

Child Welfare Fact Children Safely Maintained at Home CW 4

Colorado Counties Inc.

2-25-2011

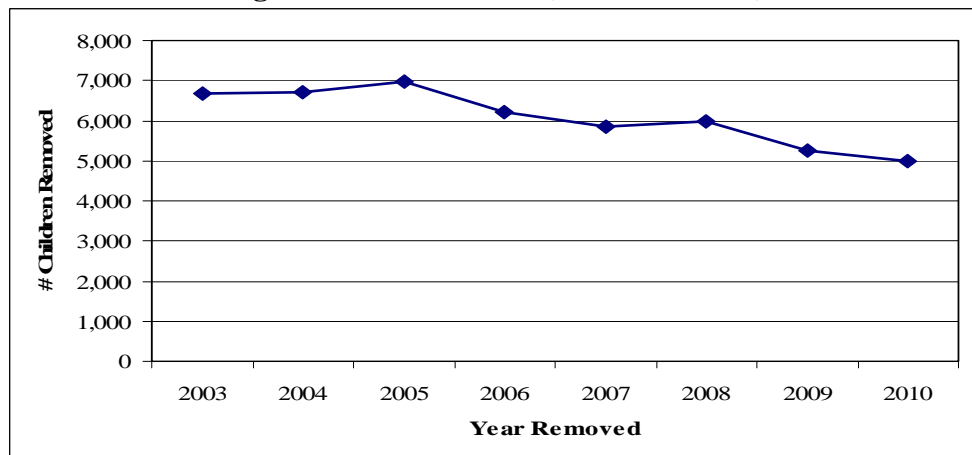
- It is a best practice to safely maintain children in their home, rather than placing them in out-of-home care.
- Colorado has reduced the number of children entering out-of-home care by **25%** from 2003 to 2010.
- The percentage of new children entering out-of-home placement relative to all children opened to a new case for services dropped from **48%** in 2003 to **37%** in 2010.
- In 2010, **83%** of children opened for in-home services, were safely maintained in the home without the need for out-of-home placement.
- In 2010, **97.1%** of children opened to a case for ongoing services did not experience subsequent abuse or neglect during case or within 6 months of case closure.

CHILDREN ARE SAFELY MAINTAINED AT HOME

An important safety outcome of the federal Children and Family Services Review (CFSR) is children being safely maintained in the home whenever possible. The trend in Colorado's child welfare practice is consistent with this goal as more services are being geared toward protecting children in their home and avoiding entry into out-of-home placement whenever possible.

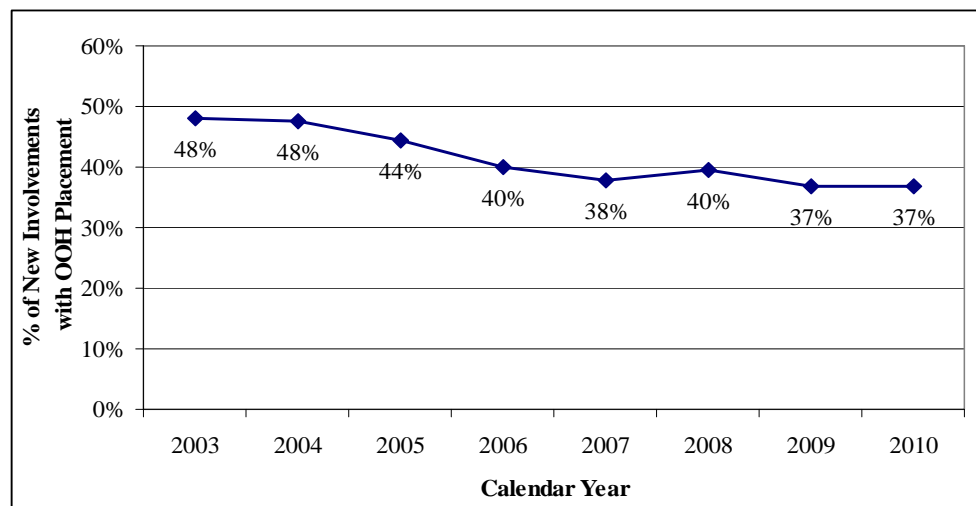
Over the last 8 years, the number of children entering out-of-home care has been reduced from **6,700** in 2003 to **5,000** in 2010 – a reduction of **25%**.

Children Entering Out-of-Home Care (New Removals) – 2003 to 2010



Likewise, the percentage of new children entering out-of-home placement relative to the total number of new children opened to a case for services has dropped from **48%** of all new involvements in 2003 to **37%** of new involvements in 2010.

Percentage of All Children Opened to a New Case Who Were Placed in Out-Of-Home Care 2003 to 2010



Source: Trails data

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As practice has shifted, the goal still remains that children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect. In 2010, **83%** of children who were opened to a case for in-home services were successfully maintained in the home throughout the duration of the case without the need for out-of-home placement.

Another measure of children being safely maintained in the home is the rate of abuse or neglect after a case is open for ongoing services. In 2010, **97.1%** of children who were opened to a case for ongoing child protection services did not experience abuse or neglect during the case involvement or within 6 months of case closure.