



The AFCARS Report

Preliminary FY¹ 2014 Estimates as of July 2015 • No. 22

SOURCE: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2014 data²

| Numbers At A Glance | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY | 404,878 | 398,057 | 397,153 | 400,989 | 415,129 |
| Number entered foster care during FY | 256,092 | 251,958 | 251,850 | 255,080 | 264,746 |
| Number exited foster care during FY | 257,806 | 247,607 | 240,987 | 240,392 | 238,230 |
| Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY | 108,746 | 106,561 | 102,058 | 104,493 | 107,918 |
| Number waiting to be adopted whose parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated during FY | 65,747 | 62,852 | 59,147 | 59,662 | 60,898 |
| Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during FY | 53,547 | 50,901 | 52,046 | 50,841 | 50,644 |

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2014 • N=415,129

| Age as of September 30th | Years | Sex | Percent | Number | |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|--|---------|---------|
| Mean | 8.7 | Male | 52% | 216,645 | |
| Median | 8.0 | Female | 48% | 198,426 | |
| Age as of September 30th | Percent | Number | Most Recent Placement Setting | Percent | Number |
| Less than 1 Year | 7% | 28,607 | Pre-Adoptive Home | 4% | 15,554 |
| 1 Year | 8% | 33,264 | Foster Family Home (Relative) | 29% | 120,334 |
| 2 Years | 7% | 29,726 | Foster Family Home (Non-Relative) | 46% | 190,454 |
| 3 Years | 6% | 26,512 | Group Home | 6% | 23,233 |
| 4 Years | 6% | 23,719 | Institution | 8% | 32,955 |
| 5 Years | 5% | 22,714 | Supervised Independent Living | 1% | 4,474 |
| 6 Years | 5% | 22,070 | Runaway | 1% | 4,544 |
| 7 Years | 5% | 20,456 | Trial Home Visit | 5% | 21,989 |
| 8 Years | 5% | 18,770 | | | |
| 9 Years | 4% | 17,216 | | | |
| 10 Years | 4% | 15,500 | | | |
| 11 Years | 4% | 14,974 | | | |
| 12 Years | 4% | 14,983 | | | |
| 13 Years | 4% | 16,651 | | | |
| 14 Years | 5% | 19,138 | | | |
| 15 Years | 5% | 22,622 | | | |
| 16 Years | 6% | 26,119 | | | |
| 17 Years | 6% | 26,476 | | | |
| 18 Years | 2% | 9,561 | | | |
| 19 Years | 1% | 3,245 | | | |
| 20 Years | 1% | 2,386 | | | |
| | | | Case Plan Goal | Percent | Number |
| | | | Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s) | 55% | 218,889 |
| | | | Live with Other Relative(s) | 3% | 12,351 |
| | | | Adoption | 25% | 99,521 |
| | | | Long Term Foster Care | 4% | 15,008 |
| | | | Emancipation | 5% | 18,934 |
| | | | Guardianship | 4% | 14,739 |
| | | | Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established | 5% | 18,408 |

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 9, 2015 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% | 9,517 | Mean | 20.8 |
| Asian | 1% | 2,107 | Median | 12.6 |
| Black or African American | 24% | 97,540 | Time in Care (Months) | Percent |
| Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander | 0% | 693 | Less than 1 Month | 5% |
| Hispanic (of any race) | 22% | 90,299 | 1 - 5 Months | 23% |
| White | 42% | 174,477 | 6 - 11 Months | 20% |
| Unknown/Unable to Determine | 3% | 12,747 | 12 - 17 Months | 15% |
| Two or more Races | 7% | 27,179 | 18 - 23 Months | 10% |
| | | | 24 - 29 Months | 7% |
| | | | 30 - 35 Months | 5% |
| | | | 3 - 4 Years | 9% |
| | | | 5 Years or More | 7% |
| | | | | 28,058 |

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

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2014 • N=264,746

| Age at Entry | Years | Race/ethnicity | Percent | Number |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|--|--------|
| Mean | 7.4 | American Indian/Alaskan Native | 2% | 5,960 |
| Median | 6.4 | Asian | 1% | 1,635 |
| Age at Entry | Percent | Number | Black or African American | 22% |
| Less than 1 Year | 17% | 45,535 | Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander | 0% |
| 1 Year | 7% | 19,442 | Hispanic (of any race) | 21% |
| 2 Years | 6% | 17,061 | White | 45% |
| 3 Years | 6% | 15,461 | Unknown/Unable to Determine | 3% |
| 4 Years | 5% | 14,500 | Two or more Races | 6% |
| 5 Years | 5% | 14,092 | | 16,338 |
| 6 Years | 5% | 13,338 | | |
| 7 Years | 5% | 12,355 | | |
| 8 Years | 4% | 10,933 | | |
| 9 Years | 4% | 9,925 | | |
| 10 Years | 3% | 9,139 | | |
| 11 Years | 3% | 8,863 | | |
| 12 Years | 3% | 9,217 | | |
| 13 Years | 4% | 10,904 | | |
| 14 Years | 5% | 12,600 | | |
| 15 Years | 6% | 14,672 | | |
| 16 Years | 6% | 14,795 | | |
| 17 Years | 4% | 10,403 | | |
| 18 Years | 0% | 1,020 | | |
| 19 Years | 0% | 345 | | |
| 20 Years | 0% | 137 | | |

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

Children Exiting Foster Care during FY 2014 ● N=238,230

| Age at Exit | | Years | Race/ethnicity | | | |
|-------------------|--|---------|--------------------------------|---|--------|---------|
| Mean | | 9.0 | American Indian/Alaskan Native | 2% | 4,786 | |
| Median | | 8.0 | Asian | 1% | 1,518 | |
| Age at Exit | | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | |
| Less than 1 Year | | 4% | 10,636 | Black or African American | 23% | 53,969 |
| 1 Year | | 8% | 18,768 | Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander | 0% | 525 |
| 2 Years | | 8% | 18,551 | Hispanic (of any race) | 21% | 50,613 |
| 3 Years | | 7% | 16,348 | White | 45% | 106,000 |
| 4 Years | | 6% | 14,916 | Unknown/Unable to Determine | 2% | 5,485 |
| 5 Years | | 6% | 14,007 | Two or more Races | 6% | 15,026 |
| 6 Years | | 5% | 12,983 | NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race. | | |
| 7 Years | | 5% | 11,874 | Reasons for Discharge | | |
| 8 Years | | 4% | 10,424 | Percent | Number | |
| 9 Years | | 4% | 9,446 | Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s) | 51% | 121,241 |
| 10 Years | | 4% | 8,665 | Living with Other Relative(s) | 7% | 15,774 |
| 11 Years | | 3% | 7,980 | Adoption | 21% | 49,693 |
| 12 Years | | 3% | 7,477 | Emancipation | 9% | 22,392 |
| 13 Years | | 3% | 7,691 | Guardianship | 9% | 21,055 |
| 14 Years | | 4% | 8,643 | Transfer to Another Agency | 2% | 4,173 |
| 15 Years | | 4% | 10,026 | Runaway | 0% | 1,138 |
| 16 Years | | 5% | 11,711 | Death of Child | 0% | 326 |
| 17 Years | | 5% | 12,051 | | | |
| 18 Years | | 8% | 18,320 | | | |
| 19 Years | | 2% | 5,114 | | | |
| 20 Years | | 0% | 923 | | | |
| Time in Care | | Months | | | | |
| Mean | | 19.5 | | | | |
| Median | | 13.3 | | | | |
| Time in care | | Percent | Number | | | |
| Less than 1 Month | | 11% | 26,316 | | | |
| 1 - 5 Months | | 15% | 36,532 | | | |
| 6 - 11 Months | | 20% | 46,920 | | | |
| 12 - 17 Months | | 16% | 37,860 | | | |
| 18 - 23 Months | | 12% | 27,568 | | | |
| 24 - 29 Months | | 8% | 19,041 | | | |
| 30 - 35 Months | | 5% | 12,162 | | | |
| 3 - 4 Years | | 8% | 20,091 | | | |
| 5 Years or More | | 5% | 11,534 | | | |

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2014 • N=107,918

| Age as of September 30th | | Years | Age at Entry into Foster Care | | Years |
|--------------------------|--|-------|-------------------------------|--|-------|
| Mean | | 7.7 | Mean | | 5.0 |
| Median | | 6.8 | Median | | 4.1 |

| Age as of September 30th | Percent | Number | Age at Entry into Foster Care | Percent | Number |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|-------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Less than 1 Year | 4% | 4,108 | Less than 1 Year | 25% | 27,242 |
| 1 Year | 9% | 10,250 | 1 Year | 9% | 9,565 |
| 2 Years | 9% | 9,981 | 2 Years | 8% | 8,391 |
| 3 Years | 8% | 8,727 | 3 Years | 7% | 7,749 |
| 4 Years | 7% | 7,624 | 4 Years | 7% | 7,507 |
| 5 Years | 7% | 7,164 | 5 Years | 7% | 7,162 |
| 6 Years | 6% | 6,883 | 6 Years | 6% | 6,711 |
| 7 Years | 6% | 6,385 | 7 Years | 5% | 5,812 |
| 8 Years | 5% | 5,898 | 8 Years | 5% | 5,255 |
| 9 Years | 5% | 5,396 | 9 Years | 4% | 4,701 |
| 10 Years | 5% | 4,885 | 10 Years | 4% | 4,255 |
| 11 Years | 4% | 4,630 | 11 Years | 4% | 3,777 |
| 12 Years | 4% | 4,469 | 12 Years | 3% | 3,235 |
| 13 Years | 4% | 4,606 | 13 Years | 3% | 2,777 |
| 14 Years | 4% | 4,663 | 14 Years | 2% | 1,924 |
| 15 Years | 4% | 4,716 | 15 Years | 1% | 1,253 |
| 16 Years | 4% | 4,255 | 16 Years | 0% | 526 |
| 17 Years | 3% | 3,278 | 17 Years | 0% | 71 |

| Placement type | Percent | Number | Race/ethnicity | Percent | Number |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--------|--|---------|--------|
| Pre-Adoptive Home | 13% | 14,059 | American Indian/Alaskan Native | 2% | 1,991 |
| Foster Family Home (Relative) | 25% | 26,769 | Asian | 0% | 405 |
| Foster Family Home (Non-Relative) | 52% | 56,349 | Black or African American | 23% | 24,360 |
| Group Home | 4% | 3,779 | Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander | 0% | 129 |
| Institution | 5% | 5,608 | Hispanic (of any race) | 23% | 24,938 |
| Supervised Independent Living | 0% | 117 | White | 42% | 45,543 |
| Runaway | 0% | 413 | Unknown/Unable to Determine | 2% | 2,405 |
| Trial Home Visit | 1% | 674 | Two or more Races | 8% | 8,105 |

| Sex | Percent | Number |
|--------|---------|--------|
| Male | 52% | 56,445 |
| Female | 48% | 51,465 |

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 | 32.3 |
| Median | 24.8 |

| Time in Care | Percent | Number |
|-------------------|---------|--------|
| Less than 1 Month | 0% | 419 |
| 1 - 5 Months | 4% | 4,392 |
| 6 - 11 Months | 10% | 10,705 |
| 12 - 17 Months | 17% | 18,548 |
| 18 - 23 Months | 16% | 17,432 |
| 24 - 29 Months | 14% | 15,265 |
| 30 - 35 Months | 9% | 9,923 |
| 3 - 4 Years | 18% | 19,082 |
| 5 Years or More | 11% | 12,152 |

Of Children Waiting for Adoption whose Parents' Parental Rights have been Terminated (N=60,898), Time elapsed since termination of parental rights as of September 30, 2014

| Time since TPR | Months |
|----------------|--------|
| Mean | 21.1 |
| Median | 10.0 |

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2014⁴ • N=50,644

| Age at Adoption | Years |
|-----------------|-------|
| Mean | 6.2 |
| Median | 5.1 |

| Age at Adoption | Percent | Number |
|------------------|---------|--------|
| Less than 1 Year | 2% | 1,053 |
| 1 Year | 12% | 6,203 |
| 2 Years | 14% | 7,106 |
| 3 Years | 11% | 5,576 |
| 4 Years | 10% | 4,822 |
| 5 Years | 8% | 4,183 |
| 6 Years | 7% | 3,681 |
| 7 Years | 6% | 3,043 |
| 8 Years | 5% | 2,605 |
| 9 Years | 5% | 2,291 |
| 10 Years | 4% | 1,892 |
| 11 Years | 4% | 1,797 |
| 12 Years | 3% | 1,470 |
| 13 Years | 3% | 1,284 |
| 14 Years | 2% | 1,076 |
| 15 Years | 2% | 933 |
| 16 Years | 2% | 801 |
| 17 Years | 1% | 631 |
| 18 Years | 0% | 147 |
| 19 Years | 0% | 23 |
| 20 Years | 0% | 17 |

| Time elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption | Months |
|--|--------|
| Mean | 12.0 |
| Median | 8.7 |

| Time elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption | Percent | Number |
|--|---------|--------|
| Less than 1 Month | 2% | 1,232 |
| 1-5 Months | 29% | 14,409 |
| 6-11 Months | 35% | 17,681 |
| 12-17 Months | 17% | 8,270 |
| 18-23 Months | 7% | 3,618 |
| 24-29 Months | 4% | 1,870 |
| 30-35 Months | 2% | 916 |
| 3-4 Years | 3% | 1,279 |
| 5 Years or more | 1% | 617 |

| Race/ethnicity | Percent | Number |
|--|---------|--------|
| American Indian/Alaskan Native | 1% | 735 |
| Asian | 0% | 192 |
| Black or African American | 19% | 9,687 |
| Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander | 0% | 87 |
| Hispanic (of any race) | 22% | 11,006 |
| White | 48% | 24,180 |
| Unknown/Unable to Determine | 1% | 743 |
| Two or more Races | 8% | 3,996 |

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

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 | 67% | 33,208 |
| Unmarried Couple | 4% | 1,759 |
| Single Female | 26% | 13,170 |
| Single Male | 3% | 1,574 |

| Sex | Percent | Number |
|--------|---------|--------|
| Male | 51% | 25,808 |
| Female | 49% | 24,824 |

| Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption | Percent | Number |
|---|---------|--------|
| Non-Relative | 14% | 6,796 |
| Foster Parent | 52% | 25,185 |
| Stepparent | 2% | 984 |
| Other Relative | 32% | 15,667 |

| Receive Adoption Subsidy | Percent | Number |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|
| Yes | 91% | 45,979 |
| No | 9% | 4,618 |

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