



The AFCARS Report

Preliminary FY¹ 2015 Estimates as of June 2016 • No. 23

SOURCE: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2015 data²

Numbers At A Glance

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	397,605	397,301	401,213	414,429	427,910
Number entered foster care during FY	251,450	251,354	254,712	264,555	269,509
Number exited foster care during FY	247,543	239,535	238,930	237,554	243,060
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	106,440	101,935	104,387	108,189	111,820
Number waiting to be adopted whose parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated during FY	61,904	58,187	58,638	61,070	62,378
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during FY	50,913	52,025	50,820	50,625	53,549

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2015 • N=427,910

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number	
Mean	8.6	Male	52%	222,849	
Median	7.8	Female	48%	204,999	
Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	7%	29,684	Pre-Adoptive Home	4%	15,107
1 Year	8%	35,642	Foster Family Home (Relative)	30%	127,821
2 Years	7%	31,340	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	45%	191,842
3 Years	6%	27,633	Group Home	6%	24,021
4 Years	6%	24,613	Institution	8%	32,204
5 Years	5%	22,825	Supervised Independent Living	1%	4,107
6 Years	5%	22,469	Runaway	1%	4,648
7 Years	5%	21,526	Trial Home Visit	5%	22,974
8 Years	5%	20,129			
9 Years	4%	18,482			
10 Years	4%	16,967	Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
11 Years	4%	15,528	Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s)	55%	227,955
12 Years	4%	15,603	Live with Other Relative(s)	3%	12,408
13 Years	4%	16,587	Adoption	25%	102,798
14 Years	5%	19,266	Long Term Foster Care	3%	13,546
15 Years	5%	22,310	Emancipation	4%	17,188
16 Years	6%	25,669	Guardianship	3%	14,214
17 Years	6%	26,668	Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	6%	23,573
18 Years	2%	8,459			
19 Years	1%	3,010			
20 Years	1%	2,299			

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 June 8, 2016 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%	10,130	Mean	20.4
Asian	1%	2,232	Median	12.6
Black or African American	24%	103,376	Time in Care (Months)	Percent
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	850	Less than 1 Month	6%
Hispanic (of any race)	21%	91,105	1 - 5 Months	22%
White	43%	182,711	6 - 11 Months	20%
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	7,990	12 - 17 Months	15%
Two or more Races	7%	28,751	18 - 23 Months	10%
			24 - 29 Months	7%
			30 - 35 Months	4%
			3 - 4 Years	9%
			5 Years or More	6%

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

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2015 • N=269,509

Age at Entry	Years
Mean	7.3
Median	6.3

Age at Entry	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	18%	47,219
1 Year	7%	20,077
2 Years	7%	17,793
3 Years	6%	15,767
4 Years	5%	14,416
5 Years	5%	14,027
6 Years	5%	13,559
7 Years	5%	12,702
8 Years	4%	11,665
9 Years	4%	10,312
10 Years	3%	9,354
11 Years	3%	8,871
12 Years	3%	9,317
13 Years	4%	10,640
14 Years	5%	12,582
15 Years	5%	14,578
16 Years	6%	14,826
17 Years	4%	10,375
18 Years	0%	1,011
19 Years	0%	296
20 Years	0%	97

Race/ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	6,350
Asian	1%	1,653
Black or African American	23%	60,733
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	712
Hispanic (of any race)	20%	54,001
White	45%	122,088
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	5,803
Two or more Races	6%	17,264

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

Reasons for Removal*	Percent	Number
Neglect	61%	161,791
Drug Abuse Parent	32%	85,937
Caretaker Inability to Cope	14%	37,243
Physical Abuse	13%	34,647
Child Behavior Problem	11%	30,124
Inadequate Housing	10%	27,002
Parent Incarceration	8%	21,006
Alcohol Abuse Parent	6%	14,978
Abandonment	5%	12,363
Sexual Abuse	4%	10,330
Drug Abuse Child	2%	6,085
Child Disability	2%	4,514
Relinquishment	1%	2,569
Parent Death	1%	2,019
Alcohol Abuse Child	0%	1,320

NOTE: These categories are not mutually exclusive, so percentages will total more than 100% and counts will be more than the total number of entries.

Children Exiting Foster Care during FY 2015 ● N=243,060

Age at Exit		Years	Race/ethnicity			
Mean		8.9	American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	5,249	
Median		7.9	Asian	1%	1,598	
Age at Exit		Percent	Number	Race/ethnicity		
Less than 1 Year		5%	10,967	Black or African American	23%	54,795
1 Year		8%	19,377	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	519
2 Years		8%	19,593	Hispanic (of any race)	21%	51,667
3 Years		7%	16,789	White	45%	109,132
4 Years		6%	15,109	Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	4,105
5 Years		6%	13,796	Two or more Races	6%	15,596
6 Years		6%	13,385	NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.		
7 Years		5%	12,669	Reasons for Discharge		
8 Years		5%	11,594	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	51%	123,894
9 Years		4%	10,129	Living with Other Relative(s)	6%	15,621
10 Years		4%	9,128	Adoption	22%	52,931
11 Years		3%	8,137	Emancipation	9%	20,789
12 Years		3%	7,985	Guardianship	9%	22,303
13 Years		3%	7,940	Transfer to Another Agency	2%	4,363
14 Years		4%	8,911	Runaway	0%	985
15 Years		4%	10,168	Death of Child	0%	336
16 Years		5%	11,853			
17 Years		5%	11,698			
18 Years		7%	18,005			
19 Years		2%	4,246			
20 Years		0%	743			
Time in Care		Months	Reasons for Discharge			
Mean		19.0	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	51%	123,894	
Median		13.5	Living with Other Relative(s)	6%	15,621	
Time in care		Percent	Number	Reasons for Discharge		
Less than 1 Month		11%	25,640	Adoption	22%	52,931
1 - 5 Months		15%	36,927	Emancipation	9%	20,789
6 - 11 Months		20%	47,865	Guardianship	9%	22,303
12 - 17 Months		16%	39,727	Transfer to Another Agency	2%	4,363
18 - 23 Months		12%	28,826	Runaway	0%	985
24 - 29 Months		8%	19,714	Death of Child	0%	336
30 - 35 Months		5%	13,172			
3 - 4 Years		9%	20,715			
5 Years or More		4%	10,047			

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2015 • N=111,820

Age as of September 30th	Years
Mean	7.6
Median	6.8

Age at Entry into Foster Care	Years
Mean	5.0
Median	4.1

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	4%	3,980
1 Year	10%	10,915
2 Years	9%	10,517
3 Years	8%	8,983
4 Years	7%	7,900
5 Years	6%	7,145
6 Years	6%	7,053
7 Years	6%	6,672
8 Years	6%	6,180
9 Years	5%	5,832
10 Years	5%	5,322
11 Years	4%	4,797
12 Years	4%	4,652
13 Years	4%	4,539
14 Years	4%	4,781
15 Years	4%	4,899
16 Years	4%	4,287
17 Years	3%	3,366

Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	25%	28,356
1 Year	9%	9,788
2 Years	8%	8,674
3 Years	7%	7,842
4 Years	7%	7,545
5 Years	7%	7,386
6 Years	6%	6,949
7 Years	6%	6,175
8 Years	5%	5,477
9 Years	4%	4,874
10 Years	4%	4,420
11 Years	4%	3,956
12 Years	3%	3,380
13 Years	3%	2,937
14 Years	2%	2,044
15 Years	1%	1,364
16 Years	1%	560
17 Years	0%	86

Placement type	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	12%	13,433
Foster Family Home (Relative)	25%	28,296
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	52%	58,119
Group Home	4%	4,033
Institution	5%	5,932
Supervised Independent Living	0%	94
Runaway	0%	431
Trial Home Visit	1%	714

Race/ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	2,112
Asian	0%	462
Black or African American	23%	25,510
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	131
Hispanic (of any race)	22%	25,093
White	43%	48,195
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	1,673
Two or more Races	8%	8,600

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	53%	58,746
Female	47%	53,069

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	31.7
Median	25.0

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	0%	384
1 - 5 Months	4%	4,110
6 - 11 Months	9%	10,585
12 - 17 Months	17%	19,043
18 - 23 Months	17%	18,866
24 - 29 Months	15%	16,253
30 - 35 Months	10%	10,674
3 - 4 Years	18%	20,484
5 Years or More	10%	11,421

Of Children Waiting for Adoption whose Parents' Parental Rights have been Terminated (N=62,378), Time elapsed since termination of parental rights as of September 30, 2015

Time since TPR	Months
Mean	20.5
Media	10.0

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2015⁴ • N=53,549

Age at Adoption	Years
Mean	6.2
Median	5.2

Age at Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	2%	1,096
1 Year	12%	6,453
2 Years	14%	7,624
3 Years	11%	5,912
4 Years	9%	4,886
5 Years	8%	4,249
6 Years	7%	3,801
7 Years	6%	3,458
8 Years	6%	3,004
9 Years	5%	2,493
10 Years	4%	2,132
11 Years	3%	1,809
12 Years	3%	1,513
13 Years	2%	1,331
14 Years	2%	1,160
15 Years	2%	919
16 Years	2%	872
17 Years	1%	666
18 Years	0%	136
19 Years	0%	17
20 Years	0%	10

Time elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	11.9
Median	8.7

Time elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	2%	1,207
1-5 Months	29%	15,517
6-11 Months	35%	18,447
12-17 Months	17%	8,876
18-23 Months	7%	3,848
24-29 Months	4%	1,949
30-35 Months	2%	1,014
3-4 Years	2%	1,298
5 Years or more	1%	580

Race/ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	898
Asian	0%	203
Black or African American	18%	9,764
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	79
Hispanic (of any race)	22%	11,683
White	48%	25,870
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	714
Two or more Races	8%	4,316

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%	35,829
Unmarried Couple	3%	1,735
Single Female	26%	13,671
Single Male	3%	1,623

Sex of Child	Percent	Number
Male	51%	27,237
Female	49%	26,307

Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	14%	7,316
Foster Parent	52%	26,983
Stepparent	0%	46
Other Relative	34%	17,853

Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Yes	92%	49,284
No	8%	4,222

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