



DFS White Paper:

Trends in Youth Residential Treatment 1999-2012

10/31/2102

1. Wyoming has the highest national percentage of foster care children in congregate care, which includes residential treatment (AFCARS, 2009).
2. According to research, most of the gains in residential treatment are made within the first 6 months of treatment (Shapiro, et. al., 1999) (Hair, 2005).
3. In recent years several large states have successfully decreased the average length of stays in residential treatment to an average of 2 to 4 months (Bilchik, S., year unknown).
4. Successful residential treatment includes (Leichtman, et. al., 2001):
 - high levels of family participation (Jivanjee, et. al. 2002).
 - shorter length of stays
 - strong focus on discharge planning with emphasis on community supports
 - specific treatment on behavioral and mental health needs
5. Reliance on medications to control or moderate behaviors in residential treatment is ill-advised and was not predictive of outcome success (Foltz, 2004). Utilization of strengths based approaches with a focus on the role of therapeutic relationships and building of pro-social skills increased treatment efficacy.
6. Intensive, short-term residential treatment (3-4 months) demonstrated significant improvement at discharge and at a 12-month follow-up (Leichtman, et. al., 2001).
7. Longer stays in congregate care do not increase treatment effectiveness and show (Lyons, 1997, 2009)(Leon, 1999):
 - a loss of connection with the originating community
 - educational setbacks
 - increased exposure to deviant behaviors

"For most children, placement within a family setting is preferable. In addition, federal law requires that states consider giving preference to relative caregivers when a child must be placed in foster care...The experience of being part of a family helps children who may have suffered from abuse and neglect understand what it means to be part of a safe and supportive home...Child welfare research has also shown that youth who live in institutional settings are at greater risk of developing physical, emotional and behavioral problems that can lead to poor outcomes and are less likely to find a permanent home than those who live in foster families."

Annie E. Casey Data Snapshot on Foster Care Placement, 2009



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Resource Notes: Trends in Youth Residential Treatment 1999-2012

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DATA SNAPSHOT

	TOTAL IN FOSTER CARE		FOSTER FAMILY RELATIVE		FOSTER FAMILY NON-RELATIVE		GROUP HOME OR INSTITUTION		OTHER	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alabama	5,137		579	11	2,754	54	1,008	20	796	15
Alaska	2,166		474	22	815	38	181	8	696	32
Arizona	10,095		3,477	34	4,755	47	1,255	12	628	6
Arkansas	3,654		462	13	2,122	58	719	20	351	10
California	60,198		16,225	27	28,272	47	6,654	11	9,047	15
Colorado	7,874		1,110	14	3,153	40	2,818	36	793	10
Connecticut	4,636		655	14	2,004	43	1,295	28	702	15
Delaware	797		101	13	506	63	112	14	78	10
District of Columbia	2,068		322	16	960	46	293	14	491	24
Florida	19,155		8,008	42	7,939	41	2,541	13	667	3
Georgia	7,995		1,205	15	4,705	59	1,588	20	497	6
Hawaii	1,436		641	45	629	44	132	9	34	2
Idaho	1,446		334	23	860	59	124	9	128	9
Illinois	17,079		5,990	35	7,073	41	1,823	11	2,193	13
Indiana	12,404		2,980	24	7,326	59	1,956	16	142	1
Iowa	6,564		1,334	20	2,226	34	1,411	21	1,593	24
Kansas	5,688		1,317	23	2,876	51	439	8	1,056	19
Kentucky	6,872		598	9	4,300	63	1,442	21	532	8
Louisiana	4,786		1,059	22	2,721	57	478	10	528	11
Maine	1,615		397	25	774	48	171	11	273	17
Maryland	6,905		2,162	31	3,095	45	1,039	15	609	9
Massachusetts	9,645		1,712	18	4,356	45	1,773	18	1,804	19
Michigan	17,723		6,198	35	5,758	32	2,836	16	2,931	17
Minnesota	5,410		893	17	2,372	44	1,335	25	810	15
Mississippi	3,307		570	17	1,526	46	762	23	449	14
Missouri	9,912		1,757	18	3,709	37	1,760	18	2,686	27
Montana	1,639		473	29	786	48	242	15	138	8
Nebraska	5,343		1,065	20	2,099	39	1,200	22	979	18
Nevada	4,776		1,572	33	1,983	42	317	7	904	19
New Hampshire	895		176	20	541	60	178	20	0	0
New Jersey	7,809		2,761	35	3,840	49	871	11	337	4
New Mexico	2,009		377	19	1,034	51	110	5	488	24
New York	27,909		5,603	20	12,664	45	5,152	18	4,490	16
North Carolina	9,419		2,239	24	4,927	52	1,184	13	1,069	11
North Dakota	1,218		156	13	522	43	304	25	236	19
Ohio	12,197		1,591	13	8,210	67	1,643	13	753	6
Oklahoma	8,691		2,431	28	3,829	44	798	9	1,633	19
Oregon	8,646		1,789	21	4,781	55	411	5	1,665	19
Pennsylvania	16,878		3,826	23	7,854	47	3,978	24	1,220	7
Rhode Island	2,112		501	24	765	36	725	34	121	6
South Carolina	4,938		339	7	3,058	62	1,142	23	399	8
South Dakota	1,484		252	17	712	48	329	22	191	13
Tennessee	6,723		505	8	4,007	60	1,383	21	828	12
Texas	26,309		6,767	26	11,836	45	4,609	18	3,097	12
Utah	2,757		435	16	1,443	52	463	17	416	15
Vermont	1,062		120	11	571	54	200	19	171	16
Virginia	5,896		341	6	3,582	61	1,041	18	932	16
Washington	9,922		3,485	35	4,999	50	453	5	985	10
West Virginia	1,211		549	45	1,986	164	1,167	28	509	12
Wisconsin	6,784		2,033	30	3,555	52	962	14	234	3
Wyoming	1,155		165	14	432	37	417	36	141	12
Puerto Rico	5,351		1,597	30	2,597	49	580	11	577	11
United States	420,698		101,688	24	200,179	48	65,804	16	53,027	13

Source: Adoption and Foster Care Reporting System (AFCARS), 2009. Represents children in the foster care system on September 30, 2009 for whom data on type of placement was available. State policies vary so comparisons across states should be made with caution. Percents may not total to 100 percent due to rounding.

Department of Family Services Average Length of RTC/PRTF/BOCES Placements (Days) SFY2012:

Residential Treatment/PRTF/BOCES Center	Count of Placement	Average Length (Days)
Residential Treatment Centers		
CATHEDRAL HOME FOR CHILDREN	39	386
CORNERSTONE PROGRAMS CORP	60	137
NORMATIVE SERVICES	42	259
RED TOP MEADOWS	10	340
YES HOUSE	28	271
Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities		
ST JOSEPHS CHILDRENS HOME	40	297
WYOMING BEHAVIORAL INSTITUTE	5	52
Board of Cooperative Educational Services		
NORTHEAST WYOMING BOCES	1	204
NORTHWEST WYOMING BOCES	2	247
REGION V BOCES	9	515
Residential Treatment Center Average		279
Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility Average		175
Board Of Cooperative Educational Services Average		322
		8/23/2012

Department of Family Services Cost per Youth Summary For FY 2012					8-23-12
Company	Number of Youth	Average Length of Stay	Cost	Cost Per Youth	
Cathedral Home for Children:	39	386	\$2,435,394	\$62,446	
Cornerstone Programs Corp:	60	137	\$1,438,500	\$23,975	
Normative Services	42	259	\$1,903,650	\$45,325	
Red Top Meadows	10	340	\$595,000	\$59,500	
Yes House:	28	271	\$1,326,668	\$47,381	
TOTAL RTC COST AND AVERAGE COST PER YOUTH			\$7,699,212	\$43,012	
BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATION SERVICES					
Company	Number of Youth	Average Length of Stay	Cost	Cost Per Youth	
Northeast Wyoming BOCES:	1	204	\$27,132	\$27,132	
Northwest Wyoming BOCES:	2	247	\$65,702	\$32,851	
Region Vi BOCES:	9	515	\$616,455	\$68,495	
TOTAL BOCES COST AND AVERAGE COST PER YOUTH			\$709,289	\$59,107	