

# The AFCARS Report

## Preliminary FY 2008 Estimates as of October 2009 (16)

**SOURCE:** Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2008 data (October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008).

**NOTES:** Data from both the regular and revised foster care file submissions received by October 9, 2009 and data from adoption file submissions received by July 1, 2009 are included in the information below. Missing data are not used in the calculation of percentages.

### How many children were in foster care on September 30, 2008? 463,000

#### What were the ages of the children in foster care?

Mean Age	9.7	
Median Age	9.8	
Less than 1 Year	6%	26,812
1 Year	7%	33,495
2 Years	6%	29,912
3 Years	6%	25,838
4 Years	5%	22,960
5 Years	5%	20,844
6 Years	4%	19,777
7 Years	4%	19,000
8 Years	4%	18,090
9 Years	4%	17,436
10 Years	4%	17,113
11 Years	4%	16,890
12 Years	4%	17,853
13 Years	4%	20,542
14 Years	6%	25,505
15 Years	7%	32,720
16 Years	8%	38,475
17 Years	9%	39,832
18 Years	3%	13,069
19 Years	1%	4,088
20 Years	1%	2,749

#### What were the lengths of stay of children in foster care?

Mean Months	27.2
Median Months	15.8
Less than 1 Month	5% 20,860
1 - 5 Months	20% 90,295
6 - 11 Months	17% 79,691
12 - 17 Months	13% 61,492
18 - 23 Months	10% 44,672
24 - 29 Months	7% 33,971
30 - 35 Months	5% 24,547
3 - 4 Years	12% 53,709
5 Years or More	12% 53,763

#### What were the placement settings of children in foster care?

Pre-Adoptive Home	4%	17,485
Foster Family Home (Relative)	24%	112,643
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	47%	217,243
Group Home	6%	29,122
Institution	10%	47,165
Supervised Independent Living	1%	5,217
Runaway	2%	9,766
Trial Home Visit	5%	24,358

## Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2008 (continued)

### What were the case goals of the children in foster care?

Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s)	49%	226,867
Live with Other Relative(s)	4%	16,922
Adoption	24%	111,225
Long Term Foster Care	8%	37,522
Emancipation	6%	29,556
Guardianship	4%	18,266
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	5%	22,642

### What was the gender of the children in foster care?

Male	53%	243,740
Female	47%	219,260

### What was the race/ethnicity of the children in foster care?

Alaska Native/American Indian	2%	8,802
Asian	1%	2,631
Black	31%	142,502
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	877
Hispanic (of any race)	20%	92,464
White	40%	183,149
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	10,753
Two or more races	5%	21,822

**NOTE:** Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, all races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

## How many children entered foster care during FY 2008? 273,000

### What were the ages of the children who entered care during FY 2008?

Mean Age	8.0	
Median Age	7.3	
Less than 1 Year	16%	44,365
1 Year	7%	19,721
2 Years	6%	16,909
3 Years	5%	14,889
4 Years	5%	13,204
5 Years	4%	12,264
6 Years	4%	11,547
7 Years	4%	10,782
8 Years	4%	9,966
9 Years	4%	9,581
10 Years	3%	8,813
11 Years	3%	8,875
12 Years	4%	9,913
13 Years	5%	12,573
14 Years	6%	16,026
15 Years	7%	20,101
16 Years	7%	19,953
17 Years	5%	12,816
18 Years	0%	563
19 Years	0%	95
20 Years	0%	44

### What was the race/ethnicity of the children who entered care during FY 2008?

Alaska Native/American Indian	2%	5,646
Asian	1%	2,269
Black	26%	70,378
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	675
Hispanic (of any race)	20%	54,802
White	44%	119,242
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	7,431
Two or more races	5%	12,558

**NOTE:** Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, all races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

## How many children exited foster care during FY 2008? 285,000

### What were the ages of the children who exited care during FY 2008?

Mean Age	9.6	
Median Age	9.0	
Less than 1 Year	5%	13,328
1 Year	8%	21,538
2 Years	7%	21,317
3 Years	6%	18,381
4 Years	6%	16,133
5 Years	5%	14,140
6 Years	5%	13,400
7 Years	4%	12,440
8 Years	4%	11,488
9 Years	4%	10,639
10 Years	3%	9,888
11 Years	3%	9,469
12 Years	3%	9,169
13 Years	3%	9,953
14 Years	4%	11,904
15 Years	5%	14,692
16 Years	6%	17,011
17 Years	8%	22,325
18 Years	8%	22,274
19 Years	1%	3,728
20 Years	1%	1,783

### What were the outcomes for the children exiting foster care during FY 2008?

Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	52%	148,340
Living with Other Relative(s)	8%	23,944
Adoption	19%	54,284
Emancipation	10%	29,516
Guardianship	7%	19,941
Transfer to Another Agency	2%	5,195
Runaway	1%	3,324
Death of Child	0%	456

**NOTE:** Deaths are attributable to a variety of causes including medical conditions, accidents, and homicide.

### What were the lengths of stay of the children who exited foster care during FY 2008?

Mean Months	21.8	
Median Months	13.3	
Less than 1 Month	13%	38,303
1 - 5 Months	15%	42,933
6 - 11 Months	18%	51,025
12 - 17 Months	14%	40,796
18 - 23 Months	10%	28,785
24 - 29 Months	7%	20,428
30 - 35 Months	5%	15,040
3 - 4 Years	10%	27,567
5 Years or More	7%	20,123

### What was the race/ethnicity of the children who exited care during FY 2008?

Alaska Native/American Indian	2%	5,605
Asian	1%	2,316
Black	26%	75,441
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	763
Hispanic (of any race)	20%	56,741
White	44%	124,688
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	6,577
Two or more races	5%	12,869

**NOTE:** Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, all races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

## How many children were waiting to be adopted on September 30, 2008? 123,000

**NOTES:** Waiting children are identified as children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. Children 16 years old and older whose parents' parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the estimate.

### What is the gender distribution of the waiting children?

Male	53%	64,725
Female	47%	58,275

### How old were the waiting children when they were removed from their parents or caretakers?

Mean Age	4.9	
Median Age	4.1	
Less than 1 Year	25%	31,199
1 Year	9%	10,734
2 Years	8%	9,567
3 Years	7%	8,655
4 Years	7%	8,258
5 Years	7%	8,034
6 Years	6%	7,779
7 Years	6%	7,093
8 Years	5%	6,578
9 Years	5%	5,830
10 Years	4%	5,072
11 Years	4%	4,323
12 Years	3%	3,514
13 Years	2%	2,757
14 Years	2%	1,904
15 Years	1%	1,084
16 Years	0%	516
17 Years	0%	103

### How many months have the waiting children been in continuous foster care?

Mean Months	38.0	
Median Months	28.7	
Less than 1 Month	0%	586
1 - 5 Months	4%	5,076
6 - 11 Months	8%	9,577
12 - 17 Months	13%	15,884
18 - 23 Months	14%	17,418
24 - 29 Months	13%	15,822
30 - 35 Months	10%	11,939
36 - 59 Months	21%	26,268
60 or more Months	17%	20,430

### What is the racial/ethnic distribution of the waiting children?

Alaska Native/American Indian	2%	2,042
Asian	0%	587
Black	30%	36,913
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	251
Hispanic (of any race)	21%	26,223
White	39%	47,392
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	2,649
Two or more races	6%	6,943

**NOTE:** Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, all races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

## Children waiting to be adopted in FY 2008 (continued)

Where were the waiting children living on September 30, 2008?

How old were the waiting children on September 30, 2008?

Pre-Adoptive Home	13%	15,701	Mean Age	8.1	
Foster Family Home (Relative)	23%	28,346	Median Age	7.5	
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	53%	65,651			
Group Home	4%	4,313	Less than 1 Year	4%	4,628
Institution	6%	7,408	1 Year	9%	10,636
Supervised Independent Living	0%	118	2 Years	9%	10,852
Runaway	1%	718	3 Years	8%	9,336
Trial Home Visit	1%	745	4 Years	7%	8,327
			5 Years	6%	7,516
			6 Years	6%	7,067
			7 Years	5%	6,664
			8 Years	5%	6,466
			9 Years	5%	6,251
			10 Years	5%	6,019
			11 Years	5%	5,725
			12 Years	5%	5,643
			13 Years	5%	5,771
			14 Years	5%	6,040
			15 Years	5%	6,350
			16 Years	4%	5,388
			17 Years	4%	4,320

How many children in foster care had their parental rights terminated for all living parents? 75,000

As of September 30, 2008, how many months had elapsed since the parental rights of these foster children were terminated?

Mean Months	24.7
Median Months	13.0

## How many children were adopted with public agency involvement in FY 2008? 55,000

**SOURCE:** Adoptions can be reported to the AFCARS adoption database at any time after the adoption has been finalized. This report includes adoptions finalized in FY 2008 reported in regular and revised submissions by July 2009.

**NOTES:** The number of adoptions reported here do not equal the number of adoption discharges reported under foster care exits because the adoptions reported here include adoptions of some children who were not in foster care but received other support from the public agency. Missing data are not used in the calculation of the percentages.

### What is the gender distribution of the children adopted from the public foster care system?

Male	50%	27,718
Female	50%	27,282

### What is the racial/ethnic distribution of the children adopted from the public foster care system?

Alaska Native/American Indian	1%	793
Asian	1%	303
Black	25%	13,687
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	111
Hispanic (of any race)	21%	11,441
White	44%	24,377
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	1,045
Two or more races	6%	3,242

### How old were the children when they were adopted from the public foster care system?

Mean Age	6.4
Median Age	5.2

Less than 1 Year	2%	1,098
1 Year	12%	6,333
2 Years	14%	7,932
3 Years	11%	6,225
4 Years	9%	5,065
5 Years	8%	4,170
6 Years	7%	3,801
7 Years	6%	3,254
8 Years	5%	2,947
9 Years	5%	2,480
10 Years	4%	2,271
11 Years	4%	2,050
12 Years	3%	1,673
13 Years	3%	1,458
14 Years	2%	1,308
15 Years	2%	1,102
16 Years	2%	934
17 Years	1%	704
18 Years	0%	164
19 Years	0%	20
20 Years	0%	12

**NOTE:** Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, all races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

### How many months did it take after termination of parental rights for the children to be adopted?

Mean Months	14.1	
Median Months	10.3	
Less than 1 Month	2%	1,318
1 - 5 Months	23%	12,721
6 - 11 Months	32%	17,743
12 - 17 Months	19%	10,309
18 - 23 Months	10%	5,434
24 - 29 Months	5%	2,836
30 - 35 Months	3%	1,490
3 - 4 Years	4%	2,168
5 Years or More	2%	981

### What percentage of the children adopted receive an adoption subsidy?

Yes	89%	49,032
No	11%	5,968

## Children Adopted in FY 2008 (continued)

### What is the family structure of the child's adoptive family?

Married Couple	68%	37,164
Unmarried Couple	2%	1,280
Single Female	28%	15,165
Single Male	3%	1,392

### What was the relationship of the adoptive parents to the child prior to the adoption?

Non-Relative	16%	8,597
Foster Parent	54%	29,610
Stepparent	0%	44
Other Relative	30%	16,749