

LIST OF INDIVIDUALS WITH EXPERTISE IN ADOPTIONS

Judith Goodhand, Director
Cuyahoga County Children Services
3955 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115
Phone: (216) 431-4500
Fax: (216) 432-3379

Elizabeth Cole
Children's Services Consultant
286 Thompson Mill Rd.
New Hope, Pennsylvania 18938
Phone: (215) 598-0414

Carole Shauffer, Executive Director
Youth Law Center
114 Sansome Street, Suite 950
San Francisco, CA 94104-3820
Phone: (415) 543-3379
Fax: (415) 956-9022

Greg Coler
Transactive Corporation
16627 Woodland Avenue
Austin, Texas 78741-2554
Phone: (512) 912-4010
Fax: (512) 912-4110

Joan M. Reeves, Commissioner
City of Philadelphia
Department of Human Services
1401 Arch Street, Room 312
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102
Phone: (215) 686-6000
Fax: (215) 686-8605

Rev. Wayne Thompson, President
National One Church, One Child, Inc.
c/o First Baptist Institutional Church
3144 Third Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33712
Phone: (813) 323-7518
Fax: (813) 323-4790

CHILD WELFARE

FAMILY PRESERVATION -

- originally conceived as 1 yr - but there is flexibility
- built on notion that child safety / family wellness depend on strong community

Rank communities by zip code for # kids in placement and poverty.

- went to top six communities w/ highest need.
- inclusive
- Came from Pres Network - gp of comm soc succ agencies

Contract w/ least agencies - max stake w/ at least 2 agencies.

- multi-disciplinary case planning team
- three levels of treatment - w/ home visitation 4-16 visits per month.

Collabs w/ MH, Probation.

- Truly a collab w/ the community.
- not business as usual: can be difficult.

Permanency Planning Initiative -

Goal: Deal w/ FC becoming perm.

Incr # child going into legally perm home -
either w/ parents or adopt.

- #s coming in going up
- staying longer

Initiative is collab w/ Youth Law Ctr

- 3 yr pilot.

- Three tiers: ① Identify barriers partly ② Pilot in
one region.

- really highlighted need to train staff re adoption.

- 55% of children in placement are w/ relatives.

- 42,900 kids in FC

27,000 in permanency. (12-18 mos)

*** → 12-18 mos fed'l mandate that not wait until
the child can be judged to be ready for
perm. planning

→ Hen

HEALTH

Health care task force

- Prot. Service Child Health Service
- 1993 - brought in Public Health nurses to help CWS understand health system, needs, plans.

* HUBS Multi Discip Assessment Teams

Psych }
NP } work system to comp
Per. } assess child
SW }

- have a data system
- also have community involvement.
- have seen 1,000 kids - no evaluation

Comm Based Placement

- address visitation issue - parents and siblings
- keep child in community of origin.
- piloting in Rochester
- recruited 40 new FC providers - up from 11.
- flow: Wavers from state of 2 kids/32 rule for instance for sibling.
- school's participation has been kept.
- FC Council is number of cases planning down
- FC/MM/Health/Schools picked themselves, it > 10

- FC parent as a model for Biol. parent
- looking for Casey grant to expand.

- testing out 30 day attachment law
- ensures network in place so when child is returned support networks are there

CHANGES TO LAW/ROGS

Attitude on termination needs to be changed.

Foster parents have to take ask adoption b/c they reason they can keep till 18.

For FC

* AA = what child will get in FC.

* - 2 yr limit? Reviewed.

- init everyone special needs.

Ally's will advise clients not to adopt

* - Thus out 2 yr limit on AAP.

WESTCHESTER

What are kids who end up graduating in
factor?

What opps created for them?

- 1,000 emancipated a yr in LA - 20% returning?

What do we say to kids as they leave?

JLP → 11 coordinators

- voluntary program

- k w/ 11-12 com colleges for ind living classes -
6-8 wk classes at night

- \$100 incentives

- Skill centers provide hard skills - know \$100

- Financial aid workshops

- High School Diploma - \$50

• Plan req'd for ex youth by 18.

* JLP is a fixed amt - yet FC pop
is rising

→ Working to ensure that kids who graduate get
to go to college \$2500/kid.

GUARANTEES of college — 1st yr 100% guarantee
500 18 yr olds took it up.

- * Housing For ILP \$ can't pay for housing
 - some CC's have developed housing new companies.

Solve this problem if no fed'l \$.

Ax APD started housing program - with a supportive
housing grant - have 13 sites.

For - HUD

county

foundations

United Friends of Children

Scatter site - 8 people per site

- homeless lot risk of homelessness
- 18 aging out - no income -
no support system

- 34 people in the program

- some private groups are at this as well

Turn over 100 youth.

- 60 more under construction.

- * HUD identifying homeless foster youth as
a priority.

→ \$10M foundation grant - creating infrastructure
13 staff to coordinate.

- service supports -

- 18 mos. avg LOS 14 mos.

- kids pm rev

-

Peer Component - effort to find a job, pay rev, saving.

50% of kids in housing program are out of group home.

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

- all 70,000 kids must do 2 hrs of homework

- promise of school post HS.

→ 60% - 2/3 have responded to educ challenge.

Use 2 to think 1/3 / 1/3 / 1/3.

JOB

1200 - 1600 youth STEP - hopefully 2,000

- first time work experience / work ethic.

- STEP

• Private Sector.

⑧ → LA County has set aside 5% of entry-level jobs for foster care youth.

Creating pathways to emancipation

- incl. living training
- housing
- scholarship / opp for higher ed
- job / income
- med. insurance

ILP is somewhat matched.

Challenge: don't abandon at 19.

Calif Youth Connection

- 14-18 y.o. discuss public policy issues.
- come up with leg. agenda.

FED'L CHANGES

① Focus: more safety/protection

- "reasonable efforts" - have become futile and hopeless

- temping: rejection of unreasonable efforts

• Multi-kill families

• Child in back mind

• Parents have long history of violence

→ why try to reunify for 18 weeks,

② Equal best efforts for legal permanency.

③ Take same \$ from FP/FS to support post-adoption services. Family Support & can go to post-adoption - can ask him at least same of go to adopt home.

④ New waiver for sensitive courts to need for adoptive home.

⑤

⑤ Issues around emancip. youth

- hiring = diff ways to get colleges, contractors to hire
- only 20,000 people.
- HUD categories.

→ WLD NOT mirror A.A.P.

① HHS compliance review - heavy on paper, light on substance -
• Children's Bureau did focus more on outcomes

② FP/FS - defined solely as process - no standards
↳ everyone did something different.
↳ fed'l law only says "meet!" -
not even states in setting up fed'l

→ California has some incentives - 87.5% S/Fed \$
for AAP case. Only 70% for non-AAP.

Have to be careful w/ fin'l incentives -
You'll have atypical parents.
- don't want to discourage f.c. -
w/ry ASL maintained consequences

- ① Judy Goodhand - Cleveland
- ② York Law Center
- ③ Gene Chuman - state dir - OH centers.
- ④ Philly director.
- ⑤ Jess McDermott Illinois.
- ⑥ Greg ^{Coker} ~~Kittler~~ - FL, IL, NY - now in Austin
TX - Rep - now doing EBT.
- ⑦ Nancy Dwyer - United Friends of Children
- Hollywood Connection

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES



SPECIAL INFORMATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO STAFF AND POSTING ON EMPLOYEE BULLETIN BOARDS

1996 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

TO: All Children's Social Workers

DO YOU HAVE A YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE GRADUATING IN 1996 WHO CAN USE SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE? IF YES, WE NEED THE NAME.

Every young person emancipating from our system deserves the opportunity to advance their education, whether through college or a trade school, with the full support and backing of this Department. Beginning with the Class of 1996, this Department will offer scholarship assistance where necessary, to make certain that 100% of our eligible young people have a chance to continue their education. This assistance is provided after all other sources of scholarships and loans have been exhausted.

This is a significant and a correct position for us to take, but also one that will require complete cooperation across the educational systems, the private community, the operators of Group Homes, the individual Foster Parents, and by every Children's Social Worker who has a potentially eligible youth in their caseload. Any of us who have had to help our own child with college applications and the related financial packages already know how complicated and frightening the process has become.

The Department has created a Scholarship Review Committee that meets weekly to monitor the status of the overall preparation process for upcoming graduates, whether or not they are in ILP. In addition, they deal with individual requests for financial assistance, or related, for those youths already in college or trade school where those needs are beyond the services that can be provided by ILP. This new committee will be tracking the status of the application process for every senior.

The Committee needs your help to make certain that no potentially eligible young person misses this tremendous opportunity. By returning this notice with the information requested on the reverse, you will have already helped your youth. Even if the youth is already enrolled in ILP, we still need your information. As the college/trade school application process moves forward over the next few months, it will become apparent which youths and CSWs may need additional help. The goal of the committee is to be there to help you.

If you have any questions, please call Brian Berger at (213) 351-5596, or any of the following Committee members:

Stacey Savelle (213) 351-5773
Steve Sanders (310) 914-7494

Peggy Belcher-Dixon (213) 351-4841
Teresa Wong

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter Digre".
PETER DIGRE, DIRECTOR



SCHOLARSHIP PLANNING/REVIEW COMMITTEE

SURVEY OF PROBABLE 1996 GRADUATES



I believe the youth listed below will be graduating from High School in 1996 and will/may be needing scholarship support to continue in school.

I. Preliminary Scholarship Information

Youth's Name _____ Date of Birth _____
Case Number _____ SS# _____
CSWs Name _____ Office _____
Is the youth in the Independent Living Program? Yes ___ No ___
If Yes, ILP Coordinator _____
Is the youth planning to pursue higher education? Yes ___ No ___
If Yes, has a school been selected _____
Is the youth in out-of-home care? Yes ___ No ___
If No, was the youth in Foster Care anytime after 16 years Yes ___ No ___
If No, explain current situation _____
Is there special needs the youth may have? Yes ___ No ___
If yes, please explain _____

Signature of CSW

Telephone #

Date

=====
After completing Section I, please send or FAX your information to both:

1. Brian Berger, Director, Special Services
425 Shatto Place, Room 200
Los Angeles, CA 90020
FAX (213) 385-4391
2. Your Regional Administrator

From the above information, a department control list will be developed. The Scholarship Review Committee will track the progress of each youth against the action items listed in Section II in order to both provide preparation help where needed and to determine where scholarship support will be necessary.

=====
II. Steps to be monitored in the Application/Scholarship process(not including tests):*

- Completion/submission of college/trade school application
- Receipt of acceptance letter or proof of enrollment
- Completion/submission of financial aid application
- Receipt of financial aid reward letter
- Report of the youths anticipated school expenses/aid (tuition, fees, housing, etc. vs grants, loans, job. etc.)**
- Determination/award of scholarship

Note:

* The Committee will provide help where appropriate to "package" the best possible admission/housing/financial arrangements. The list will help speed the release of information to all involved.

** This will be on a separate form provided beginning May 1, 1996.

-TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Our Transitional Housing Program was developed in 1993 with the award of a HUD Grant

Primary Goals:

- To prevent emancipated foster youth who are at eminent Risk of Homelessness from becoming Homeless.

- To provide youth with the necessary life skills to become Self-Supporting.

Specialized Contracted Programs

Project OASIS - Reg. II Only
Rites of Passage - Reg VI Only

IN Addition.....

Special Workshops are given from time to time.

Workshops have included:

- =College Orientation Day
- =Job Corps Orientation Day
- =California Conservation Corps Orientation Day
- =Independent City
- =Self-Esteem Building
- =One Day Seminars
- =Foster Youth Conferences

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT YOUR
CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WORKER

OR
INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM
COORDINATOR

INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM COORDINATORS

MICHAEL ESPARZA (818) 858-1267
JULES GABAY (213) 933-1036
ERNESTINE CROSS (310) 348-6729
WAYNE TRAYLOR (818) 577-3779
FRED KNOTH (310) 903-5030
MELLISSA MUNOZ (818) 577-2562
LINDA VIZZINI (310) 497-3755
LOUELLA COPELAND (213) 846-2218
YOLANDA TORRES (213) 725-4544
VIRGINIA NATIONS (805) 726-7706
MARY REED (310) 312-6587
MACLAREN CHILDREN'S CENTER
HECTOR FREGOSO, PROJECT DIRECTOR
(818) 455-4510

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING
MICHAEL WRICE, PROJECT DIRECTOR
(310) 312-6579

STAFF
BELINDA GIBSON (310) 312-7940
MICHAEL PEARSON (310) 312-5247
LORRAINE JOHNSON (310) 312-7965
JOHN IRWIN (213) 738-2647

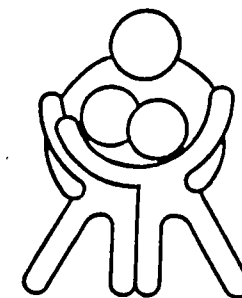
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPARTMENT
OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILY
SERVICES

INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM
11390 W. OLYMPIC BLVD., 4TH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90064
VIRGINIA L. HARRIS, DIRECTOR
(310) 312-7924 OR 7925
STEPHEN SANDERS, ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT
(310) 914-7494 OR 7495

INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM



GOING OUT
AND LIVING
SUCCESSFULLY



DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILY
SERVICES

INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

In 1988 Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services established its federally funded Independent Living Program for foster youth 16-21 years old. The primary goal of the program is to enable foster youth (16-21) achieve self sufficiency prior to leaving our foster care system. Our department contracted with the Community College Foundation and skill centers throughout Los Angeles County to provide information and skill training.

- Community College Classes

Classes are held at fifteen Community Colleges. The goal is to provide information that will eventually help the youth develop into productive citizens. An Outreach Advisor is assigned to each college to enroll and provide assistance to each youth.

The Four Modules Include:

- * Employability
- * Leaving Home Again
- * Choices and Consequences
- * Self-Help Skills

Each student receives a copy of a class Workbook, a Life Book and a Resource Book.

Transportation to the class is provided free of charge.

When you complete the course an incentive allowance is awarded.

SKILL CENTER TRAINING

TEN community agencies provide advanced training to prepare you for full time employment. A Skill Center Coordinator completes the enrollment of each youth and follow-thru to graduation.

Each agency program is slightly different. Each Skill Center serves a specific geographic area.

The Skill Center you attend is based on where you live. Skill Center programs may not be available in your area.

These programs focus on helping you assess your strengths and interests, and helps you explore the wide variety of careers available. You will also be prepared for employment and given assistance in finding employment.

Incentive allowances are paid to those who complete the Program.

*All eligible foster youth are referred to both the Community College classes and Skill Center by their ILP Coordinator.

THE INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM FUNDING

Money is available to purchase goods and services needed to achieve the emancipation plan worked out for you.

The plan must be developed with your Children's Social Worker. Your ILP Coordinator will assist you in obtaining your necessary funds. It can include money to pay for:

*EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

- child care
- transportation
- tools
- equipment
- books

*EMPLOYMENT

- Union dues
- Occupational licenses
- Workshops
- OJT training costs
- Uniforms
- Transportation
- Tools & Equipment

*COLLEGE/VOCATIONAL TRAINING EXPENSES

- Some Tuition Expenses
- Books and Supplies
- Transportation
- Start-up Dorm Items
- Clothes

Registration Fees for School.

Equipment needed for Job Training.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

PROGRAM OVERVIEW





FUNDING SOURCE

- ❖ PRIMARY SOURCE
- ❖ -U.S. DEPT. OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT
- ❖ SECONDARY SOURCE
- ❖ -D.C.F.S. CONTRIBUTION.
- ❖ -NON PROFIT.



HOUSING MODEL

- ❖ SCATTERED SITE HOUSING.
- ❖ - ONE AND TWO BEDROOM APTS
- ❖ RENTED IN THE GENERAL
- ❖ COMMUNITY.
- ❖ - SMALL APT. BUILDINGS TOTALLY
- ❖ OCCUPIED BY PROGRAM
- ❖ PARTICIPANTS.



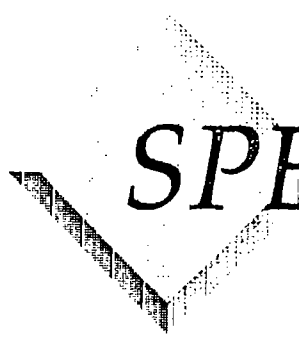
TARGET GROUP

- ❖ FOSTER YOUTH AND FORMER
- ❖ FORMER FOSTER YOUTH.
- ❖ 18 TO 20 YEARS OLD.
- ❖ MUST BE HOMELESS
- ❖ LIVING IN SHELTERS, EXITING
- ❖ FOSTER CARE WITHOUT HOUSING
- ❖ ARRANGEMENTS.



REFERRALS / INTAKE

- ❖ REFERRAL SOURCE
- ❖ SOCIAL WORKERS, HOMELESS SHELTER STAFF, ILP, OUTREACH ADVISORS.
- ❖ INTAKE
- ❖ REFERRAL FORM, HOUSING APPLICATION, TWO INTERVIEWS, LIFE SKILLS ASSESSMENT.



SPECIAL FEATURES

- ❖ SUBSIDIZED RENT
- ❖ PAID UTILITIES
- ❖ FURNISHED APARTMENTS
- ❖ FOOD STIPEND
- ❖ CHILD CARE STIPEND

INDEPENDENT LIVING BENEFITS

- ❖ FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR TEXT BOOKS, SCHOOL SUPPLIES, CLOTHING FOR WORK, SCHOOL TUITIONS, EQUIPMENT, FEES, ASSOCIATION DUES.



SUPPORTS SERVICES

- ❖ WEEKLY VISITS.
- ❖ LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOPS.
- ❖ EDUCATION PLANNING & ASSIST.
- ❖ JOB ASSISTANCE.
- ❖ CASE MANAGEMENT.
- ❖ ASSISTANCE WITH APT. SEARCH.
- ❖ TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE.

JOB TRAINING FOR DCFS YOUTH

On January 21, 1994, a **JOBS Section** was established by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to provide additional job development resources for emancipating foster youth.

The JOBS Section is conducting **Job Fairs and Job Skills Seminars** throughout Los Angeles County for DCFS foster youth, to inform them about current job opportunities in County departments, the public sector, and the private sector. In addition, the JOBS Section's staff take the time to provide pre-employment training of the youth in attendance. Various issues from how to dress, the interview process, and one's conduct on the job are discussed.

In addition, DCFS has a **JOBS Drop-in Center** located at 3550 West Sixth Street, Suite 205, Los Angeles, CA 90020, where DCFS youth can receive pre-employment training and job counseling. The JOBS Section's telephone number is (213) 738-2667.

The DCFS also contracts with the California Community Colleges Foundation (CCCCF), to provide Pre-Employment Training Workshops for DCFS youth. In these workshops, the following components are covered:

- **The Job Search**
- **Knowledge and Preparation**
- **Attitude and Appearance**
- **Sample Letters**
- **Applications**
- **Resume Preparation**
- **The Interview Process**
- **Conduct and Motivation**
- **Keeping Your Job**
- **Leaving Your Job**



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
JOBS SECTION**

FACT SHEET

On January 21, 1994, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) established a JOBS Section to provide additional job development resources for emancipating foster youth. The goal of the section is to generate a minimum of 300 full-time and 1000 part-time jobs for foster youth from County departments and private industries.

The primary focus of the JOBS Section is job recruitment for emancipating foster youth. The JOBS Section staff work with various County departments and private industries to identify jobs for foster youth throughout the County of Los Angeles.

The JOBS Section has a Drop-In-Center located at 3550 West Sixth Street, Suite 205, Los Angeles, CA 90020 (between Normandie and Mariposa). DCFS youth can contact the JOBS Section to make an appointment to complete an Employment Referral form. The completed form will be reviewed and the youth matched to potential employers.

The JOBS Section also conducts Job Fairs throughout Los Angeles County to inform DCFS foster youth about current job opportunities in County departments and private industries.

If you would like more information about the Department of Children and Family Services JOBS Section please contact the following staff members:

**Jeff Dorsey, Project Director
Lillie King, Secretary (213) 738-2667
Al Willis, Employment Development (213) 739-7379
Mercy Avila, Employment Development (213) 739-7378**





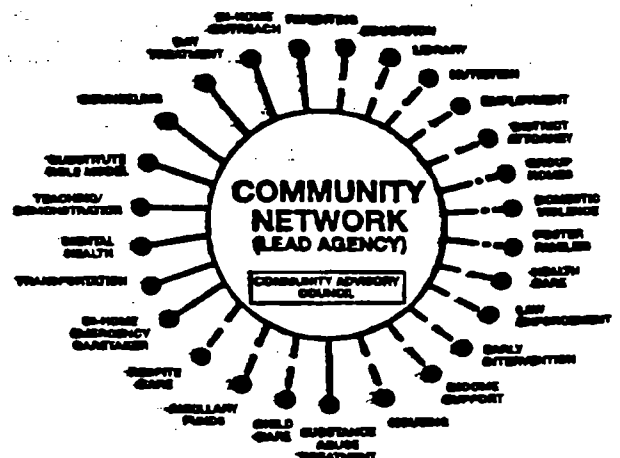
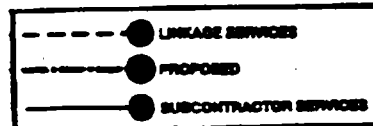
THE FAMILY PRESERVATION APPROACH IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

JULY, 1996

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graph TD
    MH((Mental Health)) --> Line
    AI((American Indian DCFS)) --> Line
    DCFS1((DCFS)) --> Line
    LE((Law Enforcement)) --> DCFS1
    MF((Medically Fragile DCFS)) --> Line
    PD((Probation Department)) --> Line
    DA((District Attorney)) --> PD
    AP((Asian Pacific DCFS)) --> Line
    Line(( ))
  
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SOUTH CENTRAL LOS ANGELES		COMPTON		POMONA VALLEY	ALTADENA/ PASADENA	ANTELOPE VALLEY
LONG BEACH					BALDWIN PARK/ ELMONTE	SOUTH EAST
EAST LOS ANGELES						
CENTRAL LOS ANGELES						
RIO HONDO		HARBOR				



COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION FOR FAMILY PRESERVATION

COMMUNITIES IDENTIFIED/PRIORITIZED/FUNDED BASED UPON NEED

- GROUP #1** SOUTH CENTRAL LOS ANGELES; COMPTON; LONG BEACH; NORTH CENTRAL SAN FERNANDO VALLEY; EAST LOS ANGELES & ECHO PARK (51 ZIP CODES - \$9 MILLION)
- GROUP #2** POMONA VALLEY; ANTELOPE VALLEY & ALTADENA/PASADENA (46 ZIP CODES - \$1.9 MILLION)
- GROUP #3** BALDWIN PARK/EL MONTE; PARAMOUNT/BELLFLOWER; CRENSHAW & LYNWOOD (21 ZIP CODES - \$2.9 MILLION)
- GROUP #4** CENTRAL LOS ANGELS; INGLEWOOD & HUNTINGTON PARK/BELL/SOUTHGATE (18 ZIP CODES - \$1.7 MILLION)
- GROUP #5** HAWTHORNE/TORRANCE/BEACH CITIES; WILMINGTON/CARSON/SAN PEDRO; PICO RIVERA/WHITTIER/SANTA FE SPRINGS & SPECIAL POPULATIONS (38 ZIP CODES - \$2.3 MILLION)
- GROUP #6** COVINA/MONROVIA/SAN DIMAS; SAN FERNANDO & CONEJO VALLEYS & WALNUT/DIAMOND BAR/LA PUENTE (44 ZIP CODES - \$1.6 MILLION)
- GROUP #7** ROSEMEAD/ALHAMBRA/MONTEREY PARK/TEMPLE CITY/SAN GABRIEL; HOLLYWOOD/LOS FELIZ; SANTA CLARITA VALLEY & SANTA MONICA/WEST LOS ANGELES/CULVER CITY/VENICE (51 ZIP CODES - \$1.3 MILLION)

UNPRECEDENTED COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY - IN-HOME/OUTREACH

PROVIDES VARIED INTENSITY OF SERVICE BASED ON LEVELS OF RISK

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WORKERS AND DEPUTY PROBATION OFFICERS DETERMINE SERVICE INTENSITY LEVELS:

LEVEL 1: 4 IN-HOME/OUTREACH CONTACTS + SERVICE PACKAGE \$954/MONTH

LEVEL 2: 8 IN-HOME/OUTREACH CONTACTS + SERVICE PACKAGE \$1,212/MONTH

LEVEL 3: 16 IN-HOME/OUTREACH CONTACTS + SERVICE PACKAGE \$1,558/MONTH

DAY TREATMENT: PROBATION SUPERVISION/EDUCATION PACKAGE \$1,000/MONTH

TRANSITION: 1 IN-HOME CONTACT + SELF HELP GROUP \$333/MONTH

LOS ANGELES COUNTY'S UNIQUE DEFINITION

Family Preservation is:

An integrated, comprehensive approach to strengthening and preserving families who are at risk of or already experiencing problems in family functioning with the goal of assuring the physical, emotional, social, educational, cultural and spiritual development of children in a safe, secure and nurturing environment.

GOALS

1. Assure the safety of children.
2. Empower families to resolve their own problems.
3. Build on family strengths.
4. Identify problems early and solve them.
5. Involve the community in family support.
6. Decrease the need for public resources over time.
7. Break multi-generational dependency upon public services.

SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

COMMUNITY FAMILY PRESERVATION NETWORKS

- Comprehensive community systems of services;
- Lead agencies serving as program leader;
- Network agencies subcontracted for services;
- Multi-disciplinary case planning with each family;
- 24-Hour crisis response by community agencies;
- Community Advisory Councils for accountability;
- Written protocols to linkage services

PRINCIPLES OF THE FAMILY PRESERVATION APPROACH IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

FAMILY PRESERVATION IN LOS ANGELES:

- 1. ASSURES THAT CHILDREN WHO ARE RECEIVING FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES IN THEIR OWN HOMES ARE SAFE AND SECURE**
- 2. FOCUSES ON THE FAMILY AS A UNIT AND IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR COMMUNITY**
- 3. INVOLVE THE COMMUNITY IN BUILDING AND PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES SUITED TO THE UNIQUE CULTURAL, ETHNIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC NEEDS OF NEIGHBORHOODS**
- 4. EMPOWERS FAMILIES TO RESOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, EFFECTIVELY UTILIZE SERVICE SYSTEMS AND ADVOCATE FOR THEIR CHILDREN WITH SCHOOLS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES AND OTHER COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS**
- 5. ASSESSES THE STRENGTHS OF THE FAMILY AND OFFERS A FLEXIBLE PACKAGE OF COMPREHENSIVE AND COORDINATED COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORTIVE SERVICES BASED ON THE ASSESSED NEEDS OF THE FAMILY**
- 6. ENSURE THAT FAMILY PROBLEMS ARE IDENTIFIED AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE AND A FULL RANGE OF SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TO A) PROTECT CHILDREN, B) PREVENT PROBLEM ESCALATION, AND C) ENGAGE FAMILIES IN A CHANGE PROCESS TO REMEDIATE IDENTIFIED FAMILY PROBLEMS**
- 7. ALLOWS FOR VARIED INTENSITY OF INTERVENTION AND IS NOT ARTIFICIALLY TIME LIMITED**
- 8. AFFIRMS THE CULTURAL VALUES OF THE FAMILY AND THE COMMUNITY**

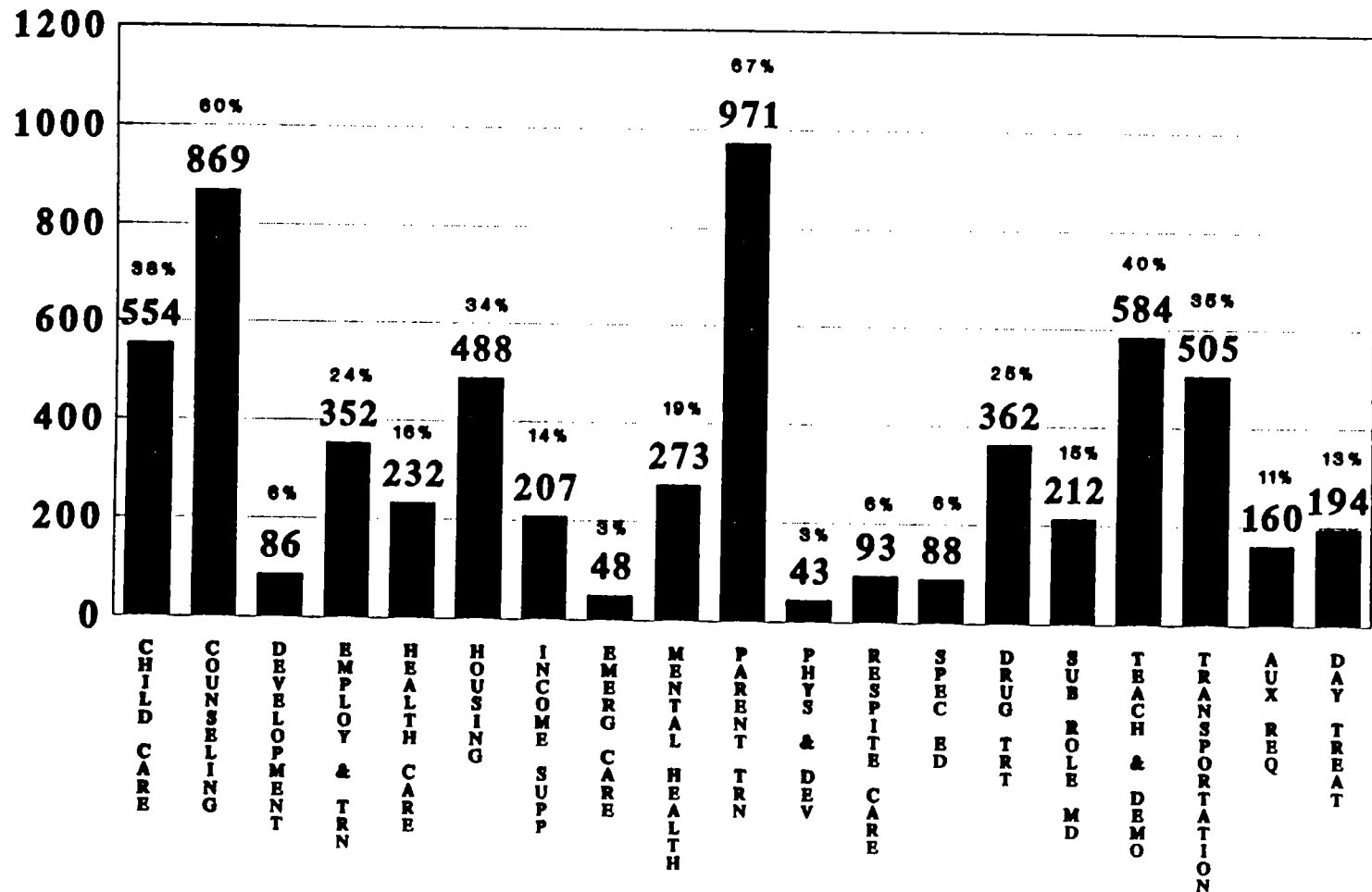
PROVISION OF SERVICE TO THE FAMILY
DIRECTLY WITH FAMILY PRESERVATION FUNDING

- O IN-HOME/OUTREACH COUNSELING CONTACTS**
- O TEACHING & DEMONSTRATING HOMEMAKER**
- O IN-HOME EMERGENCY CARETAKER**
- O INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY & GROUP COUNSELING**
- O PARENT TRAINING**
- O MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT (MATCHED WITH MEDI-CAL & STATE CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING)**
- O SUBSTITUTE ADULT ROLE MODEL/MENTORING**
- O TRANSPORTATION**
- O THERAPEUTIC DAY TREATMENT (PROBATION APPROACH)**
- O AUXILIARY/FLEXIBLE FUNDING**
- O SELF HELP GROUP**

PROVISION OF SERVICE TO THE FAMILY
THROUGH LINKAGE WITH OTHER HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

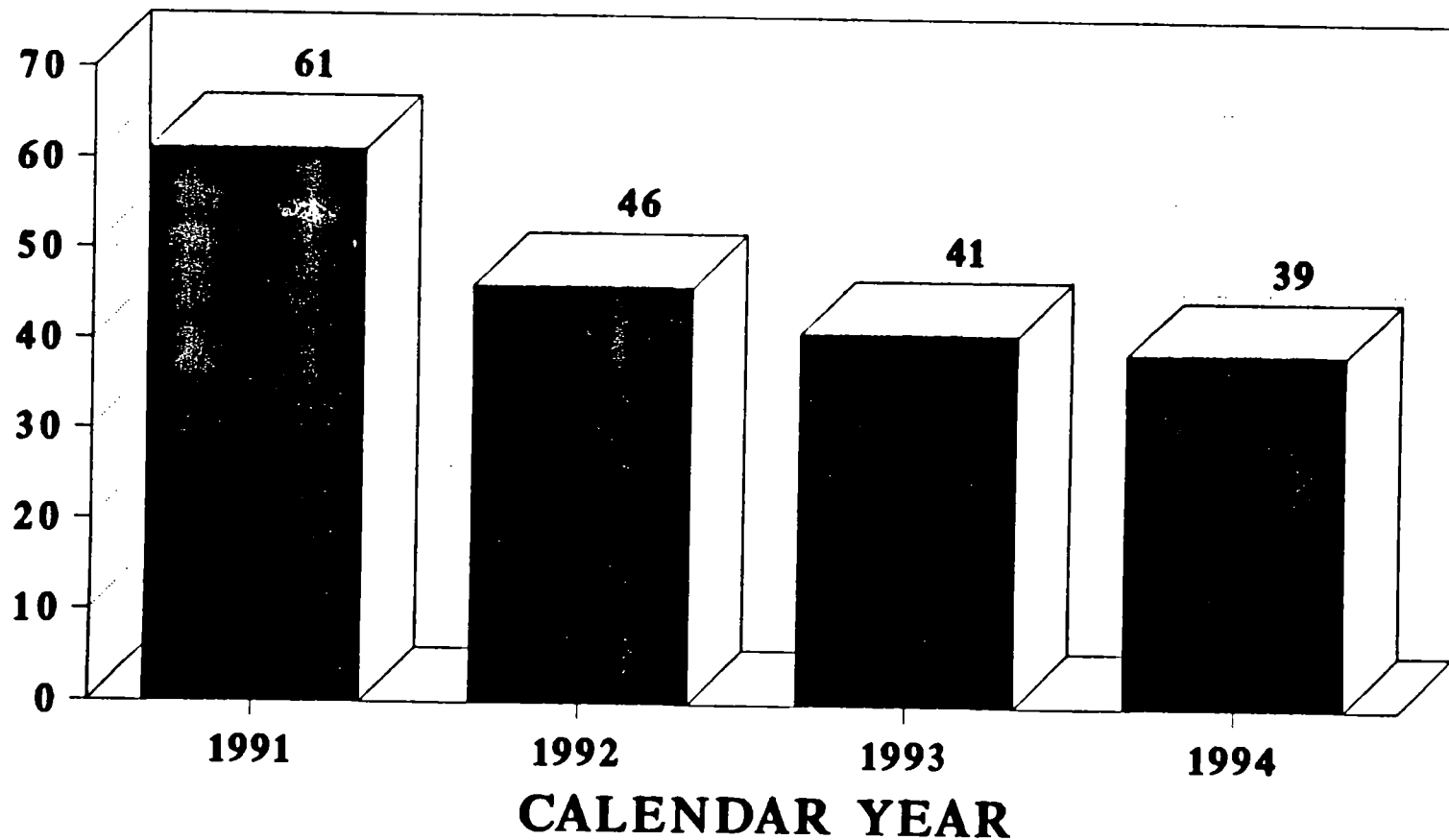
- O EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT**
- O HEALTH CARE (MEDICAL & DENTAL)**
- O CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT**
- O EDUCATION (ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY & HIGHER)**
- O LIBRARY & LITERACY**
- O PUBLIC INCOME MAINTENANCE (WELFARE & SOCIAL SECURITY)**
- O HOUSING ASSISTANCE**
- O DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICE**
- O SUBSTANCE ABUSE TESTING & TREATMENT**
- O LAW ENFORCEMENT/PROSECUTION**
- O FOSTER CARE**

**Management Report X:
Number and Percentage of CSW Requests
for Each Service Bar Chart-During FY '95**



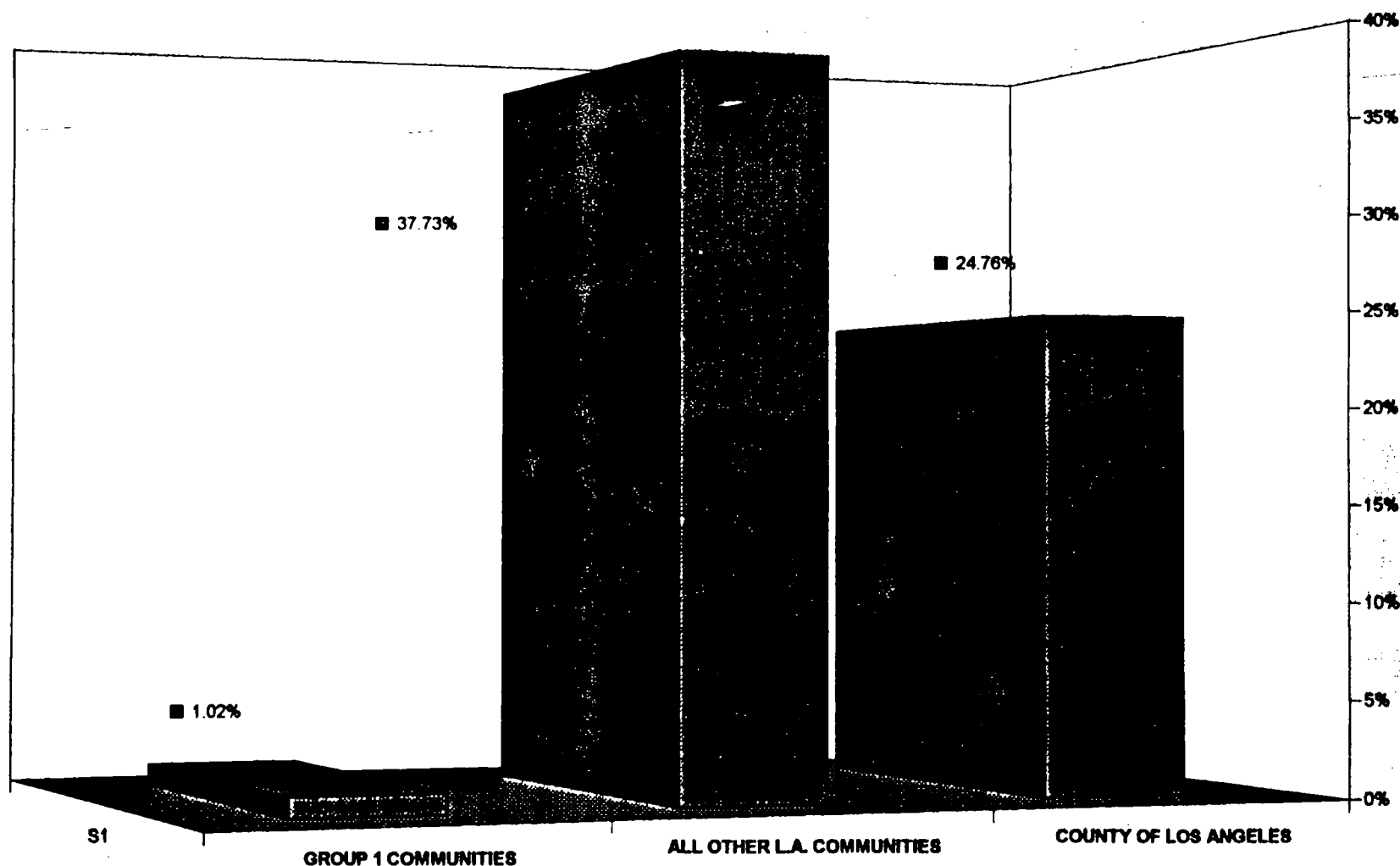
Source: DCS 800 - FP Research Section
Method: Count each Service Requested on each 800 and find the SUM - LOTUS 1-2-3

IMPACT OF FAMILY PRESERVATION 1991-1994 HOMICIDES BY PARENTS/CAREGIVERS



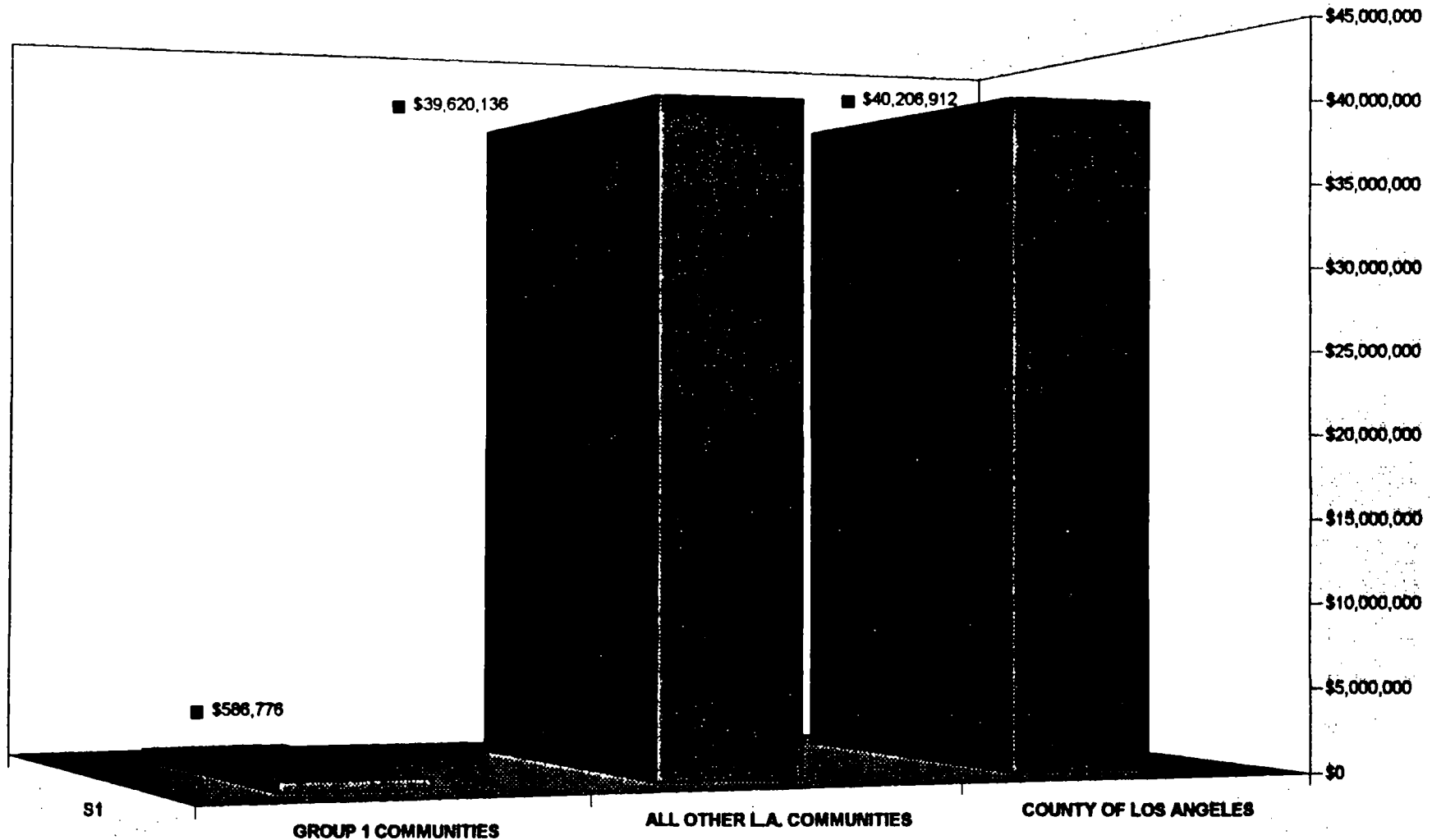
While not directly attributable to the family preservation approach, child homicides by parents/caregivers in L.A. have decreased each year since its inception, while over 10,000 children have been reunified or their foster care placement prevented.

**GROWTH RATE: PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN INTO FOSTER CARE - GROUP 1 FAMILY
PRESERVATION COMMUNITIES VS. ALL OTHER L.A. COMMUNITIES
44 MONTHS (MARCH 1992 - OCTOBER 1995)**



Family preservation networks have been operational in Group 1 communities (Long Beach, Compton, South Central, East L.A., Echo Park, Pacoima) since January of 1993 and represented 35% of all children in placement status in March 1992.

**GROWTH RATE: COST OF FOSTER CARE - GROUP 1 FAMILY PRESERVATION
COMMUNITIES VS. ALL OTHER L.A. COMMUNITIES
44 MONTHS (MARCH 1992 - OCTOBER 1995)**



Family preservation networks have been operational in Group 1 communities (Long Beach, Compton, South Central, East L.A., Echo Park, Pacoima) since January of 1993 and represented 35% of all children in placement status in March 1992.

PROJECTED FULL FUNDING OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY FAMILY PRESERVATION PROGRAM

LOS ANGELES COUNTY: ANNUAL FAMILY PRESERVATION BUDGET													
FAMILY PRESERVATION:													
COMMUNITY GROUPINGS	PROJECTED NETWORKS	EFFECTIVE DATES	PERCENT OF COUNTY	CHILD WELFARE FAMILIES (ADA)	CHILD WELFARE FAMILY SERVICES	MENTAL HEALTH	S.E.D. SERVICE	AUXILIARY FUNDS	PROBATION YOUTH (ADA)	PROBATION SERVICE	SELF EVALUATION	DCFS SPECIAL PROJECTS	TOTALS
GROUP 1	12	January '93	44.72%	755	\$9,053,459	\$536,562	---	\$536,562	105	\$1,449,041	\$120,000	---	\$11,695,968
GROUP 2	3	August '94	9.16%	125	\$1,656,703	\$109,965	---	\$109,965	21	\$296,906	\$30,000	---	\$2,403,561
GROUP 3	3	April, Sept '95	14.32%	110	\$2,896,000	\$171,809	---	\$171,809	28	\$463,884	\$30,000	---	\$3,735,529
GROUP 4	4	July '96	3.23%	148	\$1,934,000	\$110,735	---	\$110,735	14	\$298,984	\$40,000	---	\$2,494,467
GROUP 5	3	July '96	6.53%	137	\$1,720,006	\$102,399	---	\$102,399	26	\$276,478	\$30,000	---	\$2,231,308
GROUP 6	3	January '97	7.75%	124	\$1,570,000	\$92,941	---	\$92,941	12	\$250,942	\$30,000	---	\$2,036,837
GROUP 7	4	January '97	6.29%	101	\$1,256,703	\$75,469	---	\$75,469	21	\$203,766	\$40,000	---	\$1,651,428
SPECIAL POPULATIONS	3	January '97		28	\$354,053	---	---	---		---	\$30,000	---	
DCFS - FP PROJECTS	3	Pre-1993		287	---	---	---	---		---	\$30,000	\$3,779,439	\$3,809,439
DMH SED PROJECT	2	Awarded 1994			---	---	\$500,000	---		---	\$20,000	---	\$520,000
TOTALS	40		100.00%	1818	\$20,642,924	\$1,200,000	\$500,000	\$1,200,000	227	\$3,240,000	\$400,000	\$3,779,439	\$30,962,590
ADMINISTRATION:				PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT				TOTAL, FY 1996-97 BUDGET:				TOTAL: Program REVENUE:	
DCFS DIRECT	\$1,439,745			ERCP PILOT	\$0	SERVICES/SELF EVALUATION		\$30,962,590	A.B. 546 FAMILY PRESERVATION:	\$26,941,006			
DMH DIRECT	\$339,982			PERINATAL PILOT	\$0	ADMINISTRATIVE COST:		\$5,689,725	FEDERAL FAMILY PRESERVATION:	\$1,875,000			
PROBATION DIRECT	\$300,823			CARE TEAM PILOT	\$0	PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT:		\$0	TITLE IV-E SUPPLEMENT	\$7,836,309			
COUNTY INDIRECT	\$3,309,175			FAMILY VIOLENCE PILOT	\$0	GRAND TOTAL:		\$36,652,315	FEDERAL OTHER	\$0			
TRAINING	\$100,000			PROJECT 90044 MATCH	\$0				GRAND TOTAL:	\$36,652,315			
COUNTY EVALUATION	\$200,000			TOTALS	\$0								
TOTALS	\$5,689,725												



SPECIAL INFORMATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO STAFF AND POSTING ON EMPLOYEE BULLETIN BOARDS

TO: All Staff

April 23, 1996
(Reissue of Labor Day, 1995)

OUR FIRST PRIORITY IS SAFETY AND OUR PRIMARY MISSION IS LEGAL PERMANENCY

Achieving legal lifetime permanency for children is the primary mission of DCFS in any interaction with children and families. Our first concern remains the safety of children. No action should ever be taken which puts a child at jeopardy. However, legal permanency is an essential component of developmental, psychological and economic safety for children. No child can ever feel truly safe and secure when he or she can be taken from a placement at any time with little warning. This feeling of insecurity is deeply detrimental to a child's development and may have lifelong consequences.

The increasing numbers of children entering the child welfare system nation-wide who remain in foster care until adulthood has created serious community concern about the fate of these children. Our Department shares this concern and has renewed its efforts to increase the incidence of legal permanency and refocus our attention on the importance of achieving legal permanency for our children.

Legal permanency is achieved when a child is safely reunified with his/her parents or, when reunification is not possible, the legal relationship of adoption has been established. The child should be assured that no governmental agency, including DCFS, can intervene to remove him or her from home without legally sustainable allegations of abuse or neglect. Similarly, the parent should not be able to divest him or herself of responsibility to the child at will. While it is clearly true that some biological parents abandon their children and some adoptions are rescinded, the intention of a legally permanent family is to live permanently as a family. ¹The hallmarks of permanency are the parents' legal and personal responsibility for the child, an intent on the part of the parents and family to make

¹ Our statistics indicate that the number of finalized adoptive placements that disrupt is significantly lower than the disruption rate for legal guardianship situations. "Statewide in the last two years there was an average of only 14 total setaside petitions (which are filed to legally nullify a finalized adoption) versus a statewide rate of 8% (or 1 out of every 12) for guardianship disruptions." SOURCE: CDSS and CWDA 1994 Permanent Placement Caseload Survey. "In terms of stability of foster placements, a 1994 survey by CWDA found that statewide 9.4% of PP children had 6 or more placements during their current stay in the system with 76.7% of the PP children having between 1 and 3 placements. The same survey showed that 23.3% of the PP children statewide had spent over 5 years in placement. Another 22.3% PP youth had been in placement 3 to 5 years." SOURCE: CWDA 1994 Permanent Placement Caseload Survey.

a lifelong commitment to the child, and the family's autonomy from interference from outside governmental agencies. The ultimate goal is for children to have stable nurturing families on which they can rely throughout their lives.

The value of permanency lasts a lifetime. Unlike legal guardianship or long-term foster care, a permanent family has a lifelong responsibility to a child. A permanent family also provides a sense of personal and social identity. Permanent families provide economic, psychological and emotional support and security long after the child reaches the age of 18. A permanent family is where one can go in times of crisis as well as times of joy. A permanent family maintains ongoing concern for a child and an emotional connection with that child throughout all major life events. In other words, a permanent family is truly a home, and as Robert Frost said, "Home is where, when you go there, they have to take you in." Most children who emancipate from non-legally permanent care have none of these advantages. These young people are at severe risk of homelessness and destitution when common life crises occur such as loss of a job, dropping out of college, or a major illness.

The preferred goal for every child should, therefore, be to live in a legally permanent, autonomous home. In many cases, the most obvious way to achieve permanency is for the child to remain with, or return to, his or her parents. The law, Departmental policy and good social work practice all favor preserving or reunifying families, when that can be done safely,² as the preferred form of legal permanency. Nothing in this bulletin or in any other Department policy contradicts that principle. This is a primary reason for the Department's major efforts to develop intensive family preservation and support resources and to strengthen families in preparation for returning the child to his or her home. The Department has shown its commitment to this principle through major efforts to develop intensive family preservation and support resources and to strengthen families in preparation for returning children to their homes. However, as we all know, not all children can return safely to their families.

If return home cannot be safely accomplished, the decision to move forward with adoptive planning should be made. Adoption provides legal protection and permanency for the child as well as a sense of belonging and an opportunity for the child to identify with and form permanent emotional attachments to a family. All children are potentially adoptable as long as there is a family willing and able to adopt and the child is willing to be adopted. It is our responsibility and moral obligation to seek an adoptive family who can best meet

² The idea of safe return home is critical. It is not necessarily the case that a child can return home safely simply because the parent(s) have fulfilled the requirements of the case plan. A recommendation to return home should not be made unless the caseworker is confident that the child will not be re-abused or re-injured. See "Our First Priority is Child Safety" and In Re Joseph B. 96 Daily Journal D.A.R. 1891 (2-22-96) "Consistent with the purpose of the dependency scheme, the question whether to return a child to parental custody is dictated by the well-being of the child at the time of the review hearing; if returning the child will create a substantial risk of detriment to his or her physical or emotional well-being (secs 366.21, subd. (e) & (f), 366.22 subd. (a) placement must continue regardless of whether that detriment mirrors the harm which had required the child's removal from parental custody (1894).

the needs of each child under our care who cannot return home and to plan together for the future of these children.

It is often difficult to determine with certainty at any given time that a child will never be able to return home safely. Because we recognize the importance of family ties, we try to give a family every opportunity to create a safe environment for its children. At some point, however, when families do not improve in a timely manner, a decision has to be made to find another permanent home for a child. Federal and State laws define relatively narrow time limits for family reunification. These limits were developed to prevent children from growing up in foster care without permanent homes and families.

Attempting to be lenient in the application of these laws does not serve our children well. Our own statistics show that the likelihood of a family reunifying declines sharply after the first 18 months to 2 years that the child is in care. Giving a family an open-ended period of time to reunify directly defeats the purpose of the law by delaying effective planning for the child's future and apparently does not substantially increase the chances that the child will go home.

The law and good practice clearly establishes a hierarchy of placement options for children who cannot return home which favors legal permanency over less permanent alternatives. If there is a qualified family willing to adopt the child, placement with that adoptive family is preferable to legal guardianship even if the child must move from an existing foster home to a new adoptive placement. This principle holds true regardless of the child's "bonding" with the potential guardians. While it is extremely undesirable to continually move a child, there is lasting value to moving a child from a temporary placement to a permanent one. We clearly accept this view when the move is from foster care to the child's own family. This is no less true for a legally permanent family newly created through adoption.

Relative guardianships present a different situation. Although a child in relative placement does not have a legally permanent home, the kinship relationship is permanent. So, in many instances, relative guardianships do provide the psychological and social permanency that is the goal for every child. For this reason, in many cases, but not all, relative guardianships may be an exception to the rule that a permanent placement is always preferable to one that is less than permanent. As with all permanent placement decisions, a thorough assessment must also be done to determine if this is the best home for the child. On the other hand, unrelated legal guardianship does not provide the assurance of permanency for a child. The decision to choose guardianship over adoption represents a conditional commitment to the child rather than a permanent one.

Long-term foster care provides the least stability and security for the child of all long term placements and indicates the lowest level of commitment to the child. All too often these placements are temporary and the child moves many times. The resulting lack of permanency or belonging can lead to isolation, despair and ultimately withdrawal from society.

The fact that a young child is "bonded" to a foster family that is unwilling to adopt him or her is not an acceptable reason to eliminate the possibility of adoption for that child. By leaving the child in a placement that is, by its very nature, a temporary situation, we risk the possibility of a later move which could prove to be even more psychologically damaging. We must also question the message being given and the one-sided nature of this "bonding". Are we telling the child that although he or she may be bonded to the foster parent, the foster parent is not sufficiently bonded to him or her to make a long-term commitment? Children in this situation cannot feel that they are fully wanted and permanent members of a family. Too often the decision to leave a child in long term foster care is based on the short term desires of the caretaker, rather than a long term life plan for a child.

The research on bonding demonstrates the importance to infants of developing emotional bonds with a parent figure. This bonding forms the basis for the development of intimate attachments later in life. Like language development, bonding is a skill or psychological task which must be accomplished during a critical period. The issue is not the specific bond that is formed, but rather the learning of the ability to bond. Works such as Beyond the Best Interest of the Child view bonding as a way of determining who is a psychological parent for custody purposes. The research is clear that "bonding" is not the only factor to be considered when placing a child in a home. The fact that the child has bonded to one adult is, in fact, a positive indication of his or her ability to attach to an adoptive family. While it may be deemed preferable to maintain an established psychological bond with the foster family, permanency is of far greater importance to the child's future life and well-being.³

The principles outlined in this bulletin do not preclude a reasoned look at individual cases in light of the law and good social work practice. For example, the law recognizes that the children over the age of twelve may choose not to be adopted and respects that choice. For older children with strong attachments to their families, this may be the correct decision. On the other hand, we should not presume that no older child wants to be adopted. Both individually and as a department we must make efforts to find creative solutions that provide permanency consistent with each child's individual needs. We must be vigilant in ensuring that we are actually looking at the needs of the child and not our own needs or desires or those of the caregiver.

We have the opportunity to touch the lives of the children and families with whom we work in a way that few others can. The decisions we all make now will affect these

³ See: Berrick, Needell, Barth and Jonson-Reid, "The Tender Years: Toward Developmentally-Sensitive Child Welfare Services for Very Young Children", CWRC, March, 1996 pp. 1-6 - 1-9 and sources quoted therein.

children's lives forever. All of our children deeply need, long for, and deserve legally permanent parents. The achievement of our mission and the very value of our professional lives depends on our success in ensuring that all children are provided with the security and emotional well-being that comes from being part of a legally permanent family.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter Digre". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and "D".

PETER DIGRE, DIRECTOR

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
PERMANENCY PLANNING INITIATIVE**

GENERAL STATISTICS ON FOSTER CARE IN CALIFORNIA

- o The number of children in welfare supervised foster care in California rose from 56,957 at the end of 1988 to 87,387 by the end of 1994 (which represents a 53% increase).**

SOURCE: Needell, B., Webster, D., Barth, R. P., Monks, K., and Armijo, M. (1995). Performance Indicators for Child Welfare in California: 1994, Child Welfare Research Center, School of Social Welfare, University of California at Berkeley.

- o Since 1983, the proportion of children entering foster care younger than six has grown steadily and now exceeds 50%.**

**Of those children, more than half enter foster care as infants.
Half of infants now enter foster care within the first 14 days of life.**

SOURCE: Barth, Richard P., Patterson, H. (1995). Permanency Planning: How Far Have We Come?, Child Welfare Research Center, School of Social Welfare, University of California at Berkeley.

- o Kinship foster care has become the most common kind of out-of-home care. At the end of 1994, 46% of all substitute care provided in California was kinship foster care.**

**For African-American children, 52.8% were in kinship placement
For Hispanic children, 48.6% were in kinship placement
For Caucasian children, 37.6% were in kinship placement
For Other Ethnicities, 36.5% were in kinship placement**

SOURCE: Barth, Richard P., Patterson, H. (1995). Permanency Planning: How Far Have We Come?, Child Welfare Research Center, School of Social Welfare, University of California at Berkeley.

- o 26% of children who entered foster care in California during the first six months of 1988 were still there four years later in 1992.**

SOURCE: "Performance Indicators for Child Welfare Services in California", Child Welfare Research Center, University of California, Berkeley.

- o **A statewide survey undertaken in 1994 by the County Welfare Directors' Association discovered that overall 35% of the permanent placement cases were considered unstable and in need of social worker intervention beyond minimum requirements to stabilize placements or resolve other crises.**
 - ~ **9.4% of the children receiving permanent placement services had between 6 or more placements during their current spell**
 - ~ **76.7% of these children had between 1 and 3 placements**
 - ~ **23.3% of children receiving permanent placement services had spent over 5 years in placement**
 - ~ **Another 22.3% of these youth had been in placement for 3 to 5 years**

SOURCE: CWDA 1994 Permanent Placement Caseload Survey

- o **Recent studies by the Child Welfare Research Center at the University of California, Berkeley, indicate that for children under the age of one year in foster care, 26.7% had two placements with an additional 19% experiencing three or more placements. For children under one year who reunified with their parents, 38.4% had two or more placements before returning home. And for those children less than one year old, 58.1% had two or more placements before settling into an adoptive home.**

SOURCE: Berrick, Jill D., Needell, Barbara, Barth, Richard P., and Johnson-Reid, Melissa, The Tender Years: Toward Developmentally-Sensitive Child Welfare Services for Very Young Children, March, 1996, Child Welfare Research Center, School of Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley.

- o **Regarding odds of adoption for children in conventional foster care, two African-American children remain in foster care after six years for every one African-American child who is adopted. For every Latino child remaining in foster care, one other Latino child has been adopted. For every Caucasian child remaining in foster care, 2.2 Caucasian children have been adopted.**

SOURCE: Barth, Richard P., Patterson, H. (1995). Permanency Planning: How Far Have We Come? Child Welfare Research Center, School of Social Welfare, University of California at Berkeley.



University of California, Berkeley

Center for Social Services Research
School of Social Welfare
120 Haviland Hall #7400
Berkeley, CA 94720-7400
Tel: (510)642-1899
Fax: (510)642-1895

The Importance of Legal Permanency for Children

Richard P. Barth, Ph.D.
Hutto Patterson Professor

Presented at

The 1996 Annual Conference on Legal Permanency

Los Angeles, California
June 5, 1996

Funding for the research upon which this keynote was based was supported by the California Department of Social Services, the David & Lucile Packard Foundation, and the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Figure 2.1 1988-1994 End of Year Foster Care Population, Entrances, Exits, and Net Change

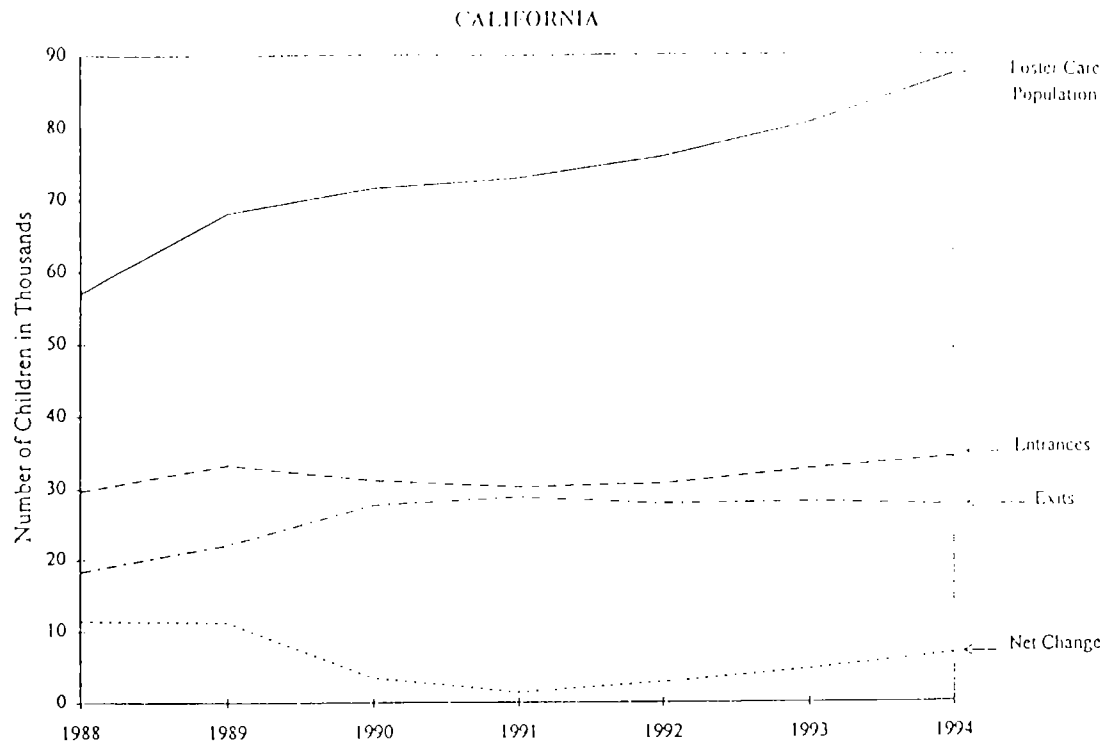


Table 2.1

1988-1994 End of Year Foster Care Population, Entrances, Exits, and Net Change

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Foster Care Population	56,957	68,165	71,675	73,107	75,955	80,629	87,387
Entrances	29,705	33,350	31,164	30,225	30,658	32,695	34,180
Exits	18,352	22,142	27,654	28,793	27,810	28,021	27,422
Net Change	11,353	11,208	3,510	1,432	2,848	4,674	6,758

Figure 3.5 1988-1994 First Entries to Foster Care by Age in Years: Incidence per 1,000

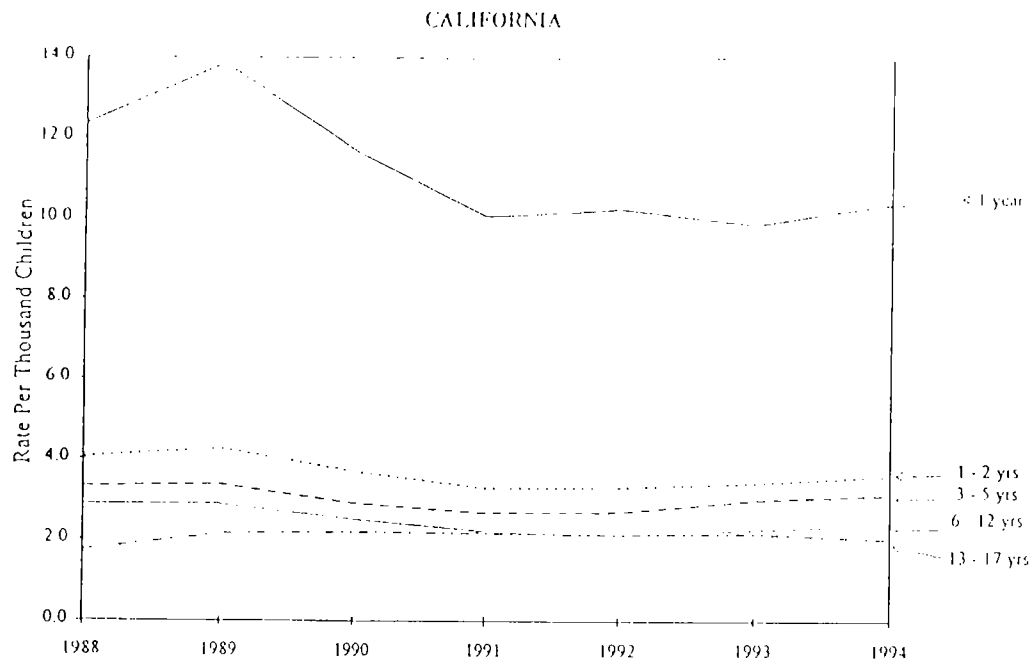


Table 3.3

1988-1994 First Entries to Foster Care by Age in Years

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
< 1	6,229	7,277	6,399	6,088	6,151	6,043	6,361
1-2	3,856	4,143	3,697	3,466	3,781	4,063	4,319
3-5	4,437	4,619	4,096	3,857	3,972	4,609	5,163
6-12	8,002	8,302	7,537	6,861	6,692	7,326	7,862
13-17	3,433	4,143	4,243	4,209	4,256	4,416	4,319
Total	25,957	28,484	25,972	24,481	24,852	26,457	28,024

Table 3.4

1988-1994 Percent First Entries to Foster Care by Age in Years

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
< 1	24.0	25.6	24.6	24.9	24.8	22.8	22.7
1-2	14.9	14.6	14.2	14.2	15.2	15.4	15.4
3-5	17.1	16.2	15.8	15.8	16.0	17.4	18.4
6-12	30.8	29.2	29.0	28.0	26.9	27.7	28.1
13-17	13.2	14.6	16.3	17.2	17.1	16.7	15.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 3.5

1988-1994 First Entries to Foster Care by Age in Years: Incidence per 1,000

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
< 1	12.3	13.9	11.7	10.1	10.3	9.9	10.4
1-2	4.0	4.3	3.7	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.6
3-5	3.3	3.4	2.9	2.7	2.7	3.0	3.1
6-12	2.9	2.9	2.5	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.4
13-17	1.7	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.0
Total	3.4	3.7	3.3	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1

Figure 3.6 1988-1994 First Entries to Foster Care by Removal Reason

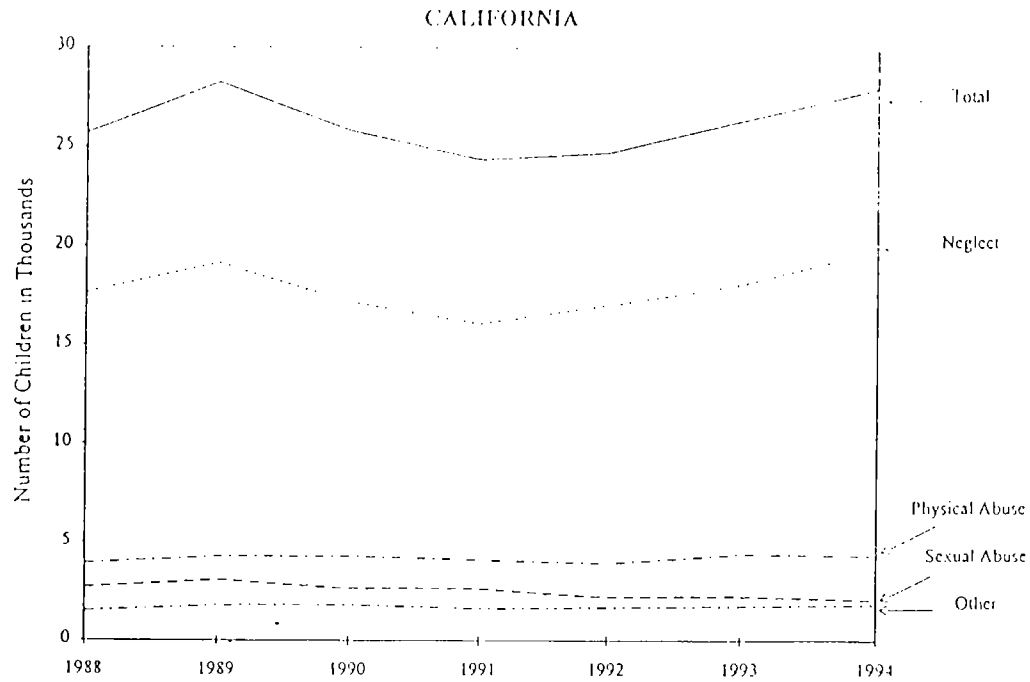


Table 3.6

1988-1994 First Entries to Foster Care by Removal Reason

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Neglect	17,634	19,181	17,164	16,106	17,017	18,083	19,859
Physical Abuse	3,900	4,258	4,253	4,082	3,906	4,364	4,276
Sexual Abuse	2,703	3,074	2,641	2,643	2,205	2,235	2,054
Other	1,476	1,761	1,789	1,596	1,661	1,711	1,796
Total ¹	25,713	28,274	25,847	24,427	24,789	26,393	27,985

Table 3.7

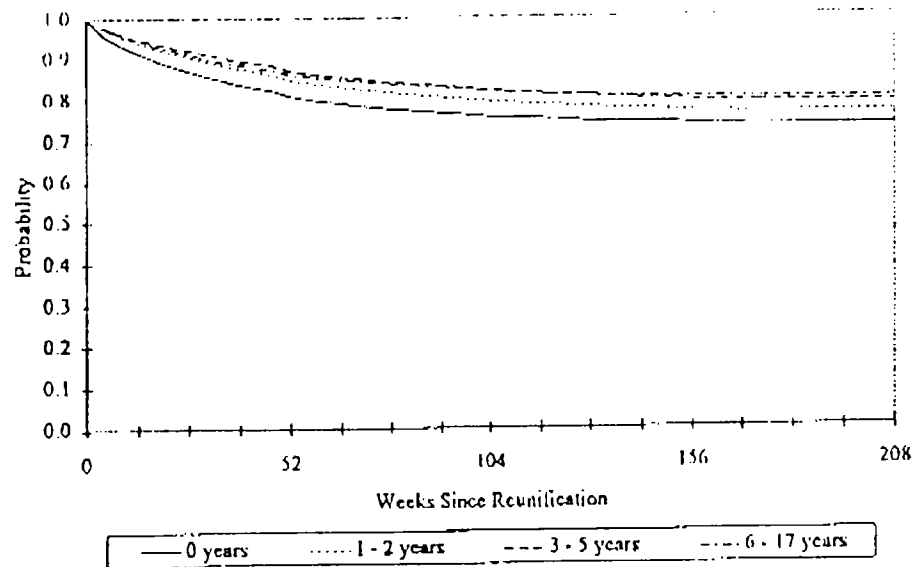
1988-1994 Percent First Entries to Foster Care by Removal Reason

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Neglect	68.6	67.8	66.4	65.9	68.6	68.5	71.0
Physical Abuse	15.2	15.1	16.5	16.7	15.8	16.5	15.3
Sexual Abuse	10.5	10.9	10.2	10.8	8.9	8.5	7.3
Other	5.7	6.2	6.9	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ Excludes cases with missing removal reason.

California: Re-entry Survival Curves by Age Group

California



California: Re-entry Probabilities Over Time by Age Group

Age	Weeks Since Reunification					
	12	24	52	104	156	208
0 years	.09	.13	.19	.24	.26	.27
1 - 2 years	.06	.10	.15	.21	.23	.24
3 - 5 years	.05	.08	.13	.18	.21	.21
6 - 17 years	.05	.09	.14	.18	.20	.20
< 6 Total	.06	.10	.15	.20	.23	.23

Age	N size	# Re-entered
0 years	8,711	2,176
1 - 2 years	15,356	3,290
3 - 5 years	17,734	3,377
6 - 17 years	46,548	8,694

Figure 6.10 CALIFORNIA: Outcomes at Four Years from Non-Kin Care Year by Infant Age

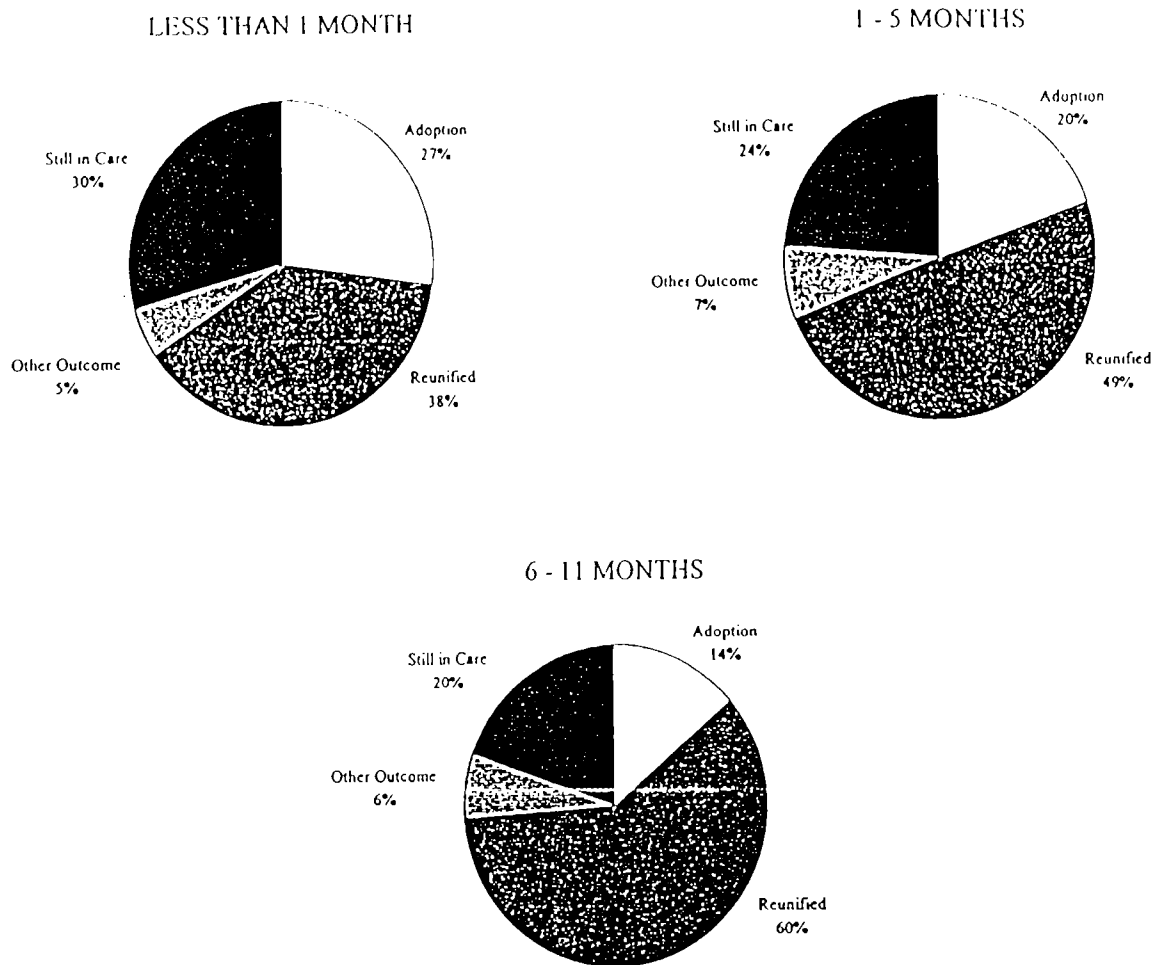


Table 6.10

Outcome	< 1 month		1-5 months		6-11 months		0-1 yr Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Reunified	738	38.4	472	49.2	394	60.2	1,604	45.4
Adopted	521	27.1	190	19.8	90	13.8	801	22.7
Other	95	5.0	69	7.2	42	6.4	206	5.8
Still in care	567	29.5	229	23.9	394	19.6	924	26.1
Total	1,921	100.0	960	100.0	654	100.0	3,535	100.0

Figure 6.12 CALIFORNIA: Outcomes at Four Years from Non-Kin Care for Infants by Ethnicity

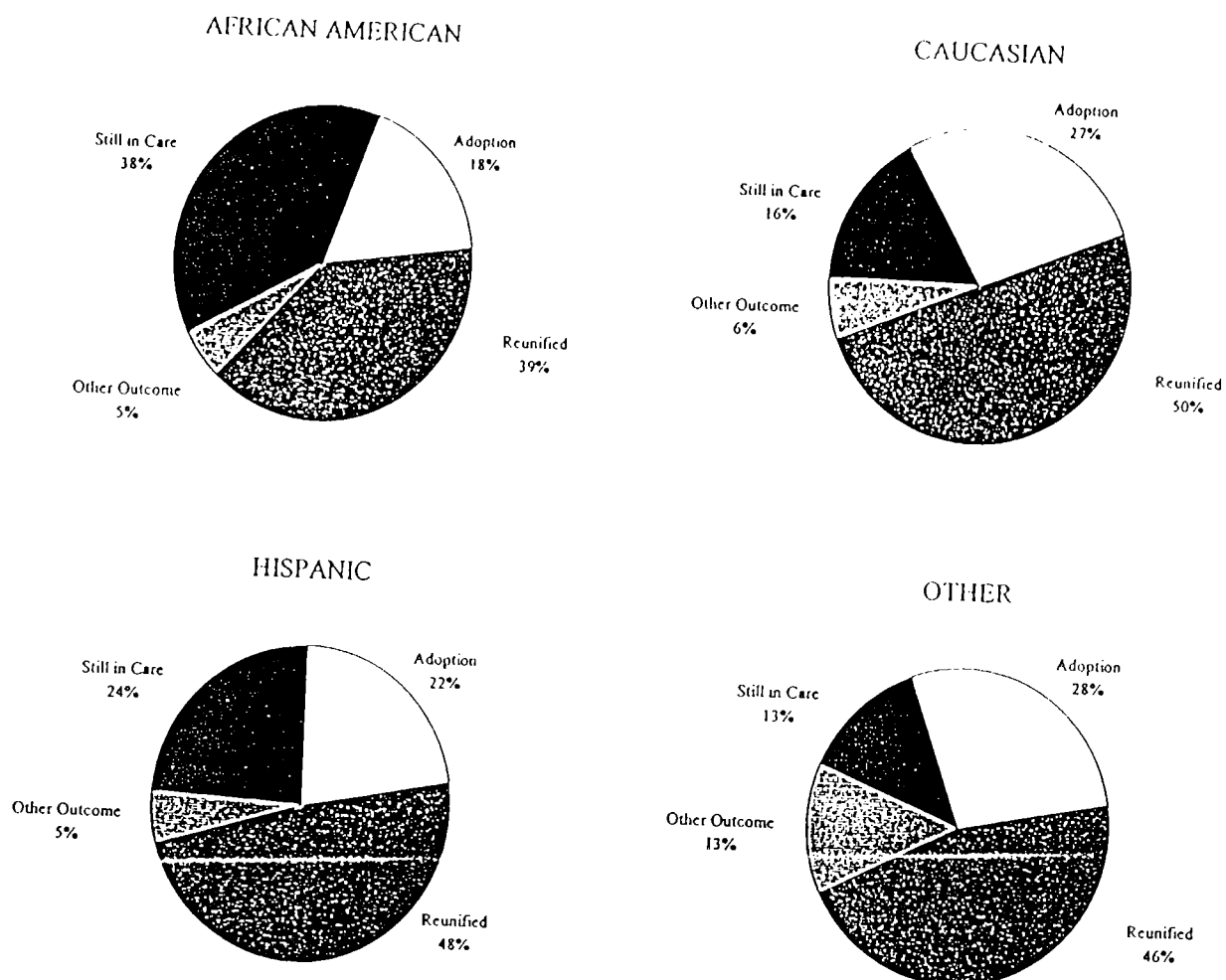
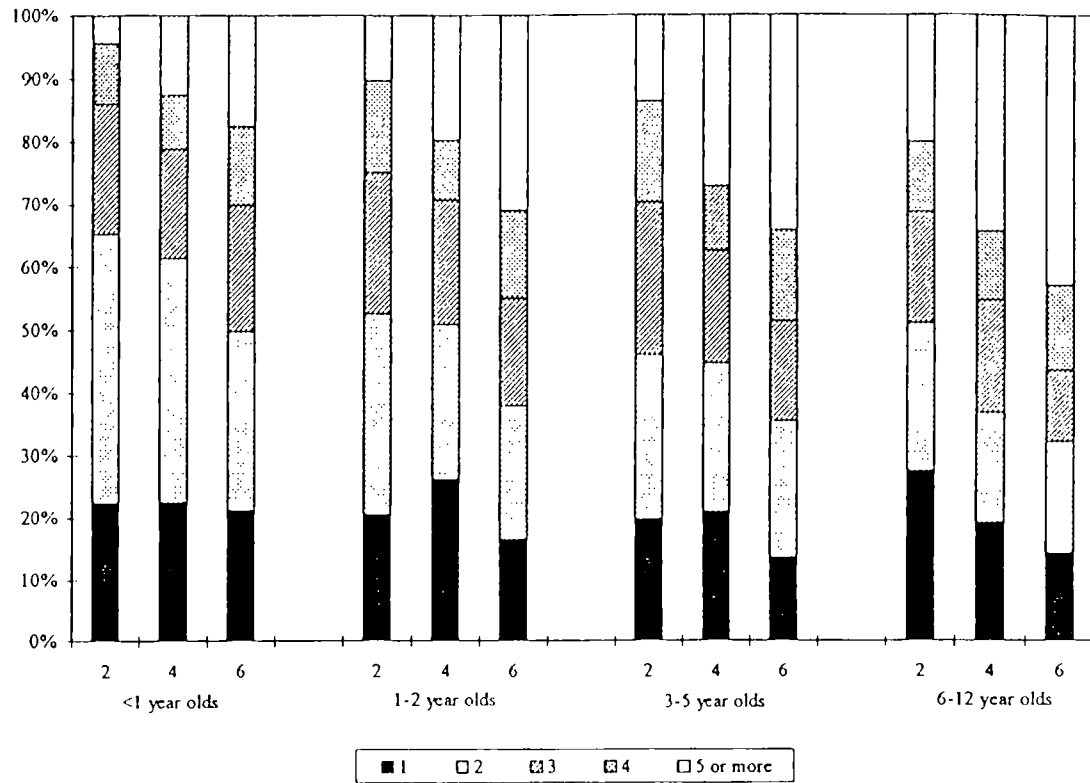


Table 6.12

Outcome	African Amer.		Caucasian		Hispanic		Other		0-1 yr Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Reunified	508	38.6	682	50.2	373	48.4	41	45.6	1,604	45.4
Adopted	232	17.6	373	27.4	171	22.2	25	27.8	801	22.7
Other	70	5.3	84	6.2	40	5.2	12	13.3	206	5.8
Still in care	505	38.4	221	16.3	186	24.2	12	13.3	924	26.1
Total	1,315	100.0	1,360	100.0	770	100.0	90	100.0	3,535	100.0

Percent of Placements at 2, 4, and 6 Years After Entry by Age



Percent of Placements at 2, 4, and 6 Years After Entry by Age

	< 1 year olds			1-2 year olds			3-5 year olds			6-12 year olds		
	2 yrs	4 yrs	6 yrs	2 yrs	4 yrs	6 yrs	2 yrs	4 yrs	6 yrs	2 yrs	4 yrs	6 yrs
1 placement	22.5	22.6	21.2	20.6	26.2	16.6	19.9	21.1	13.7	27.5	19.2	14.4
2 placements	42.9	38.7	28.6	31.9	24.6	21.2	26.0	23.5	21.7	23.5	17.4	17.6
3 placements	20.7	17.5	20.0	22.5	19.8	17.1	24.3	17.9	16.0	17.7	18.0	11.3
4 placements	9.6	8.6	12.7	14.7	9.6	14.0	16.1	10.4	14.5	11.3	11.0	13.6
5+ placements	4.4	12.7	17.6	10.3	19.8	31.1	13.7	27.1	34.2	20.0	34.4	43.2
TOTAL %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
TOTAL N	686	292	245	320	187	193	342	251	263	578	489	382

Note: Data are for entry cohorts from 1988, 1990, and 1992 and include children from all California counties except Los Angeles who have remained in nonkinship foster care (excluding group care) at the end of 1994. Therefore, the possibility exists that variations in placement moves at these two year points in time may be partly attributable to differences in cohorts.

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
PERMANENCY PLANNING INITIATIVE**

In response to the increasing numbers of children in California's child welfare system who remain in long-term foster care until adulthood, the Permanency Planning Initiative was created to refocus the Department of Children and Family Services' efforts on increasing legal permanency for children. *Legal permanency is achieved when a child is safely reunified with his or her parents or, when reunification is not possible, the legal relationship of adoption has been established.*

The Permanency Planning Initiative represents a collaborative effort between the Department of Children and Family Services ("the Department") and the Youth Law Center, a major national child advocacy organization based in Northern California. Through a grant received from The Stuart Foundations, the Department and Youth Law Center will implement a three-tiered Permanency Planning Initiative composed of the following parts:

- o The identification of barriers to permanency in the California child welfare system with a specific focus on legislative and policy issues;
- o A pilot project to test whether the use of alternative management techniques in the child welfare system would improve performance as measured by increased permanency for children; and
- o A cooperative effort with the county welfare directors and other key players to develop and implement an advocacy strategy for eliminating barriers to permanency.

The Department is currently concentrating its efforts on the pilot project ("Permanency Project") to be implemented in the San Fernando Valley which will test the effectiveness of new management strategies that are outcome-driven and designed to empower workers and supervisors to achieve permanency for children. The San Fernando Valley was selected as the Project site in large part due to the concern with the substantive services needed to strengthen the predominant number of Latino families in this area who enter the child welfare system and to build upon the enhanced linkages with community providers and the educational community developed through the Community-Based Placement Project.

PERMANENCY PROJECT GOALS

The ultimate goal of the Permanency Project is to increase permanency for children which will be measured by a decrease in the number of children for whom long-term foster care has been identified as a permanent plan.

The specific Project objectives are outlined below:

- o Clearly define legal permanency and the integral role this concept plays in the mission of the Department of Children and Family Services;
- o Identify barriers and aids to achieving legal permanency as perceived by line staff;
- o Develop strategies to increase opportunities for legal permanency that are outcome-driven and empower line workers;
- o Develop outcome measures to assist workers to self-monitor and evaluate the impact of new strategies and progress toward increasing permanency for the Department's clients; and
- o Implement and evaluate the effectiveness of identified new management techniques, and modified policies and procedures.

PERMANENCY PROJECT DESIGN

A Steering Committee was formed to serve as the main planning body with the responsibility to design the Project including development of the operational plan and implementation components of the Project. The Steering Committee is composed of representatives from the various Bureaus within the Department of Children and Family Services, the Youth Law Center, The Stuart Foundations, an independent consultant with expertise in goals clarification, and the California Department of Social Services. The Steering Committee was also given the ongoing tasks of overseeing all planning and implementation components of the Project and reviewing all Project work as it is completed.

In addition to the Steering Committee, an Advisory Board has been formed composed of representatives from the Juvenile Dependency system, Commission for Children and Families, selected County Departmental representatives, public and private sector individuals, and the provider community. The Advisory Board has been given the responsibility to act as the entity to provide input and approval for the Project from a multi-disciplinary perspective.

In order to provide a clear definition of legal permanency to guide Project participants, the Department's management structure, the Steering Committee, and various community entities provided input for an official statement on legal permanency. The final statement, "Our First Priority is Child Safety and Our Primary Mission is Legal Permanency", was originally distributed to all Departmental staff in September, 1995, and subsequently revised on April 23, 1996.

The Project components are as follows:

- o An orientation session was developed to provide a forum to discuss legal permanency issues, the importance of legal permanency to children and the critical role this concept plays in the Department's mission, and to focus on how the Department and child welfare community can more effectively collaborate to increase the incidence of legal permanency for all children.

This orientation was delivered throughout February, 1996, to all Regional staff in the pilot office, designated Adoptions staff, and community participants such as members of the judicial system, foster caregivers, community service providers, and the educational system.

- o Following completion of the orientation sessions, selected Departmental and community individuals were to be designated to participate in a series of Regional Work Groups which would:
 - 1) Identify barriers and aids to permanency;
 - 2) Develop specific strategies to deal with those barriers;
 - 3) Develop performance indicators and identify rewards/incentives for Project participants;
 - 4) Identify training needs for system participants; and
 - 5) Develop Project evaluation criteria and data needs.
- o Based upon the recommendations formulated by the Regional Work Groups, the Steering Committee and Advisory Board would then develop a plan to implement the new strategies and policies.

It is anticipated that the Permanency Project will formally begin implementation in the summer of 1996.

ADDITIONAL INITIATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Permanency Planning Initiative also retains responsibility for overall coordination of the Department's efforts to increase legal permanency for our children through:

- ~ Development and delivery of orientation sessions for Departmental and community groups to provide a forum to discuss legal permanency issues;
- ~ Assistance with ensuring that training efforts reflect the Department's position on legal permanency;
- ~ Working closely with the Adoptions Division to ensure that, if reunification of the child with his or her family is not possible, legal permanency efforts are reflected in adoption outcomes; and
- ~ Participating in Departmental presentations to representatives of visiting agencies as well as community conferences to discuss legal permanency issues.

FUTURE PERMANENCY PLANNING INITIATIVE PLANS

The following are completed and future planned components of the Initiative:

- o Delivery of a workshop entitled "A Collaborative Approach to Legal Permanency" at the 13th Annual Statewide National Association of Social Workers' Conference on April 18, 1996
- o Delivery of a workshop on legal permanency at the Department's Kinship Care Conference on April 30, 1996
- o A presentation on legal permanency issues to the Commission for Children and Families and Board of Supervisors Children's Deputies on June 3, 1996
- o Participation in the DCFS/Inter-University Consortium Annual Conference on legal permanency issues on June 5, 1996
- o Delivery of an orientation on legal permanency to all DCFS Regional Administrators, Deputies, and Supervising Children's Social Workers
- o Delivery of a workshop on legal permanency issues at the Superior Court Annual Conference (September, 1996)

Contact Person:

Kathee Saito, Project Director - Permanency Planning Initiative
Bureau of Executive Services
Department of Children and Family Services
425 Shatto Place, Room 602
Los Angeles, California 90020
Telephone: (213) 351-5786

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DATE: 6/95

PERMANENCY ADVOCATE

The Department has established a Permanency Advocate (PA) position whose function is to ensure an Adoption Permanency Plan for every possible child when family reunification is not suitable. Phoebe Pao is the Permanency Advocate. She can be reached at (213) 351-5762.

The Permanency Advocate will be involved in case review, training, planning and other coordination activities; and will interact regularly with legal representatives, judicial officers, CSWs, and foster caregivers to work on permanency issues. The PA's case review will focus on children five years of age or younger who are in out-of-home care with non-related caregivers. Cases with recommendations of either legal guardianship or long term foster care will be reviewed. The PA will also randomly review cases where adoptive planning is recommended to children five years of age or younger, to ensure that the court report reflects the case plan being adoption, and that the case is expeditiously transferred to Adoptions following the court order.

Many foster children in our system suffer from replacements and are in need of stability in life. It is ideal if a child can return to the birth parent who has resolved the abuse issues and is able to provide for the child. However, when reunification is not in the best interests of the child, the child is entitled to a safe, stable and legally permanent home.

A recent study by the Family Welfare Research Group at UC Berkeley found that over 27% of children who entered foster care when they were less than a year old were still placed with non-relatives after four years. About 20% of DCFS children four years or younger who have been in out-of-home care over 24 months are in long term foster care with non-related caregivers. Many of these children may continue to stay in the system and be brought up by various caregivers and in multiple placement settings, if no legally permanent home is sought for them at an earlier age. Long term foster care is not a permanent plan.

DCFS recognizes that adoption is the only plan that can provide a legally permanent home for a child. The adoptive parent makes a life-long commitment and maintains a family for the child throughout his life.



BOO CONTACT: Phoebe Pao, (213) 351-5762

APPROVED:

Paul V. Freedlund, Deputy Director

ADOPTION vs. LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP

Adoption

Legal Guardianship

Full legal and parental rights for the child	---	Legal guardian ("LG") has sole rights to custody and control of child
<u>Terminates</u> child's legal relationship with birth parents	---	<u>Suspends</u> rights and responsibilities of birth parents
Adopted child has inheritance rights from adoptive parents	---	No inheritance rights
Adoptive parent may claim child as dependent for income tax purposes*	---	Child not considered dependent of legal guardian
Child can take family name of adoptive parents	---	Child's birth name remains legal name
Child entitled to coverage under CA Health Plans of adoptive parents	---	Child's health needs not covered by legal guardian's health plans
Child can receive financial and medical assistance through the Adoption Assistance Program (non-taxable subsidy that may affect public assistance, lower income housing eligibility and Social Security Benefits)	---	Related LG may be eligible for AFDC-FG (welfare assistance) when court jurisdiction has been terminated. Related LG may be entitled to receive AFDC-FC (foster care funds) when court jurisdiction continues and as long as the family resides in California. Non-related LG entitled to receive AFDC-FC (foster care funds) as long as residing in California. (NOTE: The amount of AFDC-FC varies by county for all LG's.) For LGs receiving AFDC-FC (foster care), DCFS services worker visits family minimum of 1 time every 6 months.
Court jurisdiction terminates when adoption is finalized. DCFS closes case.	---	Court jurisdiction may terminate when LG is granted.
Adoption is a life-long plan.	---	LG terminates when child reaches 18, marries, emancipates, or is adopted; OR LG can also be terminated if LG petitions Juvenile Court to do so or if new WIC 300 petition is filed naming the legal guardian; OR The LG moves out of state.

**Families should consult with their individual accountants or tax advisers regarding their specific circumstances*

RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEGAL GUARDIANS

GUARDIAN CAN

Establish child's residence
anywhere within California
without a Court order

In absence of a Court-ordered
visitation schedule, make all
decisions regarding parental
visitation

Make decisions regarding the
child's education, sports
participation and driver
education

Consent to the child obtaining
a driver's license

Give consent for medical
treatment

Consent to the child enlisting
in the Armed Services or
Foreign Legion

GUARDIAN CANNOT

Change child's residence to
a state other than California
without a Juvenile Court
order

Change the child's religion

Legal guardians are not entitled
to the child's earnings

ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEGAL GUARDIANS

The guardian is liable for the child's willful misconduct including, but not limited to, traffic accidents, shoplifting and the use of firearms resulting in property damage.

Guardian must notify DCFS if they are unable or unwilling to continue to act as the child's guardian.

ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

What is the Adoption Assistance Program ("AAP")?

A mandatory federal program to facilitate the adoption of children with special needs who would require permanent foster care placement without such assistance. The program provides necessary financial assistance to families who are willing and able to assume parental responsibility for children but who are prevented from doing so by inadequate financial resources. It removes or reduces barriers to the adoption of children who would otherwise remain in long-term foster care.

What are the eligibility requirements for AAP?

Children for whom AAP is being requested must meet **all** of the following eligibility requirements:

- o Child has ***at least one*** of the following characteristics that are barriers to his/her adoption:
 - 1) Age of three years or older;
 - 2) Ethnic background, race, color or language;
 - 3) Mental, physical, medical or emotional handicap;
 - 4) Membership in a sibling group that should remain intact; or
 - 5) Adverse parental background.
- o Child must be under age 18, or under age 21 and have a physical or mental handicap which warrants continued assistance.
- o Child is the subject of an agency adoption, signed either by relinquishment to DCFS for adoption or freed for adoption through termination of parental rights by the Juvenile Court, or placed with DCFS following removal from an independent adoptive parent.

How are AAP benefits determined?

The amount of AAP benefits shall be established based upon the needs and resources available to each adoptive child and the adoptive family. While there is no income eligibility requirement (means test) for the prospective adoptive parents, there must be consideration of the family's resources when determining the payment amount.

The maximum payment is the state-approved foster care payment the child would have received if not adopted. This rate shall **not** be based on a Foster Family Agency (FFA) rate or on the payment made to a certified home by an FFA. (If eligible, according to need, AAP could include the specialized care increment rate.) NOTE: For DCFS children placed in other states, the state-approved rate is the host state's rate, provided the child was in foster care in that state immediately prior to formal adoptive placement.

Are Medi-Cal benefits available to children receiving AAP?

If the adopting parents *do not* have medical insurance to meet all the medical needs of the child, the child is eligible to receive Medi-Cal benefits which would become effective on the date of adoptive placement.

If the adopting parents *do* have medical insurance for the child, upon the date of adoptive placement, the adopted child is entitled to the same medical coverage as a biological child would receive from their group health plan. When the adoptive parent has medical insurance, the child is still eligible for Medi-Cal. In this situation, the private insurance must be billed first and Medi-Cal is then billed.

If the child is placed with a family out-of-state or the adoptive family moves out of the state, there are separate eligibility requirements regarding Medi-Cal coverage.

How does AAP impact public assistance funds?

AAP may be viewed as income for a number of public assistance programs and therefore may affect the following: AFDC, Food Stamps, Section 8 Housing, Social Security Administration (SSA) benefits, or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Each family's situation will need to be reviewed individually and discussed with the child's social worker. In addition, prospective adoptive parents are encouraged to contact the IRS, program administrators, and tax accountants regarding their specific circumstances.

When do AAP payments begin?

Prior to signing the adoptive placement papers, the social worker and adoptive parent(s) will negotiate the amount of financial assistance required based upon the child's needs, resources available in the community to meet the child's needs, and the family's resources. At the time of adoptive placement, an Adoption Assistance Agreement is signed specifying the amount and duration of the grant.

Administrative approval is needed for all cases where it is determined that the unmet needs of the child are above the basic state-approved foster care payment rate the child would have received if not adopted.

The adoptive family will be responsible for maintaining documentation of the child's continuing need for AAP. This documentation must be obtained from a licensed professional operating within the scope of his/her profession, and would include the diagnosis, prognosis, anticipated duration and cost of service, and service provider, if known.

The adoptive family is also responsible for applying for recertification of the grant every two years (or two years from the effective date of the last change in payment). Notice for recertification will be generated by the DCFS Finance Section every two years. (NOTE: If there is a significant change in the child's needs or family's situation before the end of the two-year period, the family can also request recertification based on these changes.)

If the child requires group home or residential treatment placement, AAP is available after approval by DCFS Adoptions Division for a limited period of time (18 months maximum) *and* if the goal is reunification of the child with the adoptive family.

How does AAP apply to relative caregivers?

Children are eligible for federal AAP if they are receiving AFDC-FC (also known as "Youakim" payments when the caregiver is a relative) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or being adopted by and living with a relative at the time the adoption petition was filed. Children being adopted by relative caregivers are also eligible for Medi-Cal benefits based on the same criteria outlined above.

As with all adopted children, the maximum allowable rate the adopted child will receive can be no greater than the amount the child would have received if s(he) were to continue living with the relatives on a foster care basis.

Reference: DCFS Policy #Adopt 95-02, "Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) and Aid for the Adoption of Children (AAC) Program" and Procedural Guides 0200-511.05 through 0200-511.17.

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