

# The AFCARS Report

## Preliminary FY<sup>1</sup> 2017 Estimates as of August 10, 2018 - No. 25

SOURCE: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2017 data<sup>2</sup>

Numbers at a Glance					
Fiscal Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	400,394	414,129	427,328	436,551	442,995
Number <b>entered</b> foster care during the FY	254,622	264,357	268,808	272,952	269,690
Number <b>exited</b> foster care during the FY	237,721	235,768	242,011	248,856	247,631
Number <b>served</b> by the foster care system during the FY	638,041	649,802	669,202	685,165	690,548
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	102,808	106,610	109,881	116,608	123,437
Number waiting to be adopted as of the end of the FYfor whom parental rights (for all living parents) had been terminated	58,936	61,178	62,280	65,534	69,525
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	50,835	50,668	53,555	57,209	59,430

Ch	ildren in Foster C	are on S	eptember 30, 2017 N = 442,995		
Age as of September 30th		Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean		8.4	Male	52%	228,707
Median		7.7	Female	48%	214,236
Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	7%	32,247	Pre-Adoptive Home	4%	17,449
1 Year	9%	37,749	Foster Family Home (Relative)	32%	140,675
2 Years	8%	33,838	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	45%	195,360
3 Years	7%	29,730	Group Home	6%	24,472
4 Years	6%	26,649	Institution	7%	29,438
5 Years	5%	23,806	Supervised Independent Living	1%	4,944
6 Years	5%	22,262	Runaway	1%	4,734
7 Years	5%	21,144	Trial Home Visit	5%	21,813
8 Years	5%	20,650	Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
9 Years	5%	20,208	Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	56%	242,800
10 Years	4%	18,823	Live with Other Relative(s)	3%	12,141
11 Years	4%	17,856	Adoption	27%	114,406
12 Years	4%	17,154	Long Term Foster Care	2%	9,012
13 Years	4%	17,295	Emancipation	4%	17,147
14 Years	4%	18,859	Guardianship	4%	
15 Years	5%	21,387	'		15,265
16 Years	5%	23,958	Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	5%	19,481
17 Years	6%	24,688			
18 Years	2%	7,882			
19 Years	1%	2,979			
20 Years	1%	2,230			

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Data from both the regular and revised AFCARS file submissions received by August 10, 2018 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)

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Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	2%	10,529
Asian	0%	2,175
Black or African American	23%	100,607
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	945
Hispanic (of any race)	21%	93,507
White	44%	193,828
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	6,673
Two or More Races	7%	32,126

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

Time in Care		Months
Mean		20.1
Median		12.9
Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	5%	22,632
1 - 5 Months	22%	96,006
6 - 11 Months	21%	91,065
12 - 17 Months	15%	68,107
18 - 23 Months	10%	45,546
24 - 29 Months	8%	33,576
30 - 35 Months	5%	21,155
3 - 4 Years	9%	39,973
5 Years or More	6%	24,838

	Children Entering F	oster Ca	re during FY 2017 N = 269,690		
Age at Entry		Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean		7.1	American Indian/Alaska Native	2%	6,153
Median		6.1	Asian	1%	1,423
			Black or African American	21%	56,614
Age at Entry	Percent	Number	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	697
Less than 1 Year	19%	50,076	Hispanic (of any race)	20%	54,411
1 Year	7%	20,117	White	47%	124,937
2 Years	7%	18,210	Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	5,038
3 Years	6%	16,323	Two or More Races	7%	18,756
4 Years	5%	14,654			
5 Years	5%	13,349	<b>NOTE:</b> All races exclude children of HIspanic origin. Chil may be any race.	idren of Hispar	lic ethnicity
6 Years	5%	12,818		5	Nb
7 Years	5%	12,263	Circumstances Associated with Child's Removal	Percent	Number
8 Years	4%	11,648	Neglect	62%	166,991
9 Years	4%	11,062	Drug Abuse (Parent)	36%	96,720
10 Years	4%	10,393	Caretaker Inability To Cope	14%	37,057
11 Years	4%	9,542	Physical Abuse	12%	33,530
12 Years	4%	9,705	Housing	10%	27,929
13 Years	4%	10,368	Child Behavior Problem	9%	24,756
14 Years	4%	11,900	Parent Incarceration	7%	20,131
15 Years	5%	13,104	Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	5%	14,684
16 Years	5%	13,271	Abandonment	5%	12,484
17 Years	3%	9,409	Sexual Abuse	4%	9,806
18 Years	0%	1,161	Drug Abuse (Child)	2%	6,286
19 Years	0%	203	Child Disability	2%	4,334
20 Years	0%	87	Relinquishment	1%	2,601
20 10013	0 70		Parent Death	1%	2,096
			Alcohol Abuse (Child)	0%	1,246

**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.

Age at Eakth         Year         Receith Indiral/saks Native         Perceit         1.82 (stance)         1.92 (sta		Children Exiting Fo	ster Car	e during FY 2017 N = 247,631		
Median (Perent Report)         Name (Perent Report)         Age (Ask)         Perent Report (Perent Report)         (Ask)         (Ask) <th>Age at Exit</th> <th></th> <th>Years</th> <th>Race/Ethnicity</th> <th>Percent</th> <th>Number</th>	Age at Exit		Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Age at Ext         Percent         Number         Control	Mean		8.7	American Indian/Alaska Native	2%	5,655
Age at Exit         Percent         Number           Less than 1 Year         5%         11.115         Ispanic (of any race)         21%         5.26.27           1 Years         9%         20.021         White         41%         5.5.27           2 Years         9%         21.085         White         41%         3.5.38           3 Years         6%         15.383         74 Years         6%         14.025         74 Worder Races         7%         17.030           6 Years         5%         12.931         72.931         72.932         72.932         70.000	Median		7.8	Asian	1%	1,421
Matter   Signatur	Age at Evit	Percent	Number	Black or African American	21%	52,430
1 Year         8%         20,621         Hispanic (of any race)         21,68         50,627           2 Years         9%         21,085         40,80         13,085           3 Years         6%         15,836         10,003	-			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	628
2 Years         98         21,066         Minke         46,06         112,803           3 Years         78         17,902         176,003         3,558         4,558         4,568         17,803         17,803         17,803         17,803         17,803         17,803         17,803         17,803         17,803         17,803         17,803         17,803         17,803         17,803         18,903         <				Hispanic (of any race)	21%	52,627
3 Years         76         17,892         Unknown/loable to Determine         15         3,585           4 Years         66%         14,023         17,803         17,803         17,803           5 Years         66%         14,023         Nor Facros         18,003         17,803           7 Years         56%         11,805         Reason for Discharge         Percent         Number           8 Years         56%         11,805         Reason for Discharge         Percent         Number           9 Years         56%         11,805         Adoption         24%         16,222           10 Years         46%         10,225         Adoption         24%         18,212           12 Years         36%         8,148         Adoption         24%         18,214           12 Years         36%         8,148         Guardianship         18         19,465           15 Years         46%         9,458         Guardianship         16         2,223           16 Years         46         9,458         Guardianship         18         1,224           16 Years         47         1,134         1,44         1,44           19 Years         48         1,45         1,				White	46%	112,881
4 Years         6%         15,836           5 Years         6%         14,029           6 Years         5%         12,330           7 Years         5%         12,330           8 Years         5%         12,650           8 Years         5%         11,362           9 Years         5%         11,312         Living with Other Relative(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)         49%         12,103           10 Years         4%         9,216         Emancipation         8%         19,945           12 Years         3%         8,163         Transfer to Another Agency         10         25,229           13 Years         4%         9,216         Death of Child         0%         3,848           14 Years         4%         9,216         Death of Child         0%         3,848           15 Years         4%         9,48         Death of Child         0%         3,848           16 Years         4%         9,48         Death of Child         0%         3,848           19 Years         4%         9,48         Death of Child         0%         3,849           19 Years         1%         1,73         1,73         1,73         1,73         1,73 <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Unknown/Unable to Determine</td> <td>1%</td> <td>3,558</td>				Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	3,558
5 Years         6%         14,029         Control of the part of Hispanic origin. Children or Season or S				Two or More Races	7%	17,803
6 Years         5%         12,93           7 Years         5%         12,60         Reason for Discharge         Percent         Number           8 Years         5%         11,895         Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)         4%         12,202           10 Years         4%         10,285         Adoption         24%         16,272           12 Years         3%         8,148         Guerdianship         10         25,229           13 Years         3%         8,163         Runaway         1%         25,229           14 Years         4%         9,49         Death of Child         0         3				NOTE: All races exclude children of HIspanic origin. Chi	ldren of Hispar	ic ethnicity
7 Years         5%         12,560         Reasn for Discharge         Percent         Number           8 Years         5%         11,895         Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)         4%         121,203           9 Years         5%         11,312         Living with Other Relative(s)         7%         16,272           10 Years         4%         10,285         Adoption         2%         58,104           11 Years         3%         8,348         Guardianship         10         25,229           13 Years         3%         8,163         Transfer to Another Agency         1%         3,283           14 Years         4%         8,751         Runaway         0%         76           15 Years         4%         9,498         Death of Child         0         0         38           16 Years         4%         10,746				may be any race.	·	
8 Years         5%         11,895         Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)         49%         12,120           9 Years         5%         11,312         Living with Other Relative(s)         7%         16,272           10 Years         4%         10,285         Adoption         24%         58,104           11 Years         3%         8,348         Emancipation         8%         19,945           12 Years         3%         8,163         Transfer to Another Agency         1%         3,283           14 Years         4%         9,498         Death of Child         0%         766           16 Years         4%         10,759         17,134         1				Reason for Discharge	Percent	Number
9 Years         5%         11,312         Living with Other Relative(s)         7%         16,272           10 Years         4%         10,285         Adoption         24%         83,104           11 Years         4%         9,216         Emancipation         3%         19,945           12 Years         3%         8,138         Guardianship         10%         25,222           13 Years         4%         8,751         Runaway         0%         766           15 Years         4%         10,759         Death of Child         0%         36           16 Years         4%         10,759         Death of Child         0%         786           19 Years         4%         10,759         Percent				-	49%	121,203
10 Years 4% 9,216 11 Years 4% 9,216 12 Emancipation 8% 19,945 12 Years 3% 8,348 (20urdianship 10% 25,229 13 Years 3% 8,163 14 Years 4% 8,451 14 Years 4% 8,451 15 Years 4% 8,451 16 Years 4% 8,469 16,174 16 Years 4% 10,745 16 Years 4% 10,745 18 Years 7% 17,134 18 Years 7% 17,134 18 Years 10 Y				Living with Other Relative(s)	7%	16,272
12 Years 3% 8,348 8,348 8 Guardianship 10% 25,229 13 Years 3% 8,163 Transfer to Another Agency 1% 3,283 14 Years 4% 9,498 10,746 15 Years 4% 10,746 17 Years 4% 10,759 18 Years 7% 17,134 19 Years 2% 3,732 20 Years 0% 728  Time in Care Months Mean 19,2 Median 10,769 11 Months 19% 22,408 1 - 5 Months 19% 47,615 6 - 11 Months 19% 47,615 12 - 17 Months 19% 47,615 13 Years 9% 21,614 3 - 35 Months 6% 14,443 3 - 4 Years 9% 23,007	10 Years	4%		Adoption	24%	58,104
12 Years       3%       8,348       Guardianship       10%       25,229         13 Years       3%       8,163       Transfer to Another Agency       1%       3,283         14 Years       4%       8,751       Runaway       0%       766         15 Years       4%       10,769       16       17       17       17       17       17       17,134       17       17       18       Years       2%       3,732       20       17,134       17       18       19       18       19       18       19       18       19       18       19       18       19       18       19 <td>11 Years</td> <td>4%</td> <td>9,216</td> <td>Emancipation</td> <td>8%</td> <td>19,945</td>	11 Years	4%	9,216	Emancipation	8%	19,945
14 Years     4%     8,751 9,498     Runaway     0%     766       15 Years     4%     9,498     Death of Child     0%     386       16 Years     4%     10,749     17,134       17 Years     2%     3,732     17,134       19 Years     2%     3,732     17       20 Years     0%     728       Mean     19,2       Median     19,2       Median     14,3       1-5 Months     9%     22,408       1-5 Months     15%     37,213       6-11 Months     15%     37,213       6-11 Months     19%     47,615       12-17 Months     17%     40,844       18-23 Months     13%     31,040       24-29 Months     9%     21,614       30-35 Months     6%     14,443       3-4 Years     9%     23,007	12 Years	3%		Guardianship	10%	25,229
15 Years 4% 9,498 16 Years 4% 10,746 17 Years 4% 10,759 18 Years 7% 17,134 19 Years 2% 3,732 20 Years 0% 728  Time in Care Months Mean 19,2 Median 14,3  Time in Care Number Less than 1 Month 9% 22,408 1 - 5 Months 15% 37,213 6 - 11 Months 15% 37,213 6 - 11 Months 15% 37,213 12 - 17 Months 17% 40,844 18 - 23 Months 13% 31,040 24 - 29 Months 9% 21,614 30 - 35 Months 6% 14,443 3 - 4 Years 9% 23,007	13 Years	3%	8,163	Transfer to Another Agency	1%	3,283
16 Years 4% 10,746 17 Years 4% 10,759 18 Years 7% 17,134 19 Years 2% 3,732 20 Years 0% 728  Time in Care Months Mean 19.2 Median 14.3  Time in Care Percent Number Less than 1 Month 9% 22,408 1 - 5 Months 15% 37,213 6 - 11 Months 15% 37,213 6 - 11 Months 19% 47,615 12 - 17 Months 17% 40,844 18 - 23 Months 13% 31,040 24 - 29 Months 9% 21,614 30 - 35 Months 6% 14,443 3 - 4 Years 9% 23,007	14 Years	4%	8,751	Runaway	0%	766
17 Years       4%       10,759         18 Years       7%       17,134         19 Years       2%       3,732         20 Years       0%       728         Time in Care       Months         Median       19.2         Median       14.3         Time in Care       Percent       Number         Less than 1 Month       9%       22,408         1 - 5 Months       15%       37,213         6 - 11 Months       19%       47,615         12 - 17 Months       17%       40,844         18 - 23 Months       13%       31,040         24 - 29 Months       9%       21,614         30 - 35 Months       6%       14,443         3 - 4 Years       9%       23,007	15 Years	4%	9,498	Death of Child	0%	386
18 Years       7%       17,134         19 Years       2%       3,732         20 Years       0%       728         Time in Care       Months         Median       19.2         Median       14.3         Time in Care       Percent       Number         Less than 1 Month       9%       22,408         1 - 5 Months       15%       37,213         6 - 11 Months       19%       47,615         12 - 17 Months       17%       40,844         18 - 23 Months       13%       31,040         24 - 29 Months       9%       21,614         30 - 35 Months       6%       14,443         3 - 4 Years       9%       23,007	16 Years	4%	10,746			
19 Years         2%         3,732           20 Years         0%         728           Time in Care         Months           Median         19.2           Median         14.3           Time in Care         Percent         Number           Less than 1 Month         9%         22,408           1 - 5 Months         15%         37,213           6 - 11 Months         19%         47,615           12 - 17 Months         17%         40,844           18 - 23 Months         13%         31,040           24 - 29 Months         9%         21,614           30 - 35 Months         6%         14,443           3 - 4 Years         9%         23,007	17 Years	4%	10,759			
20 Years         0%         728           Time in Care         Months           Median         19.2           Median         14.3           Time in Care         Percent         Number           Less than 1 Month         9%         22,408           1 - 5 Months         15%         37,213           6 - 11 Months         19%         47,615           12 - 17 Months         17%         40,844           18 - 23 Months         13%         31,040           24 - 29 Months         9%         21,614           30 - 35 Months         6%         14,443           3 - 4 Years         9%         23,007	18 Years	7%	17,134			
Time in Care         Months           Mean         19.2           Median         14.3           Time in Care         Percent         Number           Less than 1 Month         9%         22,408           1 - 5 Months         15%         37,213           6 - 11 Months         19%         47,615           12 - 17 Months         17%         40,844           18 - 23 Months         13%         31,040           24 - 29 Months         9%         21,614           30 - 35 Months         6%         14,443           3 - 4 Years         9%         23,007	19 Years	2%	3,732			
Mean       19.2         Median       14.3         Time in Care       Percent       Number         Less than 1 Month       9%       22,408         1 - 5 Months       15%       37,213         6 - 11 Months       19%       47,615         12 - 17 Months       17%       40,844         18 - 23 Months       13%       31,040         24 - 29 Months       9%       21,614         30 - 35 Months       6%       14,443         3 - 4 Years       9%       23,007	20 Years	0%	728			
Median         14.3           Time in Care         Percent         Number           Less than 1 Month         9%         22,408           1 - 5 Months         15%         37,213           6 - 11 Months         19%         47,615           12 - 17 Months         17%         40,844           18 - 23 Months         13%         31,040           24 - 29 Months         9%         21,614           30 - 35 Months         6%         14,443           3 - 4 Years         9%         23,007	Time in Care		Months			
Time in Care         Percent         Number           Less than 1 Month         9%         22,408           1 - 5 Months         15%         37,213           6 - 11 Months         19%         47,615           12 - 17 Months         17%         40,844           18 - 23 Months         13%         31,040           24 - 29 Months         9%         21,614           30 - 35 Months         6%         14,443           3 - 4 Years         9%         23,007	Mean		19.2			
Less than 1 Month       9%       22,408         1 - 5 Months       15%       37,213         6 - 11 Months       19%       47,615         12 - 17 Months       17%       40,844         18 - 23 Months       13%       31,040         24 - 29 Months       9%       21,614         30 - 35 Months       6%       14,443         3 - 4 Years       9%       23,007	Median		14.3			
1 - 5 Months       15%       37,213         6 - 11 Months       19%       47,615         12 - 17 Months       17%       40,844         18 - 23 Months       13%       31,040         24 - 29 Months       9%       21,614         30 - 35 Months       6%       14,443         3 - 4 Years       9%       23,007	Time in Care	Percent	Number			
6 - 11 Months       19%       47,615         12 - 17 Months       17%       40,844         18 - 23 Months       13%       31,040         24 - 29 Months       9%       21,614         30 - 35 Months       6%       14,443         3 - 4 Years       9%       23,007	Less than 1 Month	9%	22,408			
12 - 17 Months       17%       40,844         18 - 23 Months       13%       31,040         24 - 29 Months       9%       21,614         30 - 35 Months       6%       14,443         3 - 4 Years       9%       23,007	1 - 5 Months	15%	37,213			
18 - 23 Months       13%       31,040         24 - 29 Months       9%       21,614         30 - 35 Months       6%       14,443         3 - 4 Years       9%       23,007	6 - 11 Months	19%	47,615			
24 - 29 Months       9%       21,614         30 - 35 Months       6%       14,443         3 - 4 Years       9%       23,007	12 - 17 Months	17%	40,844			
30 - 35 Months     6%     14,443       3 - 4 Years     9%     23,007	18 - 23 Months	13%	31,040			
3 - 4 Years 9% 23,007	24 - 29 Months	9%	21,614			
	30 - 35 Months	6%	14,443			
5 Years or More 4% 9,216	3 - 4 Years	9%	23,007			
	5 Years or More	4%	9,216			

Children \	Waiting to be A	dopted³ c	on September 30, 2017 N = 123,43	7	
Age as of September 30th		Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care		Years
Mean		7.6	Mean		5.1
Median		6.8	Median		4.2
Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	4%	4,639	Less than 1 Year	26%	31,626
1 Year	10%	11,978	1 Year	9%	10,615
2 Years	9%	11,715	2 Years	8%	9,402
3 Years	8%	9,981	3 Years	7%	8,559
4 Years	7%	8,864	4 Years	6%	7,874
5 Years	6%	7,929	5 Years	6%	7,508
6 Years	6%	7,212	6 Years	6%	7,388
7 Years	5%	6,777	7 Years	6%	6,947
8 Years	5%	6,702	8 Years	5%	6,386
9 Years	5%	6,555	9 Years	5%	5,733
10 Years	5%	6,167	10 Years	4%	5,057
11 Years	5%	5,780	11 Years	4%	4,427
12 Years	4%	5,403	12 Years	3%	3,963
13 Years	4%	5,145	13 Years	3%	3,336
14 Years	4%	5,139	14 Years	2%	2,477
15 Years	4%	5,235	15 Years	1%	1,461
16 Years	4%	4,770	16 Years	0%	562
17 Years	3%	3,446	17 Years	0%	97
Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	13%	15,410	American Indian/Alaska Native	2%	2,442
Foster Family Home (Relative)	27%	32,764	Asian	0%	491
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	51%	61,997	Black or African American	22%	27,388
Group Home	4%	4,620	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	175
Institution	5%	6,229	Hispanic (of any race)	22%	27,416
Supervised Independent Living	0%	96	White	44%	53,440
Runaway	0%	543	Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	1,560
Trial Home Visit	1%	624	Two or More Races	8%	9,896
Sex	Percent	Number	NOTE: All races exclude children of HIspanic orig	in. Children of Hispar	nic ethnicity
Male	52%	64,390	may be any race.		
Female	48%	59,039			

<sup>&</sup>lt;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.

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Time in Care	Months
Mean	30.9
Median	25.1

iviculari		23.1
Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	0%	444
1 - 5 Months	4%	4,370
6 - 11 Months	10%	12,012
12 - 17 Months	17%	20,371
18 - 23 Months	17%	20,667
24 - 29 Months	15%	18,356
30 - 35 Months	10%	12,403
3 - 4 Years	19%	23,482
5 Years or More	9%	11,332

Of Children Waiting for Adoption whose Parents' Parental Rights have been Terminated (N=69,525), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2017

Time Since TPR	Months
Mean	17.5
Median	8.0

## Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2017<sup>4</sup> N = 59,430

to Adoption

Mean	6.3
Median	5.2

Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights	
to Adoption	Months
Mean	11.6
Median	8.6

Percent

Number

Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights

Age at Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	2%	1,252
1 Year	12%	7,276
2 Years	14%	8,450
3 Years	11%	6,622
4 Years	9%	5,295
5 Years	7%	4,435
6 Years	7%	3,903
7 Years	6%	3,573
8 Years	6%	3,277
9 Years	5%	3,012
10 Years	4%	2,633
11 Years	4%	2,201
12 Years	3%	1,833
13 Years	3%	1,516
14 Years	2%	1,278
15 Years	2%	1,013
16 Years	2%	953
17 Years	1%	781
18 Years	0%	101
19 Years	0%	11
20 Years	0%	6

Less than 1 Month	2%	1,445
1 - 5 Months	30%	17,474
6 - 11 Months	35%	20,163
12 - 17 Months	17%	9,949
18 - 23 Months	7%	4,173
24 - 29 Months	4%	2,114
30 - 35 Months	2%	1,066
3 - 4 Years	3%	1,490
5 Years or More	1%	505
Barrier Control	5	N
Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	2%	1,114
Asian	0%	207

Black or African American 17% 10,332 Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander 0% 89 Hispanic (of any race) 21% 12,621 White 49% 28,868 Unknown/Unable to Determine 1% 816 Two or More Races 5,351

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;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.

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Adoptive Family Structure	Percent	Number	Sex	Percent	Number
Married Couple	68%	40,136	Male	51%	30,482
Unmarried Couple	3%	1,865	Female	49%	28,940
Single Female	25%	14,811			
0'   M	00/	4 000	Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Single Male	3%	1,983	Yes	93%	55,002
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to			No	7%	4,372
Adoption	Percent	Number			
Non-Relative	14%	8,209			
Foster Parent	51%	29,445			
Stepparent	0%	77			
Other Relative	35%	20,274			

#### FY 2017 AFCARS Foster Care Data Release

With the prior year's release of the AFCARS Report (FY 2016), the Children's Bureau brought to the attention of the reader our continuing efforts to address AFCARS data quality and highlighted the issue of "dropped cases" (i.e., cases that appear in one six-month AFCARS submission without a date of discharge and do not appear in the subsequent six-month submission). The following link's "Technical Discussion" tab provides a more detailed description of the dropped cases issue:

## https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/trends-in-foster-care-and-adoption

Early in our efforts to understand the dropped cases issue, it was understood that the majority fell into a category of those exiting care. However, more recent analyses include a category of instances in which record numbers change (i.e., child records undergo a merge process; hence, the child's record is in the subsequent submission, but with a different record number). The records merge process typically happens when a child's information exists in the State's information system, but the child is inadvertently assigned a new record number, sometimes due to a re-entry into care. We do not believe the two aforementioned categories account for all dropped cases.

We have historically addressed the dropped cases by excluding these records from our AFCARS estimates, and we believe this has ameliorated most negative effects on the annual estimates.

Although there has been some decrease in the numbers of dropped cases, we have begun formally addressing the issue with each applicable State, beginning with the 2017 AFCARS data. To the extent practicable and reasonable, we will attempt to address prior years' data. Thus, there may be some differences between historical numbers presented in this report compared to previous reports.