

10. Welfare

The amount of assistance available to families and individuals in need, compared with the total demand for such services, is an indication of how well the community is meeting the basic needs of the less fortunate in our society. Also, by assessing the available services and the amount of existing need, it becomes apparent what additional services and/or assistance might improve the quality of life in a specific area.

Welfare assistance in El Dorado County and throughout Northern California has shown consistent trends in the last decade. The number of TANF/CalWORKs recipients and households receiving food stamps has been steadily decreasing after they peaked in FY95 and FY04, respectively, and yet the numbers have begun to climb in recent years. Meanwhile, Medi-Cal expenditures were at their highest in FY05, and yet decreased 1 percent the following year, compared to a 7 percent decrease in California. In the same year, the number of Medi-Cal eligibles in El Dorado County increased 1.5 percent, while actual users decreased 10 percent.

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TANF/CalWORKs Caseload & Expenditures

Overview

The table shows the annual average number of California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) recipients (persons) and cases (families or households). CalWORKs is California's implementation of the federal Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) program. Under the welfare reform legislation of 1996, TANF replaced the old welfare programs known as Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training (JOBS) program, and the Emergency Assistance (EA) program. The law ended federal entitlement to assistance and created TANF as a block grant that provides federal funds each year to states and tribes. These funds cover benefits, administrative expenses, and services targeted to needy families. The reauthorization of the TANF program is currently pending, and TANF has been operating under a series of continuing resolutions and extensions. The program was extended through November 2006 and further review is pending at this time.

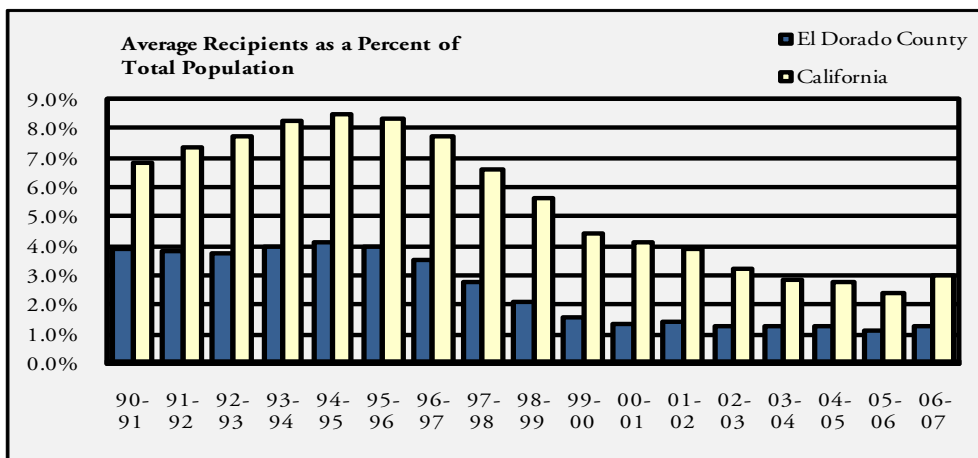
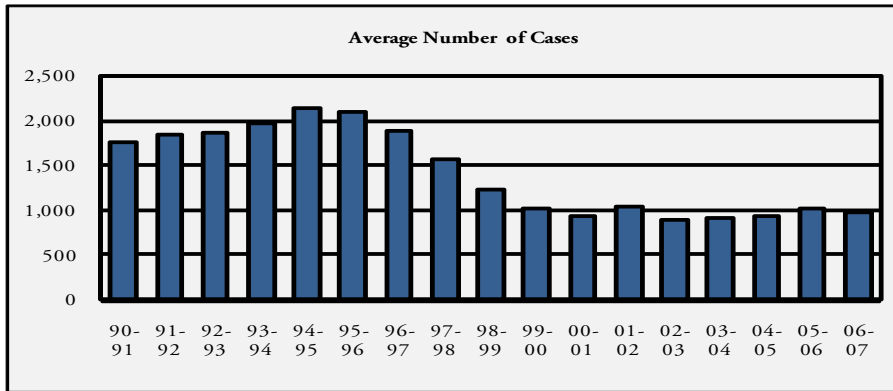
CalWORKs is a welfare program that gives cash aid and services to eligible needy California families. The program serves all fifty-eight counties in the state and is locally operated by county welfare departments. If a family has little or no cash and needs housing, food, utilities, clothing, or medical care, they may be eligible to receive immediate short-term help. Families that apply and qualify for ongoing assistance receive money each month to help pay for housing, food, and other necessary expenses. Families eligible for cash aid are those with needy children who are deprived because of a disability, absence or death of a parent, or unemployment of the principal earner. The assistance is intended to encourage work, enable families to become self-sufficient, and provide financial support for children who lack the proper support and care.

TANF/CalWORKs Caseload

Year	Average number of cases	Average number of recipients
90-91	1760	5041
91-92	1847	5204
92-93	1854	5211
93-94	1965	5631
94-95	2131	5906
95-96	2087	5753
96-97	1885	5274
97-98	1575	4232
98-99	1237	3178
99-00	1022	2491
00-01	922	2224
01-02	1044	2375
02-03	881	2103
03-04	904	2130
04-05	931	2173
05-06	1018	1930
06-07	973	2276

Source: California Department of Social Services

Information about these programs is useful in determining which areas need the most assistance and which areas have the greatest number of people utilizing assistance programs. Higher incidence of CalWORKs enrollment may indicate a lack of job opportunities for lesser skilled workers, or additional health or social issues that keep people from holding on to adequate employment.



El Dorado County

In El Dorado County, the number of TANF/CalWORKs recipients has been steadily decreasing since a peak in FY94. Between FY05 and FY06, the number of TANF/CalWORKs cases in the county decreased 4.5 percent, compared to a 3 percent increase in California. In the same year, the number of recipients in the county increased 15 percent, compared to a 21 percent increase in California. Since the peak year FY95, when 4.1 percent of El Dorado County's population received TANF/CalWORKs payments, the percentage has steadily decreased (1.3 percent in 2006).

Food Stamps Caseload & Expenditures

Overview

The food stamp program is a federally funded program aimed at ending hunger and improving nutrition and health. The program is available to people whose income falls below a certain level, but who are actively seeking employment or are currently employed.

The food stamp program is administered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The department pays all of the costs of the food stamps issued and half of the administrative costs of the program. The state and county share the other half of the administrative costs. Through this system a county can provide for the basic nutrition needs of its population without suffering a major drain on its economy. Food stamps cannot be used to buy items such as pet food, soap, paper products, household supplies, alcoholic beverages, vitamins, or any food prepared in the store or ready-to-eat.

As with CalWORKs, food stamp caseloads and expenditures may be an indication that issues exist in the county affecting the ability of people to work, either due to lack of jobs or lack of ability to do paid work. Since those working may also be eligible for food stamp assistance, a high food stamp caseload may also indicate that a large percentage of households are supported by employment paying relatively low wages.

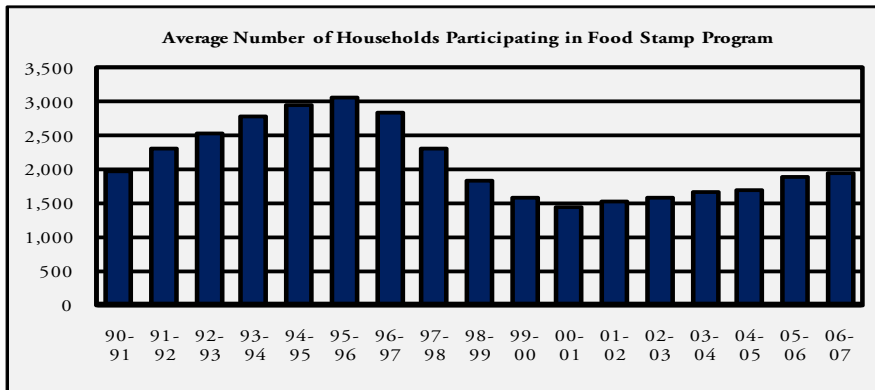
The USDA reports, based on a national U.S. Census Bureau survey of households representative of the U.S. population, that 11.1 percent of all U.S. households were food insecure in 2002 because of lack of resources. Of the 12.1 million households that were food insecure, 3.8 million suffered from food insecurity so severe that USDA's very conservative measure classified them as hungry. Since 1999, food insecurity has increased by 3.9 million individuals: 2.8 million adults and more than 1 million children. In 2002, 34.9

Food Stamps, Recipients, and Expenditures

Year	Average number of households	Average number of persons	Total expenditures
90-91	1,966	5,292	\$ 3,059,384
91-92	2,299	6,142	\$ 4,140,368
92-93	2,516	6,672	\$ 4,786,581
93-94	2,791	7,314	\$ 5,444,985
94-95	2,950	7,629	\$ 5,931,421
95-96	3,046	7,500	\$ 6,318,619
96-97	2,820	6,922	\$ 5,858,217
97-98	2,293	5,630	\$ 4,950,498
98-99	1,830	4,432	\$ 3,749,311
99-00	1,585	3,695	\$ 3,163,832
00-01	1,444	3,288	\$ 2,914,634
01-02	1,532	3,452	\$ 3,225,318
02-03	1,585	3,516	\$ 3,535,809
03-04	1,664	3,685	\$ 3,834,580
04-05	1,682	4,119	\$ 4,401,521
05-06	1,878	4,192	\$ 5,129,427
06-07	1,940	4,352	\$ 5,608,251

Source: California Department of Social Services

million people lived in households experiencing food insecurity, compared to 33.6 million in 2001 and 31 million in 1999. In 2004, California ranked second in the nation with 1,932,892 food stamp participants behind Texas with 2,327,410 food stamp participants.



El Dorado County

The average number of food stamp recipients in El Dorado County has been steadily decreasing since a peak in FY95. Between FY05 and FY06, however, the number of households receiving food stamps increased 9 percent, while the number of persons increased 5 percent. In comparison, the average number of households receiving food stamps in California increased 9.5 percent, and the average number of persons receiving food stamps increased 8 percent in the same year.

While total expenditures in the county have remained below the peak of FY96, they increased again in recent years, with 9 percent growth in FY06, compared to a 12 percent increase in California.

Medi-Cal Caseload & Expenditures

Overview

Medi-Cal is California's program that replaces the federal Medicaid program in the state. It was created before Medicaid and, therefore, California legislators successfully requested that the federal government exclude this state from their program. It covers people who are disadvantaged physically or financially. Some examples of Medi-Cal eligibles are people aged 65 or older, those who are blind or disabled, those who receive a check through the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payments program, children and parents who receive financial assistance through the CalWORKs program, and women who are pregnant or diagnosed with cervical or breast cancer. Data is also collected by the California

Department of Health regarding Medi-Cal eligibles by race/ethnicity, providing additional information on the income and assistance needs of the county's population.

Many Medi-Cal recipients are also either CalWORKs or food stamp recipients, creating an overlap in program enrollment.

NOTE: As there are numerous groups related to those of Asian decent, the CED compiled the following designations for the purpose of efficiency: Asian/Pacific Islander includes Amerasian, Asian Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Guamanian, Hawaiian native, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Samoan, and Vietnamese.

Medi-Cal Expenditures

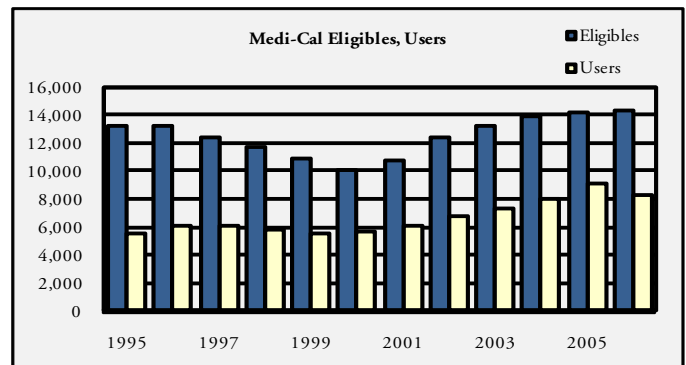
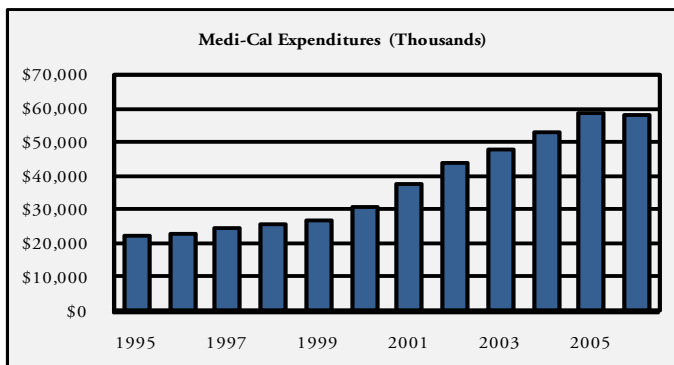
Year	Total expenditures	Average cost per unit/per day	Cost per user	Cost per eligible
1995	\$ 22,253,946	\$ 26.21	\$ 333.71	\$ 140.19
1996	\$ 22,939,272	\$ 24.01	\$ 316.36	\$ 145.12
1997	\$ 24,707,733	\$ 25.30	\$ 337.63	\$ 165.96
1998	\$ 25,890,705	\$ 27.21	\$ 373.53	\$ 183.24
1999	\$ 26,870,814	\$ 30.47	\$ 402.81	\$ 204.48
2000	\$ 30,887,215	\$ 30.42	\$ 454.74	\$ 256.94
2001	\$ 37,287,783	\$ 36.00	\$ 509.13	\$ 289.10
2002	\$ 43,769,379	\$ 38.85	\$ 543.34	\$ 292.97
2003	\$ 47,932,215	\$ 34.80	\$ 548.55	\$ 301.17
2004	\$ 52,893,502	\$ 37.05	\$ 548.31	\$ 315.54
2005	\$ 58,689,690	\$ 41.36	\$ 534.54	\$ 345.13
2006	\$ 58,267,080	\$ 54.24	\$ 586.85	\$ 337.73

Source: California Department of Health Services

Medi-Cal Eligibles, Users

Year	Eligibles	Percent of county pop.	Users	Percent of county pop.	Percent of eligibles
1995	13,228	9.2%	5,557	3.9%	42.0%
1996	13,173	9.0%	6,043	4.1%	45.9%
1997	12,406	8.4%	6,098	4.1%	49.2%
1998	11,774	7.8%	5,776	3.8%	49.1%
1999	10,951	7.1%	5,559	3.6%	50.8%
2000	10,018	6.4%	5,660	3.6%	56.5%
2001	10,749	6.7%	6,103	3.8%	56.8%
2002	12,450	7.6%	6,713	4.1%	53.9%
2003	13,263	7.9%	7,282	4.4%	54.9%
2004	13,969	8.2%	8,039	4.7%	57.5%
2005	14,171	8.2%	9,150	5.3%	64.6%
2006	14,377	8.1%	8,274	4.7%	57.6%

Source: California Department of Health Services



Information on Medi-Cal programs is helpful in determining the need for public medical assistance in a particular community. As with CalWORKs and food stamps, the relative need for assistance is also an indicator of the social and/or economic status of area residents.

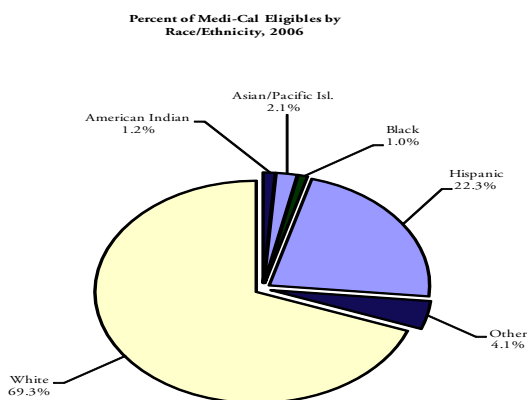
El Dorado County

In 2006, approximately 8 percent of the population in El Dorado County was eligible for Medi-Cal programs (13,377 people). In the same year, about 5 percent of the county population made use of those programs (8,274 people). Comparisons are difficult to make between the eligible figures and the user figures, and therefore each should be analyzed independent of one another. In comparison, 9 percent of the population throughout California was eligible, and 7 percent of the total population made use of Medi-Cal programs in the same year. The number of eligibles in California saw a low of about 2.5 million people in 2000, before beginning to rise again.

between 1995 and 2005, yet experienced a decrease of 1 percent in 2006—down from a 10 percent increase in 2005. At the same time, the cost per user increased 9 percent in 2006 in the county. In California, total expenditures decreased 7 percent, while the cost per user increased 2 percent in the same year.

The pie chart below shows that in 2006, about 69 percent of those eligible for Medi-Cal in El Dorado County were white, followed by 22 percent Hispanic, and 2 percent Asian. Despite these figures, the ratio of total race/ethnic populations eligible for Medi-Cal illustrates a different trend. While the largest race/ethnic group in the county was white in 2006, only about 7 percent of those persons were eligible for Medi-Cal, while approximately 17 percent of both the Hispanic population and the black population were eligible. This was followed by 13 percent of American Indians, and 9 percent of the Asian population in the county were eligible. These figures are helpful in considering the race/ethnic makeup of the county in terms of Medi-Cal eligibility. Please see section 1.4 for more details on population trends in the county.

Medi-Cal expenditures steadily increased each year



Medi-Cal Eligibles by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
American Indian/Alaskan Native	76	67	68	61	106	155	157	140	150	175
Asian/Pacific Islander	118	163	126	137	248	323	273	257	300	307
Black	89	85	72	71	88	101	103	117	127	140
Hispanic	1,470	1,541	1,401	1,322	1,849	2,281	2,674	2,866	3,026	3,239
Other	692	685	663	665	543	530	589	651	625	599
White	9,705	9,153	8,357	7,675	8,439	9,214	9,709	9,995	10,028	10,066

Source: California Department of Health Services

Child Abuse Referrals & Allegations

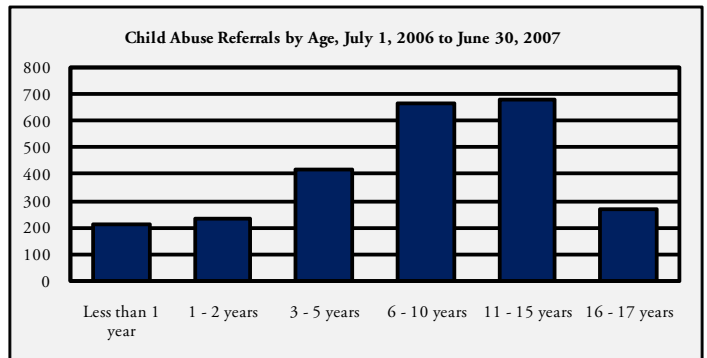
Overview

Child abuse is defined as improper treatment or the neglect of a child by a caretaker. Mistreatment of a child is characterized by actions, or lack of actions, that present a safety risk to the child. The four main types of mistreatment include physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse. In child abuse cases, the age of the child is a key factor in determining the needs of and risks to the child.

The County Child Protection Services (CPS) evaluates referrals and places them into the following three categories:

- **Substantiated:** there is sufficient evidence to prove that some kind of abuse has taken place, and the child is taken out of parental or caretaker custody.

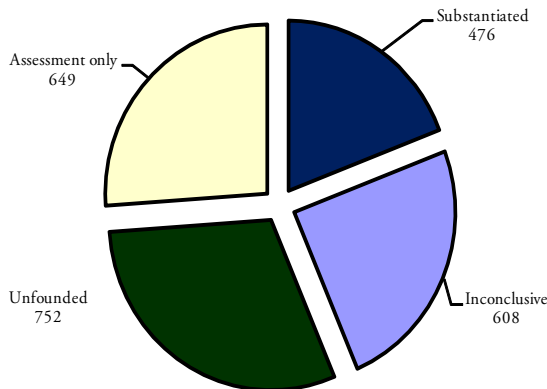
- **Inconclusive:** there has not been sufficient evidence for or against the occurrence of abuse, and the case is left open but no action is taken.



- **Unfounded:** evidence has proven that no abuse has taken place, and the child remains in parental or caretaker custody.

NOTE: In the following data, a child is counted only once per year in the county for the category of the highest severity. Percent calculations do not include the allegation missing/other. The number zero under the allegation category missing/other acts as a placeholder. Those numbers representing between one and four allegations are denoted as n/a to protect confidentiality.

Total Child Abuse Referrals, July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007



The number of child abuse referrals in a particular area determines the caseload and staffing requirements for Child Protection Services (CPS) in that area. CPS is a division of Child Welfare Services and is responsible for investigating child abuse allegations and determining their validity. A CPS caseworker will evaluate the circumstances of a particular abuse case and make a categorical conclusion based on the evidence he/she discovers.

The following factors are contributing causes of child abuse: substance abuse, lack of supportive services for families, economic stress and poverty, lack of knowledge regarding child care and child development,

domestic violence, and fragmented families. Studies have shown that child abuse is more likely to occur when all or any of the following exist: lack of parenting knowledge, parents are socially isolated, parents with unmet emotional needs, drug or alcohol problems in the home, parents who were abused as children, and/or violence or force is used as a solution. High or increasing reports of child abuse could be an indicator that some of these social issues are becoming more of a problem.

Another interpretation of change in child abuse reports is change in the likelihood of reporting abuse. Child abuse reports typically rise during and immediately after child abuse awareness campaigns. Therefore, change in this indicator must be carefully evaluated relative to changes in public awareness of the problem before drawing any conclusions.

El Dorado County

Of the 2,485 child abuse referrals made in El Dorado County in 2007, 476 were substantiated cases. The most common types of abuse in these cases were substantial risk with 228 cases, general neglect with 147 cases, and emotional caretaker absence/incapacity with forty cases. Substantial risk is defined as an environment that had severe overall effects on a child's emotional and physical well-being. In addition to the 476 substantiated abuse cases in El Dorado County in 2007, there were 608 inconclusive cases and 752 unfounded cases.

County Child Abuse Referrals by Age, July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007

Age-Class	Substantiated		Inconclusive		Unfounded		Assessment only		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Less than 1 year	67	14.1%	47	7.7%	56	7.4%	41	6.3%	211	8.5%
1 - 2 years	57	12.0%	64	10.5%	74	9.8%	42	6.5%	237	9.5%
3 - 5 years	86	18.1%	120	19.7%	131	17.4%	84	12.9%	421	16.9%
6 - 10 years	114	23.9%	167	27.5%	203	27.0%	183	28.2%	667	26.8%
11 - 15 years	116	24.4%	148	24.3%	209	27.8%	205	31.6%	678	27.3%
16 - 17 years	36	7.6%	62	10.2%	79	10.5%	94	14.5%	271	10.9%
Total	476	100.0%	608	100.0%	752	100.0%	649	100.0%	2,485	100.0%

Source: CWS/CMS Q1 2003 Extract

County Child Abuse Referrals by Allegation, July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007

Allegation	Substantiated		Inconclusive		Unfounded		Assessment only		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Sexual abuse	12	2.5%	14	2.3%	29	3.9%	99	15.3%	154	6.2%
Physical abuse	26	5.5%	43	7.1%	72	9.6%	57	8.8%	198	8.0%
Severe neglect	10	2.1%	2	0.3%	6	0.8%	4	0.6%	22	0.9%
General neglect	147	30.9%	226	37.2%	260	34.6%	183	28.2%	816	32.8%
Exploitation	1	0.2%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	3	0.5%	5	0.2%
Emotional abuse	8	1.7%	20	3.3%	18	2.4%	20	3.1%	66	2.7%
Caretaker absence/incapacity	40	8.4%	13	2.1%	22	2.9%	22	3.4%	97	3.9%
At risk, sibling abused	4	0.8%	1	0.2%	1	0.1%	3	0.5%	9	0.4%
Substantial risk	228	47.9%	288	47.4%	344	45.7%	258	39.8%	1,118	45.0%
Total	476	100.0%	608	100.0%	752	100.0%	649	100.0%	2,485	100.0%

Source: CWS/CMS Q1 2003 Extract

Foster Care Entries

Overview

Foster care is an out-of-home care system designed to protect children who cannot safely remain in the care of their families. Child abuse and/or neglect are the main causes of child removal from the home, making the child a dependent of the court. The foster care program is aimed at placing these children (who have been removed from their families) in an environment where they will receive proper care and attention. Foster care entries can be of many different types, including kinship, foster, foster family agencies, group homes, shelters, and guardian care.

NOTE: In the following data, a child is counted only once per year in the county for the category of the highest severity. Percent calculations do not include the allegation missing/other. The number zero under the allegation category missing/other acts as a placeholder. Those numbers representing between one and four allegations are denoted as n/a to protect confidentiality.

County Foster Care Entries by Age

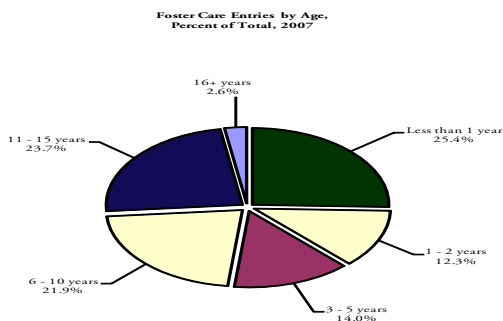
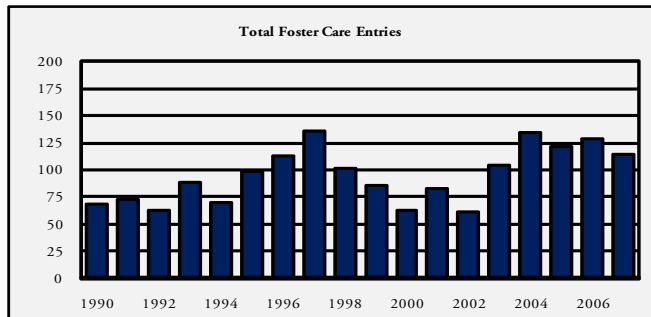
Year	Less than			6 - 10 years	11 - 15 years	16+ years	Missing	Total	Annual percent change
	1 year	1 - 2 years	3 - 5 years						
1990	11	8	12	8	20	9	0	68	n/a
1991	n/a	7	14	22	14	12	0	73	7.4%
1992	5	8	10	7	24	9	0	63	-13.7%
1993	12	5	9	34	27	0	0	89	41.3%
1994	10	9	13	18	16	n/a	0	70	-21.3%
1995	10	13	27	26	20	0	0	99	41.4%
1996	6	20	21	31	27	6	n/a	112	13.1%
1997	15	30	23	36	25	7	0	136	21.4%
1998	6	11	15	27	32	7	n/a	101	-25.7%
1999	11	12	18	21	21	0	0	85	-15.8%
2000	7	13	8	12	16	6	0	62	-27.1%
2001	11	12	14	20	21	0	0	82	32.3%
2002	12	9	8	12	15	5	0	61	-25.6%
2003	13	18	20	33	14	6	0	104	70.5%
2004	24	20	24	32	31	3	0	134	28.8%
2005	21	24	19	25	23	9	0	121	-9.7%
2006	28	18	18	25	30	9	0	128	5.8%
2007	29	14	16	25	27	3	0	114	-10.9%

Source: CWS/CMS Q2 2007 Extract *8 days or more

It is common for children placed in foster care to remain in the system, with multiple placements, until age eighteen. Depending on the success of the initial placements, the time spent in the welfare foster system can have lasting effects on the child's adult life following emancipation. For example, statistics show that children with over five placements suffer more hardships than a child who had fewer than five placements. A small but disturbing number of males enter the state prison system after they leave the child welfare system, while those women who become mothers while in foster care are four times as likely to receive welfare or state aid compared to other young females in their age group. It has been determined by the California Youth Connection that many emancipating foster youth are not made aware of their eligibility for benefits that could support their housing, child care, and employment needs. Furthermore, roughly two-thirds of foster youth have college ambitions, but many emancipating youths do not attend because information on higher education and financial aid opportunities is not consistently provided in a timely manner.

El Dorado County

A total of 114 children entered foster care in El Dorado County in 2007, a decrease of 11 percent from the previous year. The age of these children varied greatly, ranging from less than one year old to over 16 years of age. Of the 114 children who entered foster care in 2007, twenty-nine were less than one year old.



County Foster Care Entries by Placement Type and Entry Year

Year	Kinship	Foster	FFA	Group	Shelter	Guardian	Missing	Total	Percent
1990	12	43	6	5	n/a	n/a	0	68	n/a
1991	17	38	16	n/a	0	n/a	0	73	7.4%
1992	10	23	22	5	0	n/a	n/a	63	-13.7%
1993	26	36	24	n/a	0	n/a	0	89	41.3%
1994	17	26	22	n/a	0	n/a	0	70	-21.3%
1995	44	15	34	0	0	n/a	n/a	99	41.4%
1996	42	48	20	n/a	0	n/a	0	112	13.1%
1997	52	35	42	0	n/a	5	n/a	136	21.4%
1998	15	27	32	5	n/a	5	16	101	-25.7%
1999	14	25	37	5	0	n/a	n/a	85	-15.8%
2000	11	19	22	n/a	0	5	n/a	62	-27.1%
2001	11	26	30	7	n/a	n/a	n/a	82	32.3%
2002	6	17	26	8	0	n/a	n/a	61	-25.6%
2003	5	45	47	7	0	0	0	104	70.5%
2004	22	37	56	18	0	1	0	134	28.8%
2005	26	33	43	16	0	3	0	121	-9.7%
2006	40	14	58	14	0	0	1	128	5.8%
2007	23	32	51	8	0	0	0	114	-10.9%

Source: CWS/CMS Q2 2007 Extract *8 days or more

