



COLORADO
Department of Human Services

The Honorable Representative Millie Hamner, Chair
Joint Budget Committee
200 East 14th Ave, Third Floor
Denver, CO 80203

December 1, 2016

Dear Representative Hamner:

Enclosed is the annual legislative report to the Joint Budget Committee regarding the first placement of children and youth removed from their home from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Title 19 § 19-3-214 C.R.S., requires the Colorado Department of Human Services to submit an annual placement report by December 1.

“Placement Reporting. (1) Each county department shall maintain and update on a monthly basis a report of the number of children who have been removed from their homes and placed in the temporary legal custody of the county department for the preceding month. The report shall indicate whether a child who has been placed out of the home has been placed with relatives. (2) The state department shall submit an annual report to the joint budget committee of the general assembly no later than December 1 of each year that compiles the monthly reports of the number of children who have been placed out of the home in each county or city and county for the preceding year as required pursuant to subsection (1) of this section”.

The placement report contains data collected from the Child Welfare Case Management System (Trails) and is located at the end of this document. A description of the fields in the report follows the brief summary.

The report illustrates that in State Fiscal Year (SFY 2016), 4,911 children and youth (unduplicated count) were removed from their family or legal guardians. Some of these children and youth were removed from their parents or legal custodian more than once. This totals 5,111 children and youth (duplicated count). Of all children and youth removed, 2,757 were placed in the custody of county departments of human or social services for varying periods of time.

The difference between the number of children and youth who were removed and the number placed in the legal custody of county departments of human or social services is impacted by the accepted practice of locating non-custodial parents, relatives, or others with a significant relationship to provide temporary care. The potential caretaker is assessed for his/her ability to protect and keep the child or youth safe while concerns regarding the family are addressed, mitigating the need for the county department of human or social services to take legal custody. Services are provided to the caregiver and the family. This practice accounts for some of the 2,076 children and youth initially placed in non-certified kinship care.

In other situations, the county may take temporary legal custody and request the court to transfer legal custody to the temporary caregiver. The 85 children and youth placed in kinship foster care homes were all in the legal custody of the county department of human or social services.

If you require further information or have additional questions, please contact the Department's Legislative Liaison, Riley.Kitts@state.co.us or 303-866-5799.



- 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.
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- 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/youth. The relative or individual will provide safety for the child/youth until the family issues can be resolved. In another scenario, the county department may recommend to the court with jurisdiction that the child/youth be released to the care and legal custody of the relative or identified caretaker. In some cases, the child/youth 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 foster care parents.
- 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 foster care parent.

Sincerely,



Reggie Bicha, Executive Director

Attachment:
State Legislative Report: Placement Reporting

CC: Senator Kent Lambert, Vice Chair
Senator Kevin Grantham
Senator Pat Steadman
Representative Bob Rankin
Representative Dave Young



**Colorado Department of Human Services
Trails System Report
Division of Child Welfare
State Legislative Report
From: 7/1/2015 To: 6/30/2016**

County ID/Name	Number of Individual Children Removed From the Custodial Home (Unduplicated Count)	Number of Removals of Children From the Custodial Home Including Children Who Were Removed More Than Once (Duplicated Count)	Number of Children Placed in County Custody	First Service Entered Kinship Care	First Service Entered Kinship Foster Care
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01 Adams	506	519	267	280	0
02 Alamosa	54	57	36	11	2
03 Arapahoe	371	398	212	106	2
04 Archuleta	10	10	5	2	0
05 Baca	5	7	4	4	0
06 Bent	10	10	2	5	0
07 Boulder	132	132	89	45	2
08 Chaffee	21	23	16	8	7
09 Cheyenne	0	0	0	0	0
10 Clear Creek	8	8	6	0	1
11 Conejos	21	22	4	13	0
12 Costilla	23	23	17	5	0
13 Crowley	14	14	13	9	0
14 Custer	2	2	1	0	0
15 Delta	35	35	17	14	0
16 Denver	930	981	565	486	2
17 Dolores	0	0	0	0	0
18 Douglas	116	122	60	38	3
19 Eagle	9	10	2	1	0
20 Elbert	16	16	4	8	0
21 El Paso	764	795	341	326	8
22 Fremont	111	114	66	47	3
23 Garfield	36	40	23	3	10
24 Gilpin	11	11	2	8	0
25 Grand	1	1	0	0	0
26 Gunnison	13	13	5	8	0
27 Hinsdale	0	0	0	0	0
28 Huerfano	20	21	9	5	1
29 Jackson	0	0	0	0	0
30 Jefferson	525	535	326	300	1
31 Kiowa	5	5	4	4	0
32 Kit Carson	14	14	8	6	3
33 Lake	5	5	2	3	0

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34 La Plata	34	35	18	0	8
35 Larimer	143	149	62	77	8
36 Las Animas	24	24	7	3	0
37 Lincoln	19	19	11	7	5
38 Logan	26	26	14	8	0
39 Mesa	239	245	146	79	0
40 Mineral	0	0	0	0	0
41 Moffat	15	16	8	1	1
42 Montezuma	14	15	4	2	0
43 Montrose	58	59	25	16	0
44 Morgan	50	52	29	13	0
45 Otero	47	47	32	27	0
46 Ouray	2	2	0	0	0
47 Park	7	7	1	2	0
48 Phillips	5	7	2	2	0
49 Pitkin	1	1	0	0	0
50 Prowers	10	10	8	3	0
51 Pueblo	253	265	155	104	1
52 Rio Blanco	10	12	4	3	0
53 Rio Grande	19	19	12	0	0
54 Routt	8	8	2	1	0
55 Saguache	5	5	3	0	0
56 San Juan	2	2	1	0	1
57 San Miguel	2	2	0	0	0
58 Sedwick	0	0	0	0	0
59 Summit	6	7	5	0	0
60 Teller	25	25	12	1	0
61 Washington	2	2	1	0	0
62 Weld	140	150	109	3	12
63 Yuma	10	10	6	1	2
80 Broomfield	28	29	22	1	2
State Totals	4,911	5,111	2,757	2,076	85