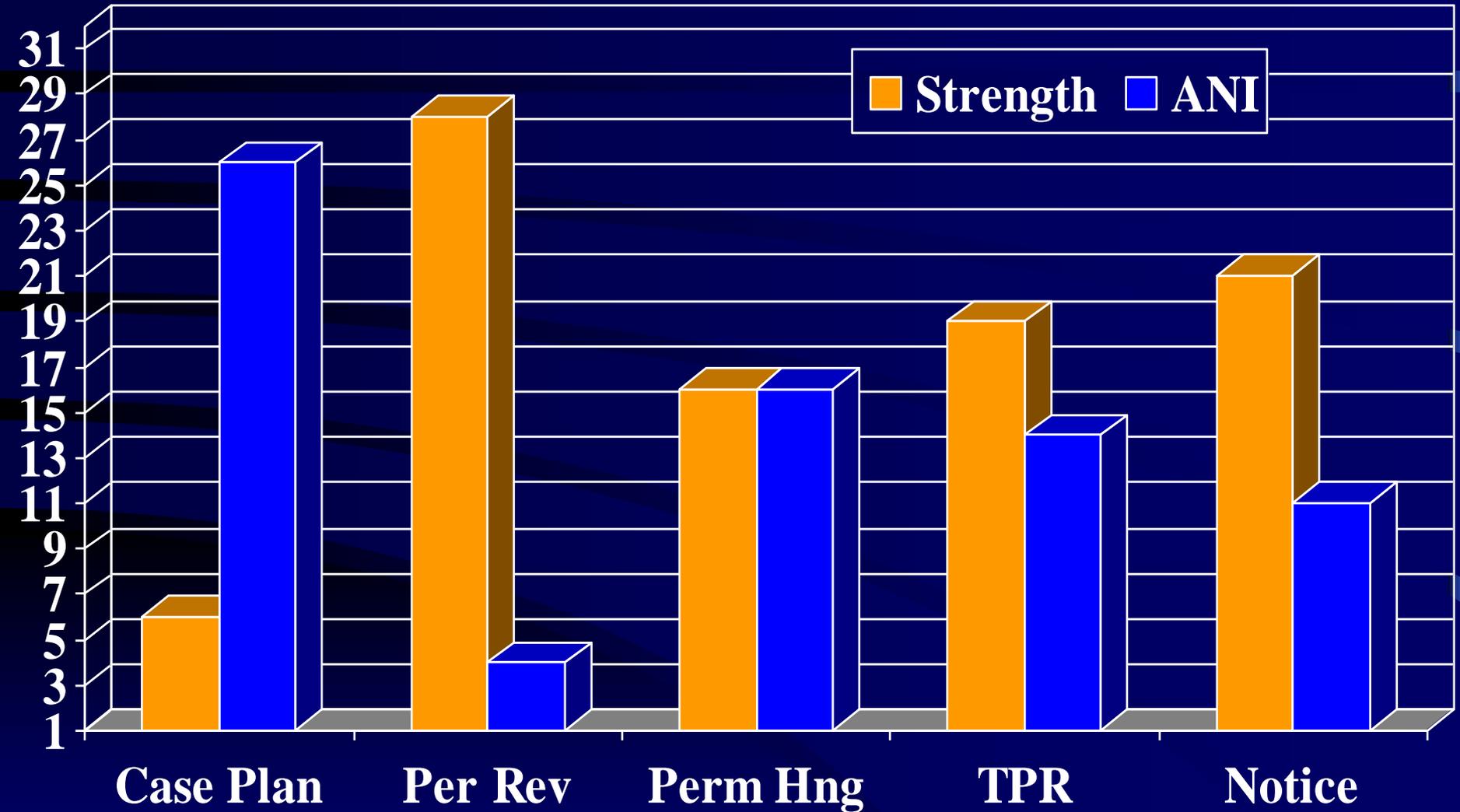
Weakest Factors

Case Review System (12)

Service Array (21)

Training (23)

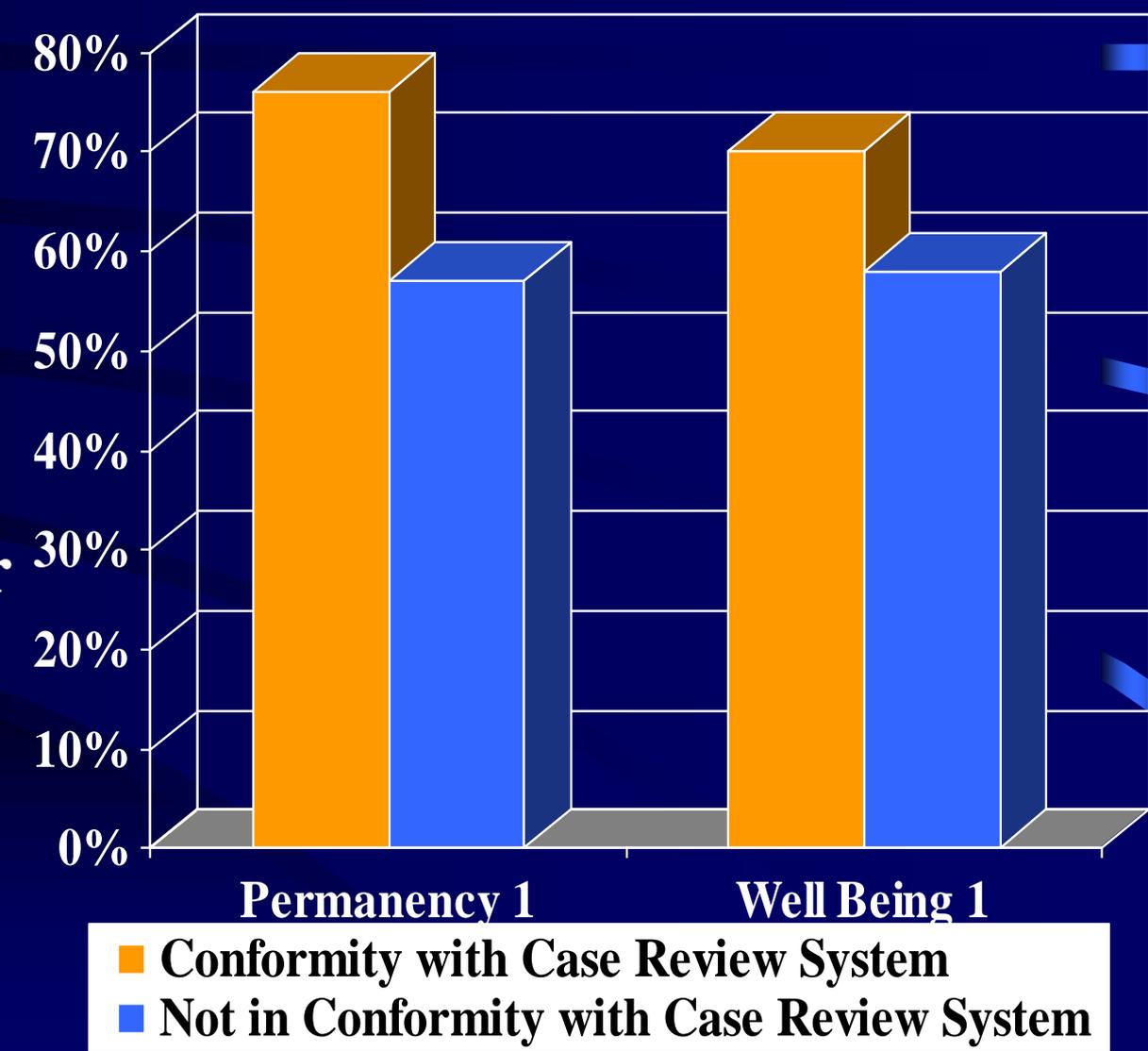
Case Review System



Relationship of Systemic Factors & Case Ratings in 2002 Cases: Case Review System

States in substantial conformity with **Case Review System** had more cases rated as substantially achieved for:

Permanency Goal for child (P1) and **Families have enhanced capacity (WB1)**.



Relationship between Case Plans and Outcome Achievement

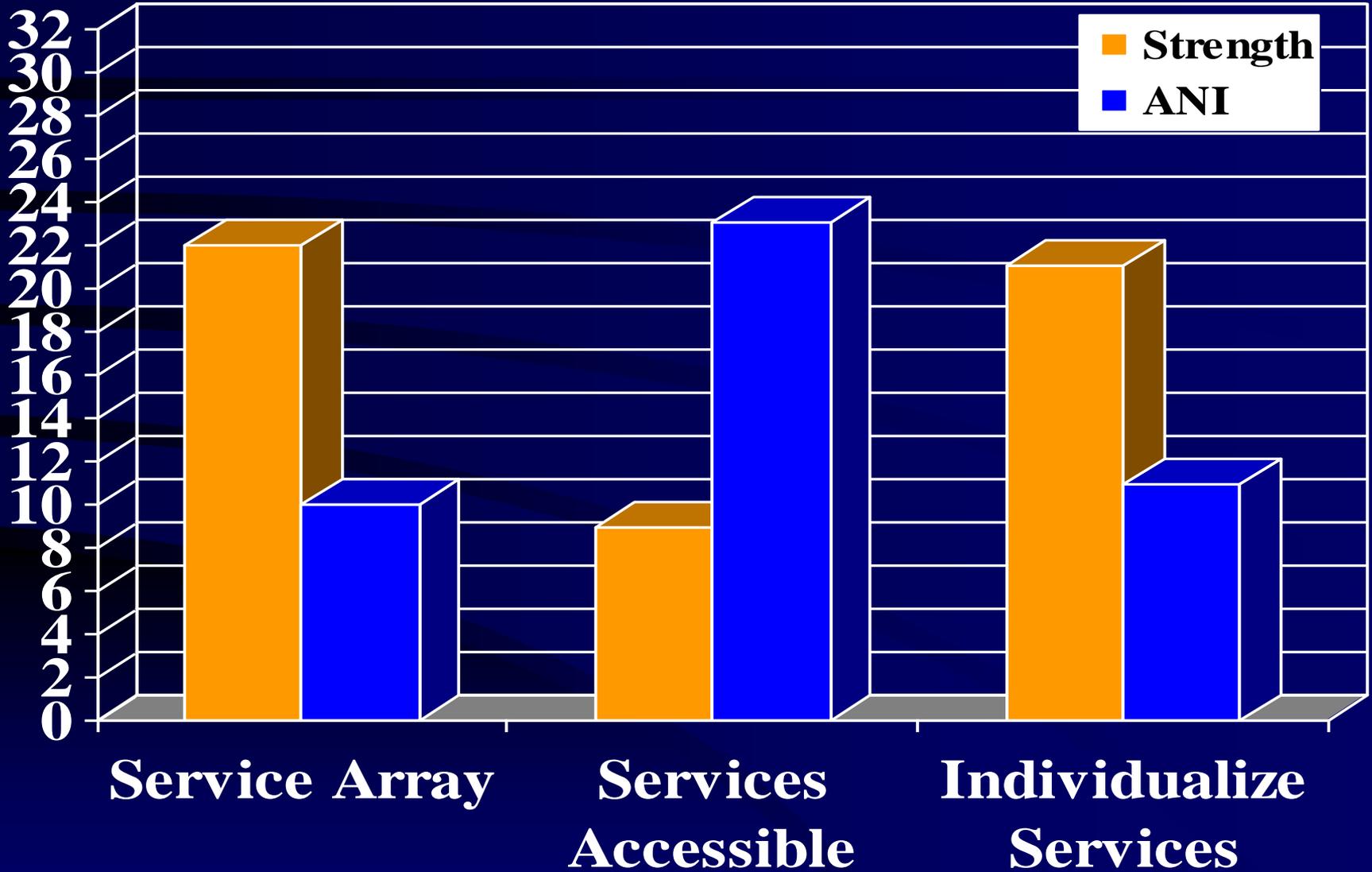
- The indicator, “developing case plans jointly with parents,” was determined to be a strength for only 6 of the total 32 States reviewed
- States where this indicator was a strength had a significantly higher percentage of cases rated “substantially achieved” for Permanency Outcome 1, and all three Well-Being Outcomes.

Relationship of Systemic Factors & Case Ratings in 2002 Cases: Case Review System

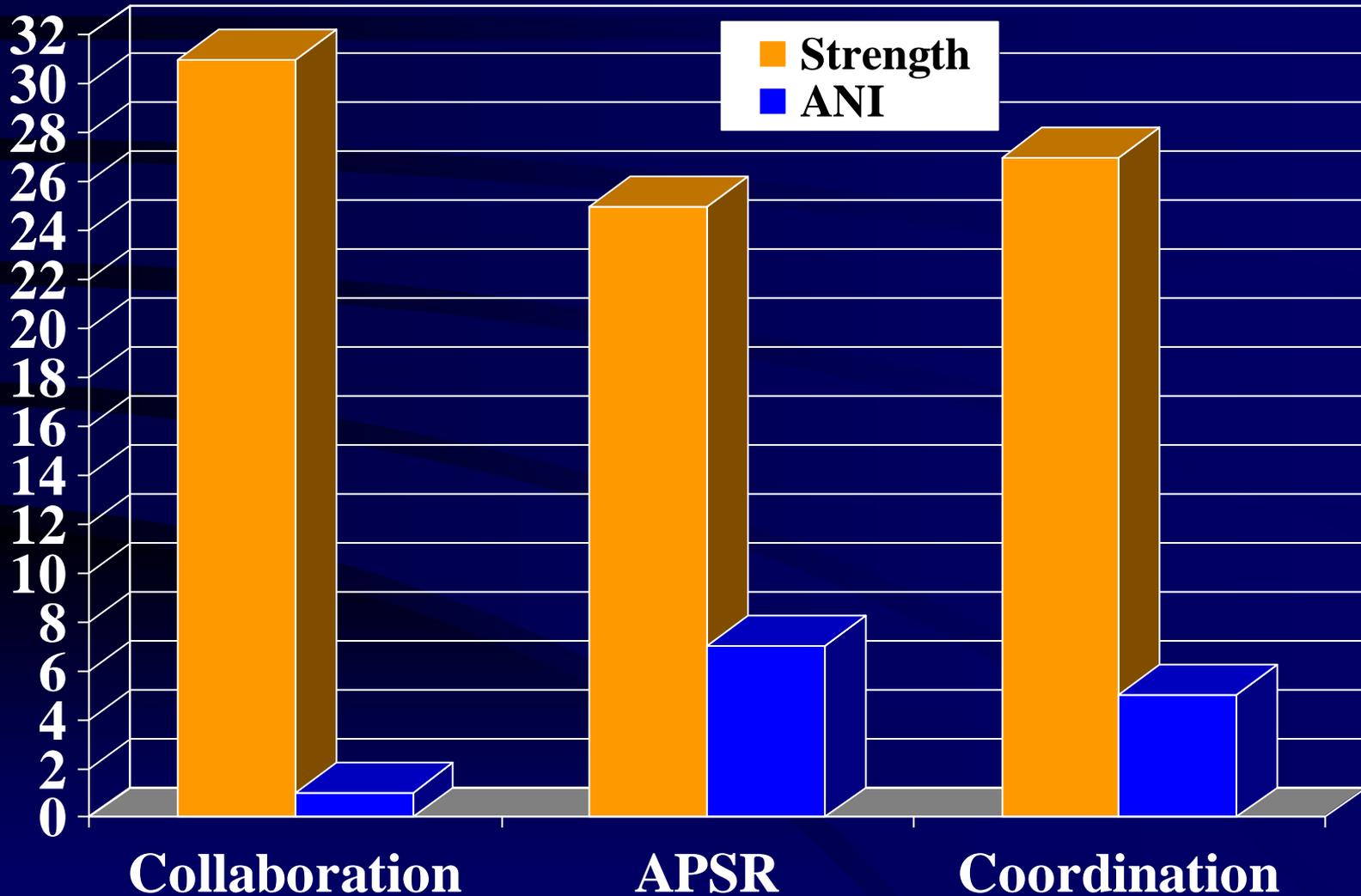
States with Substantial
Conformity ratings on
Case Review System
had higher ratings on:

- ➔ Adoption
- ➔ Proximity of placement
- ➔ Preserving connections
- ➔ Needs/services of child, parents and foster parents
- ➔ Child/family involvement in case planning
- ➔ Worker visits with parents

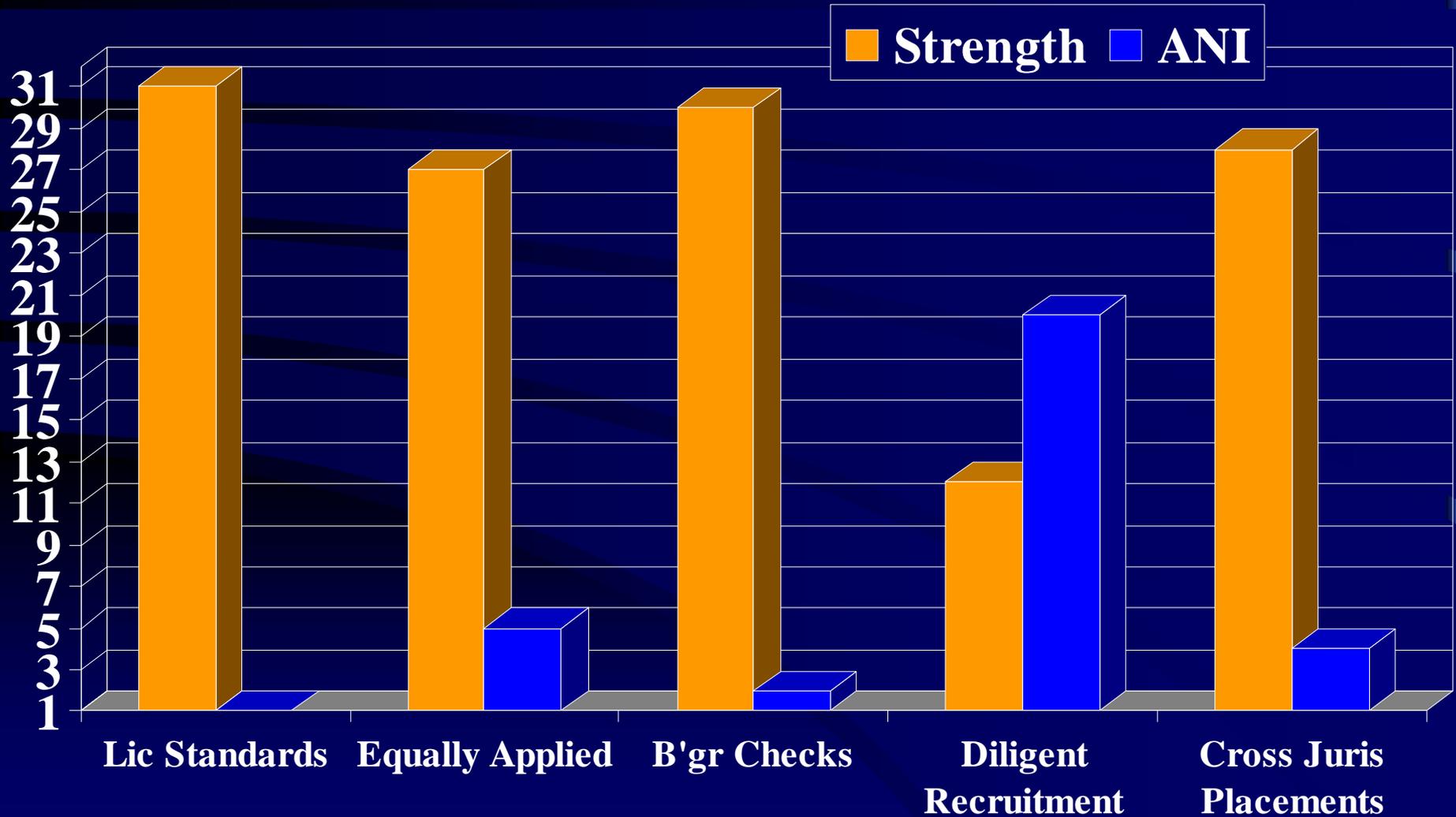
Service Array



Agency Responsiveness to the Community



Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention



Other Relationships Between Systemic Factors and 2002 Case Ratings

Substantial Conformity on

Higher Ratings on

Quality Assurance  Well being outcome 1

Foster & Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention  Placement stability for children in foster care

Strongest and Weakest Systemic Indicators

Strongest Indicators

- Collaboration (31)
- Licensing Standards (31)
- Criminal Background Checks (30)
- Cross-Juris placements (28)
- Periodic reviews (28)

Weakest Indicators

- Case Plans (6)
- Services are accessible (9)
- Diligent Recruitment (12)
- Ongoing Staff Training (19)

Summary of Major Points

- Better performance on **safety outcomes** than other outcomes
- Much need for improving **permanency achievement** and **well being** of children
- **Adoption** is least likely indicator to be achieved
- Status of **Case Review System** and its relationship to other areas
- Relationship of **Caseworker Visits with Children** to other findings
- Difference in findings for **In-home and Foster Care Cases**
- Implications for **casework practice**