May 16, 1974

To the Graduate Council:

I am submitting herewith a thesis written by Rebecca R. Quillen entitled "The Rural-Urban Continuum and Foster Homes in Knox County, Tennessee." I recommend that it be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts, with a major in Sociology.

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Suzanne B. Kurth, Major Professor

We have read this thesis
and recommend its acceptance:

Accepted for the Council:

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THE RURAL-URBAN CONTINUUM AND FOSTER HOMES IN KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE

A Thesis

Presented for the

Master of Arts

Degree

The University of Tennessee

by

Rebecca R. Quillen

June 1974

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My gratitude is extended to my committee members, Drs. Suzanne B. Kurth, William E. Cole and Dean J. Champion for their help and support with this project.

Particular thanks goes to Dr. Suzanne Kurth for her willingness to go beyond the "call of duty" whenever necessary to see this study completed. Also my appreciation goes to Dr. William Cole for his help in initiating the study and for his patience and encouragement throughout my rather drawn out graduate career.

My further appreciation goes to Commissioner Fred E. Friend of the Department of Public Welfare for permission to use the Department's records. Several staff members also extended valuable help.

Finally I would like to thank my father, Glen Rumery, for his help with my statistical analysis and my mother, Margery Rumery, whose "foster parenting" of my own children made the time to write this study possible. Thanks also to my husband and children for their patience throughout the completion of this project.

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to test the relationship between rural or urban living and service as a foster parent in Knox County, Tennessee. Given the increasing urbanization of American society and the developing interest in non-institutional care facilities, it is important to ascertain this relationship, particularly since the social work literature suggests rural families are more likely to serve as foster parents.

Data were collected from the foster home records of the Department of Public Welfare. The information contained on the "face sheet" of records for 129 families was utilized. Records were examined on a selected data since the foster home population does not vary significantly over time.

The central hypothesis was that rural people are more likely than urban people to be foster parents. The Chi Square test indicated that foster parents are disproportionately concentrated in rural areas of Knox County supporting the hypothesis. In addition, rural and urban foster parents were compared in terms of frequency of application, number and ages of foster children cared for, and length of service as foster parents. There were no significant differences on these variables supporting the importance of the rural-urban variable in determining foster parent service. Further comparisons of rural and urban foster parents were made with regard to house size, income, and social class status to consider alternative explanations of obtained differences.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

I. HISTORY OF FOSTER CARE

All societies must establish means to care for dependent children whose socially assigned caretakers (typically natural parents) are temporarily or permanently unable or unwilling to furnish the necessary care. In American society children who could not receive care from other family members or friends have traditionally been placed either in institutions (such as "orphanages") or in foster homes. (Foster care refers to care by a non-related family without the legal ties of adoption.)

During the 18th and 19th century most of these dependent children probably were orphans in the conventional sense that one or both of the natural parents were deceased. Given the markedly reduced death rate among people of child bearing and rearing ages today, children deprived of parents because of death are rare. Indeed, fewer than 1 per cent of children will see both parents die before their own adulthood as opposed to almost 3 per cent in 1920 (Landis, 1970). Further, the existence of social mechanisms such as social security and Aid to Families with Dependent Children and expansion of female labor force participation have made it more feasible for single parents to maintain homes for their children.

On the other hand, an increasing divorce rate and various family problems (e.g., child abuse) have increased the demand for foster care. A recent strengthening of the Tennessee laws to protect abused and neglected children can be expected to increase the need for foster homes. In 1967 there were 2,863 Tennessee children and adults in boarding homes with children comprising the great majority (Baillie and Donald, 1970:8).

A shift from institutional to foster home care apparently began in this country in New York City with the work of a minister, Charles Loring Brace. During the later 1800's Brace initiated a program of sending children in need of homes to the rural "West," including any area west of New York City, but primarily the Midwest. At this time no effort was made to return children to their natural homes and moral judgments against parents failing to care for their children tended to be harsh. Foster parents were not selected, rather children were sent by train to an area previously notified of their coming. It was assumed that any family which volunteered to take children into their home must be a "good" family (Wolins and Piliavin, 1964).

By 1909 the first White House Conference on care of dependent children resolved that "the carefully selected foster home is, for the normal child, the best substitute for the natural home." This emphasis on the nuclear family as the preferred agent for socializing foster children has tended to dominate social work practice ever since (Wolins and Piliavin, 1964).

Foster Care in Knox County

There is a need to systematically examine whether foster care remains predominately rural in our increasingly urban society. Knox County, Tennessee, was selected for a study of foster care.[1] Characteristics of foster care in this county will be reviewed before consideration of theoretical issues.

Most children placed in foster homes are in the legal custody of the Tennessee Department of Public Welfare and almost all such children are placed in agency-approved foster homes. Agency approval in this case can be thought of as comparable to licensing the foster home.

According to stated agency policy, foster care is always a temporary arrangement. The long term plan is usually to return children to their natural parents or to other relatives. Those children legally free for adoption, generally infants and preschool children, will be placed in adoptive homes. The duration of a child's stay in a foster home can differ from only a few days to several years and is often very difficult to predict. At any time the agency with legal custody can remove a child from a particular foster home at its discretion. Foster parents also have the right to initially refuse a particular child or to ask for his removal. In addition either the agency or the foster parents can terminate the relationship between agency and foster home.

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[1] Knox County was chosen because it was readily available to the researcher and contains a single relatively large urban place surrounded by a rural hinterland. The author is indebted to the Department of Public Welfare for access to the records from which most of the following data were taken.

In Knox County there has been very little change in the size of the foster parent or foster child population over the past decade. There are usually about 150 foster parents and about 300 children (Deblois, 1974). Since the population of the county has been increasing, this represents a percentage drop in foster children. However, as mentioned above, a recent change in the law is expected to increase the number of children in foster care.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Since there is no literature concerning the impact of rural or urban living on foster parenting, related literature is examined and the sociological literature on the rural-urban continuum furnishes a general background against which to examine this problem. Some of this literature specifically considers the family as it is effected by rural or urban setting. In addition, research on foster parenting is reviewed.

Rural-Urban Differences

Wirth's (1938) early discussion of the rural-urban continuum provides definitions of cities and urbanism. First is that "a city may be defined as a relatively large, dense, and permanent settlement of socially heterogeneous individuals" (Wirth, 1938:49). Wirth contended that urban life is characterized by greater occurrence of such things as secondary relationships, organized groups, anonymity, rationality, and greater freedom from primary controls (Wirth, 1938). Finally Wirth developed the concept urbanism and defined it as "that

complex of traits which makes up the characteristic mode of life in the cities" (1938:49), and urbanization, which denotes the development and extensions of these factors not found only in cities, but more pronounced there (1938:49). These concepts will be discussed more fully in relation to the theoretical background.

Subsequently, Herbert J. Gans (1962) re-examined Wirth's analysis of urbanism in the light of subsequent city and suburban development and questioned it on three points. First, Gans questioned whether conclusions derived from inner-city studies could be generalized to the whole urban area. Second, he questioned the existence of adequate evidence to prove that number, density, and heterogeneity have certain social consequences. Finally, many inhabitants may be protected from the effects of Wirth's "three factors" by their social structures. In considering the impact of urbanization on life, Gans argues it is important to consider such factors as social class and life-cycle stage, as well as "number, density, and heterogeneity." He proposes that the inter-relationships of most outer-city and suburban people are best described as "quasi-primary"--more intimate than a secondary contact, but more guarded than a primary one. Gan's argument is of particular value in relating Wirth's pioneering ideas to more current situations and particularly for examining suburbanism.

Richard Dewey (1960) tries to differentiate between the rural-urban continuum and such related continuums as "sacred-secular," "Gemeinshaft-Gesellschaft," "folk-urban," and "static-dynamic." Although there is relatively little agreement as to what exactly makes a place urban, the crucial importance of the size and density variables

is agreed upon. Dewey contends that these two variables "induce concomitant variations in five qualities:

1. Anonymity
2. Division of labor
3. Heterogeneity
4. Impersonal and formally prescribed relationships
5. Symbols of status which are independent of personal acquaintance" (1960:65).

As one moves toward rural living the above qualities diminish, and as one moves toward urban living they increase. As will be seen later, some of these qualities may well be related to foster homes, particularly their recruitment.

The impact of rural or urban living upon the family has been examined by a number of writers (Burchinal, 1964) and most recently by Boskoff (1970). There are long-standing and widespread differences in the rural and urban birth rates. Although these differences have declined in recent years, rural birth rates remain higher. Differences in rural and urban child rearing attitudes and practices seem very pertinent to foster parenting. For example, urban wives tend to stress emotional satisfaction as a reason for having children, while their urban counterparts stress companionship, strengthening homelife, assistance to parents, and security for parents in their old age (Burchinal, 1964).

Foster Parents

The field of social work has examined foster care, and there are oblique but important references to the differences between urban and rural homes. McCoy (1962) presents a cogent comparison of natural and foster parenthood including a good introduction to the concept of foster care.

There are several significant differences between natural and foster parents. For instance, foster parents' rights and responsibilities are severely limited by the agency with legal custody of the foster child. All major decisions such as what medical care is needed ultimately rest with the custodial agency. The foster children in this study are in the legal custody of the Department of Public Welfare which decides where the child will live, what special education he will get, even where or if he will go to summer camp. In addition most children retain some ties, both legal and emotional, with the natural parents to whom most will ultimately return. The agency has the responsibility of regulating this relationship also. When adoption is possible, decisions about adoption rest entirely with the Department of Public Welfare, so that foster parents almost never even know where an adopted child is placed. Such limitations and the usually restricted duration of contact may be less appealing to urban families, since urban parents are more interested in "emotional satisfactions" from children (Burchinal, 1964), implying a deep and lasting relationship. By contrast rural parents' greater interest in "companionship" and "help," emphasizes functions which can be filled more easily by a variety of limited short-term contacts.

Fredericksen proposes that increasing urbanization, as well as higher standards for foster homes, may be correlated with a lack of foster homes (1957:191). She argues that foster parents tend to be the "best" recruiters of other foster parents, so there is a strong tendency for new foster homes to be developed near established foster homes. If the historical custom has been to look for foster homes in

rural and suburban areas as Garber (1970) argues, there is a strong likelihood of this pattern continuing simply through the informal recruiting efforts of current foster parents.

Wolins and Piliavin (1964) contribute further to the historical perspective by discussing Brace's earlier placements of foster children outside New York City. They discuss the assumptions underlying current foster care practice, but note "their meager support by systematic empirical evidence" (1964:5). Further, there is little evidence that the typical middle class family is necessarily a better foster family, but middle-class social workers may well be imbued with this societal model (1964).

Various researchers have investigated foster parent characteristics. An in depth examination of psychodynamic factors involved in foster parenthood is presented by Babcock (1965) in a study of 25 rural foster parent couples. The picture of foster parents as having a number of characteristics associated with rural living given by Babcock also seems born out by other studies (Taylor and Staff, 1967) and by this author's own observations during two years as a child welfare worker. These rural characteristics include a strong family and church orientation, as opposed to a community or some larger orientation. Babcock (1965) suggests the possibility that further urbanization constitutes a threat to the foster home program since urban families appear to be less interested. Further, the increasing distance from the urban agency office to rural or suburban foster homes poses a problem by consuming worker's time in extensive travel (Taylor and Starr, 1967).

The literature considers selection of foster parenting and the basis for successful placements. Kraus (1971) tries to isolate variables related to successful foster home placements. Success is defined as placements that last at least 24 months unless the child needed placement for less than that time. Variables such as religion, age, occupation, number of children, income, reasons for wanting child, and the caseworker's assessment of ability to cope with the particular child's problem were considered. The findings are that children's attributes seem unrelated to success. The most successful foster homes tend to have the following characteristics: the mother is over 46, there are two "own children," a foster child is already present, the number of people in the home is other than four, and the foster parents' motive is either general interest or knowledge of a specific child. The most unsuccessful homes are those with attributes differing from the above and particularly where the foster parents' motive is a wish for a companion for their own child. Although many agencies prefer non-working mothers, there was also a finding that mothers who work full time are as successful as those who do not work at all (Kraus, 1971).

A brief study of some special placements made during the school year (Simsarian, 1968) only suggests that foster parent withdrawal from the program may be associated with high expectations for the child by the foster family. Simsarian asks what may be an important question, "Is the moral of this that too wide a cultural jump in placement may be contraindicated" (1968:94)?

Wolins (1963) in his book on selecting foster parents develops a paper and pencil test for discriminating between "good" and "bad" foster parents. He notes a shortage of foster homes in the big urban centers of New York City and San Francisco, and an editorial in Social Science Review (1962) also deals with New York City's inability to find sufficient foster homes for children under two years. Macdonald and Ferguson (1964) criticize Wolin's methods and conclusions. They point out that the need for foster parents exceeds the supply, and that the problem is to find enough foster parents rather than to screen applicants to select the "best." Macdonald and Ferguson's point is that the fundamental need is for foster homes and for more ways to find them. Fredericksen (1957) also suggested that higher standards have contributed to a lack of foster homes. Taylor and Starr (1967) mention the decline in foster homes due to an increase of families living in smaller urban homes and the "deemphasis of the social utility of the maternal and homemaking roles of women" (1967:376).

In conclusion, foster care has been neglected by sociologists. The empirical social work literature suggests differences between rural and urban homes and concern for the impact of expanding urbanization on the foster care programs. The theoretical relationship between the rural-urban continuum and foster parenting needs to be developed.

III. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

First we will consider the "ideal types" of rural and of urban families. As these ideal types are presented, similarities and

differences to foster families will be presented. As we proceed, evidence to suggest the relationships between "ideal types" and "actual families" will be presented.

Rural families seem relatively eager to have children in the home. The rural birth rate has historically been higher than the urban and continues to be so today (Boskoff, 1970; U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1970). Further, rural mothers express their reasons for wanting children in terms of companionship and strengthening the family by their presence (Burchinal, 1964) and foster parents often express the importance to a family of having children in the home (Babcock, 1965).

Due to relative remoteness from settlements, rural families traditionally have been family-centered as opposed to possessing a larger world view. Similarly, foster parents' tendency to focus their interest almost entirely on the family and perhaps the immediate community has often been noted (Taylor and Starr, 1967; Babcock, 1965). In addition, the rural person has been described as less rational (more intuitive) in evaluating situations (Wirth, 1938). Since foster parents are not paid a salary or rewarded with wide social acclaim, there seems little to make the role extrinsically attractive, so that the satisfactions gained apparently must be intrinsic to the foster home situation.

In addition to the values and attitudes of rural people, there are two additional factors mentioned previously which may increase the likelihood of rural people becoming foster parents. One is that historically agencies have looked to rural areas to supply foster

homes. The other is that many foster parents are recruited by those who are already foster parents. Thus there is often a tendency for new foster parents to be neighbors of established ones.

On the other hand, the ideal type urban family has fewer children and emphasizes emotional satisfaction as a reason for having children (Burchinal, 1964). However, foster children often have multiple problems which prevent them from giving the emotional satisfactions sought by urban people. Further, they are less constricted in their world view, have more associations beyond the family and community, and are more "rational" than are rural people. This investigator has noted that urban candidates for foster parenthood are more likely to want a foster child as a companion for a natural child, which research indicates is the "worst" motive as far as a placement succeeding (Kraus, 1971).

Urban people place great stress on child rearing techniques and are very concerned about how children will "turn out" (Burchinal, 1964). As a consequence they are less attracted to a short-term relationship with a child and are much less tolerant of any "bad influences" on their own children. The urban concern with upward mobility also acts against keeping children who do poorly in school and otherwise fail to display middle-class behavior.

In selecting foster parents, agencies give attention to the size of foster home dwellings (especially bed space) and employment of the mother. Working mothers also have been ignored to the point that accepting them as foster parents is seldom discussed. Large houses and yards and non-working women are all associated with rural living.

The objective of this study is to test the hypothesis that rural families predominate as foster parents. In addition we will try to tentatively explain why such a situation exists and what the implications may be for those concerned with the welfare and development of children who cannot remain in their natural homes.

CHAPTER II

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STUDY

I. SELECTION OF KNOX COUNTY FOR STUDY

Knox County, Tennessee was chosen primarily because of availability and its close resemblances to an "ideal model" with a central urban place, surrounding suburban area and rural hinterland. A number of farms are still functioning, both small farms which only partially support a family and larger farms furnishing full family income. Knoxville is the only incorporated place in the county. Knox County has had a growing and increasingly urban population, but never any sudden influx of foreign born or black immigrants to initiate sudden social changes. Thus Knox County is in many ways a "typical" county so that what is true of it may well be true of other areas of the country as well.

Further, this county had the advantage of familiarity and accessibility to the investigator. This writer has lived in Knoxville most of her life and worked here with the Department of Public Welfare for two years, spending most of her time working with children in foster care.

II. METHODOLOGY

The Department of Public Welfare in each Tennessee county keeps a monthly record of foster homes both approved and pending. The number

of homes and children in them fluctuates almost constantly, but at the end of each month a "monthly report" is made updating the status of each home. The reporting month of April, 1972, was arbitrarily selected as the period from which to gather data. At this time there were 148 approved foster homes and 16 pending applications. Data were obtained from all pending applications and from 113 (76 per cent) approved homes. These are homes who have applied to the agency as foster parents, and gone through a process of having their home studied and learning about the foster home program. Those accepted for service are then counted as "approved" whether foster children are actually in the home at any one time or not. The remaining home records were not in the central files so that data could not be obtained from them. Records not centrally filed would be in possession of various workers to study or update records. There is no reason to think such records would be removed in a particular geographical pattern nor that they would give a substantially different picture of homes than that secured from records available in central files.

Records of homes who either withdraw or are rejected during or after the application process are filed with all other "closed" cases of the county office. This mingling with other kinds of cases makes it difficult to locate closed foster home records unless one already has the case name or number. For this reason the closed records were not examined.

All data were taken from Department of Public Welfare foster home records. Specifically the following information was obtained:

1. Rural-urban classification (all records contain directions to the home).

2. Date of initial approval (or pending status).

3. Number of children for whom applied.

4. Total number of foster children in home since approval.

5. Number of foster children currently in home.

6. Age(s) of child(ren) for whom applied.

7. Sex of child(ren) for whom applied.

8. Number of natural and adopted children in home (plus own adult children out of home).

9. Ages of natural and adopted children in home.

The following data specifically concerning the foster parents was collected from complete records, unless race was Negro.[2]

1. Size of house (number of rooms and bedrooms).

2. Birth date of mother.

3. Birth date of father.

4. Occupation of mother.[3]

5. Occupation of father.

6. Income.

7. Education of mother.

8. Education of father.

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[2]Only 11 per cent of the rural population is Negro. Apparently de facto segregation exists, and Negroes would be discouraged from demonstrating essentially rural values by locating in a rural area. Since there are so few Negroes outside the city, they have not been considered in most questions of this study.

[3]Note that the forms foster parents fill out have no space for recording mother's work at all. Records sometimes note her work elsewhere, but writer's own experience is that more mothers work outside the home than is recorded at all. No specific policy excludes working mother--but apparently this is assumed.

Foster homes will first be classified as lying within the central city, the urban fringe, or a rural area of Knox County based upon current definitions of the United States Bureau of the Census. All foster home records include directions to the home, and these directions can be used to approximately locate the home. Of course, confidentiality of records precludes any identifying information being included in this report, but since only a rural-urban classification is needed, confidentiality poses no problem.

White and Negro homes will be considered separately, although there are very few Negro rural homes. Rural-urban status of Negro foster homes will be noted briefly to substantiate this fact, but no hypotheses are made concerning them.

Hypotheses

This study will centrally focus on the relationship between foster parenting and rural or urban residence. It is hypothesized that in Knox County, rural white people are more likely to be foster parents than are urban white people, although the urban population is larger. Six corrollary hypotheses will be considered.

1. Rural people are more likely to apply as foster parents than are urban ones.
2. Rural people tend to remain foster parents longer than do urban people.
3. Rural people apply for more children to be placed in their homes than do urban people.
4. Rural people actually provide for more people than do urban ones.

5. Rural people apply for infants more often than do urban ones.

6. Urban people are more likely to seek foster children as companions to their "own" children.

Finally, we must consider the relationship of the information gathered to the hypotheses.

H1 Rural-urban classification of home should differ from total population distribution of the county with a greater proportion of foster parents being rural.

H2 Rural people should average having been approved longer than have urban ones.

H3 Rural people should apply for more children on the average than do urban ones.

H4 Rural people should average more total children over time and also more children currently in the home.

H5 Age of children for whom applied should more often be infants for rural than for urban people.

H6 Urban people should be more likely to apply for one child of the same sex and age as a lone "own" child in the home.

Additional information to determine social class of foster parents and on size of house was gathered to refute alternative theories. The writer does not believe that social class or house size differ greatly in rural areas in comparison with urban.

For each hypothesis there will be a comparison of the proportion of rural and urban foster parents to the proportion in the total population of the county. To do this the Chi-Square test will be applied to the actual count using census data as the theoretical proportion

and the foster parent population as the actual proportions. The .05 level of significance will be used. The assumption is further made that rural and urban foster parents differ little as to socio-economic class or house size.

Implications

Increasingly our society is considering care facilities that remove the individual from his home, but does not place him in large, impersonal institutions (for example, half-way houses, "cottage" living within institutions). Foster homes for children have long provided such an alternative which sociologists have virtually ignored. The limited existent research has been done almost exclusively by social workers, reflecting their own practical concerns.

The question of rural and suburban foster homes predominating is interesting to sociologists for both theoretical and practical reasons. As a theoretical problem, this relationship would be predicted by many of the attitudes assumed to characterize rural and urban families. Since our population has become increasingly urbanized and suburbanized physically and perhaps attitudinally due in part to the influence of mass media, the future of foster care programs may be in doubt. As a practical matter, rural locations mean that foster homes are relatively far from the agency and from needed medical and social services. This study on the relationship between urbanism and foster parenting will begin to fill a very wide gap in the sociological literature on alternative family forms.

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS OF DATA

In this chapter the relationship between the total population of Knox County and the characteristics of foster parents in this county will be examined. So that this study can be more easily compared with others, census definitions of rural and urban will be used. "Urban homes" then refers to homes inside the corporate limits of Knoxville. "Rural homes" refers to all those in the remaining area of the county.

Originally a third category--urban fringe--was planned to correspond to living patterns categorized as suburban. The census describes areas that are built up and essentially urban in nature, but are not within the city limits as "urban fringe" (Characteristics of the Population, 1970). Since only eight foster homes fell into this category, these homes were merged with the rural group. This was done primarily for convenience as the census gives most of its figures broken down only on a simple rural-urban basis.

I. POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS OF KNOX COUNTY

As was suggested in the previous chapter, perhaps the most remarkable aspect of this county is its unremarkable nature. In spite of the location of Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) offices and the University of Tennessee within the county and the Oak Ridge Laboratories and a huge Alcoa Aluminum plant in neighboring counties, Knox County's population remains overwhelmingly native born and predominately White.

Out of a population of 276,293 listed by the United States Census in 1970 (Social Characteristics of the Population) only 1,881 were foreign born and fewer than 10 per cent (23,277--8.4 per cent) were Negro. No Spanish surname or American Indian population was mentioned.

In terms of the rural-urban characteristics of chief concern to this report, the population is 63.2 per cent urban and 36.8 per cent rural. The White population is 60.2 per cent urban and 39.8 per cent rural; the Negro population is 96.2 per cent urban and 4.8 per cent rural. Of the total population 12.7 per cent of urban is Negro while only 1.1 per cent of rural is Negro (Social Characteristics, 1).

II. RELATIVE LIKELIHOOD OF RURAL OR URBAN PEOPLE BEING FOSTER PARENTS

It was hypothesized that rural White Knox Countians would be more likely to be foster parents than would urban ones. To test this prediction the Chi-Square test was used to compare the actual distribution of foster parents with the number expected from the urban-rural distribution of the total population in the county. The .05 level of significance was used throughout this study. As can be seen in Table I this prediction was overwhelmingly confirmed.

If foster parents' living patterns were identical to those in the general population, then we would expect roughly 51 families to be urban and only 34 to be rural. In fact only 20 families are urban and 65 are rural. Even considering all foster families, both White and Black, the distribution is significantly different at the .05 level.

TABLE I

DISTRIBUTION OF WHITE FOSTER FAMILIES
IN KNOX COUNTY

	Population of County	Number Foster Homes	Expected Number of Foster Homes
Urban	151,811	20	51.17
Rural	100,414	65	33.83
$Chi^2 = 40.902$	d.f. = 1		

Here the expected distribution would be 83 urban families and 48 rural ones as compared with an actual distribution of 68 and 63, respectively.

On the other hand, Negro foster families are distributed almost identically with the general Black population. As Table II shows, the expected rural-urban breakdown would be about 44 urban and two rural families. The actual numbers are all but identical--43 and 3. As explained earlier, the Black population is almost entirely urban so no hypotheses were made concerning the location of Black foster families, but their distribution differing so radically from the White homes is interesting (Table III).

III. OTHER PERTINENT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN FOSTER PARENTS

A number of secondary hypotheses were made concerning the behavior of rural and urban foster parents. The expectation was that rural foster parents would tend to predominate over urban parents on a variety of measures such as applying more often than urban people, remaining foster parents longer, and other items mentioned under hypotheses. Urban parents were expected to be more likely to seek a foster child as a companion to one of their own children. These predictions were made on the basis of theoretical differences between rural and urban families, scattered observations in the literature, and the writer's own experience.

Foster Parent Applicants

At the time of this study there were sixteen families who had applied as foster parents and whose homes were being studied. The

TABLE II

DISTRIBUTION OF ALL FOSTER FAMILIES
IN KNOX COUNTY

	Population of County	Number Foster Homes	Expected Number of Foster Homes
Urban	174,587	68	82.79
Rural	101,706	63	48.20

$Chi^2 = 7.18$ d.f. = 1

TABLE III

DISTRIBUTION OF NEGRO FOSTER FAMILIES
IN KNOX COUNTY

	Population of County	Number Foster Homes	Expected Number of Foster Homes
Urban	33,157	43	43.79
Rural	1,120	3	2.21

No significant difference.

expected distribution would be about ten urban (10.11) and about six rural (5.89) families. In fact, however, there were only five urban homes giving a highly significant statistic ($Chi^2 = 7.02$, $p < .01$).

Of course, the total number of pending applications tends to be relatively small on any given month. Even so the strong support here for the hypothesis certainly gives credence to the idea that foster home applicants are generally more likely to be rural than urban.

Length of Time Since Approval

Following a study of prospective foster homes by the agency, a home is either rejected or (most commonly) approved. Date of approval or rejection is recorded on the "face sheet" of the home record (see Appendix A). During the study process people are given detailed information about the foster home program (see Appendix B). Many people decide during this time that they are not interested or that they are ineligible and withdraw their applications. Thus only a few applications are formally rejected by the agency (Deblois, 1974).[4] Among approved homes the range of time since approval is great for both rural and urban homes. For urban homes the range is from one month to 157 months. Interestingly, the home approved for this long period of time was approved when it was "rural" and has since been annexed by the city. For rural homes the range is from less than one month since approval to 126 months.[5]

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[4]Homes may be rejected for a variety of reasons ranging from seriously inadequate physical facilities in the home (such as lack of indoor plumbing) to apparent emotional problems within the home such as own teenagers being involved in delinquent acts.

[5]When children are in the foster homes they are visited at least once monthly. Homes are re-evaluated on a quarterly basis during the year.

In comparing time since approval of rural and urban homes, the median number of months seems the most appropriate measure. Because it was not feasible to review closed records, length of service as foster parents was used to compare rural and urban homes. Since it was expected that more urban families would withdraw from the program, this group was predicted to have a shorter time of service than would rural homes. For urban families median months since approval is 19.5 and for rural families is 24.5 months. Thus rural homes average 5 months longer since their approval than do urban ones, but the difference is not significant after applying the difference of median test (Siegel, 1956:111). The Chi-square score is < 1 (Chi-square = .00006). The respective arithmatic means are urban homes 30.2 months and rural homes 47.1 months. Again these data are in the direction to support the hypothesis that rural people tend to remain foster parents longer than do urban ones, but again an application of the Mann-Whitney test (Siegel, 1956:116) shows no significant difference (Chi-square = .84, $p > .05$).

Number of Children for Whom Applied

It was hypothesized that rural families would apply for more children than do urban families. The data do not substantiate this point, although some evidence does support it. For those stating a preference the median number of children for whom applied at one time is identical for both groups of homes--two. However, the two groups do differ somewhat in regard to some other stated preferences.

The picture of the number of children requested does differ somewhat between the rural and urban homes (see Table IV). For urban families the most requested--by only one family--was four children. Two families requested three. By far the most common request was for two children (from ten foster families) and the remaining four families requested only one child.

The range for rural homes is somewhat different in that of the 54 White rural homes approved, three gave open ended responses as to how many children they would take. (The phrasing was "unlimited," "families," and "two or more"). As shown above, no urban family was so flexible in this regard. At the other extreme, the biggest single group of foster home requests was for one child (by 19 families). Two children was next in number of requests with 18 families in this group.

Thus the hypothesis that rural people apply for more children than do urban ones is not supported by the data. The fact that one urban and six rural families failed to state a preference at all may indicate that it is difficult for people to assess their capacity for accepting a certain number of children at the time they apply. Many foster home workers feel that this is the case. The median (2 children) for the two groups is identical. The only indication of a greater tendency of rural people to request more children is the fact that some rural homes requested more than four children, while no urban home did so. It may be that rural people have a greater willingness to accept larger groups of children, but this study failed to offer substantial proof.

TABLE IV

NUMBER OF CHILDREN REQUESTED FOR PLACEMENT AT ONE TIME BY FOSTER FAMILIES

Number of Children Requested	Number of Urban Families Making Requests	Number of Children Requested	Number of Rural Families Making Requests
4	1	Unlimited	3
3	2	4	3
2	10	3	5
1	4	2	18
		1	19

Number of Foster Children For Whom Care Was Furnished

It was hypothesized that rural people would actually furnish care for more foster children than would urban people. To test this hypothesis the researcher compared the two groups as to the number of foster children in their home at the time of study and as to the number of children cared for since approval.

In regard to children currently in the home, both groups of foster homes have a median of 2. However, the mean for rural homes was 2.24 and for urban homes was 1.50. This difference is not significant at the .05 level (Chi-square = .414). The range for the two groups is strikingly different. Among urban foster homes only one home had as many as four children while among the rural homes three homes had seven, two had six, and three had five and three had four. This much greater upper range for the rural families does seem to support the hypothesis, particularly since the agency formal policy discourages more than four children being placed in a home. Foster homes who can successfully accommodate large groups are quite valuable to the agency both to accommodate extra children temporarily during an emergency and to avoid dividing sibling groups who may have very close ties.

The total number of children for whom provided gives a similar picture to the above. The median number for the two groups is close--rural 4.00 and urban 3.50. The difference of medians tests shows this not to be significant (Chi-square = .074, $p > .05$). The mean for rural homes is 8.43 and for urban homes is 7.78 (Chi-square = .75, $p > .05$). When one looks at the range, there is more support for the hypothesis. Among urban homes two homes definitely stand out. They have accommodated

23 and 59 children. The next highest number is 13. These include the same home mentioned under "Length of Time Since Approval" and were originally in rural areas that have since been annexed by the city.

For rural homes the upper end of the range is higher, and more cases are grouped there. The most cared for is 65 children (six more than any urban home). In addition to the family with 65 children, 5 homes have cared for 20 or more children. It seems likely that total children cared for has a strong positive relationship with length of time since approval.

Taking the range as a measure of children currently in the home and total children cared for, the hypothesis that rural people actually provide care for more children than do urban people seems to be supported. The situation is not as conclusive as the central hypothesis since in both cases the urban and rural homes have the same or similar medians.

Applicants for Infants

It was originally hypothesized that rural people are more likely than urban people to apply for infants. The data do not bear out that hypothesis, but they do support the converse--that rural people are less likely to specifically request not having infants (those under two) placed in their home (see Table V). Here we see that of the 50 rural people who stated the age child they wanted, 25 (50 per cent) stated they did not want infants. By contrast, 12 of the 18 urban homes stating an age preference asked not to have infants placed with them. This constitutes 72.2 per cent of the total reporting. This difference is not statistically significant.

TABLE V

FOSTER PARENTS' REQUESTS
FOR INFANTS

	Percent Infants Only	Percent Includes Infants	Percent Specifically Excludes Infants
Rural	20	30	50
Urban	5.55	22.22	72.22

$Chi^2 = 1.78$ d.f. = 1

For those families who include infants as well as older children in their application, the difference between rural and urban homes is not marked. Of these 30 per cent of the rural families responding and 22.22 per cent of the urban ones (n. 15 and 4, respectively) fall into this group. The difference is not great, but is in the predicted direction as can be seen in Table V.

Finally, as Table V shows, the smallest group requested only infants. Ten rural homes (20 per cent of those responding) and only one urban one (5.55 per cent) were in this group. Here again the numbers are too small to support any statistical conclusions with certainty, but the differences are in the predicted direction.

These particular data were the most unexpected to the researcher since infants are by far the easiest children for whom to find foster homes in Knox County (Deblois, 1974). Apparently, relatively few infants need foster care since fewer than half of the foster homes considered here are easily able to meet the needs of all infants requiring foster care. On the other hand, older children, and especially teenagers, may be very difficult to place (Deblois, 1974).

In summary, the data do not support convincingly the hypothesis that rural foster parents are more likely than urban ones to apply for infants. Although not statistically significant, urban parents are more likely to request only children above the age of infancy.

Foster Children as Companions for "Own" Children

The final hypothesis is that urban people are more likely than rural ones to seek foster children as companions for their "own" child.

The records available do not give a very clear picture in this regard, and nothing can be said with any real confidence. By inspection of the records it was determined that seven rural homes and four urban ones seem to fit into this category. The researcher counted those homes which had an "own" child (or grandchild) who was in some manner isolated in the family. That is, was either an only child, a child much younger than other siblings, or the only child of one sex among several of the opposite sex. Those people requesting a child of the same sex and a similar age to the "isolated child" were counted as seeking a companion for that child. Only one family (rural) mentioned on the application form that they wanted a companion for their own child.

Little can be said on this particular question without examining the closed records, since many people who want a companion for an "own" child are quickly disappointed by the child placed with them and withdraw. It will be remembered from Chapter II that this is the "worst" motive for seeking foster parenthood as compared with a lasting placement (Kraus, 1971). Unfortunately, closed foster home records are co-mingled with all other closed records in such a way as to make their examination extremely time consuming.

The available data fail to support the hypothesis concerning the relative likelihood of urban foster parents seeking a companion for their "own" child.

IV. SUMMARY

An attempt was made to test a central hypothesis and six secondary hypotheses. The central hypothesis that rural Whites are more likely to

become foster parents than are urban homes is strongly supported. Even if the overwhelmingly urban Negro population is included in the sample, this hypothesis is still strongly supported.

The evidence regarding the second hypothesis, that rural people are more likely to apply as foster parents, is less clear. All other hypotheses are not accepted. There are some indications that rural people furnish care for more children and particularly more infants than do urban ones. It may also be that urban people are more likely to seek foster children as companions for their own children, but the data here are especially inconclusive.

Foster parents are more likely to be rural than urban in Knox County, Tennessee. As a group they are more apt to apply as foster parents. Generally, rural people may be more willing to actually furnish care for foster children, but this fact is unclear.

CHAPTER IV

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE EXPLANATIONS

There is a possibility that factors other than those directly related to ruralism are operative in attracting rural foster parents. Four alternative explanations will be considered below. These alternatives are that rural people with more land to keep are interested in additional help and seek foster children to obtain this help. Another possibility is that rural people simply have larger houses than urban people and therefore have more room for additional children. A third explanation could be that rural people have a lower income than urban ones and so are attracted to foster care by the board payments. A final somewhat more complex possibility is that the difference between the rural and urban foster parents is more a social class difference than a rural-urban difference.

It is proposed that the rural and urban foster parents in this sample do not differ greatly in regard to the variables involved in the four suggested alternative characteristics. The two groups will be compared as to each variable in the following sections.

I. FOSTER CHILDREN AS FAMILY HELPERS

In Chapter III evidence was given that rural people are more likely than urban ones to seek infants as foster children. Table IV, page 28, shows that only 50 per cent of the rural foster parents want only children past infancy, while 72 per cent of the urban parents

express this preference for older children. This does not support the argument that rural parents were seeking out older children to help with household or farm work. In fact, urban parents are more likely to seek the older child.

Teenage children should be the most sought after from the standpoint of potential usefulness. Yet, as mentioned earlier, teenagers are by far the most difficult children to place and maintain in foster care (Dublois, 1974). The author's own experience with foster children also bears out that they are seldom called on to do any unusual amount of household work. After being in many of the county's foster homes in both rural and urban areas, there was no impression that foster children tend to be net work savers.

II. RURAL-URBAN HOUSE SIZE

On the "face sheet" of their records (Appendix A) foster parents are asked to record the number of rooms and the number of bedrooms in their homes. Probably the latter figure is more accurate since responses are not standardized as to counting kitchens and bathrooms or not. It might be supposed that the chief difference between rural and urban foster parents is one of house size, with rural people having the larger homes.

The prediction was made in this paper that there would be little difference in urban and rural house size. The data support this point, and, in fact, urban homes seem to be slightly larger than the rural ones in this study. The mean number of rooms for rural homes is 6.52 as compared with 6.86 for urban homes. Rural homes have a mean number

of 3.26 bedrooms, while urban homes have 3.43. Certainly then, house size does not appear to be a factor in attracting more rural than urban foster parents.

III. FOSTER PARENTS' INCOME

Foster parents are asked to record their income at the time of application. Occasionally the income records are updated, especially if there is a major change in income as in the case of retirement, but there has been no systematic review. Consequently, many records have not had income figures recorded in as much as a decade. The writer always recorded the most recent figure given.

Several other sources of error also exist. Some people (one rural and three urban) simply failed to record their income, at least on the "face sheet" and were excluded from income analysis. Others probably failed to record a wife's income, since there is no place to record her employment. Additional "second incomes" such as produce sold from a small farm may also be excluded. If second incomes were recorded, this writer also included them. Finally, many foster parents' incomes fluctuate because they are paid on an hourly basis or are self-employed. Most of these sources of error should apply to rural and urban homes equally so that comparisons between the two groups is valid. Since urban homes average a somewhat shorter time since approval, and income data for previously approved homes is often not updated, this would create some tendency for the urban median income to be higher.

It is hypothesized that rural-urban differences would not be statistically significant. This hypothesis seems to be confirmed

(Chi^2 = .419, $p > .05$). For rural foster parents the median weekly income is 120 dollars with a range of 404 dollars to 45 dollars. For urban foster parents the median income is 155 dollars weekly with a range of 338 dollars to 50 dollars. The upper range for both groups tends to represent two income families. The lower range is primarily made up of retired people living on a pension. The difference in median income between these two groups is not great, with urban families having a median income of 35 dollars more per week. Since the highest incomes are among rural (actually suburban) families, the median is a more representative measure than the mean. The difference in median incomes is only 30 dollars a week and is not significant (Chi^2 = .419, $p > .05$). Thus, as hypothesized, there appears to be no major difference between rural and urban foster families in regard to income.

IV. FOSTER PARENTS' SOCIAL CLASS

It could be suggested that the differences between urban and rural foster parents are actually social class differences. However, this writer has hypothesized that the two groups will differ little as to social class. In fact, using the foster father's occupation to determine social class, the two groups of foster parents seem to be very similar.

Unfortunately, the data available on this point are incomplete. Some parents fail to list occupation. More commonly the listing is too vague to be meaningful as in giving only the place of work, but not the type of work done there. For those parents who did list definite occupations, a score was assigned to them based on the

poor-excellent ratings of occupation as determined by the National Opinion Research Center in 1963 (Hodge, 1966). On this scale, a Supreme Court Justice is scored 94 and a shoe shiner 34.

Scores were assigned to 30 rural families and to 19 urban ones who gave adequate responses to the inquiry about occupation, so that over half the cases could not be compared. The median rural score was 68 as compared to 69 for urban parents. This is not significant ($Chi^2 = 0$, $p > .05$). The arithmatic means are also very similar at 68.93 and 70.57, respectively. This difference is also not significant ($Chi^2 = .602$, $p > .05$). Thus there appears to be no appreciable difference in the social class of the two groups. The pattern of similarity as to house size, income and social class seems consistent and does not account for the radically skewed distribution of foster parents.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I. CONCLUSIONS

The evidence presented in the analysis of data section overwhelmingly supports the major hypothesis that for the population studied rural people are more likely to be foster parents than are urban people. Even if the highly urban group of Negro foster parents are included, the tendency toward rural living among foster parents is statistically significant. Among the sub hypotheses tested, only that one concerning the preponderance of rural people among foster home applicants can be clearly accepted.

Regarding rural people remaining foster parents longer than urban people, the data are less conclusive. However, the differences in length of time since approval are in the predicted direction. Both the median and the mean of months since approval show rural homes averaging a somewhat longer period of service. This gives some credence to the hypothesis that rural parents remain in service longer than urban ones, but the difference is not great enough that the hypothesis can be definitely accepted.

Three of the minor hypotheses were concerned with the number and ages of children cared for in the two sets of homes. The predictions were that rural people would apply for more children, would actually care for more children, and would apply for more infants than would

other parents. The data on all three questions are somewhat ambiguous in that different measures tend to support different conclusions. For example, the median number of children applied for was identical between the two groups. On the other hand, the upper range was higher for rural than for urban families, thus tending to indicate that some difference may exist. Such a difference, while indicated, is not clearly established.

A very similar picture emerges when examining the number of children for whom care was actually furnished. Regarding both foster children currently in the home and all foster children ever cared for these approaches seem to yield almost identical pictures. In both cases the median is the same or nearly so for the two groups of foster parents, while the mean is higher for rural parents in both instances.

Applicants expressed desire to care for infants also failed to show a significant difference between rural and urban people. Among those expressing an age preference, 50.0 per cent of the rural people and 72.2 per cent of the urban ones requested not being given children under the age of two. This difference is in the expected direction, but is not statistically significant. Perhaps had the sample of urban respondents been larger, a statistically significant difference would have emerged. Only 18 urban parents expressed an age preference.

Thus none of the hypotheses dealing with number of children or ages requested can be accepted. Even so, some data support all three ideas and another study using a larger sample might substantiate these hypotheses.

Finally, it was hypothesized that urban parents would be more likely to seek foster children as companions for an "own" child. The face sheets of foster home records do not give very adequate information on this point. The hypothesis was not accepted.

In Chapter IV an examination was also made of some alternate explanations of the preponderance of rural people as foster parents. Here it was established that urban and rural foster homes in the sample differ little as to house size, income or social class.

Since this study was done, foster care in Knox County has been effected by three rather important changes. One change begun before the study, but increasing in importance is the marked drop of children available for adoption. Thus, a number of people now apply for foster children as a substitute for adoption or with the hope that a placement can later work into an adoption (Deblois, 1974). It is too soon to tell from the available data what the effect of changes in the adoption program will be on the foster home program.

A second change has been to pay all foster parents a salary of approximately 20 dollars a month (see Appendix B). This salary is a raise in the "board payment." This puts into effect what would have been one of the writer's chief recommendations. Again this writer has no data on the change in the program, but it does seem possible that a salary would induce more urban people to become foster parents.

A third change involves the agency's response to an anticipated greater demand for foster care brought about by a strengthening of the statutes protecting abused and neglected children. Because of this expected increase of children needing foster care, the Department of

Public Welfare has tried to attract more foster parents. One of the chief means used to reach the public has been through one minute television announcements. These broadcasts are received by people in the rural counties around Knox County as well as in Kentucky. Many people from these surrounding areas have responded to the appeal (Deblois, 1974), although the Department of Public Welfare policy does not allow use of foster homes across county or state lines.

II. CRITIQUE

If the author were to expand this study, there are two steps that would be taken to improve it. First, a larger sample could be obtained by studying the records over a period of several months, particularly in regard to the small number of applicants in any one month. A longer time of study would also yield more information about those homes who withdraw from the program or are closed by the agency.

This study had the disadvantage of all unobtrusive measures that the data were not originally assembled to meet this researcher's needs. A second improvement would be to interview more workers having contact with foster parents in an attempt to answer questions not answered fully on the "face sheets." The foster home population is well enough known to the caseworkers in charge of it that additional information could be obtained. For instance the foster father's occupation may not be listed on the "face sheet," but is probably always known to the caseworker.

Despite these two criticisms the author does feel that useful data were obtained, some of which suggests further research.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

In the last section some criticisms of this study were made suggesting that it could be improved by drawing records for the sample over a longer period of time. Further, by attempting to assertain the answers to inadequately answered questions in the foster home records, more complete data could be obtained. Since the program is currently undergoing changes in several areas, it might be particularly helpful to use this method to assess the impact of these changes.

For instance, is the withdrawal rate higher among people who apply as foster parents when they really want to adopt? Are these people more likely to be urban? It would also be interesting to know if television is a useful medium for recruiting foster parents. If there should be a marked increase in children entering foster care because of parental abuse, this would probably also increase the demand for urban foster parents who are located near agencies giving special services more often needed by children who enter foster care under circumstances of unusual stress.

Another area of study may be opened up as the department's records are being computerized. If the filing system is changed to permit easier access to closed records, it would be easier to study patterns among rejected applications, withdrawals from the application process or the foster home program, and those homes who are closed at the agency's instigation. From the writer's own experience, the prediction would be made that urban people are more likely to withdraw for their own reasons and the rural ones are more likely to be closed for the agency's reasons.

IV. SUGGESTIONS FOR APPLYING FINDINGS

The major implication of this study is that it is easier to recruit and keep foster homes in rural areas. There are disadvantages to this distance in travel time and distance from services needed by the children. On the other hand, the fact of greater willingness for foster care among rural people cannot be ignored. Perhaps for those children who do not have strong family ties in Knox County and have simpler needs, placement in surrounding rural counties might be possible. Particularly if the urban county had begun the recruitment process through advertisements, this possibility might be realized.

On the other hand, often the most educated foster parents tend to be urban. Educated foster parents might offer particularly good homes to children with more complex problems. Yet repeatedly such families withdraw after a very short time. Thorough study of such withdrawals might help to formulate program changes that would retain these people who appear to be a good potential resource.

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APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A

APPLICATION TO BOARD CHILDREN

From:

Agency:

Address:

Date _____

Wife _____ _____
(first name) (Maiden name)

Last Name _____

Husband _____ _____
(first name) (Middle name)

Address _____
(No.) (Street) (Town or City) (State)

Previous Address _____

Telephone _____ _____
(Neighbor's phone and name, if you do not have your own phone)

Husband
Birthdate _____ Birthplace _____ Citizen _____ Religion____ Color___

Occupation _____ Average income: Monthly _____ or weekly _____

Wife
Birthdate _____ Birthplace _____ Citizen _____ Religion_____Color___

Date of Marriage _____ Place _____ By Whom Married _____

OWN CHILDREN AT HOME

Name	Birthdate	School or Occupation

We wish to apply for _____

_____
(Give age, sex, and other details of child or children desired)

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

ALL OTHERS IN HOUSEHOLD

Name	Age	School or Occupation	Relationship

Do you live in a house_____ or apartment_____Do you rent or own home____

No. of rooms_____No. of bedrooms_____ Will child share room___With whom__

Directions for reaching your home _____
by bus, street car, train, auto, etc.

What school will child attend _____

Have you boarded children before _____

From an agency _____ Own parents_____ When_____
(Give name)

Have you applied for a child before_____From whom_____ When _____

Physician's Name _____ Address _____

Pastor's Name _____ Church _____

REFERENCES

Please give three who have known you well over a period of years.

Name _____ Address _____

Name _____ Address _____

Name _____ Address _____

Husband's Signature _____

Wife's Signature _____

This form is merely a statement of intention and can be withdrawn by the applicant at any time.

APPENDIX B

FOSTER HOME MEETING

At the group meeting held on there was a great deal of discussion involving the problems foster parents sometimes face with children. The group was very congenial and discussed freely with each other. Specifically, we discussed the part a foster parent plays in the child's growth and development. It was also emphasized that being a foster parent was temporary, although the length of time could vary a great deal. Other areas discussed were:

1. Situations and problems necessitating placement and the kinds of children we have to be placed in foster care.

2. Some problems which children display frequently after being placed in foster homes--specifically, we mentioned the fact that they do have distrustful attitudes for adults, and we pointed out the reasons for this.

3. Expectations of foster children. It was explained to them that foster parents had to be flexible in their expectations for the foster children and also not too demanding and that they had to be willing to accept rebellion, unresponsiveness, and confusion.

4. Relationship to natural parents and the importance of this. At this time we also discussed the visitation plans with the children and the natural parents.

5. Placement procedure was discussed completely with the group. We emphasized that they did have the right to refuse the child, but that we felt that if they had been real specific during the initial home study process that perhaps they would not need to refuse the child. We also explained that it would be much better for them to refuse a child, if they did not feel they could handle the problems, rather than to try and then have the child moved to another foster home within a short period of time.

6. The home study process was given in an overall view. Specifically, we discussed with them the verifications, medicals, TB skin tests, space, forms, references, and the number of interviews needed.

7. The specific requirements were given in regard to age, marriage, residence, income, physical facilities, and the policies regarding working mothers.

8. Policies and procedures of our agency were discussed involving the financial, clothing, medical, and dental care. We also discussed the responsibility for medical care when the child was taken out of the state for visits.

9. We also discussed the difference between foster parents and adoptive parents and the possibilities of foster parents becoming adoptive parents.

10. Also discussed during the meeting was the relationship with the worker after a child was placed in their home if they are approved. We emphasized the necessity of both foster parents working with the Agency and their sharing of information about the child with the worker. We also emphasized to them the importance of discussing problems early with the worker instead of waiting until the problem became very, very bad. They were also informed that there would be a monthly visit by the worker while the child was in their home.

In summary, we specified that we were looking for people to be foster parents who enjoy people and who could love a child and then let the child go. Foster parents must have the capacity to give without expecting much in return. They must also be flexible, accepting, mature, and stable persons.

IMPRESSIONS:

APPENDIX C

INFORMATION SHEET FOR FOSTER PARENTS

I. Application Procedure:

The home study is primarily for the purpose of getting to know you and letting you get to know us, the kinds of problems our children and their parents might have, what you might be expected to do or not to do, and what you might expect the Department to do or not do. Generally, we want to get an idea of what type of child would fit best in your family.

We will need to verify the following information:

1. Health of all family members including a tuberculin skin test.

2. Your marriage.

We will discuss your employment and income.

We will need to contact three references during the home study. If you tell the references that we would be calling, it would be most helpful.

II. Financial Arrangements:

The Department of Public Welfare reimburses our foster parents for the major additional expense of caring for an extra child. Checks are usually received between the 20th and 30th of the month for the month before. If the child is in the home only part of the month, then the check is figured by the number of days. Medical needs are provided as they are needed. Transportation is paid at a rate of 10¢ per mile for trips to the doctor, hospital, visits with natural parents, etc., but does not cover other unauthorized trips such as to buy clothing. Early in the month you will receive a form to sign which will authorize your check to be mailed to you. We provide an initial outlay of clothing when the child first comes into care that varies in accordance to the age of the child.

Although there are occasional variations, the basic rates are:

A. Birth to 1 year		B. Age 1-2 years	C. Age 2 - 6 years
Board per month	$75.00	$75.00	$75.00
Clothing	4.00	5.00	6.50
Personal incidentals	5.00	5.00	5.00
	$84.00	$85.00	$86.50

D. Age 6 - 9 years		E. Age 9 - 12 years	F. 12 yrs and over
Board per month	$80.00	$80.00	$80.00
Clothing	10.00	10.00	12.50
Allowance	1.00	3.00	5.00
School supplies	.50**	.75**	1.50**
Personal incidentals	5.00	5.00	5.00
	$96.50	$98.75	$104.00

*Board - School lunch is paid from Board.

**School supplies - plus an initial outlay at the beginning of school.

Now that you have heard more about our program, we hope that you will discuss this more at home and return the application to our office. Please return applications within thirty days.

VITA

Rebecca Rumery Quillen was born in Knoxville, Tennessee on May 17, 1944. She attended public schools in Knoxville and was graduated from Fulton High School in 1962.

In the Fall of 1962 she entered the University of Tennessee where her major was Child Development and Family Relationships. She was granted a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics in August, 1965.

From November, 1965 until September, 1967 she was employed by the Tennessee Department of Public Welfare as a Child Welfare Worker in Knox County. She has also taught part-time as a faculty member at Eastern Kentucky University.

In June of 1968 she entered graduate school at the University of Tennessee and received a Master of Arts degree in June, 1974.

She is married to Dennis E. Quillen. They have two children, Dawn Elizabeth and Shay Jackson.