

- When children are abused or neglected in any type of foster care (placement outside of their families), it is labeled “institutional abuse.”
- **Institutional abuse is relatively rare in Colorado, having never surpassed 1.21% over the past three years.**
- Comparing state licensed to county foster homes, the differences are small.
- The raw numbers of **institutional abuse cases per year declined from 75 to 47** or 37% from 2007 to 2010.

**DO INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE/NEGLECT RATES DIFFER IN STATE CERTIFIED CPA PLACEMENTS FROM COUNTY CERTIFIED FOSTER HOMES?**

When children are abused or neglected in any type of foster care (placement outside of their families), it is labeled “institutional abuse.”

County commissioners requested some information on whether founded (substantiated) abuse/neglect rates were higher in state-licensed Child Placement Agencies than county-certified foster homes.

The data in the following table show that substantiated abuse rates were comparatively higher in state-licensed CPA foster homes in 2007, but were higher in county-certified foster homes in 2008 and 2009. In 2010, the substantiated abuse rates were nearly the same between the two groups.

It should be noted that institutional abuse/neglect is uncommon, regardless of whether it is a state or county certified foster home, never higher than 1.21% in the three years reviewed. It is also noteworthy, that the number of cases **dropped by 37%** from 2007 to 2010.

**Total Number of Children in Foster Care**

Foster Home Type	2007	2008	2009	2010
CPA Foster	3,976	3,878	3,578	3,269
County Foster	3,624	3,547	3,233	3,033

**Number of Victims of Founded Institutional A/N in Foster Care**

Foster Home Type	2007	2008	2009	2010
CPA Foster	48	36	16	23
County Foster	29	42	28	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>47</b>

**Founded Institutional A/N Rate per 100 Children Placed**

Foster Home Type	2007	2008	2009	2010
CPA Foster	1.21	0.93	0.45	0.70
County Foster	0.8	1.18	0.87	0.79

**Source:** TRAILS