



Region 3

Who are the kids?

- There were 1,346 children in care longer than 60 days (January 2003).
- Of the children who were in care over 60 days, 40% are between 0-3 years; 40% are between 4-11 years; and 40% are 12 years or older.
- Of the children who were in care over 60 days, 75% were Caucasian; 8% were Native American; and 7% were African American.
- More than one-half of all children in care longer than 60 days in Region 3 had been in care longer than 17 months (October 2003).

Adoptions, Guardianships and Reunifications Achieved Region 3, 1995-2002

	Adoptions	Legally Free	Guardianships	Reunifications	Entry to Care
1995	85	173	55	1059	-
1996	83	191	88	914	-
1997	135	238	83	759	1034
1998	148	237	80	676	1070
1999	153	242	78	568	914
2000	159	272	120	591	927
2001	159	247	103	459	996
2002	136	221	90	458	1001
FY 2003	131	207	-	-	-

Permanency Outcomes

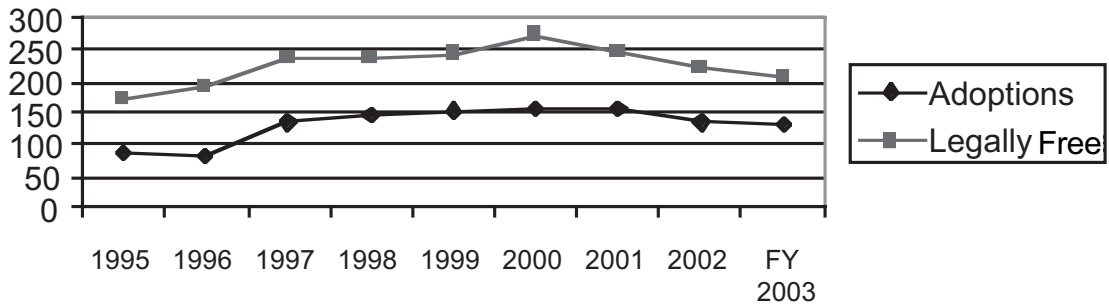
Notes: The number of legally free children represents the number free on January 1 of the following calendar year. (For some of these children, adoption is no longer the plan. Other outcomes are for calendar year. The figures from FY 2003 are reported to reflect a more accurate number of adoptions and legally free children due to federal tax incentives.

Source: Children's Administration, August 2003

- Of the children who were adopted in 2002, 46%(n=63) were less than two years old at placement.
- The number of reunifications has declined 40% since 1997. A slight decrease in the number of children entering care (4%) suggests that only a fraction of this decline is accounted for by a decrease in entries to care.



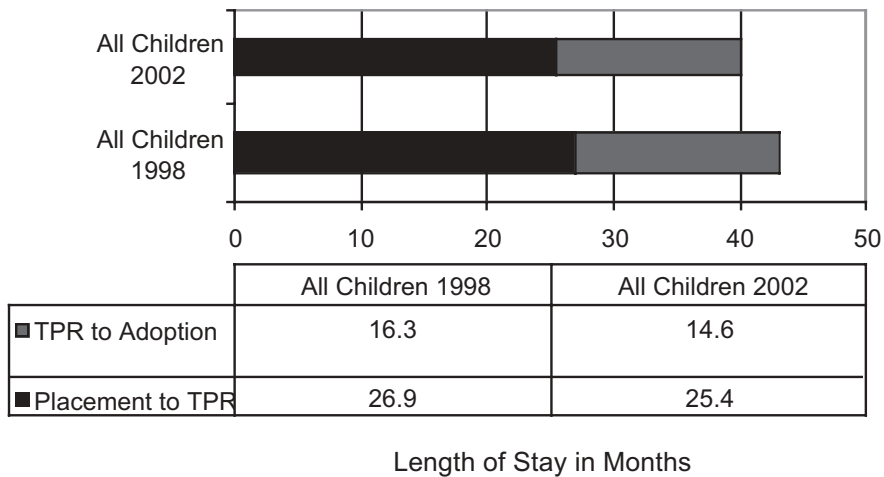
Adoptions and Legally Free Children, 1995-2002 Region 3



Source: Children's Administration, August 2003

- The number of adoptions has declined by only 11% in the last five years, and the number of legally free children has also declined by 13%; Region 3 is continuing to close the gap between the number of adoptions finalized and the number of legally free children awaiting a permanent home.

Length of Time to Adoption Region 3 - 1998 & 2002



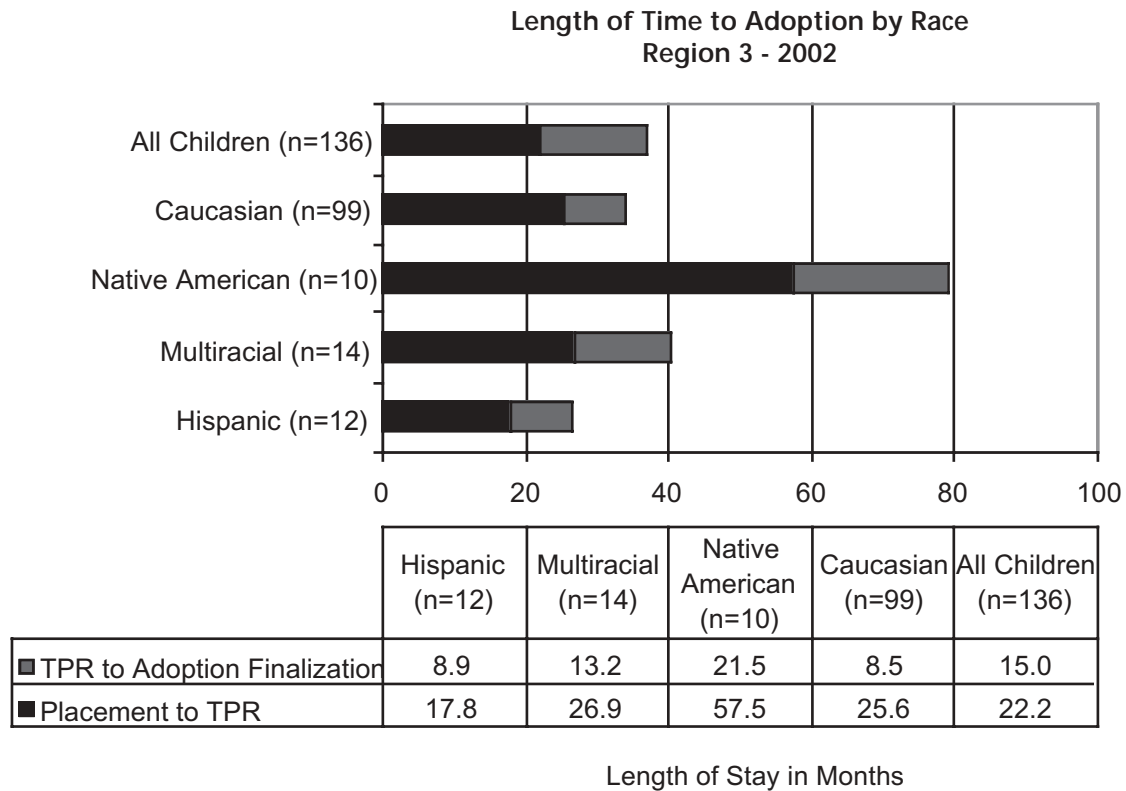
Source: Children's Administration, August 2003

- Overall, Region 3 had a slight decrease in 2002 in the total months in care from placement to adoption (40 in 2002 compared to 43.2 in 1998).
- The months in care from placement to TPR decreased by 1.5 months.
- The months in care from TPR to adoption finalization decreased by almost 2 months. Almost half the adoptions were completed within the 12 months after TPR.





Region 3 - Length of Time to Adoption by Race



Note: Hispanic children are also included in the other race categories. The Multiracial category was added in 2001 to reflect changes in the national Census Bureau data collection. Only those racial categories with more than 10 children are presented at the regional level.

Source: Children's Administration, August 2003

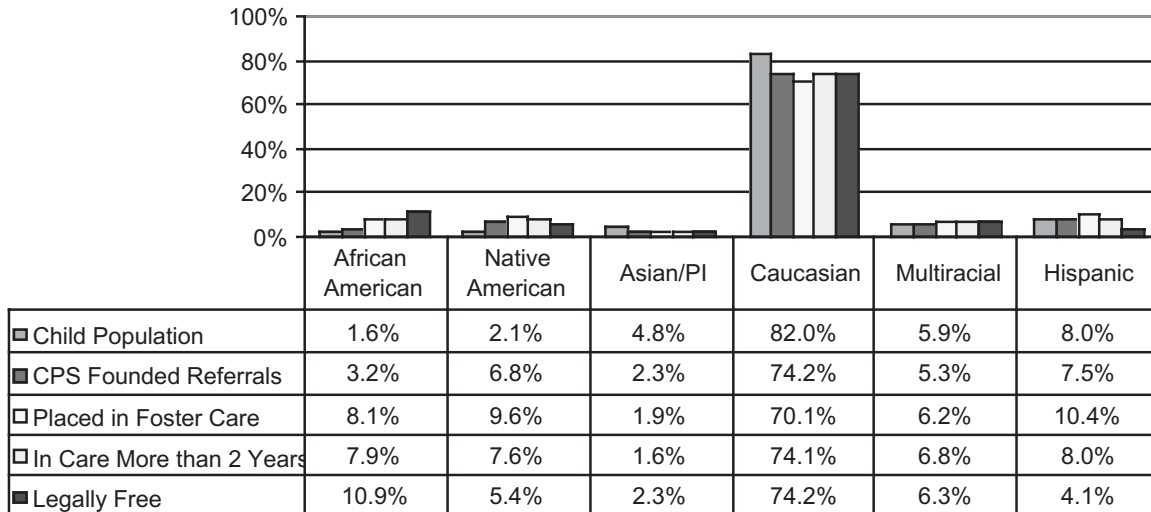
The total length of time in care from placement to TPR and TPR to adoption finalization has increased by 5 months since 2001 for children in Region 3.

- The total length of stay for Hispanic children decreased by 9 months. The greatest gains for Hispanic children were the decrease in the number of months from placement to TPR (11.3 months less in 2002).
- Multiracial children experienced a slight increase of 2 months in the total months in care.
- The total number of months in care for Native American children increased by 15 months. Most of the change occurred in months from placement to TPR.



Region 3 - Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality

Region 3 Percentages of CPS Founded Referrals, Placed in Care, in Care More than Two Years, and Legally Free by Race/Ethnic Group, 2002



Note: The total across any category will not equal 100%; Hispanic children are also included in the other race categories; children of "Other" or "Unknown" race are not included in this chart. The Multiracial category was added in 2001 to reflect changes in the national Census Bureau data collection.

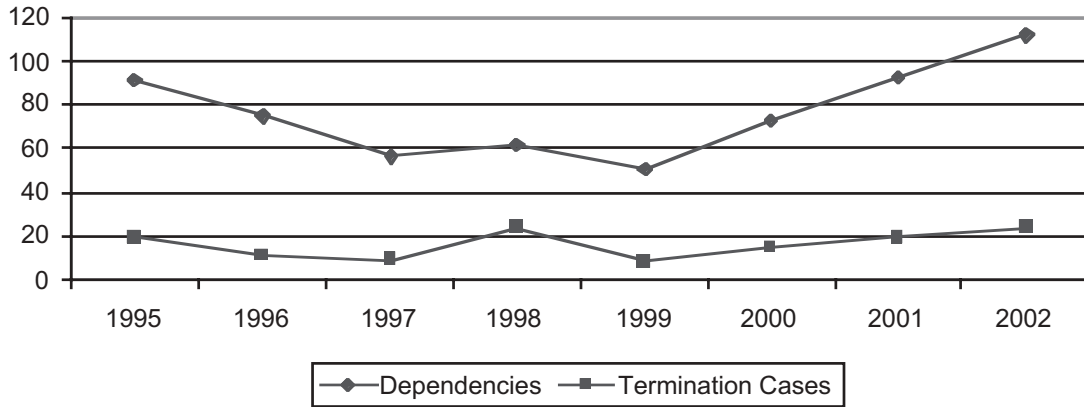
Source: Children's Administration, August 2003

- African American children are six times more likely than Caucasian children to be placed in foster care, five times more likely to be in care longer than two years and almost eight times more likely to be made legally free.
- Region 3 has the highest overall rate of relative placement statewide. Although represented disproportionately in the foster care system, African American (43%) and Native American (41%) children are slightly more likely than Caucasian (38%) children to be in relative care.
- Native American children are five times more likely than Caucasian children to be placed in foster care, four times more likely to be in care longer than two years, and three times more likely to be made legally free.
- The number of minority children ages birth to three and in care longer than one year following termination of parental rights has increased since 1999, from 7 children to 13.



Region 3 - Legal Actions

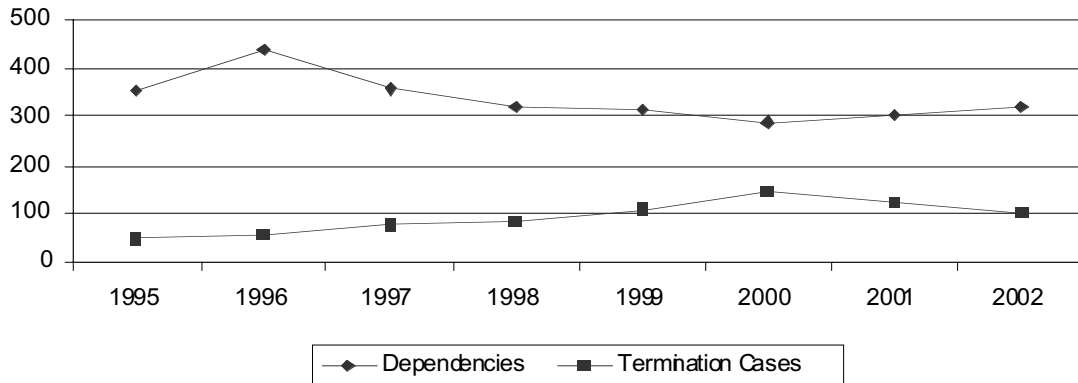
Dependencies and Terminations Opened, 1995-2002, Bellingham



Source: Washington State Office of the Attorney General, August 2003. Dependencies and Terminations opened are the total cases opened in Skagit and Whatcom Counties.

- The number of dependencies opened has increased by 23% since 1995.
- The number of termination cases opened has increased by 26% since 1995.
- Although there has been some variation over the years, the proportion of terminations to dependencies is again the same as 1995, indicating that for every opened termination there were approximately five opened dependencies in the area served by the Bellingham AGO office in 2002.

Dependencies and Terminations Opened, 1995-2002, Everett



Source: Washington State Office of the Attorney General, August 2003. Dependencies and Terminations opened are the total cases opened in Island and Snohomish Counties.

- The number of dependencies has decreased by 9% since 1995.
- The number of termination cases opened has increased by 110% since 1995.
- Terminations, as a percentage of dependencies opened, have more than doubled since 1995, indicating that for every opened termination there were three opened dependencies in the area served by the Everett AGO office in 2002.