

Table 1

<b>Aggravated circumstance</b>	<b>Year passed into state law</b>
1. Parents' whereabouts unknown	1988
2. Mental disability rendering parent incapable of making use of services	
3. Child or sibling removed from parent due to physical or sexual abuse and reunified, now being removed again for physical or sexual abuse.	
4. Parent convicted of causing another child's death through abuse or neglect.	
5. Child under 5 made a dependent due to severe physical or sexual abuse.	
6. Child, sibling, or half-sibling suffered severe sexual or physical abuse.	1992
7. Parent (perpetrator) conceived child by rape.	1994
8. Child has been willfully abandoned and thereby endangered.	1996
9. Sibling or half-sibling did not receive reunification services due to #3, #5, or #6 above.	
10. Permanent plan ordered for sibling or half sibling and parent has not made reasonable effort to treat problems.	
11. Termination of parental rights ordered for sibling or half-sibling and parent has not made reasonable efforts to treat problems.	2001*
12. Parent convicted of a violent felony.	1996
13. Extensive, abusive, chronic history of substance use, and has resisted court-ordered treatment within last three years, or failed case plan compliance for substance abuse treatment twice.	
14. Parent has advised court they want no services nor to have child returned.	1997
15. Parent willfully abducted child, sibling, or half-sibling and refuses to disclose whereabouts or return the child.	1998

\* In 1996, aggravated circumstance # 10 & 16 were combined. In 2001, new legislation was passed to separate and clarify the two provisions.

Table 2: Process Study Participants by Type and County

	County A	County B	County C	County D	County E	County F	Total
<b>Social Workers</b>	34	7	20	14	40	10	125
<b>SW Supervisors</b>	7	7	4	5	11	4	38
<b>Court Personnel</b>	4	2	2	1	5	3	17
<b>Total</b>	45	16	26	20	56	17	180

Table 3. Sample characteristics

	Total (N=1055)	Mothers (N=628) (%)	Fathers (N=427) (%)	Chi sq/df
<b>Ethnicity</b>				
Af/ Amer	151 (14.5)	88 (8.5)	63 (6.1)	2.49
Hispanic	210 (20.2)	122 (11.7)	88 (8.5)	
White/Caucasian	449 (43.2)	280 (26.9)	169 (16.3)	
Other	229 (22.0)	130 (12.5)	99 (9.5)	
	1039 (100.0)			
<b>Parent Age</b>				
-18	18 (1.8)	15 (1.5)	3 (0.3)	40.01***
18-25	229 (22.3)	160 (15.6)	69 (6.7)	
25-30	246 (23.9)	154 (15.0)	92 (8.9)	
30-40	393 (38.2)	235 (22.8)	158 (15.4)	
40+	143 (13.9)	56 (5.4)	87 (8.5)	
	1029 (100.0)			
<b>Parent's primary language</b>				
English	679 (89.2)	418 (54.9)	261 (34.4)	1.92
Other	82 (10.8)	44 (5.8)	38 (5.0)	
	761 (100.0)			
<b>Parent's good general health</b>				
Yes	201 (19.4)	134 (12.9)	67 (6.5)	5.26*
No	837 (80.6)	484 (46.6)	353 (34.0)	
	1038 (100.0)			
<b>Has the parent held a job?</b>				
Yes	474 (45.4)	239 (22.9)	235 (22.5)	29.98***
No	569 (54.6)	382 (36.6)	187 (17.9)	
	1043 (100.0)			
<b>H.S. graduate or GED</b>				
Yes	177 (17.1)	105 (10.1)	72 (6.9)	0.01
No	860 (82.9)	514 (49.6)	346 (33.4)	
	1037 (100.0)			

Table 4

Reunification Exception Indicator	REI situation exists "eligibles"		REI agency recommended		REI court ordered	
	Freq	% <sup>1</sup>	Freq	% <sup>2</sup>	Freq	% <sup>3</sup>
1. Parents whereabouts unknown	68	6.45	12	17.7	8	66.7
2. Mental disability rendering parent incapable of making use of services	17	1.61	3	17.7	2	66.7
3. Child or sibling a prior dependent due to abuse, removed and returned, now being removed again	26	2.46	3	11.5	2	66.7
4. Parent caused another child's death	9	0.85	2	22.2	2	100
5. Child made a dependent under 300(e) [Child under five and suffered severe physical or sexual abuse]	10	0.95	0	0.0	0	-
6. Child or sibling or half-sibling suffered severe sexual or physical abuse	54	5.12	2	3.7	2	100
7. Sibling did not receive reunification services due to #3, #5, or #6	4	0.38	3	75.0	2	66.7
8. Child conceived by rape (applied only to the perpetrator)	6	0.57	0	0.0	0	100
9. Child has been willfully abandoned and endangered	42	3.98	7	16.7	3	42.9
10. Permanent plan ordered for sibling, or termination of parental rights ordered for sibling, and parent not made reasonable efforts to treat problems	98	9.29	29	29.6	23	79.3
11. Parent convicted of a violent felony	86	8.15	9	10.5	9	100
12. Chronic history of substance abuse, has resisted treatment within last 3 years, or failed case plan compliance for	186	17.6	26	14.0	20	76.9
13. Parent wants no services nor to have child returned	35	3.32	9	25.7	8	88.0
14. Parent abducted child, sibling or half-sibling, and refuses to disclose whereabouts of child	19	1.80	3	15.8	3	100

<sup>1</sup> Indicates percent of total sample.

<sup>2</sup> Indicates percent of "eligibles."

<sup>3</sup> Indicates percent of "recommended"

**Table 5: Characteristics of Eligible Parents for Whom Recommendations were Made, and Not Made**

Variables	% of Parents Recommended	% of Parents Not Recommended	Test Statistic
Parent's Age			
-18	0.0	1.9	8.62
18-25	20.0	22.4	
25-30	10.9	24.6	
30-40	49.1	37.6	
40+	20.0	13.6	
Parent's ethnicity			
African American	15.8	14.5	5.47
Hispanic	19.3	20.3	
White/Caucasian	31.6	43.9	
Other	33.3	21.4	
Parent's good general health			
No	94.8	79.8	7.92**
Yes	5.2	20.2	
Has the parent held a job			
No	70.2	53.7	5.93*
Yes	29.8	46.3	
Income from?			
AFDC/TANF or SSI	10.3	16.0	7.84*
Work	12.1	24.8	
Other	77.6	59.2	
Parent's support system			
No	87.9	60.2	17.85***
Yes	12.1	39.8	
Parent had a child removed previously			
No	29.3	70.1	41.84***
Yes	70.7	29.9	
Child's sibling in care			
No	59.7	38.8	9.74**
Yes	40.3	61.2	
County			
A	37.9	23.6	20.23***
B	10.3	6.8	
C	22.4	11.3	
D	12.8	24.2	
E	12.8	23.7	
F	1.7	10.4	
	Mean		
Child's age	2.52	3.31	1.94*
Child's Maltreatment Severity Score (MSS)	3.22	3.77	1.29

Note : \* < .05; \*\* < .01; \*\*\* < .001

Figure 1

