

Colorado Department of  
Human Services  
Administrative Review  
Division



**Protecting Colorado's Children:**

Draft Results from the ARD's  
Screen Out Review  
September 2008

Prepared for the Governor's Action  
Committee  
November 2008

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## Background

- Review occurred the week of September 22 – 26, 2008
- Review included 44 reviewers: 26 county staff, 16 ARD staff, and 2 Child Welfare staff
- Reviewers included representatives from 14 Colorado counties
- Within five (5) days, 11 review teams (of 2 – 4 reviewers) reviewed 1,291 screened out referrals from around the state.

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## Sampling

- The sample was extracted from Trails on September 6, 2008.
- The sample universe included all PA 5 Child Protection referrals screened out between March 5, 2008 – September 5, 2008.
- A stratified random sampling technique was used to create the sample included in the review.

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## Review Sample

- 1,291 screened out referrals were pulled for review
  - 536 from ten large counties
  - 520 from mid-size counties
  - 235 from balance-of-state counties

*Findings reflect the sample only and are not yet generalizable to the statewide population.*

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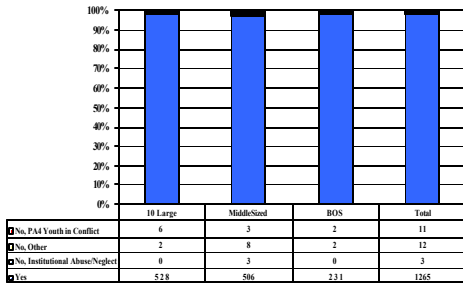
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Q1. Was this referral correctly coded as a PA 5 referral?



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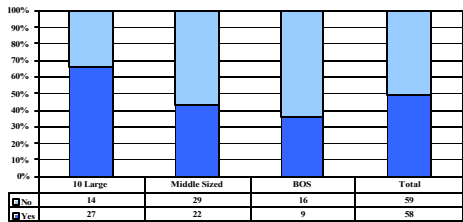
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Q2. If this referral is documented as a duplicate referral, is it the same allegation as a previous referral?



- Out of 1,291 referrals, about 9% were identified in Trails as duplicate referrals.
- Of the 117 referrals identified by the counties as duplicate, reviewers agreed that approximately 50% were actually duplicate.

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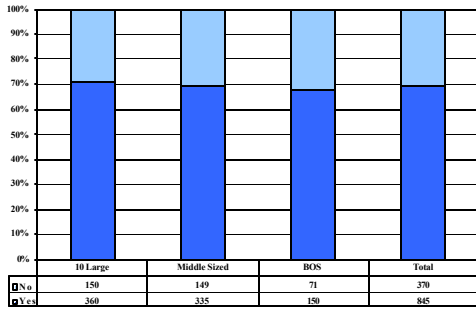
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Q8. Were the client relationships accurately coded in Trails?



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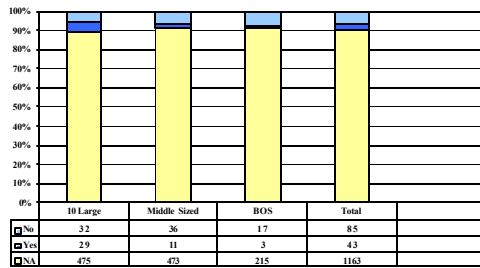
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Q9. If this is the third report of suspected child abuse or neglect within a two-year period and the two previous reports were not accepted for investigation, did the county document in the automated case management system (Trails) that the supervisor ensured that all prior reports, assessments and applicable cases were reviewed in terms of actions taken and services provided?



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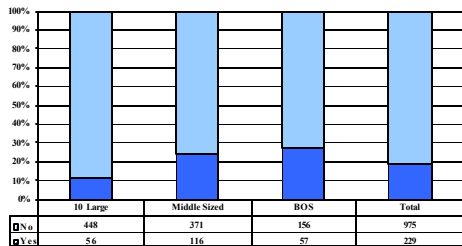
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Q10. Did the review team find other referrals or cases that the county did not document under their search or records check for people identified in this referral?



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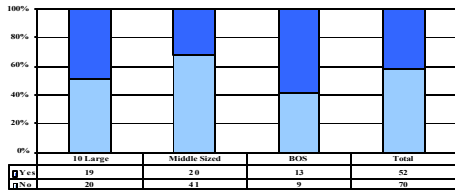








Q24. If the initial review team believes there are current safety concerns, does the 2nd Level Review Team believe that there are current safety concerns?



- The second level review team agreed with the first level review team's assessment of current safety concerns approximately 42% of the time.

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### Follow-up and Feedback

- 102 screened out referrals were referred back to 32 counties for follow-up and/or feedback
- 65 of those 102 referrals were sent back to 29 counties for follow up:
  - 23 were sent to 9 of the 10 large counties
  - 29 were sent to 13 of the mid-sized counties
  - 13 were sent to 7 of the balance of state counties
- 37 referrals were sent back for information purposes only.
- The ARD requested the counties provide documentation of follow-up by 10/31/08. All but 5 counties have responded.

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### Next Steps

- A formal narrative report will be completed by the ARD.
- Instrument and review process improvements will be designed for the 2009 Screen Out Review.
- Formal recommendations will be submitted to PAC related to:
  - Trails Functionality
  - Policy Changes and overall systemic issues
  - Training Enhancements

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