

ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN OF NEW JERSEY

Special Report

Fixing Foster Care: A Five-Year Analysis of Trends in New Jersey's Foster Care System

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Cecilia Zalkind
Executive Director

Mary Coogan
Assistant Director

Written by:
Nancy Parello

Special Thanks to:
Cecilia Traini
Sheldon Presser
Jessica Bosch



ACNJ
35 Halsey Street
Newark, NJ 07102
973.643.3876
Fax 973.643.9153
www.acnj.org
www.kidlaw.org

Section I: Introduction

Past Efforts Provide Lessons for New Reforms

One foster child was sent to live with a homeless man. A sick child was beaten and kicked by his foster mother. Other children were left alone, sometimes sustaining abuse from other children in the foster home.

These cases of gross abuse and neglect of children in the state's foster care system became public in recent months as a result of a Children's Rights, Inc., lawsuit, which charged that New Jersey violated foster children's constitutional rights. The reports painted a picture of a widely dysfunctional system that re-abuses the very children it is supposed to protect. A June court settlement created an independent panel to oversee broad reforms to the child protection system. A plan is due in January, 2004.

Before New Jersey can move forward with another generation of child protection reforms, however, it is important to step back and assess the foster care system, as well as past reform efforts. Two questions must be asked: How widespread are problems in foster care? And, what will make this reform effort work where others have failed?

The Association for Children of New Jersey offers this 5-year analysis of trends in the state's foster care system, with the hopes of informing new reform efforts and helping Governor McGreevey, state policymakers, the Legislature and the court-appointed panel to finally forge changes that truly help better protect New Jersey's children.

This report also attempts to provide a first step toward greater accountability and more accurate assessment of future progress.

The data detailed here measure many of the same concrete "outcomes" called for in the court settlement, including:

- Shortening time spent in care
- Placing more siblings together
- Placing more children with relatives
- Placing more children closer to their home neighborhoods
- Decreasing the number of children in institutional-like placements

Summary

The state's chronic struggle to improve foster care has yielded sparse results. Five years after New Jersey launched an initiative to fix this failing system, the state has fewer available foster homes and more children placed farther from their biological families and in institutions. More than half of New Jersey foster children continue to move from home to home. And, in 2002, children were abused in foster care at a rate of 28 percent higher than the federal level.

Some progress has been made. Children in regular foster care are, on average, spending less time in out of home care. More children are being adopted faster. More children are being placed with relatives, with support from the state Division of Youth and Family Services. And, more siblings are staying together through the unsettling experience of entering foster care.

Still, widespread failings persist, affecting nearly every aspect of the state's child protection system. Without an adequate supply of good, safe foster homes, caseworkers may leave children in unsafe foster homes or conduct inadequate investigations, knowing they have nowhere to place children who are in dangerous situations, whether at home or with a foster family.

This affects not only children in need of placement, but those who could live safely in their own homes. Without adequate investigations and assessments, family problems are ignored until they worsen to the point where children must be removed, thus driving up the foster care population.

Foster Care Inquiries and Applications					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	% Change
Average Monthly Inquiries	529	407	431	437	-17%
Average Monthly Orientation Attendance	223	219	179	164	-26%
Average Monthly Applications	177	131	118	115	-35%

Source: New Jersey DYFS

Problems Persist Despite Past Reforms

In 1998, a Blue Ribbon Panel, appointed by former Governor Whitman, made a series of recommendations designed to improve the foster care system. Out of those recommendations grew the Foster Care Permanency and Placement Initiative, aimed at recruiting and retaining more families and providing greater stability for children in foster care.

As part of that effort, the state spent nearly \$7 million from 1998 to 2003 on recruitment and retention efforts. The state also required foster homes to be certified by the Bureau of Licensing and increased the amount of money foster parents received each month to care for children. The foster care system was “regionalized,” in an attempt to make more foster homes available across counties.

Despite these efforts, New Jersey has seen a 9 percent drop in the number of available, non-relative homes in the past two years alone, while children continue to move from home to home and be placed far from their biological families.

The 1998 initiative failed to produce more homes and provide more stability for children for three primary reasons.

Shallow Efforts

Neither the recruitment nor retention efforts went deep enough. The state spent roughly \$2.4 million over five years to recruit foster parents. Much of that money was spent on broad-based advertising campaigns, brochures and promotional items. These annual campaigns produced a 25 percent increase in the number of calls from people inquiring about becoming foster parents. But, at the same time, roughly 35 percent fewer people are actually applying to become foster parents.

Broad-based marketing often fails to produce the type of families most needed – homes in low-income neighborhoods that will accept children with difficult needs. More targeted, grassroots recruitment efforts have been shown to produce better results in other states.

Strong Support Missing

Recruitment efforts are meaningless, without strong supports that retain foster parents. Even the best recruitment campaigns, however, will fail to solve the foster home shortage, if foster parents feel unsupported. Supports for New Jersey foster parents remained woefully inadequate. While the state spent about \$4.86 million on programs to train and support foster families, contract reports suggest these support services reached only a fraction of foster families, for brief periods of time.

Foster Home Recruitment Spending	
FY 1999	\$ 231,015
FY 2000	\$ 500,094
FY 2001	\$ 500,082
FY 2002	\$ 499,933
FY 2003	\$ 356,622
Total:	\$ 2,087,746

Source: New Jersey DYFS

Foster Family Retention Spending	
FY 1999	\$ 338,774
FY 2000	\$ 1,078,347
FY 2001	\$ 985,313
FY 2002	\$ 1,231,154
FY 2003	\$ 1,226,957
Total:	\$ 4,860,545

Source: New Jersey DYFS

Few of the contracted programs focused on developing a long-term, local support system for foster parents. Instead, dollars primarily targeted short-term solutions, such as sporadic home visits or time-limited counseling sessions.

Also, foster parents still routinely report that the division often denies them the help and medical/historical information they need to care for foster children. This heaps an additional burden on an already difficult job and prompts some foster parents to close their homes to children.

Strengthen Families

Even if the state were to mount a successful recruitment and retention campaign, it is unlikely that New Jersey will ever have enough foster homes, unless it works harder to help families before problems worsen and a child must be placed in foster care.

The 1998 initiative was undertaken without any real corresponding attempt to better investigate abuse complaints, identify family problems and try to provide relevant services to prevent foster care placement. Child abuse prevention programs in New Jersey are very limited. The state spends little money on programs that could strengthen families and prevent abuse.

This approach ignores the strong connection between the two parts of the system. Without a broad, comprehensive plan for strengthening families, any new foster care reforms will likely fail.

Statistical Lessons

Following is a summary of relevant trends in New Jersey's foster care system, gleaned from state data.

While changes in data can be subject to many variables, some of the trends shown in these statistics can be clearly linked to shifts in the operation of the foster care system. In an attempt to provide the most accurate analysis, ACNJ also interviewed foster parents, state officials, private foster care agencies and others involved in the child protection system to gain more insight into the progress and problems.

The data is organized to provide statistics for the state, the regions, the district offices and the adoption resource centers, allowing comparison between these various entities. This enables state officials and panel members to dig deeper into what's happening in district offices that are making progress in certain areas. Their success, hopefully, could be transported to other offices.

CASELOAD TRENDS	1998	2003	% Change
Total Caseload	42,983	58,302	35.6%
In-Home Cases	34,057	46,116	35.4%
Substitute Care	8,926	12,186	36.5%
--Foster Care	6,859	6,312	-8.0%
--Kinship Care	423	3,902	822.5%
--Residential Care	1,494	1,897	27.0%
--Other Placements	150	75	-50.0%
% Children in Placement	20.8%	20.9%	0.7%

Section II: Foster Home Trends

Chronic Foster Home Shortage Worsens

Despite a 5-year push to recruit and retain more foster homes, the number of available, non-relative homes dropped 9 percent in the past two years, from 3,288 to 2,982. Just two counties – Ocean and Morris – increased their net pool of unrelated foster homes. (Changes in the way the state counts home make accurate comparisons prior to 2001 impossible).

People throughout the system report a severe shortage that forces children to sometimes wait for hours in DYFS offices, with bags in hand, while caseworkers scramble to find a placement. Initial placements are often inappropriate, forcing children to move, sometimes multiple times, before a suitable home is found. Not only is this damaging to children, it's tough on foster parents, who feel frustrated when they cannot help a child.

While many foster parents provide quality care, many new families entering the system are ill-prepared and unsupported in their new role. People inside the system say this contributes to the instability of the state's pool of foster families.

“There are only a few core families who have been providing foster care for a substantial period of time,” said an attorney familiar with New Jersey’s foster care system. “New ones are unequipped or ill-prepared to deal with some of the severe behavioral problems of some of the kids.”

Many Factors Affect Shortage

The challenge to maintain a strong supply of foster homes is even greater today, as more foster parents adopt children and become unable to foster additional children. To maintain an adequate supply of foster homes, the state must succeed in both recruiting and retaining foster parents.

Problems in both areas have contributed to the drop in the net number of available foster homes. External factors have also played a role in this decrease.

Recruitment Issues

Economic Hard Times. Even in good times, it’s difficult to find families willing to shoulder the enormous responsibility of caring for a foster child. During bad economic times, it’s even more difficult, as both parents may have to work

FOSTER HOMES	2001	2003	% Change
Number of Unrelated Homes	3,288	2,982	-9.3%
Number of Related Homes	119	540	353.8%
Foster Homes By Type			
Regular	2,453	2,131	-13.1%
Family Friend	24	14	-41.7%
Para Foster Home	45	24	-46.7%
Related DYFS Approved	50	34	-32.0%
Adoptive Home w/Children	195	200	2.6%
Relative Home Approved	-	468	N/A
Contracted	505	301	-40.4%
Fost-Adopt Homes	135	350	159.3%
TOTAL	3,407	3,522	3.4%
Restricted Homes			
Restricted Homes	1,055	1,196	13.4%
Suspended Homes	290	251	-13.4%
Out-of-State Homes	146	246	68.5%

Para foster homes include relatives and family friends caring for children, but not receiving the full foster care board rate.

Related DYFS-approved homes are relative homes that have met all the requirements to become certified foster parents and receive the full foster care board rate.

Relative Homes Approved have been accepted into the division's kinship program, started in 2002, and receive \$250 a month from DYFS to care for their relatives' kin. The number on this chart does not include 898 homes that were "presumed eligible" in February 2003 and may now be part of the program.

long hours outside the home to provide for their family. This outside factor may have influenced the drop in available foster homes.

More Stringent Requirements. Changes to the state foster care system now include more stringent background checks, more intensive training and certification of homes. State officials and organizations involved in the recruitment process say many prospective foster parents are disqualified before they even complete training because they have a criminal background or a prior history with DYFS. Other prospective parents are reluctant to open their lives and homes to such scrutiny. These more stringent requirements, though, are necessary to improve the quality and safety of foster homes.

Training. While it's important to teach foster parents about the challenges of fostering children, some say the division's orientation and training is particularly tough, focused primarily on older children with significant problems. They say trainers should also talk about the rewards of fostering children. They also say the training, which was developed in Michigan, needs to be more New Jersey-focused.

Weak Recruitment Campaigns. The state's recruitment efforts relied largely on broad-based advertising and not on intensive, grassroots recruitment in the communities where homes are most needed. The most effective recruitment efforts focus on the community, including targeting select groups, such as churches, teachers, nurses and others who have demonstrated an interest in helping children.

Retention Issues

More Adoptions. New Jersey, like many states, is losing more foster parents to adoption, in a positive trend of moving children more quickly into permanent homes. Since the Adoption and Safe Families Act was passed in 1997, DYFS increased the number of adoptions completed each year by 68 percent, going from 813 in 1998 to 1,367 in 2002. Once families adopt, they are often unable to accept more foster children.

Lack of Support. Many foster parents simply burn out. They say they often have a hard time getting help from caseworkers, who fail to return phone calls, relay necessary medical, education and family background information about a child or provide needed supports, such as respite care. Many children have deep-seated problems stemming from long-term neglect, physical and sexual abuse, but foster parents often know nothing about their backgrounds. This prevents them from effectively caring for these children. Turnover of caseworkers is also a factor, as foster parents find themselves constantly dealing with different workers. And, many lack a local support network.

Lack of Money. While the state raised the "board rates," many say the rates are still too low to adequately provide for a child. Many foster parents pay for medical expenses, clothes, special events and other necessities. According to the Child Welfare League, New Jersey still pays less than Delaware and New York for most foster children.

Not Enough Child Care. Foster parents also often have a difficult time securing quality child care for their foster children. Working foster parents need quick access to quality care, but the available slots and vouchers are inadequate.

Respite Care Hard to Come By. Foster parents are primarily responsible for arranging alternative care when they want a vacation or need to tend to other family members. Unlike biological parents, however, they can't just ask mom to come and stay with the foster children. Caretakers must be approved foster parents. For foster parents caring for medically-fragile children, a caretaker must have completed the division's special medical training. While some foster parents construct informal networks, the formal support groups vary from county to county. Many have a difficult time finding someone to help out. Foster parents also report the division offers little help with respite care.

Section III: Placement and Permanency Trends

State Efforts Yield Mixed Results

More Children in Relative Care

Perhaps one of the brightest trends over the past five years is the dramatic increase in the number of children now officially placed with relatives. Although the state has seen a sharp 36.5 percent increase in the total number of children living in out-of-home placements since 1998, the number of children living in unrelated, regular foster homes has actually dropped 11.6 percent. At the same time, the number of children placed with relatives or family friends has soared 822.5 percent, from 423 to 3,902.

This enormous increase reflects changes in state policies that now allow relatives to receive support from the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) when caring for their kins' children. Many of these children may previously have been placed in "informal" relative arrangements and received child-only welfare subsidies. Few relatives became state-approved foster parents and so the children they cared for rarely showed up in the division's foster care population. That makes it difficult to know exactly how many more children are being placed with relatives, or whether the increase is largely due to the division now supporting and counting those placements.

Still, there is clearly a trend toward more state support of relative placements. In the past two years, the number of families in the state's new DYFS Legal Guardianship Subsidy Program soared to 2,168 as of July 2003. The program, instituted in January 2002, provides monthly

payments of \$250 to relatives and, in some cases, other help.

If these relatives choose to become certified foster parents, they can receive the full financial support afforded non-relative foster parents. This is a positive trend, as children who are placed with relatives may benefit from keeping these important family ties.

The Adoption Resource Centers, by contrast, have seen a 25 percent increase in the number of children in unrelated foster homes. This likely reflects the trend toward moving children more quickly into permanent, adoptive homes, as required by the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA).

Institutional Placements on the Rise

Although the state is placing more children with family members, more children are also landing in residential treatment centers, shelters and

PLACEMENT TRENDS			
Type of Supervision	1998	2003	% Change
In-Home	34,057	46,116	35.4%
Final Subsidized Adopt	5,818	7,904	35.9%
Substitute Care	8,926	12,186	36.5%
Total Foster Care	6,892	9,432	36.9%
Non-related Foster Care	6,469	5,720	-11.6%
Para-Foster (paid)	290	1,385	377.6%
Relative Support	N/A	2,168	N/A
Kinship (free)	133	159	19.5%
Residential Facilities	786	1,042	32.6%
—In State	619	798	28.9%
—Out-of-State	139	244	75.5%
Group Home	349	453	29.8%
Shelter	257	413	60.7%
Treatment Home	406	620	52.7%
Public Institution	104	114	9.6%
Independent Living	132	112	-15.2%
TOTAL CHILDREN	48,801	66,206	35.7%

group homes. In 2003, these facilities were caring for 27 percent more children than in 1998.

This may reflect, however, the state's efforts to shore up a weak child mental health system that deteriorated over the past two decades. In 1989, New Jersey had roughly the same amount of children in residential placements. During the 1990s, the number of available treatment beds dropped, forcing many troubled children into inappropriate placements, such as detention centers, said Richard O'Grady, executive director of the Association of Children's Residential Facilities.

While the state has opened some new programs for children with emotional problems, the 75 percent increase in out-of-state placements, rising from 139 to 244, suggests New Jersey still lacks enough programs to serve troubled children. The system, in some cases, actually contributes to these children's problems. When children spend a significant amount of time in foster care, often moving from home to home, their behavior problems worsen and they eventually require residential treatment.

It's unclear whether the Children's System of Care, launched in 2000 to provide better care for emotionally-disturbed children, is working. A primary goal of the initiative, now called the Partnership For Children, was to provide intensive, "wrap-around" services so that these children could be treated while living with their families. But, the partnership reports that more than one half of its children are in residential placements.

The lack of foster homes qualified to care for these troubled children makes the problem even worse. Often, children are ready to be discharged, but are forced to wait in an institution-setting, while the state searches for an appropriate home in the community.

New Jersey has tried to respond to this problem. Since 1998, there has been a 52.7 percent

increase in the number of children cared for in "treatment homes," which provide intensive services in a family setting, usually to older children with more severe problems. These homes, which now care for 620 children, are typically used to prevent residential placement or as a "step-down" from the more restrictive settings.

Still, the number of children in need of these placements exceeds the available homes and community services are still sorely lacking.

More Children Placed Far From Home

In 1998, the state moved from a local to regional system of placing children in foster homes, in an attempt to provide a broader pool of homes from which to draw. As a result, the number of children being placed outside their home county has soared 45 percent. In 2003, nearly half of foster children – or 2,922 children – were placed out-of-county, compared to 29 percent in 1998.

Prior to regionalization, each district office had a pool of foster homes in which to place children. Some counties had an adequate number of homes, while others struggled to find spots for children. District offices were reluctant to share their homes with other offices, never knowing when they might need a particular home.

The shift to regionalization pooled foster homes by region, with a regional office deciding which children would be placed in which home. Sometimes, this means children live farther from their biological families. This makes it more difficult for parents to visit and further stretches overburdened caseworkers, who must transport children to visits and for services.

In some cases, regionalization can mean a child is closer to home. In Burlington County, for example, a child living in the eastern portion of the county may be closer to Ocean County than a western Burlington home. Still, many foster parents report caring for children who live far from their biological families.

Some say regionalization has further splintered the foster care network and prompted some foster parents to close their homes.

Under the former system, each district office had at least one foster care facilitator who worked closely with foster parents, from training through placement of children in their home. They were responsible for matching children and families, and had a feel for which children and families would make a good match.

Now, trainings, home inspections and placements are handled on a regional basis, usually by different people in the system. So, the regional foster care facilitator, who decides where to place children, is unlikely to personally know the foster parents. That makes it more difficult to match foster parent and child.

“Foster parents have no relationship with anyone in DYFS,” said Janet Farrand, president of the New Jersey Foster and Adoptive Services. “Before, you knew the facilitator who would call you to take children. She’d been in your home. She knew you. There was a relationship.”

Foster Children Spending Less Time in Care

The state has made progress in reducing the time children spend in regular foster care. Statewide, the average months in placement for all children in regular foster care dropped 11.3 percent, from 32.6 to 28.9 months from 1998 to 2003. This

slight improvement is most likely due to changes prompted by the Adoption and Safe Families Act.

ASFA set strict timelines to get children into stable, permanent homes. This led to more cases being court supervised, forcing the division to more quickly provide services to biological families and craft court-supervised permanency plans for children. These new requirements, coupled with beefed up court staff, have led to a 68 percent increase in the number of adoptions DYFS completes each year.

Still, these placement statistics only count children in regular foster care. Children in group home and residential placements, who tend to be older and in the system for a longer period of time, are not included in these numbers.

For children in residential placement, there has been a 41.4 percent increase in the percentage of children spending one to two years in their current residential placement, with a small drop in children spending less than one year. New Jersey has shown progress in reducing the percentage of children spending more than two years in a single residential placement.

At the same time, children are spending more time in current group home placement, with large increases in the percentage of children in group homes for one to four years.

PERMANENCY	1998	2003	% Change
Avg. Mnths in Placement -All	29	24	-18.4%
Avg. Mnths for chld w/1 placement	18	16	-10.2%
Avg. Mnths for chld w/mult placements	40	32	-20.8%
Percent of Chldrn w/multi placements	52	52	0.4%
# Children in Out-of-County placements	2,014	2,922	45.1%
#Families w/>1 child in care	1,571	1,983	26.2%
#foster chld w/siblings in care	4,278	5,244	22.6%
%Siblings Placed Alone	41.0%	34.2%	-16.6%

	1998	2003	% Chg
Number of Siblings Placed Separately	2,791	2,878	3.1%
Number of Siblings Placed Together	2,526	3,450	36.6%

The reasons behind these changes need to be more closely studied, as some of the data is conflicting. It is also unclear whether foster children are actually being more quickly returned home, or whether they are simply bouncing back and forth from home to foster care.

Multiple Moves: Foster Children Still Bounce From Home to Home

In 2003, 54 percent of children in out-of-home placement lived in two or more foster homes during their stay in the system. That remains virtually unchanged, on a statewide level, since 1998.

But, district offices, on average, have seen a nearly 5 percent drop in the percentage of children experiencing multiple moves. This could be due to more relative placements. The Central Region, for example, saw the largest drop in multiple placements at 11 percent. It also had the highest percentage increase in the number of children in kinship care.

Multiple moves are often the result of inappropriate emergency placements, in which the foster care facilitator, lacking any real choice, simply tries to find a bed for a child. There is little matching between child and family. This again reflects a dearth of foster homes that can meet the diverse needs of many children.

The chronic problem of multiple moves also reflects the lack of supports for foster families. Many children are moved because foster parents request it. Foster parents often say they felt unprepared or unsupported in their efforts to care for children who have medical and psychological problems. In addition, some foster families place a number of restrictions on the type of child they will accept, further narrowing the available pool

and increasing the chances of a child being mismatched with a foster family.

More Siblings Placed Together

New Jersey has posted an 11.5 percent increase the percentage of siblings being placed together in foster homes. This good news means more children maintain some connection with their biological families as they enter the unsettling world of foster care. State officials attribute this success to the regional system, which they say provides a broader choice of foster homes.

At the same time, there have been large increases in both the number of foster children who have siblings in care and the number of families with more than one child in care. This reflects the growing complexity of these cases and points to the need for stronger intervention and services.

Section IV: Recommendations

Recruitment/Retention and Strengthening Families

The focus for fixing New Jersey's foster care system must be two-fold: recruiting and retaining an adequate pool of foster parents and providing more prevention and primary services so that fewer children end up in foster care.

More Targeted Recruitment

Recruitment efforts must go much deeper than broad-based advertising campaigns. Grassroots campaigns that target specific groups have seen some success in other states. Illinois, for example, targets specific neighborhoods where recruiters launch intensive outreach to community leaders. These efforts focus on finding families who are willing to take the children most difficult to place – troubled teenagers, for example — rather than families who want only young, adoptable children.

Other states are also targeting specific groups of people who are already working with children or have a health background that would aid them in the difficult task of fostering abused children. Nurses, teachers and people already volunteering to help children, such as Big Brother/Big Sister, are groups that may be prime foster parent prospects.

New Jersey should also look at making the application process easier. Some states and cities actually send recruiters to prospective foster families' homes, as soon as a family has made the initial inquiry. These recruiters meet with the families, explain the process and help families fill out applications. In addition to helping families understand the process, it provides a chance to do an initial screening, increasing the chances of identifying barriers, such as criminal backgrounds. Currently, New Jersey simply sends a packet of information to people who call the hotline number, providing dates and places for an initial orientation session.

Retention Means Providing More Supports

Recruitment efforts are futile if foster parents leave the system because of lack of support or a feeling that they are unable to handle the demands of foster parenting. Foster parents must be better supported.

Change The Culture. The first step toward retaining more foster parents is to begin treating them like partners in the process of helping abused children and working toward family reunification. That means providing medical, education and family information about their charges, responding quickly to requests for help and, where appropriate, enlisting their aid in family visits, mentoring birth families and other areas where they can help build bridges between foster child and biological family. This may require changes to division policy and training caseworkers to work more cooperatively with foster parents.

Develop Good Homes Over Time. The division should realize that foster parents, like a workforce, must be developed over time. It might help to examine inactive homes and discover why they are not receiving children. These families may simply need additional supports or training to turn them into caring homes for abused children. A companion approach is to look at homes that have successfully fostered less difficult children and work toward developing them into homes that can handle older children who have more problems.

Build a Strong Network of Local Support. The New Jersey Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) sponsors foster parent support groups in each county. But, lacking any paid staff, these volunteer agencies have been dependent on the strength of its membership. In some counties, they hold monthly meetings and offer various

supports to foster families. In other counties, though, they are loosely organized.

FAFS several years ago asked the state to fund a staff person in each county, who would organize these existing local support groups. The proposal was never adopted.

This is a cost-effective way to strengthen an existing support system made up of foster parents. With a paid staff person, preferably a foster parent, these local groups could become a strong, consistent source of support for other foster parents, offering monthly meetings, ongoing training, help with specific problems and other supports.

Raise Board Rates on an Annual Basis. While the increase in board rates was welcome, the rates for some children still fall slightly below those of neighboring New York and Delaware. New Jersey should explore tying annual increases to an index that would help the board rates keep pace with the real costs of raising children.

Create a Pool of Trained Respite Foster Parents. One group of churches in the Trenton area launched a successful program to train people to provide respite care for foster parents and to take emergency placements on a short-term basis. Many people are unable to commit to caring for a child for long periods of time, but would take placements that last a few days, while other, longer-term arrangements are made or while a foster parent takes a much-needed break.

Begin to Return to a Local System. While it's essential to have an adequate pool of foster homes, the negative effects of the regional system may outweigh the benefits. As the state works to develop more homes, it should also begin exploring other options to this system. It may be possible to register homes on a regional basis, but allow the local offices to match child and family. Foster home finders should be

encouraged, whenever possible, to place children close to their biological families.

It's also worthwhile to explore ways to reduce the number of people foster parents deal with and allow them to form a relationship with a primary person. Karen Jorgenson, director of the National Foster Parents Association, says the organization's research shows that successful foster home recruitment and retention is most dependent on "having one person for people to talk with from the moment they call to the moment they become licensed. It's important to develop that relationship."

Strengthening Families: Bolster Services to Keep Children at Home

Any effort to reform the foster care system must be undertaken in tandem with a strong movement toward providing much needed services to troubled families.

This includes stronger investigations and assessments when a family initially comes to the division's attention. As evidenced by the child death cases that have surfaced this year, caseworkers often fail to adequately investigate complaints, overlooking problems that, if addressed, may keep families together and children safe.

The division must provide the support and resources for workers to spend time learning about a family. Policies and caseloads must also be changed so workers do more than act as a referral source. They must be able to coordinate services and ensure those services are delivered. Often, caseworkers simply hand troubled parents a referral and rely on them to negotiate a confusing system of agencies and lengthy waiting lists.

The Staffing Outcomes and Review Panel, a legislatively-created body charged with recommending ways to improve outcomes for abuse and neglected children, in May recommended that New Jersey increase staff

levels to meet the Child Welfare League of America's standards.

At that time, the panel estimated the cost at \$105 million over three years to pay for 1,027 positions, including 365 trainee caseworkers, 128 more experienced caseworkers, 99 supervisors, 2 casework supervisors, 315 aides and 118 clerical staff.

More Relevant Services

The review panel also called for the state to spend \$81 million more on services for abused children and their families.

According to state estimates, 80 percent of families involved with the division have substance abuse problems, yet the agency has few treatment programs available, especially ones that allow parent and child to live together during treatment. The panel recommended a \$21 million increase for drug treatment services, which would enable the division to serve an additional 1,400 families, based on a recent Legal Services of New Jersey report.

The division also lacks adequate and appropriate services for children living in families where problems have been identified and abuse is suspected, but children are still living with their biological families.

The panel recommended doubling the current amount allocated to services for these families from \$58 million to \$116 million, based on recommendations from DYFS managers. These services currently include counseling, parenting classes, life skills training for parents, daycare and an emergency fund.

The process of expanding services, though, should also mandate a review of whether current services are relevant to families. While counseling may help some families, others need "harder" services, such as help paying the rent, landing a job or finding housing. DYFS has very

limited availability of such services, which can often prevent foster care placement.

Conclusion

Past efforts to fix New Jersey's failing foster care system have produced only small gains. The next generation of reforms must be broader, deeper and fully funded in order to prevent the state's most vulnerable children from falling into a protective system that simply abuses them all over again.

Section V: Data Charts

Page		Years	
CASELOAD AND FOSTER HOMES			
14	Number of Approved Unrelated Foster Homes	2001	2003
14	Number of Approved Related Foster Homes	2001	2003
15	Number of Children Receiving In-Home Services	1998	2003
16	Number of Children in Out-of-Home Placement, by Type	1998	2003
17	Percent of Children in Out-of-Home Placement	1998	2003
PERMANENCY AND PLACEMENT			
18	Percent of Children with Multiple Placements	1998	2003
19	Average Total Months in All Placements for All Children in Foster Care	1998	2003
20	Percent of Children by Time in Current Foster Care Placement	1998	2003
21	Percent of Children by Time in Current Residential Placement	1998	2003
22	Percent of Children by Time in Current Group Home Placement	1998	2003
23	Number of Children in In-County and Out-of-County Foster Care Placement	1998	2003
24	Number of Families with >1 Child in Foster Care	1998	2003
25	Percent of Siblings Placed Together and Alone	1998	2003
26	Number of Children Who Are Siblings In Placement	1998	2003
DEMOGRAPHICS			
27	Percent of Children Ages 0-12 in Foster Care	1998	2003
28	Percent of Adolescents Ages 13-21 in Foster Care	1998	2003
29	Percent of Children Ages 6-12 in Residential Care	1998	2003

Number of Approved
Unrelated Foster Homes

	2001	2003	% Change
Central Region			
Hunterdon	37	27	-27.0%
Mercer	157	141	-10.2%
Monmouth	229	195	-14.8%
Ocean	163	201	23.3%
Somerset	52	43	-17.3%
Region Total	638	607	-4.9%
Metro Region			
Essex	793	670	-15.5%
Middlesex	202	169	-16.3%
Union	246	234	-4.9%
Region Total	1,241	1,073	-13.5%
Nothern Region			
Bergen	126	127	0.8%
Hudson	152	150	-1.3%
Morris	80	105	31.3%
Passaic	165	142	-13.9%
Sussex	68	67	-1.5%
Warren	40	39	-2.5%
Region Total	631	630	-0.2%
Southern Region			
Atlantic	121	98	-19.0%
Burlington	182	163	-10.4%
Camden	225	189	-16.0%
Cape May	38	38	0.0%
Cumberland	86	71	-17.4%
Gloucester	98	87	-11.2%
Salem	28	26	-7.1%
Region Total	778	672	-13.6%
Statewide Totals	3,288	2,982	-9.3%

SOURCES:

DYFS PCIS Foster Care Utilization Statistics, DAR-PCISM-1, April, 2001

DYFS PCIS Foster Care Utilization Statistics, DAR-PCISM-1, February, 2003

Number of Approved
Related Foster Homes

	2001	2003	% Change
Central Region			
Hunterdon	0	4	N/A
Mercer	2	12	500.0%
Monmouth	5	18	260.0%
Ocean	7	21	200.0%
Somerset	1	11	1000.0%
Region Total	15	66	340.0%
Metro Region			
Essex	29	159	448.3%
Middlesex	7	33	371.4%
Union	8	45	462.5%
Region Total	44	237	438.6%
Nothern Region			
Bergen	2	23	1050.0%
Hudson	14	74	428.6%
Morris	0	10	N/A
Passaic	4	13	225.0%
Sussex	2	7	250.0%
Warren	0	4	N/A
Region Total	22	131	495.5%
Southern Region			
Atlantic	9	13	44.4%
Burlington	4	12	200.0%
Camden	10	21	110.0%
Cape May	4	24	500.0%
Cumberland	9	22	144.4%
Gloucester	1	11	1000.0%
Salem	1	3	200.0%
Region Total	38	106	178.9%
Statewide Totals	119	540	353.8%

SOURCES:

DYFS PCIS Foster Care Utilization Statistics, DAR-PCISM-1, April, 2001

DYFS PCIS Foster Care Utilization Statistics, DAR-PCISM-1, February, 2003

The number of approved unrelated foster homes includes regular, adoptive homes with foster children, contracted and fost-adopt homes. The number of approved related foster homes includes family friends, para foster homes and related homes.

Number of Children Receiving
In-Home Services

	1998	2003	% Change
Adoption Resource Centers			
Metro ARC	69	67	-2.9%
Essex ARC	120	38	-68.3%
Northern ARC	170	56	-67.1%
Southern ARC	86	65	-24.4%
Central ARC	43	46	7.0%
Metro Select ARC*	N/A	39	N/A
ARC Total	488	311	-36.3%
District Offices:			
Central Region			
Hunterdon	197	341	73.1%
Mercer	1,363	2,103	54.3%
Monmouth North	1,295	1,599	23.5%
Monmouth, Southern	933	906	-2.9%
Ocean	1,559	1,745	11.9%
Somerset	286	562	96.5%
Region Total	5,633	7,256	28.8%
Metro Region			
Middlesex, Edison	1,098	1,410	28.4%
Middlesex, Perth Amboy	1,073	2,242	108.9%
Essex, East Orange	941	1,397	48.5%
Essex, Bloomfield	1,005	1,609	60.1%
Newark, DO I	1,298	1,337	3.0%
Newark, DO III	1,079	1,416	31.2%
Newark, DO II	1,194	1,664	39.4%
Union East	1,236	2,049	65.8%
Union West	1,041	1,078	3.6%
Incorrect DO	0	1	n/a
Region Total	9,967	14,210	42.6%
Nothern Region			
Bergen	1,814	1,935	6.7%
Hudson, Bayonne	1,069	1,510	41.3%
Hudson, Jersey City	832	965	16.0%
Hudson, North	988	1,655	67.5%
Morris	618	1,416	129.1%
Central Passaic	1,685	1,791	6.3%
North Passaic	678	827	22.0%
Sussex	408	687	68.4%
Warren	362	609	68.2%
Region Total	8,454	11,395	34.8%
Southern Region			
Atlantic	743	1,619	117.9%
Burlington	1,656	1,897	14.6%
Camden, North	1,359	2,148	58.1%
Camden, Central	1,979	2,560	29.4%
Cape May	839	728	-13.2%
Cumberland	1,163	1,796	54.4%
Gloucester	835	1,356	62.4%
Salem	418	702	67.9%
Region Total	8,992	12,806	42.4%
Institutional Abuse Units	292	219	-25.0%
Refugee Program	335	0	-100.0%
OCAC	51	50	-2.0%
District Office Totals	33,046	45,667	38.2%
Statewide Totals	34,212	46,247	35.2%

SOURCES:

DYFS Caseload Trend Report, OPR-SISQ-23A, April 1998

DYFS Caseload Activity Report, DAR-SISM-5, July 2003

*These are children living in free and non-DYFS paid placements, unborn children, runaways, living arrangement coding errors

Number of Children in Out-of-Home Placement, By Type

	Foster Care* 1998	Foster Care* 2003	% Change	Kinship Care 1998	Kinship Care 2003	% Change	Instit. Care 1998	Instit. Care 2003	% Change
Adoption Resource Centers									
Metro ARC	465	447	-3.9%	18	123	583.3%	14	19	35.7%
Essex ARC	537	482	-10.2%	12	94	683.3%	13	9	-30.8%
Northern ARC	458	487	6.3%	16	106	562.5%	20	42	110.0%
Southern ARC	573	841	46.8%	11	82	645.5%	11	23	109.1%
Central ARC	560	526	-6.1%	4	43	975.0%	1	20	1900.0%
Metro Select ARC	N/A	384	N/A	N/A	44	N/A	N/A	19	N/A
ARC Total	2,593	3,167	22.1%	61	492	706.6%	59	132	583.3%
District Offices:									
Central Region									
Hunterdon	13	15	15.4%	2	13	550.0%	12	7	-41.7%
Mercer	284	125	-56.0%	4	152	3700.0%	89	85	-4.5%
Monmouth North	132	111	-15.9%	4	76	1800.0%	33	42	27.3%
Monmouth, Southern	199	144	-27.6%	5	131	2520.0%	37	52	40.5%
Ocean	166	137	-17.5%	5	196	3820.0%	63	116	84.1%
Somerset	19	37	94.7%	3	50	1566.7%	19	48	152.6%
Region Total	813	569	-30.0%	23	618	2587.0%	253	350	38.3%
Metro Region									
Middlesex, Edison	95	52	-45.3%	12	73	508.3%	61	89	45.9%
Middlesex, Perth Amboy	83	87	4.8%	31	124	300.0%	64	105	64.1%
Essex, East Orange	175	110	-37.1%	21	208	890.5%	28	60	114.3%
Essex, Bloomfield	119	45	-62.2%	9	64	611.1%	35	17	-51.4%
Newark, DO I	248	131	-47.2%	15	237	1480.0%	35	72	105.7%
Newark, DO III	295	160	-45.8%	13	196	1407.7%	46	44	-4.3%
Essex Admin	-	-	N/A	-	3	N/A	-	-	N/A
Newark, DO II	193	153	-20.7%	11	182	1554.5%	35	61	74.3%
Union East	207	172	-16.9%	11	144	1209.1%	49	69	40.8%
Union West	115	124	7.8%	7	111	1485.7%	26	56	115.4%
Region Total	1,530	1,034	-32.4%	130	1,342	932.3%	379	573	51.2%
Nothner Region									
Bergen	128	81	-36.7%	8	104	1200.0%	55	57	3.6%
Hudson, Bayonne	112	99	-11.6%	27	137	407.4%	47	60	27.7%
Hudson, Jersey City	97	100	3.1%	22	63	186.4%	37	41	10.8%
Hudson, North	74	54	-27.0%	6	42	600.0%	29	30	3.4%
Morris	53	46	-13.2%	-	67	N/A	49	51	4.1%
Central Passaic	144	98	-31.9%	20	122	510.0%	34	51	50.0%
North Passaic	100	59	-41.0%	8	36	350.0%	29	38	31.0%
Sussex	47	30	-36.2%	16	33	106.3%	25	32	28.0%
Warren	35	22	-37.1%	5	23	360.0%	19	20	5.3%
Region Total	790	589	-25.4%	112	627	459.8%	324	380	17.3%
Southern Region									
Atlantic	138	170	23.2%	1	96	9500.0%	37	80	116.2%
Burlington	165	160	-3.0%	11	108	881.8%	84	49	-41.7%
Camden, North	220	150	-31.8%	20	105	425.0%	120	117	-2.5%
Camden, Central	272	151	-44.5%	14	159	1035.7%	110	92	-16.4%
Cape May	80	87	8.8%	12	98	716.7%	28	19	-32.1%
Cumberland	118	120	1.7%	8	128	1500.0%	32	48	50.0%
Gloucester	89	44	-50.6%	8	60	650.0%	35	33	-5.7%
Salem	51	68	33.3%	23	68	195.7%	33	24	-27.3%
Region Total	1,133	950	-16.2%	97	822	747.4%	479	462	-3.5%
District Office Totals	4,266	3,142	-26.3%	362	3,409	841.7%	1,435	1,765	23.0%
Statewide Totals	6,859	6,312	-8.0%	423	3,902	822.5%	1,494	1,897	27.0%

* Includes Treatment Homes

Independent Living Totals

	1998	2003	% Change
New Jersey	132	107	-18.9%

SOURCES:

DYFS Caseload Activity Report, OPR-SISM-5, March 1998

DYFS Caseload Activity Report, OPR-SISM-5, July 2003

Percent of Children in Out-of-Home Placement

	1998	2003	% Change
Adoption Resource Centers			
Metro ARC	49.5	88.8	79.4%
Essex ARC	33.0	92.2	179.4%
Northern ARC	26.8	89.8	235.1%
Southern ARC	26.0	90.3	247.3%
Central ARC	28.6	90.8	217.5%
Metro Select ARC	N/A	92.1	N/A
ARC Total	30.6	90.6	196.1%
District Offices:			
Central Region			
Hunterdon	9.3	10.8	16.1%
Mercer	20.7	17.7	-14.5%
Monmouth North	11.5	12.2	6.1%
Monmouth, Southern	20.0	26.9	34.5%
Ocean	12.9	20.4	58.1%
Somerset	15.8	12.2	-22.8%
Region Total	16.0	17.6	10.0%
Metro Region			
Middlesex, Edison	14.6	14.6	0.0%
Middlesex, Perth Amboy	10.1	12.7	25.7%
Essex, East Orange	20.0	20.1	0.5%
Essex, Bloomfield	12.5	9.2	-26.4%
Newark, DO I	21.7	28.4	30.9%
Newark, DO III	22.3	25.2	13.0%
Newark, DO II	15.1	25.2	66.9%
Union East	14.3	18.0	25.9%
Union West	13.1	24.4	86.3%
Region Total	16.0	19.5	21.9%
Nothern Region			
Bergen	8.8	11.8	34.1%
Hudson, Bayonne	15.6	18.2	16.7%
Hudson, Jersey City	16.9	16.4	-3.0%
Hudson, North	10.8	8.5	-21.3%
Morris	15.0	11.1	-26.0%
Central Passaic	13.5	15.2	12.6%
North Passaic	15.8	13.3	-15.8%
Sussex	17.9	16.1	-10.1%
Warren	12.7	11.4	-10.2%
Region Total	13.3	13.7	3.0%
Southern Region			
Atlantic	20.9	15.9	-23.9%
Burlington	14.0	15.8	12.9%
Camden, North	16.7	16.5	-1.2%
Camden, Central	15.8	16.1	1.9%
Cape May	16.8	20.2	20.2%
Cumberland	13.7	16.4	19.7%
Gloucester	12.9	8.6	-33.3%
Salem	21.0	17.2	-18.1%
Region Total	16.0	15.8	-1.3%
District Office Total Averages	15.3	16.7	8.6%
Statewide Total Averages	17.9	22.8	27.4%

SOURCES:

DYFS Caseload Trend Report, DAR-SISQ-23A, April 1998, statistics are for January 1998

DYFS Caseload Trend Report, DAR-SISQ-23A, April 2003

Note: Data is for January of each year

Note: It is unclear why the ARCs show such a low number of children in placement. State officials were unable to provide an explanation. In order to get an accurate gauge on the trends in child placement, then, it is more accurate to use the district office totals, rather than the statewide totals.

Percent of Children with Multiple Placements

	1998	2003	% Change
Adoption Resource Centers			
Metro ARC	53.7	55.2	2.8%
Essex ARC	54.9	52.8	-3.8%
Northern ARC	53.0	59.8	12.8%
Southern ARC	68.1	70.7	3.8%
Central ARC	59.5	64.3	8.1%
Metro Select ARC	N/A	69.1	N/A
ARC Total	58.3	62.3	6.9%
District Offices:			
Central Region			
Hunterdon	53.8	69.0	28.3%
Mercer	53.4	45.0	-15.7%
Monmouth North	59.7	36.2	-39.4%
Monmouth, Southern	55.9	51.4	-8.1%
Ocean	47.1	49.3	4.7%
Somerset	37.5	47.5	26.7%
Region Total	53.5	47.6	-11.0%
Metro Region			
Middlesex, Edison	48.1	43.0	-10.6%
Middlesex, Perth Amboy	46.1	48.9	6.1%
Essex, East Orange	46.0	45.9	-0.2%
Essex, Bloomfield	52.4	54.3	3.6%
Newark, DO I	46.9	52.8	12.6%
Newark, DO III	46.4	37.5	-19.2%
Newark, DO II	47.3	50.0	5.7%
Union East	45.4	41.9	-7.7%
Union West	39.2	46.1	17.6%
Region Total	46.5	46.2	-0.6%
Nothern Region			
Bergen	43.2	48.1	11.3%
Hudson, Bayonne	60.2	45.6	-24.3%
Hudson, Jersey City	45.8	50.4	10.0%
Hudson, North	36.8	57.3	55.7%
Morris	52.1	41.8	-19.8%
Central Passaic	43.5	47.1	8.3%
North Passaic	42.3	56.1	32.6%
Sussex	37.3	39.2	5.1%
Warren	59.4	53.1	-10.6%
Region Total	46.1	47.8	3.7%
Southern Region			
Atlantic	51.7	51.9	0.4%
Burlington	53.3	62.8	17.8%
Camden, North	63.8	47.1	-26.2%
Camden, Central	62.3	55.0	-11.7%
Cape May	62.2	59.6	-4.2%
Cumberland	57.9	54.7	-5.5%
Gloucester	67.8	44.6	-34.2%
Salem	62.3	62.5	0.3%
Region Total	60.0	54.6	-9.0%
District Office Totals	51.5	49.1	-4.8%
Statewide Totals	53.7	54.0	0.6%

SOURCES:

DYFS Placement Statistics for Children in Foster Care Regardless of Case Goal, OPR-SISQ-20, January 1998

DYFS Placement Statistics for Children in Foster Care Regardless of Case Goal, DAR-SISQ-20, January 2003

Average Total Months in All Placements for All Children in Foster Care

	All Foster Children			Children with One Placement			Children with Multiple Placements		
	1998	2003	% Change	1998	2003	% Change	1998	2003	% Change
Adoption Resource Centers									
Metro ARC	46.6	41.9	-10.1%	37.4	32.8	-12.3%	54.6	49.2	-9.9%
Essex ARC	43.9	45.7	4.1%	37.1	9.8	-73.6%	49.5	51.1	3.2%
Northern ARC	41.2	31.9	-22.6%	36.2	26.6	-26.5%	45.7	35.5	-22.3%
Southern ARC	37.9	38.6	1.8%	30.0	29.1	-3.0%	41.5	42.5	2.4%
Central ARC	38.8	44.1	13.7%	32.0	34.4	7.5%	43.5	49.5	13.8%
Metro Select ARC	N/A	34.4	N/A	N/A	22.6	N/A	N/A	39.6	N/A
ARC Total	41.5	39.8	-4.1%	34.7	31.9	-8.1%	46.4	44.5	-4.1%
District Offices:									
Central Region									
Hunterdon	24.1	19.2	-20.3%	9.2	9.2	0.0%	36.9	23.8	-35.5%
Mercer	22.5	19.8	-12.0%	13.5	14.6	8.1%	30.4	26.0	-14.5%
Monmouth North	34.7	21.4	-38.3%	18.5	13.9	-24.9%	45.5	34.5	-24.2%
Monmouth, Southern	32.3	26.9	-16.7%	15.2	17	11.8%	45.8	36.3	-20.7%
Ocean	21.7	21.1	-2.8%	13	12.8	-1.5%	31.4	29.7	-5.4%
Somerset	29.1	10.4	-64.3%	3.0	8.8	193.3%	72.7	12.2	-83.2%
Region Total	26.9	21.7	-19.3%	14.2	14.2	0.0%	38.0	30.0	-21.1%
Metro Region									
Middlesex, Edison	21.4	16.5	-22.9%	14.2	9.8	-31.0%	29.1	25.3	-13.1%
Middlesex, Perth Amboy	24.2	20.2	-16.5%	12.5	17.2	37.6%	38	23.4	-38.4%
Essex, East Orange	35.5	31.6	-11.0%	20.4	19.2	-5.9%	53.2	46.2	-13.2%
Essex, Bloomfield	34.9	25.8	-26.1%	16.7	9.2	-44.9%	51.4	39.7	-22.8%
Newark, DO I	38.0	28.5	-25.0%	29.0	22	-24.1%	48.3	34.4	-28.8%
Newark, DO III	26.5	19.3	-27.2%	16.2	11.6	-28.4%	38.5	2.2	-94.3%
Newark, DO II	35.4	19.6	-44.6%	21.5	16.7	-22.3%	50.8	27.1	-46.7%
Union East	32.3	22.6	-30.0%	20.8	16.6	-20.2%	46.2	30.9	-33.1%
Union West	26.9	23.1	-14.1%	14.3	20.3	42.0%	46.5	26.4	-43.2%
Region Total	31.8	23.4	-26.4%	19.8	15.9	-19.7%	45.6	32.2	-29.4%
Nothern Region									
Bergen	17.8	19.4	9.0%	16.4	9.1	-44.5%	19.8	30.6	54.5%
Hudson, Bayonne	35.4	26.0	-26.6%	11.7	18.4	57.3%	51.2	35.1	-31.4%
Hudson, Jersey City	22.4	20.9	-6.7%	17.7	12.5	-29.4%	27.9	29.1	4.3%
Hudson, North	15.7	14.6	-7.0%	9.6	9.1	-5.2%	26.0	18.7	-28.1%
Morris	27.6	14.4	-47.8%	15.9	8.9	-44.0%	38.4	22.1	-42.4%
Central Passaic	26.7	26.4	-1.1%	19.7	18.0	-8.6%	35.8	35.7	-0.3%
North Passaic	30.7	31.8	3.6%	25.6	15.2	-40.6%	37.6	44.9	19.4%
Sussex	22.4	17.1	-23.7%	14.5	13.4	-7.6%	35.6	22.8	-36.0%
Warren	35.8	18.2	-49.2%	17.4	15.2	-12.6%	48.4	20.8	-57.0%
Region Total	25.6	22.0	-14.1%	17.0	14.1	-17.1%	35.7	30.7	-14.0%
Southern Region									
Atlantic	25.6	27.6	7.8%	15.8	16.5	4.4%	34.7	37.9	9.2%
Burlington	25.6	24.8	-3.1%	17.4	13.4	-23.0%	32.8	31.5	-4.0%
Camden, North	22.5	18.5	-17.8%	11.1	9.5	-14.4%	28.9	28.5	-1.4%
Camden, Central	23.2	24.1	3.9%	12	12.2	1.7%	30.1	33.8	12.3%
Cape May	26.2	17.4	-33.6%	7.5	9.8	30.7%	37.6	22.5	-40.2%
Cumberland	31.6	16.6	-47.5%	18.8	7.0	-62.8%	41.0	24.6	-40.0%
Gloucester	28.1	21.3	-24.2%	9.1	8.3	-8.8%	37.1	37.5	1.1%
Salem	20.9	16.6	-20.6%	5.9	9.4	59.3%	29.9	20.9	-30.1%
Region Total	25.0	21.1	-15.6%	13.1	11.0	-16.0%	32.9	29.5	-10.3%
District Office Totals	27.8	22.2	-20.1%	16.6	14.1	-15.1%	38.2	30.7	-19.6%
Statewide Totals*	32.6	28.9	-11.3%	22.5	19.6	-12.9%	41.3	36.7	-11.1%

SOURCES:

DYFS Placement Statistics for Children in Foster Care Regardless of Case Goal, OPR-SISQ-20, January 1998

DYFS Placement Statistics for Children in Foster Care Regardless of Case Goal, DAR-SISQ-20, January 2003

*Includes ARCs; Refugee Program for 1998 only

Percent of Children by Time in Current Foster Care Placement

	<1 Year			1-2 Years			2-4 Years			>4 Years		
	1998	2003	% Change	1998	2003	% Change	1998	2003	% Change	1998	2003	% Change
Adoption Resource Centers												
Metro ARC	26.1	19.1	-26.8%	22.4	21.3	-4.9%	29.7	36.7	23.6%	21.7	22.9	5.5%
Essex ARC	25.1	19.4	-22.7%	21.0	24.8	18.1%	40.2	31.2	-22.4%	13.7	24.6	79.6%
Northern ARC	22.6	44.2	95.6%	26.2	30.1	14.9%	34.3	20.0	-41.7%	16.9	5.7	-66.3%
Southern ARC	34.7	34.8	0.3%	24.3	28.4	16.9%	33.6	25.6	-23.8%	7.4	11.3	52.7%
Central ARC	33.2	28.4	-14.5%	21.4	26.2	22.4%	35.5	29.2	-17.7%	10.0	16.1	61.0%
Metro Select ARC	N/A	41.0	N/A	N/A	32.1	N/A	N/A	22.1	N/A	N/A	4.9	N/A
ARC Total	28.7	31.1	8.4%	23.0	27.1	17.8%	34.9	27.5	-21.2%	13.5	14.3	5.9%
District Offices:												
Central Region												
Hunterdon	50.0	13.3	-73.4%	20.0	53.3	166.5%	20.0	26.7	33.5%	10.0	6.7	-33.0%
Mercer	67.2	60.0	-10.7%	18.5	14.0	-24.3%	7.5	14.0	86.7%	6.8	12.0	76.5%
Monmouth North	50.8	55.4	9.1%	19.7	18.5	-6.1%	14.8	14.1	-4.7%	14.8	12.0	-18.9%
Monmouth, Southern	64.0	60.5	-5.5%	15.2	17.2	13.2%	11.2	11.2	0.0%	9.6	11.2	16.7%
Ocean	69.1	58.8	-14.9%	13.3	18.5	39.1%	11.5	10.9	-5.2%	6.1	11.8	93.4%
Somerset	60.0	88.0	46.7%	20.0	8.0	-60.0%	0.0	4.0	N/A	20.0	0.0	-100.0%
Region Total	63.8	59.0	-7.5%	16.8	17.7	5.4%	10.5	12.4	18.1%	8.9	10.9	22.5%
Metro Region												
Middlesex, Edison	60.6	56.7	-6.4%	23.9	20.0	-16.3%	14.1	16.7	18.4%	1.4	6.7	378.6%
Middlesex, Perth Amboy	50.7	74.2	46.4%	20.9	9.7	-53.6%	17.9	6.5	-63.7%	10.4	9.7	-6.7%
Essex, East Orange	57.4	41.4	-27.9%	16.5	17.3	4.8%	13.1	14.4	9.9%	13.1	26.9	105.3%
Essex, Bloomfield	64.6	54.8	-15.2%	19.2	16.7	-13.0%	4.0	9.5	137.5%	12.1	19.0	57.0%
Newark, DO I	47.7	45.7	-4.2%	15.9	12.6	-20.8%	17.6	11.9	-32.4%	18.8	29.8	58.5%
Newark, DO III	60.1	63.3	5.3%	17.0	15.8	-7.1%	15.3	7.2	-52.9%	7.6	13.7	80.3%
Newark, DO II	52.7	62.5	18.6%	18.3	18.1	-1.1%	16.1	9.7	-39.8%	12.9	9.7	-24.8%
Union East	46.3	52.3	13.0%	19.1	20.7	8.4%	21.0	9.7	-53.8%	13.6	17.4	27.9%
Union West	62.1	40.0	-35.6%	11.6	22.1	90.5%	17.9	19.0	6.1%	8.4	19.0	126.2%
Region Total	55.0	53.7	-2.4%	17.5	17.0	-2.9%	15.6	11.2	-28.2%	11.9	18.1	52.1%
Northern Region												
Bergen	64.9	56.3	-13.3%	18.0	11.3	-37.2%	12.6	21.3	69.0%	4.5	11.3	151.1%
Hudson, Bayonne	46.5	55.7	19.8%	24.2	13.9	-42.6%	16.2	15.7	-3.1%	13.1	14.8	13.0%
Hudson, Jersey City	59.5	66.2	11.3%	21.4	15.6	-27.1%	10.7	11.7	9.3%	8.3	6.5	-21.7%
Hudson, North	71.4	82.5	15.5%	12.7	8.8	-30.7%	7.9	1.8	-77.2%	7.9	7.0	-11.4%
Morris	42.9	60.5	41.0%	42.9	18.4	-57.1%	2.4	15.8	558.3%	11.9	5.3	-55.5%
Central Passaic	49.3	51.7	4.9%	26.8	12.5	-53.4%	15.5	18.3	18.1%	8.5	17.5	105.9%
North Passaic	50.0	71.9	43.8%	22.9	18.8	-17.9%	19.8	0.0	-100.0%	7.3	9.4	28.8%
Sussex	66.7	71.0	6.4%	11.1	6.5	-41.4%	13.9	9.7	-30.2%	8.3	12.9	55.4%
Warren	56.7	64.7	14.1%	13.3	5.9	-55.6%	6.7	17.6	162.7%	23.3	11.8	-49.4%
Region Total	55.5	61.4	10.6%	22.2	12.9	-41.9%	13.2	13.9	5.3%	9.1	11.8	29.7%
Southern Region												
Atlantic	58.3	64.0	9.8%	24.2	8.2	-66.1%	6.1	15.0	145.9%	11.4	12.9	13.2%
Burlington	70.6	50.0	-29.2%	11.0	18.4	67.3%	7.4	14.9	101.4%	11.0	16.7	51.8%
Camden, North	75.7	75.6	-0.1%	12.4	8.1	-34.7%	7.5	8.9	18.7%	4.4	7.3	65.9%
Camden, Central	69.6	66.7	-4.2%	16.9	13.3	-21.3%	7.3	6.7	-8.2%	6.2	13.3	114.5%
Cape May	66.7	77.8	16.6%	21.3	11.1	-47.9%	5.3	5.6	5.7%	6.7	5.6	-16.4%
Cumberland	67.7	74.6	10.2%	16.1	12.7	-21.1%	8.9	9.3	4.5%	7.3	3.4	-53.4%
Gloucester	63.9	76.7	20.0%	13.9	2.3	-83.5%	13.9	7.0	-49.6%	8.3	14.0	68.7%
Salem	70.9	166.7	135.1%	20.0	38.9	94.5%	0.0	44.4	N/A	9.1	16.7	83.5%
Region Total	68.9	70.3	2.0%	16.2	11.9	-26.5%	7.3	11.1	52.1%	7.6	10.6	39.5%
District Office Totals	68.3	60.8	-11.0%	17.8	14.9	-16.3%	11.9	12.0	0.8%	9.6	13.5	40.6%
Statewide Totals	48.2	45.2	-6.2%	19.8	21.3	7.6%	20.8	20.1	-3.4%	11.1	13.9	25.2%

SOURCES:

DYFS Quarterly Demographic Reports, OPR-SISQ-12FC-D, April 1998

DYFS Quarterly Demographic Reports, DAR-SISQ-12FC-D, April 2003

Percent of Children by Time in Current Residential Care Placement

	<1 Year			1-2 Years			2-4 Years			>4 Years		
	1998	2003	% Change	1998	2003	% Change	1998	2003	% Change	1998	2003	% Change
Adoption Resource Centers												
Metro ARC	100.0	66.7	-33.3%	0.0	33.3	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Essex ARC	57.1	83.3	45.9%	28.6	16.7	-41.6%	14.3	0.0	-100.0%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Northern ARC	55.6	66.7	20.0%	0.0	22.2	N/A	33.3	11.1	-66.7%	11.1	0.0	-100.0%
Southern ARC	100.0	42.9	-57.1%	0.0	42.9	N/A	0.0	14.3	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Central ARC	0.0	69.2	N/A	100.0	23.1	-76.9%	0.0	7.7	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Metro Select ARC	N/A	30.0	N/A	N/A	40.0	N/A	N/A	30.0	N/A	N/A	0.0	N/A
ARC Total	60.0	58.8	-2.0%	15.0	29.4	96.0%	20.0	11.8	-41.0%	5.0	0.0	-100.0%
District Offices:												
Central Region												
Hunterdon	60.0	66.7	11.2%	20.0	33.3	66.5%	20.0	0.0	-100.0%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Mercer	72.1	53.3	-26.1%	11.5	35.6	209.6%	14.8	8.9	-39.9%	1.6	2.2	37.5%
Monmouth North	62.1	50.0	-19.5%	20.7	45.8	121.3%	10.3	4.2	-59.2%	6.9	0.0	-100.0%
Monmouth, Southern	63.3	63.4	0.2%	33.3	26.8	-19.5%	3.3	9.8	197.0%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Ocean	60.0	51.4	-14.3%	13.3	32.4	143.6%	24.4	16.2	-33.6%	2.2	0.0	-100.0%
Somerset	61.5	67.9	10.4%	38.5	21.4	-44.4%	0.0	10.7	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Region Total	65.0	56.3	-13.4%	19.1	32.1	68.1%	13.7	11.2	-18.2%	2.2	0.5	-77.3%
Metro Region												
Middlesex, Edison	63.6	75.0	17.9%	12.1	20.8	71.9%	9.1	2.1	-76.9%	15.2	2.1	-86.2%
Middlesex, Perth Amboy	59.3	68.2	15.0%	33.3	27.3	-18.0%	3.7	4.6	24.3%	3.7	0.0	-100.0%
Essex, East Orange	64.3	56.0	-12.9%	21.4	40.0	86.9%	7.1	4.0	-43.7%	7.1	0.0	-100.0%
Essex, Bloomfield	56.3	45.5	-19.2%	12.5	36.4	191.2%	6.3	9.1	44.4%	25.0	9.1	-63.6%
Newark, DO I	56.3	48.0	-14.7%	18.8	40.0	112.8%	25.0	12.0	-52.0%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Newark, DO III	52.9	31.3	-40.8%	17.6	50.0	184.1%	23.5	18.8	-20.0%	5.9	0.0	-100.0%
Newark, DO II	63.2	35.7	-43.5%	26.3	42.9	63.1%	10.5	17.9	70.5%	0.0	3.6	N/A
Union East	67.6	86.1	27.4%	13.5	8.3	-38.5%	18.9	5.6	-70.4%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Union West	69.2	31.6	-54.3%	15.4	42.1	173.4%	7.7	26.3	241.6%	7.7	0.0	-100.0%
Region Total	62.0	59.9	-3.4%	18.8	30.3	61.2%	12.5	8.8	-29.6%	6.8	0.7	-89.7%
Northern Region												
Bergen	60.0	38.7	-35.5%	36.0	45.2	25.6%	4.0	12.9	222.5%	0.0	3.2	N/A
Hudson, Bayonne	57.1	54.8	-4.0%	14.3	25.8	80.4%	19.0	12.9	-32.1%	9.5	6.5	-31.6%
Hudson, Jersey City	35.7	61.9	73.4%	7.1	23.8	235.2%	57.1	14.3	-75.0%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Hudson, North	29.4	54.5	85.4%	29.4	27.3	-7.1%	23.5	18.2	-22.6%	17.6	0.0	-100.0%
Morris	88.9	45.6	-48.7%	7.4	31.8	329.7%	3.7	22.7	513.5%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Central Passaic	61.9	61.8	-0.2%	23.8	14.7	-38.2%	9.5	17.7	86.3%	4.8	5.9	22.9%
North Passaic	52.9	62.5	18.1%	41.2	25.0	-39.3%	5.9	12.5	111.9%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Sussex	50.0	63.6	27.2%	41.7	22.7	-45.6%	8.3	13.6	63.9%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Warren	66.7	45.5	-31.8%	16.7	45.5	172.5%	16.7	9.1	-45.5%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Region Total	58.4	54.6	-6.5%	23.5	28.0	19.1%	14.5	15.0	3.4%	3.6	2.4	-33.3%
Southern Region												
Atlantic	81.3	76.9	-5.4%	12.5	15.4	23.2%	6.3	2.6	-58.7%	0.0	5.1	N/A
Burlington	69.6	65.6	-5.7%	19.6	18.8	-4.1%	10.9	9.4	-13.8%	0.0	6.3	N/A
Camden, North	78.8	67.5	-14.3%	24.2	21.3	-12.0%	7.6	10.0	31.6%	4.5	1.3	-71.1%
Camden, Central	79.5	72.7	-8.6%	17.9	20.0	11.7%	2.6	3.6	38.5%	0.0	3.6	N/A
Cape May	57.9	50.0	-13.6%	15.8	40.0	153.2%	26.3	0.0	-100.0%	0.0	10.0	N/A
Cumberland	94.1	54.6	-42.0%	0.0	39.4	N/A	5.9	6.1	3.4%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Gloucester	50.0	69.6	39.2%	31.3	21.7	-30.7%	18.8	8.7	-53.7%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Salem	75.0	75.0	0.0%	15.0	18.8	25.3%	10.0	6.3	-37.0%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Region Total	74.5	68.1	-8.6%	18.8	22.6	20.2%	9.6	6.6	-31.3%	1.3	2.8	115.4%
District Office Totals	64.5	60.4	-6.4%	19.9	28.0	40.7%	12.3	10.0	-18.7%	3.3	1.6	-51.5%
Statewide Totals	64.4	60.3	-6.4%	19.8	28.0	41.4%	12.5	10.1	-19.2%	3.4	1.6	-52.9%

SOURCES:

DYFS Quarterly Demographic Reports, OPR-SISQ-12R-D, April 1998

DYFS Quarterly Demographic Reports, DAR-SISQ-12R-D, April 2003

Percent of Children by Time in Current Group Home Placement

	<1 Year			1-2 Years			2-4 Years			>4 Years		
	1998	2003	% Change	1998	2003	% Change	1998	2003	% Change	1998	2003	% Change
Adoption Resource Centers												
Metro ARC	87.5	60.0	-31.4%	12.5	20.0	60.0%	0.0	20.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Essex ARC	33.3	100.0	200.3%	33.3	0.0	-100.0%	33.3	0.0	-100.0%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Northern ARC	33.3	42.1	26.4%	44.4	31.6	-28.8%	22.2	21.1	-5.0%	0.0	5.3	N/A
Southern ARC	70.0	46.7	-33.3%	20.0	26.7	33.5%	10.0	13.3	33.0%	0.0	13.3	N/A
Central ARC	0.0	87.5	N/A	0.0	12.5	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Metro Select ARC	N/A	66.7	N/A	N/A	16.7	N/A	N/A	16.7	N/A	N/A	0.0	N/A
ARC Total	60.0	58.6	-2.3%	26.7	22.4	-16.1%	13.3	13.8	3.8%	0.0	5.2	N/A
District Offices:												
Central Region												
Hunterdon	100.0	0.0	-100.0%	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Mercer	91.3	53.3	-41.6%	4.3	33.3	674.4%	0.0	6.7	N/A	4.3	6.7	55.8%
Monmouth North	60.0	88.9	48.2%	20.0	11.1	-44.5%	20.0	0.0	-100.0%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Monmouth, Southern	100.0	58.3	-41.7%	0.0	41.7	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Ocean	80.0	100.0	25.0%	20.0	0.0	-100.0%	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Somerset	80.0	85.7	7.1%	20.0	14.3	-28.5%	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Region Total	86.8	78.9	-9.1%	9.4	18.3	94.7%	1.9	1.4	-26.3%	1.9	1.4	-26.3%
Metro Region												
Middlesex, Edison	91.7	95.7	4.4%	8.3	4.3	-48.2%	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Middlesex, Perth Amboy	100.0	95.7	-4.3%	0.0	4.3	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Essex, East Orange	100.0	78.6	-21.4%	0.0	21.4	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Essex, Bloomfield	80.0	75.0	-6.3%	0.0	25.0	N/A	20.0	0.0	-100.0%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Newark, DO I	90.9	93.3	2.6%	0.0	6.7	N/A	9.1	0.0	-100.0%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Newark, DO III	78.9	91.7	16.2%	10.5	0.0	-100.0%	10.5	8.3	-21.0%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Newark, DO II	75.0	84.2	12.3%	12.5	5.3	-57.6%	0.0	10.5	N/A	12.5	0.0	-100.0%
Union East	80.0	81.8	2.3%	20.0	9.1	-54.5%	0.0	9.1	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Union West	100.0	81.3	-18.7%	0.0	12.5	N/A	0.0	6.3	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Region Total	89.0	87.8	-1.3%	6.0	8.1	35.0%	4.0	4.1	2.5%	1.0	0.0	-100.0%
Nothern Region												
Bergen	100.0	66.7	-33.3%	0.0	33.3	N/A	0.0	33.3	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Hudson, Bayonne	84.6	70.6	-16.5%	0.0	11.8	N/A	15.4	29.4	90.9%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Hudson, Jersey City	50.0	78.6	57.2%	10.0	14.3	43.0%	30.0	21.4	-28.7%	10.0	0.0	-100.0%
Hudson, North	57.1	100.0	75.1%	28.6	25.0	-12.6%	14.3	0.0	-100.0%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Morris	71.4	77.8	9.0%	28.6	22.2	-22.4%	0.0	22.2	N/A	7.1	0.0	-100.0%
Central Passaic	77.8	100.0	28.5%	0.0	33.3	N/A	11.1	0.0	-100.0%	0.0	0.0	N/A
North Passaic	88.9	100.0	12.5%	0.0	42.9	N/A	11.1	0.0	-100.0%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Sussex	50.0	75.0	50.0%	50.0	25.0	-50.0%	0.0	25.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Warren	75.0	66.7	-11.1%	25.0	66.7	166.8%	0.0	33.3	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Region Total	74.4	80.0	7.5%	12.8	26.3	105.5%	10.3	20.0	94.2%	2.6	0.0	-100.0%
Southern Region												
Atlantic	42.9	91.7	113.8%	57.1	25.0	-56.2%	0.0	8.3	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Burlington	90.0	73.3	-18.6%	6.7	20.0	198.5%	3.3	20.0	506.1%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Camden, North	100.0	87.0	-13.0%	0.0	34.8	N/A	0.0	13.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Camden, Central	90.0	81.3	-9.7%	10.0	18.8	88.0%	0.0	18.8	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Cape May	100.0	100.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Cumberland	100.0	100.0	0.0%	0.0	20.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Gloucester	100.0	100.0	0.0%	0.0	50.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Salem	62.5	60.0	-4.0%	37.5	40.0	6.7%	0.0	40.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Region Total	85.7	83.5	-2.6%	13.0	26.6	104.6%	1.3	15.2	1069.2%	0.0	0.0	N/A
District Office Totals	84.1	83.5	-0.7%	10.1	18.1	79.2%	4.5	9.7	115.6%	1.3	0.3	-76.9%
Statewide Totals	82.0	80.3	-2.1%	11.5	18.6	61.7%	5.3	10.2	92.5%	1.2	0.9	-25.0%

SOURCES:

DYFS Quarterly Trend Report, OPR-SISQ-12GH-D, April 1998

DYFS Quarterly Trend Report, DAR-SISQ-12GH-D, April 2003

Number of Children in In-County and Out-of-County
Foster Care Placement

	Child and Family Live in Same County			Child Lives in a Different County Than Family		
	1998	2003	% Change	1998	2003	% Change
Adoption Resource Centers						
Metro ARC	280	227	-18.9%	157	228	45.2%
Essex ARC	408	322	-21.1%	125	153	22.4%
Northern ARC	251	168	-33.1%	192	287	49.5%
Southern ARC	298	284	-4.7%	246	498	102.4%
Central ARC	373	226	-39.4%	188	277	47.3%
Metro Select ARC	N/A	168	N/A	N/A	181	N/A
ARC Total	1,610	1,395	-13.4%	908	1,624	78.9%
District Offices:						
Central Region						
Hunterdon	5	5	0.0%	5	10	100.0%
Mercer	213	69	-67.6%	52	31	-40.4%
Monmouth North	82	51	-37.8%	40	41	2.5%
Monmouth, Southern	121	73	-39.7%	57	61	7.0%
Ocean	97	70	-27.8%	68	49	-27.9%
Somerset	9	4	-55.6%	6	21	250.0%
Region Total	527	272	-48.4%	228	213	-6.6%
Metro Region						
Middlesex, Edison	41	5	-87.8%	30	25	-16.7%
Middlesex, Perth Amboy	53	17	-67.9%	14	45	221.4%
Essex, East Orange	142	67	-52.8%	34	37	8.8%
Essex, Bloomfield	82	36	-56.1%	17	6	-64.7%
Newark, DO I	201	116	-42.3%	38	35	-7.9%
Newark, DO III	237	102	-57.0%	51	37	-27.5%
Newark, DO II	155	96	-38.1%	31	48	54.8%
Union East	97	53	-45.4%	65	102	56.9%
Union West	69	34	-50.7%	26	61	134.6%
Region Total	1,077	526	-51.2%	306	396	29.4%
Nothern Region						
Bergen	93	30	-67.7%	18	50	177.8%
Hudson, Bayonne	75	57	-24.0%	24	58	141.7%
Hudson, Jersey City	50	38	-24.0%	34	39	14.7%
Hudson, North	47	24	-48.9%	16	33	106.3%
Morris	31	18	-41.9%	11	20	81.8%
Central Passaic	108	68	-37.0%	34	52	52.9%
North Passaic	77	19	-75.3%	19	13	-31.6%
Sussex	17	12	-29.4%	19	19	0.0%
Warren	20	8	-60.0%	10	9	-10.0%
Region Total	518	274	-47.1%	185	293	58.4%
Southern Region						
Atlantic	81	84	3.7%	51	63	23.5%
Burlington	106	69	-34.9%	57	45	-21.1%
Camden, North	162	66	-59.3%	64	57	-10.9%
Camden, Central	193	71	-63.2%	67	49	-26.9%
Cape May	39	22	-43.6%	36	50	38.9%
Cumberland	71	42	-40.8%	53	76	43.4%
Gloucester	45	25	-44.4%	27	18	-33.3%
Salem	23	10	-56.5%	32	38	18.8%
Region Total	720	389	-46.0%	387	396	2.3%
Other	15	3	-80.0%	0	0	0.0%
District Office Totals	2,842	1,461	-48.6%	1,106	1,298	17.4%
Statewide Totals	4,467	2,859	-36.0%	2,014	2,922	45.1%

SOURCES:

DYFS In County//Out-of-County Foster Care Report, DAR-SISQ, April 1998

DYFS In County/Out-of-County Foster Care Report, DAR-SISQ-15A, April 2003

Note: Chart includes children in regular foster care with any case goal. Children in residential placements are not included.

Number of Families with More Than
One Child in Foster Care

	1998	2003	% Change
Adoption Resource Centers			
Metro ARC	82	137	67.1%
Essex ARC	116	117	0.9%
Northern ARC	95	97	2.1%
Southern ARC	121	195	61.2%
Central ARC	119	85	-28.6%
Metro Select ARC	N/A	88	N/A
ARC Total	533	719	34.9%
District Offices:			
Central Region			
Hunterdon	1	7	600.0%
Mercer	81	52	-35.8%
Monmouth North	30	40	33.3%
Monmouth, Southern	50	59	18.0%
Ocean	43	66	53.5%
Somerset	4	13	225.0%
Region Total	209	237	13.4%
Metro Region			
Middlesex, Edison	25	15	-40.0%
Middlesex, Perth Amboy	21	38	81.0%
Essex, East Orange	39	72	84.6%
Essex, Bloomfield	22	14	-36.4%
Newark, DO I	68	77	13.2%
Newark, DO III	78	53	-32.1%
Newark, DO II	49	77	57.1%
Union East	45	59	31.1%
Union West	25	44	76.0%
Region Total	372	449	20.7%
Nothern Region			
Bergen	28	46	64.3%
Hudson, Bayonne	28	44	57.1%
Hudson, Jersey City	20	29	45.0%
Hudson, North	16	26	62.5%
Morris	12	18	50.0%
Central Passaic	38	38	0.0%
North Passaic	26	22	-15.4%
Sussex	6	7	16.7%
Warren	7	10	42.9%
Region Total	181	240	32.6%
Southern Region			
Atlantic	39	52	33.3%
Burlington	35	45	28.6%
Camden, North	58	57	-1.7%
Camden, Central	58	55	-5.2%
Cape May	22	35	59.1%
Cumberland	26	47	80.8%
Gloucester	19	21	10.5%
Salem	19	26	36.8%
Region Total	276	338	22.5%
District Office Totals	1,038	1,264	21.8%
Statewide Totals	1,571	1,983	26.2%

SOURCES:

DYFS Children in Families with More than One Child in Foster Care,
OPR-SISQ-19, April 1998

DYF Children in Families With More than One Child in Foster Care,

DAR-SISQ-19, July 4, 2003

Percent of Siblings Placed Together and Alone

	Siblings Placed Together			Siblings Placed Alone		
	1998	2003	% Change	1998	2003	% Change
Adoption Resource Centers						
Metro ARC	58.1	63.8	9.8%	41.9	36.2	-13.6%
Essex ARC	54.4	62.5	14.9%	45.6	37.5	-17.8%
Northern ARC	61.1	61.2	0.2%	38.9	38.8	-0.3%
Southern ARC	63.7	61.9	-2.8%	36.3	38.1	5.0%
Central ARC	53.2	65.0	22.2%	46.8	35.0	-25.2%
Metro Select ARC	N/A	53.9	N/A	N/A	46.1	N/A
ARC Total	58.0	61.6	6.2%	42.0	38.4	-8.6%
District Offices:						
Central Region						
Hunterdon	100.0	85.0	-15.0%	0.0	15.0	N/A
Mercer	52.8	68.0	28.8%	47.2	32.0	-32.2%
Monmouth North	61.7	78.2	26.7%	38.3	21.8	-43.1%
Monmouth, Southern	59.8	67.1	12.2%	40.2	32.9	-18.2%
Ocean	59.3	61.7	4.0%	40.7	38.3	-5.9%
Somerset	100.0	83.8	-16.2%	0.0	16.2	N/A
Region Total	58.1	69.5	19.6%	41.9	30.5	-27.2%
Metro Region						
Middlesex, Edison	51.7	80.6	55.9%	48.3	19.4	-59.8%
Middlesex, Perth Amboy	73.6	72.1	-2.0%	26.4	27.9	5.7%
Essex, East Orange	58.6	67.6	15.4%	41.4	32.4	-21.7%
Essex, Bloomfield	78.6	87.9	11.8%	21.4	12.1	-43.5%
Newark, DO I	57.4	61.9	7.8%	42.6	38.1	-10.6%
Newark, DO III	54.3	62.0	14.2%	45.7	38.0	-16.8%
Newark, DO II	60.3	61.3	1.7%	39.7	38.7	-2.5%
Union East	62.8	71.5	13.9%	37.2	28.5	-23.4%
Union West	37.1	55.3	49.1%	62.9	44.7	-28.9%
Region Total	58.4	65.4	12.0%	41.6	34.6	-16.8%
Nothern Region						
Bergen	62.1	70.6	13.7%	37.9	29.4	-22.4%
Hudson, Bayonne	52.0	60.0	15.4%	48.0	40.0	-16.7%
Hudson, Jersey City	61.3	67.5	10.1%	38.7	32.5	-16.0%
Hudson, North	37.8	68.7	81.7%	62.2	31.3	-49.7%
Morris	69.0	79.5	15.2%	31.0	20.5	-33.9%
Central Passaic	67.3	72.2	7.3%	32.7	27.8	-15.0%
North Passaic	63.5	68.4	7.7%	36.5	31.6	-13.4%
Sussex	42.9	73.7	71.8%	57.1	26.3	-53.9%
Warren	63.6	72.7	14.3%	36.4	27.3	-25.0%
Region Total	59.8	69.0	15.4%	40.2	31.0	-22.9%
Southern Region						
Atlantic	62.0	71.9	16.0%	38.0	28.1	-26.1%
Burlington	81.3	74.5	-8.4%	18.7	25.5	36.4%
Camden, North	54.9	67.9	23.7%	45.1	32.1	-28.8%
Camden, Central	58.3	72.3	24.0%	41.7	27.7	-33.6%
Cape May	62.1	66.0	6.3%	37.9	34.0	-10.3%
Cumberland	73.1	72.0	-1.5%	26.9	28.0	4.1%
Gloucester	42.2	76.0	80.1%	57.8	24.0	-58.5%
Salem	66.0	66.2	0.3%	34.0	33.8	-0.6%
Region Total	62.1	70.7	13.8%	37.9	29.3	-22.7%
District Office Totals	59.6	68.3	14.6%	40.4	31.7	-21.5%
Statewide Totals	59.0	65.8	11.5%	41.0	34.2	-16.6%

SOURCES:

DYFS Children in Families with More than One Child in Foster Care, OPR-SISQ-19, April 1997

DYFS Children in Families with More than One Child in Foster Care, DAR-SISQ-19, July 2003

Number of Children Who are Siblings in
Foster Care

	1998	2003	% Change
Adoption Resource Centers			
Metro ARC	236	362	53.4%
Essex ARC	353	315	-10.8%
Northern ARC	257	260	1.2%
Southern ARC	336	549	63.4%
Central ARC	314	220	-29.9%
Metro Select ARC	N/A	245	N/A
ARC Total	1,496	1,951	30.4%
District Offices:			
Central Region			
Hunterdon	2	20	900.0%
Mercer	199	128	-35.7%
Monmouth North	81	110	35.8%
Monmouth, Southern	132	158	19.7%
Ocean	118	154	30.5%
Somerset	8	37	362.5%
Region Total	540	607	12.4%
Metro Region			
Middlesex, Edison	58	36	-37.9%
Middlesex, Perth Amboy	53	86	62.3%
Essex, East Orange	111	188	69.4%
Essex, Bloomfield	56	33	-41.1%
Newark, DO I	197	218	10.7%
Newark, DO III	221	137	-38.0%
Newark, DO II	136	199	46.3%
Union East	129	158	22.5%
Union West	62	123	98.4%
Region Total	1,023	1,178	15.2%
Nothern Region			
Bergen	66	109	65.2%
Hudson, Bayonne	75	110	46.7%
Hudson, Jersey City	62	77	24.2%
Hudson, North	37	67	81.1%
Morris	29	44	51.7%
Central Passaic	104	108	3.8%
North Passaic	74	57	-23.0%
Sussex	14	19	35.7%
Warren	22	22	0.0%
Region Total	483	613	26.9%
Southern Region			
Atlantic	108	135	25.0%
Burlington	91	110	20.9%
Camden, North	164	162	-1.2%
Camden, Central	156	148	-5.1%
Cape May	58	94	62.1%
Cumberland	67	125	86.6%
Gloucester	45	50	11.1%
Salem	47	71	51.1%
Region Total	736	895	21.6%
District Office Totals	2,782	3,293	18.4%
Statewide Totals	4,278	5,244	22.6%

SOURCES:
DYS Children in Families with more than One Child in Foster Care,
OPB-SISQ-19, April 1998
DYS Children in Families With More than One Child in Foster Care,
DAR-SISQ-19, July 4, 2003

Percent of Children Ages 0-12 in Foster Care

	Children 0-5			Children 6-12		
	1998	2003	% Change	1998	2003	% Change
Adoption Resource Centers						
Metro ARC	54.9	57.4	4.6%	38.9	32.5	-16.5%
Essex ARC	56.5	51.8	-8.3%	40.0	40.0	0.0%
Northern ARC	60.0	58.7	-2.2%	35.7	35.8	0.3%
Southern ARC	56.8	49.7	-12.5%	39.3	41.7	6.1%
Central ARC	57.2	56.1	-1.9%	37.8	35.0	-7.4%
Metro Select ARC	N/A	46.4	N/A	N/A	48.7	N/A
ARC Total	57.1	53.4	-6.5%	38.4	38.9	1.3%
Central Region						
Hunterdon	30.0	13.3	-55.7%	10.0	53.3	433.0%
Mercer	50.9	44.0	-13.6%	27.5	17.0	-38.2%
Monmouth North	27.0	45.7	69.3%	31.1	30.4	-2.3%
Monmouth, Southern	43.8	47.0	7.3%	28.1	26.1	-7.1%
Ocean	43.6	46.2	6.0%	35.2	25.2	-28.4%
Somerset	33.3	64.0	92.2%	46.7	24.0	-48.6%
Region Total	43.2	45.8	6.0%	30.1	25.6	-15.0%
Metro Region						
Middlesex, Edison	56.3	43.3	-23.1%	26.8	13.3	-50.4%
Middlesex, Perth Amboy	44.8	56.5	26.1%	29.9	25.8	-13.7%
Essex, East Orange	42.6	36.5	-14.3%	33.0	26.0	-21.2%
Essex, Bloomfield	54.5	40.5	-25.7%	18.2	23.8	30.8%
Newark, DO I	49.8	23.8	-52.2%	32.2	34.4	6.8%
Newark, DO III	55.2	59.0	6.9%	27.4	20.9	-23.7%
Newark, DO II	51.6	47.2	-8.5%	23.1	33.3	44.2%
Union East	46.9	50.3	7.2%	33.3	27.1	-18.6%
Union West	46.3	33.7	-27.2%	25.3	37.9	49.8%
Region Total	50.1	43.3	-13.6%	28.3	28.6	1.1%
Nothern Region						
Bergen	49.5	31.3	-36.8%	30.6	31.3	2.3%
Hudson, Bayonne	53.5	48.7	-9.0%	27.3	23.5	-13.9%
Hudson, Jersey City	53.6	49.4	-7.8%	38.1	27.3	-28.3%
Hudson, North	52.4	42.1	-19.7%	27.0	38.6	43.0%
Morris	50.0	47.4	-5.2%	28.6	26.3	-8.0%
Central Passaic	47.2	34.2	-27.5%	35.2	37.5	6.5%
North Passaic	42.7	37.5	-12.2%	38.5	31.3	-18.7%
Sussex	66.7	61.3	-8.1%	13.9	12.9	-7.2%
Warren	40.0	41.2	3.0%	20.0	23.5	17.5%
Region Total	49.9	42.3	-15.2%	31.3	29.6	-5.4%
Southern Region						
Atlantic	50.0	40.1	-19.8%	28.8	25.2	-12.5%
Burlington	35.6	31.6	-11.2%	28.2	23.7	-16.0%
Camden, North	38.9	35.8	-8.0%	31.0	35.0	12.9%
Camden, Central	41.2	33.3	-19.2%	29.2	24.2	-17.1%
Cape May	50.7	48.6	-4.1%	28.0	31.9	13.9%
Cumberland	32.3	46.6	44.3%	35.5	28.0	-21.1%
Gloucester	25.0	34.9	39.6%	30.6	27.9	-8.8%
Salem	49.1	47.9	-2.4%	21.8	31.3	43.6%
Region Total	39.9	39.1	-2.0%	29.7	27.9	-6.1%
District Office Totals	45.8	42.6	-6.9%	29.9	27.9	-6.4%
Statewide Totals	50.1	48.0	-4.2%	33.0	33.7	2.1%

SOURCES:

DYFS Caseload Trend Reports, OPR-SISQ-12FC-A, April 1998

DYFS Caseload Trend Reports, DAR-SISQ-12FC-A, April 2003

Percent of Adolescents Ages 13-21 in Foster Care

	Children 13-17			Children 18-21		
	1998	2003	% Change	1998	2003	% Change
Adoption Resource Centers						
Metro ARC	6.2	9.9	59.7%	0.0	0.2	N/A
Essex ARC	3.6	8.2	127.8%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Northern ARC	4.3	5.5	27.9%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Southern ARC	3.9	8.4	115.4%	0.0	0.1	N/A
Central ARC	5.0	8.5	70.0%	0.0	0.4	N/A
Metro Select ARC	N/A	4.9	N/A	N/A	0.0	N/A
ARC Total	4.5	7.8	73.3%	0.0	0.1	N/A
Central Region						
Hunterdon	60.0	20.0	-66.7%	0.0	13.3	N/A
Mercer	18.9	34.0	79.9%	2.6	5.0	92.3%
Monmouth North	36.1	20.7	-42.7%	5.7	3.3	-42.1%
Monmouth, Southern	25.3	25.4	0.4%	2.8	1.5	-46.4%
Ocean	20.6	27.7	34.5%	0.6	0.8	33.3%
Somerset	20.0	12.0	-40.0%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Region Total	24.1	26.0	7.9%	2.6	4.0	53.8%
Metro Region						
Middlesex, Edison	16.9	43.3	156.2%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Middlesex, Perth Amboy	23.9	16.1	-32.6%	1.5	1.6	6.7%
Essex, East Orange	21.0	34.6	64.8%	3.4	2.9	-14.7%
Essex, Bloomfield	22.2	33.3	50.0%	5.1	2.4	-52.9%
Newark, DO I	17.6	36.4	106.8%	0.4	5.3	1225.0%
Newark, DO III	16.7	19.4	16.2%	0.7	0.7	0.0%
Newark, DO II	20.4	18.8	-7.8%	4.8	0.7	-85.4%
Union East	19.1	20.6	7.9%	0.6	1.9	216.7%
Union West	24.2	25.3	4.5%	4.2	3.2	-23.8%
Region Total	19.5	25.8	32.3%	2.1	2.3	9.5%
Nothern Region						
Bergen	18.0	32.5	80.6%	1.8	5.0	177.8%
Hudson, Bayonne	18.2	27.8	52.7%	1.0	0.0	-100.0%
Hudson, Jersey City	7.1	22.1	211.3%	1.2	1.3	8.3%
Hudson, North	17.5	15.8	-9.7%	3.2	3.5	9.4%
Morris	21.4	26.3	22.9%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Central Passaic	16.2	27.5	69.8%	1.4	0.8	-42.9%
North Passaic	17.7	28.1	58.8%	1.0	3.1	210.0%
Sussex	16.7	22.6	35.3%	2.8	3.2	14.3%
Warren	33.3	35.3	6.0%	6.7	0.0	-100.0%
Region Total	17.1	26.3	53.8%	1.7	1.8	5.9%
Southern Region						
Atlantic	20.5	32.0	56.1%	0.8	2.7	237.5%
Burlington	33.1	42.1	27.2%	3.1	2.6	-16.1%
Camden, North	26.5	26.8	1.1%	3.5	2.4	-31.4%
Camden, Central	28.1	39.2	39.5%	1.5	3.3	120.0%
Cape May	18.7	18.1	-3.2%	2.7	1.4	-48.1%
Cumberland	29.0	22.9	-21.0%	3.2	2.5	-21.9%
Gloucester	36.1	34.9	-3.3%	8.3	2.3	-72.3%
Salem	27.3	16.7	-38.8%	1.8	4.2	133.3%
Region Total	27.6	30.3	9.8%	2.8	2.7	-3.6%
District Office Totals	22.1	27.1	22.8%	2.3	2.7	17.4%
Statewide Totals	15.3	17.1	11.8%	1.6	1.2	-25.0%

SOURCES:

DYFS Caseload Trend Reports, OPR-SISQ-12FC-A, April 1998
 DYFS Caseload Trend Reports, DAR-SISQ-12FC-A, April 2003

Percent of Children Ages 6-21 in Residential Care

	Children 6-12			Children 13-17			Children 18-21		
	1998	2003	% Change	1998	2003	% Change	1998	2003	% Change
Adoption Resource Centers									
Metro ARC	50.0	66.7	33.4%	50.0	33.3	-33.4%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Essex ARC	100.0	66.7	-33.3%	0.0	33.3	N/A	0.0	0.0	N/A
Northern ARC	66.7	77.8	16.6%	33.3	22.2	-33.3%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Southern ARC	0.0	42.9	N/A	100.0	42.9	-57.1%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Central ARC	0.0	53.8	N/A	100.0	46.2	-53.8%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Metro Select ARC	N/A	90.0	N/A	N/A	10.0	N/A	N/A	0.0	N/A
ARC Total	70.0	66.7	-4.7%	30.0	31.4	4.7%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Central Region									
Hunterdon	0.0	0.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Mercer	13.1	17.8	35.9%	82.0	77.8	-5.1%	4.9	4.4	-10.2%
Monmouth North	17.2	33.3	93.6%	72.4	58.3	-19.5%	10.3	8.3	-19.4%
Monmouth, Southern	10.0	17.1	71.0%	86.7	73.2	-15.6%	3.3	9.8	197.0%
Ocean	20.0	13.5	-32.5%	64.4	74.3	15.4%	15.6	12.2	-21.8%
Somerset	15.4	17.9	16.2%	76.9	71.4	-7.2%	7.7	10.7	39.0%
Region Total	14.8	17.7	19.6%	77.0	73.0	-5.2%	8.2	9.3	13.4%
Metro Region									
Middlesex, Edison	15.2	8.3	-45.4%	72.7	91.7	26.1%	12.1	0.0	-100.0%
Middlesex, Perth Amboy	22.2	12.1	-45.5%	77.8	78.8	1.3%	0.0	9.1	N/A
Essex, East Orange	35.7	24.0	-32.8%	57.1	76.0	33.1%	7.1	0.0	-100.0%
Essex, Bloomfield	18.8	0.0	-100.0%	62.5	81.8	30.9%	18.8	18.2	-3.2%
Newark, DO I	37.5	20.0	-46.7%	62.5	76.0	21.6%	0.0	4.0	N/A
Newark, DO III	29.4	0.0	-100.0%	64.7	100.0	54.6%	5.9	0.0	-100.0%
Newark, DO II	21.1	25.0	18.5%	63.2	75.0	18.7%	15.8	0.0	-100.0%
Union East	16.2	22.2	37.0%	83.8	77.8	-7.2%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Union West	0.0	21.1	N/A	92.3	78.9	-14.5%	7.7	0.0	-100.0%
Region Total	20.8	15.3	-26.4%	72.4	81.4	12.4%	6.8	3.3	-51.5%
Nothern Region									
Bergen	32.0	6.5	-79.7%	64.0	80.6	25.9%	4.0	12.9	222.5%
Hudson, Bayonne	23.8	6.5	-72.7%	66.7	87.1	30.6%	9.5	6.5	-31.6%
Hudson, Jersey City	57.1	14.3	-75.0%	42.9	81.0	88.8%	0.0	4.8	N/A
Hudson, North	29.4	36.4	23.8%	52.9	54.5	3.0%	17.6	9.1	-48.3%
Morris	22.2	13.6	-38.7%	77.8	81.8	5.1%	0.0	4.5	N/A
Central Passaic	28.6	26.5	-7.3%	66.7	61.8	-7.3%	4.8	11.8	145.8%
North Passaic	29.4	8.3	-71.8%	70.6	83.3	18.0%	0.0	8.3	N/A
Sussex	16.7	22.7	35.9%	83.3	72.7	-12.7%	0.0	4.5	N/A
Warren	25.0	9.1	-63.6%	75.0	81.8	9.1%	0.0	9.1	N/A
Region Total	28.9	15.0	-48.1%	66.9	76.8	14.8%	4.2	8.2	95.2%
Southern Region									
Atlantic	18.8	7.7	-59.0%	81.3	87.2	7.3%	0.0	2.6	N/A
Burlington	15.2	12.5	-17.8%	80.4	75.0	-6.7%	4.3	9.4	118.6%
Camden, North	9.1	2.5	-72.5%	83.3	91.3	9.6%	7.6	6.3	-17.1%
Camden, Central	5.1	14.5	184.3%	92.3	80.0	-13.3%	2.6	5.5	111.5%
Cape May	5.3	0.0	-100.0%	73.7	100.0	35.7%	21.1	0.0	-100.0%
Cumberland	11.8	12.1	2.5%	88.2	84.8	-3.9%	0.0	0.0	N/A
Gloucester	6.3	8.7	38.1%	87.5	82.6	-5.6%	6.3	8.7	38.1%
Salem	25.0	12.5	-50.0%	70.0	75.0	7.1%	5.0	6.3	N/A
Region Total	11.3	8.7	-23.0%	82.8	84.7	2.3%	5.9	5.2	-11.9%
District Office Totals	19.0	14.2	-25.2%	74.8	79.0	5.6%	6.3	6.5	3.6%
Statewide Totals	19.5	16.4	-15.9%	74.4	77.2	3.8%	6.1	5.9	-3.3%

SOURCES:

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