



# SECTION 3

## DESCRIPTION OF SITES

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The families participating in the study were concentrated in three sites, which included counties in Florida, Kansas, and New York. Two of these sites were invited to participate in the study based on their participation in the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) for Children and Their Families Program.<sup>1</sup> These sites were KanFocus, serving families in counties in southeastern Kansas, and F.R.I.E.N.D.S., serving families in the Bronx, New York. The third site selected, not participating in the CMHS program during the first year and a half of the study, included two counties in west-central Florida. Families participating in Florida lived in areas of geographic proximity to the study team and thus, this site was cost effective.

The families who participated in the longitudinal interview process in Florida lived throughout the Hillsborough County area, an urban and rural county with a population of almost one million. The families participating in the focus group were from Orange County, a slightly less populated county, but similar with both urban and rural areas. During most of the study period, Hillsborough County was not participating in the CMHS program, however, it did become a grant site and began planning during the final phase of the study. Throughout the study, families at this site were not connected to any services through the CMHS site.

The second site of concentration was southeastern Kansas. KanFocus, a CMHS grant funded site, provided assistance in recruiting families from their four-county rural area of focus. These counties were Cherokee (pop. 22,304), Crawford (pop. 37,916), Labette (pop. 25,682) and Montgomery (pop. 42,281). As part of KanFocus, families had access to case managers, a family advocacy organization (Keys for Networking), and other formal services, such as therapy.

At the third site, families participating in the study lived in the Bronx and Brooklyn (pop. 3,797,000), two of the largest of the five boroughs in New York City with the largest percentage of people of color. A CMHS grant funded site, the F.R.I.E.N.D.S. Initiative located in Mott Haven, Bronx, New York provided assistance in recruiting families for the study. While a few of the families in Bronx did have services from F.R.I.E.N.D.S. available to them, some of which included a case manager and therapist, families in Brooklyn did not.

## Social Security Administration Data

	Children receiving SSI	% of children in state	Estimated % of cases requiring review	Estimated # of cases to be disallowed	Estimated # per 1,000 children in state	Termination rates as of 8/2/97
Florida	64,561	1.67%	24.68%	8,359	2.25	51.3%
Kansas	5,989	1.21%	30.45%	1,193	1.63	75.7%
New York	65,831	1.72%	30.23%	11,448	2.32	58.4%

<sup>1</sup> The CMHS Children and Their Families Program is funded through the Center for Mental Health Services. Its primary objective is to help states demonstrate and promote more effective ways to organize, coordinate, and deliver mental health services and supports for their increasing number of children and families who need help from more than one service system.

## Child Poverty Rates

Florida, child poverty rate (21.9%) similar to the national rate (18.7%).

Kansas, child poverty rate (12.9%) significantly lower than the national rate.

New York, child poverty rate (24.2%) significantly higher than the national rate.

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*Note: Data for children receiving SSI are from December 2000. Estimated cases requiring review are based on SSA estimates from August 1996 adjusted for the number of children nationwide who left rolls since August, so no longer require review. Estimated disallowances are based on SSA estimates of national numbers of children losing benefits distributed across states by the distribution of reviews.*

*Urban Institute 1997, based on Social Security Administration data*