

# Child welfare failure in Nebraska: It's as simple as 1-2-3

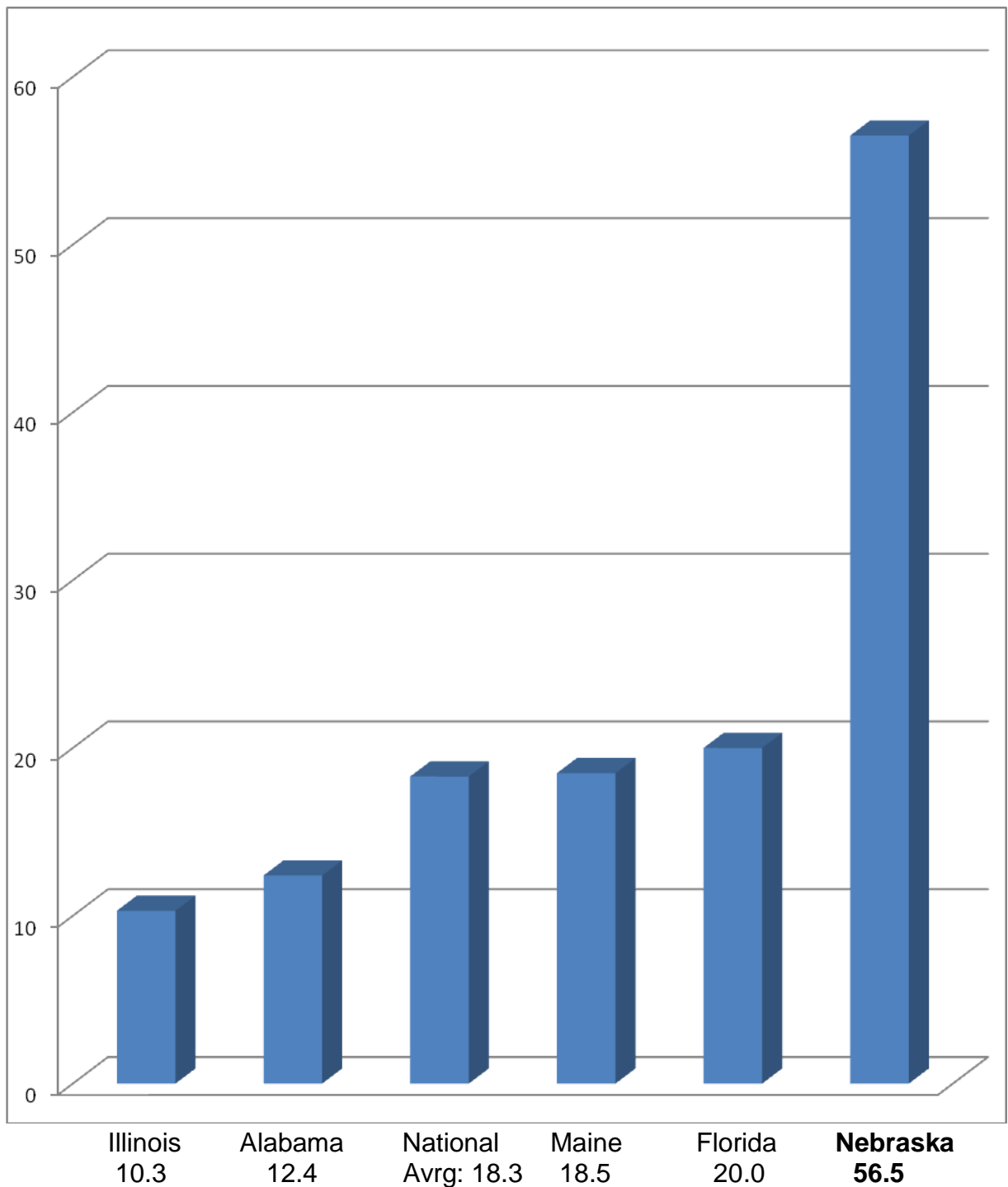
The graphs on the following pages compare Nebraska to the national average and to states that are nationally-recognized for making significant improvements in child welfare. Independent evaluations and national experts have found that these states have significantly lowered entries into care, improved placements for children, and improved child safety.

No state does well in every category. **But only Nebraska does badly in all of them.**

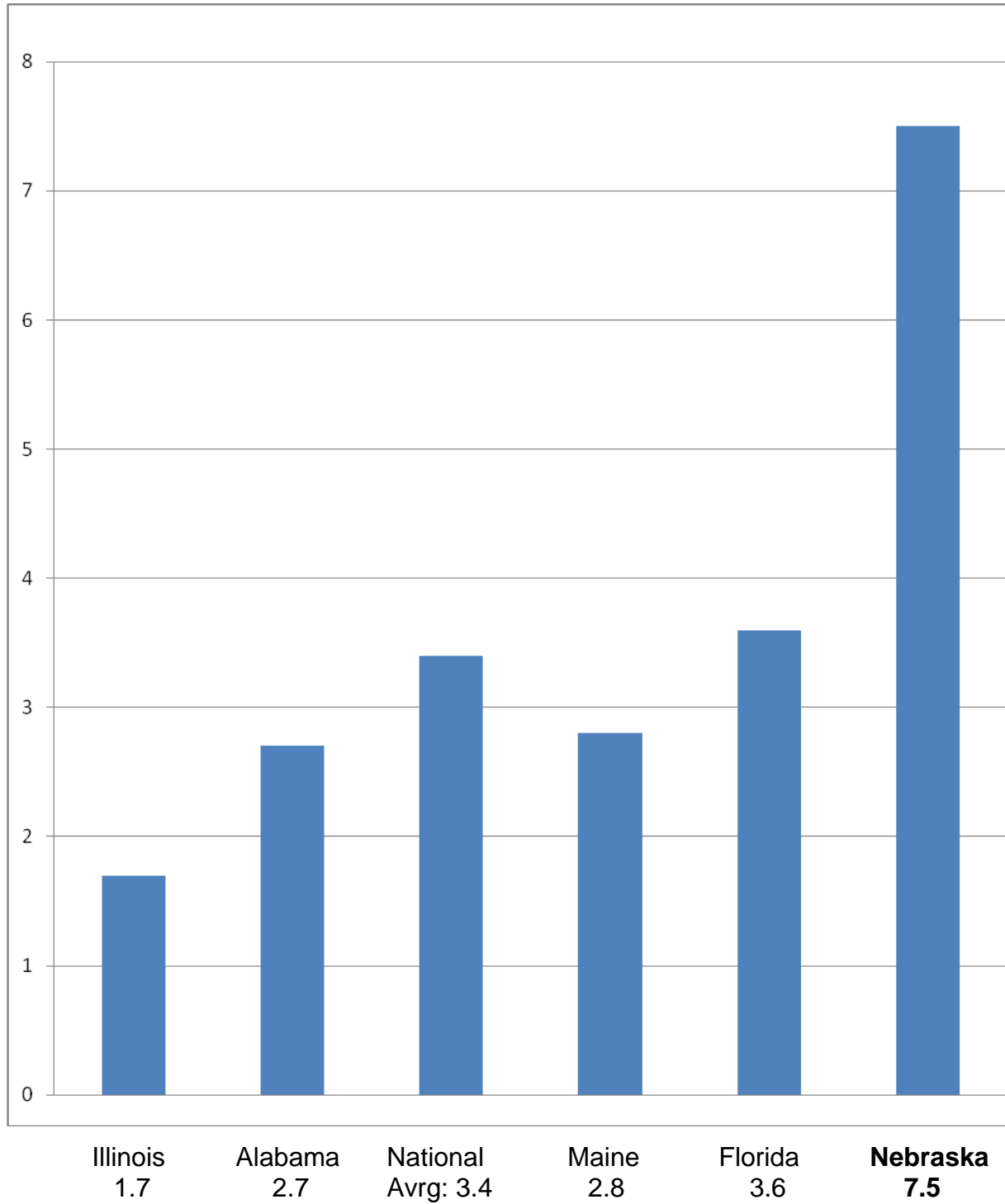
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# 1. Nebraska tears apart families at one of the highest rates in the nation.

Number of children taken from their homes per thousand impoverished children, 2010:

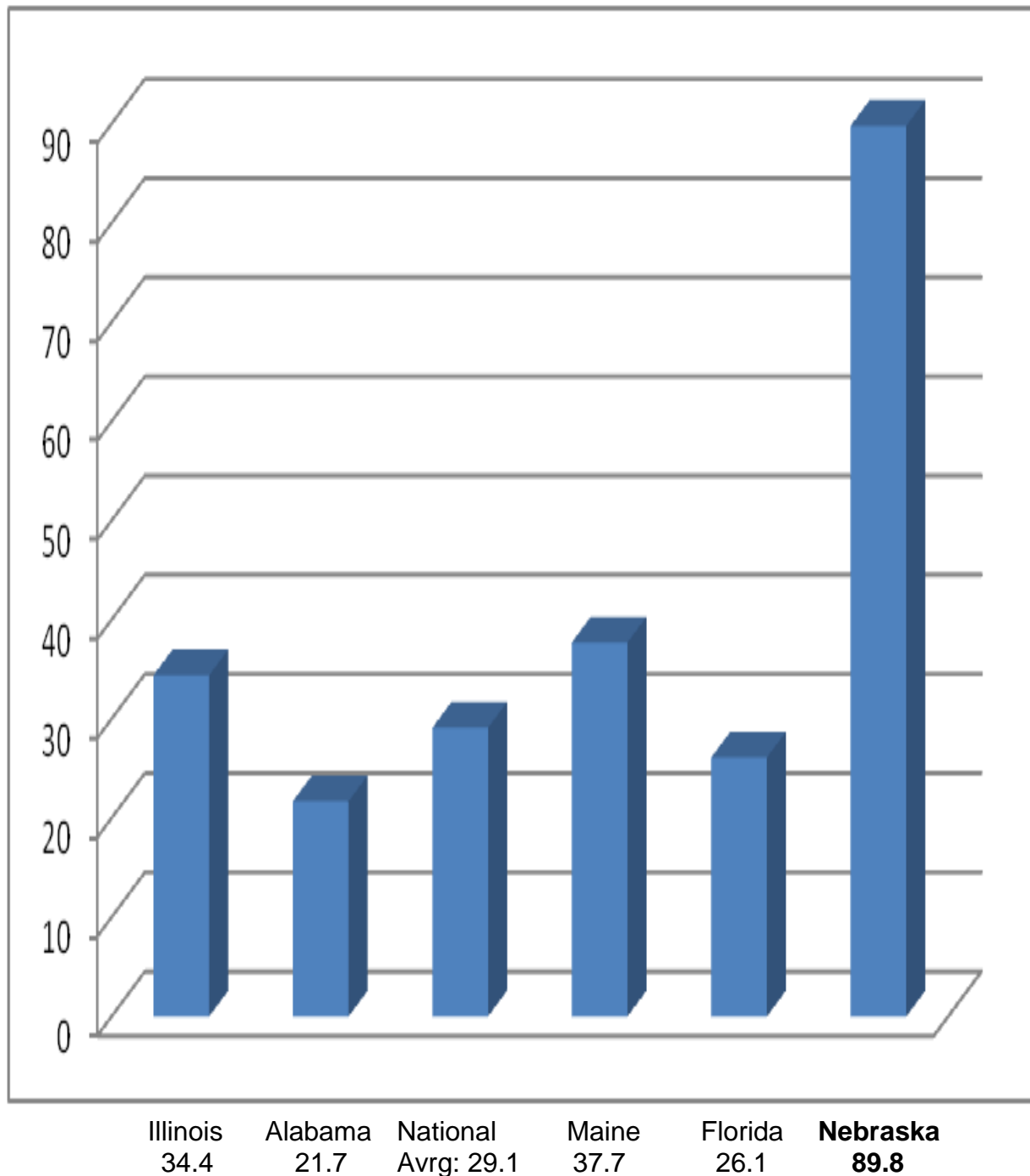


Number of children taken from their homes per thousand children (without factoring in poverty), 2010:

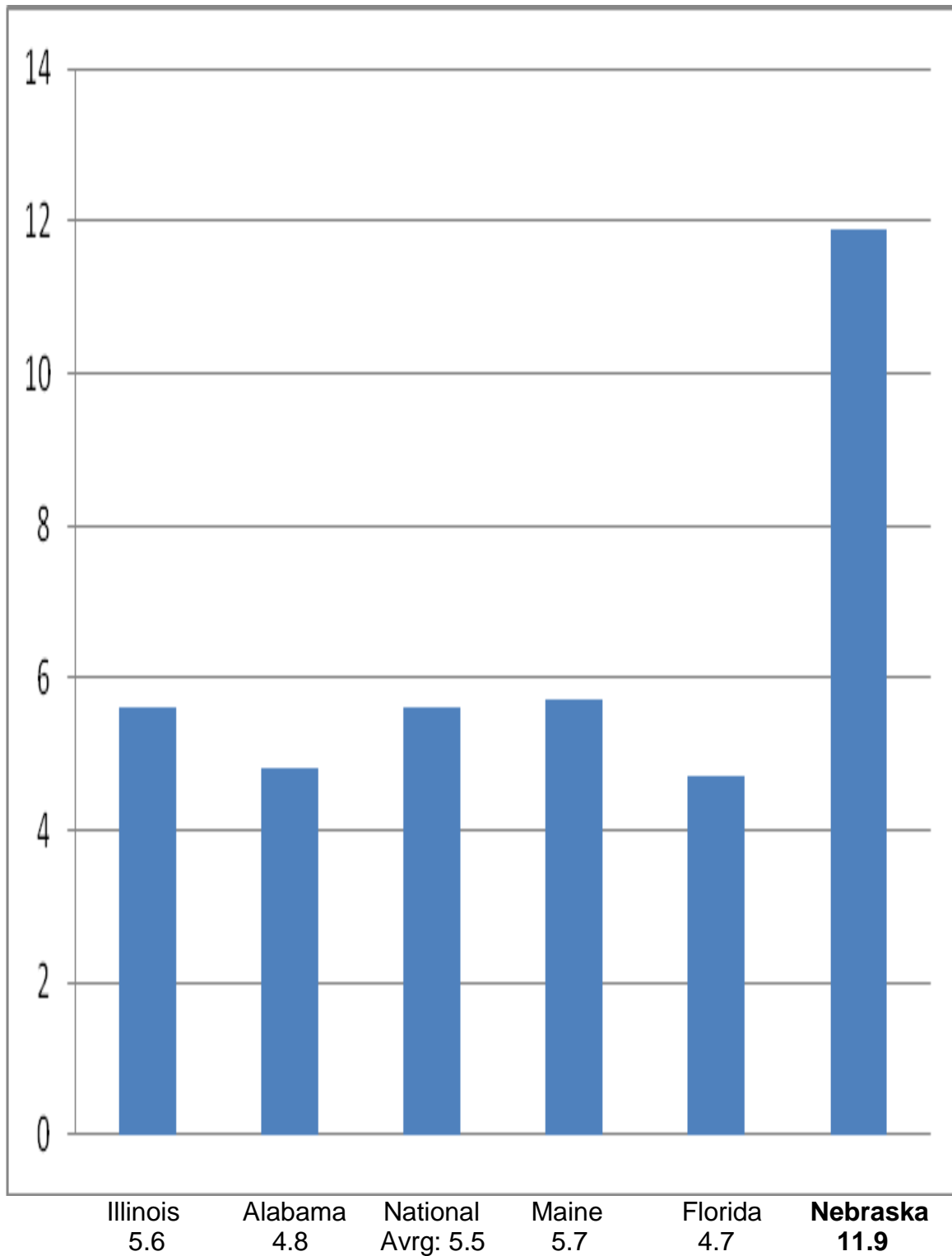


## 2. Nebraska traps proportionately more children in foster care than almost any other state.

Number of children IN foster care on Sept. 30, 2010 per thousand impoverished children:

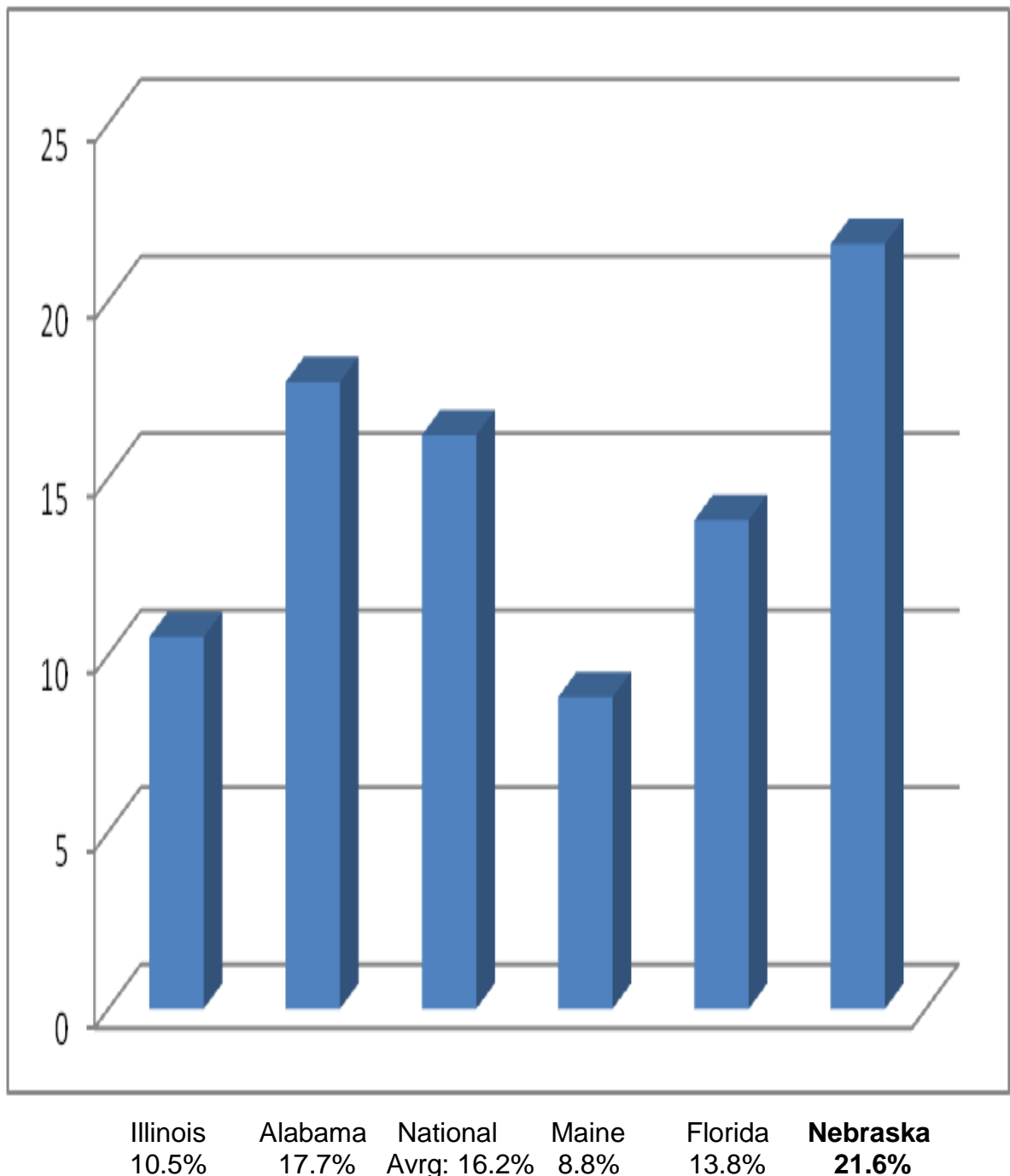


Number of children IN foster care on Sept. 30, 2010 per thousand children (without factoring in poverty):

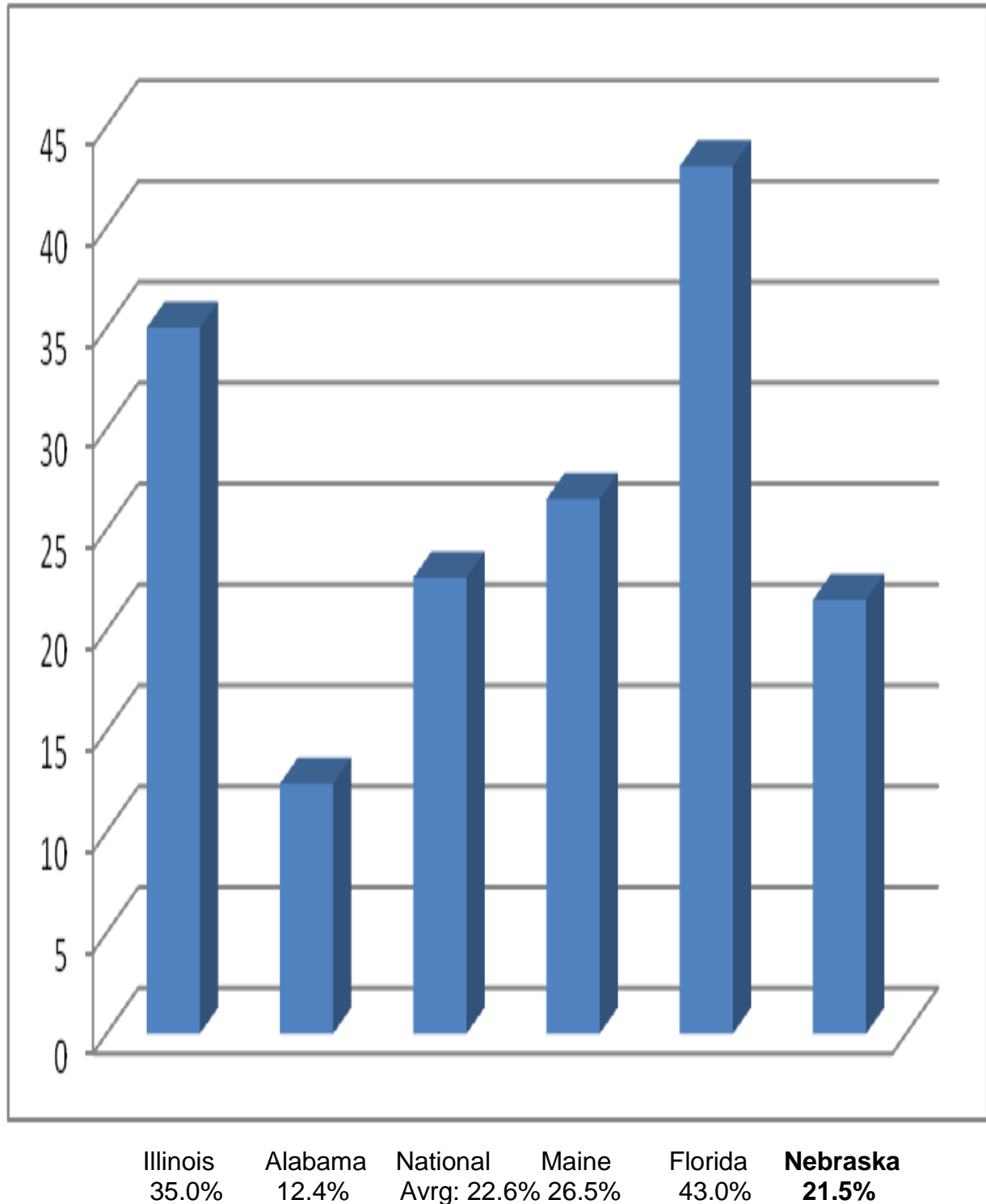


3. Nebraska uses the most harmful form of care more than most states and underuses the least harmful form of care.

Percentage of foster children in the MOST HARMFUL form of foster care, group homes and institutions, on Sept. 30, 2010:

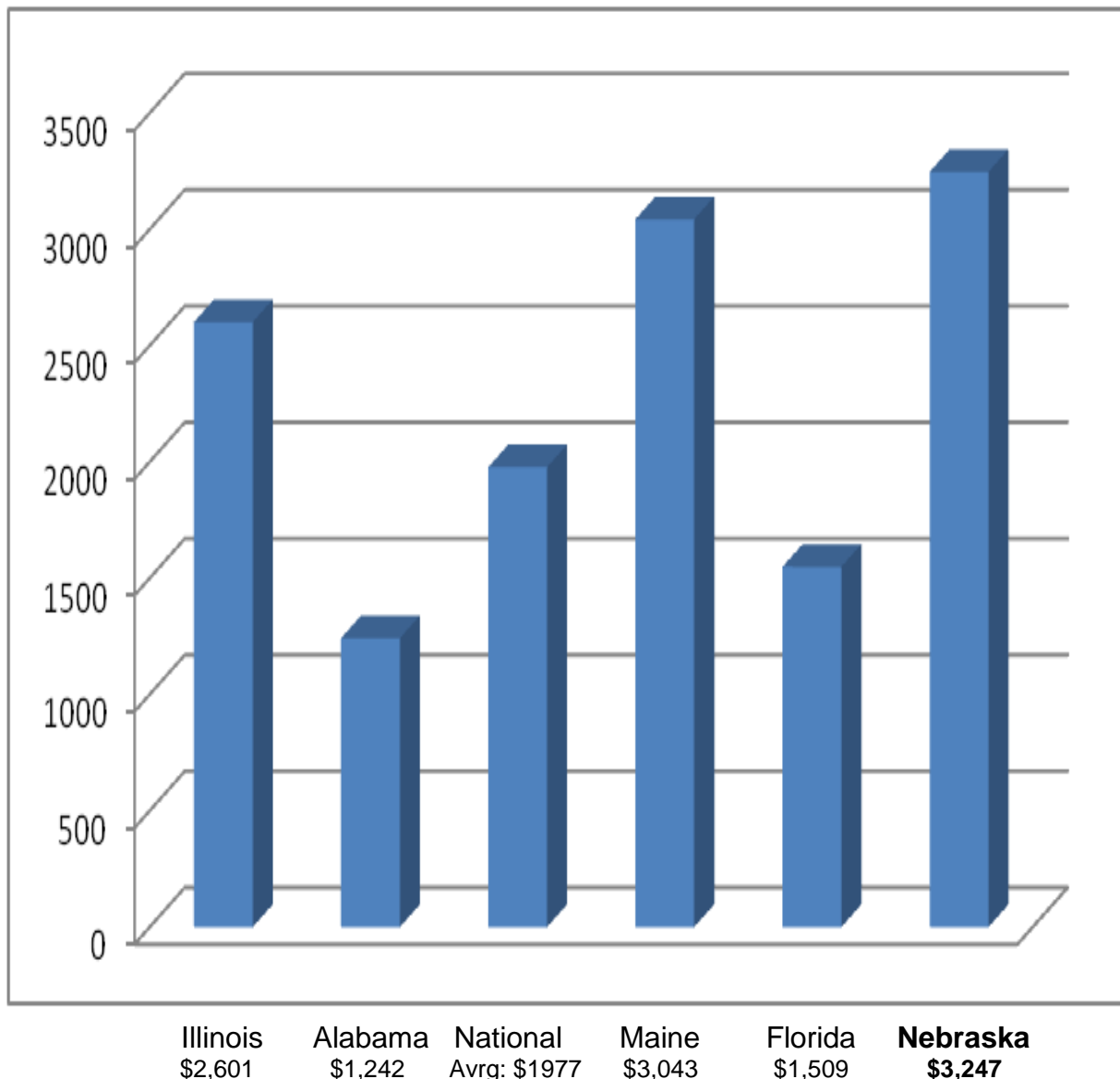


Percentage of foster children in the LEAST HARMFUL form of foster care, kinship foster care, on Sept. 30, 2010. (This is the one graphic in which a tall bar indicates a state that is doing well. Look who comes up short.)



Nebraska spends more than other states, but the children get so much less:

Child welfare spending per impoverished child, 2006:\*



\*-Unfortunately, the most recent comparative spending study uses data only from 2006. But while many states have faced budget cuts since then, the relative position of the states probably is similar. If anything, the gap may have grown, since Nebraska increased spending to cover unanticipated costs of privatization.

**Sources:**

**Child population and impoverished child population:** U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Survey, Annual Demographic Survey, 2009 Annual Social and Economic Supplement*, available online at [http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstables/032010/pov/new46\\_100125\\_03.htm](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstables/032010/pov/new46_100125_03.htm). NCCPR uses a three-year average for this figure. To get totals for 2008, change 032010 to 032009 in the preceding URL. For 2007, go here: [http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032008/pov/new46\\_100125\\_03.htm](http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032008/pov/new46_100125_03.htm). For our comparison to total child population, only the 2009 data are used.

**Entries into care and number of children in foster care:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, *Foster Care FY 2002 - FY 2009 Entries, Exits, and Numbers of Children In Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal Year* [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats\\_research/afcars/statistics/entryexit2010.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/afcars/statistics/entryexit2010.pdf)

**Percentage of children in different types of placements:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, obtained by NCCPR through a federal Freedom of Information Act request.

**Spending:** Kerry DeVooght et. al, *Federal, State and Local Spending to Address Child Abuse and Neglect in SFY 2006*. Washington, D.C.: Child Trends, December, 2008). Available online at [http://www.ChildTrends.org/Files/Child\\_Trends-2009\\_02\\_17\\_FR\\_CWFinancePaper.pdf](http://www.ChildTrends.org/Files/Child_Trends-2009_02_17_FR_CWFinancePaper.pdf)