

Summary of Santa Clara County's Child Welfare Services Quarterly Data Report October 2006

Background

This quarterly report summarizes Santa Clara County's (SCC) progress toward achieving improvements on the state-mandated California Child and Family Services Review (C-CFSR) outcomes.

The C-CFSR measures discussed in the report include the five outcomes measures selected for inclusion into the System Improvement Plan (SIP), which are:

- Overrepresentation of Children of Color upon First Entry into Foster Care
- Referrals with a Timely Response
- Timely Social Worker Visits
- Multiple Foster Care Placements
- Foster Care Re-Entries

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) in October 2006 released the data collected from July 2000 to April 2006 analyzed in this report.¹ Reference to progress made on the Federal measures is also provided on page 16 of this report. (To learn more about California performance data, visit <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports>.)

Summary of Outcome Measure Performance

SCC is utilizing the State measures to track progress pertaining to the five SIP target areas.

This report also provides a summary of performance on Federal and State measures. Ethnicity data is cited for outcome measures when available. Due to the statistically small number of Native Americans represented, the percentage changes in performance measures may appear drastic. Therefore, caution is required when interpreting data related to Native Americans.

For the last three reporting quarters, SCC continued perform better than the State average on most of Federal and State indicators with exception to Recurrence of Maltreatment (Federal measure), Immediate Response to investigations, Foster Care Reentries (both State measures), and Placement Stability (Federal and State measures).

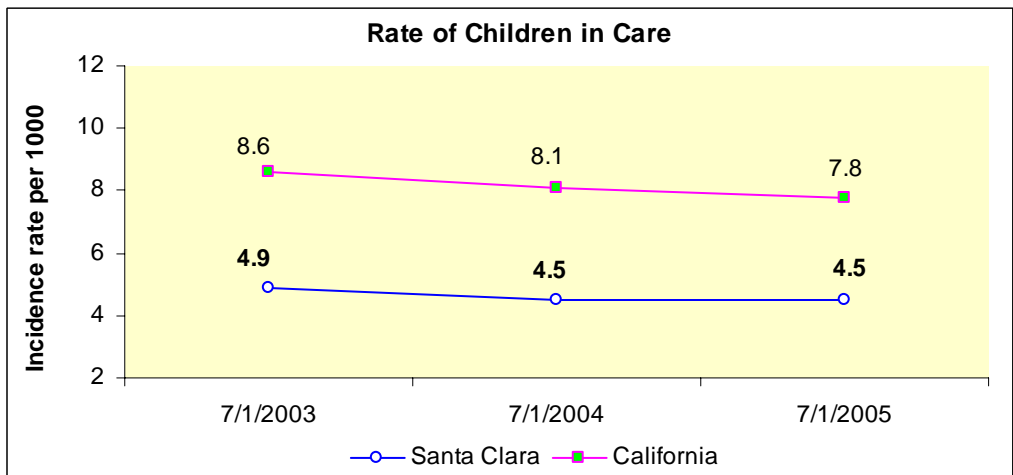
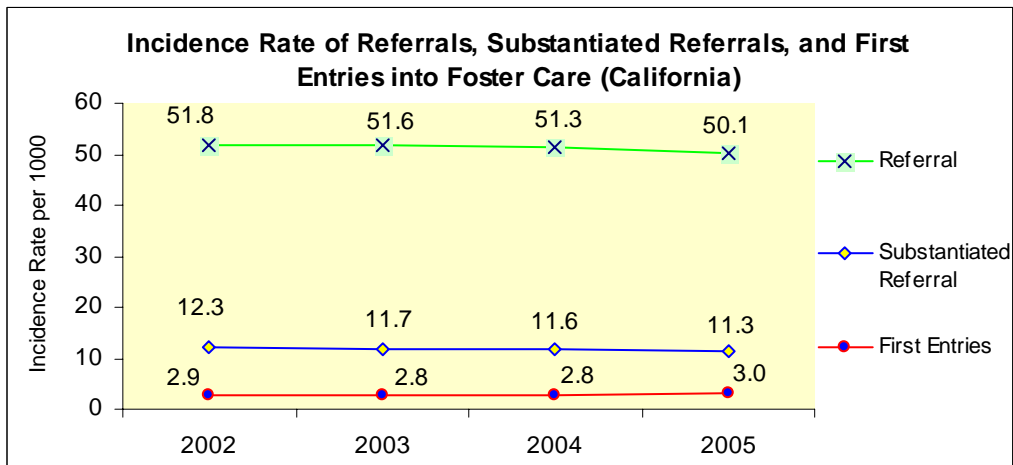
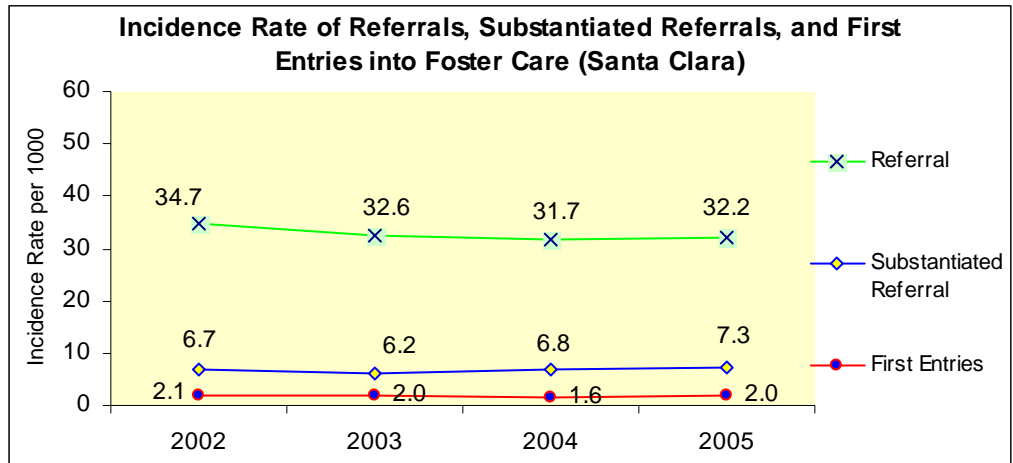
Substantial and consistent improvements are evident in ten-day response investigations and social worker visits. Timely social worker visits exceeded the State average consistently for the last five reporting periods, ending this quarter with an average of 92.8%. In addition, the rate of abuse of children in care (new methodology) decreased to 0%. Recurrence of Maltreatment by any and first substantiations declined consecutively to 9.6% and 9.0% respectively, performing better than State average. Performance in reunifying children and finalizing adoptions remain above the State average. Reunification within 12 months improved to 41.9% and adoption finalized within 24 months remained steady at 8.5%.

Foster Care Reentries within 12-months after reunification continued to increase since the baseline period to a high of 18.1% and Placement Stability based on both entry and exit cohorts remains below the State average.

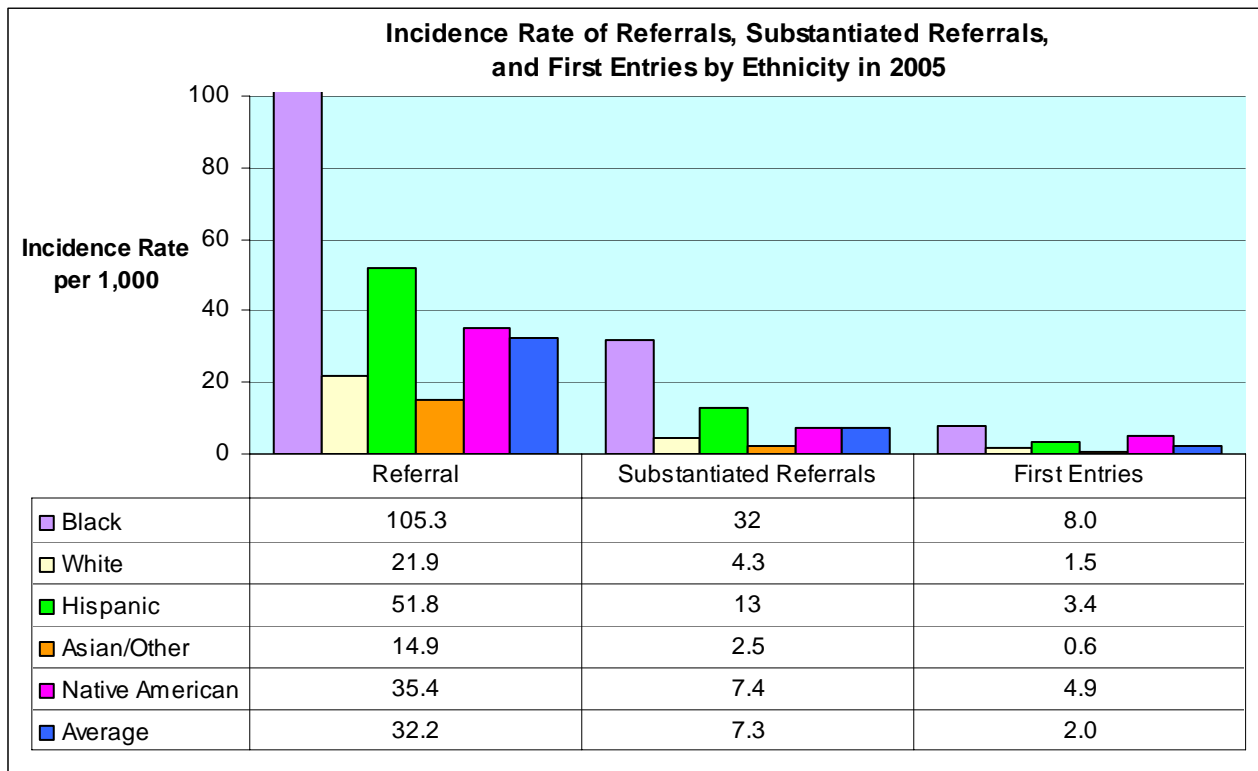
¹ Measurement periods vary for outcome measures based on methodology. Data sources are California Child Welfare Services Outcome and Accountability Data Reports for Santa Clara County and California. Ethnicity data cited in this report was extracted on 10/26/2006 from the University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website.

Rate of Referrals, Substantiated Referrals, First Entries into Foster Care, and Children in Care

- The incidence rate of referrals increased from 31.7 per 1,000 in 2004, to 32.2 in 2005.
- The incidence rate of substantiated referrals increased from 6.8 per 1,000 in 2004 to 7.3 in 2005.
- The incidence rate of first entries into care (stayed five days or more) increased from 1.6 per 1,000 in 2004 to 2.0 in 2005.
- The incidence rate of children in care remained the same at 4.5 per 1,000 on 7/1/2004 and 7/1/2005.



- There is significant overrepresentation of Black and Hispanic children in referrals, substantiated referrals and first entries into foster care. In 2005, the incidence rate of first entries into care for Black children are 8.0 per 1,000 and for Hispanic children are 3.4 per 1,000, compared to the County's average rate of 2.0 per 1,000.²



² Child Welfare Reports for California, retrieved on 8/8/2006 from the University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website: URL://<http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports> based on 2005 Q4 data extract. Note current data reported based on 2006 Q2 data is slightly different due to data revisions.

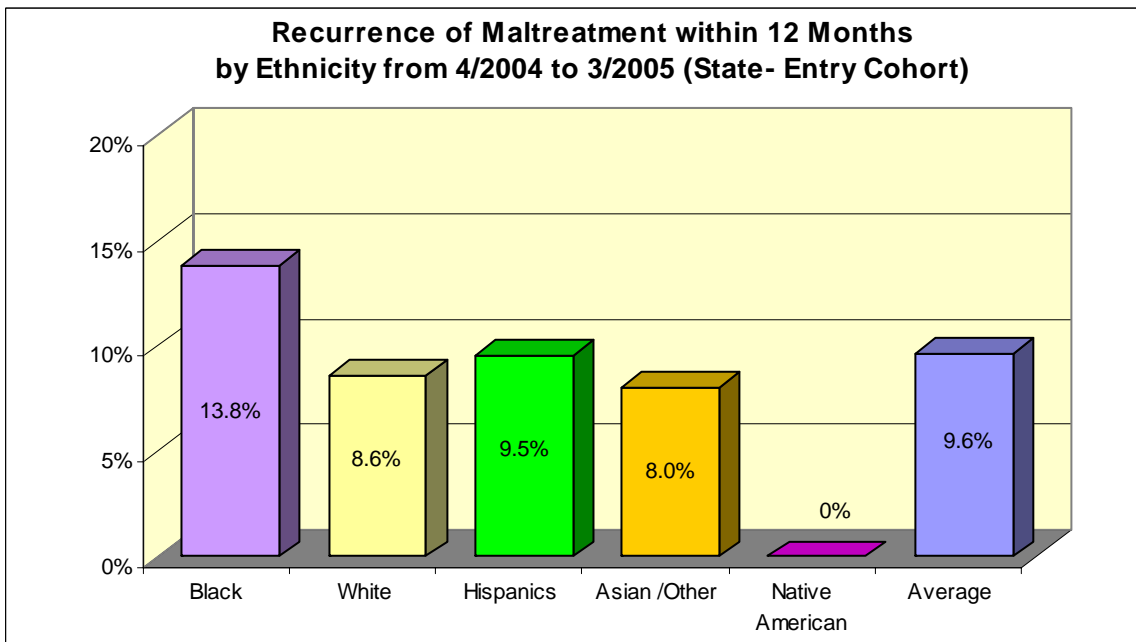
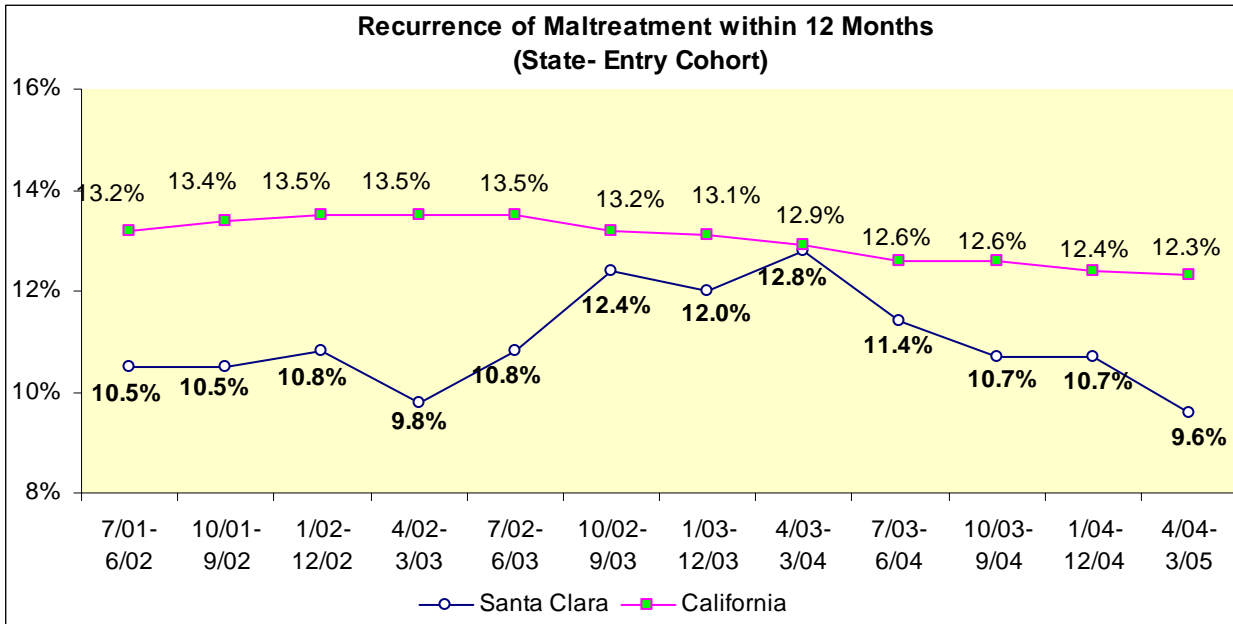
SAFETY OUTCOMES

These measures are designed to reflect the effectiveness of efforts to protect children from abuse/neglect by reporting instances of abuse and neglect at various stages of child welfare services, which reflect the frequency of social worker contact with children and the timeliness of face-to-face investigation of abuse/neglect allegations.

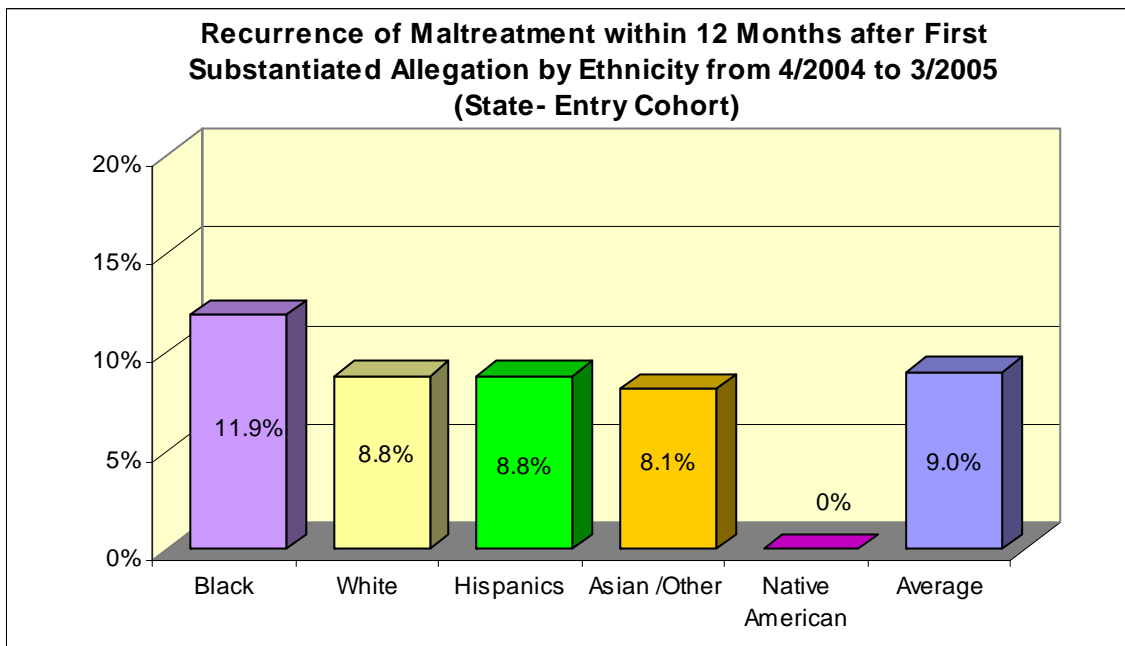
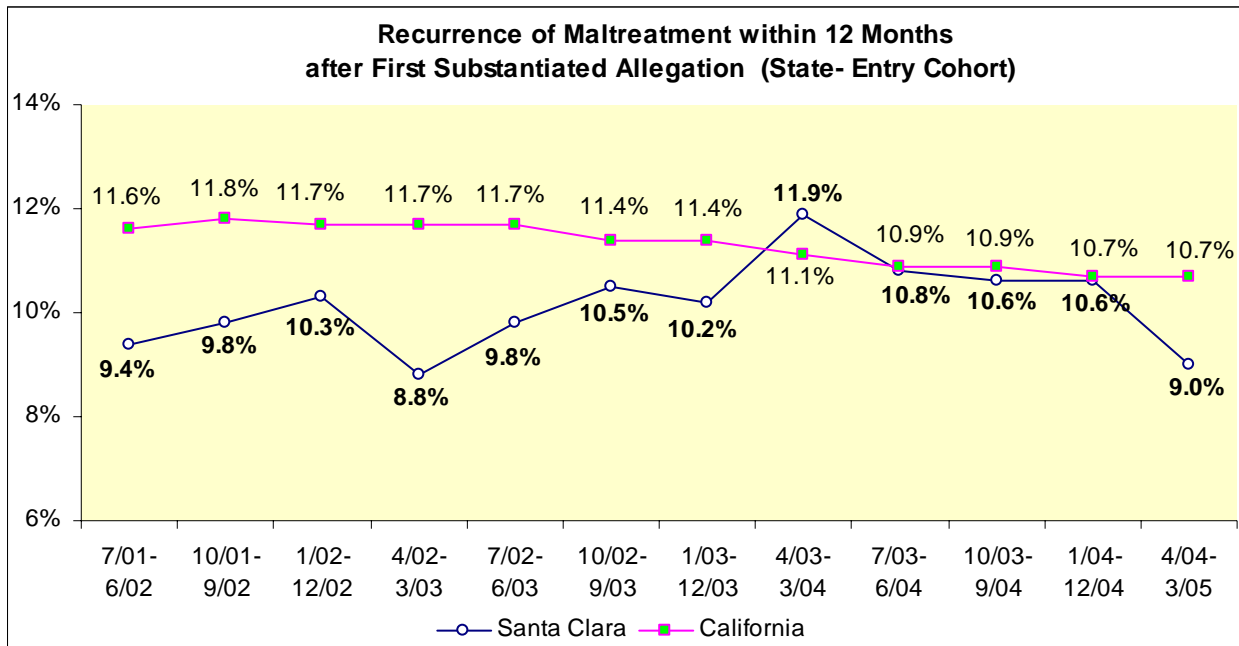
Recurrence of Maltreatment

(This measure reflects the percent of children who were victims of child abuse/neglect with a subsequent substantiated report of abuse/neglect within specific time-periods.)

- 9.6% of all children with a substantiated allegation in 4/2004-3/2005 had another substantiated allegation within 12 months, as compared to 10.7% in 1/2004-12/2004.
URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/Referrals/recurrence.asp>



- 9.0% of all children with a first substantiated allegation in 4/2004-3/2005 had a subsequent substantiated allegation within 12 months, as compared to 10.6% in 1/2004-12/2004
 URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/Referrals/recurrence.asp>

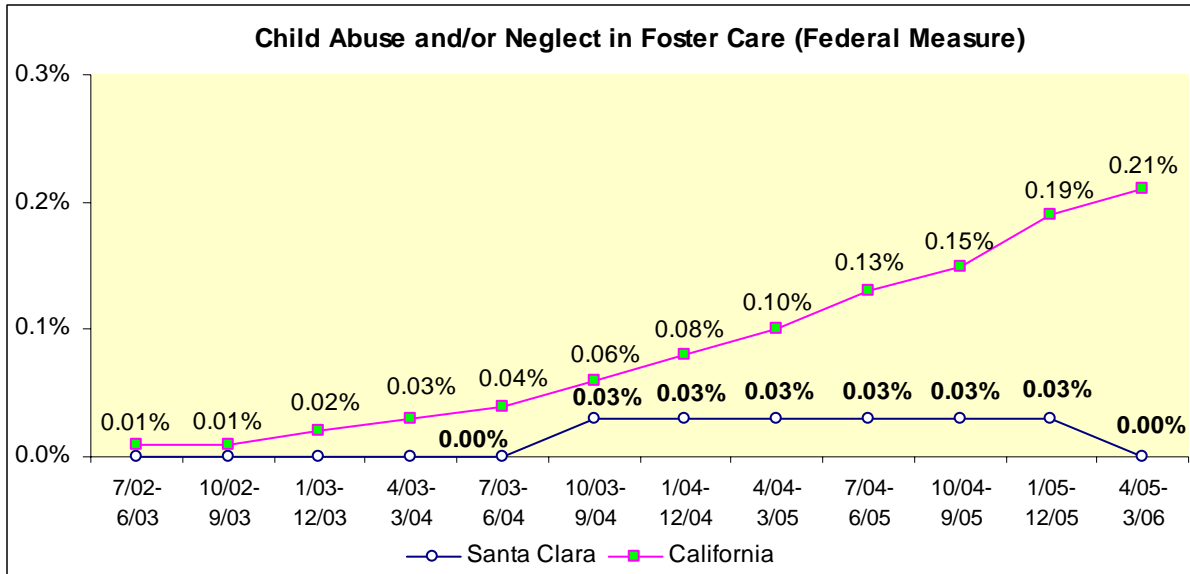


Rate of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care

(This measure reflects the percent of children in foster care who are abused or neglected while in foster care placements. The methodology is revised to include most placement types and a full 12-month reporting period.)

- 0% of children had a substantiated allegation in a foster care placement in 4/2005-3/2006, as compared to 0.03% in 1/2005-12/2005.

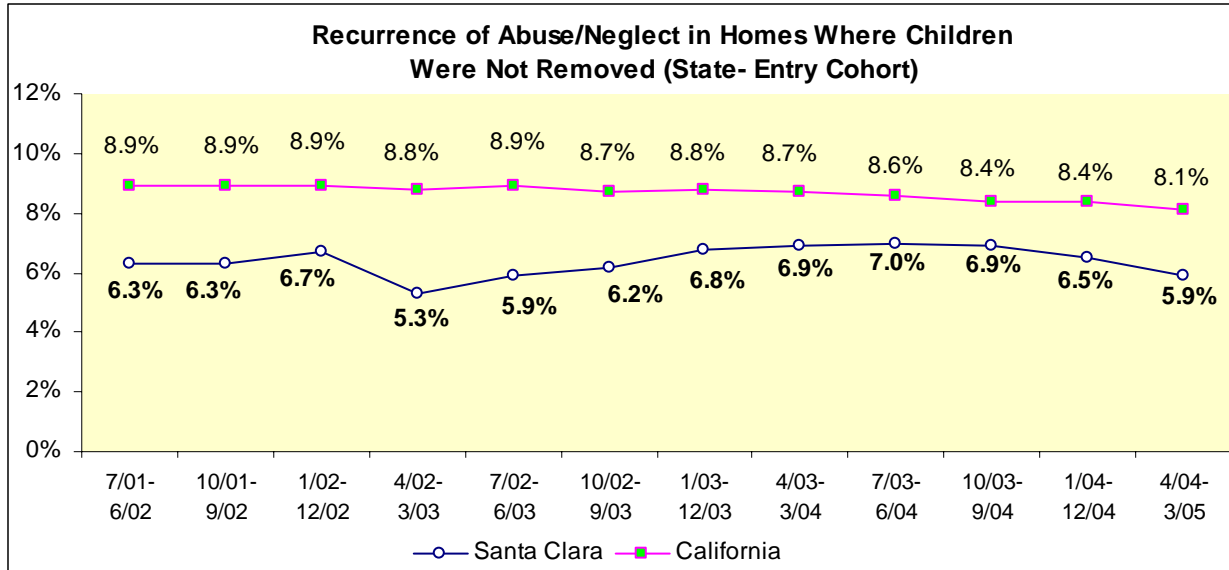
URL: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/cfsrdata/standards/cfsr_abuse.asp



(Ethnicity data is not available.)

Rate of Recurrence of Abuse and/or Neglect in Homes Where Children Were Not Removed
(This measure reflects the recurrence of abuse and/or neglect of children who remain in their own homes.)

- 5.9% of children, who had an inconclusive or substantiated allegation in 4/2004-3/2005 and were not removed, had a subsequent substantiated allegation within 12 months, as compared to 6.5% in 1/2004-12/2004. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/Ccfsr.asp#2A>



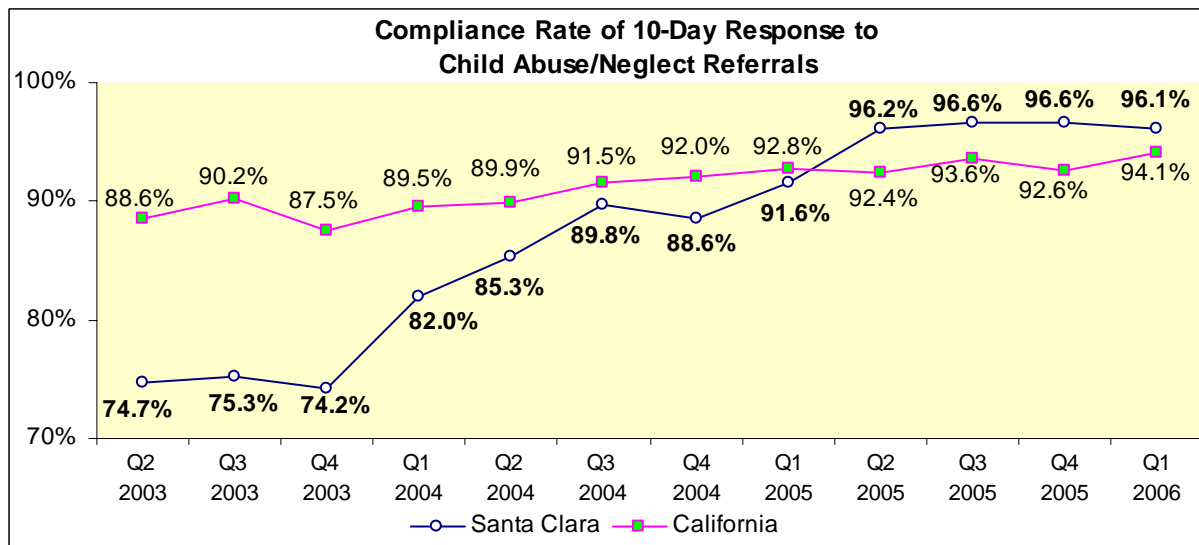
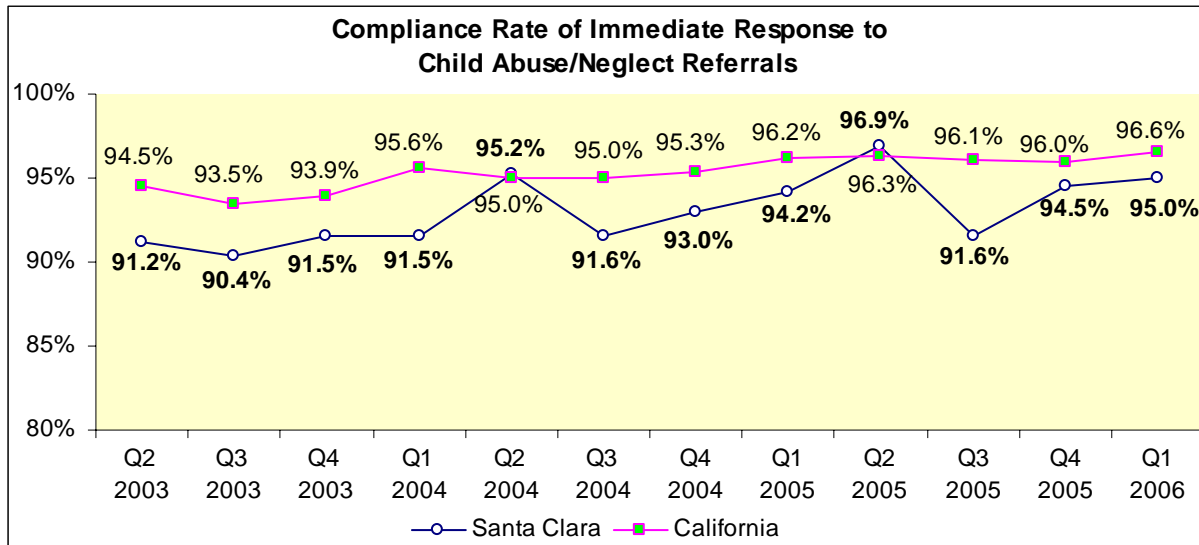
(Ethnicity data for current reporting period is not available.)

Referrals with a Timely Response

(This measure determines the percent of referrals that resulted in a face-to-face investigation with a child that occurs, or is attempted, within required time-frames in situations in which allegations indicate significant danger to the child, stratified by immediate response and ten-day referrals, for both planned and actual visits.)

- In Q1 2006, 95.0% of Immediate Response referrals received a timely response, compared to 94.5% in Q4 2005. Also in Q1 2006, 96.1% of ten-day referrals received a timely response, compared to 96.6% in Q4 2005.

URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/Ccfsr.asp#2B>

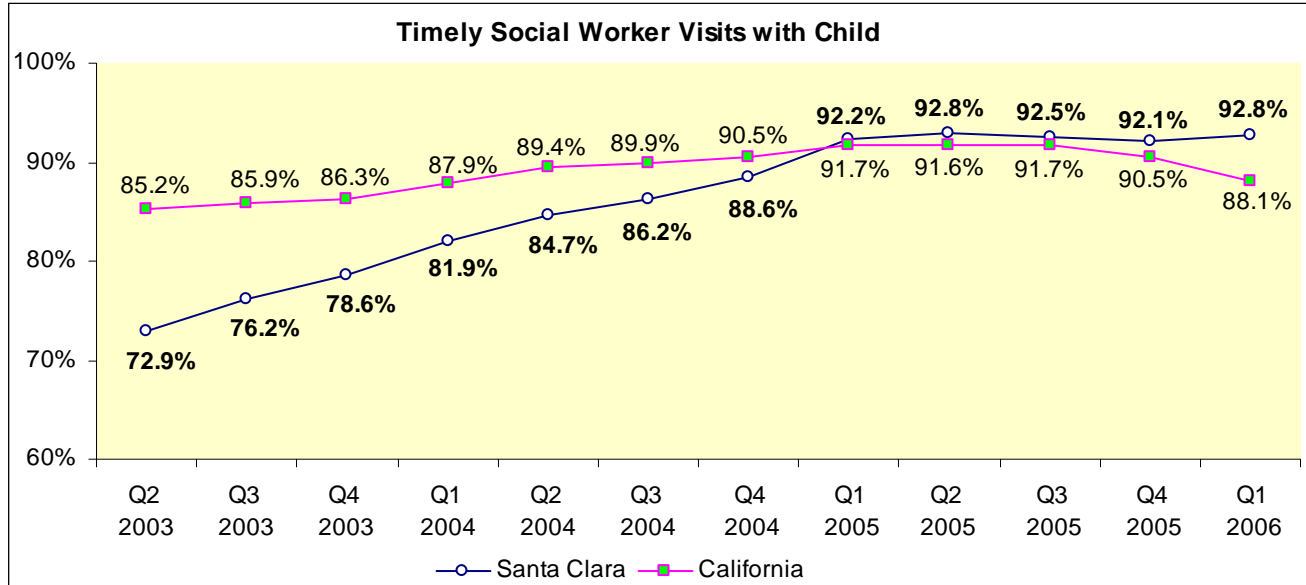


(Ethnicity data for current reporting period is not available.)

Timely Social Worker Visits with Child

(This measure determines if social workers are visiting children on a monthly basis when that is required. Children for whom a determination is made that monthly visits are not necessary (e.g. valid visits exception) are not included in this measure.)

- In Q1, 2006, on average, 92.8% of all children who required a monthly visit, received a visit, compared to 92.1% in Q4, 2005. (Averages cited here are calculated based on quarterly percentages.) URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/Ccfsr.asp#2C>



(Ethnicity data for current reporting period is not available.)

PERMANENCY OUTCOMES

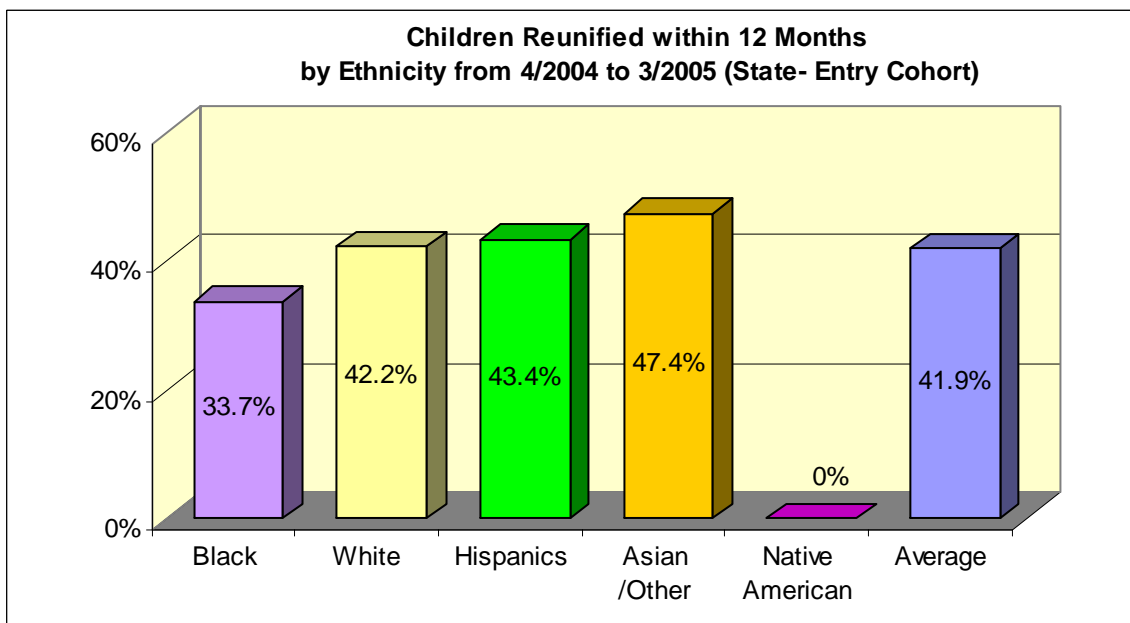
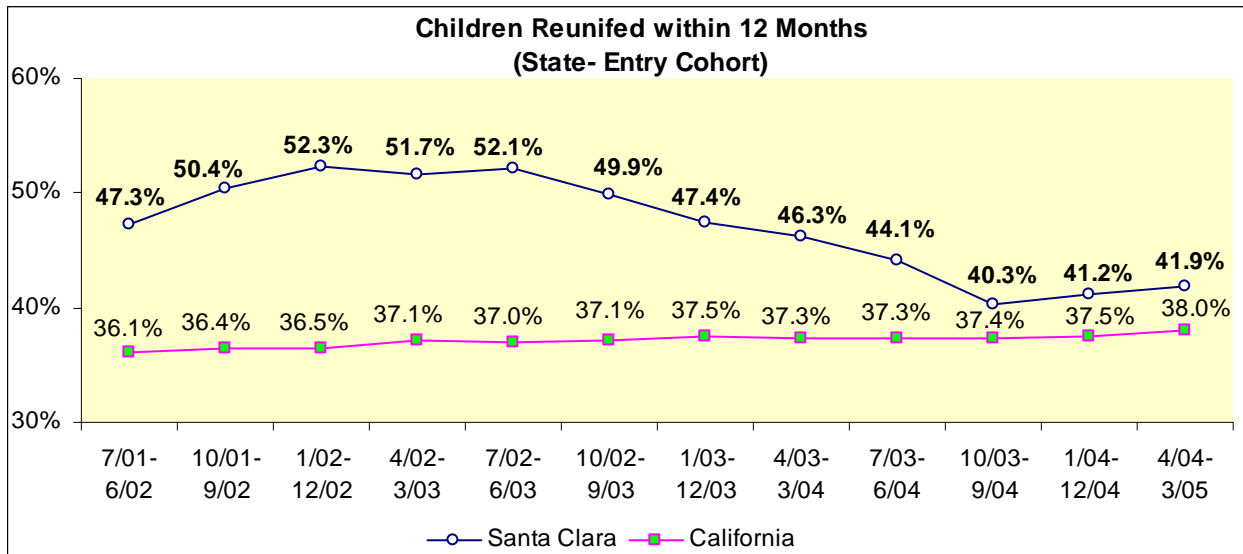
These measures are designed to reflect the number of foster care placements for each child (who entered care and stayed five days or more), the length of time a child is in foster care, and the rate that children re-enter foster care after they have returned home or other permanent care arrangements have been made.

Length of Time to Exit Foster Care to Reunification

(This outcome measure reflects the percentage of children reunified within 12 months of removal from the home.)

- 41.9% of all children who entered care for the first time (stayed five days or more) during 4/2004-3/2005 were reunified within 12 months, compared to 41.2% in 1/2004-12/2004.

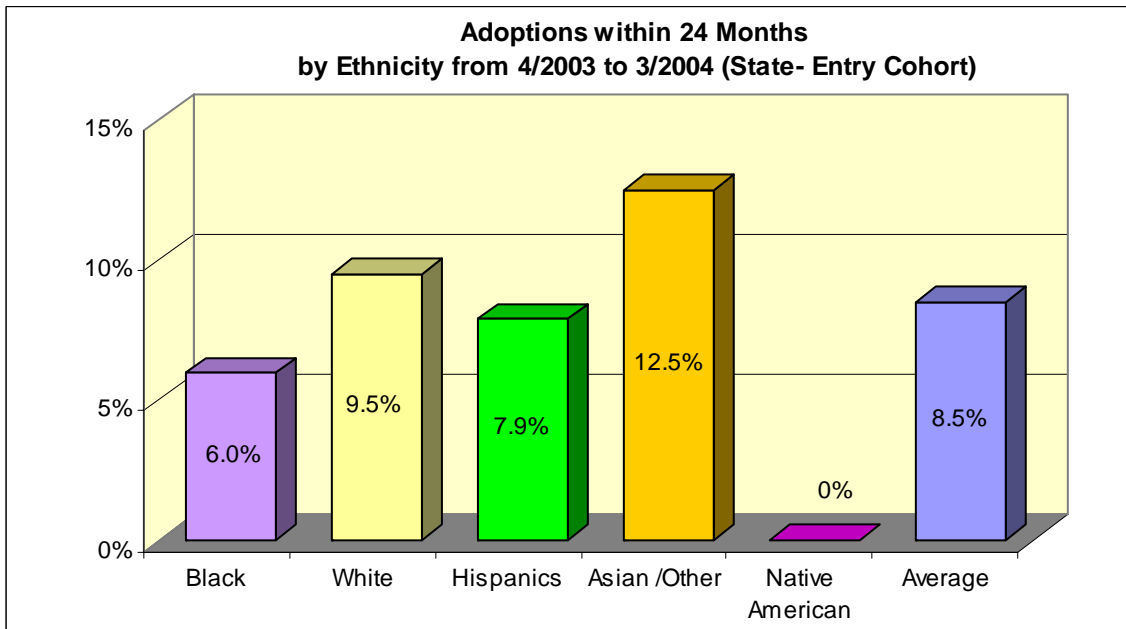
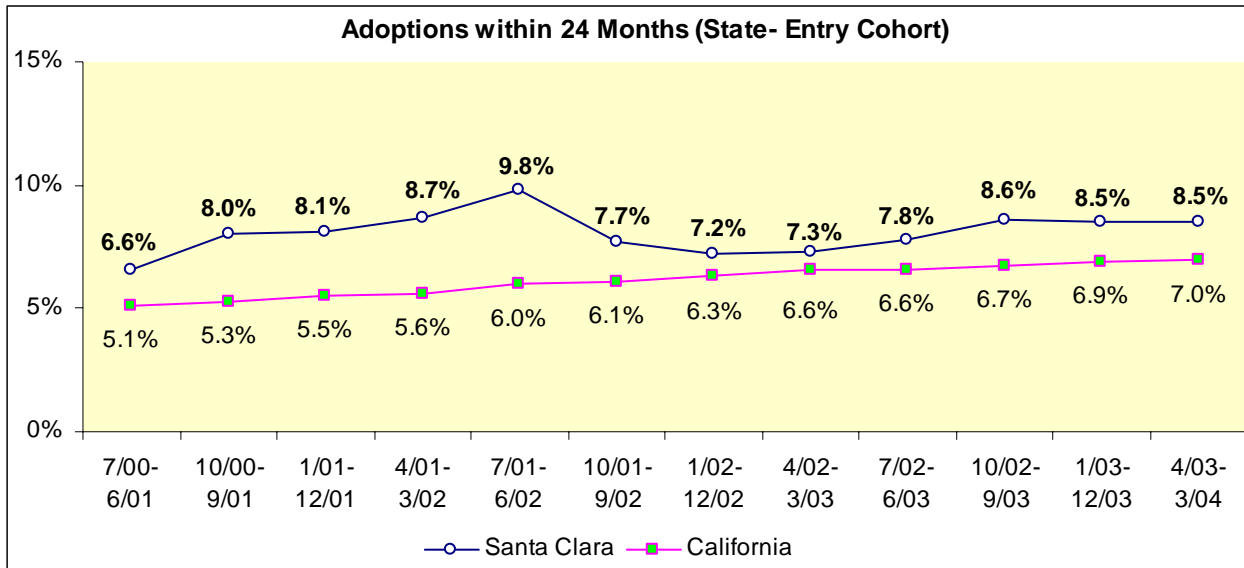
URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/Cohorts/exits/>



Length of Time to Exit Foster Care to Adoption

(This outcome measure reflects the percentage of children adopted within 24 months of removal from the home.)

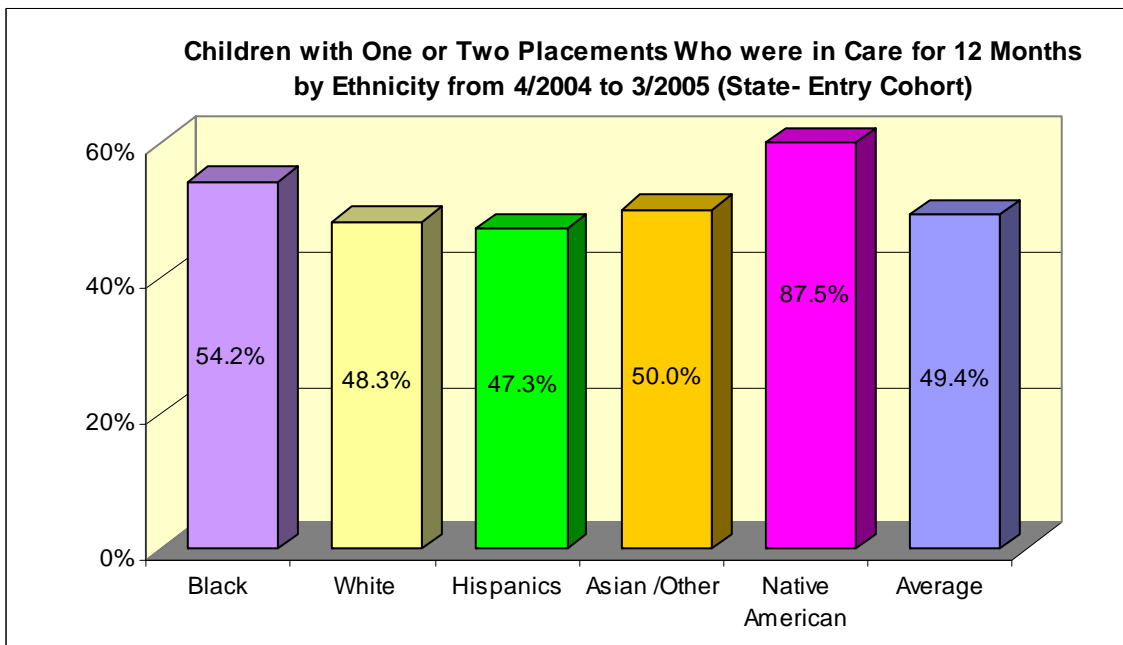
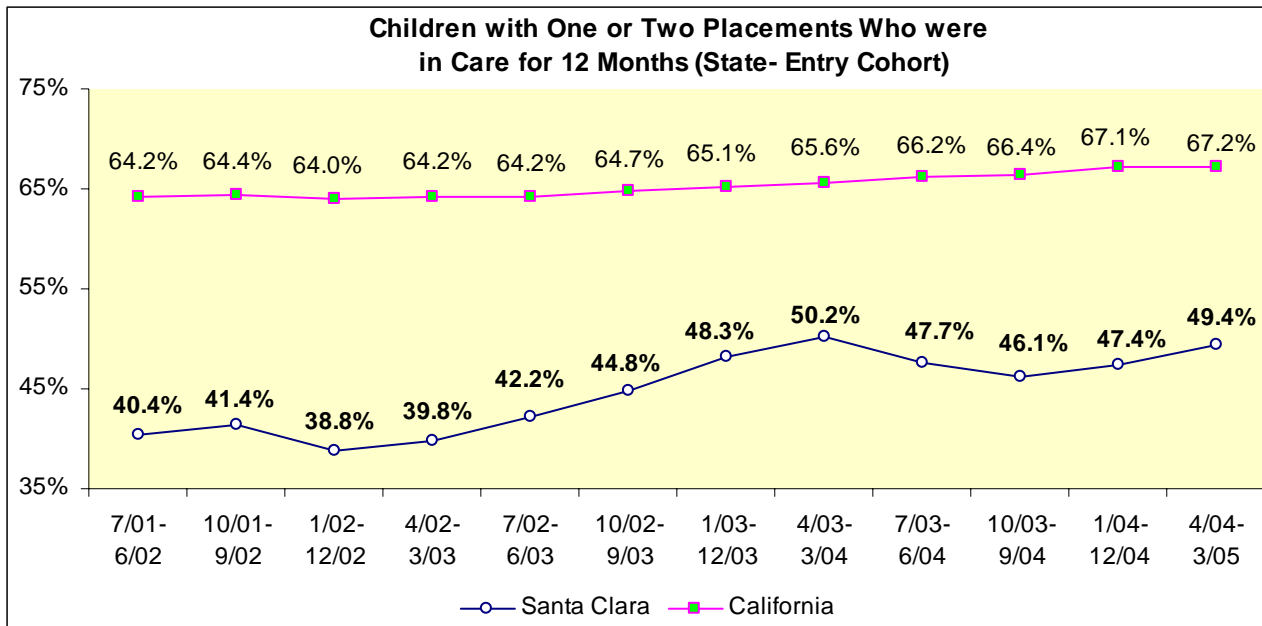
- 8.5 % of all children who entered care for the first time (stayed five days or more) during 4/2003-3/2004 were adopted within 24 months. There was no change from the last reporting period.
 URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/Cohorts/exits/>



Multiple Foster Care Placements

(These measures reflect the number of children with no more than two placements during 12 months of placement. Placement stability data has been revised, and the data indicates a decline of about 5.5% for all reporting periods.)

- 49.4% of all children who entered care for the first time (stayed five days or more) during 4/2004-3/2005, and were in care for 12 months had no more than two placements, compared to 47.4% in 1/2004-12/2004. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/cohorts/stability/>

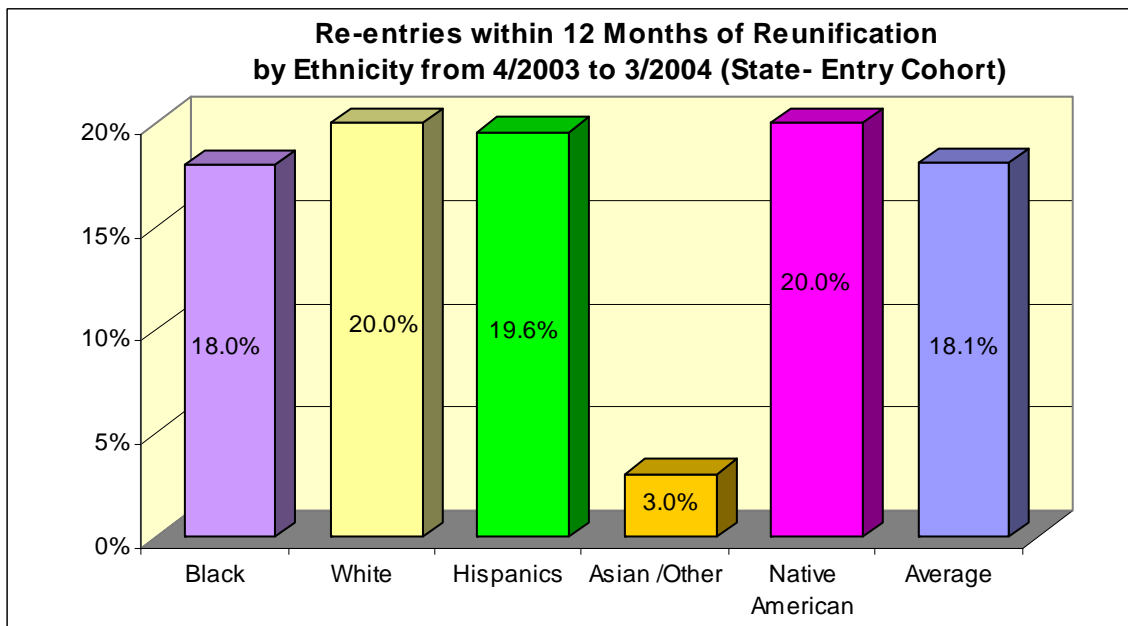
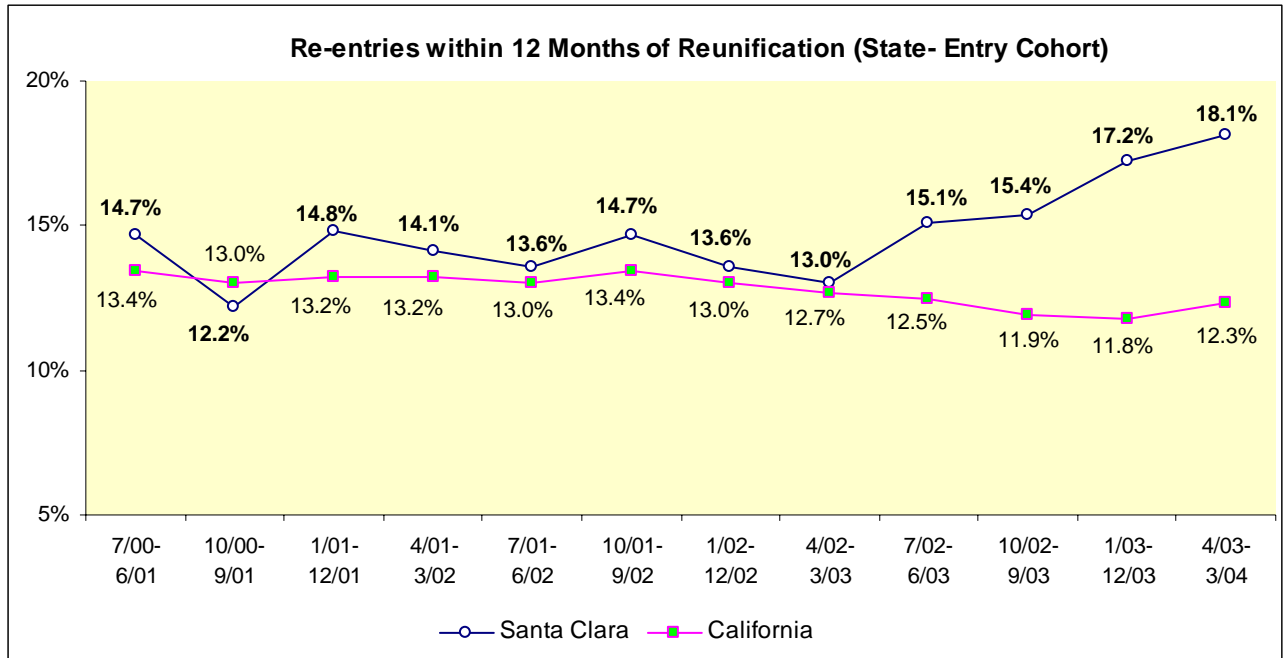


Rate of Foster Care Re-entry into Child Welfare System

(This measure reflects the number of children who re-enter foster care subsequent to reunification or guardianship.)

- 18.1% of all children who entered care for the first time (stayed five days or more) during 4/2003-3/2004 and were reunified within 12 months of entry, re-entered care within 12 months of reunification, compared to 17.2% in 1/2003-12/2003.

URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/Cohorts/reentries/>



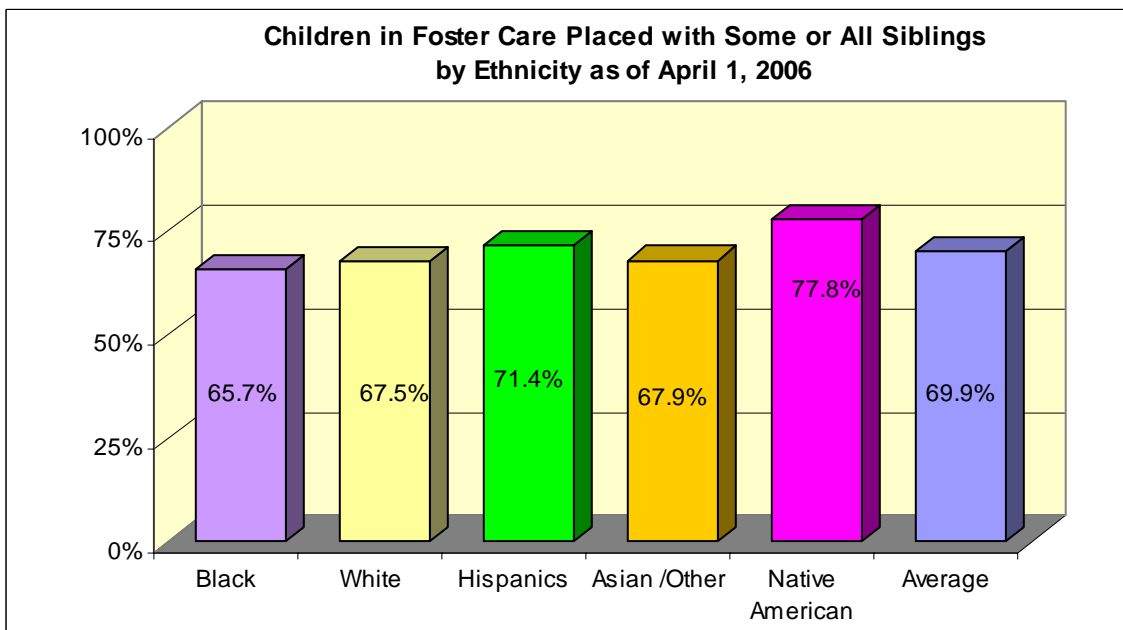
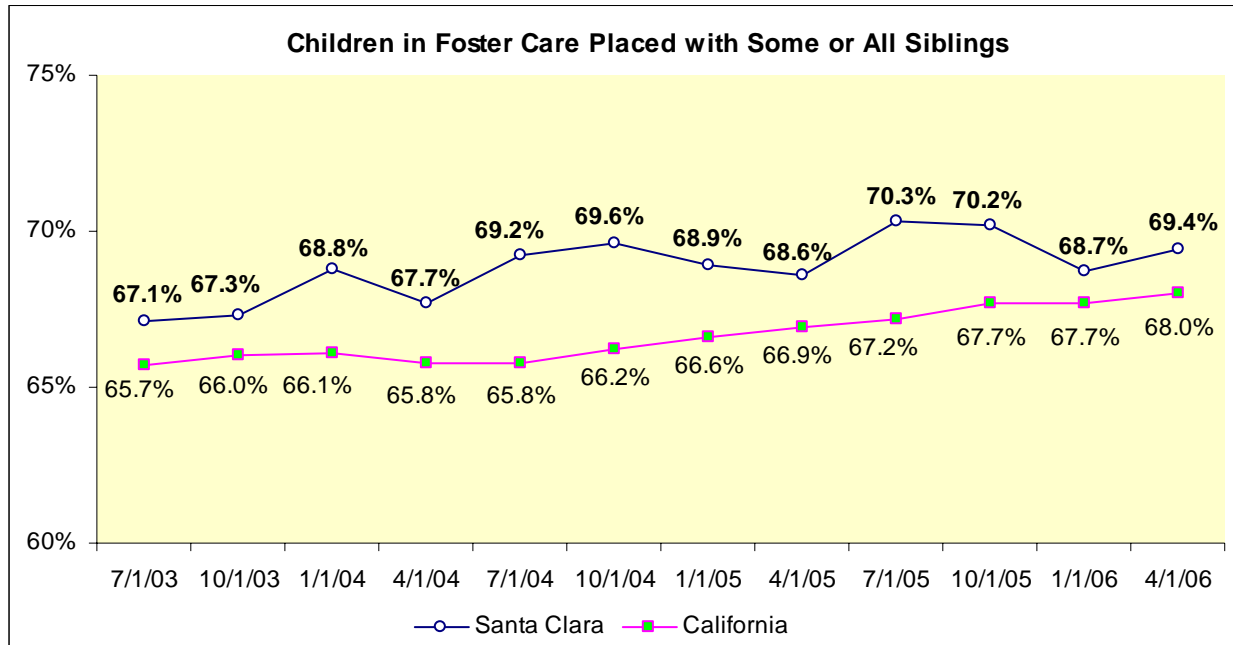
CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING OUTCOMES

These measures reflect the degree to which children in foster care retain relationships with their family and extended communities with whom they are associated at the time of removal from their parents.

Siblings Placed Together

(These measures reflect the number of children placed with all or some of their siblings in foster care.)

- Of all children in care on 4/1/2006, 69.4% of siblings were placed with some or all siblings, compared to 68.7% on 1/1/2006.
URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/pointintime/fostercare/childwel/siblings.asp>

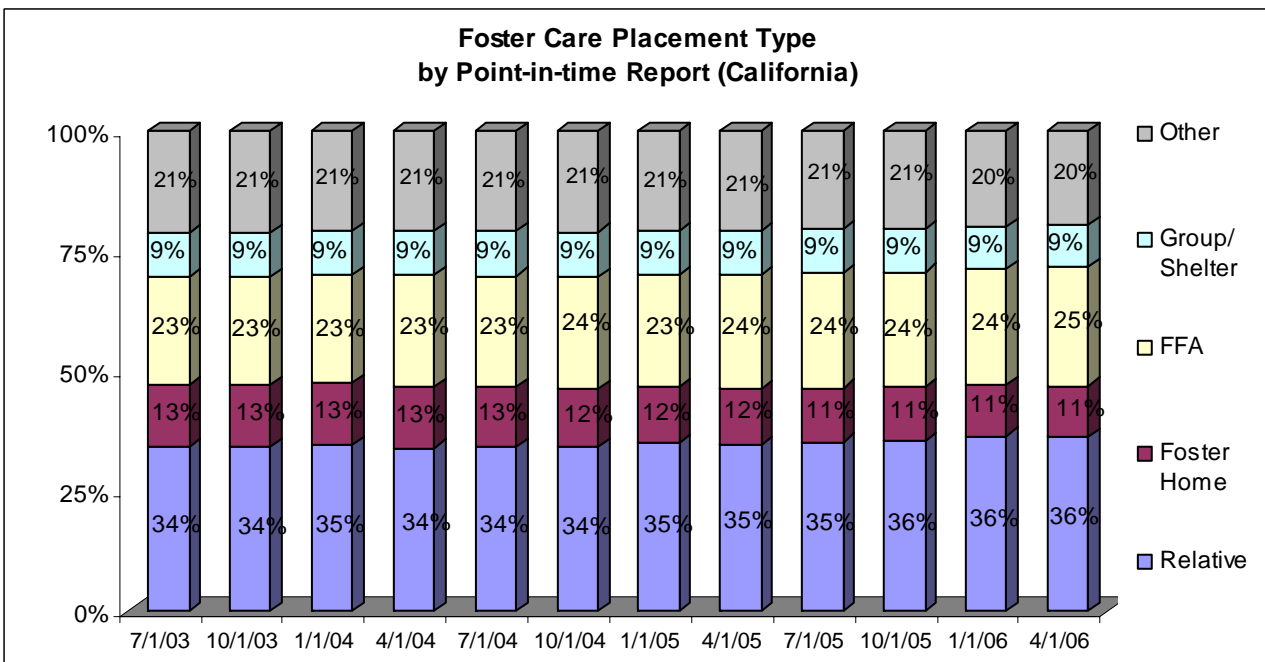
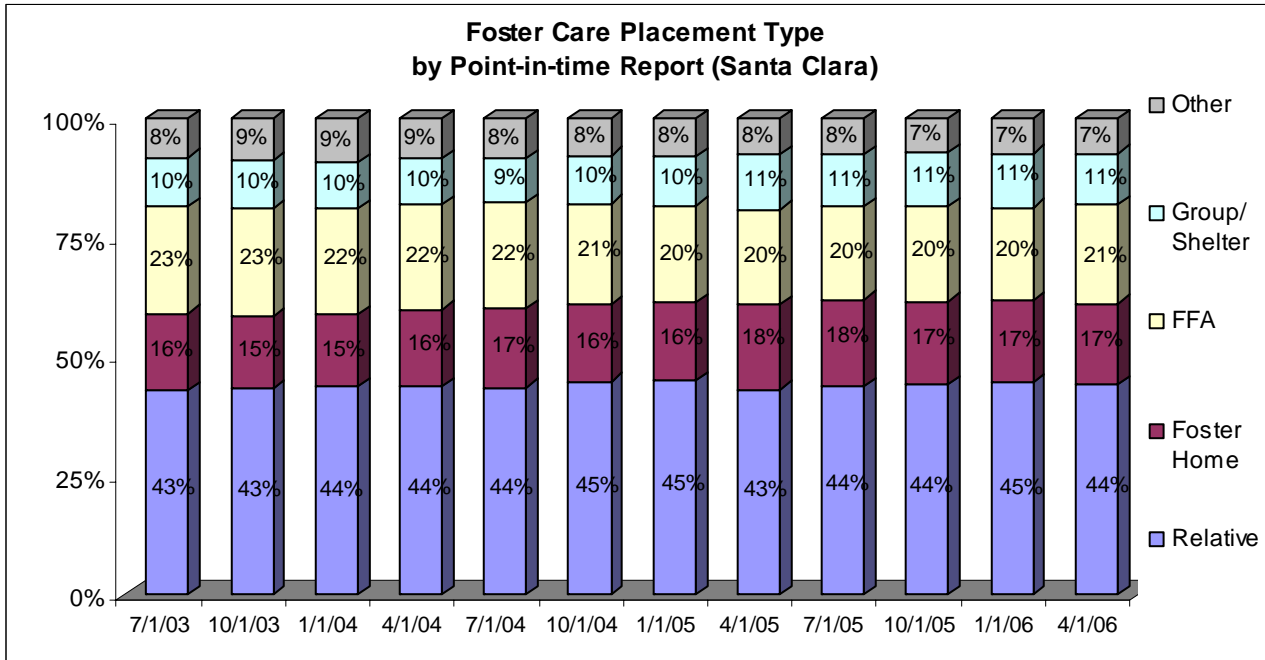


(Sibling placement ethnicity data based on 2006 Q2 extracts differs slightly due to data revisions.)

Foster Care Placement in Least Restrictive Settings

(This measure reflects the percentage of children placed in each type of foster care setting/facility.)

- Of all children in supervised foster care on 4/1/2006 (point-in-time reporting), 44% were placed with kin/relatives, 17% were in foster home placement, 21% were in placement with Foster Family Agencies, 11% were in Group/Shelter care, and 7% were in other types of placements.
 URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/pointintime/fostercare/childwel/ageandethnic.asp>



FEDERAL AND STATE PERFORMANCE

The table below provides a summary of Federal and State *quarterly* performance. For evaluation purposes, performance changes less than 0.5% are rated as “relatively unchanged” except for Abuse in Care that has a small threshold.

Federal and State Performance at a Glance			
SCC's Five SIP Target Areas	Measures Contained in this Data Report	Federal Measures	State Measures
Reduce First Entries of Children of Color	Background data- Incidence Rates	Referral-Declined* Sub Ref- Declined* 1 st Entries- Declined* Rate in care- No change*	
	Recurrence of Maltreatment	(Below Standard) Declined	By any substantiation- Improved*; By 1 st substantiation- Improved*
	Abuse in Care (New methodology)	Improved*	NA
	Recurrence of Abuse in Homes where Children were not Removed	NA	Improved*
Timely Response	Timely Response	NA	IR- Improved 10-Day- Declined*
Timely Visits	Timely Visits	NA	Improved*
	Reunification	(Met Standard) Improved*	Improved*
	Adoption	(Met Standard) Relatively unchanged*	No change*
Reduce Multiple Placement	Placement Stability (questionable data)	(Below Standard) Relatively unchanged	Improved
Reduce Reentries	Reentries	(Below Standard) Improved*	Declined
	Sibling Placement	NA	All Siblings- Improved*; Some/All Siblings- Improved*
	Foster Care Placement by Initial Placement	NA	Group Home/Shelter placement decreased 2% to 68%; Foster Home placements remained at 19%. Relative placements increased 1% to 10%.
	Foster Care Placement by predominant Placement	NA	Relative placements decreased 1% to 36%, Foster Home placements remained at 30%; Group Home/Shelter placements decreased 1% to 18%.
	Foster Care Placement by Point-in-time Placement	NA	Relative placements decreased 1% to 44%; Foster Home placements remained at 17%; Group Home/Shelter placements remained at 11%.
	Children Transitioning to Self-Sufficient Adulthood	NA	The number of youth receiving ILP services declined. The rate of youth completing vocational training or becoming employed or having other means of support increased while the rate of youth achieving high school diplomas declined.

* Performance exceeds State average.

Milestones Achieved and Next Steps

All new DFCS initiatives are conducted from a systemic perspective and will be integrated within the Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS) existing infrastructure, policies, practices so that they may be sustained beyond the established grant periods, and become the way business is conducted.

The following are the milestones achieved by workgroup since the last report, as well as the strategies and tasks for next steps. The California Connected by 25 (CC25) strategies have been integrated into the existing workgroups and new workgroups have been established for certain CC25 strategies, as well.

1. Children of Color:

Milestones Achieved

- ✓ Retreat held with the SIP Children of Color group and Child Abuse Council to combine efforts and form a work plan
- ✓ Reviewed and analyzed data at all child welfare decision points
- ✓ Assessed the scope of disparities at each decision point and prioritized for further assessment 1) Referrals 2) Substantiated referrals 3) First entries into foster care 4) Service component
- ✓ Reviewed risk assessment tool
- ✓ Reviewed process for substantiating referrals

Next Step

- Perform case file review for substantiated referrals
- Conduct all-staff training on disproportionality

Risk/Safety Assessment (RSA)

Milestones Achieved

- ✓ Consultant RSA decision-making tool modifications completed. RSA decision-making tool implementation projected to occur in Spring 2006
- ✓ RSA Tool Selected – Comprehensive Assessment Tool (CAT)
- ✓ Conducted focus groups on cultural competence of tool
- ✓ Refined cultural competence tool

Next Steps

- Develop RSA policies and procedures
- Refine tool based on cultural competence focus group findings
- Continue to receive technical assistance on new tool
- Train development in process
- Pilot new decision-making tool
- Evaluate new RSA decision-making tool

Differential Response (DR)

Milestones Achieved

- ✓ Funding Secured
- ✓ Promoting Safe and Stable Families contract awarded
- ✓ Differential Response Coordinator hired
- ✓ Personnel infrastructure developed
- ✓ Roles defined
- ✓ Referral process developed
- ✓ Training needs identified
- ✓ Outcome measures drafted
- ✓ Trained Family Partners and Engagement Specialists
- ✓ Completed Pre-pilot testing for Path 1 and 2
- ✓ Acquired Database
- ✓ Service delivery plans finalized
- ✓ Pilot implemented September 1, 2006

Next Steps

- Implement data-base and assess needs for data system modifications
- Determine utilization of CWSOIP funds awarded
- Finalize Path 4 planning and implement

2. CC25:Continuum of Care Housing**Milestones Achieved**

- ✓ Transitional Housing Program Plus (THP+) plan approved
- ✓ 9 Career Pathways youth placed in San Jose State dorms
- ✓ 10 Career Pathways youth placed in scattered site housing arrangements

Next Steps

- Establish linkages to the Foster Youth Housing Initiative providers for 20 youth
- Develop housing needs assessment for 17-year olds
- Maximize appropriate utilization of new Transitional Housing Placement Program resources
- Implement a new transitional housing program for emancipated youth, as approved under our THP-Plus plan
- Implement “host family” model where youth live within a supportive family environment
- Prioritize the use of available housing subsidies and private set asides in meeting critical housing needs
- Expand availability of permanent affordable housing (i.e. apartment rentals) for emancipating youth
- Evaluate other local and state housing models and assess whether they can be adapted to our setting
- Integrate other CC25 goals and objectives, such as financial literacy and education, into successful housing strategies

Milestones AchievedTraining and Employment

- ✓ First Career Pathways cohort of 21 youth began at Mission College on August 28, 2006
- ✓ Second cohort of youth to start February 1, 2007 at San Jose City College

Next Steps

- Establish a Career Pathways Project to serve 40 youth served with an 80% completion rate
- Develop outreach strategies
- Develop a single training and employment assessment tool for foster youth that would be consistently administered by SVWIN and a pre-assessment screening process to identify youth with different training or employment needs are also under development
- Establish referral process for youth who are interested in participating in the Career Pathways Project, but do not qualify for the Project
- Launch Career Pathways with Mission College and San Jose City Community College (Mission College cohort to start August 28 with 20 youth and San Jose City cohort to start Spring 2007)
- Launch new DFCS Employment Services unit to support job training and career development for current and former foster youth

Partnerships**Next Steps**

- Expand of County ESA Unclassified Program for Emancipating Youth (EFY)
- Develop partnership with Department of Child Support Services to provide employment opportunities for former foster youth

Financial Literacy

Milestones Achieved

- ✓ Completed Opportunity Passport technical assistance developed by Jim Casey Foundation
- ✓ Developed a financial literacy curriculum
- ✓ Established partnerships with banks, youth and community boards
- ✓ Conducted financial literacy survey to identify youth's needs
- ✓ Youth Advisory Board administered the survey and provided members with a stipend for their work
- ✓ Applied for a 3 year Hewett Fountain grant in the amount of \$150,000 (\$50,000 per year) to establish Individual Development Accounts (IDA) and to match participant's deposits
- ✓ Secured Board of Supervisor approval for \$30,000 (\$10,000 a year for 3 years) to match the Johnson Foundation for Foster Youth Savings Accounts
- ✓ Developed Financial Education Curriculum
- ✓ Established banking partnership with Greater Bay Bank and will likely work with Citibank to establish Individual Development Accounts
- ✓ Established Youth and Community Boards (presently partnering with DFCS Youth Advisory Board and Community Action Teams)
- ✓ Individual Development Accounts program for 30 youth accounts will be launched January 2007

Next Steps

- Develop a youth mentor program
- Establish five initial "door opener" opportunities for youth (e.g., discounts, preferred access to services)

K-12 Education

Milestones Achieved

- ✓ Partnership with the Eastside Union High School District to assist 30 foster youth in a pilot program to improve math and reading skills will begin in January 07
- ✓ Educational rights training developed
- ✓ Established partnership with School Linked Services to maximize services for foster youth
- ✓ DFCS policies and procedures developed to improve CWS/CMS educational data
- ✓ Memoranda of Understanding developed to address confidentiality issues and to facilitate communication between schools and DFCS
- ✓ Developed policies and procedures to facilitate the timely transfer of students' records when foster youth move and a student transfer notification system to ensure prompt enrollment

Next Steps

- Develop, test and implement youth educational needs assessments by Spring 07
- Develop a literacy and math skills plan

3. SIP Data Team:

Milestones Achieved

- ✓ Staff trained on a new data system to be used by the five participating CC25 counties
- ✓ Commenced data entry into new system, including data needs identified by CC 25 partners and the Board of Supervisors
- ✓ New web-based data system to be used by the five participating CC25 counties to enter more comprehensive education, employment and housing data concerning on emancipated foster youth up to the age of 25, implemented November 2006

Next Step

- Continue to manage data system and use data to drive decisions and improve outcomes

4. Joint Decision Making:

Milestone Achieved

- ✓ Since July 2003 over 2600 Team Decisions meetings have occurred

Next Steps

- Standardize utilization of Emancipation Conferences throughout DFCS by Spring 07
- Require Emancipation Conference Plans (ECP) for all foster youth ages 14-18 to ensure that all foster youth have periodic conferences to help the youth successfully acquire life skills required for productive adulthood. By the Spring 2007 will begin conducting ECP with youth 16 years of age
- Create of a Foster Youth Resource Center, which will provide practical assistance on becoming connected and self-sufficient
- Develop a support team of both current and former foster youth to provide support and advocacy for youth working towards emancipation

5. Timely Visits and Response:**Milestones Achieved**

- ✓ Analyzed out-of-county placement data
- ✓ Refined data on timely visits for out of county placements
- ✓ Develop Cheat Sheet for contact waivers

Next Step

- Continue to track performance on Safe Measures

6. Resource Development and Utilization:**Milestone Achieved**

- ✓ Conducted two surveys to identify barriers and resource utilization, which included social worker staff and Foster Family Agencies

Next Steps

- Develop an Early ILP Education and Outreach Program
- Strengthen integration of services between ILP service providers
- Develop education and training for caregivers
- Examine and modify as necessary the content of the current programs in the contract ILP service provider agencies; improve communication between youths' social workers and the ILP; and, improve communication between the ILP and the youth's caregivers and support systems, in order to increase youth's access and participation in the ILP
- Identifying youth's needs and planning how best to ensure the availability of critical support services to enable youth to maximize their participation in educational, employment and housing opportunities (e.g., counseling, childcare, legal services, etc.)
- Insure that all eligible youth are connected to and participate in an Independent Living Program
- Strengthen integration of services and communication among present ILP providers, youth's social workers, and caregivers
- Develop education and training for caregivers and court advocates of existing foster youth ages 14 – 18 years old
- Provide access and services for 14 – 15 year olds that will help them develop independent living skills

6. Quality Assurance and CWS/CMS Data Entry:**Milestones Achieved**

- ✓ Case management monitoring tools developed and provided to all continuing units (These pro-active tools provide deadlines to enable workers to achieve compliance with ER referrals and open cases.)
- ✓ Caseload reduction plan implemented
- ✓ Developed standardized referral policies and procedures

Next Steps

- CWS/CMS data entry training for new supervisors and social workers, including refresher courses for existing staff scheduled (on-going basis)
- Monthly staff training on new policies (on-going basis)

**Continued-
Next Step**

- Ongoing evaluation to ensure full utilization of CWS/CMS

7. **Family Finding:**

**Milestones
Achieved**

- ✓ Role and function of the relative finding unit defined
- ✓ Authorization procedures for serving high-risk youth completed and implemented
- ✓ Process maps to define roles for referral, assessment, and transfer of families completed
- ✓ Outcomes for durability and permanency developed and measured
- ✓ Developed procedure with court systems to ensure early identification of relatives

Next Steps

- Family Finding manual in development
- Continue to increase identification and placement with relatives by integrating Family-to-Family principles into practice (on-going)
- Develop policy to establish timelines for Family Finding process from referral to transfer of responsibility of the family to the pre-disposition social worker (on-going)
- In process of developing protocols to define roles and responsibilities of the DI worker, relative worker and pre-disposition worker
- In process of developing Authorization protocol for all SW staff reference
- Identify best practices to ensure permanency for youth
- Link 40 foster youth ages 14-18 years old with caring committed adults, progress underway
- Develop permanency and resiliency training for DFCS staff and other CC25 partners

With the **System Improvement Plan**, DFCS established a planning and implementation structure of workgroups that are responsible for identifying the gaps, strategies, and outputs. The Leadership Team (comprised of the Agency and Department Directors, Deputy Director, and community representative, and project coordinator) and the Implementation Team (comprised of the Leadership Team, chairs of the workgroups, and community representatives) keep the teams apprised of the progress of the workgroups, engage them when appropriate to address challenges the workgroups are facing, and obtain guidance when necessary.

SSA's Office of Governmental Relations and Planning will provide and distribute a summary of Santa Clara County's Data Report to stakeholders, community partners, and staff on a quarterly basis to track and monitor progress in meeting self improvement goals. If you have questions pertaining to this report, please contact Lydia Romeo, Project Manager at (408) 491-6738 or by e-mail at lydia.romeo@ssa.sccgov.org.