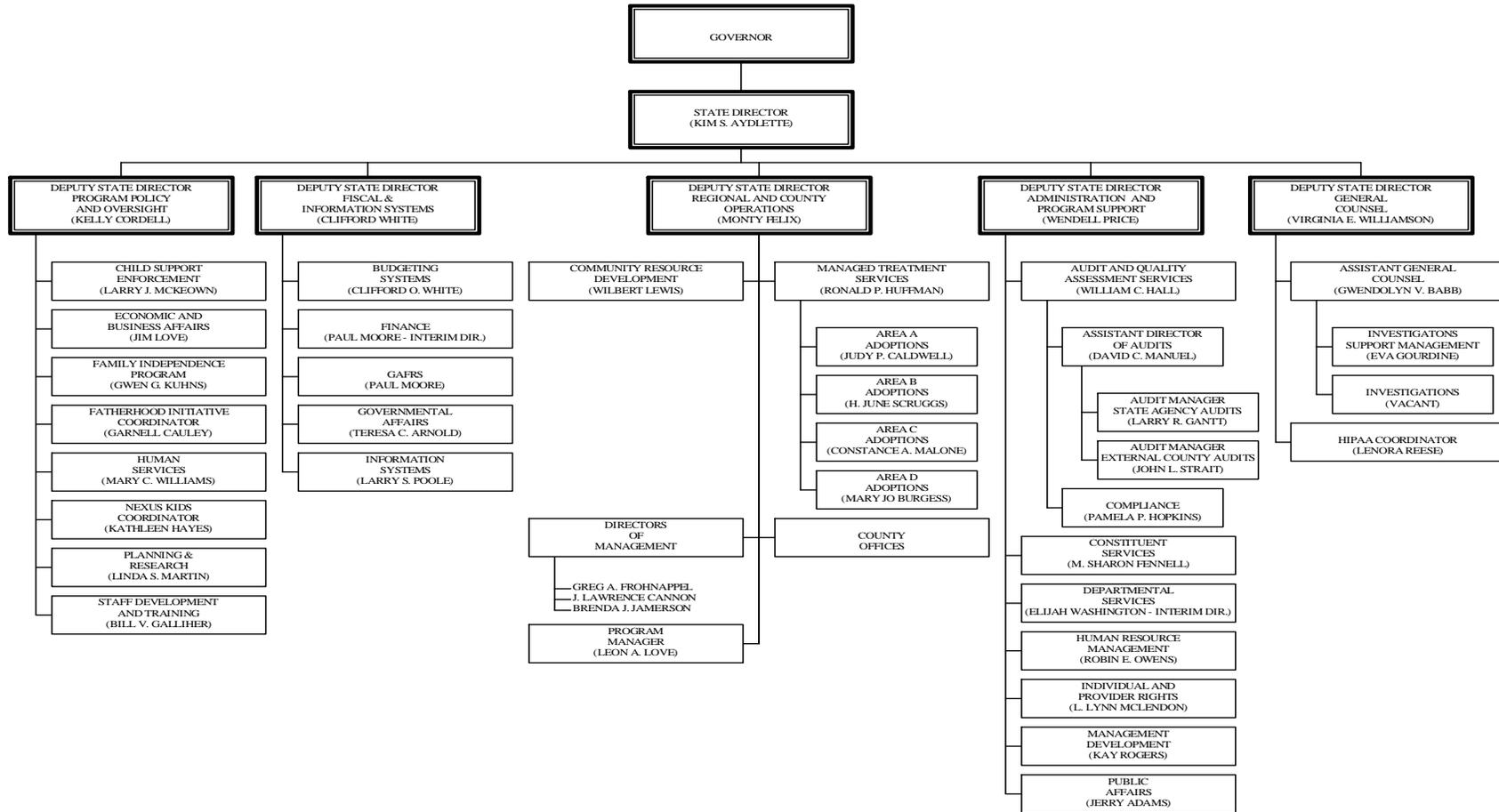
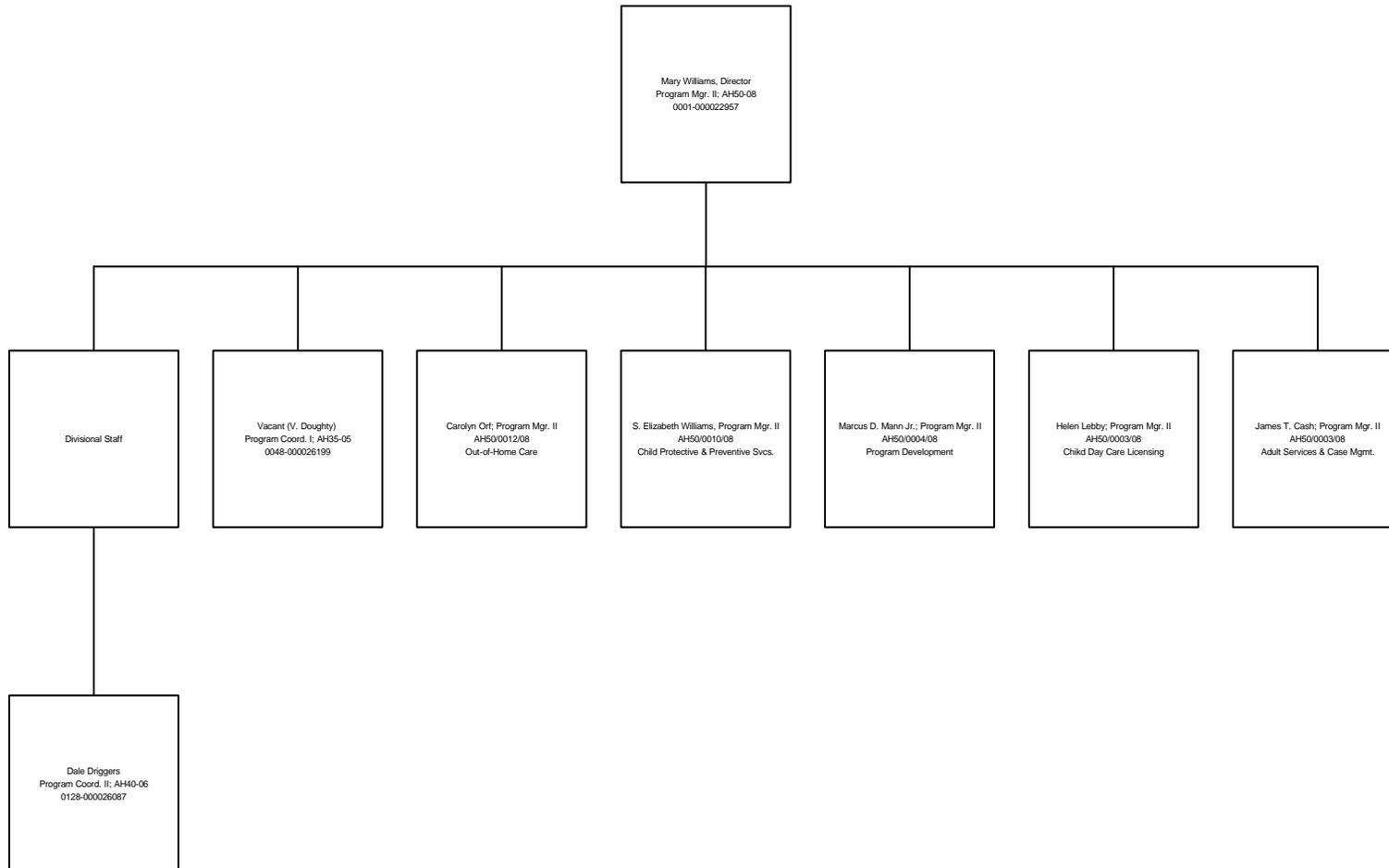


SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES



FEBRUARY 2003

Human Services



South Carolina Child and Family Services Review Data Profile, December 16, 2002

I. CHILD SAFETY PROFILE	Calendar Year 1999 ^A						Calendar Year 2000 ^A						Calendar Year 2001 ^A					
	Reports	%	Duplic. Childn. ²	%	Unique Childn. ²	%	Reports	%	Duplic. Childn. ²	%	Unique Childn. ²	%	Reports	%	Duplic. Childn. ²	%	Unique Childn. ²	%
I. Total CA/N Reports Disposed¹	18,209		39,902				19,084		38,844				18,884		36,836		33,737	
II. Disposition of CA/N Reports³																		
Substantiated & Indicated	5,518	30.3	9,580	24.0			6,280	32.9	11,246	29.0			6,609	35.0	11,199	30.4	10,790	32.0
Unsubstantiated	10,875	59.7	23,652	59.3			11,990	62.8	24,762	63.7			11,519	61.0	24,357	66.1	21,894	64.9
Other	1,816	10.0	6,670	16.7			814	4.3	2,836	7.3			756	4.0	1,280	3.5	1,053	3.1
III. Child Cases Opened for Services⁴			9,574	99.9					11,246	100.0					9,661	86.3	9,310	86.3
IV. Children Entering Care Based on CA/N Report⁵			2,155	22.5					2,163	19.2					3,203	28.6	3,023	28.0
V. Child Fatalities^{6,B}					13						20						16	0.1
STATEWIDE AGGREGATE DATA USED TO DETERMINE SUBSTANTIAL CONFORMITY																		
VI. Recurrence of Maltreatment⁷ [Standard: 6.1% or less]																	207 of 6,028	3.4
VII. Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care⁸ (for Jan-Sept) [Standard: 0.57% or less]					of 6,762						of 6,934						37 of 7,194	.51

FOOTNOTES TO DATA ELEMENTS IN CHILD SAFETY PROFILE

Each maltreatment allegation reported to NCANDS is associated with a disposition or finding that is used to derive the counts provided in this safety profile. The safety profile uses three categories. The various terms that are used in NCANDS reporting have been collapsed into these three groups.

Disposition Category	Safety Profile Disposition	NCANDS Disposition Codes Included
A	Substantiated or Indicated (Maltreatment Victim)	“Substantiated,” “Indicated,” and “Alternative Response Disposition Victim”
B	Unsubstantiated	“Unsubstantiated,” “Unsubstantiated, Other than Intentionally False Reporting” and “Unsubstantiated Due to Intentionally False Reporting”
C	Other	“Closed-No Finding,” “Alternative Response Disposition – Not a Victim,” “Other,” and “Unknown or Missing”

Alternative Response was added starting with the 2000 data year. The two categories of Unsubstantiated were added starting with the 2000 data year. In earlier years there was only the category of Unsubstantiated

1. The data element, “Total CA/N Reports Disposed,” is based on the reports received in the State that received a disposition in the reporting period under review. The number shown may include reports received during a previous year that received a disposition in the reporting year. Counts based on “reports,” “duplicated counts of children,” and “unique counts of children” are provided.
2. The duplicated count of children (report-child pairs) counts a child each time that (s)he was reported. The unique count of children counts a child only once during the reporting period, regardless of how many times the child was reported.
3. For the column labeled “Reports,” the data element, “Disposition of CA/N Reports,” is based on upon the highest disposition of any child who was the subject of an investigation in a particular report. For example, if a report investigated two children, and one child is found to be neglected and the other child found not to be maltreated, the report disposition will be substantiated (Group A). The disposition for each child is based on the specific finding related to the maltreatment(s). In other words, of the two children above, one is a victim and is counted under “substantiated” (Group A) and the other is not a victim and is counted under “unsubstantiated” (Group B). In determining the unique counts of children, the highest finding is given priority. If a child is found to be a victim in one report (Group A), but not a victim in a second report (Group B), the unique count of children includes the child only as a victim (Group A). The category of “other” (Group C) includes children whose report may have been “closed without a finding,” children for whom the allegation disposition is “unknown,” and other dispositions that a State is unable to code as substantiated, indicated, alternative response victim, or unsubstantiated.

4. The data element, “Child Cases Opened for Services,” is based on the number of victims (Group A) during the reporting period under review. “Opened for Services” refers to post-investigative services. The duplicated number counts each time a victim’s report is linked to on-going services; the unique number counts a victim only once regardless of the number of times services are linked to reports of substantiated maltreatment.
5. The data element, “Children Entering Care Based on CA/N Report,” is based on the number of victims (Group A) during the reporting period under review. The duplicated number counts each time a victim’s report is linked to a foster care removal date. The unique number counts a victim only once regardless of the number of removals that may be reported.
6. The data element “Child Fatalities” counts the number of children reported to NCANDS as having died as a result of child abuse and/or neglect. Depending upon State practice, this number may count only those children for whom a case record has been opened either prior to or after the death, or may include a number of children whose deaths have been investigated as possibly related to child maltreatment. For example, some States include neglected-related deaths such as those caused by motor vehicle or boating accidents, house fires or access to firearms, under certain circumstances. The percentage is based on a count of unique victims of maltreatment for the reporting period. The count also includes fatalities that have been reported on the Agency File, which collects non-child welfare information system data.
7. The data element, “Recurrence of Maltreatment,” is defined as follows: Of all children associated with a “substantiated,” “indicated,” or “alternative response victim” finding of maltreatment during the first six months of the reporting period, what percentage had another “substantiated,” “indicated,” or “alternative response victim” finding of maltreatment within a 6-month period. The number of victims during the first six-month period and the number of these victims who were recurrent victims within six months are provided. This data element is used to determine, in part, the State’s substantial conformity with Safety Outcome #1.
8. The data element, “Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care,” is defined as follows: Of all children who were served in foster care during the reporting period, what percentage were found to be victims of maltreatment. A child is counted as having been maltreated in foster care if the perpetrator of the maltreatment was identified as a foster parent or residential facility staff. Counts of children maltreated in foster care are derived from NCANDS, while counts of children placed in foster care are derived from AFCARS. The observation period for these measures is January-September because this is the reporting period jointly addressed by both NCANDS and AFCARS. For both measures, the number of children found to be maltreated in foster care and the percentage of all children in foster care are provided. This data element is used to determine, in part, the State’s substantial conformity with Safety Outcome #2.

Additional Footnotes

A. SC submitted unique child data (DCDC data) for 2001 only. For this reason, only the 2001 data are available for the two safety indicators, Recurrence of Maltreatment and Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care.

B. In 2001, SC reported seven additional fatalities in the Agency File.

South Carolina Child and Family Services Review Data Profile, December 16, 2002

II. POINT-IN-TIME PERMANENCY PROFILE	Federal FY 1999		Federal FY 2000		Federal FY 2001	
	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children
I. Foster Care Population Flow						
Children in foster care on first day of year	4,475		4,491		4,476	
Admissions during year	2,923		3,172		3,405	
Discharges during year	2,853		3,137		3,107	
Children in care on last day of year	4,545		4,525		4,774	
Net change during year	+70		+34		+298	
II. Placement Types for Children in Care						
Pre-Adoptive Homes	283	6.2	272	6.0	268	5.6
Foster Family Homes (Relative)	186	4.1	237	5.2	245	5.1
Foster Family Homes (Non-Relative)	2,647	58.2	2,702	59.7	2,905	60.9
Group Homes	165	3.6	189	4.2	241	5.0
Institutions	749	16.5	672	14.9	808	16.9
Supervised Independent Living	65	1.4	69	1.5	58	1.2
Runaway	99	2.2	79	1.7	100	2.1
Trial Home Visit	78	1.7	71	1.6	59	1.2
Missing Placement Information	9	0.2	5	0.1	10	0.2
Not Applicable (Placement in subsequent year)	264	5.8	229	5.1	80	1.7
III. Permanency Goals for Children in Care						
Reunification	601	13.2	551	12.2	627	13.1
Live with Other Relatives	53	1.2	61	1.3	58	1.2
Adoption	2,075	45.7	2,056	45.4	1,982	41.5
Long Term Foster Care	514	11.3	546	12.1	595	12.5
Emancipation	434	9.5	403	8.9	468	9.8
Guardianship	1	0.0	0	0	4	0.1
Case Plan Goal Not Established	867	19.1	908	20.1	1,030	21.6
Missing Goal Information	0	0	0	0	10	0.2

South Carolina Child and Family Services Review Data Profile, December 16, 2002

II. POINT-IN-TIME PERMANENCY PROFILE (continued)	Federal FY 1999		Federal FY 2000		Federal FY 2001	
	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children
IV. Number of Placement Settings in Current Episode						
One	1,024	22.5	965	21.3	919	19.3
Two	1,177	25.9	1,102	24.4	1,156	24.2
Three	759	16.7	729	16.1	758	15.9
Four	526	11.6	501	11.1	535	11.2
Five	348	7.7	339	7.5	337	7.1
Six or more	706	15.5	888	19.6	1,067	22.4
Missing placement settings	5	0.1	1	0.0	2	0.0
V. Number of Removal Episodes						
One	3,697	81.3	3,625	80.1	3,735	78.2
Two	729	16.0	763	16.9	866	18.1
Three	104	2.3	119	2.6	146	3.1
Four	7	0.2	9	0.2	16	0.3
Five	2	0.0	2	0.0	2	0.0
Six or more	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missing removal episodes	6	0.1	7	0.2	9	0.2
VI. Number of children in care 17 of the most recent 22 months² (percent based on cases with sufficient information for computation)	1,539	46.7	1,505	46.5	1,593	45.8
	Number of Months		Number of Months		Number of Months	
VII. Median Length of Stay in Foster Care (of children in care on last day of FY)	20.2		20.4		19.2	

South Carolina Child and Family Services Review Data Profile, December 16, 2002

II. POINT-IN-TIME PERMANENCY PROFILE (continued)	Federal FY 1999		Federal FY 2000		Federal FY 2001	
	# of Children Discharged	Median Months to Discharge	# of Children Discharged	Median Months to Discharge	# of Children Discharged	Median Months to Discharge
VIII. Length of Time to Achieve Perm. Goal						
Reunification	2,061	2.7	2,367	2.0	2,289	2.1
Adoption	460	44.6	414	43.4	406	40.3
Guardianship	25	1.5	24	10.6	31	4.0
Other	301	46.2	326	49.3	277	45.8
Missing Discharge Reason	1	8.1	2	2.5	93	2.7
Missing Date of Latest Removal or Date Error ³	5	NA	4	NA	11	NA
Statewide Aggregate Data Used in Determining Substantial Conformity	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children
IX. Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, what percentage was reunified in less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal for home? (4.1) [Standard: 76.2% or more]	1,702	82.4	1,938	81.8	1,886	82.1
X. Of all children who exited care to a finalized adoption, what percentage exited care in less than 24 months from the time of the latest removal from home? (5.1) [Standard: 32.0% or more]	52	11.3	66	15.9	57	14.0
XI. Of all children served who have been in foster care less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home, what percentage have had no more than two placement settings? (6.1) [Standard: 86.7% or more]	2,586	77.4	2,757	75.9	2,912	76.0
XII. Of all children who entered care during the year, what percentage re-entered foster care within 12 months of a prior foster care episode? (4.2) [Standard: 8.6% or less]	164	5.6 (85% new entry)	219	6.9 (85% new entry)	223	6.6 (84% new entry)

South Carolina Child and Family Services Review Data Profile, December 16, 2002

III. PERMANENCY PROFILE FIRST-TIME ENTRY COHORT GROUP	Federal FY 1999		Federal FY 2000		Federal FY 2001	
	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children
I. Number of children entering care for the first time in cohort group (% = 1 st time entry of all entering within first 6 months)	1,192	85.3	1,284	83.1	1,349	84.6
II. Most Recent Placement Types						
Pre-Adoptive Homes	12	1.0	12	0.9	11	0.8
Foster Family Homes (Relative)	109	9.1	173	13.5	172	12.8
Foster Family Homes (Non-Relative)	635	53.3	692	53.9	724	53.7
Group Homes	48	4.0	61	4.8	66	4.9
Institutions	235	19.7	209	16.3	266	19.7
Supervised Independent Living	7	0.6	2	0.2	6	0.4
Runaway	21	1.8	15	1.2	17	1.3
Trial Home Visit	86	7.2	92	7.2	75	5.6
Missing Placement Information	1	0.1	1	0.1	2	0.1
Not Applicable (Placement in subsequent yr)	38	3.2	27	2.1	10	0.7
III. Most Recent Permanency Goal						
Reunification	279	23.4	309	24.1	318	23.6
Live with Other Relatives	12	1.0	23	1.8	18	1.3
Adoption	245	20.6	214	16.7	216	16.0
Long-Term Foster Care	11	0.9	12	0.9	10	0.7
Emancipation	16	1.3	15	1.2	20	1.5
Guardianship	0	0	0	0	0	0
Case Plan Goal Not Established	629	52.8	711	55.4	761	56.4
Missing Goal Information	0	0	0	0	6	0.4

South Carolina Child and Family Services Review Data Profile, December 16, 2002

III. PERMANENCY PROFILE FIRST-TIME ENTRY COHORT GROUP (Continued)	Federal FY 1999		Federal FY 2000		Federal FY 2001	
	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children
IV. Number of Placement Settings in Current Episode						
One	539	45.2	559	43.5	554	41.1
Two	336	28.2	383	29.8	434	32.2
Three	160	13.4	173	13.5	171	12.7
Four	85	7.1	72	5.6	87	6.4
Five	36	3.0	50	3.9	50	3.7
Six or more	36	3.0	47	3.7	53	3.9
Missing placement settings	0	0	0	0	0	0
V. Reason for Discharge						
Reunification/Relative Placement	657	97.3	730	97.5	742	94.6
Adoption	1	0.1	3	0.4	4	0.5
Guardianship	7	1.0	4	0.5	14	1.8
Other	10	1.5	12	1.6	18	2.3
Unknown (missing discharge reason or N/A)	0	0	0	0	6	0.8
	Number of Months		Number of Months		Number of Months	
VI. Median Length of Stay in Foster Care	6.4 ⁴		4.9 ⁵		5.0 ⁶	

FOOTNOTES TO DATA ELEMENTS IN THE PERMANENCY PROFILE

¹The FY99, FY00, and FY 01 counts of children in care at the start of the year exclude 45, 43, and 57 children, respectively. They were excluded to avoid counting them twice. That is, although they were actually in care on the first day, they also qualify as new entries because they left and re-entered again at some point during the same reporting period. To avoid counting them as both "in care on the first day" and "entries," the Children's Bureau selects only the most recent record. That means they get counted as "entries," not "in care on the first day."

²We designated the indicator, *17 of the most recent 22 months*, rather than the statutory time frame for initiating termination of parental rights proceedings at *15 of the most 22 months*, since the AFCARS system cannot determine the *date the child is considered to have entered foster care* as defined in the regulation. We used the outside date for determining the *date the child is considered to have entered foster care*, which is 60 days from the actual removal date.

³Dates necessary for calculation of length of time in care in these records are chronologically incorrect. N/A = Not Applicable

⁴ This First-Time Entry Cohort median length of stay was 6.4 months in FY99. This includes 2 children who entered and exited on the same day (who had a zero length of stay). The median length of stay would be slightly higher if these children were excluded, but it would still round to 6.4 months.

⁵ This First-Time Entry Cohort median length of stay was 4.9 months for FY00. This includes 2 children who entered and exited on the same day (who had a zero length of stay). If these children were excluded, the median length of stay would be slightly higher, but would still round to 4.9 months.

⁶ This First-Time Entry Cohort median length of stay is 5.0 months for FY01. This includes one child who entered and exited on the same day (who had a zero length of stay). If this child were excluded, the median length of stay would be slightly higher, but would still round to 5.0 months.