

## Abstract

We examined data obtained from children and youth with serious emotional disorders in counties in North Carolina (Orange, Person, and Chatham) who were receiving services in a system of care context to examine trends in residential placements. We found a reduction in out of home placements and a concomitant increase in home placements over four time periods. In March 2003, 44 percent were in restrictive placements requiring 24-hour staff supervision. The figure decreased to 40 percent in June 2003 to 37 percent in September 2003 and to 34 percent in December 2003. Home placements increased from 41 percent in March to 50 percent in December 2003.

## OPC Residential Trends

The OPC (North Carolina) grant site considers all youth enrolled in children's case management to be receiving grant services. Services include Child and Family Teams, access to Flex Funds, and Family Advocates. During the last year the case management unit has seen a 31% increase in youths and families served.

## Residential Services Descriptions

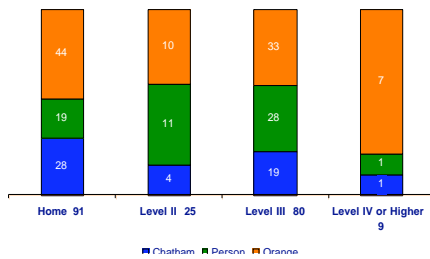
North Carolina

- LEVEL II** group home - group care with staff who sleep during the night. Staff structure activities and work on behavioral issues. 1:4 Staff Ratio. Daily Rate - 150.73
- LEVEL II** Therapeutic Families - Provided in a home setting with consistent structure and work on behavioral issues. One or two children per home. Daily Rate - 112.61
- LEVEL III** - 24 hour awake staff for group care. Structured activities and work on behavioral issues including 4 hours per week with a Qualified Mental Health Professional. 1:4 Staff Ratio. Daily Rate - 4 beds or less 255.56 5 beds or more 208.89
- LEVEL IV** - 24 hour awake staff in a locked setting. More intensive structure and work on behavioral issues, may be co-occurring disorders. A Qualified Mental Health Professional available 8 hours per week. Staff Ratio - 2:6. Daily Rate - 268.90

The following graphic information shows the an increase of children served at home and decrease in use of Level III group homes. While increasing staff in an effort to keep case loads low the OPC case management unit has also focused on keeping youth in their home community. The Community Collaboratives have also focused on working together to reduce out of home placements

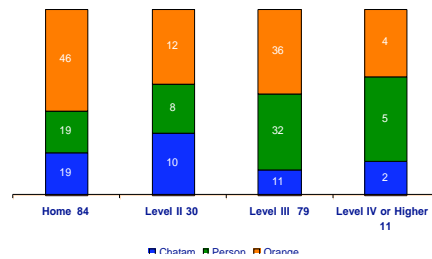
### December 2002

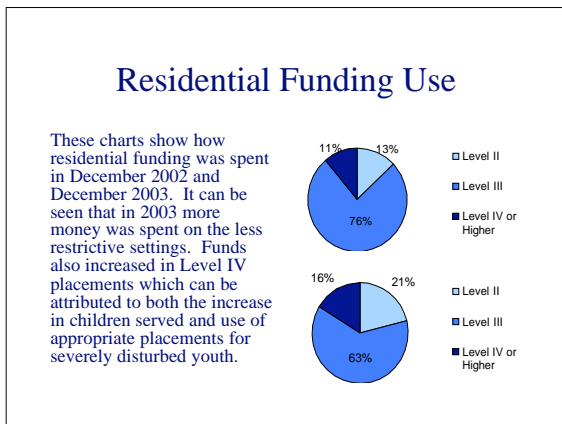
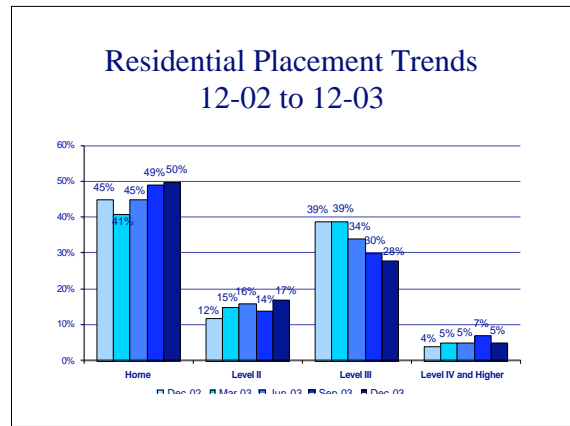
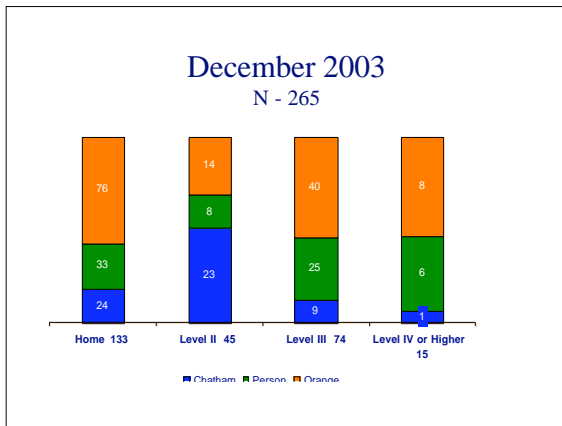
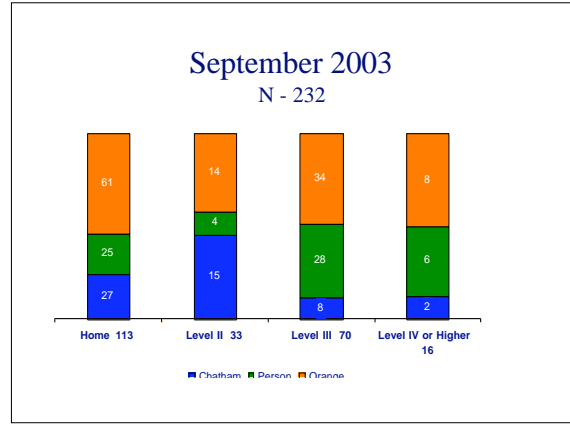
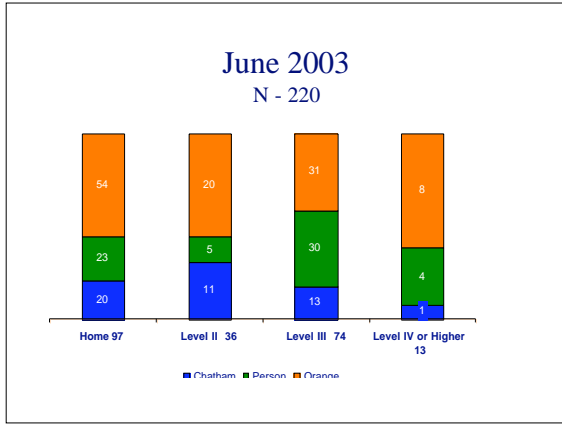
N - 205



### March 2003

N - 204





### Conclusions

It can be seen that during the course of a year, even with an increase of youth in services, more youth were living at home or in less restrictive settings.

It is believed that the slight increase and leveling off of Level IV usage can be attributed to using the most intensive services more appropriately with youth who have the most severe behavioral disturbances.