

Kentucky Foster Care Census

Research Design Executive Summary

Website: www.trc.eku.edu/fostercare

Implemented in Partnership with
Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children;
The University Training Consortium;
Kentucky's Eight Public Universities;
10 PCWCP Programs; and
Eastern Kentucky University Training
Resource Center

Issue	Description
1. Background	Need for data on child well-being to meet the federal standards for Child and Family Services Review to be conducted in Kentucky in March 2003. Kentucky Customer Satisfaction Survey Data (2002) Council on Accreditation peer records review. Initiated July 2, 2002 by Cabinet Secretary Dr. Viola Miller Data needed by November 2002 for self-assessment and policy development.
2. Objective	To take a census of the well-being of each child in Kentucky's care and to verify the child's placement in Out-of-Home Care.
3. Study Design	Descriptive data on child well-being will be collected from all 1600 DCBS foster adoptive homes with a child in placement. Trained student Census Taker will visit each home. The research design and measures were developed with participation and input from all stakeholders through multiple meetings, phone conferences, and pilots. A statewide partnership with Kentucky's eight public Universities, the University Training Consortium and the Cabinet for Families and Children was initiated to plan and conduct the census. This research is innovative: it establishes a statewide research consortium to recruit, train, and supervise students to become Census Takers.
4. Study Population	Foster/Adoptive Parents, certified by the Cabinet for Families and Children through the Department of Community Based Services, with one or more children currently placed in their care. There will not be any data collected from any children in Out-of-home care (Foster care). A Child Census Form will be completed by regional staff and foster adoptive parents. THE CHILD WILL BE COUNTED BY THE REGION THAT THEY ARE PLACED IN.
5. Recruitment methods	All the foster/adoptive parents meeting the above criteria will be invited to participate.
6. Procedures	A packet of information will be sent to each foster/adoptive parent by the regional administrators about 1 week before the census. The packet will contain:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cover letter (this is written) <input type="checkbox"/> A partially completed Child Census Form (in progress) <input type="checkbox"/> Two copies of the informed consent procedures (being reviewed by IRB at this time) <p>The regional team will assist the Census takers to schedule their visit.</p> <p>Foster/adoptive parents will complete a Child Census Form for every child in their care.</p> <p>A Census Taker will visit the home at a convenient time and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> collect the Census Form, <input type="checkbox"/> see every child in care, and <input type="checkbox"/> interview the foster/adoptive parent if they consent. <p>Data will be entered by the student directly into a web-based template. http://www.trc.eku.edu/cfccensus</p> <p>Data validity will be checked by the faculty or UTC coordinator.</p>
<p>6. Census-Takers</p>	<p>Approximately 100 students enrolled in courses at 8 public universities as advanced undergraduates (Juniors or Seniors) or graduate students majoring in social work or other human services. The students will most often be PCWCP (Public Child Welfare Certificate Program) students.</p> <p>They will all enroll in a course under the direction of a university faculty member.</p> <p>They will receive additional training.</p> <p>They will sign agreements of confidentiality.</p> <p>Each Census Taker will complete about 15 foster adoptive parent home visits.</p>
<p>7. Potential Risks</p>	<p>Stress to foster/adoptive parents who may fear that no children will be placed with them if they express dissatisfaction with CFC.</p>
<p>8. Safety Precautions Informed Consent</p>	<p>The Needs Assessment is anonymous. The data will not be coded. The data collection and storage are external to the Cabinet for Families and children</p> <p>No informed consent is needed for the Child Census Form.</p> <p>Foster/adoptive parents will provide written informed consent to complete the Foster/Adoptive Parent Needs Assessment.</p>
<p>8. Safety Precautions Training</p>	<p>Census Takers will be trained in the processes of collecting data. They will sign confidentiality agreements. Weekly supervision will be provided by the faculty member teaching the course or the University Training Consortium Coordinators.</p> <p>Additional training before and after the census are planned.</p>
<p>8. Risk Management</p>	<p>The confidentiality of foster/adoptive parents will be protected through data collection by persons not employed by the Cabinet. There is no identifying information about the FAP in the final database.</p> <p>Data will be protected by procedures for locking and securing</p>

	raw data and for technology protection of aggregated databases. Census Takers receive weekly supervision.
9. Measures	A <u>Child Census Form</u> on well-being for every child in custody of Kentucky and placed in a Department of Community Based Service (DCBS) Foster/adoptive home. A <u>Foster/Adoptive Parent Needs Assessment</u> . <u>Student Census Taker Record</u> to track scheduling. A web-site for management of the census and data entry.
9. Data Collection and Management	Management of the census by Eastern Kentucky University Training Resource Center includes plans to track the project and match needs with Census Takers
10. Reporting of Concerns	The Census Takers may observe situations that generate concern. A check box is included on the Student Census Taker Record to indicate a need for further investigation by the CFC.
11. Incentives	Results will be disseminated widely. Persons who participated in the planning are very concerned that results will be used. A series of focus groups is planned to allow input into data analysis and interpretation, and to guide program enhancement by multiple stakeholders. Incentives for Census Takers include course credit, a unique learning opportunity, and payment of \$50.00 per completed Census (whether or not the foster adoptive parent completes the research portion of the Census).
12. Unique Opportunities and off-site research.	The design and implementation of this project establishes a statewide data collection system and forms partnerships between the CFC and all public universities. This is an innovative and proactive response to the needs of children. Secretary Dr. Viola Miller and Deputy Secretary Dr. Tim Jackson, 502-564-3106 have oversight of this research.