

Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative  
 Helping Babies from the Bench, Nebraska City, Oct. 2, 2009

### CASE PROGRESSION DATA FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

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### SOURCE OF DATA – JUSTICE COURT DATA SYSTEM

- Ages 0-3 at time of removal
- Abuse/neglect case
- Case closed in CY 2008
  - Lancaster, N = 189
  - Cass & Otoe, N = 10
  - Gage, Saline, Richardson, & Johnson, N = 19
- All averages are medians

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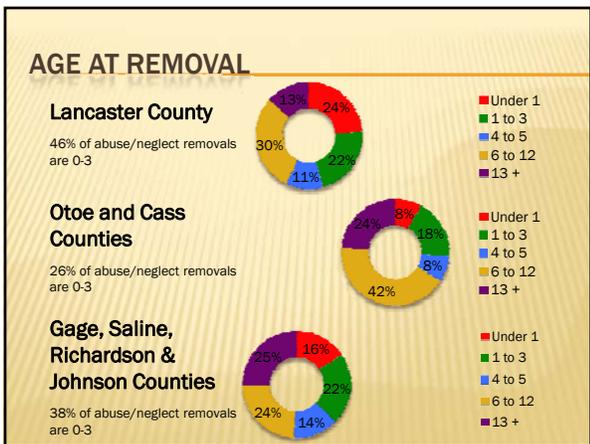
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**SAMPLE CASE: 10-MONTH-OLD SAMMY**

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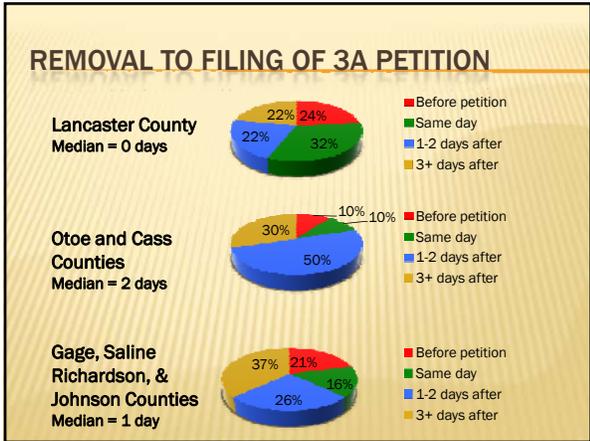
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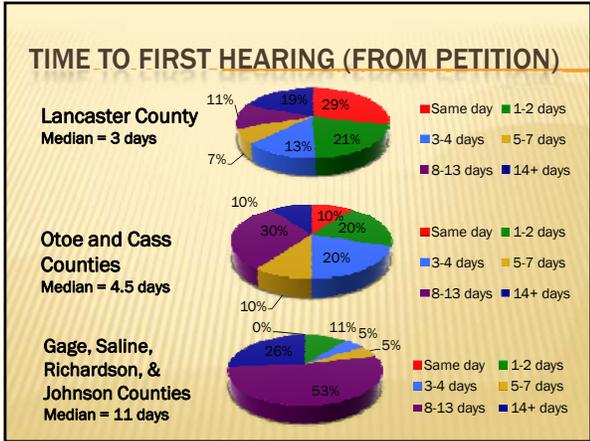
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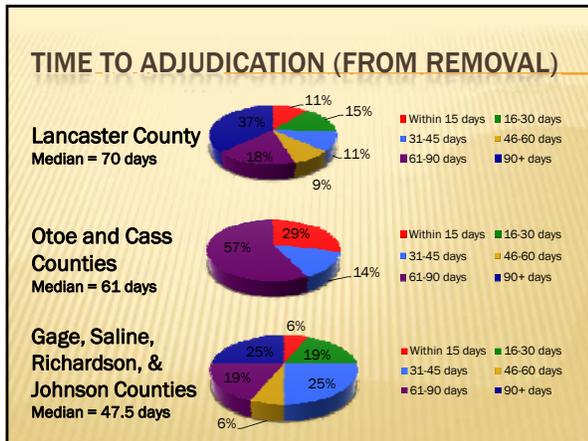
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### SAMMY'S CASE

- × Approximately 73 days after removal
- × Sammy is now 13 months old
- × Sammy has had his 1<sup>st</sup> birthday in a non-relative foster home
- × His siblings are in separate homes, Sammy visits with his mom 3 times per week for 2 hours
- × Sammy has received no services because none have been ordered by the court

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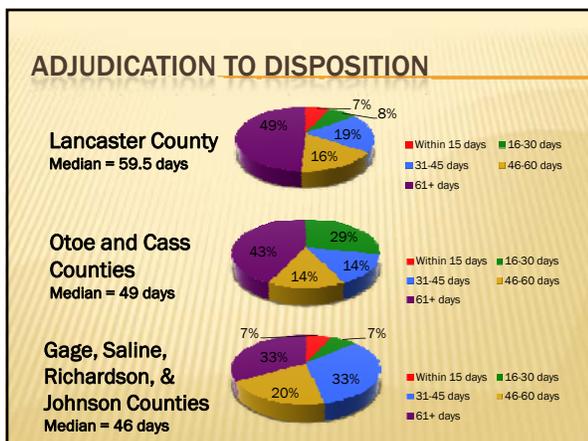
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### SAMMY'S CASE

- ✘ Approximately 123 days after removal
- ✘ Sammy is now 15 months old
- ✘ Sammy has been away from his mother for almost 5 months, or 1/3 of his life

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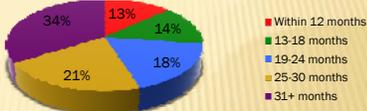
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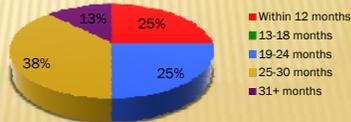
### TIME TO TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

**Lancaster County**  
Median = 801 days  
(2 years, 2 months)



**Otoe and Cass Counties**  
N = 1  
Median = 317 days

**Gage, Saline,  
Richardson &  
Johnson Counties**  
N = 8  
Median = 701 days  
(1 year, 11 months)



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### SAMMY'S CASE

- ✘ Approximately 2 years after removal
- ✘ Sammy is now 3 years old and has been in foster care 73% of his life

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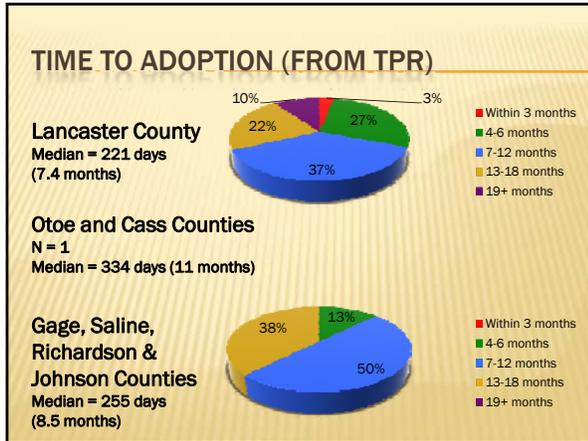
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### SAMMY'S CASE

- ✘ Approximately 3 years after removal, the adoption is finalized
- ✘ Sammy is almost 4 years old and has been in foster care almost 80% of his life

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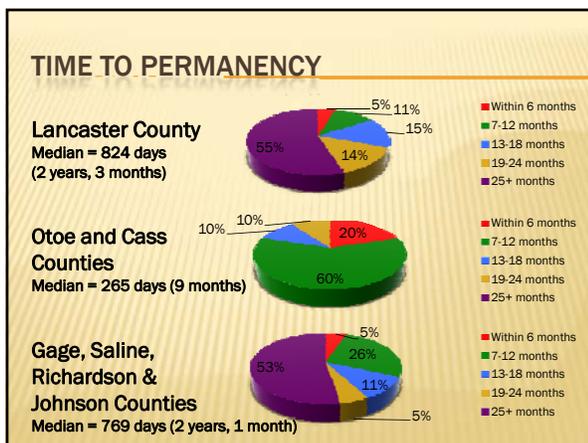
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**PERMANENCY FOR INFANTS & TODDLERS**

- ✦ Court processing is important
- ✦ It is essential to:
  - + Have hearings as soon as possible
  - + Avoid continuances
  - + Front-load services, especially those geared for infants and toddlers
  - + Have frequent, meaningful parenting time
  - + Have frequent review hearings

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