

CHILD WELFARE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD OF

OCTOBER 1, 2003 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2004

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 October 1, 2003 and ending on March 31, 2004

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(Reporting period: October 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004)

	<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
OCTOBER 1, 2003 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2004

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 October 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004. 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 20,242 reports of child abuse, neglect and abandonment. Of these reports, 186 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 20,056 reports. This response rate has been maintained by the Division since January, 1998. During the reporting period, an additional 8,981 communications were received by Child Protective Services Hotline that did not meet the criteria of a report.

During the reporting period, there were 1,807 substantiated findings of abuse or neglect. In-home services were received in 1,188 of these cases, out-of-home services were received in 986 of these cases, and 570 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 March 31, 2004, there were 8,246 children in out-of-home care in Arizona. Of the total number of children in out-of-home care, there were 2,701 children placed with relatives. One thousand six hundred nine (1,609) children of the 8,246 in out-of-home care had a case plan goal of adoption, and 1,358 of the children with a case plan goal of adoption were placed in an adoptive home but the adoption had not yet been finalized. Four thousand one hundred sixty-six (4,166) children had a case plan goal of "Return to Family". Six thousand three hundred sixteen (6,316 or 76%) 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, 2,756 children were in family foster home settings. There were 2,007 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 1,774 (88%) of 2,007 foster homes this reporting period.

A.R.S. §8-516 also requires supervision of children in foster care. During this reporting period, 8,246 children in out-of-home care required visitation by their Child Protective Services case manager. Visitation was accurately documented for 5,266 (64%) of these children.

During the reporting period, 2,655 children left the care, custody and control of DES. The following are the reasons and the number of children who left care: 1,408 of the children were reunified with their parents or primary caretaker; 242 of the children reached the age of majority; 338 children left due to a legal guardianship being established; 143 of the children were placed with other relatives; 114 of the children were transferred to another agency; and 28 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 380 children with finalized adoptions.

Semi-Annual Comparisons

	Apr 2001 - Sep 2001	Oct 2001 - Mar 2002	Apr 2002 - Sep 2002	Oct 2002 - Mar 2003	Apr 2003 - Sep 2003	Oct 2003 - Mar 2004
Number of Reports	17,064	17,504	17,104	17,470	18,680	20,242
Number of Reports Substantiated ¹	1,967 (17%)	1,801 (15%)	1,839 (15%)	1,924 (15%)	2,299 (17%)	1,807 (12%)
Number of Reports Investigated	12,673	13,848	14,330	14,634	15,729	17,428
Number of Reports Referred to Family Builders	4,284	3,527	2,644	2,691	2,781	2,628
Number of Substantiated Investigations- with No Services After Investigation is Closed	600	538	459	306	565	570
Number of Substantiated Investigations-In-Home Services Provided After Investigation is Closed	847	874	828	721	1,035	1,188
Number of Substantiated Investigations-Out of Home Services Provided After Investigation is Closed	695	717	676	662	890	986
Number of new removals	2,387	2,501	2,655	2,961	3,349	3,504
Number of new removals with Voluntary under 18	N/A	306	294	332	311	256
Percentage of Annualized Turnover Rate of Staff	21.58%	21.58%	N/A	23.5%	27.66%	N/A ²
Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care on the Last Day of the Reporting Period	6,121	6,104	6,270	6,826	7,535	8,246
Number of Children in Shelter for More than 21 Days	959	1,028	1,098	1,300	1,323	1,431
Number and Percentage of Children Receiving Visitation During the Last Month of the Reporting Period	4,152 (68%)	4,224 (69%)	4,249 (68%)	4,656 (68%)	4,890 (65%)	5,266 (64%)
Number and Percentage of Children not Receiving Visitation	1,969 (32%)	1,880 (31%)	2,021 (32%)	2,170 (32%)	2,645 (35%)	2,980 (36%)
Number and Percentage of Parents Receiving Visitation	639 (56%)	676 (58%)	772 (56%)	858 (55%)	851 (50%)	973 (51%)
Number of Licensed Foster Homes	1,792	1,756	1,778	1,865	1,892	2,007
Number of Foster Home Spaces Available to ACYF	4,211	3,683	3,731	3,923	3,982	3,691
Number of New Foster Homes	196	149	217	283	308	334
Number of Foster Homes Closed	192	183	195	196	281	219
Number and Percentage of Foster Homes Receiving Visitation During the Last Quarter of the Reporting Period	1,359 (76%)	1,399 (80%)	1,604 (90%)	1,695 (91%)	1,606 (85%)	1,774 (88%)
Number and Percentage of Foster Homes not Receiving Visitation	433 (24%)	357 (20%)	174 (10%)	170 (9%)	286 (15%)	233 (12%)
Number of Children Leaving DES Custody	2,394	2,417	2,376	2,275	2,528	2,655
Number of Children With a Case Plan Goal of Adoption	1,552	1,450	1,666	1,459	1,485	1,629
Number of Children With a Finalized Adoption	467	413	364	398	408	380

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.

² Effective with this report, the performance measure is now reported in the Child Protective Services Accountability Factors Report; pursuant to Laws 2003, 2nd special session, Chapter 6 (HB 2024). One of the impacts of HB 2024 was to eliminate redundancy in reporting performance measures and turnover rate is not required in the reporting of the Semi-Annual reporting requirements.

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.

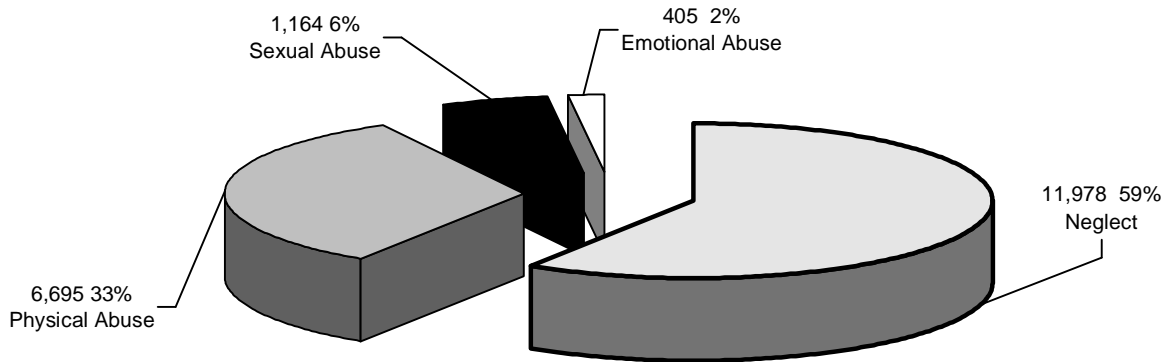
Between October 1, 2003 and March 31, 2004, there were 20,242 incoming communications to the Child Abuse Hotline which met the criteria of a report of abuse or neglect. Of these, 186 were within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments and were referred to those jurisdictions. This compares to 18,680 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 October 2003 through March 2004 shows 11,978 or 59% of the 20,242 reports of maltreatment were related to allegations of neglect, 6,695 or 33% of the reports were related to allegations of physical abuse, 1,164 or 6% of the reports were related to allegations of sexual abuse, and 405 or 2% of the reports were related to allegations of emotional abuse.

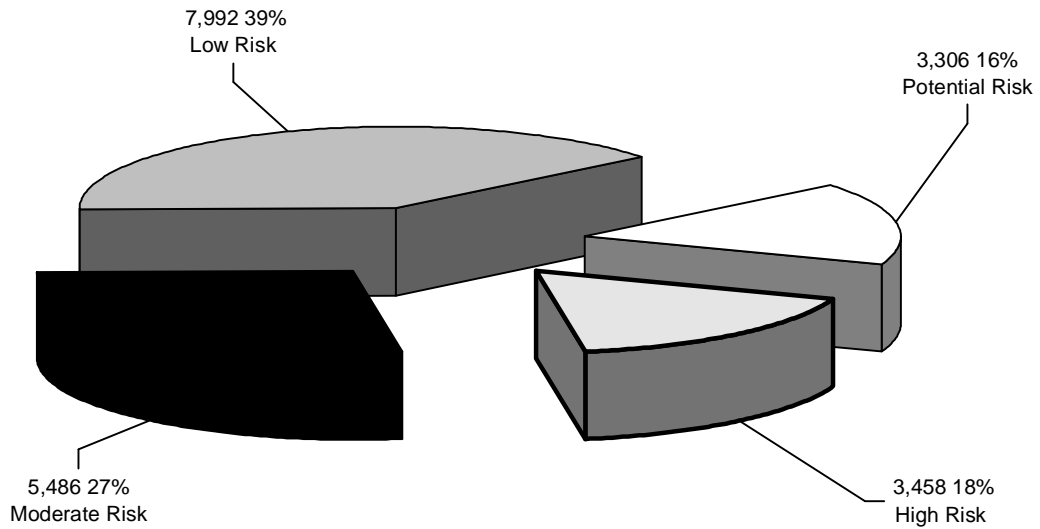
The second pie chart, on the following page, provides the number of reports received by report risk level for the October 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004 reporting period. Based on the type of maltreatment described in the report a risk level is assigned to the reports of alleged abuse. The pie chart shows 3,458 or 17% of the reports received were High Risk reports, 5,486 or 27% of the reports were Moderate Risk reports, 7,992 or 39% of the reports were classified as Low Risk reports, and 3,306 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
October 2003 – March 2004	11,978	6,695	1,164	405	20,242

**NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED BY CATEGORY OF MALTREATMENT
FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2003 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2004**



**NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED BY RISK LEVEL FOR THE PERIOD
OCTOBER 1, 2003 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2004**

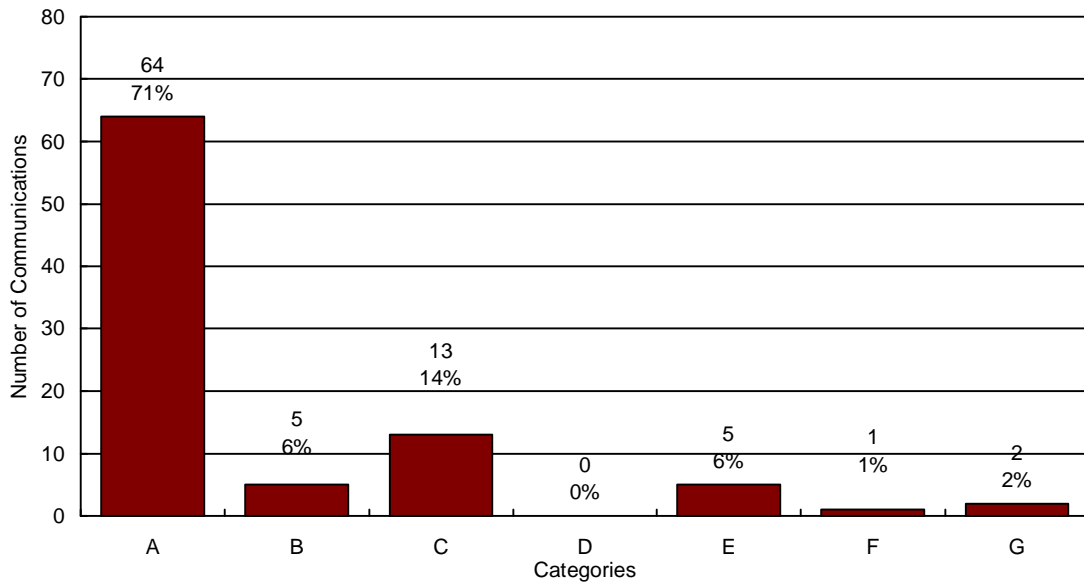


N=20,242

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

In addition to the 20,242 reports during the current reporting period, the Child Abuse Hotline received 8,981 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 Jurisdiction³**
- 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.

³ 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:

- 20,056 reports appropriate for investigation
- 186 reports fell within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments
- 17,428 reports investigated by CPS
- 2,628 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 OCTOBER 1, 2003 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2004**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	12	20	43	10	85	<1%
COCHISE	91	176	191	83	541	3%
COCONINO	128	156	293	156	733	4%
GILA	49	72	96	49	266	1%
GRAHAM	18	39	42	22	121	1%
GREENLEE	2	6	11	7	26	<1%
LA PAZ	11	14	25	6	56	<1%
MARICOPA	2,178	3,158	4,564	1,977	11,877	59%
MOHAVE	118	240	343	130	831	4%
NAVAJO	30	52	53	15	150	1%
PIMA	441	936	1,465	573	3,415	17%
PINAL	163	247	380	123	913	5%
SANTA CRUZ	19	20	49	15	103	1%
YAVAPAI	99	229	216	64	608	3%
YUMA	99	121	221	76	517	3%
STATEWIDE	3,458	5,468	7,992	3,306	20,242	100%
% OF TOTAL	17%	27%	39%	17%	100%	

**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 TYPE OF MALTREATMENT AND COUNTY
FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2003 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2004**

COUNTY	EMOTIONAL ABUSE	NEGLECT	PHYSICAL ABUSE	SEXUAL ABUSE	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	6	52	20	7	85	<1%
COCHISE	13	353	153	22	541	3%
COCONINO	26	454	211	42	733	4%
GILA	3	172	72	19	266	1%
GRAHAM	6	69	39	7	121	1%
GREENLEE	0	18	8	0	26	<1%
LA PAZ	2	37	14	3	56	<1%
MARICOPA	207	6,886	4,111	673	11,877	59%
MOHAVE	12	508	256	55	831	4%
NAVAJO	6	97	33	14	150	1%
PIMA	81	2,028	1,130	176	3,415	17%
PINAL	20	561	277	55	913	5%
SANTA CRUZ	2	55	40	6	103	1%
YAVAPAI	8	352	197	51	608	3%
YUMA	13	336	134	34	517	3%
STATEWIDE	405	11,978	6,695	1,164	20,242	100%
% OF TOTAL	2%	59%	33%	6%	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%	

SUBSTANTIATED INVESTIGATIONS

During the reporting period 15,397 reports were investigated and subject to substantiation, with 12% or 1,807 of the reports resulting in a substantiated finding of child abuse or neglect.⁴ This compares to a revised substantiation rate of 17%, or 2,299 reports, for the period of April 2003 through September 2003. In addition, during the reporting period, October 2003 through March 2004, there were 664 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 services⁵; 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.

⁴ As of January 25, 1999 the Department does not substantiate potential risk reports.

⁵ 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 INVESTIGATION⁶ BY RISK LEVEL AND COUNTY FOR THE
PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2003 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2004**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	1	0	0	0	1	<1%
COCHISE	2	8	3	0	13	2%
COCONINO	5	5	5	0	15	3%
GILA	0	5	4	0	9	2%
GRAHAM	2	1	1	0	4	1%
GREENLEE	0	0	0	0	0	0%
LA PAZ	0	0	0	0	0	0%
MARICOPA	103	103	127	0	333	57%
MOHAVE	4	2	1	0	7	1%
NAVAJO	0	1	0	0	1	<1%
PIMA	26	50	53	0	129	23%
PINAL	11	8	18	0	37	6%
SANTA CRUZ	0	2	1	0	3	1%
YAVAPAI	2	6	3	0	11	2%
YUMA	3	3	1	0	7	1%
STATEWIDE	159	194	217	0	570	100%
% OF TOTAL	28%	34%	38%	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 OCTOBER 1, 2003 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2004**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	1	2	2	0	5	<1%
COCHISE	16	16	13	0	45	4%
COCONINO	21	6	6	0	33	3%
GILA	9	7	9	0	25	2%
GRAHAM	7	9	6	0	22	2%
GREENLEE	0	0	0	0	0	0%
LA PAZ	1	0	0	0	1	<1%
MARICOPA	299	163	116	0	578	49%
MOHAVE	13	3	2	0	18	2%
NAVAJO	0	0	0	0	0	0%
PIMA	137	122	101	0	360	30%
PINAL	22	10	12	0	44	4%
SANTA CRUZ	2	2	4	0	8	1%
YAVAPAI	12	11	2	0	25	2%
YUMA	12	5	7	0	24	2%
STATEWIDE	552	356	280	0	1,188	100%
% OF TOTAL	46%	30%	24%	0%	100%	

⁶ 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 OCTOBER 1, 2003 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2004**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	1	1	2	0	4	<1%
COCHISE	16	8	11	0	35	4%
COCONINO	23	4	3	0	30	3%
GILA	6	3	4	0	13	1%
GRAHAM	7	8	1	0	16	2%
GREENLEE	0	0	0	0	0	0%
LA PAZ	1	0	0	0	1	<1%
MARICOPA	247	112	81	0	440	45%
MOHAVE	10	2	0	0	12	1%
NAVAJO	1	0	0	0	1	<1%
PIMA	138	112	94	0	344	35%
PINAL	23	8	10	0	41	4%
SANTA CRUZ	2	1	3	0	6	1%
YAVAPAI	14	10	2	0	26	3%
YUMA	8	4	5	0	17	2%
STATEWIDE	497	273	216	0	986	100%
% OF TOTAL	50%	28%	22%	0%	100%	

CHILDREN ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME CARE

During the reporting period October 2003 through March 2004, 3,504 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 two newborn infants delivered to safe haven providers during the October 2003 – March 2004 reporting period. This compares to no infants being delivered to Safe Haven Providers during the April 2003 – September 2003 reporting period.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2003 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2004

COUNTY	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	27	1%
COCHISE	112	3%
COCONINO	108	3%
GILA	40	1%
GRAHAM	41	1%
GREENLEE	5	<1%
LA PAZ	5	<1%
MARICOPA	1,847	53%
MOHAVE	73	2%
NAVAJO	30	1%
PIMA	878	25%
PINAL	127	4%
SANTA CRUZ	19	1%
YAVAPAI	110	3%
YUMA	82	2%
STATEWIDE	3,504	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

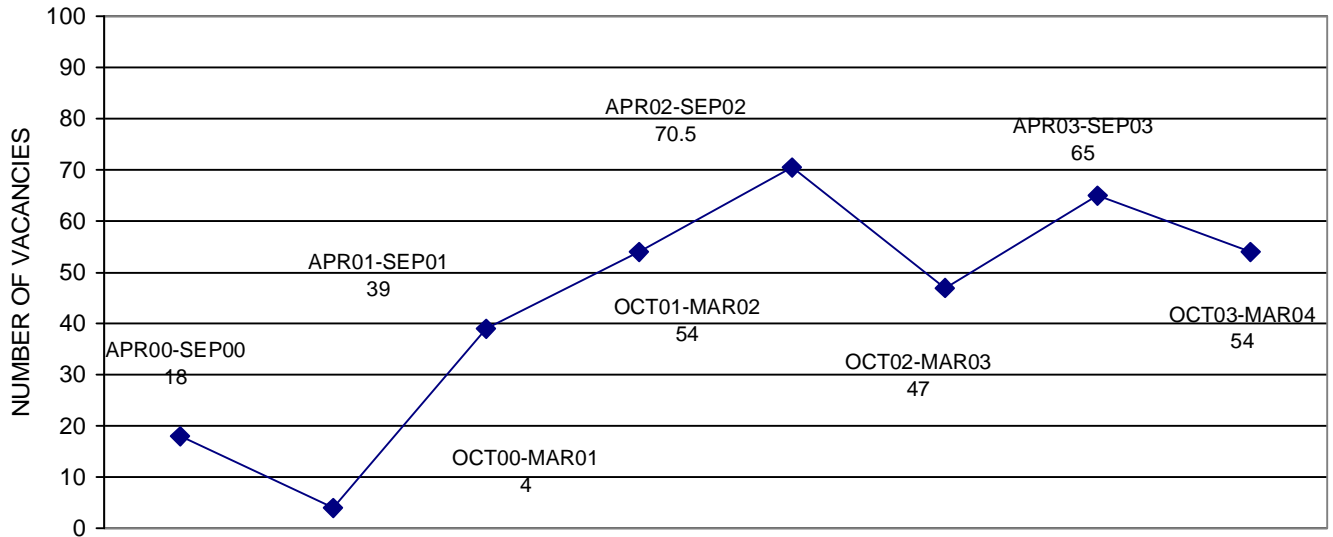
**NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME
CARE DUE TO A VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT BY COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OF
OCTOBER 1, 2003 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2004**

COUNTY	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	3	1%
COCHISE	4	2%
COCONINO	7	3%
GILA	0	0%
GRAHAM	6	2%
GREENLEE	0	0%
LA PAZ	3	1%
MARICOPA	162	63%
MOHAVE	16	6%
NAVAJO	5	2%
PIMA	5	2%
PINAL	4	2%
SANTA CRUZ	10	4%
YAVAPAI	14	5%
YUMA	17	7%
STATEWIDE	256	100%

DIRECT CLIENT SERVICES POSITIONS

There were 54 authorized Child Protective Services Specialist positions vacant on March 31, 2004. In addition, the DCYF training institute was in the process of training 38 staff to fill these vacancies.

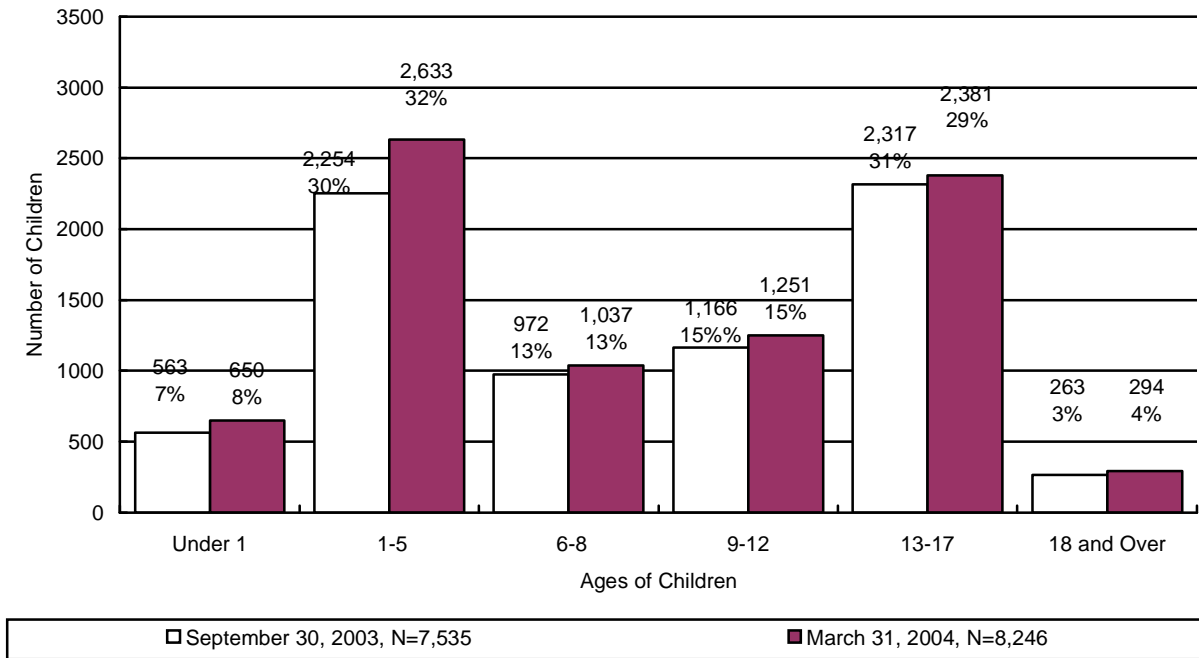
VACANCIES BY REPORTING PERIOD



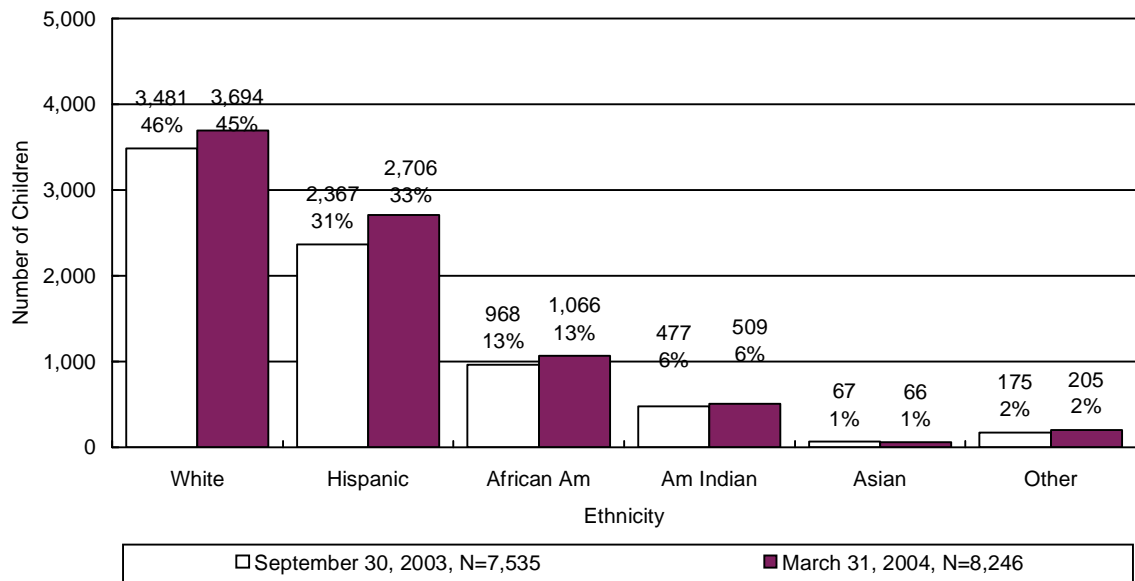
CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

On March 31, 2004, there were 8,246 children in out-of-home care. During the reporting period of October 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004, there were 3,504 children removed from their home for some period of time.

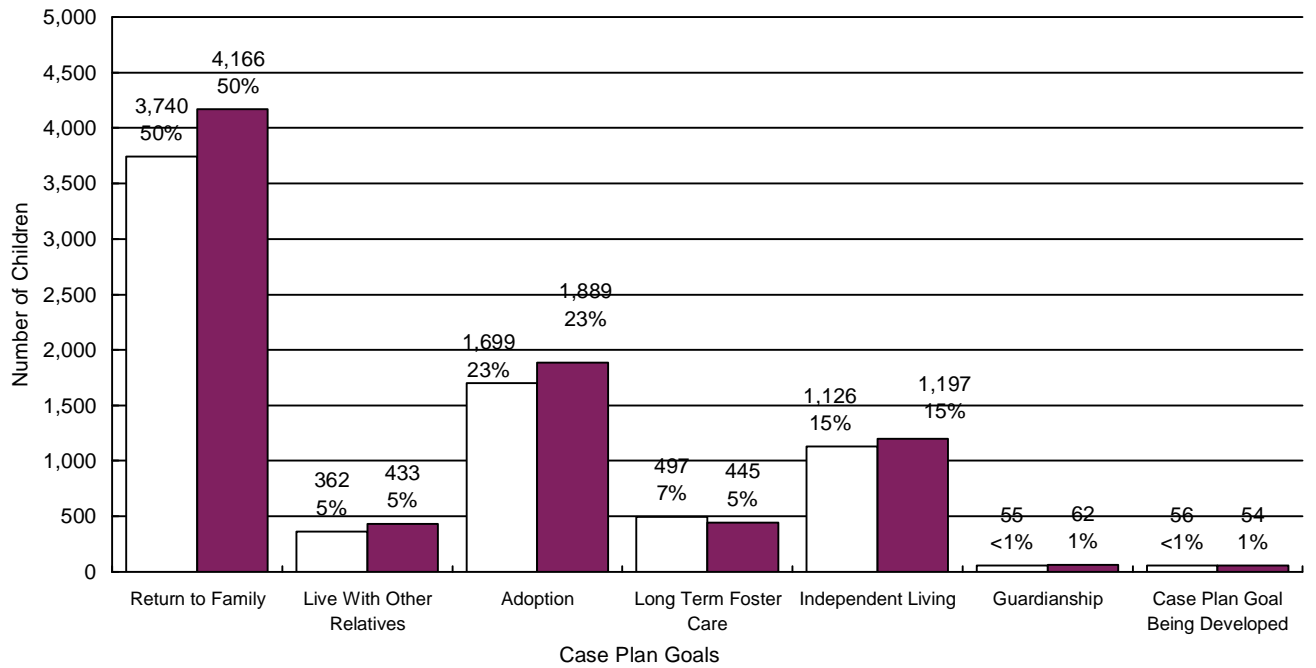
THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY AGE



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

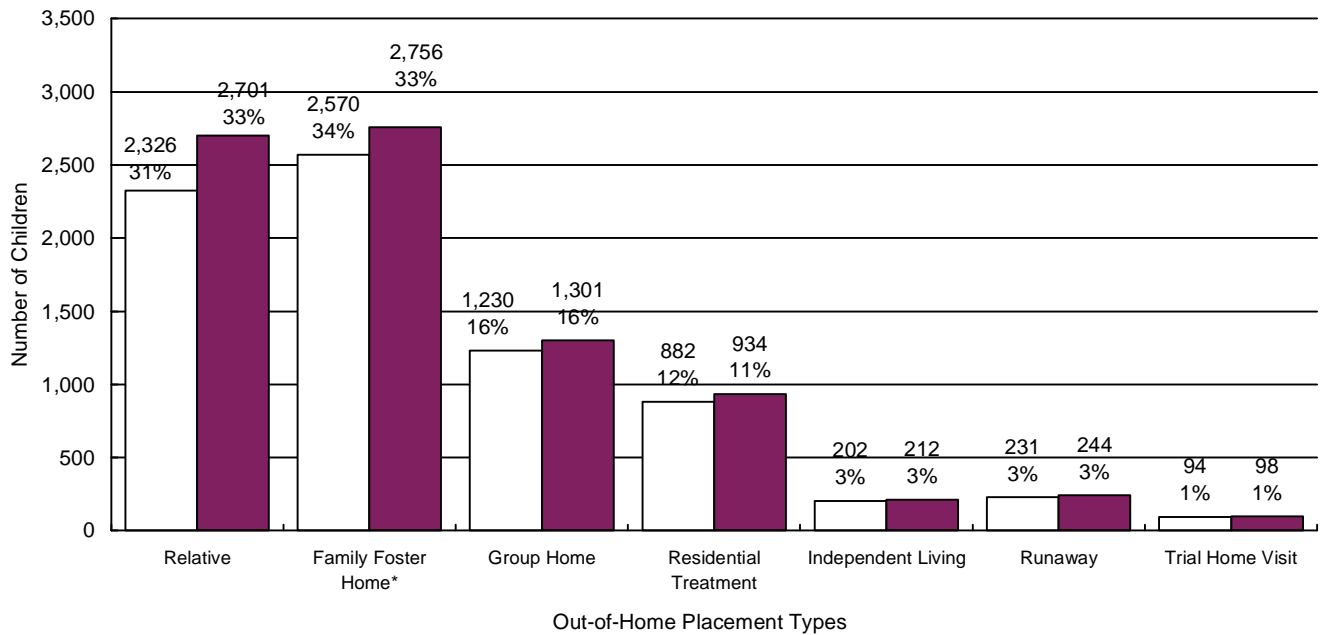


THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY CASE PLAN GOAL



□ September 30, 2003, N=7,535 ■ March 31, 2004, N=8,246

THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN CARE BY PLACEMENT TYPE

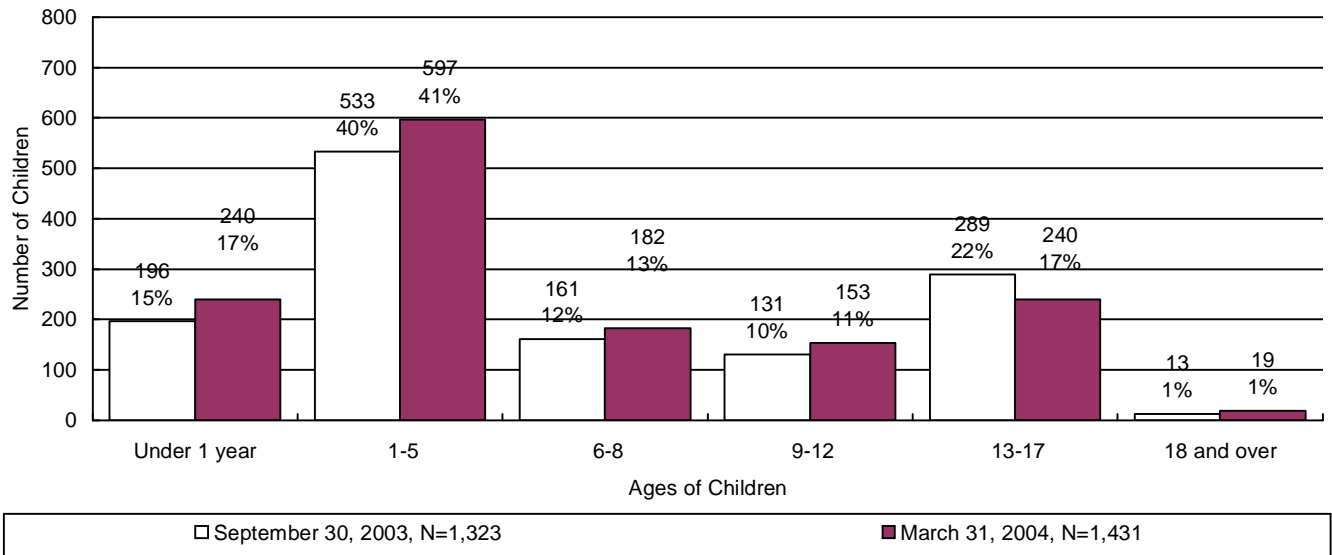


□ September 30, 2003, N=7,535 ■ March 31, 2004, N=8,246

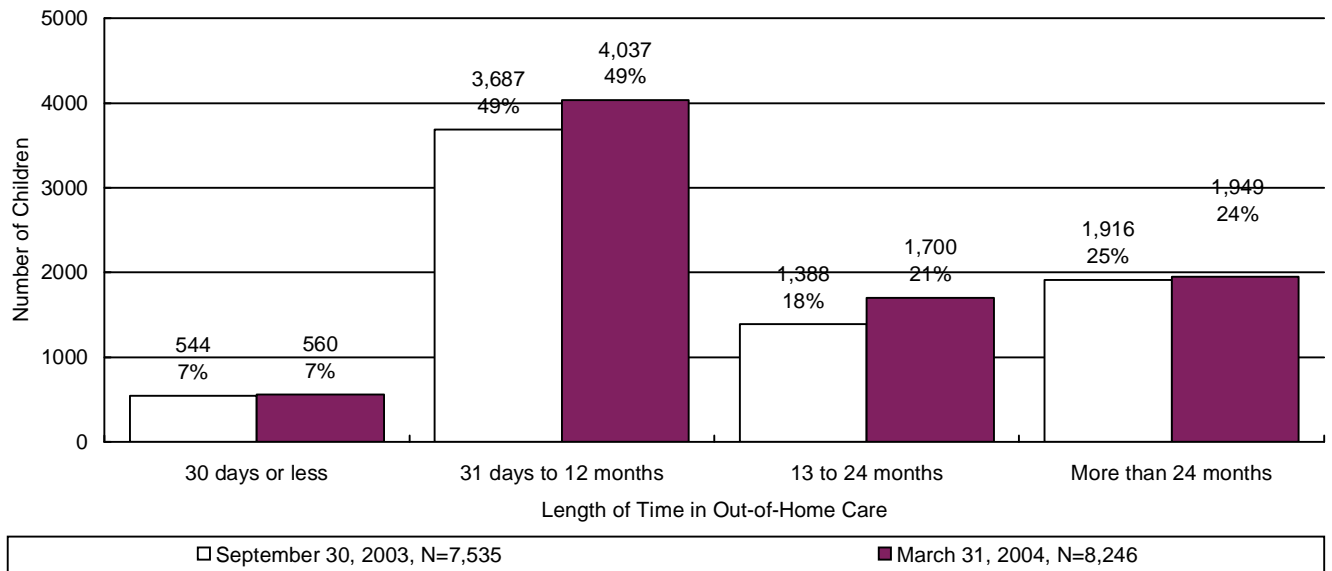
* Category includes some relative placements.

During the reporting period, 1,431 children remained in a shelter or receiving home for more than 21 consecutive days. (See Chart 4) For the period of October 2003 through March 2004, 594 or 42% of the children were six years of age or older. In addition, 240 or 17% of the children were under one year.

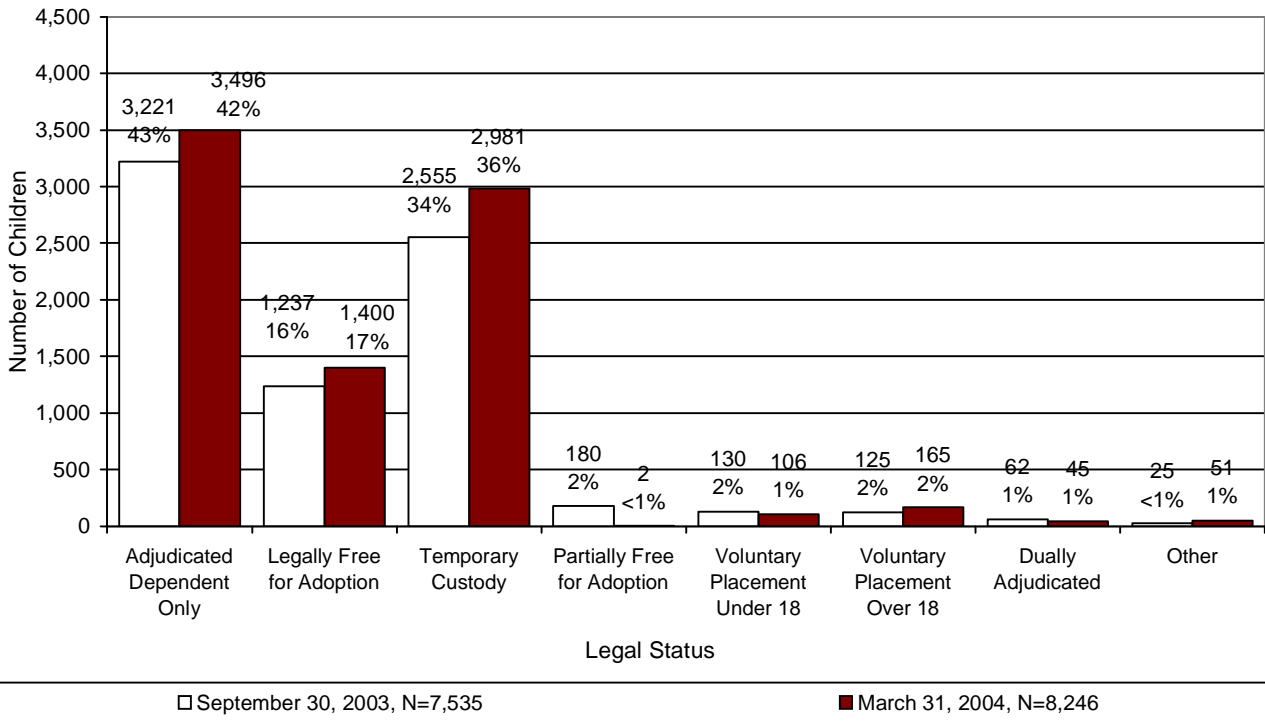
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN SHELTER OR RECEIVING HOMES FOR MORE THAN 21 CONSECUTIVE DAYS BY AGE OF CHILD



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



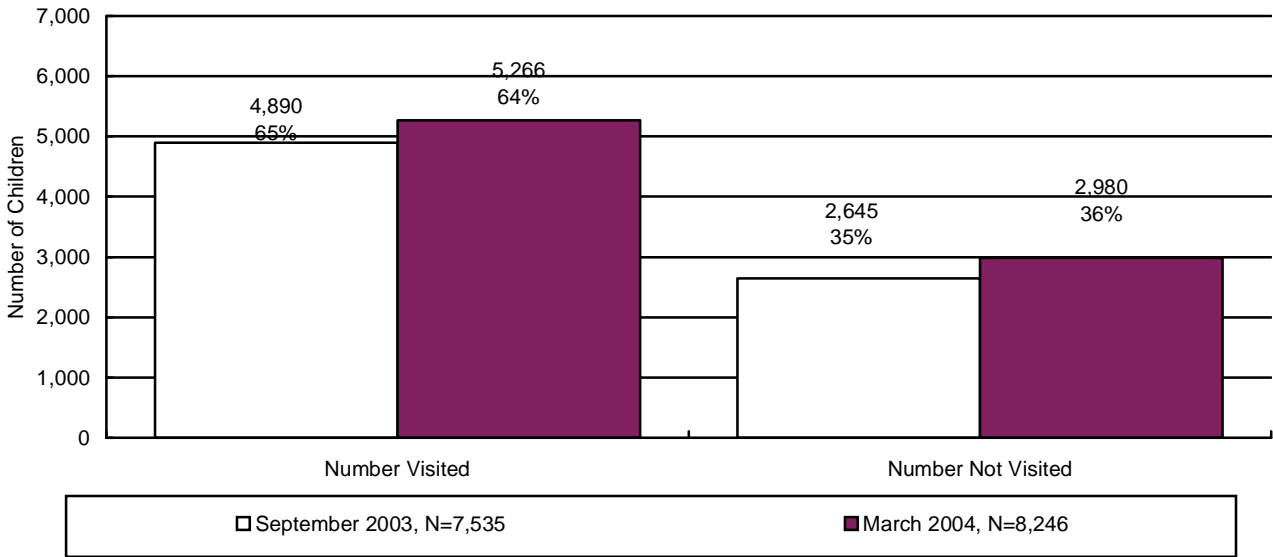
CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY LEGAL STATUS



At the end of the reporting period there were 8,246 children in out-of-home care who required visitation. Of these children, visitation was accurately documented in the automated system for 5,266 children or 64%.

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 1,918 parents who had a child with the case plan goal of return home. Of those parents requiring the visitation, 973 or 51% received the required visitation. The 51% visitation rate does not reflect attempted visitation where contact did not take place.

FOSTER HOMES

As of March 31, 2004, there were 2,007 licensed foster homes with 3,691 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.

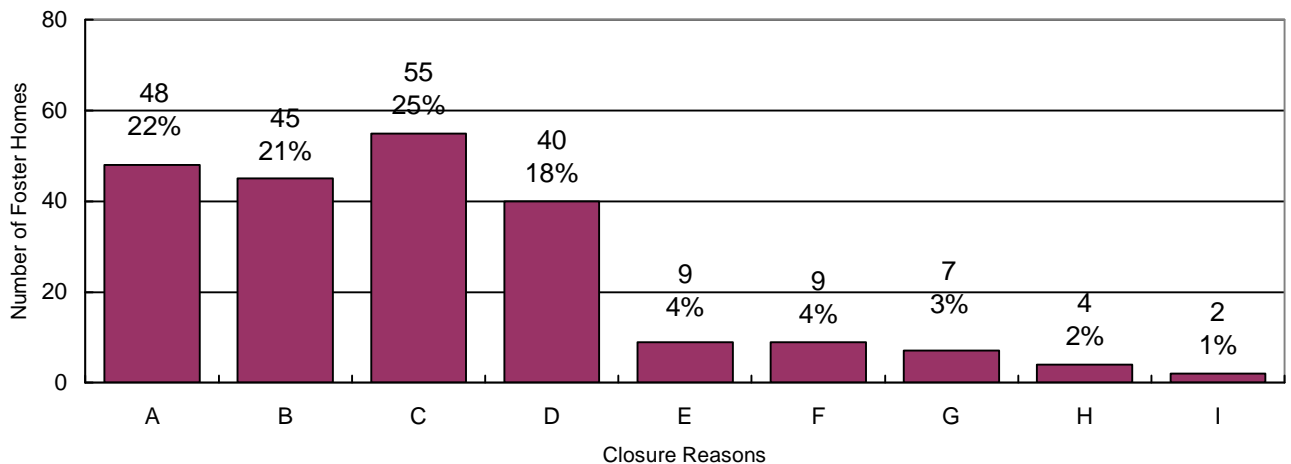
Foster home licenses specify the age range, gender and maximum number of children that can be placed in a home. Foster parents, in consultation with the licensing worker, decide the type of physical, behavioral and psychological needs of children they can effectively parent based upon their own skill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

As of March 31, 2004 there were 935 unused spaces within these foster homes. Approximately 547 of the 935 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, 334 new homes were licensed to provide foster care and 219 homes left the system. This compares to 308 new homes being licensed and 281 homes leaving the system for the period covering April 2003 through September 2003.

The chart below gives the reasons for foster home closures for the period of October 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004.

**REASON FOR FOSTER HOME CLOSURE FOR THE PERIOD OF
OCTOBER 1, 2003 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2004**

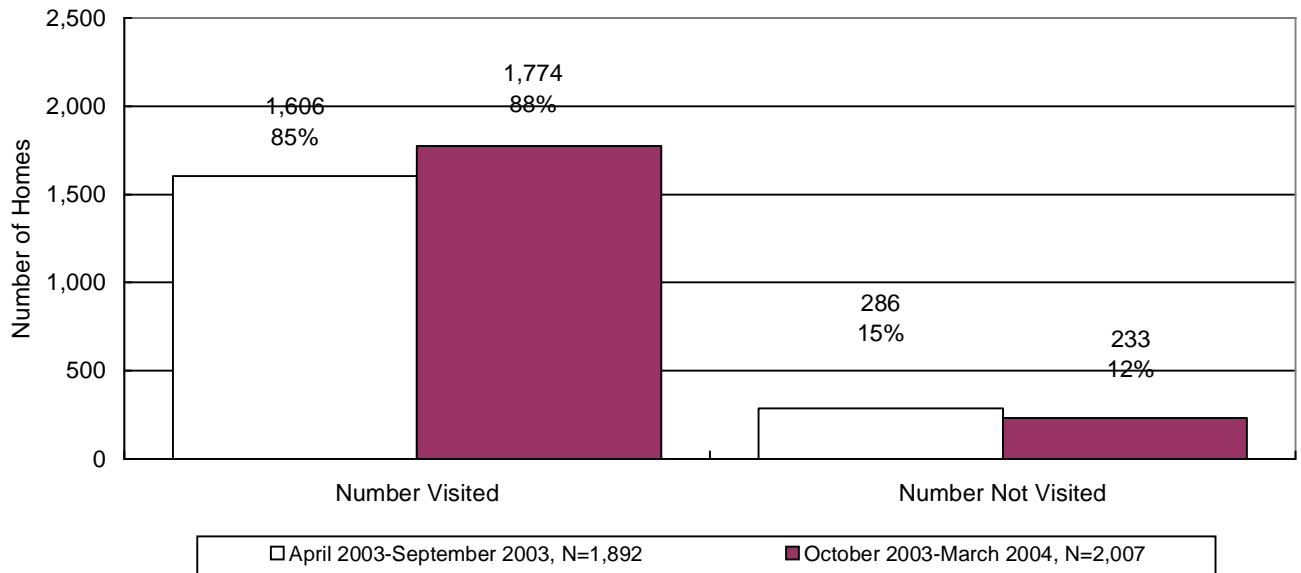


N= 219

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

During the reporting period there were 2,007 foster homes that required visitation. Of those homes 1,774 or 88% received the required visitation. This compares to 1,606 or 85% of the foster homes that received the required visitation for the period April 2003 through September 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 2,655 children left the custody of the Department. This compares to 2,528 children exiting care during the prior reporting period. The comparison between the two reporting periods shows that 5% 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%
OCTOBER 2003 – MARCH 2004	2,655	5%

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 MARCH 31, 2004

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	165	6%
Ages 1 - 5	889	33%
Ages 6 – 8	343	13%
Ages 9 - 12	349	13%
Ages 13 - 17	683	26%
18 and Over	226	9%
Total	2,655	100%
Ethnicity		
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	1,225	47%
Hispanic	860	32%
African American	260	10%
American Indian	190	7%
Asian	33	1%
Other	87	3%
Total	2,655	100%
By Number of Placements		
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	1,426	54%
Two	450	17%
Three	266	10%
Four	136	5%
Five	98	3%
More than Five	279	11%
Total	2,655	100%
By Length of Time in Care		
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	887	33%
31 Days to 12 Months	796	30%
13 to 24 Months	487	19%
More than 24 Months	485	18%
Total	2,655	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	8.31	9.12
By Number of Placements	1	2.66
By Months of Time in Care	7.53	13.97

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF “REUNIFICATION WITH PARENTS OR PRIMARY CARETAKER” FOR
THE REPORTING PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2004**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	119	8%
Ages 1 – 5	467	33%
Ages 6 – 8	188	13%
Ages 9 - 12	198	14%
Ages 13 - 17	430	31%
18 and Over	6	<1%
Total	1,408	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	647	47%
Hispanic	469	33%
African American	118	8%
American Indian	99	7%
Asian	19	1%
Other	56	4%
Total	1,408	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	904	65%
Two	255	18%
Three	109	8%
Four	58	4%
Five	34	2%
More than Five	48	3%
Total	1,408	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	661	47%
31 Days to 12 Months	509	36%
13 to 24 Months	166	12%
More than 24 Months	72	5%
Total	1,408	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	7.75	8.51
By Number of Placements	1	1.81
By Months of Time in Care	1.50	6.11

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF “LIVING WITH OTHER RELATIVES” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING MARCH 31, 2004**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	16	11%
Ages 1 - 5	52	36%
Ages 6 – 8	21	15%
Ages 9 - 12	16	11%
Ages 13 - 17	37	26%
18 and Over	1	1%
Total	143	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	52	36%
Hispanic	54	38%
African American	21	15%
American Indian	6	4%
Asian	1	1%
Other	9	6%
Total	143	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	122	85%
Two	16	11%
Three	3	2%
Four	1	1%
Five	0	0%
More than Five	1	1%
Total	143	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	120	84%
31 Days to 12 Months	21	15%
13 to 24 Months	0	0%
More than 24 Months	2	1%
Total	143	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	6.50	7.76
By Number of Placements	1	1.27
By Months of Time in Care	.13	1.53

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES
CUSTODY FOR REASON OF "ADOPTION" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING MARCH 31, 2004**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	0	0%
Ages 1 - 5	206	54%
Ages 6 - 8	74	19%
Ages 9 - 12	67	18%
Ages 13 - 17	33	9%
18 and Over	0	0%
Total	380	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	182	48%
Hispanic	133	35%
African American	45	12%
American Indian	15	4%
Asian	1	<1%
Other	4	<1%
Total	380	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	94	25%
Two	79	21%
Three	76	20%
Four	43	11%
Five	30	8%
More than Five	58	15%
Total	380	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	1	<1%
31 Days to 12 Months	13	3%
13 to 24 Months	146	38%
More than 24 Months	220	58%
Total	380	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	5.42	6.36
By Number of Placements	3.00	3.48
By Months of Time in Care	25.33	30.77

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF "GUARDIANSHIP" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING MARCH 31, 2004**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	17	5%
Ages 1 - 5	129	39%
Ages 6 - 8	55	16%
Ages 9 - 12	58	17%
Ages 13 - 17	79	23%
18 and Over	0	0%
Total	338	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	151	45%
Hispanic	101	30%
African American	29	9%
American Indian	43	13%
Asian	3	1%
Other	11	3%
Total	338	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	218	63%
Two	56	17%
Three	33	10%
Four	9	3%
Five	9	3%
More than Five	13	4%
Total	338	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	59	17%
31 Days to 12 Months	142	43%
13 to 24 Months	109	32%
More than 24 Months	28	8%
Total	338	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	7.14	8.03
By Number of Placements	1	1.77
By Months of Time in Care	12.24	11.55

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASONS OF "REACHING AGE OF MAJORITY" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING MARCH 31, 2004**

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	26	11%
18 and Over	216	89%
Total	242	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	129	54%
Hispanic	64	26%
African American	29	12%
American Indian	13	5%
Asian	4	2%
Other	3	1%
Total	242	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	16	7%
Two	21	9%
Three	25	10%
Four	16	7%
Five	19	8%
More than Five	145	59%
Total	242	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	3	1%
31 Days to 12 Months	44	18%
13 to 24 Months	45	19%
More than 24 Months	150	62%
Total	242	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	18	18.29
By Number of Placements	7	8.39
By Months of Time in Care	35.2	46.62

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF "TRANSFER TO ANOTHER AGENCY" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING MARCH 31, 2004**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	12	11%
Ages 1 - 5	34	30%
Ages 6 - 8	5	4%
Ages 9 - 12	9	8%
Ages 13 - 17	53	46%
18 and Over	1	1%
Total	114	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	53	47%
Hispanic	23	20%
African American	16	14%
American Indian	13	11%
Asian	5	4%
Other	4	4%
Total	114	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	49	43%
Two	21	18%
Three	19	17%
Four	8	7%
Five	5	4%
More than Five	12	11%
Total	114	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	22	19%
31 Days to 12 Months	61	53%
13 to 24 Months	19	17%
More than 24 Months	12	11%
Total	114	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	11.81	9.7
By Number of Placements	2	2.92
By Months of Time in Care	6.71	11.55

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF "RUNAWAY" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING MARCH 31, 2004**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	0	0%
Ages 1 - 5	0	0%
Ages 6 - 8	0	0%
Ages 9 - 12	1	4%
Ages 13 - 17	25	89%
18 and Over	2	7%
Total	28	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	10	36%
Hispanic	15	54%
African American	2	7%
American Indian	1	3%
Asian	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total	28	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	21	74%
Two	2	7%
Three	1	4%
Four	1	4%
Five	1	4%
More than Five	2	7%
Total	28	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	21	75%
31 Days to 12 Months	4	14%
13 to 24 Months	2	7%
More than 24 Months	1	4%
Total	28	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	16.34	1.12
By Number of Placements	1	2.07
By Months of Time in Care	.16	2.58

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF "DEATH OF CHILD" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD ENDING
MARCH 31, 2004**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	1	50%
Ages 1 - 5	1	50%
Ages 6 - 8	0	0%
Ages 9 - 12	0	0%
Ages 13 - 17	0	0%
18 and Over	0	0%
Total	2	100%

Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	1	50%
Hispanic	1	50%
African American	0	0%
American Indian	0	0%
Asian	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total	2	100%

By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	2	100%
Two	0	0%
Three	0	0%
Four	0	0%
Five	0	0%
More than Five	0	0%
Total	2	100%

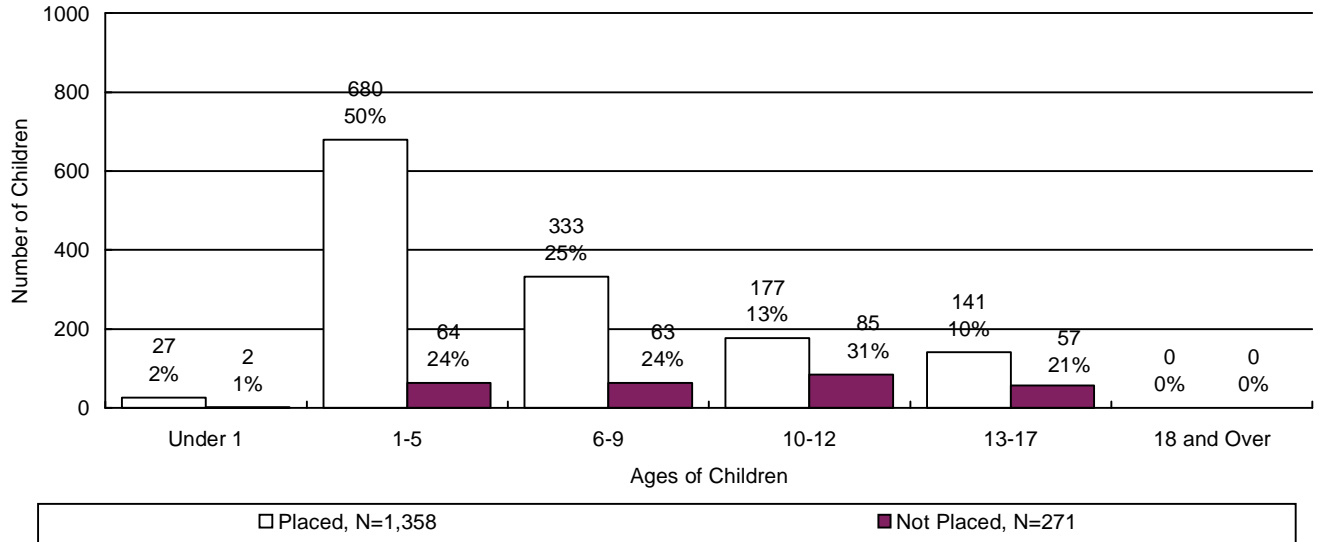
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	0	0%
31 Days to 12 Months	2	100%
13 to 24 Months	0	0%
More than 24 Months	0	0%
Total	2	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	2.47	2.47
By Number of Placements	1	1
By Months of Time in Care	4.82	4.82

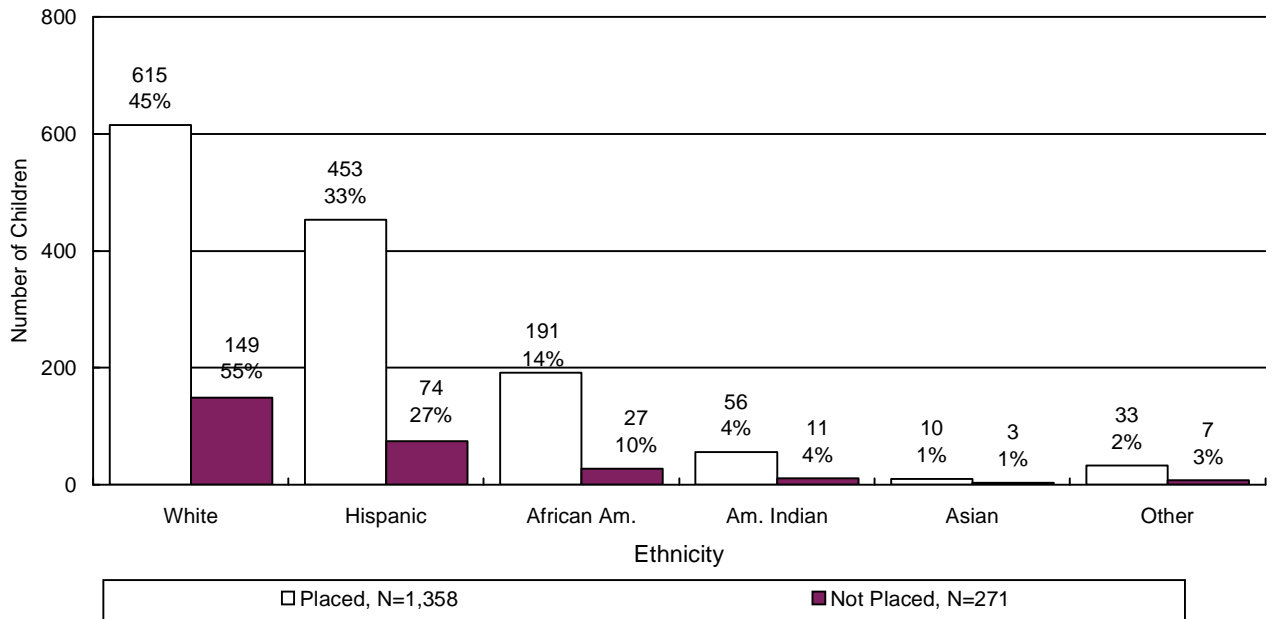
CHILDREN WITH ADOPTIVE CASE PLAN GOALS

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, 4 months.

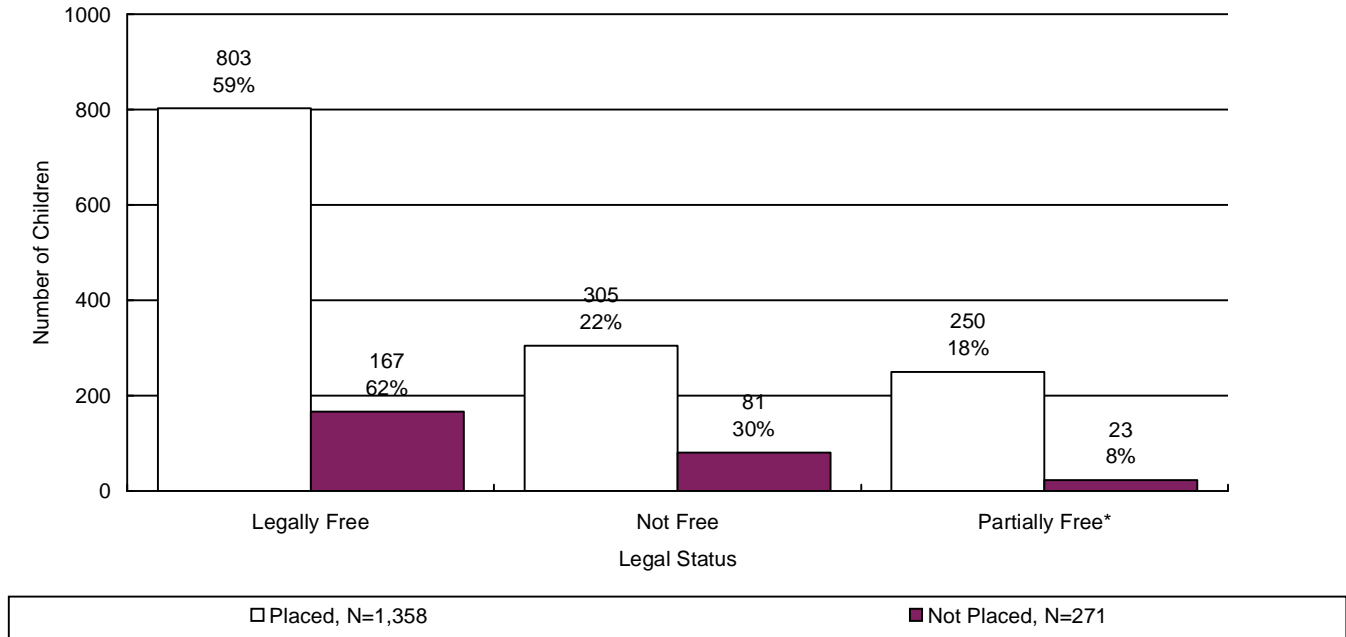
THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A CASE PLAN GOAL OF ADOPTION BY AGE



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

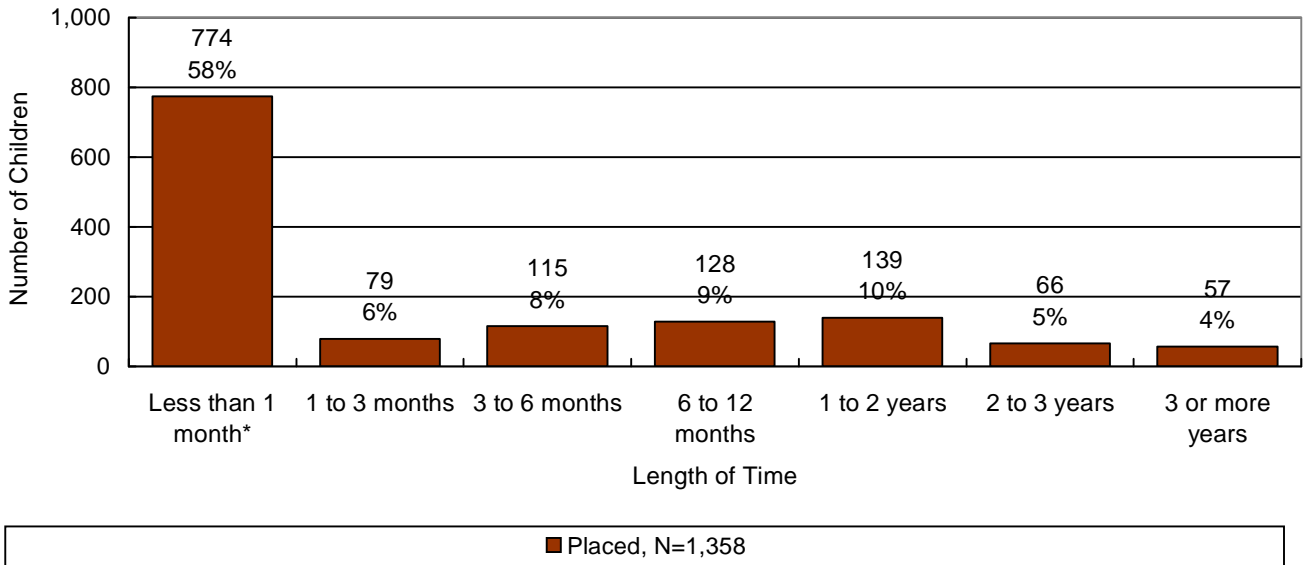


THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A CASE PLAN GOAL OF ADOPTION BY LEGAL STATUS



*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

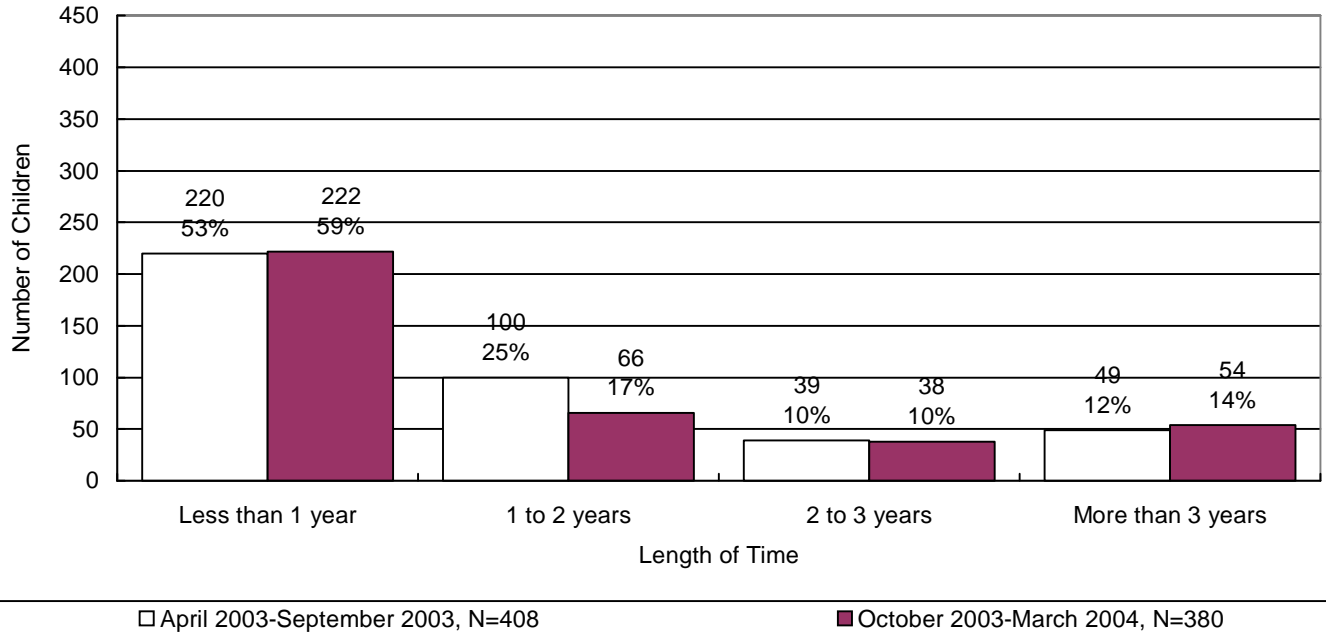


*About 70% of children are adopted by relatives or their foster parents and are already in their prospective adoptive placement at the time the case plan goal changes to adoption.

ADOPTIVE SERVICES

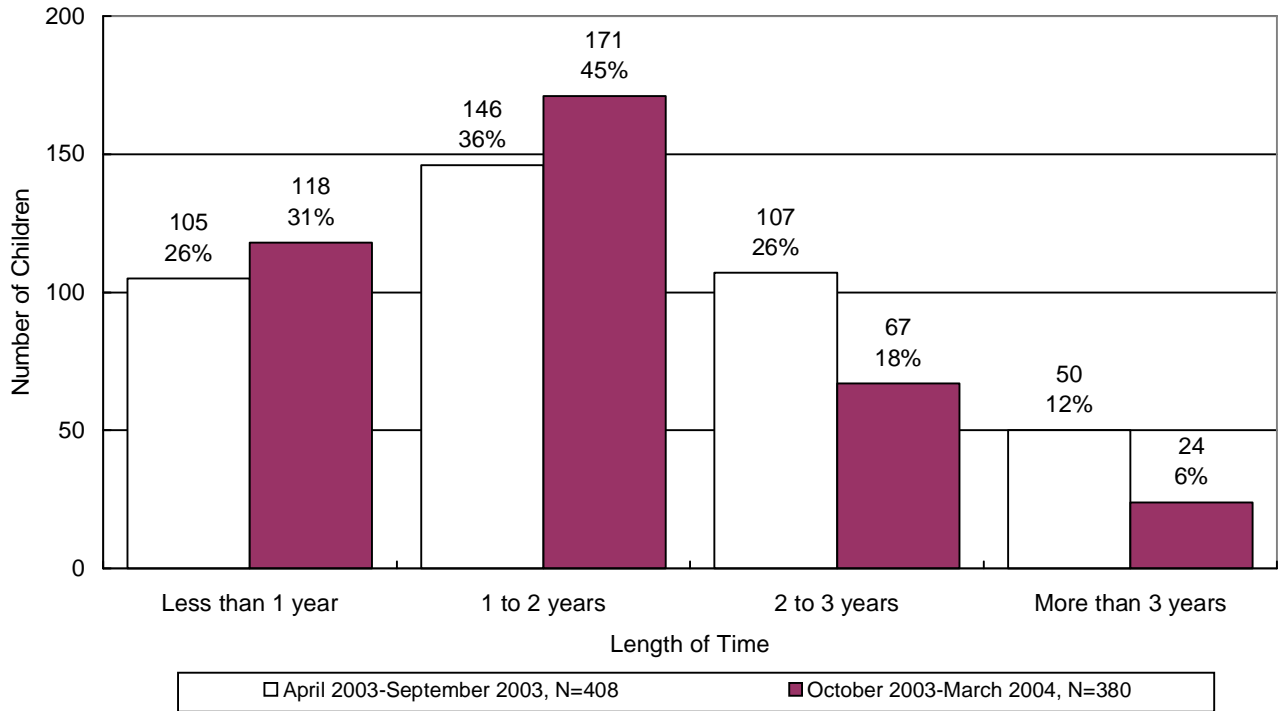
There were 380 children with a finalized adoption during the reporting period. The chart below displays the number of children with a finalized adoption during the reporting period by the average length of time in out-of-home placement before adoptive placement.

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



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.