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CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE:

A 1996 MINNESOTA REPORT



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents information about children in out-of-home care for 1996 and shows some five-year trends for the years 1992 through 1996. The report responds to a legislative directive in Minnesota Statutes, section 257.0725.

The commissioner of human services shall publish an annual report on children in out-of-home placement. The report shall include information by county and statewide on the legal status, living arrangement, age, sex, race, accumulated length of time in placement, reason for most recent placement, race of family with whom placed, and other information deemed appropriate on all children in out-of-home placement. Out-of-home placement includes placement in any facility by an authorized child-placing agency.

Since the early 1980s, the federal government has collected *summary* information on children in out-of-home care through a voluntary system called the Voluntary and Cooperative Information System. In 1986, Congress passed a law calling for mandatory reporting by all states. Federal regulations to implement this law were first proposed in 1990, then issued in final form in December 1993. Called the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), these reporting regulations require detailed individual information on each child who is placed in out-of-home care. Minnesota participates in this system by sending semiannual records on children in care.

This report is divided into three sections. The first section contains statewide data using the total number of children in out-of-home care. The second section contains information on specific groups of children. Certain tables in this section contain information on children who either entered care or left care from 1992 through 1996. Other tables have information on children who had their final placement in a family home. In this section, the data is taken from a child's *last* episode of care in 1996. The third section gives breakdowns on children in out-of-home care by reporting county. Besides the technical information in this *Introduction*, most tables contain *notes* in italics, that clarify the data gathering procedure used in the table above them.

Data

- In all tables for all years, percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.
- In this report, all data for 1994 and 1995 are preliminary.
- After data was submitted for 1996, it was discovered that Hennepin County had omitted 303 placements involving 290 children in correctional facilities. The children involved in these placements may already be included in Hennepin's count, so they cannot be simply added to the total. The costs of these placements (approximately three million dollars) are included in Table 21, but the days in care are not. This has slightly inflated the average cost per day for Hennepin County and the State. The same reporting error was present in prior years 1992 through 1995.

Total Counts of Children

Where total numbers of children are indicated, tables count a child once, regardless of how often the child entered or left care, during the 12-month reporting period. The only exception to this occurs when a child is served by a second county during the year. In such cases, the child may be counted twice in the State totals; once in each reporting county. In other words, if a child moves and receives placement services from two counties in a single year, the child may be recorded twice, once in each of the county totals.

The flow of children in and out of care is dynamic, not static. This report uses a single point in time, December 31, 1996, to capture a snapshot of the data for this year. Table 1 shows the flow of children in and out of care for each year from 1992 through 1996. Four subsets are counted:

- children continuing in care from the previous year
- children entering care in 1996
- children leaving care in 1996
- children remaining in care at the end of 1996

To obtain the total count of children in out-of-home care, the sum of children continuing in care from the previous year is added to the number of those entering care. Or, the sum of those leaving care is added to those remaining in care. The results are the same in both cases. Because counties update and correct their records after a report is due, earlier records may not match revised ones. As a result, in the historical tables showing the flow of children, the number of children remaining in care at the end of one year does not equal the number of children continuing in care in the subsequent year.

Race or Heritage

Table 4 reports information about children's Hispanic heritage or primary race for the total number of children in care. The Department of Human Services (DHS) collects data about Hispanic heritage and primary race in the same manner as the United States Bureau of the Census. In DHS reporting, a child's Hispanic heritage is considered before race. For example:

- if the answer to the question about a child's Hispanic heritage is reported as *yes*, the child is listed as Hispanic no matter what other racial categories are reported.
- if the answer to the question about a child's Hispanic heritage is *no* or *unknown*, whatever race is reported first by the county, is listed as the primary race in this report. For example, if a child is reported as American Indian and White, American Indian is listed as the child's primary race.

The phrase "children of color" as used in this report refers to those children who are of Hispanic heritage and those whose primary race is other than White.

Race or Heritage of Foster Parents

To find out if children in family homes are placed with foster parents of the same race or heritage, the same method for examining race and heritage described earlier is used. If either one or both foster parents answers *yes* to the question of Hispanic heritage, that foster parent's heritage is listed as Hispanic. If the answer to the question about Hispanic heritage is *no* or *unknown*, the category of race is used. The county reports a primary and a secondary race, if required, for each foster parent. If the *primary or secondary* race of *either* foster parent matches the primary race of the child, the child's race is listed as the *same* as the foster parent(s) race.

Episodes and Placements

An *episode* of care is the period of continuous care between the dates a child enters and leaves out-of-home care. A child who enters and leaves care more than once in a year has multiple episodes of care in that year. Episodes may be viewed as the number of times a child moves *in and out* of the out-of-home care system. A *placement* refers to the particular kind of out-of-home living arrangement in which a child was placed, for example, emergency shelter, foster family care, or non-final adoptive placement. A child may have several placements in a single episode of care. Placements may be viewed as the number of times the child moves *within* the out-of-home care system.

This report contains counts of episodes that have at least one day of care in 1996. An episode that began prior to 1996, or one that will end after 1996, will be included in these counts as long as it has at least one day of care in 1996.

The box below depicts one episode of continuous care, beginning in November 1995, ending in March 1996, and containing four placements. The placements in this report, are counted in two ways. The first way counts only those placements that had at least one day of care in 1996, and includes two Placements "C" and "D" below. (Also see Tables 3 and 17.) The second way counts all placements in the 1996 episodes, including those placements that ended prior to 1996, and consists of four Placements "A," "B," "C," and "D" below. (Also see Tables 6, 11, and 18.)

November 1995	December 1995	January 1996	February 1996	March 1996
<-----Single 1996 Episode of Continuous Care----->				
Placement A Emergency Shelter	Placement B Group Home	Placement C Foster Family Home		Placement D Non-final Adoptive Home

Section One: Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care

Tables 1 and 2 show information about the number of children who entered and left care in a single year or who continued in care from a previous year and who were still in care at the end of a year. Table 3 shows all the placements in 1996 episodes by type of living arrangement. It follows the State definitions for living arrangement. Table 4 shows the primary race or heritage for all children in out-of-home care. Table 5 shows the length of time all children spent in 1996 episodes of care. These 1996 episodes had at least one day of care in 1996. Table 6 shows the statewide number of placements per episode for all children in care. Table 7 shows the number of episodes, per child in care, statewide.

Section Two: Groups of Children in Out-of-Home Care

Section Two data are based on certain groups of children. Tables 8 through 11 use the groups of children who come in to or go out of care within the year. Table 8 shows the age and gender of children entering care. Table 9 shows the reasons why children entered care and Table 10 shows why they left care. Table 11 shows the number of placements within the last episode of care for children by race or heritage.

Table 12 shows the kinship status of children and their foster parents by race or heritage. The phrase "kinship care" is used if any of the following relationships of foster parent to child prior to placement, are reported: grandparent, aunt/uncle, other relative, extended family (included by ethnic tradition or tribal practices), birth parent, or step parent. Table 13 compares the race or heritage of children and their foster parent(s). Both Tables 12 and 13 use the group of children that experienced their last placement in one of three kinds of family foster home placements: a family foster home, a non-final adoptive home, or receiving emergency shelter service in a family foster home.

Section Three: County Detail from Reporting Counties

Table 14 shows five-year trend data from 1992 through 1996 for children in out-of-home care by reporting county. Table 15 shows the flow of children in out-of-home care by reporting county. It shows the ratio of children per 1,000 children in care at the end of 1996 compared with total number of children for that age group in the population. Table 16 uses the primary race or heritage of children in out-of-home care by reporting county. Counts are shown for White children and for children of color for each county.

Table 17 displays the number of placements, episodes, and children for each county and the averages for each. To be included in this table, the placements, episodes, and children must have had at least one day of care in 1996. Table 18 shows the number of placements within episodes by county, and Table 19 shows the number of episodes per child by county. Table 20 shows the number of days each child had in all 1996 episodes of care in each county. Table 21 looks at the total costs and the average daily costs for out-of-home care in each county. Costs of out-of-home care include the total of federal, state, and county sources of revenue. Table 21 also shows the average number of days per placement, episode, and child.

SECTION ONE

Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care

1. NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE 1992-1996

Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care 1992-1996

Children in Care	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Continuing in Care from Prior Year	7,149	6,866	7,184	7,653	7,434
Entering Care During Year	10,947	11,807	12,424	10,812	10,074
Total	18,096	18,673	19,636	18,492	17,508
Leaving Care During Year	9,730	10,112	10,940	10,013	8,854
Remaining in Care at End of Year	8,366	8,561	8,668	8,452	8,654
Total children	18,096	18,673	19,636	18,492	17,508

Children in Care	Percent Distribution				
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Continuing in Care from Prior Year	39.5	36.8	36.6	41.4	42.5
Entering Care During Year	60.5	63.2	63.4	58.6	57.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Leaving Care During Year	53.8	54.2	55.8	54.2	50.6
Remaining in Care at End of Year	46.2	45.8	44.2	45.8	49.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

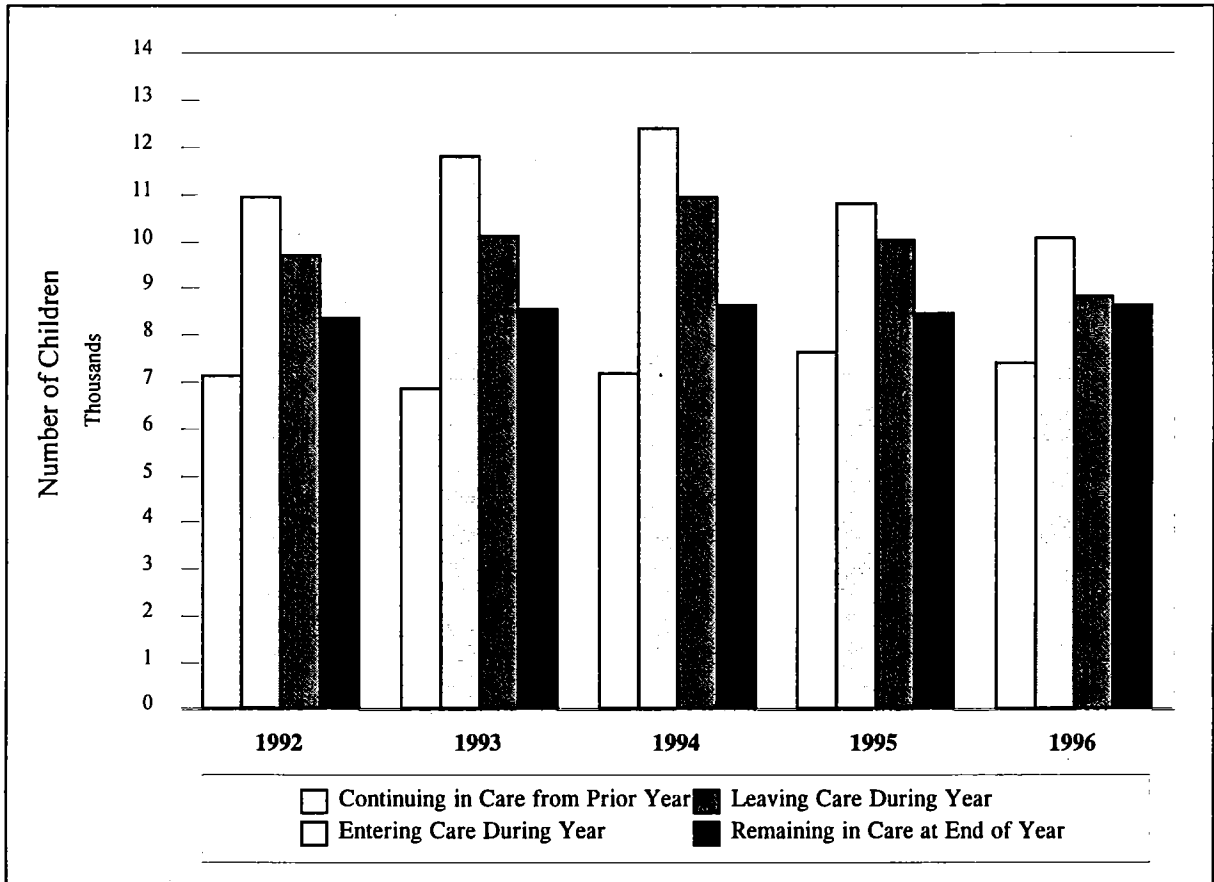
Data for 1994 and 1995 are preliminary. "Total children" includes an additional 28 children in 1994, and 27 children in 1995, whose status could not be determined. For all years, the number "Continuing in Care from Prior Year" does not match the number "Remaining in Care at End of Year" because counties may update data after a due date.

Total number of children in out-of-home care decreased slightly in the past two years.

- The number of children who entered care decreased by 738 or 6.8 percent from 1995 to 1996. In the prior year, from 1994 to 1995, 1,612 fewer children or 13 percent entered care. Overall, from 1992 to 1996, admissions into out-of-home care decreased by 873 or 8.0 percent.
- The number of children who left care in 1996 decreased by 1,159 or 11.6 percent from 1995. Although the number fluctuated from 1992 through 1996, overall, 876 or 9.0 percent fewer children left care in that time period.
- The number of children who remained in care each year from 1992 through 1996, varied by 302 children, or no more than 3.6 percent from the highest number in 1994 to the lowest in 1992.

2. CHART OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE 1992-1996

Chart of Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care 1992-1996



Data for 1994 and 1995 are preliminary.

Entries into out-of-home care peaked in 1994 and has decreased in the years, 1995 and 1996.

- Number of children leaving care has decreased since 1994.
- Number of children continuing in care and number of children remaining in care at the end of the year have remained stable from 1992 through 1996.
- Number of children entering care has decreased in 1995 and 1996 and the number entering care in 1996 was the lowest for the five-year period.

3. PLACEMENTS BY LIVING ARRANGEMENT

Placements by Living Arrangement of Children in Care 1996

Living Arrangement	Number of Placements	Percent
Family Foster Homes	14,019	45.2
Non-finalized Adoptive Homes	604	1.9
Emergency shelter in:		
Family Foster Homes	2,970	9.6
Group Living Arrangements	6,502	21.0
Total Emergency Shelter	9,472	30.6
Chemical Dependency Home/Facility	179	0.6
Corrections Home/Facility	2,194	7.1
Rule 5 Facility for Severely Emotionally Disturbed Children	2,116	6.8
Rule 8 Group Home	1,881	6.1
Rule 34 Group Home/Facility for Developmentally Disabled Children	96	0.3
Other Group Home	255	0.8
Independent/Semi-independent Living	37	0.1
Other Living Arrangements or Unknown	181	0.6
Total placements	31,034	100.0

The 31,034 placements involved 17,508 children. These placements had at least one day of care in 1996.

Almost half of all placements were in a family foster home.

- Forty-five percent or 14,019 out-of-home placements were in a family foster home. An additional two percent or 604 placements were in a non-final adoptive home in 1996.
- Thirty percent or 9,472 of total placements were emergency placements.

4. RACE OR HERITAGE OF CHILDREN

Race or Heritage of Children in Care 1992-1996

Race or Heritage	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
African American	3,459	3,860	4,007	3,685	3,492
American Indian	2,130	2,108	2,176	2,034	1,995
Asian and/or Pacific Islander	304	316	292	308	285
Hispanic	412	562	581	636	644
White	11,337	11,489	11,658	11,308	10,701
Not Reported	454	338	922	521	391
Total Children	18,096	18,673	19,636	18,492	17,508

Race or Heritage	Percent Distribution					1990 U.S. Census Minnesota Children
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	
African American	19.1	20.7	20.4	19.9	19.9	3.1
American Indian	11.8	11.3	11.1	11.0	11.4	1.7
Asian and/or Pacific Islander	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.6	3.0
Hispanic	2.3	3.0	3.0	3.4	3.7	1.9
White	62.6	61.5	59.4	61.2	61.1	90.3
Not Reported	2.5	1.8	4.7	2.8	2.2	0.0
Total Children	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Data for 1994 and 1995 are preliminary. Race refers to a child's primary race. Children of Hispanic heritage may be of any race, but are always counted as Hispanic. Population is from the 1990 U.S. Census of Minnesota children.

The percentage of children in out-of-home care by race or heritage was stable from 1992-1996.

- A comparison of the distribution of children in out-of-home care by primary race with the 1990 U.S. Census of Minnesota children shows that White children comprise a smaller percentage of children in care than their proportion in the State population.
- Asian and/or Pacific Islander children and those of Hispanic heritage in out-of-home care approximate the proportion of children of their respective groups in the State population.
- African American and American Indian children in out-of-home care comprise a larger percentage of the total children in care than their proportion in the State population.

5. LENGTH OF TIME IN CARE

Length of Time in 1996 Episodes of Care of Children in Care in 1996

Children/ Percent	Length of Time							Total Children
	Less than 1 Day	1 Day to 1 Month	1 to 3 Months	3 to 6 Months	6 to 12 Months	12 Months or More	Not Reported	
Children	505	4,066	1,924	2,113	2,645	6,251	4	17,508
Percent of Total	2.9	23.2	11.0	12.1	15.1	35.7	0.0	100.0

Months in care for each child are summed for all episodes of care that have at least one day in 1996. Children can be shown as having more than 12 months in care if their episode had a starting date prior to 1996. Episodes that ended prior to 1996 are not included.

For all children in care in 1996, almost half (49.2 percent) were in care for less than six months.

- About one-fourth or 26.1 percent of children in care in 1996 spent less than one month in care. Another 23.1 percent spent at least one month in care and left in six months.
- About one-third or 35.7 percent of children in care in 1996 had been in care for more than a year.

6. NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS PER EPISODE

Number of Placements per Episode of Care in 1996

Episodes/ Percent	Number of Placements								Total Episodes
	1	2	3	4	5	6-10	11-20	21-38	
Episodes	12,782	3,870	1,822	980	524	800	140	13	20,931
Percent of Total	61.1	18.5	8.7	4.7	2.5	3.8	0.7	0.1	100.0

The 20,931 episodes had at least one day of care in 1996 and involved 17,508 children. All placements within these 1996 episodes, including those placements that ended prior to 1996, are counted for a total of 40,439 placements.

The number of placements represents the number of times a child moves within an episode in the foster care system.

- Sixty-one percent of the episodes of care consisted of one placement.
- The percentage of episodes of care with two placements was 18.5 percent.
- The percentage of episodes of care with three or more placements was 20.5 percent.

7. NUMBER OF EPISODES PER CHILD

Number of 1996 Episodes per Child of Total Children in Care in 1996

Children/ Percent	Number of Episodes						Total Children
	1	2	3	4	5	6-8	
Children	14,954	1,986	382	112	46	28	17,508
Percent of Total	85.4	11.3	2.2	0.6	0.3	0.2	100.0

These 1996 episodes had at least one day of care in 1996. Episodes that ended prior to 1996 are not included.

The number of episodes represents the number of times a child moves in and out of the out-of-home care system.

- More than 85 percent (85.4) of 17,508 children experienced a single episode of care in 1996.
- The total number of children reported to have two or more episodes of care was 2,554.

SECTION TWO

Groups of Children in Out-of-Home Care

8. AGE AND GENDER OF CHILDREN ENTERING CARE

Age and Gender of Children Entering Care in 1996

Age When Entered Care (in years)	Female	Male	Gender Unknown	Total Children	Percent Distribution*	
					Female	Male
Less than 1	231	242	8	481	49	51
1	143	149	1	293	49	51
2	159	147	1	307	52	48
3	138	165	1	304	46	54
4	173	169	0	342	51	49
5	151	156	4	311	49	51
6	159	152	1	312	51	49
7	129	155	0	284	45	55
8	131	169	0	300	44	56
9	123	163	0	286	43	57
10	110	189	1	300	37	63
11	129	195	0	324	40	60
12	200	262	1	463	43	57
13	379	389	0	768	49	51
14	556	643	1	1,200	46	54
15	686	807	0	1,493	46	54
16	511	765	0	1,276	40	60
17	288	650	0	938	31	69
18 and Over	27	63	0	90	30	70
Age Unknown	1	0	1	2		
Total Children	4,424	5,630	20	10,074	44	56

*Percent of children for whom gender is known.

More boys (56 percent) than girls (44 percent) entered care in 1996. More adolescents, ages 13 through 17, entered care than would be expected from their proportion in the State population.

- Although the State population of boys and girls is almost evenly divided, of the total children who entered care, 56 percent or 5,630 were boys.
- Adolescents from ages 13 through 17 accounted for 57 percent of those who entered care, although this group accounted for only 25 percent of the State population from birth through 17 years.
- Children who were under six years accounted for 20 percent of those who entered care, although this age group accounts for about 35 percent of the State population from birth through 17 years.

9. REASON FOR CHILD'S ENTRY INTO CARE

Primary Reason Given for Child's Entry into Last Episode of Care for Children Entering Care 1992-1996

Reason Entering Care	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Child Related Conduct or Condition					
Child Delinquent (Adjudicated)	1,178	1,742	2,200	2,250	2,319
Child Behavior or Condition	1,717	1,596	1,423	1,458	1,367
Child Disability	427	290	296	253	193
Child Status Offenses	214	278	371	415	375
Child Substance Abuse	NA	27	58	83	64
Subtotal	3,536	3,933	4,348	4,459	4,318
Family Interaction or Financial Hardship					
Hardship or Financial Hardship	NA	NA	56	60	57
Other Family Interaction Problems	NA	NA	955	997	909
Subtotal	NA	NA	1,011	1,057	966
Protection					
Protection from Neglect	NA	NA	1,471	1,262	1,265
Protection from Physical Abuse	NA	NA	753	800	677
Protection from Sexual Abuse	NA	NA	136	201	200
Subtotal	2,838	3,097	2,360	2,263	2,142
Parent/Caretaker Conduct, Condition or Absence					
Substance Abuse	NA	NA	477	466	468
Illness or Disability	NA	NA	457	407	350
Temporary Absence	NA	NA	307	352	305
Incarceration	NA	NA	264	322	277
Death	NA	NA	38	46	27
Abandonment	NA	NA	218	268	215
Inability to Cope	NA	NA	184	225	202
Unspecified Other	NA	NA	1,433	608	586
Subtotal	1,819*	2,283	3,378	2,694	2,430
Relinquishment of Parental Rights					
Relinquishment of Parental Rights	116*	95	130	145	198
Subtotal	116*	95	130	145	198
Total Children with Reason Reported	8,309	9,408	11,227	10,618	10,054
Children with Reason Not Reported	2,638	2,399	1,197	194	20
Total Children Entering Care	10,947	11,807	12,424	10,812	10,074

Data for 1994 and 1995 are preliminary. NA Not available.
*This number is corrected from previous reports.

9. REASON FOR CHILD'S ENTRY INTO CARE (continued)

Data for 1994 and 1995 are preliminary. Prior to 1994, "Child Behavior or Condition" was labeled "Other Reason." Beginning in 1993, "Child Substance Abuse" was reported separately from "Child Disability." Beginning in 1994, "Family Interaction/Financial Hardship" was reported separately from "Protection." Most of the children with "Reason Not Reported" were emergency shelter placements from Hennepin County; 2,609 in 1992 and 2,363 in 1993. In 1994, Hennepin County reported 978 and St. Louis County reported 196 children entering care with "Reason Not Reported."

The reason given most often for children entering care in 1996 was adjudicated delinquency. This reason was given in 23.1 percent of the 10,054 cases with reason known and has risen steadily from 1992 to 1996.

- **Child related conduct or condition** was the reason reported for 42.9 percent of the 10,054 children entering their last episode of care in 1996. The breakdowns are: adjudicated delinquency - 23.1 percent; child behavior or condition - 13.6 percent; status offenses - 3.7 percent; child disability - 1.9 percent; and child substance abuse - 0.6 percent.
- **Parent or caretaker condition or absence** was the reason reported for 24.2 percent of children entering their last episode of care. The breakdowns are: substance abuse - 4.7 percent; illness or disability - 3.5 percent; temporary absence - 3.0 percent; incarceration - 2.8 percent; death - 0.3 percent; abandonment - 2.1 percent; inability to cope - 2.0 percent; and unspecified other - 5.8 percent.
- **Protection from neglect or abuse** was the reason reported for 21.3 percent of children entering their last episode of care. The breakdowns are: protection from neglect - 12.6 percent; protection from physical abuse - 6.7 percent; and protection from sexual abuse - 2.0 percent.
- **Family interaction or financial hardship** was the reason reported for 9.6 percent of children entering their last episode of care. The breakdowns are: hardship or financial hardship - .6 percent; and other family interaction problems - 9.0 percent.
- **Relinquishment of parental rights** was the reason reported for two percent of children entering their last episode of care. The number of children with this reason for entering care has risen each year since 1993.

10. REASON FOR CHILD'S EXIT FROM CARE

Reason for Child's Exit from Last Episode of Care 1992-1996

Reason for Exit from Care	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Reunified with Parent(s)	7,341	7,980	8,246	7,254	6,480
Placed with Relative	778	582	617	708	552
Placed with Legal Guardian	74	39	42	35	29
Finalized Adoption	293	226	214	264	326
Reached Majority Age	286	287	246	240	249
Ran Away	343	366	333	343	302
Discharged to Other Agency	5	10	33	60	72
Other Reason	481	478	991	974	658
Reason not Reported	129	144	215	130	180
Death of Child	0	0	3	5	6
Total	9,730	10,112	10,940	10,013	8,854

Reason for Exit from Care	Percent Distribution				
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Reunified with Parent(s)	75.4	78.9	75.4	72.4	73.2
Placed with Relative	8.0	5.8	5.6	7.1	6.2
Placed with Legal Guardian	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Finalized Adoption	3.0	2.2	2.0	2.6	3.7
Reached Majority Age	2.9	2.8	2.2	2.4	2.8
Ran Away	3.5	3.6	3.0	3.4	3.4
Discharged to Other Agency	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.8
Other Reason	4.9	4.7	9.1	9.7	7.4
Reason Not Reported	1.3	1.4	2.0	1.3	2.0
Death of Child	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Data for 1994 and 1995 are preliminary.

10. REASON FOR CHILD'S EXIT FROM CARE (continued)

The coding choice "Discharged to Other Agency" was not available to many counties in 1991 through 1993. Thus the data reported under this heading for those years is not reliable. In addition, county coding errors in this preliminary 1994 and 1995 data produced some invalid combinations. For example, some counties reported a child's exit from final placement as "Moving from One Placement to Another." These records are shown with "Other Reason Left Care."

Almost three out of four children (73.2 percent) were reunited with parent(s) when they left care in 1996.

- Seventy-three percent of children who left a last episode of care were reunited with their parents. Another six percent were placed with relatives.
- Final adoption was the outcome for 3.7 percent or 326 children. Another 29 children were placed with legal guardians.
- Three-hundred two (302) children ran away from their last placement. Six children died while in placement.

11. NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS BY RACE OR HERITAGE

Number of Placements for Children by Race or Heritage in Last Episode of Care for Children Leaving Care

Number of Placements	African American	American Indian	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Hispanic	White	Not Reported	Total Children
1	847	532	125	231	4,160	150	6,045
2	411	215	21	57	899	59	1,662
3 to 5	179	100	14	32	582	22	929
6 or More	50	24	4	3	136	1	218
Total	1,487	871	164	323	5,777	232	8,854

Number of Placements	Percent Distribution						Total Children
	African American	American Indian	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Hispanic	White	Not Reported	
1	57.0	61.1	76.2	71.5	72.0	64.7	68.3
2	27.6	24.7	12.8	17.6	15.6	25.4	18.8
3 to 5	12.0	11.5	8.5	9.9	10.1	9.5	10.5
6 or More	3.4	2.8	2.4	0.9	2.3	0.4	2.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The placements included in these 1996 episodes may have ended prior to 1996. One child with "Race Not Reported" also has number of placements "Unknown," and is shown with six or more placements.

In looking at the last episode of care for the 8,854 children who left care in 1996, 68.3 percent had only one placement and 31.7 percent had two or more placements.

- The percentage of children with only one placement, in the last episode of care, was higher than the statewide average for Asian and/or Pacific Islander children with 76.2 percent; Hispanic children with 71.5; and White children with 72.0 percent.
- The proportion of children who had two or more placements when they left a last episode of care varied from 43.0 percent to 28.0 percent. The breakdowns are: African American - 43.0 percent; American Indian - 38.9 percent; Asian/Pacific Islander - 23.7 percent; Hispanic - 28.5 percent; and White - 28.0 percent.

12. KINSHIP CARE BY RACE OR HERITAGE

Kinship Care for Children with Last Placement in Family Foster Homes, Emergency Placement in Family Foster Homes, and Non-Final Adoptive Homes in 1996

Foster Parent Relationship to Child	African American	American Indian	Asian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic	White	Child's Race Not Reported	Total Children
Relative	722	314	13	52	728	40	1,869
Non-relative	1,733	904	134	351	5,340	135	8,597
Total Known	2,455	1,218	147	403	6,068	175	10,466

Foster Parent Relationship to Child	Percent Distribution						Total Children
	African American	American Indian	Asian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic	White	Child's Race Not Reported	
Relative	29.4	25.8	8.8	12.9	12.0	22.9	17.9
Non-relative	70.6	74.2	91.2	87.1	88.0	77.1	82.1
Total Known	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The number of placements with foster parent relationship to child unknown was 797. This represents 7.1 percent of this group of children.

Relative foster parents cared for almost 18 percent of children with last placement in a family foster home, a non-final adoptive home, or an emergency shelter in a family foster home.

- For children with last placement in family homes, 82.1 percent were placed with non-relatives in 1996.
- The breakdowns by race or heritage for children who had a last placement with relatives are as follows: African American - 29.4 percent; American Indian - 25.8 percent; Asian/Pacific Islander - 8.8 percent; Hispanic - 12.9 percent; White - 12 percent; and Child's Race Not Reported - 22.9 percent.

13. COMPARISON OF RACE OR HERITAGE OF CHILDREN AND THEIR FOSTER PARENT(S)

Child's Race or Heritage Compared with that of Foster Parent(s) for Children with Last Placement in Family Foster Homes, Emergency Placement in Family Foster Homes, and Non-Final Adoptive Homes in 1996

Comparison of Either Parent's Race to Child's Race	Child's Primary Race or Heritage					Total
	African American	American Indian	Asian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic	White	
Foster Parent(s) Race Same as Child's	1,694	762	25	34	5,840	8,355
Foster Parent(s) Race Different from Child's	556	396	114	345	98	1,509
Total Comparison Known	2,250	1,158	139	379	5,938	9,864

Percent Distribution of Comparison	Percent Distribution by Child's Race or Heritage					Total
	African American	American Indian	Asian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic	White	
Foster Parent(s) Race Same as Child's	75.3	65.8	18.0	9.0	98.3	84.7
Foster Parent(s) Race Different from Child's	24.7	34.2	82.0	91.0	1.7	15.3
Total Comparison Known	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

A child is considered to be the same race as a parent if the primary or secondary race of either parent matches the primary race of the child. The number of placements of children with foster parent(s) race unknown was 1,237 and represents 11.0 percent of this group of children. Child's race was unknown in 185 placements, 23 of which also had parent(s) race unknown.

13. COMPARISON OF RACE OR HERITAGE OF CHILDREN AND THEIR FOSTER PARENT(S) (continued)

Placement with the same race foster parents varies by the race of the child. Given the method used of matching a child's primary race or heritage with either foster parent's race or heritage:

- Almost all White children or 98.3 percent were placed with same race foster parent(s).
- Three-quarters of African American children or 75.3 percent were placed with same race foster parent(s).
- Almost two-thirds of American Indian children or 65.8 percent were placed with same race foster parent(s).
- Approximately one out of six Asian and/or Pacific Islander children or 18.0 percent were placed with the same race foster parent(s).
- Approximately one out of 11 Hispanic children or 9.0 percent were placed with the same race foster parent(s).
- If the child's additional races were considered, the proportion of matches would increase.

SECTION THREE

County Detail from Reporting Counties

14. CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE 1992-1996

Children in Out-of-Home Care by Reporting County 1992-1996

County	Number of Children in Care				
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Aitkin	55	75	78	67	47
Anoka	975	1,063	1,084	1,157	1,241
Becker	112	122	162	153	129
Beltrami	230	231	261	234	216
Benton	70	76	78	78	76
Big Stone	10	2	8	17	9
Blue Earth	169	172	149	185	208
Brown	56	57	74	69	78
Carlton	119	124	158	170	153
Carver	113	146	175	199	208
Cass	198	233	231	223	211
Chippewa	26	35	36	38	27
Chisago	126	144	194	195	143
Clay	179	194	266	269	265
Clearwater	35	38	40	56	48
Cook	13	10	12	9	20
Cottonwood	46	46	56	81	55
Crow Wing	235	228	247	204	227
Dakota	869	921	937	830	699
Dodge	35	31	36	64	75
Douglas	33	30	35	27	33
Faribault	52	38	59	68	56
Fillmore	22	27	23	28	23
Freeborn	111	94	104	123	124
Goodhue	119	119	142	151	158
Grant	12	11	14	16	14
Hennepin	6,283	6,713	6,878	5,457	4,933
Houston	31	32	30	30	30
Hubbard	75	85	72	77	67
Isanti	112	138	171	164	141
Itasca	250	273	286	294	247
Jackson	34	42	43	53	70
Kanabec	30	32	43	65	67
Kandiyohi	172	183	159	140	124

County	Number of Children in Care				
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Kittson	10	8	7	7	6
Koochiching	65	77	56	60	69
Lac qui Parle	16	23	27	26	31
Lake	36	31	31	45	26
Lake of the Woods	10	8	6	9	11
Le Sueur	44	73	71	58	55
Lincoln	12	8	7	6	12
Lyon	87	86	71	98	94
McLeod	70	55	48	37	42
Mahnomen	52	56	73	80	81
Marshall	20	20	23	27	25
Martin	71	71	83	95	89
Meeker	48	49	64	73	54
Mille Lacs	86	109	107	119	122
Morrison	46	36	51	75	59
Mower	104	81	112	137	130
Murray	14	12	10	10	7
Nicollet	121	111	107	93	79
Nobles	77	89	93	101	85
Norman	29	33	17	16	23
Olmsted	250	264	254	246	276
Otter Tail	216	200	208	186	164
Pennington	23	30	24	36	41
Pine	83	87	94	98	103
Pipestone	47	45	53	40	42
Polk	143	135	148	158	164
Pope	28	36	33	27	30
Ramsey	1,835	1,582	1,652	1,710	1,684
Red Lake	3	5	7	11	7
Redwood	61	87	79	70	78
Renville	54	58	56	53	51
Rice	127	79	84	98	75
Rock	28	29	26	47	44
Roseau	22	22	27	31	23
St. Louis	1,490	1,484	1,490	1,459	1,300
Scott	146	132	127	116	172
Sherburne	54	50	51	82	92

County	Number of Children in Care				
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Sibley	32	42	28	24	25
Stearns	271	249	326	357	379
Steele	68	79	109	99	77
Stevens	20	17	16	18	13
Swift	17	25	38	30	31
Todd	62	57	79	76	73
Traverse	11	15	9	0	9
Wabasha	45	51	81	84	104
Wadena	59	49	64	54	59
Waseca	42	42	43	45	36
Washington	397	416	432	436	463
Watsonwan	44	65	58	67	48
Wilkin	36	44	56	43	39
Winona	59	64	71	81	95
Wright	267	293	363	399	350
Yellow Medicine	31	39	45	48	39
Total	18,096	18,673	19,636	18,492	17,508

Data for 1994 and 1995 are preliminary.

For the five years from 1992 to 1996, Minnesota counties reported the lowest number of children (17,508) in care during 1996.

- Fifty-four Minnesota counties reported increases in the total number of children in out-of-home care from 1992 to 1996; 24 reported decreases; and nine reported either no change or a change of only one child.
- The overall decrease in the total number of children in care in 1996 as compared to 1992, may be due to the fact that counties in or near major urban areas reported significant drops in the total number of children in out-of-home care. These counties and their reductions are: Hennepin (1,350), Ramsey (151), Dakota (170), and St. Louis (190).

15. FLOW OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

Flow and Number of Children per 1,000 Population by Reporting County in 1996

County	Children Continuing Care from Prior Year	Children Entering Care During 1996	Children Leaving Care During 1996	Children Remaining in Care at the End (12/31/96)	Total Children in Care During 1996	Children per 1,000 Population Under 18 for	
						Children in Care at the End (12/31/96)	Total Children in Care
Aitkin	10	37	29	18	47	6.1	15.9
Anoka	395	846	855	386	1,241	5.2	16.7
Becker	80	49	52	77	129	9.5	15.9
Beltrami	134	82	65	151	216	14.8	21.1
Benton	27	49	48	28	76	3.1	8.4
Big Stone	5	4	3	6	9	3.7	5.5
Blue Earth	78	130	107	101	208	8.2	16.8
Brown	37	41	50	28	78	3.8	10.5
Carlton	109	44	52	101	153	12.3	18.6
Carver	76	132	132	76	208	5.2	14.3
Cass	59	152	121	90	211	15.2	35.6
Chippewa	15	12	13	14	27	3.9	7.5
Chisago	40	103	89	54	143	5.7	15.2
Clay	73	192	160	105	265	8.3	21.0
Clearwater	27	21	19	29	48	12.0	19.8
Cook	4	16	11	9	20	9.6	21.4
Cottonwood	33	22	27	28	55	8.5	16.6
Crow Wing	131	96	57	170	227	14.3	19.0
Dakota	178	521	421	278	699	3.4	8.5
Dodge	26	49	50	25	75	5.1	15.2
Douglas	22	11	6	27	33	3.5	4.2
Faribault	24	32	36	20	56	4.5	12.5
Fillmore	12	11	10	13	23	2.2	4.0
Freeborn	72	52	43	81	124	9.5	14.5
Goodhue	49	109	95	63	158	5.5	13.8
Grant	5	9	4	10	14	6.2	8.7
Hennepin	2,395	2,538	2,194	2,739	4,933	11.5	20.7
Houston	13	17	8	22	30	4.1	5.6
Hubbard	24	43	37	30	67	7.3	16.4
Isanti	45	96	86	55	141	6.8	17.4

County	Children Continuing Care from Prior Year	Children Entering Care During 1996	Children Leaving Care During 1996	Children Remaining in Care at the End (12/31/96)	Total Children in Care During 1996	Children per 1,000 Population Under 18 for	
						Children in Care at the End (12/31/96)	Total Children in Care
Itasca	89	158	127	120	247	10.4	21.4
Jackson	33	37	33	37	70	11.8	22.3
Kanabec	14	53	32	35	67	9.0	17.2
Kandiyohi	55	69	62	62	124	5.6	11.2
Kittson	1	5	1	5	6	3.3	4.0
Koochiching	25	44	32	37	69	8.9	16.6
Lac qui Parle	9	22	25	6	31	2.5	13.1
Lake	12	14	11	15	26	5.9	10.3
Lake of the Woods	5	6	7	4	11	3.5	9.8
Le Sueur	33	22	18	37	55	5.4	8.0
Lincoln	5	7	4	8	12	4.4	6.7
Lyon	51	43	39	55	94	8.2	13.9
McLeod	17	25	18	24	42	2.6	4.5
Mahnomen	37	44	45	36	81	22.9	51.5
Marshall	13	12	9	16	25	5.0	7.9
Martin	46	43	41	48	89	7.8	14.5
Meeker	23	31	26	28	54	4.6	8.8
Mille Lacs	57	65	62	60	122	11.0	22.4
Morrison	33	26	35	24	59	2.6	6.4
Mower	50	80	67	63	130	6.6	13.6
Murray	5	2	2	5	7	1.9	2.7
Nicollet	27	52	43	36	79	4.9	10.8
Nobles	41	44	47	38	85	7.1	15.9
Norman	10	13	17	6	23	2.8	10.7
Olmsted	106	170	154	122	276	4.1	9.3
Otter Tail	72	92	74	90	164	6.7	12.2
Pennington	23	18	13	28	41	7.9	11.5
Pine	23	80	64	39	103	6.5	17.0
Pipestone	18	24	19	23	42	7.8	14.2
Polk	93	71	48	116	164	12.7	17.9
Pope	11	19	12	18	30	6.1	10.1
Ramsey	757	927	602	1,082	1,684	9.0	14.0
Red Lake	5	2	6	1	7	0.7	5.2
Redwood	36	42	34	44	78	9.1	16.1

County	Children Continuing Care from Prior Year	Children Entering Care During 1996	Children Leaving Care During 1996	Children Remaining in Care at the End (12/31/96)	Total Children in Care During 1996	Children per 1,000 Population Under 18 for	
						Children in Care at the End (12/31/96)	Total Children in Care
Renville	25	26	18	33	51	6.7	10.4
Rice	49	26	13	62	75	4.8	5.8
Rock	16	28	23	21	44	7.5	15.8
Roseau	6	17	17	6	23	1.3	4.9
St. Louis	544	756	831	469	1,300	9.7	26.9
Scott	56	116	115	57	172	3.2	9.6
Sherburne	21	71	56	36	92	2.7	6.9
Sibley	16	9	11	14	25	3.4	6.1
Stearns	160	219	208	171	379	5.2	11.5
Steele	41	36	37	40	77	4.5	8.8
Stevens	9	4	5	8	13	3.2	5.2
Swift	13	18	15	16	31	5.6	10.8
Todd	40	33	28	45	73	6.3	10.2
Traverse	0	9	7	2	9	1.7	7.7
Wabasha	46	58	66	38	104	6.7	18.2
Wadena	27	32	27	32	59	8.6	15.9
Waseca	29	7	15	21	36	4.1	6.9
Washington	124	339	320	143	463	3.2	10.4
Watonwan	26	22	17	31	48	9.4	14.6
Wilkin	17	22	12	27	39	12.7	18.3
Winona	27	68	42	53	95	4.5	8.1
Wright	87	263	248	102	350	4.6	15.6
Yellow Medicine	22	17	14	25	39	7.9	12.4
Total	7,434	10,074	8,854	8,654	17,508	7.4	15.0

Population is from the 1990 U.S. Census of Minnesota children.

More than half (52 percent) of all children in out-of-home care were in the urban areas of Hennepin, Ramsey, Dakota, Anoka, and Washington counties.

- Hennepin had over one-quarter of all children in care (4,933); Ramsey had 1,684; Anoka had 1,241; Dakota had 699; and Washington had 463. The total number of children in care during 1996 in these urban counties was 9,020.
- Thirty-one counties had higher rates of children in care at the end (12/31/96) than the statewide rate of 7.4 per 1,000. Overall, the rates ranged from a high of 22.9 to a low of 0.7.

16. RACE OR HERITAGE OF CHILDREN

Primary Race or Heritage of Children in Out-of-Home Care by Reporting County in 1996

County	Child's Race or Heritage			1996 Total Children	Percent Children of Color
	Children of Color	White	Race Not Reported		
Aitkin	16	31	0	47	34.0
Anoka	193	1,048	0	1,241	15.6
Becker	55	74	0	129	42.6
Beltrami	158	58	0	216	73.1
Benton	8	68	0	76	10.5
Big Stone	0	9	0	9	0.0
Blue Earth	14	194	0	208	6.7
Brown	10	68	0	78	12.8
Carlton	57	96	0	153	37.3
Carver	28	178	2	208	13.5
Cass	126	84	1	211	59.7
Chippewa	2	25	0	27	7.4
Chisago	9	134	0	143	6.3
Clay	98	167	0	265	37.0
Clearwater	32	16	0	48	66.7
Cook	3	17	0	20	15.0
Cottonwood	14	41	0	55	25.5
Crow Wing	14	213	0	227	6.2
Dakota	181	518	0	699	25.9
Dodge	4	71	0	75	5.3
Douglas	4	29	0	33	12.1
Faribault	7	49	0	56	12.5
Fillmore	0	23	0	23	0.0
Freeborn	25	99	0	124	20.2
Goodhue	11	147	0	158	7.0
Grant	0	14	0	14	0.0
Hennepin	3,291	1,360	282	4,933	66.7
Houston	0	30	0	30	0.0
Hubbard	15	52	0	67	22.4
Isanti	11	130	0	141	7.8
Itasca	49	198	0	247	19.8
Jackson	24	46	0	70	34.3

County	Child's Race or Heritage			1996 Total Children	Percent Children of Color
	Children of Color	White	Race Not Reported		
Kanabec	3	64	0	67	4.5
Kandiyohi	31	93	0	124	25.0
Kittson	0	6	0	6	0.0
Koochiching	9	60	0	69	13.0
Lac qui Parle	5	26	0	31	16.1
Lake	1	25	0	26	3.8
Lake of the Woods	1	10	0	11	9.1
Le Sueur	7	48	0	55	12.7
Lincoln	1	11	0	12	8.3
Lyon	34	60	0	94	36.2
McLeod	4	38	0	42	9.5
Mahnomen	68	12	1	81	84.0
Marshall	3	22	0	25	12.0
Martin	9	80	0	89	10.1
Meeker	4	50	0	54	7.4
Mille Lacs	52	70	0	122	42.6
Morrison	4	55	0	59	6.8
Mower	13	116	1	130	10.0
Murray	0	7	0	7	0.0
Nicollet	7	72	0	79	8.9
Nobles	23	62	0	85	27.1
Norman	5	18	0	23	21.7
Olmsted	78	198	0	276	28.3
Otter Tail	8	156	0	164	4.9
Pennington	3	38	0	41	7.3
Pine	12	91	0	103	11.7
Pipestone	14	28	0	42	33.3
Polk	70	94	0	164	42.7
Pope	0	30	0	30	0.0
Ramsey	955	723	6	1,684	56.7
Red Lake	0	4	3	7	0.0
Redwood	17	61	0	78	21.8
Renville	8	43	0	51	15.7
Rice	2	73	0	75	2.7
Rock	2	42	0	44	4.5
Roseau	2	21	0	23	8.7

County	Child's Race or Heritage			1996 Total Children	Percent Children of Color
	Children of Color	White	Race Not Reported		
St. Louis	309	909	82	1,300	23.8
Scott	17	147	8	172	9.9
Sherburne	3	89	0	92	3.3
Sibley	6	19	0	25	24.0
Stearns	42	337	0	379	11.1
Steele	15	62	0	77	19.5
Stevens	2	11	0	13	15.4
Swift	1	30	0	31	3.2
Todd	9	64	0	73	12.3
Traverse	5	4	0	9	55.6
Wabasha	2	102	0	104	1.9
Wadena	7	52	0	59	11.9
Waseca	2	34	0	36	5.6
Washington	37	423	3	463	8.0
Watonwan	17	31	0	48	35.4
Wilkin	3	35	1	39	7.7
Winona	6	88	1	95	6.3
Wright	9	341	0	350	2.6
Yellow Medicine	10	29	0	39	25.6
Total	6,416	10,701	391	17,508	36.6

Children of color are grouped to protect the identity of individuals within each race.

Overall, children of color accounted for 36.6 percent of the children in out-of-home care in 1996.

- The race and heritage of the child population reflect the wide regional differences of Minnesota. For example, Big Stone, Fillmore, Grant, Houston, Kittson, Murray, Pope, and Red Lake reported no children of color in out-of-home care. Other counties had a high percentage of children of color in care; Mahnommen had 84.0 percent; Beltrami had 73.1 percent; and Clearwater and Hennepin had 66.7 percent.

17. PLACEMENTS, EPISODES, AND CHILDREN

Counts of Placements, Episodes, Children, and Averages by Reporting County in 1996

County	Placements	Episodes	Children	Average Number of		
				1996 Placements per Episode	1996 Placements per Child	1996 Episodes per Child
Aitkin	66	57	47	1.16	1.40	1.21
Anoka	2,323	1,704	1,241	1.36	1.87	1.37
Becker	237	144	129	1.65	1.84	1.12
Beltrami	301	225	216	1.34	1.39	1.04
Benton	134	93	76	1.44	1.76	1.22
Big Stone	13	10	9	1.30	1.44	1.11
Blue Earth	323	246	208	1.31	1.55	1.18
Brown	138	86	78	1.60	1.77	1.10
Carlton	214	161	153	1.33	1.40	1.05
Carver	342	248	208	1.38	1.64	1.19
Cass	424	286	211	1.48	2.01	1.36
Chippewa	44	28	27	1.57	1.63	1.04
Chisago	269	205	143	1.31	1.88	1.43
Clay	455	341	265	1.33	1.72	1.29
Clearwater	76	54	48	1.41	1.58	1.13
Cook	48	30	20	1.60	2.40	1.50
Cottonwood	86	62	55	1.39	1.56	1.13
Crow Wing	332	252	227	1.32	1.46	1.11
Dakota	1,491	1,085	699	1.37	2.13	1.55
Dodge	130	91	75	1.43	1.73	1.21
Douglas	37	33	33	1.12	1.12	1.00
Faribault	116	68	56	1.71	2.07	1.21
Fillmore	38	26	23	1.46	1.65	1.13
Freeborn	180	132	124	1.36	1.45	1.06
Goodhue	275	192	158	1.43	1.74	1.22
Grant	17	15	14	1.13	1.21	1.07
Hennepin	9,776	5,713	4,933	1.71	1.98	1.16
Houston	67	32	30	2.09	2.23	1.07
Hubbard	127	82	67	1.55	1.90	1.22
Isanti	226	176	141	1.28	1.60	1.25
Itasca	498	348	247	1.43	2.02	1.41
Jackson	135	74	70	1.82	1.93	1.06

County	Placements	Episodes	Children	Average Number of		
				1996 Placements per Episode	1996 Placements per Child	1996 Episodes per Child
Kanabec	122	84	67	1.45	1.82	1.25
Kandiyohi	155	135	124	1.15	1.25	1.09
Kittson	12	6	6	2.00	2.00	1.00
Koochiching	93	80	69	1.16	1.35	1.16
Lac qui Parle	53	38	31	1.39	1.71	1.23
Lake	36	30	26	1.20	1.38	1.15
Lake of the Woods	17	13	11	1.31	1.55	1.18
Le Sueur	72	56	55	1.29	1.31	1.02
Lincoln	19	12	12	1.58	1.58	1.00
Lyon	156	111	94	1.41	1.66	1.18
McLeod	59	47	42	1.26	1.40	1.12
Mahnomen	132	95	81	1.39	1.63	1.17
Marshall	34	26	25	1.31	1.36	1.04
Martin	174	104	89	1.67	1.96	1.17
Meeker	107	65	54	1.65	1.98	1.20
Mille Lacs	187	136	122	1.38	1.53	1.11
Morrison	86	59	59	1.46	1.46	1.00
Mower	217	157	130	1.38	1.67	1.21
Murray	7	7	7	1.00	1.00	1.00
Nicollet	143	99	79	1.44	1.81	1.25
Nobles	155	107	85	1.45	1.82	1.26
Norman	43	26	23	1.65	1.87	1.13
Olmsted	470	338	276	1.39	1.70	1.22
Otter Tail	250	181	164	1.38	1.52	1.10
Pennington	62	46	41	1.35	1.51	1.12
Pine	200	127	103	1.57	1.94	1.23
Pipestone	62	45	42	1.38	1.48	1.07
Polk	243	176	164	1.38	1.48	1.07
Pope	39	32	30	1.22	1.30	1.07
Ramsey	2,283	1,891	1,684	1.21	1.36	1.12
Red Lake	7	7	7	1.00	1.00	1.00
Redwood	133	91	78	1.46	1.71	1.17
Renville	80	54	51	1.48	1.57	1.06
Rice	101	83	75	1.22	1.35	1.11
Rock	89	59	44	1.51	2.02	1.34

County	Placements	Episodes	Children	Average Number of		
				1996 Placements per Episode	1996 Placements per Child	1996 Episodes per Child
Roseau	39	27	23	1.44	1.70	1.17
St. Louis	2,443	1,464	1,300	1.67	1.88	1.13
Scott	294	218	172	1.35	1.71	1.27
Sherburne	125	106	92	1.18	1.36	1.15
Sibley	33	28	25	1.18	1.32	1.12
Stearns	602	427	379	1.41	1.59	1.13
Steele	119	80	77	1.49	1.55	1.04
Stevens	15	13	13	1.15	1.15	1.00
Swift	73	43	31	1.70	2.35	1.39
Todd	101	76	73	1.33	1.38	1.04
Traverse	12	9	9	1.33	1.33	1.00
Wabasha	157	115	104	1.37	1.51	1.11
Wadena	77	62	59	1.24	1.31	1.05
Waseca	49	40	36	1.23	1.36	1.11
Washington	821	568	463	1.45	1.77	1.23
Watonwan	84	53	48	1.58	1.75	1.10
Wilkin	61	48	39	1.27	1.56	1.23
Winona	159	112	95	1.42	1.67	1.18
Wright	672	474	350	1.42	1.92	1.35
Yellow Medicine	62	46	39	1.35	1.59	1.18
Total	31,034	20,931	17,508	1.48	1.77	1.20

The 20,931 episodes involved 17,508 children and contained 31,034 placements. These episodes and placements had at least one day of care in 1996.

The average number of placements children experienced in 1996 while in a single episode of care was 1.48. The average number of episodes of care for a child in 1996 was 1.20. Overall, the average number of placements children experienced in 1996 was 1.77.

- Twenty counties reported a higher number of placements in a single episode of care than the statewide average of 1.48. The five counties with the highest average number of placements in single episodes of care were: Houston (2.09); Kittson (2.00); Jackson (1.82); Faribault (1.71); and Hennepin (1.71).
- Overall, the statewide average for placements per child was 1.77. Twenty-four counties had higher averages. The four counties reporting the highest average number of placements per child in out-of-home care were: Cook (2.40); Swift (2.35); Houston (2.23); and Dakota (2.13).

18. NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS PER EPISODE

Number of Placements per Episode by Reporting County in 1996

County	Number of Placements per Episode								Total Episodes
	1	2	3	4	5	6-10	11-20	21-38	
Aitkin	47	5	0	2	2	1	0	0	57
Anoka	1,184	273	112	52	34	34	14	1	1,704
Becker	75	27	18	9	1	14	0	0	144
Beltrami	130	44	17	11	11	8	4	0	225
Benton	58	18	7	6	1	3	0	0	93
Big Stone	8	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	10
Blue Earth	162	46	21	5	6	4	2	0	246
Brown	58	8	10	2	4	4	0	0	86
Carlton	93	31	8	10	8	11	0	0	161
Carver	154	48	22	7	4	13	0	0	248
Cass	177	57	19	11	8	12	1	1	286
Chippewa	14	7	4	1	0	2	0	0	28
Chisago	157	27	13	1	4	3	0	0	205
Clay	215	65	32	16	2	11	0	0	341
Clearwater	29	17	1	3	3	1	0	0	54
Cook	21	3	1	4	1	0	0	0	30
Cottonwood	31	19	6	4	0	2	0	0	62
Crow Wing	139	59	22	17	7	7	1	0	252
Dakota	837	149	52	37	9	1	0	0	1,085
Dodge	59	14	8	3	1	6	0	0	91
Douglas	18	8	4	0	0	3	0	0	33
Faribault	32	13	13	4	3	3	0	0	68
Fillmore	18	2	4	1	0	1	0	0	26
Freeborn	78	27	9	9	5	3	1	0	132
Goodhue	116	46	16	6	2	6	0	0	192
Grant	10	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	15
Hennepin	2,177	1,596	787	430	247	399	71	6	5,713
Houston	12	7	5	3	1	4	0	0	32
Hubbard	36	29	7	5	2	3	0	0	82
Isanti	119	40	6	3	1	5	2	0	176
Itasca	218	64	30	11	12	11	2	0	348
Jackson	36	15	8	4	4	6	1	0	74
Kanabec	55	13	6	5	3	2	0	0	84

County	Number of Placements per Episode								Total Episodes
	1	2	3	4	5	6-10	11-20	21-38	
Kandiyohi	91	26	5	5	1	7	0	0	135
Kittson	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	6
Koochiching	55	12	8	3	0	2	0	0	80
Lac qui Parle	25	5	3	1	2	2	0	0	38
Lake	17	10	1	1	1	0	0	0	30
Lake of the Woods	8	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	13
Le Sueur	37	7	3	4	4	1	0	0	56
Lincoln	4	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	12
Lyon	73	19	12	4	2	0	1	0	111
McLeod	33	6	4	2	2	0	0	0	47
Mahnomen	35	23	17	10	3	6	0	1	95
Marshall	14	7	2	3	0	0	0	0	26
Martin	50	19	19	6	3	6	1	0	104
Meeker	35	15	3	4	4	3	1	0	65
Mille Lacs	90	24	11	2	1	7	1	0	136
Morrison	32	15	7	3	2	0	0	0	59
Mower	108	26	10	7	0	5	1	0	157
Murray	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Nicollet	59	17	7	9	4	2	1	0	99
Nobles	59	24	7	6	7	4	0	0	107
Norman	17	3	2	2	0	2	0	0	26
Olmsted	207	68	28	15	11	9	0	0	338
Otter Tail	104	33	17	9	7	11	0	0	181
Pennington	33	7	4	0	0	2	0	0	46
Pine	85	18	13	4	3	3	1	0	127
Pipestone	26	10	6	1	0	2	0	0	45
Polk	89	40	17	18	2	7	3	0	176
Pope	23	6	2	1	0	0	0	0	32
Ramsey*	1,890	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,891
Red Lake	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
Redwood	53	16	8	2	2	8	2	0	91
Renville	24	14	5	7	4	0	0	0	54
Rice	55	15	10	1	2	0	0	0	83
Rock	38	9	8	2	0	2	0	0	59
Roseau	15	6	1	2	1	2	0	0	27
St. Louis	1,026	165	103	58	27	72	12	1	1,464

County	Number of Placements per Episode								Total Episodes
	1	2	3	4	5	6-10	11-20	21-38	
Scott	135	48	14	8	3	4	3	3	218
Sherburne	90	11	3	2	0	0	0	0	106
Sibley	19	2	2	4	0	1	0	0	28
Stearns	248	95	40	25	6	9	4	0	427
Steele	50	10	10	4	2	3	1	0	80
Stevens	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Swift	24	7	7	2	1	2	0	0	43
Todd	46	14	6	4	1	3	2	0	76
Traverse	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Wabasha	73	14	11	8	2	6	1	0	115
Wadena	37	10	6	3	3	3	0	0	62
Waseca	22	7	6	4	0	1	0	0	40
Washington*	442	75	33	10	4	4	0	0	568
Watonwan	27	12	4	3	3	2	2	0	53
Wilkin	35	5	4	2	0	2	0	0	48
Winona	78	16	12	3	3	0	0	0	112
Wright	314	73	41	21	12	9	4	0	474
Yellow Medicine	31	7	4	2	0	2	0	0	46
Total	12,782	3,870	1,822	980	524	800	140	13	20,931
Percent	61.1	18.5	8.7	4.7	2.5	3.8	0.7	0.1	100.0

The 20,931 episodes had at least one day of care in 1996 and involved 17,508 children. All placements within these 1996 episodes including those that ended prior to 1996, are counted for a total of 40,439 placements.

**County errors in reporting of placement dates have been found. These errors make the number of placements per episode for this county unreliable.*

The number of placements represents the number of times a child moves within an episode in the foster care system.

19. NUMBER OF EPISODES PER CHILD

Number of 1996 Episodes per Child by Reporting County in 1996

County	Number of 1996 Episodes						Total Children
	1	2	3	4	5	6-8	
Aitkin	38	8	1	0	0	0	47
Anoka	979	159	52	26	12	13	1,241
Becker	117	10	1	1	0	0	129
Beltrami	208	7	1	0	0	0	216
Benton	60	15	1	0	0	0	76
Big Stone	8	1	0	0	0	0	9
Blue Earth	178	23	6	1	0	0	208
Brown	71	6	1	0	0	0	78
Carlton	145	8	0	0	0	0	153
Carver	174	29	4	1	0	0	208
Cass	159	35	13	2	2	0	211
Chippewa	26	1	0	0	0	0	27
Chisago	100	28	12	2	1	0	143
Clay	214	35	10	4	1	1	265
Clearwater	44	3	0	1	0	0	48
Cook	17	0	0	2	1	0	20
Cottonwood	49	5	1	0	0	0	55
Crow Wing	207	16	3	1	0	0	227
Dakota	478	132	49	17	14	9	699
Dodge	61	12	2	0	0	0	75
Douglas	33	0	0	0	0	0	33
Faribault	47	6	3	0	0	0	56
Fillmore	21	1	1	0	0	0	23
Freeborn	116	8	0	0	0	0	124
Goodhue	131	22	3	2	0	0	158
Grant	13	1	0	0	0	0	14
Hennepin	4,310	491	110	19	3	0	4,933
Houston	28	2	0	0	0	0	30
Hubbard	56	9	0	2	0	0	67
Isanti	120	13	4	3	0	1	141
Itasca	190	32	13	7	3	2	247
Jackson	66	4	0	0	0	0	70

County	Number of 1996 Episodes						Total Children
	1	2	3	4	5	6-8	
Kanabec	53	11	3	0	0	0	67
Kandiyohi	115	7	2	0	0	0	124
Kittson	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
Koochiching	61	6	1	1	0	0	69
Lac qui Parle	25	5	1	0	0	0	31
Lake	22	4	0	0	0	0	26
Lake of the Woods	9	2	0	0	0	0	11
Le Sueur	54	1	0	0	0	0	55
Lincoln	12	0	0	0	0	0	12
Lyon	80	11	3	0	0	0	94
McLeod	37	5	0	0	0	0	42
Mahnomen	70	8	3	0	0	0	81
Marshall	24	1	0	0	0	0	25
Martin	76	11	2	0	0	0	89
Meeker	44	9	1	0	0	0	54
Mille Lacs	110	10	2	0	0	0	122
Morrison	59	0	0	0	0	0	59
Mower	109	16	4	1	0	0	130
Murray	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
Nicollet	61	16	2	0	0	0	79
Nobles	72	6	6	0	1	0	85
Norman	21	1	1	0	0	0	23
Olmsted	224	44	6	2	0	0	276
Otter Tail	148	15	1	0	0	0	164
Pennington	36	5	0	0	0	0	41
Pine	84	15	3	1	0	0	103
Pipestone	39	3	0	0	0	0	42
Polk	154	8	2	0	0	0	164
Pope	28	2	0	0	0	0	30
Ramsey	1,477	207	0	0	0	0	1,684
Red Lake	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
Redwood	67	9	2	0	0	0	78
Renville	48	3	0	0	0	0	51
Rice	69	4	2	0	0	0	75
Rock	33	9	1	0	1	0	44
Roseau	19	4	0	0	0	0	23
St. Louis	1,136	164	0	0	0	0	1,300

County	Number of 1996 Episodes						Total Children
	1	2	3	4	5	6-8	
Scott	139	24	7	1	0	1	172
Sherburne	80	10	2	0	0	0	92
Sibley	22	3	0	0	0	0	25
Stearns	339	33	6	1	0	0	379
Steele	74	3	0	0	0	0	77
Stevens	13	0	0	0	0	0	13
Swift	24	4	1	2	0	0	31
Todd	71	1	1	0	0	0	73
Traverse	9	0	0	0	0	0	9
Wabasha	95	8	0	1	0	0	104
Wadena	56	3	0	0	0	0	59
Waseca	32	4	0	0	0	0	36
Washington	385	62	8	5	3	0	463
Watonwan	44	3	1	0	0	0	48
Wilkin	32	5	2	0	0	0	39
Winona	80	13	2	0	0	0	95
Wright	266	61	12	6	4	1	350
Yellow Medicine	33	5	1	0	0	0	39
Total	14,954	1,986	382	112	46	28	17,508
Percent	85.4	11.3	2.2	0.6	0.3	0.2	100.0

These 1996 episodes had at least one day of care in 1996. Episodes that ended prior to 1996 are not included.

Out of 17,508 children in out-of-home care, 14,954 or 85.4 percent experienced only one episode of care. Another 1,986 children or 11.3 percent had only two episodes of care.

- The percentage of children in one episode of care within each of these urban counties was: Hennepin and St. Louis - 87.4 percent; Washington - 83.2 percent; Scott - 80.8 percent; Anoka - 78.9 percent; and Dakota - 68.4 percent. Errors in the reporting of episode dates makes data from Ramsey County unreliable.
- Anoka and Dakota Counties reported the highest numbers of children who had four or more episodes of care in 1996. Anoka County had 51 children and Dakota County had 40 children.

20. NUMBER OF DAYS IN CARE

Days in Care in 1996 Episodes of Care by Reporting County in 1996

County	Days in Care								Not Reported	Total Children
	Zero	1-3	4-7	8-29	30-89	90-182	183-364	365 or More		
Aitkin	0	7	7	4	6	3	11	9	0	47
Anoka	45	270	132	116	110	117	128	323	0	1,241
Becker	1	0	3	4	12	14	33	62	0	129
Beltrami	0	0	1	6	16	29	39	125	0	216
Benton	1	3	2	13	5	21	10	21	0	76
Big Stone	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	4	0	9
Blue Earth	2	15	8	19	28	25	48	63	0	208
Brown	0	1	4	3	12	10	20	28	0	78
Carlton	0	2	4	13	7	13	11	103	0	153
Carver	17	30	11	17	25	16	28	64	0	208
Cass	1	39	18	25	31	29	13	55	0	211
Chippewa	0	0	0	1	2	5	8	11	0	27
Chisago	8	21	7	22	16	17	15	37	0	143
Clay	9	49	24	22	44	37	26	54	0	265
Clearwater	0	3	3	3	5	10	1	23	0	48
Cook	0	5	4	3	1	1	3	3	0	20
Cottonwood	2	4	0	0	2	5	16	26	0	55
Crow Wing	0	6	9	12	14	25	37	124	0	227
Dakota	16	116	78	88	82	79	97	143	0	699
Dodge	1	7	5	9	9	17	8	19	0	75
Douglas	0	0	1	0	4	0	8	20	0	33
Faribault	0	2	5	5	10	5	12	17	0	56
Fillmore	0	0	0	3	2	3	5	10	0	23
Freeborn	0	1	0	4	16	21	19	63	0	124
Goodhue	13	17	11	7	21	25	28	36	0	158
Grant	0	0	0	0	1	5	4	4	0	14
Hennepin	348	420	188	282	408	481	650	2,156	0	4,933
Houston	0	0	0	4	2	6	8	10	0	30
Hubbard	1	7	4	4	14	4	14	19	0	67
Isanti	0	31	9	18	16	17	13	37	0	141
Itasca	1	40	18	21	24	34	33	76	0	247
Jackson	0	3	3	5	15	5	12	27	0	70

County	Days in Care								Not Reported	Total Children
	Zero	1-3	4-7	8-29	30-89	90-182	183-364	365 or More		
Kanabec	0	4	2	13	8	12	16	12	0	67
Kandiyohi	0	6	1	9	23	20	21	44	0	124
Kittson	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	6
Koochiching	7	9	2	6	7	1	14	23	0	69
Lac qui Parle	0	5	3	5	2	3	8	5	0	31
Lake	0	2	0	3	1	6	5	9	0	26
Lake of the Woods	0	0	0	3	0	4	3	1	0	11
Le Sueur	0	0	0	4	5	5	12	29	0	55
Lincoln	0	0	0	1	4	1	3	3	0	12
Lyon	0	4	4	6	8	16	15	41	0	94
McLeod	1	5	0	1	2	10	10	13	0	42
Mahnomen	0	10	2	7	17	7	8	30	0	81
Marshall	0	0	0	2	1	5	5	12	0	25
Martin	0	8	2	5	15	6	13	40	0	89
Meeker	1	5	3	5	4	4	13	19	0	54
Mille Lacs	0	6	3	2	27	24	19	41	0	122
Morrison	0	0	0	1	14	3	23	18	0	59
Mower	1	9	6	18	18	10	29	39	0	130
Murray	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	3	0	7
Nicollet	0	2	3	8	17	7	19	23	0	79
Nobles	1	10	1	3	8	16	11	35	0	85
Norman	0	2	0	6	4	2	5	4	0	23
Olmsted	0	23	6	31	35	42	49	90	0	276
Otter Tail	0	10	10	8	29	27	18	62	0	164
Pennington	0	0	0	2	6	6	5	22	0	41
Pine	0	18	9	14	12	11	18	21	0	103
Pipestone	0	0	2	1	9	5	11	14	0	42
Polk	0	6	6	9	12	18	30	83	0	164
Pope	0	2	1	1	5	9	3	9	0	30
Ramsey	12	29	24	153	245	273	341	607	0	1,684
Red Lake	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	4	7
Redwood	0	5	1	2	19	7	13	31	0	78
Renville	0	4	1	0	1	11	9	25	0	51
Rice	0	1	0	1	1	8	19	45	0	75
Rock	0	7	7	4	3	3	6	14	0	44
Roseau	0	4	0	1	5	5	5	3	0	23

County	Days in Care								Not Reported	Total Children
	Zero	1-3	4-7	8-29	30-89	90-182	183-364	365 or More		
St. Louis	1	169	73	166	125	164	191	411	0	1,300
Scott	3	30	18	24	24	15	17	41	0	172
Sherburne	0	2	6	16	22	19	14	13	0	92
Sibley	0	0	0	0	2	3	5	15	0	25
Stearns	1	36	12	26	51	55	72	126	0	379
Steele	0	0	1	3	11	20	13	29	0	77
Stevens	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	6	0	13
Swift	0	1	6	0	2	3	11	8	0	31
Todd	0	0	0	7	8	12	14	32	0	73
Traverse	0	1	0	2	2	1	3	0	0	9
Wabasha	5	17	3	5	13	10	19	32	0	104
Wadena	0	9	2	4	12	5	3	24	0	59
Waseca	0	0	0	1	2	2	6	25	0	36
Washington	6	101	55	67	41	47	44	102	0	463
Watonwan	0	0	0	5	5	6	8	24	0	48
Wilkin	0	2	0	0	4	13	7	13	0	39
Winona	0	1	4	7	24	15	19	25	0	95
Wright	0	86	43	27	39	44	45	66	0	350
Yellow Medicine	0	1	1	3	5	5	9	15	0	39
Total	505	1,752	882	1,432	1,924	2,113	2,645	6,251	4	17,508
Percent	2.9	10.0	5.0	8.2	11.0	12.1	15.1	35.7	0.0	100.0

Days in care for each child are summed for all episodes of care that have at least one day in 1996. Those children that entered and left care on the same day are counted in the column headed "Zero." Children can be shown as having more than 365 days in care if their episode had a starting date prior to 1996. Episodes that ended prior to 1996 are not included.

When looking at the actual number of days children spent in care in 1996 episodes, 35.7 percent or 6,251 children spent 365 or more days in care.

- The percent of children in each county that spent 365 or more days in care during 1996, varied greatly by county. Thirty-six counties had percents that were higher than the state average of 35.7 percent.

21. COSTS AND DAYS IN CARE

Costs and Days in Care for Placements, Episodes, and Children by Reporting County in 1996

County	Total Costs	Total Days of Care in 1996	Average Cost per Day	Average Days in 1996 per		
				1996 Placement	1996 Episode	1996 Child
Aitkin	\$310,814	6,961	\$44.65	105	122	148
Anoka	\$8,006,413	163,773	\$48.89	71	96	132
Becker	\$1,456,654	31,227	\$46.65	132	217	242
Beltrami	\$2,767,331	57,023	\$48.53	189	253	264
Benton	\$709,476	12,472	\$56.89	93	134	164
Big Stone	\$32,230	1,795	\$17.96	138	180	199
Blue Earth	\$1,580,946	38,852	\$40.69	120	158	187
Brown	\$579,738	15,253	\$38.01	111	177	196
Carlton	\$1,777,664	40,495	\$43.90	189	252	265
Carver	\$1,712,971	33,419	\$51.26	98	135	161
Cass	\$1,370,940	30,161	\$45.45	71	105	143
Chippewa	\$409,552	5,853	\$69.97	133	209	217
Chisago	\$904,082	21,583	\$41.89	80	105	151
Clay	\$1,639,494	33,451	\$49.01	74	98	126
Clearwater	\$195,559	9,130	\$21.42	120	169	190
Cook	\$131,197	2,046	\$64.12	43	68	102
Cottonwood	\$709,448	13,750	\$51.60	160	222	250
Crow Wing	\$1,998,814	58,600	\$34.11	177	233	258
Dakota	\$4,183,230	117,407	\$35.63	79	108	168
Dodge	\$634,026	10,421	\$60.84	80	115	139
Douglas	\$1,325,491	10,030	\$132.15	271	304	304
Fillmore	\$332,196	5,386	\$61.68	142	207	234
Freeborn	\$1,643,291	29,642	\$55.44	165	225	239
Goodhue	\$1,217,291	24,702	\$49.28	90	129	156
Grant	\$169,855	2,811	\$60.43	165	187	201
Hennepin *	\$53,289,349	1,004,937	\$53.03	103	176	204
Houston	\$481,081	6,634	\$72.52	99	207	221
Hubbard	\$461,649	9,972	\$46.29	79	122	149
Isanti	\$1,046,568	18,686	\$56.01	83	106	133
Itasca	\$2,151,564	43,971	\$48.93	88	126	178
Jackson	\$941,051	13,609	\$69.15	101	184	194
Kanabec	\$603,723	11,250	\$53.66	92	134	168

County	Total Costs	Total Days of Care in 1996	Average Cost per Day	Average Days in 1996 per		
				1996 Placement	1996 Episode	1996 Child
Kandiyohi	\$1,096,311	21,246	\$51.60	137	157	171
Kittson	\$38,338	954	\$40.19	80	159	159
Koochiching	\$632,713	12,381	\$51.10	133	155	179
Lac qui Parle	\$232,893	4,188	\$55.61	79	110	135
Lake	\$354,906	5,101	\$69.58	142	170	196
Lake of the Woods	\$90,886	1,128	\$80.57	66	87	103
Le Sueur	\$1,196,107	14,174	\$84.39	197	253	258
McLeod	\$791,026	7,410	\$106.75	126	158	176
Mahnomen	\$324,841	13,413	\$24.22	102	141	166
Marshall	\$322,253	5,814	\$55.43	171	224	233
Meeker	\$502,654	11,204	\$44.86	105	172	207
Mille Lacs	\$1,037,477	21,163	\$49.02	113	156	173
Morrison	\$621,186	11,047	\$56.23	128	187	187
Mower	\$1,205,904	24,387	\$49.45	112	155	188
Nicollet	\$791,364	14,452	\$54.76	101	146	183
Nobles	\$921,188	15,806	\$58.28	102	148	186
Norman	\$129,186	2,140	\$60.37	50	82	93
Olmsted	\$2,948,394	49,255	\$59.86	105	146	178
Otter Tail	\$1,767,722	30,547	\$57.87	122	169	186
Pennington	\$646,661	10,918	\$59.23	176	237	266
Pine	\$820,177	14,829	\$55.31	74	117	144
Pipestone	\$511,461	8,420	\$60.74	136	187	200
Polk	\$2,251,656	39,515	\$56.98	163	225	241
Pope	\$266,026	5,481	\$48.54	141	171	183
Ramsey	\$18,086,319	391,162	\$46.24	171	207	232
Red Lake	\$20,467	938	\$21.82	134	134	134
Redwood	\$969,704	15,710	\$61.73	118	173	201
Renville	\$709,114	12,293	\$57.68	154	228	241
Rice	\$808,738	21,206	\$38.14	210	255	283
Rock	\$306,167	8,200	\$37.34	92	139	186
Roseau	\$233,636	2,658	\$87.90	68	98	116
St. Louis	\$9,202,789	232,338	\$39.61	95	159	179
Scott	\$1,100,835	21,181	\$51.97	72	97	123
Sherburne	\$775,398	10,970	\$70.68	88	103	119
Sibley	\$284,254	5,896	\$48.21	179	211	236
Stearns	\$2,662,755	64,294	\$41.42	107	151	170

County	Total Costs	Total Days of Care in 1996	Average Cost per Day	Average Days in 1996 per		
				1996 Placement	1996 Episode	1996 Child
Steele	\$644,863	15,215	\$42.38	128	190	198
Stevens	\$133,654	3,190	\$41.90	213	245	245
Swift	\$410,069	7,195	\$56.99	99	167	232
Todd	\$885,765	15,676	\$56.50	155	206	215
Traverse	\$35,205	1,052	\$33.46	88	117	117
Wabasha	\$1,158,448	15,232	\$76.05	97	132	146
Wadena	\$377,535	10,133	\$37.26	132	163	172
Waseca	\$633,035	10,001	\$63.30	204	250	278
Washington	\$2,445,575	58,219	\$42.01	71	102	126
Watonwan	\$688,642	11,330	\$60.78	135	214	236
Wilkin	\$365,523	8,377	\$43.63	137	175	215
Winona	\$1,095,694	17,319	\$63.27	109	155	182
Wright	\$2,361,171	41,235	\$57.26	61	87	118
Yellow Medicine	\$348,243	7,845	\$44.39	127	171	201
Faribault/ Martin	\$1,514,897	25,405	\$59.63	88	148	175
Lincoln/ Lyon/Murray	\$1,435,978	24,838	\$57.81	136	191	220
Total	\$163,969,491	3,289,383	\$49.85	106	157	188

** After data was submitted for 1996, it was discovered that Hennepin County had omitted 303 placements for 290 children in correctional facilities. The costs of these placements (approximately three million dollars) are included in Table 21, but the days in care are not. This has slightly inflated the average cost per day for Hennepin County and the State.*

A wide range was evident in the average cost per day for out-of-home care across counties.

- The average cost per day for out-of-home care was \$49.85. This average includes all types of living arrangements. Costs range from a high of \$132.15 to a low of \$17.96 per day. Forty-seven counties had an average cost per day above the average, and 37 counties were below the average.
- Statewide, average days per placement was at 106, average days per episode was at 157, and average days per child in out-of-home care in 1996 was 188. This indicates that the average amount of time that a child experienced out-of-home care in one calendar year was approximately six months.