


2011 Annual Evaluation Report

The Division of Child Welfare

Colorado Department of Human Services

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A Message from the Child Welfare Division Director

MESSAGE

Hello Everyone,

It is my pleasure to introduce this year's 2011 Annual Evaluation Report. This report describes the activities of the Division of Child Welfare (DCW) in 2011 along with our upcoming efforts to improve Colorado's Child Welfare system in 2012.

Over the past year, DCW has continued to make progress on a number of projects. The Colorado Practice Model (CPM), formerly known as the Colorado Practice Initiative, saw the first cohort (17 counties and one federally recognized tribe) begin work on enhancing continuous quality improvement efforts in their counties by using data to examine the effectiveness of their practices. In 2012, a second cohort of counties will be accepted into the CPM.

This past year, DCW also formalized the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) in an effort to improve Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being Practices. Colorado is currently in the third quarter of the PIP and looks forward to a successful completion of the PIP in 2013.

Finally, in 2011 Colorado has been fortunate to revitalize and refocus our efforts with two national partners: Casey Family Programs and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Both organizations are helping Colorado enhance our child welfare system through efforts at increasing permanency, focusing on our adolescent populations, and to more

appropriately use congregate care. Colorado is grateful for the resources provided through these organizations and looks forward to making the improvements needed in our system.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the hardworking staff at the Colorado Division of Child Welfare. It is through their effort that many of these needed changes are occurring. In addition, I would like to thank the County Departments of Human Services and their staff in their tireless efforts to ensure the safety of children. I would also like to thank our State partners; the Administrative Review Division for their efforts to monitor towards consistent and quality practice across Colorado, as well as the TRAILS team, dedicated to providing an effective data system. I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate the TRAILS team on becoming the 9th state in the nation to become SACWIS compliant in July of 2011!

Finally, I would also like to thank the Colorado Department of Human Service's Executive Management Team, and specifically our Executive Director, Reggie Bicha, our Office of Children, Youth, and Families Director, Julie Krow, and Governor Hickenlooper and the legislature for their support in SFY2011. It is through their support as well as the suggested reform efforts that Colorado continues to improve its practice.

I look forward to another year of continued progress.



Thank you,

Lloyd Malone

Director, Division of Child Welfare Services

Executive Summary

S U M M A R Y

This year's evaluation aims to describe the DCW population, services provided to children, youth and families, outcomes for those children, and budgetary information for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2011 (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011). Also included is a description of our upcoming efforts in SFY2012.

DCW Referrals Grow, Assessments and Involvements Decline

In SFY2011, Colorado received 80,094 referrals, continuing a trend of growth over the past five years. On the other hand, referrals opened to investigations (i.e., assessments) along with open involvements (i.e., cases) declined. This is a departure from the existing trend demonstrating stability in the previous four years for both assessments and involvements.

Valuing Least Restrictive Environment

Consistent with DCW's value of keeping children in the least restrictive setting, the majority of children in open involvements were served in their own homes (71.7%). In addition, utilization trends demonstrate a decline in the number of children in Out-of-Home (OOH) placements. When examining the OOH placement types, Foster Care placements have declined by 26.4% over the past five years, whereas Kinship Placements have increased by 33%. In addition, Residential Care placements demonstrated a decline of 25.7% over the past five years. Group Homes and Independent Living placements have remained stable.

Child Outcomes

Colorado strives to meet or exceed the federal national standard on the Child and Family Service Review (CFSR) composite measures. Over the past five years, Colorado has increased its compliance from six to nine out of fifteen CFSR measures.

Federal Initiatives

Colorado completed its first official year of Monthly Caseworker Contacts report submission, in which States are held fiscally responsible for maintaining 90% visit compliance. Colorado moved the needle from 73.86% in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2010 to 85.67% in FFY2011. In addition, kicking off the first year of the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD), Colorado successfully submitted its data. In FFY2012, Colorado will focus on creating data reports to better extract meaningful NYTD information.

Revitalizing Partnerships

Colorado has long-standing relationships with the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) and Casey Family Programs (CFP). This past year, the Division of Child Welfare, AECF and CFP have aligned and revitalized their efforts to enhance permanency (particularly for adolescent populations), reduce the use of OOH care, and enhance the data usage capabilities across the State.



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Introduction

The Division of Child Welfare (DCW) is part of the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) Office of Children, Youth, and Families (OCYF). The mission of the Division of Child Welfare is to provide leadership, innovation, oversight, and resources to enhance the effective delivery of child welfare services statewide.

This mission is guided through the principles of:

- Collaboration
- Accountability
- Respect
- Professionalism
- Cultural Competence

This evaluation aims to describe the DCW population, services provided to children, youth and families, outcomes for those children, and budgetary information for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2011, along with a description of our upcoming efforts in SFY2012.



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DCW Population

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Referral and Assessment

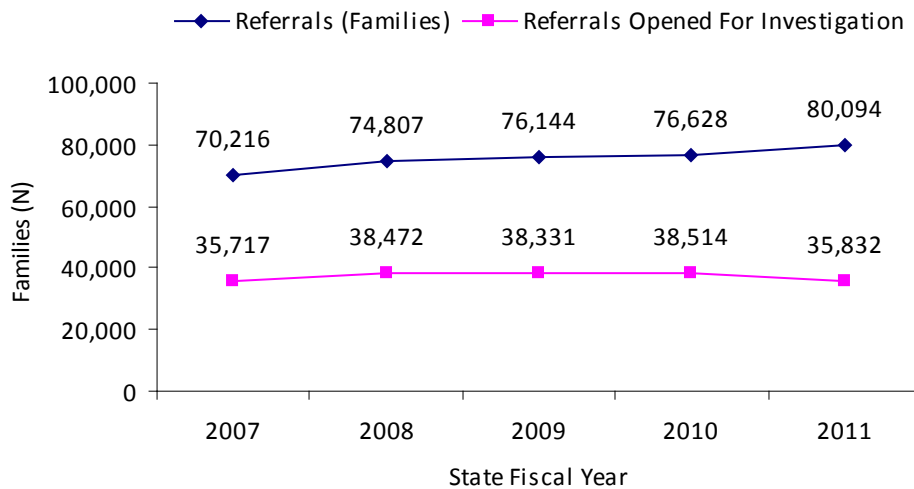
In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2011 (July 2010-June 2011) Colorado received 80,094 referrals (see Figure 1).

A referral can be made to a county for several reasons:

- (a) a report of possible abuse or neglect,
- (b) a report that a child is beyond the control of their parent,
- (c) a report that a child is a danger to self or others, and/or
- (d) a report that an adopted child needs services.

It is important to note that referrals represent a family count and not the potential number of children referred. Of those referrals, 35,832 (44.73%) were opened for investigation also known as an assessment. This percentage is a decline from the previous year's 50.26%. These investigations represented 60,791 children. This year's referral rate was 62 per 1,000 children. This is an increase from 60 per 1,000, which had been maintained in the prior three years. These patterns may suggest that due to economic factors more families are in need of assistance. At the same time counties may have to employ more strategic decision-making (e.g., more effectively determining which to assist).

Figure 1. Referrals and Referrals Opened for Investigation

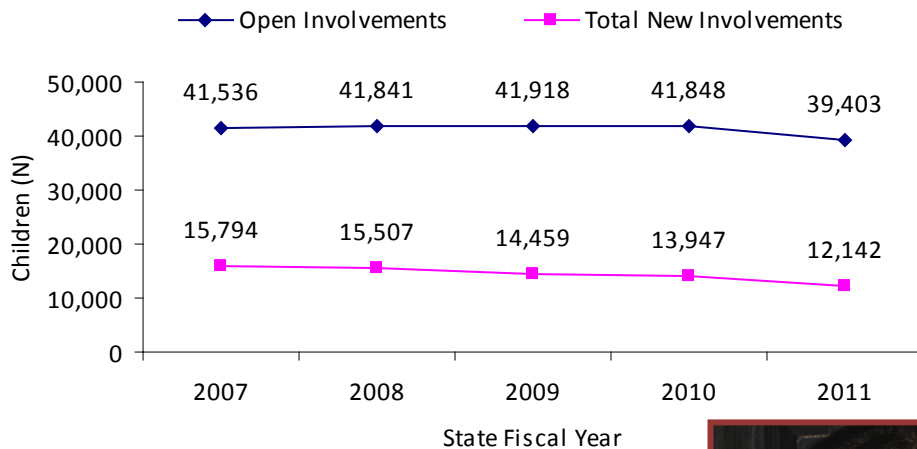


Open Involvements

An investigation can result in an open involvement (i.e., case) for ongoing services. In SFY2011, Colorado had 39,403 children in open involvements (see Figure 2). While the number of open involvements has remained steady from 2007-2010, this past year it significantly declined. New involvements have been steadily declining over the past five years.

This year there was 12,142 new involvements (i.e., a case opened within that year regardless of previous involvement in the system). This demonstrates that there are both fewer entries and more exits in terms of child welfare involvements than in previous years. This occurrence could relate to fewer staff due to budget cuts or an increased focus on the front end or preventative services.

Figure 2. DCW Involvements

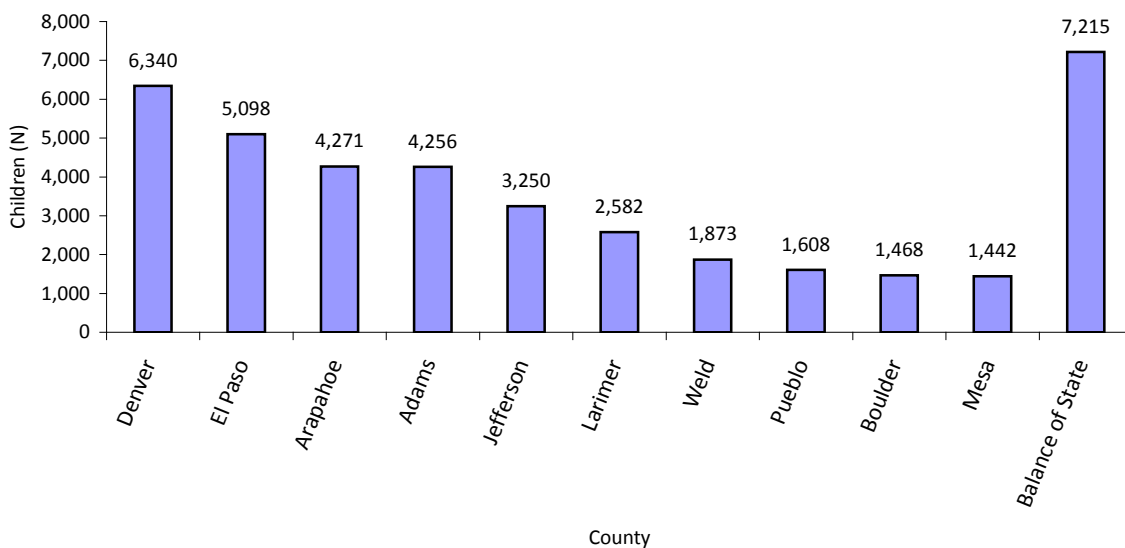


By County

When examining open involvements across the ten largest counties, Denver County reported the largest number of open involvements in SFY2011, followed by El Paso and Arapahoe County (see Figure 3). The combined additional 54 counties had a total of 7,215 open involvements.*



Figure 3. Open Involvements by County

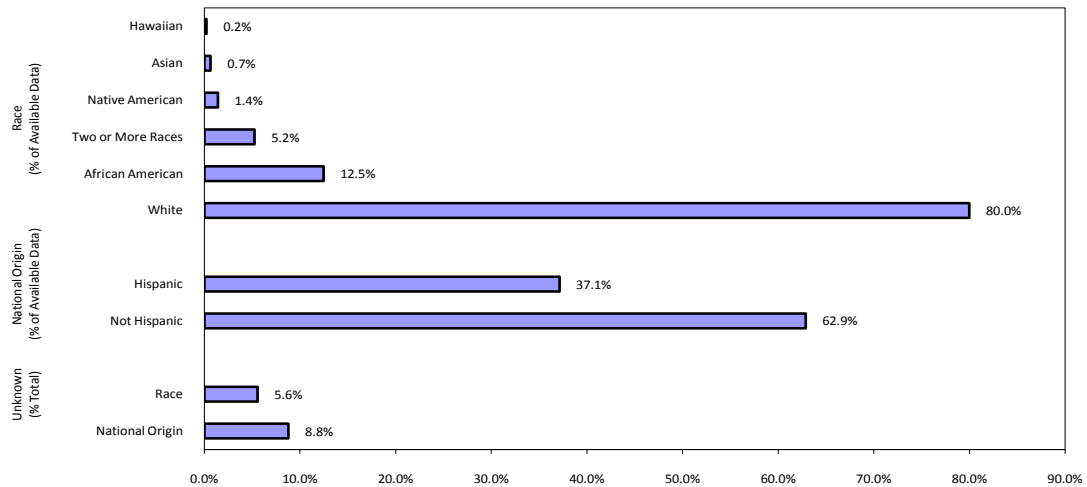


* Please note that Figure 3 in the 2010 report had two errors. Larimer and Jefferson Counties names were transposed and the Balance of State counties had 7,767 open involvements.

National Origin and Race

National origin and race data for the 39,403 children in open involvements are similar to that in years past. The majority of children were not of Hispanic origin (see Figure 4). Reports on race indicated that most children were Caucasian (80.0%) followed by African American (12.5%) and Multiracial (5.2%).

Figure 4. SFY11 Open Involvements National Origin and Race Data

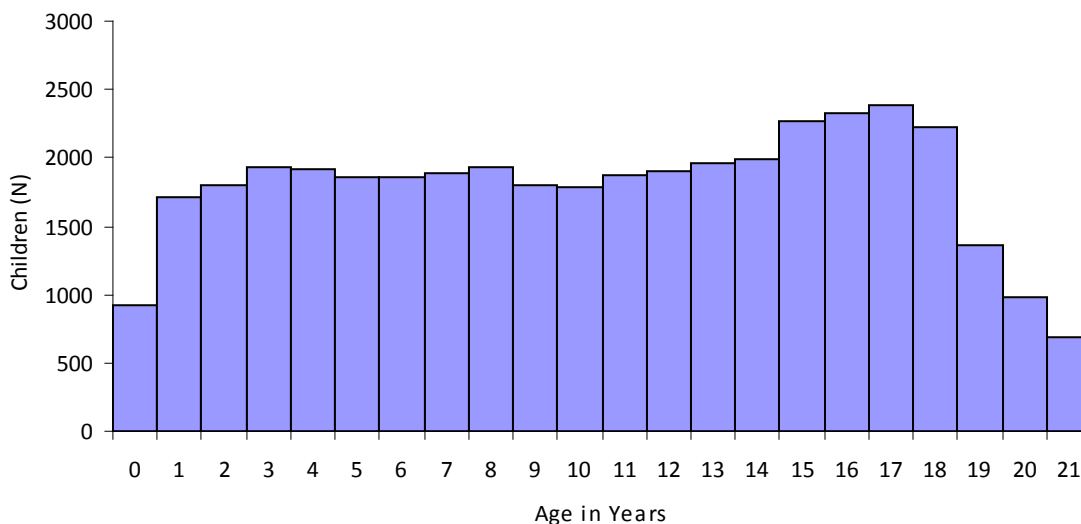


Age and Gender

The age distribution indicated almost a quarter of the children (22.8%) in open involvements were ages 14 to 17, followed by ages 7 to 10 (18.8%) and ages Birth to 3 (16.2%; see Figure 5). The gender distribution is 53.3% male children compared to 46.7% female children.



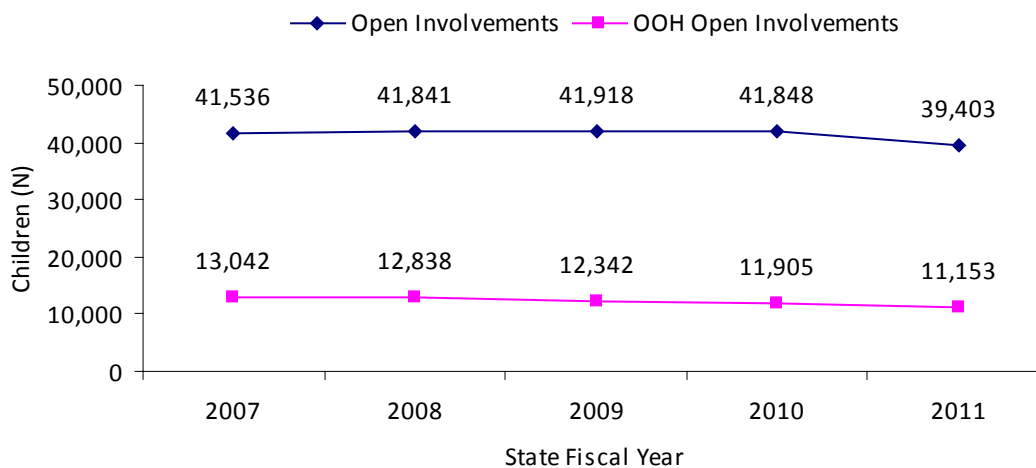
Figure 5. SFY11 Open Involvements Age in Years



Out-of-Home Involvements

In SFY2011, of the 39,403 children in open involvements, 11,153 were placed in an Out of Home (OOH) setting (28.3% of overall involvements; see Figure 6). Over the past five years OOH placements have decreased, both in terms of the number of children in OOH placements as well as in the percent of overall involvements.

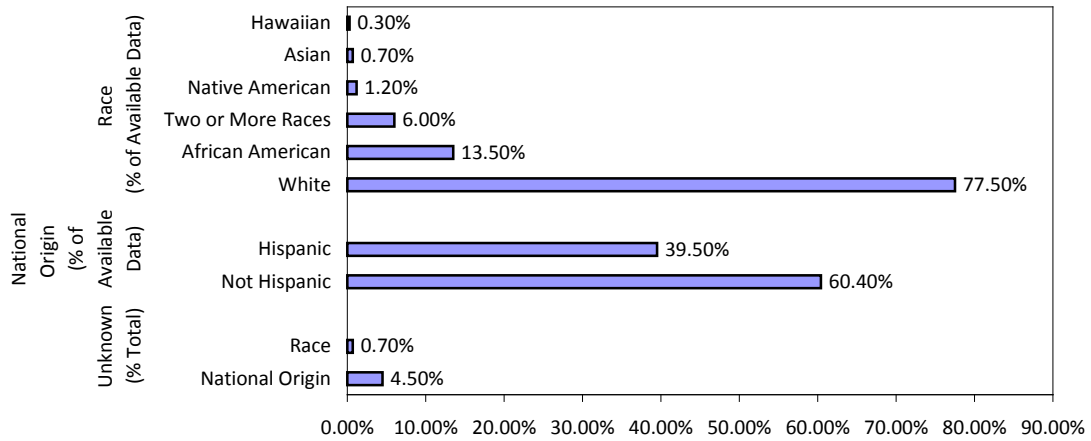
Figure 6. SFY11 OOH Involvements



National Origin and Race

Demographic information on this subset of children (see Figure 7) indicated a higher percentage of Hispanic origin children as compared to the overall involvements (see Figure 4). In addition, racial data indicated a higher percentage of African American and Multiracial children, and a lower percentage of Caucasian children. This pattern was also observed in the SFY2010 Annual Evaluation Report.

Figure 7. National Origin and Race Data for OOH Involvements

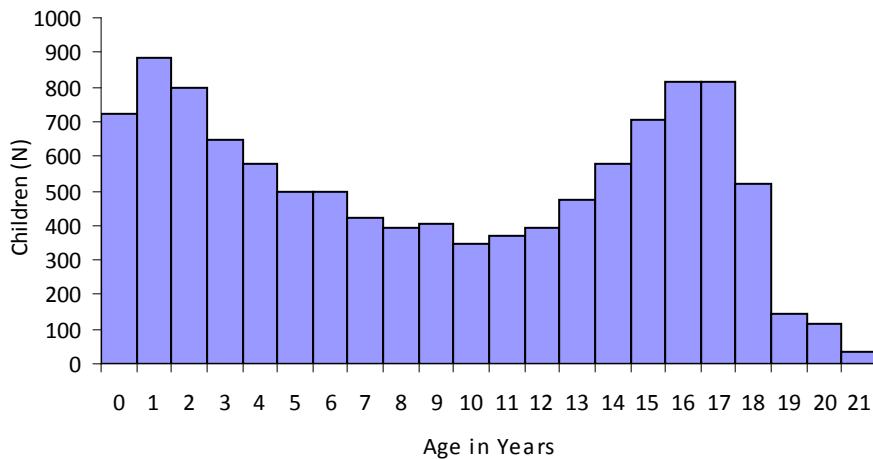


Age and Gender

The age distribution of the OOH involvement population demonstrated a different pattern than that of the overall involvements (see Figure 8) with a greater peak in the infant years. The gender distribution remained relatively similar with 53.6% of male children compared to 46.4% of female children.



Figure 8. OOH Involvements Age in Years



Services

Statewide Service Initiatives

S E R V I C E S

Children's Habilitation Residential Program (CHRP)

The intention of the CHRP waiver is to provide habilitative services to children in out-of-home placements who have a developmental disability and are between the ages of 0-20. Habilitative services include training in independent living skills. An increase of the types of skills results in youth with developmental disabilities being able to live more independently in the community.

The CHRP waiver provided services to 152 children (unduplicated) during SFY2011 resulting in a decrease of 10% from SFY2010. The decrease is due in part to a lack of appropriate resources for children and youth in out-of-home placements that have a developmental disability.

Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP)

The purpose of the Chafee Program is to help youth, who are likely to emancipate from foster care or adoption assistance, to achieve adult self-sufficiency. Chafee Program providers offer a wide array of services including assistance to make life long connections; support for secondary and post-secondary education; positive youth development and leadership; and, employment skills to eligible youth. The Chafee Program hosts the annual 3-day College Connect Experience and the annual Celebration of Educational Excellence.

In FFY 2011, the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program served 1,017 eligible youth in 44 counties, the YES! Academy, and the Mountain Ute Indian Tribe. In addition, the State Chafee Foster Care Independence Program hosted two annual events. The 13th Annual Celebration of Educational Excellence honoring one-hundred and ninety-five foster care youth, who graduated from high school or received a GED; and the 2011 College Connect. There were eighty-nine participants during the two and a half day college experience at Adams State College. The experience included sleeping in on-campus dorm rooms; eating in the cafeteria, attending various 1-hour classes, afternoon at the Sand Dunes and an evening in an interactive heritage course.

Collaborative Management Program (CMP)-HB1451

The CMP was established through House Bill 1451 in 2004 with the plan to integrate services for multi-system families and children to reduce duplication and eliminate fragmentation; increase quality, appropriateness, and effectiveness of services provided; encourage cost sharing among service providers; and result in better outcomes and cost reduction for services provided to children and families. The CMP also aims to promote a family-centered approach. The CMP started with six counties in SFY2006 and includes thirty-two counties in SFY2012. For more information please see the website at: <http://collaboration.omni.org/sites/1451/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

Education and Training Vouchers (ETV)

The ETV program provides up to \$5,000 per year for college or vocational expenses for students that were in foster care or adoption assistance on their 18th birthday and applied for ETV prior to age 21. ETV assists eligible students to complete a post-secondary education for the purpose of achieving adult self-sufficiency. Two hundred and sixteen foster care and foster care alumni students received an ETV in SFY2011.

Heart Gallery

The Colorado Heart Gallery is one of the permanency services used by the Division of Child Welfare to help children and youth awaiting adoption find their permanent families. The Colorado Heart Gallery is comprised of two traveling exhibits and a web-based gallery, each featuring professional photographs of some of the children and youth in Colorado foster care that are awaiting adoption. Most of those featured in the galleries are older youth, sibling groups, or children/youth with special medical needs.



From November 1, 2010 – October 30, 2011, the Colorado Heart Gallery featured 109 children and youth. The premier for the 2011 Colorado Heart Gallery was November 4, 2011 with the public unveiling of new photographs for 103 children and youth in need of adoptive families.

The 2011 Colorado Heart Gallery exhibit was featured at Artwork Network at 878 Santa Fe Drive in Denver during the kick-off of *Denver's Art Week* and in conjunction with the Santa Fe Arts District's *First-Friday Art-Walk*. The events drew thousands of people from the community, increased the visibility of the Colorado Heart Gallery exhibit, and raised awareness for event patrons about foster care and adoption in Colorado. Approximately 40% of the children featured in the Colorado Heart Gallery transition to their permanent homes each year.



Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF)

PSSF aims to prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their families, improve the quality of care and services to children and their families, and ensure permanency for children by reuniting them with their parents, through adoption, or other permanent living arrangement. Colorado's PSSF program provides funding to thirty-three program sites, comprised of 41 counties and one tribe. PSSF aides CDHS in the engagement of local communities in order to develop and implement innovative, collaborative ways to deliver services that promote safety, permanency and well-being for families. Local PSSF projects utilize the strengths within their neighborhood, city, county, and/or region, to address the needs of families and children. No new data was available at the time of the report.

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

For SFY2011, there were 972 Native American children or youth in child welfare involvements.

Youth Empowerment Services

DCW strives to empower youth served through both the YES! Academy and the Youth Leadership Team (YLT). The YES! Academy aims to stabilize Chafee eligible homeless youth by providing housing and other basic necessities (e.g., bedding, clothing, food etc). In addition, youth complete an assessment for independent living skills (i.e., Ansel Casey Life Skills) and are then provided a Life Skills Plan. In SFY2011, the YES! Academy served 40 youth. Those youth were aided in education (30 received a GED or high school diploma with 13 going on to college) and daily living skills. In addition, youth received counseling services along with assistance in service planning.

The YLT is a product of the YES! Academy. The YLT empowers youth through providing a voice. This voice is designed to improve policy, programming and create best practice in foster care. YLT members lend their voice on committees, youth panels and sometimes legislation or state board hearings. Twenty youth participated in YLT in SFY2011.



County Administered Services

Core Services

The primary goal of the Core Services program is to keep children and families together, whenever appropriate and possible, by serving children who are at risk for out-of-home placement. A total of 24,122 children (unduplicated count) were identified in the Trails data system as having received at least one Core Service during SFY2011 with 39,400 Core Service authorizations (duplicated count). This demonstrates an increase in the number of persons served but a decrease in service authorizations from last year. This is a reflection of changes in Trails, which allows for multiple persons to be associated with one service authorization. The Core Service program also aims to maintain children in the least restrictive

environment. Eighty-nine percent of children receiving core services in their home remained at home.

The Core Services program strives to maintain safety for children. Ninety-seven percent of families participating in Core had no founded abuse reports during the time they received Core services. In addition, in the 12 months after Core Services participation, 96.8% had no founded report of child abuse. For the full evaluation report conducted by TriWest Group see the Core Services Commission Report at: www.Colorado.gov/cdhs under the Office of Children, Youth, and Families, Division of Child Welfare, Programs.

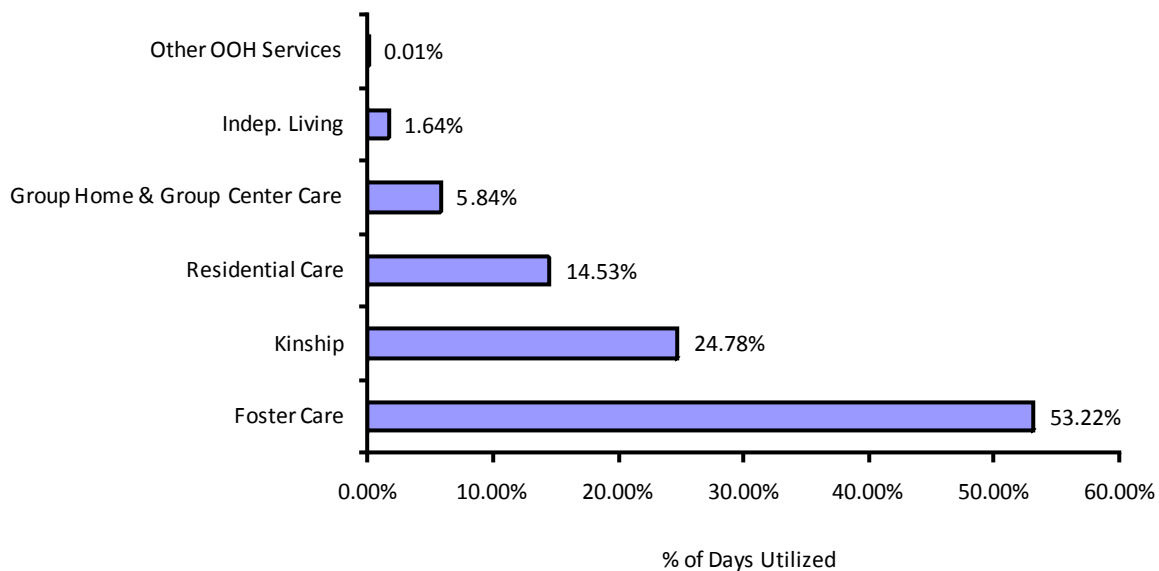


Out-of-Home (OOH) Placement

While Colorado's goal is to keep families intact and to place children in the least restrictive setting, children are removed from their homes if safety concerns exist within the home that cannot be mediated and/or an appropriate caretaker is not available.

The following describes the five out-of-home placement settings (broadly defined) from the least restrictive to the most restrictive setting. **Kinship Care** is placement with either biological or psychological kin in which the county does not retain custody of the child (i.e., not including Certified Kinship Care). **Independent Living** is placement in foster care where a youth lives independently in the community under the supervision of the county department. **Foster Care** is placement with a non-kinship family or kinship family in which the county retains custody of the child; including Certified Kinship Care. **Group Homes** are community based facilities that care for children and youth in a congregate setting; the county also retains custody. Finally, **Residential Child Care Facilities (RCCF)** are licensed facilities that provide 24-hour residential care. RCCF's can also provide treatment and/or specialized services.

Figure 9. SYF11 % of Days Utilized by Placement Type

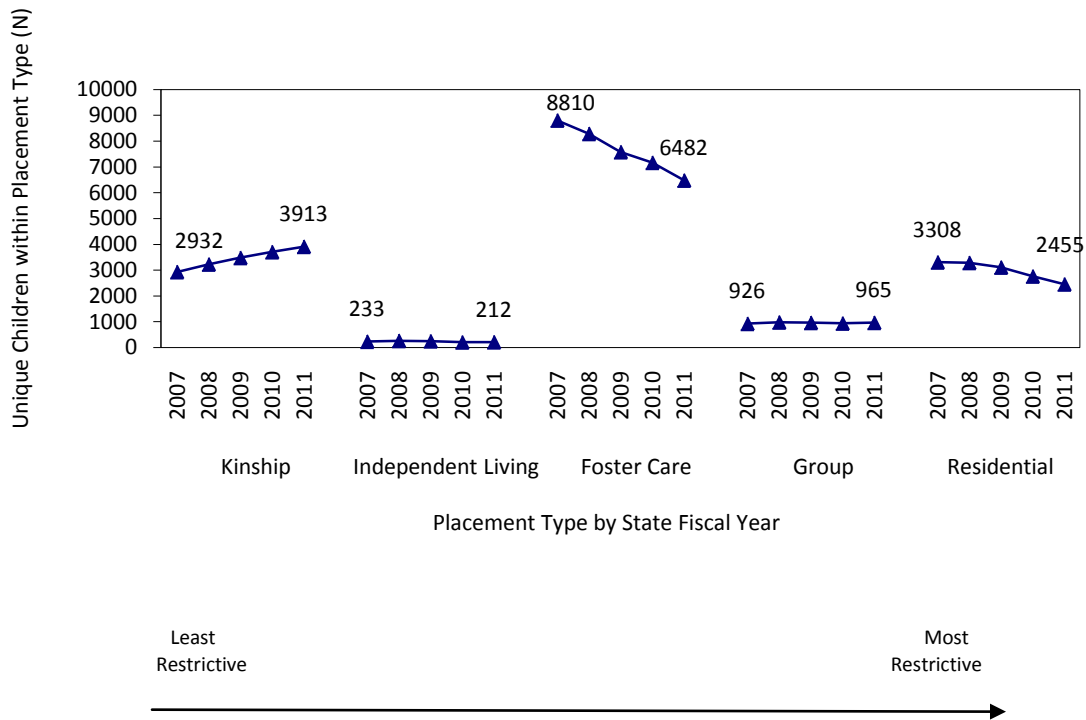


Service Utilization

In SFY2011, Colorado had 11,153 children in OOH care representing 17,258 placements. The majority of days of care in OOH involvements were in a Foster Care setting (53.22%) followed by Kinship Care (24.78%) and Residential Care (14.53%; see Figure 9**).

When examining the utilization of these services over the past five years, trends demonstrate a steady growth of Kinship Care (33%) and a decline of Foster Care (26.4%) and Residential Care placement (25.7%). Independent Living and Group Care placement have remained relatively stable (see Figure 10).

Figure 10. SFY07-11 Number of Unique Children by Placement Type in Out-of-Home



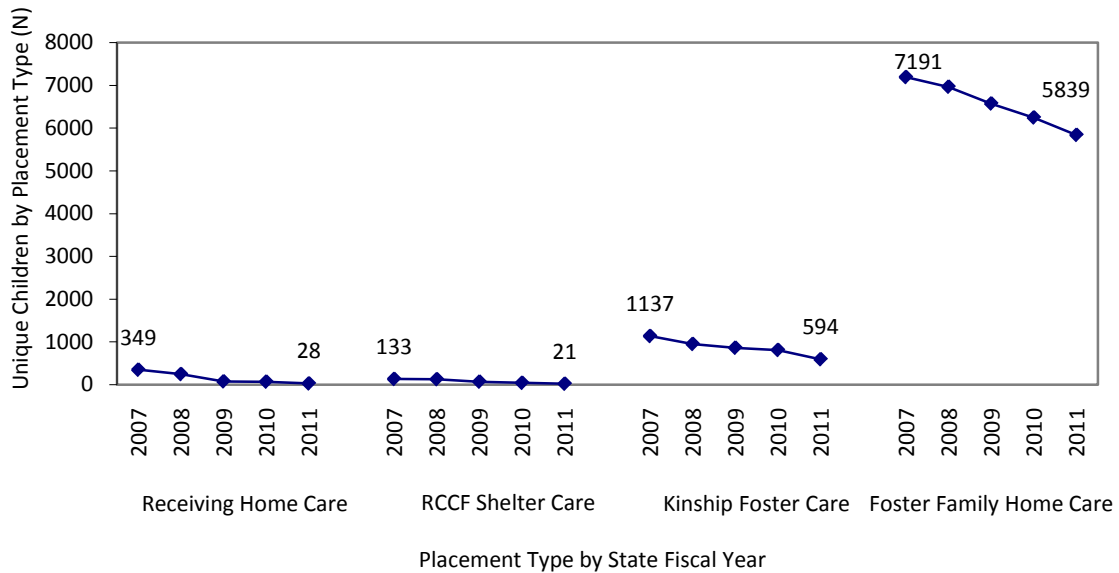
Within Category Examinations

While Kinship and Independent Living numbers consist of one placement setting, the latter three categories were aggregated across narrower service types.

Foster Care. In SFY2011, all four Foster Care sub-categories decreased in utilization over the past five years (see Figure 11). **Foster Family Home Care**, which is placement with a non-kinship family in which the county retains custody of the child, decreased by 18.8%. **Kinship Foster Care**, which is placement with a kinship family in which the county retains custody of the child, decreased by 47.7%. Both **Receiving Home Care** and **Residential Child Care Facilities Shelter Care** act as temporary or emergency placements of children. Each decreased in utilization by 91.9% and 84.2% over the past five years, respectively.

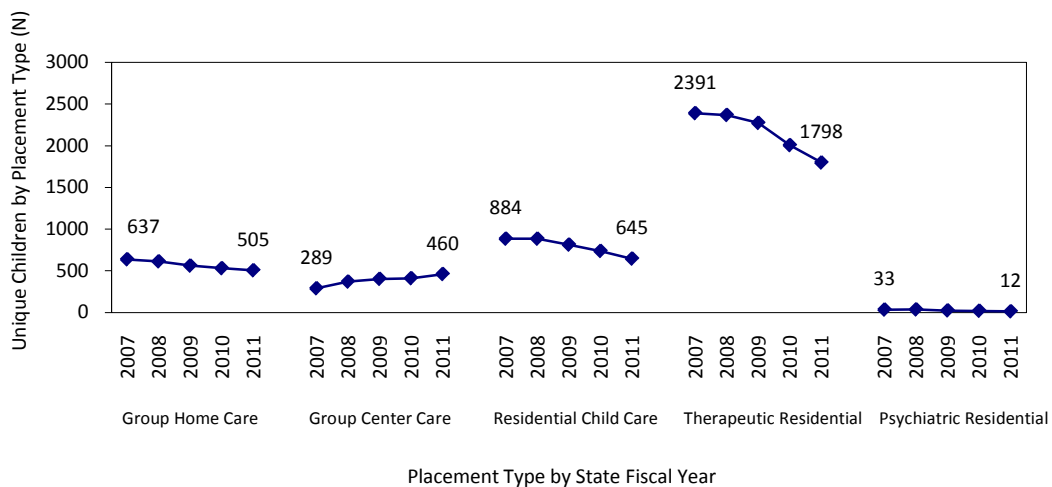
Group Home. While overall the utilization of Group Home placement has remained relatively stable, when examining by sub-category, utilization trends reveal a decrease (20.7%) in **Group Home Care** (i.e., Group Home with non-rotating caregivers in a home-like setting) and an increase (59.1%) in **Group Center Care** (i.e., Group Home with rotating caregivers in a non-home-like setting; see Figure 12) over the past five years.

Figure 11. SFY07-11 Number of Unique Children by Placement Type in Foster Care



Residential Child Care Facilities (RCCF). RCCFs utilization has also declined as a whole over the past five years. When examining sub-categories, **Residential Child Care**, which is a residential facility in which no therapeutic services are provided, decreased in utilization (27%; see Figure 12). **Therapeutic Residential Child Care** has also shown a decline in utilization (24.8%). **Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities** (i.e., a residential facility which provides intensive psychiatric treatment) demonstrated the sharpest utilization decline at 63% from 33 to 12 youth over the five years.

Figure 12. SFY07-11 Number of Unique Children by Placement Type in Group and Residential Care



Outcomes

Children

Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)

Safety

Each year Colorado submits the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) data to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). NCANDS data is pulled in January for the previous Federal Fiscal Year (FFY; October 2010-September 2011). Information from this submission is used to determine the Safety Composite measures for the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). Data from 2007 through 2010 demonstrates a consistent pattern, with Colorado exceeding the national standard on the Absence of Recurrence of Maltreatment measure and holding close to, but not meeting, the standard for the Absence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care for 12 months (see Figure 13). Data for FFY2011 will be available as of February 29, 2012.

Permanency

Each year Colorado submits the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). The AFCARS data is pulled twice a year and is based off the federal fiscal year (October 2010-September 2011). Children are included in the AFCARS population if they experience a removal from home (i.e., out-of-home placement). Each year the AFCARS files are combined with previous AFCARS submissions to derive the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Permanency composite measures. Over the past five years, Colorado has increased the number of measures it has met or exceeded the national standard from six to nine (see Figure 13). Colorado continues to strive to meet or exceed the national standard on all 15 Permanency measures.

Well-Being

The Administrative Review Division (ARD) conducts reviews of all Out-of-Home (OOH) involvements lasting more than six-months on a rotating six-month period. A number of the CFSR well-being measures are captured in the ARD OOH review instrument. To review the instrument and review county specific

data, please visit the ARD website at www.colorado.gov/cdhs under the Office of Performance and Strategic Outcomes.

Adoption

Across the state, 926 adoptions were finalized in SFY2011. In addition, CO provided 11,156 adoption assistance payments for children/youth adopted with special needs in SFY 2011.



Practice

Caseworker Contacts

In FFY2011, 10 Colorado county departments of human/social services received \$123,981 in funding for caseworker contacts. The intent of this funding was to increase caseworker contacts, improve the quality of those contacts, enhance the timeliness of data entry into the SACWIS system through the implementation of various technologies, and to increase caseworker retention. The Caseworker Contact report for FFY2011 shows that 85.57% of caseworkers made timely monthly client visits each month while the child was in out-of-home care, an increase of 11.71% (FFY2010 73.86%). Per instructions from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), all States were expected to reach the 90% compliance rate by October 2011 (for which data collection began in October 2010). While individual monthly counts show compliance rates of caseworker contacts as high as 100%, this remains an issue that needs continued monitoring and emphasis. DCW continues to actively address this effort through technical assistance to the county departments regarding the use of reports in the Trails system and monthly monitoring of county practice through Trails reports along with other strategies that may help increase caseworker contact accountability and data entry.



National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)

On October 1, 2010, Colorado began collecting and reporting the federally required NYTD information for all children and youth in foster care who receive independent living services

for youth turning age 17 from October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011. This was cohort 1 and acted as a baseline for a national examination of the self-sufficiency status of youth as they transition into adulthood. Follow-up surveys will be conducted with these same youth at age 19 and again at age 21. In two years (SFY2014), a second cohort will be examined.

Through the collaboration with county department staff, CDHS Division of Child Welfare data and program staff, youth participants and the Governor's Office of Information Technology, the Colorado National Youth in Transition

Database (CO NYTD) was successfully implemented. The federally required data element and response rate met the 100% error free standard in the Spring and Fall NYTD submission. To aid counties, the Governor's Office of Information Technology created caseworker and supervisor notification. The DCW program staff e-mailed every caseworker and supervisor, with a youth survey due, to provide an additional prompt. The DCW data unit provided the CO NYTD lead staff with data error reports to monitor for compliance.

County department casework and supervisory staff and the Division of Youth Corrections client managers and supervisors were dedicated to assuring compliance and were tremendous partners throughout the implementation year.

Quality Assurance Unit

The Quality Assurance Unit is responsible for the oversight and evaluation of 52 county departments across the state that certify foster homes for children placed in out-of-home settings. The foster care program review process not only evaluates compliance but also focuses on establishing a quality assurance process within each county to improve the

delivery of quality foster care services within Colorado. The unit conducted 60 reviews during this past fiscal year. This included 25 follow-up, 21 initial and 14 annual reviews. The unit visited 43 different county departments and spent 82 days on-site working with staff from these county departments. The outcome of the visits resulted in improved certification and screening of foster parents, timely mitigation of areas found to be deficient and the implementation of quality business practices within county departments. The unit is also responsible for providing technical assistance and training to county department staff in the various aspects of foster care certification.



Figure 13. Child Family Services Review Composite Measures

Composite	Federal Standard	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Safety						
Absence of Recurrence of Maltreatment	>=94.6%	95.3	94.9	95.8	95.7	*
Absence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care	>=99.68	99.41	99.46	99.6	99.46	*
Permanency						
C1-1 Percent of children who exits to reunification is <=12 months	>= 75.2 %	76.4	77.7	79.5	78.1	76.7
C1-2 Exits to reunification, median stay in months	<=5.4 months	5.7	5.8	5.4	5.4	5.4
C1-3 Percent of entry cohort reunification is <=12 months	>= 48.4%	56.5	55	51.7	56.7	55.1
C1-4 Percent of children who re-entries to foster care in <=12 months	<= 9.9%	15.2	17.3	17.7	13.4	17.3
C2-1 Percent of children who exits to adoption in <=24 months	>= 36.6%	57.2	56	59.4	50.6	56.8
C2-2 Exits to adoption, median length of stay in months	<= 27.3 months	21.9	22.4	21.5	23.7	22.2
C2-3 Percent of Children in care 17 + months adopted by end of the year	>= 20.7%	19.5	19.2	21.3	23.3	20.5
C2-4 Percent of children in care 17 + months achieving legal freedom with in 6 Months	>= 10.9%	3.2	2.3	4.1	2.3	1.5
C2-5 Percent of children legally free adopted in <=12 months	>= 53.7%	57.7	58.3	52	62.6	63.7
C3-1 Percent of children exits to permanency prior to 18th birthday for children in care for 24 + Months	>= 29.1%	20.7	19.9	20.3	25	21.5
C3-2 Percent of children exits to permanency for children with TPR	>= 98.0%	97	95.1	97.2	97.2	96.8
C3-3 Percent of Children emancipated who were in FC for 3 Years +	<=37.5%	32.4	30.2	27	25.3	26.5
C4-1 Percent of children who had two or fewer placement settings for children in care for <=12 Months	>= 86.0%	85.9	87.5	86.4	88.1	87.8
C4-2 Percent of children who had two or fewer placement settings for children in care for 12 - 24 Months	>= 65.4%	63.4	64.8	66.7	60.1	66.6
C4-3 Percent of children who had two or fewer placement settings for children in care for 24 + Months	>= 41.8%	35.7	35.8	35.1	37.1	34.5

Note. Yellow Shading indicates not in compliance with National Standard. * Indicates data not yet available.

System

Complaints

All complaints received by DCW are processed, recorded and responded to within three-business days. Counties then have 20 business days to respond to the complainant. In SFY2011, Child Welfare received 1,447 total contacts. Of those contacts, 183 were complaints, which required additional follow-up. This is a 10% increase from the previous year. The three most common areas of all complaints include; concerns about how a county department investigated allegations of child abuse and/or neglect, a county department's handling of a dependency and neglect case, and issues surrounding kinship care.

Institutional Abuse Review Team (IART)

IART aims to ensure the safety of children through reviews of reports of abuse or neglect of children while in OOH care. The number of reports of abuse while in OOH care increased from 693 in SFY2009 to 795 in SFY2010 and then decreased to 682 in SFY2011. Of those 682 reports of abuse and neglect in OOH care, 61 were substantiated. To ensure the safety of children while in care, DCW staff provides technical assistance and training to counties at the county's request regarding Stage I investigations.

Child Fatalities

Regrettably, and with sympathy for families, 26 children died in Colorado in 2011 as a result of abuse or neglect.

The Colorado Department of Human Services, Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT) is charged with the responsibility of reviewing the State's child maltreatment fatalities when the family

has had prior county department of human/social services involvement directly relating to the fatality within the past two years and the fatality was confirmed to be the result of child abuse and/or neglect. Any fatality of a child in the custody of the county department may also be reviewed. The Division also has the discretion to review any fatality and may do so when the findings of abuse and neglect are inconclusive or unfounded, yet there are questionable circumstances regarding the death.

The goal of the CFRT, through a respectful multidisciplinary review, is to better understand the causes, trends, and system responses to child fatalities and develop recommendations in policy, practice and systemic changes to improve the overall health, safety, and well-being of children in Colorado and mitigate future child fatalities. When the CFRT uncovers policy violations in the course of the review process, Performance Improvement Plans are negotiated with the county department on any findings that have not yet been addressed by the county.

As of this writing, eighteen fatalities met criteria for the CFRT review in 2011. The CFRT has reviewed nine of the eighteen child deaths that met state criteria for review. Of those, two were inconclusive for fatal child abuse/neglect. Policy violation findings have been made in three of the reviews and to date one of the performance improvement plans has been completed. The remaining seven were all founded for fatal child abuse/neglect. The CFRT review of the remaining nine is pending completion of the investigations and documentation from the county departments.

Outcome Information

As Colorado strives for continued accountability, several modifications were made to the SACWIS system (i.e., Trails) to better monitor outcomes. In the March 2009 build of Trails (21.11), caseworkers became able to monitor the outcome of Core services using a pick list (e.g., Not Successful, Partially Successful, and Successful) to be completed when end-dating a Core service in Trails. Data from this year's Core Services Annual report indicated that of all service authorizations closed within SFY2011, 52.4% were considered successful, 11.5% partially successful, whereas 9.7% were not engaged, and 7.0% made no

treatment progress. While this is a subjective rating by the caseworker, this is some of the first data available in Trails regarding perception of treatment outcomes.

In the June 2010 build of Trails (21.14), the North Carolina Family Assessment Scale-Revised (NCFAS-R) became a requirement for Child Protection cases (i.e., Child Abuse and Neglect) at case open and case closure. DCW is still working through this data to determine the most effective mechanism for reporting and hopes to have information available in SFY2012.



Budget

B U D G E T

Appropriations

For SFY2011, \$405,014,890 was appropriated in Long Bill HB 10-1376 for the Division of Child Welfare but, by year's end with all subsequent budget actions, the final spending authority per line item equaled \$401,745,167. This appropriation reflects a total decrease of 4.45% from the prior state fiscal years appropriation for SFY2010 of \$ 420,452,810. Approximately 97% of the funds were allocated to the County Departments for the Administration of Child Welfare Programs. The Child Welfare Services Block line item represented the largest source of funding (82%) for the Division of Child Welfare.

Figure 14. SFY 10- 11 Final Totals

Category	Funds
Child Welfare Services Block	\$331,169,646
Family and Children's Program (Core)	\$46,143,069
Training	\$6,343,893
Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program	\$5,481,209
Administration	\$3,720,830
Collaborative Management Incentives	\$3,555,500
Independent Living Programs	\$3,016,716
Title IV-E related County Administrative Functions	\$ 1,305,731
Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act Grant	\$674,943
Foster and Adoptive Parent Recruitment, Training, and Support	\$333,630
Total Appropriation from HB 10-1376	\$401,745,167

When examining the distribution of the Child Welfare Services Block by counties, 82% went to the ten large counties with Denver receiving the largest portion (see Figure 15). The difference in the total amount allocated is due to the hold out funds earmarked for the tribal placements of Native American children, parental fee reimbursements to counties, and a statewide insurance policy for county-administered foster homes.

Figure 15. SFY2010-11 Block Grant Funds

County	Allocated Monies	Percent of Allocated Monies
Denver County	\$62,458,883	18.92%
El Paso County	\$39,380,599	11.93%
Adams County	\$32,228,196	9.76%
Arapahoe County	\$31,801,050	9.64%
Jefferson County	\$28,108,380	8.52%
Pueblo County	\$18,224,201	5.52%
Weld County	\$17,454,196	5.29%
Larimer County	\$15,861,024	4.81%
Boulder County	\$15,024,339	4.55%
Mesa County	\$11,448,315	3.42%
Balance of State	\$58,054,454	17.59%
<u>Total</u>	\$330,043,637	<u>100%</u>

Funding for the Child Welfare Services Block, the Family and Children’s Program, and the Chafee program were appropriated from several sources, with the General Fund representing 48.16% of the appropriation (see Figure 16). Title IV-E revenue represented the second largest source at 18.17%.

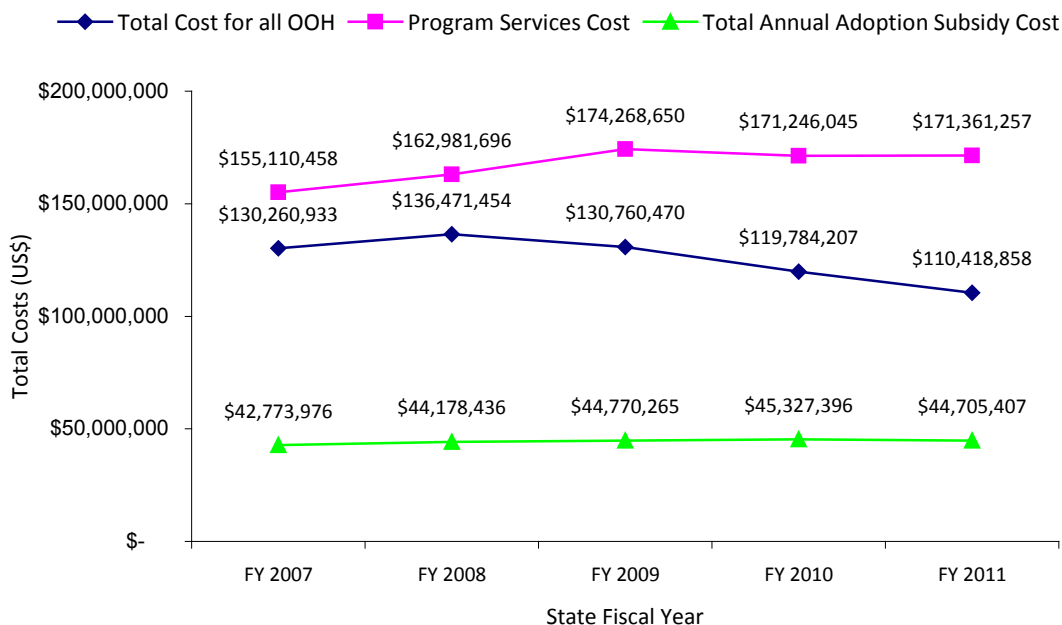
Figure 16. SFY 2010-11 Child Welfare Budget Overview

Program	Budget
Total General Fund	\$186,064,961
Title IV-E	\$70,218,628
County (Local) Share	\$69,110,806
Title XX	\$23,590,313
Title XIX (Medicaid)	\$14,293,272
TANF Transfer to Title XX	\$19,500,000
Title IV-B	\$4,019,549
Total	\$386,378,361

Costs

An examination of the service cost trends from SFY2007 to SFY2011 indicates a 10.48% increase in program service costs along with an increase of 4.52% for adoption assistance (see Figure 17). Total costs for OOH, on the other hand, have decreased by 15.23% over the same time period.

Figure 17. Service Cost Trend



The Future

F

Annie E. Casey Family (AECF) and Casey Family Programs (CFP) Partnerships

In 2011, the AECS and CFP continued their long-term technical assistance relationship with Colorado.

U

AECF

AECF conducted a statewide assessment that incorporated “youth voice”, a clarification of permanency values for child welfare professionals, and data analysis with a recommendation to design better supports for kinship and family-like setting options for older youth. Colorado is currently developing a work plan with AECF to more appropriately use congregate care, increase permanency for adolescents, and improving the performance management capabilities of the Colorado system. AECF has committed to providing resources to improve these issues over the next three years.

T

U

CFP

In 2011, Casey Family Programs supported Key Permanency Strategies:

R

State-Counties Permanency Plan: The National Governors Association (NGA) – Three Branch Institute integrated the permanency efforts of Colorado’s Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches with 10 Counties.

E

Permanency Roundtables (PRT) Practice Model: Trained 40 Colorado trainers and 14 counties. Denver County Human Services reported that 58% of older youth (N=104) in a long-term placement who received a PRT service received a new permanent connection; 7% received legal permanency and 31% moved into a family with a pending hearing to finalize legal permanency.

No Time to Lose (NTTL) – A Permanency Policies and Practices Framework: Assisted in developing the seven core permanency principles into an action plan with the priorities, strategies and supports for implementation.

Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM): Supported the Georgetown University training of five counties in providing permanency for youth involved with the child welfare and juvenile systems. Assisted the court, probation and child welfare professionals in integrating their decision-making processes, reports and recommendations that better support permanency for youth and families.

In 2012, Casey Family Programs will continue to provide on-going technical assistance or supports in the implementation, development, support and spread of the Key Permanency Strategies, statewide. CFP will also support the Division of Child Welfare and the Colorado Human Services Directors Association (CHSDA) to provide staff training on the PRT model in all six of the CHSDA regions.

Colorado Disparities Resource Center (CDRC)

The DCW, in partnership with the American Humane Association, launched the Colorado Disparities Resource Center (CDRC) in May 2009 to address longstanding issues of disparities in child welfare based on race and ethnicity. The project uses sophisticated data analysis as a fundamental method to inform, inspire, and develop tools and strategies needed to mitigate disparate outcomes for children and

families of color. This past year has focused on the work of CDRC including hosting regional meetings and forums throughout Colorado to engage child welfare professionals, service providers, community partners, mandated reporters, families, and children in taking action to identify and address complex causes of child welfare inequities, both at the state and county levels. The grant, which has funded the CDRC, will end in June of 2012. The Division of Child Welfare in conjunction with CDRC staff is working towards a sustainability plan. Please see the website at:

<https://www.aha-cprc.com/disparities/countySplit/Colorado/>.

Colorado Practice Model (CPM)

In October 2009, Colorado's Practice Model, formerly known as the Colorado Practice Initiative, began as an effort to develop a clear, consistent and cohesive approach to practice and service delivery. Implementation with Cohort I selected counties began in February 2011 through use of the implementation guide to develop their Quality Practice Teams (QPTs). QPTs focus their efforts on Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) to identify strengths along with areas needing improvement through examination of their data. Eventually the effective practices found nationally as well as here locally will be submitted for peer review to make up the Compendium of Promising Practices. The Division of Child Welfare is excited to begin its second round of recruitment for Cohort II counties.

In addition to working directly with the select counties, Colorado has developed several workgroups to carry on the objectives of Colorado's Practice Model. These include the Promising Practices Workgroup, and the Continuous Quality Improvement Workgroup. These efforts are coordinated through the Project Operations and Implementation Team. For more information, please see the website at

<http://cpiportal.omni.org>.

Family Assessment Response (FAR)

As part of the National Quality Improvement Center on Differential Response (QIC-DR), the Colorado Consortium on Differential Response began their four-year research implementation pilot project on February 1, 2010. This project will examine the effects of a differential response practice model on outcomes for children and families in five Colorado counties. In the family assessment response (FAR) pathway, workers will conduct a comprehensive assessment of family needs and strengths; however, there will not be a maltreatment determination. The formal evaluation will conclude in the year 2013.

Based on a number of practice enhancements Differential Response counties have developed training for counties interested in adopting DR practices which will begin in 2012. Counties can participate in these trainings and work through the Colorado Practice Model to eventually become a county that utilizes the DR method. For more information, please visit www.differentialresponseqic.org.

Performance Improvement Plan (PIP)

Colorado's Child and Family Services on-site Review (CFSR), conducted March 16-20, 2009, resulted in findings of strength and areas needing improvement in Safety, Permanency and Well-being. Colorado has finalized its Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) as of May 1, 2011 and has completed three quarters of the PIP. For full details of PIP related activities contact Roni Spaulding at

roni.spaulding@state.co.us.

Children and youth pictured in this report were featured in the 2011 Colorado Heart Gallery. The Colorado Heart Gallery is a traveling photographic display of children and youth from Colorado who are awaiting adoption. Professional photographers volunteer their time and talent to highlight the uniqueness of each of these children and youth. Thanks to the photographers whose generosity, dedication and creativity provided the pictures for the Heart Gallery. As you enjoy these beautiful portraits, please remember that you can make a difference in the life of a Colorado child or youth through adoption or foster care. For a current listing of children and youth seeking adoptive homes please visit www.heartgalleryco.org.



Special thanks for the photos used in this 2011 Annual Report:

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