

LENGTH OF STAY IN CURRENT PLACEMENT

Figure 21
MONTHS IN CURRENT PLACEMENT BY AGE AND PLACEMENT TYPE
CWS-SUPERVISED PLACEMENTS

CWS SUPERVISED	CURRENT AGE IN YEARS												
	Months in Current Placement	0-4		5-8		9-11		12-14		15-18		TOTAL	
		FFA	FFH	FFA	FFH	FFA	FFH	FFA	FFH	FFA	FFH	FFA	FFH
0-3	1,732	2,640	1,367	1,154	1,019	711	1,050	720	881	752	6,049	5,977	
4-6	1,405	1,956	1,203	904	801	523	781	484	676	600	4,867	4,467	
7-12	2,187	3,206	1,884	1,591	1,327	932	1,133	785	1,238	979	7,769	7,493	
13-18	1,172	1,463	1,037	807	743	457	617	392	736	474	4,305	3,593	
19-24	701	915	673	541	478	327	389	223	387	276	2,628	2,282	
25-36	803	948	818	629	608	406	443	290	466	374	3,138	2,647	
37 or more	241	512	497	1,253	520	1,273	454	1,131	442	1,185	2,154	5,354	
TOTAL ¹	8,241	11,640	7,479	6,879	5,496	4,629	4,867	4,025	4,826	4,640	30,909	31,813	

The data presented above reveals that 60 percent of children placed with a FFA and 56 percent of children placed in a FFH had been in their current placement 12 or fewer months.

¹ Totals may differ from other CWS/CMS data totals presented elsewhere in this report due to inconsistencies in inputting/reporting information to the database.

LENGTH OF STAY IN CURRENT PLACEMENT (continued)

Figure 22 provides a comparison of children in each placement type by age group based on whether they had been in their current placement more or less than 12 months.

For children placed with a FFA, in each age group more children had been in their current placement less than 12 months.

For children placed in a FFH, only two age groups had more children who had been in their current placement less than 12 months: children 0-4 and 5-8 years. Beginning with the 9-11 age group in FFHs, more children had been in their current placement more than 12 months.

Figure 22

COMPARISON OF LENGTH OF STAY BY AGE

AGE IN YEARS	12 OR FEWER MONTHS		MORE THAN 12 MONTHS	
	FFA	FFH	FFA	FFH
0-4	65%	67%	35%	33%
5-8	59%	53%	41%	47%
9-11	57%	47%	43%	53%
12-14	61%	49%	39%	51%
15-18	58%	50%	42%	50%

LENGTH OF STAY IN CURRENT PLACEMENT (continued)

Figure 23
MONTHS IN CURRENT PLACEMENT BY AGE AND PLACEMENT TYPE
PROBATION-SUPERVISED PLACEMENTS

PROBATION SUPERVISED	CURRENT AGE IN YEARS												
	Months in Current Placement	0-4		5-8		9-11		12-14		15-18		TOTAL	
		FFA / FFH											
0-3	0		0		1	0	16	3	56	20	73	23	
4-6	1		0		0	0	20	4	78	39	99	43	
7-12	2		0		3	1	33	8	180	65	218	74	
13-18	4		1		0	0	21	2	129	41	155	43	
19-24	1		0		0	0	5	2	65	18	71	20	
25-36	1		0		1	0	4	0	60	22	66	22	
37 or more	0		0		0	1	3	1	14	14	17	16	
TOTAL²	9		1		5	2	102	20	582	219	699	241	

The data in this table reveals two facts. Not surprising, the first of these is that Probation placed a very low number (1.8%) of children under the age of 11 years with either a FFA or in a FFH. The second is that the majority of probation-supervised children had a length of stay of 7-12 months whether in a FFA or FFH. Looking at probation-supervised children in both the 12-14 and 15-18 age groups in both placement types, it is noted that the majority of children had a length of stay of 12 months or less. In the 12-14 years age group in a FFA, 61 percent, and in a FFH, 50 percent stayed 12 months or less. In the 15-18 years age group in a FFA, 57 percent, and in a FFH, 51 percent stayed 12 months or less.

² Totals may differ from other CWS/CMS data totals presented elsewhere in this report due to inconsistencies in inputting/reporting information to the database.

LENGTH OF STAY IN CURRENT PLACEMENT (continued)

CWS-Supervised Placements

It should be noted that a large number of children remain in their current placement for longer than 12 months. Forty-three percent of children in a FFH and 40 percent of children in a FFA had been in their current placement longer than 12 months. Children in their current FFA placement less than 7 months equaled 35 percent of those placements, and 33 percent of children in their current FFH placement were in their current placement for less than 7 months.

Figure 24

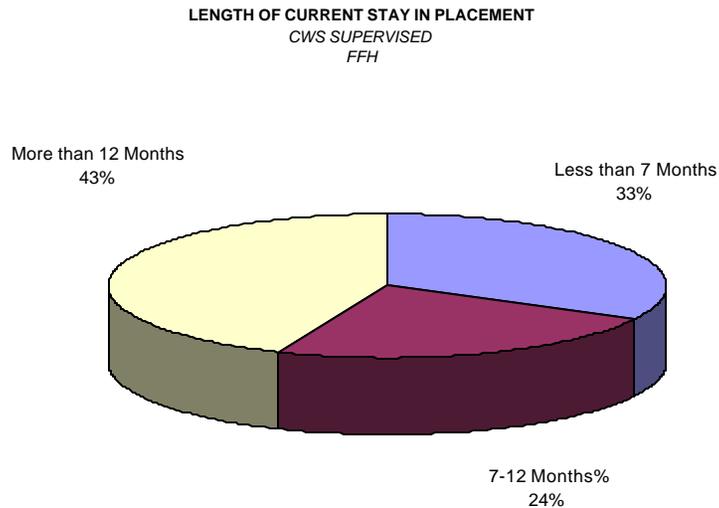
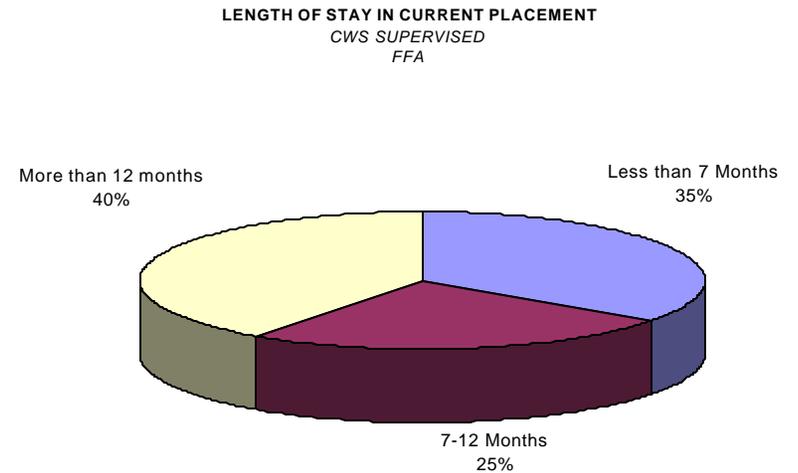


Figure 25



LENGTH OF STAY IN CURRENT PLACEMENT (continued)

Probation-Supervised Placements

Forty-two percent of children in a FFH and 44 percent of children in a FFA had been in their current placement longer than 12 months. Children in their current FFA placement less than 7 months equaled 25 percent of those placements, and 27 percent of children in their current FFH placement were in their current placement for less than 7 months. Thirty-one percent of Probation-supervised children in a FFA or FFH placement had been in their current placement 7-12 months.

Figure 26

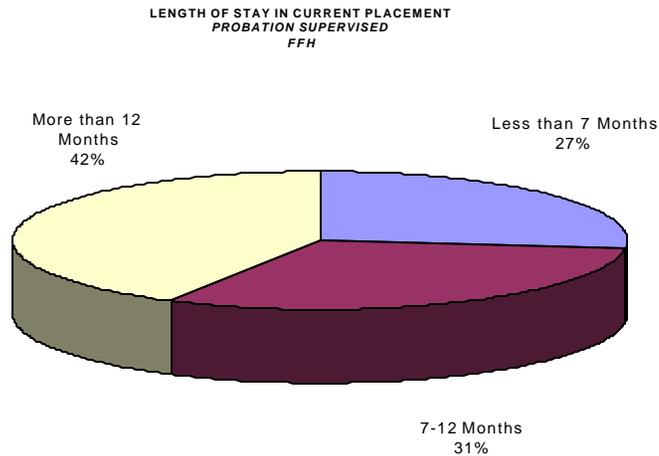
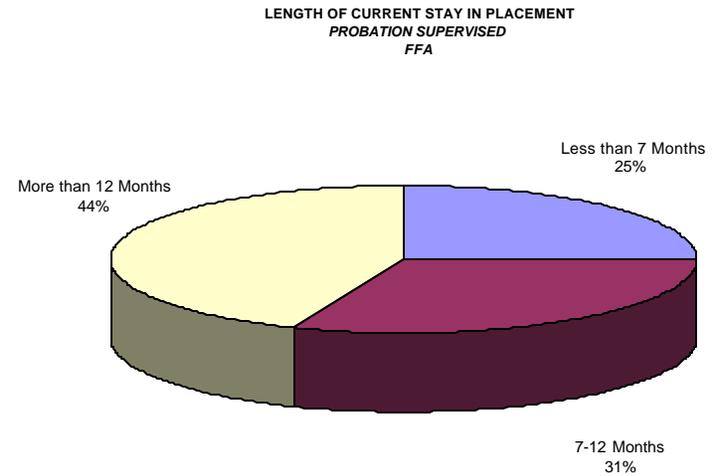


Figure 27



OUT-OF-COUNTY PLACEMENT

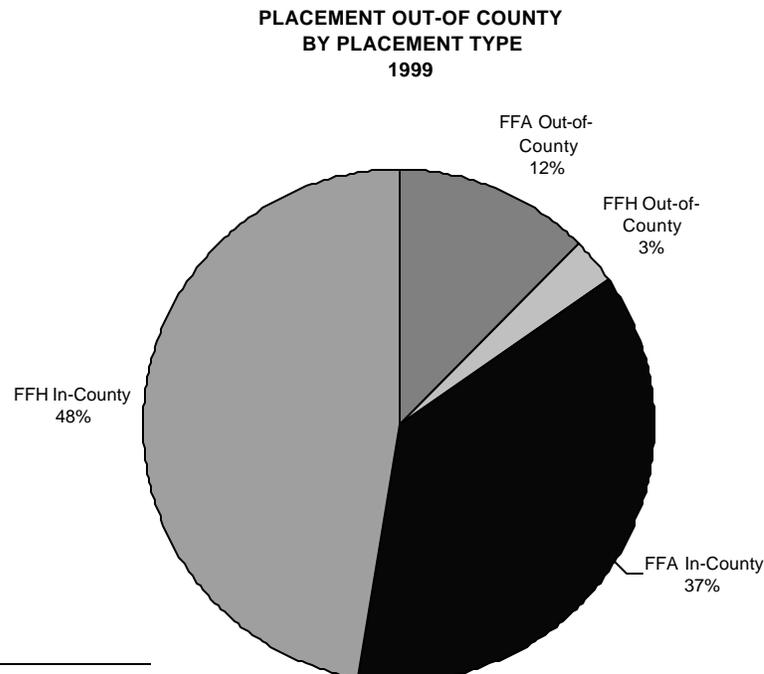
All FFA and FFH Placements

Most children are placed in a FFA or FFH within their home county. Of the 64,611 children placed in FFAs and FFHs in 1999, the number of children placed in a FFH within their home county equals 30,645. For children placed in a FFA within their home county, the total equals 24,010 placements.

As indicated below, 15 percent of children in a FFA or FFH were placed out of their home county, with 12 percent (or 8,066) of children in an out-of-county FFA placement and 3 percent (or 1,866) of children in an out-of-county FFH placement.

Historical data³ regarding out-of-county placements in 1997 reported that 20.5 percent (or 2,091) of all children in FFAs were placed out of county. The 1999 data presented here indicates a percentage decrease of FFA out-of-county placements from the 1997 data, although the number of children placed outside the county actually increased over that two year period. The percentage of placements in out-of-county FFHs also decreased from 1997 to 1999, although the number of these children has increased as well. In 1997, 5.8 percent of children in a FFH were placed out of county, at 1,233 children.

Figure 28



³ Performance Indicators for Child Welfare Services in California: 1997, Child Welfare Research Center, University of California, Berkeley, page 135 (see Appendix A).

OUT-OF-COUNTY PLACEMENT (continued)

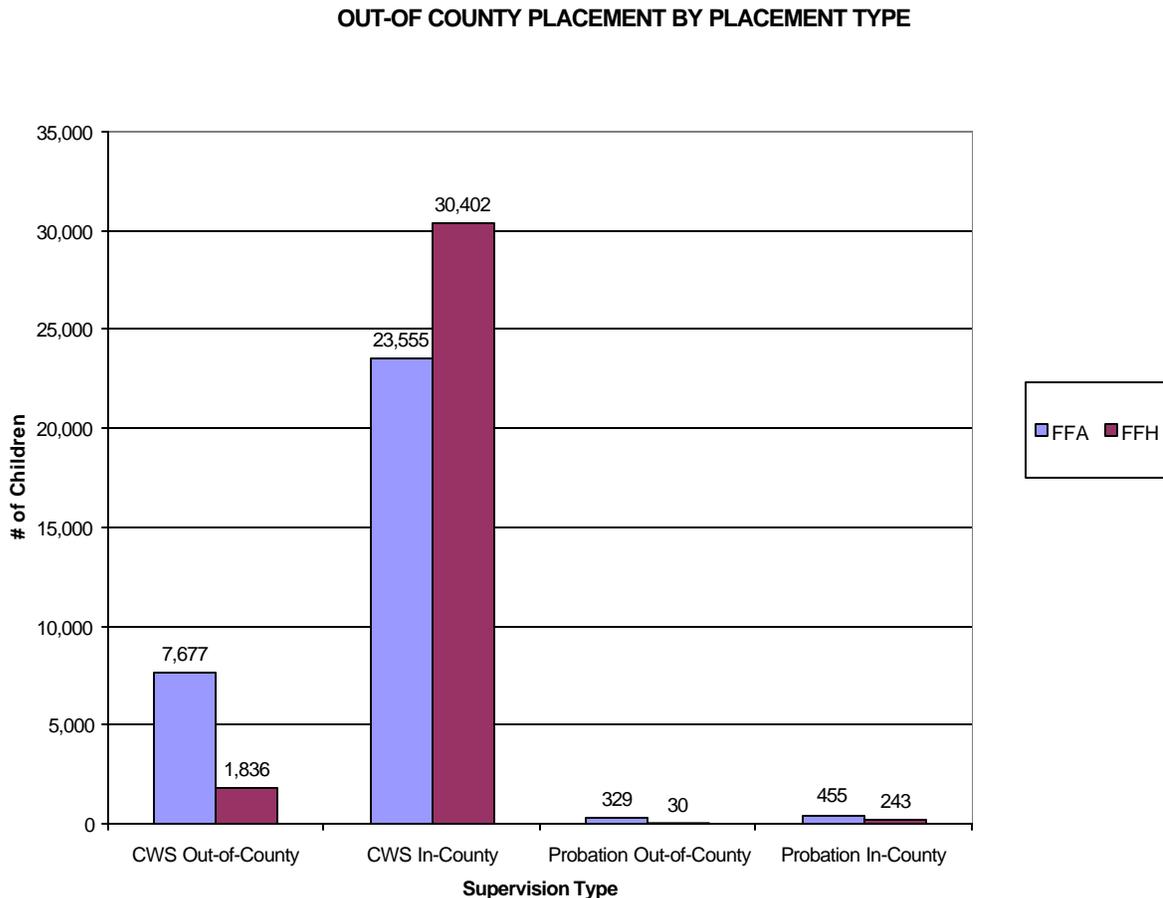
CWS and Probation Placements

Notable differences exist in the data regarding children placed out of county by a CWS agency and a probation department. CWS agencies utilize more out-of-county FFA placements than FFHs; for in-county placements, CWS agencies utilized FFHs more than FFAs.

Placement types are about equal for in- and out-of-county placements made by probation departments. Probation departments utilized FFAs slightly more than FFHs when placing in county. When placing out-of-county, probation departments utilized FFAs slightly more than FFHs.

From the data, it appears that probation-supervised children are ten times more likely to be placed in a FFA if placed out of the child's home county.

Figure 29



Children in Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC) FFAs

W&I section 18358.20(l) requires a participating county to report certain information on program performance to the CDSS each quarter. The FC19, "Intensive Treatment Foster Care, Quarterly Statistical Report", is the only reporting form for collection of ITFC data⁴. The FC19 only captures numerical values for the number of children placed and their outcomes in six age groups: 0-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, 13-15 and 16-19. The FC19 does not capture any demographics such as gender, ethnicity, prior placements, etc. Therefore, a complete comparative analysis of this population of children to children in "regular" FFA certified family homes and non-relative foster family homes cannot be made. However, analysis of the data from the FC19 has been included in order to provide a clearer picture of the services provided via ITFC programs.

For this report, the CDSS analyzed the most recent statewide ITFC data for five quarters covering the period September 1998 to September 1999, a 15 month time period.

Children Served Statewide by Quarter

Third Quarter, 1999	198
Second Quarter, 1999	180
First Quarter, 1999	171
Fourth Quarter, 1998	159
Third Quarter, 1998	<u>144</u>
Average	170

Children by Age Group Statewide for All Quarters

0-3 years	3	less than 1%
4-6 years	74	9%
7-9 years	159	19%
10-12 years	217	25%
13-15 years	271	32%
16-19 years	128	15%

Data indicates that children age 13-15 years of age comprised the largest placement group in an ITFC each quarter. The second highest placement age group per quarter was children 10-12 years old. Placements in these two age groups combined for over 50 percent of all placements in each quarter.

⁴ Duplicated data that is collected for a point in time and aggregated each quarter.

Children in Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC) FFAs (continued)

CDSS evaluates each participating county's program by collecting data on various outcomes for children residing in an ITFC facility. The FC19s reveal the following quarterly statewide outcomes:

Children Discharged to Own Home

Third Quarter, 1999	5
Second Quarter, 1999	4
First Quarter, 1999	3
Fourth Quarter, 1998	5
Third Quarter, 1998	<u>2</u>
Average per quarter	4

Children Moved to Less Intensive FC

Third Quarter, 1999	0
Second Quarter, 1999	3
First Quarter, 1999	2
Fourth Quarter, 1998	2
Third Quarter, 1998	<u>1</u>
Average per quarter	2

Children Hospitalized

Third Quarter, 1999	4
Second Quarter, 1999	2
First Quarter, 1999	1
Fourth Quarter, 1998	1
Third Quarter, 1998	<u>5</u>
Average per quarter	3

Children Returned to More Intensive FC

Third Quarter, 1999	5
Second Quarter, 1999	6
First Quarter, 1999	5
Fourth Quarter, 1999	6
Third Quarter, 1999	<u>5</u>
Average per quarter	5

Children in Intensive Treatment Foster Care FFAs (continued)

Figure 30 below, displays the outcome averages in relation to the total average number of children in an ITFC program.

Figure 30

