



County of San Bernardino

2015

Children's Network

Group Home Needs Assessment

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2015 Group Home Needs Assessment Table of Contents

Section 1: Executive Summary

Section 2: Introduction

- Purpose of Children's Network Group Home Needs Assessment
- Definition of Terms

Section 3: Geographical Information of Group Homes

- 3-1. Group Home Facilities and Beds in the Inland Empire
 - San Bernardino County Group Home Facilities and Bed Capacity by Region and City
 - San Bernardino County Group Home Facilities and Bed Capacities by RCL
 - Riverside County Group Home Facilities and Bed Capacities by Region and City
- 3-2. Geo-Mapping of Group Homes in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties
 - San Bernardino County Map of Group Homes
 - San Bernardino County Map of Group Homes by Supervisory District 1
 - San Bernardino County Map of Group Homes by Supervisory District 2(a)
 - San Bernardino County Map of Group Homes by Supervisory District 2(b)
 - San Bernardino County Map of Group Homes by Supervisory District 3
 - San Bernardino County Map of Group Homes by Supervisory District 4
 - San Bernardino County Map of Group Homes by Supervisory District 5

Section 4: Data Summary

- 4-1. San Bernardino County Supervised Children Overview 2014
 - San Bernardino County Overview and Comparison with Neighboring Counties
 - San Bernardino County Population by Age Groups
 - San Bernardino County Population by Age Groups & Ethnicity
- 4-2. San Bernardino County Supervised Children in Group Homes
 - Introduction (San Bernardino County Supervised Children)
 - Placing Departments and Children's Issues
 - Group Home Placements among the Out-of-Home Care Children
 - Impact of the Wraparound and ChRIS Programs on Group Home Placements
 - Group Home Placements by Location of Group Homes
 - Point-in-Time Comparison of Placements between Placing Departments
 - Age and Gender of San Bernardino County Supervised Children in Group Homes
 - Ethnicity of Children in San Bernardino County Group Homes
 - Duration of Stay in Group Homes
 - Multiple Placement Analysis of CFS Supervised Children
 - Group Home Placements From Other Counties
- 4-3. Out-of-Home Care Abuse or Neglect Reports of Foster Children in Group Homes

4-4. Serious Incident Reports

- Yearly Comparison of Serious Incident Reports
- Serious Incident Reports by City, Placing Agency, and Supervising County
- Serious Incident Report Reasons

4-5. Group Home Placement Requests

Section 5: Fiscal Impact of Group Home Placements on San Bernardino County

5-1. Payments to Group Home Facilities from the County of San Bernardino

- AFDC-FC Payment for CFS Supervised Youth 2014
- AFDC-FC Payment for Probation Supervised Youth 2014

Section 6: Placing Agency Needs

6-1. Children and Family Services Placing Needs

6-2. Probation Department Placing Needs

6-3. Department of Behavioral Health Placing Needs

6-4. Conclusion

Section 1: Executive Summary

Purpose

The Policy Council of the San Bernardino County Children's Network directs this assessment of the county's use of group homes for its placement needs. This report shows both changes in the county's placing patterns and an overall decline in the number of available in-county beds. Using data from administrative databases, interviews with key informants from placing agencies, and serious incident reports, this report analyzes:

- Where the County's group home population is placed in relation to the in-county group home beds, and
- County departments' placing needs for county-supervised youth

Placements made by Children and Family Services (CFS) and the Probation Department are outlined in the Data Summary of this assessment. The needs of these placing departments are discussed in Section 6.

Key Findings

1. Data:

- **Number of Beds:** The number of in-county facilities and beds is decreasing. As of December 2014, there were 63 group home facilities in San Bernardino County with a total of 632 beds. This is a 14.9% decline in facilities since 2008.
- **Out-of-County Placements:** Point-in-time data shows that more than half of the county's group home placements are at out-of-county facilities (293 out of 479).
 - ◊ However, many of the out-of-county group home placements were in neighboring Riverside County, retaining close proximity. Over 78% of the placements made by Children and Family Services (CFS) and 42% of the Probation placements were within the Inland Empire.
- **Placements by Other Counties:** Point-in-time data reveals that 66.2% of group home placements within San Bernardino County are for children supervised by other California counties or states.
- **Reduction in Group Home Placements:** Policy and practice changes have been implemented to reduce both the number of group home placements and the duration of placements. For example, AB 74 aims to place youth in "the least restrictive [more] family-based setting," restricting the use of group homes "for short-term, specialized, and intensive treatment purposes" (AB 74 SEC. 5. Section 1562). In 2013, the state published two All County Letters (ACL) (ACL 13-86 Assessing youth residing in group care longer than one year and ACL 13-87 Changes to the requirement for placements in group homes for children ages twelve and under). The intent

behind the ACLs was to reduce the use of group homes for children ages 12 and younger and to limit the time children ages 6 to 17 are placed in a group home to less than 12 months.

- Least Restricted Placement: San Bernardino County has about 5,000 child welfare supervised placements in foster care at any given point of time. Of these placements, approximately 7% are in group homes.

2. Placing Agency Needs:

- Unmet Placement Needs: Information gathered from interviews indicated that while the number of available in-county beds is adequate, the types of available beds do not match the county's placement needs. Repeatedly, the interviewees cited difficulty locating in-county group home beds for the following populations:
 - ◇ Pregnant and parenting teens
 - ◇ Children with mental health and substance abuse issues
 - ◇ Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth
 - ◇ Fire setters
 - ◇ Sex offenders with mental health and/or behavioral issues
 - ◇ Sexually exploited children (in particular, females that are victims of the sex trade)
 - ◇ Extremely violent youths with or without mental health issues
 - ◇ Rate Classification Level (RCL) 14 placements
 - ◇ Non-minor dependents who have exited foster care and wish to return

3. County Oversight:

- The county continues to monitor and assess quality of care in its group home placements through a variety of mechanisms. These oversight tools are:
 - ◇ Tracking the Rate of Substantiated Abuse in Out-of-home Care: All California counties are required to track the number and type of substantiated complaints of abuse by the care providers of foster children by placement type. For calendar year 2014, of 572 CFS children who were in group home placement for any part of the year, abuse or neglect was substantiated on 2 children, or 0.35%.
 - ◇ Tracking of Serious Incident Reports: The county is exercising its authority under AB2149, county sponsored legislation passed effective in 2005, to receive and review from the San Bernardino County group home providers all serious incident reports (SIRs) involving law enforcement or paramedics for all group home children, regardless of placing county. Data is analyzed per group home, per city, per supervising county, and incident type. Over one-third (35.7%) of all the SIRs are based on runaway/AWOL incidents. Findings from the SIR data are used by the placing departments to address concerns with the providers and with the state regulatory agency, Community Care Licensing.

- ◇ Group Home Coordinator (CFS): The Group Home Coordinator works under the direction and guidance of the Placement Resources Division. The GH Coordinator is an experienced Social Service Practitioner and expert in high-level placements. In addition, the GH coordinator performs an essential quality assurance function by collaborating with stakeholders to maintain quality group home placements. The GH Coordinator routinely visits group homes to inspect the premises and discuss any complaints and issues related to the group home. If serious deficiencies are noted, the GH Coordinator may require a Corrective Action Plan and new placements are not made until deficiencies are corrected. Twice per year, the GH coordinator facilitates a conference with San Bernardino County Probation to provide training and present changes in legislation and licensing updates. Additionally, the GH coordinator provides consultation for the CFS Centralized Placement Unit and for case carrying social workers.
- ◇ Group Home Monitors (Probation): The role of the Group Home Monitors is similar to that of the CFS Group Home Coordinator. The semi-annual conferences to provide training and present changes in legislation to group home providers are co-hosted by the Group Home Coordinator and the Group Home Monitors.

4. Fiscal Impact:

Group home providers are part of the local economy, both as businesses and employers. Based on the 632 group home beds within the county (as of December 2014), the total monthly payments made by San Bernardino placing agencies to county group home providers is estimated at just under \$15 million per year for CFS and Probation supervised youth.

Recommendations

1. San Bernardino County does not need additional generic group home beds in the county. While there may be a need for group homes in certain RCLs or geographical areas to better serve youth, these facilities should be tailored to the treatment needs of the group home population they intend to serve.
2. San Bernardino County needs qualified, experienced group home providers who can deliver family based, outcome-driven treatment programs to targeted populations of special needs children, as defined in the findings above.
3. Additional beds for seriously emotionally disturbed children, both RCL 14 and community treatment facility beds, are a critical need. Only two RCL 14 group homes exist in the county, 12 beds in total.

4. Group homes should function as a part of a countywide system of care, with residential treatment serving specific populations within a continuum of care.
5. As part of that continuum, skilled providers are needed to provide short-term assessment and crisis stabilization services to enable foster children to successfully reconnect with their homes, family members, schools and communities.
6. Residential care should be time limited and focused on trauma informed, intensive treatment milieus that are integrated with programs such as Wraparound and Family-to-Family to enable foster children to succeed in the least restricted environment.
7. Group home providers must design effective strategies to prevent AWOL/runaway episodes and engage youth and their families in their treatment programs.

These recommendations strongly align with those outlined in the Continuum of Care Reform Legislative Report, which advocate for short-term group home placement for youth who cannot remain in their family unit. Group homes should be equipped to provide children with mental health services to ensure that the child can be reunified in a more timely manner. In addition, the Continuum of Care Reform proposes that “children currently placed in group homes with a Rate Classification Level (RCL) 1-9 will be transitioned into home-based family care [and that those in] groups homes rated 10-14 will be either re-rated to the residential treatment rate or to a foster family agency rate.”¹

¹ California’s Child Welfare Continuum of Care Reform,
http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/entres/pdf/CCR_LegislativeReport.pdf

Section 2: Introduction

Purpose of This Assessment

The Children's Network Group Home Needs Assessment has been conducted intermittently since 2000. This assessment reports on data from 2014 and prior years. It proposes to identify gaps in services between group home providers, San Bernardino County placing departments, and San Bernardino County placements of children. This assessment focuses on identifying three different needs:

First, this assessment focuses on identifying the discrepancies between the availability of in-county group home beds and the number of San Bernardino children who need group home placements: specifically, whether in-county group homes with appropriate treatment programs are available for children, in appropriate locations, and in appropriate Rate Classification Levels (RCLs).

Second, this assessment describes what services San Bernardino County placing departments expect group homes to provide to children.

Finally, this assessment also discusses whether the available group homes meet the service needs of San Bernardino County foster children: specifically, whether the facilities available offer specialized treatment programs for the types of youth in need of placement.

In addition to needs, the report assesses the impact of new practices to keep children from entering group home facilities. Countywide programs such as Wraparound have reduced the number of group home placements by offering in-home supportive services to children at risk of being placed in facilities RCL 10 and higher.

Definition of Terms

Group Home: Group homes are nonprofit, state licensed, residential care facilities that provide 24-hour non-medical care² and supervision to children in a structured environment. Group home providers manage group home facilities. One group home provider may manage more than one group home facility. The number of beds in a group home facility may vary from 6 to over 100.³

Residents of Group Homes: Group homes serve different populations of children. There are foster care children supervised by Child Welfare Services. Foster children are removed from their home due to abuse, neglect, or when parents are unable or unwilling to care for the child. Children are placed in group homes if they need more intensive treatment services than those provided by lower levels of care. In addition, delinquent youth on formal probation with

² Group home programs are designed for children who generally do not need medical care beyond routine health checks and medication monitoring.

³ The Inland Regional Center, classified as a group home, has four beds.

wardship may be ordered placed out of the home by the juvenile delinquency court. These youths are placed because the family dynamics in the home are not conducive to reaching treatment and rehabilitative goals while the youth is on probation. Parents of these youth retain their parental rights. Youth placed by Probation have a variety of treatment needs and include serious offenders and youth with severe mental health needs.

In addition to the different populations and intensities of care described above, group homes may specialize in serving children with certain demographics. For example, some group homes only serve children in a certain age group or of a certain gender. Some group homes may not accept gang members. Other group homes provide specialized treatment (e.g., treatment for eating disorders, behavior modification, and emancipation). Group home facilities are not usually interchangeable because of their specialization.

Placing Departments: Two different departments place children in group home facilities.

Children and Family Services (CFS)

This placing department serves children who have been removed from their home due to abuse, neglect, or incapability of parents. The legal custody of the children belongs to the county.

Probation Department (Probation)

This placing department places juvenile offenders in group homes. Under wardship, the parents retain their parental rights, but Probation supervises youth when the court orders they be placed into a group home.

Department of Behavioral Health (DBH):

DBH continues to serve children whose mental health issues require specialized treatment, but no longer places children into group homes.

Central Placement Unit (CPU): CPU is a part of CFS. CPU is responsible for finding available and appropriate out-of-home care facilities by responding to social workers' requests for placement.

Special Health Care Unit: Like CPU, the Special Health Care Unit is also responsible for finding available and appropriate out-of-home care placement for children with special health care needs and medically fragile children.

Group Home Licensure & Rate Classification Level: The California Department of Social Services licenses group home providers and providers may operate one or more group home facilities.

All licensed group home facilities are classified by Rate Classification Levels (RCLs), which range from 1 to 14. The RCLs are based on a point system that reflects the level of intensity of care and supervision provided by the group homes

and the levels of staff qualification. Points are based on the number of hours of services per child in the following three components:

- ❖ Hours of Child Care and Supervision by Qualified Staff. Quality of staff reflects:
 1. Experience in Residential Care
 2. Formal Education
 3. Training
- ❖ Social Work Activities
- ❖ Mental Health Treatment Services

Children who need higher levels of care stay at group homes in higher RCLs. Payments to group homes are based on the RCL of the group homes. A higher RCL number corresponds to a higher payment for services.

Community Care Licensing (CCL) Division: Community Care Licensing (CCL) is a division of the California Department of Social Services. This division has the authority to license group home facilities. Their mission is “to promote the health, safety, and quality of life of each person in community care through the administration of an effective collaborative regulatory enforcement system.”⁴ CCL’s roles and responsibilities are broken down into three main areas⁵: to reduce the predictable harm to people in care, to ensure community care facilities operate according to applicable laws and regulations (California Health & Safety Code and Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations), and to take corrective action when a licensee fails to protect the health, safety, and personal rights of individuals in care, or is unwilling or unable to maintain substantial compliance with licensing laws and regulations.

Rate Classification Levels (RCLs): The Rate Classification Levels (RCLs), Standardized Schedule of Rates are provided on the next page. Group home providers will receive individual Fiscal Year Rate Notification Letters in accordance with the biennial rate setting process. It is the responsibility of the group home provider to forward copies of its current Rate Notification Letter to all placement agencies from which it receives placements.” (State of California, Department of Social Services, ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 08-01). RCL 14 is the highest placement level among the classification of group home.

⁴ State of California, Department of Social Services web-site (http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/MissionSta_1811.htm)

⁵ State of California, Department of Social Services web-site (http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/RolesandRe_1812.htm)

Standardized Schedule of Rates (effective July 1, 2014)

RCL	Monthly Standard Rate
1	\$2,332
2	\$2,913
3	\$3,493
4	\$4,072
5	\$4,649
6	\$5,232
7	\$5,812
8	\$6,395
9	\$6,973
10	\$7,554
11	\$8,132
12	\$8,714
13	\$9,302
14	\$9,879

Data Source: www.childsworld.ca.gov/res/pdf/StandardRateSchedule.pdf

Regional Center: “Regional centers are nonprofit private corporations that contract with the Department of Developmental Services to provide or coordinate services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities. They have offices throughout California to provide a local resource to help find and access the many services available to individuals and their families.”⁶

In-County & Out-of-County Placement: San Bernardino County departments place children in group homes located within San Bernardino County and other counties. When children are placed into group homes located in San Bernardino County, the placement is described as an *in-county placement*. When children are placed in group homes located outside of San Bernardino County, the placement is described as an *out-of-county placement*. Furthermore, when children are placed outside of California, the out-of-county placement is specially classified as an *out-of-state placement*.

Whenever possible, the placing departments place children in group homes located within the county. There is a clear statutory preference for in-county placement, and there are several reasons why children benefit from in-county placements. For example, proximity to the children’s own family may promote reunification. Also, San Bernardino County placing workers’ placement monitoring, follow-ups, and visitations are easier due to shorter travel time.

However, in-county placement is not always possible for several reasons, such as scarcity of available beds, need for specific treatment programs not available in the county, need for beds not available in certain RCLs, and need for

⁶ State of California, Department of Developmental Services (www.dds.ca.gov/rc/Rcinfo.cfm)

placements closer to guardians/relatives who live outside of San Bernardino County. Sometimes placement in a neighboring county, such as Riverside County, may be closer to the children's family home than more distant in-county group homes. In some circumstances, out-of-county placement is desirable because it removes youth from negative outside influences.

Administrative Databases: In order to track services regarding group home placements, the placing departments use a variety of administrative databases.

Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS)

The CWS/CMS is a statewide casework tracking tool. CFS social workers input all their casework information into the system. Access to the data system is strictly limited to our own county cases. All the CFS and Probation supervised group home youth's casework information can be obtained through this database.

Statewide Automated Welfare System Consortium IV (C-IV)

C-IV is the on-line assistance payments data management system for the following social service programs:

- California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CaWORKs)
- CalFresh
- Medi-Cal
- Foster Care
- Adoption Assistance Program (AAP)
- Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI)
- Child Care Programs
- Emergency Assistance (EA)
- Employment Services (WtW, E&T)
- Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGAP)
- Refugee Assistance Program

All the placements and payments provided for San Bernardino County supervised placements by CFS and Probation are recorded in the C-IV system.

Juvenile Network (JNET)

JNET is a SQL database used by Juvenile Court, Juvenile Probation, Juvenile Public Defender, Juvenile DA, Public Health, County Counsel, assigned attorneys and CFS to track children through the juvenile justice system (whether as probation wards or CFS dependents). This data management system stores and maintains automated minute orders, court calendars, and other court related documents used by court staff as well as CFS staff and assigned attorneys. JNET is also used to electronically file court reports, attachments and petitions. Assigned attorneys access JNET through the web to view their court documents.

SIMON

SIMON is an internal billing tracking system for children receiving mental health services. This system is provider service oriented and not child focused. Access to the database is restricted to DBH.

Section 3: Geographical Information on Group Homes

Section 3 describes the geographical location of group homes within San Bernardino County, with an emphasis on the number of facilities and beds within cities and regions. Section 3-1 summarizes the number of group homes in San Bernardino County by city and CFS region. The number of group homes in Riverside County is also presented in this section. Maps illustrating the distribution of group homes in San Bernardino County by Supervisorial Districts are presented in Section 3-2.

Group home providers may manage multiple facilities throughout the entire United States. The analyses in this section are based on the RCL list updated December 2014 on the California State web site.⁷

3-1. Group Home Facilities and Beds in the Inland Empire

The following section displays the count of group home facilities and beds throughout San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. The tables and graphs within this section display the decrease in group home facilities and beds over twelve years at two-year intervals.

San Bernardino County Group Home Facilities and Bed Capacity by City and CFS Region

Countywide, there has been a 14.9% decline in the number of group home facilities from 2008 to 2014. In October of 2008, there were 74 facilities operating 785 beds compared to December 2014 with 63 facilities operating 632 beds (36 of the beds are CHRIS providers). Some of the decline was due to the state's AFDC-FC rates remaining frozen at the 2001 rate. In 2008, the state increased the AFDC-FC rate, and in 2010, the state adjusted the AFDC-FC rate for group homes to account for inflation. The rise in home prices in the county from 2006 to 2008 may have been another factor in the decline of group homes. Practice and policy changes by the county departments, for example, and reducing the use of residential care for foster care, also contributed to a decline in group home beds.

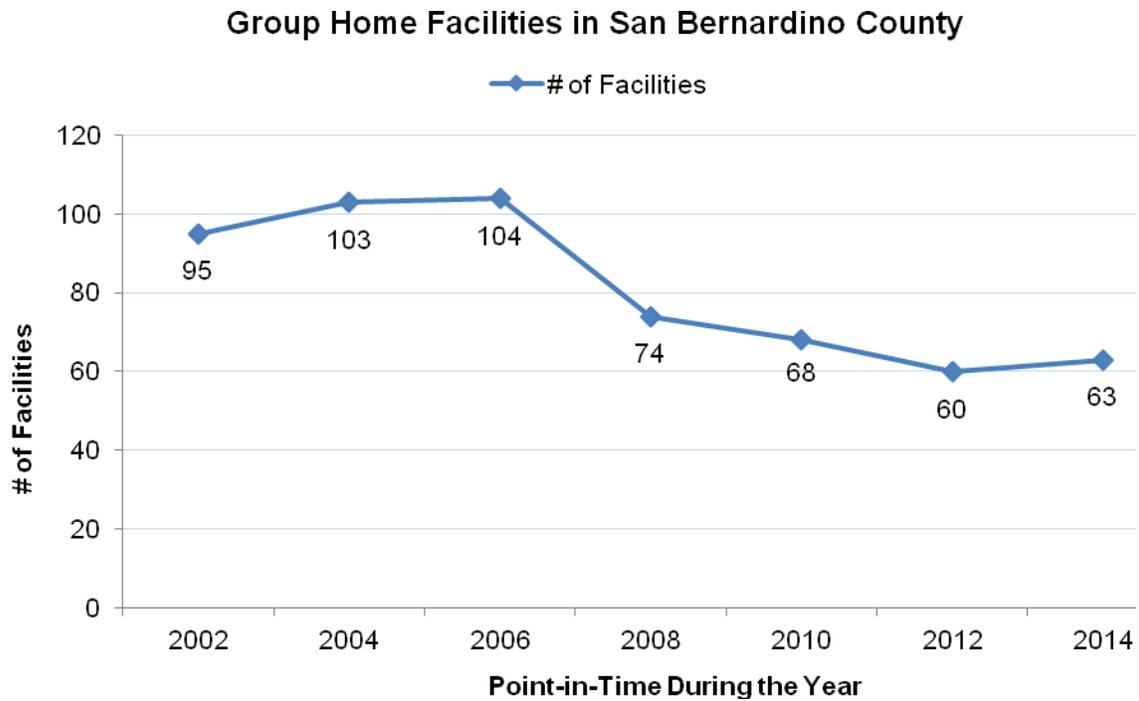
Moreover, there have been shifting perceptions and expectations by the departments, state, and outside stakeholders for residential care. The passage of AB 74 further restricted the use of group homes for children ages 6 to 12 by imposing more stringent requirements such as limiting the duration of the placement. The goal is to reduce placements into group homes and place youth in the least restrictive and most family-like setting possible. The Continuum of Care Reform, another factor that will affect the future use of group homes, outlines similar goals, which seek to transition youth in group home care to family-based care. These efforts to reduce the

⁷ Data Source: State of California, CWS/CMS Web Site: Group Home Provider List (01-05-2014)
<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cfsweb/res/pdf/GHList.pdf>

length of stay in group homes is based on the poor outcomes of children in long-term group home care placement.⁸

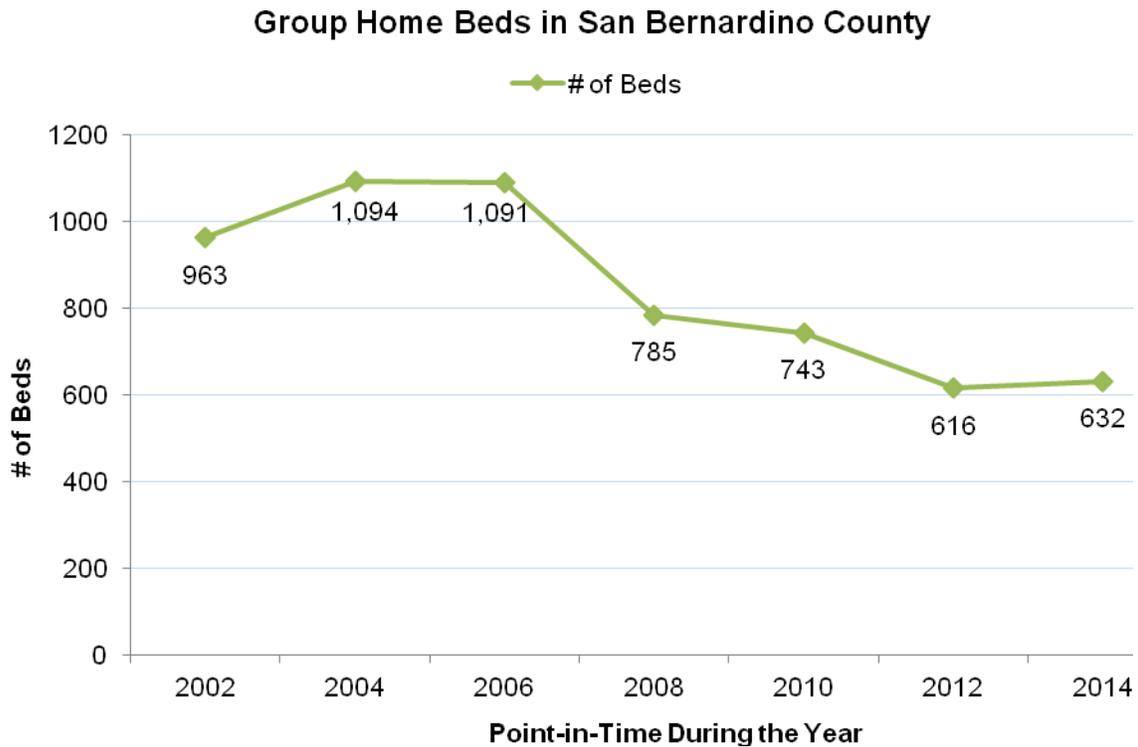
Graph 3-1 shows the number of group home facilities in San Bernardino County from 2002 to 2014. The graph shows a decline in the number of group home facilities in San Bernardino County. Graph 3-2 (on the following page) shows the number of group home beds from 2002 to 2014. Due to the decrease in facilities throughout the years, the number of available beds for in-county placement has also decreased.

(Graph 3-1) Number of Group Home Facilities for 2002 to 2014 at 2 Year Intervals



⁸ California's Child Welfare Continuum of Care,
http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/entres/pdf/CCR_LegislativeReport.pdf

(Graph 3-2) Number of Group Home Beds for 2002-2014 at 2 Year Intervals



The closure of 29 group homes between 2004 and 2008 resulted in the loss of 309 beds (note that the number of available beds was at its highest in 2004). Since 2008, an additional 11 group homes closures decreased the number of beds by an additional 153. In total, the number of available beds has decreased by 42% (n = 462) since 2004.

Between 2012 and 2014, 3 group homes were established increasing the number of beds from 616 to 632. Although the addition of these group homes may have alleviated some of the placing issues encountered by CFS and Probation, the number of youth in need of group home placement has also increased over the last few years.

Table 3-3 shows the number of group home facilities and bed capacities by cities and CFS Regions. Almost half (47.6%, n = 30) of the group home facilities are located in the Western Region, and nearly one-fourth (23.8%, n = 15) in the Eastern Region. Similarly, the number of beds in the Western Region account over half of the beds (52.8%, n = 334) of San Bernardino County's total bed capacity (N = 632). Beds in the Eastern Region account for 24.4% (n = 154) of San Bernardino County's total bed capacity.

In 2008, the number of available facilities by region was 9 for Central, 17 for Eastern, 13 for North Desert, and 35 for Western.⁹ This represents a loss of 40 beds for Eastern, 30 beds for North Desert, and 83 beds for Western over a six-year period. Presently, the cities with the majority of group home facilities are Apple Valley, Rialto, and San Bernardino. In addition, Chino Hills, Apple Valley and Yucaipa have the highest number of beds in the county.

(Table 3-3) Group Home Facilities and Bed Capacities, by Region/City (Dec. 2014)

CFS Region/City	Number (%) of Facilities	Number (%) of Beds
Central	9 (14.3%)	54 (8.5%)
San Bernardino City	9	54
Eastern	15 (23.8%)	154 (24.4%)
Crestline	2	12
Highland	2	12
Mentone	1	6
Redlands	5	52
Yucaipa	5	72
North Desert	9 (14.3%)	90 (14.2%)
Apple Valley	8	84
Victorville	1	6
Western	30 (47.6%)	334 (52.8%)
Alta Loma	1	6
Bloomington	2	15
Chino	2	12
Chino Hills	2	157
Fontana	6	46
Ontario	3	18
Rancho Cucamonga	3	18

⁹ Children's Network Group Home Needs Assessment (2008)

Rialto	8	44
Upland	3	18

San Bernardino County Group Home Facilities and Bed Capacities by RCL

Table 3-4 lists the number of group home facilities and bed capacities by RCL. Of the 63 group home facilities in the County, 17 (27%) are RCL 12 facilities, 18 (28.6%) are RCL 11, and 19 (30.2%) are RCL 10. Therefore, RCL 10 through 12 account for nearly 90% of all group homes in San Bernardino County. Likewise, the largest proportion of beds are in RCL 10 through 12 facilities. Nearly half (44%) of the total bed capacity in San Bernardino County is RCL 10, followed by RCL 12 (28.5%) and RCL 11 (19.6%).

(Table 3-4) Group Home Facilities and Bed Capacities, by RCL (Dec. 2014)

RCL	Number (%) of Facilities	Number (%) of Beds
Regional Center	1 (1.6%)	6 (0.9%)
7	1 (1.6%)	6 (0.9%)
8	1 (1.6%)	6 (0.9%)
10	19 (30.2%)	278 (44.0%)
11	18 (28.6%)	124 (19.6%)
12	17 (27.0%)	180 (28.5%)
14	2 (3.2%)	12 (1.9%)
Unknown ¹⁰	4 (6.3%)	20 (3.2%)
San Bernardino County Total	63	632

In 2001, there were ten RCL 14 group homes with 38 beds, in April 2006, there were four RCL 14 group homes with 24 beds and in 2008, there was only one RCL 14 group home with six beds in San Bernardino County. As of December 2014, there are only two RCL 14 group homes with 12 beds in total. During the 2008 Group Home Needs Assessment, analysts identified a need for more RCL 14 facilities. At present, a need for RCL 14 facilities still exists. This can be verified by the number of RCL 14 group home placements made by the county in December 2014 (see Table 3-6). A total of 35 placements were made for the month, but only 12 beds are available within the county.

Table 3-5 (on the following page) presents the number of bed capacities by city and RCL. Group home facilities with a RCL 10 to 12 are accessible countywide, although most RCL 10 homes are in the Western Region and most RCL 12 are in the Eastern Region. Regional Centers (RC) and group home facilities in lower RCLs, such as RCL 7 and RCL 8, are only in the Western Region. There are two group

¹⁰ Unknown – listed on CDSS CCL search, but not in current CDSS list, website does not list RCL level

homes in the County with a RCL 14. One is in the Central Region, which provides six beds for males. The second facility, located in the Western Region, has six beds for females.

(Table 3-5) Group Home Facilities Bed Capacities by Region/City and RCL (Dec. 2014)

RCL									
CFS Region/City	Regional Center	7	8	10	11	12	14	Unknown¹¹	Total Beds
Central				18	18	12	6		54
San Bernardino				18	18	12	6		54
Eastern				24	58	72			154
Crestline					12				12
Highland				12					12
Mentone						6			6
Redlands				12	40				52
Yucaipa						72			72
North Desert					24	66			90
Apple Valley					18	66			84
Victorville					6				6
Western	6	6	6	236	36	18	6	20	334
Alta Loma		6							6
Bloomington				9		6			15
Chino					12				12
Chino Hills				157					157
Fontana				22	18			6	46
Ontario			6	6				6	18
Rancho Cucamonga				12		6			18
Rialto	6			24			6	8	44
Upland				6		12			18
San Bernardino County Total	6	6	6	278	124	180	12	20	632

¹¹ Listed on CDSS CCL search, but not in current CDSS list, website does not list RCL level

Table 3-6 compares group home bed capacities in December 2014 with the total placements made by the two County of San Bernardino placing departments for that month.

The total number of placements made by San Bernardino County placing departments was 481, and group home facilities located in San Bernardino County had 632 beds. Theoretically, it would be easy to conclude that San Bernardino County has enough group homes; however, there are reasons to indicate that this may not be the case. First, even though the total number of beds exceeds the number of group home placements made by the San Bernardino County placing departments, there is a shortage of group homes in certain RCLs. For example, CFS made 2 RCL 6 placements and 6 RCL 9 placements, but San Bernardino County did not have any group home facilities in RCL 6 or RCL 9. Probation also made 5 RCL 9 placements, bringing the total to 11 RCL 9 placements between CFS and Probation. Similarly, CFS and Probation made 35 RCL 14 placements in December 2014, but San Bernardino County had only 12 beds available. Second, children should be placed in a group home with specific treatment programs. The fact that 61% (n = 293) of 479 placements supervised by San Bernardino County were in out-of-county group homes is an indicator that in-county group homes do not offer a program matched with certain children's needs. Finally, other counties place their children in group homes located in San Bernardino County. Therefore, it may be concluded that while San Bernardino County has a numeric abundance of bed capacity that exceeds the total placing population, the continued placement of children in out-of-county group homes is an indicator that the range of RCLs and treatment programs is insufficient for the county's placing needs.

(Table 3-6) Group Home Placements¹² and Bed Capacities, by RCL (Dec. 2014)

RCL	CFS	Probation	Total GH Placements	Number of GH Beds in San Bernardino
Regional Center	0	0	0	6
6	2	0	2	0
7	2	0	2	6
8	14	0	14	6
9	6	5	11	0
10	82	23	105	278
11	83	8	91	124
12	152	48	200	180

¹² County placements include both in-county and out-of-county placements. Multiple placements per child in the month were counted.

14	30	5	35	12
Unknown	3	18	21	20
San Bernardino County Total	374	107	481	632

Riverside County Group Home Facilities and Bed Capacities by Region and City

San Bernardino County and Riverside County are adjacent and can be considered one placement area (i.e., the Inland Empire). Placing departments tend to look for group homes close to the child’s own home and many group homes in Riverside County are desirable options for children supervised by San Bernardino County. Therefore, the number of group home facilities and bed capacities in Riverside County is also included in this assessment.

As of December 2014, Riverside County had 64 group home facilities and 600 beds. In 2008, Riverside County had 107 group home facilities and 1,007 beds, most of which were RCL 12. This represents a loss of 43 group home facilities and 407 beds over a 6-year period. Overall, Riverside County has seen a larger decrease in facilities and beds when compared to San Bernardino County. Despite having more group home closures throughout the years, Riverside County has a comparable number of group home facilities and beds to San Bernardino County.

Table 3-7 shows the number of group home facilities and beds in Riverside County by RCL. Most group home facilities and beds in Riverside County are RCL 12. In comparison, San Bernardino County has 17 RCL 12 group homes, with the majority of facilities at RCL 10 (n = 19). Given that there are no RCL 14 group homes located in Riverside County – 6 have closed since 2008, accounting for the loss of 43 RCL 14 beds – and only 2 in San Bernardino County, most of the RCL 14 children supervised by San Bernardino County are placed outside of the Inland Empire.

(Table 3-7) Group Home Facilities and Bed Capacities, by RCL Riverside County (Dec. 2014)

RCL	Number (%) of Facilities	Number (%) of Beds
6	6 (9.4%)	36 (6.0%)
8	5 (7.8%)	36 (6.0%)
9	3 (4.7%)	36 (6.0%)
10	7 (10.9%)	60 (10.0%)
11	10 (15.6%)	60 (10.0%)
12	33 (51.6%)	372 (62.0%)
Riverside County Total	64	600

Table 3-8 (on the following page) shows the number of group home facilities and beds in Riverside County by geographical region and city. The highest concentration of group homes is in the Western region, followed by the Mid Region. However, the highest concentration of beds is in the Mid-Region, followed by the

Western region. The Desert region has the least number of facilities and beds when compared to the other regions. In comparison to the Southern and Mid Region, the Western and Desert regions have experienced the greatest decrease in number of group home facilities and beds since 2008.

(Table 3-8) Group Home Facilities and Bed Capacities, Riverside County (Dec. 2014)

Riverside County Region/City	Number (%) of Facilities	Number (%) of Beds
Western	32 (50.0%)	198 (33.0%)
Corona	1	6
Eastvale	1	6
Moreno Valley	15	96
Norco	1	6
Riverside	14	84
Mid Region	20 (31.3%)	224 (37.3%)
Banning	4	24
Beaumont	1	96
Cabazon	1	6
Cherry Valley	1	6
Hemet	3	32
Perris	10	60
Desert	4 (6.3%)	42 (7.0%)
Desert Hot Springs	1	24
Indio	1	6
Palm Desert	1	6
Thousand Palms	1	6
Southern	8 (12.5%)	136 (22.7%)
Lake Elsinore	1	6
Menifee	1	6
Murrieta	2	82
Temecula	4	42
San Bernardino County Total	64	600

3-2. GEO-Mapping of Group Homes in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties

The following maps display the location of each group home along with their bed capacities and Rate Classification Levels (RCLs). In addition to the group home location, information concerning local law enforcement (e.g., police stations and sheriff's offices), fire stations, and hospitals are displayed on the maps. RCLs and bed capacities of each group home facility are further described by shape and color of icons. For further information, please see the legend on each map.

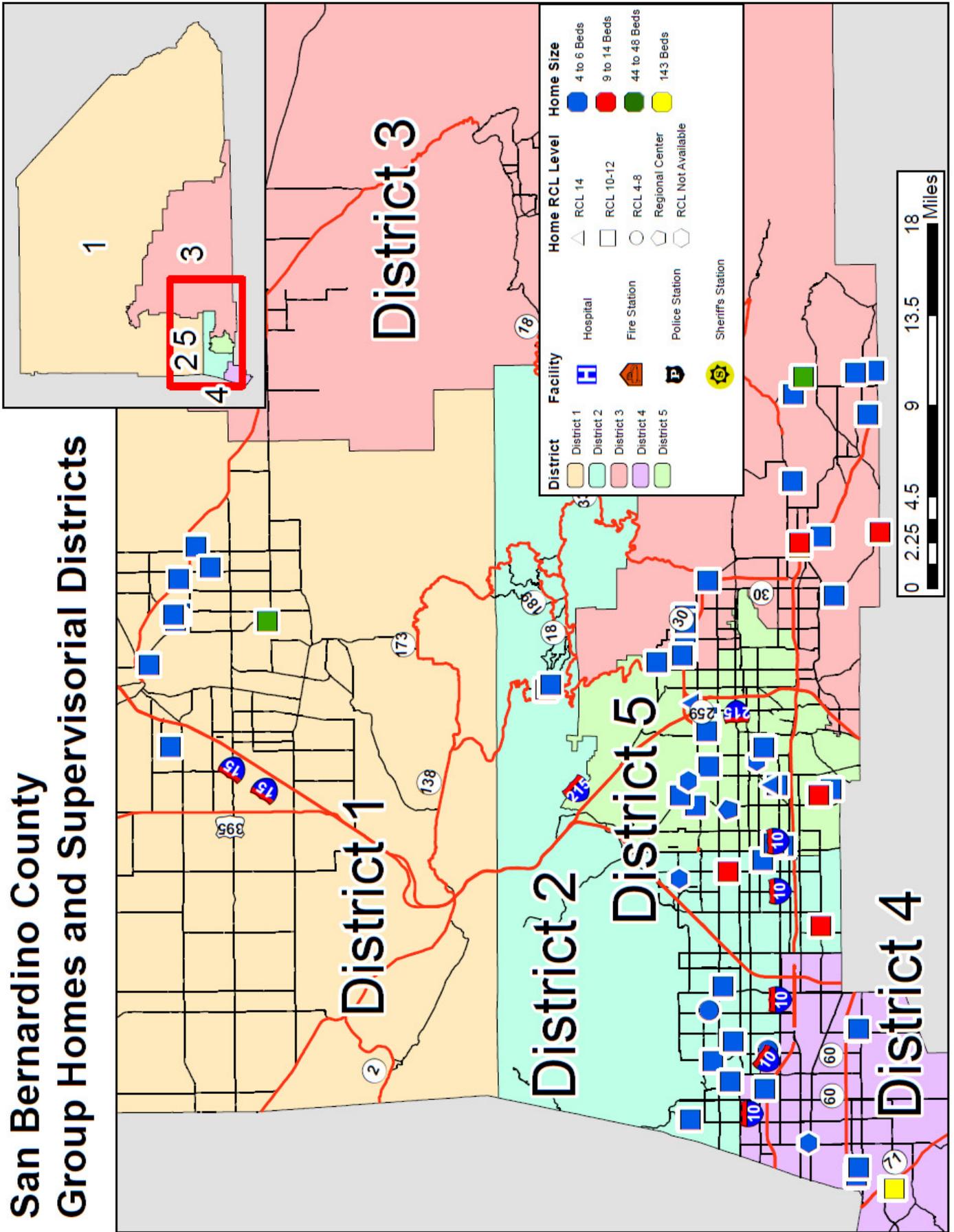
- Map 1: San Bernardino County Overview of the Group Home Facility Distribution
- Map 2: Detailed Map of Supervisory District 1 of San Bernardino County
- Map 3: Detailed Map of Supervisory District 2 of San Bernardino County (a)
- Map 4: Detailed Map of Supervisory District 2 of San Bernardino County (b)
- Map 4: Detailed Map of Supervisory District 3 of San Bernardino County
- Map 5: Detailed Map of Supervisory District 4 of San Bernardino County
- Map 6: Detailed Map of Supervisory District 5 of San Bernardino County
- Map 7: Riverside County Overview of Group Home Facility Distribution

The first map provides the overview of the group home facility distribution in San Bernardino County. Additional maps provide greater details in the five Supervisorial Districts.

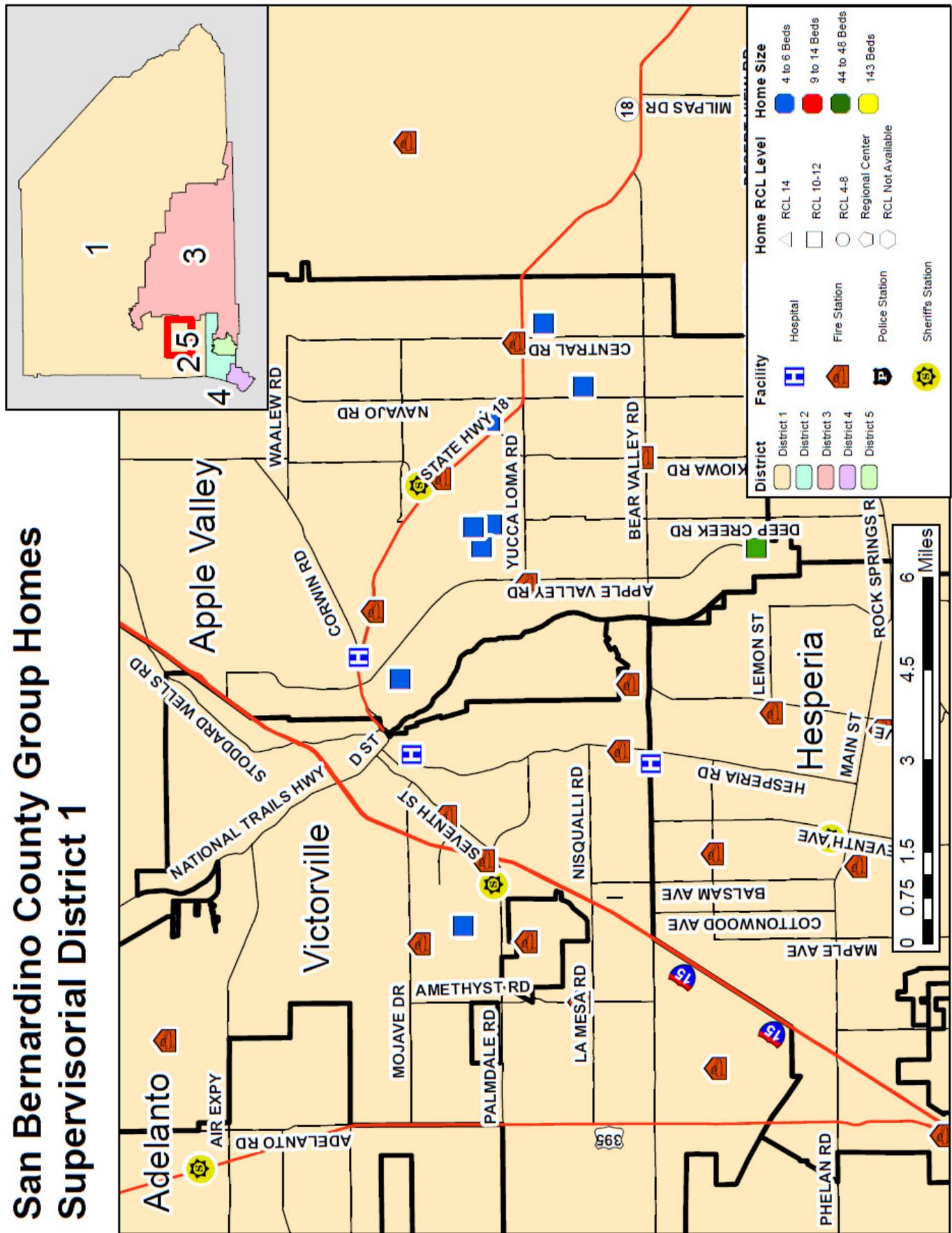
For further information concerning mapping of group homes, please contact:

Christopher Rinewalt
Statistical Analyst
909-387-8868
Human Services Administration
Research, Outcomes and Quality Support Unit

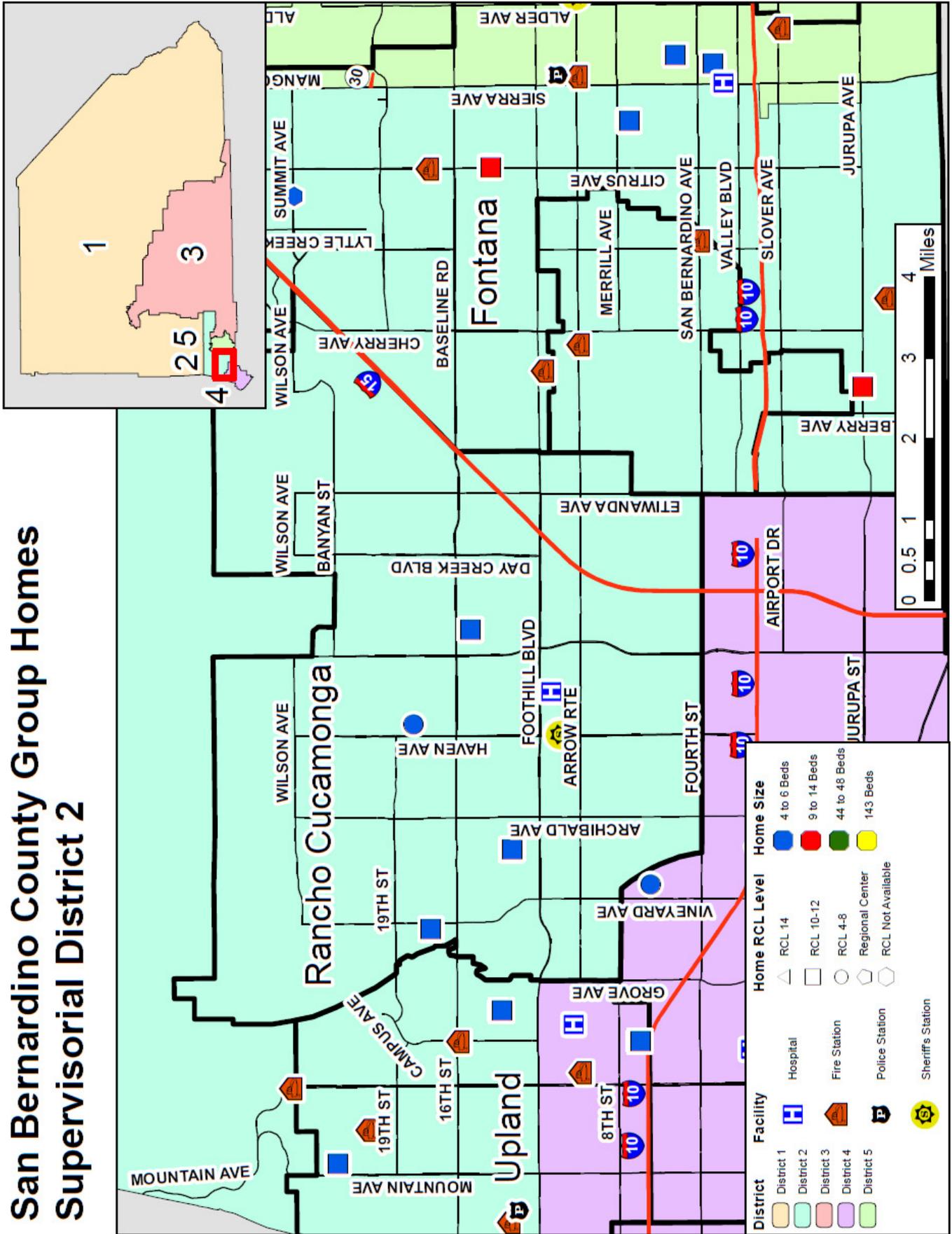
San Bernardino County Group Homes and Supervisorial Districts



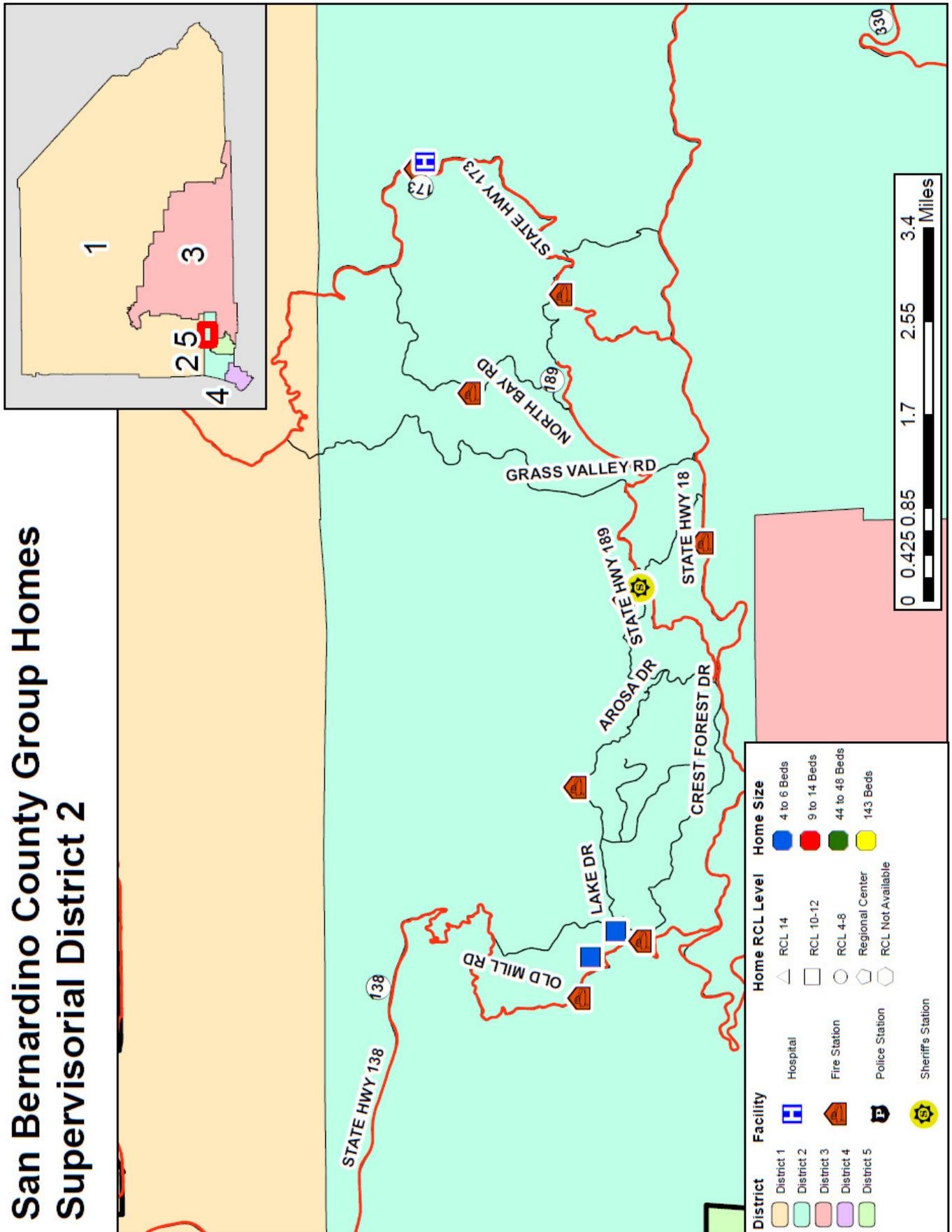
San Bernardino County Group Homes Supervisory District 1



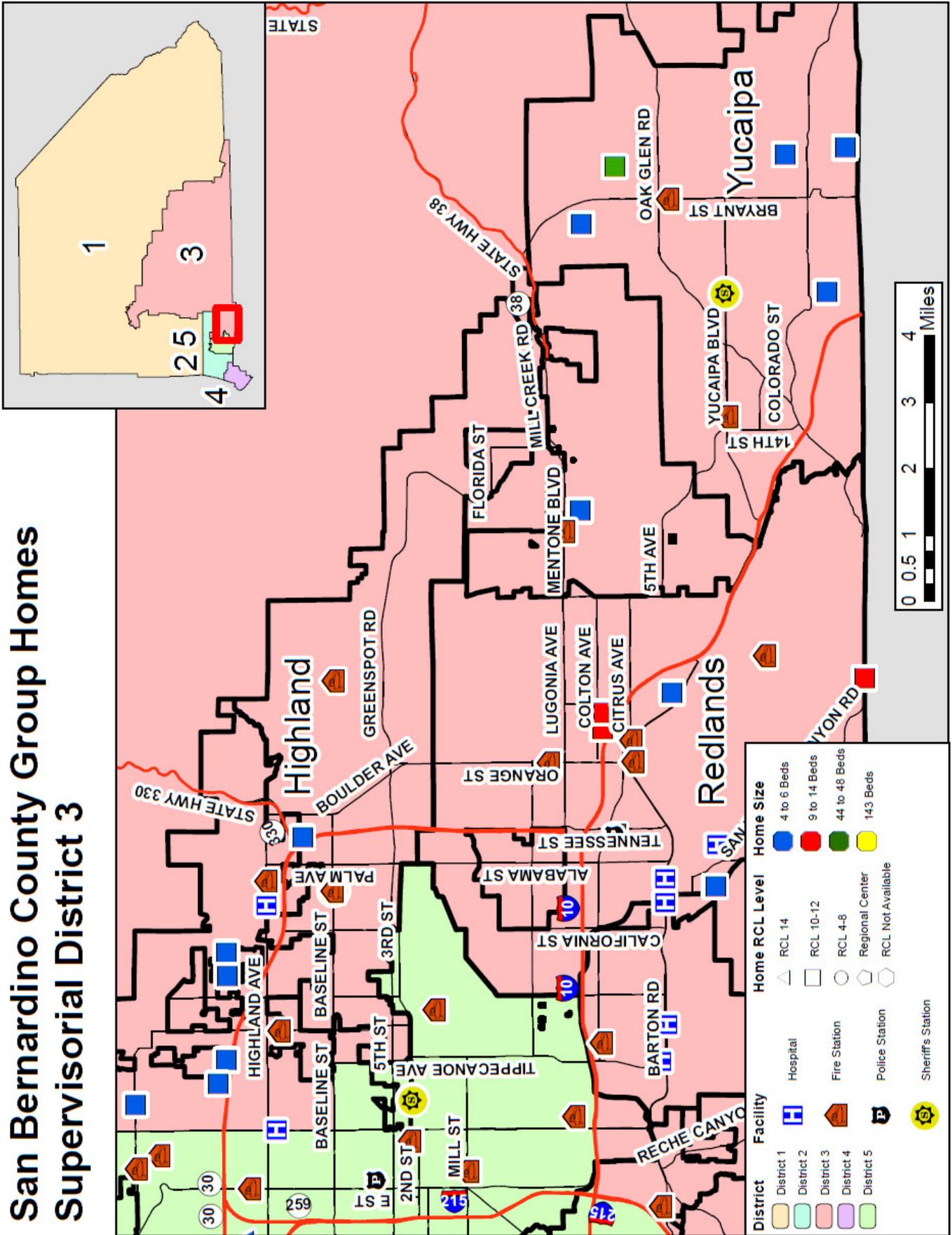
San Bernardino County Group Homes Supervisory District 2



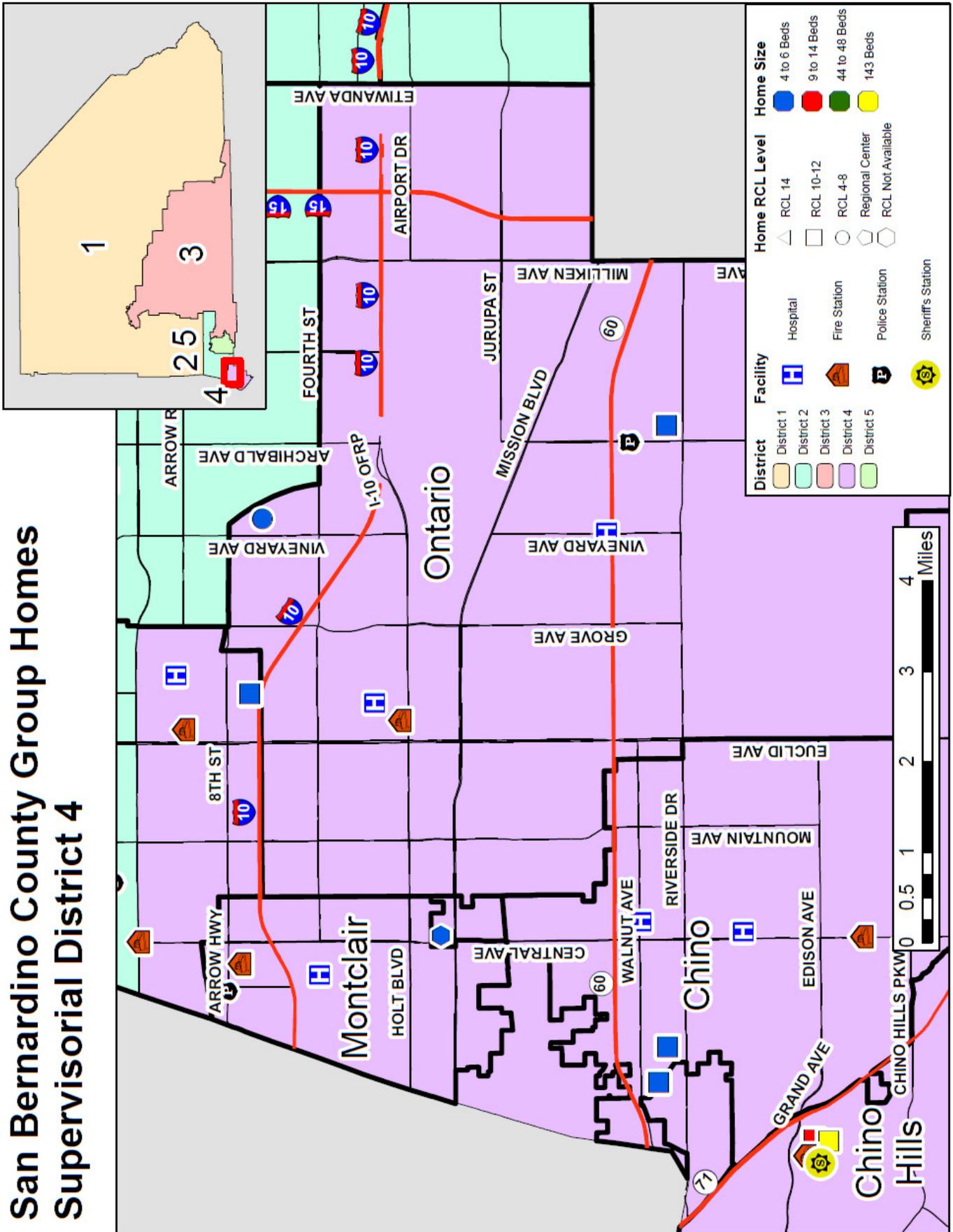
San Bernardino County Group Homes Supervisory District 2



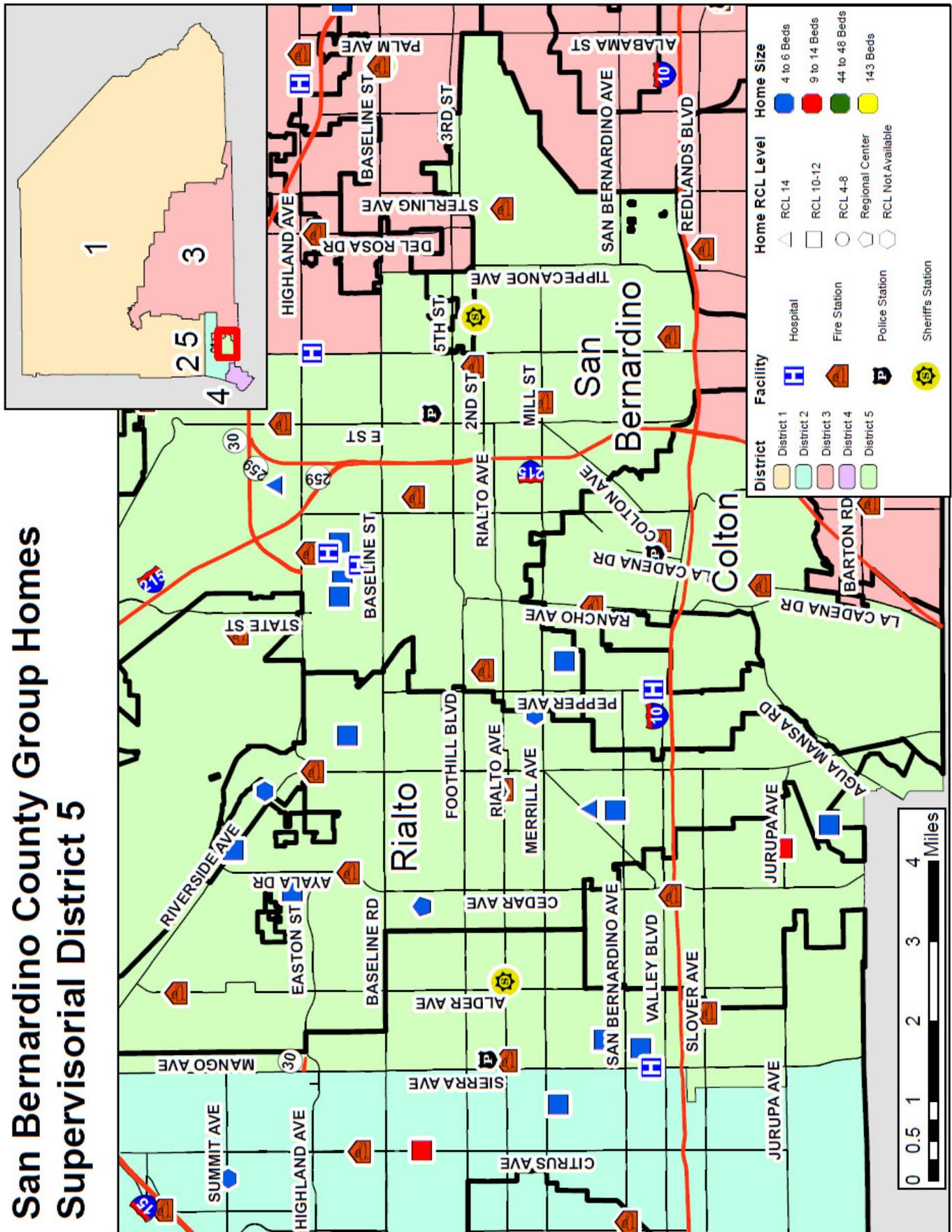
San Bernardino County Group Homes Supervisory District 3



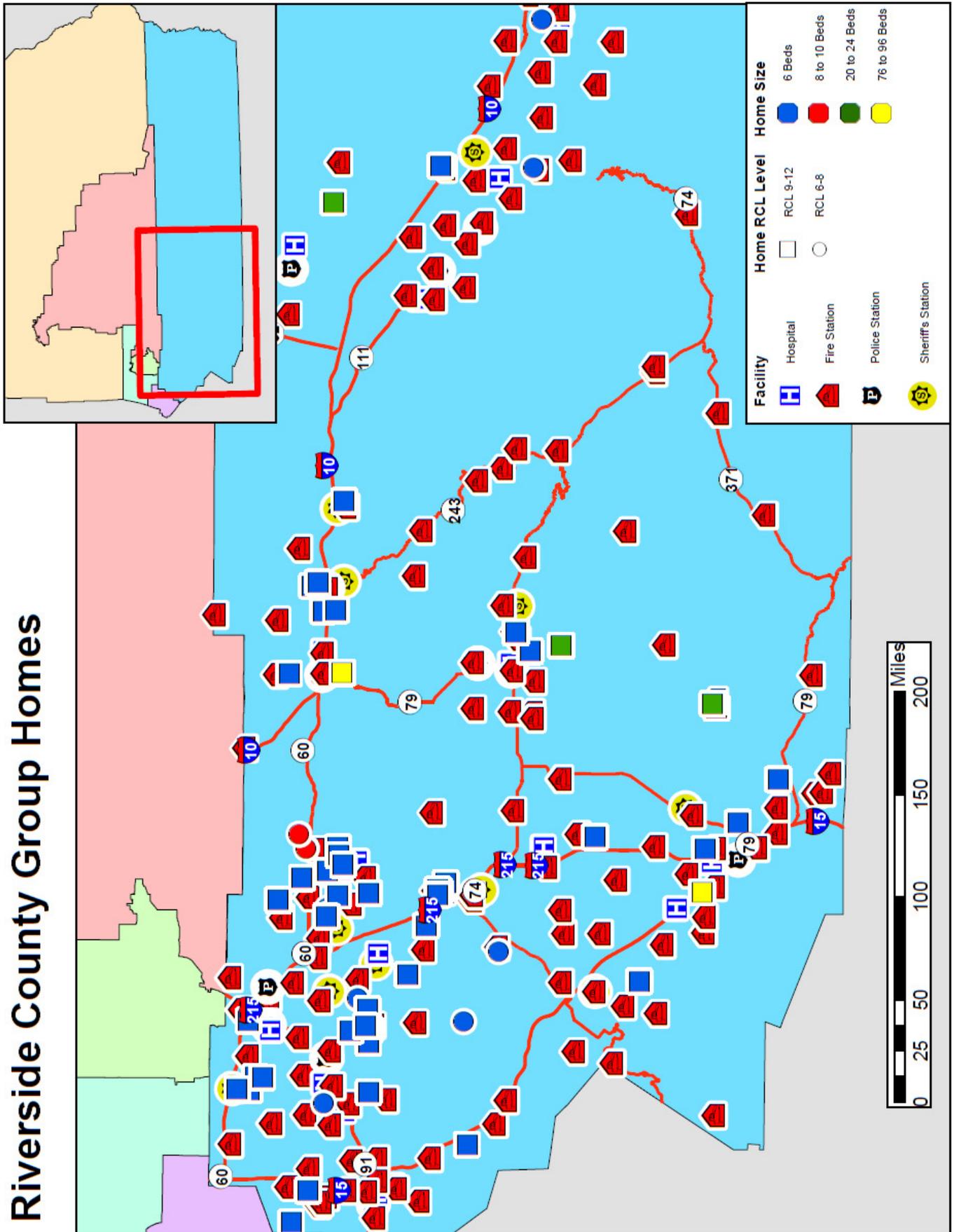
San Bernardino County Group Homes Supervisory District 4



San Bernardino County Group Homes Supervisory District 5



Riverside County Group Homes



Section 4: Data Summary

Section 4 summarizes various analyses of administrative data and results from past assessments to describe the characteristics of group home placements and San Bernardino County supervised children in group homes from different aspects.

Section 4 includes San Bernardino County overview, demographics of children in group homes, and reports of abuse and incidents in group homes.

4-1. San Bernardino County Supervised Children Overview

Section 4-1 describes the demographical characteristics of San Bernardino County and San Bernardino County children.

San Bernardino County Overview and Comparison with Neighboring Counties

San Bernardino County is the largest geographic county in California. The county is located in southeast California bordering on Kern, Inyo, Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside Counties and the States of Arizona and Nevada.

Table 4-1 compares statistics among neighboring counties with large populations.

(Table 4-1) Data by County (2014 Projections)

County	San Bernardino	Riverside	Los Angeles	Orange	San Diego
Total Area (square miles)*	20,104.892	7,303.31	4,751.055	948.076	4,525.701
Land Area (square miles)*	20,057.042	7,206.423	4,058.075	790.638	4,206.666
Water Area (square miles)*	47.850	96.887	692.980	157.438	319.035
Number of Cities	31	28	88	34	18
Total Population: All Ages**	2,096,123	2,294,333	10,082,664	3,125,833	3,214,279
Population: Under 18 Years**	566,115	596,202	2,328,466	712,390	731,290
Median Household Income***	54,090	56,529	55,909	75,422	62,962

Data Source:

* U.S. Gazetteer, http://www2.census.gov/geo/gazetteer/2014_Gazetteer/2014_gaz_counties_06.txt

** State of California, Department of Finance, Report P-3: State and County Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity, Detailed Age, and Gender, 2010-2060. Sacramento, California, December 2014.

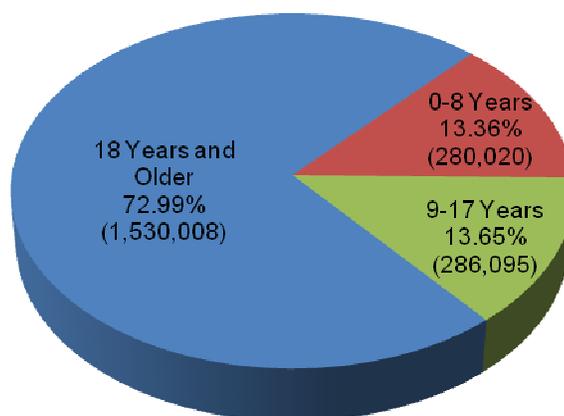
*** U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 5-Year American Community Survey

San Bernardino County Population by Age Groups

The total population of San Bernardino County in 2014 was 2,096,123 according to the California Department of Finance. In 2014, the population of children under 18 years old in San Bernardino County was 566,115, accounting for 27.0% of the total population.

(Graph 4-2) San Bernardino County Population by Age Groups (2014 Projection¹³)

**San Bernardino County Total Population
=2,096,123**



Data Source: State of California, Department of Finance, Report P-3: State and County Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity, Detailed Age, and Gender, 2010-2060. Sacramento, California, December 2014.

San Bernardino County Population by Age Groups & Ethnicity

(Table 4-3) San Bernardino County Population by Age Groups & Ethnicity (2014 Projection)

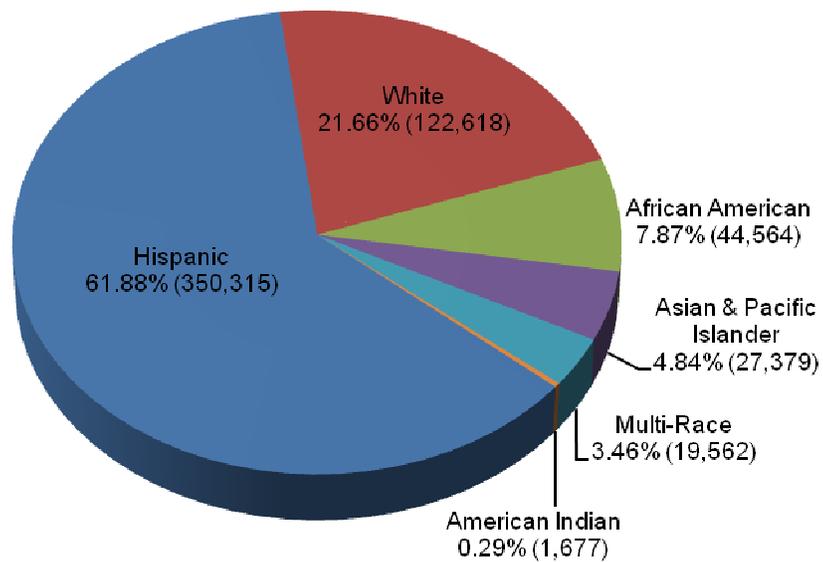
	All Ages		Under 18 Year-Old		18 Years and Older	
Total	2,096,123		566,115		1,530,008	
Hispanic	1,060,475	50.59%	350,315	61.88%	710,160	46.42%
White	675,043	32.2%	122,618	21.66%	552,425	36.11%
African American	173,969	8.31%	44,564	7.87%	129,405	8.46%
Asian & Pacific Islander	131,557	6.28%	27,379	4.84%	104,178	6.81%
Multi Race	45,799	2.18%	19,562	3.46%	26,237	1.71%
American Indian	9,280	0.44%	1,677	0.29%	7,603	0.49%

¹³ State of California, Department of Finance projected population in 2014 based on 2010 Census data.

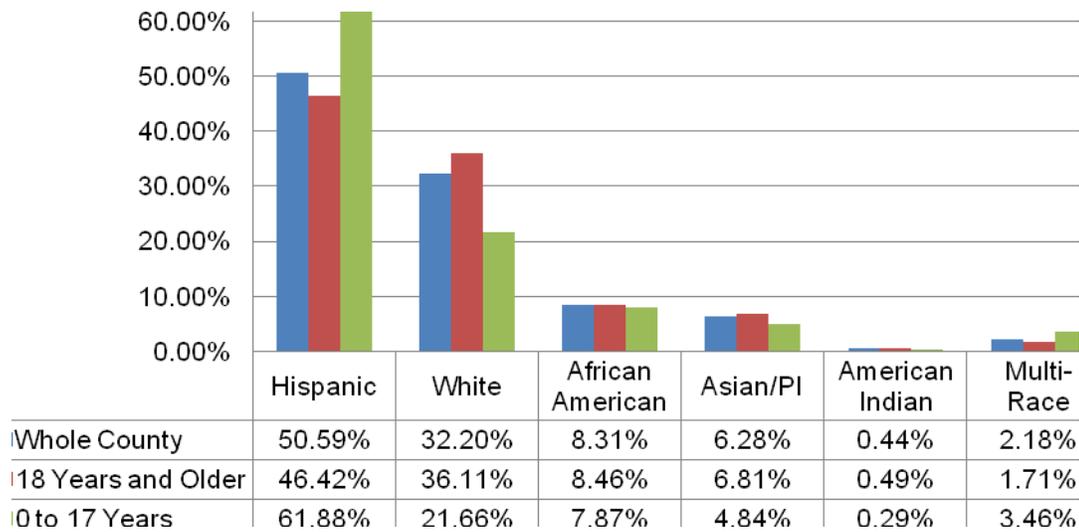
Data Source: State of California, Department of Finance, Report P-3: State and County Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity, Detailed Age, and Gender, 2010-2060. Sacramento, California, December 2014.

Among the population of children under 18 years old in San Bernardino County, Hispanics were the highest population (61.88%). Whites were the second highest population (21.66%) followed by African Americans (7.87%) (see Table 4-3 & Graph 4-4). This ranking is consistent across age groups. However, among the younger generations, the proportion of the Hispanic population increased, while that of the White population decreased.

(Graph 4-4) San Bernardino County Population Under 18 Years Old by Ethnicity (2014 Projection)



(Graph 4-5) San Bernardino County Proportion of Ethnicity Comparison by Age Groups (2014 Projection)



PI – Pacific Islander

4-2. San Bernardino County Supervised Children in Group Homes

Children and Family Services and Probation, place and supervise children in group home facilities. They place children in group homes located in San Bernardino County and outside of San Bernardino County. In addition, these departments may place children in group homes located outside of California. Since each department serves distinct populations (see “Placing Departments and Children’s Issues” below), Section 4-2 analyzes demographics and characteristics of San Bernardino County supervised group home children for each department.

At the time the 2008 Group Home Needs Assessment took place, DBH placed children whose mental health issues, such as a Serious Emotional Disorder (SED), required residential placement under their plan. Parents typically retained the legal custody of the children. Although DBH no longer places children into group homes, the department continues to provide services to children in need of specialized mental health treatment. Data from past DBH placements are also featured in Section 4.

Who are County of San Bernardino Supervised Group Home Children?

As previously mentioned, the placement agencies place children in group homes located in San Bernardino County, other counties in California, and outside of California. **No matter where these group homes are located, if the children are placed by a County of San Bernardino placing department, these children are defined as *San Bernardino County supervised group home children*.** Even though children from other counties live in group homes located in San Bernardino County, children who are placed by other counties are not considered County of San Bernardino supervised group home children.

Placing Departments and Children's Issues

Children and Family Services (CFS): This placing department serves children who have been removed from their home due to abuse or neglect by parents, and those whose parents are incapacitated and cannot provide adequate care. As of December 2014, CFS supervised 352 children in group homes.

Probation Department (Probation): This placing department supervises juvenile offenders in group homes. As of December 2014, Probation supervised 106 children in group homes.

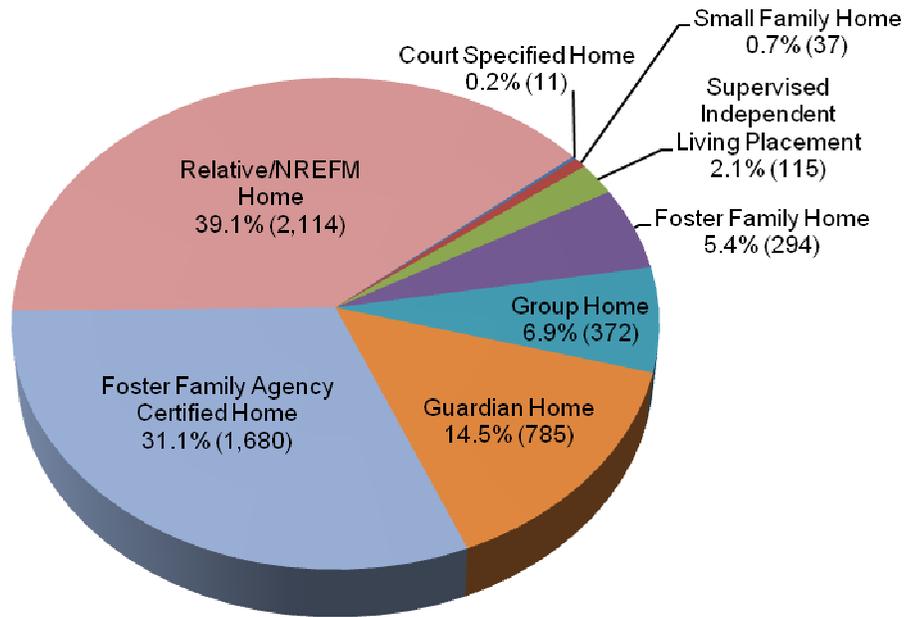
Group Home Placement among Out-of-Home Care

A group home is a type of out-of-home care. Out-of-home care includes County Licensed Foster Family Homes, State Licensed Foster Family Agencies, Small family Homes, Relative/Guardian Homes, and Group Homes.

Graph 4-6 shows the number of placements for 5,227 CFS supervised children. 174 children had 2 or more placements, resulting in a total of 5,408 placements for December 2014. Among the 5,227 out-of-home care children supervised by CFS in December 2014, there were 372 group home placements, accounting for 6.9% of total CFS out-of-home care placements.

(Graph 4-6) County of San Bernardino CFS Out-of-Home Care Placements (Dec. 2014)

**CFS Supervised Out-of-Home Care Placements
(Total = 5,408)**

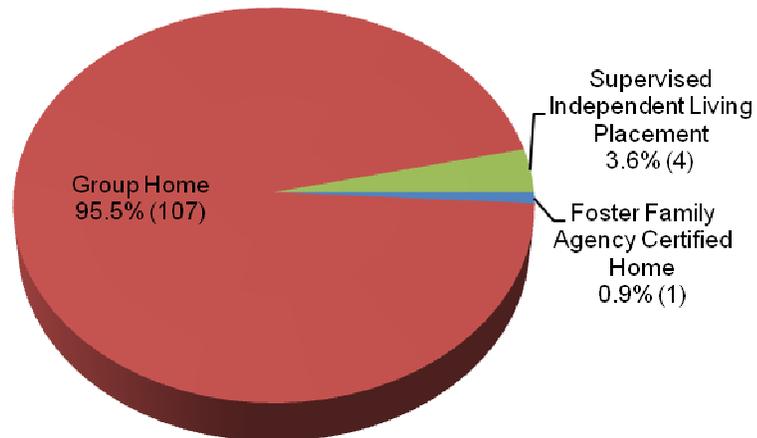


Data Source: CWS/CMS, data extracted January 7, 2015

Graph 4-7 illustrates the types of out-of-home placement for probation youth. Among the 106 out-of-home care youths supervised by Probation in December 2014, there were 107 group home placements (in total, there were 112 out-of-home placements). Probation supervised youth are more often placed into group homes because the treatment needs of these youth are better served in these settings. The total number of youths supervised by CFS and Probation in a group home in December 2014 was 458.

(Graph 4-7) San Bernardino County Probation Out-of-Home Care Placements (Dec. 2014)

**Probation Supervised Out of Home Care Placements
(Total = 112)**



Data Source: CWS/CMS, data extracted January 7, 2015

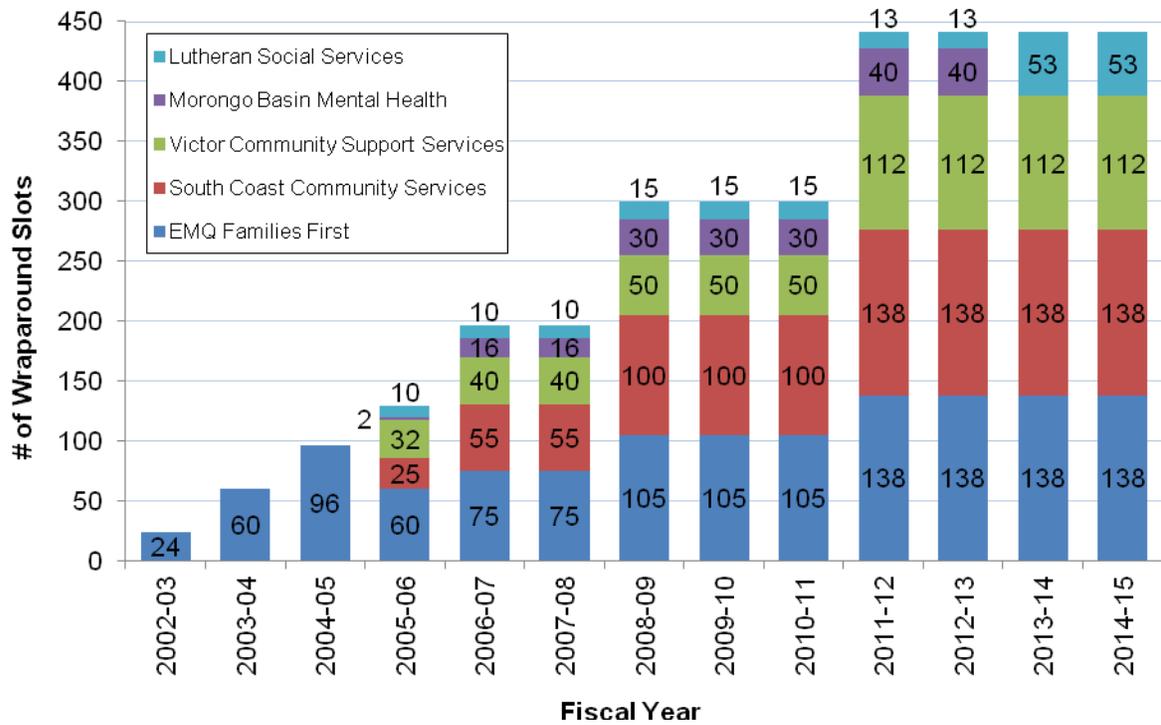
Impact of the Wraparound and ChRIS Programs on Group Home Placements by County Departments

Wraparound is a family-centered, strength-based program that offers an alternative to group home placements and is currently available to children who are Juvenile Court dependents or wards of San Bernardino County's Children and Family Services or Probation. Since the inception of Wraparound in our county in 2003, approximately 3,200 children have been placed in Wraparound who would have otherwise been placed in a group home RCL 10 or higher.

Wraparound allows for counties more flexible use of existing state foster care dollars for children in or at risk of being placed in RCL 10 to RCL 14 group home facilities. Eligible children are able to receive a broader array of service alternatives using the Wraparound process. A child's group home placement dollars can be used to purchase a variety of formal and informal supports and services to maintain the child in a family setting.

Wraparound began in San Bernardino County in fiscal year 2002-2003 (FY02-03) with one provider and 24 slots. Today, the current contract is for 4 providers, with 441 slots. As of December 2014, a total of 290 youths are being served by the Wraparound vendors: 33 Probation youths, and 257 CFS supervised youths.

(Graph 4-8) Number of Wraparound Slots by Service Provider for Fiscal Years 2002-03 to 2014-15



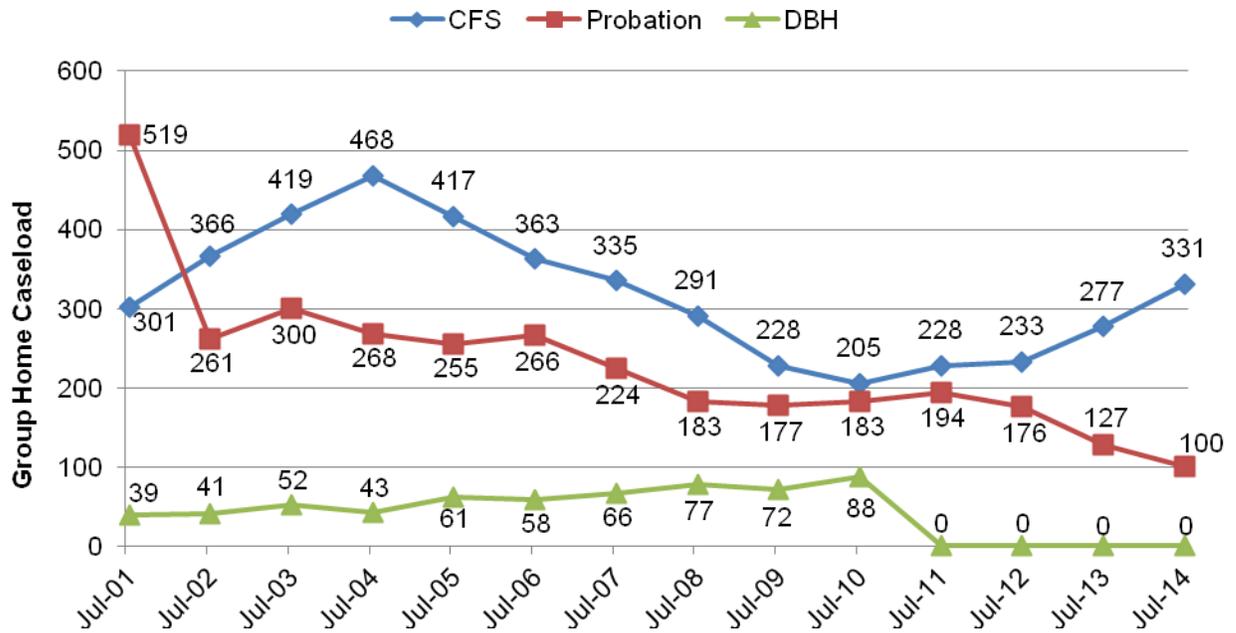
Data Source: Children and Family Services, Program Resources Division, Wraparound Unit

While Wraparound serves as an alternative to group home placement for children at risk of RCL 10-14 placement, ChRIS works to transition youth out of group home care. In 2008, Children and Family Services, the Department of Behavioral Health, and the Probation Department partnered with Victor Treatment Center and joined the State’s Residentially Based Services (RBS) initiative. San Bernardino County departments developed the RBS program for youth ages 13 to 17 at risk of placement at the highest level group home level (RCL 14). The county’s goals for the RBS program were to transition children from group care to community care, to reduce the number of out-of-state residential care placements, and to reduce the number of psychiatric hospitalizations. After two years of development (2008 to 2010), the county placed children in the program for 3 years (July 2010 to June 2013). At the end of the Residentially Based Services initiative, Children and Family Services and Department of Behavioral Health implemented an improved county version of RBS called Children’s Residential Intensive Services (ChRIS) that contracts with three providers (RCL 12 and RCL 14). In FY2013-2014, 60 youths were served in the ChRIS program (26 at RCL 14 and 34 at RCL 12). In comparison, in FY2012-2013, 19 youths were served in the ChRIS program.

Wraparound and ChRIS, along with the implementation of new regulations, may have had an impact on the reduction of youths’ group home placements. In July 2003, there were 771 San Bernardino County youths in a group home placement, and as of July 2014 there were 431 San Bernardino County youths in a group home placement, a 44% decrease. The recent increase in placements may be due, in part, to dual status youths. For example, a CFS supervised youth may be on Probation,

but the court has ordered CFS as the lead agency, and therefore responsible for placement.

(Graph 4-9) Group Home Caseloads from 2001 to 2014 (point-in-time)



Data Source: CWS/CMS, data extracted January 7, 2015

Group Home Placements by Location of Group Home (CFS and Probation Supervised Children)

As previously mentioned, San Bernardino County placing departments placed and supervised children in and outside of San Bernardino County. During December 2014, 458 total children were in an active group home placement: CFS supervised 372 placements and Probation supervised 107 placements (see Table 4-10).¹⁴

Among the total 352 CFS children in a group home placement during December 2014, 158 (42.47%) of the placements made by CFS were in group homes located in San Bernardino County (in-county placements). There were 214 (57.53%) out-of-county placements made by CFS.

Out of the total 106 group home children supervised by Probation in December 2014, there were 28 (26.17%) in-county placements and 57 (53.27%) out-of-county placements. There were 22 (20.56%) out-of-state placements.

Table 4-10 summarizes the number of in-county, out-of-county, and out-of-state placements during one month in 2008, 2012, and 2014. In addition, Graphs 4-11 and 4-12 describe the point-in-time comparison of the number of placements by location for CFS and Probation.

(Table 4-10) In-county, out-of-county, and out-of-state placements during one month

		2008 (Nov.)		2012 (Dec.)		2014 (Dec.)	
CFS	Department Total Placements	247		294		372	
	In-County	103	41.70% ¹⁵	127	43.20%	158	42.47%
	Out-of-County	141	57.00%	163	54.44%	214	57.53%
	Out-of-State	3	1.20%	4	1.36%	0	0.00%
DBH	Department Total Placements	61		n/a		n/a	
	In-County	17	27.87%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Out-of-County	19	31.15%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Out-of-State	25	40.98%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Probation	Department Total Placements	161		118		107	
	In-County	75	46.60%	26	22.03%	28	26.17%
	Out-of-County	86	53.40%	75	63.56%	57	53.27%
	Out-of-State	0	0.00%	17	14.41%	22	20.56%
Total Group Home Placements by All Placing Departments		469		412		479	
Unique Child Count				383		458	

Data Source: CWS/CMS

As of December 2014, 61% of all group home placements were out-of-county (including out-of-state placements). The following charts identify the number of out-

¹⁴ The data includes dual status cases, where counts for the lead agency are displayed

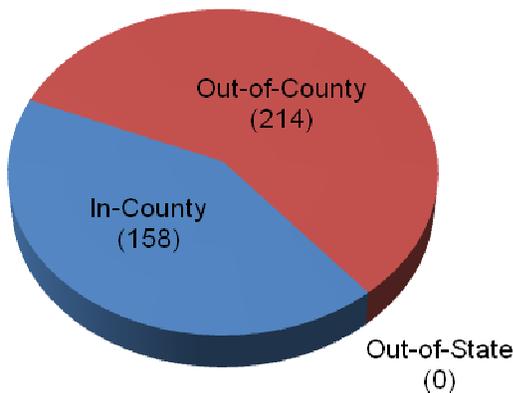
¹⁵ The percentage indicates the proportion of placement into different locations to total numbers of placements per year.

of-state and out-of-county placements made by each department, as well as the number of placements made within San Bernardino County.

Graph 4-11 shows the number of placements made by CFS, while Graph 4-12 shows the number of Probation placements. Of the 479 total placements, 293 (61%) were out-of-county or out-of-state.

(Graph 4-11) San Bernardino County CFS Group Home Children's Placement Location (Dec. 2014)

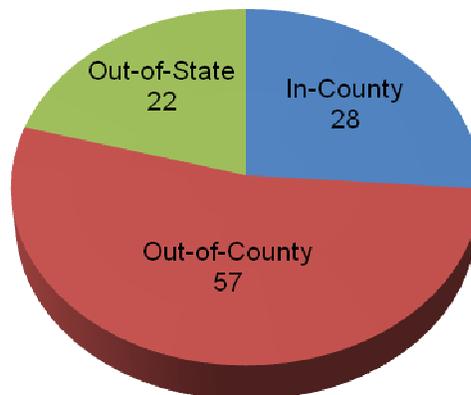
CFS Group Home Placement Location
Total = 372



Data Source: CWS/CMS

(Graph 4-12) San Bernardino County CFS Group Home Children's Placement Location (Dec. 2014)

Probation Group Home Placement Location
Total = 107

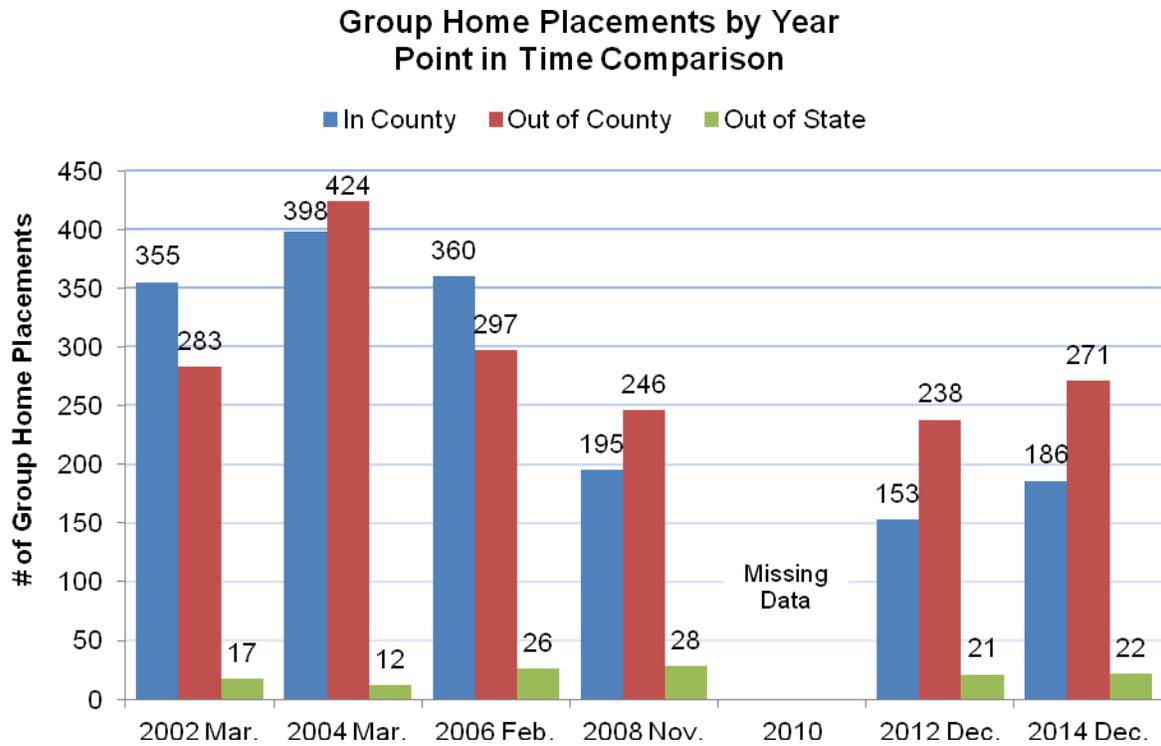


Data Source: CWS/CMS

Graph 4-13 shows the total number of in-county, out-of-county, and out-of-state placements made over the past twelve years at 2-year intervals. The majority of

the placements throughout the years have been in out-of-county facilities with the exception of 2002 and 2006.

(Graph 4-13) Group Home Placement by Year, In and Out-of-County

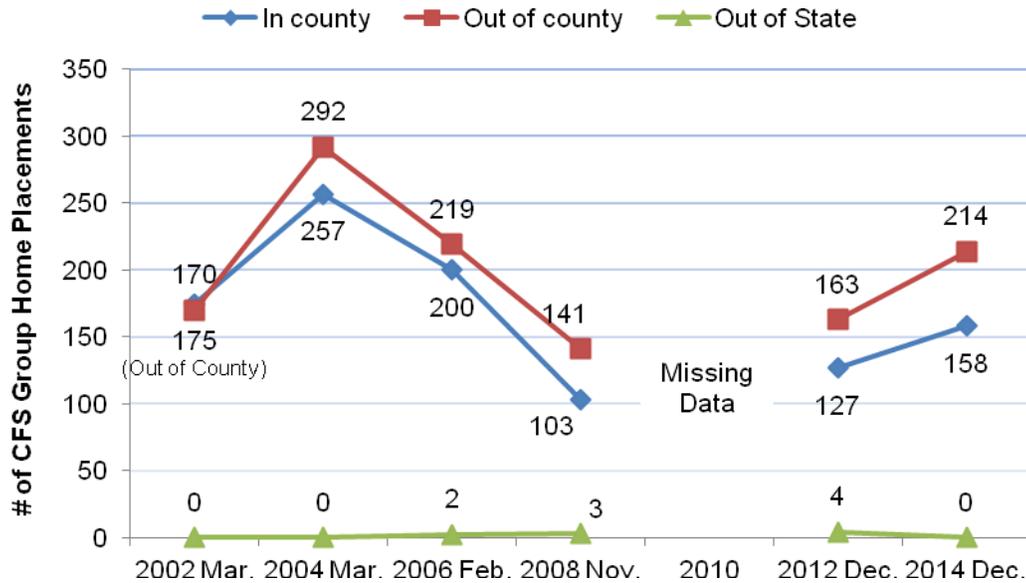


Data Source: CWS/CMS and prior Group Home Needs Assessments

CFS Group Home Placements

The total number of placements made by CFS decreased from 549 in March 2004 to 247 in November 2008 (44.99% decrease), before increasing slightly to 294 in December 2012, and once again to 372 in December 2014. Despite the fluctuation of placements, point-in-time data suggests that the proportion of in-county and out-of-county placements has been stable. Out-of-county group homes have had slightly more than 50% of total placements each year, gradually increasing to just under 60%. In comparison to in-county and out-of-county placements, CFS has made few out-of-state placements.¹⁶

(Graph 4-14) Change in the Number of Placements by Location (CFS)



Data Source: CWS/CMS

The following were the top three locations of group homes accepting County of San Bernardino CFS supervised children out-of-county placements in December 2014:

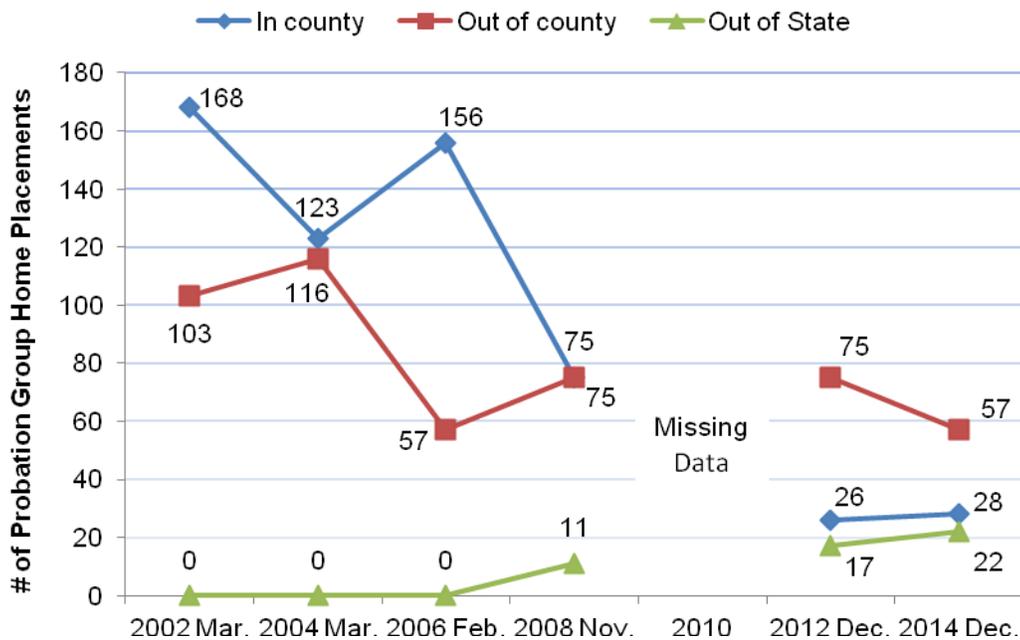
County	Number of Children
1. Los Angeles134
2. Riverside36
3. Kern36

¹⁶ Based on point-in-time data

Probation Group Home Placements

Point-in-time data suggests that as of November 2008, Probation has placed more children in group homes located outside of San Bernardino County than inside San Bernardino County. There were no out-of-state placements in March 2002, March 2004, and February 2006. In of November 2008, there were 11 out-of-state placements. Since then, out-of-state placements have doubled. Out-of-state placement offers some youth more treatment options that may be better suited to their needs. However, the total number of group home placements made by Probation has significantly decreased over the years. This is due, in part to the fact that Probation has experienced a decline in juvenile probation cases. Another factor in the reduction of Probation’s group home placement may be the result of the expansion of the Wraparound program.

(Graph 4-15) Change in the Number of Placements by Location (Probation)



Data Source: CWS/CMS

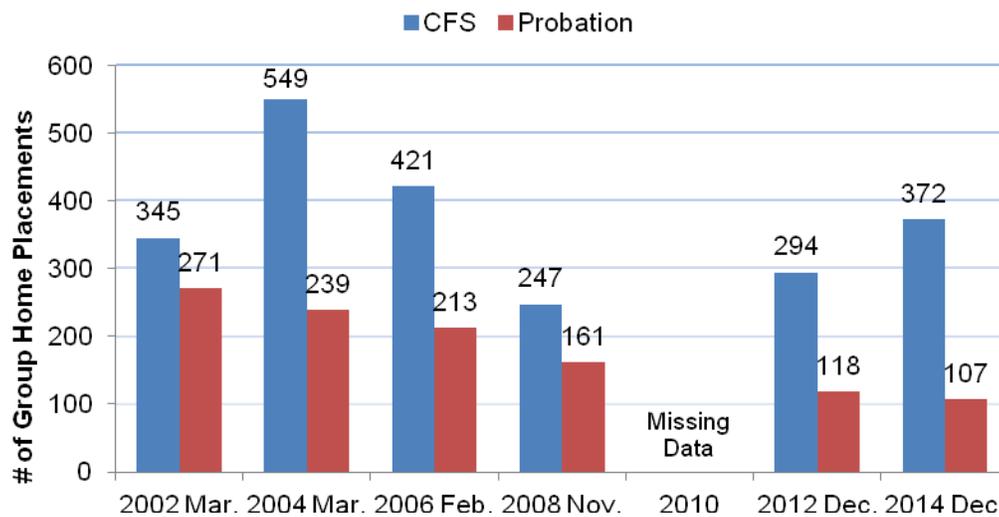
The following were the top three locations of group homes accepting County of San Bernardino Probation supervised youth out-of-county placements for December 2014:

County	Number of Children
1. Riverside	17
2. Los Angeles	11
3. Calaveras	9

Point-in-Time Comparison of Placements between Placing Departments March 2002-December 2014 (CFS and Probation Supervised Children)

Graph 4-17 describes the group home placement trends by San Bernardino County placing departments over 12 years. Over the years, there have been fluctuations in the number of placements. Legislative changes, Juvenile Court policy, diversion programs like Wraparound and CHRIS, as well as the closure of group homes may contribute to an increase or decrease in group home placements.

(Graph 4-17) Point-in-Time Comparison of the Number of Group Home Placements for Probation and CFS



Data Source: CWS/CMS

Table 4-18 describes the number and percentage change in CFS group home children by calendar year. The number of group home youth was fairly constant between 2010 and 2012, only to increase by 13.7% from 2012 to 2013 and by 14.9% from 2013 to 2014.

(Table 4-18) Change in CFS Children in Group Home Placements, January 1, 2014-December 31, 2014

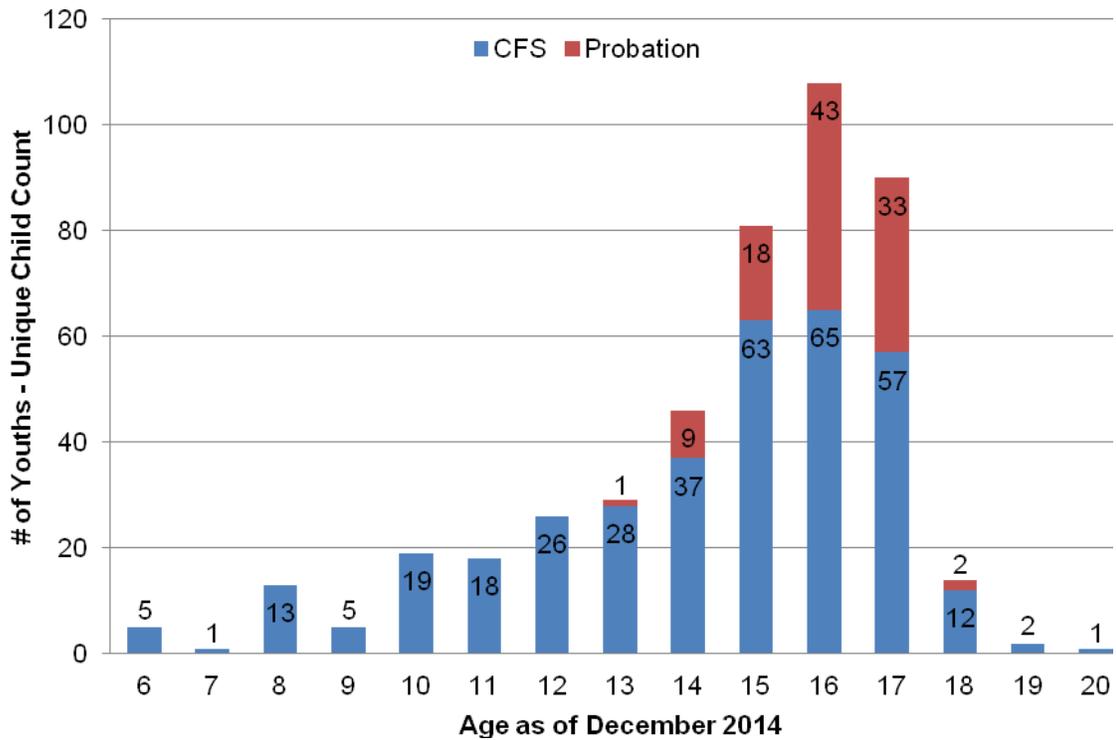
Placement Year	Child Welfare Supervised Youths in Group Homes	Change per Year	% Change per Year
2008	520	0	
2009	410	-110	-21.2%
2010	420	10	2.6%
2011	439	19	4.5%
2012	438	-1	-0.2%
2013	498	60	13.7%
2014	572	74	14.9%

Data Source: CWS/CMS

Age and Gender of San Bernardino County Supervised Children in Group Homes
December 2014 (CFS and Probation Supervised Children)

Graph 4-19 illustrates the age of children placed in group homes in December 2014 by each placing department. Overall, older children ages 14 to 17 are the majority of the group home population. CFS supervised children were in the age range from 6 to 20 years old. Probation supervised youth were in the age range of 13 to 18 years old. CFS supervised a larger age range of children compared to Probation. CFS also supervised a larger number of younger children than Probation due to the nature of their agency.

(Graph 4-19) Age of Children in Group Homes by Placing Departments (Dec. 2014)



Data Source: CWS/CMS

Table 4-20 describes the gender of San Bernardino County supervised children under 18 years of age in group homes in December 2014 by each department. Overall, there are more males than females. Among CFS supervised children under 18 years old in group homes (n = 337), males accounted for 61.42% (n = 207) and females accounted for 38.58% (n = 130). Among the total Probation supervised children under 18 years old (n = 104), males accounted for 85.58% (n = 89), and females accounted for 14.42% (n = 15). Among San Bernardino County population under the age of 18 years, 51.18% were males and 48.82% were females. When compared to the county population, males in group homes are over represented.

(Table 4-20) Gender of San Bernardino County Supervised Group Home Children under 18 (Dec. 2014)

	CFS		Probation		San Bernardino County Under 18 Years ¹⁷	
Female	130	38.58%	15	14.42%	276,371	48.82%
Male	207	61.42%	89	85.58%	289,744	51.18%

Data Source: CWS/CMS, State of California, Department of Finance, Report P-3: State and County Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity, Detailed Age, and Gender, 2010-2060. Sacramento, California, December 2014.

Tables 4-21a/b, 4-22a/b, and 4-23 (on the following pages) compare the number of in-county, out-of-county, and out-of-state placements in December 2014 by gender for each placing department. San Bernardino County supervised females tend to be placed in group homes located outside of San Bernardino County more often than within the county.

Table 4-21-a compares CFS supervised children by location of placement and gender. 72.8% (n = 99) of placements for females were out-of-county, compared to 27.2% (n = 37) in-county placements. CFS made no out-of-state placements in December 2014. The number of out-of-county placements seems high for females at a glance; however, 54.5% (n = 73) of CFS placements for females were in neighboring Riverside County. Thus, 80.9% (n = 110) of placements for females were in the Inland Empire (see Table 4-21-b). Therefore, it may be stated that the majority of CFS supervised females were placed comparatively close to their own homes.¹⁸

For males, 51.3% (n = 121) of CFS placements were in group homes located in San Bernardino County and 48.7% (n = 115) outside of county. There were no out-of-state placements in December 2014. Of those placed out of county, 53% (n = 61) placements were in neighboring Riverside County (see Table 4-22-b). Thus, 77.1% (n = 182) were in the Inland Empire.

The tables also indicate that males tend to have more placement moves than females. For 130 females supervised by CFS, there were 136 placements made for December 2014, while there were 207 males supervised by CFS and 236 placements.

¹⁷ Projections for 2014

¹⁸ This analysis does not include individual case analysis. If children living in the high desert region were placed in the County of Riverside, their parents may have to travel a considerable distance to visit with their children.

(Table 4-21-a) CFS Placement Count by Location and Gender (Dec. 2014)

	In-County	%	Out-of-County	%	Out-of-State	%	Total
Female	37	27.2%	99	72.8%	0	0.0%	136
Male	121	51.3%	115	48.7%	0	0.0%	236

Data Source: CWS/CMS

(Table 4-21-b) CFS Placement Count by Location and Gender with Count of Riverside County Placements (Dec. 2014)

	In-County	% In-County	Riverside County	% Riverside County	Out-of-County Excluding Riverside	% Out-of-County (-Riverside)	Out-of-State
Female	37	23.4%	73	54.5%	26	32.5%	0
Male	121	76.6%	61	45.5%	54	67.5%	0
Total	158		134		80		0

Table 4-22-a compares Probation supervised children by location of placement. Probation placed the majority of children outside of San Bernardino County regardless of the child's gender. Of the 15 females supervised by Probation, 60% (n = 9) of the placements were out-of-county and 40% (n = 6) were out-of-state. Of the 92 males supervised by Probation, 30.4% (n = 28) of the placements were in San Bernardino County. The majority, 52.2% (n = 48) of placements were out-of-county. The remaining 17.4% (n = 16) were out-of-state placements.

(Table 4-22-a) Probation Placement Count by Location and Gender (Dec. 2014)

	In-County	%	Out-of-County	%	Out-of-State	%	Total
Female	0	0.0%	9	60.0%	6	40.0%	15
Male	28	30.4%	48	52.2%	16	17.4%	92

Data Source: CWS/CMS

(Table 4-22-b) Probation Placement Count by Location and Gender with Count of Riverside County Placements (Dec. 2014)

	In-County	% In-County	Riverside County	% Riverside County	Out-of-County Excluding Riverside	% Out-of-County (-Riverside)	Out-of-State	%
Female	0	0.0%	5	29.4%	4	10.0%	6	27.3%
Male	28	100.0%	12	70.6%	36	90.0%	16	72.7%
Total	28		17		40		22	

Ethnicity of Children in San Bernardino County Group Homes (CFS and Probation Supervised Children)

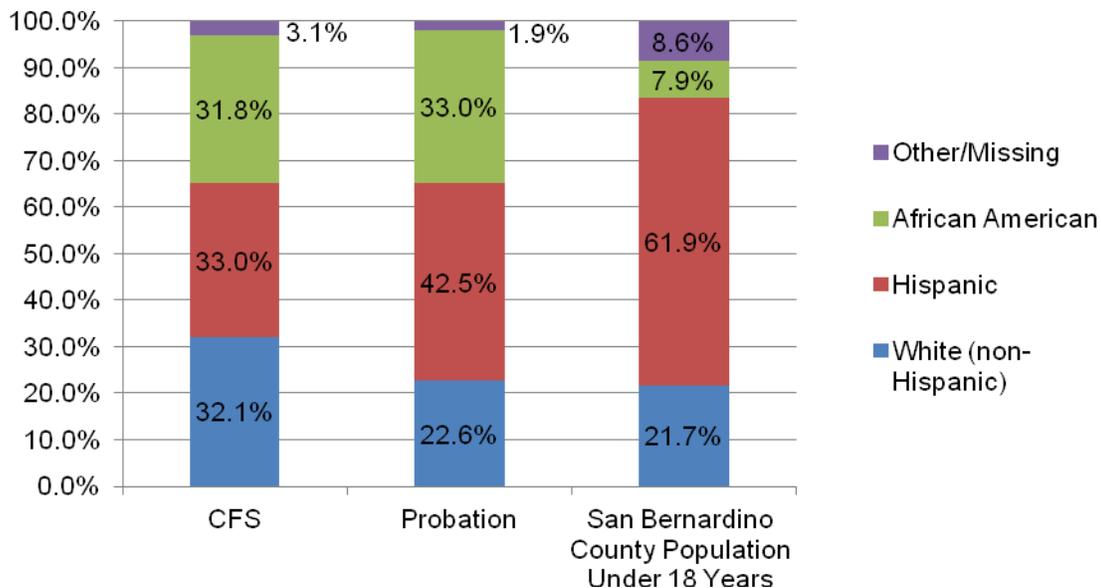
Table 4-23 summarizes the ethnicity of San Bernardino County supervised children in group homes by each placing department compared to the population under 18 years old in San Bernardino County. Graph 4-24 compares the proportion of each ethnicity by placing departments and the overall San Bernardino County demographics. The highest proportion of the CFS supervised children were Hispanic (33.0%). An almost even proportion of White (32.1%) and African Americans (31.8%) were the next highest proportions. The highest proportion of Probation supervised children were Hispanic (42.5%), then White (33.0%). The highest proportion of Probation supervised children were Hispanic (42.5%), then White (33.0%).

(Table 4-23) Ethnicity of Children in Group Homes in San Bernardino County by Placing Departments Compared with San Bernardino County Population Under 18 Years Old

	CFS		Probation		San Bernardino County Under 18 Years ¹⁹	
White (non-Hispanic)	113	32.1%	24	22.6%	122,618	21.7%
Hispanic	116	33.0%	45	42.5%	350,315	61.9%
African American	112	31.8%	35	33.0%	44,564	7.9%
Other/Missing	11	3.1%	2	1.9%	48,618	8.6%
Total <18 Youths	352		106		566,115	

Data Source: CWS/CMS, Report P-3: State and County Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity, Detailed Age, and Gender, 2010-2060. Sacramento, California, December 2014.

(Graph 4-24) Ethnicity of Children in County Group Homes in San Bernardino by Placing Departments Compared with San Bernardino County Population under 18 years Old



Data Source: CWS/CMS

¹⁹ Projection for 2014

Table 4-25 compares the rate of children in group homes under 18 years old per 1,000 by ethnicity regardless of placing department in December 2014. Among White children, 1.12 out of every 1,000 were in group homes. Among Hispanic children, 0.46 out of 1,000 were in group homes. In addition, among African American children, 3.3 out of 1,000 were in group homes. This ratio indicates that Hispanic children's group home entering ratio was lower than those of White and African American children. Alternatively, it can be stated that African American children were over represented.

(Table 4-25) Number of Children in Group Homes under the Age of 18 by Ethnicity Point-in-Time Analysis (Dec. 2014) (CFS and Probation Supervised Children)

White	Hispanic	African American	Other
1.12 per 1,000 White Children	0.46 per 1,000 Hispanic Children	3.3 per 1,000 African American Children	0.27 per 1,000 Other Children

Duration of Stay in Group Homes – Point-in-Time Analysis (CFS and Probation Supervised Children)

Table 4-26 summarizes the length of stay in group homes for children with an active group home placement as of December 2014.

(Table 4-26) Children's Current Placement Duration in a Specific Group Home (Dec. 2014)

Placement Duration	CFS		Probation	
	Number of Children		Number of Children	
Less than 1 Month	45	12.10%	19	17.76%
1 to 6 Month	243	65.32%	54	50.47%
6 Month to 1 Year	19	5.11%	27	25.23%
1 to 2 Years	43	11.56%	6	5.61%
2 to 3 Years	15	4.03%	1	0.93%
3 to 4 Years	4	1.08%	0	0.00%
4 to 7 Years	3	0.81%	0	0.00%
Total	372		107	
Average Days in Group Home	223 Days		149 Days	
Minimum	1 Day		3 Days	
Maximum	2,399 Days/6.5 Years		945 Days/2.5 Years	

Data Source: CWS/CMS

Most (82.53%) of CFS supervised children stayed in their current group homes for less than 1 year. The average stay in group homes for CFS supervised children was 223 days, the stays ranged in length from 1 to 2,399 days.

Almost all (93.46%) of Probation supervised children stayed for less than 1 year. The average stay for Probation supervised children was 149 days, the stays ranged in length from 3 to 945 days.

Multiple Placement Analysis of CFS Supervised Children

The majority of group home children supervised by Children and Family Services have had more than one group home placement. Typically, a CFS child has had several family centered foster placements before entering a group home placement.

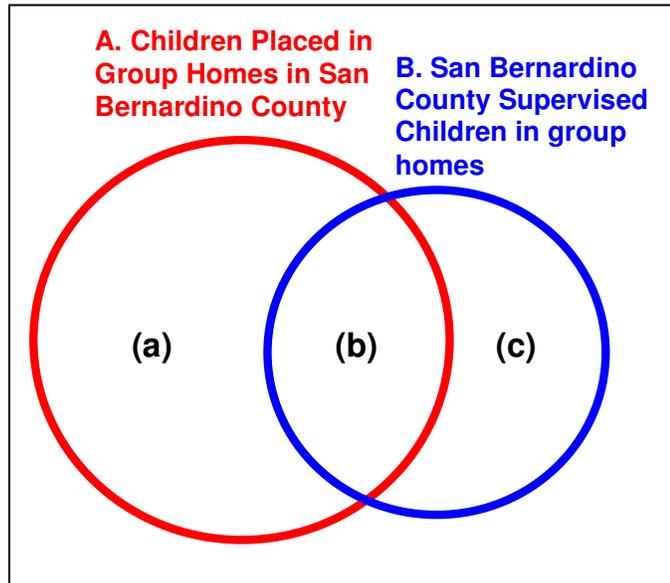
Table 4-27 shows that 39.49% of the youths (139 out of 352 youth) have had only one foster care placement, and 60.51% of the youths have at least two group home placements during their supervision by San Bernardino County (213 youths).

(Table 4-27) Number of Group Home Placements, the Current Dec. 2014 CFS Youths Have Had During their Foster Care Placement Episode.

# of Group Home Placement the 352 Youths in Dec. 2014 Have Had in Foster Care	# of Youths	% of Youths	Cumulative % of Youths
1 Group Home Placement	139	39.49%	39.49%
2 Group Home Placements	86	24.43%	63.92%
3 Group Home Placements	38	10.80%	74.72%
4 Group Home Placements	25	7.10%	81.82%
5 Group Home Placements	19	5.40%	87.22%
6 Group Home Placements	19	5.40%	92.61%
7 Group Home Placements	4	1.14%	93.75%
8 Group Home Placements	5	1.42%	95.17%
9 Group Home Placements	3	0.85%	96.02%
10 Group Home Placements	3	0.85%	96.88%
11 Group Home Placements	3	0.85%	97.73%
12 Group Home Placements	3	0.85%	98.58%
13 Group Home Placements	0	0.00%	98.58%
14 Group Home Placements	1	0.28%	98.86%
>=15 Group Home Placements	4	1.14%	100.00%
Total	352		

Group Home Placements from Other Counties (Foster Children)

Table 4-28 describes the number of group home children placed in San Bernardino County and the proportion of San Bernardino County Supervised children among them. The following chart explains which letter indicates which population.



Circle A represents all children living in group homes in San Bernardino County regardless of the county placing the children. Just as the County of San Bernardino can place children into group homes outside of San Bernardino County, other counties can place children in group homes in San Bernardino County.

Circle B represents San Bernardino County supervised group home children. As previously stated, this population is placed into group homes and supervised by San Bernardino placing departments. Therefore, their group home placements were paid through the County of San Bernardino.

Area (a) represents the population of group home children placed in San Bernardino County who are not supervised by the County.

Area (b) represents the population of children who are San Bernardino County supervised children and placed in San Bernardino County.

Area (c) represents, the population of children who are San Bernardino County supervised children placed in group homes outside of San Bernardino County.

The following were the top three counties that placed their children into group homes located in San Bernardino County in July 2014²⁰:

Top Three Counties	Number of Foster Children
1. Los Angeles	34
2. Riverside	32
3. Imperial	5

209 child welfare supervised children lived in group homes located in San Bernardino County in July 2014. Among the 209 children placed in group homes, 135 (41.5%) were San Bernardino County CFS supervised children. Of the 209 children placed in group homes, 74 children were supervised by other California counties or states (35.4% of all children placed in San Bernardino County).

San Bernardino County CFS placed 325 total foster children in group homes in July 2014. As previously mentioned, among the 325 foster care children placed in group homes, 135 (41.5%) San Bernardino County CFS supervised children were placed in San Bernardino County, and 190 (58.5%) of San Bernardino County supervised children were placed outside of San Bernardino County.

(Table 4-28) The Number of Child Welfare Supervised Children and Proportion of San Bernardino County Supervised Children

Child Welfare	Group Home Placements		All Placements	
A. Children Placed in San Bernardino County	209		5,876	
B. San Bernardino County Supervised Children (in and out of county)	325		4,875	
(a) Children from Outside of San Bernardino County	74	35.4% of A.	2,010	34.2% of A.
(b) San Bernardino County Supervised Children: In-County Placement	135	41.5% of B.	3,866	79.3% of B.
(c) San Bernardino County Supervised Children: Out-of-County Placement	190	58.5% of B.	1,009	20.7% of B.

Data Source: CWS/CMS

²⁰ Most recent data available

The following were the top three counties that placed their probation children into group homes located in San Bernardino County in July 2014:

Top Three Counties	Number of Probation Children
1. Los Angeles145
2. Riverside45
3. Orange8

267 probation supervised children lived in group homes located in San Bernardino County in July 2014. Among the 267 children placed in group homes, 26 children (29.5%) were San Bernardino County Probation supervised children. Of the 267 children placed in group homes, 241 children were supervised by other California counties or states (90.3% of all children placed in San Bernardino County).

San Bernardino County Probation placed 88 total children in group homes in July 2014. As previously mentioned, among the 88 children placed in group homes, 26 (29.5%) San Bernardino County Probation supervised children were placed in San Bernardino County, and 62 (70.5%) of San Bernardino County supervised children were placed outside of San Bernardino County.

(Table 4-29) The Number of Child Welfare Supervised Children and Proportion of San Bernardino County Supervised Children

Probation	Group Home Placements		All Placements	
A. Children Placed in San Bernardino County	267		433	
B. San Bernardino County Supervised Children (in and out of county)	88		162	
(a) Children from Outside of San Bernardino County	241	90.3% of A.	386	89.1% of A.
(b) San Bernardino County Supervised Children: In-County Placement	26	29.5% of B.	47	29.0% of B.
(c) San Bernardino County Supervised Children: Out-of-County Placement	62	70.5% of B.	115	71.0% of B.

Data Source: CWS/CMS

4-3. Out-of-Home Care Abuse or Neglect Reports of CFS Foster Children in Group Homes (2014)

Section 4-3 describes the number of out-of-home care child abuse or neglect reports.²¹ One of the essential roles of residential care facilities is to provide a safe environment for children removed from their homes. However, some children have been further abused or neglected while in residential care facilities.

When someone witnesses or suspects child abuse or neglect, they report the incident to San Bernardino County CFS or law enforcement. After receiving child abuse or neglect referrals from reporters or law enforcement, CFS evaluates the referrals and conducts investigations when necessary.

Table 4-30 describes the number of out-of-home-care child abuse or neglect referrals reported to CFS and results of investigations, from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2014.

In 2012, there were a total of 438 youths placed in group homes. Among the 438 youths, 62 children had at least one out of home abuse referral. Approximately, 14.2% of the 438 youths had one or more suspected child abuse or neglect incidents and 0.91% of the children had a substantiated allegation.

In 2013, 498 youths resided in group homes. Among the 498 youths, 43 children had at least one out of home abuse referral. Approximately, 8.6% of the 498 youths had one or more suspected child abuse or neglect incidents and 0.40% of the children had a substantiated allegation.

The number of youths in a group home increased to 572 in 2014. There were 63 children with at least one referral. There were 75 referrals in total, of which only 2 were substantiated. 11.01% of the youth had one or more suspected child abuse or neglect incidents and 0.35% had a substantiated allegation.

(Table 4-30-a) Foster child abuse or neglect referrals reported to CFS and results of investigations by Child (January 1st, 2011 to December 31, 2014)

Referral Year	Child Count				
	Child Welfare Supervised Youths in Group Homes	Unique Count of Group Home Youths with Referrals ²²	Number of Youth with a least One Substantiated Allegation in the Year	% of Youths with Substantiated Allegations	% of Group Home Youths with at Least One Referral in the Year
2012	438	62	4	0.91%	14.16%
2013	498	43	2	0.40%	8.63%
2014	572	63	2	0.35%	11.01%

Data Source: CWS/CMS, data extracted January 7, 2015

²¹ This analysis is limited only to foster children placed into group homes by San Bernardino CFS.

²² Unduplicated count of youths, if a youth has more than one referral in a year, they are counted only once.

4-4. Serious Incident Reports

The County of San Bernardino requests Serious Incident Reports (SIRs)²³ from group home agencies pursuant to AB 2149, Health and Safety Code 1538.5 (e). The law came into effect on January 1, 2005. Under the law, the County of San Bernardino requires group home facilities located in San Bernardino County, and group homes outside of the county which oversee San Bernardino County placed dependents, to send all reports to the County of San Bernardino Human Services Research, Outcomes & Quality Support (ROQS) regarding incidents about San Bernardino County supervised or non-supervised children. The data is limited to self-reporting by the group home providers.

Yearly Comparison of Serious Incident Reports

For incidents that occurred in 2014, 1,349 SIRs were sent to ROQS, which was a 40% increase from 2008. Of these incidents, 390 (29%) involved calls to law enforcement or safety personnel, 384 of which were to law enforcement only. This represents a large increase in all incidents since 2008 (Table 4-31), but a 33% decrease in those with law enforcement involvement compared to 2008.

(Table 4-31) Yearly reported SIRs, with calls to safety and law enforcement (San Bernardino County facilities only)

Incident Date	# of Total SIRs Reported per Year	# with Law Enforcement or Safety Called	% of Law Enforcement or Safety Called	# with Law Enforcement Only Called	% of Law Enforcement only of the Total SIRs
Missing Date	3	1	33%	1	33%
2004	2	2	100%	2	100%
2005	626	509	81%	499	80%
2006	598	528	88%	517	86%
2007	328	269	82%	250	76%
2008	960	589	61%	572	60%
2009	1,023	428	42%	408	40%
2010	861	407	47%	385	45%
2011	747	470	63%	455	61%
2012	1,153	417	36%	406	35%
2013	1,247	227	18%	221	18%
2014	1,349	390	29%	384	28%
Total	8,897	4,237	48%	4,100	46%

²³ Data Source for Serious Incident Report is Research, Outcomes, and Quality Support Internal Tracking Database

Serious Incident Reports by City, Placing Agency, and Supervising County

Examining the 2014 reports by city of origin (within San Bernardino County), over 80% of the reports came from homes in Redlands, Rialto, San Bernardino and Ontario (Table 4-32). In 2008, homes in Yucaipa, Mentone, Bloomington and Redlands had the most reported incidents. In 2014, most of the SIRs with calls to law enforcement came from Chino Hills, but many also came from Ontario, San Bernardino and Redlands. In 2008, most came from Chino Hills, Bloomington, Mentone and Redlands. In 2014, 20.1% of the reported incidents had a response by law enforcement, up from 9.0% in 2008.

(Table 4-32) 2014 Reported SIRs, with Calls to Law Enforcement and Law Enforcement Responding in San Bernardino County, by City

City	# of SIRs Reported	# with Law Enforcement Called	# with Law Enforcement Responding
Apple Valley	7	6	5
Chino	20	20	19
Chino Hills	96	75	57
Crestline	1	1	--
Fontana	6	6	6
Highland	8	5	3
Ontario	244	66	51
Rancho Cucamonga	16	11	10
Redlands	315	56	30
Rialto	291	27	20
San Bernardino	277	59	41
Upland	13	12	8
Victorville	52	40	20
Yucaipa	3	3	1
Total	1,349	387 (28.7%)	271 (20.1%)

The majority of children involved in these incidents were placed by Children and Family Services (Table 4-33). However, many reported incidents did not list the agency responsible on the report. Similarly, nearly two-thirds of all incidents in 2008 were for children placed by CFS. Probation youth were responsible for nearly a quarter of the incidents then, but less than 10% last year.

(Table 4-33) 2014 Reported SIRs by Placing Agency of Children Involved

Placing Agency	# of SIRs	% of SIRs
CFS	883	65.5%
Probation	130	9.6%
Multiple Agencies	8	0.6%
Not Listed	328	24.3%
Total	1,349	100.0%

The majority of youth involved in these in-county incidents were San Bernardino youth (Table 4-34). However, Riverside and Los Angeles County youth were also frequently involved, Los Angeles more so during incidents where law enforcement was called. This is in contrast to 2008 when approximately 40% of those involved in these incidents were supervised by San Bernardino. The percentage of Riverside youth has increased slightly, but the percentage of Los Angeles, Orange and other county youth all have decreased since 2008. For those incidents where law enforcement was called, the percentage of incidents with San Bernardino and Los Angeles County youth increased considerably. A large percentage of reports still involved children not identified by a supervising county.

(Table 4-34) 2014 Reported SIRs by Supervising County of Children Involved

Supervising County	# Involved ²⁴	% Involved (n=1,349)	# Involved w/ Law Enforcement called	% Involved w/ Law Enforcement called
San Bernardino	873	64.7%	186	48.1%
Riverside	180	13.3%	71	18.3%
Los Angeles	103	7.6%	88	22.7%
Orange	2	0.1%	2	0.5%
Other Counties	25	1.9%	12	3.1%
Not Listed	215	15.9%	50	12.9%

Serious Incident Report Reasons

The most common incidents reported in 2014 were 'Other' incidents, which generated 44.1% of the reports (Table 4-35). These incidents typically involved youth exhibiting unusual or "runaround" behavior, prescribed medication issues, non-routine medical visits and returns from AWOL. However, there were many incidents that included threats, assaultive behavior, self-injurious behavior, 5150 holds and property damage. In 2008, 'Other' incidents were 16.5% of the total. The second most common reason for a Serious Incident Report was a child running away from placement, which comprised 35.7% of the incidents in 2014 and 56.9% in 2008.

(Table 4-35) 2014 Reported SIRs by Reason²⁵

Reason for SIR	# of Incidents	% of Incidents (of total SIRs, n=1,349)
Accident	36	2.7%
Alcohol or Other Drugs	62	4.6%
Child Abuse Allegation	6	0.4%
Child ran away	481	35.7%
Fighting (among minors)	80	5.9%

²⁴ Each incident can have more than one child involved, so counts do not sum to SIR totals

²⁵ Each report can have more than one reason, so counts do not sum to SIR totals

Personal Rights Violation	2	0.1%
Restraints	200	14.8%
School Related Incident	121	9.0%
Sexual Related Incident	17	1.3%
Staff and Child Altercation	73	5.4%
Suicidal Related Incident	27	2.0%
Other	595	44.1%

4-5. Group Home Placement Requests (2014)

Section 4-5 discusses placement requests made by social workers. The Central Placement Unit and the Interagency Placement Council approve placement requests. Their roles are detailed below.

Central Placement Unit: Central Placement Unit (CPU) is a part of CFS. CPU is responsible for finding available and appropriate out-of-home care facilities by responding to social worker requests. As determined by CFS policy, when social workers need to place a child in out-of-home care, they request that CPU find an appropriate out-of-home care facility for the child. Then, according to the CPU's search results, social workers contact the out-of-home care facility to arrange for placement.

Special Health Care Unit: The Special Health Care Unit is responsible for finding appropriate placement options for medically fragile children or those with special health care needs.

Interagency Placement Council: The Interagency Placement Council (IPC) handles requests for RCL 14 group home placements, Wraparound, ChRIS, and out-of-state placements. The Council is responsible for certifying to the state that the youth needs this high level of care.

Multiple Group Home Placement Requests: Some children do not stay at the group home they were originally placed in for various reasons, such as cultural or behavioral issues. For these children, social workers have to find an alternative group home after their first placement. Group homes may request the removal of some children because of their behavior. When a child needs to move from a group home to another out-of-home care residence, social workers have to submit a new placement request to CPU and must continue to do so for each new placement. Multiple group home placements are not an ideal outcome for the children and may negatively influence the child's progress.

Tables 4-36-a and 4-36-b break down IPC requests by placing agency and calendar year. The majority of referrals from the agencies were approved. CFS had 468 total referrals between January and December 2014. Of those referrals, 342 were for Wraparound and 44 were for ChRIS placement. Probation had 110 total requests. Of those, 68 referrals were for Wraparound.

In addition, the IPC approves out-of-state placements. Of the total placement referrals by department in calendar year 2014, CFS had 29 requests for out-of-state placement and Probation had 28. Overall, there has been an increase in placement referrals since calendar year 2013 for CFS and a decrease in referrals for Probation. While CFS had 468 total requests for 2014, there were 383 total requests for 2013. Probation referrals decreased. In 2014, there were 110 total requests and in 2013, there were 160.

The tables also show that most referrals by both departments combined in calendar year 2014 were for Wraparound, followed by ChRIS RCL 14 in calendar year 2014. For calendar year 2013, the majority of referrals were for Wraparound, followed by out-of-state placement.

(Table 4-36-a) IPC Referrals by Placing Agency from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

Requesting Department	RCL 14 Referrals	ChRIS RCL 12 Referrals	ChRIS RCL 14 Referrals	Out-of-State Placement Referrals	Community Treatment Facility Referrals	Wraparound RCL 10/12 Referrals
CFS	43	19	25	29	10	342
Probation	14	0	0	28	0	68
Total	57	19	68	57	10	410

(Table 4-36-b) IPC Referrals by Placing Agency from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013

Requesting Department	RCL 14 Referrals	ChRIS RCL 12 Referrals	ChRIS RCL 14 Referrals	Out-of-State Placement Referrals	Community Treatment Facility Referrals	Wraparound RCL 10/12 Referrals
CFS	23	6	25	6	2	321
Probation	14	0	0	34	3	109
Total	37	6	25	40	5	430

Section 5: Fiscal Impact of Group Home Payments on San Bernardino County

Group home providers operate in San Bernardino County as state licensed, not-for-profit businesses. Providers receive payments from the Aid to Families with Dependent Children – Foster Care Program (AFDC-FC) a funding stream of federal, state and county monies.

Bed payments to group homes in San Bernardino County impact the County's economy in several ways. For example, group homes spend their revenue in their community. Usually group homes hire staff locally, pay property taxes, and purchase goods and services locally. Placements by other counties bring revenues to the local economy as well. Section 5 analyzes the bed payments group homes received for San Bernardino supervised children in 2014.

5-1. Payments to Group Home Facilities from San Bernardino County

Due to data limitations, we are unable to access AFDC-FC payment information made by other counties to San Bernardino County group home providers. However, we can examine the AFDC-FC payments made on behalf of San Bernardino County group home youths who were placed by CFS and Probation within the County and in other counties.

Table 5-1 and Graph 5-2 describe payments made by the three placing departments.

(Table 5-1) Group Home Placement Expenditure by San Bernardino County Placing Department and Location (2014)

	CFS	Probation	Total
In-County Placement Expenditures	\$12,414,560 (40.85%)	\$2,558,834 (30.94%)	\$14,973,394 (38.73%)
Out-of-County California Placement Expenditures	\$17,849,571 (58.74%)	\$4,338,933 (52.46%)	\$22,188,504 (57.40%)
Out-of-State Placements Expenditures	\$123,026 (0.40%)	\$1,373,711 (16.61%)	\$1,496,737 (3.87%)
Total Placement Expenditures	\$30,387,157	\$8,271,478	\$38,658,635
Total Unique Children Placed in Group Homes in Calendar Year 2014	577	229	806

CFS placed a total of 577 children in group homes in calendar year 2014. Of the total \$30,387,157 annual bed payments for 577 children, San Bernardino County paid 40.85% (\$12,414,560) to group homes in San Bernardino County, and 59.15% (\$17,972,597) to facilities outside of San Bernardino County.

Probation placed a total of 229 youths, and paid a total of \$8,271,478 in 2014. Of the total payments, San Bernardino County paid 30.94% (\$2,558,834) to group homes in San Bernardino County, and 69.06% (\$5,712,644) to group homes outside of San Bernardino County.

(Graph 5-2) Group Home Placement Expenditures by San Bernardino County Placing Departments and Locations (2014)

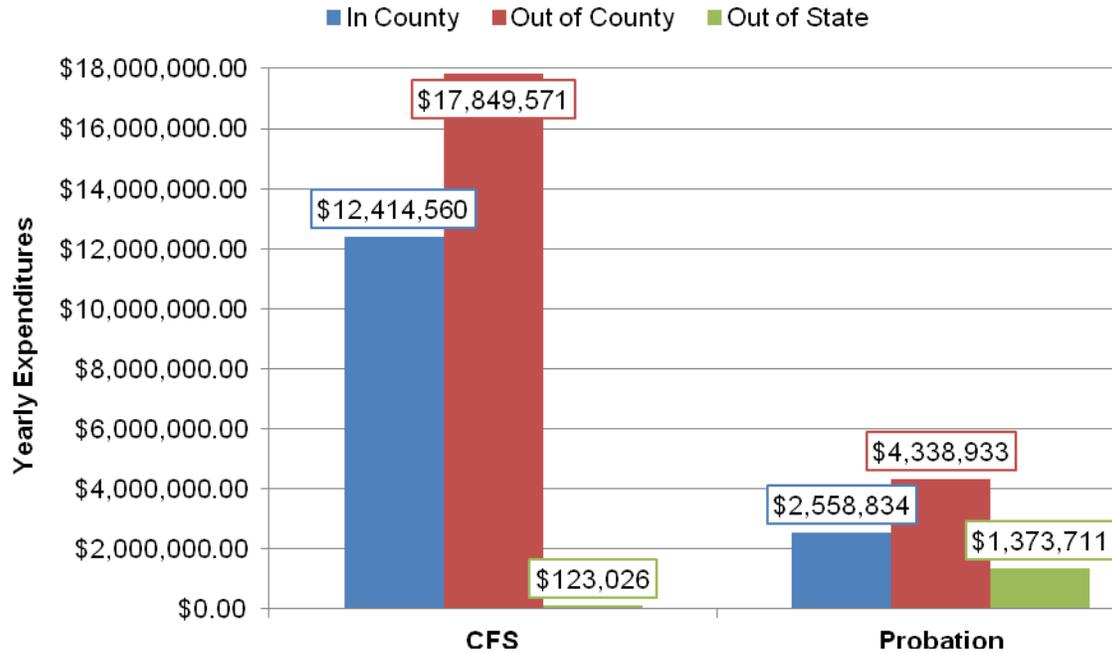


Table 5-3 describes the payment distribution (\$14,973,394) to group homes in San Bernardino County by city. The amount of payment by city is also compared with the median household income for each city.

See Table 5-3 on the following page.

(Table 5-3) Group Home Payments by City, Number of Youths Placed, and Median Household Income

City/Town/Area	AFDC-FC Placement Expenditures in 2014	Number of Youths Placed in 2014	Median Household Income ²⁶
APPLE VALLEY	\$1,172,273.00	30	\$48,432
BLOOMINGTON	\$468,046.00	25	\$47,888
CHINO	\$52,691.00	1	\$71,466
CHINO HILLS	\$485,004.00	23	\$96,947
CRESTLINE	\$181,598.00	9	\$48,050
FONTANA	\$2,003,381.00	58	\$64,354
HIGHLAND	\$7,155.00	1	\$52,476
MENTONE	\$222,068.00	12	\$58,178
ONTARIO	\$839,571.00	27	\$52,735
RANCHO CUCAMONGA	\$908,276.00	41	\$77,619
REDLANDS	\$1,375,363.00	18	\$64,781
RIALTO	\$1,358,336.00	53	\$48,426
SAN BERNARDINO	\$2,690,214.00	79	\$36,482
UPLAND	\$906,905.00	27	\$56,721
VICTORVILLE	\$567,663.00	30	\$45,892
YUCAIPA	\$1,734,850.00	42	\$55,406
Total	\$14,973,394.00	476	

Data Source: C-IV, CWS/CMS

²⁶ 2009-2013 American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year estimates

Section 6: Placing Agency Needs

Section 6 summarizes the placing agencies' needs for group home programs and populations within San Bernardino County. The County's placing departments' needs are detailed below. The Department of Behavioral Health, although no longer a placing department, has also identified needs for group home placements.

6-1. Children and Family Services Placing Needs (2014)

Section 6-1 describes the group home program and placing population needs of San Bernardino County Children and Family Services.

The Group Home Coordinator and a Child Welfare Services Manager (CWSM) were asked what types of group home programs or children's needs were missing or unmet in San Bernardino County. The Group Home Coordinator and CWSM noted that CFS needs more suitable placement options for the following:

- Children with mental health and substance abuse issues – this is a large population and there are not enough local resources
- Gay, lesbian, transgender, and bi-sexual youths – this population, although not large in number, is difficult to place because of their potential vulnerability to judgment from other youth
- Pregnant and parenting teens – this subset is placed out-of-county
- Sexually exploited and abused females – treatment for substance abuse is also a priority for this population. In some cases, out-of-county placement is desirable because it helps remove the youth from negative influences, but in-county facilities are also in need
- Children with special health-care needs (e.g., diabetics, epileptics) – this is a smaller population, but one that requires unique attention
- Children with depression or anxiety
- Violent youths who are a potential threat to others
- Non-minor dependents re-entering the foster care system – this population is difficult to place due to issues surrounding the youths' legal status as adults

In addition, it was noted that more of the following facilities might ameliorate the difficulty in finding appropriate group homes for youth:

- A greater availability of RCL 14 group homes within the county. Presently, there are only two facilities with a total of 12 beds. Currently, youths are placed out-of-county because there are not enough available resources within the county
- Facilities that develop individualized therapy for youth
- A greater availability of group homes in geographical areas where they are most needed. For example, some regions generate more placements for group home care, yet have a lower number of facilities and beds when compared to other regions

6-2. Probation Department Placing Needs (2014)

Section 6-2 describes the group home programs and placing population needs of the San Bernardino County Probation Department.

The Probation Department's Division Director II of Central Juvenile Services was asked what types of group home programs were needed in-county for probation minors. The county is in need of group home programs that can treat:

- Severe Mental Health Needs (e.g., RCL14 group home)
- Sexual offenders with mental health and/or behavioral issues
- Sexually exploited children
- Extremely violent youths with or without mental health issues
- Youth with substance abuse issues

6-3. Department of Behavioral Health Placing Needs (2014)

Section 6-3 describes the needs of current group home populations as identified by clinic supervisors from the Department of Behavioral Health.

The clinic supervisors found difficulty in finding appropriate placement options for the following:

- Children with substance abuse and mental health issues
- Sexually exploited children
- Children in need of RCL 14 group home placement

In addition, although they do not represent a large percentage of the group home population, the following are extremely difficult to place because they may pose a potential risk to others:

- Extremely violent youths with or without mental health issues
- Fire setters
- Children (generally between the ages of 8 and 12) suffering severe psychotic episodes

In many instances, the above identified are difficult to place because there are few facilities offering specialized treatment. Some suggestions to better meet the treatment needs of children would be the following:

- More local group homes for youth to be placed near family. Placing outside of county may interfere with family reunification and makes it more difficult to conduct team decision-making meetings (TDMs). Group homes outside of county also make it more difficult for children with mental health issues to receive services offered by the supervising county.
- Homes for sexually exploited females that are not easily accessible to negative outside influences. Homes in a more remote location may better ensure the safety of these females.

- More high-level group homes with resources such as highly qualified/trained staff that offer specialized treatment for children with mental health and/or substance abuse issues.

6-4. Conclusion

All three departments identified overlapping needs. The following needs were identified due to the limited availability of group homes within the county. Some groups are cited as difficult to place because of the large percentage of children and the low number of available in-county facilities and treatment programs:

- 1) A need for a high-level group homes (RCL 14) was strongly emphasized by all three departments.
- 2) More treatment programs for teen girls, such as those who are pregnant or parenting, and those that are victims of sexual abuse and exploitation.
- 3) Homes for youth that take into account the special needs of those with substance abuse issues.

Some populations were identified as being difficult to place within the county due to a lack of available facilities providing specialized care. These populations are typically a smaller percentage of the group home population:

- 1) LGBT youth
- 2) Fire-setters
- 3) Extremely violent youth

In December 2014, there were 632 group home beds in varying RCLs. Although the number of available beds would suggest that there are enough resources within the county to place children, the following reasons were cited as to why some homes are underutilized for placement within San Bernardino County:

- 1) Group homes may not meet the needs of the current group home population. Homes within the county may agree to take youth in need of placement, but may not have the resources to provide children with adequate services. Instead, children are placed in group homes outside of the county that offer services/treatment tailored to the needs of the child.
- 2) Some homes do not accept children because they are at capacity. Other counties also place their children in group homes located in San Bernardino County, thereby reducing the number of available beds for San Bernardino County supervised children.
- 3) Not all group homes can be used by both placing agencies. Given the distinct populations served by group homes, it may be the case that group homes suitable for CFS supervised children are not be suitable for Probation supervised youth.

Placing outside of the county has disadvantages for some children as this can interfere with case plan goals such as family reunification and permanency. For some children, it makes it more difficult to coordinate services provided by DBH to children

with mental health needs as stipulated in the *Katie A. et al. v. Bonta et al. Settlement Agreement*. Therefore, quality group homes are still in need throughout the county.²⁷

²⁷ Even so, out-of county placement may be more beneficial for some youth as it removes the youth from an environment unfavorable to their case plan goals.

