



Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP)

NDHHS- Children & Family Services
Behavioral Health Planning Council
April 15, 2026

Family First Prevention Services Act ND Timeline

2016

- June: FFPSA initial law passed in House
- July: FFPSA initial law failed in Senate
- During this time, HHS CFS worked closely with ND RCCF facility providers indicating change is coming.

2018

- February: FFPSA legislation passes.
- February: ND notified the field and started an FFPSA Implementation Team
- July: ND applied for Kinship Navigator \$ and attended the National Convening in Denver.
- September: ND continued planning and development of FFPSA and received the Kinship Navigator award \$\$
- November: ND hosted a Stakeholder Convening + drafted ND legislative bill changes

2019

- Jan – April: ND Legislative Session repealed RCCF/ group homes and added QRTP and Supervised Independent Living (SIL) to licensing levels of care under NDCC 50-11.
- Jan – Sept: Monthly stakeholder meetings.
- April: Development of NDAC and policies
- August: In-state collaborative planning with secured third-party assessor, Maximus.
- October: FFPSA goes live! QRTP's begin and HHS Clinical Alignment team meets ongoing

2021

- ND Title IV-E Prevention Plan for FamilyFirst Services went live –On average there are 400 children and families actively receiving FamilyFirst Services.

2024

- HHS Clinical Alignment Team continues to assess PRTF and QRTP levels of treatment
- July: Children's Treatment Services – Level of Care Determination process went live with a clinical decision-making model setting clinical criteria and minimum threshold of symptoms and behaviors to ensure that each child in need of treatment receives the right service at the right time, for the right duration.

Why ND Invested In FFPISA?

1. Children deserve better than long-term placements away from their family, schools, friends and home community.
2. Systemic change was already underway in North Dakota with an HHS mission to serve those closer to home and increase prevention and diversion services.
3. Strong investment in bolstering community services and promoting the use before seeking out of home treatment options.
4. Families were not being asked to care for their kin, resulting in an over-reliance on facility beds and foster homes.
5. Residential Child Care Facilities (RCCF) and Group Homes were not improving outcomes for children, ND recognized:
 - ✓ Inappropriate use of the facility setting as a "safe bed"
 - ✓ Inappropriate length of stay 18-24+ months
 - ✓ No specific treatment requirements
 - ✓ No discharge planning
 - ✓ Lack of permanency achievement
 - ✓ Lack of family engagement/involvement
 - ✓ Children were managing with community services and a full day in public school but were placed in a facility/group home setting.
 - ✓ Children in need of treatment were being denied access.

Partnership in Children's Treatment



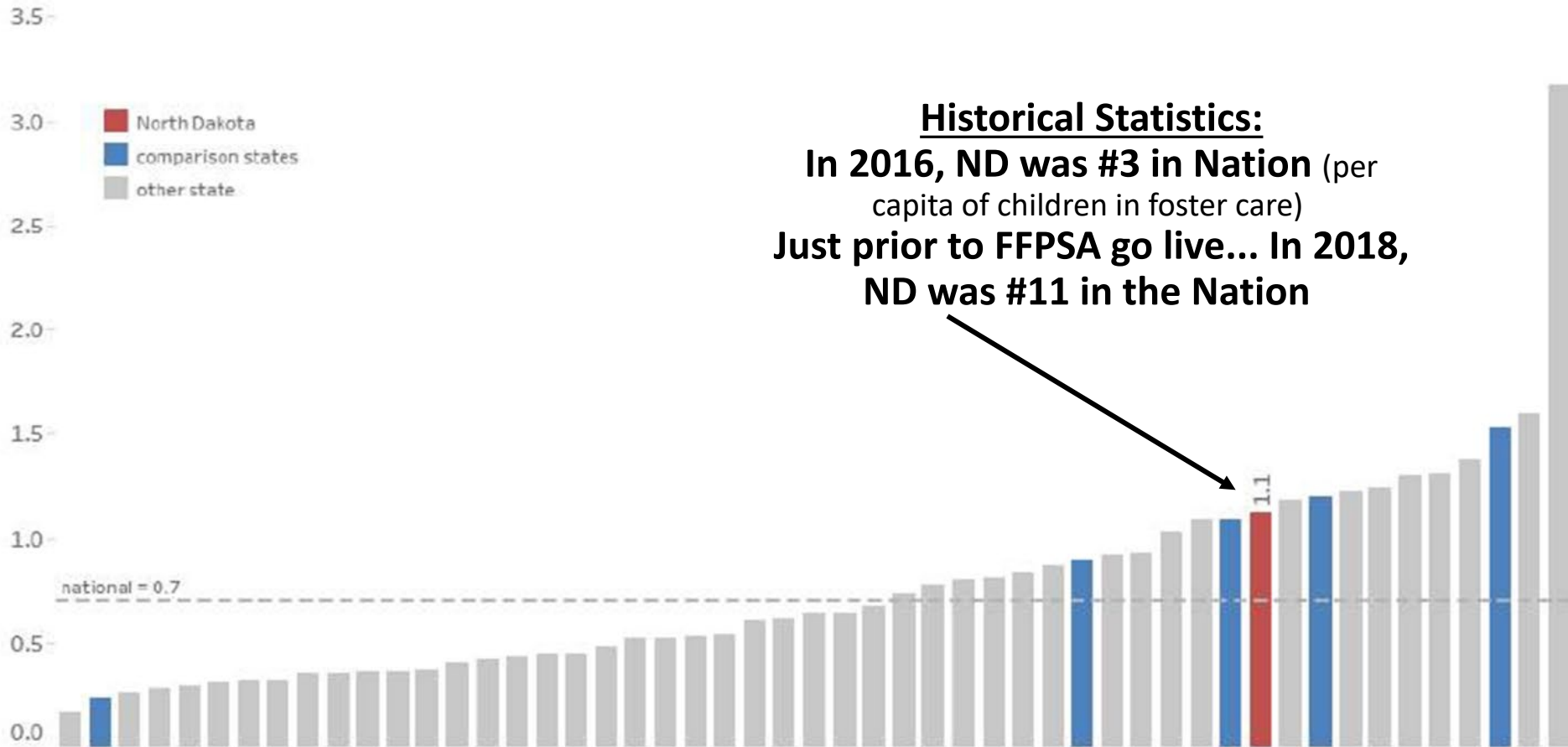
Qualified Residential Treatment Programs



ND RCCF Data – March 2018

Rate of Children in Congregate Care

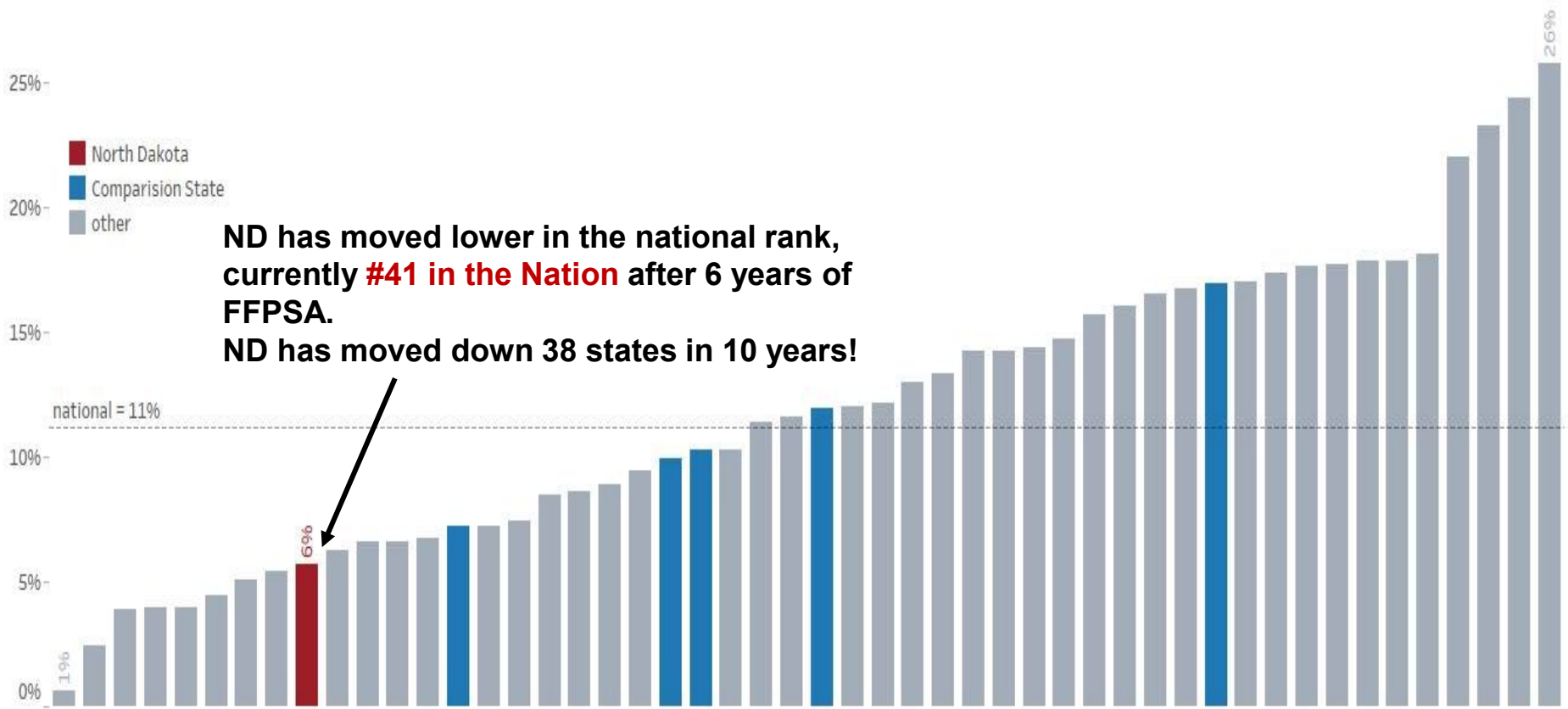
Of all the children under age 18 in care on 03/31/18, what is the rate (per 1,000 children) of placement in a congregate care setting?



ND QRTP Data – 2025

Percent of Children in Congregate Care

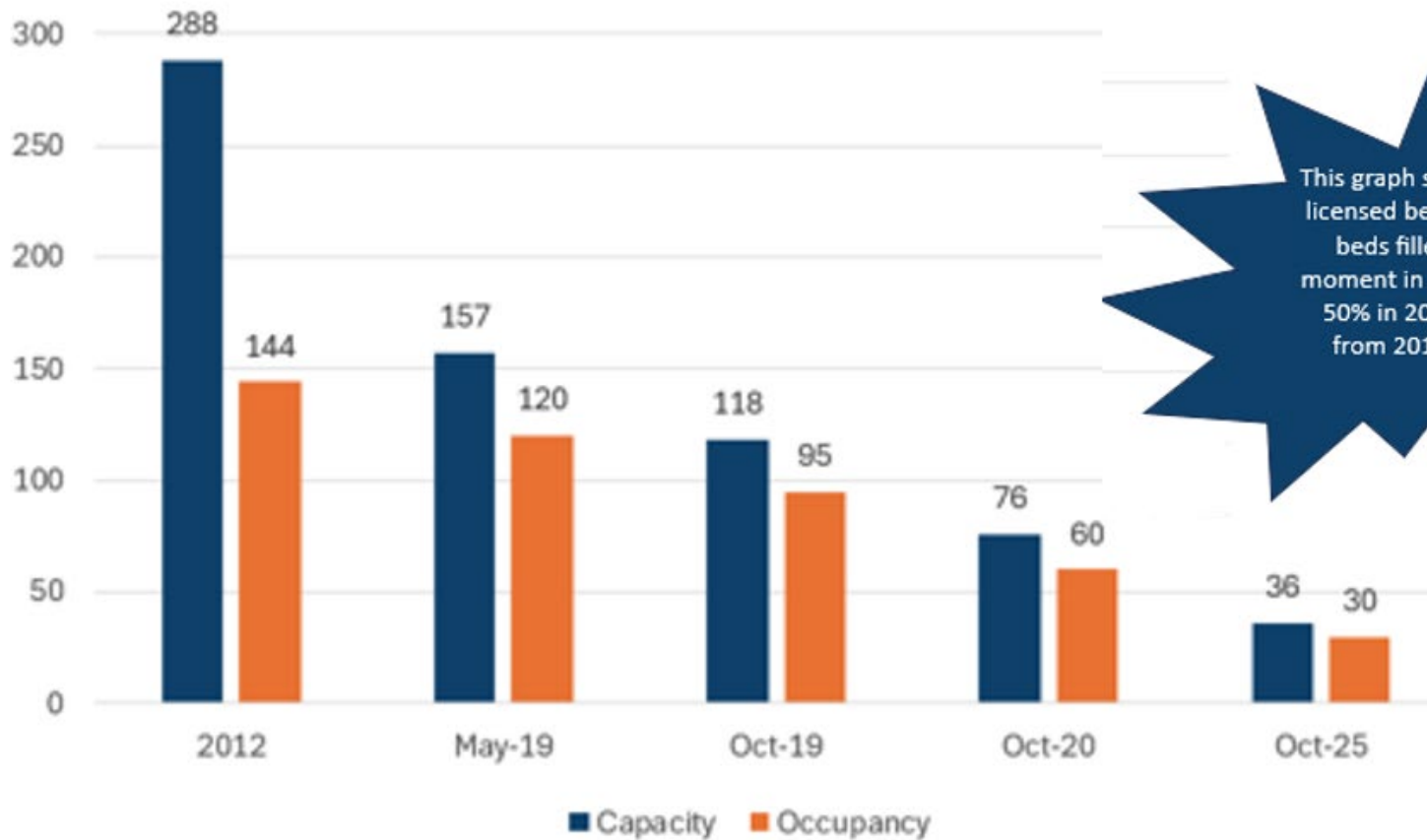
Of all the children under age 18 in care on 09/30/25, what percent of children are placed in a congregate care setting?



ND has moved lower in the national rank, currently #41 in the Nation after 6 years of FFPSA. ND has moved down 38 states in 10 years!

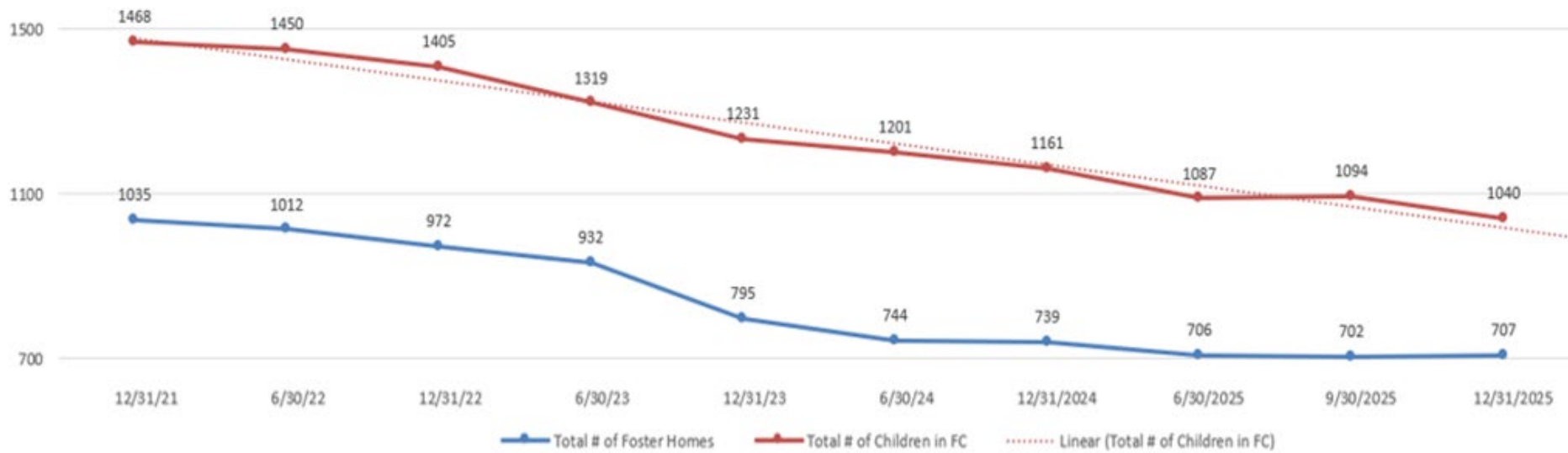
RCCF vs. QRTP Residential Bed Capacity

ND RCCF vs. QRTP Capacity & Occupancy



This graph shows the # of licensed beds vs the # of beds filled during a moment in time. Roughly 50% in 2012 and 80% from 2019- current.

Where Are ND Children In Foster Care Placed?



ND has made a significant effort to:

- Reduce the # of children who enter foster care,
- Increase the # of relative caregivers available to support family
- Increase services to maintain children in community settings wherever possible (Kinship ND, FamilyFirst Services, respite, shelter, treatment providers, etc.)

HHS Clinical Alignment Team



CTS-LOC Data Review

Outcome	Private Custody	Public Custody
Family or Community Setting Appropriate	117	66
Treatment Foster Care Appropriate	0	306
QRTP Appropriate, Difficulty of Care: Base	8	5
QRTP Appropriate, Difficulty of Care Level: 2	59	126
QRTP Appropriate, Difficulty of Care Level: 3	14	34
PRTF Appropriate	430	87
Total	628	624

89% approval rate

