

State of Illinois

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor



Jess McDonald, Director

Signs of Progress in Child Welfare Reform

Also available at:

http://www.state.il.us/dcfs/com_communications.shtml

January 2003

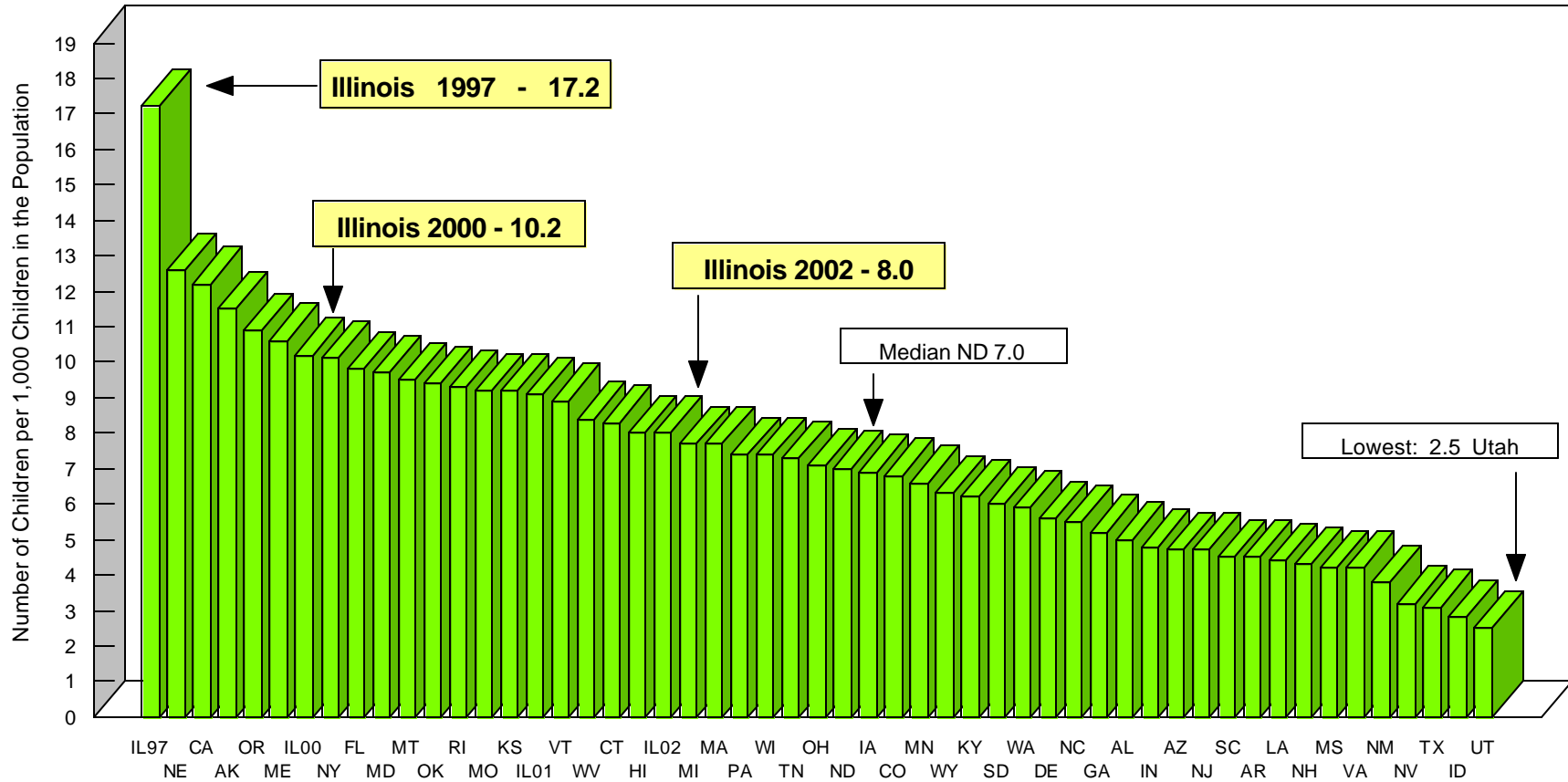
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Signs of Progress in Child Welfare Reform

- **Fewer children in substitute care**. Starting in the early 1990's, Illinois' child welfare system began to grow, swelling to over 50,000 children in 1997. By June 30, 2003 the number of children in substitute care will fall to approximately 21,000—a decline of 60 percent, the size of the child welfare population in 1991.
- **Fewer children removed from home**. Progress in controlling the size of the substitute care population starts with better work at the front end of the system. The number of children placed in substitute care has declined by more than 60 percent from a peak of 15,254 placements in 1995 to a low of 5,700 planned for state fiscal year 2003.
- **Fewer children abused after DCFS involvement**. Safety remains the top priority for child welfare in Illinois. Success in reducing the need to remove children from the home has been accompanied by an improved safety record. Since 1997, the number of children re-abused after an indicated incident of abuse has dropped by 37 percent.
- **More children placed in permanent homes**. The Illinois child welfare system has been repeatedly recognized nationally for record-breaking performance in securing permanency for children. Between state fiscal year 1997 and June 30, 2003 the number of children placed in permanent homes is expected to reach nearly 40,000.
- **Children requiring out of home placement spend less time in care**. When required, child welfare interventions should be brief and focused on permanency. The children who enter care now will spend 43 percent less time in care (25 months) than those who entered care in state fiscal year 1995 (44 months).
- **Illinois child welfare system is accredited**. Accreditation is an important external validation that the core functions of a child welfare system are of sufficient quality to ensure results for families and children. In 2000, Illinois became the largest—and only the second—public child welfare system to achieve accreditation from the Council on Accreditation. Illinois' private sector partners also met this challenge, securing accreditation during the same period.
- **Children placed in residential and group settings reduced**. Ensuring children are placed in the least restrictive setting appropriate to their needs has been an important priority in Illinois. Since state fiscal year 1995, the number of children in residential or group home programs is projected to decline by 57 percent at the end of state fiscal year 2003.
- **Children placed in out-of-state residential programs virtually eliminated**. During the peak of Illinois' explosive growth in substitute care, nearly 800 children were moved to residential placements out of state. Today, the number of children in out-of-state residential facilities is under 20, and will likely be eliminated entirely by the end of state fiscal year 2003.
- **Improved performance allows for cost-saving reinvestment strategy**. By taking advantage of performance gains in fewer removals and increased permanency, the Department has invested in reducing caseloads in order to support continued performance on a changing population. At the Department's peak during the mid 1990s, caseloads were as high as 40 children per worker. Now average caseloads are approximately 17 children per worker.

Children in Out-of-Home Care, 2000

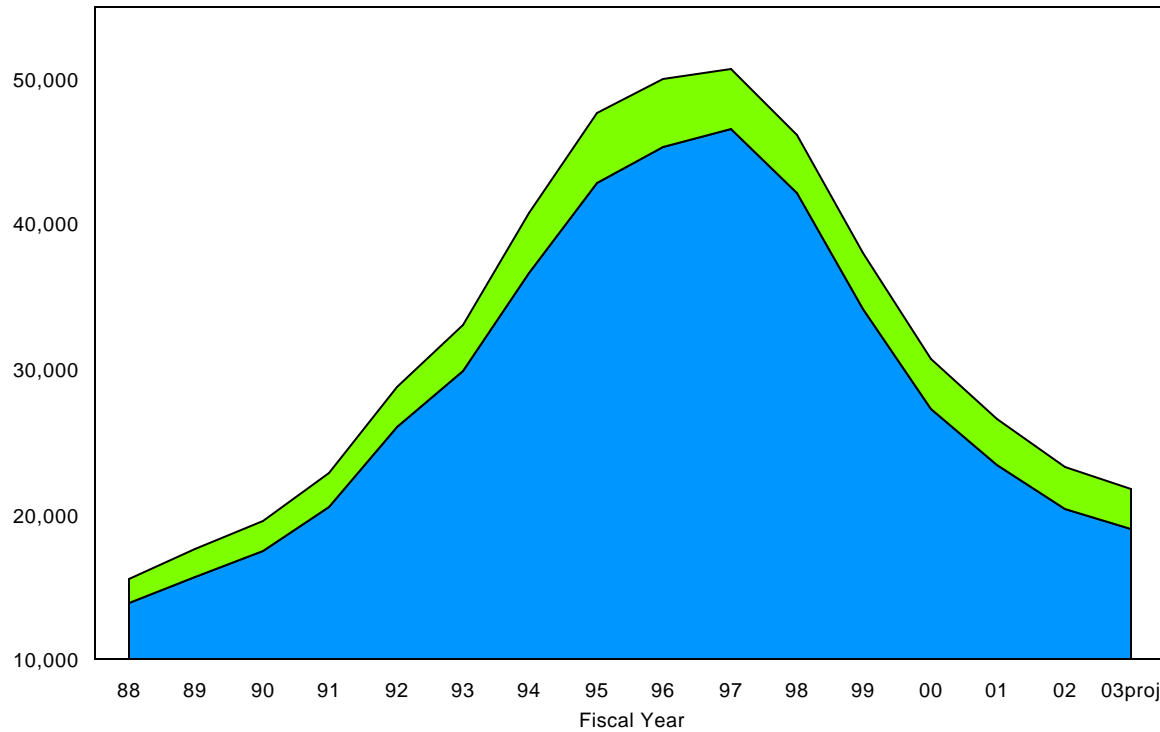
Per 1,000 children in the population



During FY02 the number of children in out-of-home care fell to less than half of the peak in 1997 but remains slightly above the 2000 national median.

Illinois Department of Children & Family Services

Substitute Care Caseload



Fiscal Year	Foster Care	Inst/Grp Home	Total Cslid.
88	13,819	1,745	15,564
89	15,711	1,908	17,619
90	17,505	2,072	19,577
91	20,480	2,401	22,881
92	25,961	2,803	28,764
93	29,825	3,263	33,088
94	36,572	4,250	40,822
95	42,819	4,882	47,701
96	45,346	4,698	50,044
97	46,489	4,246	50,735
98	42,165	3,960	46,125
99	34,164	3,781	37,945
00	27,229	3,438	30,667
01	23,394	3,226	26,620
02	20,338	2,897	23,235
03proj.	19,048	2,717	21,765

Inst./Group Homes includes:

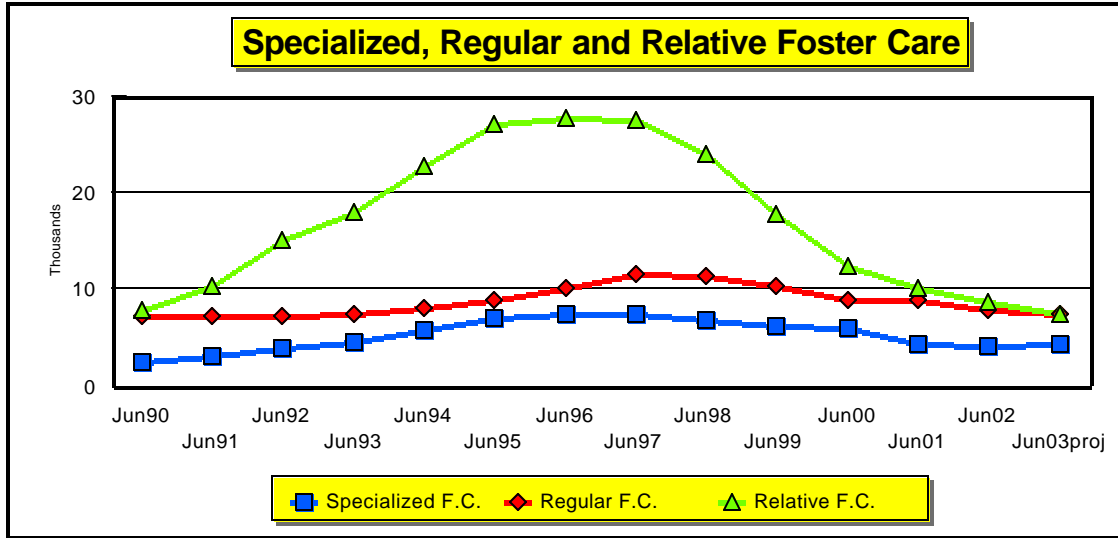
- Institutions
- Group Homes
- Independent Living

Changes in the substitute care population due to;

- * increased adoptions
- * the federal guardianship waiver
- * improved front-end protocols

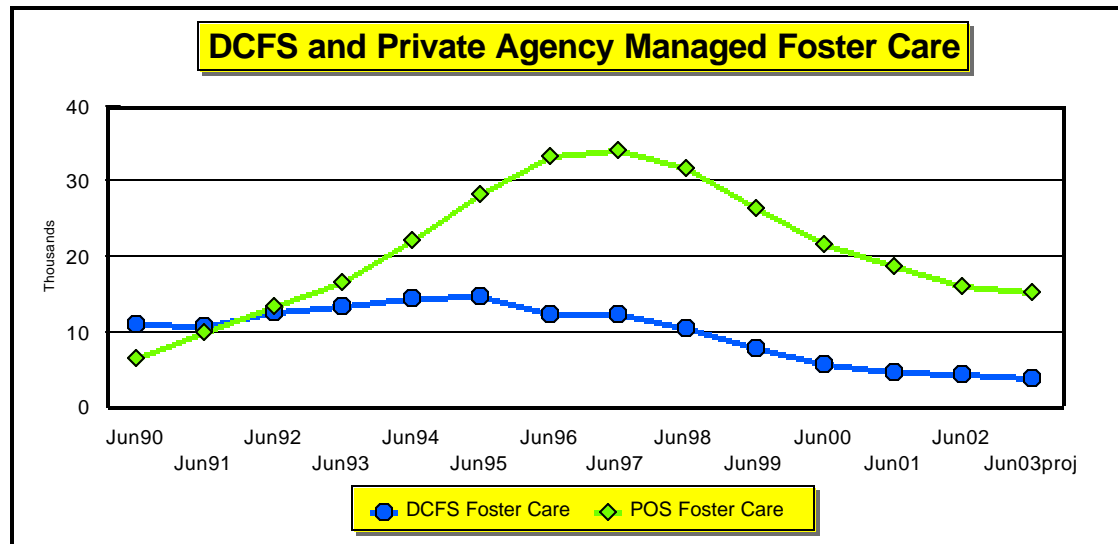
have moved Illinois from the highest user of out of home care to one that is closer to the national median.

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services



Date	Spec.	Regular	Rel.	Total
Jun90	2,357	7,255	7,893	17,505
Jun91	3,016	7,094	10,370	20,480
Jun92	3,790	7,153	15,018	25,961
Jun93	4,504	7,372	17,949	29,825
Jun94	5,765	8,080	22,727	36,572
Jun95	6,917	8,851	27,051	42,819
Jun96	7,324	10,149	27,873	45,346
Jun97	7,345	11,492	27,652	46,489
Jun98	6,804	11,295	24,066	42,165
Jun99	6,118	10,332	17,714	34,164
Jun00	5,907	8,868	12,454	27,229
Jun01	4,324	8,896	10,174	23,394
Jun02	4,076	7,709	8,536	20,321
Jun03proj	4,289	7,449	7,310	19,048

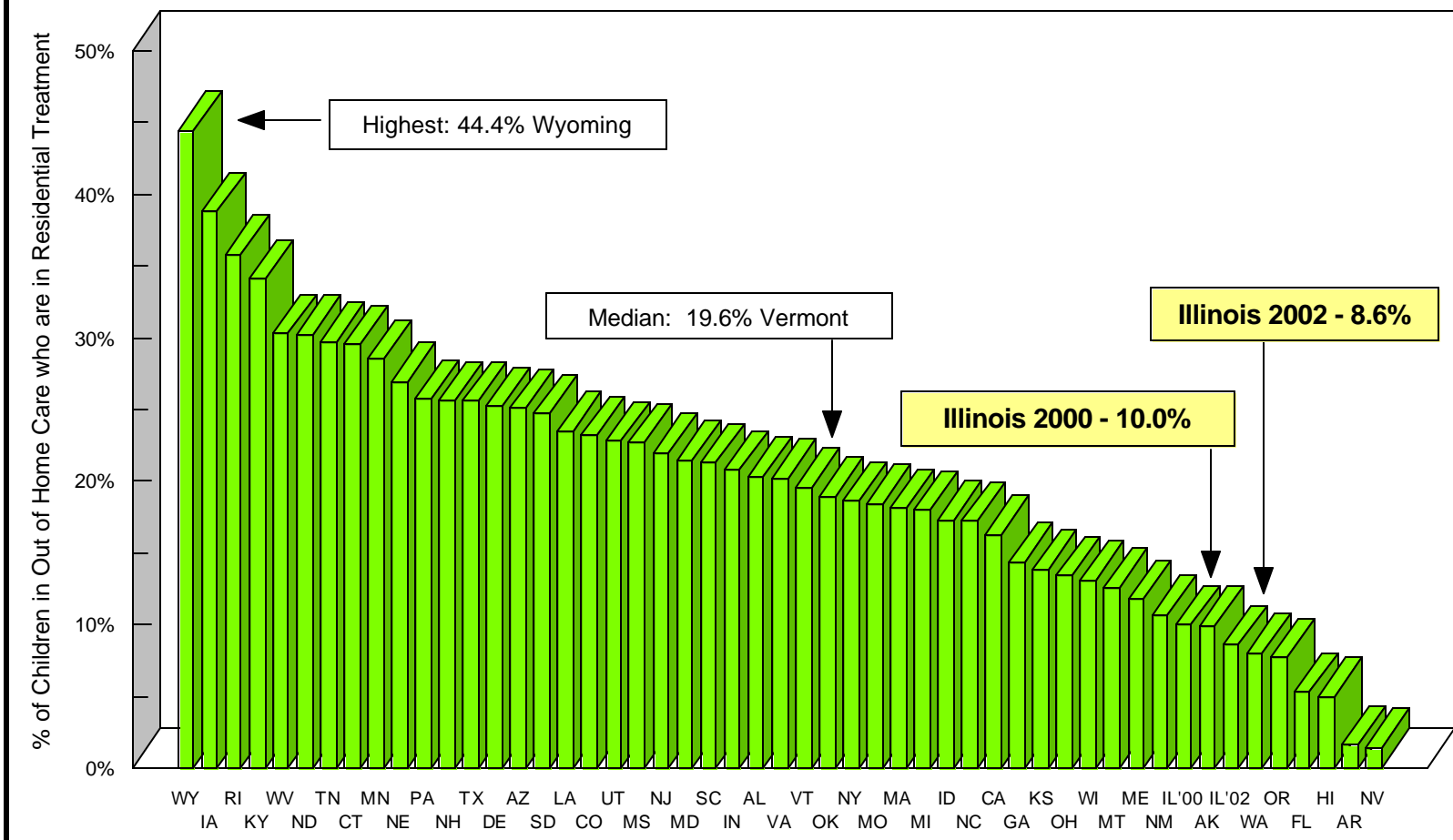
HMR Reform and Front-end Redesign coupled with an increased emphasis on permanency will reduce caseloads in early FY02 to less than half of their historic peak.



Date	DCFS	P.O.S.	Total
Jun90	10,928	6,577	17,505
Jun91	10,585	9,895	20,480
Jun92	12,550	13,411	25,961
Jun93	13,379	16,446	29,825
Jun94	14,495	22,077	36,572
Jun95	14,650	28,169	42,819
Jun96	12,187	33,159	45,346
Jun97	12,294	34,195	46,489
Jun98	10,383	31,782	42,165
Jun99	7,797	26,367	34,164
Jun00	5,572	21,657	27,229
Jun01	4,662	18,732	23,394
Jun02	4,390	15,931	20,321
Jun03proj	3,810	15,238	19,048

Private Agency Managed caseload grew from 24% in FY89 to 78.4% by the end of FY02.

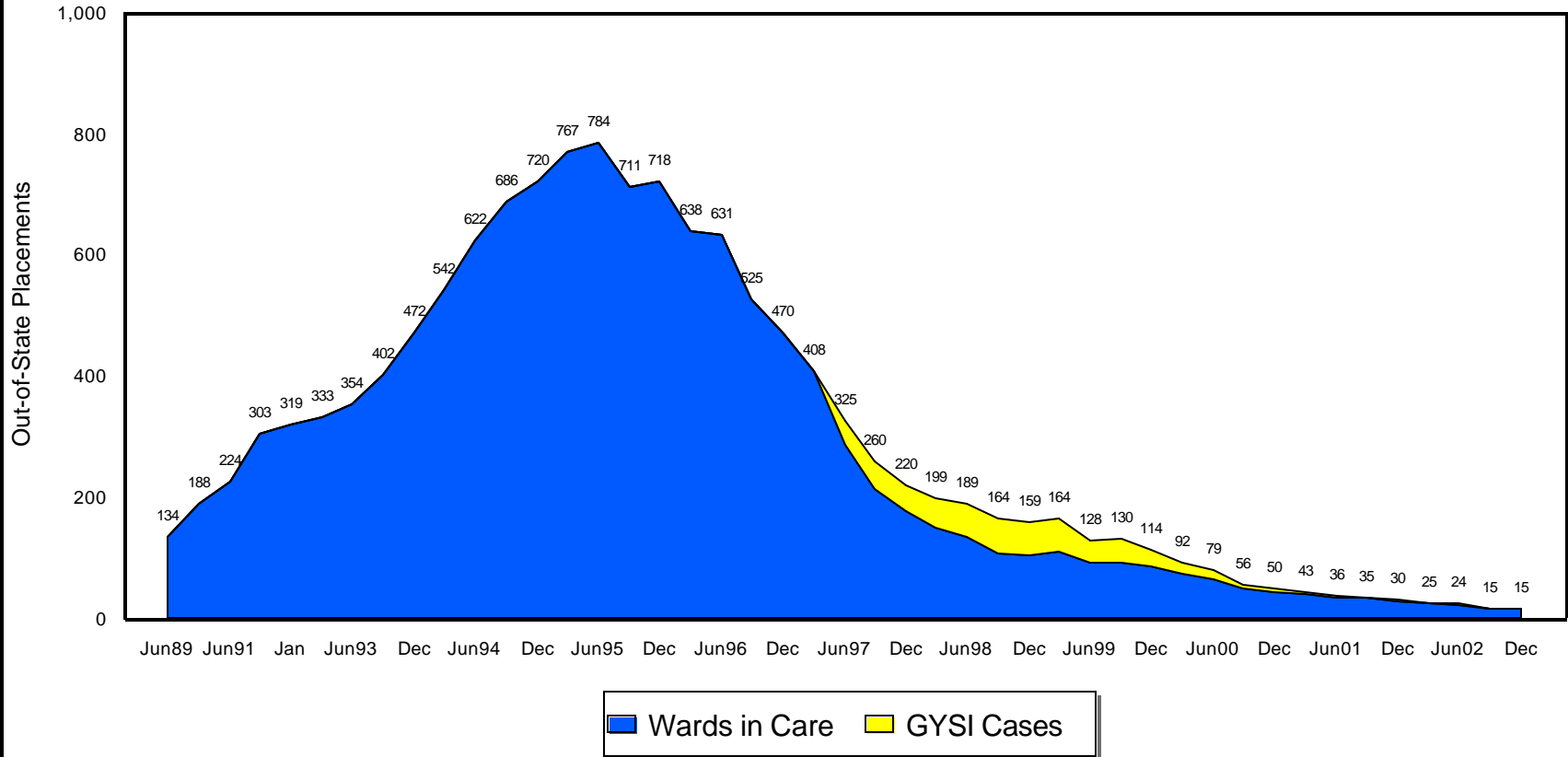
**Children in Residential Treatment on 9/30/00
as a % of Total Out of Home Care Population**



Tighter management of residential care utilization has placed Illinois well below the national median with respect to the proportion of the substitute care population in residential care.

Department of Children and Family Services

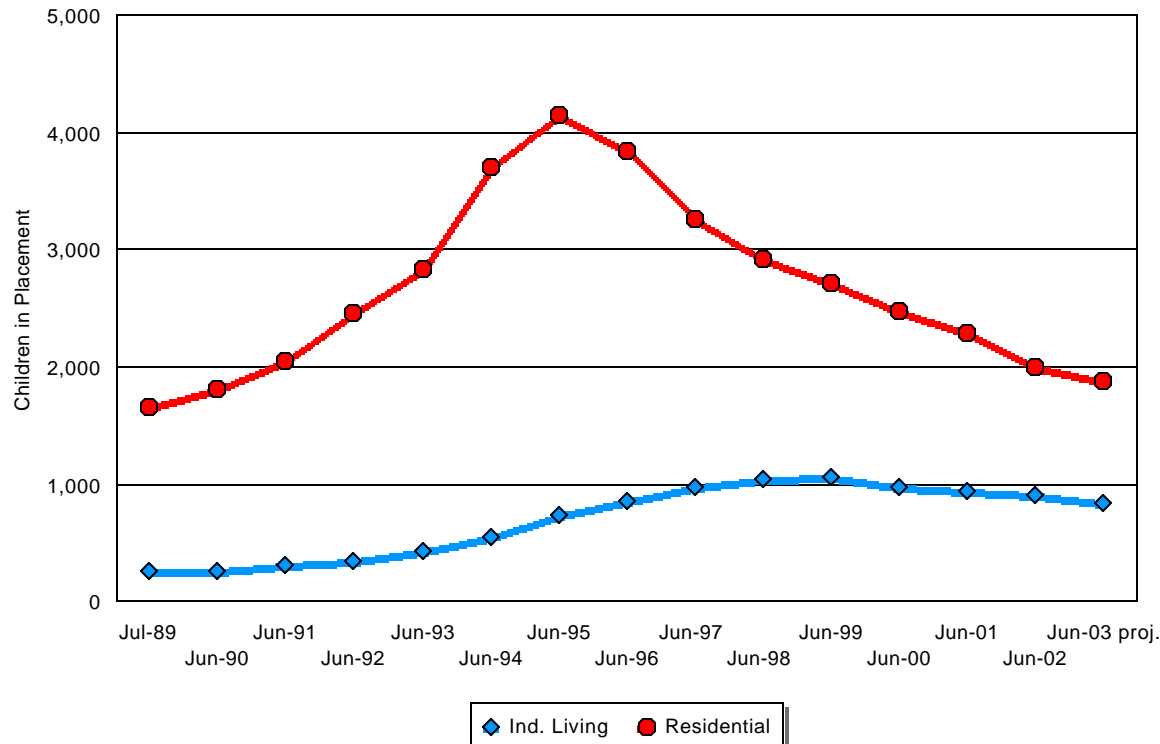
Out of State Residential Placements



Residential placements outside of Illinois have been reduced by 98% since the peak of 792 in May 1995. Special efforts have brought many children back to Illinois.

Illinois Department of Children & Family Services

Independent Living vs. Residential Placements



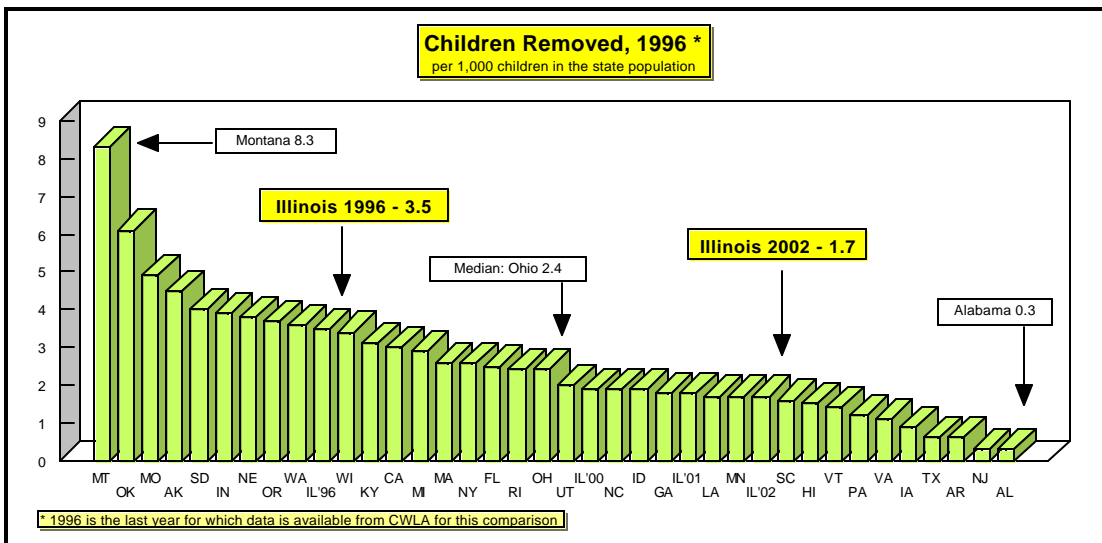
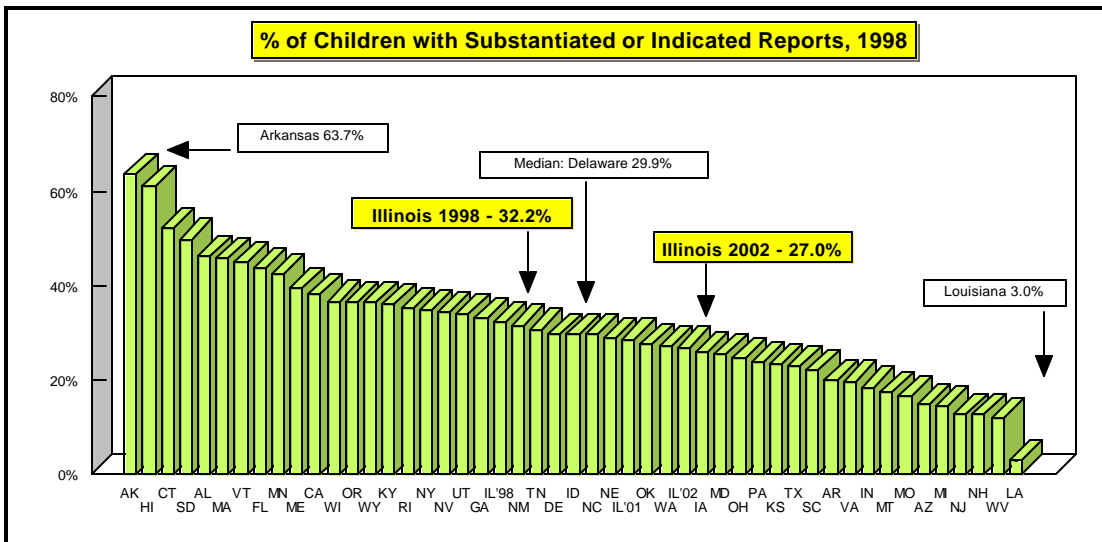
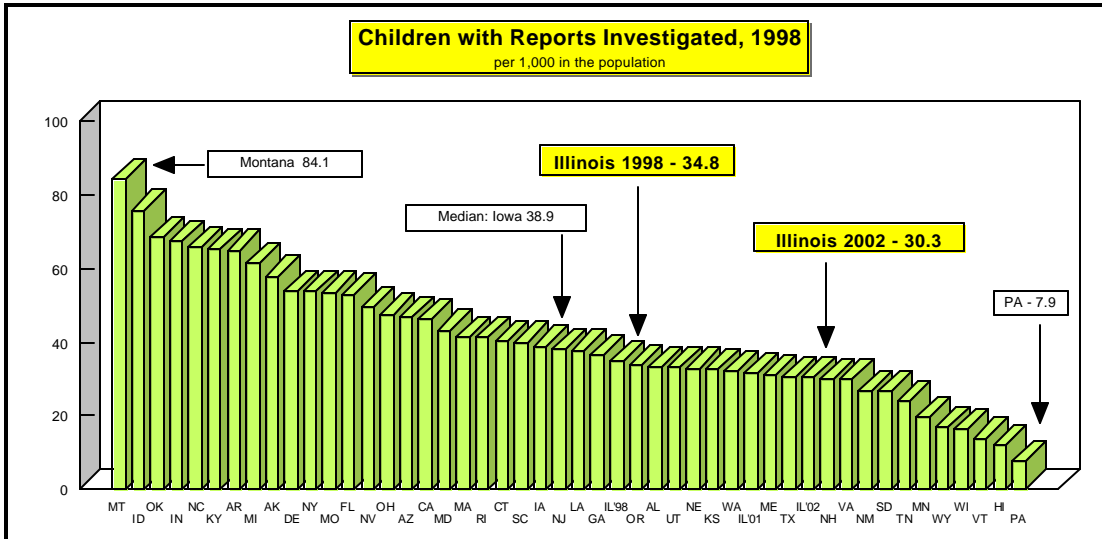
**All I/GH Funded Placements
Independent Living
vs.
Residential Placements***

	Ind. Liv.	Residential	Total
Jul-89	252	1,656	1,908
Jun-90	261	1,811	2,072
Jun-91	312	2,049	2,361
Jun-92	352	2,451	2,803
Jun-93	430	2,833	3,263
Jun-94	553	3,697	4,250
Jun-95	740	4,142	4,882
Jun-96	852	3,846	4,698
Jun-97	980	3,266	4,246
Jun-98	1,046	2,914	3,960
Jun-99	1,057	2,724	3,781
Jun-00	968	2,470	3,438
Jun-01	933	2,293	3,226
Jun-02	901	1,996	2,897
Jun-03 proj.	835	1,882	2,717

During FY02 Illinois reached the milestone of having less than half the number of children in restrictive, expensive residential placements than it did at its peak in FY95.

The I/GH budget pays for both independent living and residential placements*. Even the number of children in Independent Living placements has leveled off.

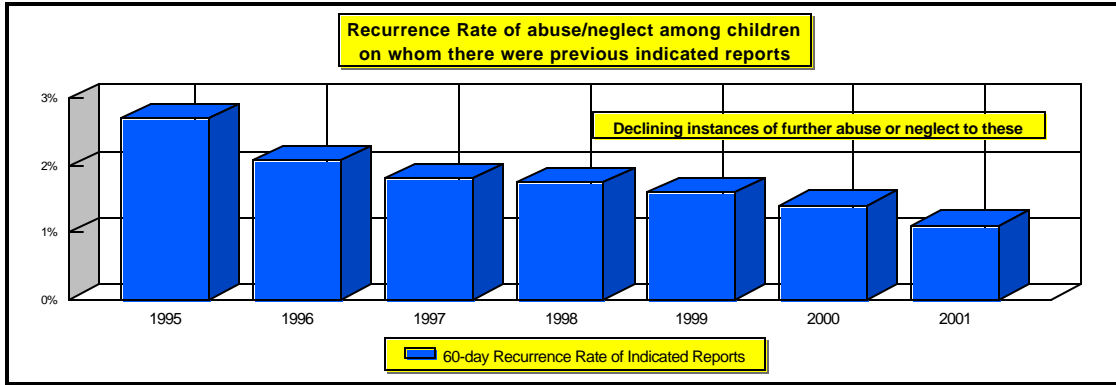
*beginning FY94, shelters included



Comparative measures of child protection show that Illinois is near the median in terms of findings of abuse and children removed from homes.

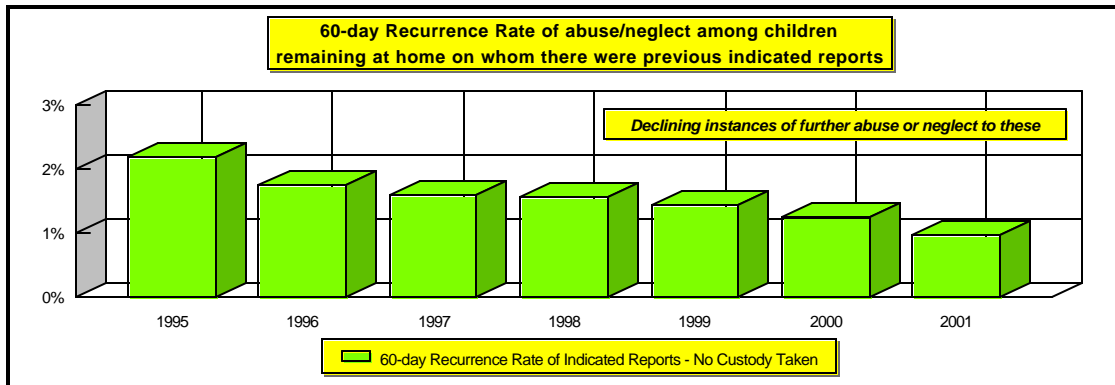
Illinois Department of Children & Family Services

Improvements in Safety of Children since CERAP (Child Endangerment Risk Assessment Protocol)



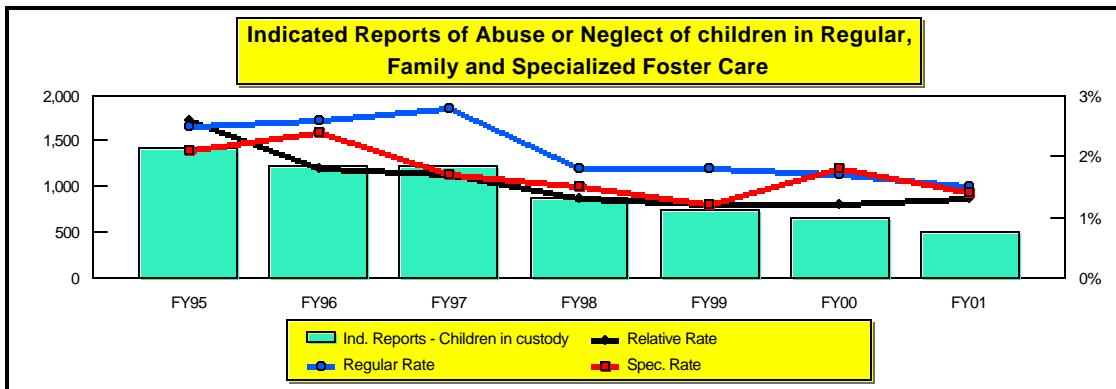
Children are much safer since the implementation of CERAP in FY96

60 Day Recurrence - Indicated Reports				
Yr.	Total	# Recurrent	Rate	Chg. from Prior Yr.
1997	99,925	1,800	1.8%	-13.9%
1998	93,201	1,630	1.7%	-2.9%
1999	87,538	1,399	1.6%	-8.6%
2000	88,173	1,243	1.4%	-11.8%
2001	85,530	950	1.1%	-21.2%



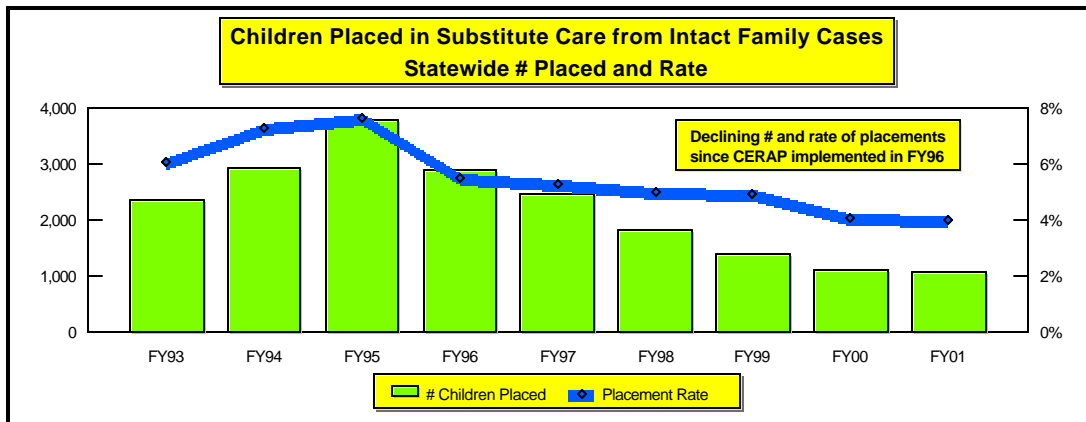
Children remaining home are much safer since the implementation of CERAP in FY96

60 Day Recurrence - No Custody				
Yr.	Total	# Recurrent	Rate	Chg. from Prior Yr.
1997	84,461	1,354	1.6%	-9.1%
1998	79,895	1,241	1.6%	-3.1%
1999	76,820	1,111	1.4%	-6.9%
2000	78,412	991	1.3%	-12.6%
2001	76,207	734	1.0%	-23.8%



	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01	01 vs. '95
# Children	1,432	1,229	1,236	878	746	659	515	
Relative Rate	2.6%	1.8%	1.7%	1.3%	1.2%	1.2%	1.3%	-50.0%
Regular Rate	2.5%	2.6%	2.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.7%	1.5%	-40.0%
Spec. Rate	2.1%	2.4%	1.7%	1.5%	1.2%	1.8%	1.4%	-33.3%

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

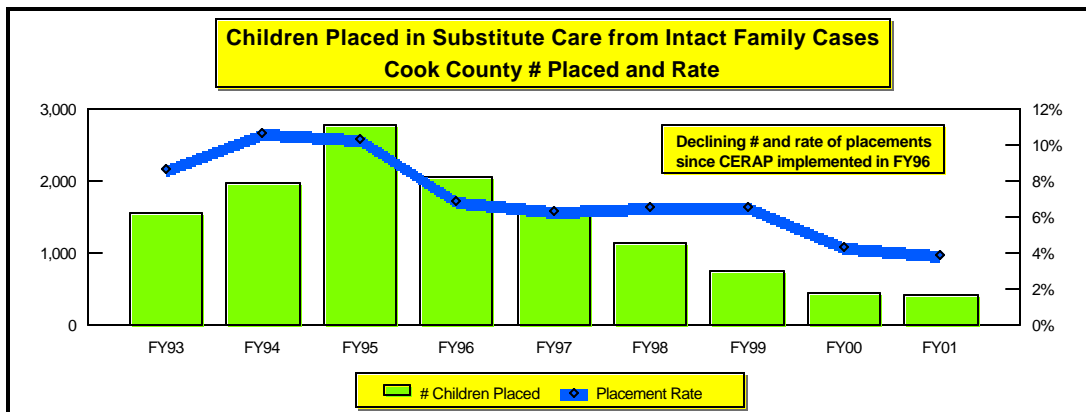


Effective assessment of safety issues, service system improvements and protective plans result in decreasing placement rates from open Intact Family Cases.

Source: U. of Ill. Children & Family Research Ctr.

Rate of placements from intact family cases dropped from 7.6% to 4.0% which is a 47.4% decline from FY95 to FY01.

	FY93	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01
# Children	2,347	2,911	3,784	2,895	2,455	1,825	1,380	1,107	1,058
Plcmt. Rate	6.1%	7.3%	7.6%	5.5%	5.3%	5.0%	4.9%	4.1%	4.0%

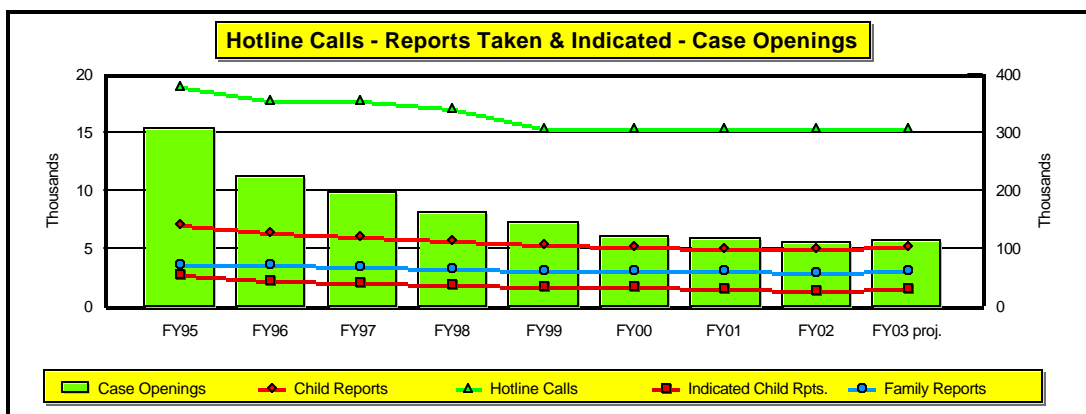


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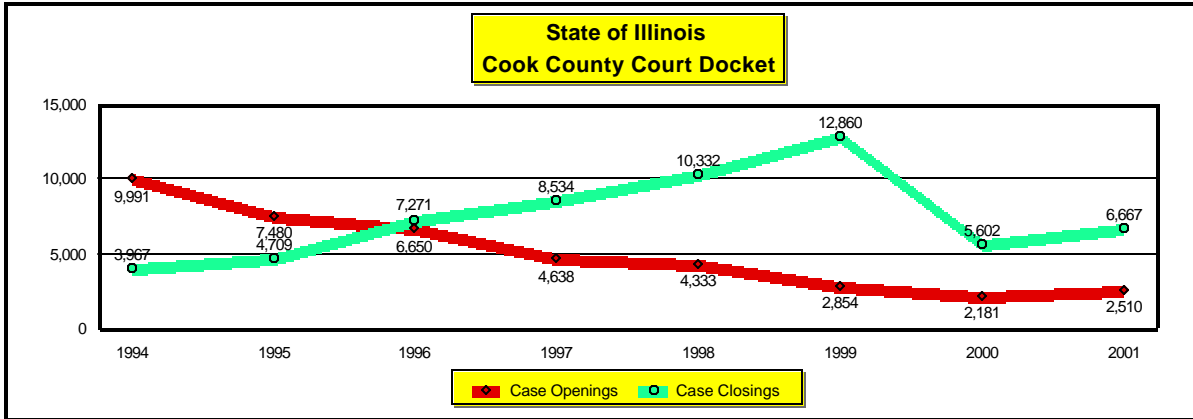
Rate of placements from intact family cases dropped from 10.3% to 3.9% which is a 62.1% decline from FY95 to FY01.

	FY93	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01
# Children	1,562	1,965	2,771	2,049	1,595	1,135	747	443	406
Plcmt. Rate	8.7%	10.6%	10.3%	6.9%	6.3%	6.5%	6.5%	4.3%	3.9%



	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03 proj.
Hotline Calls	377,467	352,629	355,579	339,649	304,945	306,818	306,506	304,804	307,000
Family Reports	70,084	70,740	68,121	65,876	62,710	61,793	60,168	59,243	62,000
Child Reports	139,736	125,220	119,445	114,011	106,903	103,577	100,418	98,518	102,000
Indicated Child Rpts.	53,265	44,465	41,833	36,858	33,803	32,739	28,920	27,338	29,000
% Ind. Child Reports	38.1%	35.5%	35.0%	32.5%	31.6%	31.6%	28.8%	27.9%	28.4%
Case Openings	15,254	11,195	9,840	7,993	7,236	6,039	5,761	5,424	5,700

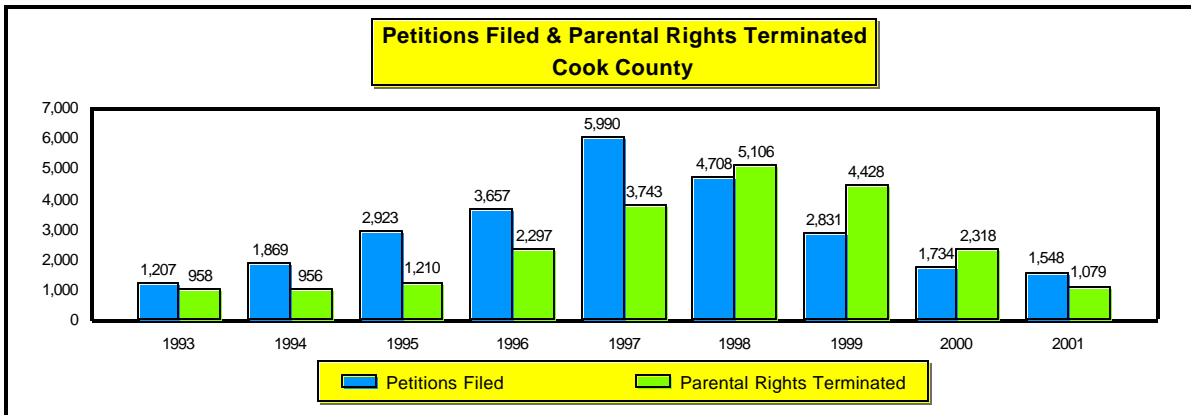
Illinois Department of Children & Family Services



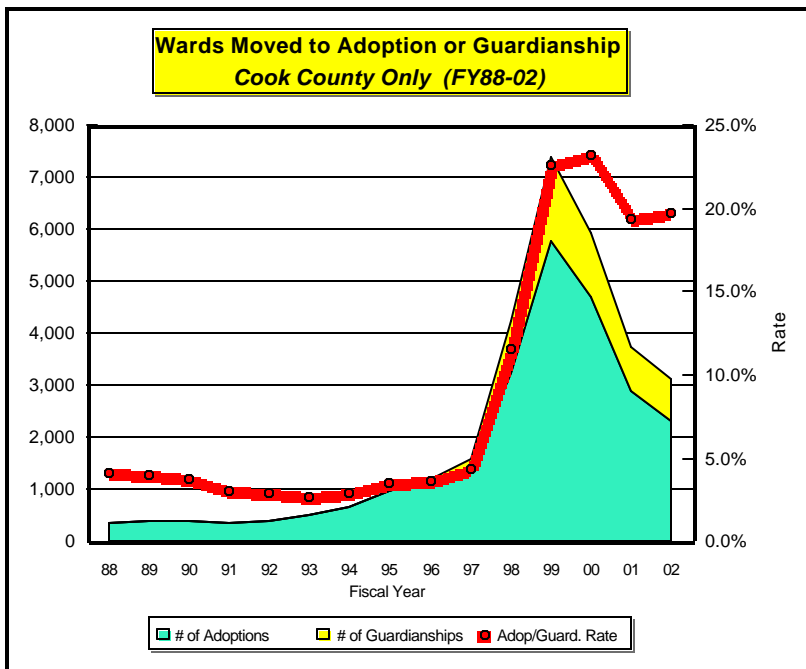
Calendar Year	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Open Cases	36,744	39,628	39,049	35,163	29,164	19,800	21,875	18,562

Source: Cook Co. Juvenile Court

Home of Relative Reform and better front end decision-making and service delivery sharply reduced new cases. An increased focus on Adoption, the new Guardianship waiver, and Reunifications increased Cook County exits from care. Exits are now falling because intake and the general caseload are both much lower.



Changes in state permanency laws and court and child welfare system innovations increased terminations of Parental Rights for children in our care whose parents remain unable to care for them. Terminations are now falling due to lower caseloads.



Fiscal Year	Rate	Adop.	Guard.	Total
88	4.1%	341		341
89	4.0%	399		399
90	3.7%	416		416
91	3.0%	343		343
92	2.9%	413		413
93	2.7%	510		510
94	3.0%	663		663
95	3.6%	992		992
96	3.6%	1,196		1,196
97	4.4%	1,408	161	1,569
98	11.6%	3,232	1,001	4,233
99	22.7%	5,765	1,635	7,400
00	23.3%	4,708	1,233	5,941
01	19.4%	2,889	846	3,735
02	19.8%	2,307	813	3,120

Rate is % of foster care population moved to Adoption & Guardianship.

Cook % of all Foster Care Cases at beginning of:

- FY98 - 77.5%
- FY99 - 74.7%
- FY00 - 70.6%
- FY01 - 67.5%
- FY02 - 65.3%

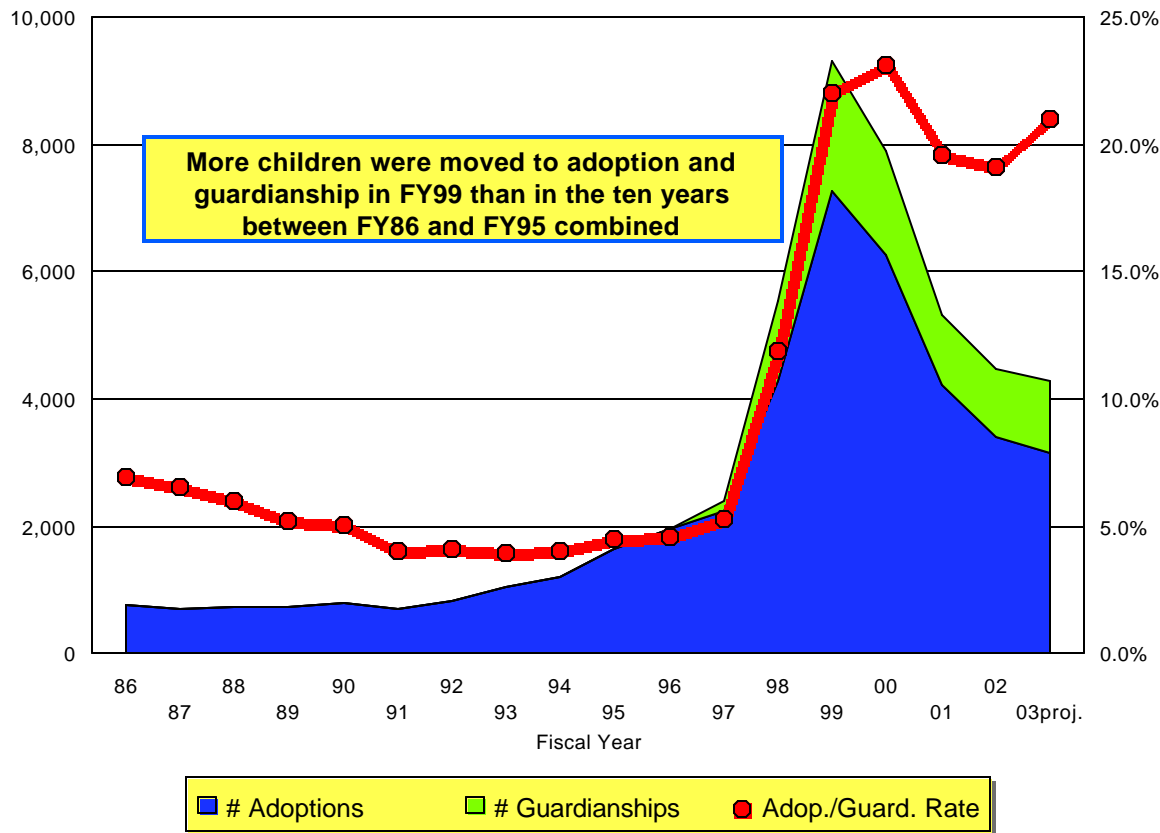
Cook % of all Adoption & Guardianship:

- FY98 - 76.2%
- FY99 - 79.5%
- FY00 - 75.2%
- FY01 - 69.9%
- FY02 - 69.7%

The difficulty of cases remaining in care is challenging the Department's continued ability to maintain record non-reunification permanency rates.

Illinois Department of Children & Family Services

Wards Moved to Adoption and Guardianship Statewide Total (FY86-03)

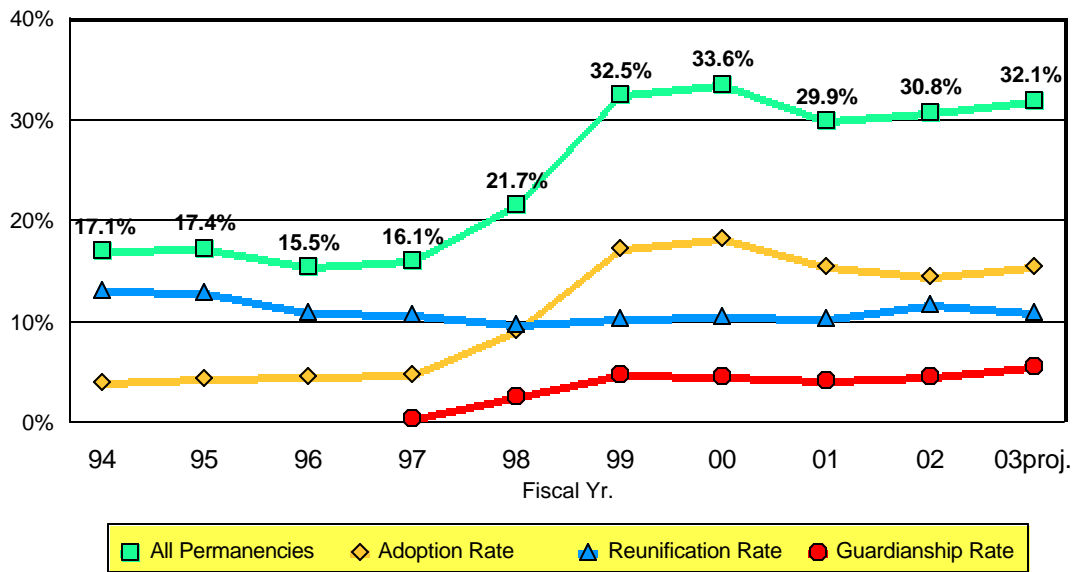


Fiscal Year	Rate	Adop.	Guard.	Total
86	7.0%	763		763
87	6.6%	714		714
88	6.0%	718		718
89	5.2%	721		721
90	5.1%	788		788
91	4.0%	708		708
92	4.1%	835		835
93	4.0%	1,034		1,034
94	4.0%	1,200		1,200
95	4.5%	1,640		1,640
96	4.6%	1,961		1,961
97	5.3%	2,229	185	2,414
98	11.9%	4,293	1,251	5,544
99	22.1%	7,275	2,027	9,302
00	23.1%	6,281	1,616	7,897
01	19.6%	4,208	1,131	5,339
02	19.1%	3,393	1,084	4,477
03proj	21.0%	3,141	1,135	4,276

Rate is % of foster care population moved to Adoption & Guardianship.

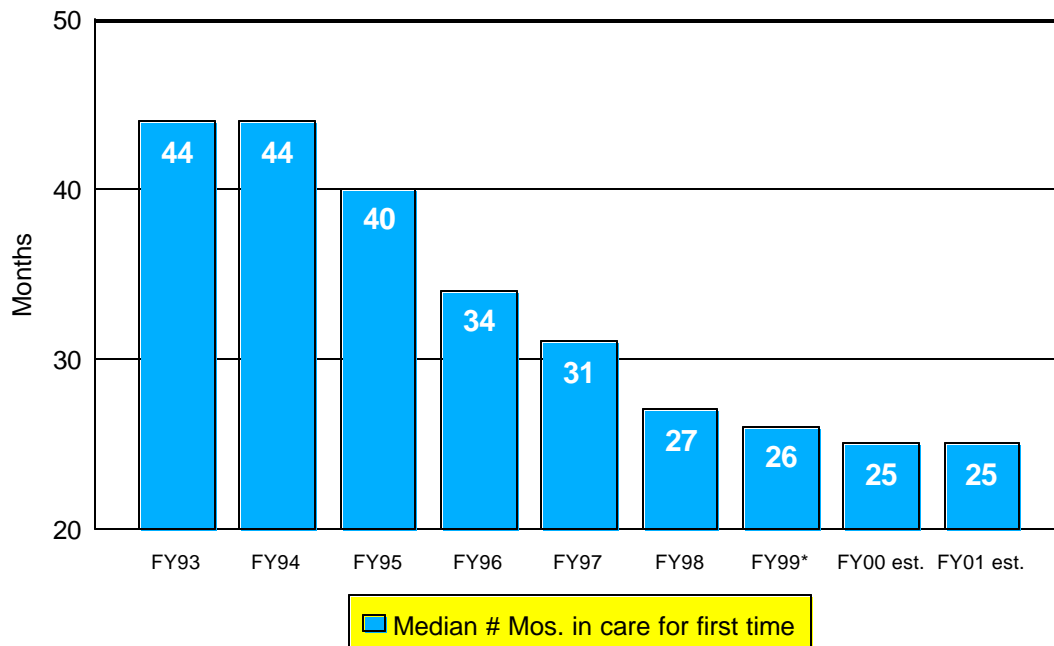
Although the number of adoptions and guardianship conversions is falling, the rate at which children are being adopted in Illinois continues to be at or near the national standard.

Illinois Permanency Rate % of Wards in Foster Care Moved to Permanent Settings



Guardianships begin FY97

Median Duration of Care for Children Entering Care

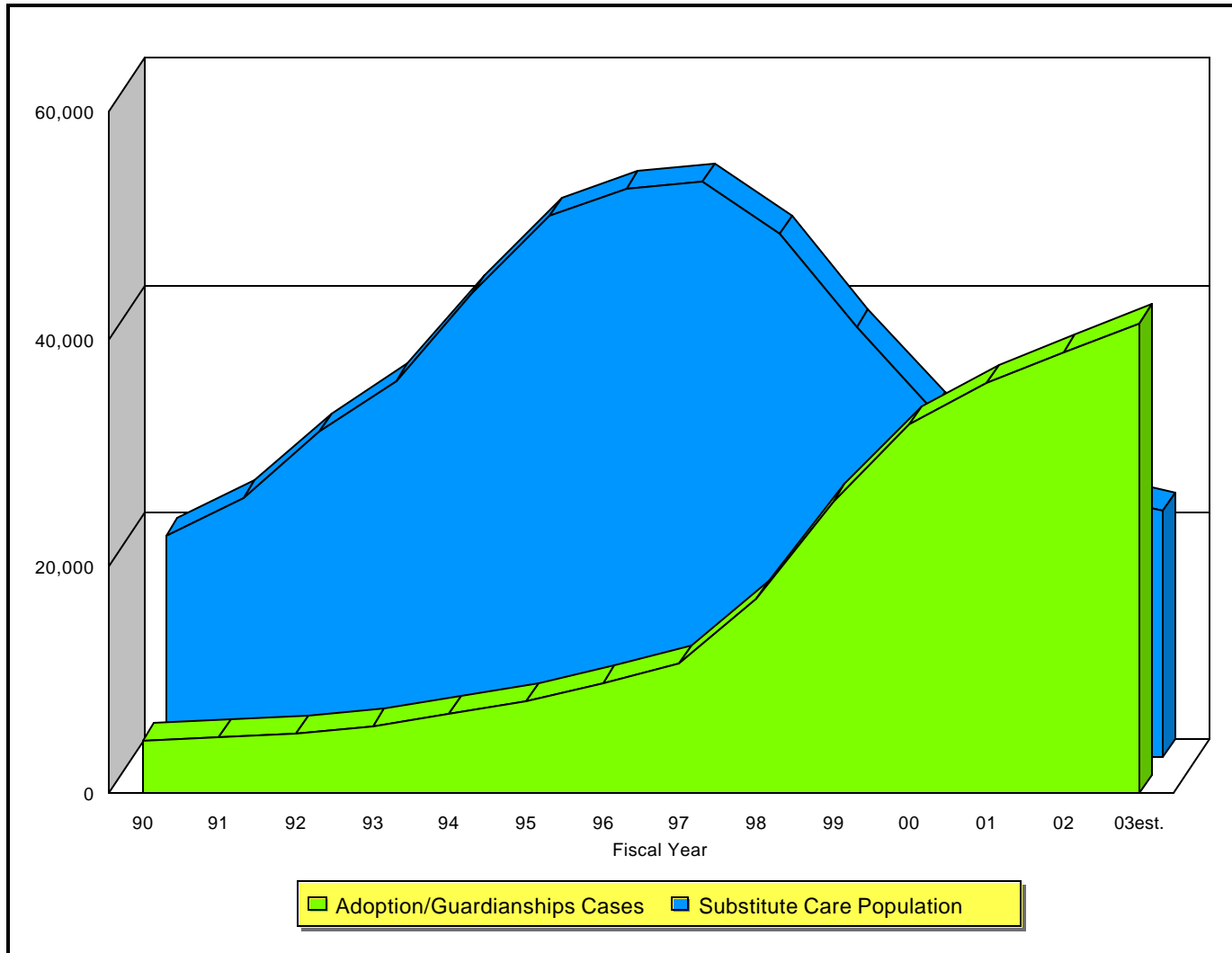


* FY99 last year observable using available data

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Substitute Care vs. Adoption/Guardianship Cases

FY90 - FY03

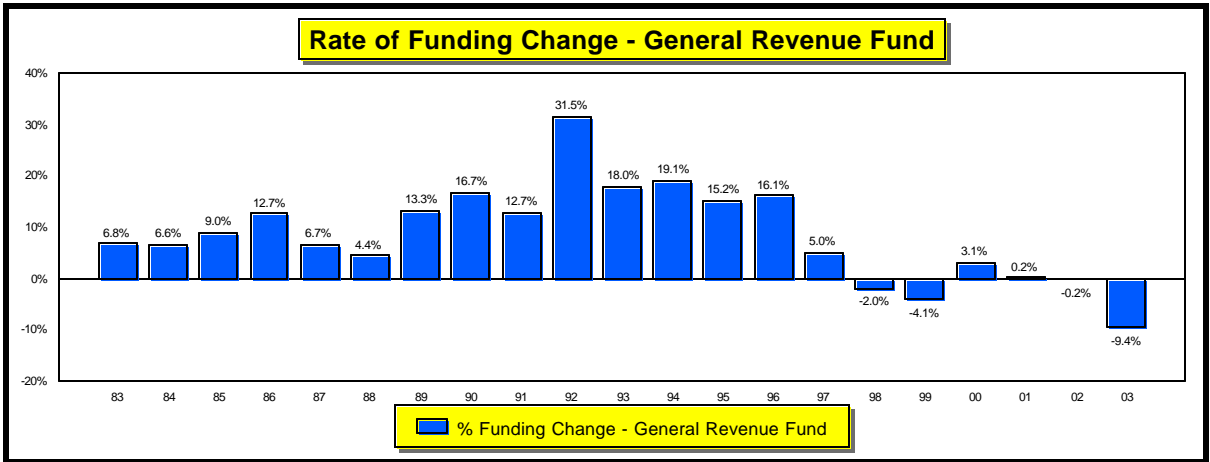
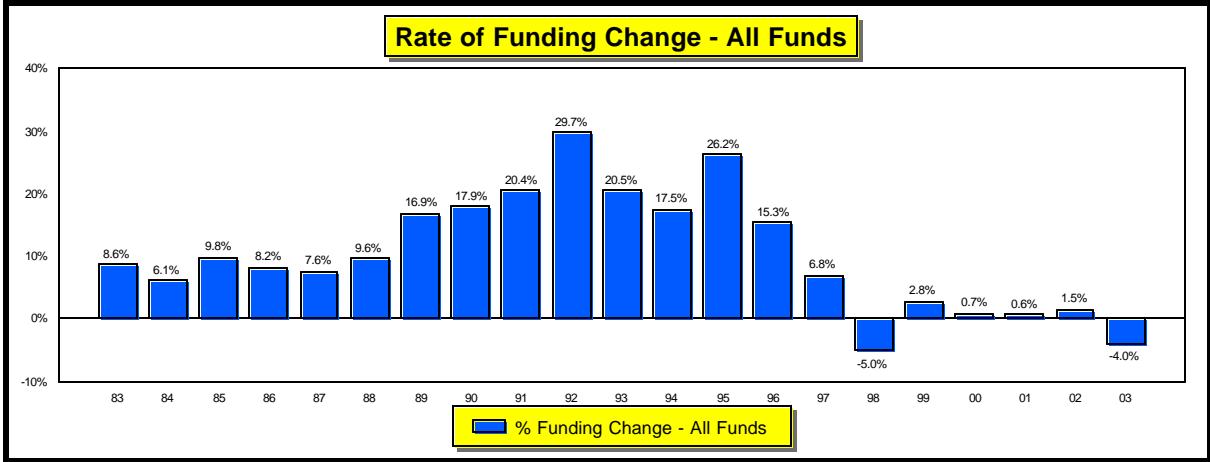


Fiscal Year	Sub. Care Cases	Adop/Guard Cases
90	19,577	4,697
91	22,841	5,037
92	28,764	5,239
93	33,088	5,926
94	40,822	7,011
95	47,701	8,174
96	50,044	9,736
97	50,735	11,539
98	46,125	17,160
99	37,945	25,709
00	30,667	32,489
01	26,620	36,156
02	23,235	38,816
03est.	21,765	41,470

Substitute Care includes Foster Care, Residential Care and Independent Living

In late FY2000 the number of children in state supported Adoption and Guardianship settings exceeded the number of children in substitute care placements.

Illinois Department of Children & Family Services
Historical Funding and Expenditures
All Funds & General Revenue Funds
(\$.000)



Fiscal Year	All Funds			General Revenue Fund		
	Funding	% Change	Expend.	Funding	% Change	Expend.
82	186,510.2		173,851.1	158,516.9		151,839.3
83	202,639.7	8.6%	185,133.5	169,293.9	6.8%	161,960.0
84	215,027.3	6.1%	193,661.0	180,416.1	6.6%	170,139.6
85	236,180.5	9.8%	215,672.6	196,650.1	9.0%	189,630.6
86	255,501.9	8.2%	241,902.6	221,530.0	12.7%	212,991.7
87	274,817.9	7.6%	262,849.6	236,284.4	6.7%	231,907.2
88	301,245.1	9.6%	287,973.3	246,672.3	4.4%	242,984.8
89	352,048.1	16.9%	334,542.3	279,531.3	13.3%	275,364.3
90	415,093.9	17.9%	399,691.4	326,105.7	16.7%	322,144.5
91	499,902.9	20.4%	490,176.1	367,660.5	12.7%	365,282.0
92	648,499.4	29.7%	588,114.3	483,326.3	31.5%	456,011.7
93	781,189.8	20.5%	725,350.4	570,279.5	18.0%	545,474.7
94	917,622.8	17.5%	886,526.6	679,387.5	19.1%	670,475.7
95	1,157,739.5	26.2%	1,122,276.3	782,636.1	15.2%	779,145.8
96	1,334,972.4	15.3%	1,303,889.9	908,539.8	16.1%	904,110.0
97	1,425,889.9	6.8%	1,380,130.8	954,240.6	5.0%	943,488.6
98	1,355,018.3	-5.0%	1,300,315.1	935,345.4	-2.0%	921,173.9
99	1,392,638.1	2.8%	1,345,548.8	897,095.1	-4.1%	888,720.0
00	1,403,017.3	0.7%	1,358,693.3	925,255.6	3.1%	920,093.2
01	1,411,837.3	0.6%	1,374,870.4	927,420.7	0.2%	920,071.7
02	1,433,446.9	1.5%	1,363,235.4	925,465.6	-0.2%	904,103.5
03	1,376,516.8	-4.0%		838,048.6	-9.4%	

Illinois Substitute Care Caseload History

Fiscal Year	Home of Relative	Specialized Foster Care	Regular Foster Care	Residential Placements	Independent Living	Total Substitute Care
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Caseloads

FY 03 est.	7,310	4,289	7,449	1,882	835	21,765
FY 02	8,537	4,136	7,665	1,996	901	23,235
FY 01	10,174	4,324	8,896	2,293	933	26,620
FY 00	12,454	5,907	8,868	2,470	968	30,667
FY 99	17,714	6,118	10,332	2,724	1,057	37,945
FY 98	24,066	6,804	11,295	2,914	1,046	46,125
FY 97	27,652	7,345	11,492	3,266	980	50,735
FY 96	27,873	7,324	10,149	3,846	852	50,044
FY 95	27,051	6,917	8,851	4,142	740	47,701

Caseload Change

FY 03 est.	(1,227)	-14.4%	153	3.7%	(216)	-2.8%	(114)	-5.7%	(66)	-7.3%	(1,470)	-6.3%
FY 02	(1,637)	-16.1%	(188)	-4.3%	(1,231)	-13.8%	(297)	-13.0%	(32)	-3.4%	(3,385)	-12.7%
FY 01	(2,280)	-18.3%	(1,583)	-26.8%	28	0.3%	(177)	-7.2%	(35)	-3.6%	(4,047)	-13.2%
FY 00	(5,260)	-29.7%	(211)	-3.4%	(1,464)	-14.2%	(254)	-9.3%	(89)	-8.4%	(7,278)	-19.2%
FY 99	(6,352)	-26.4%	(686)	-10.1%	(963)	-8.5%	(190)	-6.5%	11	1.1%	(8,180)	-17.7%
FY 98	(3,586)	-13.0%	(541)	-7.4%	(197)	-1.7%	(352)	-10.8%	66	6.7%	(4,610)	-9.1%
FY 97	(221)	-0.8%	21	0.3%	1,343	13.2%	(580)	-15.1%	128	15.0%	691	1.4%
FY 96	822	3.0%	407	5.9%	1,298	14.7%	(296)	-7.1%	112	15.1%	2,343	4.9%
FY 95	4,324	19.0%	1,152	20.0%	771	9.5%	417	11.3%	178	31.7%	6,842	16.8%

Reinvesting in Child Welfare

