



Ain Dah Yung (Our Home) Center

Agindaso Abinoji-yag

“he/she/they reads or counts children”

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Stella Barnes
1089 Portland Ave
St. Paul, MN 55407
* (651) 418-7488

stella.barnes@adycenter.org

Welcoming New Voices

Meet Ally Nokomis Circle Liaison

Chante wasteya nape chiyuzapi! If you haven't heard yet, ADYC has hired a Nokomis Circle Liaison and a Family Advocate to enhance service delivery for American Indian families. I'm Ally Bartlett and I'll be reporting for the upcoming Liaison Lowdown as the newly hired Nokomis Circle Liaison.

A little bit about me. I'm a licensed social worker who has dedicated my career to protecting children, strengthening families and preserving culture in American Indian communities. Child Welfare is not for the faint of heart, especially in communities where family culture has been disrupted by systems designed to erase cultural identity. Child welfare social workers play a crucial role in the lives of children and families they serve. They do the hard heart work on a daily basis serving families who often times, have had negative experiences with service providers and/or systems. Their dedication to public service makes a difference where it matters most, in the life of a child, and I'm thankful for their invaluable role in supporting children and their families. A mission near and dear to my heart!

Meet Nate ADYC Family Advocate

Hello, my name is Nate Bordeaux, I'm enrolled with the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, I'm a Tituwan Wazjajja Lakota and I hail from the Lipp Tiospaye from Wanblee, SD. I grew up on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. In 2018 I recieved my bachelors in Lakota Studies - Tribal Law from Oglala Lakota College. I moved back to the Twin Cities in 2019 and started working in the Native community. I have two sons, Topa and Christopher. I enjoy time with my family, attending ceremony, and attending pow-wows. I both dance and sing. I look forward to bringing my experiences to ADYC and the families we serve.

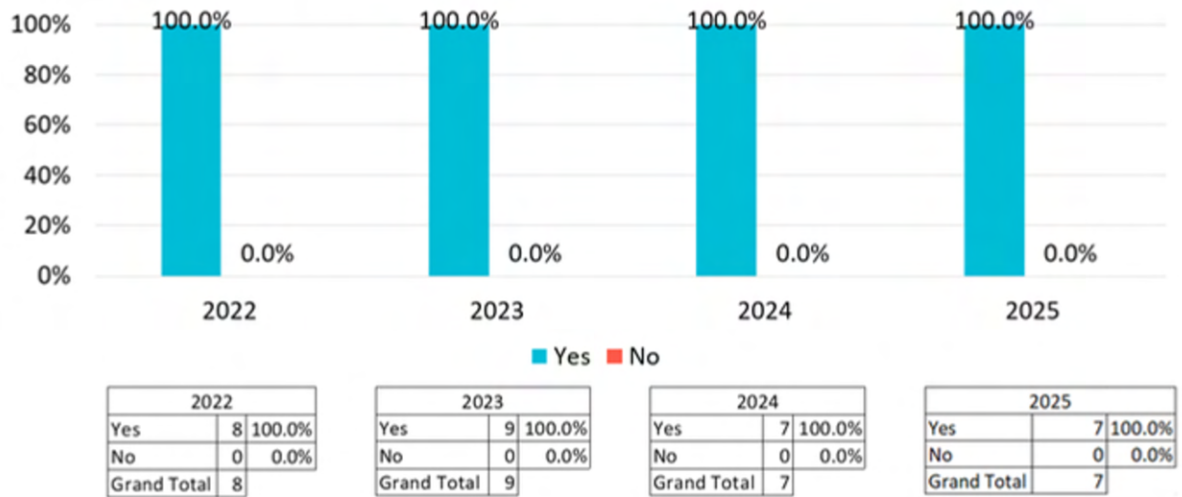
2025 Ramsey County Data Rollout

The following data provides a four year overview of ICWA compliance in Ramsey County. The data was collected at hearings, talking to the parties involved, and reading case files. The following overview highlights progress made over the past 4 years.

Opening Questions

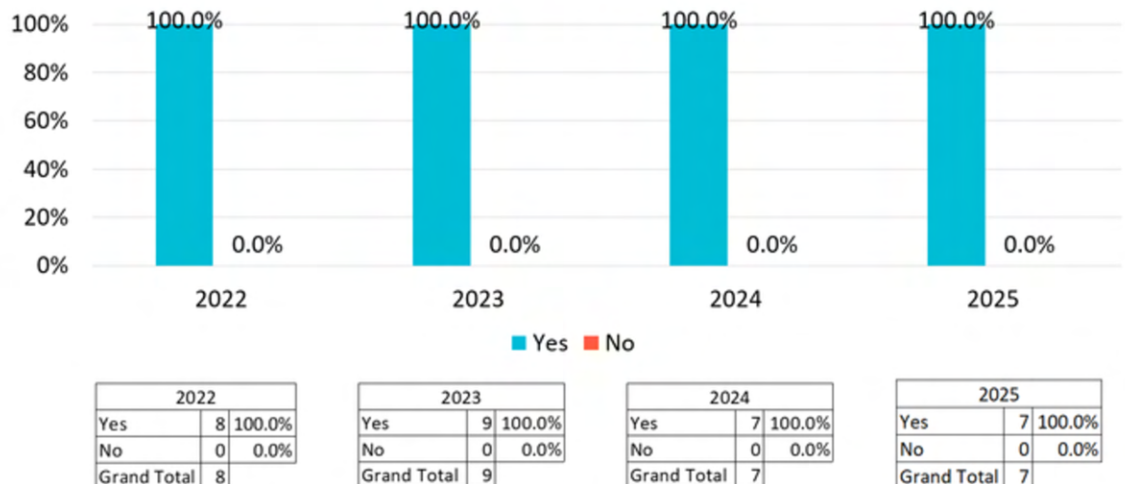
During Emergency Protective Care Hearings, the judge asked in court whether or not the child is affiliated with an Indian tribe through maternal relatives or paternal relatives 100% of the time.

Did the judge ask in court whether or not the child is affiliated with an Indian tribe through maternal relatives or paternal relatives?



For all 4 years, when the judge determined an emergency existed, the judge made a finding that emergency removal was necessary to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the child 100% of the time.

If the judge determined an emergency existed, did the judge make a finding that the emergency removal was necessary to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to the child?



2025 Ramsey County Data Rollout

Hearing Attendance

Attendance among mothers has increased steadily over the past 3 years, from 44.9% in 2023, to 49.6% in 2024, and 55% in 2025. This upward trend suggests an increase of 5% each year.

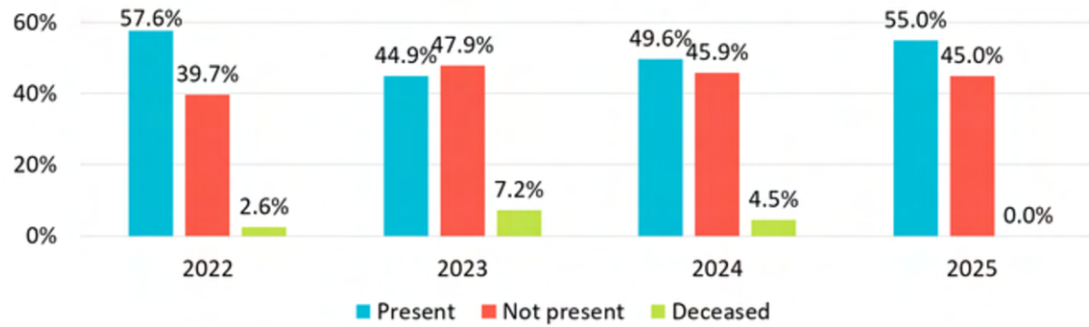
This increase may be due to an increase in active efforts by social services to locate and support mothers in attending hearings.

Attendance among fathers suggests a steady increase of under 1% between 2022 and 2024. In 2024, fathers were present 31.5% of the time, and in 2025 fathers were present 38.5% of the time.

This 7% increase highlights an incredible achievement surrounding active efforts by social services to locate and support fathers attending hearings.

When parents attended and had counsel their attorney appeared at 100% of hearings. Youth over the age of 10 were represented at 100% of hearings in 2025.

Attendance of Mothers



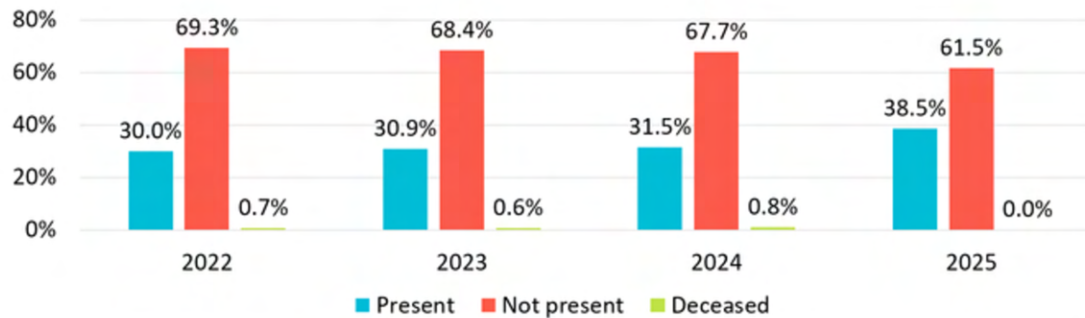
2022		
Present	87	57.6%
Not present	60	39.7%
Deceased	4	2.6%
Grand Total	151	

2023		
Present	75	44.9%
Not present	80	47.9%
Deceased	12	7.2%
Grand Total	167	

2024		
Present	66	49.6%
Not present	61	45.9%
Deceased	6	4.5%
Grand Total	133	

2025		
Present	66	55.0%
Not present	54	45.0%
Deceased	0	0.0%
Grand Total	120	

Attendance of Fathers



2022		
Present	41	30.0%
Not present	95	69.3%
Deceased	1	0.7%
Grand Total	137	

2023		
Present	47	30.9%
Not present	104	68.4%
Deceased	1	0.6%
Grand Total	152	

2024		
Present	39	31.5%
Not present	84	67.7%
Deceased	1	0.8%
Grand Total	124	

2025		
Present	42	38.5%
Not present	67	61.5%
Deceased	0	0.0%
Grand Total	109	

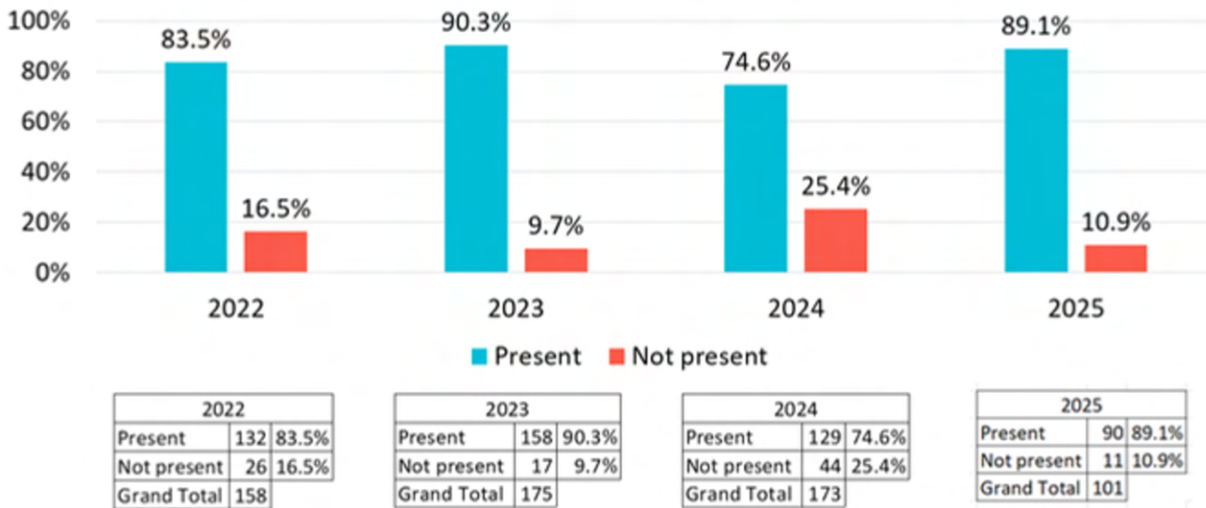
2025 Ramsey County Data Rollout

Hearing Attendance

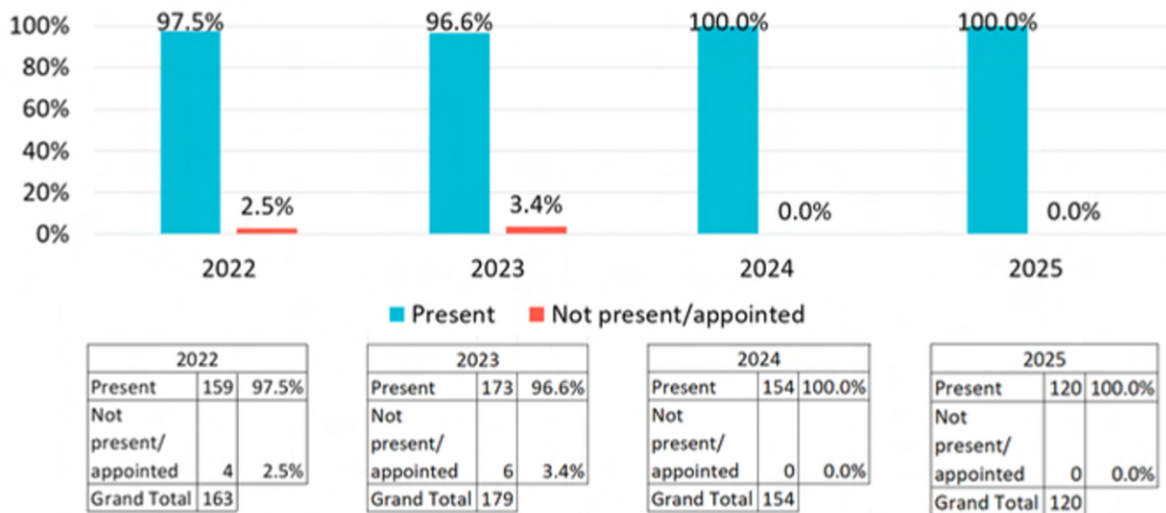
Attendance of Tribes has increased since 2024, from 74.6% to 89.1% in 2025. Looking at the numbers per quarter in 2025, we can see that 100% attendance is nearly achieved.

Guardians ad Litem have achieved 100% attendance for 2 years in a row.

Attendance of Tribes (if Identified)



Attendance of Guardians ad Litem



2025 Ramsey County Data Rollout

Active Efforts

The court made a finding at 100% of hearings in 2025 that the agency made active efforts to prevent the emergency removal of the child.

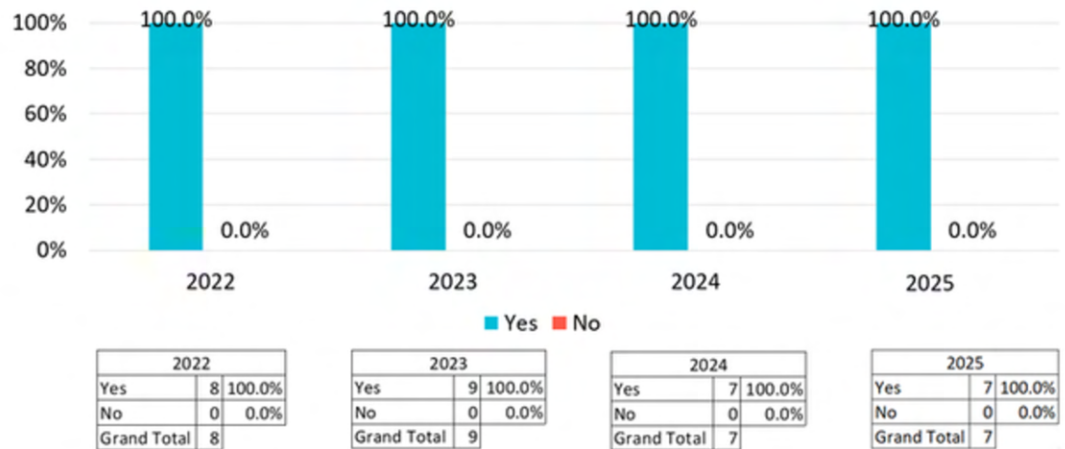
2025 suggests a 4% increase in active efforts findings from 96% in 2024 to 100% in 2025. This follows an upward trend over the course of the past 4 years.

Active efforts findings include social services working with parents to complete case plan requirements, engaging with the Tribe, and facilitating visitation.

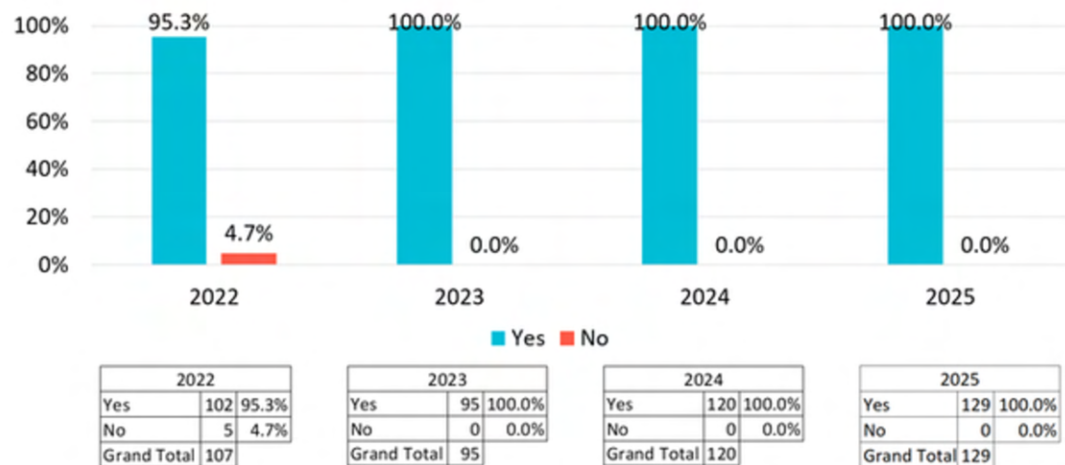
Testimony regarding active efforts findings was given 100% of the time consistently for the past 3 years.

There was one dispute regarding active efforts findings in 2025. This issue was raised by the Tribe and was resolved when social services submitted a detailed active efforts report.

Did the judge find that the agency made active efforts to prevent the emergency removal of the child?



Was testimony presented to support the active efforts finding?



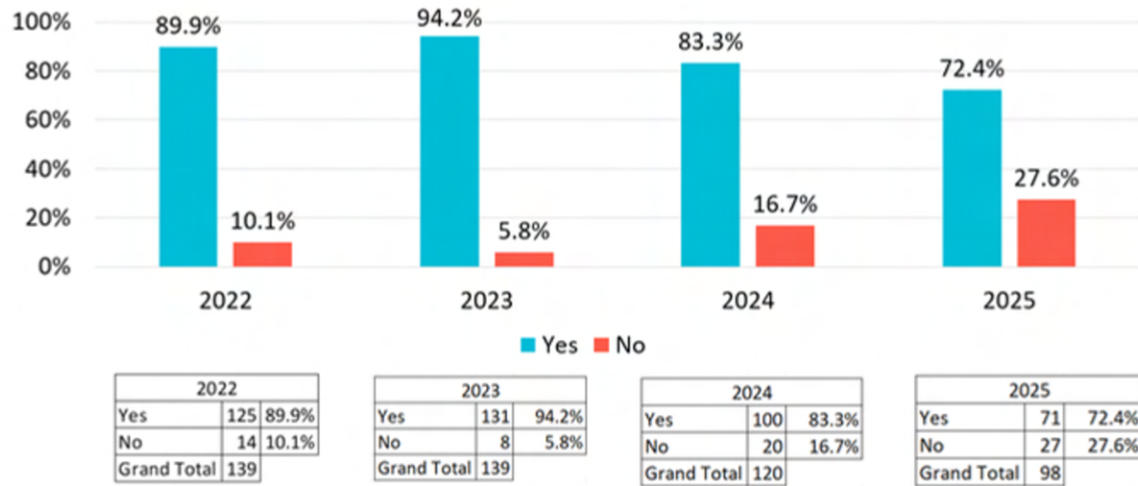
2025 Ramsey County Data Rollout

Placements

In 2025, placement preferences were followed 72.4% of the time, while in 2024 placement preferences were followed 83.3% of the time. This includes placements approved by the Tribe and cases where the Judge found good cause to deviate from ICWA placement preferences.

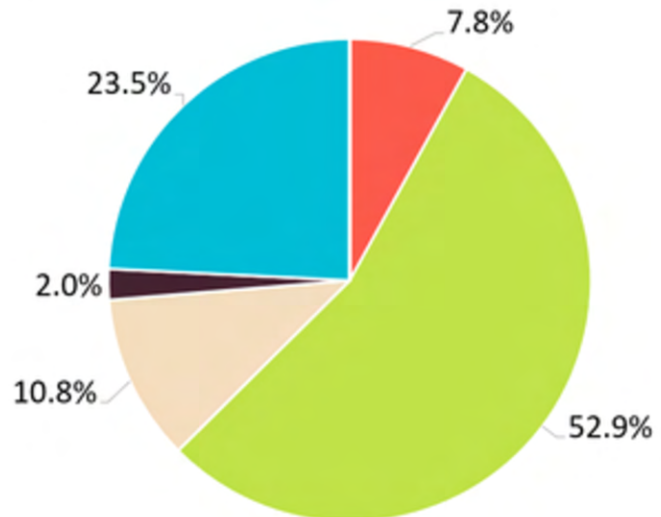
This trend reflects larger statewide and nationwide data regarding out of home placement for American Indian Children.

Were the placement preferences followed?



Type of placement for 2025

2025		
Parent	8	7.8%
Relative	54	52.9%
Tribal home	11	10.8%
Indian home	2	2.0%
Non-Indian home	24	23.5%
Group home	0	0.0%
Treatment facility	0	0.0%
Grand Total	102	



2025 Ramsey County Data Rollout

Placements

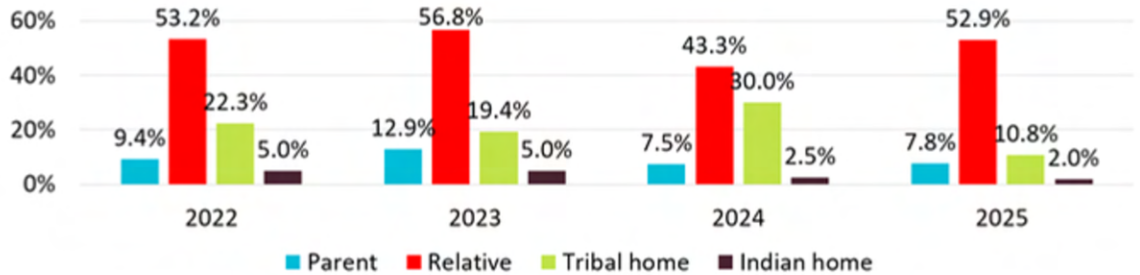
In 2025 children remained with the custodial parent on a trial home visit or under protective supervision, or were placed with a noncustodial parent, 7.8% of the time.

Children were placed with relatives 52.9% of the time and placed in Tribal/Tribally-approved homes 10.8% of the time.

In 2025 children were placed in non-Indian homes 23.5% of the time. This suggests an increase from prior years.

There is ongoing discussion regarding ICWA compliance and whether or not that includes Tribally-approved out of home placements.

Type of placement (ICWA compliant)



2022		
Parent	13	9.4%
Relative	74	53.2%
Tribal home	31	22.3%
Indian home	7	5.0%
Total compliant placements	125	

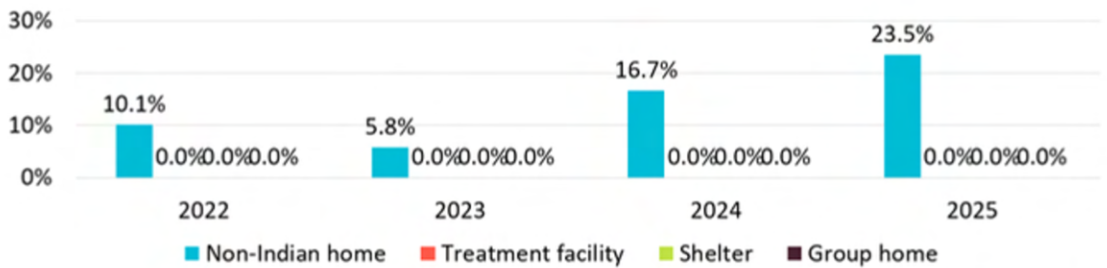
2023		
Parent	18	12.9%
Relative	79	56.8%
Tribal home	27	19.4%
Indian home	7	5.0%
Total compliant placements	131	

2024		
Parent	9	7.5%
Relative	52	43.3%
Tribal home	36	30.0%
Indian home	3	2.5%
Total compliant placements	100	

2025		
Parent	8	7.8%
Relative	54	52.9%
Tribal home	11	10.8%
Indian home	7	2.0%
Total compliant placements	80	

Percentages are out of all placements, not only placements that are ICWA compliant.

Type of placement (not ICWA compliant)



2022		
Non-Indian home	14	10.1%
Treatment facility	0	0.0%
Shelter	0	0.0%
Group home	0	0.0%
Total non-compliant placements	14	

2023		
Non-Indian home	8	5.8%
Treatment facility	0	0.0%
Shelter	0	0.0%
Group home	0	0.0%
Total non-compliant placements	8	

2024		
Non-Indian home	20	16.7%
Treatment facility	0	0.0%
Shelter	0	0.0%
Group home	0	0.0%
Total non-compliant placements	20	

2025		
Non-Indian home	24	23.5%
Treatment facility	0	0.0%
Shelter	0	0.0%
Group home	0	0.0%
Total non-compliant placements	24	

Percentages are out of all placements, not only placements that are not ICWA-compliant.

2025 Ramsey County Data Rollout

Placements

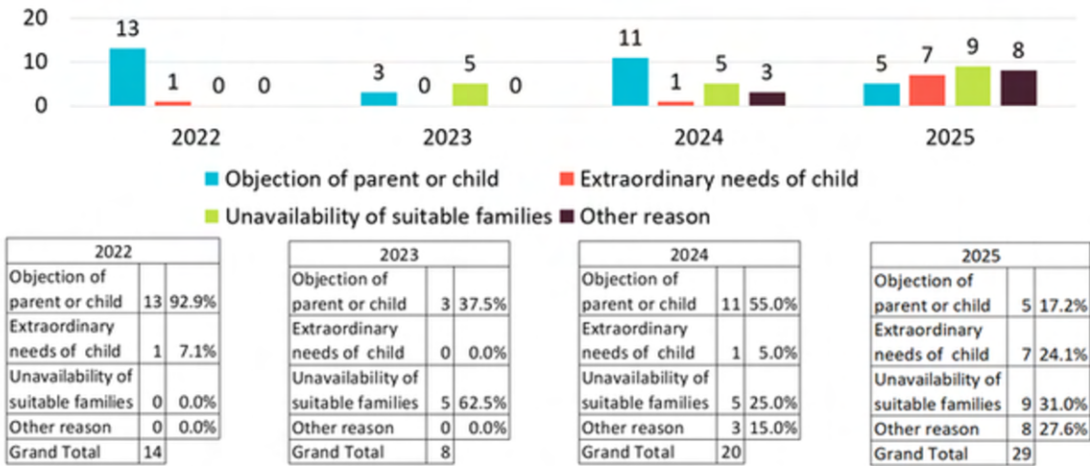
In 2025, when placement preferences were not followed, it was due to objection of the parent or child 17.2% of the time, extraordinary needs of the child 24.1% of the time, and unavailability of suitable families 31% of the time.

In these instances, extraordinary needs of the child includes medical and behavioral needs.

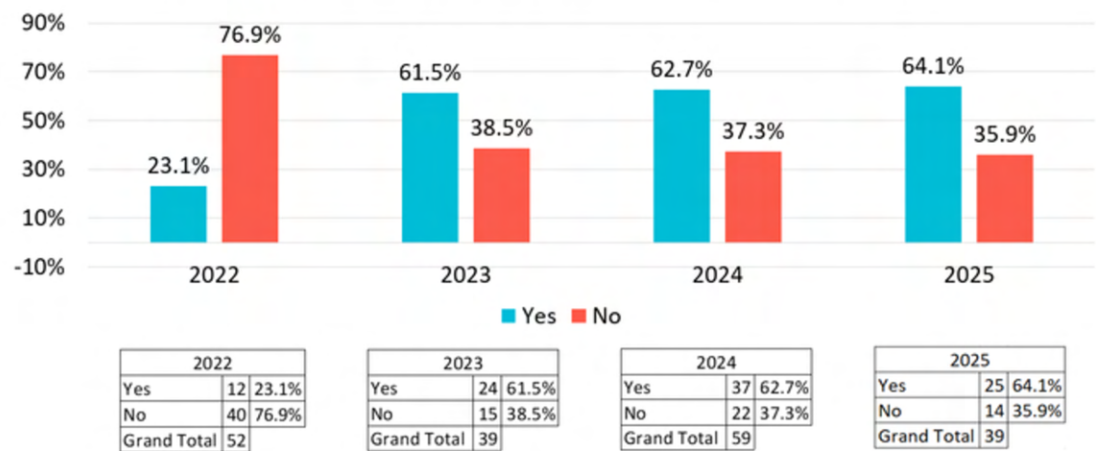
Unavailability of suitable families includes placements that were geographically closer to parents, and placements allowing for sibling groups to be placed together.

In 2025, there was discussion on the record about why the child was not placed with a relative 64.1% of the time in comparison to 23.1% of the time in 2022.

If placement preferences were not followed, why not?



Was there discussion on the record as to why the child was not placed with a relative?



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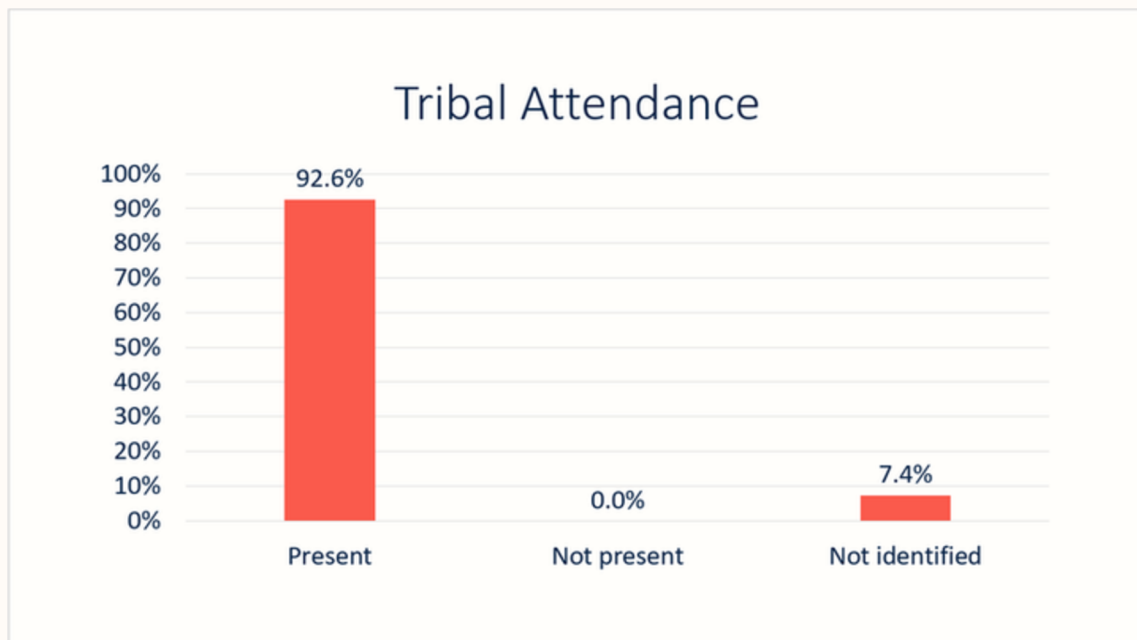
Quarter 1 Data

Data was collected from January 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026. This data was collected by the court monitor at hearings, talking to the parties involved, and reading case files. This data reflects hearings attended by the court monitor and does not include all Ramsey County ICWA hearings.

Tribal Attendance

The following chart indicates the Tribes involved in ICWA cases in Ramsey County during Quarter 1. The chart includes the Tribes involved, the number of hearings that occurred, and the number of times the Tribe attended hearings.

TRIBE	NUMBER OF HEARINGS	TRIBE PRESENT
Blackfeet Tribe of Montana	1	1
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	1	1
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	2	2
Lower Sioux Community	2	2
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	3	3
Oglala Sioux Tribe	1	1
Red Lake Nation	4	4
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate	1	1
White Earth Nation	12	12
Unknown/Tribe Not Identified	2	-





Quarter 1 Data

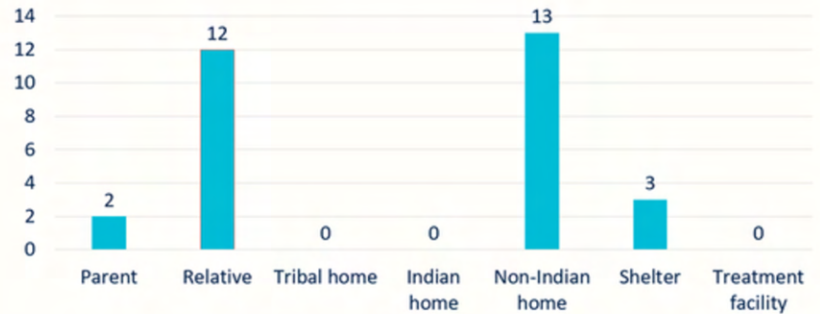
Placements and Case Planning

During Quarter 1 2026, children in out-of-home placement were placed with relatives 44.44% of the time and in non-relative homes 48.15% of the time. For non-relative placements, the court made a finding 100% of the time that there was good cause to deviate from the ICWA placement preferences.

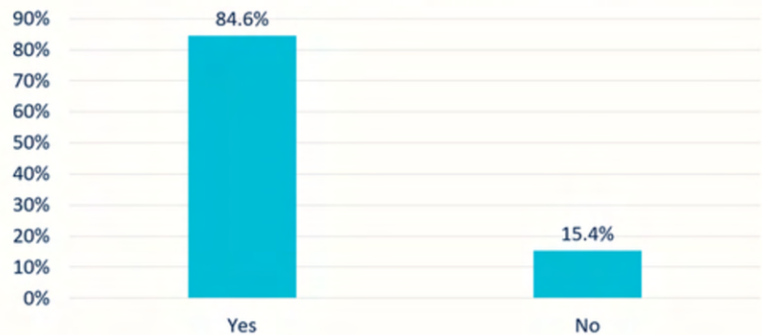
When children were not placed with relatives, there was discussion 84.6% of the time about the reasons preventing placement with a relative. This includes parent and child preference, a lack of appropriate placement options for sibling groups, and overcoming barriers to move children into relative homes. All non-relative placements were approved by the Tribe.

There was discussion of how Tribes have participated in case planning 85.2% of the time. This includes collaborating on writing case plans, visiting parents and children, and connecting with Tribal resources.

Placements



Was there discussion as to why the child was not placed with a relative?



Was there discussion as to how the Tribe has been involved in case planning?

