

Which children in care are really having family contact and what does this mean for practice?

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CFECFW 6th Annual Sector Research Symposium



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The kContact Study 2014-16

- ARC funded Research Partnership
- Intervention Trial investigating:
Contact between children in long-term care and their parents

VICTORIA	ACT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Melbourne • Bapcare • Berry Street • CAFS Ballarat • MacKillop Family Services • Ozchild • Salvation Army Westcare • Wesley Mission Victoria • Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute of Child Protection Studies (ACU) • Barnardos ACT • Marymead Child and Family Centre • ACT Community Services Directorate

The No Contact Mapping Exercise

How many children really have no family contact and who are they?

Snapshot of 901 children in kContact partner programs on 10 June 2016

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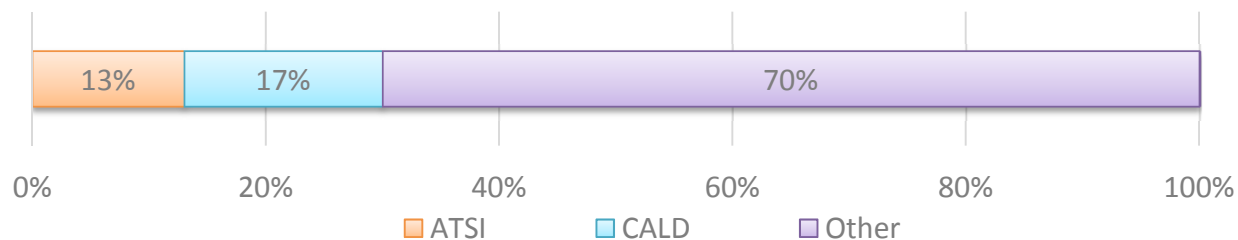
Foster Care programs

7

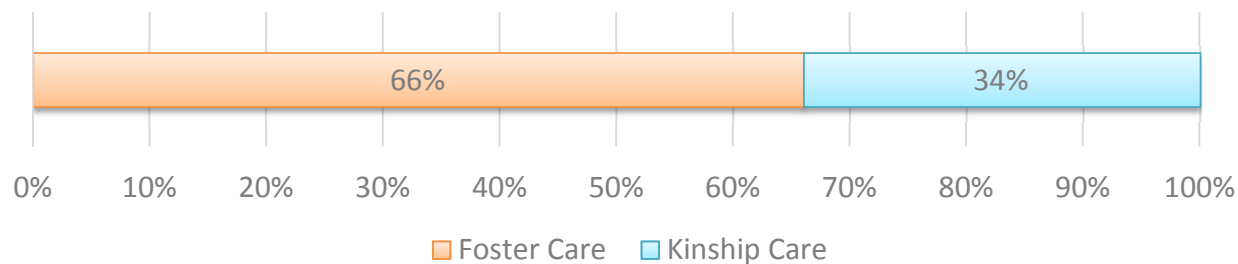
Kinship Care programs

Sample Characteristics

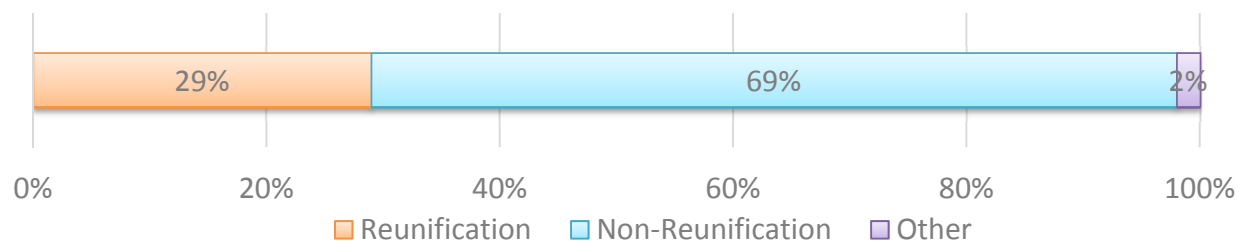
Cultural Identification



Type of Care

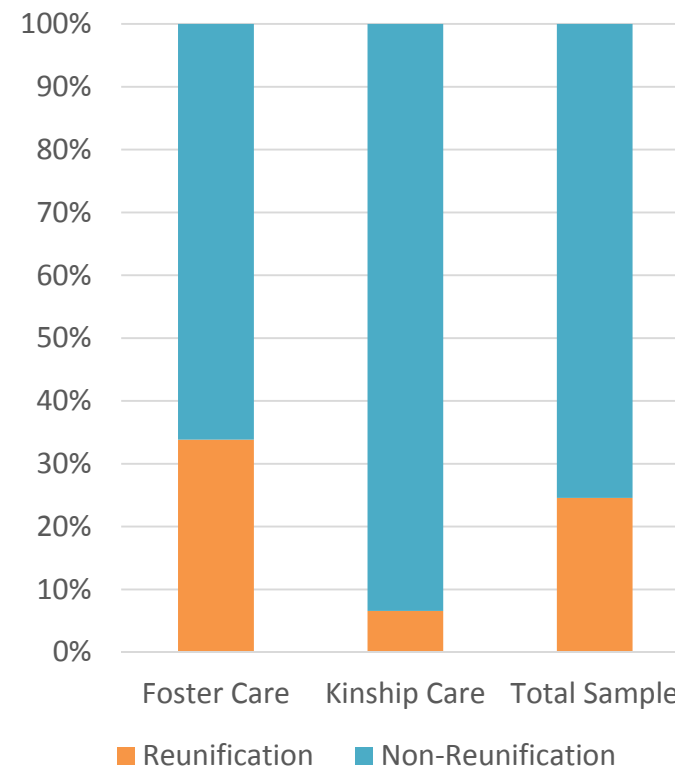
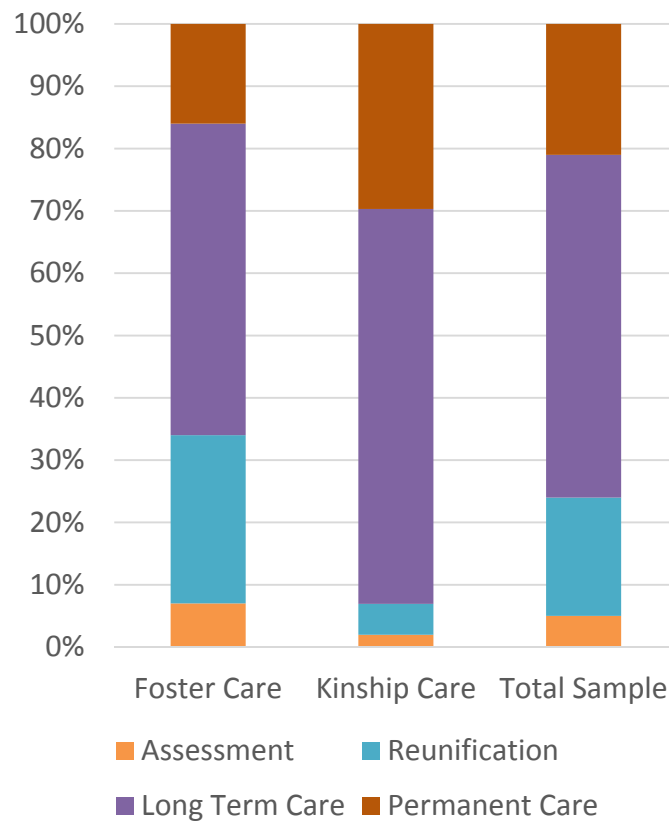


Order



Sample Characteristics

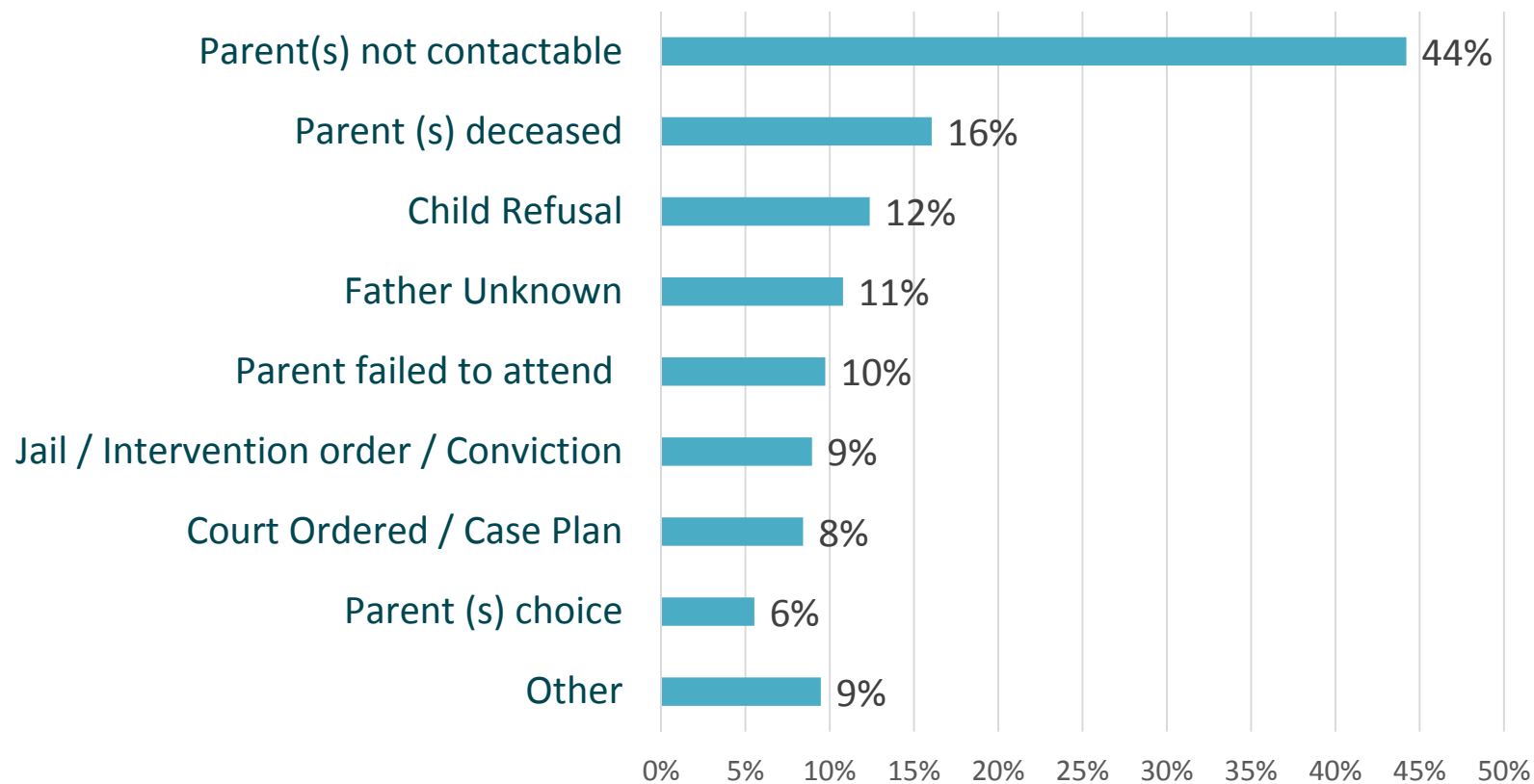
Case Plan x Type of Care



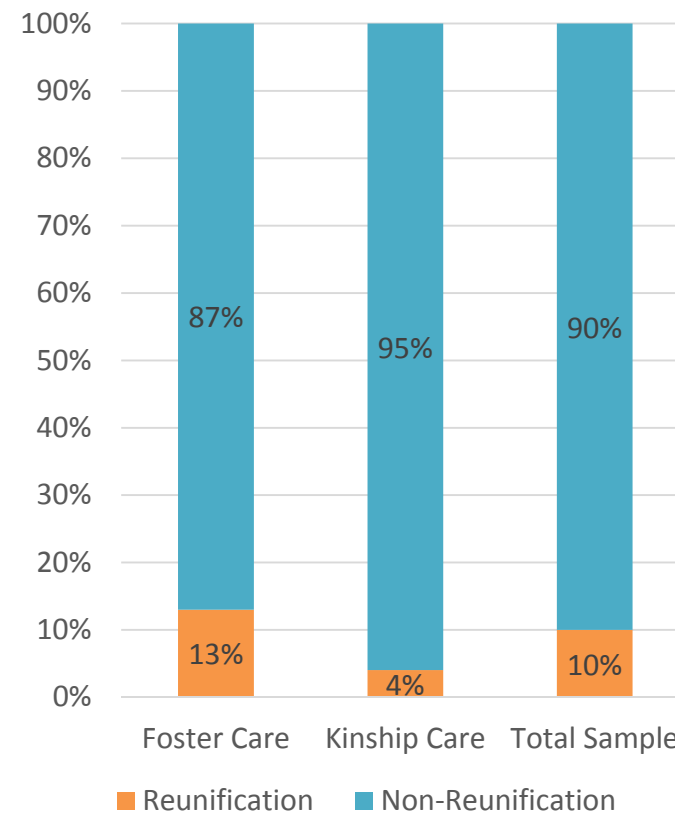
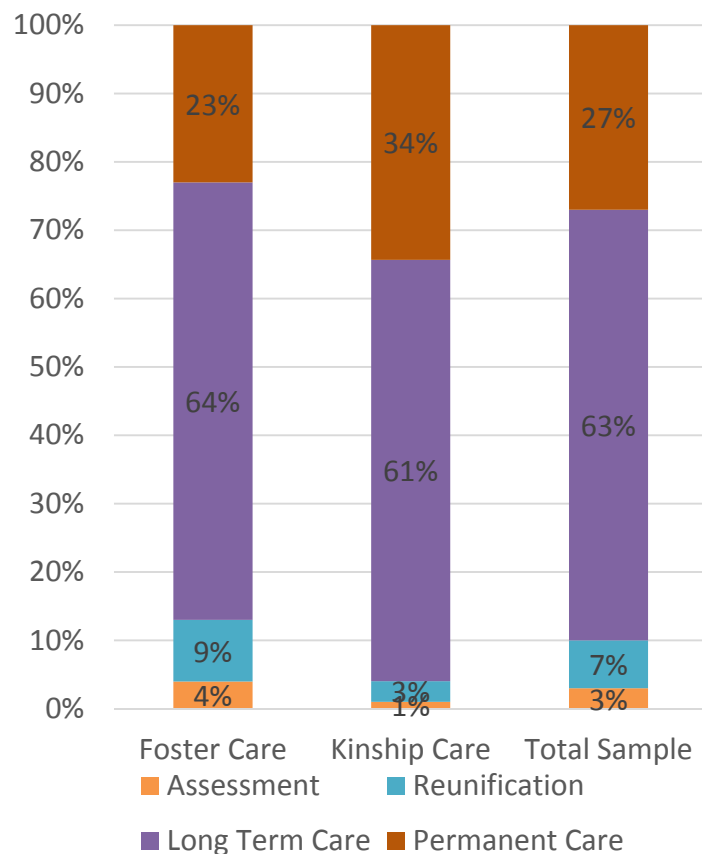
How many children have had no contact with any family in 12 months?

- 1 in 6 – no contact with either parent
- 1 in 6.5 – no contact with any siblings
- 1 in 21 – no contact with parents or siblings
- 1 in 30 – no contact with parents, siblings or extended family

Why have children had no contact with their parents?



Case Plans of the 208 children whose parents failed to attend visits or were uncontactable



Themes and Issues from a policy and practice perspective

We need a greater focus as a system on contact between children and their family

Family is:

- ★ both parents
- ★ any siblings
- ★ significant other family members

Themes and Issues from a policy and practice perspective

**Does talking specifically with
parents about the contact create
a difference?**

Themes and Issues from a policy and practice perspective

**In theory, the purpose of contact
changes with the case plan
direction.**

But does it in practice?

Themes and Issues from a policy and practice perspective

**How are practitioners involved in
supervision supported to
understand their role within
contact between children and
their parents?**