

Family to Family Outcomes

Guilford County Department of Social Services

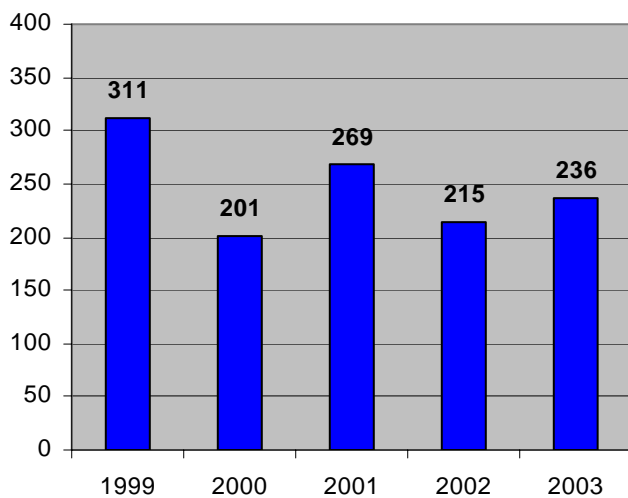
January 2004 (rev 6/04)

F2F Outcomes: Looking at Change Over Time

One of the best methods for showing improvements (or lack there of) in outcomes is comparing data from the time before an intervention (FY 2001) to the present. The following data demonstrates those comparisons for key F2F outcomes:

Reduce rate of placement

Children Entering Care for the First Time in Guilford County by FY

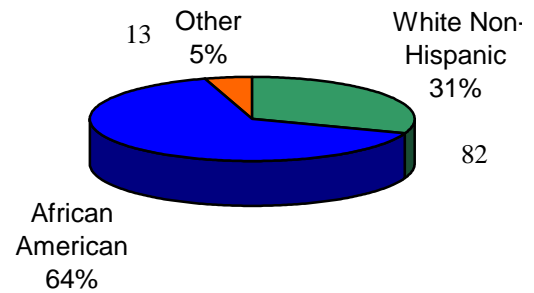


Data Definitions

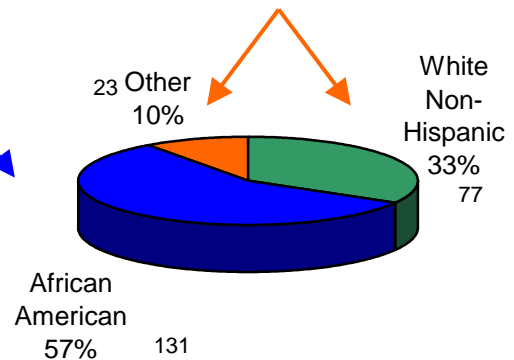
Fiscal Year (FY): Refers to the state fiscal year, for example, FY 2003 is July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003. In the outcomes analysis, we separate and compare groups of children (or cohorts) by the fiscal year that they first entered into foster care. We consider FY 2001 to be our baseline cohort because this group did not experience F2F practices, which began July 1, 2001 (FY 2002). ■

Reduce race, gender, or age disparities in each F2F outcome

Race of Children Entering Care for the First Time FY 2001

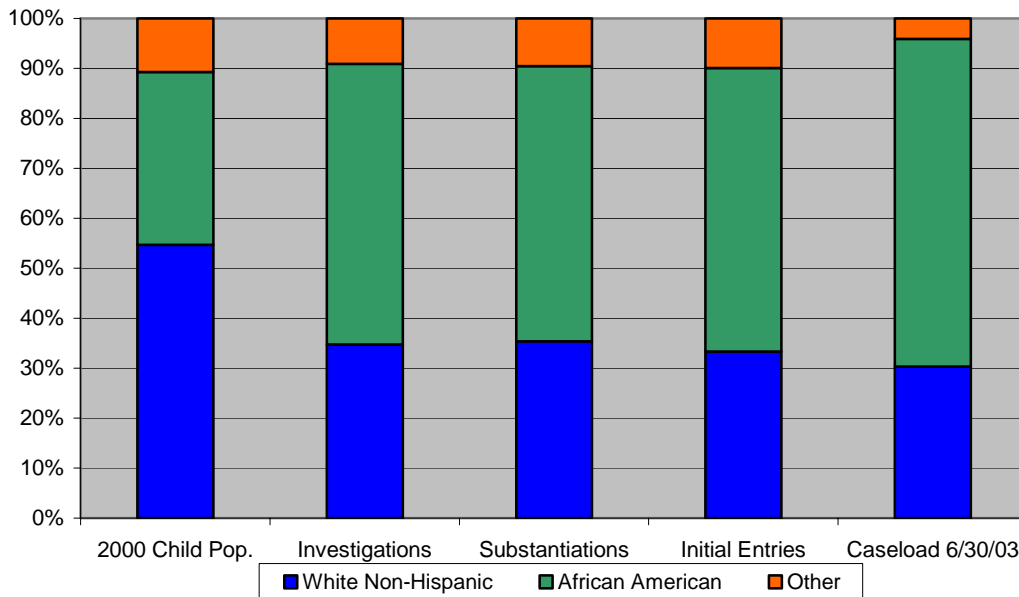


Race of Children Entering Care for the First Time FY 2003



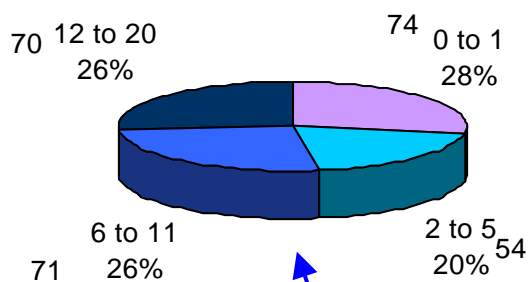
From FY 2001 to FY 2003, the proportion of African-Americans entering care decreased from 63% to 57%. A corresponding percentage increase of 4% was seen in Other race children (primarily of Hispanic ethnicity) and a smaller increase of 2% for White Non-Hispanic children.

IN-DEPTH: Racial Disparities Throughout the Child Welfare System

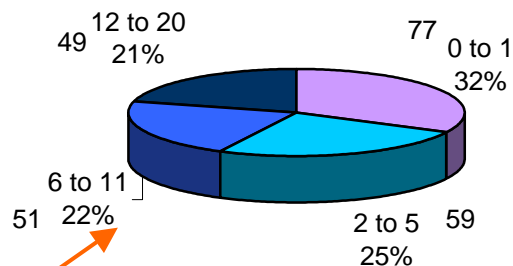


The rate at which African-American children were reported and accepted for investigation in FY 2003 was about 1.5 times the rate at which they were present in the general county population (see chart above). However, the rate at which African-American children entered foster care was similar to the rate that they were investigated and substantiated. This data suggests that African-American children may not have a greater likelihood of placement into foster care despite the relatively high rate of reports concerning African-American children. The greater percentage of African-American children on the foster care caseload, when compared to their rate of placement, shows that these children spend a somewhat longer time in foster care than White and other race children. However, African-American children have similar experiences to White and other race children in many other aspects of the foster care experience. The degree of racial disparities in Guilford is greater than the rest of the state, yet the pattern of disparities throughout the stages of the child welfare system is similar. ■

Age Categories for FY 2001



Age Categories for FY 2003

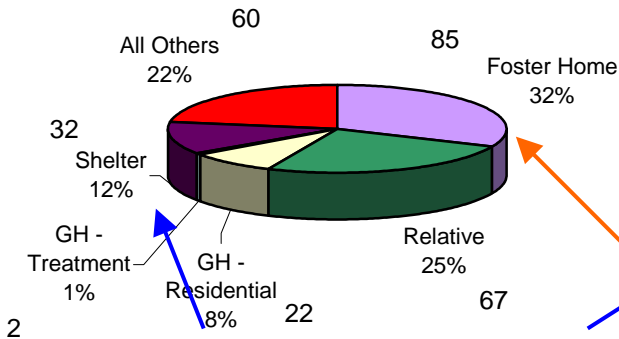


The initial entries for children age 6 and older has decreased from 52% in FY 2001 to 43% in FY 2003.

A Note On Siblings: For the 46 sibling sets entering licensed facilities in FY 2003, Guilford County placed 87% of sibling sets together, either the whole sibling set (83%) or part of the set (17%). Way to go!!!

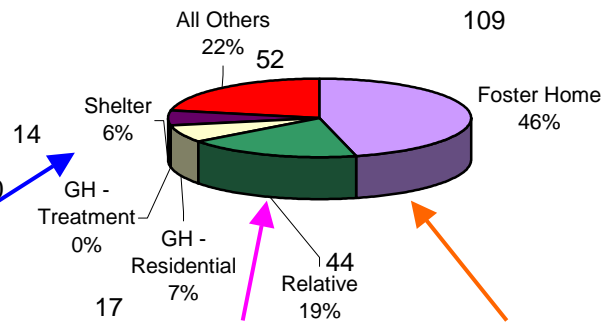
Reduce the number of children in institutional care

Initial Placement Types FY 2001



The use of shelters as an initial placement declined by half from 12% in FY 2001 to 6% in FY 2003! Group home placements also declined slightly.

Initial Placement Types FY 2003

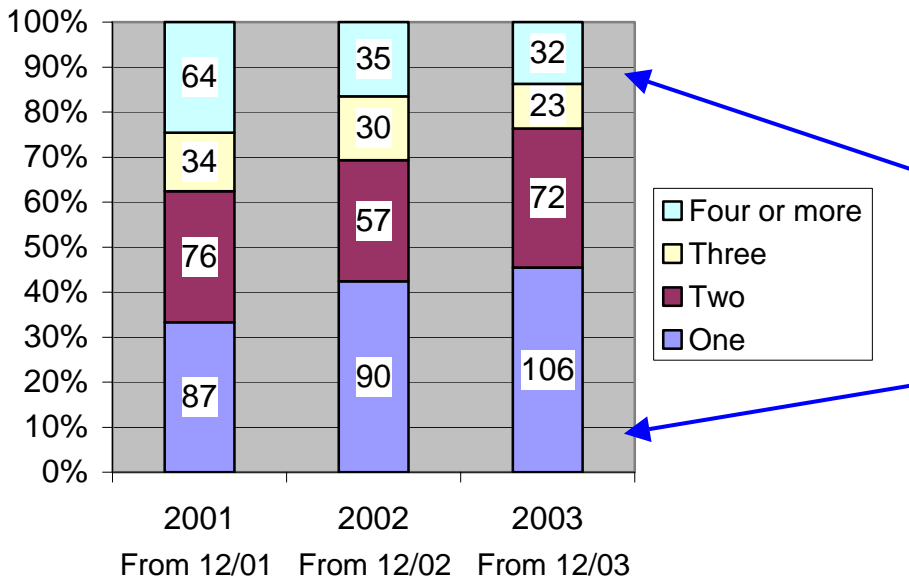


Note a substantial 14% increase in the use of family foster homes as initial placements from FY 2001 to 2003! However, the use of relative placements declined by 6%.

Have Team Decision-Making meetings resulted in more placements with relatives without DSS assuming custody? This result could explain the decreased use of relatives as initial placements for children who did enter into custody. Of 407 pre-petition TDMs (7/02 to 1/04), 22% recommended out-of-home placements with another caregiver, often a relative, without assuming custody. One might expect fewer children entering custody overall given this result, but there are several external factors that affect children entering foster care. SET is interested in any feedback from social workers on this important issue. Please email us!

Reduce placement moves for children

Number of Placements by FY

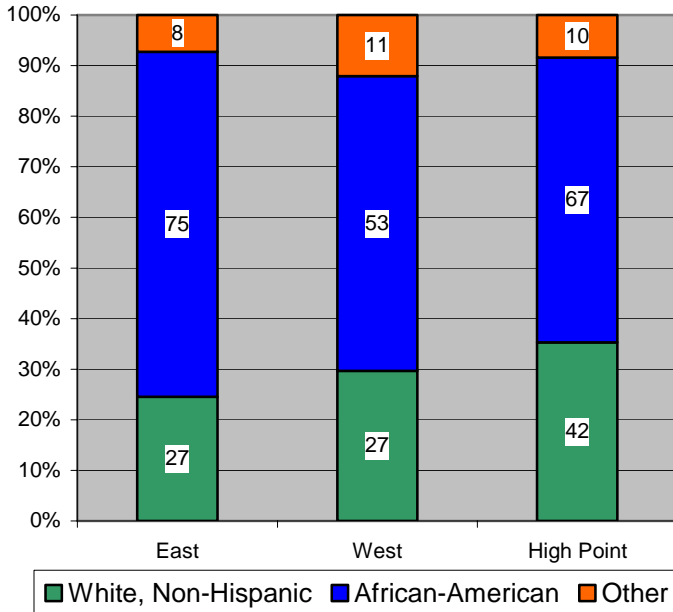


In data snapshots taken at the same time of year, the rate of placement moves for children entering FY 2003 appears to be slower than the FY 2001 and FY 2002 rate! This trend may be due to holding TDM meetings prior to placement changes.

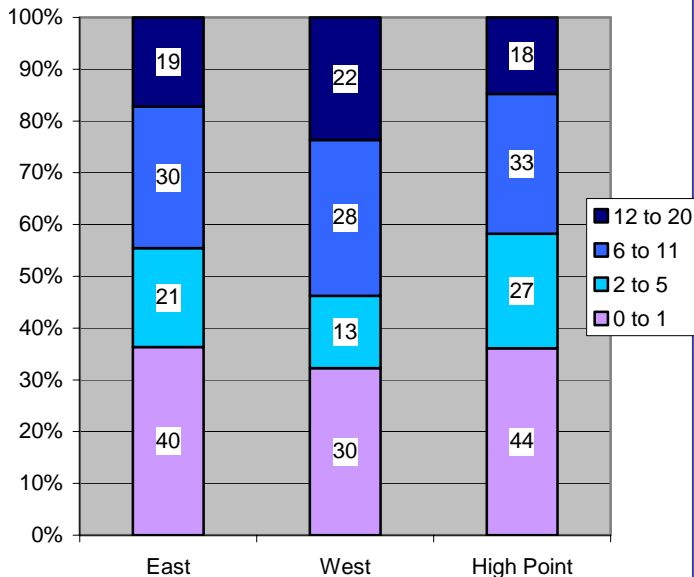
IN THE ZONE

We are often asked to compare outcomes performance between the geographic zones that social workers are assigned to in Guilford County. The following FY 2002 to April 2003 data includes zone information for some F2F outcomes. Please note that a child's zone was determined by his or her social worker's assigned area, either the East, West, or High Point region.

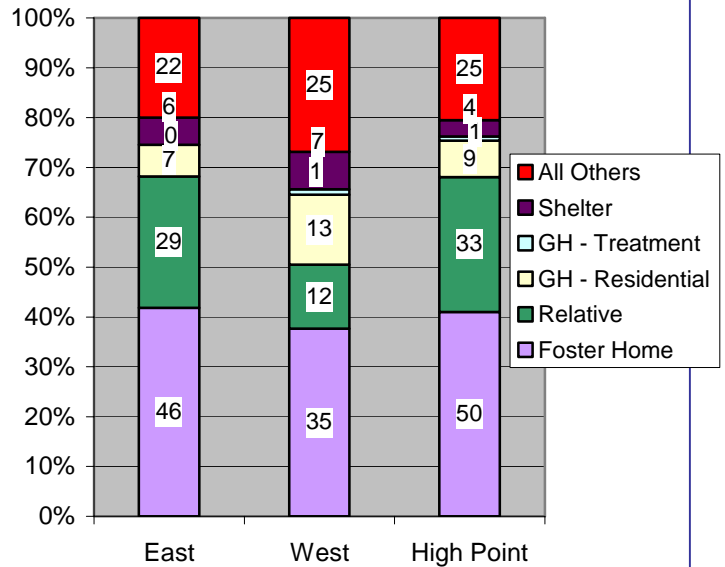
Race of Children Entering Care for the First Time by Geographic Zone



Age Categories by Geographic Zone



Initial Placement Types by Geographic Zone



UPCOMING F2F EVENTS

February 24, 2004 Community Partners Workshop
Sheila Spydell from Casey will facilitate a workshop on forming partnerships with communities in the East, West and High Point zones.

March 2004 Team Decision-Making Workshop
A Casey representative will provide technical assistance on issues related to TDMs.

Monthly Strategy Team Meetings: Community Partners, Foster Parent Recruitment, and Self-Evaluation meet on a monthly basis.

Please contact Pam Watkins if you are interested in attending any of the above meetings.

F2F Outcomes Report presented by: Self-Evaluation Team (SET)

Susan Brady (co-chair)
Joy Stewart (co-chair)
Mae Bullock
Kathi Cupo
Sue Davis

Mike Herzing
Robert McEntire
Robert Davidson
Stacy Thomas
Gregory Wierda ■