

Community Resources for Families

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
School-Based Prevention Project

Statistical Report for 2000 - 2001 School Year

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**Community Resources for Families
Statistical Report 2000-2001
Executive Summary**

Community Resources for Families is a school-based prevention program provided to families by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and the Idaho School Districts. The program is designed to identify families in crisis and to provide short term emergency services in order to reduce the risk of child abuse/neglect. The goals of the program are:

- Strengthening families to prevent child abuse and neglect;
- Increasing the ability of children to learn;
- Increasing the self-reliance of families through utilization of community resources.

Children and families who are experiencing emergency situations are identified by teachers, counselors and principals and are referred to the Community Resources for Families Program in their schools. Community Resource Workers meet with the families and help them identify their strengths and needs. Community Service Workers assist the families in setting goals and in obtaining community resources to meet the families' unique needs and goals. The short-term services to children and their families assist families in resolving their crises situations and helps the families regain stability.

Two levels of service are provided by Community Resources for Families: **Emergency Assistance Services** provides intensive services for up to 90 days to promote family stability, divert families from long term dependence on assistance, and develop solutions that take into account the emergency needs of the entire family. Nine hundred ninety-seven (927) Idaho families received EA service in 2000-01 from the Community Resources for Families Program.

Assessment and Referral Services are provided to families for 30 days and assists families in assessing their situation and getting connected to services in the community to help meet their needs. The Community Resources for Families program provided A & R services to 3,721 families in 2000-01.

Description of the Families and Children

Many of the families served by this program are employed, and most have limited incomes. About 1/2 of the families who received Emergency Assistance services had a working adult in the home; however, 68% of the families had incomes below the poverty level. Fifty percent (50%) of the families were headed by a single female, with the average family containing 2.5 children. The children served came from all ethnic backgrounds, and most were between the ages of 6 and 11 and were attending elementary school. Slightly more boys were referred to the program.

Referral Reasons

The most frequent reasons for referral to Community Resources for Families included: financial needs, health and physical concerns, housing and children's behavior at school. Those families receiving Emergency Assistance Services were more often referred for financial and housing needs than were those families receiving Assessment and Referral Services. Often there was more than one reason for a referral to the Community Service Worker.

Services Provided

The services most frequently provided to referred families included: educational services, housing, counseling, and health services. Families provided with Emergency Assistance Services more often received services related to housing and utilities, while families who were provided with Assessment and Referral Services more frequently received educational, health and counseling services. Housing was the service most often funded with EA money. Services were provided by traditional social service agencies, and by informal resources such as friends and relatives.

Outcomes of Services

During the final meeting with the family, the Community Resource Workers and the families discussed their goals and the extent to which these goals were reached. Seventy nine percent (79%) of the families receiving Emergency Assistance Services reached their Child Safety and Well-Being Goals, more than two-thirds met their School Readiness Goals, and almost two-thirds attained their Self-Reliance Goals.

During the 2000-01 School Year, the program impacted the lives of almost 12,000 children from more than 4,600 families. Most parents served by the program needed only temporary services to regain their stability. Community Resources for Families helped the families resolve issues that resulted in greater safety for children, children more ready to learn, and families more independent and self-reliant.

**Community Resources for Families
Idaho Department of Health & Welfare**

School-Based Prevention Project

**Statistical Report
2000-2001 School Year**

Program Description

Partnerships between the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) and 90 Idaho school districts were developed to provide services to families in emergency situations to improve their ability to care for their children and to reduce the chance that children might become victims of abuse or neglect. Community Resources for Families (CRFF) addresses emergency conditions that may disrupt families and impact the safety and well-being of children. Because children are in school for extended periods of time, CRFF personnel collaborate with school personnel to identify children whose school performance/behavior may indicate family risk issues. These families are referred to the school Community Resource Worker (CRW), a social worker who meets with families, assesses their strengths and needs, and links them with existing community resources. The CRW provides short-term services to children and their families, helping them regain stability and increase their ability to provide for their own needs.

The goals of the program are:

- Strengthen families to prevent child abuse and neglect:
- Increase the readiness to learn of children:
- Increase the self-reliance of families through utilization of community resources.

The Community Resources for Families Program provides two levels of services, **Emergency Assistance Services** and **Assessment and Referral Services**. Family participation is voluntary. All families who choose to participate in the program receive up to 30 days of home-based supportive services (Assessment and Referral). Within this 30-day period, some families may require more comprehensive planning and services. These families may be eligible for Emergency Assistance Services,

Assessment and Referral Services

All families who volunteer for the project receive a minimum of 30 days of support. A CRW will work with a family for 30 days, assisting the family in assessing their situation and connecting them with services in their community. During this 30-day assessment period, the family and Community Resource Worker determine service options that will best serve the family. If needs indicate that greater or longer assistance is necessary, families may receive EA services.

Emergency Assistance Services

In situations of more intensive needs, EA services are provided to families who consent to service. Emergency Assistance Services consist of intensive services to families to promote family stability, divert families from long-term dependence on assistance, and develop solutions that take into account the emergency needs of the entire family. Families are served up to 90 days in order to enable the family to better provide for the safety and well-being of their children. The additional 90 days of service allows the CRW to provide intensive and need specific case management as well as use flexible funding to meet emergency needs.

Program Referrals

During the 2000-2001 school year, 5,628 referrals were made to the Community Resources for Families Program. Of these referrals, 927 families were provided with Emergency Assistance and 3,721 received Assessment and Referral Services. The other 76 families declined services or were not eligible for services.

Chart 1. Disposition of Referrals

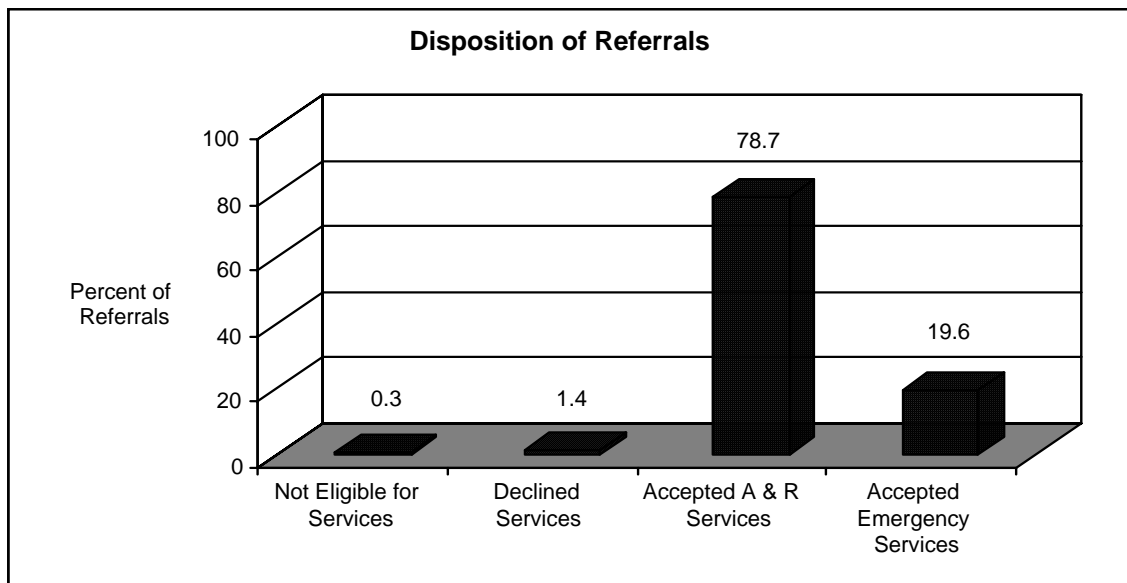


Table 1 below shows the disposition of families referred to the program. It indicates that less than 3% of the referred families were not eligible for services*. In addition, 1.4% of all cases declined services.

* In order to receive Emergency Assistance Services, a family must meet certain criteria:

- The family must have an emergency condition which the family is unable to meet
- The emergency condition must not exist because the parents failed to cooperate with TAFI requirements
- The family or a family member must be a legal resident of the United States.

Table 1: Comparison of Disposition of Referrals 2000-2001 and 1999-2000

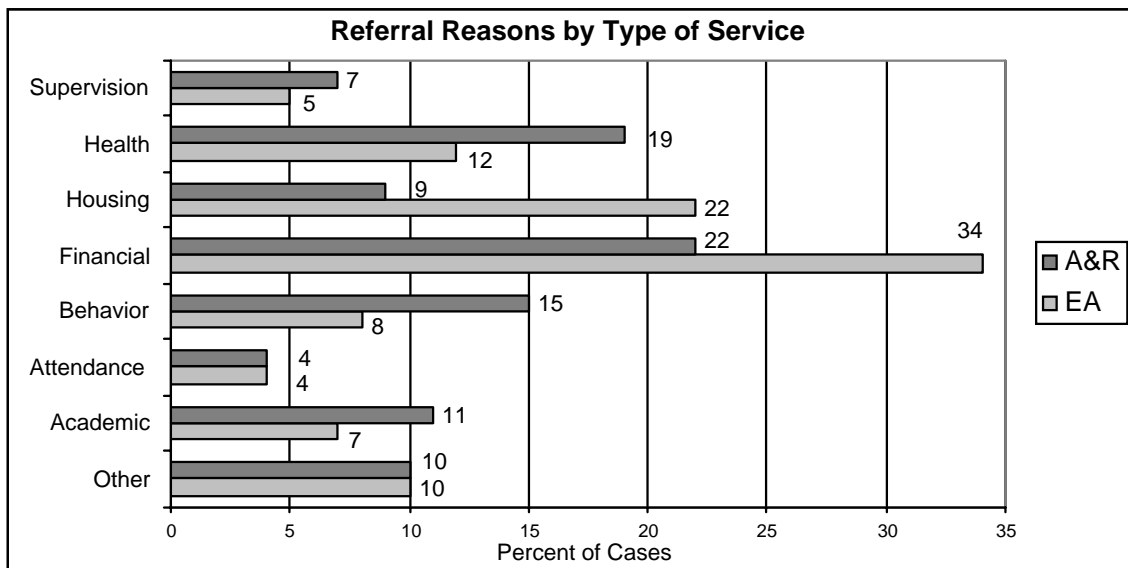
Disposition of Referrals	Number of Referrals 2000-2001	Percent of Referrals 2000-2001	Percent of Referrals 1999-2000
Accepted Emergency Assistance Services	927	19.6	21.2
Accepted Assessment & Referral Services	3721	78.8	57.4
Declined Services	64	1.4	N/A
Not Eligible	12	.3	4.8

Referral Reason

The reasons for referral for EA services were often different than for A & R services. Those families who participated in the Emergency Assistance Program were more likely to have been referred for financial management and housing. Families who received Assessment and Referral Services were more likely to have referrals for school issues, such as behavior, attendance or academic learning, or for supervision issues, or health and physical concerns.

Most families had more than one reason for referral. In addition, different needs often surfaced when the CRW started working with the family in the home. The chart below shows the referral reasons for Assessment and Referral families and for the families receiving Emergency Assistance for 2000-2001.

Chart 2. Referral Reasons



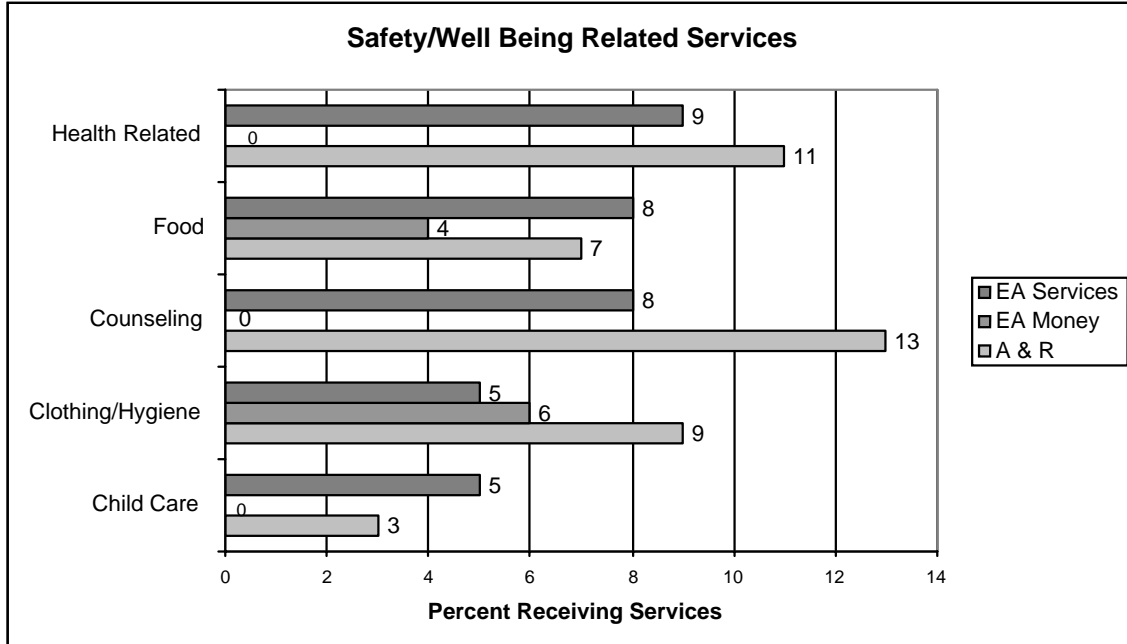
Services

Seventy nine percent of the families served received Assessment and Referral services and 21% of the families received Emergency Assistance Services during the past year. Within the EA category, 65% received Emergency Assistance Case Management Services only, and 35% received Emergency Assistance money for services. The services most frequently provided to referred families were:

- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Utilities
- ▶ Educational Services
- ▶ Clothing & Hygiene

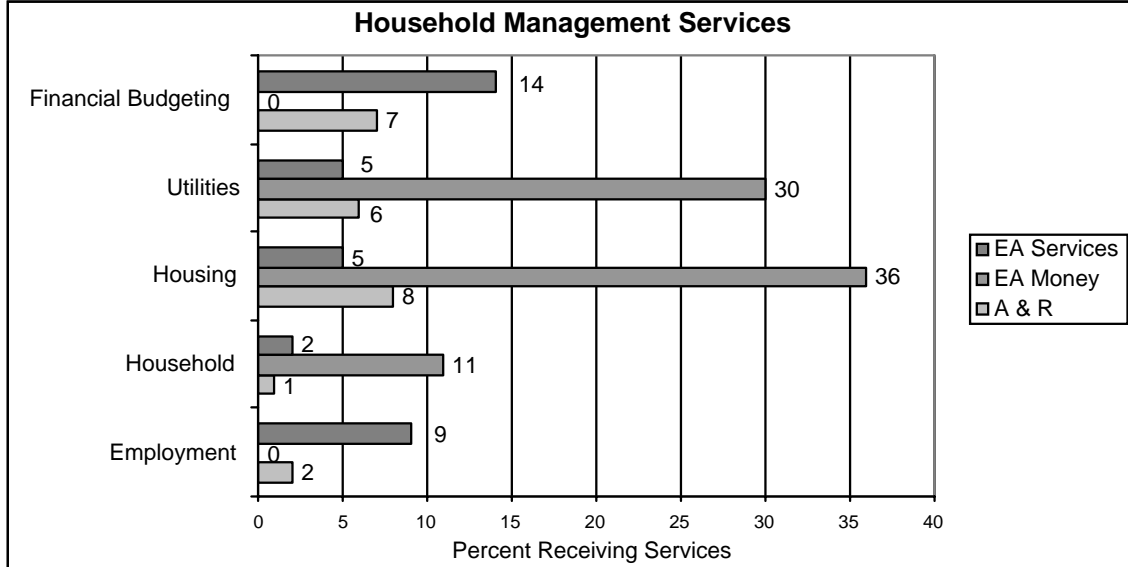
The services provided differed by their category. Families provided EA money were more apt to receive housing, utilities and transportation services. EA Case Management Services were most often related to financial management and employment. Families who received Assessment and Referral Services were more apt to receive educational, counseling, and health services. For analysis purposes, all services were categorized as to the major function they address. Chart 3a below shows that 43% of services related to Safety and Well being were A & R services, and that 35% of such services were EA case management services, with only 10% be EA money services.

Chart 3a. Safety/Well Being Services 2000-01



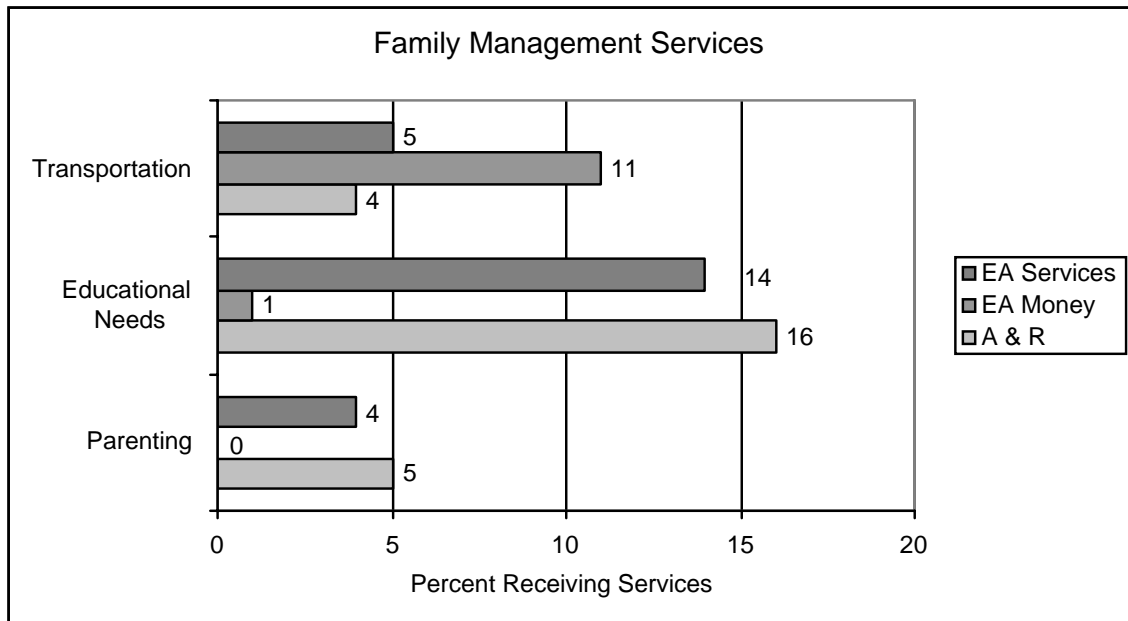
Household management services, on the other hand, required more EA money than any other category of services. Chart 3b below indicates that housing was the service that required the highest percent of EA money, followed closely by utilities.

Chart 3b. Household Management Services 2000-01



Finally, family management services provided a mixture of all types of services. Educational needs required the most A & R services and EA case management services, while transportation required the most EA money.

Chart 3c. Family Management Services 2000-01



Cost of EA Services to Families

There were 1,612 families provided with Emergency Service dollars during the school year. The average cost per service overall was \$306.63. The cost of service ranged from \$12.50 to \$489.06. The average cost of housing services was highest at \$489 per individual household, followed by health related services (\$330), alternative care services (\$300), household services (\$253), transportation services (\$222), and utilities cost at an average of \$212. The highest percent of monies spent was for housing (58%) and utilities (20.92%). A total of \$494,291 was spent for services for emergency purposes.

Table 2 indicates that the EA dollars were most utilized to provide assistance for housing emergencies. This was true for average amount per service; total amount spent, number of individuals served, and percent of total spent.

Table 2 also indicates that utilities emergencies were the second most common need funded by EA money. Combining utilities expenditures with housing expenditures accounts for 79% of all EA monies spent during the 2000-01 program year. Table 2 below shows all EA money spent on services for families, the average costs and percentages:

Table 2: Services Funded by Program

Service Amount Actual				
Service Type	Average per Service	Total Money Awarded	Number of Individuals Served	Percent of Money per Service
Utilities	\$212.06	\$103,389.95	N=487	20.92%
Transportation	\$222.48	\$39,823.18	N=179	8.06%
Parenting	\$110.44	\$110.44	N=1	0.01%
Other	\$117.41	\$4,109.18	N=35	.83%
Housing	\$489.06	\$287,569.95	N=588	58.18%
Household	\$253.61	\$30,179.11	N=119	3.30%
Health	\$330.75	\$1,323.00	N=4	.27%
Food	\$128.16	\$8,202.00	N=64	1.66%
Financial Management	\$45.24	\$226.20	N=5	.05%
Employment	\$12.50	\$25.00	N=2	.01%
Educational Needs	\$111.76	\$1,788.22	N=16	.36%
Counseling	\$300.00	\$300.00	N=1	.06%
Clothing & Hygiene	\$155.24	\$16,300.11	N=105	3.30%
Child Care	\$157.50	\$945.00	N=6	.19%

Characteristics of Referred Children

Demographic information was provided only for the children provided with Emergency Services, as they were the only children for whom application and consent forms were completed. The

majority of the children were between the ages of 6 and 11 years. Most of the children attended grade school with the majority of the children being in 1st through 6th grade (Chart 5 below).

Chart 4. Ages of Referred Children (percent of EA children in each category)

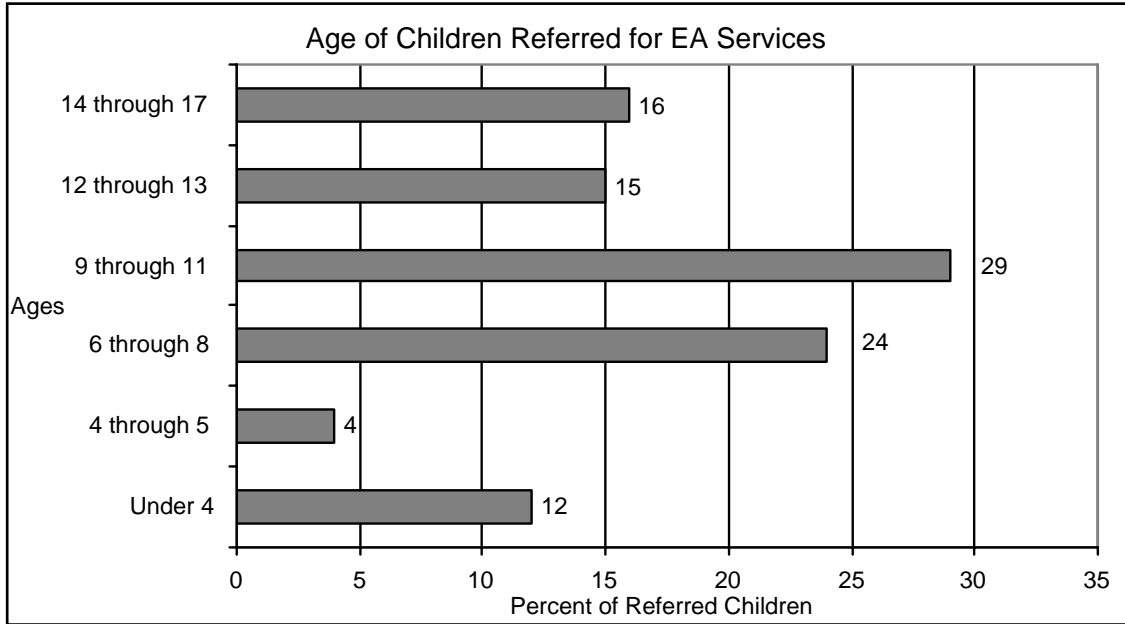
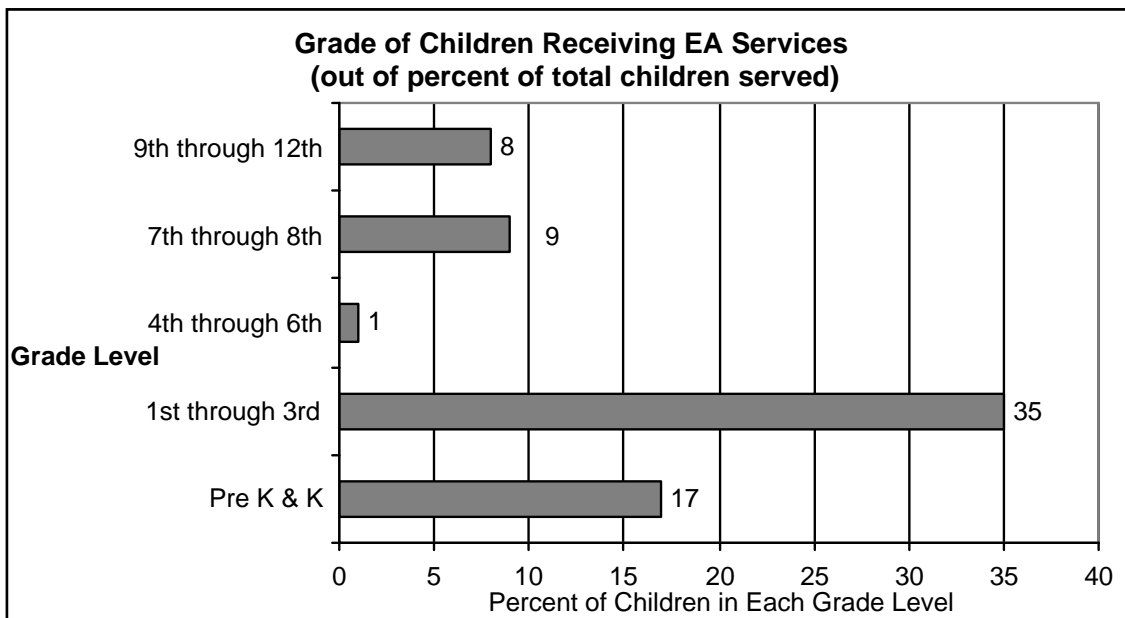


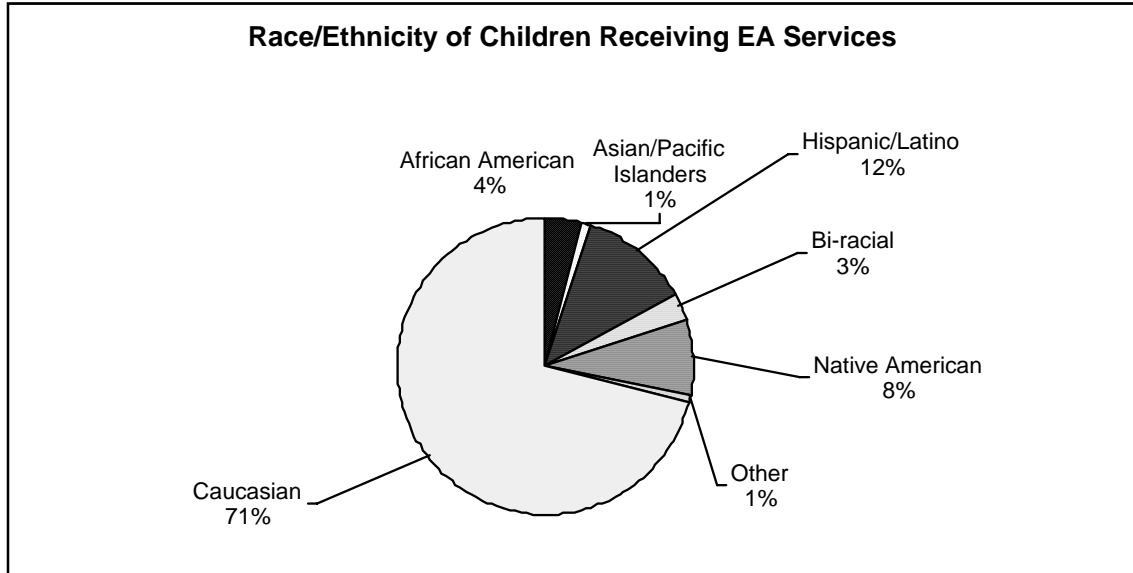
Chart 5. Grade Levels of Referred Children (percent of total children served)



The project served children from all ethnic groups. Seventy percent of the children were white. The largest minority group was Latino/Hispanic at 12% of the children served. Native American

children comprised 8% of the sample. The project served approximately equal numbers of boys and girls.

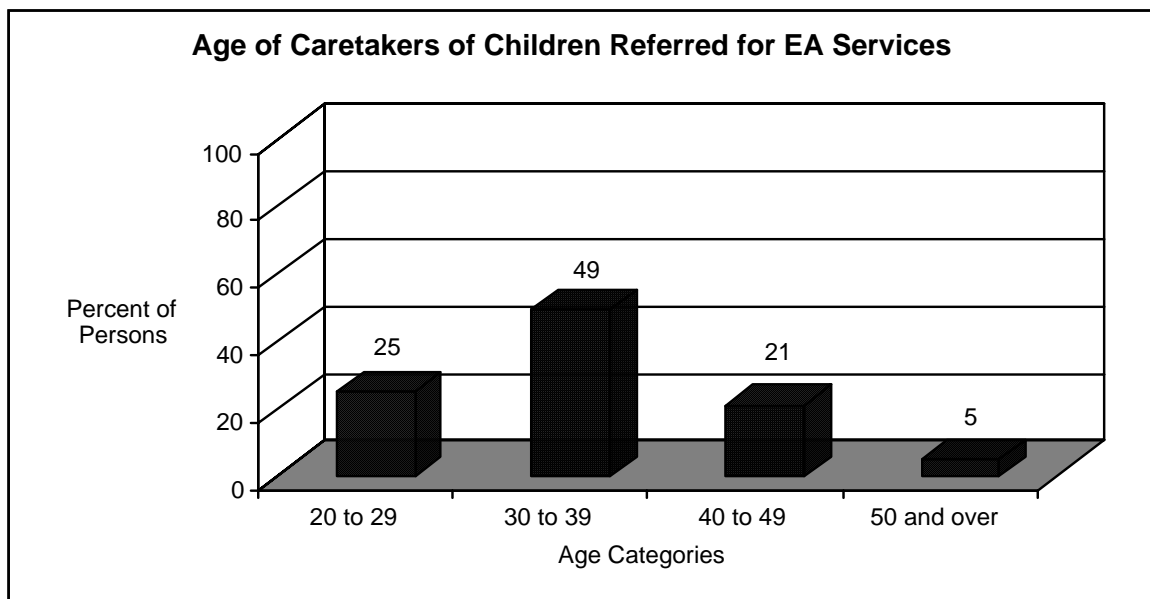
Chart 6. Race of Referred Children



Caretaker Characteristics

Information on the primary caretakers was provided for Emergency Assistance cases only. 49% of caretakers receiving services were between the ages of 30 to 39. 25% of caretakers were under 30 years of age, and 21% were over the age of 40.

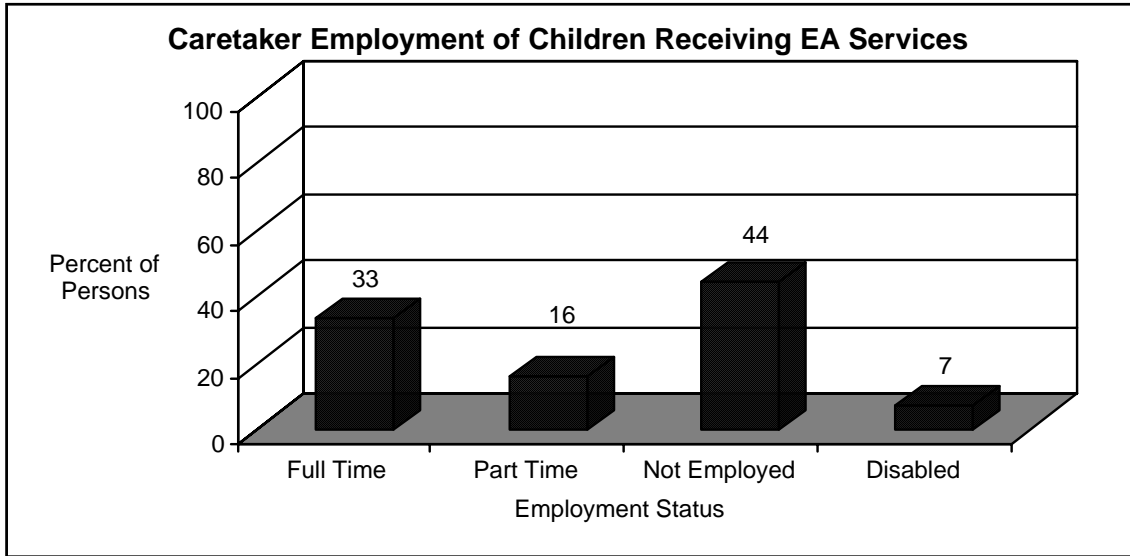
Chart 7. Age of Caretakers of Referred Children



Employment Status of Those Receiving Emergency Assistance

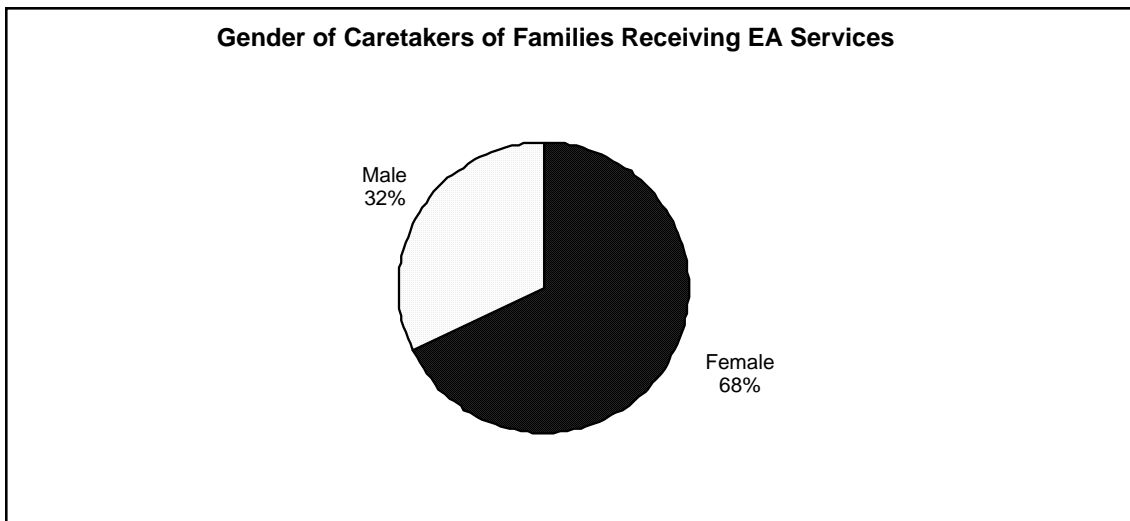
In terms of employment status, the highest percentage of recipients receiving EA Services were unemployed (44%). Thirty-three percent (33%) of service recipients worked full-time, 16% worked part-time and 7% were disabled. In total, 49% of recipients were employed at least part time, while 51% were unemployed or disabled.

Chart 8. Employment Status of EA Service Recipients



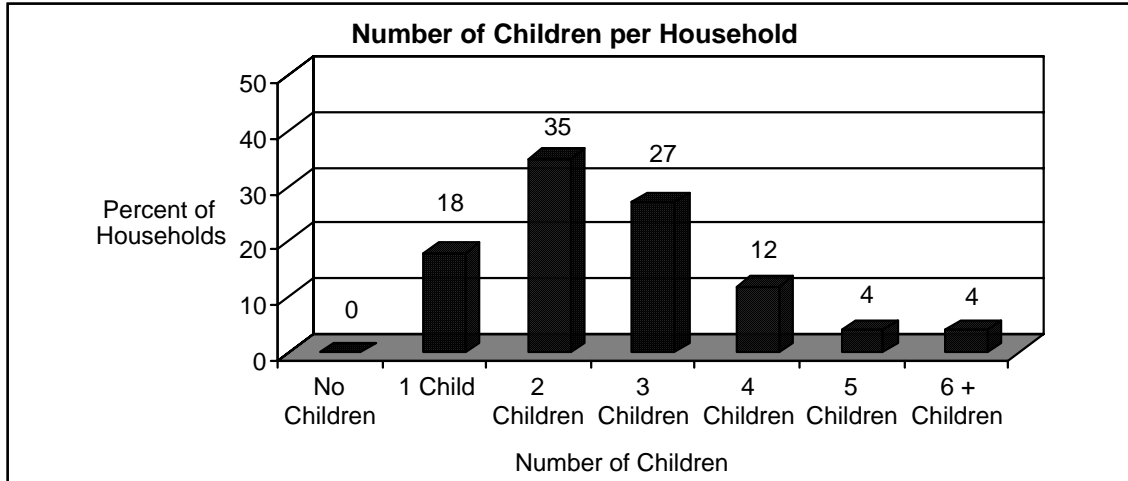
The majority of family caretaker who received EA services were female (67.7%), as shown below:

Chart 9. Gender of Caretakers Receiving Services



Most families receiving Emergency Assistance had either two or three children. Families provided with EA services tended to have more children than did those receiving Assessment and Referral Services, as seen in Chart 10 below.

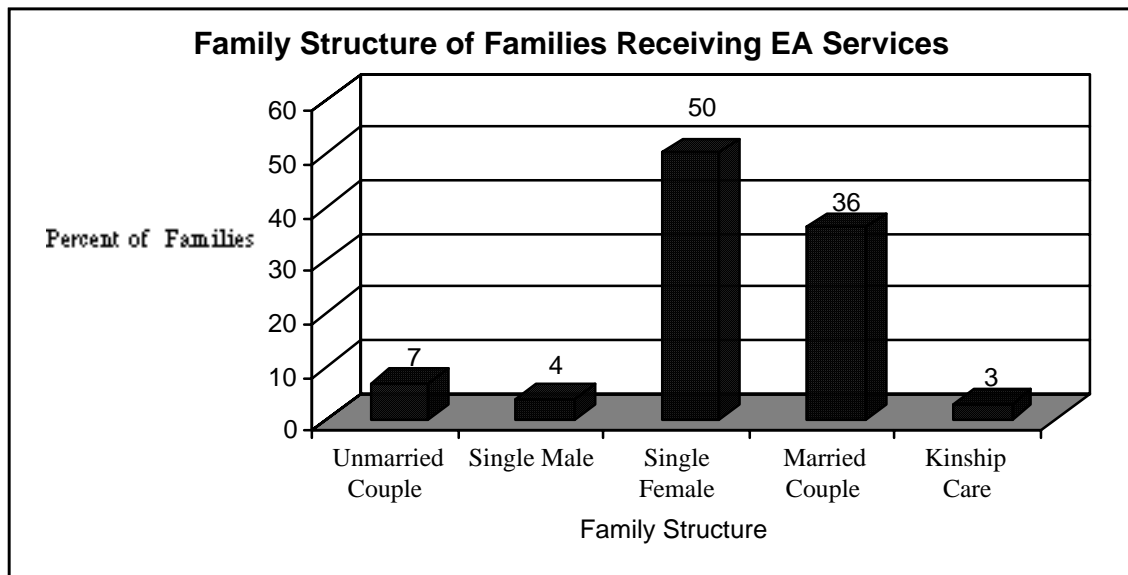
Chart 10. Number of Children per Household



Family Structure

The family structure for the majority of those receiving services was single female head of household (50%). Married couples were the next most frequent structure (36%), followed by unmarried couples (7%), and single males accounted for 4% of the families served. Kinship Care was only 2.5% of the family structures. Families provided EA Services more often had a single female family structure than did those who received the Assessment and Referral Services.

Chart 11. Family Structure for Families Receiving EA Services

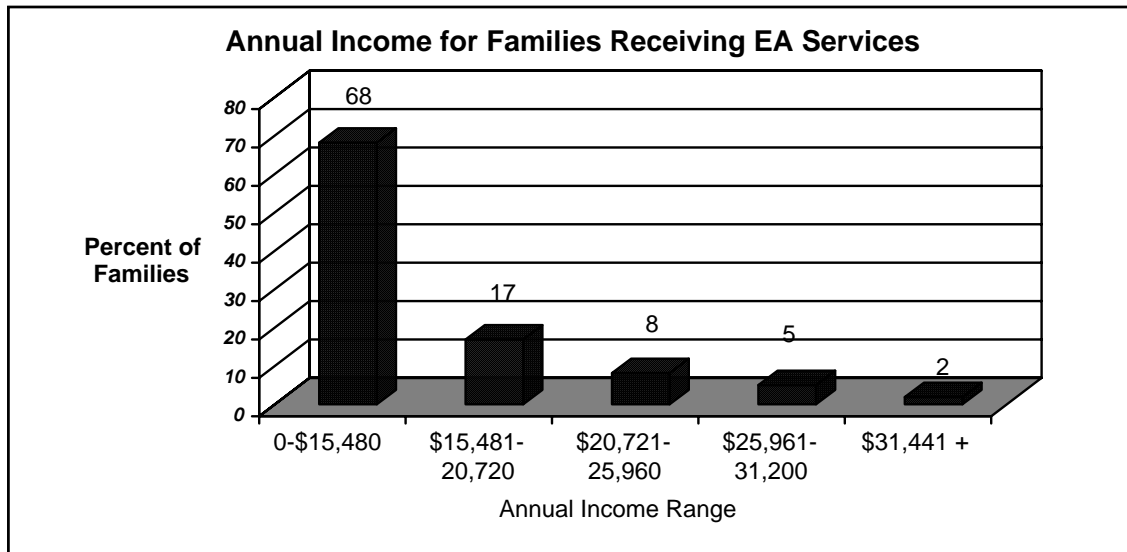


Annual Income

Over 68% of the families provided with Emergency Assistance Services had annual incomes less than \$15,480. This was the lowest annual income category provided by on the intake form. The actual income of families is believed to be much lower than the lowest reportable category. Other information concerning family incomes includes:

- The single female and kinship family structures tended to have the lowest income
- Married couples had the highest income levels
- The program tended to serve many “working poor” families. Sixty-eight percent of the families with either a caretaker or another adult in the family employed had incomes below \$15,480.
- Five point six percent of the families had previously received TAFI services.

Chart 12. Annual Income for Families Receiving EA Services



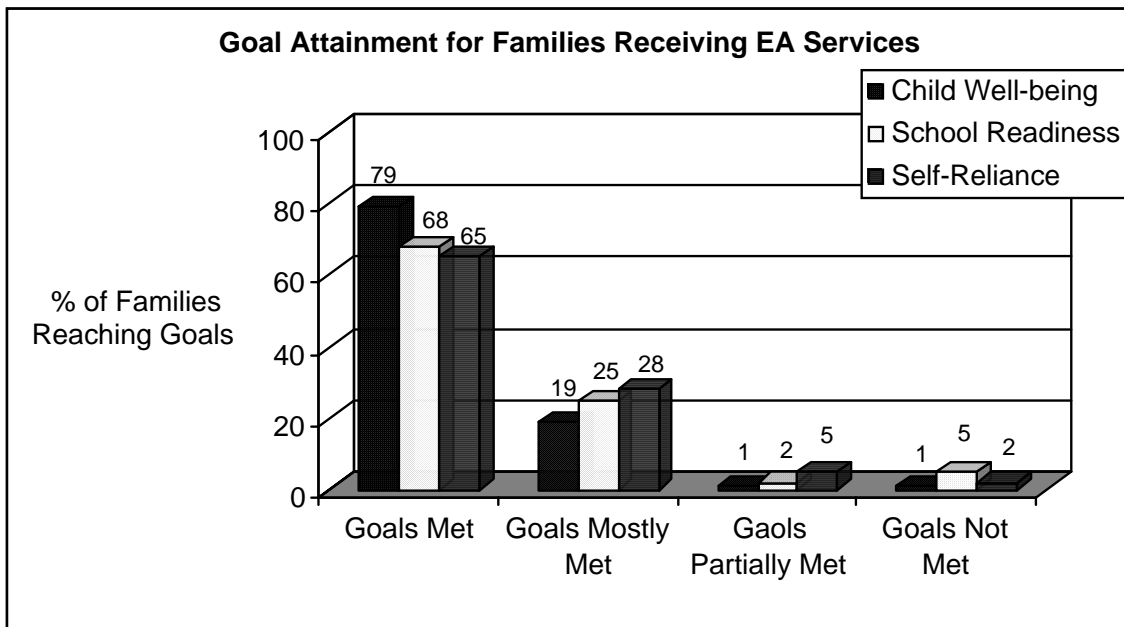
Evaluation of Program Goals

CRW's were requested at the end of service to rate the degree to which the individual families had made progress toward the three goals of the program: 1) Increasing child safety and well-being; 2) increasing child readiness to learn; and 3) increasing family self-reliance. CRW's were asked to rate each family to the degree that the three program goals had been met. Not all goals applied to all families, since for some families one or more of the goal areas was not an area of need. The rate at which the families met the goals, as evaluated by the CRWs, is shown below. The charts indicate that for families receiving Emergency Assistance:

- Seventy-nine percent of the families receiving Emergency Assistance reached program goals in child safety and the well-being of the children.

- Sixty-eight percent of the families were rated as meeting the school readiness goals.
- The self-reliance goals were rated high for almost 65% of the families.
- Child safety and well-being were rated most highly for both the Emergency Assistance and Assessment & Referral cases.

Chart 13. Goal Attainment for EA Families



Conclusion.

During the 2000-01 School Year, the program impacted the lives of almost 12,000 children from more than 4,600 families. Most parents served by the program needed only temporary services to regain their stability. Community Resources for Families helped the families resolve issues that resulted in greater safety for children, children more ready to learn, and families more independent and self-reliant.