

*Missouri Department of Social Services*  
**CHILDREN'S DIVISION**

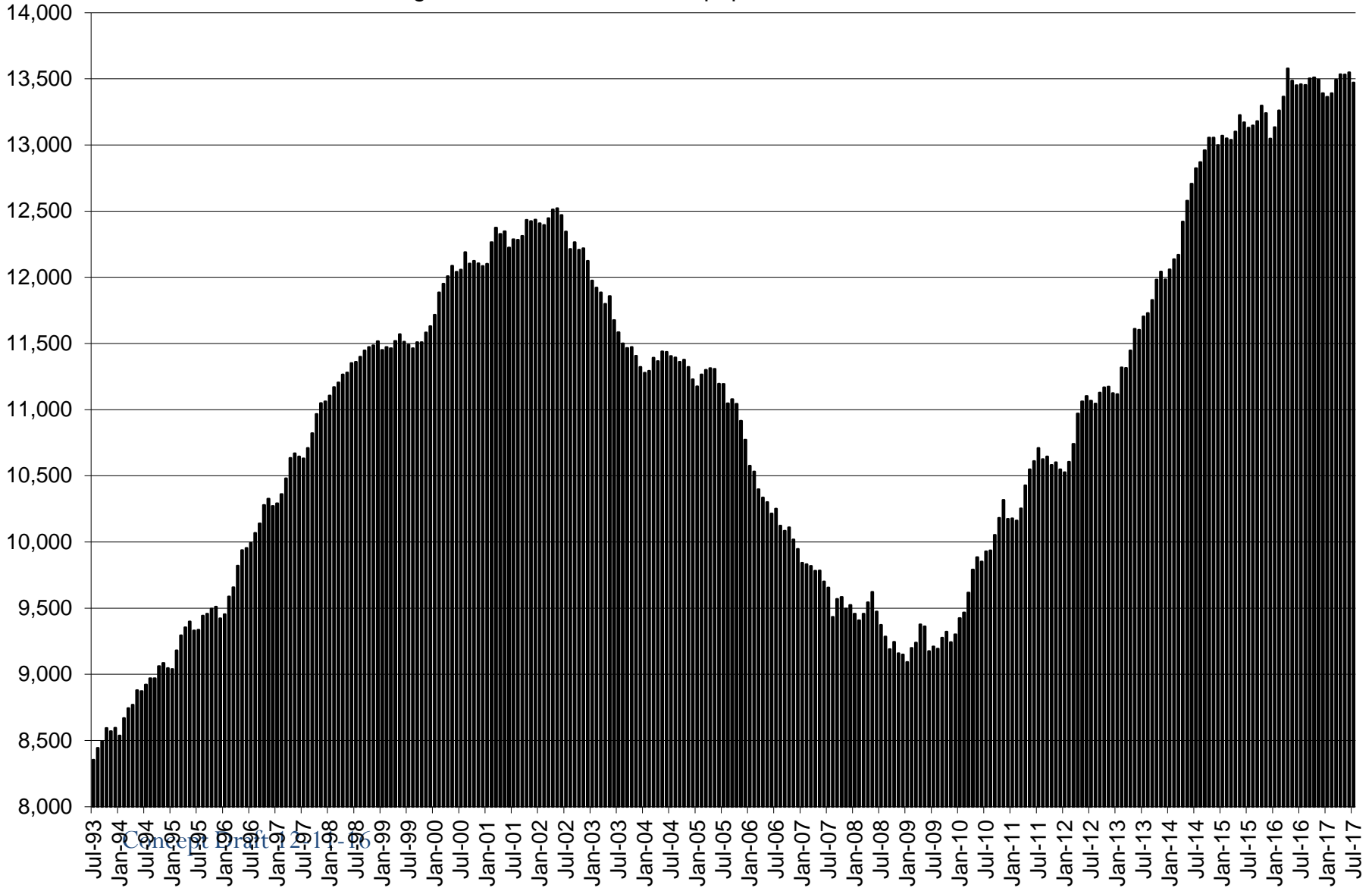


# Point in Time Number of Children in LS1

Highest Population = 13,578 in April 2016

Second Highest Population = 13,548 in June 2017

Before August 2008 the last time the population was below 9300 was March 1995



# Population Growth in Foster Care – Entering and Exiting Care

- The number of children in foster care has grown by over 37% since 2010. Varies from -21% to +180%.
- The rate of children in care of 8.8 per 1,000 children exceeds the rate of 5.4 nationally.
  - ❖ Entry rate of 4.9 per 1,000 exceed the rate of 3.5 nationally.
  - ❖ Average length of stay in foster care 21.8 months.
  - ❖ Rate of children placed in congregate care of 9% is below the rate of 13% nationally.
- There are 4,255 youth ages 12 - 18 in foster care.
  - ❖ 2,859 youth (67%) are in care more than 12 months.
  - ❖ 856 youth (30%) are in care based on youth behavior.

# Building on our strategic priorities

1. **Seeing families accurately** through the full frame of their lives.
2. **Engaging families**, young people, children, and communities as partners.
3. **Making informed decisions** through inclusive processes, data, measurement, and research.
4. **Strengthening frontline practice** and supporting programs that work.



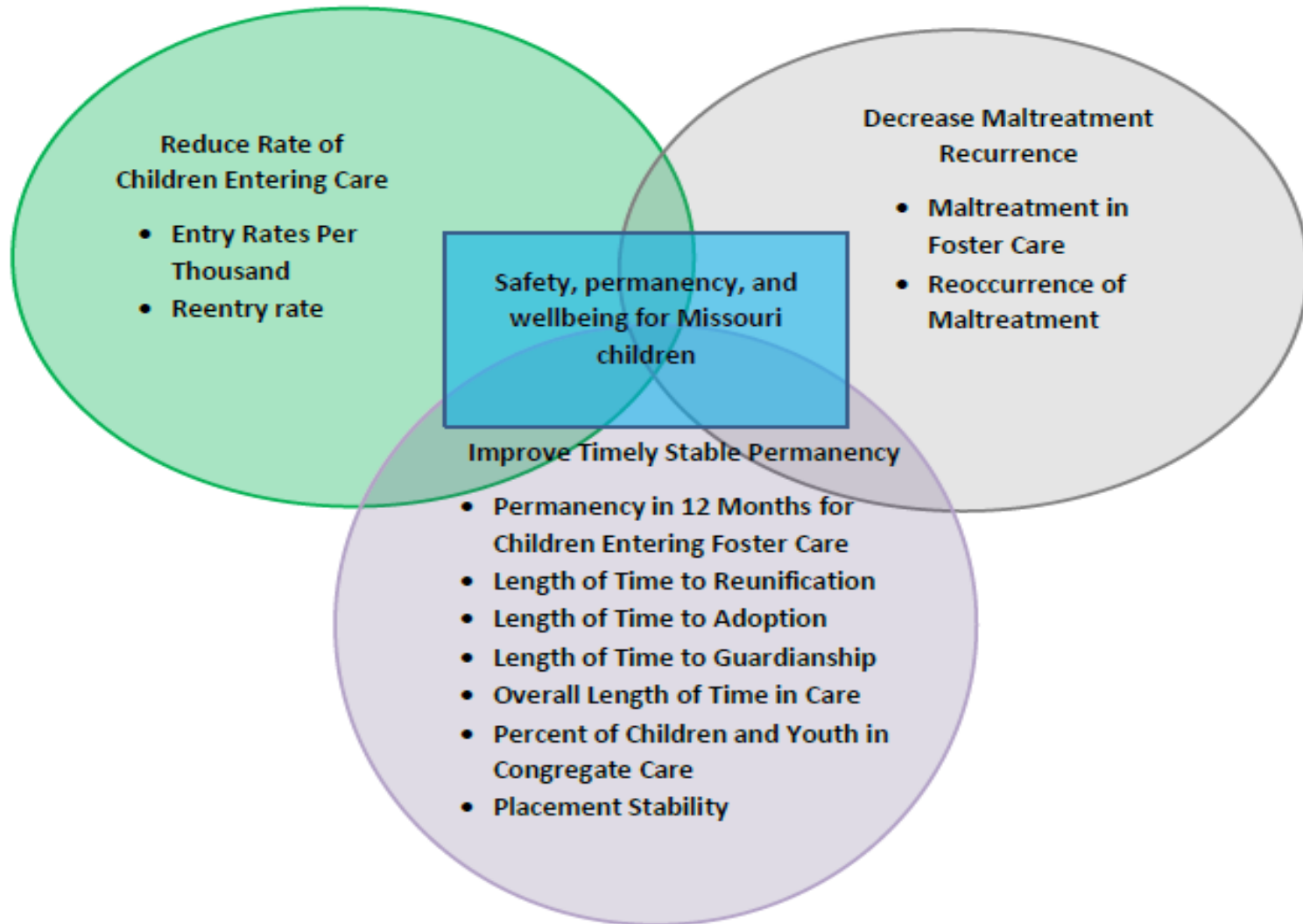
# Children's Division (CD)

- Promoting and Researching Opportunities for Making Permanency Timely (PROMPT)
  - **PROMPT Team** is a data-driven, decision-making process designed to research and promote strategies for ensuring that children reach permanency in a timely manner
  - **Data dashboards** are being developed for each local court circuit to identify trends and track progress over time
  - **Rapid Permanency Reviews (RPRs)** conducted to identify delays in the system related to “long-stayers” in foster care
  - **Judicial Engagement Teams (JET)** are working with a small number of circuits through support of the Missouri Supreme Court and private foundation Casey Family Programs
  - **Statutory changes** (e.g. custody modifications) and programmatic proposals (e.g. alternatives to residential)

# Partnering with children, youth, families, and communities

“Child protection agencies are not the child welfare system, they are one part of it. It takes a community to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children.”

# Safety, permanency, and wellbeing data dashboards



One recommendation made by the PROMPT workgroup was to continue the Children's Division goal of growing a data informed workforce. The development of the **Children's Division Data Dashboard** will assist in achieving this goal.

The Data Dashboard is comprised of twelve interactive reports which focus on the Division's priorities to safely reduce the need for foster care and, for those already in care, to reach timely permanency.



The Dashboard will be available to **all staff** and to the **general public** through the Children's Division intranet and internet sites.

The Dashboard can be used by staff to look at county and circuit functioning as it compares to the State. This information can be used to examine practice and to form practice improvement plans in partnership with community stakeholders and staff.

A few examples of possible use are through Continuous Quality Improvement meetings, Fostering Court Improvement, and Quarterly Council on Accreditation Meetings with regional QA/QI Staff.

If you have a question or suggestion about the Dashboard once it is functional, please contact your regional Quality Assurance staff.