



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	Number
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	850	Less than 1 Month	6%	23,846
Hispanic (of any race)	21%	91,105	1 - 5 Months	22%	95,999
White	43%	182,711	6 - 11 Months	20%	85,865
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	7,990	12 - 17 Months	15%	65,321
Two or more Races	7%	28,751	18 - 23 Months	10%	42,721
NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.			24 - 29 Months	7%	30,751
			30 - 35 Months	4%	19,227
			3 - 4 Years	9%	37,130
			5 Years or More	6%	27,000

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		Race/ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	7.3		American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	6,350
Median	6.3		Asian	1%	1,653
Age at Entry	Percent	Number	Black or African American	23%	60,733
Less than 1 Year	18%	47,219	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	712
1 Year	7%	20,077	Hispanic (of any race)	20%	54,001
2 Years	7%	17,793	White	45%	122,088
3 Years	6%	15,767	Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	5,803
4 Years	5%	14,416	Two or more Races	6%	17,264
5 Years	5%	14,027	NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.		
6 Years	5%	13,559	Reasons for Removal*	Percent	Number
7 Years	5%	12,702	Neglect	61%	161,791
8 Years	4%	11,665	Drug Abuse Parent	32%	85,937
9 Years	4%	10,312	Caretaker Inability to Cope	14%	37,243
10 Years	3%	9,354	Physical Abuse	13%	34,647
11 Years	3%	8,871	Child Behavior Problem	11%	30,124
12 Years	3%	9,317	Inadequate Housing	10%	27,002
13 Years	4%	10,640	Parent Incarceration	8%	21,006
14 Years	5%	12,582	Alcohol Abuse Parent	6%	14,978
15 Years	5%	14,578	Abandonment	5%	12,363
16 Years	6%	14,826	Sexual Abuse	4%	10,330
17 Years	4%	10,375	Drug Abuse Child	2%	6,085
18 Years	0%	1,011	Child Disability	2%	4,514
19 Years	0%	296	Relinquishment	1%	2,569
20 Years	0%	97	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		Percent	Number	
Mean		8.9	American Indian/Alaskan Native		2%	5,249	
Median		7.9	Asian		1%	1,598	
Age at Exit		Percent	Number	Black or African American		23%	54,795
Less than 1 Year		5%	10,967	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	519
1 Year		8%	19,377	Hispanic (of any race)		21%	51,667
2 Years		8%	19,593	White		45%	109,132
3 Years		7%	16,789	Unknown/Unable to Determine		2%	4,105
4 Years		6%	15,109	Two or more Races		6%	15,596
5 Years		6%	13,796	NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.			
6 Years		6%	13,385				
7 Years		5%	12,669	Reasons for Discharge		Percent	Number
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					
Mean		19.0					
Median		13.5					
Time in care		Percent	Number				
Less than 1 Month		11%	25,640				
1 - 5 Months		15%	36,927				
6 - 11 Months		20%	47,865				
12 - 17 Months		16%	39,727				
18 - 23 Months		12%	28,826				
24 - 29 Months		8%	19,714				
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			Age at Entry into Foster Care		
Years			Years		
Mean			Mean		
Median			Median		
Age as of September 30th			Age at Entry into Foster Care		
Percent			Percent		
Number			Number		
Less than 1 Year	4%	3,980	Less than 1 Year	25%	28,356
1 Year	10%	10,915	1 Year	9%	9,788
2 Years	9%	10,517	2 Years	8%	8,674
3 Years	8%	8,983	3 Years	7%	7,842
4 Years	7%	7,900	4 Years	7%	7,545
5 Years	6%	7,145	5 Years	7%	7,386
6 Years	6%	7,053	6 Years	6%	6,949
7 Years	6%	6,672	7 Years	6%	6,175
8 Years	6%	6,180	8 Years	5%	5,477
9 Years	5%	5,832	9 Years	4%	4,874
10 Years	5%	5,322	10 Years	4%	4,420
11 Years	4%	4,797	11 Years	4%	3,956
12 Years	4%	4,652	12 Years	3%	3,380
13 Years	4%	4,539	13 Years	3%	2,937
14 Years	4%	4,781	14 Years	2%	2,044
15 Years	4%	4,899	15 Years	1%	1,364
16 Years	4%	4,287	16 Years	1%	560
17 Years	3%	3,366	17 Years	0%	86

Placement type			Race/ethnicity		
Percent			Percent		
Number			Number		
Pre-Adoptive Home	12%	13,433	American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	2,112
Foster Family Home (Relative)	25%	28,296	Asian	0%	462
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	52%	58,119	Black or African American	23%	25,510
Group Home	4%	4,033	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	131
Institution	5%	5,932	Hispanic (of any race)	22%	25,093
Supervised Independent Living	0%	94	White	43%	48,195
Runaway	0%	431	Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	1,673
Trial Home Visit	1%	714	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.