



County of San Bernardino

2018

Children's Network

Congregate Care Needs Assessment

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2018 Congregate Care Needs Assessment

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2018 Congregate Care Needs Assessment

Section 1: Executive Summary

Purpose

Historically, San Bernardino County Children's Network periodically provided a Group Home Needs Assessment to analyze the placement needs of Children and Family Services (CFS) and Probation supervised children, youth, and young adults. This year, with the advent of Continuum of Care Reform, California has embarked on a three year statewide transition from group homes to a new design of congregate care called Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTP). As their name suggests, STRTPs are designed to provide high quality, intensive therapeutic interventions, and 24-hour supervision on a short-term basis for children, youth, and young adults who have complex and severe therapeutic needs. The goal is to step children, youth, and young adults back down into home-based care within six months (child welfare) or one year (Probation). This transition started on January 1, 2017 and must be completed by December 31, 2019. As a result of this transition in titles and services, the Group Home Needs Assessment will now be referred to as the Congregate Care Needs Assessment. It will include data from group home activity, but projected needs will refer to STRTPs.

This report shows both changes in the County's placing patterns and an overall decline in the number of available in-county congregate care beds. Using data from administrative databases, department identified placing needs, and serious incident reports, this report analyzes:

- Where the County's congregate care population is placed in relation to the in-county congregate care beds, and
- County departments' placing needs for San Bernardino County supervised children, youth, and young adults

Placements made by CFS and the Probation Department are outlined in the Data Summary of this assessment. The needs of these placing departments are discussed in Section 7.

Key Findings

1. Data:

- Number of Beds: The number of in-county facilities and beds is decreasing. In October 2017, there were 62 congregate care facilities in San Bernardino County with a total of 628 beds. This is a 16.2% decline in facilities since 2008.
- Out-of-County Placements: Point-in-time data shows that more than half of the County's congregate care placements are in out-of-county facilities (434 out of 608).
 - ◊ However, many of the out-of-county congregate care placements were in neighboring Riverside County, retaining close proximity. Over 57% of the

placements made by CFS and 14% of the Probation placements were in neighboring Riverside County.

- Reduction in Congregate Care Placements: Policy and practice changes have been implemented to reduce both the number of congregate care placements and the duration of placements. For example, AB 74 aimed to place youth in “the least restrictive, family-based setting,” restricting the use of congregate care “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 congregate care for children ages 12 and younger and to limit the time children and youth ages 6 to 17 are placed in a congregate care facility to less than 12 months.
- Least Restrictive Placement: San Bernardino County has about 6,000 child welfare supervised placements in foster care at any given point of time. Of these placements, between 7-8% are in congregate care placements.

2. Placing Agency Needs:

- Unmet Placement Needs: Information gathered from CFS and Probation 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 placing departments cited difficulty locating in-county congregate care beds for the following populations:
 - ◊ Pregnant and parenting teens
 - ◊ Children, youth, and young adults with mental health and substance abuse issues
 - ◊ LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual) youth and young adults
 - ◊ 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 youth with or without mental health issues
 - ◊ Young adults who have exited foster care and wish to return
 - ◊ Adolescent females displaying highly disruptive and/or self-harming behaviors
 - ◊ Youth who frequently run away from placement

Difficulties are exacerbated for any of these groups if the child, youth or young adult has Special Health Care Needs (SHCN) such as diabetes.

3. County Oversight:

- San Bernardino County monitors and assesses quality of care in its congregate care placements through a variety of mechanisms. These oversight tools are:

- ◊ Monthly Contacts: Each child, youth or young adult is visited by their social worker/Probation Officer every month. Over 50% of monthly contacts must take place at the child, youth or young adult's residence.
- ◊ Tracking of Serious Incident Reports: The County is exercising its authority under AB2149, county sponsored legislation passed in 2005, to receive and review all serious incident reports (SIRs) from the San Bernardino County Congregate care providers involving law enforcement or paramedics for all children and youth in congregate care, regardless of placing county. Data is analyzed per congregate care facility, per city, per supervising county, and incident type. In 2016, over one-third (40.6%) of all the SIRs were 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.
- ◊ STRTP Coordinator (CFS): The STRTP Coordinator works under the direction and guidance of the Placement Resources Division. The STRTP Coordinator is an experienced Social Service Practitioner and expert in high-level placements. In addition, the STRTP Coordinator performs an essential quality assurance function by collaborating with stakeholders to maintain quality congregate care placements. The STRTP Coordinator routinely visits congregate care facilities to inspect the premises and discuss any complaints and issues related to the congregate care facility. If serious deficiencies are noted, the STRTP Coordinator may require a Corrective Action Plan and new placements are not made until deficiencies are corrected. Twice per year, the STRTP Coordinator facilitates a conference with San Bernardino County Probation to provide training and present changes in legislation and licensing updates. Additionally, the STRTP Coordinator provides consultation for the CFS Centralized Placement Unit and for case carrying social workers.
- ◊ Placement Monitors (Probation): The role of the Placement Monitors is similar to that of the CFS STRTP Coordinator. The semi-annual conferences to provide training and present changes in legislation to congregate care providers are co-hosted by the STRTP Coordinator and the Placement Monitors.

4. Fiscal Impact:

Congregate care providers are part of the local economy, both as businesses and employers. Based on the 628 congregate care beds within the County (as of October 2017), the total monthly payments made by San Bernardino placing agencies to in-county congregate care providers is estimated at just over \$17 million per year for CFS and Probation supervised youth. In-county facilities also generate income from placements for children, youth, and young adults supervised by other counties. The fiscal impact of congregate care facilities within San Bernardino County is further discussed in Section 6.

Recommendations

1. San Bernardino County does not need additional generic STRTP beds in the County. While there may be a need for STRTPs in certain geographical areas to better serve children, youth, and young adults, these facilities should be tailored to the treatment needs of the congregate care population they intend to serve.
2. San Bernardino County needs qualified, experienced STRTP providers who can deliver outcome-driven treatment programs, including short-term assessment and crisis stabilization services, to targeted populations of children, youth, and young adults to enable them to transition to family based care.
3. STRTPs should function as a part of a countywide system of care, with residential treatment serving specific populations within a continuum of care.
4. STRTP 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 advocates for short-term congregate care placement for children, youth, and young adults who cannot remain with a family. Congregate care facilities should be equipped to provide children, youth, and young adults with mental health services to ensure that they can be reunified or stepped down to family-based care in a timely manner.

Section 2: Introduction

Purpose of This Assessment

San Bernardino County Children's Network periodically provided a Group Home Needs Assessment to analyze the placement needs of Children and Family Services (CFS) and Probation supervised children, youth, and young adults. The advent of Continuum Care Reform began a three year statewide transition from group homes to a new design of congregate care, Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTP). STRTPs are designed to provide high quality, intensive therapeutic interventions, and 24-hour supervision on a short-term basis for children, youth, and young adults who have complex and severe therapeutic needs. The goal is to step children, youth, and young adults back down into home-based care within six months (child welfare) or one year (Probation). This transition started on January 1, 2017 and must be completed by December 31, 2019.

As a result of this transition the Group Home Needs Assessment will now be referred to as the Congregate Care Needs Assessment. It will include data from group home activity, but projected needs will refer to STRTPs. This assessment reports on data from 2017 and prior years. It identifies gaps in services between congregate care providers, San Bernardino County placing departments' needs, and San Bernardino County congregate care placements of children, youth, and young adults. This assessment focuses on identifying three different needs:

- First, this assessment focuses on identifying the discrepancies between the availability of in-county congregate care beds and the number of San Bernardino County supervised children, youth, and young adults who need congregate care placements: specifically, whether in-county congregate care facilities with appropriate treatment programs are available for children, youth, and young adults in appropriate locations.
- Second, this assessment describes what services San Bernardino County placing departments expect congregate care to provide to children, youth, and young adults.
- Finally, this assessment also discusses whether the available congregate care facilities and treatment programs meet the service needs of San Bernardino County foster children, youth, and young adults: specifically, whether the facilities available offer specialized treatment programs for the types of youth in need of placement.

In addition to identifying unmet needs, the report assesses the impact of new practices to keep children, youth, and young adults from entering congregate care facilities. Countywide programs such as Wraparound intend to reduce the number of congregate care placements by offering in-home supportive services to children, youth, and young adults at risk of being placed in facilities RCL 10 and higher.

Congregate Care Facilities

Congregate care homes are nonprofit, state licensed, residential care facilities that provide 24-hour non-medical care¹ and supervision to children, youth, and young adults in a structured environment. Congregate care providers manage congregate care facilities. A congregate care provider may manage more than one congregate care facility. The number of beds in a congregate care facility may vary from 6 to over 100.

Congregate care facilities serve different populations of children, youth, and young adults. There are foster care children, youth, and young adults supervised by Child Welfare Services and delinquent youth supervised by Probation. Foster children and youth are removed from their home due to abuse, neglect, or when parents are unable or unwilling to care for the child or youth. If they need more intensive treatment services than those provided by lower levels of foster care, they are placed in congregate care. Delinquent youth on formal probation with wardship may be ordered placed out of the home by the juvenile delinquency court. These youth are placed because the family dynamics in the home are not conducive to reaching treatment and rehabilitation goals while the youth is on probation. 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, congregate care facilities may specialize in serving children, youth or young adults of certain demographics. For example, some congregate care facilities only serve children in a certain age group or of a certain gender. Some may not accept gang members. Others provide specialized treatment (e.g., treatment for eating disorders, behavior modification, and emancipation). Congregate care facilities are not usually interchangeable because of their specialization.

Regional Centers also provide placement for CFS and Probation children, youth, and young adults, but do not exclusively serve these populations. “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.”²

Congregate Care Licensure & Rate Classification Level

Community Care Licensing (CCL) is a division of the California Department of Social Services. This division has the authority to license congregate care 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

¹ Congregate care programs are designed for children who generally do not need medical care beyond routine health checks and medication monitoring.

² State of California, Department of Developmental Services (www.dds.ca.gov/rc/Rcinfo.cfm)

system.”³ CCLs roles and responsibilities are broken down into three main areas⁴: 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.

All licensed group home facilities are categorized 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 congregate care facilities 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

Generally speaking, children who need higher levels of care stay at congregate care facilities in higher RCLs. Payments to congregate care providers are based on the RCL of the congregate care facility. A higher RCL number corresponds to a higher payment for services.

The Rate Classification Levels (RCLs) Standardized Schedule of Rates are provided on the next page. Congregate care providers will receive individual Fiscal Year Rate Notification Letters in accordance with the biennial rate setting process. It is the responsibility of the congregate care 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 congregate care.

³ State of California, Department of Social Services web-site (http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/MissionSta_1811.htm)

⁴ State of California, Department of Social Services web-site (http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/RolesandRe_1812.htm)

Standardized Schedule of Rates (effective July 31, 2017)⁵

RCL	Monthly Standard Rate
1	\$2,551
2	\$3,187
3	\$3,822
4	\$4,455
5	\$5,087
6	\$5,725
7	\$6,359
8	\$6,997
9	\$7,629
10	\$8,266
11	\$8,898
12	\$9,535
13	\$10,177
14	\$10,810

Data Source: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/FCARB/Rate%20Updates/GHRateSchedule.pdf?ver=2017-08-01-144111-260>

Placing Departments

Two County of San Bernardino departments place children and youth in congregate care facilities:

Children and Family Services (CFS)

This placing department serves children and youth who have been removed from their home due to abuse, neglect, or incapacity of parents to care for their children or youth. The legal custody of the children and youth belongs to the supervising county.

Probation Department (Probation)

This placing department places juvenile offenders in congregate care. Under wardship, the parents retain their parental rights, but Probation supervises youth when the court orders they be placed in congregate care.

The Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) is responsible for providing mental health and substance use disorder services to County residents who are experiencing major mental illness or substance abuse issues. DBH provides mental health/substance use disorder treatment to all age groups, with a primary emphasis placed on treating children/youth who may be seriously emotionally disturbed, adults who are experiencing

⁵ The Standardized Schedule of Rates only applies to group home facilities and will terminate on December 31, 2019 upon completion of the transition to Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs

a serious and persistent mental illness, and individuals who are experiencing substance use disorders. DBH also provides an array of prevention and early intervention services for both mental health and substance abuse.⁶ At the time the 2008 Group Home Needs Assessment took place, DBH placed children and youth 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 and youth. Although DBH no longer places children, youth, and young adults into congregate care, the department continues to provide services to children, youth, and young adults in need of specialized mental health treatment.

In-County & Out-of-County Placement

San Bernardino County placing departments place children, youth, and young adults in congregate care facilities located within San Bernardino County and other counties. When children, youth, or young adults are placed into congregate care facilities located in San Bernardino County, the placement is described as an *in-county placement*. When San Bernardino County supervised children, youth, and young adults are placed in congregate care facilities located outside of San Bernardino County, the placement is described as an *out-of-county placement*. Furthermore, when children, youth, and young adults are placed outside of California, the out-of-county placement is specifically classified as an *out-of-state placement*.

Whenever possible, the placing departments place children, youth, and young adults in congregate care facilities located within the County. There is a clear statutory preference for in-county placement, and there are several reasons why children, youth, and young adults benefit from in-county placements. For example, proximity to their family may promote timely 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 at the time a placement is needed, need for specific treatment programs not available in the County, need for beds not available in certain RCLs, and need for 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 child, youth or young adult's family home than more distant in-county congregate care options. In some circumstances, out-of-county placement is desirable because it removes children, youth, and young adults from negative outside influences.

Administrative Databases

In order to track services regarding congregate care placements, the placing departments use a variety of administrative databases:

⁶ <http://wp.sbccounty.gov/dbh/about-dbh/>

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

CWS/CMS is a statewide casework tracking tool. The primary purpose of the database is for counties to enter and monitor data regarding their own assigned cases, but information regarding placement resources and limited case information is available statewide. Child welfare and Probation departments have access to congregate care case and placement resource information through this database.

California Automated Consortium Eligibility System (Cal-ACES)

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

- California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)
- 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 of the payments to congregate care providers for San Bernardino County supervised placements are recorded in Cal-ACES.

Juvenile Network (JNET)

JNET is a SQL (Structured Query Language) database used by Juvenile Court, Juvenile Probation, Juvenile Public Defender, Juvenile District Attorney, Public Health, County Counsel, assigned attorneys, and CFS to track children, youth, and young adults 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 (San Bernardino Information Management Online Network)

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

Section 3: Transition to Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs

As of January 1, 2017, Assembly Bill (AB) 403 established a new community care facility category called Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTP). This initiated a three year transitional period throughout the State of California for group homes to convert to STRTPs, which will continue until December 2019. A goal of AB 403 is to reduce the use of congregate care by transforming existing group homes into STRTPs. STRTPs will serve children, youth, and young adults who:

- Are not ready to live in family settings,
- Need 24-hour care and supervision, and
- Require specialized and/or intensive treatment.

Core Services

STRTPs will provide core services and support in areas such as:

- Child and Family Teaming (CFT),
- Mental Health,
- Permanency,
- Education, and
- Transition support for children, youth, and young adults in their care.

The focus of STRTPs is to stabilize the child, youth or young adult and help them return home or step-down to a Home Based Family Care (HBFC) setting where the appropriate services will continue to be provided. Research indicates that children and young adults who remain in group care for long periods of time have worse outcomes than those living in a family setting, including a higher likelihood of arrest, homelessness, and reentry to foster care. STRTPs aim to stabilize children or youth within six months for Children and Family Services (CFS) and one year for the Department of Probation; any placement extended beyond the initial time period must be approved by the designated Children and Family Services Deputy Director (DD) or Chief Probation Officer (CPO) or designee.

The CFT, comprised of the child, youth or young adult, immediate and extended family, community partners, child welfare workers, juvenile probation officers and mental health staff, focuses on creating an exit strategy before the child, youth or young adult ever enters a STRTP. The CFT also identifies core services and supports necessary for the child, youth or young adult, their families, and their resource families as they step down from a high-level placement setting to a less restrictive setting. It is necessary for all members of the CFT, especially the child or youth and their families to be involved in making placement and treatment decisions to produce the best outcome.

STRTPs are expected to provide a number of benefits for children, youth, and young adults, as well as the community they live in. STRTPs will offer:

- Comprehensive treatment,
- Increased supervision provided by highly-skilled staff,

- Various professionals available to assist in one location,
- Specialized services in local facilities to help children, youth, and young adults maintain ties to their communities,
- Employment opportunities within the County of San Bernardino, particularly for mental health professionals, social workers, clinicians and administrative staff whose role is to assist the children, youth, and young adults residing in their facilities.

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) anticipates that placement expenses and societal costs will decrease due to the state's investment in STRTPs (e.g. increased rates), and that children and young adults in foster care will have improved outcomes.

Placement Criteria

With the recommendation of the CFT, a child, youth or young adult, whose placement is funded by Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC), may be placed in a STRTP following an Interagency Placement Council (IPC) determination that the child, youth or young adult meets the following criteria as referenced in WIC Section 11462.01 and WIC Section 4096:

Both (a) and (b) are met:

- a) The child, youth, or young adult does not require inpatient care in a licensed health facility; and
- b) The child, youth or young adult's needs have been assessed pursuant to WIC Sections 4096 and 11462.01, as requiring the level of services provided in an STRTP in order to maintain the safety and well-being of the child, youth or young adult, or due to other behaviors, including those resulting from trauma, that render the child, youth or young adult or those around the child, youth or young adult unsafe or at risk of harm; or that prevent the effective delivery of needed services and supports provided in the child, youth or young adult's own home or other family settings (such as with a relative, guardian, foster family, resource family, or adoptive family).

AND at least one of the following criteria in (a), (b), (c), and (d) is present:

- a) The child, youth or young adult meets medical necessity criteria for Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services at the level provided by the STRTP pursuant to WIC Section 4096(e). A licensed mental health professional may be a county representative or a contracted county representative designated to do so by the responsible MHP.
- b) The child, youth or young adult is assessed as seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) pursuant to WIC Section 5600.3.

- c) The child, youth or young adult was assessed by a licensed mental health professional pursuant to WIC Section 4096 (e) as requiring the level of services provided by the STRTP in order to meet his or her behavioral or therapeutic needs. This option may be utilized based on the current assessment tool completed by the county placing agency. The IPC shall review the assessment and recommendation of the county placing agency pursuant to either subdivision (b) of WIC 706.6 or paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) of WIC 16501.1.
- d) The child, youth or young adult meets the criteria under an emergency placement.

Subject to these placement criteria and to the requirements of STRTPs under WIC Section 11462.01, a STRTP may have a specialized program to serve the unique needs of children, youth or young adults, including, but not limited to commercially sexually exploited children, youth, and young adults, juvenile sex offenders, children, youth, and young adults who are affiliated with or impacted by a gang. A STRTP may also operate a specialized program serving a private, voluntary placement if the child or youth exhibits status offender behavior, the parents or other relatives feel they cannot control the child or youth's behavior, and short-term intervention is needed to transition the child back into the home.

Additional Requirements for STRTPs

Licensed STRTPs are required to:

- Obtain accreditation within 24 months from the date of licensure, from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, the Council on Accreditation, or the Joint Commission.
- Provide a copy of the final accreditation summary report to the licensing agency within 30 days of its release date.
- Obtain a Mental Health Program approval within 12 months of becoming provisionally licensed from either Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) or a County Mental Health Plan (MHP) (e.g., DBH).
- Obtain annual re-approval from either DHCS or a MHP, and
- Obtain and maintain Medi-Cal certification.
- Provide Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) specialty mental health services as needed. Provisionally licensed STRTPs are permitted to facilitate these services for the first 12 months of operation.
- Provide case planning, family finding services and placement stability support.
- Provide interactive life skills, access to educational services, and permanency support services.
- Employ administrators, facility managers, social workers, and direct care staff that have met the qualifications pursuant to Interim Licensing Standards (ILS), Article Six, Sections 87064-87065.2.

- Have no less than two direct care staff on the premises at all times, when children are present.
- Have one direct care staff member for every fourth child, from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Have one direct care staff member (awake) for every 6th child, from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- A qualified, experienced facility manager must be on site whenever children are present
- A qualified, designated employee is responsible for planning and implementing enrichment activities for the facility.

In addition to meeting the requirements above, the standards for staffing STRTPs are more rigorous than for group homes requiring higher education, training and experience for staff hired on or after January 1, 2017.

Licensing

The conversion from group homes to STRTPs began January 1, 2017 and must be completed by December 31, 2019. Group homes may either apply for extensions or be provisionally licensed as a STRTP. At this time, most of the group homes in San Bernardino County have been granted extensions, but all have expressed the intent to eventually convert to STRTPs. A few group homes have already applied, but very few are provisionally licensed yet. Once provisionally licensed, the facility must complete and maintain accreditation, and enter into a mental health contract with the County and obtain mental health program (MHP) approval within 12 months (not necessarily with the county where they are located). The Community Care Licensing (CCL) Division is responsible for licensing application and oversight of STRTPs. The conversion process does not apply to new STRTPs who were not already group homes prior to January 1, 2017. In addition to meeting requirements outlined in AB 403, new applicants are required to obtain a letter of recommendation in support of its program from at least one county placing agency. The letter of recommendation need not be from the county in which the facility is located.

STRTP Rates

With the enactment of AB 403, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will no longer issue rates based on the Group Home Rate Classification Level (RCL) system for new providers. Instead the new **STRTP rate will be \$12,498.00**. The rate is higher because the requirements of STRTPs for staff and services are higher.

Section 4: Geographical Information on Congregate Care

Section 4 describes the geographical location of congregate care facilities within San Bernardino County, with an emphasis on the number of facilities and beds within cities and regions. Section 4-1 summarizes the number of congregate care facilities in San Bernardino County by city and CFS region. Maps illustrating the distribution of congregate care facilities in San Bernardino County by Supervisorial Districts are presented in Section 4-2.

Congregate care providers may manage multiple facilities throughout the entire United States. The analyses in this section are based on the RCL list updated October 2017 on the California State web site.⁷

4-1. Congregate Care Facilities and Beds in San Bernardino County

The following section displays the count of congregate care facilities and beds throughout San Bernardino. The tables and graphs within this section display the decrease in congregate care facilities and beds over fourteen years at two-year intervals.

San Bernardino County Congregate Care Facilities and Bed Capacity by City and CFS Region

Countywide, there has been a 16.2% decline in the number of congregate care facilities from 2008 to 2017. In October of 2008, there were 74 facilities operating 785 beds compared to October 2017 with 62 facilities operating 628 beds. 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 congregate care 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 congregate care facilities. Practice and policy changes by the County departments and reducing the use of residential care for foster care also contributed to a decline in congregate care beds.

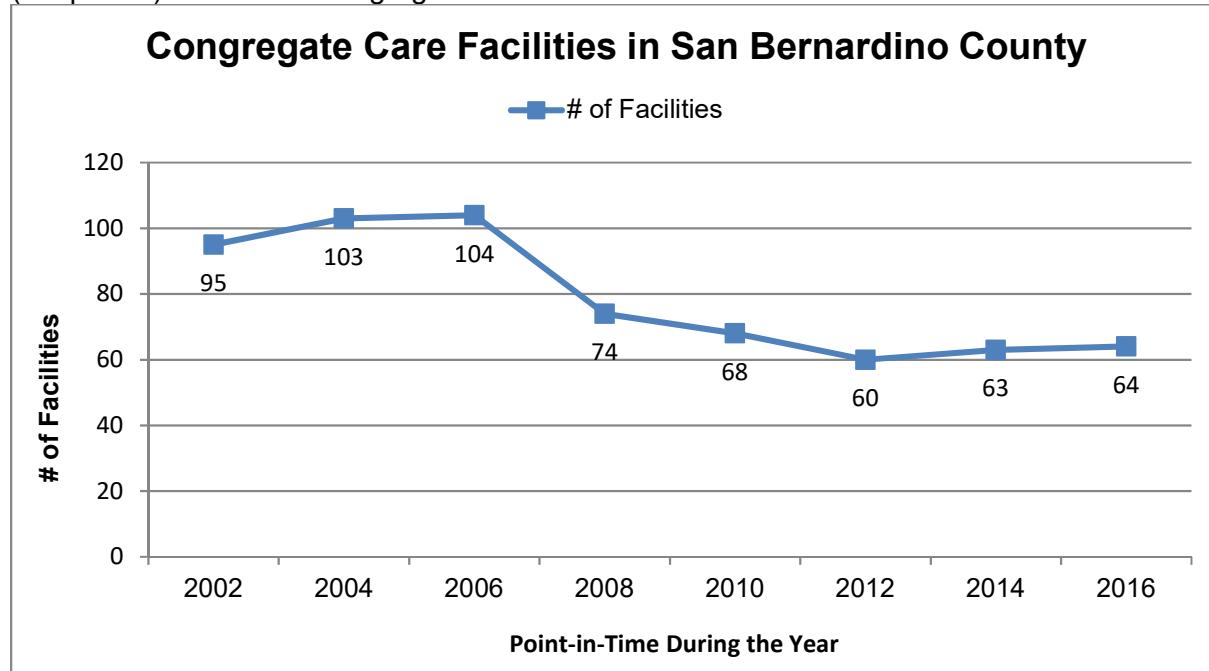
Moreover, there have been shifting perceptions and expectations by the departments, state and outside stakeholders regarding residential care. The passage of AB 74 further restricted the use of congregate care for children ages 6 to 12 by imposing more stringent requirements such as limiting the duration of the placement. The goal is to reduce placements into congregate care and place youth in the least restrictive and most family-like setting possible. These efforts to reduce the length of stay in congregate care are based on the poor outcomes of children in long-term congregate care placement.⁸

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/GHLList.pdf>

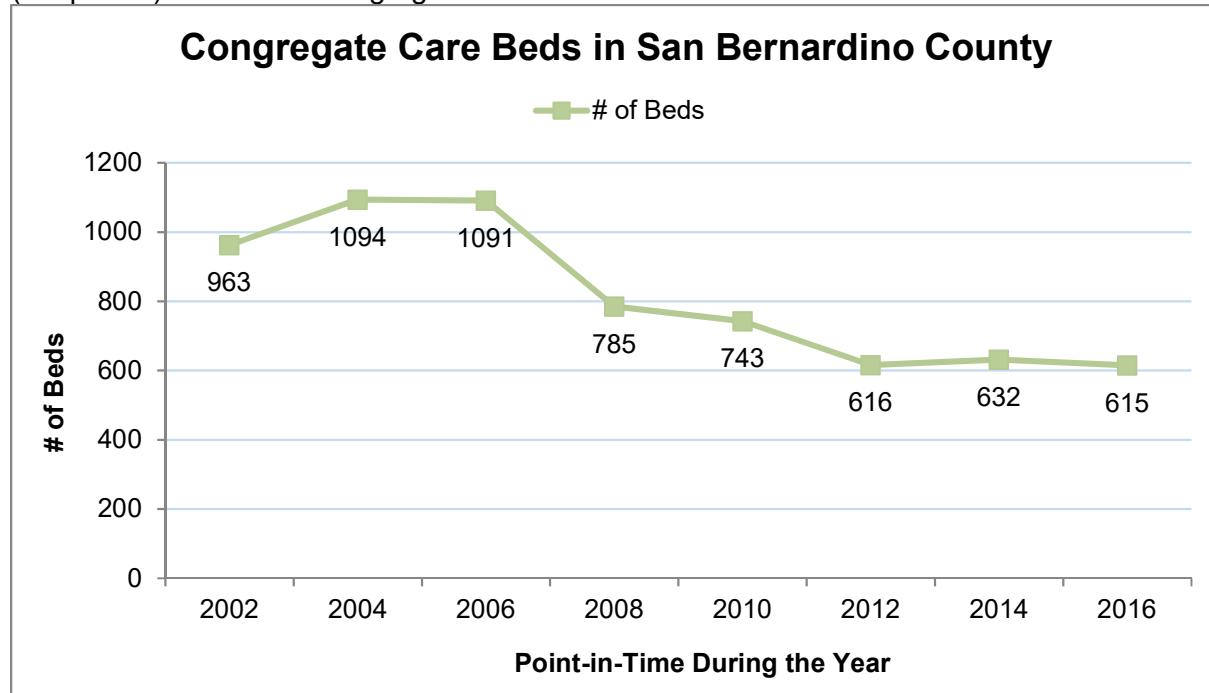
⁸ California's Child Welfare Continuum of Care,
http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/entres/pdf/CCR_LegislativeReport.pdf

Graph 4-1 shows the number of congregate care facilities in San Bernardino County from 2002 to 2016. The graph shows a decline in the number of congregate care facilities in San Bernardino County. Graph 4-2 shows the number of Congregate Care beds from 2002 to 2016. Due to the decrease in facilities throughout the years, the number of available beds for in-county placement has also decreased.

(Graph 4-1) Number of Congregate Care Facilities for 2002 to 2016 at 2 Year Intervals



(Graph 4-2) Number of Congregate Care Beds for 2002-2016 at 2 Year Intervals



The closure of 29 congregate care facilities 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 10 facility closures decreased the number of beds by an additional 170. In total, the number of available beds has decreased by 44% (n = 479) since 2004.

Between 2014 and 2016, one congregate care home was established, but the number or available beds decreased from 632 to 615. Although the addition of this congregate care home may have alleviated some of the placing issues encountered by CFS and Probation, the number of children, youth, and young adults in need of congregate care placement has also increased over the last few years.

Table 4-3 shows the number of congregate care facilities and bed capacities by cities and CFS Regions in October 2017. Almost half (48.4%, n = 30) of the congregate care facilities are located in the Western Region, and nearly one-fourth (22.6%, n = 14) in the Eastern Region. Similarly, the number of beds in the Western Region account for over half of the beds (53.2%, n = 334) of San Bernardino County's total bed capacity (n = 628). Beds in the Eastern Region account for 23.6% (n = 148) of San Bernardino County's total bed capacity.

In 2014, the number of available facilities by region was 9 for Central, 15 for Eastern, 9 for North Desert, and 30 for Western.⁹ This represents a loss of four beds for Central, 12 beds for Eastern, and six beds for North Desert over a three-year period. Presently, the cities with the majority of congregate care 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 4-3) Congregate Care Facilities and Bed Capacities, by CFS Region/City (Oct. 2017)

CFS Region/City	Number (%) of Facilities	Number (%) of Beds
Central	8 (12.9%)	50 (8.0%)
San Bernardino City	8	50
Eastern	14 (22.6%)	148 (23.6%)
Crestline	2	12
Highland	1	6
Mentone	1	6
Redlands	5	62
Yucaipa	5	72
North Desert	10 (16.1%)	96 (15.3%)
Apple Valley	8	84
Victorville	2	12
Western	30 (48.4%)	334 (53.2%)
Alta Loma	1	6

⁹ Children's Network Group Home Needs Assessment (2015)

Bloomington	2	15
Chino	2	12
Chino Hills	2	155
Fontana	5	40
Ontario	3	18
Rancho Cucamonga	3	18
Rialto	8	46
Upland	4	24

San Bernardino County Congregate Care Facilities and Bed Capacities by RCL

Table 4-4 lists the number of congregate care facilities and bed capacities by RCL. Of the 62 congregate care facilities in the County, 20 (32.3%) are RCL 12 Facilities, 18 (29.0%) are RCL 11, and 20 (32.3%) are RCL 10. Therefore, RCL 10 through 12 account for over 95% of all congregate care facilities in San Bernardino County. Likewise, the largest proportion of beds are in RCL 10 through 12 facilities. Nearly half (45.2%) of the total bed capacity in San Bernardino County is RCL 10, followed by RCL 12 (31.5%) and RCL 11 (19.7%).

(Table 4-4) Congregate Care Facilities and Bed Capacities by RCL (Oct. 2017)

RCL	Number (%) of Facilities	Number (%) of Beds
8	2 (3.2%)	12 (1.9%)
10	20 (32.3%)	284 (45.2%)
11	18 (29.0%)	124 (19.7%)
12	20 (32.3%)	198 (31.5%)
Regional Center	2 (3.2%)	10 (1.6%)
San Bernardino County Total	62	628

In 2001, there were 10 RCL 14 congregate care facilities with 38 beds, in April 2006, there were four RCL 14 congregate care facilities with 24 beds and in 2008, there was only one RCL 14 congregate care facility with six beds in San Bernardino County. As of October 2017, there are no RCL 14 congregate care facilities within the County. During the 2014 Group Home Needs Assessment, analysts identified a need for more RCL 14 facilities. At that time, there were two RCL 14 congregate care facilities in San Bernardino County with a total of 12 beds and 35 RCL 14 placements made by the placing departments. Without enough available RCL 14 beds within the County, placements into a facility offering a lower level of care or placement at out-of-county facilities were the only options.

Table 4-5 presents the number of bed capacities by city and RCL. Congregate care 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 congregate care facilities in lower RCLs, such as RCL 8, are only in the Western Region.

(Table 4-5) Congregate Care Facilities Bed Capacities by CFS Region/City and RCL (Oct. 2017)

CFS Region/City	Regional Center	RCL				Total Beds
		8	10	11	12	
Central	0	0	26	18	6	50
San Bernardino	0	0	26	18	6	50
Eastern	0	0	18	46	78	148
Crestline	0	0	0	12	0	12
Highland	0	0	6	0	0	6
Mentone	0	0	0	0	6	6
Redlands	0	0	12	40	0	52
Yucaipa	0	0	0	0	72	72
North Desert	0	0	6	24	66	96
Apple Valley	0	0	0	18	66	84
Victorville	0	0	6	6	0	12
Western	10	12	234	30	48	334
Alta Loma	0	6	0	0	0	6
Bloomington	0	0	9	0	6	15
Chino	0	0	0	12	0	12
Chino Hills	0	0	155	0	0	155
Fontana	0	0	22	18	0	40
Ontario	0	6	6	0	6	18
Rancho Cucamonga	0	0	12	0	6	18
Rialto	10	0	24	0	12	46
Upland	0	0	6	0	18	24
San Bernardino County Total	10	12	284	118	198	628

Table 4-6 (on the following page) compares congregate care bed capacities in October 2017 with the total placements made by the two San Bernardino County placing departments for that month. The total number of placements made by San Bernardino County placing departments was 634, and congregate care facilities located

in San Bernardino County had 628 beds. Theoretically, it would be easy to conclude that San Bernardino County has enough congregate care facilities; 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 home facilities in certain RCLs. For example, CFS made 11 RCL 9 placements and 12 RCL 14 placements, but San Bernardino County did not have any congregate care facilities in RCL 9 or RCL 14. Second, children, youth, and young adults should be placed in a congregate care facility with specific treatment programs. The fact that 68.7% ($n = 414$) of 603 group home placements supervised by San Bernardino County in October 2017 were in out-of-county congregate care facilities is an indicator that in-county congregate care homes do not offer a program matched with certain children, youth, or young adult's needs. Finally, other counties place their children, youth, and young adults in congregate care facilities 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, youth, and young adults in out-of-county congregate care facilities is an indicator that the range of RCLs and treatment programs is insufficient for the County's placing needs.

(Table 4-6) Congregate Care Placements¹⁰ and Bed Capacities, by RCL (Oct. 2017)

RCL	CFS	Probation	Total GH Placements	Number of Beds in San Bernardino
Regional Center	0	0	0	10
8	28	0	28	12
9	11	0	11	0
10	112	11	123	284
11	95	0	95	124
12	263	13	276	198
14	12	0	12	0
Unknown	37	21	60	10
San Bernardino County Total	558	45	603	628

¹⁰ County placements include both in-county and out-of-county placements. Multiple placements per child, youth or young adult in the month were counted.

4-2. GEO-Mapping of Congregate Care in San Bernardino

The following maps display the location of each congregate care facility along with their bed capacities and Rate Classification Levels (RCLs). In addition to the congregate care facility 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 congregate care facility are further described by shape and color of icons. For further information, please see the legend on each map.

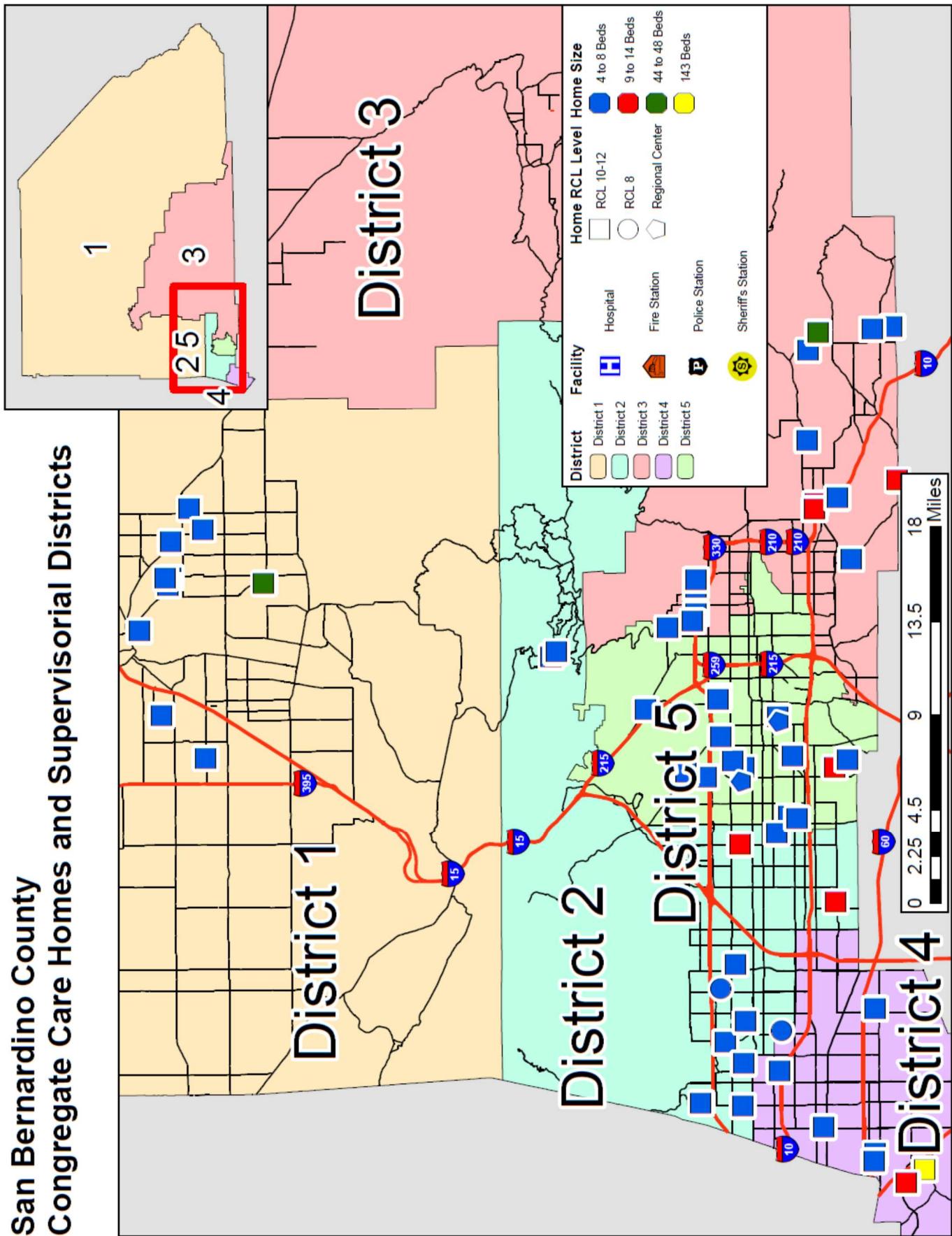
- Map 1: San Bernardino County Overview of the Congregate Care Facility Distribution
- Map 2: Detailed Map of Supervisorial District 1 of San Bernardino County
- Map 3: Detailed Map of Supervisorial District 2 of San Bernardino County (a)
- Map 4: Detailed Map of Supervisorial District 2 of San Bernardino County (b)
- Map 4: Detailed Map of Supervisorial District 3 of San Bernardino County
- Map 5: Detailed Map of Supervisorial District 4 of San Bernardino County
- Map 6: Detailed Map of Supervisorial District 5 of San Bernardino County

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

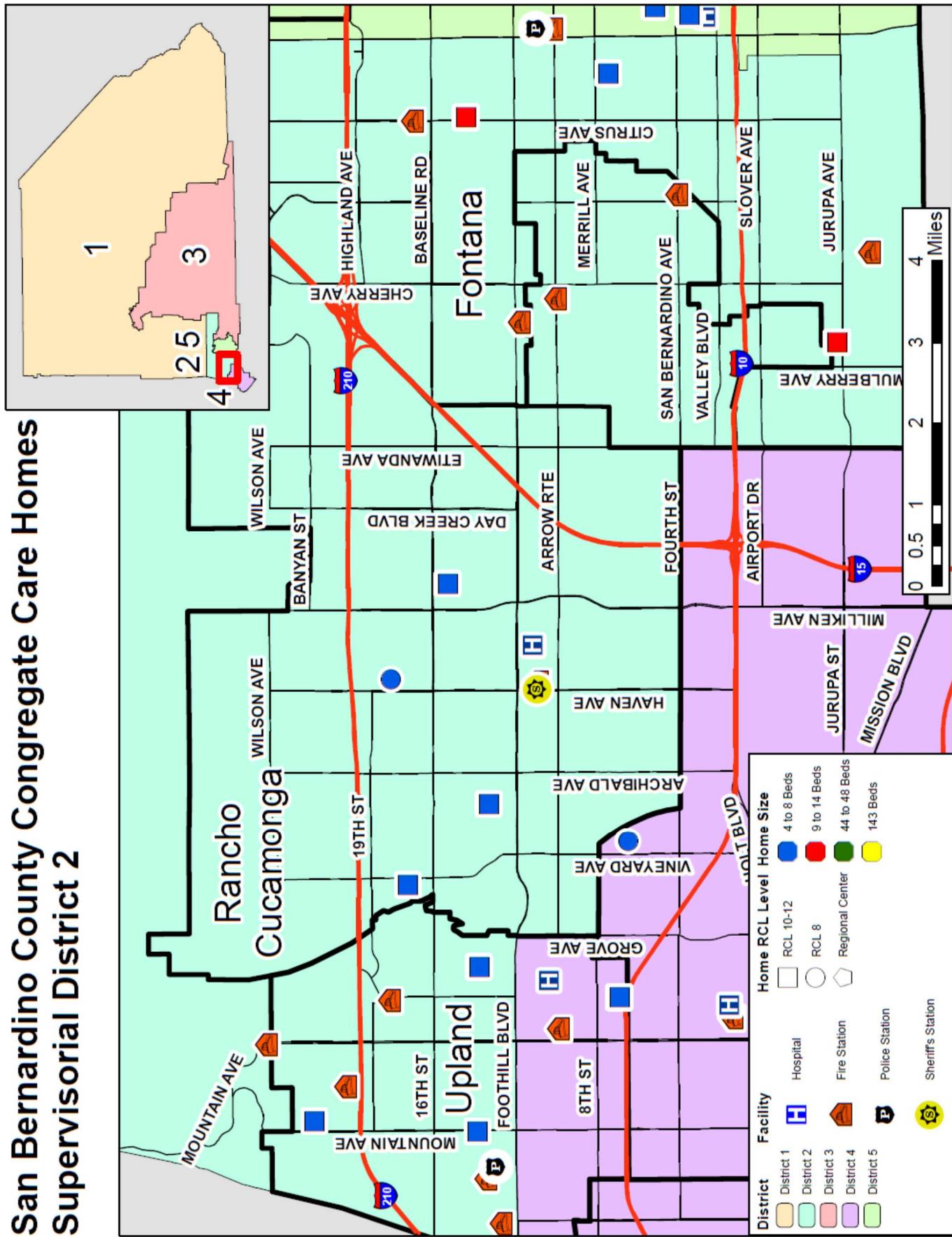
For further information concerning mapping of congregate cares, please contact:

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

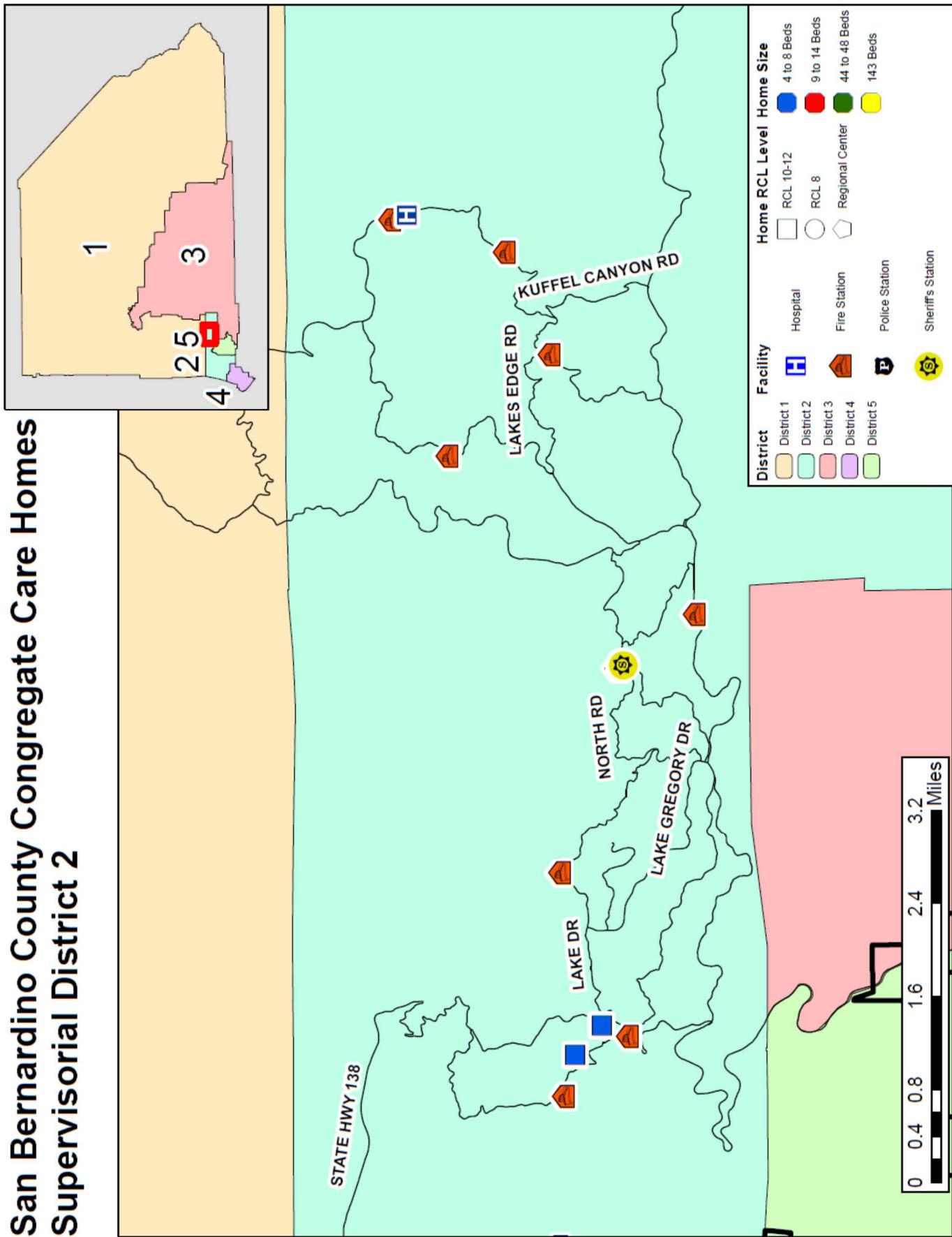
San Bernardino County Congregate Care Homes and Supervisorial Districts



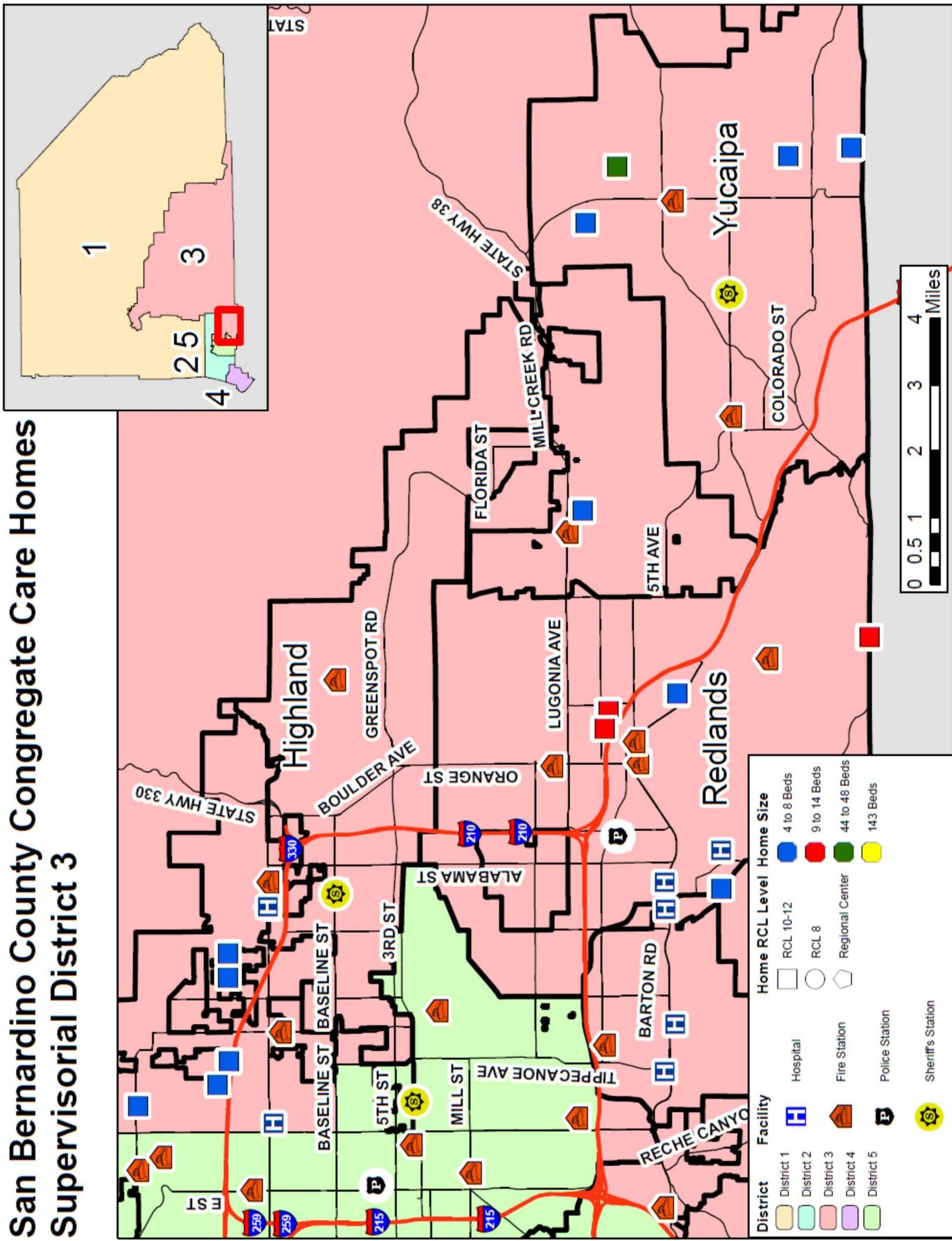
San Bernardino County Congregate Care Homes Supervisorial District 2



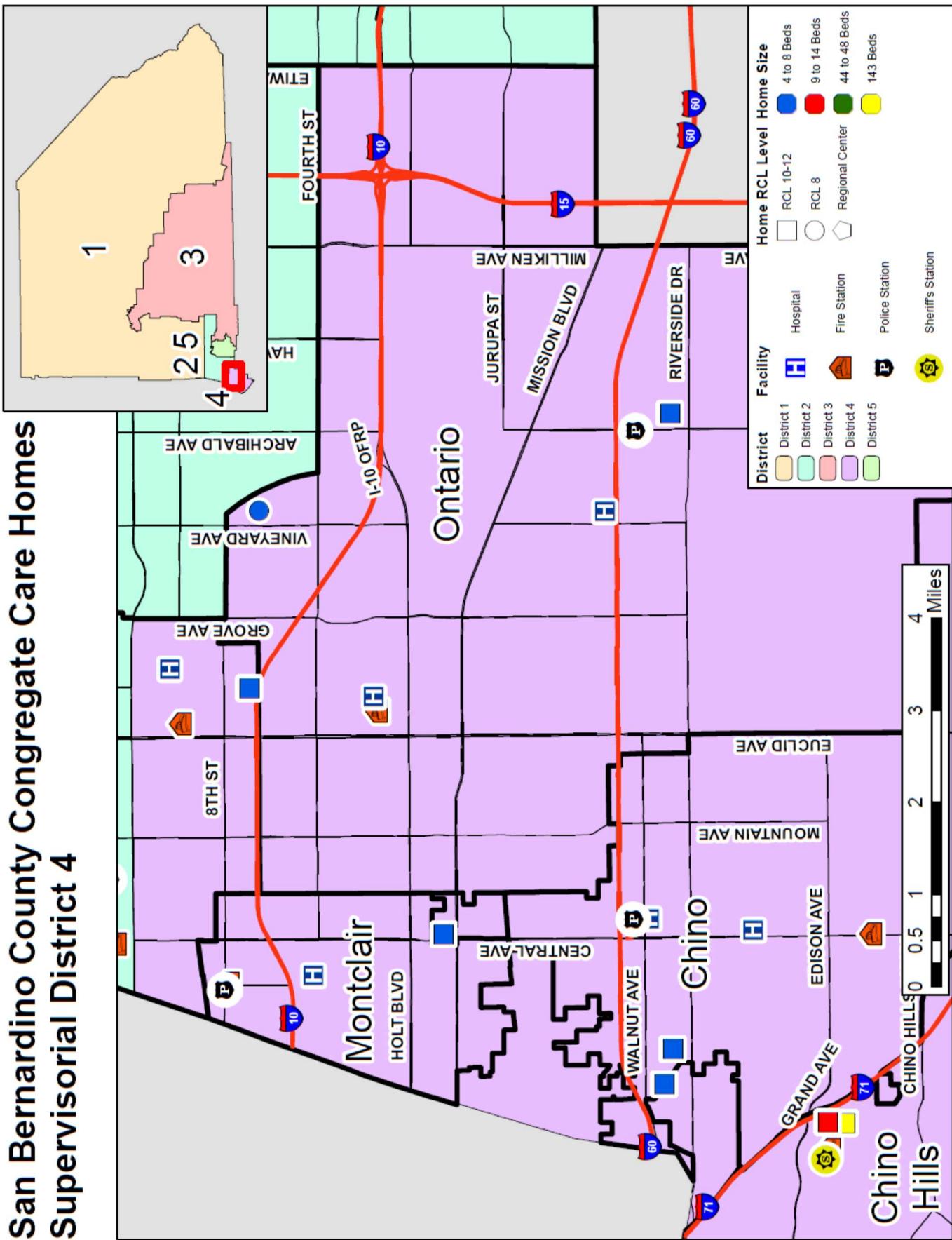
San Bernardino County Congregate Care Homes Supervisorial District 2



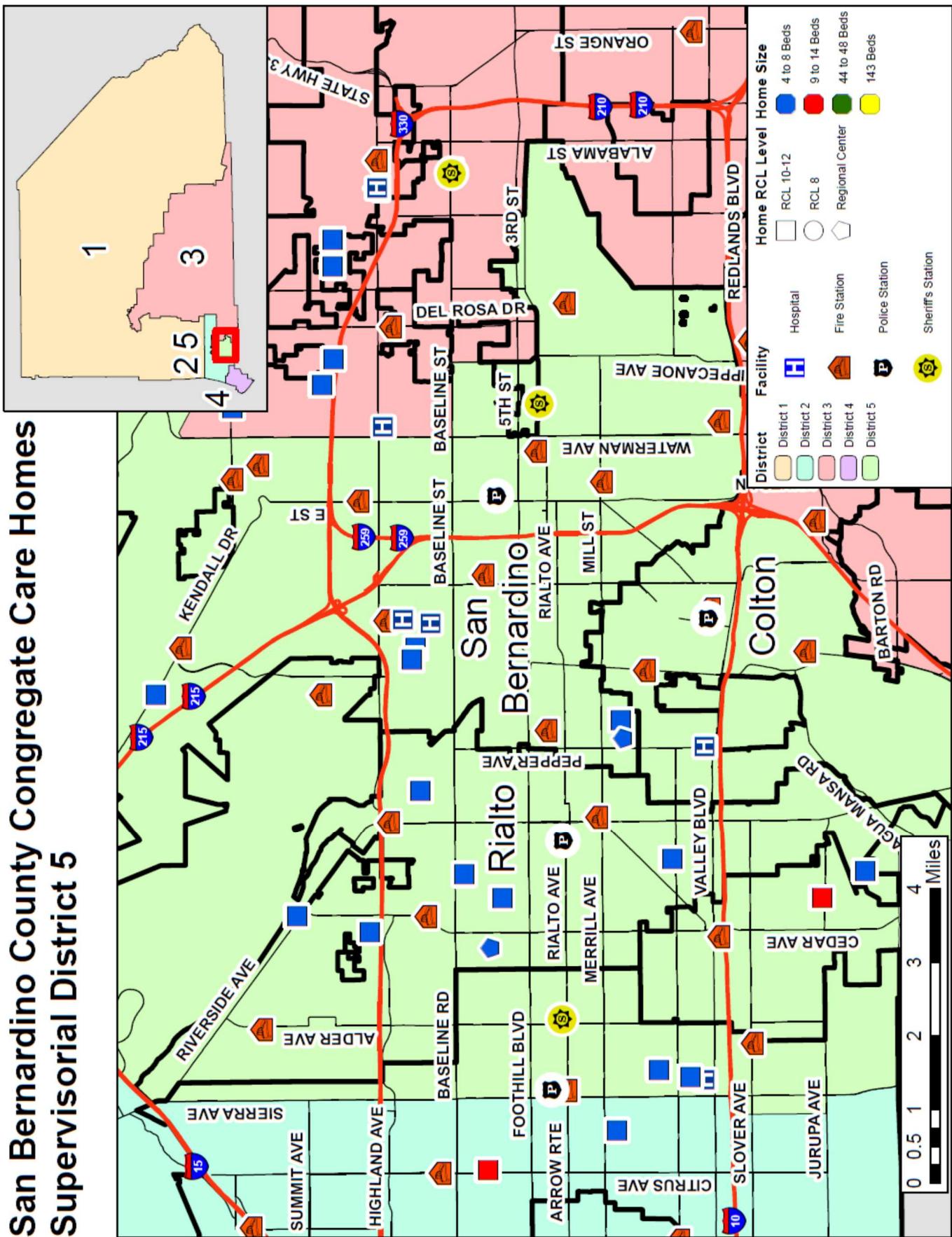
San Bernardino County Congregate Care Homes Supervisorial District 3



San Bernardino County Congregate Care Homes Supervisorial District 4



San Bernardino County Congregate Care Homes Supervisorial District 5



Section 5: Data Summary

Section 5 summarizes various analyses of administrative data and results from past assessments to describe the characteristics of congregate care placements and San Bernardino County supervised children, youth, and young adults in congregate care from different aspects.

Section 5 includes San Bernardino County overview, demographics of children, youth, and young adults in congregate care, and reports of special incidents in congregate care facilities.

5-1. San Bernardino County Supervised Children, Youth, and Young Adults

Section 5-1 describes the demographic characteristics of San Bernardino County and San Bernardino County supervised children, youth, and young adults.

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 Kern, Inyo, Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside counties and the states of Arizona and Nevada.

Table 5-1 compares statistics among neighboring counties with large populations. San Bernardino County has the second largest foster care population in the State, followed by Riverside and San Diego counties.

(Table 5-1) Data by County (2017 Projections and Point-in-time Foster Care Population)

County	San Bernardino	Riverside	Los Angeles	Orange	San Diego
Total Area (square miles)*	20,105.101	7,303.17	4,751.135	948.000	4,525.637
Land Area (square miles)*	20,057.284	7,206.42	4,058.161	790.889	4,208.046
Water Area (square miles)*	47.817	96.753	692.974	157.111	317.591
Number of Cities	31	28	88	34	18
Total Population: All Ages**	2,168,360	2,395,487	10,288,515	3,201,395	3,327,562
Population: Under 18 Years**	614,939	638,375	2,451,982	774,555	840,213
Median Household Income***	53,433	56,603	56,196	76,509	64,309
Foster Care Population****	6,449	3,391	20,186	2,206	2,536

Data Source:

* U.S. Gazetteer, https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/maps-data/data/gazetteer/2017_Gazetteer/2017_gaz_counties_06.txt

** State of California, Department of Finance, Report P-2: County Population Projections (2010-2060): County Population by Age (1-year increments). Sacramento, California, February 2017.

*** U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

**** SafeMeasures: Open Placements, October 2017

5-2. San Bernardino County Supervised Children, Youth, and Young Adults in Congregate Care

Children and Family Services and Probation place and supervise children, youth, and young adults in congregate care facilities located in San Bernardino County and outside of San Bernardino County. In addition, these departments may place children, youth, and young adults in congregate care facilities located outside of California. No matter where these congregate care facilities are located, if the child, youth or young adult is placed by a County of San Bernardino placing department, they are defined as *San Bernardino County supervised congregate care child, youth, or young adult*. Even though children, youth, and young adults from other counties live in congregate care facilities located in San Bernardino County, children, youth, and young adults who are placed by other counties are not considered County of San Bernardino supervised congregate care children, youth, or young adults.

Since each placing department supervises distinct populations, Section 5-2 analyzes demographics and characteristics of San Bernardino County supervised congregate care children, youth, and young adults for each department.

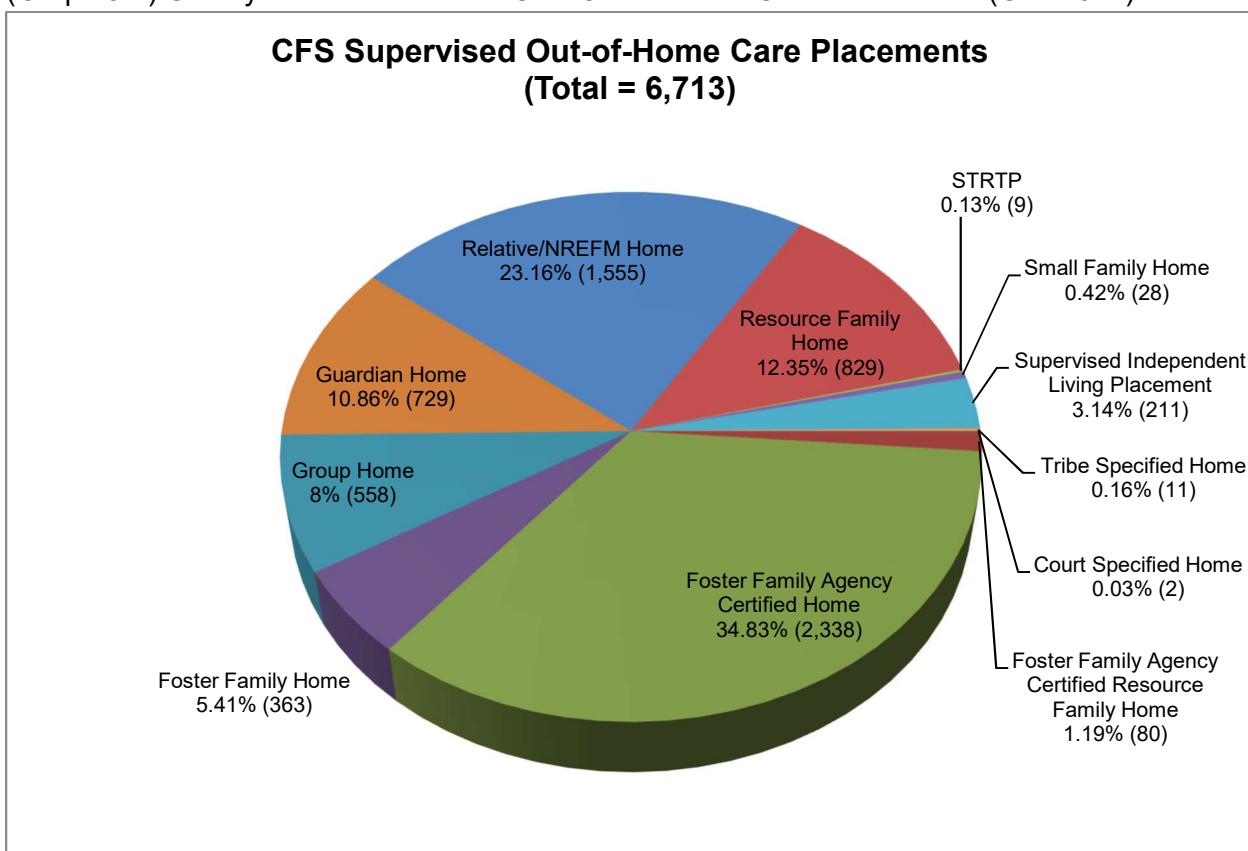
Congregate Care Placement among Out-of-Home Care

A congregate care placement 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 Congregate Care. CFS will place children and youth 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, into out-of-home care. Probation, responsible for supervising juvenile offenders will, on occasion, place youth in out-of-home care when beneficial to treatment goals. In addition to children and youth, both departments supervise the placement of young adults who have exited foster care and wish to return.

The total number of children, youth, and young adults supervised by CFS and Probation in a congregate care facility in October 2017 was 608. CFS supervised 541 children and youth in congregate care (group home and STRTP) placements. Probation supervised 67 youth and young adults in congregate care (group home and STRTP placements).

Graph 5-2 (on the following page) shows the number of out-of-home placements for 6,467 CFS supervised children in October of 2017. Two-hundred twenty-six children had two or more placements, resulting in a total of 6,713 placements for October 2017. Among the 6,467 out-of-home care children, youth, and young adults supervised by CFS in October 2017, there were 541 children, youth, and young adults in a congregate care placement (includes group home and STRTP placements), accounting for 8.45% (n=567) of total CFS out-of-home care placements. Whenever possible, CFS chooses the least restrictive, most family-like setting for children, youth, and young adults in out-of-home placements.

(Graph 5-2) County of San Bernardino CFS Out-of-Home Care Placements (Oct. 2017)

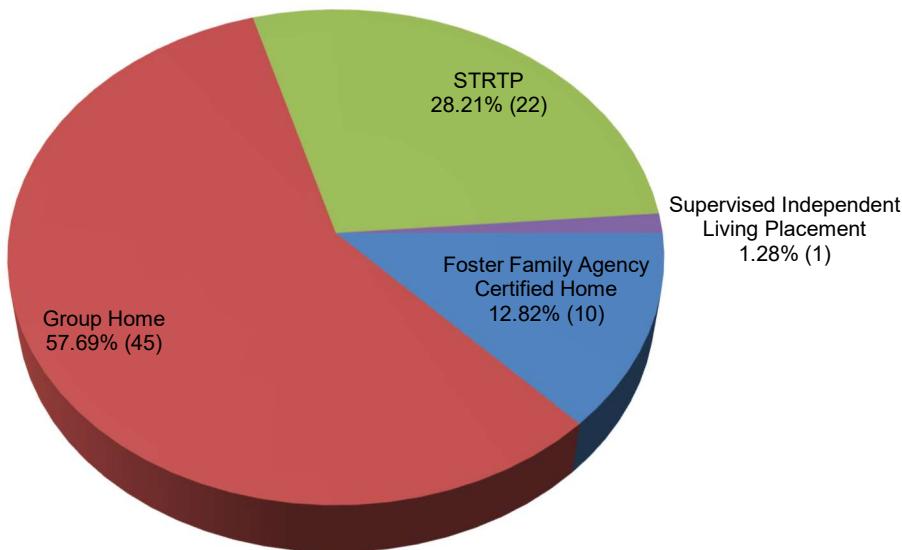


Data Source: CWS/CMS, data extracted October 31, 2017

Graph 5-3 (on the following page) illustrates the types of out-of-home placement for Probation supervised youth. Among the 78 out-of-home care youth supervised by Probation in October 2017, there were 67 congregate care (group home and STRTP) placements (in total, there were 78 out-of-home placements). Probation supervised youth are more often placed into congregate care because the treatment needs of these youth are better served in these settings.

(Graph 5-3) San Bernardino County Probation Out-of-Home Care Placements (Oct. 2017)

**Probation Supervised Out-of-Home Care Placements
(Total = 78)**



Data Source: CWS/CMS, data extracted October 31, 2017

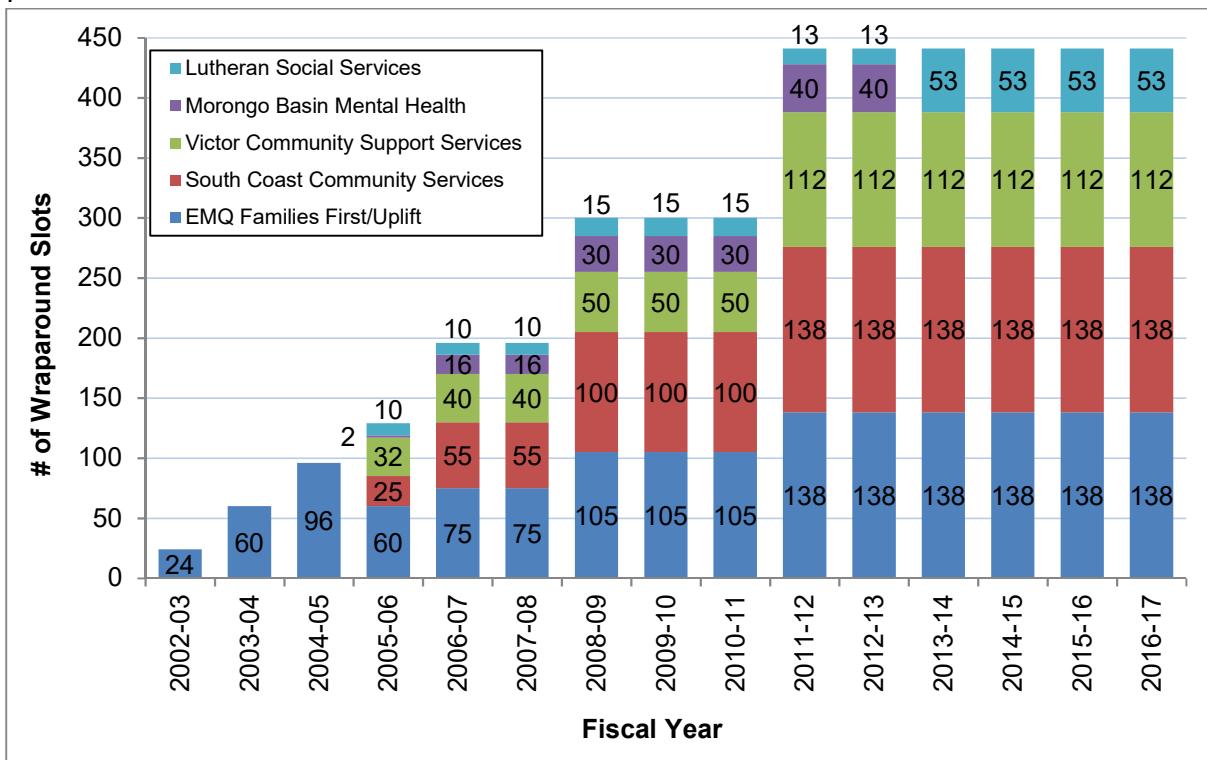
Impact of the Wraparound and ChRIS Programs on Congregate Care Placements by County Departments

Wraparound is a family-centered, strength-based program that offers an alternative to congregate care placements and is currently available to children and youth 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 4,600 children have been placed in Wraparound who would have otherwise been placed in a congregate care RCL 10 or higher.

Wraparound allows for counties more flexible use of existing state foster care dollars for children and youth in or at risk of being placed in RCL 10 to RCL 14 congregate care facilities. Eligible children and youth are able to receive a broader array of service alternatives using the Wraparound process. A child or youth's congregate care 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 October 2017, a total of 318 children and youth are being served by the Wraparound vendors: 30 Probation youth and 288 CFS supervised children and youth.

(Graph 5-4) Number of Wraparound Slots by Service Provider for Fiscal Years 2002-03 to 2016-17



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

While Wraparound serves as an alternative to congregate care placement for children and youth at risk of RCL 10-14 placement, ChRIS works to transition youth out of congregate 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 of congregate care (RCL 14). The County's goals for the RBS program were to transition youth 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 youth 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 twenty-two providers.

Congregate Care Placements by Location of Congregate Care (CFS and Probation Supervised Children, Youth, and Young Adults)

As previously mentioned, San Bernardino County placing departments placed and supervised children, youth, and young adults in and outside of San Bernardino County.

During October 2017, 608 total children, youth, and young adults were in an active congregate care placement: CFS supervised 541 children, youth, and young adults in 567 placements and Probation supervised 67 youth in 67 placements. Table 5-5 describes the placement location of San Bernardino County children, youth, and young adults in congregate care.

Among the total 541 CFS children, youth, and young adults in a congregate care placement during October 2017, 181 (31.92%) of the placements made by CFS were in congregate care located in San Bernardino County (in-county placements). There were 379 (66.84%) out-of-county placements made by CFS; however, 284 (75.93%) of those placements were in neighboring counties (Los Angeles, Riverside, and Orange). Out-of-state placements only made up 1.23% of congregate care placements for CFS.

Out of the total 67 congregate care youth supervised by Probation in October 2017, there were 19 (26.36%) in-county placements, 27 (40.30%) out-of-county placements and 21 (31.34%) out-of-state placements.

In October 2017, 68.45% of all congregate care placements were out-of-county (including 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 2012, 2014, and 2017. In addition, Graphs 5-6 and 5-7 describe the point-in-time comparison of the number of placements by location for CFS and Probation.

(Table 5-5) In-county, out-of-county, and out-of-state placements during one month

		2012 (Dec.)		2014 (Dec.)		2017 (Oct.)	
CFS	Department Total Placements	294		372		567	
	In-County	127	43.20% ¹¹	158	42.47%	181	31.92%
	Out-of-County	163	54.44%	214	57.53%	379	66.84%
	Out-of-State	4	1.36%	0	0.00%	7	1.23%
Probation	Department Total Placements	118		107		67	
	In-County	26	22.03%	28	26.17%	19	28.36%
	Out-of-County	75	63.56%	57	53.27%	27	40.30%
	Out-of-State	17	14.41%	22	20.56%	21	31.34%
Total Congregate Care Placements by All Placing Departments		412		479		634	
Unique Child Count		383		458		608	

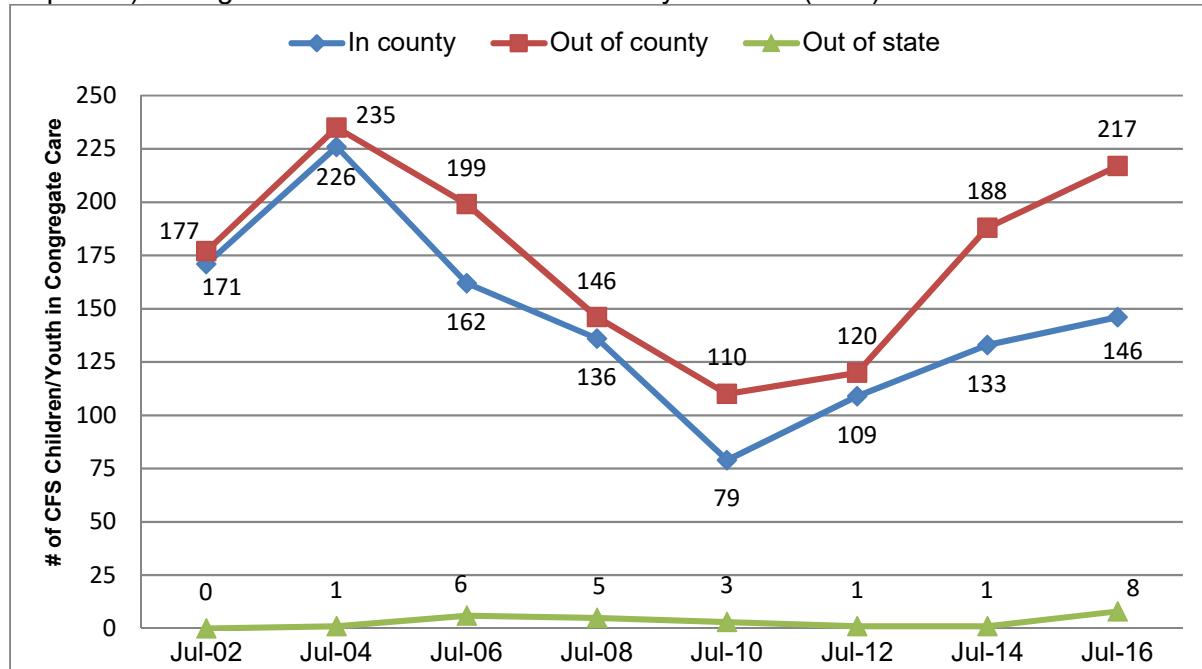
Data Source: CWS/CMS

¹¹ The percentage indicates the proportion of placement into different locations to total numbers of placements per year.

CFS Congregate Care Placements

The total number of children, youth, and young adults placed in congregate care facilities by CFS decreased from 462 in July 2004 to 192 in July 2010 (58.44% decrease), before increasing to 230 in July 2012, 322 in July 2014, and 371 in July 2016. Out-of-county congregate care facilities 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.¹²

(Graph 5-6) Change in the Number of Placements by Location (CFS)



Data Source: CWS/CMS 2017 Quarter 2 Extract, California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP), University of California at Berkeley: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/placementgrids.aspx

In July 2016, the following were the top three locations of congregate care facilities accepting County of San Bernardino CFS supervised children, youth, and young adults:

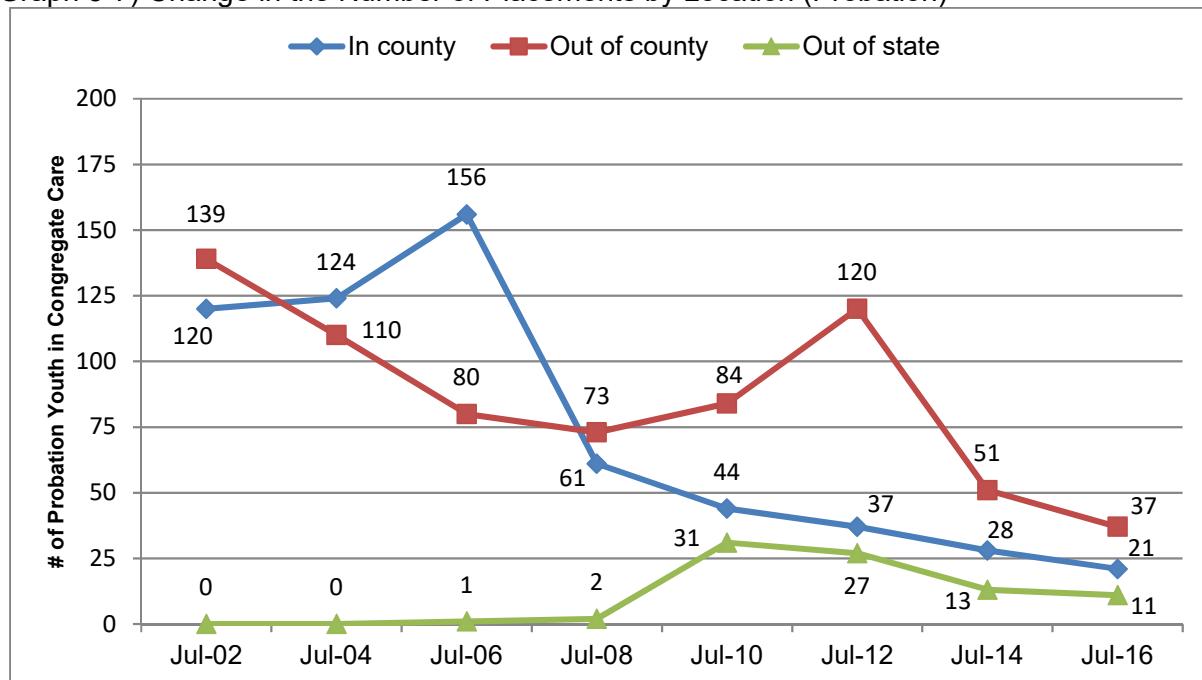
County of Placement	Number of Children, Youth, and Young Adults
1. Riverside	.....141
2. Kern	.....25
3. Los Angeles	.....19

¹² Based on point-in-time data

Probation Congregate Care Placements

Point-in-time data suggests that in July 2016, Probation placed more youth in congregate care located outside of San Bernardino County than inside San Bernardino County. There were no out-of-state placements in July 2002 and July 2004. In July 2010, there were 31 out-of-state placements. Since then, out-of-state placements have decreased. Out-of-state placement offers some youth more treatment options that may be better suited to their needs. Overall, the total number of congregate care 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 congregate care placement may be the result of the expansion of the Wraparound program.

(Graph 5-7) Change in the Number of Placements by Location (Probation)¹³



Data Source: CWS/CMS 2017 Quarter 2 Extract, California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP), University of California at Berkeley: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/placementgrids.aspx

In July 2016, the following were the top three locations of congregate care facilities accepting County of San Bernardino Probation supervised youth:

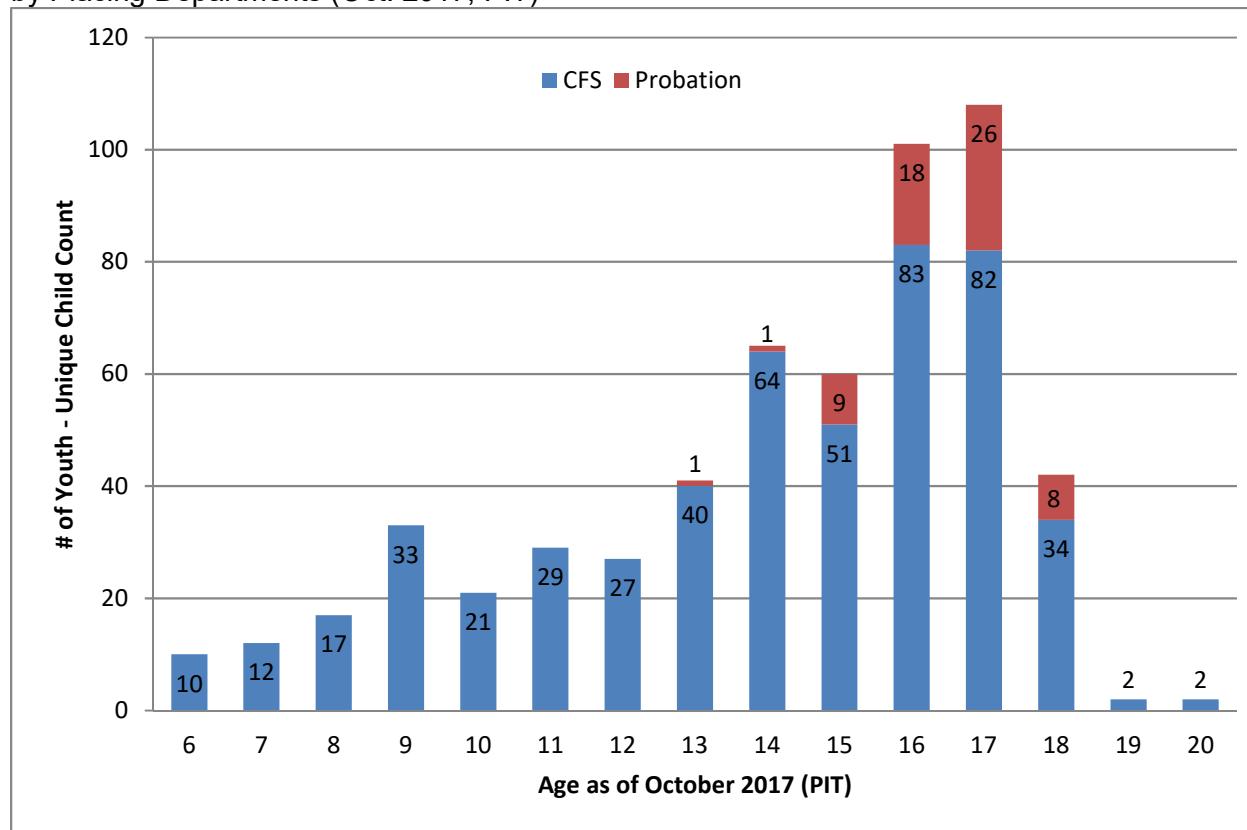
County of Placement	Number of Youth and Young Adults
1. Los Angeles	.....8
2. Calaveras	.....7
3. Riverside	.....7

¹³ Possibility of data quality issues for July 2012

Point-in-Time Comparison of Placements between Placing Departments - Age and Gender of San Bernardino County Supervised Children and Youth in Congregate Care October 2017 (CFS and Probation Supervised Children and Youth)

Graph 5-8 illustrates the age of children, youth, and young adults ages 6 and up placed in congregate care homes in October 2017 (PIT) by each placing department. Overall, youth ages 14 to 17 are the majority of the congregate care population. CFS supervised children, youth, and young adults were in the age range from 1 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 5-8) Age of Children (ages 6 and above), Youth and Young Adults in Congregate Care by Placing Departments (Oct. 2017, PIT)



Data Source: CWS/CMS

Table 5-9 (on the following page) describes the gender of San Bernardino County supervised children and youth under 18 years of age in congregate care in October 2017 by placing department. Overall, there are more males than females. Among CFS supervised children and youth under 18 years old in congregate care ($n = 529$), males accounted for 58.98% ($n = 312$) and females accounted for 41.02% ($n = 217$). Among the total Probation supervised youth under 18 years old ($n = 67$), males accounted for 92.54% ($n = 62$), and females accounted for 7.46% ($n = 5$). Among San Bernardino County population under the age of 18 years, 51.30% were males and 48.70% were

females. When compared to the County population, males in congregate care are over represented.

(Table 5-9) Gender of San Bernardino County Supervised Congregate Care Children and Youth under 18 (Oct. 2017)

	CFS		Probation		San Bernardino County Under 18 Years ¹⁴	
Female	217	41.02%	5	7.46%	299,479	48.70%
Male	312	58.98%	62	92.54%	315,460	51.30%

Data Source: CWS/CMS; State of California, Department of Finance, Report P-3: State and County Population Projections Dataset, 2010-2060. Sacramento, California, February 2017.

Ethnicity of Children and Youth in San Bernardino County Congregate Care (CFS and Probation Supervised Children and Youth)

Table 5-10 summarizes the ethnicity of San Bernardino County supervised children and youth in congregate care 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 and youth were Hispanic (38.37%). Black non-Hispanic children and youth made up the second highest proportion (34.78%). The highest proportion of Probation supervised youth was Hispanic (46.27%), then Black (non-Hispanic) (38.81%).

(Table 5-10) Ethnicity of Children in Congregate Care in San Bernardino County by Placing Departments Compared with San Bernardino County Population Under 18 Years Old (Oct. 2017)

	CFS		Probation		San Bernardino County Under 18 Years ¹⁵	
White (non-Hispanic)	131	24.76%	10	14.93%	129,942	21.13%
Hispanic	203	38.37%	31	46.27%	381,270	62.00%
Black (non-Hispanic)	184	34.78%	26	38.81%	48,624	7.91%
Other ¹⁶	11	2.08%	0	0.00%	55,103	8.96%
Total Youth <18	529		67		614,939	

Data Source: CWS/CMS; State of California, Department of Finance, Report P-3: State and County Population Projections Dataset, 2010-2060. Sacramento, California, February 2017.

Table 5-11 compares the rate of children and youth in congregate care under 18 years old per 1,000 by ethnicity regardless of placing department in October 2017. Among White children and youth, 1.09 out of every 1,000 were in congregate care. Among Hispanic children and youth, 0.61 out of 1,000 were in congregate care. In addition, among Black (non-Hispanic) children and youth, 4.32 out of 1,000 were in

¹⁴ Projection for 2014

¹⁵ Projection for 2014

¹⁶ Other: American Indian or Alaska Native (Non-Hispanic), Asian (Non-Hispanic), Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (Non-Hispanic), Multiracial (Non-Hispanic)

congregate care. This ratio indicates that Hispanic children and youths' congregate care entering ratio was lower than those of White (non-Hispanic) and Black (non-Hispanic) children and youth. Alternatively, it can be stated that Black (non-Hispanic) children and youth were over represented.

(Table 5-11) Rate of Children and Youth in Congregate Care under the Age of 18 by Ethnicity Point-in-Time Analysis (Oct. 2017) (CFS and Probation Supervised Children and Youth)

White (non-Hispanic)	Hispanic	Black (non-Hispanic)	Other
1.09 per 1,000 White (non-Hispanic) Children/Youth	0.61 per 1,000 Hispanic Children/Youth	4.32 per 1,000 Black (non-Hispanic) Children/Youth	0.20 per 1,000 Other Children/Youth

Duration of Stay in Congregate Care – Point-in-Time Analysis (CFS and Probation Supervised Children, Youth, and Young Adults)

Table 5-12 summarizes the length of stay in congregate care for children, youth, and young adults with an active congregate care placement as of October 2017.

(Table 5-12) Children, Youth, and Young Adult's Current Placement Duration in a Specific Congregate Care (Oct. 2017)

Placement Duration	CFS		Probation	
	Number of Children		Number of Children	
Less than 1 Month	52	10.14%	6	9.68%
1 to 6 Month	284	55.36%	43	69.35%
6 Month to 1 Year	91	17.74%	8	12.90%
1 to 2 Years	60	11.70%	5	8.06%
2 to 3 Years	15	2.92%	0	0.00%
3 to 4 Years	8	1.56%	0	0.00%
4 to 7 Years	3	0.58%	0	0.00%
Total	513		62	
Average Days in Congregate Care	235 Days		145 Days	
Minimum	5 Days		13 Days	
Maximum	2,353 Days/6.4 Years		691 Days/1.9 Years	

Data Source: CWS/CMS

Most (83.24%) of CFS supervised children, youth, and young adults stayed in their current congregate care placement for less than 1 year. The average stay in congregate care for CFS supervised children, youth, and young adults was 225 days, the stays ranged in length from 5 to 2,353 days.

Almost all (91.94%) of Probation supervised youth and young adults stayed for less than 1 year. The average stay for Probation supervised youth and young adults was 145 days, the stays ranged in length from 13 to 691 days.

Multiple Placement Analysis of CFS Supervised Children, Youth, and Young Adults

The majority of congregate care children, youth, and young adults supervised by Children and Family Services have had more than one congregate care placement. Typically, a CFS child, youth or young adult has had several family centered foster care placements before entering a congregate care placement.

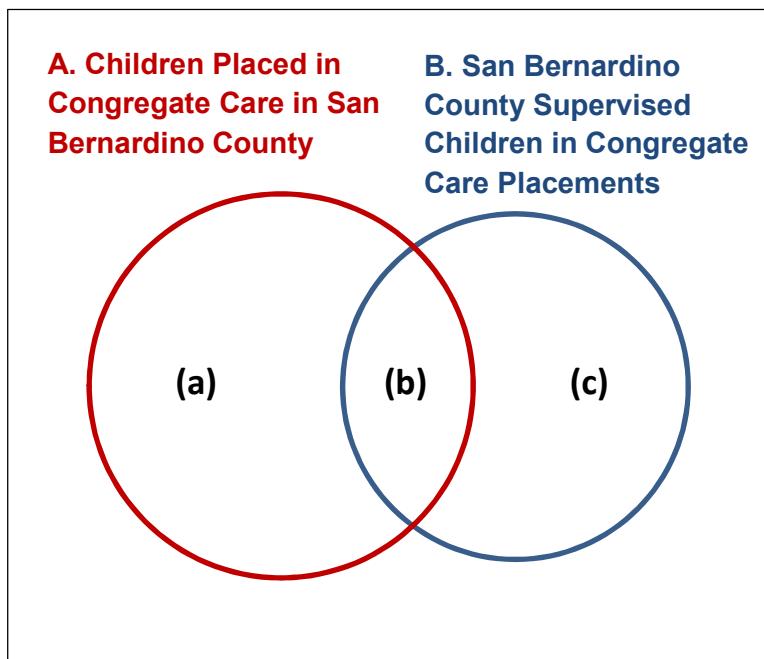
Table 5-13 shows that 14.81% of the children, youth or young adults (76 out of 513) have had only one foster care placement, and 17.31% of the children, youth or young adults have at least two foster care placements during their supervision by San Bernardino County (89 children, youth, and young adults).

(Table 5-13) Number of Congregate Care Placements, the Current Oct. 2017 CFS Children, Youth, and Young Adults Have Had During their Foster Care Placement Episode.

# of Congregate Care Placements the 513 Children, Youth, Young Adults in Oct. 2017 Have Had in Foster Care	# of Children, Youth, and Young Adults	% of Children, Youth, and Young Adults	Cumulative % of Children, Youth, and Young Adults
1 Congregate Care Placement	76	14.81%	14.81%
2 Congregate Care Placements	89	17.35%	32.16%
3 Congregate Care Placements	97	18.91%	51.07%
4 Congregate Care Placements	52	10.14%	61.21%
5 Congregate Care Placements	57	11.11%	72.32%
6 Congregate Care Placements	28	5.46%	77.78%
7 Congregate Care Placements	24	4.68%	82.46%
8 Congregate Care Placements	18	3.51%	85.96%
9 Congregate Care Placements	17	3.31%	89.28%
10 Congregate Care Placements	16	3.12%	92.40%
11 Congregate Care Placements	7	1.36%	93.76%
12 Congregate Care Placements	6	1.17%	94.93%
13 Congregate Care Placements	5	0.97%	95.91%
14 Congregate Care Placements	5	0.97%	96.88%
>=15 Congregate Care Placements	16	3.12%	100.00%
Total	513		

Congregate Care Placements from Other Counties (Children, Youth, and Young Adults)

Table 5-14 describes the number of congregate care children, youth, and young adults placed in San Bernardino County and the proportion of San Bernardino County supervised children, youth, and young adults among them. The following chart explains which letter indicates which population.



Circle A represents all children, youth, and young adults living in congregate care in San Bernardino County regardless of the county placing them. Just as the County of San Bernardino can place children, youth, and young adults into congregate care facilities outside of San Bernardino County, other counties can place children, youth, and young adults into congregate care facilities in San Bernardino County.

Circle B represents San Bernardino County supervised congregate care children, youth, and young adults. As previously stated, this population is placed into Congregate Care and supervised by San Bernardino placing departments. Therefore, their congregate care placements were paid through the County of San Bernardino.

Area (a) represents the population of congregate care children, youth, and young adults placed in San Bernardino County who are not supervised by the County.

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

Area (c) represents the population of children, youth, and young adults who are San Bernardino County supervised children, youth, and young adults placed in congregate care outside of San Bernardino County.

The following were the top three counties that placed their children, youth, and young adults into congregate care located in San Bernardino County in July 2017¹⁷:

Top Three Counties	Number of Child Welfare Supervised Children, Youth, or Young Adults
1. Los Angeles	.....37
2. Riverside	.....17
3. Sacramento	.....6

Two-hundred thirty-six child welfare supervised children, youth, and young adults lived in congregate care facilities located in San Bernardino County in July 2017. Among the 236 children, youth, and young adults placed in congregate care facilities in San Bernardino County, 163 were San Bernardino County CFS supervised children, youth, and young adults and 73 were supervised by other California counties or states (30.9% of all children, youth, and young adults placed in congregate care San Bernardino County).

San Bernardino County CFS placed 478 total foster children, youth, and young adults in congregate care in July 2017. Among, the 478 San Bernardino County CFS supervised foster children, youth, and young adults placed in congregate care, 163 (34.1%) were placed in San Bernardino County and 315 (65.9%) were placed outside of San Bernardino County.

(Table 5-14) The Number of Child Welfare Supervised Children, Youth, and Young Adults and Proportion of San Bernardino County Supervised Children, Youth, and Young Adults (July 2017)

Child Welfare	Congregate Care Placements		All Placements	
A. Children, Youth, and Young Adults Placed in San Bernardino County	236		6,615	
B. San Bernardino County Supervised Children, Youth, and Young Adults (in and out of county)	478		6,386	
(a) Children, Youth, and Young Adults from Outside of San Bernardino County	73	30.9% of A.	2,002	30.3% of A.
(b) San Bernardino County Supervised Children, Youth, and Young Adults: In-County Placement	163	34.1% of B.	4,613	72.2% of B.
(c) San Bernardino County Supervised Children, Youth, and Young Adults: Out-of-County Placement	315	65.9% of B.	1,773	27.8% of B.

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2017 Quarter 2 Extract, California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP), University of California at Berkeley: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/placementgrids.aspx

¹⁷ Most recent data available

The following were the top three counties that placed their probation youth into congregate care located in San Bernardino County in July 2017:

Top Three Counties	Number of Probation Supervised Youth
1. Los Angeles	.....100
2. Riverside	.....26
3. Orange	.....11

One-hundred ninety-seven probation supervised youth lived in congregate care located in San Bernardino County in July 2017. Among the 197 youth placed in congregate care facilities in San Bernardino County, 23 youth were San Bernardino County Probation supervised youth and 174 were supervised by other California counties or states (88.3% of all youth placed in San Bernardino County).

San Bernardino County Probation placed 58 total youth in congregate care facilities in July 2017. Among the 58 San Bernardino County Probation supervised youth placed in congregate care, 23 (39.7%) were placed in San Bernardino County and 35 (60.3%) were placed outside of San Bernardino County.

(Table 5-15) The Number of Probation Supervised Youth and Proportion of San Bernardino County Supervised Youth, and Young Adults (July 2017)

Probation	Congregate Care Placements	All Placements
A. Youth and Young Adults Placed in San Bernardino County	197	256
B. San Bernardino County Supervised Youth, and Young Adults (in and out of county)	58	90
(a) Youth and Young Adults from Outside of San Bernardino County	174	88.3% of A. 225 87.9% of A.
(b) San Bernardino County Supervised Youth and Young Adults: In-County Placement	23	39.7% of B. 31 34.4% of B.
(c) San Bernardino County Supervised Youth and Young Adults: Out-of-County Placement	35	60.3% of B. 59 65.6% of B.

Data Source: CWS/CMS 2017 Quarter 2 Extract, California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP), University of California at Berkeley: http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare/placementgrids.aspx

5-3. Serious Incident Reports

The County of San Bernardino requests Serious Incident Reports (SIRs)¹⁸ from congregate care 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 congregate care facilities located in San Bernardino County, and congregate care facilities 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 and youth. The data is limited to self-reporting by the congregate care providers.

Yearly Comparison of Serious Incident Reports

For incidents that occurred in 2016, 556 SIRs were sent to ROQS, which was a 59% decrease from 2014. Of these incidents, 304 (55%) involved calls to law enforcement or safety personnel, 295 of which were to law enforcement only. This represents a large decrease in all incidents since 2014 (Table 5-16), but a 31% increase in those with law enforcement involvement compared to 2008.

(Table 5-16) 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	1,357	398	29%	392	22%
2015	746	381	51%	371	50%
2016	556	304	55%	295	53%
Total	10,207	4,930	48%	4,674	46%

¹⁸ 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 2016 reports by city of origin (within San Bernardino County), just over 65% of the reports came from homes in Redlands and Chino Hills (Table 5-17). In 2014, homes in Redlands, Rialto, San Bernardino and Ontario had the most reported incidents accounting for over 80% of reported incidents. In 2016, most of the SIRs with calls to law enforcement came from Chino Hills, but many also came from Ontario and Victorville. In 2014, most came from Chino Hills, Ontario, San Bernardino, and Redlands. In 2016, 25.0% of the reported incidents had a response by law enforcement, up from 20.1% in 2014.

(Table 5-17) 2016 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	12	10	4
Chino	16	14	6
Chino Hills	136	134	42
Crestline	1	1	0
Fontana	8	6	4
Highland	10	8	2
Ontario	57	43	35
Rancho Cucamonga	2	2	2
Redlands	227	13	10
Rialto	4	4	2
San Bernardino	10	8	8
Upland	26	16	13
Victorville	44	42	9
Yucaipa	3	3	2
Total	556	304 (54.7%)	139 (25.0%)

The majority of children and youth involved in these incidents were placed by Children and Family Services (Table 5-18). However, many reported incidents did not list the agency responsible on the report. Probation youth were responsible for nearly a quarter of the incidents.

(Table 5-18) 2016 Reported SIRs by Placing Agency of Children and Youth Involved

Placing Agency	# of SIRs	% of SIRs
CFS	245	44.1%
Probation	169	30.4%
Multiple Agencies	2	0.3%
Not Listed	140	25.2%
Total	556	100.0%

The majority of children and youth involved in these in-county incidents were San Bernardino County and Los Angeles County supervised children and youth (Table 5-19). This is in contrast to 2014 when approximately 64.7% of those involved in these incidents were supervised by San Bernardino. Riverside County children and youth were also frequently involved. The percentage of Riverside County children and youth has remained constant, but the percentage of Los Angeles County children and youth has increased since 2014. For those incidents where law enforcement was called, the percentage of incidents with San Bernardino County children and youth has decreased, while the percentage of incidents where law enforcement was called for Los Angeles County children and youth increased considerably.

(Table 5-19) 2016 Reported SIRs by Supervising County of Children and Youth Involved

Supervising County	# Involved ¹⁹	% Involved (n=556)	# Involved w/ Law Enforcement called	% Involved w/ Law Enforcement called (n=304)
San Bernardino	207	37.2%	84	27.6%
Riverside	75	13.5%	25	8.2%
Los Angeles	206	37.1%	179	58.9%
Orange	3	0.5%	3	1.0%
Other Counties	78	14.0%	18	5.9%
Not Listed	4	0.7%	10	3.3%

Serious Incident Report Reasons

The most common incidents reported in 2016 were runaway/AWOL incidents, which generated 40.6% of the reports, followed by ‘Other’ incidents (Table 4-20). ‘Other’ 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 2014, ‘Other’ incidents accounted for 44.1% of the total while youth running away from placement accounted for 35.7% of the total.

(Table 5-20) 2016 Reported SIRs by Reason (San Bernardino County facilities)²⁰

Reason for SIR	# of Incidents	% of Incidents (of total SIRs, n=670)
Accident	8	1.2%
Alcohol or Other Drugs	19	2.8%
Child Abuse Allegation	2	0.3%
Child ran away	272	40.6%
Fighting (among minors)	9	1.3%
Personal Rights Violation	0	0.0%
Restraints	125	18.7%

¹⁹ Each incident can have more than one child involved, so counts do not sum to SIR totals

²⁰ Each report can have more than one reason, so counts do not sum to SIR totals

School Related Incident	48	7.2%
Sexual Related Incident	8	1.2%
Staff and Child Altercation	0	0.0%
Suicidal Related Incident	17	2.5%
Other	162	24.2%

Section 6: Fiscal Impact of Congregate Care Payments on San Bernardino County

Congregate care 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 congregate care facilities in San Bernardino County impact the County's economy in several ways. For example, congregate care facilities spend their revenue in their community. Usually congregate care facilities hire staff locally, pay property taxes, and purchase goods and services locally. Placements by other counties bring revenue to the local economy as well. Section 6 analyzes the bed payments congregate care facilities received for San Bernardino supervised children, youth, and young adults in 2016.

6-1. Payments to Congregate Care 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 congregate care providers. However, we can examine the AFDC-FC payments made on behalf of San Bernardino County congregate care youth who were placed by CFS and Probation within the County and in other counties. Table 6-1 and Graph 6-2 describe payments made by the three placing departments.

(Table 6-1) Congregate Care Placement Expenditure by San Bernardino County Placing Department and Location (2016)

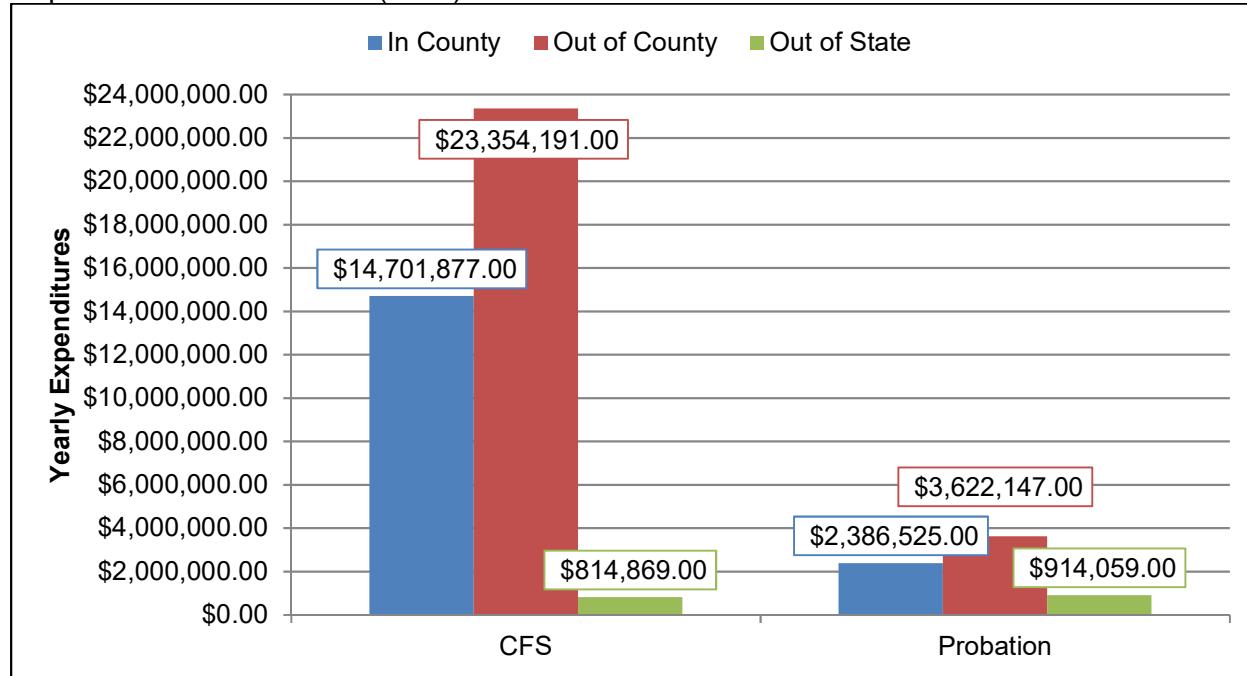
	CFS	Probation	Total
In-County Placement Expenditures	\$14,701,877 (37.82%)	\$2,386,525 (34.47%)	\$17,088,402 (37.32%)
Out-of-County Placement Expenditures	\$23,354,191 (60.08%)	\$3,622,147 (53.32%)	\$26,976,338 (58.91%)
Out-of-State Placements Expenditures	\$814,869 (2.10%)	\$914,059 (13.20%)	\$1,728,928 (3.78%)
Total Placement Expenditures	\$38,870,937	\$6,922,731	\$45,793,668
Total Unique Children Placed in Congregate Care in Calendar Year 2016	713	229	892*

*Unique count across placing departments

CFS placed a total of 713 children, youth, and young adults in congregate care in calendar year 2016. Of the total \$38,870,937 annual bed payments for 713 CFS supervised children, youth, and young adults, San Bernardino County paid 37.82% (\$14,701,877) to congregate care facilities in San Bernardino County, and 62.18% (\$24,169,060) to facilities outside of San Bernardino County.

Probation placed a total of 229 youth, and paid a total of \$6,922,731 in 2016. Of the total payments for Probation supervised youth, San Bernardino County paid 34.47% (\$2,386,525) to congregate care facilities in San Bernardino County, and 65.53% (\$4,536,206) to congregate care facilities outside of San Bernardino County.

(Graph 6-2) Congregate Care Placement Expenditures by San Bernardino County Placing Departments and Locations (2016)



Section 7: Placing Agency Needs

Section 7 summarizes the placing agencies' needs for congregate care programs and populations within San Bernardino County. The County's placing departments' needs are detailed below.

7-1. Children and Family Services Placing Needs (2017)

Section 7-1 describes the congregate care program and placing population needs of San Bernardino County Children and Family Services. CFS needs more suitable placement options for the following:

- Children, youth, and young adults with mental health and substance abuse issues – this is a large population and there are not enough local resources
- LGBTQIA+ youth and young adults – this population, although not large in number, is difficult to place because of their potential vulnerability to judgment from other youth and young adults
- Pregnant and parenting teens – this subset is placed out-of-county due to the lack of available in-county placements suitable to this population
- 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, youth, and young adults with Special Health Care Needs (e.g. diabetes, uncontrolled seizure disorders) – this is a smaller population, but one that requires unique attention, especially when combined with severe mental health or behavioral issues
- Children, youth, and young adults with depression or anxiety and self-harming behaviors
- Violent youth who are a potential threat to others
- Sexually reactive children and youth
- Young adults re-entering the foster care system – this population is difficult to place due to issues surrounding their legal status as adults

In addition, it was noted that more of the following facilities might ameliorate the difficulty of finding appropriate congregate care placements for children, youth, and young adults:

- Facilities that develop individualized treatment plans
- Facilities that actively engage and treat youth who frequently AWOL and abuse substances
- A greater availability of congregate care facilities in geographical areas where they are most needed. For example, some regions generate more placements for congregate care, yet have a lower number of facilities and beds when compared to other regions

7-2. Probation Department Placing Needs (2017)

Section 7-2 describes the congregate care programs and placing population needs of the San Bernardino County Probation Department. Although Probation youth in placement are a small percentage of the congregate care population and a small percentage of youth and young adults served by Probation overall, the Probation Department is in need of in-county congregate care programs that can treat:

- Youth and young adults with severe mental health needs
- Sexual offenders with mental health and/or behavioral issues
- Sexually exploited youth and young adults
- Youth and young adults with substance abuse issues
- Gang affiliated youth and young adults
- LGBTQIA+ youth and young adults
- Pregnant and parenting teens
- Youth and young adults with or without mental health issues but with a history of violence
- Fire setters

7-3. Overlapping Needs

Both departments identified overlapping needs. The following populations were identified due to the limited availability of congregate care facilities within the County suited to the placement needs of the supervised population. Some groups, although typically a smaller percentage of the congregate care population, are cited as difficult to place because of the low number of available in-county facilities offering adequate placement options and/or treatment programs for the following:

- 1) LGBTQIA+ youth and young adults
- 2) Pregnant or parenting teens
- 3) Victims of sexual abuse and exploitation
- 4) Youth and young adults with substance abuse issues
- 5) Fire-setters
- 6) Extremely violent youth and young adults
- 7) Youth who frequently AWOL

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

- More local congregate care facilities for children, youth, and young adults to be placed near family. Placing outside of the county has disadvantages for some children and youth as this can interfere with case plan goals such as family reunification and permanency. Congregate care placements outside of county also make it more difficult for children, youth, and young adults to

benefit from services offered by the supervising county. For example, it makes it more difficult to coordinate services provided by DBH to children and youth with mental health needs as stipulated in the *Katie A. et al. v. Bonta et al. Settlement Agreement*.

- 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.
- Congregate care facilities with resources such as highly qualified/trained staff that offer specialized treatment for children, youth, and young adults with mental health and/or substance abuse issues.

In October 2017, there were 628 congregate care beds in RCLs 8 through 12. 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) Congregate care homes may not meet the needs of the current congregate care population. Homes within the County may agree to take children, youth or young adults in need of placement, but may not have the resources to provide them with adequate services. Instead, children, youth, and young adults are placed in congregate care facilities outside of the County that offer services/treatment tailored to the needs of the child, youth or young adult. Likewise, the placing agency may see the placement as a good fit, but the congregate care home may not agree.
- 2) Some homes do not accept placements because they are at capacity. Other counties also place their children, youth, and young adults in congregate care facilities located in San Bernardino County, thereby reducing the number of available beds for San Bernardino County supervised children, youth, and young adults.
- 3) Not all congregate care facilities can be used by both placing agencies. Given the distinct populations served by congregate care, it may be the case that congregate care homes deemed suitable for CFS supervised children, youth, and young adults are not suitable for Probation supervised youth and young adults and vice versa.

Section 8: Conclusion

Congregate care for foster children, youth, and young adults is shifting from group homes to Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs. Although the preference is to utilize home-based family care placements, a small but significant number of San Bernardino County foster children, youth, and young adults require treatment above this level to keep them and those around them safe. In order for Continuum of Care Reform and the STRTP model to succeed, it is important for foster children, youth, and young adults in San Bernardino County to have access to local STRTPs which offer quality care. High needs children, youth, and young adults will benefit from STRTPs that offer intensive and specialized treatment, so they can easily transition back to their homes and communities. This report reveals a concerning decline in available beds in San Bernardino County, an urgency to support the transition of existing group homes to quality STRTPs, and the need to support new specialized STRTPs that are equipped to work with foster care children, youth, and young adults who have the highest needs. It is in the best interest of foster children, their families, and our community to support the existence of sufficient STRTPs within San Bernardino County.