

- Counties have improved in their screening of referrals for assessment.
- From 2009 to 2013, the percentage of screened-out referrals where the first level review agreed with the county decision to screen out the referral **improved from 89.2% to 94.3%**.
- From 2009 to 2013, the percentage of screened-out referrals that the second level review team agreed with the county's decision **improved from 95.2% to 96.8%**.
- This improvement is likely due to improved screening practices, and the partnership of county and state staff in the annual review process.

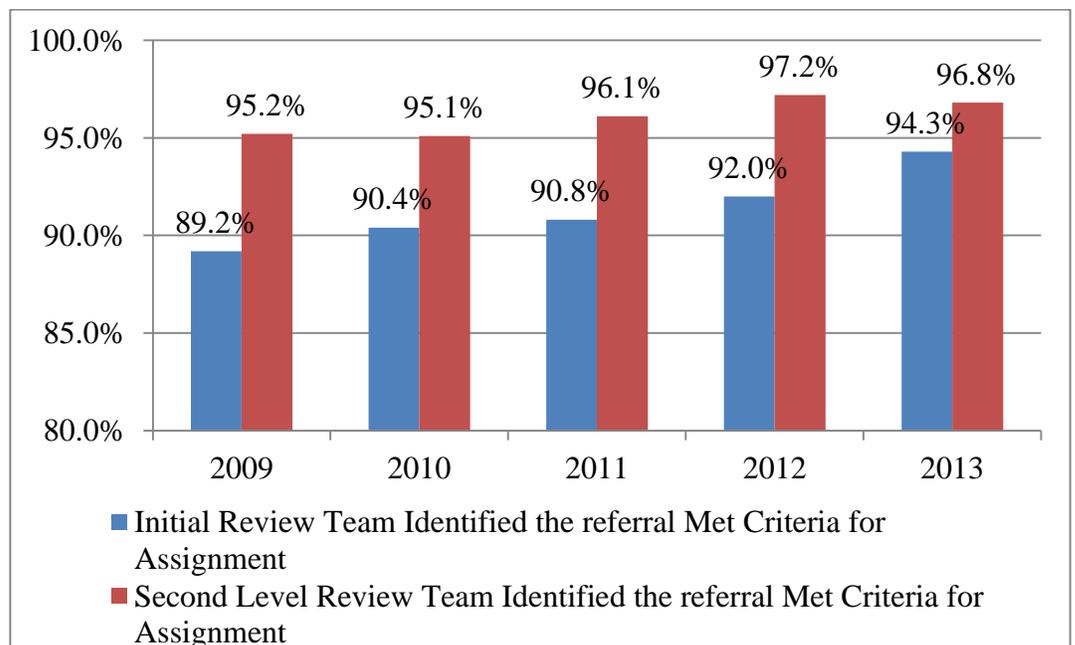
COUNTIES HAVE IMPROVED IN THEIR SCREENING OF REFERRALS FOR ASSESSMENT

In order to better inform policy and practice related to screening of referrals and examine the accuracy of referral acceptance decision making, Colorado's Administrative Review Division (ARD) created a process to evaluate the child protection screening decisions made by county departments of social or human services in Colorado. Since 2007, this annual "Screen-Out Review" has been held each September.

Each year a stratified random sample of screened-out referrals (based on county of decision) are reviewed by the ARD, CDHS staff and 25-40 staff from county departments of human/social services to determine if the decision to screen out was appropriate. Using the information documented in Trails regarding the referral of interest only, a paired review team completes the review instrument and determines if they agreed with the county's decision to screen out the referral.

The graph below shows that the percent of screened-out referrals in which the review team agreed with the county's decision based on the first level review improved from **89.2%** in 2009 to **94.3%** in 2013. Based on the second level review, which was first used in 2008, the percentage of referrals that were appropriately screened-out increased from **95.2%** in 2009 to **96.8%** in 2013. Additionally, over the past several years, the second level review team has found that nearly **99%** of referrals do not contain any safety issues.

Percent of Referrals in 'Screen-out Review' in which Review Team Agreed with County's Decision



Source: Administrative Review Division Screen-Out Review Reports.

Summary of the Number of Screen Out Participants and Reviews Completed

	Number of Screened Out Referrals Reviewed	Number of Counties in Attendance	Number of County Participants	Number of State Child Welfare and/or Trails Staff Participants	Number of ARD Reviewers	Total Review Participants
2009	1410	23	37	3	12	52
2010	1413	20	39	8	17	64
2011	1495	24	**	**	**	62
2012	1542	22	51	5	17	73
2013	1606	23	44	5	16	65

** Information not available

Beginning in 2008, those referrals that were determined during the first level to have met the criteria for assignment are referred to a second independent team, referred to as the second-level review. This second-level team reviews the referral only for the purposes of answering whether or not they believed it should have been accepted for an assessment and whether or not there were/continue to be safety concerns.

During the 2013 review, the second-level review involved a full RED (Review, Evaluate, and Direct) Team review process on the referrals reviewed. If child welfare practice concerns or safety concerns are identified, this information is gathered and sent back to the county departments for information purposes and/or a request for follow-up when appropriate. Additionally, if Trails data issues were found, the information is also given to the counties with a request to update the information as necessary.

More information about the Administrative Review Division and the Screen Out Review can be found on-line at: www.colorado.gov/cdhs/ard