



The AFCARS Report

Preliminary FY¹ 2012 Estimates as of November 2013 • No. 20

SOURCE: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2012 data²

Numbers At A Glance

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	463,792	420,415	405,330	397,885	397,122
Number entered foster care during FY	280,423	255,027	255,278	251,388	251,764
Number exited foster care during FY	288,778	278,252	257,431	246,424	240,923
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	125,712	114,711	109,544	106,350	101,666
Number waiting to be adopted whose parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated during FY	79,392	71,429	65,753	62,769	58,625
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during FY	55,236	57,185	53,525	50,906	52,039

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2012 • N=397,122

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	9.1	Male	52%	207,947
Median	8.5	Female	48%	189,113

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	6%	24,977	Pre-Adoptive Home	4%	14,269
1 Year	8%	30,248	Foster Family Home (Relative)	28%	108,841
2 Years	7%	27,405	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	47%	184,379
3 Years	6%	25,343	Group Home	6%	23,822
4 Years	6%	23,569	Institution	9%	34,179
5 Years	5%	21,109	Supervised Independent Living	1%	4,114
6 Years	5%	19,322	Runaway	1%	4,969
7 Years	4%	17,561	Trial Home Visit	5%	21,261
8 Years	4%	16,018			
9 Years	4%	15,002			
10 Years	4%	14,239			
11 Years	4%	14,169			
12 Years	4%	14,770			
13 Years	4%	16,268			
14 Years	5%	19,450			
15 Years	6%	23,475			
16 Years	7%	27,300			
17 Years	7%	29,288			
18 Years	3%	11,280			
19 Years	1%	3,588			
20 Years	1%	2,448			

Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s)	53%	202,894
Live with Other Relative(s)	3%	13,126
Adoption	24%	93,094
Long Term Foster Care	5%	20,047
Emancipation	5%	20,305
Guardianship	4%	14,798
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	5%	18,048

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 November 1, 2013 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/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	8,266
Asian	1%	2,287
Black or African American	26%	101,915
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	779
Hispanic (of any race)	21%	84,186
White	42%	164,990
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	11,155
Two or more Races	6%	22,883

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

Time in Care	Months
Mean	22.7
Median	13.1

Time in Care (Months)	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	5%	20,308
1 - 5 Months	22%	87,302
6 - 11 Months	20%	78,599
12 - 17 Months	14%	57,347
18 - 23 Months	9%	37,247
24 - 29 Months	7%	27,466
30 - 35 Months	5%	17,897
3 - 4 Years	9%	36,560
5 Years or More	9%	34,389

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2012 ● N=251,764

Age at Entry	Years
Mean	7.6
Median	6.5

Age at Entry	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	16%	41,235
1 Year	7%	18,162
2 Years	7%	16,654
3 Years	6%	15,384
4 Years	6%	14,454
5 Years	5%	13,180
6 Years	5%	11,927
7 Years	4%	10,458
8 Years	4%	9,714
9 Years	4%	8,813
10 Years	3%	8,358
11 Years	3%	8,297
12 Years	4%	8,813
13 Years	4%	10,726
14 Years	5%	12,759
15 Years	6%	15,260
16 Years	6%	15,539
17 Years	4%	10,916
18 Years	0%	804
19 Years	0%	177
20 Years	0%	122

Race/ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	5,373
Asian	1%	1,730
Black or African American	22%	55,464
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	606
Hispanic (of any race)	21%	51,481
White	45%	113,504
Unknown/Unable to Determine	4%	9,112
Two or more Races	6%	13,709

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

Children Exiting Foster Care during FY 2012 ● N=240,923

Age at Exit	Years
Mean	9.1
Median	8.2

Age at Exit	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	4%	10,380
1 Year	8%	18,229
2 Years	8%	19,167
3 Years	7%	17,246
4 Years	7%	15,590
5 Years	6%	13,817
6 Years	5%	12,101
7 Years	5%	11,035
8 Years	4%	9,972
9 Years	4%	9,219
10 Years	4%	8,487
11 Years	3%	8,168
12 Years	3%	7,693
13 Years	3%	8,235
14 Years	4%	8,967
15 Years	5%	10,677
16 Years	5%	12,437
17 Years	5%	12,804
18 Years	8%	20,208
19 Years	2%	3,885
20 Years	0%	928

Time in Care	Months
Mean	20.4
Median	13.4

Time in care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	12%	27,712
1 - 5 Months	15%	36,143
6 - 11 Months	20%	47,059
12 - 17 Months	16%	37,605
18 - 23 Months	11%	26,804
24 - 29 Months	8%	18,163
30 - 35 Months	5%	11,789
3 - 4 Years	9%	21,496
5 Years or More	6%	13,997

Race/ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	4,800
Asian	1%	1,629
Black or African American	25%	59,253
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	543
Hispanic (of any race)	20%	48,723
White	44%	106,515
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	5,549
Two or more Races	6%	13,381

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

Reasons for Discharge	Percent	Number
Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	51%	122,173
Living with Other Relative(s)	8%	19,663
Adoption	22%	51,225
Emancipation	10%	23,396
Guardianship	7%	16,418
Transfer to Another Agency	2%	4,229
Runaway	1%	1,209
Death of Child	0%	327

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2012 ● N=101,666

Age as of September 30th		Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care		Years
Mean		7.8	Mean		4.9
Median		6.9	Median		4.0

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	4%	3,991	Less than 1 Year	25%	25,548
1 Year	9%	9,159	1 Year	9%	9,274
2 Years	9%	9,148	2 Years	8%	8,248
3 Years	8%	8,412	3 Years	7%	7,369
4 Years	7%	7,572	4 Years	7%	6,965
5 Years	7%	6,645	5 Years	6%	6,551
6 Years	6%	6,060	6 Years	6%	6,095
7 Years	5%	5,429	7 Years	6%	5,565
8 Years	5%	5,163	8 Years	5%	5,099
9 Years	5%	4,766	9 Years	5%	4,621
10 Years	5%	4,600	10 Years	4%	4,021
11 Years	5%	4,597	11 Years	3%	3,558
12 Years	5%	4,567	12 Years	3%	2,956
13 Years	5%	4,559	13 Years	2%	2,443
14 Years	5%	4,646	14 Years	2%	1,711
15 Years	5%	4,818	15 Years	1%	1,112
16 Years	4%	4,261	16 Years	0%	448
17 Years	3%	3,273	17 Years	0%	79

Placement type	Percent	Number	Race/ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	13%	13,008	American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	1,748
Foster Family Home (Relative)	24%	24,328	Asian	0%	417
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	53%	54,006	Black or African American	26%	26,135
Group Home	4%	3,677	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	162
Institution	5%	5,334	Hispanic (of any race)	23%	23,234
Supervised Independent Living	0%	90	White	41%	41,260
Runaway	0%	366	Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	1,869
Trial Home Visit	1%	686	Two or more Races	7%	6,786

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	52%	53,283
Female	48%	48,381

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	Months
Mean	34.4
Median	25.6

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	0%	380
1 - 5 Months	4%	4,258
6 - 11 Months	10%	10,145
12 - 17 Months	16%	16,670
18 - 23 Months	15%	15,502
24 - 29 Months	13%	13,351
30 - 35 Months	9%	8,949
3 - 4 Years	18%	17,866
5 Years or More	14%	14,545

Of Children Waiting for Adoption whose Parents' Parental Rights have been Terminated (N=58,625), Time elapsed since termination of parental rights as of September 30, 2012

Time since TPR	Months
Mean	22.2
Median	10.3

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2012⁴ • N=52,039

Age at Adoption	Years
Mean	6.3
Median	5.1

Age at Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	2%	1,113
1 Year	11%	5,936
2 Years	14%	7,385
3 Years	12%	6,006
4 Years	10%	5,037
5 Years	8%	4,274
6 Years	7%	3,455
7 Years	6%	3,004
8 Years	5%	2,640
9 Years	5%	2,415
10 Years	4%	2,092
11 Years	4%	1,841
12 Years	3%	1,610
13 Years	3%	1,373
14 Years	2%	1,198
15 Years	2%	921
16 Years	2%	869
17 Years	1%	690
18 Years	0%	132
19 Years	0%	27
20 Years	0%	16

Time elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	13.1
Median	9.2

Time elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	3%	1,344
1-5 Months	27%	13,975
6-11 Months	34%	17,306
12-17 Months	17%	8,654
18-23 Months	8%	3,942
24-29 Months	4%	2,136
30-35 Months	2%	1,193
3-4 Years	4%	1,963
5 Years or more	2%	841

Race/ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	860
Asian	0%	228
Black or African American	23%	11,961
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	102
Hispanic (of any race)	21%	10,782
White	46%	23,827
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	571
Two or more Races	7%	3,704

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	Percent	Number
Married Couple	68%	34,592
Unmarried Couple	2%	1,192
Single Female	27%	13,875
Single Male	3%	1,507

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	51%	26,475
Female	49%	25,559

Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	14%	6,953
Foster Parent	56%	27,419
Stepparent	0%	44
Other Relative	30%	14,925

Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Yes	92%	48,079
No	8%	3,936

NOTE: For the purposes of this table, relatives who were also foster parents are classified only as relatives.