

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 has been steadily decreasing after they peaked in FY95 while the number of households receiving food stamps has been steadily rising since its low point in FY00. Meanwhile, Medi-Cal expenditures are at their highest in FY07, increasing 4 percent, compared to a 0.2 percent decrease in California. In the same year, the number of Medi-Cal eligibles in El Dorado County increased 5.5 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.

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.

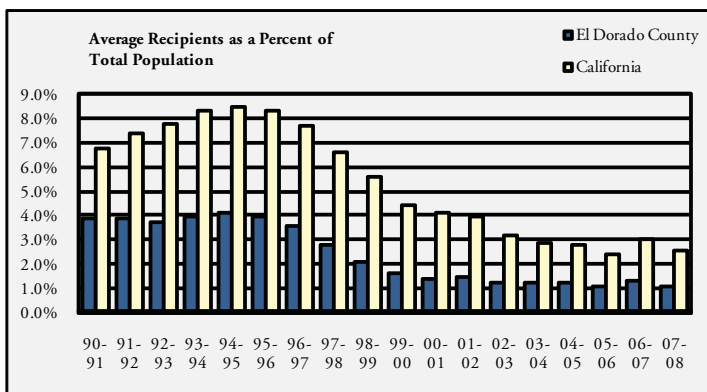
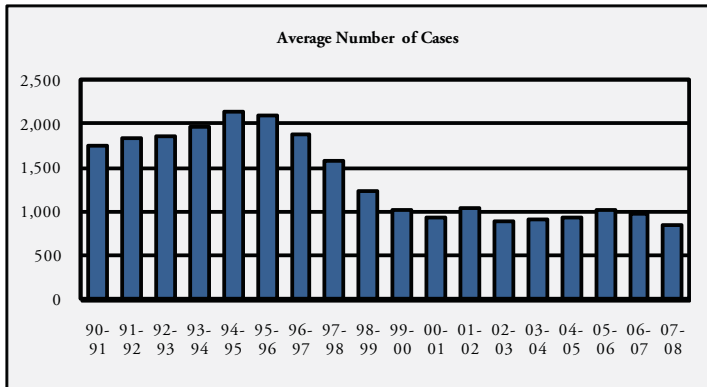
Information about these programs is useful in determining which areas need the most assistance and which areas have the greatest number of people utilizing assistance programs. Higher incidence of CalWORKs enrollment

TANF/CalWORKs Caseload

Year	Average number of cases	Average number of recipients
90-91	1,760	5,041
91-92	1,847	5,204
92-93	1,854	5,211
93-94	1,965	5,631
94-95	2,131	5,906
95-96	2,087	5,753
96-97	1,885	5,274
97-98	1,575	4,232
98-99	1,237	3,178
99-00	1,022	2,491
00-01	922	2,224
01-02	1,044	2,375
02-03	881	2,103
03-04	904	2,130
04-05	931	2,173
05-06	1,018	1,930
06-07	973	2,276
07-08	850	1,944

Source: California Department of Social Services

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 FY06 and FY07, the number of TANF/CalWORKs cases in the county decreased 13 percent, compared to a 15 percent decrease in California. In the same year, the number of recipients in the county decreased 15 percent, compared to a 21 percent decrease 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 (1.1 percent in 2007).

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 10.9 percent of all U.S. households were food insecure in 2006 because of lack of resources. Of the 12.64 million households that were food insecure, 4.6 million suffered from food insecurity so severe that USDA's very conservative measure classified them as hungry. Since 2002, food insecurity has increased by 590,000 individuals: 1.1 million more adults are food insecure but 0.5 million fewer children

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
07-08	2,111	4,716	6,407,848

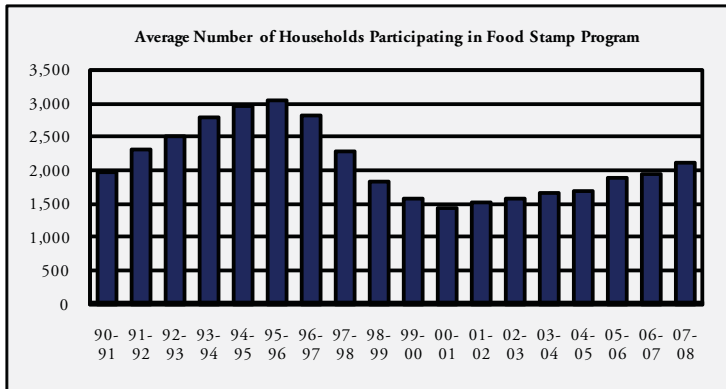
Source: California Department of Social Services

are considered food insecure.

El Dorado County

The average number of food stamp recipients in El Dorado County has been steadily decreasing since a peak in FY95. Between FY06 and FY07, however, the number of households receiving food stamps increased 9 percent, while the number of persons increased 8 percent. In comparison, the average number of households receiving food stamps in California increased 9 percent, and the average number of persons receiving food stamps increased 7 percent in the same year.

Total expenditures in the county rose to its highest point ever in FY07, increasing by 14 percent, compared to a 15 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

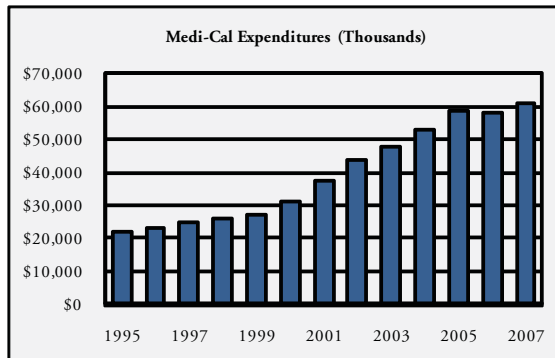
Department of Health regarding Medi-Cal eligibles by race/ethnicity, providing additional information on the income and assistance needs of the county’s population.

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 person
1995	\$ 22,253,946	\$ 4.6	\$ 1,682
1996	\$ 22,939,272	\$ 4.8	\$ 1,741
1997	\$ 24,707,733	\$ 5.5	\$ 1,992
1998	\$ 25,890,705	\$ 6.0	\$ 2,199
1999	\$ 26,870,814	\$ 6.7	\$ 2,454
2000	\$ 30,887,215	\$ 8.4	\$ 3,083
2001	\$ 37,287,783	\$ 9.5	\$ 3,469
2002	\$ 43,769,379	\$ 9.6	\$ 3,516
2003	\$ 47,932,215	\$ 9.9	\$ 3,614
2004	\$ 52,893,502	\$ 10.4	\$ 3,787
2005	\$ 58,689,690	\$ 11.3	\$ 4,142
2006	\$ 58,267,080	\$ 10.9	\$ 3,976
2007	\$ 60,669,324	\$ 11.1	\$ 4,070

Source: California Department of Health Care Services



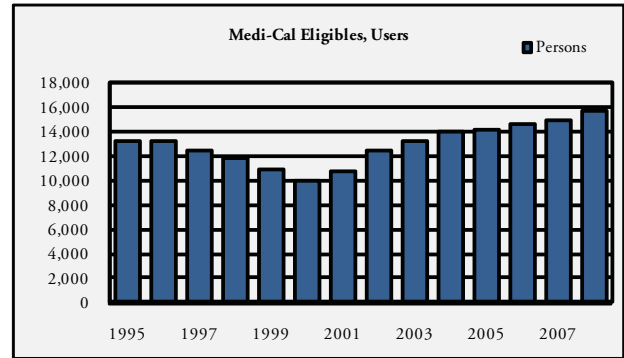
Medi-Cal Eligibles		
Year	Persons	Percent of county pop.
1995	13,228	9.2 %
1996	13,173	9.0 %
1997	12,406	8.4 %
1998	11,774	7.8 %
1999	10,951	7.1 %
2000	10,018	6.3 %
2001	10,749	6.6 %
2002	12,450	7.5 %
2003	13,263	7.9 %
2004	13,969	8.1 %
2005	14,171	8.1 %
2006	14,656	8.3 %
2007	14,908	8.4 %
2008	15,723	8.7 %

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 2008, approximately 9

Source: California Department of Health Care Services

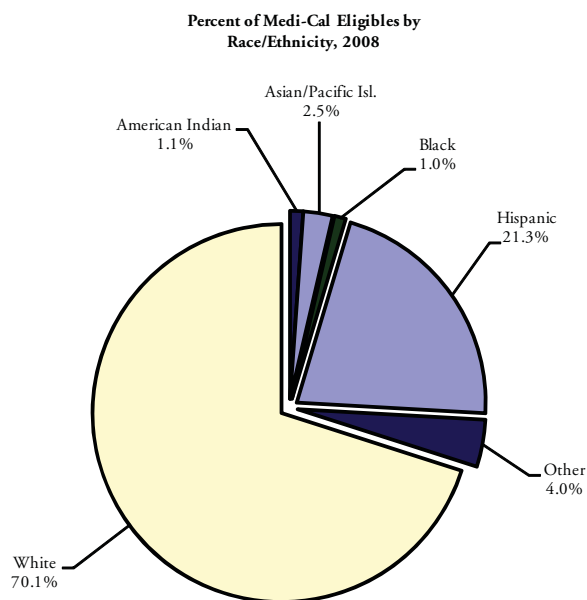


percent of the population in El Dorado County was eligible for Medi-Cal programs (16,024 people). In comparison, 18 percent of the population throughout California was eligible. The number of eligibles in the county saw a low of about 10,000 people in 2000, before beginning to rise again.

Medi-Cal expenditures steadily increased each year between 1995 and 2005, experienced a decrease of 1 percent in 2006, but has since risen 4 percent in 2007. At the same time, the cost per user increased 2 percent in 2007 in the county. In California, total expenditures decreased 0.2

percent, while the cost per user decreased 0.6 percent in the same year.

The pie chart below shows that in 2008, about 70 percent of those eligible for Medi-Cal in El Dorado County were white, followed by 21 percent Hispanic, and 3 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 2008, only about 7 percent of those persons were eligible for Medi-Cal, while approximately 19 percent of the black population and 17 percent of the hispanic population were eligible. This was followed by 14 percent of American Indians, and 11 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 Eligibles by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
American Indian/Alaskan Native	68	61	106	155	157	140	150	175	199	181
Asian/Pacific Islander	126	137	248	323	273	257	300	307	353	401
Black	72	71	88	101	103	117	127	140	128	158
Hispanic	1,401	1,322	1,849	2,281	2,674	2,866	3,026	3,239	3,161	3,408
Unknown	663	665	543	530	589	651	625	599	593	648
White	8,357	7,675	8,439	9,214	9,709	9,995	10,028	10,066	10,477	11,228

Source: California Department of Health Care Services

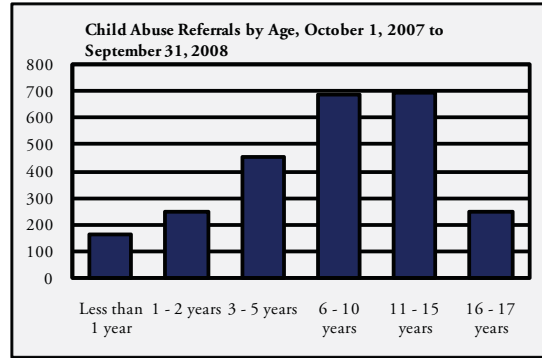
Child Abuse Referrals & Allegations

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 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 three categories are:

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.

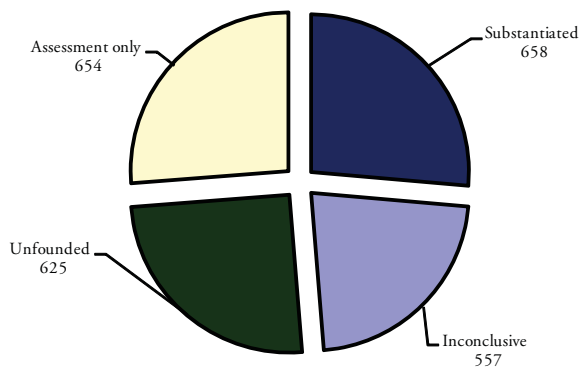


Inconclusive: there has not been sufficient evidence for or against the occurrence of abuse, and the case is left open but no action is taken.

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, October 1, 2007 to September 31, 2008



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 2,494 child abuse referrals made in El Dorado

County in 2008, 658 were substantiated cases. The most common types of abuse in these cases were general neglect with 480 cases, substantial risk with 90 cases, and physical abuse with 28 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 658 substantiated abuse cases in El Dorado County in 2008, there were 557 inconclusive cases and 625 unfounded cases.

County Child Abuse Referrals by Age, October 1, 2007 to September 31, 2008

Age-Class	Substantiated		Inconclusive		Unfounded		Assessment only		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Less than 1 year	54	8.2 %	34	6.1 %	37	5.9 %	40	6.1 %	165	6.6 %
1 - 2 years	86	13.1 %	55	9.9 %	57	9.1 %	51	7.8 %	249	10.0 %
3 - 5 years	112	17.0 %	120	21.5 %	108	17.3 %	111	17.0 %	451	18.1 %
6 - 10 years	181	27.5 %	154	27.6 %	179	28.6 %	172	26.3 %	686	27.5 %
11 - 15 years	169	25.7 %	147	26.4 %	194	31.0 %	183	28.0 %	693	27.8 %
16 - 17 years	56	8.5 %	47	8.4 %	50	8.0 %	97	14.8 %	250	10.0 %
Total	658	100.0 %	557	100.0 %	625	100.0 %	654	100.0 %	2,494	100.0 %

Source: CWS/CMS Q4 2008 Extract

County Child Abuse Referrals by Allegation, October 1, 2007 to September 31, 2008

Allegation	Substantiated		Inconclusive		Unfounded		Assessment only		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Sexual abuse	12	1.8 %	18	3.2 %	19	3.0 %	87	13.3 %	136	5.5 %
Physical abuse	28	4.3 %	39	7.0 %	98	15.7 %	93	14.2 %	258	10.3 %
Severe neglect	8	1.2 %	3	0.5 %	4	0.6 %	5	0.8 %	20	0.8 %
General neglect	480	72.9 %	435	78.1 %	457	73.1 %	358	54.7 %	1,730	69.4 %
Exploitation	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	1	0.2 %	1	0.0 %
Emotional abuse	16	2.4 %	26	4.7 %	25	4.0 %	48	7.3 %	115	4.6 %
Caretaker absence/incapacity	14	2.1 %	3	0.5 %	16	2.6 %	8	1.2 %	41	1.6 %
At risk, sibling abused	10	1.5 %	1	0.2 %	2	0.3 %	0	0.0 %	13	0.5 %
Substantial risk	90	13.7 %	32	5.7 %	4	0.6 %	54	8.3 %	180	7.2 %
Total	658	100.0 %	557	100.0 %	625	100.0 %	654	100.0 %	2,494	100.0 %

Source: CWS/CMS Q4 2008 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.

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 follow-

ing 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

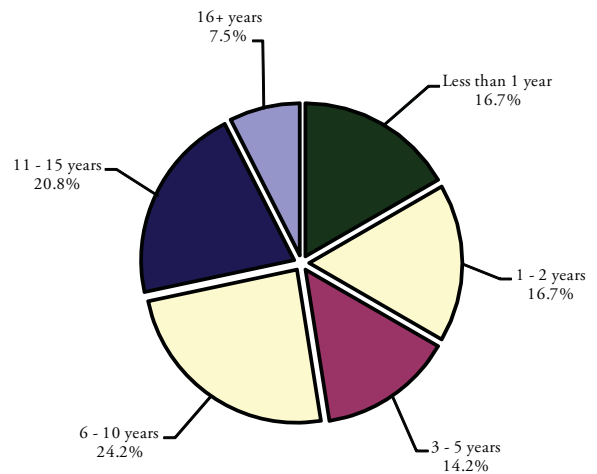
A total of 120 children entered foster care in El Dorado County in 2007, a decrease of 5 percent from the previous year. The age of these children varied greatly,

El Dorado County Foster Care Entries by Age

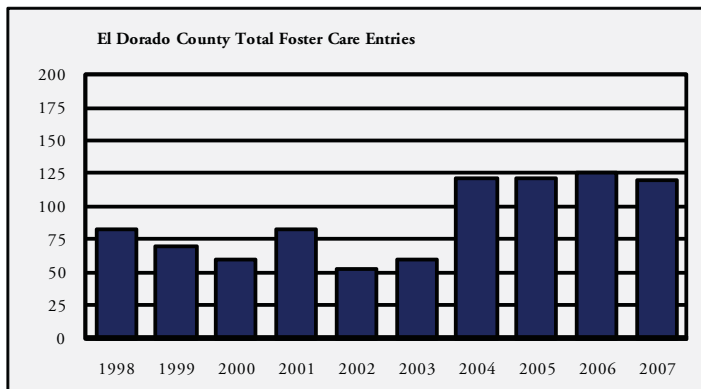
Year	Less than 1 year	1 - 2 years	3 - 5 years	6 - 10 years	11 - 15 years	16+ years	Total	Annual percent change
1998	6	9	15	22	26	4	82	n/a
1999	8	9	15	17	19	1	69	- 15.9 %
2000	6	12	7	12	17	6	60	- 13.0 %
2001	11	12	17	19	19	4	82	36.7 %
2002	9	8	4	12	16	4	53	- 35.4 %
2003	3	7	15	19	14	2	60	13.2 %
2004	19	21	23	31	22	5	121	101.7 %
2005	21	24	18	26	24	8	121	0.0 %
2006	30	15	17	24	34	6	126	4.1 %
2007	20	20	17	29	25	9	120	- 4.8 %

Source: CWS/CMS 2008 Q3 Extract *8 days or more

El Dorado County Foster Care Entries by Age, Percent of Total, 2007



ranging from less than one year old to over 16 years of age. Of the 120 children who entered foster care in 2007, twenty were less than one year old.



El Dorado County Foster Care Entries by Placement Type and Entry Year

Year	Kinship	Foster	FFA	Group	Shelter	Guardian	Missing	Court	Other	Total	Annual Percent Change
1998	15	23	33	4	0	6	0	1	0	82	n/a
1999	13	15	32	4	0	2	0	3	0	69	- 15.9 %
2000	7	23	22	3	0	5	0	0	0	60	- 13.0 %
2001	12	27	33	7	0	3	0	0	0	82	36.7 %
2002	5	13	20	10	0	5	0	0	0	53	- 35.4 %
2003	10	15	28	5	0	2	0	0	0	60	13.2 %
2004	5	45	57	11	0	2	0	1	0	121	101.7 %
2005	26	36	39	18	0	2	0	0	0	121	0.0 %
2006	22	31	57	16	0	0	0	0	0	126	4.1 %
2007	22	43	42	12	0	1	0	0	0	120	- 4.8 %

Source: CWS/CMS 2008 Q3 Extract *8 days or more

