



Colorado Department of Human Services

people who help people

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2003



Bill Owens
Governor

Marva Livingston Hammons
Executive Director

Senator Abel Tapia, Chairman
Colorado Senate
Joint Budget Committee
200 East Colfax Ave., Room 253
Denver, CO 80203

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048 STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
DENVER, COLORADO 80203-1784

Dear Senator Tapia:

This report is sent pursuant to 19-3-214, C.R.S., which is as follows:

"Placement Reporting. (1) Each county department shall maintain and update on a monthly basis a report of the number of children who have been removed from their homes and placed in the temporary custody of the county department for the preceding month. The report shall indicate whether a child who has been placed out of the home has been placed with relatives. (2) The state department shall submit an annual report to the joint budget committee of the general assembly no later than December 1 of each year that compiles the monthly reports of the number of children who have been placed out of the home in each county or city and county for the preceding year as required pursuant to subsection (1) of this section".

The counties accomplish the required reporting by entering information into the Trails automated system. The State has pulled reports from the Trails system as the basis of information in this letter and the attached reports.

The data reports provided have an annual timeframe of September 1-August 31. The data reports for the current and three years (2000-2004) are available for the first time due to recent changes in the Trails automated system. The reports provided contain cumulative data for each county. The categories that are listed are as follows:

Column 2: *Number of children* – This is an *unduplicated* count of children that were removed from their home at some point during the year.

Column 3: *Number of removals* – This is the *duplicated* count of the number of children that were removed from their home at some point during the year. More than one removal occurred for some of the children during the time frame of the report.

Column 4: *Placed in county custody* – Of the children that were removed from their homes, this indicates the number of children who were placed in the legal custody of the county departments. The number of children who are in the custody of county departments is significantly lower than the number of removals (both duplicated and unduplicated counts in columns 2 and 3 respectively). This may occur for a number of reasons. For example, when children are in imminent danger, the county department or law enforcement may release the child to a relative or another individual that has a relationship with the child. They will provide safety until resolution of the circumstances that brought the child to the attention of the authorities. The county department may recommend to the court of jurisdiction, that the child be released to the care and custody of the relative or identified caretaker. In some cases, the child will be released to the non-custodial parent and the county does not pursue custody.

Column 5: *First service entered kinship care* – This is the number of children that were placed with relatives or individual(s) with a known relationship to the child(ren) and who were not certified foster parents. With this type of placement the following generally occurs:

- The children are eligible for Medicaid benefits
- The caregivers are generally eligible to receive TANF payments on behalf of the children.
- The caregivers are awarded custody of the child(ren) through a court hearing. In some situations a voluntary placement agreement may be in effect with or without court oversight.
- The placement is likely to last an extended period of time.

Column 6: *First service entered kinship foster care* – This is the number of children that were placed with a relative or individual with a known relationship to the child(ren) and who were certified as foster parents. The following occurs:

- The child(ren) is generally eligible for Medicaid benefits.
- The caregivers receive foster care maintenance reimbursement.
- The county department has custody of the child(ren) through a Dependency and Neglect action. In some cases a voluntary placement agreement may be in effect with court oversight.

Summary of Information from the Reports

In 2003/04, of 6,904 children (unduplicated count) that were removed, the large ten counties accounted for 87% of the removals.

The number of removals decreased each year by 2-4% from 2000-2004. The number of removals in 2003/04 decreased by 780 or 10% in comparison to 2000/01.

In 2003/04, 35 percent of the removals resulted in the county receiving custody. For the other years, (2000/01, 2001/02, and 2002/03), approximately 29% of the removals resulted in the county receiving custody.

From 2000-2004, there was an increase in the placement of children in kinship care. In 2000/01, of 8,048 removals, 4% were entered into kinship care as the first service. In comparison, in 2003/04, of 7,268 removals, 12% were entered into kinship care as the first service.

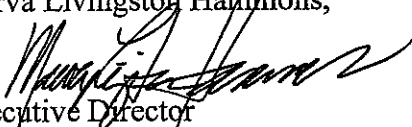
From 2000-2004, approximately 3% of the removals were placed in *kinship foster care* as the first service entered.

- In 2002, the same standards or rules for foster care certification for relative and non-relative foster parents were applied in compliance with federal Title IV-E claiming requirements. The number of removals that resulted in placement in *kinship foster care* as the first services has been stable between 2000-2004, with a range of 226-262 placements. In 2001/02 and 2002/03 the number of placements were highest with 259 and 262 placements respectively.

Overall, there has been a decrease in the number of children that were removed from their homes. There has been an increase in the number and percentage of all removals that resulted in the placement of children in *kinship care and kinship foster care*. In 2003/04, of 7,268 children that were removed from their homes, 16% of the removals were entered in these two types of placements as the first service. In comparison in 2000/01, of 8,048 children that were removed from their homes, approximately 7% of the removals were entered in these types of placement as the first service.

If you have further questions, please contact Mary at 303-866-3546 or email her at mary.griffin@state.co.us.

Marva Livingston Hammons,



Executive Director

Colorado Department of Human Services

**Colorado Department of Human Services
Trails System Report
Division of Child Welfare**

State Legislative Report
From: 9/1/2000 To: 8/31/2001

County ID/Name	Number of Children	Number of Removals	Placed in County Custody	First Service Entered Kinship Care	First Service Entered Kinship Foster Care
01 Adams	684	729	246	34	22
02 Alamosa	77	86	25	4	9
03 Arapahoe	799	851	328	16	48
04 Archuleta	4	4	0	0	0
05 Baca	6	6	2	0	0
06 Bent	22	27	3	3	1
07 Boulder	288	309	115	9	13
08 Chaffee	26	26	10	0	1
09 Cheyenne	1	1	0	0	0
10 Clear Creek	27	27	5	2	1
11 Conejos	17	19	8	0	3
12 Costilla	18	22	9	1	0
13 Crowley	3	3	2	0	0
14 Custer	10	10	9	0	0
15 Delta	34	37	10	0	1
16 Denver	1,749	1,917	369	109	7
17 Dolores	3	3	2	0	0
18 Douglas	54	55	17	0	0
19 Eagle	21	22	6	0	0
20 Elbert	21	22	10	0	3
21 El Paso	791	835	337	44	28
22 Fremont	93	99	45	2	3
23 Garfield	54	58	16	5	0
24 Gilpin	7	7	6	0	0
25 Grand	8	9	6	0	0
26 Gunnison	14	17	5	0	0
27 Hinsdale	3	3	2	0	0
28 Huerfano	18	18	9	4	1
29 Jackson	2	2	1	1	0
30 Jefferson	541	562	213	26	17
31 Kiowa	0	0	0	0	0
32 Kit Carson	16	16	8	1	0
33 Lake	18	18	10	0	0
34 LaPlata	62	75	17	4	0
35 Larimer	238	257	81	22	17
36 Las Animas	30	32	20	9	1
37 Lincoln	21	23	6	7	0

County ID/Name	Number of Children	Number of Removals	Placed in County Custody	First Service Entered Kinship Care	First Service Entered Kinship Foster Care
38 Logan	63	65	18	0	9
39 Mesa	317	363	85	1	24
40 Mineral	2	2	0	0	0
41 Moffat	27	29	15	0	4
42 Montezuma	45	50	6	0	0
43 Montrose	101	115	33	4	1
44 Morgan	107	120	43	1	4
45 Otero	41	43	23	7	2
46 Ouray	3	3	1	0	0
47 Park	16	16	12	1	0
48 Phillips	6	6	0	0	0
49 Pitkin	1	1	0	0	0
50 Prowers	26	27	9	0	0
51 Pueblo	480	524	173	36	0
52 Rio Blanco	15	16	8	1	1
53 Rio Grande	28	29	9	1	0
54 Routt	12	12	1	0	0
55 Saguache	20	23	9	0	0
56 San Juan	6	14	3	3	0
57 San Miguel	2	2	1	0	0
58 Sedgwick	3	3	1	0	0
59 Summit	21	21	1	0	0
60 Teller	47	50	16	0	4
61 Washington	14	14	7	0	0
62 Weld	345	370	120	7	9
63 Yuma	32	33	10	0	3
80 Broomfield	0	0	0	0	0
State Totals	7,444	8,048	2,513	359	236

Note : As the State Total for Number of Children represents distinct individual children, the number may be less than the sum of the county totals.

**Colorado Department of Human Services
Trails System Report
Division of Child Welfare**

State Legislative Report
From: 9/1/2001 To: 8/31/2002

County ID/Name	Number of Children	Number of Removals	Placed in County Custody	First Service Entered Kinship Care	First Service Entered Kinship Foster Care
01 Adams	732	773	223	52	33
02 Alamosa	46	50	15	0	0
03 Arapahoe	766	821	313	45	35
04 Archuleta	5	5	0	0	0
05 Baca	6	6	3	0	1
06 Bent	24	25	9	8	0
07 Boulder	289	309	91	31	10
08 Chaffee	22	22	6	0	2
09 Cheyenne	3	3	1	0	0
10 Clear Creek	13	14	2	0	0
11 Conejos	15	18	5	0	0
12 Costilla	14	20	4	0	0
13 Crowley	0	0	0	0	0
14 Custer	3	3	0	0	0
15 Delta	49	53	7	0	3
16 Denver	1,586	1,676	401	109	8
17 Dolores	10	10	4	0	2
18 Douglas	35	35	7	0	0
19 Eagle	9	9	3	0	0
20 Elbert	24	24	5	0	0
21 El Paso	767	813	289	50	34
22 Fremont	145	148	33	6	6
23 Garfield	60	65	11	1	4
24 Gilpin	8	8	4	0	0
25 Grand	12	12	3	0	0
26 Gunnison	25	26	14	0	2
27 Hinsdale	7	8	4	0	0
28 Huerfano	23	23	5	6	0
29 Jackson	1	1	0	0	0
30 Jefferson	614	634	184	32	0
31 Kiowa	0	0	0	0	0
32 Kit Carson	10	10	0	0	0
33 Lake	10	11	4	0	0
34 LaPlata	33	38	11	0	0
35 Larimer	286	308	124	39	8
36 Las Animas	43	45	13	6	1
37 Lincoln	42	47	8	5	3

County ID/Name	Number of Children	Number of Removals	Placed In County Custody	First Service Entered Kinship Care	First Service Entered Kinship Foster Care
38 Logan	51	54	18	0	2
39 Mesa	282	315	72	7	27
40 Mineral	1	1	0	0	0
41 Moffat	38	42	7	0	0
42 Montezuma	36	39	8	0	3
43 Montrose	95	106	30	1	1
44 Morgan	71	82	29	0	0
45 Otero	32	33	17	7	4
46 Ouray	1	1	0	0	0
47 Park	19	19	2	0	0
48 Phillips	3	4	2	0	0
49 Pitkin	3	3	2	0	0
50 Prowers	31	31	10	0	10
51 Pueblo	669	705	170	87	0
52 Rio Blanco	9	9	4	0	0
53 Rio Grande	21	22	2	0	0
54 Routt	4	4	1	0	0
55 Saguache	14	16	12	0	0
56 San Juan	4	5	0	0	0
57 San Miguel	5	5	1	0	0
58 Sedgwick	6	6	3	1	0
59 Summit	10	10	4	0	1
60 Teller	45	47	12	0	2
61 Washington	11	11	5	0	0
62 Weld	368	392	114	5	10
63 Yuma	19	20	13	2	2
80 Broomfield	40	43	16	0	1
State Totals	7,452	7,923	2,297	498	259

Note : As the State Total for Number of Children represents distinct individual children, the number may be less than the sum of the county totals.

**Colorado Department of Human Services
Trails System Report
Division of Child Welfare**

State Legislative Report
From: 9/1/2002 To: 8/31/2003

County ID/Name	Number of Children	Number of Removals	Placed in County Custody	First Service Entered Kinship Care	First Service Entered Kinship Foster Care
01 Adams	928	958	260	66	16
02 Alamosa	37	41	11	0	4
03 Arapahoe	676	722	311	11	54
04 Archuleta	4	6	1	0	0
05 Baca	13	13	2	0	3
06 Bent	14	15	10	4	0
07 Boulder	229	245	65	23	10
08 Chaffee	26	26	14	0	0
09 Cheyenne	3	3	2	0	1
10 Clear Creek	15	16	3	0	4
11 Conejos	4	4	1	0	0
12 Costilla	8	8	5	0	3
13 Crowley	4	4	3	0	0
14 Custer	2	2	1	0	0
15 Delta	24	25	2	0	0
16 Denver	1,297	1,387	361	125	15
17 Dolores	0	0	0	0	0
18 Douglas	56	57	6	0	0
19 Eagle	14	14	2	0	1
20 Elbert	25	27	5	0	1
21 El Paso	835	890	275	86	50
22 Fremont	118	126	12	0	8
23 Garfield	70	73	25	1	8
24 Gilpin	9	10	6	0	0
25 Grand	4	4	1	3	0
26 Gunnison	20	24	3	0	0
27 Hinsdale	0	0	0	0	0
28 Huerfano	13	15	5	2	0
29 Jackson	0	0	0	0	0
30 Jefferson	681	720	198	108	19
31 Kiowa	1	1	0	0	0
32 Kit Carson	13	13	7	0	0
33 Lake	11	11	1	0	0
34 LaPlata	37	42	10	2	0
35 Larimer	293	309	130	57	13
36 Las Animas	29	30	3	4	0
37 Lincoln	28	28	9	5	0

County ID/Name	Number of Children	Number of Removals	Placed in County Custody	First Service Entered Kinship Care	First Service Entered Kinship Foster Care
38 Logan	33	36	7	0	3
39 Mesa	250	266	76	21	7
40 Mineral	0	0	0	0	0
41 Moffat	26	27	7	1	0
42 Montezuma	51	57	9	0	17
43 Montrose	91	101	35	2	6
44 Morgan	64	68	19	0	0
45 Otero	52	55	18	22	3
46 Ouray	3	3	0	0	0
47 Park	11	12	3	0	0
48 Phillips	4	4	1	1	0
49 Pitkin	2	2	0	0	0
50 Prowers	18	19	4	0	2
51 Pueblo	600	689	126	133	1
52 Rio Blanco	33	33	11	0	7
53 Rio Grande	18	19	4	0	0
54 Routt	8	8	0	0	0
55 Saguache	23	24	9	0	0
56 San Juan	0	0	0	0	0
57 San Miguel	3	3	0	0	0
58 Sedgwick	1	1	0	0	0
59 Summit	12	12	2	0	0
60 Teller	41	42	4	0	2
61 Washington	12	12	8	0	2
62 Weld	352	385	126	4	10
63 Yuma	20	20	4	1	0
80 Broomfield	32	33	10	2	0
State Totals	7,117	7,604	2,156	666	262

Note : As the State Total for Number of Children represents distinct individual children, the number may be less than the sum of the county totals.

**Colorado Department of Human Services
Trails System Report
Division of Child Welfare**

State Legislative Report
From: 9/1/2003 To: 8/31/2004

County ID/Name	Number of Children	Number of Removals	Placed in County Custody	First Service Entered Kinship Care	First Service Entered Kinship Foster Care
01 Adams	758	794	223	73	21
02 Alamosa	39	41	10	1	0
03 Arapahoe	661	711	358	20	86
04 Archuleta	3	3	0	1	0
05 Baca	6	7	0	0	2
06 Bent	12	14	7	1	4
07 Boulder	282	305	81	47	7
08 Chaffee	16	17	6	0	0
09 Cheyenne	0	0	0	0	0
10 Clear Creek	11	11	3	2	0
11 Conejos	11	11	5	0	0
12 Costilla	8	9	4	2	0
13 Crowley	3	3	2	0	0
14 Custer	1	1	0	0	0
15 Delta	38	40	1	0	0
16 Denver	1,233	1,298	532	121	4
17 Dolores	0	0	0	0	0
18 Douglas	58	61	12	0	1
19 Eagle	11	12	4	0	0
20 Elbert	34	34	7	6	0
21 El Paso	773	798	300	160	13
22 Fremont	107	115	11	0	18
23 Garfield	62	63	16	0	13
24 Gilpin	8	8	1	3	0
25 Grand	14	14	3	0	0
26 Gunnison	22	22	1	0	0
27 Hinsdale	2	2	0	0	0
28 Huerfano	25	28	5	8	0
29 Jackson	0	0	0	0	0
30 Jefferson	775	812	349	201	5
31 Kiowa	1	1	0	0	0
32 Kit Carson	27	27	8	0	0
33 Lake	16	16	3	0	0
34 LaPlata	46	49	13	3	5
35 Larimer	316	324	165	69	6
36 Las Animas	16	17	3	3	0
37 Lincoln	16	16	11	0	1

County ID/Name	Number of Children	Number of Removals	Placed in County Custody	First Service Entered Kinship Care	First Service Entered Kinship Foster Care
38 Logan	36	41	7	0	5
39 Mesa	243	253	100	58	2
40 Mineral	1	1	0	0	0
41 Moffat	25	25	9	2	8
42 Montezuma	42	45	9	0	4
43 Montrose	94	102	37	0	1
44 Morgan	62	66	36	0	1
45 Otero	22	22	6	3	0
46 Ouray	0	0	0	0	0
47 Park	12	12	2	0	0
48 Phillips	8	8	2	0	0
49 Pitkin	0	0	0	0	0
50 Prowers	18	18	5	0	1
51 Pueblo	554	588	95	129	0
52 Rio Blanco	17	18	5	0	8
53 Rio Grande	21	21	3	0	0
54 Routt	10	11	2	0	0
55 Saguache	3	3	1	0	0
56 San Juan	0	0	0	0	0
57 San Miguel	3	4	0	0	0
58 Sedgwick	3	3	1	0	0
59 Summit	9	9	0	0	2
60 Teller	40	43	6	0	4
61 Washington	12	12	8	0	4
62 Weld	386	419	139	0	5
63 Yuma	12	12	7	0	2
80 Broomfield	37	39	11	11	3
State Totals	6,904	7,268	2,554	902	226

Note : As the State Total for Number of Children represents distinct individual children, the number may be less than the sum of the county totals.