

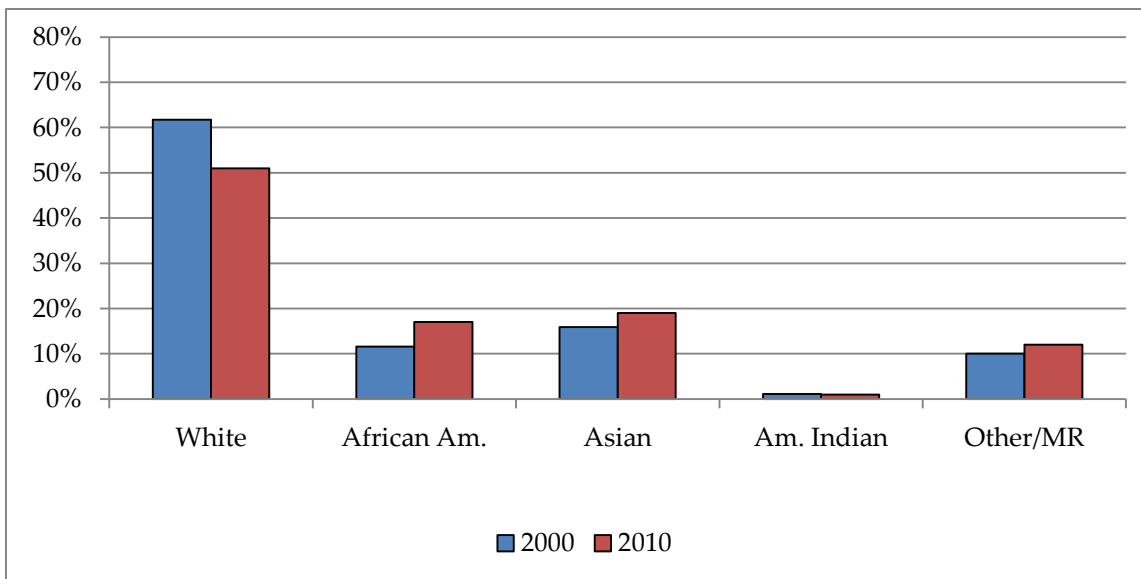
CHILDREN

A. Children in Ramsey County

There were 147,393 individuals under the age of 20 in Ramsey County in 2010.¹ Compared to all children in Minnesota, children in Ramsey County are more likely to be poor. The U.S. Census estimates that 26% of children living in Ramsey County in 2010 were living in poverty compared to 15% statewide.²

While most children in Ramsey County are White, there has been an increase in the proportion of children from different racial/ethnic communities. In 2000 the proportion of children of color in the County was 38%. That figure rose to 54% in 2010.³ This increase is largely accounted for by an increase in African American and Asian children as Illustration 1 shows. The percent of Hispanic children also rose from 8% in 2000 to 12% in 2010⁴.

**Illustration 1:
Race of Children Under 18, 2000 and 2010**



¹ U.S. Commerce Department, Bureau of the Census, 2010 Decennial Census

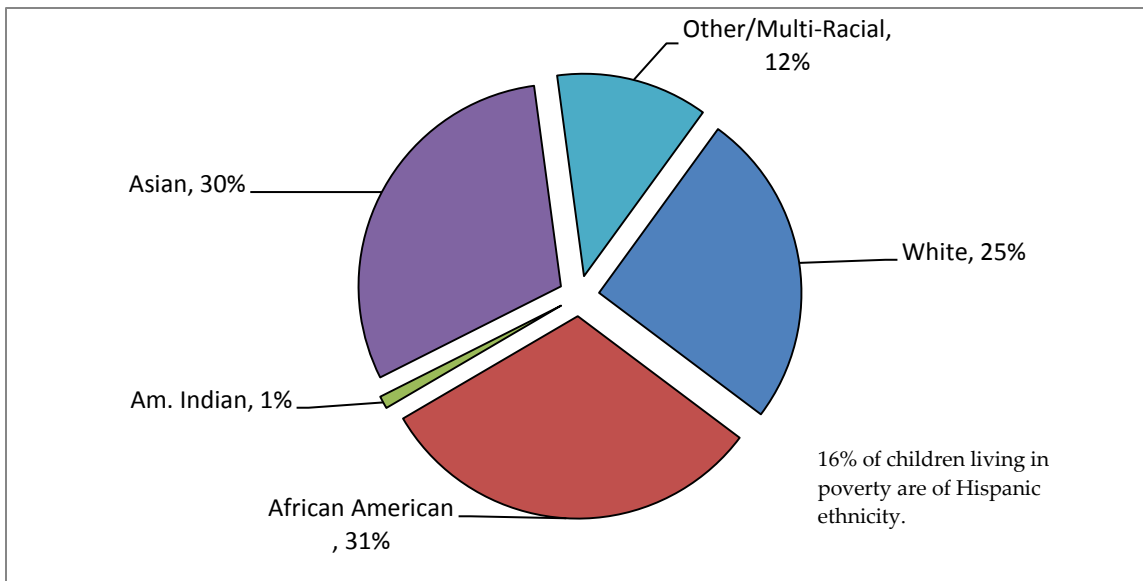
² U.S. Commerce Department, Bureau of the Census American Community Survey 2010 1 year estimates

³ U.S. Commerce Department, Bureau of the Census 2010 Decennial Census

⁴ U.S. Commerce Department, Bureau of the Census 2010 Decennial Census

While children of color are 54% of the County population, they comprise 75% of all the children who are living in poverty in Ramsey County⁵ as Illustration 2 shows.

**Illustration 2:
Percentage of Children Living in Poverty by Race
(2010) N= 30,223**



Children with mental health problems

It is estimated that 5% of all children in the United States have a severe emotional disturbance. In Ramsey County, that means that in 2010 there were an estimated 7,370 children in need of mental health services.

⁵ US Commerce Department, Bureau of the Census, 2010 American Community Survey 1 year estimates.

B. Who are the children we serve?

Community Human Services (CHS) serves children who meet certain criteria. This includes:

- Children in danger from abuse and neglect
- Children with a mental illness
- Children in trouble with the law, and
- Children without families that are able to raise them.

Children in need of protection

Children who receive protective services have experienced physical abuse, neglect, or sexual abuse. Most of the children are referred to Child Protection Intake from schools, law enforcement, and other mandated reporters.

Children with mental illness

Children with a serious mental health problem have behavior that interferes with their ability to learn and participate in the normal activities of childhood and places them at risk of out of home placement. Children with serious mental illness experience depression, anxiety, and behavior that may lead to self harm or harm to others.

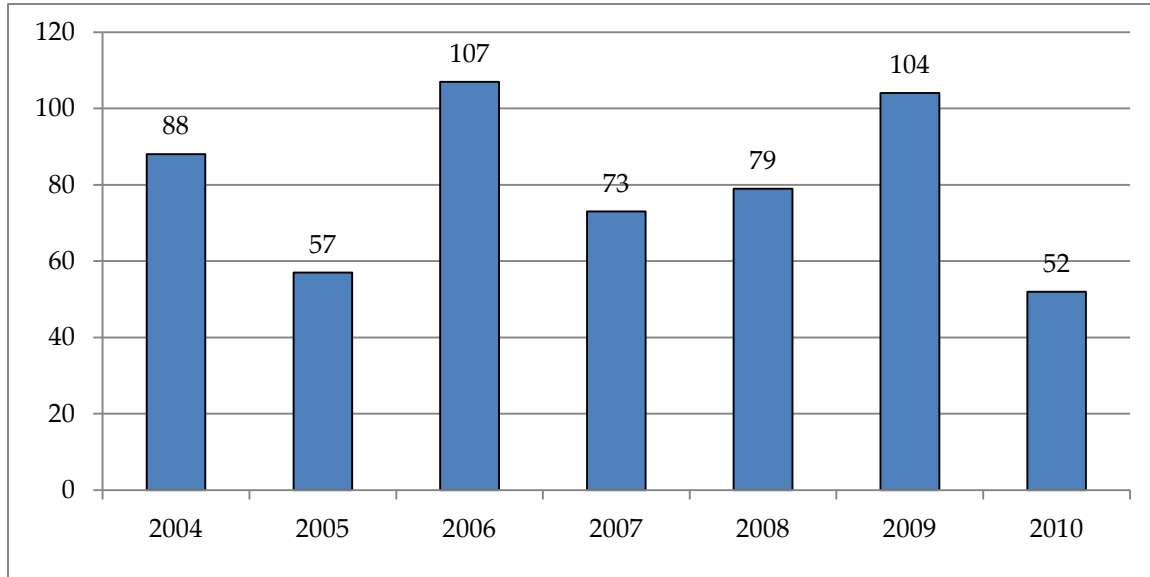
Children in trouble with the law

Children who are in trouble with the law are served either by the Corrections Department or CHS. Children who are served by CHS are typically runaways, truants under age 12, and children who have a history of having been served by our department. This includes children who are now or have been involved in the Child Protection system or received mental health services.

Children whose families are unable to raise them

In some situations the courts determine that a child's parent(s) cannot raise him/her. This happens when there is evidence of serious abuse and neglect, when the child's parents have died, or when other similar situations occur. In these cases if there is no extended family to care for the child, the courts call for the termination of parental rights and the child becomes a Ward of the State.

**Illustration 3:
New Adoption/Guardianship Case Management Cases
(2003–2010)**



C. What programs do we offer?

Types of Service	What's included in this?	What we intend to accomplish
Children in need of protection (See Section 1, Page 18)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of risk of abuse or neglect • Programs that assist parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that children are safe and free from harm
Children with a mental illness (See Section 2, Page 24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and assess children in need of mental health services • Treatment for children diagnosed with mental illness • Case management • Provide effective treatment and supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve children's level of functioning
Children in trouble with the law (See Section 3, Page 28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision of children • Appropriate services • Provide support to parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve children's pro-social skills • Children will not re-offend
Children whose families are unable to raise them (See Section 4, Page 31)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption services • Foster care • Preparing children turning 18 in foster care to live on their own 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are nurtured and have basic needs met • Ensure that children grow up to be successful adults • Every child has a permanent family
Child care and foster care licensing (See Section 5, Page 38)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit and license foster care and child day care • Train and develop providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the safety of children

D. Specific Programs

Section 1: Children in need of protection

Types of Service	What's included in this?	What we intend to accomplish
Child Intake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening reports of alleged child maltreatment • Responding to requests for services for children • Investigating reports of abuse or neglect of a child and determining if abuse or neglect has occurred • Assessing families' needs for services • Referring the child and/or family to appropriate services in the County system or in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the safety of children • To enable parents to care for their children • To ensure child well-being
Child Protection Program/ Family Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing case management services to families with ongoing safety threats • Providing resource and referral to needed community services to ameliorate safety threats • Foster care for children when they are not able to return home • Medical or mental health treatment for the child • Placement in a residential treatment setting for the child when needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the safety of children • To enable parents to care for their children • To provide a temporary or permanent safe home for children • To ensure permanence • To ensure child well-being

Child Protection Assessments 2006-2010

Number of Assessments: The Child Protection process begins with a report of alleged maltreatment⁶. If a report is accepted, an assessment is done and families are assigned to the Family Assessment program or are referred for a Traditional child protection investigation. The Family Assessment program is intended to provide family support services to families who meet the criteria for a child protection intervention, but there is no substantial child endangerment. Each year since 2006, over half of accepted maltreatment reports were referred to the Family Assessment program. Conversely, under half were referred for Traditional child protection investigations. In 2010, there were 1,212 assessments of child maltreatment. Over half of those (63%) received Family Assessments (FA) and the rest (37%) received Traditional investigations. The data going back to 2006 show an increase in the percent of FA assessments over time.

**Table 1:
Number and Percent of Families in Investigations/Assessments
(2006–2010)**

Type of Case	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	5 Year Total
FA	188 (28%)	421 (46%)	699 (56%)	696 (58%)	764 (63%)	2,768 (53%)
Traditional	495	520	595	541	471	2,622
Total ⁷	680	920	1,256	1,204	1,212	5,272

Number of Children: The intake phone line for Children’s Services receives more than 20,000 calls a year. As a result of those calls in 2010, over 3,100 children were identified as victims or minor members of a family where maltreatment or neglect had been alleged. Table 2 shows the number of children in families receiving various services for the most recent four years. Table 2 shows that the number of children in Family Assessment Case Management cases grew from 447 in 2007 to 777 in 2010, even though the number of children in FA Assessments declined from 2,730 in 2007 to 2,117 in 2010. This may be because some cases that previously would have been Traditional investigations are now being addressed through Family Assessment and these are more likely to require ongoing case management. The number of children involved in FA cases as a whole has declined, but the percentage of those children requiring case management has increased.

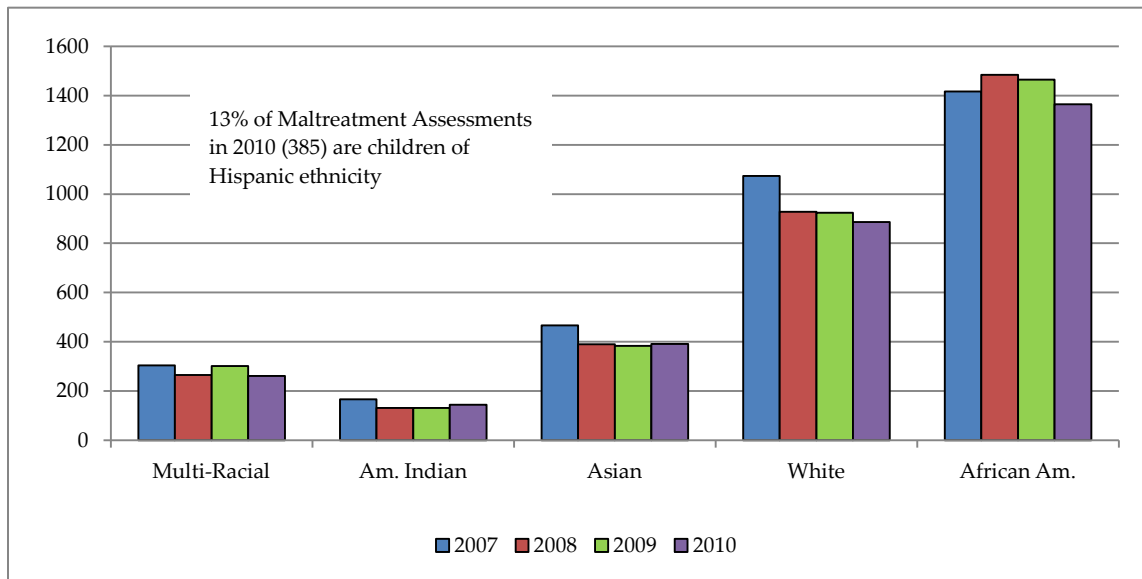
⁶ Ramsey County did not begin tracking reports until 2010

⁷ Count of unduplicated families served. Some families are assessed more than once in a year.

**Table 2:
Children Receiving Child Protection Services**

Services to Children (may be duplicated within year)	2007	2008	2009	2010
Maltreatment Assessments	2,865	3,168	3,159	3,148
Family Assessments	2,730	2,359	2,235	2,117
Child Protection Investigations ⁸	948	1,017	1,115	1,211
Open for Traditional Case Management	1,407	1,443	1,162	856
Open for Family Assessment Case Management	447	493	629	777
Open for Children in Out-of-Home Placement	689	504	437	242

**Illustration 4:
Number of Children in
Maltreatment Assessments by Race
(2007-2010)**



In 2010, there were 3,148 children involved in the 1,211 child protection assessments conducted by Community Human Services (CHS). There has been a decrease over the four years from 2007 to 2010 in the number of children of all races who are members of families that have been reported to CHS for possible child maltreatment.

⁸ A small number of investigations are of facilities.

Characteristics of children served in child protection case management⁹

Illustrations 5 through 7 describe the characteristics of children who received Child Protection Case Management services. Case Management services are provided to families so that they will be able to become effective parents, and to assist them in connecting with appropriate community resources that will provide them and their children with supportive services.

Out of home placement

Child Protection places children in out of home placement when it is necessary for the safety of the child. In Ramsey County there were a total of 2,053 placements (removals from home) in 2010 by CHS of which 41%, or 844, were made by Child Protection Services. Another 25% (506) were made by Delinquency and 23% (468) were made by Permanent Connections. The remaining 11% of placements were made primarily by Children's Mental Health. Child Protection was most likely to place children either in emergency shelter (56%) or family foster care (40%)¹⁰. Table 3 shows the distribution of placements and settings for 2010. Each individual placement is counted once, so a child with multiple placements is counted more than once.

**Table 3:
Out of Home Placements by RCCHS by Area and Setting, 2010**

Area Responsible	Total	Shelter	Foster Home	Other
Child Protection	844 (41%)	473	340	31
Permanent Connections	468 (23%)	34	353	81
Delinquency	506 (25%)	246	10	250
Children's Mental Health	206 (10%)	76	45	85
Other	29 (1%)	2	3	24
Total	2,053	831	751	471

⁹ Includes both Traditional and Family Assessment cases.

¹⁰ Many emergency shelter placements are initiated by law enforcement personnel before a child protection case is opened.

Illustration 5:
Race of Children Receiving Child Protection Case Management
(2010) N= 1,593

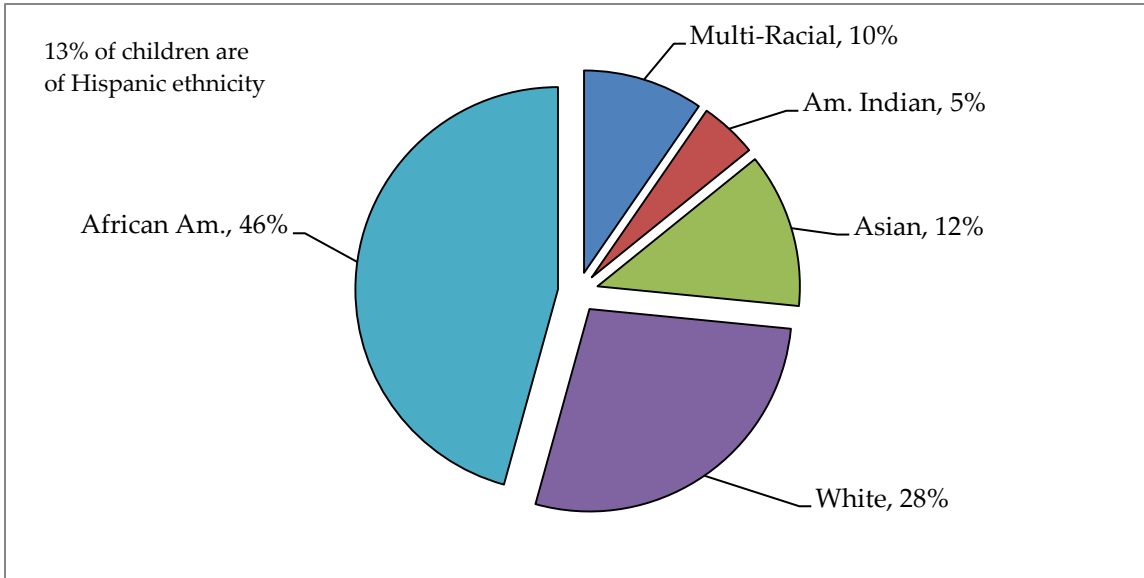


Illustration 6:
Age of Children Receiving Child Protection Case Management
(2010) N= 1,593

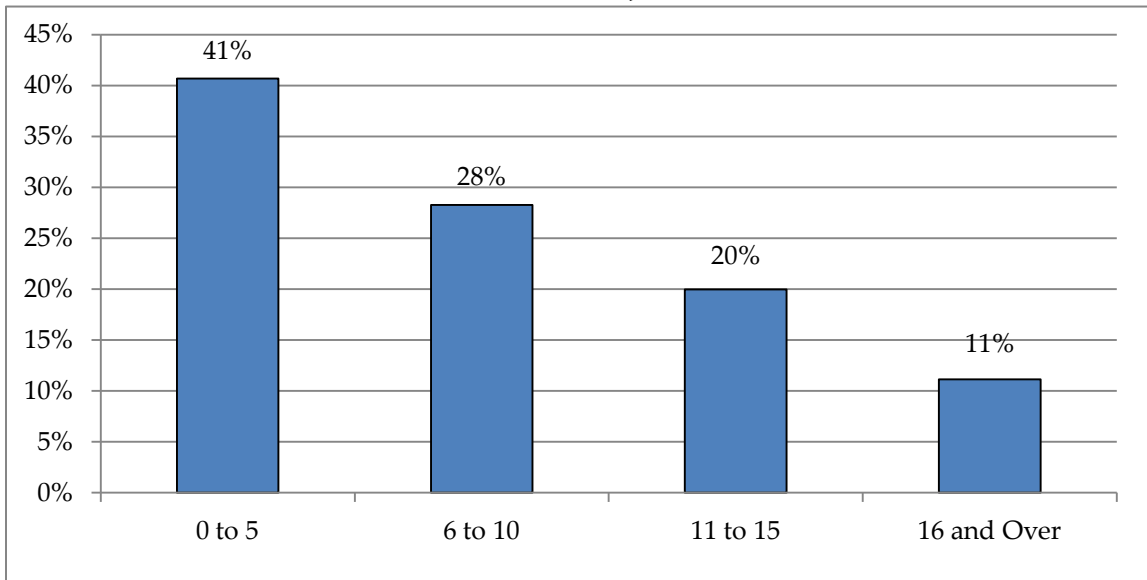
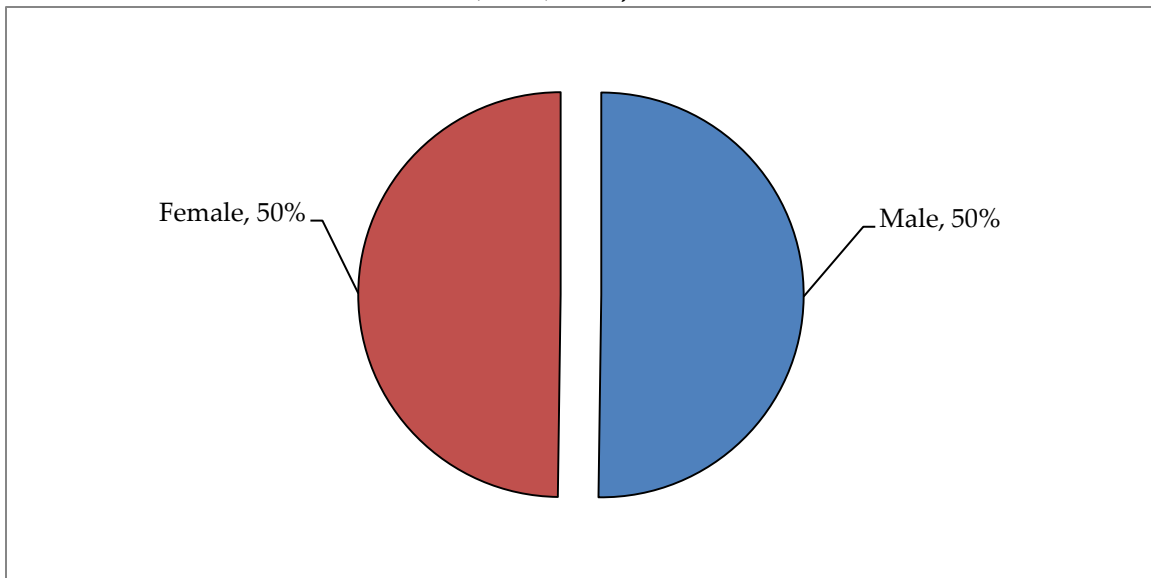


Illustration 7:
Gender of Children Receiving Child Protection Case Management
(2010) N=1,593



Section 2: Children with mental illness

Types of Service	What's included in this?	What we intend to accomplish
Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening of children in Child Protection and Delinquency • Availability of Crisis Services for short-term stabilization of children and their families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify children in need of mental health services
Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Therapy • Medication Management • Residential Treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the child's capacity to function
Case Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification & referrals to community support services • Coordination of care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the family's ability to meet the needs of a child with mental health problems

Beginning in 2004, children in Child Protection, Family Assessment, Adoption/Guardianship and Delinquency, as well as with the Community Corrections Department, were all eligible for mental health screening provided in part by Project Assist. Mental Health screening does not diagnose; it only indicates if a child may benefit from a more thorough assessment process to determine if therapy or treatment would be helpful. In 2010, 1,378 children served by Community Human Services (CHS) were offered mental health screening by Project Assist staff a total of 1,430 times and 227 (16%) were screened. Twenty one percent (305) were exempt from screening at the time of the offer and 63% of the time children were not screened because parents declined the offer. Project Assist staff also received notice that 512 children served by Community Corrections were screened. Two thirds of the 739 total children screened (488 or 66%) were referred for further assessment.¹¹

Families with children experiencing mental health crises receive assistance from the Children's Mental Health Crisis unit. In 2010 there were 2,492 calls to the Children's Mental Health crisis line. Three quarters of these calls (1,834) were for information and referral. Almost all of the calls requiring assistance (92%) received a response within 24 hours. CHS provides Children's Mental Health services in collaboration with community agencies. Children in Ramsey County receive public mental health services from more

¹¹ The total referred (488) includes some children referred directly from the community as well as those referred from Child Protection and Corrections.

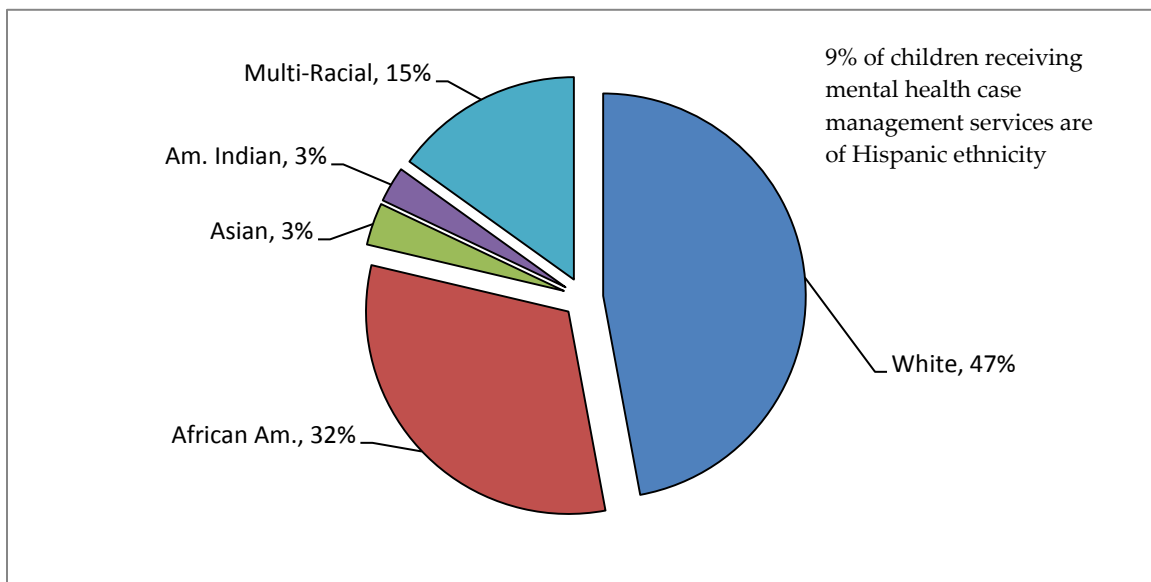
than 60 providers. Examples of services include case management, therapeutic services, day treatment, crisis services, and outpatient psychotherapy. In 2010, there were 582 children who received case management services through Ramsey County or contracted agencies.

Numbers served

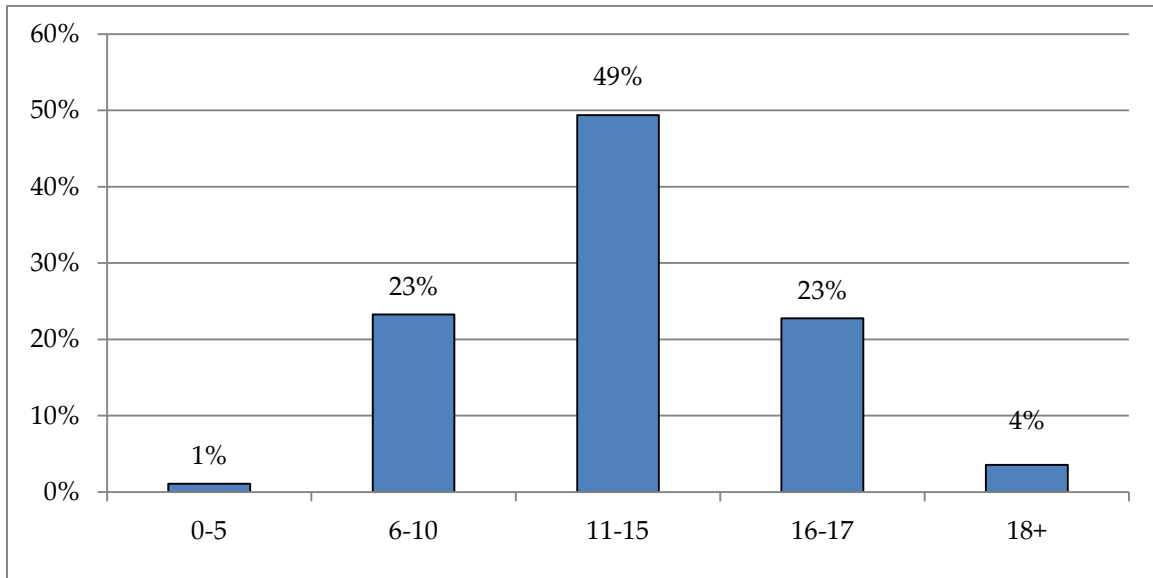
**Table 4:
Children’s Mental Health**

Services	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Children Open in Children’s Mental Health Case Management	708	726	635	567	582
Calls to Children’s Crisis Line	2,691	2,296	2,830	2,652	2,492

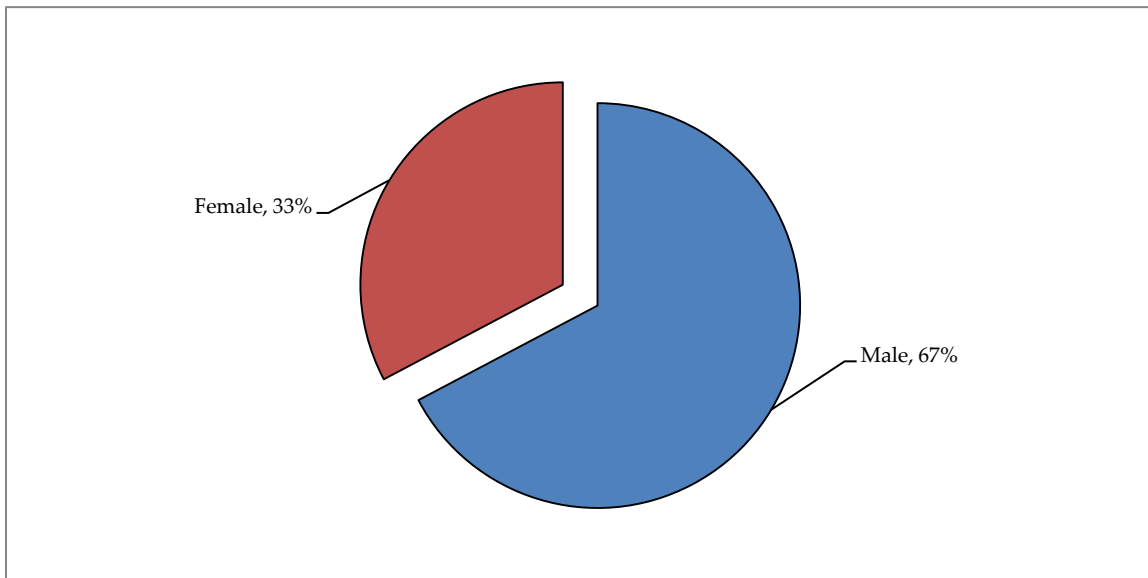
**Illustration 8:
Race of Children Receiving Mental Health Case Management Services
(2010) N= 563**



**Illustration 9:
Age of Children Receiving Mental Health Case Management Services
(2010) N= 563**



**Illustration 10:
Gender of Children Receiving Mental Health Case Management Services
(2010) N= 563**



Out of home placement in Children's Mental Health

Children's Mental Health puts a child in placement so that a child receives mental health treatment. Out of the total number of placements made in 2010, 10%, (206) were made by

Children's Mental Health staff. Children were placed in emergency shelter (37%), residential treatment centers (25%), foster homes (22%), or some other setting (16%).

Section 3: Children in trouble with the law

Types of Service	What's included in this?	What we intend to accomplish
Case Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision of children on probation • Referral to community agencies • School Liaisons • Support to Families • All Children Excel (ACE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that children do not reoffend • Improve connections to family and community
Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational programs • Counseling • School support services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide alternative activities and support for pro-social behaviors

Numbers served

**Table 5:
Juvenile Offenders**

Services	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Children open in All Children Excel (ACE)	139	182	194	123	75
Children open in the Delinquency Unit*	773	796	701	672	630

*This reflects children served by Ramsey County Community Human Services only.

Community Human Services (CHS) and the Corrections Department in Ramsey County provide services to children who are in trouble with the law. CHS provides services to most runaways, elementary school truants and delinquents already involved with CHS.

In addition, a program called the ACE (All Children Excel) project works with children under the age of 10 at enrollment who have had police contact but are too young to be charged in court. The program works with the family to address a significant range of problems that have resulted in this behavior in a child under 10 years of age. The ACE project is a joint effort of CHS, Public Health, and the County Attorney's office.

Illustration 11:
Race of Children Receiving Case Management Services for Delinquency from CHS
(2010) N= 630

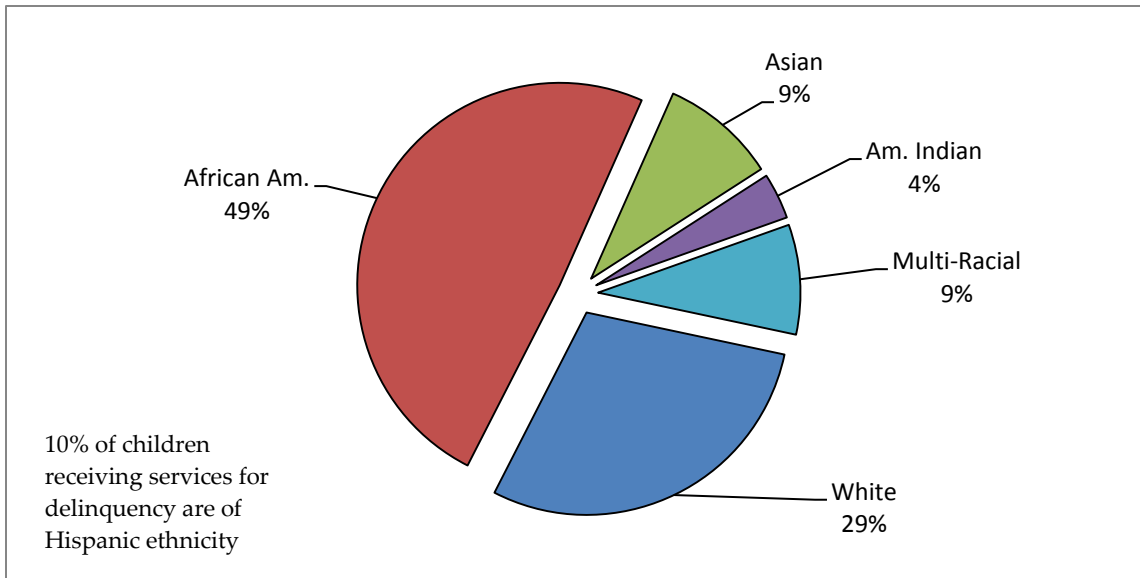


Illustration 12:
Ages of Children Receiving Case Management Delinquency Services from CHS
(2010) N=630

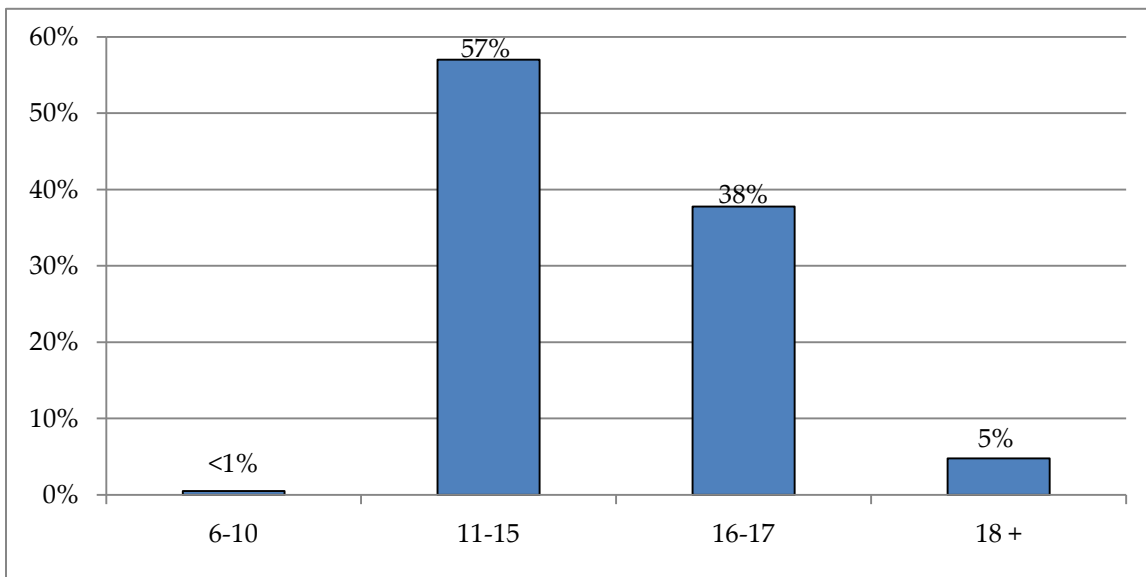
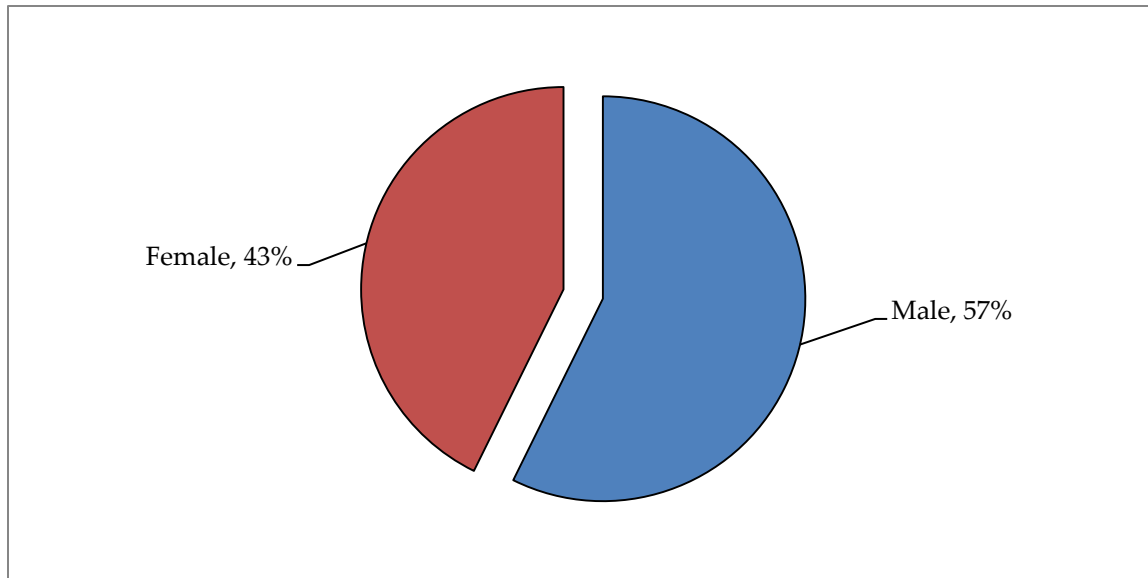


Illustration 13:
Gender of Children Receiving Case Management Delinquency Services from CHS
(2010) N= 630



Out of home placement for Delinquency

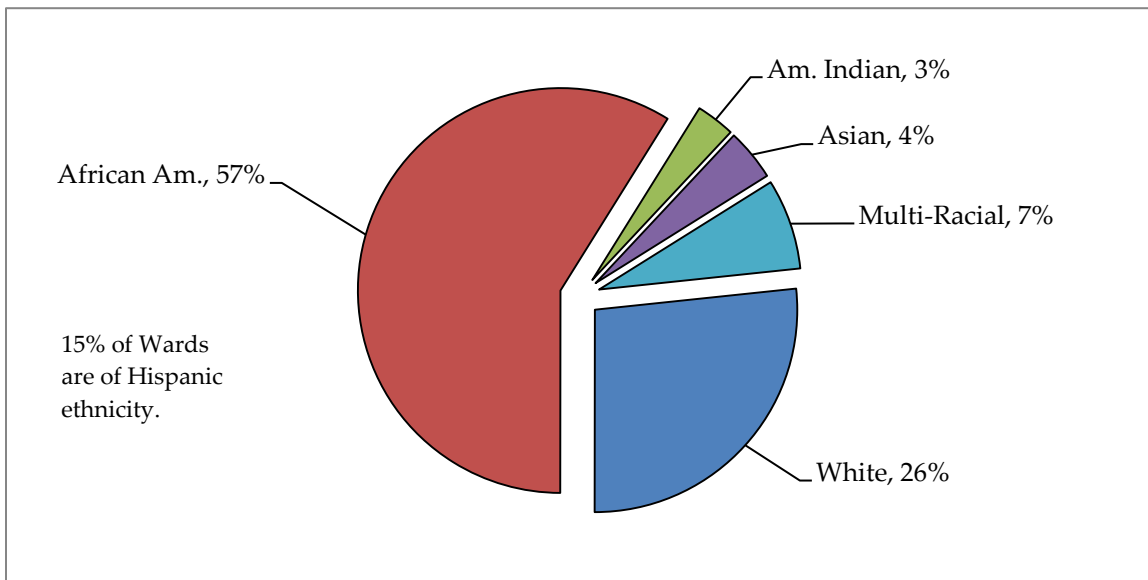
Delinquency services places a child primarily in response to a crisis with the child's behavior or for a child to receive treatment. Analysis of 2010 data showed that 25% or 506 of all CHS placements made were for children receiving delinquency services. Children were most likely to be placed in an emergency shelter (49%) or a correctional facility (21%).

Section 4: Children whose families are unable to raise them

Types of Service	What's included in this?	What we intend to accomplish
Adoptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of adoptive families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent homes for children
Foster Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of foster care providers • Support and guidance for foster parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable foster care settings for children
Emancipation Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and support for adolescents who are in foster care or who have been as teens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful transition to adulthood

Community Human Services (CHS) provides care for children whose parents are unable to care for them. Services to parents are intended to move children back to their home. When this isn't possible the County becomes the legal guardian of the children. In 2010, there were 192 children in Ramsey County who were State Wards. In addition to wards, CHS provides services to children who will remain in foster care until they reach the age of emancipation. In 2010, CHS served 96 youth in long term foster care.

**Illustration 14:
Race of Children who are Wards or in Long Term Foster Care
(2010) N= 288**



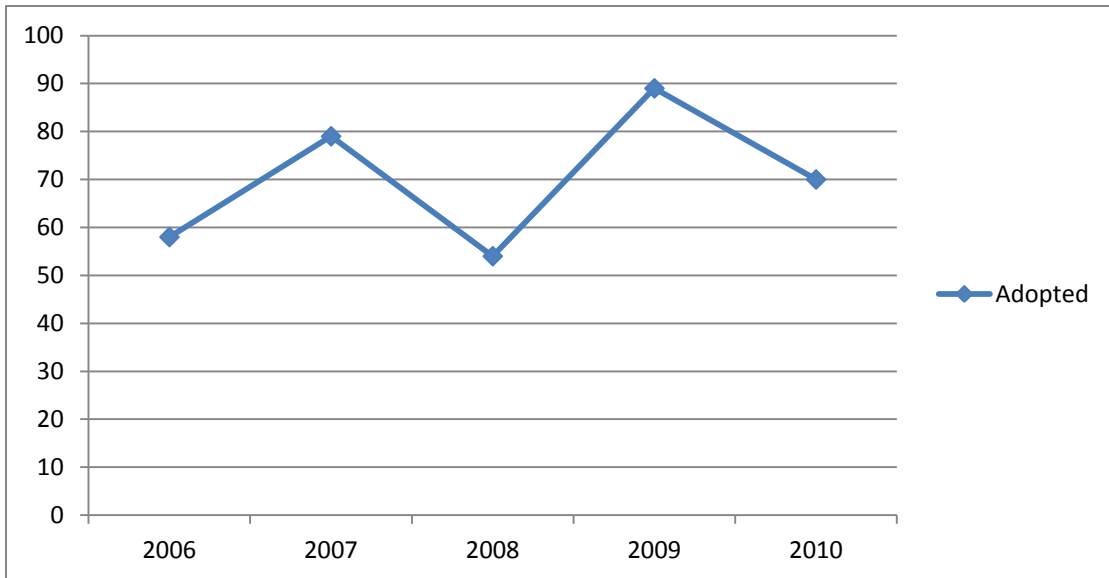
**Table 6:
Permanency for Wards, 2006-2010¹²**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
State Wards	367	317	303	287	192
Finalized Adoptions	58	79	54	87	70
New Wards	53	82	40	77	43
Percent Adopted ¹³	18%	24%	20%	33%	32%

¹² Data from MN DHS Annual Child Welfare Reports, County tables on Wards & Adoptions. DHS data may differ slightly from RCCHS data.

¹³ This shows the percentage of all children who were wards of the state each year (e.g. their parents' rights had been terminated) who were adopted during that year. This does not include children who were wards and who exited through transfer of legal custody to a relative.

Illustration 15.
Number of Wards Adopted by Year, 2006-2010



The number of children in Ramsey County who are wards of the state has decreased since 2006 by 48%. Table 6 shows that for the years 2006 through 2010 an average of 70 wards (25%) found permanent homes in a given year. While the annual totals of adoptions have varied, the overall number of wards has declined due to children leaving guardianship through other processes such as reaching the age of majority.

Illustration 16:
Ages of Children who are Ramsey County Wards or in Long Term Foster Care
(2010) N=288

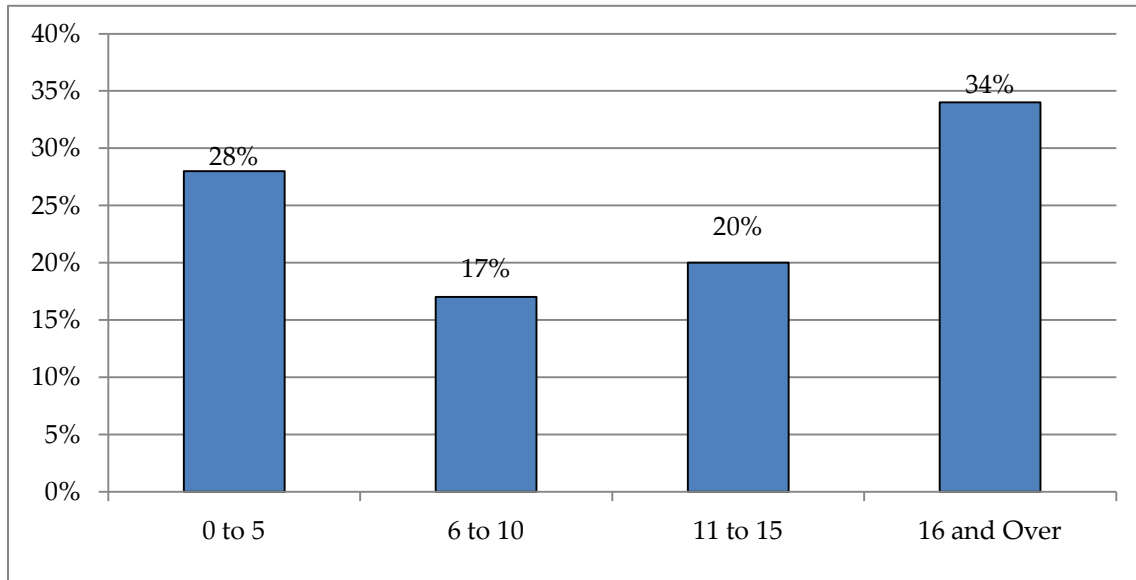
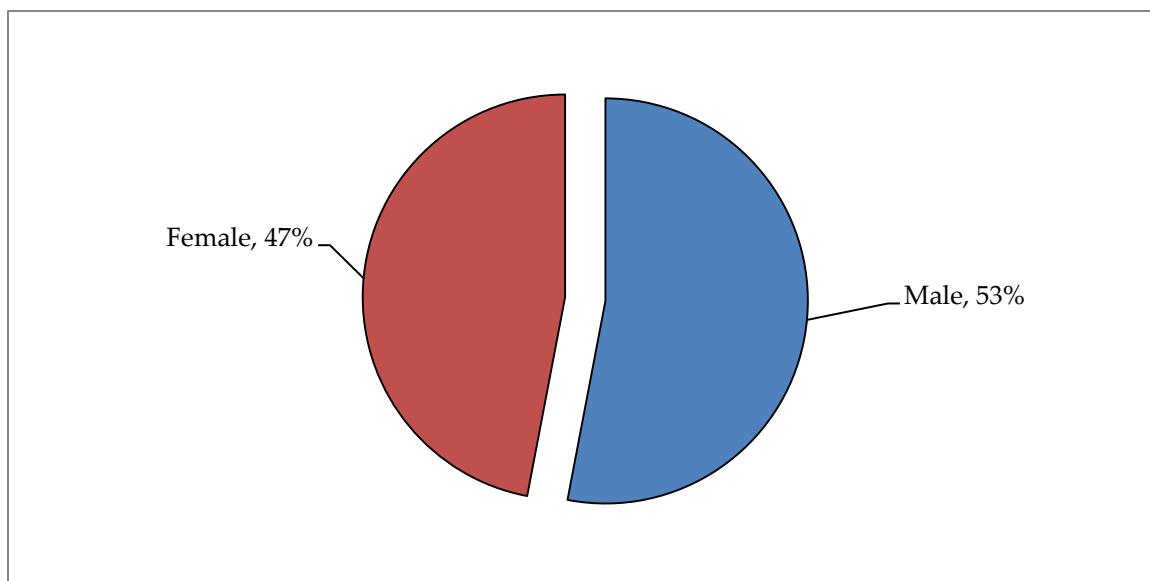


Illustration 17:
Gender of Children who are Ramsey County Wards or in Long Term Foster Care
(2010) N=288



Out of home placement

The children in the Permanent Connection Unit are in out of home placement. The Unit tries to place children with foster families, however some children need alternative placements because of a crisis or for mental health treatment. Of the 2,053 placements by CHS in 2010, the Permanent Connection Unit made 23%, or 468 placements. Most of these (75%) were in family foster homes, another 7% were in Shelter and 18% were in other settings.

Youth Returning to Care

Beginning in October, 2010, youth age 18 – 21 who left foster care at age 18 have the option to return to care until age 21 if they desire. In 2010, Ramsey County served 17 youth who had voluntarily returned to care.

SELF Program

Youth age 14 – 21 who are or have been in out of home placement are eligible for financial assistance through the Support for Emancipation and Living Functionally (SELF) program. This program aids youth in developing independent living skills and acquiring an education. The funds are used for the development, implementation and continuation of services designed to help older adolescents in substitute care prepare for the transition to independent living. The number of youth served by the SELF program has increased from 109 in 2007 to 124 in 2010 (see Table 7). Most participants are African American or White (see Illustration 18). No American Indian youth participated in SELF in 2010. Almost all of the 124 SELF youth were age 18 or older in 2010 (96%).

**Table 7:
Participants in SELF Program, 2007-2009**

2007	2008	2009	2010
109	77	106	124

**Illustration 18:
Race of Participants in SELF Program
(2010) N=124**

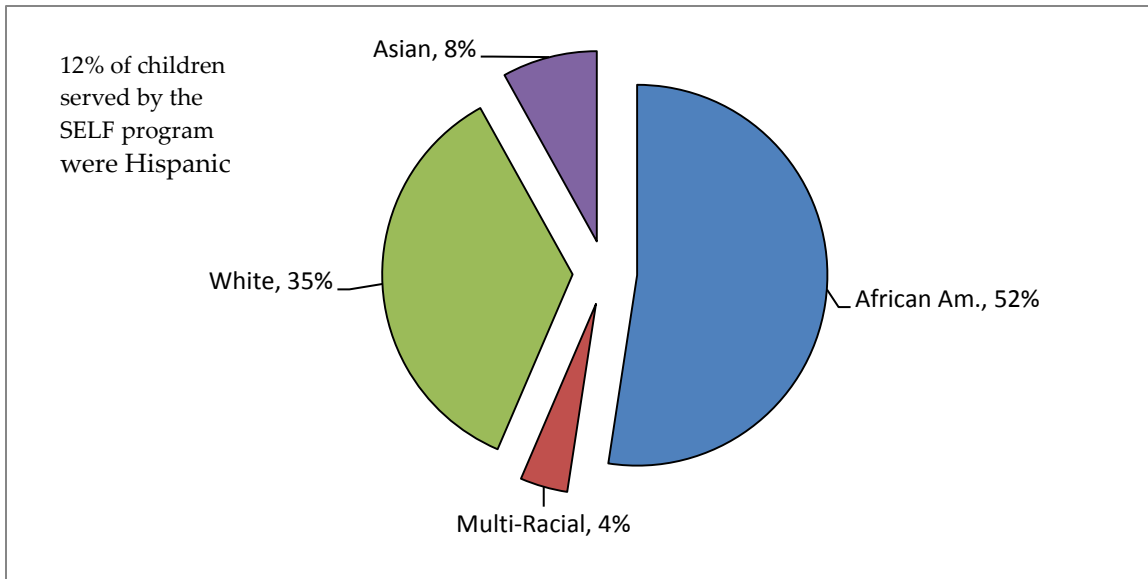


Illustration 19:
Gender of Participants in SELF Program
(2010) N=124

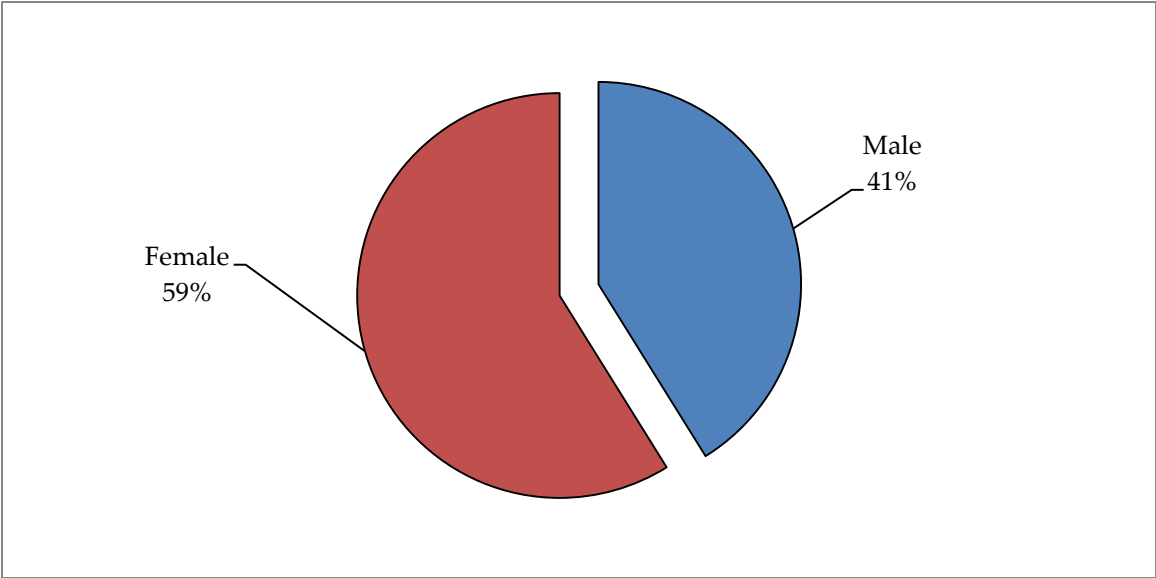
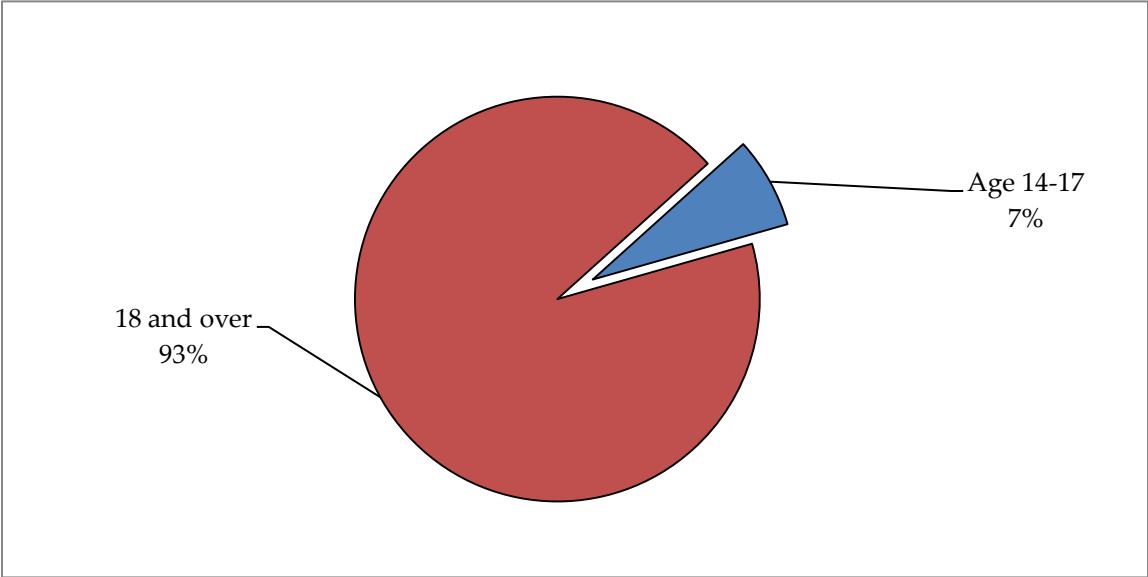


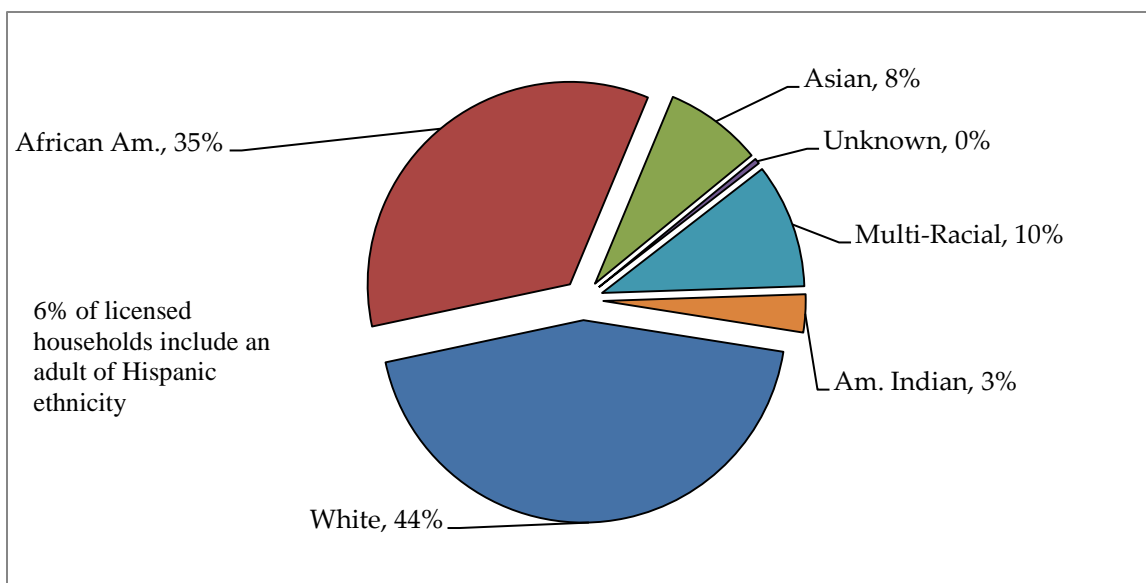
Illustration 20:
Age of Participants in SELF Program
(2010) N=124



Section 5: Child care and foster care licensing

Individuals and families wishing to become foster parents, adult foster care providers or child care providers must be licensed by Ramsey County. Staff review applications, provide orientations and training for prospective care providers, and conduct home visits to ensure that children or vulnerable adults will be safe in the provider's care. Staff also conduct regular inspections and reviews of licensed providers to ensure the continued safety of those receiving care. In 2010, there were 231 child foster care licenses (including 73 new licenses granted that year) involving 337 individuals¹⁴.

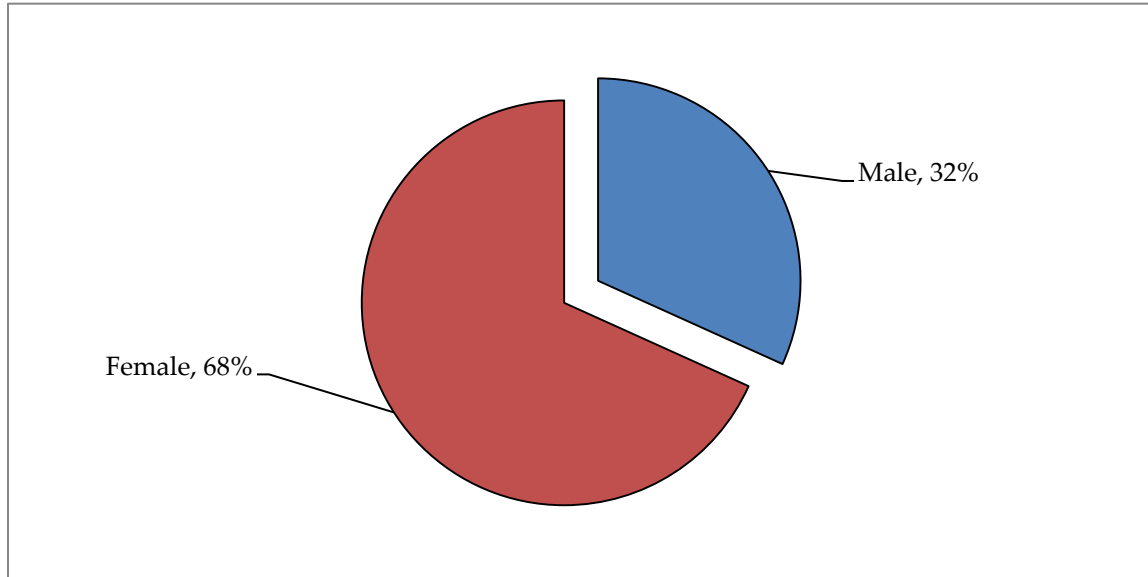
Illustration 21:
Race of Child Foster Care Licensed Households¹⁵
(2010) N= 231



¹⁴ Many foster care licenses are issued to couples, so the number of persons licensed is higher than the number of licenses.

¹⁵ Household race is counted as "multiracial" if individuals of different races are listed in the SSIS work group

Illustration 22:
Gender of Child Foster Care Licensees
(2010) N= 337



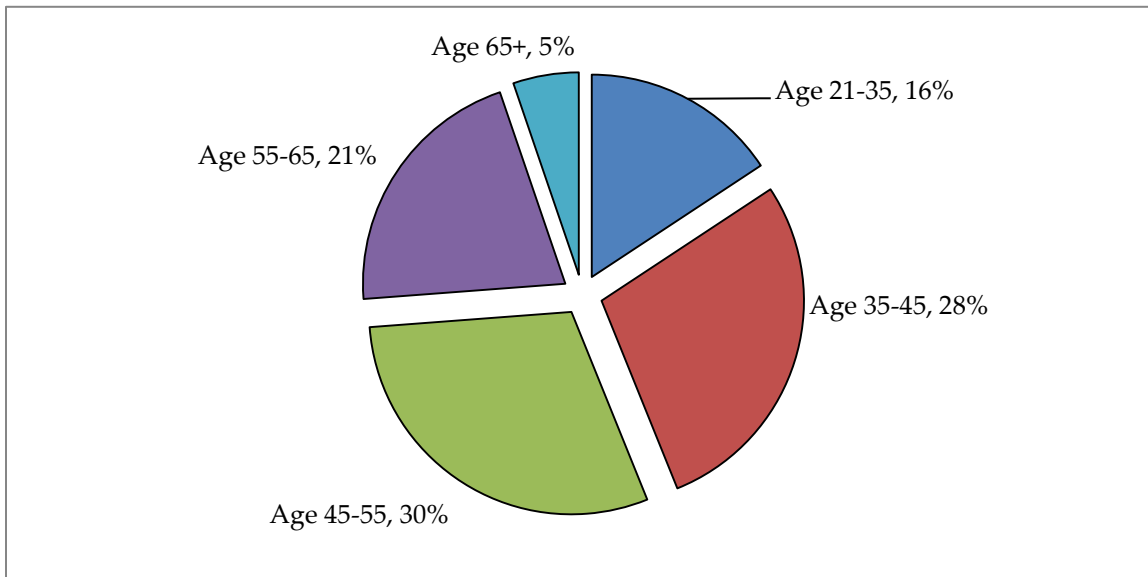
Foster care providers are mostly located in the city of St. Paul (138 or 60%), with smaller concentrations in the suburbs of Maplewood, Roseville and White Bear Lake (43 or 19%). Families receiving case management services from Community Human Services (CHS) Child Protection are more concentrated in Saint Paul (79%) with only 9% between the three suburban communities mentioned above. This difference in the geographic distribution of providers and children being served may result in children being placed with families outside of their home city.

The demographics also show that almost 40% of adults in licensed child foster care households (131) are age 55 or over, suggesting that this group may age out of providing foster care in the near future. Although foster care providers are more racially diverse than the County as a whole (56% are people of color), they are more likely to be White than the children served by child protection case management who are over 70% children of color (see Illustration 5).

There were 458 licensed child care provider households in Ramsey County in 2010. There were 325 licenses issued or renewed that year. Almost all of those licensed (97%) are for female child care providers. More than half of Child Care licensees are over age 45 (56%) and another quarter are age 36-45. A high proportion of licensed child care

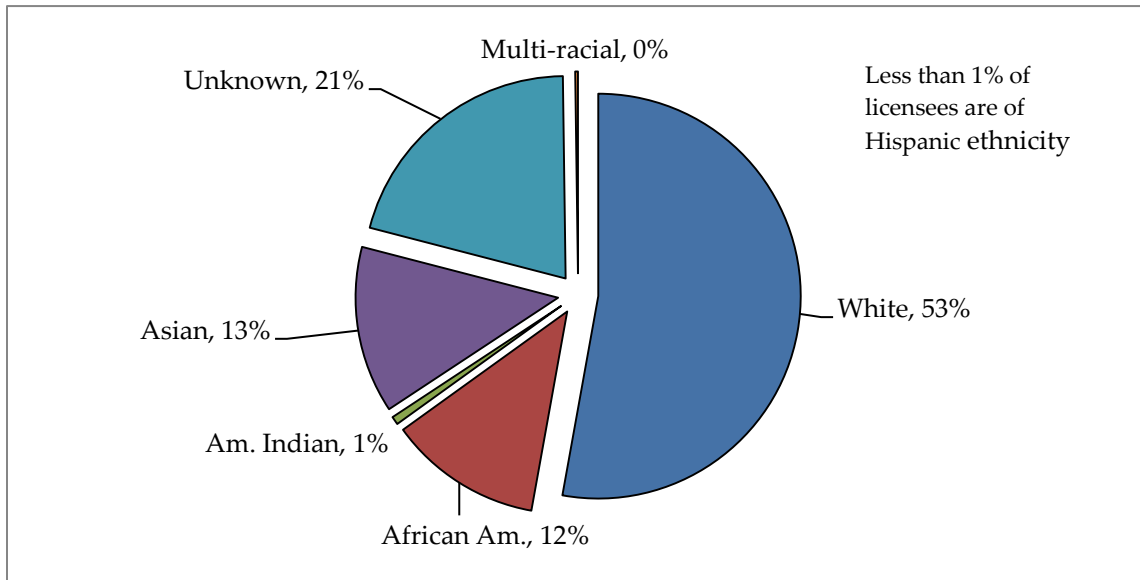
households are of unknown race (21%) and about half are White (53%). Another 12% of licensed providers are African American. There are very few American Indian (3) or Hispanic (4) child care providers licensed. Although information on the racial distribution of child care consumers is not readily available, about half of children age 0-9 in Ramsey County are White (49%). The distribution of Ramsey County child care licensees whose race is known is different from the racial distribution of young children in the County because there are so few Hispanic providers.

Illustration 23:
Age of Child Care Licensees¹⁶
(2010) N=458



¹⁶ Age of oldest person in household.

**Illustration 24:
Race of Child Care Licensed Households¹⁷
(2010) N=458**



Permanent Families Recruitment Project, Federal Adoption Opportunities Grant

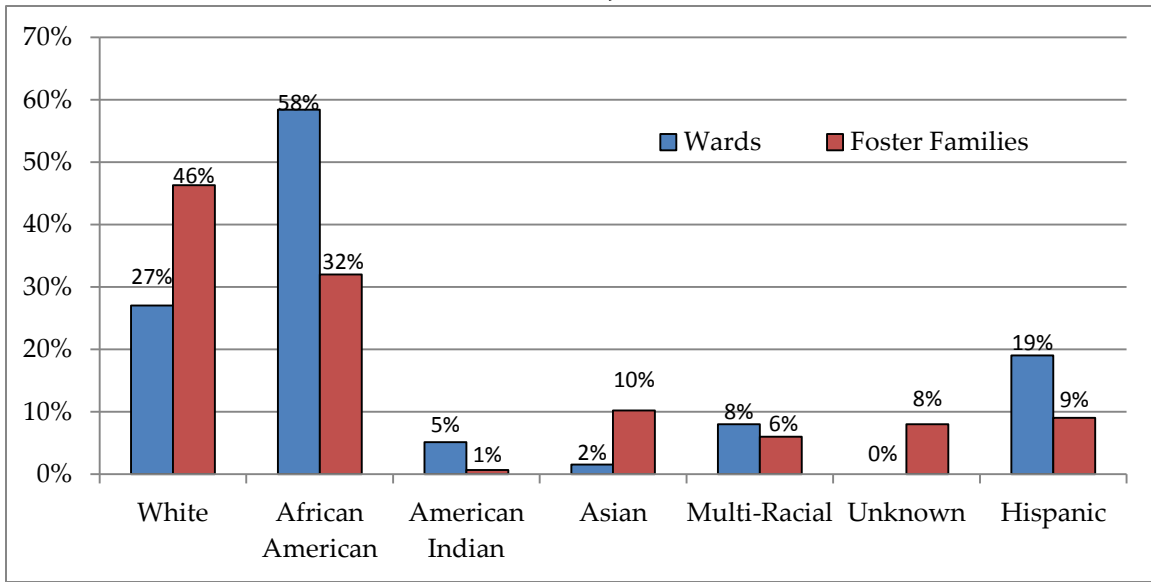
On October 1, 2008 CHS began a five-year federal adoption opportunities grant called the *Permanent Families Recruitment Project*. The project is designed to develop, implement and evaluate a diligent recruitment plan aimed at increasing the number of foster and adoptive homes, thereby increasing the number of children reaching permanency through adoption. The project's overarching goal is "a permanent home for every child". The target population is Ramsey County's children who are under state guardianship (aka – State Wards) waiting to be adopted, specifically, African American, Latino/Hispanic and youth twelve and older.

A primary focus of the grant is building community based partnerships to assist with recruitment efforts to help ensure that the pool of foster homes reflect the race and ethnicity of our waiting children.

¹⁷ Race of household members combined

Illustration 25 highlights the race and ethnicity of the pool of state wards and the pool of licensed child foster families on October 21, 2010.

**Illustration 25:
State Wards and Licensed Foster Families by Race, Ethnicity
October 31, 2010¹⁸**



¹⁸ Data Source: SSIS

A multi-faceted group of diligent recruitment strategies are being designed and implemented to help increase the number of foster/adoptive families who reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the children who need foster and adoptive homes. Specific service strategies aimed at meeting this goal include development and implementation of: community based partnerships with the African American and Hispanic/Latino communities; a public awareness recruitment campaign; general, child-specific and targeted recruitment efforts; customized training for foster and adoptive parents and staff; customized service model; and concurrent permanency planning.

In April, 2009, a process was established to track child foster care license inquiries. In 2010 a customer satisfaction survey was implemented to assess satisfaction with the pre-licensing process. We are finding answers to several questions:

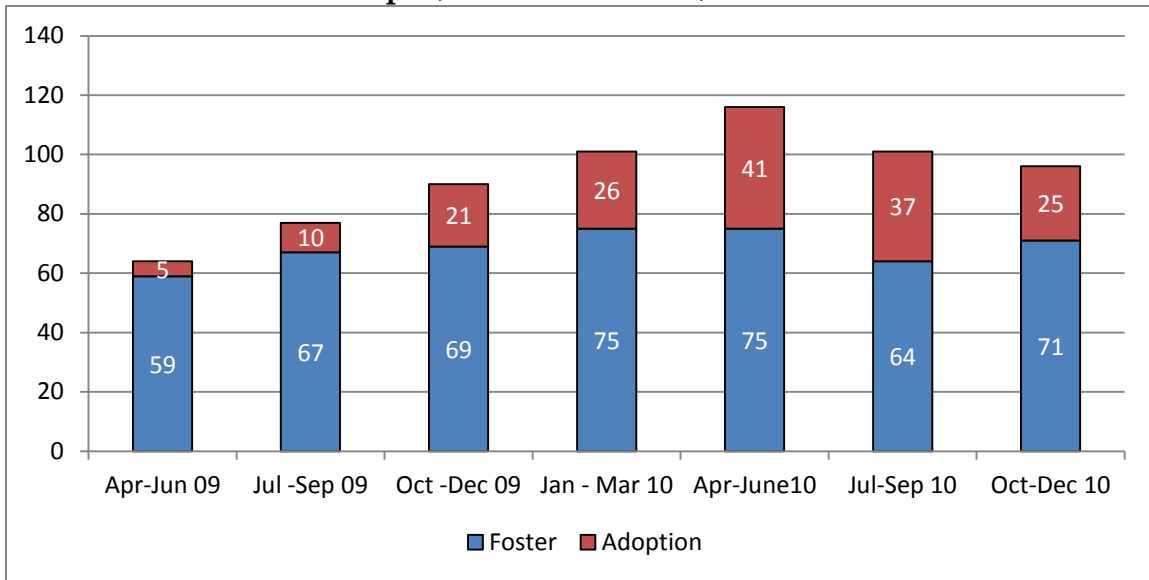
- 1) Have the number of inquiries for child foster care and adoption increased?
- 2) How are individuals or families hearing about opportunities to provide foster care or become an adoptive parent?
- 3) Are customers (applicants) satisfied with our licensing service delivery?
- 4) What areas of the licensing service delivery need improvement?

These questions are answered below and also in the “Are We Effective” chapter of this report.

Number of Inquiries

Since April, 2009 there has been an upward trend in the total number of inquiries, reaching its highest point during the April-June, 2010 time period. The number of inquiries has remained stable in 2010. See Illustration 26.

**Illustration 26:
Traditional Foster and Adoption Inquiries by Quarter:
April, 2009 – December, 2010¹⁹**

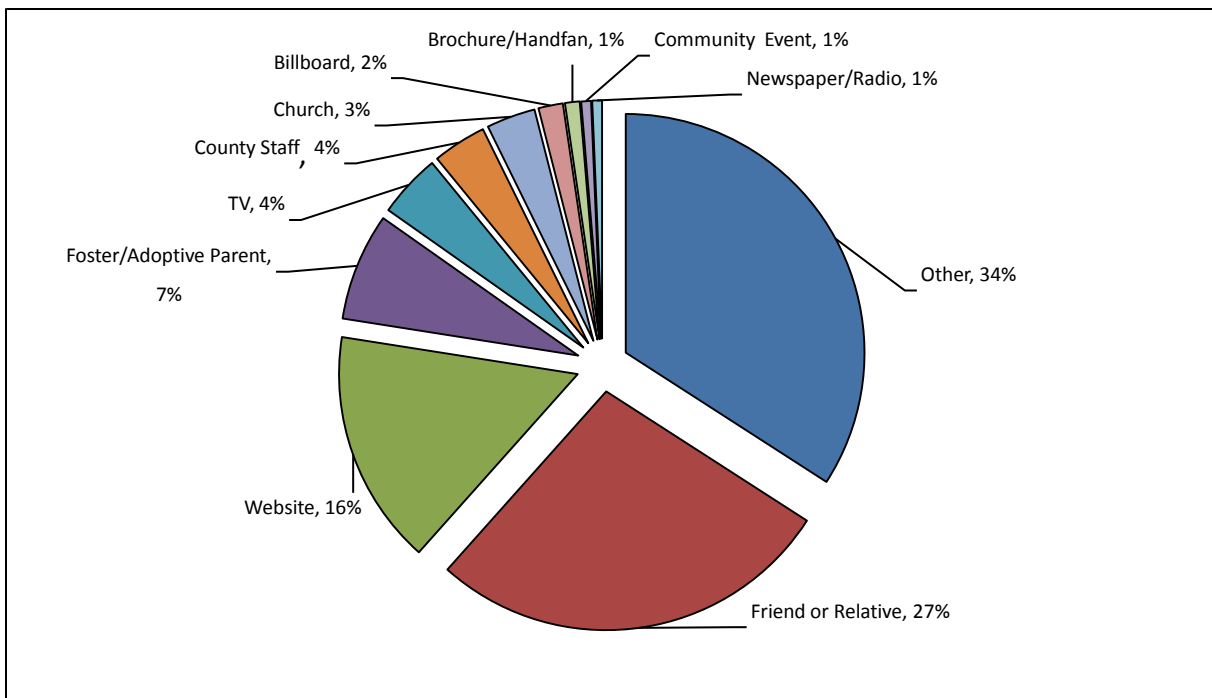


¹⁹ Source: Adoption Opportunities Grant (AOG): Recruitment Outcomes: April 1, 2009-Sep 30, 2011. Rainbow Research, October, 2011.

Sources of Information

People who inquired about becoming a foster or adoptive parent in Ramsey County were asked how they heard about the program. The largest source of referral for all child foster care inquiries were a friend or relative (27%), followed by *website* (16%) and the *foster/adoptive parents* (7%). (See Illustration 27) In an analysis of responses in the *Other* category, one in five responses were related to a respondent who used to be a foster parent, and about 15% were related to those who had been thinking about becoming a foster or adoptive parent.

Illustration 27:
How Potential Applicants Inquiring about Foster Care
Learn about Ramsey County Child Foster Care
April, 2009 – December, 2010²⁰
N= 304



In an analysis of sources of referrals for African American respondents, African Americans who inquired about adoption tended to get referrals from the brochure or hand fan (27%) and community events (16%).

²⁰ Adoption Opportunities Grant (AOG): Recruitment Outcomes Report: April 1, 2009 – December 31, 2010. Rainbow Research, February 2011.