



COLORADO

**Office of Children,
Youth & Families**

Division of Child Welfare

The Honorable Senator Lambert, Chair
Joint Budget Committee
200 East 14th Ave, Third Floor

November 26, 2014

Dear Senator Lambert:

Enclosed please find a legislative report to the Joint Budget Committee from the Department of Human Services regarding the first placement of children removed from their home for July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

Section 19-3-214 C.R.S. (2014) requires the Department to submit an annual report by December 1.

In summary the report illustrates, of 4,278 children removed from their family or caretakers in SFY 2013-2014, 2,282 were placed in the custody of the county department. Of the children removed from their family or caretakers, 1,767 were placed into kinship care.

If you require further information or have additional questions, please contact the Department's Legislative Liaison, Jennifer Corrigan at jennifer.corrigan@state.co.us or 303-866-3019.

Sincerely,

Reggie Bicha
Executive Director

Enclosure



Cc: Senator Kent Lambert, Chair, Joint Budget Committee
Representative Millie Hamner, Vice Chair, Joint Budget Committee
Senator Kevin Grantham, Joint Budget Committee
Senator Pat Steadman, Joint Budget Committee
Representative Dave Young, Joint Budget Committee
Representative Bob Rankin, Joint Budget Committee
John Ziegler, Staff director, JBC
Robin Smar, 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
Zach Pierce, 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
Melissa Wavelet, Director Office of Performance and Strategic Outcomes
Sarah Sills, Budget Director
Lisa M. Clements, Director Office of Behavioral health
Jennifer Corrigan, Executive and Legislative Liaison
Dan Drayer, Communications Director



Description of Annual Report

Column 1: *Identified county:*

Column 2: *Number of children:* This is an *unduplicated* count of children/youth who 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 indicates 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.



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

State Legislative Report
From: 7/1/2013 To: 6/30/2014

County ID/Name	Number of Children	Number of Removals	Placed in County Custody	First Service Entered Kinship Care	First Service Entered Kinship Foster Care
01 Adams	478	485	318	252	1
02 Alamosa	58	60	34	39	4
03 Arapahoe	347	370	211	78	0
04 Archuleta	5	5	4	2	0
05 Baca	3	3	2	1	0
06 Bent	12	12	5	5	0
07 Boulder	108	113	76	26	0
08 Chaffee	11	13	8	0	3
09 Cheyenne	3	3	1	2	5
10 Clear Creek	14	14	13	1	0
11 Conejos	12	14	6	4	1
12 Costilla	4	4	3	1	0
13 Crowley	9	9	3	3	0
14 Custer	0	0	0	0	0
15 Delta	35	38	20	15	0
16 Denver	713	750	377	354	0
17 Dolores	0	0	0	0	3
18 Douglas	57	59	24	3	0
19 Eagle	6	6	3	1	1
20 Elbert	5	6	2	0	0
21 El Paso	677	729	253	277	0
22 Fremont	95	95	55	11	13
23 Garfield	39	40	26	0	40
24 Gilpin	7	7	6	0	9
25 Grand	9	9	5	1	0
26 Gunnison	13	14	3	3	0
27 Hinsdale	0	0	0	0	0
28 Huerfano	14	14	9	0	0
29 Jackson	0	0	0	0	1
30 Jefferson	425	440	240	224	0
31 Kiowa	4	4	0	3	1
32 Kit Carson	4	5	3	0	0
33 Lake	8	8	4	2	0
34 La Plata	38	39	20	0	0
35 Larimer	163	168	50	69	5
36 Las Animas	30	35	19	8	8
37 Lincoln	6	6	3	0	0

State Legislative Report
From: 7/1/2013 To: 6/30/2014

County ID/Name	Number of Children	Number of Removals	Placed in County Custody	First Service Entered Kinship Care	First Service Entered Kinship Foster Care
38 Logan	37	42	27	7	1
39 Mesa	201	212	125	59	14
40 Mineral	0	0	0	0	0
41 Moffat	15	15	7	0	7
42 Montezuma	19	21	11	6	0
43 Montrose	30	32	11	1	0
44 Morgan	56	60	31	15	0
45 Otero	35	37	25	21	2
46 Ouray	1	1	0	0	0
47 Park	8	8	7	1	0
48 Phillips	4	4	3	3	0
49 Pitkin	3	3	1	0	0
50 Prowers	13	15	7	0	1
51 Pueblo	327	338	174	157	0
52 Rio Blanco	9	9	5	0	3
53 Rio Grande	4	4	1	0	0
54 Routt	2	2	1	0	0
55 Saguache	3	3	1	0	0
56 San Juan	0	0	2	0	0
57 San Miguel	4	4	3	0	0
58 Sedgwick	1	1	0	0	0
59 Summit	7	7	4	0	0
60 Teller	10	10	5	2	0
61 Washington	8	8	4	2	0
62 Weld	123	127	57	3	2
63 Yuma	9	9	1	2	2
80 Broomfield	20	20	10	5	2
State Totals	4,278	4,481	2,282	1,644	123

Note : As the State Total for Number of Children represents distinct individual