

3rd International Network Conference Foster Care

**Foster Care in France
policy, structure, evolution, research**

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France

Child Protection - Child Welfare Legislation

- 1904: from **Pater familias** to the State protection: **Public assistance**
- After 2nd World War: childhood delinquency reforms, Judicial Youth Protection, children's judge, Social Child Welfare services (1956)
A dual Youth Protection system : social + judicial protection
- 1977: wages for foster families FA
- 1983: **decentralization** central government → local authorities
Social services – Maternal/Child Health Protection – Child Welfare services (ASE)
- 1984: parental rights reaffirmed
- 1989: prevention of **maltreatment**
- 2002: social and medico-social reform: regulation of the quality of care
- 2005: development of professionalisation of FA (training: 300 hours)
- 2007: **Reform** of Child Protection

A dual Youth Protection system : from birth to 18 two foundational texts

- ❖ *Edict Order of 1958: judicial measures added to **social protection** for vulnerable children and adolescents ; children's judge may limit parental responsibilities.*
- ❖ *Statutory Order of 1959
Family support through administrative measures and court orders
« families whose living conditions risk imperrilling the **health, safety, morals or education** of children »*

Measures revised every 2 years
independent but complementary, according to parental collaboration

Code Civil, Code de l'Action Sociale et des Familles

Provision of Child welfare measures

- ❖ *Accompagnement* : **family & child support**
primary and secondary prevention (children at risk)
 - administrative measures (AED) or court orders (AEMO):
temporary allowances, home intervention, socio-educative support, specialized prevention

- ❖ *Accueil* : **placements away from home**
 - residences for isolated pregnant women or mothers with child < 3 yrs
 - residential care: child age, type (homes, children's villages, special needs)
 - individual care:
 - foster family for full time care
 - extended family, third confident person (court order)
 - specialised foster care + therapeutic foster family

- ❖ New types of interventions and placements
sequential, alternating hostings, day-placement, immediate shelter (72 hours)

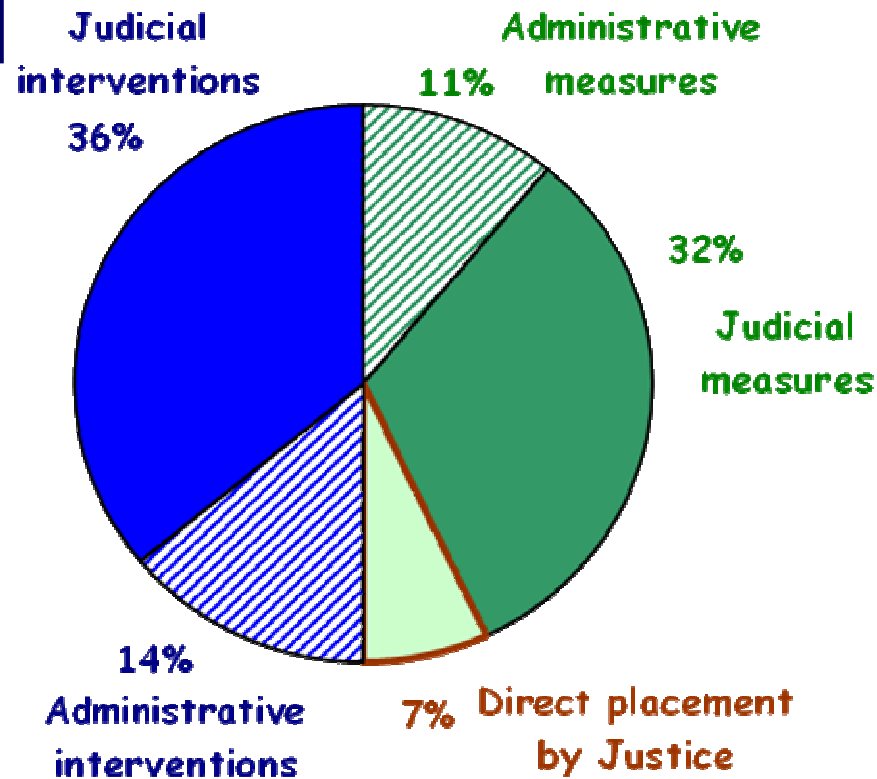
Child Welfare in 2007-2008 (280,900 young people)

**Accompagnement:
Interventions,
educative measures
139,700**

**Accueil:
Out-of-home placement
121,400 + 19,800**

Secondary prevention
Court orders : *Aide en milieu ouvert* AEMO
101,400

Primary prevention
Aide à domicile AED
38,300



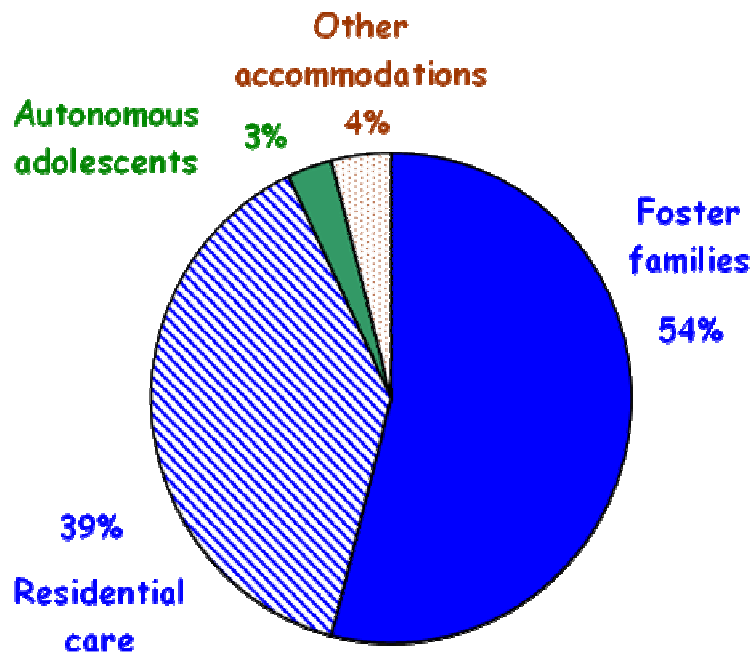
Wards,
temporary care
young adults
30,500

Court orders,
guardianships,
90,900

Looked after children by the local authorities

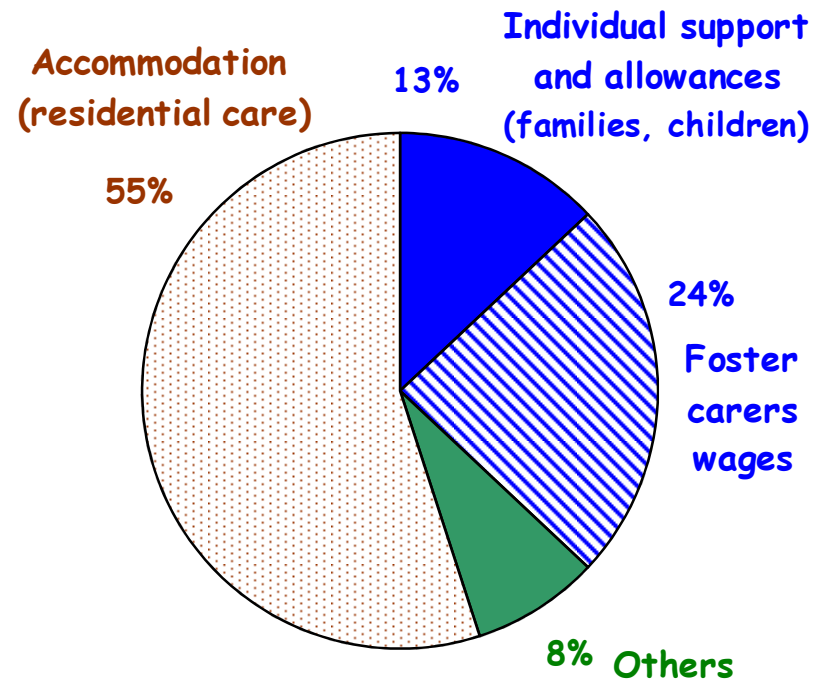
Aide sociale à l'enfance 2007

Where do they live ?

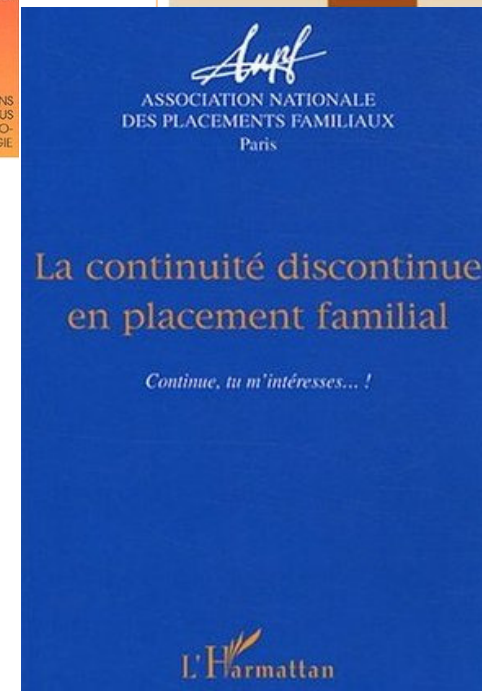
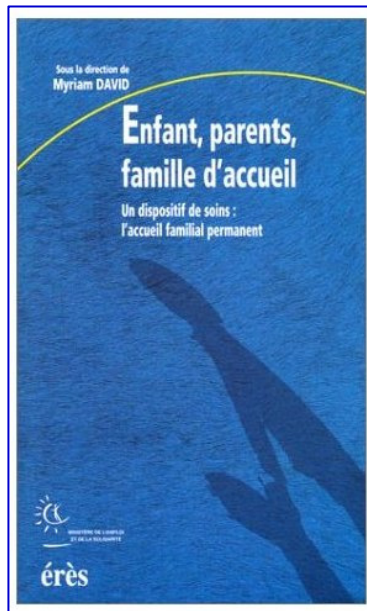
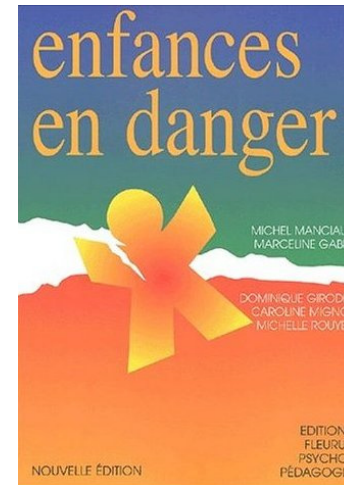
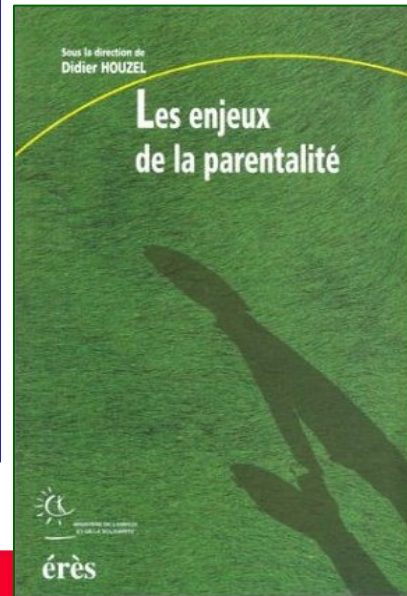
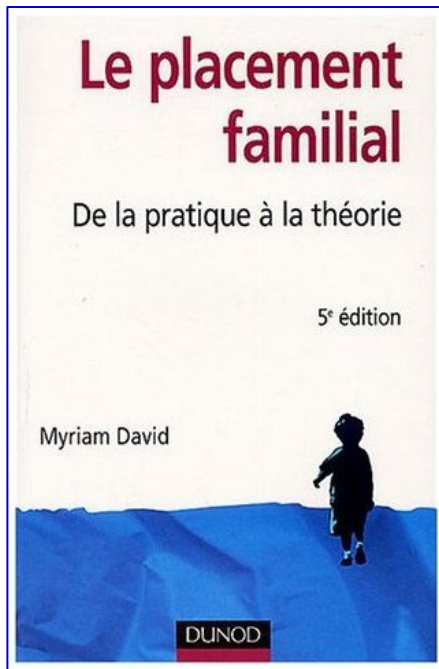


121,400 young people

Child and Family expenditures
5,200 million euros



Theory and practice Clinicians



Family foster care

a tradition in France

- A foster family gives a child structural reference points in a stable environment with a different culture and other values
- Birth parents still have their responsibilities except housing
- Professional status: 1977, 1992, 2005 Selection, vocational training
- A foster family is **not a substitute family**: responsibility for educational care
- A foster family is a **member of the placement agency**
- **No matching factors** (ethnicity, religion) between children and FF

- **Variety in organisations** : according to local authorities, private/public agencies

Principles axes structuring the foster care framework (M. David, 1989)

Foster care = social concerns + element of treatment and prevention

- ❖ Ensure the stability of the placement, **avoid ruptures**: the children will elaborate other answers, reorganize their emotional positions
- ❖ **Regulate child- birth parents contacts**
- ❖ Help the child **create new ties** with other parental references, oversee the emotional commitment between the child and his foster family
- ❖ Support the **child's sense of identity** and history :help him/her to become a subject (individuation)
- ❖ **Support birth parents *and* foster families**

Foster family care: some debates

- **Maintaining child-parent(s) ties**

The children's judge decides the meeting place, the duration of visits and frequency
Encounters: part of treatment of separation anxiety, reality confronted to fantasy representations

- **Looking after siblings together or separated**

- importance of siblings support in a new environment
- risk of reproducing pathological behaviour, prevent the creation of new ties

MINISTÈRE DE L'EMPLOI
ET DE LA SOLIDARITÉ
Inspection générale des affaires sociales

MINISTÈRE DE LA JUSTICE
Inspection générale des services judiciaires

RAPPORT

SUR LES ACCUEILS PROVISOIRES ET PLACEMENTS D'ENFANTS ET D'ADOLESCENTS

Présenté par
M. Pierre Naves, inspecteur général des affaires sociales,
et M. Bruno Cathala, inspecteur des services judiciaires

Avec la collaboration de M. Jean-Marie Deparis
(inspection des services de la protection judiciaire de la jeunesse)



Livret d'information pour les acteurs de la protection de l'enfance

La qualité et son évaluation


Éléments de réflexion

Criticisms - Evolution

IN
SC

Maurice BERGER

L'échec de la protection de l'enfance




2^e édition
augmentée

DUNOD

La réforme de la protection de l'enfance

Une politique publique en mouvement

Pierre Naves
Avec la collaboration de
Guillemette Rabin-Costy, Catherine Briand,
Florence Lianos, Laure Neïaz et Anne Oui



DUNOD

Guide de l'assistant familial


Anne Oui

Statut et Formation
des
Familiants
et
Professionnels
de la
Protection
de l'enfance

DUNOD

Ouvrage coordonné par
Michel BOUTANQUOI et Jean-Pierre MINARY

L'évaluation des pratiques dans le champ de la protection de l'enfance



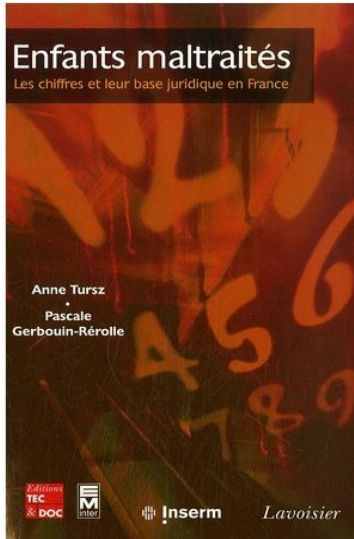
service protection de l'enfance

L'Harmattan

Enfants maltraités

Les chiffres et leur base juridique en France

Anne Tursz
Pascale Gerbouin-Rérolle



Éditions
TEC
& DOC

INSERM

Lavoisier

Debates & Criticisms

- ❖ Large **disparities** in local authorities, in care services, **lack of coordination** of services, of professionals, corporatism
- ❖ **Problems of definitions** : at risk, danger, degree of maltreatment, **necessity to clarify**: professional responsibilities and proceedings in case of danger
- ❖ Sharing **confidential information**
- ❖ **Lack of evaluation** (individuals, decisions, quality of care)
- ❖ French laws more centered on parental rights than on child's outcome (ex: long-term placement).
- ❖ **Too many judicial decisions**

Recent evolution of Child Protection

Reforms of social & medico-social action (2002) and Child Protection (2007)

- ❖ **Diversification of interventions:** more flexible and evolutive solutions
- ❖ ***Do with, Be with families*** : New way of support using family resources and environment (school, extended family).
- ❖ Larger place given to the views of services' users
- ❖ Administrative / **Social Protection** becomes the **common right** but necessity of families' agreement
- ❖ Clarification in the **definition of Danger** for social and judicial protection, better guide marks, centralization of proceedings in case of maltreatment
- ❖ Broad preventive early strategies: 'maternal & child health' included in the local authorities' missions

**L'enfant placé,
actualité de la recherche
française et internationale**

ACTES DU COLLOQUE INTERNATIONAL

Paris, 31 mai - 1er juin 1989

organisé à l'UNESCO par le G.E.R.I.S.
(Groupe de recherche sur la reproduction et l'innovation sociales)
et le C.R.E.A.I. de la région Centre

Coordination : Michel CORBILLON

Research


anthropology, sociology, psychology, demography
perception of foster carers, ex-care adults

NOUVELLES ETUDES ANTHROPOLOGIQUES

Anne Cadoret

PARENTÉ PLURIELLE

Anthropologie du placement familial

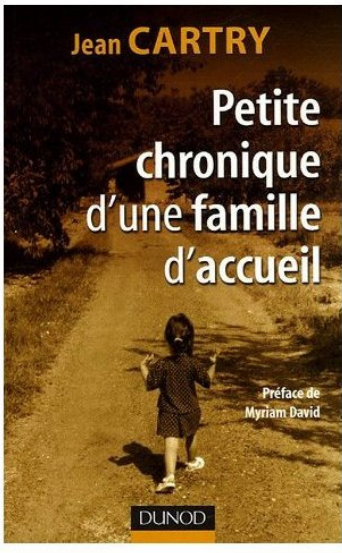


L'HARMATTAN

Jean **CARTRY**

Petite chronique d'une famille d'accueil

Préface de Myriam David

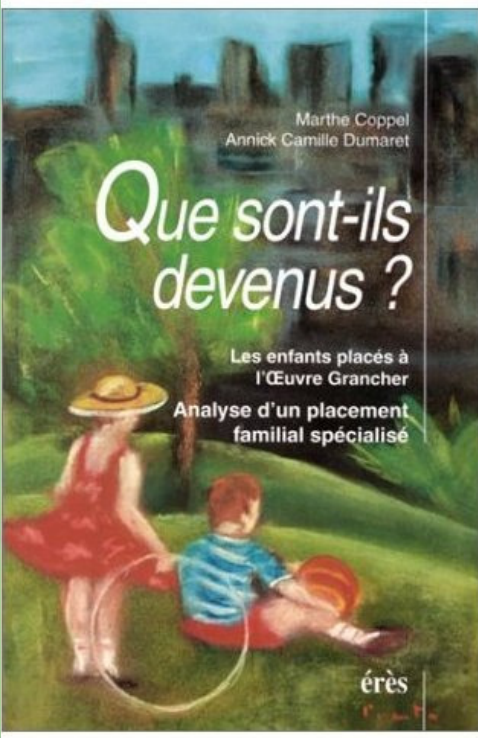


DUNOD

Marthe Coppel
Annick Camille Dumaret

Que sont-ils devenus ?

Les enfants placés à l'Œuvre Grancher
Analyse d'un placement familial spécialisé



éres

études et recherches **4** 65/01

vaucresson
CNFE-PJ

ASSOCIATION JEAN-COTXET

Isabelle Frechon

être placées à l'adolescence... et après ?

Témoignages et devenirs de jeunes filles ayant vécu au foyer "le Caligo"

Étude commandée par l'Association "Jean-Cotxet"

MINISTÈRE DE LA JUSTICE

Trends in Foster care Research

- Denunciation of living conditions: poor environments, instability of placements
- Intergenerational continuities and reproduction, effects of the placement
- Institutional violences
- Mutual good treatment, collaboration : parents – professionals
- Parenthood
- Attachement and secure relationships, effects on child development
- Views of services'users : parents with babies in nurseries, in foster care, carers leavers, foster families
- Recent studies: spouses in foster families, siblings relationships in and after care, personal pathways of young people in care
- Few studies on : health, evaluation on parental support, young adult leaving care

Advances and challenges

Better reference to the Child, to her/his needs, to his/her rights

Mention in the law of: emotional development, continuity of relationship

Progress has been slow in coming...

- ❖ Few national involvement of accredited organisations; few private associations for users
- ❖ Poor national basic statistics
- ❖ Still few studies on looked after children and care leavers (decisions, pathways in care, health, reunification, adult outcomes...)
- ❖ No unification in the formation of social workers, not linked to university
- ❖ Evaluation is beginning but necessity to develop practice and research

**Thank you for your
attention**

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