


# Improving Child Welfare Outcomes for Children and Families

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Executive Vice President of Systems Improvement

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safe children | strong families | supportive communities

casey family programs



# Overview

- Introduction
- National and Midwestern context
- Improving Child Safety
- Policy Considerations

# Introduction

- About Casey Family Programs
- Executive Vice President of Systems Improvement Vision and Impact

# Consider Today

- How can you, as state legislators, keep children safe and support families?
- What are the elements of a well-functioning child protection system?
- How can you use data to evaluate your system?

# Consider Today

How do you know if you have a successful child protection system? What is the public concerned about?

- Ensuring that children are safe with their families
- If children are brought to the attention of child protection, they should be free from harm
- Children should not languish in foster care

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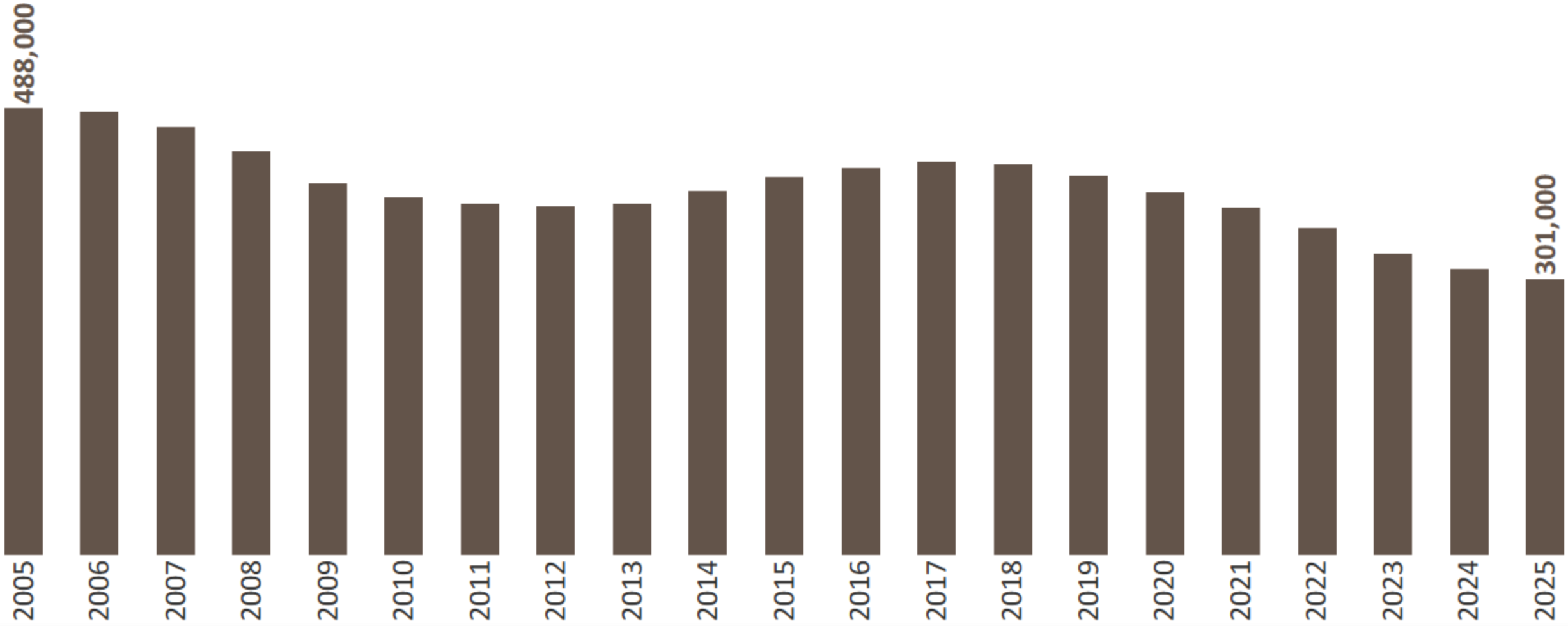
What the data tell us

# CONTEXT MEASURES

# National | **Number of children in out-of-home care**

(as of 9/30 of each federal fiscal year)




*Data source: AFCARS; children under age 18*

# By state | **Rate of children in out-of-home care**

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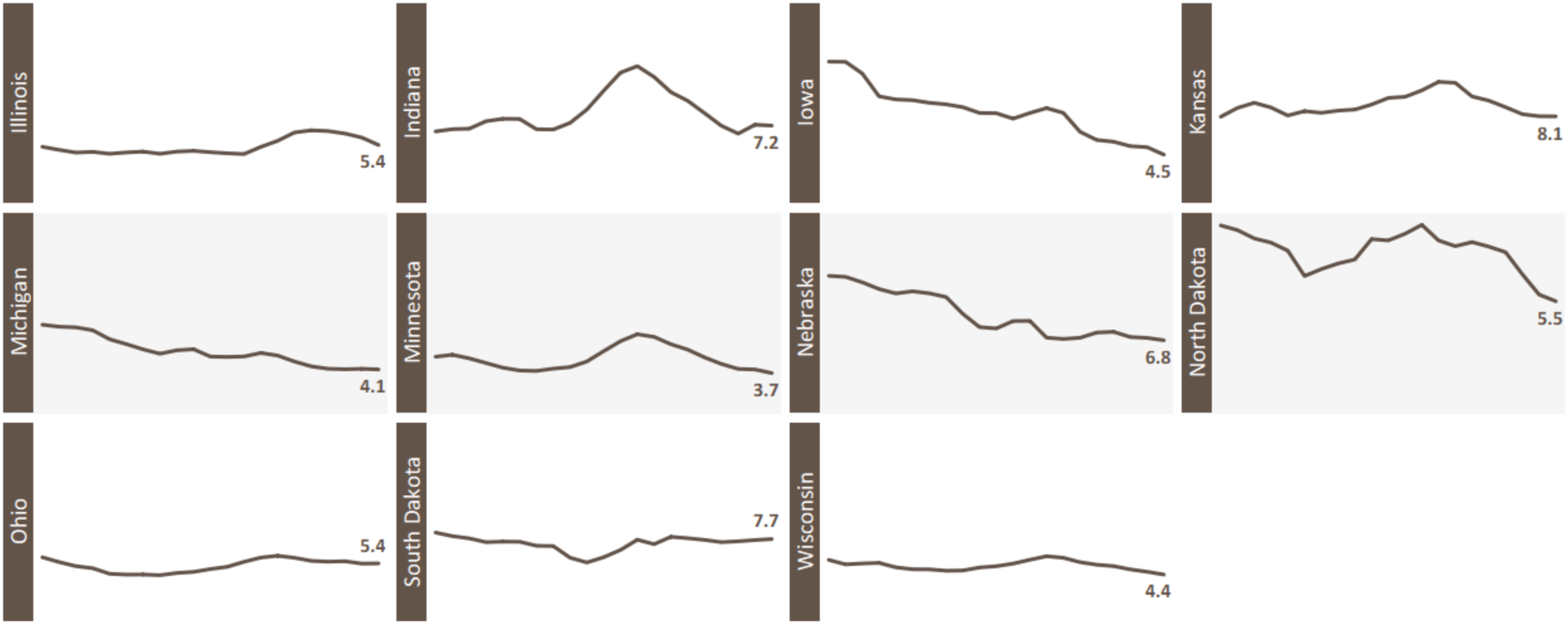


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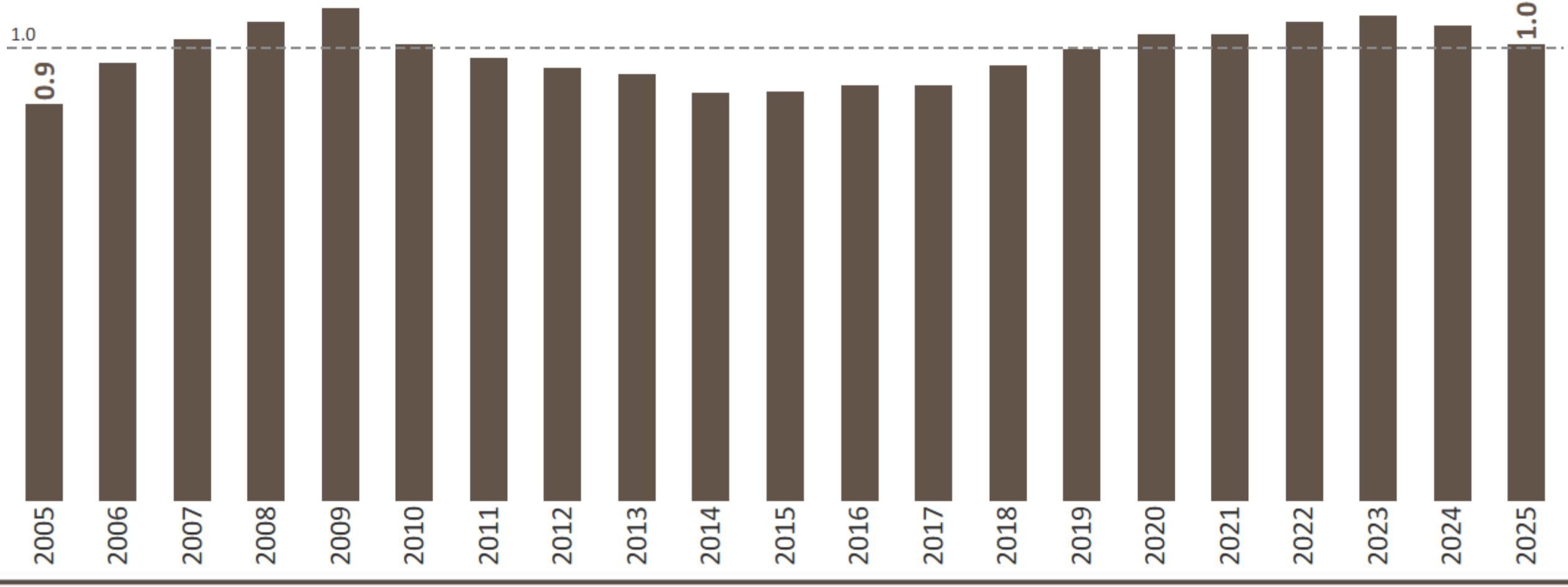
(a ratio over 1.0 indicates more children are exiting care than entering)

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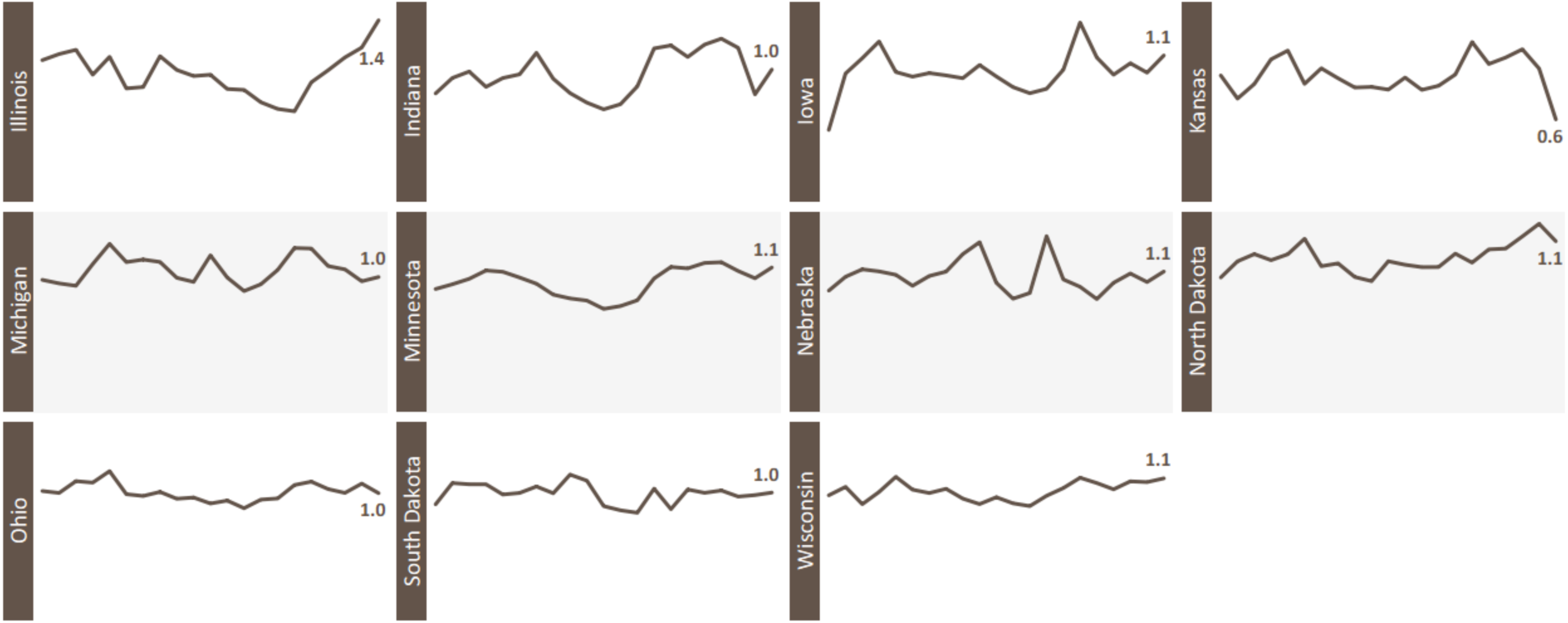


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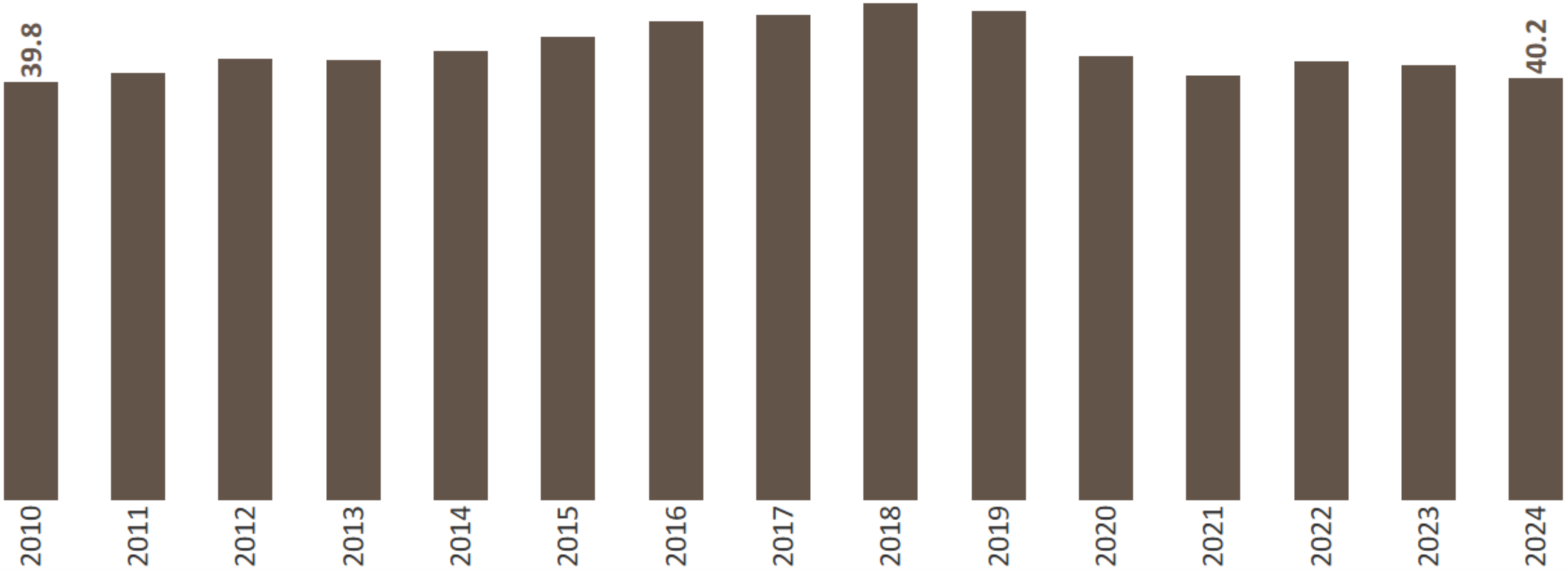
What the data tell us

# **REDUCE FAMILY SEPARATION** AS A PRIMARY STRATEGY FOR GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION FOR FAMILIES IN CRISIS

# National | **Rate of children involved in a screened-in report of maltreatment** (per 1,000 children in population)

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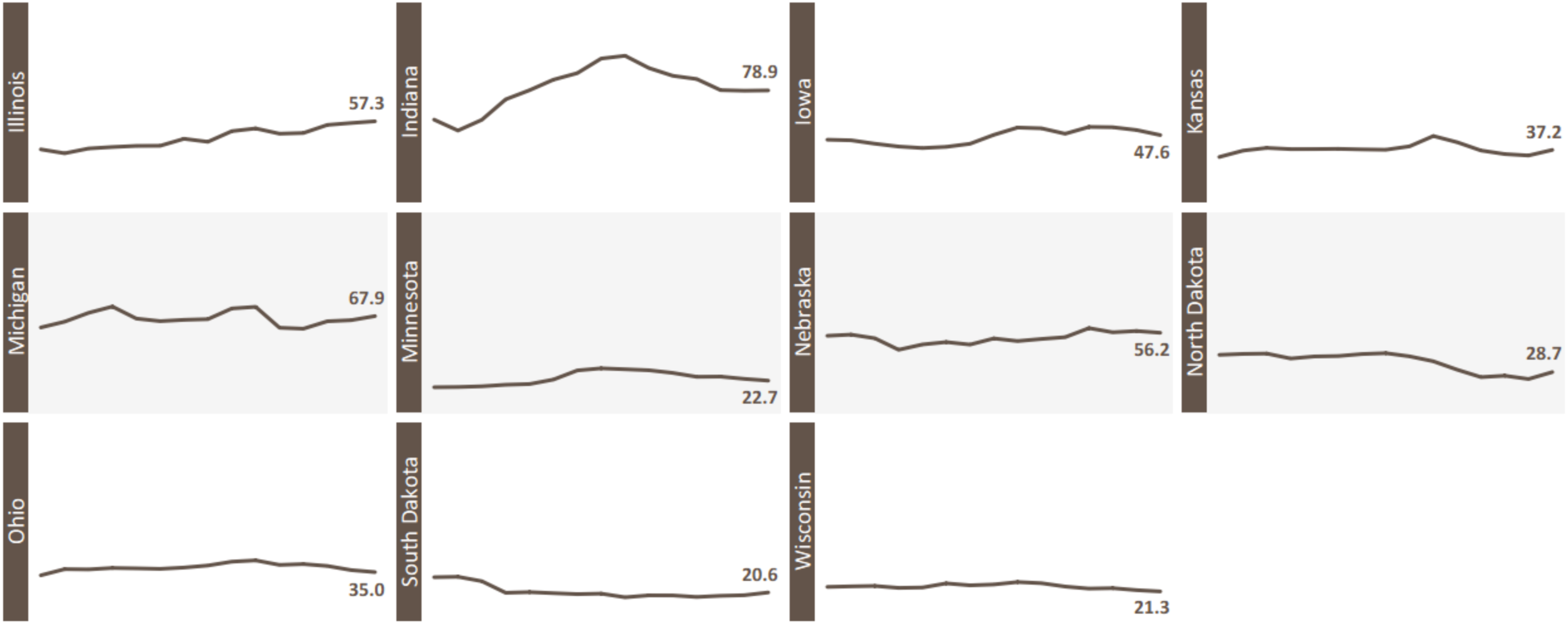


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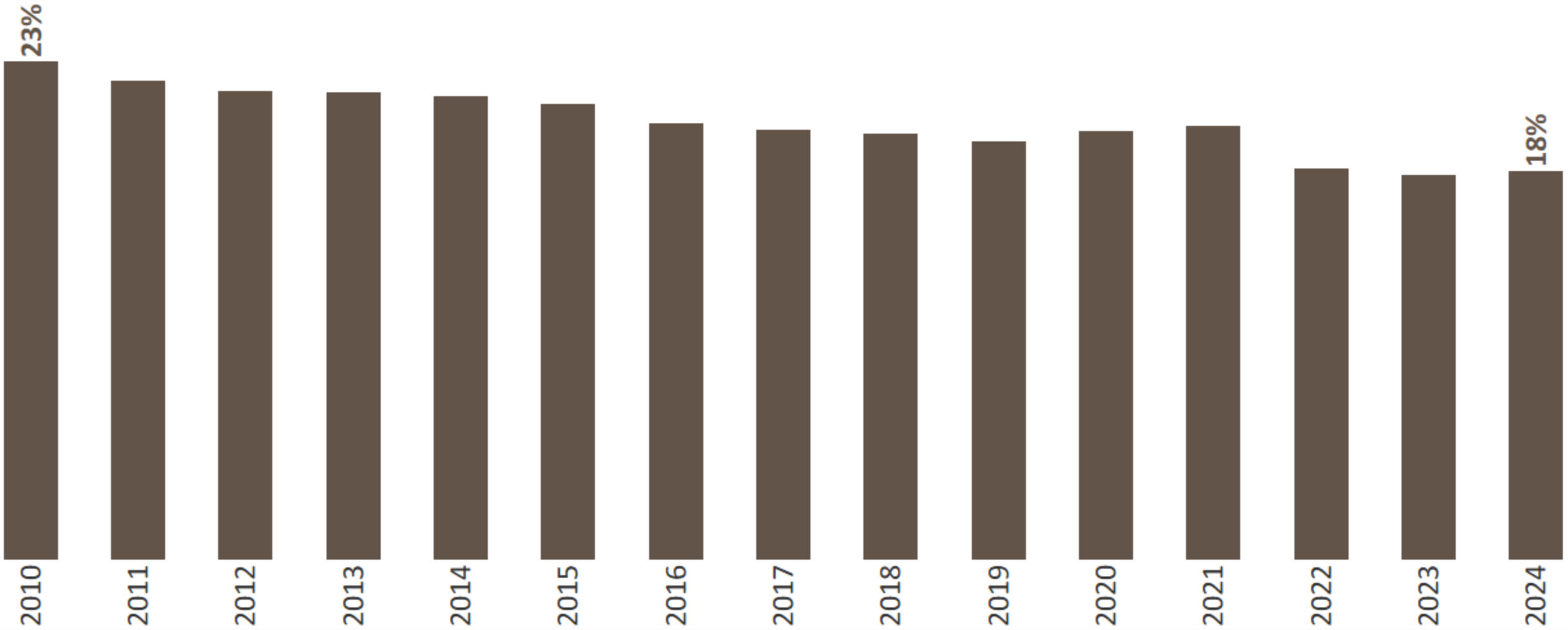
# National | **Percent of children with a substantiated allegation** (as a percent of all children screened-in)

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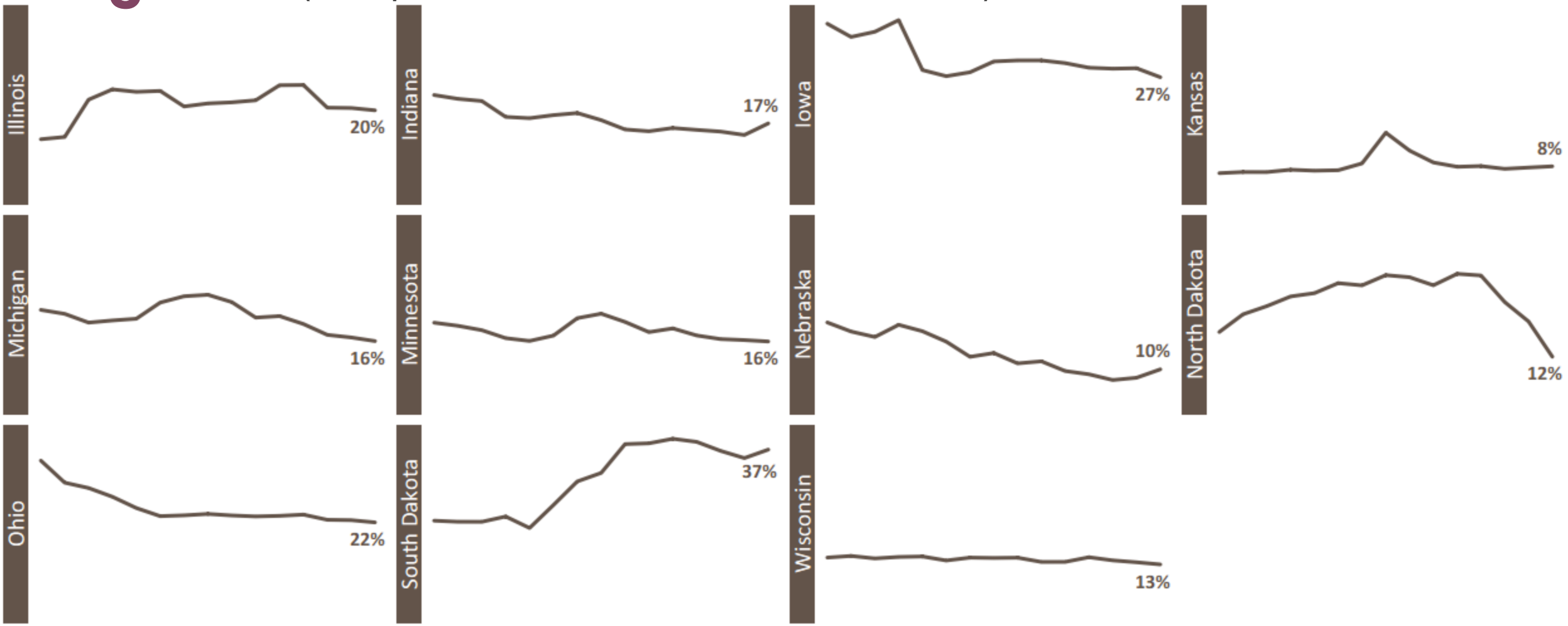


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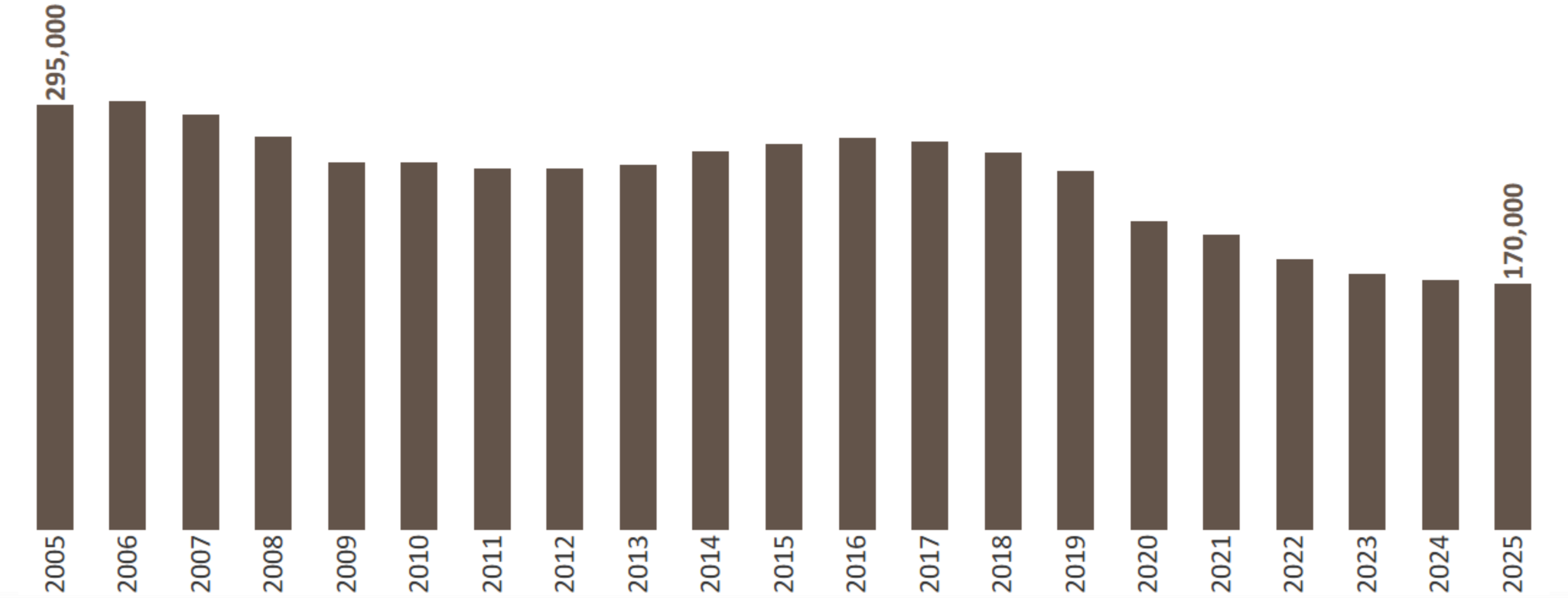


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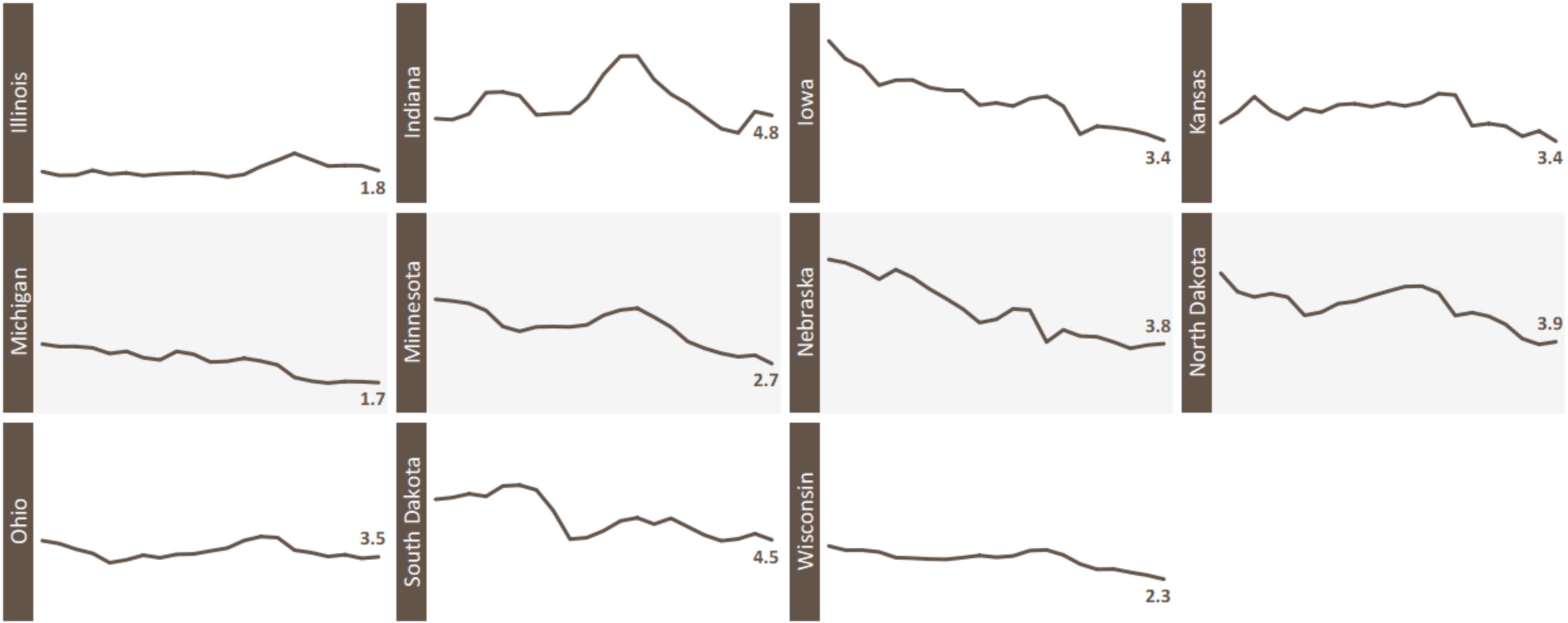


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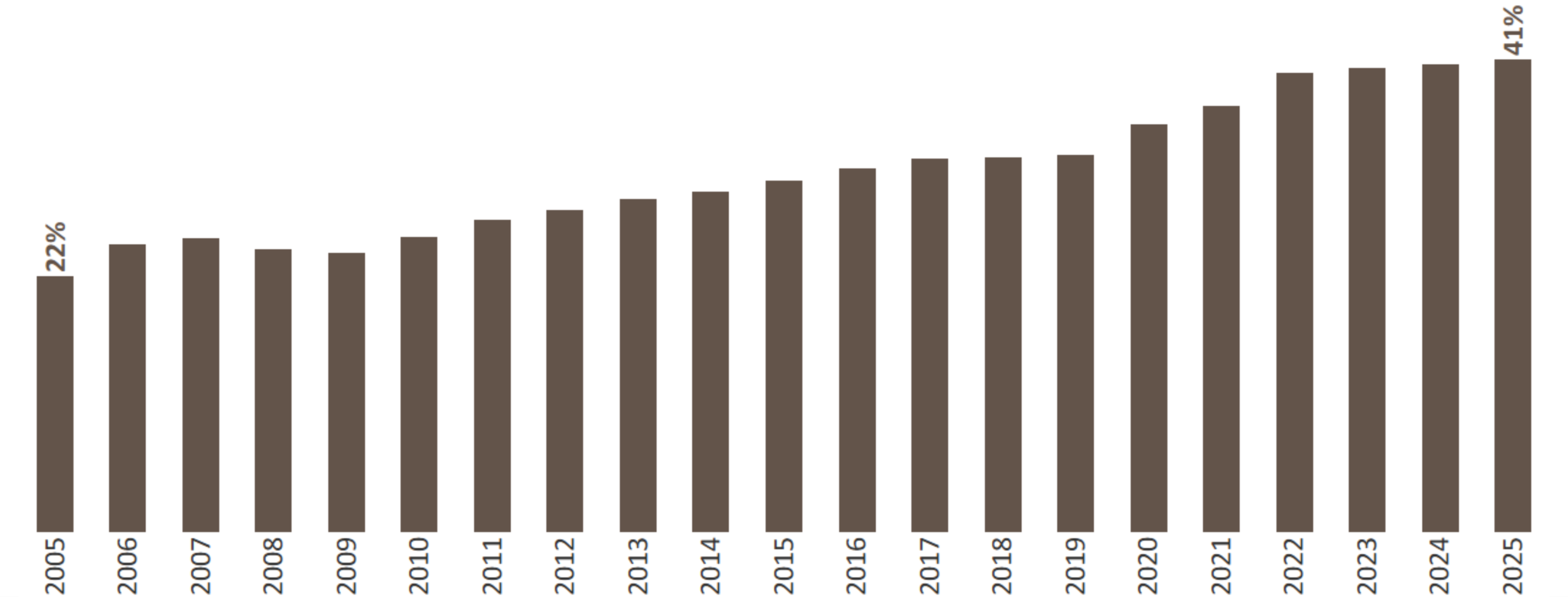
What the data tell us

# **REDUCE TIME IN CARE** AND TIME SPENT AWAY FROM FAMILY

# National | **Percent of children in kinship placements**

(as a percent of all children in out-of-home care)

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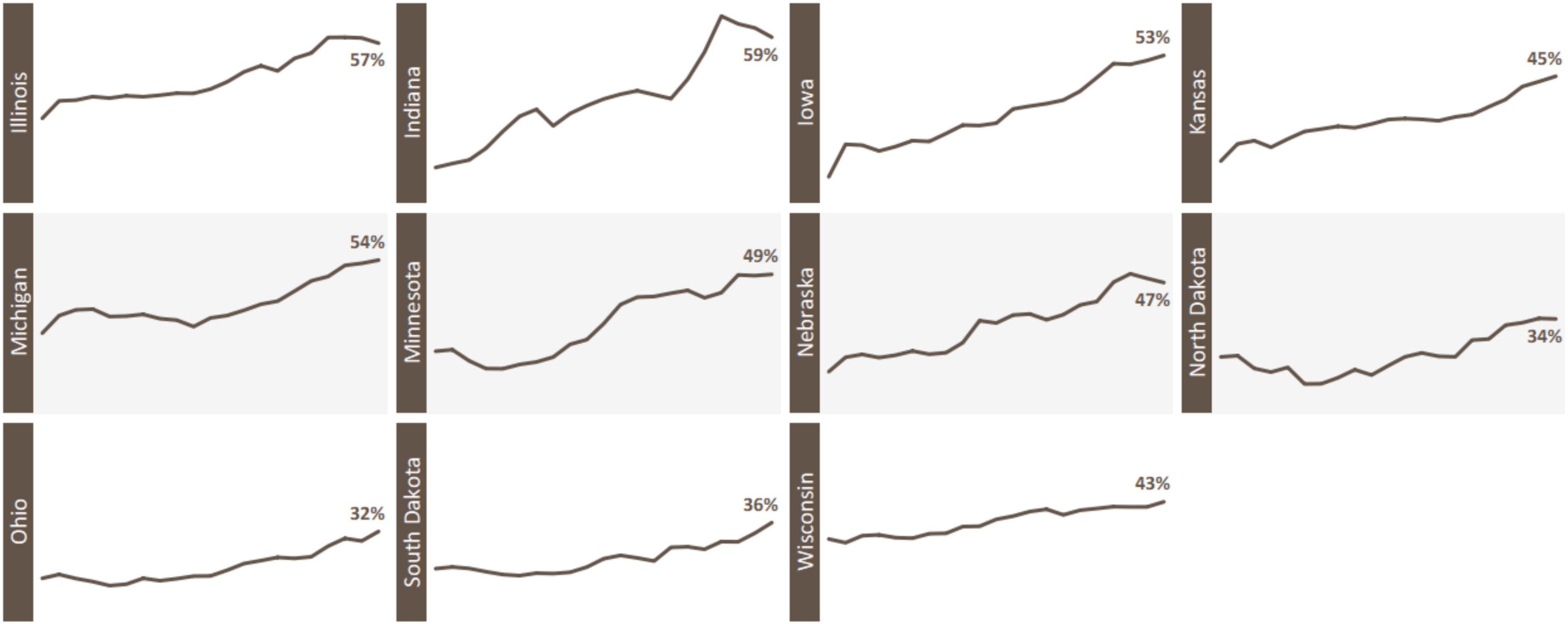


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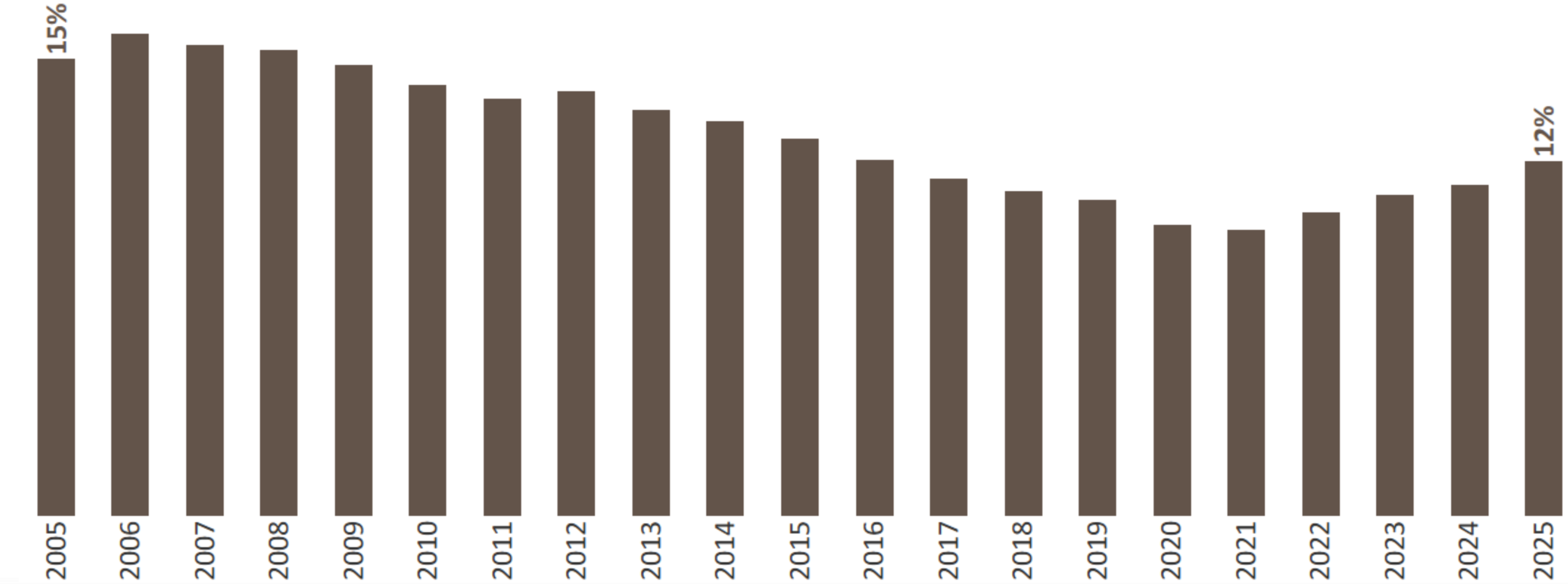


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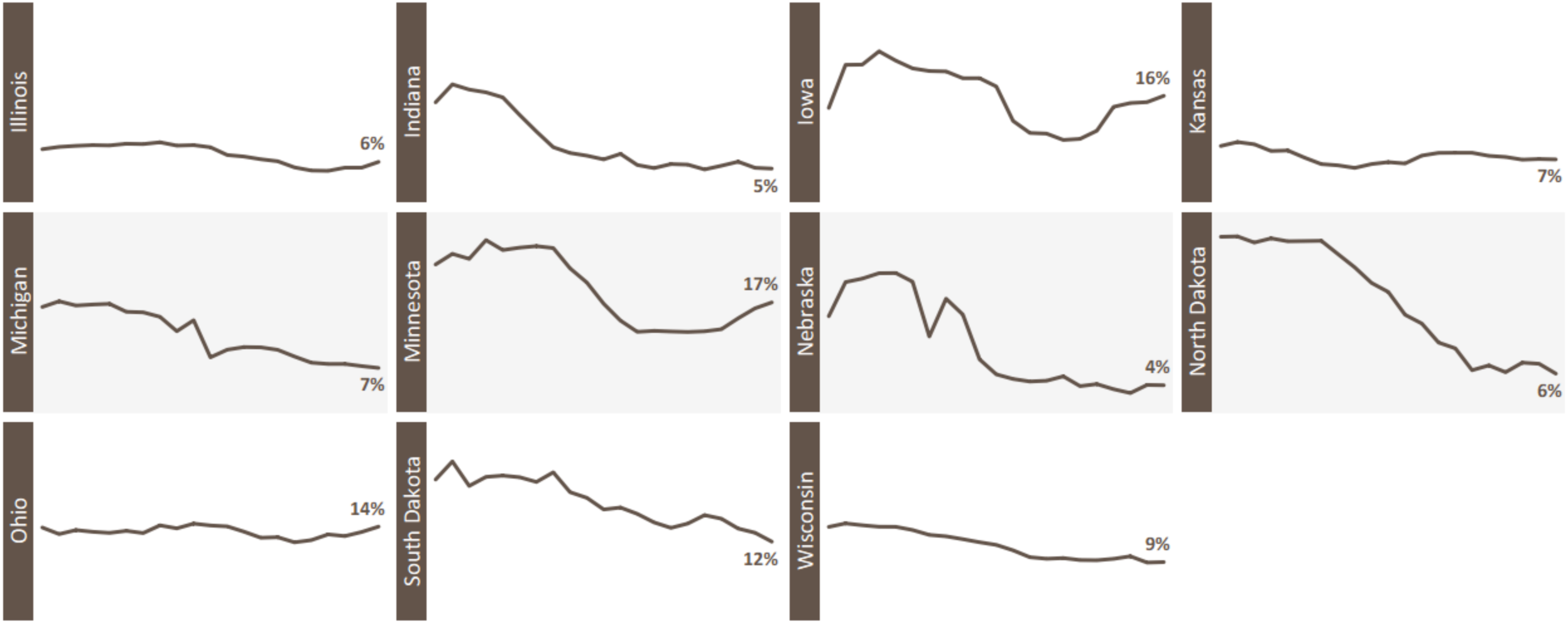


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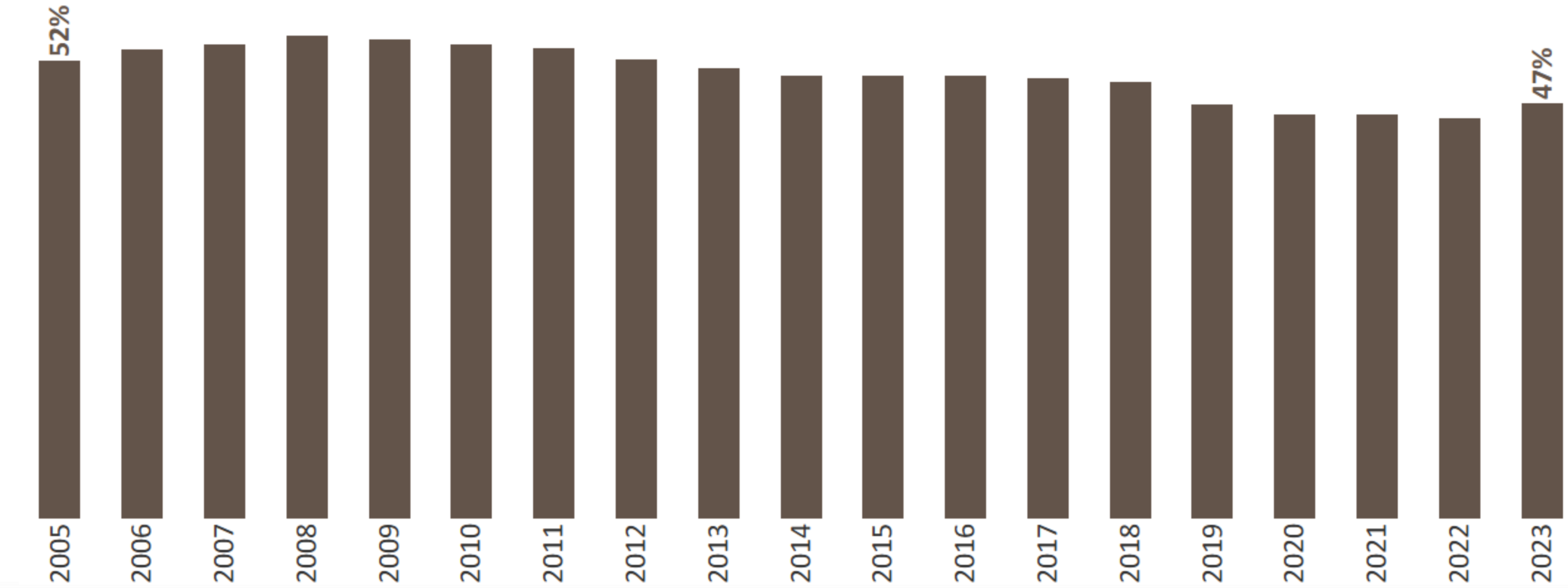
# National | **Percent of children achieving timely permanency* within 24 months of entering care**




*Data source: AFCARS; *permanency = reunification or guardianship within 12 months + adoption within 24 months*

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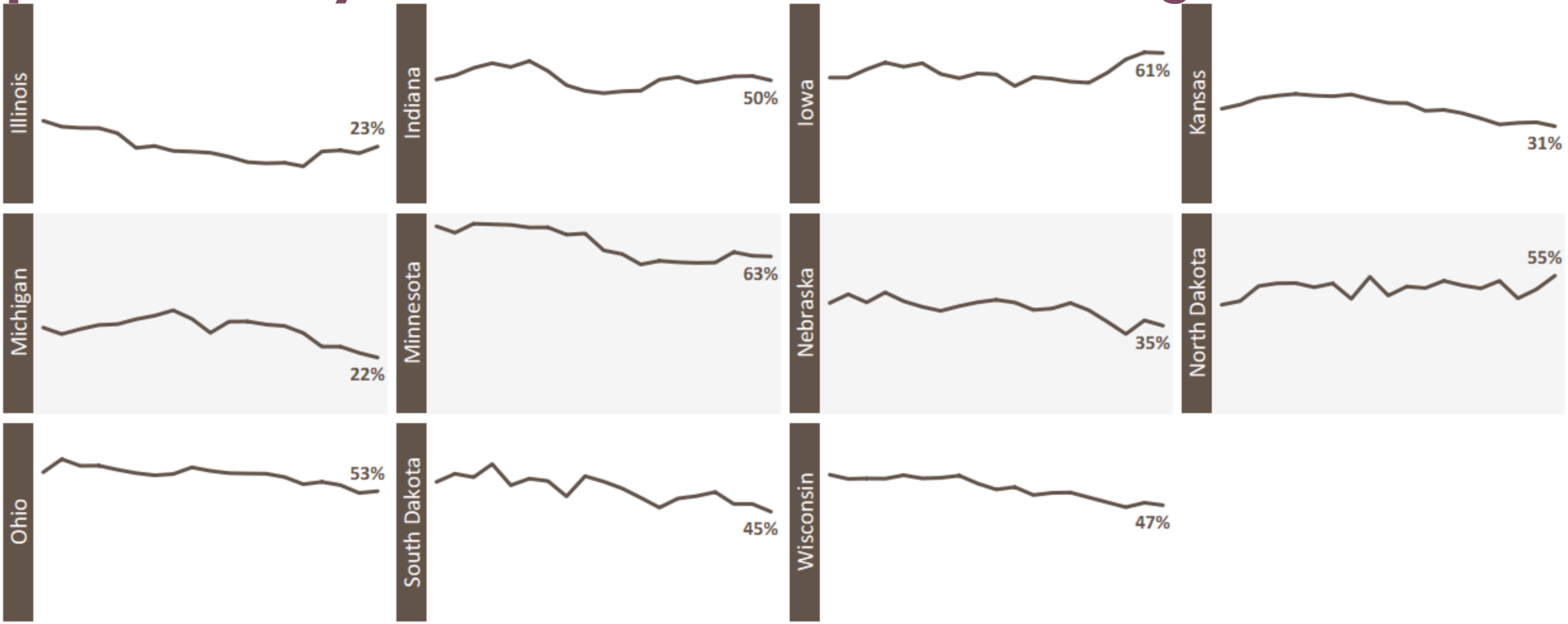


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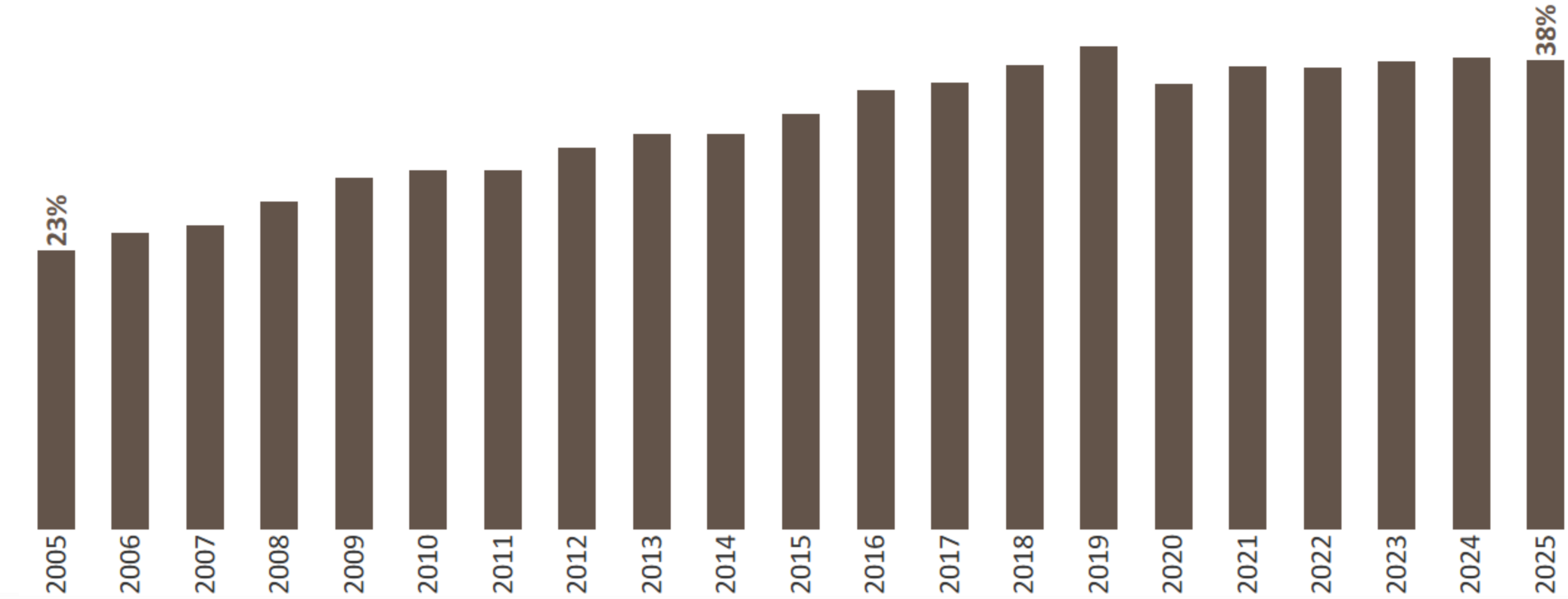


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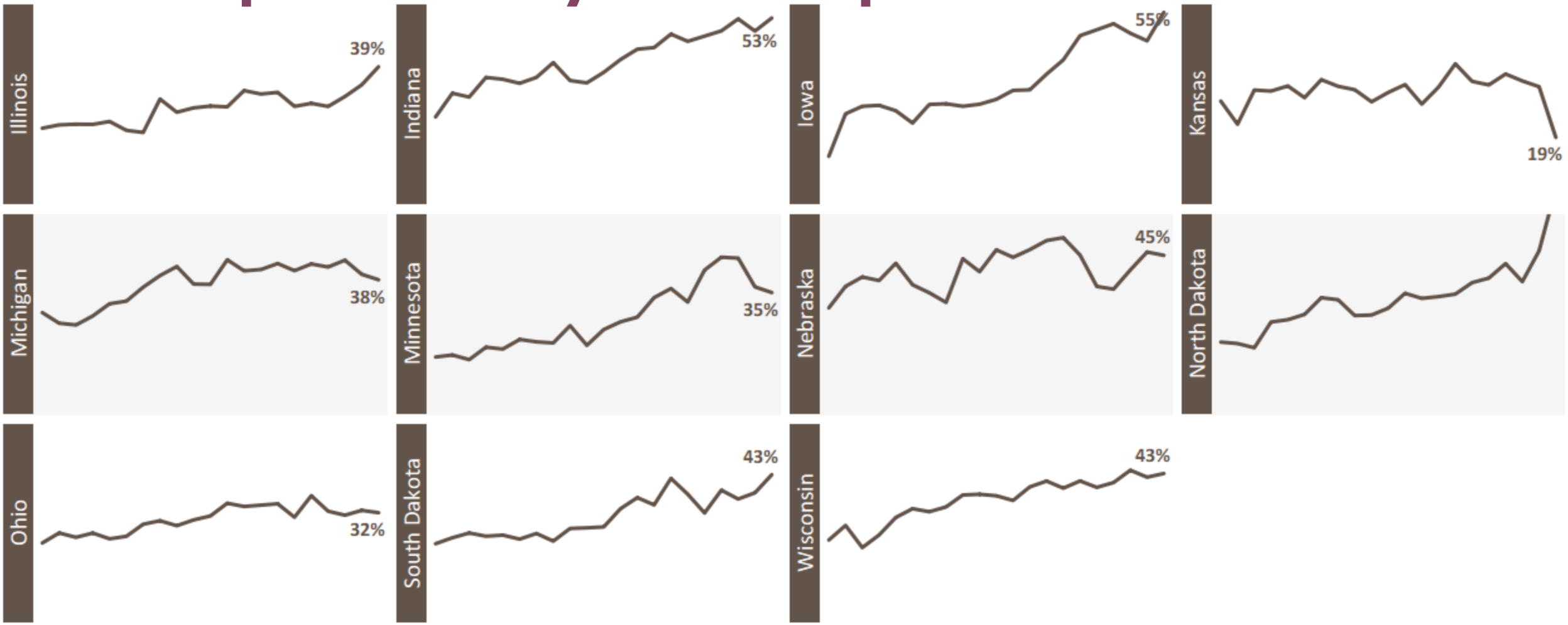


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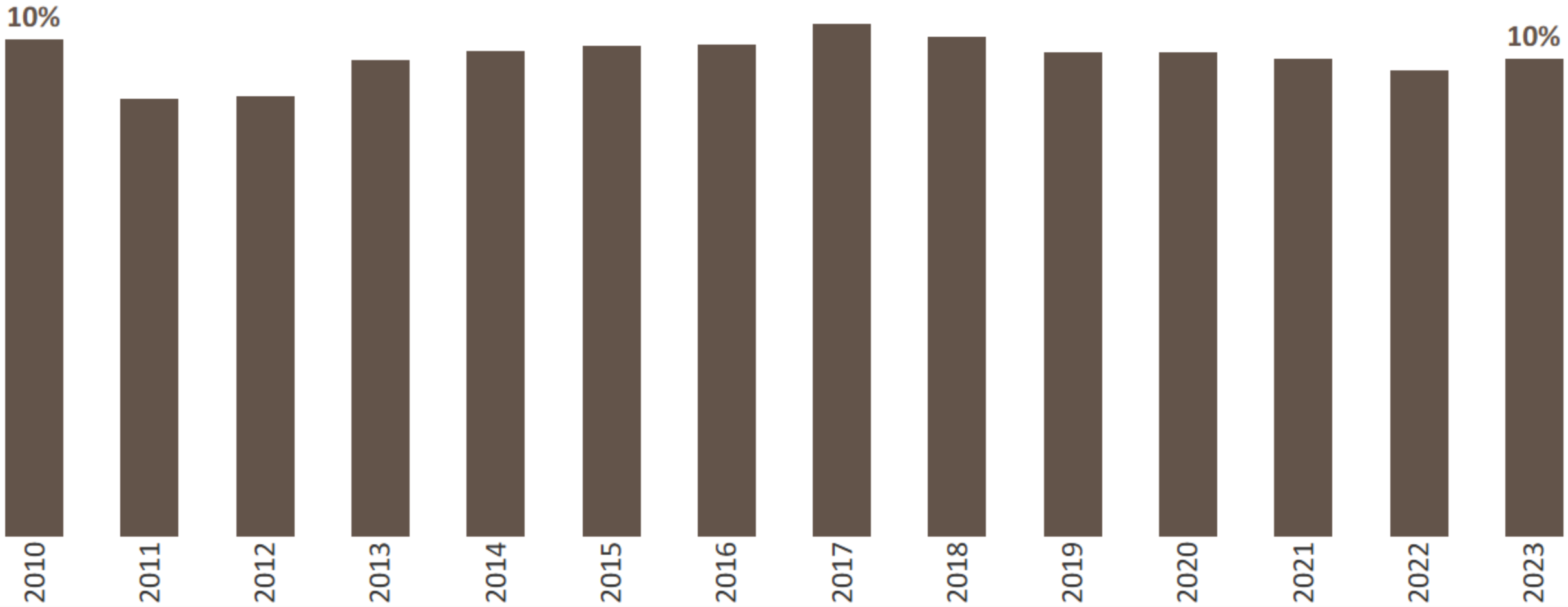
What the data tell us

# **INCREASE SAFETY** IN THE CONTEXT OF CHILDREN LIVING WITH AND WITHIN THEIR FAMILY

# National | **Percent of children who experience a recurrence of maltreatment within 12 months**

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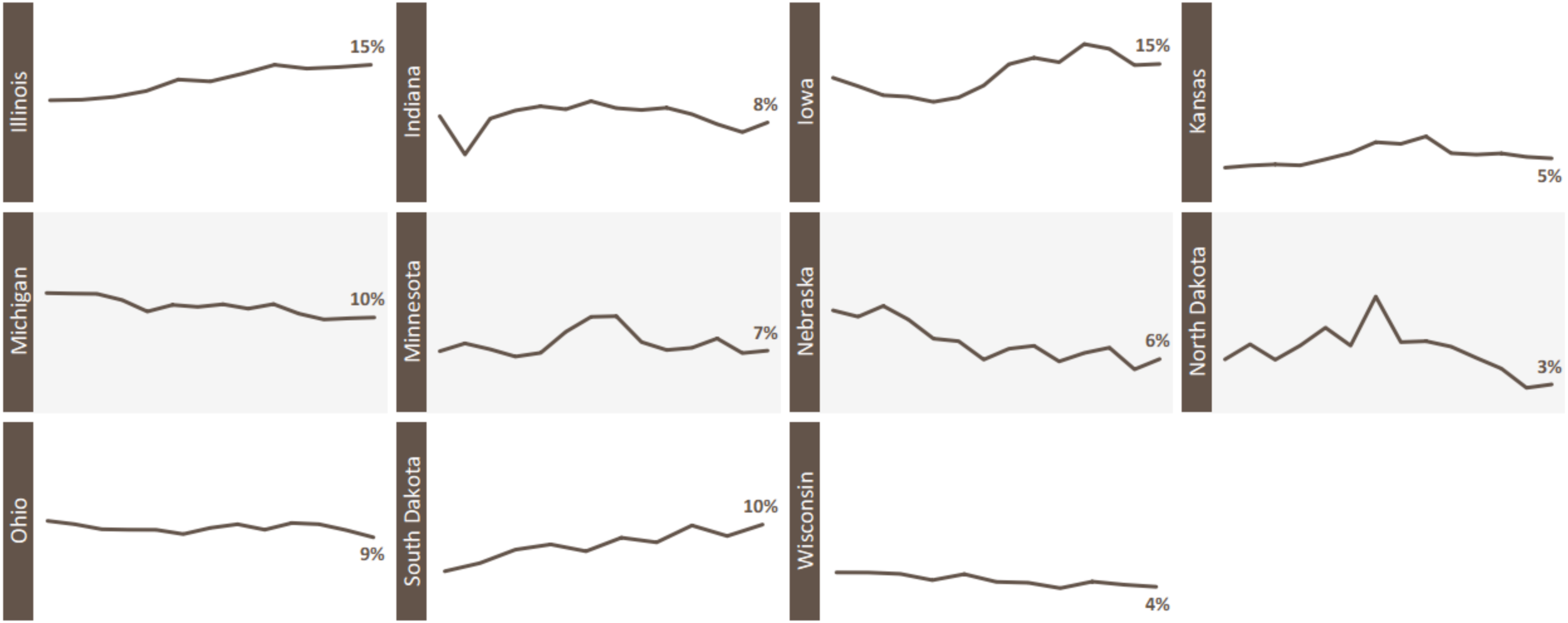


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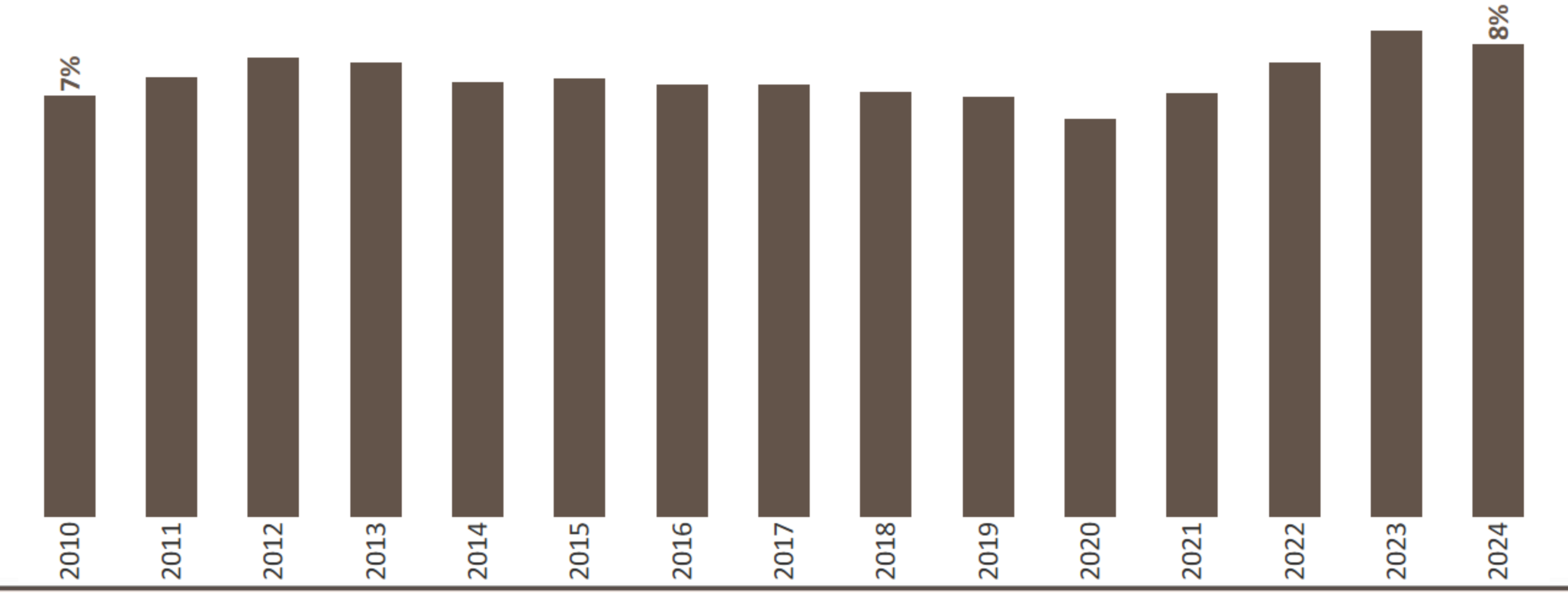


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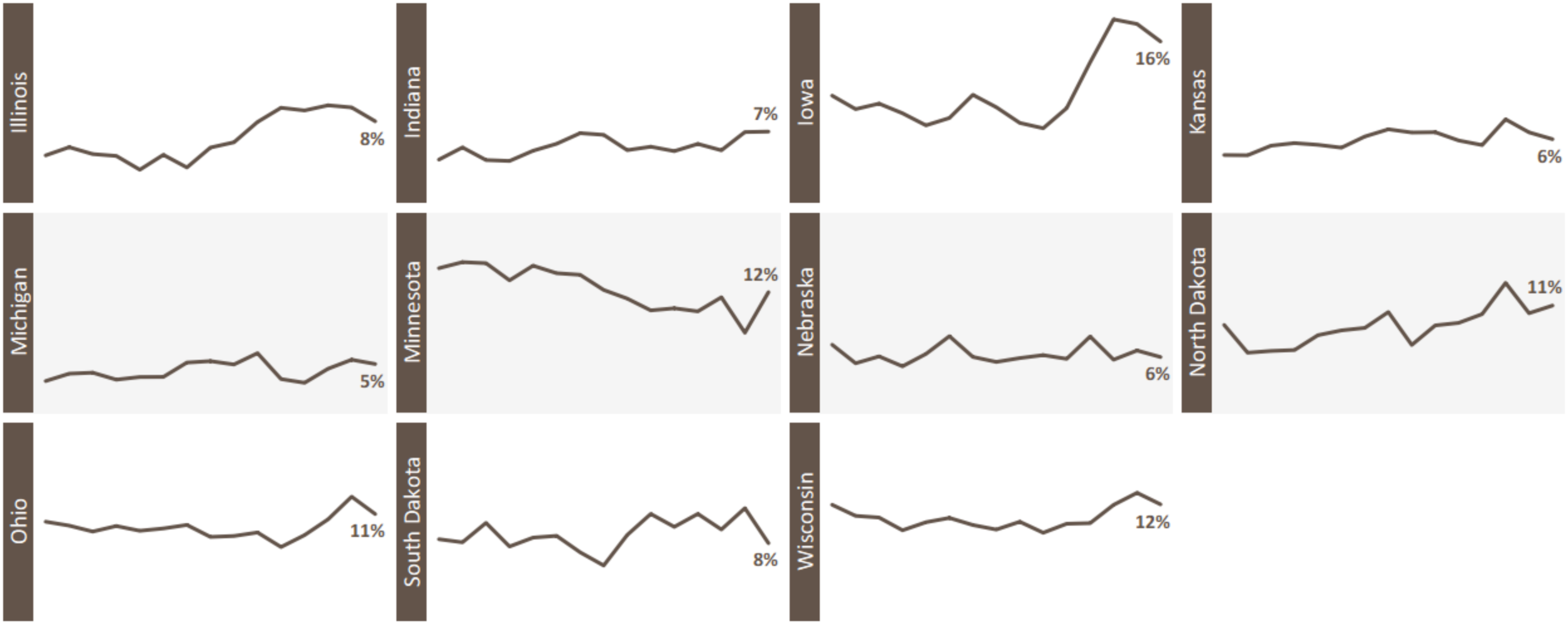


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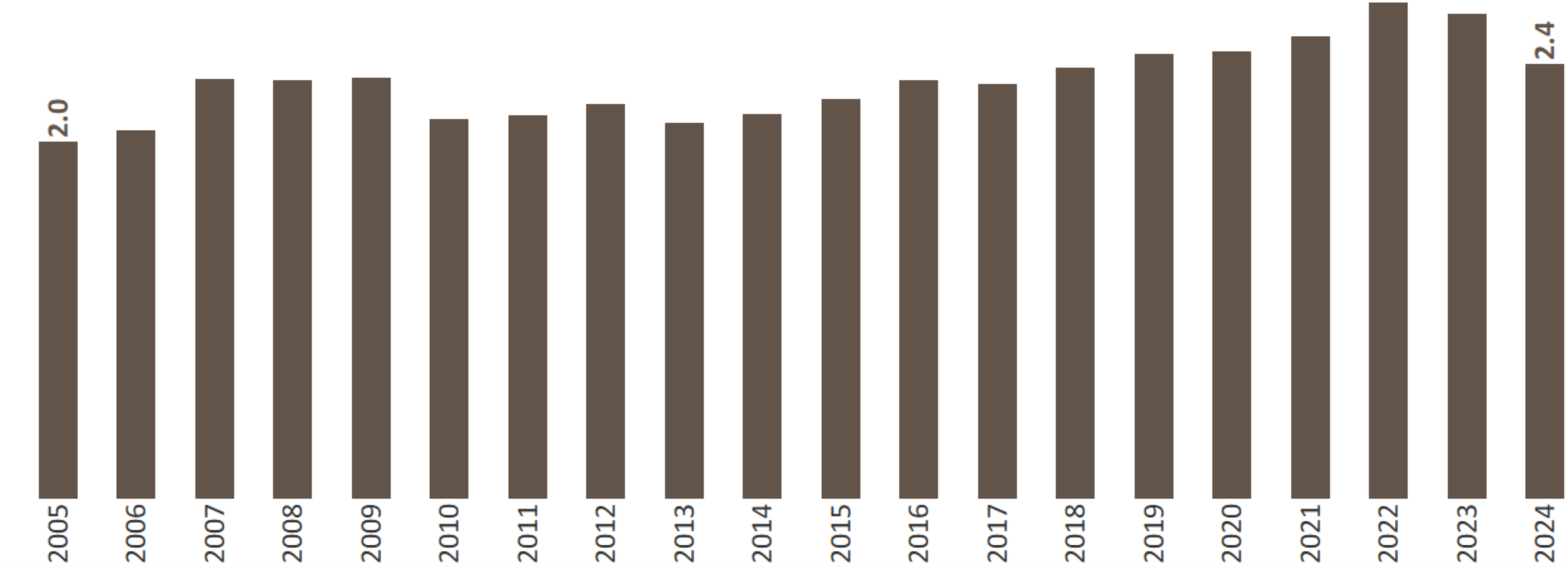
# National | **Rate of children involved in a fatality due to maltreatment** (per 100,000 children in population)

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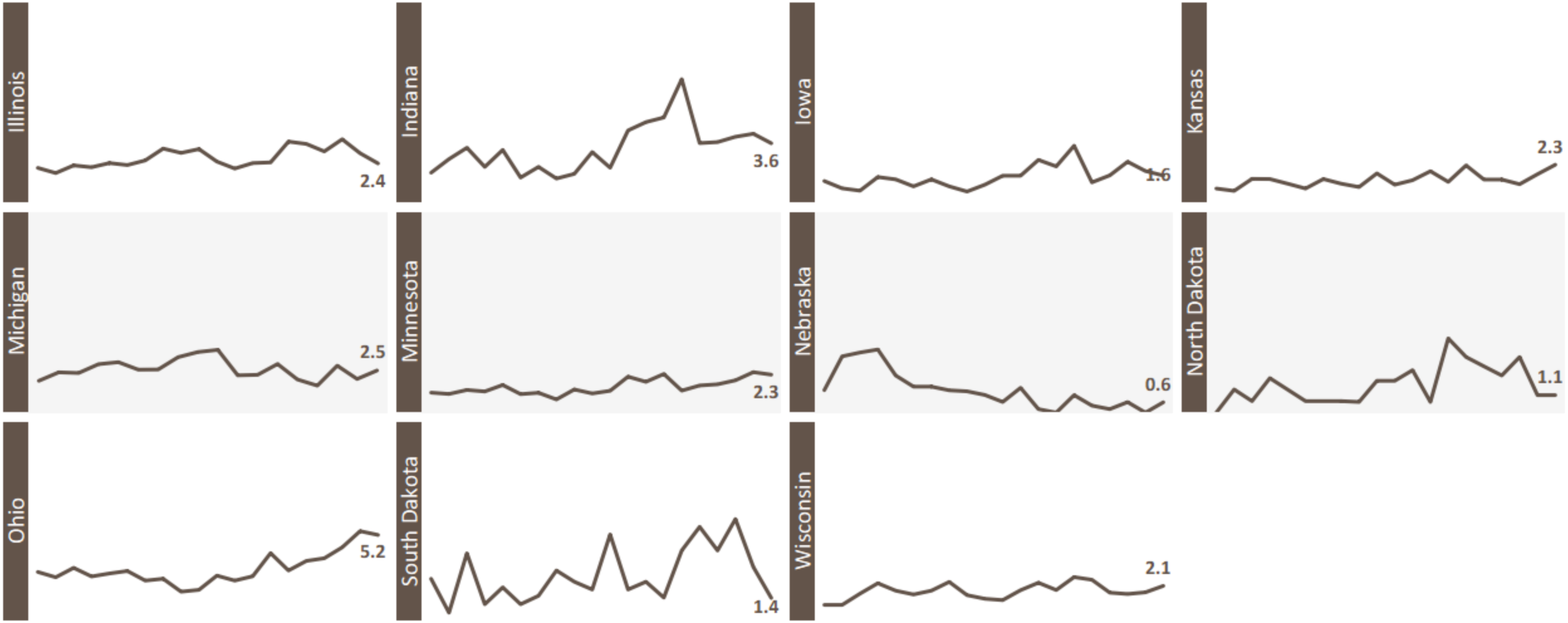


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# Improving Child Safety - Response to Child Fatalities

- Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities
- Highest risk for 0-3
- Use data as a performance improvement tool
- Prioritize partnerships across child serving agencies
- Child Fatality Reviews

# Examples of ways to consider legislative oversight of your child protection system

Consider developing an Oversight Committee

Form a Joint Committee or Caucus dedicated to improving outcomes for children and families

Convene judiciary/court partners with state agency partners to jointly identify system change opportunities.

# Policy Considerations

## What can you do?

- Engage partners across the three branches of government as well as multi- sector partners who share responsibility for child safety
- Encourage timely information sharing among and between Healthcare, Law Enforcement and Child Protection professionals
- Target resources for services that keep children safely with their families