



The AFCARS Report

Preliminary FY¹ 2011 Estimates as of July 2012 • No. 19

SOURCE: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2011 data²

Numbers At A Glance					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	488,285	463,799	421,350	406,412	400,540
Number entered foster care during FY	293,276	280,384	255,161	255,402	252,320
Number exited foster care during FY	294,989	288,762	278,157	257,481	245,260
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	133,682	125,741	114,450	109,456	104,236
Number waiting to be adopted whose parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated during FY	82,020	79,376	71,093	65,611	61,361
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during FY	52,686	55,236	57,115	53,591	50,516

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2011 • N=400,540

Age as of September 30th		
Mean Age	9.3	
Median Age	8.8	
Less than 1 Year	6%	24,439
1 Year	7%	29,980
2 Years	7%	28,235
3 Years	7%	26,010
4 Years	6%	22,756
5 Years	5%	20,279
6 Years	5%	18,250
7 Years	4%	16,926
8 Years	4%	15,895
9 Years	4%	14,964
10 Years	4%	14,509
11 Years	4%	14,583
12 Years	4%	14,977
13 Years	4%	17,101
14 Years	5%	19,993
15 Years	6%	24,220
16 Years	7%	29,264
17 Years	8%	31,101
18 Years	3%	10,396
19 Years	1%	3,639
20 Years	1%	2,619

Sex		
Male	52%	209,532
Female	48%	190,932

Placement Settings		
Pre-Adoptive Home	4%	14,213
Foster Family Home (Relative)	27%	107,995
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	47%	188,222
Group Home	6%	23,624
Institution	9%	34,656
Supervised Independent Living	1%	3,868
Runaway	1%	5,870
Trial Home Visit	5%	20,568

Case Goals		
Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s)	52%	199,123
Live with Other Relative(s)	3%	13,420
Adoption	25%	94,629
Long Term Foster Care	6%	22,744
Emancipation	5%	20,635
Guardianship	4%	14,593
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	5%	19,324

¹ 'FY' refers to the Federal Fiscal Year, October 1st through September 30th.

² Data from both the regular and revised AFCARS file submissions received by July 12, 2012 are included in this report. Missing data are excluded from each table. Therefore, the totals within each distribution may not equal the total provided for that subpopulation (e.g. number in care on September 30th may not match the sum across ages for that group).

Race and Ethnicity		
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	8,020
Asian	1%	2,296
Black or African American	27%	109,775
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	752
Hispanic (of any race)	21%	83,810
White	41%	164,406
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	8,703
Two or more Races	5%	21,837

NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.

Time in Care		
Mean Months	23.9	
Median Months	13.5	
Less than 1 Month	5%	21,278
1 - 5 Months	21%	85,691
6 - 11 Months	19%	77,015
12 - 17 Months	14%	56,803
18 - 23 Months	9%	36,881
24 - 29 Months	7%	26,314
30 - 35 Months	4%	17,979
3 - 4 Years	10%	40,265
5 Years or More	10%	38,303

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2011 • N=252,320

Age at Entry		
Mean Age	7.7	
Median Age	6.6	
Less than 1 Year	16%	39,697
1 Year	8%	18,920
2 Years	7%	17,028
3 Years	6%	15,670
4 Years	6%	14,160
5 Years	5%	12,379
6 Years	5%	11,320
7 Years	4%	10,202
8 Years	4%	9,339
9 Years	4%	8,973
10 Years	3%	8,303
11 Years	3%	8,118
12 Years	4%	9,141
13 Years	4%	10,741
14 Years	5%	13,132
15 Years	6%	15,878
16 Years	6%	16,288
17 Years	4%	11,220
18 Years	0%	708
19 Years	0%	157
20 Years	0%	59

Race and Ethnicity		
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	5,206
Asian	1%	1,744
Black or African American	23%	58,276
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	605
Hispanic (of any race)	21%	51,969
White	44%	111,563
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	8,252
Two or more Races	5%	13,491

NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.

Children Exiting Foster Care during FY 2011 ● N=245,260

Age at Exit		
Mean Age	9.4	
Median Age	8.6	
Less than 1 Year	4%	10,780
1 Year	8%	18,542
2 Years	8%	19,190
3 Years	7%	17,448
4 Years	6%	15,221
5 Years	5%	12,932
6 Years	5%	11,756
7 Years	4%	10,627
8 Years	4%	9,722
9 Years	4%	9,178
10 Years	3%	8,558
11 Years	3%	8,032
12 Years	3%	8,040
13 Years	3%	8,196
14 Years	4%	9,238
15 Years	4%	10,874
16 Years	5%	13,070
17 Years	10%	25,183
18 Years	5%	13,370
19 Years	1%	2,540
20 Years	1%	2,345

Time in Care		
Mean Months	21.1	
Median Months	13.2	
Less than 1 Month	12%	30,109
1 - 5 Months	15%	37,413
6 - 11 Months	19%	47,250
12 - 17 Months	15%	36,290
18 - 23 Months	10%	25,237
24 - 29 Months	7%	17,363
30 - 35 Months	5%	12,210
3 - 4 Years	9%	23,288
5 Years or More	7%	16,028

Race and Ethnicity		
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	4,656
Asian	1%	1,769
Black or African American	26%	62,454
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	540
Hispanic (of any race)	20%	50,061
White	44%	106,982
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	4,825
Two or more Races	5%	13,318

NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.

Reasons for Discharge		
Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	52%	125,908
Living with Other Relative(s)	8%	20,076
Adoption	20%	49,866
Emancipation	11%	26,286
Guardianship	6%	15,707
Transfer to Another Agency	2%	4,560
Runaway	1%	1,387
Death of Child	0%	343

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2011 • N=104,236

Age as of September 30th	
Mean Age	8.0
Median Age	7.2

Less than 1 Year	4%	3,761
1 Year	9%	9,169
2 Years	9%	9,462
3 Years	8%	8,623
4 Years	7%	7,582
5 Years	6%	6,643
6 Years	6%	5,942
7 Years	5%	5,534
8 Years	5%	5,266
9 Years	5%	5,075
10 Years	5%	4,814
11 Years	5%	4,823
12 Years	5%	4,810
13 Years	5%	4,800
14 Years	5%	4,902
15 Years	5%	5,012
16 Years	4%	4,474
17 Years	3%	3,544

Age at Entry into Foster Care		
Mean Age	5.0	
Median Age	4.1	

Less than 1 Year	25%	25,525
1 Year	9%	9,546
2 Years	8%	8,345
3 Years	7%	7,551
4 Years	7%	7,085
5 Years	6%	6,682
6 Years	6%	6,309
7 Years	6%	5,755
8 Years	5%	5,286
9 Years	5%	4,866
10 Years	4%	4,188
11 Years	3%	3,607
12 Years	3%	3,042
13 Years	2%	2,379
14 Years	2%	1,750
15 Years	1%	1,051
16 Years	0%	464
17 Years	0%	99

Placement Types		
Pre-Adoptive Home	12%	12,961
Foster Family Home (Relative)	23%	24,148
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	54%	56,471
Group Home	4%	3,701
Institution	5%	5,534
Supervised Independent Living	0%	85
Runaway	1%	542
Trial Home Visit	1%	617

Sex	
Male	53%
Female	47%

Race and Ethnicity		
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	1,856
Asian	0%	439
Black or African American	28%	29,164
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	190
Hispanic (of any race)	22%	22,929
White	40%	41,655
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	1,440
Two or more Races	6%	6,513

NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.

³ Waiting children are identified as children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' 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.

Time in Care		
Mean Months	35.8	
Median Months	26.5	
Less than 1 Month	0%	444
1 - 5 Months	4%	4,346
6 - 11 Months	10%	10,207
12 - 17 Months	15%	16,156
18 - 23 Months	15%	15,234
24 - 29 Months	12%	12,450
30 - 35 Months	9%	8,988
3 - 4 Years	19%	20,079
5 Years or More	16%	16,331

Of Children Waiting for Adoption whose Parents' Parental Rights have been Terminated (N=61,361), Time elapsed since termination of parental rights as of September 30, 2011

Mean Months	23.6
Median Months	11.5

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2011⁴ • N=50,516

Age at Adoption		
Mean Age	6.4	
Median Age	5.2	
Less than 1 Year	2%	1,059
1 Year	11%	5,806
2 Years	14%	7,011
3 Years	12%	5,855
4 Years	10%	4,831
5 Years	8%	3,937
6 Years	7%	3,357
7 Years	6%	2,914
8 Years	5%	2,555
9 Years	5%	2,373
10 Years	4%	2,143
11 Years	4%	1,871
12 Years	3%	1,645
13 Years	3%	1,387
14 Years	2%	1,132
15 Years	2%	919
16 Years	2%	898
17 Years	1%	641
18 Years	0%	149
19 Years	0%	20
20 Years	0%	6

Time elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption		
Mean Months	13.6	
Median Months	9.7	
Less than 1 Month	3%	1,275
1-5 Months	25%	12,622
6-11 Months	33%	16,510
12-17 Months	17%	8,491
18-23 Months	9%	4,276
24-29 Months	5%	2,418
30-35 Months	3%	1,383
3-4 Years	4%	2,019
5 Years or more	2%	803

Race and Ethnicity		
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	773
Asian	0%	233
Black or African American	23%	11,719
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	82
Hispanic (of any race)	21%	10,757
White	45%	22,864
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	451
Two or more Races	7%	3,634

NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.

⁴ Note that the adoption data reported in this section are from the AFCARS Adoption file. Therefore, the number of adoptions reported here may not equal the number reported as discharges to adoption from foster care.

Adoptive Family Structure		
Married Couple	68%	33,718
Unmarried Couple	2%	1,114
Single Female	27%	13,331
Single Male	3%	1,415

Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption		
Non-Relative	15%	7,196
Foster Parent	54%	25,610
Stepparent	0%	49
Other Relative	31%	14,462

Sex	
Male	51%
Female	49%

Receive Adoption Subsidy		
Yes	90%	45,504
No	10%	5,003