

A Snapshot of Children in Foster Care



**San Luis Obispo County
Department of Social Services**

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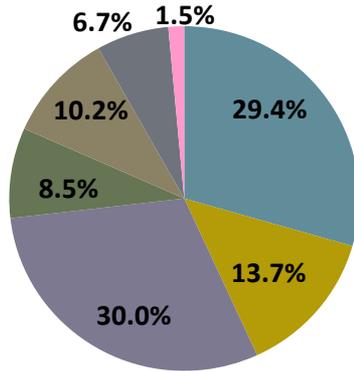
Snapshot of Children in Foster Care



CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE: City/Region and Placement Type

Placement Types

- Relative / NREFM Home
- Foster Family Agency Home
- Foster Family Home
- Guardian Home
- SILP
- Group Home
- Small Family Home



38% of all children in foster care under DSS supervision are placed with relatives or non-relative extended family members (NREFM). This is considered the most beneficial type of care for children who cannot be left in their own homes.

San Luis Obispo consistently ranks among the highest of all counties in California in this measure.

The Supervised Independent Living Program (SILP) is part of After 18, a program providing services to non-minor dependents ages 18-21 voluntarily choosing to remain in Foster Care.

	Relative / NREFM Home	Foster Family Agency Home	Foster Family Home	Guardian Home	SILP	Group Home	Small Family Home	Sum:
Arroyo Grande	5	10	9	3	4			31
Atascadero	17	4	24	4	1			50
Avila Beach			1					1
California Valley					3			3
Cambria	1		2					3
Cayucos			1		1			2
Creston		1						1
Grover Beach	4	2	6	2	2		2	18
Los Osos	7	1		3				11
Morro Bay	2	3	2			1		8
Nipomo	12		12	2	2		1	29
Oceano	4		1					5
Paso Robles	20	10	11	5	8		2	56
Pismo Beach			1	1				2
San Luis Obispo	5	4	10	3	1	5		28
San Miguel	1	2	7			1		11
Santa Margarita	1	2	3	1				7
Shandon						2		2
Shell Beach		1						1
Templeton	1		12	2				15
Out of County	19	7	1		7	14		48
Out of State	2				5	4		11
Sum:	101	47	103	29	35	23	5	343

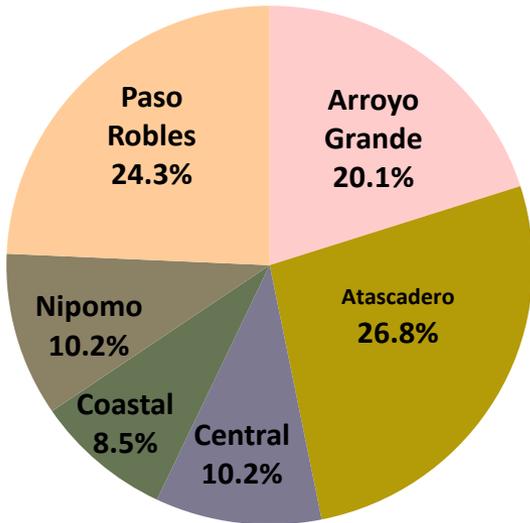
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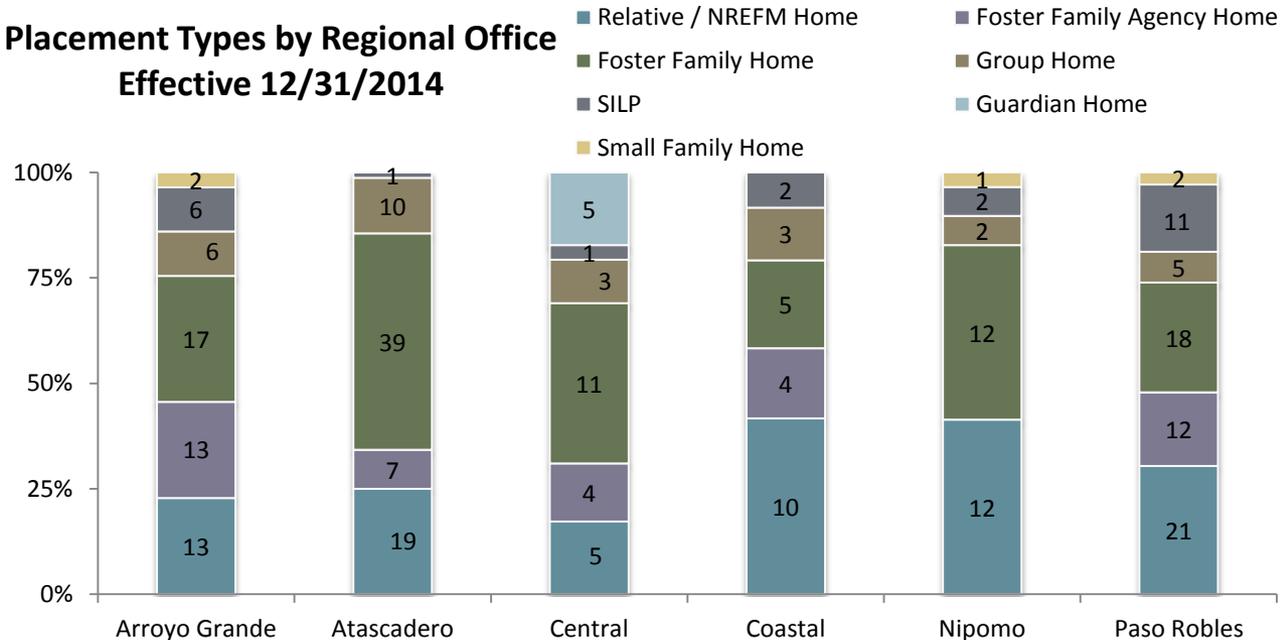
CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE: Regional Office Overview of In-County Placements

In-County Foster Care Placements by Region



REGIONAL OFFICE	Relative / NREFM Home	Foster Family Agency Home	Foster Family Home	Group Home	SILP	Guardian Home	Small Family Home	Sum
Arroyo Grande	13	13	17	6	6	0	2	57
Atascadero	19	7	39	10	1	0	0	76
Central	5	4	11	3	1	5	0	29
Coastal	10	4	5	3	2	0	0	24
Nipomo	12	0	12	2	2	0	1	29
Paso Robles	21	12	18	5	11	0	2	69
In-County Total	80	40	102	29	23	5	5	284

Placement Types by Regional Office Effective 12/31/2014



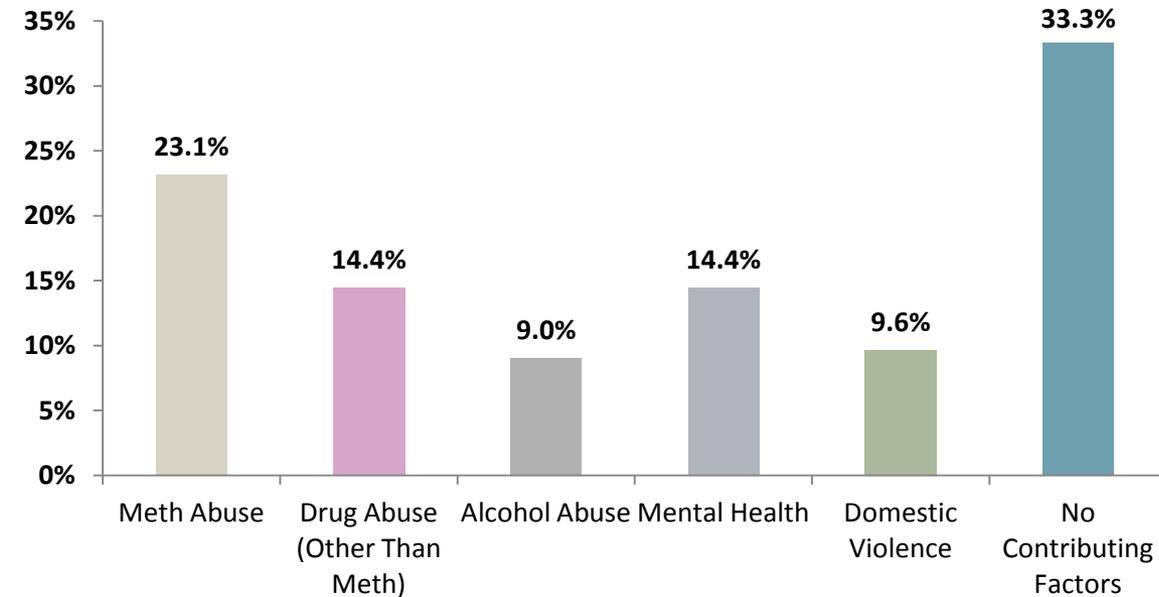
Note: Data on this page excludes children placed outside of San Luis Obispo County. There are currently 284 children placed in SLO County, 48 placed in other California counties and 11 placed out of state.

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Snapshot of Children in Foster Care

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE: Reasons for Foster Care Placement and Contributing Factors

Contributing Factors



REASON FOR INITIAL PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE AS OF 12/31/2014

General Neglect	235	68.5%
Care Taker Absence/Incapacity	75	21.9%
Physical Abuse	14	4.1%
Sexual Abuse	4	1.2%
Emotional Abuse	2	0.6%
SILP - Voluntary Reentry	8	2.3%
Exploitation	1	0.3%
Relinquishment	2	0.6%
Safely Surrendered Baby	1	0.3%
Severe Neglect	1	0.3%
Sum	343	

As of 12/31/2014, there were 343 SLO County children in foster care placements. For those 343 children, there were 355 Contributing Factors. Some children have a combination of factors including drug or alcohol abuse, mental health issues, and domestic violence.

Methamphetamine Abuse and Drug Abuse (other than Meth) are the most common factors, followed by Mental Health and Domestic Violence.

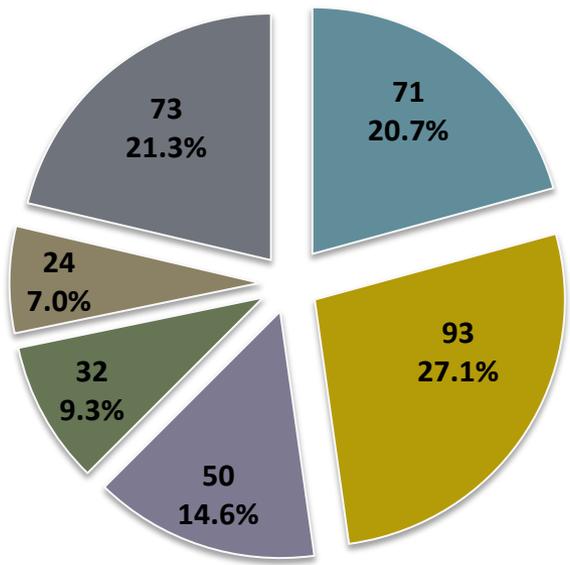
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Snapshot of Children in Foster Care**



CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE – Number of Placement Moves

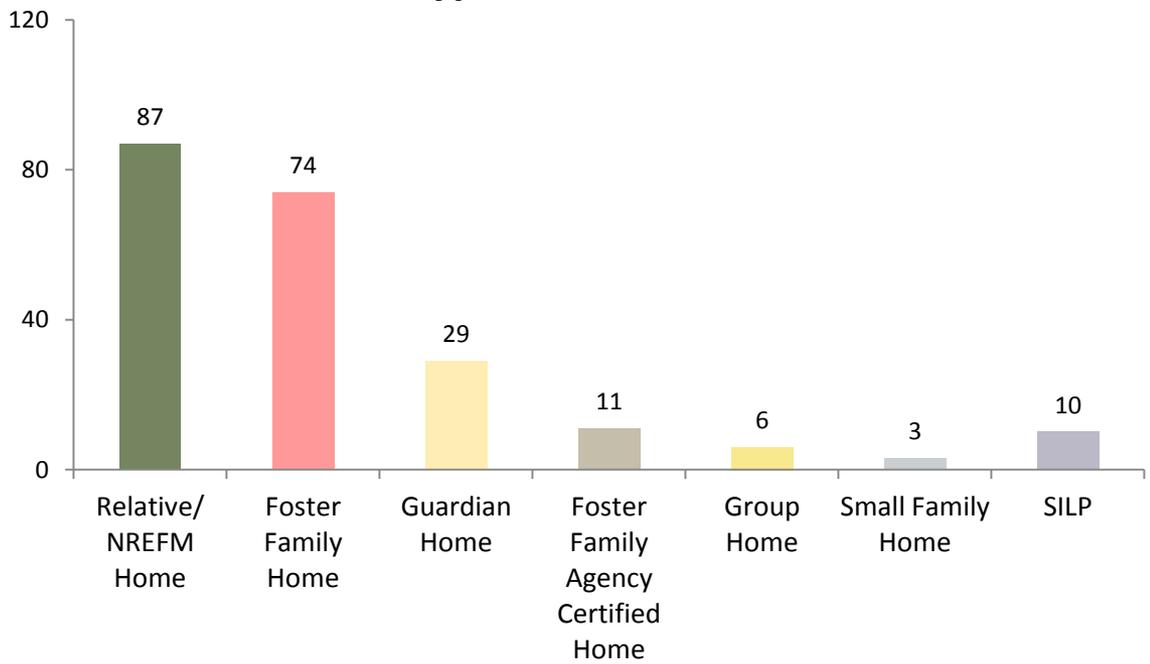
Family-to-Family Outcome: Fewer placement moves for children in foster care.

Number of Placement Moves for Children in Foster Care as of 12/31/2014



- Child Has Experienced One Placement (20.7%)
- Child Has Experienced Two Placements (27.1%)
- Child Has Experienced Three Placements (14.6%)
- Child Has Experienced Four Placements (9.3%)
- Child Has Experienced Five Placements (7.0%)
- Child Has Experienced Six or More Placements (21.3%)

Placement Type for Children With 1 or 2 Moves

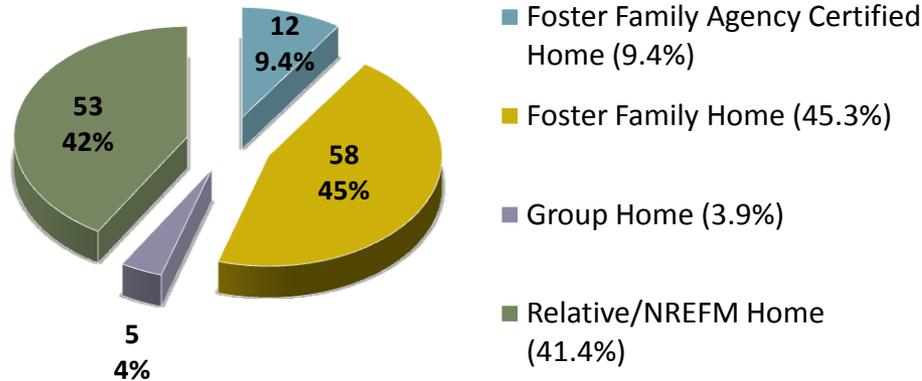


Of the 343 children in foster care as of 12/31/2014, 20.7% remain in their initial placement and 21.3% have experienced 6 or more different placements. Note: the pie chart does not include placement type, it is only looking at number of moves. 220 children who have experienced one or two placement moves, 39.5% are in relative placement homes.

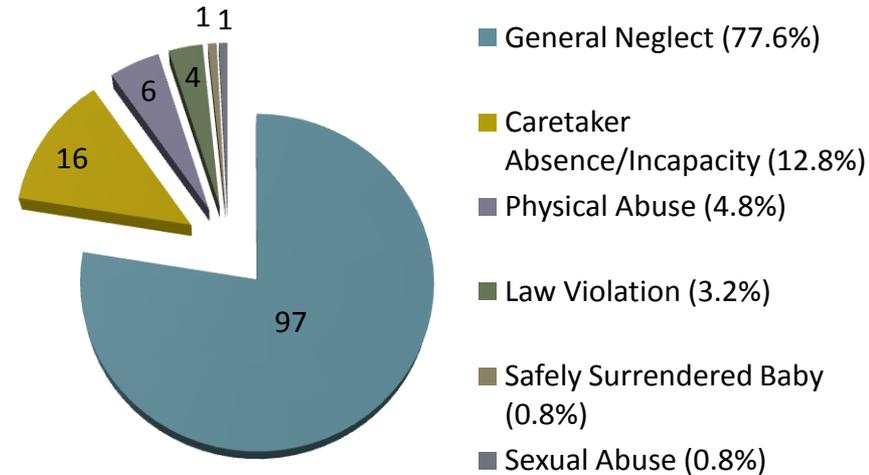


CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE – Initial (New) Placements

Placement Type	Total	%
Relative/NREFM Home (41.4%)	53	41.4%
Foster Family Home (45.3%)	58	45.3%
Foster Family Agency Certified Home (9.4%)	12	9.4%
Group Home (3.9%)	5	3.9%
	128	



Initial Placementst - Reasons for Removal



Note: This chart refers to the 128 children placed into care from 1/1/2014 – 12/31/2014. The chart on p. 5 refers to all 343 children currently in care, regardless of placement date.

Between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014 a total of 128 children were separated from their parents and placed into foster care. The majority of the children were removed due to general neglect. In addition, the most common placement type was with foster family homes.

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Snapshot of Children in Foster Care

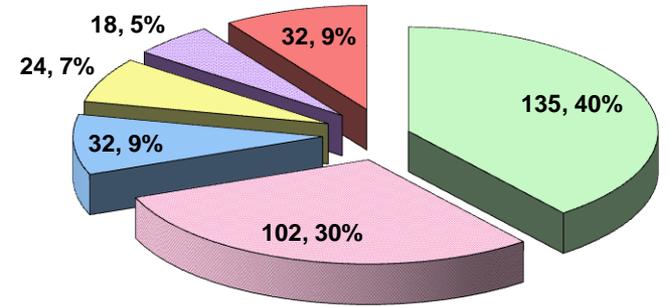


LENGTH OF TIME IN FOSTER CARE

Family-to-Family Outcome: Shorter length of stay in foster care.

Years in Foster Care	# of Children	Percentage
0 to 1 Year	135	39.4%
1 to 2 Years	102	29.7%
2 to 3 years	32	9.3%
3 to 4 Years	24	7.0%
4 to 5 Years	18	5.2%
5 Years or Longer	32	9.3%

Placement Types for Children in Foster Care Five Years or Longer



In Foster Care Five Years or Longer

Place Home Facility Type	GIRLS	BOYS	Total
Relative/NREFM Home	1	1	2
Foster Family Agency Certified Home	1	2	3
Foster Family Home	2	0	2
Group Home	1	4	5
Small Family Home	1	1	2
Guardian Home	4	4	8
SILP	6	4	10
Sum	16	16	32

- 0 to 1 Year
- 1 to 2 Years
- 2 to 3 years
- 3 to 4 Years
- 4 to 5 Years
- 5 Years or Longer

The goal of San Luis Obispo County Child Welfare Services is to transition children out of foster care to safe and stable families in the shortest possible time. As of 12/31/2014, 69.1% (237 of 343 children) have been in foster care for less than two years, and 30.8% for more than two years.

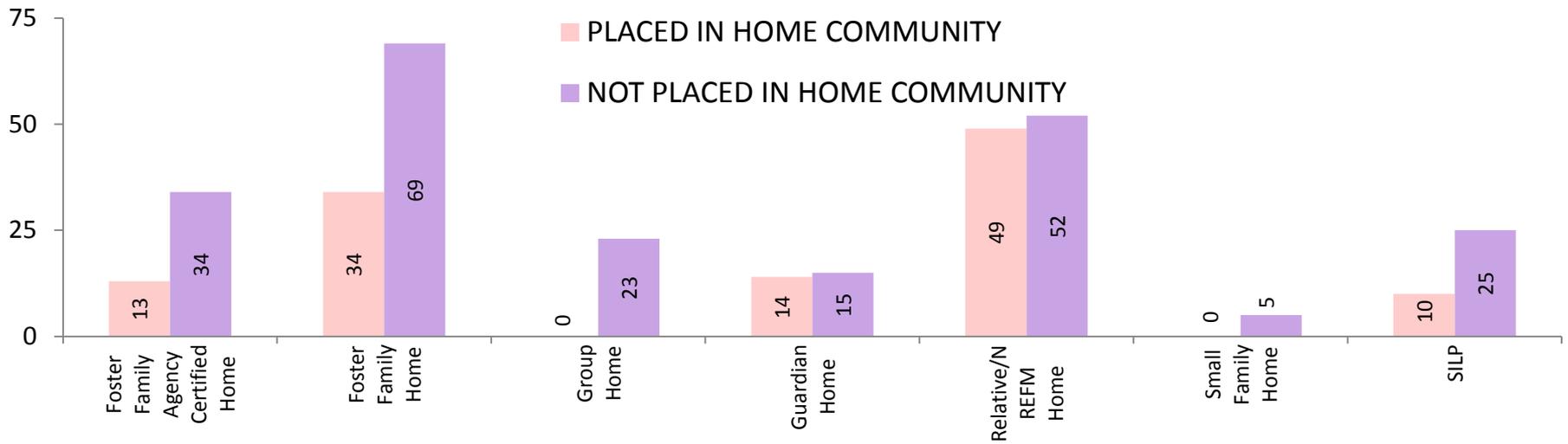
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Snapshot of Children in Foster Care

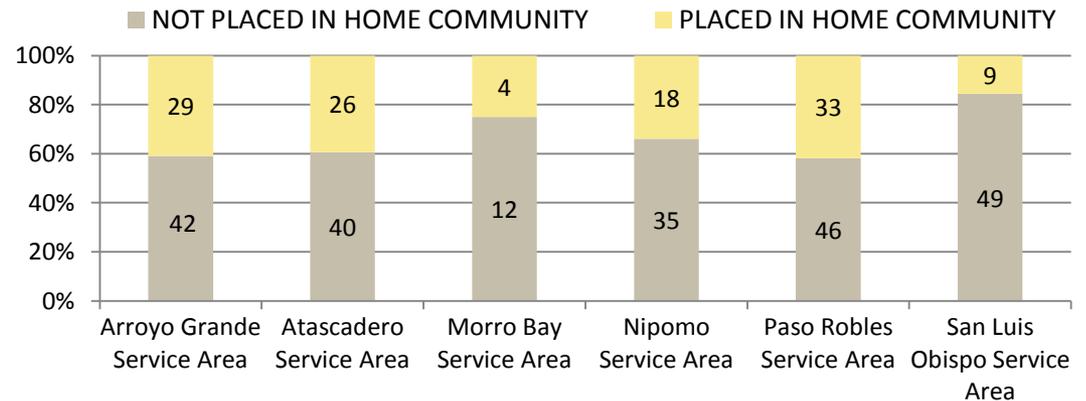


PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN WITHIN THEIR HOME COMMUNITY

For children who must be in Foster Care, placement with a relative or extended family member within the child's home community is the best possible option. On average, 35% of foster children are currently placed in their home community and 65% are not.



All cities in the county are included in one of the six service areas shown on the chart to the right. For example, the Atascadero service area includes Atascadero, Santa Margarita, and California Valley.



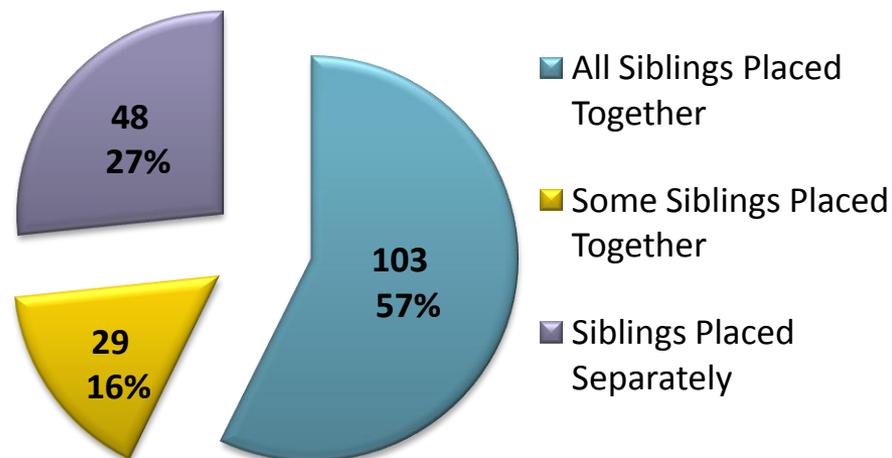
**PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN WITH THEIR SIBLINGS
 Family-to-Family Outcome: More siblings placed together.**



As Of April 1, 2014	
All Children in Foster Care Who Have Siblings	180
All Siblings Placed Together	103
Some Siblings Placed Together	29
Siblings Placed Separately	48

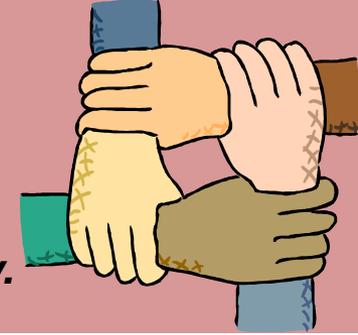
The most current statistics available for sibling placements are dated April 1, 2014, at which time there were 180 children in placement who have one or more siblings. Of those, 132 (84%) were placed with all or some of their siblings.

Studies show that maintaining sibling relationships is of vital importance to the wellbeing of children. Often, children who are abused or neglected by their caregivers form especially strong ties to one another. The emotional support of the sibling bond may nurture a sense of stability and continuity and help to provide a sense of safety for children in foster care placements.



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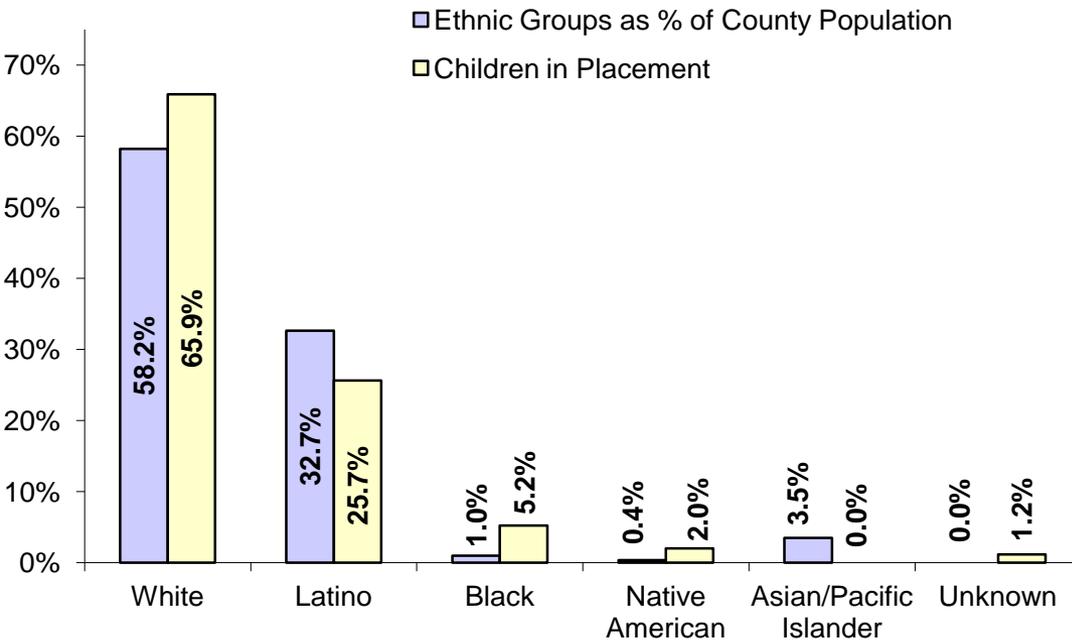
Snapshot of Children in Foster Care



ETHNIC GROUPS AGE 0-20

Family-to-Family Outcome: Reduce disparities associated with race/ethnicity.

Ethnic Groups - Children Age 0-20



Note: There are comparatively very few Black, Asian, and Native American children who are in Foster Care in SLO County. Therefore, the percentages fluctuate significantly with only minor changes in the numbers. The actual number of children in Foster Care compared to total population is shown in red on the chart below.

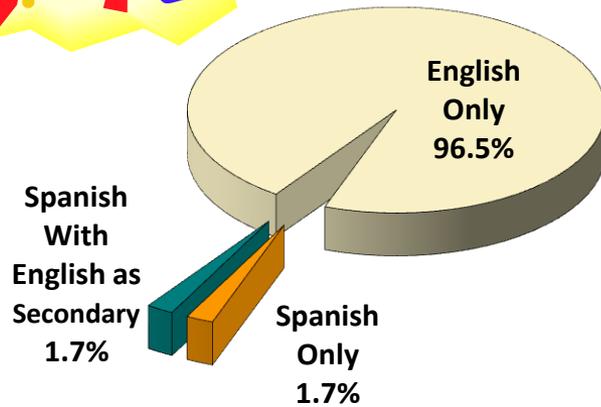
	# of Children in Placement	Age 0-20 Population
White	226	40556
Latino	88	22749
Black	18	692
Asian/Pacific Islander	0	2446
Native American	7	268
Multi-Race	0	2741
Unknown	4	data not available
Total	343	69632

The Department consistently works to minimize potential disparity through the use of evidence-based practice and the provision of staff training.

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Snapshot of Children in Foster Care



LANGUAGE



Placement and Facility Type for Children Whose Primary Language is Spanish

	Relative/ NREFM Home	Guardian Home	Group Home	Foster Family Agency Home	Foster Family Home	Supervised Independent Living Placement	Sum
Atascadero	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
Paso Robles	0	1	0	0	0	2	3
San Miguel	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Arroyo Grande	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
San Luis Obispo	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	3	3	1	3	0	2	12

There are currently 12 children in Foster Care (3.4% of the total 343) who speak Spanish as their primary language. As of 12/31/2014, these children were placed as shown in the chart to the right. As with all placements, every effort is made to place monolingual children with relatives or extended family members in their home communities, and to ensure that they are placed with adults who are able to communicate with them.

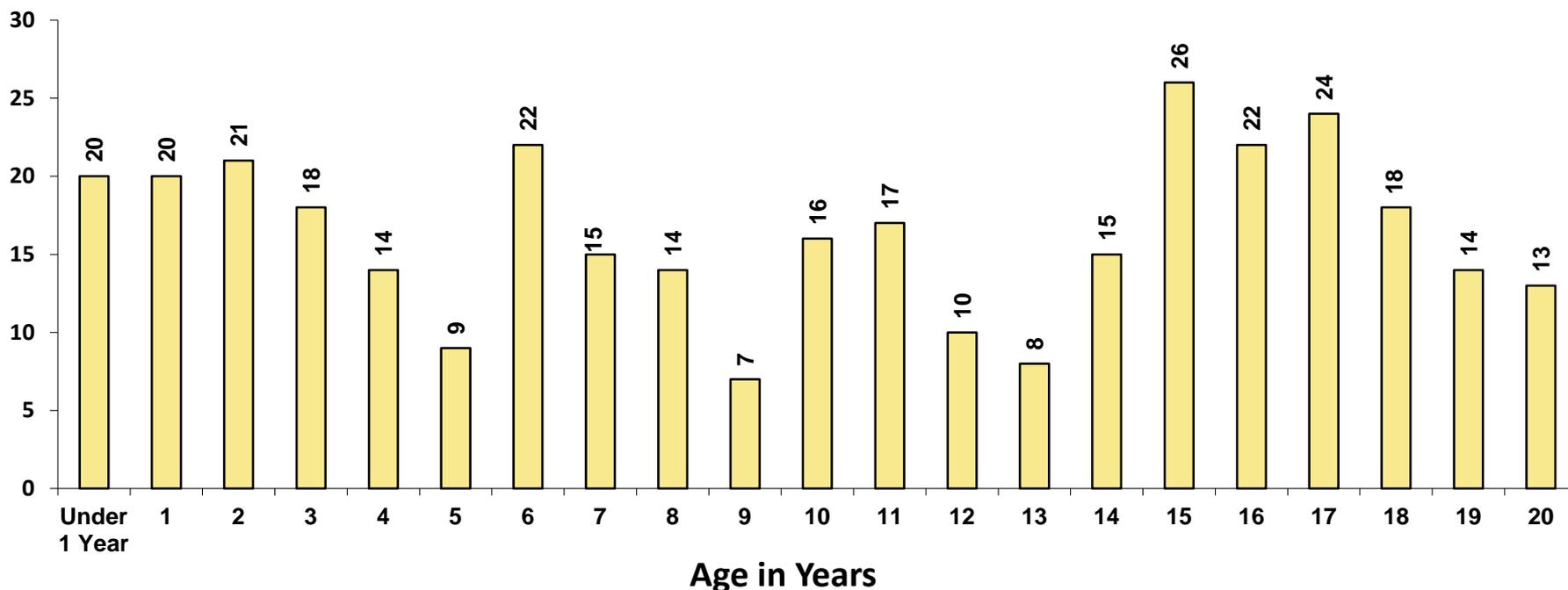
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AGE DISPARITIES

Family-to-Family Outcome: Reduce disparities associated with age.

Number of Children in Foster Care by Age



There are currently 343 children in foster care. 102 are between the ages of 0-5, 101 are between the ages of 6-12, 113 are between the ages of 13-18, and 27 are over 18.

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Snapshot of Children in Foster Care

TEENS Family-to-Family Outcome: Reduce disparities associated with age.

140 San Luis Obispo County Teens were in Foster Care as of 12/31/2014

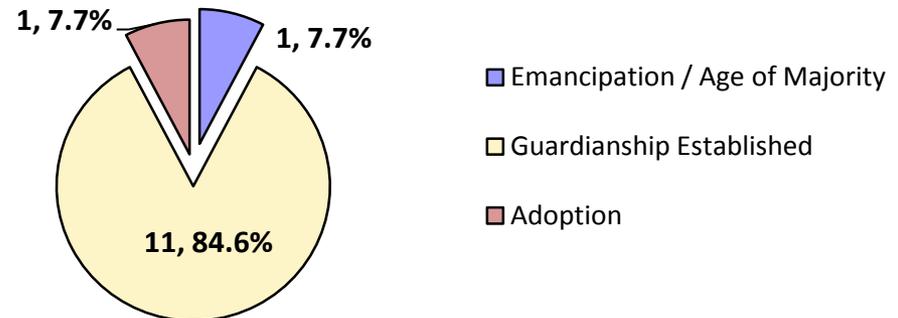


Region	Placement Facility Type as of 12/31/2014								Total
	Relative/NREFM Home	Court Specified Home	Foster Family Agency Certified Home	Foster Family Home	Group Home	Guardian Home	Small Family Home	SILP	
Central/Coastal	4	0	6	2	5	4	0	2	23
North	6	0	10	6	0	9	2	12	45
South	8	0	6	6	0	5	2	8	35
Other than SLO County	5	0	5	0	14	0	0	13	37
Sum:	23	0	27	14	19	18	4	35	140

Of the 343 children in foster care as of 12/31/2014, 140 (40.8%) are age 13 or older. This is a decrease from the 6/30/2014 data, when 139 of 316 (43.9%) children in foster care were teens.

A total of 13 teen foster care cases were closed between 1/1/2014 and 12/31/2014. Of the 13 cases closed, 1 (7.7%) was closed due to the teen emancipating or reaching the age of majority (see chart on right).

Reasons for Closing Teen Foster Care Cases Between 1/1/2014 and 12/31/2014



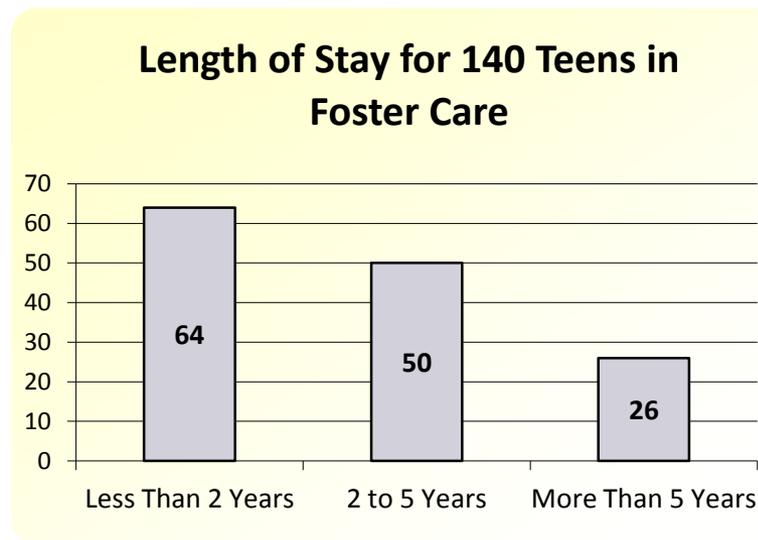
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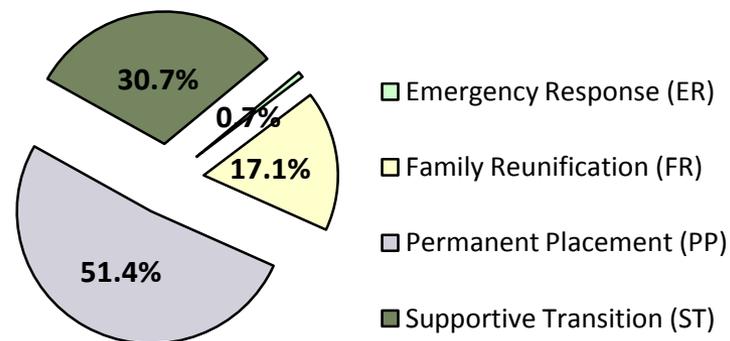


TEENS Family-to-Family Outcome: Reduce disparities associated with age.

Placement Types for Teens in Foster Care	Emergency Response	Family Reunification	Permanent Placement	Supportive Transition	Sum
Relative/NREFM Home	0	12	11	0	23
Foster Family Agency Certified Home	1	3	16	7	27
Foster Family Home	0	6	8	0	14
Group Home	0	3	16	0	19
Guardian Home	0	0	18	0	18
Small Family Home	0	0	3	1	4
Supervised Independent Living Placement	0	0	0	35	35
Sum	1	24	72	43	140



Current Case Service Components for Teens in Foster Care



After 18 provides foster youth with the option to remain in foster care and receive services and supports until age 21. After 18 began in January 2012 and the full program will be phased in over 3 years.

Youth participating in After 18 are counted in the Supportive Transition Service Component in the above chart. As of 12/31/2014, there were 35 youth in placement participating in After 18.

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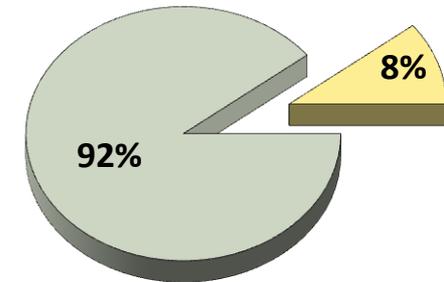
Snapshot Children in Foster Care

MEDICAL CONDITIONS



Medical Conditions of Children in Foster Care	% of Children Affected	Total # Children Affected
Upper Respiratory Infection / Bronchitis	46.0%	160
Cavities / Dental Caries / Malocclusion	44.8%	155
Mental / Emotional / Behavioral	39.1%	136
Vision / Hearing / Speech Impairment	26.4%	92
Dermatitis / Other Skin Conditions	13.8%	48
Ear Infection	14.7%	51
Prenatal Drug / Alcohol Exposure	9.2%	32
Other Physical Health Issues	70.4%	245

# of Children in Placement	343
Children with Medical Condition Noted	315
Children With No Medical Condition Noted	28



- Children with Medical Condition Noted
- Children With No Medical Condition Noted

92% of children currently in Foster Care have one or more physical or mental health conditions requiring treatment. The chart above shows some of the more common conditions. Some children have multiple conditions (so the percentages do not add up to 100%). The Other Physical Health Issues category includes children in care who have diabetes, cerebral palsy, seizures, congenital heart disease, scoliosis, and a wide range of other conditions. This data is based upon CWS/CMS case records of the 343 children in foster care as of 12/31/2014.