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# **CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE: A 1997 MINNESOTA REPORT**



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Minnesota Department of **Human Services**  
Community Services Division and the  
Family and Children's Services Division  
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## INTRODUCTION

This report presents information about children in out-of-home care for 1997 and shows some five-year trends for the years 1993 through 1997. 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 1993 through 1997. 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 1997. 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 social services placements involving 290 children in correctional facilities. The children involved in these placements may have already been included in Hennepin's count, so they were not simply added to the total. The same reporting error was present in prior years 1992 through 1995. In 1997, these placements from Hennepin County correctional facilities, were included for the first time.
- Ramsey county included emergency placements for the first time, which resulted in an increase of approximately 500 children in the counts for that county, and statewide.

## **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, 1997, 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 1993 through 1997. Four subsets are counted:

- children continuing in care from the previous year
- children entering care in 1997
- children leaving care in 1997
- children remaining in care at the end of 1997

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. In the historical tables, 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. This results from the DHS reporting process which considers only the last episode of care when categorizing the status of a child. A child that remains in care at the end of a year, may be counted as one who enters care in the following year, if the child experienced an intervening exit and re-entry into care.

## **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.

## 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 1997. An episode that began prior to 1997, or one that ended after 1997, will be included in these counts as long as it has at least one day of care in 1997.

The box below depicts one episode of continuous care, beginning in November 1996, ending in March 1997, 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 1997, and includes two Placements "C" and "D" below. (Also see Tables 3 and 16.) The second way counts all placements in the 1997 episodes, including those placements that ended prior to 1997, and consists of four Placements "A," "B," "C," and "D" below. (Also see Tables 6, 11, and 17.)

November 1996	December 1996	January 1997	February 1997	March 1997
<-----Single 1997 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 1997 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 1997 episodes of care. These 1997 episodes had at least one day of care in 1997. 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 12 uses 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 13 shows five-year trend data from 1993 through 1997 for children in out-of-home care by reporting county. Table 14 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 1997 compared with total number of children for that age group in the population. Table 15 uses the primary race or heritage of children in out-of-home care by reporting county. Counts are shown for White children alone, and for African American, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic children combined, in each county.

Table 16 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 1997. Table 17 shows the number of placements within episodes by county, and Table 18 shows the number of episodes per child by county. Table 19 shows the number of days each child had in all 1997 episodes of care in each county. Table 20 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 20 also shows the average number of days per placement, episode, and child.



**SECTION ONE**

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*Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care*

# 1. Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care 1993-1997

## Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care 1993-1997

Children In Care	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Continuing in Care from Prior Year	6,866	7,184	7,828	7,434	7,617
Percent	36.8%	36.6%	41.2%	42.5%	41.4%
Entering Care During Year	11,807	12,424	11,179	10,074	10,764
Percent	63.2%	63.4%	58.8%	57.5%	58.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,673</b>	<b>19,608</b>	<b>19,007</b>	<b>17,508</b>	<b>18,381</b>
Leaving Care During Year	10,112	10,940	10,340	8,854	9,513
Percent	54.2%	55.8%	54.4%	50.6%	51.8%
Remaining in Care at End of Year	8,561	8,668	8,667	8,654	8,868
Percent	45.8%	44.2%	45.6%	49.4%	48.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,673</b>	<b>19,608</b>	<b>19,007</b>	<b>17,508</b>	<b>18,381</b>

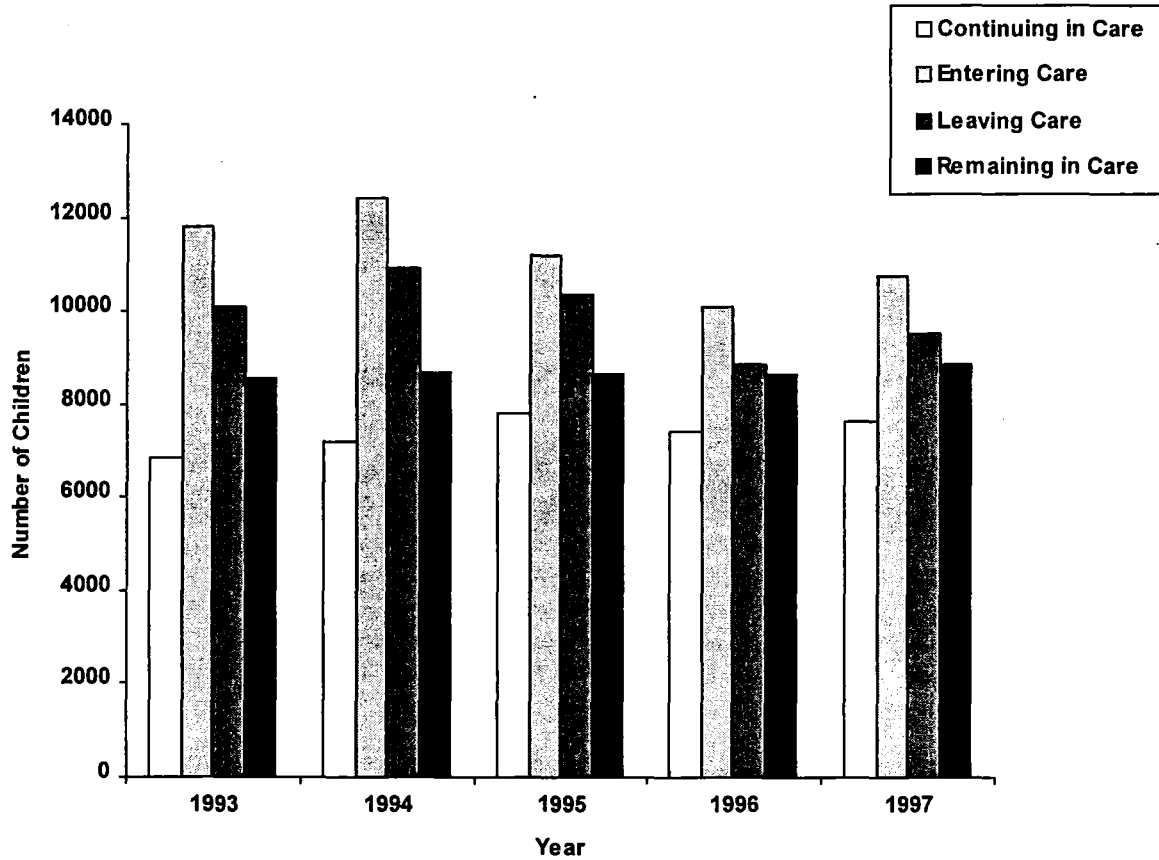
*Data for 1994 and 1995 are preliminary. "Total children" includes an additional 28 children in 1994, and 27 children in 1995, whose status could not be determined. For all years, the difference between the number of children "Remaining in Care at End of Year" to the following year's number of children "Continuing in Care from Prior Year" is due primarily to those children who were in care at the end of a prior year, but exited and re-entered the following year. This is because only the last episode for the child is considered when categorizing the status of the child.*

### **Total number of children in out-of-home care increased due to improved reporting in 1997.**

- \* The number of children entering care increased by 873 or 5.0 percent from 1996 to 1997. This was due primarily to Hennepin County reporting correctional placements and Ramsey County reporting emergency placements for the first time in 1997.
- \* Children continuing from the prior year and children remaining in care at the end of the year both increased by the same amount 2.5 percent. A larger increase is observed in children entering care (6.8 percent) and children leaving care (7.4 percent), which is accounted for by the number of emergency placements reported for the first time in 1997.
- \* The number of children who remained in care each year from 1993 through 1997, varied by 307 children, or no more than 3.6 percent from the highest number in 1997 to the lowest in 1993.

## 2. Chart of Children in Out-of-Home Care 1993-1997

Chart of the Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care 1993-1997



*Data for 1994 and 1995 are preliminary.*

**The numbers of children entering care and leaving care increased in 1997.**

\* The reporting of emergency placements in Ramsey County for the first time in 1997 resulted in a statewide increase in both the number of children entering and leaving care.

### 3. Placements by Living Arrangement

#### Placements by Living Arrangement of Children in Care 1997

Living Arrangement	Number of Placements	Percent
Family Foster Homes	13,727	42.6
Non-finalized Adoptive Homes	640	2.0
Emergency Shelter in Family Foster Homes	3,512	10.9
Emergency Shelter in Group Living Arrangements	6,490	20.1
Chemical Dependency Home/Facility	138	0.4
Corrections Home/Facility	3,378	10.5
Rule 5 Facility for Severely Emotionally Disturbed	2,077	6.4
Rule 8 Group Home	1,742	5.4
Rule 34 Group Home/Facility for Developmentally Disabled	96	0.3
Other Group Home	210	0.7
Independent/Semi-independent Living	38	0.1
Other Living Arrangements or Unknown	178	0.6
<b>Total Placements</b>	<b>32,226</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

*The 32,226 placements involved 18,381 children. These placements had at least one day of care in 1997.*

#### **Family foster homes provide the majority of placements for children in care.**

- \* Over 42 percent or 13,727 of 32,226 placements were in a family foster home. Another 11 percent of all placements were emergency placements made in foster family homes. An additional two percent of all placements were in a non-final adoptive home. When combined, 55 percent of all placements were in a family home.
- \* Thirty-one percent of total placements were emergency placements.

## 4. Race or Heritage of Children

### Race or Heritage of Children in Care 1993-1997

Race or Heritage	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1997 MN Child Population
African American	3,860	4,007	3,685	3,492	3,981	
Percent	20.7%	20.4%	19.9%	19.9%	21.7%	3.9%
American Indian	2,108	2,176	2,034	1,995	2,030	
Percent	11.3%	11.1%	11.0%	11.4%	11.0%	1.8%
Asian/Pacific Islander	316	292	308	285	332	
Percent	1.7%	1.5%	1.7%	1.6%	1.8%	3.9%
Hispanic	562	581	636	644	725	
Percent	3.0%	3.0%	3.4%	3.7%	3.9%	2.6%
White	1,489	1,658	1,308	0,701	10,897	
Percent	61.5%	59.4%	61.2%	61.1%	59.3%	87.8%
Unknown	338	922	521	391	416	
Percent	1.8%	4.7%	2.8%	2.2%	2.3%	0.0%
<b>Total Children</b>	<b>18,673</b>	<b>19,636</b>	<b>18,492</b>	<b>17,508</b>	<b>18,381</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Data for 1994 is 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 1997 U.S. Census of Minnesota Children.*

**The percentage of children in out-of-home care by race or heritage was relatively stable from 1993 to 1997.**

- \* A comparison of the distribution of children in out-of-home care by primary race with the 1997 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 1997 Episodes of Care of Children in Care in 1997

Children/ Percent	Length of Time								Total Children
	Less than 1 Day	1 to 3 Days	4 Days to 1 Week	1 Week to 1 Month	1 to 3 Months	3 to 6 Months	6 to 12 Months	12 Months or More	
<b>Children</b>	413	1,771	953	1,586	1,886	1,982	2,769	7,021	18,381
<b>Percent</b>	2.2	9.6	5.2	8.6	10.3	10.8	15.1	38.2	100.0%

*Months in care for each child are summed for all episodes of care that have at least one day in 1997. Children can be shown as having more than 12 months of care if their episode had a starting date prior to 1997. Episodes that ended prior to 1997 are not included.*

**For all children in care in 1997, almost half (46.7 percent) were in care for less than six months.**

- \* About one-fourth or 25.6 percent of children in care in 1997 spent less than one month in care. Another 21.1 percent spent at least one month in care and left in six months.
- \* Over one-third or 38.2 percent of children in care in 1997 had been in care for more than a year.

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## 6. Number of Placements Per Episode

### Number of Placements per Episode of Care in 1997

Episodes/ Percent	Number of Placements								Total Episodes
	1	2	3	4	5	6 - 10	11 - 20	21 - 39	
Episodes	1	4,266	2,065	1,042	579	866	143	11	22,135
Percent	0.0	19.3	9.3	4.7	2.6	3.9	0.6	0.0	100.0

*The 22,135 episodes had at least one day of care in 1997 and involved 18,381 children. All placements within these 1997 episodes, including those placements that ended prior to 1997, are counted for a total of 43,374 placements.*

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

- \* Almost 60 percent of the episodes of care consisted of one placement.
- \* The percentage of episodes of care with three or more placements was 21.1 percent.

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## 7. Number of Episodes per Child

### Number of 1997 Episodes per Child of Total Children in Care in 1997

Children/ Percent	Number of Episodes						Total Children
	1	2	3	4	5	6 - 11	
Children	15,688	2,026	444	134	45	44	18,381
Percent	85.3	11.0	2.4	0.7	0.2	0.2	100.0%

*These 1997 episodes had at least one day of care in 1997. Episodes that ended prior to 1997 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 of the 18,381 children experienced a single episode of care in 1997.
- \* The total number of children reported to have two or more episodes of care was 2,693.



**SECTION TWO**

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*Groups of Children in Out-of-Home Care*

## 8. Age and Gender of Children Entering Care

### Age and Gender of Children Entering Care in 1997

Age (in years)	Female	Male	Total Children	Percent	
				Female	Male
0	249	279	528	47	53
1	137	188	325	42	58
2	151	180	331	46	54
3	158	159	317	50	50
4	138	147	285	48	52
5	138	204	342	40	60
6	160	189	349	46	54
7	155	169	324	48	52
8	150	175	325	46	54
9	155	165	320	48	52
10	119	177	296	40	60
11	159	224	383	42	58
12	265	349	614	43	57
13	367	389	756	49	51
14	595	607	1,202	50	50
15	708	894	1,602	44	56
16	510	813	1,323	39	61
17	304	676	980	31	69
18 and Over	35	106	141	25	75
<b>Total Children</b>	<b>4,653</b>	<b>6,090</b>	<b>10,743</b>	<b>43 %</b>	<b>57 %</b>

*Total Children are those children for whom age and gender is known.*

**More boys (57 percent) than girls (43 percent) entered care in 1997. 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, 57 percent or 6,090 were boys.
- \* Adolescents from ages 13 through 17 accounted for 54.6 percent of those who entered care, although this group accounted for only 29.6 percent of the State child population.
- \* Children who were under six years accounted for 19.8 percent of those who entered care, although this age group accounts for about 30.6 percent of the State child population.

## 9. Reason for Child's Entry into Care

### Primary Reason Given for Child's Entry into Last Episode of Care for Children Entering Care 1993-1997

Reason Entering Care	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	Percent
<b>Child Related Conduct or Condition</b>						
Child Delinquent (Adjudicated)	1,742	2,200	2,250	2,319	2,355	21.9
Child Behavior or Condition	1,596	1,423	1,458	1,367	1,492	13.9
Child Disability	290	296	253	193	211	2.0
Child Status Offenses	278	371	415	375	436	4.1
Child Substance Abuse	27	58	83	64	81	0.8
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,933</b>	<b>4,348</b>	<b>4,459</b>	<b>4,318</b>	<b>4,575</b>	<b>42.5%</b>
<b>Family Interaction or Financial Hardship</b>						
Hardship or Financial Hardship	0	56	60	57	79	0.7
Other Family Interaction Problems	0	955	997	909	1,070	9.9
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>1,057</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>10.7%</b>
<b>Protection</b>						
Protection from Neglect	0	1,471	1,262	1,265	1,490	13.8
Protection from Physical Abuse	0	753	800	677	757	7.0
Protection from Sexual Abuse	0	136	201	200	218	2.0
Unspecified	3,097	0	0	0	0	0.0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,097</b>	<b>2,360</b>	<b>2,263</b>	<b>2,142</b>	<b>2,465</b>	<b>22.9%</b>
<b>Parent/Caretaker Conduct, Condition or Absence</b>						
Substance Abuse	0	477	466	468	464	4.3
Illness or Disability	0	457	407	350	382	3.5
Temporary Absence	0	307	352	305	302	2.8
Incarceration	0	264	322	277	295	2.7
Death	0	38	46	27	26	0.2
Abandonment	0	218	268	215	244	2.3
Inability to Cope	0	184	225	202	216	2.0
Unspecified Other	2,283	1,433	608	586	496	4.6
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>3,378</b>	<b>2,694</b>	<b>2,430</b>	<b>2,425</b>	<b>22.5%</b>
<b>Relinquishment of Parental Rights</b>						
Relinquishment of Parental Rights	95	130	145	198	117	1.1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
<b>Unknown</b>						
Child with Reason Not Reported	2,399	1,197	194	20	33	0.3
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,399</b>	<b>1,197</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
<b>Total Children Entering Care</b>	<b>11,807</b>	<b>12,424</b>	<b>10,812</b>	<b>10,074</b>	<b>10,764</b>	<b>100%</b>

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## 9. Reason for Child's Entry into Care

*Data for 1994 and 1995 are preliminary. In 1993, the categories for "Family Interaction or Financial Hardship," "Protection," and "Parent/Caretaker Conduct, Condition or Absence" either did not exist or were not broken out into detail. In 1993 and 1994, most of the children with "Child with Reason Not Reported" were emergency shelter placements from Hennepin County.*

**More than half of the children entering care (57.2 percent) did so because of parental reasons in 1997.**

- \* The percentage breakdown of parental reasons for entering care are: Family Interaction or Financial Hardship - 10.7, Protection - 22.9, Parent/Caretaker Conduct, Condition or Absence 22.5, Relinquishment of Parental Rights 1.1.
- \* The single largest reason given for a entering care is child's adjudicated delinquency at 21.9 percent of the total.
- \* Relinquishment of parental rights was the reason reported for 1.1 percent of children entering care. The number of children with this reason for entering care has dropped for the first time since 1993.

## 10. Reason for Child's Exit from Care

### Reason for Child's Exit from Last Episode of Care 1993-1997

Reason for Exit from Care	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Reunified with Parent(s)	7,980	8,246	7,254	6,480	7,038
Percent	78.9%	75.4%	72.4%	73.2%	74.0%
Placed with Relative	582	617	708	552	614
Percent	5.8%	5.6%	7.1%	6.2%	6.5%
Placed with Legal Guardian	39	42	35	29	23
Percent	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Finalized Adoption	226	214	264	326	367
Percent	2.2%	2.0%	2.6%	3.7%	3.9%
Reached Majority Age	287	246	240	249	260
Percent	2.8%	2.2%	2.4%	2.8%	2.7%
Ran Away	366	333	343	302	318
Percent	3.6%	3.0%	3.4%	3.4%	3.3%
Discharged to Other Agency	10	33	60	72	67
Percent	0.1%	0.3%	0.6%	0.8%	0.7%
Other Reason	478	991	974	658	612
Percent	4.7%	9.1%	9.7%	7.4%	6.4%
Reason Not Reported	144	215	130	180	209
Percent	1.4%	2.0%	1.3%	2.0%	2.2%
Death of Child	0	3	5	6	5
Percent	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,112</b>	<b>10,940</b>	<b>10,013</b>	<b>8,854</b>	<b>9,513</b>

*The coding choice "Discharged to Other Agency" was not available to many counties through 1993. Thus the data reported under this heading for 1993 is not reliable.*

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## 10. Reason for Child's Exit from Care

Almost three out of four children (74.0 percent) were reunited with parent(s) when they left care in 1997.

- \* Seventy-four percent of children who left a last episode of care were reunited with their parents. Another six and one half percent were placed with relatives.
- \* Final adoption was the outcome for 3.9 percent or 367 children. Another 23 children were placed with legal guardians.
- \* Three hundred and eighteen (318) children ran away from their last placement. Five children died while in placement.

## 11. Number of Placements by Race or Heritage

Number of Placements for Children by Race of Heritage for Children Leaving Care in 1997

Episodes/ Percent	Number of Placements								Total Episodes
	1	2	3	4	5	6 - 10	11 - 20	21 - 39	
<b>African American</b>	1,091	492	166	79	46	45	10		1,929
<b>Percent</b>	56.6%	25.5%	8.6%	4.1%	2.4%	2.3%	0.5%		100.0%
<b>American Indian</b>	495	177	83	30	24	24	4	1	838
<b>Percent</b>	59.1%	21.1%	9.9%	3.6%	2.9%	2.9%	0.5%	0.1%	100.0%
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>	138	35	10	1	1	1			186
<b>Percent</b>	74.2%	18.8%	5.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%			100.0%
<b>Hispanic</b>	265	72	20	9	5	6			377
<b>Percent</b>	70.3%	19.1%	5.3%	2.4%	1.3%	1.6%			100.0%
<b>White</b>	4,322	925	324	177	68	95	16		5,927
<b>Percent</b>	72.9%	15.6%	5.5%	3.0%	1.1%	1.6%	0.3%		100.0%
<b>Unknown</b>	203	34	15	2	1	1			256
<b>Percent</b>	79.3%	13.3%	5.9%	0.8%	0.4%	0.4%			100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,514</b>	<b>1,735</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9,513</b>

*The count of placements is based on the last episode of care for children leaving care. Some of the placements in these 1997 episodes may have ended prior to 1997.*

**In looking at the last episode of care for the 9,513 children who left care in 1997, 68.5 percent had only one placement while 31.5 had two or more placements.**

\* Asian and/or Pacific Islander, Hispanic and White children had higher percentages of single placements, (74.2, 70.3, and 72.9 respectively) than the statewide average at 68.5 percent. This means they had fewer moves within their last episode of care than the average.

## 12. Kinship Care by Race or Heritage

### Kinship Care for Children with Last Placement in Family Foster Homes in 1997

Foster Parent Relationship to Child	African American	American Indian	Asian/Pacific Islander	Hispanic	White	Race Not Reported	Total Children
Relative	796	407	17	75	836	47	2,178
Percent	29.2%	28.6%	9.7%	15.9%	13.6%	28.3%	19.6%
Non-relative	1,930	1,014	159	396	5,321	119	8,939
Percent	70.8%	71.4%	90.3%	84.1%	86.4%	71.7%	80.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,726</b>	<b>1,421</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>6,157</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>11,117</b>

*Family Foster Homes include placements in emergency and non-emergency family foster homes and non-final adoptive homes.*

**Relative foster parents cared for almost 20 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.**

\* African American and American Indian children had the highest rates of relative care (29.2 and 28.6 percent respectively) compared to children of other races.



**SECTION THREE**

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*County Detail from Reporting Counties*

### 13. Children in Out-of-Home Care 1993-1997

Children in Out-of-Home Care by Reporting County, Sorted by  
Percent Change from 1996 to 1997

County	Number of Children in Care					Percent Change 1996-1997
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	
Murray	12	10	10	7	3	-57.1%
Lincoln	8	7	6	12	7	-41.7%
Big Stone	2	8	17	9	6	-33.3%
Meeker	49	64	73	54	37	-31.5%
Norman	33	17	16	23	17	-26.1%
Pennington	30	24	36	41	31	-24.4%
Dodge	31	36	64	75	58	-22.7%
Lac qui Parle	23	27	26	31	24	-22.6%
Traverse	15	9	0	9	7	-22.2%
Douglas	30	35	27	33	26	-21.2%
Wilkin	44	56	43	39	31	-20.5%
Cook	10	12	9	20	16	-20.0%
Sibley	42	28	24	25	20	-20.0%
Isanti	138	171	164	141	116	-17.7%
Nobles	89	93	101	85	70	-17.6%
Pipestone	45	53	40	42	35	-16.7%
Koochiching	77	56	60	69	58	-15.9%
Carver	146	175	199	208	182	-12.5%
Pine	87	94	98	103	91	-11.7%
Chippewa	35	36	38	27	24	-11.1%
Cottonwood	46	56	81	55	49	-10.9%
Crow Wing	228	247	204	227	203	-10.6%
Winona	64	71	81	95	85	-10.5%
St. Louis	1,484	1,490	1,459	1,300	1,167	-10.2%
Jackson	42	43	53	70	63	-10.0%
Wright	293	363	399	350	317	-9.4%
Anoka	1,063	1,084	1,157	1,241	1,133	-8.7%
Nicollet	111	107	93	79	73	-7.6%
Pope	36	33	27	30	28	-6.7%
Carlton	124	158	170	153	143	-6.5%
Clearwater	38	40	56	48	45	-6.3%
Waseca	42	43	45	36	34	-5.6%
Benton	76	78	78	76	72	-5.3%

County	Number of Children in Care					Percent Change 1996-1997
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	
Stearns	249	326	357	379	362	-4.5%
Kanabec	32	43	65	67	64	-4.5%
Todd	57	79	76	73	70	-4.1%
Steele	79	109	99	77	74	-3.9%
Washington	416	432	436	463	448	-3.2%
Goodhue	119	142	151	158	153	-3.2%
Wabasha	51	81	84	104	101	-2.9%
Redwood	87	79	70	78	76	-2.6%
Brown	57	74	69	78	76	-2.6%
Scott	132	127	116	172	169	-1.7%
Mille Lacs	109	107	119	122	120	-1.6%
Freeborn	94	104	123	124	122	-1.6%
Beltrami	231	261	234	216	213	-1.4%
Aitkin	75	78	67	47	47	0.0%
Swift	25	38	30	31	31	0.0%
Renville	58	56	53	51	52	2.0%
Rock	29	26	47	44	45	2.3%
Mahnomen	56	73	80	81	83	2.5%
Olmsted	264	254	246	276	284	2.9%
Hennepin	6,713	6,878	5,457	4,933	5,095	3.3%
Morrison	36	51	75	59	62	5.1%
Kandiyohi	183	159	140	124	132	6.5%
Clay	194	266	269	265	285	7.5%
Stevens	17	16	18	13	14	7.7%
McLeod	55	48	37	42	46	9.5%
Lyon	86	71	98	94	103	9.6%
Blue Earth	172	149	185	208	228	9.6%
Faribault	38	59	68	56	62	10.7%
Wadena	49	64	54	59	66	11.9%
Rice	79	84	98	75	85	13.3%
Hubbard	85	72	77	67	78	16.4%
Dakota	921	937	830	699	816	16.7%
Roseau	22	27	31	23	27	17.4%
Cass	233	231	223	211	248	17.5%
Becker	122	162	153	129	152	17.8%
Otter Tail	200	208	186	164	195	18.9%
Marshall	20	23	27	25	30	20.0%
Watonwan	65	58	67	48	59	22.9%

County	Number of Children in Care					Percent Change 1996-1997
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	
Chisago	144	194	195	143	179	25.2%
Lake of the Woods	8	6	9	11	14	27.3%
Le Sueur	73	71	58	55	70	27.3%
Itasca	273	286	294	247	316	27.9%
Martin	71	83	95	89	118	32.6%
Ramsey	1,582	1,652	1,710	1,684	2,261	34.3%
Houston	32	30	30	30	41	36.7%
Fillmore	27	23	28	23	32	39.1%
Polk	135	148	158	164	231	40.9%
Grant	11	14	16	14	20	42.9%
Sherburne	50	51	82	92	137	48.9%
Lake	31	31	45	26	39	50.0%
Mower	81	112	137	130	195	50.0%
Red Lake	5	7	11	7	11	57.1%
Yellow Medicine	39	45	48	39	62	59.0%
Kittson	8	7	7	6	11	83.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,673</b>	<b>19,636</b>	<b>18,492</b>	<b>17,508</b>	<b>18,381</b>	<b>5.0%</b>

*The table is sorted in ascending order using the Percent Change column. Data for 1994 and 1995 are preliminary.*

**Improvements in the reporting process for children in care led to an increase in the reported number of children in care from 1996 to 1997.**

- \* The overall increase in the total number of children reported in out-of-home care from 1996 to 1997 is due primarily to Ramsey County adding emergency placements, and to a lesser degree, Hennepin County adding correctional placements starting in 1997. When Ramsey and Hennepin counties are excluded from the statewide total, the increase in reported number of children in care is less than one percent from 1996 to 1997.
- \* More counties had decreases in number of children in care than those that had increases. Forty-six Minnesota counties reported decreases in the total number of children in out-of-home care from 1996 to 1997; 39 reported increases; and two reported no change.
- \* Counties other than Ramsey that had increases of more than 50 children in care from 1996 to 1997 include: Dakota (+117), Hennepin (+162), Itasca (+69), Mower (+65), and Polk (+67).
- \* Counties that had decreases of 50 or more children in care from 1996 to 1997 include: Anoka (-108), and St. Louis (-133).

## 14. Flow of Children in Out-of-Home Care

Flow and Number of Children by Reporting County in 1997 Sorted by  
Rate of Total Children in Care

County	Children					Children per 1,000 Population Under 18	
	Continuing Care from Prior Year	Entering Care During Year	Leaving Care During Year	Remaining in Care at End of Year	Total in Care During Year	in Care at End of Year	Total in Care
Murray		3	2	1	3	0.4	1.2
Douglas	20	6	11	15	26	1.8	3.2
Big Stone	3	3	2	4	6	2.8	4.1
Lincoln	4	3	4	3	7	1.8	4.2
McLeod	24	22	31	15	46	1.6	4.8
Sibley	12	8	9	11	20	2.7	4.9
Roseau	8	19	16	11	27	2.2	5.4
Fillmore	18	14	12	20	32	3.6	5.7
Stevens	9	5	1	13	14	5.5	5.9
Meeker	23	14	12	25	37	4.0	6.0
Rice	60	25	20	65	85	4.7	6.1
Traverse	1	6	4	3	7	2.7	6.4
Waseca	21	13	10	24	34	4.6	6.6
Morrison	34	28	28	34	62	3.6	6.6
Chippewa	11	13	13	11	24	3.2	7.0
Benton	25	47	29	43	72	4.3	7.2
Scott	53	116	104	65	169	2.8	7.2
Winona	42	43	47	38	85	3.2	7.3
Sherburne	28	109	104	33	137	1.8	7.5
Houston	20	21	18	23	41	4.3	7.6
Washington	131	317	316	132	448	2.3	7.8
Kittson	4	7	6	5	11	3.7	8.1
Steele	34	40	39	35	74	3.9	8.3
Dakota	185	631	520	296	816	3.0	8.3
Norman	6	11	12	5	17	2.5	8.3
Pennington	25	6	2	29	31	8.1	8.6
Red Lake		11	4	7	11	5.5	8.7
Olmsted	103	181	148	136	284	4.3	9.1
Nicollet	24	49	33	40	73	5.1	9.3
Pope	14	14	18	10	28	3.4	9.6
Carver	67	115	94	88	182	4.7	9.6
Le Sueur	39	31	16	54	70	7.5	9.7
Todd	40	30	20	50	70	7.0	9.8

County	Children					Children per 1,000 Population Under 18	
	Continuing Care from Prior Year	Entering Care During Year	Leaving Care During Year	Remaining in Care at End of Year	Total in Care During Year	in Care at End of Year	Total in Care
Marshall	15	15	10	20	30	6.7	10.0
Stearns	150	212	184	178	362	5.0	10.1
Brown	23	53	46	30	76	4.2	10.5
Dodge	22	36	23	35	58	6.7	11.0
Renville	26	26	19	33	52	7.1	11.2
Swift	11	20	24	7	31	2.6	11.3
Kandiyohi	58	74	60	72	132	6.2	11.3
Lake of the Woods	4	10	9	5	14	4.1	11.5
Lac qui Parle	5	19	15	9	24	4.3	11.5
Wright	77	240	210	107	317	4.0	11.9
Pipestone	20	15	15	20	35	7.2	12.6
Isanti	38	78	66	50	116	5.5	12.7
Grant	10	10	5	15	20	9.7	13.0
Goodhue	49	104	100	53	153	4.5	13.1
Anoka	331	802	738	395	1,133	4.6	13.1
Nobles	37	33	30	40	70	7.8	13.6
Pine	36	55	55	36	91	5.4	13.7
Otter Tail	84	111	96	99	195	7.1	13.9
Cook	5	11	12	4	16	3.6	14.3
Faribault	18	44	34	28	62	6.6	14.6
Aitkin	16	31	23	24	47	7.5	14.6
Koochiching	34	24	22	36	58	9.2	14.8
Chisago	38	141	129	50	179	4.2	14.9
Crow Wing	123	80	37	166	203	12.3	15.0
Wilkin	22	9	18	13	31	6.4	15.3
Freeborn	55	67	31	91	122	11.4	15.3
Kanabec	29	35	43	21	64	5.0	15.3
Lake	16	23	23	16	39	6.3	15.3
Lyon	45	58	60	43	103	6.4	15.4
Cottonwood	27	22	16	33	49	10.5	15.6
Rock	19	26	28	17	45	6.2	16.3
Redwood	35	41	34	42	76	9.2	16.6
Carlton	101	42	34	109	143	12.9	16.9
Wabasha	30	71	85	16	101	2.7	17.3
Hubbard	21	57	47	31	78	6.9	17.4
Becker	64	88	48	104	152	12.4	18.2
Watonwan	30	29	32	27	59	8.3	18.2
Beltrami	127	86	66	147	213	12.6	18.3

County	Children					Children per 1,000 Population Under 18	
	Continuing Care from Prior Year	Entering Care During Year	Leaving Care During Year	Remaining in Care at End of Year	Total in Care During Year	in Care at End of Year	Total in Care
Blue Earth	81	147	116	112	228	9.0	18.3
Wadena	27	39	36	30	66	8.4	18.5
Ramsey	1,021	1,240	1,037	1,224	2,261	10.1	18.6
Clearwater	24	21	15	30	45	12.8	19.2
Mille Lacs	48	72	54	66	120	11.1	20.2
Jackson	31	32	22	41	63	13.2	20.3
Martin	42	76	62	56	118	9.7	20.3
Yellow Medicine	17	45	33	29	62	9.5	20.4
Hennepin	2,487	2,608	2,403	2,692	5,095	11.0	20.8
Mower	55	140	125	70	195	7.5	20.9
Clay	89	196	177	108	285	8.2	21.7
St. Louis	444	723	716	451	1,167	9.6	24.7
Polk	109	122	108	123	231	13.8	26.0
Itasca	95	221	177	139	316	11.5	26.1
Cass	74	174	159	89	248	12.9	35.9
Mahnomen	34	49	41	42	83	26.3	52.0
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>7,617</b>	<b>10,764</b>	<b>9,513</b>	<b>8,868</b>	<b>18,381</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>14.7</b>

*The table is sorted in ascending order using the final column. This column contains the rate of total children experiencing care during the year per 1,000 children in the county population. Population is from the 1997 U.S. Census Estimate of Minnesota Children.*

**Ninety percent of the counties are evenly distributed between a rate of four to 22 children in care per 1,000 children in the population.**

- \* The range of the rate of children in care (per 1,000 in the child population), varies widely from a low of 1.2 in Murray County to a high of 52 in Mahnomen County. Most fall between a rate of 4 and 22 children in care per 1,000 children in the population.
- \* The median rate of children in care is 12.6 (half the counties are below 12.6 and half above 12.6) while the average is 14.7.

## 15. Race or Heritage of Children

### Primary Race or Heritage of Children in Care by Reporting County in 1997

County	African Amer, Amer Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic	Child's Race or Heritage		Total Children	Percent African Amer, Amer Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic
		White	Race Not Reported		
Aitkin	14	33		47	29.8
Anoka	161	972		1,133	14.2
Becker	62	90		152	40.8
Beltrami	147	66		213	69.0
Benton	7	65		72	9.7
Big Stone		6		6	
Blue Earth	21	207		228	9.2
Brown	10	66		76	13.2
Carlton	59	84		143	41.3
Carver	25	157		182	13.7
Cass	121	127		248	48.8
Chippewa	2	22		24	8.3
Chisago	11	168		179	6.1
Clay	111	174		285	38.9
Clearwater	28	17		45	62.2
Cook	5	11		16	31.3
Cottonwood	10	39		49	20.4
Crow Wing	9	194		203	4.4
Dakota	197	619		816	24.1
Dodge	6	52		58	10.3
Douglas	4	22		26	15.4
Faribault	10	52		62	16.1
Fillmore		32		32	
Freeborn	23	99		122	18.9
Goodhue	8	145		153	5.2
Grant		20		20	
Hennepin	3,447	1,345	303	5,095	67.7
Houston		41		41	
Hubbard	18	60		78	23.1
Isanti	10	106		116	8.6
Itasca	65	250	1	316	20.6
Jackson	14	49		63	22.2



County	African Amer, Amer Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic	Child's Race or Heritage		Total Children	Percent African Amer, Amer Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic
		White	Race Not Reported		
Kanabec	3	61		64	4.7
Kandiyohi	41	91		132	31.1
Kittson	1	10		11	9.1
Koochiching	6	52		58	10.3
Lac qui Parle	2	22		24	8.3
Lake	3	36		39	7.7
Lake of the Woods	1	13		14	7.1
Le Sueur	6	64		70	8.6
Lincoln		7		7	
Lyon	39	64		103	37.9
Mahnomen	73	10		83	88.0
Marshall	5	25		30	16.7
Martin	10	108		118	8.5
McLeod	5	41		46	10.9
Meeker	4	33		37	10.8
Mille Lacs	55	65		120	45.8
Morrison	3	59		62	4.8
Mower	19	175	1	195	9.7
Murray		3		3	
Nicollet	10	63		73	13.7
Nobles	15	55		70	21.4
Norman	5	12		17	29.4
Olmsted	96	188		284	33.8
Otter Tail	6	189		195	3.1
Pennington	2	29		31	6.5
Pine	5	85	1	91	5.5
Pipestone	9	26		35	25.7
Polk	101	130		231	43.7
Pope		28		28	
Ramsey	1,372	879	10	2,261	60.7
Red Lake		11		11	
Redwood	19	57		76	25.0
Renville	9	43		52	17.3
Rice	6	79		85	7.1
Rock	2	43		45	4.4
Roseau	5	22		27	18.5

County	African Amer, Amer Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic	Child's Race or Heritage		Total Children	Percent African Amer, Amer Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic
		White	Race Not Reported		
Scott	20	137	12	169	11.8
Sherburne	7	128	2	137	5.1
Sibley	12	8		20	60.0
St. Louis	275	809	83	1,167	23.6
Stearns	56	306		362	15.5
Steele	19	55		74	25.7
Stevens	3	11		14	21.4
Swift	3	28		31	9.7
Todd	5	65		70	7.1
Traverse	2	5		7	28.6
Wabasha	8	93		101	7.9
Wadena	8	58		66	12.1
Waseca	2	32		34	5.9
Washington	42	403	3	448	9.4
Watonwan	23	36		59	39.0
Wilkin	1	30		31	3.2
Winona	8	77		85	9.4
Wright	8	309		317	2.5
Yellow Medicine	23	39		62	37.1
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>7,068</b>	<b>10,897</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>18,381</b>	<b>38.5</b>

*African American, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic children are grouped to protect the identity of individuals within each race. A blank entry in a cell indicates a count or percent of zero.*

**Overall, children of African American, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, or Hispanic race or heritage accounted for 38.5 percent of the children in out-of-home care in 1997.**

\* The race and heritage distribution of the children in out-of-home care by county reflects the wide regional variation in race and heritage of Minnesota's population. For example, Fillmore and Houston reported only White children in care while Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Hennepin, Mahnomon, Mille Lacs, Polk, Ramsey, and Sibley reported more than 40 percent of children in care being either African American, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, or Hispanic.

## 16. Placements, Episodes, and Children

Averages and Counts of Episodes, Placements and Children by Reporting County in 1997, Sorted by Average Number of Placements per Episode

County	Average Number of 1997			Children	Episodes	Placements
	Episodes per Child	Placements per Child	Placements per Episode			
Sherburne	1.2	1.3	1.1	137	162	172
Clearwater	1.2	1.3	1.1	45	52	57
Chippewa	1.1	1.3	1.1	24	27	30
Koochiching	1.1	1.2	1.1	58	61	68
Stevens	1.0	1.1	1.1	14	14	16
Traverse	1.0	1.1	1.1	7	7	8
Douglas	1.0	1.2	1.1	26	27	31
Morrison	1.1	1.2	1.1	62	67	77
Sibley	1.0	1.1	1.1	20	20	23
Carlton	1.0	1.2	1.2	143	150	175
Lake of the Wood	1.3	1.5	1.2	14	18	21
Marshall	1.0	1.2	1.2	30	30	35
Wabasha	1.2	1.4	1.2	101	119	142
Murray	1.7	2.0	1.2	3	5	6
Rice	1.0	1.3	1.2	85	89	108
Lake	1.2	1.4	1.2	39	45	55
Watonwan	1.1	1.3	1.2	59	64	79
Waseca	1.1	1.3	1.3	34	36	45
Chisago	1.3	1.6	1.3	179	234	294
Pennington	1.0	1.3	1.3	31	31	39
Ramsey	1.2	1.5	1.3	2,261	2,601	3,293
Red Lake	1.0	1.3	1.3	11	11	14
Otter Tail	1.1	1.4	1.3	195	212	270
Mower	1.3	1.6	1.3	195	246	314
Winona	1.2	1.5	1.3	85	101	129
Freeborn	1.1	1.4	1.3	122	135	173
Steele	1.0	1.3	1.3	74	76	98
Lyon	1.2	1.6	1.3	103	126	163
Wilkin	1.1	1.5	1.3	31	35	46
Dakota	1.5	2.0	1.3	816	1,240	1,630
McLeod	1.2	1.5	1.3	46	54	71
Redwood	1.1	1.4	1.3	76	83	110

County	Average Number of 1997			Children	Episodes	Placements
	Episodes per Child	Placements per Child	Placements per Episode			
Aitkin	1.4	1.9	1.3	47	66	88
Mille Lacs	1.2	1.6	1.3	120	143	191
Dodge	1.2	1.6	1.3	58	71	95
Itasca	1.4	1.8	1.3	316	430	577
Wadena	1.2	1.5	1.3	66	76	102
Isanti	1.3	1.7	1.3	116	146	197
Cottonwood	1.2	1.6	1.4	49	57	77
Swift	1.2	1.6	1.4	31	37	50
Pope	1.1	1.5	1.4	28	31	42
Blue Earth	1.2	1.6	1.4	228	275	375
Grant	1.1	1.5	1.4	20	22	30
Kanabec	1.2	1.6	1.4	64	77	105
Lac qui Parle	1.3	1.7	1.4	24	30	41
Goodhue	1.3	1.8	1.4	153	199	272
Washington	1.2	1.7	1.4	448	559	765
Fillmore	1.1	1.5	1.4	32	35	48
Anoka	1.5	2.0	1.4	1,133	1,648	2,263
Wright	1.5	2.0	1.4	317	464	640
Cass	1.2	1.7	1.4	248	309	427
Clay	1.2	1.6	1.4	285	340	470
Renville	1.2	1.7	1.4	52	62	86
Brown	1.2	1.7	1.4	76	94	131
Meeker	1.2	1.7	1.4	37	45	63
Todd	1.1	1.5	1.4	70	75	105
Carver	1.2	1.7	1.4	182	222	312
Becker	1.1	1.5	1.4	152	165	232
Scott	1.2	1.6	1.4	169	197	277
Hubbard	1.3	1.9	1.4	78	103	146
Stearns	1.2	1.7	1.4	362	431	619
Jackson	1.1	1.6	1.4	63	71	102
Kandiyohi	1.1	1.6	1.4	132	145	209
Crow Wing	1.1	1.6	1.5	203	226	328
Cook	1.4	2.0	1.5	16	22	32
Pipestone	1.1	1.5	1.5	35	37	54
Benton	1.2	1.8	1.5	72	89	131
Yellow Medicine	1.2	1.8	1.5	62	76	112
Pine	1.2	1.7	1.5	91	105	155
Roseau	1.1	1.7	1.5	27	31	46

County	Average Number of 1997			Children	Episodes	Placements
	Episodes per Child	Placements per Child	Placements per Episode			
Polk	1.2	1.8	1.5	231	273	407
Rock	1.3	2.0	1.5	45	59	88
Beltrami	1.1	1.6	1.5	213	228	341
Nobles	1.3	1.9	1.5	70	90	136
Olmsted	1.2	1.8	1.5	284	341	524
Houston	1.2	2.0	1.6	41	51	80
Martin	1.3	2.0	1.6	118	153	240
Le Sueur	1.0	1.6	1.6	70	71	113
St. Louis	1.1	1.8	1.6	1,167	1,287	2,064
Nicollet	1.2	2.1	1.7	73	90	150
Hennepin	1.2	2.0	1.7	5,095	5,898	9,941
Mahnomen	1.0	1.8	1.7	83	86	147
Big Stone	1.2	2.0	1.7	6	7	12
Lincoln	1.0	1.7	1.7	7	7	12
Faribault	1.2	2.0	1.7	62	72	124
Kittson	1.5	2.5	1.8	11	16	28
Norman	1.0	1.9	1.9	17	17	32
<b>Averages/Totals</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>18,381</b>	<b>22,135</b>	<b>32,226</b>

*Table is sorted on the average number of 1997 Placements per Episode. The 22,135 episodes involved 18,381 children and contained 32,226 placements. These episodes and placements had at least one day of care in 1997.*

**The average number of placements children experienced while in a single episode of care was 1.5. The average number of episodes of care for a child in 1997 was 1.2. Overall, the average number of placements children experienced in 1997 was 1.8.**

- \* Twelve counties reported a higher number of placements in a single episode of care than the statewide average of 1.5.
- \* Seventeen counties had a higher number of placements per child than the statewide average of 1.8.

## 17. Number of Placements Per Episode

Number of Placements per Episode by Reporting County in 1997

County	Number of Placements								Total Episodes
	1	2	3	4	5	6 - 10	11 - 20	21 - 39	
Aitkin	47	12	5			2			66
Anoka	1,165	257	90	51	30	43	12		1,648
Becker	91	39	13	7	5	9	1		165
Beltrami	121	48	30	10	9	8	2		228
Benton	46	28	10	2	2	1			89
Big Stone	3	2	1			1			7
Blue Earth	187	44	19	11	4	8	2		275
Brown	66	12	8	2	1	5			94
Carlton	86	28	9	6	10	11			150
Carver	136	40	20	9	4	12	1		222
Cass	215	39	19	8	11	15	2		309
Chippewa	14	7	5			1			27
Chisago	183	32	8	3	4	4			234
Clay	203	71	39	12	6	9			340
Clearwater	28	16	1	3	3	1			52
Cook	13	5	2	1		1			22
Cottonwood	28	14	8	6		1			57
Crow Wing	107	54	27	17	11	9	1		226
Dakota	1,010	148	43	17	8	14			1,240
Dodge	40	15	7	1	2	6			71
Douglas	14	6	5		1	1			27
Faribault	31	24	9	3	2	3			72
Fillmore	23	5	3	4					35
Freeborn	84	24	11	5	4	5	2		135
Goodhue	130	44	11	6	4	4			199
Grant	13	6		1	1	1			22
Hennepin	2,341	1,424	907	463	253	419	84	7	5,898
Houston	27	5	7	4	3	3	2		51
Hubbard	62	26	6	4	2	2	1		103
Isanti	103	27	6	4	3	2	1		146
Itasca	314	52	26	17	8	11	1	1	430
Jackson	38	12	7	6	1	7			71
Kanabec	44	17	7	4	4	1			77
Kandiyohi	87	33	16	4	2	3			145

County	Number of Placements								Total Episodes
	1	2	3	4	5	6 - 10	11 - 20	21 - 39	
Kittson	8	4	2			2			16
Koochiching	40	10	6	3		2			61
Lac qui Parle	23	2	4		1				30
Lake	25	17	1	1	1				45
Lake of the Wood	14	2	1	1					18
Le Sueur	43	12	7	3	3	3			71
Lincoln	4		2	1					7
Lyon	86	22	6	5	4	2	1		126
Mahnomen	40	17	15	8	2	3		1	86
Marshall	19	4	3	4					30
Martin	93	31	12	2	4	9	2		153
McLeod	32	10	8		3	1			54
Meeker	21	12	4	3	3	2			45
Mille Lacs	88	37	9	1		7	1		143
Morrison	50	11	3	1		2			67
Mower	190	31	7	9	4	4	1		246
Murray	4	1							5
Nicollet	42	24	8	6	5	5			90
Nobles	43	20	7	11	4	5			90
Norman	8	3		3	2	1			17
Olmsted	182	82	48	11	5	12	1		341
Otter Tail	139	33	13	10	9	8			212
Pennington	19	5	2	2	1	2			31
Pine	61	14	17	7	1	5			105
Pipestone	18	10	5	1	1	2			37
Polk	150	58	29	16	7	11	2		273
Pope	17	10	2	2					31
Ramsey	1,747	518	173	92	41	29	1		2,601
Red Lake	6	4	1						11
Redwood	46	20	1	2	3	8	3		83
Renville	31	14	10	6	1				62
Rice	57	17	10	3	2				89
Rock	34	11	8	3	1	2			59
Roseau	20	7	1	1	1	1			31
Scott	120	41	15	8	1	10	1	1	197
Sherburne	149	9	2	1	1				162
Sibley	15	1		2	1	1			20
St. Louis	903	165	85	46	25	54	8	1	1,287

County	Number of Placements								Total Episodes
	1	2	3	4	5	6 - 10	11 - 20	21 - 39	
Stearns	251	94	42	20	11	11	2		431
Steele	55	9	3	1	2	6			76
Stevens	10	4							14
Swift	23	7	4	1	1		1		37
Todd	40	14	9	6	2	3	1		75
Traverse	6	1							7
Wabasha	91	13	3	5	2	4	1		119
Wadena	47	17	5	2	2	3			76
Waseca	23	5	4	1	2	1			36
Washington	419	87	34	15	3	1			559
Watonwan	39	14	4	2	1	2	2		64
Wilkin	24	4	2	1	3	1			35
Winona	71	14	7	4	2	3			101
Wright	322	71	29	16	12	11	3		464
Yellow Medicine	55	7	7	2	1	4			76
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,163</b>	<b>4,266</b>	<b>2,065</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>22,135</b>

*The 22,135 episodes had at least one day of care in 1997 and involved 18,381 children. All placements within these 1997 episodes including those that ended prior to 1997 are counted. A blank entry in a cell indicates a count of zero.*

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

- \* Almost 60 percent of all episodes contained one placement. Approximately 30 percent of episodes contained two or three placements.



## 18. Number of Episodes per Child

Number of 1997 Episodes per Child by Reporting County in 1997

County	Number of Episodes						Total Children
	1	2	3	4	5	6 - 11	
Aitkin	33	11	1	2			47
Anoka	865	151	57	25	17	18	1,133
Becker	141	10		1			152
Beltrami	200	11	2				213
Benton	58	12	1	1			72
Big Stone	5	1					6
Blue Earth	193	24	10	1			228
Brown	61	12	3				76
Carlton	136	7					143
Carver	152	21	8	1			182
Cass	204	31	10	2	1		248
Chippewa	21	3					24
Chisago	142	27	6	2	1	1	179
Clay	246	28	7	3	1		285
Clearwater	41	3			1		45
Cook	11	4	1				16
Cottonwood	41	8					49
Crow Wing	185	15	1	2			203
Dakota	579	137	55	27	6	12	816
Dodge	49	6	2	1			58
Douglas	25	1					26
Faribault	55	5	1	1			62
Fillmore	30	1	1				32
Freeborn	110	11	1				122
Goodhue	122	20	9		2		153
Grant	18	2					20
Hennepin	4,448	531	93	14	5	4	5,095
Houston	34	5	1	1			41
Hubbard	61	12	2	3			78
Isanti	96	13	4	3			116
Itasca	245	45	15	8	2	1	316
Jackson	55	8					63
Kanabec	55	6	2	1			64

County	Number of Episodes						Total Children
	1	2	3	4	5	6 - 11	
Kandiyohi	122	7	3				132
Kittson	8	1	2				11
Koochiching	55	3					58
Lac qui Parle	19	4	1				24
Lake	34	4	1				39
Lake of the Wood	10	4					14
Le Sueur	69	1					70
Lincoln	7						7
Lyon	85	14	3	1			103
Mahnomen	80	3					83
Marshall	30						30
Martin	89	26	2			1	118
McLeod	40	4	2				46
Meeker	29	8					37
Mille Lacs	98	21	1				120
Morrison	58	3	1				62
Mower	161	21	11	1		1	195
Murray	1	2					3
Nicollet	57	15	1				73
Nobles	57	9	3			1	70
Norman	17						17
Olmsted	238	38	7			1	284
Otter Tail	178	17					195
Pennington	31						31
Pine	79	10	2				91
Pipestone	33	2					35
Polk	199	23	8	1			231
Pope	25	3					28
Ramsey	1,991	218	41	8	1	2	2,261
Red Lake	11						11
Redwood	69	7					76
Renville	42	10					52
Rice	81	4					85
Rock	36	6	1	2			45
Roseau	25	1		1			27
Scott	150	12	5	2			169
Sherburne	115	19	3				137
Sibley	20						20

County	Number of Episodes						Total Children
	1	2	3	4	5	6 - 11	
St. Louis	1,047	120					1,167
Stearns	308	42	10	1	1		362
Steele	72	2					74
Stevens	14						14
Swift	26	4	1				31
Todd	65	5					70
Traverse	7						7
Wabasha	85	14	2				101
Wadena	57	8	1				66
Waseca	32	2					34
Washington	364	64	15	3	2		448
Watonwan	54	5					59
Wilkin	29		2				31
Winona	75	7	2			1	85
Wright	234	45	19	13	5	1	317
Yellow Medicine	53	6	1	2			62
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,688</b>	<b>2,026</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>18,381</b>

*These 1997 episodes had at least one day of care in 1997. Episodes that ended prior to 1997 are not included. A blank entry in a cell indicates a count of zero.*

**Out of 18,381 children in out-of-home care, 15,688 or 85.3 percent experienced one episode of care. Another 2,026 children or 11.0 percent had two episodes of care.**

- \* The percentage of children in one episode of care within each of these urban counties was:  
 St. Louis - 89.7 percent; Scott - 88.8 percent; Ramsey - 88.1 percent; Hennepin - 87.3 percent; Washington - 81.3 percent; Anoka - 76.3 percent; and Dakota - 71.0 percent.

## 19. Length of Time in Care

Length of Time in 1997 Episodes of Care by Reporting County in 1997

County	Length of Time								Percent in Care 12 Months or More
	Less than 1 Day	1 to 3 Days	4 Days to 1 Week	1 Week to 1 Month	1 to 3 Months	3 to 6 Months	6 to 12 Months	12 Months or More	
Aitkin		3	2	2	13	7	5	15	32%
Anoka	45	196	103	111	141	125	116	296	26%
Becker			1	12	23	22	27	67	44%
Beltrami		3	4	7	29	20	32	118	55%
Benton		2		12	4	15	15	24	33%
Big Stone					1		2	3	50%
Blue Earth	1	14	19	17	22	43	40	72	32%
Brown		2	1	10	11	16	17	19	25%
Carlton		2	1	3	13	10	17	97	68%
Carver	12	12	11	12	24	21	35	55	30%
Cass		42	24	28	32	25	30	67	27%
Chippewa				1	2	1	7	13	54%
Chisago	12	28	15	36	21	14	15	38	21%
Clay	24	41	14	29	17	45	51	64	22%
Clearwater		2	2	3	1	6	9	22	49%
Cook	1	1		3	2	4	2	3	19%
Cottonwood			1	3	2	7	7	29	59%
Crow Wing		10	4	3	10	18	32	126	62%
Dakota	11	143	78	113	100	81	101	189	23%
Dodge		6	1	4	8	7	12	20	34%
Douglas				2	2		4	18	69%
Faribault		4	2	6	8	17	12	13	21%
Fillmore				4	3	3	6	16	50%
Freeborn			1	10	18	12	23	58	48%
Goodhue	3	18	9	17	20	18	24	44	29%
Grant			1		2	2	6	9	45%
Hennepin	255	400	178	257	419	479	711	2,396	47%
Houston		1	1	1	3	4	13	18	44%
Hubbard	4	11	1	8	9	13	13	19	24%
Isanti		10	8	26	13	15	13	31	27%
Itasca	3	63	23	18	33	33	50	93	29%
Jackson		1		3	12	7	10	30	48%
Kanabec		2	2	12	7	6	13	22	34%

County	Length of Time								Percent in Care 12 Months or More
	Less than 1 Day	1 to 3 Days	4 Days to 1 Week	1 Week to 1 Month	1 to 3 Months	3 to 6 Months	6 to 12 Months	12 Months or More	
Kandiyohi		3	5	11	12	24	31	46	35%
Kittson		1	1		3	1	1	4	36%
Koochiching	1	1	1	4	2	5	13	31	53%
Lac qui Parle		3	1	4	6	2	4	4	17%
Lake		1		5	3	8	11	11	28%
Lake of the Woods		1	1	2	3	4	2	1	7%
Le Sueur						15	18	37	53%
Lincoln				1		1	3	2	29%
Lyon	1	7	5	8	14	13	14	41	40%
Mahnomen		6	2	13	10	7	18	27	33%
Marshall				1	6	5	6	12	40%
Martin	1	2	5	19	15	19	15	42	36%
McLeod		1		3	5	12	6	19	41%
Meeker					1	2	14	20	54%
Mille Lacs		3	3	11	21	19	23	40	33%
Morrison				3	11	13	8	27	44%
Mower	2	20	27	20	20	30	31	45	23%
Murray					1	1	1		
Nicollet		6	2	4	11	10	14	26	36%
Nobles	1	6	1	8	9	1	9	35	50%
Norman			3	1	1	1	8	3	18%
Olmsted		27	17	26	28	31	53	102	36%
Otter Tail	1	11	7	21	26	36	29	64	33%
Pennington				1	1	2	2	25	81%
Pine		5	6	9	14	6	20	31	34%
Pipestone		1	3	2	1	2	6	20	57%
Polk		15	9	8	35	23	45	96	42%
Pope		3	2		2	2	8	11	39%
Ramsey	17	175	123	209	217	220	366	934	41%
Red Lake				3	5	2	1		
Redwood			1	11	11	8	17	28	37%
Renville		2			8	7	10	25	48%
Rice				2	3	7	20	53	62%
Rock		7	1	4	6	6	4	17	38%
Roseau			1	2	5	3	13	3	11%
Scott	4	24	15	25	17	20	22	42	25%
Sherburne		3	13	38	26	22	25	10	7%
Sibley			3		2	1	7	7	35%

County	Length of Time								Percent in Care 12 Months or More
	Less than 1 Day	1 to 3 Days	4 Days to 1 Week	1 Week to 1 Month	1 to 3 Months	3 to 6 Months	6 to 12 Months	12 Months or More	
St. Louis		196	72	145	97	108	151	398	34%
Stearns	2	25	7	25	49	51	76	127	35%
Steele	1	2		6	13	14	8	30	41%
Stevens					1	1	3	9	64%
Swift		3		4	5	3	5	11	35%
Todd				4	3	8	16	39	56%
Traverse		2			2	2		1	14%
Wabasha	2	25	11	13	9	5	13	23	23%
Wadena		11	1	7	4	5	10	28	42%
Waseca			2	3	4		4	21	62%
Washington	9	94	54	54	45	29	40	123	27%
Watonwan		3		3	7	9	10	27	46%
Wilkin					6	3	6	16	52%
Winona		3	1	9	6	14	22	30	35%
Wright		56	40	53	37	25	27	79	25%
Yellow Medicine				8	12	18	10	14	23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>1,771</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>1,586</b>	<b>1,886</b>	<b>1,982</b>	<b>2,769</b>	<b>7,021</b>	<b>38%</b>

*Days in care for each child are summed for all episodes of care that have at least one day in 1997. Children can be shown as having more than 12 months of care if their episode had a starting date prior to 1997. Episodes that ended prior to 1997 are not included. A blank entry in a cell indicates a count or percent of zero.*

**When looking at the cumulative length of time that children spent in care in 1997 episodes, 38 percent or 7,021 children spent 12 months or more in care.**

- \* The percent of children in each county that spent 365 or more days in care, varied greatly by county. Thirty-seven counties had a higher percentage of children who spent 365 or more days in care than the state average of 38 percent.
- \* The percent of children with 365 or more days in care within each of these urban counties was: Anoka - 26 percent; Dakota - 23 percent; Hennepin - 47 percent; Ramsey - 41 percent; Scott - 25 percent; St. Louis - 34 percent; and Washington - 27 percent. Only Hennepin and Ramsey had a higher percent than the state average of 38 percent.

## 20. Costs and Days in Care

Costs and Days in Care for Placements, Episodes and Children by Reporting County in 1997, Sorted by Average Cost per Day

County	Total Costs	Total Days of Care	Average Cost per Day	Average Days in 1997 per		
				Placement	Episode	Child
Red Lake	\$15,474	897	\$17.25	64	81	81
Mahnomen	\$297,793	14,686	\$20.28	99	170	176
Clearwater	\$246,019	10,267	\$23.96	180	197	228
Traverse	\$24,255	864	\$28.07	108	123	123
Wadena	\$342,070	11,536	\$29.65	113	151	174
Crow Wing	\$1,839,047	56,468	\$32.57	172	249	278
Blue Earth	\$1,586,384	39,493	\$40.17	105	143	173
St. Louis	\$7,501,755	179,720	\$41.74	87	139	154
Big Stone	\$77,693	1,774	\$43.80	147	253	295
Dakota	\$4,552,392	102,277	\$44.51	62	82	125
Grant	\$217,749	4,887	\$44.56	162	222	244
Ramsey	19,217,191	426,356	\$45.07	129	163	188
Stearns	\$2,891,197	63,727	\$45.37	102	147	176
Brown	\$521,078	11,433	\$45.58	87	121	150
Mower	\$1,227,207	26,414	\$46.46	84	107	135
Koochiching	\$638,464	13,724	\$46.52	201	224	236
Carlton	\$1,792,178	38,245	\$46.86	218	254	267
Rice	\$1,091,211	23,035	\$47.37	213	258	271
Hubbard	\$535,774	11,105	\$48.25	76	107	142
Kandiyohi	\$1,257,289	26,049	\$48.27	124	179	197
Rock	\$341,639	7,050	\$48.46	80	119	156
Chisago	\$886,149	18,195	\$48.70	61	77	101
Clay	\$1,897,837	38,937	\$48.74	82	114	136
Anoka	\$6,896,072	141,336	\$48.79	62	85	124
Becker	\$1,626,456	33,252	\$48.91	143	201	218
Mille Lacs	\$1,054,574	21,542	\$48.95	112	150	179
Washington	\$2,622,910	52,906	\$49.58	69	94	118
Itasca	\$2,297,516	46,294	\$49.63	80	107	146
Aitkin	\$384,227	7,674	\$50.07	87	116	163
Beltrami	\$2,472,423	49,351	\$50.10	144	216	231
Lac qui Parle	\$131,586	2,624	\$50.15	64	87	109
Polk	\$2,365,698	47,046	\$50.28	115	172	203
Scott	\$967,110	19,228	\$50.30	69	97	113

County	Total Costs	Total Days of Care	Average Cost per Day	Average Days in 1997 per		
				Placement	Episode	Child
Marshall	\$314,616	6,190	\$50.83	176	206	206
Goodhue	\$1,048,626	20,423	\$51.35	75	102	133
Fillmore	\$403,304	7,757	\$51.99	161	221	242
Swift	\$229,102	4,390	\$52.19	87	118	141
Freeborn	\$1,469,210	28,145	\$52.20	162	208	230
Wilkin	\$333,014	6,377	\$52.22	138	182	205
Lincoln/Lyon/Murray	\$976,629	18,530	\$52.71	102	134	163
Cass	\$1,869,841	35,105	\$53.26	82	113	141
Cottonwood	\$637,649	11,857	\$53.78	153	208	241
Norman	\$146,771	2,682	\$54.72	83	157	157
Todd	\$969,148	17,683	\$54.81	168	235	252
Yellow Medicine	\$508,171	9,259	\$54.88	82	121	149
Steele	\$800,001	14,572	\$54.90	148	191	196
Pope	\$273,955	4,927	\$55.60	117	158	175
Nobles	\$795,553	14,302	\$55.63	105	158	204
Meeker	\$552,016	9,886	\$55.84	156	219	267
Stevens	\$232,727	4,158	\$55.97	259	297	297
Hennepin	58,284,926	1,022,861	\$56.98	102	173	200
Carver	\$1,711,676	29,980	\$57.09	96	135	164
Nicollet	\$766,912	13,286	\$57.72	88	147	182
Wright	\$2,305,062	39,878	\$57.80	62	85	125
Cook	\$108,524	1,862	\$58.28	58	84	116
Jackson	\$779,710	13,304	\$58.61	130	187	211
Benton	\$824,490	13,882	\$59.39	105	155	192
Lake of the Woods	\$75,264	1,265	\$59.50	60	70	90
Redwood	\$907,305	15,094	\$60.11	137	181	198
Lake	\$388,628	6,422	\$60.52	116	142	164
Watonwan	\$746,995	12,213	\$61.16	154	190	207
Pipestone	\$499,118	7,913	\$63.08	146	213	226
Dodge	\$685,450	10,805	\$63.44	113	152	186
Otter Tail	\$2,087,325	32,653	\$63.92	120	154	167
Olmsted	\$3,188,287	49,770	\$64.06	94	145	175
Waseca	\$551,692	8,564	\$64.42	190	237	251
Morrison	\$799,333	12,402	\$64.45	161	185	200
Sibley	\$277,470	4,258	\$65.16	185	212	212
Faribault/Martin	\$1,808,671	27,740	\$65.20	76	123	154
Renville	\$777,433	11,876	\$65.46	138	191	228



County	Total Costs	Total Days of Care	Average Cost per Day	Average Days in 1997 per		
				Placement	Episode	Child
Le Sueur	\$1,259,631	18,662	\$67.50	165	262	266
Kanabec	\$660,419	9,770	\$67.60	93	126	152
Kittson	\$140,136	2,067	\$67.80	73	129	187
Isanti	\$1,132,405	16,634	\$68.08	84	113	143
Houston	\$693,906	9,917	\$69.97	123	194	241
Sherburne	\$848,648	11,838	\$71.69	68	73	86
Chippewa	\$398,221	5,502	\$72.38	183	203	229
Pennington	\$735,830	10,141	\$72.56	260	327	327
Roseau	\$323,003	4,297	\$75.17	93	138	159
Pine	\$1,204,693	15,750	\$76.49	101	150	173
Winona	\$1,304,909	14,797	\$88.19	114	146	174
Wabasha	\$976,374	9,376	\$104.14	66	78	92
McLeod	\$1,165,505	8,291	\$140.57	116	153	180
Douglas	\$1,359,334	6,403	\$212.30	206	237	246
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$171,154,035</b>	<b>3,244,108</b>	<b>\$52.76</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>176</b>

*The table is sorted on the Average Cost per Day. This average is based on the Total Costs and Total Days in Care which come from two separate reporting systems (the BRASS financial system and the CSIS social service system).*

**The types of placements most frequently used by a particular county as well as the number of days of care in those placements, will determine the average cost of placement. Typically, placements offering more intensive treatment are most expensive. Residential treatment for severely emotionally disturbed children in a facility is usually more expensive than family foster care offered in the home.**