1. **General Comments:**
   - Only Family Safety and Preservation foster family and group homes were counted as part of this February report.
   - Foster home capacity reports will be submitted by districts two times per year instead of quarterly. The next due date is **August 20, 1999** (run date 8/1).
   - All districts will use ICWSIS to generate their data on foster home capacity and waivers. Only Family Safety and Preservation *foster family, dual licensed (foster/shelter) and family foster group homes* will be included in future reports. The capacity of provider agency homes will be monitored by the central office through the district licensing reports.
   - The Foster Home Capacity Needs Assessment Form must be submitted for the August 20, 1999 report by each district with the ICWSIS report attached.
   - Per CFOP 175-64, the **current** waiver criteria for homes with more than five *total* children include: sibling groups, teen mother and child placed together, and a child or sibling group needing placement, who previously lived in the home.
   - Not all districts provided February data off of ICWSIS, therefore, provider agency homes may have been reported by some districts without being labeled as such and inadvertently counted. This may account for a small percentage of the net loss of homes from October to February.
   - Foster Parent Appreciation Month is in May, a great time to praise and thank your foster families, as well as recruit new families.

2. **Foster Home Licensed Capacity** *(Graph #1):*
   - There were 3541 Family Safety and Preservation foster family, family group and dual licensed homes reported in February, 1999.
   - 16% (n=584) of these homes were *over* licensed capacity.
   - 38% (n=1340) of these homes were *at* licensed capacity.
   - 46% (n=1617) of these homes were *under* licensed capacity.

3. **Distribution of Licensed Capacity** *(Graph #2):*
   - The total licensed capacity statewide is 9055.
   - 59% of the homes are licensed for 1-2 children.
   - 32% of the homes are licensed for 3-4 children.
   - 7% of the homes are licensed for 5 children.
   - 2% of the homes are licensed for more than five children.
4. **Homes with More than Five Total Children** (Graph #3):
   - There were 453 homes statewide with more than five total children.
   - 31% (n=142) of these homes indicated an appropriate waiver.
   - 69% (n=311) did not indicate an appropriate waiver.

   Distribution of the homes with more than five total children:
   - 186 homes have 6 total children.
   - 112 homes have 7 total children.
   - 63 homes have 8 total children.
   - 35 homes have 9 total children.
   - 24 homes have 10 total children.
   - 15 homes have 12 total children.
   - 1 home has 14 total children.
   - 1 home has 16 total children.
   - 1 home has 17 total children.

5. **Trends:** (October 1998 and February 1999):
   - There were 3890 homes reported in October and 3541 homes in February, a net loss of 349 homes.
   - The percentage of homes over licensed capacity remained the same 16% for October and February.
   - The percentage of homes under licensed capacity increased slightly from 45% in October to 46% in February.
   - The percentage of homes at licensed capacity slightly decreased from 39% to 38% in February.
   - There were 73 homes licensed for more than five children in October compared to 69 in February, a decrease of 4 homes.
   - There were 304 homes (8%) with more than five total children in October and 453 homes (13%) in February, net gain of 149 homes.
   - Of the 453 homes with more than five total children, 31% indicated appropriate waivers in February. In October, 55% of the homes with more than five total children indicated appropriate waivers.
   - The distribution of licensed capacity thirty one percent remained the same from October to February, despite having a net loss of 804 available placements.

6. **Comments/Suggestions:**
   - The data reported in October and in February indicates a net loss of 149 homes. The increase in the net loss of homes may be due to the manner in which the data has been collected in the past, such as provider agency homes being counted in previous reports. The majority of the districts submitted ICWSIS reports for February data and all districts are to use ICWSIS for the August report.
• There licensed capacity of the homes remained relatively the same from October to February.
• Districts seem to be addressing homes with more than five total children through licensing practices, but not through placement or foster parent recruitment practices. Communication between licensing and placements is essential in order to reduce the number of total children in homes to 5 or less.
• Compliance with CFOP 175-64 decreased from slightly more than half (October) to one third (February) of the homes with more than five total children having appropriate waivers. Again communication between the licensing and placement units is important to ensure that if a home exceeds the maximum capacity of five children, a waiver for the home is issued and the home is provided with the necessary services and supports.
• The licensing, placement and recruitment functions in every district must work in unison to reduce licensed capacity to no more than five children, while better utilizing currently licensed homes and recruiting the appropriate number new ones.
• Due to the net loss of foster homes, districts may want to develop an interview tool to survey the reasons why the foster homes close, such as adoption, moved, changed to private provider, etc. This type of information may assist in recruitment and retention of foster homes.
• Every district must have a district specific foster parent recruitment and retention plan with goals based on data that reflect the current and potential placement needs of children in substitute care. The Child Welfare League of America suggests that every child have at least three potential placements to ensure adequate matching of that child with potential foster parents.
• Homes with more than five total children, homes over licensed capacity and homes licensed for more than five children must be targeted for ongoing monitoring and intervention. Simultaneously, an action plan to recruit quality foster parents must be implemented with involvement and support from all district Family Safety and Preservation staff.
Foster Home Licensed Capacity
N=3,541

- Under Licensed Capacity: 46% (N=1617)
- At Licensed Capacity: 38% (N=1340)
- Over Licensed Capacity: 16% (N=584)

*Graph includes FSP homes only.  
*Based on Statewide February Capacity Report
Total licensed Capacity for the above homes = 9055.
*Graph includes FSP homes only.
Based on Statewide February Capacity Report

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Distribution of Licensed Capacity
N=3541 (Homes)

1 - 2 Children
59%  (N=2090)

3 - 4 Children
32%  (N=1119)

5 Children
7%   (N=263)

6+ Children
2%   (N=69)
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*Total licensed Capacity for the above homes = 9055.
*Graph includes FSP homes only.
*Based on Statewide February Capacity Report
Homes with More Than Five Total Children
N=453 (Homes 5+)

Waiver
31%
(N=142)

No Waiver
69%
(N=311)

*Waiver Criteria: Teen mother, child returning to care, sibling group.

*Based on Statewide February Capacity Report