

Ventura County Grand Jury 2009 - 2010



Final Report

Youth in Shadow

June 14, 2010

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Youth in Shadow

Summary

"Tom" was thrust into the world twice in his life: once, at the age of four months when initially placed in Foster Care, and again at 18 when he "aged out" of care in San Diego County. By his estimate he had been in 67 to 70 different foster care situations. Extreme? Yes, but not unusual. No longer a child, he was on his own with adult responsibilities and little support: a youth in shadow¹. [Ref-01]

With the enactment of *Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act*, H.R. 6893 (HR 6893) in 2008, and the anticipated approval of the State of California (State) *Fostering Connections to Success Act*, Assembly Bill 12 (AB 12), the 2009-2010 Ventura County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) opened an inquiry to determine what Ventura County (County) services and programs are available for youth² leaving foster care and, if possible, to assess the long-term benefits of these programs.

The Grand Jury found there are many practical and constructive programs and services available for foster children and youth in the County. The Grand Jury also found that although the process for transitioning out of foster care is organized, monitored, and sequential, there is no systematic method in place for measuring long-term success. The Grand Jury further determined that the caseloads for Human Services Agency (HSA), Children and Family Services (CFS) Social Workers to be greater than recommended or best practice.

The Grand Jury concluded that County foster care children and youth are appropriately served through a broad range of programs, but program success, however, cannot be validated empirically. The Grand Jury concluded that County officials, agencies, and providers are generally supportive of legislation extending foster care services and assistance beyond the age of 18.

The Grand Jury recommends that County policy makers and agencies financially and philosophically support legislation extending foster care beyond the age of 18. HSA should invest time and resources into finding ways to collect and store summative data on County youth who have exited foster care. The Grand Jury also recommends that HSA/CFS acknowledge the benefits of smaller caseloads by pursuing ways in which caseloads can be reduced either through an increase in work force, a reorganization of resources, or re-evaluation of priorities.

¹In child psychology, children who are at risk and unable to qualify for special programs or services are sometimes referred to as *shadow* children. They are in-between eligibility for services and may not have the opportunity or means to receive needed help. This descriptor can also apply to youth aging out of foster care: They are no longer children and not quite adults; their support structure has been taken away or terminated; they are at risk of falling between the cracks . . . or lost in the shadows. [Ref-02]

²The term "youth" as generally used by HSA is any child in an open case who is age 16 or over at the time they exit foster care. As defined in the dictionary, "youth" is the period between childhood and maturity. [Ref-03]

Background

Current State law prescribes that when foster care children attain the age of 18, services and protection end and foster guardianship concludes. Considered to be adults, they are expected to live independently; however, they possess underdeveloped life skills, poor social skills, inadequate job skills, and limited education and training. [Ref-04]

Ironically, these youth are expected to succeed long before a vast majority of their peers who remained at home and were raised in a supportive environment with one or both parents. [Ref-05]

To temper the inequity of youth being exited from foster care while unprepared for independent living, the federal government enacted H.R. 6893 - now Public Law 110-351 (PL 110-351). The Law amends Title IV of the Social Security Act (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) and allows states to establish relative guardianship programs with federal participation in the costs. PL 110-351 makes funds available for foster care and kinship-guardianship programs and provides adoption assistance benefits for youth until age 21.

In order to access federal funds, individual states must align state law with PL 110-351. To this intent, the State Assembly in March 2009 proposed AB 12 which was ratified by the State Assembly in February 2010 and advanced to the Senate where it presently awaits confirmation.

As amended³, AB 12 would re-enact the State's Kinship-Guardianship Assistance Payment Program, (Kin-GAP) to agree with federal requirements, thus allowing the State to claim Title IV-E reimbursements for 18-, 19-, and 20-year-olds still in foster care, provided they are working toward a high school diploma, passing the GED, pursuing post-secondary education or vocational training, employed at least 80 hours per month, or incapable of any of the above due to a medical condition. AB 12 also expands the definition of foster care to include youth living independently in supervised settings. [Ref-07]

A March 12, 2009 *Los Angeles Times* editorial stated, "For years, thousands of California youths were abused or neglected twice over – first by parents who couldn't or wouldn't provide basic care, then by governmental agencies that sent them to live with strangers instead of extended family, only to cut them off from all support on their 18th birthdays." [Ref-08]

³Originally, PL 110-351 authorized funding for new programs only, which penalized states such as California that provided some limited programs and services for older youth (Kin-GAP). Subsequent appeals to the present administration, suggested by the California Legislative Analyst's Office and amendments adopted by the Assembly Appropriations Committee, delayed implementation until funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act elapsed, thereby allowing the State to "draw down" federal money for its state-funded relative guardianship program, greatly reducing the early costs of putting AB 12 into practice. The implementation of extending foster care to age 21 will be staggered over three years beginning in 2012. AB 12 will also benefit family members in guardianships who will receive the same financial help afforded to foster parents. An AB 12 "Fact Sheet" issued by the office of Assembly Member Jim Beall, Jr. states, ". . . this provides an incredible opportunity for California to access federal funding to better the lives of our most vulnerable youth." [Ref-06]

California Supreme Court Associate Justice Carlos R. Moreno, Chairman of the California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care, addressing a news conference on AB 12, was quoted as saying, "No responsible parent would cut their child off at 18 or 19, and say to them 'You are an adult now, and you can no longer return home, rely on my support or turn to me for guidance' . . . But that is exactly what California does to its foster youth." [Ref-09]

With the enactment of PL 110-351 and the expected passage of AB 12, the Grand Jury deemed it fitting and timely to open an inquiry into the appropriateness of services and programs available for youth leaving foster care in the County. Are the services and programs comprehensive and practical? Is there a progressive and coordinated plan with benchmarks and a tracking system for follow-up? Can the success and enduring benefits of County programs for foster youth living independently be measured and assessed? Are the youth now living independently, housed sufficiently, and meaningfully employed? Have they completed high school or enrolled in college? Are they law-abiding citizens? Are they productive? Are they reasonably happy?

Methodology

The Grand Jury interviewed key personnel from CFS Foster Care, attended foster care and homelessness meetings, visited group homes and agencies (some with transitional housing), conducted an internet and media search for related articles, information, and legislative updates, reviewed previous County and Los Angeles County grand jury reports on foster care, and reviewed data and information provided by HSA and CFS.

Findings

General

- F-01.** An estimated 19,000 youths age out of foster care in the U.S. each year, most without a permanent family to support them. [Ref-10]
- F-02.** According to numerous studies, youth emancipating or exiting foster care are unprepared for adult living. [Ref-04, Ref-05, Ref-09]
- F-03.** Extending foster care beyond the age of 18 reduces the risk of teenage pregnancies by 38% and reduces the likelihood of being arrested by 65%. When compared with youth exiting at 18, those in care past the age of 18 are three times more likely to enroll in college. [Ref-11]
- F-04.** Extending foster care until the age of 21 increases estimated lifetime earning potential by \$84,000 - with some college, a return of \$2.00 for every dollar spent; and by \$92,000 - with completion of college, a return of \$2.40 for each \$1.00. [Ref-12]
- F-05.** PL 106-169, the National Youth in Transition Database ([NYTD](#)) Initiative requires the Administration for Children and Families, under the Department of Health and Human Services, to develop a data collection system to:

- track the number and characteristics of children receiving independent living services
- track the type and quantity of independent living services provided by the states
- develop outcome measures to assess states' performance

States are required to begin collecting data by October 1, 2010, with first submission of data by May 15, 2011. [Ref-13]

California

- F-06.** Data submitted to the Children's Bureau indicates that the number of children entering, exiting, and presently in foster care has been decreasing. Data further shows that the State, with 12% of the population, serves 13% to 15% of the foster care population. [Ref-14]

**Foster Care in California FY 2006 - FY 2008
Entries, Exits, and Number of Children in Care on the Last
Day of Each Federal Fiscal Year (FY)**

Entering Foster Care				Exiting Foster Care during the Year			In Foster Care on Last Day of FY Year		
	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Calif.	41,090	41,316	36,162	41,068	42,446	41,479	76,405	73,998	67,323
U.S.	303,236	293,301	273,132	293,434	293,233	285,196	504,855	490,693	463,333
Calif. %	13.56%	14.09%	13.24%	14.00%	14.48%	14.54%	15.13%	15.08%	14.53%

- F-07.** The Status of child welfare in the State (as reported January 2010): [Ref-15, Ref-16]

- number of children/youth (Att-01)
 - in foster care: 76,129
 - in child welfare and supervised placements: 75,587
 - placed in Kin-GAP – 13,734
 - emancipating from child welfare and supervised care: 5,027 (Att-02)
- Child Welfare Spending (Att-01)
 - FY 2006: \$4,399,479,000
 - Title IV-E Foster Care Expenditures FY 2008: \$1,241,459,464

- F-08.** State youth age out of foster care at the age of 18.

- F-09.** Dependency can be extended to the age of 19 if the youth are on track to receive a high school diploma.

- F-10.** In 2008-09, approximately 4,500 foster youths ages 18 and older aged out of foster care in the State. [Ref-17]

- F-11.** A significant problem for young women coming out of foster care is early or unwanted pregnancy:
[Ref-18]
- approximately two-thirds of women emancipating from child welfare had at least one birth within five years of leaving care, nine percent had births while in care, 10 percent in the first year after care, and 11 to 14 percent each succeeding year
 - the more foster placements for a young woman, the greater the likelihood she will become pregnant before emancipation
- F-12.** Dependency is dismissed by the court when a child returns home, is adopted, guardianship is granted by the court, or the child reaches the age of 18.
- F-13.** The California Department of Social Services, Children and Family Services, Foster Care (CDSS) provides a host of programs, services, assistance, and information to foster youth who emancipate, exit, or age out of foster care and transition to independency. Programs offered include employment, financial, and housing assistance.
[Ref-19] (Att-03 for a full list)
- F-14.** The average estimated cost (per youth, per year) to extend foster care in the State to the age of 21 is \$37,948, with the federal government expected to pay \$13,282, the State \$9,866, and the placing county \$14,800. [Ref-20]
- F-15.** Existing research on emancipation from foster care relies almost exclusively on interviews of former foster children. [Ref-21]
- F-16.** Youth aging out of foster care face many problems. [Ref-22]
- although not unique to foster children, because of the nature of their early upbringing and lack of family connection, former foster children experience ongoing problems with mental health issues, drug and substance abuse, and sexual orientation (Att-04)
 - few have access to transportation, which results in difficulty getting to medical appointments, job interviews, and school
- F-17.** California is one of only four states (as of 2006) that terminates foster care at the age of 18. Other states and termination ages are:
[Ref-23]
- 18 years old in California - plus FL, LA, RI
 - 19 years old in four states - NE, UT, VT, WI
 - 20 years old in four states - AK, IA, MI, NH
 - 21 years old in 32 states - AL, AR, AZ, CO, DE, GA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, ME, MD, MO, MN, MT, NC, ND, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, SD, VA, WA, WV, WY, and DC
 - 22 years old in two states - MA, TX

- 23 years old in one state - CT
- information not available - HI, MS, TN, and PR

County

F-18. Status of child welfare in the County as of March 30, 2010:

- number in foster care: 632
 - in family-type settings: 303
 - in group homes: 62
 - in Relative or Non-related Extended Family Care: 200
 - in court-specified or medical facilities: approximately 67
- number placed in Kin-GAP: 106
- number of youth emancipating from child welfare and probation supervised care: 27
- Child Welfare Funding FY 2008-09: \$34,467,729; Title IV-E Foster Care Expenditures FY 2008-09: \$23,392,547
- Child Welfare Budget FY 2009-10: \$35,744,430; Title IV-E Foster Care Budget FY 2009-10: \$24,115,384
- there are 211 licensed Foster Homes in the County

F-19. The cost for foster care in the County for the six months, July 2009 through December 2009, was approximately \$6.2 million.

F-20. The County leverages every \$1.00 received from local funding into \$5.00 from state or federal funding.

F-21. Some of the recently introduced programs for Foster Care have been underfunded.

F-22. As of March 30, 2010, there were 795 children in foster care dependency in the County. As of December 2009, of the 654 youths in out-of-home foster care or in relative care in the County, 42 were 17 years-old and 14 were 18 years-old.

F-23. Between 2007 and 2009, 164 youths over 16 years of age exited County foster care programs.

Ventura County Youth Ages 16-19+ Exiting Foster Care

Year	Age 16	17	18	19+	Total	Perma-nency	Aged-out
2008-09	21	20	57	2	100	30	58
2007-08	17	14	31	2	64	19	30

F-24. In FY 2008-09, 521 County children and youth (all ages) exited foster care, and 505 exited in FY 2007-08 (including exits for emancipation, adoption, guardianship, and family reunification).

- F-25.** On the average, 50 youths emancipate in the County each year.
- F-26.** CFS has 97 social workers in 108 full-time positions as of March 30, 2010.
- F-27.** The current HSA caseload is 22 children per social worker, occasionally 25 to 27. To determine its caseload standard, HSA relies on a study performed 10 years ago which determined that a ratio of 22 to one was desirable.
- F-28.** Recommended caseloads:
[Ref-24]
- the Child Welfare League of America recommends 12 to 15 children per worker for foster care
 - the Oregon Project recommends a maximum caseload for foster care of 15 children per worker
 - a study in Idaho and Washington State suggested that, when caseloads were reduced to no more than 10 children per worker, permanency for children was accomplished in a “timely manner”
- F-29.** Five CFS staff recruit, license, investigate, and perform background checks for all Foster Homes.
- F-30.** Each County-licensed Foster Home is visited at least once per year. (The State requires they be reviewed only once every five years.)
- F-31.** In addition to State programs and services, CFS under HSA oversees or coordinates several programs for foster and transitioning youth:
- Independent Living Program (ILP) for youth 16 to 21 which assists with transportation - driver’s licenses, bus passes, bicycles, education, housing, mentoring, basic living skills
 - After Care Services Program for youth over 18 includes information on obtaining food stamps and MediCal
 - California Youth Connection (CYC) forum provides leadership, advocacy, support, and empowerment, as well as an opportunity to address foster youth issues at the legislative level
 - Transitional Housing Placement Plus (THPP) provides housing assistance and support for up to six former foster or probation youth ages 18-24
 - Transitional Housing Placement Plus (THP+) provides affordable housing assistance and supportive services to emancipated foster and probation youth. It is a voluntary program for emancipated youth ages 18-24 for up to 24 months. May include a \$500 stipend for one year towards housing costs
 - Transitional Housing Placement Program (also referred to as THPP) assists youth 16-18 years-old with semi-independent living – a service provider external to HSA

- Aspiranet, a non-profit social services agency provides assistance with family services, adoption, foster care, education, after-school programs and community collaboration
- Interface Children Family Services provides classes on life skills training, budgeting, and educational and vocational opportunities
- Kin-GAP - Kinship Guardianship Program youth live with relatives in a guardianship relationship - dependency has been dismissed and CFS does not provide ongoing case management
- Wraparound Program provides intensive support for children with emotional and behavioral needs, allowing them to remain with their families when otherwise they would be placed in a group home
- Foster Family Agencies - Aspiranet and Koinonia for children requiring more intensive care
- Small Family Homes are licensed by the State and are typically for children requiring a higher level of care; employment outside the home is prohibited for caregiver
- Non-Related Extended Family Member (NREFM) can act as a caregiver, e.g. a neighbor with a pre-existing relationship; however, they must pass same background checks and home inspections as required for a foster home or a relative home
- a transition program for youth approaching the age of 18
- a foster care Support Group for youth leaving foster care
- a Juvenile Court with one judge
- a website for ILP youth - www.vchsa.org/ilp

F-32. CFS maintains working relationships with local nonprofit agencies in supporting former foster youth and providing assistance:

- Path Point, Catholic Charities, and Salvation Army for assistance with rent
- Path Point for assistance with security deposits
- Path Point and Salvation Army for assistance with paying for utilities
- Catholic Charities, Food Share, and HSA Food Stamp Program for assistance in obtaining food
- ACTION and Kiwanis Club for assistance with obtaining furniture

F-33. Due to confidentiality and privacy laws, any follow-up contact with former foster care children and youth is voluntary for the youth. They are private citizens and, as such, cannot be required to report back to CFS on their lives. Therefore, HSA cannot collect real data regarding their progress or lack of accomplishments.

- F-34.** No statistically significant data is collected on the effectiveness of program(s).
- F-35.** There is no regular, systematic method for collecting empirical data for research on the effectiveness of program(s).
- F-36.** The following information, when requested by the Grand Jury, was unavailable from HSA/CFS:
- What percentage of former County foster youth is living independently?
 - What percentage of former County foster youth is homeless?
 - What percentage of former County foster youth is gainfully employed? Unemployed?
 - What percentage of former County foster youth is currently receiving welfare assistance?
 - What percentage of former County foster youth is now in college or has graduated from college?
 - What percentage of former County foster youth is in the military?
 - What percentage of former County foster youth is now incarcerated or has been incarcerated?
 - What percentage of former County foster youth is relatively happy with their life and present situation?
 - What percentage of former County foster youth is married? Has had a child?
 - What percentage of former County foster youth may be considered to be social isolates?
- F-37.** The County's score on Federal Permanency Measure C-3.1: *Exits to Permanency* (the percent of children in foster care for two or more years who exited to a permanent home), for July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 was 28.3%. This is higher than the 23.3% State attainment and slightly less than the 29.1% national score. For the period October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009, the County score increased to 30.1%. [Ref-25]
- F-38.** Because of privacy and confidentiality issues, the Grand Jury was unable to observe an Emancipation Conference, nor to interview youth formerly or presently in foster care.

Conclusions

- C-01.** In the long term, AB 12 will save the State dollars by allowing the State to access federal funds to recover up to 50% of the costs for kinship-guardianship programs. Money saved could be used to extend services to older youth and to lower CFS caseloads. (F-01, F-03, F-04, F-14, F-19 through F-21, F-26 through F-28)

- C-02.** It is not going to be easy for youth aging out of foster care. (F-02, F-03, F-11, F-16)
- C-03.** History cautions that many youth exiting the out-of-home foster care system as adolescents are likely to need and receive services as adults through welfare, as a resident of a homeless shelter, or through incarceration. (F-02, F-11)
- C-04.** Extending foster care past the age of 18 has long-term benefits for youth: higher standards of living, less homelessness, greater self-sufficiency, improved health, reduced chemical and alcohol dependency, fewer unwanted pregnancies, less involvement with the courts, and better education. (F-03, F-04)
- C-05.** The transition to living independently will be difficult for those with a history of abuse, neglect, and multiple foster care placements. (F-02, F11, F-16)
- C-06.** Foster youth, as a result of being abused, neglected, victimized, and moved from placement to placement (sometimes on very short notice), have learned to be defensive and on guard, wary of offers to help, socially mistrustful, and leery of adult intervention; making it difficult for them to be reached and to reach out. (F-02, F-11, F-16)
- C-07.** Having accurate *and* current past performance information would improve program planning and delivery of services. Child Welfare agencies, and Social Service and Child Welfare Directors need to know how many youth are in foster care: their ages, how many leave the system each year, and how they are doing. Many counties must rely on old information and rough estimates about the youth they serve in terms of needs, issues, strengths, and experiences. (F-05, F-15, F-33 through F-36, F-38)
- C-08.** The inability of states to accurately report the number of youth currently in care or who age out each year, and the inability to determine how well they are doing two, three, or four years after leaving care is discouraging and dissuades accountability. NYTD requirements, with which states will soon be forced to comply, are constructive steps to take. (F-05, F-15, F-33 through F-36)
- C-09.** More research data is needed to quantify the efficacy of County services for youth who have exited care. Best practices can be identified and replicated when empirical research shows that programs have been successful. (F-05, F-15, F-33 through F-36, F-38)
- C-10.** Passage of AB 12 should ease the financial burden on the State, resulting in better service for foster children and youth by improved delivery of services, fewer changes in placement, shorter lengths of stay in foster care, and enhanced movement into permanency – the ultimate goal. (F-03 through F-05, F-14, F-19 through F-21, F-37)

- C-11.** Hiring more case workers will result in smaller caseloads and will improve foster care with respect to delivery of services, length of stay in foster care, and move to permanency. (F-26 through F-28, F-37)
- C-12.** The State lags behind many states in extending foster care beyond the age of 18. (F-17)
- C-13.** County foster care children and youth are appropriately served through a broad range of programs offered by HSA/CFS – Foster Care, and the State. (F-13, F-20 through F-21, F-29 through F-32, F-36)

Recommendations

- R-01.** BOS and HSA should support and encourage legislation extending foster care services to the age of 21 or older by vigorously advocating passage of AB 12 by the State Senate.
(C-01, C-04, C-10 through C-14)
- R-02.** BOS should continue to financially support and provide appropriate programs and assistance for older foster youth.
(C-01, C-04, C-10, C-12, C-13)
- R-03.** HSA-CFS personnel should participate fully in AB 12 training programs when offered by CDSS. (C-07 through C-09)
- R-04.** Within the limitations of privacy and confidentiality laws, HSA-CFS should investigate ways to collect, store, and analyze summative data on youth who have exited foster care in the County.
(C-07 through C-09)
- R-05.** HSA-CFS should complete and submit to the State, in a timely manner, any reports required by NYTD. (C-01, C-02)
- R-06.** HSA-CFS should reduce caseloads utilizing AB 12 funds when available by hiring more caseworkers, reorganizing resources, and/or re-evaluating priorities. (C-11, C-12)
- R-07.** HSA-CFS should acknowledge that a caseload of 22:1 or higher is not necessarily ideal. (C-11, C-12)

Responses

Responses Required From:

Board of Supervisors, County of Ventura (R-01 through R-07)

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Attachments

Att-01. Child Welfare in California and the United States

Att-02. Foster Care Populations and Youth Potentially Impacted by AB 12 County Data Chart

Att-03. California Department of Social Services Programs, Services, and Information Provided for Foster Youth Transitioning to Independency

Att-04. Recent Studies and Findings on Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

Acronyms

AB – Assembly Bill

AFCARS – Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System

BOS – Board of Supervisors, Ventura County

CDSS – California Department of Social Services

CFS – Children and Family Services, Ventura County

CSW – Child/Children’s Social Worker

CYC – California Youth Connection

GED – General Educational Development test

HSA – Human Services Agency

ILP – Independent Living Program

Kin-GAP – Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program

LGBTQ – Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning gender

NACo – National Association of Counties

NREFM – Non-Related Extended Family Member

NYTD – National Youth in Transition Database

PL – Public Law (as PL 110-351)

State – State of California

THPP – Transitional Housing Placement Program

THP-Plus – Transitional Housing Program Plus

Glossary

Aging out – a youth ages out of foster care in California when they turn 18 years old

Caseload – the number of cases assigned to one caseworker at any one time

Dependency – a child is in dependency when he is removed from the home and is placed in foster care

Draw-down – to get funding, to reduce levels, to deplete by consumption or heavy spending

Emancipation – is a legal process that gives a person who is 16 or older legal independence from his or her parents or guardians. It refers to both the emancipation of minors (i.e., youth below the age of majority) and youth who age out of foster care between 18 and 21, depending on State policy.

Foster care – 24-hour substitute care for children outside their own homes


Independent living – when a youth has emancipated or aged out of the foster care system and is living on his/her own

Permanency – when a youth is in a permanent situation with at least one adult who is committed to providing a safe, stable, and secure parenting relationship and lifelong support

Attachment-01


Child Welfare in California and the United States

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Child Welfare in California

January 2010



Children's Defense Fund

California's Children¹

Child Population: 9,364,530
Children Living in Poverty: 1,700,910
Child Poverty Rate: 18.5%

Child Abuse and Neglect²

Child Victims: 88,319

Type of Abuse and Neglect	Percent (%) [*]
Neglect and Medical Neglect	72.5
Physical Abuse	11.8
Sexual Abuse	7.8
Psychological and Other Maltreatment	18.3

^{*}Percentages may not total 100% because abuse or neglect can be reported in one or more categories.

Foster Care³

Number of Children in Foster Care: * 76,129
Average Length of Stay in Foster Care: 34.8 mos.
Abused and Neglected While in Foster Care: 0.22%

^{*}Foster care includes family foster care, group care and institutional care

Percent of Children with 2 or Fewer Placements in Care:

Less than 12 months: 81.9
Between 12 – 24 months: 57
More than 24 months: 34.7

Permanency⁴

Number of Exits from Foster Care: 42,589

Type of Exit	Percent (%)
Adoption	17.8
Reunification	60.8
Legal Guardianship	3.8
Other	17.4
Missing Data	0.2

Percent of Children Reunified Within:

Less than 12 months: 65.0
Between 12 – 24 months: 23.8
More than 24 months: 9.8

Percent of Children Adopted Within:

Less than 12 months: 4.6
Between 12 – 24 months: 25.3
More than 24 months: 70.1

Number of Children Waiting for Adoption: 18,028

Relative Caregivers⁵

Number of Children Living with Relatives Without Either Parent Present (not necessarily in foster care): 389,631

Subsidized Guardianship Program? Yes

Subsidized guardianship programs help children live permanently with a legal guardian (often a relative or close family friend) with ongoing payments to provide for the needs of the child. States with such programs may or may not opt to request federal Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payments for eligible children.

Sources and Notes

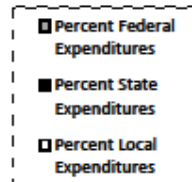
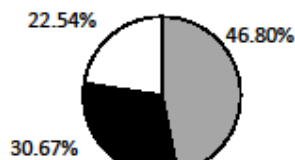
(All data provided are most current available as of November 2009)

- Child population: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "Estimates of the Resident Population by Selected Age Groups for the United States, States, and Puerto Rico: July 1, 2008," Calculations by CDF; Children living in poverty and rate of children living in poverty: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2008 American Community Survey, Table B17001. Calculations by CDF.
- National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect. (2007). National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) Child File 2007 [data file], available at <http://www.ndacan.comell.edu/index.html>.
- Number of children in foster care and length of stay in foster care: U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Committee on Ways and Means, *Background Materials and Data on the Programs within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means* (2008), Table 11-62 & 11-72, calculations by CDF; Abused or neglected while in care: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), *Child Maltreatment 2007* (April 2009), Table 3-17, calculations by CDF; Children with 2 or Fewer Placements: U.S. DHHS, ACYF, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau, *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005*, Table 6.1; Children waiting to be adopted: U.S. DHHS, ACYF, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, "Children in Public Foster Care Waiting to be Adopted: FY 1999 thru FY 2006."
- Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005*, Tables 3.1, 4.1, 5.1.
- U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *2000 Census American Fact Finder Advanced Query*. Calculations by CDF of the number of children living in relative-headed households without either parent present, and CDF *States' Subsidized Guardianship Laws At A Glance 2008*.

[Ref-15]

Sources of Child Welfare Spending⁶

FY 2006	Amount
Federal Expenditures	2,058,742,000
State Expenditures	1,349,259,000
Local Expenditures	991,478,000
Total	4,399,479,000

Major Federal Child Welfare Spending⁶

FY 2006	Amount	Percent of Total Federal Spending
Title IV-B	83,373,000	4.05
Title IV-E	1,314,454,000	63.85
Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)	319,392,000	15.51
TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)	286,103,000	13.90
Medicaid (Excludes Medicaid expenditures for routine health care services provided to children in foster care.)	48,482,000	2.36

Percentages may not total 100% because some states could not categorize all federal spending by source.

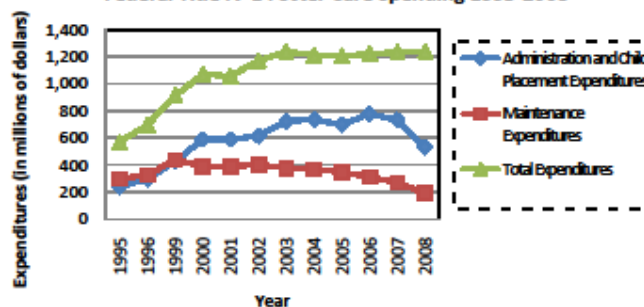
Federal Title IV-E Spending⁷

Foster Care Expenditures FY 2008			Adoption Assistance Expenditures FY 2008		
Type	Amount	Percent (%)	Type	Amount	Percent (%)
Maintenance Payments	190,249,270	15.32	Adoption Assistance Payments	298,444,182	80.96
Administration and Child Placement Services	531,576,060	42.82	Administration	69,298,986	18.80
SACWIS	19,419,917	1.56	Training	905,843	0.25
Training	74,822,097	6.03	Total	368,649,011	
Waiver Demonstration	425,392,120	34.27			
Total	1,241,459,464				

♦ In 2007, 43,930 (57.70%)* Children in Foster Care Received Title IV-E Funded Foster Care Payments

♦ In 2002, (Data Unavailable)** Children Adopted from Foster Care Received IV-E Funded Adoption Assistance Payments

Federal Title IV-E Foster Care Spending 1995-2008



*Average monthly number of children receiving federal foster care divided by the number of children in foster care on the last day of the year.

**Average monthly number of children receiving federal adoption assistance divided by the total number of children receiving adoption assistance at a point in time.

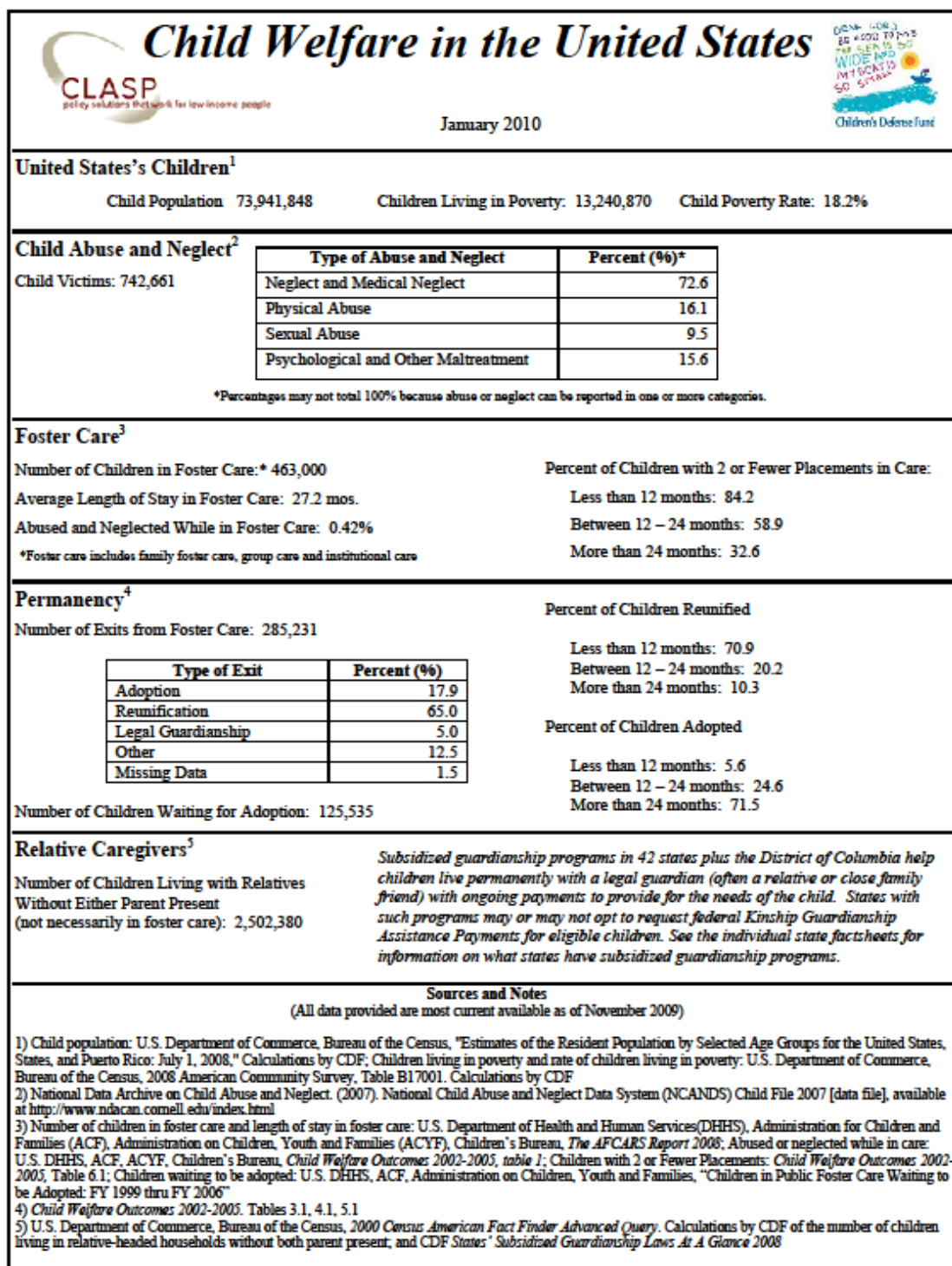
Sources and Notes

(All data provided are most current available as of November 2009)

6) Child Trends, "Federal, State, and Local Spending to Address Child Abuse and Neglect in SFY 2006" December 2008, Appendix A.

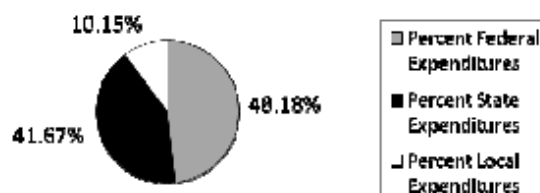
7) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Expenditure Data for FY's 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008; U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Committee on Ways and Means, Greenbook: 1996, 1998, 2000, and 2004; and Ursula Gilmore and Elizabeth Oppenheim, *Interstate Movement of Children Receiving Adoption Assistance* (Washington, D.C.; American Public Human Services Association, 2003). (Updated data on adoption assistance expected early 2010.)

For more information please contact ssprow@childrensdefense.org (202-662-3568) or tconwayperrin@clasp.org (202-906-8026)



Sources of Child Welfare Spending⁶

FY 2006	Amount
Federal Expenditures	12,399,489,714
State Expenditures	10,724,280,655
Local Expenditures	2,610,922,497
Total	25,734,692,866

Major Federal Child Welfare Spending⁶

FY 2006	Amount	Percent of Total Federal Spending
Title IV-B	636,897,790	5.14
Title IV-E	6,089,092,606	49.11
Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)	1,586,067,877	12.79
TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)	2,387,649,523	19.26
Medicaid (Excludes Medicaid expenditures for routine health care services provided to children in foster care.)	1,386,874,681	11.18

Percentages may not total 100% because some states could not categorize all federal spending by source.

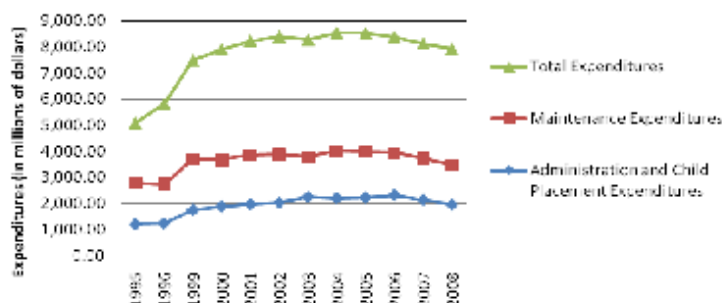
Federal Title IV-E Spending⁷

Foster Care Expenditures FY 2008			Adoption Assistance Expenditures FY 2008		
Type	Amount	Percent (%)	Type	Amount	Percent (%)
Maintenance Payments	1,510,439,041	33.94	Adoption Assistance Payments	1,657,371,896	81.29
Administration and Child Placement Services	1,961,462,881	44.07	Administration	357,474,548	17.53
SACWIS	123,808,600	2.78	Training	23,918,344	1.17
Training	214,865,350	4.83	Total	2,038,787,083	
Waiver Demonstration	640,014,799	14.38			
Total	4,450,590,671				

♦ In 2007, 211,216 (43%)* Children in Foster Care Received Title IV-E Funded Foster Care Payments

♦ In 2002, 220,115 (82.46%)* Children Adopted from Foster Care Received IV-E Funded Adoption Assistance Payments

Federal Title IV-E Foster Care Spending 1995 - 2008



*Average monthly number of children receiving federal foster care divided by the number of children in foster care on the last day of the year.

**Average monthly number of children receiving federal adoption assistance divided by the total number of children receiving adoption assistance at a point in time.

Sources and Notes

(All data provided are most current available as of November 2009)

6) Child Trends, "Federal, State, and Local Spending to Address Child Abuse and Neglect in SFY 2006" December 2008, Appendix A

7) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Expenditure Data for FY's 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008; U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Committee on Ways and Means, Greenbook: 1996, 1998, 2000, and 2004; and Ursula Gilmore and Elizabeth Oppenheim, *Interstate Movement of Children Receiving Adoption Assistance* (Wash. D.C.; American Public Human Services Association, 2003). (Updated data on adoption assistance expected early 2010.)

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Attachment 02
Foster Care Populations and Youth Potentially Impacted by AB 12
County Data Chart

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Foster Care Populations and Youth Potentially Impacted by AB 12 County Data Chart

County	Number of Children Living in Foster Care ¹	Number of Children Placed in Kin-GAP ²	Number of Youth "Aging Out" ³
Alameda	2,724	494	257
Alpine	0	0	0
Amador	31	2	5
Butte	776	73	53
Calaveras	72	4	6
Colusa	36	0	3
Contra Costa	1,498	233	141
Del Norte	112	11	2
El Dorado	292	3	25
Fresno	2,732	453	172
Glenn	92	6	3
Humboldt	288	9	25
Imperial	473	83	23
Inyo	18	0	1
Kern	2,410	305	170
Kings	343	107	14
Lake	213	17	15
Lassen	81	4	4
Los Angeles	25,348	7266	1,485
Madera	262	18	19
Marin	89	4	14
Mariposa	50	3	5
Mendocino	277	43	21
Merced	665	25	48
Modoc	16	2	1
Mono	9	0	0
Monterey	507	36	24
Napa	116	7	12
Nevada	76	3	15
Orange	3,216	315	216
Placer	292	26	36
Plumas	50	5	6
Riverside	5,119	1042	308
Sacramento	4,297	568	333
San Benito	106	1	3
San Bernardino	4,583	743	318
San Diego	5,449	504	341
San Francisco	1,710	261	149
San Joaquin	1,612	101	84
San Luis Obispo	430	36	27
San Mateo	456	31	41
Santa Barbara	656	18	36
Santa Clara	1,795	304	134
Santa Cruz	310	11	26
Shasta	620	38	35
Sierra	16	0	1
Siskiyou	152	5	9
Solano	487	17	43
Sonoma	636	32	46
Stanislaus	648	28	44
Sutter	152	10	5
Tehama	213	0	22
Trinity	37	0	0
Tulare	1,062	305	76
Tuolumne	99	6	8
Ventura	704	83	27
Yolo	402	22	19
Yuba	160	11	15
Missing	512	0	56
California	75,587	13,734	5,027

¹ Children in child welfare and probation supervised placements on July 1, 2008. This number may be inflated due to data quality issues surrounding the probation counts. Data retrieved from: http://cwr.berkeley.edu/uch_childwelfare/PVT.aspx.

² Children placed in the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program (KinGAP) on July 1, 2008. Data retrieved from: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/research/PG316.htm>.

³ Youth emancipating from child welfare and probation supervised care between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008. This number may be deflated due to data quality issues surrounding the probation counts. Data retrieved from: http://cwr.berkeley.edu/uch_childwelfare/Edits.aspx.

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Attachment-03

**California Department of Social Services
Programs, Services, and Information Provided for
Foster Youth Transitioning to Independency**

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**California Department of Social Services
Programs, Services, and Information Available for
Foster Youth Transitioning to Independency**
<http://www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov/default.htm>

California Ombudsman for Foster Care Office, an independent voice for foster children and youth for filing, investigating, and resolving complaints.

<http://www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov/OMBprog.html>

Foster Youth Rights (including dealing with the courts).

www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov/rights2.html

Ten Facts Every Foster Youth Should Know.

<http://www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov/10facts.html>

College/education.

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/pf/fy/resources.asp>

Drivers license information.

<http://www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov/drivers.html>

Employment assistance - includes tutoring, GED help, summer employment, skills training, internships and job shadowing

<http://www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov/Employment.html>

Financial assistance - includes emancipation stipends for housing, education, and living expenses; and Welfare to Work funding for former foster 18-25.

www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov/money.html

Health and medical assistance - (Medi-Cal coverage until 21, Mental Health Services, Diagnosis and Treatment Services).

<http://www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov/Needs2.html>

Housing and housing assistance after emancipation.

<http://www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov/Housing.html>

Important documents assistance and information (birth certificate, social security card, driver's license, background, and contact information for siblings). <http://www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov/ImportantDocs.html>

Job seeking information:

- entry-level jobs, www.entry-level.net
- job search by California regions, <http://jobstar.org/index.php>
- California Employment Development jobs, www.edd.cahwnet.gov

Independency information <http://www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov/Indep.html>

Permanency information

<http://www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov/Permanency.html>

Ventura County Human Services Agency, Children and Family Services website for youth in Independent Living www.vchsa.org/ilp

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Attachment-04

**Recent Studies and Findings on Youth Aging Out of Foster Care
(problems encountered)**

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**Recent Studies and Findings on Youth Aging Out of Foster Care
(problems encountered)**

Area	Study	Finding
Housing/ Homelessness	CDSS (2002) Courtney et al. (2004) Shelter Partnership	65% needed affordable housing at the time of emancipation 25% were homeless at least one night In Los Angeles County, an estimated 45% of youth emancipated each year go directly on to the streets or end up on the streets within six weeks of emancipation
Employment	Barth (1990) George et al. (2002)	53% reported they had serious money troubles 23% did not find employment 13 months after leaving care in California
Education	Courtney et al. (2005)	36% did not have a high school diploma or GED
Financial Self-Sufficiency	Courtney et al (2005) Pecora et al (2003)	36% had received food stamps, 22% were currently receiving food stamps, and 15% reported being hungry 33% had incomes at or below poverty level, 17% were receiving cash assistance, and 33% had no health insurance
Mental Health	AFCARS (2003) Courtney et al (2005)	80% of foster care youth have received mental health services 10% had a lifetime diagnosis of Major Depressive Disorder
Substance Abuse	Courtney et al (2005)	15% had a lifetime diagnosis of Substance Abuse, 5% Substance Dependence, and 14% Alcohol Abuse
Incarceration	Courtney et al (2005)	34% had been arrested, 17% convicted of a crime, and 24% had spent at least one night in jail; they are more likely to become involved in crime and victims of crime
LGBTQ Youth	Courtney et al (2005) Lenz-Rashid (2005)	15% of former foster youth reported being LGBTQ (20% female and 10% males) 35% of homeless former foster youth reported being LGBTQ
Other	Courtney (April 2005)	Are more likely to have children outside of marriage; if married, they are more likely to have marital problems; and they are more socially isolated than their peers

[Ref-22]