



The AFCARS Report

Preliminary FY¹ 2014 Estimates as of July 2015 • No. 22

SOURCE: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2014 data²

Numbers At A Glance					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	404,878	398,057	397,153	400,989	415,129
Number entered foster care during FY	256,092	251,958	251,850	255,080	264,746
Number exited foster care during FY	257,806	247,607	240,987	240,392	238,230
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	108,746	106,561	102,058	104,493	107,918
Number waiting to be adopted whose parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated during FY	65,747	62,852	59,147	59,662	60,898
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during FY	53,547	50,901	52,046	50,841	50,644

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2014 • N=415,129

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number	
Mean	8.7	Male	52%	216,645	
Median	8.0	Female	48%	198,426	
Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	7%	28,607	Pre-Adoptive Home	4%	15,554
1 Year	8%	33,264	Foster Family Home (Relative)	29%	120,334
2 Years	7%	29,726	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	46%	190,454
3 Years	6%	26,512	Group Home	6%	23,233
4 Years	6%	23,719	Institution	8%	32,955
5 Years	5%	22,714	Supervised Independent Living	1%	4,474
6 Years	5%	22,070	Runaway	1%	4,544
7 Years	5%	20,456	Trial Home Visit	5%	21,989
8 Years	5%	18,770			
9 Years	4%	17,216			
10 Years	4%	15,500	Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
11 Years	4%	14,974	Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s)	55%	218,889
12 Years	4%	14,983	Live with Other Relative(s)	3%	12,351
13 Years	4%	16,651	Adoption	25%	99,521
14 Years	5%	19,138	Long Term Foster Care	4%	15,008
15 Years	5%	22,622	Emancipation	5%	18,934
16 Years	6%	26,119	Guardianship	4%	14,739
17 Years	6%	26,476	Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	5%	18,408
18 Years	2%	9,561			
19 Years	1%	3,245			
20 Years	1%	2,386			

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 9, 2015 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	Time in Care	Months
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	9,517	Mean	20.8
Asian	1%	2,107	Median	12.6
Black or African American	24%	97,540	Time in Care (Months)	Percent
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	693	Less than 1 Month	5%
Hispanic (of any race)	22%	90,299	1 - 5 Months	23%
White	42%	174,477	6 - 11 Months	20%
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	12,747	12 - 17 Months	15%
Two or more Races	7%	27,179	18 - 23 Months	10%
			24 - 29 Months	7%
			30 - 35 Months	5%
			3 - 4 Years	9%
			5 Years or More	7%
				28,058

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

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2014 ● N=264,746

Age at Entry	Years	Race/ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	7.4	American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	5,960
Median	6.4	Asian	1%	1,635
Age at Entry	Percent	Number	Black or African American	22%
Less than 1 Year	17%	45,535	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%
1 Year	7%	19,442	Hispanic (of any race)	21%
2 Years	6%	17,061	White	45%
3 Years	6%	15,461	Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%
4 Years	5%	14,500	Two or more Races	6%
5 Years	5%	14,092		16,338
6 Years	5%	13,338		
7 Years	5%	12,355		
8 Years	4%	10,933		
9 Years	4%	9,925		
10 Years	3%	9,139		
11 Years	3%	8,863		
12 Years	3%	9,217		
13 Years	4%	10,904		
14 Years	5%	12,600		
15 Years	6%	14,672		
16 Years	6%	14,795		
17 Years	4%	10,403		
18 Years	0%	1,020		
19 Years	0%	345		
20 Years	0%	137		

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

Children Exiting Foster Care during FY 2014 ● N=238,230

Age at Exit		Years	Race/ethnicity		
Mean		9.0	American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	4,786
Median		8.0	Asian	1%	1,518
Age at Exit		Percent	Number	Percent	
Less than 1 Year		4%	10,636	Black or African American	23%
1 Year		8%	18,768	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%
2 Years		8%	18,551	Hispanic (of any race)	21%
3 Years		7%	16,348	White	45%
4 Years		6%	14,916	Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%
5 Years		6%	14,007	Two or more Races	6%
6 Years		5%	12,983	NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.	
7 Years		5%	11,874	Reasons for Discharge	
8 Years		4%	10,424	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	51%
9 Years		4%	9,446	Living with Other Relative(s)	7%
10 Years		4%	8,665	Adoption	21%
11 Years		3%	7,980	Emancipation	9%
12 Years		3%	7,477	Guardianship	9%
13 Years		3%	7,691	Transfer to Another Agency	2%
14 Years		4%	8,643	Runaway	0%
15 Years		4%	10,026	Death of Child	0%
16 Years		5%	11,711		
17 Years		5%	12,051		
18 Years		8%	18,320		
19 Years		2%	5,114		
20 Years		0%	923		
Time in Care		Months	Time in care		
Mean		19.5	Less than 1 Month	11%	26,316
Median		13.3	1 - 5 Months	15%	36,532
Time in care		Percent	Number		
6 - 11 Months		20%	46,920	12 - 17 Months	16%
18 - 23 Months		12%	27,568	24 - 29 Months	8%
30 - 35 Months		5%	12,162	3 - 4 Years	8%
5 Years or More		5%	11,534		

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2014 • N=107,918

Age as of September 30th		Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care		Years
Mean		7.7	Mean		5.0
Median		6.8	Median		4.1

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	4%	4,108	Less than 1 Year	25%	27,242
1 Year	9%	10,250	1 Year	9%	9,565
2 Years	9%	9,981	2 Years	8%	8,391
3 Years	8%	8,727	3 Years	7%	7,749
4 Years	7%	7,624	4 Years	7%	7,507
5 Years	7%	7,164	5 Years	7%	7,162
6 Years	6%	6,883	6 Years	6%	6,711
7 Years	6%	6,385	7 Years	5%	5,812
8 Years	5%	5,898	8 Years	5%	5,255
9 Years	5%	5,396	9 Years	4%	4,701
10 Years	5%	4,885	10 Years	4%	4,255
11 Years	4%	4,630	11 Years	4%	3,777
12 Years	4%	4,469	12 Years	3%	3,235
13 Years	4%	4,606	13 Years	3%	2,777
14 Years	4%	4,663	14 Years	2%	1,924
15 Years	4%	4,716	15 Years	1%	1,253
16 Years	4%	4,255	16 Years	0%	526
17 Years	3%	3,278	17 Years	0%	71

Placement type	Percent	Number	Race/ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	13%	14,059	American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	1,991
Foster Family Home (Relative)	25%	26,769	Asian	0%	405
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	52%	56,349	Black or African American	23%	24,360
Group Home	4%	3,779	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	129
Institution	5%	5,608	Hispanic (of any race)	23%	24,938
Supervised Independent Living	0%	117	White	42%	45,543
Runaway	0%	413	Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	2,405
Trial Home Visit	1%	674	Two or more Races	8%	8,105

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	52%	56,445
Female	48%	51,465

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	32.3
Median	24.8

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	0%	419
1 - 5 Months	4%	4,392
6 - 11 Months	10%	10,705
12 - 17 Months	17%	18,548
18 - 23 Months	16%	17,432
24 - 29 Months	14%	15,265
30 - 35 Months	9%	9,923
3 - 4 Years	18%	19,082
5 Years or More	11%	12,152

Of Children Waiting for Adoption whose Parents' Parental Rights have been Terminated (N=60,898), Time elapsed since termination of parental rights as of September 30, 2014

Time since TPR	Months
Mean	21.1
Median	10.0

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2014⁴ • N=50,644

Age at Adoption	Years
Mean	6.2
Median	5.1

Age at Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	2%	1,053
1 Year	12%	6,203
2 Years	14%	7,106
3 Years	11%	5,576
4 Years	10%	4,822
5 Years	8%	4,183
6 Years	7%	3,681
7 Years	6%	3,043
8 Years	5%	2,605
9 Years	5%	2,291
10 Years	4%	1,892
11 Years	4%	1,797
12 Years	3%	1,470
13 Years	3%	1,284
14 Years	2%	1,076
15 Years	2%	933
16 Years	2%	801
17 Years	1%	631
18 Years	0%	147
19 Years	0%	23
20 Years	0%	17

Time elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	12.0
Median	8.7

Time elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	2%	1,232
1-5 Months	29%	14,409
6-11 Months	35%	17,681
12-17 Months	17%	8,270
18-23 Months	7%	3,618
24-29 Months	4%	1,870
30-35 Months	2%	916
3-4 Years	3%	1,279
5 Years or more	1%	617

Race/ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1%	735
Asian	0%	192
Black or African American	19%	9,687
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	87
Hispanic (of any race)	22%	11,006
White	48%	24,180
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	743
Two or more Races	8%	3,996

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	67%	33,208
Unmarried Couple	4%	1,759
Single Female	26%	13,170
Single Male	3%	1,574

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	51%	25,808
Female	49%	24,824

Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	14%	6,796
Foster Parent	52%	25,185
Stepparent	2%	984
Other Relative	32%	15,667

Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Yes	91%	45,979
No	9%	4,618

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