

**CHILD WELFARE REPORTING
REQUIREMENTS**

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD OF

APRIL 1, 2003 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2003

ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES

[LAWS 2001, CHAPTER 223]

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

DIVISION OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

CHILD WELFARE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Arizona Revised Statute §8-526, as amended by Laws 2001, Chapter 223 requires the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) to compile information and produce a semi-annual report for the periods ending on March 31st and September 30th of each year regarding the Child Welfare Services program, including Child Protective Services (CPS). This report which is submitted in satisfaction of that mandate is for the semi-annual reporting period beginning on April 1, 2003 and ending on September 30, 2003

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(Reporting period: April 1, 2003 through September 30, 2003)

	<u>Page</u>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	iii
 REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT	
Reports by category of child maltreatment – statewide data	2
Reports by risk level- statewide data	2
Communications not meeting definition of report	3
Reports by risk level- county specific data	5
Reports by type of child maltreatment – county specific data	6
 INVESTIGATIONS WITH SUBSTANTIATED FINDINGS	
Investigations by risk level and county – case closed after investigation	8
Investigations by risk level and county – in-home services provided	8
Investigations by risk level and county – out-of-home services provided	9
 CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE	
New entries by county – petitioned through juvenile court	10
New entries by county – voluntary foster care placements	11
All children in care by age	13
All children in care by ethnicity	13
All children in care by case plan goal	14
All children in care by placement type	14
Children in shelter or receiving homes for more than 21 days	15
Children in out-of-home care by length of time in care	15
Children in out-of-home care by legal status	16
Children receiving required visitation	17
 FOSTER HOME LICENSING AND VISITATION ACTIVITY	
Foster homes licensed	18
Foster homes closed	18
Child bed spaces available	18
Reason for foster home closure	18
Number of foster home receiving the required visitation	19
 CHILDREN LEAVING OUT-OF-HOME CARE	

Total number leaving care – For all reasons	21
Total number leaving care – For reason of reunification with parents	22
Total number leaving care – For reason of living with other relatives	23
Total number leaving care – For reason of adoption	24
Total number leaving care – For reason of guardianship	25
Total number leaving care – For reason of reaching age of majority	26
Total number leaving care – For reason of transfer to another agency	27
Total number leaving care – For reason of runaway	28
Total number leaving care – For reason of death of child	29
<i>CHILD WITH CASE PLAN GOALS OF ADOPTION</i>	
Number of children with case plan goals of adoption by – age	30
Number of children with case plan goals of adoption by – ethnicity	30
Number of children with case plan goals of adoption by – legal status	31
Number of children with case plan goals of adoption by – length of time in out-of-home placement before adoption placement	31
<i>ADOPTIVE SERVICES</i>	
Number of children with case plan goals of adoption by – length of time in adoptive placement before the final order of adoption	32
Number of children with a finalized adoption by average length of time in adoptive placement before the final order of adoption	33

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
S.B. 1229
APRIL 1, 2003 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2003

Arizona Revised Statute §8-526, as amended by Laws 2001, Chapter 223 requires the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) to compile information semi-annually and produce a report for the periods ending on March 31st and September 30th of each year regarding the Child Welfare Service Program, including Child Protective Services (CPS). This semi-annual report, submitted in satisfaction of that mandate, is for the period of April 1, 2003 through September 30, 2003. It provides information about child abuse and neglect reports, investigations, substantiated investigations, type of services provided, shelter and foster home services, visitation compliance, children in out-of-home care, length of time in care, reason children have left care, children placed for adoption and Child Protective Services staff.

During this reporting period, Child Protective Services Hotline received 18,680 reports of child abuse, neglect and abandonment. Of these reports, 170 were within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments and were referred to those jurisdictions. The Department and Family Builders contracted providers responded to 100% of the remaining 18,510 reports. This response rate has been maintained by the Division since January, 1998. During the reporting period, an additional 9,979 communications were received by Child Protective Services Hotline that did not meet the criteria of a report.

During the reporting period, there were 1,669 substantiated findings of abuse or neglect. In-home services were received in 1,035 of these cases, out-of-home services were received in 890 of these cases, and 565 of these cases were closed after investigation because the children were not found to be at imminent risk of abuse. For those cases closed after investigation, the families may have received short-term support services through DES or through referrals to community agencies. These services may include, but are not limited to, child care, parent aide, parenting classes, substance abuse and mental health services. In addition, these reports are not mutually exclusive, and may simultaneously receive in-home services, out-of-home services, as well as services through the community.

On September 30, 2003, there were 7,535 children in out-of-home care in Arizona. Of the total number of children in out-of-home care, there were 2,326 children placed with relatives. One thousand six hundred ninety-nine (1,699) children of the 7,535 in out-of-home care had a case plan goal of adoption, and 1,207 of the children with a case plan goal of adoption were placed in an adoptive home but the adoption had not yet been finalized. Three thousand seven hundred forty (3,740) children had a case plan goal of "Return to Family". Five thousand six hundred nineteen (5,619 or 75%) of the total number of children had been in out-of-home care for less than two years. For children who had been in out-of-home care longer than two years, each had a case plan goal developed to lead to permanency.

At the end of the reporting period, 2,570 children were in family foster home settings. There were 1,892 licensed foster homes this reporting period. There were vacancies within these foster homes because not all of the spaces could be matched to the children needing foster home placements. There are many reasons why a child may not be able to use a particular foster home, including the abilities and

preferences of the foster family, the need to place the child near his or her family of origin for reunification purposes, and other special placement needs of the child.

A.R.S. §8-516 requires supervision of foster care providers. Visitation must be done by a foster home licensing case manager once a month for receiving foster homes, and once every three months (quarterly) for regular and special foster homes. The required visitation was received by 1,606 (85%) of 1,892 foster homes this reporting period.

A.R.S. §8-516 also requires supervision of children in foster care. During this reporting period, 7,535 children in out-of-home care required visitation by their Child Protective Services case manager. Visitation was accurately documented for 4,890 (65%) of these children.

During the reporting period, 2,528 children left the care, custody and control of DES. The following are the reasons and the number of children who left care: 1,298 of the children were reunified with their parents or primary caretaker; 203 of the children reached the age of majority; 326 children left due to a legal guardianship being established; 155 of the children were placed with other relatives; 106 of the children were transferred to another agency; and 31 of the children left due to continued runaway behavior and the Department's inability to locate these children. CPS cannot close a case of a child who is a ward of the court without approval from the Court for case dismissal. In addition, there were 408 children with finalized adoptions.

Semi-Annual Comparisons

	Oct 2000 - Mar 2001	Apr 2001 - Sep 2001	Oct 2001 - Mar 2002	Apr 2002 - Sep 2002	Oct 2002 - Mar 2003	Apr 2003 - Sep 2003
Number of Reports	16,394	17,064	17,504	17,104	17,470	18,680
Number of Reports Substantiated ¹	1,850 (17%)	1,967 (17%)	1,801 (15%)	1,839 (15%)	1,924 (15%)	1,669 (12%)
Number of Reports Investigated	12,123	12,673	13,848	14,330	14,634	15,729
Number of Reports Referred to Family Builders	4,172	4,284	3,527	2,644	2,691	2,781
Number of Substantiated Investigations- with No Services After the Investigation is Closed	548	600	538	459	306	565
Number of Substantiated Investigations-In-Home Services Provided After the Investigation is Closed	682	847	874	828	721	1,035
Number of Substantiated Investigations-Out of Home Provided Services After the Investigation is Closed	545	695	717	676	662	890
Number of new removals	N/A	2,387	2,501	2,655	2,961	3,349
Number of new removals with Voluntary under 18	N/A	N/A	306	294	332	311
Percentage of Annualized Turnover Rate of Staff	22.42%	21.58%	21.58%	N/A	23.5%	27.66
Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care on the Last Day of the Reporting Period	6,254	6,121	6,104	6,270	6,826	7,535
Number of Children in Shelter for More than 21 Days	926	959	1,028	1,098	1,300	1,323
Number and Percentage of Children Receiving Visitation During the Last Month of the Reporting Period	4,449 (71%)	4,152 (68%)	4,224 (69%)	4,249 (68%)	4,656 (68%)	4,890 (65%)
Number and Percentage of Children not Receiving Visitation	1,805 (29%)	1,969 (32%)	1,880 (31%)	2,021 (32%)	2,170 (32%)	2,645 (35%)
Number and Percentage of Parents Receiving Visitation	665 (60%)	639 (56%)	676 (58%)	772 (56%)	858 (55%)	851 (50%)
Number of Licensed Foster Homes	1,788	1,792	1,756	1,778	1,865	1,892
Number of Foster Home Spaces Available to ACYF	4,272	4,211	3,683	3,731	3,923	4,975
Number of New Foster Homes	182	196	149	217	283	308
Number of Foster Homes Closed	204	192	183	195	196	281
Number and Percentage of Foster Homes Receiving Visitation During the Last Quarter of the Reporting Period	1,546 (86%)	1,359 (76%)	1,399 (80%)	1,604 (90%)	1,695 (91%)	1,606 (85%)
Number and Percentage of Foster Homes not Receiving Visitation	242 (14%)	433 (24%)	357 (20%)	174 (10%)	170 (9%)	286 (15%)
Number of Children Leaving DES Custody	2,337	2,394	2,417	2,376	2,275	2,528
Number of Children With a Case Plan Goal of Adoption	1,689	1,552	1,450	1,666	1,459	1,485
Number of Children With a Finalized Adoption	455	467	413	364	398	408

¹ Since the appeals process delays the substantiation of reports, revisions to the substantiation rate for the prior reporting period will occur with every semi-annual report produced.

Reports of Abuse & Neglect

The categories of “child abuse or neglect” are defined in A.R.S. §8-201 and A.R.S. §13-3623(A). These definitions provide the major categories in this report.

Between April 1, 2003 and September 30, 2003, there were 18,680 incoming communications to the Child Abuse Hotline which met the criteria of a report of abuse or neglect. Of these, 170 were within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments and were referred to those jurisdictions. This compares to 17,470 incoming communications received during the last reporting period which met the criteria of a report of abuse or neglect.

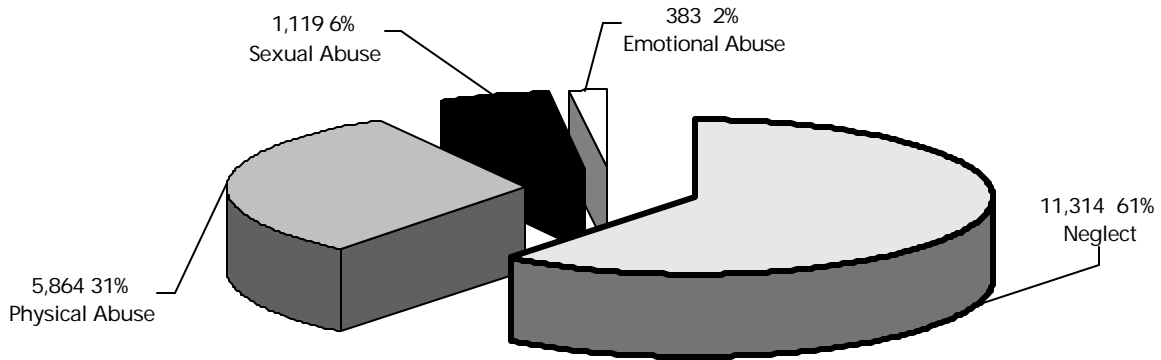
As illustrated on the following page, the period covering April 2003 through September 2003 shows 11,314 or 61% of the 18,680 reports of maltreatment were related to allegations of neglect, 5,864 or 31% of the reports were related to allegations of physical abuse, 1,119 or 6% of the reports were related to allegations of sexual abuse, and 383 or 2% of the reports were related to allegations of emotional abuse.

The second pie chart, on the following page, provides the number of reports received by report risk level for the April 1, 2003 through September 30, 2003 reporting period. Based on the type of maltreatment described in the report a risk level is assigned to the reports of alleged abuse. The pie chart shows 3,271 or 18% of the reports received were High Risk reports, 5,117 or 27% of the reports were Moderate Risk reports, 7,229 or 39% of the reports were classified as Low Risk reports, and 3,063 or 16% of the reports were Potential risk reports.

	Neglect	Physical Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Total
April 2000 - September 2000	9,441	5,311	943	352	16,047
October 2000 - March 2001	9,395	5,668	952	379	16,394
April 2001 - September 2001	10,319	5,383	993	369	17,064
October 2001 – March 2002	10,130	5,995	947	432	17,504
April 2002 - September 2002	10,196	5,515	1,055	338	17,104
October 2002 – March 2003	10,299	5,745	1,052	374	17,470
April 2003 - September 2003	11,314	5,864	1,119	383	18,680

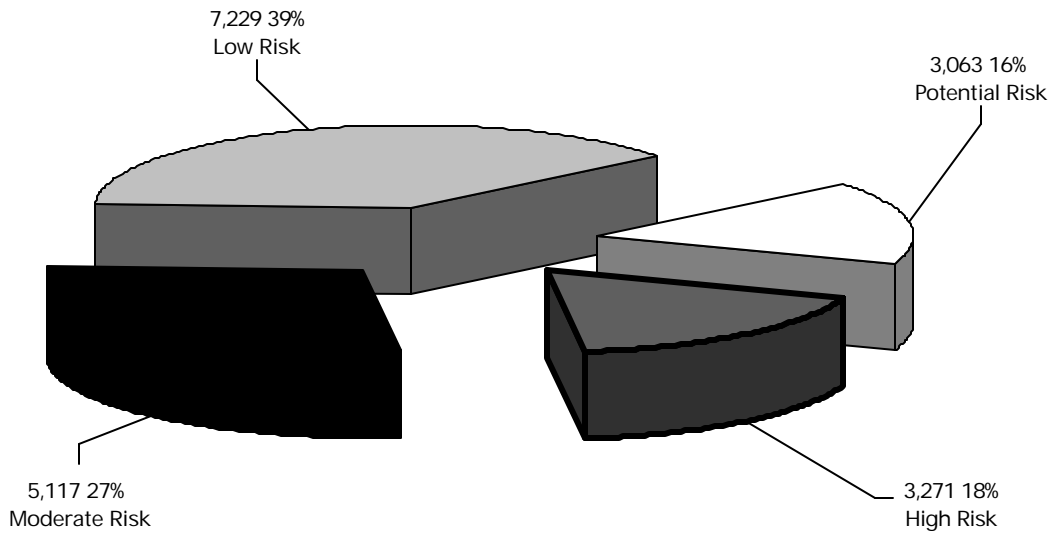
**NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED BY CATEGORY OF MALTREATMENT
PERIOD APRIL 1, 2003 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2003**

FOR



**NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED BY RISK LEVEL FOR THE PERIOD
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2003**

APRIL 1, 2003

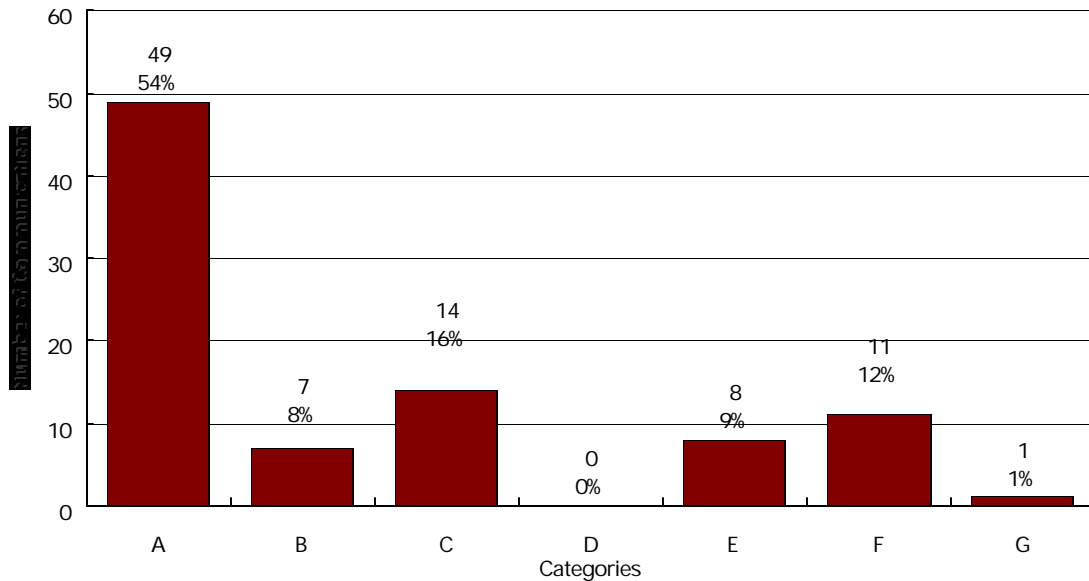


N=18,680

***Reports that are categorized as No Jurisdiction are included in the total for reports received.**

In addition to the 18,680 reports during the current reporting period, the Child Abuse Hotline received 9,979 communications that did not meet the statutory criteria of a report of maltreatment. A random sample of these communications is contained in the chart below.

SAMPLE OF COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE THAT DO NOT MEET THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS OF A REPORT OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT



N=90

- A = Concern Only/No Allegation of Child Abuse or Neglect**
- B = Out of CPS Jurisdiction**
- C = Call Appropriate for Law Enforcement Jurisdiction²**
- D = Non-Caretaker Neglect/Child No Longer at Risk**
- E = Insufficient Information**
- F = Truancy/Custody Issues**
- G = Current Case Questions or Referrals**

All communications that do not meet the statutory requirements for a field investigation of abuse or neglect are reviewed within forty-eight (48) hours by DES Quality Assurance staff.

² The category “Call Appropriate for Law Enforcement Jurisdiction” refers to a situation where the alleged perpetrator is not a parent or primary caretaker and the allegations, if true, would constitute a crime.

Child Protective Services: Investigations

On January 1, 1998, the Department implemented the Family Builders Program, a community based program operating in Maricopa and Pima counties, designed to provide services to families who are the subject of selected low risk and potential risk reports. On October 4, 1999, Yavapai, Coconino, Navajo, and Apache counties implemented the Family Builders program. On November 17, 1999 Graham, Greenlee, Cochise, and Santa Cruz counties implemented the Family Builders program. As a result of budget reductions, on January 1, 2002, the Family Builders program was eliminated from Graham, Cochise, Apache and Santa Cruz counties. In addition, the program was reduced in Coconino and Yavapai counties.

The following statistics were valid for the current reporting period:

- 18,510 reports appropriate for investigation
- 170 reports fell within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments
- 15,729 reports investigated by CPS
- 2,781 reports were sent to Family Builders
- 100% response rate achieved for period

The following tables display investigations by risk level, category of maltreatment, and county. The numbers displayed in the tables include reports that fall within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments.

**NUMBER OF REPORTS RESPONDED TO BY RISK LEVEL AND COUNTY
FOR PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2003 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2003**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	15	34	37	10	96	1%
COCHISE	74	163	211	70	518	3%
COCONINO	132	162	311	154	759	4%
GILA	36	67	113	43	259	1%
GRAHAM	12	42	33	22	109	1%
GREENLEE	3	9	13	5	30	<1%
LA PAZ	16	25	27	16	84	<1%
MARICOPA	2,123	3,040	4,263	1,786	11,212	60%
MOHAVE	95	223	279	97	694	4%
NAVAJO	49	35	46	13	143	1%
PIMA	397	779	1,180	534	2,890	15%
PINAL	154	217	288	133	792	4%
SANTA CRUZ	15	10	29	22	76	<1%
YAVAPAI	83	185	221	80	569	3%
YUMA	67	126	178	78	449	2%
STATEWIDE	3,271	5,117	7,229	3,063	18,680	100%
% OF TOTAL	18%	27%	39%	16%	100%	

**NUMBER OF REPORTS RESPONDED TO BY RISK LEVEL AND COUNTY
FOR PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2002 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2003**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	14	25	36	21	96	1%
COCHISE	73	126	208	72	479	3%
COCONINO	82	134	314	177	707	4%
GILA	28	53	91	31	203	1%
GRAHAM	10	31	43	16	100	1%
GREENLEE	3	3	11	6	23	<1%
LA PAZ	15	17	32	16	80	<1%
MARICOPA	1,786	2,534	4,194	1,729	10,243	58%
MOHAVE	71	194	304	107	676	4%
NAVAJO	28	36	53	15	132	1%
PIMA	296	762	1,321	553	2,932	16%
PINAL	114	209	323	117	763	4%
SANTA CRUZ	20	15	40	11	86	<1%
YAVAPAI	53	150	210	69	482	3%
YUMA	75	119	203	71	468	3%
STATEWIDE	2,668	4,408	7,383	3,011	17,470	100%
% OF TOTAL	15%	25%	43%	17%	100%	

**NUMBER OF REPORTS RESPONDED TO BY TYPE OF MALTREATMENT AND COUNTY
FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2003 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2003**

COUNTY	EMOTIONAL ABUSE	NEGLECT	PHYSICAL ABUSE	SEXUAL ABUSE	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	2	61	28	5	96	1%
COCHISE	19	317	151	31	518	3%
COCONINO	23	492	210	34	759	4%
GILA	7	171	71	10	259	1%
GRAHAM	0	57	42	10	109	1%
GREENLEE	1	17	9	3	30	<1%
LA PAZ	0	61	23	0	84	<1%
MARICOPA	205	6,745	3,602	660	11,212	60%
MOHAVE	15	425	211	43	694	4%
NAVAJO	1	96	37	9	143	1%
PIMA	76	1,729	900	185	2,890	15%
PINAL	15	502	220	55	792	4%
SANTA CRUZ	1	39	30	6	76	<1%
YAVAPAI	8	332	188	41	569	3%
YUMA	10	270	142	27	449	2%
STATEWIDE	383	11,314	5,864	1,119	18,680	100%
% OF TOTAL	2%	61%	31%	6%	100%	

**NUMBER OF REPORTS RESPONDED TO BY TYPE OF MALTREATMENT AND COUNTY
FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2002 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2003**

COUNTY	EMOTIONAL ABUSE	NEGLECT	PHYSICAL ABUSE	SEXUAL ABUSE	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	3	61	26	6	96	1%
COCHISE	15	277	155	32	479	3%
COCONINO	24	452	190	41	707	4%
GILA	3	137	54	9	203	1%
GRAHAM	2	60	31	7	100	1%
GREENLEE	1	15	5	2	23	<1%
LA PAZ	0	52	22	6	80	<1%
MARICOPA	176	6,050	3,411	606	10,243	58%
MOHAVE	14	387	229	46	676	4%
NAVAJO	5	85	35	7	132	1%
PIMA	91	1,666	1,002	173	2,932	16%
PINAL	10	445	261	47	763	4%
SANTA CRUZ	5	45	27	9	86	<1%
YAVAPAI	10	275	159	38	482	3%
YUMA	15	292	138	23	468	3%
STATEWIDE	374	10,299	5,745	1,052	17,470	100%
% OF TOTAL	2%	59%	33%	6%	100%	

SUBSTANTIATED INVESTIGATIONS

During the reporting period 13,925 reports were investigated and subject to substantiation, with 12% or 1,669 of the reports resulting in a substantiated finding of child abuse or neglect.³ This compares to a revised substantiation rate of 15%, or 1,924 reports, for the period of October 2002 through March 2003. In addition, during the reporting period, April 2003 through September 2003, there were 752 reports that have been proposed to be substantiated and are waiting to proceed through the appeal process.

The substantiation rate is revised to take into account the increase in substantiated reports that have cleared the appeals process, as well as the change in the substantiation methodology. The substantiation methodology is calculated by dividing the number of substantiated investigations by the total number of investigations. Reports categorized as “potential”, reports referred to the Family Builders program and reports in the “no jurisdiction” category are not calculated into the substantiation rate.

Since the appeals process delays the substantiation of reports, revisions to the substantiation rate for the prior reporting period will occur with every semi-annual report produced. Therefore, the 12% substantiation rate for this period will be revised in the next report.

The following three tables show the number of substantiated CPS investigations by county and risk level. Of the reports with substantiated findings that were closed after investigation, one or more of the following actions took place: the parent(s) refused services⁴; appropriate referrals to community providers were made; or short-term services, such as child care, parent aide, parenting classes, substance abuse treatment or mental health services, were provided. The report risk level is determined by the highest risk level allegation in a report, in which at least one allegation is substantiated. However, this does not necessarily reflect the risk level of the substantiated allegation.

³ As of January 25, 1999 the Department does not substantiate potential risk reports.

⁴ A.R.S. §8-803 provides that the Department has “no legal authority to compel the family to cooperate with the investigation or to receive protective services offered pursuant to the investigation.”

**NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS WITH SUBSTANTIATED FINDINGS IN WHICH THE CASE WAS
CLOSED AFTER INVESTIGATION⁵ BY RISK LEVEL AND COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1,
2003 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2003**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	0	1	0	0	1	<1%
COCHISE	2	6	5	0	13	2%
COCONINO	5	6	6	0	17	3%
GILA	4	6	5	0	15	3%
GRAHAM	0	3	3	0	6	1%
GREENLEE	0	0	0	0	0	0%
LA PAZ	1	0	0	0	1	<1%
MARICOPA	106	111	148	0	365	65%
MOHAVE	2	2	4	0	8	1%
NAVAJO	0	0	0	0	0	0%
PIMA	19	42	37	0	98	17%
PINAL	2	7	8	0	17	3%
SANTA CRUZ	1	0	5	0	6	1%
YAVAPAI	1	8	3	0	12	2%
YUMA	2	1	3	0	6	1%
STATEWIDE	145	193	227	0	565	100%
% OF TOTAL	26%	34%	40%	0%	100%	

**NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS WITH SUBSTANTIATED FINDINGS AFTER INVESTIGATION IN
WHICH IN-HOME SERVICES WERE PROVIDED BY RISK LEVEL AND BY COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD
OF APRIL 1, 2003 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2003**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	3	2	3	0	8	1%
COCHISE	17	18	9	0	44	4%
COCONINO	25	10	5	0	40	4%
GILA	7	4	5	0	16	2%
GRAHAM	3	4	2	0	9	1%
GREENLEE	2	0	0	0	2	<1%
LA PAZ	0	0	0	0	0	0%
MARICOPA	312	140	118	0	570	55%
MOHAVE	8	4	2	0	14	1%
NAVAJO	1	0	1	0	2	<1%
PIMA	110	85	53	0	248	24%
PINAL	24	6	7	0	37	4%
SANTA CRUZ	3	1	1	0	5	<1%
YAVAPAI	14	6	7	0	27	3%
YUMA	5	6	2	0	13	1%
STATEWIDE	534	286	215	0	1,035	100%
% OF TOTAL	51%	28%	21%	0%	100%	

⁵ The reports in Tables 3 through 5 are not mutually exclusive. The reports may simultaneously receive in-home services, out-of-home services, as well as services through the community.

**NUMBER OF REPORTS WITH SUBSTANTIATED FINDINGS IN WHICH OUT-OF-HOME SERVICES
WERE PROVIDED BY RISK LEVEL AND BY COUNTY FOR
THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2003 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2003**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	3	1	2	0	6	1%
COCHISE	21	14	8	0	43	5%
COCONINO	25	9	4	0	38	4%
GILA	4	1	1	0	6	1%
GRAHAM	4	3	2	0	9	1%
GREENLEE	2	0	0	0	2	<1%
LA PAZ	0	0	0	0	0	0%
MARICOPA	275	102	87	0	464	52%
MOHAVE	7	2	2	0	11	1%
NAVAJO	1	0	0	0	1	<1%
PIMA	115	80	45	0	240	27%
PINAL	24	4	7	0	35	4%
SANTA CRUZ	2	1	0	0	3	<1%
YAVAPAI	14	5	5	0	24	3%
YUMA	5	3	0	0	8	1%
STATEWIDE	502	225	163	0	890	100%
% OF TOTAL	56%	25%	18%	0%	100%	

CHILDREN ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME CARE

During the reporting period April 2003 through September 2003, 3,349 children were removed from their home for some period of time. The table below shows the new removals for the period by county.

There were no newborn infants delivered to safe haven providers during the April 2003 – September 2003 reporting period. This compares to one infant delivered to Safe Haven Providers during the October 2002 – April 2003 reporting period.

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL
1, 2003 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2003**

COUNTY	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	20	1%
COCHISE	122	4%
COCONINO	104	3%
GILA	20	1%
GRAHAM	20	1%
GREENLEE	6	<1%
LA PAZ	7	<1%
MARICOPA	1,790	53%
MOHAVE	71	2%
NAVAJO	34	1%
PIMA	810	24%
PINAL	143	4%
SANTA CRUZ	11	<1%
YAVAPAI	150	4%
YUMA	41	1%
STATEWIDE	3,349	100%

The following table shows the children, under the age of 18, who entered the foster care system through a voluntary placement by county for the current reporting period. Voluntary foster care may be provided when the parents or legal guardians of a child have requested such assistance, and have signed a legally binding written agreement not to exceed ninety days, for the temporary placement of the child in foster care while risk factors are addressed to enable the child to live safely at home. A voluntary foster care agreement may be utilized only when it is likely that the circumstances that brought the child into foster care are likely to be remedied within the ninety day period of time. A.R.S. §8-806 authorizes the Department to provide voluntary foster care placement for children for a period not to exceed 90 days and no more than two periods within twenty-four consecutive months

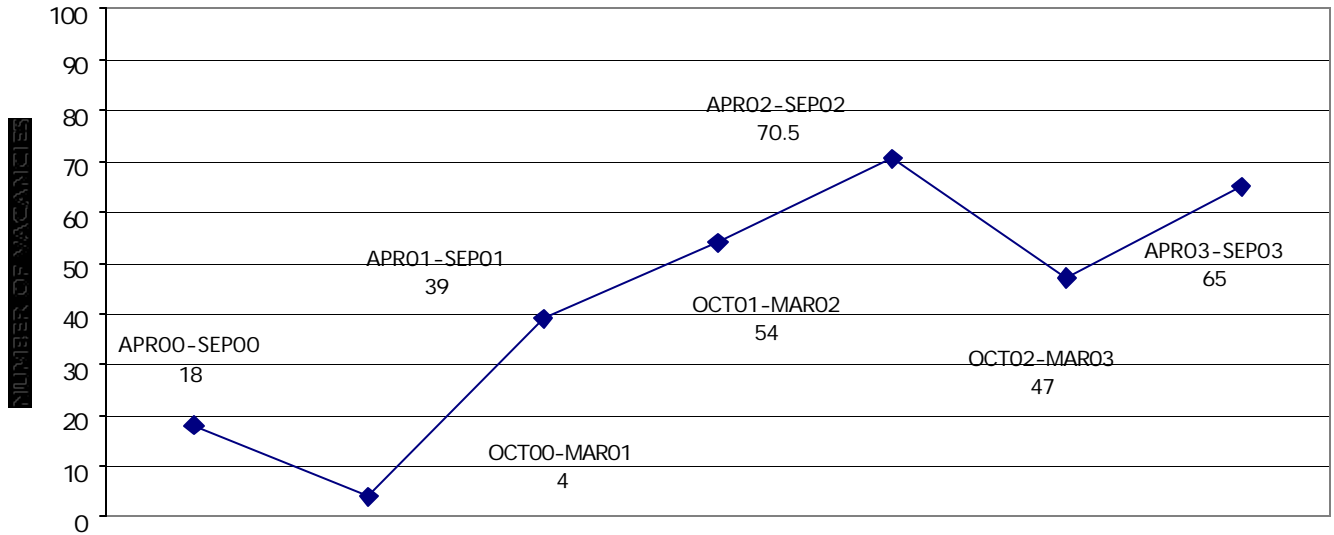
**NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME CARE DUE
TO A VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT BY COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OF
APRIL 1, 2003 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2003**

COUNTY	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	4	1%
COCHISE	4	1%
COCONINO	12	4%
GILA	1	<1%
GRAHAM	0	0%
GREENLEE	0	0%
LA PAZ	3	1%
MARICOPA	201	65%
MOHAVE	18	6%
NAVAJO	6	2%
PIMA	17	5%
PINAL	7	2%
SANTA CRUZ	1	<1%
YAVAPAI	27	9%
YUMA	10	3%
STATEWIDE	311	100%

DIRECT CLIENT SERVICES POSITIONS

There were 65 authorized Child Protective Services Specialist positions vacant on September 30, 2003. In addition, the DCYF training institute was in the process of training 47 staff to fill these vacancies.

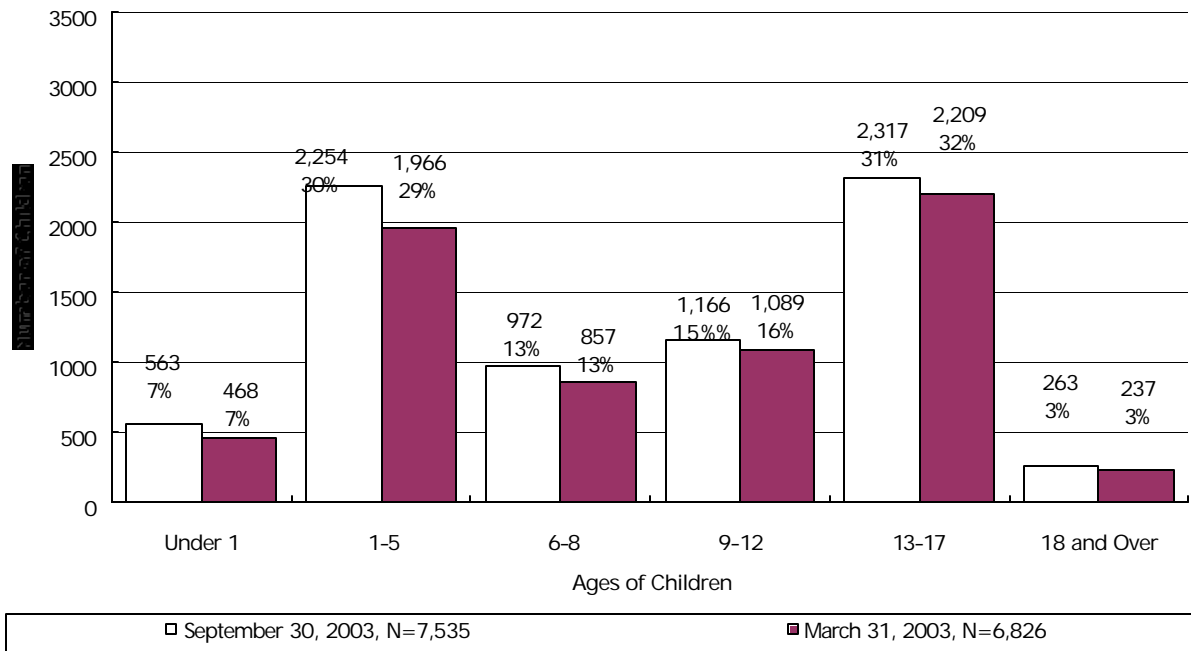
VACANCIES BY REPORTING PERIOD



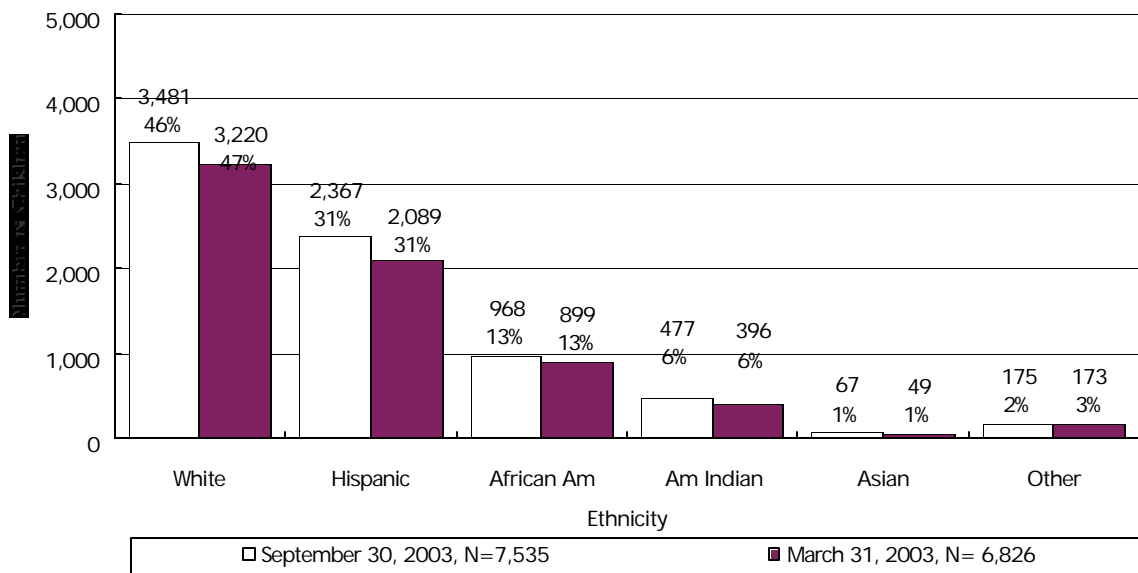
CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

On September 30, 2003, there were 7,535 children in out-of-home care. During the reporting period of April 1, 2003 through September 30, 2003, there were 3,349 children removed from their home for some period of time.

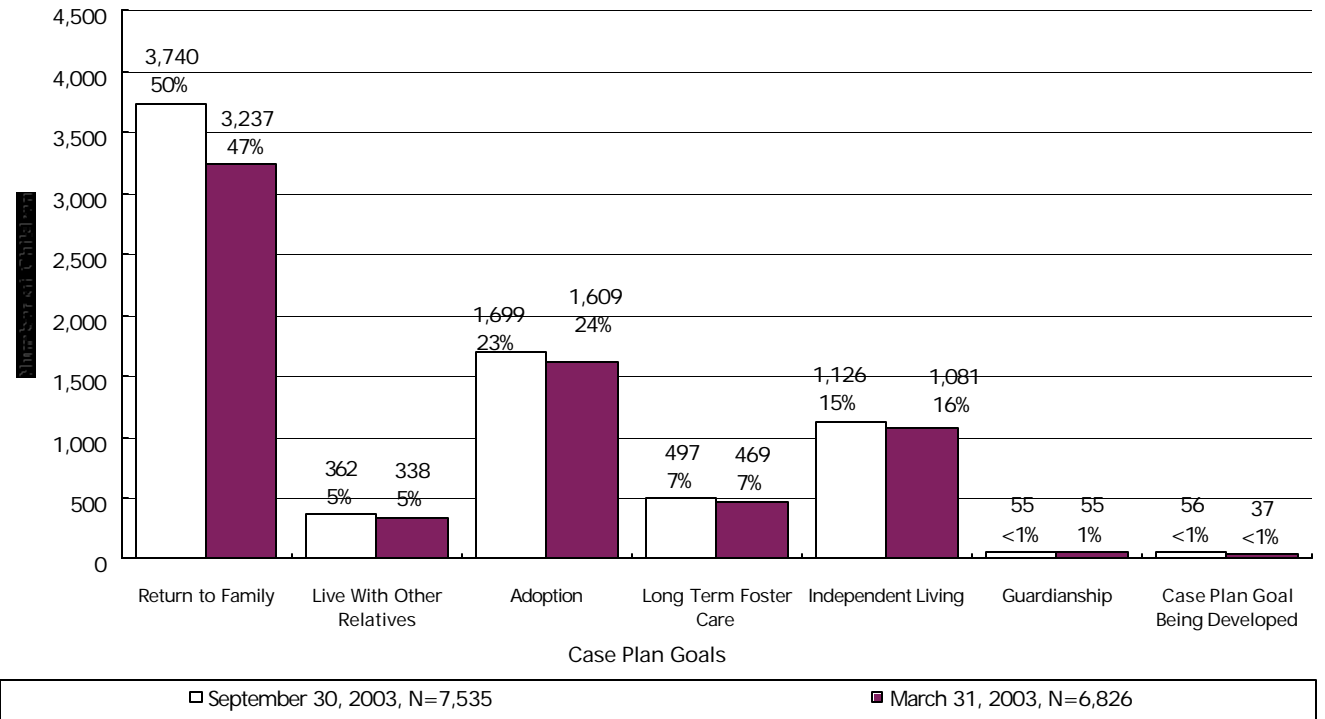
THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY AGE



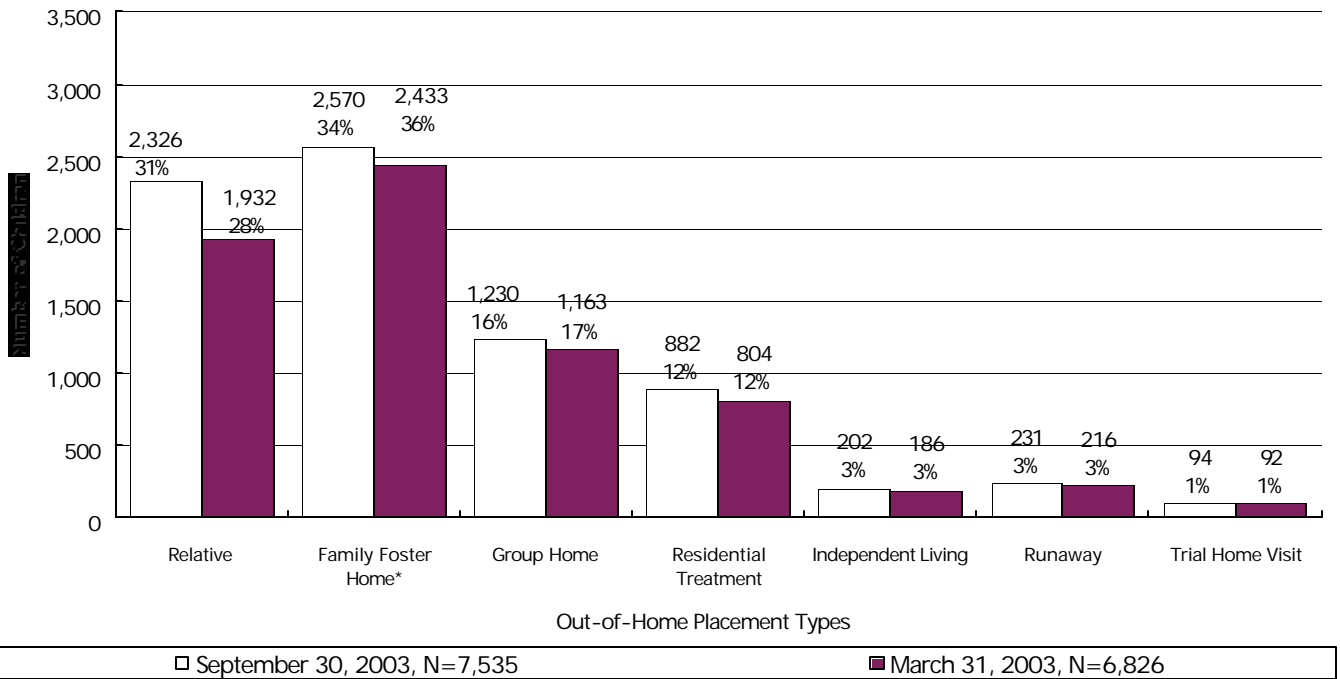
THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY ETHNICITY



THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY CASE PLAN GOAL



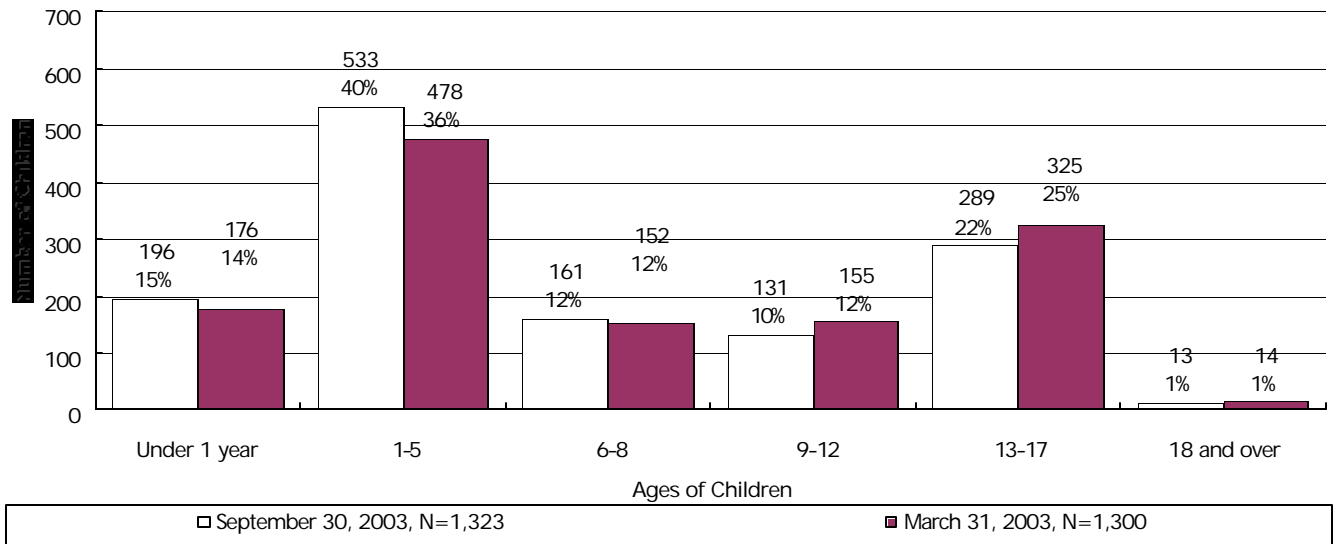
THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN CARE BY PLACEMENT TYPE



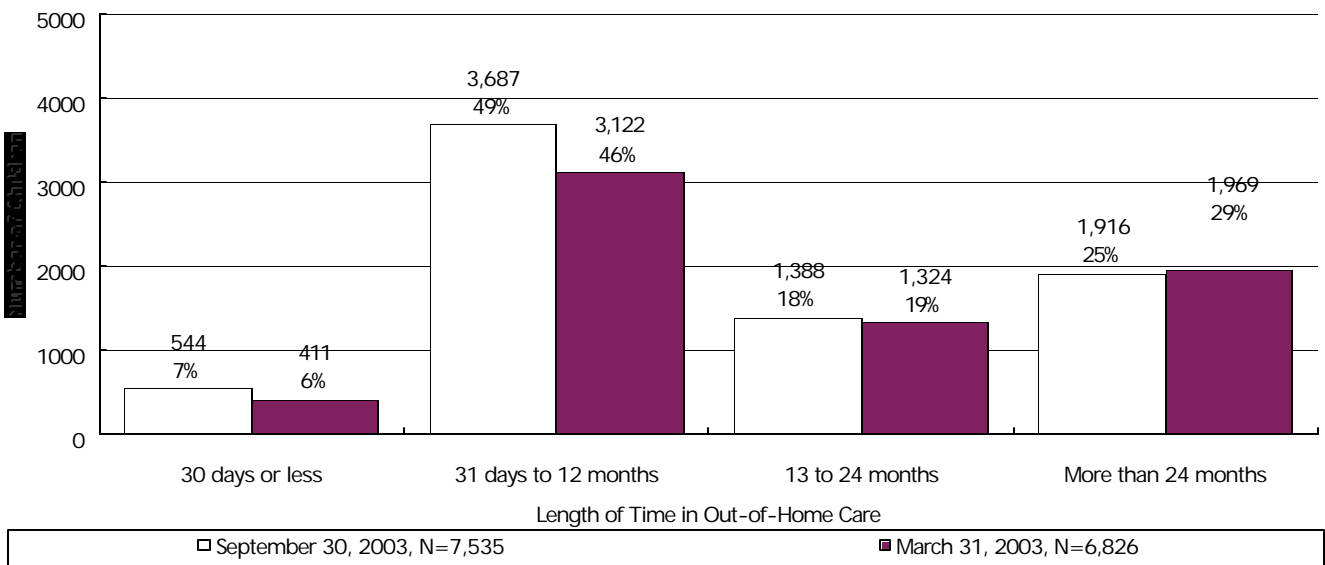
* Category includes some relative placements.

During the reporting period, 1,323 children remained in a shelter or receiving home for more than 21 consecutive days. (See Chart 4) For the period of April 2003 through September 2003, 594 or 45% of the children were six years of age or older. In addition, 196 or 15% of the children were under one year.

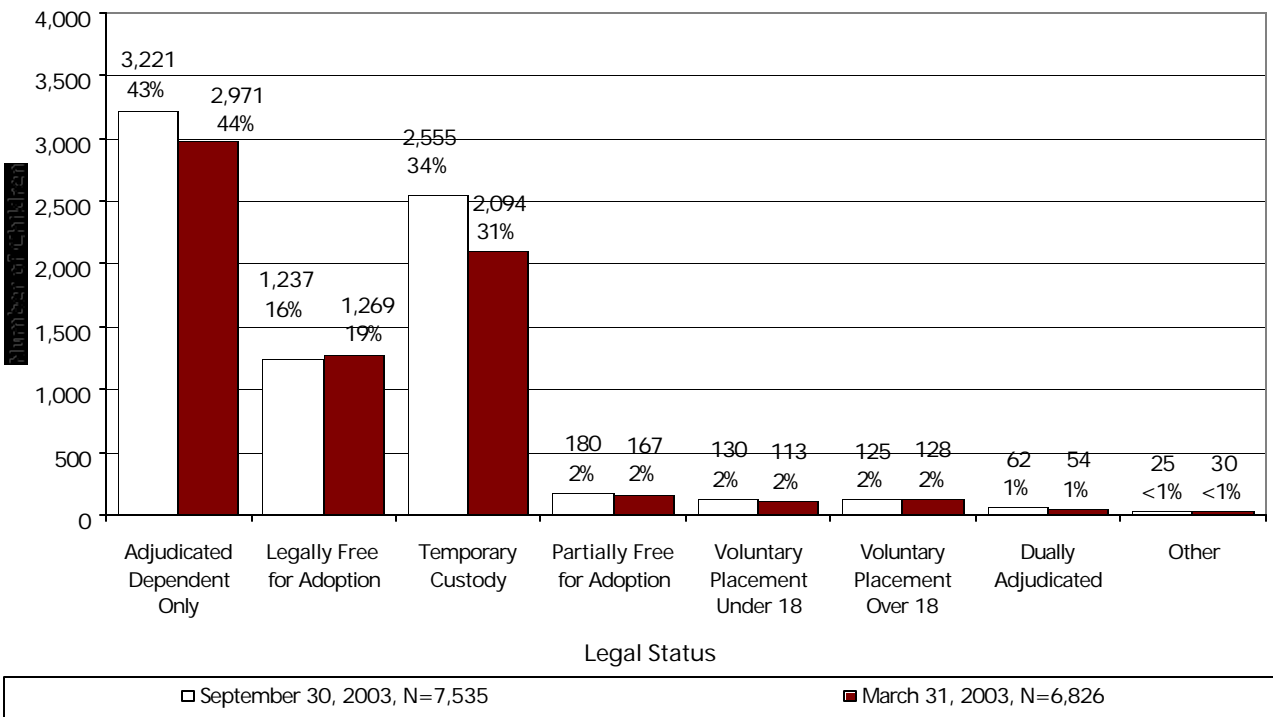
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN SHELTER OR RECEIVING HOMES FOR MORE THAN 21 CONSECUTIVE DAYS BY AGE OF CHILD



THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY LENGTH OF TIME IN CARE



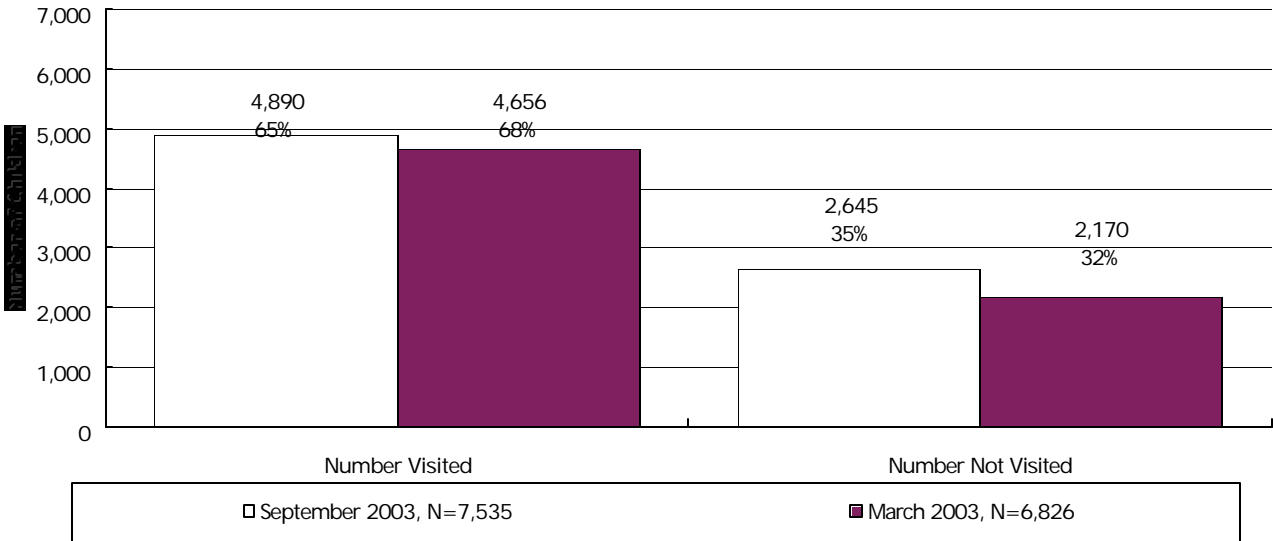
CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY LEGAL STATUS



At the end of the reporting period there were 7,535 children in out-of-home care who required visitation. Of these children, visitation was accurately documented in the automated system for 4,890 children or 65%.

The required child visitation is performed monthly by DES case managers, contracted case managers, and/or other professionals as approved by supervisor or as established by policy. The Department has verified that more children received the required visitation than is indicated in the chart below, which displays the number of children receiving the required visitation. This information is clearly documented in the automated case notes. However, the Department is unable to compile and tabulate data based solely upon case note text. We continue to issue instructions to all direct service staff regarding the system requirements for capturing all visitations. A child was deemed to have received the required visitation if the child received the visitation during the last month of the reporting period.

THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED THE REQUIRED VISITATION



According to ACYF policy, case managers shall have face-to-face contact with all parents at least once a month, including any alleged parents and parents residing outside of the child’s home where the case plan goal is family reunification or remain with family. During the reporting period there were 1,693 parents who had a child with the case plan goal of return home. Of those parents requiring the visitation, 851 or 50% received the required visitation. The 50% visitation rate does not reflect attempted visitation where contact did not take place.

FOSTER HOMES

As of September 30, 2003, there were 1,892 licensed foster homes with 3,982 spaces available for Administration for Children, Youth, and Families (ACYF) placements. Licensed foster homes include family foster homes, professional family foster homes, respite foster homes, and receiving foster homes.

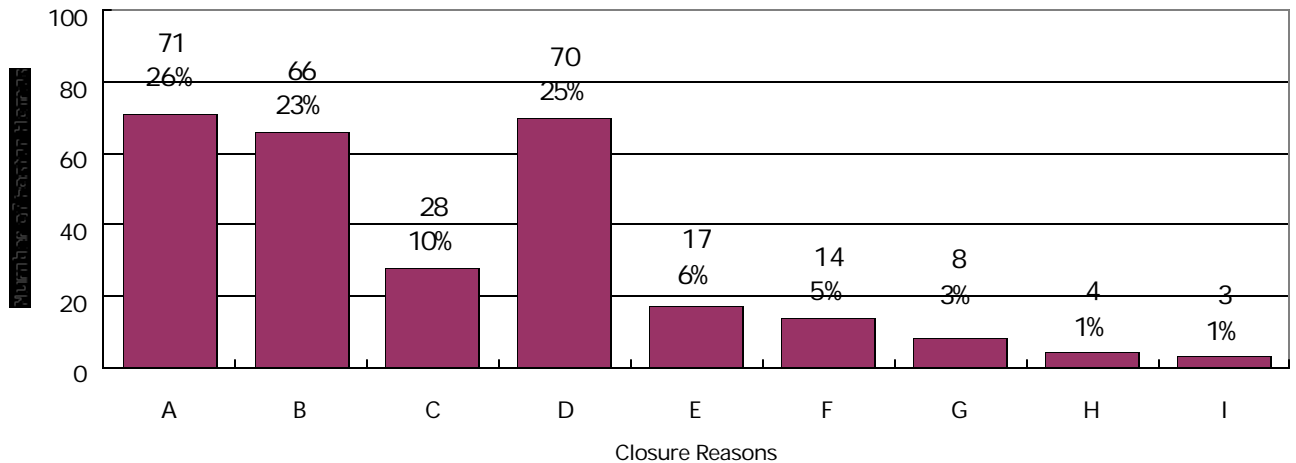
Foster home licenses specify the age range, gender and maximum number of children that can be placed in a home. Foster parents, in consultation with the licensing worker, decide the type of physical, behavioral and psychological needs of children they can effectively parent based upon their own skill level, experiences and desires.

As of September 30, 2003 there were 892 unused spaces within these foster homes. Approximately 518 of the 892 spaces were unavailable or set aside for receiving and respite care services. Of the unused spaces, a match between the available spaces and children’s needs was not possible.

During the reporting period, 308 new homes were licensed to provide foster care and 281 homes left the system. This compares to 283 new homes being licensed and 196 homes leaving the system for the period covering October 2002 through March 2003.

The chart below gives the reasons for foster home closures for the period of April 1, 2003 through September 31, 2003.

REASON FOR FOSTER HOME CLOSURE FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2003 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2003

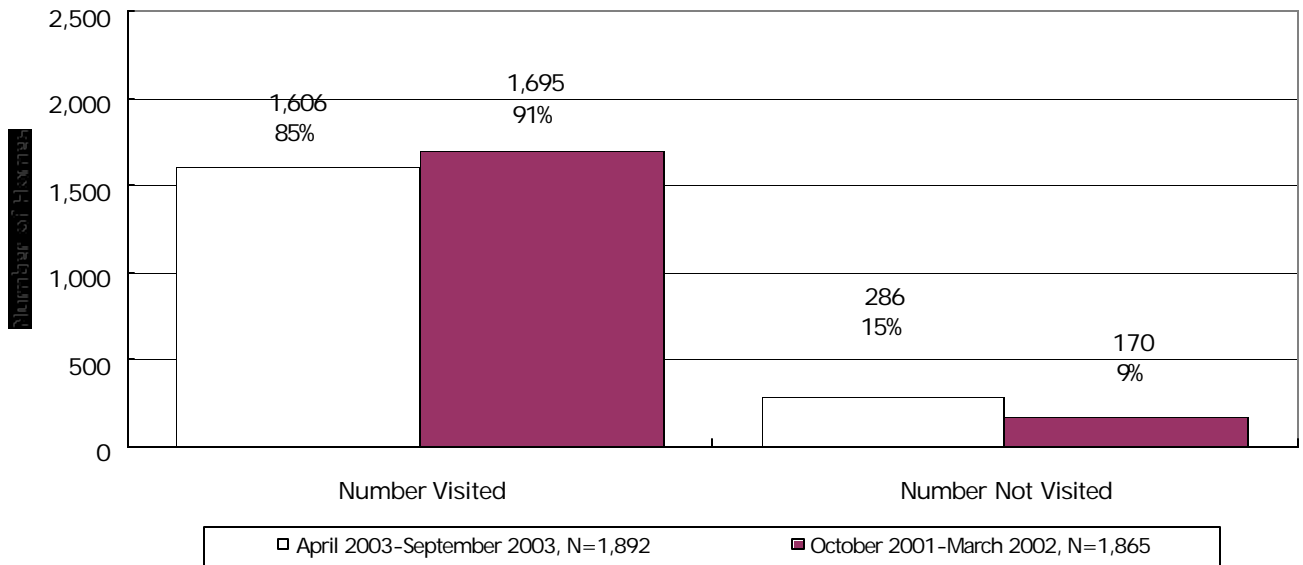


N= 281

- A = Personal or Family Issues or Problems
- B = Other or Foster Parent Did Not State Reason
- C = Non-Compliance with Licensing Requirements
- D = Adoption of Foster Child
- E = Family Relocation
- F = Child Left Care
- G = Philosophical Disagreement
- H = Behavior of Child
- I = Transfer to Division of Developmental Disabilities

During the reporting period there were 1,892 foster homes that required visitation. Of those homes 1,606 or 85% received the required visitation. This compares to 1,695 or 91% of the foster homes that received the required visitation for the period October 2002 through March 2003. The Department believes that more foster homes received the required visitation than is indicated in the chart below. The under reporting of foster home visitation is attributable to the lack of automation being used in reporting the foster home visitation process. The Department recognizes this as a problem and is working to correct this issue.

THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF FOSTER HOMES WHO RECEIVED THE REQUIRED VISITATION*



*Required visitations to foster homes, for license monitoring purposes, are performed by licensing case managers.

CHILDREN EXITING OUT-OF-HOME CARE

During the reporting period 2,528 children left the custody of the Department. This compares to 2,275 children exiting care during the prior reporting period. The comparison between the two reporting periods shows that 11% more children left care this reporting, compared to last.

CHILDREN DISCHARGED BY PERIOD

	NUMBER OF CHILDREN DISCHARGED	% CHANGE OVER PRIOR PERIOD
APRIL 2000 – SEPTEMBER 2000	2,598	+11%
OCTOBER 2000 – MARCH 2000	2,337	-10%
APRIL 2001 – SEPTEMBER 2001	2,394	+2%
OCTOBER 2001 – MARCH 2002	2,417	+1%
APRIL 2002 – SEPTEMBER 2002	2,376	-2%
OCTOBER 2002 – MARCH 2003	2,275	-4%
APRIL 2003 – SEPTEMBER 2003	2,528	+11%

The following nine tables depict the children who exited out-of-home care by the reason for leaving care. The tables display the following information: reasons the child left custody, their age, their ethnicity, the number of placements each child had, the length of time in out-of-home care.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY FOR THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2003

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	190	8%
Ages 1 - 5	830	33%
Ages 6 - 8	327	13%
Ages 9 - 12	383	15%
Ages 13 - 17	612	24%
18 and Over	186	7%
Total	2,528	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	1,159	46%
Hispanic	775	31%
African American	323	13%
American Indian	176	7%
Asian	13	<1%
Other	82	3%
Total	2,528	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	1,338	53%
Two	466	19%
Three	234	9%
Four	136	5%
Five	79	3%
More than Five	275	11%
Total	2,528	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	848	33%
31 Days to 12 Months	737	29%
13 to 24 Months	421	17%
More than 24 Months	522	21%
Total	2,528	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	8.26	8.95
By Number of Placements	1	2.72
By Months of Time in Care	7.01	15.32

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF "REUNIFICATION WITH PARENTS OR PRIMARY CARETAKER"
FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2003**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	127	10%
Ages 1 – 5	393	30%
Ages 6 – 8	176	14%
Ages 9 - 12	219	17%
Ages 13 - 17	378	29%
18 and Over	5	<1%
Total	1,298	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	627	48%
Hispanic	360	28%
African American	167	13%
American Indian	86	7%
Asian	7	<1%
Other	51	4%
Total	1,298	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	852	65%
Two	236	18%
Three	99	8%
Four	36	3%
Five	26	2%
More than Five	49	4%
Total	1,298	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	599	46%
31 Days to 12 Months	489	38%
13 to 24 Months	145	11%
More than 24 Months	65	5%
Total	1,298	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	8.21	8.63
By Number of Placements	1	1.79
By Months of Time in Care	1.61	6.17

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF "LIVING WITH OTHER RELATIVES" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2003**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	22	14%
Ages 1 - 5	66	43%
Ages 6 - 8	21	14%
Ages 9 - 12	19	12%
Ages 13 - 17	27	17%
18 and Over	0	0%
Total	155	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	58	38%
Hispanic	55	35%
African American	20	13%
American Indian	15	10%
Asian	1	1%
Other	6	4%
Total	155	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	132	85%
Two	15	10%
Three	3	2%
Four	4	3%
Five	0	<1%
More than Five	1	0%
Total	155	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	125	81%
31 Days to 12 Months	28	18%
13 to 24 Months	2	1%
More than 24 Months	0	0%
Total	155	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	5.22	6.70
By Number of Placements	1	1.17
By Months of Time in Care	.16	.84

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES
CUSTODY FOR REASON OF "ADOPTION" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2003**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	2	<1%
Ages 1 - 5	223	54%
Ages 6 - 8	72	18%
Ages 9 - 12	72	18%
Ages 13 - 17	39	10%
18 and Over	0	0%
Total	408	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	203	50%
Hispanic	137	34%
African American	44	11%
American Indian	20	5%
Asian	3	<1%
Other	1	<1%
Total	408	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	98	24%
Two	106	26%
Three	66	16%
Four	37	9%
Five	27	7%
More than Five	74	18%
Total	408	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	1	<1%
31 Days to 12 Months	11	3%
13 to 24 Months	119	29%
More than 24 Months	277	68%
Total	408	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	5.39	6.43
By Number of Placements	1	2.72
By Months of Time in Care	7.01	15.32

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF "GUARDIANSHIP" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2003**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	21	6%
Ages 1 - 5	109	33%
Ages 6 - 8	52	16%
Ages 9 - 12	65	20%
Ages 13 - 17	78	24%
18 and Over	1	<1%
Total	326	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	110	33%
Hispanic	140	43%
African American	45	14%
American Indian	18	6%
Asian	1	<1%
Other	12	4%
Total	326	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	167	51%
Two	60	18%
Three	41	12%
Four	31	10%
Five	12	4%
More than Five	15	5%
Total	326	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	61	19%
31 Days to 12 Months	123	38%
13 to 24 Months	112	34%
More than 24 Months	30	9%
Total	326	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	7.90	8.31
By Number of Placements	1	2.25
By Months of Time in Care	12.20	12.95

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASONS OF "REACHING AGE OF MAJORITY" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2003**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	0	0%
Ages 1 - 5	0	0%
Ages 6 - 8	0	0%
Ages 9 - 12	0	0%
Ages 13 - 17	27	13%
18 and Over	176	87%
Total	203	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	105	52%
Hispanic	48	24%
African American	31	15%
American Indian	14	7%
Asian	1	<1%
Other	4	2%
Total	203	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	13	6%
Two	17	8%
Three	17	8%
Four	20	10%
Five	9	4%
More than Five	127	64%
Total	203	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	4	2%
31 Days to 12 Months	27	13%
13 to 24 Months	31	15%
More than 24 Months	141	70%
Total	203	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	18	18.30
By Number of Placements	7	9.43
By Months of Time in Care	39.51	54.65

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF "TRANSFER TO ANOTHER AGENCY" FOR THE REPORTING
PERIOD
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2003**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	17	16%
Ages 1 - 5	39	36%
Ages 6 - 8	6	6%
Ages 9 - 12	7	7%
Ages 13 - 17	33	31%
18 and Over	4	4%
Total	106	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	46	43%
Hispanic	22	21%
African American	11	10%
American Indian	21	20%
Asian	0	0%
Other	6	6%
Total	106	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	52	49%
Two	27	25%
Three	8	8%
Four	6	6%
Five	4	4%
More than Five	9	8%
Total	106	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	34	32%
31 Days to 12 Months	51	49%
13 to 24 Months	12	11%
More than 24 Months	9	8%
Total	106	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	4.99	8.05
By Number of Placements	2	2.62
By Months of Time in Care	5.35	9.60

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF "RUNAWAY" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2003**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	0	0%
Ages 1 - 5	0	0%
Ages 6 - 8	0	0%
Ages 9 - 12	1	3%
Ages 13 - 17	30	97%
18 and Over	0	0%
Total	31	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	9	30%
Hispanic	13	42%
African American	5	16%
American Indian	2	6%
Asian	0	0%
Other	2	6%
Total	31	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	23	75%
Two	5	16%
Three	0	0%
Four	2	6%
Five	0	0%
More than Five	1	3%
Total	31	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	23	74%
31 Days to 12 Months	8	26%
13 to 24 Months	0	0%
More than 24 Months	0	0%
Total	31	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	16.27	16.06
By Number of Placements	1	1.55
By Months of Time in Care	.09	1

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF "DEATH OF CHILD" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD ENDING
SEPTEMBER 30, 2003**

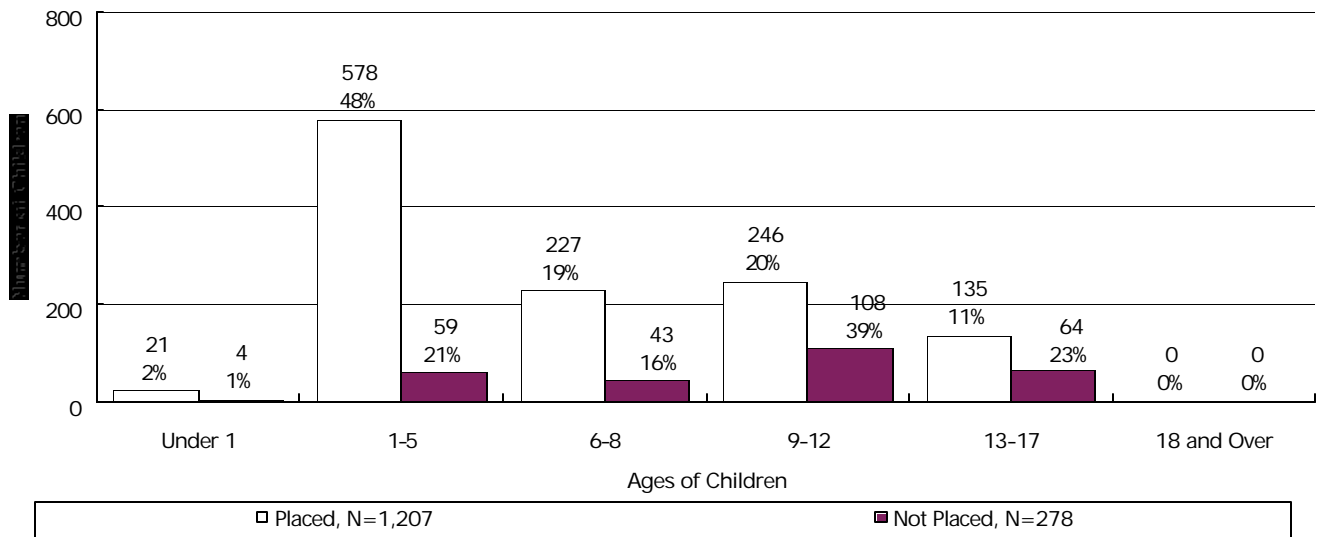
By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	1	100%
Ages 1 - 5	0	0%
Ages 6 - 8	0	0%
Ages 9 - 12	0	0%
Ages 13 - 17	0	0%
18 and Over	0	0%
Total	1	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	1	100%
Hispanic	0	0%
African American	0	0%
American Indian	0	0%
Asian	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total	1	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	1	100%
Two	0	0%
Three	0	0%
Four	0	0%
Five	0	0%
More than Five	0	0%
Total	1	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	1	100%
31 Days to 12 Months	0	0%
13 to 24 Months	0	0%
More than 24 Months	0	0%
Total	1	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	.69	.69
By Number of Placements	1	1
By Months of Time in Care	.03	.03

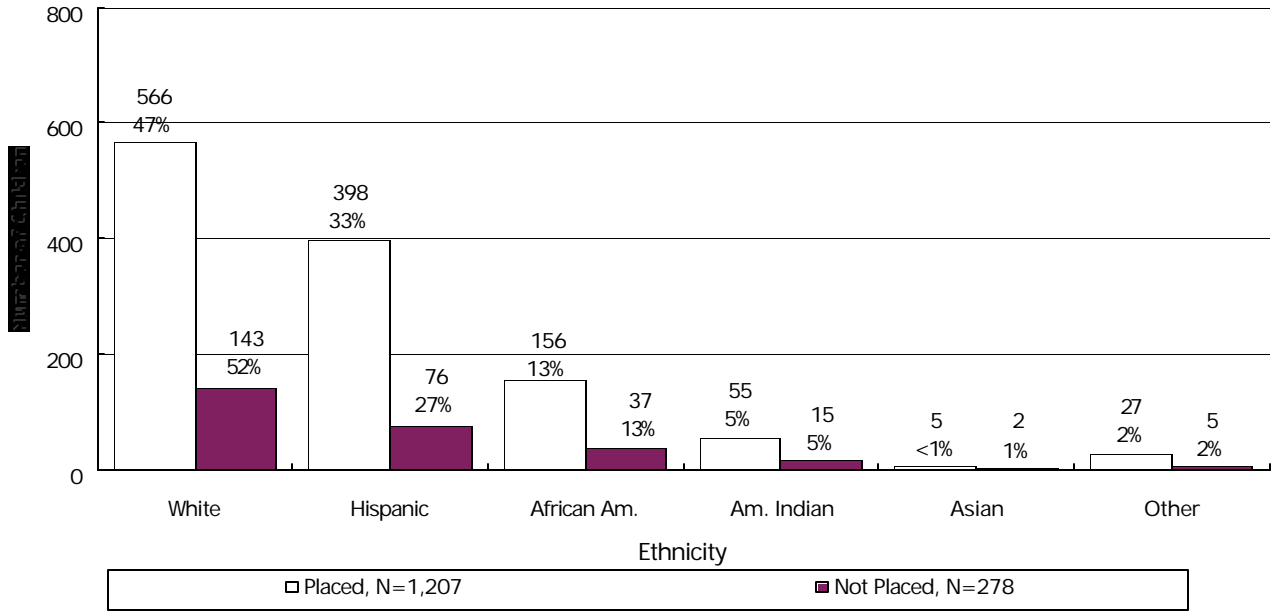
CHILDREN WITH ADOPTIVE CASE PLAN GOALS

The average length of time that a child with a case plan goal of “adoption” has spent in out-of-home care is 2 years, 6 months.

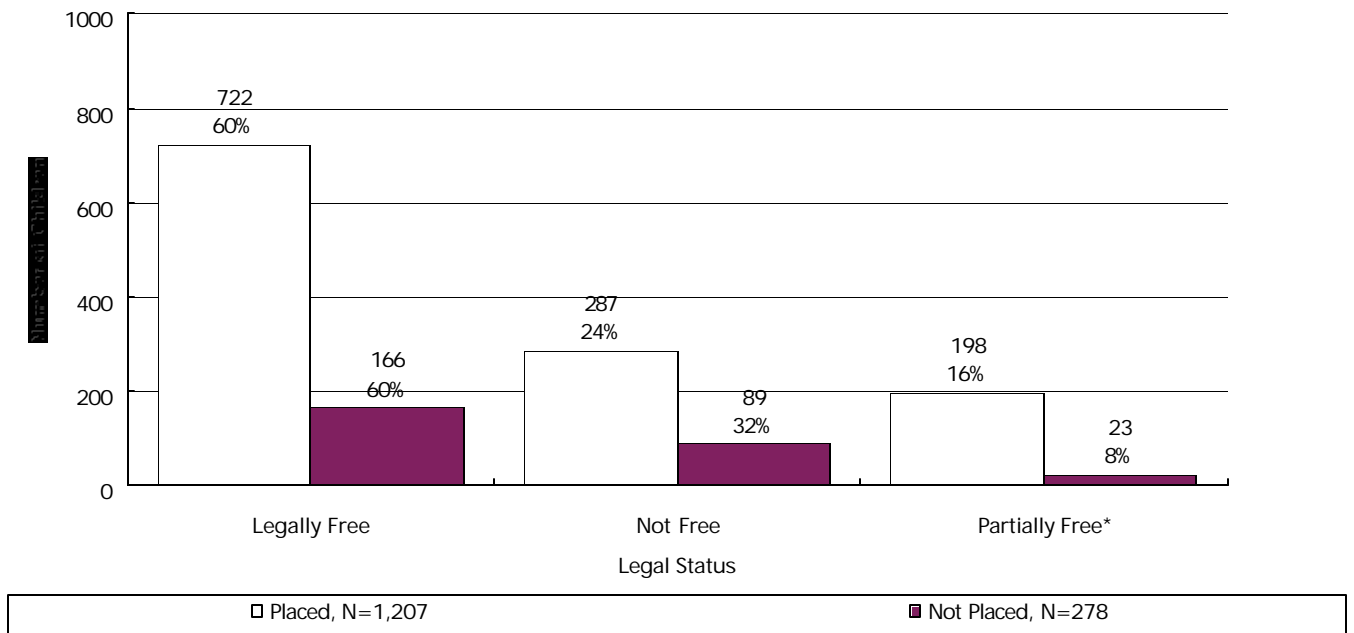
THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A CASE PLAN GOAL OF ADOPTION BY AGE



THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A CASE PLAN GOAL OF ADOPTION BY ETHNICITY

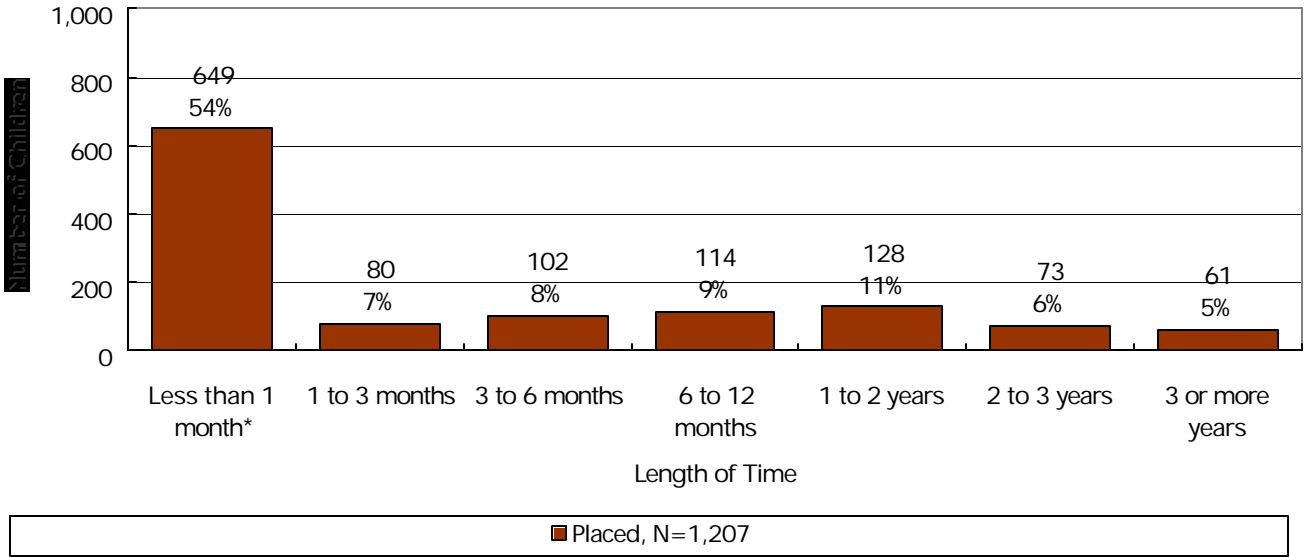


THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A CASE PLAN GOAL OF ADOPTION BY LEGAL STATUS



*Partially free refers to a situation where only one of the parent's rights has been severed.

THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN BY LENGTH OF TIME FROM CHANGE OF CASE PLAN GOAL OF ADOPTION TO ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT

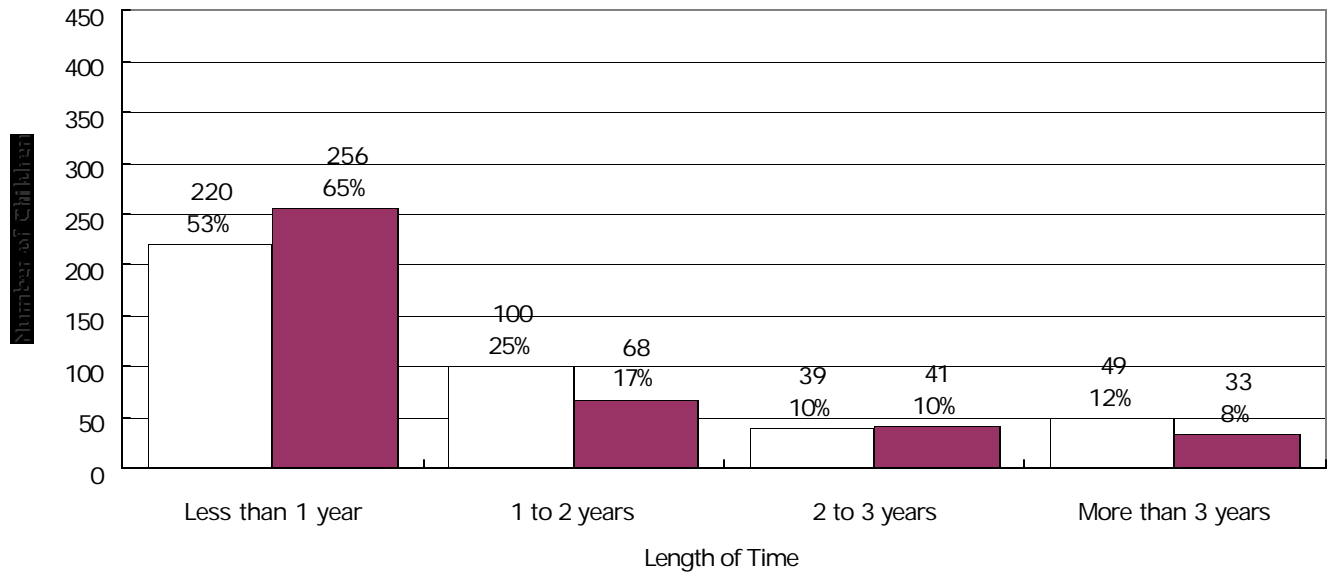


***About 70% of children are adopted by relatives or their foster parents and are already in their prospective adoptive placement at the time the case plan goal changes to adoption.**

ADOPTIVE SERVICES

There were 408 children with a finalized adoption during the reporting period. The chart below displays the number of children with a finalized adoption during the reporting period by the average length of time in out-of-home placement before adoptive placement.

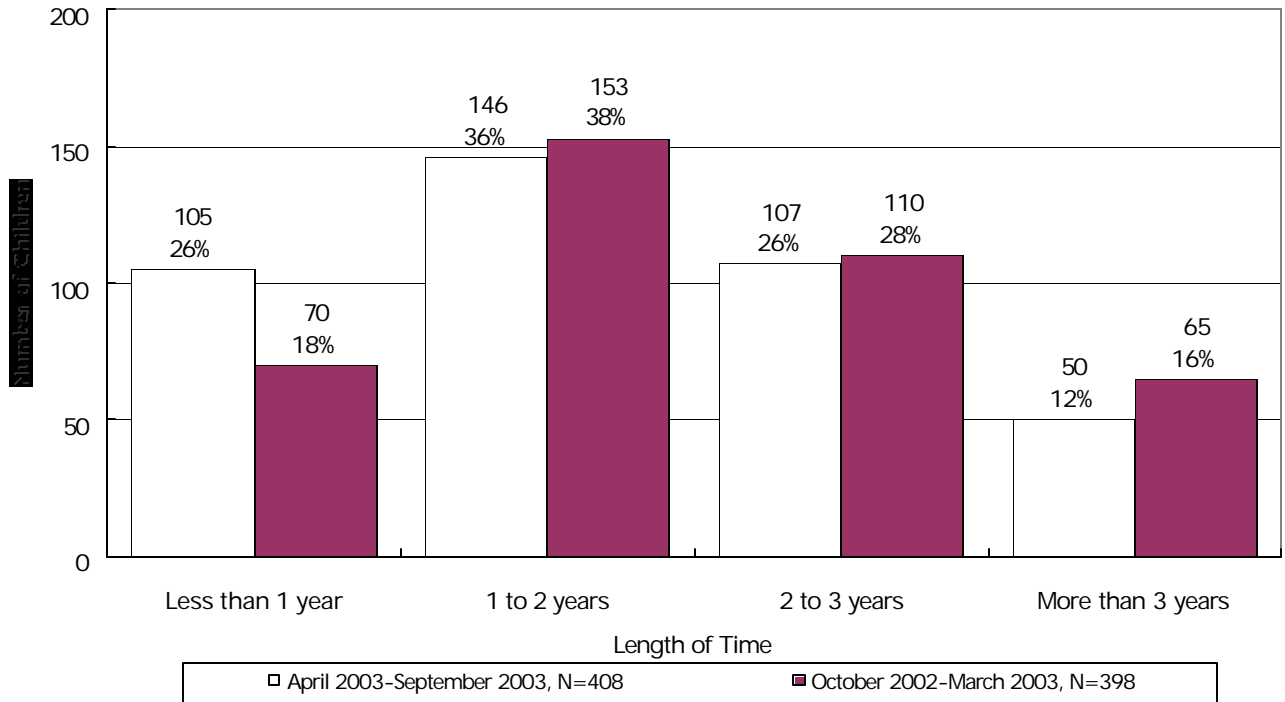
THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITH A FINALIZED ADOPTION BY AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT BEFORE ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT



□ April 2003-September 2003, N=408 ■ October 2002-March 2003, N=398

The chart below displays the number of children with a finalized adoption by average length of time in adoptive placement before the final order of adoption.

THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITH A FINALIZED ADOPTION BY AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME IN ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT BEFORE THE FINAL ORDER OF ADOPTION



***About 70% of children are adopted by relatives or their foster parents and are already in their prospective adoptive placement at the time the case plan goal changes to adoption.**