

STATE OF COLORADO



Colorado Department of Human Services

people who help people

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John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Reggie Bicha
Executive Director

November 22, 2013

The Honorable Crisanta Duran, Chair
Joint Budget Committee
200 East 14th Avenue, Third Floor
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Representative Duran:

Enclosed please find a legislative report to the Joint Budget Committee from the Department of Human Services on the placement of children removed from their homes and placed in temporary legal custody of county departments of human and social services for July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

Section 19-3-214 C.R.S. (2013) requires the Department to submit an annual report by December 1. In summary the report illustrates of the 4,487 children removed from their families or care takers in FY 2012-13 2,368 were placed in the custody of the county. Of this group 1,469 were placed in kinship care.

If you require further information or have additional questions, please contact the Department's Legislative Liaison, Sarah Sills, sarah.sills@state.co.us or 303-866-3019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Reggie Bicha'.

Reggie Bicha
Executive Director

Enclosure

Cc: Senator, Pat Steadman, Vice Chair, Joint Budget Committee
Senator Kent Lambert, Joint Budget Committee
Senator Mary Hodge, Joint Budget Committee
Representative Jenise May, Joint Budget Committee
Representative Cheri Gerou, Joint Budget Committee
John Ziegler, Staff Director, JBC
Robin Smart, JBC Staff
Henry Sobanet, Director, Office of State Planning and Budgeting
Erick Scheminske, Deputy Director, Office of State Planning and Budgeting
Ann Renaud, Budget Analyst, Office of State Planning and Budgeting
Kelly Perez, Human Services Policy Advisor, Governor's Office
Legislative Council Library
State Library
Nikki Hatch, Deputy Executive Director of Operations
Dee Martinez, Deputy Executive Director of Enterprise Partnerships
Charissa Hammer, Acting Director Office of Performance and Strategic Outcomes
Will Kugel, Budget Director
Julie Krow, Interim Director Office of Behavioral Health
Sarah Sills, Executive and Legislative Liaison
Dan Drayer, Communications Director

Colorado Department of Human Services
 Trails System Report
 Division of Child Welfare

State Legislative Report
 From: 7/1/2012 To: 6/30/2013

County ID/Name	Number of Individual Children Removed from the Custodial Home (Unduplicated Count)	Number of Children Removed from the Custodial Home including Children who were Removed more than once (Duplicated Children)	Number of Children Placed in County Custody	First Service Entered Kinship Care	First Service Entered Kinship Foster Care
01 Adams	342	348	200	94	0
02 Alamosa	19	20	17	2	5
03 Arapahoe	377	415	216	72	3
04 Archuleta	17	17	15	0	0
05 Baca	4	4	2	1	0
06 Bent	12	12	5	0	0
07 Boulder	111	120	70	28	5
08 Chaffee	17	17	13	1	0
09 Cheyenne	2	2	1	1	1
10 Clear Creek	13	13	12	1	0
11 Conejos	5	6	3	1	0
12 Costilla	3	3	2	0	0
13 Crowley	3	5	2	0	0
14 Custer	1	1	0	0	0
15 Delta	31	32	10	9	0
16 Denver	774	830	389	331	2
17 Dolores	1	1	0	0	0
18 Douglas	86	91	44	10	1
19 Eagle	16	17	9	5	1
20 Elbert	25	26	9	10	0
21 El Paso	733	769	360	322	0
22 Fremont	97	97	59	7	33
23 Garfield	38	39	17	0	8
24 Gilpin	9	9	6	5	0
25 Grand	5	5	4	0	0
26 Gunnison	13	14	4	0	3
27 Hinsdale	0	0	0	0	0
28 Huerfano	13	13	8	1	2
29 Jackson	1	1	0	0	0
30 Jefferson	507	525	250	257	0
31 Kiowa	0	0	0	0	0

County ID/Name	Number of Individual Children Removed from the Custodial Home (Unduplicated Count)	Number of Children Removed from the Custodial Home including Children who were Removed more than once (Duplicated Children)	Number of Children Placed in County Custody	First Service Entered Kinship Care	First Service Entered Kinship Foster Care
32 Kit Carson	0	0	0	0	0
33 Lake	6	6	2	0	0
34 La Plata	32	36	11	0	2
35 Larimer	182	191	79	76	24
36 Las Animas	27	27	11	13	1
37 Lincoln	4	4	0	0	1
38 Logan	42	44	27	3	5
39 Mesa	236	249	134	70	20
40 Mineral	0	0	0	0	0
41 Moffat	3	4	2	0	0
42 Montezuma	21	25	15	4	5
43 Montrose	62	65	39	13	0
44 Morgan	56	57	34	11	6
45 Otero	32	36	17	11	1
46 Ouray	2	2	0	0	0
47 Park	8	8	1	0	0
48 Phillips	10	10	1	5	3
49 Pitkin	3	3	2	0	0
50 Prowers	11	11	8	0	1
51 Pueblo	302	314	175	115	1
52 Rio Blanco	11	11	4	0	4
53 Rio Grande	18	19	9	0	0
54 Routt	3	3	1	0	0
55 Saguache	1	1	0	0	0
56 San Juan	0	0	0	0	0
57 San Miguel	6	6	4	0	0
58 Sedwick	0	0	0	0	0
59 Summit	3	3	1	0	0
60 Teller	25	25	16	0	0
61 Washington	2	2	1	0	0
62 Weld	156	166	64	6	0
63 Yuma	12	12	7	7	0
80 Broomfield	29	29	14	7	4
State Totals	4,487	4,723	2,368	1,469	136

Description of Annual Report

Column 1: *Identified county:*

Column 2: *Number of children:* This is an *unduplicated* count of children/youth that were removed from their home at some point during the year. This means each child /youth is counted once.

Column 3: *Number of removals:* This is the *duplicated* count of the number of children/youth who were removed from their home at some point during the year. More than one removal occurred for some of the children/youth during the timeframe of the report. This means the child/youth was removed from their home, then reunified with their parent/guardian, and then removed again.

Column 4: *Placed in county custody:* Of the children/youth who were removed from their homes, this is the number of children/youth who were placed in the legal custody of the county departments. The number of children/youth who are in the legal custody of county departments is significantly lower than the number of removals (unduplicated and duplicated count columns 2 and 3 respectively). This may occur for different reasons. For example, when children/youth are in imminent danger, the county department or local law enforcement may release the child to a relative or another individual who has a relationship with the child. The relative or individual will provide safety for the child until the family issues can be resolved. In another scenario, the county department may recommend to the court with jurisdiction that the child be released to the care and legal custody of the relative or identified caretaker. In some cases, the child will be released to the non-custodial parent and the county does not pursue legal custody.

Column 5: *First service entered kinship care:* This is the number of children/youth who were placed with relatives or individual(s) with a known relationship to the child/youth and who were *not* kinship family foster care parents. With this type of placement the following generally occurs:

- The child/youth is eligible for Medicaid benefits.
- The caregiver is eligible to apply for child-only Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) payments.
- The caregiver is awarded legal custody of the child/youth through the court with jurisdiction.
- In some situations a voluntary placement agreement may be in effect for up to 90 days before court oversight is required.
- The placement is likely to last an extended period of time.

Column 6: *First service entered kinship foster care:* This is the number of children/youth whose first out-of-home placement was with a relative or individual with a known relationship to the child/youth and who was a kinship family foster care parent. The following occurs:

- The child/youth is generally eligible for Medicaid benefits.
- The caregivers receive foster care maintenance reimbursement.
- The county department has legal custody of the child/youth through a Dependency and Neglect action. In some cases a voluntary placement agreement may be in effect with court oversight.

