

**CHILD WELFARE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

**SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE PERIOD OF**

**APRIL 1, 2004 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 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 31<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> 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, 2004 and ending on September 30, 2004

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**S.B. 1229**  
**APRIL 1, 2004 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 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 31<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> 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, 2004 through September 30, 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 19,165 reports of child abuse, neglect and abandonment. Of these reports, 154 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 19,011 reports. This response rate has been maintained by the Division since January, 1998. During the reporting period, an additional 10,868 communications were received by Child Protective Services Hotline that did not meet the criteria of a report.

During the reporting period, there were 1,520 substantiated findings of abuse or neglect. In-home services were received in 780 of these cases, out-of-home services were received in 581 of these cases, and 226 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, 2004, there were 8,839 children in out-of-home care in Arizona. Of the total number of children in out-of-home care, there were 2,866 children placed with relatives. One thousand eight hundred ninety-three (1,893) children of the 8,839 in out-of-home care had a case plan goal of adoption, and 1,624 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 five hundred thirty (4,530) children had a case plan goal of "Return to Family". Six thousand eight hundred five (6,805 or 77%) 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, 3,056 children were in family foster home settings. There were 2,191 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 1,723 (77%) of 2,191 foster homes this reporting period.

A.R.S. §8-516 also requires supervision of children in foster care. During this reporting period, 8,839 children in out-of-home care required visitation by their Child Protective Services case manager. Visitation was accurately documented for 5,475 (62%) of these children.

During the reporting period, 2,883 children left the care, custody and control of DES. The following are the reasons and the number of children who left care: 1,566 of the children were reunified with their parents or primary caretaker; 240 of the children reached the age of majority; 391 children left due to a legal guardianship being established; 161 of the children were placed with other relatives; 120 of the children were transferred to another agency; and 24 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 373 children with finalized adoptions.

## Semi-Annual Comparisons

	Oct 2001 - Mar 2002	Apr 2002– Sep 2002	Oct 2002 – Mar 2003	Apr 2003– Sep 2003	Oct 2003 – Mar 2004	Apr 2004– Sep 2004
Number of Reports	17,504	17,104	17,470	18,680	20,242	19,165
Number of Reports Substantiated <sup>1</sup>	1,801 (15%)	1,839 (15%)	1,924 (15%)	2,299 (17%)	2,363 (15%)	1,520 (10%)
Number of Reports Investigated	13,848	14,330	14,634	15,729	17,428	19,011
Number of Reports Referred to Family Builders	3,527	2,644	2,691	2,781	2,628	1,145
Number of Substantiated Investigations- with No Services After Investigation is Closed	538	459	306	565	570	226
Number of Substantiated Investigations-In-Home Services Provided After Investigation is Closed	874	828	721	1,035	1,188	780
Number of Substantiated Investigations-Out of Home Services Provided After Investigation is Closed	717	676	662	890	986	581
Number of new removals	2,501	2,655	2,961	3,349	3,504	3,630
Number of new removals with Voluntary under 18	306	294	332	311	256	279
Percentage of Annualized Turnover Rate of Staff	21.58%	N/A	23.5%	27.66%	N/A <sup>2</sup>	N/A
Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care on the Last Day of the Reporting Period	6,104	6,270	6,826	7,535	8,246	8,839
Number of Children in Shelter for More than 21 Days	1,028	1,098	1,300	1,323	1,431	1,319
Number and Percentage of Children Receiving Visitation During the Last Month of the Reporting Period	4,224 (69%)	4,249 (68%)	4,656 (68%)	4,890 (65%)	5,266 (64%)	5,475 (62%)
Number and Percentage of Children <b>not</b> Receiving Visitation	1,880 (31%)	2,021 (32%)	2,170 (32%)	2,645 (35%)	2,980 (36%)	3,364 (38%)
Number and Percentage of Parents Receiving Visitation	676 (58%)	772 (56%)	858 (55%)	851 (50%)	973 (51%)	1,049 (50%)
Number of Licensed Foster Homes	1,756	1,778	1,865	1,892	2,007	2,191
Number of Foster Home Spaces Available to ACYF	3,683	3,731	3,923	3,982	3,691	4,044
Number of New Foster Homes	149	217	283	308	334	410
Number of Foster Homes Closed	183	195	196	281	219	197
Number and Percentage of Foster Homes Receiving Visitation During the Last Quarter of the Reporting Period	1,399 (80%)	1,604 (90%)	1,695 (91%)	1,606 (85%)	1,774 (88%)	1,723 (77%)
Number and Percentage of Foster Homes <b>not</b> Receiving Visitation	357 (20%)	174 (10%)	170 (9%)	286 (15%)	233 (12%)	466 (21%)
Number of Children Leaving DES Custody	2,417	2,376	2,275	2,528	2,655	2,833
Number of Children With a Case Plan Goal of Adoption	1,450	1,666	1,459	1,485	1,629	1,893
Number of Children With a Finalized Adoption	413	364	398	408	380	373

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Effective with this report, the performance measure is now reported in the Child Protective Services Accountability Factors Report; pursuant to Laws 2003, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

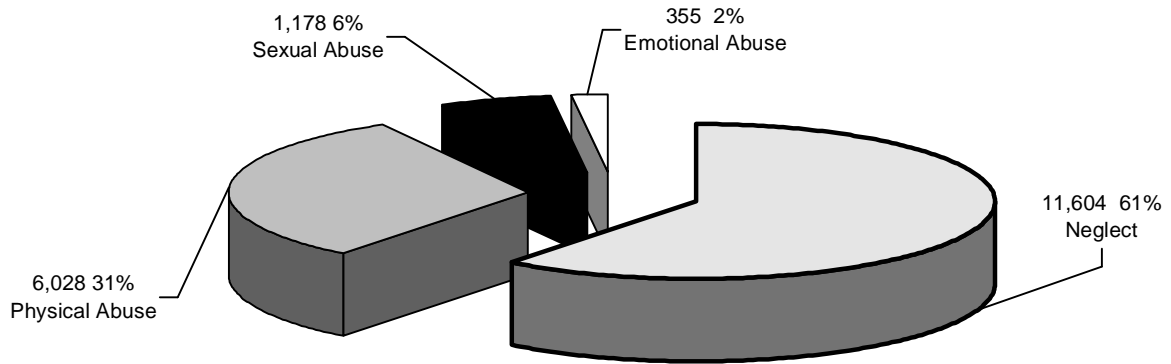
Between April 1, 2004 and September 30, 2004, there were 19,165 incoming communications to the Child Abuse Hotline which met the criteria of a report of abuse or neglect. Of these, 154 were within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments and were referred to those jurisdictions. This compares to 20,242 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 1, 2004 through September 30, 2004 shows 11,604 or 61% of the 19,165 reports of maltreatment were related to allegations of neglect, 6,028 or 31% of the reports were related to allegations of physical abuse, 1,178 or 6% of the reports were related to allegations of sexual abuse, and 355 or 2% of the reports were related to allegations of emotional abuse.

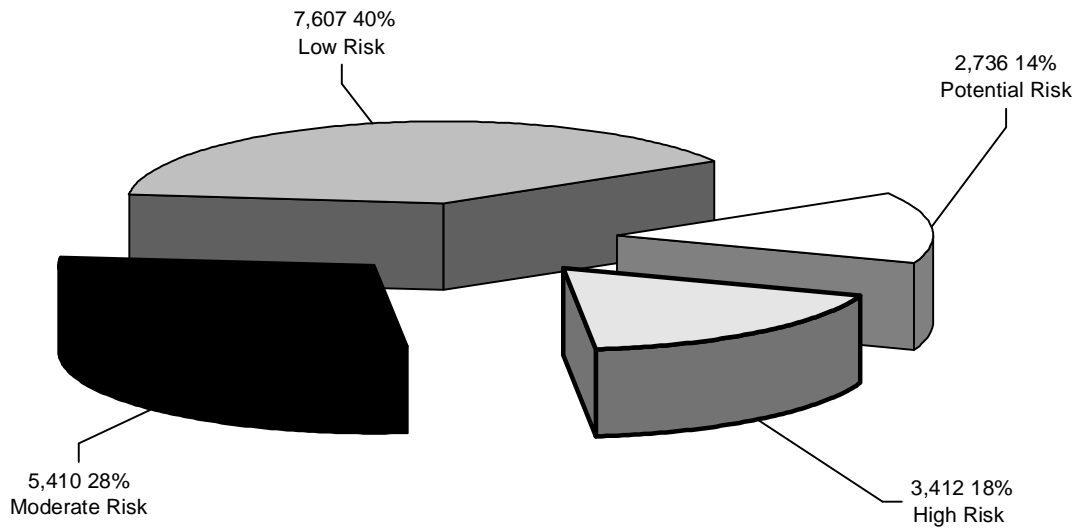
The second pie chart, on the following page, provides the number of reports received by report risk level for the April 1, 2004 through September 30, 2004 reporting period. Based on the type of maltreatment described in the report a risk level is assigned to the reports of alleged abuse. The pie chart shows 3,412 or 18% of the reports received were High Risk reports, 5,410 or 28% of the reports were Moderate Risk reports, 7,607 or 40% of the reports were classified as Low Risk reports, and 2,736 or 14% 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
April 2004 - September 2004	11,604	6,028	1,178	355	19,165

**NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED BY CATEGORY OF MALTREATMENT  
FOR PERIOD APRIL 1, 2004 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**



**NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED BY RISK LEVEL FOR THE PERIOD  
APRIL 1, 2004 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**



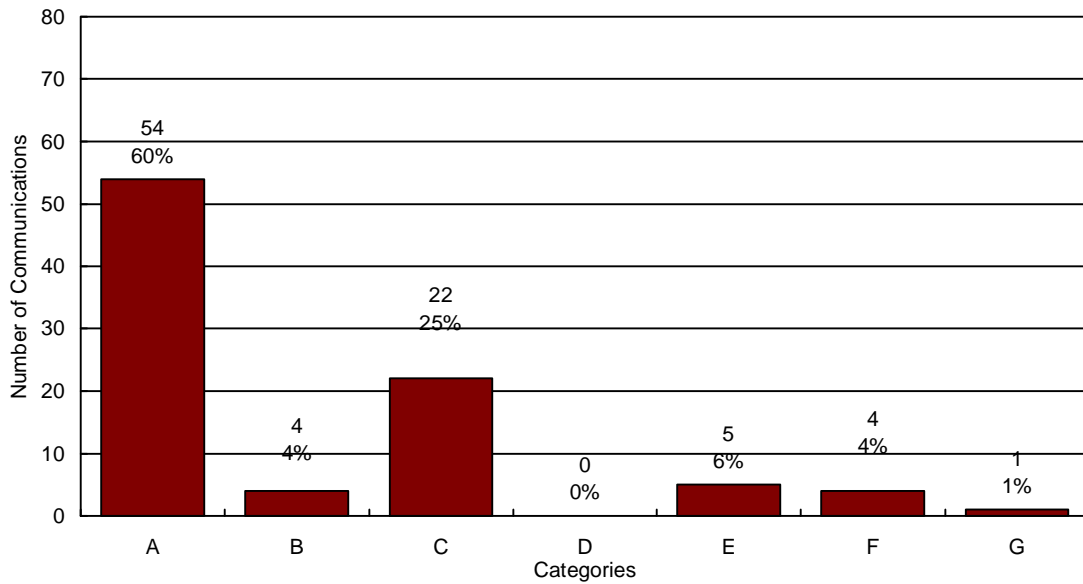
N=19,165

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



In addition to the 19,165 reports during the current reporting period, the Child Abuse Hotline received 10,868 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 Jurisdiction<sup>3</sup>**
- 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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. Effective July 1, 2004 all reports are being investigated by the Department. The Family Builders providers will be utilized in providing additional services to aid families while the Department will be responsible for the investigation.

Investigation data for the current reporting period:

- 19,011 reports appropriate for investigation
- 154 reports fell within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments
- 17,866 reports investigated by CPS
- 1,145 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, 2004 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	19	18	36	11	84	<1%
COCHISE	82	149	231	74	536	3%
COCONINO	88	118	196	104	506	3%
GILA	53	91	93	42	279	1%
GRAHAM	14	27	43	11	95	<1%
GREENLEE	8	10	13	6	37	<1%
LA PAZ	23	24	27	10	84	<1%
MARICOPA	2,167	3,145	4,381	1,610	11,303	59%
MOHAVE	112	237	301	84	734	4%
NAVAJO	75	79	94	38	286	1%
PIMA	392	929	1,361	477	3,159	16%
PINAL	162	250	366	114	892	5%
SANTA CRUZ	18	19	42	10	89	<1%
YAVAPAI	91	171	240	77	579	3%
YUMA	108	143	183	68	502	3%
STATEWIDE	3,412	5,410	7,607	2,736	19,165	100%
% OF TOTAL	18%	27%	40%	14%	100%	

**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 TYPE OF MALTREATMENT AND COUNTY  
FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2004 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**

COUNTY	EMOTIONAL ABUSE	NEGLECT	PHYSICAL ABUSE	SEXUAL ABUSE	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	12	51	26	5	84	<1%
COCHISE	16	333	153	34	536	3%
COCONINO	16	327	141	22	506	3%
GILA	2	197	67	13	279	1%
GRAHAM	7	56	28	4	95	<1%
GREENLEE	1	26	6	4	37	<1%
LA PAZ	0	57	23	4	84	<1%
MARICOPA	179	6,782	3,637	705	11,303	59%
MOHAVE	14	460	214	46	734	4%
NAVAJO	3	193	78	12	286	1%
PIMA	82	1,834	1,038	205	3,159	16%
PINAL	17	564	254	57	892	5%
SANTA CRUZ	2	52	31	4	89	<1%
YAVAPAI	6	360	177	36	579	3%
YUMA	8	312	155	27	502	3%
STATEWIDE	355	11,604	6,028	1,178	19,165	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, 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%	

**SUBSTANTIATED INVESTIGATIONS**

During the reporting period 15,681 reports were investigated and subject to substantiation, with 10% or 1,520 of the reports resulting in a substantiated finding of child abuse or neglect.<sup>4</sup> This compares to a revised substantiation rate of 15%, or 2,363 reports, for the period of October 2003 through March 2004. In addition, during the reporting period, April 2004 through September 2004, there were 526 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 10% 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 services<sup>5</sup>; 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.

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

<sup>5</sup> 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 INVESTIGATION<sup>6</sup> BY RISK LEVEL AND COUNTY FOR THE  
PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2004 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	0	0	0	0	0	0%
COCHISE	2	6	4	0	12	5%
COCONINO	4	4	3	0	11	5%
GILA	5	3	2	0	10	4%
GRAHAM	0	1	0	0	1	<1%
GREENLEE	0	0	1	0	1	<1%
LA PAZ	1	0	0	0	1	<1%
MARICOPA	43	48	44	0	135	60%
MOHAVE	1	1	0	0	2	1%
NAVAJO	1	2	0	0	3	1%
PIMA	7	8	15	0	30	13%
PINAL	0	1	1	0	2	1%
SANTA CRUZ	1	0	0	0	1	<1%
YAVAPAI	4	1	5	0	10	4%
YUMA	2	2	3	0	7	3%
STATEWIDE	71	77	78	0	226	100%
% OF TOTAL	31%	34%	35%	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, 2004 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	2	1	1	0	4	1%
COCHISE	21	9	5	0	35	4%
COCONINO	12	7	6	0	25	3%
GILA	8	5	1	0	14	2%
GRAHAM	6	2	1	0	9	1%
GREENLEE	0	1	1	0	2	<1%
LA PAZ	2	0	0	0	2	<1%
MARICOPA	195	77	65	0	337	43%
MOHAVE	11	8	4	0	23	3%
NAVAJO	9	3	2	0	14	2%
PIMA	98	74	62	0	234	30%
PINAL	21	14	14	0	49	6%
SANTA CRUZ	6	2	0	0	8	1%
YAVAPAI	11	5	3	0	19	2%
YUMA	4	2	1	0	5	1%
STATEWIDE	406	208	166	0	780	100%
% OF TOTAL	52%	27%	21%	0%	100%	

<sup>6</sup> 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, 2004 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	0	0	0	0	0	0%
COCHISE	2	5	3	0	10	2%
COCONINO	6	2	3	0	11	2%
GILA	5	3	1	0	9	2%
GRAHAM	0	3	1	0	4	1%
GREENLEE	0	0	0	0	0	0%
LA PAZ	12	0	0	0	2	<1%
MARICOPA	113	109	113	0	335	58%
MOHAVE	5	5	5	0	15	3%
NAVAJO	0	0	1	0	1	<1%
PIMA	42	60	46	0	148	25%
PINAL	9	10	6	0	25	4%
SANTA CRUZ	1	1	8	0	10	2%
YAVAPAI	3	2	3	0	8	1%
YUMA	0	2	1	0	3	1%
STATEWIDE	188	202	191	0	581	100%
% OF TOTAL	32%	35%	33%	0%	100%	

**CHILDREN ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME CARE**

During the reporting period April 2004 through September 2004, 3,630 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 2004 – September 2004 reporting period. This compares to two infants being delivered to Safe Haven Providers during the October 2003 – March 2004 reporting period.

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY COUNTY FOR THE  
PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2004 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**

COUNTY	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	12	<1%
COCHISE	115	3%
COCONINO	62	2%
GILA	43	1%
GRAHAM	43	1%
GREENLEE	1	<1%
LA PAZ	12	<1%
MARICOPA	1,957	54%
MOHAVE	106	3%
NAVAJO	73	2%
PIMA	775	21%
PINAL	201	6%
SANTA CRUZ	21	1%
YAVAPAI	124	3%
YUMA	85	2%
STATEWIDE	3,630	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



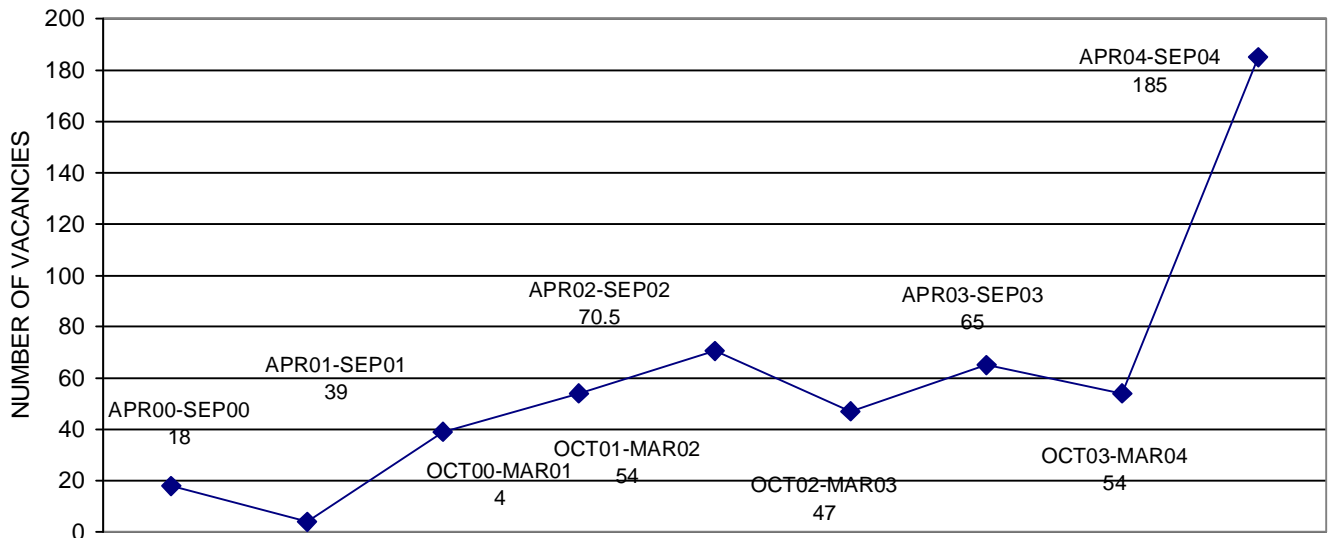
**NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME CARE DUE TO A VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT BY COUNTY FOR PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2004 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**

COUNTY	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	4	1%
COCHISE	1	<1%
COCONINO	3	1%
GILA	0	0%
GRAHAM	3	1%
GREENLEE	0	0%
LA PAZ	2	1%
MARICOPA	162	58%
MOHAVE	32	11%
NAVAJO	8	3%
PIMA	10	4%
PINAL	15	5%
SANTA CRUZ	2	1%
YAVAPAI	21	8%
YUMA	16	6%
STATEWIDE	279	100%

**DIRECT CLIENT SERVICES POSITIONS**

There were 185 authorized Child Protective Services Specialist positions vacant on September 30, 2004. In addition, the DCYF training institute was in the process of training 235 staff to fill these vacancies.

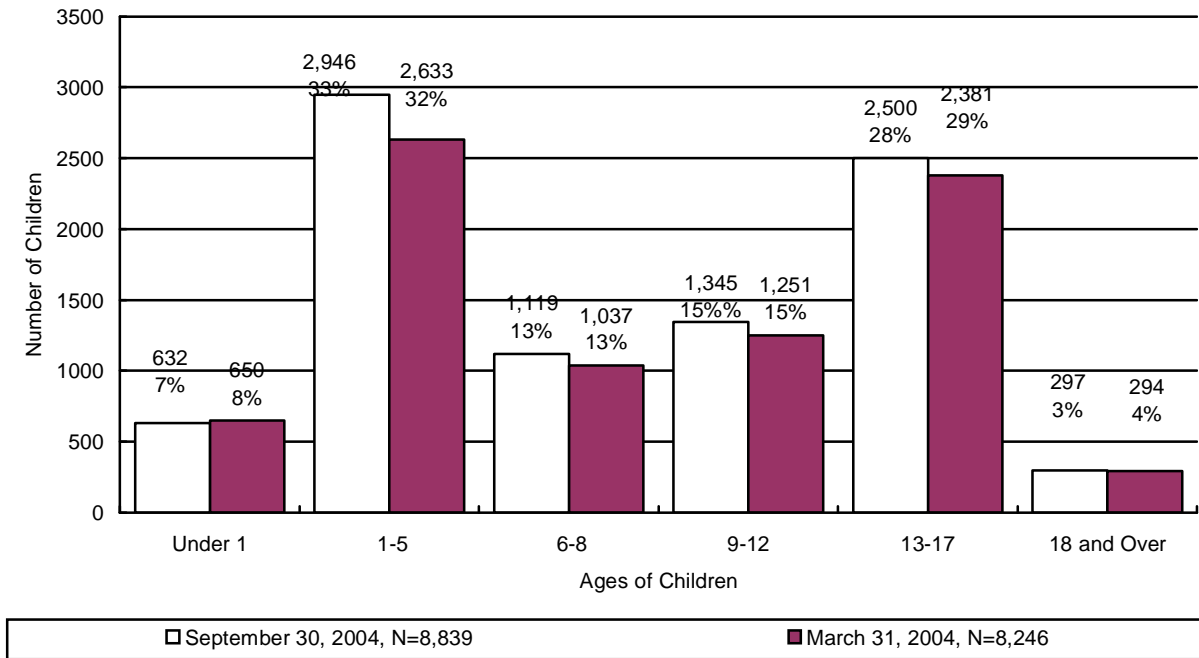
**VACANCIES BY REPORTING PERIOD**



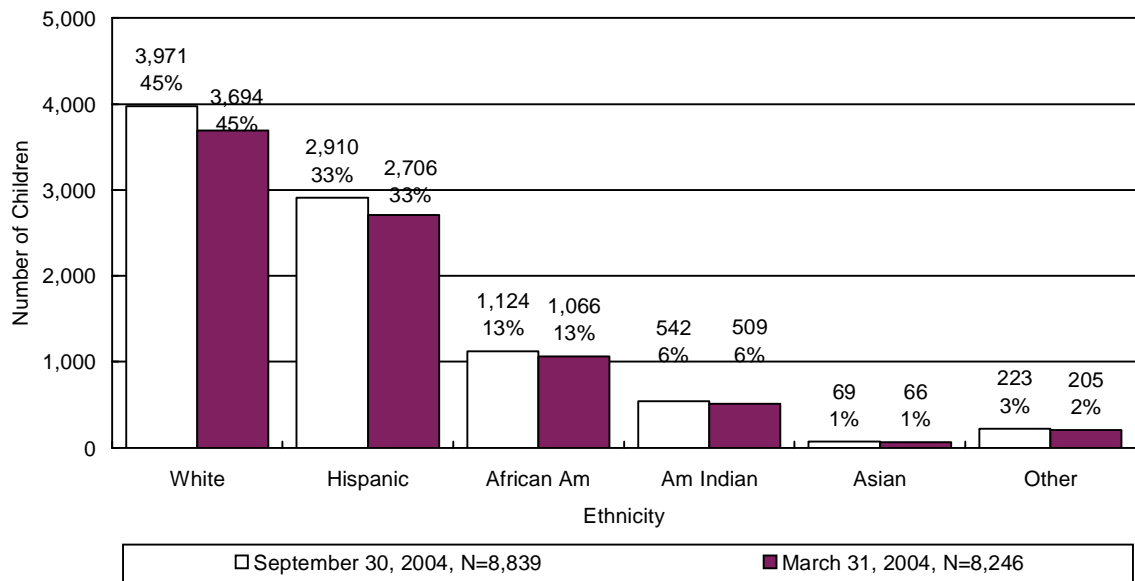
**CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE**

On September 30, 2004, there were 8,839 children in out-of-home care. During the reporting period of April 1, 2004 through September 30, 2004, there were 3,630 children removed from their home for some period of time.

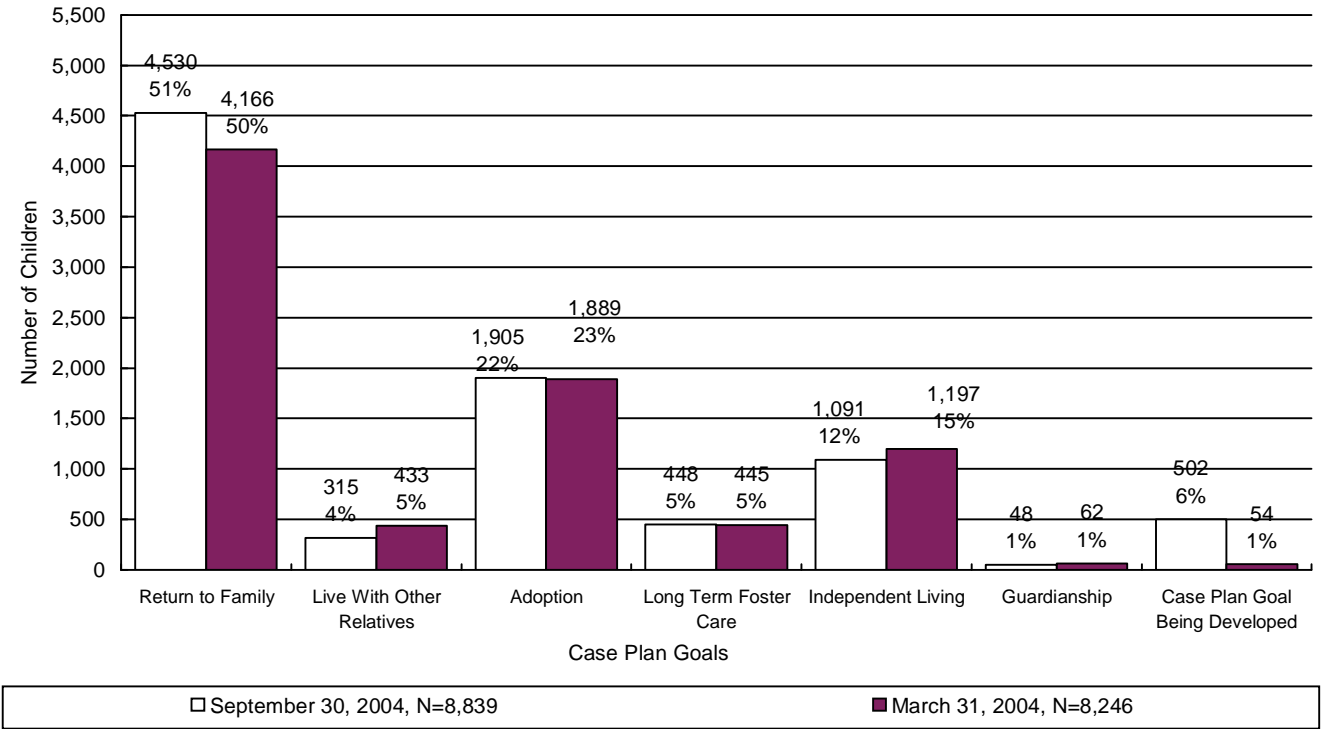
**THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY AGE**



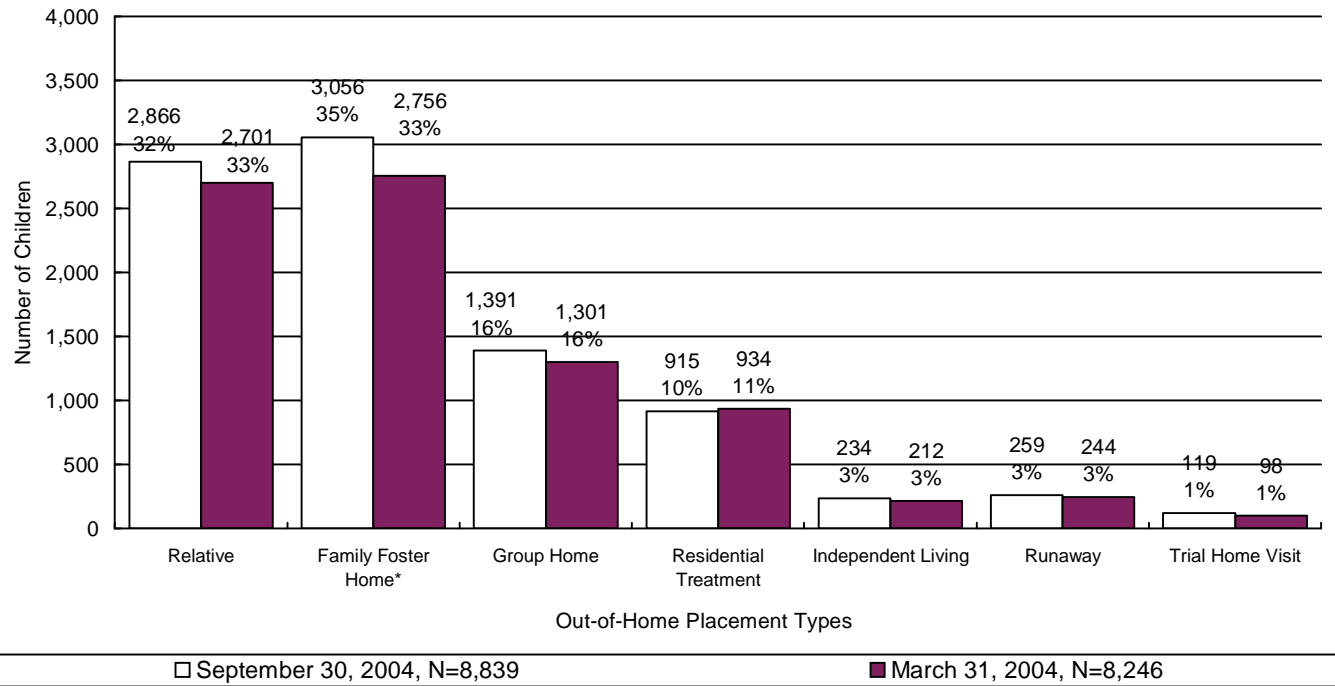
**THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY ETHNICITY**



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



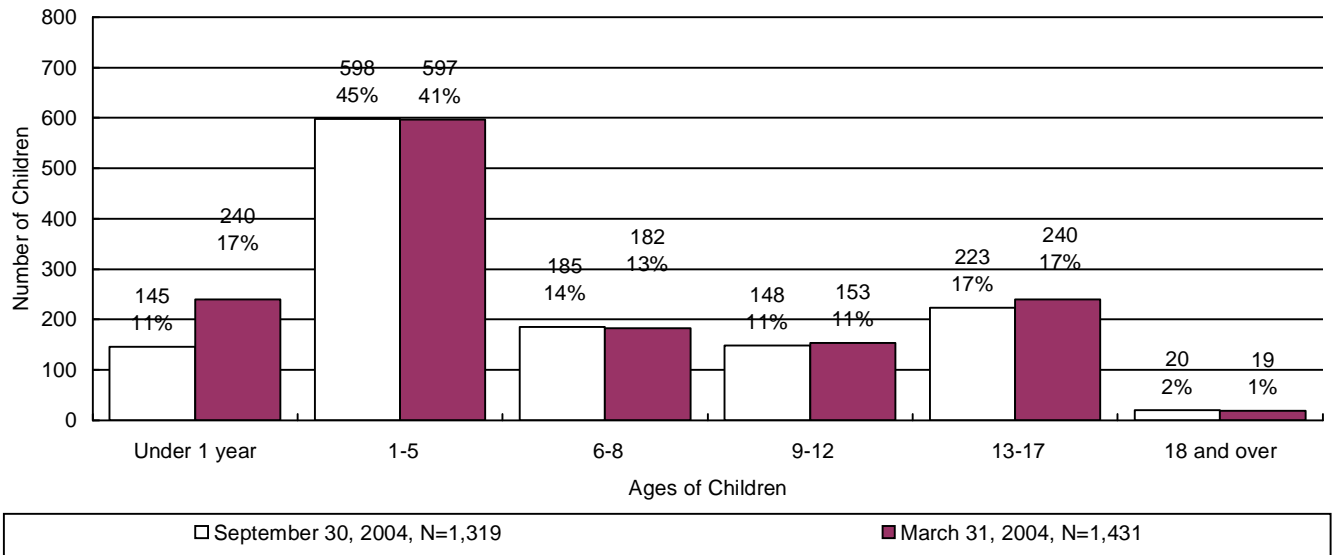
**THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN CARE BY PLACEMENT TYPE**



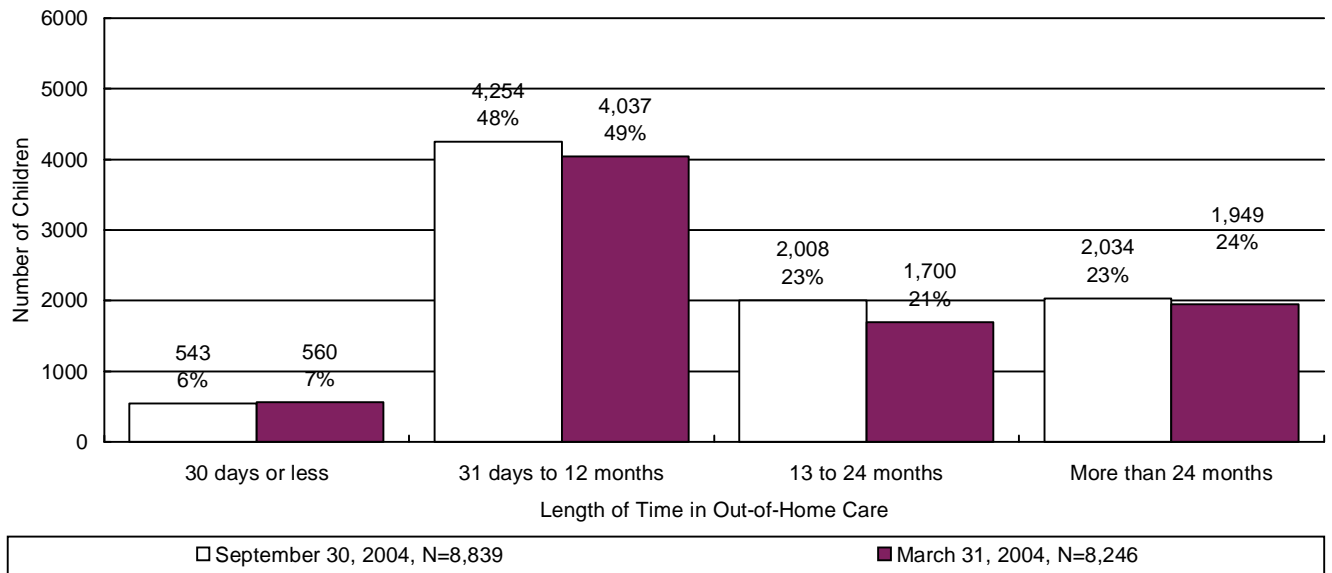
\* Category includes some relative placements.

During the reporting period, 1,319 children remained in a shelter or receiving home for more than 21 consecutive days. (See Chart 4) For the period of April 2004 through September 2004, 576 or 44% of the children were six years of age or older. In addition, 145 or 11% of the children were under one year.

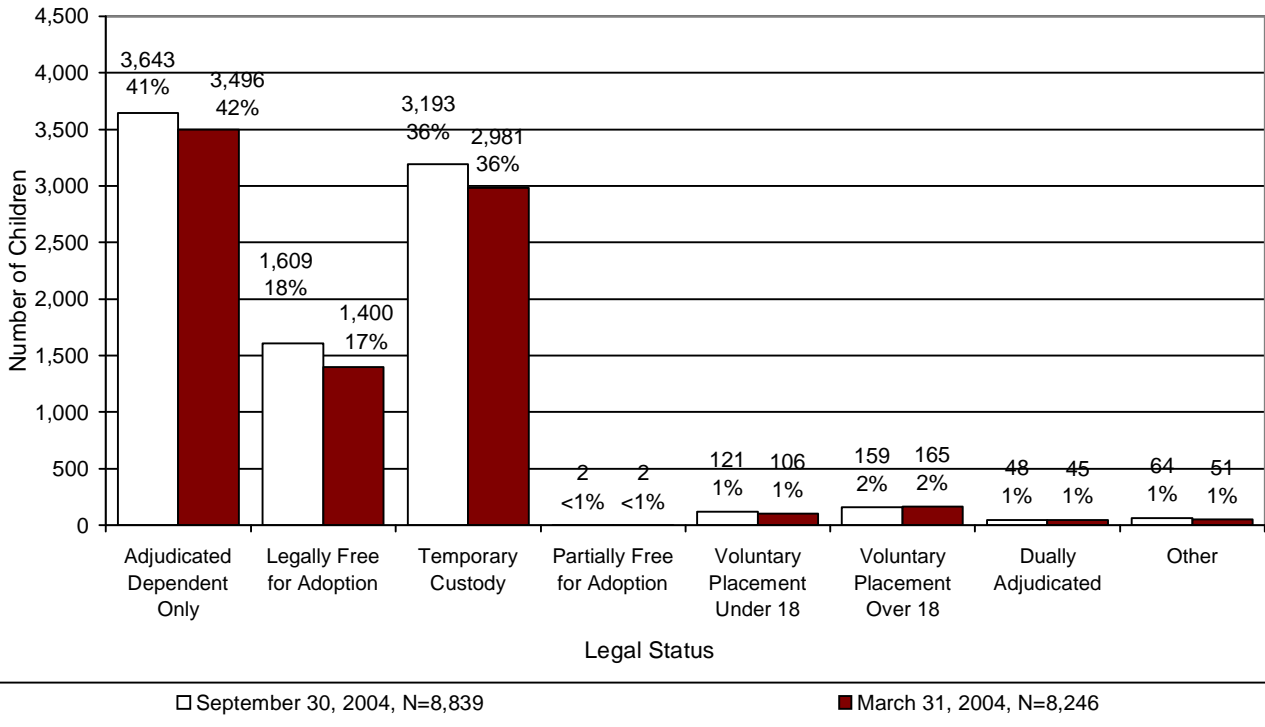
**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN SHELTER OR RECEIVING HOMES FOR MORE THAN 21 CONSECUTIVE DAYS BY AGE OF CHILD**



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



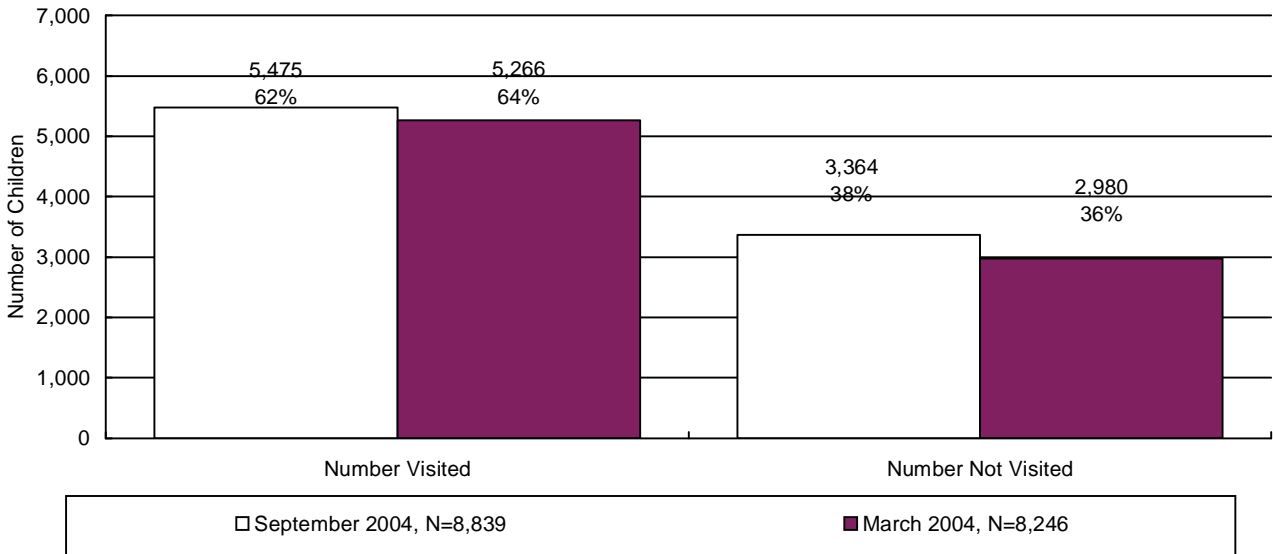
**CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY LEGAL STATUS**



At the end of the reporting period there were 8,839 children in out-of-home care who required visitation. Of these children, visitation was accurately documented in the automated system for 5,475 children or 62%.

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 2,082 parents who had a child with the case plan goal of return home. Of those parents requiring the visitation, 1,049 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, 2004, there were 2,191 licensed foster homes with 4,044 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.

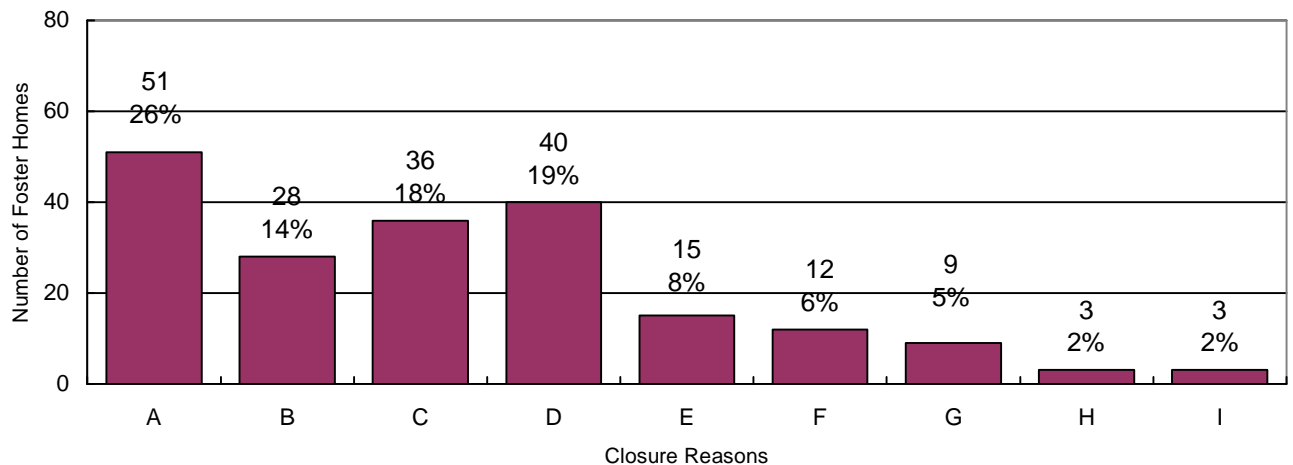
Foster home licenses specify the age range, gender and maximum number of children that can be placed in a home. Foster parents, in consultation with the licensing worker, decide the type of physical, behavioral and psychological needs of children they can effectively parent based upon their own skill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

As of September 30, 2004 there were 988 unused spaces within these foster homes. Approximately 612 of the 988 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, 410 new homes were licensed to provide foster care and 197 homes left the system. This compares to 334 new homes being licensed and 219 homes leaving the system for the period covering October 2003 through March 2004.

The chart below gives the reasons for foster home closures for the period of April 1, 2004 through September 30, 2004.

**REASON FOR FOSTER HOME CLOSURE FOR THE PERIOD OF  
APRIL 1, 2004 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**



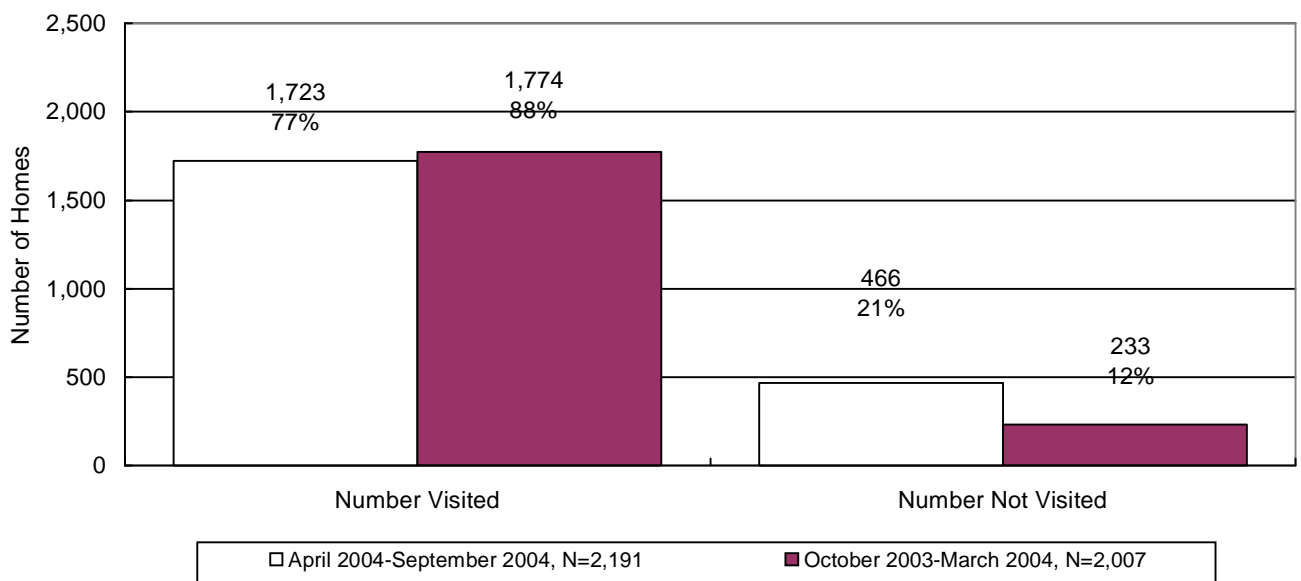
N= 197

- 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 2,191 foster homes that required visitation. Of those homes 1,723 or 77% received the required visitation. This compares to 1,774 or 88% 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 2,883 children left the custody of the Department. This compares to 2,655 children exiting care during the prior reporting period. The comparison between the two reporting periods shows that 9% 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%
APRIL 2004 – SEPTEMBER 2004	2,883	+9%

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, 2004**

<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	204	7%
Ages 1 - 5	927	32%
Ages 6 – 8	372	13%
Ages 9 - 12	426	15%
Ages 13 - 17	726	25%
18 and Over	228	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,883</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b> </b>		
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	1,245	43%
Hispanic	958	33%
African American	361	13%
American Indian	210	7%
Asian	21	1%
Other	88	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,883</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b> </b>		
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	1,594	55%
Two	529	18%
Three	243	8%
Four	167	6%
Five	93	3%
More than Five	257	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,883</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b> </b>		
<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	947	33%
31 Days to 12 Months	885	31%
13 to 24 Months	548	19%
More than 24 Months	503	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,883</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	8.6	9.12
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	1	2.49
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	7.57	13.72

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY  
FOR REASON OF “REUNIFICATION WITH PARENTS OR PRIMARY CARETAKER” FOR  
THE REPORTING PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**

<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	141	9%
Ages 1 – 5	484	31%
Ages 6 – 8	210	13%
Ages 9 - 12	252	16%
Ages 13 - 17	473	30%
18 and Over	6	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,566</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	683	43%
Hispanic	512	33%
African American	179	11%
American Indian	121	8%
Asian	14	1%
Other	57	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,566</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	1,027	66%
Two	284	18%
Three	94	6%
Four	66	4%
Five	38	2%
More than Five	57	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,566</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	682	44%
31 Days to 12 Months	614	39%
13 to 24 Months	207	13%
More than 24 Months	63	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,566</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	8.39	8.64
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	1	2.49
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	2.29	6.27

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY  
FOR REASON OF “LIVING WITH OTHER RELATIVES” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD  
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**

<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	19	12%
Ages 1 - 5	54	33%
Ages 6 – 8	17	11%
Ages 9 - 12	33	20%
Ages 13 - 17	37	23%
18 and Over	1	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	67	42%
Hispanic	62	39%
African American	12	7%
American Indian	15	9%
Asian	1	1%
Other	4	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	143	88%
Two	13	8%
Three	3	2%
Four	0	0%
Five	1	1%
More than Five	1	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	151	93%
31 Days to 12 Months	6	4%
13 to 24 Months	3	2%
More than 24 Months	1	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	7.15	7.92
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	1	1.10
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	9.87	1.26

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES  
CUSTODY FOR REASON OF “ADOPTION” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD  
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**

<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	1	<1%
Ages 1 - 5	222	59%
Ages 6 – 8	62	17%
Ages 9 - 12	56	15%
Ages 13 - 17	31	8%
18 and Over	1	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	155	41%
Hispanic	127	34%
African American	62	17%
American Indian	18	5%
Asian	2	1%
Other	9	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	98	27%
Two	93	25%
Three	60	16%
Four	41	11%
Five	27	7%
More than Five	54	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	0	0%
31 Days to 12 Months	8	2%
13 to 24 Months	109	29%
More than 24 Months	256	69%
<b>Total</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	5.02	6.17
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	2.00	3.22
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	28.36	32.83

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY  
FOR REASON OF “GUARDIANSHIP” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD  
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**

<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	19	5%
Ages 1 - 5	125	32%
Ages 6 – 8	72	18%
Ages 9 - 12	75	19%
Ages 13 - 17	99	25%
18 and Over	1	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	168	43%
Hispanic	142	36%
African American	49	13%
American Indian	25	6%
Asian	0	0%
Other	7	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	217	54%
Two	84	21%
Three	49	13%
Four	22	6%
Five	5	1%
More than Five	14	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	53	14%
31 Days to 12 Months	142	36%
13 to 24 Months	174	44%
More than 24 Months	22	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	8.27	8.62
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	1.00	1.96
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	12.99	13.03

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY  
FOR REASONS OF “REACHING AGE OF MAJORITY” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD  
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**

<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	0	0%
Ages 1 - 5	0	0%
Ages 6 – 8	0	0%
Ages 9 - 12	0	0%
Ages 13 - 17	23	10%
18 and Over	217	90%
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	110	45%
Hispanic	74	31%
African American	42	18%
American Indian	8	3%
Asian	2	<1%
Other	4	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	26	11%
Two	27	11%
Three	23	10%
Four	23	10%
Five	18	7%
More than Five	123	51%
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	4	2%
31 Days to 12 Months	49	20%
13 to 24 Months	36	15%
More than 24 Months	151	63%
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	18.01	18.36
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	6	8.03
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	31.64	44.59



**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY  
FOR REASON OF “TRANSFER TO ANOTHER AGENCY” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD  
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**

<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	20	17%
Ages 1 - 5	40	33%
Ages 6 – 8	10	8%
Ages 9 - 12	9	8%
Ages 13 - 17	39	33%
18 and Over	2	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	53	44%
Hispanic	30	25%
African American	12	10%
American Indian	19	16%
Asian	0	0%
Other	6	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	59	49%
Two	24	20%
Three	12	10%
Four	14	12%
Five	4	3%
More than Five	7	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	35	29%
31 Days to 12 Months	57	48%
13 to 24 Months	18	15%
More than 24 Months	10	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	6.19	8.22
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	2	2.43
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	6.42	11.90

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY  
FOR REASON OF “RUNAWAY” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD  
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**

<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	0	0%
Ages 1 - 5	0	0%
Ages 6 – 8	0	0%
Ages 9 - 12	1	4%
Ages 13 - 17	23	96%
18 and Over	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	6	25%
Hispanic	9	38%
African American	4	17%
American Indian	2	8%
Asian	2	8%
Other	1	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	20	84%
Two	2	8%
Three	1	4%
Four	1	4%
Five	0	0%
More than Five	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	20	83%
31 Days to 12 Months	4	17%
13 to 24 Months	0	0%
More than 24 Months	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	15.93	15.95
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	1.00	1.29
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	1.44	.94

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY  
FOR REASON OF “DEATH OF CHILD” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD ENDING  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2004**

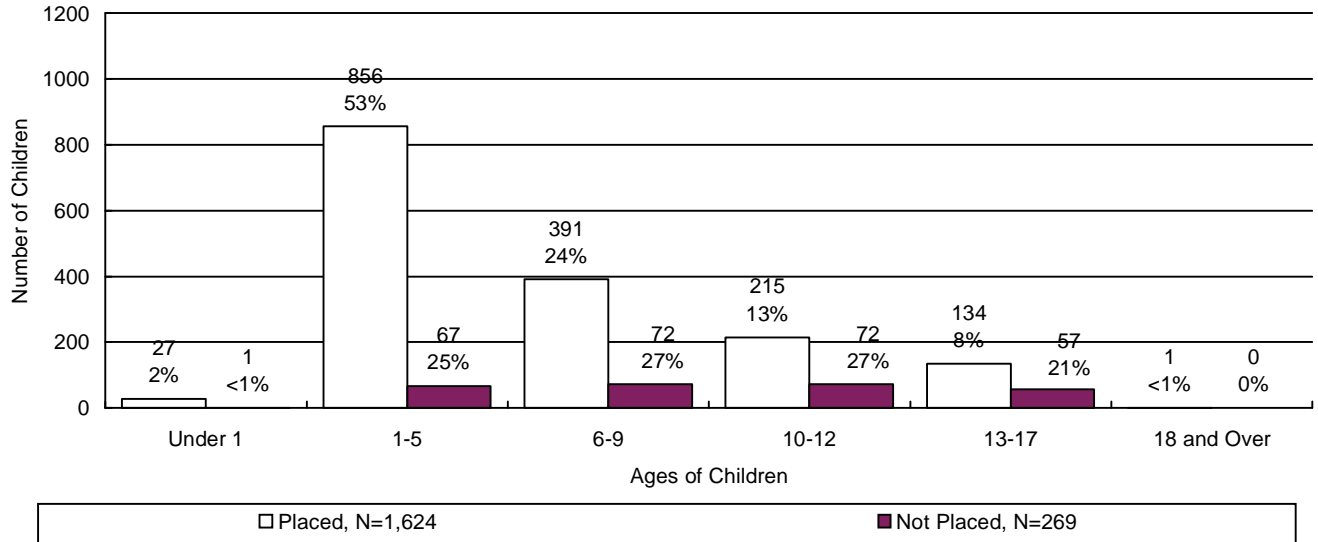
<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	4	50%
Ages 1 - 5	2	25%
Ages 6 – 8	1	12.5%
Ages 9 - 12	0	0%
Ages 13 - 17	1	12.5%
18 and Over	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	3	37%
Hispanic	2	25%
African American	1	13%
American Indian	2	25%
Asian	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	4	50%
Two	2	25%
Three	1	12.5%
Four	0	0%
Five	0	0%
More than Five	1	12.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	2	25%
31 Days to 12 Months	5	62%
13 to 24 Months	1	13%
More than 24 Months	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	1.45	4.29
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	1.50	2.38
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	1.92	4.91

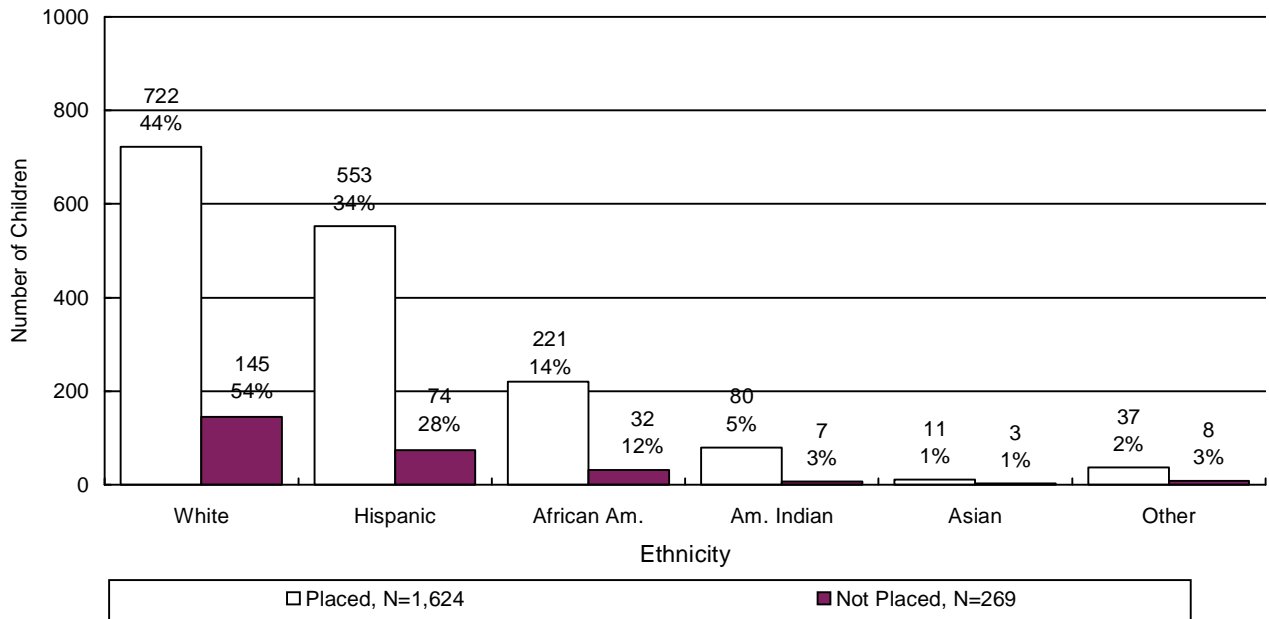
**CHILDREN WITH ADOPTIVE CASE PLAN GOALS**

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, 3 months.

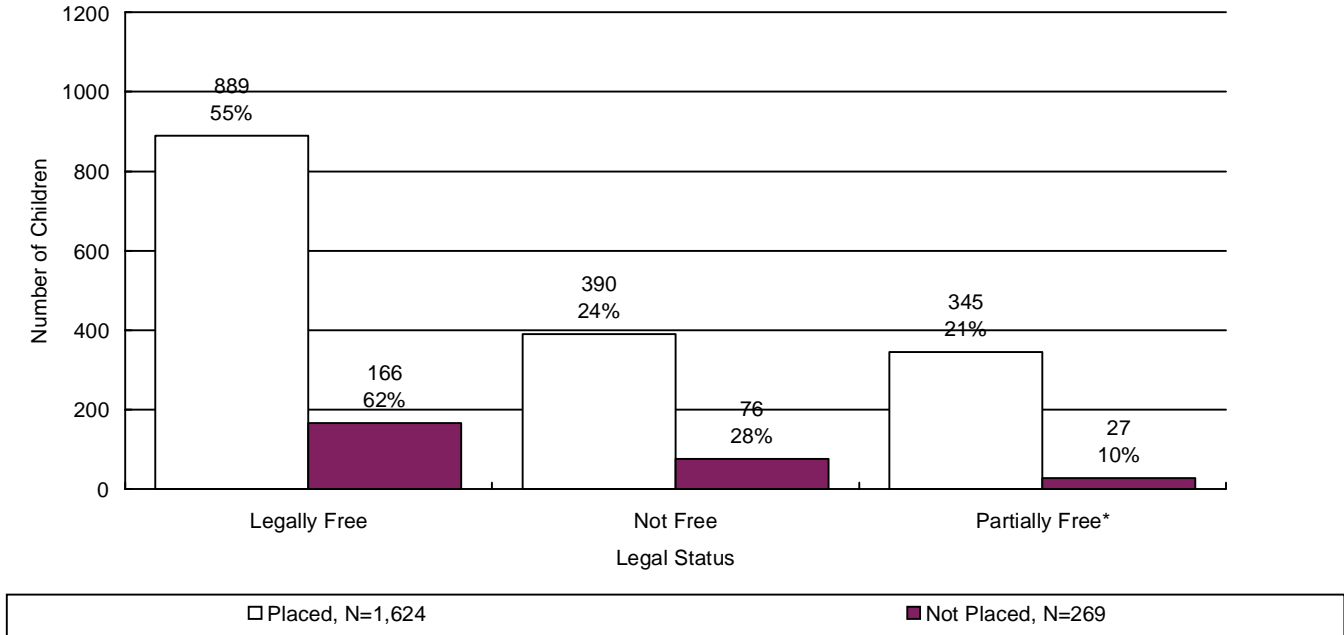
**THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A CASE PLAN GOAL OF ADOPTION BY AGE**



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

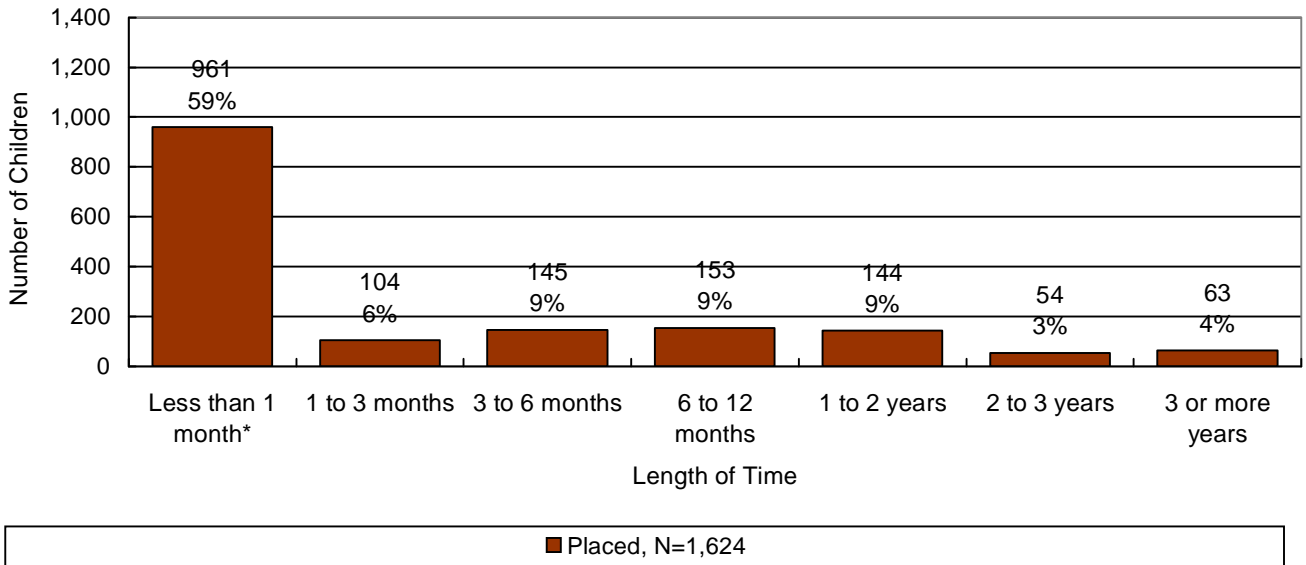


**THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A CASE PLAN GOAL OF ADOPTION BY LEGAL STATUS**



\*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**

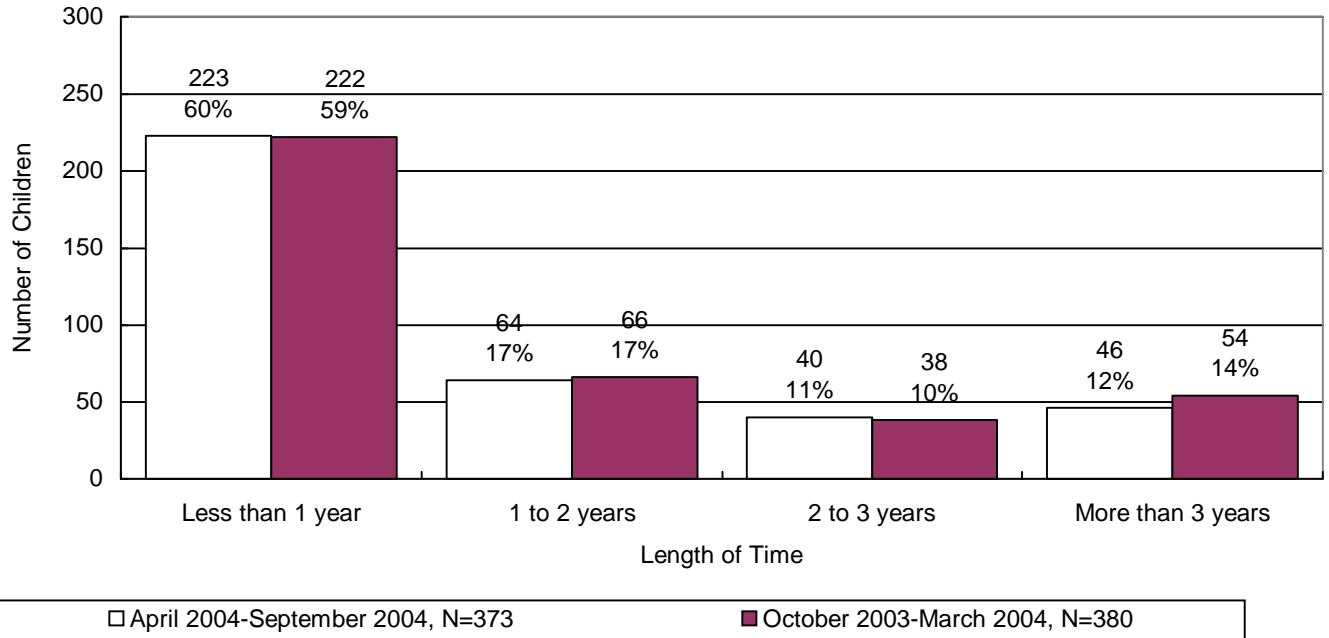


\*About 70% of children are adopted by relatives or their foster parents and are already in their prospective adoptive placement at the time the case plan goal changes to adoption.

**ADOPTIVE SERVICES**

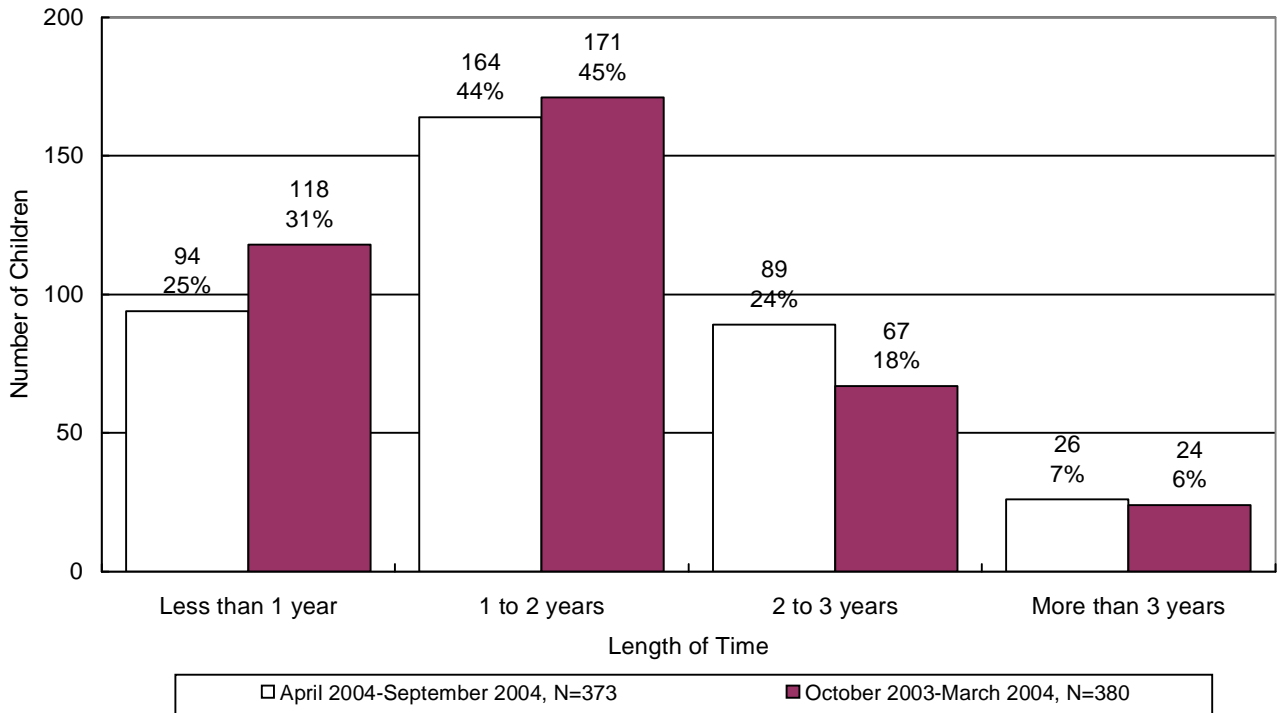
There were 373 children with a finalized adoption during the reporting period. The chart below displays the number of children with a finalized adoption during the reporting period by the average length of time in out-of-home placement before adoptive placement.

**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.