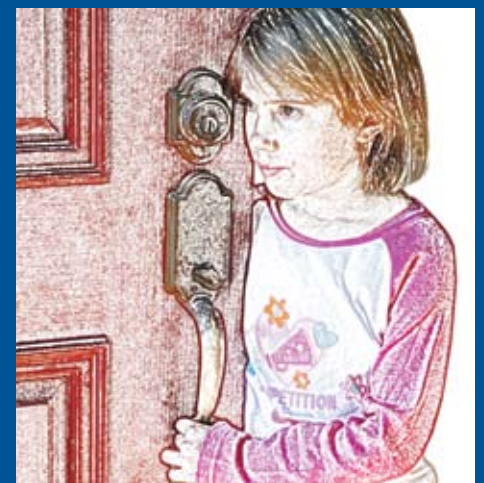




New Mexico Child Abuse & Neglect Citizen Review Board

2010 Annual Report & Recommendations



A Project of

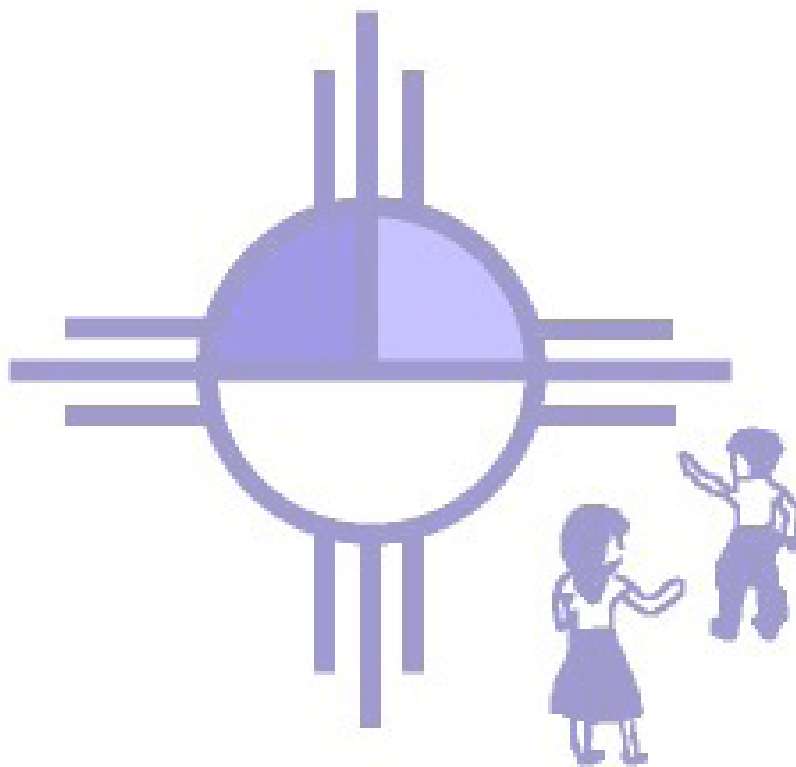
New Mexico



Child Advocacy Networks

New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board

2010 Annual Report and Recommendations



New Mexico Citizen Review Board is a visionary advocate for the safety, permanency and well-being of individual children in foster care and for statewide improvement of the child welfare system.



Statewide Advisory Committee

of the
New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board

Statewide Advisory Committee

December, 2009

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John Wilson
Albuquerque

Michael Hodge
Rocinda

Steve Johnson
Albuquerque

Rose Marie Rudy
Corrales

Dear Friends:

We respectfully present the New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board's 2010 Annual Report and Recommendations. This document is the product of many thousands of hours volunteered by more than 190 everyday New Mexicans that have made it their mission to advocate for children in our state that have been neglected or abused.

This report will provide you with a wealth of statistical information about the children whose cases were reviewed by local volunteer boards between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. It will inform you of the many promising or emerging practices being employed by Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) staff, the judiciary, volunteer advocates, attorneys, the behavioral health provider community and all of the other partners in the child protection community. The report will also highlight many of the challenges this community faces, derived from individual case reviews and the collective experience of CRB volunteers statewide. Finally, this report makes recommendations to our elected officials and policy makers about how the children we strive to serve can experience better outcomes and be safe and well in permanent families.

We realize that these recommendations present challenges. Recent legislative estimates indicate that without new sources of revenue there will be \$500 million fewer state dollars available to address the needs of state government in the fiscal year beginning in June 2010. Critical expenditures like Medicaid-funded behavioral health services, permanency planning worker positions and reimbursements for foster parents are included in that rapidly diminishing pool of funds, and competition to maintain them will be spirited during the legislative session this winter. We also realize that grim financial predictions do not make the problems facing our children go away, nor do they relieve the professional and volunteer partners in child protection of their duties to innovate and to keep striving for safety, permanency and well-being despite the many obstacles we face.

As always, we would like to invite each of you to learn more about CRB and its role in the child protection system. Almost every county in New Mexico has a local CRB Board, which meets monthly to review the cases of children in the custody of CYFD. We encourage you to call the CRB office at 1-866-857-2976 to learn more about serving on a local review board and participating in advocacy for our state's most vulnerable children.

Sincerely and gratefully,

Brian O'Connell, Executive Director
New Mexico Child Advocacy Networks

John P. Myers, Chairman
Statewide Advisory Committee
New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect
Citizen Review Board

Annual Report and Recommendations

Concerning New Mexico's Abused and Neglected Children

January 2010

Submitted by
New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board
Statewide Advisory Committee (SAC)

Pursuant to New Mexico Revised Statutes
Sections 32A-8-1 thru 32A-8-7 NMSA 1978

The Citizen Review Board shall:

"...make recommendations to the department, the courts, and the legislature...regarding statutes, policies and procedures relating to substitute care..." (Section 32-8-4 NMSA 1978)

The New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board (CRB) was legislatively created in 1983 "to provide a permanent system for independent and objective monitoring of children placed in the custody of the department." CRB's mission is to fulfill the directives of the New Mexico Legislature, pursuant to the Citizens Substitute Care Act (Section 32-A-8 NMSA 1978).

Specifically, the law requires that CRB:

1. *Make recommendations to the department, the courts, and the legislature regarding statutes, policies and procedures relating to substitute care. (Section 32-8-4 NMSA 1978)*
2. *Prior to any judicial review by the court...CRB shall review any dispositional order or the continuation of the order and the department's progress report on the child and submit a report to the court. (Section 32-8-6 NMSA 1978)*

This report contains data describing children reviewed by the Citizen Review Board (CRB). These are by no means all of the cases that are managed by New Mexico's Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD). Many children referred to CYFD for abuse and neglect are returned home prior to the court action that triggers a citizen review, and are therefore not reviewed by CRB. In addition, CRB does not review cases receiving voluntary services or cases under investigation. Thus, the statistics and other descriptive information in this report are limited to the cases of children in the state's child welfare system which are reviewed by CRB.

This report also contains a significant amount of aggregate data that is drawn from CRB observations. Each Citizen Review Board is facilitated by a Regional Specialist who collects and enters the data. This report does not provide a complete picture or a full system perspective of the status of the child welfare system in New Mexico. It reflects only data collected and entered by CRB Regional Specialists from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

Did You Know ...

Based on CRB reviews conducted July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

Child Factors

Of the 2,135 children reviewed by CRB



- 74% of children came into custody with prior reports to CYFD indicating possible abuse or neglect.
- 63% of children had behavioral or emotional problems.
- 50% of children had educational or developmental delays.
- 29% of children came into custody having had prior custodies with child protective services.

- 17% of children had physical or medical problems.
- 13% of children were sexually abused.
- 11% of children were born drug or alcohol affected.



Youth Factors

Of the 448 youth age 14-18 reviewed by CRB



- 27% of youth had substance abuse problems.
- 28% of youth were involved in the juvenile justice system.
- 21% of youth were on runaway status or had a history of running away while in state custody.

Parent Factors

Of the 4,270 parents reviewed by CRB

- 65% of parents had a history of substance abuse.
- 61% of parents were impacted by unemployment or inadequate financial resources.
- 57% of parents were impacted by homelessness or inadequate housing.
- 51% of parents were impacted by domestic violence.
- 37% of parents had mental or emotional illnesses.

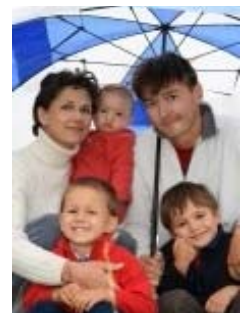


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Curry County	32
DeBaca County	No children were reviewed by CRB in FY 09
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Harding County	42
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Lea County	46
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Los Alamos County	50
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Mora County	No children were reviewed by CRB in FY 09
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Executive Summary and
Recommendations

Executive Summary and Recommendations

New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board

Statewide Advisory Committee

2010 Annual Report

New Mexico Citizen Review Board is a visionary advocate for the safety, permanency and well-being of individual children in foster care and for statewide improvement of the child welfare system.

The New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board (CRB) was legislatively created in 1983 “to provide a permanent system for independent and objective monitoring of children placed in the custody of the Children, Youth, and Families department.” CRB’s mission is to fulfill the directives of the New Mexico Legislature, pursuant to the Citizens Substitute Care Act (Section 32-A-8 NMSA 1978). Specifically, the law requires that CRB:

1. *Make recommendations to the department, the courts, and the legislature regarding statutes, policies and procedures relating to substitute care. (Section 32-8-4 NMSA 1978)*
2. *Prior to any judicial review by the court ... CRB shall review any dispositional order or the continuation of the order and the department’s progress report on the child and submit a report to the court. (Section 32-8-6 NMSA 1978)*

CRB fulfills its mandate through the efforts of more than 190 volunteers in 39 local review boards statewide. These volunteers, with the assistance of staff, review the cases of children in state custody and make recommendations to the judge presiding over the case.

Data gathered at these over 3,000 CRB reviews per fiscal year are the basis for CRB’s Annual Report and Recommendations to the legislature, the Children, Youth, and Families Department, and the courts. The review’s focus is on the areas that impact children, such as, where they live while they are in foster care (placement), mental and behavioral health needs, physical and dental health needs, educational and developmental needs, and the permanency plan for each child (reunification, adoption, guardianship, or permanent planned living arrangement).

CRB helps illuminate the child welfare system through the reported county and statewide data and the identification of community successes and challenges by the trained local community CRB volunteers.

CRB Boards meet in the following locations: Alamogordo, Albuquerque, Artesia, Carlsbad, Clovis, Deming, Espanola, Estancia, Farmington, Gallup, Grants, Hobbs, Las Cruces, Las Vegas, Los Lunas, Portales, Raton, Roswell, Ruidoso, Santa Fe, Silver City, Socorro, Taos, Truth or Consequences, and Tucumcari.

It is imperative that New Mexico wisely use its child welfare resources (money and personnel) to appropriately care for foster children with acute and chronic needs while simultaneously helping the children move quickly to a safe and permanent home - whether it is home with their parents or to another family.

In these economically challenging times, the child welfare system is even more stressed and stretched even thinner. The children and families in the child welfare system must be provided appropriate and timely services and hearings to meet federal laws that guide outcomes in the areas of safety, permanency, and well-being (the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 and the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008). Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD), courts, providers, foster parents, Managed Care Behavioral Health Organization, and advocates are struggling to provide the mandated and needed services and accountability.

Everyone is trying to “do more with less” and “working more efficiently not necessarily more”. Given this context, and in keeping with the New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board’s (CRB) commitment to provide quality recommendations for systemic change in New Mexico’s child protection system, CRB presents the following information on successful or promising initiatives, challenges, and recommendations:

2010 Annual Report: Recommendations

Successful or Promising Initiatives

- In-home services provided by CYFD to prevent the trauma of removing the children from the home when there are indicators of abuse and neglect.
- Family Centered Meetings that try to increase and formalize natural supports to the families, set up a safety plan for the children, and provide voluntary services.
- Early identification of relatives for appropriate placements for when children do need to be removed from their parents due to safety concerns.
- The newly formed Infant Mental Health team to consult on infant trauma on a case-by-case basis. (First Judicial District in Santa Fe)
- CYFD's child welfare and juvenile justice functions working more collaboratively to engage the children and parents and to streamline services and accountability.
- The Corrine Wolfe Children's Law Center's core curriculum for attorneys and judges who work with abuse and neglect cases and a vast array of other trainings for others involved in the child welfare world.
- CYFD's Core Training for their workers. New collaboration with a National Implementation Center to improve policies and practices.
- Administrative Office of the Courts' work to provide support and accountability for the attorneys and judges that do this work.
- Child Welfare Improvement Planning meetings held in each judicial district using relevant data from various data sources including CYFD, courts, and Citizen Review Board paired with local problem solving and collaborating to improve timely permanency and good outcomes for children.
- The First Steps To Reunification program (FSTR) in Roswell to engage parents early in the process to increase the likelihood that their children will be returned after the parents deal with their issues therefore increasing the likelihood of the safety and well being of the children.
- The New Mexico Friends of Foster Children providing individual support for children and maximizing their potential.

Challenges

- Abuse and neglect caseloads may be smaller in some areas of the state but the cases are increasingly complex and severe. There are indications that with additional stressors in the community, caseloads are again increasing. The need for appropriate and frequent supervision of permanency planning workers is growing.
- CYFD struggles with nearly 30% vacancy in Children's Court Attorney positions and high turnover in permanency planning worker positions which greatly affect case management and children's outcomes in safety, permanency, and well-being. Children's Court Attorney positions did not grow with the increasing number of cases so the vacancies are severely impacting the ability of the attorneys to do what they are mandated to do. Note: CYFD indicates that 5 CCA positions will be posted before January 2010.
- Placement and educational stability for foster children, which is mandated in federal and state law.
- Youth living in foster care and then transitioning out on their own at age 18 have significant needs and CYFD has additional mandated requirements by federal and state law. Youth (under the age of 18 years) need a wider array of placement options to support their needs such as group homes and regular foster homes. Youth need more realistic education and guidance in their semi-independent living classes and programs. Youth need more peer interaction and support, in addition to support from the professionals. More creative solutions to individual needs as the youth age-out of the system are required.
- Courts have heavy caseloads with demands of holding timely and appropriate judicial hearings. Some attorneys representing the children, youth, or families have high caseloads (The American Bar Association recommends 40 to 50, some caseloads in New Mexico are over 100).
- The statewide entity for providing behavioral health services through the New Mexico Behavioral Health Collaborative (NMBHC) has been slow to pay providers for services and there is a lack of a statewide service array accessible to parents and children around the state. Services need to be available in local communities and stable for children and parents. There is a lack of trauma-informed practice which is a proven benefit to abused and neglected children and their parents.
- Large percentages of parents have chronic substance abuse problems but with lack of services around the state and fewer drug courts.
- Lack of educational stability (too much changing of schools) and progress for foster children.
- Lack of referrals to Access and Supervised Visitation programs, especially those providing parent coaching and mentoring to improve parenting skills. Programs provide a neutral party monitoring the visits and accountability of the parents.

2010 Annual Report: Recommendations

Recommendations

Given that there will be no new money available through the legislative appropriation process for the next few years, the following recommendations are made knowing that progress will need to move forward in incremental steps while working to streamline and achieve efficiencies. Creative solutions and partnerships will be needed to ensure timely and positive safety, permanency and wellbeing outcomes for children. The need for new money will remain, particularly since there are new federal and state laws representing new opportunities for federal funds to achieve positive outcomes for children only if there are state dollars to match.

Given state budget realities for Fiscal Year 2011, we recommend that all efforts be made to avoid further cuts in spending related to children in custody, particularly Medicaid and foster care reimbursements.

Recommendation 1

Increase and enhance placement resources for the children and youth in foster care

Context: Highly valued, well trained, and adequately reimbursed foster parents are vital to good outcomes for children in foster care. Increasing the quantity of high quality foster homes and increasing the diversity of foster homes reduces over-placement and placement changes.

Each time a foster child moves, there is more instability in their lives – new homes with new routines and rules, new neighborhoods and friends, often new schools and new service providers. The goal must be fewer placements, which is an outcome measure for the federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), a comprehensive audit of CYFD.

Specific CRB Recommendations / Endorsements:

- CRB endorses an increase in monthly foster care rates per child. With an increase, CYFD will be more able to adequately compensate foster parents who are experiencing rising costs in utilities, food, and transportation. This increase will help to retain and recruit foster parents to provide placement stability for the children. This increase will also help New Mexico develop a larger pool of foster homes to make appropriate placement matches for children. Placement stability will also help with educational stability.
- CRB endorses placement stability strategies that have emerged with New Mexico's CFSR Program Improvement Plan, such as:
 - Redesigning the process for foster parent recruitment to increase the number and types of placements resources.
 - Increasing and improving on-going support and crisis support to foster parents to lessen placement changes: this includes providing more experienced foster parents as mentors to foster parents, increasing assistance to foster parent liaisons so as to increase support to foster parents, and providing support groups for foster parents.
 - Improving case worker and provider training in the areas of assessment, support, and monitoring of placements. Improve assessment and planning that addresses the needs of children.
 - Improve foster parent training to better care for children who have many needs.

Recommendation 2

Increase educational support and assure appropriate services to all foster children

Context: All children need support and advocacy to ensure educational success which leads to successful adult lives. Educational stability is an important component to success. Foster children face unique challenges including: the consequences of their abuse and neglect, consequences they experience as they change foster homes which may mean a change in schools, and delayed academic progress and loss of credits due to school disruptions.

Specific CRB Recommendations / Endorsements:

- Institute educational advocacy training for foster parents and foster youth to help each child and youth receive the appropriate education and support services in regular and special education.
- Add an education and special education component to CYFD core training for case workers. This training should include information to help them engage biological and foster parents in advocating for the foster child's education and to assure that workers are taking the necessary steps to see that foster children are receiving the appropriate education and support services.
- Create an MOU between CYFD and the Public Education Department that would facilitate sharing information through the Educational Star System that provides each New Mexico student with one identification number to track their progress through all school districts that they might attend in the state. Create a liaison in CYFD and in PED to encourage collaboration throughout the state.
- Identify an educational liaison in each county office, not necessarily a separate worker, to be the point person on educational issues. Encourage local school districts to identify a liaison to the local county CYFD office.
- Encourage the enrollment of foster children in pre-kindergarten giving them the head start that they need for educational success.

Recommendation 3

Increase and enhance behavioral health services for children, youth, and their parents

Context: Foster children and their families often have chronic or acute behavioral health needs that are made more complex with issues relating to separation from parents and foster care. Adequate resources are needed to develop a service array for the whole state so that communities can provide necessary services to children and families. Federal directives include such things as: wrap-around services and greater family involvement with developing treatment plans. Plans should not only include treatment but basic needs such as housing and employment.

Specific CRB Recommendations / Endorsements:

- Comprehensively and strategically plan with people knowledgeable in the child protection field, providers, consumers, parents, the Statewide entity, and the appropriate state agencies before implementing services. The system of care needs to be integrated, statewide, efficient, and effective with funding prioritized to care for foster children and their parents. Clear and consistent service definitions and regulations are needed. Different kinds of assessments are needed. Training on these items is needed for all involved.
- Explore ways to develop a funding stream for mental and behavioral health services for parents whose children are in foster care due to abuse and neglect. Consider increasing family stabilization dollars and family preservation dollars. Trauma-informed practice has been proven to be effective with foster children. For a real chance to reunify as a family in a timely manner, children and parents need timely access to appropriate services.
- Train all providers on the unique circumstances and needs of foster children, wrap-around services, family-based treatment and services, and other appropriate issues. Consider cross-training for the other players in the foster care system such as: case workers, foster parents, attorneys, judges, CASA volunteers, and CRB members.
- Explore ways to provide foster children with the level of care they need while maintaining placement stability.

Recommendation 4

Increase support and accountability of attorneys in abuse and neglect cases

Context: Attorneys who represent children, youth, and families in abuse and neglect cases have complex and emotional cases that need to be dealt with in a timely and appropriate manner while keeping children's safety, permanency, and well-being at the forefront. Attorneys' caseloads are in some parts of the state over the recommended level of 40 to 50, reaching over 100.

Specific CRB Recommendations / Endorsements:

- Increase the court-appointed attorney fee fund to raise compensation for contracted attorneys.
- Increase support while increasing accountability of the attorneys by providing: formal mentoring, web-based subject matter experts, forms and pleadings for attorneys use, and free training and other resources.
- Coordinate and work collaboratively with other systems and other courts to make it possible for attorneys who do other legal work to make a living representing children, youth, and families in abuse and neglect cases.

Recommendation 5

Maintain or increase contract dollars and matching funds for federal dollars

Context: Adding new contract dollars will assist in providing timely and appropriate services to children and families while increasing the efficiency of CYFD workers and new collaborations and partners to maximize the many new federal and state opportunities. The infusion of new dollars will also assist in securing federal dollars through matching funds.

Given state budget realities for Fiscal Year 2011, we recommend that all efforts be made to avoid further cuts in spending related to children in custody, particularly Medicaid and foster care reimbursements.

Specific CRB Recommendations / Endorsements:

- Prevention services and In-home services to prevent the trauma and cost of taking children into state custody.
- Time-limited Reunification services to reunify children with their parents more quickly.
- Access and Supervised Visitation services to provide critical parent mentoring and coaching to improve parenting skills.
- Home studies for foster and adoptive families to increase the pool of quality placements.
- State dollars to increase federal matching funds
 - Medicaid services
 - Subsidized guardianships to bring permanency for more children, more quickly.
 - Services for youth aging out and over 18 years of age to support and increase success in adulthood.

Successes

In an effort to increase the likelihood of implementing its systemic recommendations, CRB regularly participates in a variety of collaborative task forces and workgroups to understand federal and state mandates, best practices, and upcoming initiatives to better the lives of abused and neglected children. For this report, CRB staff interviewed key stakeholders to enrich the background and systemic perspectives of CRB's recommendations to better promote systemic change for children and youth in foster care.

On behalf of the Statewide Advisory Committee of the CRB, the Board of Directors of New Mexico Child Advocacy Networks, and all of the dedicated professionals and lay volunteers committing their time and energy to the children and youth in our state's custody, we thank the following individuals who contributed their expertise and understanding of the current child welfare system and of promising best practices to better outcomes for children and youth.

Cristen Conley, Guardian ad Litem, Youth Attorney, Respondent Attorney, and Staff Attorney with the Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center

Deborah Dungan, Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Attorney, Administrative Office of the Courts

Judy Flynn – O'Brien, Director, Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center

Ellen Genne, Program Director, New Mexico CASA Network

Liz McGrath, Co-Director, Pegasus Legal Services for Children

Steve Johnson, Executive Director, New Day

Soledad Martinez, Program Manager, Early Childhood Division, Children, Youth, and Families Department

Jared Rounsville, Protective Services Director, Children, Youth, and Families Department

Bonnie Schmerhorn, Program Director, New Mexico Access and Visitation Network

Mary Ann Shaening, Shaening and Associates

Pat Briggs, Project Director, New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board

Brian O'Connell, Executive Director, New Mexico Child Advocacy Networks

Section II

About Citizen Review Board (CRB)

Statewide Advisory Committee (SAC)

The Citizens Substitute Care Review Act requires the establishment of a CRB Statewide Advisory Committee (SAC) composed of three persons with expertise in the area of substitute care (public members) appointed by the Governor or the Department of Finance and Administration, regional representatives, officers, and one representative from each local board. The SAC is authorized to adopt reasonable rules that include guidelines for the determination of the appropriate type of review and the information needed to adequately monitor cases. The committee must make annual recommendations to CYFD, the courts, and the legislature on statutes, policies, and procedures relating to foster care. SAC fulfills this mandate by preparing an annual legislative report with recommendations regarding the abuse and neglect system. This report is widely distributed throughout the state to participants in the abuse and neglect system. In addition, the SAC has several subcommittees to assist in performing mandated duties.

SAC Subcommittees

There are five SAC subcommittees each with an assigned chair. All subcommittee chairs are, by virtue of their position, members of the Executive SAC.

There are currently 5 subcommittees of the Statewide Advisory Committee:

- **Training and Education** – Develops and helps to implement curriculum for new member orientation training, ongoing member training, and training modules for the CRB website.
- **Reports and Publications** – Assists CRB staff with interim reports and the CRB Annual Report and Recommendations. It also develops the CRB Newsletter for distribution statewide.
- **Legislative** – Educates CRB board members to help raise awareness and educate legislators and the public about issues and legislation impacting children in foster care. Empowers board members to engage the public in discussions about efforts that help foster children.
- **New Mexico Child Protection Evaluation Panels (NMCPEP)** – Facilitates CRB's compliance with the federal Child Abuse, Prevention and Treatment Act's citizen review panel requirements. Assists with the creation of child protection evaluation panels statewide, and with recruitment of panel members. Provides guidance and support for panels, which review and make recommendations regarding the policies, procedures, and practices of the child protection system.
- **New Mexico Friends of Foster Children** – Raises funds and public awareness for the New Mexico Friends of Foster Children (NMFFC). The fund provides awards to meet the wishes and needs of individual foster children that are not funded by CYFD or other programs. More information about NMFFC is available at www.nmcrb.org or by contacting CRB at 1-866-857-2976. For more information, see page 11.

CRB Volunteers

**From artists to professors
our 190 volunteers have one thing in common...
the goal to make a difference in the lives of abused and neglected
children and to improve the foster care system.**

Did you know ...

- The average board member spends an estimated **100** hours per year reviewing cases.
- The average board member spends **10** hours per year in training.
- Statewide Advisory Committee (SAC) representatives contribute an additional **20** hours per year in their advisory role.
- Executive SAC representatives and officers volunteer **30** more hours per year providing additional advisory duties.

The Citizen Review Board members come from all walks of life and represent communities throughout the state of New Mexico. Some of our current volunteer professions include:

Artists
Bankers
Bioresearchers
Bookkeepers
Business Owners
Chiropractors
Clinical Social Workers
College Advisors
Counselors/Therapists
Editors
Foster Parents

Homemakers
Industrial Relations
Journalists
Machinists
Medical Technologists
Military
Nurses
Priests/Pastors/Clergy
Paralegals
Professors
Office Managers

Real Estate Brokers
Receptionists
School Teachers
Secretaries
Social Workers
Stock Brokers
Students
Tax Consultants
Treatment Foster Parents
Waitresses

New Mexico is a founding member of a national coalition working to improve foster care through foster care review programs.

National Foster Care Review Coalition
Supporting Independent Review Programs
Mission Statement

The mission of the *National Foster Care Review Coalition* is to serve as a national coalition of foster care review programs to ensure the safety, well-being and timely achievement of permanency for children in foster care by:

- **Informing and influencing** individual state and national policy makers, as well as the public.
- **Promoting** the establishment of an independent review system in each state to assess the status of these children, and
- **Supporting** the work of active independent review systems.

Strategies to achieve our *Mission*:

- Providing a mechanism to gather and distribute data from independent review systems.
- Identifying those areas in the CFSR process where independent foster care review programs may assist their state's assessment and improvement efforts.
- Collaborating with like-minded organizations and programs.

NFCRC Founding Member States and Contacts

Colorado: Gayle Ziska Stack – (303) 866-7165 – gayle.stack@state.co.us

Delaware: Julia Pearce – (302) 577-8756 – julia.pearce@state.de.us

New Mexico: Pat Briggs – (505) 217-0226 – pbriggs@nmcrb.org

Oklahoma: Mark James – (866) 335-9288 – mark.james@occy.state.ok.us

South Carolina: Denise Barker – (803) 734-0663 – dbarker@oepp.sc.gov

Frequently Asked Questions about the New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board

What is the Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board (CRB)?

CRB consists of over 35 boards around the state made up of concerned community volunteers who, on a monthly basis, review cases of children in state custody due to abuse and neglect.

These community volunteers are trained to review cases and formulate relevant recommendations. They are required to view training videos, an experienced board member is assigned to them as a mentor, and participate in annual training, both on site with each local board, and in larger settings (such as regional training and statewide conferences.)

What happens during the Review Board session?

The CRB members read case information provided by the permanency planning worker and others involved in the case before the review day. By doing this preparation, the volunteers are ready to listen to the interested parties and ask informed, clarifying questions.

Each interested party is asked to speak about the child's current situation and what they believe is in the best interest of the child. CRB members listen and ask questions in order to make appropriate recommendations for the child's care.

Who attends the Review Board sessions?

Attendees include people involved in the child's case. These interested parties may include permanency planning workers, permanency planning worker supervisors, parents, foster parents, guardian ad litem, youth attorneys, CYFD attorneys, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA volunteers), parents' attorneys, other relatives of the child, treatment providers, representatives from the tribe if a Native American child is involved, and the child, when appropriate.

What happens after a Review Board session?

After a case is reviewed, the Board members deliberate with a staff member to prepare a report that presents those factors that appear to be either hindering or facilitating the child's expeditious placement in a permanent, safe, and loving home. Additionally, the Board's report includes recommended actions, which may include changing CYFD's permanency plan.

The completed report is then sent to the following parties: the judge presiding over the case, the permanency planning worker, the permanency planning worker's supervisor, all attorneys involved in the case, the CASA volunteer (if one has been appointed), the foster parents, the treatment foster agency, and the tribe if a Native American child is involved.

Frequently Asked Questions about Systemic Initiatives

How does the CRB generate recommendations for system improvement?

After each case review, comprehensive data is gathered on each child in custody. This data is entered into the CRB database. All data is confidential, and is only used to track trends and make systemic observations and recommendations. This data serves as the basis for this and other CRB reports.

The CRB Statewide Advisory Committee (SAC), as determined by statute, is comprised of a representative from each local board, SAC officers and regional representatives, and three public members. SAC meets throughout the year and monitors what is happening to the children in custody by hearing from the local board representatives and by reviewing data.

How does the CRB bring attention to these important issues?

The CRB and SAC perform various public education functions. SAC identifies relevant data elements and issues affecting the children and the system during the fiscal year, and reports the data and anecdotal information through CRB Interim Reports that spotlight a single issue. SAC also uses its expertise to assist in the CRB Annual Report and Recommendations that reports statewide and county information. In addition, CRB maintains a website (www.nmcrb.org) that includes information, data, and links to relevant sites. The CRB and SAC testify before legislative committees on its data, observations, and recommendations. CRB data is also provided to state and national organizations to help illuminate the child protection world.

Does the CRB facilitate any independent research that is separate from the review day?

The SAC identifies issues that need further research and the CRB staff and SAC determines how to gather the needed data. Outside experts are consulted to develop the best methods to obtain pertinent information. Methods utilized have included surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions. The data is then gathered from around the state, analyzed, and distributed through the CRB Interim Reports and CRB Annual Report and Recommendations.

Does the CRB do other work?

The CRB is advised by its Statewide Advisory Committee (SAC). Subcommittees of SAC work on various projects. For example, New Mexico Friends of Foster Children (NMFFC) was created in September of 2003 to help meet certain needs of New Mexico's foster children that are not funded by state or other programs.

More information about NMFFC is available at www.nmcrb.org or by contacting CRB at 1-866-857-2976. For more information see page 11.

Does CRB work on a national level?

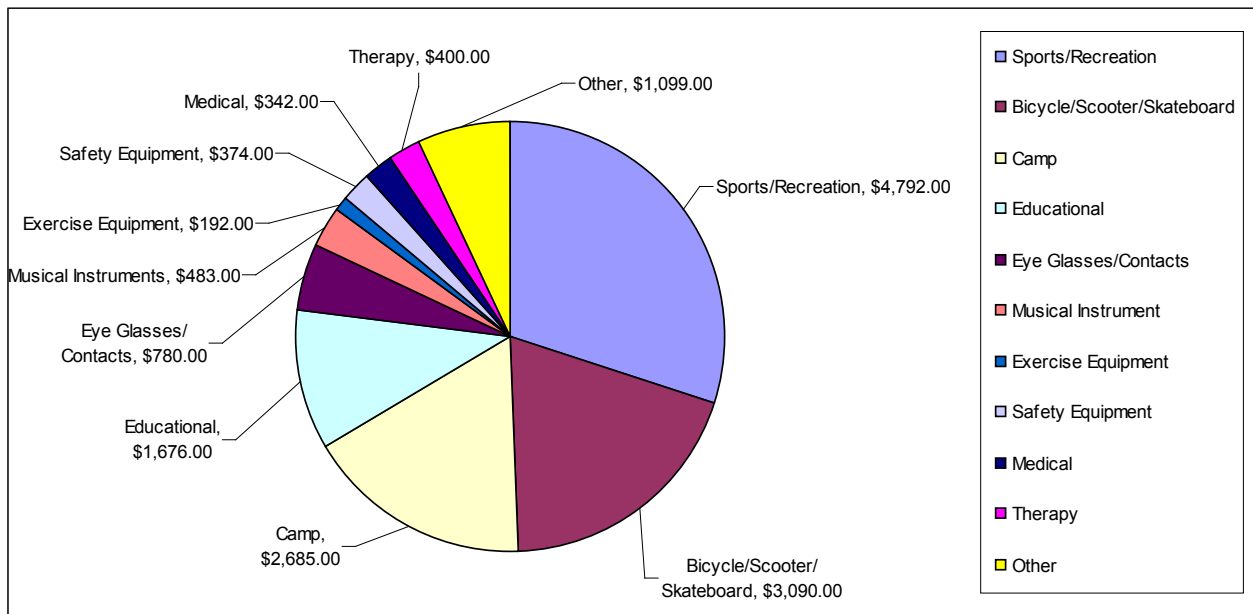
New Mexico CRB is a founding member of the National Foster Care Review Coalition (NFCRC) working to improve foster care through foster care review programs. The mission of the national coalition includes helping to ensure the safety, well-being and timely achievement of permanency for children in foster care by informing and influencing individual state and national policy makers, as well as the public. One of the strategies to achieve this is to provide a mechanism to gather and distribute data from independent review systems. For example, data is being collected for the National Working Group on Foster Care and Education. Data has also been collected on youth for a Casey Convening on Youth in Foster Care



New Mexico Friends of Foster Children

Background: In September 2003, the Statewide Advisory Committee (SAC) of the New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board (CRB) created the New Mexico Friends of Foster Children (NMFFC). After reviewing the cases of abused and neglected children, CRB volunteers felt the need to be part of the solution by enriching the lives of children in foster care and supporting their growth. In April 2003, CRB volunteers initiated the Duffels and Diapers drive that collected and distributed over 3,100 pieces of luggage and 14,200 diapers to foster children around the state. This event was the precursor to the creation of the New Mexico Friends of Foster Children.

Activity for New Mexico Friends of Foster Children during January 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008



NMFFC became an independent non-profit in the summer of 2009, organizationally separate from but still a close partner of CRB. This transition was for the purpose of opening doors to additional funding sources. NMFFC continues to foster CRB's goal of helping foster children in New Mexico, and CRB volunteers on the Friends' Board of Directors provide direction centered on the needs of New Mexico's foster children.

NMFFC is an amazing success. The response has been overwhelming and is filling an unmet need for foster children. Without the ongoing support of individual and business contributions, we cannot continue to fill this gap. As in the African proverb, it takes a village to raise a child. Nowhere is that more true than in the foster care system. Every contribution you make has a direct impact on New Mexico's children.

NMFFC Board of Directors:

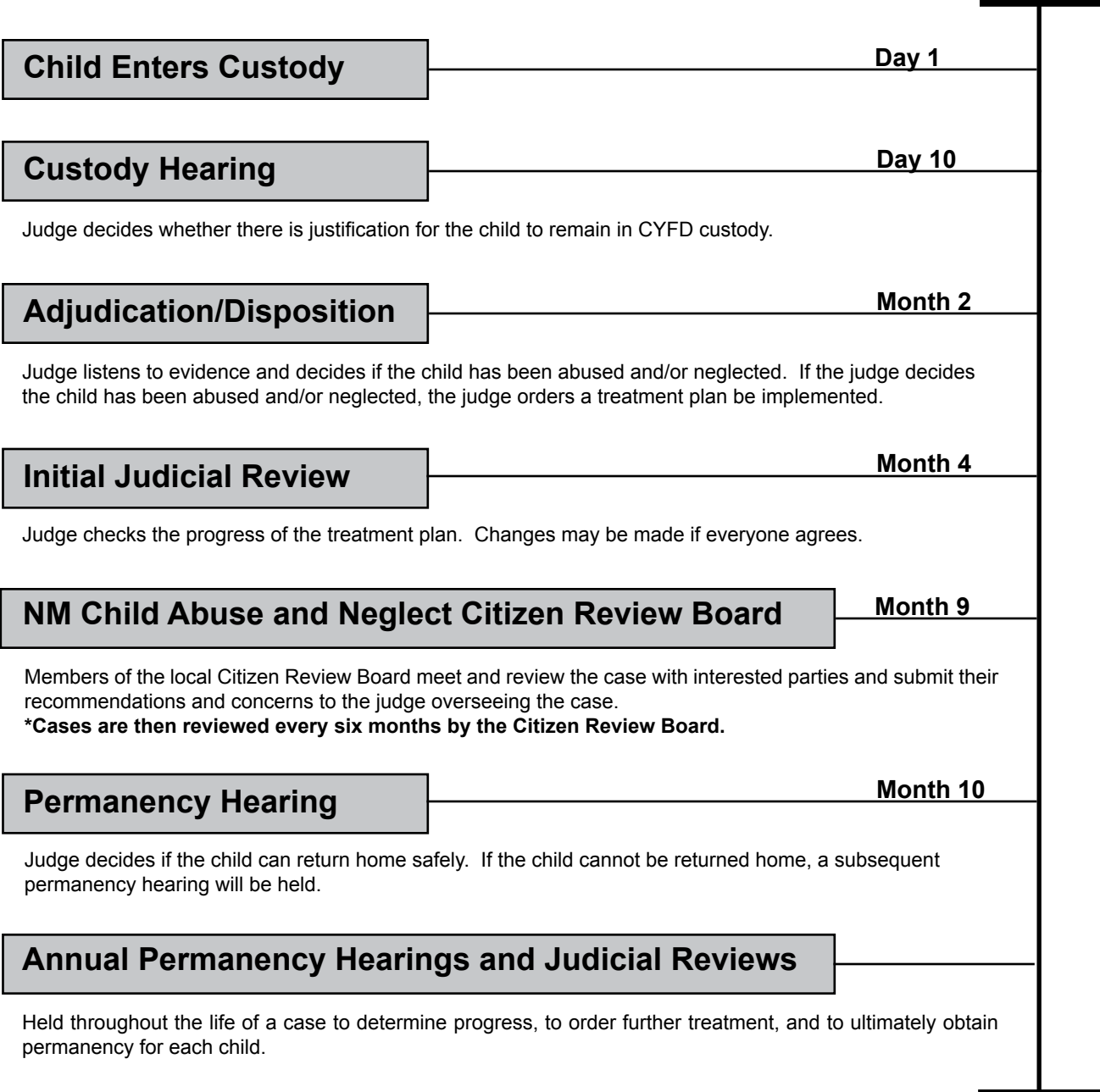
Barbara Bowidowicz
 Pat Briggs
 Corinne Carmony
 Mary Ann Copas
 Pat Dunn
 Liz McGrath
 Donna Payne

Contact Information:

New Mexico Friends of Foster Children
 PO Box 30228
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87190
 (505) 217-0226
www.nmffc.org

Section III
**What Happens to Children in the
Abuse and Neglect System**

Legal Events and Timelines Affecting the Child



It is easy to forget as we read the numbers and review the data that each number in this report represents a child who has been abused or neglected and whose life has been permanently changed. While reading this report, please remember that each number also represents a child's complex life that is interwoven with a community and is disrupted by abusive or neglectful parents and his or her removal from the home of that parent.

**Report child abuse and neglect to
CYFD's Statewide Central Intake at 1-800-797-3260.**

Teresa's Story

CRB Data in the Context of a Child's Life

Teresa's story is a fictional composite of children reviewed by CRB.



DAY 1: Child Enters Custody

Teresa was eight years old when she was taken into the state's custody because of neglect and physical abuse by her mother. The Statewide Central Intake unit of the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) received a call reporting that Teresa had come to school with bruises and what looked like a burn on her leg. CYFD investigated and substantiated the report of abuse. As a result, CYFD moved to take custody of Teresa to protect her from further harm. This was the second report Teresa's teacher made to Statewide Central Intake in the last six months and he had grown more concerned about Teresa and her home situation.

DAY 10: Custody Hearing

Teresa's mother, Gloria, has a long history of alcohol and drug abuse. Teresa's father, Anthony, is currently incarcerated and is not expected to be released for several years. In the investigation, it was discovered that Teresa had missed a lot of school and when she was at school she was often hungry, dirty, and had many physical complaints. Teresa and her mother have a history of living in motels and with relatives. In addition, Gloria's problems with substance abuse have made it difficult for her to hold a job.

MONTH 2: Adjudication/Disposition

Teresa moved from her emergency foster home to another foster home. A therapist who evaluated Teresa is concerned that she was sexually abused while in her mother's care. Her foster parents also have concerns; there have been times when her sexual knowledge is far above what is normal for a child her age. At the adjudication/disposition hearing, the judge orders a treatment plan that will address Teresa's abuse and neglect and her mother's substance abuse problems. The permanency plan for Teresa is reunification with her mother.

MONTH 4: Initial Judicial Review

Teresa has been attending play therapy and is starting to disclose a history of sexual abuse by one of her mother's live-in boyfriends. The foster home is having difficulty with Teresa's sexualized behaviors; she has been touching adults and children inappropriately. They are fearful that Teresa will hurt their five year old daughter and they have asked that Teresa be removed from their home.

It has been observed that Teresa is behind others in her age group in academic and social development. Teresa's school evaluated her because of suspicions, given her mother's history of substance abuse, that Teresa may be developmentally delayed. The school is providing special education services, and speech and physical therapies to help Teresa progress in school.

While Teresa appears to be getting the help she needs, her mother is struggling. Gloria was evaluated and a referral was made to an inpatient substance abuse treatment program. She put off going for several weeks until her attorney told her that the permanency plan for Teresa could change from reunification to adoption. With federal and state laws, Gloria now has less than a year to prove that she can change and become the mother Teresa needs.

MONTH 9: Citizen Review Board

At the Citizen Review Board meeting of Teresa's case, the interested parties attending the review discussed Gloria not attending treatment. Gloria has been seen out on the streets abusing drugs. Christopher, the second permanency planning worker on the case in nine months, finally spoke to Teresa's father. Anthony has several more years before he will be eligible for parole. The Department is seriously considering changing Teresa's permanency plan to adoption and filing for the termination of Gloria's and Anthony's parental rights.

Lisa, Teresa's Guardian ad Litem (GAL), could not attend the CRB review but sent a letter providing insight into the status of Teresa's case. Lisa has had difficulty keeping up with Teresa's case due to the number of children she represents. Through the work of an active Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA volunteer), CYFD became aware of an aunt in Colorado who might be interested in adopting Teresa. CYFD will need to have a home study done in Colorado to evaluate the aunt and her situation. The first permanency hearing is coming in a few weeks and decisions must be made.

In its report to the judge, the local CRB makes strong recommendations related to three issues of great concern to the board members. Gloria's lack of progress toward alleviating the conditions that led Teresa to enter custody has them worried that she is not capable of caring for her daughter. The board is also concerned that Teresa's behavioral and emotional problems may cause another move, perhaps permanently damaging her ability to trust caregivers. Finally, board members are concerned that Teresa's sexual abuser and Gloria have not been held accountable for their maltreatment of Teresa.

MONTH 10: Permanency Hearing

Ten months, three moves, and two permanency planning workers after custody, the permanency plan continues to be reunification. Unless Gloria makes significant changes in her life, the permanency plan will change to adoption. Three months from now Teresa's team of permanency planning worker, guardian ad litem, CASA volunteer, and others will meet with the judge at the Subsequent Permanency Hearing to discuss this change of plan.

Meanwhile, Teresa's mother is having a rough time. She could not get into the inpatient substance abuse program that she desperately needed to fight her substance abuse problem and outpatient treatment was insufficient to beat her addiction. To make matters worse, she has called her daughter a liar when confronted with the allegations that a boyfriend had sexually abused Teresa. No one has seen Gloria since the first permanency hearing. Teresa still worries about her mother and, like so many children in foster care, wishes she could return home to her mother's care.

Teresa's story illustrates a composite of children reviewed by CRB members. Her story takes place in an environment where services are relatively available, and most of the parties coordinated efforts to meet legal timelines, therefore not unnecessarily delaying treatment and permanency for Teresa. Imagine the lives of children who do not have these added supports as they move through their time in custody. Teresa's story is intended to highlight the real world relevance of the data contained in this report.

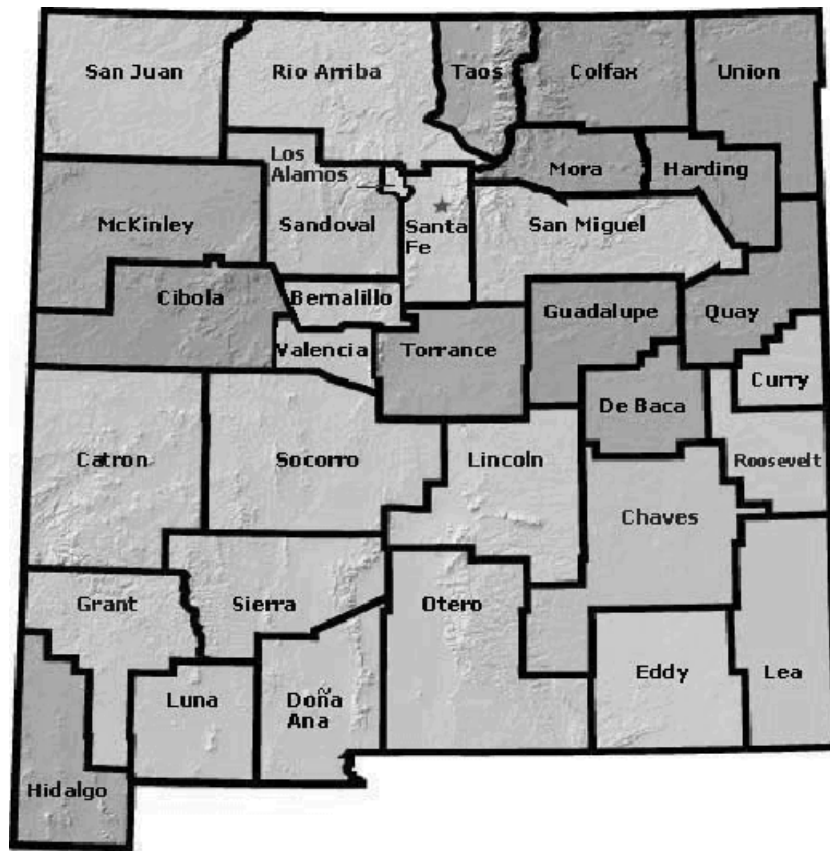
Section IV

Statewide CRB Data

CRB Reviews in New Mexico

Fiscal Year 2009: July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

3,040 total reviews involving 2,135 children*



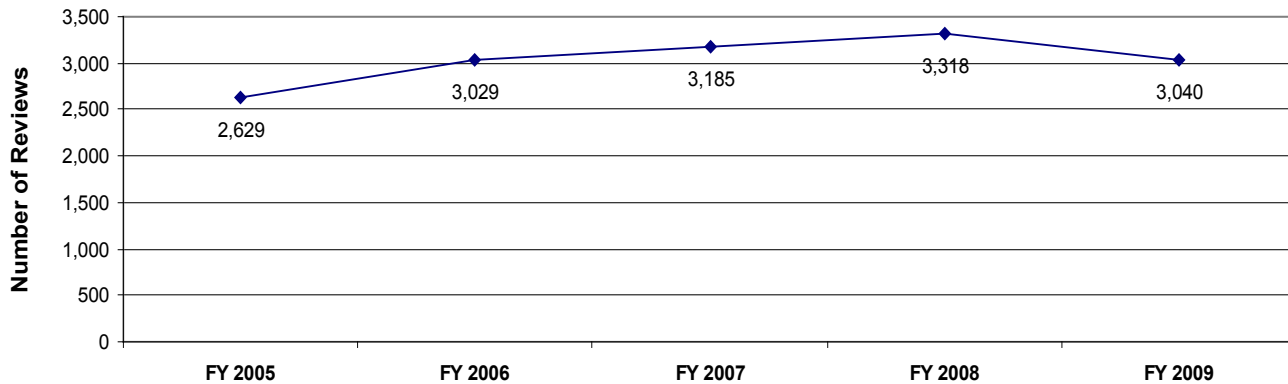
Total Reviews by County

Bernalillo	750	Harding	2	San Juan	321
Catron	0	Lea	153	San Miguel	54
Chaves	225	Lincoln	22	Sandoval	28
Cibola	86	Los Alamos	13	Santa Fe	95
Colfax	16	Luna	68	Sierra	24
Curry	83	McKinley	68	Socorro	30
DeBaca	0	Mora	0	Taos	61
Dona Ana	308	Otero	96	Torrance	15
Eddy	127	Quay	61	Union	7
Grant/Hidalgo	31	Rio Arriba	89	Valencia	151
Guadalupe	10	Roosevelt	46		

* Some children are reviewed more than once per year.

Total Number of CRB Reviews of Children

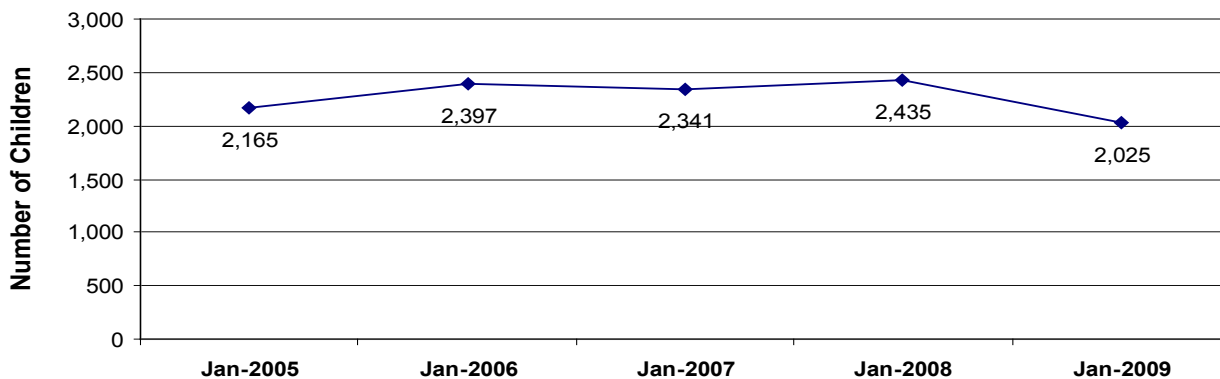
Fiscal Years: 2005 - 2009



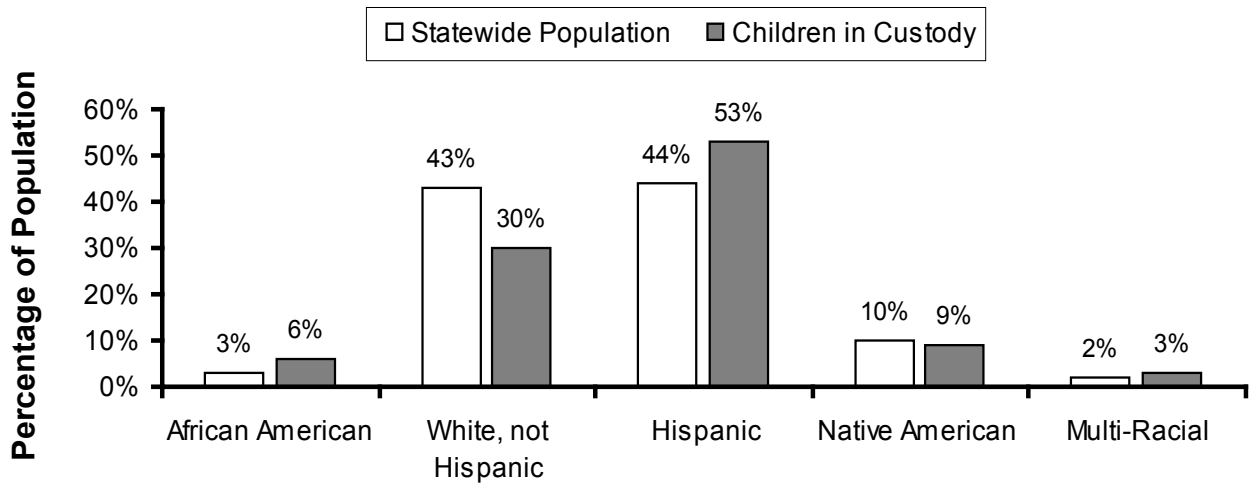
Correlation in activity between CYFD and CRB will probably never be perfectly parallel, as many children in CYFD custody return home prior to the court actions that trigger a CRB review. Also, CRB reviews some children more than once per year.

Total Number of Children in Foster Care (CYFD Data)

2005 - 2009

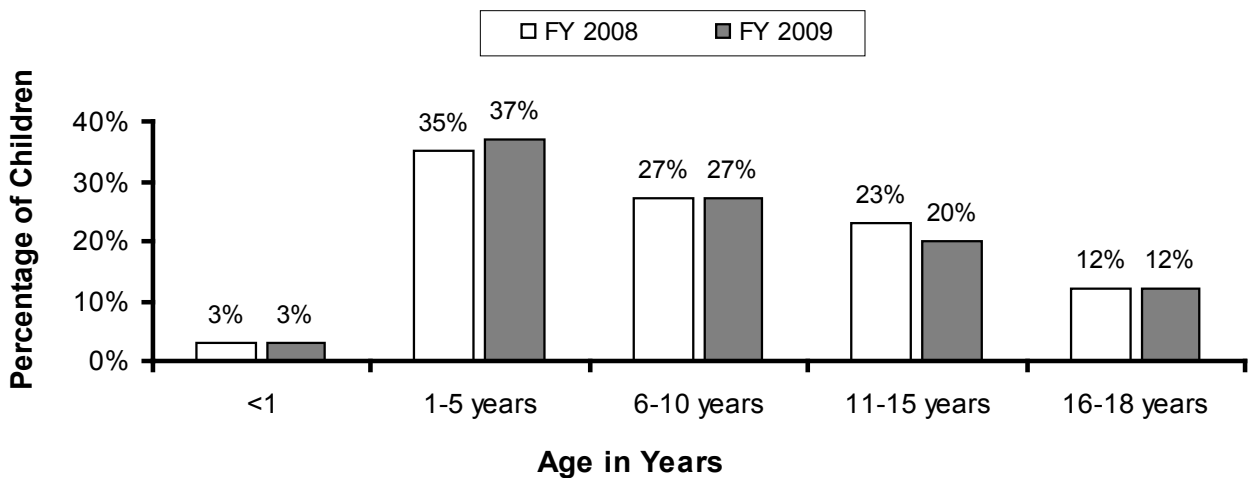


Of the 2,135 children reviewed by CRB
Race and Ethnicity of Children in Custody



This chart indicates that some racial and ethnic groups are under-represented and others are over-represented in the abuse and neglect system relative to their populations in the state as a whole. The racial disproportionality of certain groups in the child welfare system is a well documented nationwide phenomenon. It is an area where further resources should be focused to help address this challenge.

Of the 2,135 children reviewed by CRB
Ages of Children in Custody at Last CRB Review

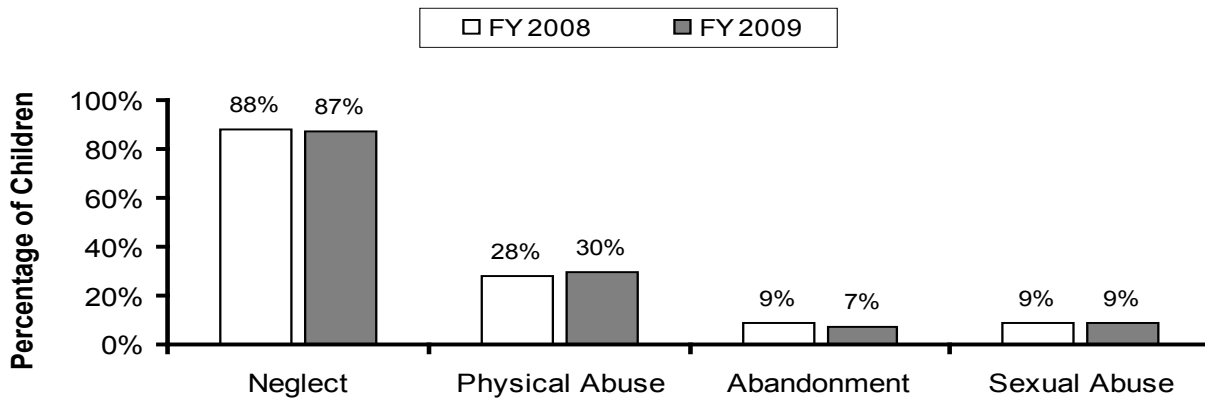


About the Data:

- U.S. Census Bureau 2000 data used to determine current New Mexico racial and ethnic populations.
- Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%.

Of the 2,135 children reviewed by CRB

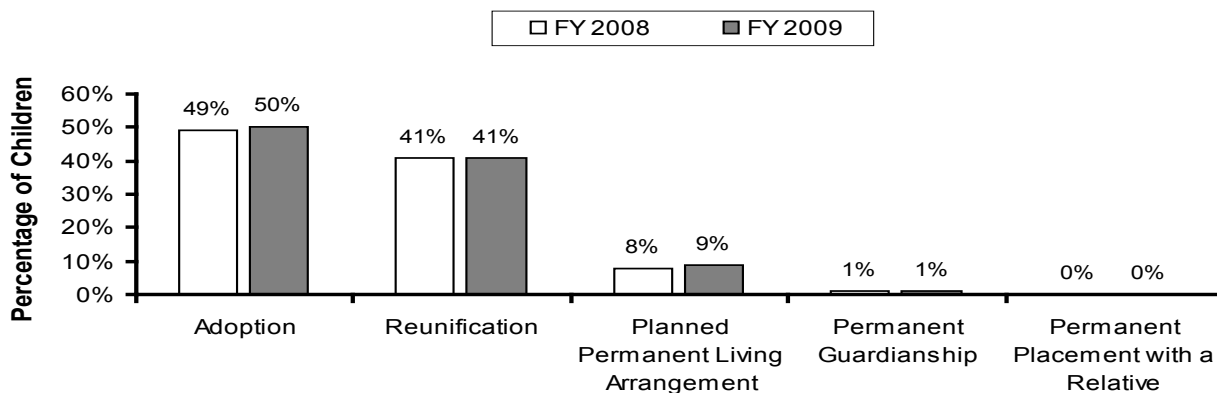
Reasons Children Enter the Abuse and Neglect System



- Neglect** The lack of proper parental care and control necessary to the child's well-being or the parent's inability to appropriately care for the child and provide for the child's daily needs.
- Physical Abuse** The non-accidental physical harm of a child including but not limited to beatings, shaking, burning, choking, malnutrition, failure to thrive, and other excessive physical actions.
- Abandonment** Child left alone or with others for an extended period of time without appropriate parental support or communication.
- Sexual Abuse** The sexual maltreatment of a child that includes but is not limited to criminal sexual contact, incest, any inappropriate touching, any type of exposure to sexual activity, and/or sexual penetration of a child.
- Voluntary** Child is placed in custody through a voluntary agreement with the child's parents rather than through court order. Voluntary custody typically occurs when the grounds to file a court order do not exist, but protection issues are present and parents are agreeable.

Of the 2,135 children reviewed by CRB

CYFD's Permanency Plan at Last CRB Review



Adoption: A permanency plan to create the legal relationship of parent and child between a child and adults other than the child's biological parents.

Reunification: A permanency plan to return a child to the home of his or her parent or where the child remains in the physical custody of his or her parent.

Planned Permanent Living Arrangement: A permanency plan for an adolescent that provides physical and emotional permanency in an out-of-home placement.

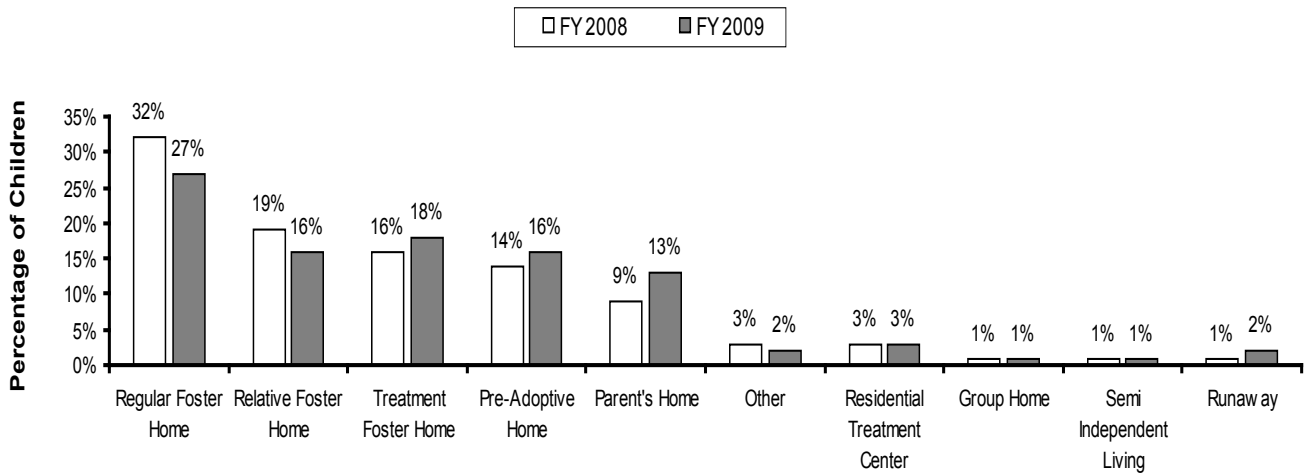
Guardianship/Permanent Guardianship: A permanency plan for a child that creates the legal relationship of guardianship between a child and an adult other than the child's biological parents.

Permanent Placement with a Relative: A permanency plan to permanently place a child in the home of his or her relative.

* Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

• Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%

Of the 2,135 children reviewed by CRB
Child's Placement at Last CRB Review



Types of placements for children in custody:

- **Regular Foster Home:** A home that has been licensed and trained by CYFD to care for foster children until a permanent placement can be secured.
- **Relative Foster Home:** A relative that has been licensed and trained by CYFD to care for foster children.
- **Treatment Foster Home:** A foster home that has been licensed by a treatment foster care agency. These homes assist children with severe emotional and behavioral problems. They have more requirements and receive additional training and support than do foster homes.
- **Pre-Adoptive Home:** A family which is in the process of adopting one or more child.
- **Parent's Home:** A child remains in the parent's home while in the legal custody of the state. The parent continues to follow a treatment plan to remedy abuse and neglect and to regain full custody of the child.
- **Other:** A placement not listed that may include but is not limited to emergency shelters or juvenile justice facilities.
- **Residential Treatment Center (RTC):** A specialized center, less restrictive than a psychiatric hospital but more restrictive than a group home. Children reside at the RTC while receiving treatment for psychological disorders, substance abuse, and emotional/behavioral problems.
- **Group Home:** A placement where a number of children live in a supervised setting. Treatment is often provided outside of this setting. Treatment that is provided in group homes is less specialized than at Residential Treatment Centers or Psychiatric Hospitals.
- **Semi Independent Living:** A living arrangement for youth preparing to emancipate from foster care.
- **Runaway:** The whereabouts of the child are unknown.

About the Data:

- Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%.

Why Does the Number of Placements Matter?

Placements are one of the most important factors that impact the lives and futures of children in the abuse and neglect system. When a child is placed in a safe and loving home, the child has the opportunity to fulfill his or her potential, heal from the trauma they experienced in an abusive or neglectful home, and learn to trust that his or her physical and emotional needs will be met. When placements disrupt, this healing process may be stunted. Children with multiple placements often suffer from behavioral and bonding issues that result from an inability to trust that adults will not abandon them or otherwise fail to meet their emotional and physical needs. The result can be emotional and behavioral chaos for children and those around them.

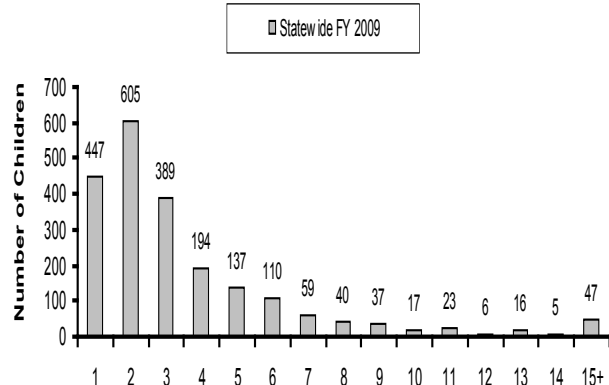
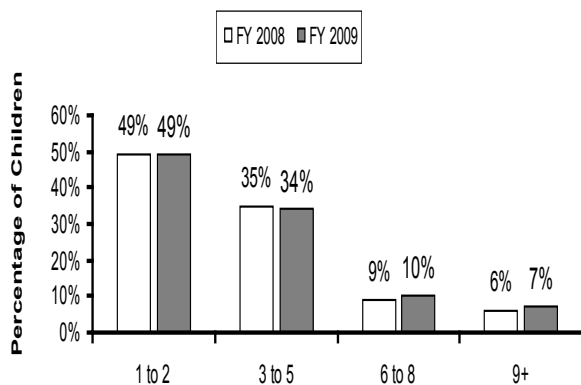
These children do not have the consistency of a single family culture to provide stability, security, and a sense of well-being in the midst of already traumatic experiences. Foster children have the added strain of being given new parents each time they move. They have to struggle and test their new parents' commitment and love. Regardless of how dedicated and loving families may be, the experience of disrupting a child's home life to move to another carries long-term consequences for children. In recognition of this fact, the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) creates a legal structure that requires states to provide for the safety, permanency, and well-being of children served by the foster care system.

Each time children are moved to a new placement there is the possibility:

- they will have to change schools
- they will lose critical social bonds with friends, family, and trusted adults
- they will have to learn new household rules and family cultures that include language differences, food differences, and more
- they will attempt to create bonds with new parents and siblings.

Of the 2,135 children reviewed by CRB

Number of Placements Since Custody at Last CRB Review

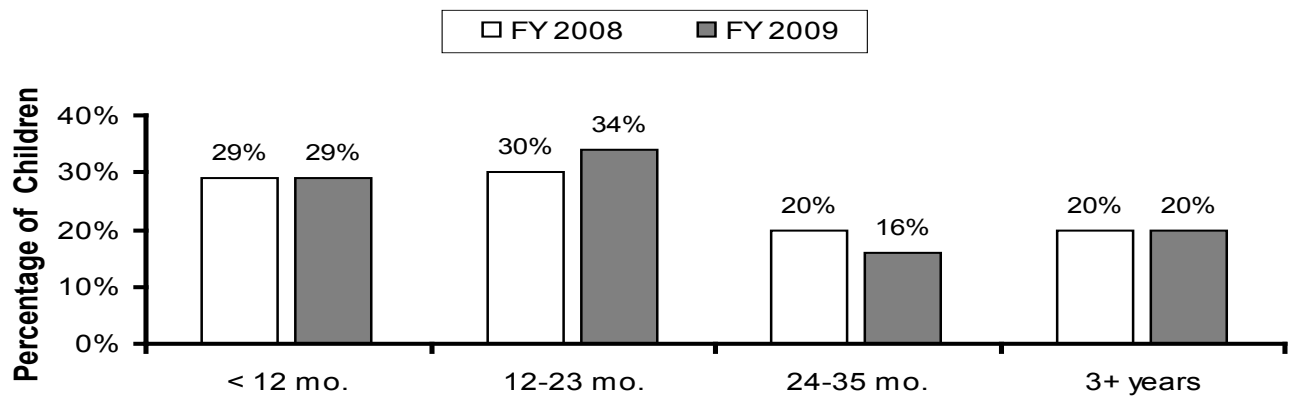


About the Data:

- Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%.

Of the 2,135 children reviewed by CRB

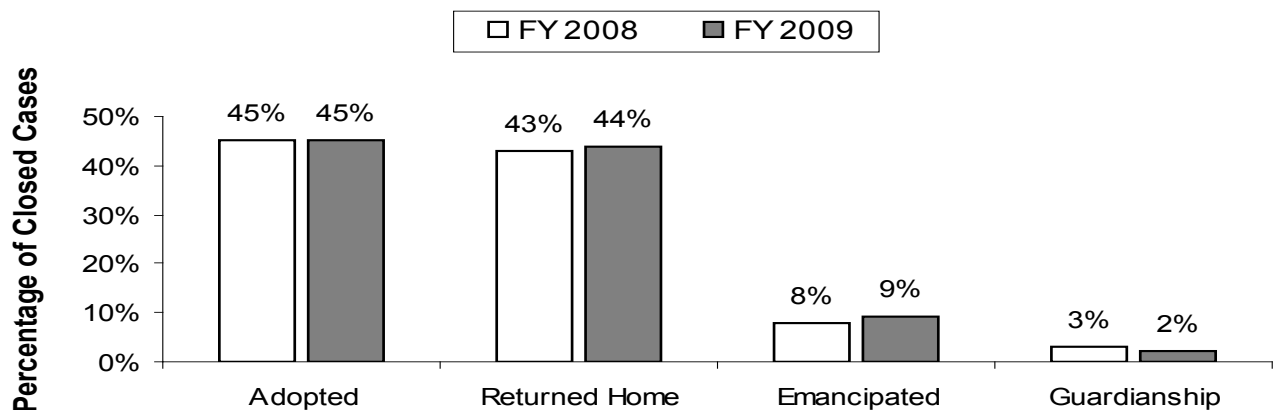
Length of Time in Custody for Children at Last CRB Review



The federal Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) anticipates each child will be permanently placed within 22 months absent any compelling reason.

Reason for Case Closure

Of the 2,135 children's cases reviewed by CRB this fiscal year, **609** were closed.



Common Reasons for Case Closure:

Adoption: The court has terminated the parental rights of a child's biological parents and a court sanctioned parental relationship has been established between the child and another adult.

Reunification/Return Home: The court returns a child to the home of his/her parent or where the child remains in the physical custody of his or her parent.

Emancipation: A young adult reaches the age of majority and is no longer under court jurisdiction.

Guardianship/Permanent Guardianship: The court creates the legal relationship of guardianship between a child and an adult other than the child's biological parents.

Other: Other includes a tribe taking jurisdiction, death or any other reason not otherwise listed.

About the Data:

- Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%.

Section V

County Data

County Data Section Contents

Bernalillo County	24
Catron County	No children were reviewed by CRB in FY 09
Chaves County	26
Cibola County	28
Colfax County	30
Curry County	32
DeBaca County	No children were reviewed by CRB in FY 09
Dona Ana County	34
Eddy County	36
Grant County	38
Guadalupe County	40
Harding County	42
Hidalgo County	44
Lea County	46
Lincoln County	48
Los Alamos County	50
Luna County	52
McKinley County	54
Mora County	No children were reviewed by CRB in FY 09
Otero County	56
Quay County	58
Rio Arriba County	60
Roosevelt County	62
San Juan County	64
San Miguel County	66
Sandoval County	68
Santa Fe County	70
Sierra County	72
Socorro County	74
Taos County	76
Torrance County	78
Union County	80
Valencia County	82

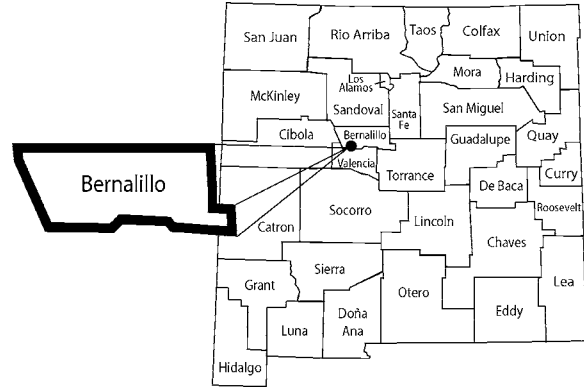
Bernalillo County

Community Successes

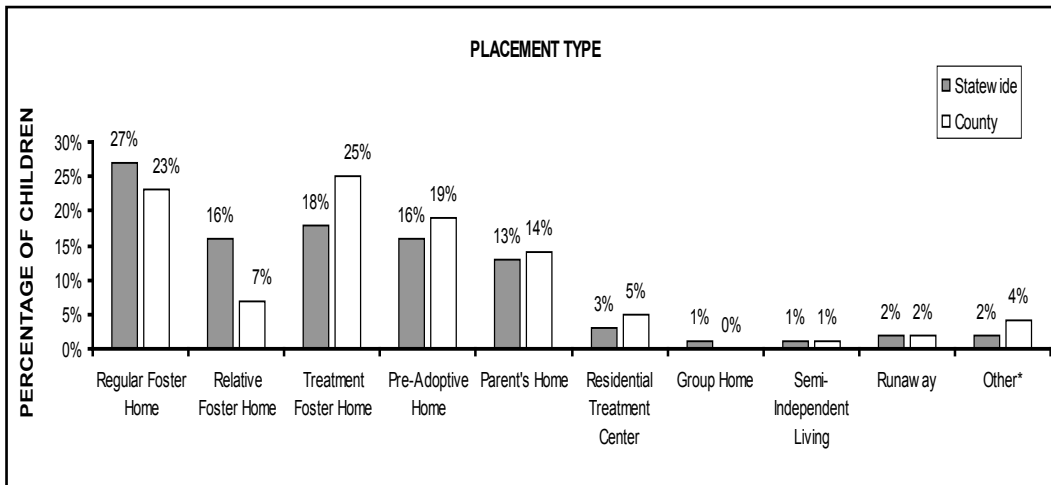
- Higher adoption subsidies being approved for high needs children.
- Depression Bipolar Support Alliance.
- Good foster home placements.
- Increasing collaboration between CYFD, attorneys and service providers resulting in more positive outcomes for the children and families.

Community Challenges

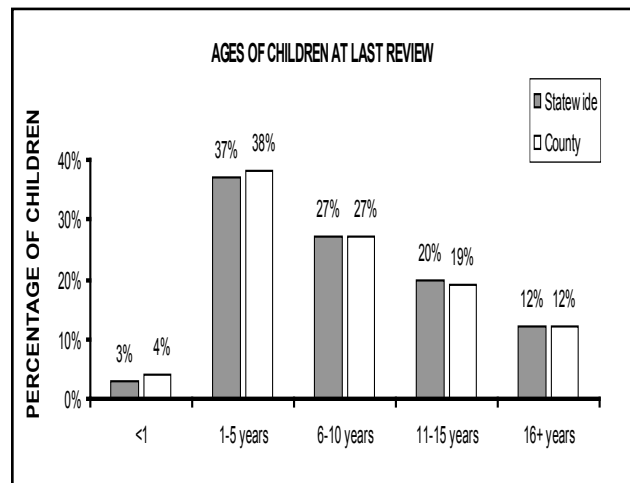
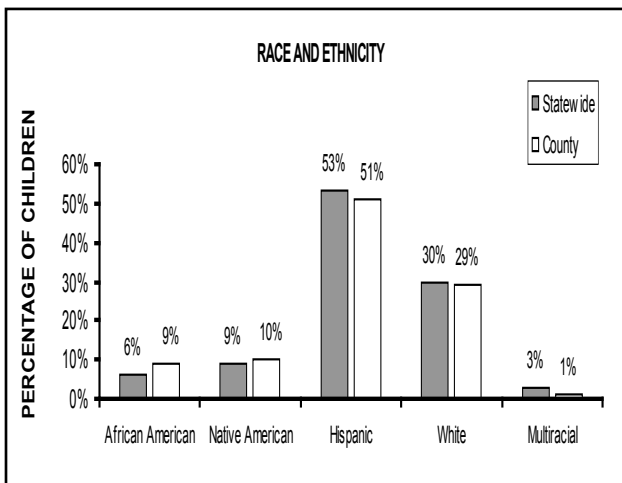
- Lack of prosecution of sexual offenders.
- Abrupt discharges from Residential Treatment Centers and Treatment Foster Homes. Arbitrary decisions on placement made without CYFD's input.
- Treatment Foster Care placements are being leveled down or being denied altogether.
- High number of referrals before custody.
- Higher number of disrupted adoptions.
- Not enough planning for children aging out and transitioning into adult services.



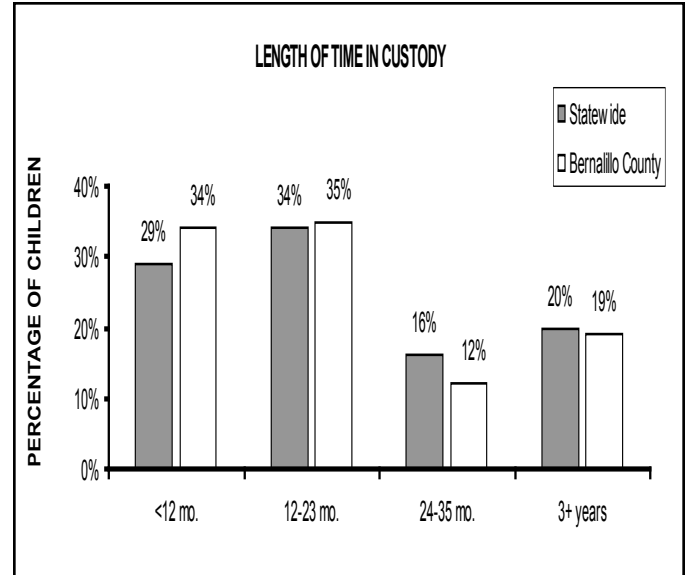
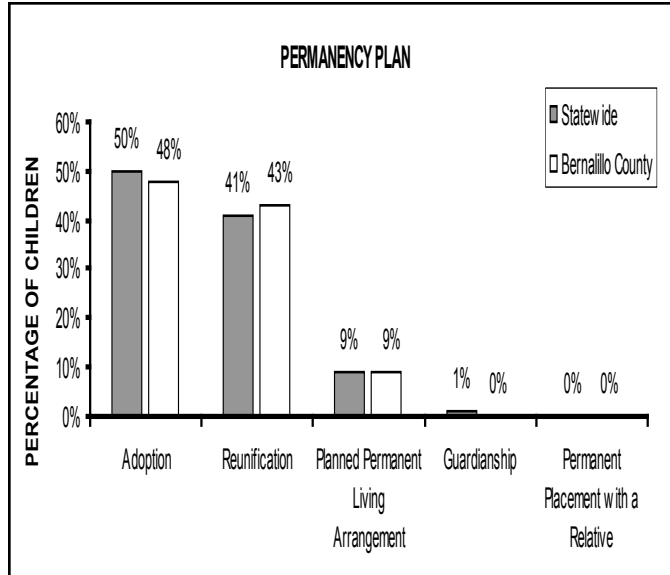
Data on the 513 Children Who Lived in Bernalillo County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



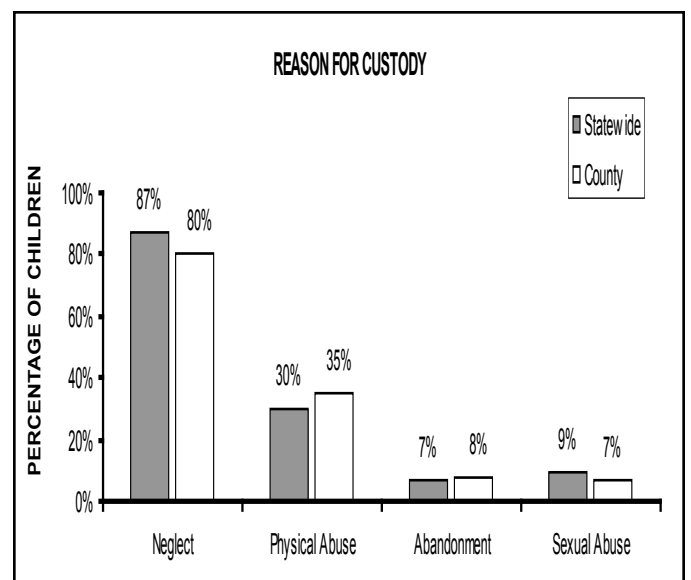
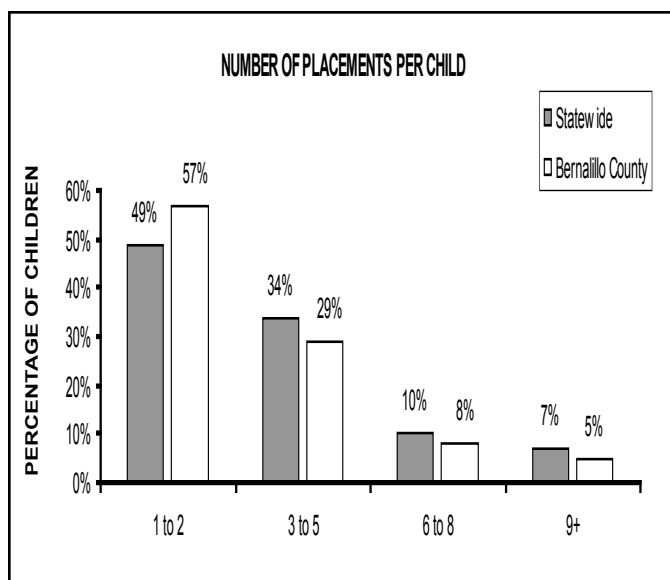
* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



Bernalillo County



Child and Parent Factors				
Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Bernalillo County	65%	65%	19%	20%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%
Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Bernalillo County	65%	59%	64%	65%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



• Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%
 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

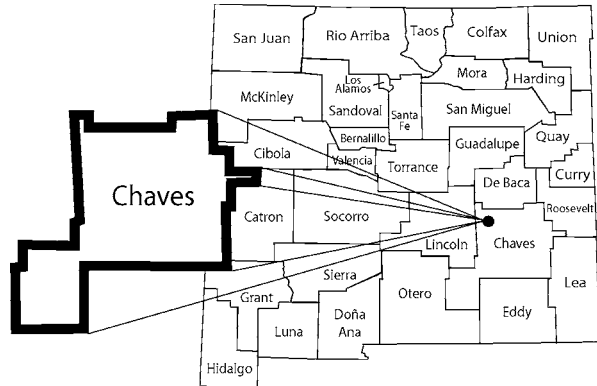
Chaves County

Community Successes

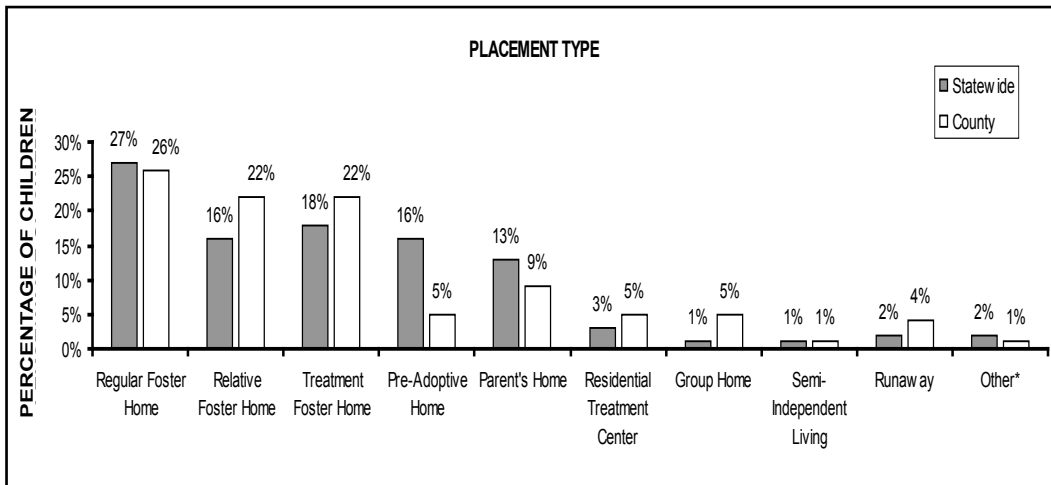
- Trial home visits appear to be working for the children.
- The library's "Tutors On-line" is helpful to foster children and foster parents.
- Older children are being adopted.
- CASA program implementing new resource referral service and a girls therapy group.
- One permanency planning worker volunteered to specialize in teen custody cases.

Community Challenges

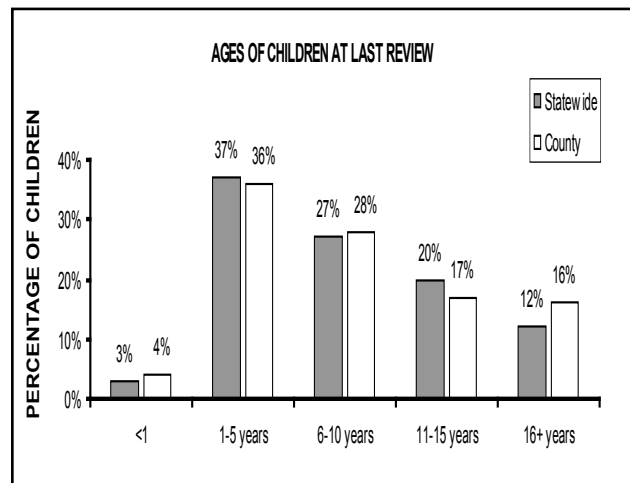
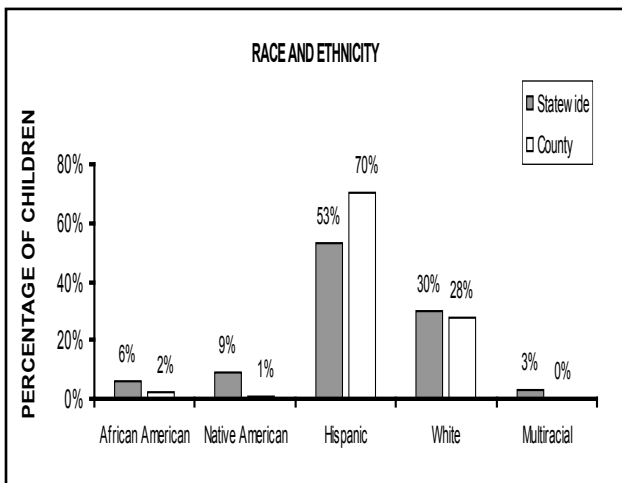
- Convincing youth to take advantage of semi-independent living services.
- Extreme costs of out-of-state placements and adoptions.
- Lack of foster homes.
- Increased number of children coming back into custody after their cases were closed.
- Many referrals before children are brought into custody.
- Permanency planning workers have high caseloads.
- At times, parents are given too many chances before a termination of parental rights is granted.



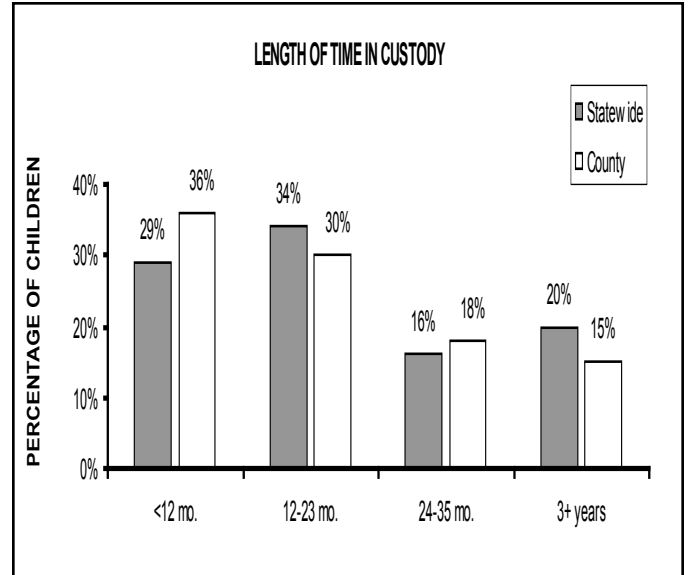
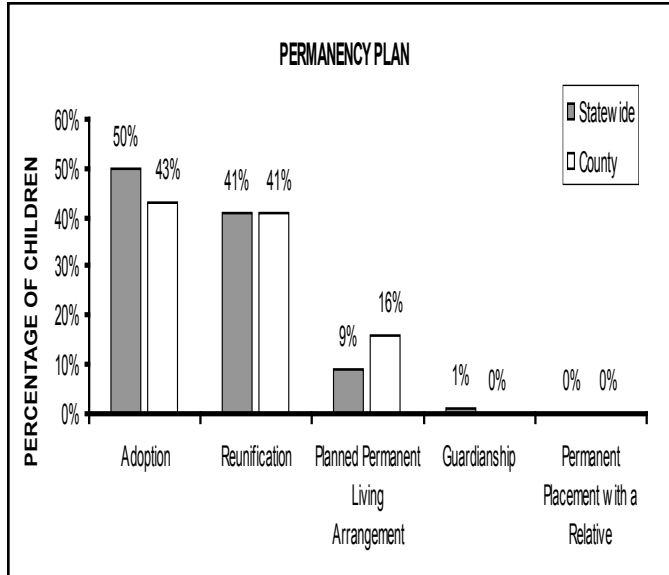
Data on the 167 Children Who Lived in Chaves County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



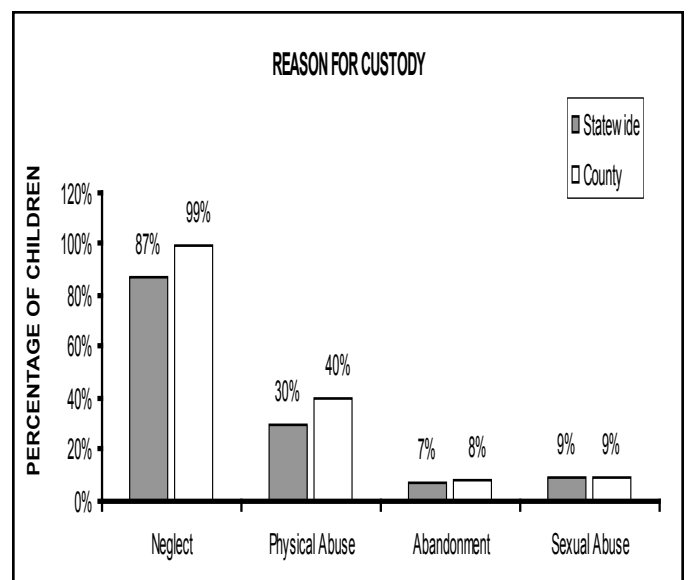
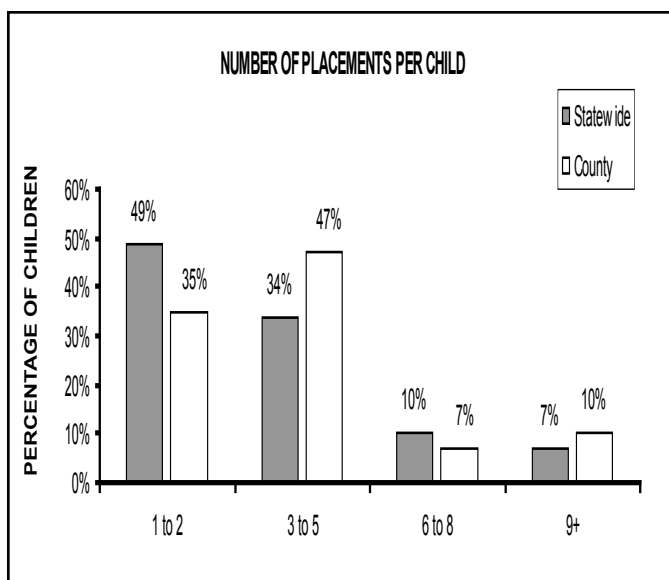
* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



Chaves County



Child and Parent Factors				
Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Chaves County	56%	47%	29%	23%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%
Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Chaves County	59%	35%	64%	64%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



• Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%
 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

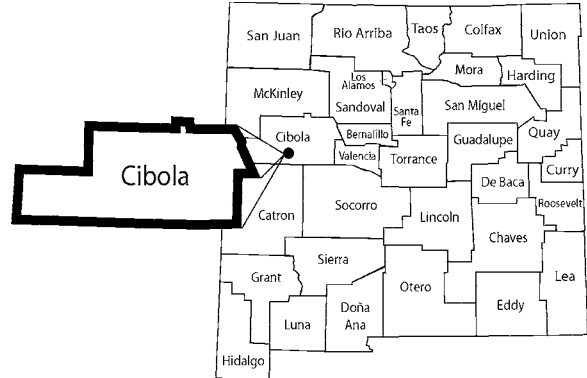
Cibola County

Community Successes

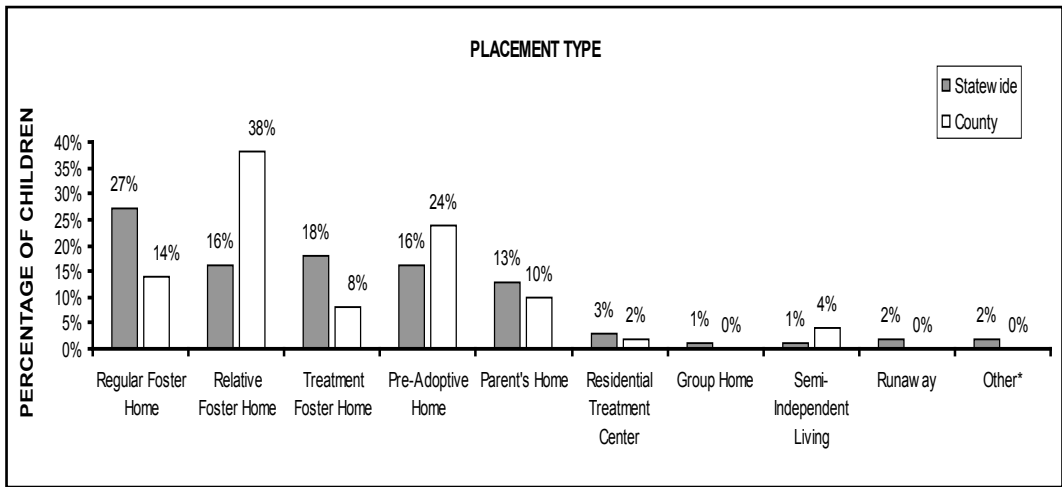
- Caseloads are down.
- County is working on getting cases back on federal legal timelines.

Community Challenges

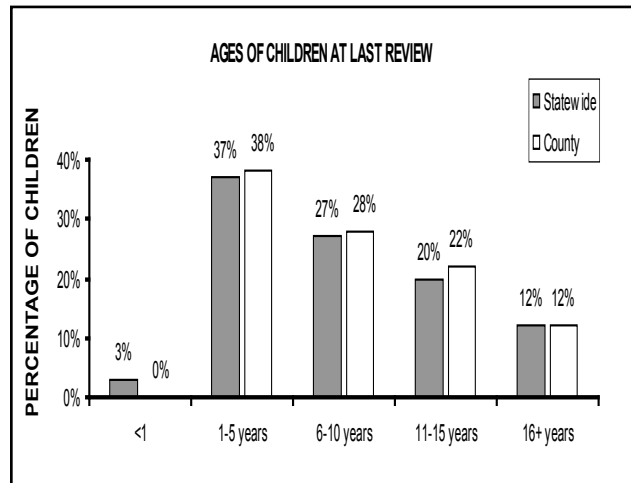
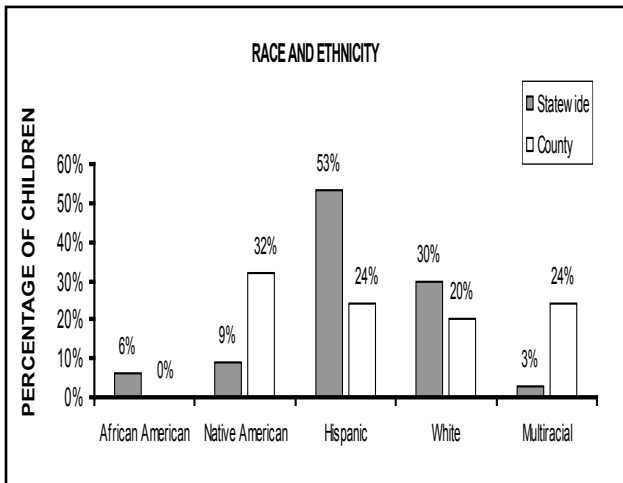
- Constant turnover of CYFD staff.
- Lack of accountability of sexual offenders.
- No in-home service worker.
- Children remain in custody for too long.



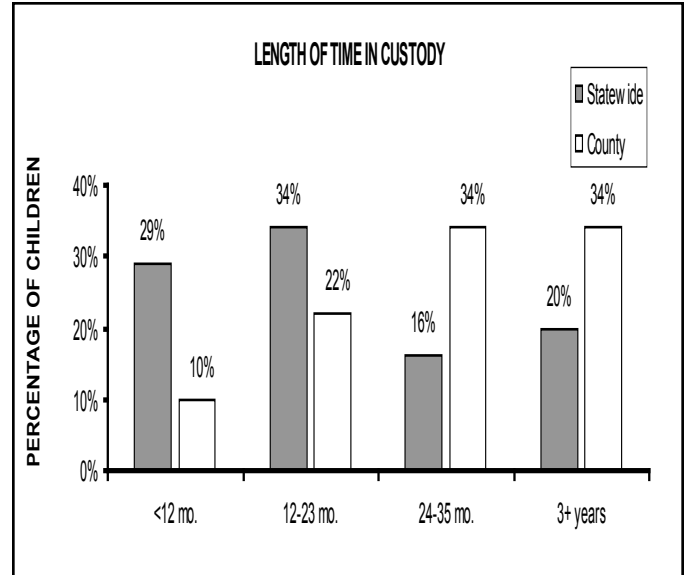
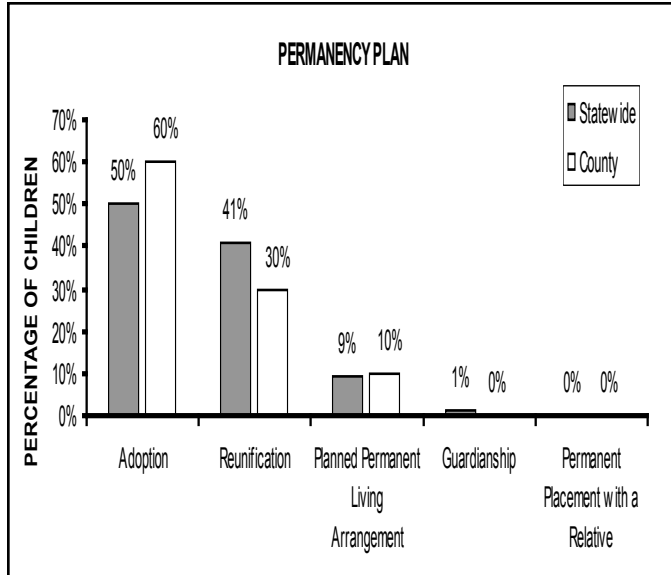
Data on the 50 Children Who Lived in Cibola County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



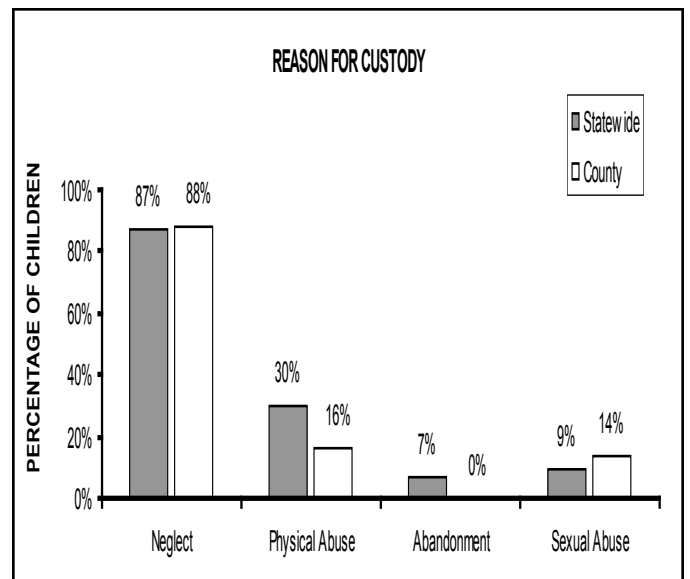
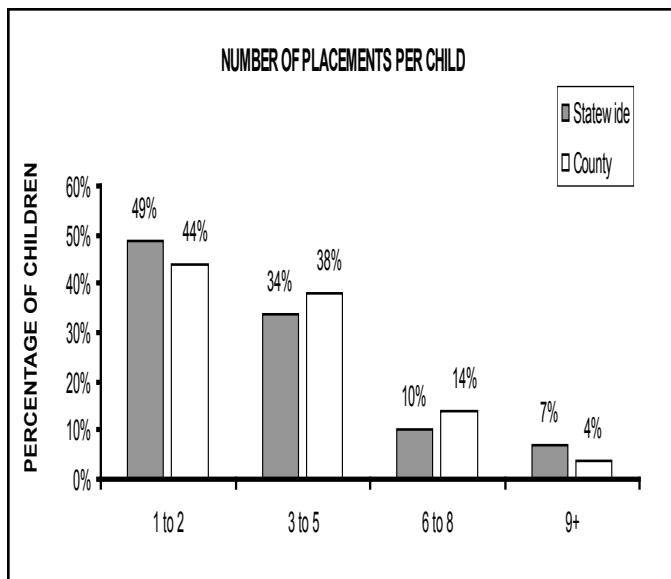
Cibola County



Child and Parent Factors

Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Cibola County	58%	38%	8%	18%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%

Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Cibola County	60%	45%	46%	52%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



• Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%
 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

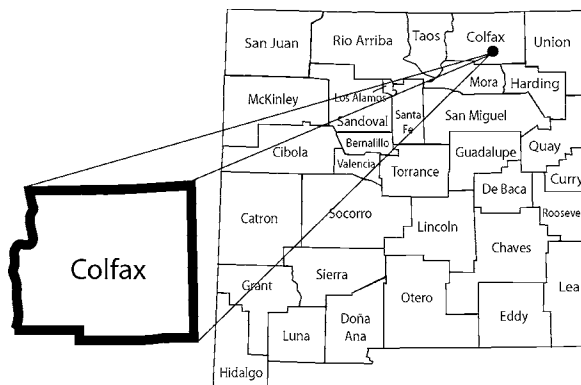
Colfax County

Community Successes

- CASA program is “on its feet” and is assigning CASA volunteers to cases.

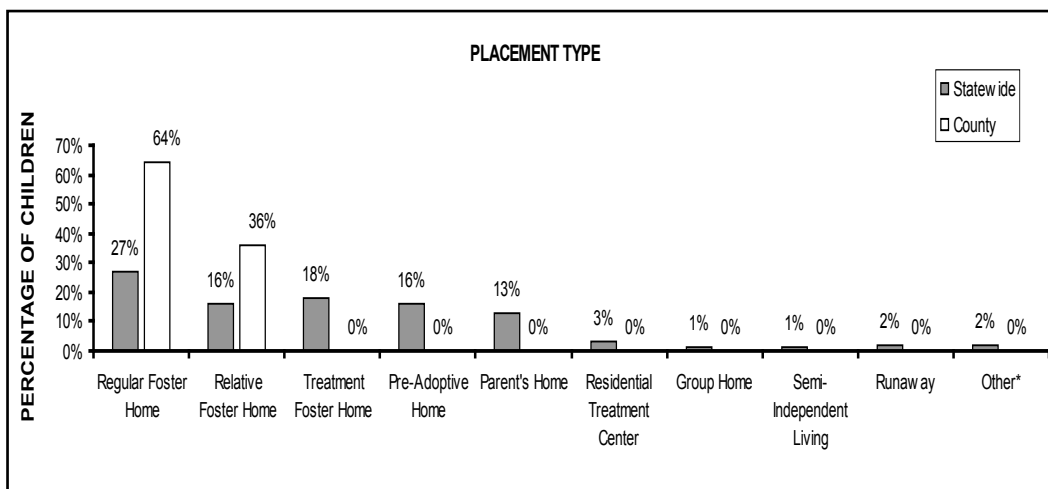
Community Challenges

- Lack of foster homes and treatment foster homes.

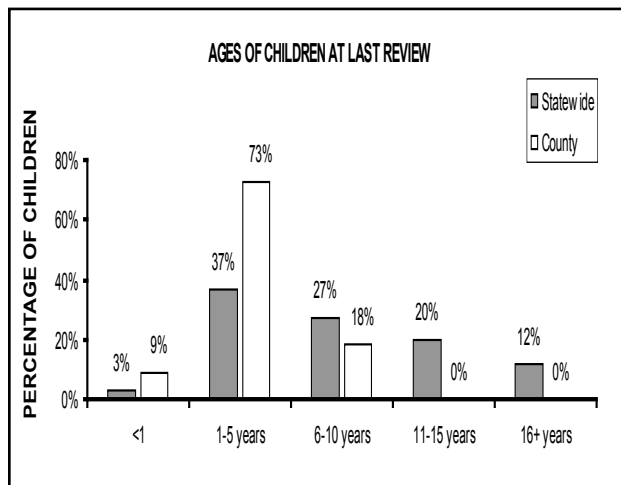
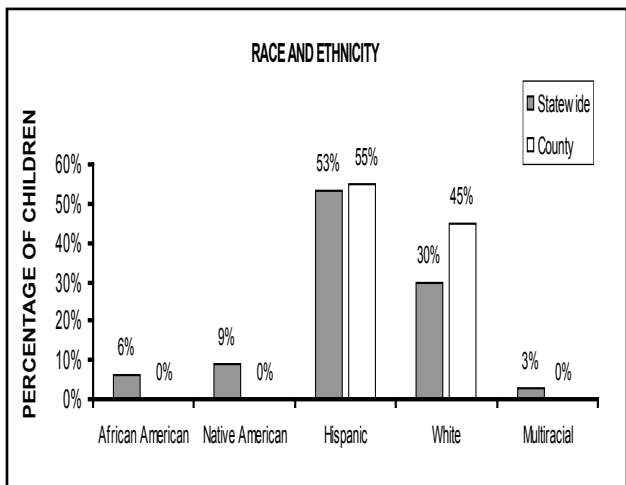


*The same board reviews cases in Colfax and Union counties, therefore, the Successes and Challenges reported are the same in both counties.

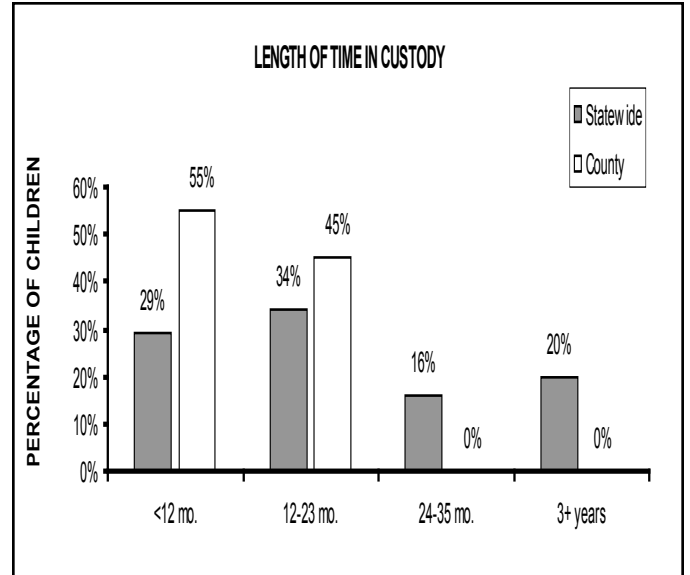
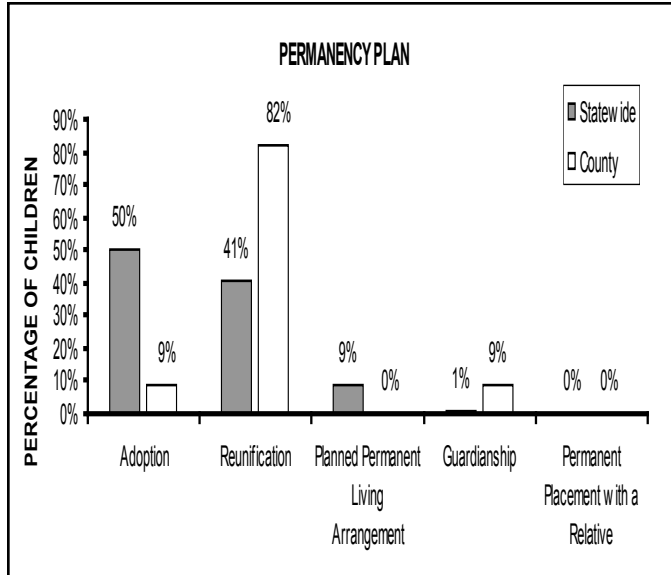
Data on the 11 Children Who Lived in Colfax County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



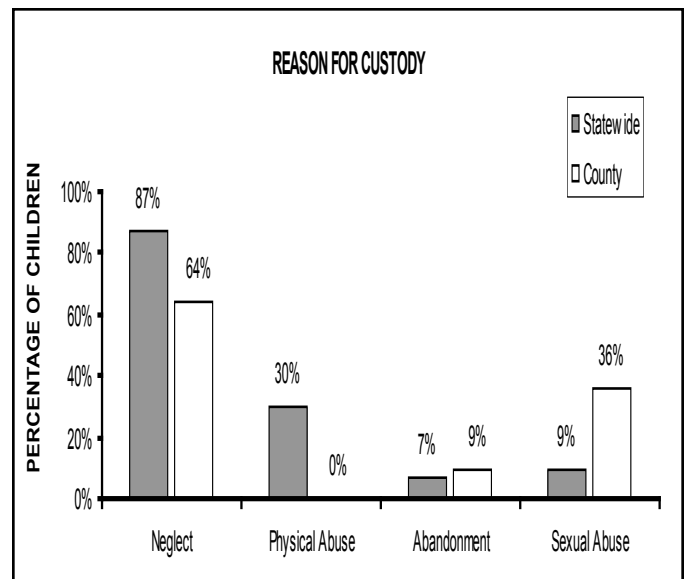
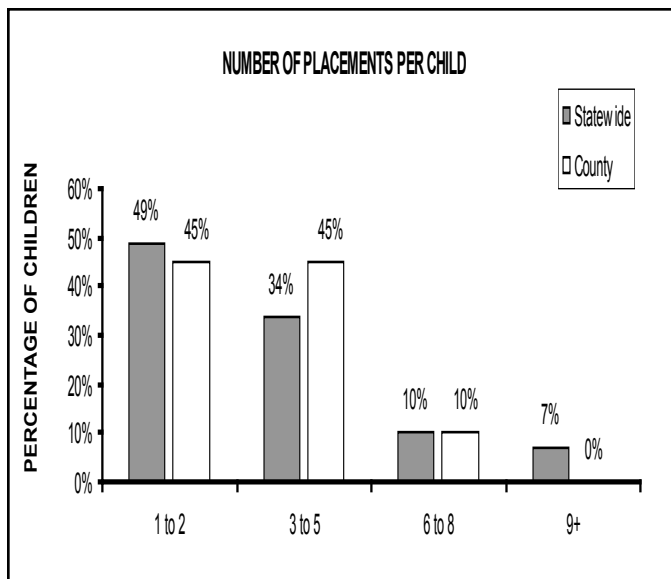
Colfax County



Child and Parent Factors

Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Colfax County	64%	36%	0%	0%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%

Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Colfax County	23%	18%	55%	55%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



• Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%
 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

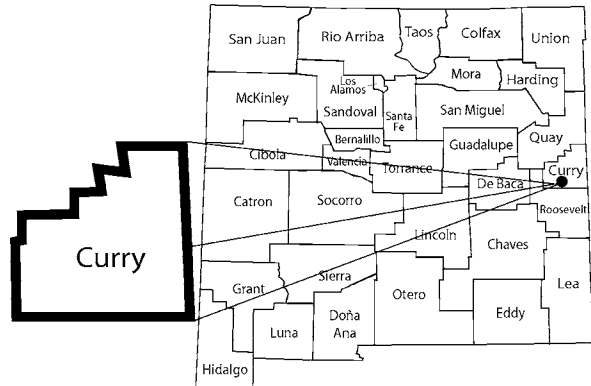
Curry County

Community Successes

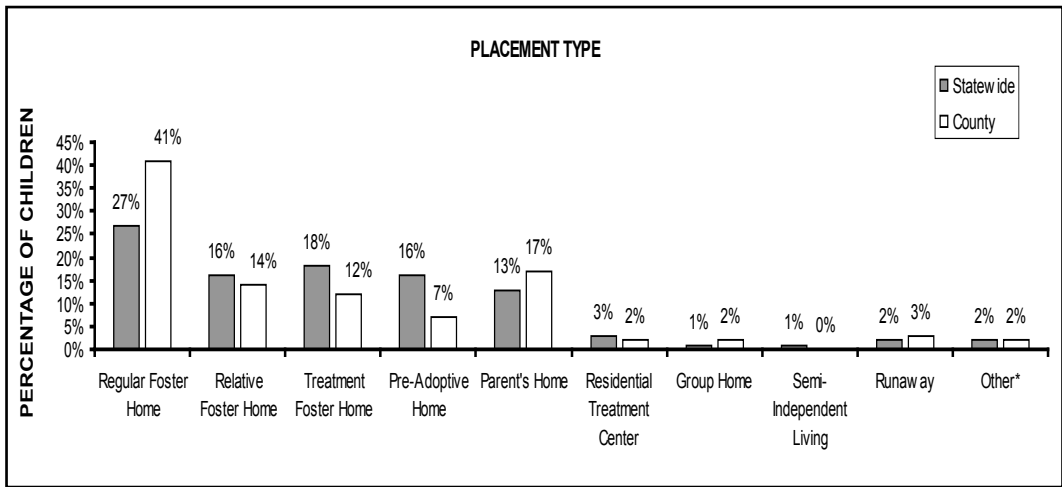
- “Girls Circle” at CYFD.
- Childs Care has opened a dental office in Clovis.

Community Challenges

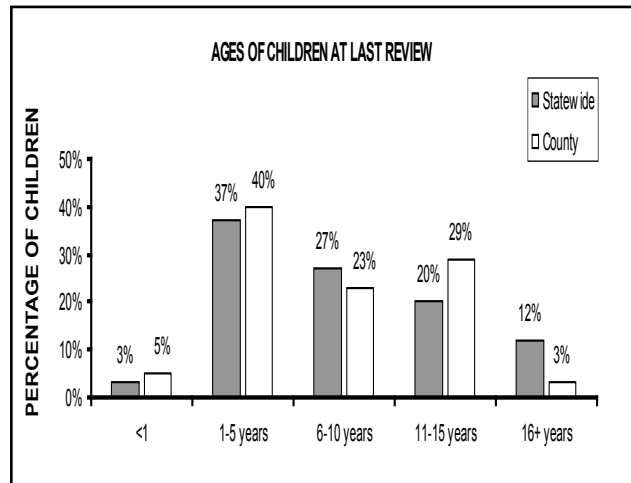
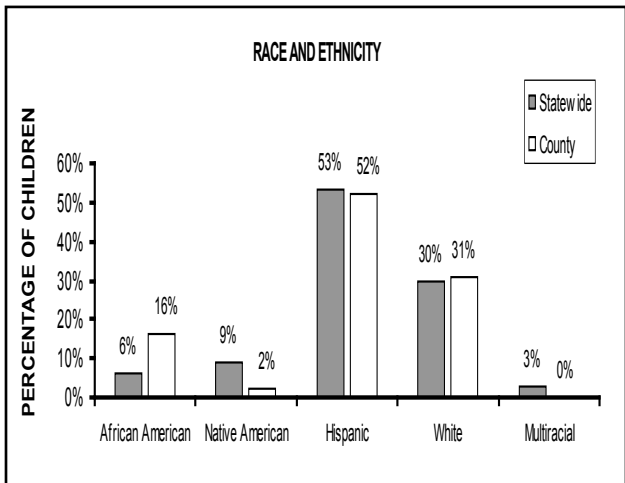
- Lack of CASA volunteers.
- Semi-independent living program is not fully functioning.
- Legal timelines not being met. Many cases are being postponed multiple times.
- Adversarial relationship between CYFD and the judicial system.
- Not enough planning for children aging out and transitioning into adult services.
- No way to detain teenagers who are on runaway and cannot get police help unless a physical address is available.
- Not enough bilingual therapists.



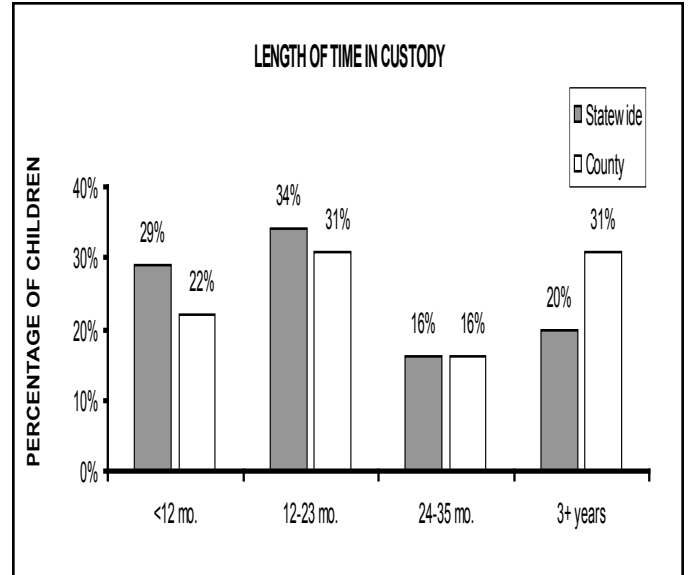
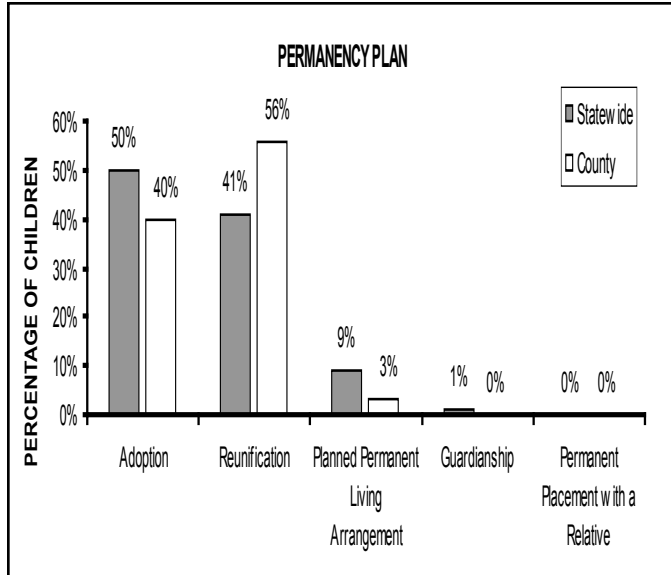
Data on the 58 Children Who Lived in Curry County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



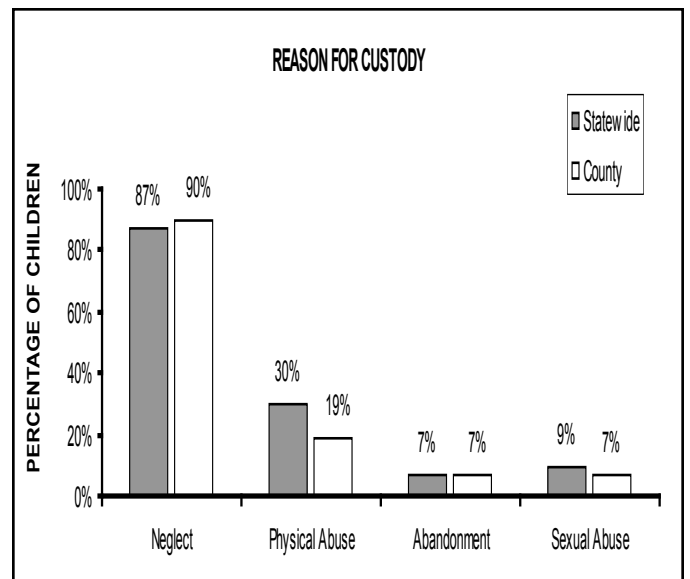
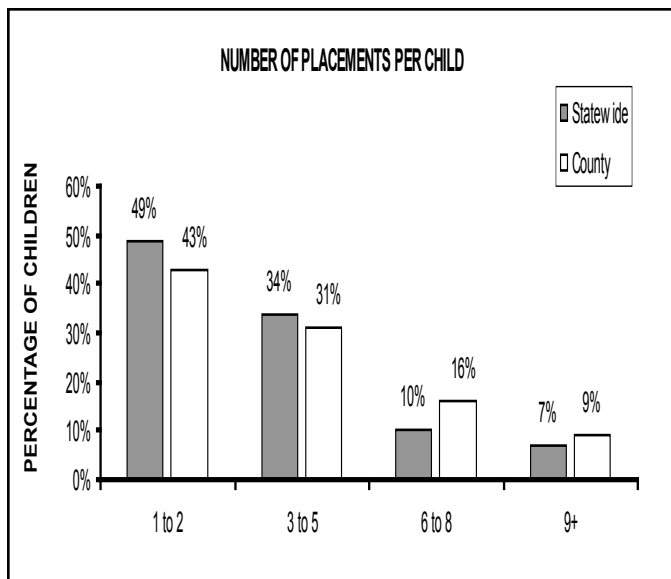
* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



Curry County



Child and Parent Factors				
Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Curry County	59%	33%	21%	24%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%
Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Curry County	60%	26%	43%	51%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



• Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%
 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

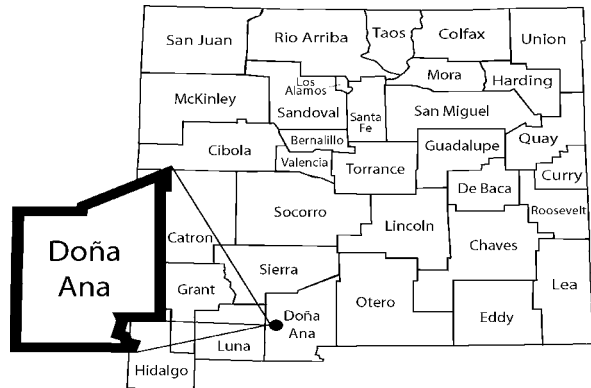
Dona Ana County

Community Successes

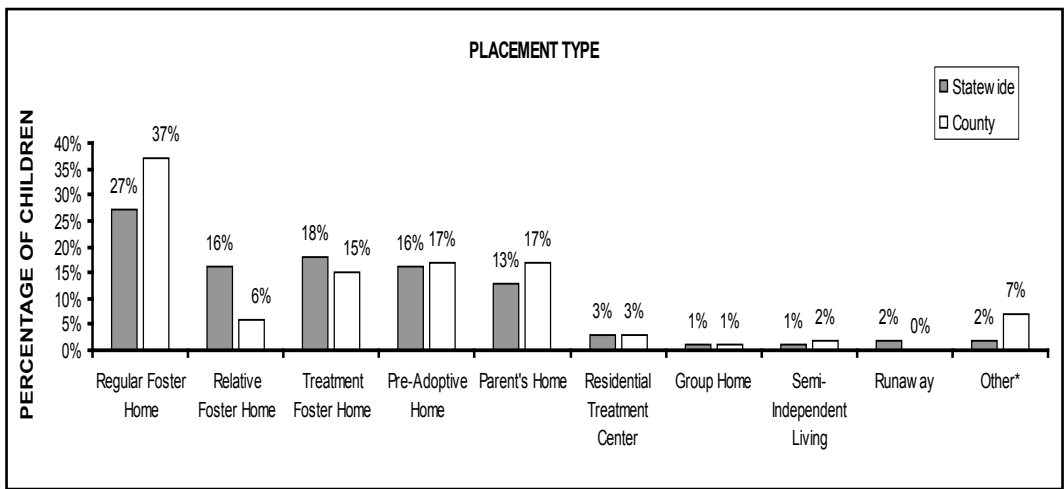
- University of New Mexico coming to Las Cruces to do child assessments for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Autism, etc.
- Family Reunification Court Program and Time Limited Reunification services.
- Adoptions are moving faster to finalization.

Community Challenges

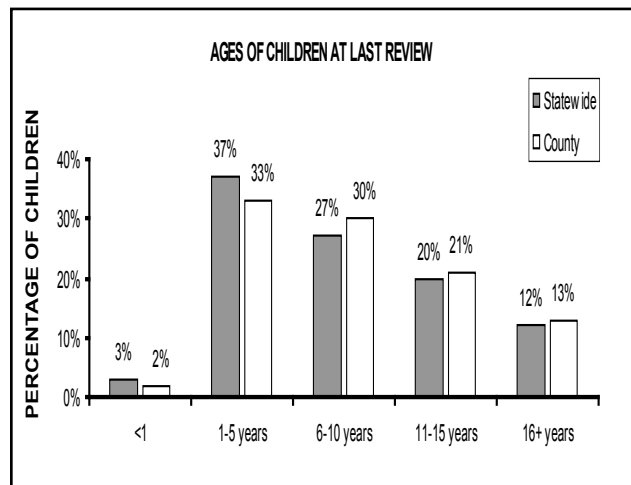
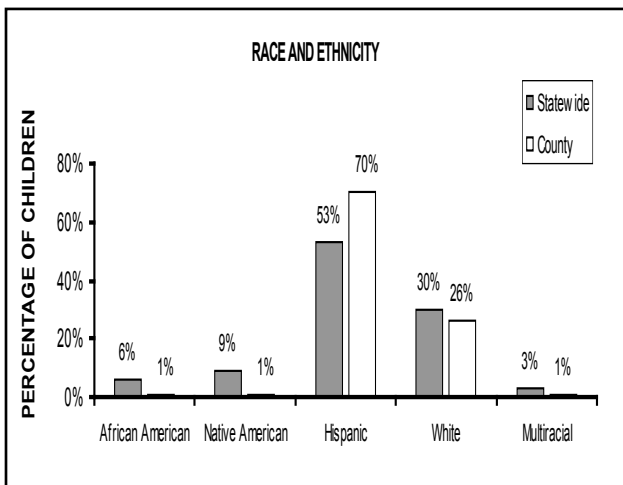
- Changes in therapists is too frequent.
- Sexual offenders are not held accountable for their actions.
- Disruption in placements because of the lack of approvals from managed care.
- Legal paperwork not being signed in a timely manner leaving questions about permanency.
- For severe medical issues and surgeries, foster parents have to travel to Albuquerque.



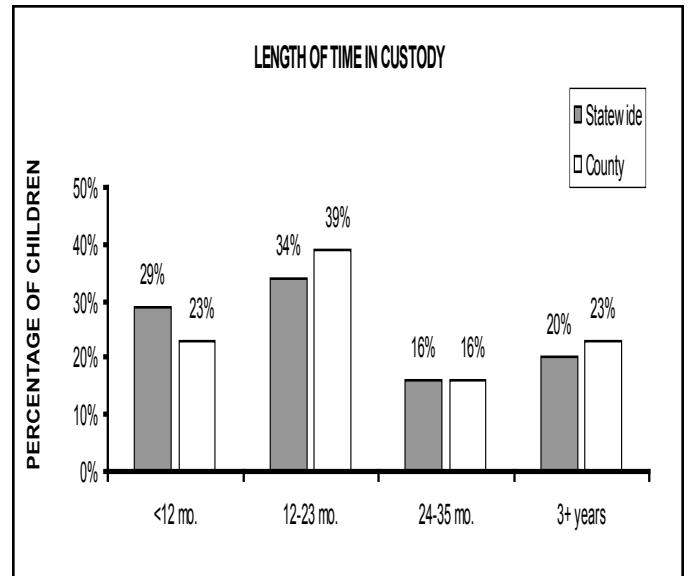
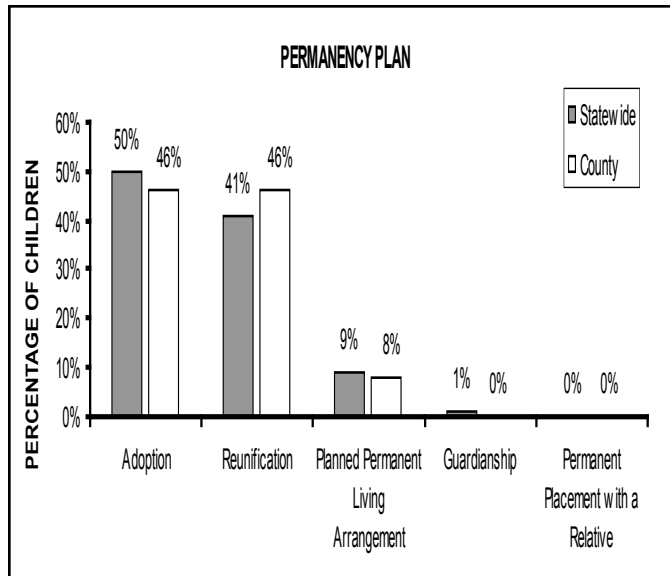
Data on the 225 Children Who Lived in Dona Ana County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



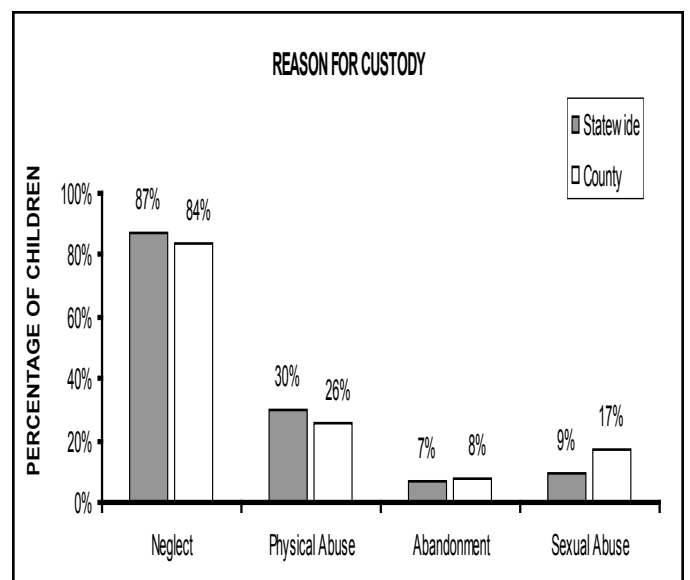
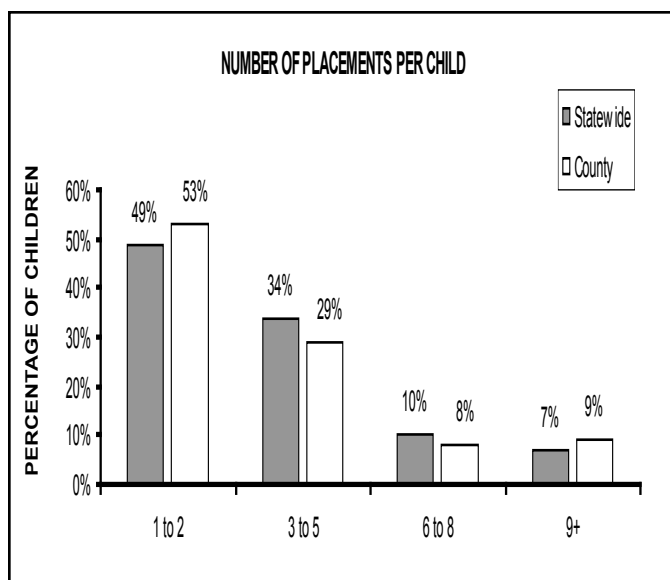
Dona Ana County



Child and Parent Factors

Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Dona Ana County	88%	78%	13%	59%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%

Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Dona Ana County	73%	65%	57%	65%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



• Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%
 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

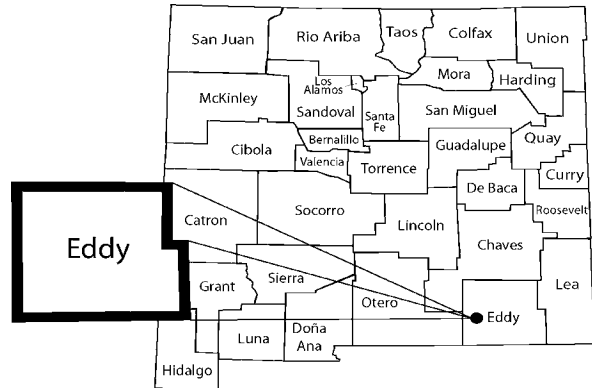
Eddy County

Community Successes

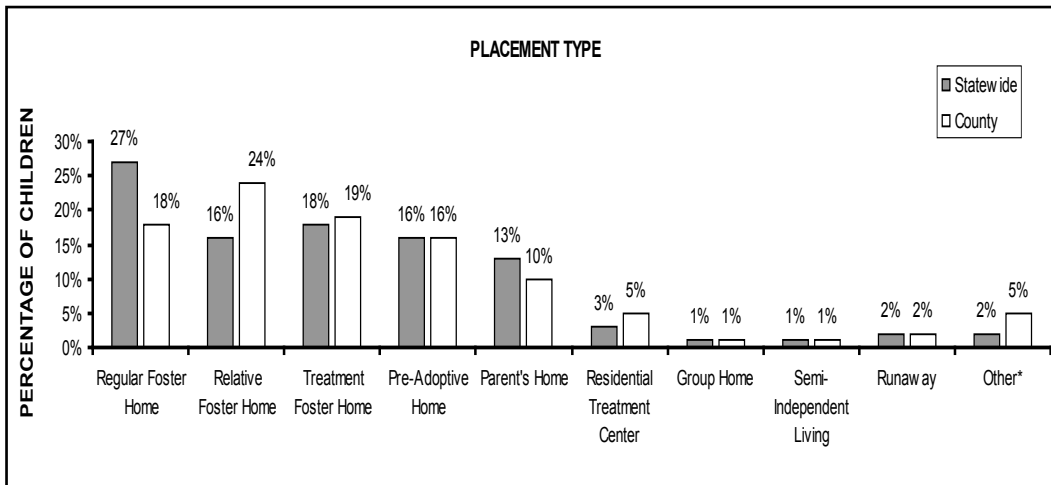
- Good, reliable foster parents.
- Cooperation between southeast New Mexico CYFD county offices to find placements for children.
- Guardian ad Litem is actively involved in advocating for her clients.
- Active CASA volunteers.
- Foster parents willing to adopt special needs children.

Community Challenges

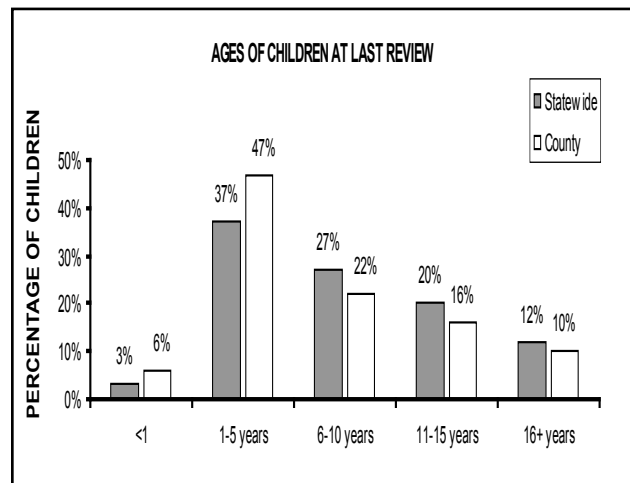
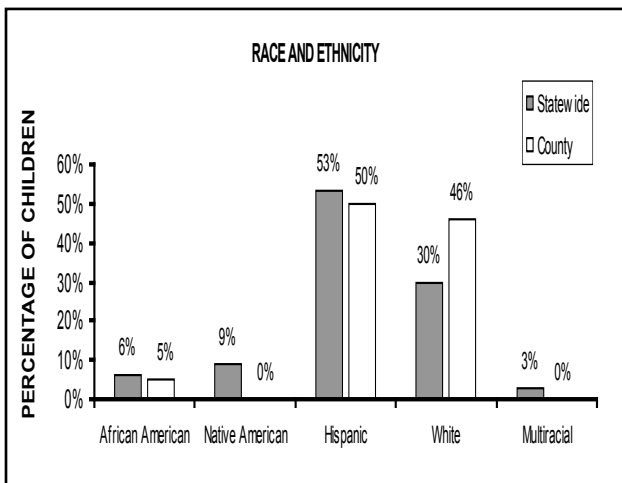
- Statewide entity will not pay for out-of-state placements and treatments that are needed for children. Statewide entity stops some therapeutic placements prematurely and is not supportive of juvenile treatment.
- Numerous time consuming appeals of Termination of Parental Rights.
- Permanency planning workers' caseloads in Artesia are heavy.
- Treatment facility is needed for women with children in the local area.



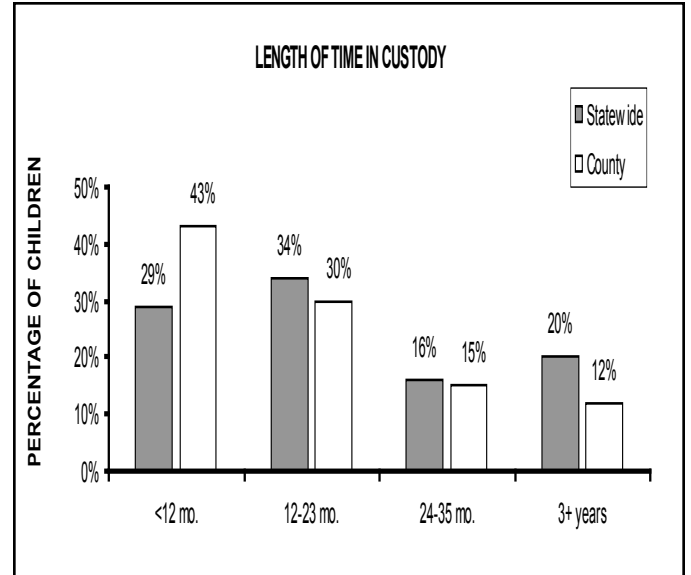
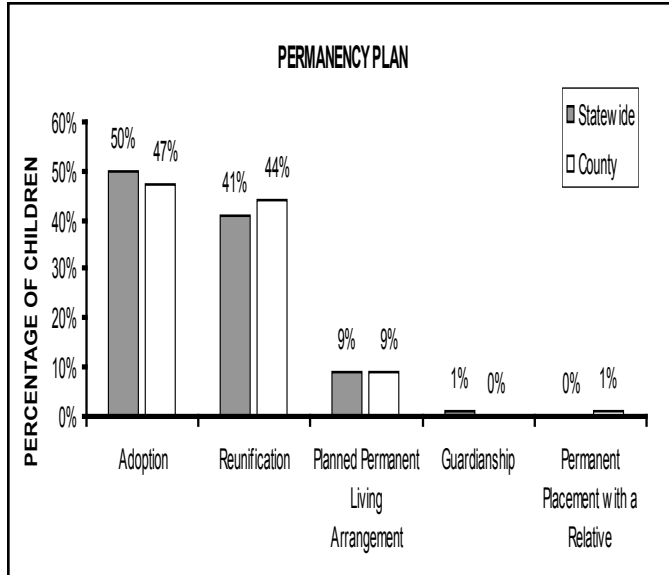
Data on the 101 Children Who Lived in Eddy County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



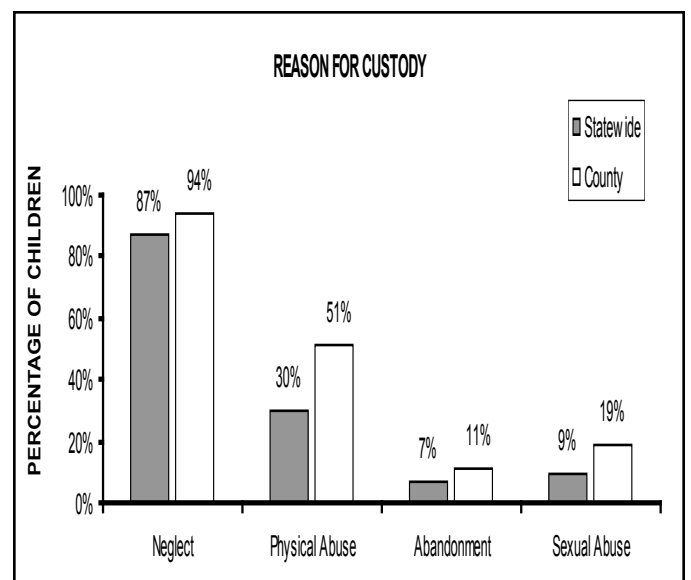
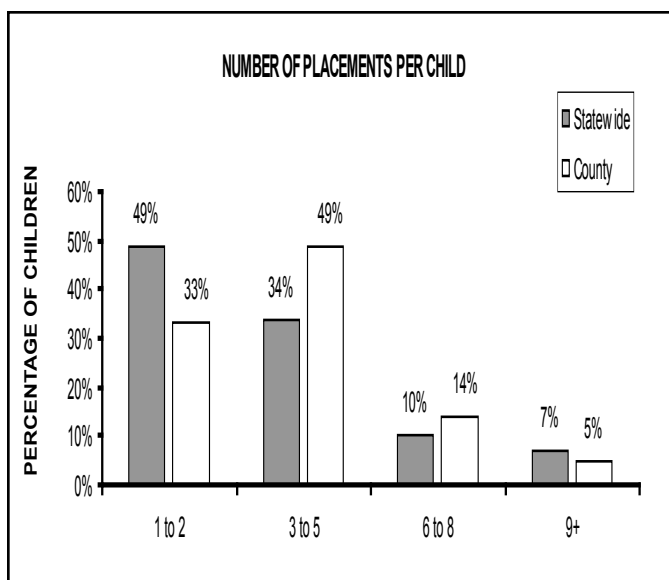
Eddy County



Child and Parent Factors

Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Eddy County	46%	45%	33%	43%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%

Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Eddy County	52%	39%	55%	56%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



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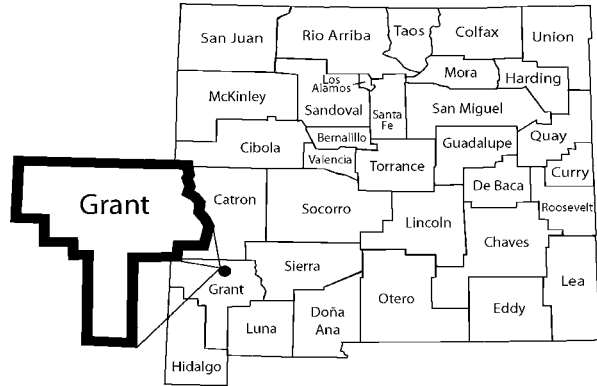
Grant County

Community Successes

- Local services are working for the “average needs” of children.
- Mental health services are working for families.

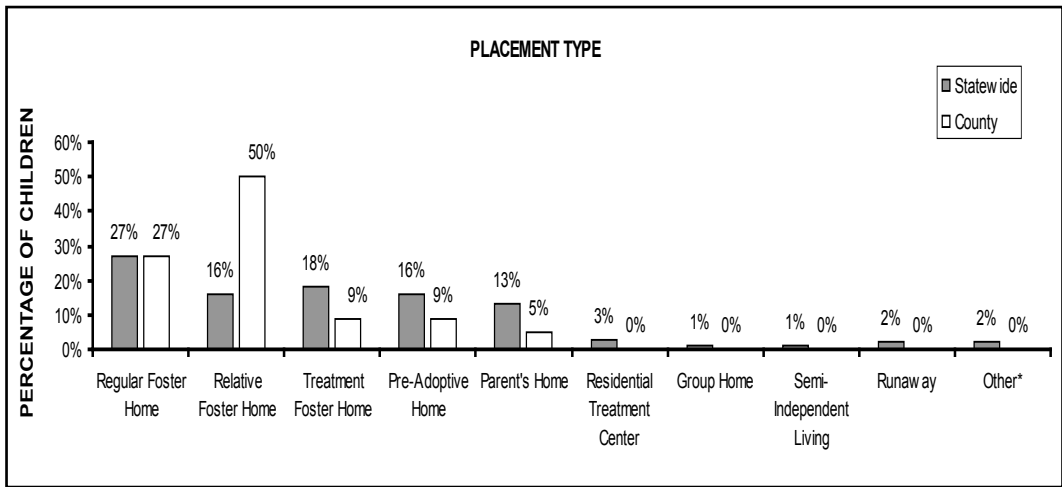
Community Challenges

- Lack of transportation.
- Lack of local services for high needs children.
- Distance between children and the professionals involved in their cases.
- Cases going back and forth between Silver City and Deming CYFD office.
- Lack of placements for high needs and special needs children.

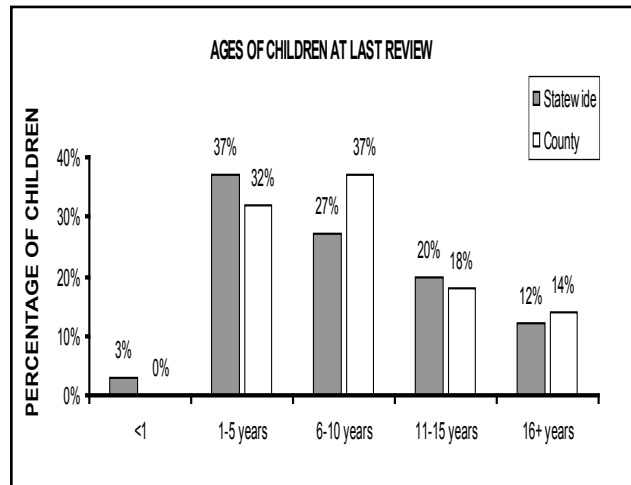
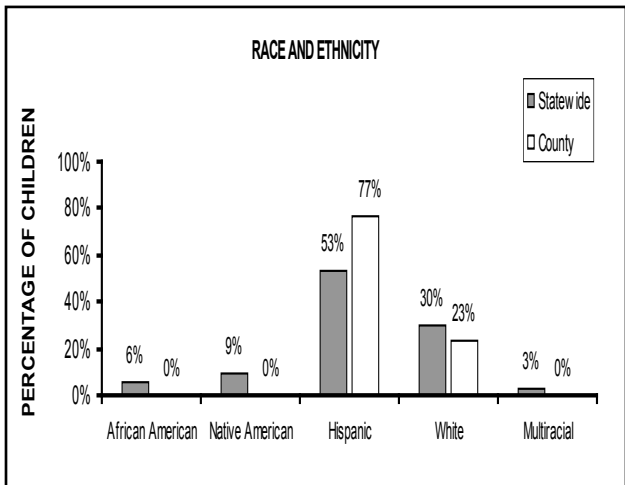


*The same board reviews cases in Grant and Hidalgo counties, therefore, the Successes and Challenges reported are the same in both counties.

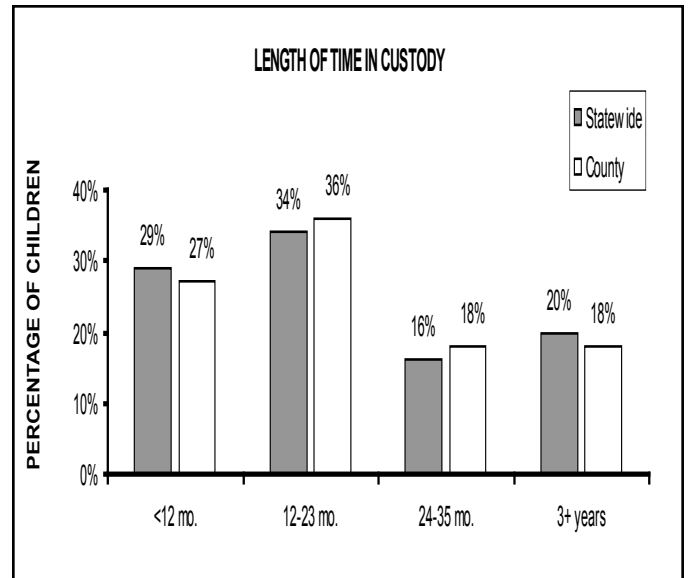
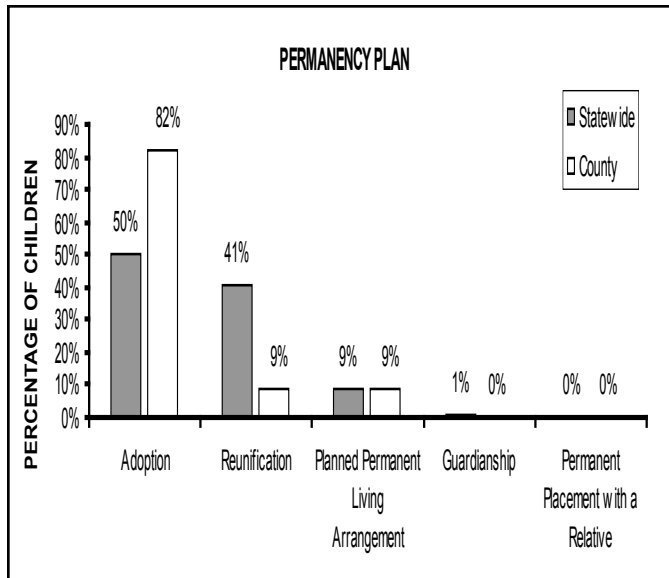
Data on the 22 Children Who Lived in Grant County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



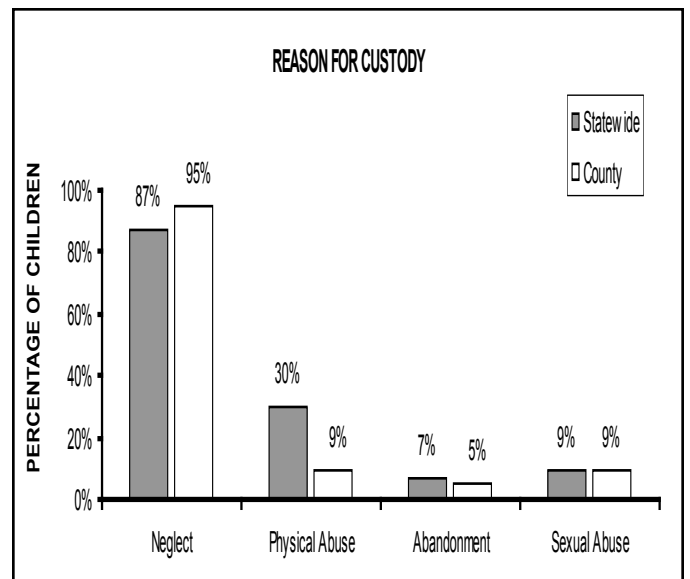
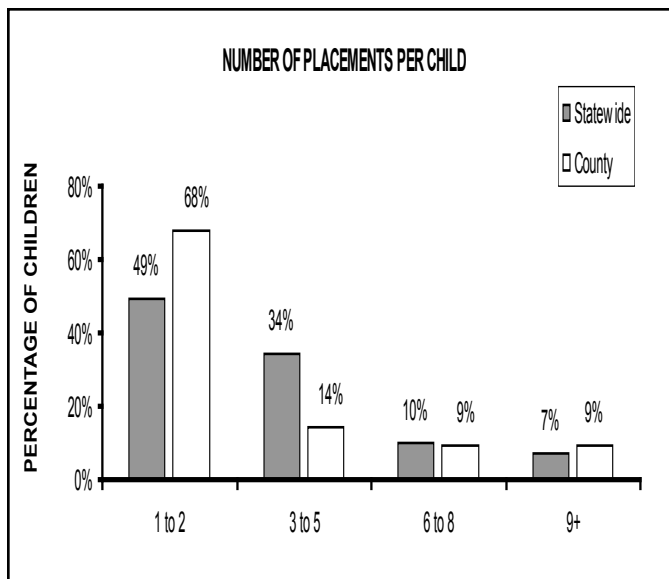
Grant County



Child and Parent Factors

Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Grant County	73%	55%	9%	50%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%

Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Grant County	82%	82%	73%	75%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



• Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%
 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

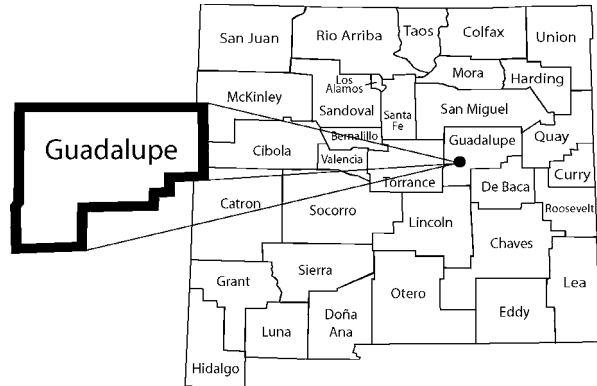
Guadalupe County

Community Successes

- None noted.

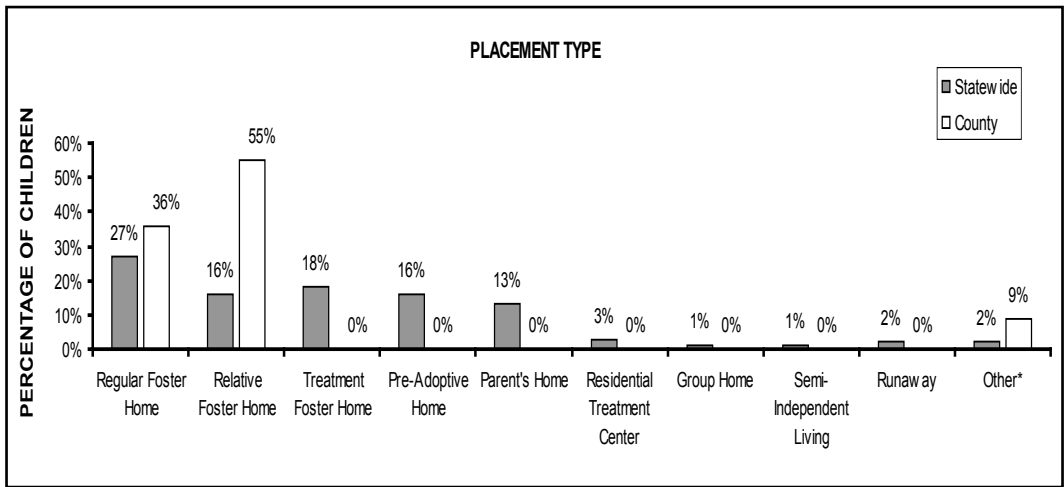
Community Challenges

- Lack of services. Teambuilders has a waiting list which delays children receiving needed services.

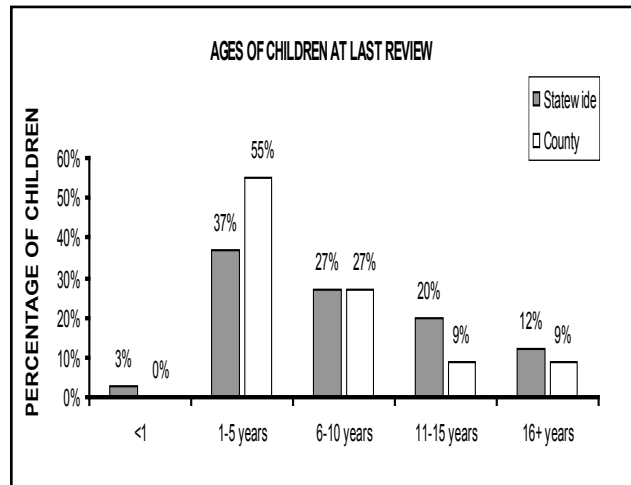
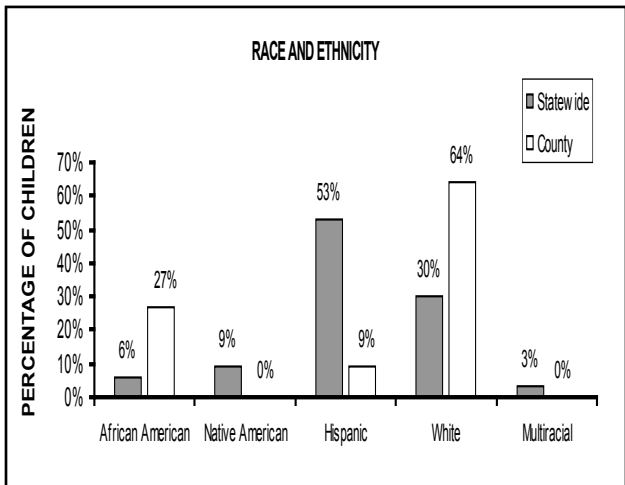


*The same board reviews cases in San Miguel and Guadalupe counties, therefore, the Successes and Challenges reported are the same in both counties.

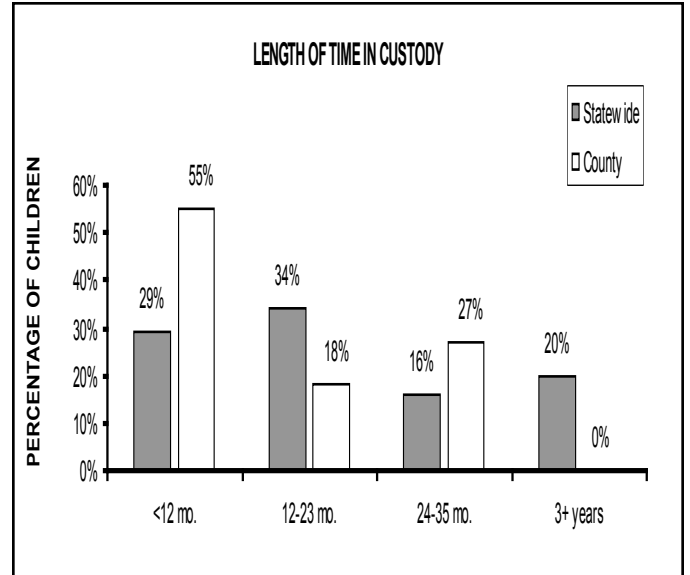
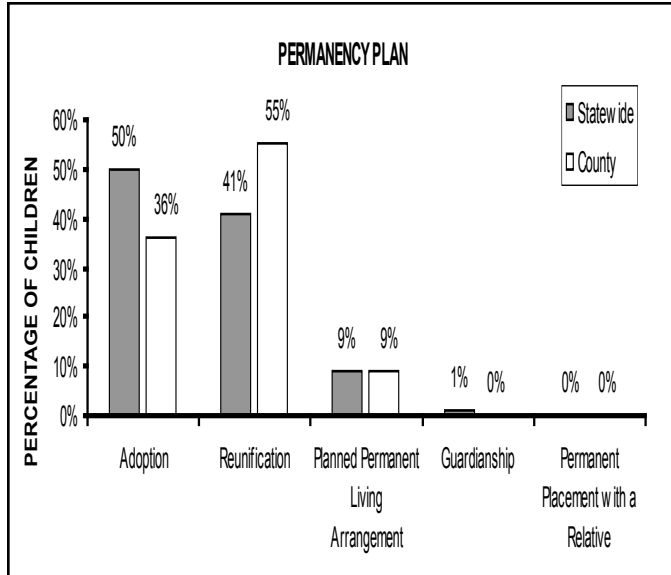
Data on the 11 Children Who Lived in Guadalupe County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



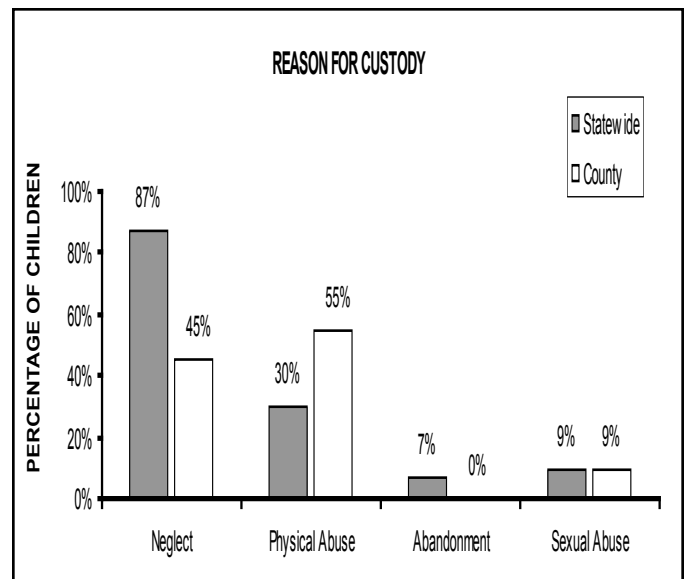
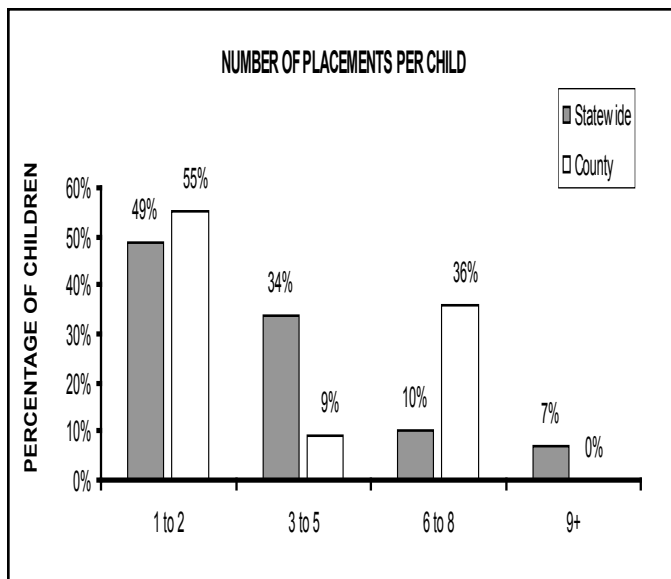
* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



Guadalupe County



Child and Parent Factors				
Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Guadalupe County	18%	9%	9%	82%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%
Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Guadalupe County	41%	45%	5%	5%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



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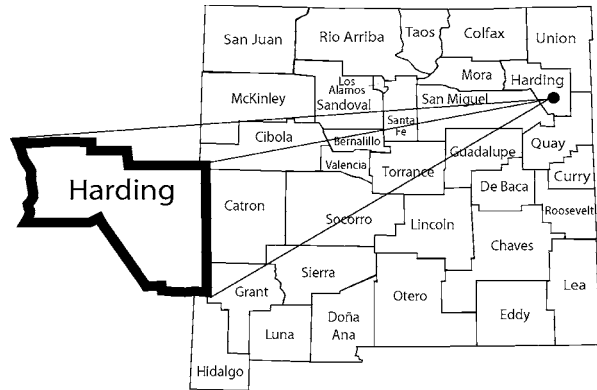
Harding County

Community Successes

- Sixteen week parenting class.
- Family Centered Meetings and mediation.

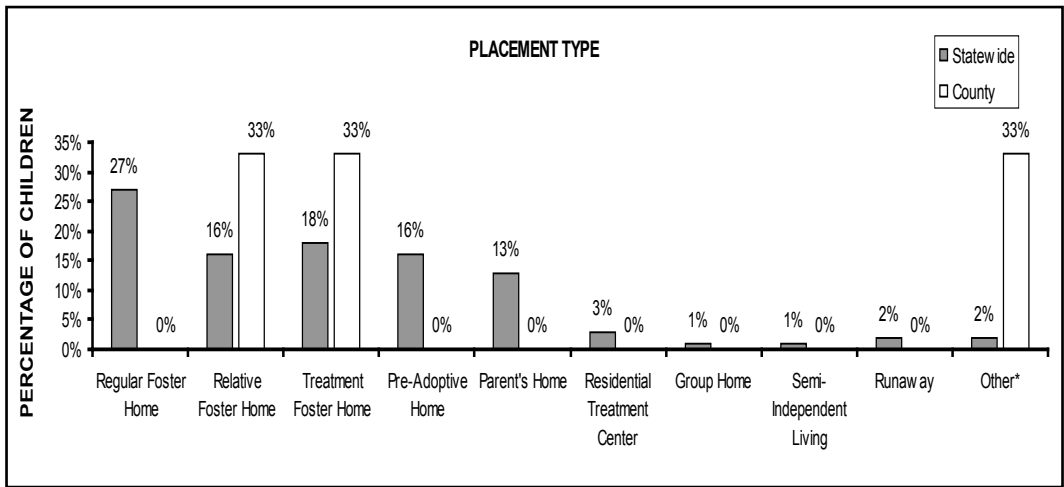
Community Challenges

- Large caseload for permanency planning workers.
- Very limited In-Home Services, none in Quay county.
- No regular docket day for abuse and neglect cases.
- No CASA program.

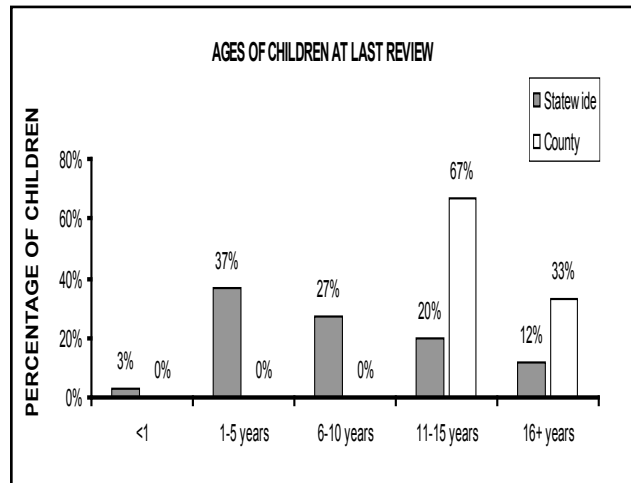
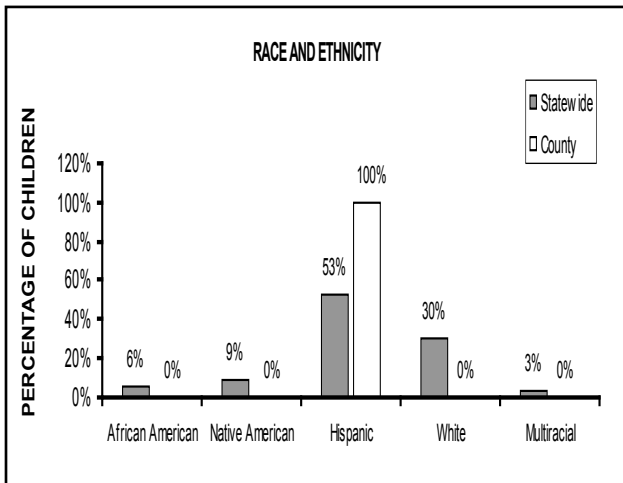


*The same board reviews cases in Harding and Quay counties, therefore, the Successes and Challenges reported are the same in both counties

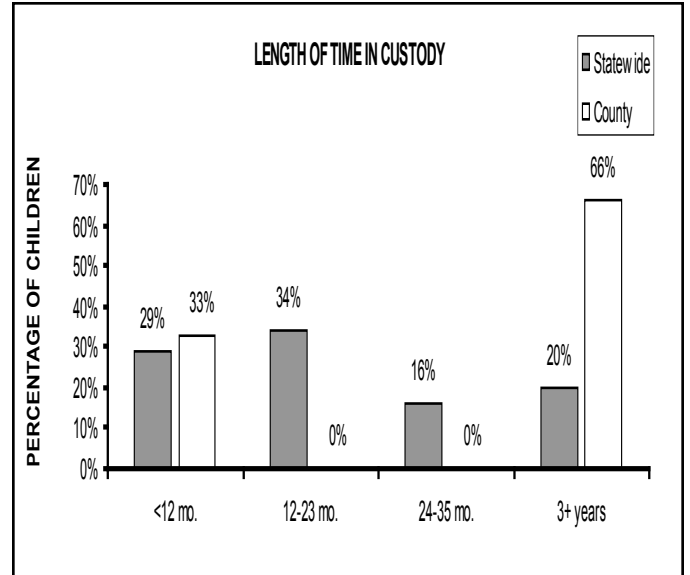
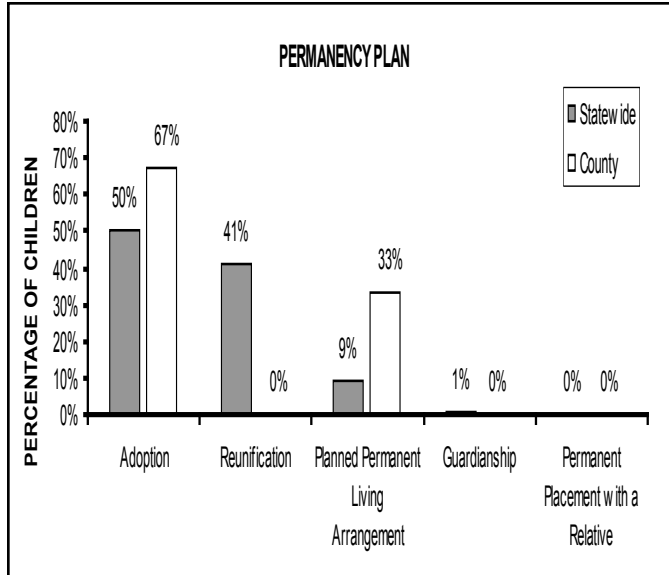
Data on the 3 Children Who Lived in Harding County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



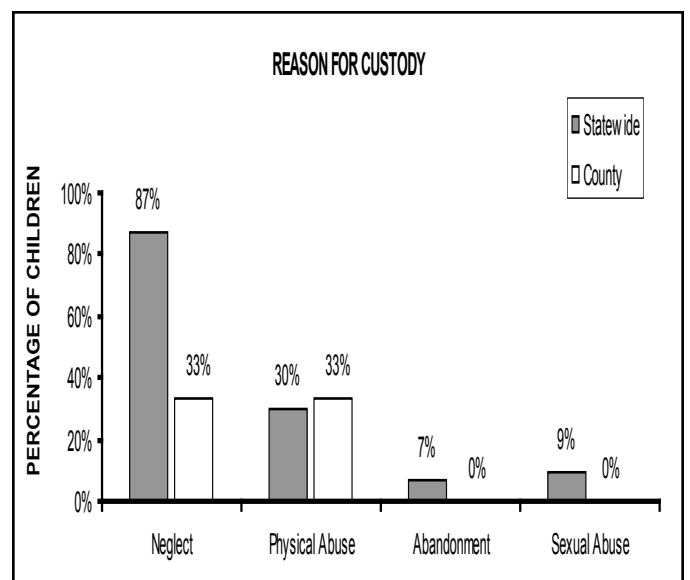
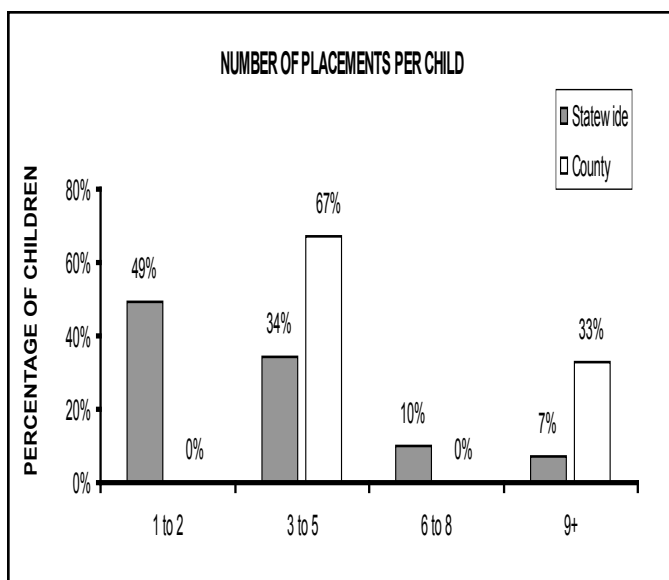
* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



Harding County



Child and Parent Factors				
Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Harding County	100%	33%	0%	33%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%
Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Harding County	50%	25%	17%	17%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



• Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%
 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

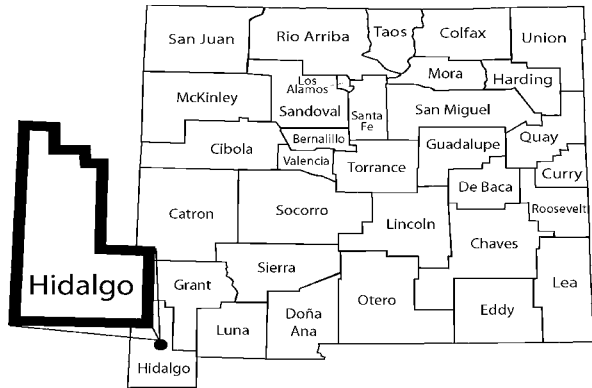
Hidalgo County

Community Successes

- Out of town services appear to work for children and families that have more intensive needs.
- Local services are working for the “average needs” of children.
- Mental health services are working for families.

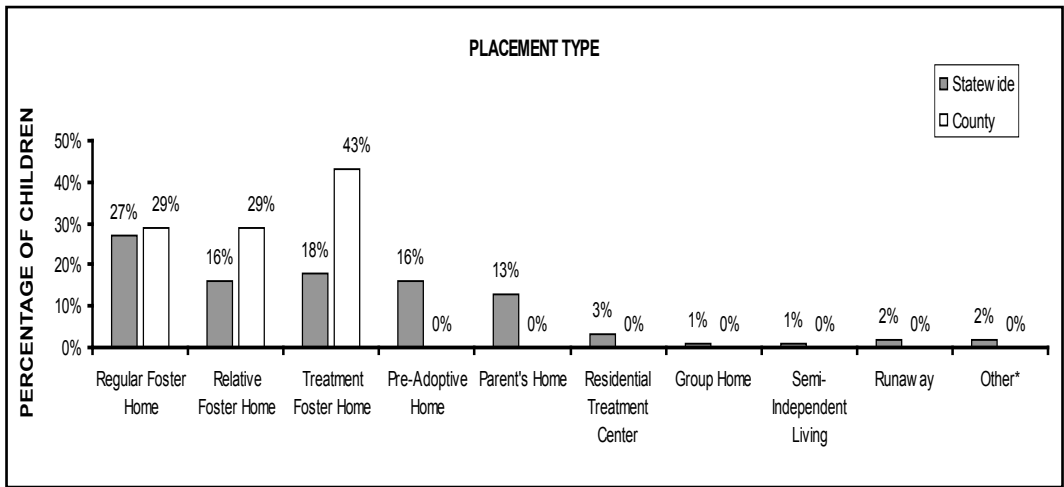
Community Challenges

- Lack of transportation.
- Lack of local services for high needs children.
- Distance between children and the professionals involved in their cases.
- Cases going back and forth between Silver City and Deming CYFD office.
- Lack of placements for high needs and special needs children.

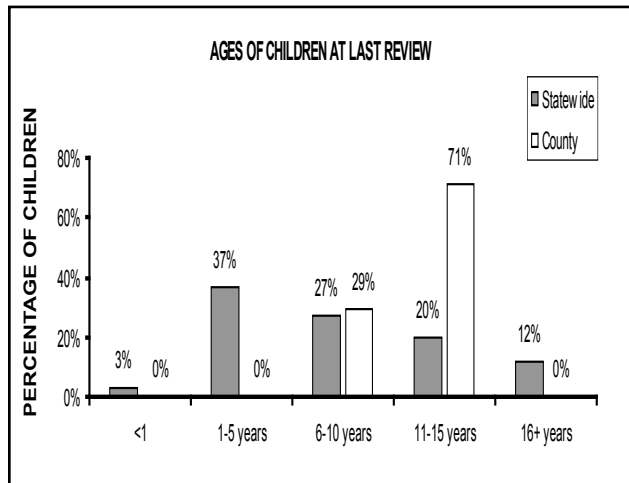
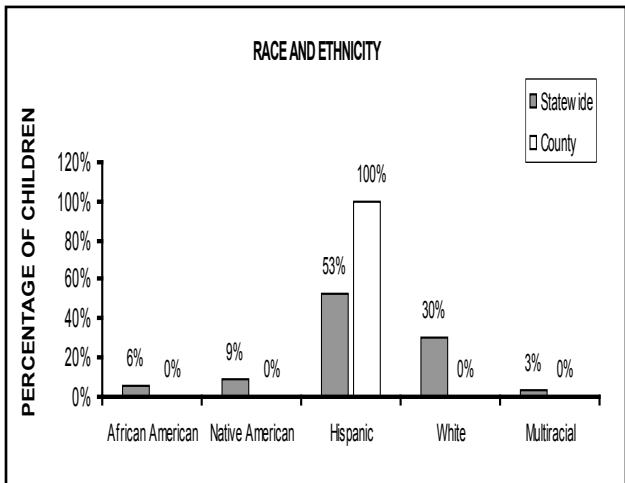


*The same board reviews cases in Grant and Hidalgo counties, therefore, the Successes and Challenges reported are the same in both counties.

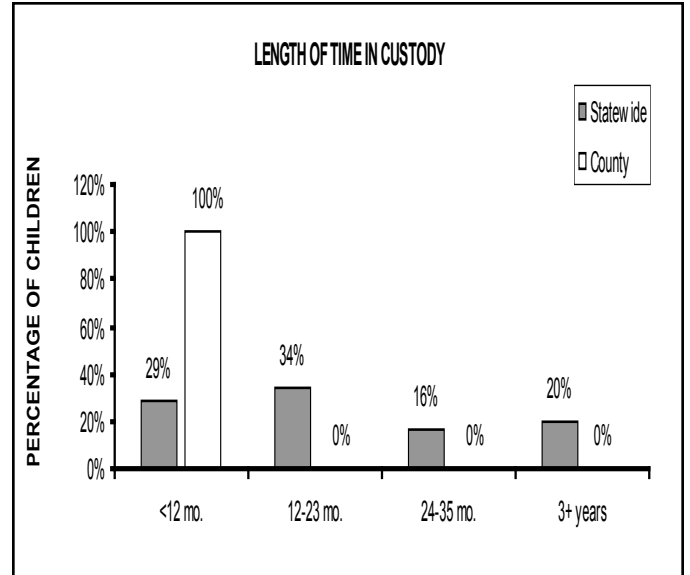
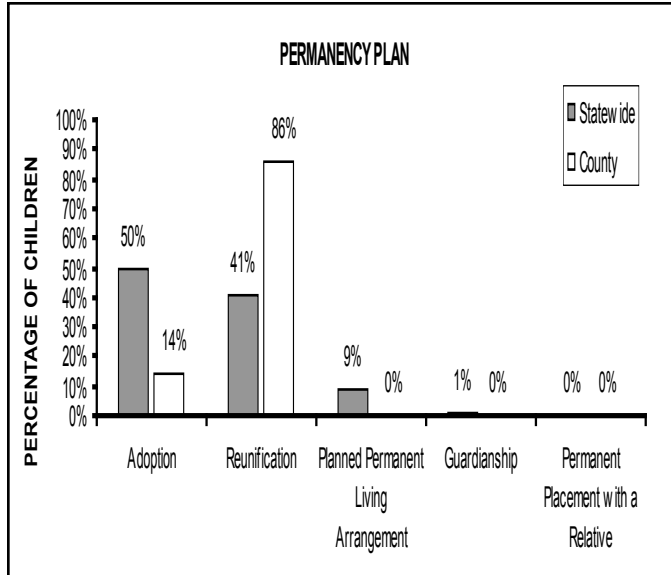
Data on the 7 Children Who Lived in Hidalgo County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



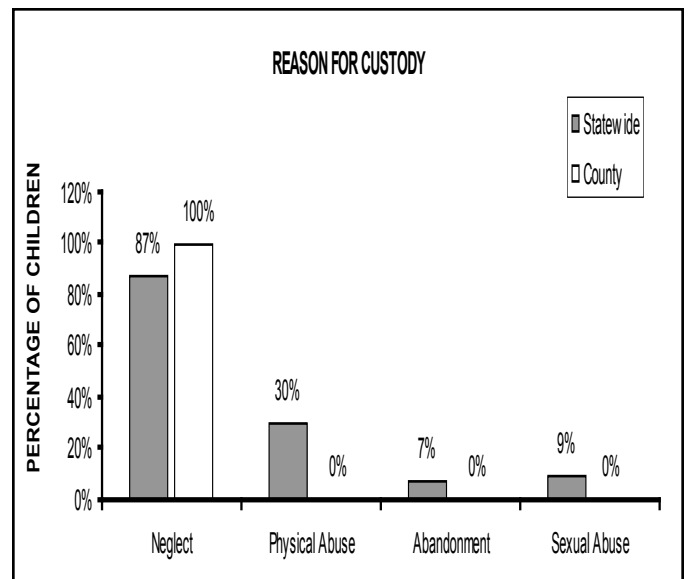
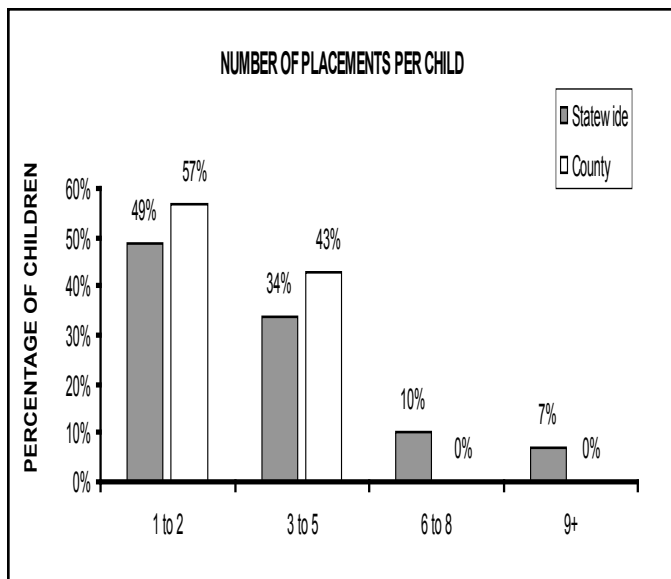
* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



Hidalgo County



Child and Parent Factors				
Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Hidalgo County	100%	43%	0%	0%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%
Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Hidalgo County	100%	100%	100%	100%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



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 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

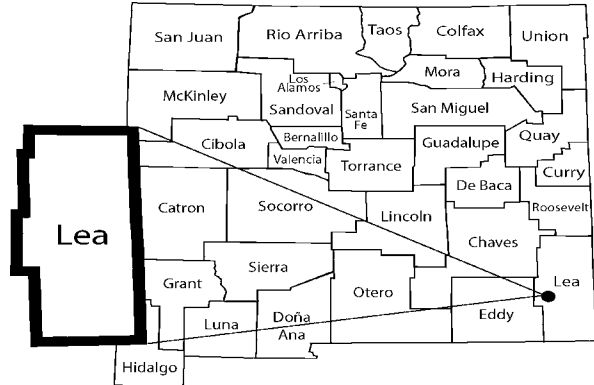
Lea County

Community Successes

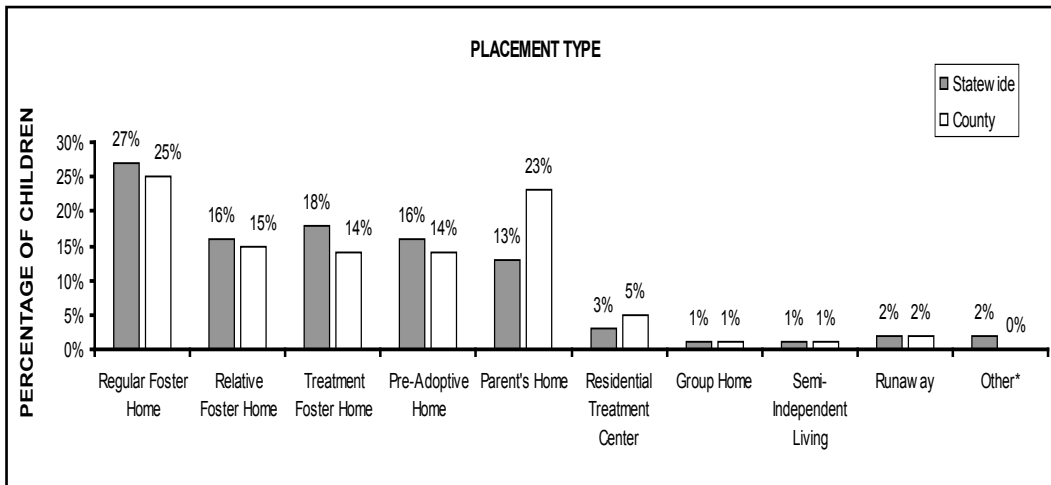
- New facility - Camelot - is opening.
- CASA volunteers involved in almost every case.
- Lea and Eddy counties are working well together.
- Drug court successfully working with parents.
- Drug Court for juveniles is being established in Hobbs.
- Parenting program offered by CYFD.

Community Challenges

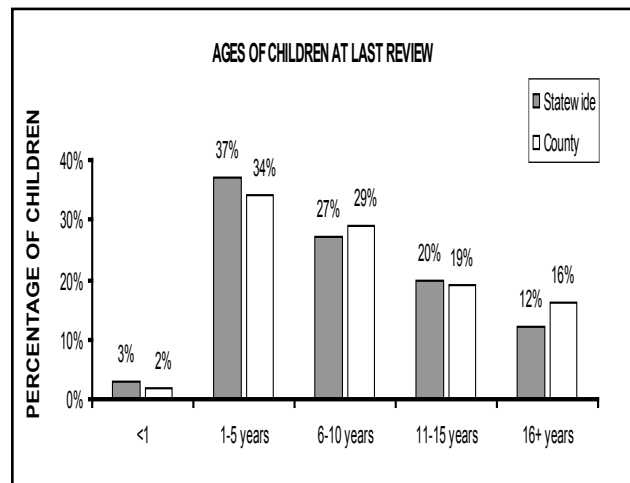
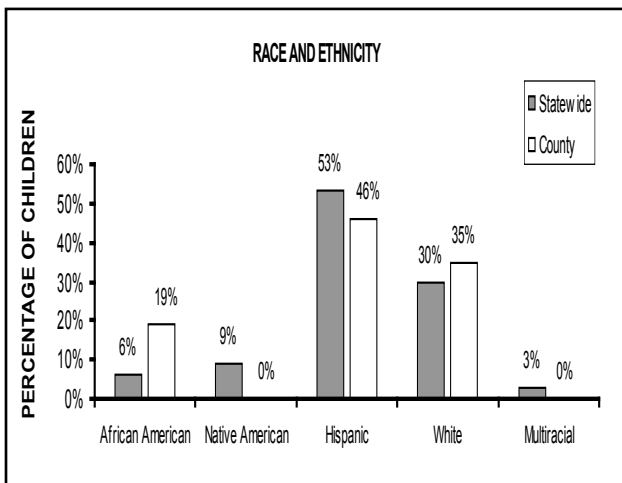
- County's behavioral health needs and issues not being adequately addressed by statewide entity.
- Visitation Center has been closed due to funding cuts.
- Lack of jobs and housing.
- The closing of the Humphrey House Semi-Independent Living program for females.
- Desert Springs program closed.
- Managed care reluctant to place children out of state.



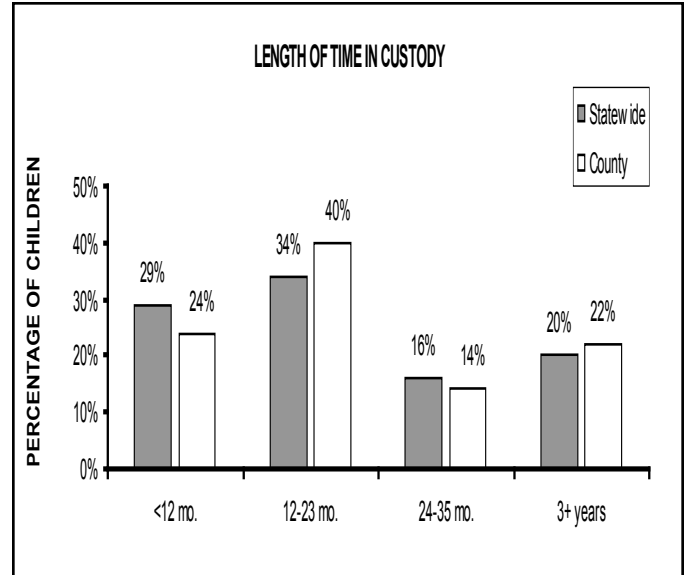
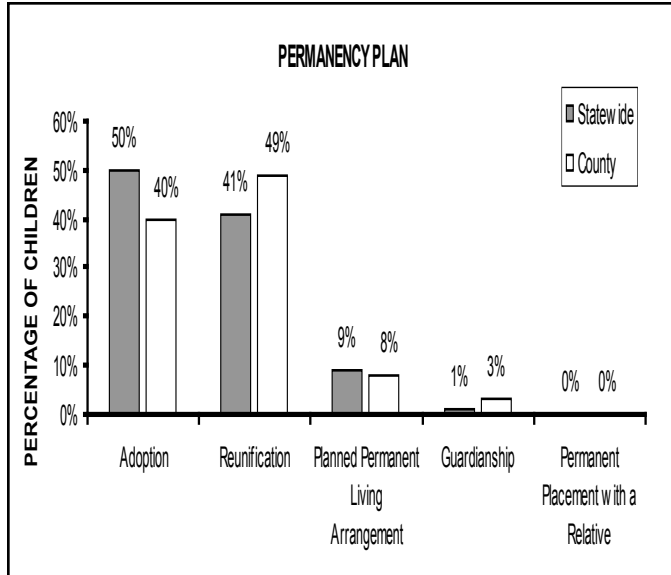
Data on the 108 Children Who Lived in Lea County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



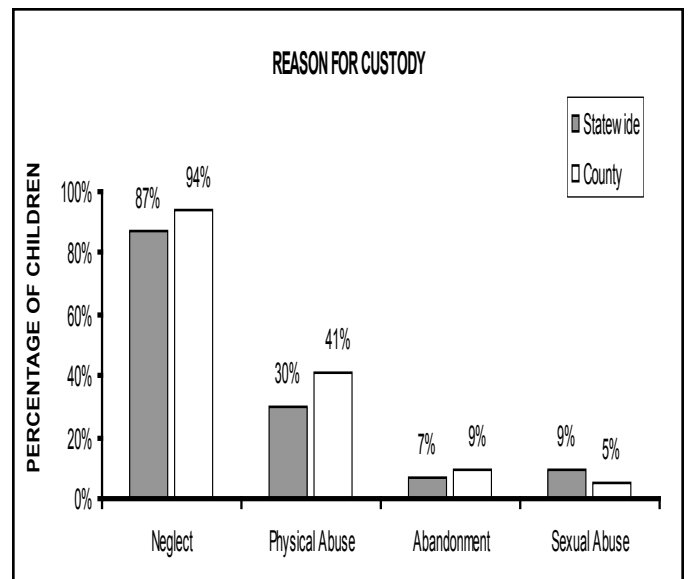
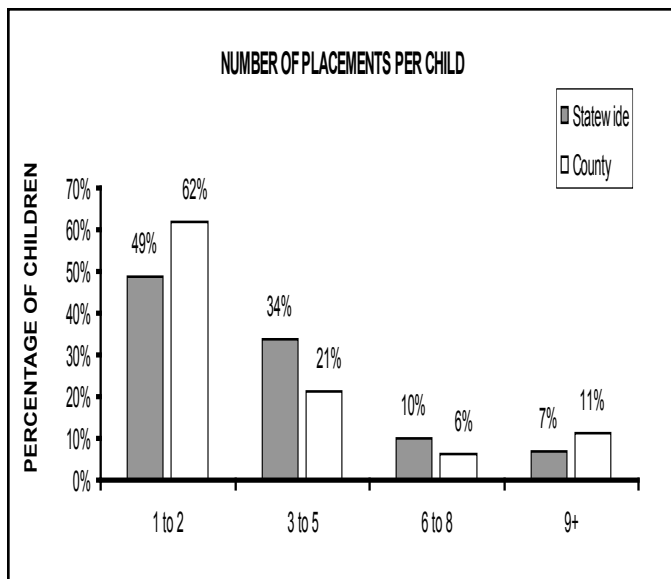
Lea County



Child and Parent Factors

Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Lea County	56%	36%	32%	41%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%

Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Lea County	59%	29%	45%	54%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



• Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%
 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

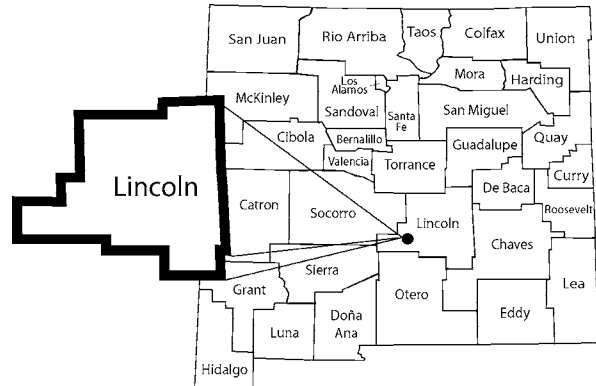
Lincoln County

Community Successes

- Parents are doing presentations to schools on drug use and sobriety when they are doing well.
- Juvenile Probation Office services are working.

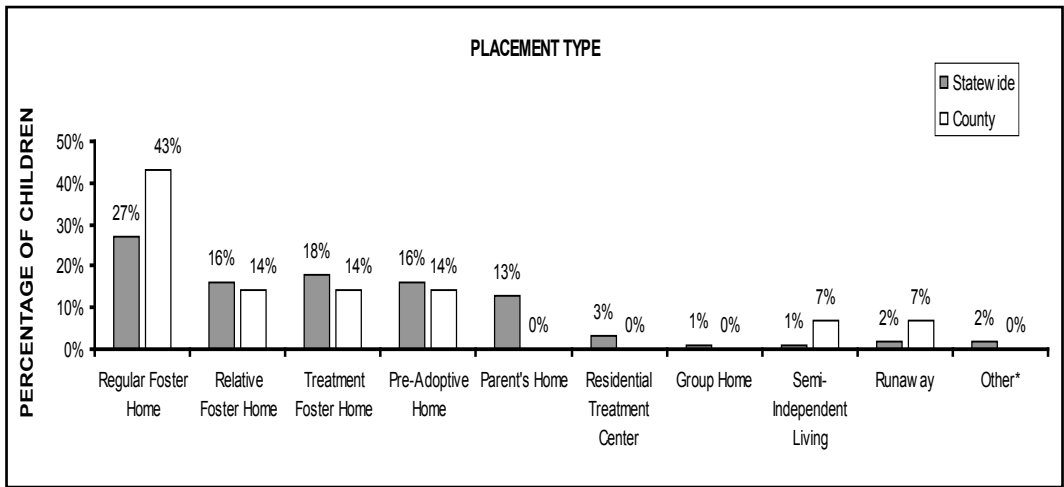
Community Challenges

- Children placed out of town for residential treatment services.
- Distance to medical services.
- Neurological services are out of town.
- Lack of foster homes.

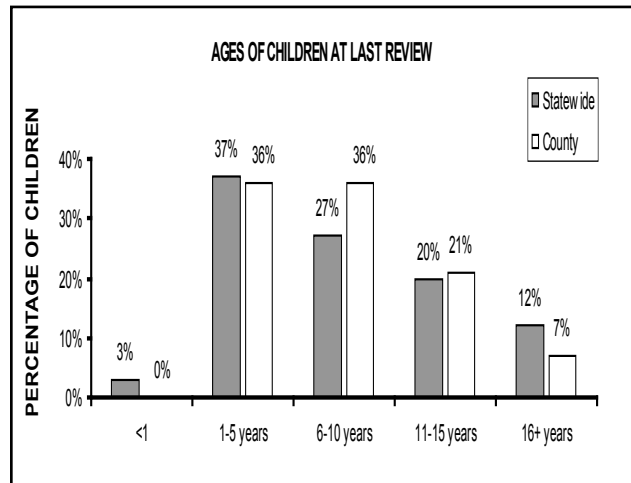
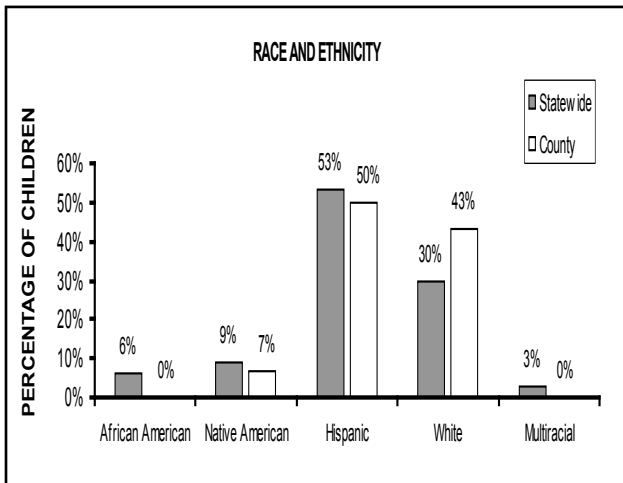


*The same board reviews cases in Lincoln and Otero counties, therefore, the Successes and Challenges reported are the same in both counties.

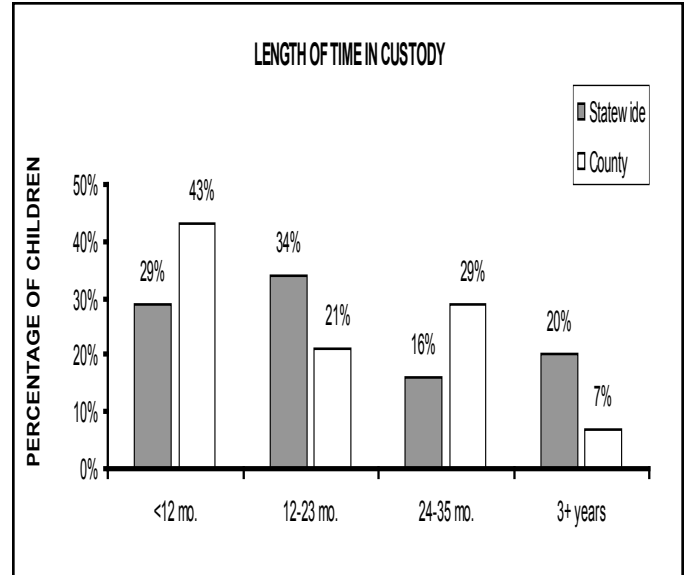
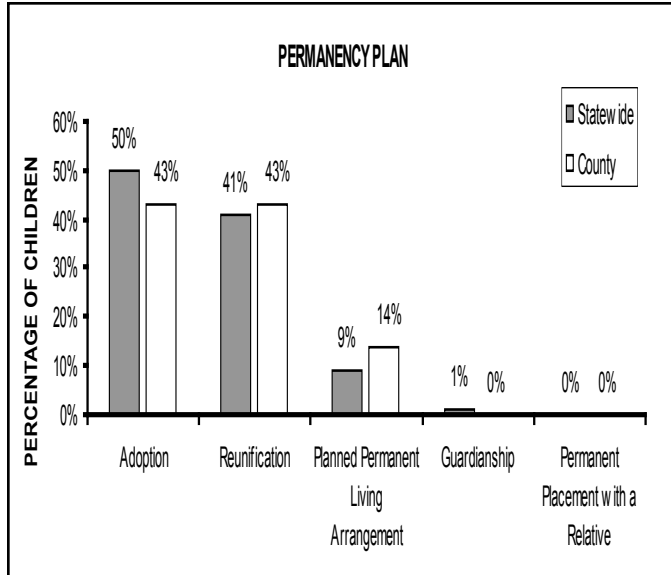
Data on the 14 Children Who Lived in Lincoln County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



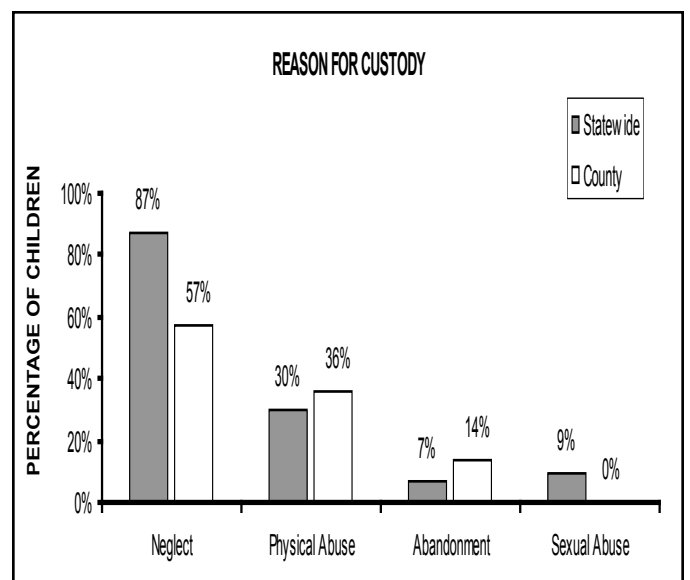
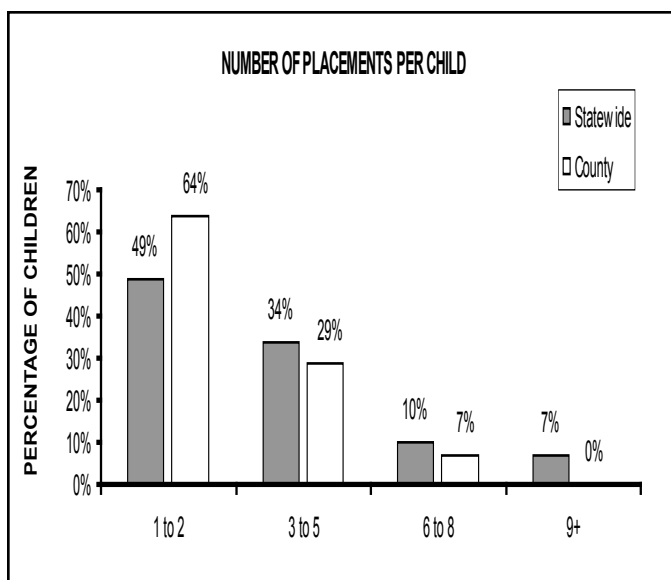
Lincoln County



Child and Parent Factors

Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Lincoln County	79%	79%	7%	14%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%

Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Lincoln County	75%	57%	79%	79%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



• Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%
 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

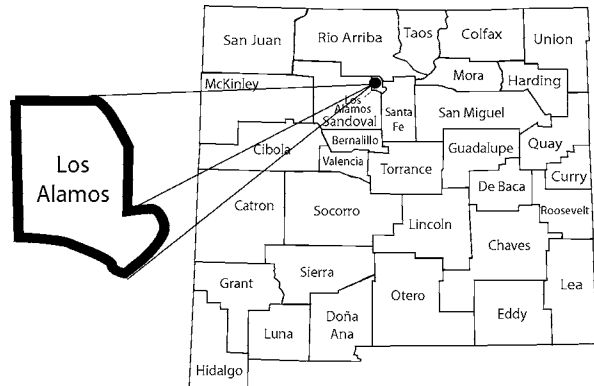
Los Alamos County

Community Successes

- Las Cumbres provides excellent services.
- Time Limited Reunification program.

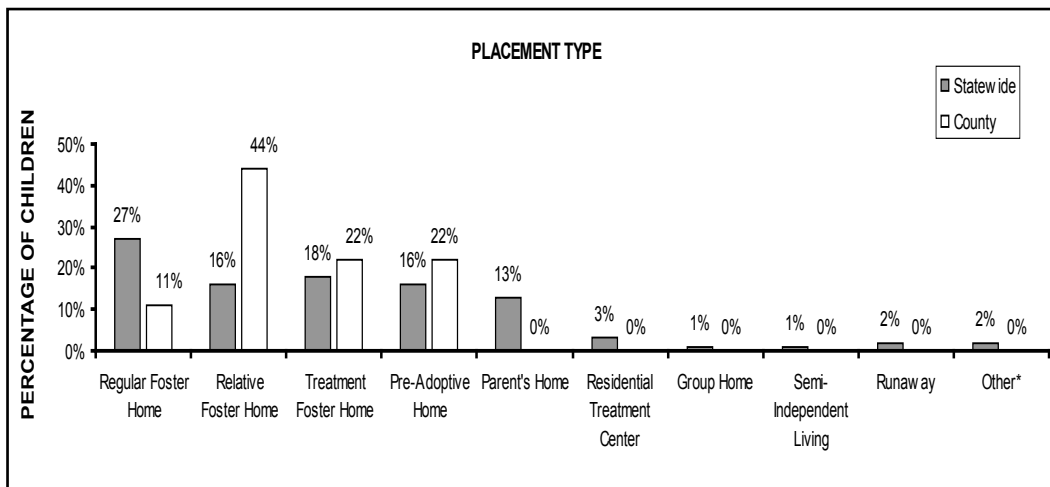
Community Challenges

- Not enough therapists in the Los Alamos area.
- Espanola schools do not complete Individualized Education Plans in a timely manner.
- Lack of communication between CYFD and the criminal legal system.
- Limited placement options for children who have a higher level of need, particularly with the closing of residential treatment centers.

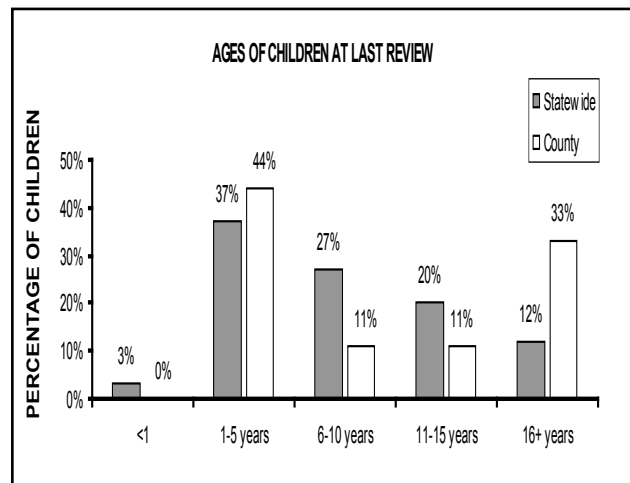
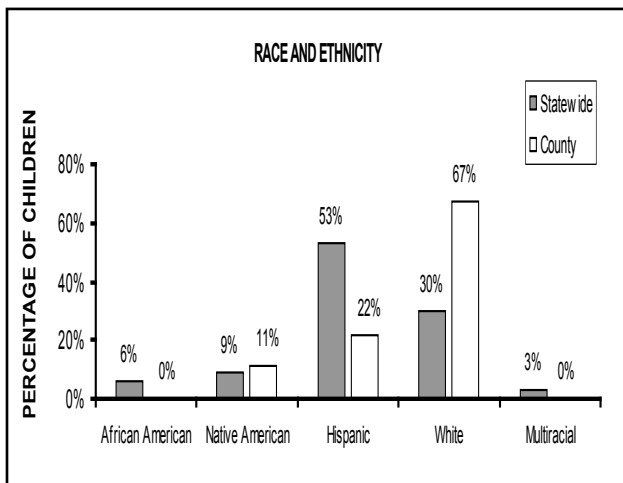


*The same board reviews cases in Los Alamos and Rio Arriba counties, therefore, the Successes and Challenges reported are the same in both counties.

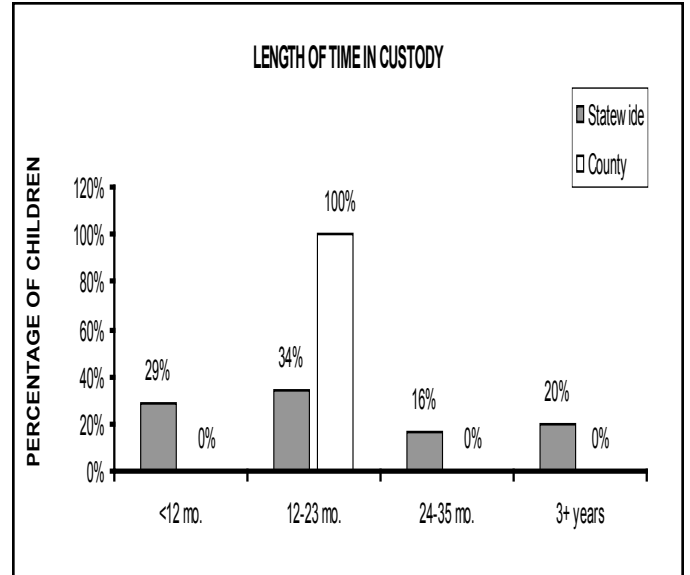
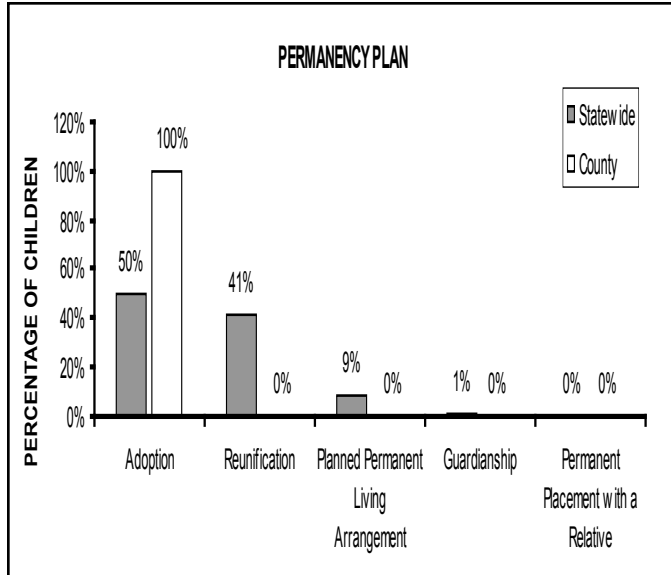
Data on the 9 Children Who Lived in Los Alamos County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



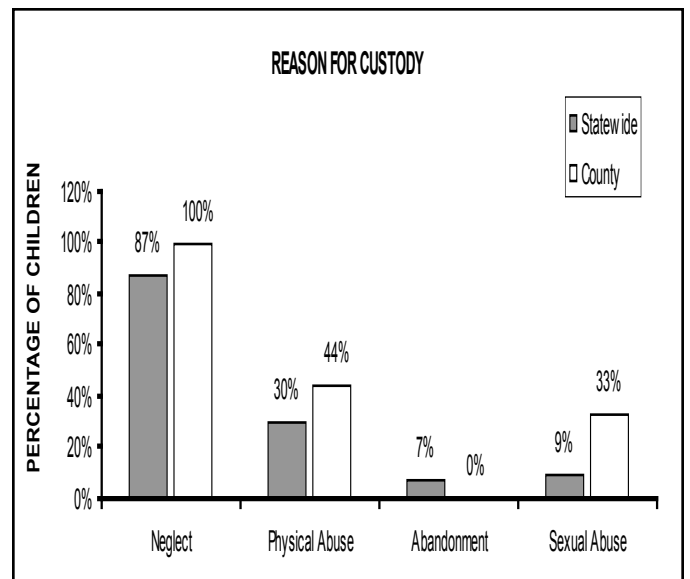
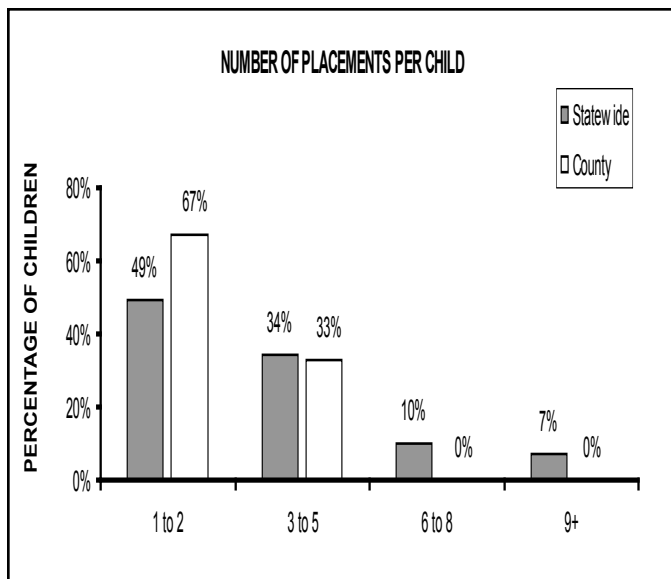
* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



Los Alamos County



Child and Parent Factors				
Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Los Alamos County	44%	33%	0%	22%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%
Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Los Alamos County	72%	61%	72%	78%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



• Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%
 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

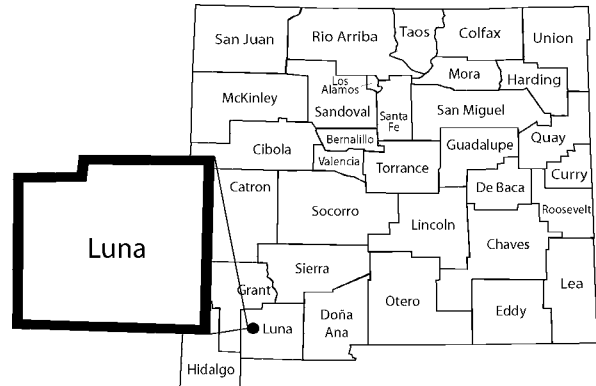
Luna County

Community Successes

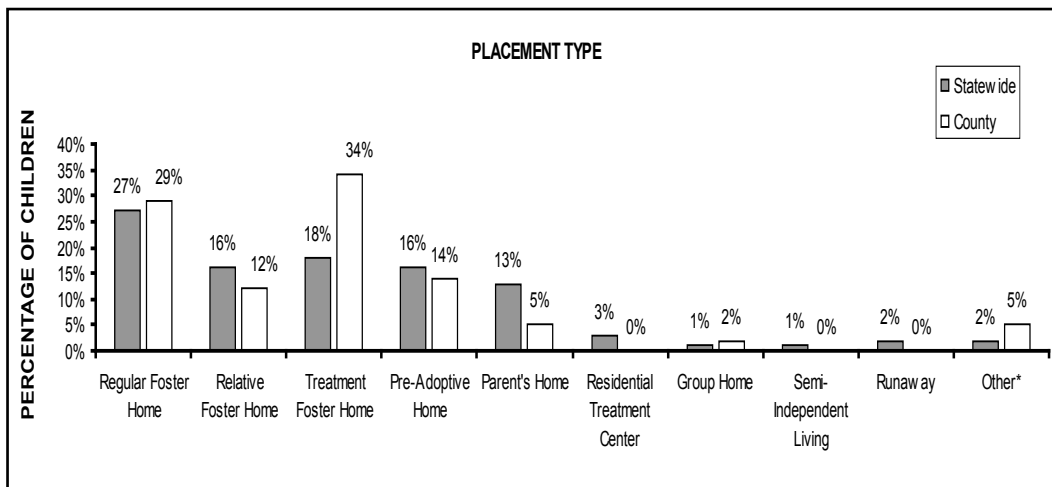
- School for the Blind coming to Deming from Alamogordo to provide services.
- Families taking in sibling groups.

Community Challenges

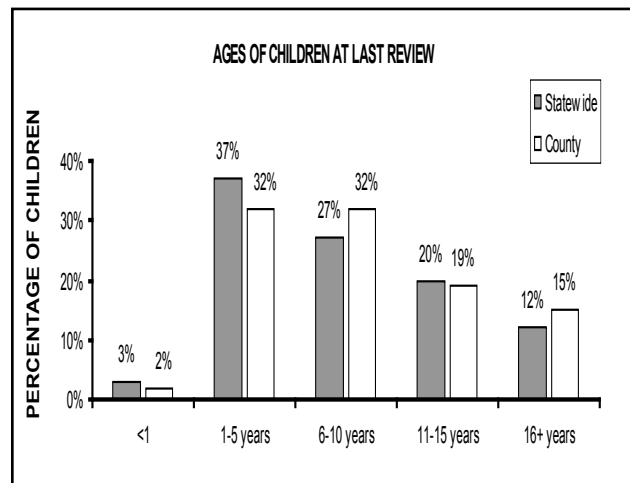
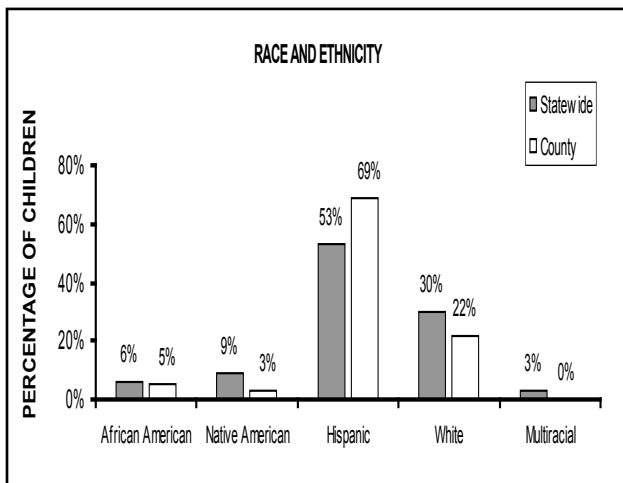
- Traveling to Las Cruces, Albuquerque, and other cities for children to receive medical and dental services.
- Lack of recreational services for children.
- Transportation challenges.



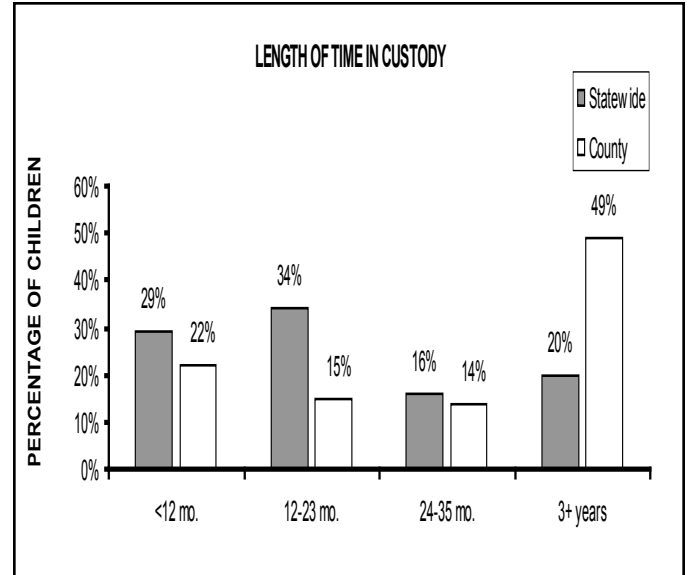
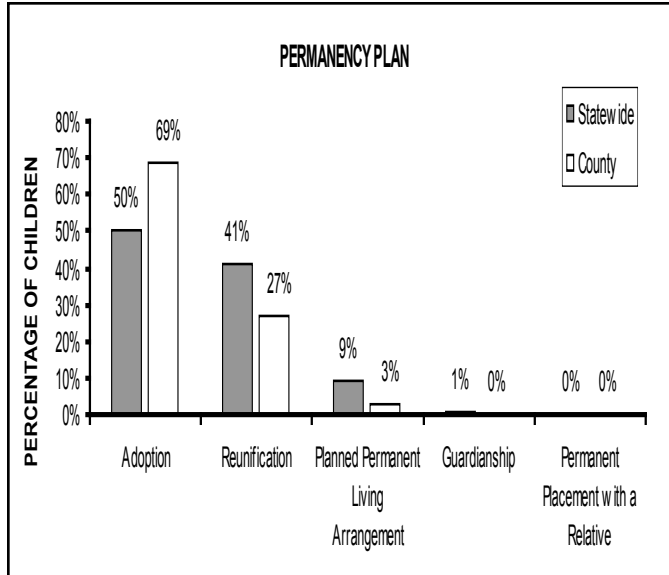
Data on the 59 Children Who Lived in Luna County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



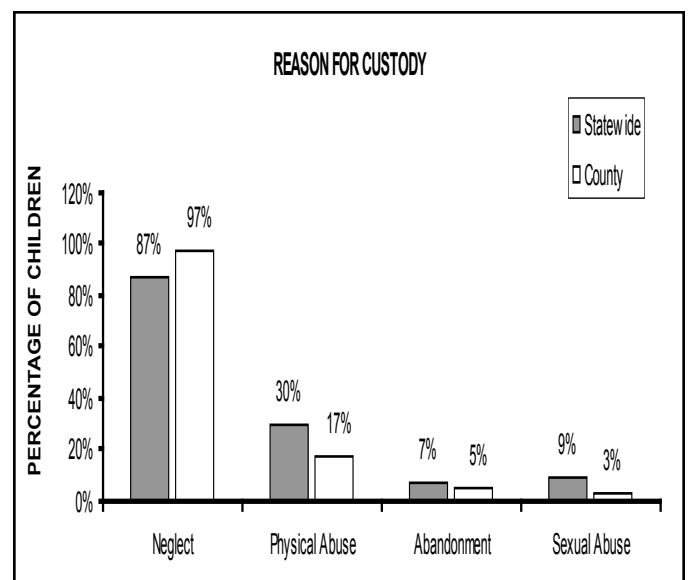
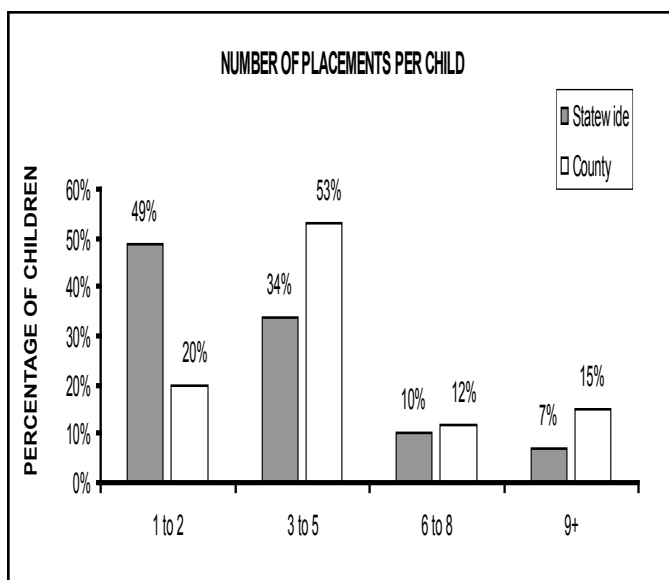
Luna County



Child and Parent Factors

Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Luna County	75%	64%	17%	25%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%

Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Luna County	79%	75%	73%	82%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



• Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%
 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

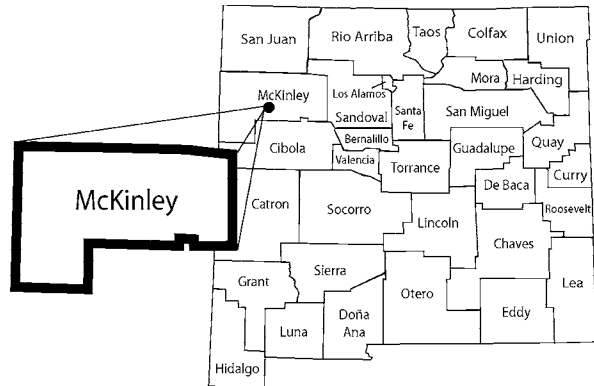
McKinley County

Community Successes

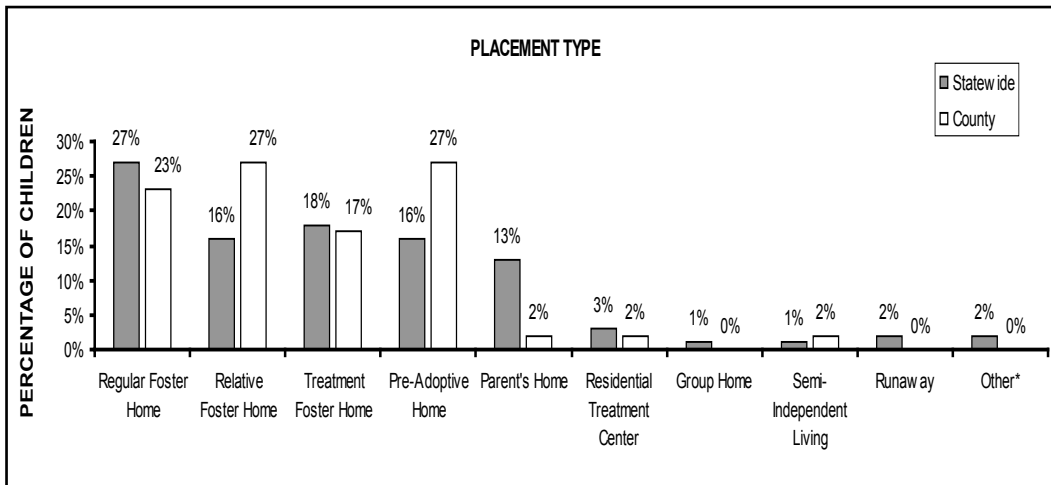
- CYFD county office appears to be more fully staffed.
- Big Brother / Big Sister program starting in the community.
- Fifty-two week Domestic Violence Support Group.

Community Challenges

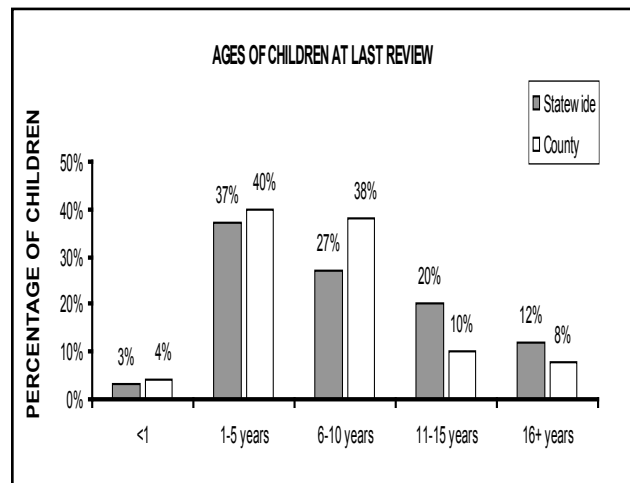
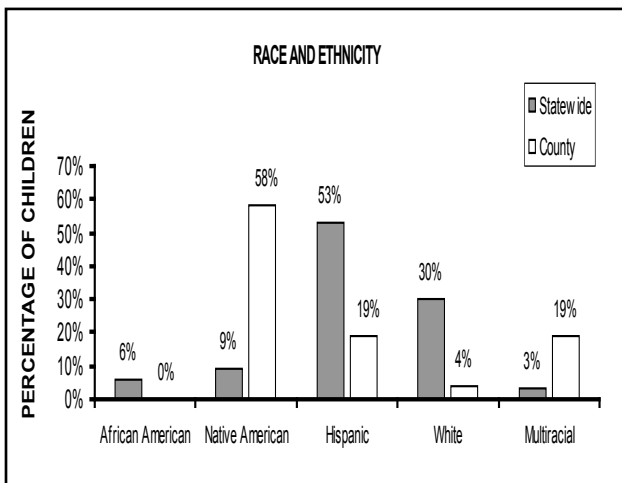
- Heavy caseloads for permanency planning workers.
- Lack of foster homes.
- Legal timelines are not being followed by the judges. Many cotinuanes.



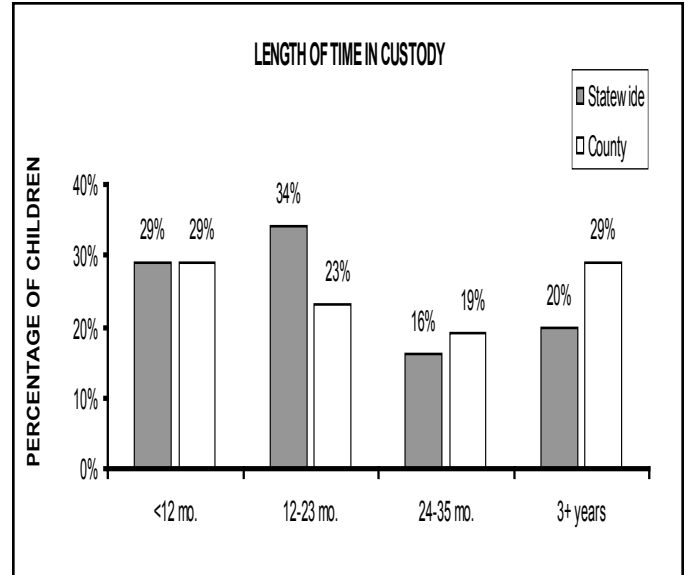
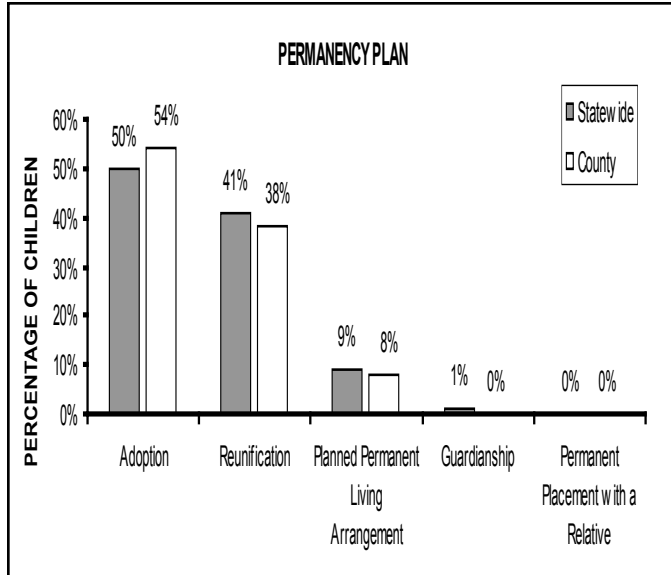
Data on the 48 Children Who Lived in McKinley County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



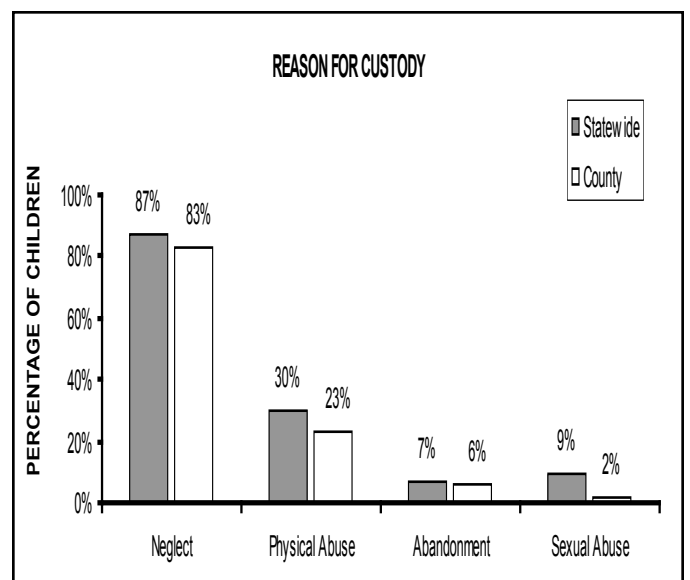
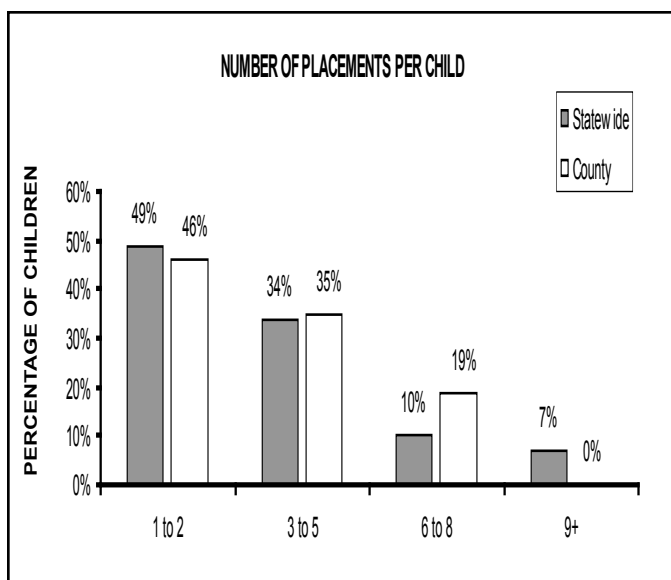
McKinley County



Child and Parent Factors

Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
McKinley County	50%	19%	8%	31%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%

Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
McKinley County	71%	66%	57%	61%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



• Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%
 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

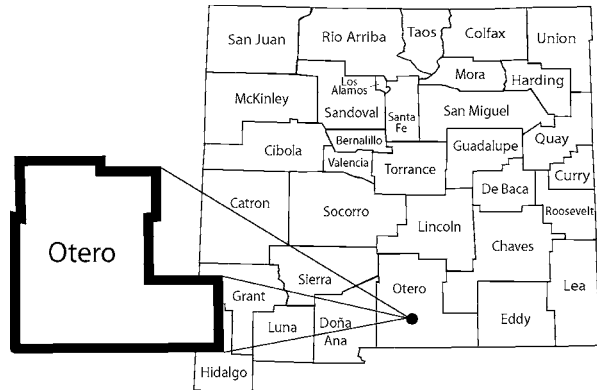
Otero County

Community Successes

- Parents are doing presentations to schools on drug use and sobriety when they are doing well.
- Juvenile Probation Office services are working.

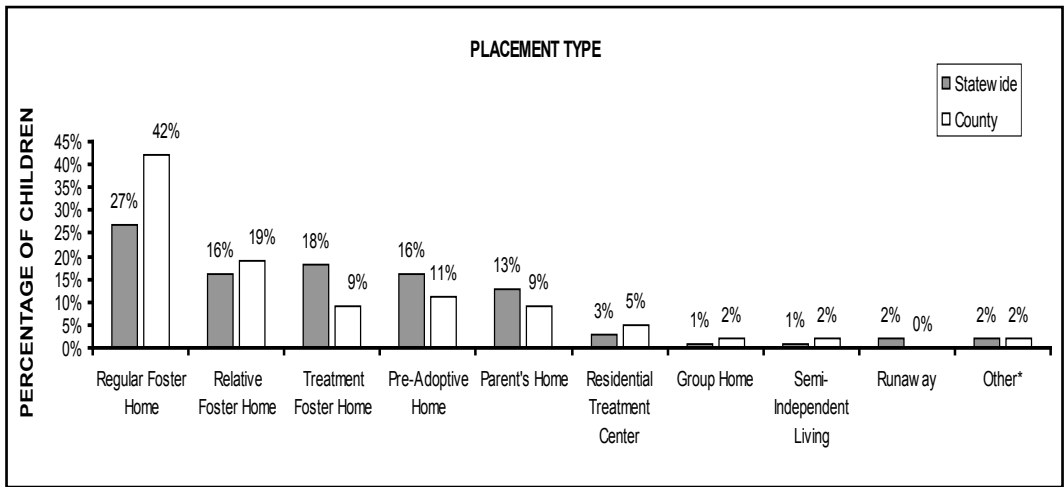
Community Challenges

- Children placed out of town for residential treatment services.
- Distance to medical services.
- Neurological services are out of town.
- Lack of foster homes.

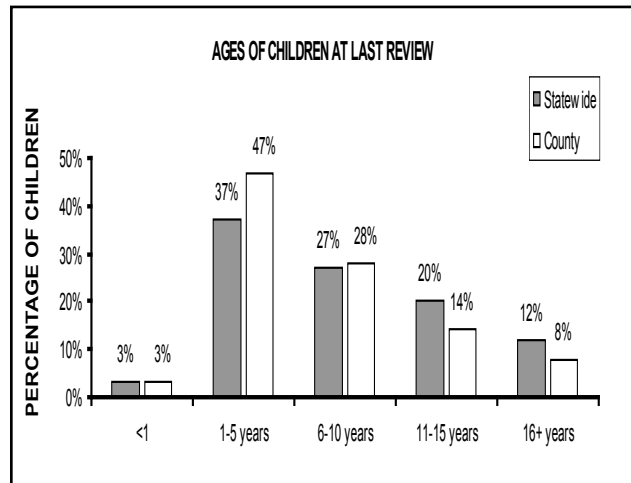
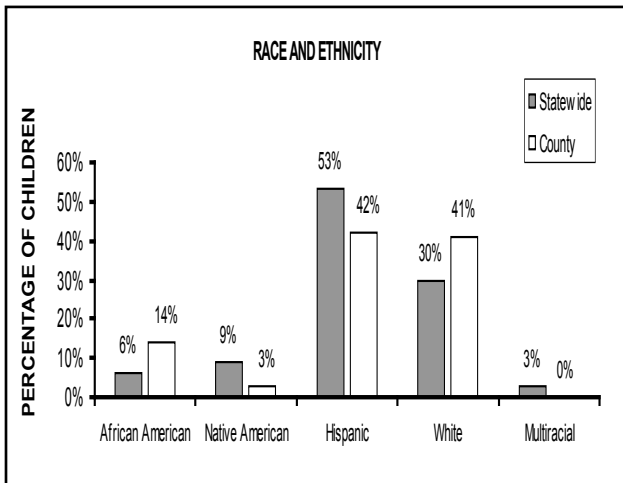


*The same board reviews cases in Lincoln and Otero counties, therefore, the Successes and Challenges reported are the same in both counties.

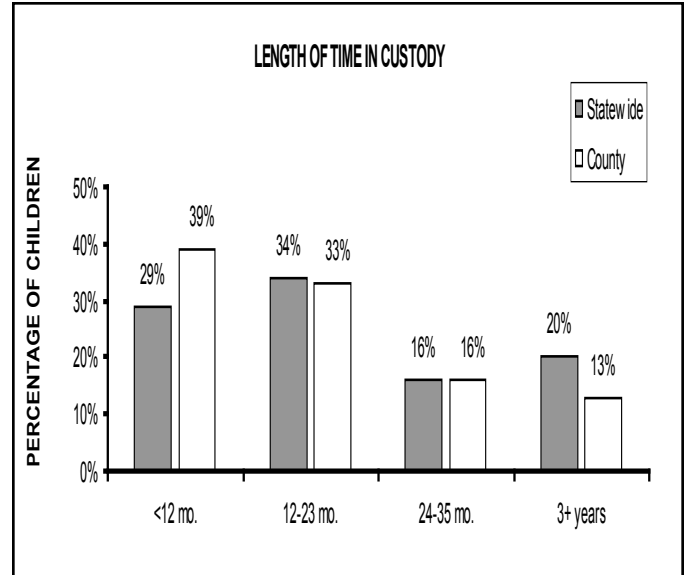
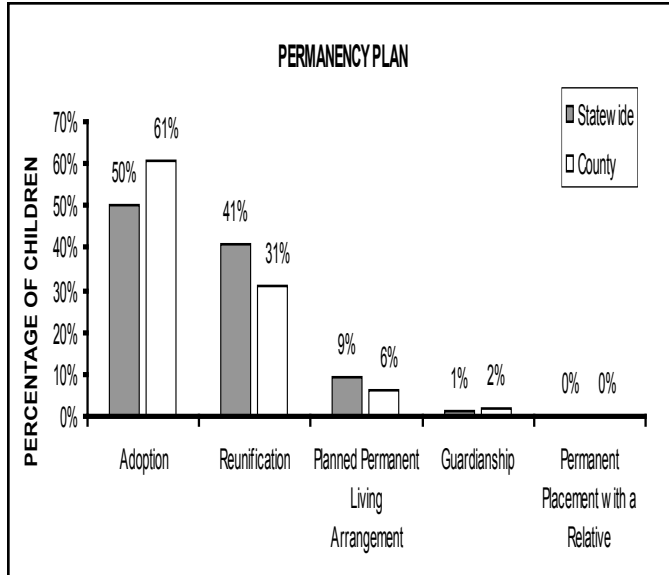
Data on the 64 Children Who Lived in Otero County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



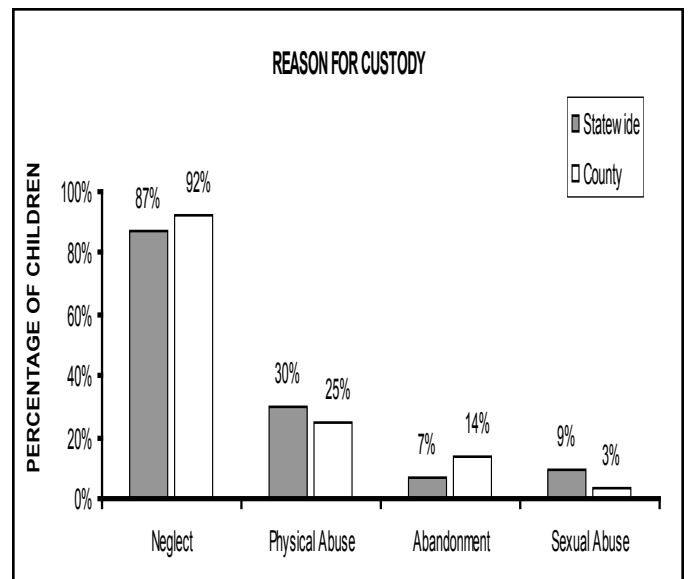
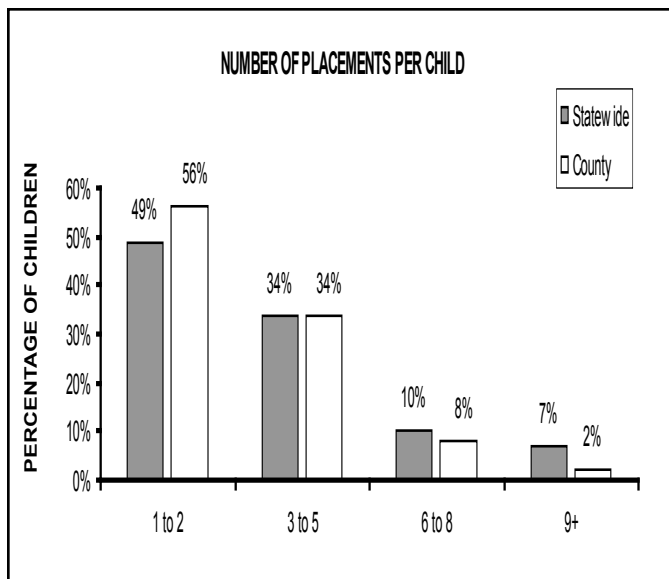
Otero County



Child and Parent Factors

Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Otero County	77%	63%	16%	33%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%

Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Otero County	72%	64%	58%	63%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



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 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

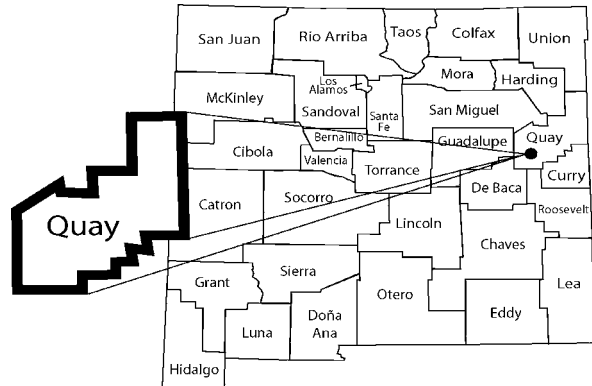
Quay County

Community Successes

- Sixteen week parenting class.
- Family Centered Meetings and mediation.

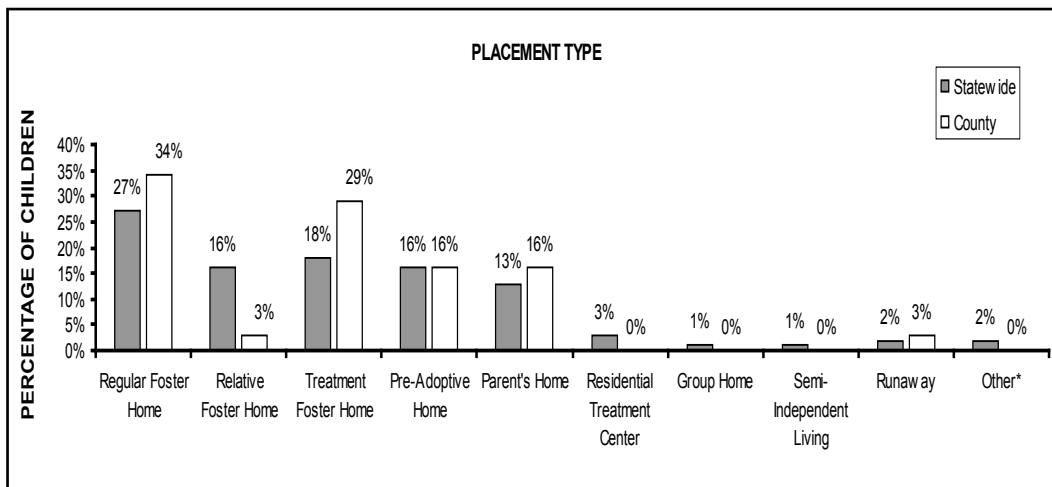
Community Challenges

- Large caseload for permanency planning workers.
- Very limited In-Home Services, none in Quay county.
- No regular docket day for abuse and neglect cases.
- No CASA program.

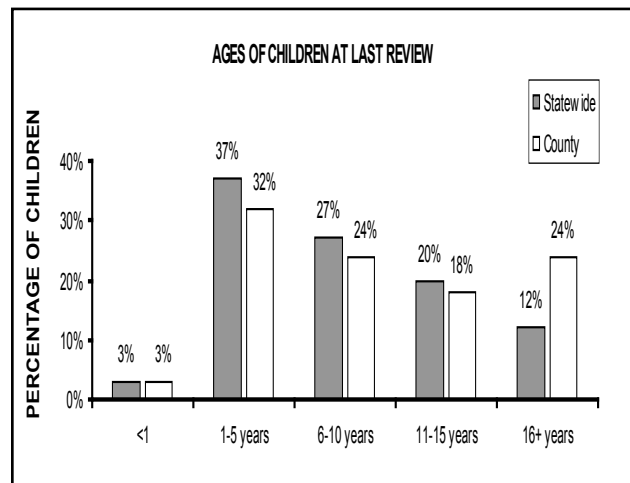
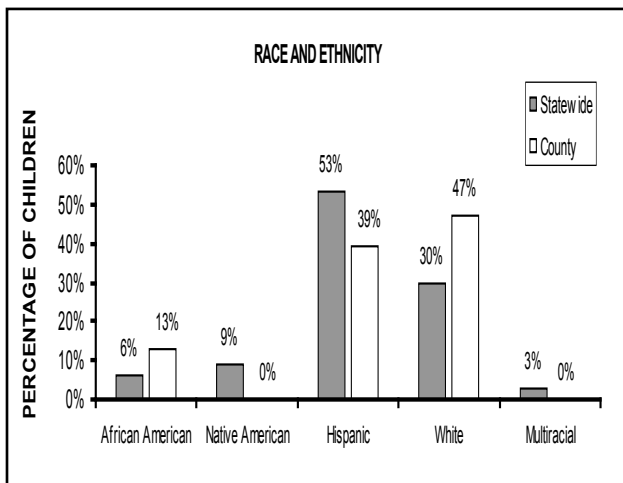


*The same board reviews cases in Harding and Quay counties, therefore, the Successes and Challenges reported are the same in both counties.

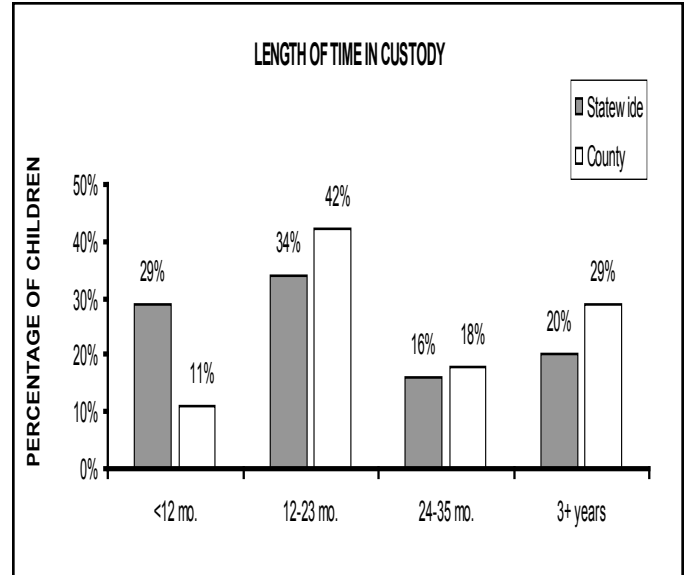
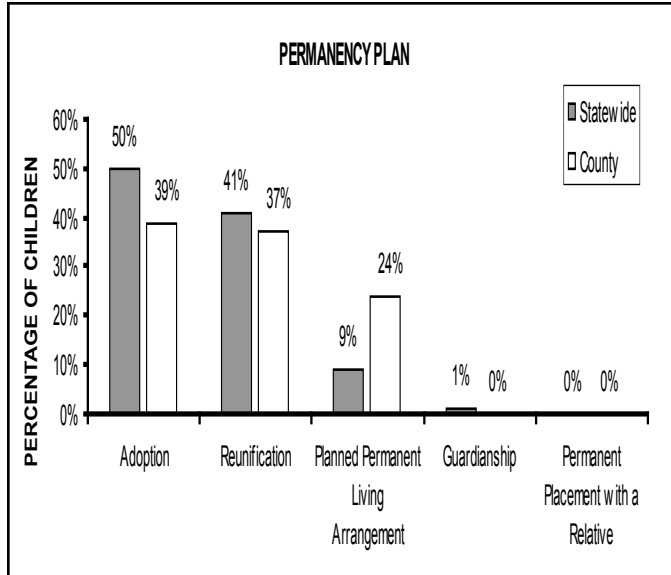
Data on the 38 Children Who Lived in Quay County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



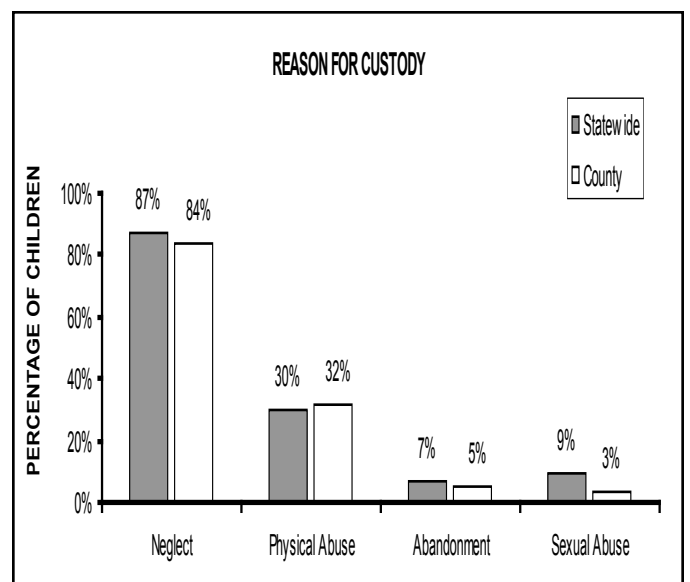
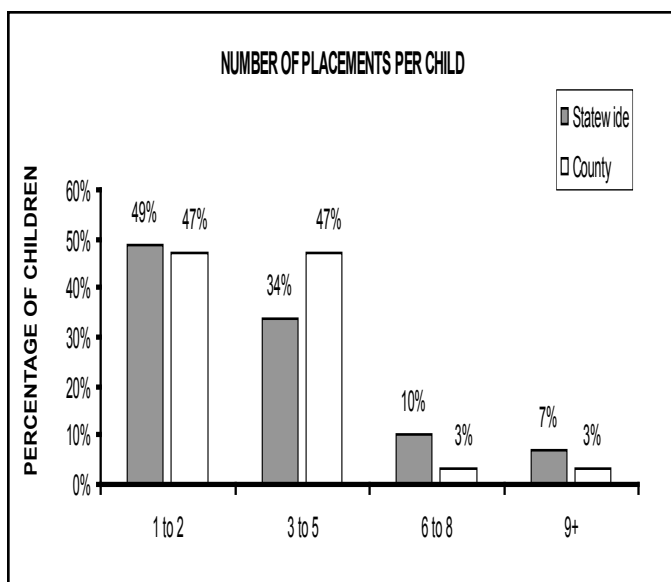
* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



Quay County



Child and Parent Factors				
Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Quay County	74%	26%	8%	24%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%
Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Quay County	40%	41%	46%	58%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



• Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%
 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

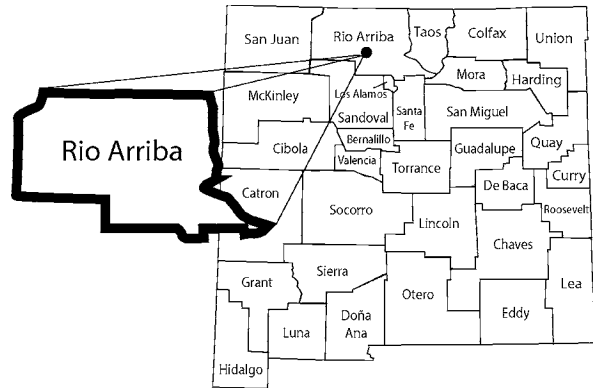
Rio Arriba County

Community Successes

- Las Cumbres provides excellent services.
- Time Limited Reunification program.

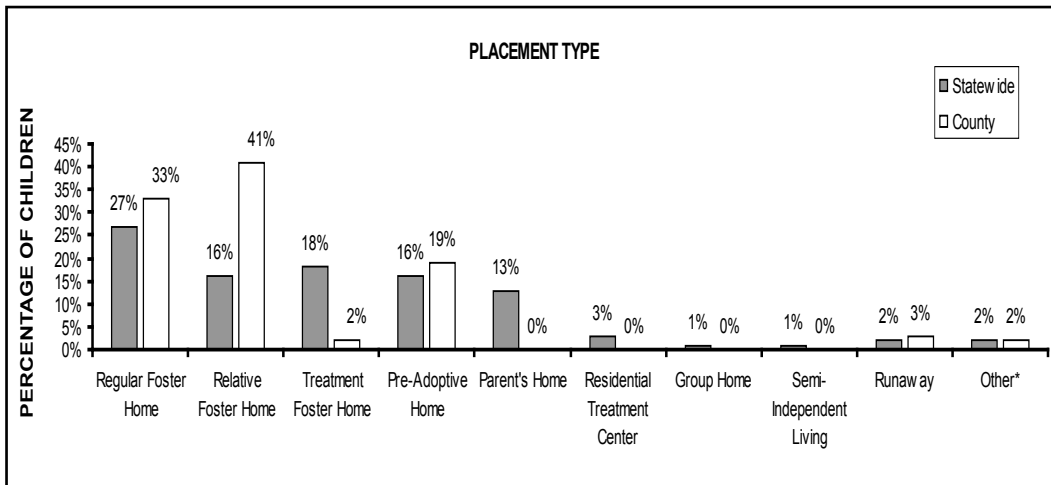
Community Challenges

- Espanola schools do not complete Individualized Education Plans in a timely manner.
- Lack of communication between CYFD and the criminal legal system.
- Limited placement options for children who have a higher level of need, particularly with the closing of residential treatment centers.

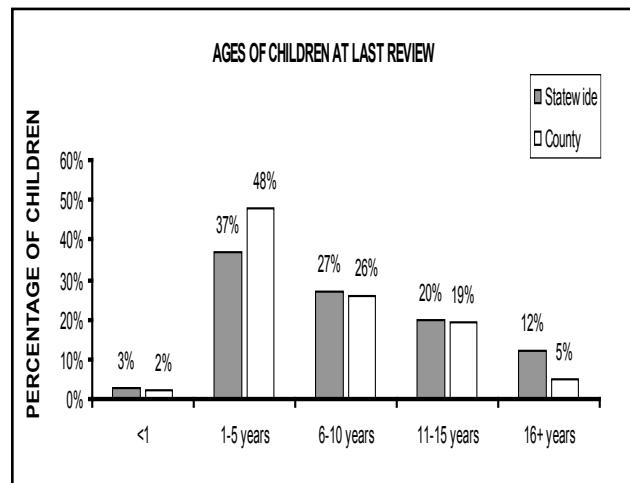
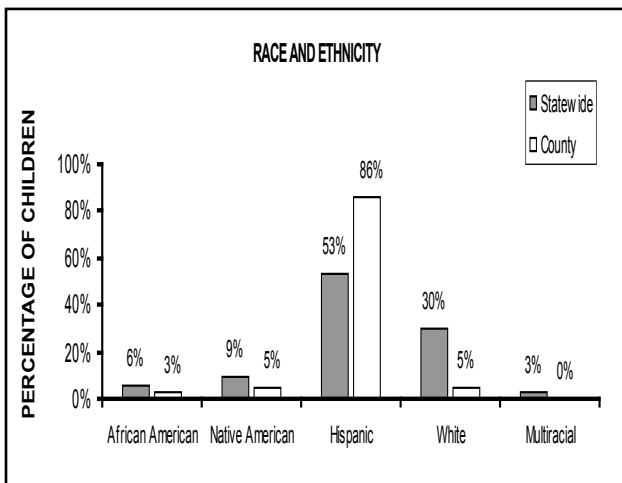


*The same board reviews cases in Los Alamos and Rio Arriba counties, therefore, the Successes and Challenges reported are the same in both counties.

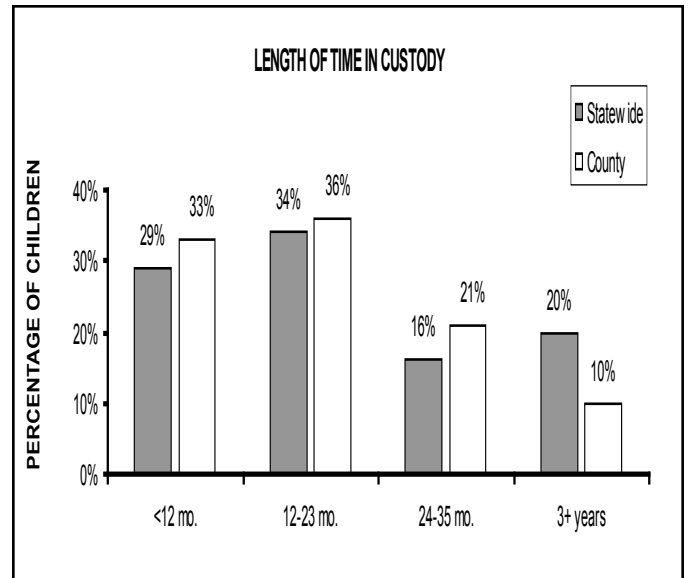
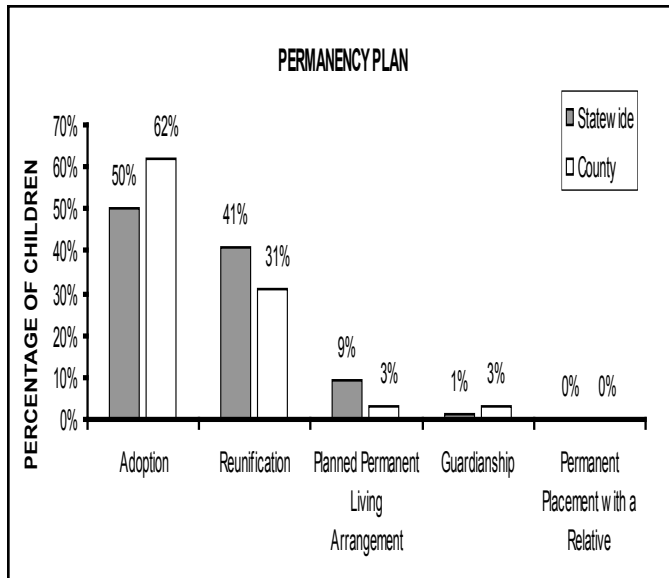
Data on the 58 Children Who Lived in Rio Arriba County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



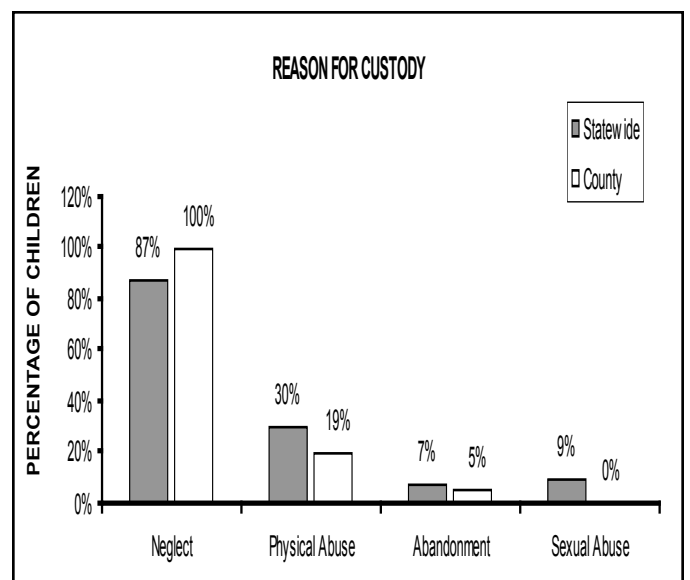
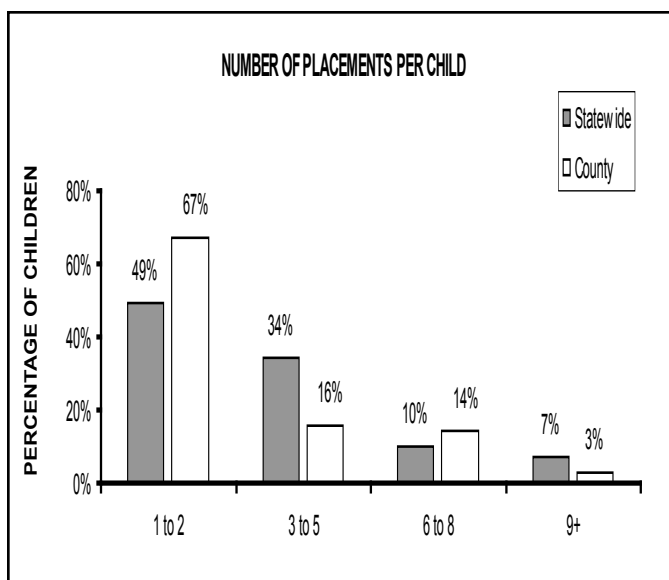
Rio Arriba County



Child and Parent Factors

Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Rio Arriba County	34%	29%	5%	26%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%

Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Rio Arriba County	78%	60%	37%	49%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



• Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%
 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

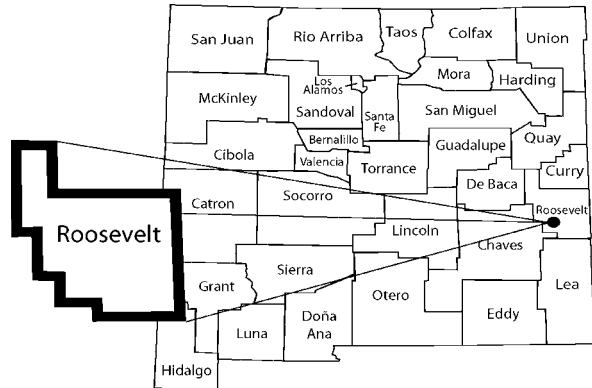
Roosevelt County

Community Successes

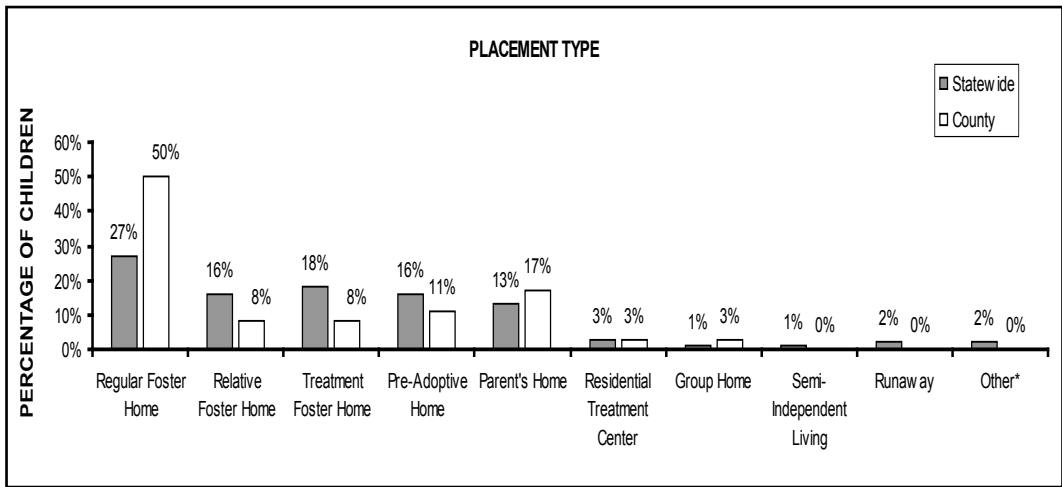
- Good foster homes.
- Adoptions are finalizing.

Community Challenges

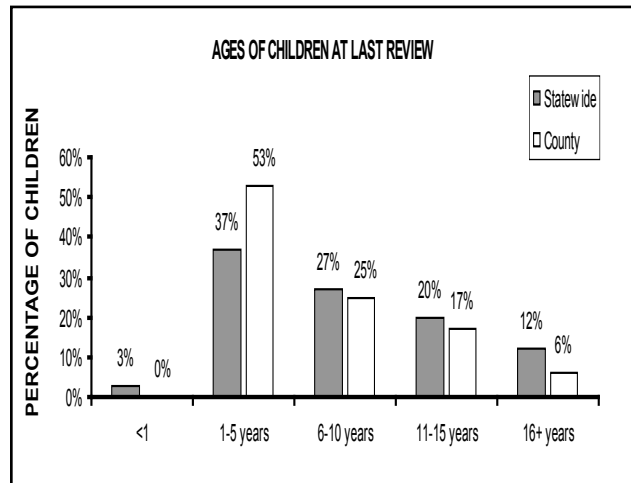
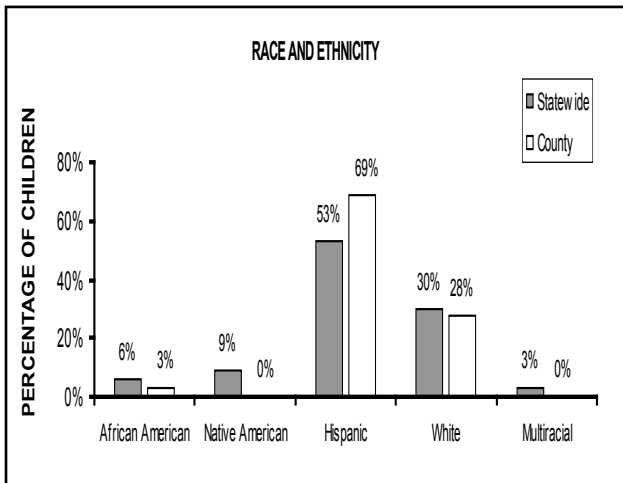
- Too few foster homes.
- Many sibling splits.
- Lack of bilingual services.
- Legal timelines are not being met in some cases.



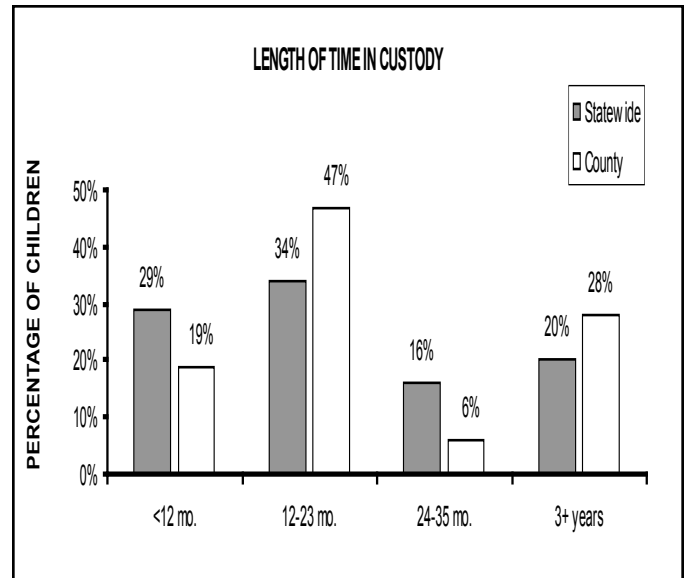
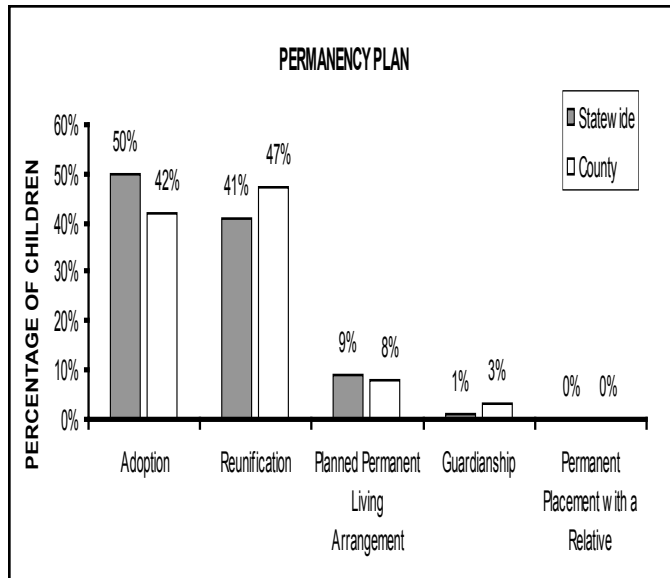
Data on the 36 Children Who Lived in Roosevelt County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



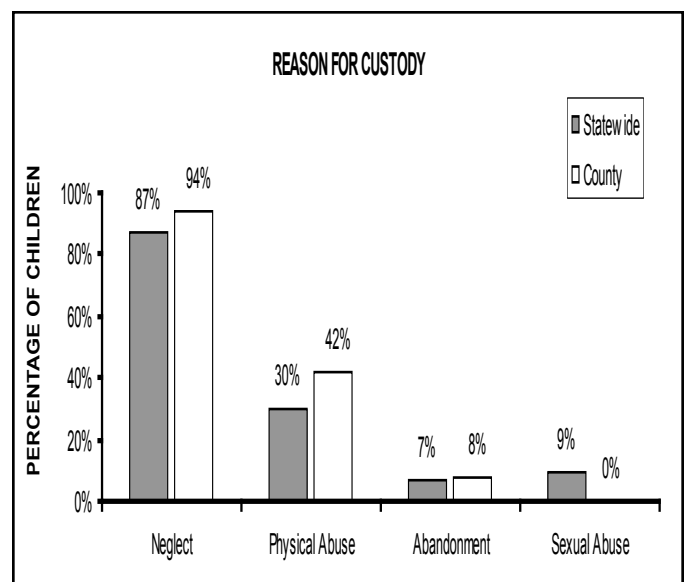
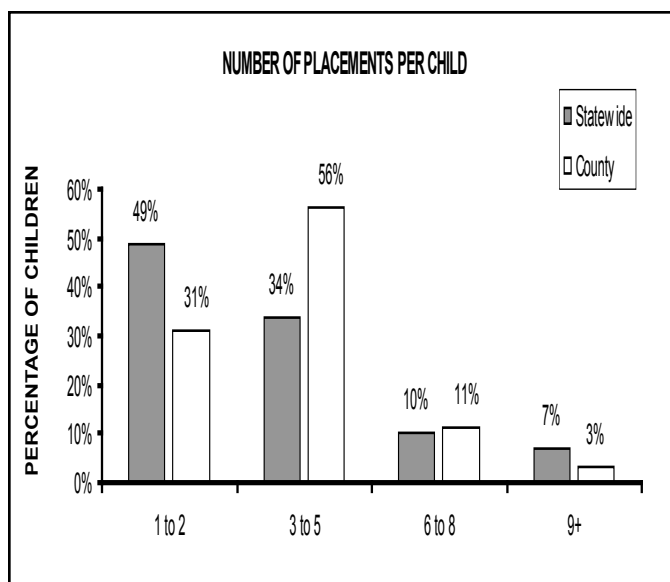
* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



Roosevelt County



Child and Parent Factors				
Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Roosevelt County	56%	50%	25%	33%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%
Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Roosevelt County	58%	32%	43%	42%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



• Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%
 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

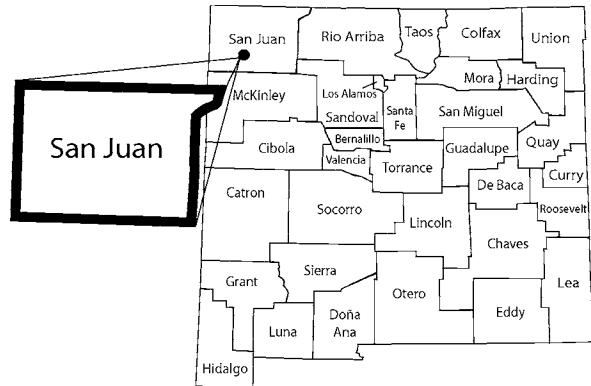
San Juan County

Community Successes

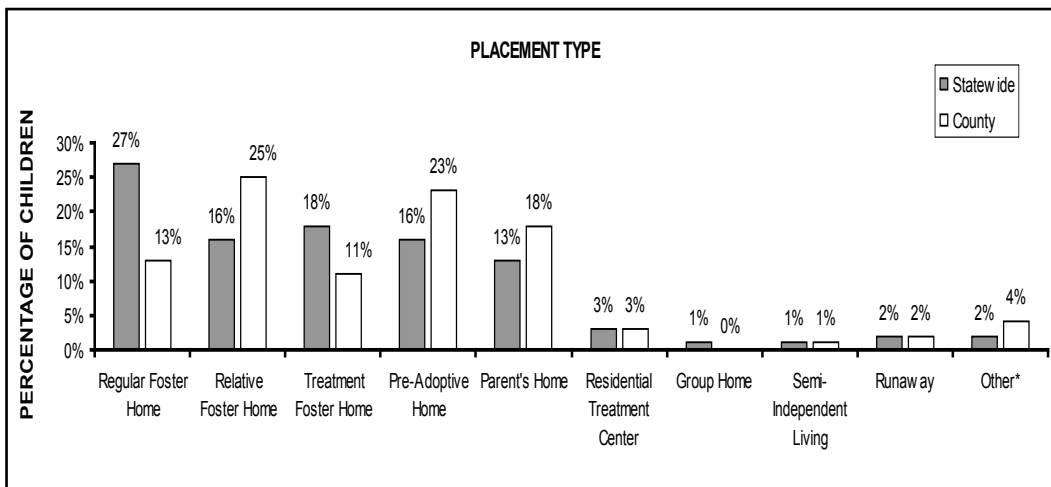
- Family Centered Meetings appear to be allowing for less custodies. Case loads are decreasing.
- Very active CASA program and CASA volunteers.
- Department finding good permanent adoption placements.

Community Challenges

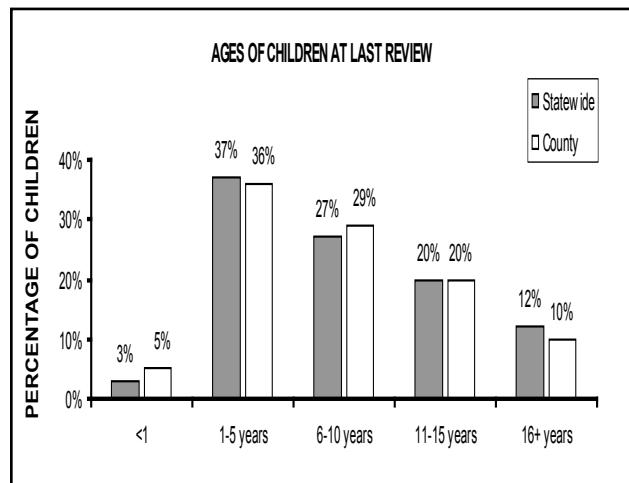
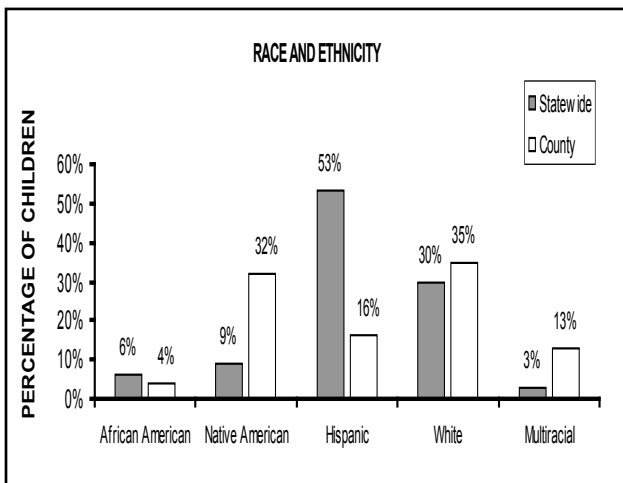
- Lack of foster homes and ICWA approved Navajo placements in this area.
- Children residing in shelters for extended amounts of time.
- Too many long time cases that still have a plan of reunification.
- Indian Child Welfare Act continues to be a barrier for legal timelines.
- Lack of accountability of sexual offenders.
- Large number of case workers during the life of a case.
- Working across state lines with runaways.



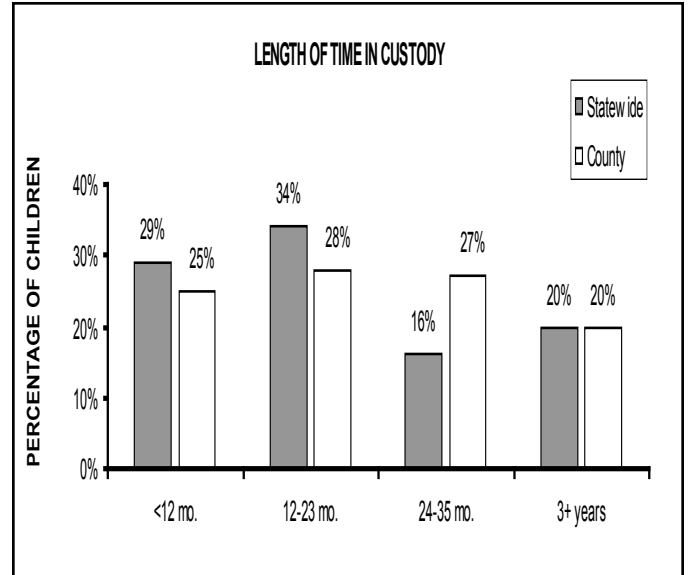
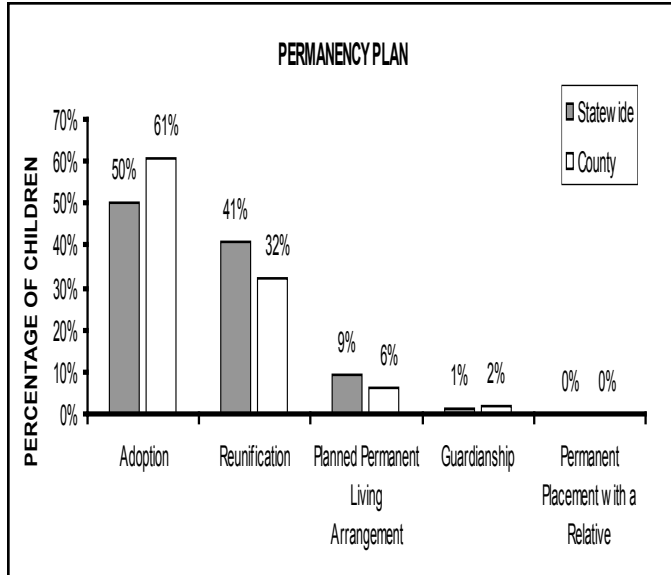
Data on the 215 Children Who Lived in San Juan County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



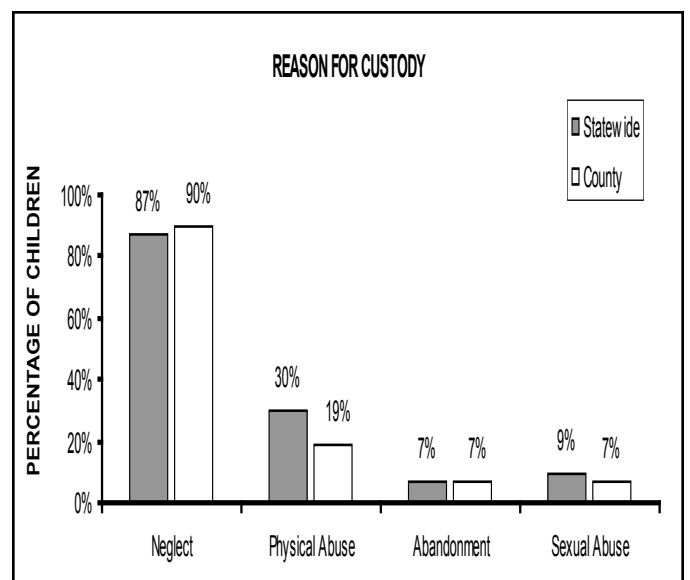
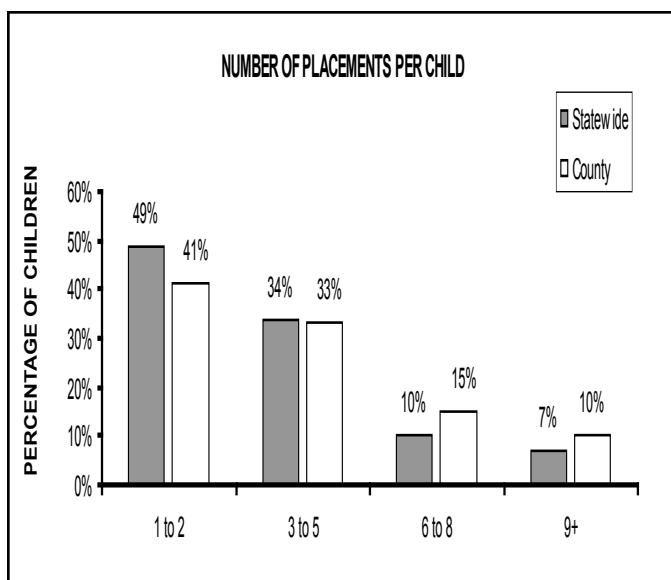
San Juan County



Child and Parent Factors

Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
San Juan County	59%	29%	8%	15%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%

Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
San Juan County	71%	43%	52%	54%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



• Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%
 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

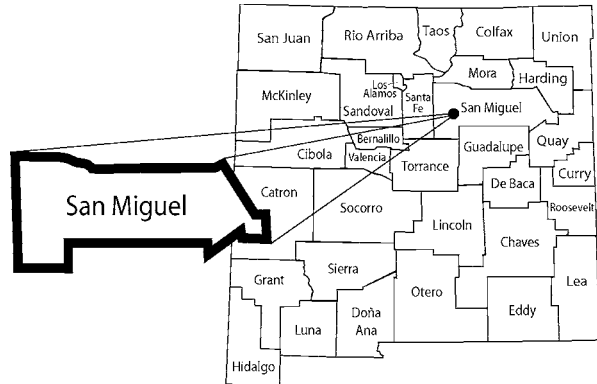
San Miguel County

Community Successes

- None noted.

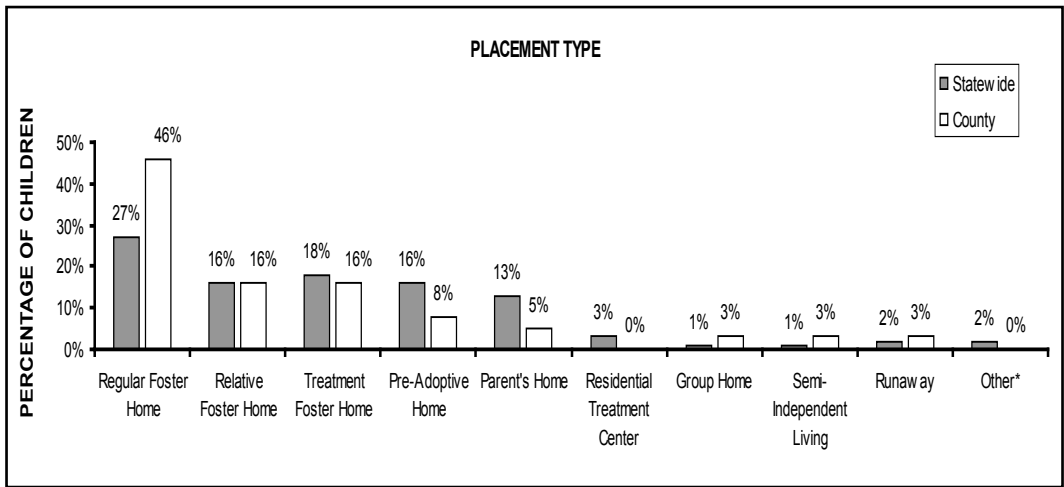
Community Challenges

- Lack of services. Teambuilders has a waiting list which delays children receiving needed services.

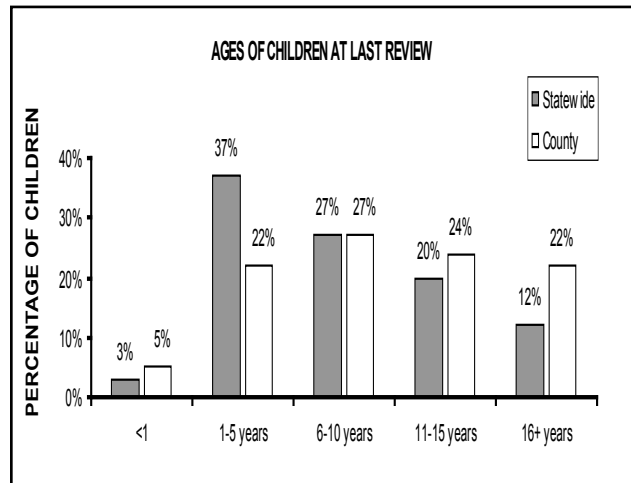
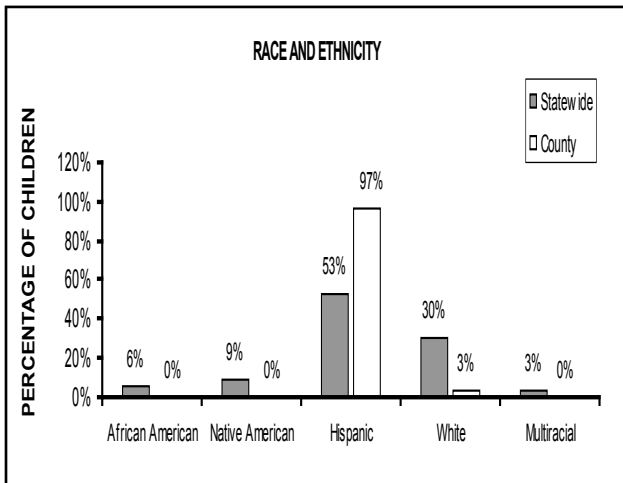


*The same board reviews cases in San Miguel and Guadalupe counties, therefore, the Successes and Challenges reported are the same in both counties

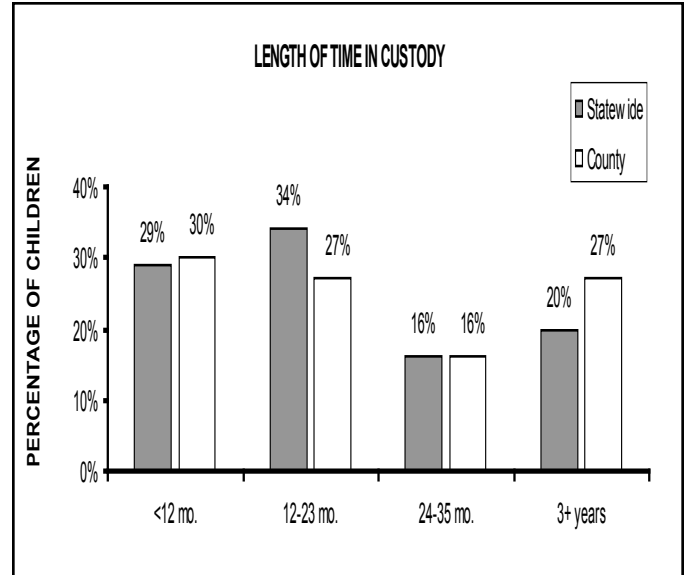
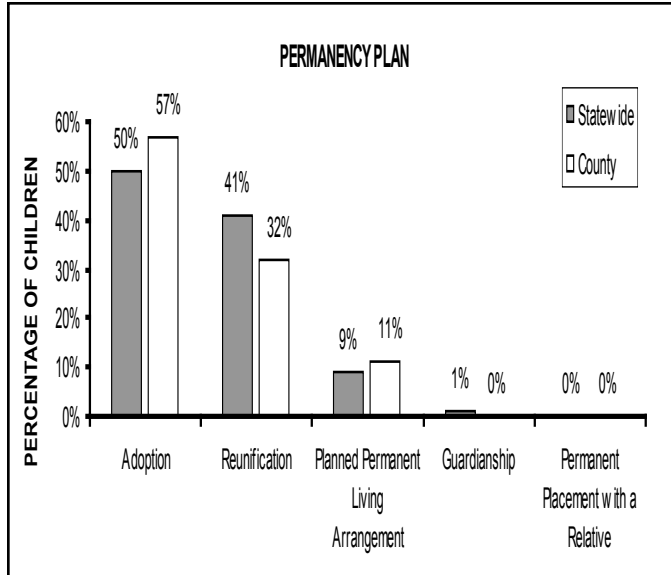
Data on the 37 Children Who Lived in San Miguel County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



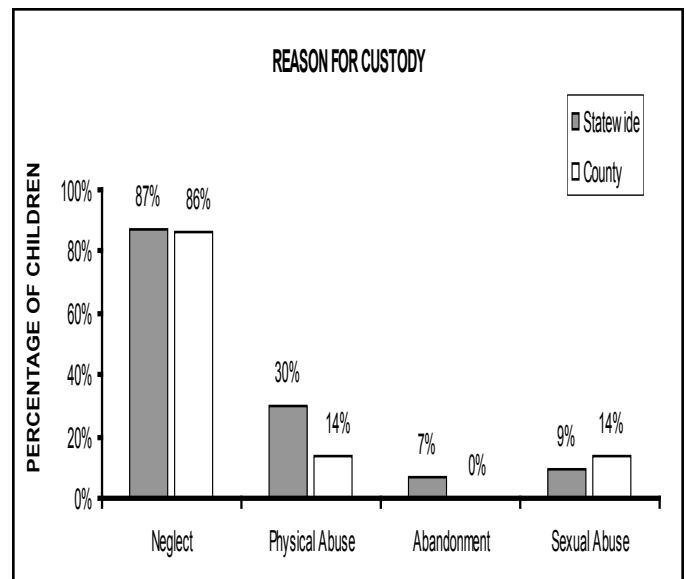
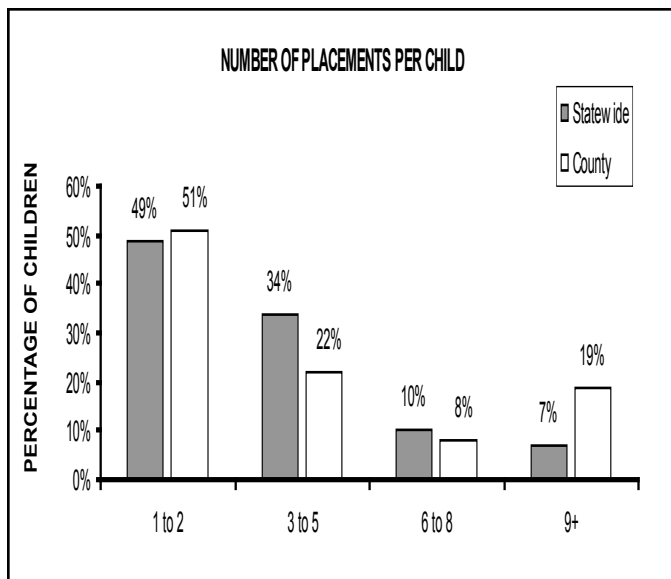
* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



San Miguel County



Child and Parent Factors				
Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
San Miguel County	65%	38%	8%	32%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%
Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
San Miguel County	66%	32%	50%	65%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



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 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

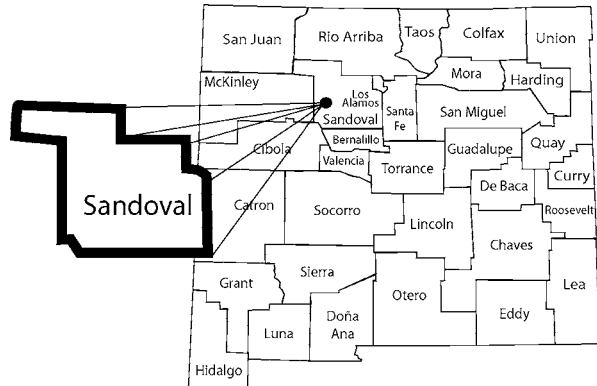
Sandoval County

Community Successes

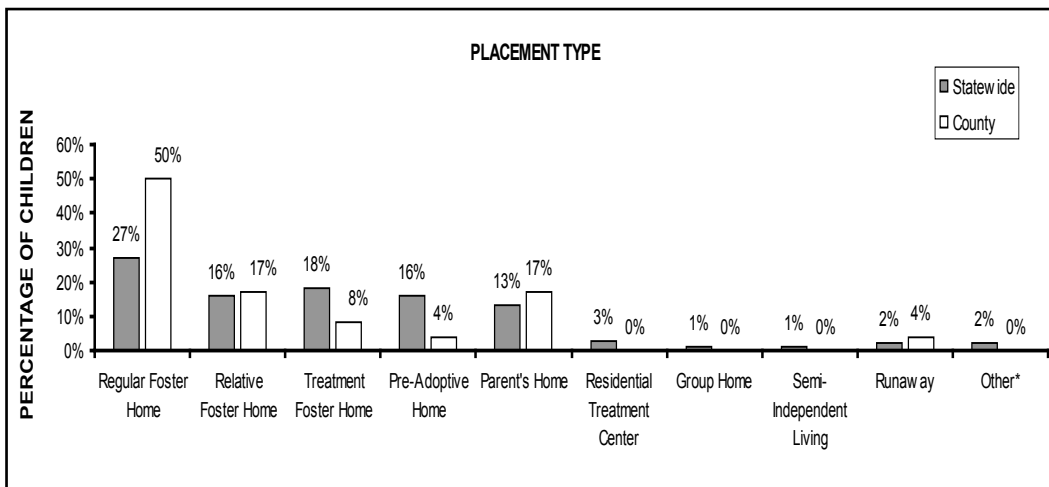
- Stable CYFD office.
- In-home services helping children stay with their families rather than state's custody.
- Time Limited Reunification appears to make a difference in cases.
- CASA program.

Community Challenges

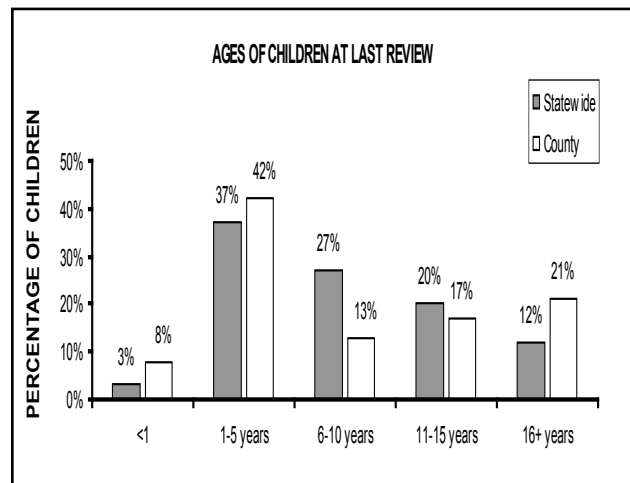
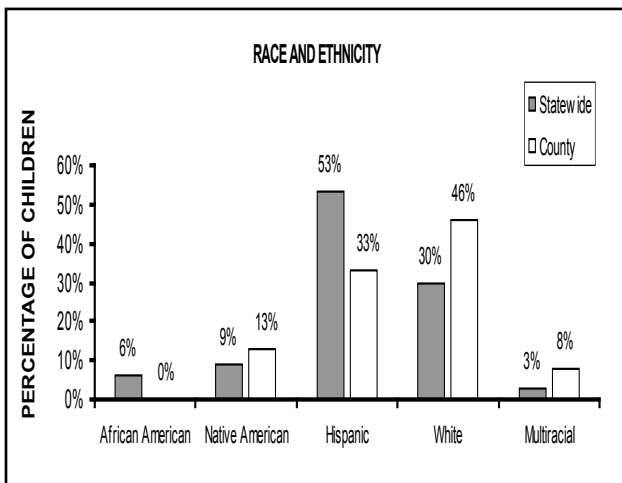
- Statewide entity denied services.
- No available treatment for a parent with alcohol issues.
- Parents having to use their private insurance for therapy – it limits the number of therapists in the area and the insurance only allows a certain number of sessions.



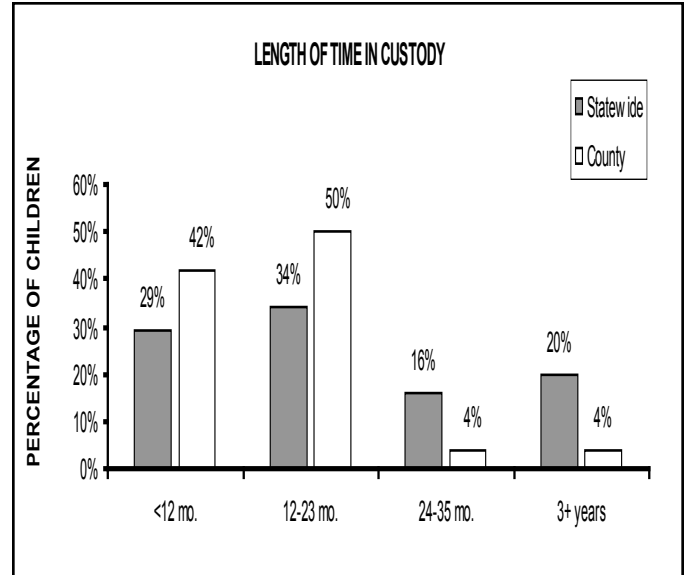
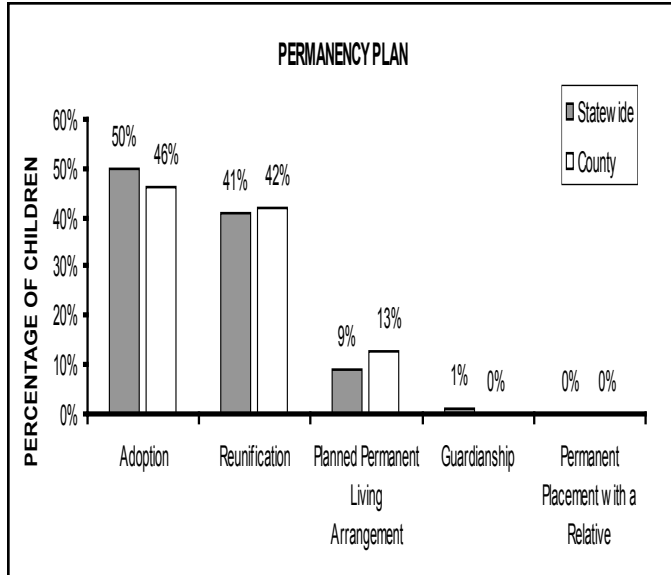
Data on the 24 Children Who Lived in Sandoval County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



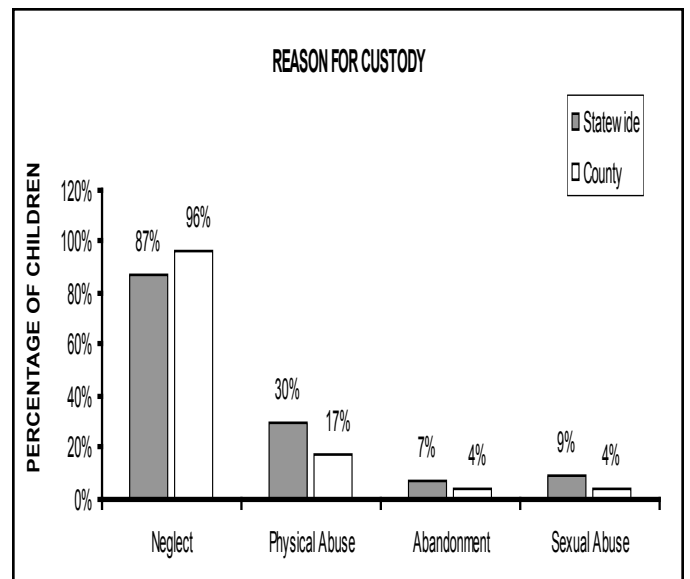
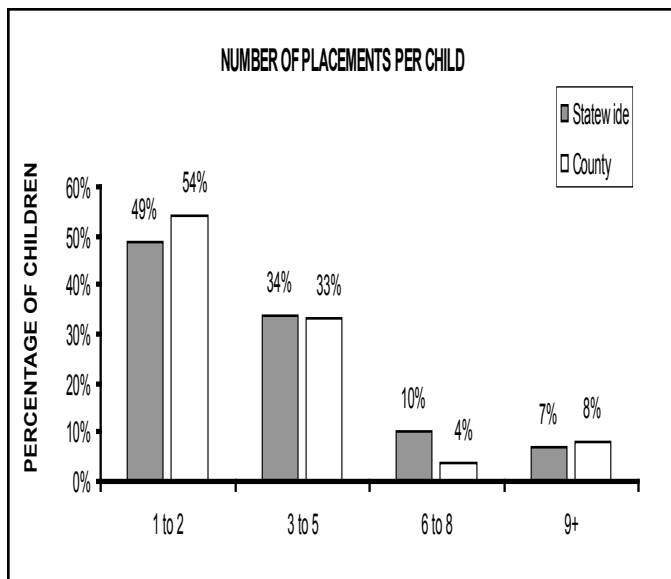
* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



Sandoval County



Child and Parent Factors				
Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Sandoval County	46%	29%	21%	13%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%
Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Sandoval County	63%	52%	44%	54%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



• Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%
 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

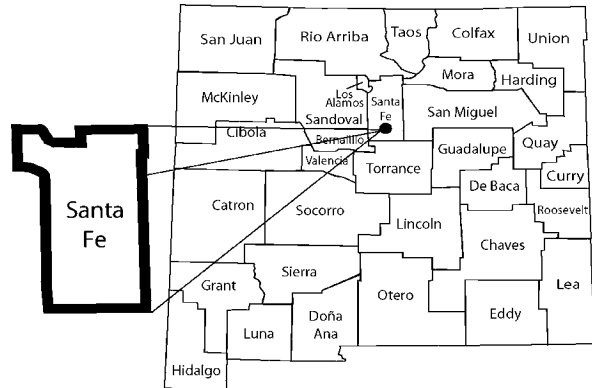
Santa Fe County

Community Successes

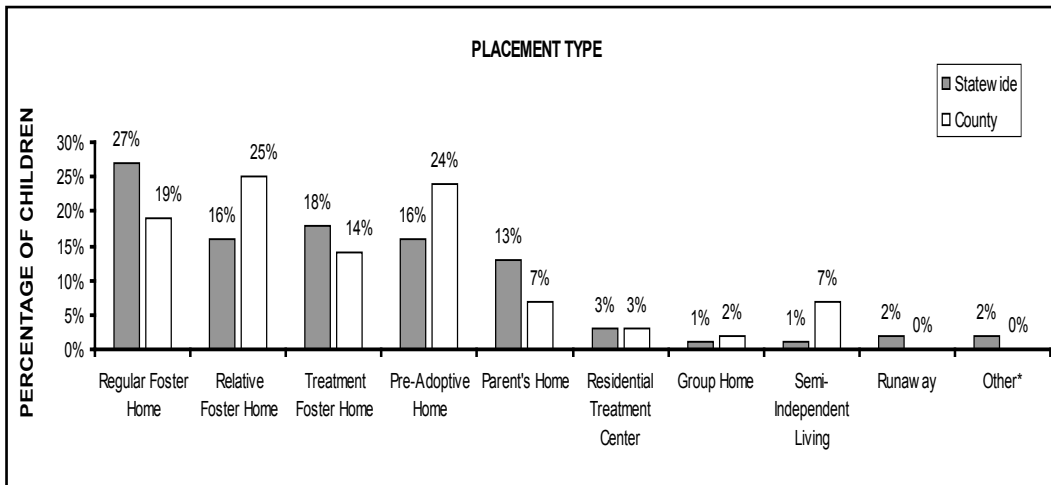
- New permanency planning workers appear to be well trained.
- The Attachment Healing Center that works specifically with children with Reactive Attachment Disorder.
- CYFD's new sex education program with Planned Parenthood.

Community Challenges

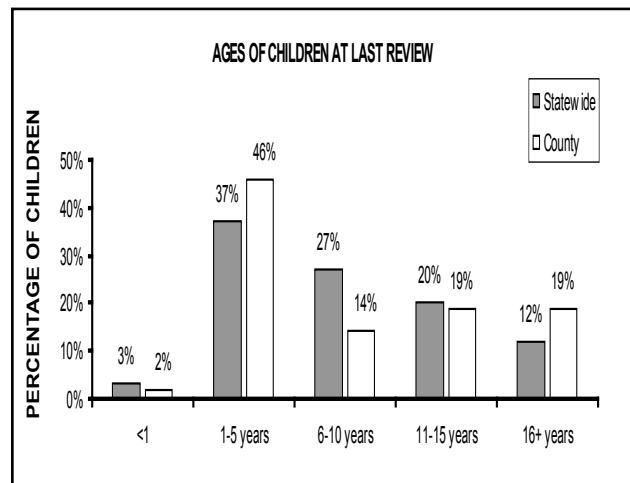
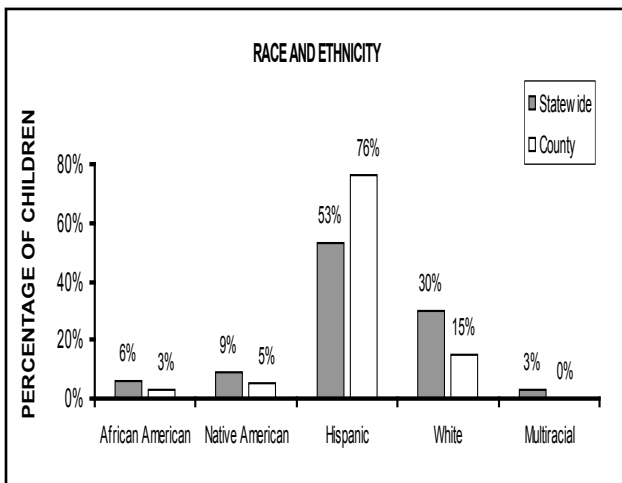
- The public schools negative attitude towards foster children.
- Lack of group homes making it harder to place teenagers that no longer qualify for treatment foster care but a regular foster home will not meet their needs.
- Repeated court continuances are delaying some cases.
- Not enough drug treatment and mental health services.
- Lack of residential treatment centers.



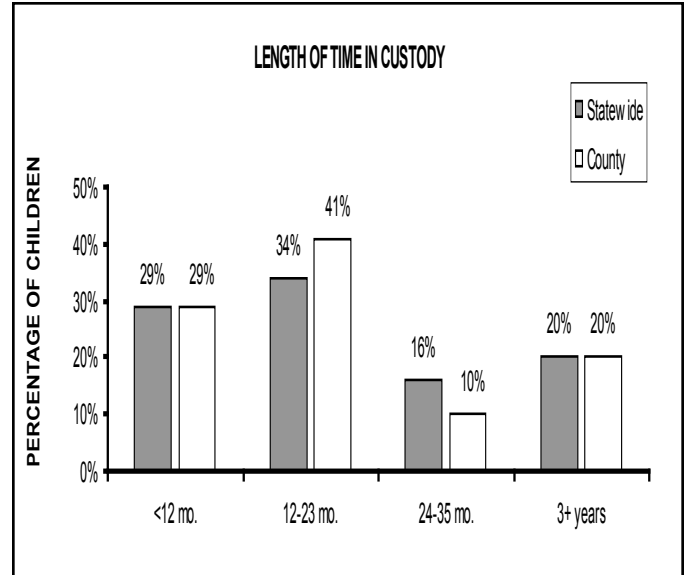
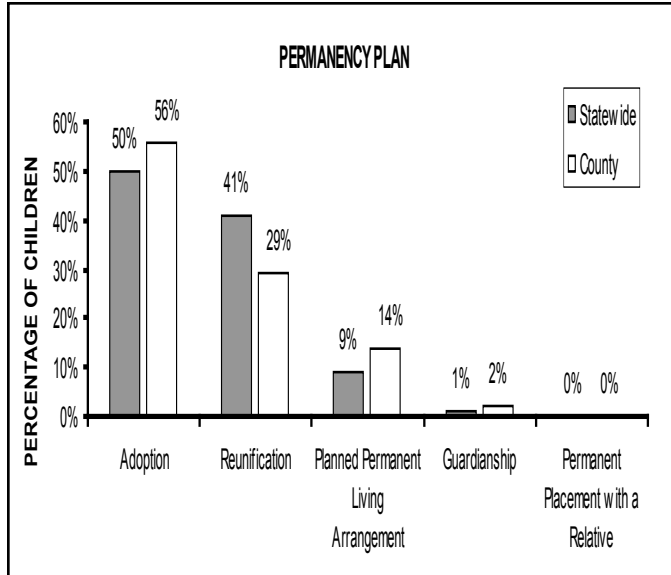
Data on the 59 Children Who Lived in Santa Fe County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



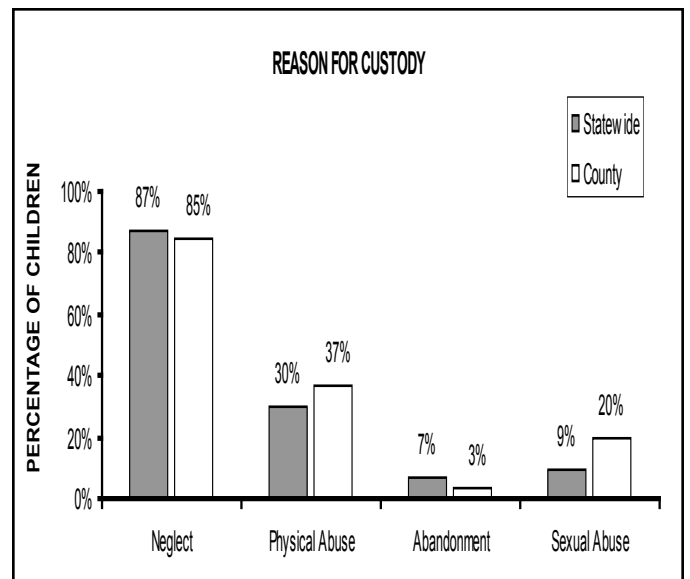
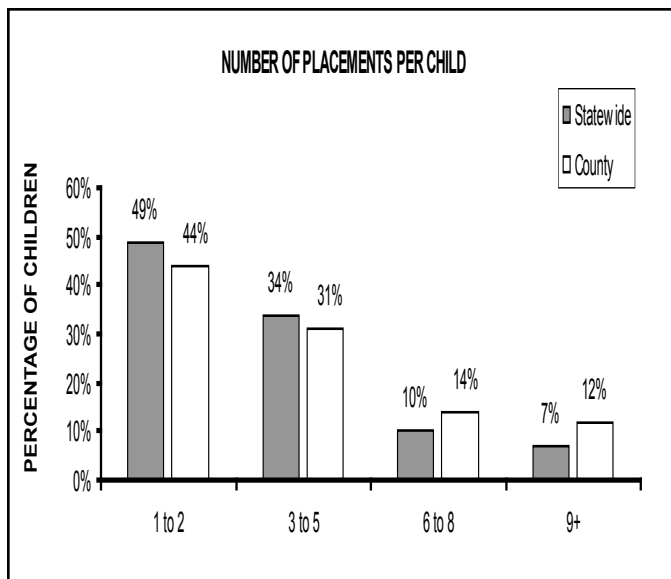
Santa Fe County



Child and Parent Factors

Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Santa Fe County	61%	58%	32%	22%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%

Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Santa Fe County	73%	58%	62%	66%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



• Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%
 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

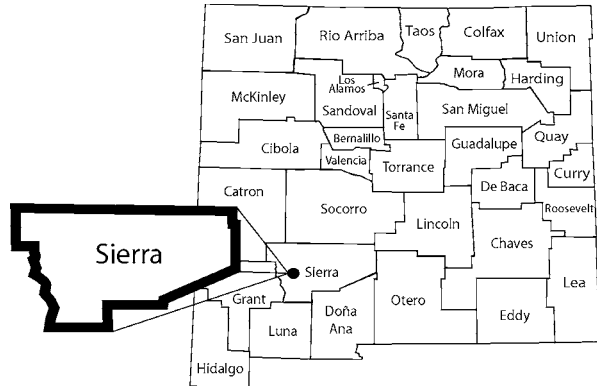
Sierra County

Community Successes

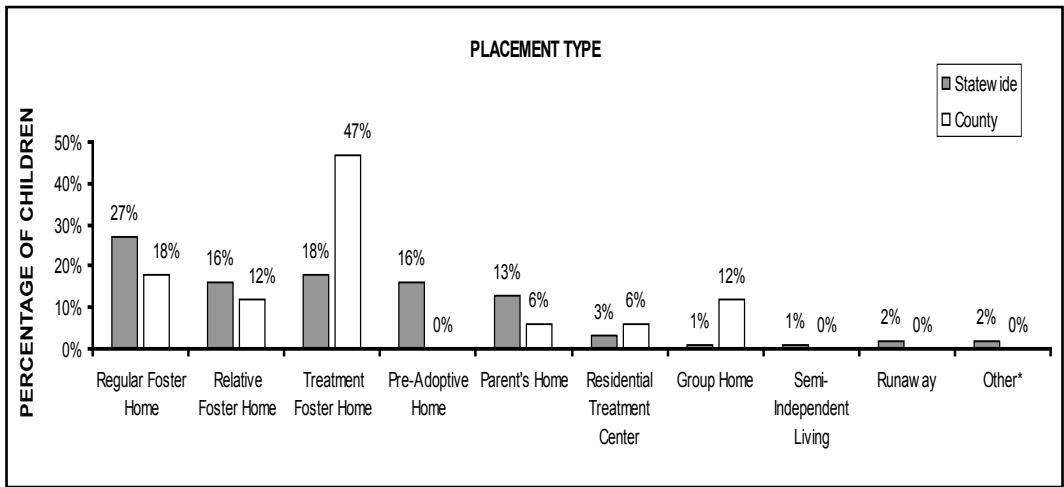
- Legal Aid has helped parents with legal needs outside of the child welfare system.
- CASA volunteers active in cases.

Community Challenges

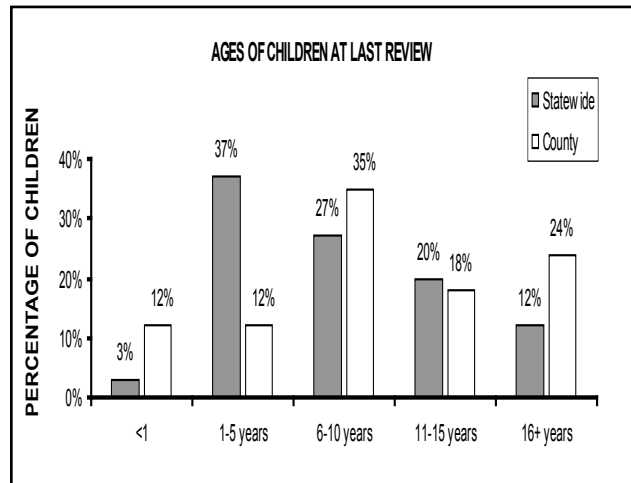
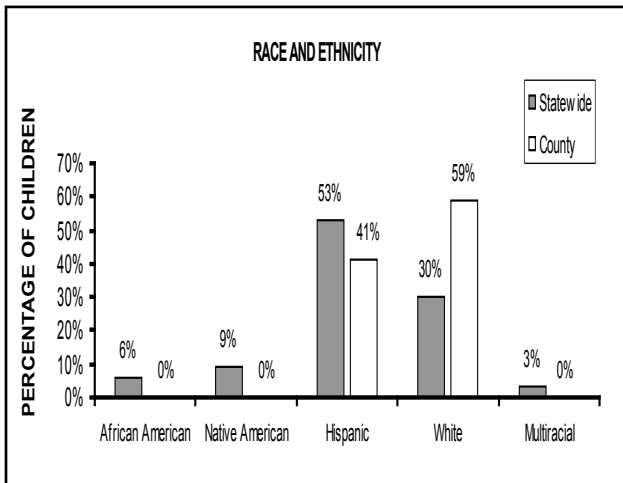
- Finding services out of town for children with high behavioral and emotional needs.
- Distance to Las Cruces and Albuquerque for medical, dental and psychological services.
- Domestic violence issues and lack of accountability.
- Language barrier – all Spanish speaking services are out of town.
- No local treatment foster care placements.



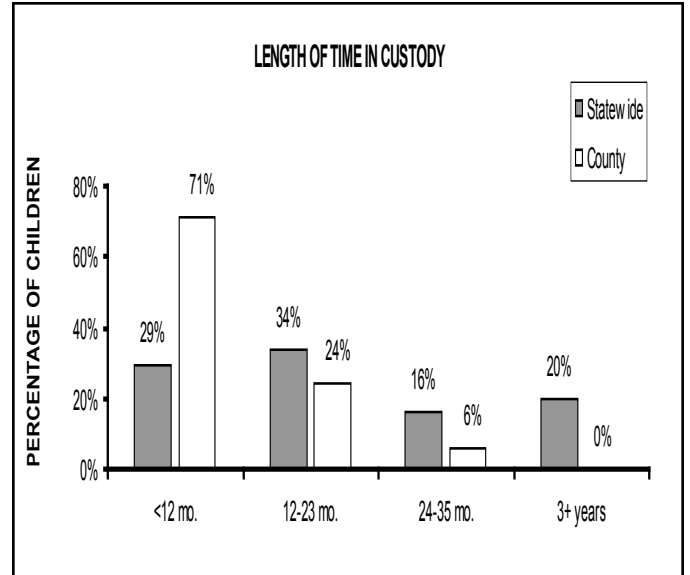
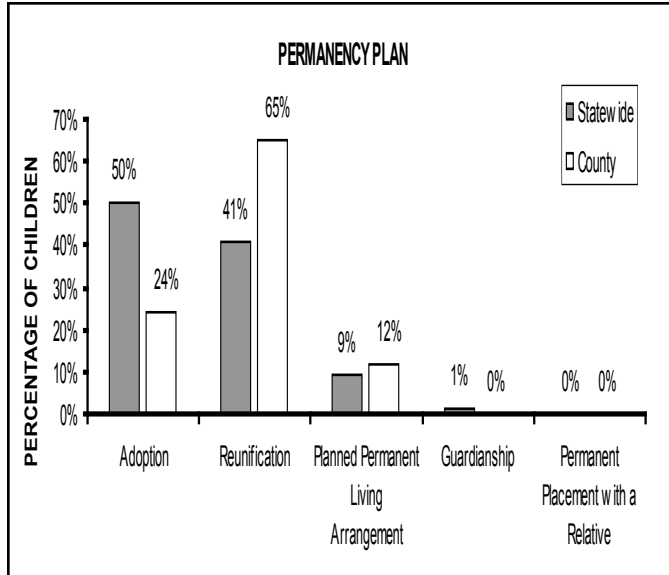
Data on the 17 Children Who Lived in Sierra County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



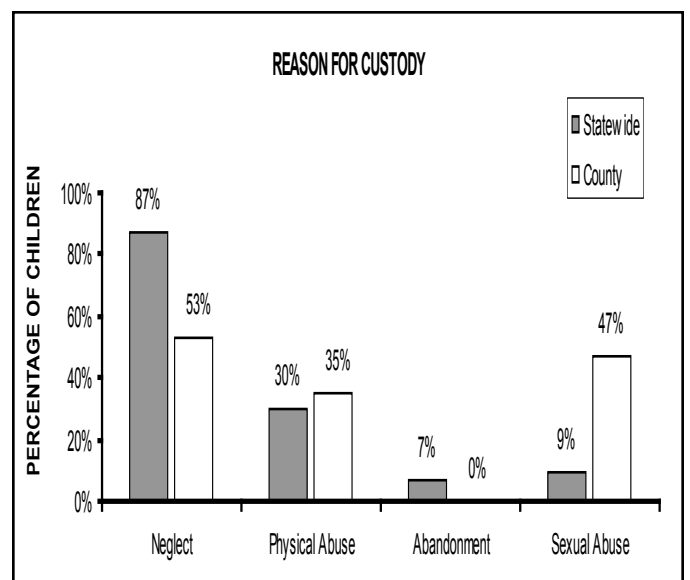
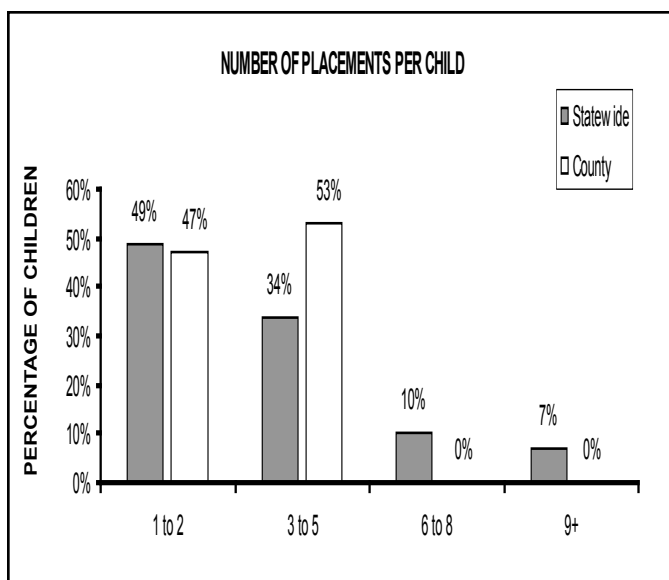
* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



Sierra County



Child and Parent Factors				
Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Sierra County	71%	65%	0%	41%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%
Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Sierra County	44%	65%	38%	53%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



• Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%
 * Many children often have multiple reasons for custody. Therefore, the total percentage depicted will be greater than 100%.

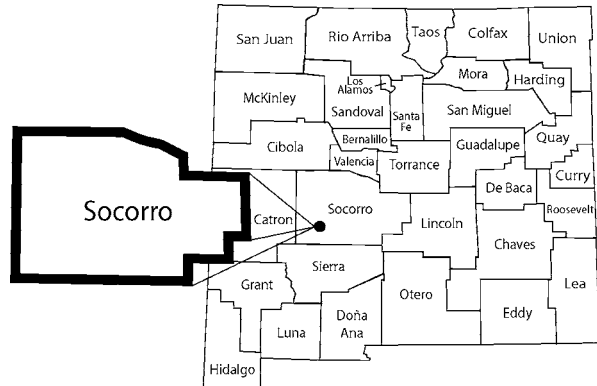
Socorro County

Community Successes

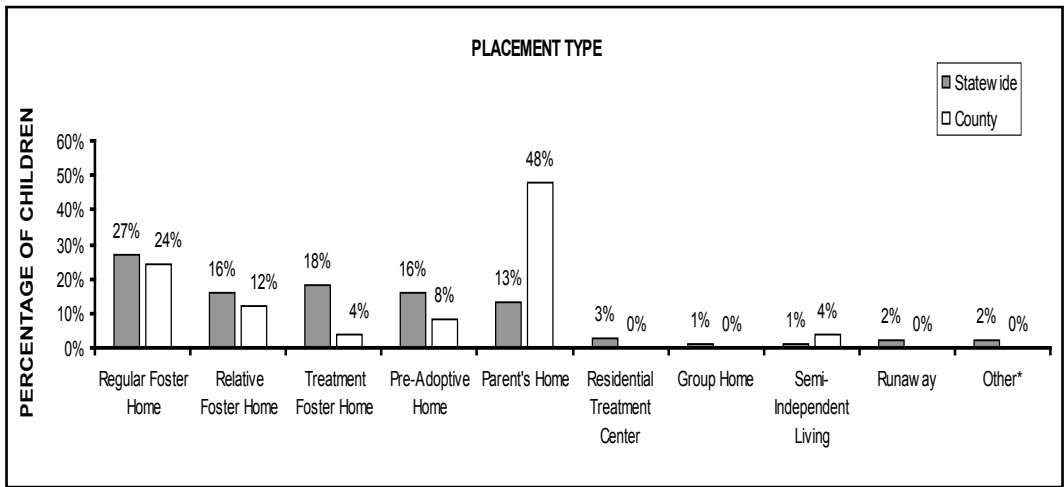
- Improved city transportation.
- CASA program was established.

Community Challenges

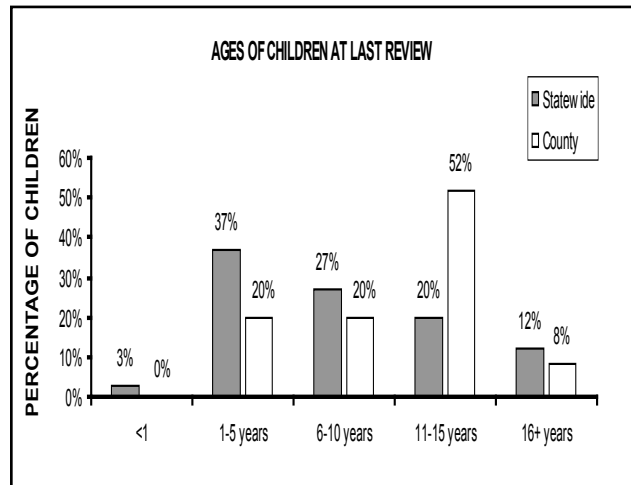
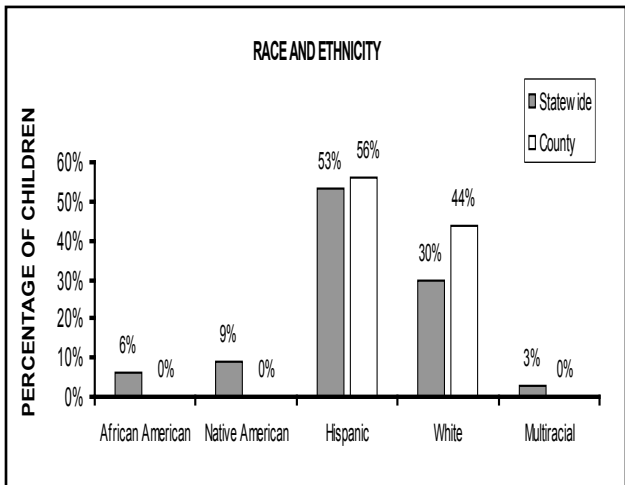
- Lack of recreational programs for children.
- Medical services are out of town for major issues.
- Lack of transportation.
- Immigration issues prolong cases.
- Lack of in-home services, psychological services, and mental health center.



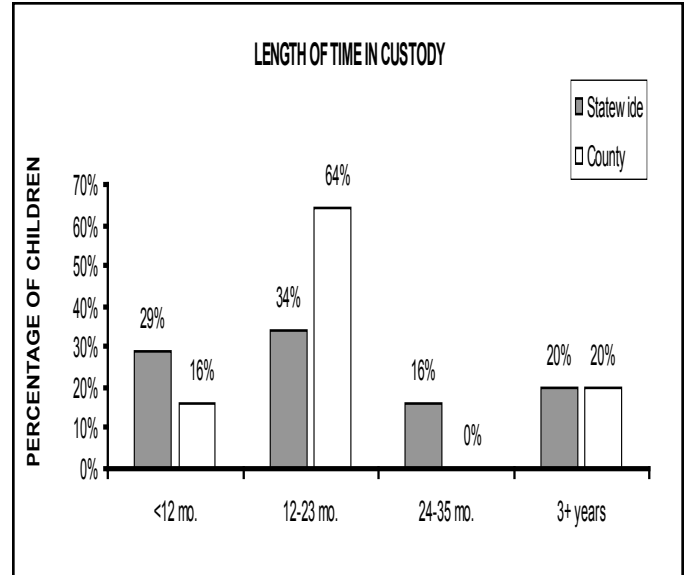
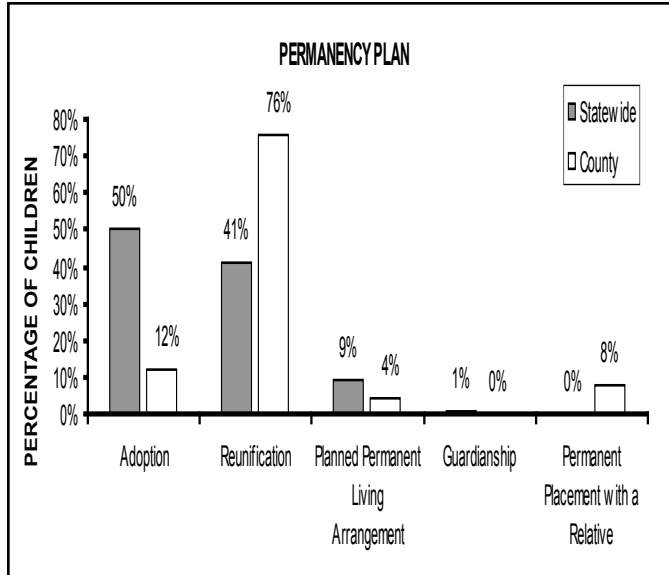
Data on the 25 Children Who Lived in Socorro County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



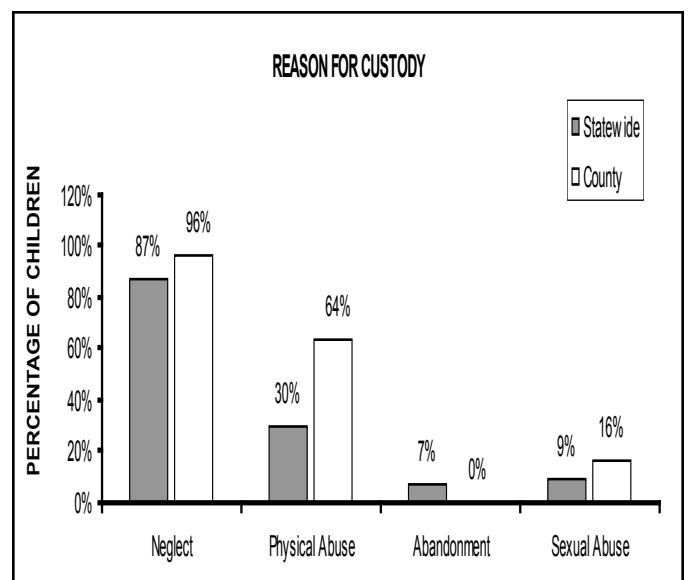
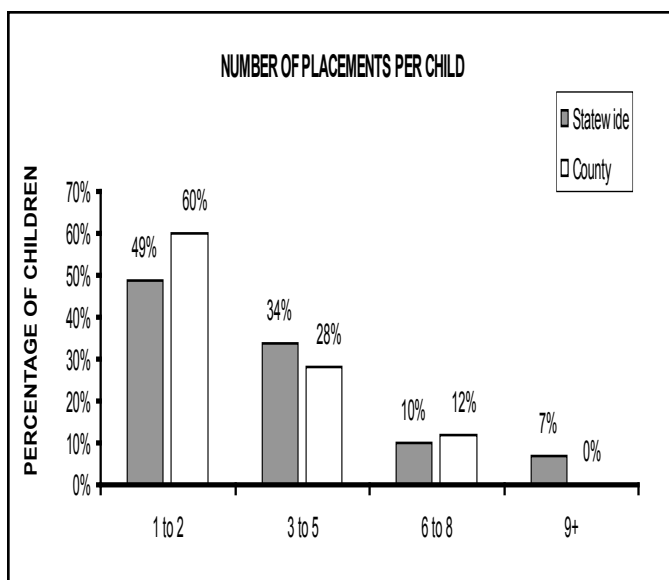
* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



Socorro County



Child and Parent Factors				
Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Socorro County	64%	36%	0%	40%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%
Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Socorro County	56%	44%	68%	90%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



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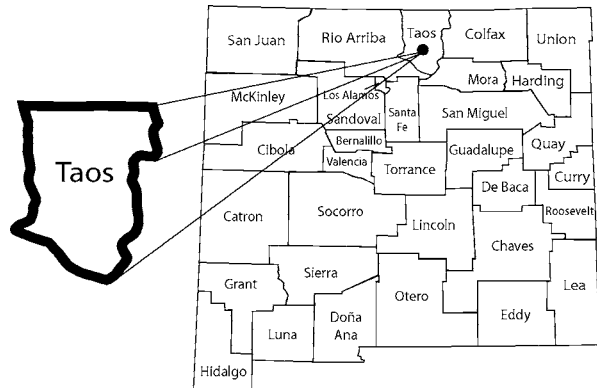
Taos County

Community Successes

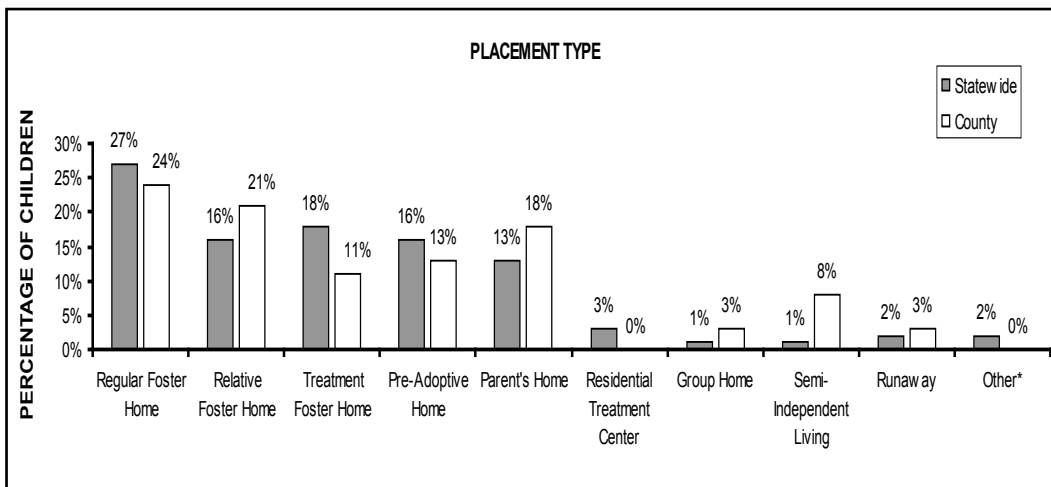
- Good adoptive homes.
- CASA program provides a CASA for each case.

Community Challenges

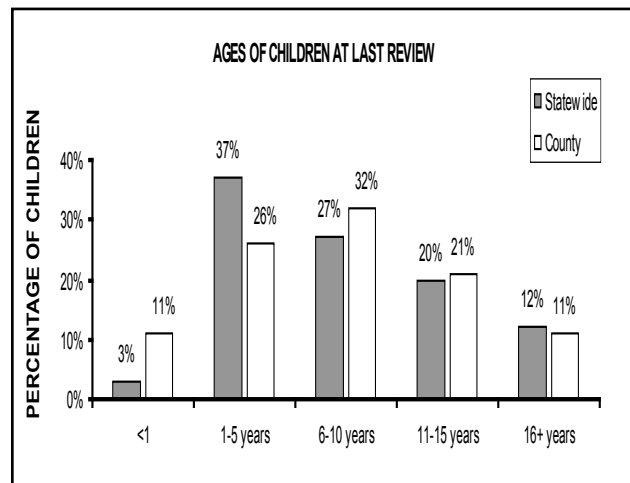
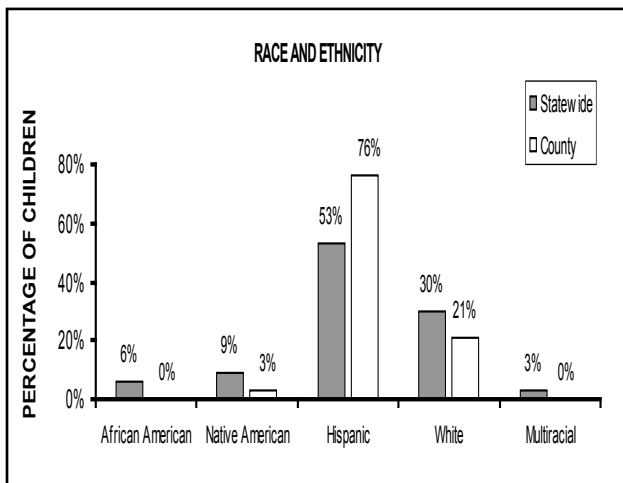
- Respondent attorneys are not engaged with their clients.
- Court system has too many changed court dates and continuances.



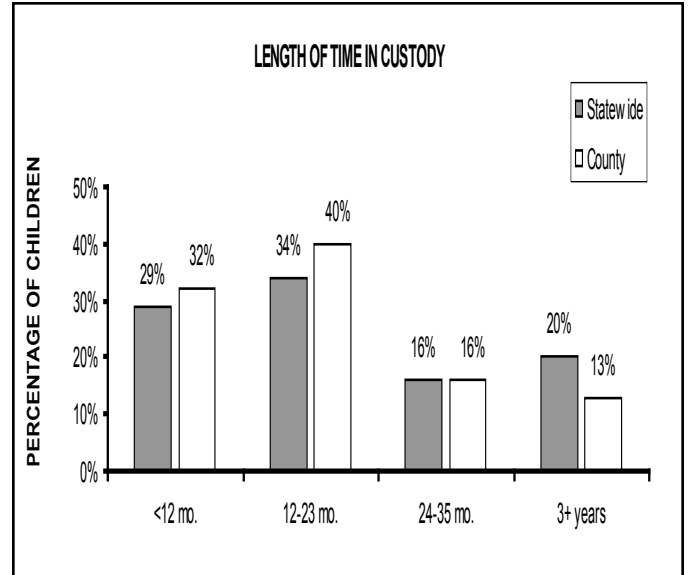
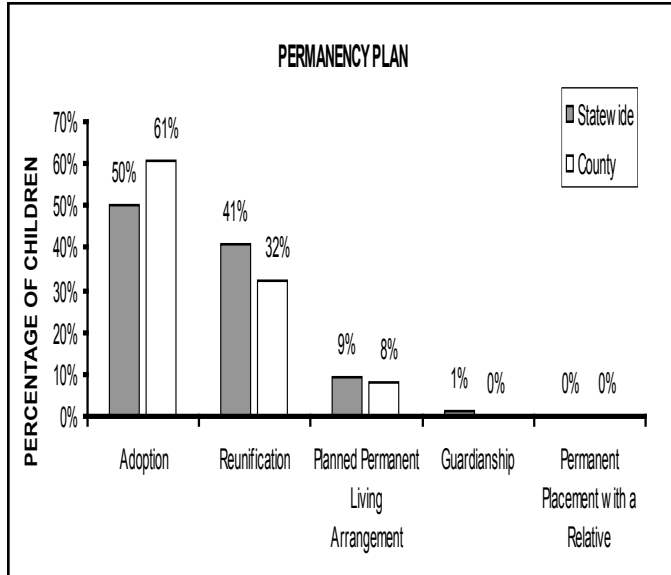
Data on the 38 Children Who Lived in Taos County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



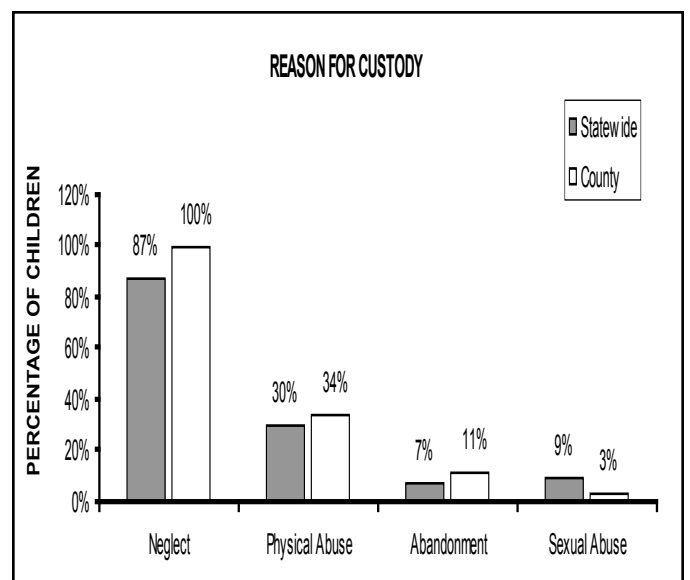
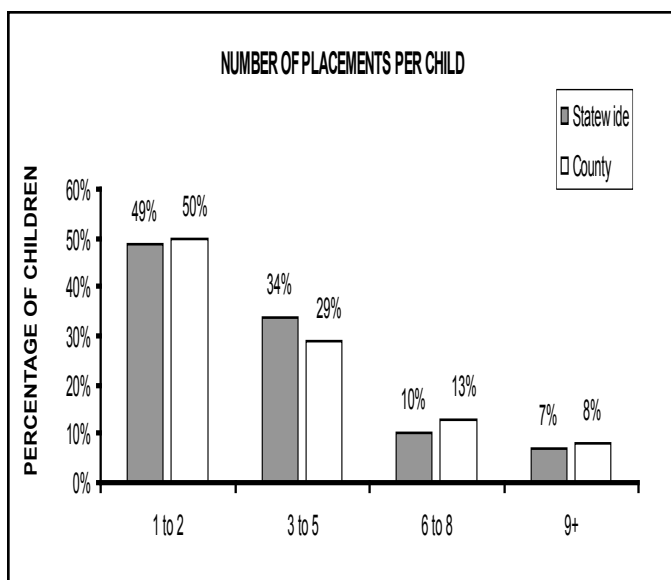
* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



Taos County



Child and Parent Factors				
Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Taos County	45%	29%	11%	37%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%
Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Taos County	68%	63%	55%	53%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



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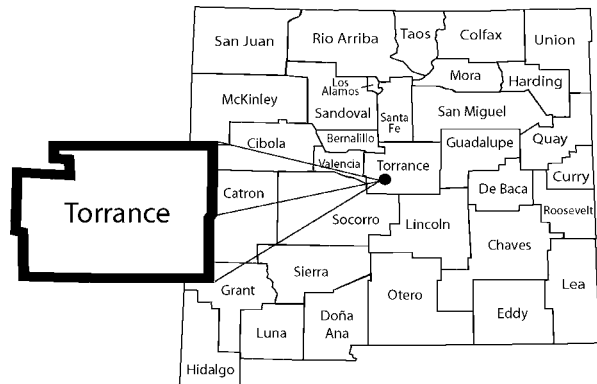
Torrance County

Community Successes

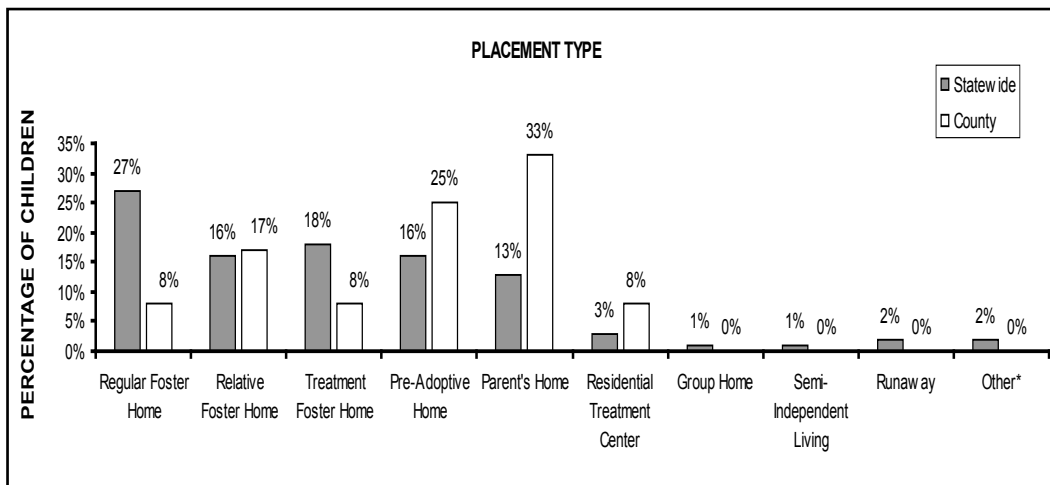
- Family Centered Meetings are reducing the number of children coming into custody.
- Adoption worker hired to work in the local CYFD office.

Community Challenges

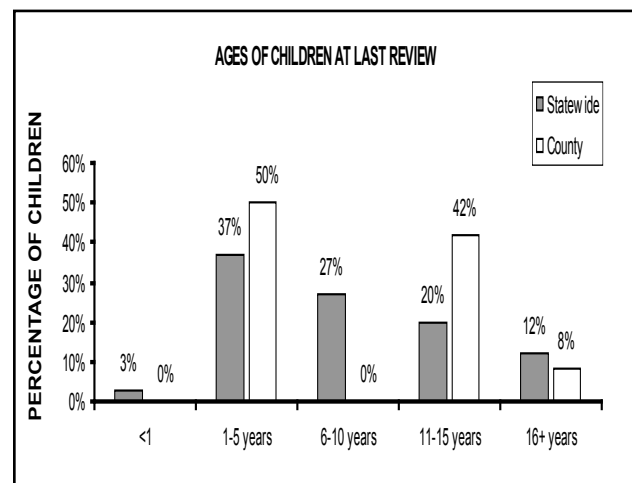
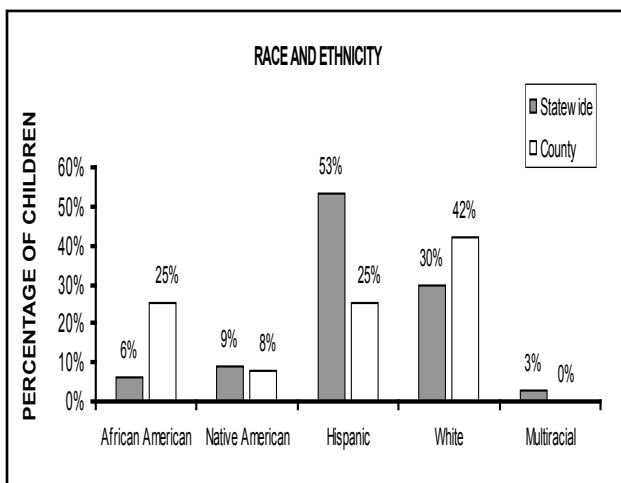
- Lack of local services.
- Lack of transportation to services that tend to be located in Albuquerque.



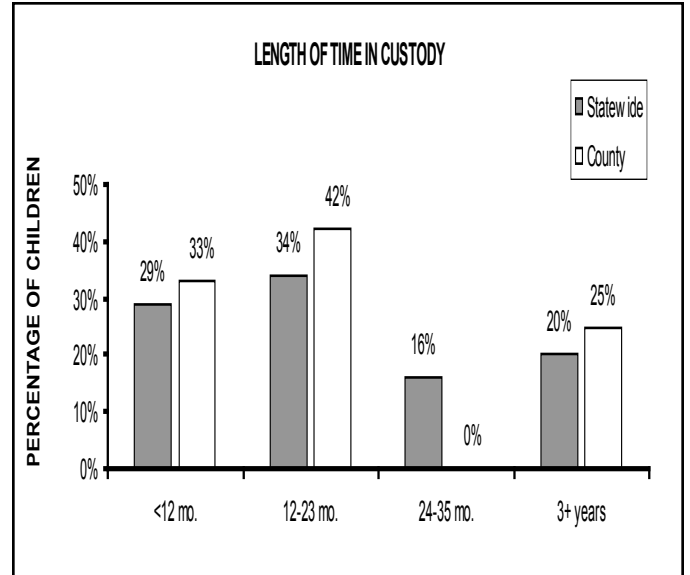
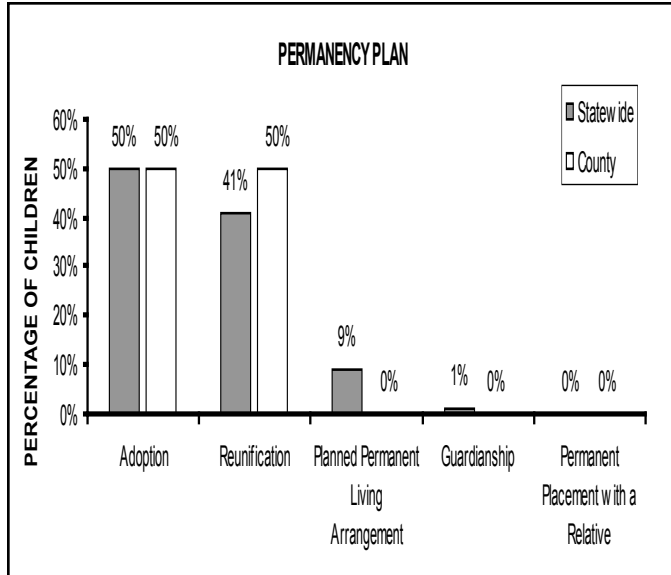
Data on the 12 Children Who Lived in Torrance County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



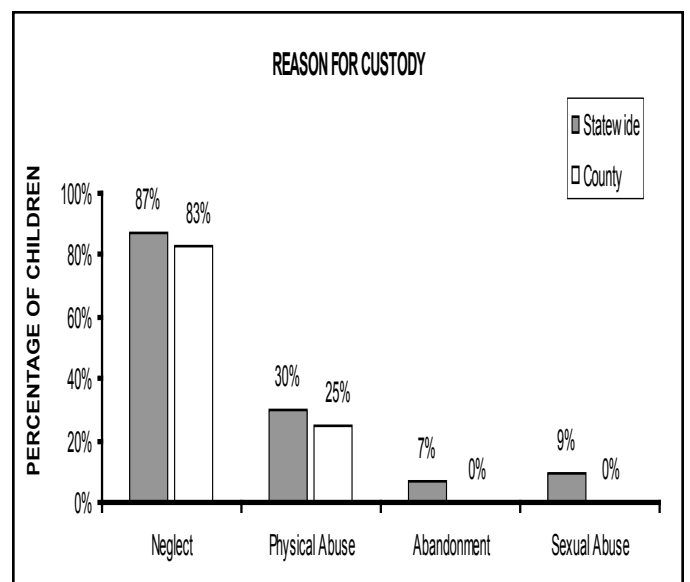
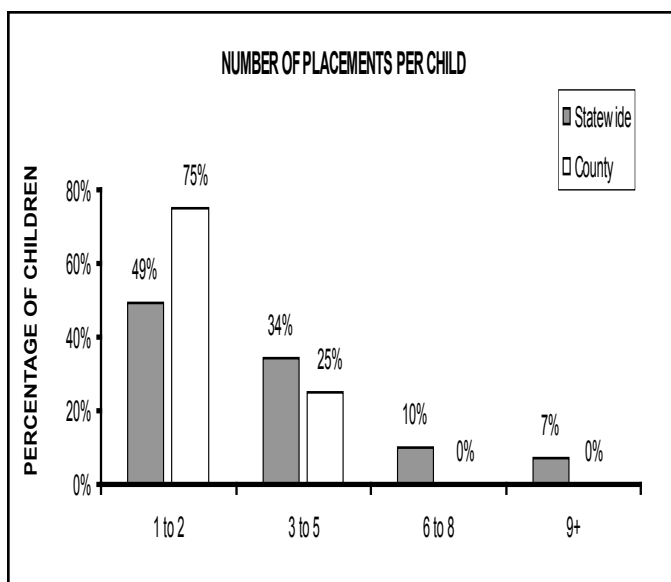
* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



Torrance County



Child and Parent Factors				
Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Torrance County	33%	42%	17%	42%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%
Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Torrance County	71%	46%	33%	46%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



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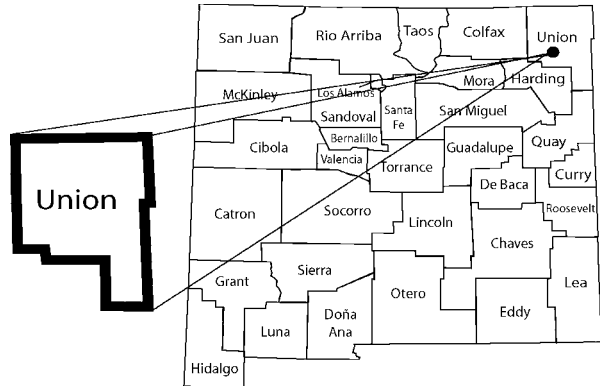
Union County

Community Successes

- CASA program is "on its feet" and is assigning CASA volunteers to cases.

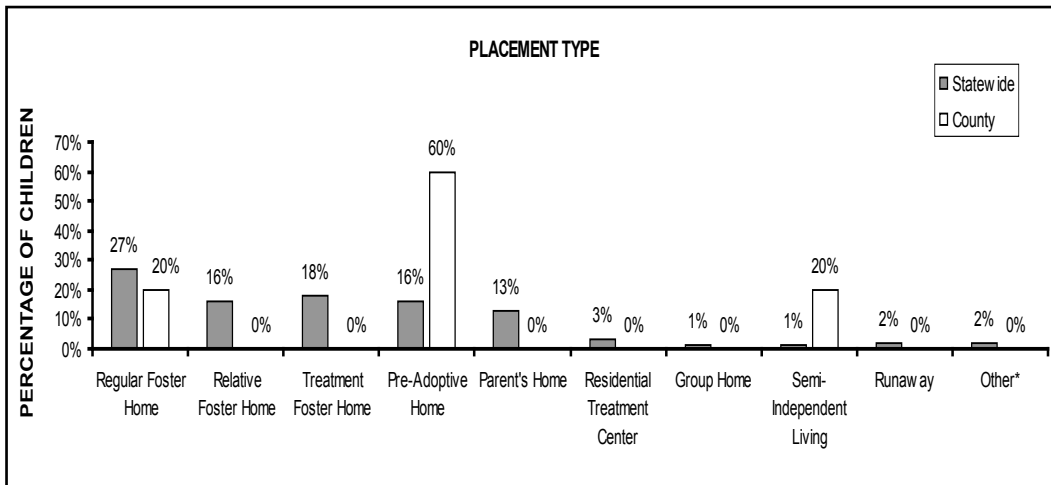
Community Challenges

- Lack of foster homes and treatment foster homes.

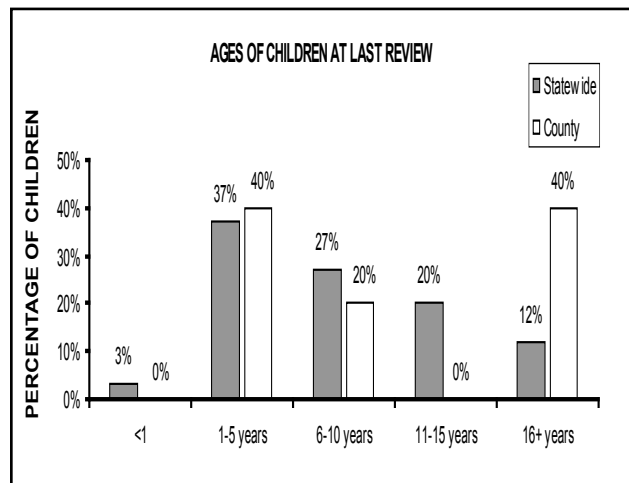
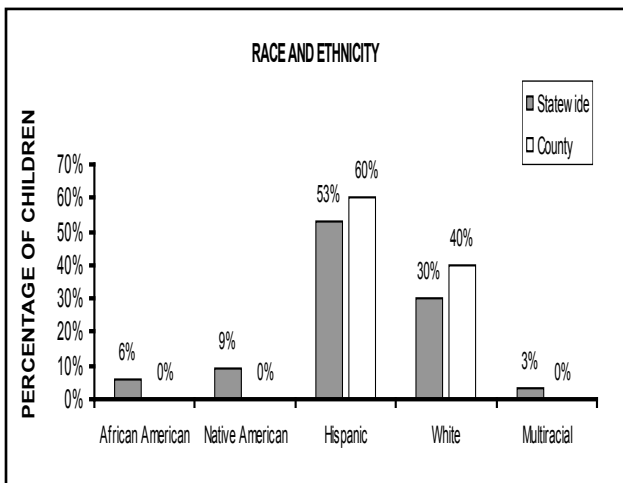


*The same board reviews cases in Colfax and Union counties, therefore, the Successes and Challenges reported are the same in both counties.

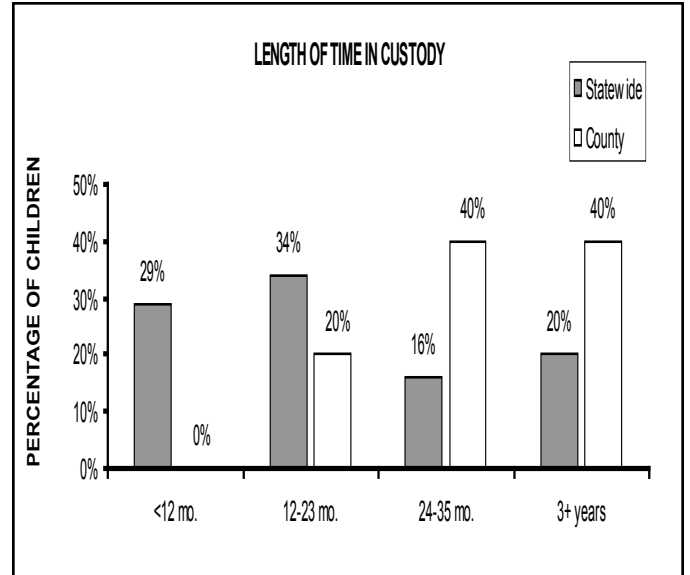
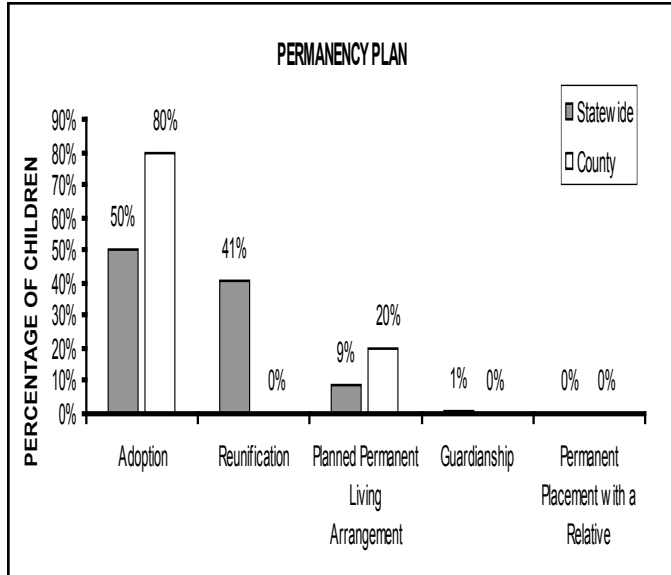
Data on the 5 Children Who Lived in Union County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



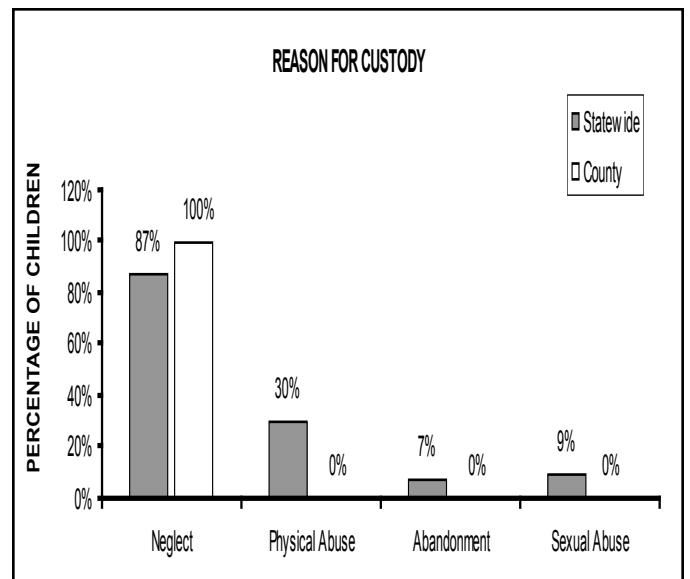
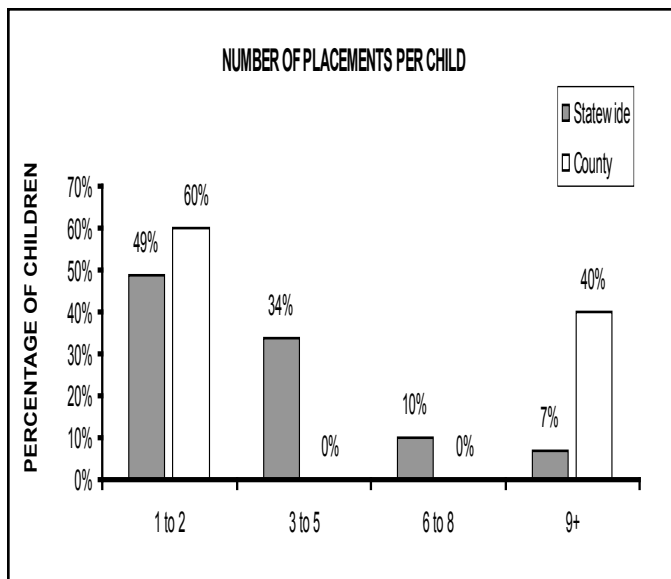
Union County



Child and Parent Factors

Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Union County	100%	20%	0%	0%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%

Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Union County	80%	0%	60%	60%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



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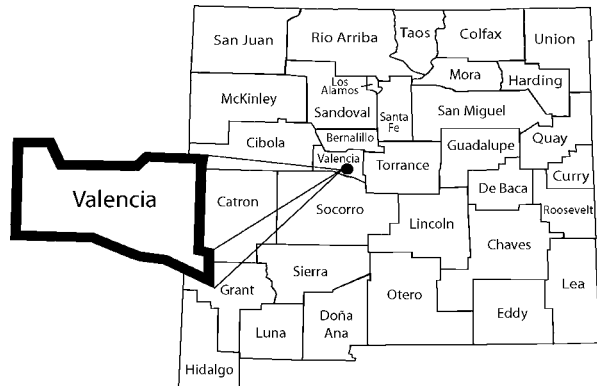
Valencia County

Community Successes

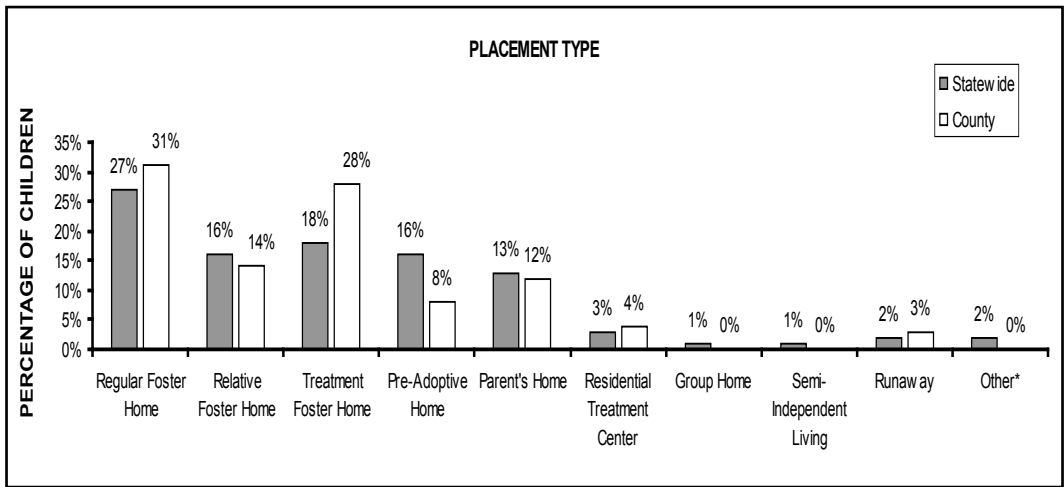
- None noted.

Community Challenges

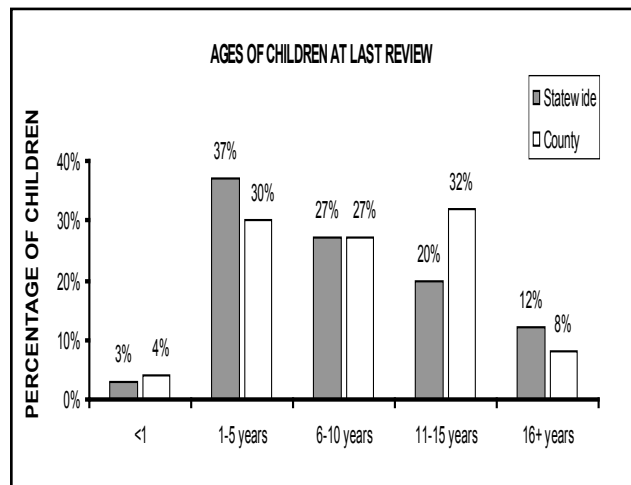
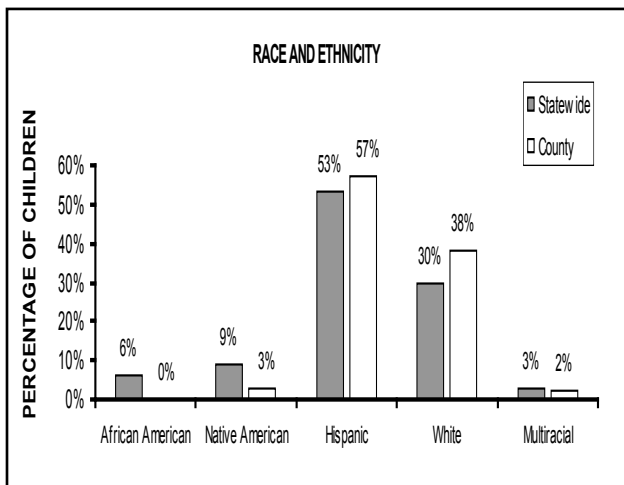
- Cases referred by CYFD to the District Attorney's office are rarely prosecuted.
- Many difficult cases with many siblings.
- Parents are not being properly represented by their attorneys.



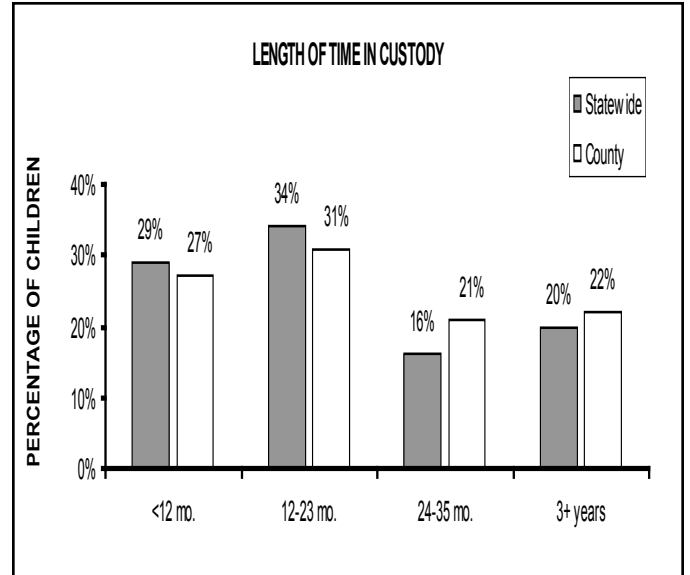
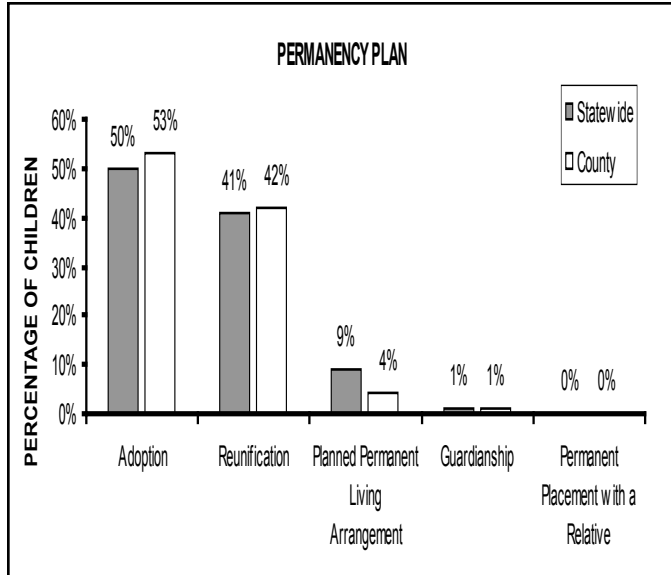
Data on the 101 Children Who Lived in Valencia County Reviewed by CRB at Last Review



* Other includes placement in an emergency shelter, incarceration or any other placement not otherwise listed.



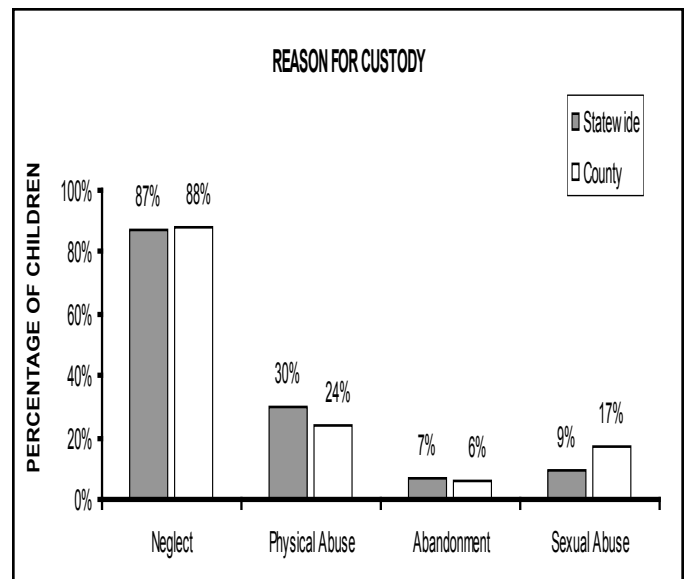
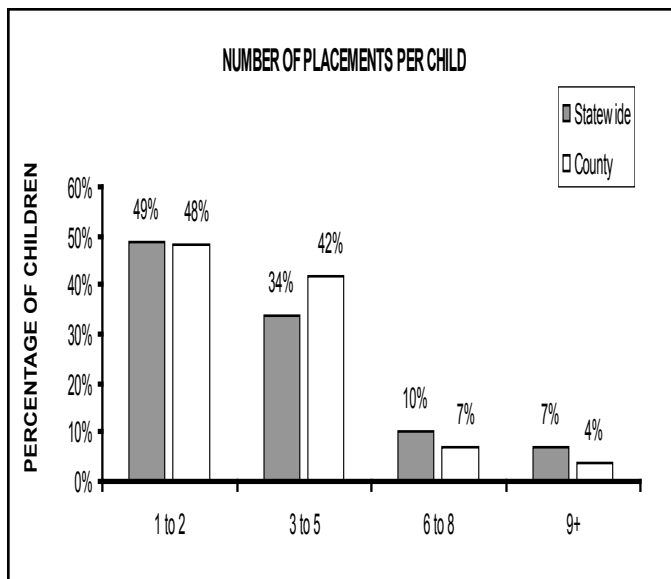
Valencia County



Child and Parent Factors

Children Who Had:	Behavioral or Emotional Problems	Educational or Developmental Problems	Physical or Medical Problems	Prior Custodies
Valencia County	64%	44%	19%	22%
Statewide	63%	50%	17%	29%

Parents Who:	Had a History of Substance Abuse	Were Impacted by Domestic Violence	Were Homeless or Had Inadequate Housing	Had Inadequate Financial Resources
Valencia County	57%	50%	54%	52%
Statewide	65%	51%	57%	61%



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Section VI
Acronyms
Definitions
CRB Publications
Statewide Advisory Committee and Staff
CRB Board Members by County

Acronyms

ASFA	Adoption and Safe Families Act
CASA	Court Appointed Special Advocate
CHINS	Children in Need of Services
COM	County Office Manager
CRB	Citizen Review Board
CYFD	Children, Youth and Families Department
DA	District Attorney
DFA	Department of Finance and Administration
FINS	Families in Need of Services
GAL	Guardian ad Litem
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
ICPC	Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children
ICWA	Indian Child Welfare Act
JPPO	Juvenile Probation and Parole Officer
PS	Protective Services of the Children, Youth and Families Department
PPW	Permanency Planning Worker (formerly known as Social Worker or Treatment Social Worker)
RA	Respondent Attorney
RTC	Residential Treatment Center
SAC	Statewide Advisory Committee of the Citizen Review Board
SCI	Statewide Central Intake of the Children, Youth and Families Department
SIL	Semi-Independent Living
SW	Treatment Social Worker (see PPW)
YA	Youth Attorney

Glossary

Adoption: A permanency plan to create the legal relationship between a child and an adult other than the child's biological parent that is identical to parent and biological child.

Concurrent Planning: Providing for reunification services while simultaneously developing and implementing an alternate plan. This usually means placing a child in a potentially permanent home while reunification efforts continue.

Custody: The legal guardianship of a child. Custody includes responsibility for a child's care, placement, and protection as well as various obligations and rights regarding the child. The Children, Youth and Families Department takes custody when a child is legally found to be abused and/or neglected by their parent or legal guardian.

Foster Home: A home that has been licensed and trained by CYFD to care for foster children.

Guardian ad Litem (GAL): Attorney for the child who represents child's best interests.

Guardianship/Permanent Guardianship: A permanency plan for a child to establish a court sanctioned arrangement which vests in a guardian all the rights and responsibilities of a parent without terminating the rights of the parents.

Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC): Agreement between states that allows home studies and certifications of out-of-state placements. ICPC defines procedures and responsibility for those involved in placing the child.

Permanent Placement with a Relative: A permanency plan to permanently place a child in the home of his/her relative.

Permanency Plan: A plan for finding an appropriate permanent home for a child in the protective custody of CYFD. The current CYFD permanency plans include *adoption*, *guardianship*, *planned permanent living arrangement (PPLA)*, *reunification*, and *permanent placement with a relative*.

Planned Permanent Living Arrangement: A permanency plan to provide physical and emotional permanency for an adolescent who resides in an out-of-home placement.

Referral or Report: A report by anyone to the Children, Youth and Families Department indicating that a child may be neglected and/or abused.

Respondent Attorney: Attorney for the parent(s).

Reunification: A permanency plan to return a child to the home of his/her parent or guardian or where the child remains in the physical custody of his/her parent or guardian.

Termination of Parental Rights: A court proceeding which divests a parent of all legal rights, privileges, duties, and obligations with respect to the child.

Treatment Foster Care: Service provided by a foster home which has received specialized training and has been licensed by a treatment foster care agency to handle children that have severe emotional and behavioral disabilities.

Youth Attorney: Attorney for children aged 14 and older. This attorney represents the child's expressed wishes before the judge and others.

CRB Publications

New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board. CRB Annual Report and Recommendations. Albuquerque, NM.

(Available online at www.nmcrb.org)

New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board. PREVIEW: Annual Report and Recommendations. Albuquerque, NM.

(Available online at www.nmcrb.org)

New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board. (2005). CRB Interim Report on Foster Parenting in New Mexico. Albuquerque, NM.

(Available online at www.nmcrb.org)

New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board. (2002). Spotlight On: Child Sexual Abuse and Sex Offender Accountability. Albuquerque, NM.

(Available online at www.nmcrb.org)

New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board. (2002). Spotlight On: Drugs and Alcohol: The Tragic Story for Abused & Neglected Children. Albuquerque, NM.

(Available online at www.nmcrb.org)

New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board. (2001). Spotlight On: Legal Representation for Abused and Neglected Children. Albuquerque, NM.

(Available online at www.nmcrb.org)

New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board. (2001). Spotlight On: The Statewide Central Intake Unit of the Children, Youth, and Families Department. Albuquerque, NM.

(Available online at www.nmcrb.org)

New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board. (2000). Spotlight On: Turnover Among Social Workers at the Children, Youth, and Families Department. Albuquerque, NM.

(Available online at www.nmcrb.org)

New Mexico Friends of Foster Children Fund. NMFFCF Annual Report. Albuquerque, NM

(Available online at www.nmcrb.org)

New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board (CRB)

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Vice-Chair	Jack Carpenter, Taos
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Northeast Regional Representative	Michael Hodge, Rocinda
Southwest Regional Representative	Carl Ashwood, Alamogordo
Southeast Regional Representative	Pat Dunn, Hobbs
Bernalillo County Representative	John Wilson, Albuquerque
At-Large Member	Gwynn Dunstan, Albuquerque
At-Large Member	Rita Aronson, Albuquerque
Public Member	Steve Johnson, Albuquerque
Legislative Subcommittee, Co-Chair	Bonnie Geer, Albuquerque
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Reports and Publications Subcommittee, Chair	Rita Aronson, Albuquerque
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Patricia Briggs	Project Director
Rebekah Herrera-Cawley	Data & Website Coordinator
Ezra Spitzer	NMCAN Data & Reporting Manager

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Patricia Briggs	Project Director, New Mexico Citizen Review Board
Janice Trujillo	Regional Specialist and Volunteer Coordinator
Rebekah Herrera-Cawley	Data, Board & Website Coordinator
Cynthia Dean	Administrative Coordinator
Vicki Anderson	SE Regional Specialist
Theresa Cano de Ochoa	SW Regional Specialist
Linda Kennedy	NE Regional Specialist
Debbie Sant	Metro Area Regional Specialist
Tawnya Thayer	NW Regional Specialist

New Mexico Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen Review Board (CRB)

CRB BOARD MEMBERS

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Corinne Carmony
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Genevieve Armstrong
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