

Special Immigrant Status Unit

presented by

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Introduction



The Special Immigrant Status unit (SIS) files Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) with the Department of Homeland Security, US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) (previously known as INS) on behalf of eligible DCFS undocumented children under provision 101(a)(27)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1990.

How Does the Filing of SIJS Benefit DCFS Children?

- Eligible children will be able to obtain a permanent resident card (“green card”).
- Eligible children will have the right to receive DCFS emancipation services.
- Eligible children will be able to live, study, and work legally in the United States.
- Eligible children will be able to remain in the US without the threat of deportation



Eligibility Criteria



- Child must be a dependent of the Juvenile Court.
- Child must be ordered into Permanency Planning Services (PP).
- Child must be subjected to judicial proceedings and finding that is not in his/her best interest to be returned to his/her country of nationality.
- Child must be unmarried and under the age of 21.

The Process

- The legalization process for SIJS is complicated and lengthy. It requires continued Court jurisdiction.
- It takes approximately 8 to 24 months for a child to receive a “green card”.
- Timely referrals to the SIS unit are crucial for appropriate delivery of services. Please refer children as soon as they are ordered into permanency planning.



How to Refer a Case for SIJS



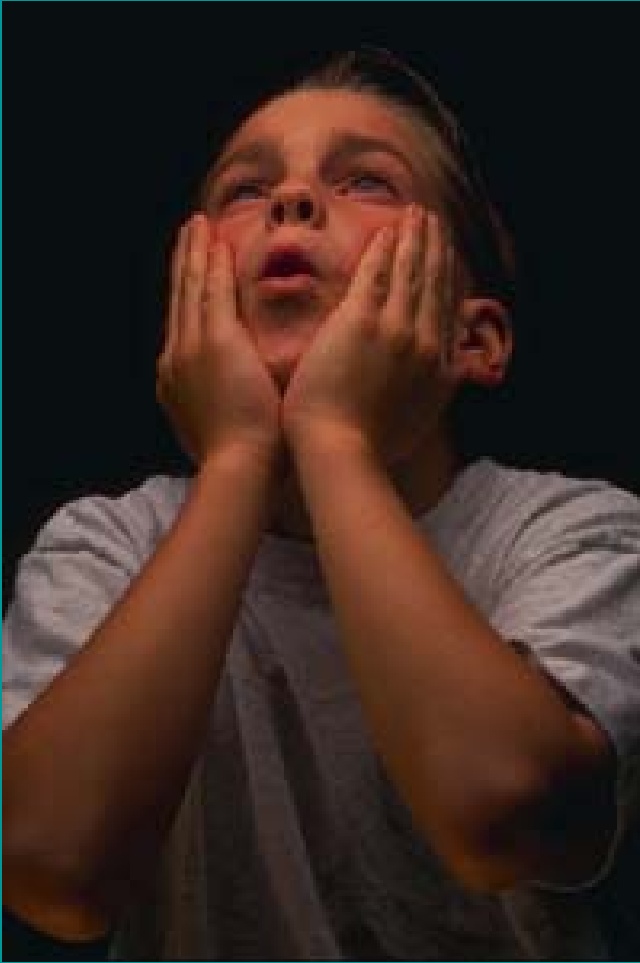
- Complete referral DCFS 852 (available at LA Kids)
- Attach a copy of child's most recent minute order.
- Attach a copy of child's birth certificate, baptism certificate or passport.
- Fax or mail information to the SIS unit Belvedere (323) 881-6419 fax, or call Cecilia Saco, SCSW at (323) 725-4464.

Kin-Gap Cases and Children over 18

- Undocumented children do not qualify for Kin-Gap payments.
- As long as Court jurisdiction is maintained, children qualify for SIJS until age 21.
- After emancipation, children can not get a “green card”.
- Please review cases before considering terminating Court jurisdiction.



Other Services Provided by the SIS Unit



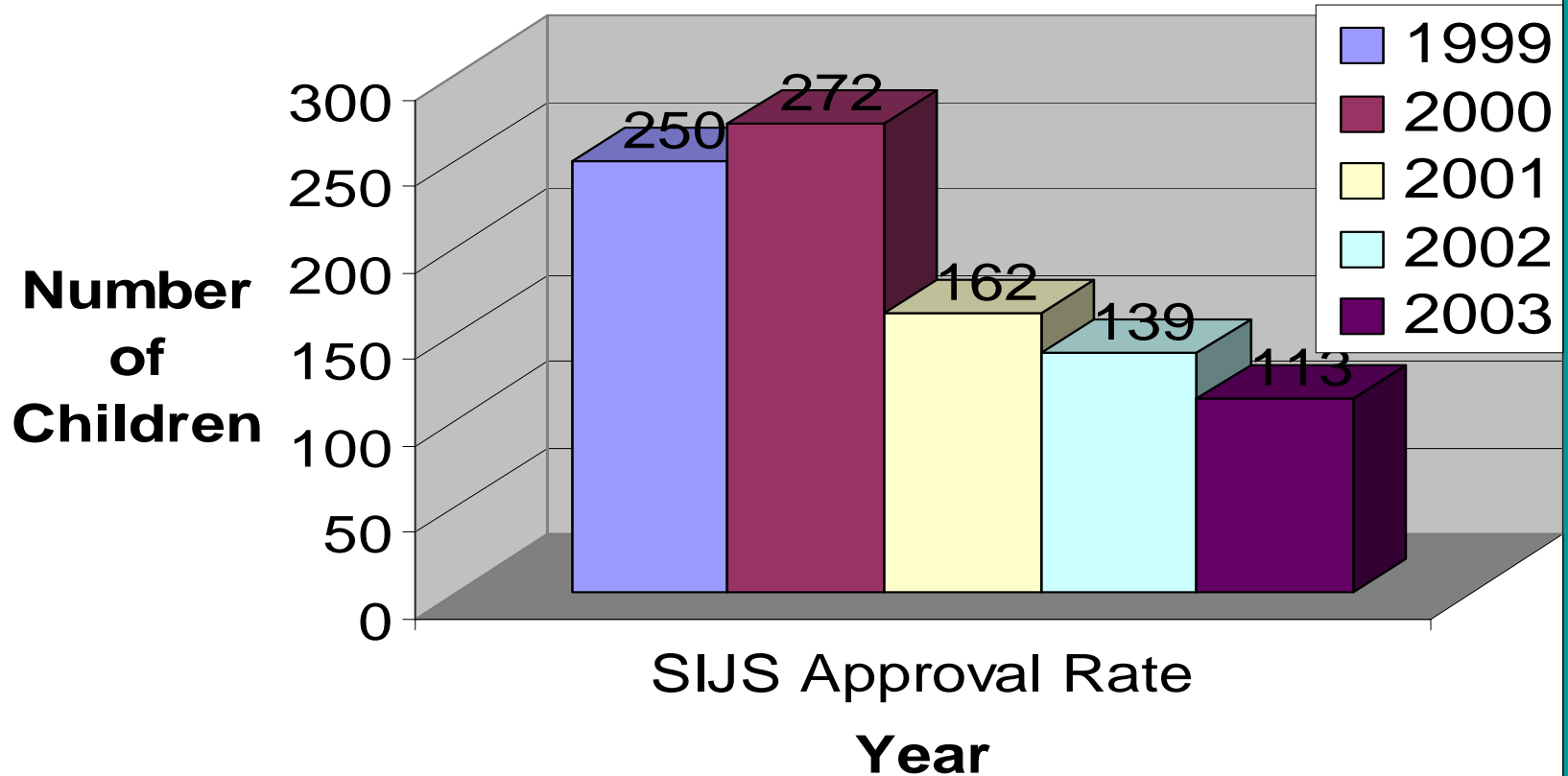
- Obtaining replacement of lost or stolen “green cards”.
- Filing of BCIS Work Authorizations (work permits) for children age 14 and over.
- Filing for U.S. naturalization for eligible children.
- Assisting children to obtain a social security card and California ID under certain circumstances.

Statistics

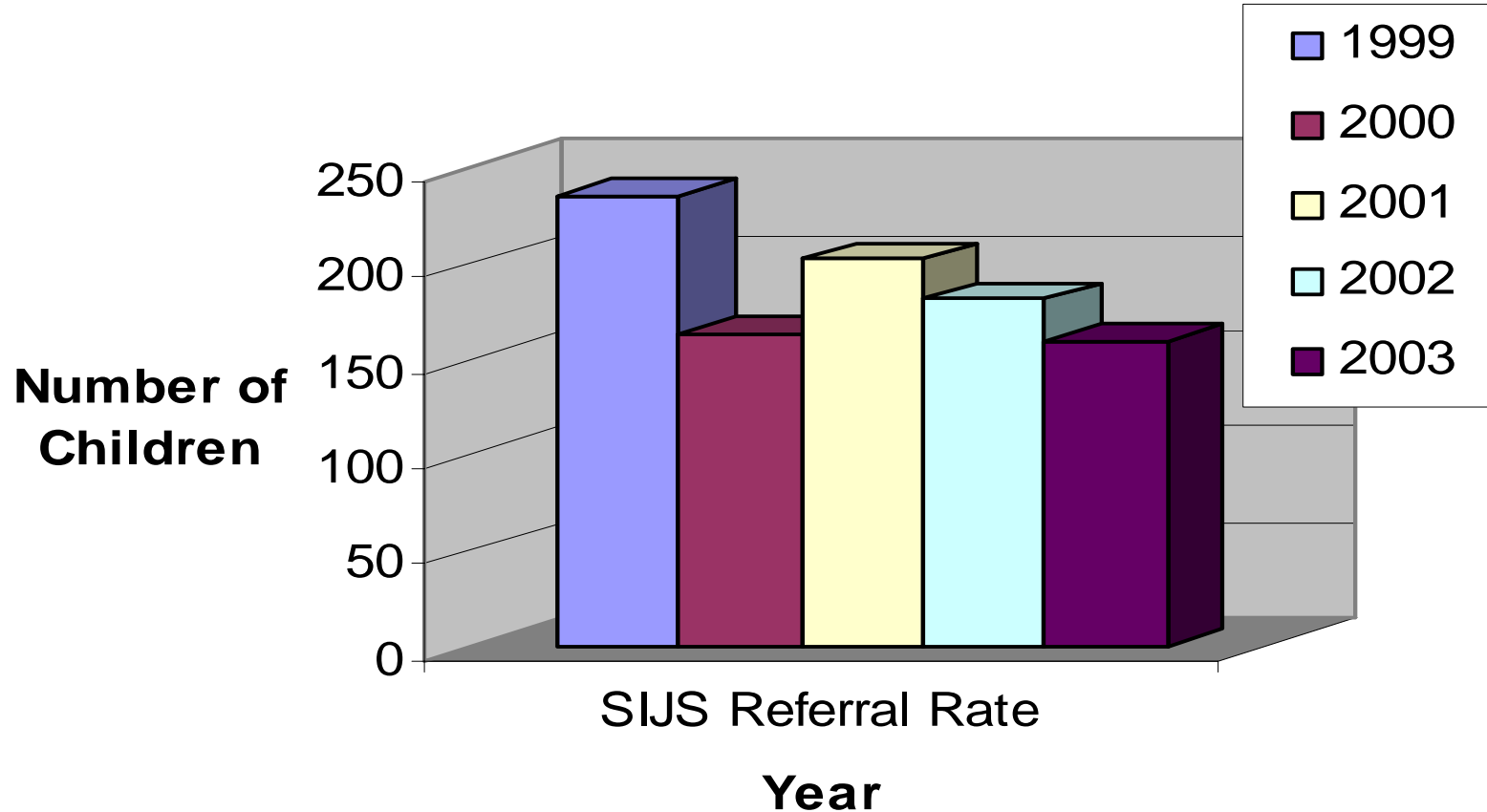
- The SIS unit provides countywide services. It serves all DCFS offices.
- Close to 2000 applications for “green cards” have been approved by USCIS.
- Over 250 replacement “green cards” have been obtained.
- Over 150 applications for U.S. naturalization have been filed.
- Over 500 USCIS work permits have been obtained.



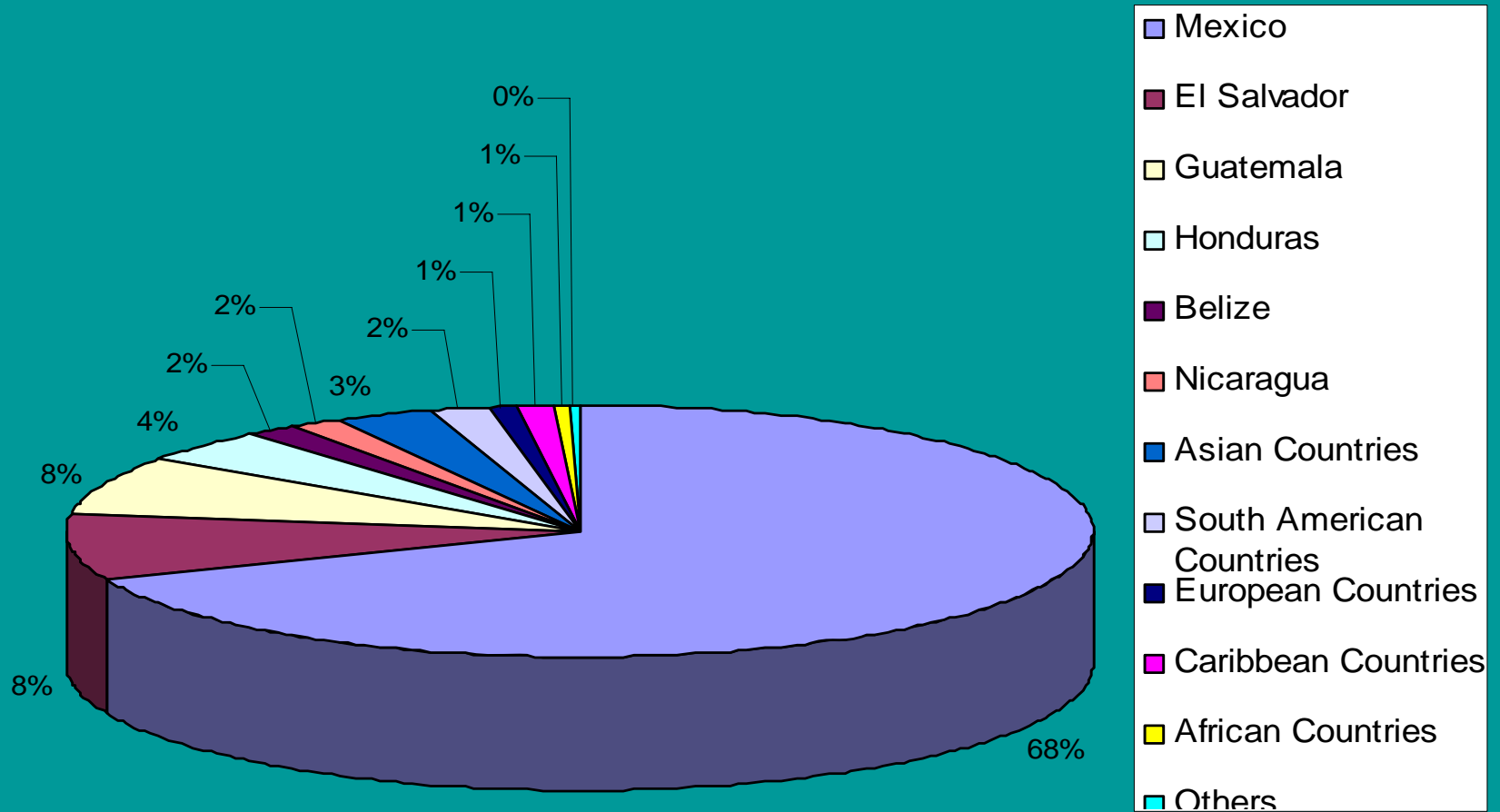
Special Immigrant Status Approval Rate by Year



Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Referral Rate



SIS Referrals by Country of Origin



Conclusion



- The SIS unit provides a valuable service to hundreds of children under the jurisdiction of DCFS and Dependency Court.

*Only with your collaboration can we
make this program successful!*