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GOING HOME — AND RETURNING TO CARE:

A STUDY OF FOSTER CARE REUNIFICATION

BY

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Diana J. English, Ph.D. & John A. Landsverk, Ph.D.

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY
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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

CHAPTER 1

RATIONALE AND GOALS OF STUDY

For more than ten years child welfare practice has been striving to fulfill the somewhat conflicting legislative mandates of the Federal Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-272), and of the mandatory child abuse and neglect reporting laws passed in most States. The 1980 Act requires priority to be given to the child's right to be raised in the biological family and prevent placement, and, if separation is unavoidable, return of the child as soon as possible to the family. The Permanency Planning Principles of P.L.96-272 emphasize family preservation more than child protection, while mandatory reporting laws tend to emphasize child protection over family preservation.

One result of these incongruent legislative demands has been reduction in the number of children placed in out-of-home care along with a drastic increase in the known number of children in need of child maltreatment screening and potential placement. Furthermore, P.L.96-272 and associated state legislation, reduce the discretion of child protective service workers and Dependency/Family Court judges in the following ways: Limiting the length of time of an episode of out-of-home care to 18 months; requiring periodic court reviews to monitor progress towards a Permanency Plan for the foster child; and, limiting the ultimate Permanency Plan outcome to: reunification with the birth family, adoption, guardianship, and long-term foster care in that order of priority.

Additional stress on the Child Protective System emanates from cuts in resources and staff, and from the fact that the social worker's recommendations to the court in recent years are considered in an increasingly tense atmosphere. Dependency/Family Court

processes have grown more adversarial, often with separate legal representation for each family member at court hearings. Furthermore, concrete evidence for parents' progress in meeting the goals and conditions for reunification of the child is demanded, as well as evidence that the Child Protective System has made reasonable efforts to provide supportive services.

Within the context of these demands, how well is the Child Protective System working for the children and families it is supposed to serve? This larger question can be broken down in such questions as: What are the characteristics of the children who reunify with their families after different length of stay in care? What are the reasons for entry into foster care in the first place? How long do children remain in foster care, and how many changes of foster homes, if any, do they experience during one placement episode? What behavioral, health and other problems, if any, do they manifest? What services are offered and used? What type of court hearings are conducted, and who attends these hearings? In how many cases are new allegations of abuse filed after reunification with the birth family? And how many of the reunified children re-enter out-of-home care?

Questions like these prompted the Study of Reunification Risks and Successes which was conducted in three study sites: San Diego County, California and Pierce and King Counties of Washington State. The overall objective was to find answers to the questions of: What differentiates children who successfully reunify with their birth families from those who are only partially successful, or fail to the extent of having to re-enter out-of-home care? What are the differences, if any, in reunification patterns in a child welfare system administered country-wide as compared with a child welfare system with state-wide administration?

The study specifically aimed to:

1) Classify a 10-month cohort of children who were in foster family care from 72 hours up to twelve months as successful, borderline, and unsuccessful nine months after reunification on the basis of the following outcomes:

      a) Successful Reunification: **No** re-referral for abuse or neglect, or re-entry into care.

      b) Borderline Successful: Re-Referral to Child Protective Services (CPS), but no re-entry into out-of-home care.

      c) Unsuccessful Reunification: Re-entry into foster care or other out-of-home placement facility for > 72 hours.

2) Determine the relationship between the following variables and successful, borderline, and unsuccessful cases in the study sample:

    a) Demographic characteristics and family background at time of removal, case characteristics, including referral source, and reason for removal.

    b) Content of Reunification Plans, including stipulations for parental visiting and recommended services to parental caretakers and foster children.

    c) Psychological, behavioral and educational functioning of the foster children (limited to a San Diego subsample).

    d) Compliance of parental caretaker(s) with Reunification Plan.

    e) Level of concordance between CPS recommendation and Dependency Court regarding reunification decisions.

3) Determine the relative value of case characteristics and decision-making elements for predicting the classification of successful and unsuccessful reunifications.

The Reunification Study was linked to already existing studies and research teams in the two study sites. The San Diego site was linked to an ongoing longitudinal cohort study of mental health needs and use of mental health services over an 18 month period for

950 children in out-of-home placement. This study, referred to in the current report as the FCMH Study, is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, and the National Center on child Abuse and Neglect. The State of Washington site was linked to the ongoing work in risk assessment which includes development of a state-wide risk assessment system, and studies addressing issues and specific factors in risk assessment.

The remainder of Section I of this report reviews research and practice literature relevant to reunification of children from foster care in the context of the total decision-making and placement process (Chapter 2). Section II describes the three study sites and research methodology (Chapters 3 and 4).

Section III presents the findings of the study under the headings of characteristics of the children and their families at the time of removal (Chapter 5); the placement experience in terms of types of foster homes, number of moves during the episode, and content of the reunification plan (or other written "contract" between CPS and the caretakers); visitation patterns, the legal process, and the reunification decision, including discordance between CPS recommendations and the Court decision (Chapter 6). Chapter 7 accounts for the child's status nine months after reunification in regard to re-referrals and re-entry into out-of-home care; the chapter concludes with an account of beginning steps in building a model predicting re-referrals and re-entry. A summary of findings and conclusions are given in Chapter 8.

The Reunification Study findings should be considered preliminary in that they only illuminate the process of reunification after up to 12 months in care. The full account of that process awaits completion of the ongoing Permanency Planning Outcome Study. That study follows not only the reunified children from the lo-month cohort of foster children for a full year beyond the Permanency Plan decision (occurring at 18-month after placement or

sooner), but also the remaining cohort children for whom the Permanency Plan decision was adoption, guardianship, or long-term foster care.---

A number of publications are planned to present additional Reunification Study findings on such topics as race/ethnicity, neglect vs. physical, sexual and emotional abuse as reasons for removal of children from their parents, kinship foster care, siblings in care, and Dependency Court hearings in reunification cases. It is hoped that these publications and the preliminary Reunification Study findings to be presented in this report will contribute to the empirical foundation of foster care practice and serve as a guide for reunification decision-making during the first twelve months of foster care.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

Few studies have focused on how and when child welfare practitioners make reunification decisions and with what outcomes. Many more studies have addressed decision-making at the "front-end" of the placement process, such as screening for protective issues, intake, and removal of the child for placement in foster care. While this body of empirical literature does not directly bear on the reunification process it has relevance as context for reunification decision-making.

Thus this chapter opens with a summary of decision-making factors associated with the choice points of: Intake (including risk assessment), Substantiation, Removal, and Reunification Decisions. Next follows a review of factors and findings regarding foster care reunification and recidivism.

Decision-Making Studies

The decision to intervene by Child Protective Services (CPS) with families has enormous implications for a democratic society. Errors by child welfare workers can threaten the integrity and privacy of families, and fail to protect children. Practice theory, social policies, and agency procedures have not provided consensus on the criteria for making decisions about intervention with families (Gleeson, 1987; Knitzer, Allen, & McGowan, 1978; and Stein & Rzepnicki, 1984). In the late 1950's the suggestion first emerged that research in child welfare ought to give great attention to the decision making process in order that guidelines for decision making could be developed (Wolins, 1959). Fanshel (1962) suggested that these research efforts should focus on the decision making choice points found in child welfare. A purpose for doing so was to identify variables that

child welfare workers are using to guide their decisions.

Review of child welfare decision making research in the last three decades pinpoints

several problems that limit the ability to draw definitive conclusions. These problems are:

1. Many of the studies used small unrepresentative samples drawn from one or two sites.

2. Most of the studies were cross-sectional. For the most part the studies relied on retrospective reports from informants.

3. Only a handful of studies used comparison groups, or other aspects of experimental design.

4. Only three studies were representative of a national protective service population (Lindsey, 1991; Seaberg, 1978; and Seaberg & Tolley, 1986). Other studies were representative of specific state or county populations

5. About one-half of the studies used archival data. These studies have problems with the reliability of abstractors and missing data in the case files. Most of the others studies collected data directly from workers.

6. These different data collection methods make comparisons of results difficult. Studies collected data on different variables, choice points in the decision making process, from different political jurisdictions with varying policies and circumstances governing practice, and in different types of service settings. All of these differences make it difficult to find supporting evidence for findings across studies.

7. A clear interpretation of findings is often confused by the confounding of case characteristics and treatment effects.

Despite these problems some decision-making factors or indicators are empirically supported. The studies from which they have been derived are listed in Table 2-1, and the factors in Table 2-2 at the end of this chapter. Questions remain, however, about the extent to which these indicators are being applied reliably in practice (Craft, Epley, & Clarkson, 1980; Gleeson, 1987; McDonald & Marks, 1991; Rosen, 1981; Stein & Rzepnicki, 1984; and Wells, Fluke, Downing, & Brown, 1989A, 1989B). It is likely that individual discretion and personal biases, such as anger, value judgements, or shock at abusive situations at times may enter into the decision-making process.

Intake Decisions. The error of conducting unwarranted investigations is not as likely as the error of overlooking, reports in need of investigation (Wells et al., 1989A; 1989B). However even a small amount of error in conducting unnecessary investigations raises major problems. Unwarranted investigations may lead to family stress, stigma, and mislabeling. The danger to agencies are: overburdening workers, using up scarce resources, creating legal liabilities, and damaging the credibility of CPS with the public (Avison, Turner, & Noh, 1986; Berger, et al., 1989; and Gleeson, 1987).

The following is a discussion of variables used by social workers in making the decision to investigate or not. Mandated reporters may have their reports responded to by CPS agencies more often than lay reporters because mandated reporters are more likely than lay people to know the legal definition of maltreatment. They may also carry more credibility with their fellow professionals, have training and experience to identify the cues that signify maltreatment, and be able to present a coherent case with the specificity and evidence needed for agency action (Giovannoni, 1991; Hutchinson, 1989; Wells et al., 1991; Zellman & Antler, 1990; and Zellman & Bell, 1990). Physical and sexual abuse carry with them less ambiguity than other forms of maltreatment. Giovannoni and Becerra (1979) found there were few cases of emotional abuse or immoral behavior where that type of abuse was the sole reason for action. Physical and sexual abuse carry with them a sense of urgency that danger is immediate and demands a protective response.

Child variables that are likely to trigger an investigation include the presence of the perpetrator in the home (Hutchinson, 1989), age of the child (DiLeonardi, 1980) and a child exhibiting medical, psychiatric, behavioral problems, unusual behavior, and developmental delay. Young children and particularly children under the age of two receive the most protective interventions at all choice points (DiLeonardi, 1980; Katz et al., 1986; Lindsey,

1991; Meddin, 1984; Phillips, et al., 1971; and Wells, et al., 1989A & 1989B).

Minorities are more likely to be investigated than Anglo Americans (Hutchinson, 1989), and when they enter the system have longer stays in care than Anglos (Finch, Fanshel & Grundy, 1986; Goerge, 1990; Jenkins & Diamond, 1985; and Seaberg & Tolley, 1986). This overrepresentation of minorities is consistently most pronounced with African-American children (Children's Defense Fund, 1978; Jenkins, 1983; Jenkins & Diamond, 1985; Fein, Maluccio & Kluger, 1990; Shyne & Schroeder, 1978; and Stehno, 1982).

Low socioeconomic status increases the risk of an investigation and removal (Lindsey, 1991). The impact of socioeconomic status is evident at all phases of the decision making process. Unemployment may be taken as an indicator of family disorganization (Phillips, et al., 1971).

Efforts to provide greater guidance and decision-making uniformity have been seen in attempts to combine decision-making factors or indicators into <u>Risk Assessment Models</u>. Several such models are available but limited empirical testing undermines their use with confidence (Dalgheish & Drew, 1989; Doueck, et al., 1993; Faller, 1988A; Katz & Robinson, 1991; Magura & Moses, 1986; Stein & Rzepnicki, 1984; and Wald & Woolverton, 1990).

While research on the validity of total risk assessment models is very limited, a significant amount of research has been conducted on specific risk factors included in the models. To follow is a summary of this research--with focus on the 32 risk factors of the Washington Risk Assessment Model (English, 1989; English, et al., 1993; Miller, et al., 1988; and Tatara, 1988).

Demographic case characteristics that seem to have the strongest association with risk include socio-economic factors, number of children, family structure/composition, ethnicity, victim gender, identity of reporter, and CPS agency organizational factors.

The vast majority of the research to date focuses on intra-psychic or individual specific risk items as opposed to social or environmental risk, For the child victim, the research emphasis has been on age and the child's physical/mental or social development. Younger children are more likely to suffer physical harm if abused and some child characteristics may contribute to or be a symptom of abuse. There is not much in the research literature on the severity of abuse. There is some discussion of the relationship of poverty to neglect, and an indication that decisions are made on the actual presence of harm. Little attention is paid to the potential for harm in acts of omission or commission.

In contrast, the discussion on chronicity emphasizes that past behavior (regardless of severity) is likely to result in new acts in the future. If a parent has been abusive once, absent intervention, there is a high likelihood they will be abusive again. Research has focused on re-reports of abuse as an outcome measure for "success" of intervention, and as a measure of seriousness in the future. The value of chronicity as a construct is complicated however, by whether re-reports are counted or whether actual substantiation of abuse and neglect occurs. There are many more reports of abuse and/or neglect than there are substantiated incidents of abuse/neglect.

Parent-caretaker characteristics are by far the most "researched" risk factors in models of abuse. The question of violence is addressed in the investigation of the parent's own experience with abuse as a child and with current aspects of domestic violence in the home. Parental experience of abuse as a child is significant in that about one in three abusive parents, regardless of type of abuse, have been victims themselves. History of abuse as a child is not a universal variable, that is, not all parents who were victims, victimize their own children, but, a significant percent do. While research in this area should continue, investigating why parents who were victims do not abuse their children may be just as

important.

--A-second set of caretaker characteristics-which may be significantly related to history of victimization as a child involve parent's physical, emotional or mental health. "Absent" caretakers, whether the absence is physical or mental, has been identified as a significant factor in all types of abuse, but most specifically in sexual abuse and physical abuse. "Absence" may also be associated with substance abuse.

Likewise, the other parent characteristics related to parenting skills, recognition of the problem, level of cooperation are all risk factors related to ability, perceptions of parenting, experiences of parenting, cultural interpretations and values held by the assessors.

Last is the question of the parents ability to nurture (relate to) a child and parental response to a child's behavior. The issue here is that the child's behavior may be "normal" or "normative", but the parents response or perception is affected by their own attitudes toward the behavior. The parent's reasons may also be "normal" within the community context, but unacceptable from the perspective of the larger community. Interpretations of behaviors and response to behaviors is fraught with danger. Values, norms, and practices vary by culture, by generation and by gender. While all these factors need to be understood, and taken into account, the fundamental issue is whether or not harm to the child has occurred, or is likely to occur in the near future.

The environmental factors considered most important are stress and social support. While not specifically linked, the implication is that stress may be ameliorated or exacerbated by the presence of social support. Social support itself is not a matter of the presence of others, but the perception of others as a positive resource.

This summary of research findings on individual risk factors should be seen in the light of the fact that much of this research is retrospective in design and has methodological

problems related to sample size and analysis. However, despite design flaws, the accumulating evidence, at the very least provides risk indicators-that are- worth considering in developing research and for use as preliminary guidelines in decision-making until additional evidence can be developed.

The second decision-making choice point is that of Substantiating Abuse: That is, to determine if maltreatment occurred? Four indicators that provide direct evidence of abuse are parental admission of maltreatment, credible witnesses to the maltreatment, the victims testimony, or presence of a physical injury (Craft, et al., 1980; DiLeonardi, 1980; and Faller, 1988B).

The importance of the parental reaction increases when direct physical evidence is not available. Workers assess whether the response seems appropriate for the situation, and whether the parent can provide a consistent and believable explanation for the maltreatment (Craft, et al. 1980 & DiLeonardi, 1980). Lack of cooperation may be taken as an indicator of abuse (Johnson & L'Esperance 1984).

Many judgements by workers are subjective and are likely to be influenced by such matters as the parent's physical appearance and ability to verbalize feelings (Alter, 1985; Craft, et al., 1980; DiLeonardi, 1980; Faller, 1988A; Meddin & Hansen, 1985; and Rosen, 1981). Such characteristics may be influenced by how cooperative a client is perceived to be. These worker perceptions may be both class and culture based (Hampton & Newberger, 1984).

Parental difficulties such as: mental or physical illness, marital problems, a criminal record, a history of previous abuse of children or prior report maltreatment, substance abuse problems, poor caretaking skills, social isolation, or poor conditions in the home that present clear hazards to the child's health and safety, are taken as indicators of the parents inability

to protect the child and result in intrusive interventions at all choice points (Benedict & White, 1991; Craft, et al., 1980; Eckenrode et al., 1988; Goerge, 1990; Katz, et al., 1986; Lawder et al., 1986; Meddin, 1984; Phillips, Shyne, & Haring, 1971; and Seaberg, 1978).

The assessment of parent-child relationships along with parental functioning and cooperation, are taken as measures of the parents' concern, ability to protect the child or change their abusive behavior, and capacity to utilize in-home services on behalf of the child. (Dalgheish & Drew, 1989; Faller, 1988B; and Meddin, 1984). In addition, inappropriate reactions by the child such as exhibiting fear of the parent, are taken as indicators of maltreatment (Craft, et al., 1980; DiLeonardi, 1980; Meddin & Hansen, 1985; and Rosen, 1981).

Removal of the Child from the Home. The placement decision involves issues of stigma and rights of parents, and is a threat to attachment and bonding between parents and child. Family variables used in decision making include whether a support system is available that can provide support (such as crisis help, respite baby sitting, monitor the situation) (Wightman, 1991 and Goerge 1990).

Children from smaller families are more likely to be placed. Workers may be reluctant to break up a sibling group because of the fear that psychological damage will be done to children separated from brothers and sisters; or social workers may find it too difficult to find a single placement for a sibling group (Hegar, 1988).

Children referred because of neglect are most likely to be placed out of the home (Katz, et al., 1986 and Lindsey, 1991). Fein, Maluccio & Kluger (1990) found African-American children are more-likely to be placed for reasons of neglect.

The Reunification Decision. A long duration in care may result in a rift in the parent-child relationship, or be an indicator of problems in parental functioning. Long stays

in care where the child is shifted among multiple care givers may interfere with the child's ability to form permanent relationships, and/or it may indicate the presence of severe problems that results in the child being difficult to handle.

Goerge (1990), who examined the careers of foster children over an eight year period, found a decreasing probability for reunification with time in placement. Studies exploring associations between length of time in placements and child and family characteristics show that children with longer stays in care have parents suffering from financial hardship; have mothers with problems that effect the parent-child relationship or suffer from mental illness (Lawder et al., 1986; Milner, 1987; and Olsen, 1982). Other characteristics include being a teenage mother (Lawder et al., 1986). Probably the most important variable used by workers is whether the parents were cooperative, and carried out the service plan, as an indicator of a desire to regain custody of the child (Benedict and White, 1991).

Child characteristics which contributed to longer stays in foster care include poor grades, developmental delay, and disability (Benedict & White, 1991; McMurty & Yong Lie, 1992 and Seaberg & Tolley, 1986). The children who were in the system longer were also older and male (McMurty & Young-Lie, 1992; and Seaberg & Tolley, 1986). The quality and frequency of parental visiting are associated with shorter stays in care (Fanshel et al., 1982; Gibson et al., 1984; Lawder et al., 1986; Milner, 1987; Seaberg & Tolley, 1986; and Vega, 1990).

Studies on Reunification and Recidivism Rates

Follow-up studies give partial answers to what percentage of foster children are reunified with their birth families, and how many of them re-enter out-of-home care. The picture, however, is far from clear for two main reasons. First, many follow-up studies rely

on samples of children originally entering the system prior to the permanency planning legislation. Second, they include children dissimilar-with respect to demographics, reasons for placement and other variables. Often these studies differ in definitions for disruption of care and in follow-up time-periods as well. Some findings from this body of research are presented next.

Sherman et al, in an early study (1973) found that 18% of the 413 study sample children were returned to their parents, with 27% of the reunited children re-entering foster care within 11 months. Fanshel & Shinn (1978) in their landmark pre-permanency planning study found a recidivism rate of 16% by the end of 5 years.

Study children of the three-year Oregon Permanency Planning Project (Emlen, et al., 1978 and Pike, et al., 1977), which was designed to develop technology to remove barriers to reunification, were followed one year beyond project closure to determine the stability of placements (Lahti, 1982). Demonstration group children receiving intensive services as well as control group children, receiving regular services, had been judged unlikely to return home or to be adopted. No significant difference in reunification percentages was found in the two groups of children (26% for project children and 24% for the comparison group children). Forty per cent of project children, compared to 21% of the control group, were placed in adoptive homes.

A study by Block & Libowitz (1983) of over 300 children discharged from foster care at the Jewish Child Care Association of New York identified 85 children as recidivists (27% of 311). Data were derived from case records and telephone follow-up interviews with parents, and/or caseworkers. Of the 85 recidivists, 16% returned from their parents' or other relatives' homes while 12% re-entered foster care from juvenile-justice or mental health facilities. The major reason for a child's re-entry into care (80% of the cases) was

the parent's inability to cope with the child's problematic behaviors. Dominant among these was antisocial behavior in the home, school or the community, followed by psychopathology of the child. Females re-entered care more frequently than males, and the 13-15 year age group re-entered care more often than others. Other variables associated with a higher recidivism rate were: (1) child- rather than family-related reasons for the original placement of the child; (2) more than one placement; (3) children who reacted negatively to placement during out-of-home care and (4) children for whom decisions were made by the court versus decisions by other agencies.

Fein & Maluccio (1984) found that 53% of the 187 foster children studied were reunited with their biological parents; 31 were adopted; and the remaining 15% went into long-term foster care. At completion of the study, 22% of all permanent home placements (not just reunifications with biological parents, but adoptive and relative homes) had disrupted. Many of these children had been in residential treatment care prior to the move into a permanent home.

A later study by the same research team (Fein, et al., 1990) of 779 Connecticut children in long-term foster care found that about half of the children experienced only one placement while in care; and one-third had three or more placements. Positive functioning for most children were indicated, along with foster parents' expectation that most of the children would remain with them until emancipation. Black children were over-represented, and Hispanics under-represented in this study.

The study by Fanshel, et al. (1989) found that of 585 children exiting from private sector foster care (designed for children judged not able to be reunited with their families), 55.2% emancipated from care, while 20.2% were reunited with one or both parents. Another 20.7% did not "make it" in the long-term foster homes and were returned to court

or other public social service agencies. The remaining 3.9% ran away. Ratings of the conditions and adjustments of the children- at- departure from care showed that the adjustment of emancipated youngsters was significantly better than that observed in the other groups. Adolescents returned to court and runaways were judged to be in the poorest condition. Those returned to their parents were in the middle. Comparison of child adjustment at entry and exit from care revealed that children in greater conflict with the biological parent (or more hostile and negative in general) were in poorer condition at exit. Two types of behaviors during placement, juvenile delinquency, and sexually acting-out behaviors, correlated with worse condition at exit; while children in a depressed mood while in care were in better condition at exit, on average.

Findings are emerging to indicate different permanency planning patterns in kinship foster care (Thornton, **1991).** In addition to the relationship between recidivism rates and the child and parent-related variables noted above, some studies have also attempted to find possible links between recidivism and CPS-system and worker related variables (Barth & Berry, 1987; Block & Libowitz, 1983; Fein, et a1.1983, and 1990; Hess & Folaron, 1991; Lahti, 1982; Rzepnicki, 1987; Sherman, et a1.1973; and Walton 1991). Several of these studies establish a greater need for supportive and other services among the reunified families than in adoptive families. Yet, aftercare services appear to be more frequently offered to the latter than the former families.

Services provided and/or needed during placement to meet specific health, mental health and other problems have been discussed by several authors (Davis, 1989; Davis, 1991; Davis & Ellis-MacLeod, in press; Frank, 1980; Hochstadt, et al. 1987; Kinard; 1980; Klee & Halfon, 1987; Meddin & Hansen, 1985; Moffat, et al. 1985; Molin, 1988; Schor, 1989, and Weinstein & Fleur, 1990). Treatment needs of special groups of children entering foster

care, namely, those affected by drug, alcohol, and the Aids syndrome are clinically demonstrated but not yet sufficiently researched (Chasnoff, et al., 1986; Giunta & Streissguth, 1988; and Lewert, 1988).

In sum, the wide range of reunification rates found in the studies reviewed above (from 18-53%), and of re-entry rates (from 16-27%) indicate gross variations among study samples, geographic locations, decision making, length of placement, as well as child and family characteristics. However, findings also indicate that the less successful cases involve families coping with multiple problems, single-parent households, parents who have requested placement, with child exhibiting many behavioral problems, and with prior out-of-home placements.

Finally, this review of research shows that empirical findings illuminating the process and content of reunification of foster children with their birth families are still limited and sometimes contradictory. Some progress appears to have been made in respect to identification of specific risk assessment factors, but resulting decision-making models seem to be more systematically applied at the opening of the placement process than at the time of reunification.

The current Study of Reunification Risks and Successes is an attempt to contribute to closure of the knowledge gap about what are the factors that distinguish successful from unsuccessful reunifications. Factors identified in this review, along with others, in the realms of child and family demographic variables, reasons for entry into care, placement experiences, Child Protective services and Dependency Court processes, will be studied to establish their powers as predictors of reunification outcomes.

Figure 2-1
Summary of Studies

Study	Type	N/Sample	Subject/Setting	
1. Alter(1985)	Experimental	12 Supervisors/73 Workers	No	Screening
2. Avison et al. (1986)	Experimental (L)	388 Women/4 Samples	No	Screening
3. Berger et al.	Evaluation	32 Case Files/4 Workers	No	Screening/Hospital
4. Benedict & White (1991)	Abstract	689 Case Files/Children	Yes	Reunification
5. Benedict et al. (1987)	Abstract	689 Case Files/Children	Yes	Reunification
6. Briar (1963)	Experimental	43 Workers	Yes	Placement
7. Craft et al. (1980)	Experimental (L)	38 Workers	No	Screening
8. Dalgleish & Drew (1989)	Abstract (R)	152 Case Files	No	Placement
9. DiLeonardi (1980)	Survey (R)	12 Programs	No	Screening Prevention Program
10. Eckenrode (1988)	Abstract	1698 Reports	Yes	Screening
11. Faller (1988)	Abstract	103 Case Files	No	Screening
12. Finch et al (1986)	Survey (L)	20,066 Case Files	Yes	Discharge
13. Goerge (1990)	Abstract	1200 Case Files	Yes	Reunification
14. Giovannoni & Becerra (1979)	Survey	159 Workers	No	Screening
15. Giovannoni (1991)	Survey	117 Workers	No	Screening/CPS Mix
16. Gleeson (1987)	Experimental	31 Workers	Yes	Screening
17. Gibson et al. (1984)	Survey (L)	48 Workers	No	Reunification
18. Groeneveld & Giovannoni (1977)	National Survey	2400 Case Files	No	Screening/NCCNA
19. Hutchison (1989)	Abstract	294 Case Files/228 Reports	No	Screening
20. Holman (1983)	Abstract	36 Case Files	No	Recidivism
21. Katz et al. (1986)	Abstract	185 Case Files	No	Reunification/Hospital
22. Jenkins & Diamond (1985)	Epidemiological	2439 Public Welfare Dept Census Data-Sample 14 Largest Cities-16 Workers	Yes	Placement
23. Jenkins (1983)	Epidemiological	2439 Public Welfare Dept.	Yes	Placement

*Table 2-1 and 2-2 and part of the text on decision-making have been published by Loring Jones (1993).

**Full references are included in the list of references of this report.

Figure 2-1 (Continued)

Study	Type	N/Sample	Subject/Setting	
24. **Fein, Malluccio &** Kluger (1990)	Survey	All Children in Conn. Foster Care	**Yes**	Placement
25. Meddin (1984)	Survey	81 Workers	No	Placement
26. **McMurty &** Yong Lie **(1992)**	Abstract	775 Children (>6 months in care)	**Yes**	Reunification
27. Johnson & Esperance **(1984)**	Abstract	120 Case Files 55 Comparisons	**Yes**	Recidivism/SSCF
28. **Lawder** et al. (1986)	Abstract	185 Case Files	**No**	Follow **Up/CPS** Private
29. Lindsey (1991)	National Survey	9,597 Case Files	**Yes**	Placement (Gill, 1970)
30. Phillips et al. (1971)	Survey	513 Case Files	Yes	Placement
31. Rosen (1981)	Abstract	162 Case Files	No	Screening
32. **Seaberg** (1978)	National Survey (L)	1,380 Case Files	**Yes**	Disposition
33. **Seaberg &** Tolley (1986)	National Survey (R)	9,597 Case Files	**Yes**	Duration
34. Rosen (1981)	Survey	162 Workers	**No**	Screening
35. Scheurer **&** Bailey (1980)	Abstract	300 **Children/150** Families	**No**	Placement
36. Segal **&** Schwartz (1985)	Abstract (R)	424 Cases	No	Placement/Residential
37. Stein **&** Rzepnicki (1984)	Experimental (L)	159 Cases/38 Workers	**Yes**	Intake/CPS-Mix
38. Wells et al. (1989)	Survey	100 Administrators	**No**	Screening
39. 'Wells et al. (1989)	Survey	83 Supervisors	**No**	Screening
40. Wells et al. (1991)	Survey	12 Sites/Case Decisions	**No**	Screening
41. Wightman (1991)	Survey	9 Specialists	**No**	Screening
42. Wolock (1982)	Survey/Abstracts Social Indicators	11 CPS Offices 289 Cases	**No**	Screening

*Unless otherwise indicated the study is of a CPS 'setting.
CPS-Mix means a mixture of public service and provate agencies were used.
NCCNA = National Clearing House on Child Abuse and Neglect.
SSCF=National Study of Social Services to Children and Families.
Seaber's data is a secondary analysis of Gil's (1970) data.

**(L) Longitudinal data collection method; (R) Retrospective design
***Case files means data was abstracted agencies records on children and families.
****Workers means data collected from CPS workers or other professionals. Otherwise specific data sources named (i.e. administrators or supervisors).
*****Abstract means data collected from case files.
******Duration refers to length of time in placement.

Figure 2-2
Summary of Findings

Variable	Empirical Support*

Intake Decisions

Legal Status	15, 38, 39, 40
Specificity of Allegation	15, 19, 40
Mandated Reporter	14, 15, 18, 19, 40
Case Status (Open or Not)	19
Physical or Sexual Abuse	14, 18, 19, 40
Age of the Youngest Child	19, 38, 39, 40
Perpetrator in the Home	19
Ethnicity and SES	19, 23
Organizational Factors	19, 42

The Decision to Substantiate

Direct Evidence	7, 9, 11, 20
Parental Cooperation	7, 9, 11, 25, 34
Previous History of Abuse	7, 9, 10, 34, 35, 36
Parental Problems	1, 7, 9, 34, 38, 39
Severity of the Injury	7, 9
Age of the Child	19
Child Problems	7, 9, 25, 34
Poor Parent/Child Relations	7, 9, 25, 34
Mandated Reporter	10
Investigation Process	10
Socioeconomic Status	42
Ethnicity	10

The Decision to Remove

Parental Functioning/Cooperation	8, 25, 35
Past History of Abuse	21, 32
Age of the Child	21, 25, 29, 30, 36
Childhood Disturbance	4, 30
Parent/Child Relationship	25, 35
Source of Referral	36
Availability of Social Support	8, 41
Environmental Stress	21, 24, 40
Socioeconomic Status	21, 29, 30
Type of Abuse	21, 24, 40
Ethnicity	21, 23, 32, 36, 40
Organizational Considerations	6, 35

Reunification

Stability of Placement	5, 12, 13
Duration in Care	4
Ethnicity	12, 13, 26, 33
Type of Abuse	13, 28
Parental Behavior	5, 13, 31
Age of the Child	26, 32
Child Behavior/Characteristics	12, 32
Intensity of Services	5, 17, 28
Parental Visiting	4, 26, 28

*Study corresponds to the # of the Study on Table 2-11

SECTION II

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

CHAPTER 3

THE THREE STUDY SITES DESCRIBED

One important purpose of the Study of Reunification Risks and Successes was to compare the patterns of exit from foster care in child protective systems within different geographic locations. The study sample represents three such areas: San Diego County with its metropolitan city of San Diego in the State of California, the Seattle suburb of Kent in Ring County, and the city of Tacoma in Pierce County of the State of Washington. The three subsamples are not representative of the entirety of the three counties. The San Diego sample excludes the northern part of San Diego County; Pierce County largely covers the city of Tacoma, and the King County sample represents only the Seattle suburb of Kent, not the city of Seattle. Details about the study samples drawn from the three sites are given in Chapter 4.

This chapter describes the populations at large within the three sites and their Child Protective Service Systems, including a comparison of similarities and differences among the Juvenile/Dependency Court systems.

Population Description

The 1990 census reports 2,498,016 individuals living in San Diego, 586,203 in Pierce County, and 1,507,323 in King County. Demographics relating to the race/ethnic@ characteristics of each population are presented in Table 3-1.

TABLE 3-1
CENSUS POPULATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY (N=2,498,016)	PIERCE COUNTY (N = 586,203)	KING COUNTY (N = 1,507,323)
ANGLO	74.9%	85.1%	84.8%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER	7.9%	5.0%	7.9%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	6.4%	7.2%	5.1%
NATIVE AMERICAN	.8%	1.4%	1.1%
OTHER	10.0%	1.4%	1.1%

Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. The census asked the question of Hispanic origin independent of the question concerning race. San Diego had far more Hispanics than did the other sites (20.4%). About 3% of the King County and 3.5% of the Pierce County populations are Hispanic. In San Diego 85% of the Hispanics are of Mexican origin.

About 25% of the total population at the three study sites are under the age of 18. In San Diego that percentage represents 610,946 children, with 371,000 of these children under the age of 10. Generally at all three sites minority children are overrepresented compared to their proportion of the general populations. Slightly more than 29% (178,233) are of Hispanic origin.

Furthermore, 341,000 of King County's population is under the age of 18 and 18% of this number are under the age of fourteen. Four percent of King County's children are Hispanic. Pierce County has proportionately slightly more children than the two other sites; 27% (159,649) of the total population of Pierce County are under 18, while 22% are 13 years old or less. Five percent of Pierce County's children are of Hispanic origin. See Table

3-2 for a complete description of the race/ethnicity distributions of persons under age 18.

TABLE 3-2
RACE/ETHNICITY OF PERSONS UNDER **18 YEARS** OF AGE

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY (N = 610,946)	PIERCE COUNTY (N= 159,649)	KING COUNTY (N =341,071)
ANGLO	66.5%	80.8%	80.0%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER	9.7%	6.2%	9.7%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	8.1%	9.3%	7.1%
NATIVE AMERICAN	1.0%	1.9%	1.6%
OTHER	14.7%	1.8%	1.7%

There are 310,822 heads-of-households with related children residing in San Diego County. Seventy-two percent of these households are headed by married couples, 21% by a female only, and 7% headed by a male only. There are 185,234 heads-of-households with related children residing in King County. In Pierce County there are 82,561 heads-of-households residing with related children. Hispanic households have female head-of households without males present 23.7% of the time. Table 3-3 presents the racial backgrounds of the female heads-of-households in each site.

TABLE 3-3
FEMALE HOUSEHOLDERS WITH **RELATED** CHILDREN
PERCENT OF TOTAL BY RACE

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY (N =64,145)	PIERCE COUNTY (N= 17,180)	KING COUNTY (N =36,176)
ANGLO	18.4%	18.7%	17.4%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER	14.7%	26.5%	15.6%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	40.4%	35.6%	48.5%
NATIVE AMERICAN	29.7%	38.3%	41.4%
OTHER	24.2%	19.6%	24.9%

Child Protective Services Systems Compared

The San Diego Child Protective Service System The San Diego County Children's Services Bureau of the Department of Social Services is responsible for protecting the needs of over 600,000 children. During the fiscal year of 1990-91 the Bureau received 109,785 referral calls and filed petitions for 3,329 children. A monthly average of 7,296 children remained in dependency status and 6,254 children per month were in out-of-home placements over the course of the year.

San Diego County provides four main service programs to families affected by the system: Emergency Response(ER), Family Maintenance(FM), Family Reunification(FR), and Permanency Planning(PP). Following a complaint of child abuse or neglect there is a protection investigation at which time the case is either refused or opened. If the child is removed from the home and placed temporarily in Hillcrest Receiving Home or in another licensed emergency shelter or with a relative, an ER case is opened. A petition is filed within 48 hours of the child's removal and a detention hearing is scheduled within 24 hours from the petition filing. During these court processes the child's case remains open to an ER Program until there is a Disposition Hearing when a judgement is made regarding the most appropriate placement for the child, i.e., own home, foster home, or with a relative.

If the decision is to place the child at home, the case is opened to a FM Program. Two types of FM Programs are possible, court-ordered and voluntary. Regardless of this distinction, the purpose of FM is to provide protective services to children who remain in their homes or who are returned to their own homes from out-of-home care. The goal is to stabilize the family and to improve and monitor home conditions so that the child is no

longer endangered.

If the decision is to place the child out-of-home, the child may be placed (1) with a relative (2) with a licensed foster family (3) in a group facility, or (4) in an institution, depending upon the particular needs of the child. In cases where reunification is recommended the child's case is opened to a FR Program and a plan detailing the activities necessary for returning the child home is submitted at the Readiness Hearing. The child receives continuing out-of-home services until the conditions of the reunification plan are met. In cases where reunification is not recommended, or the conditions of the plan are not met within a specified time (from 12 to 18 months), a Permanency Plan is submitted to the court detailing an alternative strategy for adoption, guardianship or long-term foster care. Cases opened to a FR Program have semi-annual court reviews with a mandated Permanency Planning hearing at 12 months. Extensions can be granted to 18 months if reunification is believed likely within that time.

If the decision either at Disposition or the Permanency Planning Hearing is to place a child in adoption, guardianship or long term foster care the program designation is PP. PP Programs function to provide an alternate permanent family structure for children who because of protective issues cannot safely be returned to their natural parents.

The Washington State Child Protective Service System The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is responsible for slightly over a half-million children in Pierce and King Counties. DSHS is a state agency while San Diego Department of Social Services is a county administered agency. DSHS is the "umbrella" agency that administers social and economic services to individuals within the state. King

County received a total of 4,542 intakes in 1991, and 2,910 of these cases were accepted. Pierce County had 4,476 intake cases in 1991 and 1,293 of these were accepted. Pierce County has 1,375 children in placement during that year.

The DCFS office in the Tacoma (Pierce County) study site has four CPS units, one after hours unit and a Permanency Enhancement Project (PEP) unit. All these units accept cases at or near intake. Approximately one-third of the cases close within 30 days; one-third within 90 days and one-third are transferred to ongoing service (with or without placement or with or without filing a petition). Cases usually transfer after fact-finding to an ongoing Child Welfare Services (CWS) unit for permanency planning tracking. A case may transfer sooner if all parties agree that the placement is likely to exceed 90 days.

Placement cases resulting from a voluntary placement agreement signed by the parent usually stay with the original CPS worker. In-home dependency cases may also stay with the original CPS worker rather than be transferred to CWS. Any of these cases, however, may be transferred to CWS if it appears fairly likely that the placement will exceed 90 days. Automatic 30 day reviews of all placements are performed by the CPS or the CWS supervisor who is responsible for the case.

In the Kent DCFS office, the CPS worker maintains responsibility for the case until dependency status is established. The case will then be transferred to an ongoing CWS unit for permanency planning. If the worker feels fairly certain that the case will go to dependency, the case may then be transferred to an early intervention CWS unit for expedited permanency planning. Voluntary placement cases usually stay with the CPS worker as they seldom result in a long term placement. In-home dependency cases usually

stay with the original CPS worker, as do cases where there was a short term placement but the child returns home prior to any dependency status. Kent office utilizes many relative placements.

Seventy-two hour and 30 day shelter care hearings are automatically held. Thereafter a hearing is held every 30 days wherein an affidavit of no change is entered until such time as there is a finding or an agreed order of dependency is entered.

Comparison of the Legal Systems

The states of Washington and California have both enacted family preservation acts which attempt to protect children at risk while limiting interference with family integrity. Not surprisingly, these acts are very similar, as both are based upon the federal Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act, Pub. Law 96-272, which provides funding for services under complying state legislation. The federal law seeks to preserve families, where possible, by providing services. If the child(ren) are deemed to be at risk of serious injury so that maintaining them in the home while providing services is not possible, "reasonable efforts" are to be made to reunify the family as soon as possible. The courts are required to monitor the provision of services at 6 month intervals, each time determining whether reasonable efforts have been made during the previous period. If the family has not been reunified after 12 months, a permanent plan is to be adopted for the child. A six month extension is allowed where there is a likelihood of reunification at the end of that period.

Although the various hearings required in the two states may be called by different names, their procedures and purposes are the same. The hearings which relate to the reunification process are described below.

<u>Detention</u>(CA W&I Code sec. 315)/Shelter Care(WA RCW sec 13.34.060):

This is the initial hearing in a case where the child has been removed from t-he-home. In these proceedings the state (county) must show that the child is at risk of serious injury if returned home. California requires a petition to be filed within 48 hours of the removal of the child, and a hearing to be held within one judicial day from the filing of the petition (72 hours total). Washington requires a hearing within 72 hours of the removal of the child. Both jurisdictions exclude nonjudicial days in these counts. The mandate to the court is to protect the child, making a determination that efforts have been made to keep the child at home safely, or that such efforts would be to no avail. The government must prove that the risk of injury exists by a preponderance of the evidence in California reasonable cause in Washington. These hearings, as most dependency proceedings, are generally informal, the intent being to make a decision based upon all available information. Hearsay evidence may be introduced under certain circumstances.

The relevance of these provisions to the reunification process is that it is the initial screening mechanism, in some cases, for moving families into the reunification system.

· <u>Jurisdiction</u>(CA W&I sec. 355-356)/First Set Fact-Finding(WA RCW 13.34.070):

In California this hearing must be held within 30 days or 15 days if the child is in custody. In Washington the hearing must be held within 75 days. In Washington, 95% of the cases result in an agreed order of dependency and disposition at this hearing. When such an agreement is not reached, a Contested Fact Finding Hearing is set. In California, the parties attend a Readiness Hearing which is a local San Diego practice, not mandated or prohibited by statute. At this hearing the parents may "admit" the allegations in the petition,

plea "nolo" to the allegations in the petition, "submit on the reports" before the court, request a continuance or request a Contested Jurisdictional Hearing. Many of the kinds of cases which reach settlement in Washington at the First Set Fact-Finding Hearing will similarly reach an agreement at the Readiness Hearing in San Diego. If such an agreement is not reached, the Jurisdiction Hearing is set. At the Jurisdiction Hearing and the Contested Fact Finding Hearing parties introduce evidence and the court makes a "true finding" (the allegations in the petition are true and the child requires court protection) or dismisses the petition. Rules of evidence apply. A preponderance of the evidence is required to prove the petition.

Disposition Hearings(CA W&I secs. 358, 360, 361)/(WA RCW secs 13.34.110-13.34.130): The Disposition Hearing may be held at the same time as the Jurisdiction Hearing or may be continued for two weeks or longer. California and Washington Law provide several specific situations where no reunification attempt need be made due to aggravated circumstances. The children and families affected by these provisions would not come into this study, as there would be no goal of reunification. If the discretion available to the courts were exercised, it would seem that the children who do end up on a reunification path should have a proportionately better chance at reunification (i.e., the worst cases, cases that would be least likely to successfully reunify, are sifted out). These provisions are used only infrequently in San Diego due to concerns about degree of proof and evidentiary needs. The extent 'to which these provisions are utilized in Washington is unknown. Clear and convincing evidence is required to remove (or keep) the child from the family home.

<u>Review Hearings</u>(CA W&I sec 366-366.22)/(WA RCW sec 13.34.130(5)): These hearings are required to be held every six months to review the family's progress toward reunification. The court requires a showing that reasonable efforts are being made to reunify the family by way of the provision of support services. At the 12 month review the court must make a determination as to whether there is a substantial probability of reunification at 18 months with the further provision of services in the six month interim. A permanent plan must be presented at the 18 month hearing. If the court finds that there is not a substantial probability of reunification within the next 6 months it may order a termination of parental rights hearing (CA 366.26/WA 13.34.130).

The statutory language in the two sites differs in many respects. The language in the state of Washington appears to place the burden on the parents to show that the child is not at risk or will not be at risk if returned home. The language in California clearly places the burden on the state to prove that the child will be at risk if kept at or returned home. In practice, however, the state always assumes the burden of proof and of going forward to prove the case. Thus, language which sounds more oriented toward child protection in Washington may not translate into a different practice.

<u>Appointment of Attorneys for Minors</u>(CA W&I sec 317/WA RCW sec 13.34.100): Both states provide for appointment of counsel for minors who are the subject of a dependency petition. The practice in San Diego is to appoint counsel routinely, while in Washington the practice is to appoint a guardian ad litem in most cases, an action provided by Washington's statute.

CHAPTER 4

METHODS

The Study of Reunification Risks and Successes was conducted to meet the objective of identifying case characteristics which differentiate successful from unsuccessful reunifications of foster children with their families, and of comparing reunification service patterns in three geographic sites.

The Reunification Study was a naturalistic descriptive study with no manipulation of variables. A cohort of O-12 year old children who had been in foster care for up to 12 months was followed for up to nine months after the date of reunification with their families. The cases in the study were drawn from open, active child welfare agency caseloads in three study sites, San Diego County California, and King and Pierce Counties in Washington State.

Sampling Process.

The study sample was selected according to the following criteria:

1) The child must be between the ages of O-12 at the date of the removal which established eligibility.

2) The removal date which established eligibility must fall within the 10- month foster care entry window: 5/01/1990 to 2/28/1991.

3) **The** child must be out-of-home > 72 hours.

4) **Any** facility type is initially acceptable (such as hospital, emergency shelter/foster home), as long as the child moves on to paid foster family care, including kinship foster care.

5) **The** child must be reunified with his/her birth family within 12 months of the date of removal from the home; i.e. within the timeframe of 5/04/1990 to 2/29/1992.

6) The child must have nine months following the reunification date for possible new referrals or re-entry into the system, producing a timeframe for follow-up of the child's reunification outcome status from 5/4/1990 to 11/30/1992.

See Figure 4-1 for a presentation of the study timeframes.

The original study design called for a six month cohort of reunified children and for up to nine months in care. However, it soon became evident that these timeframes would not generate a sample size close to the 400 San Diego children and 250 King County (Kent) children targeted in the original application. This was especially true for the Washington State study site where a much smaller number of children became available for study than anticipated. To obtain an appropriate sample size the timeframes were expanded in two ways: The cohort size from six months to 10 months, and the maximum placement period from nine to 12 months. Furthermore, a second Washington study site was located in Tacoma (Pierce County), Washington.

The final sample consists of 445 children from San Diego, 50 from King County and 130 from Pierce County, totalling 625 children. This constitutes 95% of the originally targeted sample of 650 children. Throughout this report the 625 children are referred to as the overall or combined study sample, and the site-specific subsamples as: The San Diego sample; the Pierce County sample, and the King County sample. It should be kept in mind that the sub-samples are not representative of the entirety of the three counties. The San Diego sample excludes the northern part of San Diego County; Pierce County largely covers the city of Tacoma, and the King County sample represents only the Seattle suburb of Kent, and not the City of Seattle.

FIGURE 4-1

Reunification Timeframe With Up To 12 Months
in Foster Care and 9 Months in
Reunified Status
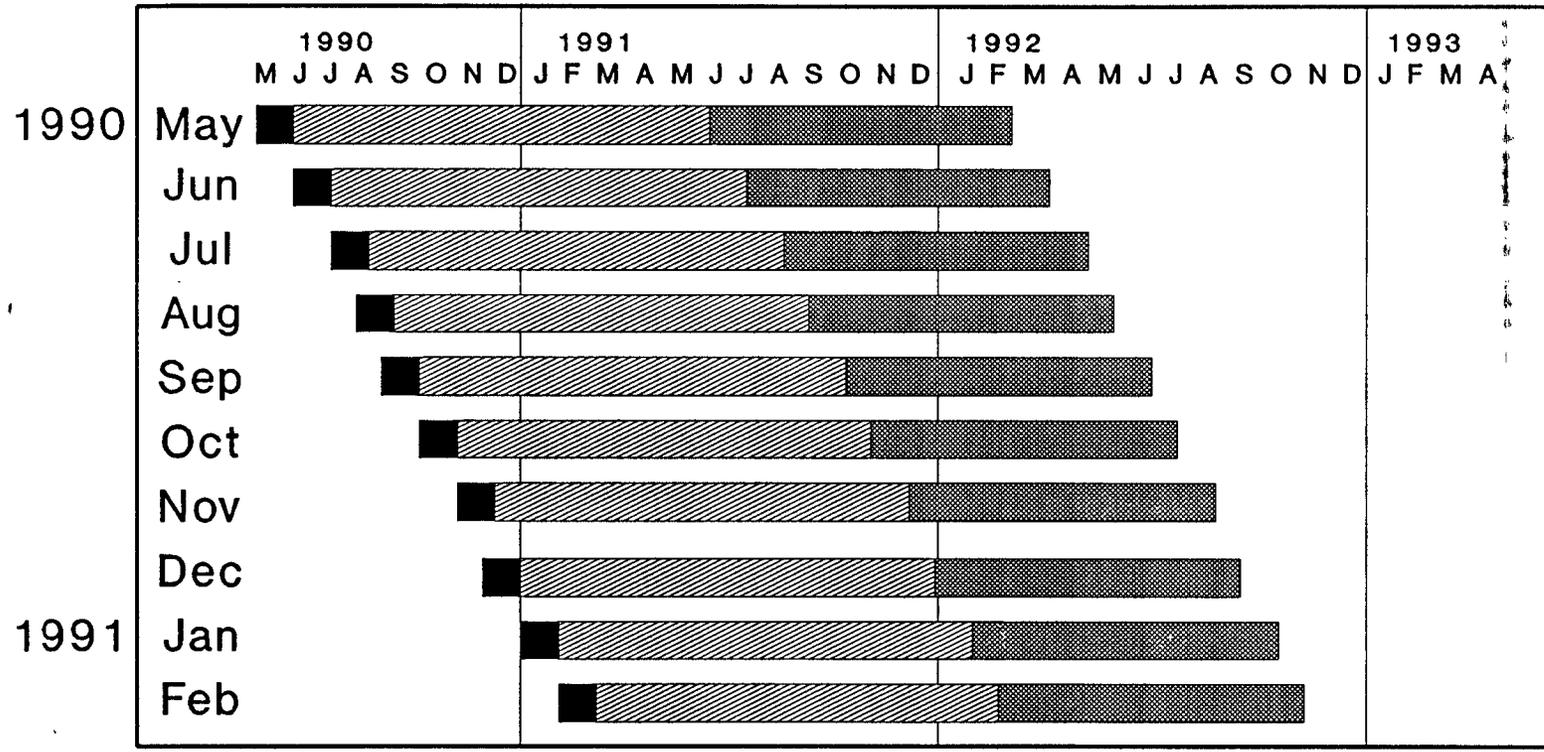
ENTRY MONTH

UP TO 12 MONTHS IN FOSTER CARE

9 MONTH REUNIFICATION PERIOD

1/31/93
END OF GRANT PERIOD

5/27/93   RTIME.CHT

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The San Diego Sample was identified by the following steps as illustrated in
Figure 4:2: The Data Entry Screen for the Hillcrest Receiving Home for the IO-month   a
cohort period listed 3,182 children as new entries. Of these, 621 were over 12 years of age
and excluded from the sample.

Analysis of other computerized data at the Department of Social Services reduced
the remaining 2,561 children to 1,151 children. Exclusion reasons include: In out-of-home
care < 72 hours, out of county residence for part of the 12-month placement or the nine-
month reunification periods.

Computer screen review identified 554 out of the 1,151 children to have been
reunified with their birthfamilies after up to twelve months in care. Case-file reviews,
however, revealed that 109 of the 554 children (19.7%) did not meet inclusion criteria after
all.   Thus the final San Diego Study sample of reunified children was 445 children. The
109 children were excluded for the following reasons:

Child/family moved out of San Diego County	28 children
" " " " " State	39 "
" " " " " the USA	5 "
Total moved out of County	72 children
Death of Child (not abuse/neglect related)	1 child
Child abducted	12 children
Child not out-of-home > 72 hours after all	9 children
Adoption by non-relative	2 children
North County caseload	2 children
Active date incorrect	6 children
Case file missing or incomplete	4 children
Unknown	1 child
Total N of Ineligible San Diego cases	109 children

FIGURE 4-2

Study of Reunification Risks and Successes
San Diego Sample Caseflow

Step 1
CPS Entries

1C. Population Listing
N=2,561 (80.5%)

1A. Hillcrest Entries and Field Placements
5/1/90 to 2/28/91
N=3,182

1B. Over 12 Years Old
N=621 (19.5%)

Step 2
Detention

2A. Detained >72 Hrs
N=1,151 (44.9%)

2B. Not Detained >72 Hrs
N=1,410 (55.1%)

Step 3
Reunification

3A. Reunified <12 Months
N=445 (38.7%)

3B. Not Reunified <12 Months
N=597 (51.9%)

3B. Not Eligible
N=109 (9.5%)

Step 4
Rereferral +
Reentry

4A. Rereferral and Reentry
<9 Mos from Reun
N=59 (13.3%)

4B. Rereferral and No Reentry
<9 Mos from Reun
N=97 (21.8%)

4C. No Rereferral and No Reentry
<9 Mos from Reun
N=289 (64.9%)

cf1r.cht/eem (1/93/v3)

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The Reunification/Foster Care Mental Health Study Overlap Samples. The FCMH study follows 950 children between ages 0 - 16 with repeated-measures-of-mental-health status and functioning at three time-points (at five, eleven, and seventeen months in care). In addition, a retrospective interview with natural parents was conducted. The retrospective natural parent interview (Time-I) and the five month in placement interview (Time II) fall within the Reunification Study timeframe. A total of 108 children participated in both studies at Time I, and 81 children at Time II.

Selection of Study Sample in the State of Washington. At the time of sample selection the State of Washington was implementing a statewide Management Information System. On-line screen information was limited to intake and payment processes, leaving out essential information regarding placement, investigation and disposition.

It was decided that the most comprehensive resource available was the system through which permanent plans for all out-of-home placement cases are tracked to meet federal guidelines. Any time a child is placed in an out-of-home placement (foster care and relative) a service code is assigned and basic demographic, referral, placement, and legal information is entered and used to determine and track federal funding requirements. This service code remains open during the entire time that the child is in continuous out-of-home placement (placement episode) regardless of the number of different homes, different workers or even different offices the case may go through.

Even though the permanency planning code is required on all placement cases, placements under 72 hours and even as long as a week are sometimes not recorded on this system. The first selection of a sample from this system using the criteria for the study

generated approximately 400 cases.

To avoid possible exclusion of short term placement cases the social service payment system was searched. These records contain actual payments to foster parents for out-of-home placements and information comparable to the permanency planning system. This search generated approximately 900 cases. A cross match between the two systems identified cases that were in both systems. A third screening eliminated cases that showed parental rights had been terminated or that a legal guardianship (or some other permanent plan) had been established. The final "potentially eligible" sample population of 715 was identified (see Figure 4-3A).

The sample selection process was completed with the understanding that there would be a further screening for eligibility during the actual data gathering from the case records.

Figures 4-3A and 4-3B present the final sample and reasons why cases that were identified as being potentially eligible were subsequently eliminated.

Figure 4-3A

POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE PIERCE AND KING COUNTY SAMPLE CASES

	PIERCE COUNTY	KING COUNTY	
Foster children reunified within study timeframes	130	5	0
Non-reunified children who entered care within the lo-month placement period	83	27	
Ineligible cases (see reasons below in Figure 4-3B)	502	171	
Number of cases reviewed for eligibility	715	248	

Figure 4-3B

INELIGIBLE, PIERCE AND KING COUNTY CASES

	PIERCE COUNTY	KINGCOUNTY
	(N = 502)	(N= 171)
Placed prior to lo-month entry period	73%	73%
Placed after lo-month entry period	0%	1%
Permanent Plan as Adoption	12%	7%
Child not placed after all	8%	6%
Child placed <72 hours	2%	1%
No child abuse or neglect found	2%	8%
Child over 12 years of age	1%	3%
Case file could not be located	2%	1%

Data Sources

Study data were derived from case record review and from computerized data files in the San Diego Department of Social Services (Children's Services Bureau), and the Washington Research Information System. Case record data were supplemented by standardized risk assessment scores at the Washington sites, while standardized measures of development and behavioral functioning, and other data, were available for some of the children in the FCMH overlap sample in San Diego. The amount of data for particular children varied depending on type of measure. For example, "Natural Parent Interviews" were available for only 49 of the 108 Time-I "overlap" children. Reasons for the 59 missing parent interviews were: Parent could not be located, 50.9%; parent refused to participate, 33.9%; no show, 10.2%; and social worker advised against contacting parent, 5.1%.

Use of archival data always presents validity and reliability concerns. The quality of the data obviously is tied to the care, professionalism, and reliability with which the case records were developed in the first place. Numerous individuals participated in this process

at various levels of competency. The pressures of high caseloads and crises emerging in several cases simultaneously often prevented the social workers from immediate updating of records. Thus memory or biases stemming from knowing the later outcomes of cases may add distortions to recorded materials. Clerical errors, unavailability of the records and many other factors may also present validity and reliability threats.

These concerns associated with archival data in general are increased when collected from different geographic sites as in this case. Service system differences, such as catchment area boundaries, the balance of voluntary vs. court-ordered placements, case recording practices, and other casework practices, represent threats of comparability of sites. One of the objectives of the Reunification Study was to explore possible associations of system-based differences to reunification outcomes. Thus extreme care was taken in assuring optimal accurateness and comparability in description of service system variables. This assurance has taken the form of frequent face-to-face meetings of the two research teams in San Diego for joint variable conceptualization and operationalization and ongoing collaboration through telephone consultations, maintenance of logs of discrepancies and resulting joint decisions regarding problems in the data collection process.

However, ideally other sources of data, such as standardized measures of child and family functioning, or interviews with the children, their caretakers, foster parents or others directly involved in the cases, would have been desirable. Limitations of resources prevented the teams to go beyond the archival record data except for the Washington cases with risk assessment scores and the San Diego FCMH overlap cases.

Yet the researchers do not feel any need to apologize for the quality of the study

data as collected. The fact that the archival data in this study were derived from official documents from the Dependency Court or prepared for the Court by the Child Protective Service social workers, increased confidence in the accuracy of the data. Furthermore, the quality of the data clearly has been augmented by the membership of the CPS research staff person (Cindy Zook) on the research team and her availability throughout the entire study to participate in operationalization of study variables, clarification of discrepancies in the records, obtaining missing information, or in other ways assist the case abstractors. Similar confidence in the Washington State data was derived from the research team's location within the State Child Welfare System, yet serving independent research functions on an ongoing basis.

Added confidence in use of Child Protective Service records as research data was found in at least one study (Shireman, Grossnickle & White, 1990) that compared the data derived from CPS case records and from interviews with parents in 57 cases. Congruence was consistently high on factual data; for example, the same reason for referral were reported by the parents and the records in 91.3% of the cases. Lower levels of congruence were found for impressionistic data, such as underlying conditions needing services, level of stress at time of removal, etc.

Similarly, preliminary cross-tabulations of record data on child behavior problems and scores from some of the standardized child functioning tests in the San Diego FCMH overlap sample show encouraging high congruence levels. Expanded future comparative analysis of FCMH overlap cases in the Reunification as well as the Permanency Planning Study will represent an additional quality control measure for the Reunification Study data.

Definition of Major Study Variables

There was one major outcome variable in this study with three possible categories:

Successful Reunification: No further referrals of abuse and/or neglect within nine months of child's return home from foster care.

Borderline Successful Reunification: At least one referral of abuse and/or neglect within nine months of child's return home, but no removal from the home. These cases are referred to as re-referral cases.

Unsuccessful Reunification: Within nine months of reunification the child has been removed from the home and detained in out-of-home placement for more than 72 hours. These cases are referred to as re-entry cases.

Other study variables included:

Reunification: The return of a child from relative or foster care to 1) the caretaker from whom originally removed, or 2) a biological family member identified early in the case as the most appropriate caretaker.

Reunification Plan (SD): The court-approved plan of services/conditions as specified in the CA Welfare & Institutions Code 361.5 for the minor and the minor's parents or guardians for the purpose of facilitating reunification of the family. In San Diego and State of Washington voluntary placement cases, or in cases changing from one program to another, the written, contractual agreement between Child Protective Services and the parental caretakers may have different labels, such as a Maintenance Plan.

Compliance/Utilization: Compliance with services prescribed in the Reunification Plan(s) was operationalized as a three point scale: 1) at level of prescribed service, 2) below

the level of prescribed services, and 3) none at all.

Discordance, - Disagreement between the social worker and judge regarding the reunification decision.

Confirmation/Substantiation of Abuse/Neglect Allegations: The guidelines contained in the Washington General Codebook regarding confirmation of allegations were used in both study sites early in the project. This information, however, was not uniformly available in the San Diego case files, so time-consuming data collection on this item unfortunately had to be discontinued in San Diego.

Further definition of study variables is imbedded in the data collection instruments to be discussed next.

Case Abstraction Instruments and Manuals

The Case Abstracting Instrument was developed and approved through a collaborative process between the two study sites. It underwent numerous pilot tests in both sites and revisions were jointly agreed upon between the California and Washington research teams. Study variables fell in the following categories:

> Characteristics of Child
> Family Characteristics
> Case Characteristics
> Placements for Current Episode
> Reunification Plan
> Reunification Decision
> Re-Referral&e-Entry
> Ecological Changes in Family Since Removal
> Social Worker Contacts / Pre-Reunification
> Social Worker Contacts / Post-Reunification
> Services/Conditions in Addition to Reunification Plan
> Legal Process -

A number of adjustments in the Case Abstracting Instrument resulted from changed service system policies. Shortly after the start of the project the San Diego Children's Services Bureau discontinued its required assessment of risk of abuse/neglect to the child and of parental "workability". Thus information on risk assessment scores was not available for the San Diego sample because a different risk assessment system was implemented too late to provide enough cases.

Early during the abstracting period it was also learned that information about services provided was not adequately represented by data gathered from the court-ordered Reunification Plan (or other contractual agreement between parent(s) and the CPS system), and the periodic CPS reports filed for Court or other review. The social worker narrative in case files contains rich information on services provided over and beyond what is included in the above documents. It was decided to expand the case abstraction in San Diego to include: Social Worker Contacts/Pre-Reunification and Post-Reunification, and Services/Conditions in Addition to Reunification Plan Services. This information was obtained from the records of the San Diego sample children.

Data collection was carried out by five case abstractors in San Diego and two in Washington. They all held graduate degrees or were engaged in graduate studies. All had prior data collection experience or clinical practice experience with client populations similar to the study population.

Case abstractors were trained until they had a basic knowledge of the CPS and Dependency Court Systems, the organization of the case record files, and skill in the consistent application of variable definitions. Training continued until they obtained an

inter-rater reliability of 90% or higher. Periodic reliability checks on randomly selected cases -from each abstractor's cases assured that this level of inter-rater reliability was maintained.

In San Diego, Dr. Loring Jones initially met weekly with the abstractors. Frequency of these meetings was later reduced to bi-weekly and then monthly. Dr. Jones was always available to abstractors to resolve specific abstraction problems in individual cases. The Washington project had two highly experienced abstractors with graduate degrees. Their work was monitored similarly to the San Diego site.

The Case Abstracting Instrument and accompanying Manual underwent several changes and refinements as discrepancies within and between sites were resolved jointly by the research teams. The Abstracting Instruments from the two study sites (slightly different formats) are attached as APPENDIX A and the Abstracting Manuals as APPENDIX B.

Data Processing and Analysis

All data were keyed with a unique research ID, which substitutes for the ID that is used by the two Child Protective Service systems. Approval from the appropriate Committees for the Protection of Human Subjects was obtained in either site.

Data, were computer entered at each site. Preliminary analysis took place in Washington to identify similarities and differences between the Pierce County and the King County sites. Washington data were transferred on disks to San Diego, where major data analysis has taken place.

The dependent variable in this study was the successfulness of the child's reunification with the birth family nine months after this event took place. This variable was

classified in three ways; children who are neither re-referred to CPS, or re-enter out-of-
" home care within the follow-up period were considered "successful reunifications"; children
who re-enter care were classified as "unsuccessful reunifications", and re-referred children
who do not re-entered were considered "borderline successful". Thus all cases were
categorized into one of these three outcome groups.

A number of statistical techniques were used to analyze the huge amount of data
gathered in this study. At the descriptive level, simple statistics were used for group
descriptions and comparisons; they included use of t-tests, chi-square analysis, one-way
analysis of variance, and tests of significance of differences in proportions.

Correlational analyses were used to determine the degree of relationships between
selected study variables and the outcome variables. The purpose of these analyses was to
provide findings of significant correlations among these sets of variables in their own right,
and to condense the data as a step towards multivariate analysis.

Discriminant function analysis was chosen to identify study variables that predict
accurate classification into the three outcome categories. A description and outcomes of
the discriminant function analysis are presented in Chapter 7 and APPENDIX C.

Limitations of Study

This descriptive study was limited in that it offered no opportunities for manipulation
of variables. It had strength in following a lo-month cohort of reunified foster children over
time which provided more accurate information about exit patterns than a cross-sectional
sample.

Because all children in the cohort were studied, sampling errors were of no concern

as far as the cohort was concerned. It can be questioned, however, if study findings can be generalized beyond the sample Exit patterns are known to vary across the calendar year which makes generalizing beyond the lo-month cohort questionable. A 12-month cohort was considered but abandoned for lack of funding.

Another limitation of the study is the use of CPS case record data supplemented with some standardized measures on only some of the sample children. As elaborated above, several factors, including the semi-legal nature of these records, should counteract some of the possible threats to reliability and validity stemming from the use of archival data.

Finally, a serious consequence of the almost exclusive use of archival data is the operational definition of the reunification outcome variable. While the re-referral and re-entry outcome categories are operationally defined by documented events of concrete referral events and physical re-entry into the foster care system for more than 72 hours, "successful reunification" is defined by absence of these events. It is possible, perhaps even likely, that abuse and neglect reoccurred during the nine-month post-reunification period in some cases. A family may have "learned" to expose itself less to relatives, neighbors, teachers or others likely to report a new incident of maltreatment, or the family may have moved to a new location where detection would be less likely.   Direct contact through follow-up home visits, contacts with teachers and ongoing service providers, and ideally, post-reunification standardized measures of child and family functioning would have added considerably to the validity and reliability of the "successful reunification outcome" measure. Funding resources were not available for such additional measures in the Reunification Study.

SECTION III

FINDINGS

CHAPTER 5

CHILDREN AND THEIR CARETAKERS AT TIME OF REMOVAL

IN THE THREE STUDY SITES

This chapter presents comparisons among the three study sites*) in respect to characteristics of the reunified children and their families as well as circumstances surrounding the referral to Child Protective Services and the removal from the parental home.

Attributes of the Study Children

For the combined sites (See Table 5-1) male and female children were equally represented. However, the Pierce County sample differed significantly from the two other samples by having more boys (58.5%) than girls (41.5%).

The study is limited to children 12 years or younger. Overall, half the sample children were three years or younger. While there was some variation in age among the three sites there was little difference in the mean age of the children at removal (Table 5-l). The age of the sample children is reflected in the data on grade in school; the majority of children were too young for school. Few of the children (3%) were in early education or day care. Almost one-half (45%) were Anglo American; the remaining children were from

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*) For reasons of consistency the study subsamples from the three sites are referred to throughout this report as: The San Diego sample; the Pierce County sample, and the King County sample. It should be kept in mind that the sub-samples are not representative of the entirety of the three counties. The San Diego sample excludes the northern part of San Diego County; Pierce County largely covers the city of Tacoma, and the King County sample represents only the Seattle suburb of-Kent.

different ethnic groups, the largest group being African American (26.4%) and Hispanic (19.7%). Other ethnic groups were Asian and Pacific Islanders (6.4%) and Native Americans/Alaskans (2.4%). African American families were about equally numerous in San Diego and Pierce County, and the majority of the Hispanic and other ethnic families were located in San Diego except Native Americans in the Pierce County sample.

Information on special characteristics of children was collected to determine what kinds of problems these children were experiencing at the time of removal. Problems documented in the case files were categorized into eleven types of problems: Medical problems, severe behavioral problems, developmental delay, diagnosed mental illness, school problems, substance addicted at birth, eating or sleeping disorders, learning disability, physical disability, substance abuser/addicted (alcohol), and substance abuser/addicted (drugs).

While nearly one-half (48.8%) of the children were documented as having no problems, 22.9% had at least one problem, and 28.4% of the children had two or more problems (see Table 5-2). The mean overall number of problems was 1.1 per child. Pierce County children had more special problems than the other children in the study, namely a mean number of problems per child of 1.5 which represents a statistically significant difference, $F(2,622) = 4.79$, $p \leq .01$. Whether the Pierce County children in fact have more special problems is not known; the differences may reflect only variations in case recording practices among the sites.

Medical problems were documented for 21.4% of the children, severe behavioral problems (13.6%), developmentally delay (13.6%), and diagnosed mental illness (13.1%) (see Table 5-2). These four categories of problems differed significantly among the three

sites. Pierce County had the highest percentage of children in all categories. Other problems included school problems for 13.1% of the children, and 11.5% were substance addicted at birth. The three study sites did not differ significantly in respect to these and other special child problems.

Family Attributes of the Study Children

The mean age of biological mothers of sample children was 28.8 (see Table S-3). Significant differences ($x^2 = 55.70$, df $= 8$, $p \leq .01$) were found in race/ethnicity; the highest concentration of Anglo mothers was 96.7% in King County, 75.4% in Pierce County, and 47.1% in San Diego. Hispanic mothers accounted for **21.1%** in San Diego, **15.9%** in Pierce County and none in King County.

The mothers had a variety of special problems (see Table 5-3). The most frequently identified problem was substance abuse for drugs **(52.6%),** and alcohol (35.5%). Although females were almost equally involved in drugs across sites, alcohol was more of a documented problem in the Northwest ($x^2 = 25.62$, df $= 2$, $p \leq .01$).

A little over one-third (36.8%) of the mothers overall were documented or suspected to have mental illness, and 34.3% had documented histories of abuse as children. The 51.6% of mothers with such history in the King County sample is significantly higher ($x^2 = 7.65$, df $= 2$, $p \leq .05$) than Pierce County's 41.4% and San Diego's mothers 30.1%. The mean number of problems of these mothers overall was 2.3.

Less chart information was available on biological fathers or male caretakers than on mothers. Information on race/ethnicity of the biological fathers (who may not have been caretakers at the time of removal), -however, showed statistically significant differences

across sites ($x^2 = 51.79$, df=8, p≤.01). African-American and Hispanic fathers were more frequently represented than the biological mothers overall as well as across sites (see Table 5-4).

Substance abuse of alcohol (41.4%; $x^2 = 7.86$, df=2, p≤.01), of drugs (39.4%), and crimes against property (32.9%) and against person (29.7%) were the most frequent problems documented for the biological fathers and male caretakers of the study samples. The 31 King County male caretakers had a mean of 2.3 problems as against 2.1 and 1.8 problems in Pierce and San Diego counties respectively.

At the time the study children entered foster care, almost two out of three children lived in a home where the parents were separated (9.7%), divorced (17.3%), widowed (1.9%), or had never been married (37.6%) (see Table S-5). San Diego accounted for the highest percentage of "never married" parents (40.8%), and King County parent(s) the highest percentage of divorcees (35.4%) ($x^2 = 48.59$, df=8, p≤.01).

As shown in Table 5-5, 50.9% of the children came from single parent households, 36.6% from homes with two biological parents, and 10.7% with one biological parent and a stepparent. Statistically significant differences ($x^2 = 15.49$, df=8, p≤.05) were established across sites. A little over 70% of the children came from households where parents were the only adults in the home, and about 30% from homes with parents and/or other adults.

One fourth of the study children were an only child (25%) but the remaining children came from families of two (36.2%), three (21.4%) or four or more children (17.5%); (see Table 5-6).

In addition to personal problems of male and female caretakers, data on situational

problems were also collected (Table S-6). Nearly one-half of the families were living in unsafe environments (45.6%), had medical problems (31.3%) or absent caretakers (35.9%). Many families had unmet basic needs such as inadequate housing (22.4%), food (19.3%) or clothes (17.7%). The Pierce County sample had twice as many situational problems than the other two sites, $\underline{F}(2,381) = 6.44$, $p \leq .01$. The mean of situational problems for all three sites was 2.0 (see Table S-6).

Case Characteristics

Information on history of prior referrals to Child Protective Services and placement history is presented in Table 5-7. An overwhelming majority (72.0%) of the families of the children had one or more referrals (overall mean of 2.6) prior to the current placement episode. Prior referrals related to a Reunification Study child had occurred in 55.5% of the sample cases with a mean of 1.6 referrals for the overall sample. King County children had the highest mean of 2.0 referrals, San Diego the lowest of 1.5 referrals ($x^2 = 5.89$, $df = 2$, $p \leq .05$). However, almost 85% overall had not had a prior out-of-home placement (Table 5-7).

As shown in Table 5-8, the study children were most frequently referred to Child Protective Services (CPS) by law enforcement agencies (23.2%), or by relatives/neighbors (20.0%). Medical professionals (19.4%) were the next most frequent referral source. Children were more likely to be referred by medical professionals in San Diego and by law enforcers in Washington. Across-site differences on referral source was statistically significant ($x^2 = 68.64$, df = 16, $p \leq .01$).

An overwhelming majority of placements in San Diego and King Counties were court

ordered (89.7% and 79.6% respectively) while such placements accounted for only 22% in Pierce County (Table 5-8). This significant difference ($x^2 = 238.48$, $df = 2$, $p \leq .01$) constitutes a major system difference among the study sites.

Criminal charges were also more likely in San Diego (29.0%), as against 22.4% in King County and 13.4% in Pierce County. These differences among sites ($x^2 = 34.30$, $df = 4$, $p \leq .01$) possibly reflect referral source as well as legal system differences. Overall, criminal charges were filed in a quarter of the cases.

Reasons for Removal and the Perpetrators of Abuse and Neglect

Many statistically significant differences were found across sites on these topics (See Tables 5-9 and 5-10). Slight differences in recording type of maltreatment or abstracting procedures in the San Diego and Washington sites may have contributed to these differences. For example, many cases had multiple types of maltreatment listed, and while instructions were to record all types noted in the case record at the time of removal, abstractors may not all have been equally inclusive. Furthermore, there appears to be system differences in the degree to which children are removed for a "protective issue" only, that is, the child is not a direct victim of maltreatment at the time of removal, but is a sibling of a victimized child. To maintain the ability to control for this likely system difference Table 5-9 lists separately the children who were victimized (direct allegation) and the "protective issue" children. This enabled us to remove the "protective issue only" cases when presenting the picture of who 'were the alleged perpetrators (Table 5-10).

With these cautionary notes Table 5-9 shows Physical Abuse to be alleged in 44.0% of the cases overall (with San Diego having the highest percentage, 48.3%); General Neglect

in 35.6% of the cases (Pierce County highest with 60.8%); Caretaker Absence, 33.5% (Pierce County highest with 48.5%); Sexual Abuse, 25.1% (King County highest with 41.0%); Severe Neglect in 21.0% of the cases overall (Pierce County with highest percentage, 47.7%); and Emotional Neglect in 16.9% of the cases (King County highest with 32.0%).

Overall 44.6% of the cases listed Multiple Types of Maltreatment, varying from 70.0% in King County; 69.2% in Pierce County, and 34.6% in San Diego County. All cross-site differences, with exception of the small 0.2% of cases involving Exploitation resulted in a Chi-Square statistic that shows significance at the .01 level.

Table 5-10 addresses the question of whether a single person perpetrated against the child, and if so, who did allegedly do it; or was the maltreatment committed by multiple perpetrators. Distinctly different patterns emerged across types of maltreatment categories and sites. Males dominated as perpetrators in the Sexual Abuse category with fathers accounting for 31.3% of the cases; stepfathers 15.2% and the mother's boyfriend for 14.1%. Multiple perpetrators were involved in 12.1% of the cases. Differences among sites reached a significance level of ($x^2 = 34.52$, df= 12, $p \leq .01$). However, the very small sample size of 6 cases of sexual abuse in Pierce County and 17 in King County raised doubt about the reliability of this finding.

In the Physical Abuse category (with across site differences of ($x^2 = 26.78$, df= 16, $p \leq .05$) mothers overall (34.7%) outnumbered the fathers (30.6%). Multiple perpetrators were involved in 13.0% of the cases overall. In the Severe and General Neglect categories mothers who were likely to spend more time with the children again were listed as the most frequent perpetrator, 77.8% for severe neglect, and 54.3% in general neglect. The latter

category had a high number of cases (42.9%) with multiple perpetrators.

The Emotional Abuse category was the only one in which multiple perpetrators appear more frequently (in 55.4% of the cases) than any other single perpetrator. Sample sizes in all three sites, however, were small in this category giving reason to cautious interpretation of this finding.

Finally, Caretaker Absence was listed as reason for removal in a total of 206 cases, mothers being absent in 65.0%, and multiple caretakers absent in 27.7% of the cases. The significance level of site differences (x^2 = 29.53, df = 8, $p \leq .01$) again should be viewed with caution because of the empty cells, especially in the King County sample of 15 mothers who were the only perpetrator involved.

Summary of Findings

Highlights of findings comparing the characteristics of the reunified sample children and their caretakers at the time of removal, include the following:

* Boys and girls are about equally represented in the combined study sample, but with variations across sites. The Pierce County sample had significantly more boys (59.5%) than girls (41.5%).

* About half of the overall sample children were three years or younger. The mean age (4.3 years) did not differ across sites.

* Almost half of the children were Anglo American; the remaining children from different ethnic groups, with the largest ethnic group being African American (26.4%) and Hispanic (19.7%). Asian and Pacific Islanders were represented in 6.4% and Native Americans/Alaskans in 2.4% of the cases overall.

* Medical problems (21.4%), severe behavioral problems (13.6%), developmental delay (13.6%), and diagnosed mental illness (13.1%) were the most frequent types of documented or suspected problems.

* A little over one-third of the mothers of the children had a diagnosis of mental illness, and one-third had documented histories of abuse as children. The most frequently reported problems of the mothers were substance abuse for drugs (52.6%), and alcohol (35.5%). Substance abuse (for drugs 39.4% and alcohol 41.4%) were also the most frequent problems documented for the biological fathers or male caretakers.

* Half of the children came from single parent households. A little more than one-third lived with their biological parents, and 10% with one biological parent and a stepparent.

* Almost half of the families lived in unsafe environments, and almost one-third had medical problems. Basic unmet needs of housing, food, and clothing were experienced by about one-fifth of the families.

* An overwhelming majority of the families (72%) had one or more prior Child Protective Service referrals prior to the current placement episode. However, almost 85% had no prior out-of-home placement experience.

* Law enforcement was the most frequent referral source (23.2%) followed by relatives and neighbors (20%). Medical professionals accounted for one-fifth of the referrals for the combined sample. Across-site differences were statistically significant with the medical professionals as the most frequent referral source in San Diego and law enforcers in Washington.

* An overwhelming majority of placements in San Diego were court ordered (89.7%) and in King County (79.6%), against only 22% of such placements in Pierce County.

* Numerous across-site differences were found regarding reasons for removal. Some of these differences, however, may be influenced by how type of maltreatment is initially recorded. With this caution in mind, the order of reasons for removal in the combined study sample was: Physical abuse, general neglect, caretaker absence, sexual abuse, severe neglect, and emotional neglect. Multiple types of abuse were listed in 44.6% of the cases overall.

* Males dominated as perpetrators of sexual abuse, while mothers (34.7%) outnumbered the fathers (30.6%) when it came to physical abuse. In severe and general neglect categories mothers, who usually spend more time with the youngsters, were the most frequent perpetrator (77.8% in severe neglect and 54.3% in general neglect cases).

CHAPTER 6

THE PLACEMENT EXPERIENCE FOR REUNIFIED CHILDREN

IN THE THREE STUDY SITES

This chapter presents selected aspects of what the children experienced while in foster care, such as, the type and number of foster homes, their placement with or without their siblings, and the length of their stay. Also included is information about operations of the Child Protective Systems in providing reunification plans, in serving the parental caretakers and the children, in conducting court hearings, and in facilitating parental visiting. Information about the reunification decision itself rounds off the chapter.

The picture is incomplete as it is drawn primarily from the knowledge and perspectives of the record-keeping service providers and court professionals. Only the children themselves, their families, the foster parents, and other key persons in the children's lives; could complete the story of what the placement experience was like for the children.

Type and Length of Placement

Of the children studied, 24.6% were in one or more kinship foster homes (see Table 6-l). Use of kinship foster care was 25.2% in San Diego, 38% in King County and 17.7% in Pierce County. Of children with siblings in the system, 79.1% were placed with their siblings. The general foster care policy of keeping sibling groups together in out-of-home care seemed to have been implemented for most of these study children.

Of the reunified children 58.1% experienced only one placement during the episode

studied, except for brief stays in a receiving center as far as the San Diego children are concerned. Cross-site variations in the number of moves were statistically significant $(x^2 = 221.20$, df $= 8$, $p \leq .01$). The most moves from one foster home to another were in King County (3 moves or more, 20%) and lowest in Pierce County (three or more moves) 5.4%.

The length of stay (LOS) distribution in Table 6-1 shows that almost three out of five (58.7%) of the reunified children remained in foster care for one month or less. By the end of three months 70.4% of the children had been reunified. These percentage findings cannot be immediately compared to LOS findings from other studies, which often build on cross-sectional, not cohort data as this study does. Furthermore the LOS distribution included in Table 6-1 is based on the study sample of reunified children only, not computed as percentages of the total cohort sample.

The length of stay (LOS) measured in means of months $F(2, 621) = 5.38$, weeks $F(2, 621) = 5.07$, and days $F(2, 621) = 4.97$ all differed significantly ($p \leq .01$) across sites. Pierce County children experienced the shortest mean LOS: 80 days, against 87.4 days in San Diego, and 130.2 days in King County. This pattern needs to be correlated with the overall cohort rate of exit from care. As noted in Chapter 4, by the end of the one-year follow-up period 38.7% of the San Diego cohort children had been reunified; 61.0% of the Pierce County children, and 64.9% of the King County children. It thus appears that overall, more King County children exit care within a year, but those who do stay in care remain, on average, for longer periods of time. San Diego, on the other hand, retains proportionately more children in care (61.3% by end of one year), but the children who are reunified return home after much- shorter stays. This interplay of King County's

proportionately smaller numbers of children with very long stays, and San Diego's proportionately much larger number of children remaining in care, but for shorter periods of time, shows the limitation of presenting findings in the form of statistical means. The bar-graph in Figure 6-1 seems to better capture this complex picture.

Associations between length of stay and a number of study and outcome variables are presented in Chapter 7.

Reunification Plans and Services

Court-issued reunification plans or voluntary agreements between CPS and the parent(s) existed in all Washington State sample cases. In San Diego 390 out of the 445 cases (88%) had some kind of plan. Cases without a plan primarily represent children who did not stay long enough to have a plan developed. Of the 390 San Diego cases with reunification plans 28% had one plan only; 68% had two plans, and in 4% of the cases three separate plans were developed often involving three or more parental caretakers.

Table 6-2 shows variations in the number of services included in the reunification plans. In more than half of the cases, up to three services were ordered, and in 8.9% of the cases from 6-10 services. A few Washington State case plans contained eleven or more services.

As one would expect, the most frequently ordered service was Counseling/Psychological Evaluations in 75.1% of the cases followed by Parenting Education (in 68.1% of the plans). 'The third-most frequent (52.0%) service was Substance Abuse Counseling and Testing, leaving much smaller percentages for such services as financial assistance, housing, employment counseling and other concrete services.

Figure 6.1

LENGTH OF STAY BY SITE

▦ SAN DIEGO ■ PIERCE ❑ KING
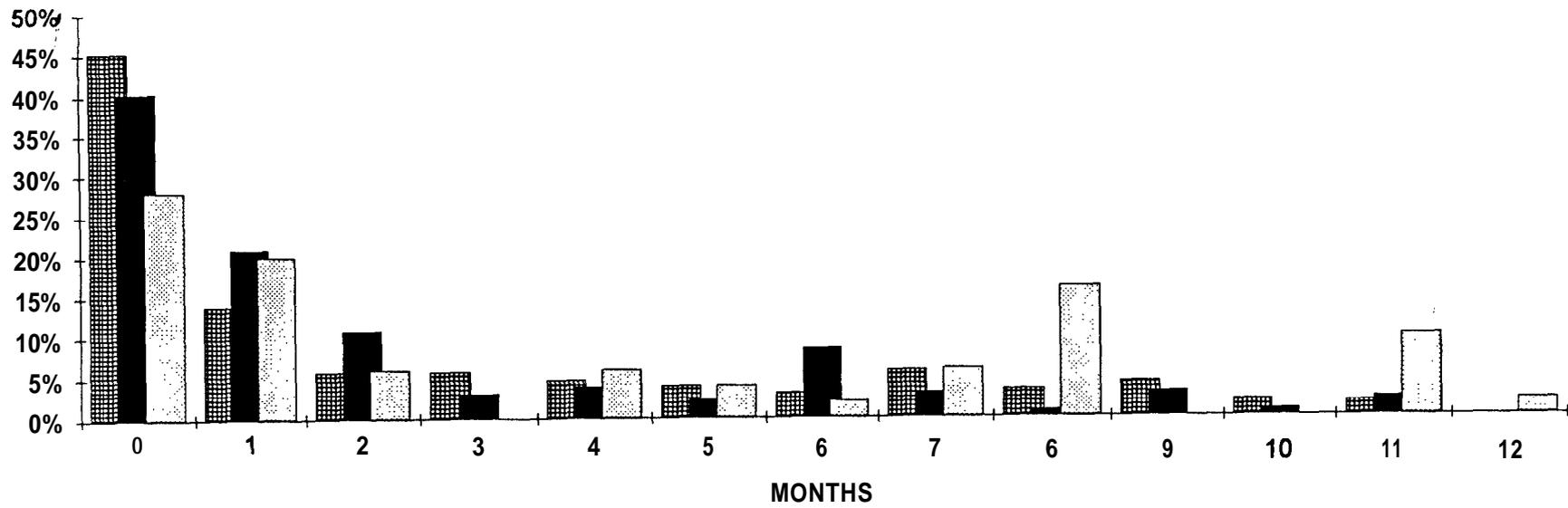
Among the services recommended for the foster children, medical treatment ranked first with an overall percent of 44.6, followed closely by therapy/counseling recommended in 41.5% of the cases. Authorization for medical treatment is mandatory in Washington State which is reflected in the much higher percentages of medical treatment in Pierce County(82.3%) and King County (100%) as against 24.8% in San Diego.

Variations across sites regarding number, $(x^2 = 23.39, df = 6)$ and type of services to adults and children were statistically significant ($p \leq .01$). Great care was exercised by the two research teams in establishing common operational definitions of services for classification of record information. However, discrepancies about meaning of service terms on the part of the social workers producing the case records may account for some of the differences in service patterns in San Diego and Washington State. Nonetheless it appears that Parent Education was the dominant service in San Diego, while Casework Assistance was the favored service type in the State of Washington, where concrete services also were more frequently recommended than in San Diego.

Shortly after case abstracting began it became clear that reunification plans do not give a full picture of services. Social worker narratives contain information about services beyond those mentioned in reunification plans and the periodic reports CPS submits to the court. Information gathered about these additional services delivered prior to reunification in the San Diego is presented in Table 6-3. Counseling still dominated as the most frequent service, Substance Abuse Counseling ranked second. Additional concrete services, including financial assistance and housing, were also provided.

Information was also collected in all three study sites on ecological changes that

might have had an impact on the reunification of the child with their family, These changes were classified as family events, work related changes, living conditions and health events. The most common family events were a separation between the parents (21.3%). Work related changes include loss of job (11.1%), change of job (10.9%), and obtaining job after long-term unemployment (11.9%). Of those families identifying changes in living conditions, one fourth (25.4%) obtained better housing, 15% were evicted, and 4.6% moved into worse housing conditions. Events related to the health of the family did not appear to be noteworthy. It is not known to what extent these changes are directly related to services offered and used.

Caretaker Utilization of Services

Only the San Diego data on parental caretaker utilization of reunification plan services have been analyzed at this time. These data have been collected from the CPS reports to the court and classified by case abstractors into: At level, below level or non-compliance.

Table 6-4 compares the mothers' and fathers' utilization of the four most frequently provided services: Parenting Class, Counseling, Drug Testing and Drug Treatment. A clear pattern emerged of a consistently higher percentage of "at level" utilization by the mothers than the fathers, and of a reverse pattern of higher "non-compliance" performance by the fathers than the mothers. These differences were most marked for Drug Treatment, where the mothers' "at level" utilization was 26.2% higher than the fathers, and the fathers' "non-compliance" was 21.2% higher than the mothers'. See Table 6-4.

Parental Visitation

Statistically significant differences across sites $(p \leq .01)$ were found on frequency of mothers' $(x^2 = 229.75, df = 8)$ and fathers' $(x^2 = 131.87, df = 8)$ visitation as prescribed in the reunification plan (see Table 6-5). These differences may reflect system differences in that many voluntary placement agreements in Washington do not contain specific visitation plans. It seems that Washington State judges in these cases favored visits to take place monthly or every other week, while the San Diego judges prescribed more frequent visits of once or more than once per week.

The actual visitation patterns showed the mothers to be more regular visitors than the fathers in all three sites. The percentage of mothers who increased visiting during the placement episode was also consistently higher than the percentage of fathers who did so. The greatest increase in visitation for both mothers and fathers occurred in Washington State. Visitation pattern changes for both mothers and fathers differed across sites at the $p \leq .01$ level of significance for both mothers' $(x^2 = 47.01, df = 4)$ and fathers' $(x^2 = 41.54, df = 4)$.

Legal Process

Concerns over growing involvement of the Dependency Court in child protective cases, and possible adversarial effects of increased legal representation for each family member, prompted the research teams to gather statistics on the numbers and types of hearings held in the study cases. This is but a small beginning step towards understanding of the highly complex problem of where law and government come together (or clash) in balancing the rights of parents and children.

Variations in the numbers, $(x^2 = 268.09, df = 10, p < .01)$ and types of Dependency

Court hearings in individual cases across study sites (Table 6-6) were obviously tied to length of stay in care, as well as legal system differences elaborated in Chapter 3. The greater use of voluntary placements in Pierce County, for example, obviously resulted in fewer court and more administrative hearings than in the two other study sites. Statistics presented in this section include court hearings only, not administrative hearings.

Almost half of the San Diego (49.5%) and King County (44.9%) cases had six or more hearings while the majority (57.7%) of the Pierce County cases had only one hearing. As expected, Detention Hearings were the most frequent type of hearing in the combined study sample (63.2% with one and 17.5% with two or more such hearings). Readiness and Trial hearings were typical of the San Diego system, but non-existent in Washington State, except for the 2.4% of the Pierce County cases with one Readiness hearing. Half of the King County cases, and a little more than half of the San Diego cases had one Disposition Hearing, while 84.6% of the Pierce County cases had none.

Almost three out of five San Diego cases had a six month hearing compared to 44.9% of the King County cases. Ninety percent of the Pierce County cases had no such hearing. King County with the highest percentage (12%) of children remaining in care from ten to twelve months, consequently also has the highest percentage of twelve month reviews (32.7% as against 16.6% in San Diego).

Information was collected but not yet fully analyzed on who were present at court hearings. An example of completed analysis on parties present at the first Disposition Hearing is given in Table 6-7. Again, more mothers than fathers were involved. Mothers appeared in 86.1%, and fathers in 61.4% of the hearings overall. Differences among sites

for both mothers' ($x^2 = 22.22$, df $= 2$, $p \leq .01$) and fathers' ($x^2 = 8.65$, df $= 2$, $p \leq .01$) are significant; yet that may have- been influenced by the small number of Disposition Hearings in the Pierce County cases. King County mothers appeared in the highest percentage of cases overall, 96.2%; and fathers followed closely in 88.0% of the cases.

The foster child did not appear in any of the Washington cases, while six percent of the San Diego children attended the Disposition Hearing.

Attorneys were frequently present at the Disposition Hearing. Overall attorneys of the mothers participated in 96.4%, and of the fathers in 86.9% of these hearings. Attorneys representing the child appeared in 98.5% of the cases. Only the Child Protective Service systems were represented in 100% of the Disposition Hearings across all sites.

Data were also gathered on other persons present at the hearings. Social workers, for example, attended all King County Disposition Hearings against close to 80 percent in Pierce County. In San Diego, where special court assigned social workers were present at **all** hearings, the CPS social worker assigned to the particular case appeared in only 17.2% of the Disposition Hearings.

Additional findings on persons present at all types of hearings will appear as data analysis is completed.

Social Worker Contacts with Persons Involved with the Foster Child

General concerns about the number of caseworkers the foster child and his/her family may have to deal with during'a placement episode prompted collection of information on this topic. Of the total number of children studied 41.3% experienced only one caseworker; 44.5% had two, and **14.3%** had three or more caseworkers. Pierce County had

the highest percentage (66.9%) of only one caseworker, while San Diego and King Counties show the highest percentages in the "two caseworker" category (50.1% and 46.0% respectively).

San Diego caseworker narrative data showed that the caseworkers made a total of 19,113 pre-reunification, and 13,034 post-reunification contacts (see Table 6-8). Phone calls accounted for more than 70% of the contacts both pre- and post-reunification. Visits to the parental home increased from 4.7% to 16.3% of the contacts during placement and the reunification periods.

Service providers were the persons most frequently contacted (increasing from 40.3% to 42.7% from pre- to post-reunification). Mothers followed next with percentages increasing from 23.0 to 35.5. Surprisingly, siblings were contacted with greater frequency than the index foster child (10.2% against 6.5% pre-reunification, and 17.6% against 11.8% post-reunification).

The Reunification Decision.

Nine out of ten children (89.6%) were returned to the original caretaker from whom they were removed. The remaining ten percent were reunified with the non-custodial parent or another relative who was identified early on as the most appropriate parental caretaker (Table 6-9). Ninety percent of placed siblings were also returned while ten percent of siblings remained in care.

Two-thirds (64.0%) of the children were returned prior to the completion of the reunification plan with specific conditions assigned to the decision to return home. Over half of those children (52%) who returned prior to completion of the plan, returned with

the condition that they comply with the plan, while some had more specific conditions like "no contact with perpetrator" (20%), or "meet child's health needs" (15%) and day care needs (9%).

The research teams anticipated a certain degree of discordance between CPS recommendations and the judge-made decisions about reunification of the child. However, such discordance was found in only **11** cases (nine in San Diego, and one each in Pierce and King Counties). The current study which by definition includes only reunified children, could only be expected to identify discordant cases in which the judge decides in favor of reunification against a CPS recommendation of continuing the child in foster care. The Permanency Planning Study investigating <u>all</u> four options of Permanency Planning decisions in <u>all</u> of the lo-month cohort cases will, by design, provide a more complete picture of the degree and nature of discordance among decision-makers.   In both studies, however, the possibility must also be considered that conflicting views are resolved at earlier stages of the placement process, or outside the courtroom, or are not documented in the segments of the case records abstracted in the Reunification Study.

<u>Summary of Findings</u>

Highlights of findings presented in this chapter include:

* One quarter of the reunified children stayed in kinship foster homes.

* Four out of five children were placed with a sibling.

* Three out of five stayed in only one foster home; 30% in two homes, and 12% in three or more homes.

* The mean number of days in care for Pierce County children was: 80 days; for San Diego children 87.4 days; and 130.2 days for the King County children.

* All Washington State cases had a Reunification (or similar) Plan. San Diego with proportionately more children with short stays had a Plan in 88% of the cases.

* The three services most frequently recommended or ordered in the Reunification Plans were: Counseling/Psychological Evaluations (75.1%), Parent Education (68.1%), and Substance Abuse Treatment (52.0%).

* Mothers utilized services of all types at level prescribed in the Plans more often than fathers did.

* Less frequent parental visiting (monthly or every other week) was prescribed in Washington Reunification Plans than in San Diego where weekly or more frequent visits were preferred in the Plans.

* Six or more hearings were held in almost half of the San Diego and King County cases.

* More mothers than fathers appeared at the first Disposition Hearing. Washington children did not appear at court hearings; six percent of the San Diego children did.

* Attorneys representing mothers and the children attended more than 90% of the Disposition Hearings; father's attorneys 86.9% of the hearings. Only CPS was represented 100% of the time in all sites.

* Forty-one percent of the children studied experienced one caseworker only, 44.5% experienced two caseworkers, and 14.3% experienced three or more caseworkers during the placement episode.

* San Diego caseworkers made 19,113 contacts prior to, and 13,034 after reunification. Phone calls were the most frequent form of contacts, followed by field visits and home visits.

* Service providers were the most frequently contacted persons, and mothers the second-most contacted.

* Nine out of ten foster children were returned to the original caretaker; ten percent to the non-custodial parent or other relative identified early as the most appropriate caretaker.

* Discordance between the CPS recommendation and Judges' decision was negligible (in 2.3% of the cases).

CHAPTER 7

RE-REFERRAL AND RE-ENTRY

AT NINE-MONTH FOLLOW-UP AFTER REUNIFICATION

The two previous chapters have described the study children and their families at the time of removal, and their experiences while in foster care. This chapter deals with how the children fared nine months after the reunification, at which point they were classified into the three outcome categories: Successful Reunification (SU), Re-Referral (RRF), and Re-Entry (RE) into Out-of-Home Care. Findings are presented to address the Reunification Study's second and third specific aims of determining which study variables, if any, were associated with reunification outcomes, and the relative value of significant variables for predicting outcome.

Reunification Outcomes Across the Three Study Sites

Of the 625 study children 68.3% experienced no new referrals to the Child Protective System within the nine-month follow-up period. Re-referrals were made on 18.6% of the children, and 13.1% of the overall sample children re-entered care (see Table 7-l). Variations among sites were significantly different ($x^2 = 17.06$, df $= 4$, $p \leq .01$). The 50 King County children had the highest success rate (90%), and San Diego the lowest (64.9%). Percentage-wise, most re-referrals occurred in San Diego, and most re-entries in Pierce County. About one in five children experienced only one re-referral, and 10.4% of the

overall sample children had two or more re-referrals.

Almost one-third of the re-referrals occurred within one month after reunification, and over half of them (53.5%) had been made by the end of three months. The mean number of months until re-referral was almost identical in the three sites. A similar pattern was seen for the 84 children who re-entered care (see Table 7-l).

Severe and general neglect in combination with caretaker absence were the primary reasons for re-referrals and re-entry in 45% of the cases (see Table 7-2). One-fourth of the children suffered alleged physical abuse, and one-fifth sexual abuse.

Reasons for the original removal (presented in Table 5-9) incorporated multiple alleged types of maltreatment, whereas only the primary reason for re-referral was available (see Table 7-2). Thus it is not possible to firmly determine if a change of reason for removal took place. However, a simple rank-ordering of the two distributions showed, that physical abuse was the most frequent reason for both types of removal. The rank order of the other reasons for removal differs.

In almost half of the 198 re-referred cases the alleged primary reason was confirmed or suspected; in 37.4% of the cases the alleged maltreatment was not confirmed. The three study sites differed significantly on this variable ($x^2 = 22.86$, df = 6, $p \leq .01$); a high number of cases in San Diego (17.3%) contained no information on whether the allegation was confirmed or not, which may have contributed to the site variations.

About half of the 85 re-entering children went to emergency or receiving homes, slightly more than one-in-five to a foster family home, and 12.9% to a relative's home. Of the San Diego children 6.6% went into group or residential treatment facilities, while none

of the Washington State children did so. Re-entry facility type varied significantly across site,

$(x^2 = 29.26, df = 12, p < .01)$.

Identification of Variables **Predicting** Reunification Outcomes

Two approaches have been used to identify variables predicting outcome. First, the three outcome groups were compared in a combined study sample, consisting of the San Diego (SD) and Pierce County (PC) subsamples, and they were next compared separately in the two subsamples. The latter comparison was a step in the Discriminant Function Analysis to be reported later in this chapter.

The original intent was to search for predictor variables in the total study sample of 625 children. Some population and system differences among sites were known at the outset of the study, but they were expected to be limited to a few, that could readily be excluded for consideration as predictor variables. However, as shown by the findings reported so far, many statistical site differences were uncovered, and repeated analysis showed that some of these would cancel each other out in the process of collapsing subsamples.

Therefore Chi-Square and T-Test comparisons were made to determine the degree of differences among sites. The Pierce and King County comparison revealed statistically significant differences on 14 out of 21 variables, which led to exclusion of the King County sub-sample from further analysis for the purpose of identifying predictor variables.

The Pierce County and San Diego comparison showed an even split on significant and non-significant differences. The results are summarized in the next section. (The information used for the comparison was presented in Chapters 5 and 6, and not repeated here).

San Diego-Pierce County Reunification Outcome Differences. Age of children at time of removal did not differ in the two sites. There were significantly more boys removed in Pierce County, and more female children removed in San Diego. There were significant differences in gender and ethnicity of the caretakers at the time of removal. The San Diego families were significantly more likely to be married and represent families from ethnic/racial minority groups. The Pierce County children showed significantly more medical and behavioral problems, developmental disabilities, and diagnosed mental illness, but they did not differ from the San Diego children in seven other problem categories.

Law enforcers and other community professionals were significantly more likely to refer families in Pierce County than in San Diego, where the most frequent referral sources were medical professionals and schools.

San Diego had significantly more sexual abuse cases and removed children in physical abuse cases for protective issues. Pierce County on the other hand had significantly more neglect, emotional abuse cases and caretaker absence cases.

In terms of placements, San Diego children were significantly more likely to experience multiple placements and to experience placements with their relatives and their siblings. There were very few differences in the ecological factors effecting the families in the two sites. The most notable ecological change for families in San Diego was addition to the nuclear family. Otherwise, families in either site seemed equally likely to marry, divorce, experience pregnancy, a death in the family or change employment status.

Some of the differences reported may not be real differences between the children in the two sites, but reflect differences in Child Protective Service documentation and

b

policies around classifying children's problems, reasons for removal, and placement choices and procedures.

Although the three study sites differed significantly in regard to reunification outcomes, as stated at the opening of this chapter, no such difference was found in the San Diego-Pierce County comparison.

Overall the San Diego-Pierce County comparison identified a sufficient number of significant differences to raise concerns over "washing out" candidates for predictor variable status by combining the two study samples. On the other hand, in order to give as complete a picture of outcome predictors as possible, it was decided to go ahead with the combined sample analysis as well as conduct separate Discriminant Function Analyses in the two sites. The results of the combined sample analysis are presented next.

Outcome Variables Identified in the Combined San Diego-Pierce County Sample. The results of the analysis of the combined San Diego-Pierce County subsamples ($N = 575$) to uncover assosiations between study variables and reunification outcomes are presented in Table 7-3.

Neither the child's aee or gender, the mothers' age at removal, or family composition were significantly associated with outcome. The mean number of special child problems was lowest for the successful children (.9) and highest for the re-entry children (1.9); these differences were significant, $F(2,572) = 15.82$, $p \leq .01$. Two Types of Problems of the children, mental health and behavioral problems, and developmental disabilities also showed significant differences. A much higher percentage of children suffering from these problems than those who did not, ended up in-the re-entry group. The reverse pattern was seen in

the successful group; the mix of problem and no-problem children in the re-referral group was more even.

The grouped data of race/ethnicity of the child showed significant differences among the three outcome groups. The Anglo and Hispanic children were alike in having the highest percentage classified in the successful outcome group, the next highest percentage in the re-referral and smallest percentage in the re-entry group. While the majority of African-American and Asian/Pacific Islander children also went into the successful group, the next highest percentage appeared in the re-entry group. Of all the ethnic groups the Native American/Alaskan children represented the highest percentage overall in the re-entry group, and the lowest in the successful group.

In terms of type of maltreatment, sexual and physical abuse were not associated with outcome. General Neglect, $(x^2 = 19.37, df = 2)$, Caretaker Absence, $(x^2 = 17.12, df = 2)$, Removal for Protective Issue only, $(x^2 = 12.35, df = 2)$, and Multiple Types of Maltreatment, $(x^2 = 19.46, df = 2)$, were all strongly $(p \leq .01)$ associated with outcome, and Severe Neglect, $(x^2 = 7.79, df = 2)$, and Emotional Abuse, $(x^2 = 6.99, df = 2)$, were associated at the .05 level of significance. Comparison of the children who suffered multiple types of maltreatment and those who were not so victimized showed, that one out of five of the former group re-entered as against less than one in ten of the children who did not experience multiple forms of maltreatment. See Table 7-3 for the distributions of other types of maltreatment on the three outcome groups.

Children in relative placements were significantly less likely to re-enter care, but more likely to be re-referred and be in the successful outcome group than children in

regular foster care.

The children with <u>several foster home changes during the placement period</u> showed a complex distribution across the three outcome groups. One in five of children who stayed in only one foster home re-entered out-of-home care; almost the same number were re-referred, and three in five were in the successful group. However, only one in ten of the children who stayed in three or more foster homes re-entered, and they had the highest percentage of successful cases. This surprising finding is difficult to interpret and is in obvious need of further analysis and replication.

<u>Length of stay,</u> as measured in days $[\underline{F}(2, 571) = 7.78$, and weeks, $\underline{F}(2, 570) = 7.751$ was associated $(\underline{p} \leq .01)$ with outcome. Children in the re-entry group, on average, were in care only 48.6 days, as against 88.5 days of the successful children. The longest mean stay, 101.7 days, was experienced by the re-referred children. This finding, along with others listed in Table 7-3, suggests that some of the re-entry children may have been reunified too soon, or received insufficient support and services in connection with the reunification.

<u>Outcome Predictor Variables Identified by Discriminant Function Analysis</u>. The original study design called for a Discriminant Function Analysis (DFA) to determine the relative value of significant variables for prediction of reunification outcomes (Study Aim #3).

Many such variables resulted from the San Diego-Pierce County combined analysis as just described. However, because of the risk of violating the data by sample collapsing, it was decided to carry out Discriminant Function Analyses separately on the San Diego and Pierce County data bases. The process and outcome of the DFA, conducted by the project

statistician, Dr. Rae Newton, is included as APPENDIX C. Major points are summarized here.

The selection of predictor variables to be entered into the DFA involved two bivariate analyses in each site: The first to identify variables showing significant $(P<.05)$ differences between successfully reunified (SU) children and re-referred (RRF) children, and, the second analysis to identify variables on which SU children differed significantly from re-entry (RE) children. Only variables with at least .10 correlations were included.

Because of especially strong site variations on the race/ethnicity variable, it was decided to exclude it from the DFA since it would not be appropriate to juxtapose one racial/ethnic group vs. all others as would be needed, if it were to be entered into the DFA. Additional analysis of the race/ethnicity data will explore the role this variable plays in predicting outcome.

The results of these analyses are presented in Tables DFA-1 and DFA-2 in APPENDIX C. The findings taken together showed complex variations across study sites and across the RRF and RE outcome groups:

> Geographic Differences in Predictor Variables: 23 variables (exclusive of race/ethnicity) operated in San Diego. Of these
> > 7 predicted both RRF & RE
> > 3 predicted RRF only
> > 13 predicted RE only
>
> 14 variables (exclusive of race/ethnic@) operated in Pierce County. Of these
> > 6 predicted both RRF & RE
> > 6 predicted RRF only
> > 2 predicted RE only
>
> However, only some variables within each of the three categories were the same in the two geographic sites. The next step was then to determine the extent of

Overlap Between the RRF and the RE Predictive Variables. Of the total number of 17 RRF variables, 3 did not predict RE anywhere, and 14 predicted RE in either or both sites.

As appears from Figure 7-1, general neglect was the only variable that was shared by both sites and also predicted RRF as well as RE. All other variables were scattered across sites and the two outcome groups. Figure 7-1 shows only whether a RRF variable discriminated between SU and RRF, or a RE variable between SU and RE, not the direction of associations.

Comparison of the predictors in Figure 7-1 with correlations to outcome reported in Table 7-3 (based on the combined SD-PC sample) revealed, that eight of the predictor variables did not show significant outcome differences. The eight variables were: Single Parent, Bio-Two Parent Households, Physical Abuse, Caretaker Absence, Protective Issue Only, Multiple Abuse Types, Gender & Age of Child, and Mandated Reporters. In other words, sample collapsing in these instances seems to have "washed out" the predictor variables. On the other hand, 13 of the variables upon which outcome associations have been computed up to this point, showed congruence in having significant correlations in the San Diego and Pierce County subsamples as well as in the combined study sample.

In sum, pathways to the RRF and the RE outcome groups appear extremely puzzling; it appears, that rather than finding predictor variables operating independently, an interplay among child, family, and service system variables is the more likely determinant of reunification outcome.

FIGURE 7-1

RE-REFERRAL (RRF) VARIABLES

OPERATING IN

SAN DIEGO ONLY	PIERCE CCUNTY ONLY	BOTH SITES
Prior Referrals Family/Child	Developmental Delay	Removed from Bio Parents
Courtordered Placement	Medical/Physical Pb.Child	Mandated Reporter
N of Foster Home Changes	N of Problems of Child	General Neglect
Visits by Father	Single Parent	Emotional Abuse
Parenting Class	Child w.Parent(s) Only at Removal	N of Services in Plan
	Physical Abuse	
	Severe Neglect	

RE-ENTRY (RE) VARIABLES

SAN DIEGO ONLY	PIERCE COUNTY ONLY	BOTH SITES
Child Mental Health Problems	Gender of Child	N of Child Problems
Child Medical/Physical Problems	Age of Child	General Neglect
Single Parent	Developmental Delay, Child	
Bio-Two Parent	Child w. Parent(s) Only at Removal	
Prior Referals of Family/Child	Severe Neglect	
Courtordered Placement	Emotional Abuse	
Caretaker Absence		
Protective Issue Only		
Multiple Abuse Types		
Placed with Relatives		
N of Foster Home Changes		
Length of Stay (LOS)		
Visits by Father		
Counseling in Plan		
Parenting Class in Plan		
Financial Services in Plan		
Drug/Alcohol Treatment in Plan		
Homemaker Services in Plan		

This figure shows only whether a RRF variable significantly discriminated between SU and RRF children, or a RE variable between SU and RE, not whether the variables were positively or negatively associated with outcome.

This complexity was captured in the final steps of the DFA as well. Because of the many variable differences and the sample sizes of the two sites, it was decided to develop a predictive model on the basis of the San Diego data only. The resulting model was then applied to the data in both sites to determine its power to accurately classify cases into outcome groups (see Table DFA-6). The San Diego application showed, that about 70% of the 256 successfully reunified cases were correctly classified, while both RRF and RE cases were correctly classified 60% of the time. Overall, this pattern resulted in about 67% correct classification, which is well above chance.

The Pierce County application produced drastically different results. Overall, only 17.6% of the cases were correctly classified, considerably below chance. This suggests that characteristics which predict RRF and RE across the two sites are not the same, and that the San Diego based model is inappropriate for Pierce County. The DFA also suggests that the three outcome groups are unique and do not fall on a continuum from SU to RRF to RE. It would, however, be premature to draw any further overall conclusions, or conclusions about the predictive powers of specific variables, on the basis of this preliminary analysis.

Summary of Reunification Outcome Findings

Major findings from the total study sample of 625 children included:

* Within nine months after reunification 68% of the children studied were successfully reunified, close to 19% experienced at least one re-referral to the Child Protective System, and 13% re-entered out-of-home care.

* Almost one-third of the re-referrals and re-entries occurred within one month after reunification, and over half of them had been made by the end of three months.

* Forty-five percent of the reasons for re-referrals and re-entries were related to child neglect. One-fourth suffered alleged physical abuse and one-fifth sexual abuse.

The San Diego-Pierce County analysis of linkages between study variables and reunification outcomes produced the following:

* Physical and sexual abuse were not associated with reunification outcome. Both types of neglect, caretaker absence, removal for protective issue only, and multiple types of abuse showed statistically significant and complex associations to the three reunification outcomes.

* Race/ethnicity of the child showed significant association to outcome. The ethnic groups, listed in the order of the highest to the lowest percentage of children in the successful outcome group, are: Asian/Pacific Islander; African-American; Hispanic; Anglo; and Native American/Alaskan.

  Hispanic and Anglo children had proportionately more children in the re-referral than in the re-entry group. The African-American, Asian/Pacific Islander and Native American/Alaskan groups showed the reverse pattern.

* Children in kinship foster care were significantly less likely to re-enter care, but more likely to be successfully reunified or be re-referred.

* Compared to children with fewer foster home changes during the placement episode, children with three or more such changes had the highest percentage of successful reunifications.

The preliminary Discriminant Function Analysis revealed that the three reunification outcomes do not fall on a continuum from success to re-entry, and that most of the variables predicting outcomes differ in the two sites. These findings await further analysis and replication as well.

CHAPTER 8

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This chapter highlights the aims, methods, and major findings of the Study of Reunification Risks and Successes and concludes with discussion and implications of the findings. The overall objective of the Reunification Study was to identify case characteristics which differentiate successful from unsuccessful reunification of foster children with their families, and to compare reunification processes and outcomes in San Diego County, California, and the State of Washington.

Specific Study Aims

The Reunification Study had three major aims:

1) To classify children as successful, borderline, or unsuccessful nine months after reunification with their families as follows:

Successful Reunification:

No re-referral of abuse or neglect, or re-entry into out-of-home care.

Borderline Successful Reunification:

One or more re-referrals of abuse or neglect, but no re-entry into care.

Unsuccessful Reunification:

Re-entry into foster care or other out-of-home care for more than 72 hours.

2) To establish associations, if any, among child, family and service variables on the one hand and reunification outcomes on the other. Special efforts were made to identify factors of discordance in decisions made by child welfare practitioners and Juvenile/Family Court judges.

3) To determine the relative value of case variables for predicting reunification outcomes.

Study Methods

The Reunification Study is a descriptive study. Six hundred and twenty-five children, ages O-12, who had been in kinship or regular foster care from 72 hours up to 12 months were followed for up to 9 months after reunification with their families. The sample constitutes all children who entered foster care during the ten-month period from 5/1/90 to 2/28/91, and met the sampling criterion.

The study cases were drawn from child welfare agency caseloads in three geographic sites, San Diego County in California, Pierce County, and King County in the State of Washington. The San Diego study sub-sample involved 445 children, and the Washington State study was of 130 children from Pierce County and 50 from King County. The three sub-samples are not representative of the entirety of the three counties. The San Diego sample excluded the northern part of the County; the Pierce County sample was largely from Tacoma, and the King County sample was from the Seattle suburb of Kent, not the City of Seattle.

The primary source of data was Child Protective Service case records. The data were collected according to a Case Abstracting Instrument developed jointly by the San Diego and Washington research teams. Most study variables are identical in San Diego and

Washington. Some of the Washington cases, however, have additional information on risk assessments, and the San Diego sample includes a. small subsample with standardized measures of the child's level of development, school and behavioral functioning, self-perception, and use of mental health services. Data from these additional sources have not yet been fully analyzed.

Thus, study findings in this report build primarily on archival data which always present reliability and validity concerns. But Child Protective Service records may give less reason for concern than many other forms of archival data because of the overlap with Juvenile Court records. Information was collected almost exclusively from the official court documents, Child protective Service reports to the court, and reports from professionals who had examined or treated the children. Despite intense care in assuring comparability of terms, case-recording practices, data collection, and data entry across the three study sites, caution is needed in interpretation of reasons for entry into care, the number and types of problems children and their families, and services provided. Differences among sites could result from case recording practices rather than actual differences.

Another limitation of the study is the inadequate operational definition of successful reunification as "absence of re-referrals to the Child Protective System". Abuse and neglect may indeed have re-occurred, but simply have gone undetected and unreported. Unfortunately resources did not allow for any other form of follow-up procedures than review of computerized data-screens and case records.

Case abstractors were trained until they reached an inter-rater reliability of 90% or higher. Periodic reliability checks on-randomly selected cases from each abstractor's cases

assured that this level of inter-rater reliability was maintained.

Descriptive and correlational statistics were used to describe and compare the sample., children and reunification outcomes in the three study sites. Bivariate analyses were conducted to establish associations among study variables and the three reunification outcomes: Successful Reunification (SU); Borderline Successful Reunification, referred to as Re-Referral (RRF); and, Unsuccessful Reunifcation, referred to as RE-Entry (RE). These analyses were limited to the San Diego-Pierce County combined study sample; the King County sample was excluded because of its small sample size.

Discriminant Function Analysis was conducted on the San Diego site and the resulting model was applied to Pierce County data as a beginning step to determine the model's power to predict reunification outcome. The Discriminant Function Analysis goes beyond the bivariate technique of determining whether and how each independent variable is associated with outcome when considered one at a time, to determine the relative contribution of each variable to the interactive effect upon outcome of the variables taken together.

Summary and Discussion of Selected Study Findings

Within the first nine months of reunification, 68% of the children across the three sites experienced no new referral to the Child Protective System, 19% were re-referred at least once, and 13% re-entered out-of-home care. These overall results varied considerably between study sites, child and family characteristics, and foster placement experiences.

Several factors are likely to have contributed to site variations. At the outset of the study it was known that Pierce County had many more voluntary placements than the two

other sites. This difference alone would account for differences in Dependency Court involvement, types and content of reunification plans used, and perhaps also in CPS recording policies.

Rates of reunification were also known to vary among sites. A higher percentage of the lo-month cohort of foster children remained in foster care for 12 months or more in San Diego (61%) than in Pierce County (40%) and in King County (35%). Variations among sites may also have resulted from site-specific Child Protective Service policies, case recording and foster care practices, and other system factors, rather than from child and family characteristics or reasons for removal.

In this section selected study findings are discussed as they reflect differences among study sites and reunification outcomes. Preliminary comparisons to findings from other reunification and related studies are made on a few selected variables; as reported in the literature review (Chapter 2) differences in operational definitions, sample selection, cross-sectional vs.cohort data, length of time in placement and follow-up periods always present reasons for caution in comparison. Future publications on specific foster care topics are planned to make more in-depth comparisons between the current and other reunification studies than can be done in this overall report.

The summary and discussion of findings will first focus on child and family characteristics, followed by removal and placement experiences. The section concludes with a brief summary of findings from the Discriminant Function Analysis.

Children and Family Characteristics. Half of the children were three years or younger; the mean age was 4.3 and was not correlated with reunification outcome. Boys

and girls were equally represented overall, but with significantly more boys in Pierce County; gender did not affect outcome.

Nearly half of the overall sample were Anglo American, 26.4% African-American, 19.7% Hispanic, 6.4% Asian and Pacific Islanders, and 2.4% Native Americans/Alaskans. Race/ethnicity showed significant and complex associations to outcome. Asian/Pacific Islanders and African-Americans were alike in having the highest percentages of successfully reunified children and fewer re-referred than re-entered children. The Anglo-American and Hispanic groups were alike in all three outcome categories. They also had the smallest percentage of re-entry children whereas Native American/Alaskans had the highest.

Relative proportions of children in race/ethnicity groups in the San Diego and Pierce County sites were too different to allow inclusion of this variable in the Discriminant Function Analysis. Extensive further analysis and reporting on this variable is planned. Suffice it here to say, that the overrepresentation of Afro-American children found in other foster care studies (Fein, et al., 1990; Jenkins, et al., 1983; McMurtry & Lie, 1992; and Seaber & Tolley, 1986) is confirmed in the Reunification Study as well.

Almost half of the children had no documented problems; others had medical, behavioral, developmental, and mental health problems. Pierce County had the highest percentages of problems in all four categories. One fourth of the children with mental health/behavioral problems re-entered care. Almost half of the developmentally delayed children were re-referred and half of these re-entered care. Mental health problems and developmental delay were significantly related to outcome, as was the mean number of problems per child.

Numerous studies (Fein, Maluccio & Kluger, 1990; Hochstadt, et al., 1987; Moffatt, et al., 1985; Klee & Halfon, 1987, and others) have demonstrated higher rates of health and mental health problems and developmental disabilities among foster children than in the general population. Fewer studies have explored the impact of these factors on reunification and re-entry patterns. One example is the Hess, Folaron & Jefferson (1992) study which showed that almost half of 62 children who re-entered care had diagnosed mental health problems and 30% had developmental disabilites. The cohort samples of the ongoing Permanency Planning Outcome Study mentioned earlier should reveal new information on how child mental health and other problems correlate with ultimate Permanency Planning decisions and outcomes.

At the time of removal a third of the children lived with biological parents, half with single parents, and a tenth with a parent and stepparent. Family composition was not related significantly to outcome in the combined San Diego-Pierce County study sample. However, the separate bivariate analyses showed that San Diego children from single parent households were more likely to re-enter care than to be successfuly reunified.

The mean age of mothers, 28.8 years, did not differ by site or outcome. Thus the study sample was not dominated by teen-age mothers as one might have expected. A little over one-third of the mothers had a diagnosed mental illness, and one-third had documented histories of abuse as children. Substance abuse was the most frequently reported problem of mothers; slightly more than half abused drugs, and one-third abused alcohol. Substance abuse was also the most frequent problem of male caretakers.

Removal and Placement Experiences. Close to three-quarters of the families had one or more Child Protective Service referrals prior to the current placement episode. However, 85% of the study children had no prior out-of-home placement experience. No site differences were found.

Law enforcement was the most frequent referral source (23.2%) followed by relatives and neighbors (20%). Medical professionals accounted for one-fifth of the referrals. Cross-site differences were statistically significant with medical professionals in San Diego and law enforcers in Washington as the most frequent referrers.

Significant cross-site differences were found regarding reasons for removal. These differences, however, may be influenced by system differences, such as, the way in which type of maltreatment is inititally recorded, or the extent to which children are removed for a "protective issue" only (that is, the removed child has not been victimized directly, but another child in the household has been). With this caution in mind, the order of frequency of reasons for removal in the combined study sample was: Physical abuse, general neglect, caretaker absence, sexual abuse, severe neglect, and emotional neglect. Multiple types of abuse were listed in nearly half of the cases overall.

The order of frequency of the primary reason for re-referral and re-entry were: Physical abuse, sexual abuse, general neglect, caretaker absence, emotional abuse, and severe neglect. Physical and sexual abuse were not associated with reunification outcome. The neglect categories (general and severe neglect and caretaker absence), removal for protective issue only, and multiple types of abuse showed statistically significant and complex associations with the three reunification outcomes.

Comparison of findings from the separate bivariate analyses in San Diego and Pierce County showed general neglect to be the. only. variable that predicted re-referral as well as re-entry in both sites. Thus, the Reunification Study confirms that general neglect in out-of-home care plays a powerful role, as has been shown by many other foster care studies. It is possible that neglected children, as compared with children removed from their homes for other reasons, were overrepresented in this sample. Neglect is sometimes considered to present less risk to a child's well-being than other maltreatment. If that understanding entered into decision-making, neglected children might be reunified sooner than others. This question will be pursued by correlating reasons for removal to length of stay (LOS), not only in the reunified group, but also in the three other Permanency Planning outcome groups (adoption, guardianship and long-term foster care).

One quarter of the children stayed in kinship foster homes; they were significantly less likely to re-enter care than children in regular foster care. Information about kinship foster care in general is scarce, as noted by Dubowitz, Feigelman & Zuravin (1992) and Thornton (1991). Additional Reunification Study findings on this important foster care resource will be published at a later date.

On average, children stayed in care 80 days in Pierce County, 87 days in San Diego, and 130 days in King County; these differences in length of stay (LOS) varied significantly both across site and in regard to outcome. Overall, almost three out of five of the reunified children remained in foster care for one month or less.

These findings cannot be immediately compared to other LOS studies, which often build on cross-sectional, not longitudinal cohort data. Furthermore, the Reunification Study

LOS percentage distribution was computed on the basis of reunified children only, not on the total cohort of foster children.

Nonetheless, a few comparative observations can be made. The predominant pattern of exit of care after brief stays in foster care is congruent with the finding of Benedict & White (1991), that half of the children in their cohort sample remained in care six months or less, and only a quarter of them stayed in care longer than two years. Benedict & White suggest that this finding has consequences for service delivery, in that the needs of families involved in short-term, crisis-oriented foster care are likely to differ from those served by long-term foster care.

Almost one-third of the re-referrals and re-entries occurred within one month of reunification, and over half of them had been made by the end of three months. These factors did not differ across sites. LOS among the three outcome groups, however, showed strong statistically significant differences. Re-entry children, on average, had remained in care only 49 days, re-referred children 102 days, and the successfully reunified 89 days. Interpretation of this finding, indicating a link between short foster care stays and quick re-entry into care, awaits further analysis. However, it is similar to the finding by Wulczyn . (1991) that a third of the children discharged within three months re-entered care, compared with 19% of children in care from 6 months to one year.

As stated elsewhere (Davis & Ellis-MacLeod, in press) there is a tendency to equate short foster care stays with success: It may or may not be, depending on the reasons for entry and exit from care and many other factors. The LOS factor would become more meaningful if supplemented by systematic risk assessment measures, and pre- and post

reunification service delivery patterns, to mention a few.

Of the eleven types. of services contained in the Reunification Plans the most frequent were: Counseling & Psychological Evaluations, Parent Education, and Substance Abuse Treatment. Mothers utilized services of all types at the level prescribed in the Plans more often than fathers did.

The Reunification Study findings on services will at a later time be analyzed and discussed in the context of an extensive literature emphasizing the importance of types and timing of serivces to foster care outcomes (see for example, Barth & Berry, 1987; Benedict & White, 1991; Fein, Maluccio, Hamilton & Ward, 1983; Fein, Maluccio & Kluger, 1990; Fein & Staff, 1993; Hess, Folaron & Jefferson, 1992; Rzepnicki, 1987; and, Walton, 1991.

Six or more court hearings were held in close to half of the San Diego and King County cases. Mothers appeared more frequently at the first Disposition Hearing than the fathers. Washington children did not appear at court hearings; 6 percent of San Diego children did. Attorneys for mothers and children appeared at the first Disposition Hearing in 9 out of 10 cases; fathers' attorneys in almost as many hearings. Only Child Protective Services were represented 100% of the time.

Discordance between Child Protective Service recommendations and Dependency Court reunification decisions was negligible (in 2.3% of the cases).

The Discriminant Function Analvsis.   Separate bivariate analyses were conducted in San Diego and Pierce County for the purpose of identifying predictor variables to be entered into a preliminary reunification decision model. Seventeen variables were found to predict re-referral (RRF) and 26 re-entry (RE).   Only "general neglect" predicted both

RRF and RE in both study sites. All other variables were scattered across the two outcome groups and sites.

Demographic and problem characteristics of the children and their families accounted for almost half of the predictor variables; types of maltreatment and services for almost one-fifth each, and placement type and experiences for the remaining tenth.

The complex pathways to the RRF and RE outcome groups were also captured by applying a predictive model developed from the San Diego data to the Pierce County data. While the model correctly classified 67% of San Diego cases, only 17.6% of the Pierce County cases could be so classified. These analyses indicate, that the three reunification outcome groups are unique and do not appear to fall on a continuum. They also suggest that characteristics that predict RRF and RE across the two sites are not the same.

Concluding Remarks

What do the many Reunification Study findings add up to? How representative are they of foster care populations in general?   Only partial and preliminary answers can be culled from the Reunification Study, which explored the process and outcome of reunification after up to 12 months in care and nine months after reunification. Thus the findings address only the question of how did the reunified children differ across sites and reunification outcomes, not on how did they as a whole compare to the children from the original lo-month cohort of foster children, who were not reunified.

That question awaits answers from the Permanency Planning Outcome Study scheduled for completion at the end of 1994.   The Permanency Planning Outcome Study follows not only the reunified children from the cohort for 12 months beyond the

Permanency Plan decision (occurring B-months after placement or sooner), but also the remaining. children of the cohort for whom the Permanency Plan decision is adoption, guardianship, or long-term foster care. Rates of re-referral, re-entry, or other disruptions of the Permanency Plan, and associations between study variables and outcomes in the four Permanency Planning Outcome study groups, will provide a sounder basis for drawing conclusions and implications for practice than the Reunification Study findings alone. Therefore, interpretations and implications made in this chapter should be considered tentative.

The Reunification Study findings cover many important issues and foster care concerns which cannot be sufficiently discussed in this overall report. A number of publications are planned for more in-depth treatment of such topics as, the impact of race/ethnic@ on foster care outcome, interaction between children's mental health and other problems and outcomes, neglect vs. physical, sexual and emotional abuse reasons for removal of children from their parents, kinship foster care, siblings in care, length of stay (LOS), parental involvement, service utilization, and Dependency Court hearings in reunification cases. Some of these future analyses will also draw on standardized and other measures from the San Diego Foster Care Mental Health Study which overlaps with samples of the Reunification and the Permanency Planning Outcome Studies.

In addition to the many findings bearing directly on the topic of reunification of foster care children, the study has pinpointed a number of research methodological issues. The limitations associated with use of archival data have, of course, impacted the results of the study. Although the caserecords, in general, have been of high quality, and reflect

the onerous tasks bestowed on Child Protective Service practitioners, information on employment status, income and other socio-economic factors, was not consistently included, and to the same degree in all cases. The desirability of data sources in addition to case records has been emphasized throughout this report.

Operationalization of study variables also turned out to be complex and cumbersome, requiring ongoing clarification and revisions of data collection manuals in the study sites. The seemingly simple tasks of defining a "sibling" or a "parental caretaker", for example, become complex in short-term blended or homeless families.

Another perplexing problem is the choice of unit of analysis for enumeration and data analysis: the child or the family. The great variety of family compositions encountered in the foster care population made the family unit unworkable for most purposes of analysis in the Reunification Study. These and other research methodological issues of child welfare and mental health research are discussed by Turner (1993) and by Landsverk in a forthcoming paper.

Finally, the conslusion arrived at by Fein, Maluccio & Kluger (1990) in their study of long-term foster family care applies equally to the Reunification Study. Foster care outcomes seem to depend on complex interactions among sets of child and family characteristics and service variables, rather than on a series of causal relationships. An attempt was made in the Reunification Study to identify such interaction by the use of Discriminant Function Analysis for development of a model predicting reunification outcomes. This was a beginning step in a process to be continued in the Permanency Planning Outcome Study.

In the meantime, it is hoped that the Reunification Study findings will be helpful to legislator& administrators, supervisors, and child welfare practitioners as they deal with reunification questions during the first twelve months in foster care.

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TABLES

FOR

CHAPTERS **5, 6,** AND 7

Table **5-1**

GENDER, AGE **AND RACE/ETHNICITY OF REUNIFIED FOSTER CHILDREN**
BY SITE

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY (N=445)	PIERCE COUNTY (N=130)	KING COUNTY (N=50)	TOTAL (N=625)
GENDER *				
MALE	47.0%	58.5%	42.0%	**49.0%**
FEMALE	53.0%	41.5%	58.0%	51.0%
AGE AT REMOVAL				
<1 YEAR	**20.7%**	20.0%	10.0%	19.7%
1-3 YEARS	28.8%	37.7%	32.0%	**30.9%**
4-6 YEARS	20.9%	16.2%	28.0%	20.5%
7-9 YEARS	17.8%	13.1%	18.0%	16.8%
10-12YEARS	11.9%	13.1%	12.0%	12.2%
MEAN (S.D.)	4.3 (3.7)	4.0 (3.7)	4.8 (3.5)	4.3 (3.7)
RACE/ETHNICITY *				
ANGLO	36.0%	58.1%	**92.0%**	45.0%
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	29.0%	25.6%	6.0%	26.4%
HISPANIC	26.5%	3.9%	0.0%	19.7%
ASIAN/PAC ISLANDER	7.6%	3.9%	2.0%	6.4%
NATIVE AM. /ALASKAN	0.9%	8.5%	0.0%	2.4%

* P ≤ .05
** P ≤ .01

Table 5-2

SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF REUNIFIED FOSTER CHILDREN
BY SITE

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY (N=445)	PIERCE COUNTY (N=130)	KING COUNTY (N=50)	TOTAL (N = 625)
TYPE OF PROBLEM				
MEDICAL PROBLEMS *	19.3%	30.0%	18.0%	21.4%
SEVERE BEHAVIORAL ** PROBLEMS	8.8%	27.7%	20.0%	13.6%
DEVELOPMENTALLY * DELAYED	11.5%	20.8%	14.0%	13.6%
DIAGNOSED MENTAL • ILLNESS	**11. 9%**	20.0%	6.0%	13.1%
SCHOOL PROBLEMS	13.3%	14.6%	8.0%	13.1%
SUBSTANCE ADDICTED AT BIRTH	13.0%	7.7%	8.0%	11.5%
EATING OR SLEEPING DISORDERS	8.1%	13.1%	4.0%	8.8%
LEARNING DISABLED	6.7%	7.7%	4.0%	6.7%
PHYSICAL DISABILITY	2.2%	1.5%	4.0%	2.2%
SUBSTANCE ABUSER/ ADDICTED (ALCOHOL)	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
SUBSTANCE ABUSER/ ADDICTED (DRUGS)	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%
**NUMBERS OF PROBLEMS **				
NONE	52.1%	35.4%	54.0%	48.8%
ONE	22.7%	22.3%	26.0%	22.9%
M O	13.5%	21.5%	10.0%	14.9%
THREE	5.2%	8.5%	2.0%	5.6%
FOUR	2.7%	6.2%	2.0%	3.4%
FIVE	1.6%	5.4%	4.0%	2.6%
SIX TO TEN	2.2%	0.8%	2.0%	1.9%
MEAN **	1.0	1.5	0.9	1.1
(S.D.)	(1.6)	(1.5)	(1.4)	(1.6)

* $P \leq .05$
** $P \leq .01$

Table 5-3

CHARACTERISTICS OF PRIMARY CARETAKING MOTHERS **AT REMOVAL**
BY SITE

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY	PIERCE COUNTY	KING COUNTY	TOTAL
AGE *	(N=245)	(N=68)	(N=26)	(N=339) (1),(2)
MEAN	29.4	27.1	27.6	**28.8**
(S.D.)	(6.4)	(6.4)	(6.2)	**(6.5)**
RACE/ETHNICITY **	(N=244)	(N=69)	(N=30)	(N=343)
ANGLO	47.1%	75.4%	96.7%	**57.1%**
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	21.7%	15.9%	0.0%	**18.7%**
HISPANIC	22.1%	1.4%	0.0%	**16.0%**
ASIAN/PAC ISLANDER	8.2%	1.4%	3.3%	**6.4%**
NATIVE AM./ALASKAN	0.8%	5.8%	0.0%	**1.7%**
	(N=247)	(N=71)	(N=31)	(N=349)
OTHER/UNKNOWN	1.2%	2.8%	3.2%	**1.7%**
SPECIAL PROBLEMS (Identified or Suspected)	(N=246)	(N=70)	(N=31)	(N=347)
DEVELOPMENTALLY DELAYED	6.1%	7.1%	0.0%	5.8%
MENTAL ILLNESS	36.8%	40.0%	29.0%	36.8%
PHYSICAL DISABILITY	7.0%	2.9%	0.0%	5.5%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE - DRUGS	51.4%	58.6%	48.4%	52.6%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE - ALCOHOL*	27.3%	58.6%	48.4%	35.5%
NUMBER OF SPECIAL PROBLEMS	(N=247)	(N=70)	(N=31)	(N=348)
MEAN	2.2	2.6	2.4	2.3
(S.D.)	(1.7)	(1.7)	(1.7)	(1.7)
CRIMINAL HISTORY	(N=246)	(N=70)	(N=31)	(N=347)
AGAINST PERSON	15.9%	18.6%	32.3%	17.9%
AGAINST PROPERTY	18.7%	25.7%	29.0%	21.0%
ABUSE HISTORY AS CHILD *	(N=246)	(N=70)	(N=31)	(N=347)
	30.1%	41.4%	51.6%	34.3%

Non-biological mothers are excluded. N's reflect the number of primary caretakers in each site who were biological mothers. This constitutes 92.2% in San Diego County, 84.5% in Pierce County and 96.9% in King County.

(1) N's differ from Tables 1 and 2 due to some mothers having multiple children.
(2) N's differ from characteristic to characteristic due to lack of information in some case charts.

* P ≤ .05

Table **5-4**

CHARACTERISTICS OF BIOLOGICAL FATHERS AND MALE CARETAKERS
AT REMOVAL -BY SITE

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY	PIERCE COUNTY	KING COUNTY	TOTAL
AGE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
RACE/ETHNICITY (FATHERS ONLY)**	(N=256)	(N=72)	(N=31)	(N=359) (1)
ANGLO	42.6%	69.4%	93.5%	52.4%
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	25.4%	23.6%	6.5%	23.4%
HISPANIC	24.6%	1.4%	0.0%	17.8%
ASIAN/PAC ISLANDER	6.6%	2.8%	0.0%	5.3%
NATIVE AM/ALASKAN	0.8%	2.8%	0.0%	1.1%
	(N = 268)	(N=84)	(N=32)	(N=384)
OTHER/UNKNOWN	4.5%	14.3%	3.1%	6.5%
SPECIAL PROBLEMS (Identified or Suspected)	(N=170)	(N=53)	(N=27)	(N=250) (2)
DEVELOPMENTALLY DELAYED	1.2%	3.8%	0.0%	1.6%
MENTAL ILLNESS	28.4%	18.9%	18.5%	25.3%
PHYSICAL DISABILITY	5.3%	7.5%	0.0%	5.2%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE • DRUGS	36.7%	43.4%	48.1%	39.4%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE • ALCOHOL *	36.1%	47.2%	63.0%	41.4%
NUMBER OF SPECIAL PROBLEMS	(N=247)	(N=70)	(N=31)	(N=348)
MEAN	1.8	2.1	2.3	1.9
(SD.)	(1.5)	(1.9)	(1.9)	(1.7)
CRIMINAL HISTORY	(N=169)	(N=53)	(N=27)	(N=249)
AGAINST PERSON**	23.1%	37.7%	55.6%	29.7%
AGAINST PROPERTY	31.4%	35.8%	37.0%	32.9%
ABUSE HISTORY AS CHILD	(N=169)	(N=53)	(N=27)	(N=249)
	13.6%	13.2%	7.4%	12.9%

(1) Unknown, Mixed and Other are excluded from these figures.

(2) N's differ from characteristic to characteristic due to lack of information in some case charts.

* P ≤.05

** P ≤.01

Table 5-5

FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS OF FOSTER CHILDREN
AT TIME OF REMOVAL - BY SITE

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY (N=445)	PIERCE COUNTY (N=130)	KING COUNTY (N =50)	TOTAL (N=625)
MARITAL STATUS OF BIOLOGICAL PARENTS **	(N=431)	(N=III)	(N=48)	(N =590)
MARRIED	36.9%	21.6%	31.3%	33.6%
SEPARATED	8.6%	14.4%	8.3%	9.7%
DIVORCED	11.4%	32.4%	35.4%	17.3%
WIDOWED	2.3%	0.9%	0.0%	1.9%
NEVER MARRIED	40.8%	30.6%	25.0%	37.6%
UNKNOWN	3.1%	14.6%	4.0%	5.6%
FAMILY COMPOSITION *				
SINGLE PARENT	47.0%	61.5%	58.0%	50.9%
TWO BIOLOGICAL PARENTS	40.9%	23.8%	32.0%	36.6%
BIOLOGICAL & STEP PARENT	10.1%	13.1%	10.0%	10.7%
RELATIVE NON-PARENT	1.6%	1.5%	0.0%	1.4%
OTHER NON-PARENT	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION				
PARENTS ONLY	70.8%	71.5%	64.0%	70.4%
PARENTS AND/OR OTHERS	29.2%	28.5%	36.0%	29.6%

* P ≤ .05
** P ≤ .01

Table 5-6
CHILDREN IN FAMILY AND SITUATIONAL PROBLEMS
AT TIME OF REMOVAL ▪ BY SITE

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY	PIERCE COUNTY	KING COUNTY	TOTAL
NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FAMILY	(N=268)	(N=84)	(N=32)	(N=384)
ONE	22.0%	34.5%	25.0%	25.0%
TWO	34.0%	39.3%	46.9%	36.2%
THREE	23.5%	16.7%	15.6%	21.4%
FOUR	10.8%	7.1%	9.4%	9.9%
FIVE	6.3%	2.4%	3.1%	5.2%
six	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
SEVEN	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%
EIGHT	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
MEAN	2.6	2.0	2.2	2.4
(S.D.)	(1.4)	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.3)
NUMBER OF STUDY CHILDREN IN FAMILY	(N=268)	(N=84)	(N=32)	(N=384)
ONE	56.0%	59.5%	56.3%	56.8%
TWO	29.5%	29.8%	34.4%	29.9%
THREE	9.0%	7.1%	6.3%	8.3%
FOUR	4.1%	3.6%	3.1%	3.9%
FIVE	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
SIX	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
MEAN	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.6
(S.D.)	(0.9)	(0.8)	(0.8)	(0.9)
TYPE OF SITUATIONAL PROBLEMS	(N=268)	(N=84)	(N=32)	(N=384)
INADEQUATE HOUSING**	14.9%	46.4%	21.9%	22.4%
UNSAFE ENVIRONMENT* (WEAPONS, DRUGS)	42.2%	58.3%	40.6%	45.6%
MEDICAL**	24.6%	54.8%	25.0%	31.3%
SCHOOL**	12.7%	25.0%	9.4%	15.1%
FOOD**	14.6%	35.7%	15.6%	19.3%
CLOTHING**	10.8%	42.9%	9.4%	17.7%
CARETAKER ABSENCE **	31.0%	53.6%	31.3%	35.9%
SPECIAL NEEDS	8.6%	9.5%	3.1%	8.3%
NUMBER OF SITUATIONAL PROBLEMS **				
MEAN	1.6	3.3 _	1.6	2.0
(SD.)	(1.5)	(2.4)	(2.0)	(1.9)

* P ≤ .05
** P ≤ .01

Table 5-7

REFERRAL **AND PLACEMENT HISTORY - BY SITE**

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY	PIERCE COUNTY	KING COUNTY	TOTAL
NUMBER OF PREVIOUS REFERRALS/ CONTACTS RELATED TO FAMILY	(N=443)	(N=128)	(N=50)	(N=621)
ONE OR MORE	70.4%	77.3%	**72.0%**	72.0%
MEAN (S.D.)	2.6 (3.0)	2.7 (2.8)	**2.4** **(2.3)**	2.6 (2.9)
NUMBER OF PREVIOUS REFERRALS/ CONTACTS RELATED TO STUDY CHILD *	(N=442)	(N=130)	(N=50)	(N=622)
ONE OR MORE	52.9%	58.5%	**70.0%**	55.5%
MEAN (SD.)	1.5 (2.2)	1.8 (2.4)	**2.0** **(2.1)**	1.6 (2.3)
NUMBER OF PREVIOUS EPISODES OF **OUT OF HOME CARE (STUDY CHILD)**	(N=437)	(N=130)	(N=50)	(N=617)
NONE	86.5%	80.0%	**64.0%**	84.9%
ONE	9.8%	16.9%	**16.0%**	11.8%
TWO	2.5%	2.3%	**0.0%**	2.3%
THREE OR MORE	1.1%	0.8%	**0.0%**	1.0%

* P ≤.05
** P ≤.01

Table 5-8
SELECTED CASE CHARACTERISTICS OF REUNIFIED FOSTER CHILDREN
BY SITE

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY (N=445)	PIERCE COUNTY (N=130)	KING COUNTY (N=50)	TOTAL (N=625)
REFERRAL SOURCE **				
LAW ENFORCEMENT	16.6%	35.4%	50.0%	23.2%
RELATIVE/NEIGHBOR	20.7%	20.0%	14.0%	20.0%
MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL	21.6%	16.9%	6.0%	19.4%
SCHOOL	14.4%	4.6%	16.0%	12.5%
SELF/PARENT	11.5%	11.5%	10.0%	11.4%
OTHER COMMUN. PROFESSIONALS	4.9%	9.2%	4.0%	5.8%
OTHER	5.8%	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%
ANONYMOUS	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%
DAYCARE	1.3%	2.3%	0.0%	1.4%
TYPE OF PLACEMENT **				
COURT ORDERED	89.7%	22.0%	79.6%	75.4%
VOLUNTARY	10.3%	78.0%	20.4%	24.6%
CRIMINAL CHARGES **				
YES	29.0%	13.4%	22.4%	25.2%
PENDING	1.2%	0.8%	10.2%	1 .a%

* P ≤ .05
** P ≤.01

Table 5-9

TYPE OF ALLEGED MALTREATMENT AT REMOVAL FOR REUNIFIED FOSTER CHILDREN
BY SITE

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY (N =445)	PIERCE COUNTY (N=130)	KING COUNTY (N=50)	TOTAL (N=625)
REASON FOR REMOVAL				
SEXUAL ABUSE **				
DIRECT ALLEGATION	18.2%	4.6%	34.0%	16. 6%
PROTECTIVE ISSUE	11.0%	0.0%	8.0%	8. 5%
BOTH	29.2%	4.6%	42.0%	25. 1%
PHYSICAL ABUSE **				
DIRECT ALLEGATION	32.1%	29.2%	36.0%	31. 8%
PROTECTIVE ISSUE	16.2%	2.3%	2.0%	12. 2%
BOTH	48.3%	31.5%	38.0%	44. 0%
SEVERE NEGLECT **				
DIRECT ALLEGATION	11.2%	45.4%	34.0%	20. 2%
PROTECTIVE ISSUE	0.4%	2.3%	0.0%	0. 8%
BOTH	11.6%	47.7%	34.0%	21. 0%
GENERAL NEGLECT **				
DIRECT ALLEGATION	27.4%	60.0%	42.0%	35. 4%
PROTECTIVE ISSUE	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0. 2%
BOTH	27.4%	60.8%	42.0%	35. 6%
CARETAKER ABSENCE **				
DIRECT ALLEGATION	**29.4%**	47.7%	30.0%	33. 3%
PROTECTIVE ISSUE	**0.0%**	0.8%	0.0%	0. 2%
BOTH	**29.4%**	48.5%	30.0%	33. 5%
EMOTIONAL ABUSE **				
DIRECT ALLEGATION	11. 5%	23.1%	32.0%	15. 5%
PROTECTIVE ISSUE	1. 8%	0.8%	0.0%	1. 4%
BOTH	13. 3%	23.9%	32.0%	16. 9%
EXPLOITATION				
DIRECT ALLEGATION	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0. 2%
PROTECTIVE ISSUE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
M ULTIPLE TYPES **	34.6%	69.2%	70.0%	44. 6%

Figures include children removed for "Direct Allegations" as well as children
removed when a "Protective Issue" was considered present.

Many cases have multiple alleged types of maltreatment listed; thus percentages do not add up to 100%.

* P ≤.05

** P ≤.01

Table 5-10

PERPETRATORS BY TYPE OF MALTREATMENT AND SITE

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY	PIERCE COUNTY	KING COUNTY	TOTAL
SEXUAL ABUSE **	**(N=76)**	**(N=6)**	**(N=17)**	**(N=99)**
MOTHER	2.6%	50.0%	0.0%	5.1%
FATHER	35.5%	0.0%	23.5%	31.3%
STEPFATHER	15.8%	16.7%	11.8%	15.2%
BOYFRIEND	14.5%	0.0%	17.6%	14.1%
OTHER RELATIVE	14.5%	16.7%	23.5%	16.2%
OTHER	7.9%	0.0%	0.0%	6.1%
MULTIPLE PERPS	9.2%	16.7%	23.5%	12.1%
PHYSICAL ABUSE *	**(N=140)**	**(N=37)**	**(N=16)**	**(N=193)**
MOTHER	31.4%	45.9%	37.5%	34.7%
FATHER	35.7%	16.2%	18.8%	30.6%
STEPMOTHER	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
STEPFATHER	7.1%	10.8%	0.0%	7.3%
GIRLFRIEND	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
BOYFRIEND	10.0%	16.2%	0.0%	10.4%
OTHER RELATIVE	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%
OTHER	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
MULTIPLE PERPS	10.0%	10.8%	43.0%	13.0%
SEVERE NEGLECT	**(N=50)**	**(N=59)**	**(N=17)**	**(N=126)**
MOTHER	86.0%	76.3%	50.0%	77.8%
MULTIPLE PERPS	14.0%	23.7%	41.2%	22.2%
GENERAL NEGLECT	**(N=121)**	**(N=77)**	**(N=21)**	**(N=219)**
MOTHER	52.1%	59.7%	47.6%	54.3%
FATHER	1.7%	3.9%	0.0%	2.3%
STEPMOTHER	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	0.5%
MULTIPLE PERPS	46.3%	35.1%	52.4%	42.9%

(1) Percentages are based on number of cases with direct allegations of maltreatment. These figures do not include Protective Issue cases.

Table 5-10 (Cont'd)

PERPETRATORS **BY TYPE OF MALTREATMENT AND SITE**

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY	PIERCE COUNTY	KING COUNTY	TOTAL
EMOTIONAL ABUSE	(N=50)	(N=28)	(N=14)	(N =92)
MOTHER	18.0%	53.6%	28.6%	30.4%
FATHER	10.0%	10.7%	0.0%	8.7%
STEPFATHER	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%
BOYFRIEND	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%
OTHER	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
MULTIPLE PERPS	62.0%	35.7%	71.4%	55.4%
CARETAKER ABSENCE **	(N=131)	(N=60)	(N=15)	(N=206)
MOTHER	57.3%	73.3%	100.0%	65.0%
FATHER	3.8%	13.3%	0.0%	6.3%
STEPMOTHER	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%	0.5%
OTHER RELATIVE	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
MULTIPLE PERPS	38.2%	11.7%	0.0%	27.7%

* P ≤ .05
** P ≤ .01

Table 6-1

PLACEMENT EXPERIENCES **FOR REUNIFIED FOSTER CHILDREN
BY SITE**

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY (N=445)	**PIERCE COUNTY** (N=130)	KING COUNTY (N=50)	TOTAL (N=625)
ONE **OR MORE PLACEMENTS IN KINSHIP FOSTER HOME** *	25.2%	17.7%	38.0%	246%
ONE **OR MORE PLACEMENTS WITH SIBLING (1), (2)**	(N=167)	(N=63)	(N=28)	(N=258)
	82.6%	73.0%	71.4%	79.1%
NUMBER OF MOVE ** DURING OUT OF HOME EPISODE				
ONE (3)	57.7%	63.8%	46.0%	58.1%
TWO	29.7%	30.8%	34.0%	30.2%
THREE	6.7%	5.4%	14.0%	7.0%
FOUR	3.4%	0.0%	4.0%	2.7%
FIVE TO NINE	2.5%	0.0%	2.0%	2.0%
LENGTH OF STAY •				
ONE MONTH OR LESS	**59.1%**	61.2%	48.0%	58.7%
TWO TO THREE MONTHS	**11.7%**	14.0%	6.0%	11.7%
FOUR TO SIX MONTHS	11.9%	14.7%	12.0%	12.5%
SEVEN TO NINE MONTHS	13.5%	7.0%	22.0%	12.8%
TEN TO TWELVE MONTHS	3.8%	3.1%	12.0%	4.3%
MONTHS • MEAN **	2.5	2.2	3.9	2.5
(SD.)	(3.2)	(2.9)	**(4.0)**	(3.3)
WEEKS • MEAN • *	12.0	11.0	18.3	12.3
(S.D.)	**(14.0)**	(12.8)	(17.8)	(14.2)
DAYS • MEAN **	**87.4**	80	130.2	8 9 . 3
(S.D.)	**(97.8)**	(89.8)	(124.6)	(99.2)

(1) Based on children with a sibling in the foster care system.

(2) Emergency Shelter Care, Hospital and Receiving Home Placements excluded.

(3) Includes children in Receiving Center and in Emergency Foster Homes.

* P ≤ .05

** P ≤ .01

Table 6-2

SERVICES INCLUDED IN REUNIFICATION PLANS
BY SITE

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY (N=391)	PIERCE COUNTY (N= 130)	KING COUNTY (N=50)	TOTAL (N=571) (1)
NUMBER OF SERVICES • *				
0 TO 3 SERVICES	53.2%	56.2%	68.0%	55.2%
4 TO 5 SERVICES	39.6%	33.1%	12.0%	35.7%
6 TO 10 SERVICES	7.2%	10.0%	20.0%	8.9%
11 OR MORE SERVICES	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.2%
TYPES OF SERVICES (GROUPED)				
PARENTING EDUCATION**	85.4%	33.1%	24.0%	68.1%
COUNSELING/PSYCH. EVALS.**	83.6%	55.4%	80.0%	75.1%
CASEWORK ASSISTANCE**	10.7%	72.3%	86.0%	31.3%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNS./TEST.**	52.4%	55.4%	40.0%	52.0%
MEDICAL/DENTAL SERVICES**	8.2%	27.7%	16.0%	13.3%
EMPLOYMENT COUNSELING/TRAINING**	0.5%	9.2%	0.0%	2.5%
LEGAL SERVICES**	0.0%	4.6%	18.0%	2.6%
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE/PLANNING**	5.6%	14.6%	10.0%	8.1%
DAYCARE**	0.5%	26.2%	28.0%	8.8%
HOUSING**	0.3%	9.2%	4.0%	2.6%
HOMEMAKER SERVICES	18.4%	13.1%	14.0%	15.4%
SERVICES TO CHILDREN	(N=388)	(N=130)	(N=50)	(N=568)
THERAPY/COUNSELING**	39.7%	38.5%	64.0%	41.5%
MEDICAL TREATMENT**	24.8%	82.3%	100.0%	44.6%
PSYCHOLOGICAL/PSYCHIATRIC EVAL.**	1.3%	4.6%	28.0%	4.2%
PRESCHOOL/SCHOOL**	12.1%	32.3%	52.0%	20.2%
DAYCARE**	0.8%	49.2%	58.0%	18.9%

(1) Includes only those cases with a reunification plan.

** $P \leq .01$

Table 6-3

SERVICES IN ADDITION TO REUNIFICATION PLAN SERVICES
OFFERED PRIOR TO REUNIFICATION
(SAN DIEGO ONLY)
(N =445)

TYPE OF SERVICES

PARENT EDUCATION	34.4%
COUNSELING	59.6%
CASEWORK ASSISTANCE	25.2%
SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING/TESTING	47.9%
MEDICAL-DENTAL SERVICES	3.1%
EMPLOYMENT COUNSELING/TRAINING	0.0%
LEGAL SERVICES	1.3%
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE/PLANNING	29.4%
DAYCARE	0.9%
HOUSING	4.5%
HOMEMAKER SERVICES	13.3%

SERVICES TO CHILDREN

THERAPY/COUNSELING	20.2%
MEDICAL TREATMENT	4.9%
PSYCHOLOGICAL/PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION	5.8%
PRESCHOOL/SCHOOL	1.3%
DAYCARE	0.2%

Table 6-4

CARETAKER **UTILIZATION** OF REUNIFICATION PLAN SERVICES
(SAN DIEGO ONLY)

	MOTHER	FATHER
PARENTING CLASS	(N=317)	(N=204)
AT LEVEL	74.4%	61.3%
BELOW LEVEL	17.4%	20.1%
NON-COMPLIANCE	8.2%	18.6%
COUNSELING	(N=306)	(N=177)
AT LEVEL	69.3%	59.9%
BELOW LEVEL	23.2%	24.9%
NON-COMPLIANCE	7.5%	15.3%
DRUG TESTING	(N=134)	(N=74)
AT LEVEL	67.9%	44.6%
BELOW LEVEL	25.4%	33.8%
NON-COMPLIANCE	6.7%	21.6%
DRUG TREATMENT	(N=64)	(N=27)
AT LEVEL	78.1%	51.9%
BELOW LEVEL	17.2%	22.2%
NON-COMPLIANCE	4.7%	25.9%

Table 6-5

VISITATION PATTERNS OF FEMALE AND MALE CARETAKERS BY SITE

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY		PIERCE COUNTY		KING COUNN		TOTAL	
	MOTHER	FATHER	MOTHER	FATHER .	MOTHER	FATHER	MOTHER	FATHER
	(N=88)	(N=56)	(N=104)	(N=50)	(N=46)	(N=26)	(N=238)	(N- 132)
PRESCRIBED FREQUENCY OF VISITS IN REUNIFICATION PLAN ** (M & F)								
ONCE A MONTH	6.8%	7.1%	32.7%	14.0%	80.4%	73.1%	32.4%	22.7%
EVERY OTHER WEEK	2.3%	0.0%	12.5%	16.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.3%	6.1%
MIN. 1X PER WEEK	65.9%	66.1%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	24.8%	29.5%
MORE THAN 1 X PER WEEK	20.5%	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.6%	6.1%
OTHER	4.5%	12.5%	53.8%	70.0%	19.6%	19.2%	29.0%	35.6%
ACTUAL VISITATION PATTERNS	(N=151)	(N=109)	(N=74)	(N=37)	(N=44)	(N=26)	(N=269)	(N=172)
REGULAR	77.5%	55.0%	82.4%	73.0%	86.4%	61.5%	80.3%	59.9%
IRREGULAR	22.5%	45.0%	17.6%	27.0%	13.6%	38.5%	19.7%	40.1%
CHANGE IN PATTERN DURING EPISODE ** (M & F)	(N=102)	(N=77)	(N-SO)	(N=37)	(N=44)	(N=26)	(N-236)	(N=140)
INCREASING	50.0%	26.0%	78.9%	70.3%	81.8%	53.8%	66.9%	42.9%
MAINTAINING	47.1%	61 .0%	11.1%	8.1%	4.5%	11.5%	25.4%	37.9%
DECREASING	2.9%	13.0%	10.0%	21.6%	13.6%	34.6%	7.6%	19.3%

** P ≤.01

Table 6-6

NUMBER AND TYPE OF COURT HEARINGS BY SITE

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY (N =398)	PIERCE COUNTY (N=123)	KING COUNTY (N=49)	TOTAL (N=570)
NUMBER OF COURT HEARINGS **				
ONE HEARING	2.8%	57.7%	18.4%	16.0%
TWO HEARINGS	6.8%	18.7%	8.2%	9.5%
THREE HEARINGS	5.5%	8.1%	0.0%	5.6%
FOUR HEARINGS	17.8%	9.8%	12.2%	15.6%
FIVE HEARINGS	17.6%	3.3%	16.3%	14.4%
SIX OR MORE HEARINGS	49.5%	2.4%	44.9%	38.9%
TYPE OF COURT HEARINGS				
DETENTION **				
NONE	2.3%	75.6%	16.3%	19.3%
ONE	86.2%	12.2%	4.1%	63.2%
TWO OR MORE	11.6%	12.2%	79.6%	17.5%
READINESS **				
NONE	14.8%	97.6%	100.0%	40.0%
ONE	62.8%	2.4%	0.0%	44.4%
TWO OR MORE	22.4%	0.0%	0.0%	15.6%
TRIAL **				
NONE	74.6%	100.0%	100.0%	82.3%
ONE	14.8%	0.0%	0.0%	10.4%
TWO OR MORE	10.6%	0.0%	0.0%	7.4%
DISPOSITION **				
NONE	20.6%	84.6%	46.9%	36.7%
ONE	55.0%	14.6%	49.0%	45.8%
MORE THAN TWO	24.4%	0.8%	4.1%	17.5%
PERIODIC COURT REVIEW - 6 MO **				
NONE	33.2%	90.2%	55.1%	47.4%
ONE	59.8%	9.8%	44.9%	47.7%
MORE THAN TWO	7.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.9%
PERIODIC COURT REVIEW - 12 MO **				
NONE	77.4%	95.9%	67.3%	80.5%
ONE	16.6%	4.1%	32.7%	15.3%
MORE THAN TWO	6.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%

** P ≤ .01

Table 6-7

PARTIES PRESENT AT FIRST DISPOSTION HEARING - BY SITE

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY	PIERCE COUNTY	KING COUNTY	TOTAL
MOTHER **	(N=316) 87.3%	(N=18) 50.0%	(N=26) 96.2%	(N=360) 86.1%
FATHER **	(N=309) 59.9%	(N=16) 50.0%	(N=25) 88.0%	(N=350) 61.4%
CHILD	(N=316) 6.0%	(N=19) 0.0%	(N=26) 0.0%	(N=361) 5.3%
GUARDIAN	(N=34) 2.9%	(N=2) 0.0%	(N=O) 0.0%	(N=36) 2.8%
MOTHER'S ATTORNEY **	(N=315) 98.4%	(N=17) 58.8%	(N=26) 96.2%	(N=358) 96.4%
FATHER'S ATTORNEY	(N=268) 87.3%	(N=14) 71.4%	(N=23) 91.3%	(N=305) 86.9%
CHILD'S ATTORNEY **	(N=316) 100.0%	(N=2) 0.0%	(N=7) 57.1%	(N=325) 98.5%
AGENCY ATTORNEY	(N=316) 100.0%	(N=19) 100.0%	(N=26) 100.0%	(N=361) 100.0%
SOCIAL WORKER **	(N=314) 17.2%	(N=18) 77.8%	(N=26) 100.0%	(N=358) 26.3%

** P ≤ .01

Table 6-8

CHARACTERISTICS OF **SOCIAL WORKER CONTACTS**
(SAN DIEGO ONLY)

	PRE • REUNIFICATION (N=19,113)	POST • REUNIFICATION (N=13,034)
TYPE OF CONTACT		
PHONE CALL	78.4%	74.3%
OFFICE VISIT	1.8%	1.2%
HOME VISIT	4.7%	16.3%
FIELD VISIT	12.4%	6.8%
UNKNOWN	2.7%	1.5%
PERSONS INVOLVED (1)		
MOTHER	23.0%	35.0%
FATHER	7.1%	10.4%
STEP-PARENT	1.3%	1.6%
CHILD	6.5%	11.8%
SIBLING	10.2%	17.6%
RELATIVE	5.4%	2.9%
FOSTER PARENT	13.0%	4.4%
RELATIVE FOSTER CARE PROVIDER	3.9%	0.7%
SERVICE PROVIDER	40.3%	42.7%
OTHER	6.4%	5.9%

(1) Percentages do not add to 100% because multiple persons could be involved in each contact.

Table 6-9

REUNIFICATION DECISION - BY SITE

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY (N=445)	PIERCE COUNTY (N=130)	KING COUNTY (N-50)	TOTAL (N=625)
CHILD RETURNED TO *				
ORIGINAL CARETAKER	90.8%	90.0%	78.0%	89.6%
OTHER MEMBER OF BIO-FAMILY	9.2%	10.0%	22.0%	10.4%
PLACED SIBLING RETURNED	(N=330)	(N=78)	(N=35)	(N=443)
YES	90.3%	92.3%	80.0%	89.8%
NO	9.7%	7.7%	20.0%	10.2%
CHILD REUNIFIED EARLIER THAN PLANNED **				
YES	78.0%	37.7%	8.0%	64.0%
NO	22.0%	62.3%	92.0%	36.0%

* P ≤.05
** P ≤.01

Table 7-I

RE-REFERRAL AND RE-ENTRY OF REUNIFIED FOSTER CHILDREN
BY SITE

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY (N=445)	PIERCE COUNTY (N=130)	KING COUNTY (N=50)	TOTAL (N=625)
**OVERALL OUTCOME ** **				
NO RE-REFERRAL	**64.9%**	71.5%	**90.0%**	68.3%
RE-REFERRAL ONLY	21 .a%	13.8%	2.0%	18.6%
RE-REFERRAL AND RE-ENTRY	13.3%	14.6%	8.0%	13.1%
**NUMBER OF RE-REFERRALS ** **	(N=445)	(N=130)	(N=50)	(N=625)
NONE	64.9%	71.5%	90.0%	68.3%
ONE	25.2%	14.6%	4.0%	21.3%
TWO	**8.1%**	10.8%	2.0%	8.2%
THREE	**0.9%**	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%
FOUR	0.7%	2.3%	0.0%	1 **.0%**
FIVE OR MORE	0.2%	0.8%	4.0%	0.6%
MONTHS TO RE-REFERRAL	(N=156)	(N=37)	(N=5)	(N=198)
< ONE	19.2%	18.9%	0.0%	18.7%
ONE	12.2%	13.5%	20.0%	12.6%
TWO	10.9%	13.5%	0.0%	11.1%
THREE	9.0%	16.2%	40.0%	11.1%
FOUR	8.3%	2.7%	20.0%	7.6%
FIVE	13.5%	5.4%	0.0%	11.6%
SIX	1 2.8%	10.8%	20.0%	12.6%
SEVEN OR MORE	14.1%	18.9%	0.0%	14.6%
MONTHS - MEAN	3.5	3.5	3.4	3 . 5
- (S.D)	(2.8)	(3.1)	(I-8)	(2.9)

** $P \leq .01$

Table 7-1

RE-REFERRAL AND RE-ENTRY OF REUNIFIED FOSTER CHILDREN
BY SITE

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY (N=445)	PIERCE COUNTY (N=130)	KING COUNTY (N=50)	TOTAL (N=625)
OVERALL OUTCOME **				
NO RE-REFERRAL	64.9%	71.5%	90.0%	68.3%
RE-REFERRAL ONLY	21.8%	13.8%	2.0%	18.6%
RE-REFERRAL AND RE-ENTRY	13.3%	14.6%	8.0%	13.1%
NUMBER OF RE-REFERRALS **	(N =445)	(N=130)	(N =50)	(N=625)
NONE	64.9%	71.5%	90.0%	68.3%
ONE	25.2%	14.6%	4.0%	21.3%
TWO	8.1%	10.8%	2.0%	8.2%
THREE	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%
FOUR	0.7%	2.3%	0.0%	1.0%
FIVE OR MORE	0.2%	0.8%	4.0%	0.6%
MONTHS TO RE-REFERRAL	(N=156)	(N =37)	(N=5)	(N=198)
< ONE	19.2%	18.9%	0.0%	18.7%
ONE	12.2%	13.5%	20.0%	12.6%
TWO	10.9%	13.5%	0.0%	11.1%
THREE	9.0%	16.2%	40.0%	11.1%
FOUR	8.3%	2.7%	20.0%	7.6%
FIVE	13.5%	5.4%	0.0%	11.6%
SIX	12.8%	10.8%	20.0%	12.6%
SEVEN OR MORE	14.1%	18.9%	0.0%	14.6%
MONTHS - MEAN	3.5	3.5	3.4	3 . 5
- (S.D)	(2.8)	(3.1)	(1.8)	(2.9)

** P ≤ .01

Table 7-2

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF RE-REFERRAL AND RE-ENTRY
BY SITE

	SAN DIEGO COUNTY (N=445)	PIERCE COUNTY (N=130)	KING COUNTY (N=50)	TOTAL (N=625)
PRIMARY REASON FOR RE-REFERRAL**	(N=156)	(N=37)	(N=5)	(N=198)
SEXUAL ABUSE	21.a%	21.6%	20.0%	21.7%
PHYSICAL ABUSE	24.4%	27.0%	60.0%	25.8%
SEVERE NEGLECT	3.8%	21.6%	0.0%	7.1%
GENERAL NEGLECT	21.a%	10.8%	0.0%	19.2%
EMOTIONAL ABUSE	8.3%	2.7%	20.0%	7.6%
CARETAKER ABSENCE	19.9%	16.2%	0.0%	18.7%
PRIMARY REASON CONFIRMED **	(N=156)	(N=37)	(N=5)	(N=198)
YES	31.4%	51.4%	100.0%	36.9%
NO	36.5%	45.9%	0.0%	37.4%
SUSPECTED	14.7%	2.7%	0.0%	12.1%
UNKNOWN	17.3%	0.0%	0.0%	13.6%
TYPE OF PLACEMENT FOR RE-ENTRY**	(N=61)	(N=20)	(N=4)	(N=85)
HOSPITAL	6.6%	10.0%	0.0%	7.1%
RECEIVING HOME/ESC	63.9%	20.0%	25.0%	51.a%
FOSTER FAMILY HOME (1)	8.2%	55.0%	75.0%	22.4%
RELATIVE	13.1%	15.0%	0.0%	12.9%
GROUP	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%
RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT (2)	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%
OTHER	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%

* P ≤.05
** P ≤.01

Table 7-3

CHILD AND FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS BY REUNIFICATION OUTCOME
FOR SAN DIEGO AND PIERCE COUNTIES COMBINED

	SUCCESS. REUNIFICAT.	RE-REFERRAL	RE-ENTRY	TOTAL N
GENDER				
MALE	67.7%	18.9%	13.3%	(N=285)
FEMALE	65.2%	21.0%	13.8%	(N=290)
RACE/ETHNICITY OF CHILD (GROUPED)**				
ANGLO	63.0%	25.1%	11.9%	(N=235)
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	71.0%	11.7%	17.3%	(N=162)
HISPANIC	64.2%	25.2%	10.6%	(N=123)
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER	76.9%	10.3%	12.8%	(N=39)
NATIVE AMERICAN/ALASKAN	60.0%	13.3%	26.7%	(N=15)
SPECIAL PROBLEMS (CHILD)				
MH/BEHAV. PROBLEMS **				
NO	70.0%	20.6%	9.5%	(N=433)
YES	55.6%	18.3%	26.1%	(N=142)
DEVELOP. DISABLED **				
NO	69.4%	19.0%	11.6%	(N=474)
YES	52.5%	24.8%	22.8%	(N=101)
MEDICAL/PHYSICAL PROBS.				
NO	68.4%	19.3%	12.2%	(N=450)
YES	59.2%	22.4%	18.4%	(N=125)
DRUG EFFECTED				
NO	66.9%	20.0%	13.1%	(N=504)
YES	63.4%	19.7%	16.9%	(N=71)
AGE-OF STUDY CHILD AT REMOVAL	(N=382)	(N=115)	(N=78)	(N=575)
MEAN	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.3
(S.D.)	(3.7)	(3.6)	(3.7)	(3.7)
AGE OF MOTHER AT REMOVAL	(N=370)	(N=1IO)	(N=78)	(N=558)
MEAN	29.0	28.5	29.6	29.0
(S.D.)	(6.2)	(5.7)	(6.0)	(6.1)

** P ≤ .01

Table 7-3 (Cont'd)

CHILD AND FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS BY REUNIFICATION OUTCOME
FOR SAN DIEGO AND PIERCE COUNTIES COMBINED

	SUCCESS. REUNIFICAT. (N=382)	RE-REFERRAL (N=115)	RE-ENTRY (N=78)	TOTAL N (N=575)
NO. OF SPEC. CHARACTERISTICS (CHILD) **				
MEAN	.9	1.3	1.9	1.1
(S.D.)	(1.2)	(1.8)	(2.2)	(1.6)
FAMILY COMPOSITION				
SINGLE PARENT	63.3%	18.7%	18.0%	(N=289)
BIO TWO PARENT	71.8%	19.2%	8.9%	(N=213)
BLEND TWO PARENT	61.3%	29.0%	9.7%	(N=62)
RELATIVE NON-PARENT	66.7%	22.2%	11.1%	(N=9)
OTHER NON-PARENT	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	(N=2)
MANDATED REPORTER				
NO	63.4%	22.8%	13.8%	(N=224)
YES	68.4%	18.2%	13.4%	(N=351)
SEXUAL ABUSE-REMOVAL				
NO	66.8%	20.3%	12.9%	(N=488)
YES	64.4%	18.4%	17.2%	(N=87)
PHYSICAL ABUSE-REMOVAL				
NO	64.7%	20.8%	14.5%	(N=394)
YES	70.2%	18.2%	11.6%	(N=181)
SEVERE NEGLECT - REMOVAL *				
NO	66.3%	21.7%	12.0%	(N=466)
YES	67.0%	12.8%	20.2%	(N=109)
GENERAL NEGLECT - REMOVAL **				
NO	70.9%	20.0%	9.1%	(N=375)
Y E S	58.0%	20.0%	22.0%	(N=200)
EMOTIONAL ABUSE - REMOVAL *				
NO	67.8%	18.2%	14.0%	(N=494)
YES	58.0%	30.9%	11.1%	(N=81)

* P ≤ .05
** P ≤ .01

Table 7-3 (Cont'd)

CHILD AND FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS BY REUNIFICATION OUTCOME
FOR SAN DIEGO AND PIERCE COUNTIES COMBINED

	SUCCESS. REUNIFICAT	RE-REFERRAL	RE-ENTRY	TOTAL N
**CARETAKER ABSENCE • REMOVAL **				
NO	70.4%	20.2%	9.4%	(N=382)
YES	58.5%	19.7%	21.8%	(N=193)
PROTECTIVE ISSUE ONLY **				
NO	64.2%	20.2%	15.6%	(N=486)
YES	78.7%	19.1%	2.2%	(N=89)
MULTIPLE TYPE OF ABUSE AT REMOVAL **				
NO	70.7%	21.1%	8.2%	(N=331)
YES	60.7%	18.4%	20.9%	(N=244)
CRIMINAL CHARGES FILED				
NO	64.8%	20.6%	14.6%	(N=412)
YES	71.3%	19.6%	9.1%	(N=143)
ANY PLACEMENT W/ RELATIVE •				
NO	65.1%	19.1%	15.7%	(N=439)
YES	70.4%	23.0%	6.7%	(N=135)
TOTAL **PRE-REUN** PLACEMENTS •				
ONE PLACEMENT	60.7%	17.9%	21.4%	(N=112)
TWO PLACEMENTS	64.4%	22.1%	13.5%	(N=267)
THREE OR MORE PLACEMENTS	72.3%	18.5%	9.2%	(N=195)
LENGTH OF STAY (DAYS) **	(N=381)	(N=115)	(N=78)	(N=574)
MEAN	88.5	101.7	48.6	85.7
(S.D.)	(92.5)	(116.4)	(66.8)	(96.0)
LENGTH OF STAY (WEEKS) **	(N=380)	(N=115)	(N=78)	(N=573)
MEAN	12.2	14.1	6.5	11.8
(S.D.)	(13.2)	(16.7)	(9.5)	(13.7)

* $P \leq .05$

** $P \leq .01$

APPENDIX A-l

<u>ABSTRACTION FORM FOR THE STUDY OF</u>

<u>REUNIFICATION RISKS AND SUCCESSES</u>

San Diego, California Site

DATA COLLECTION CATEGORIES

San Diego State University

January 1993

REUNIFICATION RISKS AND SUCCESSES ABSTRACTION FORM

RID _____   TIME TO COMPLETE ABSTRACT _____
CASE NO _____   NINE MONTH END CHECK DATE _____
ABSTRACTOR _____   .
DATE _____

I. **CHARACTERISTICS** OF CHILD

   1. D a t e / o f   B i r t h
       Month Day Year

   2. _____ Gender
       1 = Male
       2 = Female

   3. _____ Race / Ethnicity
       1 = White   **10 =** Korean
       2 = Hispanic   **11 =** Laotian_
       3 = Black   12 = Vietnamese
       4 = Other Asian   13 = Chinese
       5 = Native **Am./Alaskan**   14 = Other Non-White
       6 = Filipino   15 = Mixed Race
       7 = Cambodian   **88 =** Other (Specify_____)
       a = Pacific Islander   99 = Unknown
       9 = Japanese

   4. Special Characteristics
       (1 **=** yes; 2 = no; 3 = suspected)

       a. _____ Developmentally Delayed
       b. _____ Diagnosed Mental Illness
                 (If **"1"** or **"3"**, give DSM III Code _____ . _____ ; _____ . _____)
       c. _____ Learning Disabled
       d. _____ Physical Disability
       e. _____ Substance Abuser/Addicted (drugs)
       f. _____ Substance Abuser/Addicted (alcohol)
       g. _____ Substance Addicted at Birth
       h. _____ Severe Behavioral Problems
       i. _____ Medical Problems
       j. _____ Eating or Sleeping Disorders
       k. _____ School Problems
       1. _____ Other (Specify_____)
       m. _____ Special Problems (SD only)

   5. Grade in School
           (O=Kindergarten; 1=1st.; 2=2nd to 8=8th; 10=**Early** Education
           Program/Daycare; **77=** Not in School; **99=** Unknown)

   6. _____ Social Worker Rating of Risk to Child,(SD only)
           (1 to 4 scale; **7=** Not applicable; cases after November 1990
           write-in: NA)

I. **FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS** (At Time of Removal)   RID_____

1. Adults in the Home (1 = Yes: 2 = No)

   a. _____ Mother   **g.** _____ Aunt
   b. _____ Father   **h.** _____ Uncle
   c. _____ Stepmother   i. _____ Girlfriend
   d. _____ Stepfather   **j.** _____ Boyfriend
   e. _____ Grandmother   **k.** _____ Roommate
   f. _____ Grandfather   l. _____ Other (Specify)
   _____

2. _____/_____/_____ Mother's Birthdate
   month day year

3. _____ Marital Status of Parent(s)
   1 = Married
   2 = Separated
   3 = Divorced
   4 = Widowed
   5 = Never Married
   9 = Unknown

4. _____ Number of Siblings (Actual number, including index child)

5. Sibling Characteristics

	Age (00=less than one year 77=not applicable)	**Sex** (1=M; 2=F 7=not applicable)	Grade (same as #5, under child; 10= early ed.; 77= not in school: 99=unknown)	In Pro Cust? (1=Yes; 2=No 7= not applicable 99=unknown)
a.				
b. Sib Sib 11	_____	_____	_____	_____
c.	_____	_____	_____	_____
d. Sib Sib 43	_____	_____	_____	_____
e. Sib 5	_____	_____	_____	_____
f. Sib 6	_____	_____	_____	_____
g.	_____	_____	_____	_____
h. Sib Sib 78	_____	_____	_____	_____

FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS (continued)   RID_____

6. Economic / Employment Status

	Male Caretaker	Female Caretaker

Income Source

1 = Employed **Fulltime**
2 = Employed Part-Time
3 = Public Assistance
4 = Employment and Public Assistance
5 = Unemployed
7 = Not Applicable
8 = Active Military
9 = Unknown

7. Gross Annual Income

	Male Caretaker	Female Caretaker

1 = under $10,000
2 = $10,000 - $20,000
3 = $20,000 - $30,000
4 = over $30,000
5 = No Visible Means of Support
7 = Not Applicable
9 = Unknown

8. Special Characteristics of Caretaker(s)
    (1= Yes; **2**= No; **3**= Suspected; **7=** Not Applicable; **9=** Unknown)

Characteristics	Male Caretaker	Female Caretaker
a. Developmentally Delayed	____	____
b. Diagnosed Mental Illness	____	____
(If **"1"** or **"3"**, give DSM III Code)	____.____	____.____
	____.____	____.____
c. Physical Disability	____	____
d. Substance Abuser/Addicted (drugs)	____	____
e. Substance Abuser/Addicted (alcohol)	____	____
f. Charged Criminal History, Person	____	____
g. Charged Criminal History, Pro<u>perty</u>	____	____
h. Abuse History as Child	____	____
i. Cult Activity/Religious Fanaticism	____	____
j. Other_____	____	____

9. Situational Problems (l=Yes; **2=No**)
    a. _____ Inadequate Housing
    b. _____ Unsafe environment (weapons, drugs)
    c. _____ M e d i c a l
    d. _____ School
    e. _____ Food
    f. _____ Clothing
    g. _____ Caretaker absence
    h. _____ Special needs (Specify_____)

10. _____ Social Worker Rating of Family Workability (SD only)
         (1 to 4 scale; **7=** Not Applicable; cases after **11/90:NA**)
11. _____ **Race/Ethnicity,** Mother (See Codes for Child **#3)**

12. _____ **Race/Ethnicity,** Father (See Codes for Child **#3)**

1. / Year Date of Removal
   Month Day

2. _____ Source of Current Referral
   1 = Law Enforcement
   2 = School
   3 = Relative/Neighbor
   4 = Medical Professional/Hospital, Clinic
   5 = Community Professional
   6 = Self/Parent
   7 = **Daycare**
   8 = Other_____
   9 = Anonymous

3. Type of CA/N Referral (**1**= Yes: **2**= No)

   a. _____ Sexual Abuse   e. _____ Emotional Abuse
   b. _____ Physical Abuse   f. _____ Exploitation
   c. _____ Severe Neglect   **g.** _____ Caretaker Absence
   d. _____ General Neglect

4. Type of CA/N at Removal/Alleged Perpetrator(s)
   If Abuse Type = yes, Indicate Alleged Perpetrator(s)

   Type of Abuse   Perpetrator Code:
   1 = Yes   0 = No CA/N; One Perpetrator
   2 = No   1 = Mother
   3 = Protective Issue   2 = Father
                                3 = Stepmother
                                4 = Stepfather
                                5 = Parent's Girlfriend
                                6 = Parent's Boyfriend
                                7 = Other Relative
                                8 = Other_____
                                9 = Unknown

   Type of Abuse   **If"1"** or **"3"** Perpetrator(s)
   a. _____ Sexual Abuse   _____;_____
   b. _____ Physical Abuse   _____;_____
   c. _____ Severe Neglect   _____;_____
   d. _____ General Neglect   _____;_____
   e. _____ Emotional Abuse   _____;_____
   f. _____ Exploitation   _____;_____
   g. _____ Caretaker Absence _____;_____

5. _____ Other Children in Family of Victim (**1**=Yes; **2**= No; **7**= NA;
   9= Unknown)

   Type of Abuse   If **"1"** or **"3"** Perpetrator(s)
   a. _____ Sexual Abuse   _____;_____
   b. _____ Physical Abuse   _____;_____
   c. _____ Severe Neglect   _____;_____
   d. _____ General Neglect   _____;_____
   e. _____ Emotional Abuse   _____;_____
   f. _____ Exploitation   _____;_____
   g. _____ Caretaker Absence _____;_____

CASE CHARACTERISTICS (Continued)   RID_____

6. Legal Authority Code(s) Cited at Removal (l=Yes; 2= No)

   i. _____ 300(a)   m. _____ 300(e)
   j. _____ 300 (b)   **n.** _____ **300(j)**
   k. _____ **300(c)**   **o.** _____ 300_____
   l. _____ 300(d)

7. _____ Petition Amended? **(1=** Yes; **2=** No)
         (If Yes go to 8; If No go to 9)

8. _____._____ Legal Code of Amended Petition
    _____._____

9. _____ Criminal Charges Filed? **(1=** Yes; **2=** No: **3=** Pending, Unknown)

10. _____ Case Closed at DSS? **(1=** Yes: **2=** No)
         (If Yes, go to 11)

11. _____/____/____ Date Case Closed at DSS
    month day year

PRIOR HISTORY

12. _____ Number of Previous Referrals/Contacts Related to Family
         If **"O"** , go to 18.
12a _____ Referral Source (SD Only)
         1 = Single Source (Specify_____)
         2 = Multiple Sources

13. _____ Number Confirmed (WA Only)

14. _____ Number of Previous Referrals Related to Index Child
14a _____ Referral Source (SD Only)
         1 = Single Source (Specify_____)
         2 = Multiple Sources

15. _____ Number of Confirmed (WA Only)

16. _____ Number of Previous Out-of-Home Placements (Episodes)

17. Reasons for Placements, if know (5 most recent only, starting with
    most recent)
    a.   Placement Reason Code:
    b. _____ Placement #1   1 = Sexual Abuse
    c. _____ Placement #2   2 = Physical Abuse
    d. _____ Placement #3   3 = Severe Neglect
         _____ Placement #4   4 = General Neglect
    e. _____ Placement #5   5 = Emotional Abuse
                                        6 = Exploitation
                                        7 = Caretaker Absence
                                        77 = Not Applicable
                                        99 = Unknown

18. _____ Removal Date = Baseline Date? (SD Only)
         (1= Yes: **2= No;)**

IV. PLACEMENTS FOR CURRENT **EPISODE**   RID_____

NO.	DATES		TYPE OF PLACEMENT	WITH SIBS?	REASON FOR MOVE
	FROM	TO			
1.	-	___/___/___	____	____	____
2.	___/___/___	_____	____	____	____
3.	___/___/___	___/___/___	____	____	____
4.	-	___/___/___	____	____	____
5.	-	___/___/___	____	____	____
6.	-	___/___/___	____	____	____
7.	-	___/___/___	____	____	____
8.	___/___/___	_____	____	____	____
9.	-	_____	____	____	____
10.	___/___/___	_____	____	____	____
11.	___/___/___	_____	____	____	____
12.	___/___/___	_____	____	____	____

KEY
Type of Placement

1 **=** Hospital (positive **tox)**
2 **=** Receiving **Home/ESC**
3 **=** Foster Family Home (LFH; Certified FH)
4 = Relative
5 **=** Group
6 **=** Crisis Residential Center
7 **=** Residential Treatment (Mental Hospital)
8 **=** Other Specify_____)

With Sibs?

1 = All
2 = Some
3 = None
7 = Not Applicable

Reason for Move

1 **=** Other ESC/Long-term Foster Care
2 **=** Moved to Relative
3 **=** Returned to Home of the Original Caretaker
4 **=** Foster Family Requests Move
5 **=** Child Needs More Restrictive
6 **=** Child Needs Less Restrictive
7 **=** Bed Needed for Someone Else
8 **=** Proximity to Parental Home
9 **=** Unknown
10 = Other (Specify_____)

V.   REUNIFICATION PLAN   RID_____

                        MO   FA   G   Other
1.   Plan **Type**   _____   _____   _____   _____
     (MO= Mother: FA= Father; G=Guardian; O=Other, Specify_____)

     (San Diego Only)
     1 = Standard   7 = Not Applicable
     2 = 330   9 = Other (Specify_____)
     3 = 360
     4 = Maintenance
     5 = No Plan

2.   Visitation
     (Numbers a-c represent compliance during placement, d-f after
     reunification.)
                                    MO   FA   G   Other
     a. Times / Week   _____   _____   _____   _____
         1 = Once a month
         2 = Every other week
         3 = Minimum **1x/wk**
         4 = More than **1x/wk**
         7 = Not Applicable
         8 = Other
         9 = Unknown
     b. Location   _____   _____   _____   _____
         1 = Foster/Relative Home
         2 = Parent Home
         3 = Agency
         4 = Neutral Setting
         7 = Not Applicable
         9 = Unknown
     c. Supervised?   _____   _____   _____   _____
         1 = Yes
         2 = No
         7 = Not Applicable
         9 = Unknown
     d. Frequency of Visits   _____   _____   _____   _____
         1 = Regular
         2 = Irregular
         3 = Little to None
         7 = Not Applicable
         9 = Unknown
     e. Length / Type   _____   _____   _____   _____
         1 = Increasing
         2 = Maintaining
         3 = Decreasing
         7 = Not Applicable
         9 = Unknown
     f. Still Supervised?   _____   _____   _____   _____
         1 = Yes
         2 = No
         7 = Not Applicable
         9 = Unknown

REUNIFICATION PLAN (Continued)   RID_____

3. Services / Conditions Ordered

KEYS:	Ordered	Who?	Compliance	Reason
	1 = In Reun plan	1 = MO	1 = At Level	1 = Unavail
	2 = Not in Reun plan	2 = FA	2 = Below	2 = No Money
	7 = Not Applicable	3 = G	3 = None	3 = No Transp
		4 = M/F	9 = Unknown	4 = Refused
		5 = Other		5 = SW didn't comply
				6 = Drug Abuse
				7 = Illness
				9 = Unknown

SERVICE:	Ordered	Who?	Compliance M F G 0	Reason M F G 0
a. Daycare	___	___	_/_/_/_	_____
b. Homemaker Services	___	___	_____	_____
c. Parenting Class	___	___	_____	_/_/_
d. Counseling		___	_/_/_/_	_____
e. Drug Treatment		___	_/_/_/_	_____
f. Alcohol Treatment	___	___	_____	_/_/_
g. Mental Health Clinic	___	___	_____	_/_/_
h. Health care at Hospital, Clinic		___	_/_/_	_____
i. Job Finding	___	___	_/_/_/_	_/_/_
j. Job Training	___	___	_/_/_/_	_/_/_
k. Housing Assist.	___	___	_/_/_	_____
l. Family Planning	___	___	_/_/_	_/_/_
m. Medicaid	___	___	_._._	_/_/_
n. Legal Aid	___	___	_/_/_	_____
o. Welfare	___	___	_/_/_	_____
p. Food Assistance	___	___	_____	_/_/_
q. Clothing or Household goods	___	___	_/_/_/_	_____
r. Psych/ Psych Evaluation	___	___	_____	_/_/_
s. Casework Assist.	___	___	_____	_/_/_
t. Parents Anonymous	___	___	_____	_____
u. Alanon	___	___	_/_/_/_	_____
v. No Contact with Perpetrator	___	___	_/_/_/_	_____
w. Domestic Violence Prevention	___	___	_____	_/_/_
x. Drug Testing	___	___	_/_/_/_	_/_/_
y. Conditions/ Household	___	___	_____	_____
z. Conditions/ Personal	___	___	_____	_/_/_
aa. CTF for Services	___	___	_/_/_/_	_/_/_
bb. Education/Rehab.	___	___	_____	_/_/_
cc. Social Worker Directed Treatment	___	___	_/_/_	_____
dd. NA AA		___	_/_/_	_____
ee. Transportation Assistance	___	___	_/_/_/_	_/_/_

REUNIFICATION PLAN (Continued)   RID_____

ff . Other   _____   __/__/__/__   __/__/__/
     Specify _____
     _____

4. Services recommended for Child
   (1=Yes; 2=No; 7=Not applicable; **9=Unknown)**

a. _____ Foster care   **g.** _____ Preschool/school
b. _____ Relative care   **h** _____ **Daycare**
c. _____ Visitation, mother   i. _____ Psych/psych evaluation
d. _____ Visitation, father   **j.** _____ Medical treatment
e. _____ Monthly visits, SW   **k** _____ Other_____
f. _____ Therapy/counseling

5. Reunification Plan(S) Signed? **(1=** Yes: **2=** No;_ **7=** Not Applicable: **9=** Unknown)

a._____ Mother   c. _____ Guardian

b. _____ Father   d. _____ Other

VI.   **REUNIFICATION DECISION**   RID_____

1. _____ Child Returned to Original Caretaker? (1= Yes; 2= No)

2. <u>Dat/ C/ild</u>   R e t u r n e d   H o m e
   Month Day Year

3. _____ Child Returned Home Prior to Establishment or Completion of
   Reunification Plan? (1= Yes; 2= No) (If Yes, go to 4; No go to
   5)

4. Conditions for Return Home (1= Yes; 2= No)
   a. _____ No contact with Perpetrator
   b. _____ Comply with Reunification/Maintenance plan
   c. _____ Meet Child's Health Needs
   d. _____ Provide adequate Daycare/Preschool
   e. _____ Other (Specify_____)

5. Input to Decision to Return Home (1= Yes; 2= No)
   (If Yes, give position: 1= For: 2=Against; 9=Unknown)
   a. _____ Mother   If Yes, position: _____
   b. _____ Father   _____
   c. _____ Guardian   _____
   d. _____ Foster Parent   _____
   e. _____ Therapist/Counselor   _____
   f. _____ Psychiatrist/Psychologist   _____
   g. _____ Guardian Ad **Litem**   _____
   h. _____ CSB Social Worker   _____
   i. _____ Other (Specify)   _____

   j. _____   _____

6. _____ Placed Sibs Returned? (1= Yes; 2= No: 7= Not Applicable)

7. _____ Discordance Between SW/Judge? (1= Yes; 2= No; 7= Not Applicable:
   9= Unknown) (If Yes, go to 8)

8. _____ Content of Discordance
   1 = Judge Reunify/SW No
   2 = SW Reunify/Judge No
   7 = Not Applicable

9. _____ Evidence to Support Discordance
   1 = Inferred
   2 = Verbatim Text_____

   _____
   7 = Not Applicable

10. _____ Total # Caseworkers from case opening to return home
    (Actual Number: Code 77 for Not Applicable)

11. _____ Total # of **Workers from** Reunification to Re-Referral
    (Code 77 for Not Applicable)

12. _____ Total # of Workers from case opening to case closure
    (Code 77 for Not Applicable)

VII.   **RE-REFERRAL /** RR-ENTRY   RID_____

1. _____ Number of Re-referrals (If **"0"**, go to page 12)

2. Reason for Re-referral(s)

Reason:	Confirmed?	Reason Code:	Confirmation:
Ref#1 _____	_____	1 **=** Sexual Abuse	1 = Yes
Ref#2 _____	_____	2 **=** Physical Abuse	2 = No
Ref#3 _____	_____	3 **=** Severe Neglect	3 = Suspected
Ref#4 _____	_____	4 **=** General Neglect	7 = Not Applicable
Ref#5 _____	_____	5 **=** Emotional Abuse	9 = Unknown
		6 **=** Exploitation	
		7 **=** Not Applicable	
		a **=** Caretaker Absence	

3. _____ Child Removed from the Home? **(1=** Yes; **2=** No)
   (If Yes, go to 4; If No, go to 7)

4. _____ Was Child Out-of Home More than **72 Hours?**
   (1= Yes: **2=** No; **7=** Not Applicable; **9=** Unknown)

5. _____ Type of Placement
   1 = Hospital
   2 **=** Receiving **Home/ESC**
   3 **=** Foster Family Home (LFH; Cert FH)
   4 **=** Relative
   5 **=** Group
   6 **=** Crisis Residential Center
   7 **=** Residential Treatment (Mental Hospital)
   a **=** Other _____

6. _____ Total # Caseworkers from case opening until re-entry
   (Actual Number)

III. ECOLOGICAL CHANGES IN FAMILY SINCE REMOVAL   RID_____
(1= Yes: 2= No)

1. Family Events

    a. _____ Separation
    b. _____ Divorce
    c. _____ Marriage
    d. _____ Pregnancy
    e. _____ Addition to Nuclear Family
    f. _____ Death in Nuclear Family

2. Work-Related Changes

    a. _____ Loss of Job, Mother
    b. _____ Loss of Job, Father
    c. _____ Change of Job, Mother
    d. _____ Change of Job, Father
    e. _____ Job After LT Unemployment, Mother
    f. _____ Job After LT Unemployment, Father

3. Major Changes in Living Conditions

    a. _____ Eviction/Homeless, Mother
    b. _____ Eviction/Homeless, Father
    c. _____ Better Housing, Mother
    d. _____ Better Housing, Father
    e. _____ Worse Housing, Mother
    f. _____ Worse Housing, Father

4. Health

    a. _____ Injury/Accident, Mother
    b. _____ Injury/Accident, Father
    c. _____ Diagnosis of Major Illness, Mother
    d. _____ Diagnosis of Major Illness, Father

IX.   SOCIAL WORKER CONTACTS / PRE-REUNIFICATION   RID_____

Type of Contact Code: Person Code:
1 = Phone Call   1 = Mother   9 = Unknown
2 = Office Visit   2 = Father   10 = Service Provider
3 = Field Visit **Total(Wash Only)** 3 = Stepmother   11 = Relative
4 = Home Visit - SD Only   4 = Stepfather   12 = Friend/Neighbor
5 = Field Visit - SD Only   5 = Index Child   13 = Other.
9 = Unknown   6 = Sibling
                                   7 = Foster Parent
                                   8 = Relative Foster Care Provider

	Date:	Contact Type:	Who:
1.	___/___/___	___	___/___/___/___
2.	___/___/___	___	___/___/___/___
3.	_____	___	___/___/___/___
4.	_____	___	___/___/___/___
5.	_____	___	___/___/___/___
6.	___/___/___	___	___/___/___/___
7.	___/___/___	___	___/___/___/___
8.	_____	___	___/___/___/___
9.	_____	___	___/___/___/___
10.	_____	___	___/___/___/___
11.	_____	___	___/___/___/___
12.	_____	___	___/___/___/___
13.	___/___/___	___	___/___/___/___
$4.	___/___/___	___	___/___/___/___
15.	_____	___	___/___/___/___
16.	_____	___	___/___/___/___
17.	_____	___	___/___/___/___
18.	_____	___	___/___/___/___
19.	___/___/___	___	___/___/___/___
20.	_____	___	___/___/___/___

RID_____

Date :   Contact Type: Who:

_____   _____   _____

_____   _____   _____

_____/_____/_____   _____   _____

_____   _____   _____

_____/_____/_____   _____   _____

_____/_____/_____   _____   _____

_____   _____   _____

_____/_____/_____   _____   _____

_____/_____/_____   _____   _____

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_____   _____   _____/_____/_____

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_____   _____   _____/_____/_____

_____/_____/_____   _____   _____/_____/_____

_____/_____/_____   _____   _____

_____   _____   _____/_____/_____

_____/_____/_____   _____   _____/_____/_____

_____   _____   _____

_____   _____   _____/_____/_____

_____/_____/_____   _____   _____/_____/_____

_____/_____/_____   _____   _____

_____/_____/_____   _____   _____

_____   _____   _____

_____/_____/_____   _____   _____

X. **SOCIAL WORKER CONTACTS / POST-REUNIFICATION**   RID_____

Type of Contact Code: Person Code:
1 = Phone Call   1 = Mother   9 = Unknown
2 = Office Visit   2 = Father   10 = Service Provider
3 = Field Visit Total   3 = Stepmother   11 = Relative
4 = Home Visit - SD Only   4 = Stepfather   12 = Friend/Neighbor
5 = Field Visit - SD Only   5 = Index Child   13 = Other
9 = Unknown   6 = Sibling
                               7 = Foster Parent
                               a = Relative Foster Care Provider

Date: Contact Type:

1. _____/_____/_____   _____   _____

2. _____/_____/_____   _____   _____

3. _____/_____/_____   _____   _____

4. _____/_____/_____   _____   _____

5. _____/_____/_____   _____   _____

6. _____/_____/_____   _____   _____

7. _____/_____/_____   _____   _____/_____/_____

8. _____/_____/_____   _____   _____/_____/_____

9. _____/_____/_____   _____   _____

10. _____/_____/_____   _____   _____/_____/_____

11. _____/_____/_____   _____   _____

12. _____/_____/_____   _____   _____

13. _____/_____/_____   _____   _____

14 _____/_____/_____   _____   _____

15.   /   /   _____   _____

16.   /   /   _____   _____

17.   /   /   _____   _____

la.   /   /   _____   _____

19.   /   /   _____   _____/_____/_____

20.   /   /   _____   _____/_____/_____

XI.   **SERVICES/CONDITIONS IN ADDITION TO REUNIFICATION PLAN   RID_____**

Provision

1 = Yes, Court-Ordered Before Return Home
2 = Yes, Court-Ordered After Return Home
3 = Yes, At **Parents Request Before Return Home**
4 = Yes, At Parents Request After Return Home
5 = Yes , At Social Worker's Discretion **Before Return Home**
6 = Yes, At Social Worker's Discretion **After Return Home**
7 = Not Applicable
8 = No
9 = Unknown

Who?	Utilization	Reason
1 = M O	1 = At Level	1 = Unavail
2 = FA	2 = Below	2 = No Money
3 = G	3 = None	3 = No Transp
4 = M/F	9 = Unknown	4 = Refused
5 = Other		5 = SW didn!t comply
		6 = Drug Abuse
		7 = Illness
9 = Unknown		9 = Unknown

SERVICE:	Provision	Who?	Utilization M F G O	Reason M FG O
a. **Daycare**	___	___	/ / /	/ / /
b. Homemaker Services	___	___	___	/ / /
c. Parenting Class	___	___	___	/ / /
d. Counseling	___	___	/ / /	___
e. Drug Treatment	___	___	/ / /	/ / /
f. Alcohol Treatment	___	___	___	/ / /
g. Mental Health Clinic	___	___	/ / /	___
h. Health care at Hospital, Clinic	___	___	___	/ / /
i. Job Finding	___	___	___	/ / /
j. Job Training	___	___	/ / /	/ / /
k. Housing Assist.		___	/ / /	/ / /
l. Family Planning		___	___	/ / /
m. Medicaid	___	___	___	___
n. Legal Aid		___	/ / /	___
o. Welfare		___	___	/ / /
p. Food Assistance	___	___	/ / /	/ / /
q. Clothing or Household goods	___	___	/ / /	/ / /
r. Psych/ Psych Evaluation		___	/ / /	/ / /
s. Casework Assist.		___	/ / /	/ / /
t. **Parents Anonymous**	___	___	/ / /	/ / /
u. **Alanon**		___	___	___
v. **No Contact with Perpetrator**		___	/ / /	___
w. **Domestic Violence Prevention**		___	/ / /	/ / /
x. **Drug Testing**		___	___	/ / /

SERVICES/CONDITIONS IN ADDITION TO REUNIFICATION PLAN   RID_____
(Continued)

SERVICE:	Provision	**Who?**	Utilization	Reason
y. Conditions/ Household	_____		/ / /	_____
z. conditions/ Personal	_____		/ / /	_____
aa. CTF for Services ___	_____		/ / /	_____
bb. Education/Rehab. ___	_____		/ / /	_____
cc. Social Worker ___ Directed Treatment	_____		/ / /	_____
dd. NA AA ___	_____		/ / /	/ / /
ee. Transportation ___ Assistance	_____		/ / /	_____
ff. Visitation	_____		/ / /	/ / /
gg. Other	_____		/ / /	/ / /
Specify _____				

Services recommended for Child
(Use codes 1-9 above)

a. _____ Foster care   g. _____ Preschool/school
b. _____ Relative care   h _____ **Daycare**
c. _____ Visitation, mother   i. _____ Psych/psych evaluation
d. _____ Visitation, father   **j.** _____ Medical treatment
e. _____ Monthly visits, SW   **k** _____ Other_____
f. _____ Therapy/counseling

)

II. LEGAL **PROCESS** (Legal Process #)   RID_____

1. <u>D a t/e /o f</u> H e a r i n g
   Month **Day Year**

2. _____ Type of Hearing
   1 = Detention/Shelter Care   5 = 6 month Review
   2 **= Readiness/Fact** Finding 6 = 12 month Review
   3 = Trial   7 = Administrative Review (WA Only)
   4 = Disposition   **a** = Voluntary Agreement/Contract
                                 9 = Other_____

3. Appearances (**1**= Yes: **2**= No; **7=** Not Applicable: **9=** Unknown)
   a. _____ Mother
   b. _____ Father
   c. _____ Guardian
   d. _____ Child
   e. _____ Mother's Attorney
   f. _____ Father's Attorney
   g. _____ Child's Attorney
   h. _____ County Counsel/Agency Attorney
   i. _____ Case Worker/Social Worker
   j. _____ Guardian Ad **Litem**
   k. _____ Other (Specify_____)

4. _____ Child Testify? (**1=** Yes; **2=No; 7=** Not Applicable)

5. _____ Judge's initials

6. _____ Dependency Terminated? (**1=** Yes: **2=** No; **7=** Not Applicable)
   (If Yes, go to 7)

7. <u>Date/ of/ Cou</u>rt Dependency Termination
   month day year

OUTCOME — Use Court Orders and Court Summary Only (SD Only)

a. Adjudication
   Legal Code Key: Response Code: True Finding?
   1 = 300(a)   5 **= 300(e)**   1 = Denies   1 = Yes
   2 = 300(b)   6 = 300(f)   2 = Admits   2 = No
   3 = **300(c)**   7 = **300( )**   3 = Submits   7 = **Not** Applicable
   4 = 300(d)   Other   4 = Pleads no contest

   a. _____ Legal **Code/Mo**   Response_____   **TF?**_____
   b. _____ Legal Code/MO   Response_____   _____
   c. _____ Legal Code/MO   Response_____   _____
   d. _____ Legal Code/FA   Response_____   _____
   e. _____ Legal Code/FA   Response_____   _____
   f. _____ Legal Code/FA   Response_____   _____
   g. _____ Legal Code/G   Response_____   _____
   h. _____ Legal Code/G   Response_____   _____
   i. _____ Legal Code/G   Response_____   _____
   j. _____ **Legal** Code/O   Response_____   _____
   k. _____ Legal Code/O   Response_____   _____
   1. _____ **Legal Code/O**   Response_____   _____

   specify Other_____

LEGAL PROCESS (Continued)(Legal Process #_____)   RID_____

9. Detention / Placement

   a. _____ Child Ordered
            1 = Detained
            2 = Placed

   b. _____ Location
            1 = Home of _____
            2 = **HRH/Adjunct/License** Foster Home
            3 = License Foster Home
            4 = FFA Supported License Foster Home
            5 **=** 24 Hour Residential Treatment Facility
            6 = Other_____

10. Reunification Services / Resources

   a. Services Prior to Reun Plan **(1=** Yes; **2=** No)
      _____ Case Management
      _____ Counseling
      _____ Emergency Shelter Care
      _____ In-Home Services
      _____ Visitation
      _____ Transportation Assistance
      _____ Parenting Training
      _____ Teaching/Demonstrating Homemakers
      _____ Out-of Home Respite
      _____ Other_____

   b. _____ Reunification **Plan/Mo?** **(1=** Yes; **2=No)**
            If Yes, Date _____/____/

   c. _____ Reunification **Plan/Fa?** **(1=** Yes: **2=** No)
            If Yes, Date _____/____/

   d _____ Reunification Plan/G? **(1=** Yes; **2=** No)
            If Yes, Date _____/____/

   e. _____ Reunification Plan/Other (1=Yes; **2=No)**
            If Yes, Date _____/____/ Specify_____

11. Miscellaneous_____

   _____

APPENDIX A-2

<u>ABSTRACTION FORM FOR THE STUDY OF</u>

<u>REUNIFICATION RISKS AND SUCCESSES</u>

Washington Site

DATA COLLECTION CATEGORIES

San Diego State University

January 1993

FEDERAL GRANT 3.12 PROJECT
REUNIFICATION VARIABLE LIST #1
TACOMA, WASHINGTON
DEMOGRAPHICS

RECORD #1

101. I.D. # ☐☐☐☐

(1 - 4)

105. CLIENT'S LAST NAME

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

(5 - 16)

117. CLIENT'S FIRST NAME

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

(17 - 26)

127. CLIENT'S MIDDLE INITIAL

☐

(27)

128. CASE NUMBER:

☐☐—☐—☐ ☐☐ ☐—☐ ☐—☐

(28 - 37)

138. CASE **ABSTRACTOR**

☐☐

(38 - 39)

01 = Miriam Lange
02 = Lisette **Stacey**
03 = Sherry Brummel

140. DATE RECORD READ BY CASE ABSTRACTOR:

☐ ☐—☐ ☐—☐ ☐

MONTH   DAY   YEAR
(40 - 45)

CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILD

146.   Date of Birth

☐ ☐—☐ ☐—☐ ☐

MONTH   DAY   YEAR
(46 - 51)

152.   Gender   ☐
                                                          (52)
        1 = Male
        2 = Female

153.   **Race/Ethnicity**   ☐ ☐

        01 = Caucasian/White/Anglo   **09 =** Japanese   (53 - 54)
        02 = **Hispanic/Chicano/Latino** 10 = Korean
        03 = African American/Black   11 = Laotian
        04 = Other Asian   12 = Vietnamese
        05 = Native American/Eskimo   13 = Chinese
        06 = Filipino   14 = Other non-white_____
        07 = Cambodian   16 = Mixed Race_____
        08 = Pacific Islander   8-8 = Other_____
                                      99 = Unknown

(155) Special Characteristics

        1 = Yes
        2 = No
        3 = Suspected

155.   Developmentally Delayed   ☐
                                                          (55)

156.   Diagnosed Mental Illness   ☐
                                                          (56)

157.   Learning Disabled   ☐
                                                          (571

158.   Physical Disability   ☐
                                                          (58)

159.   Substance Abuser/Addicted (Drugs)   ☐
                                                          (59)

160.   Substance Abuser/Addicted (Alcohol)   ☐
                                                          (60)

161.   Substance Addicted at Birth   ☐
                                                          (61)

- 1REU/2 -

1 = **Yes**
2 = No
3 = Suspected

162.   Severe Behavioral Problems

(62)

163,   Medical Problems

(63)

164.   Eating **or** Sleeping Disorder(s)

(64)

165.   School Problems

(65)

166.   Other Conditions (Specify _____)

(66)

167.   Grade in School (Enter Actual Grade:
        00=Kindergarten; 01=1st, etc.; **10=Early**
        Education Program, e.g., Head Start,   (67 - 68)
        Infant Stim, etc.; **77=Not** in School; **99=Unknown**)

RECORD #2

FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS (At time of removal)

(201)   Family composition/adults in the home:

        1 = Yes
        2 = No

201.   Mother

(1)

202.   Father

(2)

203.   Stepmother

(3)

```
1 = Ye8
2 = No
```

204.   Stepfather

(4)

205.   Grandmother

c 1
(5)

206.   Grandfather

c 1
(6)

207.   Aunt

(7)

208.   Uncle

c 1
(8)

'209.   Girlfriend

c 1
(9)

210.   Boyfriend

(10)

211.   Roommate

c 1
(11)

212.   Other (Specify _____)

(12)

213.   Mother's Birthdate

MONTH   DAY   YEAR
'(13 - 18)

219. Marital Status of **Parents**

1 = Married
2 = Separated
3 = Divorced
4 = Widowed
5 = Never Married
9 = Unknown

☐ (19)

220. Number of Children in Family (Enter actual number including index child).

⬛ cl
(20 - 21)

(222) Sibling Characteristics

AGE: Enter Actual
00 = Less than 1 year
77 = Not Applicable

GRADE: Enter Actual; **10=Early** Ed
77 = Not Applicable
99 = Unknown

SEX: 1 = M; 2 = F
7 = Not Applicable

PROTECTIVE CUSTODY: 1 = Yes; 2 = No
7 = Not Applicable; 99 = Unknown

		AGE	SEX	GRADE	PROT CUSTODY
222.	Sibling #1	☐☐ (22 - 23)	☐ (24)	☐☐ (25 - 26)	☐ (27)
228.	Sibling #2	☐☐ (28 - 29)	⬛ c l (30)	⬛ II (31 - 32)	☐ (33)
234.	Sibling #3	☐☐ (34 - 35)	☐ (36)	☐☐ (37 - 38)	☐ (39)
240.	Sibling #4	☐☐ (40 - 41)	☐ (42)	⬛ II (43 - 44)	c l (45)
246:	Sibling #5	☐☐ (46 - 47)	c l (48)	☐☐ (49 - 50)	c l (51)
252.	Sibling #6	☐☐ (52 - 53)	c l (54)	☐☐ (55 - 56)	☐ (57)

AGE: Enter Actual GRADE: Enter Actual; 10 = Early Ed
00 = Less than 1 year 77 = Not Applicable
77 = Not Applicable 99 = Unknown

SEX: 1 = M; 2 = F PROTECTIVE CUSTODY: 1 = Yes; 2 = No
7 = Not Applicable 7 = Not Applicable; 99 = Unknown

		AGE	SEX	GRADE	PROT CUSTODY
258,	Sibling #7	☐ ☐	☐	☐ ☐	c l
		(58 - 59)	(60)	(61 - 62)	(63)
264.	Sibling #8	☐ ☐	☐	☐ ☐	☐
		(64 - 65)	(66)	(67 - 68)	(69)

(270) Employment Status of Caretakers

1 = Yes **7 =** Not Applicable
2 = No 9 = Unknown

		MALE CARETAKER	FEMALE CARETAKER
270.	Employed, Part-Time	☐	☐
		(70)	(71)
272.	Employed, Full-Time	☐	☐
		(72)	(73)
274.	Unemployed	☐	☐
		(74)	(75)
276.	Public Assistance	☐	☐
		(76)	(77)
278.	Gross Annual Income		☐
			(78)

1 = Under $10,000
2 = $10,001 - $20,000
3 = $20,001 - $30,000
4 = Over $30,000
5 = No Visible Means of Support
9 = Information Missing or Unknown

(301)   Special Characteristics of Caretaker:

    1 = Yes
    2 = No
    3 = Suspected
    7 = Not Applicable
    9 = Missing or Unknown

		MALE CARETAKER	FEMALE CARETAKER
301.	Developmentally Delayed	(1)	(2)
303.	Diagnosed Mental Illness	(3)	(4)
305.	Physical Disability	(5)	(6)
307.	Substance Abuser/Addicted (Drugs)	(7)	(8)
309.	Substance Abuser/Addicted (Alcohol)	(9)	(10)
311.	Charged Criminal History, Person	(11)	(12)
313.	Charged Criminal History, Property	(13)	(14)
315.	Abuse History as Child	(15)	c l (16)
317.	Cult Activity/Religious. Fanaticism	(17)	(18)
319.	Other (Specify_____)	c l (19)	(20)

(321)   Situational Problems

1 = Yes
2 = No

321.   Inadequate Housing

(21)

322.   Unsafe Environment (Weapons, Drugs)

(22)

323.   Medical

(23)

324.   School

(24)

325.   Food

(25)

326.   Clothing

(26)

327.   Caretaker Absence

(27)

328.   Special Needs (Specify_____)

(28)

329.   **Race/Ethnicity,** Mother

(29 - 30)

01 = Caucasian/White/Anglo	09 = Japanese
02 = Hispanic/Chicano/Latin0	10 = Korean
03 = African **American/Black**	11 = Laotian
04 = Other Asian	12 = Vietnamese
05 = Native American/Eskimo	13 = Chinese
06 = Filipino	14 = Other Non-White_____
07 = Cambodian	15 = Mixed race
08 = Pacific Islander.	88 = Other_____
	99 = Unknown

331. **Race/Ethnicity,** Father

01 = Caucasian/White/Anglo	**09** = Japanese		(31 - 32)
02 = Hispanic/Chicano/Latino	10 = Korean		
03 = African American/Black	11 = Laotian		
04 = Other Asian	12 = Vietnamese		
05 = Native American/Eskimo	13 = Chinese		
06 = Filipino	14 = Other Non-White_____		
07 = Cambodian	15 = Mixed race		
08 = Pacific Islander	88 = Other_____		
	99 = Unknown		

CASE **CHARACTERISTICS** FILE

333. Date of Removal

MONTH   DAY   YEAR

(33 - 38)

339. Source of Current Referral

(39)

1 = Law Enforcement
2 = School
3 = Relative/Neighbor
4 = Medical professional/Hospital
5 = Community/Professional
6 = Self/Parent
7 = **Daycare**
8 = Other (specify _____)
9 = Anonymous

(340) Type of CA/N at Referral

1 = Yes
2 = No

340. Sexual Abuse

(40)

341. Physical Abuse

(41)

342. Severe Neglect

(42)

- 1REU/9 -

1 = Yes
2 = No

343.   General Neglect

☐ (43)

344.   Emotional Abuse

c l (44)

345.   E x p l o i t a t i o n

c l (45)

346.   Caretaker Absence

c l (46)

(347)   TYPE OF CA/N AT REMOVAL:

1 = Yes   PERPETRATOR CODE:
2 = No   0 = No CA/N; One Perp.   5 = Parent's Girlfriend
           1 = Mother   6 = Parent's Boyfriend
           2 = Father   7 = Other Relative
           3 = Stepmother   8 = **Other** (Specify_____)
           4 = Stepfather   **9** = Unknown

	TYPE	PERPETRATOR(S)	
347. Sexual Abuse	c l (47)	☐ (48)	☐ (49)
350. Physical Abuse	☐ (50)	☐ (51)	☐ (52)
353. Severe Neglect	☐ (53)	c l (54)	☐ (55)
356. General Neglect	☐ (56)	c l (57)	c l (58)
359. Emotional Abuse	☐ (59)	c l (60)	c l (61)

```
1 = Yet3      PERPETRATOR CODE:
2 = No        0 = No CA/N; One Perp.   5 = Parent's Girlfriend
              1 = Mother               6 = Parent's Boyfriend
              2 = Father               7 = Other Relative
              3 = Stepmother           8 = Other (Specify_____)
              4 = Stepfather           9 = Unknown
```

		TYPE	PERPETRATOR(S)	
362.	Exploitation	☐ **(62)**	☐ **(63)**	☐ (64)
365.	Caretaker Absence	☐ (65)	☐ (66)	☐ (67)

368.	Other Children in Family Victim	☐ **(68)**

```
1 = Yes
2 = No
9 = Unknown
```

		REFERRAL	REMOVAL
369.	Legal Authority for Removal	☐ (69)	☐ (70)

```
1 = Protective Custody by Law Enforcement
2 = Shelter Care - No Parent
3 = Shelter Care - Threat of Serious Harm
4 = Dependency - Abandoned
5 = Dependency - Abuse or Neglect per RCW
6 = Dependency - No Parent Willing/Capable
7 = Dependency - DD
8 = Voluntary Placement Agreement
9 = Hospital Hold
```

371.   Finding of Fact?

c   l

(71)

```
1 = Yes
2 = No
7 = Not Applicable
```

372.   If yes, legal authority code?

☐ (72)   c   l   (73)

```
1 = Abandoned (13.34.030 2(a))
2 = Abused or Neglected per RCW(13.34.030,2(b))
3 = No Parent Willing/Capable(13.34.030,2(c))
4 = Child DD (13.34.030,2(d)0
5 = Alternative Residential Placement
7 = Not Applicable
```

374. Was the petition amended?

　　1 = Yes　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　(74)
　　2 = No
　　7 = Not Applicable

375. If yes, legal code? (Same as Number 9)　　　　　　　　c l

　　1 = Abandoned (13.34.030 **2(a))**　　　　　(75)　　(76)
　　2 = Abused or Neglected per **RCW**(13.34.030,2(b))
　　3 = No Parent **Willing/Capable**(13.34.030,2(c))
　　4 = Child DD **(13.34.030,2(d)**0
　　5 = Alternative Residential Placement
　　7 = Not Applicable

377. *Were* 'criminal charge8 filed?

　　1 = Yes　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　(77)
　　2 = No
　　3 = Pending
　　9 = Unknown

RECORD **#4**

PRIOR HISTORY

401.　Number of previous referrals related to family?
　　　(Enter actual #, e.g., 00, 01, 02, etc.)

　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　(1 - 2)

403.　Number confirmed7

　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　(3)

404.　Number of previous referrals related to
　　　index child?

　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　(4)

405.　Number confirmed?

　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　(5)

406.　Number of previous out-of-home placement episode8
　　　for child?

　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　(6)

(407) Reason for previous **placement(s)**, if known?

01 = Sexual Abuse	09 = Relinquishment
02 = Physical Abuse	10 = Disrupted Adoption
03 = Severe Neglect	11 = Family in Conflict
04 = General Neglect	12 = Voluntary Placement
05 = Emotional Abuse	13 = Status Offense
06 = Exploitation	14 = Law Violation
07 = Caretaker Absence	77 = Not Applicable
08 = Child Disability/Handicap	99 = Unknown

407.   Placement **#1**

☐ ☐

(7 - 8)

409.   Placement **#2**

☐ ☐

(9- 10)

411.   Placement **#3**

☐ ☐

(11 - 12)

413.   Placement **#4**

☐ ☐

(13 - 14)

415.   Placement **#5**

☐ ☐

(15 - 16)

RISK ASSESSMENT

RISK FACTORS:

0 = No' Risk	**5** = High
1 = Low	6 = Not Applicable
2 = Moderately Low	7 = Case Only Rated Once/Not Closed
3 = Moderate	**8** = No Rating
4 = Moderately High	9 = Insufficient
	Information to Assess

PLEASE NOTE: Enter risk rating after investigation and at case closure.   If case only rated once, enter risk rating in appropriate box and enter code **"7"** in other boxes.

(501)	Child **Characteristics**	AFTER INVESTIGATION	CASE CLOSURE
501.	**Age**	☐ (1)	☐ (2)
503.	Physical/Mental/Social Development	☐ (3)	☐ (4)
505.	Behavioral Problems	☐ (5)	☐ (6)
507.	Self-Protection	☐ (7)	c l (8)
509.	Fear of Caretaker	☐ (9)	c l (10)
(511)	Severity of **CA/N**		
511.	Dangerous Act	☐ (11)	☐ (12)
513.	Extent of Physical Injury or Harm	☐ (13)	c l (14)
515.	Extent of Emotional Harm	☐ (15)	☐ (16)

```
0 = No  Risk          5 = High
1 = Low               6 = Not Applicable
2 = Moderately Low    7 = Case Only Rated Once
3 = Moderate          8 = No Rating
4 = Moderately High   9 = Insufficient
                          Information to Assess
```

517. Adequacy of Medical Care

(17)   (18)

519. Provision for Basic Need

(19)   (20)

521. Adequacy of Supervision

(21)   (22)

523. Physical Hazards in the Home

(23)   (24)

525. Sexual Contact

(25)   (26)

(527) Chronicity

527. Chronicity of CA/N

(27)   (28)

(529) Caretaker Characteristics	AFTER INVESTIGATION		CASE CLOSURE	
	F	M	F	M
5 29 Victimization of Other Children	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)
533. Mental/Physical/or Emotional Impairment	(33)	cl (34)	(35)	(36)
537. Substance Abuse	(37)	(38)	(39)	u (40)
541. History of Domestic Violence or Assaultive Behavior	(41)	(42)	(43)	(44)

```
0 = No Risk              5 = High
1 = Low                  6 = Not Applicable
2 = Moderately Low       7 = Case Only Rated Once
3 = Moderate             8 = No Rating
4 = Moderately High      9 = Insufficient
                             Information to Assess
```

		F	M	F	M
545.	History of Abuse or Neglect as a Child	(45)	(46)	(47)	(48)
549.	Parenting Skills or Knowledge	(49)	(50)	(51)	(52)
553.	Nurturance	(53)	(54) I	I C I	C I (55)	(56)
557.	Recognition of the Problem	(57)	(58) l	c l c	l I (59)	(60)
561.	Protection of Child	(61)	(62)	(63)	(64)
565.	Cooperation with Case Plan	(65)	(66) I	C I I	C I (67)	(68)
(569)	Parent/Child Relationship				
569.	Response to Child' Behavior or Misconduct	(69)	(70)	(71)	(72)
573.	Attachment and Bonding	(73)	(74)	(75)	(76)
577.	Child's Role in Family	(77)	(78)	(79)	(80)

0 = No Risk	5 = High
1 = Low	6 = Not Applicable
2 = Moderately Low	7 = Case Only Rated Once
3 = Moderate	8 = No Rating
4 = Moderately High	9 = Insufficient Information to Assess

(601)   <u>Social **Economic Factors**</u>

	F	M	F	M

601.   Stress on Caretaker

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)

605.   Employment Status of Provider

	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)

609.   Social Support for Caretaker

	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)

613.   Economic Resources of Caretakers

	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)

(617)   <u>**Perpetrator Access**</u>

617.   Access to Child/
Responsibility for Child

	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)

621.   Disposition

(21 - 22)

01 = Risk of CA/N continues; case remains open
    for services under contract or legal intervention
02 = Risk of CA/N continues; case transferred to _____
                        DCFS unit.
03 = Risk of CA/N continues family refused services, no legal
    action. **Case** closed.
04 = Little or no risk of CA/N. Case Closed.
05 = Low risk of CA; family referred to _____
                    for services. Case closed.
06 = Family moved out of office area. Case closed.
07 = Family moved out of office area. Case transferred to
    _____ office.
08 = Disposition not indicated.

623.   Findings   ☐

                                                     (23)
    1 = Founded
    2 = Unfounded
    3 = Inconclusive
    8 = No rating

                                         AFTER   CASE
                                      INVESTIGATION   CLOSURE

624.   Overall level of risk   ☐   ☐

                                         (24)   (25)
    0 = No risk
    1 = Low
    2 = Moderate low
    3 = Moderate
    4 = Moderate high
    5 = High
    7 = Case Only Rated Once
    8 = No rating

(To be filled out for **every** placement during this episode)

KEY

LEVEL OF RESTRICTIVENESS
1 = Relative   6 = Group Care
2 = Receiving Care   7 = Not Applicable
3 = Crisis Residential Center 8 = Other (Specify_____
4 = Foster Care   Couldbeunknown)
5 = Residential Treatment   9 = Hospital

PLACED WITH SIBLINGS?
1 =   Yes,   All
2 = Yes, Some
3 = No, None
7 = Not Applicable

REASON FOR MOVE
1 = Child Returned Home   7 = Not Applicable
2 = Moved to Relative   9 = Proximity to Parent Home
3 = Needs Less Restrictive   8 = Other (Specify_____
4 = Needs More Restrictive   could be unknown)
5 = Bed Needed for Somebody Else
6 = Foster Family Requested Move

701.   Begin Date   LEVEL   SIBS   REASON

         □ □ — □ □ — □ □   □   □   □

         MONTH   DAY   YEAR   (7)   (8)   (9)
                    (1 - 6)

710.   End Date (Note: Code 77-77-77 if still placed)

         □ □ — □ □ — □ □

         MONTH   DAY   YEAR
                  (10 - 15)

716.   Begin Date   LEVEL   SIBS   REASON

         □ □ — □ □ — □ □   □   □   □

         MONTH   DAY   YEAR   (22)   (23)   (24)
                  (16 - 21)

725.   End Date (Note: Code 77-77-77 if still placed)

         □ □ — □ □ — □ □

         MONTH   DAY   YEAR
                  (25 - 30)

731. Begin Date   LEVEL   SIBS   REASON

l i c H J c l   [ ]   [ ]   c l

MONTH   DAY   YEAR   **(37)**   **(38)**   **(39)**

(31 - 36)

740. End Date (Note: Code **77-77-77** if still placed)

MONTH   DAY   YEAR

(40 - 45)

746. Begin Date   LEVEL   SIBS   REASON

MONTH   DAY   YEAR   **(52)**   **(53)**   (541

(46 - 51)

755. End Date (Note: Code 77-77-77 **if** still placed)

MONTH   DAY   YEAR

(55 - 60)

761. Begin Date   LEVEL   SIBS   REASON

l i H c l   c l   c l   c l

MONTH   DAY   YEAR   **(67)**   **(68)**   **(69)**

(61 - 66)

770. End Date (Note: Code 77-77-77 if still placed)

MONTH   DAY   YEAR

(70 - 75)

776. Begin Date   LEVEL   REASON   SIBS

MONTH   DAY   YEAR   **(82)**   **(83)**   **(84)**

(76 - 81)

785. End Date

I H I I C I

MONTH   DAY   YEAR

(85 - 90)

REUNIFICATION PLAN

801.   Date of Plan

□	□—□	□—□	□		

MONTH   DAY   YEAR
         (1 - 6)

(807)   Visitation Plan

MOTHER   FATHER   GUARD   OTHER

807.   Recommended Schedule?

□   □   □   □
(7)   (8)   (9)   (10)

1 = > Once a Week
2 = Once a Week
3 = Every Other Week
4 = Once a Month
7 = Not Applicable - No Plan
8 = Other (Specify _____)

811.   Location of **Visits?**

□
(11)   cl   cl   cl
         (12)   (13)   (14)

1 = Foster/Relative Home
2 = Parent's Home
3 = Agency Setting
4 = Neutral Setting
7 = Not Applicable
9 = Unknown

815.   Were visits supervised?

□   □   □   □
(15)   (16)   (17)   (18)

1 = Yes
2 = No
7 = Not Applicable
9 = Unknown

819.   Parent followed plan?

□   □   □   □
(19)   (20)   (21)   (22)

1 = Regularly
2 = Irregularly
7 = Not Applicable
9 = Unknown

823.   Length and type?

□   □   □   □
(23)   (24)   (25)   (26)

1 = Increased
2 = Maintained
3 = Decreased
7 = Not Applicable
9 = Unknown

827. Still Supervised?

	MOTHER	FATHER	GUARD	OTHER
	■	☐	☐	☐
	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)

1 = Yes
2 = No
7 = Not Applicable
9 = Unknown

(831) Services/Resources Recommended for **Parent(s)/Caretaker:**

KEY

CLIENT
1 = MOTHER
2 = FATHER
3 = GUARDIAN/RELATIVE CARETAKER
4 = BOTH PARENTS
7 = NOT APPLICABLE

RECOMMENDED
1 = IN REUNIFICATION PLAN
2 = ADDITIONAL SERVICES
3 = REQUESTED BY PARENT
7 = NOT APPLICABLE

UTILIZATION
1 = AS RECOMMENDED
2 = LESS THAN RECOMMENDED
3 = NOT AT ALL
7 = NOT APPLICABLE

PRIMARY REASON NOT USED
1 = SERVICE NO AVAILABLE
2 = NO FUNDS AVAILABLE
3 = NO TRANSPORTATION
4 = PARENT REFUSED
5 = SW DID NOT COMPLY
6 = SUBSTANCE ABUSE
7 = NOT APPLICABLE
8 = ILLNESS
9 = UNKNOWN

SERVICE	CLIENT	RECOMMENDED	USED	REASON
831. Daycare	■	☐	■	■
	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)
835. Homemaker	El	cl	☐	■
	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)
839: Parenting Class	■	☐	■	■
	(39)	(40)	(41)	(42)
843. Counseling	■	☐	■	☐
	(43)	(44)	(45)	(46)
847. Drug Treatment	☐	☐	☐	☐
	(47)	(48)	(49)	(50)

CLIENT
1 = MOTHER
2 = FATHER
3 = GUARDIAN/RELATIVE CARETAKER
4 = BOTH PARENTS
7 = NOT APPLICABLE

RECOMMENDED
1 = IN REUNIFICATION PLAN
2 = ADDITIONAL SERVICES
3 = REQUESTED BY PARENT
7 = NOT APPLICABLE

UTILIZATION
1 = AS RECOMMENDED
2 = LESS THAN RECOMMENDED
3 = NOT AT ALL
7 = NOT APPLICABLE

PRIMARY REASON NOT USED
1 = SERVICE NO AVAILABLE
2 = NO FUNDS AVAILABLE
3 = NO TRANSPORTATION
4 = PARENT REFUSED
5 = SW DID NOT COMPLY
6 = SUBSTANCE ABUSE
7 = NOT APPLICABLE
8 = ILLNESS
9 = UNKNOWN

	SERVICE	CLIENT	RECOMMENDED	USED	REASON
851.	Alcohol Treatment	(51)	(52)	c l (53)	(54)
855.	Mental Health Clinic	(55)	(56)	c l (57)	c l (58)
859.	Health Care (Hospital, Clinic)	c l (59)	(60)	c l (61)	c l (62)
863.	Job Finding	c l (63)	(64)	c l (65)	c l (66)
867.	Job Training	c l (67)	(68)	c l (69)	c l (70)
871.	Housing Assistance	c l (71)	(72)	c l (73)	c l (74)
875.	Family Planning	(75)	(76)	(77)	c l (78)
879.	Medicaid	(79)	(80)	c l (81)	(82)

CLIENT
1 = MOTHER
2 = FATHER
3 = GUARDIAN/RELATIVE CARETAKER
4 = BOTH PARENTS
7 = NOT APPLICABLE

RECOMMENDED
1 = IN REUNIFICATION PLAN
2 = ADDITIONAL SERVICES
3 = REQUESTED BY PARENT
7 = NOT APPLICABLE

UTILIZATION
1 = AS RECOMMENDED
2 = LESS THAN RECOMMENDED
3 = NOT AT ALL
7 = NOT APPLICABLE

PRIMARY REASON NOT USED
1 = SERVICE NO AVAILABLE
2 = NO FUNDS AVAILABLE
3 = NO TRANSPORTATION
4 = PARENT REFUSED
5 = SW DID NOT COMPLY
6 = SUBSTANCE ABUSE
7 = NOT APPLICABLE
8 = ILLNESS
9 = UNKNOWN

	SERVICE	CLIENT	RECOMMENDED	USED	REASON
901.	Legal Aid	☐ (1)	☐ (2)	c l (3)	c l (4)
905.	Welfare	☐ (5)	☐ (6)	☐ (7)	c l (8)
909.	WIC	☐ (9)	☐ (10)	c l (11)	c l (12)
913.	Free Meals/School	☐ (13)	☐ (14)	☐ (15)	c l (16)
917.	Food Assistance	☐ (17)	☐ (18)	c l (19)	c l (20)
921.	Clothes/Household Goods	L - l (21)	☐ (22)	☐ (23)	c l (24)
925.	Psych/Psych Evaluation	c l (25)	☐ (26)	☐ (27)	c l (28)
929.	Casework Assistance	☐ (29)	☐ (30)	c l (31)	c l (32)

- 1REU/24

```
CLIENT                                      RECOMMENDED
1 = MOTHER                                  1 = IN REUNIFICATION PLAN
2 = FATHER                                  2 = ADDITIONAL SERVICES
3 =   GUARDIAN/RELATIVE   CARETAKER  3 = REQUESTED BY PARENT
4 = BOTH PARENTS                            7 = NOT APPLICABLE
7 = NOT APPLICABLE

UTILIZATION                                 PRIMARY REASON NOT USED
1 = AS RECOMMENDED                          1 = SERVICE NO AVAILABLE
2 = LESS THAN RECOMMENDED                   2 = NO FUNDS AVAILABLE
3 = NOT AT ALL                              3 = NO TRANSPORTATION
7 = NOT APPLICABLE                          4 = PARENT REFUSED
                                            5 = SW DID NOT COMPLY
                                            6 = SUBSTANCE ABUSE
                                            7 = NOT APPLICABLE
                                            8 = ILLNESS
                                            9 = UNKNOWN
```

	SERVICE	CLIENT	RECOMMENDED	USED	REASON
933.	Other (Specify_____)	□ (33)	□ (34)	□ (35)	□ (36)
937.	Other (Specify_____)	□ (37)	□ (38)	□ (39)	□ (40)

(941) Services. Recommended for Child?

1 = Yes
2 = No

941.	Foster Care	□ (41)
942.	Relative Care	□ (42)
943.	Visitation, Mother	□ (43)
944.	Visitation, Father	□ (44)
945.	Regular Contact, SW	□ (45)

```
1 = Yes
2 = No
```

946.   Counseling/Therapy

☐ (46)

947.   School

☐ (47)

948.   **Daycare**

☐ (48)

949.   Psych/Psych **Eval**

☐ (49)

950.   Medical Treatment

☐ (50)

951.   Other_____

☐ (51)

(952)   Reunification Plan Signed?

```
1 = Yes
2 = No
7 = Not Applicable
9 = Unknown
```

952.   Mother

☐ (52)

953.   Father

☐ (53)

954.   Guardian

☐ (54)

REUNIFICATION DECISION

A01. Date Child Returned

☐ ☐—☐ ☐—☐ ☐

      MONTH'   DAY   YEAR
                   (1 - 6)

A07. Was Child Returned to Original Caretaker?

                                          c l
      1 = Yes   (7)
      2 = No

A08. Was Child Returned:'

                                          c l
      1 = Prior to Reunification Plan   (8)
      2 = Post Reunification Plan

(A09) If child was returned prior to the reunification plan, were
       any of these conditions placed on return of child?

       1 = Yes
       2 = No
       7 = Not Applicable

A09. No Contact with Perpetrator   ☐

                                                  (9)

A10. Comply with Reunification Maintenance Plan ☐

                                                  (10)

All. Meet Health Needs of Child   ☐

                                                  (11)

A12. Meet School Needs of Child **(Daycare**   ☐
      & Preschool)
                                                  (12)

A13. ˙ Other (Specify_____)   ☐

                                                  (13)

A14. Were Placed Siblings Returned Also?   ☐

      1 = Yes   (14)
      2 = No
      7 = Not Applicable

(A15)   Who Had Input to Reunification Decision?

1 = For Reunification
2 = Against Reunification
3 = Not Involved/No Input

A15.   Mother

(15)

A16.   Father

(16)

A17.   Social Worker

(17)

A18.   **Foster** Parent(s)

(18)

A19.   Therapist/Counselor

(19)

A20.   **Psychiatrist/Psychologist**

(20)

A21.   Guardian Ad Litem

(21)

A22.   Other (Specify _____)

(22)

A23.   _____

(23)

A24.   _____

(24)

A25.   Was there any discordance between the agency worker
       and the judge regarding the reunification decision?   c   1
                                                                   (25)
       1 = Yes
       2 = No
       7 = Not Applicable
       9 = Unknown

A26.   Content of Discordance;
                                                                   c   1
       1 = Judge Reunify/SW No   (26)
       2 = SW Reunify/Judge No
       7 = Not Applicable

A27.   Evidence to Support Discordance?

       1 = Inferred   (27)
       2 =VerbatimText_____

       _____

       _____

       7 = Not Applicable

A28.   Total number of workers from case opening to
       reunification? (01, 02, etc; Code "77" for N/A)
                                                                   (28 - 29)

A30.   Total number of workers from reunification
       to re-referral?. (01, 02, etc; Code 77 for N/A)
                                                                   (30 - 31)

A32.   Total number of workers from case opening to
       case closure? (01, 02, etc; Code "77" for N/A)
                                                                   (32 - 33)

ECOLOGICAL CHANGES NOTED IN FAMILY SINCE REMOVAL

1 = Yes
2 = No

(A34)   Family events

A34.   Separation

☐

(34)

A35.   Divorce

☐

(35)

A36.   Marriage

☐

(36)

A37.   Pregnancy

☐

(37)

A38.   Addition to Nuclear Family

☐

(38)

A39.   Death in Nuclear Family

☐

(39)

(A40)   Employment changes

A40.   Loss of Job, Mother

3

☐

(40)

A41.   Loss of Job, Father

☐

(41)

A42.   Chpnge of Job, Mother

☐

(42)

A43.   Change of Job, Father

☐

(43)

A44.   Job after LT Unemploy, Mother

☐

(44)

```
                    1 = Yes
                    2 = No

A45.         Job after LT Unemploy, Father          ☐
                                                    (45)

(A46)    Changes in Living Conditions             ☐
A46.         Eviction/Homeless                      (46)

A47.         Better Housing                         ☐
                                                    (47)

A48.         Worse Housing                          ◪
                                                    (48)

(A49)    Health

A49.         Injury/Accident, Mother                ☐
                                                    (49)

A50.         Injury/Accident, Father                ☐
                                                    (50)

A51.         Diagnosis Major Illness, Mother        ☐
                                                    (51)

A52.         Diagnosis Major Illness, Father        ☐
                                                    (52)

A53.         Death in Extended Family               ☐
                                                    (53)
```

FEDERAL GRANT 3.12 **PROJECT**
REUNIFICATION VARIABLE **LIST** #2
TACOMA, WASHINGTON
LEGAL PROCESS FILE
(Completed for Each Hearing)

RECORD #1

101. I.D. # ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

(1 - 4)

105. CLIENT'S LAST NAME

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

(5 - 16)

117. CLIENT'S FIRST NAME

☐ ☐ ☐   ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

(17 - 26)

127. CLIENT'S MIDDLE INITIAL

☐

(27)

128. CASE NUMBER:

☐   I H H I   ☐   ☐ ☐—☐ ☐—☐

(28 - 37)

138. Date of Hearing

☐   ☐—☐ ☐—☐ ☐

MONTH   DAY   YEAR

(38 - 43)

144. Type of Hearing

☐

(44)

    1 = Detention/Shelter Care
    2 = Fact Finding
    3 = Disposition
    4 = 6 Month Review
    5 = 12 Month Review
    6 = Special Review
    7 = Administrative Review
    8 = Voluntary Agreement/Contract

- 2REU/1 -

(145)   Persons Present

1 = Yes
2 = No
7 = Not Applicable
9 = 'Unknown

145.   Mother (Female Caretaker)

☐
(45)

146.   Father (Male Caretaker)

☐
(46)

147.   Guardian (Non-Parent)

☐
(47)

148.   Child

☐
(48)

149.   Mother's Attorney

☐
(49)

150.   Father's Attorney

☐
(50)

151.   Child's Attorney

☐
(51)

1 5 2 .   Agency Attorney

☐
(52)

153.   Social Worker/Caseworker

☐
(53)

154.   Guardian ad litem

☐
(54)

155.   Other (Specify_____)

☐
(55)

156.   Did the child testify?   ☐

        1 = **Yes**   (56)
        2 = **No**
        7 = Not Applicable

        OUTCOME

(157)   Findings

        1 = Yes
        2 = No
        7 = N/A

3 157. Reasonable Efforts   ☐

                                                            (57)

158.   Shelter Care Needed   ☐

                                                            (58)

159.   Child Dependent per 13.34.030, 2(a)   ☐

                                                            (59)

160.   Child Dependent per 13.34.030, 2(b)   ☐

                                                            (60)

161.   Child Dependent per 13.34.030, 2(c)   ☐

                                                            (61)

162.   Child No Longer/Not Dependent   ☐

                                                            (62)

163.   Child is Indian per 25 U.S.C. **1903(4)**   ☐

                                                            (63)

164.   Voluntary Consent Given?   ☐

                                                            (64)

(165)   Placement Order

     1 = Yes
     2 = No

165.   Child 'Placed/Continued In Foster Care   ☐
                                                         (65)

166.   Child Placed/Continued in Relative Care   ☐
                                                         (66)

167.   Child Returned Home   ☐
                                                         (67)

168.   Other (Specify _____)   ☐
                                                         (68)

(169)   Reunification Order

     1 = Yes
     2 = No
     7 = Not Applicable

169.   Casework Services   ☐
                                                         (69)

170.   Parenting Classes   ☐
                                                         (70)

171.   Counseling/Therapy - Mother   c l
                                                         (71)

172.   Counseling/Therapy - Father   • l
                                                         (72)

173.   Counseling/Therapy - Child   c l
                                                         (73)

174.   Transportation   c l
                                                         (74)

```
1 = Ye6
2 = No
7 = Not Applicable
```

175.   In-Home Services

                                                             (75)

176.   Substance Abuse Rehab - Mother

                                                             (76)

177.   Substance Abuse Rehab - **Father**

                                                             (77)

178.   Psych Evaluation - Mother

                                                             (78)

179.   Psych Evaluation - Father

                                                             (79)

180.   Psych Evaluation - Child

                                                             (80)

181.   Visitation

                                                             (81)

182.   Other (Specify _____)

                                                             (82)

1 8 3 . Miscellaneous (Specify_____)

                                                             (83)

184.   Judicial Identification Code

01 = Commissioner Krilick
02 = Commissioner Boyle
03 = Commissioner Foley
04 = Commissioner Marshall
05 = Judge Verharen
06 = Judge Steiner
07 = Judge Thompson
08 = Judge Hayes
09 = Dale Francis
10 = Nancy Tyson
11 = Ralph Noble
12 = Dick Johnson
13 = Gloria Stancich

(84 - 85)

RE-REFERRAL/RE-ENTRY

RECORD #1

101. I.D. #
Enter appropriate code in first box.

(1 - 4)

1 = Current Military
2 = Former Military
3 = Not Military

105. CLIENT'S LAST NAME

(5 - 16)

117, CLIENT'S FIRST NAME

(17 - 26)

127. CLIENT'S MIDDLE INITIAL

(27)

128. CASE NUMBER:

(28 - 37)

138.   Have there been any re-referrals since
reunification?

(38)

1 = **Yes**
2 = No

139.   If **yes,** enter actual number of referral6
(Code **"77"** for N/A)

(39 - 40)

(141)   If yes, indicate the primary reason for the new
         referral and the confirmation code.

         REASON   CONFIRMATION

         1 = Sexual Abuse   1 = Yes
         2 = Physical Abuse   2 = No
         3 = Severe Neglect   3 = suspected
         4 = General Neglect   7 = Not Applicable
         5 = Emotional Abuse   9 = Unknown
         6 = Exploitation
         7 = Not Applicable
         8 = Caretaker Absence

                                            REASON   CONFIRMATION

141.   Referral # 1   [   ]
                                                          c l
                                            (41)   (42)

143.   Referral # 2   [   ]
                                                          c l
                                            (43)   (44)

145.   Referral # 3   [   ]   [   ]

                                            (45)   (46)

147.   Referral # 4   [   ]
                                                          c l
                                            (47)   (48)

149.   Referral # 5   [   ]
                                                          c l
                                            (49)   (50)

151.   Did child experience physical harm as a result   [   ]
         of any new referral?
                                                                (51)
         1 = Yes
         2 = No
         7 = Not Applicable

152.   If yes, enter actual referral number, if no,   [   ]
         code "7."   (7 = Not Applicable)
                                                                (52)

153.   Was child placed out-of-home as a result of new   [   ]
         referral?
                                                                (53)
         1 = Yes
         2 = No
         7 = Not Applicable

- 3REU/2 -

154.   If child placed, was the placement for more than
        72 hours?

        □ (54)

        1 = Yes
        2 = No
        7 = Not Applicable

155.   If child placed, type Of placement?

        □ (55)

        1 = Relative
        2 = Receiving Care
        3 = Crisis Residential Center
        4 = Foster Care
        5 = Residential Treatment
        6 = Group Care
        7 = Not Applicable
        9 = Hospital
        8 = Other (Specify _____)

156.   Legal Status of Placement?

        □ (56)

        1 = Protective custody by law enforcement
        2 = Shelter Care - no parent
        3 = Shelter Care - threat of serious harm
        4 = Dependency - abandoned
        5 = Dependency - abuse or neglect per RCW
        6 = Dependency - no parent willing/capable
        7 = Not Applicable
        8 = Dependency - DD
        9 = Voluntary Placement Agreement

157.   Dates of new placement? (Code 77-77-77 for cases with no
        placement or child still in placement)

        Begin Date   □   l i H c l
                        MONTH   DAY   YEAR
                              (57 - 62)

163.   End Date   □   l l H I I H I c l
                        MONTH   .   DAY   YEAR
                              (63 - 68)

(169)   Services/Resources after Reunification

          1 = **Ye6**
          2 = No

169.   Services Recommended in Plan   ☐
                                                                    (69)

170.   Counseling   ☐
                                                                    (70)

171.   Transportation   ☐
                                                                    (71)

172.   I n-Home Care   ☐
                                                                    (72)

173.   Respite Care   ☐
                                                                    (73)

174.   Parenting/Homemaker   ☐
                                                                    (74)

175.   Was this case closed for DCFS services?   ☐

          1 = Yes   (75)
          2 = No

176.   If yes, list date (Code 77-77-77 for no)

          ☐ ☐—☐ ☐—☐ ☐
          MONTH   DAY   YEAR
          (76 - 81)

- 3REU/4 -

APPENDIX B-l

ABSTRACTION MANUAL **FOR** THE STUDY OF

REUNIFICATION RISKS AND SUCCESSES

San Diego, California Site

DATA COLLECTION CATEGORIES

San Diego State Univeristy

1993

STUDY OF REUNIFICATION RISKS AND SUCCESSES
CASE ABSTRACT MANUAL

General Directions:

1. Before starting any case abstracting, verify the **child's** eligibility for the study by checking if he/she was **out-of-home** more than 72 hours. Check the placement/financial records on the left-hand side of the file. It doesn't matter at what point the child experienced the 72 plus hours (either before, during or after the court proceedings), as long as we can show that out-of-home placement occurred for more than 72 hours. Eligibility also depends on the child residing in San Diego County at least 9 months after the date of return home/relative **"reunification"**. Weekends/Holidays may be included in producing a 72 hour figure.

2. As you complete the case abstract instrument, compare those areas which also appear on the Eligibility Form and indicate if the information on the Eligibility Form is accurate. These include: Report Reason = Referral Reason **(S2)**, Petition, Detention and Dispo dates **(S9-S11)**, SPLC Removal Date **(S17)**, Baseline Date **(S17b)** and Date Returned **(S19)**. Place a check next to those items which are accurate and circle those which are incorrect.

3. The Legal Process **section** requires a separate page for each hearing, **so** be prepared with multiple copies of this page.

4. When several children in a family are involved, you may not have to repeat certain sections: 1) Family Characteristics, 2) Legal Process 3) Reunification Plan and 4) Ecological Changes. This assumes that all the children involved share the same nuclear family, the same court dates and the same reunification plans. The sections dealing with the child, case characteristics, placement, reun decision and re-referral will have to be done separately for each child. Photocopy sections that did not need to be repeated from the oldest child's form and insert in younger children's forms so that each child has a complete abstraction record.

    When dealing with a family, start with the file of the oldest child removed, as this is where the bulk of the information is located.

<u>PROJECT INFORMATION</u>

<u>RID:</u> Use the RID number from the Reunification Study Eligibility Form.

<u>CASE NO.:</u> Use the DSS case record number from the Reunification study Eligibility Form (also on Face Sheet).

<u>ABSTRACTOR</u> (First and last name):

<u>DATE:</u> Date abstraction performed

<u>I.</u> CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHILD

<u>DATE OF BIRTH:</u> Birthdate of child from Reunification **Study** Eligibility Form (also on Face Sheet).

<u>GENDER:</u> Sex of child from Eligibility Form and on Face Sheet

<u>RACE:</u> Ethnic background of child. If Caucasian/minority, code under the minority race. If two minorities are represented,, code as **"mixed."** If other, specify in space provided. On Face Sheet.

<u>SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:</u> Answer **"yes"** only if there is documented **assessment by** a qualified professional, school or other appropriate agency (e.g., San Diego Regional Center diagnosis of a developmentally disabled child) or if the social worker makes reference to the existence of such documentation. Answer **"no"** if there is no mention of the problem in the case record. Answer **"suspected"** if an evaluation for the particular problem has been requested, the social worker indicates the possibility of the problem on the risk assessment form or a non-professional third party (e.g., Mom) reports the existence of the problem.

These characteristics may be mentioned on the Risk Assessment Form (Intake Section of case record), in court report narratives or in medical/psychological/psychiatric evaluations. **The Risk Assessment** Form may indicate **"Special Problems"** with no further delineation. If so, watch for more explicit information in the narrative or professional reports. Also, school problems encompass 'several areas (i.e, absenteeism, behavioral problems, learning disabilities) which are not delineated on the Risk Assessment Form. Again, watch for additional information in the narratives or professional evaluations. If there is no delineation of the problem beyond the category heading, answer **"suspected"**.

Additional help:

    <u>DIAGNOSED MENTAL ILLNESS</u>: Answer **"suspected"** if child is to be evaluated by a professional or is currently in counseling. If psychological evaluation was court ordered and completed, record the results under the appropriate DSM III code(s).

LEARNING DISABILITY: child diagnosed a having a **learning** disability through appropriate testing by school **or other** qualified professional.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE/ADDICTED: Answer **"yes"** if child uses alcohol and/or drugs or has been diagnosed as being substance addicted (even if he has completed treatment and is not currently **"using")**.

SUBSTANCE ADDICTED AT BIRTH: Answer **"yes"** if child was diagnosed as being addicted at birth or as having Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

SEVERE BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS: Child diagnosed as being behaviorally disabled via a current psychiatric **or** psychological evaluation or through a special evaluation **by** the school system. An answer of **"suspected"** is appropriate for those cases which have a **caseplan** that includes obtaining an evaluation.

MEDICAL PROBLEMS: Answer **"yes"** if child has serious medical problems which require a lot of time and energy on the part of the caretaker and/or caseworker or hospitalization, hospital staff.

EATING/SLEEPING DISORDERS: Child diagnosed as having an eating or sleep disorder. An answer of **"suspected"** is appropriate for those cases which have a case plan that includes obtaining an evaluation.

SCHOOL PROBLEMS: Child routinely has problems (physically, mental, emotional or behavioral) which effect his performance in school (as verified by a teacher, school principal, school psychologist).

SPECIAL PROBLEMS: This category appears on the San Diego Risk Assessment Form and may or may not include further delineation of the problem area either on the Risk Assessment Form or within the casefile. If only the broad category of **"special** problems" is checked, mark **"suspected".**

GRADE IN SCHOOL: Use Face Sheet to record grade in school. Be sure to use the Face Sheet that was filled out at the time of removal (Face Sheets are updated periodically). Early education programs include infant stimulation, preschool, special education classes, Head Start programs etc.

SOCIAL WORKER RATING OF RISK TO CHILD: This is **a four-point** scale found on the Risk Assessment Form. If the SW has placed the evaluation between two numbers, record the lower number. (SD only)

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FAMILY

All data in this category pertain to the nuclear family unit at the time of 'removal. For purposes of this section, male and female' caretaker represent those individuals in the role of "parent" to the child just prior to the child being placed out of the home, e.g., biological parent, stepparent, **parent's** partner, etc.

ADULTS IN THE HOME: Who were the adults living in the home at the time the index child was removed? Use the Face Sheet and the court report narrative.

MOTHER'S BIRTHDATE: Month, day and year.

MARITAL STATUS: Most likely, this information will be in the court report. The Face Sheet will tell you if the parents share the same address.

NUMBER OF SIBLINGS: Indicate the total number of siblings, including the index child, living in the home at the time of removal. Include all full, half and step siblings. On Face Sheet.

SIBLING INFORMATION: Start with the oldest child and work down to the youngest. Include the index child. "In protective custody?" asks if siblings were removed as a result of the abuse incident related to the index child. Information for all four data areas should be on the Face Sheet. Be sure the Face Sheet used reflects the time of removal.

EMPLOYMENT DATA:

INCOME SOURCE: The Face Sheet should indicate whether one or both **parents are** employed. As before, make sure you are using the Face Sheet that was completed at the time of the child's removal. Employment consists of both part-time and full-time work. Also, although one or both parents may be working, the family may still be receiving some form of welfare. This information may be in the ·**court** report narrative when the social worker assesses the family's ability to care for the child.

GROSS ANNUAL INCOME: This will be difficult to determine in most cases, as DSS does not collect information regarding income level. It might appear in the SW narrative or court report. Most of the time, you will have to indicate "unknown." Code **"5= No Visible Means of Support"**, for "under the Table" income earners. Code their income source (preceding question) as **"5= Unemployed"**.

SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Use the same criteria here for judging confirmed or **suspectedas** used under "Child Characteristics." This information most likely

is in the SW court report narrative and any psychological **or** medical evaluations, if available.

- **CHARGED CRIMINAL HISTORY, PERSON**: Caretaker has history of charged misdemeanor crimes against persons. A section of the court report narrative addresses past CPS contacts and/or criminal history.

  CHARGED CRIMINAL HISTORY. PROPERTY: Caretaker has history of charged misdemeanor crimes against property. In court report narrative. For this study, drug crimes are considered crimes against property.

  AGENCY HISTORY AS A CHILD: Did the caretaker have a history of abuse as a child?

  CULT ACTIVITY/RELIGIOUS FANATICISM: Is there cult activity or religious fanaticism in the home, or is the caretaker part of a cult or fanatic religious group?

SITUATIONAL PROBLEMS:

This section of questions is an attempt to identify any problem areas that would not be evident in the allegations or in any other data abstracted. If there is any evidence in the file to suggest the existence of any of these problems, mark **"yes."** Here, we are not concerned with any standardized confirmation of the problem but rather the likelihood of its existence through comments of the social worker, other investigative party, teacher, other reliable source, etc.

SOCIAL WORKER RATING OF FAMILY WORKABILITY: This reflects a four point scale on the Risk Assessment Form (Intake Section). SD only

III. CASE CHARACTERISTICS

DATE OF REMOVAL: This date should be the same as the baseline date on the Reunification Study Eligibility Form. If the date of removal is shown to be different on a police incident report (or other child abuse incident report), Social Worker Log, Court Report, etc., use the date found in the file, and indicate on question #15 that this date differs from the one originally noted. Remember that for this study, the removal date for a positive tox baby is the day of birth, **not** the day the child is removed from the hospital to a placement facility.

SOURCE OF CURRENT REFERRAL: This information should appear on the Incident Report (Intake Section), court report and Social Worker **Log.**

LAW ENFORCEMENT: Combines any and all sources within the

legal system, i.e., police (including Border Patrol, Sheriff's Dept., Marshall's Office, Harbor Patrol, etc.), Children's Service Bureau (**Initial Services,** Initial Response, Dependency Division, etc.), and the court system (District Attorney, Juvenile Hall, Juvenile court Probation, Probation, **etc.).**

SCHOOL: Includes school nurse, teacher, counselor, psychologist or other individual involved directly in the school setting.

MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL/HOSPITAL. CLINIC: Includes any referral from a physician, nurse or other medical professional, including referrals directly from a hospital or clinic.

COMMUNITY PROFESSIONAL: Includes psychologists, social workers, counselors/therapists, home-based/in-home supportive service workers, parent aide and professionals involved in parenting classes, drug/alcohol treatment programs and other community service agencies.

TYPE OF ABUSE AT REFERRAL: When the referral was made, what type of abuse was suspected by the referring source? There may be more than one referral reason. The primary reason for referral will be on the Eligibility Form.

TYPE OF ABUSE AT REMOVAL/ALLEGED PERPETRATOR(S): At the time the child was removed, what was the type of abuse suspected and who was the alleged perpetrator(s). There may be more than one removal reason and more than one perpetrator. (Incident report or court report narrative) Code "3= Protective Issue" in the cases where the index child is not thought to have directly experienced the abuse type(s) in question.

OTHER CHILDREN IN FAMILY OF VICTIM: Indicate whether other children in the home of the victim have been abused as well as the type of abuse and alleged perpetrator(s). Include non-study-eligible children.

-LEGAL AUTHORITY CODE(S): Indicate the legal code(s) cited at the time of removal. "A" through "h" pertain to WA and "i" through "o" to SD. This information should be on the incident report and the SW court report. Only codes "i" through "o" are listed on the SD Abstract Instrument.

PETITION AMENDED?: Have charges been added to or dropped from the original petition?

LEGAL AUTHORITY CODE FOR ADDITIONAL CHARGES: Indicate the legal code(s) of the amended petition, if one exists.

CRIMINAL CHARGES FILED?: If criminal charges have been filed, this information should be noted in the court report. There are no

court records of criminal proceedings in the file.

CASE CLOSED AT DSS?: Has the case been closed by the Department of
Social Services? Often, if a case is closed," the closing summary
appears on top of the right-hand section of the file. Check also
in the SW log.

DATE DSS CLOSED CASE: Month, day and year.

PRIOR HISTORY

NUMBER OF PREVIOUS REFERRALS/CONTACTS RELATED TO FAMILY: This
data should be in the court report headed "Past CPS Contacts".
This question is looking for previous referrals regarding any
child or combination of children in the family.

REFERRAL SOURCE: Has a single source provided the previous
referrals/contacts related to the family? If so, enter "1"
and specify the source. Enter "2" if there have been multiple
sources.

NUMBER OF PREVIOUS REFERRALS/CONTACTS RELATED TO INDEX CHILD:
Have there been previous referrals/contacts regarding the
index child, either singly or in combination with another
sibling? On the front of each case file is a list of previous
referrals specific to that child.

REFERRAL SOURCE: Follow same procedure used for family and
referral sources.

PREVIOUS OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS: This pertains to previous
episodes of out-of-home care (child was removed for a period of
time and returned home). This information should be in the Intake
section of the file and may be in the court report and/or the
placement/financial section of the file. Do not record change of
placements within a single episode of care. From the time a child
leaves home until he returns, he may be in several different
placement locations, but the entire time away from home is
considered one episode of out-of-home care.

REASON FOR PLACEMENT: If available, record the reason for
placement. List the five most recent placements only.

REMOVAL DATE=BASELINE DATE? Are the two dates the same?

IV. PLACEMENTS FOR CURRENT EPISODE

TYPE OF PLACEMENT: The type of placement should appear on the
financial forms and in the Placement Log, if available. Code "ESC-
LFH" placements as "2=Receiving Home/ESC", since ESC-LFH is

regarded as an ESC.

If placements for the current episode exceed the twelve allowed **for
on the placement page,** fill in and **attach** a second placement page.
Include the time a Tox baby spent in the hospital(s) in the
placement section, despite that it may precede **ESC/Foster** placement
per-se.

WITH SIBS?:   For the majority of time the index child was in the
foster home, were <u>placed sibs</u> there also?   To determine if <u>placed
sibs</u> are together, check the name and address of the foster parent
in the financial records.   Also, this information may be in the
court orders or court report.

REASON FOR MOVE: The reason for removal may be indicated on the
financial/requisition form, the court report or the SW narrative.
If a child is "reunified" with parent or relative who is not the
original caretaker, enter "10-other", and identify the person.

V.   REUNIFICATION PLAN

PLAN TYPE: If a 330 or 360 voluntary plan is in effect and
included in the file, record the information from that plan using
the Reunification Plan instrument.   Be sure to rename the plan a
330 or 360 voluntary plan.   If a voluntary plan is in effect but no
information exists, leave this section blank.

VISITATION: The visitation pattern is recorded for the parent(s)
or guardian.   Sections "a" through **"c"** will be spelled out in the
reunification plan.   Sections **"d"** through **"f"** are looking for
compliance of the family with the recommendations in the plan.
This information should be in the court report at the 6 month
review (or earlier, if there is a special hearing related to a
reunification decision prior to the time of the 6 month review).
The court summary also may provide more expanded information
related to the court orders which will allow you to determine
compliance (e.g., the court order may state **"visitation/Fa** set at
.**three** hours/week", while the court summary may say, **"Dad's** visits
increased to three times a week").   Leave visitation **blank** for
MO/FA/G if not applicable, e.g. child already returned home to that
person.   Leave **"d"** though **"f"** blank of child returned home to
MO/FA/G shortly after reunification plan was implemented. **"MO"/"FA"**
can be used for step-parents provided that bio parents of the same
role are not involved in the case.

SERVICES/RESOURCES: Within the list of services are two **Categories:**
those services which frequently are part of a reunification plan
and **those services which augment a reunification plan.   We are**
interested in the family's utilization of all services recommended.
However, the court reports will focus on the family's compliance
with those recommendations stipulated in the reunification plan.

At the 6 month **review,** the SW may have certificates of completion
from drug treatment programs or parenting classes, an attendance
log at AA or NA meetings, a therapist's report or other data which
speaks to the compliance of the parent(s) with the court
recommendations.   She may also make **a** summary statement related to
compliance.

o**RDERED:** Only enter if service or condition is in the
Reunification Plan. Enter **"7=NA"** when there is no
reunification plan(s). Enter **"2=Not** in Reun Plan" when a
plan(s) has been provided, but the service in question is not
ordered in the reun plan. Where a service is not ordered, the
"who" **,** "Compliance" and "reason" spaces can be left blank.

COMPLIANCE: Indicate the compliance of each participant. If
Mom completed a set of parenting classes, she is at the level
recommended by the court.   If she started classes but never
finished or attended sporadically, she is below the level. If
she never attended parenting classes, she had no compliance.

REASON: If compliance is below the level of recommendation or
none at all, indicate the reason, if known. "Unavailable"
refers to services which exist but may have waiting lists or
may be unavailable in the language needed by the parent. "No
money" means the mother, father or guardian is claiming lack
of funds and the court has not provided funds. If the service
is too removed from public transportation and the client has
no car, he/she may claim "no transportation." The client may
simply refuse to comply or may have a drug problem or illness
which impacts their ability to comply. Whenever there is a **"2"**
or "3" under compliance, there must be an answer under reason,
if only "unknown".

CONDITIONS/HOUSEHOLD refers to restrictions on parent
such as household standards, "maintain stable residence*',
etc.

CONDITIONS/PERSONAL refers to restriction on parent
behavior such as "cut work hours", "no physical
discipline", "stay sober", etc.

WIC: Refers to a federal program for Women/Infants/Children
which provided formula/milk or vouchers for same. Code as food
assistance.

DRUG TESTING: Includes Alcohol Testing.

SERVICES **RECOMMENDED FOR THE CHILD: In** San Diego; there is seldom
a separate plan for the child. Rather, services recommended for
the child are stipulated in the court report narrative. Should
there be a separate **plan** for the child, check *'other" and write in

reunification plan (in addition to checking **any** services recommended in **"a"** through **"g")**. The court **report** narrative frequently stipulates <u>anv necessary</u> medical, ed., counseling, etc. Code as **"other"** and write info ·out· unless the **child** -actually receives the service or services.

<u>**REUNIFICATION PLAN(S)** SIGNED?</u>: Did the mother, father, guardian or other sign the reunification plan(s)?. A signed copy should be in the file or the court summary should refer to the parents having signed a copy.

VI.   REUNIFICATION DECISION

<u>CHILD RETURNED TO ORIGINAL CARETAKER</u>?: Was the child returned to the caretaker from whom he/she was originally removed? This may be determined from the last few entries in the SW narrative, the last court report or court order or from **the** financial/placement section of the file.

<u>DATE CHILD RETURNED HOME</u>: This date is on the Reunification Study Eligibility Form **(S19)** and reflects the end placement date from the DSS 2380 log (County of San Diego Children in Placement). Confirmation of this date can be made by looking at the placement information in the financial section of the file. If the child has been reunified with the original caretaker, the date on the Eligibility Form should be the correct date of return home. If a child has been **"detained"** and ultimately reunified with a parent that was not the original caretaker, the end placement date from the 2380 log may not be the date the child returned **"home".** In this case, look for the date in the court orders or in the SW court report or narrative.

<u>CHILD RETURNED **HOME** PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF REUNIFICATION PLAN</u>? If a child is returned home prior to or immediately following the hearing that approves the reunification plan, answer **"yes".** Also, answer **"yes"** if a child has been returned home via a "special" hearing or at the discretion of the social worker while the court **still** has jurisdiction and the reunification plan is still in effect. Answer **"no"** if at a review hearing the social'worker reports compliance with the reunification plan, and the judge then orders the child returned home.

<u>CONDITIONS FOR REUNIFICATION</u>: The court orders should indicate any conditions for the child's return home. Also, check the court summary in the court report section.

<u>INPUT TO REUNIFICATION DECISION</u>: If the decision to reunify is made at a 6 month hearing or other special hearing, there may be considerable input from counselors, foster parent(s), biological parent(s), etc. If the decision to reunify is made at a time prior to a formal reunification or maintenance plan, input from fewer

individuals would be expected. Code any child input in **"other"**

PLACED SIBS RETURNED?:   Were siblings who were removed as a result of the allegations against the index child also returned?

DISCORDANCE BETWEEN SOCIAL WORKER/JUDGE: Discordance refers to disagreement between the social worker and judge regarding the reunification decision.

CONTENT OF DISCORDANCE: Did the SW recommend foster care and the judge send the child home or conversely?

EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT DISCORDANCE: Discordance may be **"inferred"** if the court report narrative recommends foster care placement and the judge orders the child home. If there is specific reference in the court order, court summary or court report **to** SW/Judge discordance, record the text verbatim in the space available.

TOTAL # WORKERS FROM OPENING TO RETURN HOME: Start with the initial response worker and count through the worker at time returned home.

TOTAL # WORKERS FROM REUNIFICATION TO RE-REFERRAL: Start with worker **at the** time reunification plan established and **count** through the worker at time of re-referral.

TOTAL # WORKERS FROM CASE OPENING THROUGH CASE CLOSURE: Start with the Initial Response Services worker and count through the worker who closed the case.

VII.   RE-REFERRAL/R&ENTRY

NUMBER OF RE-REFERRALS: How many referrals have been made to the hotline since the child returned home? If the child has re-entered out-of-home placement, give the total number of referrals since reunification, including the referral which resulted in re-entry. If there has been no re-entry, give the total number of referrals in the nine month period following reunification. Where a referral applies only to the sib(s) of the index child, write this information out in the margins. Re-entry can only occur after the child has been "returned **home"** for 72 hours. Placements for re-entry episodes should be coded on the "Placements for Current Episode" page.

REASON FOR RE-REFERRALS/CONFIRMATION: The reason for re-referral should equate with the report reason on the screen. If this case was closed and the re-referral did not result in an active case, the screen information may be all that we can get (or there may be a report in the Intake Section of the file). If the case was re-opened, there will be SW narrative to check. If the case was still open at the time of the re-referral, look at the social worker

narrative. If the child was actually removed from the home, court orders also should be present. Confirmation of the allegation(s) will be determined using the WA General **Codebook** Guidelines (Appendix I).

CHILD REMOVED FROM THE HOME? Did re-placement occur? See the SW narrative, court orders, placement log, etc.

TOTAL # CASEWORKERS FROM CASE OPENING TO RE-ENTRY: Start with the Initial Response Services worker and count through the caseworker at the time of re-entry.

TYPE OF PLACEMENT: Again, this should be in the placement log, financial records and the SW narrative.

SERVICES/CONDITIONS IN CONNECTION WITH RE-REFERRAL/RE-ENTRY: In those cases where there is re-referral/re-entry, add page **11b** to the abstraction form and fill out. It lists services that may get mentioned in the SW log, the SW narrative, and the Input Sheet, which usually appears at the front of the right hand section of the casefile. Code only those services provided up to the date of any re-entry.

DID CHILD EXPERIENCE HARM FROM NEW REFERRAL: WA only

LEGAL STATUS OF PLACEMENT: WA only

DATES OF NEW PLACEMENT: WA only

VIII. ECOLOGICAL CHANGES

Is there any reference in the records to any of the specified ecological changes? We are looking for changes which occur between the time of removal and the time of **"legal"reunification.** Divorce, separation, marriage and pregnancy apply only to caretakers. **"MO/"** FA" can be used for step-parents if the case does not also involve bio parent(s) as caretakers.

IX. SOCIAL WORKER CONTACTS

Put an asterisk next to the date if a new social worker has taken over the case. This will allow you to calculate the **number** of social workers involved for the varying periods of time requested throughout the abstract form. If the SW contacts are **unusually** difficult to decipher, make that comment on the form so that cases with this problem can be handled separately. Include re-referral re-entry contacts which will be so-identified since they will be dated after the closing date.

PRE-REUNIFICATION CONTACTS: In WA State, all non-office visits are

considered field visits. In SD, field visits are divided into home visits and other non-office visits. WA case abstractors will use codes 1-3, while San Diego abstractors will use codes 1, 2, 4 and 5. At analysis, items 4 and 5 will be joined to equal item 3 for comparability of sites. This information is in the SW Service Time Documentation Log. In cases where both step-parents and biological parents are involved and match up differently with the children in terms of being either "step" or "bio" to them, you will not be able to use a photocopy of one sibs contacts for the rest of the sibs.

Home Visit: This refers only to the biological home from which the child was removed.

Field Visit: This includes visits to the foster home, schools or treatment programs or any other non-office meeting site.

POST-REUNIFICATION CONTACTS: Same as above.

X. SERVICES / CONDITIONS IN ADDITION TO REUNIFICATION PLAN

Code for Services and Conditions which may be provided in addition to those of the Reunification Plan(s) and those specified on court orders preceding the Reunification Plan(s).

XI. LEGAL PROCESS

Each hearing should be recorded on a separate page with a separate Legal Process Number. Start with the detention hearing. Abstract all information for the legal process from the court orders and court summaries. If a hearing is a Continuance, record only the information available through the same two sources, i.e., the court order and court summary.

DATE OF HEARING: Month, day and year.

TYPE OF HEARING: There may be more than one hearing under each category, i.e., a readiness hearing could be *'continued" for some technical reason (file not.in court) or *'further readiness" might be needed to investigate new information brought to light at the readiness hearing. Also, any time disposition is made (whether at a readiness hearing, trial or disposition hearing) that hearing becomes a disposition hearing and should be recorded as such (record only one type=disposition). "Special" hearings are listed under "other jurisdictional hearing".

APPEARANCES: Those present in the court are listed on the top left-hand side of the first page of the court order: If there is a check mark, they were in attendance. Code step-parents as "mother" or "father", except in those cases where both bio parents and step-parents are involved. Then info on Step-parent, their attorneys,

etc. will have to go in **"other"**. Enter **"7=NA" for** person-types not involved in the case.

CHILD TESTIFY? If the child is not listed as present in the court, answer **"7=NA"**. If the child <u>is</u> present, look for any references in the court summary (should be in the court report narrative section, attached to the report to which it pertains) to the child's having testified. The court summary is completed by the SW who is present in the courtroom. Because it is somewhat unusual for the child to testify, hopefully such information **would appear** here. Only on the court order form pertaining to the review hearings is there a place indicating those **"sworn** and testifying".

JUDGE'S INITIALS: By looking at the identity of the judge at each hearing, we can determine how many different judges were involved in the legal process per child. The judge's name appears in the upper right-hand corner of the court order.

DEPENDENCY TERMINATED? Termination of dependency requires court action, so an appropriate court order should exist in the file. Reference to such an order should also be in the SW narrative and in a court summary.

DATE OF DEPENDENCY TERMINATION: Month, day and year.

OUTCOME: Fill in only the information that appears on the court order or in the court summary. Those areas not covered are assumed to be the same as the previous hearing. Each court order specifies that **"all** prior orders not in conflict remain in full force and effect."

ADJUDICATION: Each of the court order forms has a. section pertaining to adjudication. Most simply circle or check off the individuals involved and the specific allegations made. A parent may deny one allegation and plead no contest to another. Or, a parent may deny everything at the detention hearing but plead no contest or admit at a subsequent hearing. Copy exactly the information that is on the court order. If there is a 387 legal .**code** (supplemental petition), note this in the **"misc"** section. If the response is **"default"** leave blank and record the default in the **"misc"** section.

TRUE FINDING: Answer yes or no to this question only when the court addresses the issue. **"7"** Not Applicable" will indicate **that the** issue of true finding was not resolved **at the** hearing being abstracted.

DETENTION/PLACEMENT: Again, each court order has a section dealing with detention or placement. If no changes are made in the detention or placement of the child, this section may be left blank or it may specifically state that the child is to continue at the home of... Record only what is marked. If there is nothing

marked, the assumption is that nothing changed.

REᴜɴIFICATION SERVICES/RESOURCES:

Section "a" lists the services found on the detention court order.   Answer "yes" to any services that are checked.

Sections "b-d" ask if there is a formal Reunification Plan for the mother, father, guardian, or "other" (may be called Family Maintenance Plan or Maintenance Plan, even though the child is out-of -home).   Existence of this plan is noted in the Reunification Section of the court order (you can also check by looking at the court report to which the plans should be attached).

THE   COURT   FURTHER   ORDERS/MISC.:   This   section   may   list discretionary powers afforded to the SW, specific instructions related to drug testing or other evaluation,   etc.   We are interested in "further orders" which pertain to the legal system and to the provision of services.   If in this section a parent's address is given, don't bother to record this information.

OTHER INFORMATION

 -Important information which cannot be coded in the form can be written on the back of the form.

 -Write the amount of time spent coding the case (in hours, minutes), in the top-right corner of page 1.   When sibs/older children are coded, enter only the 20 or so minutes spent on that form, do not add in the time spent on the older sib's file. Also, write in the nine month end check date (date at which nine months of "reunification elapsed) in the top-right hand corner of page 1.

 -In some cases certain sections of the abstraction form are not relevant for the index child, and should therefore not be filled out.   For example, the reunification plan and certain legal proceeding may pertain strictly to some non-age-eligible sib of the index child.

revised edition 10\30\91

APPENDIX B-2

ABSTRACTION MANUAL FOR THE STUDY OF

REUNIFICATION RISKS AND SUCCESSES

Washington State Site

DATA COLLECTION CATEGORIES

San Diego State Univeristy

January 1993

STUDY OF REUNIFICATION RISKS AND SUCCESSES
CASE ABSTRACT MANUAL
FOR TACOMA, WASHINGTON

GENERAL DIRECTIONS: .   .   .

1.   Before starting any case abstracting, verlfy the child's eligibility for the study by checking if he/she was out-of-home more than 72 hours, was age 12 or younger as of the date of referral/removal and the original plan was reunification. The ellgibility period is 4/29/90 through 2/28/91. If the child/family was receiving services, in-home dependency etc. and the begin date was prior to or after the eligibility period, the case does not qualify. It doesn't matter at what polnt the child experienced the 72 plus hours (either before, during or after the court proceedings), as long as we can show that out-of-home placement occurred for more than 72 hours. Check the payment, legal and placement records.

2.   The Legal Process section requires a separate page for each hearing, so be prepared with multiple copies of this page.

3.   When several children in a famlly are involved, you must complete a form for each child placed as long as they meet eligibility criteria.

      When dealing with a family, start wlth the file of the oldest child removed(If 12 or less), as this is where the bulk of the information is usually located;

PROJECT INFORMATION

Child's I.D. #: Pre-printed ID number.

CHILD'S NAME: Last, First, Middle Inltlal

CASE NO.:   Use the DCFS case record number.

ABSTRACTOR: Person who reviewed record and completed form

DATE: Date record review performed.

CHARACTFRISTICS OF CHILD

CHILD'S DATE OF BIRTH: Birth date of child.   Verify accuracy by checking several sections.

GENDER: Sex of Child,

RACE: Ethnic background of child.   If other or mixed, specify in space provided.

SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS: Answer "yes" only if there Is documented assessment by a qualified professional, school or other appropriate agency or if the social worker makes reference to the existence of such documentation. Answer "no" if there is no mention of the problem in the case record. Answer "suspected" if an evaluation for the particular problem has been requested, the social worker indicates the possibility of the problem on the risk assessment form or narrative or a non-professional third party (e.g., Mom) reports the existence of the problem

These characteristics may be mentioned on the Risk Assessment Form, in court case narratives or in medical/psychological/psychiatric evaluations. Also, school problems encompass several areas (i.e., absenteeism, behavioral problems, learning disabilities). Again, watch for additional Information In the narratives or professional evaluations. If there is no delineation of the problem beyond the category heading, answer "suspected."

Additional help:

DEVELOPMENTALLY DELAYED: Demonstrates a twenty-five percent delay in the areas of cognitive communication, social/emotional, fine motor or gross motor areas. For purposes of this instrument, the areas of mental retardation (severe/profound - IQ <30; moderate - IQ 30 to 50; mild - IQ 51 through 75) should be followed.

DIAGNOSED MENTAL ILLNESS: Answer "yes" to this question only if documented mental health evaluation has been completed which identifies the child's problem areas and/or specific diagnosis. Answer "suspected" if child is to be evaluated by a professional or is currently in counseling.

LEARNING DISABLED: Child diagnosed as having an impediment to learning in regular classroom without additional help through appropriate testing by school or other qualified professional.

PHYSICAL DISABILITY: For purposes of this instrument, the areas of orthopedically impaired, health impaired, hearing impaired and visually impaired shall be included under this category.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE/ADDICTED: (Drugs) Answer "yes" If child uses drugs or has been diagnosed as being substance addicted (even if he/she has completed treatment and is not currently "using").

SUBSTANCE ABUSE/ADDICTED: (Alcohol) Answer "yes" if child uses alcohol or has been diagnosed as being alcohol addicted (even if he/she has completed treatment and is not currently "using").

SUBSTANCE ADDICTED AT BIRTH: Child was diagnosed as being addicted to drugs at birth. Also answer "yes" if child has been diagnosed as Fetal Alcohol Syndrome(FAS).

SEVERE BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS: Child diagnosed as being behaviorally disabled or disturbed via a current psychiatric or psychological evaluation or through a special evaluation by the school system An answer of suspected is appropriate for those cases which have- a case plan that include obtaining an evaluation.

MEDICAL PROBLEMS: Answer "yes" if child has serious medical problems which require a lot of time and energy on the part of the caretaker and/or caseworker or hospitalization, hospital staff.

EATING OR SLEEPING DISORDER(S): Child diagnosed by medical professional as having a disorder affecting normal processes of eating and sleeping.

SCHOOL PROBLEMS: Child routinely has problems (physical, mental, emotional, behavioral, absenteeism) which affect his performance and progress in school,

GRADE IN SCHOOL: Record actual grade in school. Be sure to record the grade child was in at time of removal, Early education programs include infant stimulation, preschool, special education classes, Head Start programs, etc. 77 = Not in school, 99 = Unknown.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FAMILY

All data in this category pertain to the nuclear family unit at the time of removal. For purposes of this section, male and female caretaker represent those individuals in the role of "parent" to the child just prior to the child being placed out of the home, e.g., biological parent, stepparent, parent's partner, etc.

ADULTS IN THE HOME: Who were the adults living In the home at the time the index child was removed? Adult siblings should be reported in section titled "Sibling Information". Use the Face Sheet and the court report narrative.

MOTHER'S BIRTH DATE: Month, day, and year.

MARITAL STATUS: Most likely, this information will be in the court report. The Face Sheet should tell you if the parents share the same address. This information might also be on the IV-b eligibility sheet.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN; Indicate the total number of siblings, including the index child, living In the home at the time of removal. Include **all full, half and step siblings. On Face Sheet or eligibility sheet.**

SIBLING INFORMATION: Start with the oldest child and work down to the youngest. Include the index child. "In protective **custody?"** asks if siblings were removed **as a result of the abused incident related to** the index child. Information on **all four data areas should be on the Face Sheet or eligibllity sheet. Be** sure **the Face Sheet used reflects the time of removal. Use "7's" for spaces not applicable, i.e., only one** sibling **- fill in the rest of boxes with 7.**

EMPLOYMENT DATA:

INCOME SOURCE: The eligibility sheet should Indicate whether one **or both parents are employed. As before, make sure you are using information that was completed at the time of the child's removal. Employment consists of both part-time and full-time work. Also, although one or both parents may be working, the family may still be receiving some form of** public assistance. **This information may be in the court report narrative when -the social worker assesses the family's ability to care for the** child.

GROSS ANNUAL INCOME: This may be difficult to determine in most cases, **as DCFS does not necessarily collect information regarding income level. It might appear in the narrative, eligibility sheet, or court report. You may have to indicate "unknown."**

SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Use the same criteria here for judging confirmed **or suspected as used under "Child Characteristics." This** information **most likely is in the court report or case narrative and any psychological or medical evaluations, if available.**

> **DEVELOPMENTALLY DELAYED: Demonstrates a twenty-flve percent delay in the areas of cognitive communication, social/emotional, fine motor or gross motor areas. For purposes of this instrument, the areas of mental retardation (severe/profound - IQ <30; moderate - IQ 30 to 50; mild - IQ 51 through 75) should be followed.**

> **DIAGNOSED MENTAL ILLNESS: Answer "yes"** to this **question only if documented mental health evaluation has been completed** which identifies **the caretaker's problem areas and/or** specific **diagnosis. Answer "suspected" if caretaker is to be evaluated by a professional or is currently in counseling. Includes "emotlonal problems".**

> **PHYSICAL DISABILITY: For purposes of this instrument, the areas of** orthopedically **impaired,. health impaired,** hearing **impaired and visually impaired shall be included under this category.**

> **SUBSTANCE ABUSE/ADDICTED: (Drugs) Answer "yes" if caretaker abuses drugs or has been diagnosed as** being substance addicted (even if he/she has completed **treatment and is not currently "using").**

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SUBSTANCE ABUSE/ADDICTED: (Alcohol) Answer "yes" if caretaker abuses alcohol or has been diagnosed as being alcohol addicted (even If he/she has completed treatment and Is not currently "using").

CHARGED CRIMINAL HISTORY, PERSON: Caretaker has history of charged misdemeanor crimes against persons. A section of the court report narrative should address past CPS contacts and/or criminal history.

CHARGED CRIMINAL HISTORY, PROPERTY: Caretaker has history of charged misdemeanor crimes against property. In court report narrative. For this study, drug crimes are considered crimes against property.

AGENCY HISTORY AS A CHILD: Did the caretaker have a history of abuse as a child and/or involvement with a comparable agency?

CULT ACTIVITY/ RELIGIOUS FANATICISM Is there cult activity in the home or is the caretaker part of a cult group or religious fanatic?

RACE/ETHNICITY - MOTHER/FATHER: Identify the appropriate code for the mother and the father. If there is not a male or female caretaker, enter not applicable (77). If Information not available, enter unknown (99).

SITUATIONAL PROBLEMS:

This section of questions is an attempt to identify any problem areas that would not be evident in the allegations or in any other data abstracted. If there is any evidence in the file to suggest the existence of any of these problems, mark "yes. " Here, we are not concerned with any standardized confirmation of the problem but rather the likelihood of its existence through comments of the social worker, other investigative party, teacher, other reliable source, documented comments by parent or child, etc.

CASE CHARACTERISTICS

DATE OF REMOVAL: This is the original placement date for the placement episode. This date should be the same as the baseline date that qualifies child for study. If the date of removal is shown to be different on a police incident report (or other child abuse incident report), Placement sheet, Court Report, etc., use the date found in the file. Remember that for this study, the removal date for a positive tox baby is the day of birth, not the day the child Is removed from the hospital to a placement facility.

SOURCE OF CURRENT REFERRAL: This information should appear on the Intake form court report or In the Narrative Section.

LAW ENFORCEMENT: Combines any and all sources within the legal system, i.e., police, sheriff, probation officers.

SCHOOL: Includes school nurse, teacher, counselor, psychologist or other individual involved directly in the school settlng.

RELATIVE/NEIGHBOR: Includes **biological relatives, relatives by marriage and relatives by former marriage. Neighbors can also include close friends, etc.**

MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL/HOSPITAL, CLINIC: **Includes any referral from a physician, nurse or other medical professional, including referrals** directly **from a hospital or clinic.**

COMMUNITY PROFESSIONAL: **Includes psychologists, social workers, counselors/therapists, home-based/in-home supportive service workers, parent aide and professionals involved in parenting classes, drug/alcohol treatment programs and other community service agencies.**

SELF/PARENT: **This category includes situations when parents request assistance and or turn themselves into the agency for help; a youth requesting assistance from an abusive situation or family in conflict; or a parent requesting assistance with a rebellious youth or family in conflict. Grandparents reporting C/AN should be in relative category.**

TYPE OF CA/N, AT REFERRAL: **When the referral was made, what type of abuse was suspected or alleged by the referring source? There may be more than one referral reason; The primary reason for referral should be on the Intake form or possibly the Eligibility Form.**

Sexual Abuse and Physical Abuse are fairly self-explanatory and will usually be identified as such in the referral.

Severe Neglect: **Included in this category are failure thrive, medical neglect, drug exposed Infant, fetal alcohol syndrome, and lack of supervision for infants and very young children.**

General Neglect: **Included in this category are caretaker used drugs/alcohol, homeless, lack of medical attention, inadequate housing, food and clothing, lack of school attendance and lack of supervision for older children.**

Emotional Abuse: **Included In this category are exposure to Parent's physical violence, verbal abuse, unreasonable/cruel restraint or restrictive punishment, failure to provide needed therapy.**

Exploitation: **Included in this category are child utilized in** pornography/prostitution **and providing a minor with drugs.**

Caretaker Absent: **Included in this category are teenage runaway, parent refusingcareof child, parent's whereabouts unknown, and parent physically or mentally incapacltated.**

TYPE OF CA/N AT REMOVAL/ALLEGED PERPETRATOR(S):   At the time the child was removed, what was the type of abuse cited as reason for removal and who was the alleged perpetrator.   There may be more than one removal reason and more than one perpetrator.   Code "00" for perpetrator if there are none, ie., that type Of CA/N not identlfled, or "01"= only one. If more than one perpetrator, code lowest number first, ie. "12"= mother and father identified as perpetrators+ "25" = father and girlfriend, etc. (Incident report or court report narrative).

OTHER CHILDREN VICTIMS: Indicate whether there were other children in the family who were also victims. '

LEGAL AUTHORITY CODE(S):   Indicate the legal code(s) cited at the tlme of removal, If it is dependency status which precipitated removal and more than one reason (code) is cited, list them both (lowest number first as in perpetrator codes).   Otherwise, code "0" In first box and single code in second, eg., "01" equals protective custody only.

FINDING **OF FACT**: Was there a subsequent finding of fact which legitimized the removal?

PETITION AMENDED?:   Have additional charges been made or some of the initial allegatlons been withdrawn at any point since the origlnal petltion?

LEGAL AUTHORITY CODE FOR ADDITIONAL CHARGES: If there have been additional allegations or changes, indicate the legal authority code here.

CRIMINAL **CHARGES FILED?:**   If criminal charges have been filed, this information should (may) be noted in the court report.   There are usually no court records of criminal proceedings in the case record.

<div align="center">PRIOR HISTORY:</div>

NUMBER OF PREVIOUS REFERRALS/CONTACTS RELATED TO FAMILY: This information can be obtained by counting the number of prior intakes, Thls data should also be in the court report.   We are looking for previous referrals regardlng any child or combination of children In the family. If there is indication of previous involvement with agency but record is incomplete and/or missing informatlon like specific intake Information, code this "99" for unknown as opposed to "00" for no previous referrals.

NUMBER CONFIRMED: The Washington State guidelines for confirmation of allegations will be used for this question (Appendix I). In most cases, previous referrals/contacts are documented in the court report.   Any past referral regarding a protective issue should be written upend filed in the Intake Section of the file.   Code "8" for eight or more and use code "9" for unknown.

NUMBER OF PREVIOUS REFERRALS/CONTACTS RELATED TO INDEX CHILD: Have there been previous referrals/contacts regarding the index child, either singly or in combination with another sibling. Code "8" for eight or more and use code "9" for unknown.

NUMBER CONFIRMED: Treat the same as number of confirmed referrals/contacts related to family, Code "8" for eight or more and use code "9" for unknown.

PREVIOUS OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS: This pertains to previous episodes of out-of-home care (child was removed for a period of time and returned home). This information should be in placement history sheet of the file and may be in the court report and/or the SSPS authorization /financial section of the file. Do not record change of placements within a single episode of care. From the time a child leaves home until he returns, he may be in several different placement locations, but the entire time away from home is considered one episode of out-of-home care.

> **REASON FOR PLACEMENT;** If available, record the reason for previous placement. List the five most recent placements only. If no previous placement(s) code "77".

RISK FACTORS - WASHINGTON ONLY

Each case should have a Risk Factor Matrix, Summary Risk Assessment, or Summary Assessment (sample forms attached) form completed after investigation and at case closure (or transfer). Enter the appropriate risk rating for each factor after investigation and at case closure. If case was only rated once, enter in the appropriate column and enter code "7" (case only rated once) in other column. If no rating for individual factor, code "8".

PLACEMENTS FOR CURRENT EPISODE

Complete this section in chronological order starting with first placement.

LEVEL OF RESTRICTIVENESS: The type of placement should appear on the SSPS forms and in the placement log, if available.

WITH SIBLINGS: For the majority of time the index child was in the foster home, were any of the siblings who were in placement there also? To determine if siblings are in the same out-of-home placement together, check the name and address of the foster parent in the SSPS placement records. Also, this information may be in the court orders or court report.

REASON FOR MOVE: The reason for the move may be indicated on the SSPS form, the court report or the narrative section. If there was no move, code not applicable.

REUNIFICATION PLAN

DATE OF PLAN: Date that reunification plan was submitted and agreed upon by all parties.

VISITATION: The visitation pattern is recorded for the parent(s) or guardian. Sections "a" through "c" will be spelled out In the reunification plan. Sections "d" through "f" are looking for compliance of the family with the recommendations of the plan. This information should be in the court report (ISP) at the 6 month review (or earlier, if there is a special hearing related to a reunification decision prior to the time of the 6 month placement review).

The updated ISP may also provide more expanded information related to the court orders which will allow you to determine compliance (e.g., the court may state "visitation/Fa set at three hours/week," while the court summary may say, "Dad's visits Increased to three time a week").

SERVICES/RESOURCES: Within the list of services are two categories: those services which frequently are part of a reunification plan and those services which augment a reunification plan. We are interested In the family's utilization of all services recommended. However, the court reports will focus on the family's compliance with those recommendations stipulated In the reunification plan. At the 6 month review, the SW may have certificates of completion from drug treatment programs or parentIng classes, an attendance log at AA or NA meetings, a therapist's report or other data which speaks to the compliance of the parent(s) with the court recommendations. She may also make a summary statement related to compliance.

> **RECOMMENDED**: Is the service recommended In the Reunification Plan or was it an additional service suggested by the caseworker. It is also possible that the parent requested the service (the latter situation probably would show up in the SW narrative).

> **UTILIZATION**: Indicate the compliance of each participant. If Mom completed a set of parenting classes, she is at the level recommended by the court. If she started classes but never finished or attended sporadically, she is below the level. If she never attended parentIng classes, she had no compliance.

> **REASON**: If compliance is below the level of recommendation or none at all, indicate the reason, if known, "Service not available" can also refer to services which exist but may have waiting lists or may be unavailable In the language needed by the parent. "No funds" means the mother, father or guardian is claiming lack of money to pay for services and the court has not provided funds. If the service is too removed from public transportation and the client has no car, he/she may claim "no transportation." The client may simply refuse to comply or may have a drug problem or illness which impacts theIr ability to comply.

PLEASE NOTE - WIC: Refers to a federal program for Women/Infant/Children which provides formula/milk or vouchers for the same.

SERVICES **RECOMMENDED FOR THE CHILD**: Separate service plans are often identified for the child either in the ISP, body of the court order or under miscellaneous.

REUNIFICATION PLAN(S) SIQNED?: **Did the mother, father, guardian sign the reunification plan(s)? A signed copy should be In the file or the court** summary **order should refer to the parents having signed a copy.**

REUNIFICATION DECISION

DATE CHILD RETURNED:

CHILD RETURNED TO ORIGINAL CARETAKER: **Was the child returned to the caretaker from whom he/she was originally removed?** This **may be determined from the last few entries in the SW narrative, the last court report or court order or from the** financial/placement section **of the file.**

CHILD RETURNED HOME PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF REUNIFICATION PLAN?: **If a child is returned home prior to or immediately following the hearing that approves the reunification plan, answer "prior." Also, answer "prior" if a child has been returned home** via **a "special" hearing or at the** discretion **of the social worker while the court still has jurisdiction and the** reunification **plan is still** in **effect. Answer "post" if at a review hearing the social worker reports compliance with the** reunification **plan, and the judge then orders the child returned home.**

CONDITIONS FOR REUNIFICATION: **The court orders should indicate any conditions for the child's return home. Also, check the court summary in the court report section.**

PLACED SIBLINGS RETURNED?: **Were** siblings **who were removed as a result of the allegations against the index child also returned?**

INPUT TO REUNIFICATION DECISION: **If the decision to reunify is made at a 6 month hearing or other** special hearing, **there may be considerable Input from counselors, foster parent(s), biological parent(s), etc. If the** decision **to reunify is made at a** time prior **to a formal** reunification **or maintenance plan, input from** fewer individuals **would be expected.**

NOTE: **For this** question a distinction **should be made between therapist/counselor and Psychiatrist/Psychologist.** Even though **the individual may be In therapy with a psychiatrist or** psychologist, **they should only be identified as such if their input was a result of an evaluation performed on the client.**

DISCORDANCE BETWEEN SOCIAL WORKER/JUDGE· **Discordance refers to disagreement between the social worker and judge regarding the** reunification decision.

CONTENT OF DISCORDANCE: **Did the SW recommend continued out-of-home placement and** the **judge send the** child home **or conversely?.**

EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT DISCORDANCE: Discordance may be "inferred" if the court report narrative recommends foster care placement and the judge orders the child home. If there is specific reference In the court order, court summary or court report to SW/Judge discordance, record the text verbatim in the space available.

TOTAL # CASEWORKERS FROM CASE OPENING TO REUNIFICATION: Start with the Initial Response Services worker and count through the worker at the time of reunification.

TOTAL # OF WORKERS FROM REUNIFICATION TO RE-REFERRAL:

TOTAL # OF WORKERS FROM CASE OPENING TO CASE CLOSURE: -

ECOLOGICAL CHANGES

Is there any reference in the records to any of the specified ecological changes? We are looking for changes which occur between the time of removal and the time of reconciliation.

NOTE: "LT" stands for long term

LEGAL PROCESS

Each hearing should be recorded on a separate page, Start with the Shelter Care Hearing. Abstract all information for the legal process from the court orders and court summaries. If a hearing is a Continuance, record only the information avallable through the same two sources, i.e., the court order and court summary.

CASE NUMBER: Since there may be multiple forms for this section, you will have to write the DCFS case number on each form so that it can be connected to the approprfate case.

DATE OF HEARING: Month, day and year.

· **TYPE OF HEARING**: There may be more than one hearing under each category, i.e., a shelter care or fact finding hearing could be "continued" for some technical reason (all partles not notified) or continued fact finding might be needed to investigate new information brought to light at the initial hearing. Also, any time disposition Is made (whether at a fact findlng hearing, trial or disposition hearing, that hearing becomes a disposition hearing and should be recorded as such (record only one type=disposition).

PERSONS PRFSENT: Those present in the court are listed on the court order. If there is a chock mark or their name is indicated, they were in attendance.

CHILD TESTIFY?:   If the child is not listed as present in the court, answer "no."
If the child is present, look for any references in the court order, eg.,
"testimony taken from", to the child's having testified.

OUTCOME: Fill in only the information that appears on the court order or in the
court summary.   Those areas not covered are assumed to be th8 same as the
previous hearing.   Each court order specifies that "all prior orders not in
conflict remain in full force and effect."

FINDINGS: Each of the court order forms has a section pertaining to findings
Most simply circle or check off the specific allegations made and laws that
address them Copy exactly the information that Is on the court order.

PLACEMENT: Again, each court order has a section dealing with placement. If no
changes are made In the placement of the child, this section may be left blank
or it may specifically state that the child is to continue at the home of,..
Record only what is marked.   If there is nothing marked, the assumption is that
nothing changed.

REUNIFICATION ORDER: This section is usually identified as services or "it is
further ordered" orders.   There are either specific services listed and or
standardized services checked off,

MISCELLANEOUS: This section may list discretionary powers afforded to the SW,
specific instructions related to drug testing or other evaluations, etc. We are
interested in "further orders" which pertain to the legal system and to the
provision of services.

JUDICIAL ID CODE: By looking at the identity of the judge at each hearing, we
can determine how many different judges were involved in the legal process per
child.   The judge's name appears in the court order.

RE-REFFRRAL/RE-ENTRY

ANY RE-REFERRALS SINCE REUNIFICATION, Indicate whether there have been any new
referrals submitted on the child since reunification, If there have been none,
answer questions 2 - 9 not applicable (code "7").   If there have been new
referrals, answer the rest of the questions.

NUMBER OF RF-REFERRALS: How many referrals have been made to DCFS since the
child returned home? If the child has re-entered out-of-home placement, give the
total number of referrals since reunification, including th8 referral which
resulted In re-entry.   If there has been no re-entry, give the total number of
referrals in the nine month period following reunlficatlon.

REASON FOR RE-REFERRAL/CONFIRMATION: Indicate the primary reason for the last
five re-referrals. Confirmation of the allegation(s) will be determined using the
Washington General Code book guidelines (Appendix I).

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DID CHILD EXPERIENCE HARM: Did child experience physical harm as a result of any new referrals. If the answer is yes, indicate which of the last five referrals resulted in harm, If no, code not applicable (7).

CHILD REMOVED FROM THE HOME?: Did the re-placement occur? See the SW narrative, court orders, placement log, etc. Also indicate whether placement was greater than 72 hours.

TYPE OF PLACEMENT: Again, this should be in the placement log, financial records and the SW narrative.

LEGAL STATUS OF PLACEMENT: What was the legal authority under which the placement was granted.

DATES OF NEW PLACEMENT: Enter the begin and end dates of new placement. If child continues In placement, code end date 77-77-77.

SERVICES/RESOURCES AFTER **REUNIFICATION:** If the child was returned home prior to the completion of the Reunification Plan (or Maintenance Plan), the services recommended in that plan would still be in place, If the child returned home following completion of the Reunification Plan, other services may have been provided as long as the case remained open. These services may be listed in the ISP, the SW narrative, etc.

APPENDIX C

BUILDING A PRELIMINARY MODEL PREDICTING RE-REREFERRAL

AND RE-ENTRY OF REUNIFIED FOSTER CHILDREN

By Rae Newton, Ph.D.

Project Statistician

Analysis of Variables Predicting Re-referral and Re-entry

A three group stepwise discriminant function analysis was used to select a set of predictor variables that explain the most variance in group membership. A number of decisions were made leading to the selection of the initial set of variables entered into the discriminant function analysis. First, the number of cases available for analysis in the two research sites was quite different. The San Diego site provided 386 cases while the Pierce County site provided only 112. For this reason the decision was made to develop the discriminant function using only the San Diego data and subsequently use this function to classify cases from the Pierce County site. We believed this process would provide valuable information regarding the applicability of a model developed in one site for use in another. Second, all variables available for analysis were grouped into conceptually meaningful categories. For example, categories were created representing "Special Characteristics of the Child," "Type of Abuse at Removal," and "Child's Prior History." After grouping variables in this manner, correlation coefficients were calculated between these variables and two dummy variables representing the outcome of reunification. The first coded successful reunification zero and re-referral without re-entry as one. The second coded success zero and re-referral and re-entry as one.

Table DFA-1 presents these correlations, with accompanying probability levels and sample sizes, for the San Diego site. Table DFA-2 presents the corresponding analysis for the Pierce County site. As the tables from both sites indicate, there are a large number of significant correlations. It is also interesting to note that variables which significantly correlate with re-referral may not correlate with re-entry, and vice-versa. While there is some correspondence between the two sites, a large amount of disagreement is also evident. For example, special characteristics of the child, such as mental or behavioral problems, seem to correlate highly with re-referral in the Pierce County site, but appear to have a weaker impact in the San Diego site. Finally, based on the extremely varied distributions of ethnicity within the two sites, and evidence suggesting that dummy coding the data into a "White versus Non-White" dichotomy would be seriously misleading, we eliminated ethnicity from consideration for entry into the DFA.

The next step in selection of variables for inclusion into the DFA was to select those variables which correlated at least .10 with either of the two dummy variables representing the contrast of successful reunification with re-referral or re-entry. There were 22 such variables, seven of which correlated .1 or more with both dummy variables, 13 of which correlated with success vs. re-entry only, and 3 of which correlated with success vs. re-referral only. These 22 variables were entered into a stepwise discriminant function analysis using the minimization of Wilk's lambda as the selection criterion.' Table DFA-3 presents a summary of this analysis.

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[1] We recognize the these procedures are quite likely to capitalize on random variation within the data. We are currently collecting data which will permit the cross-validation of our results on a new sample of children within the San Diego site.

As shown in Table DFA-3, 17 of the original 22 variables were included in the two function final solution. The final value of Wilk's lambda is .59, indicating that approximately 41% of the variance in group membership is explained by the two discriminant functions. About 62% of the explained variance is accounted for by the first function, the remaining 38% being accounted for by the second. The chi-square values indicate that both functions are significant at less than .0001. These findings strongly suggest that a two function solution should be retained. A description of the results for each function is provided below.

Table DFA-4 presents the standardized canonical discriminant function coefficients for each of the two discriminant functions. Examination of these coefficients reveals unique patterns exhibited by the bivariate data and supports the position that each group in this analysis is unique and does not fall on a continuum from success to total failure (i.e. re-entry). The four major patterns exhibited by the coefficients can best be described by considering the relationships of the group means, in each of the three groups, to one another. The first pattern is exhibited when the Success group (SU) has the largest group mean, the Re-referral group (RF) the second largest, and the Re-entry (RE) group the smallest. In other words SU > RF > RE. The second pattern is represented by the opposite of this, or SU < RF < RE. The two variables with the largest coefficients on the first function reflect these two patterns of relationships. The largest, .485 reflects the coefficient for court ordered placement. Court ordered placement was a dummy variable coded 0 = no, 1 =yes. Successfully reunified children were more likely to have a court ordered placement (high scores), re-entry children were less likely to have a court ordered placement (low scores), and re-referral children were in the middle. The coefficient for this variable on the second function was near zero (-.048). The second pattern described above typically results in negative coefficients on the first function. For example, the count of the number of special characteristics of the child indicates that successfully reunified children have the lowest number, and re-entry children the largest, with re-referred children in the middle. This pattern is also likely to result in a negative coefficient on the second function.

The remaining two patterns of relationships reflected in the discriminant function coefficients are most likely to be reflected in the second function. These are exhibited when the re-referral group mean is either larger than the successful and re-entry group, or smaller than both of these groups. In other words SU < RF > RE, or SU > RF < RE. The former of these patterns is reflected by the length of stay in foster care, which loads -.629 on the second function. Re-referred children stayed an average of 118 days, while successful and re-entry children stayed 96 and 95 days, respectively. The latter pattern is reflected by the number of service groups in the reunification plan, which loaded .909 on the second function. The re-referral group had an average of 3.09 services, the successful group 3.46 and the re-entry group 3.41. While these patterns represent rough guidelines for understanding the analysis, they seem to reflect the major differences in the bivariate patterns of relationships found in the data.

Table DFA-5 presents the pooled-within-groups correlations between the discriminating variables and discriminant scores generated from the discriminant function. Note that these are ordered by the size of the correlation within each function. The

numbers to the left of each variable represent the order in which the variable was entered into the discriminant function, consistent with Tables DFA-1 and DFA-2. The letters NE indicate that the variable was not entered into the discriminant function. These correlations represent bivariate relationships and thus provide information independent of the correlations among the remaining independent variables. In some cases this information may be very different from that provided by the standardized coefficients presented in Table DFA-4, as these are affected by collinearity within the data.

The two variables which correlate most strongly with the first function are also the first two entered into the discriminant function equation, court ordered placement and number of previous referrals for the family. Number of previous referrals for that child, the variable with the third highest correlation on function 1, did not enter the DFA because of its high correlation with family referrals. The third, fourth and fifth variables to enter the discriminant function analysis represent the variables with the highest correlations on the second discriminant function. These represent the length of stay in foster care, the number of services groups in the reunification plan and whether or not the child was with both biological parents.

The ability of this model to classify cases from both the San Diego and Pierce County sites is presented in Table DFA-5. The two subtables present the classification results from the San Diego and Pierce County sites, respectively. For San Diego, about 70% of the 256 successfully reunified cases were correctly predicted. Most of the errors of prediction were due to misclassification as re-referral (21.5%) as opposed to re-entry (8.2). Both re-entry and re-referral were classified correctly about 60% of the time (60.7% for re-referral, and 64.6% for re-entry. Overall, this pattern results in about 67% correct classification.

The results for the Pierce County site are drastically different. Since the equation was not developed with these cases we would expect a somewhat less satisfactory fit of the model; however, the result for the Pierce County site is to classify nearly all cases into the re-entry group. This results in 82.9% misclassification for the successfully reunified cases and 83.3% misclassification for the cases re-referred. Overall, only 17.65% of the cases were correctly classified, a classification rate considerably below chance. This suggests that the characteristics which predict re-referral and re-entry across the two sites are not the same, and that the San Diego based model is inappropriate for Pierce County.

CORRELATIONS OF PREDICTOR VARIABLES WITH OUTCOMES

SAN DIEGO SITE

PREDICTOR VARIABLES	Re-Refferal			R e - E n t r y		
	r	p	(N)	r	p	(N)
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILD						
GENDER OF CHILD (FEMALE)	.0328	.261	(386)	.0763	.078	(348)
ANGLOS VS. OTHERS	.1187	.010	(386)	-.0081	.440	(348)
AFRICAN AM VS. OTHERS	-.1319	.005	(386)	.0494	.179	(348)
HISPANICS VS. OTHERS	.0619	,112	(386)	-.0310	.283	(348)
AGE OF CHILD *	.0104	.419	(386)	.0898	.047	(348)
CHARACTERISTICS OF MOTHER						
MOTHER'S AGE (AT REMOVAL) *	-.0386	.227	(380)	.0632	.121	(345)
SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILD						
MENTAL/BEHAV PROBLEMS	.0482	.173	(386)	.2795	.000	(348)
DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED	.0496	.165	(386)	.0899	.047	(348)
MEDICAL/PHYSICAL PROBLEMS	-.0014	.489	(386)	.1210	.012	(348)
DRUG EFFECTED	.0032	.475	(386)	.0414	.221	(348)
COUNT OF SPEC. CHARA. *	.0776	.064	(386)	.2781	.000	(348)
FAMILY COMPOSITION						
SINGLE PARENT VS. OTHERS	.0515	.156	(386	.1771	.000	(348)
BIO. 2 PARENT VS. OTHERS	-.1143	.012	(386	-.1304	.007	(348)
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION PARENTS ONLY VS. PARENTS W/OTHERS	.0285	.289	(386	-.0700	.096	(348)
PRIOR HISTORY						
# PREVIOUS REFERRALS/FAMILY *	.2675	.000	(384)	.3574	.000	(347)
# PREVIOUS REFERRALS/CHILD *	.1772	.000	(393)	.3052	.000	(345)
# PREVIOUS PLACEMENTS/CHILD *	-.0540	.147	(379)	-.0175	.374	(341)
CASE CHARACTERISTICS						
MANDATED REPORTER	-.1251	.007	(386)	-.0386	.236	(348)
CRIMINAL CHARGES FILED	-.0294	.285	(374)	-.0937	.044	(334)
COURT ORDERED PLACEMENT	-.1221	.008	(386)	-.3414	.000	(348)
TYPE OF ABUSE AT REMOVAL						
SEXUAL	-.0447	.190	(386)	.0513	.170	(348)
PHYSICAL	-.0967	.028	(386)	-.0513	.170	(348)
SEVERE NEGLECT	-.0011	.492	(386)	-.0149	.391	(348)
GENERAL NEGLECT	.1583	.001	(386)	.2343	.000	(348)
EMOTIONAL ABUSE	.1236	.008	(386)	.0835	.060	(348)
CARETAKER ABSENCE	.0737	.074	(386)	.2679	.000	(348)
PROTECTIVE ISSUE ONLY	-.0773	.065	(386)	-.1907	.000	(348)
MULTIPLE ABUSE TYPES *	.0400	.216	(386)	-2329	.000	(348)

* Continuous Variables (others coded 1/0)

TABLE DFA-1

CORRELATIONS OF PREDICTOR VARIABLES WITH OUTCOMES

SAN DIEGO SITE

PREDICTOR VARIABLES	Re-Referral			Re-Entry		
	r	p	(N)	r	p	(N)
PLACEMENT CHARACTERISTICS						
EVER PLACED WITH RELATIVE	.0015	.488	(386)	-.1677	.001	(348)
NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS						
(1,2,3+ PLACEMENTS) *	-.1271	.006	(386)	-.2596	.000	(348)
LENGTH OF STAY (DAYS) *	.0770	.066	(386)	-.2006	.000	(348)
LENGTH OF STAY (WEEKS) *	.0769	.066	(386)	-.1997	.000	(348)
VISITS BY MOTHER	.0979	.035	(343)	-.0968	.046	(305)
VISITS BY FATHER	.1346	.006	(343)	-.1186	.019	(305)
SERVICES IN REUN PLAN						
MEDICAL	-.0629	.123	(342)	.0497	.194	(305)
COUNSELING	-.0159	.385	(342)	-.1491	.005	(305)
PARENTING CLASS	-.1699	.001	(342)	-.1210	.017	(305)
INCOME	-.0241	.329	(342)	.1494	.004	(305)
DAYCARE	-.0441	.208	(342)	-.0351	.271	(305)
EMPLOYMENT	-.0441	.208	(342)	-.0351	.271	(305)
DRUG/ALCOHOL	.0105	.423	(342)	-.1057	.033	(305)
HOUSING	.0942	.041	(342)	-------		---
HOMEMAKER	-.0593	.137	(342)	.2602	.000	(305)
NUMBER OF SERVICES						
(GROUPED) *	-.1268	.010	(342)	.0661	.125	(305)

* Continuous Variables (others coded 1/0)

TABLE DFA-2

CORRELATIONS OF PREDICTOR VARIABLES WITH OUTCOMES

TACOMA SITE

PREDICTOR VARIABLES	Re-Refferal			Re-Entry		
	r	P	(N)	r	P	(N)
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILD						
GENDER OF CHILD (FEMALE)	-.0053	.478	(111)	-.1839	.026	(112)
ANGMS VS. OTHERS	.1641	.043	(111)	-.0644	.250	(112)
AFRICAN AM VS. OTHERS	-.1355	.078	(111)	.0394	.340	(112)
HISPANICS VS. OTHERS	-.0955	.159	(111)	-.0977	.153	(112)
AGE OF CHILD *	.0327	.367	(111)	-.1963	.019	(112)
CHARACTERISTICS OF MOTHER						
MOTHER'S AGE (AT REMOVAL) *	-.0585	.282	(100)	-.0221	.412	(103)
SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILD						
MENTAL/BEHAV PROBLEMS	.0350	.358	(111)	.1373	.074	(112)
DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED	.2718	.002	(111)	.3437	.000	(112)
MEDICAL/PHYSICAL PROBLEMS	.2909	.001	(111)	.0137	.443	(112)
DRUG EFFECTED	-.0281	.385	(111)	.0414	.332	(112)
COUNT OF SPEC. CHARA. *	.2857	.001	(111)	.2156	.011	(112)
FAMILY COMPOSITION						
SINGLE PARENT VS. OTHERS	-.1931	.021	(111)	.0308	.374	(112)
BIO. 2 PARENT VS. OTHERS	.2391	.006	(111)	-.1037	.138	(112)
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION PARENTS ONLY VS.						
PARENTS W/OTHERS	.2460	.005	(111)	.2092	.013	(112)
PRIOR HISTORY						
# PREVIOUS REFERRALS/FAMILY *	.0315	.373	(109)	.1503	.058	(110)
# PREVIOUS REFERRALS/CHILD *	-.0773	.210	(111)	.1147	.114	(112)
# PREVIOUS PLACEMENTS/CHILD *	-.0705	.231	(111)	.0514	.295	(112)
CASE CHARACTERISTICS						
MANDATED REPORTER	.2460	.005	(111)	.0390	.342	(112)
CRIMINAL CHARGES FILED	-.1078	.133	(108)	-.0466	.316	(108)
COURT ORDERED PLACEMENT	-.1213	.110	(104)	-.0304	.379	(105)
TYPE OF ABUSE AT REMOVAL						
SEXUAL	.1401	.071	(111)	.0412	.333	(112)
PHYSICAL	.1849	.026	(111)	-.0499	.301	(112)
SEVERE NEGLECT	-.1933	.018	(111)	.3093	.000	(112)
GENERAL NEGLECT	-.2488	.004	(111)	.1806	.028	(112)
EMOTIONAL ABUSE	.1725	.035	(111)	-.2235	.009	(112)
CARETAKER ABSENCE	-.0291	.381	(111)	-.0077	.468	(112)
PROTECTIVE ISSUE ONLY	.1242	.097	(111)	-.0429	.327	(112)
MULTIPLE ABUSE TYPES *	.0000	.500	(111)	.1432	.066	(112)

* Continuous Variables (others coded 1/0)

TABLE DFA-2

CORRELATIONS OF PREDICTOR VARIABLES WITH OUTCOMES

TACOMA SITE

PREDICTOR VARIABLES	Re-Refferal			.Re-Entry		
	r	p	(N)	r	p	(N)
PLACEMENT CHARACTERISTICS						
EVER PLACED WITH RELATIVE	.0579	.274	(110)	.0475	.310	(111
NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS						
(1,2,3+ PLACEMENTS) *	-.0016	.493	(110)	.1162	.112	(111)
LENGTH OF STAY (DAYS) *	-.0927	.168	(110)	-.0740	.220	(111)
LENGTH OF STAY (WEEKS) *	-.0915	.171	(110)	-.0741	.220	(111)
VISITS BY MOTHER	.0724	.225	(111)	-.0726	.223	(112
VISITS BY FATHER	.1318	.084	(111)	-.1043	.137	(112)
SERVICES IN REUN PLAN						
MEDICAL	-.1104	.124	(111)	-.0312	.372	(112)
COUNSELING	-.0848	.188	(111)	.0549	.283	(112)
PARENTING CLASS	-.0599	.266	(111)	-.0727	.223	(112)
INCOME	-.1333	.082	(111)	-.0994	.148	(112)
DAYCARE	.0074	.469	(111)	-.0499	.301	(112)
EMPLOYMENT	-.0411	.334	(111)	.0906	.171	(112)
DRUG/ALCOHOL	-.1339	.081	(111)	.0469	.312	(112)
HOUSING	-.0745	.219	(111)	-.1492	.058	(112)
HOMEMAKER	-.0745	.219	(111)	.1554	.051	(112)
NUMBER OF SERVICES						
(GROUPED) *	-.1624	.044	(111)	-.0246	.399	(112)

* Continuous Variables (others coded 1/0)

Table DFA3

Summary Table: Discriminant Function Analysis of Predictors of Re-referral and Re-entry into Foster Care

Step	Variable	Wilk's Lambda
1	Court Ordered Placement	.876
2	# Previous Referrals/Contacts	.799
3	# Service Groups in Plan	.767
4	Length of Stay (Days)	.729
5	With Biological Parents	.703
6	Tot # Pre-reunification Placements	.684
7	Protective Issue Only	.667
8	Counseling Plan	.656
9	Drug Abuse-Alcohol Plan	.644
10	Mental-Behavioral Problem	.635
11	Mandated Reported	.627
12	Emotional Abuse - Removal	.621
13	Parenting Class/Plan	.615
14	Multiple Abuse at Removal	.608
15	General Neglect - Removal	.601
16	# of Special Char of Child	.597
17	Medical-Physical Char of Child	.591

Function	% Variance	Canonical Correlation	Wilk's Lambda	Chi-Square	df
1	61.6	.52	.59	196.9*	3 4
2	38.4	.43	.81	78.2*	16

Table DFA-4

Standardized Discriminant Function Coefficients: Discriminant Function Analysis of Predictors of Re-referral and Re-entry into Foster Care

		Function 1	Function 2
1	Court Ordered Placement	.485	-.048
2	# Previous Referrals/Contacts	.271	.330
3	# Service Groups in Plan	- .469	.909
4	Length of Stay (Days)	.143	-.629
5	With Biological Parents	.131	.334
6	Tot # Pre-reunification Placements	.271	.330
7	Protective Issue Only	.197	.134
8	Counseling Plan	.217	-.396
9	Drug Abuse-Alcohol Plan	.195	-.379
10	Mental-Behavioral Problem	- .078	.352
11	Mandated Reported	.048	.263
12	Emotional Abuse - Removal	.147	-.290
13	Parenting Class/Plan	.243	.018
14	Multiple Abuse at Removal	- .108	.361
15	General Neglect - Removal	- .098	-.280
16	# of Special Char of Child	- .142	-.390
17	Medical-Physical Char of Child	- .031	,313

Table DFA5

<u>Pooled-within-groups</u> Correlations: Discriminant Function Analysis of Predictors of Re-referral and Re-entry

Step	Variable	Function 1	Function 2
1.	Court Ordered Placement	.61443*	-.05359
2.	# Previous Referrals - Family	- .50500*	-.28510
NE	# Previous Referrals - Child	- .48099*	-.22626
6.	# Pre-reunification Placements	.34400*	.08772
16.	# Special Char of Child	- .33179*	.01598
15.	General Neglect - Removal	- .33045*	-.19254
10.	Mental-Behavioral Problems	- .32804*	.04682
NE	Caretaker Absence - Removal	- .31287*	-.06203
14.	Multiple Abuse at Removal	- .31180*	.01205
7.	Protective Issue Only	.29598*	.09953
NE	Single Parent Only	- .25129*	-.12817
8.	Counseling Plan	.20728*	-.09868
NE	Any Placement with Relative	.18324*	-.11684
9.	Drug Abuse-Alcohol Plan	.13678*	-.09135
4.	Length of Stay in Days	23377	-.31969*
3.	# of Service Groups in Plan	- .07522	.28979*
5.	With Biological Parents	.21896	.28627*
11.	Mandated Reporter	.10149	.26211*
13.	Parenting Class/Plan	.19621	.25498*
NE	Income Plan	- .14966	.21550*
12	Emotional Abuse - Removal	- .10303	-.20106*
17	Medical-Physical Char of Child	- .11414	.14331*

Table DFA-6

Classification Summary: Discriminant Function Analysis of Predictors of Re-referral and Re-entry

Classification Results for San Diego Site

Actual Group	No. of Cases	Predicted Group Membership 0	1	2
Group 0 SUCCESSFUL	256	180 70.3%	55 21.5%	21 8.2%
Group 1 RE-REFERRAL	84	21 25.0%	51 60.7%	12 14.3%
Group 2 RE-ENTRY	48	11 22.9%	6 12.5%	31 64.6%

Percent of "grouped" cases correctly classified: 67.53%

Classification Results for Tacoma Site

Actual Group	No. of Cases	Predicted Group Membership 0	1	2
Group 0 SUCCESSFUL	82	2 2.4%	12 14.6%	68 82.9%
Group 1 RE-REFERRAL	18	2 11.1%	1 5.6%	15 83.3%
Group 2 RE-ENTRY	19	0 .0%	1 5.3%	18 94.7%

Percent of "grouped" cases correctly classified: 17.65%