

**CHILD WELFARE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

**SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE PERIOD OF**

**OCTOBER 1, 2004 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2005**

**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 October 1, 2004 and ending on March 31, 2005.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**S.B. 1229**  
**OCTOBER 1, 2004 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2005**

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 October 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005. 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 18,839 reports of child abuse, neglect and abandonment. Of these reports, 176 were within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments and were referred to those jurisdictions. The Department responded to 100% of the remaining 18,663 reports. This response rate has been maintained by the Division since January, 1998. During the reporting period, an additional 12,017 communications were received by Child Protective Services Hotline that did not meet the criteria of a report.

During the reporting period, there were 1,273 substantiated findings of abuse or neglect. In-home services were received in 943 of these cases, out-of-home services were received in 706 of these cases, and 316 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, 2005, there were 9,536 children in out-of-home care in Arizona. Of the total number of children in out-of-home care, there were 3,120 children placed with relatives. Two thousand forty-four (2,044) children of the 9,536 in out-of-home care had a case plan goal of adoption, and 1,764 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 nine hundred twenty-nine (4,929) children had a case plan goal of "Return to Family". Seven thousand three hundred thirty-five (7,335 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, 3,633 children were in family foster home settings. There were 2,267 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 1,791 (77%) of 2,267 foster homes this reporting period.

A.R.S. §8-516 also requires supervision of children in foster care. During this reporting period, 9,536 children in out-of-home care required visitation by their Child Protective Services case manager. Visitation was accurately documented for 6,472 (68%) of these children.

During the reporting period, 2,726 children left the care, custody and control of DES. The following are the reasons and the number of children who left care: 1,409 of the children were reunified with their parents or primary caretaker; 227 of the children reached the age of majority; 378 children left due to a legal guardianship being established; 141 of the children were placed with other relatives; 102 of the children were transferred to another agency; and 34 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 430 children with finalized adoptions.

## Semi-Annual Comparisons

	Apr 2002– Sep 2002	Oct 2002 – Mar 2003	Apr 2003– Sep 2003	Oct 2003 – Mar 2004	Apr 2004– Sep 2004	Oct 2004 - Mar 2005
Number of Reports	17,104	17,470	18,680	20,242	19,165	18,839
Number of Reports Substantiated <sup>1</sup>	1,839 (15%)	1,924 (15%)	2,299 (17%)	2,363 (15%)	2,157 (14%)	1,273 (8%)
Number of Reports Investigated	14,330	14,634	15,729	17,428	19,011	18,663
Number of Reports Referred to Family Builders	2,644	2,691	2,781	2,628	1,145	N/A <sup>2</sup>
Number of Substantiated Investigations- with No Services After Investigation is Closed	459	306	565	570	226	316
Number of Substantiated Investigations-In-Home Services Provided After Investigation is Closed	828	721	1,035	1,188	780	943
Number of Substantiated Investigations-Out of Home Services Provided After Investigation is Closed	676	662	890	986	581	706
Number of new removals	2,655	2,961	3,349	3,504	3,630	3,617
Number of new removals with Voluntary under 18	294	332	311	256	279	118
Percentage of Annualized Turnover Rate of Staff	N/A	23.5%	27.66%	N/A <sup>3</sup>	N/A	N/A
Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care on the Last Day of Reporting Period	6,270	6,826	7,535	8,246	8,839	9,536
Number of Children in Shelter for More than 21 Days	1,098	1,300	1,323	1,431	1,319	1,127
Number and Percentage of Children Receiving Visitation In the Last Month of Reporting Period	4,249 (68%)	4,656 (68%)	4,890 (65%)	5,266 (64%)	5,475 (62%)	6,506 (68%)
Number and Percentage of Children <b>not</b> Receiving Visitation	2,021 (32%)	2,170 (32%)	2,645 (35%)	2,980 (36%)	3,364 (38%)	3,030 (32%)
Number and Percentage of Parents Receiving Visitation	772 (56%)	858 (55%)	851 (50%)	973 (51%)	1,049 (50%)	1,255(56%)
Number of Licensed Foster Homes	1,778	1,865	1,892	2,007	2,191	2,267
Number of Foster Home Spaces Available to ACYF	3,731	3,923	3,982	3,691	4,044	5,020
Number of New Foster Homes	217	283	308	334	410	400
Number of Foster Homes Closed	195	196	281	219	197	410
Number and Percentage of Foster Homes Receiving Visitation In the Last Qtr. Of Reporting Period	1,604 (90%)	1,695 (91%)	1,606 (85%)	1,774 (88%)	1,723 (79%)	1,791 (79%)
Number and Percentage of Foster Homes <b>not</b> Receiving Visitation	174 (10%)	170 (9%)	286 (15%)	233 (12%)	466 (21%)	476 (21%)
Number of Children Leaving DES Custody	2,376	2,275	2,528	2,655	2,883	2,726
Number of Children With a Case Plan Goal of Adoption	1,666	1,459	1,485	1,629	1,893	2,044
Number of Children With a Finalized Adoption	364	398	408	380	373	430

<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 July 1, 2004 reports could no longer be dispositioned to the Family Builders program for investigation.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

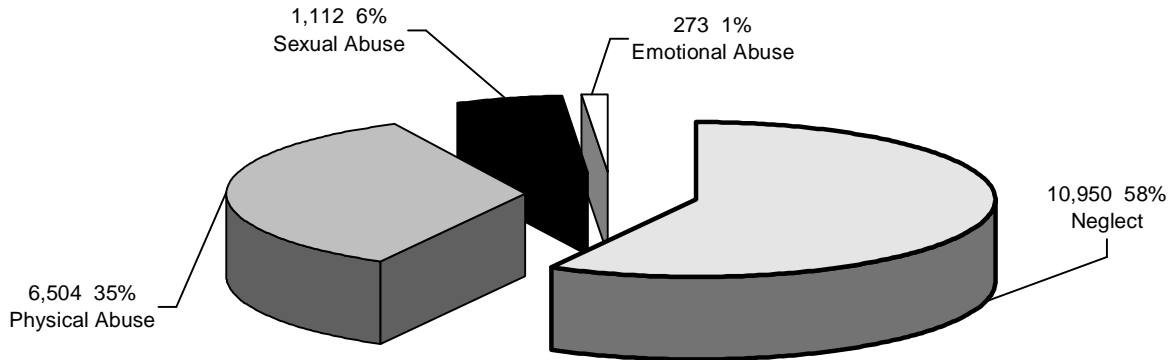
Between October 1, 2004 and March 31, 2005, there were 18,839 incoming communications to the Child Abuse Hotline which met the criteria of a report of abuse or neglect. Of these, 176 were within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments and were referred to those jurisdictions. This compares to 19,165 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 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005 shows 10,950 or 58% of the 18,839 reports of maltreatment were related to allegations of neglect, 6,504 or 35% of the reports were related to allegations of physical abuse, 1,112 or 6% of the reports were related to allegations of sexual abuse, and 273 or 1% of the reports were related to allegations of emotional abuse.

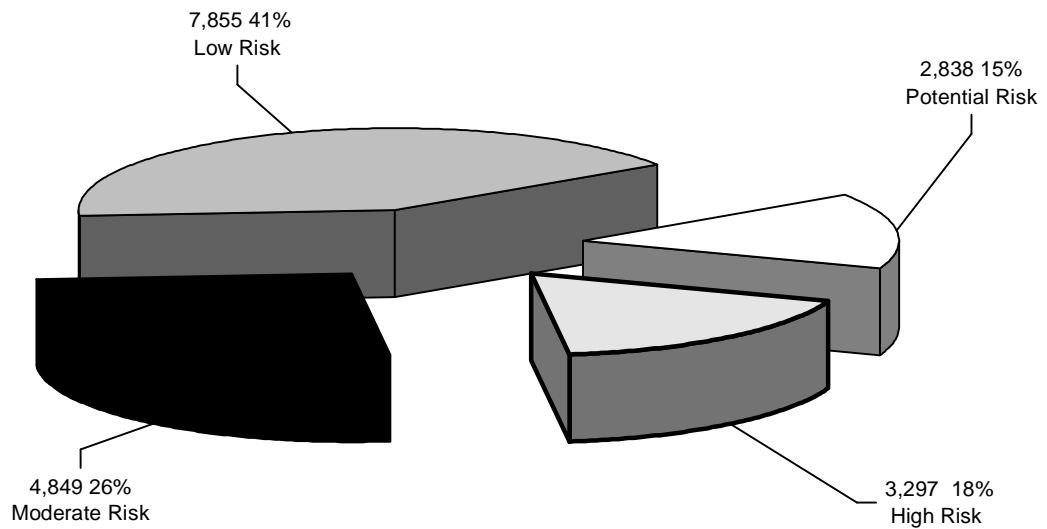
The second pie chart, on the following page, provides the number of reports received by report risk level for the October 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005 reporting period. Based on the type of maltreatment described in the report a risk level is assigned to the reports of alleged abuse. The pie chart shows 3,297 or 18% of the reports received were High Risk reports, 4,849 or 26% of the reports were Moderate Risk reports, 7,855 or 42% of the reports were classified as Low Risk reports, and 2,838 or 15% 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
October 2004 – March 2005	10,950	6,504	1,112	273	18,839

**NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED BY CATEGORY OF MALTREATMENT  
FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2004 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2005**



**NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED BY RISK LEVEL FOR THE PERIOD  
OCTOBER 1, 2004 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2005**



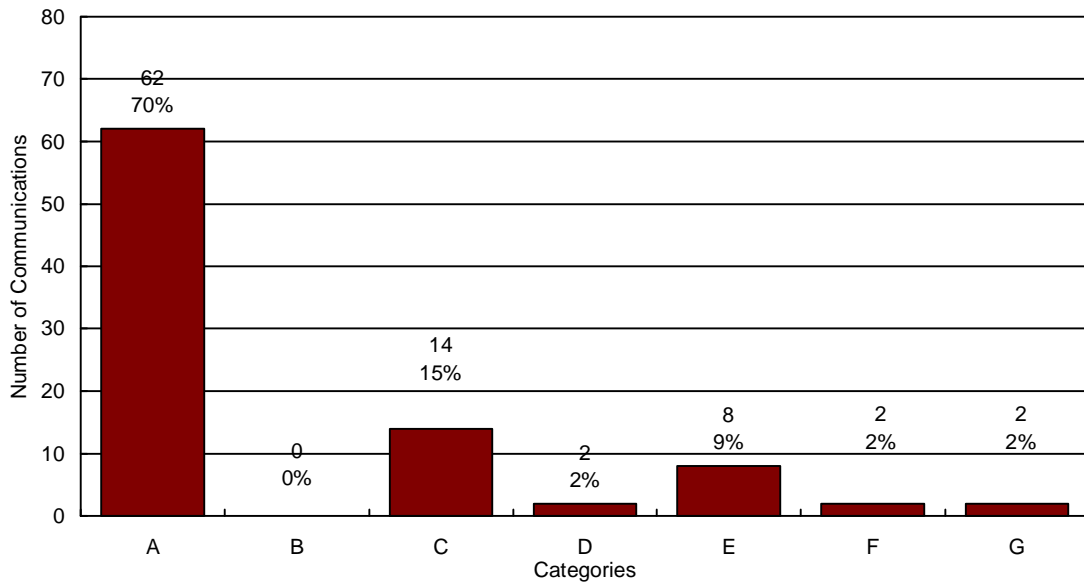
N=18,839

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



In addition to the 18,839 reports during the current reporting period, the Child Abuse Hotline received 12,017 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>4</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>4</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:

- 18,839 reports appropriate for investigation
- 176 reports fell within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments
- 18,663 reports investigated by CPS
- 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, 2004 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2005**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	10	19	49	16	94	<1%
COCHISE	97	144	196	85	522	3%
COCONINO	72	104	145	47	368	2%
GILA	37	71	85	42	235	1%
GRAHAM	13	34	43	13	103	1%
GREENLEE	4	14	10	6	34	<1%
LA PAZ	16	13	21	7	57	<1%
MARICOPA	2,070	2,713	4,452	1,588	10,823	56%
MOHAVE	109	176	298	89	672	4%
NAVAJO	61	61	108	32	262	1%
PIMA	426	934	1,560	586	3,506	19%
PINAL	174	221	380	137	912	5%
SANTA CRUZ	20	20	44	13	97	1%
YAVAPAI	98	198	285	107	688	4%
YUMA	90	127	179	70	466	2%
STATEWIDE	3,297	4,849	7,855	2,838	18,839	100%
% OF TOTAL	18%	26%	41%	15%	100%	

**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 TYPE OF MALTREATMENT AND COUNTY  
FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2004 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2005**

COUNTY	EMOTIONAL ABUSE	NEGLECT	PHYSICAL ABUSE	SEXUAL ABUSE	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	1	58	31	4	94	<1%
COCHISE	10	299	181	32	522	3%
COCONINO	7	208	128	25	368	2%
GILA	2	156	67	10	235	1%
GRAHAM	1	60	34	8	103	1%
GREENLEE	2	23	5	4	34	<1%
LA PAZ	1	42	13	1	57	<1%
MARICOPA	136	6,294	3,774	619	10,823	57%
MOHAVE	4	408	220	40	672	4%
NAVAJO	4	163	79	16	262	1%
PIMA	75	1,906	1,315	210	3,506	19%
PINAL	9	573	272	58	912	5%
SANTA CRUZ	1	45	46	5	97	1%
YAVAPAI	13	430	205	40	688	4%
YUMA	7	285	134	40	466	2%
STATEWIDE	273	10,950	6,504	1,112	18,839	100%
% OF TOTAL	1%	58%	35%	6%	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%	

**SUBSTANTIATED INVESTIGATIONS**

During the reporting period 15,848 reports were investigated and subject to substantiation, with 8% or 1,273 of the reports resulting in a substantiated finding of child abuse or neglect.<sup>5</sup> This compares to a revised substantiation rate of 14%, or 2,157 reports, for the period of April 2004 through September 2004. In addition, during the reporting period, October 2004 through March 2005, there were 359 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 8% 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>6</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>5</sup> As of January 25, 1999 the Department does not substantiate potential risk reports.

<sup>6</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>7</sup> BY RISK LEVEL AND COUNTY FOR THE  
PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2004 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2005**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	0	0	1	0	1	<1%
COCHISE	4	3	5	0	12	4%
COCONINO	3	2	6	0	11	3%
GILA	2	2	3	0	7	2%
GRAHAM	1	2	0	0	3	1%
GREENLEE	0	0	0	0	0	0%
LA PAZ	1	0	0	0	1	<1%
MARICOPA	19	43	66	0	128	41%
MOHAVE	2	2	4	0	8	3%
NAVAJO	3	0	1	0	4	1%
PIMA	13	39	42	0	94	30%
PINAL	6	1	5	0	12	4%
SANTA CRUZ	1	1	3	0	5	2%
YAVAPAI	2	14	9	0	25	8%
YUMA	3	1	1	0	5	2%
STATEWIDE	60	110	146	0	316	100%
% OF TOTAL	19%	35%	46%	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, 2004 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2005**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	0	1	1	0	2	<1%
COCHISE	17	12	8	0	37	4%
COCONINO	13	5	6	0	24	3%
GILA	6	10	4	0	20	2%
GRAHAM	2	4	3	0	9	1%
GREENLEE	0	1	0	0	1	<1%
LA PAZ	1	2	0	0	3	<1%
MARICOPA	151	114	98	0	363	38%
MOHAVE	10	3	3	0	16	2%
NAVAJO	6	4	0	0	10	1%
PIMA	128	101	102	0	331	35%
PINAL	19	13	21	0	53	6%
SANTA CRUZ	2	3	1	0	6	1%
YAVAPAI	23	14	17	0	54	6%
YUMA	9	2	3	0	14	1%
STATEWIDE	387	289	267	0	943	100%
% OF TOTAL	41%	31%	28%	05	100%	

<sup>7</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 OCTOBER 1, 2004 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2005**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	0	1	1	0	2	<1%
COCHISE	17	9	7	0	33	5%
COCONINO	10	2	4	0	16	2%
GILA	6	9	3	0	18	3%
GRAHAM	2	4	2	0	8	1%
GREENLEE	0	1	0	0	1	<1%
LA PAZ	1	0	0	0	1	<1%
MARICOPA	111	78	29	0	218	31%
MOHAVE	10	3	2	0	15	2%
NAVAJO	3	3	0	0	6	1%
PIMA	124	77	73	0	274	38%
PINAL	20	12	19	0	51	7%
SANTA CRUZ	3	2	1	0	6	1%
YAVAPAI	20	10	14	0	44	6%
YUMA	9	1	3	0	13	2%
STATEWIDE	336	212	158	0	706	100%
% OF TOTAL	48%	30%	22%	0%	100%	

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

During the reporting period October 2004 through March 2005, 3,617 children were removed from their home for some period of time. The table below shows the new removals for the period by county.

There was one newborn infant delivered to Safe Haven providers during the October 2004 – March 2005 reporting period. This compares to no infants being delivered to Safe Haven Providers during the April 2004 – September 2004 reporting period.

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2004 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2005**

COUNTY	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	16	<1%
COCHISE	120	3%
COCONINO	52	1%
GILA	49	1%
GRAHAM	26	1%
GREENLEE	11	<1%
LA PAZ	6	<1%
MARICOPA	1,888	52%
MOHAVE	79	2%
NAVAJO	60	2%
PIMA	828	23%
PINAL	208	6%
SANTA CRUZ	24	1%
YAVAPAI	146	4%
YUMA	104	3%
STATEWIDE	3,617	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.



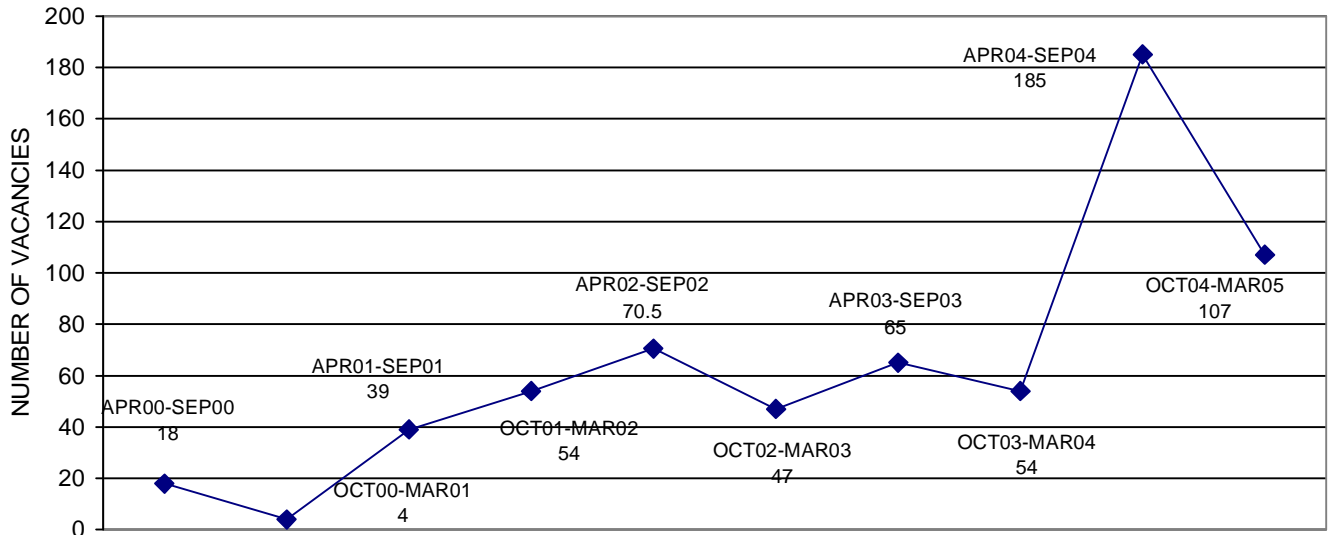
**NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME  
CARE DUE TO A VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT BY COUNTY FOR PERIOD OF  
OCTOBER 1, 2004 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2005**

COUNTY	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	3	3%
COCHISE	1	<1%
COCONINO	2	1%
GILA	0	0%
GRAHAM	3	3%
GREENLEE	0	0%
LA PAZ	0	0%
MARICOPA	70	59%
MOHAVE	9	8%
NAVAJO	2	1%
PIMA	3	3%
PINAL	7	6%
SANTA CRUZ	0	0%
YAVAPAI	11	9%
YUMA	7	6%
STATEWIDE	118	100%

**DIRECT CLIENT SERVICES POSITIONS**

There were 107 authorized Child Protective Services Specialist positions vacant on March 31, 2005. In addition, the DCYF training institute was in the process of training 91 staff to fill these vacancies.

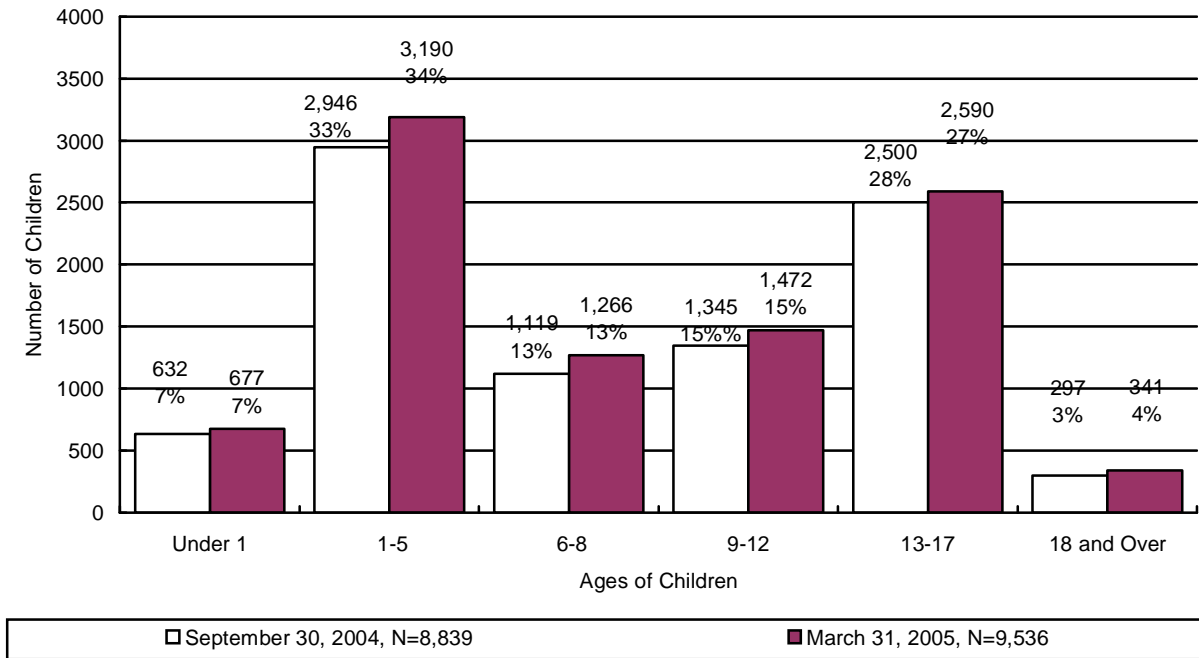
**VACANCIES BY REPORTING PERIOD**



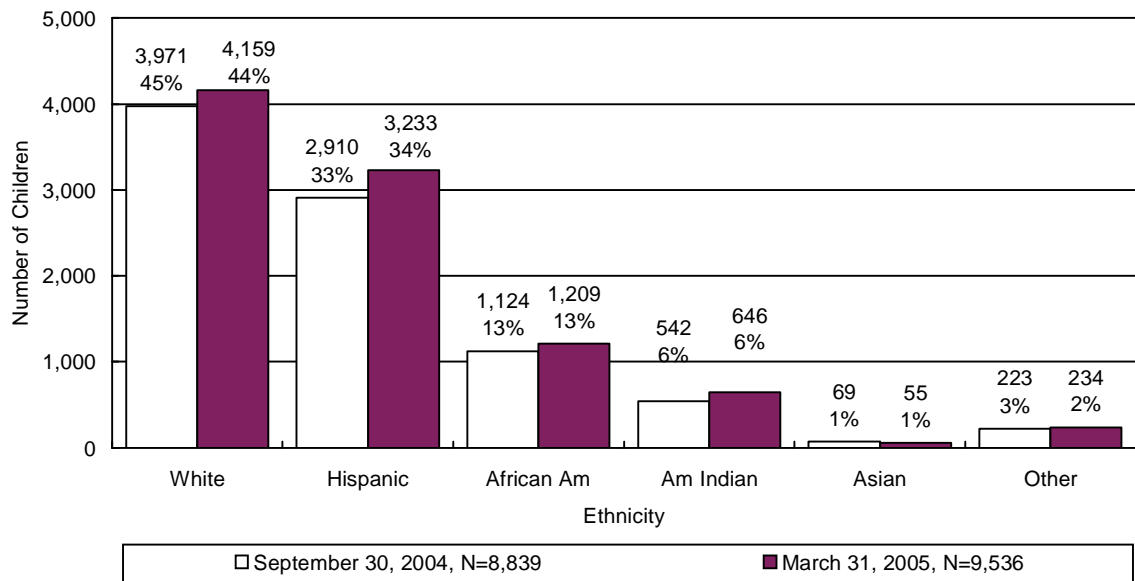
**CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE**

On March 31, 2005, there were 9,536 children in out-of-home care. During the reporting period of October 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005 there were 3,617 children removed from their home for some period of time.

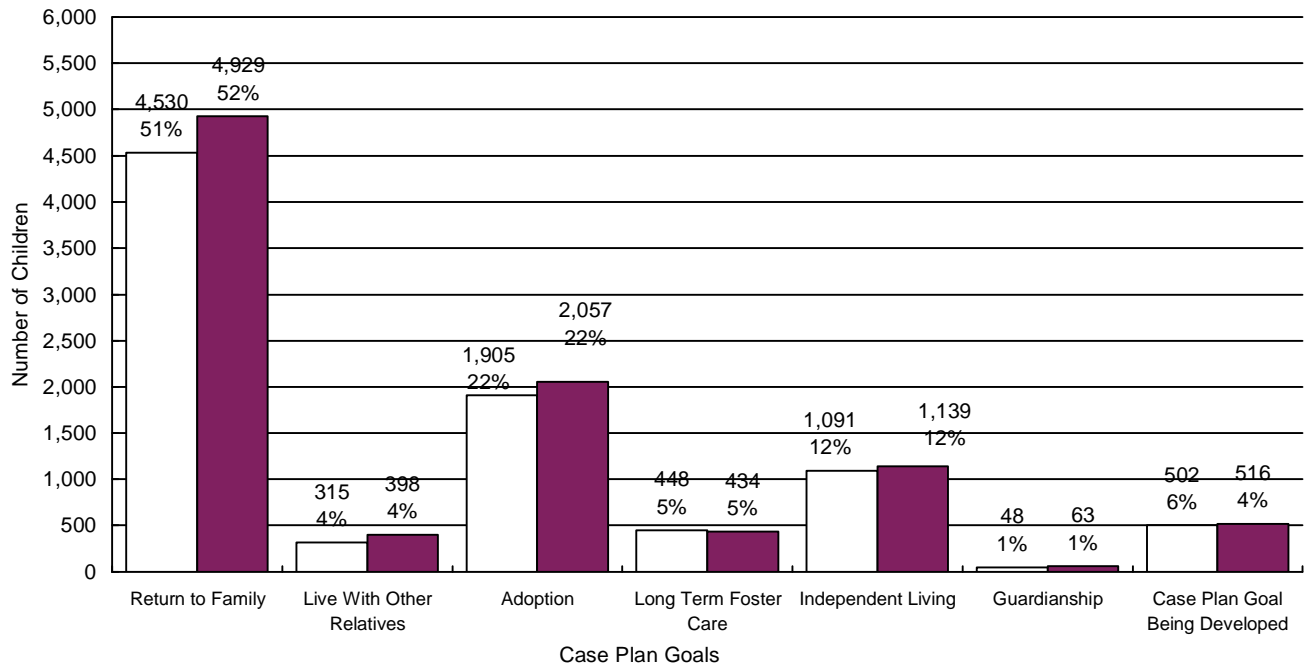
**THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY AGE**



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

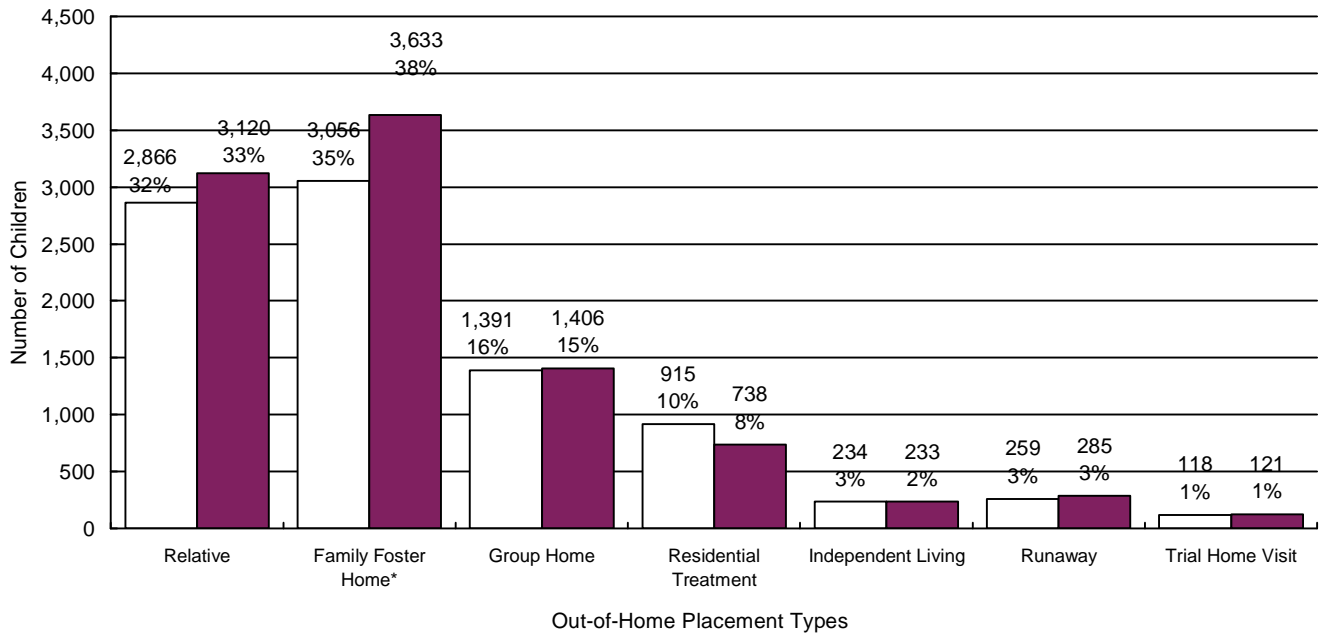


**THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY CASE PLAN GOAL**



□ September 30, 2004, N=8,839      ■ March 31, 2005, N=9,536

**THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY PLACEMENT TYPE**

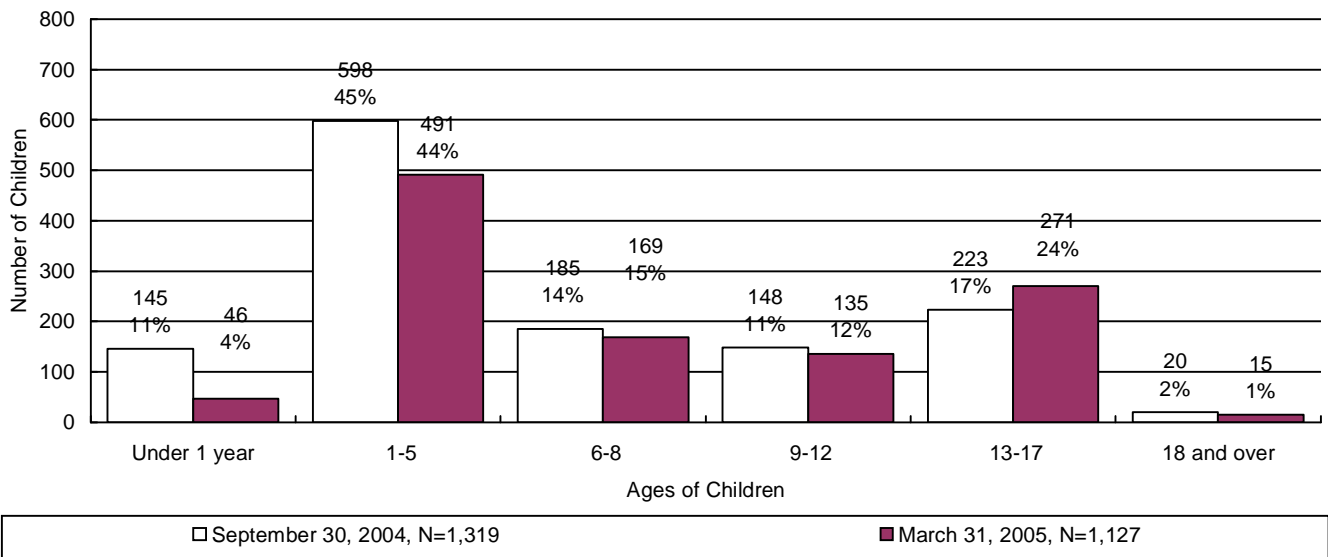


□ September 30, 2004, N=8,839      ■ March 31, 2005, N=9,536

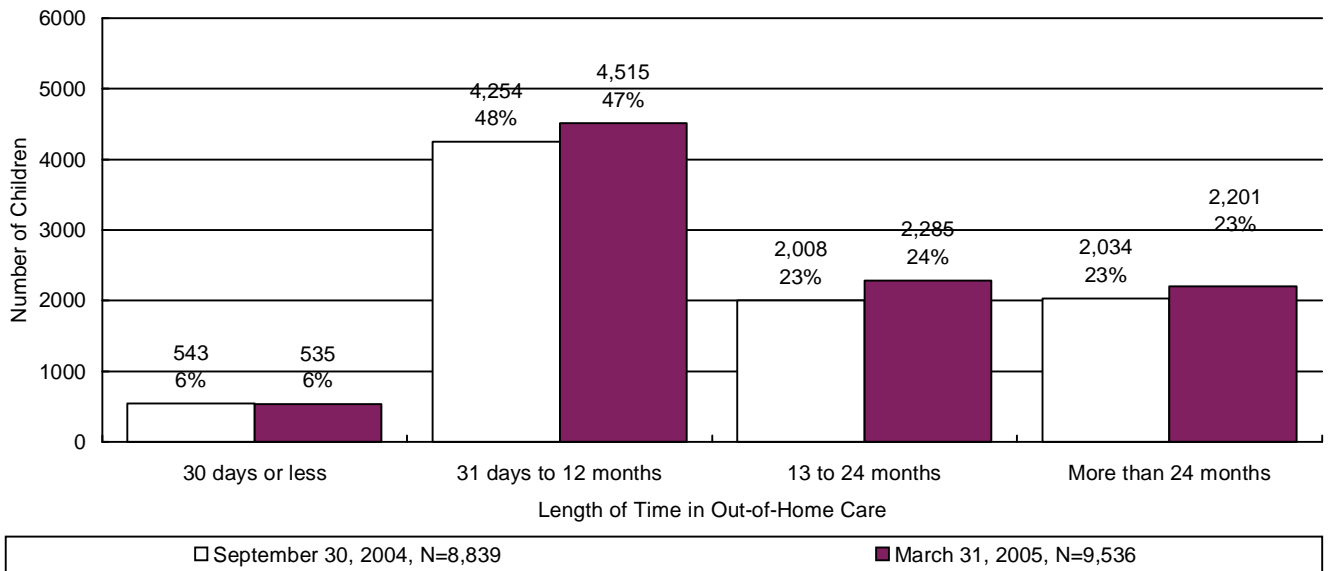
\* Category includes some relative placements.

During the reporting period, 1,127 children remained in a shelter or receiving home for more than 21 consecutive days. (See Chart Below) For the period of October 2004 through March 2005, 590 or 52% of the children were six years of age or older. In addition, 46 or 4% of the children were under one year.

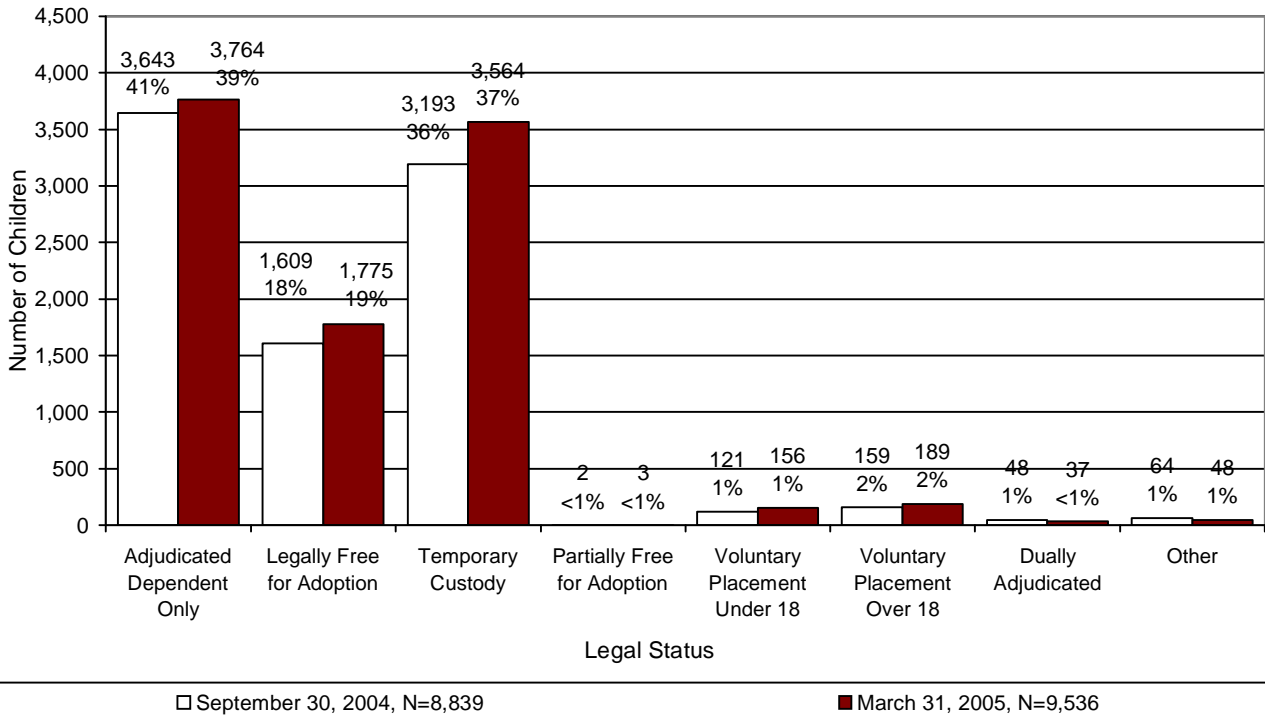
**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN SHELTER OR RECEIVING HOMES FOR MORE THAN 21 CONSECUTIVE DAYS BY AGE OF CHILD**



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



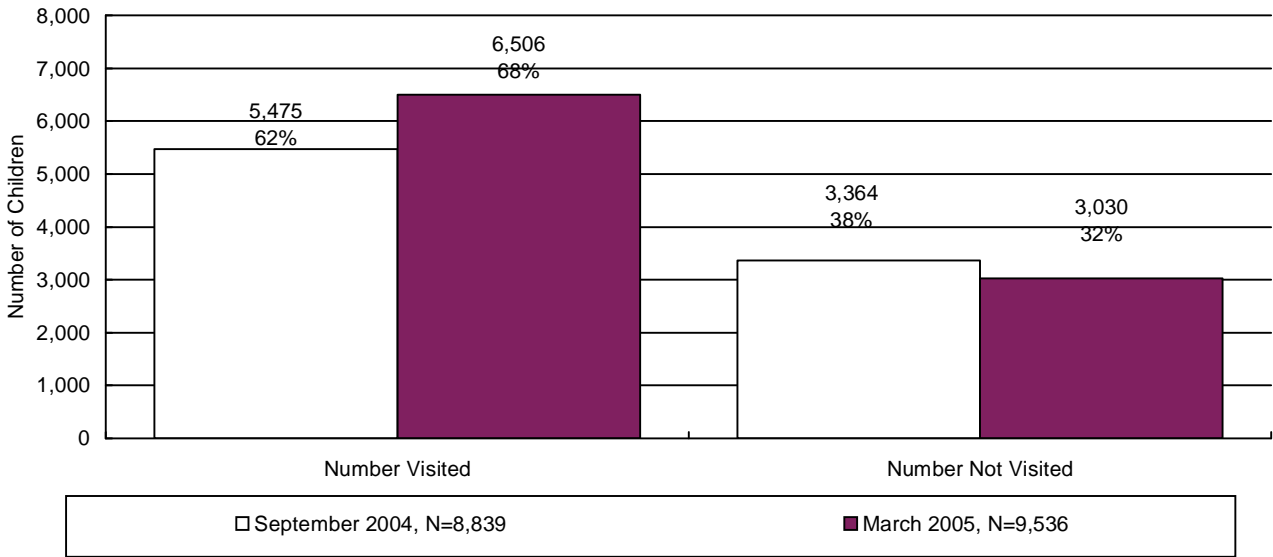
**CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY LEGAL STATUS**



At the end of the reporting period there were 9,536 children in out-of-home care who required visitation. Of these children, visitation was accurately documented in the automated system for 6,472 children or 68%.

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 2,240 parents who had a child with the case plan goal of return home. Of those parents requiring the visitation, 1,255 or 56% received the required visitation. The 56% visitation rate does not reflect attempted visitation where contact did not take place.

**FOSTER HOMES**

As of March 31, 2005 there were 2,267 licensed foster homes with 5,020 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.

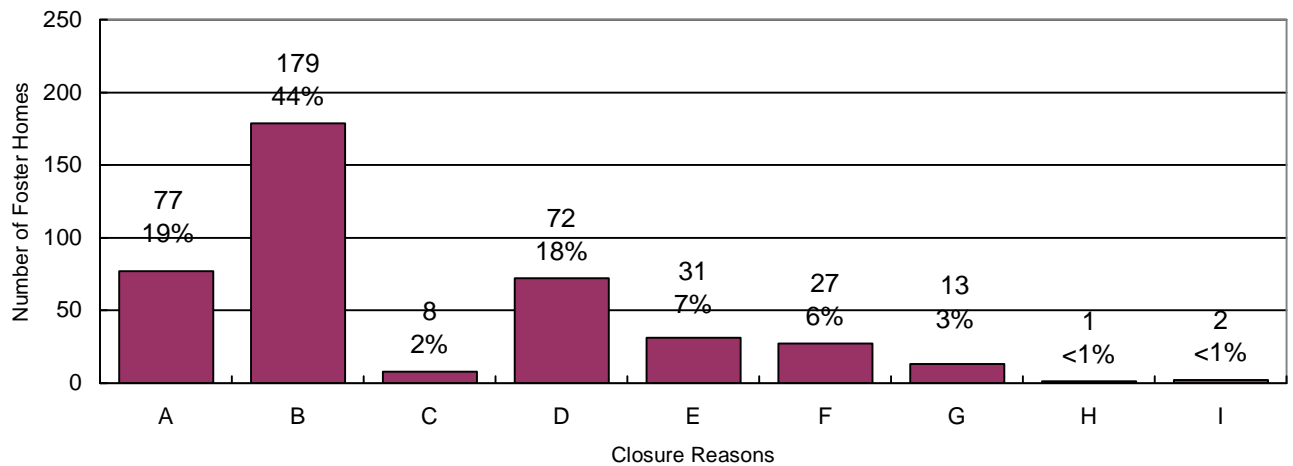
Foster home licenses specify the age range, gender and maximum number of children that can be placed in a home. Foster parents, in consultation with the licensing worker, decide the type of physical, behavioral and psychological needs of children they can effectively parent based upon their own skill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

As of March 31, 2005 there were 1,415 unused spaces within these foster homes. Approximately 841 of the 1,415 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, 400 new homes were licensed to provide foster care and 410 homes left the system. This compares to 410 new homes being licensed and 197 homes leaving the system for the period covering April 2004 through September 2004.

The chart below gives the reasons for foster home closures for the period of October 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005.

**REASON FOR FOSTER HOME CLOSURE FOR THE PERIOD OF  
OCTOBER 1, 2004 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2005**



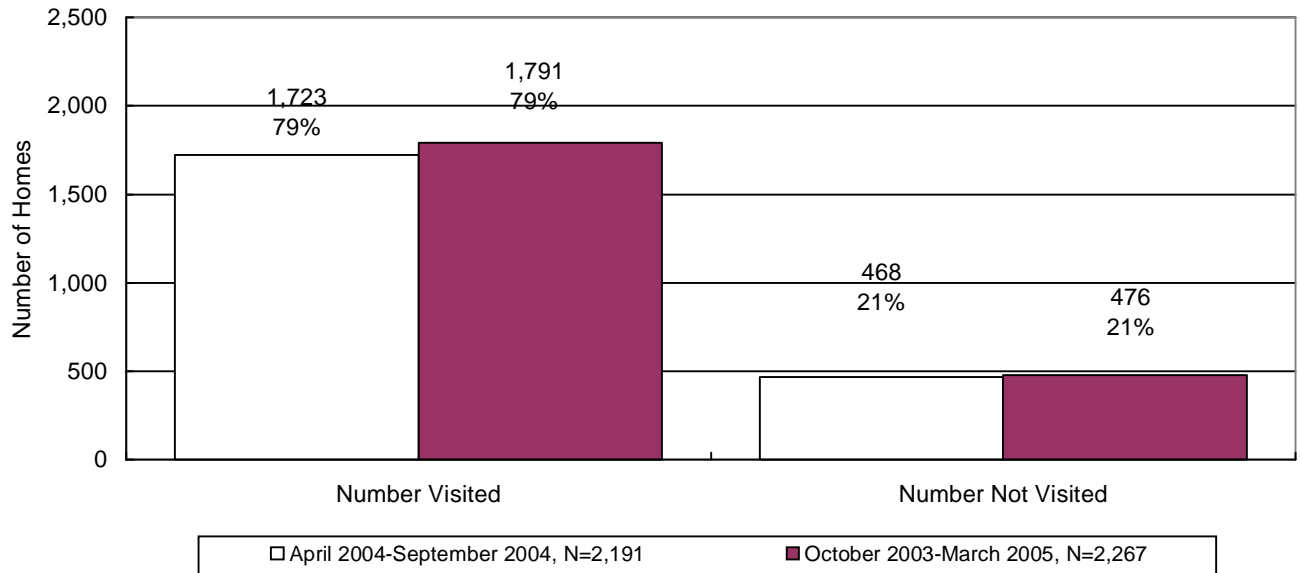
N= 410

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



During the reporting period there were 2,267 foster homes that required visitation. Of those homes 1,791 or 77% received the required visitation. This compares to 1,723 or 77% 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 2,726 children left the custody of the Department. This compares to 2,883 children exiting care during the prior reporting period. The comparison between the two reporting periods shows that 4% fewer 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%
OCTOBER 2004 – MARCH 2005	2,726	-4%

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, 2005**

<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	183	7%
Ages 1 - 5	932	35%
Ages 6 – 8	335	12%
Ages 9 - 12	422	15%
Ages 13 - 17	632	23%
18 and Over	222	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,726</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	1,176	44%
Hispanic	931	34%
African American	340	13%
American Indian	149	5%
Asian	35	1%
Other	95	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,726</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	1,455	53%
Two	546	20%
Three	267	10%
Four	140	5%
Five	75	3%
More than Five	243	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,726</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	814	30%
31 Days to 12 Months	829	30%
13 to 24 Months	572	21%
More than 24 Months	511	19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,726</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	8.16	8.86
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	1	2.52
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	8.77	14.40

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY  
FOR REASON OF “REUNIFICATION WITH PARENTS OR PRIMARY CARETAKER” FOR  
THE REPORTING PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2005**

<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	129	9%
Ages 1 – 5	474	34%
Ages 6 – 8	160	11%
Ages 9 - 12	238	17%
Ages 13 - 17	401	28%
18 and Over	7	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,409</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	596	43%
Hispanic	472	33%
African American	188	13%
American Indian	70	5%
Asian	24	2%
Other	59	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,409</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	882	63%
Two	289	21%
Three	119	8%
Four	47	3%
Five	31	2%
More than Five	41	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,409</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	593	43%
31 Days to 12 Months	554	39%
13 to 24 Months	203	14%
More than 24 Months	59	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,409</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	7.84	8.38
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	1	1.77
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	2.30	6.44

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY  
FOR REASON OF “LIVING WITH OTHER RELATIVES” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD  
ENDING MARCH 31, 2005**

<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	23	16%
Ages 1 - 5	45	33%
Ages 6 – 8	17	12%
Ages 9 - 12	28	20%
Ages 13 - 17	26	18%
18 and Over	2	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	58	41%
Hispanic	55	39%
African American	10	7%
American Indian	8	6%
Asian	2	1%
Other	8	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	122	87%
Two	14	10%
Three	0	0%
Four	3	2%
Five	0	0%
More than Five	2	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	121	87%
31 Days to 12 Months	16	11%
13 to 24 Months	2	1%
More than 24 Months	2	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	6.28	7.34
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	1	1.17
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	.13	1.68

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES  
CUSTODY FOR REASON OF “ADOPTION” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD  
ENDING MARCH 31, 2005**

<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	0	0%
Ages 1 - 5	248	57%
Ages 6 – 8	86	20%
Ages 9 - 12	67	16%
Ages 13 - 17	29	7%
18 and Over	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	190	45%
Hispanic	163	38%
African American	48	11%
American Indian	19	4%
Asian	4	1%
Other	6	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	128	30%
Two	102	24%
Three	81	19%
Four	45	10%
Five	23	5%
More than Five	51	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</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	9	2%
13 to 24 Months	137	32%
More than 24 Months	284	66%
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	5.03	5.90
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	2	2.95
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	26.51	29.69

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY  
FOR REASON OF “GUARDIANSHIP” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD  
ENDING MARCH 31, 2005**

<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	15	4%
Ages 1 - 5	128	34%
Ages 6 – 8	61	16%
Ages 9 - 12	81	21%
Ages 13 - 17	93	25%
18 and Over	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	171	45%
Hispanic	129	34%
African American	37	10%
American Indian	22	6%
Asian	4	1%
Other	15	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	220	57%
Two	83	22%
Three	37	10%
Four	21	6%
Five	10	3%
More than Five	7	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	36	10%
31 Days to 12 Months	143	38%
13 to 24 Months	175	46%
More than 24 Months	24	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	8.31	8.48
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	1	1.81
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	13.39	13.02

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY  
FOR REASONS OF “REACHING AGE OF MAJORITY” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD  
ENDING MARCH 31, 2005**

<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	16	7%
18 and Over	211	93%
<b>Total</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	102	44%
Hispanic	67	29%
African American	42	19%
American Indian	15	7%
Asian	0	0%
Other	1	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	23	10%
Two	24	11%
Three	19	8%
Four	18	8%
Five	10	4%
More than Five	133	59%
<b>Total</b>	<b>227</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	50	21%
13 to 24 Months	40	18%
More than 24 Months	133	59%
<b>Total</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	18.01	18.29
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	6	8.37
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	28.65	48.60



**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY  
FOR REASON OF “TRANSFER TO ANOTHER AGENCY” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD  
ENDING MARCH 31, 2005**

<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	14	14%
Ages 1 - 5	36	35%
Ages 6 – 8	11	11%
Ages 9 - 12	8	8%
Ages 13 - 17	32	31%
18 and Over	1	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	43	42%
Hispanic	31	30%
African American	10	10%
American Indian	12	12%
Asian	0	0%
Other	6	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	49	48%
Two	30	29%
Three	10	10%
Four	6	6%
Five	1	1%
More than Five	6	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	32	31%
31 Days to 12 Months	50	49%
13 to 24 Months	15	15%
More than 24 Months	5	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	6.44	8.06
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	2	2.86
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	3.98	10.09

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY  
FOR REASON OF “RUNAWAY” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD  
ENDING MARCH 31, 2005**

<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	33	97%
18 and Over	1	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	13	38%
Hispanic	13	38%
African American	4	12%
American Indian	3	9%
Asian	1	3%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	30	88%
Two	1	3%
Three	0	0%
Four	0	0%
Five	0	0%
More than Five	3	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	27	79%
31 Days to 12 Months	5	15%
13 to 24 Months	0	0%
More than 24 Months	2	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	16.83	16.51
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	1	1.79
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	.98	3.10

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY  
FOR REASON OF “DEATH OF CHILD” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD ENDING  
MARCH 31, 2005**

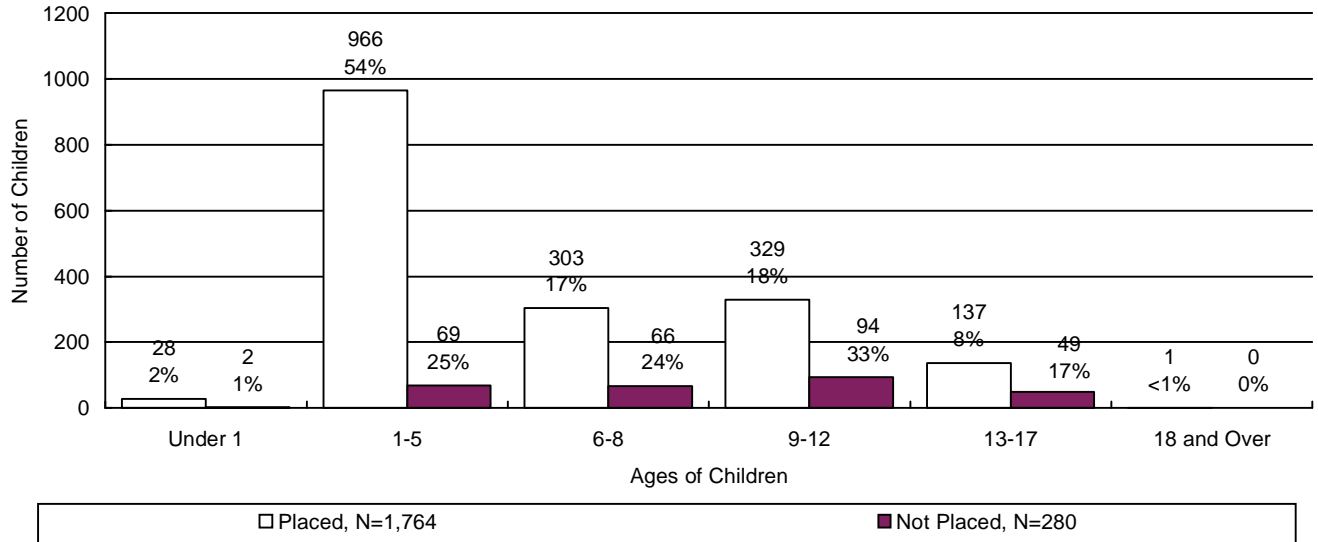
<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	2	40%
Ages 1 - 5	1	20%
Ages 6 – 8	0	0%
Ages 9 - 12	0	0%
Ages 13 - 17	2	40%
18 and Over	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	3	60%
Hispanic	1	20%
African American	1	20%
American Indian	0	0%
Asian	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	1	20%
Two	3	60%
Three	1	20%
Four	0	0%
Five	0	0%
More than Five	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	1	20%
31 Days to 12 Months	2	40%
13 to 24 Months	0	0%
More than 24 Months	2	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	5.08	6.91
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	2	2
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	9.34	19.80

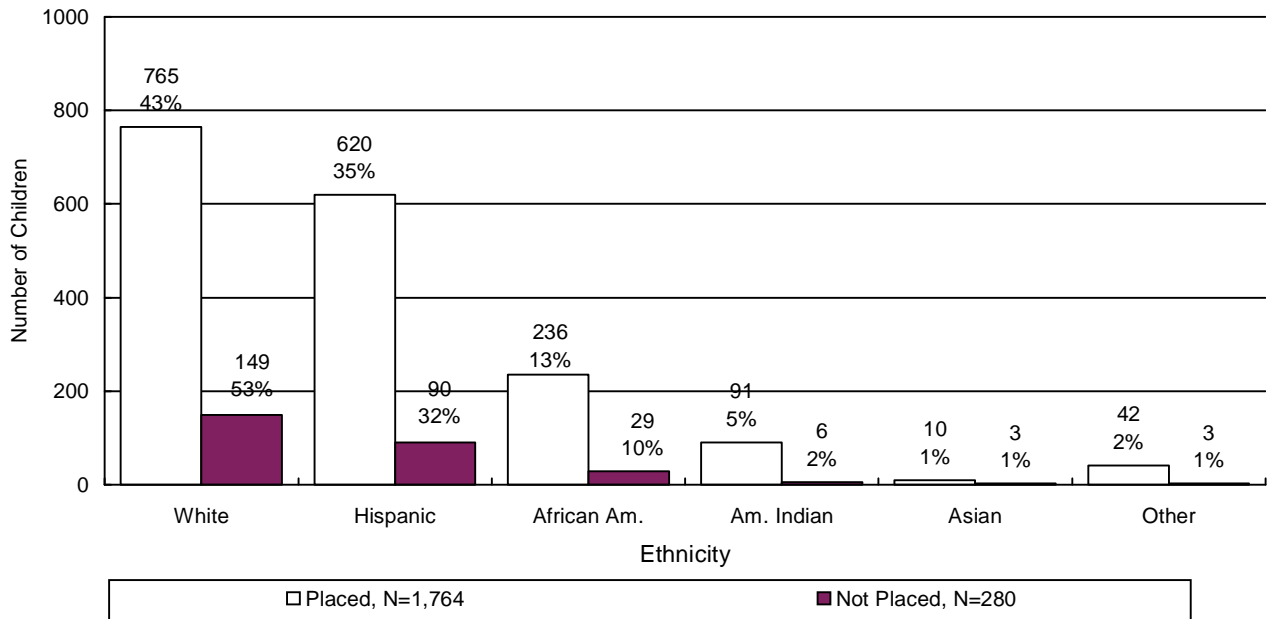
**CHILDREN WITH ADOPTIVE CASE PLAN GOALS**

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.

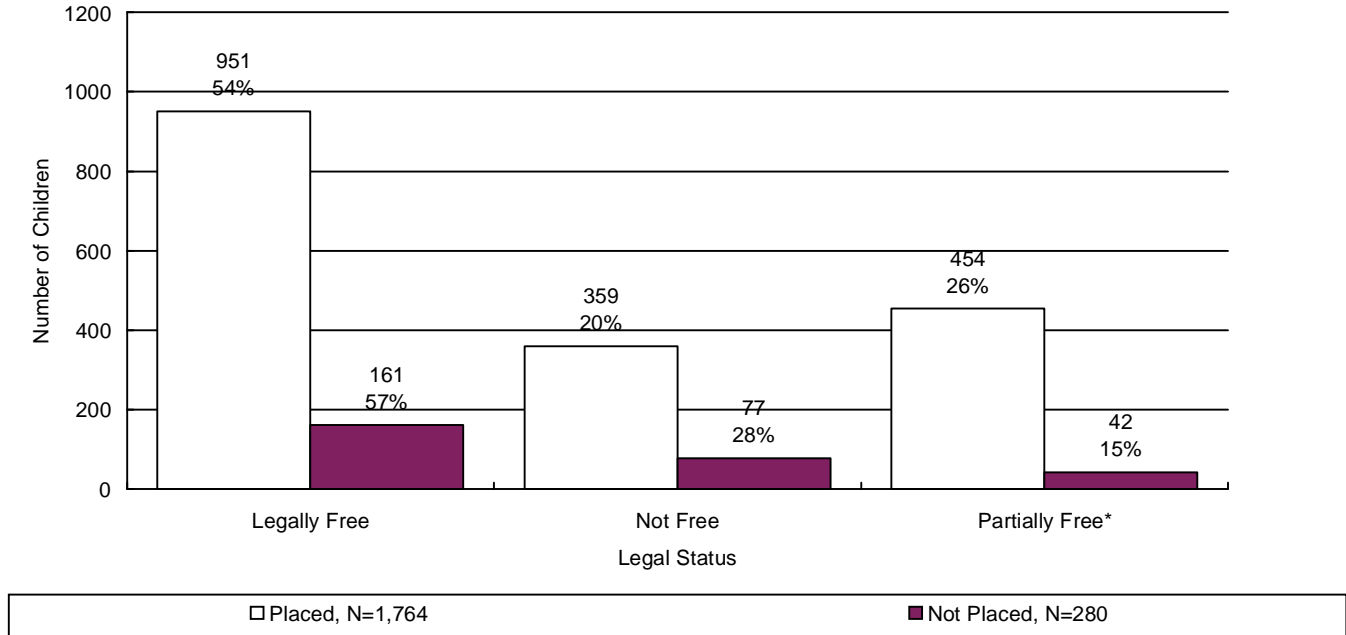
**THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A CASE PLAN GOAL OF ADOPTION BY AGE**



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

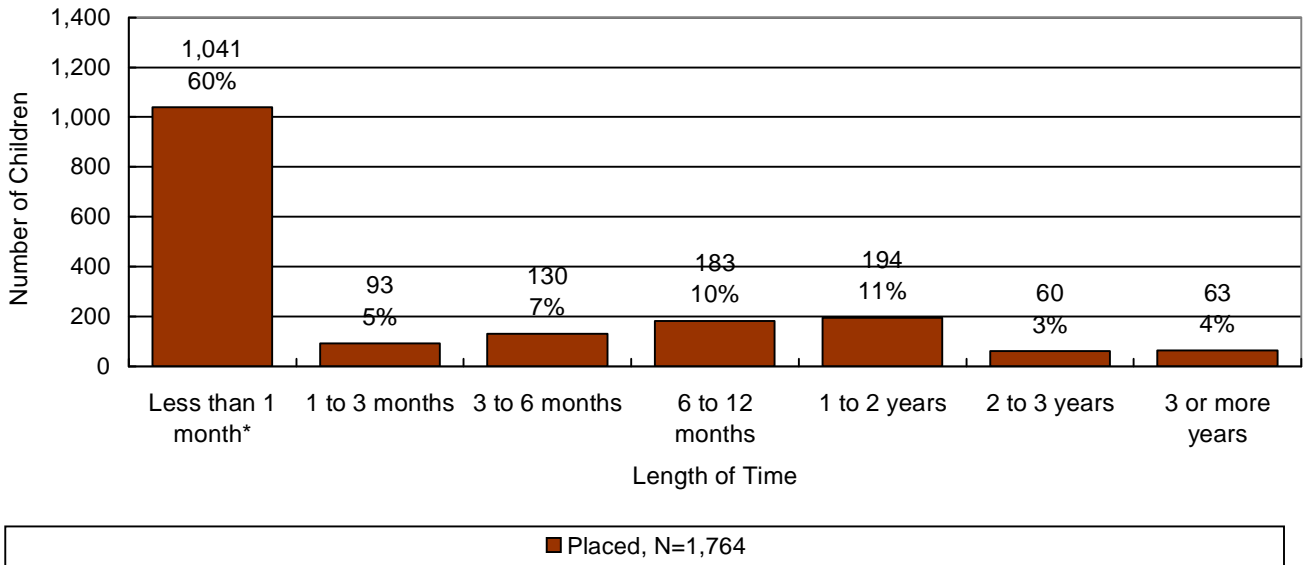


**THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A CASE PLAN GOAL OF ADOPTION BY LEGAL STATUS**



\*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**

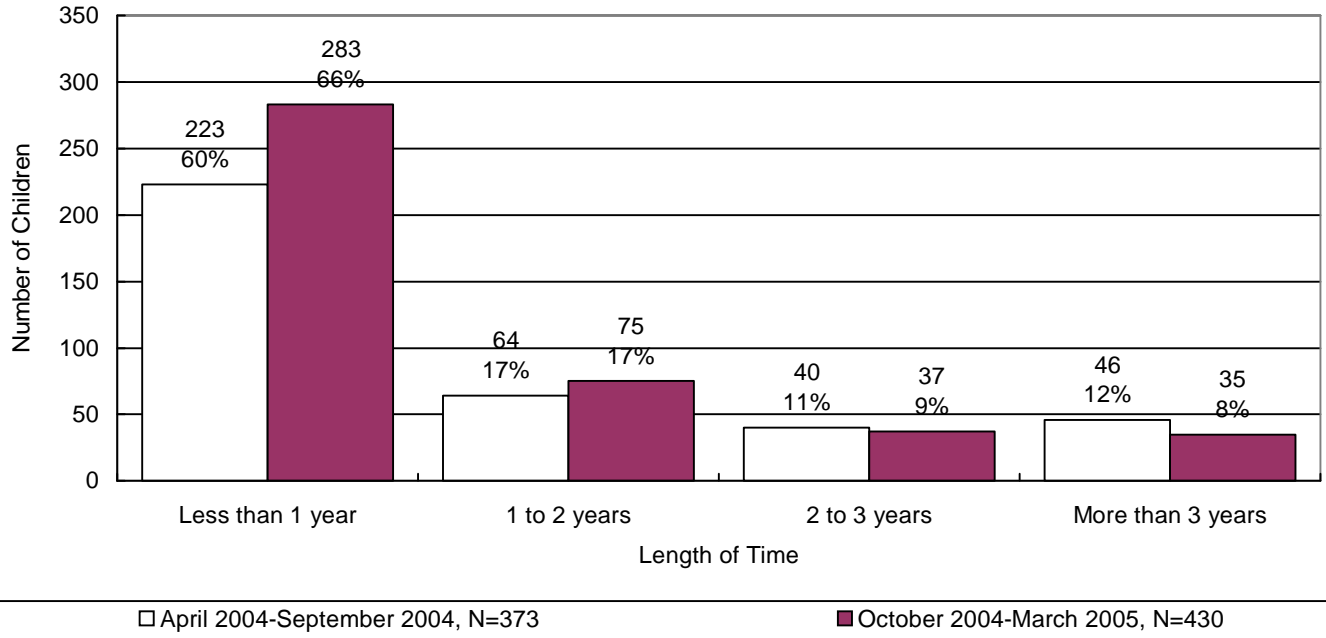


\*About 70% of children are adopted by relatives or their foster parents and are already in their prospective adoptive placement at the time the case plan goal changes to adoption.

**ADOPTIVE SERVICES**

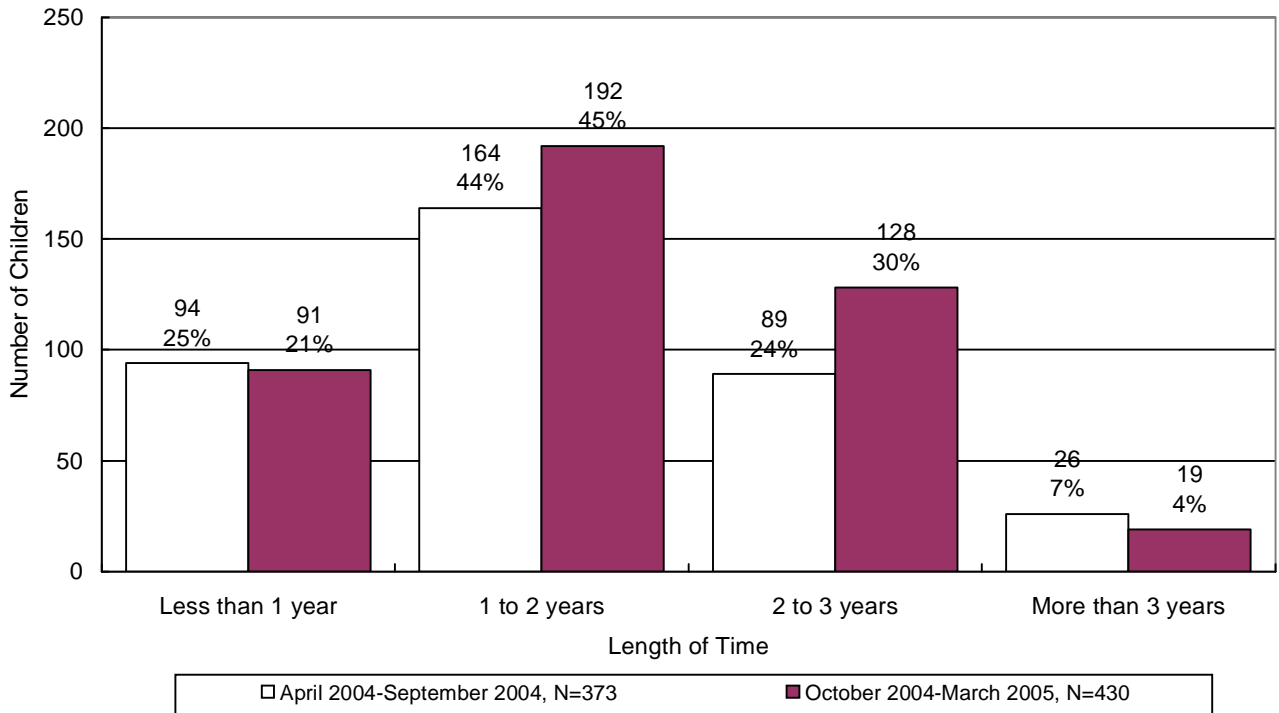
There were 430 children with a finalized adoption during the reporting period. The chart below displays the number of children with a finalized adoption during the reporting period by the average length of time in out-of-home placement before adoptive placement.

**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.