



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services

325 North Salisbury Street • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2411
Courier # 56-20-25

Micheal F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Pheon E. Beal, Director
(919) 733-3055

October 8, 2003

Dear County Director of Social Services

Subject: Probability of Placement for Children Initially Substantiated for Abuse and Neglect

With the rapid changes that have been occurring in North Carolina's Child Welfare system, we at the Division felt that it was necessary to develop a report that links the Central Registry data (DSS-5104) to data from the Child Placement and Payment system (DSS-5094). The "Probability of Placement for Children Initially Substantiated for Abuse or Neglect Report," includes information related to the number of children with an initial substantiated abuse and/or neglect report and the likelihood they will enter DSS custody.

The requirements for inclusion in the report are:

- 1) Children with a substantiated report of abuse, neglect, and/or abuse & neglect.
- 2) Children whose initial substantiated report fell within one of the following State Fiscal Years: SFY 97-98, 98-99, 99-00, 00-01, 01-02.

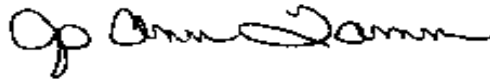
Children were then grouped into entry cohorts by date of first substantiated abuse and neglect report. Data reflect children with substantiated reports from July 1, 1997 to June 30, 2002. The follow-up time is from 1 year to 6.25 years (through June 30, 2002).

We are asking that your agency review the data included in this report with your staff, and if you have any questions or concerns, please provide feedback that will help us clarify the contents of this report. We know that the potential for improving our child welfare system can be enhanced by the analysis of this level of data, and realize the importance of making sure that the data we analyze is correct.

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We appreciate your continued support in helping us to infuse performance measurement into Child Welfare Services in North Carolina. If you have questions about this report, call Adolph Simmons, Jr. at (919) 733-3801.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JoAnn Lamm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "L".

JoAnn Lamm, Program Administrator
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Section

JAL/asj

cc: Pheon E. Beal
Sherry Bradsher
Children's Program Representatives
Work First Representatives
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Team Leaders
Local Business Liaisons

FSCWS-24-03

Probability of Placement for Children Initially Substantiated for Abuse and Neglect: SFY 1995-96 through SFY 1999-00

The data in this report describe characteristics of children who had a substantiated report for abuse and/or neglect for the first time in SFY 97-98 through SFY 01-02. The report provides the estimated likelihood that these children will subsequently enter DSS custody. Data reflect children with a substantiation from July 1, 1997 to June 30, 2002. In addition to data for a specific county, each report includes results for North Carolina as a whole, as well as data for a group of counties corresponding to the given county's Division of Social Services (DSS) designation as Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3.

The data are organized by groups or cohorts of children who have a substantiated report of abuse or neglect for the first time in each fiscal year. The advantages of using these data are complete and accurate representation of all children within a specific cohort; valid and reliable estimates of abuse and neglect entries; and early indications of program effects and outcomes.

Characteristics of Children with an Initial Substantiated Report of Abuse/Neglect describes basic demographic information such as age, and race of children, along with the initial finding for each child (Abuse, Neglect, Abuse and Neglect, and Dependency). The age range in years is 0-6, 7-12, and 13-17. The race includes Black, White, and other. The decision was made to include the two largest racial/ethnic groups in the state because of the large number of race codes used in North Carolina. If your county has a substantial population for other racial/ethnic groups, you can request a report with those data included.

Probability of Placement Following an Initial Substantiated Report of Abuse/Neglect estimates the likelihood that a child will enter placement within specified time frames after an initial substantiation. The estimates are based on four time frames: 6 months, 12 months, 1 1/2 years, and 2 years. These time frames were selected so that within each period we could provide follow-up data of at least two years.

Probability of Placement-By Race-Following an Initial Substantiated Report of Abuse and Neglect estimates the likelihood that children, grouped by race/ethnicity, will enter DSS custody after an initial substantiation. The estimates are based on four time frames: 6 months, 12 months, 11/2 years, and 2 years. These time frames were selected so that within each period we could provide follow-up data for at least two years.

How do I interpret the data?

If reviewing the tables that include North Carolina's statewide data, you can conclude that in SFY 97-98, 22,953 children in the state had a substantiated report of abuse or neglect for the first time. Approximately 11% entered DSS custody within 6 months. More specifically, 10% of white children, 12% of black children, and 11% of the other racial/ethnic groups entered DSS custody within 6 months after an initial substantiation of abuse, neglect, abuse and neglect and dependency.

Level 1 counties should pay close attention to the raw number of children substantiated. The number may be too small to draw any conclusions from the data. If a data cell contains a NA, this means that insufficient data was available to estimate the probability of placement for a particular category.