

COUNTIES HAVE IMPROVED IN THEIR SCREENING OF REFERRALS FOR INVESTIGATION

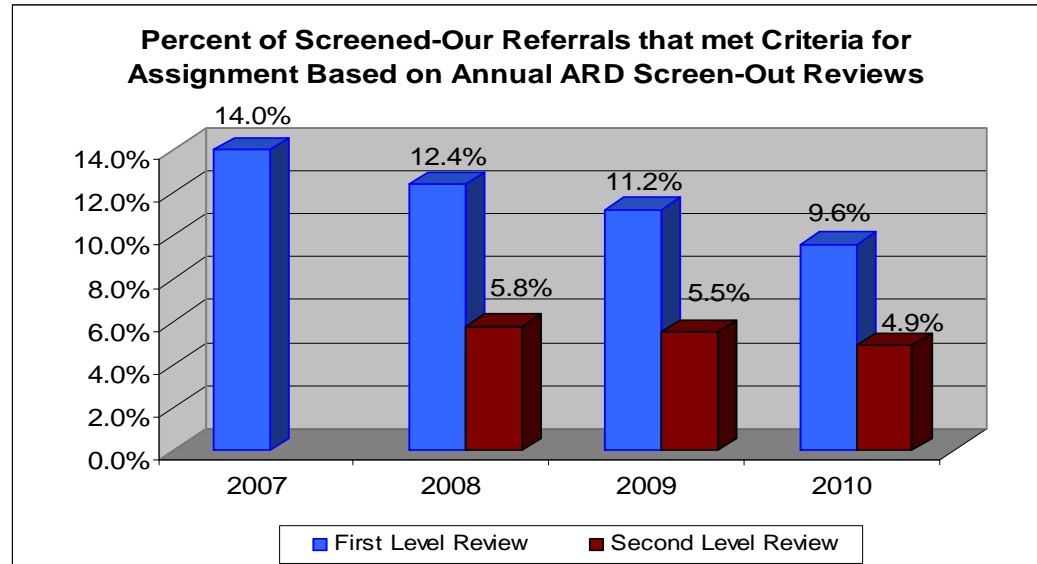
For the past four years, the Colorado Department of Human Services Administrative Review Division (ARD) has been conducting annual reviews of child protection referrals that were screened out (not accepted for assessment) by the counties.

Each year a sample of screened-out referrals are reviewed by ARD, CDHS staff and 25-40 staff from county departments of human/social services to determine if the decision to screen out was appropriate. This is considered first-level review.

Beginning in 2008, those referrals that were determined in the first level to have met the criteria for assignment were referred to a second independent team, referred to as the second level review.

The results of the review indicate the percent of referrals that met the criteria for assignment, or should have been assigned for investigation/assessment in the opinion of the reviewers.

The graph shows that the percent of screened-out referrals that met the criteria for assignment based on the first level review improved from **14%** in 2007, to **12.4%** in 2008, to **11.2%** in 2009, to **9.6%** in 2010. Based on the second level review, which was first used in 2008, the percentage of screened-out referrals that met criteria for assignment improved from **5.8%** in 2008, to **5.5%** in 2009, and **4.9%** in 2010.



Source: Administrative Review Division Screen-Out Review Reports.

Note: The second-level review was added in 2008. There were a total of 1,413 screened out referrals reviewed during the 2010 Screen-Out Review.

- Counties have improved in their screening of referrals for investigation.
- From 2007 to 2010, the percentage of screened-out referrals that met the criteria for investigation according to first level review **improved from 14% to 9.6%.**
- From 2007 to 2010, the percentage of screened-out referrals that met the criteria for investigation according to second level review **improved from 5.8% to 4.9%.**
- This improvement is likely due to improved screening practices at the county, the partnership of using county and state staffs to conduct the reviews, and changes in the way screen-out reviews are conducted.