



The AFCARS Report

Preliminary FY¹ 2012 Estimates as of July 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	405,224	397,866	399,546
Number entered foster care during FY	280,423	255,027	255,271	251,403	254,162
Number exited foster care during FY	288,778	278,252	257,514	246,481	241,254
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	125,712	114,711	109,553	106,345	101,719
Number waiting to be adopted whose parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated during FY	79,392	71,429	65,750	62,759	58,587
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=399,546

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number	
Mean	9.1	Male	52%	209,131	
Median	8.5	Female	48%	190,355	
Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	6%	25,379	Pre-Adoptive Home	4%	14,253
1 Year	8%	30,546	Foster Family Home (Relative)	28%	109,619
2 Years	7%	27,624	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	47%	185,257
3 Years	6%	25,540	Group Home	6%	23,776
4 Years	6%	23,756	Institution	9%	34,253
5 Years	5%	21,237	Supervised Independent Living	1%	4,073
6 Years	5%	19,480	Runaway	1%	4,973
7 Years	4%	17,663	Trial Home Visit	6%	22,010
8 Years	4%	16,125			
9 Years	4%	15,092			
10 Years	4%	14,313			
11 Years	4%	14,238			
12 Years	4%	14,854			
13 Years	4%	16,356			
14 Years	5%	19,539			
15 Years	6%	23,548			
16 Years	7%	27,356			
17 Years	7%	29,306			
18 Years	3%	11,273			
19 Years	1%	3,578			
20 Years	1%	2,451			
Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number			
Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s)	53%	205,033			
Live with Other Relative(s)	3%	13,149			
Adoption	24%	93,165			
Long Term Foster Care	5%	20,095			
Emancipation	5%	20,251			
Guardianship	4%	14,829			
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	5%	18,614			

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, 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	Time in Care	Months
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	8,344	Mean	22.7
Asian	1%	2,296	Median	13.0
Black or African American	26%	101,938	Time in Care (Months)	Percent
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	789	Less than 1 Month	5%
Hispanic (of any race)	21%	84,523	1 - 5 Months	22%
White	42%	166,195	6 - 11 Months	20%
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	11,856	12 - 17 Months	14%
Two or more Races	6%	22,942	18 - 23 Months	9%
			24 - 29 Months	7%
			30 - 35 Months	5%
			3 - 4 Years	9%
			5 Years or More	9%

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

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2012 • N=254,162

Age at Entry	Years	Race/ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	7.6	American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	5,461
Median	6.5	Asian	1%	1,732
Age at Entry	Percent	Number	Black or African American	22%
Less than 1 Year	16%	41,801	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%
1 Year	7%	18,422	Hispanic (of any race)	21%
2 Years	7%	16,874	White	45%
3 Years	6%	15,584	Unknown/Unable to Determine	4%
4 Years	6%	14,613	Two or more Races	5%
5 Years	5%	13,321		
6 Years	5%	12,061		
7 Years	4%	10,564		
8 Years	4%	9,811		
9 Years	3%	8,890		
10 Years	3%	8,428		
11 Years	3%	8,370		
12 Years	4%	8,897		
13 Years	4%	10,819		
14 Years	5%	12,838		
15 Years	6%	15,314		
16 Years	6%	15,555		
17 Years	4%	10,920		
18 Years	0%	782		
19 Years	0%	169		
20 Years	0%	121		

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

Children Exiting Foster Care during FY 2012 ● N=241,254

Age at Exit		Years	Race/ethnicity		Percent	Number	
Mean		9.2	American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%		4,849	
Median		8.2	Asian	1%		1,635	
Age at Exit		Percent	Number				
Less than 1 Year		4%	10,402	Black or African American	25%	59,334	
1 Year		8%	18,257	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	543	
2 Years		8%	19,179	Hispanic (of any race)	20%	48,754	
3 Years		7%	17,268	White	44%	106,650	
4 Years		7%	15,608	Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	5,585	
5 Years		6%	13,834	Two or more Races	6%	13,374	
6 Years		5%	12,110	NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.			
7 Years		5%	11,047	Reasons for Discharge		Percent	Number
8 Years		4%	9,975	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	51%	122,401	
9 Years		4%	9,223	Living with Other Relative(s)	8%	19,671	
10 Years		4%	8,490	Adoption	21%	51,229	
11 Years		3%	8,176	Emancipation	10%	23,439	
12 Years		3%	7,699	Guardianship	7%	16,424	
13 Years		3%	8,244	Transfer to Another Agency	2%	4,256	
14 Years		4%	8,987	Runaway	1%	1,216	
15 Years		4%	10,698	Death of Child	0%	328	
16 Years		5%	12,475				
17 Years		5%	12,833				
18 Years		8%	20,254				
19 Years		2%	3,889				
20 Years		0%	929				
Time in Care		Months					
Mean		20.4					
Median		13.4					
Time in care		Percent	Number				
Less than 1 Month		12%	27,761				
1 - 5 Months		15%	36,213				
6 - 11 Months		20%	47,144				
12 - 17 Months		16%	37,648				
18 - 23 Months		11%	26,830				
24 - 29 Months		8%	18,175				
30 - 35 Months		5%	11,798				
3 - 4 Years		9%	21,522				
5 Years or More		6%	14,005				

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2012 • N=101,719

Age as of September 30th	Years
Mean	7.8
Median	6.9

Age at Entry into Foster Care	Years
Mean	4.9
Median	4.0

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	4%	4,055
1 Year	9%	9,170
2 Years	9%	9,158
3 Years	8%	8,411
4 Years	7%	7,582
5 Years	7%	6,641
6 Years	6%	6,055
7 Years	5%	5,422
8 Years	5%	5,163
9 Years	5%	4,759
10 Years	5%	4,594
11 Years	5%	4,594
12 Years	4%	4,562
13 Years	4%	4,560
14 Years	5%	4,645
15 Years	5%	4,814
16 Years	4%	4,260
17 Years	3%	3,274

Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	25%	25,608
1 Year	9%	9,284
2 Years	8%	8,252
3 Years	7%	7,379
4 Years	7%	6,957
5 Years	6%	6,550
6 Years	6%	6,085
7 Years	5%	5,565
8 Years	5%	5,099
9 Years	5%	4,615
10 Years	4%	4,018
11 Years	3%	3,559
12 Years	3%	2,961
13 Years	2%	2,436
14 Years	2%	1,712
15 Years	1%	1,108
16 Years	0%	449
17 Years	0%	79

Placement type	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	13%	12,996
Foster Family Home (Relative)	24%	24,382
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	53%	54,043
Group Home	4%	3,668
Institution	5%	5,326
Supervised Independent Living	0%	88
Runaway	0%	366
Trial Home Visit	1%	676

Race/ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	1,747
Asian	0%	418
Black or African American	26%	26,117
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	161
Hispanic (of any race)	23%	23,243
White	41%	41,274
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	1,920
Two or more Races	7%	6,784

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	52%	53,301
Female	48%	48,416

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	25.5

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	0%	378
1 - 5 Months	4%	4,244
6 - 11 Months	10%	10,243
12 - 17 Months	16%	16,648
18 - 23 Months	15%	15,512
24 - 29 Months	13%	13,358
30 - 35 Months	9%	8,948
3 - 4 Years	18%	17,853
5 Years or More	14%	14,535

Of Children Waiting for Adoption whose Parents' Parental Rights have been Terminated (N=58,587), 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

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

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

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

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

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