

APPENDIX G

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE STATISTICAL SURVEY, JULY 1976

ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS, INC.

The Association on American Indian Affairs (432 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016) is a private, non-profit, national citizens' organization supported by members and contributors. Founded in 1923, it assists American Indian and Alaska Native communities in their efforts to achieve full economic, social and civil equality, and to defend their rights. Policies and programs of the Association are formulated by a Board of Directors, the majority of whom are Indian and Alaska Native.

One of the special publications of the Association is "Indian Family Defense," a newsletter exclusively concerned with Indian child welfare issues.

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a nation-wide Indian child-welfare statistical survey done by the Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA) at the request of the American Indian Policy Review Commission, an agency of the United States Congress, in July 1976.

The report indicates that Indian children are being removed from their families to be placed in adoptive care, foster care, special institutions, and federal boarding schools at rates far out of proportion to their percentage of the population.

The disparity in placement rates for Indian and non-Indian children is shocking and cries out for sweeping reform at all levels of government.

In Maine, Indian children are today placed in foster care at a per capita rate 10 times greater than that for non-Indian children. In Minnesota, an Indian child is 17 times more likely than a non-Indian child to be placed in foster care. In South Dakota per capita foster-care rate for Indians is 22 times the rate for non-Indians. The statistics from other states demonstrated that these rates are not uncommon elsewhere.

Most of the Indian children in foster care are placed with non-Indian families. In Maine, for example, 64 per cent of Indian foster children are living with non-Indian families. In New York approximately 97 per cent of Indian foster children are in non-Indian families, and in Utah 88 per cent of the Indian foster-care placements are with non-Indian families.

Indian children are also placed in adoptive homes at a rate far disproportionate to that for non-Indian children. In California, Indian children were adopted in 1975 at a per capita rate 8 times that for non-Indian children, and 93 per cent of such adoptions were made by non-Indian parents. In Montana, Indian children are adopted at a per capita rate almost 5 times that for non-Indian, and 87 per cent of such adoptions were made by non-Indians.

In states such as Alaska, Arizona, and New Mexico, which have large numbers of Indian children in boarding schools or boarding home programs, the rates at which Indian children are separated from their families indicate an even greater disproportion to the non-Indian rate. In New Mexico, when adoptive care, foster care, and federal boarding school placements are added together, Indian children are being separated from their families today at a per capita rate 74 times that for non-Indian children.

Nationwide, more than 20,000 Indian children (many as young as six years old) are placed in U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding schools. Enrollment in BIA boarding schools and dormitories is not based primarily on the educational needs of the children; it is chiefly a means of providing substitute care. The standards for taking children from their homes for boarding school placement are as vague and as arbitrary as are standards for Indian foster care placements.

The data base for the individual state reports consists of statistics supplied to the AAIA by responsible federal and state agencies. The statistics do not include many Indian children living outside their natural families for which there are no statistics, among them: (1) informal placements of Indian children that do not go through any legal process; (2) private boarding home programs which, in some western states, place thousands of Indian children away from their families for the entire school year; (3) Indian-to-Indian on-reservation placements which, while preferable to placements with non-Indian families off the reservation, are nevertheless an indication of family breakdown; and (4) Indian juveniles incarcerated in correctional institutions.

The state-wide figures presented here often mask important variations within a state. Those states for which the Association has been able to do county-by-county breakdowns of Indian foster care generally demonstrate a wide variation between communities. This indicates a need for greater precision in how child-welfare statistics are compiled and analyzed by the states and federal government.

The separation of Indian children from their families frequently occurs in situations where one or more of the following exist:

- (1) the natural parent does not understand the nature of the documents or proceedings involved;
- (2) neither the child nor the natural parents are represented by counsel or otherwise advised of their rights;
- (3) the public officials involved are unfamiliar with, and often disdainful of, Indian culture and society;
- (4) the conditions which led to the separation are not demonstrably harmful or are remediable or transitory in character; and
- (5) responsible tribal authorities and Indian community agencies are not consulted about or even informed of the actions.

On August 27, 1976 Senator James Abourezk, Chairman of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Indian Affairs, introduced a bill drafted by the Association on American Indian Affairs and entitled the "Indian Child Welfare Act of 1976" (S. 3777). That bill, if enacted, would establish standards for the placement of Indian children in foster or adoptive homes, assure that Indian families will be accorded a full and fair hearing when child placement is at issue, establish a priority for Indian adoptive and foster families to care for Indian children, support Indian family development programs, and generally promote the stability and security of Indian family life.

INDIAN CHILDREN IN ADOPTIVE AND FOSTER CARE (SUMMARY)

State	Indian and Alaska Native under 21 yr old	Adopted Indian children (estimate)	Per capita rate of Indians adopted non-Indians (percent)	Indian children in foster care	Per capita rate of Indians in foster care non-Indians (percent)	Indian children in adoptive and foster care combined (estimate)	Per capita rate of Indians in foster and adoptive care compared to non-Indians (percent)
Alaska.....	28,334	957	460	1,393	1,300	13,777	11,110
Arizona.....	54,709	1,039	420	1,558	1,270	1,597	1,350
California.....	39,579	1,507	840	319	270	1,826	610
Idaho.....	3,808	(¹)	1,110	296	640	(²)	(³)
Maine.....	1,084	(⁴)	100	82	1,910	(⁵)	(⁶)
Michigan.....	7,404	912	370	82	710	994	390
Minnesota.....	12,672	1,594	390	737	1,650	2,331	520
Montana.....	15,124	541	480	534	1,280	1,075	730
Nevada.....	3,739	(⁷)	100	73	700	(⁸)	(⁹)
New Mexico.....	41,316	(¹⁰)	150	287	240	(¹¹)	(¹²)
New York.....	10,627	(¹³)	330	142	300	(¹⁴)	(¹⁵)
North Dakota.....	8,186	269	280	296	2,010	565	520
Oklahoma.....	45,489	1,116	440	337	390	1,453	430
Oregon.....	6,839	402	110	247	820	649	1170
South Dakota.....	18,322	1,019	160	832	2,240	1,851	270
Utah.....	6,690	328	340	249	1,500	1,871	500
Washington.....	15,980	740	1,880	558	960	1,298	1,330
Wisconsin.....	10,176	733	1,790	545	1,340	1,278	1,560
Wyoming.....	2,832	(¹⁶)	400	98	1,040	(¹⁷)	(¹⁸)

¹ Minimum estimates, see State report.

² Includes Alaska Native children living away from home full time during the school year in the State's boarding home and boarding school program.

³ Not available.

⁴ Based only on the 3-yr period 1973-75.

⁵ Based only on the 2-yr period 1974-75.

⁶ Based only on fiscal year 1976 figures.

⁷ Based only on 1976 figures.

⁸ Based only on the 4-yr period 1972-75.

Note: For definitions and sources of data see individual State reports.

INDIAN FOSTER CARE (10 WORST STATES BY RATE OF INDIAN PLACEMENTS)

State	Foster care placements per thousand		Per capita rate of Indians in foster care compared to non- Indians (percent)
	Indian children	Non-Indian children	
Idaho.....	77.5	12.1	640
Maine.....	75.8	4.0	1,910
Minnesota.....	58.1	3.5	1,650
Wisconsin.....	53.5	4.0	1,340
South Dakota.....	45.5	2.0	2,240
Utah.....	37.2	2.5	1,500
North Dakota.....	36.1	1.8	2,010
Oregon.....	36.1	4.4	820
Montana.....	35.3	2.8	1,280
Washington.....	35.0	3.6	960

Note: For definitions and sources of data see individual State reports.

ALASKA NATIVE ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE

Basic Facts

1. There are 137,044 under twenty-one year olds in Alaska.¹
2. There are 28,334 under twenty-one year old Alaska Natives (Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut) in Alaska.²
3. There are 108,710 non-Natives under twenty-one in Alaska.

I. ADOPTION

In the State of Alaska, according to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Division of Family and Children Services, there is an average of 59 public agency adoptions per year of Alaska Native children.³ Using federal age-at-adoption figures,⁴ 83 percent (or 49) are under one year of age when placed. Another 13 percent (or eight) are one year to less than six years old when placed; and 4 percent (or two) are six years or older when placed. Using the formula, then: 49 Alaska Native children per year are placed in adoption for at least 17 years, eight Alaska Native children are placed in adoption for a minimum average of 14 years, and two Alaska Native children are placed in adoption for a minimum average of six years; there are 957 Alaska Natives under twenty-years old in adoption in Alaska. This represents one out of every 29.6 Alaska Native children in the State.

Using the same formula for non-Natives (there is an average public agency placement of non-Natives in adoptive homes in Alaska of 50 per year),⁵ there are 807 under twenty-one year old non-Alaska Natives in adoption in Alaska. This represents one out of every 134.7 non-Alaska Native children in the State.

Conclusion

There are therefore by proportion 4.6 times (460 percent) as many Alaska Native children in adoptive homes as non-Alaska Natives; 93 percent of the adopted Native children are placed in non-Native adoptive homes.⁶

II. FOSTER CARE

According to statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, there were 263 Alaska Native children (under twenty-one years old) in BIA-administered foster care in 1972-73.⁷ The Alaska Division of Family and Children Services does not have a racial breakdown of its foster care placements.⁸ Assuming then that the Division of Family and Children Services places Alaska Natives in foster care in direct proportion to their percentage of the total population under twenty-one years old, there were 130 Alaska Native children in State-administered foster

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of the Population, Vol. I: Characteristics of the Population, Part III: Alaska (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), Table 19, pp. 3-34.

² *Ibid.*, p. 3-34 (Table 19), pp. 3-205, 3-206 (Table 139). Alaska Natives (Indian, Eskimo and Aleut) comprise 81.2 percent of the total non-white population according to Table 139. According to Table 19 there are 34,894 non-whites under 21. 34,894 times 81.2 percent equals 28,334.

³ Letter from Connie M. Hansen, ACSW, Foster Care and Child Protection Consultant, State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Family and Children Services, Sept. 11, 1973.

⁴ National Center for Social Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Adoptions in 1971. DHEW Publication No. (SRS) 73-03259, NCSS Report E-10 (1971), May 23, 1973. Table 6 "Children adopted by unrelated petitioners: Percentage distribution by age at time of placement, by type of placement, 1971."

⁵ Letter from Connie M. Hansen, ACSW, *op. cit.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, "Fiscal Year 1973—Child Welfare (Unduplicated Case-count by States)."

⁸ Letter from Connie M. Hansen, ACSW, *op. cit.*

care in 1973.⁹ The combined figures (393 children) represent one out of every 72 Alaska Native children in the State.

By comparison (assuming the Division of Family and Children Services also places non-Natives in foster care in direct proportion to their percentage of the population), there were 496 non-Native children in foster care in 1973,¹⁰ representing one out of every 219 non-Native children in the State.

Conclusion

By rate, therefore, Alaska Native children are placed in foster homes 3.0 times (300 percent) more often than non-Alaska Natives in Alaska. (Because the Division of Family and Children Services was unable to supply a racial breakdown for foster care, these figures are based on the conservative assumptions stated above. Were it to be assumed that Alaska Natives represent the same percentage of foster care placements as they do adoptive placements, the disproportion in foster care rates would more than double.)

III. ADOPTIVE CARE, FOSTER CARE, AND BOARDING PROGRAMS

A large number of Native students live away from home full-time during the school year. In 1972-73, 2,427 (94%) of the 2,585 village Native students in public high schools were enrolled in a boarding home or boarding school program.¹¹ A more proper way of computing the number of Indian children who do not live in their natural homes in the State of Alaska is to include the boarding school figures. When this is done, the combined total of Native children in foster homes, adoptive homes and boarding programs is 3,777, representing one out of every 7.5 Alaska Native children in the State.

Since few, if any, non-Natives must enroll in boarding programs, the non-Native figure of 1,303 children in adoptive homes and foster homes remains the same, representing one in every 83.4 non-Natives.

Conclusion

Alaska Native children are out of their homes and in foster homes, adoptive homes, or in boarding programs at a rate 11.1 times (1,110 percent) greater than that for non-Natives in Alaska.

The Alaska statistics do not include placements made by private agencies, and therefore are minimum figures.

Methodological note to the Alaska statistics.—The Alaska State Division of Children Services probably removes very few Native children from their parents in the small rural villages. The population base for this report is all Natives, rural and urban; if the percentage of children outside their natural homes was based on only the urban Native population—likely the most revealing comparison—the percentage would of course be much higher. It is virtually certain, therefore, that these are absolutely minimum figures.

⁹ National Center for Social Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, "Children Served by Public Welfare Agencies and Voluntary Child Welfare Agencies and Institutions March 1973," DHEW Publication No. (SRS) 73-03258, NCSS Report E-9 (3/73), November 1975, Table 1, "Children receiving social services from State and local public welfare agencies," p. 7. Indian people comprise 20.7 percent of the total under twenty-one year of population of Alaska. There were 626 children in foster family homes in 1973. 626 times 20.7 percent equals 130.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 626 times 71.3 percent equals 496.

¹¹ Judith Kleinfeld, "A Long Way From Home" (Fairbanks: Center for Northern Educational Research and Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research of the University of Alaska: 1973), p. 3.

ARIZONA ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE STATISTICS

Basic Facts

1. There are 740,460 under twenty-one-year-olds in the State of Arizona.¹
2. There are 54,709 under twenty-one-year-old American Indians in the State of Arizona.²
3. There are 685,751 non-Indians under twenty-one in the State of Arizona.

I. ADOPTION

In the State of Arizona, according to the Arizona Department of Economic Security, there were an average of 65 public agency adoptions per year of American Indian children from 1969-1972.³ Using federal age-at-adoption figures,⁴ 83 percent (or 54) are under one year of age when placed. Another 13 percent (or eight) are one year to less than six years old when placed; and 4 percent (or three) are six years or older when placed. Using the formula, then, 54 Arizona Indian children per year are placed in adoption for at least 17 years, eight Arizona Indian children are placed in adoption for a minimum average of 14 years; and three are in adoption for a minimum average of three years; there are 1,039 Indians under twenty-one year olds in adoption in Arizona. This represents one out of every 52.7 Indian children in the state.

Using the same formula for non-Indians (there were an average public agency placement of non-Indians in adoptive homes in Arizona of 194 per year from 1969-1972),⁵ there are 3,111 under twenty-one-year-old non-Indians in adoption in Arizona. This represents one out of every 220.4 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

By rate, therefore, Indian children are placed in adoptive homes 4.2 times (420%) more often than non-Indian children in Arizona.

II. FOSTER CARE

In the State of Arizona, according to statistics from the Arizona Department of Economic Security, there were 139 Indian children in foster care in April 1976 under a State contract with the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.⁶ There are no statistics giving a racial breakdown for the other State-administered foster care programs that include Indian children. However, making the most conservative assumption possible, that is, that the Arizona Social Services Bureau placed Indian children in foster care in direct proportion to their percentage of the population, there were an additional 208 Indian children in State-administered foster care.⁷ (That this is indeed a most conservative assumption is demonstrated by the appendix to this report. The appendix, based on a random sam-

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970. Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part 4, Arizona (U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C.: 1973), pp. 4-30.

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, Subject Reports, Final Report PC(2)-1F, "American Indians" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), Table 2, "Age of the Indian Population by Sex and Urban and Rural Residence: 1970," p. 6.

³ Office of Research and Reports, Social Services Bureau, Arizona Department of Economic Security, "Children placed in adoption during 1969, 1970, 1971, and 1972," (Chart).

⁴ National Center for Social Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, "Adoptions in 1971," DHEW Publication No. (SRS) 73-03259, NCSS Report E-10 (1971), May 23, 1973, Table 6, "Children adopted by unrelated petitioners: Percentage distribution by age at time of placement, by type of placement, 1971."

⁵ "Children placed in adoption during 1969, 1970, 1971, and 1972," op. cit.

⁶ Telephone interview with Mr. Wally Earl, Arizona Department of Economic Security, July 22, 1976.

⁷ *Ibid.* Arizona reported 2,809 children in foster care in April 1976, excluding those on the BIA contract. Indian children comprise 7.4 percent of the under twenty-one year olds in Arizona. 2,809 times .074 equals 208.

ple of children in State-administered foster care made by the Arizona Social Services Bureau in March 1974, demonstrates that Indian children are in fact placed in state-administered foster care at rates far disproportionate to their percentage of the population.) Thus, there was a combined total of 347 Indian children in State-administered foster care during April 1976. In addition, the Navajo and Phoenix area offices of the BIA report a combined total of 211 Indian children in foster care in Arizona during April 1976.⁸ Combining the State and BIA figures, there were at least 558 Indian children in foster care in April 1976. This represents one out of every 98 Indian children in the State. By comparison, there were 2,601 non-Indian children in foster care in April 1970,⁹ representing one out of every 263.6 non-Indian children.

Conclusion

By rate, therefore, Indian children are placed in foster care at least 2.7 times (2.0 percent) more often than non-Indians in Arizona.

See the county-by-county analysis in the appendix for projections of the actual rates at which Indian children are placed in state-administered foster care.

III. COMBINED FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTIVE CARE

Using the above figures, a total of 1,597 under twenty-one year old Indian children are either in foster homes or adoptive homes in the state of Arizona. This represents one out of every 34.3 Indian children. Similarly, for non-Indians in the state, 5,712 under twenty-one year olds are either in foster care or adoptive care, representing one in every 120.1 non-Indian children.

Conclusion

By rate, therefore, Indian children are removed from their homes and placed in adoptive or foster care 3.5 times (350 percent) more often than non-Indian children in the State of Arizona.

U.S. BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS BOARDING SCHOOLS

More than 10,000 Indian children in Arizona, in addition to those in foster care or adoptive care, are away from home and their families most of the year attending boarding schools operated by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs. (See Note on boarding schools.) These children properly belong in any computation of children separated from their families. Adding the 10,977 Indian children in federal boarding schools in Arizona¹⁰ to those in adoptive or foster care, there are a minimum of 12,574 Indian children separated from their families. This represents one in every 4.4 Indian children in Arizona.

Conclusion

By rate, therefore, Indian children are separated from their families to be placed in adoptive care, foster care, or federal boarding schools 27.3 times (2,730 percent) more often than non-Indian children in Arizona.

APPENDIX TO THE ARIZONA STATISTICS

I. YAVAPAI COUNTY

In Yavapai County in a random sample of the children in State-administered foster care made by the Arizona Social Services Bureau in March 1974, 35 percent of the children were known to be American Indian.¹ 42 percent of the

⁸ The BIA Phoenix Area Office reported 300 Indian children in foster care in Arizona in April 1976. (Telephone interview with Mr. Bert Grabes, Division of Social Services, Phoenix Area Office, July 23, 1976.) The BIA Navajo Area Office reported 50 Indian children in foster care in Arizona in April 1976. (Telephone interview with Mr. Steve Lacy, Child Welfare Specialist, Navajo Area Office, July 26, 1976.) Thus the BIA had a combined total of 350 Indian children in foster care in Arizona, from which those under the BIA foster care contract with the State should be subtracted: 350 minus 139 equals 211.

⁹ Telephone interview with Mr. Walley Earl, op. cit. There were a total of 2,948 children in foster care in April 1978. We have estimated that 347 of these are Indian (see Report), 2,948 minus 347 equals 2,601.

¹⁰ Office of Indian Education Programs, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, "Fiscal Year 1974 Statistics concerning Indian Education" (Lawrence, Kans.: Haskell Indian Junior College: 1975), Table 4, "Boarding Schools Operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fiscal Year 1974," pp. 13-15.

¹¹ State of Arizona Social Services Bureau, Program Development and Evaluation, "Foster Care Evaluation Program (July 1974)," District III Foster Care Evaluation, Appendix I, Yavapai County: Evaluation of Foster Children Records, p. 13.

children in the random sample were known to be non-Indian.² Indian people comprise 1.9 percent of the population of Yavapai County.³ Assuming then that the random sampling made by the Social Services Bureau is representative of the state-administered foster care population through Yavapai County, the following tentative conclusion can be drawn.

Conclusion

There are by proportion 18.4 times (1,840 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in state-administered foster care in Yavapai County, Arizona.

II. NAVAJO COUNTY

In Navajo County, in a random sample of the children in state-administered foster care made by the Arizona Social Services Bureau in March 1974, 77 percent were known to be American Indian.⁴ 19 percent of the children in the random sample were known to be non-Indian.⁵ Indian people comprise 48.3 percent of the population of Navajo County.⁶ Assuming then that the random sampling made by the Social Services Bureau is representative of the state-administered foster care population throughout Navajo County, the following tentative conclusion can be drawn.

Conclusion

There are by proportion 1.6 times (160 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in state-administered foster care in Navajo County, Arizona.

III. COCONINO COUNTY

In Coconino County, in a random sample of the children in state-administered foster care made by the Arizona Social Services Bureau in March 1974, 58 percent of the children in the random sample were American Indian.⁷ 42 percent of the children in the random sample were non-Indian.⁸ Indian people comprise 24.8 percent of the population of Coconino County.⁹ Assuming then that the random sampling made by the Social Services Bureau is representative of the state-administered foster care population throughout Coconino County, the following tentative conclusion can be drawn.

Conclusion

There are therefore by proportion 2.3 times (230 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in state-administered foster care in Coconino County, Arizona.

IV. YUMA COUNTY

In Yuma County, in a random sample of the children in state-administered foster care made by the Arizona Social Services Bureau in March 1974, 13 percent of the children were American Indian.¹⁰ 87 percent of the children in the random sample were non-Indian.¹¹ Indian people comprise 3.7 percent of the population of Yuma County.¹² Assuming then that the random sampling made by the Social Services Bureau is representative of the state-administered foster care population throughout Yuma County, the following tentative conclusion can be drawn.

¹ Ibid. The race of 23 percent of the children was unknown. (Ibid.) If the figures used in this report were to be based only on the percentage of children for whom race is known, Indian children would comprise 45 percent of the foster care placements in the random sample—thus further increasing the disproportion between Indian and non-Indian placements.

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population: 1970 Supplementary Report PC (S1)-104, "Race of the Population by County: 1970" (U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C.: 1975), p. 5.

³ State of Arizona Social Services Bureau, op. cit., District III Foster Care Evaluation, Appendix III, Navajo County: Evaluation of Foster Children Records, p. 19.

⁴ Ibid. The race of 4 percent of the children was unknown. (Ibid.) If the figures used in this report were to be based only on the percentage of children for whom race is known, Indian children would comprise 80 percent of the foster care placements in the random sample—thus further increasing the disproportion between Indian and non-Indian placements.

⁵ "Race of the Population by County: 1970," op. cit., p. 5.

⁶ State of Arizona Social Services Bureau, op. cit., District III Foster Care Evaluation, Appendix V, Coconino County: Evaluation of Foster Children Records, p. 25.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ "Race of the Population by County: 1970," op. cit., p. 5.

⁹ State of Arizona Social Services Bureau, op. cit., District IV Foster Care Evaluation, Appendix III, Yuma County: Evaluation of Foster Children Records, p. 16.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ "Race of the Population by County: 1970," op. cit., p. 5.

Conclusion

There are therefore by proportion 3.5 times (350 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in state-administered foster care in Yuma County, Arizona.

V. GILA COUNTY

Gila County, in a random sample of the children in state-administered foster care made by the Arizona Social Services Bureau in March 1974, 17% of the children were known to be American Indian.¹³ 79% of the children in the random sample were known to be non-Indian.¹⁴ Indian people comprise 15.7% of the population of Gila County.¹⁵ Assuming then that the random sampling made by the Social Services Bureau is representative of the state-administered foster care population throughout Gila County, the following tentative conclusion can be drawn.

Conclusion

There are by proportion 1.1 times (110 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in state-administered foster care in Gila County, Arizona.

VI. GRAHAM COUNTY

In Graham County, in a random sample of the children in state-administered foster care made by the Arizona Social Services Bureau in March 1974, 18% of the children were American Indian.¹⁶ 81% of the children in the sample were non-Indian.¹⁷ Indian people comprise 10.1% of the population of Graham County.¹⁸ Assuming then the random sampling made by the Social Services Bureau is representative of the state-administered foster care population throughout Gila County, the following tentative conclusion can be drawn.

Conclusion

There are by proportion 1.8 times (180 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in state-administered foster care in Graham County, Arizona.

VII. COCHISE COUNTY

In Cochise County, in a random sample of the children in state-administered foster care made by the Arizona Social Services Bureau in March 1974, 9 percent of the children were American Indian.¹⁹ 91 percent of the children in the random sample were non-Indian.²⁰ Indian people comprise 0.2 percent of the population of Cochise County.²¹ Assuming then that the random sampling made by the Social Services Bureau is representative of the state-administered foster care population throughout Cochise County, the following tentative conclusion can be drawn.

Conclusion

There are by proportion 45 times (4500 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in state-administered foster care in Cochise County, Arizona.

VIII. PINAL COUNTY

In Pinal County, in a random sample of the children in State-administered foster care made by the Arizona Social Services Bureau in March 1974, 20 percent of the children were known to be American Indians.²² 74 percent of the children in the random sample were known to be non-Indian.²³ Indian people comprise 9.4

¹³ State of Arizona Social Services Bureau, *op. cit.*, District V Foster Care Evaluation, Appendix III, Gila County: Evaluation of Foster Children Records, p. 16.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* The race of 4 percent of the children was unknown. (*Ibid.*)

¹⁵ "Race of the Population by County: 1970," *op. cit.*, p. 5.

¹⁶ State of Arizona Social Services Bureau, *op. cit.*, District VI Foster Care Evaluation, Appendix III, Gila County: Evaluation of Foster Children Records, p. 16.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* 1 percent of the children are unaccounted for by the Social Services Bureau. (*Ibid.*)

¹⁸ "Race of the Population by County: 1970," *op. cit.*, p. 5.

¹⁹ State of Arizona Social Services Bureau, *op. cit.*, District VI Foster Care Evaluation, Appendix V, Cochise County: Evaluation of Foster Care Children Records, p. 24.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ "Race of the Population by County: 1970," *op. cit.*, p. 5.

²² State of Arizona Social Services Bureau, *op. cit.*, District V Foster Care Evaluation, Appendix I, Pinal County: Evaluation of Foster Children Records, p. 10.

²³ *Ibid.* The race of 6 percent of the children was unknown. If the figures used in this report were to be based only on the percentage of children for whom race is known, Indian children would comprise 21 percent of the foster care placements in the random sample—thus further increasing the disproportion between Indian and non-Indian placements.

percent of the population of Pinal County.²⁴ Assuming then that the random sampling made by the Social Services Bureau is representative of the state-administered foster care population throughout Pinal County, the following tentative conclusion can be drawn.

Conclusion

There are by proportion 2.1 times (210 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in state-administered foster care in Pinal County, Arizona.

IX. MARICOPA COUNTY

In Maricopa County, in a random sample of the children in state-administered foster care made by the Arizona Social Services Bureau in March 1974, 7 percent of the children were known to be American Indian.²⁵ 86 percent of the children in the random sample were known to be non-Indian.²⁶ Indian people comprise 1.2 percent of the population of Maricopa County.²⁷ Assuming then that the random sampling made by the Social Services Bureau is representative of the state-administered foster care population throughout Maricopa County, the following tentative conclusion can be drawn.

Conclusion

There are by proportion 5.8 times (580 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in state-administered foster care in Maricopa County, Arizona.

X. PIMA COUNTY

In Pima County, in a random sample of the children in state-administered foster care made by the Arizona Social Services Bureau in March 1974, 12% of the children were known to be American Indian.²⁸ 83 percent of the children in the random sample were known to be non-Indian.²⁹ Indian people comprise 2.5 percent of the population of Pima County.³⁰ Assuming then that the random sampling made by the Social Services Bureau is representative of the state-administered foster care population throughout Pima County, the following tentative conclusion can be drawn.

Conclusion

There are by proportion 4.8 times (480 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in state-administered foster care in Pima County, Arizona.

Methodological notes.—(1) Since the data on which this appendix is based comes from a random sample (comprising 462 children out of a total of 1,808 children in state-administered foster care)³¹ made by the Program Development and Evaluation Department of the Arizona Social Services Bureau, it is subject to the uncertainty of the random sample itself.

(2) It should be emphasized that these statistics include only state-administered placements; no BIA placements—which would undoubtedly be substantial in some counties—are included.

²⁴ "Race of the Population by County: 1970," *op. cit.*, p. 5.

²⁵ State of Arizona Social Services Bureau, *op. cit.*, District I Foster Care Evaluation, Appendix I: Evaluation of Foster Children Records, p. 12. Confirmed by telephone interview with Mr. Bob Hoogstraet, Program Development and Evaluation Department, July 12, 1976.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ "Race of the Population by County: 1970," *op. cit.*, p. 5.

²⁸ State of Arizona Social Services Bureau, *op. cit.*, District II Foster Care Evaluation, Appendix I: Evaluation of Foster Children Records, p. 11. Confirmed by telephone interview with Mr. Bob Hoogstraet, Program Development and Evaluation Department, July 12, 1976.

²⁹ *Ibid.* The race of 4 percent of the children was unknown; and 1 percent of the children were unaccounted for by the Social Services Bureau. (*Ibid.*)

³⁰ "Race of the Population by County: 1970," *op. cit.*, p. 5.

³¹ State of Arizona Social Services Bureau, *op. cit.*, p. 1.

CALIFORNIA ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE STATISTICS

BASIC FACTS

1. There are 6,069,307 under twenty-one-year-olds in the state of California.¹
2. There are 39,579 under twenty-one-year-old American Indians in the state of California.²
3. There are 6,929,728 non-Indians under twenty-one in the state of California.

I. ADOPTION

In the state of California, according to the California Department of Health, there were 93 Indian children placed for adoption by public agencies in 1975.³ Using federal age-at-adoption figures,⁴ 83 percent (or 77) are under one year of age when placed; Another 13 percent (or 12) are one year to less than six years old when placed; 3 percent (or three) are six years, but less than twelve years old when placed; and 1 percent (or one) are twelve years of age and older. Using the formula then that: 77 Indian children per year are placed in adoption for at least 17 years, 12 Indian children are placed in adoption for a minimum average of 14 years, three Indian children are placed in adoption for an average of nine years, and one Indian child is placed for adoption for an average of three years; there are 1,507 Indian children under twenty-one years old in adoption at any one time in the State of California. This represents one in every 26.3 Indian children under the age of twenty-one in the State.

Using the same formula for non-Indians (there were 1,942 non-Indian children placed for adoption by public agencies in 1975)⁵ there are 31,525 non-Indians under twenty-one years old in adoptive homes at any one time; representing one in every 219.8 non-Indian children.

Conclusion

There are therefore, by proportion, 8.4 times (840 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in adoptive homes in California; 92.5 percent of the Indian children placed for adoption by public agencies in 1975 were placed in non-Indian homes.⁶

II. FOSTER CARE

According to statistics from the State of California Department of Health there were 319 Indian children in foster family homes in 1974.⁷ This represents one out of every 124 Indian children in the State. By comparison there were 20,590 non-Indian children in foster family homes in 1974,⁸ representing one out of every 336.6 non-Indian children in the state.

Conclusion

There are therefore, by proportion, 2.7 times (270 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in foster family homes in California.

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part 6, Section 1, *California* (U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C.: 1973), p. 6-88.

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970; Subject Reports, Final Report PC(2)-1F, "American Indians" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), Table 2, "Age of the Indian Population by Sex and Urban and Rural Residence: 1970," p. 6.

³ AAIW child-welfare survey questionnaire completed by Mrs. T. Chu and Ms. Betsy Strong, Center for Health Statistics, California Department of Health, July 16, 1976.

⁴ National Center for Social Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, "Adoptions in 1971." DHEW Publication No. (SRS) 73-03256, NCSS Report E-10 (1971), May 23, 1973. Table 6, "Children adopted by unrelated petitioners: Percentage distribution by age at time of placement, by type of placement, 1971."

⁵ AAIW child-welfare survey questionnaire, op. cit.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

III. COMBINED FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTIVE CARE

Using the above figures, a total of 1,826 under-twenty-one Indian children are either in foster homes or adoptive homes in the state of California. This represents one in every 21.7 Indian children. Similarly for non-Indians in the state, 52,115 under-twenty-one-olds are either in foster homes or adoptive homes, representing one in every 133 non-Indian children.

Conclusion

By per capita rate, Indian children are removed from their homes and placed in adoptive homes and foster homes 6.1 times (610 percent) more often than non-Indian children in the state of California.

The above figures are based only on the statistics of the California Department of Health and do not include private agency placements. They are therefore minimum figures.

Note. In addition to the above figures, approximately 100 California Indian children between the ages of thirteen and eighteen attend a boarding school in California operated by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (Sherman Indian High School, Riverside, California).⁹ An additional 175 California Indian children attend BIA boarding schools in Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico.¹⁰ Were these children to be added to the total above, Indian children would be away from their families at a per capita rate 7.1 times (710 percent) greater than that for non-Indians.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

CALIFORNIA: APPENDIX

County-by-County Analysis of California Foster Care Statistics

ALAMEDA COUNTY

In Alameda County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were 24 Indian children in state-administered foster family homes in 1974.¹ There are 2,548 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Alameda County.² Thus one out of every 106.2 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Alameda County Indian children are in state-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 3.2 times (320 percent) greater than the state-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

II. ALPINE COUNTY

In Alpine County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there was one Indian child in a state-administered foster family home in 1974.* There are 43 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Alpine County.† Thus one out of 43 Indian children is in a family foster home.

Conclusion

In Alpine County Indian children are in state-administered foster homes at a per capita rate 7.8 times (780 percent) greater than the state-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

III. AMADOR COUNTY

In Amador County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were no Indian children in state-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 72 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Amador County.†

IV. BUTTE COUNTY

In Butte County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were six Indian children in state-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 399 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Butte County.† Thus, one out of every 66.5 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Butte County Indian children are in state-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 5.1 times (510 percent) greater than the statewide rate for non-Indians in California.

V. CALAVERAS COUNTY

In Calaveras County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were five Indian children in state-administered foster family

¹ AAIA child-welfare survey questionnaire completed by Ms. Tulane Chu, Public Health Statistician, Center for Health Statistics, California Department of Health, July 19, 1976.

² 44.8 percent of the California Indian population is under twenty-one years old. [U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970; Subject Report PC(2)-1F, "American Indians" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), Table 2. "Age of the Indian Population by Sex and Urban and Rural Residence: 1970," pp. 6-7.] The total Indian population of Alameda County is 5,688. [U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970 Supplementary Report PC(S1)-104, "Race of the Population by County": 1970 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1975), p. 6.] 5,688 times .448 equals 2,548. The same formula is used to determine the Indian under twenty-one year old population in the other California counties. Hereafter cited as "Race."

*AAIA Questionnaire, *op. cit.*

†Race of the Population by County: *op. cit.* 1970; 6, 7.

homes in 1974.* There are 77 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Calaveras County.† Thus, one out of every 15.4 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Calaveras County Indian children are in state-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 21.9 times (2,190 percent) greater than the state-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

VI. CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

In Contra Costa County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were no Indian children in state-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 762 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Contra Costa County.†

VII. DEL NORTE COUNTY

In Del Norte County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were 15 Indian children in state-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 326 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Del Norte County.† Thus, one out of every 21.7 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Del Norte County Indian children are in foster family homes at a per capita rate 15.5 times (1,550 percent) greater than the state-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

VIII. EL DORADO COUNTY

In El Dorado County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were no Indian children in state-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 103 Indian children under twenty-one years old in El Dorado County.†

IX. FRESNO COUNTY

In Fresno County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were 22 Indian children in state-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 961 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Fresno County.† Thus, one out of every 43.7 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Fresno County Indian children are in foster family homes at a per capita rate 7.7 times (770 percent) greater than the state-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

X. GLENN COUNTY

In Glenn County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were five Indian children in state-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 84 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Glenn County.† Thus, one out of every 16.8 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Glenn County Indian children are in foster family homes at a per capita rate 20 times (2,000 percent) greater than the state-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XI. HUMBOLDT COUNTY

In Humboldt County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were 18 Indian children in state-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 1,369 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Humboldt County.† Thus, one out of every 76.1 Indian children is in a foster family home.

*AAIA Questionnaire, *op. cit.*

†Race of the Population by County: *op. cit.* 1970; 6, 7.

Conclusion

In Humboldt County Indian children are in foster family homes at a per capita rate 4.4 times (440 percent) greater than the state-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XII. IMPERIAL COUNTY

In Imperial County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were seven Indian children in state-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 398 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Imperial County.† Thus, one out of every 56.9 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Imperial County Indian children are in foster family homes at a per capita rate 5.9 times (590 percent) greater than the state-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XIII. INYO COUNTY

In Inyo County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were eight Indian children in state-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 524 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Inyo County.† Thus, one out of every 65.5 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Inyo County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 5.1 times (510 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XIV. KERN COUNTY

In Kern County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were three Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 913 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Kings County.† Thus, one out of every 304 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Kern County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 10.5 times (1,050 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XV. KINGS COUNTY

In Kings County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were five Indian children in state-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 160 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Kings County.† Thus, one out of every 32 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Kings County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 10.5 times (1,050 percent) greater than the state-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XVI. LAKE COUNTY

In Lake County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were two Indian children in state-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 145 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Lake County.† Thus, one out of every 72.5 Indian children is in a foster family home.

*AATA Questionnaire, *op. cit.*

†Race of the Population by County: *op. cit.* 1970; 6, 7.

Conclusion

In Lake County Indian children are in state-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 4.6 times (460 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XVII. LASSEN COUNTY

In Lassen County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there was one Indian child in a State-administered foster family home in 1974.* There are 156 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Lassen County.† Thus, one out of every 156 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Lassen County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 2.2 times (220 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XVIII. LOS ANGELES COUNTY

In Los Angeles County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were 45 Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 10,980 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Los Angeles County.† Thus, one out of every 244 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Los Angeles County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 1.4 times (140 percent) the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XIX. MADERA COUNTY

In Madera County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were two Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 335 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Madera County.† Thus, one out of every 168 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Madera County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 2.0 times (200 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XX. MARIN COUNTY

In Marin County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were no Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 171 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Marin County.†

XXI. MENDOCINO COUNTY

In Mendocino County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were eight Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 642 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Mendocino County.† Thus, one out of every 80.3 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Mendocino County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 4.2 times (420 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XXII. MERCED COUNTY

In Merced County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there was one Indian child in a State-administered foster family home in 1974.* There are 159 Indian children in Merced County.† Thus, one out of every 159 Indian children is in a foster family home.

*AATA Questionnaire, *op. cit.*

†Race of the Population by County: *op. cit.* 1970; 6, 7.

Conclusion

In Merced County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 2.1 times (210 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XXIII. MODOC COUNTY

In Modoc County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were seven Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 78 Indian children in Modoc County.† Thus, one out of every 11.1 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Modoc County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 30.3 times (3,030 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XXIV. MONO COUNTY

In Mono County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there was one Indian child in a State-administered foster family home in 1974.* There are 85 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Mono County.† Thus, one out of 85 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Mono County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 4.0 times (400 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XXV. MONTEREY COUNTY

In Monterey County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were no Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 510 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Monterey County.†

XXVI. NAPA COUNTY

In Napa County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there was one Indian child in a State-administered foster family home in 1974.* There are 96 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Napa County.† Thus, one out of 96 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Napa County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 3.5 times (350 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XXVII. NEVADA COUNTY

In Nevada County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were no Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 50 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Nevada County.†

XXVIII. ORANGE COUNTY

In Orange County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were three Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 1,756 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Orange County.† Thus, one out of every 585 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Orange County, Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 0.6 times (60 percent) the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

*AIA Questionnaire, *op. cit.*

†Race of the Population by County: *op. cit.* 1970; 6, 7.

XXIX. PLACER COUNTY

In Placer County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there was one Indian child in a State-administered foster family home in 1974.* There are 185 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Placer County.† Thus, one out of 185 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Placer County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 1.8 times (180 percent) the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XXX. PLUMAS COUNTY

In Plumas County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were five Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 137 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Plumas County.† Thus, one out of every 27.4 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Plumas County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 12.3 times (1,230 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XXXI. RIVERSIDE COUNTY

In Riverside County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were six Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 1,309 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Riverside County.† Thus, one out of every 218 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Riverside County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 1.5 times (150 percent) the Statewide rate for non-Indians in California.

XXXII. SACRAMENTO COUNTY

In Sacramento County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were nine Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 1,196 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Sacramento County.† Thus, one out of every 132.9 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Sacramento County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 2.5 times (250 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XXXIII. SAN BENITO COUNTY

In San Benito County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were no Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 24 Indian children under twenty-one years old in San Benito County.†

XXXIV. SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

In San Bernardino County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were four Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 1,548 Indian children under twenty-one years old in San Bernardino County.† Thus, one out of every 387 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In San Bernardino County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 0.9 times (90 percent) the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

*AIA Questionnaire, *op. cit.*

†Race of the Population by County: *op. cit.* 1970; 6, 7.

XXXIV. SAN DIEGO COUNTY

In San Diego County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were three Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 2,634 Indian children under twenty-one years old in San Diego County.† Thus, one out of every 878 Indian children are in foster family homes.

Conclusion

In San Diego County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 0.4 times (40 percent) the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XXXV. SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY

In San Francisco County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were 11 Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 546 Indian children under twenty-one years old in San Francisco County.† Thus, one out of every 118.1 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In San Francisco County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 2.9 times (290 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XXXVI. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

In San Joaquin County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were three Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 546 Indian children under twenty-one years old in San Joaquin County.† Thus, one out of every 182 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In San Joaquin County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 1.8 times (180 percent) the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XXXVII. SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

In San Luis Obispo County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were no Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 232 Indian children under twenty-one years old in San Luis Obispo County.†

XXXVIII. SAN MATEO COUNTY

In San Mateo County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were no Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 600 Indian children under twenty-one years old in San Mateo County.†

XL. SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

In Santa Barbara County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were no Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 452 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Santa Barbara County.†

XLI. SANTA CLARA COUNTY

In Santa Clara County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were 15 Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 1,814 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Santa Clara County.† Thus, one out of every 120.9 Indian children is in a foster family home.

*AATA Questionnaire, *op. cit.*

†Race of the Population by County: *op. cit.* 1970; 6, 7.

Conclusion

In Santa Clara County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 2.8 times (280 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XLII. SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

In Santa Cruz County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there was one Indian child in a State-administered foster family home in 1974.* There are 161 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Santa Cruz County.† Thus, one out of 161 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Santa Cruz County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 2.1 times (210 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XLIII. SHASTA COUNTY

In Shasta County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were 13 Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 592 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Shasta County.† Thus, one out of every 45.4* Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Shasta County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 7.4 times (740 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XLIV. SIERRA COUNTY

In Sierra County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were no Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 17 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Sierra County.†

XLV. SISKIYOU COUNTY

In Siskiyou County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health there were 11 Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 434 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Siskiyou County.† Thus, one out of every 39.5 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Siskiyou County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 8.5 times (850 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XLVI. SOLANO COUNTY

In Solano County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there was one Indian child in a State-administered foster family home in 1974.* There are 470 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Solano County.† Thus, one out of 470 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Solano County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 0.7 times (70 percent) the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XLVII. SONOMA COUNTY

In Sonoma County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were 18 Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 727 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Sonoma County.† Thus, one out of every 40.4 Indian children is in a foster family home.

*AATA Questionnaire, *op. cit.*

†Race of the Population by County: *op. cit.* 1970; 6, 7.

Conclusion

In Sonoma County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 8.3 times (830 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XLVIII. STANISLAUS COUNTY

In Stanislaus County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were five Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 307 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Stanislaus County.† Thus, one out of every 61 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Stanislaus County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 5.5 times (550 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

XLIX. SUTTER COUNTY

In Sutter County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were three Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 94 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Sutter County.† Thus, one out of every 31.3 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Sutter County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 10.8 times (1,080 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

L. TEHAMA COUNTY

In Tehama County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there was one Indian child in a State-administered foster family home in 1974.* There are 137 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Tehama County.† Thus, one out of 137 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Tehama County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 2.5 times (250 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

LI. TULARE COUNTY

In Tulare County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were 15 Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 613 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Tulare County.† Thus, one out of every 40.9 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Tulare County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 8.2 times (820 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

LII. TUOLUMNE COUNTY

In Tuolumne County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were two Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 246 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Tuolumne County.† Thus, one out of every 123 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Tuolumne County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 2.7 times (270 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

*AAIA Questionnaire, *op. cit.*

†Race of the Population by County: *op. cit.* 1970; 6, 7.

LIII. VENTURA COUNTY

In Ventura County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there was one Indian child in a State-administered foster family home in 1974.* There are 515 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Ventura County.† Thus, one out of 515 Indian children is in a foster family home.

Conclusion

In Ventura County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 0.7 times (70 percent) the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

LIV. YOLO COUNTY

In Yolo County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there was one Indian child in a State-administered foster family home in 1974.* There are 213 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Yolo County.† Thus, one out of 213 Indian children is in a family foster home.

Conclusion

In Yolo County Indian children are in State-administered foster family homes at a per capita rate 1.6 times (160 percent) the State-wide rate for non-Indians in California.

LV. YUBA COUNTY

In Yuba County, according to statistics from the California Department of Health, there were no Indian children in State-administered foster family homes in 1974.* There are 94 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Yuba County.†

LVI-LVIII. COLUSA, MARIPOSA AND TRINITY COUNTIES

The California Department of Health was unable to supply any foster care data for Colusa, Mariposa and Trinity counties.* There are 278 Indian children under twenty-one years old in these three counties.*†

*AAIA Questionnaire, *op. cit.*

†Race of the Population by County: *op. cit.* 1970; 6, 7.

IDAHO INDIAN ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE STATISTICS

Basic Facts

1. There are 302,170 under twenty-one year olds in the State of Idaho.¹
2. There are 3,808 under twenty-one year old American Indians in the State of Idaho.²
3. There are 298,902 non-Indians under twenty-one years old in the State of Idaho.

I. ADOPTION

In the State of Idaho, according to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, there were an average of 14 public agency adoptions per year of American Indian children from 1973-1975.³ This data base is too small to allow realistic projection of the total number of Indian children in adoptive care. We can say though that during 1973-1975 1.1 percent of Idaho Indian children were placed for adoption.

During 1973-1975, according to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, there were an average of 109 public agency adoptions per year of non-Indian children in Idaho.⁴ Thus, during 1973-1975, 0.1 percent of Idaho non-Indian children were placed for adoption.

Conclusion

Based on the three-year period 1973-1975, and not including any private agency placements, Indian children were placed for adoption at a per capita rate 11 times (1,100 percent) greater than that for non-Indian children; 88 percent of the Indian children placed in adoption by public agencies in Idaho in 1975 were placed in non-Indian homes.⁵

II. FOSTER CARE

According to statistics from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, there were 296 Indian children in foster care in Fiscal Year 1976.⁶ This represents one out of every 12.9 Indian children in the State. By comparison there were 3,615 non-Indian children in foster care during Fiscal Year 1976,⁷ representing one out of every 82.7 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

There are therefore, by proportion, 6.4 times (640 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in foster care in Idaho.

III. COMBINED FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTIVE CARE

Since we are unable to estimate the total number of Indian children currently in adoptive care in Idaho, it is not possible either to estimate the total number of Indian children receiving adoptive and foster care. The foster care statistics alone, and the adoption data we do have, make it unmistakably clear

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part 14, "Idaho" (U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C.: 1973), pp. 14-48.

² *Ibid.*, pp. 14-48 (Table 10), pp. 14-265 (Table 139). Indian people comprise 54 percent of the total non-white population according to Table 139. According to Table 19 there are 7,051 non-whites under twenty-one. 7,061 times .54 equals 3,808.

³ Telephone interview with Ms. Shirley Wheatley, Adoptions Coordinator, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, July 23, 1976. A total of 41 Indian children were placed for adoption by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare during these three years.

⁴ *Ibid.* A total of 828 non-Indian children were placed for adoption by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare during these three years.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Telephone interview with Ms. Ruth Peffey, Bureau of Research and Statistics, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, July 23, 1976.

⁷ *Ibid.*

that Indian children are removed from their families at rates far exceeding those for non-Indian children.

The above figures are based only on the statistics of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and do not include private agency placements. They are therefore minimum figures.

IDAHO APPENDIX

County-by-County Analysis of Idaho Foster Care Statistics

I. BENEWAH, BONNER, BOUNDARY, KOOTENAI AND SHOSHONE COUNTIES

In Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai and Shoshone counties, according to statistics from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, there were 33 Indian children in State-administered foster care in Fiscal Year 1976.¹ There are 446 Indian children under twenty-one years old in these five counties.² Thus one in every 13.5 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai and Shoshone counties Indian children are in State-administered foster care at a per capita rate 6.1 times (610 percent) greater than the Statewide rate for non-Indians in Idaho.

II. CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS AND NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

In Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties, according to statistics from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, there were 62 Indian children in State-administered foster care in Fiscal Year 1976.³ There are 827 Indian children under twenty-one years old in these five counties.⁴ Thus one in every 13.3 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties Indian children are in State-administered foster care at a per capita rate 6.2 times (620 percent) greater than the Statewide rate for non-Indians in Idaho.

III. ADAMS, CANYON, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

In Adams Canyon, Gem, Owyhee, Payette and Washington counties, according to statistics from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, there were 20 Indian children in State-administered foster care in Fiscal Year 1976.⁵ There are 298 Indian children under twenty-one years old in these six counties.⁶ Thus one in every 14.9 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Adams, Canyon, Gem, Owyhee, Payette and Washington counties Indian children are in State-administered foster care at a per capita rate 5.6 times (560 percent) greater than the Statewide rate for non-Indians in Idaho.

¹ Letter and table ("Foster Care by Region") from Ms. Ruth Peffey, Research Analyst, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, July 27, 1976. These counties comprise Region I of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

² The total Indian population of Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai and Shoshone counties is 739. [U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970 Supplementary Report PC(81)-104, "Race of the Population by County: 1970" (U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C.: 1975), pp. 12-13.] Assuming that the age breakdown of the Indian population of Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai and Shoshone counties is similar to the State-wide age breakdown of the Indian population, 46.3 percent are under twenty-one years old. (There are 3,808 under twenty-one year old American Indians in Idaho out of a total Indian population of 8,315. See footnote 2 to the Idaho statistics, and the U.S. Census Bureau references cited therein.) 739 times .463 equals 446 total Indian population under twenty-one years of age in these five counties. The same formula is used to determine the Indian under twenty-one year old population in the other Idaho counties.

³ Ms. Ruth Peffey, op. cit. These counties comprise Region II of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

⁴ "Race of the Population by County," loc. cit.

⁵ Ms. Ruth Peffey, op. cit. These counties comprise Region III of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

⁶ "Race of the Population by County," loc. cit.

IV. ADA, BOISE, ELMORE AND VALLEY COUNTIES

In Ada, Boise, Elmore and Valley counties, according to statistics from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, there were 17 Indian children in State-administered foster care in Fiscal Year 1976.⁷ There are 243 Indian children under twenty-one years old in these four counties.⁸ Thus one in every 14.3 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Ada, Boise, Elmore and Valley counties Indian children are in State-administered foster care at a per capita rate 5.8 times (580 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Idaho.

V. BLAINE, CAMAS, CASSIA, GOODING, JEROME, LINCOLN, MINIDOKA, AND TWIN FALLS COUNTIES

In Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka and Twin Falls counties, according to statistics from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, there were 19 Indian children in State-administered foster care in Fiscal Year 1976.⁹ There are 236 Indian children under twenty-one years old in these eight counties.¹⁰ Thus one in every 12.4 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Blain, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka and Twin Falls counties Indian children are in State-administered foster care at a per capita rate 6.7 times (670 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Idaho.

VI. BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, AND POWERS COUNTIES

In Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, and Power counties, according to statistics from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, there were 128 Indian children in State-administered foster care in Fiscal Year 1976.¹¹ There are 1,647 Indian children under twenty-one years old in these seven counties.¹² Thus one in every 12.9 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida and Power counties Indian children are in State-administered foster care at a per capita rate 6.4 times (640 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Idaho.

VII. BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON AND TETON COUNTIES

In Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison and Teton counties, according to statistics from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, there were 17 Indian children in State-administered foster care in Fiscal Year 1976.¹³ There are 335 Indian children under twenty-one years old in these nine counties.¹⁴ Thus one in every 19.7 Indian children is in foster care.

Thus one in every 19.7 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison and Teton counties Indian children are in State-administered foster care at a per capita rate 4.2 times (420%) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Idaho.

⁷ Ms. Ruth Pefley, op. cit. These counties comprise Region IV of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

⁸ "Race of the Population by County," loc. cit.

⁹ Ms. Ruth Pefley, op. cit. These counties comprise Region V of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

¹⁰ "Race of the Population by County," loc. cit.

¹¹ Ms. Ruth Pefley, op. cit. These counties comprise Region VI of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

¹² "Race of the Population by County," loc. cit.

¹³ Ms. Ruth Pefley, op. cit. These counties comprise Region VII of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

¹⁴ "Race of the Population by County"; loc. cit.

MAINE INDIAN ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE STATISTICS

Basic Facts

1. There are 396,110 under twenty-one year olds in Maine.¹
2. There are 1,084 under twenty-one-year-old American Indians in the State of Maine.²
3. There are 395,026 non-Indians under twenty-one in Maine.

I. ADOPTION

In the State of Maine, according to the Maine Department of Human Services, there was an average of two public agency adoptions per year of Indian children during 1974-1975.³ This data base is too small to allow realistic projection of the total number of Indian children in adoptive care. We can say though that during 1974-1975 0.4 percent of Maine Indian children were placed for adoption.

During 1974-1975, according to the Maine Department of Human Services, an average of 1,057 non-Indian children were placed for adoption in Maine.⁴ Thus, during 1974-1975, 0.3 percent of Maine non-Indian children were placed for adoption.

Conclusions

Based on limited data, and not in including any private agency placements, Indian and non-Indian children are placed for adoption by public agencies at approximately similar rates.

II. FOSTER CARE

According to statistics from the Maine Department of Human Services, in 1975 there were 82 Indian children in foster homes.⁵ This represents one out of every 13.2 Indian children in the State. By comparison there were 1,568 non-Indian children in foster homes in 1975,⁶ representing one out of every 251.9 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

By rate, therefore, Indian children are placed in foster homes 19.1 times (1,910%) more often than non-Indians in Maine. As of 1973, the last year for which a breakdown is available, 64 percent of the Indian children in foster care were in non-Indian homes.⁷

III. COMBINED FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTIVE CARE

Since we are unable to estimate the total number of Indian children currently in adoptive care in Maine, it is not possible either to estimate the total number of Indian children receiving adoptive and foster care. The foster care statistics alone make it unmistakably clear that Indian children are removed from their families at rates far exceeding those for non-Indian children.

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of the Population, Volume I: Characteristics of the Population, Part 21: "Maine" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), Table 19, p. 21-43.

² *Ibid.*, p. 21-43 (Table 19), p. 21-257 (Table 139). Indian people comprise 35 percent of the total non-white population according to Table 139. According to Table 19 there are 3,098 non-whites under twenty-one. 3,098 times 35 percent equals 1,084.

³ Telephone interviews with Ms. Freda Plumley, Substitute Care Consultant, Maine Department of Human Services, June 29-30, 1976. Letter from Ms. Plumley, July 13, 1976.

⁴ Telephone interviews with Ms. Freda Plumley, op. cit. Cf. National Center for Social Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, "Adoptions in 1974," DHEW Publication No. (SRS) 76-08259, NCSS Report B-10 (1974), April 1976, Table 1, "Children for whom adoption petitions were granted," p. 7.

⁵ Telephone interviews with Ms. Freda Plumley, op. cit.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

APPENDIX: HISTORICAL NOTE TO THE MAINE FOSTER CARE STATISTICS

I. 1969

In 1969, according to statistics from the Maine Department of Human Services, there were 82 Indian children in foster homes.¹ This represented one out of every 13.2 Indian children in the State. By comparison, there were 2,009 non-Indian children in foster homes in 1969,² representing one out of every 188.2 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

In 1969, Indian children were placed in foster homes at a rate 14.3 times (1,430%) greater than that for non-Indians in the State of Maine.

II. 1972

In 1972, according to statistics from the Maine Department of Human Services, there were 136 Indian children in foster homes.³ This represented one out of every eight Indian children in the State. By comparison, there were 1,918 non-Indian children in foster homes in 1972,⁴ representing one of every 206 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

By rate, therefore, Indian children are in foster care at a per capita rate 25.8 times (2,580%) greater than that for non-Indians in the State of Maine.

III. 1972—AROOSTOOK COUNTY

Aroostook County (home of the Micmac and Malecite tribes accounted for more than half of the Indian foster care placements in 1972. In Aroostook County alone, according to statistics from the Maine Department of Human Services, there were 73 Indian children in foster care in 1972.⁵ This represented one out of every 3.3 Indian children in Aroostook county.⁶

Conclusion.

In Aroostook County in 1972 Indian children were placed in foster homes at a rate 62.4 times (6,240 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians.

IV. 1973

In 1973, according to statistics from the Maine Department of Human Services, there were 104 Indian children in foster homes.⁷ This represented one out of every 10.4 Indian children in the State. By comparison, there were 1,861 non-Indian children in foster homes in 1973,⁸ representing one out of every 212.3 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

In 1973, Indian children were placed in foster homes at a rate 20.4 times (2,040 percent) greater than that for non-Indians in the State of Maine.

¹ Telephone interviews with Ms. Freda Plumley, Substitute Care Consultant, Maine Department of Human Services, June 29-30, 1978. Letter from Ms. Plumley, July 13, 1976. The years included in this historical note are the last years for which the Maine Department of Human Services is able to supply statistics.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.* 1972 was the only year for which the Maine Department of Human Services was able to supply a county-by-county breakdown of Indian foster care placements.

⁶ The total Indian population of Aroostook County is 436. (U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970 Supplementary Report PC(S1)-104, "Race of the Population by County: 1970" (U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C.: 1975), p. 22.) Assuming that the age breakdown of the Indian population of Aroostook County is similar to the state-wide age breakdown of the Indian population in Maine, 55.3 percent under twenty-one years old. (There are 1,084 under twenty-one year old American Indians in Maine out of a total Indian population of 1,961. See footnote 2 to the Maine statistics, and the U.S. Census Bureau references cited therein.) 436 times 55.3 percent equals 241 total Indian population under twenty-one years of age in Aroostook County.

⁷ Statistics from Ms. Freda Plumley, *op. cit.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

MAINE INDIAN ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE STATISTICS

Basic Facts

1. There are 396,110 under twenty-one year olds in Maine.¹
2. There are 1,084 under twenty-one-year-old American Indians in the State of Maine.²
3. There are 395,026 non-Indians under twenty-one in Maine.

I. ADOPTION

In the State of Maine, according to the Maine Department of Human Services, there was an average of two public agency adoptions per year of Indian children during 1974-1975.³ This data base is too small to allow realistic projection of the total number of Indian children in adoptive care. We can say though that during 1974-1975 0.4 percent of Maine Indian children were placed for adoption.

During 1974-1975, according to the Maine Department of Human Services, an average of 1,057 non-Indian children were placed for adoption in Maine.⁴ Thus, during 1974-1975, 0.3 percent of Maine non-Indian children were placed for adoption.

Conclusions

Based on limited data, and not in including any private agency placements, Indian and non-Indian children are placed for adoption by public agencies at approximately similar rates.

II. FOSTER CARE

According to statistics from the Maine Department of Human Services, in 1975 there were 82 Indian children in foster homes.⁵ This represents one out of every 13.2 Indian children in the State. By comparison there were 1,568 non-Indian children in foster homes in 1975,⁶ representing one out of every 251.9 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

By rate, therefore, Indian children are placed in foster homes 19.1 times (1,910%) more often than non-Indians in Maine. As of 1973, the last year for which a breakdown is available, 64 percent of the Indian children in foster care were in non-Indian homes.⁷

III. COMBINED FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTIVE CARE

Since we are unable to estimate the total number of Indian children currently in adoptive care in Maine, it is not possible either to estimate the total number of Indian children receiving adoptive and foster care. The foster care statistics alone make it unmistakably clear that Indian children are removed from their families at rates far exceeding those for non-Indian children.

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of the Population, Volume I: Characteristics of the Population, Part 21: "Maine" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), Table 19, p. 21-44.

² *Ibid.*, p. 21-43 (Table 19), p. 21-257 (Table 130). Indian people comprise 35 percent of the total non-white population according to Table 130. According to Table 19 there are 3,098 non-whites under twenty-one. 3,098 times 35 percent equals 1,084.

³ Telephone interviews with Ms. Freda Plumley, Substitute Care Consultant, Maine Department of Human Services, June 29-30, 1978. Letter from Ms. Plumley, July 13, 1976.

⁴ Telephone interviews with Ms. Freda Plumley, *op. cit.* Cf. National Center for Social Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, "Adoptions in 1974," DHEW Publication No. (SRS) 76-08259, NCSS Report E-10 (1974), April 1976, Table 1, "Children for whom adoption petitions were granted," p. 7.

⁵ Telephone interviews with Ms. Freda Plumley, *op. cit.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

APPENDIX: HISTORICAL NOTE TO THE MAINE FOSTER CARE STATISTICS

I. 1969

In 1969, according to statistics from the Maine Department of Human Services, there were 82 Indian children in foster homes.¹ This represented one out of every 13.2 Indian children in the State. By comparison, there were 2,099 non-Indian children in foster homes in 1960,² representing one out of every 188.2 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

In 1969, Indian children were placed in foster homes at a rate 14.3 times (1,430%) greater than that for non-Indians in the State of Maine.

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In 1972, according to statistics from the Maine Department of Human Services, there were 136 Indian children in foster homes.³ This represented one out of every eight Indian children in the State. By comparison, there were 1,918 non-Indian children in foster homes in 1972,⁴ representing one of every 208 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

By rate, therefore, Indian children are in foster care at a per capita rate 25.8 times (2,580%) greater than that for non-Indians in the State of Maine.

III. 1972—AROOSTOOK COUNTY

Aroostook County (home of the Micmac and Malecite tribes accounted for more than half of the Indian foster care placements in 1972. In Aroostook County alone, according to statistics from the Maine Department of Human Services, there were 73 Indian children in foster care in 1972.⁵ This represented one out of every 3.3 Indian children in Aroostook county.⁶

Conclusion.

In Aroostook County in 1972 Indian children were placed in foster homes at a rate 62.4 times (6,240 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians.

IV. 1973

In 1973, according to statistics from the Maine Department of Human Services, there were 104 Indian children in foster homes.⁷ This represented one out of every 10.4 Indian children in the State. By comparison, there were 1,861 non-Indian children in foster homes in 1973,⁸ representing one out of every 212.3 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

In 1973, Indian children were placed in foster homes at a rate 20.4 times (2,040 percent) greater than that for non-Indians in the State of Maine.

¹ Telephone interviews with Ms. Freda Plumley, Substitute Care Consultant, Maine Department of Human Services, June 20-30, 1976. Letter from Ms. Plumley, July 13, 1976. The years included in this historical note are the last years for which the Maine Department of Human Services is able to supply statistics.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.* 1972 was the only year for which the Maine Department of Human Services was able to supply a county-by-county breakdown of Indian foster care placements.

⁶ The total Indian population of Aroostook County is 436. (U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970 Supplementary Report PC(S1)-104, "Race of the Population by County: 1970" (U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C.: 1975), p. 22.) Assuming that the age breakdown of the Indian population of Aroostook County is similar to the state-wide age breakdown of the Indian population in Maine, 55.3 percent under twenty-one years old. (There are 1,084 under twenty-one year old American Indians in Maine out of a total Indian population of 1,961. See footnote 2 to the Maine statistics, and the U.S. Census Bureau references cited therein.) 436 times 55.3 percent equals 241 total Indian population under twenty-one years of age in Aroostook County.

⁷ Statistics from Ms. Freda Plumley, *op. cit.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

NOTE. The Maine Indian community undertook concerted action in 1972-73 concerning the massive numbers of Indian children being placed in foster care. The drop in foster care rates reflects the notable progress brought about by Maine Indian people.

The current rates reflect how much still needs to be done.

In February 1973 the Maine Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights held hearings into the issue. Two of the recommendations made by the Maine Advisory Committee were:

1. That Maine's Department of Health and Welfare identify and secure Federal funds to upgrade potential Indian foster homes for Indian children, and that Maine's Department of Health and Welfare upgrade the homes which it built on the Passamaquoddy Reservation.

2. That the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights initiate a national Indian foster care project to determine if there is massive deculturation of Indian children.⁹

⁹ Maine Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights, *Federal and State Services and the Maine Indian* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights: 1975), p. 89.

MICHIGAN INDIAN ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE STATISTICS

Basic Facts

1. There are 3,727,438 under twenty-one year olds in the State of Michigan.¹
2. There are 7,404 under twenty-one year old American Indians in the State of Michigan.²
3. There are 3,720,034 non-Indians under twenty-one in the State of Michigan.

I. ADOPTION

In the State of Michigan, according to the Michigan Department of Social Services³ and 12 private child placement agencies in Michigan,⁴ there were 62 Indian children placed in adoptive homes during 1973. Using State figures reported to the National Center for Social Statistics of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare,⁵ 63 percent (or 39) are under one year of age when placed; 20 percent (or 12) are one year to less than six years old when placed; 13 percent (or eight) are six years, but less than twelve when placed; and 4 percent (or three) are twelve years and over.⁶ Using the formula then that: 39 Indian children per year are placed in adoption for at least 17 years, 12 Indian children are placed in adoption for a minimum average of 14 years, eight Indian children are placed in adoption for an average of nine years, and three Indian children are placed in adoption for an average of three years; there are 912 Indian children under twenty-one years old in adoption at any one time in the State of Michigan. This represents one out of every 8.1 Indian children in the State.

There were 8,302 non-Indians under twenty-one years old placed in adoptive homes in Michigan in 1973.⁷ Using the same formula as above, there are 122,800 non-Indians in adoptive homes in Michigan, or one out of every 30.3 non-Indian children.

Conclusion

There are therefore by proportion 3.7 times (370 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in adoption in Michigan.

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part 24, "Michigan" (U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C.: (1973), pp. 24-65.

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970; Subject Reports, Final Report PC(2)-1F, "American Indians" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973); Table 2, "Age of the Indian Population by Sex and Urban and Rural Residence: 1970," p. 8.

³ Letter from R. Bernard Houston, Director, Michigan Department of Social Services, February 23, 1973.

⁴ Letter from Bethany Christian Home, N.E. Grand Rapids (4 children); Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Grand Rapids (11 children); Catholic Social Services, Pontiac (1 child); Child and Family Services of Michigan, Inc., Alpena (2 children), Brighton (5 children), Farmington (5 children), Fort Huron (2 children); Child and Family Services of the Upper Peninsula, Marquette (1 child); Family and Child Care Service, Traverse City (1 child); Clarence D. Fischer (1 child); Michigan Children's and Family Service, Traverse City (1 child); Regular Baptist Children's Home (2 children).

⁵ National Center for Social Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, "Adoptions in 1974," DHEW Publication No. (SRS) 76-03259, NCSS Report E-10 (1974), April 1976, Table 10, "Children adopted by unrelated petitioners by age at time of placement, by state, 1974," p. 16. (Absolute numbers converted into percentages for purposes of this report.)

⁶ The median age at time of placement of children adopted by unrelated petitioners in 1974 in Michigan was 5.4 months. *Ibid.*, p. 15.

⁷ National Center for Social Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, "Adoptions in 1973," DHEW Publication No. (SRS) 76-03259, NCSS Report E-10 (1973), July 1975, Table 1, "Children for whom adoption petitions were granted in 41 reporting States," p. 4.

II. FOSTER CARE

According to statistics from the Michigan Department of Social Services⁸ and seven private child placement agencies⁹ there were 82 Indian children in foster homes in 1973. This represents one out of every 90 Indian children in the State. By comparison there were 5,801 non-Indian children in foster homes,¹⁰ representing one out of every 641 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

By rate therefore Indian children are placed in foster homes 7.1 times (710 percent) more often than non-Indian children in the State of Michigan.

III. COMBINED FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTIVE CARE

Using the above figures a total of 994 under twenty-one year old Indian children are either in foster homes or adoptive homes in the State of Michigan. This represents one out of every 7.4 Indian children. Similarly, for non-Indians in the State, 128,661 under twenty-one year olds are either in foster care or adoptive care, representing one in every 28.9 non-Indian children.

Conclusion

By rate therefore Indian children are removed from their homes and placed in adoptive care or foster care 3.9 times (390 percent) more often than non-Indian children in the State of Michigan.

⁸ Letter from R. Bernard Houston, op. cit.

⁹ Letters from Bethany Christian Home, N.E. Grand Rapids (16 children); Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Grand Rapids (3 children); Child and Family Services of the Upper Peninsula, Marquette (1 child); Detroit Baptist Children's Home, Royal Oak (2 children); Family and Child Care Service, Traverse City (5 children); Family and Children Services of the Kalamazoo Area (2 children); Michigan Children's and Family Services, Traverse City (2 children).

¹⁰ National Center for Social Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, "Children Served by Public Welfare Agencies and Voluntary Child Welfare Agencies and Institutions March 1971," DHEW Publication No. (SRS) 73-03258, NCSS Report E-9 (3/71), April 27, 1973, Table 8, "Children receiving social services from public welfare agencies and voluntary child welfare agencies and institutions."

MINNESOTA INDIAN ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE STATISTICS

Basic Facts

1. There are 1,585,186 under twenty-one year olds in Minnesota.¹
2. There are 12,672 under twenty-one year old American Indians in Minnesota.²
3. There are 1,572,514 non-Indians under twenty-one years old in Minnesota.

I. ADOPTION

In the State of Minnesota, according to the Minnesota Department of Public Welfare, there was an average of 103 adoptions of Indian children per year from 1964-1975.³ Using the State's own age-at-adoption figures reported to the National Center for Social Statistics of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare,⁴ we can estimate that 65 percent (or 67) are under one year of age when placed. Another 9 percent (or nine) are one year to less than two years old when placed; 14% (or 15) are two years, but less than six years old when placed; 10 percent (or ten) are six years, but less than twelve when placed; and 2 percent (or two) are twelve years and over.⁵ Using the formula then that: 67 Indian children per year are placed in adoption for at least 17 years, nine Indian children are placed in adoption for an average of 16.5 years, 15 Indian children are placed in adoption for an average of 14 years, ten Indian children are placed in adoption for an average of nine years, and two children are placed for adoption for an average of three years; there are 1,594 Indian under twenty-one year olds in adoption at any one time in the State of Minnesota. This represents one out of every 7.9 Indian children in the State.

Using the same formula for non-Indians (there was an average of 3,271 non-Indian children adopted per year from 1964-1975),⁶ there are 50,543 under twenty-one year old non-Indians in adoption in Minnesota. This represents one out of every 31.1 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

There are therefore by proportion 3.9 times (390 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in adoptive homes in Minnesota. 97.5 percent of the Indian children for whom adoption decrees were granted in 1974-1975 were placed with a non-Indian adoptive mother.⁷

II. FOSTER CARE

In the State of Minnesota, according to the Minnesota Department of Public Welfare, there were 737 Indian children in foster family homes in December

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part 25, "Minnesota" (U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C.: 1973), pp. 25-68.

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970; Subject Reports, Final Report PC(2)-1F, "American Indians" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), Table 2, "Age of the Indian Population by Sex and Urban and Rural Residence: 1970," p. 8.

³ Minnesota Department of Public Welfare, "Annual Report Adoptions 1974-1975" (Research and Statistics Division: November 1975), Table XV-A, "Decrees granted 1964-65 through 1974-75 by race," p. 20.

⁴ National Center for Social Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, "Adoptions in 1974," DHEW Publication No. (SRS) 76-03259, NCS Report E-10 (1974), April 1976, Table 10, "Children adopted by unrelated petitioners by age at time of placement by State, 1974," p. 16. (Absolute numbers converted into percentages for purposes of this report.)

⁵ The median age of children adopted by unrelated petitioners in 1974 in Minnesota was 5.3 months. *Ibid.*, p. 15.

⁶ "Annual Report Adoptions 1974-1975," loc. cit.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 23, Table XVIII-A, "Decrees granted 1974-75 by type of adoption and race of child and race of adoptive mother."

1972.⁸ This represents one out of every 17.2 Indian children. By comparison, there were 5,541 non-Indian children in foster family homes,⁹ representing one out of every 283.8 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

There are therefore by proportion 16.5 times (1,650 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in foster family homes in Minnesota.

III. COMBINED ADOPTIVE CARE AND FOSTER CARE

Using the above figures, a total of 2,331 under twenty-one year old Indian children are either in foster family homes or adoptive homes in the State of Minnesota. This represents one out of every 5.4 Indian children. Similarly for non-Indians in the State 56,084 under twenty-one year olds are either in foster family homes or adoptive care, representing one in every 28 non-Indian children.

Conclusion

By per capita rate Indian children are removed from their homes and placed in adoptive care or foster family care 5.2 times (520 percent) more often than non-Indian children in the State of Minnesota.

⁸ Minnesota Department of Public Welfare, "A Special Report: Racial Characteristics of Children Under Agency Supervision as of December 31, 1972" (Research and Statistics Division: November 1973), Table C, "Living Arrangement by Race of All Children," p. 3. In this report, the Minnesota Department of Public Welfare itself states: "A larger proportion of Indian children (receiving child-welfare services from counties and private agencies) were in foster family homes (25.2 percent) than were children of any other race." *Ibid.*, p. 4.

⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

MONTANA INDIAN ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE STATISTICS

Basic Facts

1. There are 289,573 under twenty-one-year-olds in Montana.¹
2. There are 15,124 under twenty-one-year-old American Indians in Montana.²
3. There are 274,449 non-Indians under twenty-one in Montana.

I. ADOPTION

In the State of Montana, according to the Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, there were an average of 33 public agency adoptions of Indian children per year from 1973-1975.³ Using federal age-at-adoption figures,⁴ 83 percent (or 28) are under one year of age when placed. Another 13 percent (or four) are one year to less than six years old when placed; and 3 percent (or one) are six years, but less than twelve years old when placed.⁵ Using the formula then that: 28 Indian children per year are placed in adoption for at least 17 years, four Indian children are placed in adoption for a minimum average of 14 years, and one Indian child is placed in adoption for an average of nine years; there are 541 Indians under twenty-one year olds in adoption at any one time in the State of Montana. This represents one in every 30 Indian children in the State.

Using the same formula for non-Indians (there were an average of 117 public agency adoptions of non-Indians per year from 1973-1975),⁶ there are 1,898 non-Indians under twenty-one years old in adoptive homes at any one time; or one out of every 144.6 non-Indian children.

Conclusion

There are therefore by proportion 4.8 times (480 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in adoptive homes in Montana; 87 percent of the Indian children placed in adoption by public agencies in Montana from 1973-1975 were placed in non-Indian homes.⁷

II. FOSTER CARE

In Montana, according to the Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, there were 188 Indian children in State-administered foster care during June 1976.⁸ This represents one out of every 80.4 Indian children in the State. In addition the Billings Area Office of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs reported 346 Indian children in BIA foster care in 1974, the last year for which statistics have been compiled.⁹ When these children are added to the State

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part 28, "Montana" (U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C.: 1973), p. 28-35.

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970; Subject Reports, Final Report PC(2)-1F, "American Indians" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), Table 2, "Age of the Indian Population by Sex and Urban and Rural Residence: 1970," p. 9.

³ Telephone interview with Mrs. Betty Bay, Adoption Consultant, State of Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services, July 20, 1976.

⁴ National Center for Social Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, "Adoptions in 1971," DHEW Publication No. (SRS) 73-03259, NCSRS Report E-10 (1971), May 23, 1973, Table 6, "Children adopted by unrelated petitioners: Percentage distribution by age at time of placement, by type of placement, 1971."

⁵ 1% of the adoptions involve children twelve years and older. *Ibid.*

⁶ Telephone interview with Mrs. Betty Bay, July 20, 1976.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ Letter from Ms. Jeri Davis, Research Specialist, Bureau of Statistics and Research, State of Montana Social and Rehabilitation Services, July 12, 1976.

⁹ Division of Social Services, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, "Fiscal year 1974—Child Welfare (Unduplicated Case Count by Areas)," Table, p. 1.

figures, we can estimate that there are a total of 534 Indian children in foster care at any one time in Montana, representing one out of every 28.3 Indian children in the State. By comparison, there were 755 non-Indian children in State-administered foster care during June 1976,¹⁰ representing one out of every 363.5 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

By rate therefore Indian children are in foster care at a per capita rate 12.8 times (1,280 percent) greater than that for non-Indian children in Montana.

III. COMBINED ADOPTIVE CARE AND FOSTER CARE

Using the above figures, a total of 1,075 under twenty-one-year-old Indian children are either in foster homes or adoptive homes in the State of Montana. This represents one in every 14.1 Indian children. Similarly, for non-Indians in the State 2,653 under twenty-one year olds are either in foster care or adoptive care, representing one out of every 103.4 non-Indian children.

Conclusion

By rate Indian children are removed from their homes and placed in adoptive care or foster care 7.3 times (730 percent) more often than non-Indian children in the State of Montana.

The above figures are based only on the statistics of the Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and do not include private agency placements. They are therefore minimum figures.

¹⁰ Letter from Ms. Jeri Davis, *op. cit.*

NEVADA ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE STATISTICS

Basic Facts

1. There are 191,657 under twenty-one-year-olds in Nevada.¹
2. There are 3,739 under twenty-one-year-old American Indians in Nevada.²
3. There are 187,918 under twenty-one-year-old non-Indians in Nevada.

I. ADOPTION

In Nevada, according to the Nevada State Division of Welfare, there were an average of seven public agency adoptions of Indian children per year in 1974-1975.³ This data base is too limited to permit an estimate of the total number of Indian children in adoption in Nevada. However, it does indicate that during 1974-1975 adoption petitions were granted for a yearly average of one out of every 534.1 Indian children in the State.

Using the same formula for non-Indians (there were an average of 345 public agency adoptions of non-Indians in Nevada in 1974-1975),⁴ adoption petitions were granted for one out of every 555.5 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

Based on limited data, by per capita rate therefore, Indian children are adopted approximately as often as non-Indian children in Nevada.

II. FOSTER CARE

In Nevada, according to the Nevada State Division of Welfare, there were 48 Indian children in foster care in June 1976.⁵ In addition, the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada reported 25 Indian children in foster care.⁶ This combined total (73) represents one in every 51.2 Indian children. By comparison, there were 527 non-Indian children in foster care,⁷ representing one in every 356.6 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

By per capita rate, therefore, Indian children are placed in foster care 7.0 times (700 percent) as often as non-Indian children in Nevada.

III. COMBINED FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTIVE CARE

Since we are unable to estimate the total number of Indian children currently in adoptive care in Nevada, it is not possible either to estimate the total number of Indian children receiving adoptive and foster care. The foster care statistics alone make it unmistakably clear that Indian children are removed from their families at rates far exceeding those for non-Indian children.

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of the Population, Volume I: Characteristics of the Population, Part 30: "Nevada" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), Table 19, p. 30-36.

² *Ibid.*, p. 30-38 (Table 19), p. 30-207 (Table 139). Indian people comprise 18.8 percent of the total non-white population according to Table 139. According to Table 19 there are 19,889 non-whites under twenty-one. $19,889 \times 18.8$ percent = 3,739.

³ Telephone interview with Mr. Ira Gunn, Chief of Research and Statistics, Nevada State Division of Welfare, July 15, 1976. The 1974 adoption figures are also available in: National Center for Social Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, "Adoptions in 1974," DHEW Publications No. (SRS) 76-08259, NCSS Report P-10 (1974), April 1976, Table 3, "Children adopted by unrelated petitioners," p. 9. (All of the Indian children placed for adoption by the Nevada State Division of Welfare in 1974 were adopted by unrelated petitioners.)

⁴ Telephone interview with Mr. Ira Gunn, July 15, 1976.

⁵ Letter from Mr. Ira Gunn, August 2, 1976.

⁶ Telephone interview with Mr. Efraim Estrada, Chief, Field Services, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (NITC), August 5, 1976. NITC reported a total of 42 Indian children in foster care, of whom 17 were in foster homes (mostly non-Indian) under a BIA contract with the State. These 17 have been subtracted from the total to avoid duplication of State figures.

⁷ Telephone interview with Mr. Ira Gunn, July 15, 1976.

NEW MEXICO INDIAN ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE STATISTICS

Basic Facts

1. There are 461,535 under twenty-one-year-olds in the State of New Mexico.¹
2. There are 41,316 under twenty-one-year-old American Indians in the State of New Mexico.²
3. There are 420,219 non-Indians under twenty-one in the State of New Mexico.

I. ADOPTION

In the State of New Mexico, according to the New Mexico Department of Health and Social Services, there were 13 American Indian children placed for adoption by public agencies in Fiscal Year 1976.³ This data base is too small to allow realistic projection of the total number of Indian children in adoptive care. We can say though that during Fiscal Year 1976, 0.003 percent of New Mexico Indian children were placed for adoption by public agencies.

During fiscal year 1976, according to the New Mexico Department of Health and Social Services, there were 77 non-Indian children placed for adoption by public agencies.⁴ Thus during FY 1973, 0.02 percent of New Mexico non-Indian children were placed for adoption by public agencies.

Conclusion

Based on limited data, and not including any private agency placements, Indian children were placed for adoption by public agencies in fiscal year 1976 at a per capita rate 1.5 times (150 percent) the rate for non-Indian children.

II. FOSTER CARE

In the State of New Mexico, according to statistics from the New Mexico Department of Health and Social Services, there were 142 Indian children in foster homes in June 1976.⁵ In addition the Navajo and Albuquerque area offices of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs report a combined total of 145 Indian children in foster homes in New Mexico.⁶ Combining the State and BIA figures, there were 287 Indian children in foster homes in June 1976. This represents one out of every 144 Indian children in the State. By comparison there were 1,225 non-Indian children in foster care in June 1976,⁷ representing one out of every 343 non-Indian children.

Conclusion

By per capita rate Indian children are placed in foster care 2.4 times (240 percent) as often as non-Indian children in New Mexico.

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part 33, "New Mexico" (U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C.: 1973), p. 33-34.

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970; Subject Reports, Final Report PC(2)-1F, "American Indians" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), Table 2, "Age of the Indian Population by Sex and Urban and Rural Residence: 1970," p. 10.

³ Telephone interview with Ms. Heidi Illanes, Assistant Adoption Director, New Mexico Department of Health and Social Services, July 23, 1976.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Telephone interview with Ms. Pat Diers, Social Services Agency, New Mexico Department of Health and Social Services, July 26, 1976.

⁶ The BIA Navajo Area Office reported 18 Indian children in foster care in New Mexico during April 1976. (Telephone interview with Mr. Steve Lacy, Child Welfare Specialist, Navajo Area Office, July 26, 1976.) The BIA Albuquerque Area Office reported 172 Indian children in foster homes in New Mexico during June 1976. (Telephone interview with Ms. Betty Dillman, Division of Social Services, Albuquerque Area Office, July 28, 1976.) Of the 190 children the BIA had in foster homes in New Mexico, 45 were under a BIA contract with the State under which the BIA reimburses the State for foster care expenses. These 45 children have been subtracted from the BIA total, $190 - 45 = 145$.

⁷ Telephone interview with Ms. Pat Diers, *op. cit.*

III. COMBINED FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTIVE CARE

Since we are unable to estimate the total number of Indian children currently in adoptive care in New Mexico, it is not possible either to estimate the total number of Indian children receiving adoptive and foster care. The foster care statistics alone, and the adoption data we do have, make it unmistakably clear that Indian children are removed from their families at rates disproportionate to their percentage of the population.

U.S. BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS BOARDING SCHOOLS

In addition to those Indian children in foster care or adoptive care, 7,428 Indian children in New Mexico are away from home and their families most of the year attending boarding schools operated by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.⁸ An additional 1,324 Indian children in New Mexico live in BIA-operated dormitories while attending public schools.⁹ These children properly belong in any computation of children separated from their families. Adding the 8,752 Indian children in federal boarding schools or dormitories in New Mexico to those in foster care alone, there are a minimum (excluding adoptions) of 9,039 Indian children separated from their families. This represents one in every 4.6 Indian children in New Mexico.

Conclusion

By per capita rate therefore Indian children are separated from their families to be placed in foster care or boarding schools 74.6 times (7,460 percent) more often than non-Indian children in New Mexico.

⁸ Office of Indian Education Programs, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, "Fiscal Year 1974 Statistics Concerning Indian Education" (Lawrence, Kansas: Haskell Indian Junior College: 1975), pp. 12-13.

⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 22-23.

NEW YORK ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE STATISTICS

Basic Facts

1. There are 6,726,515 under twenty-one-year-olds in the State of New York.¹
2. There are 10,627 under twenty-one-year-old American Indians in the State of New York.²
3. There are 6,715,888 non-Indians under twenty-one in the State of New York.

I. ADOPTION

In the State of New York, according to the New York Board of Social Welfare, there were 12 Indian children placed for adoption as of June 1976.³ This data base is too small to allow realistic projection of the total number of Indian children in adoptive care. We can say, though, that as of June 1976, 0.1 percent of New York Indian children were placed for adoption.

As of March 1976, according to the New York State Board of Social Welfare, 1,807 non-Indian children were placed for adoption in New York.⁴ Thus, as of March 1976, 0.03% of New York non-Indian children were placed for adoption.

Conclusion

Based on limited data, Indian children are placed for adoption at a per capita rate 3.3 times (330%) the rate for non-Indian children in New York.

II. FOSTER CARE

According to statistics from the New York State Board of Social Welfare, there were 142 Indian children in foster (family) boarding homes in June 1976.⁵ This represents one out of every 74.8 Indian children in the State. By comparison there were 30,170 non-Indian children in foster (family) boarding homes in March 1976,⁶ representing one out of every 222.6 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

By per capita rate therefore Indian children are placed in foster homes 3.0 times (300 percent) as often as non-Indian children in New York.

An estimated 96.5% of the Indian children in foster (family) boarding homes are placed in non-Indian homes.⁷

III. COMBINED FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTIVE CARE

Since we are unable to estimate the total number of Indian children currently in adoptive care in New York, it is not possible either to estimate the total number of Indian children receiving adoptive and foster care. The foster care statistics

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part 34, Section 1, "New York" (U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C.: 1973), p. 34-75.

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970; Subject Reports, Final Report PC(2)-1F, "American Indians" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), Table 2, "Age of the Indian Population by Sex and Urban and Rural Residence: 1970," p. 10.

³ Letter and computer print-out from Mr. Bernard S. Bernstein, Director, Bureau of Children's Services, New York State Board of Social Welfare, July 16, 1976.

⁴ Telephone interview with Mr. Bernard S. Bernstein, New York State Board of Social Welfare, July 21, 1976.

⁵ Letter and computer print-out from Mr. Bernard S. Bernstein, *op. cit.*

⁶ Telephone interview with Mr. Bernard S. Bernstein, *op. cit.*

⁷ This estimate is based on telephone interviews from July 22-27, 1976 with Department of Social Services personnel in Cattaraugus, Erie, Niagara and Onondaga counties. 115 out of a total of 135 Indian children under public care in foster (family) boarding homes in June 1976 were placed in these four counties—and approximately 111 of such placements were in non-Indian homes.

alone, and the adoption data we do have, make it unmistakably clear that Indian children are removed from their families at rates far exceeding those for non-Indian children.

NOTE. A report on the numbers of American Indian children in adoption in New York State would be incomplete without mentioning those Indian children placed by the Indian Adoption Project, a cooperative effort of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Child Welfare League of America. From 1958-1967, the nine full years of operation by the Indian Adoption Project, 74 Indian children, mostly from Arizona and South Dakota, were placed for adoption in New York.¹

NEW YORK APPENDIX

Analysis of Upstate New York Counties With Greater Than 1,000 Total Indian Population

I. CATTARAUGUS COUNTY

In Cattaraugus County, according to statistics from the New York State Board of Social Welfare, there were 23 Indian children in foster (family) boarding homes in June 1976.² There are 548 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Cattaraugus County.³ Thus one out of every 23.8 Indian children is in a foster (family) boarding home.

Conclusion

In Cattaraugus County Indian children are in foster (family) boarding homes at a per capita rate 9.4 times (940 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in New York.

II. ERIE COUNTY

In Erie County, according to statistics from the New York State Board of Social Welfare, there were 53 Indian children in foster (family) boarding homes in June 1976.⁴ There are 1,654 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Erie County.⁵ Thus one out of every 31.2 Indian children is in a foster (family) boarding home.

Conclusion

In Erie County Indian children are in foster (family) boarding homes at a per capita rate 7.1 times (710 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in New York.

III. FRANKLIN COUNTY

In Franklin County, according to statistics from the New York State Board of Social Welfare, there were five Indian children in foster (family) boarding homes in June 1976.⁶ There are 696 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Franklin County.⁷ Thus one out of every 139.2 Indian children is in a foster (family) boarding home.

Conclusion

In Franklin County Indian children are in foster (family) boarding homes at a per capita rate 1.6 times (160 percent) the State-wide rate for non-Indians in New York.

¹ David Fanshel, *Far From the Reservation: The Transracial Adoption of American Indian Children* (Metuchen, N.J.: The Scarecrow Press, Inc.: 1972), pp. 34-35. The Indian Adoption Project placed a total of 395 American Indian children for adoption in 28 states and Puerto Rico, virtually always with non-Indian families.

² Letter and computer print-out from Mr. Bernard S. Bernstein, Director, Bureau of Children's Services, New York State Board of Social Welfare, July 16, 1976.

³ 41.3% of the New York Indian population is under twenty-one years old. [U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970; Subject Report PC(2)-1F, "American Indians" Population by Sex and Urban and Rural Residence: 1970," p. 10.] The total Indian population of Cattaraugus County is 1,318. [U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970 Supplementary Report PC(S1)-104, "Race of the Population by County: 1970" same formula is used to determine the Indian under twenty-one year old population in the other New York counties.

⁴ Mr. Bernard S. Bernstein, *op. cit.*

⁵ "Race of the Population by County: 1970," *op. cit.*, p. 32.

IV. MONROE COUNTY

In Monroe County, according to statistics from the New York State Board of Social Welfare, there were four Indian children in foster (family) boarding homes in June 1976.⁵ There are 520 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Monroe County.⁶ Thus one out of every 130 Indian children is in a foster (family) boarding home.

Conclusion

In Monroe County Indian children are in foster (family) boarding homes at a per capita rate 1.7 times (170 percent) the State-wide rate for non-Indians in New York.

V. NIAGARA COUNTY

In Niagara County, according to statistics from the New York State Board of Social Welfare, there were 12 Indian children in foster (family) boarding homes in June 1976.⁵ There are 749 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Niagara County.⁶ Thus one out of every 62.4 Indian children is in a foster (family) boarding home.

Conclusion

In Niagara County Indian children are in foster (family) boarding homes at a per capita rate 3.6 times (360 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in New York.

VI. ONONDAGA COUNTY

In Onondaga County, according to statistics from the New York State Board of Social Welfare, there were 27 Indian children in foster (family) boarding homes in June 1976.⁵ There are 942 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Onondaga County.⁶ Thus one out of every 34.9 Indian children is in a foster (family) boarding home.

Conclusion

In Onondaga County Indian children are in foster (family) boarding homes at a per capita rate 6.4 times (640 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in New York.

⁵ Mr. Bernard S. Bernstein, *op. cit.*

⁶ "Race of the Population by County: 1970," *op. cit.*, p. 83.

NORTH DAKOTA ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE STATISTICS

Basic Facts

1. There are 261,998 under twenty-one year olds in the State of North Dakota.¹
2. There are 8,186 under twenty-one-year-old American Indians in the State of North Dakota.²
3. There are 253,812 non-Indians under twenty-one in the State of North Dakota.

I. ADOPTION

In the State of North Dakota, according to the Social Service Board of North Dakota, there were 16 Indian children placed for adoption in 1975.³ Using State figures reported to the National Center for Social Statistics of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare,⁴ we can estimate that 86 percent (or 14) are under one year of age when placed. One child is between one and two years old; and one child is between two and six years old.⁵ Using the formula then that: 14 Indian children are placed in adoption for at least 17 years, one Indian child is placed in adoption for 16.5 years, and one Indian child is placed in adoption for 14 years; there are an estimated 269 Indian children in adoption in North Dakota. This represents one out of every 30.4 Indian children in the State.

Using the same formula for non-Indians (there were 178 non-Indian children placed for adoption in North Dakota in 1975),⁶ there are an estimated 2,943 under twenty-one-year-old non-Indians in adoption in North Dakota. This represents one out of every 86.2 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

There are, therefore, by proportion 2.8 times (280 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in adoptive homes in North Dakota; 75 percent of the Indian children placed for adoption in 1975 were placed in non-Indian homes.⁷

II. FOSTER CARE

In the State of North Dakota, according to the Social Services Board of North Dakota, there were 218 Indian children in foster care in May 1976.⁸ This represents one out of every 37.6 Indian children in the State. In addition, there were 78 North Dakota Indian children receiving foster care from the U.S. Bureau of

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, Volume I. Characteristics of the Population, Part 36, "North Dakota" (U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C.: 1973), p. 83-88.

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970; Subject Reports, Final Report PC(2)-1F, "American Indians" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), Table 2, "Age of the Indian Population by Sex and Urban and Rural Residence: 1970," p. 12.

³ Telephone interview with Mr. Donald Schmid, Administrator, Child Welfare Services, Social Services Board of North Dakota, July 21, 1976. These children were placed by three private agencies that do virtually all the adoptions in North Dakota. The Social Services Board rarely, if ever, handles adoptions.

⁴ National Center for Social Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, "Adoptions in 1974," DHEW Publication No. (SRS) 76-03259, NCSS Report F-10 (1974), April 1976, Table 10, "Children adopted by unrelated petitioners by age at time of placement, by State, 1974," p. 16. (Absolute numbers converted into percentages for purposes of this report.)

⁵ 3% of the children are between six and twelve years old; and 1% are twelve or older. (*Ibid.*) The median age for children placed in adoption in North Dakota was two months. *Ibid.*, p. 15.

⁶ Telephone interview with Mr. Donald Schmid, *op. cit.* (See footnote 3.)

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

Indian Affairs in May 1976.⁹ The combined total of 296 Indian children in foster care represents one out of every 27.7 Indian children in the State. By comparison there were 455 non-Indian children in foster care in May 1976,¹⁰ representing one out of every 557.8 non-Indian children.

Conclusion

There are therefore by proportion 20.1 times (2,010 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in foster care in North Dakota.

III. COMBINED ADOPTIVE CARE AND FOSTER CARE

Using the above figures, a total of 563 under twenty-one-year-old Indian children are either in foster homes or adoptive homes in the State of North Dakota. This represents one out of every 14.5 Indian children. Similarly for non-Indians in the State 3,398 under twenty-one year olds are either in foster care or adoptive care, representing one out of every 74.7 non-Indian children.

Conclusion

By per capita rate Indian children are removed from their homes and placed in adoptive care or foster care 5.2 times (520 percent) more often than non-Indian children in the State of North Dakota.

⁹ Telephone interviews with Mr. Roger Lonnerik and Ms. Beverly Haug, Division of Social Services, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs Aberdeen Area Office, July 20-21, 1976. The BIA had 114 North Dakota Indian children in foster care in May 1976. As of April 1976 (the last month for which the BIA has statistics--BIA indicates that the numbers do not fluctuate significantly from month to month), 36 Indian children were in foster care administered by the State, but paid for by the BIA. 114-36=78.

¹⁰ Telephone interview with Mr. Donald Schmid, *op. cit.*

OKLAHOMA INDIAN ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE STATISTICS

Basic Facts

1. There are 974,937 under twenty-one-year-olds in the State of Oklahoma.¹
2. There are 45,489 under twenty-one-year-old American Indians in the State of Oklahoma.²
3. There are 929,448 non-Indians under twenty-one in the State of Oklahoma.³

I. ADOPTION

In the State of Oklahoma, according to the Oklahoma Public Welfare Commission, there were 69 Indian children placed in adoptive homes in 1972.⁴ Using federal age-at-adoption figures,⁴ 83 percent (or 57) are under one year of age when placed. Another 13 percent (or nine) are one year to less than six years old when placed; 3 percent (or two) are six years, but less than twelve years old when placed; and 1 percent (or 1) are twelve years of age and older. Using the formula then that: 57 Indian children per year are placed in adoption for at least 17 years, nine Indian children are placed in adoption for a minimum average of 14 years, two Indian children are placed in adoption for an average of nine years, and one Indian child is placed for adoption for an average of three years; there are an estimated 1,116 Indian children in adoption in Oklahoma. This represents one out of every 40.8 Indian children in the State.

Using the same formula for non-Indians (there were 317 non-Indian children placed in adoptive homes in 1972),⁵ there are an estimated 5,144 under twenty-one year old non-Indians in adoption in Oklahoma. This represents one out of every 180.7 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

There are therefore by proportion 4.4 times (440 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in adoptive homes in Oklahoma.

II. FOSTER CARE

In the State of Oklahoma, according to the Oklahoma Public Welfare Commission, there were 335 Indian children in State-administered foster care in August 1972.⁶ In addition, there were two Oklahoma Indian children receiving foster care from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1972.⁷ The combined total of 337 Indian children in foster care represents one out of every 135 Indian children in the State. By comparison there were 1,757 non-Indian children in foster care,⁸ representing one out of every 529 non-Indian children.

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part 88, "Oklahoma" (U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C.: 1973), p. 38-48.

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970; Subject Reports, Final Report PC(2)-1F, "American Indians" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), Table 2, "Age of the Indian Population by Sex and Urban and Rural Residence: 1970," p. 12.

³ Letter from L. E. Rader, Director of Institutions, Social and Rehabilitative Services, Oklahoma Public Welfare Commission, May 2, 1974.

⁴ National Center for Social Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, "Adoptions in 1971," DHEW Publication No. (SRS) 73-03259, NCSS Report E-10 (1971), May 23, 1973, Table 6, "Children adopted by unrelated petitioners: Percentage distribution by age at time of placement, by type of placement, 1971."

⁵ Letter from L. E. Rader, *op. cit.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Division of Social Services, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, "Fiscal year 1972--Child Welfare--Unduplicated Case Count [by States]" (Table).

⁸ National Center for Social Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, "Children Served by Public Welfare Agencies and Voluntary Child Welfare Agencies and Institutions March 1971," DHEW Publication No. (SRS) 73-03258; NCSS Report E-9 (March 1971), April 27, 1973, Table 8.

Conclusion

There are therefore by proportion 3.9 times (390 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in foster care in Oklahoma.

III. COMBINED FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTIVE CARE

Using the above figures, a total of 1,453 under twenty-one-year-old Indian children are either in foster care or adoptive homes in the State of Oklahoma. This represents one out of every 31.3 Indian children. Similarly for non-Indians in the State 6,901 under twenty-one year olds are either in foster care or adoptive care, representing one out of every 134.7 non-Indian children.

Conclusion

By per capita rate Indian children are removed from their homes and placed in adoptive care or foster care 4.3 times (430 percent) more often than non-Indian children in the State of Oklahoma.

The above figures are based only on the statistics of the Oklahoma Public Welfare Commission and do not include private agency placements. They are therefore minimum figures.

OREGON ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE STATISTICS

Basic Facts

1. There are 807,211 under twenty-one year olds in the State of Oregon.¹
2. There are 6,839 under twenty-one-year-old American Indians in the State of Oregon.²
3. There are 800,372 non-Indians under twenty-one in the State of Oregon.

I. ADOPTION

In the State of Oregon, according to the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were 26 American Indian children placed in adoptive homes during fiscal year 1975.³ Using the State's own figures reported to the National Center for Social Statistics of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare,⁴ 61 percent (or 16) were under one year of age when placed. Another 8 percent (or two) were between one and two years old; 17 percent (or five) were between two and six years old; and 12 percent (or three) were between six and twelve years old.⁵ Using the formula then that: 16 Indian children are placed in adoption for at least 17 years, two Indian children are placed in adoption for an average of 16.5 years, five Indian children are placed in adoption for an average of 14 years, and three are placed in adoption for an average of nine years; there are 402 Indian children under twenty-one years old in adoption at any one time in the State of Oregon. This represents one out of every 17 Indian children in the State.

Using the same formula for non-Indians (2,742 non-Indian children were placed in adoptive homes during Fiscal Year 1975),⁶ there are 41,718 non-Indian children in adoption at any one time in the State of Oregon. This represents one out of every 19.2 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

There are therefore by proportion 1.1 times (110 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in adoption in Oregon.

II. FOSTER CARE

According to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were 247 Indian children in foster care as of June 1976.⁷ This represents one out of every 27.7 Indian children in the State. By comparison there were 3,502 non-Indian children in foster care as of April 1976,⁸ representing one out of every 228.5 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

By rate therefore Indian children are placed in foster homes 8.2 times (820 percent) more often than non-Indian children in the State of Oregon.

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part 89, "Oregon" (U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C.: 1973), p. 39-47.

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970; Subject Reports, Final Report PC(2)-1F, "American Indians" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), Table 2, "Age of the Indian Population by Sex and Urban and Rural Residence: 1970," p. 13.

³ AAI child-welfare survey questionnaire completed by Mr. George Boyles, Manager, Research and Statistics, Oregon Children's Services Division, July 16, 1976.

⁴ National Center for Social Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, "Adoptions in 1974," DHEW Publication No. (SRS) 76-03259, NCSS Report E-10 (1974), April 1976, Table 10, "Children adopted by unrelated petitioners by age at time of placement by State, 1974," p. 16. (Absolute numbers converted into percentages for purposes of this report.)

⁵ 2% of the children were twelve years of age or older. The median age at time of placement of children adopted by unrelated petitioners in 1974 in Oregon was 3.9 months. *Ibid.*

⁶ Questionnaire completed by Mr. George Boyles, *op. cit.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

III. COMBINED FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTIVE CARE

Using the above figures, a total of 649 Indian children are either in foster homes or in adoptive homes in the State of Oregon. This represents one in every 10.5 Indian children. Similarly, for non-Indians in the State, 45,218 under twenty-one year olds are either in foster care or adoptive care, representing one in every 17.7 non-Indian children.

Conclusion

By rate therefore Indian children are removed from their homes and placed in adoptive care or foster care 1.7 times (170 percent) as often as non-Indian children in Oregon. The similarity in adoption rates in Oregon dominates the combined rates given above, and leads to a combined rate of Indian children removed from their families that is—in comparison to other States with significant Indian populations—relatively low. This may be deceptive. It is likely that the vast majority of Indian adoptions reported by the Children's Services Division involve children adopted by unrelated petitioners. This report compares that figure with the total number of related and unrelated adoptions in Oregon. Of that total, 72 percent involve children adopted by related petitioners. Were the adoption comparison to be made only on the basis of unrelated adoptions, the comparative rate for Indian adoptions and the combined rate for adoptive and foster care, would be several times higher than indicated here.

OREGON: APPENDIX

County-by-County Analysis of Oregon Foster Care Statistics

I. BAKER COUNTY

In Baker County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there was one Indian child in foster care in January 1975.¹ There are 16 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Baker County.² Thus one out of 16 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Baker county Indian children are in foster care at a per capita rate 14.3 times (1,430 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Oregon.

II. BENTON COUNTY

In Benton County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were two Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 75 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Benton County.† Thus one out of every 38 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Benton County Indian children are in foster care at a per capita rate 6.0 times (600 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Oregon.

III. CLACKAMAS COUNTY

In Clackamas County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were seven Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 304 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Clackamas County.†

Thus one out of every 43.4 Indian children is in foster care.

¹ "Adoptions in 1974," op. cit. Table 1, "Children for whom adoption petitions were granted," p. 7.

² AAI A child-welfare survey questionnaire completed by Mr. George Boyles, Manager of Research and Statistics, Oregon Children's Services Division, July 16, 1974.

* 51.8% of the Oregon Indian population is under twenty-one years old. [U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970; Subject Report PC(2)-1E, "American Indians" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), Table 2, "Age of the Indian Population by Sex and Urban and Rural Residence: 1970," p. 13.] The total Indian population of Baker County is 31. [U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population: 1970 Supplementary Report PC(S1)-104, "Race of the Population by County," 1970 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1975), p. 38.] $31 \times .518 = 16$. The same formula is used to determine the Indian under twenty-one year old population in the other Oregon counties.

*AAIA Questionnaire, op. cit.

†Race of the Population by County: op. cit. 1970; 6, 7.

Conclusion

In Clackamas County, Indian children are in foster care at a per capita rate 5.3 times (530 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Oregon.

IV. CLATSOP COUNTY

In Clatsop County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were four Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 64 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Clatsop County.† Thus one out of every 16 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Clatsop County Indian children are in foster care at a per capita rate 14.3 times (1,430 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Oregon.

V. COLUMBIA COUNTY

In Columbia County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there was one Indian child in foster care in January 1975.* There are 46 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Columbia County.† Thus one out of 46 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Columbia County Indian children are in foster care at a per capita rate 5.0 times (500 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Oregon.

VI. COOS COUNTY

In Coos County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there was one Indian child in foster care in January 1973.* There are 188 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Coos County.†

VII. CROOK COUNTY

In Crook County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were no Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 47 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Crook County.†

VIII. CURRY COUNTY

In Curry County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were no Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 93 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Curry County.†

IX. DESCHUTES COUNTY

In Deschutes County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were four Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 48 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Deschutes County.† Thus one out of every 12 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Deschutes County Indian children are in foster care at a per capita rate 19.0 times (1,900 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Oregon.

X. DOUGLAS COUNTY

In Douglas County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were no Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 214 Indian children under twenty-one years in Douglas County.†

XI. GILLIAM COUNTY

In Gilliam County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were no Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are five Indian children under twenty-one years old in Gilliam County.†

*AAIA Questionnaire, op. cit.

†Race of the Population by County: op. cit. 1970; 6, 7.

XII. GRANT COUNTY

In Grant County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were no Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 15 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Grant County.†

XIII. HARNEY COUNTY

In Harney County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were five Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 66 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Harney County.† Thus one out of every 13 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion.

In Harney County Indian children are in foster care at a per capita rate 17.6 times (1,760 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Oregon.

XIV. HOOD RIVER COUNTY

In Hood River County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were no Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 68 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Hood River County.†

XV. JACKSON COUNTY

In Jackson County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there was one Indian child in foster care in January 1975.* There are 224 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Jackson County.† Thus one out of 224 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Jackson County Indian children are in foster care at a per capita rate identical to the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Oregon.

XVI. JEFFERSON COUNTY

In Jefferson County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were 21 Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 686 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Jefferson County.† Thus one out of every 33 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Jefferson County Indian children are in foster care at a per capita rate 6.9 times (690 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Oregon.

XVII. JOSEPHINE COUNTY

In Josephine County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were no Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 122 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Josephine County.†

XVIII. KLAMATH COUNTY

In Klamath County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there are 82 Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 736 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Klamath County.† Thus one out of every 23 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Klamath County Indian children are in foster care at a per capita rate 9.9 times (990%) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Oregon.

XIX. LAKE COUNTY

In Lake County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were no Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 35 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Lake County.†

†Race of the Population by County: 1970, *op. cit.*
*AATA Questionnaire, *op. cit.*

XX. LANE COUNTY

In Lane County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were three Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 306 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Lane County.† Thus one out of every 182 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Lane County Indian children are in foster care at a per capita rate 1.7 times (170%) the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Oregon.

XXI. LINCOLN COUNTY

In Lincoln County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there was one Indian child in foster care in January 1975.* There are 165 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Lincoln County.† Thus one out of 165 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Lincoln County, Indian children are in foster care at a per capita rate 1.4 times (140 percent) the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Oregon.

XXII. LINN COUNTY

In Linn County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there was one Indian child in foster care in January 1975.* There are 148 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Linn County.† Thus one out of 148 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Linn County Indian children are in foster care at a per capita rate 1.5 times (150%) the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Oregon.

XXIII. MALHEUR COUNTY

In Malheur County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were no Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 43 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Malheur County.†

XXIV. MARION COUNTY

In Marion County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were 20 Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 429 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Marion County.† Thus one out of every 21 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Marion County Indian children are in foster care at a per capita rate 10.9 times (1,090%) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Oregon.

XXV. MORROW COUNTY

In Morrow County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were no Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 15 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Morrow County.†

XXVI. POLK COUNTY

In Polk County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were no Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 143 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Polk County.†

XXVII. SHERMAN COUNTY

In Sherman County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were no Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 12 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Sherman County.†

*AATA Questionnaire, *op. cit.*

†Race of the Population by County: 1970, *op. cit.*

XXVIII. TILLAMOOK COUNTY

In Tillamook County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there was one Indian child in foster care in January 1975.* There are 61 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Tillamook County.† Thus one out of 61 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Tillamook County Indian children are in foster care at a per capita rate 3.7 times (370 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Oregon.

XXIX. UMATILLA COUNTY

In Umatilla County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were 23 Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 506 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Umatilla County.† Thus one out of every 22 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Umatilla County Indian children are in foster care at a per capita rate 10.4 times (1,040 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Oregon.

XXX. UNION COUNTY

In Union County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were no Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 44 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Union County.†

XXXI. WALLOWA COUNTY

In Wallowa County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were no Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are six Indian children under twenty-one years old in Wallowa County.†

XXXII. WASCO COUNTY

In Wasco County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were six Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 248 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Wasco County.† Thus one out of every 41 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Wasco County Indian children are in foster care at a per capita rate 5.6 times (560 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Oregon.

XXXIII. WASHINGTON COUNTY

In Washington County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were no Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 183 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Washington County.†

XXXIV. WHEELER COUNTY

In Wheeler County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were no Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are two Indian children under twenty-one years old in Wheeler County.†

XXXV. YAMHILL COUNTY

In Yamhill County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there was one Indian child in foster care in January 1975.* There are 173 Indian children under twenty-one years old in Yamhill County.† Thus one out of 173 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Yamhill County Indian children are in foster care at a per capita rate 1.3 times (130 percent) the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Oregon.

*AATA Questionnaire, *op. cit.*

†Race of the Population by County: 1970, *op. cit.*

XXXVI. MULTNOMAH COUNTY

In Multnomah County, according to statistics from the Oregon Children's Services Division, there were 38 Indian children in foster care in January 1975.* There are 1,385 Indian children in Multnomah County.† Thus one out of every 36.4 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Multnomah County Indian children are in foster care at a per capita rate 6.3 times (630 percent) the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Oregon.

*AATA Questionnaire, *op. cit.*

†Race of the Population by County: 1970, *op. cit.*

SOUTH DAKOTA ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE STATISTICS

Basic Facts

1. There are 279,136 under twenty-one year olds in South Dakota.¹
2. There are 18,322 under twenty-one year old American Indians in South Dakota.²
3. There are 260,814 non-Indians under twenty-one in South Dakota.

I. ADOPTION

In the State of South Dakota, according to the South Dakota Department of Social Services, there were an average of 63 adoptions per year of American Indian children from 1970-1975.³ Using South Dakota's own age-at-adoption figures reported to the National Center for Social Statistics of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare,⁴ 81 percent (or 51) are under one year of age when placed; 6 percent (or four) are one year to less than two years old when placed; 7 percent (or four) are two years to less than six years old when placed; 4 percent (or three) are between six and twelve years old; and 2 percent (or one) are twelve years and over.⁵ Using the formula then that: 51 Indian children per year are placed in adoption for at least 17 years, four Indian children are placed in adoption for 16.5 years, four Indian children are placed in adoption for an average of 14 years, three Indian children are placed in adoption for an average of nine years, and one Indian child is placed in adoption for an average of three years; there are 1,019 Indians under twenty-one year olds in adoption at any one time in the State of South Dakota. This represents one out of every 18 Indian children in the State.

Using the same formula for non-Indians (there were an average of 561 adoptions per year of non-Indian children from 1970-1975)⁶ there are 9,073 non-Indian children in adoptive homes in South Dakota, or one out of every 28.7 non-Indian children.

Conclusion

There are therefore by proportion 1:6 times (160 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in adoption in South Dakota.

II. FOSTER CARE

According to statistics from the South Dakota Department of Social Services, there were 521 Indian children in State-administered foster care in October 1974.⁷ In addition, there were 311 South Dakota Indian children receiving

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part 43, "South Dakota" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), p. 43-47.

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970; Subject Reports, Final Report PC(2)-1F, "American Indians" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), Table 2, "Age of the Indian Population by Sex and Urban and Rural Residence: 1970," p. 14.

³ Telephone interviews with Dr. James Marquart, Office on Children and Youth, South Dakota Department of Social Services, July 19-20, 1976.

⁴ National Center for Social Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, "Adoptions in 1974," DEW Publication No. (SRS), 74-03259, NCHS Report R-10 (1974), April, 1976, Table 10, "Children adopted by unrelated petitioners by age at time of placement, by State, 1974," p. 16. (Absolute numbers converted into percentages for purposes of this report.)

⁵ The median age at time of placement of children adopted by unrelated petitioners in 1974 in South Dakota was 2.5 months. *Ibid.*, p. 15.

⁶ Telephone interview with Dr. James Marquart, *op. cit.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

foster care from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs in October 1974.⁸ The combined total of 832 Indian children in foster care represents one out of every 22 Indian children in the State. By comparison there were 530 non-Indian children in State-administered foster care in October 1974,⁹ representing one out of every 492.1 non-Indian children.

Conclusion

There are therefore by proportion 22.4 times (2,240 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in foster care in South Dakota.

III. COMBINED ADOPTIVE CARE AND FOSTER CARE

Using the above figures, a total of 1,851 under twenty-one year old Indian children are either in foster homes or adoptive homes in the State of South Dakota. This represents one out of every 0.9 Indian children. Similarly for non-Indians in the State 9,603 under twenty-one year olds are either in foster care or adoptive care, representing one out of every 27.2 non-Indian children.

Conclusion: By per capita rate Indian children are removed from their homes and placed in adoptive care or foster care 2.7 times (270 percent) more often than non-Indian children in the State of South Dakota.

⁸ Telephone interviews with Mr. Roger Londevik and Ms. Beverly Haug, Division of Social Services, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs Aberdeen Area Office, July 20-21, 1976. The BIA had 858 South Dakota Indian children in foster care in October 1974, 47 Indian children were in foster care administered by the State, but paid for by the BIA, 358-47=311.

⁹ Telephone interviews with Dr. James Marquart, *op. cit.*

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Basic Facts

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Using the same formula for non-Indians (there were an average of 561 adoptions per year of non-Indian children from 1970-1975)⁶ there are 9,073 non-Indian children in adoptive homes in South Dakota, or one out of every 28.7 non-Indian children.

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¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part 43, "South Dakota" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), p. 43-47.

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970; Subject Reports, Final Report PC(2)-1F, "American Indians" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), Table 2, "Age of the Indian Population by Sex and Urban and Rural Residence: 1970," p. 14.

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⁴ National Center for Social Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, "Adoptions in 1974," DHEW Publication No. (SRS) 76-03259, NCHS Report H-10 (1974), April 1976, Table 10, "Children adopted by unrelated petitioners by age at time of placement, by State, 1974," p. 16. (Absolute numbers converted into percentages for purposes of this report.)

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Using the above figures, a total of 1,851 under twenty-one year old Indian children are either in foster homes or adoptive homes in the State of South Dakota. This represents one out of every 0.9 Indian children. Similarly for non-Indians in the State 9,603 under twenty-one year olds are either in foster care or adoptive care, representing one out of every 27.2 non-Indian children.

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⁸ Telephone interviews with Mr. Roger Londevik and Ms. Beverly Haug, Division of Social Services, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs Aberdeen Area Office, July 20-21, 1976. The BIA had 358 South Dakota Indian children in foster care in October 1974. 47 Indian children were in foster care administered by the State, but paid for by the BIA. 358-47=311.

⁹ Telephone interviews with Dr. James Marquart, *op. cit.*

UTAH INDIAN ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE STATISTICS

Basic Facts

1. There are 488,924 under twenty-one year olds in Utah.¹
2. There are 6,600 under twenty-one year old American Indians in Utah.²
3. There are 482,234 non-Indians under twenty-one years old in Utah.

I. ADOPTION

In the State of Utah, according to the Utah Department of Social Services, there were 20 Indian children placed for adoption in 1975.³ Using the State's own age-at-adoption figures reported to the National Center for Social Statistics of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare,⁴ we can estimate that 86 percent (or 17) are under one year of age when placed. One child is between one and two years old; one child is between two and six years old; and one child is between six and twelve years old.⁵ Using the formula then that: 17 Indian children are placed in adoption for at least 17 years, and three Indian children are placed in adoption for a minimum average of 13 years, there are 328 Indians under twenty-one years old in adoption in Utah. This represents one out of every 20.4 Indian children in the State.

Using the same formula for non-Indians (there were 428 non-Indian children placed for adoption in Utah in 1975),⁶ there are 7,040 under twenty-one year old non-Indians in adoption in Utah. This represents one out of every 68.5 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

There are therefore by proportion 3.4 times (340 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in adoptive homes in Utah.

II. FOSTER CARE

In the State of Utah, according to the Utah Department of Social Services, there were 249 Indian children in foster care in May 1976.⁷ This represents one out of every 26.9 Indian children in the State. By comparison, there were 1,197 non-Indian children in foster care in May 1976,⁸ representing one out of every 402.9 non-Indian children in the State.

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part 46, "Utah" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), p. 46-39.

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970; Subject Reports, Final Report PC(2)-1F, "American Indians" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), Table 2, "Age of the Indian Population by Sex and Urban and Rural Residence: 1970," p. 15.

³ Telephone interview with Mr. Dick Wheelock, Research Analyst, Utah Department of Social Services, July 14, 1976.

⁴ National Center for Social Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, "Adoptions in 1974," DHEW Publication No. (SPS) 76-03259, NCSS Report E-10 (1974), April 1976, Table 10, "Children adopted by unrelated petitioners by age at time of placement, by State, 1974," p. 16. (Absolute numbers converted into percentages for purposes of this report.) The ages and percentages are: under one year, 86 percent; between one and two, 3 percent; between two and six, 5 percent; between six and twelve, 5 percent; twelve and older, 1 percent. Multiplying the total number of adoptions in 1975 by these percentages and rounding off to the nearest whole number yields the figures that follow in the body of this report.

⁵ The median age for children placed in adoption in Utah is less than one month. *Ibid.*, p. 15.

⁶ Telephone interview with Mr. Dick Wheelock, Research Analyst, Utah Department of Social Services, July 14, 1976.

⁷ Letter from Ms. Mary Lines, MSW, Program Specialist, Utah Department of Social Services, July 2, 1976.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Confirmed by telephone interview with Mr. Dick Wheelock, Utah Department of Social Services, July 14, 1976.

Conclusion

There are therefore by proportion 15 times (1,500 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in foster care in Utah. 88% of the Indian children in foster care are in non-Indian homes.⁹

III. COMBINED FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTIVE CARE

Using the above figures, a total of 577 under twenty-one year old Indian children are either in foster homes or adoptive homes in the State of Utah. This represents one in every 11.6 Indian children. Similarly for non-Indians in the State 8,237 under twenty-one year olds are either in foster care or adoptive care, representing one in every 58.5 non-Indian children.

Conclusion

By rate Indian children are removed from their homes and placed in adoptive care or foster care 5 times (500 percent) more often than non-Indian children in the State of Utah.

APPENDIX

County-by-County Analysis of Utah Foster Care Statistics

I. BOX ELDER, CACHE, AND RICH COUNTIES

In Box Elder, Cache, and Rich counties, according to statistics from the Utah Department of Social Services, there were 14 Indian children in State-administered foster care in May 1976.¹⁰ There are 437 Indian children under twenty-one years-old in these three counties.¹¹ Thus one in every 31.2 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Box Elder, Cache and Rich counties Indian children are in State-administered foster care at a per capita rate 12.9 times (1,290 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Utah.

II. DAVIS, MORGAN AND WEBER COUNTIES

In Davis, Morgan and Weber counties, according to statistics from the Utah Department of Social Services, there were nine Indian children in State-administered foster care in May 1976.¹² There are 578 Indian children under twenty-one years old in these three counties.¹³ Thus one in every 63.7 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Davis, Morgan and Weber counties Indian children are in State-administered foster care at a per capita rate 6.3 times (630 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Utah.

III. SALT LAKE AND TOOELE COUNTIES

In Salt Lake and Tooele counties, according to statistics from the Utah Department of Social Services, there were 13 Indian children in State-administered foster care in May 1976.¹⁴ There are 1,205 Indian children under twenty-one

⁹ Letter from Ms. Mary Lines, MSW, *op. cit.*

¹⁰ Letter from Ms. Mary Lines, MSW, Program Specialist, Utah Department of Social Services, July 2, 1976. These counties comprise District I of the Utah Department of Social Services.

¹¹ 63.4 percent of the Utah Indian population is under twenty-one years old. [U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970; Subject Report PC(2)-1F, "American Indians" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), Table 2, "Age of the Indian Population by Sex and Urban and Rural Residence: 1970," p. 15.] The total Indian population of Box Elder, Cache and Rich counties is 690. [U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970 Supplementary Report PC(S1)-104, "Race of the Population by County: 1970" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1975), p. 47.] 690 times .634 equals 437. The same formula is used to determine the Indian under twenty-one year old population in the other Utah counties.

¹² Letter from Ms. Mary Lines, MSW, *op. cit.* These counties comprise District II-A of the Utah Department of Social Services.

¹³ "Race of the Population by County: 1970," *op. cit.*, p. 47.

¹⁴ Letter from Ms. Mary Lines, MSW, *op. cit.* These counties comprise District II-B of the Utah Department of Social Services.

years old in these two counties.⁶ Thus one in every 92.7 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Salt Lake and Tooele counties Indian children are in State-administered foster care at a per capita rate 4.3 times (430 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Utah.

IV. SUMMIT, UTAH AND WASATCH COUNTIES

In Summit, Utah and Wasatch counties, according to statistics from the Utah Department of Social Services, there were 15 Indian children in State-administered foster care in May 1976.⁷ There are 397 Indian children under twenty-one years old in these three counties.⁸ Thus one in every 26.5 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Summit, Utah and Wasatch counties Indian children are in State-administered foster care at a per capita rate 15.2 times (1,520 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Utah.

V. JUAB, MILLARD, PIUTE, SANPETE, SEVIER, AND WAYNE COUNTIES

In Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier and Wayne counties, according to statistics from the Utah Department of Social Services, there were 21 Indian children in State-administered foster care in May 1976.⁹ There are 158 Indian children under twenty-one years old in these six counties.¹⁰ Thus one in every 7.5 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier and Wayne counties Indian children are in State-administered foster care at a per capita rate 53.7 times (5,370 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Utah.

VI. BEAVER, GARFIELD, IRON, KANE AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

In Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, and Washington counties, according to statistics from the Utah Department of Social Services, there were 19 Indian children in State-administered foster care in May 1976.¹¹ There are 276 Indian children under twenty-one years old in these five counties.¹² Thus one in every 14.5 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, and Washington counties Indian children are in State-administered foster care at a per capita rate 27.3 times (2,730 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indian in Utah.

VII. DAGGETT, DUCHESNE AND UINTAH COUNTIES

In Daggett, Duchesne and Uintah counties, according to statistics from the Utah Department of Social Services, there were 73 Indian children in State-administered foster care in May 1976.¹³ There are 1,059 Indian children under twenty-one years old in these three counties.¹⁴ Thus one in every 14.5 Indian children is in foster care.

⁶ "Race of the Population by County: 1970," *op. cit.*, p. 47.

⁷ Letter from Ms. Mary Lines, MSW, *op. cit.* These counties comprise District III of the Utah Department of Social Services.

⁸ "Race of the Population by County: 1970," *op. cit.*, p. 47.

⁹ Letter from Ms. Mary Lines, MSW, *op. cit.* These counties comprise District IV of the Utah Department of Social Services.

¹⁰ "Race of the Population by County: 1970," *op. cit.*, p. 47.

¹¹ Letter from Ms. Mary Lines, MSW, *op. cit.* These counties comprise District V of the Utah Department of Social Services.

¹² "Race of the Population by County: 1970," *op. cit.*, p. 47.

¹³ Letter from Ms. Mary Lines, MSW, *op. cit.* These counties comprise District VI of the Utah Department of Social Services.

¹⁴ "Race of the Population by County: 1970," *op. cit.*, p. 47.

Conclusion

In Daggett, Duchesne and Uintah counties Indian children are in State-administered foster care at a per capita rate 27.3 times (2,730 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indian children.

VIII. CARBON, EMERY AND GRAND COUNTIES

In Carbon, Emery and Grand counties, according to statistics from the Utah Department of Social Services, there were four Indian children in State-administered foster care in May 1976.¹⁵ There are 37 Indian children under twenty-one years old in these three counties.¹⁶ Thus one in every 9.3 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In Carbon, Emery and Grand counties Indian children are in State-administered foster care at a per capita rate 43.3 times (4,330 percent) greater than the State-wide rate for non-Indians in Utah.

IX. SAN JUAN COUNTY

In San Juan County, according to statistics from the Utah Department of Social Services, there were 81 Indian children in State-administered foster care in May 1976.¹⁷ There are 3,005 Indian children under twenty-one years old in the County.¹⁸ Thus one in every 37.1 Indian children is in foster care.

Conclusion

In San Juan County, Indian children are in State-administered foster care at a per capita rate 10.9 times (1,090 percent) greater than the Statewide rate for non-Indians in Utah.

¹⁵ Letter from Ms. Mary Lines, MSW, *op. cit.* These three counties comprise District VII-A of the Utah Department of Social Services.

¹⁶ "Race of the Population by County: 1970," *op. cit.*, p. 47.

¹⁷ Letter from Ms. Mary Lines, MSW, *op. cit.* San Juan County comprises District VII-B of the Utah Department of Social Services.

¹⁸ "Race of the Population by County: 1970," *op. cit.*, p. 47.

WASHINGTON INDIAN ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE STATISTICS

Basic Facts

1. There are 1,851,455 under twenty-one year olds in the State of Washington.¹
2. There are 15,980 under twenty-one year old American Indians in the State of Washington.²
3. There are 1,335,475 non-Indians under twenty-one in the State of Washington.

I. ADOPTION

In the State of Washington, according to the Washington Department of Social and Health Services, 48 Indian children were placed for adoption by public agencies in 1972.³ Using State figures reported to the National Center for Social Statistics of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare,⁴ we can estimate that 69 percent (or 33) are under one year of age when placed; Another 21 percent (or ten) are one year to less than six years old when placed; 8 percent (or four) are six years, but less than twelve when placed; and 2 percent (or one) are twelve years and over.⁵ Using the formula then that: 33 Indian children are placed in adoption for at least 17 years, ten Indian children are placed in adoption for a minimum average of 14 years, four Indian children are placed in adoption for an average of nine years, and one Indian child is placed for adoption for an average of three years; there are an estimated 740 Indian children in adoption in Washington. This represents one out of every 21.6 Indian children in the State.

Using the same formula for non-Indians (213 non-Indian children were placed for adoption by public agencies in Washington in 1972),⁶ there are an estimated 3,294 under twenty-one year old non-Indians in adoption in Washington. This represents one out of every 405.4 non-Indian children.

Conclusion

There are therefore by proportion 18.8 times (1,880 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in adoptive homes in Washington; 69 percent of the Indian children placed for adoption in 1972 were placed in non-Indian homes.⁷

II. FOSTER CARE

According to statistics from the Washington Department of Social and Health Services there were 558 Indian children in foster homes in February 1973.⁸ This represents one out of every 28.6 Indian children in the State. By comparison there were 4,873 non-Indian children in foster homes in February 1973,⁹ representing one out of every 274.1 non-Indian children.

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part 49, "Washington" (U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C.: 1973), p. 49-43.

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970; Subject Reports, Final Report PC(2)-1F, "American Indians" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973); Table 2, "Age of the Indian Population by Sex and Urban and Rural Residence: 1970," p. 16.

³ Letter and AAIA child-welfare survey questionnaire submitted by Dr. Robert J. Shearer, Assistant Secretary, Social Services Division, Washington Department of Social and Health Services, April 4, 1973.

⁴ National Center for Social Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, "Adoptions in 1974," DHEW Publication No. (SRS) 76-03259, NCSS Report E-10 (1974), April 1976, Table 10, "Children adopted by unrelated petitioners by age at time of placement, by State, 1974," p. 16. (Absolute numbers converted into percentages for purposes of this report.)

⁵ The median age at time of placement of children adopted by unrelated petitioners in 1974 in Washington was 3.6 months. *Ibid.*, p. 15.

⁶ Dr. Robert J. Shearer, *op. cit.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

Conclusion

By per capita rate therefore Indian children are placed in foster homes 9.6 times (960 percent) as often as non-Indian children in the State of Washington.

III. COMBINED FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTIVE CARE

Using the above figures, a total of 1,298 under twenty-one year old Indian children are either in foster homes or adoptive homes in the State of Washington. This represents one out of every 12.3 Indian children. Similarly for non-Indians in the State, 8,167 under twenty-one year olds are either in foster homes or adoptive homes, representing one out of every 163.5 non-Indian children.

Conclusion

By per capita rate Indian children are removed from their homes and placed in adoptive homes or foster homes 13.3 times (1,330 percent) more often than non-Indian children in the State of Washington.

WISCONSIN INDIAN ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE STATISTICS

Basic Facts

1. There are 1,824,713 under twenty-one year olds in the State of Wisconsin.¹
2. There are 10,176 under twenty-one-year-old American Indians in the State of Wisconsin.²
3. There are 1,814,537 non-Indians under twenty-one in Wisconsin.

I. ADOPTION

In the State of Wisconsin, according to the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services, there were an average of 48 Indian children per year placed in non-related adoptive homes by public agencies from 1966-1970.³ Using the State's own figures,⁴ 69 percent (or 33) are under one year of age when placed. Another 11 percent (or five) are one or two years old; 9 percent (or four) are three, four, or five years old; and 11 percent (or six) are over the age of five. Using the formula then that : 33 Indian children per year are placed in adoption for at least 17 years; five Indian children are placed in adoption for a minimum average of 16 years; four Indian children are placed in adoption for an average of 14 years; and six Indian children are placed in adoption for six years; there are an estimated 733 Indian children under twenty-one years old in nonrelated adoptive homes at any one time in the State of Wisconsin. This represents one out of every 13.9 Indian children in the State.

Using the same formula for non-Indians (an average of 473 non-Indian children per year were placed in non-related adoptive homes by "public agencies from 1966-1970),⁵ there are an estimated 7,288 non-Indians under twenty-one years old in non-related adoptive homes in Wisconsin. This represents one out of every 249 non-Indian children in the State.

Conclusion

There are therefore by proportion 17.9 times (1,790 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in non-related adoptive homes in Wisconsin.

II. FOSTER CARE

In the State of Wisconsin, according to the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services, there were 545 Indian children in foster care in March 1973.⁶ This represents one out of every 18.7 Indian children. By comparison, there were 7,266 non-Indian children in foster care in March 1973,⁷ representing one out of every 250 non-Indian children.

Conclusion

There are therefore by proportion 13.4 times (1,340 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in foster care in the State of Wisconsin.

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part 51, "Wisconsin" (U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C.: 1973), p. 51-60.

² U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970; Subject Reports, Final Report PC(2)-1F, "American Indians" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office: 1973), Table 2, "Age of the Indian Population by Sex and Urban and Rural Residence: 1970," p. 16.

³ Letter and statistics from Mr. Frank Newgent, Administrator, Division of Family Services, Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services, April 25, 1973.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ National Center for Social Statistics, U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, "Children Served by Public Welfare Agencies and Voluntary Child Welfare Agencies and Institutions, March 1973." DHEW Publication No. (SRS) 76-03258, NCSS Report E-9 (3/73), November 1975, Table 4, p. 10.

III. COMBINED FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTIVE CARE

Using the above figures, a total of 1,278 under twenty-one year old American Indian children are either in foster care or adoptive homes in the State of Wisconsin. This represents one out of every 8 Indian children. A total of 14,554 non-Indian children are in foster care or adoptive homes, representing one out of every 124.7 non-Indian children.

Conclusion

By per capita rate Indian children are removed from their homes and placed in adoptive homes or foster care 15.6 times (1,560 percent) more often than non-Indian children in the State of Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin statistics do not include adoption placements made by private agencies, and therefore are minimum figures.

WYOMING ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE STATISTICS

Basic Facts

1. There are 137,339 under twenty-one year olds in Wyoming.¹
2. There are 2,832 under twenty-one year old American Indians in Wyoming.²
3. There are 134,507 non-Indians under twenty-one in Wyoming.

I. ADOPTION

In the State of Wyoming, according to the Wyoming State Division of Social Services, there were an average of six adoptions per year of Indian children from 1972-1975.³ This data base is too small to allow realistic projection of the total number of Indian children in adoptive care. We can say though that during 1972-1975, 0.8 percent of Wyoming Indian children were placed for adoption.

During 1972-1975, according to the Wyoming State Division of Social Services, an average of 73 non-Indian children were placed for adoption in Wyoming.⁴ Thus, during 1972-1975, 0.2 percent of Wyoming non-Indian children were placed for adoption.

Conclusion

Based on the four year period 1972-1975, Indian children were placed for adoption at a per capita rate four times (400%) greater than that for non-Indians.

II. FOSTER CARE

According to statistics from the Wyoming State Division of Social Services, there were 24 Indian children in foster care in June 1976.⁵ An additional 74 Indian children were in foster care administered by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.⁶

The combined total of 98 represents one out of every 28.9 Indian children in the State. By comparison, there were 446 non-Indian children in foster care in May 1976,⁷ representing one out of every 301.6 non-Indian children.

Conclusion

There are therefore by proportion 10.4 times (1,040 percent) as many Indian children as non-Indian children in foster care in Wyoming; 57 percent of the children in State-administered foster family care are in non-Indian homes.⁸ 51 percent of the children in BIA-administered foster family care are in non-Indian homes.⁹

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970, Volume I, Characteristics of the Population, Part 52, "Wyoming" (U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C.: 1973), p. 52-30.

² *Ibid.*, p. 52-30 (Table 19), p. 52-189 (Table 139). Indian people comprise 59.2 percent of the total non-white population according to Table 139. According to Table 19 there are 4,783 non-whites under twenty-one, 4,783 times .592 equals 2,832.

³ Telephone interview with Mr. John Steinberg, Director of Adoptions, Wyoming State Division of Social Services, July 15, 1976. A total of 22 Indian children were placed for adoption during these four years.

⁴ *Ibid.* A total of 293 non-Indian children were placed for adoption during these four years.

⁵ Telephone interview with Ms. Janet Shriner, Foster Care Consultant, Wyoming State Division of Social Services, July 20, 1976. Twenty-three of these children were in foster family homes, and one in a residential treatment center.

⁶ Telephone interview with Mr. Clyde W. Hobbs, Superintendent, Wind River Indian Agency, July 22, 1976. Of these children, 47 were in foster family homes, and 27 in group homes. The tribal breakdown was: Shoshone, 12; Arapahoe, 39; Non-enrolled, 23. The BIA figures are as of July 1976.

⁷ Telephone interview with Ms. Janet Shriner, *op. cit.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ Telephone interview with Mr. Clyde W. Hobbs, *op. cit.*

III. U.S. BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS BOARDING SCHOOLS

In addition to the above figures, 134 Wyoming Indian children between the ages of fifteen and eighteen were away from their homes attending BIA boarding schools in other states. These children, all from the Wind River Reservation, spent at least part of the 1975-1976 school year in boarding schools in California, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Utah.¹⁰

IV. COMBINED ADOPTIVE CARE AND FOSTER CARE

Since we are unable to estimate the total number of Indian children currently in adoptive care in Wyoming, it is not possible either to estimate the total number of Indian children receiving adoptive and foster care. The foster care statistics alone make it unmistakably clear that Indian children are removed from their homes at rates far exceeding those for non-Indian children.

NOTE ON FEDERAL BOARDING SCHOOLS

In addition to those Indian children removed from their families to be placed in adoptive care, foster care, or special institutions, thousands of Indian children (many as young as five-ten years old) are placed in U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding schools. Enrollment in BIA boarding schools and dormitories is not based primarily on the educational needs of the children; it is chiefly a means of providing substitute care. The standards for taking children from their homes for boarding school placement are as vague and as arbitrarily applied as are standards for Indian foster care placements.

The table below presents a state-by-state breakdown of the number of Indian children living in dormitories while they attend BIA boarding schools.

State:	BIA boarding school students
Alaska	664
Arizona	10,977
California	714
Mississippi	197
Nevada	517
New Mexico	7,428
North Dakota	481
Oklahoma	1,973
Oregon	549
South Dakota	1,207
Utah	1,093
Total	25,800

Indian children living in dormitories operated by the BIA for children attending public schools	3,384
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Total	29,184
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These children should be included in any compilation of Indian children away from their families.

Source: Office of Indian Education Programs, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, "Fiscal Year 1974: Statistics Concerning Indian Education" (Lawrence, Kans.: Haskell Indian Junior College: 1975), pp. 12-15, 22-23.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*