

**KENTUCKY'S ADOPTION
POLICIES—ALLEVIATING
THE BARRIERS**

December 2006- PERFORMANCE AUDIT

The Auditor Of Public Accounts Ensures That Public Resources Are Protected, Accurately Valued, Properly Accounted For, And Effectively Employed To Raise The Quality Of Life Of Kentuckians.



CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

December 14, 2006

Mark D. Birdwhistell
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Office of the Secretary
275 E. Main Street, 5W-A
Frankfort, KY 40621

Re: Performance Audit of Kentucky's Adoption Policies-Alleviating the Barriers

Dear Secretary Birdwhistell:

In accordance with Kentucky Revised Statute 43.090(1), the Cabinet for Health Services must notify the Legislative Research Commission and the Auditor of the audit recommendations it has implemented and of the recommendations it has not implemented, and reasons therefore, within sixty (60) days of the completion of the final audit.

Our Division of Performance Audit evaluates the effectiveness and efficiency of government programs as well as completing risk assessments and benchmarking of state operations. We will be happy to discuss with you at any time this audit or the services offered by our office. If you have any questions, please call Ellen Hesen, Acting Director of the Division of Performance Audit, or me.

We greatly appreciate the courtesies and cooperation extended to our staff during the audit.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Crit Luallen".

Crit Luallen
Auditor of Public Accounts



Executive Summary

Audit Objectives

The Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts conducted this performance audit to determine what Kentucky can do to alleviate barriers to adoption. While there are numerous possible barriers to adoption, this report focuses on legal issues and proceedings, the recruitment of adoptive parents for children within state custody, and the financial incentives provided by the state to encourage adoptions. Most of these barriers involve public adoptions – the adoption of children within state custody (foster care), but legal issues can affect private adoptions as well.

Background

Children become available for adoption due to either a voluntary relinquishment or an involuntary termination of parental rights. The birth parents can relinquish their parental rights of their own choice to place a child for adoption. However, if the state takes custody of a child due to abuse, neglect, or the parent's incapacity, parental rights can be subsequently terminated and the child will be available for adoption. Both circumstances require court involvement.

The National Adoption Information Clearinghouse estimated the following statistics and trends for adoptions in the United States:

- In 2000 and 2001, about 127,000 children were adopted annually.
- Adoptions through public agencies accounted for thirty-nine percent (39%) of all adoptions.
- International adoptions accounted for fifteen percent (15%) of all adoptions.
- The other forty-six percent (46%) of adoptions are private agency, kinship, or tribal adoptions.

Prior to Adoption, Children Had Spent an Average of Over 3 Years in State Custody

Even though the number of children adopted has increased 136.76% from 1999 to 2005, Kentucky's children adopted from state custody in FFY 2005 spent an average of over 3 years in foster care. Unless the state has documented a compelling reason in the child's case plan, federal law requires that states file a petition to terminate parental rights and concurrently plan for adoption if the child has been in foster care for fifteen (15) out of the most recent 22 months. Children may not be achieving the goal of a safe, permanent home as soon as possible. Concurrent planning for adoption needs improvement so that adoptions can be finalized in a shorter amount of time to protect the child.

Average Time From TPR Petition Filing to Judgment Was 196 Days – Reasons for Delay Are Not Tracked

The results of the APA Adoptive Parent Survey indicate that lengthy termination of parental rights (TPR) proceedings are the most significant cause of delays in the adoption process. Involuntary TPR proceedings for calendar year 2005 took an average time of 196 days (over 6 months) from filing the petition until judgment. The Cabinet's Office of Legal Services' database for tracking the key

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Inconsistent Relationship Between the Number of Children in State Custody and Population

dates and number of days for all TPR proceedings, voluntary and involuntary, does not provide notes as to the reason for delays. These notes could assist in determining the true causes for these delays.

There are inconsistencies in the number of children in state custody as well as the number of children with a goal of adoption based on the county's population of children. This information was also analyzed by DCBS region to determine any correlation. However, no relationship was evident by region either. This variation could be the result of inconsistently applied operating procedures or delayed court proceedings at the county level.

Each county within the DCBS regions have assigned case managers and recruitment and certification workers to work with the children in state custody and recruit adoptive homes. This decentralization could result in different interpretations as to when a child should be removed from their home or when the goal should be changed to adoption. In addition, each county has one or several different judges presiding over these cases. Judges and local court systems vary in regards to interpretation of the law and court procedures.

DCBS Has Not Developed Specialized Recruitment Efforts to Make the Most of Initial Contacts

There is no centralized recruiting effort to locate and encourage potential adoptive parents of children in state custody. Recruitment initiatives are decentralized and managed within each region. There is no dedicated staff to handle public inquiries related to adopting or becoming a foster parent. Any staff person within DCBS could receive telephone calls from individuals that are interested in adopting and there are no follow-up procedures to contact individuals that have shown interest in adopting. According to a national study, the first information call by prospective adoptive parents is key and state agencies need to have specialized adoption hotlines answered by qualified staff.

Recruitment Expenditures Are Not Tracked to Determine Cost Effectiveness.

There is no tracking of where recruitment funds have been spent and whether there have been positive results. DCBS does not know how much was spent on specific recruitment activities because regional offices plan and conduct recruitment locally. The sources attributed to adoption inquiries are tracked, but not the related expenditures. In addition, federal funding is provided for recruitment but DCBS was unable to provide this information. Recruitment money should be tracked to determine which methods are cost effective so that these initiatives could be explored for statewide expansion.

Kentucky Has Made Efforts to Remove Financial Barriers to Adoption

DCBS has drafted an amended version of 922 KAR 1:050 to remove the adoption assistance negotiation process by requiring that the adoption assistance payment be equal to the foster care per diem amounts. This amendment could significantly ease

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financial barriers in the public adoption process since the majority of adoptive parents were originally the child's foster parent. DCBS appears to be promoting this issue even though this action has not yet received approval because 94% of the children adopted in FFY 2005 received at least \$600/month in adoption assistance.

Adoption Assistance May Not Be Limited to Children With Special Needs

Based on the information provided by DCBS for children adopted in FFY 2005, there were 146 children that did not have a special needs designation but the adoptive parents are receiving at least \$600/month in adoption assistance. 922 KAR 1:050 requires that adoption assistance be limited to children with special needs. Even though adoption assistance is an effective incentive, compliance with state laws is needed to ensure that assistance is available and provided where needed.

Other Issues for Consideration

Besides the public adoption process, there are private child-placing agencies and private child-caring facilities that work outside the capacity of the Cabinet. In Kentucky, these private agencies are licensed by the Division of Regulated Child Care according to 922 KAR 1:305. These private agencies and facilities have formed an Adoption Coalition (Coalition) that includes 22 private agencies across the state. The Coalition meets on a bi-monthly basis to discuss adoption issues. The following are issues for consideration based on concerns expressed by Coalition members.

- Kentucky law does not define placement services of intermediaries for independent adoptions.
- Kentucky does not have a birth father registry that could secure and stabilize adoptions.
- Confusion exists about the regulations governing child-caring facilities and child-placing agencies.

Recommendations

Timeliness of Legal Proceedings

1. DCBS should improve the concurrent planning process. Efforts should be made to identify, recruit, process, and approve a qualified adoptive family for a child when it files or joins a petition to terminate parental rights. This will reduce the amount of time that children and adoptive parents must wait for a finalized adoption.
2. Cabinet attorneys should continue to work with adoptive families to assist in finalizing adoptions. Cabinet attorneys are familiar with the case due to the termination of parental right actions and should be able to file the petition for adoption as soon as parental rights have been terminated.
3. The database maintained by the Cabinet's Office of Legal Services should document brief case notes as to the reason for delays in termination of parental right judgments. These reasons could provide necessary information to determine and address the

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cause of these delays.

4. DCBS should conduct a regional/county study related to the caseloads and timelines to determine if targeted action should be taken for improvement. Inconsistent practices or court delays should be addressed where needed.

Recruitment of Adoptive Parents

1. A public awareness campaign should be conducted to recruit adoptive parents and inform the public that these children need permanent homes by implementing the following:
 - The Cabinet should attempt to work with private adoption agencies so that these children will come to the attention of people interested in adoption.
 - DCBS should publicize a single adoption hotline number statewide. If possible, DCBS should employ operators for the resource parent hotline who will specialize in answering calls from prospective resource parents, answering questions, sending out information packets, filling out TRIS forms, and referring requests to the appropriate DCBS regional office. If calls are made to the local offices, staff could transfer the calls to the assigned toll-free number.
 - DCBS should select professional staff to specialize in handling inquiries to better handle the workload in a consistent manner than having all staff persons handle inquiries, since they must address other tasks and fulfill other responsibilities. If this is not possible, DCBS should train all staff persons to handle inquiries with an emphasis on encouraging the interest of those inquiring and ensuring that records are properly maintained and information packets are actually sent to prospective resource parents.
 - Successful pilot projects should be implemented statewide.
2. Expenditure data on recruitment activities should be tracked by DCBS so that a cost-benefit-analysis can be conducted annually to determine the most effective methods based on cost. This analysis can be used to determine recruitment activities statewide. In addition, DCBS should continue its efforts to obtain federal and private funding to help pay for recruitment initiatives.

Financial Incentives

1. The Department for Community Based Services continue its effort to make its monthly adoption subsidy equal to the foster care per diem daily payments. We also recommend that they continue their efforts to eliminate the negotiation process for the monthly subsidy because it appears that it would have a positive effect on adoption placements and finalizations. The Cabinet should also advertise the financial benefits provided for public adoptions.

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2. The cases of noncompliance should be reviewed to determine accuracy of the data and whether the adoption assistance is in compliance with 922 KAR 1:050. If the negotiation process is removed, additional oversight will be needed to ensure that adoption assistance funds are provided according to needs and that the data supports that need.

Other Issues for Consideration

1. The Cabinet should work with the General Assembly to strengthen state law to define what activities constitute placement services so that illegal intermediaries could be determined for independent adoptions. The enforcement of penalties for illegal intermediaries should also be addressed.
2. The Cabinet should conduct further study on the effectiveness of birth father registries and follow the possible passage of the Proud Father Act of 2006. Implement any necessary changes based on further study and passage of any federal legislation.
3. The Division of Regulated Child Care should provide additional training to child-placing and child-caring agencies across Kentucky on licensure requirements, inspection procedures, and the statements of deficiency. This will alleviate any miscommunication or confusion related to agency inspections.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Audit Objective

The Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts conducted this performance audit to determine what Kentucky can do to alleviate barriers to adoption. While there are numerous possible barriers to adoption, this report focuses on legal issues and proceedings, the recruitment of adoptive parents for children within state custody, and the financial incentives provided by the state to encourage adoptions. Most of these barriers involve public adoptions – the adoption of children within state custody (foster care), but the legal issues can affect private adoptions as well. Appendix I consists of a detailed description of the audit procedures performed and the sources of information used to develop this report.

Adoption Overview

Adoption, the legal transfer of parental rights from one parent to another, provides children with permanency and stability to promote their well-being and their opportunity to become healthy, productive adults. In the United States, state law mostly governs although state law must comply with applicable federal legislation.

Adoption is essential for the permanent placement of many children, including:

- Children in foster care (state custody) who will not be reunited with their birth parents. In many cases, relatives of birth parents adopt these children.
- Other U.S. infants and children whose birth parents make adoption plans for them.
- Children in other countries who need families. In international adoptions, little or no information may be known about a child's birth family at the time of adoption.

Types of Adoption

Children become available for adoption due to either a voluntary relinquishment or an involuntary termination of parental rights. The birth parents can relinquish their parental rights of their own choice to place a child for adoption. However, if the state takes custody of a child due to abuse, neglect, or the parent's incapacity, parental rights can be subsequently terminated and the child will be available for adoption. Both circumstances require court involvement.

Adoption provides permanent homes for children who are available for adoption. Some children are in public or private foster care placements arranged through the Department of Community Services (DCBS), within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS). However, if the birth parents voluntarily relinquish their child by making an adoption plan, they could obtain services through a private child placement agency or private attorney.

Adoptive parents have several options for adopting children. They may consider adoption of an infant, a special needs child, an older child, or a child whose race or ethnicity is different from their own. They also must

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consider whether to adopt domestically or internationally. The adoption process is different depending on the type of adoption. Table 1.1 outlines the significant issues related to the different types of adoptions.

Table 1.1: Information on the Different Types of Adoption

Adoption Type	Description	Legal Requirements
Public Agency Adoption (or Foster Care Adoption)	Adoptions of children within the custody of the designated state agency. The state agency is responsible for placing waiting children from foster care or other institutional settings into the homes of adoptive families. Adoptive families can be in state or out of state.	Must comply with federal and state laws regarding adoption and child welfare. In Kentucky, the Department of Community Based Services (DCBS) within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (Cabinet) is the designated agency.
Private Agency Adoption	Adoptions conducted by licensed agencies that can have a not-for-profit, or for-profit legal and tax status. These agencies can focus in a certain type of adoption, such as international, adoption of foster children, or the adoption of children with certain ethnic backgrounds.	Must comply with state adoption laws and are licensed through a state regulatory agency. In Kentucky, private childcare and placement agencies are licensed by the Cabinet's Office of Inspector General's Division of Regulated Child Care.
Independent Adoptions	An intermediary other than an adoption agency, such as a lawyer or a physician, arranges these adoptions. The intermediary may find the birth mother for the adoptive parents, or may help the birth mother locate adoptive parents that would be interested in adopting a child.	Independent adoptions are not legal in all states. In Kentucky, pursuant to KRS 199.590, only the Cabinet or a child-placing institution or agency can act as intermediary in the placement of a child for adoption, except in the home of a stepparent, grandparent, sister, brother, aunt or uncle, or upon written approval of the Cabinet Secretary.
International Adoptions	These adoptions involve children who were born in a country other than where the adoptive parents reside or are citizens.	These adoptions not only involve state and federal laws that apply to domestic adoptions, but are also impacted by the laws of foreign countries and international treaties, and require immigration approvals from the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Source: Auditor of Public Accounts based on information from Adoption.com Website.

The National Adoption Information Clearinghouse estimated the following statistics and trends for adoptions in the United States:

- In 2000 and 2001, about 127,000 children were adopted annually in the U.S.
- Adoptions through public agencies accounted for thirty-nine percent (39%) of all adoptions.
- International adoptions accounted for fifteen percent (15%) of all adoptions.
- The other forty-six percent (46%) of adoptions are private agency, kinship, or tribal adoptions.

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Availability of Adoption Statistics

The Cabinet tracks statewide adoption information but the accuracy and completeness of the non-public adoptions data depends on whether notification is performed by court clerks statewide. The Cabinet's caseworkers enter public agency adoption information within a central database due to federal and state requirements. In addition, the clerks of the court are required by KRS 199.520 to notify the Cabinet of **any** adoption judgment. The Cabinet tracks these judgment orders within the same database used for tracking public agency adoptions.

This database was created by the Cabinet to maintain case information on Kentucky's children and it is referred to as TWIST, the Workers Information System. TWIST is used to transmit Kentucky's public agency data to the federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). This federal database collects and provides data on adoptions from all states' public agencies.

Because the Cabinet receives adoption judgments related to private agency and independent adoptions, this information is being tracked as well. Table 1.2 illustrates the number of adoption judgments processed through the Kentucky court system for which the Cabinet was notified. These numbers do not include international adoptions or public agency adoptions. Chapter 2 provides adoption statistics and demographics from TWIST on public agency adoptions.

Table 1.2: Adoption Judgments Received by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Adoption Type	State Fiscal Year 2005	State Fiscal Year 2006
Independent – Non-Relative	455	403
Independent –Relative	1,212	1,516
Private Agency	438	467
Totals	2,105	2,386

Source: Auditor of Public Accounts based on information from the Department of Community Based Services.

The Cabinet's Office of Vital Statistics could not provide the number of adoptions in Kentucky due to data limitations. Vital Statistics receives orders of adoptions from the courts so that the child's birth certificate information will reflect the adoption. However, Vital Statistics only records the adoptions that affect children born in Kentucky. Any court order involving a child born outside of Kentucky will be forwarded to that state's vital statistics agency. In addition, the court order does not designate the type of adoption.

Kentucky's Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) was asked to provide the total number of adoption judgments approved by Kentucky courts, but this information was not reliable because of multiple codes used to designate adoptions. Originally, a code was created to capture the

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number of adoptions and termination cases. It was then decided to create a code for adoption judgments separately, but the other code was not discontinued.

International Adoptions

Notification of an international adoption by the adoptive parent is on a voluntary basis according to Kentucky law. This situation makes a count of international adoptions unreliable and incomplete. According to KRS 213.056, the state registrar may issue a record of foreign birth for a person born outside of the United States who is subsequently adopted by a Kentucky resident and whose record of birth cannot be obtained from the country of birth.

If the child has been approved for United States citizenship and the adoptive parent presents this record, along with other information, to the Cabinet, a “Foreign Adoption Certificate of Registration” will be issued. According to the Cabinet as of 11/28/2006, 132 foreign adoptions have been registered since January 2006, pursuant to KRS 199.585.

The National Adoption Information Clearinghouse estimate of international adoptions came from the State Department and the Office of Immigration Statistics based on the number of visas issued for international adoptions. This estimate could be calculated at the national level but not at the state level.

Public Agency Adoption Process and Statistics

Federal Requirements Related to Public Agency Adoptions

At the federal level, the main adoption law related to public adoptions is the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997. It established that the national goals for children in the child welfare system are safety, permanency, and well-being. The law also gave renewed impetus to remove the barriers that exist between children waiting in foster care and permanency. An important element of ASFA is that it mandates that a child's health and safety be given a higher status than family preservation in determining whether protective action should be taken. The measure was a bipartisan attempt to move the focus of foster care from an emphasis on the rights and needs of biological parents to placing a greater emphasis on the welfare of children in foster care.

Perhaps the most important provision in ASFA is the requirement that an involuntary termination of parental rights (TPR) petition be filed by the state for parents whose child has been in foster care for 15 of the most recent 22 months, unless—

- at the option of the state, the child is being cared for by a relative;
- a State agency has documented in the case plan (available for court review) a compelling reason for determining that filing such a petition would not be in the best interests of the child; or
- the State has not provided to the family of the child, consistent with the time period in the State case plan, such services as the State deems necessary for the safe return of the child to the child's home, if reasonable efforts are required to be made.

Permanency planning hearings must take place within 12 months of a child's placement in foster care rather than having an 18-month dispositional hearing as required previously under federal law. Services to reunify families, including counseling, substance abuse treatment, domestic violence services, and temporary childcare should not extend beyond 15 months. Furthermore, states are provided with cash incentives to find permanent homes for children in foster care.

State Requirements and the Process for Public Agency Adoptions

Because public agency adoptions relate to children within state custody, the adoption process begins with the removal of the child due to allegations of dependency, neglect, or abuse. To determine the child's placement, a needs assessment is conducted once the child is in the custody of the state. Based on this assessment, the type of foster care placement is determined.

At this point, private agencies could also become involved because DCBS contracts with some private agencies to help deal with the adoption caseload. Private child care facilities are licensed to provide foster care and therapeutic foster care, along with other services. If these agencies are also licensed as private child placement agencies, they can provide adoption services when a private agency foster parent wants to adopt a child in the custody of the Cabinet.

Chapter 2

Public Agency Adoption Process and Statistics

Numerous statutes and regulations, plus internal standard operating procedures, regulate public agency adoptions. Table 2.1 is an outline of the adoption process from entering state custody to a finalized adoption. Appendix II also contains a summary of Kentucky Adoption Laws.

Table 2.1: Steps From Entry Into State Custody to a Finalized Adoption

➤ A child typically enters state custody through an Emergency Custody Order due to allegations of dependency, abuse, or neglect.
➤ A Temporary Removal Hearing is held within 72 hours, exclusive of weekends and holidays.
➤ If a Temporary Custody Order is granted to DCBS, it is effective for no more than forty-five (45) days unless an Adjudication Hearing on the merits of the case is commenced within the forty-five (45) day period.
➤ The 5-day conference Family Team Meeting is held 5 days after removal. The case plan goals, objectives and tasks are discussed at this meeting. The goal is typically to return the child to the parent unless there are aggravated circumstances per KRS 600.020.
➤ The Adjudication Hearing is the trial process in which the court determines whether allegations of dependency, abuse or neglect concerning a child are true.
➤ The Dispositional Hearing determines whether the Cabinet has made reasonable efforts to avoid the need for placement and what services are needed. Commitment to DCBS occurs here.
➤ While committed to DCBS, there should be 3 month, 6 month, and 9 month Family Team Meetings for case reviews to determine the goal for the child, i.e. return to parent, adoption. Concurrent planning should begin no later than the 6 month meeting.
➤ A Permanency Hearing is held no later than 12 months after the child's removal and every 12 months thereafter if state custody continues. The court must approve all goal changes and DCBS must provide necessary services to reunify the child with the birth parents unless the court has ruled that reasonable efforts do not have to be made.
➤ When the goal of adoption is approved for the child, voluntary or involuntary termination of parental rights (TPR) is explored . If parental consent is not provided for a voluntary TPR, the Cabinet will consider an involuntary TPR as a means to provide permanency. For children who will have been in state custody for fifteen (15) of the last twenty-two (22) months, the Cabinet must determine if TPR is in the best interests of the child.
➤ A regional attorney with DCBS' Office of Legal Services (OLS) prepares the TPR petition and returns it to the DCBS caseworker to be reviewed and filed with the appropriate family or circuit court clerk .
➤ At an involuntary TPR hearing , the OLS attorney presents the case for judgment. The judge prepares the findings of fact and conclusions of law and enters a judgment, either affirming or dismissing the petition for termination. These orders are entered into the court records. The Order of Judgment is sent to the petitioner (Cabinet).
➤ Either party may appeal the TPR judgment to the Court of Appeals within thirty (30) calendar days of the judge's decision, which can uphold or rescind the decision of the Circuit Court. These appeals can last for a year or more.
➤ Within ten (10) working days of the receipt of a TPR order , the caseworker completes a Presentation Summary form along with all required attachments and forwards it to DCBS' Central Office Adoptions Branch.
➤ If adoption by the foster parent is a suitable plan , the foster parent is asked to sign the Foster Parent Statement of Intent to Adopt .
➤ With respect to children for whom an adoptive home has not been identified , the Recruitment and Certification (R&C) worker may conduct a matching process in TWIST (DCBS database).
➤ The R&C worker begins negotiation of Adoption Assistance with the family if the child meets the eligibility criteria.
➤ The R&C worker prepares and signs the Adoption Placement Agreement with the adoptive family.
➤ A Petition for Adoption may be filed with the circuit or family court when adoptive placement occurs or anytime thereafter. The adoptive family must provide legal representation for adoption proceedings.
➤ The Order of Adoption by the court finalizes the adoption process.

Source: Auditor of Public Accounts based on information provided by the Department of Community Based Services.

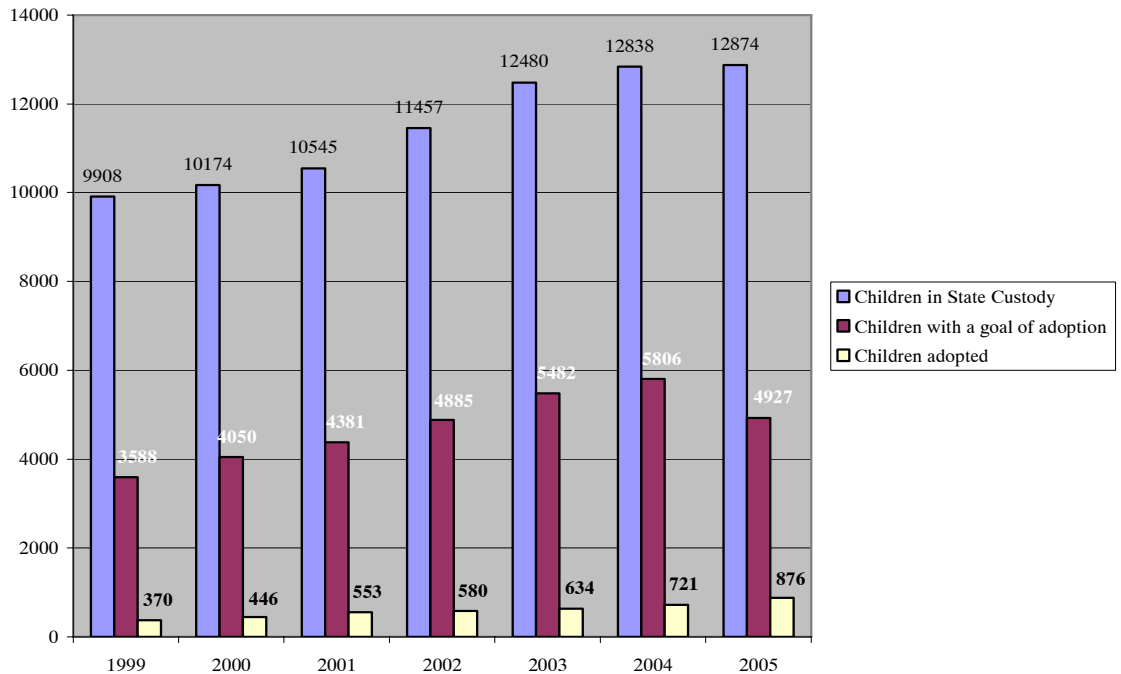
Public Agency Adoption Process and Statistics

Public Agency Adoption Statistics

The Cabinet’s Office of Information Technology provided the data on children in state custody and adopted children through the TWIST database. Selected data fields were requested for each child in state custody (this was provided as of 08/24/06) and adopted in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2005. The specific case data was used to calculate the reported information and statistics. Therefore, the data included in this report depends on the accuracy and completeness of the TWIST database. Any needed clarification of case specific information or field definitions will need to be referred to the Cabinet. Appendix III contains various data profiles on children in state custody and adopted children.

Illustration 2.1 provides a historical and numerical perspective on public agency adoptions in Kentucky. First, the number of children in state custody includes any child in custody for one day during the federal fiscal year. Next, the number of children with a goal of adoption are children that had a goal of adoption during the federal fiscal year. The third number is the number of children adopted with finalized adoptions during the federal fiscal year.

Illustration 2.1: Number of Children in State Custody, with Goal of Adoption, and Adopted



Source: Auditor of Public Accounts based on information received from the Cabinet’s Office of Information Technology through the TWIST database.

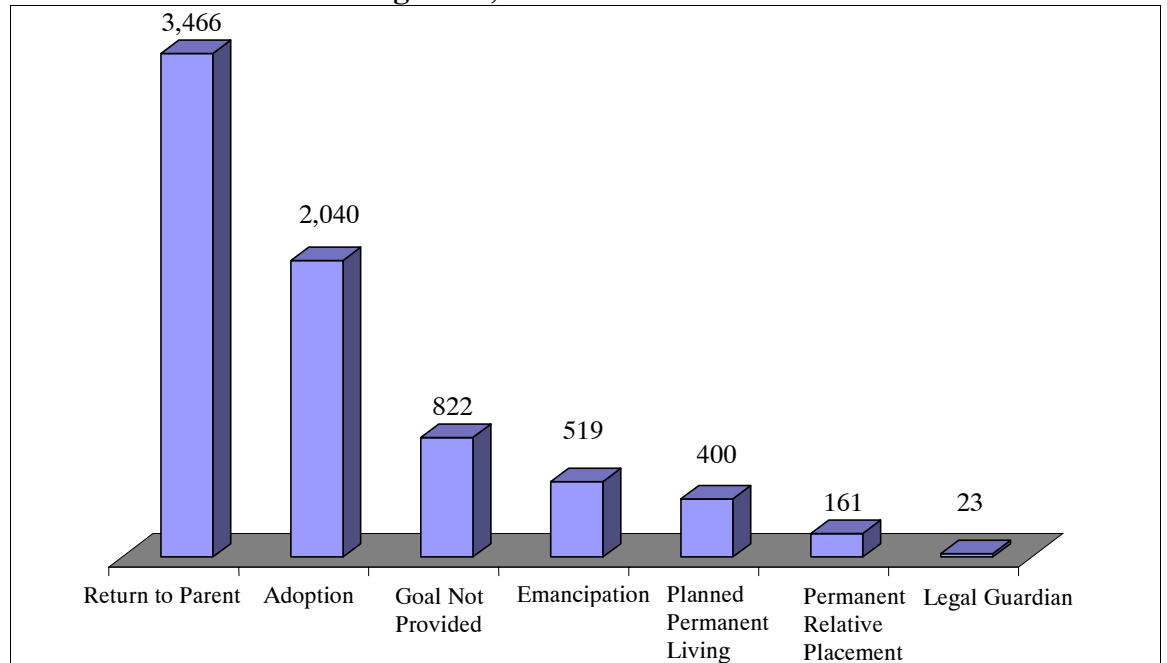
For the period of FFY 1999 through 2005, the number of children adopted increased 136.76%. The number of children in state custody increased 29.94%, while the number of children in state custody with a goal of adoption increased 37.32%.

Public Agency Adoption Process and Statistics

Goals of Children in State Custody

As of August 24, 2006, there were 7,431 children in state custody with 2,040 (27%) having a goal of adoption. Almost half of the children (47%) had a “Return to Parent” goal. The following chart illustrates the goals of the 7,431 children in state custody.

Illustration 2.2: Breakdown of Children in State Custody by Most Recent Goal As of August 24, 2006



Source: Auditor of Public Accounts based on information received from the Cabinet’s Office of Information Technology through the TWIST database.

To better understand Illustration 2.2, a brief summary of 922 KAR 1:140 is provided in the following table. This regulation defines the goals and the criteria/factors related to each of the goals.

Table 2.2: Permanency Goal Descriptions

Permanency Goal	Description
Return to Parent	A child under the custodial control of the cabinet shall be returned to the parent if the cabinet determines: (a) The home is safe; and (b) Reunification is in the best interest of the child. Another permanency goal shall be selected if: (a) A family does not make sufficient progress toward achieving the objectives specified in the Family Case Plan; or (b) A circumstance occurs that negates the requirement to make reasonable efforts to reunify the child and family, as described in KRS 610.127.
Adoption	The permanency goal for a child under the custodial control of the cabinet shall be adoption if: (a) The parent pursues voluntary termination of parental rights; or (b) The cabinet pursues involuntary termination of parental rights pursuant to KRS 625.090.

Chapter 2

Public Agency Adoption Process and Statistics

Emancipation	The permanency goal for a child under the custodial control of the cabinet shall be emancipation when: (a) The youth is age sixteen (16) or older; and (b) Other permanency options have been considered and are not appropriate due to the specific circumstance of the child. If emancipation is established as a permanency goal, the youth shall be referred to an independent living program administered by the cabinet.
Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	The permanency goal for a child under the custodial control of the cabinet shall be a planned permanent living arrangement if: (a) An unsuccessful effort has been made to place the child for adoption or with a relative and the child has been placed on a national adoption register; (b) Other permanency goal options have been considered and are not appropriate due to the specific circumstances of the child; (c) The cabinet has reviewed documentation that a goal of planned permanent living arrangement is in the best interests of the child; (d) The court has determined that it would be in the best interests of the child to be placed in a planned permanent living arrangement; and (e) The child has formed psychological ties with those with whom he lives and adoption and guardianship have been discussed with the care provider and are not appropriate or viable alternatives. Approval must be obtained from the commissioner’s office of the Department for Community Based Services prior to the establishment of a planned permanent living arrangement as a permanency goal for a child: (a) Under the age of sixteen (16); or (b) Placed with a private child caring agency.
Permanent Relative Placement	The permanency goal for a child under the custodial control of the cabinet shall be permanent relative placement if: (1) Return to the parent is not in the child’s best interest; and (2) A relative who does not pursue adoption or legal guardianship is able to provide a permanent home for the child.
Legal Guardianship	The permanency goal for a child under the custodial control of the cabinet shall be guardianship if reunification with the parent or adoption is not in the child’s best interest. Legal guardianship shall be requested pursuant to KRS 620.140(1)(c).

Source: Auditor of Public Accounts based on 922 KAR 1:140, sections 4 through 10.

Chapter 2**Public Agency Adoption Process and Statistics**

**Characteristics of the
2,040 Children with
the Goal of Adoption
as of August 24, 2006****What were the placement settings of the 2,040 children with a goal of
adoption?**

Licensed Private Child Care	909
Foster Care	723
Adoption	183
Children's Psychiatric Hospital	81
Family Treatment Home	61
Foster Care-Medically Fragile	27
Alternative Living Arrangements	17
Residential Facility	13
Approved Relative	9
Detention Facility	7
Hospitals	5
Alternate Care Facility	1
Education	1
Emergency Shelter	1
Independent Living	1
Medical Providers	1

**What were the ages of the 2,040 children with the goal of adoption and
the age group's average number of months in state custody?**

Less than 1 Year	36 children	8 months
1 Year	123 children	16 months
2 Years	127 children	22 months
3 Years	113 children	26 months
4 Years	89 children	31 months
5 Years	97 children	29 months
6 Years	86 children	32 months
7 Years	99 children	32 months
8 Years	98 children	35 months
9 Years	103 children	35 months
10 Years	94 children	38 months
11 Years	121 children	41 months
12 Years	111 children	43 months
13 Years	139 children	47 months
14 Years	157 children	53 months
15 Years	203 children	54 months
16 Years	148 children	59 months
17 Years	83 children	58 months
18 Years	11 children	70 months
19 Years	1 child	35 months
20 Years	1 child	43 months

Public Agency Adoption Process and Statistics

What was the race/ethnicity of the 2,040 children with the goal of adoption?

American Indian/Alaskan Native	5	0%
Asian	2	0%
African American	480	24%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific	1	0%
White	1504	74%
Unable to Determine	48	2%

What was the gender of the 2,040 children with the goal of adoption?

Male:	1,066	52%
Female:	974	48%

Characteristics of the 876 Children Adopted in Federal Fiscal Year 2005

What were the ages (as of the adoption date) of the 876 children adopted and the age group's average number of months in state custody?

Less than 1 Year	9 children	10 months
1 Year	81 children	17 months
2 Years	94 children	26 months
3 Years	76 children	30 months
4 Years	65 children	36 months
5 Years	66 children	34 months
6 Years	65 children	40 months
7 Years	53 children	35 months
8 Years	44 children	44 months
9 Years	44 children	42 months
10 Years	40 children	46 months
11 Years	46 children	49 months
12 Years	49 children	50 months
13 Years	22 children	52 months
14 Years	26 children	59 months
15 Years	39 children	50 months
16 Years	33 children	53 months
17 Years	22 children	63 months
18 Years	2 children	81 months

Public Agency Adoption Process and Statistics

What was the race/ethnicity of the 876 children adopted?

American Indian/Alaskan Native	3	0%
Asian	7	1%
African American	148	17%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific	0	0%
White	700	80%
Unable to Determine	18	2%

What was the gender of the 876 children adopted?

Male:	421	48%
Female:	455	52%

What percentage of the 876 children adopted receive an adoption subsidy (received by the adoptive parents)?

Yes	857	98%
No	19	2%

What percentage of the 876 children adopted had a special need?

Yes	703	80%
No	173	20%

What was the primary basis for the adopted child's special need?

Sibling Group Member	357	41%
Medical Conditions or Disabilities	212	24%
Age	73	8%
Racial Background	61	7%

What was the relationship of the adoptive parents to the 876 children adopted?

Foster Parent	746	85%
Other Non-Relative	117	14%
Other Relative	12	1%

Public Agency Adoption Process and Statistics

Termination of Parental Rights – Legal Requirements

The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA) requires states to file for the termination of parental rights in the following cases:

- The child has been in foster care for 15 of the most recent 22 months;
- The parent has murdered another of his/her children;
- The parent has committed voluntary manslaughter of another of his/her children;
- The parent aided, abetted, attempted, conspired, or solicited to commit murder or voluntary manslaughter upon a child of the parent;
- The parent committed a felony assault upon the child or another of his/her children that results in serious bodily injury; and
- The court with jurisdiction determines that the child is an abandoned infant.

Along with this requirement, ASFA also mandates that states work concurrently to “identify, recruit, process, and approve a qualified family for an adoption.”

State Requirements

Kentucky state law has incorporated these requirements. According to KRS 625.090:

No termination of parental rights shall be ordered unless the Circuit Court also finds by clear and convincing evidence the existence of one (1) or more of the following grounds:

(a) That the parent has abandoned the child for a period of not less than ninety (90) days;

(b) That the parent has inflicted or allowed to be inflicted upon the child, by other than accidental means, serious physical injury;

(c) That the parent has continuously or repeatedly inflicted or allowed to be inflicted upon the child, by other than accidental means, physical injury or emotional harm;

(d) That the parent has been convicted of a felony that involved the infliction of serious physical injury to any child;

(e) That the parent, for a period of not less than six (6) months, has continuously or repeatedly failed or refused to provide or has been substantially incapable of providing essential parental care and protection for the child and that there is no reasonable expectation of improvement in parental care and protection, considering the age of the child;

(f) That the parent has caused or allowed the child to be sexually abused or exploited;

(g) That the parent, for reasons other than poverty alone, has continuously or repeatedly failed to provide or is incapable of providing essential food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or education reasonably necessary and

available for the child's well-being and that there is no reasonable expectation of significant improvement in the parent's conduct in the immediately foreseeable future, considering the age of the child;

(h) That:

1. The parent's parental rights to another child have been involuntarily terminated;
2. The child named in the present termination action was born subsequent to or during the pendency of the previous termination; and
3. The conditions or factors which were the basis for the previous termination finding have not been corrected;

(i) That the parent has been convicted in a criminal proceeding of having caused or contributed to the death of another child as a result of physical or sexual abuse or neglect; or

(j) That the parent has been convicted in a criminal proceeding of having caused or contributed to the death of another child as a result of physical or sexual abuse or neglect; or

(j) That the child has been in foster care under the responsibility of the cabinet for fifteen (15) of the most recent twenty-two (22) months preceding the filing of the petition to terminate parental rights.

In addition to the grounds for termination, the court is also required to consider whether the cabinet has made reasonable efforts, as defined in KRS 620.020, to reunite the child with the parents. Evidence of these efforts are needed unless one or more of the parental circumstances negating the requirement for reasonable efforts, pursuant to KRS 610.127, have been substantiated in a written finding by the District Court.

Timeliness of Legal Proceedings

Children adopted from state custody in Kentucky spent an average of over 3 years in state custody prior to their adoptions in FFY 2005. On average, after their goal changed to adoption, it was almost a year before the rights of both parents were terminated. Then, it was almost another year, on average, before the adoption was finalized. While the dates in the termination of parental rights (TPR) process are being tracked, the reasons or notes on the causes of any delays are not tracked for analytical purposes. At the county level in Kentucky, the number of children in state custody with the goal of adoption and available for adoption varies regardless of the county's child population or poverty rates. This variation could be the result of inconsistently applied operating procedures or delayed court proceedings.

A report conducted by the Urban Institute entitled "Foster Care Adoption in the United States: A State by State Analysis of Barriers & Promising Approaches" provided summary information for each state and the United States. According to this report, Kentucky's barriers during the stages of adoption were in the areas of permanency planning, TPR, and adoptive placement. In its summary of the United States, the report concludes that these are the same barriers for the majority of the states. There were promising approaches associated with permanency planning and adoptive placement, but not in the area of conducting TPR proceedings and appeals.

***Finding 3.1
Prior to Adoption, Children
Had Spent an Average of
Over 3 Years in State
Custody***

Prior to their adoptions in FFY 2005, Kentucky's children adopted from state custody spent an average of over 3 years in foster care. Unless the state has documented a compelling reason in the child's case plan, federal law requires that states file a petition to terminate parental rights and concurrently plan for adoption if the child has been in foster care for fifteen (15) out of the most recent 22 months. Children may not be achieving the established goal of a safe, permanent home as soon as possible considering the amount of time spent in temporary placement. Concurrent planning for adoption needs improvement so that adoptions can be finalized in a shorter amount of time to protect the child.

In order to determine the timeliness of legal proceedings, the data on children adopted during FFY 2005 was requested. This data involved 876 adoptions, which were broken down into the key events/legal proceedings that are required to complete an adoption. Table 3.1 summarizes the average length of time for each of the key events for those 876 children. Appendix III, Tables 15, 16, 17, and 18, provides this information for each county in Kentucky in which adoptions were finalized.

Timeliness of Legal Proceedings

Table 3.1: Summary of Key Event Time Lengths for Children Adopted in FFY 2005

Key Events	Average Duration in Months
Removal to Goal of Adoption	14.41
Goal of Adoption to Both Parents TPR Judgments	11.63
Both Parents TPR Judgments to Adoption Finalized	11.52
Removal to Both Parents TPR Judgments	24.86
Removal to Adoption Finalized	36.20
Goal of Adoption to Adoption Finalized	22.24
Total Months in Care in the Life of the Child	38.33

Source: Auditor of Public Accounts based on information received from the Cabinet's Office of Information Technology through the TWIST database.

U.S. Department for Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families established a national standard of 32 percent of adoptions being final within 24 months of entry into state custody. Kentucky and other states have had difficulty meeting this goal. According to Kentucky's DCBS staff, getting a child adopted in 24 months is a rush and can be unrealistic. In addition, if the termination order is appealed, there is generally not enough time to meet the 24 month goal. Due to this difficulty, DCBS and federal officials have developed a performance improvement plan with negotiated adoption goals. Kentucky's most recent submission showed that 29.83 percent of adoptions were finalized within 24 months.

Once the termination of parental rights has taken place, it is almost another year, on average, before the adoption is finalized. A year is a long period of time considering that 85% were adopted by their foster parents. This average could be indicative that concurrent planning is not occurring in compliance with federal requirements.

According to federal law (the Adoption and Safe Families Act), states must concurrently identify, recruit, process, and approve a qualified adoptive family for a child when it files or joins a petition to terminate the parental rights to that child. Concurrent planning ensures that a permanent home is achieved sooner instead of later.

Another issue that might cause delays is that DCBS attorneys do not represent adoptive parents in the adoption proceedings. Cabinet attorneys represent the Cabinet in the TPR proceedings, but adoptive parents must obtain and pay the costs of legal representation for adoption proceedings.

According to DCBS' Standard Operating Procedure 2.9.2, Cabinet staff cannot recommend a specific attorney or law firm. However, if the child has an adoption placement agreement signed by all applicable parties, the attorney is provided a certified copy of the order terminating parental rights after the child's name and date of birth have been verified.

Timeliness of Legal Proceedings

According to the *Court Improvement Project Reassessment 2005*, conducted by the University of Kentucky, College of Social Work Training Resource Center, the post-TPR stage of the court system is clearly an area needing attention. Data suggests that the time elapsing between the filing of TPR petitions and occurrence of hearings has significantly decreased, although the length of time between setting the goal of adoption and filing the petition remains an issue. At the post-TPR stage, court delays were noted as the most significant factor preventing achievement of permanency, although less so for family court sites.

***Finding 3.2
Average Time From TPR
Petition Filing to Judgment
Was 196 Days – Reasons
for Delay Are Not Tracked***

Involuntary TPR proceedings for calendar year 2005 took an average time of 196 days from filing the petition until judgment. The Cabinet’s Office of Legal Services has a separate database that tracks the key dates and number of days for all TPR proceedings, voluntary and involuntary. However, the database does not provide notes as to the reason for delays. Table 3.3 summarizes the type, number, and average length of time for termination proceedings in calendar years 2003, 2004, and 2005.

Table 3.3: Summary of Termination Proceedings and Average Time From Filing Petition to Judgment Date

Termination Type	2003		2004		2005	
	Number of Cases	Average Time	Number of Cases	Average Time	Number of Cases	Average Time
Voluntary	62	71 Days	61	56 Days	66	109 Days
Involuntary	506	199 Days	576	190 Days	574	196 Days

Source: Auditor of Public Accounts based on information provided by the Office of Legal Services within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

Of the 574 cases of involuntary terminations in 2005, there were 218 involuntary terminations that took over the average 196 days. For these 218 terminations, the number of days from filing the petition to judgment ranged from 197 days to 1,394 days.

Reasons or notes related to a case are not tracked within the database to determine the cause of any delays. This database tracks the name of the Cabinet attorney, county, and judge along with the case number and the applicable dates. There are a large number of cases that are over the average number of days, but it is not known if the amount of time was due to a court delay or a Cabinet delay.

Timeliness of Legal Proceedings

According to the APA's survey of adoptive parents, lengthy TPR proceedings are considered the most significant cause of delays in the adoption process. Appendix IV contains the complete survey results.

The Cabinet has 16 attorneys on staff and 5 contract attorneys employed by Eastern Kentucky University working on TPR cases. Generally, there is at least one attorney assigned to each DCBS region, though Jefferson County and Northern Kentucky generally have had more than one attorney over the last 3 years and Bluegrass Rural Region has had two the last two years. The total number of attorneys has increased from 18 in September 2003 to 21 attorneys in September 2005

The adoption proceedings to finalize adoptions, discussed in Finding #1, do not involve Cabinet attorneys. Therefore, this information is not tracked by the Cabinet and the reasons for delays related to adoption proceedings are also not known.

***Finding 3.3
Inconsistent Relationship
Between the Number of
Children in State Custody
and Population***

There are inconsistencies in the number of children in state custody as well as the number of children with a goal of adoption based on the county's population of children. This information was also analyzed by DCBS region to determine any correlation. However, no relationship was evident by region either. See Appendix III, Table 3, for the regional analysis.

These variations could be the result of inconsistently applied operating procedures or delayed court proceedings at the county level. Each county within the DCBS regions has assigned case managers and recruitment and certification workers to work with the children in state custody and recruit adoptive homes. This decentralization could result in different interpretations as to when a child should be removed from their home or when the goal should be changed to adoption.

In addition, each county has one or several different judges presiding over these cases. The many different judges and local court systems also vary in regards to interpretation of the law and court procedures.

Table 3.4 provides each county's data to illustrate the observed inconsistencies. For example, Christian County has a child population of 20,612 with 75 children in state custody, while Clark County's child population is 8,129 with 89 children in state custody. Even though Christian County had a higher child population and child poverty rate, Clark County had more children in state custody. It is important to note that the county in Table 3.4 is the county in which the case manager is located and not necessarily the child's county of residence or placement.

Chapter 3

Timeliness of Legal Proceedings

Table 3.4: County Caseloads as of August 24, 2006

County	Child Poverty Percentage (2002)	Child Population Ages 0-17 (2004)	Children in State Custody	Percentage of Child Population in State Custody	Children with Goal of Adoption	Percentage of Children in State Custody with a Goal of Adoption
Adair	29%	3,945	12	0.30%	1	8.33%
Allen	20%	4,594	29	0.63%	13	44.83%
Anderson	12%	5,114	27	0.53%	0	0.00%
Ballard	21%	1,870	8	0.43%	2	25.00%
Barren	22%	9,227	44	0.48%	19	43.18%
Bath	27%	2,885	24	0.83%	3	12.50%
Bell	39%	6,776	36	0.53%	0	0.00%
Boone	8%	28,155	51	0.18%	7	13.73%
Bourbon	19%	4,563	53	1.16%	8	15.09%
Boyd	24%	10,357	146	1.41%	39	26.71%
Boyle	18%	6,331	64	1.01%	5	7.81%
Bracken	17%	2,145	16	0.75%	7	43.75%
Breathitt	41%	3,688	22	0.60%	7	31.82%
Breckinridge	23%	4,674	43	0.92%	5	11.63%
Bullitt	12%	16,738	63	0.38%	5	7.94%
Butler	23%	3,128	43	1.37%	13	30.23%
Caldwell	21%	2,766	7	0.25%	0	0.00%
Calloway	19%	6,474	43	0.66%	6	13.95%
Campbell	13%	21,267	267	1.26%	195	73.03%
Carlisle	20%	1,159	2	0.17%	0	0.00%
Carroll	20%	2,665	28	1.05%	3	10.71%
Carter	32%	6,460	30	0.46%	5	16.67%
Casey	33%	3,838	8	0.21%	0	0.00%
Christian	24%	20,612	75	0.36%	20	26.67%
Clark	19%	8,129	89	1.09%	12	13.48%
Clay	41%	5,738	56	0.98%	7	12.50%
Clinton	33%	2,093	16	0.76%	3	18.75%
Crittenden	25%	1,946	11	0.57%	5	45.45%
Cumberland	30%	1,632	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Daviess	18%	23,206	198	0.85%	41	20.71%
Edmonson	24%	2,773	39	1.41%	9	23.08%
Elliott	33%	1,689	10	0.59%	1	10.00%
Estill	32%	3,538	29	0.82%	4	13.79%
Fayette	17%	55,886	703	1.26%	209	29.73%
Fleming	25%	3,769	30	0.80%	7	23.33%
Floyd	36%	9,591	37	0.39%	9	24.32%
Franklin	15%	10,571	67	0.63%	15	22.39%
Fulton	32%	1,859	34	1.83%	12	35.29%
Gallatin	19%	2,389	15	0.63%	5	33.33%
Garrard	21%	3,811	12	0.31%	3	25.00%
Grant	19%	7,040	39	0.55%	5	12.82%
Graves	21%	9,083	68	0.75%	21	30.88%
Grayson	26%	5,876	67	1.14%	3	4.48%
Green	25%	2,624	10	0.38%	0	0.00%
Greenup	22%	8,610	67	0.78%	3	4.48%
Hancock	13%	2,310	8	0.35%	2	25.00%
Hardin	17%	24,923	210	0.84%	95	45.24%
Harlan	40%	7,633	74	0.97%	20	27.03%
Harrison	18%	4,604	6	0.13%	0	0.00%
Hart	31%	4,538	40	0.88%	16	40.00%
Henderson	18%	10,789	68	0.63%	23	33.82%
Henry	17%	3,989	23	0.58%	5	21.74%
Hickman	21%	1,060	9	0.85%	0	0.00%
Hopkins	23%	10,891	101	0.93%	24	23.76%

Timeliness of Legal Proceedings

Table 3.4: County Caseloads as of August 24, 2006 – (Continued)

County	Child Poverty Percentage (2002)	Child Population Ages 0-17 (2004)	Children in State Custody	Percentage of Child Population in State Custody	Children with Goal of Adoption	Percentage of Children in State Custody with a Goal of Adoption
Jackson	36%	3,435	24	0.70%	9	37.50%
Jefferson	19%	167,831	1,268	0.76%	422	33.28%
Jessamine	18%	10,813	64	0.59%	16	25.00%
Johnson	31%	5,579	52	0.93%	13	25.00%
Kenton	14%	38,499	407	1.06%	83	20.39%
Knott	34%	3,966	31	0.78%	16	51.61%
Knox	40%	8,194	50	0.61%	12	24.00%
Larue	21%	3,236	8	0.25%	0	0.00%
Laurel	27%	13,908	102	0.73%	18	17.65%
Lawrence	32%	3,892	23	0.59%	8	34.78%
Lee	39%	1,582	21	1.33%	3	14.29%
Leslie	37%	2,633	15	0.57%	3	20.00%
Letcher	32%	5,445	15	0.28%	3	20.00%
Lewis	36%	3,254	8	0.25%	3	37.50%
Lincoln	26%	6,603	38	0.58%	14	36.84%
Livingston	19%	2,059	5	0.24%	0	0.00%
Logan	22%	6,994	36	0.51%	4	11.11%
Lyon	18%	1,200	5	0.42%	0	0.00%
Madison	19%	16,572	139	0.84%	29	20.86%
Magoffin	39%	3,198	55	1.72%	22	40.00%
Marion	20%	4,762	27	0.57%	0	0.00%
Marshall	17%	6,453	53	0.82%	15	28.30%
Martin	36%	3,222	14	0.43%	2	14.29%
Mason	23%	3,884	22	0.57%	0	0.00%
McCracken	22%	14,665	116	0.79%	32	27.59%
McCreary	43%	4,439	67	1.51%	4	5.97%
Mclean	19%	2,484	8	0.32%	4	50.00%
Meade	14%	8,026	17	0.21%	0	0.00%
Menifee	34%	1,611	12	0.74%	8	66.67%
Mercer	17%	5,199	53	1.02%	11	20.75%
Metcalfe	31%	2,527	16	0.63%	0	0.00%
Monroe	31%	2,750	22	0.80%	13	59.09%
Montgomery	22%	5,941	11	0.19%	2	18.18%
Morgan	35%	2,952	13	0.44%	2	15.38%
Muhlenberg	25%	6,895	44	0.64%	10	22.73%
Nelson	16%	10,625	10	0.09%	0	0.00%
Nicholas	21%	1,662	4	0.24%	1	25.00%
Ohio	23%	5,595	27	0.48%	8	29.63%
Oldham	6%	13,677	23	0.17%	5	21.74%
Owen	22%	2,904	8	0.28%	3	37.50%
Owsley	46%	1,129	4	0.35%	0	0.00%
Pendleton	16%	4,158	34	0.82%	3	8.82%
Perry	35%	6,650	105	1.58%	43	40.95%
Pike	29%	15,054	67	0.45%	28	41.79%

Timeliness of Legal Proceedings

Table 3.4: County Caseloads as of August 24, 2006 – (Continued)

County	Child Poverty Percentage (2002)	Child Population Ages 0-17 (2004)	Children in State Custody	Percentage of Child Population in State Custody	Children with Goal of Adoption	Percentage of Children in State Custody with a Goal of Adoption
Powell	32%	3,502	27	0.77%	10	37.04%
Pulaski	26%	13,437	104	0.77%	9	8.65%
Robertson	25%	562	11	1.96%	5	45.45%
Rockcastle	28%	3,877	50	1.29%	13	26.00%
Rowan	25%	4,492	36	0.80%	1	2.78%
Russell	31%	3,646	14	0.38%	0	0.00%
Scott	13%	10,015	71	0.71%	21	29.58%
Shelby	13%	9,383	104	1.11%	33	31.73%
Simpson	19%	4,329	35	0.81%	12	34.29%
Spencer	11%	3,930	8	0.20%	0	0.00%
Taylor	24%	5,225	21	0.40%	0	0.00%
Todd	25%	3,119	10	0.32%	2	20.00%
Trigg	17%	2,970	12	0.40%	5	41.67%
Trimble	17%	2,346	25	1.07%	4	16.00%
Union	18%	3,880	17	0.44%	4	23.53%
Warren	19%	22,394	245	1.09%	65	26.53%
Washington	17%	2,884	10	0.35%	0	0.00%
Wayne	34%	4,833	26	0.54%	0	0.00%
Webster	19%	3,359	12	0.36%	2	16.67%
Whitley	36%	9,650	115	1.19%	38	33.04%
Wolfe	41%	1,907	30	1.57%	19	63.33%
Woodford	11%	5,779	28	0.48%	3	10.71%

Source: Auditor of Public Accounts based on information received from the Cabinet’s Office of Information Technology through the TWIST database.

The average number of children in state custody per county is approximately 62. The following 10 counties account for approximately half of the children in state custody: Jefferson, Fayette, Kenton, Campbell, Warren, Hardin, Daviess, Boyd, Madison, and McCracken. Jefferson and Fayette counties account for approximately 27% of the children in state custody.

The counties of Robertson, Fulton, Magoffin, Perry, and Wolfe have the highest percentage of child population in state custody. The counties of Cumberland, Nelson, Harrison, Oldham, and Carlisle have the lowest percentage of child population in state custody.

The counties of Campbell, Menifee, Wolfe, Monroe, and Knott have the highest percentage of children in state custody cases with a goal of adoption. Eliminating the 23 counties with 0 children with a goal of adoption, the counties of Rowan, Greenup, Grayson, McCreary, and Boyle have the lowest percentage of children in state custody with a goal of adoption.

Timeliness of Legal Proceedings

- Recommendations**
- 3.1** DCBS should improve the concurrent planning process. Efforts should be made to identify, recruit, process, and approve a qualified adoptive family for a child when it files or joins a petition to terminate parental rights. This will reduce the amount of time that children and adoptive parents must wait for a finalized adoption.
 - 3.2** DCBS should conduct a regional study related to the caseloads and timelines should be conducted to determine if targeted action should be taken for improvement. Inconsistent practices or court delays should be addressed where needed.
 - 3.3** The database maintained by the Cabinet’s Office of Legal Services should document brief case notes as to the reason for delays in termination of parental right judgments. These reasons could provide necessary information to determine and address the cause of these delays.
 - 3.4** Cabinet attorneys should continue to work with adoptive families to assist in finalizing adoptions. Cabinet attorneys are familiar with the case due to the termination of parental right actions and should be able to file the petition for adoption as soon as parental rights have been terminated.

Recruitment of Adoptive Parents

There is no centralized recruiting effort to locate and encourage potential adoptive parents of children in state custody. Recruitment initiatives are decentralized and managed within each region. There is no dedicated staff to handle public inquiries related to adopting or becoming a foster parent. Any staff person within DCBS could receive telephone calls from individuals that are interested in adopting. Plus, there are no follow-up procedures to contact individuals that have shown interest in adopting. Despite multi-faceted adoption recruitment programs within the DCBS regions there were 1,113 children in state custody who were available for adoption as of December 31, 2005, of which 564 children did not have a family identified to adopt them.

From a financial standpoint, no analysis is conducted to determine the cost effectiveness of recruitment practices. Recruitment expenditures could not be broken down to describe the types of activities funded with this money.

Recruitment Process

The recruitment of potential adoptive parents is a vital tool in finding homes for children in state custody. Recruitment activities are conducted by each DCBS region's Recruitment and Certification (R&C) staff. The number of R&C staff varies depending on the region's needs. In addition, the Special Needs Assessment Program (SNAP) has been created for the recruitment of adoptive parents for the state's children that are available for adoption but no adoptive parent has been identified.

Inquiries

DCBS receives inquiries (phone calls or written communication) from the general public related to becoming a foster or adoptive parent. There are three toll-free numbers provided for these types of inquiries, but inquiries could be routed to a regional or a county DCBS office number as well. According to DCBS, personnel assigned to handle these calls are trained twice a year by staff from the DCBS Frankfort office.

Inquiries on becoming a foster parent or an adoptive parent are combined under the term "resource parent" inquiries. To be a foster parent or adoptive parent, the same orientation/training is provided.

All inquiries are ultimately routed to the appropriate regional office no matter where the request originated. The Frankfort office, which receives the bulk of the inquiries, sends an information packet to those who are interested in more information and notifies the local offices of the inquiry. When a regional office is the original point of contact for an inquiry, they send the information packets.

R&C staff in each DCBS region participates in "Serving the Resource Parent" training, which is offered twice a year. Between October 1, 2003 and September 30, 2005, 49 persons received this training. "Serving the Resource Parent" is a 30-hour training with the following components:

- Recruitment
- Intake
- Approval

Recruitment of Adoptive Parents

- Case Management
- Retention and Ongoing Services
- Adoption Services
- Resources and Trends

Training Records Information System (TRIS)

When a prospective resource parent calls for information, DCBS staff should submit the inquiry information to the Training Records Information System (TRIS) using electronic forms. TRIS maintains statistics regarding the number of inquiries, the number of information packets sent, and the training received by the resource parent.

TRIS is a database operated through a contract with Eastern Kentucky University. Statistics compiled by TRIS allow regional offices to determine whether they have met their goals regarding recruitment successes and recruitment needs.

During fiscal years 2003-2005, there were 5,909 inquiries about adoption but only 5,042 information packets were sent out, according to TRIS information. The difference of 867 could be due to information packets that were sent but not recorded in TRIS. During this three-year period, 598 homes were approved for adoption, or about 10 percent of those who had inquired.

Each parent’s training hours are also tracked in TRIS because a certain number of training hours are required annually. About half of these hours are done in a group environment and the other half are done individually. Resource parents must meet the training requirements by the month of the approval of the placement.

For each inquiry, the prospective resource parents are asked how they had heard about public adoptions. This information is maintained in the TRIS database. The following table summarizes these sources for all DCBS regions:

Table 4.1: Sources of Information Responsible for Inquiries From Prospective Resource Parents

Source	Number of Inquiries
Word of Mouth	3,171
Printed Material	731
Other – Internet, Minority Publications, etc.	590
Television	540
Activity – Church, Fairs, etc.	371
Newspaper	222
Radio	83
Total	5,708

Source: Auditor of Public Accounts based on information provided by the Department for Community Based Services within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

Recruitment of Adoptive Parents

Recruitment Methods

The DCBS regional offices develop their own recruitment plans, methods, and strategies geared to the needs of their respective regions. Each region develops its own plan based on its individual needs because DCBS believes that what works in one region does not necessarily work in another.

The Diligent Recruitment Coordinator located in Frankfort visits each service region to discuss that region's specific plan, as well as any barriers and success stories. Furthermore, the Diligent Recruitment Coordinator has on-going contact with every Recruitment and Certification (R&C) Supervisor in the state.

Each DCBS regional office has its own diligent recruitment report. The report compares the number of children in state custody within each region and notes whether there has been an increase or decrease in various categories during the course of the year. Categories for comparison include:

- Total number of children in state custody;
- The number of children in state custody for various age groups;
- Sibling group status;
- Racial composition;
- Ethnicity;
- Resource (foster and adoptive) homes;
- Number of DCBS homes approved;
- Racial composition of resource homes; and
- Resource home acceptance.

The recruitment reports include specific statistics related to the number and type of resource homes available in that region. The number of active resource homes increased during 2005 from 2,192 to 2,309, an increase of 117 (5.3%). The number of homes that will accept teens increased from 533 to 568 (6.6% increase). According to these reports, 24.5 percent of all resource homes will now accept teens, which is important since nearly 50 percent of children in state custody are over 12 years of age. The number of homes that will accept sibling groups increased from 1,923 to 2,021 (5.1 percent increase), 87.5 percent of resource homes will accept siblings.

According to these reports, recruitment activities take on various forms. The following are examples of recruitment activities that have been reported using different methods.

Media: This includes television news program features profiling specific children like the "Wednesday's Child" feature that appears on Louisville television news and the "Thursday's Child" features on Lexington television news, as well as newspaper articles that profile a child or sibling group available for adoption. This also includes public service advertisements on radio and television and in newspapers. There is no cost

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to DCBS for this service. Both “Wednesday’s Child” and “Thursday’s Child” are private organizations and each has a board of directors. They do their own fundraising to support their respective programs.

Photo galleries: These are exhibits that feature photograph portraits and information about children available for adoption. These exhibits are called “Heart Galleries.” At least one DCBS region is using traveling art shows where photos of children are displayed alongside examples of their artwork.

Special Events: Some regions have adoption picnics, bowling tournaments, golf scrambles, and similar events to promote adoption. At least one DCBS region is planning to have a recruitment dinner to enhance minority and county specific recruitment.

Meetings: DCBS regional offices sometimes have quarterly matching meetings where staff strives to match resource parents with children available for adoption where workers try to match a child with a family.

DVDs and videotapes: There is a pilot project in at least one region whereby children are photographed and interviewed and the information is placed on a DVD and distributed throughout the state. Another region is developing recruitment videos for specific children in cooperation with a foster care organization.

Medically fragile children: At least one DCBS region faxes fliers to clinics and hospitals on a monthly basis to find homes for medically fragile children.

Interregional communications: At least one DCBS regional office sends brief descriptions of SNAP children periodically to DCBS foster care and adoption workers in other regions with a request to the region’s adoption specialist to be contacted if there are families who have an interest.

Private agencies: At least one DCBS regional office contacts private adoption agencies in an effort to identify an adoptive family for SNAP children with referral packets being forwarded when a family is identified.

Fliers and brochures: Recruitment fliers or brochures are sent out in newspapers and with paychecks of school employees, hospital workers, and other types of workers. At least one DCBS regional office sends bulletin inserts to area churches and another region distributes fliers in both Spanish and English to local health departments.

Adoption Fairs: DCBS sponsors adoption fairs where information is available for both public and private adoptions. DCBS also has booths at some local health fairs. In addition to information booths, adoption fairs often consist of workshops focusing on topics like the adoption process and special needs adoption.

Recruitment of Adoptive Parents

Resource parents: One DCBS region reported that its “best recruitment practice is maintaining a satisfied and well-served resource parent. They have consistently been our best recruiters of new resource parents.” This region tries to have at least one “retention activity” each quarter for resource parents. Certificates, plaques, and appreciation gifts are purchased to recognize resource parents. Another region has a foster parent appreciation dinner and picnic each year. These activities are designed to retain seasoned foster parents, who may in turn help recruit additional resource parents.

TV programs: At least one DCBS regional office has forged a partnership with the local cable company to do 7-minute spots on a local talk show for a period of one week every quarter. The first filming included the local Recruitment Coordinator and Recruitment Supervisor.

Speakers: DCBS workers make presentations to various groups and organizations in an effort to promote adoption.

Newsletters: Organizational or company newsletters can be useful for reaching particular audiences in an effort to promote adoption and some DCBS regions use these newsletters for recruitment.

Schools: One DCBS regional office reported that the greatest single generation of inquiries of any recruitment method came from informational fliers sent home with school children (elementary and middle schools) around the region.

Web sites: At least one DCBS region has worked with a foster care organization to develop a web site providing information, news, and support concerning adoption issues.

National organizations: DCBS’ SNAP staff coordinates communication and activities with AdoptUSkids. This is a national adoptive family recruitment website to encourage and enhance adoptive family support organizations and conduct a variety of adoption research projects. Kentucky children in SNAP from all DCBS regions are featured on this website.

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Recruitment of Adoptive Parents

Recruitment Spending

Under DCBS' standard operating procedures, each DCBS regional office may spend up to \$500 per quarter for expenses related to resource home parent recruitment, except the regions of Jefferson, Northern Kentucky, Bluegrass, and Fayette, which may spend up to \$1,000 per quarter. These funds may not be used for printing, clothing, totes, or staff accessories. Annually, DCBS spends about \$40,000 of general fund dollars concerning recruitment of resource parents within the regions. There are additional costs regarding recruitment and certification staff, but because these staff persons also do training and placement activities, DCBS staff stated that it was difficult to break out recruitment costs.

Kentucky's Special Needs Adoption Program

The Special Needs Adoption Program, known as SNAP, is a program within DCBS that operates statewide to recruit families to adopt and/or foster Kentucky's waiting children. SNAP was started in 1979 in response to the increasing number of children who were spending too long in foster care without the benefit of a permanent, adoptive home. At the time, it was believed that "older children with special needs" were unadoptable. Now, SNAP workers use a variety of methods, including the media, to increase the awareness of the tremendous need for foster and adoptive homes.

Children eligible for SNAP recruitment are those for whom an adoptive placement has not been identified within one (1) month following termination of parental rights. As of September 12, 2006, there were 337 children in SNAP in Kentucky.

Adoptive Parent Survey Results

According to the APA's survey of adoptive parents, more parents learned about the adoption programs of DCBS through friends or family members (34 percent) than from newspaper advertisements, television and radio, and the Internet combined (less than 21 percent). A survey was provided to DCBS for mailing to all of the parents that completed an adoption in FFY 2005. We received 137 responses from adoptive parents. Specific survey questions are highlighted below and the complete survey summary is located in Appendix IV:

Question # 4: How did you learn about the adoption programs of the Kentucky Department for Community Based Services (DCBS)?

Newspaper Ads	16 (10%)
TV Public Service	7 (4%)
Internet	6 (4%)
Radio	4 (3%)
Friend	54 (34%)
Other	73 (46%)

Question # 5: How did you originally contact DCBS

Telephone	89 (61 %)
Email	3 (2%)
Visit DCBS	31 (21%)
Other	24 (16%)

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Question # 7: Please rate how well the DCBS recruitment materials describe the adoption process.

Excellent 41(31%) Good 63(47%) Fair 24(18%) Poor 6(4%)

Please rate your experience with your original inquiry about adoption with DCBS.

Excellent 49(36%) Good 65(47%) Fair 18(13%) Poor 5(4%)

Please rate your experience with DCBS informational programs.

Excellent 38(28%) Good 72(53%) Fair 20(15%) Poor 5(4%)

Please rate your experience with DCBS training programs.

Excellent 45(34%) Good 72(54%) Fair 13(10%) Poor 3(2%)

Please rate your experience regarding the certification process.

Excellent 42(32%) Good 72(54%) Fair 14(11%) Poor 4(3%)

Please rate your experience regarding the home study process.

Excellent 41(31%) Good 71(53%) Fair 20(15%) Poor 2(1%)

Question # 10: How could the adoption workers improve the adoption process for prospective adoptive parents? Responses included:

“Let adoptive parents know from the beginning exactly what steps are involved and how long, approximately, each step takes.”

“Have a step by step pamphlet made to distribute”

Several of the respondents of the survey indicated that better communication prior to and throughout the process would be helpful. They also felt that the social workers need to speed up the process and eliminate some of the paper work.

Question # 21: Has the state ever contacted you with a survey or other means to inquire about your satisfaction with the adoption process?

Yes 42 (32%)

No 90 (68%)

Finding 4.1
DCBS has not developed specialized recruitment efforts to make the most of initial contacts.

There is no centralized recruiting effort to find and encourage potential adoptive parents of children in state custody. Recruitment initiatives are decentralized and managed within each region. There is no dedicated staff to handle public inquiries related to adopting or becoming a foster parent. Any staff person within DCBS could receive telephone calls from individuals that are interested in adopting. Plus, there are no follow-up procedures to contact individuals that have shown interest in adopting.

According to research conducted by the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, the first informational call is key but the state agency does not handle that first call well. The study involved interviews and focus groups

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with prospective adoptive parents as well as adoption agency staff to gauge the issues that keep adoptive parents from completing the adoption process. The resulting report, *Listening to Parents: Overcoming Barriers to the Adoption of Children from Foster Care*, included findings as follows:

- The first informational call is key.
- Agencies often do not handle the first call well.
- Emphasis is often on weeding out applicants rather than recruiting them.
- Parents are generally satisfied with training and the home study process.
- The attrition rate rises sharply as prospective families go from initial call to adoption.

Specific survey results from Kentucky found that between 25 - 50% of persons requesting adoption information actually go forward and apply to become a prospective parent. To increase the retention rate of prospective parents in public child welfare agencies, the report provided the following recommendations:

- Answer the phone and have qualified staff do it.
- Address prospective parents' emotional needs during initial contact.
- Emphasize recruitment at the start of the process.
- Separate screening and training functions if possible.
- Listen to prospective parents.

DCBS does not have specialized staff answering phone calls for persons interested in becoming a resource parent. Any staff person in the DCBS Frankfort office can answer calls made to the three advertised toll free telephone numbers (which only go to the state DCBS Frankfort office). These calls must then be referred to regional/local staff. Because the first contact can be crucial, the person receiving these calls should be trained to encourage involvement in the foster care/adoption program.

DCBS has a recruitment database with TRIS, but this does not provide the needed customer service or follow-up activities. The 867 difference reported between the number of inquiries and the number of information packets distributed illustrates that the database is not the only process that should be used to ensure that prospective resource parents are receiving adequate information and encouragement. TRIS staff said the data is "only as good" as what DCBS staff submits, and the staff turnover rate impacts the frequency and quality of data submitted.

Finding 4.2
Recruitment expenditures are not tracked to determine cost effectiveness.

There is no tracking of where recruitment funds have been spent and whether there have been positive results. DCBS does not know how much was spent on specific recruitment activities and efforts to recruit resource parents are decentralized because the regional offices plan and conduct

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recruitment locally. Inquiry information is tracked by TRIS, but not the related expenditures.

The annual \$40,000 in recruitment expenditures used by the regional offices does not account for the recruitment costs incurred by DCBS, but no other recruitment costs were able to be segregated from other expenditures. Federal funding is provided for recruitment but DCBS was unable to provide this information.

Budget constraints are commonly cited as a reason some recruitment initiatives are not carried out, yet there has not been a cost-benefit-analysis to determine where funds are the most effective. Recruitment money could be targeted and methods to capitalize on the less expensive initiatives could be explored for statewide expansion.

Recommendations 4.1

A public awareness campaign should be conducted to recruit adoptive parents and inform the public that these children need permanent homes by implementing the following:

- The Cabinet should attempt to work with private adoption agencies so that these children will come to the attention of people interested in adoption.
- DCBS should publicize a single adoption hotline number statewide. If possible, DCBS should employ operators for the resource parent hotline who will specialize in answering calls from prospective resource parents, answering questions, sending out information packets, filling out TRIS forms, and referring requests to the appropriate DCBS regional office. If calls are made to the local offices, staff could transfer the calls to the assigned toll-free number.
- DCBS should select professional staff to specialize in handling inquiries to better handle the workload in a consistent manner than having all staff persons handle inquiries, since they must address other tasks and fulfill other responsibilities. If this is not possible, DCBS should train all staff persons to handle inquiries with an emphasis on encouraging the interest of those inquiring and ensuring that records are properly maintained and information packets are actually sent to prospective resource parents.
- Successful pilot projects should be implemented statewide.

4.2

Expenditure data on recruitment activities should be tracked by DCBS so that a cost-benefit-analysis can be conducted annually to determine the most effective methods based on cost. This analysis can be used to determine recruitment activities statewide. In addition, DCBS should continue its efforts to obtain federal and private funding to help pay for recruitment initiatives.

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As of 2005, Kentucky ranked 4th in the nation for the amount of adoption assistance provided to parents adopting children in state custody. To ensure all parents that adopt a child with special needs receive this adoption assistance rate, DCBS has drafted an amended version of 922 KAR 1:050 to eliminate the adoption assistance negotiation process. Under the proposed regulation, adoptive parents would automatically receive the same amounts that were being paid for the child while in foster care. DCBS staff expressed concern that the negotiation process is demeaning to the parents and children, and increases the amount of staff time spent on finalizing an adoption. Providing the same amount of assistance to an adoptive parent as paid to a foster parent could eliminate a financial barrier to adoption.

The amended version of 922 KAR 1:050 has not yet received approval but data suggests that this modification may have already been put into practice. Of the 876 children adopted in FFY 2005, only 54 (6%) received less than \$600 in adoption assistance per month.

Adoption Assistance Programs

The Adoption and Child Welfare Act of 1980 provided the first federal subsidies to encourage the adoption of children from the nation's foster care system. The federal Adoption Assistance Program was created to ensure that families adopting foster children with special needs could do so without reducing or exhausting their resources. Federal expenditures for adoption assistance have grown from less than \$400,000 in fiscal year 1981 to \$1.3 billion in fiscal year 2002, and are expected to approach \$2.5 billion by fiscal year 2008.

As a result of the federal law, each state had to come up with a set of rules and regulations to govern its own adoption assistance program. Kentucky's regulation requires that adoption assistance be for the benefit of a special needs child for whom adoptive placement is unlikely without financial assistance. According to 922 KAR 1:050, a special needs child:

- Has a physical or mental disability;
- Has an emotional or behavioral disorder;
- Has a recognized risk of physical, mental, or emotional disorder;
- Is a member of a sibling group of two or more children placed at the same time in the same family;
- Has had previous adoption disruption or multiple placements;
- Is an African American child two (2) years old or older; or
- Is age seven or older with a significant emotional attachment or psychological tie to the foster family and the Cabinet has determined that it would be in the child's best interest to remain with the family.

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Adoption Assistance vs. Foster Care Per Diem

The amount of adoption assistance cannot exceed the amount paid for foster care of the same child. This includes the advance rates paid for children that are classified as medically fragile, specialized medically fragile, and care plus resource home reimbursement rates.

To develop the current foster care per diem rates, DCBS used data and research from the 1998 United States Department of Agriculture report, *Expenditures on Children by Families*. DCBS’ rate methodology included housing, food, transportation, school supplies, babysitting, school activities, respite, and clothing. Health care, childcare, and some education costs were removed because DCBS reimburses or covers those expenses separate from the foster care per diem rates. Table 5.1 provides rate and benefit information on the foster care subsidies that are paid prior to an adoption assistance agreement.

Table 5.1: Foster Care Per Diem Rates and Benefits

Category	Daily Basic	Daily Advanced	Degree	Computed Monthly Average
Birth to Age 11	\$19.70	\$21.90	N/A	\$599 – 666
Age 12+	\$21.70	\$23.90	N/A	\$660 – 727
Emergency Shelter	\$30.00	N/A	N/A	\$912
Care Plus Home	\$37.00	\$42.00	N/A	\$1125 – 1277
Medically Fragile	\$37.00	\$42.00	45.00	\$1125 – 1368
Benefits:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition waiver for public post-secondary institutions • Education and Training Voucher of up to \$5,000 for an institution of higher education • Foster Parents with at least three (3) years experience qualify for tuition assistance which are based upon availability of funds • Initial Clothing allowance from \$150 to \$290 based upon age of the child • “Special” clothing needs allowance • Graduation expenses up to \$500 • Christmas Gift allowance of \$60 • Birthday Gift allowance of \$25 • Full cost of child care may be paid • Foster Parent training allowance of \$50-\$100 • Foster Care recruitment bonus from \$100 to \$250 for each newly approved family • Eligible for free lunch program • Children with a federally funded (Title IV-E) subsidy are automatically eligible for Medicaid benefits (medical card)* 				
Funding Source:				
Federal Title IV-E and State General Funds				

Source: Auditor of Public Accounts based on information Kentucky Administrative Regulations Chapter 922 and interviews with Department of Community Based Services staff.

* Medicaid benefits are discontinued at age 18. If the child is still in state custody, Kentucky’s General Funds must pay for medical costs

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The amount of the subsidy is negotiated between the family and the Cabinet when finalizing the Adoption Assistance Agreement. The negotiated amount is based upon the severity of the child's special needs or disabilities and is not related to the income of the adoptive parents.

In order to prepare for the negotiation process, the adoptive parents must read and familiarize themselves with the State Subsidy profile sheets and other pieces of literature regarding adoption subsidies. These documents explain what each child may qualify for in the way of subsidy and special services. Once the family has gathered information such as medical records, prescriptions, psychological evaluations, school records, and information about risk factors and special needs, they can match the level of need to the appropriate level of adoption subsidy.

Table 5.2 illustrates the foster care payments for those children in state custody with a goal of adoption as of August 24, 2006. These payment amounts represent what Kentucky is now paying approximately each month for the 2,040 children that fall into this category.

Table 5.2: Foster Care Per Diem Amounts for Children in State Custody With a Goal of Adoption as of August 24, 2006

Foster Care Monthly Payments *	Number of Cases Receiving
\$0	116
\$599 – \$666	687
\$727 – \$912	73
\$1,125 – \$1,368	165
\$1,779	1
\$2,128 – \$2,861	457
\$3,244 – \$3,990	186
\$5,671	167
Amount Not Provided	188

Source: Auditor of Public Accounts based on information received from the Cabinet's Office of Information Technology through the TWIST database.

* The foster care per diem amounts were multiplied by a factor of 30.4 to obtain an approximate monthly amount. These ranges were selected based on actual payments. There were no payment amounts outside of the stated ranges. For example, there were no monthly payments between \$1,779 and \$2,128.

As stated earlier, the adoption assistance payment cannot exceed the amount paid for foster care. Adoptive parents can also receive reimbursement for certain nonrecurring adoption expenses directly related to the finalization of an adoption up to \$1,000. Likewise, there are additional benefits afforded to a parent adopting a special needs child from state custody. The following table, 5.3, summarizes the assistance payment requirements and the benefits received by adoptive parents when adopting children from state custody.

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Table 5.3: Adoption Assistance Payments and Benefits

Assistance Payments:
Monthly assistance payments cannot exceed the foster care rates (per diem amounts multiplied by a month factor of 30.4). These are provided in Table 5.1.
2005 Benefits:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tax credit of \$10,630• Adoption assistance payments are not considered taxable income• State employees in the Executive Branch can receive up to \$5,000 for direct costs related to the adoption of a special needs child• Tuition waiver at public colleges and universities• Education and Training Voucher of up to \$5,000 for children adopted at age 16 or older• Medicaid benefits if an adoption assistance agreement is in place• Post adoption stabilization services
Funding Source:
Federal Title IV-E and State General Funds

Source: Auditor of Public Accounts based on information from Kentucky Administrative Regulations Chapter 922, Kentucky Personnel Cabinet Adoption Benefits Program and interviews with Department of Community Based Services staff.

State-funded or federal title IV-E adoption assistance continues until the child reaches:

1. Age eighteen (18);
2. The month of graduation from high school, if the child:
 - a. Graduates from high school by age nineteen (19); and
 - b. Receives state-funded adoption assistance; or
3. Age twenty-one (21), if the child is:
 - a. Disabled;
 - b. Receiving SSI; and
 - c. Enrolled in a state or federal education program.

Federal and state laws allow for the re-negotiation of adoption assistance before and after the adoption is finalized. The circumstances allowing for these modifications are changes in the child's special needs, family situation that negatively affects the stability of the placement, or extraordinary medical expenses. Therefore, a child that does not meet the special needs criteria could become eligible after finalization.

If a condition develops after an adoption, a post finalization adoption assistance request could be considered by DCBS. If a finalized adoption is near dissolution due to the need of extraordinary medical care, State or Federal funds could be available for assistance. To receive State funds, the criteria are as follows: (a) the child was placed for adoption by the Cabinet; (b) the child was considered special needs prior to the adoption; (c) the parents have made a reasonable effort under the circumstances to meet the needs of the child without assistance; and (d) the child is under eighteen (18) years of age. To receive Title IV-E federal funds, the criteria are as follows: (a) the state agency failed to notify or advise adoptive parents of the availability of adoption assistance; (b) assistance was denied

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on an erroneous determination by the state that a child did not meet special needs criteria; or (c) relevant facts, which may have affected a child’s special needs determination, regarding the child, the biological family, or the child’s background were known but not presented to the adoptive parents prior to finalization.

Kentucky’s Adoption Assistance Ranking

The North American Council on Adoptable Children conducted a survey of adoption assistance programs as of August 2005. Of the states that provided specific dollar amounts, Kentucky paid the nation’s fourth highest basic monthly adoption assistance. Only Washington D.C., Connecticut, and Arizona had basic rates higher than Kentucky. Table 5.4 provides the Age 2 basic rates paid by the top five states according to this survey and the summary of all state’s subsidy programs is located in Appendix IV.

Table 5.4: Top Five Adoption Assistance Rates

State	Basic Rate
District of Columbia	\$837
Connecticut	\$726
Arizona	\$654
Kentucky	\$600
West Virginia	\$600

Source: Auditor of Public Accounts based on information reported by the North American Council on Adoptable Children, August 2005.

For additional comparisons, the following table indicates how Kentucky’s compares to the information reported by its regional neighbors as to monthly basic adoption subsidy rates and any specialized rates.

Table 5.5: Regional State Comparison of Adoption Assistance Rates

State	Basic Rates			Specialized Rates
	Age 2	Age 9	Age 16	
Kentucky	\$600	\$600	\$660	\$727 to 1368
Louisiana	\$265	\$292	\$319	\$240 to 258
Mississippi	\$325	\$355	\$400	\$500
Ohio	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$251 to 990
S. Carolina	\$332	\$359	\$425	Yes
Tennessee	\$496	\$496	\$571	\$557
W. Virginia	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$764
Indiana	varies by county	varies by county	varies by county	Yes, set by county

Source: Auditor of Public Accounts based on information provided by the North American Council on Adoptable Children, August 2005.

The specialized rate category is based upon the extraordinary needs of the child and the additional parenting skills needed to raise the child. The two specialized rates that Kentucky recognizes is the Medically Fragile and the Care Home Plus. Kentucky also provides for a subsidy payment for the

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reimbursement of non-recurring adoption expenses. These expenses are related to finalizing the adoption and may include expenses such as attorney fees, court costs, home studies, and other processes that may only occur one time during the adoption process.

Kinship Care Program

Kinship Care was established to facilitate permanency for children who have been removed from their home due to neglect, abuse, or the death of both parents, without going through the public agency adoption process. Kinship Care occurs when the child has a qualified relative who is willing to assume permanent custody of the child if return to the parents is not feasible. Kentucky’s monthly subsidy for kinship care is less than the adoption assistance payments through adoption. Therefore, Kentucky is providing resources for an individual to adopt a special needs child and for a relative to provide a home through kinship care. Table 5.6 provides rate and benefit information provided to relatives within the Kinship Care Program.

Table 5.6: Kinship Care Rates and Benefits

Number of Eligible Children	Maximum Payment Amount	Start Up Costs
1	\$300	\$350
2	\$600	\$700
3	\$900	\$1,050
4	\$1,200	\$1,400
5	\$1,500	\$1,750
6 or more	\$1,800	\$2,100
Benefits:		
Respite Care; Family Counseling; Parenting Training; Referral to available support groups.		
Funding Source:		
Federal Temporary Assistance of Needy Families (TANF) funds.		

Source: Auditor of Public Accounts based on information provided by Kentucky Administrative Regulations Chapter 922.

Finding 5.1
Kentucky Has Made Efforts to Remove Financial Barriers to Adoption

DCBS has drafted an amended version of 922 KAR 1:050 to remove the adoption assistance negotiation process by requiring that the adoption assistance payment be equal to the foster care per diem amounts. This amendment could significantly ease financial barriers in the public adoption process since the majority of adoptive parents were originally the child’s foster parent. DCBS appears to be promoting this issue even though this action has not yet received approval because 94% of the children adopted in FFY 2005 received at least \$600/month in adoption assistance.

Currently, 922 KAR 1:050 requires that the amount of adoption assistance cannot exceed the amount paid for foster care for the same child. This requirement means that the adoption assistance payment is negotiated between the adoptive parent and local DCBS staff. The resulting Adoption

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Assistance Agreement sets forth the scope and limits of the adoption assistance. Both parties, prior to finalization of the adoption, must sign the agreement.

Understanding that finances may be a hindrance to public adoptions, DCBS made the decision that the monthly adoption assistance payment should equal the foster care per diem rate already established for the child without any negotiation. The reported reason for this change was that the negotiation process was demeaning to the adoptive parents and the children. Removing the negotiation process also streamlines the process for finalizing adoptions and reduces staff time. By eliminating this process, it could possibly prevent some of the financial hardship that may result in an adoption disruption or dissolution.

Adoption assistance data for children adopted in FFY 2005 show that almost 94% of adoptive parents received at least \$600 per month. Table 5.7 illustrates the ranges of the assistance amounts and the number of adoptive parents within that range. In addition, Appendix V contains a listing of monthly assistance payments by county and the number receiving that amount.

Table 5.7: Adoption Assistance Ranges for FFY 2005

Monthly Adoption Payments *	Number of Cases Receiving
\$0 – \$165	25
\$300 – \$591	30
\$600 – \$666	609
\$667 – \$991	62
\$1,005 – \$1,368	144
\$1,377 – \$1,732	4
\$2,685 – \$2,700	2

Source: Auditor of Public Accounts based on information received from the Cabinet’s Office of Information Technology through the TWIST database.

* These ranges were selected based on actual payments. There were no payment amounts outside of the stated ranges. For example, there were no payment amounts of \$166 through \$299.

The actions taken by DCBS could eliminate some of the fears and reluctance to adopt. These actions could increase the adoptions of children in state custody and should be broadly advertised to achieve the maximum effect.

Finding 5.2
Adoption Assistance May Not Be Limited to Children with Special Needs

Based on the information provided by DCBS for children adopted in FFY 2005, there were 146 that did not have a special needs designation but the adoptive parents are receiving at least \$600 per month in adoption assistance. 922 KAR 1:050 requires that adoption assistance be limited to children with special needs. Even though adoption assistance is an

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Financial Incentives

effective incentive, DCBS needs to assure that data is accurately and consistently collected to ensure compliance with state law.

There were 173 children that had no special needs designation according to the data on the 876 children adopted in FFY 2005. Of these 173, 14 of these children did not receive any adoption assistance, 12 received less than \$600, and one was missing any adoption subsidy information.

922 KAR 1:050 is clear on the issue that adoption assistance should be limited to those with special needs. It does allow for re-negotiation if special needs are identified at a latter time. However, these are adoptions that took place in FFY 2005 and any significant changes would not be expected.

Inaccurate data could be the cause of this discrepancy. If the case worker did not correctly designate that the child had a special need, then an adoption assistance may not be out of compliance with the regulation. However, another cause could be that the foster care per diem amounts were continued as the adoption assistance amount even though the special needs criteria was not met.

Recommendations 5.1

DCBS continue its effort to make its monthly adoption subsidy equal to the foster care per diem daily payments. We also recommend that they continue their efforts to eliminate the negotiation process for the monthly subsidy because it appears that it would have a positive effect on adoption placements and finalizations. The Cabinet should also advertise the financial benefits provided for public adoptions.

5.2

DCBS should determine the accuracy of the data and thereafter, whether the adoption assistance is in compliance with 922 KAR 1:050. If the negotiation process is removed, additional oversight will be needed to ensure that adoption assistance funds are provided according to needs and that the data supports that need.

Other Issues for Consideration

**Private Agency
Adoption Concerns**

Besides the public adoption process, there are private child-placing agencies and private child-caring facilities that work outside the capacity of the Cabinet. These private agencies are licensed by the Division of Regulated Child Care (Division). These private agencies have formed an Adoption Coalition (Coalition) here in Kentucky, which currently includes 22 private adoption agencies as well as child-caring facilities across the state. The Coalition meets on a bi-monthly basis to discuss new developments in adoption, resources, planning, and advocate on behalf of adoption, which can include improvement of state legislation. Members include private child-placing agencies and agencies that are also separately licensed as child-caring facilities.

To obtain information on private adoption barriers, we requested input from the Coalition on issues affecting private agency adoptions and top priority areas for change. The lack of regulations regarding independent adoptions and the implementation of a birth father registry were discussed. Also mentioned by some of the child-placing agency members as a concern are the unannounced audits and inspections performed by the Division.

***Kentucky Law Does Not
Define Placement Services
of Intermediaries for
Independent Adoptions***

The Coalition’s position is that individuals showing profiles of prospective adoptive parents to pregnant women are acting as an intermediary for independent adoptions. KRS 199.590 states that “no person, association, or organization, other than the cabinet or a child-placing institution or agency shall place a child or act as intermediary in the placement of a child for adoption.”

Intermediaries for independent adoptions are an area of concern for the Coalition because Kentucky law is not specific as to what constitutes placement activities. Placement services are only defined in KRS 199.011 as “those social services customarily provided by a licensed child-placing or a public agency, which are necessary for the arrangement and placement of children in foster family home, child-placing facilities, or adoptive homes.”

The Coalition is disturbed that doctors, nurses, crisis pregnancy center volunteers/employees and lawyers show profiles and “match” birth parents with adoptive parents. These individuals could be charging prospective adoptive parents fees for these services. Specifically, the Coalition is concerned that attorneys are charging “legal fees” for their time.

Because the definition for placement services does not specifically address showing profiles, it is difficult to determine whether these individuals are performing illegal placement services. The penalty for violating KRS 199.590 is a fine not less than \$500 and not more than \$2,000 or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both.

If the intent of Kentucky law is to prevent individuals from showing profiles or “matching” prospective adoptive parents with birth parents, the

Other Issues for Consideration

Kentucky Does Not Have a Birth Father Registry That Could Secure and Stabilize Adoptions

law should be amended to specifically address these activities. In addition, even though specific penalties are outlined in KRS 199.990, it is unclear how these penalties are enforced and who is responsible for the enforcement.

Another issue raised by the Coalition is the need for a birth father registry, also called a putative father registry, in Kentucky. The Coalition stated there have been cases where the biological father prevented the placement of children for adoption, yet the father was not involved in the child's life after the birth. The Coalition would like fathers to show evidence of their desire to parent a child prior to having legal standing to prevent a petition for adoption.

Approximately 23 states have birth father registries. Some of these states have had birth father registries in place since the mid 1990s. Indiana, the only state that responded to our request for information, reported that their birth father registry is beneficial. Per a source within the Indiana Department of Child Services, there are no negatives to Indiana having a birth father registry and has assisted covering all of the bases before an adoption takes place.

The purpose of birth father registries is for men, not married to the mother of a child, to register their paternity so that they will be notified as to any legal proceedings involving the child. If the father is on a birth father registry, the courts will send a notice of adoption hearings when a petition for adoption is filed. If the father is not on the registry, he will not be a party to the adoption proceedings.

Birth father registries have different requirements depending on the state's law. Birth father registries can include the following information: the registration and/or paternity requirements to receive notice, personal information of the birth father, how to revoke a claim to paternity, and who can access the information maintained in the registry. The registration or paternity requirements discuss when the birth father may register with the state, and what written documentation is required by the birth father to register. Usually, the birth father may register any time prior to the child's birth or a state may provide a specific time frame to register, such as within 30 days after the child's birth. Also, to complete the registration, the state can require a completed form created by the state's agency responsible for regulating private adoptions, which is to be signed by the putative father and at times must be notarized.

During the 1998 Regular Session, HB 918 was introduced by Representative Rob Wilkey to revise portions of KRS 199, Protective Services for Children-Adoption. The amended language was to "create new sections of KRS Chapter 199 to define putative father and to establish a putative father registry; provide that a putative father who does not register in the putative father registry does not receive notice of a proposed adoption and irrevocably implies consent to an adoption; amend KRS

Other Issues for Consideration

199.011, 213.046, 199.480, 199.490 and 199.500 to conform.” This bill died in the House Judiciary Committee.

National Putative Father Registry

On August 3, 2006, Mary L. Landrieu, a U.S. Senator from Louisiana, introduced the Proud Father Act of 2006. Louisiana already has a putative father registry in place and the bill Senator Landrieu has introduced states it is “to establish national and state putative father registries, to make grants to States to promote responsible fatherhood, and for other purposes.” Currently, it has been referred to the Committee on Finance after being read twice.

Some issues for further study that should be considered prior to adopting and implementing a birth father registry are:

- Determine what specific information as to what should be contained in the registry.
- Determine what agency should maintain the registry.
- Determine whether or not to charge a fee to register.
- Determine whether or not to charge a fee to obtain information from the register.

Confusion Exists About the Regulations Governing Child-Caring Facilities and Child-Placing Agencies

There are several regulations to navigate as a child-placing agency. 922 KAR 1:305 governs licensure of both child-placing agencies as well as child-caring facilities. Standards for child-placing agencies are described in 922 KAR 1:310 and for child-caring facilities in 922 KAR 1:300.

The standards for child-placing agencies, 922 KAR 1:310, do not require that there be staff present for inspections. However, the regulation for the child-caring facilities, 922 KAR 1:300, does state that “there shall be at least one staff member present in each child-caring facility building if a child is present.”

There were child-placing agency members of the Coalition that think child-placing agencies are cited when staff are not present for the unannounced inspection. Because children are not cared for in these agencies, this citation is considered unnecessary along with the unannounced inspections. These agencies would like to have notice of the inspections.

According to the Cabinet’s Division of Regulated Child Care, unannounced inspections are performed for both the child-placing agencies and child-caring facilities to prevent alterations to the required documentation and facilities, but child-placing agencies are not cited for failing to have staff present because it is not a regulatory requirement. Citations are not issued unless the Cabinet is denied entry to the property.

During a licensure inspection of a child placing agency, the Division examines documentation, some of which includes: staff records and training, child records and history, foster home records, and prospective

Other Issues for Consideration

adoptive parent records. The Division also inspects numerous things concerning the building facility: disaster drills, liability insurance on the building and vehicles if they have them, the kitchens, and rodent control.

After the inspections, child-placing agencies receive what is called a Statement of Deficiency. This form provides information to the agency stating whether the facility meets minimum standards and if there are any regulatory violations. Notes concerning any issue during the audit or inspection will be included on the Statement of Deficiency, regardless of a regulatory violation. Therefore, child-placing agencies may be confused that they are being cited even when a situation is only noted on the form due to the form being referred to as a Statement of Deficiency. However, if there were a regulatory violation, the Plan of Correction section would need completion to document what the agency has done to correct the violation and maintain compliance.

- Recommendations**
- 6.1** The Cabinet should work with the General Assembly to strengthen state law to define what activities constitute placement services so that illegal intermediaries could be determined for independent adoptions. The enforcement of penalties for illegal intermediaries should also be addressed.
 - 6.2** The Cabinet should conduct further study on the effectiveness of birth father registries and follow the possible passage of the Proud Father Act of 2006. Implement any necessary changes based on further study and passage of any federal legislation.
 - 6.3** The Division of Regulated Child Care should provide additional training to child-placing and child-caring agencies across Kentucky on licensure requirements, inspection procedures, and the statements of deficiency. This will alleviate any miscommunication or confusion related to agency inspections.

Scope

The Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) conducted this performance audit to determine how Kentucky can alleviate barriers to adoptions. In order to meet this primary objective, we focused on the following sub-objectives:

- Determine whether the legal proceedings involved in terminating parental rights are impeding the adoption process.
- Determine whether Kentucky’s recruitment activities are adequate to provide for potential adoptive parents.
- Determine if Kentucky’s adoption subsidies and financial incentives are adequate and applied consistently.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services’ (Cabinet) Office of Information Technology provided raw data through their Worker’s Information System (TWIST). The scope of the two sets of data populations were: 1) children in state custody as of August 24, 2006 and 2) children adopted in FFY 2005 and in the TWIST system as of July 3, 2006.

This performance audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted Government Auditing Standards promulgated by the Comptroller General of the United States, with the exception of the standard 7.59 related to validating data from computer based systems. The raw data provided by the Cabinet from the TWIST database was used in this report to determine statistical characteristics; however, evidence that the computer-processed data was valid or reliable was not obtained. The audit team decided to use the information from the TWIST system without testing the system’s general controls because this was the only source of statewide data. The limitations of the database are presented in the report and our recommendations reflect that data accuracy should be reviewed in accordance with our findings.

Methodology

To obtain information on the topic of adoption in Kentucky, the APA contacted representatives from the following agencies and organizations:

- Cabinet for Health and Family Services
- Adoptive Parents Association of Kentucky
- Administrative Office of the Courts
- Kentucky Youth Advocates
- Kentucky Adoption Coalition

In order to assess national trends and issues related to adoption, the APA reviewed other states performance audits on adoption, along with the following reports:

- The “Other” Kentucky Lottery
- Foster Care Adoption in the United States: A State by State Analysis of Barriers and Promising Approaches

- **Listening to Parents: Overcoming the Barriers to the Adoption of Children from Foster Care**
- **Child Welfare: Better Data and Evaluations Could Improve Processes and Programs for Adopting Children with Special Needs- GAO Report**

The APA also explored various websites to gain insight about the adoption process:

- www.childwelfare.gov: This website is a service of the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- www.chfs.ky.gov: This website provided information on the Department of Community Based Services and the Adoptions Branch.
- www.adoption.com: This website provided information on all types of adoptions and provided state-specific information on various related topics.

We reviewed Kentucky's applicable statutes and regulations pertaining to adoptions and state custody of children. Recent bills related to adoption, putative father registry, and the termination of parental rights were also reviewed.

Federal legislation regulating public agency adoptions was reviewed to determine federal criteria. This consisted mainly of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980, and the Adoption Promotion Act of 2003.

For agency specific information the Department of Community Based Services' Standard Operating Procedures related to our audit objectives were reviewed.

The APA attended various legislative meetings and the recently created Blue Ribbon Adoption Task Force meetings and reviewed various newspaper articles.

We reviewed data reports and data definitions from TWIST. Based on this review, we selected specific fields within TWIST to narrow the focus of our analysis.

Per our request, the Cabinet's Office of Information Technology provided the APA with the raw data from the TWIST system for children in state custody as of the run date, 08/24/2006 and children adopted in FFY 2005 per the TWIST system as of the run date, 07/03/2006. This data was used to determine statistical characteristics and calculate the number of months between one key event to another: date of current removal episode, date of conference when goal changed to adoption, date of mother and father TPR judgment, and date adoption finalized. The APA utilized Excel software

to make these calculations. All information provided is based on the accuracy and completeness of the TWIST system.

A survey of adoptive parents was developed with input from staff of the Department of Community Based Services. The survey was mailed May 23, 2006 by the Department of Community Based Services to protect the anonymity of the adoptive parents. As of August 10, 2006, the Performance Division had received 137 responses. (Appendix IV contains the survey questions and responses.)

For recruitment information, we reviewed information from the Training Records Information System and the Regional Diligent Recruitment Reports. This review was supplemented with information provided by state level staff of the Department of Community Based Services.

Subsidy information was provided by state level staff of the Department of Community Based Services. In addition, the data request from TWIST included the data fields for the foster care per diem amounts and the monthly adoption payments.

In the Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) and the Kentucky Administrative Regulations (KAR), the key chapters concerning adoption law are:

- Dependency, Neglect and Abuse (KRS Chapter 620);
- Termination of Parental Rights (KRS Chapter 625);
- Permanency Planning (KRS 194A);
- Adoption Qualification Requirements and Process (KRS Chapter 199); and
- KAR Chapter 922 – Cabinet for Health and Family Services Department for Community Based Services – Protection and Permanency.

Some of the key statutes and regulations in adoption law include:

- KRS 620.023: This statute lists evidence that shall be considered by a court to render decisions in the best interest of the child. Courts may consider the effectiveness of rehabilitation efforts made by the parent.
- KRS 620.080: Temporary removal hearings shall be held within 72 hours of issuance of an emergency order or when a child is taken into custody without the consent of his parent. At a temporary removal hearing, the court shall determine whether there are reasonable grounds to believe the child would be dependent, neglected, or abuse if returned to or left in the custody of his parent.
- KRS 620.090: After completion of the temporary removal hearing, if the court finds there are reasonable grounds to believe the child is dependent, neglected, or abused, the court shall order a temporary removal and grant temporary custody to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) or another appropriate agency. The child shall remain in temporary custody for no more than 45 days from the date of removal, by which time the court shall have made a final disposition.
- KRS 625.040 through 625.046: These statutes pertain to circumstances surrounding voluntary termination of parental rights (TPR).
- KRS 625.050 through 625.120: These statutes pertain to circumstances surrounding involuntary TPR.
- KRS 194A.365: CHFS shall make an annual report on committed children to the Governor, General Assembly, and Chief Justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court. The report shall include data concerning children in the care of CHFS, including the average length of time children remain committed to the Cabinet and the number of children eligible for adoption.
- KRS 199.472: CHFS establishes the criteria for the adoption of children and promulgates these criteria by administrative regulations.
- KRS 199.490: The contents of adoption papers and accompanying documents are outlined in this statute.
- KRS 199.500: Adoptions shall not be granted without the voluntary and informed consent of the biological parents except in specified cases, such as cases where the biological parent has not established parental rights.
- KRS 199.510: CHFS shall investigate and report in writing to the court whether the contents of the adoption papers are true, whether the adoptive parents are fit for the care, custody, and training of the child, and whether adoption is in the best interest of the child.
- KRS 199.555: “Special needs child” is defined as a child that the state determines cannot or should not be returned to the home of the child’s parents and a child that has been determined that there is a specific factor or condition which leads to the conclusion that such a child cannot be placed without providing adoption assistance or medical assistance.
- KRS 199.557: Federal Title IV-E adoption assistance is defined as the payment of monthly maintenance to assist in meeting the special needs of the child and of nonrecurring adoption expenses such as legal fees.

- KRS 199.565: The Department of Community Based Services (DCBS) is charged with development of a written protocol for statewide swift adoption procedures to decrease the length of time necessary to complete the adoption process for children committed to CHFS.
- KRS 199.801: DCBS must establish a procedure designed to determine and expedite the placement of children who are in DCBS custody. The procedure shall use a statewide placement coordinator and district placement coordinators who may be state employees or employees of a contracted entity.
- KRS 199.805: DCBS must maintain an inventory of the number and types of placements available for children by county and district, as well as statewide. The inventory shall be updated weekly.
- 922 KAR 1:030: This regulation provides guidelines for the placement of children for adoption by CHFS as authorized by KRS 199.472. The rights and best interest of the child to be adopted are paramount under Section 1.
- 922 KAR 1:050: This regulation establishes guidelines for the implementation of the law on state-funded adoption assistance and federal Title IV-E adoption assistance.
- 922 KAR 1:100: This regulation includes steps to prepare a child for adoption and selection of an adoptive family. Priority consideration for an adoptive placement is given to existing relatives or current foster parents.

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Data Profile of Children in State Custody and Adopted Children Appendix III

Informational Summary

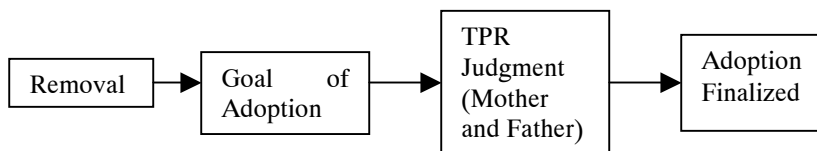
Data Populations

- Number of Children in State Custody as of August 24, 2006
 - 7431 children in State Custody
 - Children in state custody includes children in Out of Home Care (OOHC) plus approximately 500-600 children who are in state custody but are not in an active placement
 - 2040 children in OOHC with a goal of adoption
 - 612 mother's cases and 600 father's cases had a TPR date provided
 - 584 cases had both the mother's and father's TPR date provided
- Number of Children Adopted in FFY 2005 and in the Worker's Information System (TWIST) as of July 3, 2006
 - 876 children adopted in FFY 2005
- Data provided by the Cabinet of Health and Family Services (CHFS) Office of Information Technology

Out of Home Care (OOHC) to Adoption Key Events

- Date of **Current Removal** Episode (OOHC)
- Date of Conference When **Goal** Changed to Adoption
- Date of Mother Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) **Judgment**
- Date of Father Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) **Judgment**
- Date **Adoption** Legalized/Finalized

Illustration of Key Events



Glossary

ADD- Area Development District

Adoption Legalized/Finalized- Date the court issued the final adoption decree.

CHFS DCBS- Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department of Community Based Services

County- County of the case manager.

Current Placement Setting- The type of setting in which the child currently lives.

Current Removal Episode -Date the child was last removed (most recent removal) from his/her home for the purpose of being placed in foster care.

FFY- Federal Fiscal Year (October 1st – September 30th)

Most Recent Permanent Goal- Most recent goal for the child based on the latest review of the child's case plan- whether a court review or an administrative review.

OOHC- Out of home care

R&C worker- Recruitment and Certification Family Services Office Supervisor

Removal Episodes- The number of times the child was removed from home, including the current removal.

Data Profile of Children in State Custody and Adopted Children Appendix III

Informational Summary

Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) Judgment- Date the court terminated the parental rights. If deceased, date of death.

Total Months in Care in the Life of the Child- Includes all removal episodes.

TWIST- Worker's Information System

Disclaimer

The Auditor of Public Accounts statistics are based upon information received from the CHFS Office of Information Technology. The Auditor of Public Accounts computed calculations based on raw data received. All information provided is based on the accuracy and completeness of the TWIST system. Clarification of specific field definitions will need to be referred to CHFS.

Table 1
Children in State Custody as of 8-24-06

DCBS Service Region	County	Number of Cases	Percentage of Total Cases
Barren River	Allen	29	0.39%
	Barren	44	0.59%
	Butler	43	0.58%
	Edmonson	39	0.52%
	Hart	40	0.54%
	Logan	36	0.48%
	Metcalfe	16	0.22%
	Monroe	22	0.30%
	Simpson	35	0.47%
	Warren	245	3.30%
Barren River Total		549	7.39%
Big Sandy	Floyd	37	0.50%
	Johnson	52	0.70%
	Magoffin	55	0.74%
	Martin	14	0.19%
	Pike	67	0.90%
Big Sandy Total		225	3.03%
Bluegrass Fayette	Fayette	703	9.46%
Bluegrass Fayette Total		703	9.46%
Bluegrass Rural	Bourbon	53	0.71%
	Boyle	64	0.86%
	Clark	89	1.20%
	Estill	29	0.39%
	Garrard	12	0.16%
	Harrison	6	0.08%
	Jessamine	64	0.86%
	Lincoln	38	0.51%
	Madison	139	1.87%
	Mercer	53	0.71%
	Nicholas	4	0.05%
	Powell	27	0.36%
	Scott	71	0.96%
	Bluegrass Rural Total		649
Cumberland Valley	Bell	36	0.48%
	Clay	56	0.75%
	Harlan	74	1.00%
	Jackson	24	0.32%
	Knox	50	0.67%
	Laurel	102	1.37%
	Rockcastle	50	0.67%
	Whitley	115	1.55%
Cumberland Valley Total		507	6.82%

Note: County indicates the county where the case manager is located.

**Table 1
Children in State Custody as of 8-24-06**

DCBS Service Region	County	Number of Cases	Percentage of Total Cases
FIVCO	Boyd	146	1.96%
	Carter	30	0.40%
	Elliott	10	0.13%
	Greenup	67	0.90%
	Lawrence	23	0.31%
FIVCO Total		276	3.71%
Gateway Buffalo Trace	Bath	24	0.32%
	Bracken	16	0.22%
	Fleming	30	0.40%
	Lewis	8	0.11%
	Mason	22	0.30%
	Menifee	12	0.16%
	Montgomery	11	0.15%
	Morgan	13	0.17%
	Robertson	11	0.15%
	Rowan	36	0.48%
Gateway Buffalo Trace Total		183	2.46%
Green River	Daviess	198	2.66%
	Hancock	8	0.11%
	Henderson	68	0.92%
	Mclean	8	0.11%
	Ohio	27	0.36%
	Union	17	0.23%
	Webster	12	0.16%
Green River Total		338	4.55%
Kentucky River	Breathitt	22	0.30%
	Knott	31	0.42%
	Lee	21	0.28%
	Leslie	15	0.20%
	Letcher	15	0.20%
	Owsley	4	0.05%
	Perry	105	1.41%
	Wolfe	30	0.40%
Kentucky River Total		243	3.27%
KIPDA	Jefferson	1268	17.06%
KIPDA Total		1268	17.06%
KIPDA Rural	Anderson	27	0.36%
	Bullitt	63	0.85%
	Franklin	67	0.90%
	Henry	23	0.31%
	Oldham	23	0.31%
	Shelby	104	1.40%
	Spencer	8	0.11%
	Trimble	25	0.34%
	Woodford	28	0.38%
KIPDA Rural Total		368	4.95%

Note: County indicates the county where the case manager is located.

Table 1
Children in State Custody as of 8-24-06

DCBS Service Region	County	Number of Cases	Percentage of Total Cases
Lake Cumberland	Adair	12	0.16%
	Casey	8	0.11%
	Clinton	16	0.22%
	Cumberland	0	0.00%
	Green	10	0.13%
	McCreary	67	0.90%
	Pulaski	104	1.40%
	Russell	14	0.19%
	Taylor	21	0.28%
	Wayne	26	0.35%
Lake Cumberland Total		278	3.74%
Lincoln Trail	Breckinridge	43	0.58%
	Grayson	67	0.90%
	Hardin	210	2.83%
	Larue	8	0.11%
	Marion	27	0.36%
	Meade	17	0.23%
	Nelson	10	0.13%
	Washington	10	0.13%
Lincoln Trail Total		392	5.28%
Northern Kentucky	Boone	51	0.69%
	Campbell	267	3.59%
	Carroll	28	0.38%
	Gallatin	15	0.20%
	Grant	39	0.52%
	Kenton	407	5.48%
	Owen	8	0.11%
	Pendleton	34	0.46%
Northern Kentucky Total		849	11.43%
Pennyrile	Caldwell	7	0.09%
	Christian	75	1.01%
	Crittenden	11	0.15%
	Hopkins	101	1.36%
	Livingston	5	0.07%
	Lyon	5	0.07%
	Muhlenberg	44	0.59%
	Todd	10	0.13%
	Trigg	12	0.16%
Pennyrile Total		270	3.63%
Purchase	Ballard	8	0.11%
	Calloway	43	0.58%
	Carlisle	2	0.03%
	Fulton	34	0.46%
	Graves	68	0.92%
	Hickman	9	0.12%
	Marshall	53	0.71%
	McCracken	116	1.56%
Purchase Total		333	4.48%
Total		7431	100.00%

Note: County indicates the county where the case manager is located.

**Table 2
DCBS Service Region as of 8-24-06**

Barren River		Fivco		KIPDA Rural		Pennyrile	
1	Allen	38	Boyd	69	Anderson	104	Caldwell
2	Barren	39	Carter	70	Bullitt	105	Christian
3	Butler	40	Elliott	71	Franklin	106	Crittenden
4	Edmonson	41	Greenup	72	Henry	107	Hopkins
5	Hart	42	Lawrence	73	Oldham	108	Livingston
6	Logan			74	Shelby	109	Lyon
7	Metcalfe			75	Spencer	110	Muhlenberg
8	Monroe			76	Trimble	111	Todd
9	Simpson			77	Woodford	112	Trigg
10	Warren						
Big Sandy		Gateway/Bufalo Trace		Lake Cumberland		Purchase	
11	Floyd	43	Bath	78	Adair	113	Ballard
12	Johnson	44	Bracken	79	Casey	114	Calloway
13	Magoffin	45	Fleming	80	Clinton	115	Carlisle
14	Martin	46	Lewis	81	Cumberland	116	Fulton
15	Pike	47	Mason	82	Green	117	Graves
		48	Menifee	83	McCreary	118	Hickman
		49	Montgomery	84	Pulaski	119	Marshall
		50	Morgan	85	Russell	120	McCracken
		51	Robertson	86	Taylor		
		52	Rowan	87	Wayne		
Bluegrass Fayette		Green River		Lincoln Trail			
16	Fayette	53	Daviess	88	Breckinridge		
		54	Hancock	89	Grayson		
		55	Henderson	90	Hardin		
		56	Mclean	91	Larue		
		57	Ohio	92	Marion		
		58	Union	93	Meade		
		59	Webster	94	Nelson		
				95	Washington		
Bluegrass Rural		Kentucky River		Northern Kentucky			
17	Bourbon	60	Breathitt	96	Boone		
18	Boyle	61	Knott	97	Campbell		
19	Clark	62	Lee	98	Carroll		
20	Estill	63	Leslie	99	Gallatin		
21	Garrard	64	Letcher	100	Grant		
22	Harrison	65	Owsley	101	Kenton		
23	Jessamine	66	Perry	102	Owen		
24	Lincoln	67	Wolfe	103	Pendleton		
25	Madison						
26	Mercer						
27	Nicholas						
28	Powell						
29	Scott						
Cumberland Valley		KIPDA					
30	Bell	68	Jefferson				
31	Clay						
32	Harlan						
33	Jackson						
34	Knox						
35	Laurel						
36	Rockcastle						
37	Whitley						

Note: DCBS service regions have similar names as KY Area Development Districts but have a different make up than the ADD districts. DCBS service regions composition changed 9-16-06

Table 3

Children in State Custody as of 8-24-06 and Children With a Goal of Adoption Along With County Child Population and Poverty Percentage by Region

Region	County	Percentage of Children Living in Poverty (2002)	Child Population Ages 0-17 (2004)	Percentage of Statewide Child Population	Number of Cases in State Custody as of August 24, 2006	Percentage of County Child Population in State Custody	Number of Cases with Goal of Adoption as of August 24, 2006	Percentage of State Custody Cases with a Goal of Adoption
Barren River	Allen	20%	4594	0.46%	29	0.63%	13	44.83%
	Barren	22%	9227	0.93%	44	0.48%	19	43.18%
	Butler	23%	3128	0.31%	43	1.37%	13	30.23%
	Edmonson	24%	2773	0.28%	39	1.41%	9	23.08%
	Hart	31%	4538	0.46%	40	0.88%	16	40.00%
	Logan	22%	6994	0.70%	36	0.51%	4	11.11%
	Metcalfe	31%	2527	0.25%	16	0.63%	0	0.00%
	Monroe	31%	2750	0.28%	22	0.80%	13	59.09%
	Simpson	19%	4329	0.44%	35	0.81%	12	34.29%
	Warren	19%	22394	2.25%	245	1.09%	65	26.53%
Barren River Total			63254		549		164	
Big Sandy	Floyd	36%	9591	0.97%	37	0.39%	9	24.32%
	Johnson	31%	5579	0.56%	52	0.93%	13	25.00%
	Magoffin	39%	3198	0.32%	55	1.72%	22	40.00%
	Martin	36%	3222	0.32%	14	0.43%	2	14.29%
	Pike	29%	15054	1.51%	67	0.45%	28	41.79%
Big Sandy Total			36644		225		74	
Bluegrass Fayette	Fayette	17%	55886	5.62%	703	1.26%	209	29.73%
Bluegrass Fayette Total			55886		703		209	
Bluegrass Rural	Bourbon	19%	4563	0.46%	53	1.16%	8	15.09%
	Boyle	18%	6331	0.64%	64	1.01%	5	7.81%
	Clark	19%	8129	0.82%	89	1.09%	12	13.48%
	Estill	32%	3538	0.36%	29	0.82%	4	13.79%
	Garrard	21%	3811	0.38%	12	0.31%	3	25.00%
	Harrison	18%	4604	0.46%	6	0.13%	0	0.00%
	Jessamine	18%	10813	1.09%	64	0.59%	16	25.00%
	Lincoln	26%	6603	0.66%	38	0.58%	14	36.84%
	Madison	19%	16572	1.67%	139	0.84%	29	20.86%
	Mercer	17%	5199	0.52%	53	1.02%	11	20.75%
	Nicholas	21%	1662	0.17%	4	0.24%	1	25.00%
	Powell	32%	3502	0.35%	27	0.77%	10	37.04%
	Scott	13%	10015	1.01%	71	0.71%	21	29.58%
Bluegrass Rural Total			85342		649		134	

Note: 2004 child population and 2002 poverty percentage were provided by Kentucky Youth Advocates Kids Count Data.

Table 3

Children in State Custody as of 8-24-06 and Children With a Goal of Adoption Along With County Child Population and Poverty Percentage by Region

Region	County	Percentage of Children Living in Poverty (2002)	Child Population Ages 0-17 (2004)	Percentage of Statewide Child Population	Number of Cases in State Custody as of August 24, 2006	Percentage of County Child Population in State Custody	Number of Cases with Goal of Adoption as of August 24, 2006	Percentage of State Custody Cases with a Goal of Adoption
Cumberland Valley	Bell	39%	6776	0.68%	36	0.53%	0	0.00%
	Clay	41%	5738	0.58%	56	0.98%	7	12.50%
	Harlan	40%	7633	0.77%	74	0.97%	20	27.03%
	Jackson	36%	3435	0.35%	24	0.70%	9	37.50%
	Knox	40%	8194	0.82%	50	0.61%	12	24.00%
	Laurel	27%	13908	1.40%	102	0.73%	18	17.65%
	Rockcastle	28%	3877	0.39%	50	1.29%	13	26.00%
	Whitley	36%	9650	0.97%	115	1.19%	38	33.04%
Cumberland Valley Total			59211		507		117	
FIVCO	Boyd	24%	10357	1.04%	146	1.41%	39	26.71%
	Carter	32%	6460	0.65%	30	0.46%	5	16.67%
	Elliott	33%	1689	0.17%	10	0.59%	1	10.00%
	Greenup	22%	8610	0.87%	67	0.78%	3	4.48%
	Lawrence	32%	3892	0.39%	23	0.59%	8	34.78%
FIVCO Total			31008		276		56	
Gateway Buffalo Trace	Bath	27%	2885	0.29%	24	0.83%	3	12.50%
	Bracken	17%	2145	0.22%	16	0.75%	7	43.75%
	Fleming	25%	3769	0.38%	30	0.80%	7	23.33%
	Lewis	36%	3254	0.33%	8	0.25%	3	37.50%
	Mason	23%	3884	0.39%	22	0.57%	0	0.00%
	Menifee	34%	1611	0.16%	12	0.74%	8	66.67%
	Montgomery	22%	5941	0.60%	11	0.19%	2	18.18%
	Morgan	35%	2952	0.30%	13	0.44%	2	15.38%
	Robertson	25%	562	0.06%	11	1.96%	5	45.45%
	Rowan	25%	4492	0.45%	36	0.80%	1	2.78%
Gateway Buffalo Trace Total			31495		183		38	
Green River	Daviess	18%	23206	2.34%	198	0.85%	41	20.71%
	Hancock	13%	2310	0.23%	8	0.35%	2	25.00%
	Henderson	18%	10789	1.09%	68	0.63%	23	33.82%
	McLean	19%	2484	0.25%	8	0.32%	4	50.00%
	Ohio	23%	5595	0.56%	27	0.48%	8	29.63%
	Union	18%	3880	0.39%	17	0.44%	4	23.53%
	Webster	19%	3359	0.34%	12	0.36%	2	16.67%
Green River Total			51623		338		84	

Note: 2004 child population and 2002 poverty percentage were provided by Kentucky Youth Advocates Kids Count Data.

Table 3

Children in State Custody as of 8-24-06 and Children With a Goal of Adoption Along With County Child Population and Poverty Percentage by Region

Region	County	Percentage of Children Living in Poverty (2002)	Child Population Ages 0-17 (2004)	Percentage of Statewide Child Population	Number of Cases in State Custody as of August 24, 2006	Percentage of County Child Population in State Custody	Number of Cases with Goal of Adoption as of August 24, 2006	Percentage of State Custody Cases with a Goal of Adoption
Kentucky River	Breathitt	41%	3688	0.37%	22	0.60%	7	31.82%
	Knott	34%	3966	0.40%	31	0.78%	16	51.61%
	Lee	39%	1582	0.16%	21	1.33%	3	14.29%
	Leslie	37%	2633	0.26%	15	0.57%	3	20.00%
	Letcher	32%	5445	0.55%	15	0.28%	3	20.00%
	Owsley	46%	1129	0.11%	4	0.35%	0	0.00%
	Perry	35%	6650	0.67%	105	1.58%	43	40.95%
	Wolfe	41%	1907	0.19%	30	1.57%	19	63.33%
Kentucky River Total			27000		243		94	
KIPDA	Jefferson	19%	167831	16.89%	1268	0.76%	422	33.28%
KIPDA Total			167831		1268		422	
KIPDA Rural	Anderson	12%	5114	0.51%	27	0.53%	0	0.00%
	Bullitt	12%	16738	1.68%	63	0.38%	5	7.94%
	Franklin	15%	10571	1.06%	67	0.63%	15	22.39%
	Henry	17%	3989	0.40%	23	0.58%	5	21.74%
	Oldham	6%	13677	1.38%	23	0.17%	5	21.74%
	Shelby	13%	9383	0.94%	104	1.11%	33	31.73%
	Spencer	11%	3930	0.40%	8	0.20%	0	0.00%
	Trimble	17%	2346	0.24%	25	1.07%	4	16.00%
	Woodford	11%	5779	0.58%	28	0.48%	3	10.71%
KIPDA Rural Total			71527		368		70	
Lake Cumberland	Adair	29%	3945	0.40%	12	0.30%	1	8.33%
	Casey	33%	3838	0.39%	8	0.21%	0	0.00%
	Clinton	33%	2093	0.21%	16	0.76%	3	18.75%
	Cumberland	30%	1632	0.16%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
	Green	25%	2624	0.26%	10	0.38%	0	0.00%
	McCreary	43%	4439	0.45%	67	1.51%	4	5.97%
	Pulaski	26%	13437	1.35%	104	0.77%	9	8.65%
	Russell	31%	3646	0.37%	14	0.38%	0	0.00%
	Taylor	24%	5225	0.53%	21	0.40%	0	0.00%
Wayne	34%	4833	0.49%	26	0.54%	0	0.00%	
Lake Cumberland Total			45712		278		17	

Note: 2004 child population and 2002 poverty percentage were provided by Kentucky Youth Advocates Kids Count Data.

Table 3

Children in State Custody as of 8-24-06 and Children With a Goal of Adoption Along With County Child Population and Poverty Percentage by Region

Region	County	Percentage of Children Living in Poverty (2002)	Child Population Ages 0-17 (2004)	Percentage of Statewide Child Population	Number of Cases in State Custody as of August 24, 2006	Percentage of County Child Population in State Custody	Number of Cases with Goal of Adoption as of August 24, 2006	Percentage of State Custody Cases with a Goal of Adoption
Lincoln Trail	Breckinridge	23%	4674	0.47%	43	0.92%	5	11.63%
	Grayson	26%	5876	0.59%	67	1.14%	3	4.48%
	Hardin	17%	24923	2.51%	210	0.84%	95	45.24%
	Larue	21%	3236	0.33%	8	0.25%	0	0.00%
	Marion	20%	4762	0.48%	27	0.57%	0	0.00%
	Meade	14%	8026	0.81%	17	0.21%	0	0.00%
	Nelson	16%	10625	1.07%	10	0.09%	0	0.00%
	Washington	17%	2884	0.29%	10	0.35%	0	0.00%
Lincoln Trail Total			65006		392		103	
Northern Kentucky	Boone	8%	28155	2.83%	51	0.18%	7	13.73%
	Campbell	13%	21267	2.14%	267	1.26%	195	73.03%
	Carroll	20%	2665	0.27%	28	1.05%	3	10.71%
	Gallatin	19%	2389	0.24%	15	0.63%	5	33.33%
	Grant	19%	7040	0.71%	39	0.55%	5	12.82%
	Kenton	14%	38499	3.87%	407	1.06%	83	20.39%
	Ow en	22%	2904	0.29%	8	0.28%	3	37.50%
	Pendleton	16%	4158	0.42%	34	0.82%	3	8.82%
Northern Kentucky Total			107077		849		304	
Pennyrile	Caldw ell	21%	2766	0.28%	7	0.25%	0	0.00%
	Christian	24%	20612	2.07%	75	0.36%	20	26.67%
	Crittenden	25%	1946	0.20%	11	0.57%	5	45.45%
	Hopkins	23%	10891	1.10%	101	0.93%	24	23.76%
	Livingston	19%	2059	0.21%	5	0.24%	0	0.00%
	Lyon	18%	1200	0.12%	5	0.42%	0	0.00%
	Muhlenberg	25%	6895	0.69%	44	0.64%	10	22.73%
	Todd	25%	3119	0.31%	10	0.32%	2	20.00%
Trigg	17%	2970	0.30%	12	0.40%	5	41.67%	
Pennyrile Total			52458		270		66	
Purchase	Ballard	21%	1870	0.19%	8	0.43%	2	25.00%
	Callow ay	19%	6474	0.65%	43	0.66%	6	13.95%
	Carlisle	20%	1159	0.12%	2	0.17%	0.00%	0.00%
	Fulton	32%	1859	0.19%	34	1.83%	12	35.29%
	Graves	21%	9083	0.91%	68	0.75%	21	30.88%
	Hickman	21%	1060	0.11%	9	0.85%	0.00%	0.00%
	Marshall	17%	6453	0.65%	53	0.82%	15	28.30%
	McCracken	22%	14665	1.48%	116	0.79%	32	27.59%
Purchase Total			42623		333		88	
Total		21%	993697	100.00%	7431		2040	

Note: 2004 child population and 2002 poverty percentage were provided by Kentucky Youth Advocates Kids Count Data.

Children in State Custody as of 8-24-06 by Race

County	Race							Total
	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific	Unable to Determine	White	Race Not Provided	
Adair						12		12
Allen						29		29
Anderson			1		1	25		27
Ballard						8		8
Barren			1		8	35		44
Bath						24		24
Bell			1		3	32		36
Boone					4	47		51
Bourbon			8		6	39		53
Boyd			6		4	135	1	146
Boyle			19		1	44		64
Bracken			4			12		16
Breathitt						22		22
Breckinridge			5		1	37		43
Bullitt			1			62		63
Butler						43		43
Caldwell			2			5		7
Calloway			6			37		43
Campbell	1		25		14	226	1	267
Carlisle						2		2
Carroll						28		28
Carter					1	29		30
Casey						8		8
Christian		1	31			41	2	75
Clark			7		6	76		89
Clay		1	1		1	53		56
Clinton						16		16
Crittenden						11		11
Cumberland								0
Daviess		1	39		2	156		198
Edmonson						39		39
Elliott						10		10
Estill						29		29
Fayette			325	1	25	340	12	703
Fleming			1			26	3	30
Floyd						37		37
Franklin			5		7	54	1	67
Fulton			10		1	23		34
Gallatin			1			14		15

Note: Unable to determine is a field denoted in the CHFS TWIST system.

Children in State Custody as of 8-24-06 by Race

County	Race							Total
	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific	Unable to Determine	White	Race Not Provided	
Garrard			2		1	9		12
Grant						38	1	39
Graves	2		21		2	43		68
Grayson					2	64	1	67
Green						10		10
Greenup						67		67
Hancock						8		8
Hardin			38	3	5	162	2	210
Harlan			4		1	69		74
Harrison			1			5		6
Hart			9		1	30		40
Henderson			13			55		68
Henry			1			22		23
Hickman			1			8		9
Hopkins			4	1		96		101
Jackson						24		24
Jefferson	3	3	662		24	572	4	1268
Jessamine			5		5	48	6	64
Johnson			5			47		52
Kenton	5		84	2	13	296	7	407
Knott			3			28		31
Knox					1	49		50
LaRue					2	6		8
Laurel			2		2	98		102
Lawrence			1			22		23
Lee						21		21
Leslie	1					14		15
Letcher						15		15
Lewis						8		8
Lincoln			2			36		38
Livingston						5		5
Logan			6		1	29		36
Lyon						5		5
Madison			25		1	112	1	139
Magoffin						55		55
Marion			1		1	24	1	27
Marshall						53		53
Martin					1	13		14
Mason			1			21		22
McCracken			36		4	76		116

Note: Unable to determine is a field denoted in the CHFS TWIST system.

Children in State Custody as of 8-24-06 by Race

County	Race							Total
	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific	Unable to Determine	White	Race Not Provided	
McCreary						67		67
McLean						8		8
Meade						17		17
Menifee						12		12
Mercer			6		3	44		53
Metcalfe					3	11	2	16
Monroe						22		22
Montgomery		1	1			9		11
Morgan			3			10		13
Muhlenberg			1		4	39		44
Nelson			1		3	6		10
Nicholas						4		4
Ohio					2	25		27
Oldham			2			20	1	23
Owen						8		8
Owsley						4		4
Pendleton						34		34
Perry			6			99		105
Pike			5		1	61		67
Powell			1	1	1	24		27
Pulaski					6	98		104
Robertson						11		11
Rockcastle					3	47		50
Rowan			2		2	31	1	36
Russell					1	13		14
Scott			9		11	50	1	71
Shelby	2	1	14		1	85	1	104
Simpson			11		1	23		35
Spencer			1		2	5		8
Taylor			1		1	19		21
Todd			1			9		10
Trigg			2			10		12
Trimble					1	24		25
Union			5			12		17
Warren		1	52	1	6	185		245
Washington			3			7		10
Wayne			1		8	16	1	26
Webster			3			9		12
Whitley						114	1	115
Wolfe						30		30
Woodford	1		4		3	20		28
Total	15	9	1561	9	215	5571	51	7431
Percentage	0.20%	0.12%	21.01%	0.12%	2.89%	74.97%	0.69%	100.00%

Note: Unable to determine is a field denoted in the CHFS TWIST system.

**Time From Current Removal to Goal of Adoption
Children in State Custody With a Goal of Adoption as of 8-24-06**

County	Number of Removal Episodes							
	1		2		Greater Than or Equal to 3		Total	
County	Average Months Between Removal and Goal	Number of Cases	Average Months Between Removal and Goal	Number of Cases	Average Months Between Removal and Goal	Number of Cases	Average Months Between Removal and Goal	Number of Cases
Adair	0.00		11.83	1			11.83	1
Allen	13.74	12	0.00				13.74	12
Ballard	13.92	2	0.00				13.92	2
Barren	14.27	13	8.60	3	11.28	3	12.90	19
Bath	16.00	3	0.00				16.00	3
Boone	16.16	7	0.00				16.16	7
Bourbon	32.78	5	19.82	2	21.93	1	28.18	8
Boyd	14.63	33	7.74	6			13.57	39
Boyle	16.35	5	0.00				16.35	5
Bracken	17.48	7	0.00				17.48	7
Breathitt	6.20	1	1.40	2	5.07	2	3.83	5
Breckinridge	13.03	1	6.87	3	13.07	1	9.34	5
Bullitt	33.71	3	0.00		7.77	2	23.33	5
Butler	14.79	13	0.00				14.79	13
Calloway	21.12	4	8.60	1	14.87	1	17.99	6
Campbell	16.69	165	10.00	22	13.65	5	15.85	192
Carroll	16.80	1	0.00				16.80	1
Carter	63.20	4	0.00		6.23	1	51.81	5
Christian	22.70	20	0.00				22.70	20
Clark	16.81	12	0.00				16.81	12
Clay	27.53	3	15.09	2	12.27	2	19.61	7
Clinton	21.14	3	0.00				21.17	3
Crittenden	19.36	3	12.17	2			16.48	5
Daviess	20.60	23	12.83	14	18.38	4	17.73	41
Edmonson	18.65	8	19.67	1			18.76	9
Elliott	22.07	1	0.00				22.07	1
Estill	18.22	4	0.00				18.22	4
Fayette	15.99	150	13.13	38	8.84	20	14.78	208
Fleming	15.44	4	10.75	2	9.07	1	13.19	7
Floyd	10.96	3	2.70	2	4.87	4	6.41	9
Franklin	24.17	12	19.47	2	10.87	1	22.65	15
Fulton	15.32	6	10.85	5			13.29	11
Gallatin	7.90	5	0.00				7.90	5
Garrard	38.30	3	0.00				38.30	3
Grant	13.10	3	0.30	1	6.13	1	9.15	5
Graves	16.88	17	5.68	3	16.40	1	15.26	21
Grayson	15.55	2	12.70	1			14.60	3
Hardin	14.80	69	8.83	15	12.95	10	13.65	94
Harlan	27.55	14	12.72	6			23.10	20
Hart	10.35	15	12.13	1			10.46	16

Time From Current Removal to Goal of Adoption Children in State Custody With a Goal of Adoption as of 8-24-06

County	Number of Removal Episodes							
	1		2		Greater Than or Equal to 3		Total	
	Average Months Between Removal and Goal	Number of Cases	Average Months Between Removal and Goal	Number of Cases	Average Months Between Removal and Goal	Number of Cases	Average Months Between Removal and Goal	Number of Cases
Henderson	12.89	17	14.03	5	11.87	1	13.10	23
Henry	27.79	5	0.00				27.79	5
Hopkins	17.15	18	9.68	6			15.28	24
Jackson	22.53	4	17.83	2	8.44	3	16.79	9
Jefferson	13.16	314	9.97	94	9.74	9	12.36	417
Jessamine	21.69	12	13.84	3	19.83	1	20.10	16
Johnson	10.96	11	6.77	2			10.32	13
Kenton	12.03	52	10.87	24	12.30	2	11.68	78
Knott	6.70	9	9.98	5	8.18	2	7.91	16
Knox	17.88	8	0.00		0.13	4	11.96	12
Laurel	17.08	9	8.61	5	11.03	4	13.38	18
Lawrence	30.33	4	23.37	3	18.20	1	26.20	8
Lee					20.40	3	20.40	3
Leslie	13.17	1	24.00	1	12.77	1	16.64	3
Letcher	32.91	3	0.00				32.91	3
Lewis	25.57	3	0.00				25.57	3
Lincoln	20.10	14	0.00				20.10	14
Logan	17.98	2	19.00	2			18.49	4
Madison	15.65	28	7.07	1			15.36	29
Magoffin	12.09	16	21.27	2	6.28	4	11.87	22
Marshall	15.10	12	13.77	2	24.93	1	15.58	15
Martin	0.93	1	0.00		18.83	1	9.88	2
McCracken	16.00	28	20.95	4			16.62	32
McCreary	13.73	3	44.23	1			21.36	4
McLean	19.24	4	0.00				19.24	4
Menifee	34.61	6	0.00				34.61	6
Mercer	16.92	11	0.00				16.92	11
Monroe	8.21	6	0.00				8.21	6
Montgomery	10.92	2	0.00				10.92	2
Morgan	19.50	2	0.00				19.50	2
Muhlenberg	14.03	8	19.37	1	19.37	1	15.10	10
Nicholas	15.97	1	0.00				15.97	1
Ohio	11.37	6	13.32	2			11.86	8
Oldham	15.66	4	6.67	1			13.86	5
Owen	11.47	3	0.00				11.47	3
Pendleton	8.57	3	0.00				8.57	3
Perry	28.23	18	12.62	19	22.17	6	20.49	43
Pike	13.53	15	9.27	7	25.09	4	14.16	26
Powell	16.63	9	0.00				16.63	9
Pulaski	1.57	3	15.29	5	24.90	1	11.79	9
Robertson	15.93	4	0.97	1			12.94	5
Rockcastle	17.83	13	0.00				17.83	13

Table 5

**Time From Current Removal to Goal of Adoption
Children in State Custody With a Goal of Adoption as of 8-24-06**

	1		2		Greater Than or Equal to 3		Total	
County	Average Months Between Removal and Goal	Number of Cases	Average Months Between Removal and Goal	Number of Cases	Average Months Between Removal and Goal	Number of Cases	Average Months Between Removal and Goal	Number of Cases
Rowan	15.13	1	0.00				15.13	1
Scott	22.57	16	38.91	4	44.47	1	26.72	21
Shelby	15.02	29	7.05	4			14.05	33
Simpson	29.28	8	14.60	4			24.38	12
Todd	14.37	2	0.00				14.37	2
Union	10.62	3	0.43	1			8.08	4
Warren	12.57	45	12.10	14	17.72	5	12.87	64
Webster	24.47	1	9.10	1			16.78	2
Whitley	15.67	18	15.83	5	18.14	5	16.14	28
Wolfe	18.34	8	13.05	9	14.73	2	15.45	19
Woodford	18.48	3	0.00				18.48	3
Total	15.98	1,498	11.75	376	12.89	122	15.00	1,996

**Time From Goal of Adoption to TPR Judgments
Children in State Custody With a Goal of Adoption as of 8-24-06**

County	Total Number of Children With Current Goal of Adoption	Mother's TPR Judgment		Father's TPR Judgment		Both Parent's TPR Judgment	
		Average Months between Goal and Mother's Judgment	Number of Cases	Average Months between Goal and Father's Judgment	Number of Cases	Average Months between Goal and Both Mother's and Father's Judgment	Number of Cases
Adair	1						
Allen	13	25.38	7	21.61	5	28.42	6
Ballard	2	13.57	1	13.57	1	13.57	1
Barren	19	13.42	6	13.62	6	13.62	6
Bath	3						
Boone	7						
Bourbon	8	11.71	3	11.71	3	11.71	3
Boyd	39	14.98	11	14.51	12	14.98	11
Boyle	5	2.42	2	2.42	2	2.42	2
Bracken	7	14.87	1	14.87	1	14.87	1
Breathitt	7	44.53	2	44.53	2	44.53	2
Breckinridge	5						
Bullitt	5	2.43	2				
Butler	13	9.68	3				
Calloway	6	12.85	2	12.85	2	12.85	2
Campbell	195	13.90	100	13.85	100	13.90	98
Carroll	3						
Carter	5	19.90	3	15.60	2	15.60	2
Christian	20	2.37	6	3.50	6	3.50	6
Clark	12						
Clay	7	11.17	1	11.17	1	11.17	1
Clinton	3	5.13	1	5.13	1	5.13	1
Crittenden	5	11.68	2	11.68	2	11.68	2
Daviess	41	6.97	11	6.97	11	6.97	11
Edmonson	9						
Elliott	1	7.43	1	7.43	1	7.43	1
Estill	4						
Fayette	209	15.18	45	15.72	42	15.72	42
Fleming	7	16.23	2	16.23	2	16.23	2
Floyd	9			11.33	1		
Franklin	15	19.90	6	22.30	6	22.30	6
Fulton	12	13.27	3	13.27	3	13.27	3
Gallatin	5						
Garrard	3	4.74	3	4.74	3	4.74	3
Grant	5						
Graves	21	21.18	8	21.31	8	21.31	8
Grayson	3						
Greenup	3	4.52	2	4.52	2	4.52	2

**Time From Goal of Adoption to TPR Judgments
Children in State Custody With a Goal of Adoption as of 8-24-06**

County	Total Number of Children With Current Goal of Adoption	Mother's TPR Judgment		Father's TPR Judgment		Both Parent's TPR Judgment	
		Average Months between Goal and Mother's Judgment	Number of Cases	Average Months between Goal and Father's Judgment	Number of Cases	Average Months between Goal and Both Mother's and Father's Judgment	Number of Cases
Hancock	2						
Hardin	95	12.13	16	10.29	14	11.92	14
Harlan	20	0.63	4	11.60	7	0.63	4
Hart	16	9.05	2	13.93	1	13.93	1
Henderson	23	8.36	5	8.36	5	8.36	5
Henry	5	27.35	2	27.35	2	27.35	2
Hopkins	24	7.04	5	7.04	5	7.04	5
Jackson	9	11.00	2	11.00	2	11.00	2
Jefferson	422	6.94	131	6.84	130	7.02	128
Jessamine	16	2.65	2	11.50	3	2.65	2
Johnson	13	9.06	3	9.06	3	9.06	3
Kenton	83	7.83	3	7.83	3	7.83	3
Knott	16	8.10	7	6.82	6	6.82	6
Knox	12	20.82	5	23.17	5	23.17	5
Laurel	18	16.33	9	16.00	8	16.00	8
Lawrence	8	26.24	7	26.24	7	26.24	7
Lee	3						
Leslie	3						
Letcher	3	22.90	3	22.90	3	22.90	3
Lewis	3						
Lincoln	14	13.27	4	13.27	4	13.27	4
Logan	4						
Madison	29	5.27	1	5.27	1	5.27	1
Magoffin	22	7.77	2	7.77	2	7.77	2
Marshall	15	9.77	2	9.77	2	9.77	2
Martin	2	12.13	1	12.13	1	12.13	1
McCracken	32	9.88	16	9.88	16	9.88	16
McCreary	4						
McLean	4	7.36	3	7.36	3	7.36	3
Menifee	8	5.70	4	5.70	4	5.70	4
Mercer	11	3.90	2	3.90	2	3.90	2
Monroe	13	8.43	2	8.43	2	8.43	2
Montgomery	2						
Morgan	2	9.77	1	9.77	1	9.77	1
Muhlenberg	10						

**Time From Goal of Adoption to TPR Judgments
Children in State Custody With a Goal of Adoption as of 8-24-06**

County	Total Number of Children With Current Goal of Adoption	Mother's TPR Judgment		Father's TPR Judgment		Both Parent's TPR Judgment	
		Average Months between Goal and Mother's Judgment	Number of Cases	Average Months between Goal and Father's Judgment	Number of Cases	Average Months between Goal and Both Mother's and Father's Judgment	Number of Cases
Nicholas	1						
Ohio	8	13.83	4	15.58	3	15.58	3
Oldham	5						
Owen	3						
Pendleton	3						
Perry	43	13.57	10	15.88	10	15.88	10
Pike	28	11.80	9	15.98	4	13.91	5
Powell	10						
Pulaski	9						
Robertson	5	12.77	1	12.77	1	12.77	1
Rockcastle	13						
Rowan	1						
Scott	21	11.06	4	11.06	4	11.06	4
Shelby	33	19.92	6	19.92	6	19.92	6
Simpson	12						
Todd	2	8.60	1	8.60	1	8.60	1
Trigg	5	0.77	1	0.77	1	0.77	1
Trimble	4						
Union	4	17.77	1	17.77	1	17.77	1
Warren	65	8.39	14	10.50	15	11.00	14
Webster	2						
Whitley	38	22.27	3	22.27	3	22.27	3
Wolfe	19	15.16	3	15.16	3	15.16	3
Woodford	3	7.63	2	7.63	2	7.63	2
Total	2040	11.69	537	11.87	521	11.97	512

**Time From Current Removal to TPR Judgments
Children in State Custody With a Goal of Adoption as of 8-24-06**

County	Average Months Between Removal and Both Mother's and Father's TPR Judgments	Number of Cases	County	Average Months Between Removal and Both Mother's and Father's TPR Judgments	Number of Cases
Allen	43.01	6	Johnson	16.90	3
Ballard	19.55	2	Kenton	18.30	3
Barren	21.86	7	Knott	13.50	7
Bourbon	48.73	3	Knox	40.89	5
Boyd	29.38	12	Laurel	25.20	8
Boyle	24.60	2	Lawrence	54.51	7
Bracken	25.63	1	Letcher	55.81	3
Breathitt	34.33	2	Lincoln	40.07	5
Bullitt	33.82	2	Madison	41.80	1
Calloway	39.48	2	Magoffin	17.65	2
Campbell	26.31	110	Marshall	23.53	2
Carter	61.99	4	Martin	30.97	1
Christian	30.89	8	McCracken	28.67	17
Clay	59.43	1	McLean	17.07	3
Clinton	49.77	1	Menifee	50.83	4
Crittenden	33.72	2	Mercer	22.63	2
Daviess	25.02	16	Monroe	20.53	2
Elliott	29.50	1	Morgan	31.93	1
Fayette	30.73	45	Ohio	30.02	3
Fleming	30.87	2	Perry	49.12	10
Franklin	47.48	7	Pike	31.85	5
Fulton	20.16	3	Robertson	13.73	1
Garrard	43.04	3	Scott	46.18	4
Graves	41.65	8	Shelby	42.94	6
Greenup	12.32	2	Todd	31.07	1
Hardin	26.07	17	Trigg	13.53	1
Harlan	18.67	4	Union	18.20	1
Hart	14.00	1	Warren	22.86	16
Henderson	20.30	5	Webster	12.10	1
Henry	70.97	2	Whitley	41.08	3
Hopkins	26.89	5	Wolfe	46.53	3
Jackson	20.95	2	Woodford	26.40	2
Jefferson	19.71	152	Total	27.59	575
Jessamine	17.80	2			

Table 8

**Total Months in Care in the Life of the Child by County
Children in State Custody as of 8-24-06**

County	Average Total Months in Care in the Life of the Child	Number of Cases	County	Average Total Months in Care in the Life of the Child	Number of Cases	County	Average Total Months in Care in the Life of the Child	Number of Cases
Adair	22.25	12	Graves	23.97	68	Meade	8.88	17
Allen	30.59	29	Grayson	10.76	67	Menifee	44.58	12
Anderson	10.44	27	Green	11.78	10	Mercer	12.80	53
Ballard	23.00	8	Greenup	20.15	67	Metcalfe	13.50	16
Barren	25.86	44	Hancock	42.63	8	Monroe	25.77	22
Bath	19.21	24	Hardin	27.59	210	Montgomery	40.09	11
Bell	10.64	36	Harlan	25.22	74	Morgan	28.46	13
Boone	20.31	51	Harrison	11.17	6	Muhlenberg	15.73	44
Bourbon	18.85	53	Hart	14.38	40	Nelson	7.10	10
Boyd	25.98	146	Henderson	20.93	68	Nicholas	21.50	4
Boyle	21.08	64	Henry	24.83	23	Ohio	20.59	27
Bracken	30.94	16	Hickman	17.89	9	Oldham	23.57	23
Breathitt	23.09	22	Hopkins	17.47	101	Owen	12.88	8
Breckinridge	20.47	43	Jackson	17.04	24	Owsley	5.50	4
Bullitt	25.70	63	Jefferson	23.20	1268	Pendleton	16.85	34
Butler	21.98	43	Jessamine	25.30	64	Perry	31.28	105
Caldwell	19.57	7	Johnson	17.48	52	Pike	21.37	67
Calloway	21.49	43	Kenton	17.91	407	Powell	20.26	27
Campbell	51.58	267	Knott	19.84	31	Pulaski	14.06	104
Carlisle	0.00	2	Knox	24.14	50	Robertson	33.36	11
Carroll	15.46	28	LaRue	7.88	8	Rockcastle	19.66	50
Carter	33.20	30	Laurel	26.88	102	Rowan	20.47	36
Casey	3.38	8	Lawrence	34.91	23	Russell	11.00	14
Christian	21.53	75	Lee	28.14	21	Scott	31.00	71
Clark	20.30	89	Leslie	12.60	15	Shelby	20.60	104
Clay	16.32	56	Letcher	54.60	15	Simpson	31.86	35
Clinton	17.19	16	Lewis	19.13	8	Spencer	17.25	8
Crittenden	24.45	11	Lincoln	30.08	38	Taylor	18.10	21
Cumberland	0.00	0	Livingston	11.20	5	Todd	19.30	10
Daviess	24.04	198	Logan	21.17	36	Trigg	18.67	12
Edmonson	17.00	39	Lyon	10.60	5	Trimble	14.16	25
Elliott	24.80	10	Madison	27.37	139	Union	14.65	17
Estill	19.72	29	Magoffin	20.35	55	Warren	21.10	245
Fayette	28.47	703	Marion	9.93	27	Washington	6.20	10
Fleming	29.30	30	Marshall	22.75	53	Wayne	8.04	26
Floyd	29.14	37	Martin	12.08	14	Webster	22.08	12
Franklin	22.42	67	Mason	18.59	22	Whitley	20.54	115
Fulton	19.41	34	McCracker	34.14	116	Wolfe	27.10	30
Gallatin	24.20	15	McCreary	11.69	67	Woodford	18.00	28
Garrard	38.25	12	McLean	36.63	8	Total	23.75	7431
Grant	14.97	39						

Note: Total months in care in the life of the child indicates the total months in care for all removal episodes.

**Total Months in Care in the Life of the Child by Goal
Children in State Custody as of 8-24-06**

Most Recent Permanent Goal	Average Total Months in Care in the Life of the Child	Number of Cases	Percentage of Total Cases
Adoption	39.32	2,040	27.45%
Emancipation	46.19	519	6.98%
Legal Guardianship	57.04	23	0.31%
Permanent Relative Placement	20.40	161	2.17%
Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	57.46	400	5.38%
Return to Parent	11.66	3,466	46.64%
Most Recent Permanent Goal Not Provided	3.23	822	11.06%
Total	23.75	7,431	100.00%

Note: Total months in care in the life of the child indicates the total months in care for all removal episodes.

Table 10

Appendix III

Current Placement Settings by Most Recent Permanent Goal Children in State Custody as of 8-24-06

Current Placement Setting	Most Recent Permanent Goal										Total	Percentage of Total Cases	
	Number of Children												
	Adoption	Emancipation	Legal Guardianship	Permanent Relative Placement	Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	Return to Parent	Most Recent Permanent Goal Not Provided						
Adoption	183	1				1						185	2.49%
Alternate Care Facility	1								1			2	0.03%
Alternative Living Arrangements	17	21	7					11	18	2		76	1.02%
Approved Relative	9	4		17				6	312	108		456	6.14%
Children's Psychiatric Hospital	81	17	1	6				9	106	25		245	3.30%
Current Placement Setting Not Provided		1							30	71		102	1.37%
Detention Facility	7	8						5	7	2		29	0.39%
Education	1	3										4	0.05%
Emergency Shelter	1											1	0.01%
Family Treatment Home	61	15		1				32	99	19		227	3.05%
Foster Care	723	56	4	42				92	1,378	341		2,636	35.47%
Foster Care-Medically Fragile	27	1		1				9	58	12		108	1.45%
Hospitals	5								4	1		10	0.13%
Independent Living	1	25						6	1			33	0.44%
Licensed Private Child Care	909	362	11	92				226	1,443	239		3,282	44.17%
Medical Providers	1	4		1					3			9	0.12%
Residential Facility	13	1		1				3	6	2		26	0.35%
Total	2,040	519	23	161	400	3,466	822	7,431	100.00%				

**Table 11
Children Adopted in FFY 2005**

DCBS Service Region	County	Number of Cases	Percentage of Total Cases
Barren River	Allen	2	0.23%
	Barren	3	0.34%
	Butler	6	0.68%
	Edmonson	5	0.57%
	Hart	4	0.46%
	Metcalfe	2	0.23%
	Monroe	3	0.34%
	Simpson	1	0.11%
Warren	38	4.34%	
Barren River Total		64	7.31%
Big Sandy	Johnson	21	2.40%
	Pike	5	0.57%
Big Sandy Total		26	2.97%
Bluegrass	Bourbon	11	1.26%
	Boyle	4	0.46%
	Clark	6	0.68%
	Estill	10	1.14%
	Jessamine	12	1.37%
	Lincoln	9	1.03%
	Madison	19	2.17%
	Mercer	4	0.46%
Scott	16	1.83%	
Bluegrass Total		91	10.39%
Cumberland Valley	Clay	4	0.46%
	Harlan	5	0.57%
	Knox	6	0.68%
	Laurel	28	3.20%
	Whitley	15	1.71%
Cumberland Valley Total		58	6.62%
Fayette	Fayette	55	6.28%
Fayette Total		55	6.28%
Fivco	Boyd	19	2.17%
	Carter	17	1.94%
	Elliott	4	0.46%
Fivco Total		40	4.57%
Gateway/Buffalo Trace	Fleming	2	0.23%
	Menifee	6	0.68%
	Montgomery	3	0.34%
	Morgan	6	0.68%
	Rowan	8	0.91%
Gateway/Buffalo Trace Total		25	2.85%

Note: County indicates the county where the case manger is located. FFY indicates federal fiscal year (October 1st – September 30th).

**Table 11
Children Adopted in FFY 2005**

DCBS Service Region	County	Number of Cases	Percentage of Total Cases
Green River	Daviess	20	2.28%
	Henderson	5	0.57%
	Ohio	10	1.14%
Green River Total		35	4.00%
Kentucky River	Perry	4	0.46%
	Wolfe	25	2.85%
Kentucky River Total		29	3.31%
KIPDA	Jefferson	122	13.93%
KIPDA Total		122	13.93%
KIPDA Rural	Franklin	9	1.03%
	Shelby	33	3.77%
	Woodford	1	0.11%
KIPDA Rural Total		43	4.91%
Lake Cumberland	Clinton	19	2.17%
	McCreary	1	0.11%
	Pulaski	36	4.11%
	Russell	18	2.05%
	Taylor	17	1.94%
Lake Cumberland Total		91	10.39%
Lincoln Trail	Grayson	9	1.03%
	Hardin	39	4.45%
	Marion	12	1.37%
Lincoln Trail Total		60	6.85%
Northern Kentucky	Campbell	66	7.53%
Northern Kentucky Total		66	7.53%
Pennyrile	Christian	16	1.83%
	Hopkins	7	0.80%
Pennyrile Total		23	2.63%
Purchase	Ballard	1	0.11%
	Calloway	7	0.80%
	Fulton	3	0.34%
	Graves	13	1.48%
	Marshall	2	0.23%
	McCracken	22	2.51%
Purchase Total		48	5.48%
Total		876	100.00%

Note: County indicates the county where the case manger is located. FFY indicates federal fiscal year (October 1st – September 30th).

Counties With No Adoptions in FFY 2005

1	Adair	31	Lee
2	Anderson	32	Leslie
3	Bath	33	Letcher
4	Bell	34	Lewis
5	Boone	35	Livingston
6	Bracken	36	Logan
7	Breathitt	37	Lyon
8	Breckinridge	38	Magoffin
9	Bullitt	39	Martin
10	Caldwell	40	Mason
11	Carlisle	41	McLean
12	Carroll	42	Meade
13	Casey	43	Muhlenberg
14	Crittenden	44	Nelson
15	Cumberland	45	Nicholas
16	Floyd	46	Oldham
17	Gallatin	47	Owen
18	Garrard	48	Owsley
19	Grant	49	Pendleton
20	Green	50	Powell
21	Greenup	51	Robertson
22	Hancock	52	Rockcastle
23	Harrison	53	Spencer
24	Henry	54	Todd
25	Hickman	55	Trigg
26	Jackson	56	Trimble
27	Kenton	57	Union
28	Knott	58	Washington
29	Larue	59	Wayne
30	Lawrence	60	Webster

Table 13

Counties With No Adoptions in FFY 2005 by Region

Barren River		Fivco		KIPDA Rural		Pennyrile	
1	Allen	38	Boyd	69	Anderson	104	Caldwell
2	Barren	39	Carter	70	Bullitt	105	Christian
3	Butler	40	Elliott	71	Franklin	106	Crittenden
4	Edmonson	41	Greenup	72	Henry	107	Hopkins
5	Hart	42	Lawrence	73	Oldham	108	Livingston
6	Logan			74	Shelby	109	Lyon
7	Metcalfe	Gateway/Buffalo Trace		75	Spencer	110	Muhlenberg
8	Monroe	43	Bath	76	Trimble	111	Todd
9	Simpson	44	Bracken	77	Woodford	112	Trigg
10	Warren	45	Fleming				
		46	Lewis	Lake Cumberland		Purchase	
Big Sandy		47	Mason	78	Adair	113	Ballard
11	Floyd	48	Menifee	79	Casey	114	Calloway
12	Johnson	49	Montgomery	80	Clinton	115	Carlisle
13	Magoffin	50	Morgan	81	Cumberland	116	Fulton
14	Martin	51	Robertson	82	Green	117	Graves
15	Pike	52	Rowan	83	McCreary	118	Hickman
				84	Pulaski	119	Marshall
Bluegrass Fayette		Green River		85	Russell	120	McCracken
16	Fayette	53	Daviess	86	Taylor		
		54	Hancock	87	Wayne		
Bluegrass Rural		55	Henderson				
17	Bourbon	56	Mclean	Lincoln Trail			
18	Boyle	57	Ohio	88	Breckinridge		
19	Clark	58	Union	89	Grayson		
20	Estill	59	Webster	90	Hardin		
21	Garrard			91	Larue		
22	Harrison	Kentucky River		92	Marion		
23	Jessamine	60	Breathitt	93	Meade		
24	Lincoln	61	Knott	94	Nelson		
25	Madison	62	Lee	95	Washington		
26	Mercer	63	Leslie				
27	Nicholas	64	Letcher	Northern Kentucky			
28	Powell	65	Owsley	96	Boone		
29	Scott	66	Perry	97	Campbell		
		67	Wolfe	98	Carroll		
Cumberland Valley				99	Gallatin		
30	Bell	KIPDA		100	Grant		
31	Clay	68	Jefferson	101	Kenton		
32	Harlan			102	Owen		
33	Jackson			103	Pendleton		
34	Knox						
35	Laurel						
36	Rockcastle						
37	Whitley						

Note: Counties shaded had no adoptions in FFY 2005.

Table 14
Children Adopted in FFY 2005 by Race

County	Race					Total
	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian	Black or African American	Unable to Determine	White	
Allen					2	2
Ballard					1	1
Barren					3	3
Bourbon				1	10	11
Boyd			2		17	19
Boyle			1	1	2	4
Butler					6	6
Calloway					7	7
Campbell	1		5		60	66
Carter			1		16	17
Christian		1	6		9	16
Clark			1		5	6
Clay					4	4
Clinton				2	17	19
Daviess			7		13	20
Edmonson					5	5
Elliott					4	4
Estill			3		7	10
Fayette			25	1	29	55
Fleming					2	2
Franklin				3	6	9
Fulton					3	3
Graves			1		12	13
Grayson					9	9
Hardin			4		35	39
Harlan					5	5
Hart					4	4
Henderson			1		4	5
Hopkins			2		5	7
Jefferson		4	57	4	57	122
Jessamine		2	1		9	12
Johnson					21	21
Knox			1		5	6

Note: Unable to determine is a field denoted in the CFHS TWIST system.

Table 14
Children Adopted in FFY 2005 by Race

County	Race					Total
	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian	Black or African American	Unable to Determine	White	
Laurel					28	28
Lincoln					9	9
Madison	2				17	19
Marion			5	1	6	12
Marshall					2	2
McCracken			9		13	22
McCreary					1	1
Menifee					6	6
Mercer				1	3	4
Metcalfe					2	2
Monroe					3	3
Montgomery					3	3
Morgan					6	6
Ohio			1		9	10
Perry					4	4
Pike					5	5
Pulaski			1		35	36
Rowan			7		1	8
Russell			1		17	18
Scott				2	14	16
Shelby			1		32	33
Simpson			1			1
Taylor				1	16	17
Warren			4	1	33	38
Whitley					15	15
Wolfe					25	25
Woodford					1	1
Total	3	7	148	18	700	876
Percentage	0.34%	0.80%	16.89%	2.05%	79.91%	100.00%

Note: Unable to determine is a field denoted in the CFHS TWIST system.

Time From Current Removal to Goal of Adoption Children Adopted in FFY 2005

County	Number of Removal Episodes							
	1		2		Greater Than or Equal to 3		Total	
	Average Months Between Removal and Goal	Number of Cases	Average Months Between Removal and Goal	Number of Cases	Average Months Between Removal and Goal	Number of Cases	Average Months Between Removal and Goal	Number of Cases
Allen	15.05	2					15.05	2
Ballard	26.27	1					26.27	1
Barren	5.50	1	6.40	2			6.10	3
Bourbon	17.77	11					17.77	11
Boyd	18.04	17			6.27	2	16.80	19
Boyle	13.51	3			10.27	1	12.70	4
Butler	8.88	6					8.88	6
Calloway	22.56	4	5.70	3			15.33	7
Campbell	9.16	55	9.41	8	4.43	1	9.11	64
Carter	18.85	13	6.53	2	12.87	2	16.70	17
Christian	22.44	13	10.90	1	7.27	1	20.66	15
Clark	22.07	4	11.20	1	13.47	1	18.82	6
Clay	24.43	2	12.60	2			18.52	4
Clinton	17.33	16	21.90	2			17.84	18
Daviess	12.39	14	12.71	4	11.30	2	12.35	20
Edmonson	16.07	1	0.33	1	2.58	2	5.39	4
Elliott	13.62	4					13.62	4
Estill	12.56	6	10.90	2	5.93	2	10.90	10
Fayette	17.61	51	7.09	4			16.84	55
Fleming			6.23	1	6.23	1	6.23	2
Franklin	11.66	7	3.12	2			9.76	9
Fulton	11.50	1	35.20	2			27.30	3
Graves	17.41	13					17.41	13
Grayson	16.15	8			4.33	1	14.84	9
Hardin	14.53	27	19.39	9			15.75	36
Harlan	15.36	3	17.30	2			16.13	5
Hart	7.87	4					7.87	4
Henderson	18.71	4			4.70	1	15.91	5
Hopkins	9.22	6	9.30	1			9.23	7
Jefferson	11.35	91	6.25	21	7.98	8	10.23	120
Jessamine	17.33	8	20.63	2	4.70	2	15.78	12
Johnson	13.57	17	5.33	2			12.71	19
Knox	12.61	6					12.61	6

Time From Current Removal to Goal of Adoption Children Adopted in FFY 2005

County	Number of Removal Episodes							
	1		2		Greater Than or		Total	
	Average Months Between Removal and Goal	Number of Cases	Average Months Between Removal and Goal	Number of Cases	Average Months Between Removal and Goal	Number of Cases	Average Months Between Removal and Goal	Number of Cases
Laurel	17.55	11	12.69	11	10.55	5	14.28	27
Lincoln	24.94	9					24.94	9
Madison	16.21	17	16.68	2			16.26	19
Marion	11.00	11	6.80	1			10.65	12
Marshall	38.27	2					38.27	2
McCracken	13.01	16	8.83	6			11.87	22
McCreary	23.27	1					23.27	1
Menifee	18.25	6					18.25	6
Mercer	35.68	4					35.68	4
Metcalfe	7.90	2					7.90	2
Monroe	11.90	3					11.90	3
Montgomery	9.72	3					9.72	3
Morgan	8.51	6					8.51	6
Ohio	10.85	9	6.53	1			10.42	10
Perry	22.57	2	12.67	1	12.60	1	17.60	4
Pike	18.27	4	16.00	1			17.81	5
Pulaski	19.79	28	20.94	6	24.55	2	20.25	36
Rowan	15.50	2	28.04	6			24.91	8
Russell	17.00	14	12.27	2	8.83	2	15.57	18
Scott	18.25	14	12.77	2			17.57	16
Shelby	14.50	24	13.70	8	12.13	1	14.24	33
Simpson	12.13	1					12.13	1
Taylor	22.82	15	44.10	2			25.33	17
Warren	10.45	28	6.55	8	12.07	1	9.65	37
Whitley	14.21	8	4.04	4	12.77	3	11.21	15
Wolfe	21.50	19	13.10	4	16.85	2	19.78	25
Woodford			4.93	1			4.93	1
Total	15.14	678	12.36	140	9.78	44	14.41	862

Table 16

**Time From Goal of Adoption to TPR Judgments
Children Adopted in FFY 2005**

County	Mother's TPR Judgment		Father's TPR Judgment		Both Parents' TPR Judgments	
	Average Months Between Goal and Mother's TPR Judgment	Number of Cases	Average Months Between Goal and Father's TPR Judgment	Number of Cases	Average Months Between Goal and Both Mother's and Father's TPR Judgments	Number of Cases
Allen	24.20	2	24.20	2	24.20	2
Ballard	7.80	1	7.80	1	7.80	1
Barren	6.19	3	6.19	3	6.19	3
Bourbon	6.75	11	6.75	11	6.75	11
Boyd	18.61	19	18.61	19	18.61	19
Boyle	13.26	4	13.26	4	13.26	4
Butler	7.67	6	7.67	6	7.67	6
Calloway	14.79	7	14.79	7	14.79	7
Campbell	13.22	64	13.43	63	13.22	64
Carter	14.33	17	9.76	17	14.44	17
Christian	13.26	15	12.05	16	12.76	16
Clark	8.67	6	8.67	6	8.67	6
Clay	23.10	4	23.10	4	23.10	4
Clinton	8.22	16	8.05	19	8.05	19
Daviess	7.51	19	7.50	19	7.51	19
Edmonson	8.16	5	9.38	4	8.16	5
Elliott	14.33	4	14.47	3	14.33	4
Estill	8.40	10	8.40	10	8.40	10
Fayette	10.77	51	10.75	51	10.77	51
Fleming	5.08	2	0.00	0	5.08	2
Franklin	13.59	8	13.39	8	13.59	8
Fulton	9.12	3	10.87	2	9.12	3
Graves	22.69	11	21.28	12	21.28	12
Grayson	7.65	9	7.55	9	7.65	9
Hardin	12.52	37	16.28	36	16.27	37
Harlan	14.40	5	13.91	4	14.40	5
Hart	9.13	3	9.13	3	9.13	3
Henderson	13.87	5	13.83	5	13.87	5
Hopkins	9.85	7	9.85	7	9.85	7
Jefferson	7.30	116	7.08	114	7.39	116
Jessamine	10.67	12	11.11	12	11.11	12
Johnson	14.80	20	14.80	20	14.80	20
Knox	34.94	6	31.15	3	34.94	6

Table 16

**Time From Goal of Adoption to TPR Judgments
Children Adopted in FFY 2005**

County	Mother's TPR Judgment		Father's TPR Judgment		Both Parent's TPR Judgments	
	Average Months Between Goal and Mother's TPR Judgment	Number of Cases	Average Months Between Goal and Father's TPR Judgment	Number of Cases	Average Months Between Goal and Both Mother's and Father's TPR Judgments	Number of Cases
Laurel	15.88	27	16.11	26	15.88	27
Lincoln	8.05	8	8.05	8	8.05	8
Madison	8.69	19	8.87	17	8.69	19
Marion	5.57	11	5.57	11	5.57	11
Marshall	9.50	2	9.50	2	9.50	2
McCracken	11.18	22	11.44	22	11.44	22
Menifee	8.67	6	8.67	6	8.67	6
Mercer	26.76	4	26.76	4	26.76	4
Metcalfe	11.47	2	11.47	2	11.47	2
Monroe	8.32	3	8.32	3	8.32	3
Montgomery	16.73	2	16.74	2	16.73	2
Morgan	8.51	6	8.51	6	8.51	6
Ohio	7.65	5	7.65	5	7.65	5
Perry	8.16	4	8.16	4	8.16	4
Pike	8.35	5	8.35	5	8.35	5
Pulaski	8.65	36	8.54	33	8.65	36
Rowan	13.19	7	13.19	7	13.19	7
Russell	6.84	18	7.02	17	6.84	18
Scott	13.69	16	14.38	16	14.38	16
Shelby	9.25	24	8.60	26	9.12	26
Simpson	11.67	1	11.67	1	11.67	1
Taylor	8.58	15	8.05	17	8.09	17
Warren	14.45	38	12.95	36	14.53	38
Whitley	22.58	15	22.58	15	22.58	15
Wolfe	12.78	22	12.96	23	13.18	23
Woodford	22.17	1	22.17	1	22.17	1
Total	11.46	827	11.34	815	11.63	837

**Time From Current Removal to TPR Judgments
Children Adopted in FFY 2005**

County	Average Months Between Removal and Both Mother's and Father's TPR Judgments	Number of Cases	County	Average Months Between Removal and Both Mother's and Father's TPR Judgments	Number of Cases
Allen	39.25	2	Johnson	24.50	21
Ballard	34.07	1	Knox	47.55	6
Barren	12.29	3	Laurel	28.78	28
Bourbon	24.52	11	Lincoln	29.92	9
Boyd	35.40	19	Madison	24.95	19
Boyle	25.96	4	Marion	15.42	12
Butler	16.55	6	Marshall	47.77	2
Calloway	30.12	7	McCracken	23.31	22
Campbell	21.63	65	McCreary	22.83	1
Carter	31.13	17	Menifee	26.92	6
Christian	32.00	16	Mercer	62.44	4
Clark	27.49	6	Metcalfe	19.37	2
Clay	41.62	4	Monroe	20.22	3
Clinton	24.70	19	Montgomery	20.73	3
Daviess	19.46	20	Morgan	17.02	6
Edmonson	14.78	4	Ohio	16.51	8
Elliott	27.95	4	Perry	25.76	4
Estill	19.30	10	Pike	26.17	5
Fayette	25.57	55	Pulaski	28.89	36
Fleming	11.32	2	Rowan	36.33	8
Franklin	21.31	9	Russell	22.41	18
Fulton	36.42	3	Scott	31.95	16
Graves	32.32	13	Shelby	21.04	33
Grayson	22.49	9	Simpson	23.80	1
Hardin	28.52	39	Taylor	33.41	17
Harlan	30.53	5	Warren	23.73	38
Hart	14.34	4	Whitley	33.79	15
Henderson	29.78	5	Wolfe	31.38	25
Hopkins	19.08	7	Woodford	27.10	1
Jefferson	15.85	122	Total	24.86	872
Jessamine	26.88	12			

**Time From Key Events to Adoption
Children Adopted in FFY 2005**

County	Number of Cases	Average Months Between Removal and Adoption Finalized	Average Months Between Goal and Adoption Finalized	Average Months Between Both Mother's and Father's TPR Judgments and Adoption Finalized
Allen	2	45.28	30.23	6.03
Ballard	1	38.53	12.27	4.47
Barren	3	28.33	22.23	16.04
Bourbon	11	37.02	19.25	12.50
Boyd	19	52.89	36.09	17.48
Boyle	4	32.57	19.87	6.61
Butler	6	28.57	19.68	12.02
Calloway	7	54.99	39.65	24.87
Campbell	66	37.88	29.38	16.66
Carter	17	44.73	28.03	13.59
Christian	16	49.70	30.46	17.70
Clark	6	51.26	32.43	23.77
Clay	4	46.18	27.67	4.57
Clinton	19	29.59	12.94	4.88
Daviess	20	30.43	18.08	10.97
Edmonson	5	16.83	19.00	10.84
Elliott	4	64.02	50.40	36.07
Estill	10	26.05	15.15	6.75
Fayette	55	35.94	19.10	10.37
Fleming	2	17.27	11.03	5.95
Franklin	9	38.43	28.67	17.12
Fulton	3	44.73	17.43	8.31
Graves	13	53.62	36.21	21.30
Grayson	9	25.76	10.91	3.27
Hardin	39	35.25	22.08	6.74
Harlan	5	40.05	23.92	9.52
Hart	4	18.76	10.89	4.42
Henderson	5	34.47	18.56	4.69
Hopkins	7	30.45	21.22	11.37
Jefferson	122	27.42	17.77	11.57
Jessamine	12	37.90	22.12	11.01
Johnson	21	39.20	28.71	14.70
Knox	6	54.63	42.03	7.08

**Time From Key Events to Adoption
Children Adopted in FFY 2005**

County	Number of Cases	Average Months Between Removal and Adoption Finalized	Average Months Between Goal and Adoption Finalized	Average Months Between Both Mother's and Father's TPR Judgments and Adoption Finalized
Laurel	28	40.48	26.74	11.69
Lincoln	9	46.12	21.17	16.20
Madison	19	32.84	16.58	7.89
Marion	12	21.65	11.01	6.24
Marshall	2	75.28	37.02	27.52
McCracken	22	32.05	20.18	8.74
McCreary	1	29.40	6.13	6.57
Menifee	6	35.71	17.46	8.78
Mercer	4	83.45	47.77	21.01
Metcalfe	2	27.70	19.80	8.33
Monroe	3	26.67	14.77	6.44
Montgomery	3	33.02	23.30	12.29
Morgan	6	31.55	23.04	14.53
Ohio	10	31.17	20.75	18.39
Perry	4	31.68	14.08	5.93
Pike	5	34.71	16.89	8.54
Pulaski	36	38.10	17.86	9.21
Rowan	8	43.21	18.30	6.88
Russell	18	28.04	12.47	5.63
Scott	16	42.12	24.55	10.17
Shelby	33	36.96	22.72	16.48
Simpson	1	26.17	14.03	2.37
Taylor	17	42.83	17.51	9.42
Warren	38	31.56	22.36	7.83
Whitley	15	39.27	28.06	5.48
Wolfe	25	43.09	23.31	11.72
Woodford	1	39.23	34.30	12.13
Total	876	36.20	22.24	11.52

Table 19

**Total Months in Care in the Life of the Child by County
Children Adopted in FFY 2005**

County	Average Total Months in Care in the Life of the Child	Number of Cases	County	Average Total Months in Care in the Life of the Child	Number of Cases
Allen	44.50	2	Johnson	39.76	21
Ballard	38.00	1	Knox	54.67	6
Barren	33.33	3	Laurel	44.82	28
Bourbon	39.00	11	Lincoln	45.44	9
Boyd	53.74	19	Madison	33.00	19
Boyle	34.25	4	Marion	21.33	12
Butler	28.50	6	Marshall	75.00	2
Calloway	58.00	7	McCracken	33.64	22
Campbell	39.12	66	McCreary	29.00	1
Carter	45.29	17	Menifee	35.17	6
Christian	55.50	16	Mercer	82.00	4
Clark	57.00	6	Metcalfe	27.00	2
Clay	46.50	4	Monroe	26.00	3
Clinton	31.68	19	Montgomery	53.33	3
Daviess	30.90	20	Morgan	31.17	6
Edmonson	21.80	5	Ohio	30.80	10
Elliott	63.75	4	Perry	37.25	4
Estill	42.70	10	Pike	34.20	5
Fayette	35.29	55	Pulaski	40.08	36
Fleming	24.50	2	Rowan	45.25	8
Franklin	41.67	9	Russell	28.11	18
Fulton	45.33	3	Scott	41.94	16
Graves	53.15	13	Shelby	45.76	33
Grayson	25.56	9	Simpson	26.00	1
Hardin	37.44	39	Taylor	45.18	17
Harlan	40.20	5	Warren	33.87	38
Hart	18.25	4	Whitley	41.13	15
Henderson	36.00	5	Wolfe	42.88	25
Hopkins	35.43	7	Woodford	55.00	1
Jefferson	30.61	122	Total	38.33	876
Jessamine	41.08	12			

Note: Total months in care in the life of the child indicates the total months in care for all removal episodes.

Table 20
2004 Children Populations by County

County	2004 Child Population Ages 0-17	Ranking from Highest to Lowest 2004 Child Population
Adair	3,945	67
Allen	4,594	58
Anderson	5,114	53
Ballard	1,870	109
Barren	9,227	27
Bath	2,885	91
Bell	6,776	37
Boone	28,155	4
Bourbon	4,563	59
Boyd	10,357	22
Boyle	6,331	43
Bracken	2,145	104
Breathitt	3,688	76
Breckinridge	4,674	56
Bullitt	16,738	10
Butler	3,128	86
Caldwell	2,766	94
Calloway	6,474	40
Campbell	21,267	8
Carlisle	1,159	117
Carroll	2,665	96
Carter	6,460	41
Casey	3,838	73
Christian	20,612	9
Clark	8,129	31
Clay	5,738	47
Clinton	2,093	105
Crittenden	1,946	107
Cumberland	1,632	113
Daviess	23,206	6
Edmonson	2,773	93

County	2004 Child Population Ages 0-17	Ranking from Highest to Lowest 2004 Child Population
Elliott	1,689	111
Estill	3,538	78
Fayette	55,886	2
Fleming	3,769	75
Floyd	9,591	25
Franklin	10,571	21
Fulton	1,859	110
Gallatin	2,389	101
Garrard	3,811	74
Grant	7,040	34
Graves	9,083	28
Grayson	5,876	45
Green	2,624	98
Greenup	8,610	29
Hancock	2,310	103
Hardin	24,923	5
Harlan	7,633	33
Harrison	4,604	57
Hart	4,538	60
Henderson	10,789	19
Henry	3,989	65
Hickman	1,060	119
Hopkins	10,891	17
Jackson	3,435	80
Jefferson	167,831	1
Jessamine	10,813	18
Johnson	5,579	49
Kenton	38,499	3
Knott	3,966	66
Knox	8,194	30
Larue	3,236	83

Note: 2004 child population was provided by Kentucky Youth Advocates Kids Count Data.

Table 20
2004 Children Populations by County

County	2004 Child Population Ages 0-17	Ranking from Highest to Lowest 2004 Child Population	County	2004 Child Population Ages 0-17	Ranking from Highest to Lowest 2004 Child Population
Laurel	13,908	14	Ohio	5,595	48
Lawrence	3,892	69	Oldham	13,677	15
Lee	1,582	115	Owen	2,904	90
Leslie	2,633	97	Owsley	1,129	118
Letcher	5,445	50	Pendleton	4,158	64
Lewis	3,254	82	Perry	6,650	38
Lincoln	6,603	39	Pike	15,054	12
Livingston	2,059	106	Powell	3,502	79
Logan	6,994	35	Pulaski	13,437	16
Lyon	1,200	116	Robertson	562	120
Madison	16,572	11	Rockcastle	3,877	72
Magoffin	3,198	85	Rowan	4,492	61
Marion	4,762	55	Russell	3,646	77
Marshall	6,453	42	Scott	10,015	23
Martin	3,222	84	Shelby	9,383	26
Mason	3,884	70	Simpson	4,329	63
McCracken	14,665	13	Spencer	3,930	68
McCreary	4,439	62	Taylor	5,225	51
McLean	2,484	100	Todd	3,119	87
Meade	8,026	32	Trigg	2,970	88
Menifee	1,611	114	Trimble	2,346	102
Mercer	5,199	52	Union	3,880	71
Metcalfe	2,527	99	Warren	22,394	7
Monroe	2,750	95	Washington	2,884	92
Montgomery	5,941	44	Wayne	4,833	54
Morgan	2,952	89	Webster	3,359	81
Muhlenberg	6,895	36	Whitley	9,650	24
Nelson	10,625	20	Wolfe	1,907	108
Nicholas	1,662	112	Woodford	5,779	46
			Total	993,697	

Note: 2004 child population was provided by Kentucky Youth Advocates Kids Count Data.

Chart 1
Appendix III
Number of Children in State Custody and Children Adopted in FFY 1999-2005

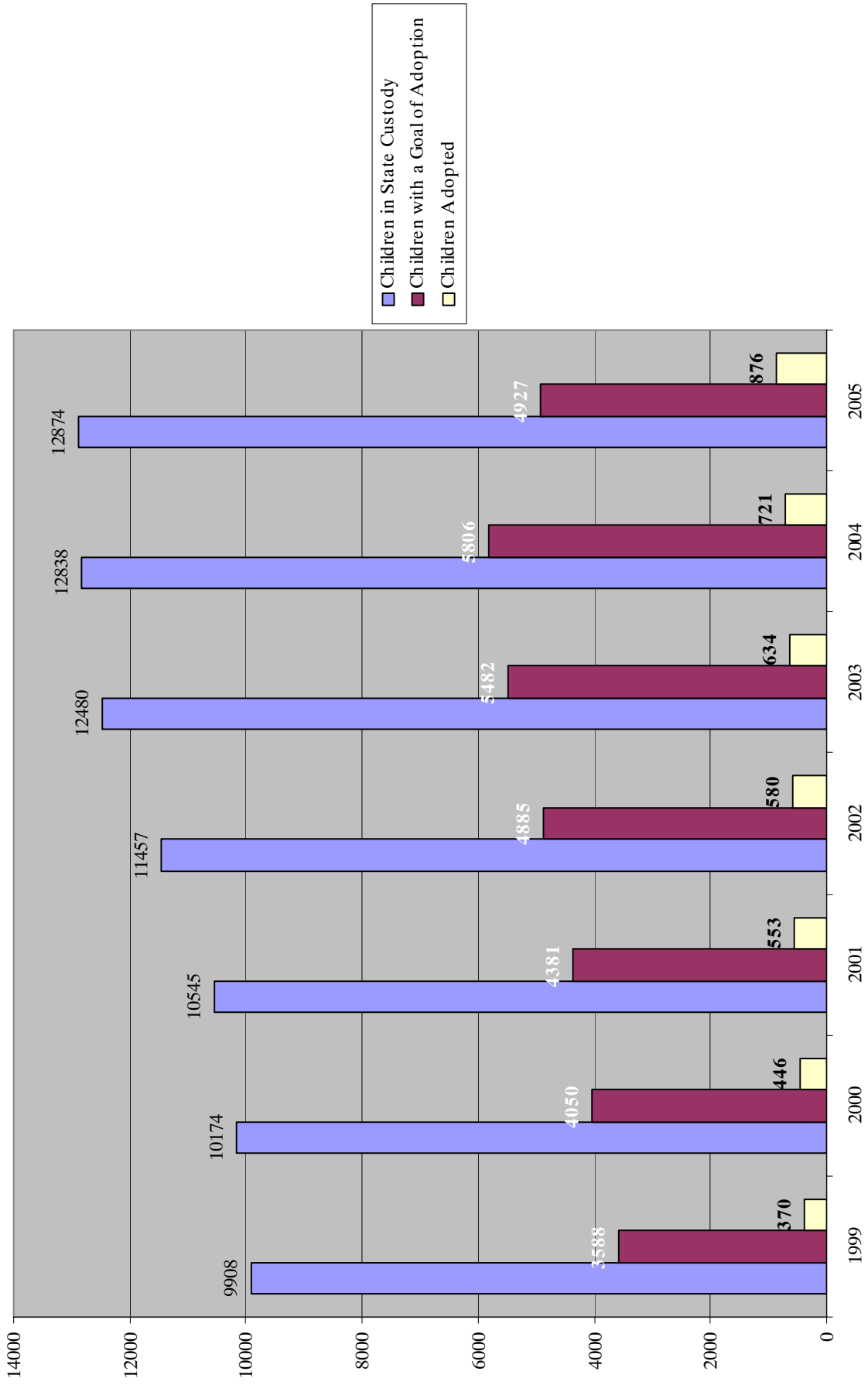


Table 21

**Appendix III
Summary of Time from State Custody to Adoption Key Events Along With Counties With the Highest and Lowest Average Months**

Key Events	Children in State Custody as of August 24, 2006				Children Adopted in FFY 2005			
	Average Months	Average Range	Counties with the Highest Average Months	Counties with the Lowest Average Months	Average Months	Average Range	Counties with the Highest Average Months	Counties with the Lowest Average Months
Removal to Goal of Adoption Table 5 and 15	15 (1996 cases)	3.83- 51.81	Carter, Garrard, Menifee, Letcher, Bourbon	Breathitt, Floyd, Gallatin, Knott, Union	14.41	4.93-38.27 (862 cases)	Marshall, Mercer, Fulton, Ballard, Taylor	Woodford, Edmonson, Barren, Fleming, Hart
Goal of Adoption to Both Parents TPR Judgments Table 6 and 16	11.97 (512 cases)	0.63- 44.53	Breathitt, Allen, Henry, Lawrence, Knox	Harlan, Trigg, Boyle, Jessamine, Christian	11.63	5.08-34.94 (837 cases)	Knox, Mercer, Allen, Clay, Whitley	Fleming, Marion, Barren, Bourbon, Russell
Both Parents TPR Judgments to Adoption Finalized Table 18	Not Applicable		Not Applicable	Not Applicable	11.52	2.37-36.07 (875 cases)	Elliott, Marshall, Calloway, Clark, Graves	Simpson, Grayson, Hart, Ballard, Clay
Removal to Both Parents TPR Judgments Table 7 and 17	27.59 (575 cases)	12.10- 70.97	Henry, Carter, Clay, Letcher, Lawrence	Webster, Greenup, Knott, Trigg, Robertson	24.86	11.32-62.44 (872 cases)	Mercer, Marshall, Knox, Clay, Allen	Fleming, Barren, Hart, Edmonson, Marion
Removal to Adoption Finalized Table 18	Not Applicable		Not Applicable	Not Applicable	36.20	16.83-83.45 (876 cases)	Mercer, Marshall, Elliott, Calloway, Knox	Edmonson, Fleming, Hart, Marion, Grayson
Goal of Adoption to Adoption Finalized Table 18	Not Applicable		Not Applicable	Not Applicable	22.24	6.13-50.40 (876 cases)	Elliott, Mercer, Knox, Calloway, Marshall	McCreary, Hart, Grayson, Marion, Fleming
Total Months in Care in the Life of the Child Table 8 and 19	23.75 (7431 cases)	0-54.60	Letcher, Campbell, Menifee, Hancock, Montgomery	Carlisle, Casey, Owsley, Washington, Nelson	38.33	18.25-82 (876 cases)	Mercer, Marshall, Elliott, Calloway, Clark	Hart, Marion, Edmonson, Fleming, Grayson

Note for Table 1
Children in State Custody as of August 24, 2006

NOTE: The county listed is the county in which the case manager is located and not necessarily the county of removal, placement, or the county in which court proceedings are being conducted.

Note for Table 2
DCBS Service Regions as of August 24, 2006

NOTE: DCBS service regions differ from KY Area Development Districts (ADD) by the following: Gateway and Buffalo Trace are combined into 1 region; Anderson, Franklin, and Woodford are omitted from Bluegrass and added to KIPDA rural; Bluegrass consists of only Fayette; the other Bluegrass counties are listed as Bluegrass Rural; and KIPDA consists of only Jefferson.

Note for Table 4
Children in State Custody as of 8-24-06 by Race

Based on the federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), the race category “Unable to Determine” is utilized when a child is very young or is severely disabled and no person is available to identify the child’s race. “Unable to Determine” is also used if the parent, relative, or guardian is unwilling to identify the child’s race.

Note for Tables 5-7

Twenty-two counties will be excluded from Tables 5 and 6 because these counties do not have children in state custody with a goal of adoption. The 22 counties include the following: Anderson, Bell, Caldwell, Carlisle, Casey, Green, Harrison, Hickman, LaRue, Livingston, Lyon, Marion, Mason, Meade, Metcalfe, Nelson, Owsley, Russell, Spencer, Taylor, Washington, and Wayne. Also, Tables 5 and 6 will exclude Cumberland County because Cumberland County does not have any children in state custody. Therefore, the total number of counties listed on Tables 5 and 6 equals 97 counties. Table 6 list all counties with children in state custody with a goal of adoption but the county may have a blank row due to a TPR date not entered into the TWIST system, TPR had not occurred, or the TPR date was prior to the goal date.

Table 7 will exclude the 23 counties excluded in Tables 5 and 6 plus and additional 31 counties. The 31 counties include the following: Adair, Bath, Boone, Breckinridge, Butler, Carroll, Clark, Edmonson, Estill, Floyd, Gallatin, Grant, Grayson, Hancock, Lee, Leslie, Lewis, Logan, McCreary, Montgomery, Muhlenberg, Nicholas, Oldham, Owen, Pendleton, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Simpson, and Trimble. All of the above 31 counties were excluded from Table 7 because either a TPR date was not provided or the TPR date was prior to the removal date.

Note for Table 5
Time From Current Removal to Goal of Adoption
Children in State Custody With a Goal of Adoption as of 8-24-06

NOTE: Of the 7,431 OOHC population, 2,040 children had a goal of adoption. However, 44 cases had goal dates prior to the current removal episode date. If the date that the goal changed to adoption was prior to the

Notes to Statistical Tables

current removal episode date, a negative number will result when subtracting the 2 dates. The resulting negative number was removed from the population in order not to skew the average.

Note for Table 6**Time From Goal of Adoption to TPR Judgments
Children in State Custody With a Goal of Adoption as of 8-24-06**

NOTE: Of the 2,040 children in OOHC with a goal of adoption, 612 of the mother's TPR judgments, 600 of the father's TPR judgments, and 584 of both the mother's and father's TPR judgment dates were provided. A TPR judgment date not provided may be due to the event has not occurred yet or the event has not been entered into the system.

The table totals do not equal 612 (mother's) or 600 (father's) because 75 of the mother's and 79 of the father's TPR judgment dates were prior to the goal date. In addition, the totals of both TPR judgments do not equal 584 because 72 of both the mother and father's TPR judgment dates were prior to the goal date. A TPR date prior to the goal date results in a negative number when subtracting the 2 dates. The resulting negative number was removed from the population in order not to skew the average.

The date used to compute the average was based on the date that occurred at the latest time. If the mother's and father's TPR occurred on the same date, this column will be the same as both the mother's and father's TPR judgment date.

Note for Table 7**Time From Current Removal to TPR Judgments
Children in State Custody With a Goal of Adoption as of 8-24-06**

NOTE: Of the 2,040 children with a goal of adoption, 584 of both the mother and father's TPR judgment dates were provided. Totals do not equal 584 because 9 of both the mother's and father's TPR judgment dates were prior to the current removal episode date. A TPR date prior to the current removal episode date results in a negative number when subtracting the 2 dates from one another. The resulting negative number was removed from the population in order not to skew the average.

Note for Table 9**Total Months in the Life of the Child by Goal
Children in State Custody with a Goal of Adoption as of 8-24-06**

NOTE: The reason for the goal of legal guardianship may be due to the person having mental disabilities, not being able to care for themselves, and/or not having anyone available to care for them. If no appropriate adult is willing to take legal guardianship, then the person/client is referred to the Guardianship Services Branch. Please refer to KAR 922 1:140 for clarification of the goals.

Note for Table 11**Children Adopted in FFY 2005**

NOTE: The county column indicates the county in which the case manager is located and not necessarily the county of removal, placement, or the county in which court proceedings are being conducted.

Note for Tables 12 and 13
Counties with No Adoptions in FFY 2005
Children Adopted in FFY 2005

Note: There were 60 counties listed as having no adoption in FFY 2005. A county indicating it had zero adoptions may or may not be accurate. A very small county, such as Cumberland, may have very few children entering OOHC which would result in very few to zero adoptions during a FFY.

Counties that are bigger in size with zero adoptions may be due to administrative issues. Each DCBS Service Region (Table 2) encompasses a region-wide Recruitment and Certification (R&C) Family Services Office Supervisor. The region-wide R&C worker is based in only one county in the regional office. Therefore, adoptions within counties of a particular region may be reflected in the one county the R&C supervisor is located. There may be adoptions across each county but the adoption will only be credited to the county where the R&C worker is assigned in the TWIST system.

Note for Table 14
Children Adopted in FFY 2005 by Race

Based on the federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), the race category "Unable to Determine" is utilized when a child is very young or is severely disabled and no person is available to identify the child's race. "Unable to Determine" is also used if the parent, relative, or guardian is unwilling to identify the child's race.

Note for Table 15
Time From Current Removal to Goal of Adoption
Children Adopted in FFY 2005

NOTE: Totals do not equal 876 because 14 of the goal dates were prior to the current removal episode date. A goal changed to adoption date prior to the current removal episode date results in a negative number when subtracting the 2 dates. The resulting negative number was removed from the population in order not to skew the average.

Note for Table 16
Time From Goal of Adoption to TPR Judgments
Children Adopted in FFY 2005

NOTE: Totals do not equal 876 because 49 of the mother's TPR and 60 of the father's TPR judgment dates were prior to the goal date. Also, one father's TPR judgment date was not provided. In addition, 39 of both the mother and father's TPR judgment dates were prior to the goal date. A TPR date prior to the goal date or a TPR date not provided results in a negative number when subtracting the 2 dates. The resulting negative number was removed from the population in order not to skew the average.

The date used to compute the average was based on the date that occurred at the latest time. If the mother's and father's TPR occurred on the same date, this column will be the same as both the mother's and father's TPR judgment date.

Note for Table 17
Time From Current Removal to TPR Judgments
Children Adopted in FFY 2005

NOTE: Totals do not equal 876 because 4 of both the mother and father's TPR judgment dates were prior to the current removal episode date. A TPR date prior to the current removal episode date results in a negative number when subtracting the 2 dates. The resulting negative number was removed from the population in order not to skew the average.

Note for Table 18
Time From Key Events to Adoption
Children Adopted in FFY 2005

NOTE: Shelby County's total for the column titled average months between both mother's and father's TPR judgments and adoption finalized equaled 32 cases rather than 33. One case was eliminated because the adoption-finalized date was prior to the mother's TPR date. The resulting negative number was removed from the population in order not to skew the average.

Note for Chart 1
Number of Children in OOHC and Adopted
FFY 1999-2005

NOTE: Children in OOHC indicates a child in care at least one day during the FFY. Children with a goal of adoption indicates children who have been in care at least one day during the FFY and had a goal of adoption at any point in time during the year. Children adopted indicates number of adoptions completed during the FFY.

Synopsis of Survey Responses From Adoptive Parents

Appendix IV

Note: Written survey mailed to 902 parents that adopted in FFY 2005 – 137 responding.

Question # 1: In what county did the termination of parental rights occur?

Various responses, with the highest numbers in Jefferson and Fayette counties.

Question # 2: In what county was the adoption finalized?

Various responses, with the highest number in Jefferson County with 11.

Question # 3: What was your child's age when your most recent adoption was finalized?

Under 2 years	30
2-5 years	68
6-10 years	45
11-15 years	28
16 years and older	7
Other	1

Question # 4: How did you learn about the adoption programs of the Kentucky Department for Community Based Services (DCBS)?

Newspaper Ads	16
TV Public Service	7
Internet	6
Radio	4
Friend	53
Other	72

Question # 5: How did you originally contact DCBS?

Telephone	89
Email	3
Visit DCBS	31
Other	24

Question # 6: Did the cost of private adoption effect your decision to adopt a child from foster care?

Yes	47
No	82

Question # 7: Please rate how well the DCBS recruitment materials describe the adoption process.

Excellent 41 Good 63 Fair 24 Poor 6

Please rate your experience with your original inquiry about adoption with DCBS.

Excellent 49 Good 65 Fair 18 Poor 5

Please rate your experience with DCBS informational programs.

Excellent 38 Good 72 Fair 20 Poor 5

Please rate your experience with DCBS training programs.

Excellent 45 Good 72 Fair 13 Poor 3

Please rate your experience regarding the certification process.

Excellent 42 Good 72 Fair 14 Poor 4

Synopsis of Survey Responses From Adoptive Parents

Appendix IV

Note: Written survey mailed to 902 parents that adopted in FFY 2005 – 137 responding.

Please rate your experience regarding the home study process.

Excellent 41 Good 71 Fair 20 Poor 2

Question # 8: How many adoption workers did you work with during the adoption process? The respondents indicate a total number of workers to be 315. Dividing the total by the 137 respondents, averages out to be 2.29 workers per adoptive parent.

Question # 9: Please rate your experience with working with the adoption workers.

Excellent 65

Good 55

Fair 8

Poor 6

Question # 10: How could the adoption workers improve the adoption process for prospective adoptive parents?

Overall, respondents of the survey indicated that better communication prior to and throughout the process would be really helpful. They also responded that the social workers need to speed up the process and eliminate some of the paper work. Other comments by the respondents included: “Let adoptive parents know from the beginning exactly what steps are involved and how long, approximately, each step takes.” “Have a step by step pamphlet made to distribute.”

Question # 11: Did you become a foster parent to increase your chances of becoming an adoptive parent?

Yes 63

No 64

N/A 5

Question # 12: Did you experience an adoption that “fell through” before you successfully adopted a foster child? If yes, how many attempts fell through.

Yes 14

No 120

Per the 137 respondents, the number of adoption attempts that “fell through” was 16.

Question # 13: How long did your most recent adoption take from the date of your original inquiry until the adoption was final?

1–12 months 50

13-25 months 49

26-38 months 18

39-76 months 6

Question # 14: Was the length of time it took to adopt more or less than the time expected based on the DCBS orientation?

Longer Than Expected 76

Shorter Than Expected 16

Met Expectations 41

Synopsis of Survey Responses From Adoptive Parents

Appendix IV

Note: Written survey mailed to 902 parents that adopted in FFY 2005 – 137 responding.

Question # 15: What do you consider to be the most significant cause of any delays in the adoption process?

Delayed Permanency Hearings – 20
Lengthy TPR Proceedings – 61
Appeals Related to the Court Proceedings – 9
Private Attorneys Were Not Prepared for Court Proceeding – 9
DCBS' Policies Too Complicated – 12
Adoption Worker Did Not Properly Manage the Case – 23
Adoption Worker Not Well Trained About the Process- 11
Cabinet Attorneys Were Not Prepared for Court Proceedings – 9
Other – 26

Question # 16: If you receive subsidies, is the amount of the monthly subsidy sufficient to offset the cost related to the special needs of your child?

Yes 96
No 31
Do not receive subsidies 5

Question # 17: If your adopted child was also your foster child, did the adoption subsidy:

Increase – 7
Decrease – 32
No Significant Change – 88
This does not apply – 8

Question # 18: Please rate your experience in establishing post-adoption services.

Excellent – 36
Good – 68
Fair – 20
Poor – 9

Question # 19: Are the post-adoption services you receive from DCBS adequate?

Yes – 106
No – 26

Question # 20: Please rank the top three services which you would like to have access but do not currently have.

Note: The respondents did not rank them so we counted them all and gave them a value.

Access to mental health professionals – 16
Counseling and psychological therapy – 17
Speech and Physical Therapy – 13
Respite Care – 23
Day Care – 22
Medicaid – 7
Parenting Education – 15
Education and Training for the Child – 29
Tutoring – 43
Tuition Assistance – 25

Synopsis of Survey Responses From Adoptive Parents

Appendix IV

Note: Written survey mailed to 902 parents that adopted in FFY 2005 – 137 responding.

Other – 26

Question # 21: Has the state ever contacted you with a survey or other means to inquire about your satisfaction with the adoption process?

Yes 42

No 90

Question # 22: What do you believe are the strengths of DCBS' adoption program:

Selected "Comments" by the respondents of the survey but not all comments are listed: "Low or No cost to adoptive parents, subsidies, and after adoption support." "The child is the first priority." "They help pay court cost." "Knowledgeable workers." "The most important strength is so many benefits and services provided the child." "Training programs and support systems."

Question #23: In your view, what are the significant barriers that make it difficult to adopt a child from the foster care system? Selected "Comments" by the respondents of the survey but not all comments are listed: "Family members located locally, kids in program too long and in Foster Care for four years." "Bureaucracy, overworked staff, uncertainty of the availability of the child." "The time it takes for the paperwork." "The court system and lengthy TPR process, rude DCBS workers." "Getting all of the background of the child." "Subsidy was an issue. Our child is a special needs child. He is considered African American, diagnosed with ADHD. He sees a therapist"

Note: Out of the 137 survey responses, only 1 respondent indicated subsidies as a barrier to adopting a child from the foster care system.

Question # 24: What do you believe DCBS should do to improve the adoption process for prospective adoptive parents? Selected "Comments" by the respondents of the survey but not all comments are listed: "Increase staff, improve education for adoption staff, have dedicated adoption staff." "Have a better phone system or switchboard, make workers aware of children available." "More recruitment of foster/adoptive parents." "Respond quickly to inquires about specific kids and keep families informed." "Make sure they know all the benefits that are offered after adoption. Many think all financial." "Make it faster." "Communication to foster parents on status and process." "More meetings to discuss questions about the adoption, etc."

North American Council on Adoptable Children
Summary of State Subsidy Program
For Information www.nacac.org July 2006

State	Maximum Age 2	Basic Age 9	Rates Age 16	Specialized Rates (Age 8)	Nonrecurring Expenses	Subsidized Guardianship
DC	837	837	907	853 to 1,184	2,000	Yes
CT	726	739	807	1,300	750	Kinship only
AZ	654	654	724	784 to 1,064	2,000	Yes
KY	600	600	660	727 to 1,368	1,000	Kinship only
WV	600	600	600	764	1,000	Yes
NV	592	592	682	622 to 1,092	250	Kinship (age 62+)
MD	585	585	585	700 or 2,000	2,000	Yes
AK	580 to 834	580 to 834	580 to 834	plus 225 or 450	2,000	Yes
NH	580	631	744	Yes, case by case	2,000	No
HI	529	529	529	570	2,000	Yes
MA	513	539	558	up to 7.50/hour for svcs	400	Yes
KS	500	500	500	500 - 700 / SSI rate	2,000	Yes
TN	496	496	571	557	1,500	No
NY	460 Metro 419 Upstate	541 Metro 504 Upstate	626 Metro 583 Upstate	1,007 to 1,525	2,000	No
MT	459	459	554	730	2,000	Yes
MI	444	444	547	594 to 984	2,000	No
NJ	435	469	545	519 - 619; 1018 - 1407	2,000	Yes
RI	432	409	474	case by case	400	Yes
IA	428	452	505	600 to 896	500	No
SD	427	427	513	No	1,500	Yes
VT	426	472	524	482 to 684	2,000	No
CA	425	494	597	0 to 1500	400	varies by county
AL	410	434	446	50 to 1,091	1,000	No
NM	408	441	467	620	2,000	Yes, IV-E Waiver
AR	400	425	475	SSI rate	1,500	No
TX	400	400	400	545	1,500	No
WY	399	399	399	No	2,000	Yes
DE	397	397	511	518	2,000	Yes
NC	390	440	490	800 to 1,600	2,000	Select counties/
GA	388	411	433	600 to 1,800	2,000	No
OR	378	393	485	case by case	1,500	Yes
WA	370	446	520	546 to 1,315	1,500	Yes/Dep Guard
IL	369	410	445	970	1,500	Yes
ND	360	407	531	plus 50 to 150 to ??	2,000	Yes
SC	332	359	425	Yes	250	No
MS	325	355	400	500 / SSI rate	1,000	No
VA	325	380	442	Yes	2,000	No
WI	317	346	411	0 to 2,000	2,000	Pilot in 1 cty
FL	295	304	364	plus 150 to 500	1,000	No
CO	293	293	352	Yes	800	No

North American Council on Adoptable Children
Summary of State Subsidy Program
For Information www.nacac.org July 2006

State	Maximum Age 2	Basic Age 9	Rates Age 16	Specialized Rates (Age 8)	Nonrecurring Expenses	Subsidized Guardianship
OK	284	338	392	plus 50 to 400	1,200 / 2,000	Kinship only
ID	274	300	431	plus 90, 150 or 240	2,000	Yes
LA	265	292	319	240 to 258	1,000	Kinship only
OH	250	250	250	251 to 990	2,000	No
MN	247	277	337	plus 150 to 500	2,000	Kinship only
MO	225	275	304	651	2,000	Kinship only
NE	222	291	351	394 to 494	1,500	Yes
IN	varies by county	varies by county	varies by county	Yes, set by county	1,500	Kinship only
PA	varies by county	varies by county	varies by county	0 to 1,050	2,000	Yes
ME	up to 900	up to 900	up to 900	1,800	2,000	Yes
UT	up to 848	up to 848	up to 848	503 to 788	2,000	Yes

Note: Some states reported their rates in per diem and weekly amounts. For comparison, NACAC displays all state data in monthly rates. State data were reported to NACAC in 2005/2006. A handful of state data are from earlier years, including Louisiana, Michigan, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Vermont.

Adoption Assistance Payments by County

County	Adoption Monthly Amount	Number of Cases
Allen	\$600.00	1
	\$660.00	1
Allen Total		2
Ballard	\$1,095.00	1
Ballard Total		1
Barren	\$660.00	1
	\$666.00	1
	\$1,125.00	1
Barren Total		3
Bourbon	\$600.00	8
	\$660.00	3
Bourbon Total		11
Boyd	\$600.00	4
	\$657.00	1
	\$666.00	9
	\$727.00	2
	\$1,125.00	1
	\$1,277.00	2
Boyd Total		19
Boyle	\$600.00	1
	\$610.70	1
	\$660.00	1
	\$1,277.00	1
Boyle Total		4
Butler	\$666.00	5
	\$1,278.00	1
Butler Total		6
Calloway	\$600.00	4
	\$1,035.00	1
	\$1,065.00	2
Calloway Total		7

County	Adoption Monthly Amount	Number of Cases
Campbell	\$0.00	6
	\$300.00	2
	\$400.00	4
	\$450.00	1
	\$460.00	2
	\$500.00	4
	\$550.00	1
	\$600.00	21
	\$660.00	2
	\$666.00	5
	\$846.00	1
	\$850.00	1
	\$900.00	1
	\$1,110.00	1
\$1,125.00	7	
Campbell Total	\$1,260.00	1
	\$1,277.00	4
Carter	\$1,277.99	1
	Not Provided	1
Carter Total		66
Carter	\$600.00	3
	\$666.00	10
	\$727.00	1
	\$1,277.00	3
Carter Total		17
Christian	\$600.00	4
	\$660.00	1
	\$666.00	4
	\$727.00	3
	\$1,125.00	2
	\$1,277.00	2
Christian Total		16

Adoption Assistance Payments by County

County	Adoption Monthly Amount	Number of Cases
Clark	\$600.00	3
	\$660.00	2
	\$1,125.00	1
Clark Total		6
Clay	\$600.00	4
Clay Total		4
Clinton	\$600.00	7
	\$666.00	7
	\$727.00	1
	\$1,125.00	1
	\$1,277.00	3
Clinton Total		19
Daviess	\$600.00	14
	\$660.00	2
	\$666.00	4
Daviess Total		20
Edmonson	\$600.00	5
Edmonson Total		5
Elliott	\$600.00	1
	\$1,277.00	3
Elliott Total		4
Estill	\$600.00	2
	\$660.00	2
	\$666.00	3
	\$790.00	1
	\$1,277.00	1
\$1,349.00	1	
Estill Total		10
Fayette	\$518.30	2
	\$600.00	27
	\$610.00	3
	\$660.00	4
	\$666.00	6
	\$727.00	3
	\$978.00	1
	\$1,125.00	3
	\$1,260.00	2
	\$1,368.00	1
	\$1,624.25	2
\$2,685.00	1	
Fayette Total		55

County	Adoption Monthly Amount	Number of Cases
Fleming	\$666.00	1
	\$1,277.00	1
Fleming Total		2
Franklin	\$600.00	3
	\$666.00	2
	\$1,110.00	4
Franklin Total		9
Fulton	\$496.00	2
	\$557.00	1
Fulton Total		3
Graves	\$600.00	5
	\$666.00	2
	\$1,005.00	2
	\$1,033.00	1
	\$1,095.00	1
	\$1,266.00	1
\$1,277.00	1	
Graves Total		13
Grayson	\$600.00	5
	\$660.00	1
	\$666.00	2
	\$1,125.00	1
Grayson Total		9
Hardin	\$0.00	3
	\$600.00	13
	\$660.00	4
	\$666.00	4
	\$727.00	7
	\$762.00	1
	\$1,125.00	6
	\$1,277.00	1
Hardin Total		39
Harlan	\$16.00	1
	\$660.00	1
	\$717.00	1
	\$741.00	1
	\$780.00	1
Harlan Total		5

Adoption Assistance Payments by County

County	Adoption Monthly Amount	Number of Cases
Hart	\$660.00	2
	\$666.00	1
	\$1,732.00	1
Hart Total		4
Henderson	\$600.00	5
Henderson Total		5
Hopkins	\$0.00	1
	\$666.00	2
	\$727.00	2
	\$1,125.00	2
Hopkins Total		7
Jefferson	\$0.00	4
	\$102.00	1
	\$600.00	61
	\$660.00	14
	\$666.00	24
	\$727.00	6
	\$1,125.00	5
\$1,277.00	7	
Jefferson Total		122
Jessamine	\$500.00	1
	\$600.00	4
	\$666.00	2
	\$1,277.00	5
Jessamine Total		12
Johnson	\$102.00	1
	\$559.00	1
	\$600.00	5
	\$654.33	1
	\$660.00	1
	\$666.00	7
	\$973.33	1
	\$1,125.00	1
\$1,277.00	2	
\$1,377.00	1	
Johnson Total		21
Knox	\$600.00	3
	\$666.00	1
	\$727.00	2
Knox Total		6

County	Adoption Monthly Amount	Number of Cases
Laurel	\$465.00	2
	\$590.00	2
	\$600.00	2
	\$660.00	6
	\$665.00	1
	\$666.00	3
	\$795.00	3
	\$823.34	1
	\$880.00	1
	\$991.00	1
	\$1,033.34	2
\$1,125.00	4	
Laurel Total		28
Lincoln	\$600.00	4
	\$1,155.83	1
	\$1,240.00	2
	\$1,277.00	2
Lincoln Total		9
Madison	\$600.00	9
	\$660.00	3
	\$727.00	3
	\$1,147.00	1
\$1,277.00	3	
Madison Total		19
Marion	\$600.00	5
	\$666.00	5
	\$1,125.00	2
Marion Total		12
Marshall	\$660.00	1
	\$1,125.00	1
Marshall Total		2
McCracken	\$541.00	1
	\$557.00	1
	\$600.00	8
	\$665.00	2
	\$666.00	5
	\$1,013.00	1
\$1,065.00	1	
\$1,277.00	3	
McCracken Total		22

Adoption Assistance Payments by County

County	Adoption Monthly Amount	Number of Cases
McCreary	\$1,277.00	1
McCreary Total		1
Menifee	\$0.00	1
	\$600.00	5
Menifee Total		6
Mercer	\$600.00	1
	\$660.00	1
	\$727.00	1
	\$1,277.00	1
Mercer Total		4
Metcalfe	\$600.00	2
Metcalfe Total		2
Monroe	\$660.00	2
	\$666.00	1
Monroe Total		3
Montgomery	\$5.00	1
	\$727.00	1
	\$1,277.00	1
Montgomery Total		3
Morgan	\$600.00	1
	\$660.00	2
	\$666.00	3
Morgan Total		6
Ohio	\$0.00	2
	\$600.00	5
	\$660.00	1
	\$666.00	1
	\$2,700.00	1
Ohio Total		10
Perry	\$600.00	1
	\$661.85	1
	\$665.00	1
	\$667.95	1
Perry Total		4
Pike	\$660.00	1
	\$666.00	4
Pike Total		5

County	Adoption Monthly Amount	Number of Cases
Pulaski	\$600.00	7
	\$660.00	1
	\$666.00	14
	\$727.00	1
	\$1,008.00	2
	\$1,125.00	2
	\$1,277.00	7
	\$1,361.00	2
Pulaski Total		36
Rowan	\$666.00	4
	\$1,277.00	4
Rowan Total		8
Russell	\$600.00	7
	\$666.00	9
	\$1,125.00	1
	\$1,277.00	1
Russell Total		18
Scott	\$1.00	1
	\$591.00	2
	\$600.00	2
	\$660.00	8
	\$727.00	2
	\$1,260.00	1
Scott Total		16
Shelby	\$600.00	14
	\$660.00	8
	\$666.00	9
	\$727.00	2
Shelby Total		33
Simpson	\$600.00	1
Simpson Total		1
Taylor	\$600.00	4
	\$666.00	7
	\$727.00	2
	\$1,277.00	4
Taylor Total		17

Adoption Assistance Payments by County

County	Adoption Monthly Amount	Number of Cases
Warren	\$0.00	1
	\$165.00	1
	\$600.00	19
	\$660.00	6
	\$666.00	6
	\$727.00	1
	\$1,124.00	1
	\$1,277.00	2
	\$1,361.00	1
Warren Total		38
Whitley	\$660.00	14
	\$665.00	1
Whitley Total		15
Wolfe	\$500.00	1
	\$600.00	3
	\$600.85	3
	\$610.70	1
	\$660.00	1
	\$661.85	2
	\$666.00	7
	\$667.95	2
	\$672.70	2
	\$700.00	1
	\$1,067.50	1
	\$1,128.50	1
Wolfe Total		25
Woodford	\$660.00	1
Woodford Total		1
Total		876

Agency Comments From The Department for Community Based Services

Appendix VII



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES**

Office of the Commissioner
COA Accredited Agency

Ernie Fletcher
Governor

Mark D. Birdwhistell
Secretary

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December 13, 2006

Crit Luallen, Auditor
Auditor of Public Accounts
105 Sea Hero Road, Suite 2
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Auditor Luallen:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the November 2006 draft version of the "Kentucky Adoption Policies – Alleviating the Barriers" performance audit. Please accept the following as the Department for Community Based Services' response to the recommendations made within the report:

Timeliness of Legal Proceedings

Recommendation #1: DCBS should improve the concurrent planning process. Efforts should be made to recruit, process and approve a qualified adoptive family for a child when it files or joins a petition to terminate parental rights. This will reduce the amount of time that children and adoptive parents must wait for a finalized adoption.

The Cabinet agrees that achieving permanency for children is of great importance and works diligently to reduce the amount of time it takes to finalize an adoption. DCBS Standards of Practice for initiating the concurrent planning process represent current best practice and federal guidelines. In fact, the Cabinet is particularly proud of its achievement of improved times toward adoption that increased from a baseline of 16.2% to 29% during the Department's Program Improvement Plan. Additionally, agency regulations require a child to be registered with SNAP for recruitment of an adoptive family if an approved family has not been identified within one (1) month after the child is freed for adoption.

Recommendation #2: Cabinet attorneys should continue to work with adoptive families to assist in finalizing adoptions. Cabinet attorneys are familiar with the case due to the termination of parent rights actions and should be able to file the petition as soon as parental rights have been terminated.

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CHFS attorneys must avoid any actual or perceived conflicts of interest in assisting adoptive families in finalizing adoptions. CHFS attorneys are bound by ethical and legal obligations to represent the Cabinet's interests in protecting the welfare of children to the exclusion of the interests of other private parties, including those of adoptive families. However, CHFS attorneys are committed to working cooperatively and amicably with adoptive families to achieve goals that are in children's best interest.

Recommendation #3: The database maintained by the Cabinet's Office of Legal Services should document brief case notes as to the reason for delays in termination of parental right judgments. These reasons could provide necessary information to determine and address the cause of these delays.

The Cabinet agrees that documenting delays in TPR cases in the Office of Legal Services' database will provide additional information for use in the identification of individual and systemic issues related to legal proceedings.

The Cabinet would like to note that the Office of Legal Services' Regional Attorneys are prohibited from requesting a continuance of a TPR trial without the approval of their immediate supervisor, an Assistant General Counsel. The Office of Legal Services will employ a process that assures documentation of each request for a continuance and the grounds for such requests.

Recommendation #4: DCBS should conduct a regional/county study related to the caseload and timelines to determine if targeted action should be taken for improvement. Inconsistent practices or court delays should be addressed where needed.

The Department for Community Based Services monitors the timeliness of the finalization of adoptions on a continuing basis in compliance with the federal Child and Family Services Review. Issues and trends identified related to court delays are addressed collaboratively with the Administrative Office of the Courts when necessary.

Recruitment of Adoptive Parents

Recommendation #1: A public awareness campaign should be conducted to recruit adoptive parents and inform the public that these children need permanent loving homes by implementing the following:

- The Cabinet should attempt to work with private adoption agencies so that these children will come to the attention of people interested in adoption.
- DCBS should publicize a single adoption hotline number statewide. If possible, DCBS should employ operators for the resource parent hotline who will specialize in answering calls from prospective resource parents, answering questions, sending out information packets, filling out TRIS forms, and referring requests to the appropriate DCBS regional office. If calls are made to local offices, staff could transfer the calls to the assigned toll-free number.
- Professional staff specializing in handling inquiries might be better able to handle the workload in a consistent manner than other staff persons who must address other tasks and fulfill other responsibilities not related to handling inquiries. If this

Agency Comments From The Department for Community Based Services

Appendix VII

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is not possible, DCBS should train staff persons in handling inquiries with an emphasis on encouraging the interest of those inquiring and ensuring that records are properly maintained and information packets are sent to prospective resource parents.

- Successful pilot projects should be implemented statewide.

DCBS maintains two statewide toll-free numbers that are used for general recruitment purposes. The toll-free lines are staffed by specialists in the Out Of Home Care Branch and the Adoption Services Branch that are trained to respond to inquiries, complete the necessary forms and notify the Recruitment and Certification (R&C) Family Services Office Supervisor (FSOS) in the service region where the caller resides.

The Department for Community Based Services uses a variety of public relations activities to publicize the need for adoptive homes. Specifically, the Department maintains the Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP) website, participates in two national adoption program websites, publicize SNAP children in newspapers and magazines and on television and radio, information booths at conferences/sporting events, traveling photo galleries,

DCBS SNAP staff also works with the following local and statewide foster/adoption programs to promote awareness regarding the critical need for foster and adoptive parents in KY: Friday's Child, Bardstown; For Jamie's Sake, Ashland, For the Love of a Child, London; Adoption Support for Kentucky (ASK); Kentucky Foster/Adoptive Care Association (KFACA); Kentucky Foster & Adoptive Parent Training Support Network; Kentucky Adoption Coalition and The Children's Alliance.

Recommendation #2: Expenditure data on recruitment activities should be tracked by DCBS so that a cost-benefit analysis can be conducted annually to determine the most cost effective methods based on cost. This analysis can be used to determine recruitment activities statewide. In addition, DCBS should continue its efforts to obtain federal and private funding to help pay for recruitment initiatives.

Federal IV-B Subpart II (Adoption Promotion and Support) funds are tracked by the Division of Administration and Financial Management (DAFM). These funds are used specifically to promote adoption by supporting recruitment activities and the purchase of promotion and recruitment materials.

Financial Incentives

Recommendation #1: The Department for Community Based Services continue its effort to make its monthly adoption subsidy equal to the foster care per diem daily payments. We also recommend that they continue their efforts to eliminate the negotiation process for the monthly subsidy because it appears that it would have a positive effect on adoption placements and finalizations. The Cabinet should also advertise the financial benefits provided for public adoptions.

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The Department is awaiting clarification from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services related to the provision of adoption assistance program and benefits. Agency regulations governing the monthly subsidy will be amended once clarification is received.

The financial assistance available to individuals adopting a child is included in materials provided to potential adoptive parents.

Recommendation #2: The cases of noncompliance should be reviewed to determine accuracy of the data and whether the adoption assistance is in compliance with 922 KAR 1:050. If the negotiation process is removed, additional oversight will be needed to ensure that adoption assistance funds are provided according to needs and that the data supports these needs.

The Cabinet will review cases the APA has identified as noncompliant to ensure the accuracy of the assistance provided. The Cabinet notes that special needs criteria for adoption is less stringent than the criteria applied to foster care and is meant to be as inclusive as possible. Adoption Assistance may be available to any child for whom an adoptive placement is unlikely without assistance and who has one or more of the following conditions or circumstances called "special needs" that make them hard to place:

- A physical or mental disability;
- An emotional or behavioral disorder;
- A recognized/documented risk of physical, mental or emotional disorder;
- A member of a sibling group (defined as two (2) or more children) in which the siblings are placed together in the same adoptive placement;
- Previous adoption disruption or multiple placements*;
- An African American child two (2) years old or older*; or
- Age seven (7) or older with a significant emotional attachment or psychological tie to his foster family and the Department has determined that it would be in the child's best interest to remain with the family*.

*Applies only to adoption.

Other Issues for Consideration

Recommendation #1: The Cabinet and DCBS should strengthen state regulations for independent adoptions to ensure the same oversight required for private adoption agencies.

The Cabinet is dedicated to ensuring that child placing agencies and child caring facilities are meeting the regulatory requirements outlined in 922 KAR 1:310 and 922 KAR 1:300. The Department of Community Based Services and the Division of Regulated Child Care within the Office of the Inspector General will continue to work to strengthen the aforementioned regulations.

Recommendation #2: The Cabinet and DCBS should conduct further study on the effectiveness of birth father putative registries and follow the possible passage of the

Adoption Performance Audit Response
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Proud Father Act of 2006. Implement any necessary changes based on further study and passage of any federal legislation.

The Cabinet will continue to monitor federal legislation related to birth father putative registries and explore the effectiveness and operational expenses of registries operational in other states.

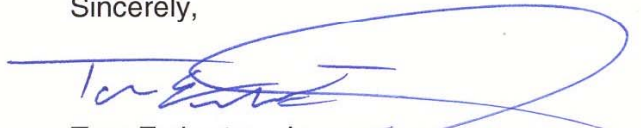
Recommendation #3: The Division of Regulated Child Care should provide additional training/clarification to child-placing and child-caring agencies across Kentucky on licensure requirements, inspection procedures, and the statements of deficiency. This will alleviate any miscommunication or confusion related to agency inspections.

The Division of Regulated Child Care provides training and clarification to child-placing and child-caring within current budgetary constraints and will continue to enhance training efforts.

I trust you will find this fully responsive to the performance audit and appreciate the opportunity to work together to serve the best interest of all Kentuckians.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Tom Emberton, Jr.
Commissioner

Copy: Wesley R. Butler
Robert J. Benvenuti, III



Ernie Fletcher
Governor

**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**

Mark D. Birdwhistell
Secretary

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DATE: December 1, 2006

TO: Becky Walsh
Performance Audit Division
Auditor for Public Accounts

Marcia James
Commissioner's Office
Department of Community Based Services
Cabinet for Health and Family Services

THROUGH: Robert Hester
Director
Division of Regulated Child Care
Office of the Inspector General

FROM: LaShana Harris
Assistant Director
Division of Regulated Child Care
Office of the Inspector General

RE: **REPLY MEMORANDUM TO CHAPTER SIX OF THE DOCUMENT ENTITLED
KENTUCKY'S ADOPTION POLICIES-ALLEVIATING THE BARRIERS**

This memorandum is written in response to information contained in the Preliminary Performance Audit of Kentucky's Adoption Policies. The Division of Regulated Child Care in the Office of the Inspector General within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services is the governmental entity

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REPLY MEMORANDUM
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charged with the responsibility of licensing and regulating child placing agencies as well as child caring facilities pursuant to KRS 199.640. Child placing agencies, defined at 199.011(6), means any agency licensed by the Cabinet which supervises the placement of children in foster family homes or child-caring facilities, or which places children for adoption. Child caring facilities, defined at KRS 199.011(6), means any institution or group home, including institutions and group homes that are publicly operated, providing residential care on a 24-hour basis to children, not related by blood, adoption, or marriage to the person maintaining the facility, other than an institution or group home certified by an appropriate agency as operated primarily for educational or medical purposes, or a residential program operated or contracted by the DJJ that maintains accreditation, or obtains accreditation within 2 years of opening from a nationally recognized accrediting organization. Although child placing agencies and child caring facilities have the same licensure procedures, it is important to note that the two entities are very distinct in definition and function, as evidenced by the standards for the child placing agencies described in 922 KAR 1:310 and the standards for child caring facilities described in 922 KAR 1:300.

Chapter six of the publication states that members of the Adoption Coalition do not think that inspections should be unannounced and they would like to have notice of the inspections. Moreover, the Chapter also makes a distinction between staff not being required to be present for child placing agencies versus staff required to be present on the premises for child caring if a child is present. This recommendation is problematic for several reasons. First, all inspections should be unannounced. Inspections are unannounced so that the Division of Regulated Child Care can assess if the agency or facility is meeting the minimum regulatory requirements without notice on a continuous basis. Providing notice would allow a facility the opportunity to manipulate files that would otherwise be insufficient, thus yielding a deficient regulatory practice. KRS 199.640 states that the Cabinet should establish and follow guidelines that insure that any facility or agency licensed to conduct, operate or maintain a child-caring facility or child placing agency complies with the requirement of the standards on an ongoing basis. Second, a staff person or contractor must be present during a licensure inspection. Although 922 KAR 1:310 does not clearly state that staff must be present for child placing inspections, it is extremely important that someone familiar with the agency's filing system be on the premises. In order to execute a licensure inspection, it is imperative that a staff member of the agency or facility be present to assist any representative of the Division of Regulated Child Care in navigating the filing systems, locating any documentation that is reviewed and audited and to answer any questions.

The items listed on page forty six (46) in the fifth paragraph of Chapter six of the publication are those issues that can be found in licensed child care center or day care center inspections, which the Division of Regulated Child Care licenses and regulates as well. During a licensure inspection of a child placing facility, the Division of Regulated Child Care examines many issues, some of which are as follows: staff records and training; child records and history; the agency's policies and procedures; foster applicant records; prospective adoptive parent records; incident reports; and foster home records, just to name a few. The documentation audit for both child placing agencies and child caring facilities is a very extensive procedure.

Once an inspection has been completed at a child placing agency, the representative of the Division of Regulated Child Care conducts an exit conference with the agency or facility. During this exit

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conference, the representative verbally explains each regulatory violation found during the course of the licensure inspection. The representative also generates a document called a Statement of Deficiency. This document is the official work product of an inspection. The Statement of Deficiency details whether a facility meets minimum standards and has no regulatory violations or whether a facility does not meet the minimum standards and has regulatory violations. The Statement of Deficiency, if regulatory violations are found, clearly indicates the regulation that was violated and the conditions that were found at the time of the inspection. The Statement of Deficiency also has a section called a Plan of Correction. The Plan of Correction is the area within the document where a child placing agency details when and what was done to correct the regulatory violation and how the agency will maintain future compliance.

The Division of Regulated Child Care within the Office of the Inspector General is dedicated to ensuring that child placing agencies and child caring facilities are meeting the minimum regulatory requirements outlined in 922 KAR 1:310 and 922 KAR 1:300. However, please note that the Division of Regulated Child Care does recognize that there are gray areas within the regulatory standards that need to be addressed as well as other standards that need to be revised or changed; nevertheless, the Division of Regulated Child Care does not possess ownership of the regulations and as a result cannot open the regulations. The Department of Community Based Services owns and controls the regulations.

The Division of Regulated Child Care would like to submit the following information:

- 1) The Division of Regulated Child Care does meet with the Adoption Coalition and the Foster Family Treatment Association.
- 2) The Division of Regulated Child Care is undergoing a reorganization and a new branch has been created that will oversee child placing agencies and child caring facilities.

The Division of Regulated Child Care would like to make the following recommendations:

- 1) That ownership of the regulations that govern the agencies and facilities that are licensed and regulated by the Division of Regulated Child Care be given to the Division of Regulated Child Care in the Office of the Inspector General or that ownership of the regulations be shared between the Division of Regulated Child Care in the Office of the Inspector General and the Department of Community Based Services.
- 2) That money be allotted within the Cabinet budget to provide training to child placing agencies and child caring facilities throughout Kentucky on licensure procedures and protocol to alleviate any agency or facility confusion.

Contributors To This Report

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Obtaining Audit Reports

Copies of this report or other previously issued reports can be obtained for a nominal fee by faxing the APA office at 502-564-0067. Alternatively, you may order by mail:

Report Request
Auditor of Public Accounts
105 Sea Hero Rd. Ste. 2
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

visit : 8 AM to 4:30 PM weekdays

email: crit.luallen@auditor.ky.gov

browse our web site: <http://www.auditor.ky.gov>

Services Offered By Our Office

The staff of the APA office performs a host of services for governmental entities across the commonwealth. Our primary concern is the protection of taxpayer funds and furtherance of good government by elected officials and their staffs. Our services include:

Financial Audits: The Division of Financial Audit conducts financial statement and other financial-related engagements for both state and local government entities. Annually the division releases its opinion on the Commonwealth of Kentucky's financial statements and use of federal funds.

Examination and Information Technology: The Division supplies computer system control expertise and investigates citizen complaints. The Division audits computer system security and other controls and performs system data analysis. Our fraud hotline, 1-800-KY-ALERT (592-5378), and referrals from various agencies and citizens produce numerous cases of suspected fraud and misuse of public funds referred to prosecutorial offices when warranted.

Performance Audits: The Division of Performance Audit conducts performance audits, performance measurement reviews, benchmarking studies, and risk assessments of government entities and programs at the state and local level in order to identify opportunities for increased efficiency and effectiveness.

Training and Consultation: We annually conduct training sessions and offer consultation for government officials across the state. These events are designed to assist officials in the accounting and compliance aspects of their positions.

General Questions

General questions should be directed to Jeff Derouen, Director of Communication, at (502) 573-0050 or the address above.