

## Data Trends

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**From:** Data Trends  
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From the Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health,  
Tampa, Florida...

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In September 2003, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges approved policy statements on mental health and substance abuse services for children in foster care and their families. Developed by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) and the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), each statement is part of an ongoing initiative to meet the mental health needs of children in the foster care system. The initiative currently includes over 70 supporting organizations, including the APA. Because family court judges are involved with every decision made about children and their families in the foster care system, this endorsement represents an important step toward driving reforms to improve the emotional and behavioral outcomes of these children. An excerpt from the Preamble to the Policy Statement on Values follows, along with links to each document.

"Our examination of the problem and the seriousness, intensity, prevalence, and urgency of the unmet needs of these children and their families substantiates our commitment to this initiative. Drawing on the values and principles already developed through such efforts as the systems of care, which focus on service delivery to children with serious emotional disturbances, the values and principles delineated in this document will guide our efforts to improve policies and practices in the various child-serving systems that serve children in foster care and their families."

AACAP/CWLA Foster Care Mental Health Values Subcommittee- Policy Statement: <http://www.aacap.org/publications/policy/collab01.htm>

The AACAP/CWLA Policy Statement On Mental Health And Use Of Alcohol And Other Drugs, Screening And Assessment Of Children In Foster Care: <http://www.aacap.org/publications/policy/collab02.htm>

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If you missed previous Data Trends publications, visit the main Data Trends page: <http://rtckids.fmhi.usf.edu/rtcpubs/datatrends/datatrendshp.htm>

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