

CASA Program Evaluation

CASA Program Managers Meeting October 16, 2009

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Outline for today

- 1) 2004 Cohort Analysis- Quantitative Outcomes
- 2) Case Record Review- Process Evaluation

CASA Evaluation Design- Cohort Analysis

- An entry cohort from 2004
- Children ages 0-12 at filing of petition
- followed through August 2008 (at least 44 months)

Sampling

Final sample= 3013= 86% of children 0-12

1. Missing smaller counties= 238 cases
2. Unknown representation= 113 cases
3. Other issues = 137 cases
(eg: transferred jurisdiction, no match to CAMIS)

Great cooperation from CASA programs!

Descriptive Analysis

- Permanency Outcomes for children by:
 - Age
 - Race/ethnicity
 - Region
 - Type of representation
 - Large Counties
- Also LOS and placement counts

Permanency Outcomes

	Reunification	Adoption	Guardianship	Cases Still Open
Case Outcomes over review period (ending 8/31/2008) N=3013	43%	33%	6%	18%

Stability in Care

	Reunification	Adoption	Guardianship	Cases Still Open
Mean number of placements N=3013	2.1	2.6	2.4	5.2

Permanency outcome trends by child age at entry

	Among infants		Among 6 to 12-year-olds
Rate of reunification	32%	increases to	50%
Rate of adoption	56%	decreases to	12%
Rate of guardianship	2%	increases to	10%
Rate of still-open	11%	increases to	28%

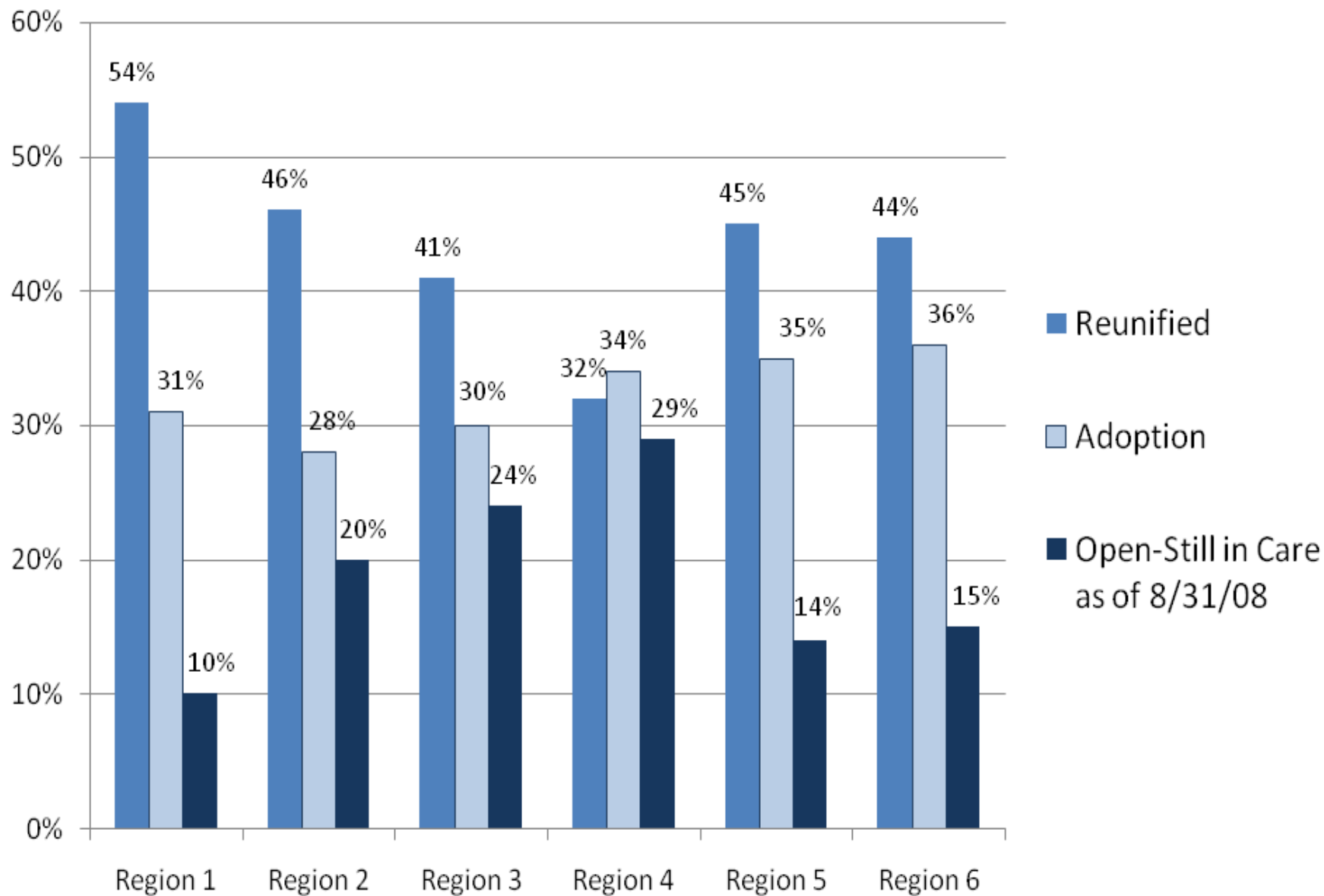
Permanency Outcomes by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	n	Reunified	Adopted	Guardian ship	Open
Native American	337	40%	21%	10%	29%
African American	365	34 %	37%	8%	23%
Latino	412	45%	29%	4%	22%
Caucasian	1,755	45%	35%	4%	15%
TOTAL	2,869	43%	32%	6%	19%

African American children are less often reunified.

Native American and Latino children are less often adopted.

Permanency Outcomes by Region



Regional Differences

- Beyond population differences or other factors, there are large regional variations in child outcomes.
- Partners for our Children analysis shows unresolved kinship placements account for some of this variation.

Outcomes for Infants by Representation

		n	Reunified	Adopted	Guardian ship	Open
			%	%	%	%
Infants	CASA	444	29	59	2	10
	CASA Staff	170	38	53	3	6
	Contract GAL	101	36	50	4	11
	Mixed Representation	94	32	54	3	11
	No CASA/GAL	74	26	51	0	23
	Total	883	32%	55%	2%	11%

Outcomes for 1-5 yr olds by Representation

		n	Reunified	Adopted	Guardian ship	Open
			%	%	%	%
Ages 1-5	CASA	487	44	32	5	19
	CASA staff	189	50	36	5	10
	Contract GAL	117	47	38	2	14
	Mixed Representation	116	45	41	3	11
	No CASA/GAL	84	50	19	2	29
	Total	993	46%	33%	4%	17%

Outcomes for 6-11 yr olds by Representation

		n	Reunified	Adopted	Guardian ship	Open
			%	%	%	%
Ages 6-11	CASA	461	48	16	9	26
	CASA Staff	189	57	16	8	18
	Contract GAL	115	53	10	4	32
	Mixed Representation	107	47	24	11	18
	No CASA/GAL	152	47	10	16	27
	Total	1,024	50%	16%	10%	25%

Outcomes for Children Represented by CASA programs

		n	Reunified	Adopted	Guardian ship	Open
			%	%	%	%
Infants	CASA	444	29	59	2	10
	CASA Staff	170	38	53	3	6
	Total Infant Sample	883	32%	55%	2%	11%
Ages 1-5	CASA	487	44	32	5	19
	CASA staff	189	50	36	5	10
	Total 1-5 Sample	993	46%	33%	4%	17%
Ages 6-11	CASA	461	48	16	9	26
	CASA Staff	189	57	16	8	18
	Total 6-11 Sample	1,024	50%	16%	10%	25%

Permanency Implications

Children who most often remained in care for four or more years in this sample were:

- Children of color
- 6-12 year olds
- 0-5 year olds without any representation
- Among large counties, dependent children in King and Snohomish Counties

Length of Stay

	Reunification	Adoption	All Cases
Median number of out-of-home days N=3013	302 days	819 days	691 days

LOS to Adoption by Representation

	Adoption (days in care)
CASA	775 ^b
CASA staff	757 ^b
Contract GAL	955
Mixed Representation	918 ^a
No CASA/GAL	930
TOTAL	819

Among cases resolving to adoption, CASA and CASA staff cases resolve more quickly

LOS Implication

CASA and CASA staff cases resolved more quickly
(by 5-6 months) to adoption

- + Yields cost savings for the system

- CASA reunifications (% and LOS) not strong

Explore Further: Are CASA cases more severe?

Case Record Review Highlights

215 CASA assigned records

Clark

Snohomish

King

Spokane

Pierce

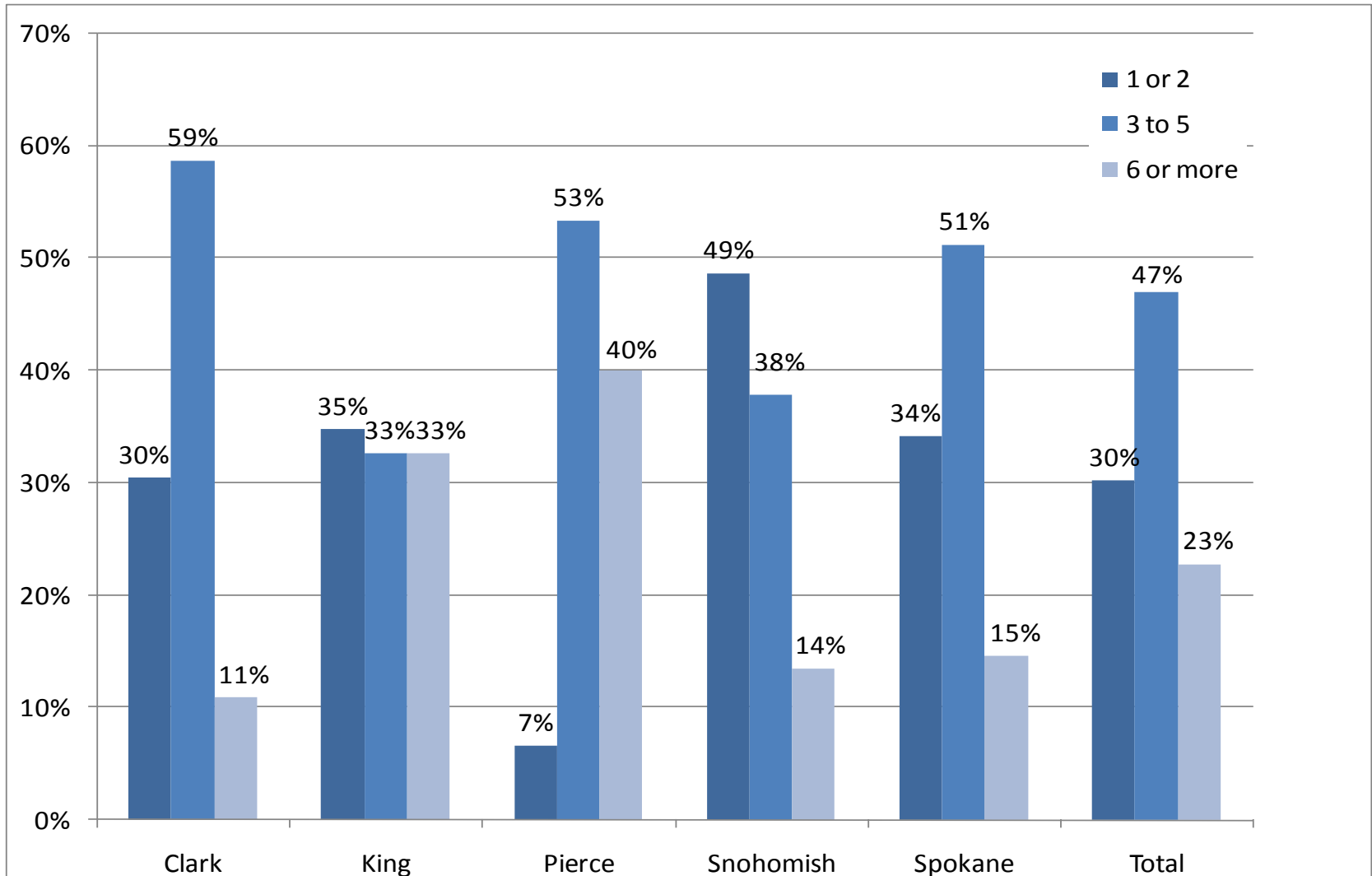
Coordination by CASA programs and Clerks
made this study possible!

Case Assignment

County	N	Median days to CASA assignment after petition
Clark	46	49
King	46	46
Pierce	45	1*
Snohomish	37	161
Spokane	41	25
TOTAL	215	26

** In Pierce County the program staff generally take on a case at the time of shelter care hearing and then transitions it to a CASA.*

CASA reports



Report take away

When cases take longer to resolve, there is more work for a CASA to do.

As a volunteer driven program, this has implications for recruitment and retention.

CASA stability

- 2/3 of the study cases had just one CASA.
- 10% of the cases had just one SW for the entire dependency.
- CPS-CFWS transition adds one SW
- In King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties, 2/3 of cases had three or more social workers.

Stability take away

As social workers, judges, and attorneys rotate through a case and juggle calendars and caseloads, CASAs typically hold the case history.

CASA Investigation

- Median number of persons contacted by CASA per case was nine.
- CASAs had multiple contacts with many of these persons.
- CASAs also read ISSPs and other reports

Investigation take away

CASAs provide robust investigation on behalf of children in care.

Permanency Planning Decisions

- In one sixth of cases CASAs disagreed with SW regarding the child's current placement or permanent plan
- In 8% of cases the judge did not concur with the CASA's permanency recommendation.
- CASA reports were more decisive regarding permanency planning in Clark and Spokane as compared to other counties.

Permanency Planning Take Away

CASA recommendations generally mirrored those of SW. Judicial decisions mainly concurred with CASA recommendations.

However, in a portion of case, CASAs presented a differing point of view in the court room.

Visitation

- At the outset, paternity was established in just 44% of cases.
- Case review tool could not capture complexities of visitation.

At outset of the case	With Mother	With Father or Presumed Father
Recommended by SW	81%	53%
Not recommended by SW	8%	22%
Unknown recommendation	11%	25%
Evidence CASA disagrees	2%	2%

Services

- Different templates and content for reports limited this cross-site comparison
- Generally the services recommendations mirrored those of the social worker/ISSP
- Communication with Service providers was captured in the contacts section

Case Review Summary

1. Longer cases mean there is more work for a CASA to do.
2. CASAs typically hold the case history.
3. CASAs provide robust investigation on behalf of children.
4. In 1 out of 6 cases CASAs presented a differing point of view to the SW, less often different from the judge's decision.

2004 Cohort Analysis Summary

1. Children who most often remained in care for four or more years:
 - Children of color especially Native American children
 - 6-12 year olds
 - 0-5 year olds without any representation
 - Among large counties, dependent children in King and Snohomish Counties
2. CASA and CASA staff cases resolved more quickly (by 5-6 months) to adoption = **cost savings for the system**
3. CASA staff cases have the strongest overall permanency outcomes

Looking at
the 2004 Cohort Analysis and
the Case Record Review
together we conclude...

Opportunities to learn from:

- Clark and Spokane Counties- less racially diverse populations, strong permanency outcomes
- Pierce County- racially diverse population , fairly strong permanency outcomes
- These CASA programs use a shared staff-CASA assignment model to cover all cases early and consistently.
- Explore CA and judicial practices across WA-
“Tables of Ten” underway in several counties