

DEPENDENT CHILDREN IN THE ARIZONA COURT SYSTEM

FISCAL YEAR 2006

JULY 1, 2005 TO JUNE 30, 2006



**ARIZONA SUPREME COURT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
DEPENDENT CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION**

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT DEPENDENT CHILDREN’S SERVICES DIVISION

Caroline Lauth-Owens, Director

COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Robert Shelley, Program Coordinator

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA) PROGRAM

Bonnie Marcus, Program Manager

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD (FCRB)

Bill Callahan, Program Manager

DIVISION MISSION STATEMENT

The Dependent Children’s Services Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts advocates, on a statewide level, for appropriate services and safe, permanent homes for children in foster care and works to ensure timely permanency for these children by:

- Evaluating and improving dependency case processing in the juvenile court;
- Recruiting and training community-based volunteers who advocate for the best interests of abused, neglected, and abandoned children;
- Acting as a referral source to the community for information regarding foster care, adoption, parent assistance, volunteer opportunities, volunteer training, and the child welfare and juvenile court processes.

Dependent Children in the Arizona Court System
Fiscal Year 2006
July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	vi
 Court Improvement Program.....	 1
Mission.....	1
Program Background.....	1
Accomplishments.....	2
Current and Future Projects.....	2
Program Statistics.....	4
 <i>Tables and Figures:</i>	
Arizona Dependency Process.....	5
Table 1: Petitions Filed During FY06.....	6
Table 2: Number of Children with Open Dependency Petitions FY06.....	7
Table 3: Preliminary Protective Hearing FY06.....	8
Table 4: Adjudication FY06.....	9
Table 5: Permanency Hearing FY06.....	10
Table 6: Average Time in Dependency System FY06.....	11
Table 7: Juveniles in a Dependency with Current or Historic Delinquency Activity.....	12
Table 8: Dependency Summary Report FY06.....	13
Figure 1: Parent Assistance Hotline (PAH).....	14
 Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program.....	 15
Mission, Vision, Values.....	15
Program Background.....	15
Program Organization.....	16
CASA Duties and Responsibilities.....	16
Accomplishments.....	17

Community Outreach.....	18
Website Development.....	20
Future Web Projects.....	21
Program Statistics.....	21

Tables and Figures:

Figure 1: CASAs Serving Per County.....	22
Figure 2: CASAs Ethnicity and Gender During the Year.....	23
Figure 3: Education of CASAs.....	23
Figure 4: Employment of CASAs.....	24
Figure 5: 3-Year Comparison of CASAs Serving During the Year.....	24
Figure 6: 3-Year Comparison of Average Time Served.....	25
Figure 7: 3-Year Comparison of Hours Donated.....	25
Figure 8: 3-Year Comparison of Reports to the Court.....	26
Figure 9: Reasons for Leaving the CASA Program.....	26
Figure 10: Child's Age at Closing or on 6/30/06.....	27
Figure 11: Ethnicity and Gender of Children Served by a CASA.....	27
Figure 12: Reason CASA Assignment Ended.....	28
Figure 13: Number of Dependent Children to Children Served by a CASA.....	29

Foster Care Review Board.....	30
Purpose.....	30
Mission.....	30
Standards of Conduct.....	30
Program Background.....	30
State Board.....	31
Accomplishments.....	32
Current and Future Projects.....	32
Program Statistics.....	33

Tables and Figures:

Table 1: Number of Boards Per County – As of June 30, 2006.....	33
Figure1: Active Volunteers.....	34
Table 2: Removal Review Volunteers by District.....	35

Figure 2:	Active Volunteers/Tenure in Years.....	36
Figure 3:	Volunteer Exit Reason.....	37
Figure 4:	Training Hours by County (Population over 200,000).....	38
Figure 5:	Training Hours by County (Population between 120,000 & 200,000).....	39
Figure 6:	Training Hours by County (Population less than 200,000).....	40
Figure 7:	Board Member Ethnicity.....	41
Figure 8:	Volunteer Education.....	42
Figure 9:	Volunteer Occupation.....	43
Figure 10:	Volunteer Household Income.....	44
Table 3:	Number of Children / Cases FY 2005.....	45
Table 4:	Number of Children / Cases FY 2006.....	46
Figure 11:	Children Registered in FY 2006.....	47
Figure 12:	Children Opened / Closed During the Fiscal Year.....	48
Figure 13:	FCRB Active Children.....	49
Figure 14:	FCRB Active Children by Gender.....	50
Figure 15:	FCRB Active Children by Ethnicity.....	51
Figure 16:	FCRB Active Children / County (Population Over 200,000).....	52
Figure 17:	FCRB Active Children / County (Population 120,000 to 200,000).....	53
Figure 18:	FCRB Active Children / County (Population Less than 120,000).....	54
Figure 19:	Children Closed by Reason.....	55
Table 5:	Findings / Possible Determinations.....	56
Figure 20:	Finding #1 Were There Efforts to Prevent Removal.....	57
Figure 21:	Finding #1 Were There Efforts to Prevent Removal.....	58
Figure 22:	Finding #1 Efforts to Prevent Removal / FY 06.....	59
Figure 23:	Finding #2 Is Out-Of-Home Placement Still Necessary.....	60
Figure 24:	Finding #2 Is Out-Of-Home Placement Still Necessary.....	61
Figure 25:	Finding #2 Is Out-Of-Home placement Necessary / FY 06.....	62
Figure 26:	Finding #3 Is the Placement Safe, Appropriate, and Least Restrictive.....	63
Figure 27:	Finding #3 Is the Placement Safe, Appropriate, and Least Restrictive.....	64
Figure 28:	Finding #3 Is the Placement Safe, Appropriate, and Least Restrictive.....	65
Figure 29:	Finding #4 Is There an Appropriate Case Plan for Each Person.....	66
Figure 30:	Finding #4 Is There an Appropriate Case Plan for Each Person.....	67
Figure 31:	Finding #4 Appropriate Case Plan / FY 06.....	68
Figure 32:	Finding #5 Progress Toward Case Plan Tasks.....	69

Figure 33: Finding #5 Progress Toward Case Plan Tasks.....	70
Figure 34: Finding #5 Progress Toward Case Plan Tasks / FY 2006.....	71
Figure 35: Finding #6 Is There Progress Toward Permanency.....	73
Figure 36: Finding #6 Is There Progress Toward Permanency.....	74
Figure 37: Finding #6 Is There Progress Toward Permanency / FY 2006.....	75
Figure 38: Finding #7 Realistic Target Date.....	76
Figure 39: Finding #7 Is There a Realistic Target Date for the Case Plan.....	77
Figure 40: Finding #7 Realistic Target Date /FY 2006.....	78
Figure 41: Finding #8 Board Finds Reasonable Efforts.....	79
Figure 42: Finding #8 Does the Board Find That the Agency Made Reasonable Efforts.....	80
Figure 43: Finding #8 Reasonable Efforts / FY 2006.....	81
Figure 44: Finding #9 Child's Education Being Implemented.....	82
Figure 45: Finding #9 Is The Child's Education Being Implemented.....	83
Figure 46: Finding #9 Child's Education Implemented / FY 2006.....	84
Figure 47: Finding #10 Are There Significant Service Gaps and System Problems.....	85
Figure 48: Finding #10 Are There Significant Service Gaps and System Problems.....	86
Figure 49: Finding #10 No Significant Service Gaps and System Problems / FY06.....	87
Figure 50: Removal Reviews – Cases by DES District.....	88
Figure 51: Removal Reviews – Children by DES District.....	89
Figure 52: Removal Reviews – CY06 (Population over 200,000).....	90
Figure 53: Removal Reviews – Children (County population over 200,000).....	91
Figure 54: Removal Reviews / CY06 (County population between 120,000 & 200,000).....	92
Figure 55: Removal Reviews – Children (County population between 120,000 & 200,000)	93
Figure 56: Removal Reviews / CY06 (County population less than 120,000).....	94
Figure 57: Removal Reviews – Children (County population less than 120,000).....	95
Glossary of Dependency Terms.....	96

DEPENDENT CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION

INTRODUCTION

The data for this report are drawn from the fifteen juvenile courts' On-line-Tracking System (JOLTS) and the Dependent Children Automated Tracking System (DCATS).

JOLTS is the juvenile court information management system that has been tracking the cases of dependent children for five years. Each juvenile court actively participates in collecting and maintaining the data to ensure quality and accuracy. DCATS is used by the Foster Care Review Board and Court Appointed Special Advocate Programs. This system has been operational for ten years. Foster Care Review Board Program Specialists collect and maintain information in DCATS regarding each case reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board. County CASA offices are responsible for entering their volunteer and case information into the DCATS database.

The following report provides a statewide overview of children in the dependency system during Fiscal Year 2006 (July 1, 2005–June 30, 2006). Selected breakdowns of unduplicated counts are presented herein from the three programs.

Note that not all of the children entered the system during Fiscal Year 2006. Some may have entered in previous fiscal years but have not yet achieved permanency. Each child included in this report was the subject of a hearing at least once during the fiscal year.

The number of children involved in the juvenile court system is influenced by several factors, including legislative actions, economic trends, parenting skills, and the number of children ages birth to 18 years old. Through Fiscal Year 2006, the number of children in the dependency system has continued to increase, a trend that is apparent in several of the tables and figures presented herein.

ARIZONA COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mission

The Court Improvement program was established federally to evaluate and improve dependency case processing in the juvenile courts throughout the nation. Arizona is one of the leading states in the nation in addressing many aspects of the dependency process to increase efficiency. This has been accomplished through active judicial oversight, timely case processing and shorter temporary placements for children. The child's safety, permanency and well being are addressed as the foremost priority.

Program Background

The passage of the federal Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act (Public Law 96-272) in 1980 compelled the juvenile courts to take a more active role in child maltreatment cases. However, Public Law 96-272 did not address the resources required to implement the expectations delineated in the statute. Therefore, the courts and child protective services found it difficult to meet the mandates of the law and subsequent increase in dependency cases. In 1993, Congress passed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (Public Law 103-66) which established a grant program to address the handling of child abuse cases. Prior to Arizona establishing its Court Improvement Program, an assessment of the juvenile courts' handling of dependency cases was completed by the National Center for Juvenile Justice. The findings and recommendations were the basis by which the Court Improvement Program was created.

The Court Improvement Program was established to address the following:

- **Provide state appropriated funding to assist dependency caseflow in counties based upon the previous fiscal year's new petition count** – The Arizona legislature approved state appropriated funding for dependencies starting in fiscal year 1998. The funding was a significant step in recognizing that child abuse and neglect cases were important.
- **Provide technical assistance and training to counties as they revise local dependency practices** – The program has provided dependency training to numerous clerks, attorneys, and other child welfare-related individuals in rural counties. This has assisted tremendously in improving efficiency in dependency cases.
- **Provide oversight of mandated introductory training for judicial officers new to the dependency bench** – In January 1999, the Chief Justice mandated that judges new to the dependency bench would complete such training. Court Improvement works with staff from the Education Services Division of the AOC to ensure that the annual "Dependency 101" training is offered to all judges new to dependency case proceedings. Additionally, the "Dependency Track" at the annual Arizona Judicial Conference was offered for the first time in 2006. Four

sessions on various, dependency related topics were offered as a workshop alternative for all judges in attendance. An average of over 30 Judges attended each of the sessions and rated the experience very highly.

- **Develop and modify the juvenile rules and benchbook to reflect any changes to federal and/or state statutes regarding dependencies** – A subcommittee of the Committee on Juvenile Courts (COJC) has been assembled to address statutory changes that may effect dependency case processing.
- **Implement an operational review process which evaluates the dependency process and compliance with governing statutes** – The program is currently conducting the second round of reviews. The tool being utilized has been modified to address the changes suggested by the counties following the initial reviews. The results of the review are utilized to assist the juvenile courts in improving their management of dependency cases.
- **Assist with the development and enhancement of the Juvenile On-Line Tracking System (JOLTS) as it relates to the cases of dependent children** – The statewide dependency data collection system compiles information on children and families in the dependency system. JOLTS undergoes frequent updates to improve the management of and reporting on the data stored in the system.

Accomplishments

Since the statewide changes in the Arizona dependency process first began in 1998, the Court Improvement Program has assisted County Courts to improve outcomes for dependent children. The Court Improvement Program and County Courts have worked with the Division of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) and key stakeholders to help ensure the safety, permanency and well being of children brought into foster care. Through these efforts, several key improvements have been made:

- The dependency court process has become more substantive.
- The dependency process has become less adversarial.
- Parents are now more involved in making decisions regarding their children and the future of their families.
- Attorneys are meeting with their clients earlier in the process and are more knowledgeable about their cases.
- Services are being provided to children and their families earlier in the process.
- Children are spending less time in care.

Current and Future Projects

Court Improvement (CI) staff are involved in a number of activities to assist the Court in its efforts to ensure the safety, permanency and well being of children in foster care.

- **Judges Training** – Court Improvement works with staff from the Education Services Division of the AOC to ensure that the annual “Dependency 101” training is offered to all judges new to dependency case proceedings. Additionally, the “Dependency Track” at the annual Arizona Judicial Conference was offered for the first time in 2006. Four sessions on various, dependency related topics were offered as workshop alternatives for all judges in attendance. An average of over 30 Judges attended each of the sessions and rated the experience very highly. Court Improvement is also organizing an “Educational Summit” where both local and national experts will gather to discuss and make recommendations regarding prospective improvements in the way that Arizona Judges are educated about topics key to the juvenile dependency process.
- **Juvenile Benchbook** – Program staff continue to work with dependency experts throughout the state in an effort to ensure that the information contained in the Benchbook is current.
- **Attorney Training** – With changes to the curriculum to meet the requirements of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), this one day training continues to be offered in rural counties throughout the state. The “second round” of this training will be completed in FY07 after which time efforts will be made to bring together state experts to review the curriculum and discuss the feasibility of adopting statewide attorney standards for those who practice in dependency matters.
- **Data Tracking** – Development continues on the new JOLTSaz system. CI staff continue to work with the development teams as they continue to gather the requirements for the new system. Key to this effort will be to identify those areas in which data reporting will prove to be most beneficial. CI staff will continue to work with JOLTSaz personnel and key County JOLTS users in an attempt to identify those “performance measures” which will benefit users and offer the best window into the efforts made on these cases.
- **Appeals of the Termination of Parental Rights** – Through the work of a subcommittee of the CI Advisory Workgroup, a petition requesting a change in the way that Courts handle these appeals will shortly be filed with the Supreme Court. If the petition is passed, it will likely become effective in January 2007. It is hoped that these changes will result in a decrease in the number of appeals filed on “meritless” or “abandoned” cases.
- **Jury Trial Study Released** – In December 2005, a report was released whose aim was to review the TPR Jury Trial process. Gene Siegel, M.A. and Michelle Robbins, Esq. completed “Termination of Parental Rights by Jury Trial – A Second Year Analysis”, finding no significant difference in the eventual outcome of TPR jury trials versus bench trials. The researchers reported that jury trials posed significant increases in workload and time for those involved and, in many cases, appeared to have significant effects on the calendaring of other court matters. Limited copies of the report were distributed to key stakeholders and it is available on the Court Improvement website (www.azcip.org).

- **Open Court Pilot** – Pursuant to the legislation that was the foundation for the pilot, and if no new legislation was approved, the open court process was to be repealed after December 31, 2005. The Arizona Department of Economic Security worked with the Courts and with CI staff and was responsible for completing the report on this process that was due to the legislature in November 2005. No new legislation has since been approved and, therefore, the Arizona Open Court Pilot process was repealed from Arizona law as of December 31, 2005.
- **Dependency Caseflow Management** – Through the initial work of a subcommittee of the CI Advisory Workgroup, the CI staff has been able to identify and begin working with the contractor who will implement the statewide Dependency Caseflow Management process. Three regional summits will be held, the last of which will be in September 2006. As a result of these two-day training sessions, each of Arizona's 15 County Courts will have in place a Dependency Caseflow Management team and will have identified objectives to address what they see as areas for improvement in the way that they handle dependency cases.
- **Parent Assistance Hotline** – CI staff continue to provide help to the general public through the Parent Assistance Hotline and remain committed to assisting individuals who have questions and/or concerns regarding CPS's removal of children from their home, custody issues, or various other topics of interest to the callers.

Program Statistics

Program statistics for fiscal year 2006 are found on the following pages. Data quality assurance is ongoing throughout the state. Quality assurance efforts continue to improve the accuracy of all data represented in the system. Such ongoing efforts, coupled with the creation of a new data tracking system, promise to significantly enhance the quality of information to be shared regarding Arizona's dependent children.

Arizona Dependency Process

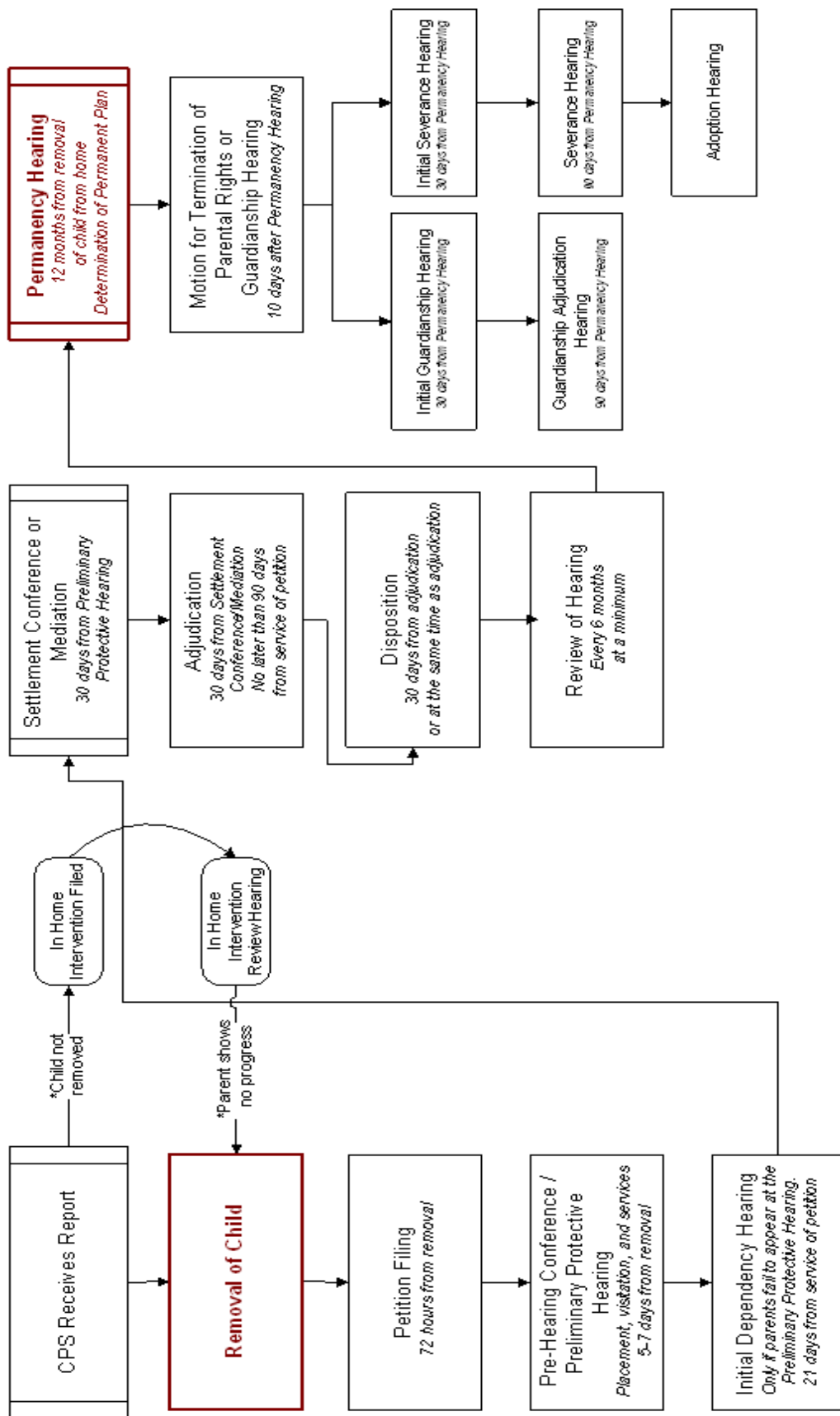


Table 1 refers only to dependency petitions filed by the Arizona Attorney General's office. Petitions are filed because of allegations of abuse or neglect. Allegations are brought by Child Protective Services and presented before the juvenile court to determine the best interests of the child. The following table lists all dependency (excluding severance or adoption petitions) filed during this period. Totals are actual petitions and should not be confused with the number of children that might be associated with each petition.

Table 1: Petitions Filed During FY06	
<i>County</i>	<i># Petitions Filed</i>
Apache	21
Cochise	103
Coconino	51
Gila	41
Graham	18
Greenlee	5
La Paz	2
Maricopa	1,812
Mohave	53
Navajo	48
Pima	945
Pinal	252
Santa Cruz	11
Yavapai	178
Yuma	67
Totals	3,607

A dependency petition is closed when either a child is reunified with the parent(s) or an alternative permanent placement is found and the court dismisses the case. Table 2 provides a count of children who were active in the dependency process during the fiscal year.

Table 2: Number of Children with Open Dependency Petitions FY06

<i>County</i>	<i>Children with Open Dependency Petition</i>
Apache	117
Cochise	502
Coconino	214
Gila	210
Graham	119
Greenlee	35
La Paz	14
Maricopa	8,308
Mohave	254
Navajo	268
Pima	4,422
Pinal	1,089
Santa Cruz	65
Yavapai	769
Yuma	760
Totals	17,146

The Preliminary Protective Hearing is scheduled within 5-7 business days of a child's removal from the home and focuses on placement, services, and visitation. Table 3 provides the number of children with petitions meeting preliminary protective hearing requirements (within 5-7 business days of removal from home) and the number outside the parameter.

Table 3: Preliminary Protective Hearing FY06		
<i>County</i>	<i>7 Days or Less</i>	<i>Greater Than 7 Days</i>
Apache	25	11
Cochise	123	14
Coconino	74	0
Gila	45	11
Graham	33	3
Greenlee	6	1
La Paz	0	0
Maricopa	2,089	371
Mohave	34	44
Navajo	98	1
Pima*	737	688
Pinal	373	46
Santa Cruz	15	0
Yavapai	257	11
Yuma	112	3
Total Children	4,021	1,204

*Pursuant to ARS 8-824(A), the court is to hold the PPH within five to seven days after the child is taken into custody (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays). The statute also permits for one continuance of the PPH that does not exceed five days if it is deemed "clearly necessary to prevent abuse or neglect, to preserve the rights of a party or for other good cause shown".

It is during the dependency adjudication hearing that the court determines whether the allegations set forth in the dependency petition are sustained by the evidence and legally sufficient to support state intervention on behalf of the child. Table 4 provides a count of children adjudicated dependent as to one or both parents, the average number of days to dependency adjudication from removal from home date or petition filing, and the number of children whose petitions have been dismissed.

Table 4: Adjudication FY06			
<i>County</i>	<i>Children Adjudicated (As to One or Both Parents)</i>	<i>Average Days to Adjudication (As to One or Both Parents)</i>	<i>Children with Dismissed Petitions</i>
Apache	36	68	0
Cochise	166	72	12
Coconino	76	42	1
Gila	71	89	9
Graham	40	27	0
Greenlee	8	78	0
La Paz	0	0	0
Maricopa	2,373	55	105
Mohave	88	34	8
Navajo	116	33	0
Pima	1,480	61	215
Pinal	440	64	31
Santa Cruz	18	127	1
Yavapai	282	56	7
Yuma	119	23	0
Totals	5,313	57	389

It should be noted that some counties may indicate in the tracking system that a child is dependent when adjudication occurs as to the first parent while other counties may wait until the child is found dependent as to both parents.

According to the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA), the decision regarding the permanent placement of a child involved in a dependency petition must be made within twelve months of removal from home. Table 5 shows the number of children with petitions in which a permanent plan was ordered within twelve months of the removal from home.

Table 5: Permanency Hearing FY06		
<i>County</i>	<i>Eligible Children</i>	<i>Children with permanent plan in 365 days or less</i>
Apache	17	13
Cochise	98	57
Coconino	58	42
Gila	35	21
Graham	33	28
Greenlee	16	15
La Paz	na	na
Maricopa	1,924	1,510
Mohave	92	54
Navajo	73	50
Pima	861	419
Pinal	107	58
Santa Cruz	9	6
Yavapai	220	167
Yuma	62	23
Totals	3,605	2,463

Due to the agreed upon business rules regarding data entry into JOLTS, the data collected in this table is derived from the case plan entered into the tracking system and not necessarily the date of the permanency hearing.

The length of time children are involved in the dependency process varies and is influenced by numerous factors, many of which are beyond the control of the court. The amount of time that a child spends in the dependency system can be useful information as the court seeks to address and improve upon the efforts being made to care for a dependent child. The following table considers the time from a child's removal to the dismissal of the dependency petition filed on their behalf. A number of the petitions were dismissed prior to the child being adjudicated.

Table 6: Average Time in Dependency System FY06

County	<i>Petitions Dismissed Prior to Dependency Adjudication (days)</i>	<i>Petitions Dismissed Following Dependency Adjudication (days)</i>	<i>Total Number of Children Dismissed</i>
Apache	304	868	22
Cochise	160	715	176
Coconino	150	642	67
Gila	249	492	87
Graham	4	646	43
Greenlee	na	443	13
La Paz	na	na	na
Maricopa	78	812	2,522
Mohave	151	918	94
Navajo	na	622	75
Pima	96	815	1,574
Pinal	147	713	273
Santa Cruz	93	917	21
Yavapai	318	744	219
Yuma	256	471	102
Totals	107	785	5,288

The courts have historically been concerned about dual jurisdiction children as they often require the involvement of multiple agencies involvement and are a greater risk of subsequent issues. The following table shows the number of children in each county who are found to be dependent or have been temporarily subject to court jurisdiction pending an adjudication of a dependency petition and who are alleged or found to have committed a delinquent or incorrigible act.

<i>Table 7: Juveniles in a Dependency with Current or Historic Delinquency Activity FY06</i>		
<i>County</i>	<i>Total Number of Dually Adjudicated Children</i>	<i>Percentage of Children with an Open Dependency Petition</i>
Apache	17	15%
Cochise	43	9%
Coconino	27	13%
Gila	22	10%
Graham	8	7%
Greenlee	3	9%
La Paz	8	57%
Maricopa	1,045	13%
Mohave	23	9%
Navajo	15	6%
Pima	544	12%
Pinal	118	11%
Santa Cruz	7	11%
Yavapai	88	11%
Yuma	147	19%
Totals	2,115	12%

Table 8: Dependency Summary Report FY06

County	<i>Children Open at End of FY06*</i>	<i>Petitions Open at Start of FY06</i>	<i>Petitions Filed FY06</i>	<i>Petitions Closed FY06</i>	<i>Petitions Open at End of FY06</i>
Apache	117	48	21	14	55
Cochise	502	194	103	109	188
Coconino	214	84	51	46	89
Gila	210	70	41	43	68
Graham	119	39	18	22	35
Greenlee	35	17	5	6	16
La Paz	14	9	2	0	11
Maricopa	8,308	3,344	1,812	1,545	3,611
Mohave	254	116	53	63	106
Navajo	268	98	48	45	101
Pima	4,422	1,786	945	950	1,781
Pinal	1,089	364	252	155	461
Santa Cruz	65	22	11	11	22
Yavapai	769	291	178	127	342
Yuma	760	476	67	52	491
Totals	17,146	6,958	3,607	3,188	7,377

*This represents the number of children who had an open case at the end of the fiscal year (as of 6/30/06).

Parent Assistance Hotline (PAH)

PAH receives inquiries from the general public regarding a variety of topics. Below is a summary of the inquiries processed by hotline staff for FY06.

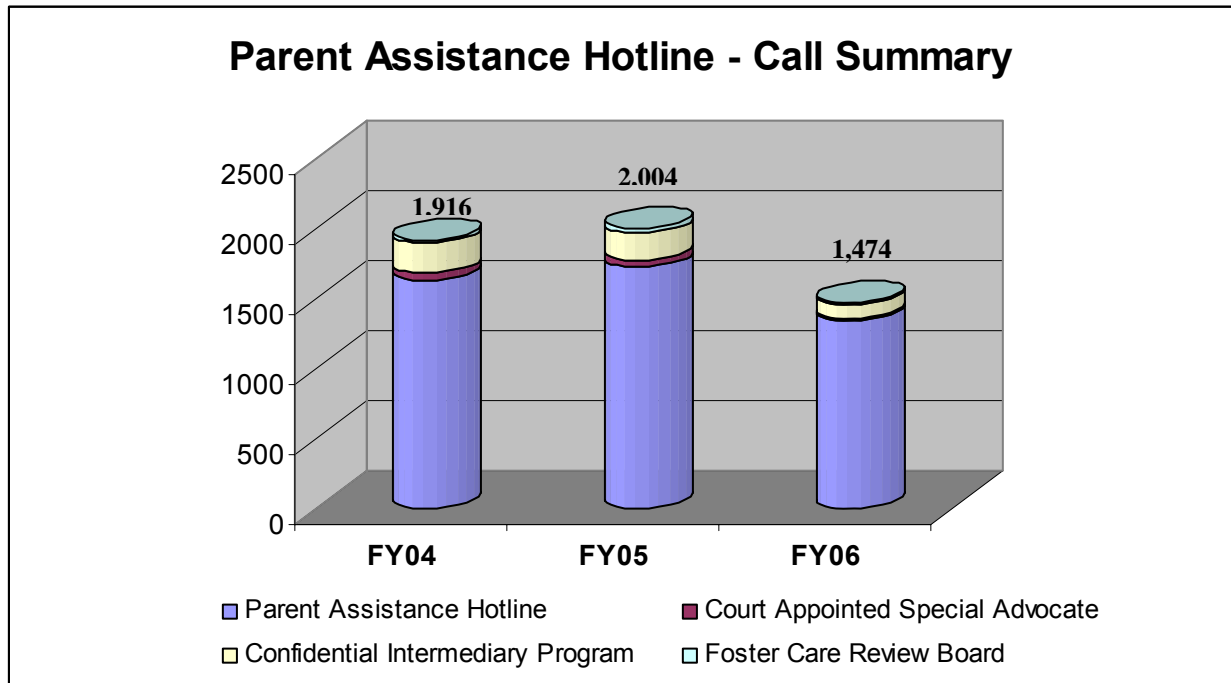


Figure 1

Included in the PAH category are those relating directly to dependent children issues as well as calls relating to an assortment of other topics.

ARIZONA COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA) PROGRAM

Mission

The mission of the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program is to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children who are involved in the juvenile courts.

We promote and support community-based volunteers, certified by the Supreme Court, who provide quality advocacy to help assure each child a safe, permanent, nurturing home.

Vision

Change the world—Invest in the future—Bring the gift of hope to all abused and neglected children—*one child at a time.*

Values

We will provide independent, objective, factual information to the juvenile court through quality court reports.

We will be an active participant in the child's case management team.

We will keep our commitment to the children.

We will conduct ourselves and our work with competency and professionalism.

We will be persistent in our work.

We will continue to improve ourselves through education and experience in order to improve the lives of the children we serve.

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program is established by Arizona statute to provide specially trained community volunteers to advocate for children who have been removed from their homes by Child Protective Services and are wards of the court (dependent children). A CASA gathers and provides independent, factual information about a child's dependency case to aid the court in making decisions regarding what is in the child's best interest and in determining if reasonable efforts are being made to achieve permanency for the child. The CASA provides advocacy to ensure that appropriate case planning and services are provided for the child.

Program Background

The first Court Appointed Special Advocate program was formed in Seattle, Washington in 1976 by Superior Court Judge David Soukup, who felt that he had insufficient information to allow him to make critical decisions in dependency cases. He believed that people of the community could be assigned to the cases, research the facts surrounding each case, and provide him with information about the child and family, advocating for what was in the best interest of the child.

The Arizona Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program was established in 1985 in Maricopa County. In 1987, Arizona Rules of Court, Juvenile Court Rules, Rules 22 and 22.1 were written that required the appointment of a guardian ad litem in any dependency action in which the petition includes an allegation that the child was abused or neglected. Also in 1987 the Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 87-11 was implemented. It described the policies and standards governing the creation and administration of the Arizona Court Appointed Special Advocate Program and minimum performance standards of volunteer special advocates.

In 1991 House Bill 2419 was signed into law amending Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) Sections 5-518 and 8-522, amending Title 8, Chapter 5, Article 1, and adding Sections 8-522, 8-523, and 8-524. This legislation statutorily established the authority, duties, and responsibilities of the Supreme Court, local juvenile courts, and volunteer special advocates, and provided for 30% of the unclaimed lottery winnings as the funding source for the CASA Program. By January 1993, every county juvenile court had established a CASA program.

The Arizona CASA Program is an active member of the National CASA Association.

Program Organization

All 15 counties in Arizona have a CASA Program located within their juvenile courts, under the administration of the Arizona CASA Program. Fifty-three staff personnel make up the county CASA Programs, and the state administrative staff of seven brings the total of CASA program staff statewide to 60.

CASA Duties and Responsibilities

A CASA volunteer is appointed to a specific child or sibling group by an Order of the Court issued by a juvenile court judge. Once appointed, the CASA is considered an officer of the court and serves as a “friend of the court.” The court order gives the CASA authority to access all information pertaining to the child and any extended family members of the child, without consent of the child, parents, or family members.

CASA Duties and Responsibilities are defined in A.R.S. § 8-522, which state that the CASA is to:

- Meet with the child.
- Advocate for the child’s safety as the first priority.
- Gather and provide independent, factual information to aid the court in making its decision regarding what is in the child’s best interest and in determining if reasonable efforts have been made to prevent removal of the child from the child’s home or to reunite the child with the child’s family.

In the performance of these duties, the CASA must maintain the confidentiality of the case, develop and maintain a relationship with the child, fully document all case activity, participate as a member of the case management team and participate in all agreements or case plans, monitor the child’s placement, ensure that educational needs are met, attend court hearings and provide written court reports to the judge for all Report and

Review and Permanency hearings, and attend Foster Care Review Board meetings to update them on the progress of the case.

Accomplishments

Training

An integral part of being a CASA is receiving training that will provide preparation for the work that is done for Arizona's abused and neglected children. Our CASAs receive 30 hours of required training as set by the standards of the National CASA Association. The CASA Orientation training held at the Arizona Supreme Court in Phoenix accounts for 15 hours of required training over a two-day period. The remaining 15 hours is offered within the CASA's respective county. During the two-day orientation, CASAs learn about the Child Protective Services System, the Juvenile Dependency System, Reasonable Efforts Legislation, and the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA). They also learn about confidentiality statutes and policies regarding Liability and Child Safety. The dynamics of the family is an important learning module of the two-day orientation. CASAs who attended the two-day orientation in FY06 also learned about Substance Abuse, Attachment and Bonding, Cultural Awareness, and Poverty. After the initial 30 hours of orientation training, CASAs are required to obtain 12 hours of in-service training per year.

Highlights

- Six CASA orientation trainings were offered during FY06, at which 259 new CASAs were trained.
- The CASA Training Specialist traveled to seven different Arizona counties to meet with CASAs representing all 15 counties to discuss their training needs.
- The CASA video library was enhanced with the addition of over 50 DVD titles for our CASAs to check out through our website to assist with obtaining additional in-service training hours.
- A Training Focus Group was formed, including both rural and urban county coordinators and state office staff, to meet and discuss ways to improve the CASA orientation training.
- DES presented "From Foster Care to Self Sufficiency" to CASAs and FCRB volunteers. This training discussed Arizona's programs for supporting foster youth through the transition from foster care to independent living.
- The Arizona Drug Endangered Children (ADEC) Program, sponsored by the Arizona Attorney General's Office, provided training on the dangers of methamphetamine, including demonstration of a mock lab and the ingredients used to produce the drug.

County	CASAs attending Orientation	Total Orientation hours received	CASAs receiving in-service training	Total in-service hours received
Apache County	2	30	2	4
Cochise County	5	60	37	506
Coconino County	4	60	18	461
Gila County	9	135	41	816
Graham County	2	30	10	84
Greenlee County	0	0	2	10
La Paz County	0	0	1	5
Maricopa County	100	1,470	267	2,918
Mohave County	20	300	49	986
Navajo County	10	150	19	259
Pima County	63	945	236	3,364
Pinal County	10	156	38	554
Santa Cruz County	7	105	9	65
Yavapai County	16	240	64	829
Yuma County	11	165	31	501
Total for FY06	259	3,846	824	11,362

Community Outreach

The CASA Program was actively engaged in our community. With offices in each of Arizona's 15 counties, CASA strives to bring awareness statewide to the problem of child abuse, neglect, and abandonment. FY 2006 was a busy year for the program. Some of the highlights are described below.

- October and November highlighted adoption. CASA staff at the county and state levels participated in local adoption events to celebrate National Adoption Day. Attention was given to the growing need for more foster and adoptive homes and the significance adoptive parents play in the lives of children.
- State CASA staff participated in the coordination of the annual Sibling Reunion Day hosted by the Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation. Events were held in Tucson and Phoenix where siblings in foster care gathered at a park for a picnic for reunions and visits. CASA staff and volunteers donated their time for this event.
- Facilitated by the state office, county programs commemorated National CASA's "Light of Hope" recognition of April as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month. Statewide, CASAs lit candles at 7:30 p.m. on April 7, 2006 to remember not only the victims, but more importantly, the survivors of child abuse and neglect. The Honorable Robert M. Brutinel, Presiding Judge for the Superior

Court in Yavapai County and Chairman of the Committee on Juvenile Courts, wrote a letter of support for the CASA Program. He noted the necessity of our advocates and the importance of reflection and giving hope to the survivors of child abuse and neglect. In addition, the Pima County CASA Program held its second annual "Rally for Children," which included speakers from their juvenile court, the state CASA office and the local child abuse prevention agency.

- The 850 CASAs throughout the state were awarded the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award in the Direct Care/Advocacy category. This award was presented in April during Victim's Rights Week. CASAs and CASA staff from around the state were on hand to receive the award.
- State staff assisted in the planning and execution of the annual Blue Ribbon Event held in May. This event, sponsored by the Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents, drew more than 100 people and highlighted the importance of foster and adoptive parents. A Maricopa County CASA was a featured speaker at this event.
- At the end of the fiscal year, the CASA Program revealed its new outreach campaign. A work group consisting of county coordinators and state program staff spent several months of discussion on a new tagline and the layout, design, and content of a new recruitment brochure. The new look is a simple silhouette of a CASA holding her CASA child's hand on the way into the court building. This image represents the primary job of a CASA. Resulting from the work group's deliberations as well, the new tagline for the Arizona CASA Program was created: **CASA ~ Positive Action. Powerful Results.**

The county and state offices have been involved in numerous recruitment activities that have helped increase the number of new CASAs attending the mandatory Orientation Training by 5%.

Number of New CASAs Attending Orientation Training	
FY05	FY06
247	259

Examples of these recruitment efforts include:

- Enhancing the Arizona CASA website to highlight the county programs
- Public Service Announcements on television and radio.
- Placing CASA brochures in new resident or homeowner welcome mailings.
- Presentations at schools, local organizations, chambers of commerce.
- Encouraging corporate volunteerism.

- Asking current CASAs to talk to their family and circles of friends about CASA.
- Exhibiting the CASA Program at conferences, fairs, and meetings.

CASA programs also work to retain CASAs once they have completed a case. This has been accomplished through the following:

- State CASA of the Year Award
- Award and recognition events in each county
- Monthly support network meetings in most counties
- Ongoing training on relevant topics

In addition to recruiting, screening, training, and providing support to their CASAs throughout the year, county staff also served on numerous committees and workgroups for their courts, including drug court, dependency case flow, domestic violence, and behavioral health committees.

Website Development

There were many dramatic changes to the Arizona CASA Program website during fiscal year 2006. The CASA website is a critical tool to help recruit, promote, support, and retain CASAs, as well as to educate the general public, potential child advocates, existing CASAs, and program staff. The prior website design, though adequate, was outdated and lacked many features that current design standards and technological advancements could provide. Therefore the major change that occurred during fiscal year 2006 was a total redesign of the azcasa.org website.

In addition, a few new features were added to the website:

- An online resource library that allows CASAs, FCRB volunteers, and court personnel to select and check out books or videos on various child related topics.
- A calendar of events feature that posts details of state, community, and CASA program events that relate to the training of child advocates.
- Fifteen county web pages that include a referral form and information about the specific county programs.
- A CASA stories page which has a video of CASA children speaking about what their advocate means to them.
- A FAQ section to help answer questions that individuals new to the program might ask.
- The history of the CASA program is laid out to help reinforce the need for the CASA program.

- A web page tracking system was incorporated into the website to more accurately track website visits and usage.
- Search engine marketing efforts were introduced by adding key search words and page descriptions to the code.

Future Web Projects

- County program specific pages to include features such as “Meet the Staff,” “Meet the Judge” (bio and video of judge), “Newsletters,” and “News & Events” pages.
- Redesign of the training section to be more user-friendly and accessible.
- Training module formats to include an “audio” format so that advocates can listen from their computers or download to their PDAs for convenient learning options.
- Addition of new training module subjects and information.
- Secured area on website for CASA program staff to browse and review documents, forms, and information specific to their needs.
- Web conferencing abilities to increase the frequency and lower the costs of meetings between the 15 county program offices.

Program Statistics

CASAs

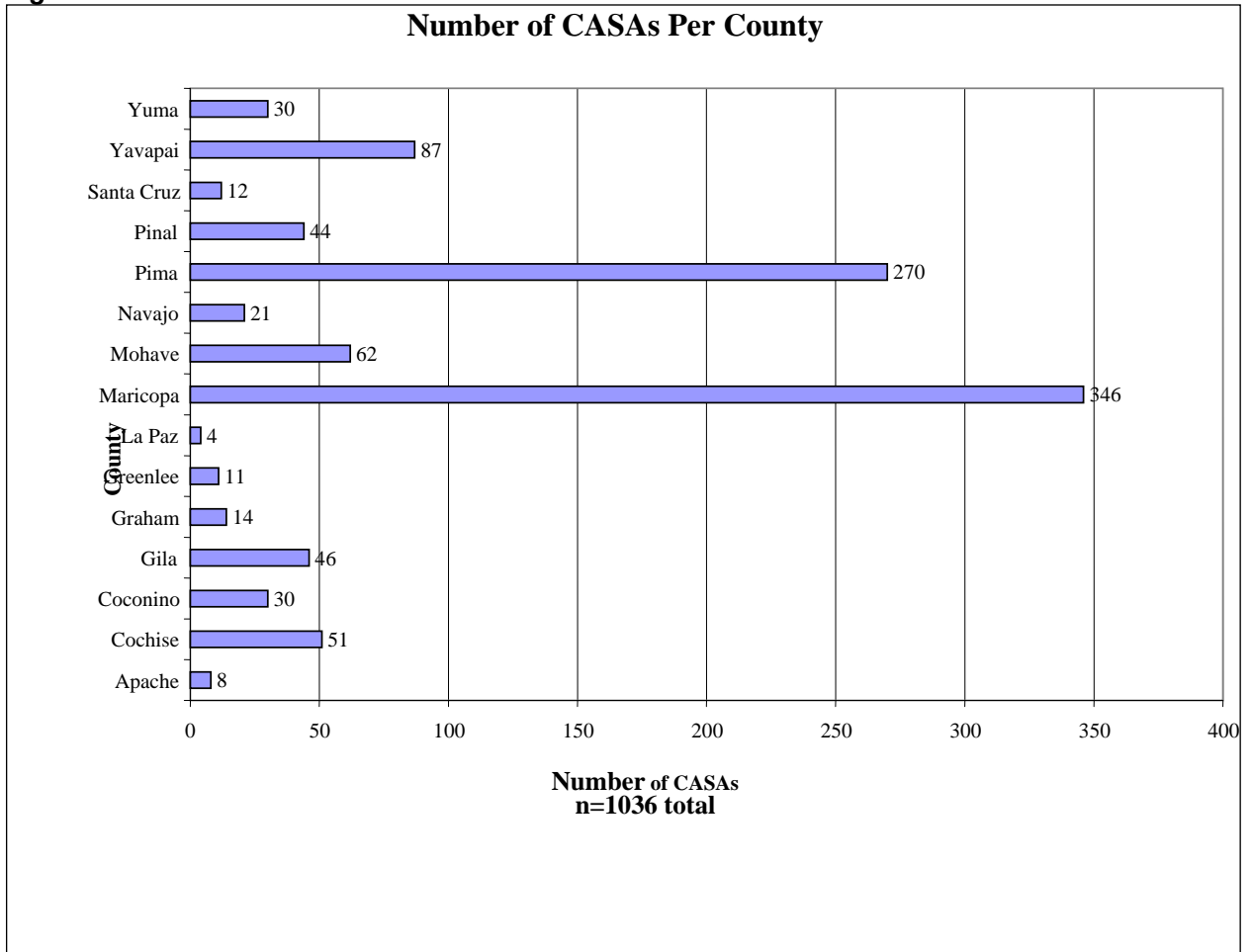
During fiscal year 2006, 1036 CASAs donated their time to help Arizona’s children who were involved in the dependency court system. As of June 30, there were 823 CASAs.

In fiscal year 2006, 1036 CASAs reported the following while performing their advocacy duties:

1,649 children served
65,813 hours of service donated
1,666 reports to the court
716,003 miles driven

The number of CASAs who served throughout the fiscal year in each county is depicted by the following figure.

Figure 1



The following three figures provide the gender, ethnicity, employment, and education breakdown of the 1,036 CASAs who served during fiscal year 2006.

Figure 2

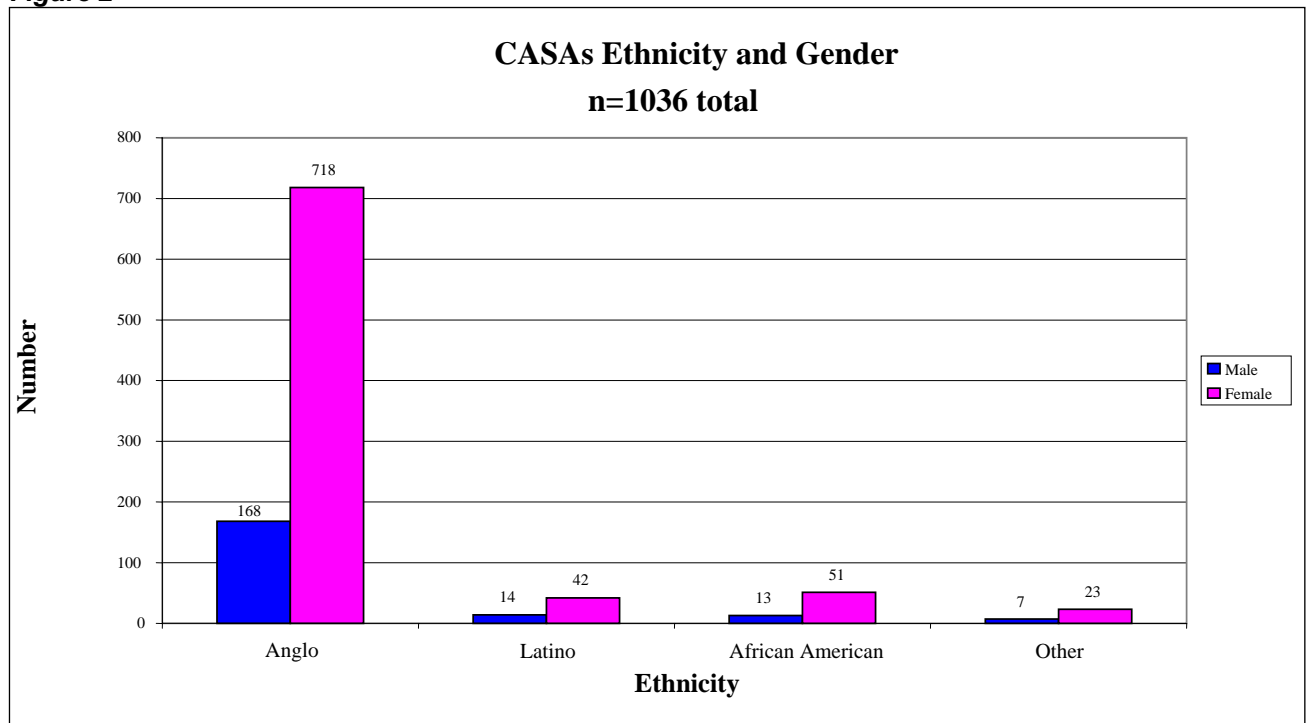


Figure 3

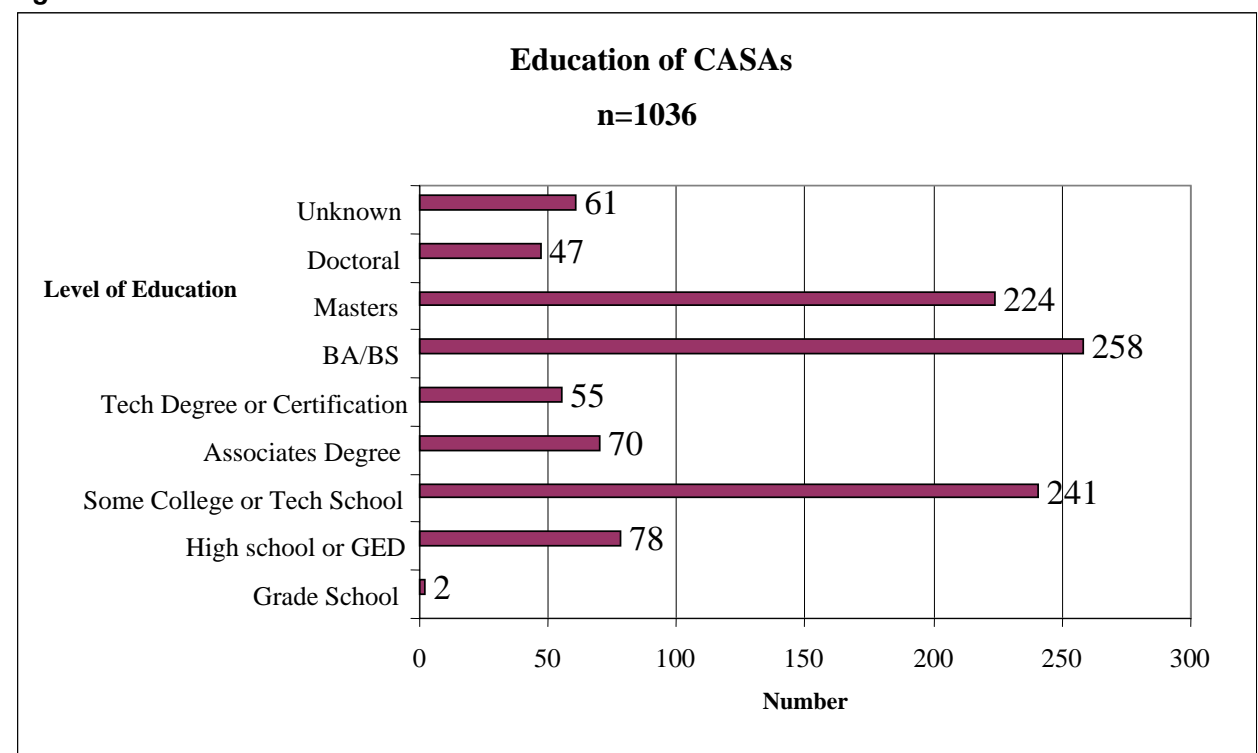
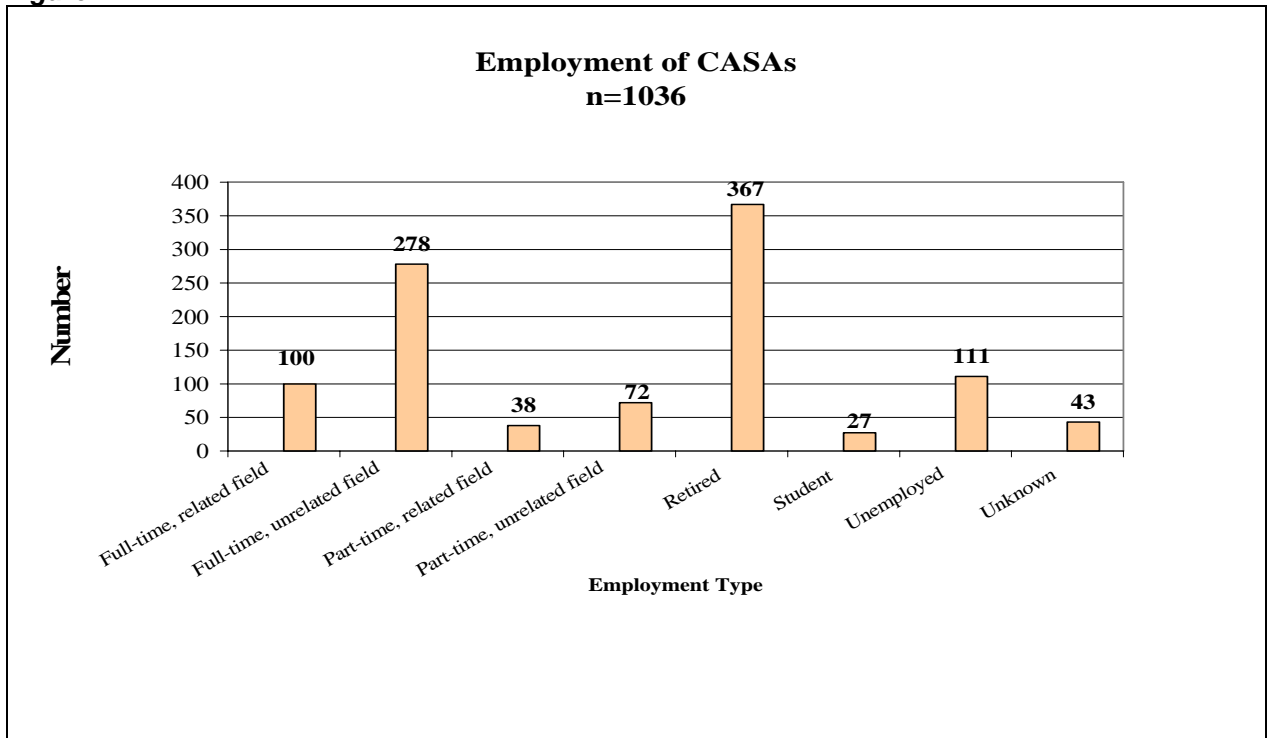


Figure 4



The following four figures provide a three-year comparison of CASAs who served the program. They include the total number of CASAs who served on a case during the year, the average time served on a case this year, the number of hours donated, and the number of reports to the court.

Figure 5

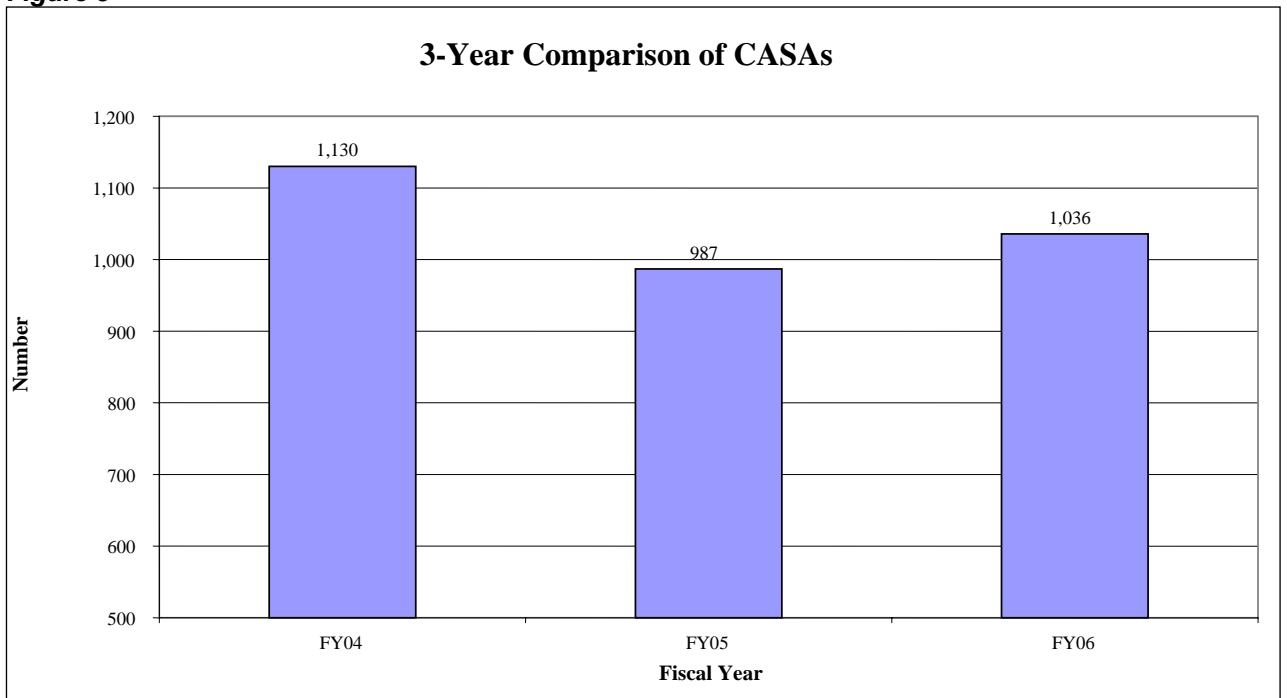


Figure 6

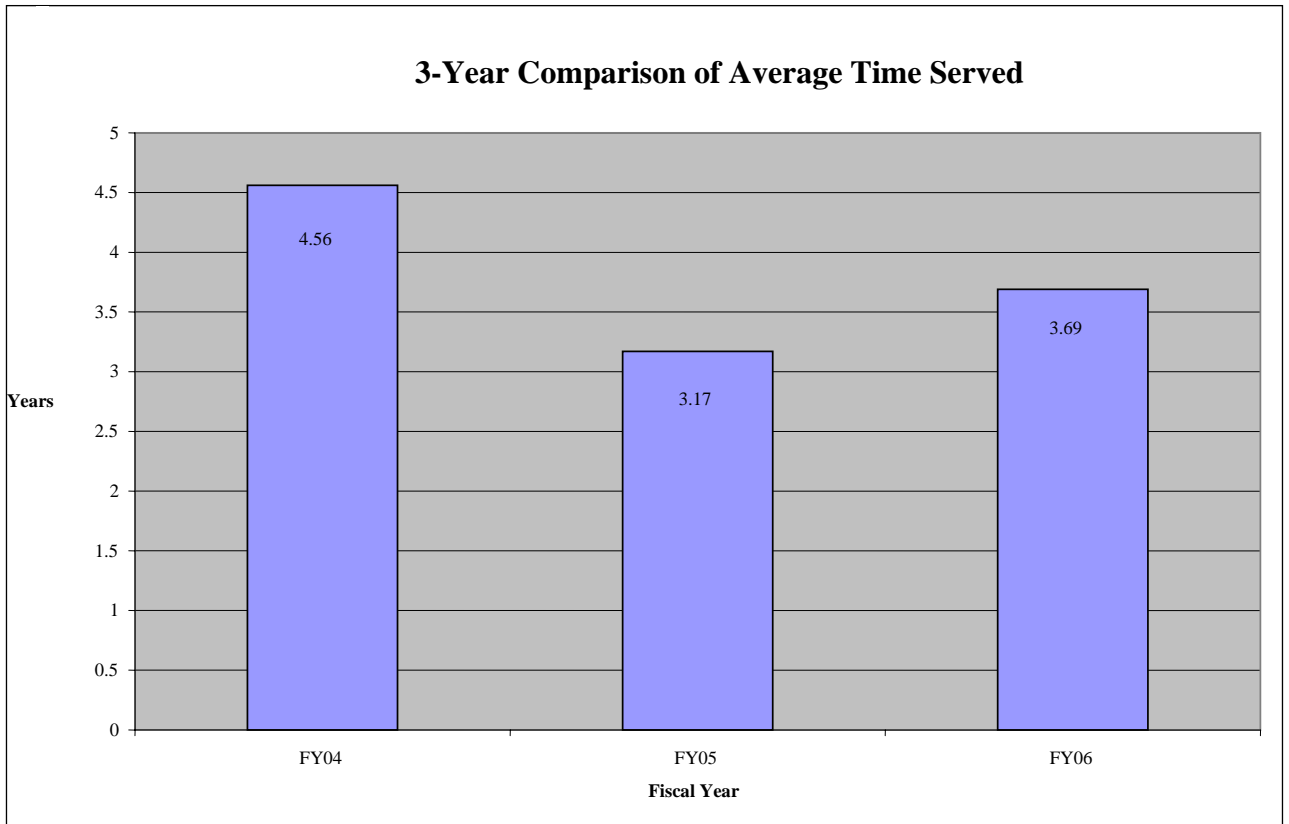


Figure 7

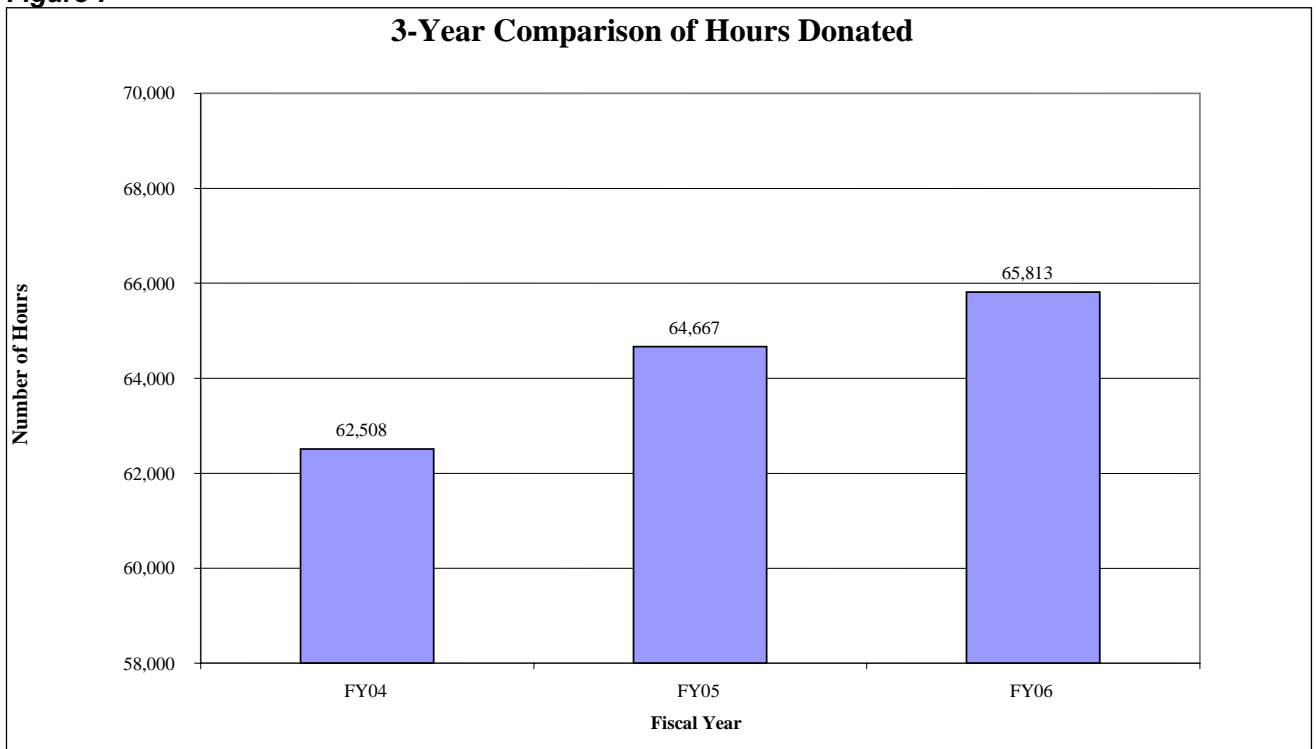
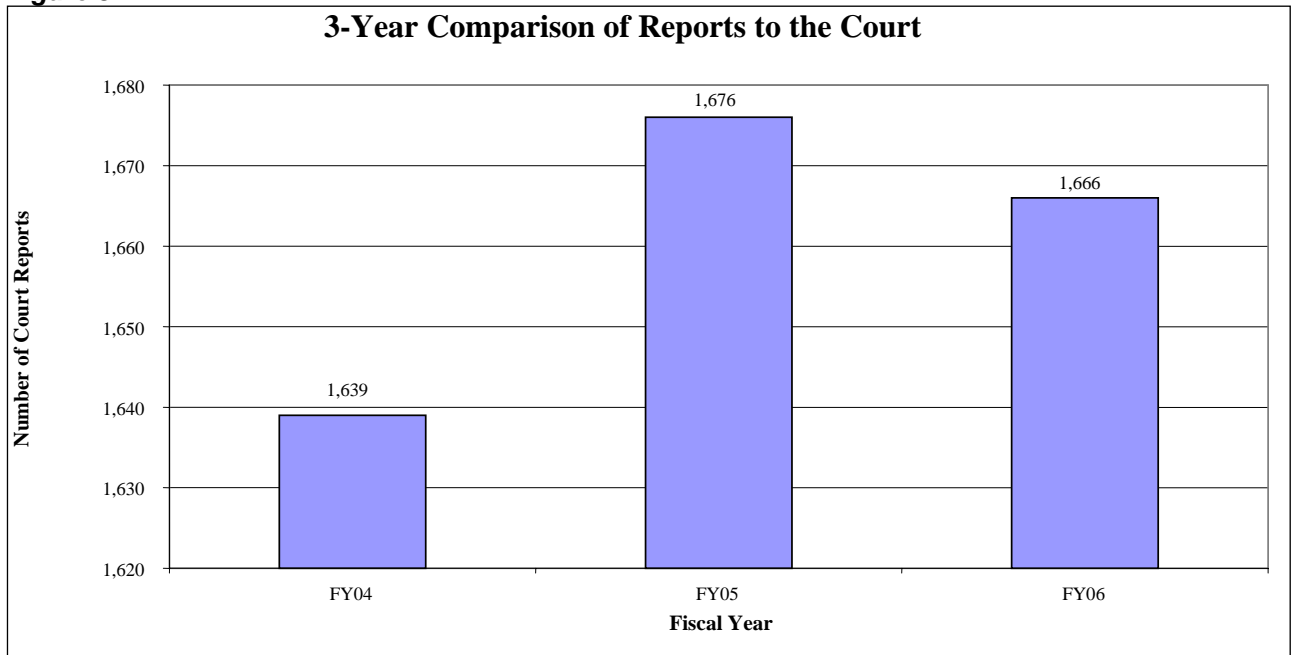
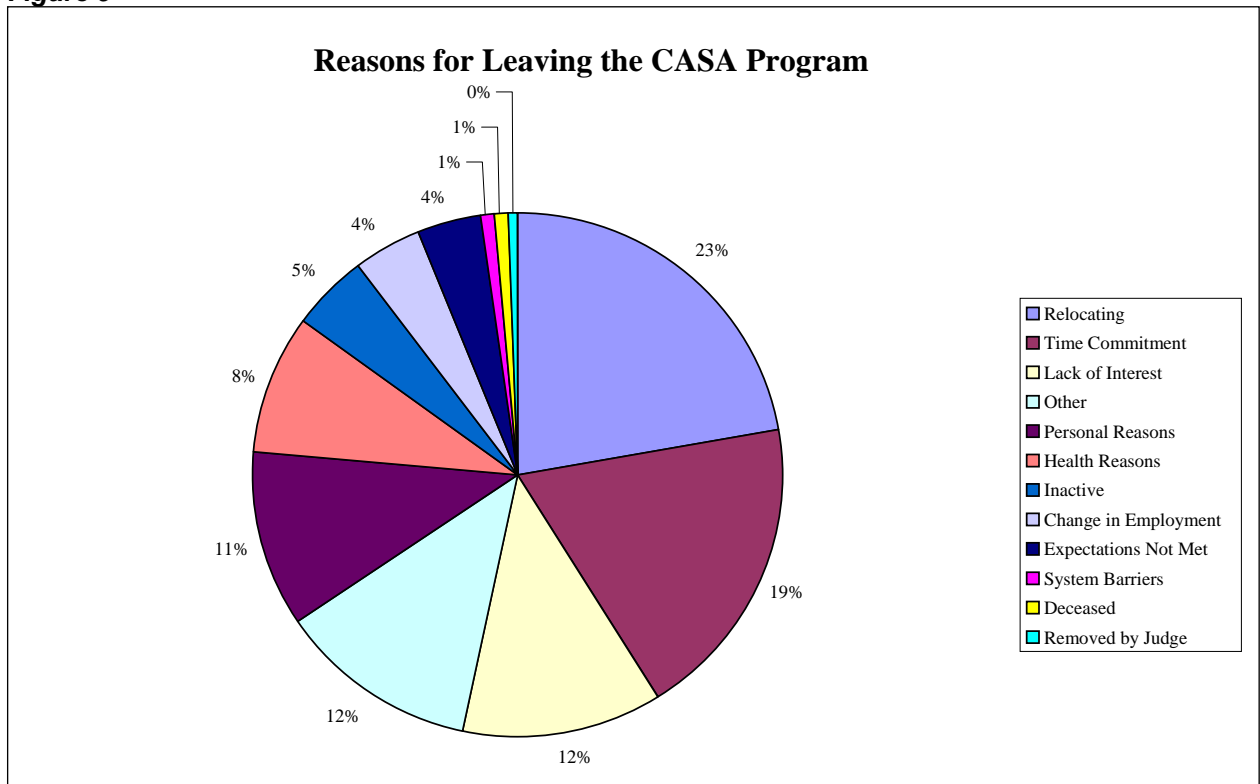


Figure 8



As with any volunteer organization, there is an attrition of volunteers during the year. In FY06, 212 CASAs discontinued their involvement with the Arizona CASA Program. The following figure depicts the reasons individuals gave for leaving the program.

Figure 9



Children

During the fiscal year, 1,649 children had a CASA advocating on their behalf. Some children had their cases “closed” at some point during the year, meaning they no longer had a CASA assigned to them. Other children’s cases remained opened, meaning they continued to have a CASA assigned to them on June 30, the last day of the fiscal year.

The following two figures provide the ages, gender, and ethnic breakdown of all children served during the year.

Figure 10

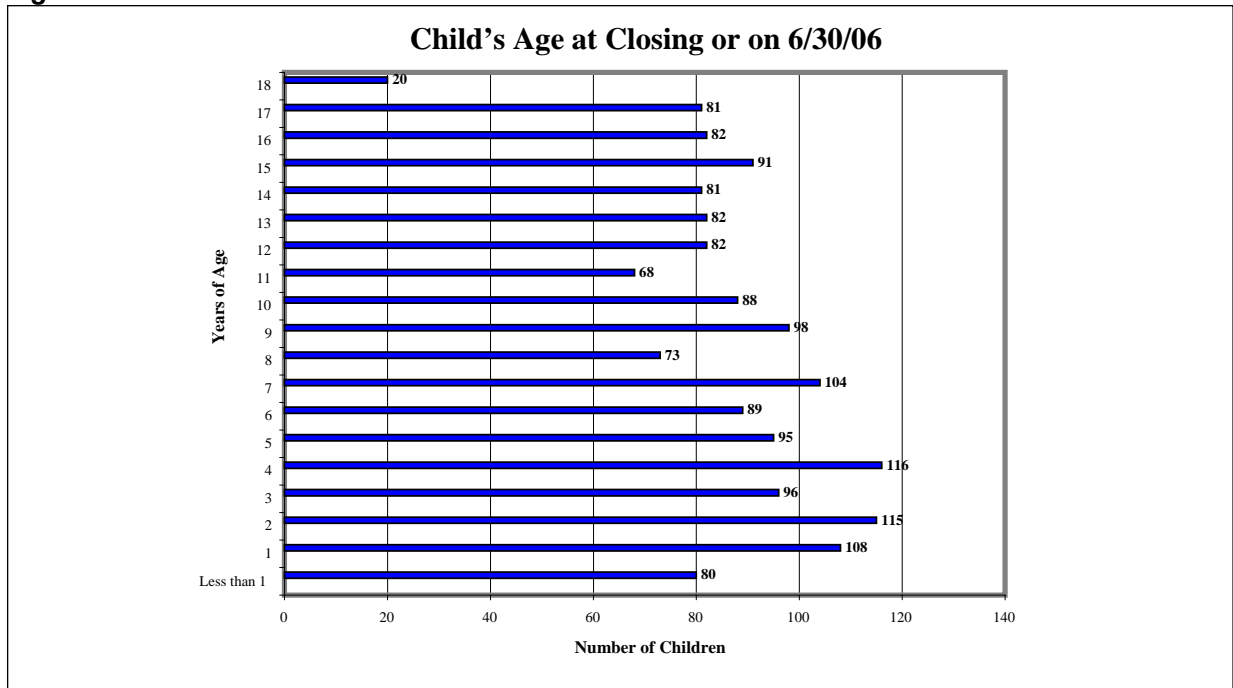
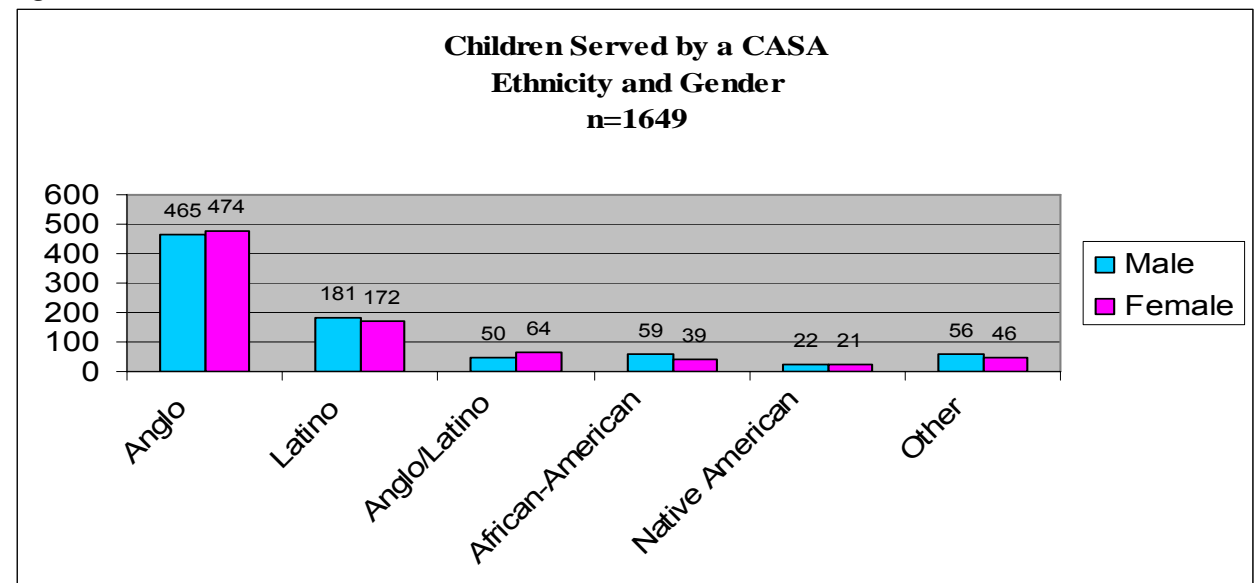


Figure 11



Eight hundred thirty two children's cases closed for CASA services during the fiscal year. The dependency case may have remained open, but there was no longer CASA involvement. The following figure provides the various reasons for the case closure from the CASA program. While the figure details that 337 cases closed because a CASA was "no longer needed," this statistic includes the various reasons that CASA themselves left the program, thus ending CASA involvement in the case, for example relocation, work issues, time commitment, health issues. These reasons are not encompassed in the other categories available, and fall, then, to the "CASA no longer needed" category. The remaining reasons detail the "case reasons" that the children were no longer being served by the CASA program.

Figure 12

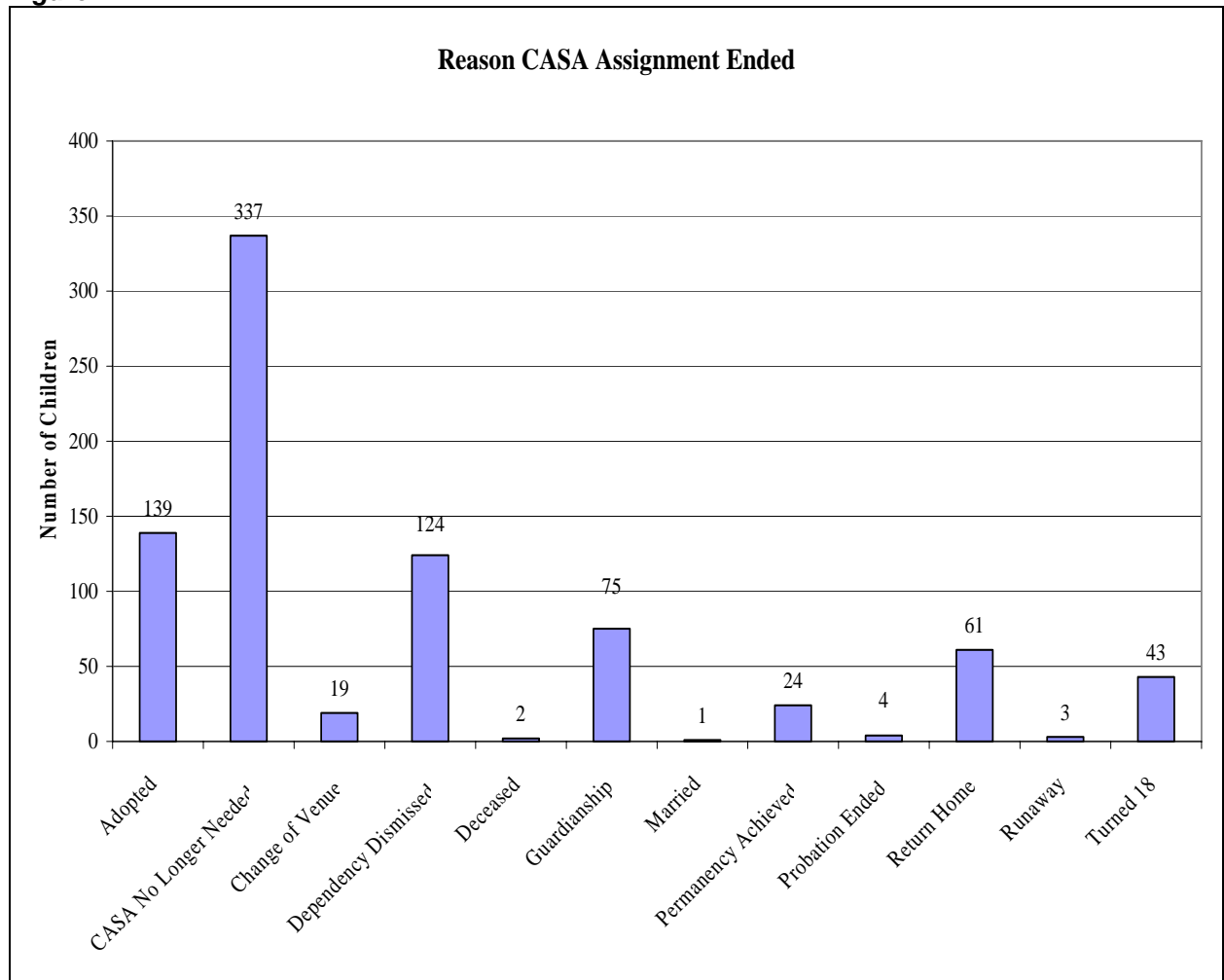
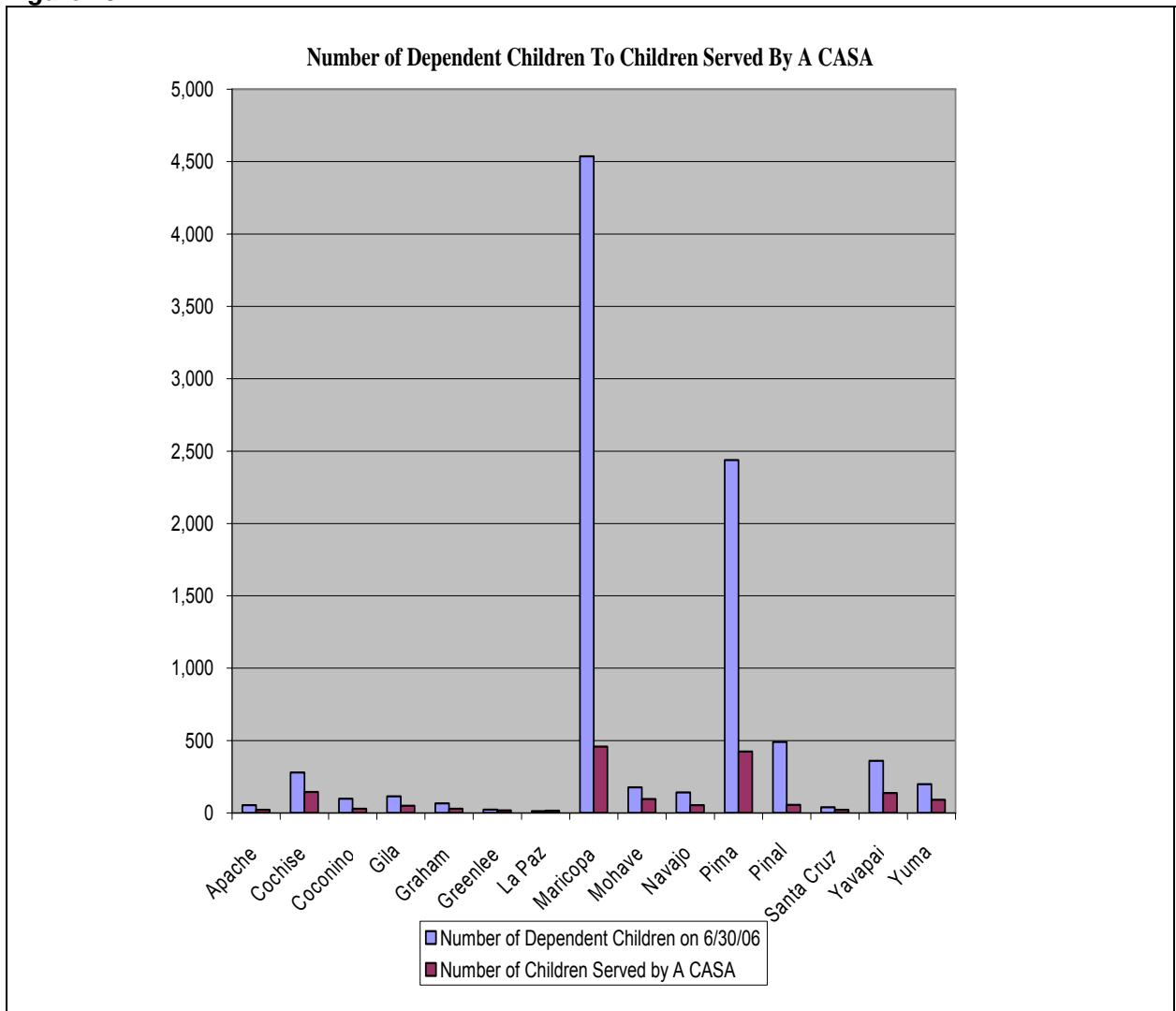


Figure 13



FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

■ Purpose

The Foster Care Review Board is established by Arizona Statute to review at least every six months the case of each child in foster care. The purpose of these reviews are to determine and advise the juvenile court of the adequacy of efforts and progress toward placement of the child in a permanent home; to encourage and facilitate the return of each dependent child to his/her family whenever possible; to promote and encourage stability in the child's placement; and, to assist in informing parents and others of their rights and responsibilities regarding a dependent child in foster care

■ Mission

The mission of the Foster Care Review Board is based upon a belief that each child has a right to and is deserving of a permanent home that provides nurturing, love and protection. The mission is to conduct a quality review process which illuminates the path toward the safest and most permanent result. Toward this end, the mission of the Foster Care Review Board is accomplished in an atmosphere of trust, with dignity and respect maintained through participatory involvement of all those having interest in the welfare of the child. Though the plan for each child must be tempered by a reality of what may be attainable from resources available, the best interest of the child always remains of paramount importance to the Foster Care Review Board.

■ Standards of Conduct

Foster Care Review Board Citizen members voluntarily serve by judicial appointment, pursuant to Arizona Statute, to review the cases of children in foster care. Because of the special trust and confidence conferred and the responsibility placed upon Foster Care Review Board members, those so appointed to this public trust shall at all times observe the highest standards of integrity, commitment, and respect for others. Foster Care Review Board members will keep secure any and all information of a confidential nature that is presented to them unless disclosure is required in the performance of official duties. Each board member is expected to be fully prepared to review each and every case assigned to their board, to attend all scheduled board reviews and required training sessions, to assume positions of board leadership when called upon by fellow board members, and to follow the policies and rules established by the State Board and the Arizona Supreme Court. Consequently, only those people who are willing to abide by these principles and standards of conduct will be nominated for retention; conversely, failure to abide may result in a recommendation to the court for removal from the board.

■ Program Background

As one of the first states in the nation to establish citizen review boards, Arizona's Foster Care Review Board program is housed within the Dependent Children's Services Division of the Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts and is comprised of 37 FTEs and approximately 465 volunteers.

The Arizona Legislature established the Foster Care Review Board in 1978 to address concerns that:

- Children in-care were not receiving medical attention;
- Children in-care were staying in the system too long; and
- Children in-care were getting lost in the system.

Foster Care Review Boards address these concerns by reviewing the cases of children placed out of the home who are the subject of a dependency petition. Cases are reviewed at least once every six months to ensure that progress is being made towards permanency. During each review, local boards across the state collect and process information from individuals who have an interest in the child whose case is being reviewed, and make recommendations regarding the case to the juvenile court judge.

Through the existence of the Foster Care Review Board, Arizona meets federal requirements of Public Law (PL) 96-272, the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act. PL 96-272 mandates states to provide independent reviews of children who are the subject of a dependency action and in out-of-home care. Under this law, the Foster Care Review Board is mandated to make determinations at each review in the following four key areas:

1. Safety, necessity and appropriateness of placement;
2. Case plan compliance;
3. Progress toward mitigating the need for foster care; and
4. A likely date (target date) by which the child may be returned home or placed for adoption or legal guardianship.

A board is established by the Presiding Juvenile Court Judge of each county for every 100 children, or fraction thereof, in out-of-home care and subject to a dependency action. There is at least one board required in each county, and there may be more than one in certain geographically large counties, in order to accommodate volunteers who may otherwise have to travel long intra-county distances to attend boards.

■ State Board

When establishing Arizona's Foster Care Review Board program, the Legislature also established the State Foster Care Review Board. This board was established in April 1979 and is made up of Foster Care Review Board representatives from each county, as well as some ad hoc committee members who have a background in the child welfare system. The State board is established by A.R.S. § 8-515.04 and is responsible for reviewing and coordinating the activities of the local review boards as well as establishing training programs for volunteers.

The State Foster Care Review Board has established three standing committees that meet throughout the year to address goals adopted by the State Board as well as committee goals centered on their specified purpose:

- √ The Continuing Education Committee, whose primary function is to establish training programs to assist volunteers in meeting annual training requirements;

- √ The Community Outreach Committee, whose primary function is to raise public awareness of child welfare, as well as assist in volunteer recruitment efforts;
- √ The Advocacy Committee, whose primary function is to be responsible for planning and accomplishing general advocacy education for volunteers and the public.

An Executive Committee of the State Foster Care Review Board also exists and is comprised of State Board representatives, the State Board Chair and the Foster Care Review Board program manager. This committee is the leadership branch of the State Board and acts on its behalf between State Board meetings, if needed.

■ Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2006 proved to be another busy year for the program, with emphasis on various projects, including:

- *Findings and Elements Training* – A comprehensive statewide initiative to provide training on changes to Findings and Elements was conducted. Twenty sessions were scheduled throughout the state in order to accommodate volunteers. A special focus was placed on Finding 10, wherein the Board is asked to make a determination if there are significant service gaps or system problems in the case.
- *Sunset Audit* – The Foster Care Review Board completed a Sunset Audit that began in November of 2004; on March 24, 2006, Governor Napolitano signed HB2125, which extended the Foster Care Review Board until July 1, 2016.
- *New Boards* – Due to an increase in cases statewide, the Foster Care Review Board opened 7 additional boards during this fiscal year to ensure that the case of each child in out-of-home placement who is also the subject of a dependency petition is reviewed; Four of the six additional boards were opened in Maricopa County, two were opened in Pinal County and one was opened in Yavapai County.
- *Sibling Visitation Day* – Once again, the Foster Care Review Board was happy to collaborate with the Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation to host the foundation's third Sibling Visitation Day. The event took place in Maricopa County in October and was well attended.
- *Findings and Determinations Review* – A workgroup, consisting of Foster Care Review Board volunteers and staff, as well as representatives from Child Protective Services, was created to review and update the Foster Care Review Board Findings and Determinations Guidebook. Work will now follow to implement the revised Guidebook.

■ Current and Future Projects

- *Electronic Document Management System (EDMS)* – The Foster Care Review Board will continue working with the Electronic Document Management System and hopes to convert more boards to the new system. Eventually, the program

will be able to electronically send documents to board members, eliminating numerous hours of copying and postage expenses.

- *Review and Updating of the Findings and Determinations* – A project team will be working on this topic. New versions of the Findings and Determinations Guidebook will be created. The automated system that tracks the Findings results will also be enhanced.
- *Sunset Audit* – The program will continue working the Auditor General's Office to complete the Sunset Audit as well as begin its work with the Legislature, in support of the continuation of the program.
- *fcrbyouth.org* is now available for children to provide statements on-line for their upcoming reviews.
- *CHILDS Access* – The Foster Care Review Board Program is currently working with Child Protective Services to obtain access to their automated system (CHILDS), which will provide Boards with the most updated information about assigned case managers, placements, etc.

■ Program Statistics

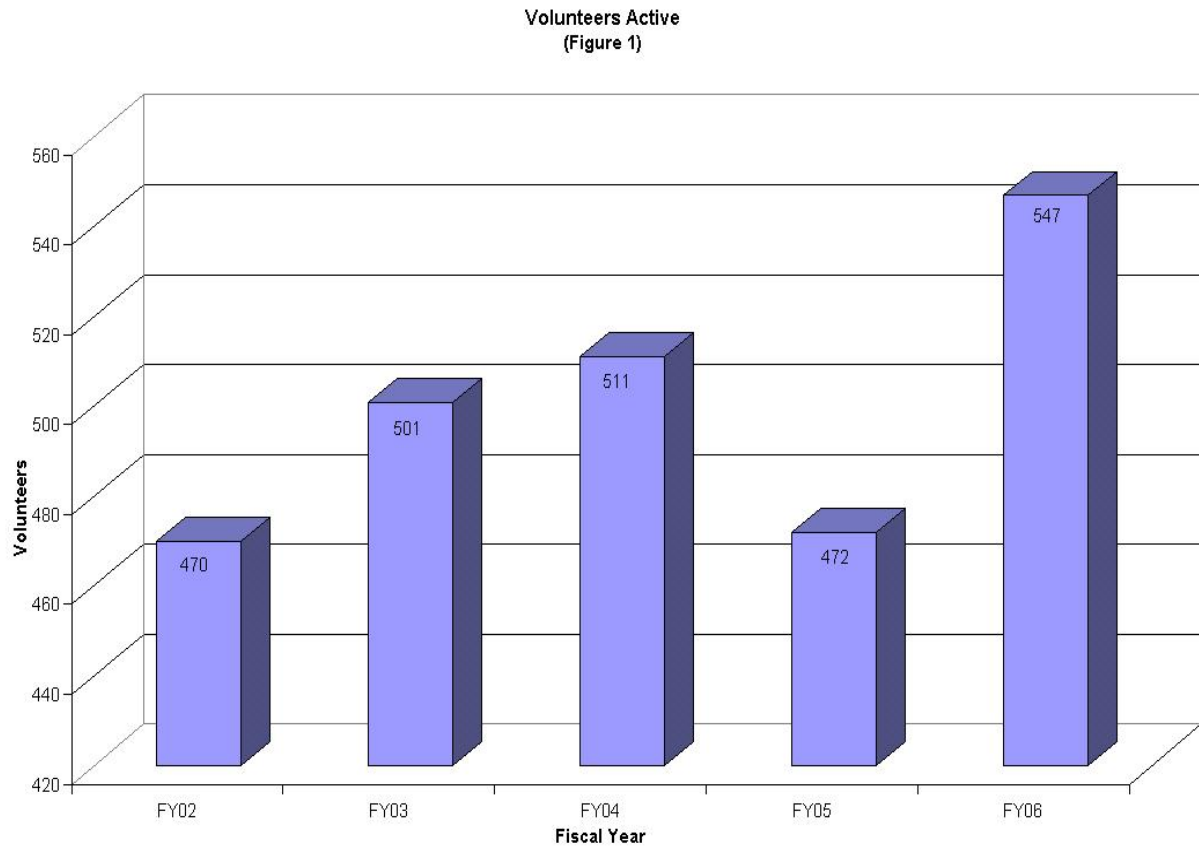
There are currently 102 local boards across the state, an increase of seven boards since the end of last fiscal year. Four new boards were opened in Maricopa County; two new boards were opened in Pinal County; and one new board was opened in Yavapai County. While the program strives to maintain five volunteers on each board, volunteers do resign and it is not possible to have five volunteers on each board throughout the year. *Table 1* reflects the breakdown of current boards per county, as well as the number of volunteers that are needed to fill those boards.

Table 1

NUMBER OF BOARDS PER COUNTY – AS OF JUNE 30, 2006		
County	Number of Boards	Number of Volunteers
Apache	1	5
Cochise	4	20
Coconino	1	5
Gila	2	10
Greenlee	1	5
Graham	1	5
La Paz	1	5
Maricopa	46	230
Mohave	3	15
Navajo	2	10
Pima	25	125
Pinal	7	35
Santa Cruz	1	5
Yavapai	5	25
Yuma	2	10
Total	102	510

The following figure (*Figure 1*), reflects the number of Foster Care Review Board volunteers that were active during fiscal years 2002 - 2006. "Active" is defined as appointed to a board as either a regular board member or an alternate board member. Seventy-five more citizens served as a regular or alternate board member in FY06 than in FY05.

Figure 1



To better utilize resources, Foster Care Review Boards are closed when caseloads decrease, and volunteers from closing boards are moved to boards with existing vacancies. As the number of children in care continued to hover around 9,300 in FY06, the need for volunteers remained strong.

The Removal Review Team, which was established by the Legislature in 2000, is governed by A.R.S. § 8-822. The statute governing this process requires the Department of Economic Security (DES) to review the case of each child removed from the care of their biological parents, legal guardian or custodian prior to the dependency petition being filed with the court. The team includes the investigating case manager, the case manager's supervisor, an assistant program manager from the DES/Child Protective Services and, up until January 2004, a member of the Foster Care Review Board. New legislation that passed during the fall 2003 Special Session mandates two FCRB volunteers serve on the Removal Review Team.

The Removal Review Team assesses options other than continued out-of-home placement including in-home services to the family. The role of the Removal Review volunteer is dramatically different than that of the Foster Care Review Board volunteer, as questions being asked concern removal rather than long term case management issues.

Removal Review volunteers are also called to serve on Foster Home Transition Case Conferences. These conferences take place when a licensed foster parent disagrees with the removal of a child from his or her home and decides to request a review of the planned removal. Legislation that passed during the fall of 2003 Special Session also mandates that two FCRB volunteers serve on the Foster Home Transition Case Conferences.

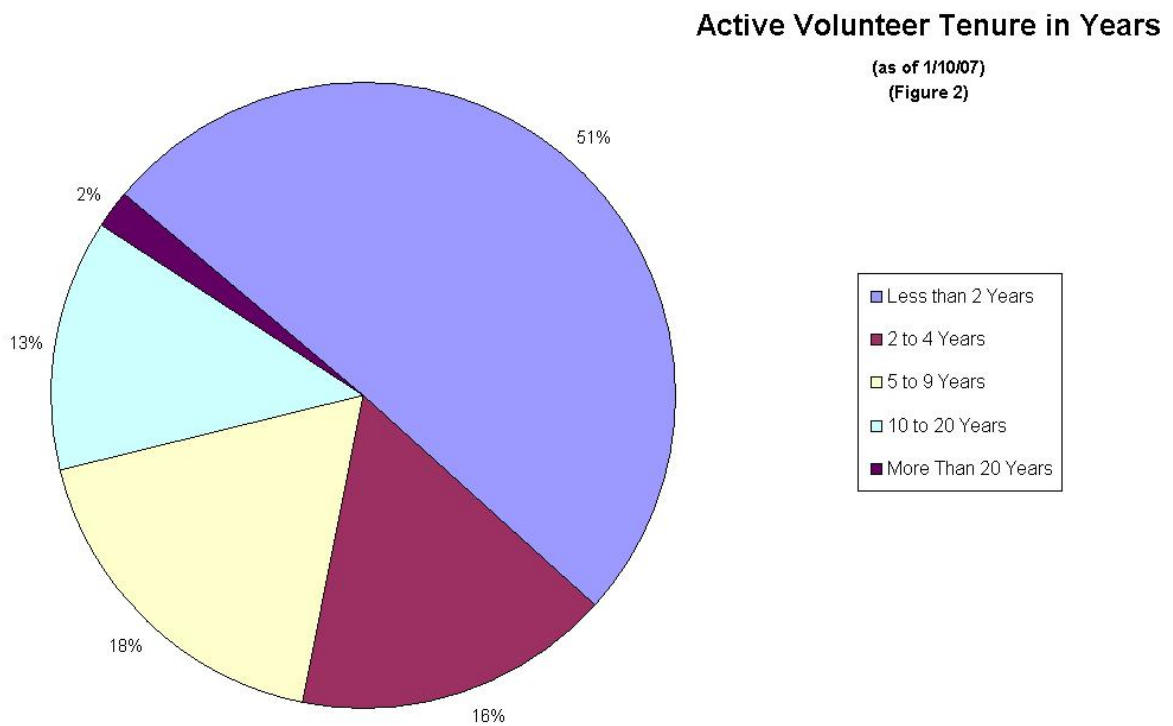
There are currently 107 Removal Review Volunteers, many of whom also serve on the local Foster Care Review Boards. While Maricopa and Pima County volunteers only serve in their respective counties, the volunteers in other counties serve within the districts defined by Child Protective Services. *Table 2* provides the breakdown of current Removal Review volunteers by district.

Table 2

District	NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS
District 1 (<i>Maricopa</i>)	44
District 2 (<i>Pima</i>)	19
District 3 (<i>Apache, Coconino, Navajo, Yavapai</i>)	13
District 4 (<i>La Paz, Mohave, Yuma</i>)	9
District 5 (<i>Gila, Pinal</i>)	9
District 6 (<i>Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Santa Cruz</i>)	13
Total	107

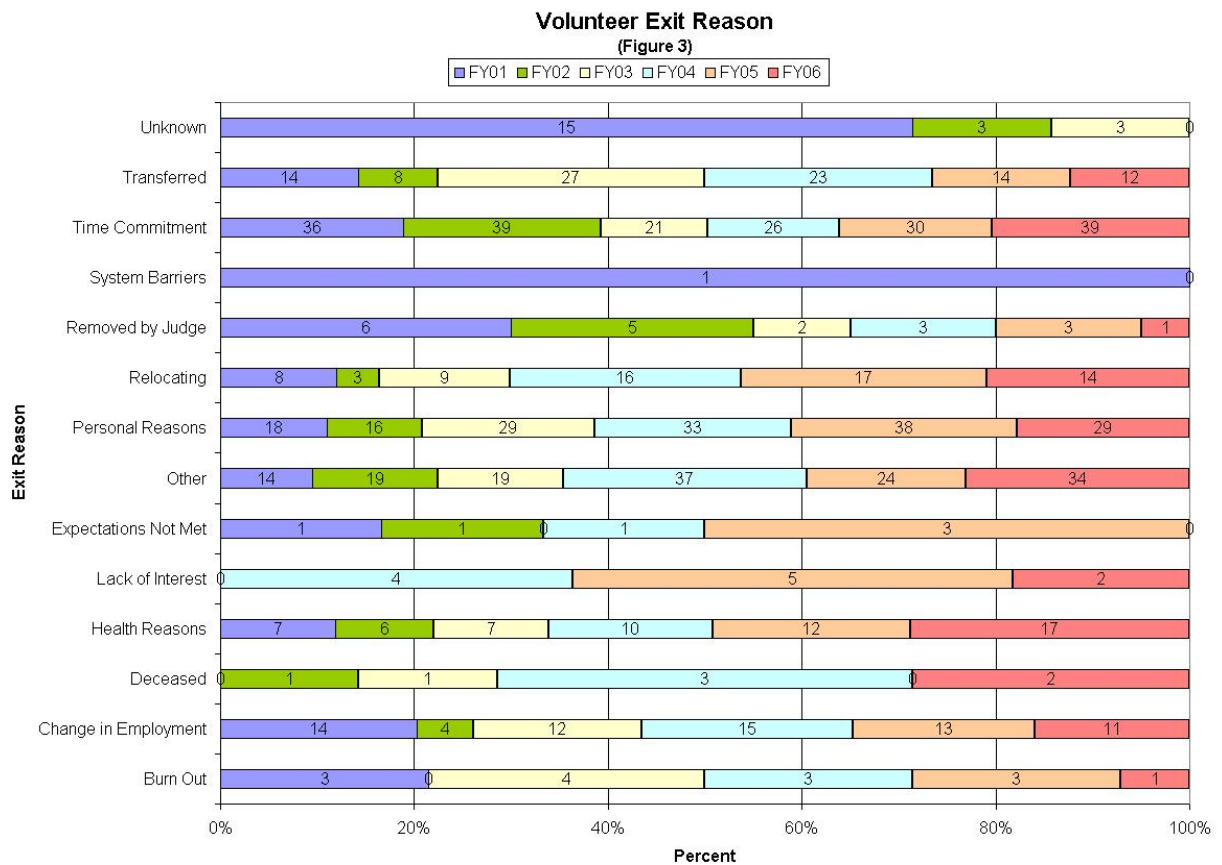
The Foster Care Review Board realizes that its volunteers and staff are the foundation of its success and works hard to retain them. Regarding length of service, fifty-one percent of volunteers have been on a board for less than two years, eighteen percent for five to nine years, and fifteen percent for ten or more years (see Figure 2). The program actively seeks input from departing volunteers through exit survey forms. The survey form asks for feedback regarding the volunteer's experience with the program, what they felt the program's strengths were, as well as the program's weaknesses. The survey also inquires about the reason the volunteer is leaving the program.

Figure 2



While there are a number of reasons volunteers resign, including change in employment, relocation, burnout, etc., the majority of the volunteers who resigned during the last fiscal year cited personal reasons and time commitment as the reason for their resignation. A number of volunteers listed “other” as their reason for leaving the program. Of those who resigned in fiscal year 2006, over eighteen percent resigned due to personal reasons and twenty-four percent resigned due to the time commitment involved with being a Foster Care Review Board volunteer. *Figure 3* reflects the total number of reasons volunteers gave for resigning during the last five fiscal years.

Figure 3



The Foster Care Review Board volunteers are required per, A.R.S. § 8-515.01(D) and §8-515.04, to participate in training established by the State Board. Volunteers have a very important role and impact the lives of children and families. By keeping current with training requirements, volunteers are keeping abreast of relevant topics, expanding their knowledge of child welfare issues, and are enhancing the program's credibility in the child welfare community. Like every professional in the field, a volunteer's continued education is essential in ensuring that they are at the forefront of the issues families and children are coping with, and in turn are contributing to the most effective review process possible.

Figures 4, 5 and 6 reflect the training hours that volunteers across the state obtained during the last five fiscal years. Statewide, FCRB volunteers obtained 7,832 hours of training during fiscal year 2006.

Figure 4

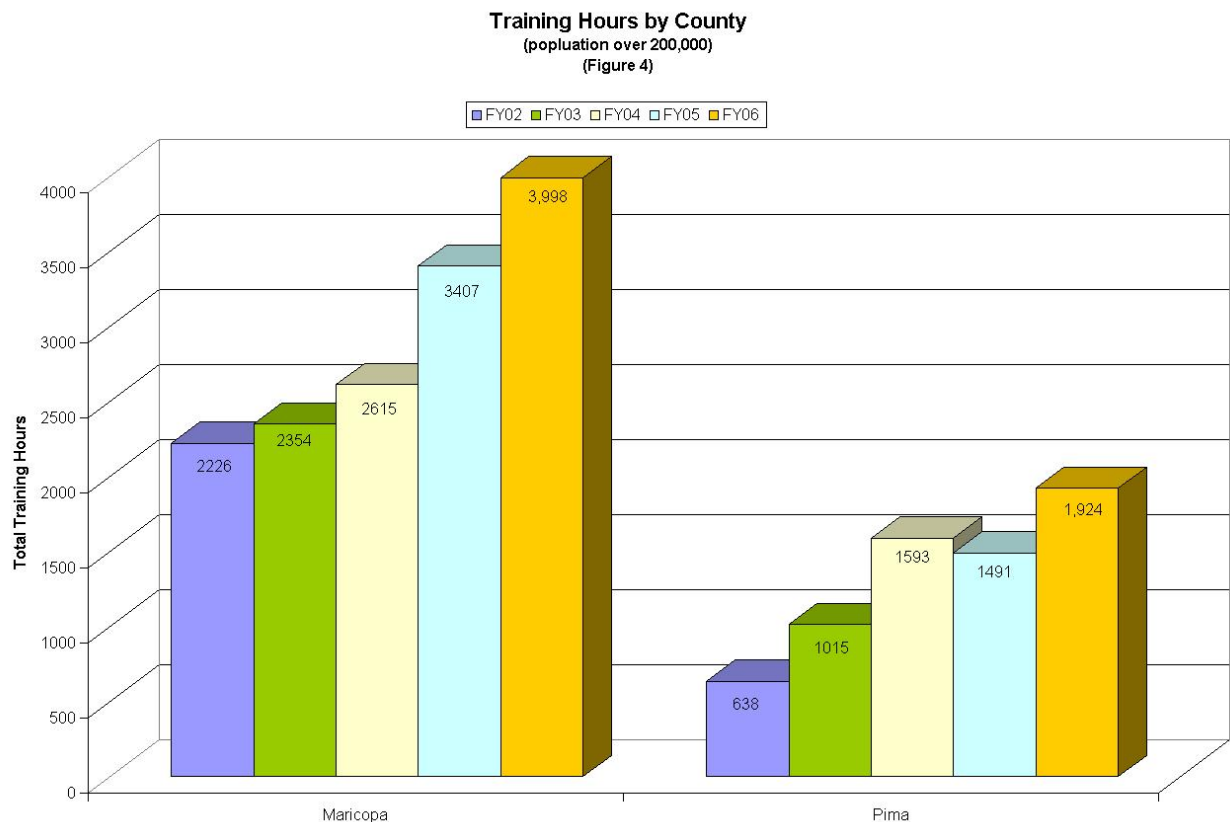


Figure 5

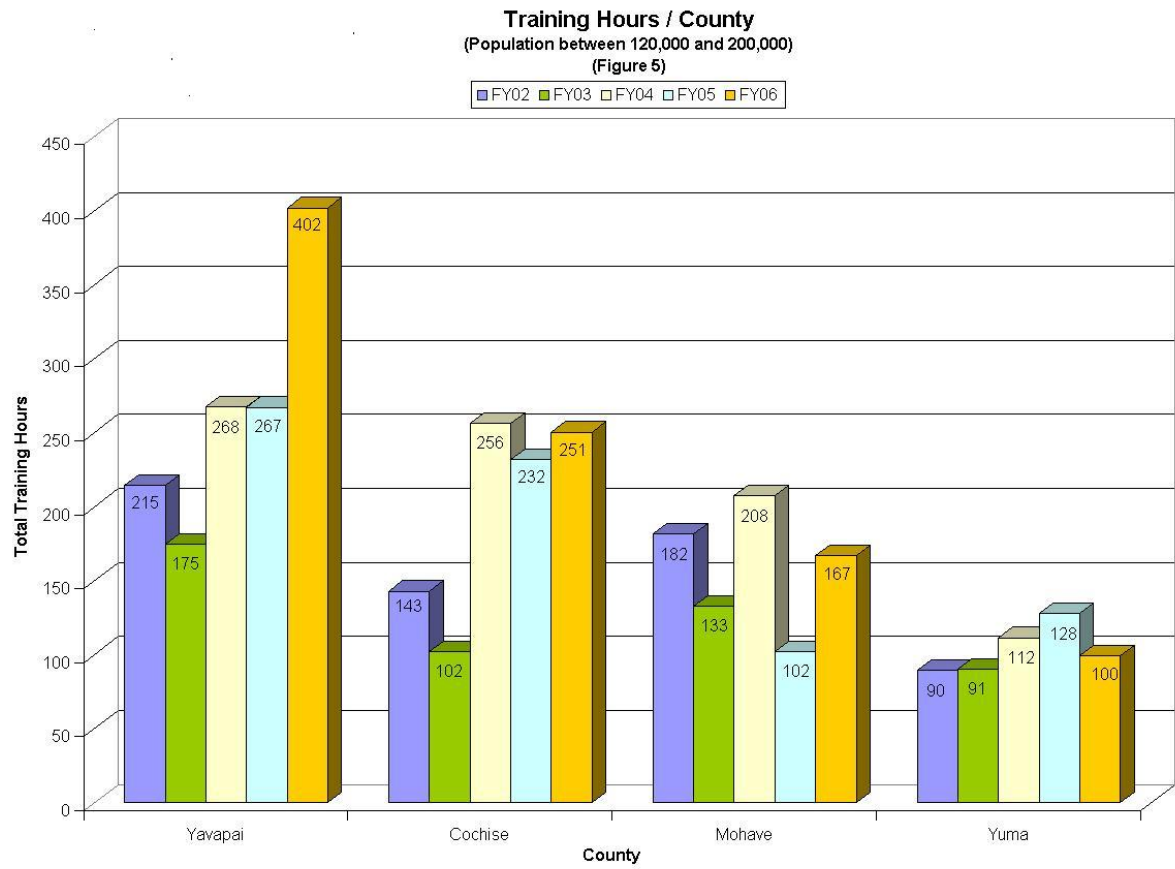
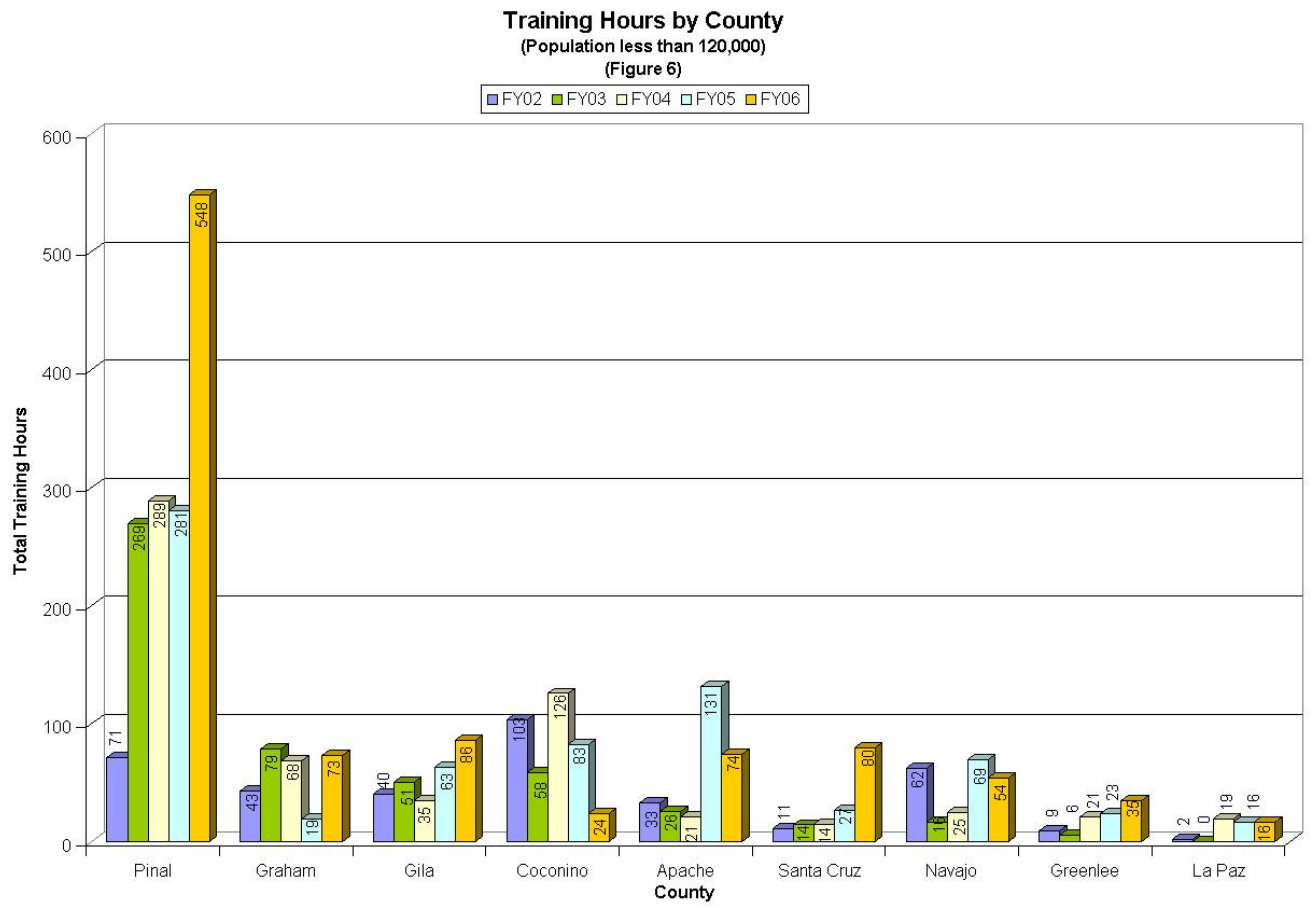


Figure 6



Arizona Revised Statutes § 8-515.01 mandates that “Each board shall, to the maximum extent feasible, represent the various socioeconomic, racial and ethnic groups of the county in which it serves.” In this vein, the program obtains demographical information from volunteers so that it is able to check its progress in this area. *Figures 7, 8, 9 and 10* reflect the ethnicity, education, occupation and income of board members, respectively. This data is provided as a point-in-time query on currently active volunteers. It should be noted, however, that the data range regarding education, occupation and income may be somewhat dated, as volunteers provide this information at the time they apply for the program, and are not required to provide updates. A change in policy effective January 1, 2006, asks each board member, *at the time of their reappointment*, to update their demographic information, so that more current data can be queried.

Figure 7

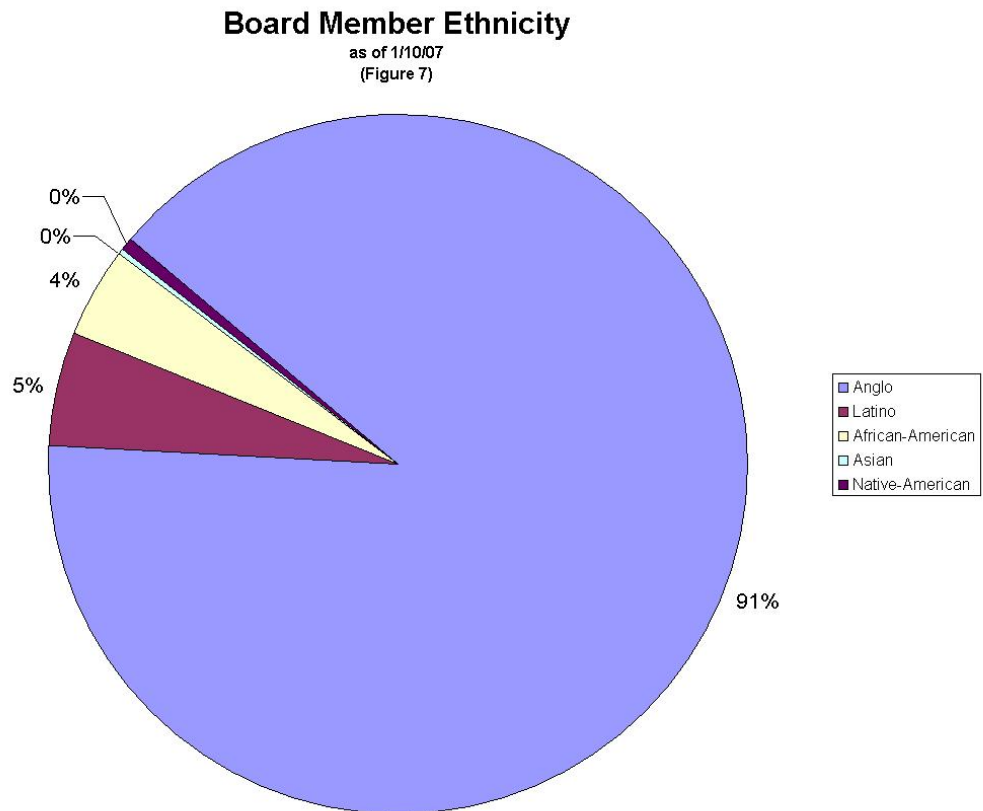


Figure 8

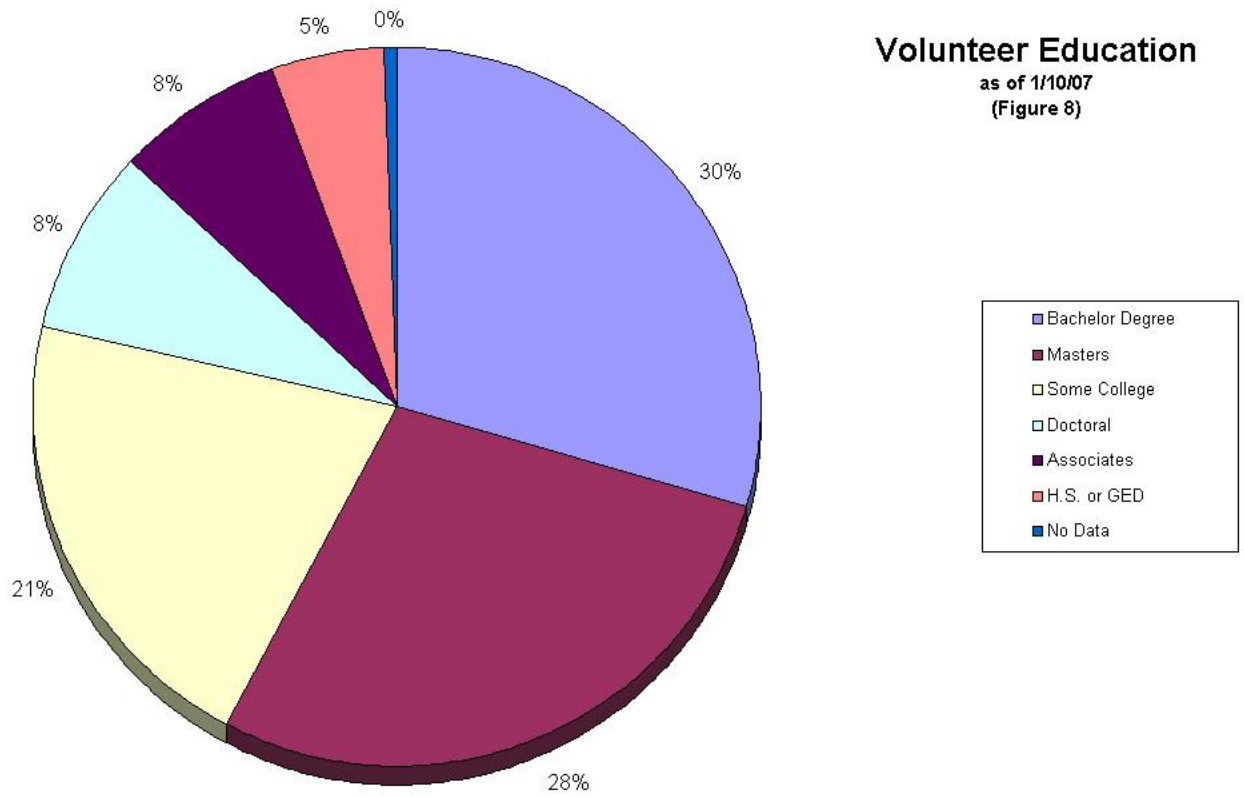


Figure 9

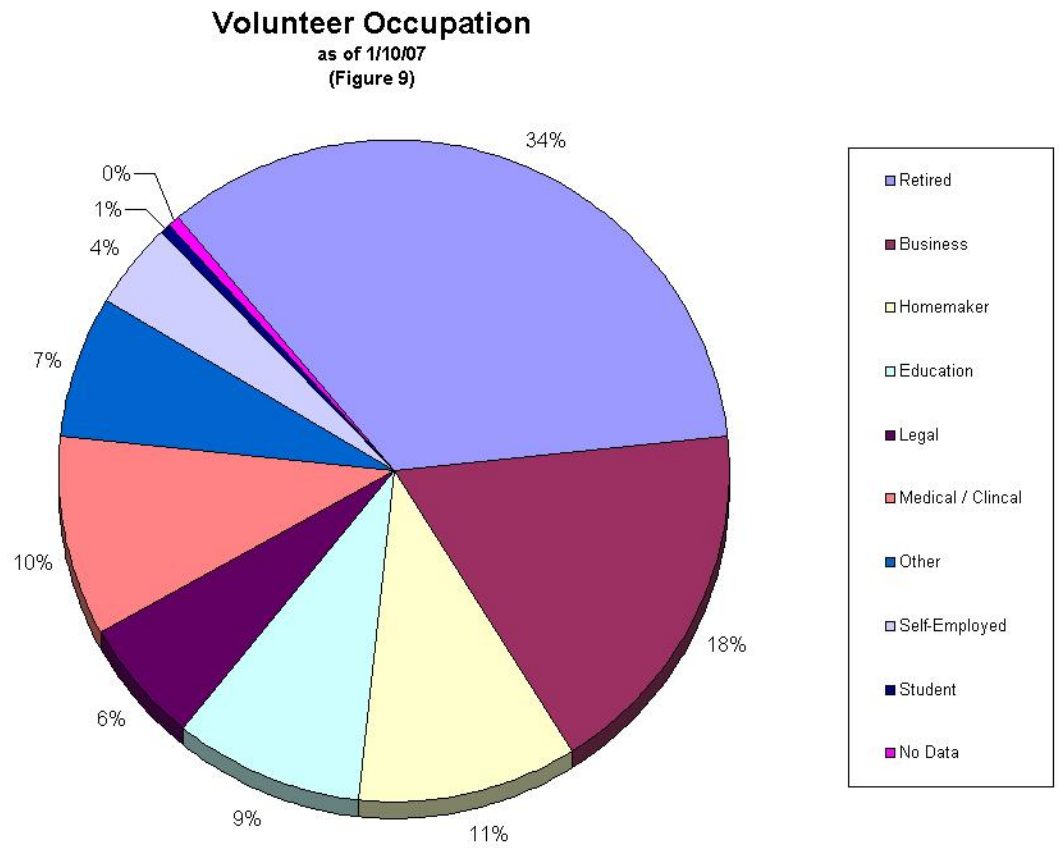
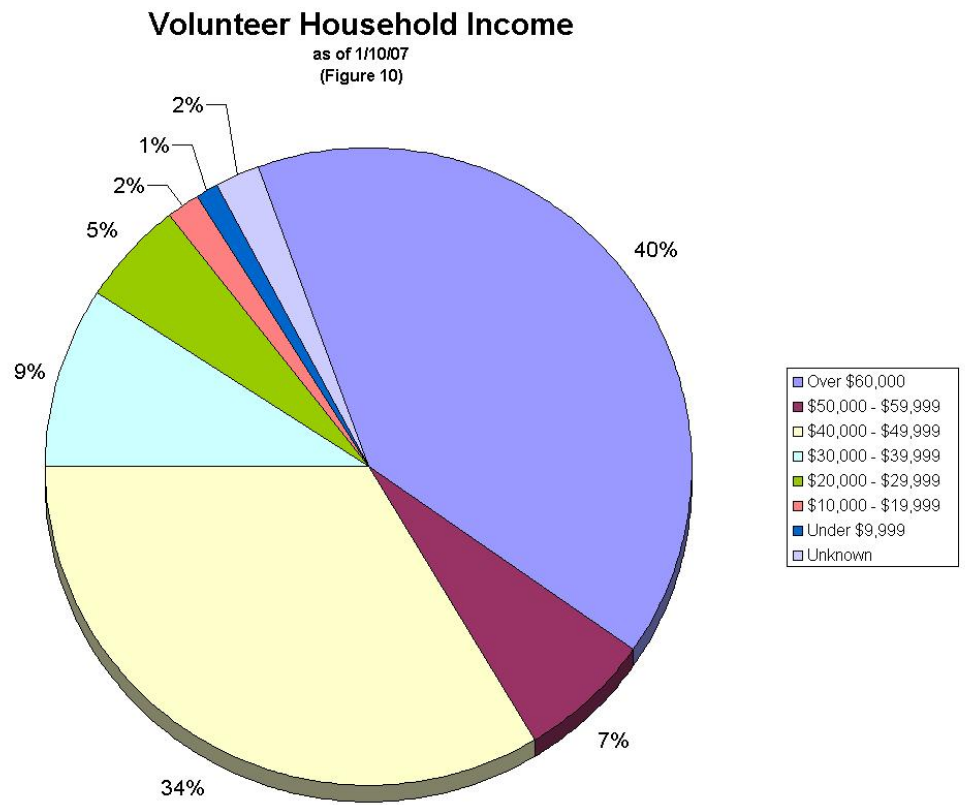


Figure 10



At the end of fiscal year 2006, there were over 9,200 children statewide being reviewed by the Foster Care Review Board. The program tracks the number of children under review statewide on a monthly basis, as a predictor of when new boards need to be opened. This number is queried from the Foster Care Review Board program's Dependent Children Automated Tracking System (DCATS) at the beginning of each month as a point-in-time reference. *Table 3* reflects the point-in-time queries for both the number of children, and the number of cases, that were reviewed in fiscal year 2005 while *Table 4* reflects the same numbers for fiscal year 2006. Table 3 shows an increase of more than 1,100 children between the beginning and the end of FY05, whereas Table 4 shows the number of children holding relatively steady (averaging 9,290 children under review per month) throughout FY06.

Table 3

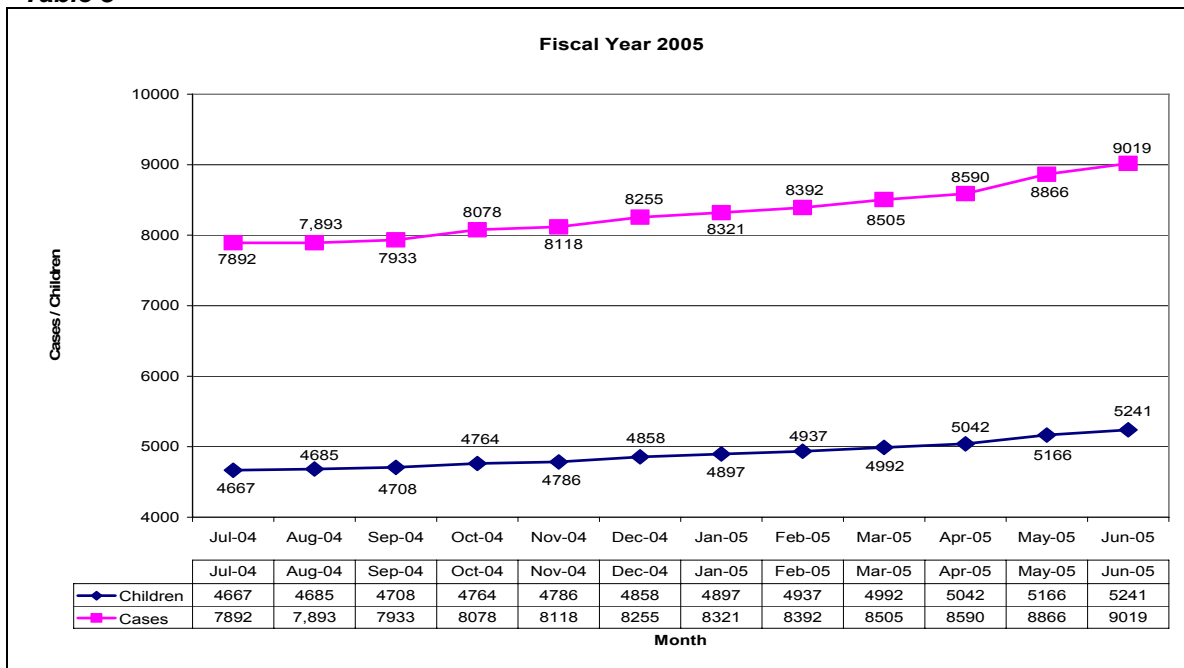


Table 4

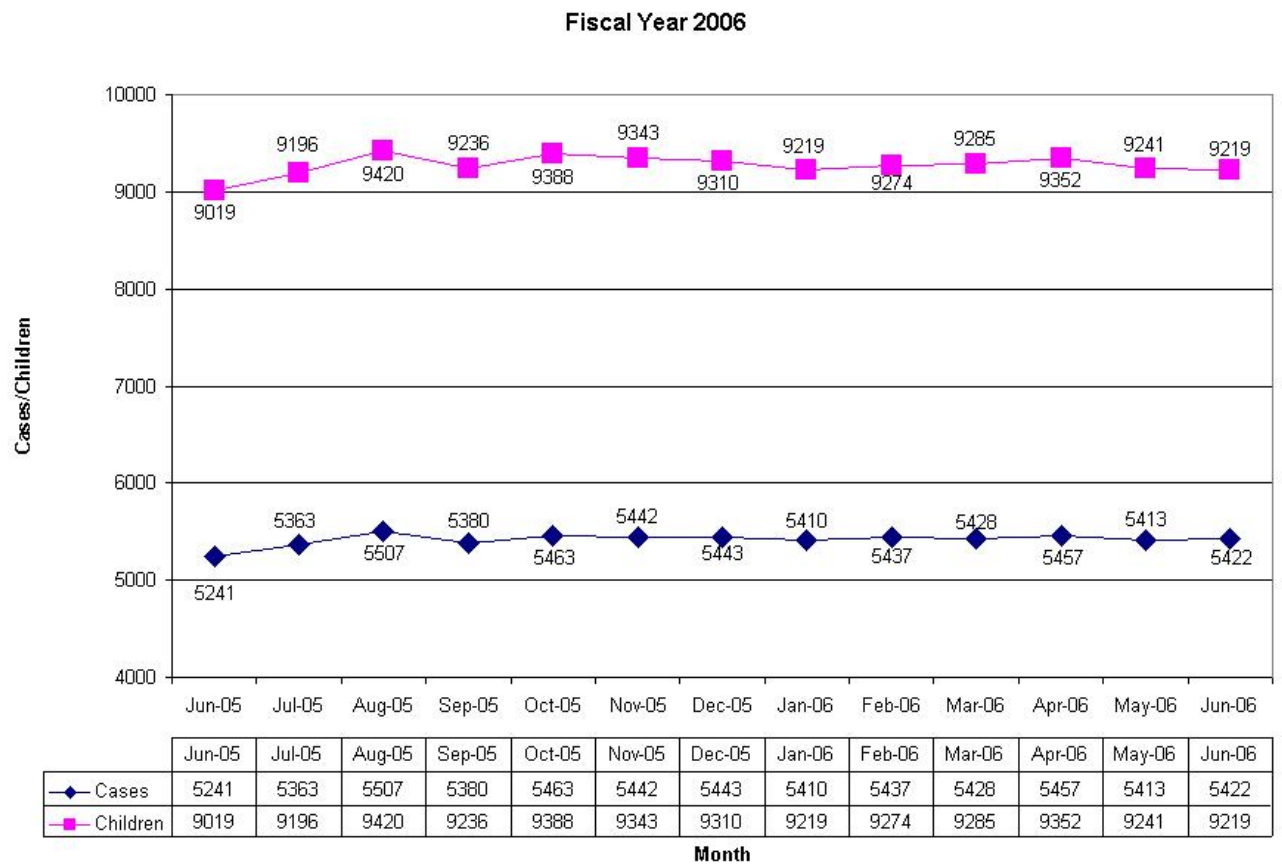
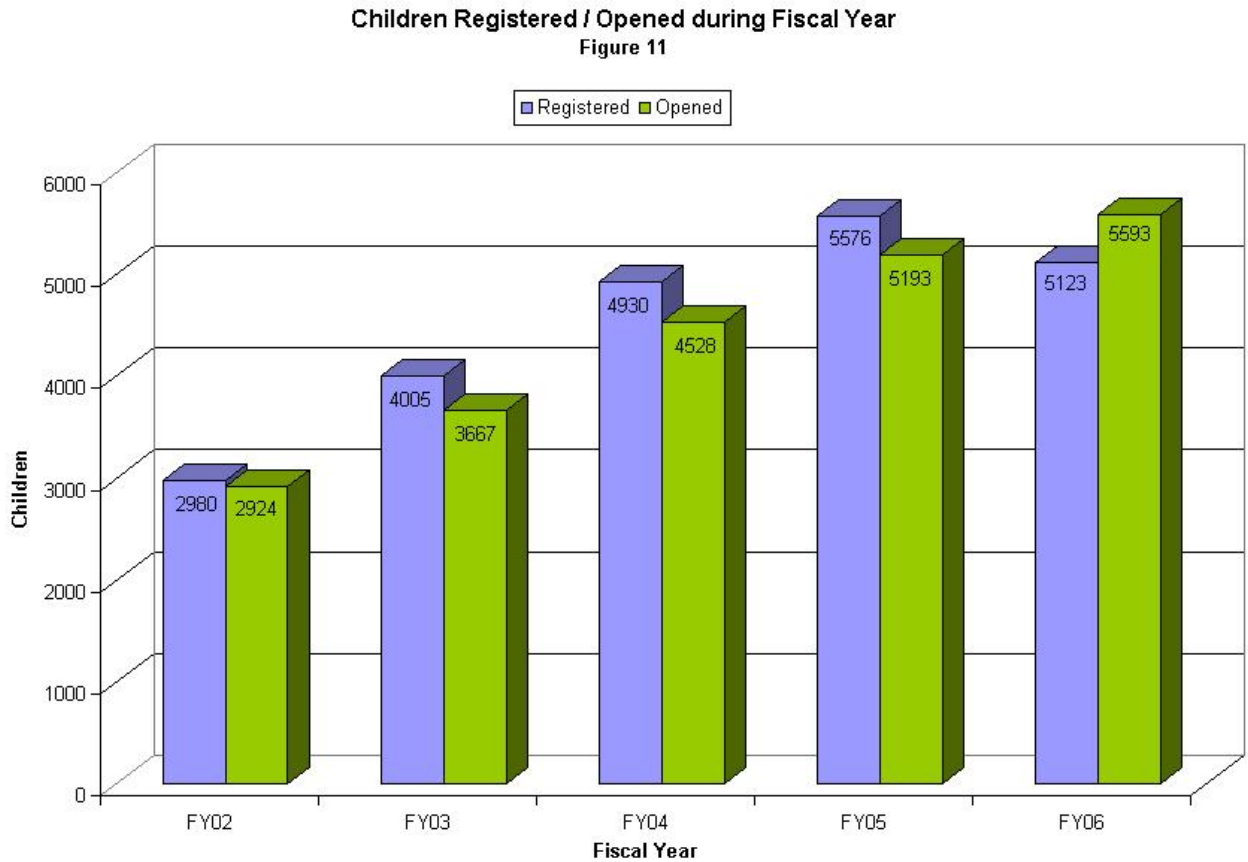


Figure 11 reflects the number of children who were registered versus the number of children opened during each of the last five fiscal years. This data was queried for a date range.

Figure 11



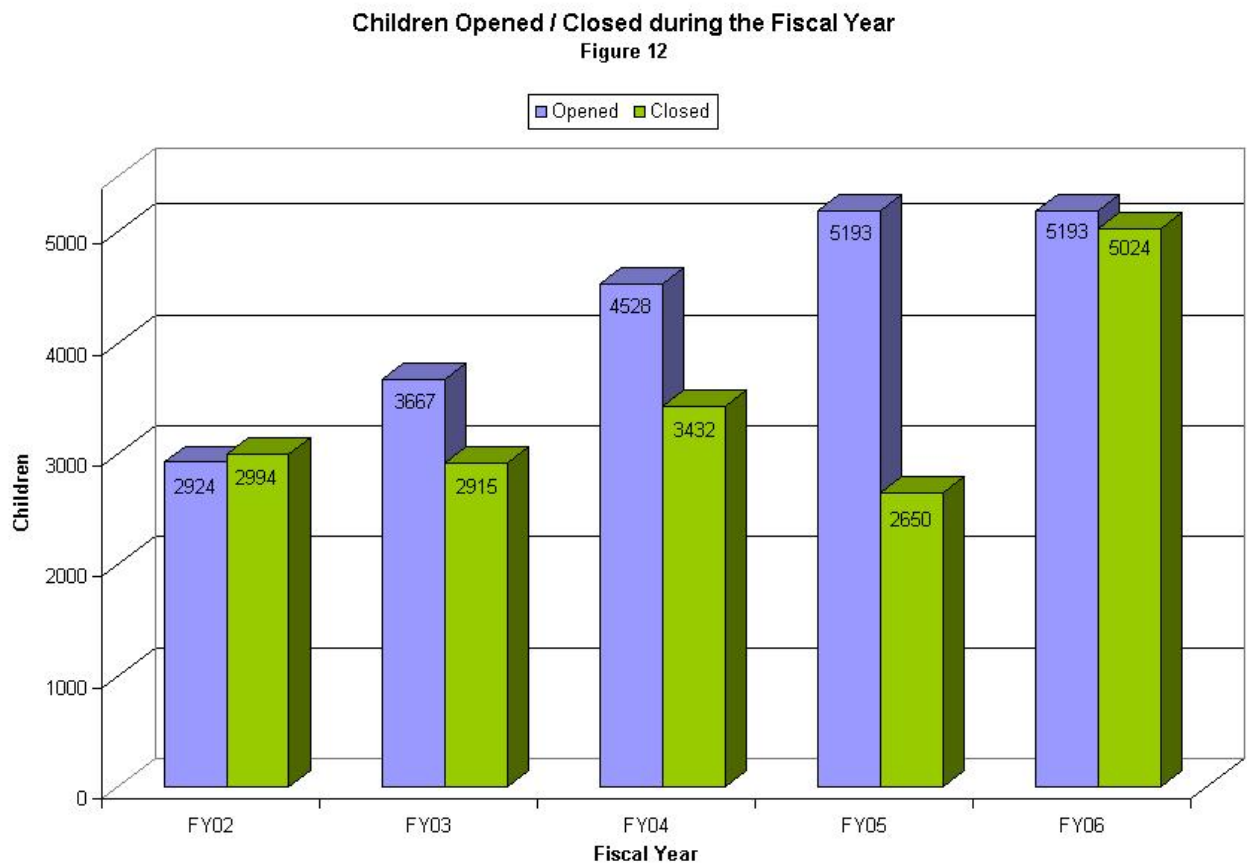
Children who are classified as “registered” are those who are in out-of-home placement and whose case is subject to board review. Generally, this happens when a dependency petition is filed. The Foster Care Review Board “registers” these children in the Dependent Children Automated Tracking System (DCATS) where they remain until their cases are either canceled or are ready to be scheduled for a review, at which time they are “opened”. A child’s case can be canceled for a number of reasons, including because the child has been returned home or the dependency was dismissed.

In fiscal year 2006, there were more children “opened” (5,593) than “registered” (5,123). One hypothesis for this is that more children who had previously been registered earlier in their lives were coming back into care and having new cases opened. In previous years, the number of children registered has always exceeded the number of children with cases opened.

The program opened 8% more cases in fiscal year 2006 than it did in fiscal year 2005. As the above chart shows, there has been an increase in the number of cases opened every year for the past five fiscal years.

Figure 12 reflects the number of children whose cases were opened versus those closed. In fiscal year 2006, for every 100 cases opened, 97 were closed, a greater rate of closure than in fiscal year 2005, when almost twice as many cases were opened than closed.

Figure 12



The following three *Figures (13, 14 and 15)* reflect the number of children who were considered Active or Open, during the last five fiscal years (2002–2006). For the purpose of this report, “Active” refers to children whose cases have come to the attention of the Foster Care Review Board, are opened and scheduled for a Foster Care Review Board review. This number is queried as a date range (as opposed to a point-in-time query) to track how many children were active at a given time during the fiscal year. This number is generally slightly higher than the number of children actually reviewed, as some reviews are vacated because the court relieves the FCRB from reviewing a case for various reasons or because a child is returned home prior to the review.

The number of children who were considered “Active” has risen steadily in the last three fiscal years: a 27% increase between FY03 and FY04; an 8% increase between FY04 and FY05; and an 11% increase between FY05 and FY06.

Figure 13 provides the total number of Active children during each fiscal year, while *Figures 14 and 15* provide a break down of these numbers by gender and ethnicity.

Figure 13

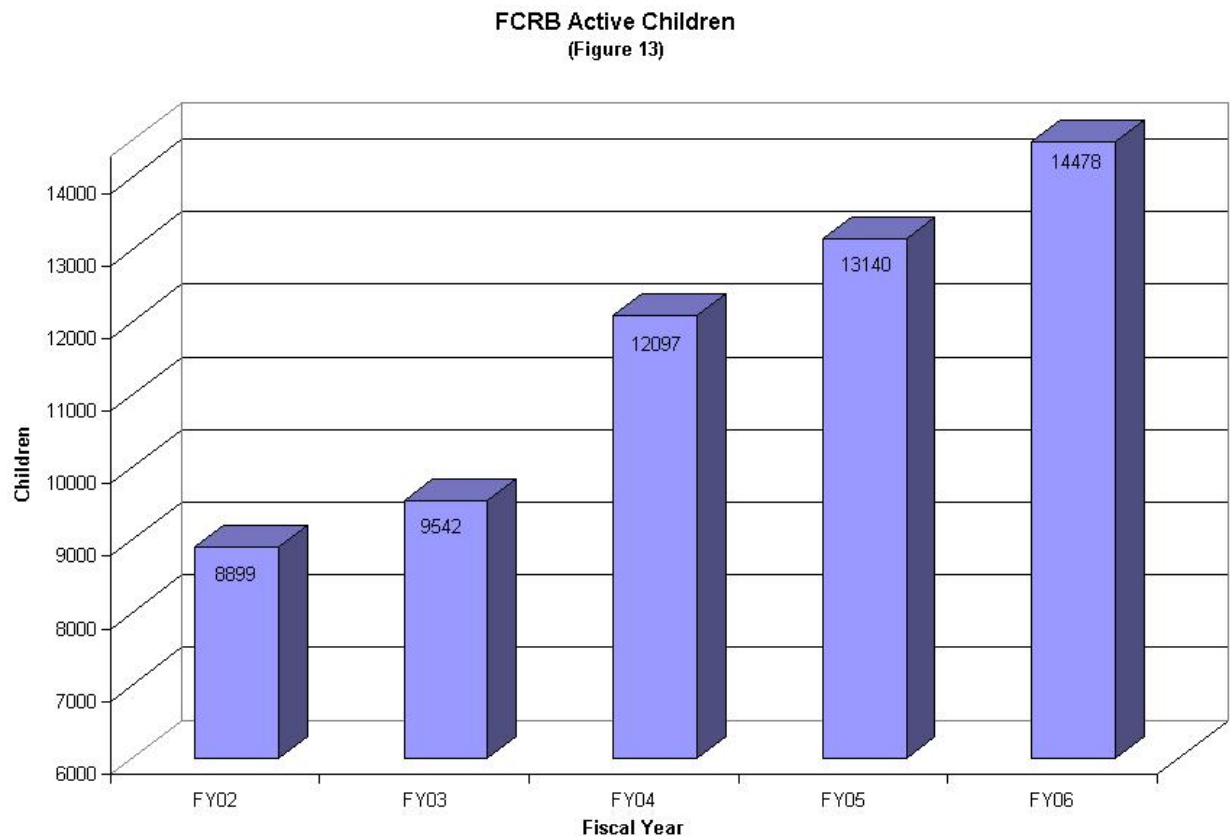


Figure 14

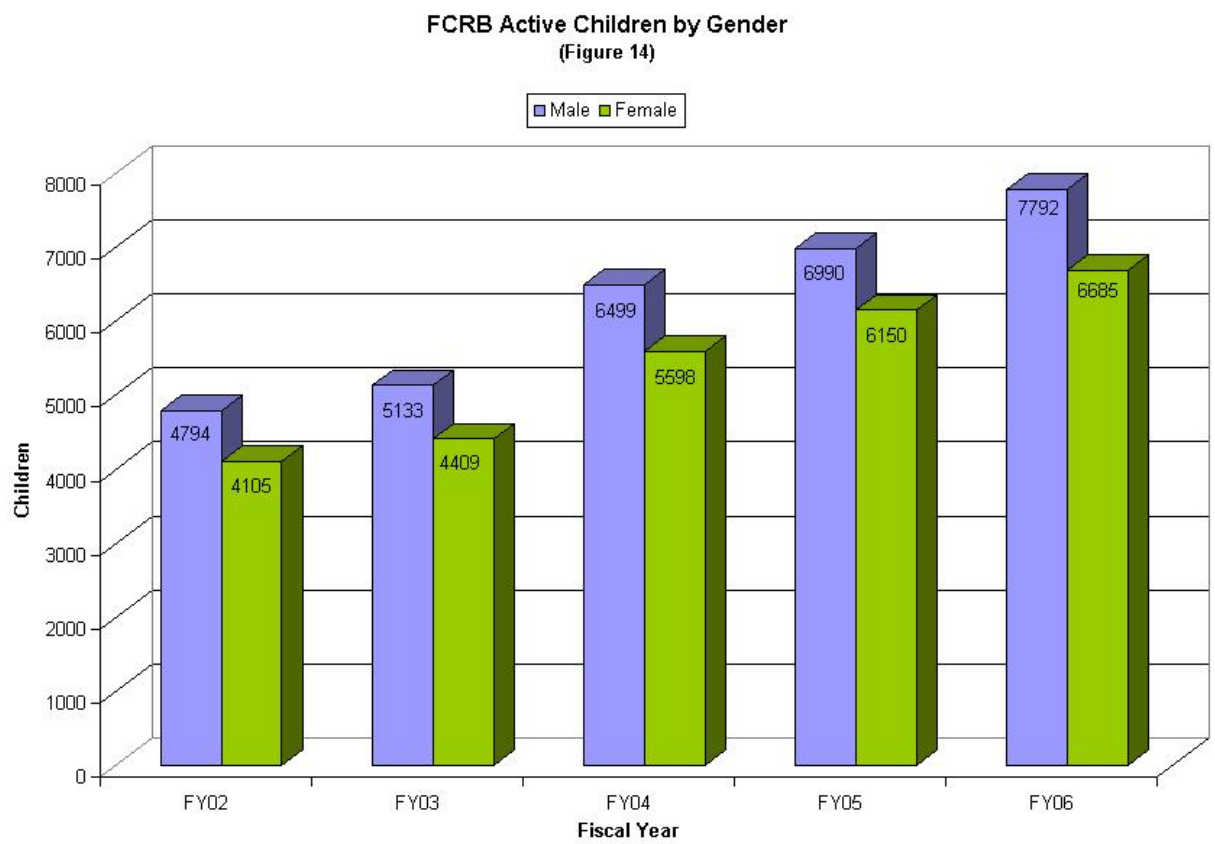
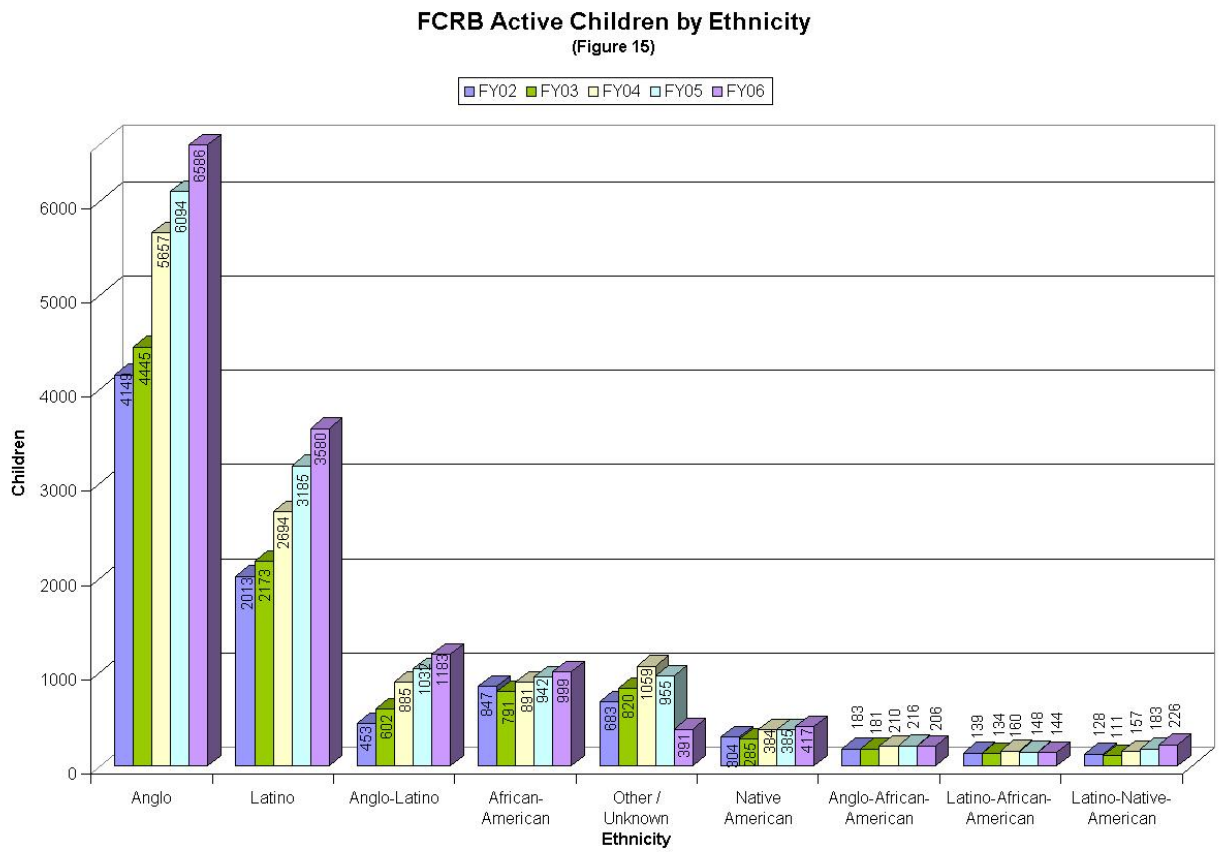


Figure 15



The following three *Figures (16, 17 and 18)* reflect the number of “Active” children by county, for the last five fiscal years. Every county except Mohave, which experienced a slight decrease in the number of active children during fiscal year 2006, experienced an increase in the number of active children over fiscal year 2005. The largest percentage increases were experienced by LaPaz (64%), Coconino (30 percent), Pinal (29 percent), Yuma (18%) and Gila (17 percent) counties.

Figure 16

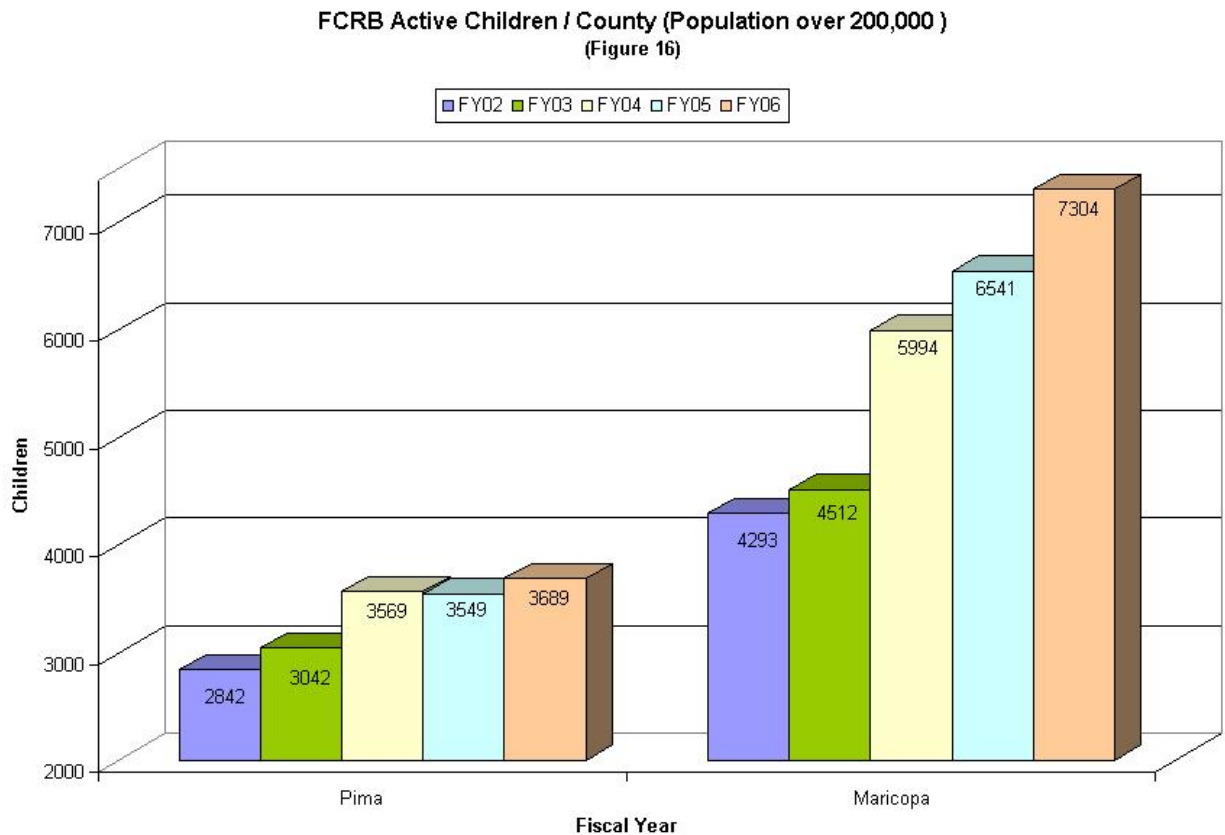


Figure 17

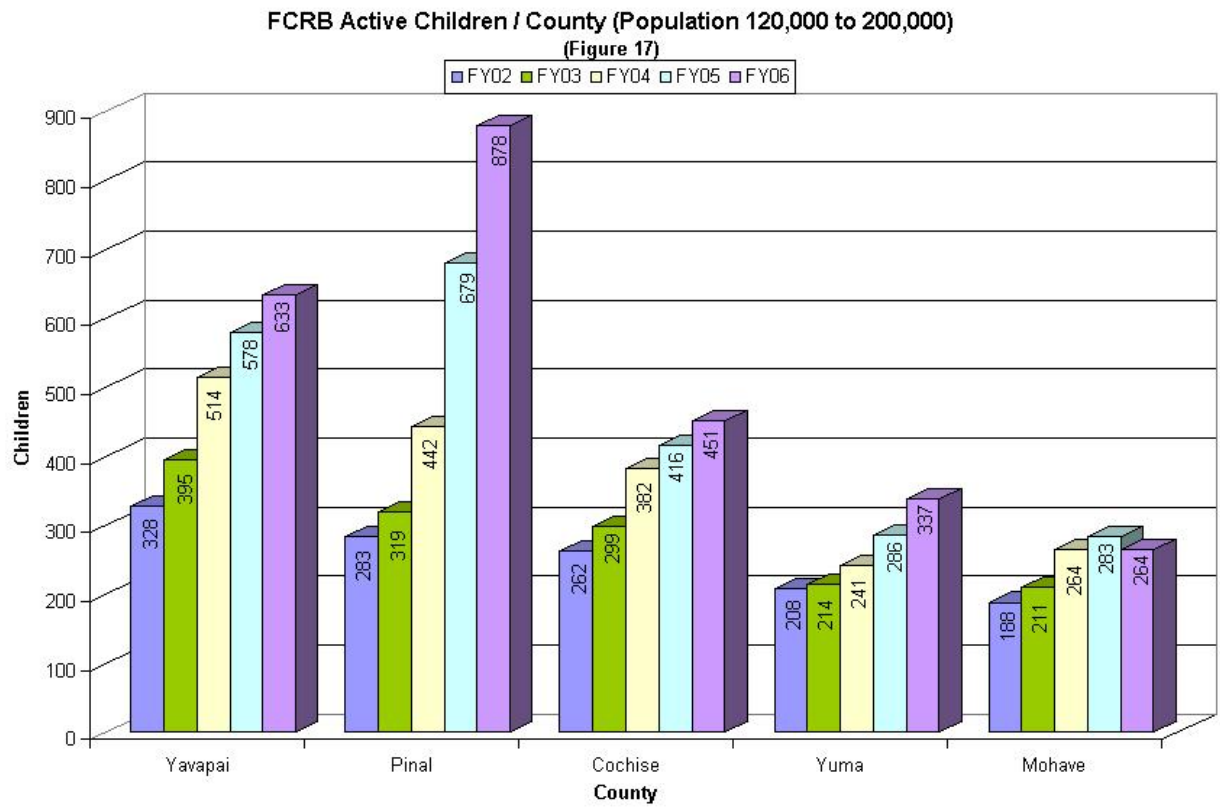
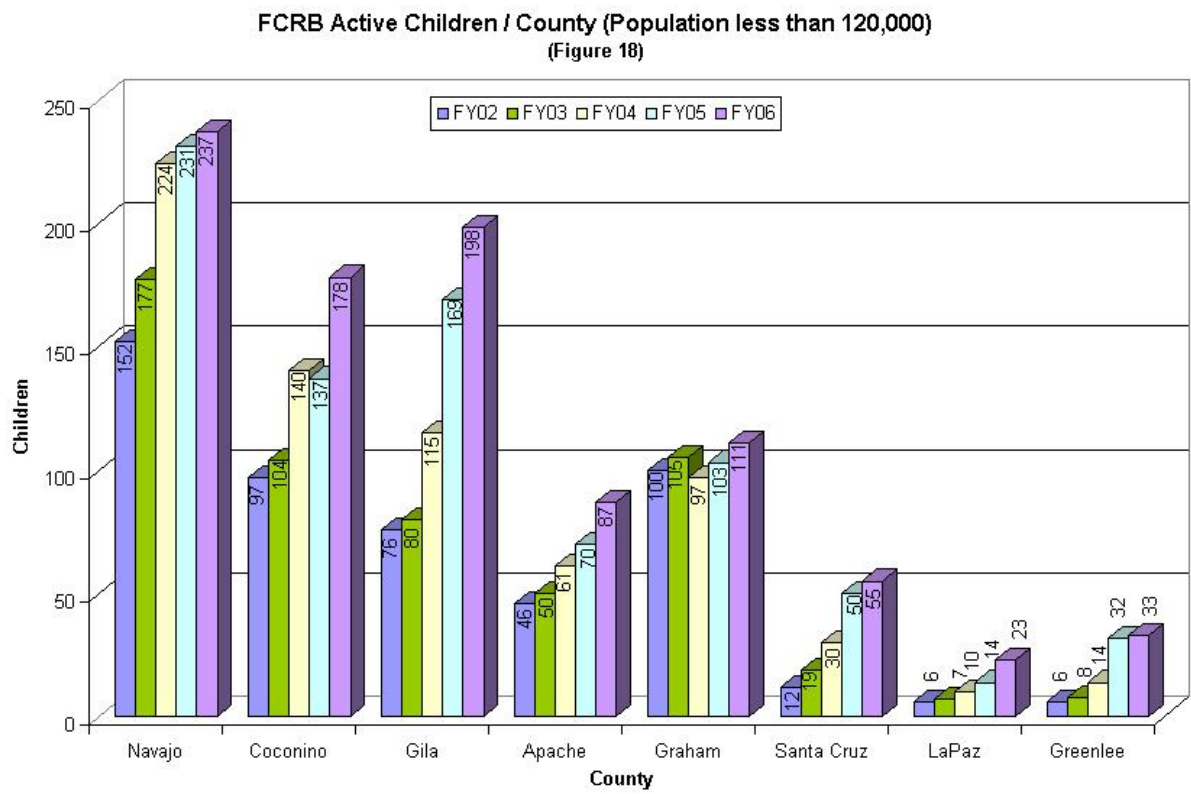


Figure 18

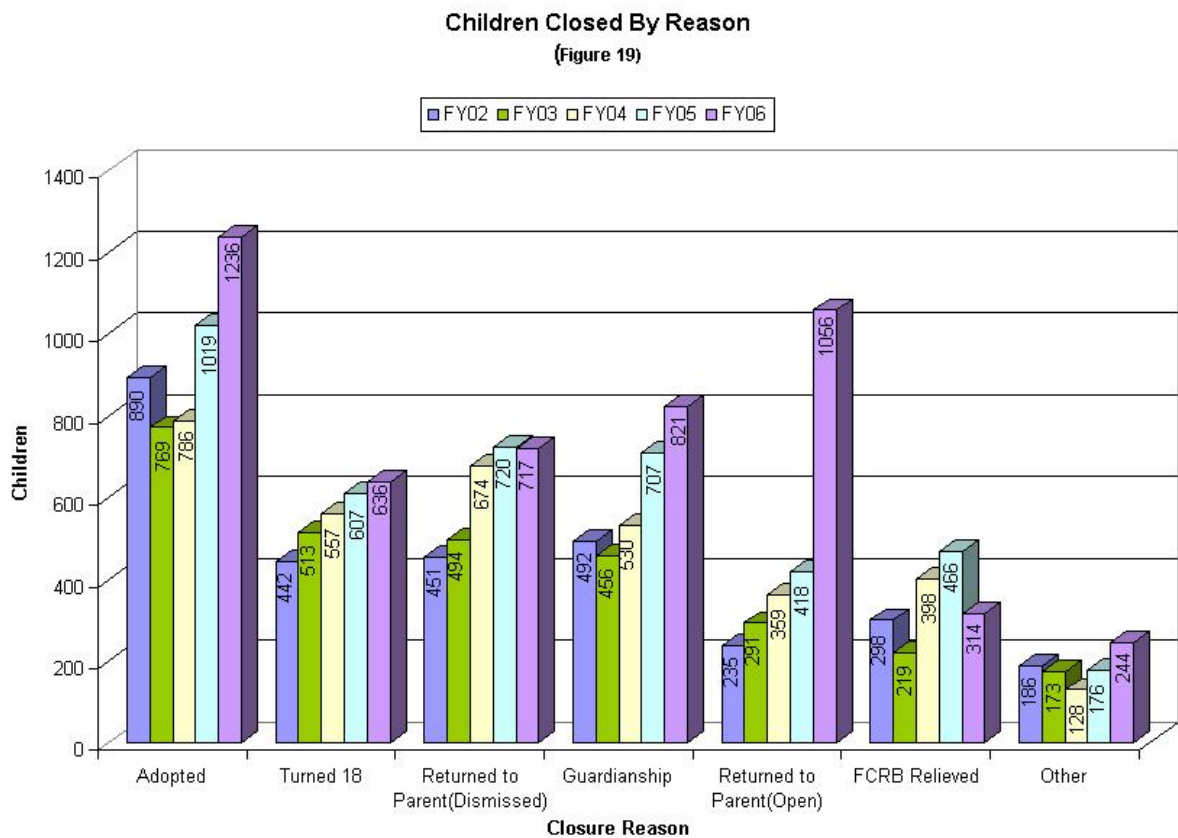


The reasons Foster Care Review Board cases have been closed over the last five fiscal years are displayed in *Figure 19*. As stated earlier, the data presented in the Foster Care Review Board portion of this Dependency data book, including that in *Figure 19*, is data extracted from the Dependent Children Automated Tracking System (DCATS) and refers only to those cases that came before, or at one time were scheduled to come before, the Foster Care Review Board. It is important to note that just because a case is closed for the Foster Care Review Board, it may still be Active to the Court.

In fiscal year 2006, 36 percent of the cases were closed because the child was returned home; of that 36 percent, 41 percent were returned home and their dependency case was closed (down from 64 percent in fiscal year 2005) and the other 59 percent were returned home but their cases remained open (up from 36 percent in fiscal year 2005). Between fiscal year 2005 and fiscal year 2006, there was a significant increase in the number of cases that were closed when the children returned home but their dependency case remained open by the Juvenile Court: there were 418 such cases in fiscal year 2005 and 1,056 such cases in fiscal year 2006, a 153 percent increase.

Additionally, in fiscal year 2006, 25 percent of the cases closed were closed as a result of an adoption, a 22% increase over fiscal year 2005.

Figure 19



All Foster Care Review Boards are provided with a Findings and Determinations Guidebook. The guidebook is not a checklist, but rather is provided to volunteers and staff as a tool to assist when preparing for case reviews as well as when conducting the reviews.

This guidebook provides ten Findings that serve as the board's formal response to issues that require review, as mandated by federal or state laws, as well as child welfare agency and Foster Care Review Board program policy. Boards are required to answer yes, no, partial, unknown, not applicable, or insufficient information to each of the ten Findings.

Should the board determine that the appropriate response to any of the Findings is something other than "yes", the board is required to consider specific elements to support their determination. Each Finding is accompanied by a list of elements. Succinct comments can be made to the Findings if the listed elements do not apply. Further discussion of a Finding or an element to a Finding, specific to the case and/or interested parties is completed as an Observation, Comment, Concern or Recommendation later in the report. This manner of capturing the board's Findings and Determinations provides the means and mechanisms needed to track and query statistical data to ensure review boards are addressing federally mandated questions as well as aid in the Foster Care Review Board's advocacy efforts for children in out-of-home care.

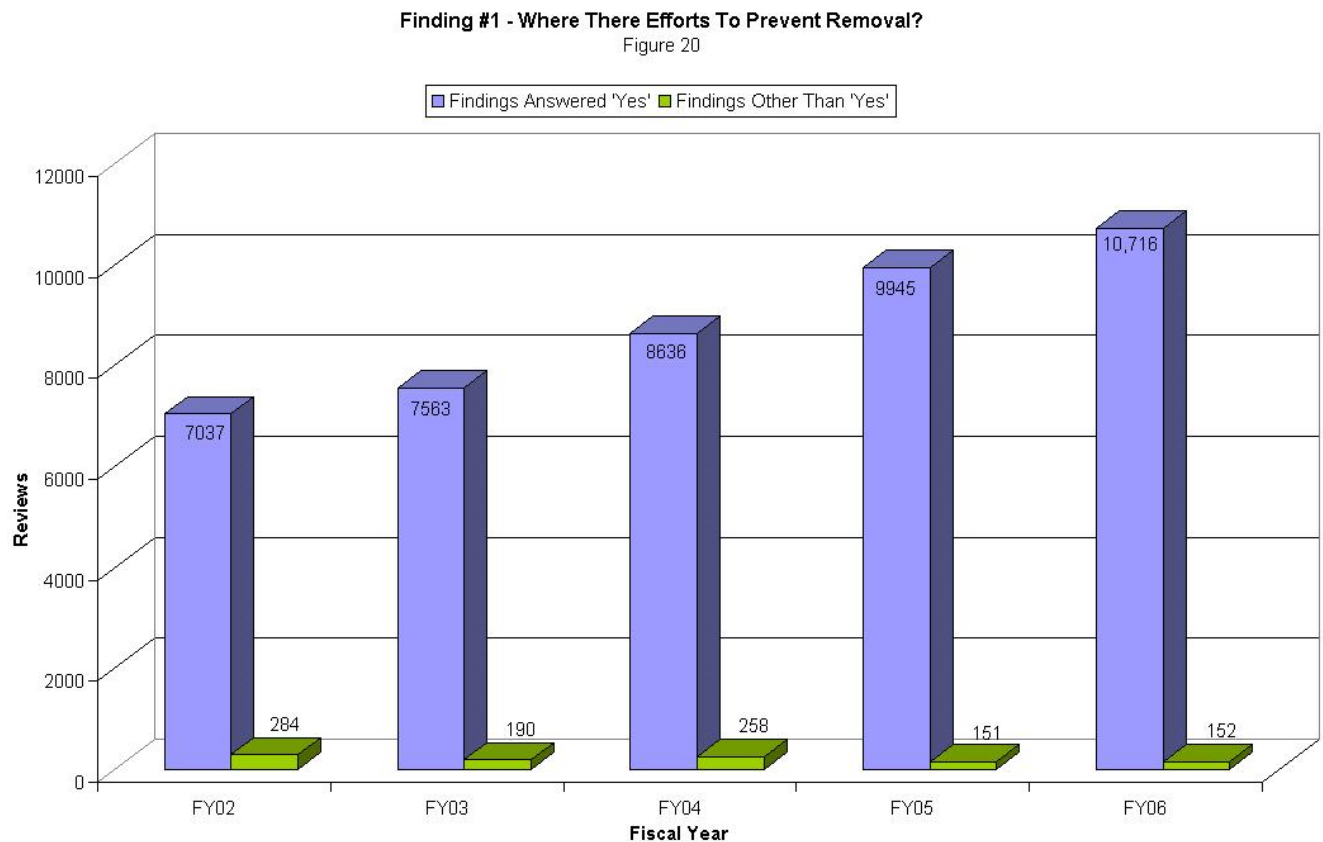
Table 5

	FINDINGS	POSSIBLE DETERMINATIONS
Finding 1	Reasonable efforts were made to prevent the removal of the children from the home and that continuation therein would be contrary to the welfare of the children	Yes, No, Partial, Unknown
Finding 2	The Board makes a determination that continuation of the child(ren) in out-of-home placement is necessary.	Yes, No, Partial, Unknown, Not Applicable
Finding 3	The Board makes a determination that the placement(s) is/are safe, appropriate and least restrictive.	Yes, No, Partial, Unknown, Not Applicable
Finding 4	The Board makes a determination that there is an appropriate case plan(s) which outlines tasks for each participant in the case.	Yes, No, Partial, Unknown, Insufficient Information
Finding 5	The Board makes a determination that each case participant is following the tasks out lined in the case plan.	Yes, No, Partial, insufficient information
Finding 6	The Board makes a determination that progress is being made toward removing the causes necessitating out-of-home placement.	Yes, No, Partial, Insufficient Information
Finding 7	In cases other than long term foster care or independent living, the Board makes a determination that a realistic target date for the completion of the permanency goal is established.	Yes, No, Partial, Not Applicable, Insufficient Information
Finding 8	The Board recommends that a judicial determination be made that reasonable efforts are being made by the Agency to implement the permanency plan for the child(ren).	Yes, No, Partial, Not Applicable, Insufficient Information
Finding 9	The child(ren)'s education is being implemented successfully.	Yes, No, Unknown
Finding 10	The Board makes a determination that there are no significant service gaps or system problems.	Yes, No, Partial, Not Applicable, Unknown

The following three *Figures (20-22)*, provide statistical data captured over the last five fiscal years regarding *Finding One: Reasonable efforts were made to prevent the removal of the child(ren) from the home and that continuation therein would be contrary to the welfare of the child(ren)*.

Figure 20 reflects the number of times Foster Care Review Boards across the state determined that reasonable efforts were made to prevent the removal of a child from their home and that continuation in the home would be contrary to the welfare of the child. The chart also reflects the number of times the Foster Care Review Boards responded something other than “yes” to the Finding. The various types of negative findings (no, partial, inapplicable, unknown, insufficient information), have been totaled and are included in the “no” column of this chart to ensure clarity and easy readability.

Figure 20



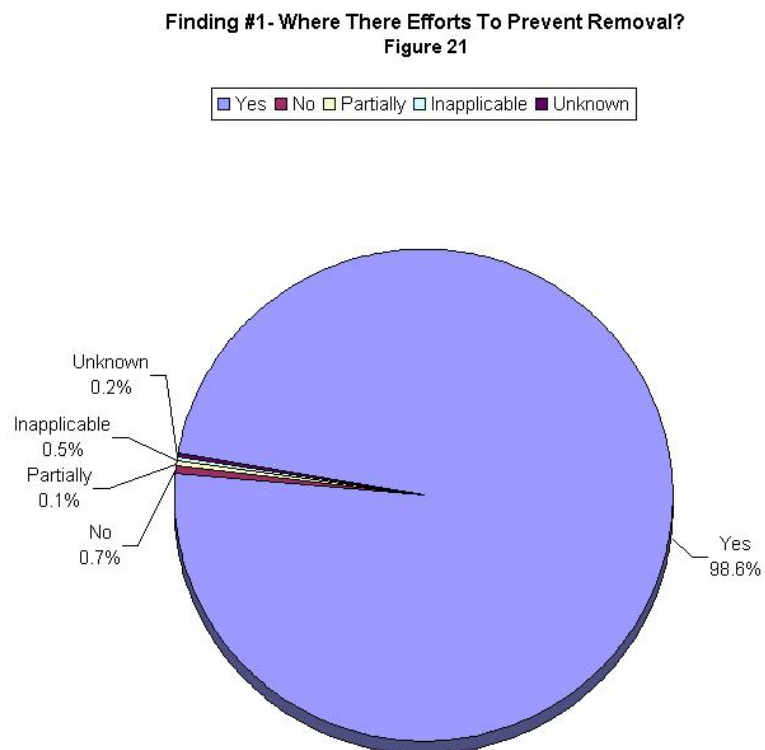
* The “no” column includes all responses other than “yes”; for example, if the board had insufficient information, the Board would respond “no” to this Finding. Responses included in the “no” column include: no, partial, inapplicable, unknown and insufficient information.

Over the last five fiscal years, Foster Care Review Boards across the state, when considering Finding One, have consistently determined that reasonable efforts to prevent the removal of a child from his or her home were made the majority of the time.

The Foster Care Review Boards across the state determined that reasonable efforts to prevent removal of a child from his or her home were made 96 percent of the time in fiscal year 2002; 97.5 percent of the time in fiscal year 2003; 97 percent of the time in fiscal year 2004; 99 percent of the time in fiscal year 2005, and 98.6% of the time in fiscal year 2006.

Figure 21 breaks out the negative determinations within Finding One and shows the percentage of times the Foster Care Review Boards responded “no,” “partially,” “inapplicable,” etc., to the Finding.

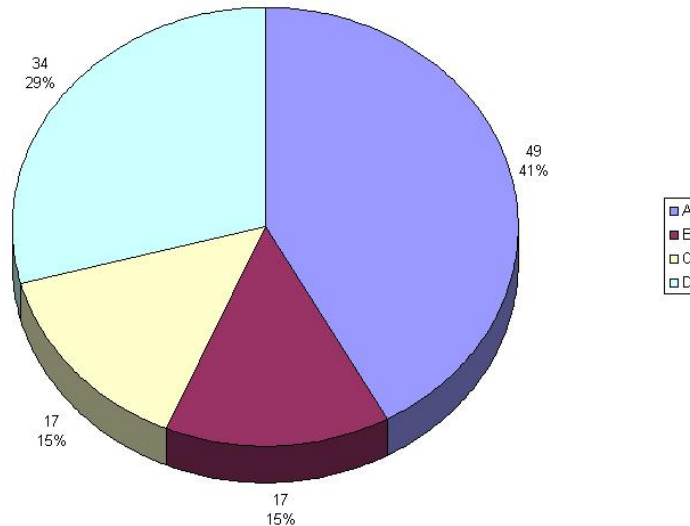
Figure 21



While the number of times Foster Care Review Boards determined that reasonable efforts to prevent the removal of a child from his or her home were not made was minimal during fiscal year 2006, the reasons for those determinations were still tracked by the program and are included in this report as *Figure 22*.

Figure 22

Finding #1 - Efforts to Prevent Removal / FY06
(For Findings not answered 'Yes', the breakdown of the reasons are as follows)
Figure 22



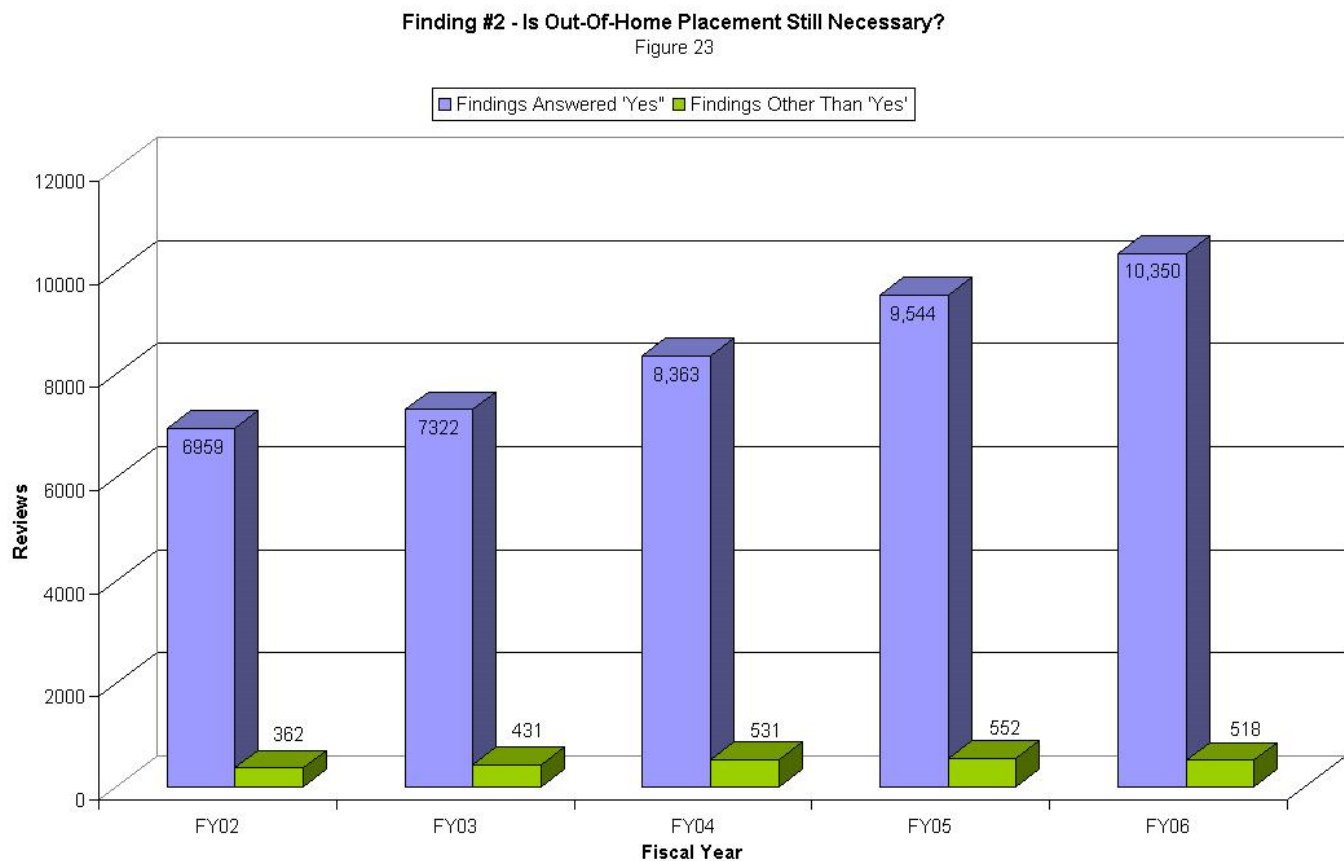
Finding #1 - Efforts to Prevent Removal / FY06

A	The child(ren) are currently temporary wards of the Court. The initial dependency hearings have not been completed, and to date the Foster Care Review Board is unaware of any Judicial findings regarding reasonable efforts.
B	At the initial dependency hearing, to the Board's knowledge, the Court did NOT make a finding regarding whether or not reasonable efforts were made to prevent removal of the child(ren); and that continuation in the home would be contrary to the welfare of the child(ren).
C	There is not a copy of the initial dependency minute entry in the Foster Care Review Board file. Therefore, the Board is unable to determine if the Court made a finding that reasonable efforts were made to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child(ren) from the home; and that continuation therein would have been contrary to the welfare of the child(ren).
D	The Court made a finding that the removal of the child(ren) from the home was the result of a Judicial determination to the effect that continuation therein would be contrary to the welfare of the children; however, the Court did NOT make a finding that reasonable efforts have been made prior to the placement to prevent removal.

The following three *Figures (23–25)*, provide statistical data captured over the last five fiscal years regarding *Finding Two: The Board makes a determination that continuation of the child(ren) in out-of-home placement is necessary.*

Figure 23 reflects the number of times Foster Care Review Boards across the state determined that continuation of child in out-of-home placement was necessary. The chart also reflects the number of times the Foster Care Review Boards responded something other than “yes” to the Finding. The various types of negative responses, (unknown, partially, etc.), have been totaled and are included in the “no” column of the table to ensure clarity and easy readability.

Figure 23

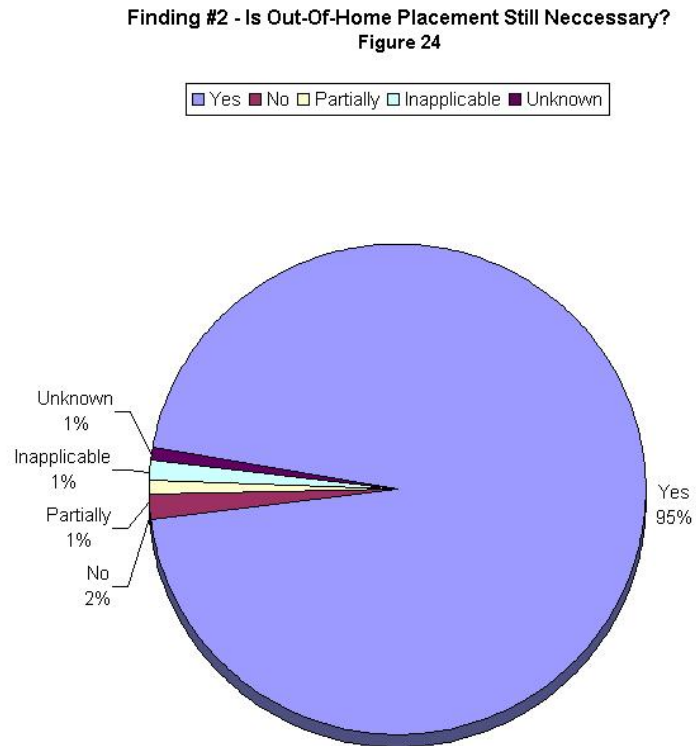


* The “no” column includes all responses other than “yes”; for example, if the board had insufficient information, the Board would respond “no” to this Finding. Responses included in the “no” column include: no, partial, inapplicable, unknown and insufficient information.

When reviewing cases and considering *Finding Two*, the Foster Care Review Boards across the state determined during fiscal year 2006 that the continuation of a child in out-of-home placement was necessary for 95 percent of the children reviewed. This has been consistent over the last five fiscal years; in fiscal year 2005, the boards also made this Finding 95 percent of the time; in fiscal years 2003 and 2004, 94 percent of the time; and 95 percent of the time in fiscal year 2002.

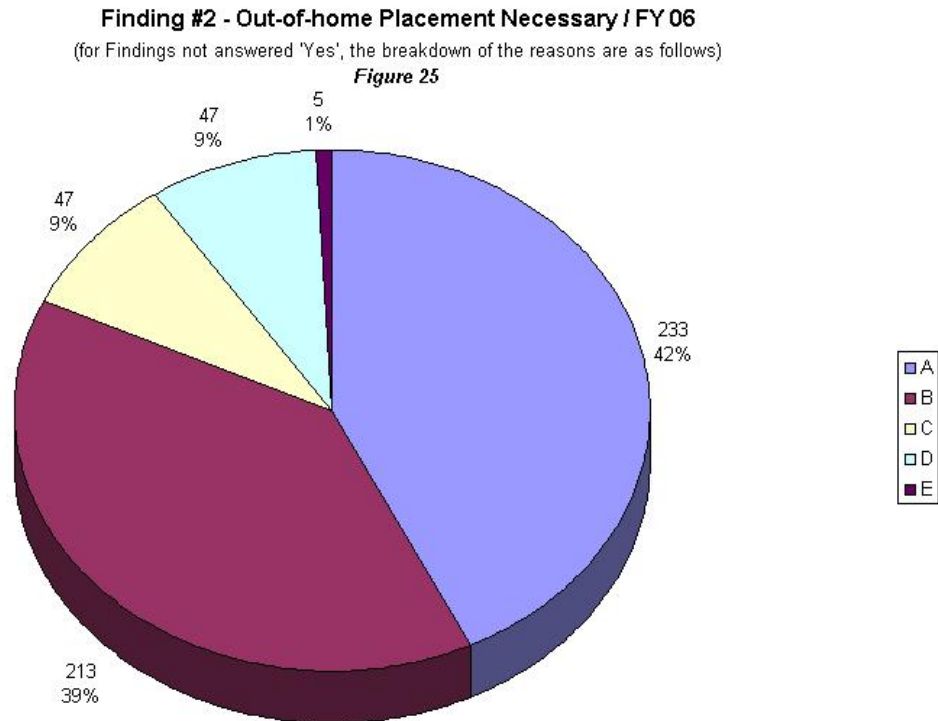
Figure 24 breaks out the negative determinations within Finding Two and shows the percentage of times the Foster Care Review Boards responded “no,” “partially,” “inapplicable,” and “unknown” to the Finding.

Figure 24



While the number of times the Foster Care Review Boards determined that out-of-home placement was no longer necessary was minimal during fiscal year 2006, the reasons for those determinations were still tracked by the program and are included in this report as *Figure 25*.

Figure 25



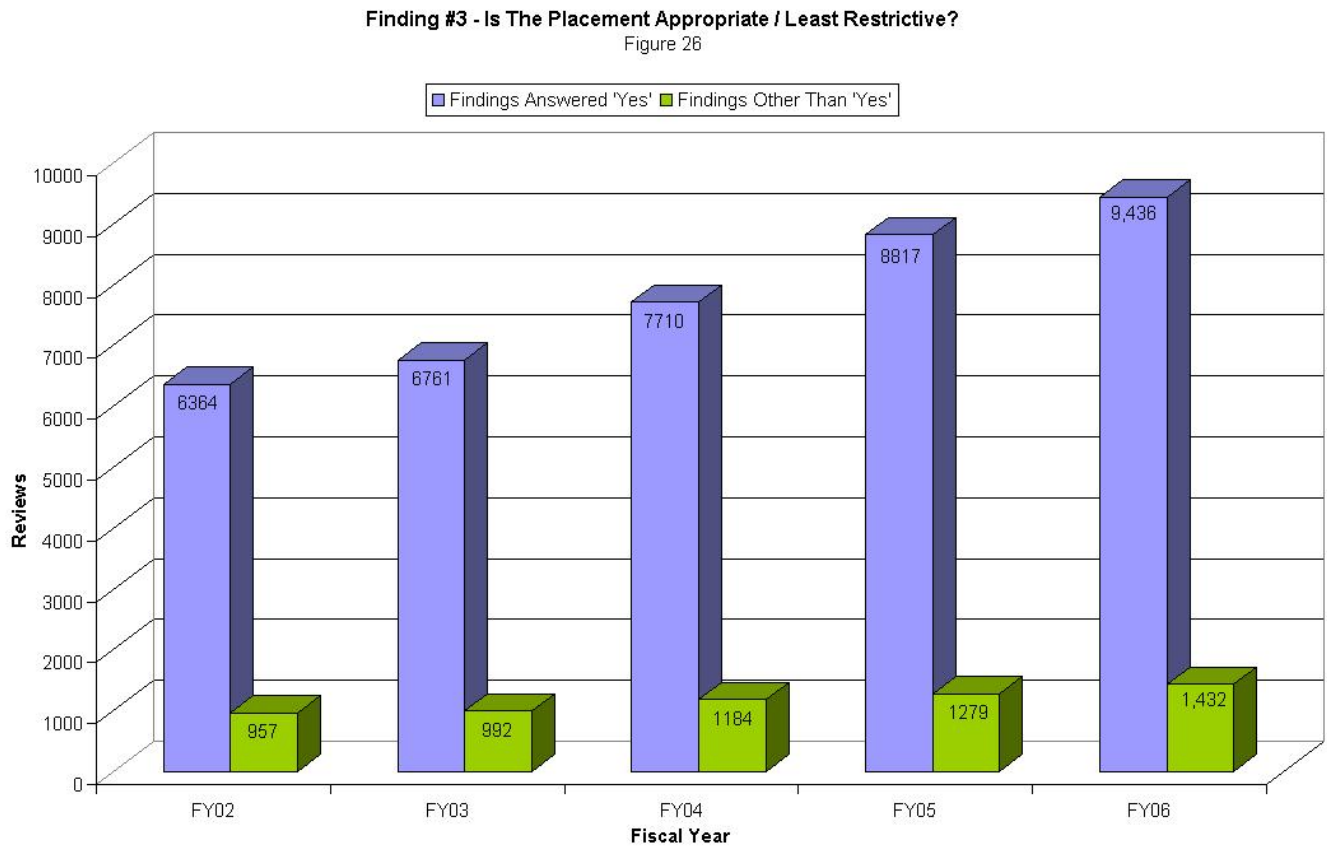
Finding #2 - Out-of-home Placement Necessary / FY 06

A	The child(ren) has progressed sufficiently to consider returning him/her home.
B	The causes or circumstances responsible for the child(ren) being placed in out-of-home care have been mitigated and reunification is possible.
C	The parent(s) or guardian(s) has achieved the case plan objectives to an extent that reunification is possible.
D	The Board believes there is not imminent risk of abuse and/or neglect if the child(ren) is returned home.
E	The Agency is maintaining the child(ren) in out-of-home placement for reasons other than those stated in the dependency petition and the Board does not believe these reasons constitute a risk to the children.

The data captured regarding *Finding Three: The Board makes a determination that the placement(s) is/are safe, appropriate and least restrictive*, is presented in Figures 26–28.

Figure 26 reflects the number of times Foster Care Review Boards across the state determined that a child’s placement was safe, appropriate and least restrictive. The chart also reflects the number of times the Foster Care Review Boards responded something other than “yes” to the Finding. The various types of negatives findings (no, partial, inapplicable, etc.), have been totaled and are included in the “no” columns of the table to ensure clarity and easy readability.

Figure 26

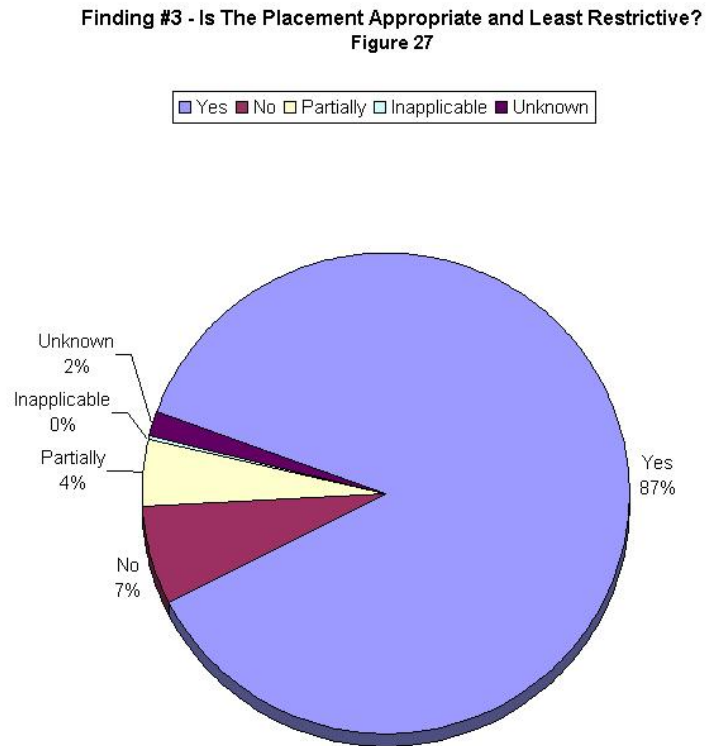


* The “no” column includes all responses other than “yes”; for example, if the board had insufficient information, the Board would respond “no” to this Finding. Responses included in the “no” column include: no, partial, inapplicable, unknown and insufficient information.

When reviewing cases and considering *Finding Three*, the Foster Care Review Boards across the state determined that in fiscal year 2006, children had appropriate placements 87 percent of the time, a figure equaled in fiscal years 2002 through 2005.

Figure 27 breaks out the negative determinations within Finding Three and shows the percentage of times the Foster Care Review Boards responded “no,” “partially,” “inapplicable,” etc., to the Finding.

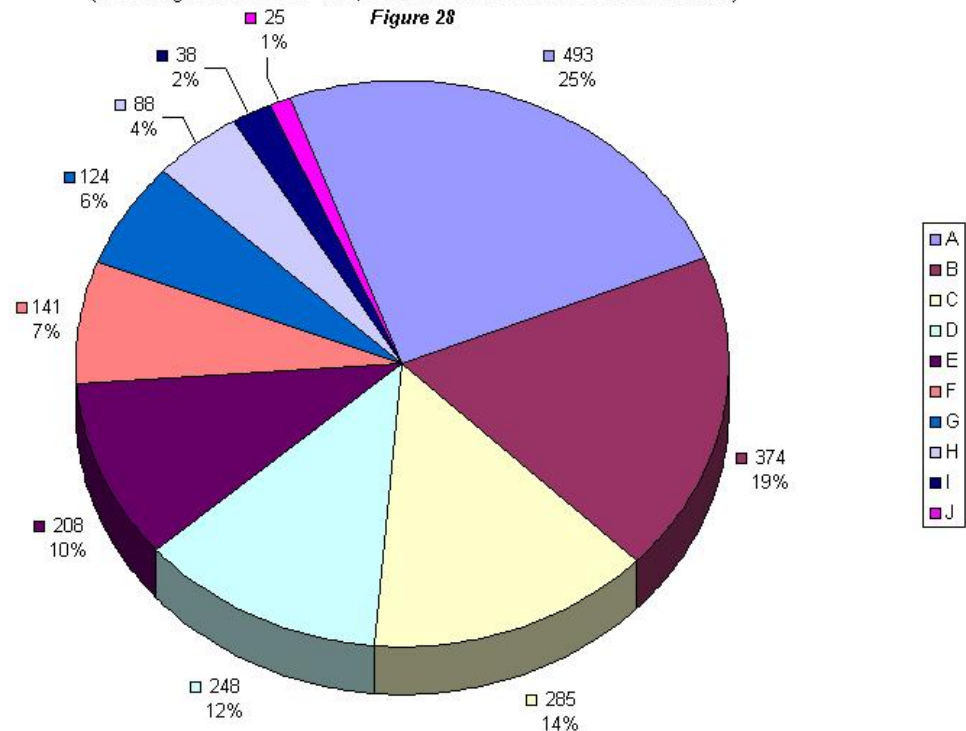
Figure 27



While the number of times the Foster Care Review Boards determined that the placement was not safe, appropriate and/or least restrictive was only 7 percent, the reasons for that determination were tracked and are included in this report as *Figure 28*.

Figure 28

Finding #3 - Is The Placement Safe, Appropriate and Least Restrictive? / FY06
(for Findings not answered 'Yes', the breakdown of the reasons are as follows)



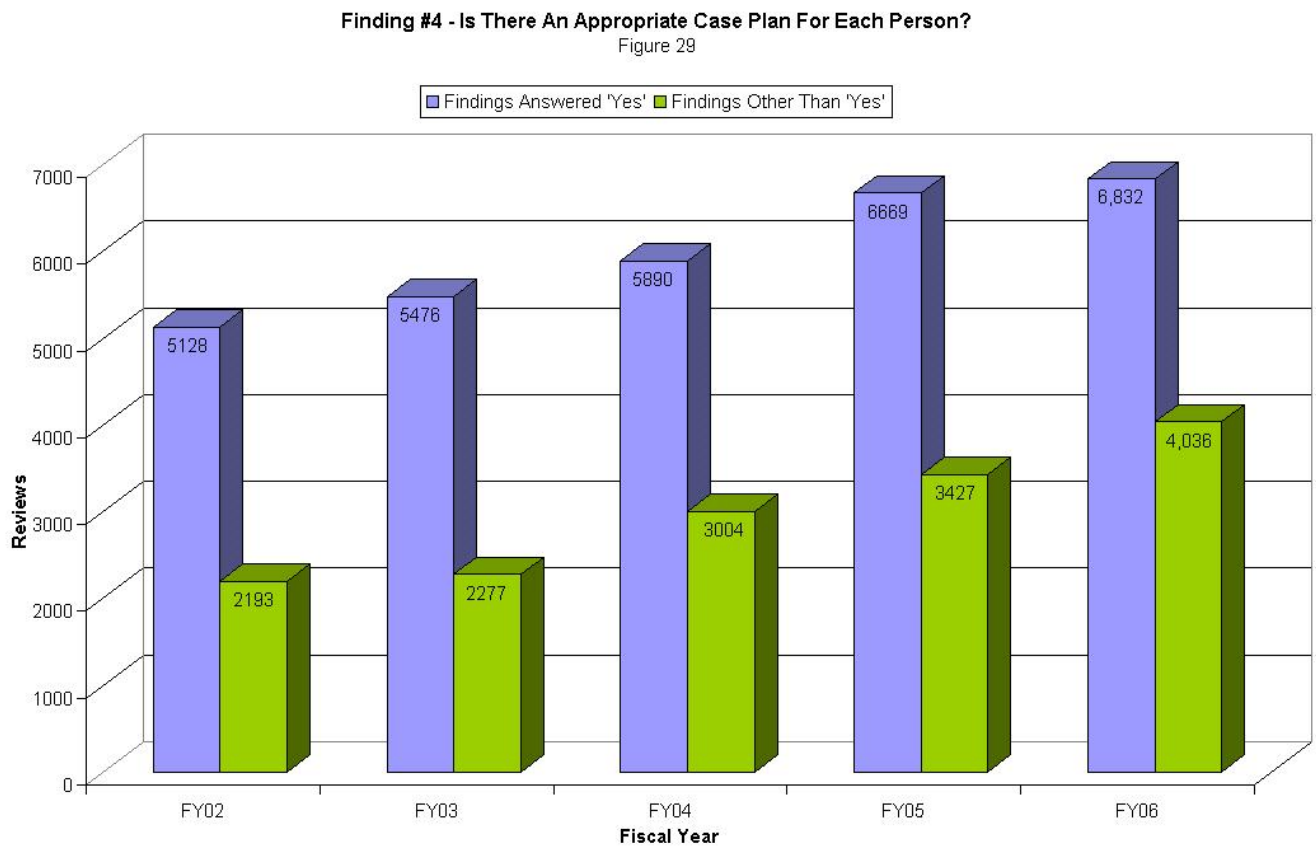
Finding #3 - Is The Placement Safe, Appropriate and Least Restrictive? / FY06

A	Child is on runaway status.
B	The child(ren) is not in the most family-like setting possible.
C	This placement is not being considered as a long-term placement.
D	The current placement does not meet the significant needs of the child(ren).
E	The Board has insufficient information to assess the appropriateness of the placement.
F	The safety of the child(ren) is not assured in the current placement.
G	This is not a step toward permanency.
H	There have been unusual incident reports in the placement during the past six months.
I	The investigation of the placement has been inadequate.
J	Other

The data captured regarding *Finding Four: The Board makes a determination that there is an appropriate case plan(s) which outlines tasks for each participant in the case*, is presented in Figures 29–31.

Figure 29 reflects the number of times Foster Care Review Boards across the state determined that there was an appropriate case plan which outlines tasks for each participant in the case. The chart also reflects the number of times the Foster Care Review Boards responded something other than “yes” to the Finding. The various types of negative findings (no, partial, inapplicable, unknown, etc.), have been totaled and are included in the “no” columns of the table to ensure clarity and easy readability.

Figure 29



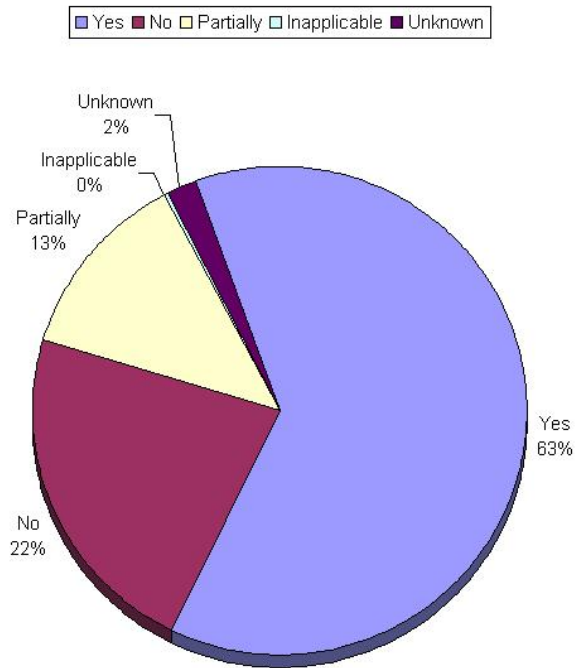
** The “no” column includes all responses other than “yes”; for example, if the board had insufficient information, the Board would respond “no” to this Finding. Responses included in the “no” column include: no, partial, inapplicable, unknown and insufficient information.*

When reviewing cases and considering *Finding Four*, the Foster Care Review Boards across the state determined that in fiscal year 2006, there was an appropriate case plan which outlined tasks for each participant in the cases reviewed 63 percent of the time. The Boards reached the same determination 70 percent, 71 percent, 66 percent, and 66 percent of the time in fiscal years 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005, respectively.

Figure 30 breaks out the negative determinations within Finding Four and shows the percentage of times the Foster Care Review Boards responded “no,” “partially,” “inapplicable,” etc., to the Finding.

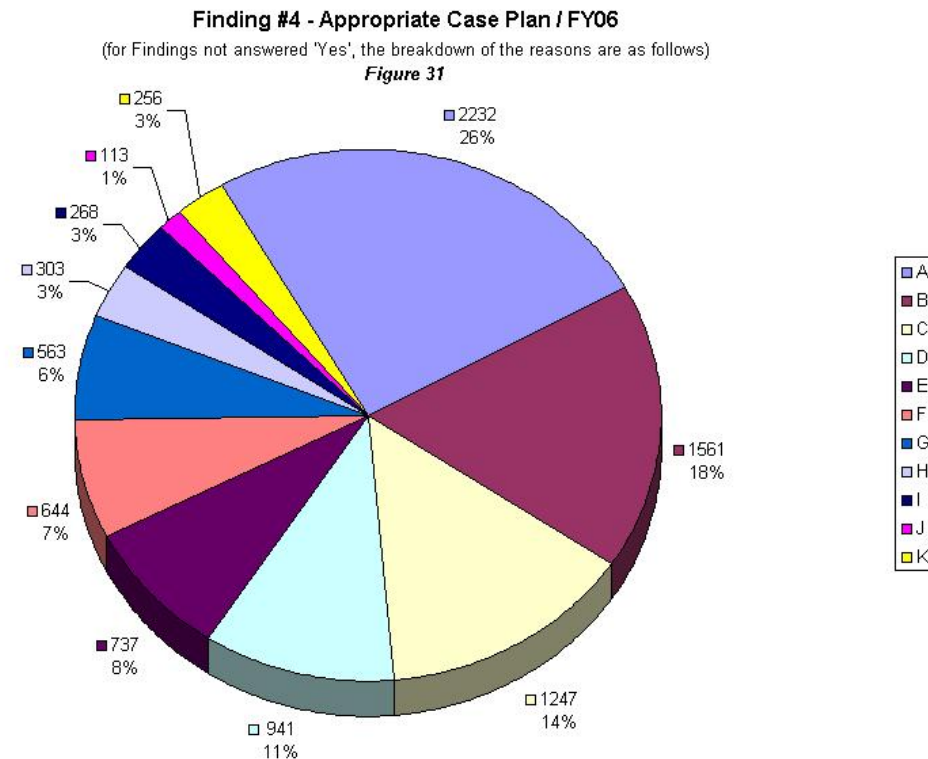
Figure 30

Finding #4 - Is There An Appropriate Case Plan For Each Person?
Figure 30



The Foster Care Review Boards determined 22 percent of the time that there was not an appropriate case plan which outlined tasks for each of the participants in the cases reviewed. The reasons for these determinations are presented in *Figure 31*.

Figure 31



** It is important to note that several determinations can be made towards one case/child; therefore, the numbers represented above are a total of all determinations, not of children.*

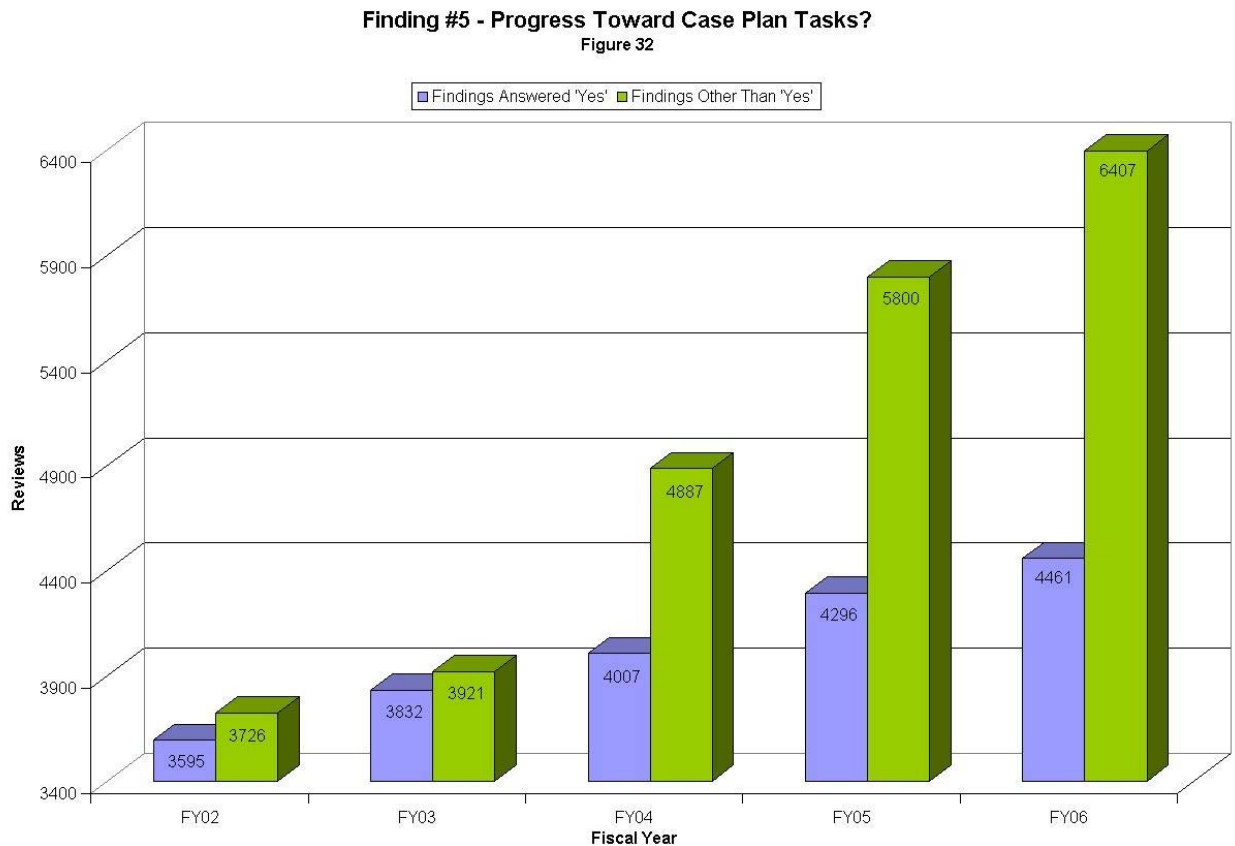
Finding #4 - Appropriate Case Plan / FY06

A	While the Board does not have a copy, the case manager verbally identified the contents of the case plan. The Board recommends that the case manager send a copy of the case plan to the FCRB.	G	There is sufficient evidence to justify the termination of the parent-child relationship in the best interest of the child. Therefore, the Board recommends that the case plan be changed to adoption.
B	The permanency goal needs to change because the parents have failed to or cannot correct the problems leading to the placement.	H	The case plan is more than six months old. Therefore, the Board recommends that the case manager develop a current case plan and send a copy to the FCRB.
C	The permanency plan/goal is unrealistic.	I	There is no written case plan. Therefore, the Board recommends that the case manager develop a written case plan and send a copy to the FCRB.
D	The Board does not have documentation of the current case plan/goal, and case plan with objectives, and tasks. Therefore, the Board recommends that the case manager send a copy of the case plan documentation to the FCRB.	J	The case plan does not include all involved family members and/or involved household members.
E	A more permanent goal is possible.	K	Other
F	The Board disagrees with the Agency's stated plan/goal.		

The data captured regarding *Finding Five: The Board makes a determination that each case participant is following the tasks out lined in the case plan* is presented in Figures 32–34.

Figure 32 reflects the number of times Foster Care Review Boards across the state determined that each case participant was following the tasks outlined in the case plan. The chart also reflects the number of times the Foster Care Review Boards responded something other than “yes” to the Finding. The various types of negative findings (no, partial, inapplicable, unknown, etc.), have been totaled and are included in the “no” columns of the table to ensure clarity and easy readability.

Figure 32



* The “no” column includes all responses other than “yes”; for example, if the board had insufficient information, the Board would respond “no” to this Finding. Responses included in the “no” column include: no, partial, inapplicable, unknown and insufficient information.

When reviewing cases and considering *Finding Five*, the Foster Care Review Boards across the state determined that each case participant was following the tasks outlined in the case plan approximately 50 percent of the time in fiscal years 2002 and 2003, but an increasing frequency of negative findings has been observed in fiscal years 2004 (55 percent) and 2005 (57 percent) and 2006 (59 percent).

Figure 33 breaks out the negative determinations within Finding Five and shows the percentage of times the Foster Care Review Boards responded “no,” “partially,” “inapplicable,” etc., to the Finding.

Figure 33

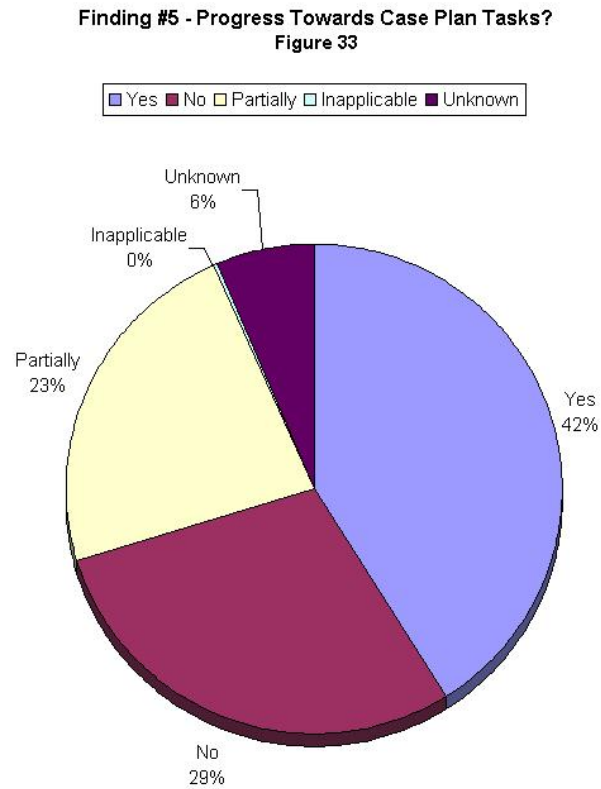
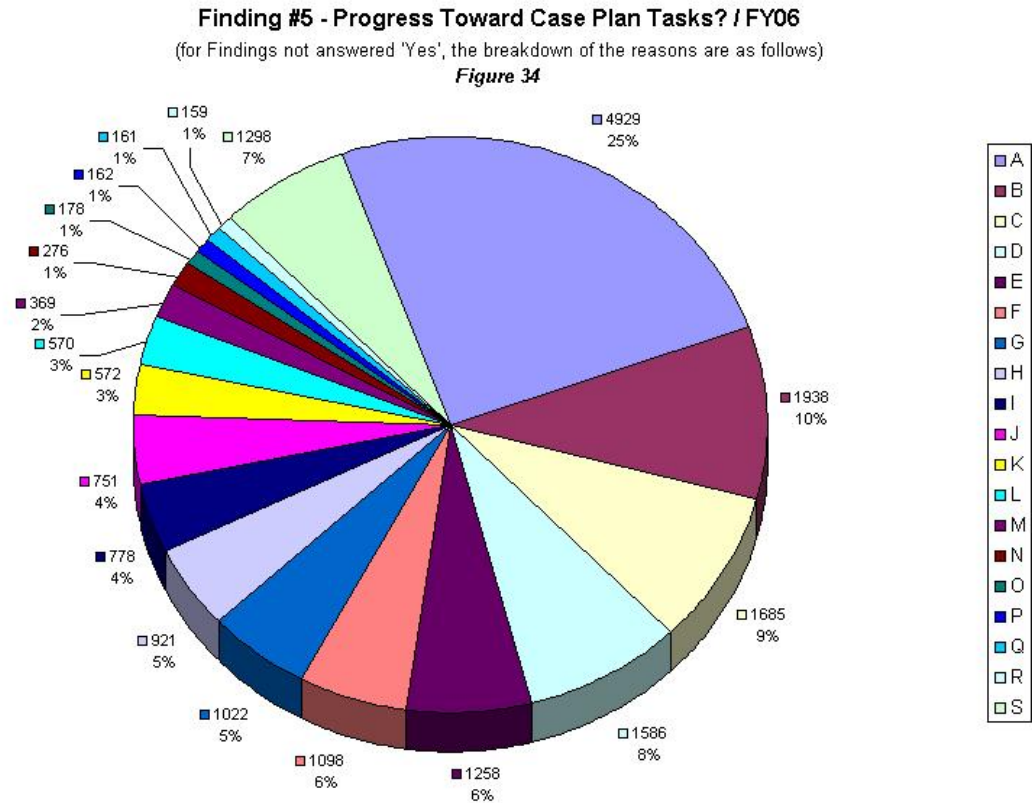


Figure 34 presents the break out of the negative responses to Finding 5.

Figure 34



** It is important to note that several determinations can be made towards one case/child; therefore, the numbers represented above are a total of all determinations, not of children.*

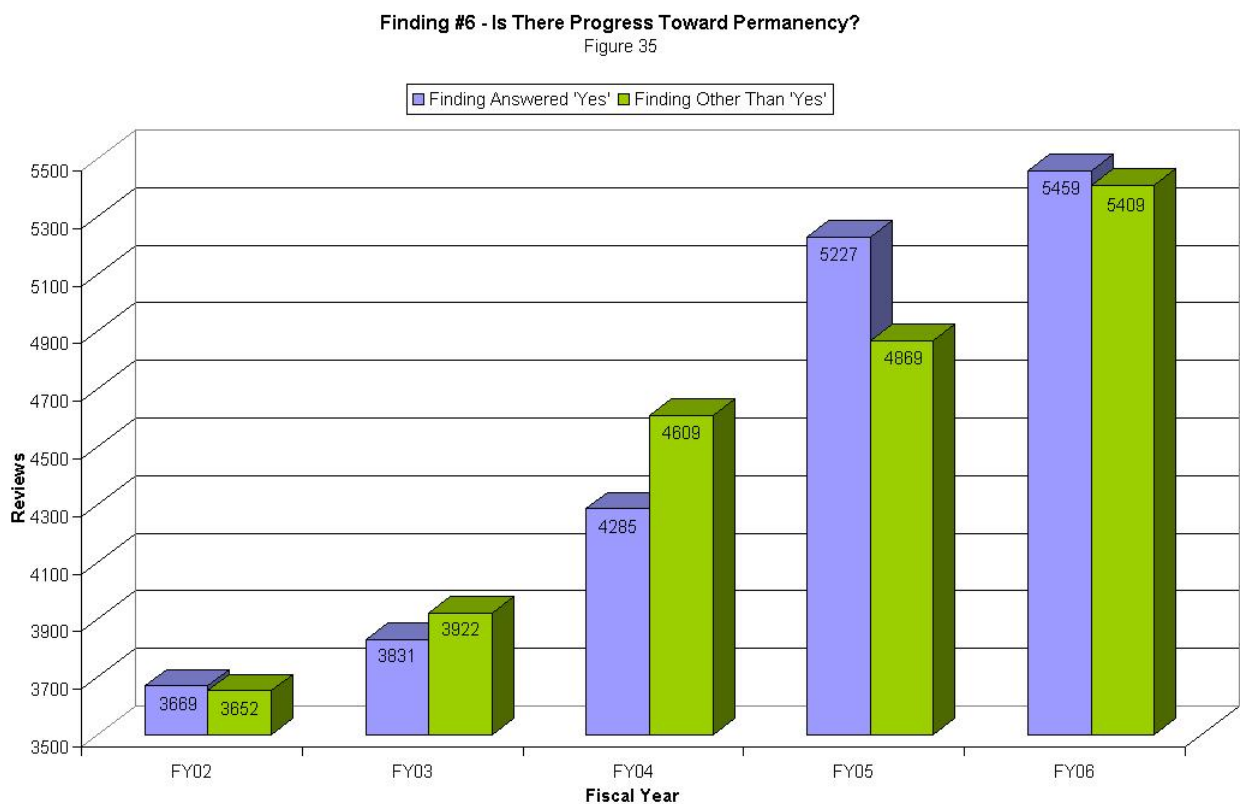
Finding #5 - Progress Toward Case Plan Tasks? / FY06

A	The parent(s) is not in compliance with participation in services.
B	The parent(s) is not in compliance with required drug screens.
C	While the Board does not have a copy, the case manager verbally identified the contents of the case plan.
D	The parent(s) is not in compliance with securing needed treatment or services.
E	The Board does not have a copy of the case plan and cannot assess compliance at this time. Therefore, the Board recommends that the case manager send a copy of the case plan to the FCRB.
F	The parent(s) is not in compliance with securing adequate housing.
G	The parent(s) is not in compliance with securing adequate employment.
H	The parent(s) is not in compliance with attending scheduled visits.
I	The parent(s) is not in compliance with parent aide services.
J	The parent(s) is not in compliance with completing a needed psychological evaluation.
K	The child is not in compliance with the requirement not to runaway from the placement.
L	The parent(s) is not in compliance with a requirement(s) of the case plan which is more fully explained in the "Observation/Comments/Concerns & Review Board Recommendations" section of this report.
M	The child is not in compliance with following the rules of the placement.
N	The child is not in compliance with participation in services.
O	The parent(s) is not in compliance with avoiding contact with a person who represents a risk to the child(ren).
P	The child is not in compliance with working toward a high school diploma/GED.
Q	The parent(s) is not in compliance with participating in the staffing process.
R	Child is incarcerated.
S	Other

The data captured regarding *Finding Six: The Board makes a determination that progress is being made toward removing the causes necessitating out-of-home placement*, is presented in Figures 35–37.

Figure 35 reflects the number of times the Foster Care Review Boards across the state determined that progress was being made toward removing the causes necessitating out-of-home placement. The chart also reflects the number of times the Foster Care Review Boards responded something other than “yes” to the Finding. The various types of negative findings (no, partial, inapplicable, unknown, etc.), have been totaled and are included in the “no” columns of the table to ensure clarity and easy readability.

Figure 35



* The “no” column includes all responses other than “yes”; for example, if the board had insufficient information, the Board would respond “no” to this Finding. Responses included in the “no” column include: no, partial, inapplicable, unknown and insufficient information.

When reviewing cases and considering *Finding Six*, Foster Care Review Boards across the state determined that in fiscal year 2006, 51 percent of the cases evidenced some progress toward permanency, identical to the 51% finding in fiscal year 2005. The amount of findings “other than yes” increased by 1% between fiscal year 2005 and 2006 (48% versus 49%). By contrast, during fiscal years 2003 and 2004, Boards found that progress was *not* being made toward removing the causes necessitating out-of-home placement in 51 and 52 percent of the cases, respectively.

Figure 36 breaks out the negative determinations within Finding Six and shows the percentage of times the Foster Care Review Boards responded “no,” “partially,” “inapplicable,” etc., to the Finding.

Figure 36

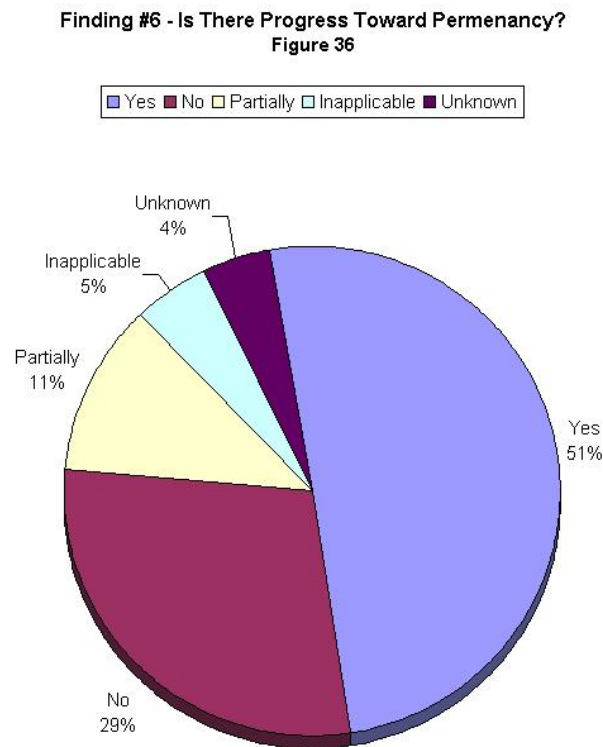
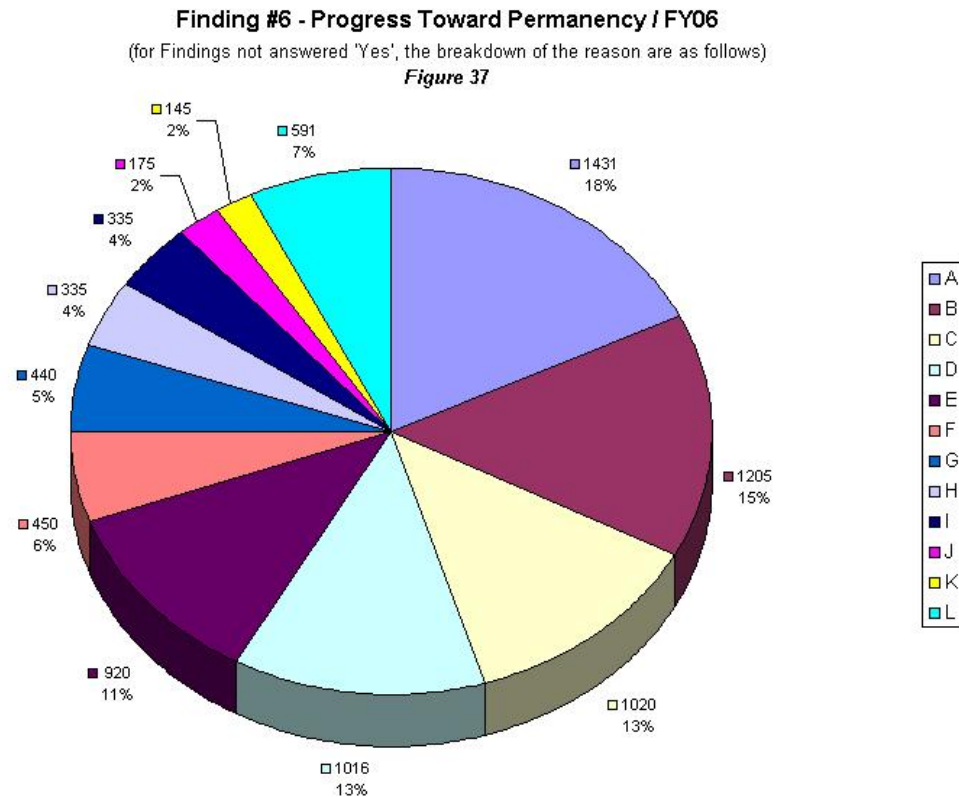


Figure 37 presents the break out of the negative responses to Finding 6.

Figure 37



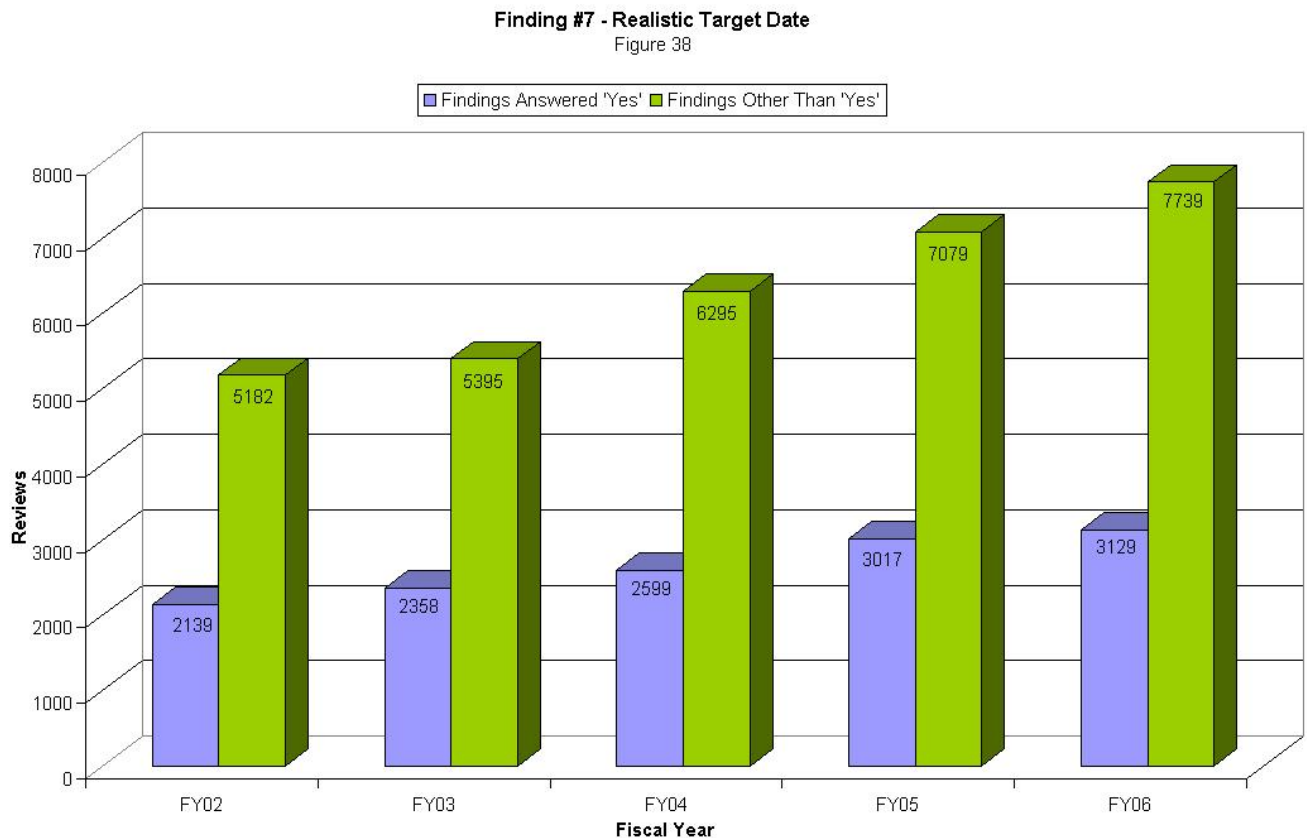
** It is important to note that several determinations can be made towards one case/child; therefore, the numbers represented above are a total of all determinations, not of children.*

A	The attitude of the parent(s) toward the service is preventing progress.
B	The current plan/goal is not appropriate.
C	The ability of the parent(s) to benefit from services is limited.
D	The parent is incarcerated.
E	The Board does not have documentation that enables an assessment of progress. Therefore, the Board recommends that the case manager send the FCRB a copy of the appropriate documentation.
F	Child is on runaway status.
G	Long term foster care /relative care is the only feasible plan at this time.
H	The child(ren) is not participating in services.
I	The child(ren) is not participating in services.
J	Child is incarcerated.
K	The case plan has not been in place long enough to assess progress.
L	Other

The data captured regarding *Finding Seven*: *In cases other than long term foster care or independent living, the Board makes a determination that a realistic target date for the completion of the permanency goal is established*, is presented in Figures 38–40.

Figure 38 reflects the number of times Foster Care Review Boards across the state determined that a realistic target date for the completion of the permanency goal was established. The chart also reflects the number of times the Foster Care Review Boards responded something other than “yes” to the Finding. All determinations, other than “yes”, (no, partial, inapplicable, unknown, etc.), have been totaled and are included in the “no” columns of the table to ensure clarity and easy readability.

Figure 38



* The “no” column includes all responses other than “yes”; for example, if the board had insufficient information, the Board would respond “no” to this Finding. Responses included in the “no” column include: no, partial, inapplicable, unknown and insufficient information.

When reviewing cases and considering *Finding Seven*, Foster Care Review Boards across the state determined that in fiscal years 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005, only 29 percent, 30 percent, 29 percent, and 30 percent, respectively, of the children’s cases reviewed had a realistic target date established. This trend continued in fiscal year 2006, when 29 percent of the cases reviewed were deemed to have a realistic target date.

When analyzing the percentage of cases in which the Foster Care Review Boards did not determine that a realistic target date had been established, one must consider *Figure 39*, which breaks out the specific determinations and reflects that in fiscal year 2006, the actual number of “no” determinations equaled 44 percent.

Figure 39 breaks out the negative determinations within Finding Seven and shows the percentage of times the Foster Care Review Boards responded “no,” “partially,” “inapplicable,” etc., to the Finding.

Figure 39

Finding #7 - Is There A Realistic Target Date For The Case Plan?
Figure 39

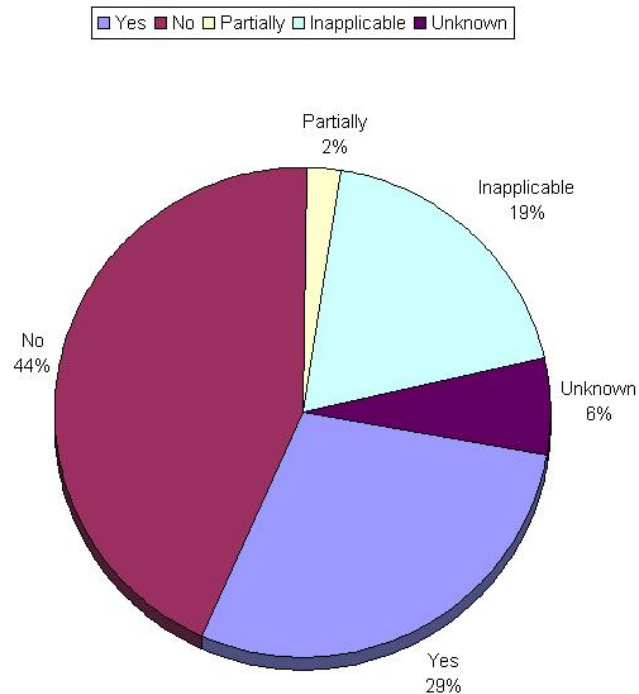
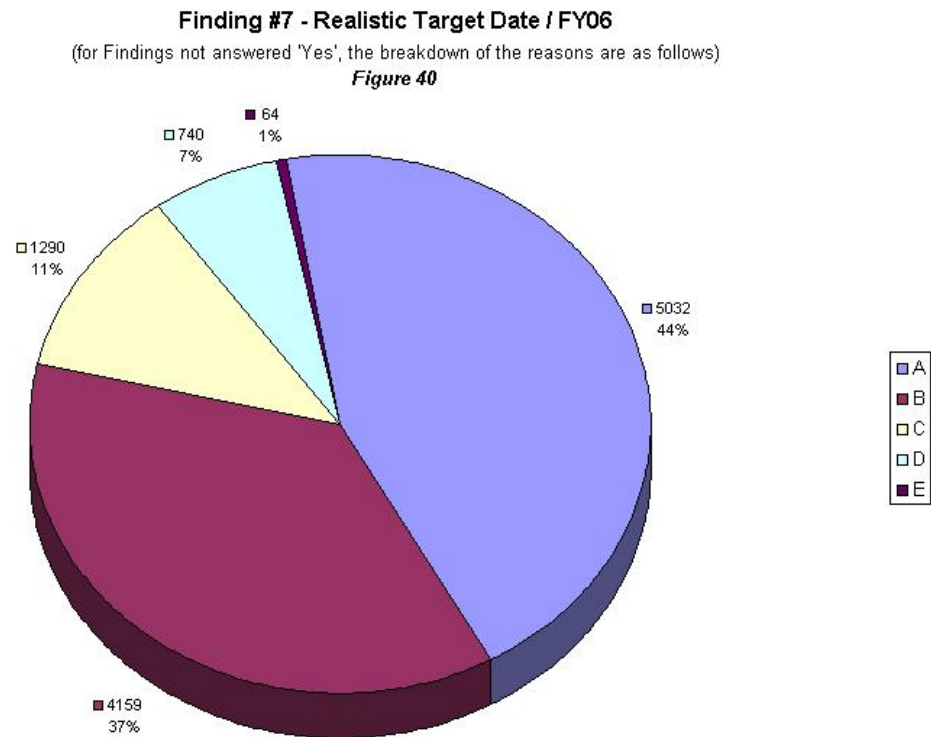


Figure 40 reflects the 44 percent and presents the specific reasons a “no” determination was reached.

Figure 40



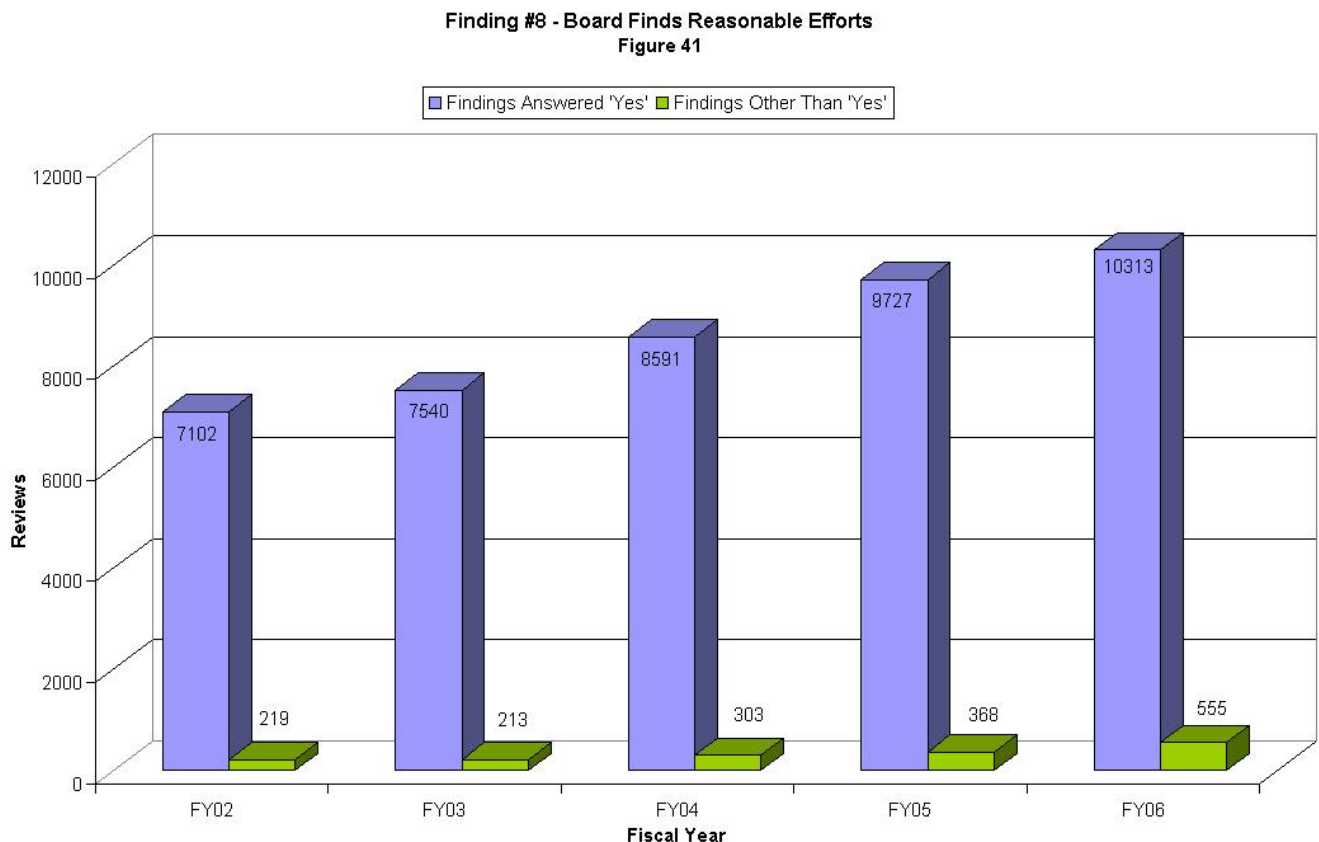
** It is important to note that several determinations can be made towards one case/child; therefore, the numbers represented above are a total of all determinations, not of children.*

A	The target date is unrealistic for the requirements of the case plan.
B	The target date is unrealistic due to the lack of progress toward the case plan.
C	To the Board's knowledge no case plan documentation of the case plan target date exists. Therefore, the Board recommends that the case manager document the case plan target date and send a copy to the FCRB.
D	There is no established target date. Therefore, the Board recommends that the case manager document the case plan target date and send a copy to the FCRB.
E	The target date is unrealistic due to the lack of service provision.

The data captured regarding *Finding Eight: The Board recommends that a judicial determination be made that reasonable efforts are being made by the Agency to implement the permanency plan for the child(ren)*, is presented in Figures 41–43.

Figure 41 reflects the number of times Foster Care Review Boards across the state recommended that a judicial determination be made that reasonable efforts were being made by the Agency to implement the permanency plan for the child(ren). All determinations other than “yes” (no, partial, inapplicable, unknown, etc.) have been totaled and are included in the “no” columns of the table to ensure clarity and easy readability.

Figure 41



* The “no” column includes all responses other than “yes”; for example, if the board had insufficient information, the Board would respond “no” to this Finding. Responses included in the “no” column include: no, partial, inapplicable, unknown and insufficient information.

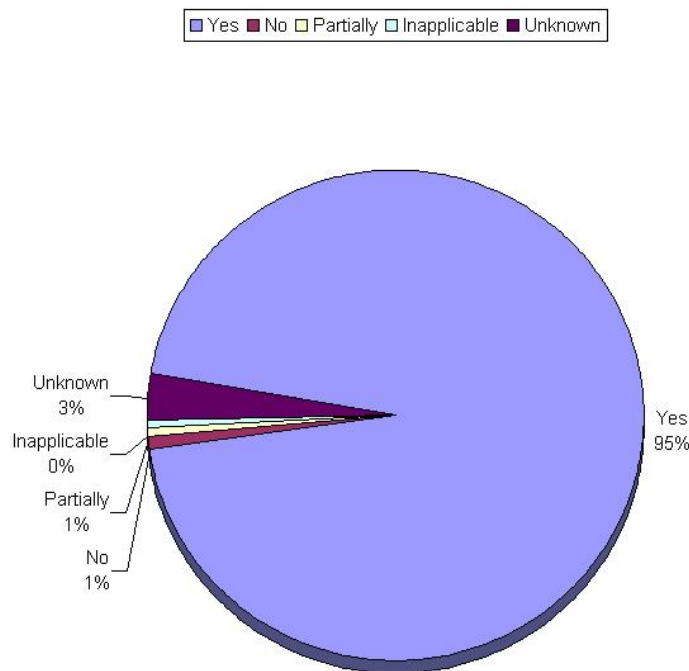
When reviewing cases and considering *Finding Eight*, Foster Care Review Boards across the state determined that a judicial finding should be made that reasonable efforts were being made by the Agency to implement the permanency plan for the children reviewed in 95 percent of the cases in fiscal year 2006. This was consistent with findings from fiscal years 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005, in which such findings were made in 97, 97 and 97 and 96 percent of the cases, respectively.

While the percentage of times the Foster Care Review Boards determined that a judicial determination should be made that reasonable efforts were *not* being made by the Agency to implement the permanency plan for the child(ren) being reviewed over the last four fiscal years was minimal, the data is present in the *Figures 42 and 43*.

Figure 42 breaks out the negative determinations within Finding Eight and shows the number of times the Foster Care Review Boards responded “no,” “partially,” “inapplicable,” etc., to the Finding.

Figure 42

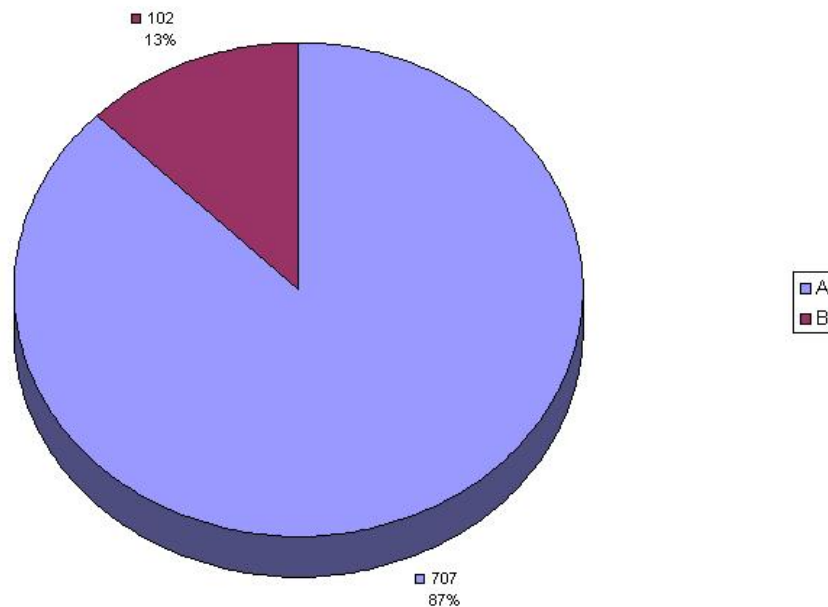
Finding #8 - Does The Board Find that the Agency Has Made Reasonable Efforts
Figure 42



When analyzing the percentage of cases in which the Foster Care Review Boards determined that a judicial determination should be made that reasonable efforts were not being made by the Agency to implement the permanency plan for the child(ren) being reviewed, one must consider *Figure 43*, which breaks out the specific determinations.

Figure 43

Finding #8 - Reasonable Efforts / FY06
(for Findings not answered 'Yes', the breakdown of the reasons are as follows)
Figure 43

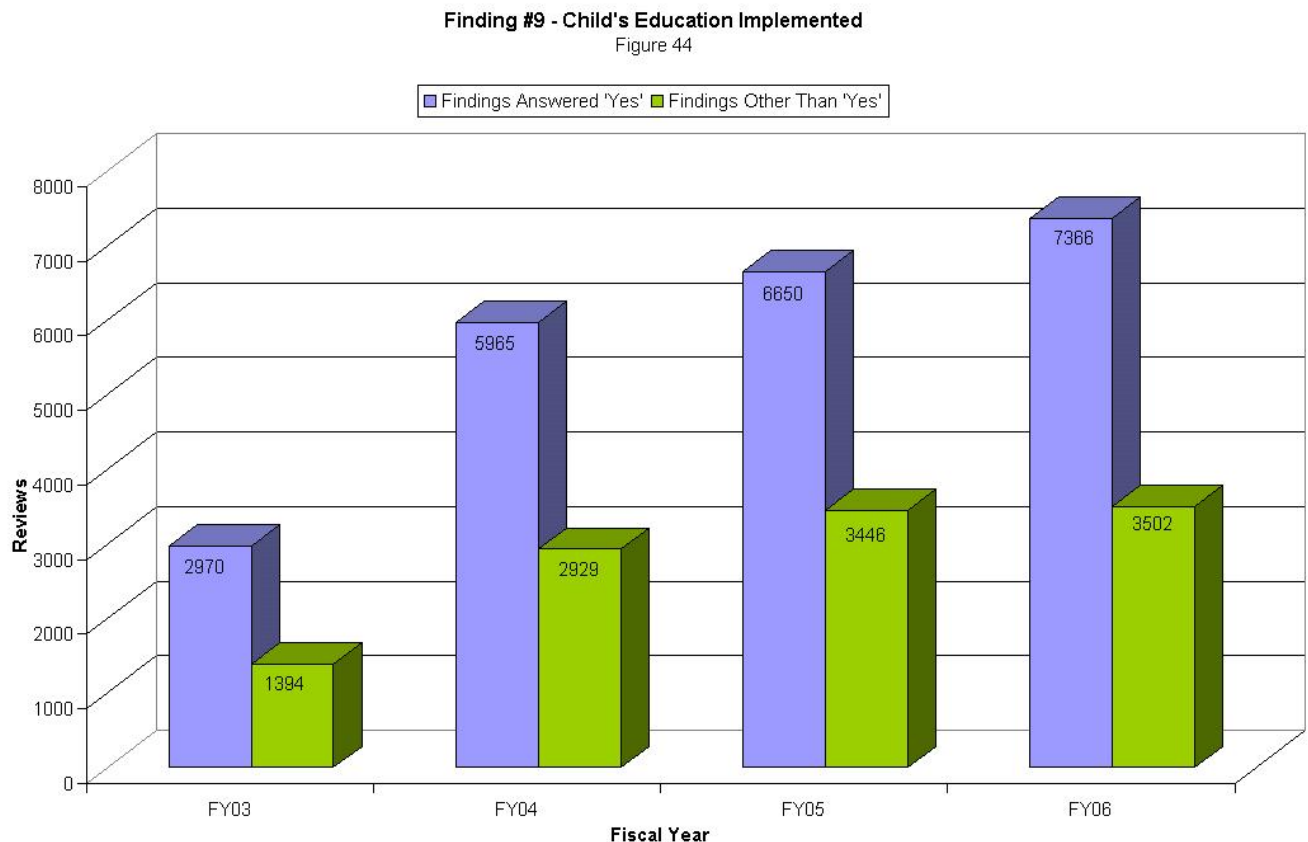


* It is important to note that several determinations can be made towards one case/child; therefore, the numbers represented above are a total of all determinations, not of children.	
A	The Board has insufficient information with which to make a recommendation regarding whether or not reasonable efforts are being made by the Agency to implement the permanency plan/goal for the child(ren).
B	The Board does not recommend that the court find that reasonable efforts have been made for the reasons cited in the above findings and/or cited in the "Observations/Comments/Concerns & Review Board recommendations" section of this report.

The data captured regarding *Finding Nine: The child(ren)'s education is being implemented successfully*, is presented in *Figures 44–46*. Finding Nine was added to the Foster Care Review Board Findings and Determinations Guidebook in January 2003. Thus, the data presented for fiscal year 2003 reflect only the last six months of the fiscal year.

Figure 44 reflects the number of times Foster Care Review Boards across the state determined that the child(ren)'s education was being implemented successfully. All determinations other than "yes" (no, partial, inapplicable, unknown, etc.), have been totaled and are included in the "no" columns of the table to ensure clarity and easy readability.

Figure 44

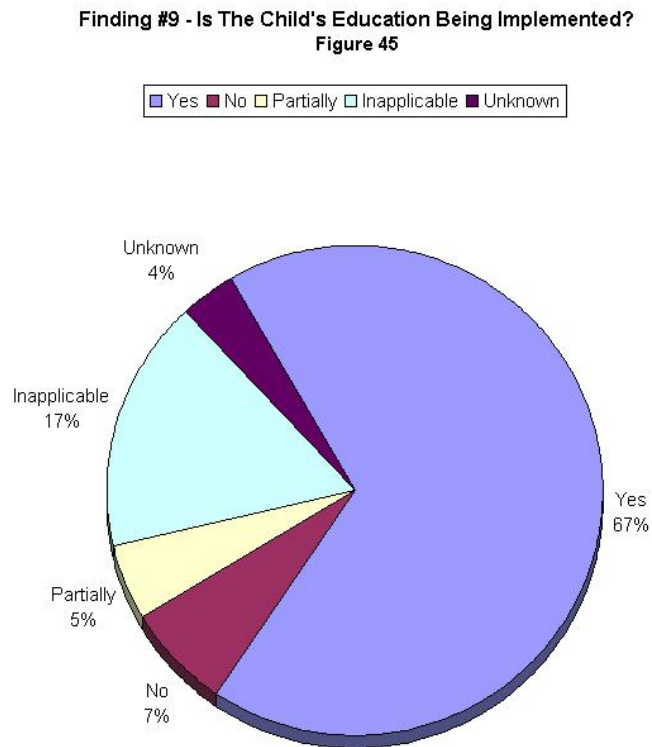


** The "no" column includes all responses other than "yes"; for example, if the board had insufficient information, the Board would respond "no" to this Finding. Responses included in the "no" column include: no, partial, inapplicable, unknown and insufficient information.*

When reviewing cases and considering *Finding Nine*, Foster Care Review Boards across the state determined that in 67 percent of the cases, the child(rens)'s educational needs were being implemented successfully during fiscal year 2006. This is consistent with fiscal years 2004 and 2005, when such findings were made in 67 and 66 percent of cases, respectively.

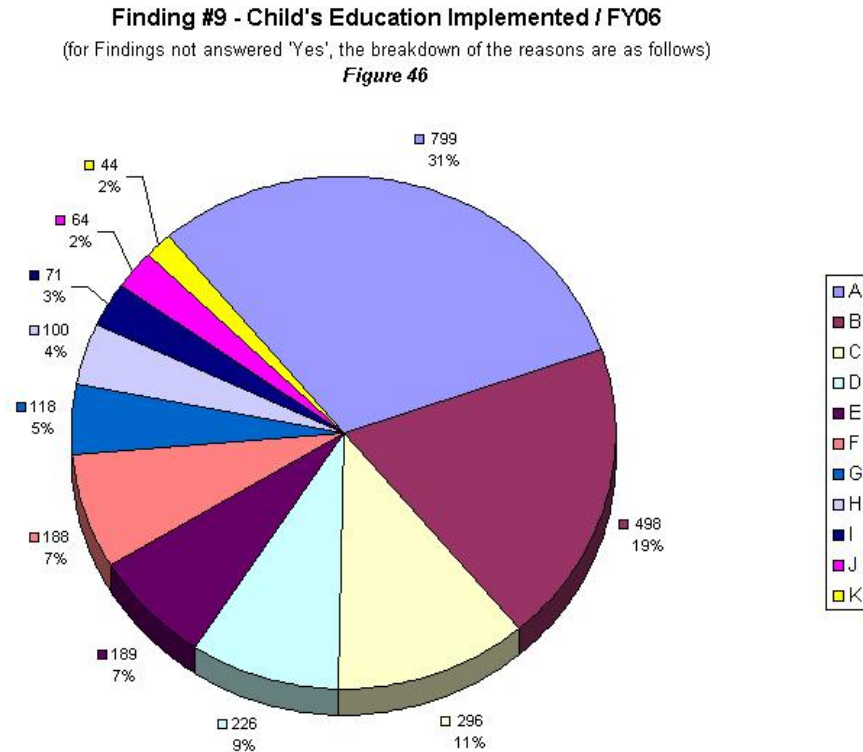
Figure 45 breaks out the negative determinations within Finding Nine and shows the number of times the Foster Care Review Boards responded “no,” “partially,” “inapplicable,” etc., to the Finding.

Figure 45



When analyzing the percentage of cases in which the Foster Care Review Boards determined that a child's education was not being implemented, one must consider *Figure 46*, which breaks out the specific determinations.

Figure 46



** It is important to note that several determinations can be made towards one case/child; therefore, the numbers represented above are a total of all determinations, not of children.*

A	No one in attendance at the review could speak to the implementation of the child(rens)'s education.	G	The child(ren) need(s) an early intervention assessment. (Only used for children up to the age of five years)
B	The child(ren) is/are on runaway.	H	The child(ren) need(s) a surrogate parent appointed.
C	The child(ren) may be eligible for an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) and do not have a current IEP.	I	The child(ren)'s behavior at school has resulted in suspension.
D	The child(ren) is/are not attending school on a regular basis.	J	The child(ren) need(s) to be enrolled in Head Start or other pre-school program to prepare the child for entry into school.
E	The child(ren) is/are not completing appropriate tasks that will lead to a high school diploma or a General Equivalency Diploma (GED).	K	Other
F	The child(ren) need(s) additional tutoring.		

The data captured regarding *Finding Ten: The Board makes a determination that this case is without significant service gaps or system problems*, is presented in Figures 47–49. Figure 47 represents the number of times Foster Care Review Boards across the state recommended that a judicial determination be made that a case has significant service gaps or system problems. Figure 48 reflects that boards found no service gaps and system problems in 73 percent of the cases reviewed in fiscal year 2006, down from 80 percent in fiscal year 2005: “Findings other than yes” increased from 20 percent to 27 percent during that same time frame.

Figure 47

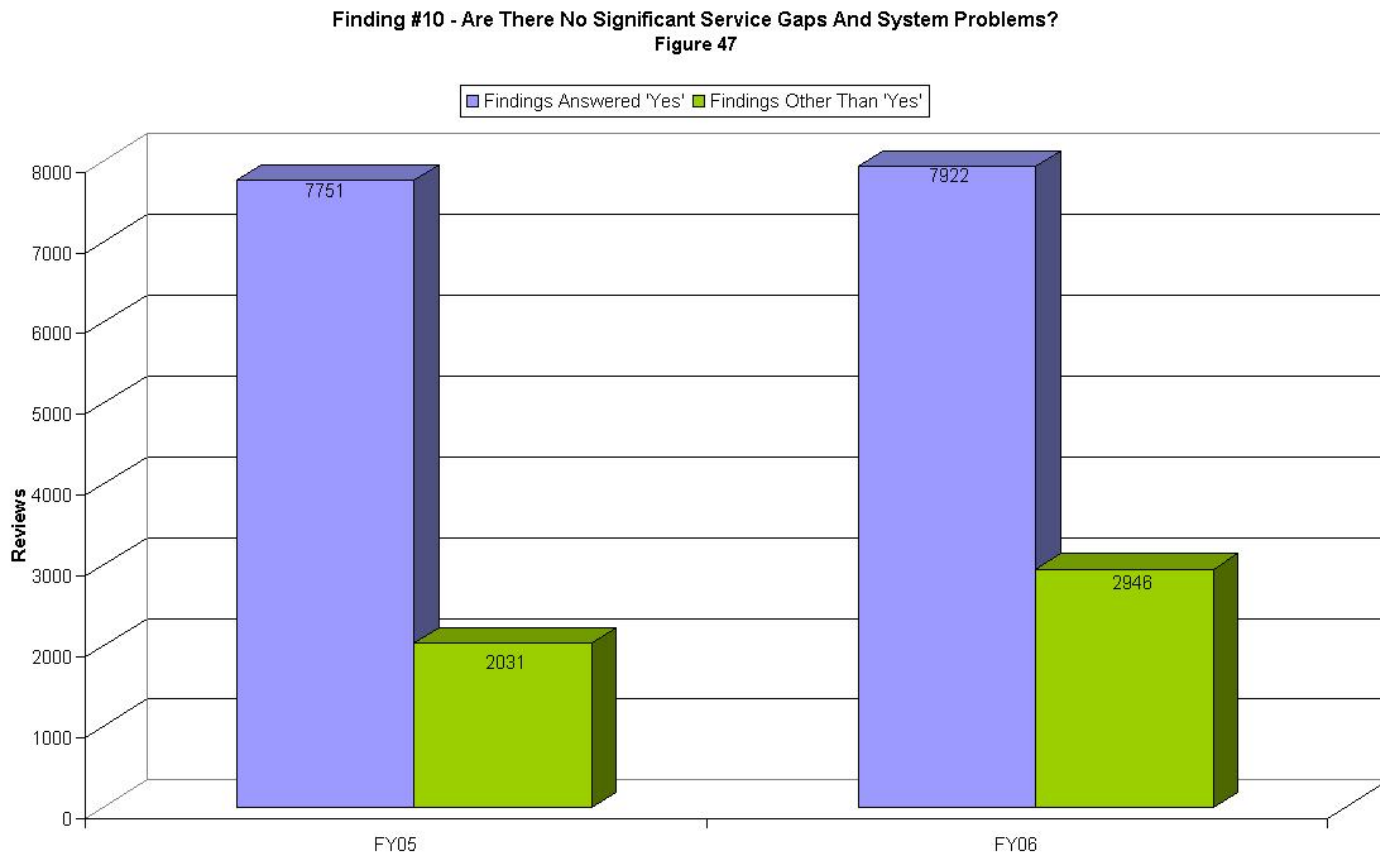
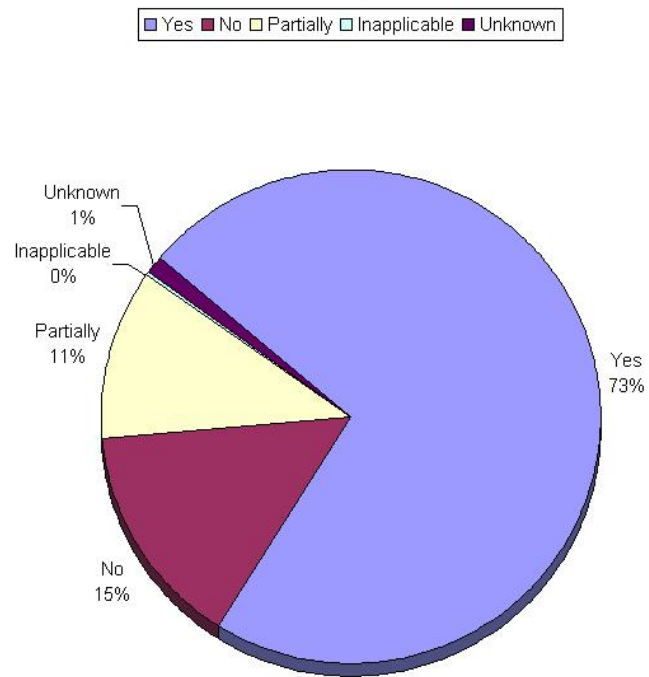


Figure 48

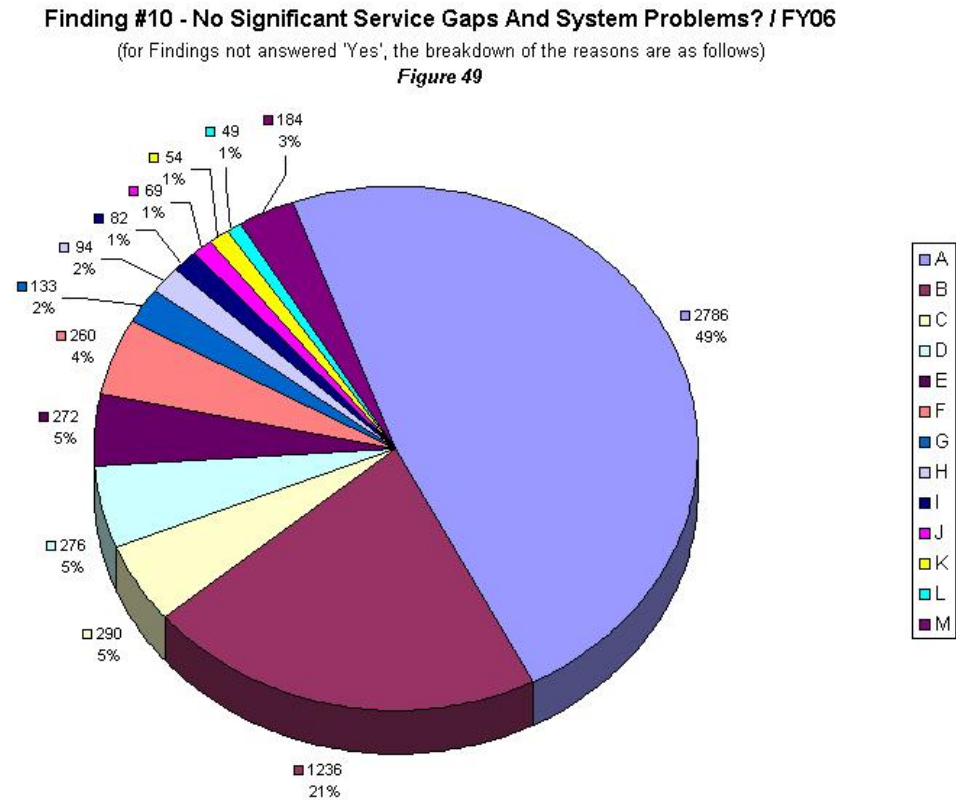
Finding #10 Are There No Significant Service Gaps And System Problems?

Figure 48



When analyzing the percentage of cases in which Foster Care Review Boards determined that service gaps and system problems existed, one must consider Figure 49, which breaks out the specific determinations.

Figure 49



A	The Agency is not in compliance with submitting its required progress reports and/or case plans to the FCRB.
B	The case manager did not appear either in-person or telephonically at the FCRB.
C	The child's therapeutic needs are not being met through the services the RBHA is providing.
D	The recommended treatment service(s) are not adequately available.
E	The RBHA is not providing the required services.
F	Changes in case manager(s) is impeding service provisions.
G	The child has not been visited by the case manager on at least a monthly basis.
H	Agency staffing problems are impeding service provisions.
I	The Agency has not submitted the referral to the RBHA.
J	A waiting list for counseling is inhibiting service delivery.
K	Visits between the child(ren) and parents/siblings have not been facilitated by the case manager.
L	The child(ren)'s medical and/or dental care/coverage has not been adequately arranged.
M	Other

As noted earlier, the Removal Review Team process was established in July 2000. In order to capture a full year of removal review activity, statistics must be pulled by calendar year. Hence, the data presented in this report reflects Removal Review activity for calendar years 2003 through 2006. *Figures 50 and 51* reflect the number of Removal Reviews that were held in calendar years 2003 – 2006. *Figure 50* represents the number of cases that had a Removal Review while *Figure 51* represents the number of children associated with those reviews. Because Removal Review volunteers in the rural counties cover Removal Reviews in neighboring counties (by Child Protective Services Districts), this information is presented by District, rather than county. An explanation of Districts was provided earlier in *Table 2*.

Note: The Removal Review data is captured through data sheets completed by the Removal Review Volunteers. In 2003, some volunteers did not provide their county information, which resulted in an “unknown” category.

Figure 50

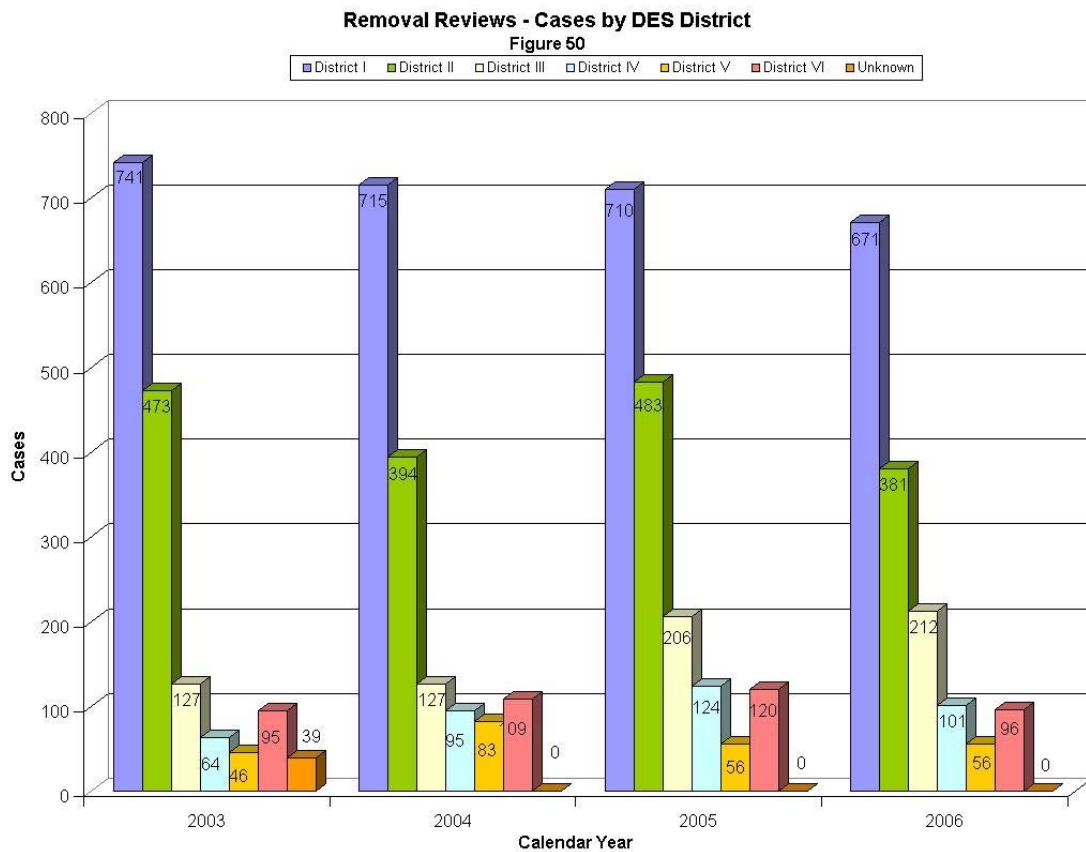
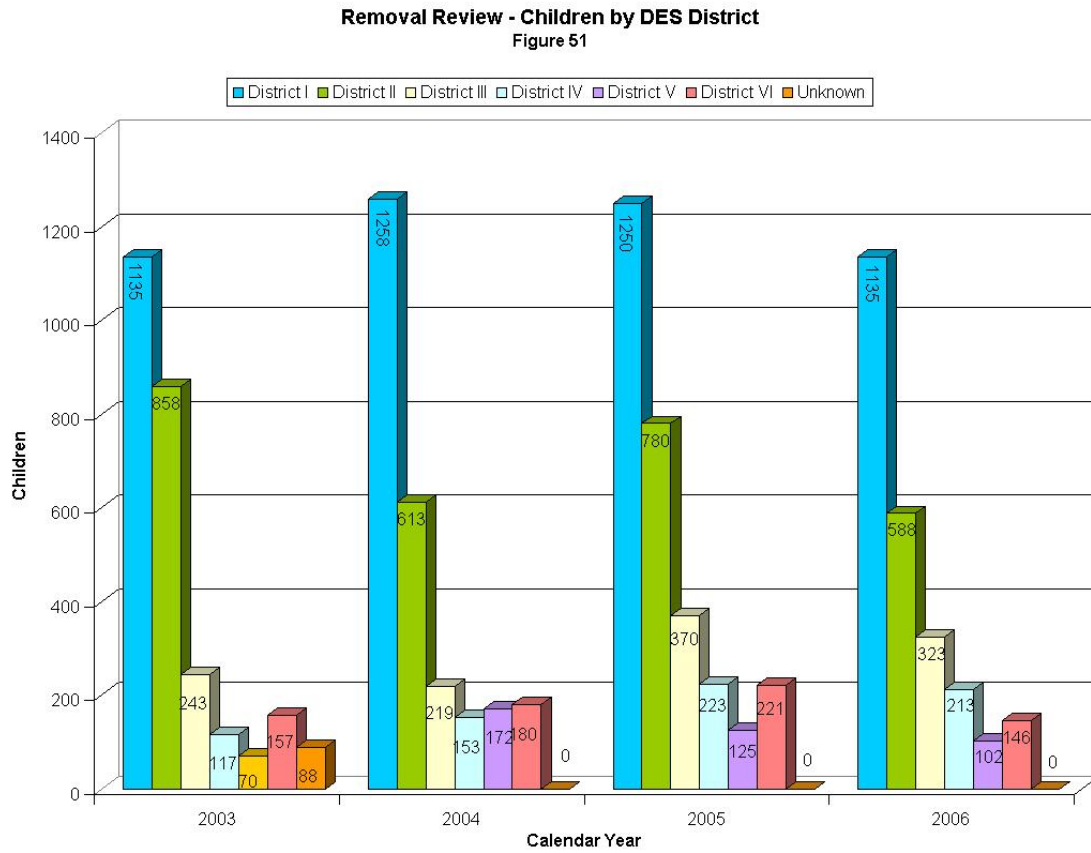


Figure 51



The following Figures represent the number of removal review cases conducted in the last three years in counties with more than 200,000 in population (Figure 52). The number of children who were the subject of those reviews is represented in Figure 53.

Figure 52

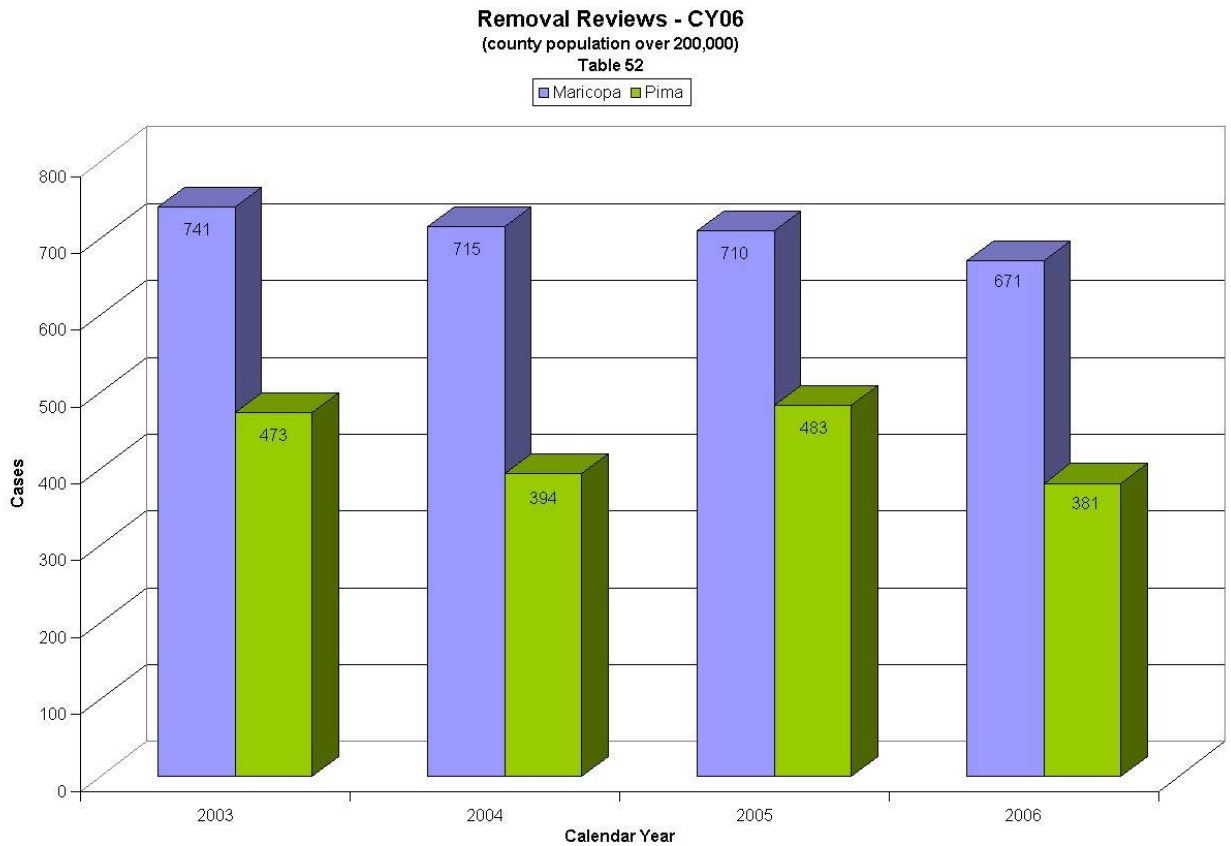


Figure 53

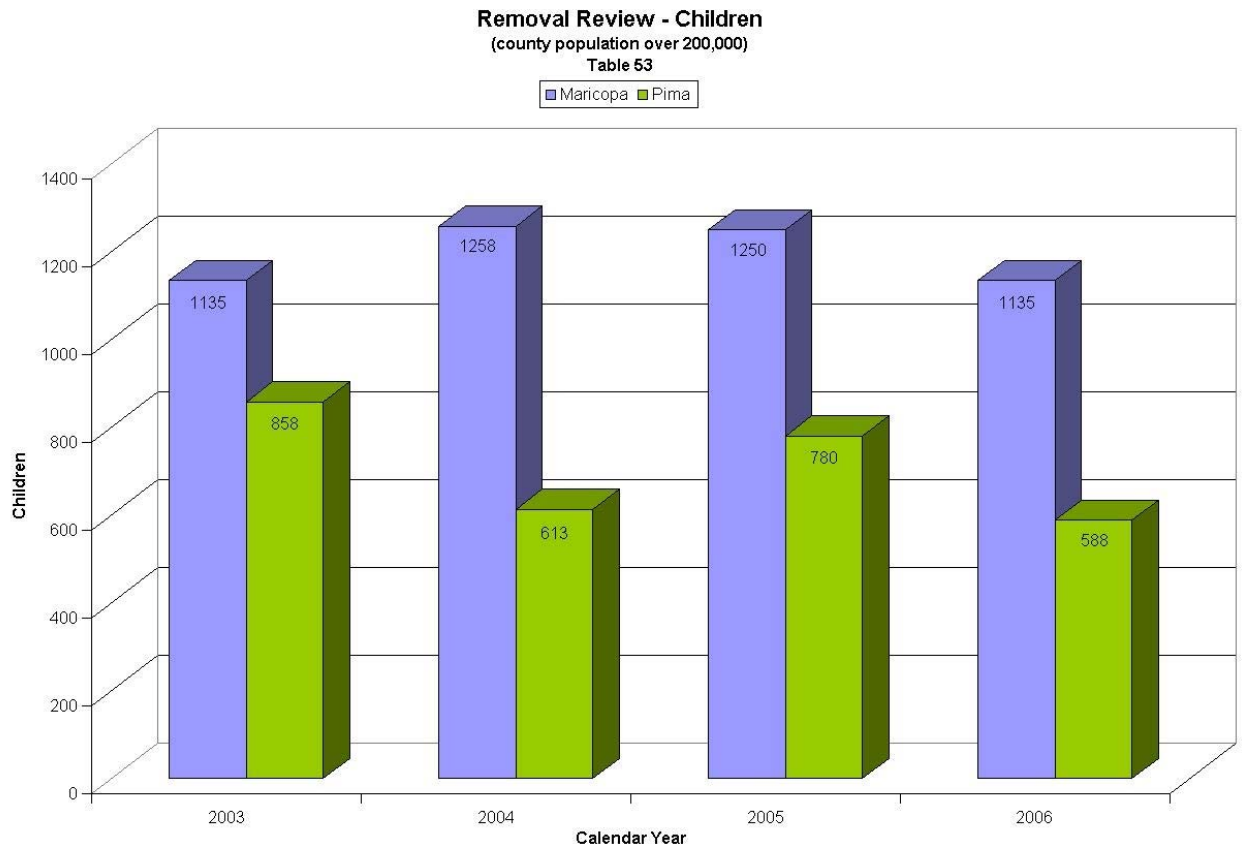


Figure 54 represents the number of removal reviews conducted in the last three years in counties with populations between 120,000 and 200,000. The number of children who were the subject of those reviews are represented in Figure 55.

Figure 54

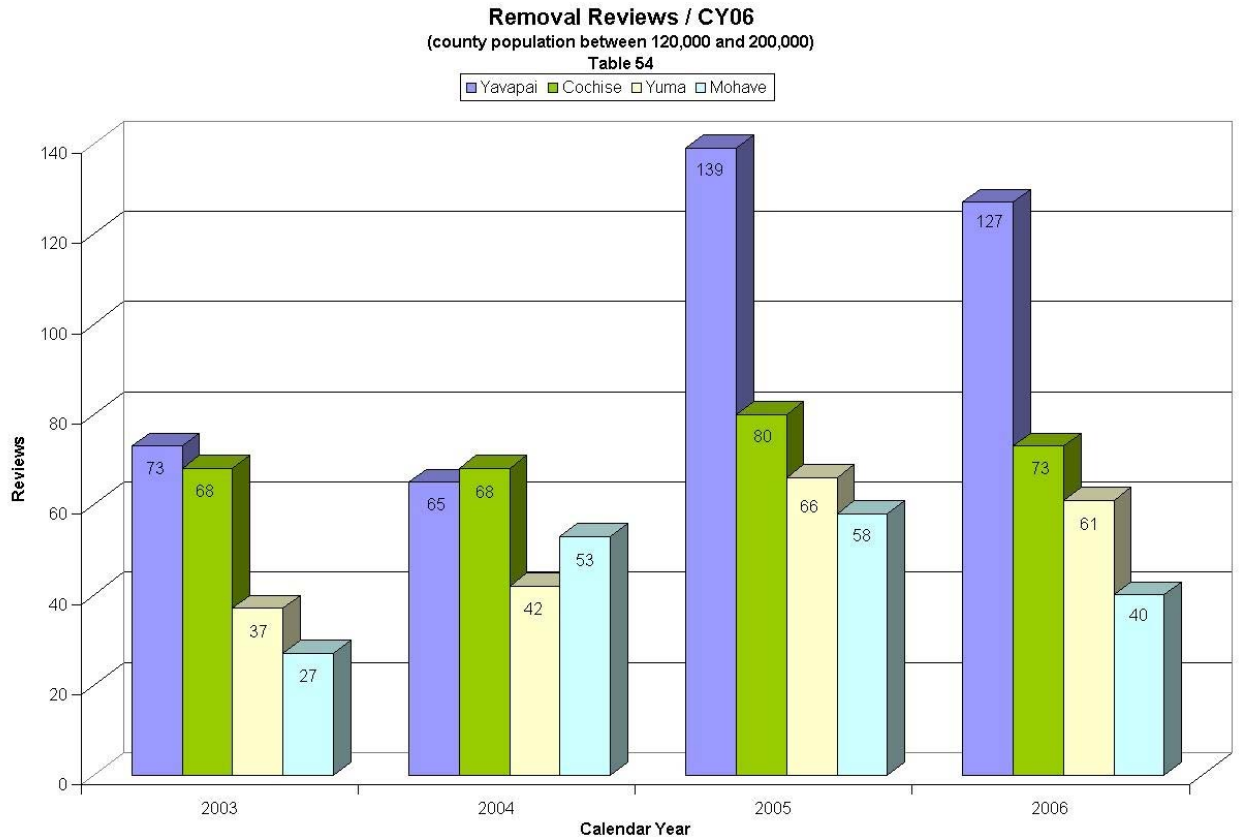


Figure 55

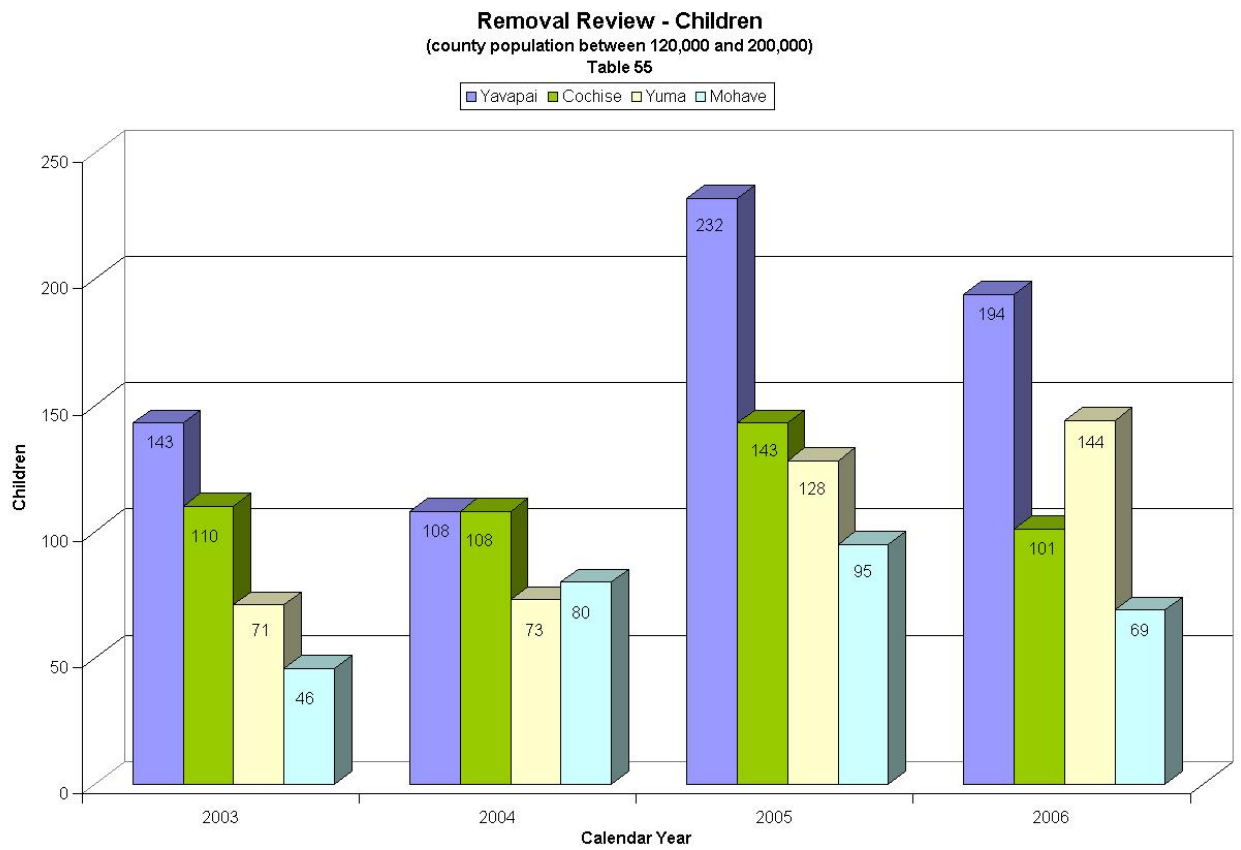


Figure 56 represents the number of removal review hearings conducted in the past three years in counties with populations less than 120,000. Figure 57 represents the number of children who were the subject of those reviews.

Figure 56

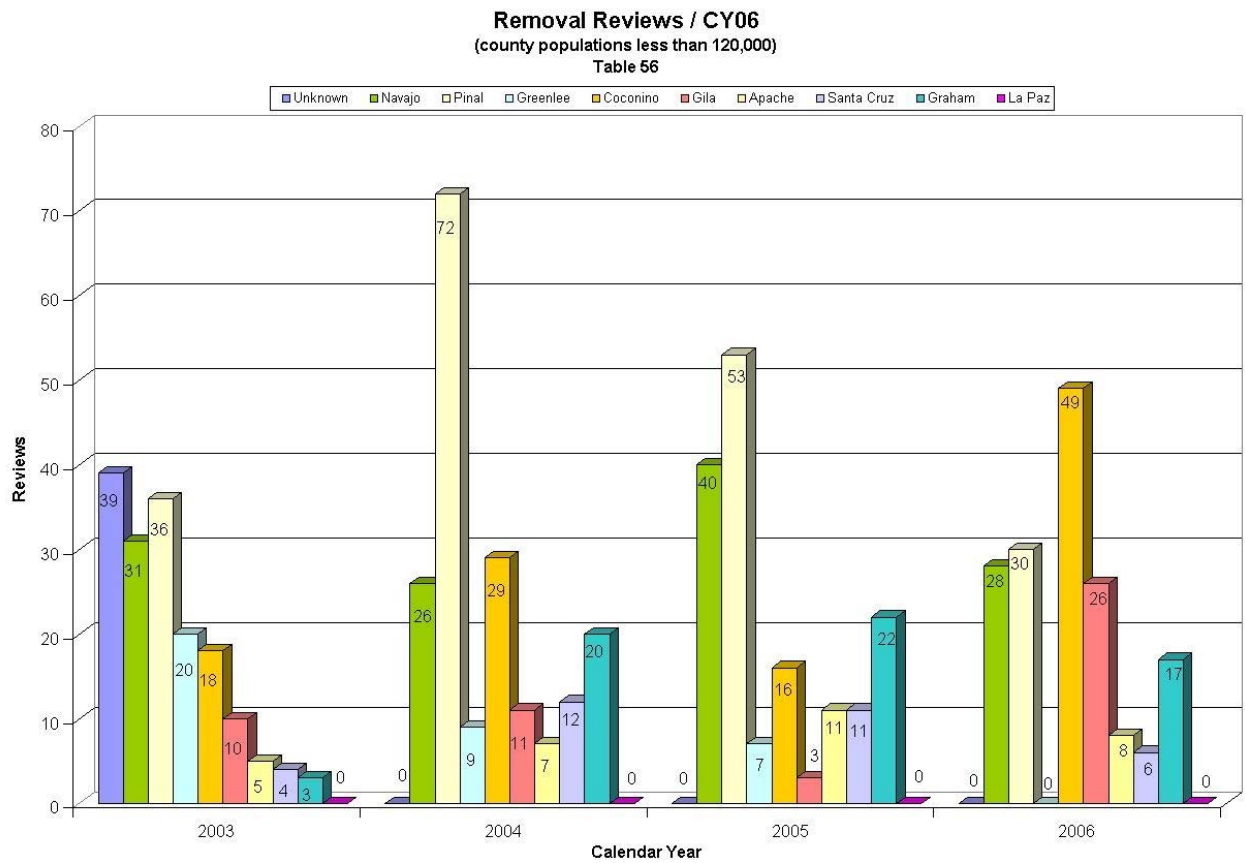
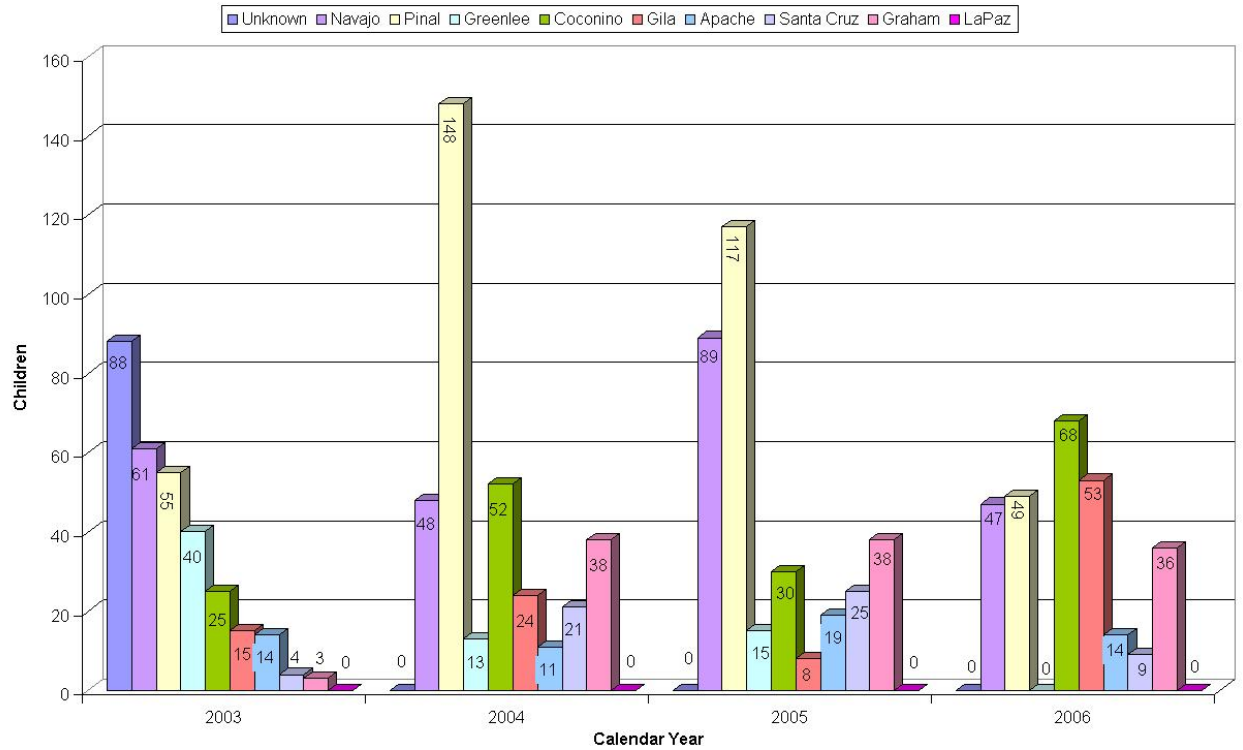


Figure 57

Removal Review - Children
(county populations less than 120,000)
Table 57



GLOSSARY

Abandonment	The failure of a parent to provide reasonable support and to maintain regular contact with the child, including providing normal supervision, when such failure is accompanied by an intention on the part of the parent to permit such conditions to continue for any indefinite period of time in the future. Abandonment includes a judicial finding that a parent has made only minimal efforts to support and communicate with the child. Failure to maintain a normal parental relationship with the child without just cause for a period of 6 months constitutes prima facie evidence of abandonment (ARS § 8-201(I)).
Abuse	Infliction or allowing of physical injury, impairment of bodily function or disfigurement, or the infliction of or allowing another person to cause serious emotional damage as evidenced by severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal, or aggressive behavior and which emotional damage is diagnosed by a medical doctor or psychologist pursuant to ARS § 8-821, and which is caused by the acts or omission of an individual having care, custody, and control of a child.
Addendum	A report or information that is added to an initial report or information; a list or section consisting of added material.
Adjudication Hearing	The trial stage at which the court determines whether allegations of dependency, abuse, or neglect concerning a child are sustained by the evidence and, if so, are legally sufficient to support state intervention on behalf of the child; provides the basis for state intervention into a family, as opposed to the disposition hearing which concerns the nature of such intervention.
Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)	The administrative arm of the Arizona Supreme Court.
Adoption Hearing	Judicial proceedings in which a relationship is legally established between an adult individual(s) and a dependent child.
Aged Out	Child reached 18 years of age and is no longer considered a ward of the Court.
Allegation	An assertion, declaration, or statement of a party to an action, made in a pleading, setting out what he/she expects to prove.

Arizona Department of Education, Special Education Section (ADE/SES)	The state agency which oversees special education and program issues special education vouchers.
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)	Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System is Arizona's version of the national Medicaid program. Medical services for the poor or near-poor (indigent) can be obtained through a formal application process.
Assault	A demonstration of an unlawful attempt by one person to inflict immediate injury on the person of another.
Assault and Battery	The unlawful touching of a person with the intent and purpose of actually doing physical injury, with a reasonable ability to carry the intention into execution.
Attorney	An individual trained in the law, admitted to practice before the bar of a given jurisdiction, and authorized to advise, represent, and act for other persons in legal proceedings.
Attorney General (AG)	Attorney and legal counsel for the Department of Economic Security and Child Protective Services.
Office of Court Appointed Counsel (OCAC)	This department provides legal representation to indigent defendants (usually parents). Can be counsel for the child when the Legal/Public Defender's Offices are unable.
Office of the Legal Defender	Generally provides legal representation to the custodial parent as identified in dependency petition.
Office of Legal Advocate	Serve as guardian ad litem for dependent children, advocating for the best interests of the child.
CASA	A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a specially screened and trained community volunteer, appointed by the court, who conducts an independent research of child abuse, neglect, dependency or delinquency matters. The CASA volunteer submits a formal report offering objective and factual information with specific recommendations as to the best interests of the child.
Case Flow Management	Administrative and judicial processes designed to reduce delays in 777litigation; processes which assist the court in monitoring child welfare agencies to make sure dependency cases are moved diligently and decisively toward completion.

Case Manager/ Case Worker	A trained professional employed by DES or by an agency under contract with the DES. The case manager manages the development of the plan for services for the child and the family and arranges for and monitors services to see that the needs of the child and/or family are met.
Case Plan	A plan developed by the case manager (DES) regarding placement of a child including services, placement, and visitation for the child and to include the requirements of the parents and deadlines for completion.
Case Plan Staffing	A planned, scheduled, and documented meeting arranged to share information, develop and/or review the case plan, and evaluate services and case progress. The staffing includes the case manager, the family, and members of the service team.
Child Abuse	To hurt or injure a child by maltreatment. As defined by statutes in the majority of states, generally limited to maltreatment that causes or threatens to cause lasting harm to a child.
Child Custody	Legal authority to determine the care, supervision, and discipline of a child; when assigned to an individual or couple, includes physical care and supervision. Includes guardianship of the person of a minor such as may be awarded by a probate court.
Child Neglect	To fail to give proper attention to a child; to deprive a child; to allow a lapse in care and supervision that causes or threatens to cause lasting harm to a child.
Child Protective Services	A division of Division for Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). The entity within DCYF that accepts and investigates referrals about child abuse or neglect.
CHILDS	The Children's Information Library and Data Source is the part of DCYF automated child welfare record keeping system.
Clerk of the Court	An elected or appointed court officer responsible for maintaining the written records of the court and of supervising or performing the clerical tasks necessary for conducting judicial business; also, any employee of a court whose principle duties are to assist the court clerk.
Commissioner	A judicial officer who is responsible to hear all juvenile matters except contested dependency cases.

Comprehensive Medical Dental Plan (CMDP)	The Comprehensive Medical Dental Program is the basic medical insurance that is provided to all children under DES supervision and officially placed outside of their home. Physical exams, medications, surgery, supplies, and even baby formula can be obtained for foster children through CMDP. The case manager obtains a CMDP card for the child, to be used throughout the duration of time in foster care, residential treatment, or other placement.
Contested	A position taken on a case which implies a disagreement of relevant issues.
Continuation	A hearing that is re-scheduled to a later date. Any party in the case can request a continuance, but only the court may grant such a request.
Contracted Provider	The State of Arizona and its Department of Economic Security cannot provide all types of services to all of the citizens in need of them. Therefore, the state lets out contracts to private agencies and individuals who provide a needed service (e.g., counseling). The employees of the provider agency are not state employees, but their work must fall within the guidelines of the formal contract. All contracted providers are required to report progress of the client family to the case manager.
County Attorney	Refer to Attorney General.
Court	An officially designated place where justice is administered. A court is presided by a judge, who is sometimes referred to as the Court.
Appellate	A judicial tribunal that reviews cases from lower tribunals, acting without a jury and is primarily interested in correcting errors in procedure or in the interpretation of law by the lower courts.
Appeals	A legal proceeding by which a case is brought from a lower to a higher court for rehearing.
Bankruptcy	A federal court, capable of hearing bankruptcy cases, within a state.
Criminal	The criminal division of the superior court when exercising its jurisdiction over criminal matters.

J.P.	Courts of limited jurisdiction, usually in a specific geographic area, presided over by a Justice of the Peace.
Juvenile	The juvenile division of the Superior Court when exercising its jurisdiction over children in any proceeding relating to delinquency, dependency, or incorrigibility.
Municipal	Courts of limited jurisdiction, usually within a municipality, presided over by municipal judges.
Probate	Various state courts having jurisdiction in the matter of proving wills, appointing executors and administrators, and supervising the administration of estates.
Superior	Courts of general jurisdiction, usually geographically associated with counties, that can be divided in different divisions.
Supreme	Court of highest jurisdiction in the state, hears all appeals of lower courts, all sentences where capital punishment is imposed and has administrative responsibility.

Court Order A legal document originating with a judicial officer ordering something to occur on a case.

Custody The full authority to determine care, supervision and discipline of a child.

Legal Custody A status embodying all of the following rights and responsibilities:

- (a) The right to have physical possession of the child.
- (b) The right and the duty to protect, train and discipline the child.

- (c) The responsibility to provide the child with adequate food, clothing, shelter, education and medical care, provided that such rights and responsibilities shall be exercised subject to the powers, rights, duties and responsibilities of the guardian of the person and subject to the residual parental rights and responsibilities if they have not been terminated by judicial decree.

Physical Custody The physical care and supervision of a child.

DCATS	DCATS (Dependent Children Automated Tracking System) is a statewide database used by CASA program staff to track information on CASA volunteers and the dependency cases to which they are assigned.
Delinquent	The term used to describe the legal status of a child who has committed an offense that is unlawful and would be punishable by law if the child were an adult.
Department of Economic Security (DES)	Division for Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) is part of the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES).
Department of Health Services (DHS)	Behavioral health of all Arizonans through education, intervention, prevention, delivery of services, and the advancement of public policies. It also addresses current and emerging health issues in a manner that demonstrates efficiency, effectiveness, integrity, and leadership.
Dependency Petition	A formal notice to a court that a child is in need of proper parental care/control and there is no parent willing or able to care for the child. The petition itself contains allegations which tell the court exactly what statutes have been broken and/or why a child is believed to be dependent. The formal written pleading asking the court to find a child dependent and enter appropriate orders.
Dependent child	A person under 18 years of age subject to the jurisdiction of the court because of child abuse or neglect.

Detention	(1) The legally authorized temporary holding in confinement of a person subject to criminal or family court proceedings, until the point of commitment to a correctional facility or release; (2) the legally authorized temporary holding of children in confinement or licensed open, non-secure settings while awaiting completion of juvenile or family court action. This includes custody while awaiting execution of a court order.
Disposition Hearing	The stage of the juvenile court process in which, after finding that a child is within jurisdiction of the court, the court determines who shall have custody and control of the child; elicits judicial decision as to whether to continue out-of-home placement or to remove a child from home.
Division for Children, Youth, and Families (ACYF)	Division for Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) is a part of the larger state organization, the Department of Economic Security (DES). Child Protective Services (CPS) is one of the programs under DCYF.
Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)	An agency within DES that provides services for both adults and children who have certain conditions that limit their ability to fully participate in society. These services are obtained only after formal application and assessment.
Facilitator	A person who is responsible for conducting a meeting of the courts. Responsible for assuring appropriate issues are addressed.
Foster Care	Temporary residential care provided to a child placed pursuant to a neglect or dependency hearing; can include care by a non-biological foster family, group care, residential care, or institutional care.
Foster Care Review Board	Foster Care Review Boards are made up of five, specially trained, volunteers by the presiding juvenile court judge in each county. Review boards serve in a quasi-judicial function and review, within six months of placement and every six months thereafter, the case of each child who remains in out-of-home placement and who is the subject of a dependency action. Boards determine what efforts have been made by the social services agency with whom the child has been placed, to carry out the plan for the permanent placement of the child. Review boards submit recommendations to the presiding juvenile court judge in each county to assist in their court review and decision making process.

Guardian ad litem	In certain dependency matters, a person with formal legal training appointed by a judge to represent the best interests of an allegedly abused or neglect child; differs from the legal advocate for the child who specifically represents the child's wishes before the court. See Legal advocate for the child.
Incorrigible	Unmanageable; uncontrollable, such as a perpetual criminal or a habitually delinquent minor.
Indigent	An inability to support oneself: poor; needy.
Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)	The Act is in effect throughout all 50 states. It returns to Native Americans the primary responsibility or opportunity for involvement for any Indian child who comes to the attention of an Arizona social service agency.
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)	A federal law which mandates a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment for children with disabilities. It outlines services (including IEPs) and procedural safeguards for children needing special education.
Individual Education Plan (IEP)	A written statement for providing special education services to a child with a disability under IDEA and required for initiation and termination of special education services. It includes the child's present levels of educational performance, annual goals, short-term measurable objectives for evaluation progress toward those goals, specific special education and related services to be provided in the least restrictive environment, and exit criteria. It must be developed by a team of persons, including the parent, who are knowledgeable about the child, at a meeting convened by the parent or the public school district.
Initial Dependency Hearing	This hearing is held only for parents or guardians who do not appear at the preliminary protective hearing, and must be held within 21 days after service is complete.
Interested Party	A person granted the right to notice of and participation in any review or hearing concerning the child such as therapists, foster parents, relatives, and friends, etc., not to be confused with legal party.

**Interstate Compact
on Placement of
Children (ICPC)**

This compact facilitates the interstate movement or placement of children involved with court and social service agencies. Its purpose is to ensure that a child is not moved out of one setting and into another that may not be appropriate or adequate (e.g., a sending state has a child in foster care and wants to place the child with grandparents in another state). Before any such move can take place by the courts, the receiving state must agree with the plan. Usually, home visits and evaluations take place with a compact administrator either approving or rejecting the move. If the move is approved, a child can remain a ward of the court in the sending state, even though he/she resides elsewhere. In most instances, the state agencies have worked out supervision/treatment services for the child.

JOLTS

Juvenile On-Line Tracking System (JOLTS) is a statewide database used by juvenile court staff to track information on dependency and delinquency cases of juveniles.

Judicial Officer

Person who serves in an appointive capacity at the pleasure of an appointing judge, and whose decisions are subject to review by the judge; referred to in some jurisdictions as associate judges; magistrates; referees; special masters; hearing officers; commissioners.

Settlement Conference

A judicially-mandated meeting in which the judge is present, which involves all attorneys and parties to a proceeding. The meeting typically occurs at a fixed time and place at least 10 days before a trial, and provides identification of issues to be tried, experts to be called, necessary reports, and witness availability.

Juvenile Court

The Juvenile Division of the Superior Court which has jurisdiction over dependency and delinquency proceedings involving children under the age of 18.

**Juvenile Probation
Office (JPO)**

An office established within the juvenile court to supervise juveniles who have been referred for delinquent or incorrigible offenses.

Legal Parent

The parent who is entitled to have legal custody of the child.

Legal Status	The courts definition of adjudication of a child. A status could be: dependent, delinquent, incorrigible, dependent-delinquent (dually-adjudicated), or dependent-incorrigible (dually-adjudicated).
Mediation	A process by which a neutral mediator assists all of the parties in voluntarily reaching consensual agreements; a process of facilitated communication between parties designed to resolve issues and agree upon a plan of action.
Minute Entry	The court minute entry is an official summary of the activity and court decisions that took place on a particular date, at a particular time, concerning a particular case. The document will detail any orders of the court and describe what is to happen next regarding the case (e.g., when the next court hearing is to take place, by what date certain tasks are to be accomplished, etc.)
Misdemeanor	An offense, other than a traffic infraction, for which a sentence to a term of imprisonment not to exceed one year, to be served in a jail, may be imposed.
Motion	An application to a court made in reference to a pending action, addressed to a matter within the discretion of a judge.
Neglect	The inability or unwillingness of a parent, guardian, or custodian of a child to provide that child with supervision, food, clothing, shelter, or medical care if that inability or unwillingness causes substantial risk of harm to the child's health or welfare, unless that inability of a parent or guardian to provide services to meet the needs of a child with a disability or chronic illness is solely the result of the unavailability of reasonable services (ARS §§ 8-201(21); 8-531(11)).
Non-Custodial Parent	With respect to a dependent child, a parent who does not reside with that child and, if there has been a determination of legal custody with respect to the dependent child, does not have legal custody of the child.
Notification	This term usually pertains to the mandated procedures involving the notification of a parent or other party in the case of an upcoming court date.

Ongoing Case Manager	A DES case manager assigned to a unit, usually in Child Protective Services, who works with families after the initial investigation is completed. Such work may entail months or years of involvement with the family.
Parole	A method of prisoner release on the basis of individual response and progress within the correctional institution, providing the necessary controls and guidance while serving the remainder of their sentences within the free community.
Permanent Guardianship	Unlike the guardianship established by the probate court which can be revoked by a parent or guardian, a permanent guardianship, pursuant to Title 8, is established by the Juvenile Court and cannot be revoked without court order.
Permanency Hearing	A special type of post-dispositional proceeding designed to reach a decision concerning the permanent placement of a child; the time of the hearing represents a deadline within which the final direction of a case is to be determined. Held no more than 12 months after removal.
Perpetrator	The chief actor in the commission of a crime;.i.e., the person who directly commits the criminal act.
Petition	A formal, written request for a certain thing to be done.
Physical Abuse	Infliction of non-accidental physical injury, impairment of bodily functions, or disfigurement by another person.
Pre-Hearing Conference	The preliminary protective hearing shall be preceded by a pre-hearing conference occurring out of the presence of the court. The preliminary protective hearing shall occur immediately following the pre-hearing conference. The pre-hearing conference shall be conducted with the objective of maximizing the opportunity for non-adversarial resolution of issues. The pre-hearing shall be conducted by a person designated as a facilitator by the court to discuss the primary issues. The primary issues are temporary custody and placement; visitation, if appropriate, and the provision of services to the child and family. At the conclusion of the pre-hearing conference the participants shall attend the preliminary protective hearing. At the preliminary protective hearing the court may consider any agreements reached by the parties during the pre-hearing conference and, if approved, order them into effect.

Preliminary Protective Hearing (PPH)	A hearing is scheduled within 5-7 days of the child's removal from home. The issues required to be addressed are placement, services, and visitation.
Presiding Judge	A judge of the superior court appointed by the chief justice responsible for county administrative duties as well as court actions.
Pro Tempore	A judicial officer assigned temporarily to perform the duties of a judge on a temporary basis. This officer hears all juvenile matters except contested dependency cases.
Probable Cause	A set of facts and circumstances which would induce a reasonably intelligent and prudent person to believe that an accused person had committed a specific crime.
Public Defender	A lawyer appointed by the court to defend, advise, and counsel an individual who is not financially able to pay for the services.
Putative Father	The alleged or supposed male parent; the person alleged to have fathered a child whose parentage is at issue
Reasonable Doubt	The standard used to determine the guilt or innocence of a person criminally charged. To be guilty of a crime, one must be proven guilty "beyond a reasonable doubt." Reasonable doubt, which will justify acquittal, is doubt based on reason and arising from evidence or lack of evidence, and it is which a reasonable person might entertain.
Reasonable Efforts	Public Law 96-272, the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 requires that "reasonable efforts" be made to prevent or eliminate the need for the removal of a dependent, neglected, or abused child, from the child's home and to reunify the family if the child is removed. The reasonable efforts requirement of the federal law is designed to ensure that families are provided with services to prevent their disruption and to respond to the problems of unnecessary disruption of families and foster care drift. To enforce this provision, the juvenile court must determine, in each case where federal reimbursement is sought, whether the agency has made the required reasonable efforts.

Recidivism	In its broadest context, recidivism refers to the <i>multiple</i> occurrence of any of the following key events in the overall criminal justice process: commission of a crime; arrest; charge; conviction; sentencing; incarceration.
Regional Behavioral Authority (RBHA)	Separate organizations under contract with DHS to coordinate, maintain, and monitor the delivery of a unified system of mental health and substance abuse services for a geographic area statewide.
Remanded	Returned to custody, or sent back to court (or agency) for further action.
Review Hearing	Court proceedings which take place after disposition in which the court comprehensively reviews the status of a case, examines progress made by the parties since the conclusion of the disposition hearing, provides for correction and revision of the case plan, and makes sure that cases progress and children spend as short a time as possible in temporary placement.
Residential Treatment Center (RTC)	A licensed treatment facility where children receive care, treatment, and supervision on a 24-hour basis. The child actually lives in residence at the center where a treatment team assists the child and family in working through difficult behavioral, emotional, social, or psychological problems. Such treatment is very expensive and is reserved for children who cannot be cared for in a less restrictive setting.
Rules Of Court	Various orders established by a court for the purpose of regulating the conduct of business of the court such as civil, criminal or appellate procedures.
Service Plan/ Individual Service Plan (ISP)	A specific written plan developed by a RBHA, in concert with a DES case manager, describing specific services to address mental health or substance abuse needs of a specific client.
Settlement Conference	A meeting or hearing of attorneys and interested parties for the purpose of negotiating an agreement on dependency allegations. A judicial officer oversees this action.

Severance	The termination of a parent-child relationship. A severance is not an adoption or dependency action. The severance of a child does not automatically mean that any form of adoption is going to take place. The statutes set out a limited number of grounds (reasons) for a severance action.
Statute	A law enacted by a legislative branch of government.
Surrogate Parent	<p>A qualified, trained person who is court-appointed by a juvenile court judge. The parent substitute is to represent the interests of a child requiring special education services on behalf of the parent unwilling or unable to do so.</p> <p>By law, DES case managers and other DES employees and subcontractors cannot be surrogate parents (refer to ARS §§ 15-761 and-763.01).</p>
Temporary Custody Notice	A written notice by the department or law enforcement to parents, guardians, or custodians outlining reasons why the child has been taken into temporary custody, and advising them of their rights to petition the court within 72 hours (excluding week-ends and holidays) of receipt of the written notice, for a hearing. The hearing reviews temporary custody, or to advise the parent or guardian of the date, time, and location of a Preliminary Protective Hearing held within 5–7 days per ARS § 8-823.
Temporary Orders	A dependency petition will usually request that the court issue temporary orders regarding the placement and care of the child. Before issuing such orders, the court must review the petition and the affidavit to determine if the facts alleged support a finding that "reasonable grounds exist to believe that temporary custody is clearly necessary to protect the child from suffering abuse or neglect."
Temporary Ward of the Court	This term refers to the legal status of a child after a petition has been made to the court. In reality, there is very little difference between a temporary ward and a "full" ward of the court. Both can receive essentially the same types of service and supervision. A child can remain a temporary ward for months or years, if the situation warrants.

**Termination of Parental
Right Hearing**

A formal proceeding usually sought by a state agency at the conclusion of dependency proceedings, in which severance of all legal ties between child and parents is sought against the will of one or both parents, and in which the burden of proof must be by clear and convincing evidence; the most heavily litigated and appealed stage of dependency proceedings; also referred to in some states as a 'severance,' 'guardianship with power to consent to adoption,' 'permanent commitment,' 'permanent neglect,' or 'modification' hearing.

Title XIX

The Medicaid section of the federal Social Security Act that includes the provision of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) of the physical and mental health status of Title XIX eligible children.

Vacate

To annul; to set aside; to cancel or rescind; to render an act void; as, to vacate an entry of record, or a judgment.

**Voluntary Agreement
for Care**

Arrangement with a public child protection agency for the temporary placement of a child into foster care, entered into prior to court involvement, and typically used in cases in which short-term placement is necessary for a defined purpose such as when a parent enters inpatient hospital care; a method of immediately placing a child in foster care with parental consent prior to initiating court involvement, thereby avoiding the need to petition the court for emergency removal.



DEPENDENT CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIVISION

www.supreme.state.az.us/dcsd