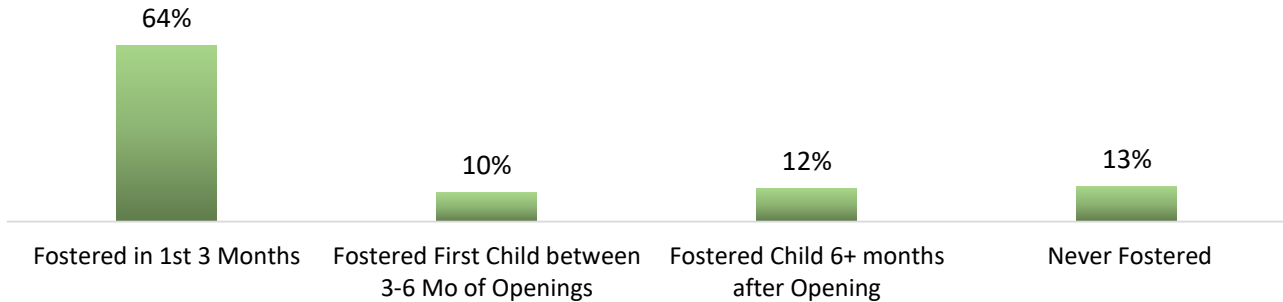## Buffalo Region

Utilization of New Foster Homes

The first three months of certification is an important time. If a foster home does not foster a child within their initial three months of certification, they are much less likely to ever foster a child.

Statewide, according to the data, approximately **76%** of foster homes are fostering a child within the first three months of certification/approval.

Time Between Foster Home Opening and First Child Placed
(All Homes Open on 12/31/22)

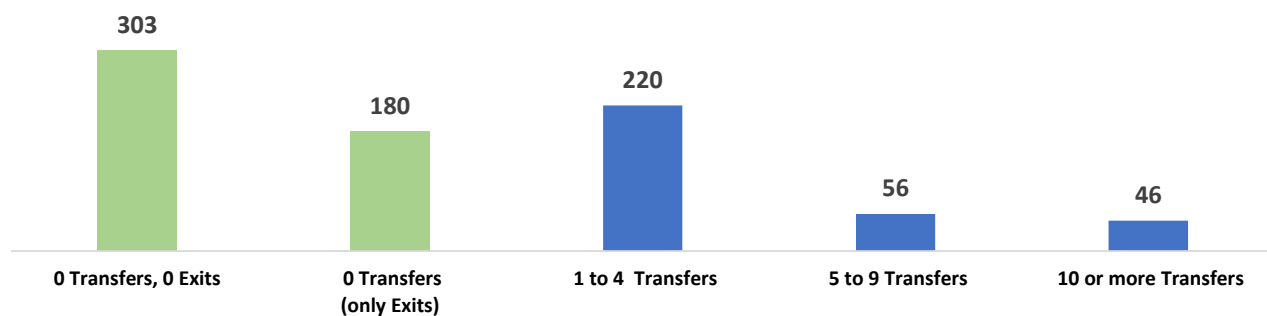| 64%	10%	12%	13%
Fostered in 1st 3 Months	Fostered First Child between 3-6 Mo of Openings	Fostered Child 6+ months after Opening	Never Fostered

Transfers From Foster Homes

"Children need consistency, predictability, and attachment to a caring adult to thrive. Multiple placements have been found to lead to delayed permanency outcomes, academic difficulties, and struggles to develop meaningful attachments".   (Rutter, M., & Sroufe, L. A. (2000). Developmental psychopathology: Concepts and challenges. Development and Psychopathology, 12(3), 265-296.)

Note: Statewide, **51%** of homes open on 12/31/22 had at least one transfer from the home to another placement type. The predominant transfer type statewide is a *lateral* move from one foster home to another. A breakdown of the type of transfers can be found in the individual foster home file.

If many foster homes have multiple transfers, it points towards a potential systemic issue (i.e.: placement decisions, foster home training or support). If the transfers are from only a few foster homes, it may be indicative of home-specific issues.   Which is the case in your region?

Number of Foster Homes with Exits to Another Placement Type,
Grouped by Number of Transfers
(for homes open on 12/31/22 that fostered children)

303	180	220	56	46
0 Transfers, 0 Exits	0 Transfers (only Exits)	1 to 4 Transfers	5 to 9 Transfers	10 or more Transfers

What is the process for matching children to foster homes?
Are there any characteristics that homes with similar experiences have in common?
What is the level of support for these homes?