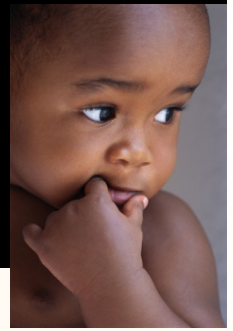




Spotlight on children Zero to Five

Data from Foster Care Review August 2010



From our Citizen Review Panels...

When the situation is complex, FCR’s panels shine. Kyle is a 15 month old infant who entered care as a substance exposed newborn. Originally he was to be reunified with his mother but she did not comply with the case plan and her parental rights were terminated. Kyle was placed in a pre-adoptive home, was thriving and had developed a secure attachment with his foster parents.

When Kyle was a year old and about to be adopted, his father, previously unknown, came into the picture. He wanted custody of Kyle so the case plan goal was changed to reunification with the father and therapeutic visits with him were granted once a week with the foster parents present.

Developing secure bonds in infancy is crucial for healthy attachment throughout life and Kyle was already demonstrating a high level of anxiety when being introduced to strangers. At the review, the panel was extremely concerned for Kyle and his new case plan goal because documentation revealed that his father had an extensive history of substance abuse and mental health issues including two recent hospitalizations. In addition, Kyle’s therapist recommended that his caregivers no longer be present at therapeutic visits and that he be enrolled in daycare (increasing exposure to strangers). The panel expressed their concerns and as a result, the judge ordered that an outside psychological expert be consulted to determine the best course of action regarding visitation/co-parenting methods and daycare options given these circumstances. **The hard work and determination of FCR’s Citizen Review Panel may very well change the trajectory of Kyle’s life for years to come.**

Foster Care Review’s Early Childhood Initiative

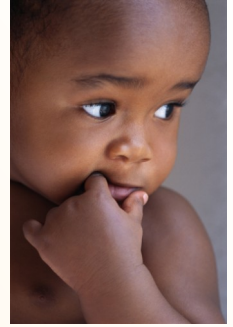
Foster Care Review (FCR) was awarded a grant from The Children’s Trust to collect data on children ages 0-5 through case reviews to ensure that they are healthy and safe, that their social, emotional and developmental needs are being met and that the children are achieving permanency.

Shown on this data report is a synopsis of the information collected by FCR. The following has been noted of 60 children in this age group heard by panels during an 11 month period.

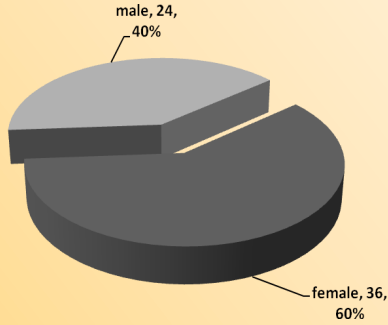
Total Children Ages 0-5	Number of Reviews Per Child			Total Reviews
	1x	2x	3x	
60	35	24	1	86

Demographics: Children Ages 0-5

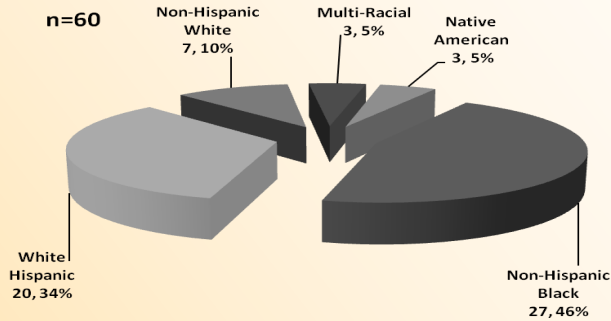
This age group has maintained a high percentage of Females and Black/African Americans followed by Whites and Hispanic. Native Americans are normally closely monitored by tribal representatives.



Gender
n=60



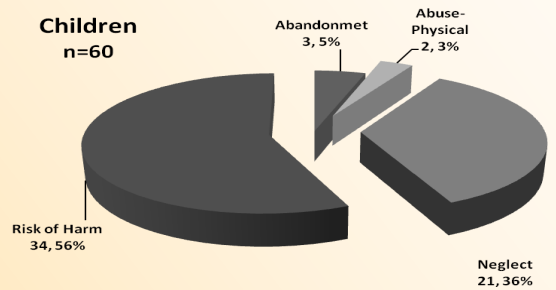
Race
n=60



Reasons for Removal

For this age group, the biggest reason for removal was "risk of harm". Children at this age are often removed when they are very young. Risk of harm includes being removed from the hospital if the mother tested positive for drugs, if the parents are experiencing domestic violence, if the mother has mental health problems, etc. In comparison, children in other age groups (6-12 and 13-17) are more often removed due to neglect or physical abuse.

Children
n=60

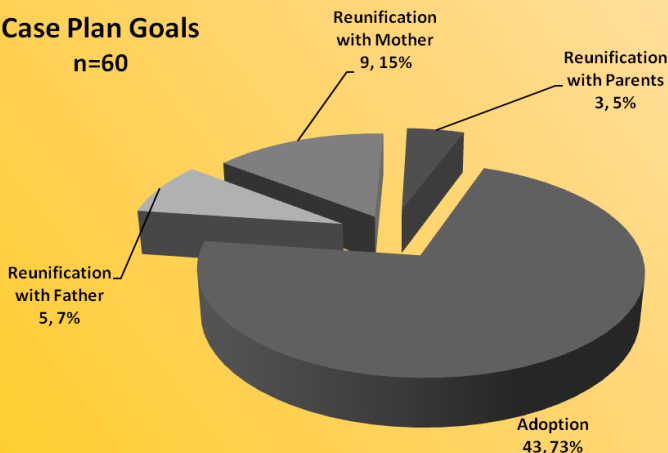


Children Reaching Permanency

Of the 60 children scheduled for review by FCR from August 2009 to July 2010, ten (10) reached permanency shortly after their review. The breakdown of permanent placements is as follows:

ADOPTED		8
Pre-adoptive home	2	
Foster home	4	
Medical home	1	
Relative caregiver	1	
CUSTODY RELEASED		2
Reunification with mother	2	

Case Plan Goals
n=60



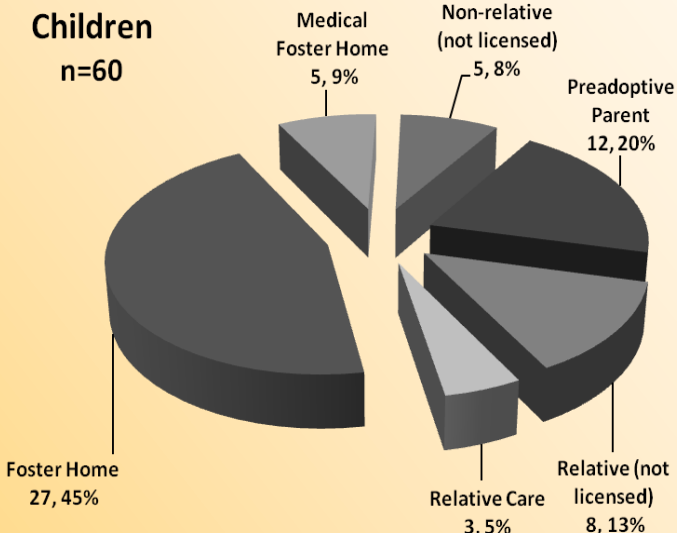
Case Plan Goals

The most common case plan goals for ages 0-5 are adoption and reunification. Forty-three (43) children have the goal of adoption, (5) reunification with the father, (9) reunification with the mother and (3) reunification with parents.

Placements



Types. In this age group foster homes accounted for 45% of placements, pre-adoptive homes 20%, followed by placement with relatives at 18%. Five percent (5%) were placed in relatives homes that were licensed. A small percentage of children were in medical foster homes and non-relative, non-licensed homes.



and 4) that had placement disruptions. Concerns regarding allegations of abuse led to this placement losing its license and successively being closed. The majority of the children reviewed by FCR panels in this age group remain with the same caregiver before reaching permanency.

Placement Disruptions. Within a 6 month period there were 2 children (ages 2

Placement and Length of Stay

The average length of stay for children ages 0 to 5 who were reviewed between August 2009 and July 2010 was 12 to 24 months. Two (2) children in relative care and (1) in a medical foster home were in care for over 48 months.

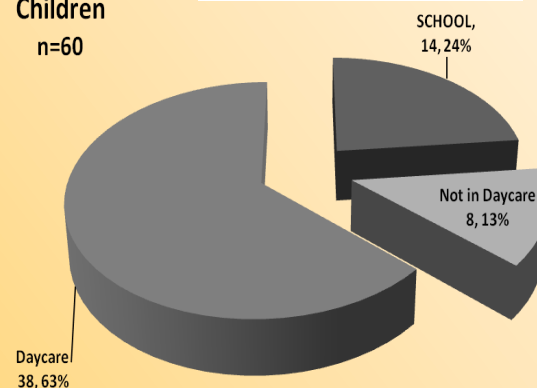
Placement	Length of Stay in Months					Grand Total
	0-12	12-24	24-36	36-48	>48	
Foster Home	3	14	9			26
Medical Foster Home	1		4		1	6
Non-relative (not licensed)	2	1	1			4
Pre-adoptive Parent	4	4	2	2		12
Relative Care		4	4	2	2	12
Grand Total	10	23	20	4	3	60

SCHOOL	Count
Pre-K	6
Kinder	8
Total	14

Educational setting

Eighty-seven percent of the children reviewed were in an educational setting for social and emotional growth. Those children not in daycare or school (13%) were under 2 years of age and stay at home with their caregivers. Those classified as attending school are either in Pre-K or Kindergarten.

Children n=60



Level of Care

In the first half of this grant period, less than half of the children reviewed had a completed level of care assessment. There has been a significant improvement in the last half of the grant period and the overall percentage of children for which one has been completed stands at 83%.

Level of Care Assessment	
Yes	50
No	10
Total	60

Child Well-being

All of the children (60, 100%) reviewed had a physical exam and vision testing within a 12 month period.

The majority of children reviewed were on target for dental examinations. Thirty-nine of the 60 (65%) had visited a dentist in a 12 month period. Only 7 children between the ages of 3 to 5 were not on target, but were scheduled to visit a dentist soon after the review.

Has the child/youth had a dental exam?	Ages						Grand Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	
N/A	1	1	0	0	0	0	2 (4%)
No	0	5	7	5	2	0	19 (31%)
Yes	0	1	6	8	11	13	39 (65%)
Grand Total	1	7	13	13	13	13	60 (100%)

Notice to Attend Court Hearings

The court, with the assistance of Child Legal Services, has made efforts to notice caregivers for judicial reviews in order to comply with statutory requirements. FCR continues to improve methods for contacting foster parents and it has been paying off. In recent months there has been a significant increase in attendance by foster parents at reviews. FCR's Review Specialist made telephone calls to 22 foster parents and offered them the option to participate in reviews via speaker phone. Caregiver input contributes to the overall effectiveness of each review.

August 2009 to July 2010	Total	%
Present	22	25.58%
Via speakerphone	26	30.23%
Total Caretakers at Review	48	56%
Not present	38	44%

One barrier down - five children adopted! Foster Care Review's outreach efforts are working to increase the number of caregivers who attend the reviews of children ages zero to five. Very recently, one foster family attended a review at which FCR obtained a Spanish translator to ensure they were thoroughly involved and comfortable. The end result of their participation and full understanding of the review process has been the adoption of all five of the children placed in their home.

