



# The AFCARS Report

Preliminary FY<sup>1</sup> 2011 Estimates as of July 2012 • No. 19

**SOURCE:** Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2011 data<sup>2</sup>

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

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

<sup>2</sup> 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 Adopted<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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       | 23.6 |        |
| Median Months     | 11.5 |        |
| 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 2011<sup>4</sup> • 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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  |