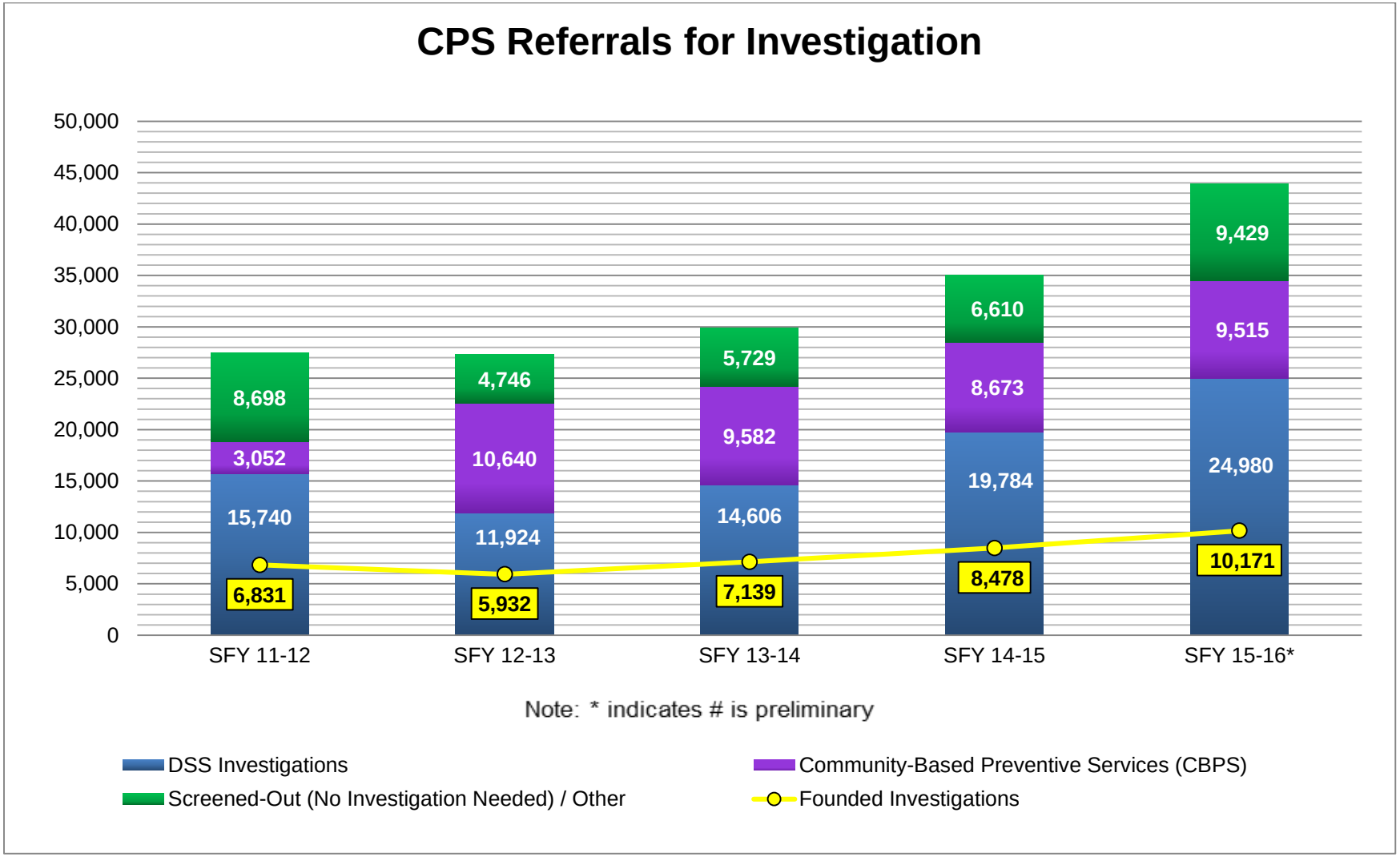
Due to the large number of reports alleging abuse or neglect of children in South Carolina, in January 2012 SCDSS added an additional method for processing Child Protective Services reports, resulting in a three-tiered plan: (1) if the report alleges that the safety of the child is at risk, DSS conducts an investigation ("DSS investigations" below); (2) if the report sounds like the family needs support but the SAFETY of the child(ren) is NOT compromised, the report is referred to a "Community-Based Preventive Service," as labeled below; and (3) if the report does not indicate that the safety or well-being of the child is at risk or needs to be referred to a different department, the report is "Screened out (No investigation needed)/Other." DSS intake staff use the structured Appropriate Response Tool to assess of safety and risk for all the children in the home to guide them in determining which of the 3 options is best for each report to ensure the safety and well-being of the children in the reported family.



SCDSS - Accountability, Data, and Research Division (effective September 1, 2016)