

Children's Services and Foster Care Overview

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

Presented To:

Assembly Select Committee on Foster Care



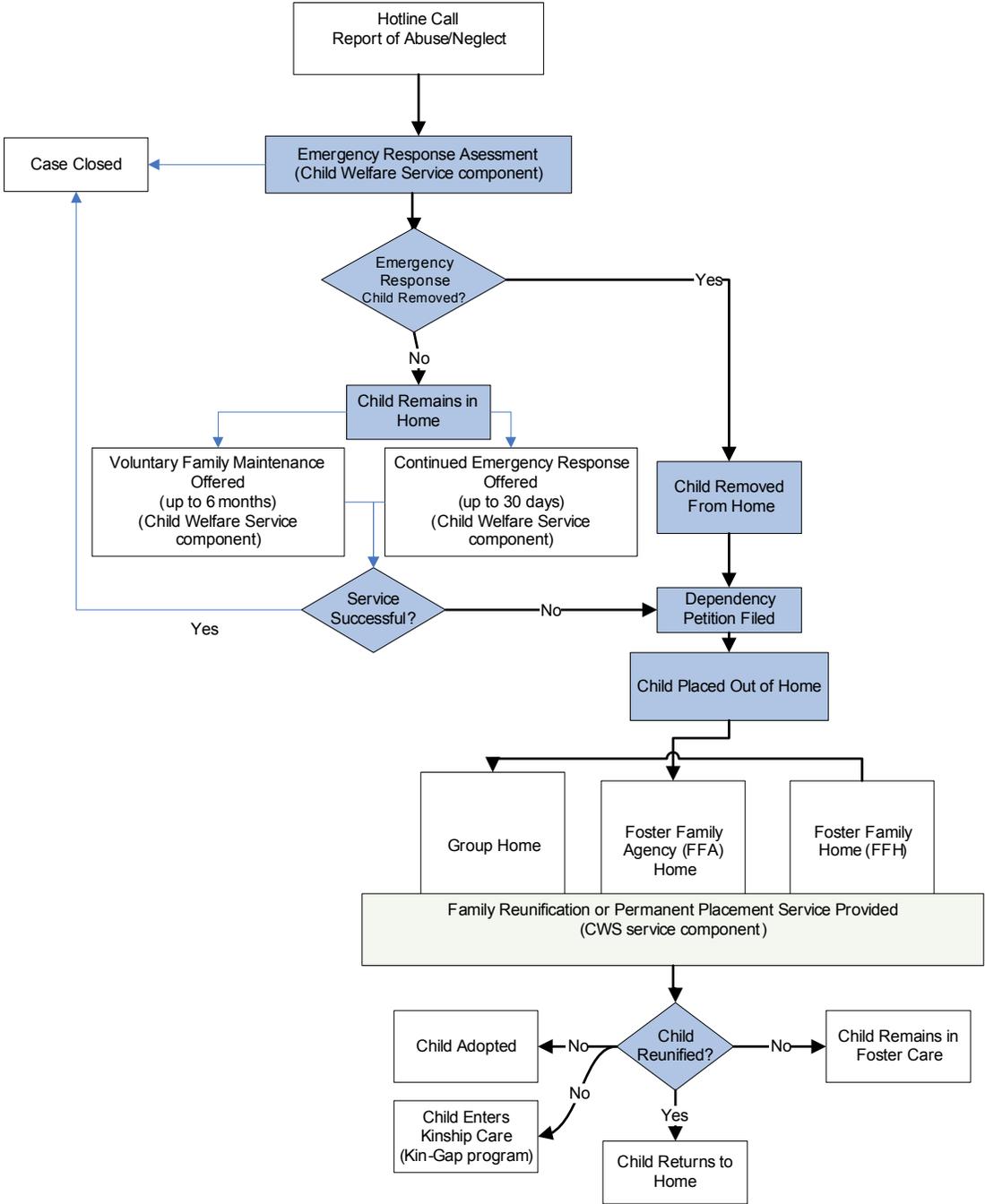


How Do Children Enter the Child Welfare Services System?

- ☑ Statewide, each year approximately one-half million allegations/hotline calls are received (2004).
 - Slightly more than 22 percent are substantiated (110,308).
- ☑ Of referrals substantiated, almost 31 percent resulted in entry to foster care (33,941).
- ☑ Of the children with substantiated referrals, “neglect” accounts for the largest proportion of referrals (53 percent).



What Happens When There Is A Report of Child Abuse/Neglect?





What Are the Foster Care Placement Options?



If a child is removed from a home, placement may be in one of the following: group home (GH), foster family agency (FFA) placement, or foster family home (FFH).

- **Foster family homes** are licensed residences that provide care for no more than six children.
 - **Relative Care.** Approximately 74 percent of children placed in family homes are placed with relatives. If the relative home is approved, the relative receives a monthly grant equal to that of an FFH provider.
- **Foster family agency placements** are private, nonprofit corporations that provide treatment and certify placement homes for children with higher level treatment needs. The FFAs are designed to be an alternative to GHs.
- **Group home placements** provide 24 hour supervision in a structured environment. Facilities range from small (up to six foster children) to large homes that house many children. This is the most intensive and costly form of care designed to support children with the most significant treatment needs.



What Are the Costs and Caseloads For Foster Care?

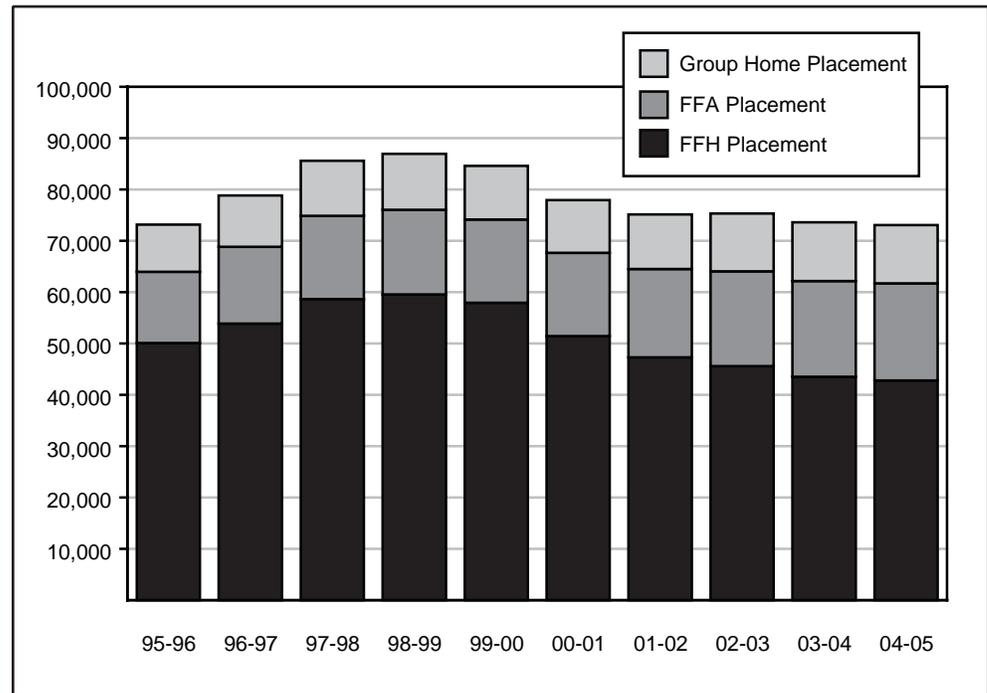
2005-06

Placement Type	Average Monthly Caseload	Monthly Cost Per Case
Group home care	11,600	\$5,037
Foster family agency	19,517	1,721
Foster family home	42,562	724
Total	73,679	

- Group home placement represents the most intensive service level and highest cost placement option. This type of placement represents 16 percent of cases.
- Foster family home placements including those with relatives are the most common, representing 58 percent of total out-of-home placements.



Foster Care Placement Caseload Trend



- Total Foster Care placement has decreased by 6 percent in last five years, but remains essentially the same as in 1995-96.
- Group home placement has grown by 24 percent since 1995-96.
- Since 1995-96, the decrease in FFH placements is matched by an increase in FFA placements.



What Happens to Children After One Year in Our System?

2002-03

Child Status	Number	Percentage
Reunified	9,474	36.0%
Adopted	202	0.8
Kin-Gap/guardianship	153	0.6
Emancipated	135	0.5
Other ^a	501	2.0
Still in care	15,933	61.0
Totals	26,212	100.0%

^a "Other" includes termination for reasons such as "child ran away from placement," "other agency has jurisdiction," and "incarcerated."
Detail may not total due to rounding.

- Of the 26,212 children who entered Foster Care between July 2002 and June 2003, 36 percent had reunified with their families within one year, while 61 percent were still in a placement.
- Slightly less than 2 percent were adopted or in another guardianship.



How Do Children Exit the Foster Care System?

2004-05

Child Status	Number	Percentage
Reunified	17,834	51%
Adoption finalized	7,206	21
Kin-Gap	1,515	4
Other guardianship	1,865	5
Emancipation	4,297	12
Other ^a	2,035	6
Totals	34,752	100%

^a "Other" includes termination for reasons such as "child ran away from placement," "other agency has jurisdiction," and "incarcerated."
Detail may not total due to rounding.

- Of the 34,752 exits from Foster Care between April 2004 and April 2005, just over one-half of the children were reunited with their parents.
- About 30 percent exited to adoption or other guardianship.
- About 12 percent were emancipated.



What Are the Costs and Caseloads for Child Welfare Services Components?

2005-06

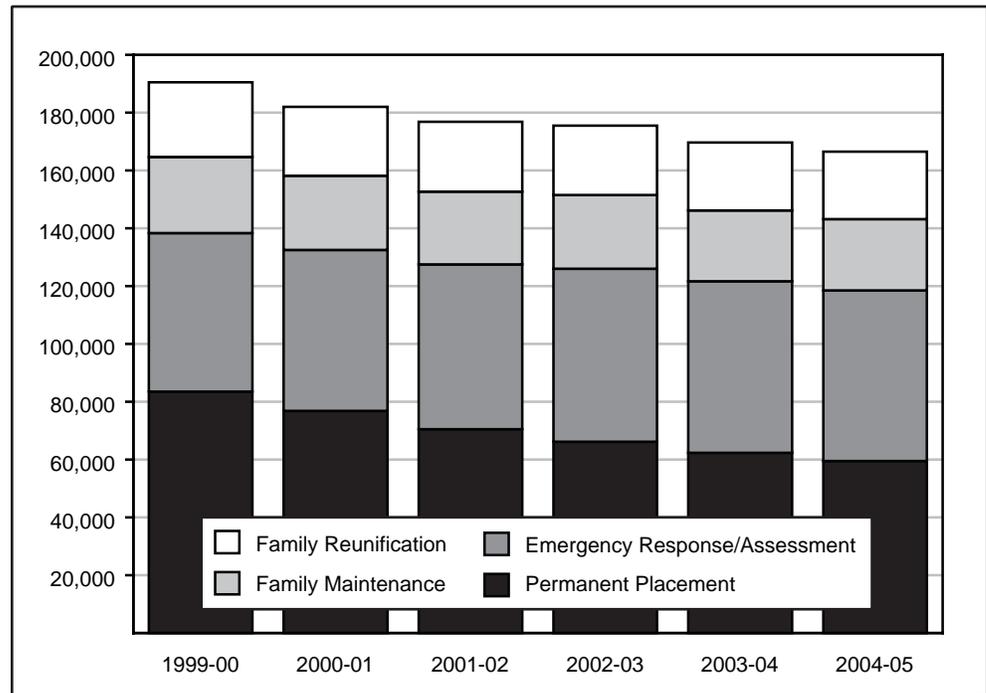
	Cases		Total Proposed Funding (In Thousands)
	Number	Percent	
Emergency Response Assessment	17,560	11%	\$10,091
Emergency Response	44,453	27	517,352
Family Maintenance	23,889	15	125,507
Family Reunification	22,893	14	155,910
Permanent Placement	55,874	34	194,024
Totals	164,669	100%	\$1,002,884

Detail may not total due to rounding.

- Emergency Response Assessment and Emergency Response Services involve the investigation of the referral, a determination of the appropriate action, and/or up to 30 days of intervention with the family.
- While in a foster care placement, a child will also be provided Child Welfare Services. This service component is usually either Family Reunification services or Permanent Placement services.
- Family Reunification provides intervention and services to enable the child in Foster Care to return to the home.
- Family Maintenance provides services to families while keeping the child in the home.
- Services provided under both Family Maintenance and Family Reunification include:
 - Counseling, substance abuse treatment, parenting education, and domestic violence intervention.



Child Welfare Services Components and Caseload Trends



- Total caseload has decreased by 9 percent since 1999-00.
- Largest component decrease is in the Permanent Placement caseload.



Total Funding

2005-06 (Dollars in Millions)

	Expenditures	Federal Share	State Share	County Share
Child Welfare Services	\$2,192	62%	29%	10%
Foster Care	1,682	35	23	41
Foster care administration	88	50	36	14
Adoptions assistance	644	42	43	14
Kin-Gap	100	67	17	17
Totals	\$4,706	\$2,330	\$1,353	\$1,026
Percent Total		50%	29%	22%

Detail may not total due to rounding.



Federal funding is provided in two streams, Title IV-E and IV-B.

- Title IV-E funds are available only for cases with out-of-home placement and are an uncapped entitlement.
- Title IV-B funds, which may be used flexibly for prevention and alternatives to placement, are capped and subject to annual appropriations.