
**Title IV-E Waiver Demonstrations: Implementation, Progress and
Methodology in Indiana and Mississippi**

Presentation Slides

**Sixth Annual Child Welfare Demonstration Projects Meeting,
Washington, D.C**

**Institute of Applied Research
St. Louis, Missouri**

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This document contains slides utilized in the presentation of the Institute of Applied Research at the Sixth Annual Child Welfare Demonstration Projects Meeting held in February 2002 in Washington, D.C. The majority of slides that were used in the presentation have been retained in this document in unaltered form. Many of the slides are self-explanatory. Where further information is needed, text has been added before or after the slide. The original slide numbering has been retained.

The Institute of Applied Research is the evaluator of two Title IV-E Waiver demonstration projects in Indiana and Mississippi.

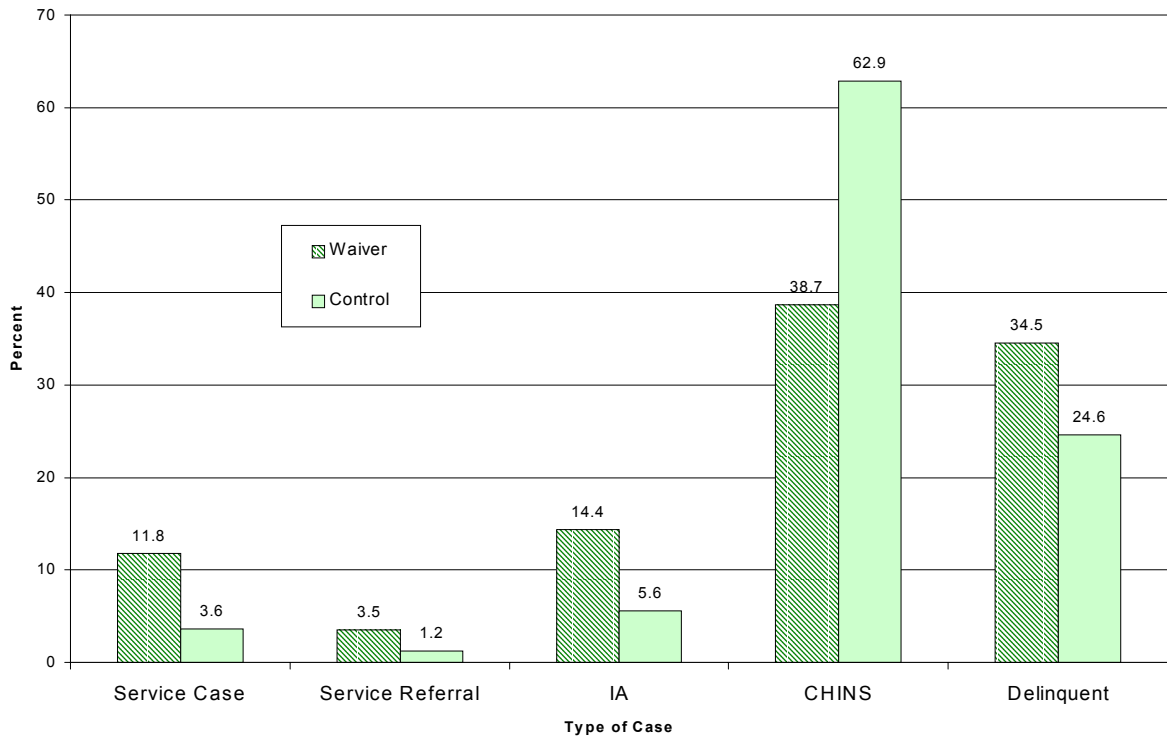
Indiana Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Evaluation

Slide 3

Three aspects of the way the demonstration was designed in Indiana have had important implications for the evaluation

- ❖ It is statewide. All 92 counties are participating in the waiver.
- ❖ Up to 25 percent of the cases assigned to the waiver can be children who would not be eligible for Title IV-E services under existing rules that are based on family income. Any child and family served by local Offices of Family and Children can potentially be selected for waiver programs and services.
- ❖ Indiana counties have been given great latitude in the design of the demonstration in their counties. Within broad guidelines, each of the state's counties has been allowed to design their own waiver program.

Types of Closed Sample Cases

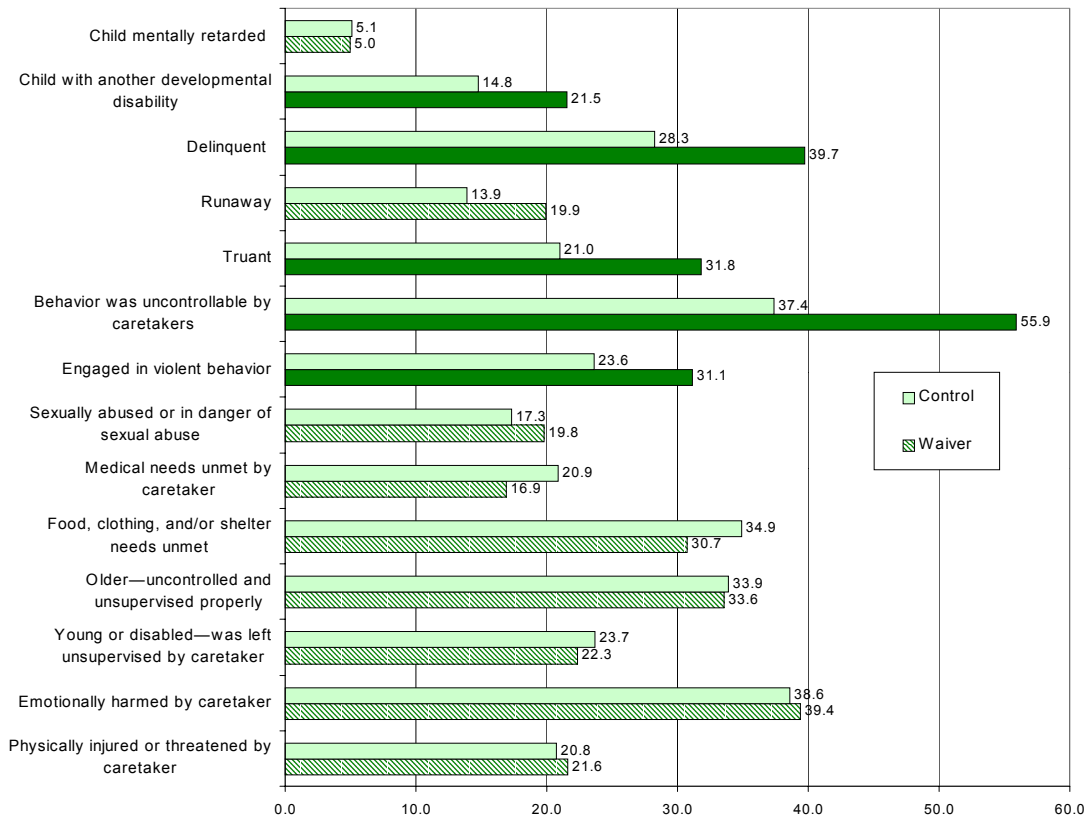


In the waiver and control samples, cases of different types have closed at different rates. To date, more CHINS cases have closed in the control group while more delinquency cases have closed in the waiver group. (CHINS cases are generally child abuse and neglect cases in which children have been placed in foster or residential settings.) This may be an indication of increased services to delinquent youths under the waiver.

Because data on sample cases are only collected at case closure, the following analyses and charts correspond to the closed portions of the waiver and control samples only. These analyses are provisional, therefore, and may change as more sample cases close.

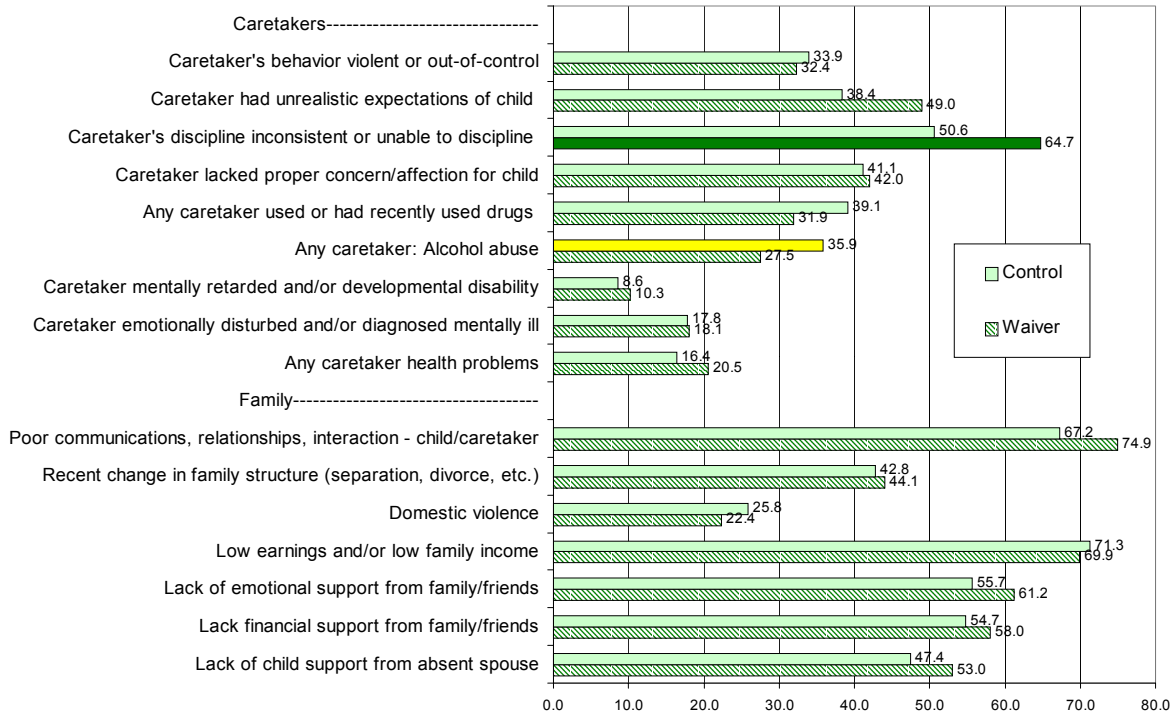
Slide 7

MRDD, Behavior Problems, Child Abuse and Neglect



No statistically significant differences were found in the proportions of types of child abuse and neglect associated with children’s entry to the system. Significant differences were found (dark bars in chart) in behavior problems of children. These differences are associated with the current imbalance of delinquent youths among closed cases.

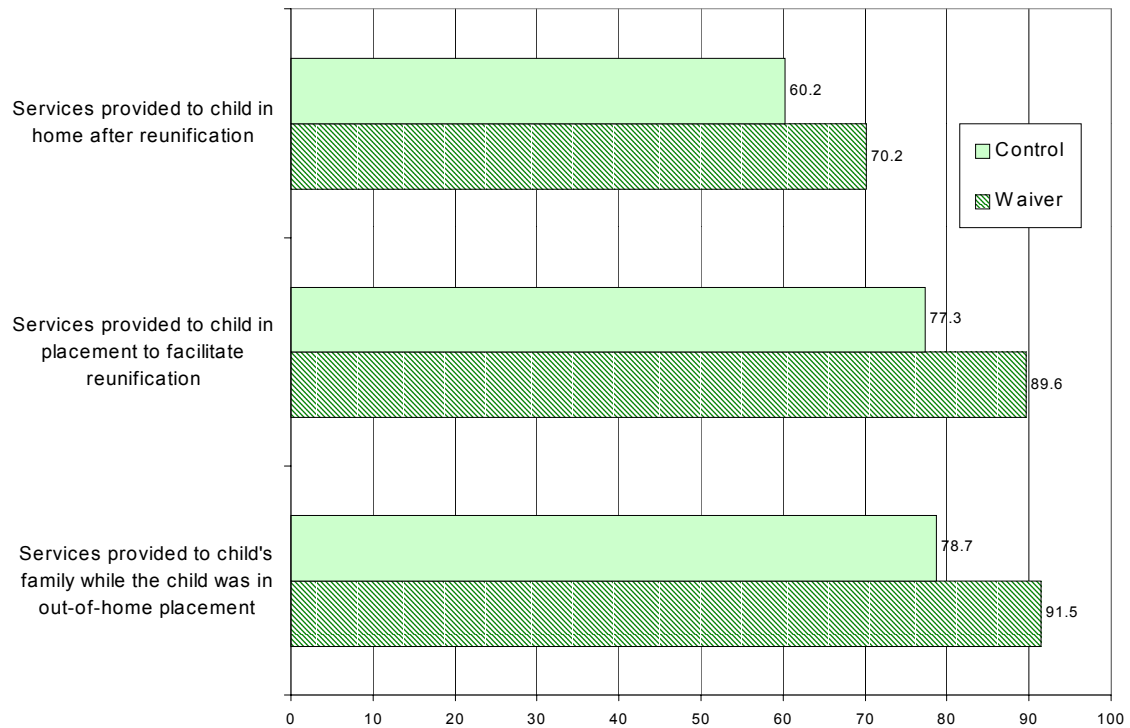
Caretaker and Family Problems



Very few differences were found between experimental and control cases in the characteristics of caretakers and families. Problems with caretaker discipline of children was found significantly more often among waiver cases. This is also likely attributable to the current imbalance among closed delinquent cases. In addition, a significantly greater proportion of caretaker alcohol abuse was found among control cases.

Slide 9

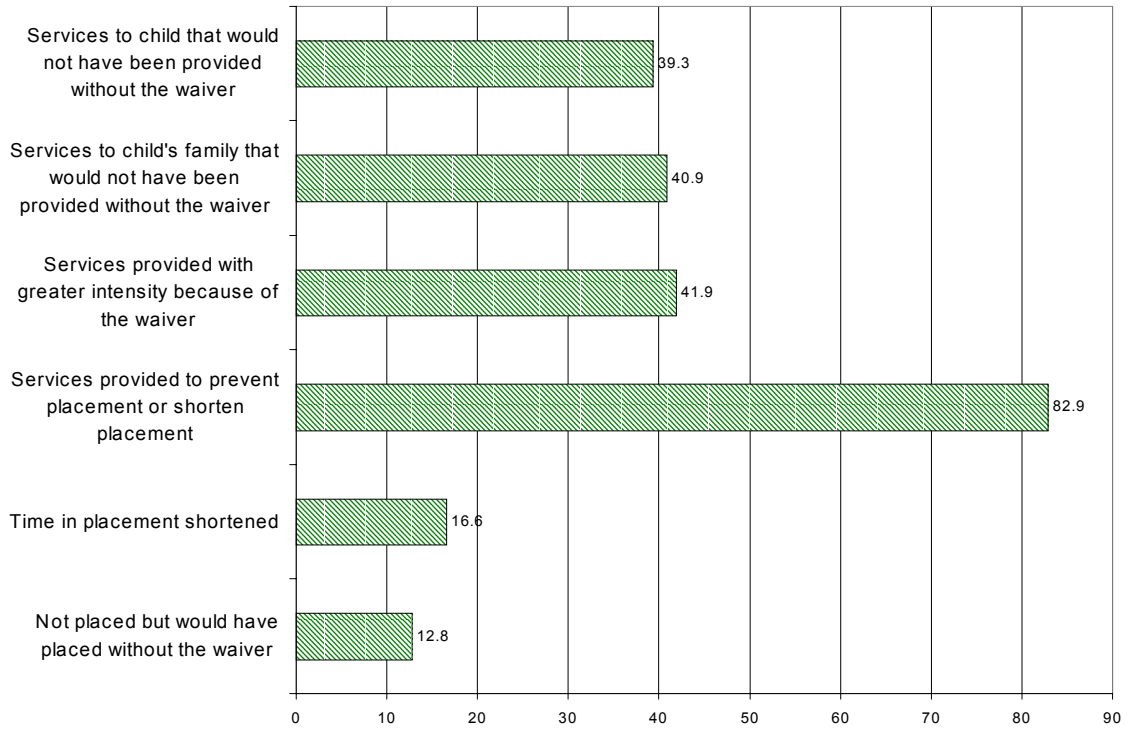
General Service Difference between Waiver and Control



Caseworkers were asked general questions about services for each child and family. Significantly more services were provided to children during and after out-of-home placement. The differences in all three areas shown in the chart were statistically significant in favor of the waiver group.

Slide 10

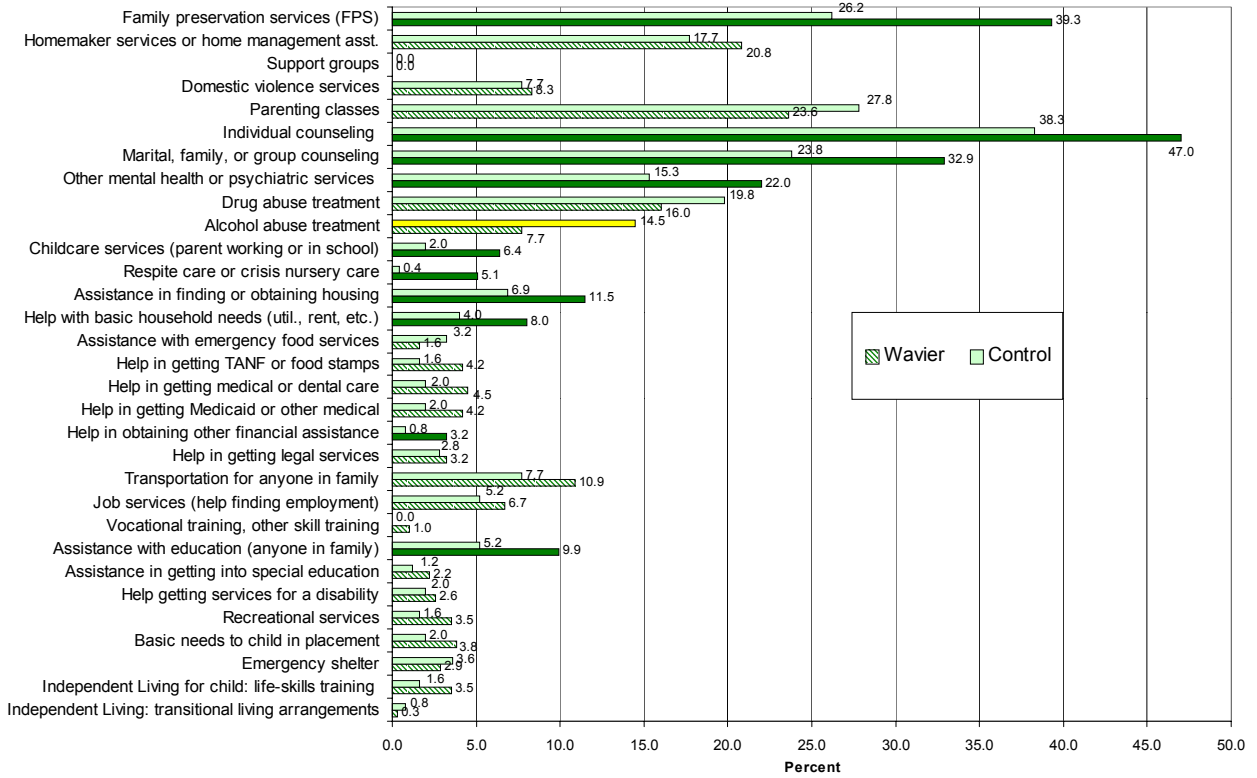
Worker Reports about Service Differences under the Waiver



Focusing on waiver cases only, workers were asked to estimate differences the changes that may have occurred in waiver cases because of the flexibility permitted by the waiver.

Slide 11

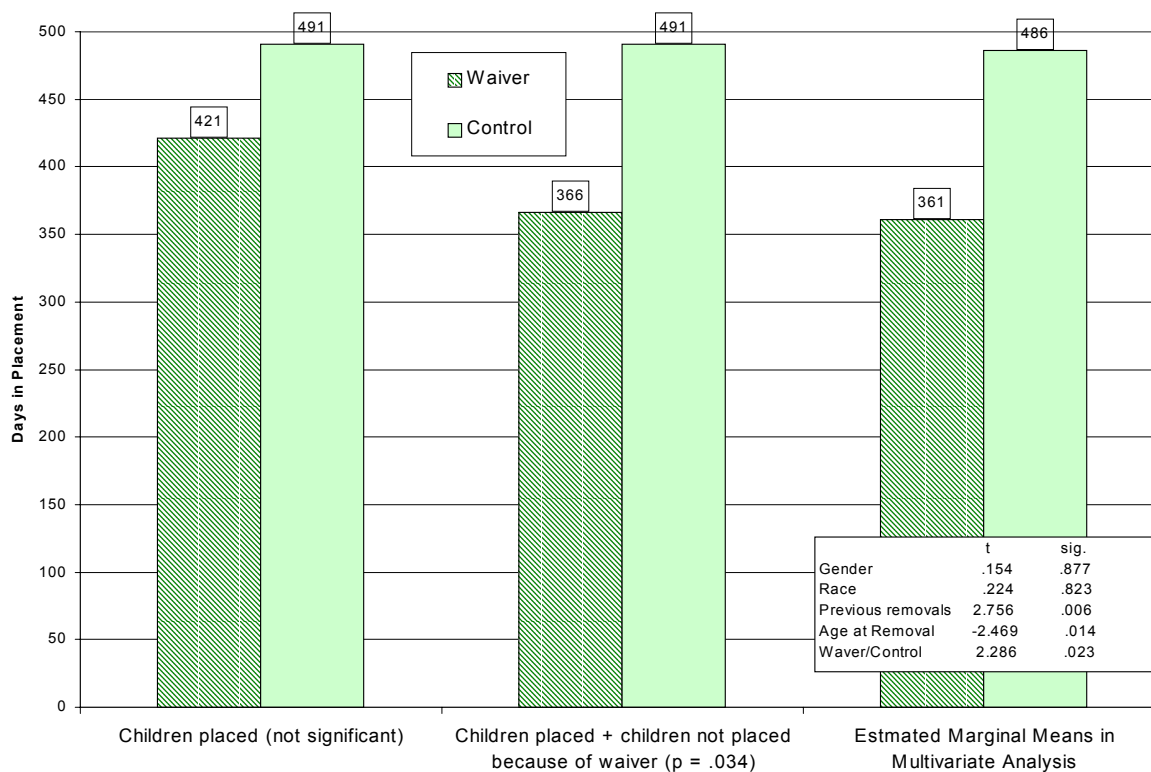
Differences in Services to Waiver and Control Cases



Concerning specific services, closed waiver cases received increased services of various kinds in comparison to waiver cases. The dark bars in the above diagram are each instances in which proportions of services to waiver cases were significantly greater than those to control cases. In only one area, alcohol abuse treatment, did control cases receive greater services.

Slide 12

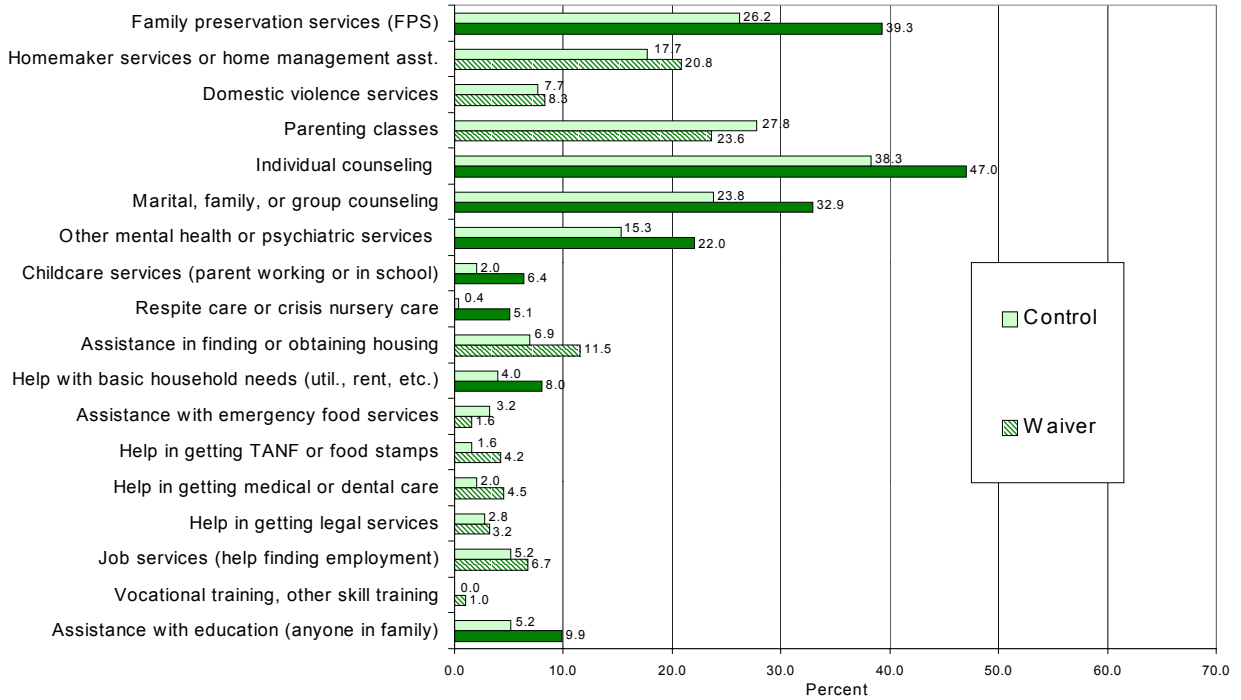
Days in Placement of Waiver and Control Children



As an example of impact measures that are being used in the study we have presented days in placement for sample cases. Taking only children that were actually placed (comparison on the left side of chart), waiver children spent less time in placement but the difference was not statistically significant. On the other hand, placement of some waiver children was averted because services were introduced under waiver programs (see slide 10 above). When these children were included (with zero days in placement) the mean days in placement was reduced from 421 to 366 (comparison in middle of chart). This operation can only be conducted on sample cases for which feedback was obtained from caseworkers that worked directly with the family and is dependent on the caseworkers' estimates of whether the child would have been placed. A multivariate analysis of this same data introduced the covariates of race, previous removals before the current placement episode, age of child at first removal from home. Under these conditions waiver-control differences (as measured by estimated marginal means) were unaffected (comparison on right side of chart).

Slide 13

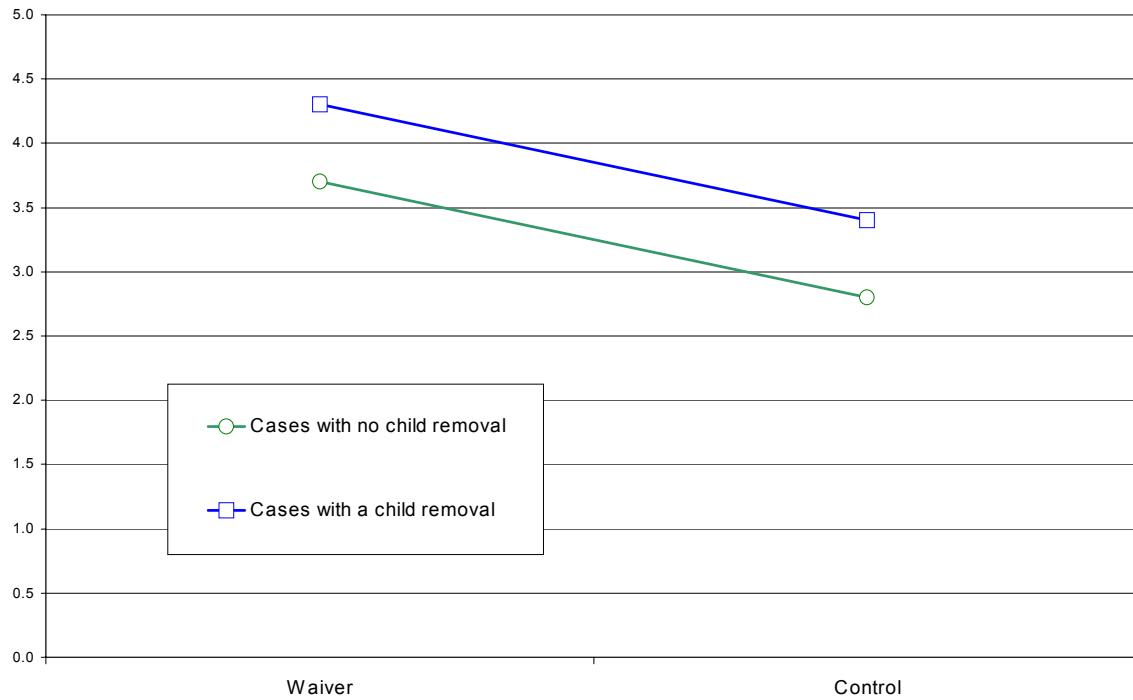
Family-Oriented Services to Waiver and Control Children



This figure isolates the items from Slide 11 that we defined as family-oriented, as opposed to those that are aimed at children only. Several differences were statistically significant (dark bars) showing that IV-E funds have been applied more frequently to the entire family in waiver cases.

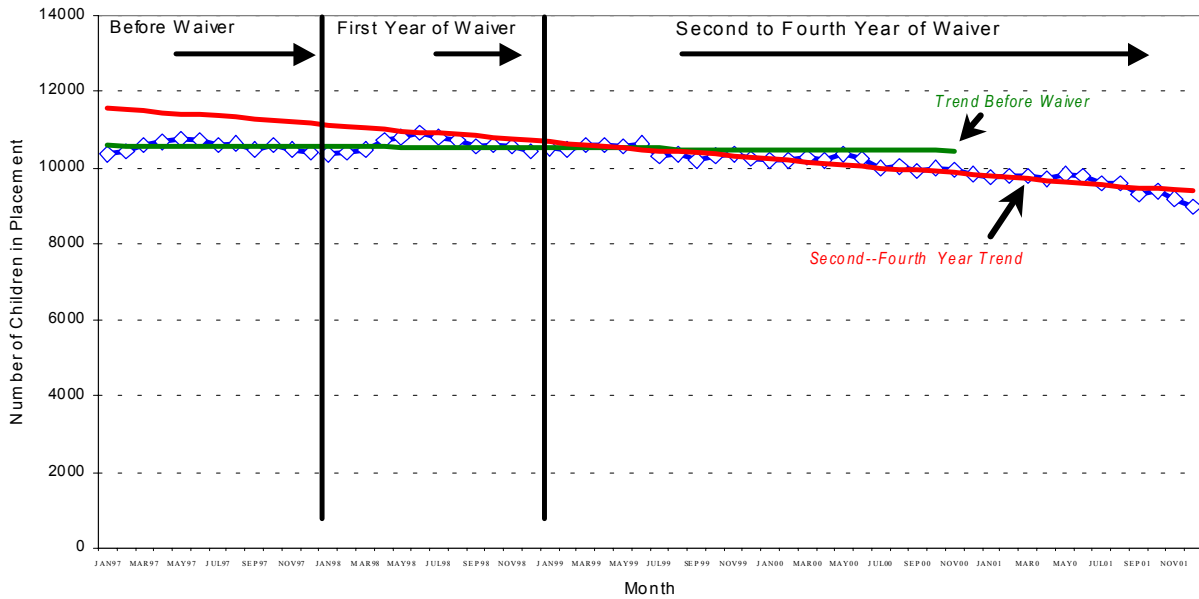
Slide 14

Family-Oriented Services Index



Using the items shown in the previous slide, a family-oriented services index was created. This graph shows the mean differences on this index for waiver and control cases when children were and were not removed. In both cases waiver cases received significantly more services in this general category.

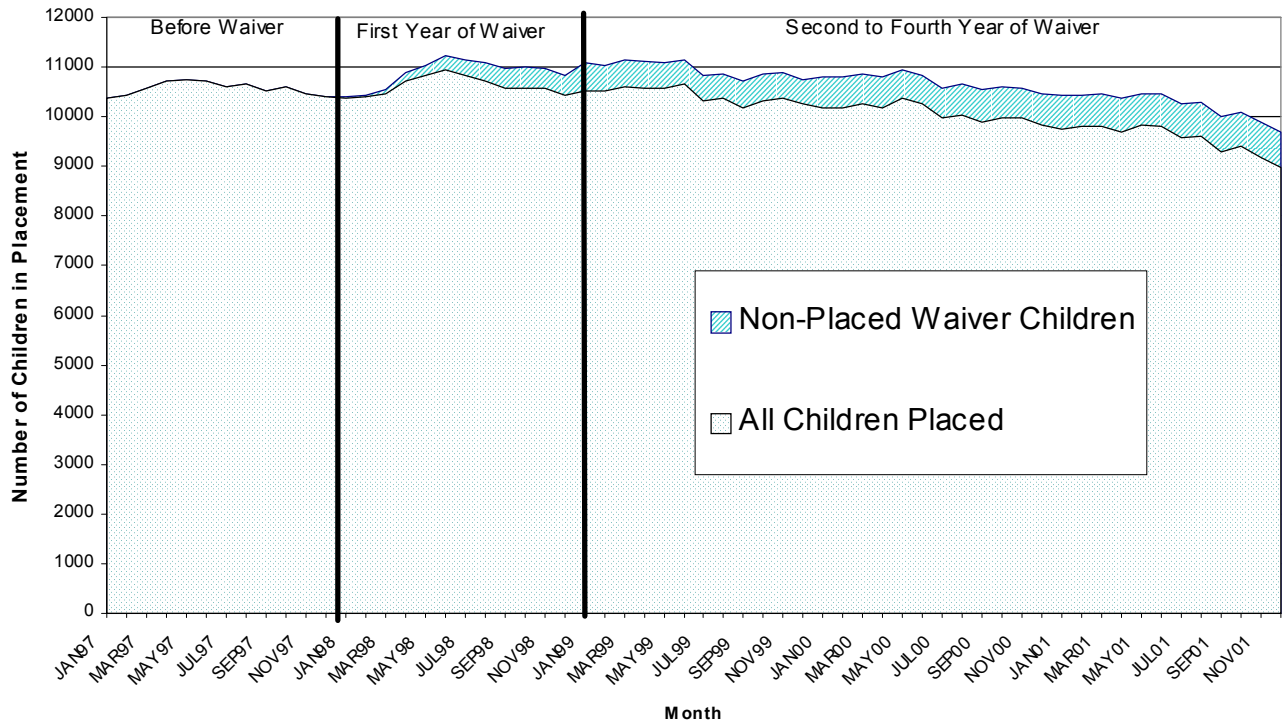
Trends in Monthly Totals of Indiana Children in Out-of-Home Placement (1/97 – 12/01, statewide)



The presentation then turned to comparisons of the entire monthly population of children in placement in Indiana. Time series in the diagram show the total number of children in placement for the one-year period before the beginning of the Indiana waiver (1997) and the first through the fourth years of the waiver (1998 through 2001). The totals decline and the trend line for the second through fourth years is significantly different from that for the first year of the waiver.

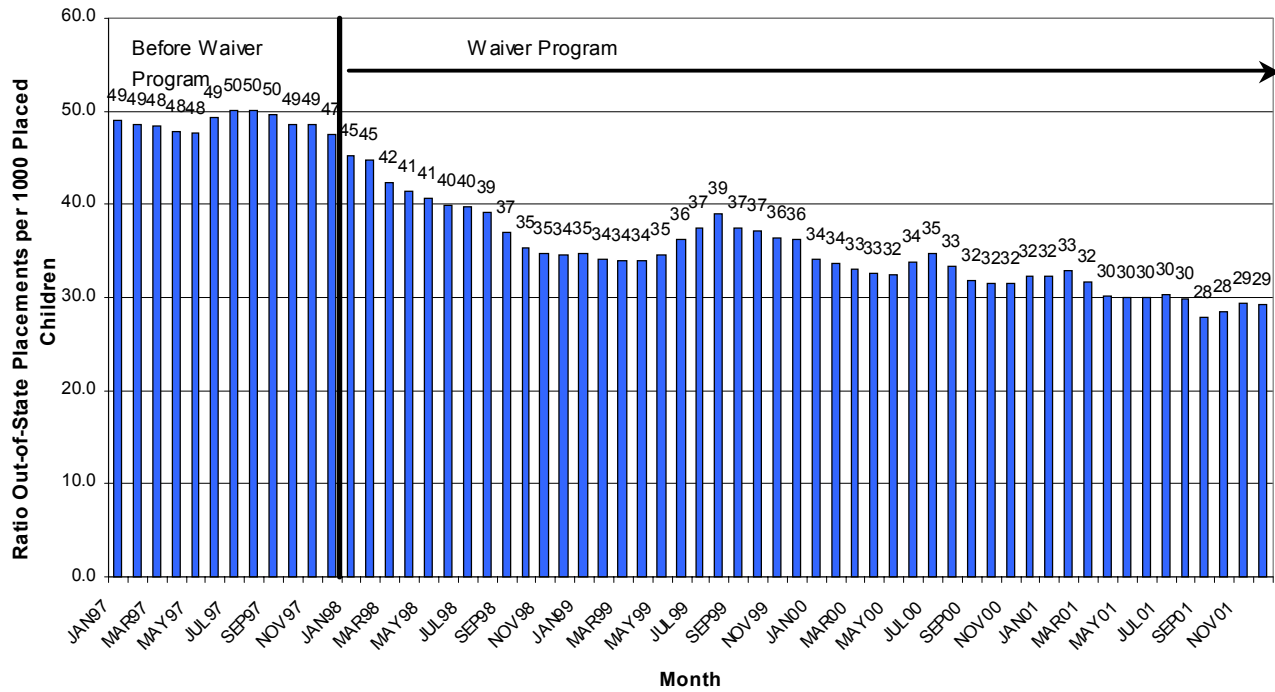
Slide 16

Monthly Totals of Children in Out-of-Home Placement with the Addition of Waiver Children not in Placement (1/97 – 12/01, Statewide)



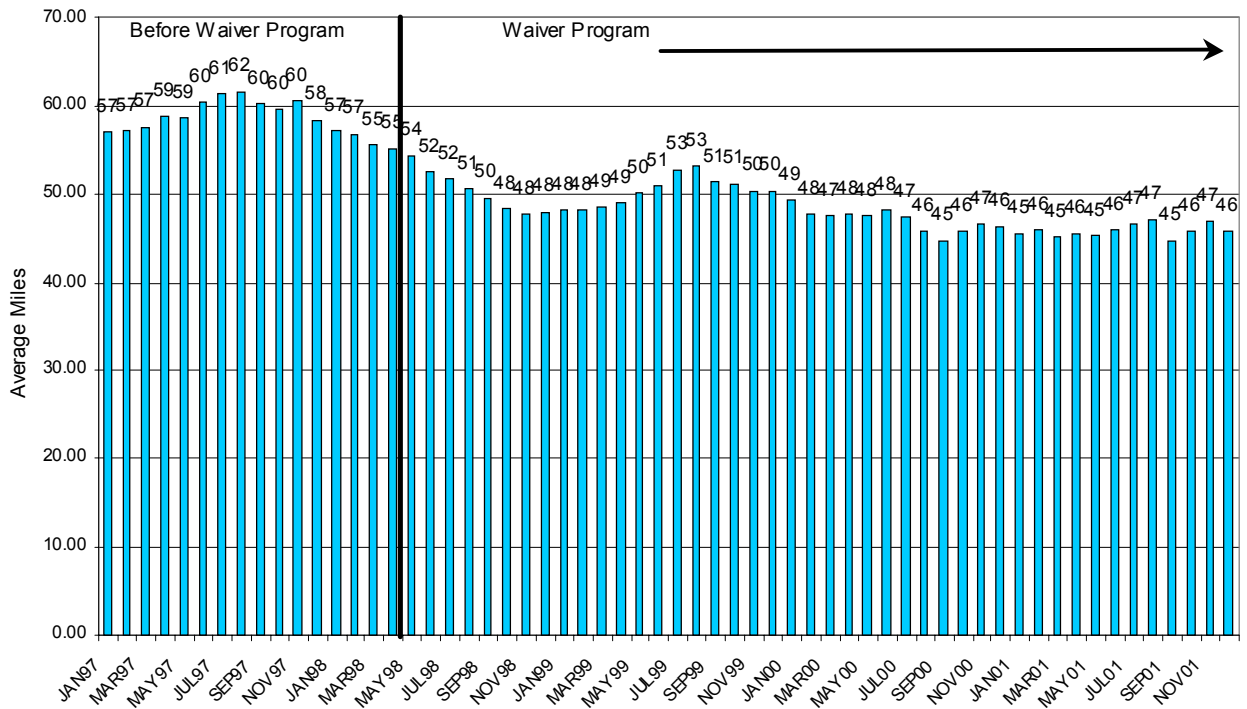
This slide shows the trend line of the previous chart as an area graph (lower area). Added to this is the total of all non-placed waiver children each month. During any particular month, these children would have included children that returned home after placement as well as children for whom removal and placement were avoided through waiver services. Only a portion of the children in the top area, therefore, represent avoided placements. However, we know from sample data that this portion is greater than zero and is at least as high as one in every ten children assigned to the waiver. A more exact proportion will be known when greater proportions of sample cases have closed.

Monthly Ratio of Children Placed Outside Indiana to every 1,000 Children in Placement (1/97 – 12/01, Statewide)



This chart shows the monthly rate of children placed outside the state in Indiana per 1000 children in placement. This rate also declined after the waiver began. Whether this decline or those shown in the previous two charts are attributable to the waiver is not known because AFCARS rules promoting reductions in out-of-home placements began to be applied simultaneously.

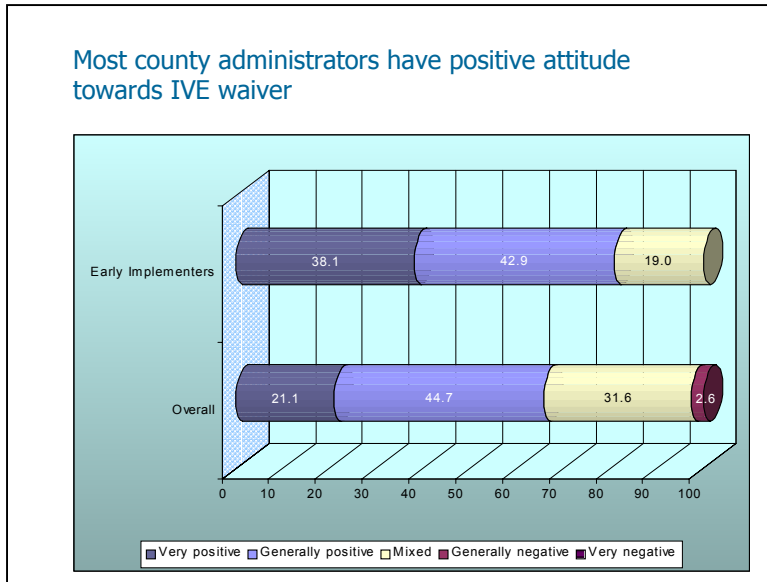
Monthly Average Distance from Home to Placement Facility Each Month (1/97 – 12/01, Statewide)



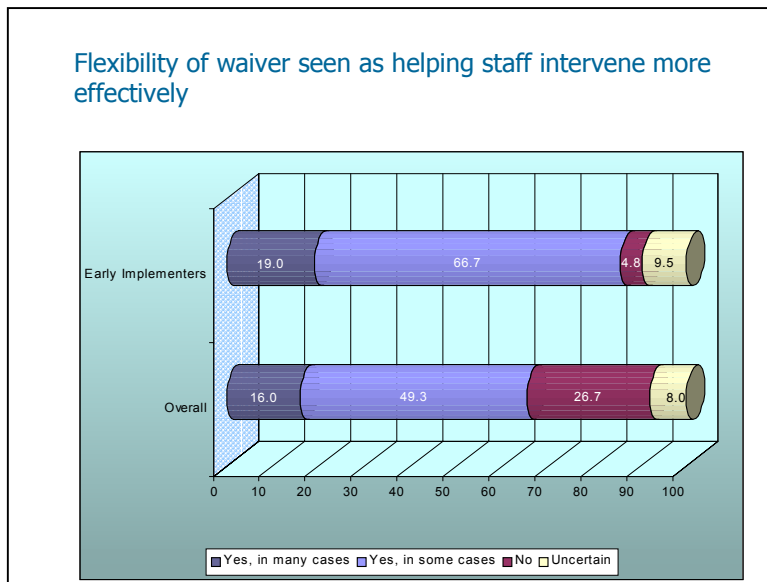
Finally, this chart shows differences in the monthly average distance of the placement of children outside their homes for the same five-year period. A slight decline can be observed coinciding with the waiver program.

The following slides show select results of the latest survey of county administrators conducted during 2001 as part of the process evaluation. Each chart compares the responses of administrators in early implementing counties (see Slide 5) with responses all administrators throughout the state. They are largely self-explanatory and are presented without comment.

Slide 19

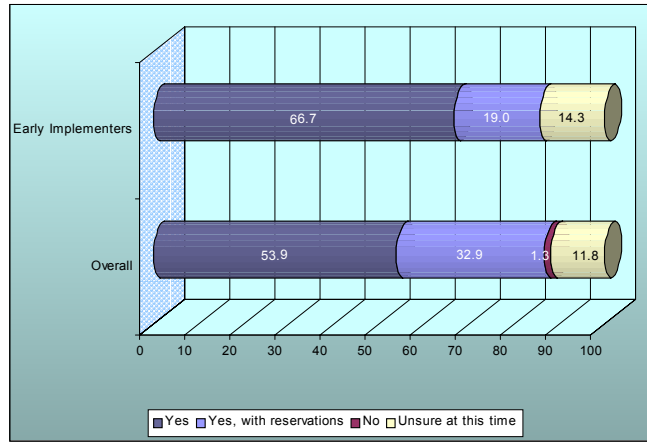


Slide 20



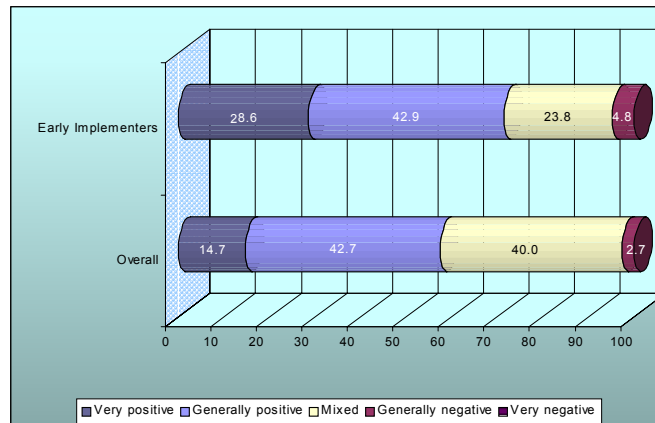
Slide 21

Most county administrators want the waiver to continue



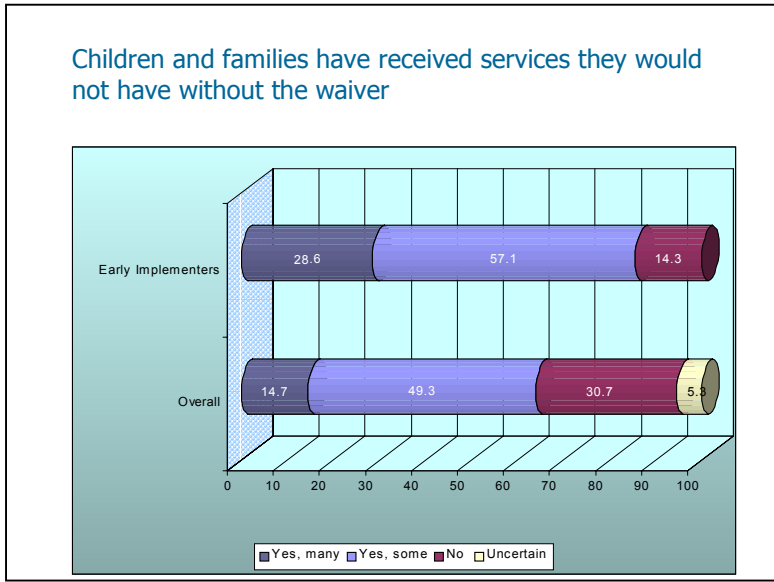
Slide 22

Attitudes of key planning partners toward waiver



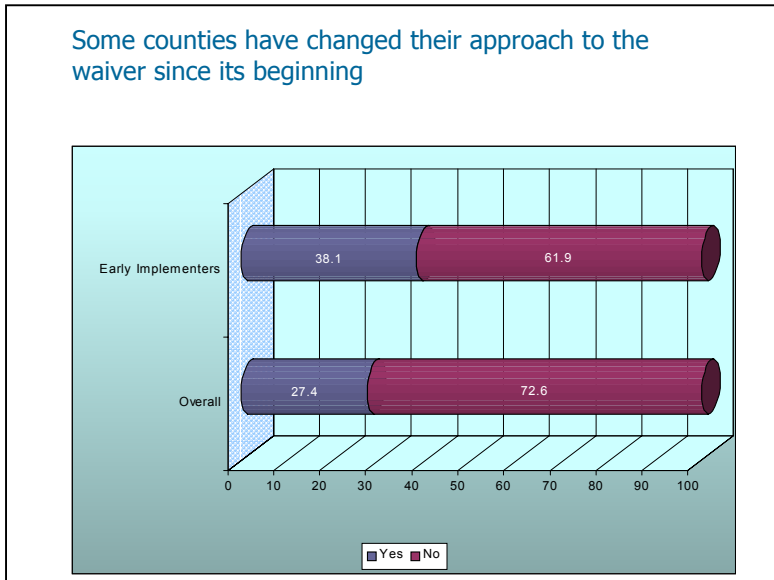
Slide 23

Children and families have received services they would not have without the waiver

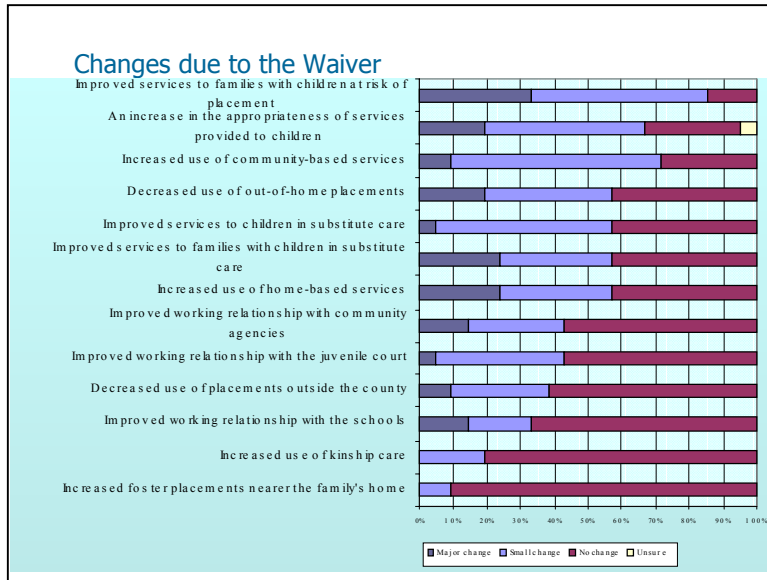


Slide 24

Some counties have changed their approach to the waiver since its beginning



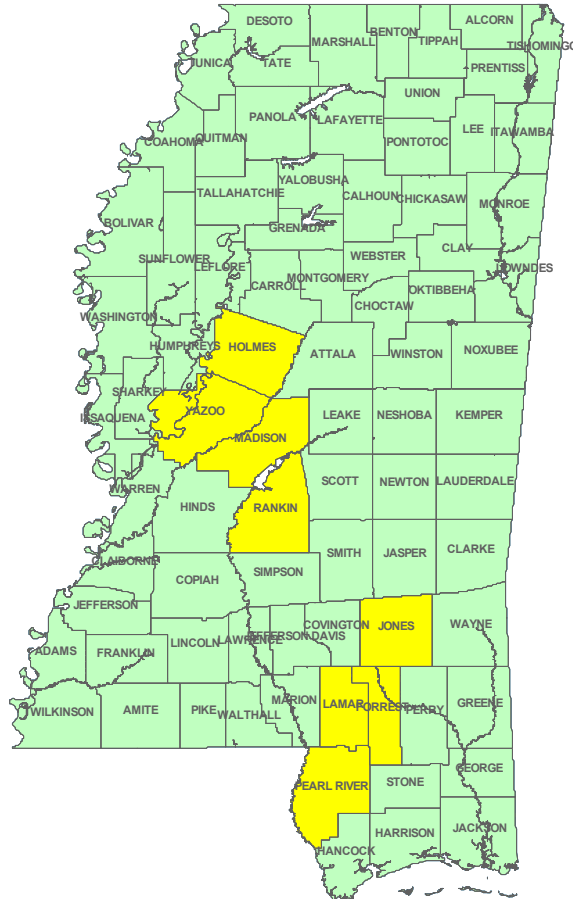
Slide 25



Mississippi Title IV-E Demonstration Evaluation

Slide 27

Participating Counties



The Mississippi demonstration involves eight counties. The waiver program has been operating in two of these (Rankin and Jones) since April 2001.

What is Different about the Waiver Intervention?

Family-Team Conferences

Meetings of DFCS, family members, relatives, and others to set goals, timelines, and decide about family needs

Family Participation

Family involvement in planning and decision-making:

- Responsibility
- Engagement
- Commitment to goals

Natural Supports

Assistance from Relatives and others in the community

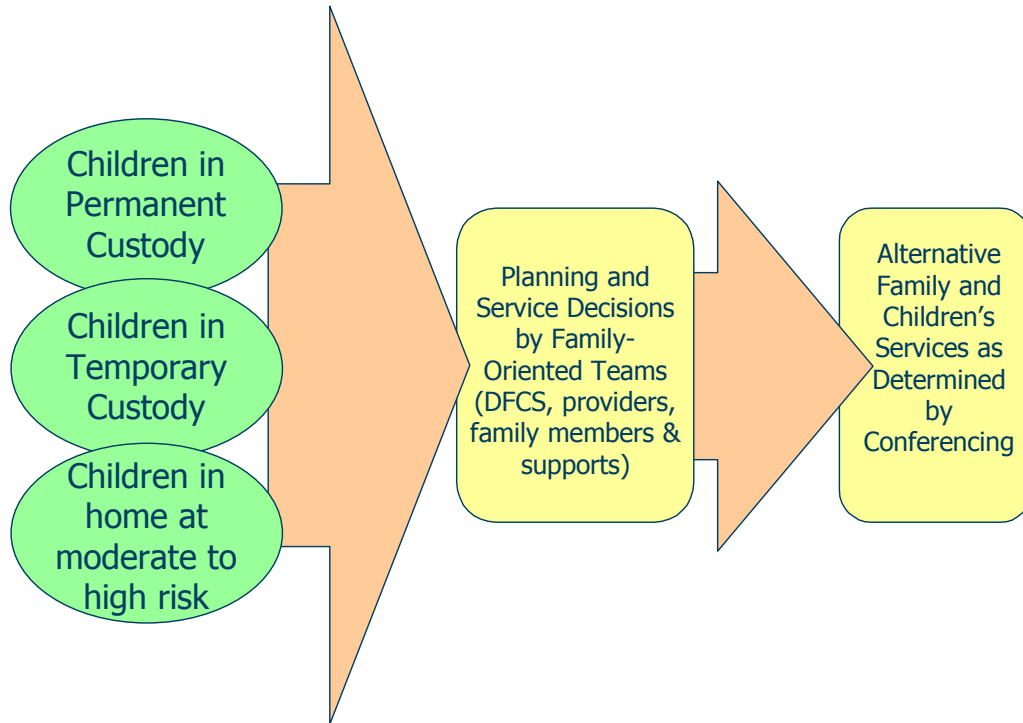
Services Assistance

Greater latitude in:

- Types of assistance
- Assisting entire family
- Serving children who remain at home
- Serving children in alternate placement settings

This chart illustrates some elements of the waiver program and shows that it is characterized by general flexibility in offering services and involved individualized and participatory decision making in each case.

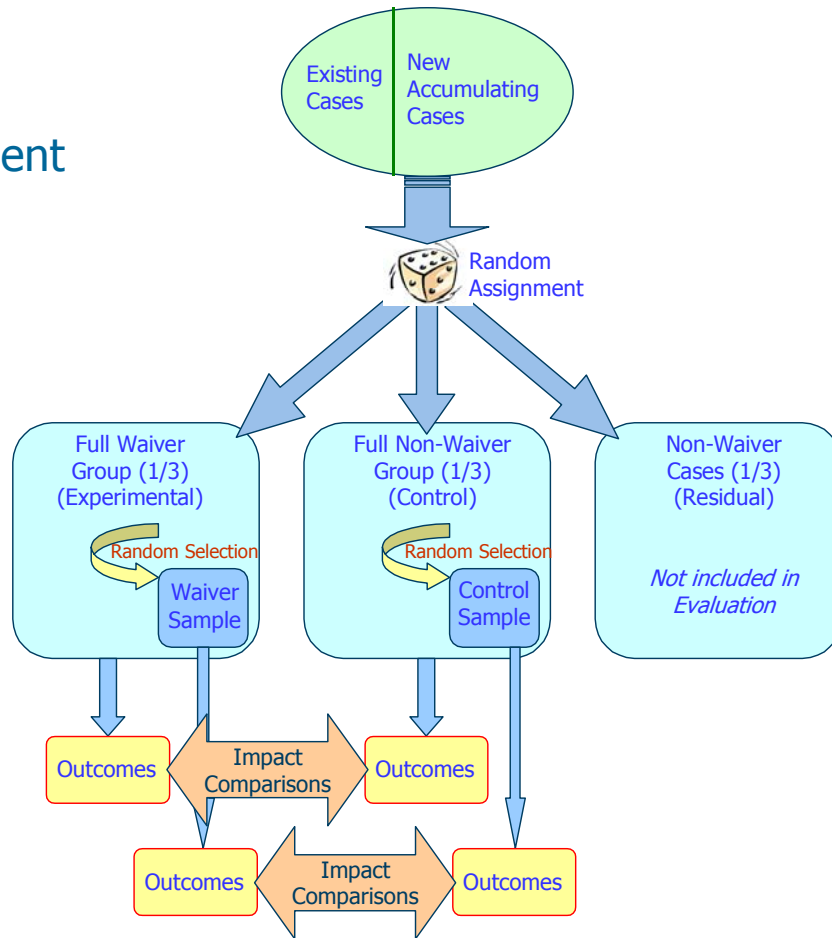
Structure of the Demonstration



Three general categories of children are eligible for the Mississippi waiver.

Slide 30

Random Assignment



The final structure of the impact research design is similar to Indiana (see Slide 4). The major difference is that cases are being randomly assigned in Mississippi to the experimental and control groups.

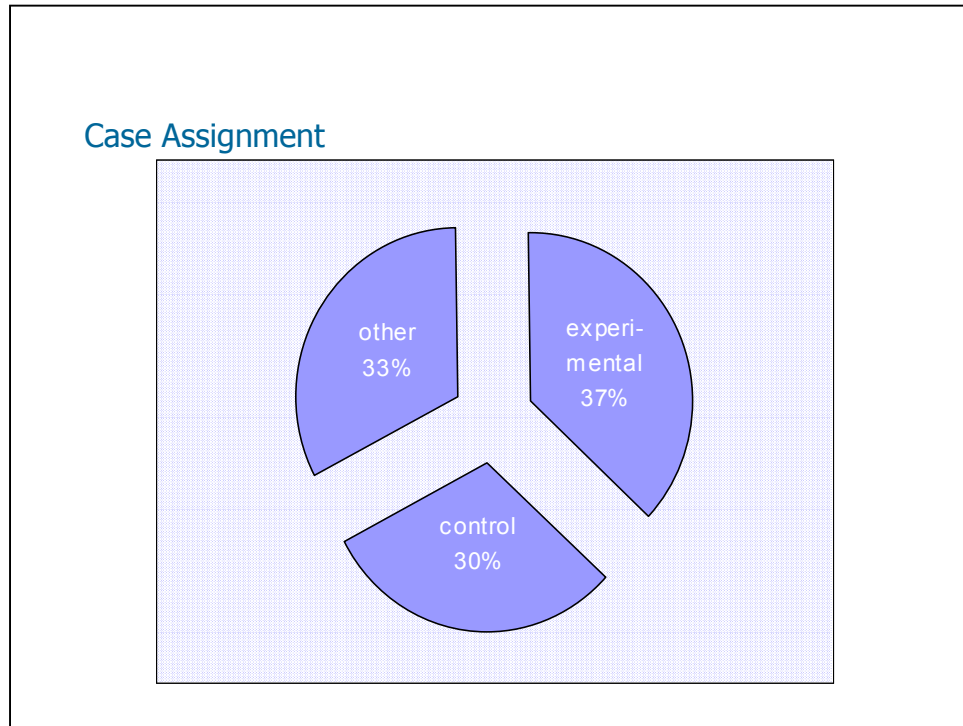
Potential Outcomes for Families and Children

Lower CA/N recidivism
Lower neglect recidivism
Lower abuse recidivism
Lower sexual abuse recidivism
Avoid placement outside home
Fewer re-entries to placement
More placements with relatives
More time in relative placement
Siblings placed in community of family
More placed in community of family
Fewer children in foster care
Less time in foster care
Improved income / employment / reduced public assistance
Improved health care services
Improved school performance / reduced dropouts
Improved emotional well-being of children
Improved services re child development
More formal assessments / improved services

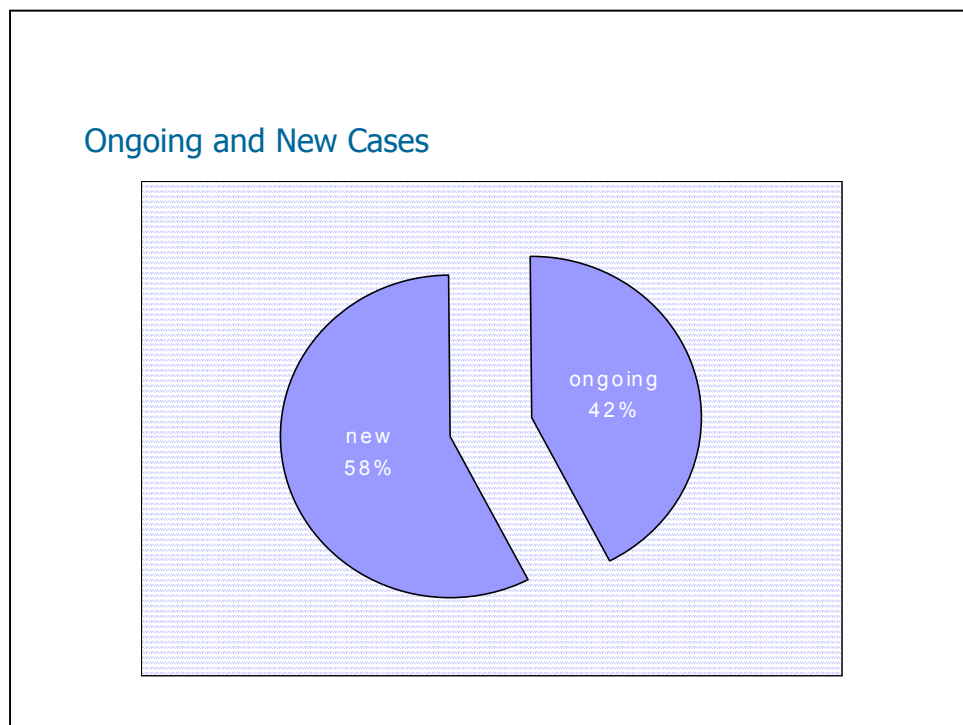
A variety of outcomes for families and children are being examined in Mississippi. Each of these is defined in terms of one or more specific operational measures.

Cases have been randomly assigned to experimental and control group status. Over half the cases have been newly opened. The remainder were existing cases.

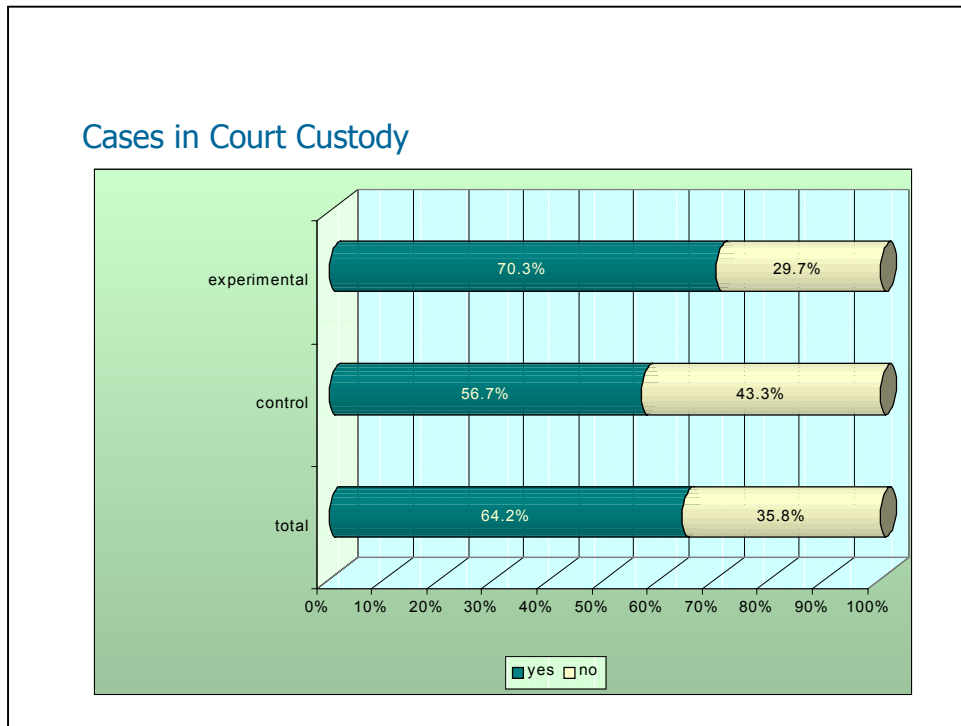
Slide 32



Slide 33

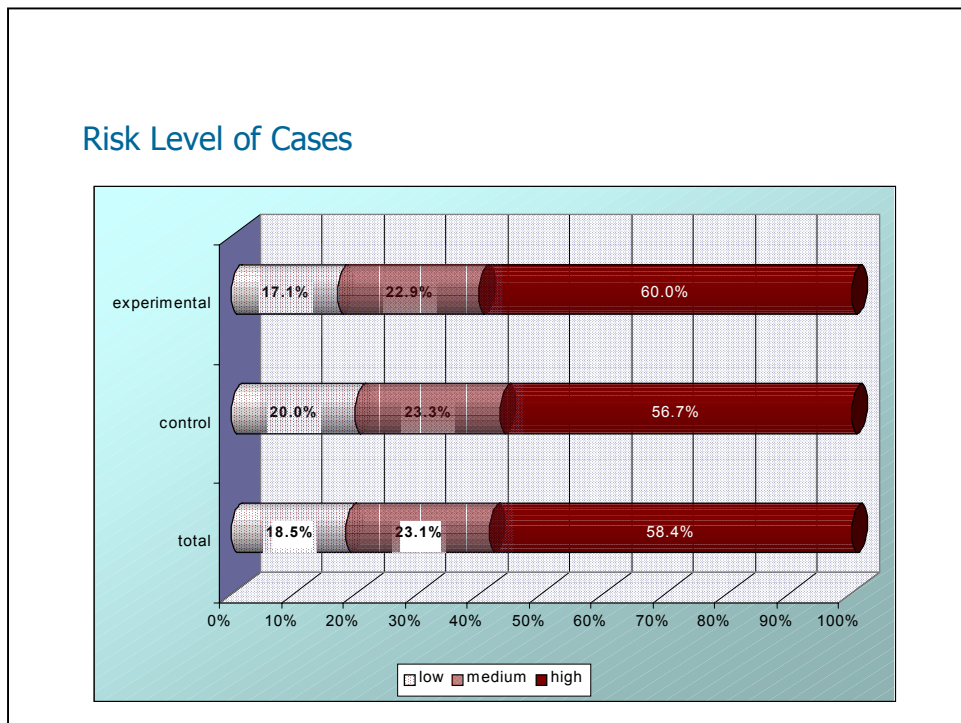


Slide 34



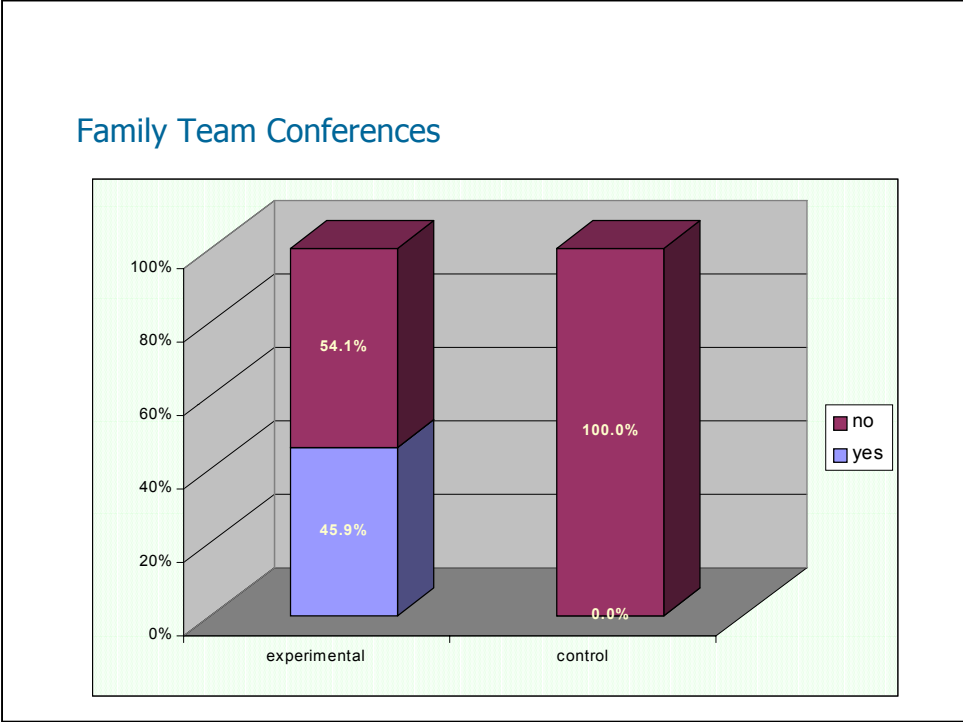
Currently, slightly more of the experimental cases are in court custody. The risk level assigned by workers, however, is comparable between the experimental and control groups.

Slide 35



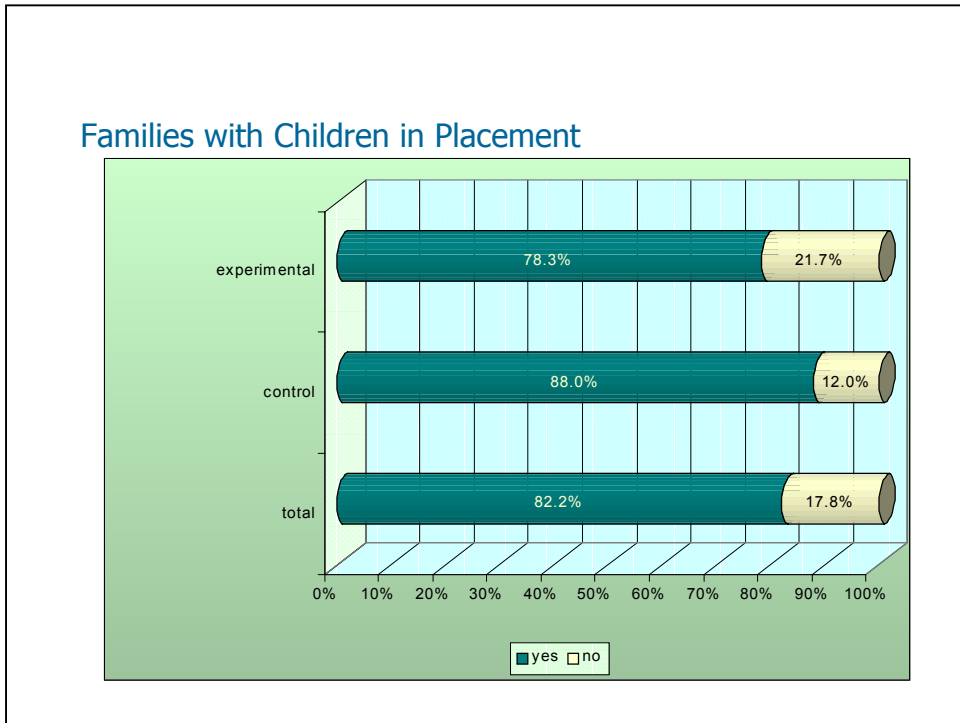
Family-team conferences (see Slide 28) were held in slightly less than half of experimental group cases and none in control group cases.

Slide 36



The large majority of families in both the experimental and control groups have children in out-of-home placement. Over half of these children, in turn, were placed with relatives or in foster homes.

Slide 37



Slide 38

