



The AFCARS Report

Preliminary FY¹ 2013 Estimates as of July 2014 • No. 21

SOURCE: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2013 data²

Numbers At A Glance

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	418,672	404,878	397,827	396,892	402,378
Number entered foster care during FY	254,896	256,092	251,365	251,539	254,904
Number exited foster care during FY	277,606	257,806	246,438	240,936	238,280
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	113,798	108,746	106,352	101,737	101,840
Number waiting to be adopted whose parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated during FY	71,381	65,747	62,786	59,063	58,887
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during FY	57,187	53,547	50,901	52,042	50,608

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2013 • N=402,378

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number	
Mean	8.9	Male	52%	210,738	
Median	8.2	Female	48%	191,608	
Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	7%	26,677	Pre-Adoptive Home	4%	14,537
1 Year	8%	31,402	Foster Family Home (Relative)	28%	113,065
2 Years	7%	28,453	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	47%	184,787
3 Years	6%	25,183	Group Home	6%	23,314
4 Years	6%	23,551	Institution	8%	32,602
5 Years	6%	22,271	Supervised Independent Living	1%	4,486
6 Years	5%	20,575	Runaway	1%	4,450
7 Years	5%	18,903	Trial Home Visit	5%	21,241
8 Years	4%	16,879			
9 Years	4%	15,523			
10 Years	4%	14,671	Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
11 Years	4%	14,058	Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s)	53%	204,621
12 Years	4%	14,607	Live with Other Relative(s)	3%	12,791
13 Years	4%	16,148	Adoption	24%	91,694
14 Years	5%	18,828	Long Term Foster Care	5%	17,182
15 Years	6%	22,925	Emancipation	5%	19,499
16 Years	7%	26,413	Guardianship	4%	13,602
17 Years	7%	27,577	Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	7%	26,253
18 Years	3%	10,962			
19 Years	1%	3,750			
20 Years	1%	2,636			

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 21, 2014 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%	8,652	Mean	21.8
Asian	1%	2,114	Median	12.8
Black or African American	24%	98,201	Time in Care (Months)	Percent
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	686	Less than 1 Month	5%
Hispanic (of any race)	22%	86,993	1 - 5 Months	23%
White	42%	168,302	6 - 11 Months	20%
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	11,734	12 - 17 Months	15%
Two or more Races	6%	24,935	18 - 23 Months	10%
			24 - 29 Months	7%
			30 - 35 Months	5%
			3 - 4 Years	9%
			5 Years or More	8%
				Number
				20,901
				91,452
				78,963
				59,105
				38,614
				28,035
				17,936
				35,863
				31,498

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

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2013 ● N=254,904

Age at Entry	Years	Race/ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	7.5	American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	5,465
Median	6.4	Asian	1%	1,620
Age at Entry	Percent	Number	Black or African American	22%
Less than 1 Year	17%	43,085	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%
1 Year	7%	18,512	Hispanic (of any race)	21%
2 Years	7%	16,680	White	45%
3 Years	6%	15,203	Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%
4 Years	6%	14,324	Two or more Races	6%
5 Years	5%	13,761		15,240
6 Years	5%	12,620	NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.	
7 Years	4%	11,162		
8 Years	4%	10,075		
9 Years	4%	9,053		
10 Years	3%	8,468		
11 Years	3%	8,226		
12 Years	4%	8,937		
13 Years	4%	10,466		
14 Years	5%	12,450		
15 Years	6%	14,768		
16 Years	6%	15,004		
17 Years	4%	10,578		
18 Years	0%	1,075		
19 Years	0%	295		
20 Years	0%	122		

Children Exiting Foster Care during FY 2013 ● N=238,280

Age at Exit		Years	Race/ethnicity			
Mean		9.1	American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	4,758	
Median		8.1	Asian	1%	1,692	
Age at Exit		Percent	Number	Percent	Number	
Less than 1 Year		4%	10,384	Black or African American	24%	56,053
1 Year		8%	18,057	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	601
2 Years		8%	18,527	Hispanic (of any race)	20%	48,661
3 Years		7%	16,707	White	45%	106,487
4 Years		6%	15,213	Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	5,702
5 Years		6%	14,071	Two or more Races	6%	13,889
6 Years		5%	12,765	NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.		
7 Years		5%	11,389	Reasons for Discharge		
8 Years		4%	10,170	Percent	Number	
9 Years		4%	9,276	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	51%	121,334
10 Years		4%	8,396	Living with Other Relative(s)	8%	19,385
11 Years		3%	7,862	Adoption	21%	50,281
12 Years		3%	7,768	Emancipation	10%	23,090
13 Years		3%	7,913	Guardianship	7%	17,664
14 Years		4%	8,804	Transfer to Another Agency	2%	3,717
15 Years		4%	10,294	Runaway	0%	1,124
16 Years		5%	11,776	Death of Child	0%	354
17 Years		5%	12,427			
18 Years		8%	18,569			
19 Years		2%	5,133			
20 Years		0%	910			
Time in Care		Months				
Mean		20.0				
Median		13.5				
Time in care		Percent	Number			
Less than 1 Month		11%	26,263			
1 - 5 Months		15%	35,983			
6 - 11 Months		20%	46,734			
12 - 17 Months		16%	37,800			
18 - 23 Months		11%	27,274			
24 - 29 Months		8%	18,499			
30 - 35 Months		5%	12,424			
3 - 4 Years		9%	20,462			
5 Years or More		5%	12,677			

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2013 ● N=101,840

Age as of September 30th	Years
Mean	7.7
Median	6.8

Age at Entry into Foster Care	Years
Mean	4.9
Median	4.1

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	4%	3,942
1 Year	9%	9,426
2 Years	9%	9,254
3 Years	8%	8,099
4 Years	7%	7,482
5 Years	7%	6,995
6 Years	6%	6,275
7 Years	6%	5,858
8 Years	5%	5,256
9 Years	5%	4,938
10 Years	4%	4,531
11 Years	4%	4,413
12 Years	4%	4,435
13 Years	4%	4,375
14 Years	5%	4,592
15 Years	5%	4,636
16 Years	4%	4,085
17 Years	3%	3,248

Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	25%	25,640
1 Year	9%	9,119
2 Years	8%	8,135
3 Years	7%	7,351
4 Years	7%	7,099
5 Years	7%	6,716
6 Years	6%	6,197
7 Years	5%	5,508
8 Years	5%	5,093
9 Years	5%	4,585
10 Years	4%	3,934
11 Years	3%	3,553
12 Years	3%	2,991
13 Years	2%	2,530
14 Years	2%	1,764
15 Years	1%	1,099
16 Years	0%	432
17 Years	0%	77

Placement type	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	13%	13,174
Foster Family Home (Relative)	24%	24,471
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	53%	53,986
Group Home	3%	3,556
Institution	5%	5,167
Supervised Independent Living	0%	103
Runaway	0%	365
Trial Home Visit	1%	653

Race/ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	1,805
Asian	0%	413
Black or African American	24%	24,312
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	146
Hispanic (of any race)	23%	23,281
White	42%	42,344
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	2,139
Two or more Races	7%	7,335

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	52%	53,234
Female	48%	48,602

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	33.5
Median	25.2

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	0%	377
1 - 5 Months	4%	4,241
6 - 11 Months	10%	10,075
12 - 17 Months	17%	16,895
18 - 23 Months	16%	16,139
24 - 29 Months	14%	14,026
30 - 35 Months	9%	9,000
3 - 4 Years	18%	17,870
5 Years or More	13%	13,217

Of Children Waiting for Adoption whose Parents' Parental Rights have been Terminated (N=58,887), Time elapsed since termination of parental rights as of September 30, 2012

Time since TPR	Months
Mean	22.0
Median	10.0

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2013⁴ • N=50,608

Age at Adoption	Years
Mean	6.2
Median	5.1

Age at Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	2%	1,161
1 Year	12%	5,947
2 Years	14%	6,968
3 Years	11%	5,781
4 Years	10%	4,875
5 Years	8%	4,181
6 Years	7%	3,560
7 Years	6%	2,958
8 Years	5%	2,620
9 Years	4%	2,235
10 Years	4%	2,016
11 Years	4%	1,788
12 Years	3%	1,513
13 Years	3%	1,366
14 Years	2%	1,090
15 Years	2%	904
16 Years	2%	823
17 Years	1%	613
18 Years	0%	167
19 Years	0%	28
20 Years	0%	9

Time elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	12.3
Median	8.6

Time elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	2%	1,248
1-5 Months	30%	14,869
6-11 Months	34%	16,962
12-17 Months	16%	8,146
18-23 Months	7%	3,619
24-29 Months	4%	1,818
30-35 Months	2%	1,056
3-4 Years	3%	1,489
5 Years or more	1%	740

Race/ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2%	787
Asian	0%	241
Black or African American	21%	10,800
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	88
Hispanic (of any race)	21%	10,695
White	47%	23,594
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	627
Two or more Races	7%	3,773

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%	33,306
Unmarried Couple	3%	1,278
Single Female	27%	13,579
Single Male	3%	1,489

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	51%	25,789
Female	49%	24,812

Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption*	Percent	Number
Foster Parent**	58%	29,428
Relative	31%	15,524
Non-Relative	26%	13,087
Stepparent	0%	15,484
Missing Prior Relationship	5%	2,471

Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Yes	93%	47,172
No	7%	3,415

* These categories are not mutually exclusive and states are encouraged to select all that apply. Therefore, the total exceeds the total number of adoptions.

** Of the 29,428 children adopted by a foster parent in 2013, 2,535 were identified as also being a relative, 7,032 were identified as being non-relative, and 19,861 did not identify whether the foster parent was relative or non-relative.