

Do Family Team Meetings
Decrease the Number of Children
Placed in Out of Home Care?

As part of a program improvement plan for the child welfare system in Kentucky, family team meetings were implemented in November 2003. The purpose of this study is to determine if the Family Team Meetings have been effective in reducing the number of children placed in out of home care.

Design & Sample

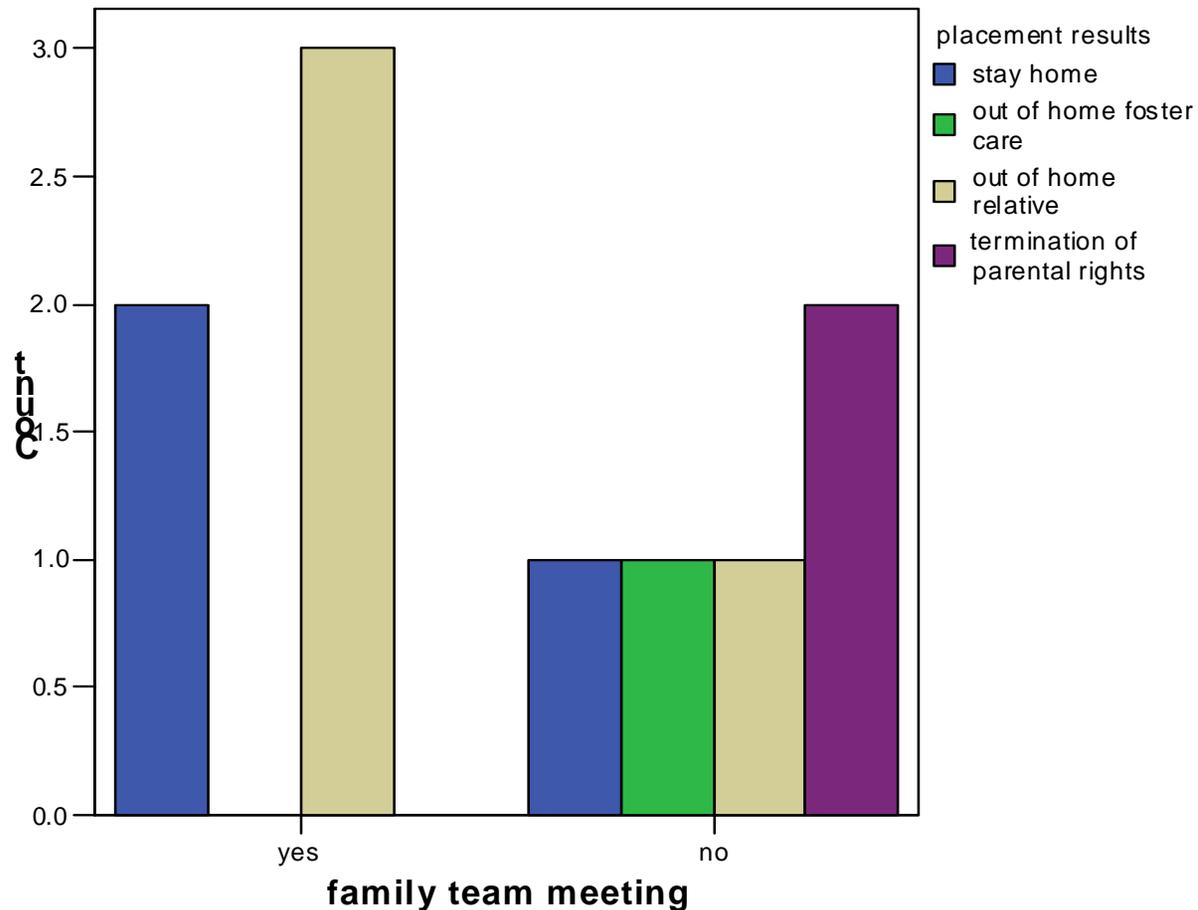
Ten cases from the KIPDA Rural Regional office in Shelbyville were used for this research. Five had a family team meeting and five did not. The case files were pulled by a supervisor at that office.

The variables that were collected from each case file and recorded on a chart review were:

- *Was there a family team meeting?*
- *Race of the children*
- *Number of parents present in the home at the time of initial abuse report*
- *Final placement; stayed at home, out of home placement in foster care, out of home placement with a relative, and termination of parental rights.*

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Bar Chart



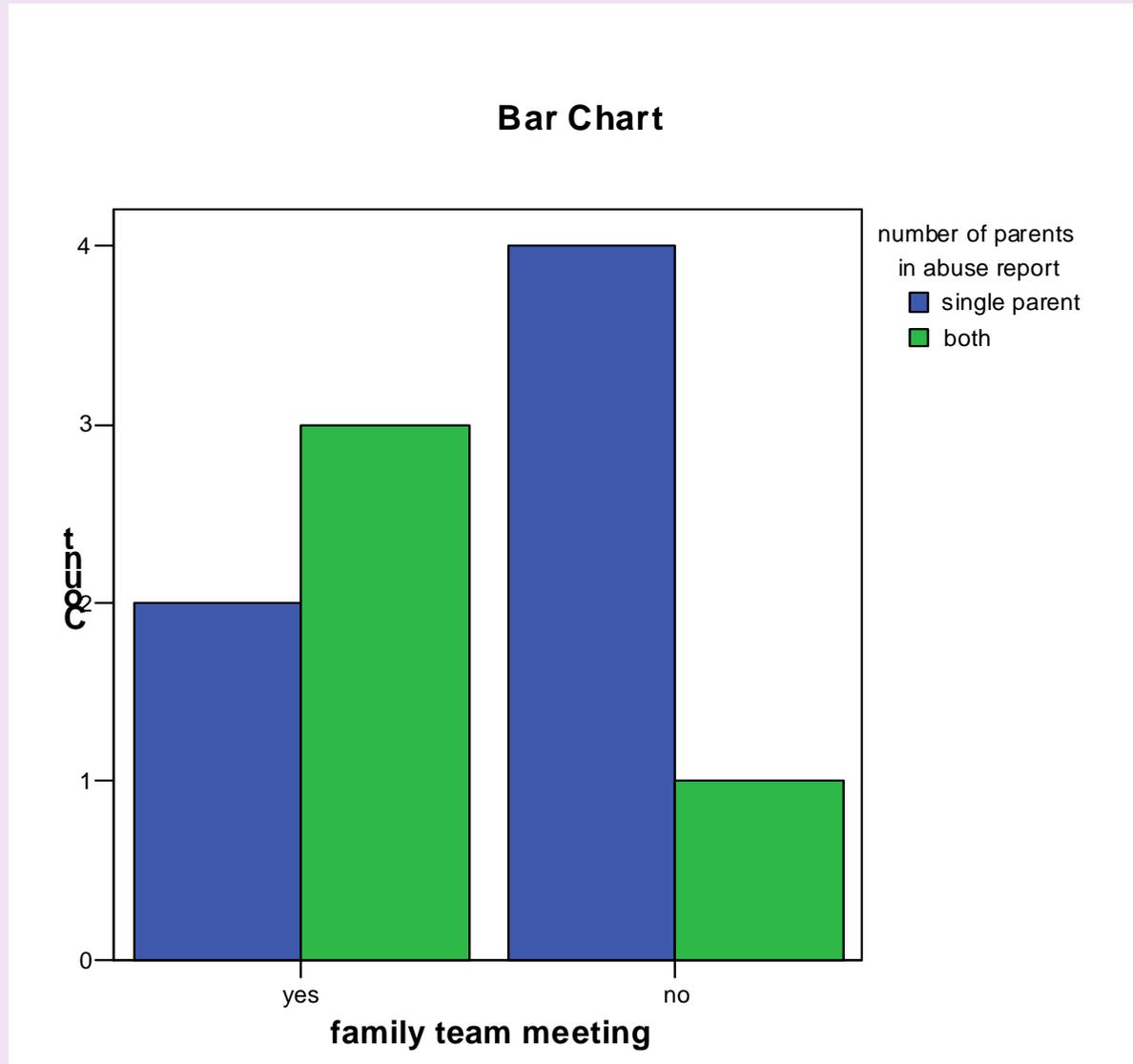
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Crosstab

Count

	placement results				Total
	stay home	out of home foster care	out of home relative	termination of parental rights	
family team meeting yes	2	0	3	0	5
no	1	1	1	2	5
Total	3	1	4	2	10

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Crosstab

Count

		number of parents in abuse report		Total
		single parent	both	
family team meeting	yes	2	3	5
	no	4	1	5
Total		6	4	10

Family Team Meetings are a fairly new form of practice. Due to my sample being limited in its size my results can not be generalized for an entire population. The data suggests that a higher number of children remained in their homes and a higher number of children were placed with relatives when their families had Family Team Meetings.