



KVC LR 37 Testimony

Progress/Challenges/Recommendations

Date: 09/07/2011

Key Facts and Summary of Services:

KVC Nebraska is:

- A non-profit organization established in 2009 and is supported by KVC Health Systems which has over 40 years of child welfare experience and provides quality services in four other states.
- Currently providing case management services (reunification, adoption, family preservation) to children and families referred by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Office of Juvenile Services (OJS). Families referred may or may not have court involvement; children may be wards of the state, and/or involved with the juvenile justice system. KVC serves 19 counties in southeast and eastern Nebraska, and have office in Omaha, Lincoln, Beatrice, Seward and Nebraska City. See map provided.
- Serving 46% of Nebraska's Child Welfare and OJS population. Specific number of children served through the DHHS contract as of August 30, 2011:

Service Area	Children Served	Families Served
Eastern	1,387	600
Southeastern	3,241	1609
Total =	4,628	2,209

- Licensed as a Child Placing Agency (CPA) which provides resource services for children and youth that have been removed from the home due to abuse or neglect. Foster families provide 24-hour substitute care for children and support for their parents while children are removed from their birth family due to physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect or other circumstances requiring out-of-home care. It is the role of the child or youth's placement to provide a safe, healthy (both physical and emotional) setting that supports the child or youth and family in moving towards permanency. KVC has been especially successful in the recruitment of ethnically diverse foster homes which was a great need identified by DHHS. Specific number of foster homes sponsored through KVC and children placed are:

Service Area	Foster Homes Served	Children Placed
Eastern	135	244
Southeastern	134	208
Total =	269	452

- Maintains subcontracts with over 80 providers in the State of Nebraska to provide services ranging from placements to in-home supportive services.

KVC's Progress:

KVC has seen progress in both service areas in relation to results around Safety, Placement Stability, Children Served in their homes and/or with relatives or a familiar caregiver. See handout titled "KVC Behavioral HealthCare Nebraska Inc., Performance Results".

Challenges and KVC Strategies:

1. Nebraska is the 2nd highest in the nation for removing children from their homes.
 - The number of referrals from DHHS continues to be high and has increased, especially in the Southeast Service Area.
 - According to the Child Trends Data Snapshot report, Nebraska is removing children from their homes at the rate of 7.74 per 1,000 children, which is double the national average at 3.40 per 1,000. See report on page 6, table 3. This remains an ongoing challenge in both service areas.
 - Initial Response Units (IRUs) have been one strategy that KVC has assisted DHHS with to address the entry problem. This is a collaborative practice initiative to efficiently and safely reduce the number of children in care and provide least restrictive oversight to improve outcomes for children and families in Nebraska. Initiative to be referenced as the "Initial Response Unit" or IRU. Lead agencies, by contract, are not required to participate in pre-referral activities; this is an investment being made on the part of the lead agencies.
 - KVC has implemented Structured Decision Making (research supported assessment tool) and Signs of Safety to assist with properly serving children. These assessments occur after DHHS refers cases to KVC, however, provides for children's and family's needs to be addressed timely.

2. The system and its providers have been built on a reliance of high volume of children needing to be served.
 - Providers have become dependent on the revenue from rendering a service that may have been necessary ten or twenty years ago but is no longer a vital need. When providers with proven records of providing what may no longer be a necessary service are not utilized, it would be natural for them to assume that a child or family is being underserved without their involvement. This further results in confusion and financial anxiety for well-intended and committed organizations. A clear focus needs to be on finding natural supports for families within their own community whenever possible and this is often times met with resistance because the culture has been to make the services formally provided.
 - KVC is working to shift the culture of the subcontractor community to begin thinking in terms of meeting specified results when working with children and families. A strategy to address this is through provider outcomes and accountability for meeting specific measures that lead to the overall improvement of the larger system. See handout of Top 20 Provider Payments.

3. Funding Stability
 - The methodology of a flat rate to fund reform efforts has proven to be unstable. It has been KVC's desire to establish a case rate methodology that would allow for stability and accountability.
 - KVC has recommended to DHHS that a case rate methodology be considered and it has been reported that Casey Family Programs is assisting in this process.

Recommendations:

1. Support DHHS and the Lead Agencies to continue to move forward in shaping the reform efforts with formalized input from the legislative and judicial branches of government, plus other key stakeholders.

A Steering Committee made up of DHHS, a legislative representative, a judicial representative, lead agencies and other defined members should be established to provide clear focus and definition on efforts into the future. This type of committee would be able to identify potential legislative barriers or further implementation issues.

2. Case rate funding methodology.

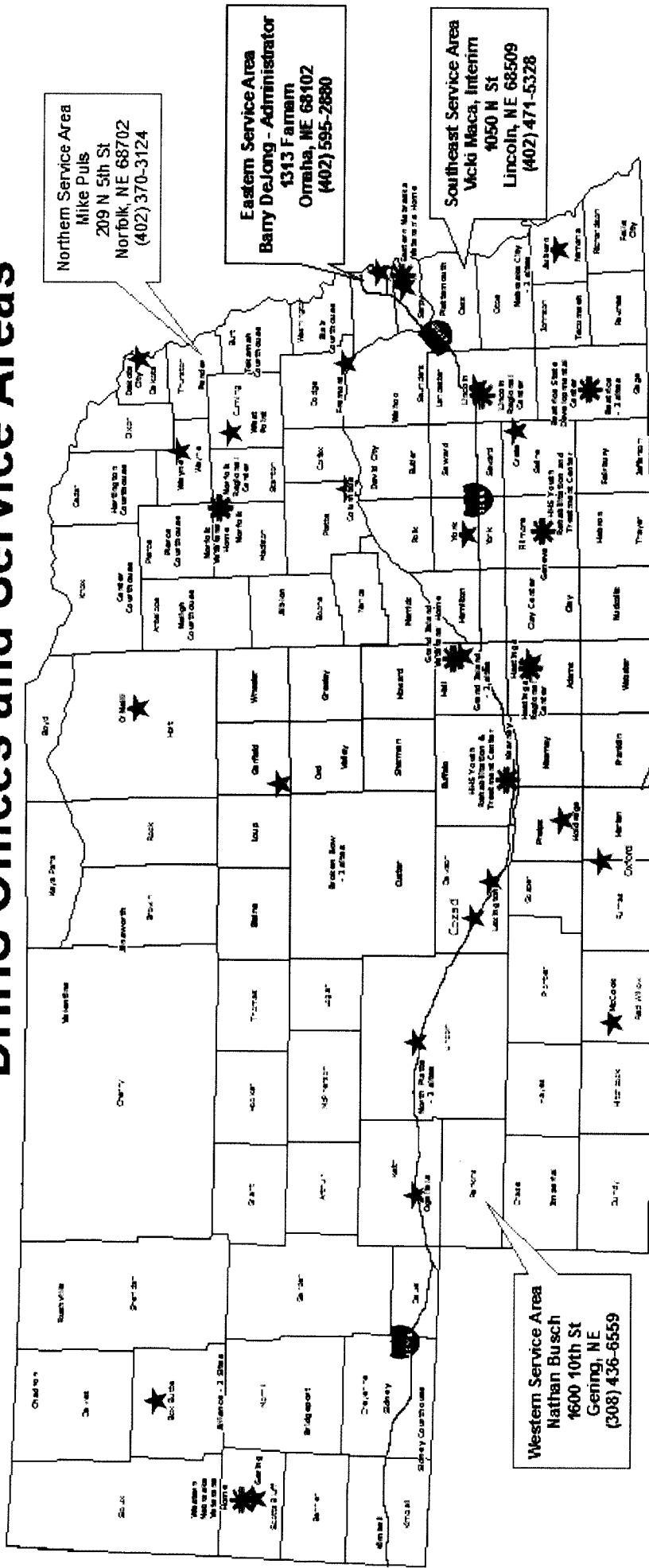
Accomplish improvement and stability in the system by establishing a consensus caseload estimating process and an accompanying rate paid per case. This would consist of officials from legislative research and the Governor's budget office meeting twice per year to estimate the number of children that will be served. This would not serve as an automatic increase in funding to providers, but rather a commitment to fund the services while also monitoring the number of children entering and exiting the system. This also would help to identify risk factors that lead to children entering the system, as well as community and regional issues that have increased the number of children in the child welfare system to an unprecedented number. This would put the Legislature and the Governor in a position to respond comprehensively with sound public policy for this very vulnerable population of children.

2. Explore the option of establishing a system based on population management.

There are varying needs for families and in the current system, every referral is currently served the same. Whether the case is in-home, out-of-home, court involved, or non-court involved, the same response is provided. There is a need to seriously explore the future of how populations of families and children get served. Given the issues with a high number of children being referred for out of home placements, this suggests that there is a lack of prevention services. There are families who could be served in a robust prevention/diversion system if one existed in Nebraska.

The OJS population and those with severe mental health or developmental disability issues could be served differently if they were carved out of the general child welfare population.

DHHS Offices and Service Areas



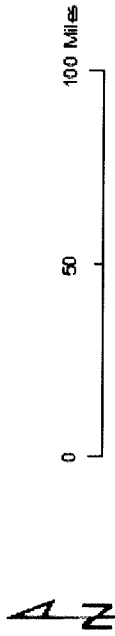
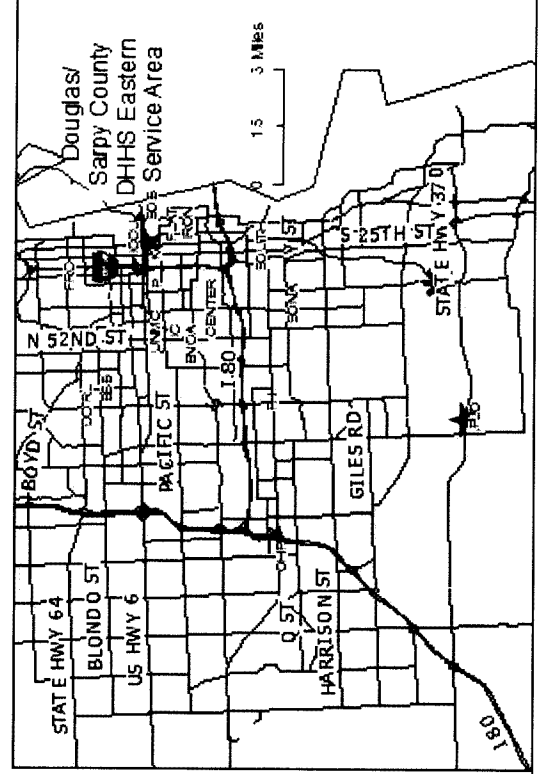
Northern Service Area
Mike Puls
209 N 5th St
North Platte, NE 68702
(402) 370-3124

Eastern Service Area
Barry DeJong - Administrator
1313 Fairman
Omaha, NE 68102
(402) 595-2880

Southeast Service Area
Vicki Maca, Interim
4050 N St
Lincoln, NE 68509
(402) 471-5328

Western Service Area
Nathan Busch
1600 10th St
Gering, NE
(308) 436-6559

Central Service Area
Yolanda Muncio
208 N Pine St
Grand Island, NE 68802
(308) 385-6126



Legend

- ★ DHHS Offices
- ★ DHHS 24-hour Facilities
- Interstates
- Nebraska Streets
- Central
- Eastern
- Northern
- Southeast
- Western
- County outline
- Major roads

Department of Health & Human Services
DHHS
 V E B E A S & A
 Geographic Information Systems
 Map created by:
 DHHS GIS
 Revised 5-11
 Source: Division of Public Health

KVC Behavioral HealthCare Nebraska Inc. Performance Results

Results in Southeast Service Area (Lancaster & others) Since KVC	Before Reform Nov. 2009	After Reform
Safety measure 1: Absence of recurrent maltreatment	89.8% (Sept. 2009)	92.9% (March 2011)
Length of stay in the system (target = 27.3 months, lower is better)	27.8 months (Sept. 2009)	25.4 months (March 2011)
Adoptions within 24 months (target = 36.6%)	37% (Sept. 2009)	46% (March 2011)
All children (wards & non-wards) served by KVC residing in their home.	48% (end of transition Feb. 2010)	63% (August 2011)

*Safety measure 1 data taken from Compass, report named "Trend for the last 5 years" thru March 2011

*Length of Stay data taken from Compass report (trends – from Sept 09 to March 2011)

*Adoption data taken from Compass report (trends – from Sept 09 to March 2011)

*In-home data taken from KVC Nebraska Utilization Database (NEU) reports from 12/1/09 to 03/31/11. Note that percentage increased 5% following the July 2010 transition.

Child TRENDS DATA SNAPSHOT

Publication #2011-19

4301 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20008
 Phone 202-572-6000 Fax 202-362-8420 www.childtrends.org

FOSTER CARE DATA SNAPSHOT

May 31, 2011

Foster care is intended to provide a temporary safe haven for children who have been abused or neglected, or whose parents for some other reason cannot provide adequate care. It is not intended to be a permanent living arrangement. The goal of U.S. child welfare is to find safe, permanent homes for children, either by reunification with their families of origin or through adoption or placement with a permanent legal guardian.

Unfortunately, many children in foster care never end up in a safe, permanent family. Some spend years in multiple foster families and group homes, an experience that heightens their risk of emotional, behavioral, and academic challenges. For this reason, policy makers, administrators, and advocates have focused their efforts on safely reducing the foster care rolls. Their efforts to date have yielded mixed results. While the numbers of children in foster care and entering care each year have decreased nationwide, there is wide variation among the states, and the decline has not been continuous over the past decade.

To coincide with National Foster Care Month in May, this Data Snapshot explores state and national trends in the number of children in foster care, as well as the number entering foster care, each year from 2000 to 2009, using data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). On September 30, 2009, 424,000 children were in foster care in the United States, a decrease nationally of 23 percent from the 544,000 children in foster care on September 30, 2000.

ABOUT THE DATA SOURCE

This Data Snapshot uses data from the foster care file of the Adoption and Foster Care Reporting System (AFCARS). The AFCARS foster care file includes child-specific information provided by states from their child welfare administrative data systems on all children in foster care for whom the state child welfare agency has responsibility for placement, care, or supervision, regardless of eligibility for Title IV-E funds. Data are included for a federal fiscal year.

Children are categorized as being in foster care if they entered foster care prior to the end of the current fiscal year and were not discharged from their latest foster care spell by the end of the current fiscal year.

Children are categorized as entering foster care if the most recent date of their removal from parental custody was after the beginning of the current fiscal year and before the end of the fiscal year.

FIGURE 1

Number of children in foster care at the end of the fiscal year, and entering in the fiscal year, by year (in thousands)

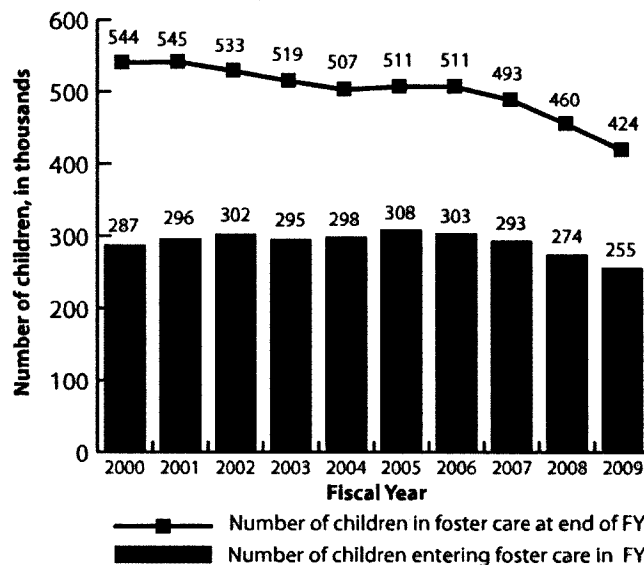
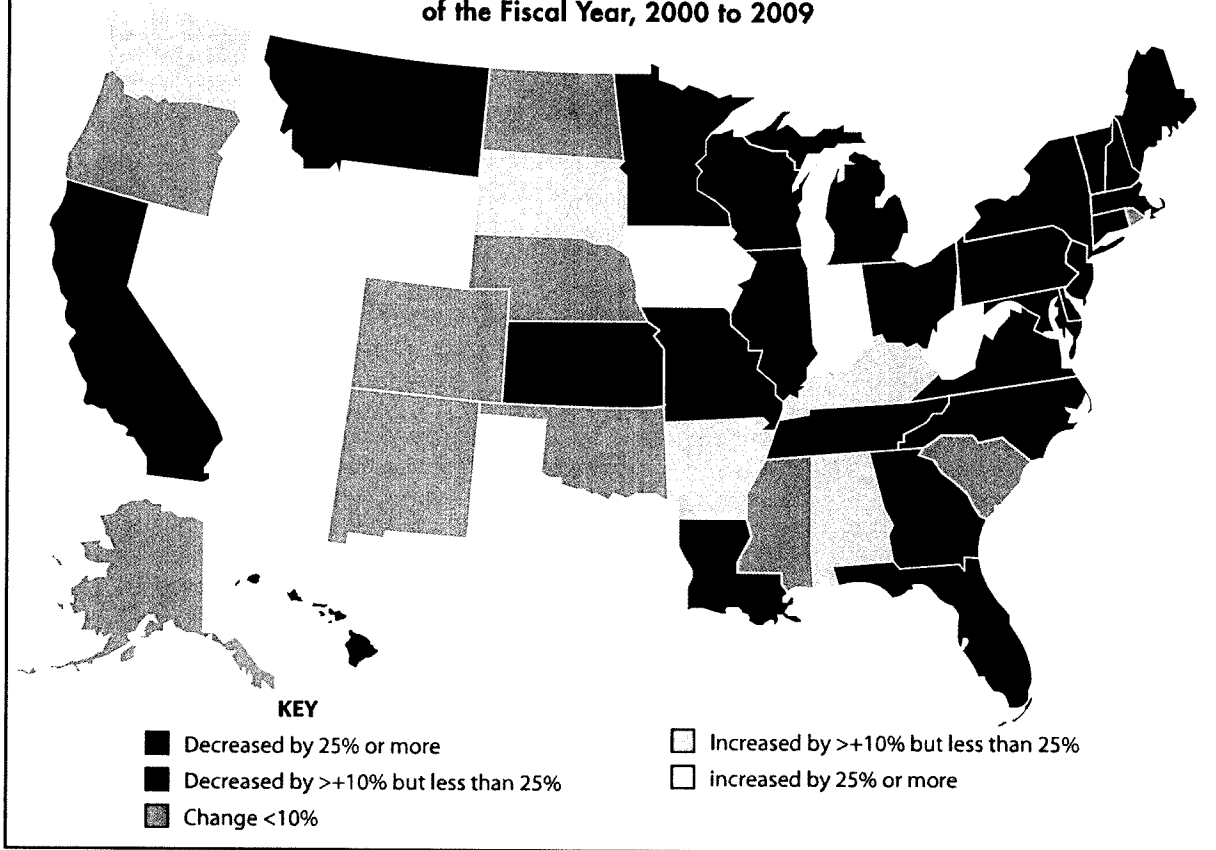


FIGURE 2

Percentage change in number of children in foster care at the end of the Fiscal Year, 2000 to 2009



The number of children in foster care at the end of each fiscal year decreased from 2001 to 2004, increased slightly to 511,000 in 2005 and 2006, and then continued to decline steadily to 424,000 at the end of FY 2009. (See Figure 1.)

Similarly, the number of children entering foster care each year has decreased overall, from 287,000 children in 2000, to 255,000 children in 2009. However, the number of children entering care has fluctuated over the course of the decade, reaching a high of 308,000 children entering care in 2005 before starting to decline.

For more information on the importance of foster care, visit the [Child Trends DataBank](#).

NATIONAL AND STATE-LEVEL CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE BETWEEN 2000 AND 2009.

Nationally, the number of children in foster care at the end of the fiscal year decreased by 23%

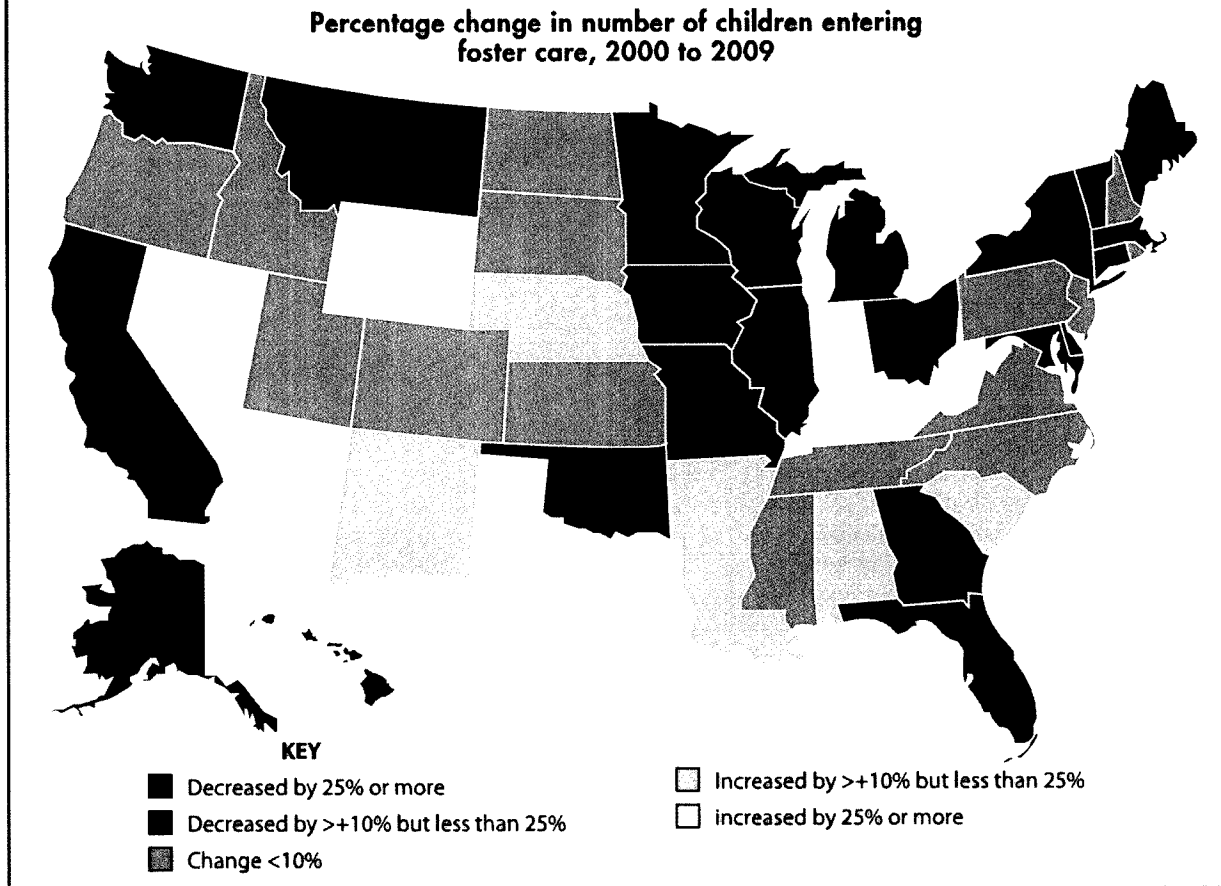
between 2000 and 2009. The map in Figure 2 illustrates the percentage change in the number of children in foster care at the end of the year between 2000 and 2009, by state. States in darker shades experienced decreases in their foster care population, while states with the lightest two shades had increases. Table 1 ranks the states by the percentage change in their foster care populations between 2000 and 2009.

- Maine had the largest decline, with its foster care population dropping by nearly half (48.4%).
- Nevada had the largest increase, with its foster care population nearly doubling (195%).

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE BY STATE IN 2009.

Table 1 also presents the total number of children in foster care on September 30, 2009 by state.

FIGURE 3



- California had the largest number of children in foster care (60,198 children) on this date, primarily because it has the largest child population in the nation.

YEAR-TO-YEAR CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE.

While Figure 2 and Table 1 demonstrate the overall percentage change between 2000 and 2009, Table 2 highlights the percentage change in the foster care population by year in each state.

- Almost every state, like the United States as a whole, has experienced fluctuations in both positive and negative directions from year to year.
- Only California and Illinois have decreased their foster care totals each year since 2000.

NATIONAL AND STATE-LEVEL CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE BETWEEN 2000 AND 2009.

Figure 3 illustrates the percentage change in the

number of children entering foster care in each state between 2000 and 2009. While the number of children entering foster care nationally decreased by 12% between 2000 and 2009, not all states experienced similar declines. As shown in the map, states highlighted in the darkest three shades experienced decreases between 2000 and 2009 in the number of children entering foster care, and states highlighted in the lightest two shades experienced increases. (See Table 3 for state rankings.)

- Delaware had the largest decrease, with the number of children entering foster care declining by more than one half (53%).
- Nevada had the largest increase, with the number of children entering in 2009 more than triple what it was in 2000 (332%).

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE BY STATE IN 2009.

In addition to presenting the percentage change in the number of children entering foster care

from 2000 to 2009, Table 3 includes the number of children entering foster care in 2009 and the rate of children entering foster care per 1,000 children ages 0 to 17 in each state.

- Again, California had the largest number of children entering foster care in 2009.
- Wyoming had the highest rate of foster care entry, with 8.18 of every 1,000 children entering foster care in 2009.

YEAR-TO-YEAR CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE.

The overall percentage change between 2000 and 2009 in the number children entering foster care, as shown in Figure 3 and Table 3, is broken down in Table 4 to show year-to-year changes. As is the case with the number of children in care, there is year-to-year fluctuation in the direction and rate of change, and neither the nation nor any single state experienced continuous decreases or increases in these numbers over this period.

CONCLUSION

Foster care is an important safety net for some children who cannot remain safely at home because of abuse or neglect. Although one might expect that the numbers of children needing foster care might be approximately uniform (after controlling for population) across states, the data presented in this snapshot document wide variation in terms of entries and placements from state to state. The reasons for these differences are complex, but can partially be explained by the wide variation in state foster care systems with respect to their funding structures, policies and practices. For more information about specific state policies and funding, visit the Child Welfare Policy Database and the Fostering Connections website.

This Data Snapshot was developed with funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation by Amy McKlindon, with contributions from Sharon Vandivere and David Murphey. The data used in this publication were made available to Child Trends by the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, and have been used with permission. Data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) were originally collected by the Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which also funded the collection of the data. Neither Children's Bureau, the Archive, Cornell University, nor their agents or employees bear any responsibility for the analyses or interpretations presented here.

TABLE 1

Percentage change in number of children in foster care at the end of Fiscal Year (2000 to 2009), and number of children in foster care at end of FY2009, by state

State	Overall percent change from 2000 to 2009	Number of children in care at end of FY2009
Maine	-48.40%	1,646
Florida	-47.70%	19,156
California	-46.60%	60,198
Maryland	-46.20%	7,052
Illinois	-42.20%	17,080
New York	-40.60%	27,992
Ohio	-40.10%	12,197
Hawaii	-39.40%	1,455
Minnesota	-36.60%	5,410
Wisconsin	-35.40%	6,785
Tennessee	-33.70%	6,723
Connecticut	-32.00%	4,761
District of Columbia	-30.90%	2,111
New Hampshire	-29.10%	930
Georgia	-28.40%	8,020
Delaware	-25.90%	814
Missouri	-24.80%	9,912
Montana	-24.80%	1,639
Vermont	-23.50%	1,062
United States¹	-23.10%	423,773
Pennsylvania	-22.00%	16,878
New Jersey	-20.30%	7,809
Massachusetts	-17.00%	9,650
Kansas	-13.40%	5,691
Virginia	-12.70%	5,927
North Carolina	-12.00%	9,547
Louisiana	-11.50%	4,786
Michigan	-11.50%	17,723
Rhode Island	-8.30%	2,112
Oregon	-5.90%	8,650
Nebraska	-5.80%	5,343
Alaska	-1.20%	2,166
Mississippi	0.90%	3,320
Oklahoma	3.60%	8,712
New Mexico	5.10%	2,009
Colorado	5.20%	7,927
North Dakota	8.40%	1,224
South Carolina	9.10%	4,938
Washington	10.90%	9,922
Kentucky	14.20%	6,872
Arkansas	20.10%	3,657
South Dakota	22.10%	1,484
Alabama	22.70%	6,894
West Virginia	25.10%	4,237
Iowa	29.50%	6,564
Wyoming	41.70%	1,155
Idaho	42.50%	1,446
Texas	46.70%	26,686
Utah	52.90%	2,759
Arizona	57.10%	10,175
Indiana	66.20%	12,437
Nevada	195.90%	4,779
Puerto Rico ¹	---	5,351

¹ Data for Puerto Rico not available for 2000, therefore percentage change from 2000 to 2009 could not be calculated. Percentage change in the national number of children in foster care from 2000 to 2009 excludes Puerto Rico.

TABLE 2

Percentage change in number of children in foster care at the end of Fiscal Year, by state (2000 to 2009)

	2000 to 2001	2001 to 2002	2002 to 2003	2003 to 2004	2004 to 2005	2005 to 2006	2006 to 2007	2007 to 2008	2008 to 2009
Alabama	4.23	0.41	3.33	-2.39	16.50	3.53	1.48	-5.33	0.26
Alaska	-9.12	3.96	-1.54	-10.29	-2.19	12.68	8.63	-1.05	-0.09
Arizona	-6.56	2.03	20.99	23.10	5.34	0.47	-1.66	8.95	-2.40
Arkansas	-2.82	0.41	1.45	3.65	3.65	6.05	5.30	-2.60	3.83
California	-5.00	-6.27	-3.18	-15.03	-2.90	-2.34	-5.51	-9.09	-10.58
Colorado	-5.24	29.01	-4.94	-6.37	0.21	-0.90	-4.45	1.85	0.08
Connecticut	6.35	-19.26	12.24	0.90	3.37	5.92	-22.34	-7.11	-11.39
Delaware	-6.83	-13.39	-8.13	4.30	13.31	11.64	7.73	-18.93	-13.22
District of Columbia	9.33	-0.54	-6.90	-15.65	-3.41	-5.99	-7.22	0.91	-4.78
Florida	-11.28	-1.58	-4.02	-5.91	1.55	-0.28	-9.81	-15.84	-13.66
Georgia	17.59	-0.20	3.26	4.70	-1.77	-5.66	-7.13	-18.40	-19.67
Hawaii	7.62	6.89	4.49	2.15	-6.89	-14.21	-17.62	-16.39	-10.30
Idaho	9.75	11.85	12.44	11.71	16.17	1.76	1.08	-7.86	-16.08
Illinois	-4.61	-13.68	-11.24	-7.76	-2.51	-5.46	-2.71	-0.17	-4.28
Indiana	12.04	1.13	3.97	10.92	14.98	1.25	-0.11	8.92	0.41
Iowa	2.64	0.69	-4.33	7.44	26.19	33.06	-8.85	-18.17	-2.65
Kansas	-2.44	-3.42	-6.61	4.83	-3.71	9.56	3.72	-4.90	-9.75
Kentucky	2.46	10.53	1.19	1.49	3.17	5.35	-0.67	-4.94	-4.32
Louisiana	-7.07	-3.88	-5.96	-3.17	9.92	7.86	2.30	-5.03	-5.51
Maine	1.10	-4.40	-10.51	-6.38	-10.64	-10.09	-5.11	-5.38	-11.70
Maryland	-4.19	-4.28	-4.20	-3.56	-2.20	5.87	-13.52	-22.11	-8.99
Massachusetts	-0.44	8.14	0.78	-0.36	-2.91	-5.72	-8.71	-0.67	-7.45
Michigan	4.30	1.70	0.59	-0.95	-3.19	-1.74	3.42	-3.16	-12.14
Minnesota	-4.26	-1.41	-15.92	-3.40	6.70	2.55	-5.59	-10.78	-10.25
Mississippi	4.59	-21.99	1.30	9.85	9.37	-2.02	3.90	-1.08	0.85
Missouri	1.62	-2.73	-8.67	-1.03	-2.93	-10.95	-3.29	2.86	-2.13
Montana	-7.89	-4.78	-2.41	8.79	9.46	-11.70	-11.47	-7.89	2.44
Nebraska	10.22	-8.47	-10.06	22.22	-0.97	-0.71	-5.04	-4.83	-4.44
Nevada	83.22	11.22	7.11	14.18	14.86	9.17	0.40	-0.87	-4.86
New Hampshire	-1.75	0.23	-5.73	1.56	-4.69	-2.72	-5.41	-5.07	-9.62
New Jersey	8.90	7.28	12.03	-4.13	-8.77	-5.50	-14.94	-5.56	-8.24
New Mexico	-8.11	7.29	12.57	1.65	7.37	1.77	2.80	-8.34	-9.55
New York	-7.97	-6.02	-9.04	-9.77	-8.93	-1.59	0.33	-1.93	-5.09
North Carolina	-6.61	-5.95	0.07	5.70	6.16	3.90	-2.59	-9.11	-2.99
North Dakota	3.37	2.57	3.43	6.14	4.26	-2.85	-5.11	-1.82	-1.29
Ohio	5.99	-2.53	-8.15	-6.83	-3.10	-4.67	2.31	-19.47	-10.99
Oklahoma	3.19	1.59	4.99	22.41	0.60	3.71	-0.28	-10.08	-17.77
Oregon	-2.47	1.51	0.18	10.21	9.67	-3.26	-10.31	-6.00	-3.76
Pennsylvania	-1.44	0.43	-2.64	5.27	-1.15	-2.56	-1.31	-7.86	-12.18
Rhode Island	4.87	-1.28	-1.09	2.42	3.94	13.27	-4.22	-11.57	-12.26
South Carolina	5.50	0.92	-0.35	-3.46	2.63	3.43	4.61	-2.88	-1.22
South Dakota	12.51	2.12	10.10	2.93	7.71	-3.29	-4.98	-5.36	0.13
Tennessee	-4.58	-3.31	1.37	1.09	-5.97	-4.42	-10.06	-6.86	-6.87
Texas	8.52	8.18	2.47	12.11	17.75	6.80	-2.30	-6.60	-5.19
Utah	8.42	3.47	0.40	3.69	8.40	6.21	12.86	-0.91	1.66
Vermont	-0.50	10.42	-7.67	1.63	0.28	-3.97	-5.08	-8.33	-11.50
Virginia	1.13	3.54	-0.89	-2.51	2.23	11.69	-0.99	-13.16	-12.10
Washington	1.74	6.24	-4.72	1.68	7.47	3.86	6.22	1.26	-11.78
West Virginia	-2.66	-2.37	26.37	-1.94	7.64	-1.61	4.35	0.05	-3.97
Wisconsin	-9.59	-7.93	-10.52	-0.15	3.80	-5.77	-2.55	-0.58	-8.35
Wyoming	18.40	-3.73	13.56	12.23	5.07	4.58	-5.38	-6.26	0.09
United States¹	-1.50	-2.16	-2.41	-2.37	0.96	-0.06	-3.59	-6.68	-7.76

¹ National estimate excludes Puerto Rico.

TABLE 3

Percentage change in number of children entering foster care in FY2009, by state and number and rate of children entering foster care in 2009, by state

State	Overall percent change from 2000 to 2009	Number of children entering foster care in 2009 ¹	Rate of children entering foster care in 2009, per 1,000 children ²
Delaware	-53.16%	445	2.14
Minnesota	-44.47%	5,999	4.74
Ohio	-43.23%	8,741	3.22
Montana	-38.54%	976	4.43
Hawaii	-30.95%	1,332	4.58
Maryland	-29.43%	2,772	2.05
Maine	-28.42%	753	2.78
Oklahoma	-27.81%	4,734	5.15
Michigan	-26.56%	7,863	3.34
Vermont	-25.17%	550	4.35
Wisconsin	-24.01%	4,560	3.48
California	-23.77%	34,826	3.68
Florida	-23.73%	14,313	3.53
New York	-22.46%	12,876	2.90
Missouri	-21.90%	5,636	3.93
Illinois	-21.66%	5,176	1.62
Washington	-19.74%	6,092	3.88
District of Columbia	-19.48%	624	5.42
Georgia	-16.66%	5,857	2.27
Massachusetts	-16.39%	6,171	4.30
Iowa	-15.87%	4,728	6.61
Alaska	-15.42%	927	5.05
United States²	-11.51%	255,418	3.40
Connecticut	-10.75%	2,466	3.04
North Carolina	-8.92%	4,971	2.15
Colorado	-8.48%	6,353	5.08
Pennsylvania	-8.25%	11,226	3.99
North Dakota	-6.56%	940	6.52
Virginia	-5.70%	2,582	1.40
Utah	-4.10%	2,060	2.36
Oregon	-1.58%	4,601	5.26
Kansas	-0.88%	3,163	4.49
South Dakota	0.49%	1,448	7.25
Rhode Island	2.70%	1,447	6.27
New Jersey	3.14%	4,800	2.34
New Hampshire	4.34%	505	1.65
Mississippi	5.09%	2,107	2.74
Idaho	7.81%	1,215	2.90
Tennessee	8.61%	5,952	3.97
New Mexico	11.85%	1,991	3.90
Nebraska	13.69%	3,563	7.74
Louisiana	15.01%	3,631	3.23
South Carolina	17.24%	3,719	3.44
Alabama	17.40%	3,124	2.75
Arkansas	17.48%	4,161	5.86
West Virginia	25.42%	3,000	7.68
Texas	29.38%	12,769	1.85
Kentucky	30.50%	5,387	5.30
Wyoming	44.91%	1,139	8.59
Arizona	63.39%	7,588	4.36
Indiana	69.73%	9,464	5.95
Nevada	331.65%	2,905	4.26
Puerto Rico ³	---	1,190	1.17

¹ Number calculated for children ages 0-20.

² Rates calculated for children ages 0-17.

³ Data for Puerto Rico not available for 2000, therefore percent-change from 2000 to 2009 could not be calculated. Percent-change in the national number of children in foster care from 2000 to 2009 excludes Puerto Rico.

TABLE 4

**Percentage change in number of children entering foster care in Fiscal Year,
by state (2000 to 2009)**

	2000 to 2001	2001 to 2002	2002 to 2003	2003 to 2004	2004 to 2005	2005 to 2006	2006 to 2007	2007 to 2008	2008 to 2009
Alabama	0.41	16.95	3.87	10.84	6.84	-1.38	3.98	-8.95	12.96
Alaska	-8.85	6.91	-11.70	-29.48	41.35	-1.91	-2.71	3.23	0.11
Arizona	-2.78	11.83	22.96	15.54	5.20	-2.09	0.97	10.01	-7.54
Arkansas	-5.51	0.09	6.30	-2.11	3.70	8.55	4.13	-7.68	10.31
California	-1.11	3.06	-1.63	-14.04	4.34	0.02	0.75	-12.63	-3.69
Colorado	0.94	10.43	-1.62	2.22	-1.68	-7.74	-8.90	2.46	-3.58
Connecticut	-1.81	1.84	13.28	-6.65	-2.26	9.45	-14.24	-0.30	-7.74
Delaware	-1.16	-2.24	-6.21	2.21	5.11	10.38	8.72	-43.51	-29.03
District of Columbia	6.06	-1.22	-11.45	1.39	26.06	-27.09	-12.54	21.50	-12.36
Florida	-0.49	11.39	-1.21	-3.00	11.11	-0.67	-13.86	-16.42	-9.63
Georgia	28.98	7.73	8.21	10.70	-6.94	-10.32	-7.24	-25.78	-12.87
Hawaii	13.69	7.16	-0.98	-0.95	-17.96	-11.53	-13.51	-4.56	-3.55
Idaho	7.28	0.33	6.51	20.51	10.60	-9.87	0.52	-13.40	-10.07
Illinois	-3.89	-5.94	-3.00	-2.16	0.86	-12.49	0.00	16.77	-11.42
Indiana	-3.17	5.13	7.19	15.48	7.33	-2.48	4.87	21.56	0.95
Iowa	3.72	-0.14	-1.46	3.94	13.74	-17.55	-7.91	-11.81	4.12
Kansas	-11.19	-2.40	-3.22	13.49	2.67	12.41	16.23	-13.79	-9.96
Kentucky	11.19	14.38	4.48	1.39	7.00	6.13	-8.23	-0.55	-6.52
Louisiana	-4.53	-1.33	-5.55	-1.96	22.40	17.62	-8.37	-6.33	6.70
Maine	-0.48	-18.82	6.35	-10.62	-10.02	1.38	14.38	6.41	-16.05
Maryland	-6.77	-2.70	-2.61	2.71	-5.92	-5.34	-10.52	-8.70	6.90
Massachusetts	-2.80	-8.63	-0.73	1.68	-5.50	2.00	0.56	4.29	-7.73
Michigan	14.72	-18.43	-3.68	0.94	-4.57	-3.13	1.21	-4.38	-9.78
Minnesota	-7.32	3.05	-21.68	-3.39	4.61	-1.82	-3.46	-7.11	-16.56
Mississippi	4.44	-24.45	-0.76	17.96	10.58	-4.69	16.96	-8.10	0.43
Missouri	2.44	-3.42	-11.16	4.35	-2.52	-12.31	-5.64	-3.82	9.78
Montana	-5.16	-13.28	-10.03	4.51	16.61	-17.67	-8.82	-4.93	-4.50
Nebraska	6.89	0.03	-13.25	42.93	-5.13	-3.63	-5.90	-6.55	6.64
Nevada	395.99	2.91	7.02	-5.11	4.07	8.82	-6.33	-9.62	-13.13
New Hampshire	10.33	5.43	2.66	-3.11	-2.14	1.64	5.03	-2.39	-11.56
New Jersey	16.74	11.39	15.57	-4.59	-12.68	8.08	-9.46	-8.51	-7.99
New Mexico	6.01	4.29	-1.37	15.56	-0.09	-5.35	6.93	-5.69	-6.92
New York	-8.85	1.96	-11.88	-6.57	-11.19	18.35	-0.96	2.12	-4.66
North Carolina	-2.88	5.92	-2.74	11.50	7.23	-1.78	-6.11	-15.36	-2.45
North Dakota	0.70	3.06	0.57	-0.19	4.77	-13.66	-4.96	4.22	0.11
Ohio	4.94	-7.27	-6.57	-6.04	-6.39	-2.40	-2.25	-13.43	-14.03
Oklahoma	-1.08	6.72	-3.03	-3.07	9.56	-2.83	-2.30	-12.93	-19.67
Oregon	-2.95	12.30	-2.34	11.41	11.78	-14.57	-13.03	-1.19	1.14
Pennsylvania	10.41	1.30	-4.71	11.77	0.58	-3.06	0.77	-8.99	-13.85
Rhode Island	5.96	5.96	-0.95	5.23	-5.34	29.66	-13.83	-14.68	-2.76
South Carolina	7.35	3.88	-3.42	-9.02	4.05	7.76	8.24	2.36	-3.68
South Dakota	-5.83	-0.66	2.00	-7.35	7.38	-0.88	2.65	-3.38	7.66
Tennessee	3.41	6.71	4.27	6.50	5.08	-6.29	-3.04	-4.16	-3.13
Texas	8.22	10.17	-2.15	18.24	24.39	-0.03	-10.08	-9.70	-7.11
Utah	-6.61	8.52	-11.44	1.35	13.36	-1.90	-2.85	-2.98	0.59
Vermont	-1.09	14.44	-12.86	15.86	-8.33	-8.96	-11.84	4.37	-14.73
Virginia	6.06	12.74	2.35	2.00	2.93	11.88	-8.41	-8.90	-21.38
Washington	-4.18	-7.82	-7.58	5.78	6.87	-3.80	3.86	-5.34	-8.03
West Virginia	-6.61	5.55	-0.47	2.34	27.06	-0.33	0.89	6.35	-8.09
Wisconsin	-14.05	-2.02	-0.87	12.63	8.08	-9.99	-4.70	-4.53	-8.71
Wyoming	13.99	-9.71	21.01	19.31	3.42	-1.99	-10.39	5.94	1.33
United States¹	1.99	2.03	-2.07	0.91	3.46	-1.40	-3.35	-6.72	-6.431

¹National estimate excludes Puerto Rico.

KVC BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE NEBRASKA INC. - FY 2011 (July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011)
PROVIDER PAYMENTS

Top 10

Sum of Payments Vendor	Total
CEDARS	5,113,236.94
BOYS TOWN	2,852,217.76
OWENS AND ASSOCIATES	2,004,972.75
OMNI BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE	2,001,875.22
EPWORTH VILLAGE	1,851,397.16
HEARTLAND FAMILY SERVICE	1,465,227.29
CHRISTIAN HERITAGE	1,324,548.50
NOVA THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY	927,235.75
CHILD SAVING INSTITUTE	681,088.89
APEX FOSTER CARE, INC	621,746.00
Grand Total	18,843,546.26

Top 20

Sum of Payments Vendor	Total
CEDARS	5,113,236.94
BOYS TOWN	2,852,217.76
OWENS AND ASSOCIATES	2,004,972.75
OMNI BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE	2,001,875.22
EPWORTH VILLAGE	1,851,397.16
HEARTLAND FAMILY SERVICE	1,465,227.29
CHRISTIAN HERITAGE	1,324,548.50
NOVA THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY	927,235.75
CHILD SAVING INSTITUTE	681,088.89
APEX FOSTER CARE, INC	621,746.00
UTA HALEE GIRLS VILLAGE	614,869.45
MIDWEST SPECIAL SERVICES, INC	585,124.64
BETTER LIVING COUNSELING	540,960.24
CHILD CONNECT	485,744.25
NEBRASKA CHILDRENS HOME	483,648.63
**CLARINDA ACADEMY	480,567.91
PATHFINDER SUPPORT SERVICES	464,003.15
LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES OF NE	416,559.46
DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES	414,818.58
CAPSTONE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	345,661.95
Grand Total	23,675,504.52

* KVC holds subcontracts with 80 providers. This data only reflects financial payments made to the top 20 most highly paid providers.
 **Indicates this is a facility located outside of the State of Nebraska.



Positive Stories

- Two-year-old “Molly” is a bubbly toddler that is extremely fun-loving. She is full of smiles and loves to explore new things. She had been in foster care for one year because her mother did not want to see her after she was born and her father was incarcerated. Her foster parents felt an instant connection with her and decided to adopt her in February 2011. The KVC Family Permanency Specialist (FPS) described the adoptive parents as absolutely amazing people. They take her twice a week to see her father because they believe it is important for her to see him. She will continue to thrive in this family.
- 8-year-old “Jacob” was placed into foster care in April 2009 due to his father getting into a domestic violence dispute with his girlfriend. He was placed in a positive foster home for nearly a year. The KVC Family Permanency Specialist (FPS) worked wonderfully with this family and the father referred to the FPS as an “angel”. The father was determined to get his son back and through the work of the FPS and his own hard work in therapy, domestic violence classes and anger management, his son was able to return home with him. The FPS said that the boy’s bond with his father was evident when they were reunited. They had court in March 2011 and they were able to share the father’s progress and close the case.
- KVC helped a mother of three, be proactive in protecting her family. She obtained a protection order for her and her children after being subjected to domestic violence and sexual abuse by a former significant other. She took initiative and obtained a protection order, ultimately putting her family’s safety first. She was proactive in her children’s treatment and sought help for herself through services at the YWCA. She went back to school and focused her energy on her children’s success. KVC actively worked with this family by providing family support in helping them overcome their situation. This family has been engaged in KVC Aftercare Services since November 2010 and is doing great.
- 2-year-old “Beth” is a bubbly toddler, who came into care in July 2010 due to a dirty home and physical neglect. Her parents took initiative and the mother gained employment in October 2010 and enrolled at Metro Community College in December 2010. The father was hired at a higher paying job which allowed him to provide for his family and is also working toward earning his GED. The toddler was able to remain in home, while her parents were taking steps to overcome this.

They were able to maintain the cleanliness of their home and were approved for a Family Unification Program (FUP) housing voucher in January 2011, allowing them to move into their own apartment. Their toddler is learning new words every day and is physically and developmentally on track. The case was closed in March 2011 and the family is now engaged in KVC Aftercare Services.

- 17-year-old “Joshua” spent seven months in OJS custody due to assault and making terroristic threats against his mother’s fiancé. During this time, he struggled with school and with his relationship with his mother, but he is now taking steps to earn his GED and is improving his relationship with his mother. Through work with his KVC Family Permanency Specialist (FPS), he was able to enroll in the “YouthBuild” program through Goodwill in January 2011. This program is a hybrid of a GED and learning/working the construction trade. He is able to earn a paycheck for the work he does. He also helps build houses for Habitat for Humanity.

The FPS’ diligence with getting him involved with this program helped place him on the right path to earn his GED. He has also been working closely with a KVC Tracker to follow rules and respect his mother. He and his mother continue to attend therapy and report progress in their relationship. His relationship with his Tracker and FPS played a pivotal role in his continuously improving relationship with his mother. His future plans include attending a trade school to learn motorcycle mechanics.

- 4-year-old twins “Brian” and “Luke” are full of energy and love bikes, tractors and dogs. They have been in the foster care system since May 2008, but are now on track to being adopted by their current foster parents. The boys were placed into the system after their mother did not complete case plan goals regarding a domestic violence case with her older children, and termination of parental rights (TPR) had been filed.

They were placed in a pre-adoptive home in August 2010, but the placement was not a good fit for both boys. The two were then moved to a KVC pre-adoptive home and are now thriving. Their behaviors now reflect the patience and consistency they have received since being placed into this loving home.

In April 2011, the biological mother met with the foster parents and guardian ad litem (GAL), and she decided to relinquish parenting rights in June so that the foster parents could proceed with the adoption. They ended up talking for over an hour at the meeting and the foster mother expressed that she wanted the biological mother to still be a part of the boys’ life. The biological mother and foster mother have established a supportive relationship that focuses on what is best for the boys. “It was one of the best moments I have had since working in this field, because everyone forgot about their own wants and put the children’s best interest first,” said the KVC Family Permanency Specialist (FPS).

- “Sarah” (age 11), “Zach” (age 9), “Megan” (age 3) and “Emily” (age 1) spent the last four months away from home due to domestic violence allegations against their father, but are now reunited as a family. All four children were able to be placed with a relative for three weeks until their mother obtained separate housing from the father. The children were able to move in with their mother, but relatives had to reside in the home while the children were present to ensure that the father didn’t have any contact with the mother.

Structured Decision Making (SDM) was used from the beginning to help the family move toward reunification. During adjudication, it was recommended that there was no longer a need for the relatives to live with them, and by utilizing SDM, the judge ordered that the

relatives no longer needed to reside in the home. Both parents continued to make progress and complete court orders throughout the case. The mother completed domestic violence classes, and the father is still taking both domestic violence and anger management classes to help their family. He was able to have supervised visits throughout the case.

The KVC Family Permanency Specialist (FPS) met with the parents every week and engaged the family to gain an understanding of the progress being made. The SDM assessments showed that the children were not at risk for abuse and that the family should be reunited. At the hearing, the judge ordered that the father be allowed to reside in the same home as the mother and children. This family was reunited in April 2011. The older children are continuing to make progress in school and all children have expressed their happiness in being together as a family again.

- 17-year old “Ben” is currently living with a loving foster family, where he has found success and happiness after being placed into the system at the age of 6 when his mother had committed a crime and his father’s parental rights were terminated. He went through multiple placements including group homes, shelters, foster homes and residential foster care facilities.

Through the hard work of the KVC Family Permanency Specialist (FPS), he was finally able to find stability and consistency with his current foster family. The FPS was committed to finding a devoted family for him and sought out a foster home that she had worked with in the past for potential placement. While he was still at his residential foster care facility, the FPS and KVC Program Support Worker (PSW) worked collaboratively to start him on overnight visits with this family.

In April 2011, he was discharged early from the facility and was able to move in with them. Since he has been placed here, he is thriving in all aspects of his life. He has been taken out of Special Education and has returned to a mainstream classroom setting. He will begin his junior year this fall and will be a part of the football team. He has also secured a job and is an active member of his church. Of his current foster family he said, “This is the first time in my life that I feel part of a family and not just a placement.” With the support from KVC staff, he is now able to focus on his future. He has shown interest in joining the Military. “Watching him bloom was one of the highest points of my career,” said the FPS.