

CHILD WELFARE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD OF

OCTOBER 1, 2005 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2006

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, 2005 and ending on March 31, 2006.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
S.B. 1229
OCTOBER 1, 2005 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2006

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, 2005 through March 31, 2006. 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 17,756 reports of child abuse, neglect and abandonment. Of these reports, 197 were within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments and were referred to those jurisdictions. The Department responded to 100% of the remaining 17,559 reports. This response rate has been maintained by the Division since January, 1998. During the reporting period, an additional 12,236 communications were received by Child Protective Services Hotline that did not meet the criteria of a report.

During the reporting period, there were 1,159 substantiated findings of abuse or neglect. In-home services were received in 813 of these cases, out-of-home services were received in 598 of these cases, and 328 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, 2006, there were 9,902 children in out-of-home care in Arizona. Of the total number of children in out-of-home care, there were 3,417 children placed with relatives. Two thousand three hundred forty-five (2,345) children of the 9,902 in out-of-home care had a case plan goal of adoption, and 2,118 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 eight hundred ninety-seven (4,897) children had a case plan goal of "Return to Family". Seven thousand four hundred one (7,401 or 75%) of the total number of children had been in out-of-home care for less than two years. For children who had been in out-of-home care longer than two years, each had a case plan goal developed to lead to permanency.

At the end of the reporting period, 4,042 children were in family foster home settings. There were 2,207 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 1,833 (83%) of 2,207 foster homes this reporting period.

A.R.S. §8-516 also requires supervision of children in foster care. During this reporting period, 9,902 children in out-of-home care required visitation by their Child Protective Services case manager. Visitation was accurately documented for 6,411 (65%) of these children.

During the reporting period, 3,506 children left the care, custody and control of DES. The following are the reasons and the number of children who left care: 1,800 of the children were reunified with their parents or primary caretaker; 260 of the children reached the age of majority; 522 children left due to a legal guardianship being established; 147 of the children were placed with other relatives; 150 of the children were transferred to another agency; and 33 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 586 children with finalized adoptions.

Semi-Annual Comparisons

	Apr 2003 – Sep 2003	Oct 2003 – Mar 2004	Apr 2004 – Sep 2004	Oct 2004 - Mar 2005	Apr 2005 – Sep 2005	Oct 2005 – Mar 2006
Number of Reports	18,680	20,242	19,165	18,839	18,797	17,756
Number of Reports Substantiated ¹	2,299 (17%)	2,363 (15%)	2,157 (14%)	1,734 (11%)	1,677 (11%)	1,159 (8%)
Number of Reports Investigated	15,729	17,428	19,011	18,663	18,577	17,559
Number of Reports Referred to Family Builders	2,781	2,628	1,145	N/A ²	N/A	N/A
Number of Substantiated Investigations- with No Services After Investigation is Closed	565	570	226	316	327	328
Number of Substantiated Investigations-In-Home Services Provided After Investigation is Closed	1,035	1,188	780	943	921	813
Number of Substantiated Investigations-Out of Home Services Provided After Investigation is Closed	890	986	581	706	693	598
Number of new removals	3,349	3,504	3,630	3,617	4,078	3,753
Number of new removals with Voluntary under 18	311	256	279	118	420	290
Percentage of Annualized Turnover Rate of Staff	27.66%	N/A ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care on the Last Day of Reporting Period	7,535	8,246	8,839	9,536	9,906	9,902
Number of Children in Shelter for More than 21 Days	1,323	1,431	1,319	1,127	1,039	840
Number and Percentage of Children Receiving Visitation In the Last Month of Reporting Period	4,890 (65%)	5,266 (64%)	5,475 (62%)	6,506 (68%)	6,045 (61%)	6,411 (65%)
Number and Percentage of Children not Receiving Visitation	2,645 (35%)	2,980 (36%)	3,364 (38%)	3,030 (32%)	3,861 (39%)	3,491 (35%)
Number and Percentage of Parents Receiving Visitation	851 (50%)	973 (51%)	1,049 (50%)	1,255(56%)	1,080 (48%)	1,154 (52%)
Number of Licensed Foster Homes	1,892	2,007	2,191	2,267	2,288	2,207
Number of Foster Home Spaces Available to ACYF	3,982	3,691	4,044	5,020	4,905	5,668
Number of New Foster Homes	308	334	410	400	397	328
Number of Foster Homes Closed	281	219	197	410	258	295
Number and Percentage of Foster Homes Receiving Visitation In the Last Qtr. Of Reporting Period	1,606 (85%)	1,774 (88%)	1,723 (79%)	1,791 (79%)	1,672 (73%)	1,833 (83%)
Number and Percentage of Foster Homes not Receiving Visitation	286 (15%)	233 (12%)	466 (21%)	476 (21%)	968 (42%)	374 (17%)
Number of Children Leaving DES Custody	2,528	2,655	2,883	2,726	3,488	3,506
Number of Children With a Case Plan Goal of Adoption	1,485	1,629	1,893	2,044	2,170	2,345
Number of Children With a Finalized Adoption	408	380	373	430	570	586

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

³ 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.

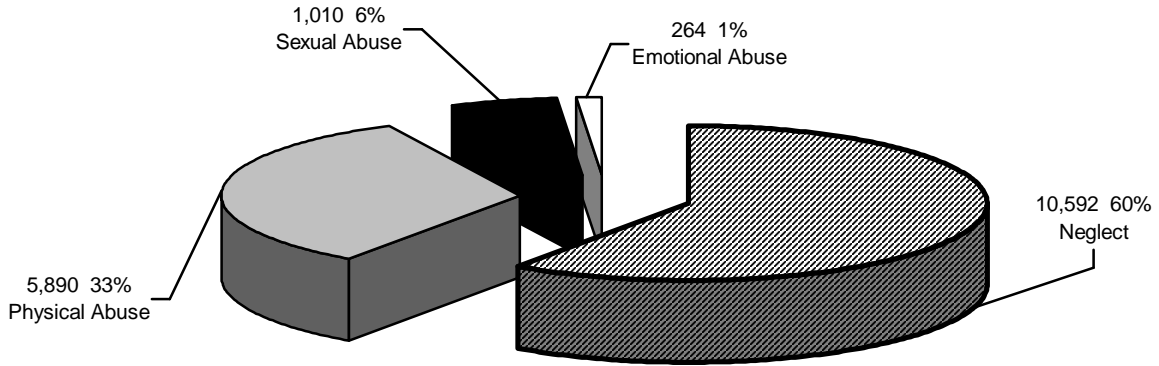
Between October 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006, there were 17,756 incoming communications to the Child Abuse Hotline which met the criteria of a report of abuse or neglect. Of these, 197 were within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments and were referred to those jurisdictions. This compares to 18,797 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, 2005 and March 31, 2006, shows 10,592 or 60% of the 17,756 reports of maltreatment were related to allegations of neglect, 5,890 or 33% of the reports were related to allegations of physical abuse, 1,010 or 6% of the reports were related to allegations of sexual abuse, and 264 or 1% of the reports were related to allegations of emotional abuse.

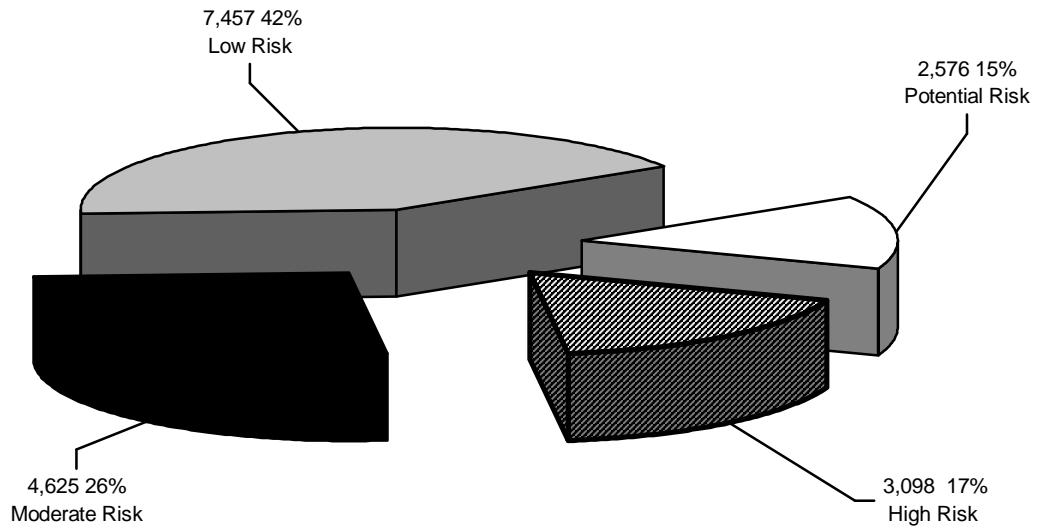
The second pie chart, on the following page, provides the number of reports received by report risk level for the October 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006 reporting period. Based on the type of maltreatment described in the report a risk level is assigned to the reports of alleged abuse. The pie chart shows 3,098 or 17% of the reports received were High Risk reports, 4,625 or 26% of the reports were Moderate Risk reports, 7,457 or 42% of the reports were classified as Low Risk reports, and 2,576 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
April 2005 - September 2005	11,282	6,139	1,135	241	18,797
October 2005 – March 2006	10,592	5,890	1,010	264	17,756

**NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED BY CATEGORY OF MALTREATMENT
FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2005 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2006**



**NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED BY RISK LEVEL FOR THE PERIOD
OCTOBER 1, 2005 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2006**

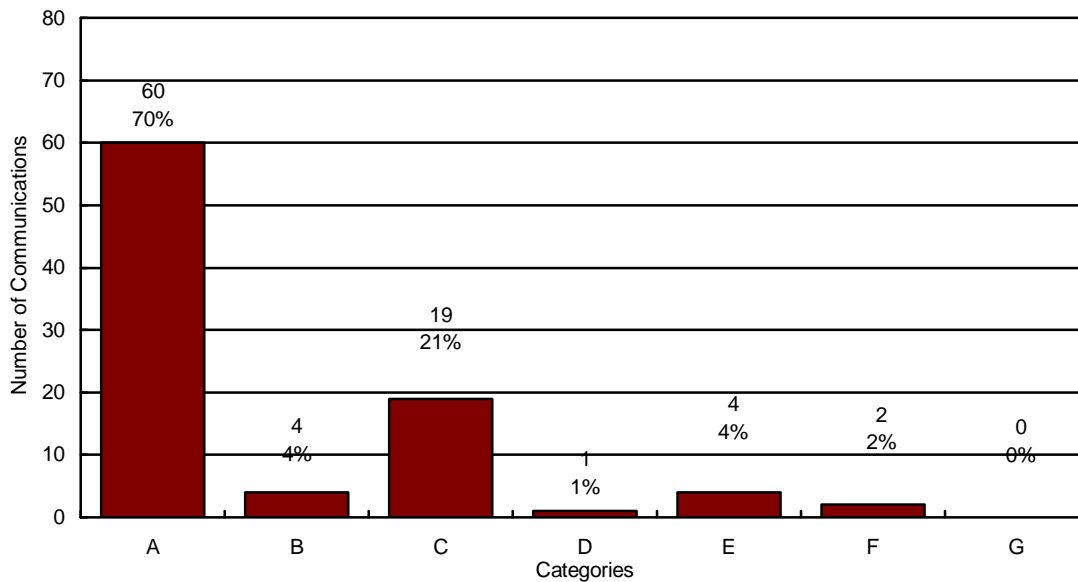


N=17,756

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

In addition to the 17,756 reports during the current reporting period, the Child Abuse Hotline received 12,336 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 Jurisdiction⁴**
- 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.

⁴ 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

Investigation data for the current reporting period:

- 17,756 reports appropriate for investigation
- 197 reports fell within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments
- 17,559 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, 2005 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2006**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	13	31	33	8	85	<1%
COCHISE	59	135	202	59	455	3%
COCONINO	77	117	175	47	416	2%
GILA	40	4	80	24	190	1%
GRAHAM	8	21	40	1	85	<1%
GREENLEE	4	3	9	1	17	<1%
LA PAZ	16	14	21	9	60	<1%
MARICOPA	1,893	2,591	4,069	1,466	10,019	56%
MOHAVE	100	184	5	99	48	4%
NAVAJO	78	83	130	44	335	2%
PIMA	456	851	1,597	509	3,413	19%
PINAL	165	238	336	125	864	5%
SANTA CRUZ	25	19	52	13	109	1%
YAVAPAI	63	19	255	97	584	3%
YUMA	101	123	193	59	476	3%
STATEWIDE	3,098	4,625	7,457	2,576	17,756	100%
% OF TOTAL	17%	26%	42%	15%	100%	

**NUMBER OF REPORTS RESPONDED TO BY TYPE OF MALTREATMENT AND COUNTY
FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2005 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2005**

COUNTY	EMOTIONAL ABUSE	NEGLECT	PHYSICAL ABUSE	SEXUAL ABUSE	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	0	64	20	5	89	<1%
COCHISE	7	302	177	21	507	3%
COCONINO	3	258	138	24	423	2%
GILA	2	154	52	15	223	1%
GRAHAM	4	64	28	7	103	1%
GREENLEE	1	20	8	1	30	<1%
LA PAZ	1	42	20	5	68	<1%
MARICOPA	120	6,306	3,526	624	10,576	56%
MOHAVE	4	490	208	42	744	4%
NAVAJO	5	242	77	21	345	2%
PIMA	66	1,941	1,227	237	3,471	18%
PINAL	13	604	312	62	991	5%
SANTA CRUZ	0	52	40	2	94	1%
YAVAPAI	8	431	185	45	669	4%
YUMA	7	312	121	24	464	2%
STATEWIDE	241	11,282	6,139	1,135	18,797	100%
% OF TOTAL	1%	60%	33%	6%	100%	

**NUMBER OF REPORTS RESPONDED TO BY TYPE OF MALTREATMENT AND COUNTY
FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2005 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2006**

COUNTY	EMOTIONAL ABUSE	NEGLECT	PHYSICAL ABUSE	SEXUAL ABUSE	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	2	50	26	7	85	<1%
COCHISE	6	267	155	27	455	3%
COCONINO	4	247	134	31	416	2%
GILA	3	125	57	5	190	1%
GRAHAM	1	57	25	2	85	<1%
GREENLEE	0	7	9	1	17	<1%
LA PAZ	0	49	11	0	60	<1%
MARICOPA	114	6,006	3,346	553	10,019	56%
MOHAVE	11	404	192	41	648	4%
NAVAJO	7	194	114	20	335	2%
PIMA	74	1,901	1,240	198	3,413	19%
PINAL	12	547	246	59	864	5%
SANTA CRUZ	0	59	46	4	109	1%
YAVAPAI	21	360	163	40	584	3%
YUMA	9	319	126	22	476	3%
STATEWIDE	264	10,592	5,890	1,010	17,756	100%
% OF TOTAL	1%	60%	33%	6%	100%	

**NUMBER OF REPORTS RESPONDED TO BY RISK LEVEL AND COUNTY
FOR PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2005 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2005**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	27	23	26	13	89	<1%
COCHISE	79	157	213	58	507	3%
COCONINO	89	106	171	57	423	2%
GILA	44	68	77	34	223	1%
GRAHAM	7	34	46	16	103	1%
GREENLEE	9	5	14	2	30	<1%
LA PAZ	21	20	20	7	68	<1%
MARICOPA	2,073	2,919	4,081	1,503	10,576	56%
MOHAVE	124	219	310	91	744	4%
NAVAJO	88	83	127	47	345	2%
PIMA	440	966	1,486	579	3,471	18%
PINAL	202	279	375	135	991	5%
SANTA CRUZ	26	17	36	15	94	1%
YAVAPAI	91	198	276	104	669	4%
YUMA	99	132	158	75	464	2%
STATEWIDE	3,419	5,226	7,416	2,736	18,797	100%
% OF TOTAL	18%	28%	39%	15%	100%	

SUBSTANTIATED INVESTIGATIONS

During the reporting period 15,003 reports were investigated and subject to substantiation, with 8% or 1,159 of the reports resulting in a substantiated finding of child abuse or neglect.⁵ This compares to a revised substantiation rate of 11%, or 1,677 reports, for the period of April 2005 through September 2005. In addition, during the reporting period, October 2005 through March 2006, there were 202 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 services⁶; 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.

⁵ As of January 25, 1999 the Department does not substantiate potential risk reports.

⁶ 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 INVESTIGATION⁷ BY RISK LEVEL AND COUNTY FOR THE
PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2005 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2006**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	0	2	0	0	2	1%
COCHISE	0	8	5	0	13	4%
COCONINO	2	4	1	0	7	2%
GILA	1	2	3	0	6	2%
GRAHAM	0	0	0	0	0	0%
GREENLEE	0	0	0	0	0	0%
LA PAZ	0	0	0	0	0	0%
MARICOPA	21	42	61	0	124	38%
MOHAVE	2	2	3	0	7	2%
NAVAJO	5	2	2	0	9	3%
PIMA	16	43	54	0	113	34%
PINAL	4	3	10	0	17	5%
SANTA CRUZ	2	1	2	0	5	2%
YAVAPAI	2	4	5	0	11	3%
YUMA	5	4	5	0	4	4%
STATEWIDE	60	117	151	0	328	100%
% OF TOTAL	18%	36%	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, 2005 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2006**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	2	3	0	0	5	1%
COCHISE	13	19	15	0	47	6%
COCONINO	10	15	12	0	37	5%
GILA	6	2	2	0	10	1%
GRAHAM	2	2	1	0	5	1%
GREENLEE	0	0	1	0	1	<1%
LA PAZ	2	2	0	0	4	<1%
MARICOPA	108	92	89	0	289	36%
MOHAVE	8	4	3	0	15	2%
NAVAJO	12	3	4	0	19	2%
PIMA	112	82	80	0	274	34%
PINAL	13	11	4	0	28	3%
SANTA CRUZ	2	0	2	0	4	<1%
YAVAPAI	16	19	16	0	51	6%
YUMA	12	7	5	0	24	3%
STATEWIDE	318	261	234	0	813	100%
% OF TOTAL	39%	32%	29%	0%	100%	

⁷ 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, 2005 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2006

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	3	3	0	0	6	1%
COCHISE	14	12	10	0	36	6%
COCONINO	10	10	6	0	26	4%
GILA	4	1	2	0	7	1%
GRAHAM	2	2	0	0	4	1%
GREENLEE	0	0	0	0	0	0%
LA PAZ	2	1	0	0	3	1%
MARICOPA	85	51	29	0	165	28%
MOHAVE	7	4	1	0	12	2%
NAVAJO	12	2	2	0	16	3%
PIMA	108	68	64	0	240	40%
PINAL	13	8	3	0	24	4%
SANTA CRUZ	2	0	0	0	2	<1%
YAVAPAI	15	16	11	0	42	7%
YUMA	8	5	2	0	15	3%
STATEWIDE	285	183	130	0	598	100%
% OF TOTAL	47%	31%	22%	0%	100%	

CHILDREN ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME CARE

During the reporting period October 2005 through March 2006, 3,753 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 2005 – March 2006 reporting period. This compares to four infants being delivered to Safe Haven Providers during the April 2005 – September 2005 reporting period.

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD
OF OCTOBER 1, 2005 THROUGH MARCH 30, 2006**

COUNTY	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	26	1%
COCHISE	107	3%
COCONINO	79	2%
GILA	36	1%
GRAHAM	20	1%
GREENLEE	5	<1%
LA PAZ	7	<1%
MARICOPA	1,954	52%
MOHAVE	72	2%
NAVAJO	74	2%
PIMA	899	24%
PINAL	211	6%
SANTA CRUZ	17	<1%
YAVAPAI	159	4%
YUMA	87	2%
STATEWIDE	3,753	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.

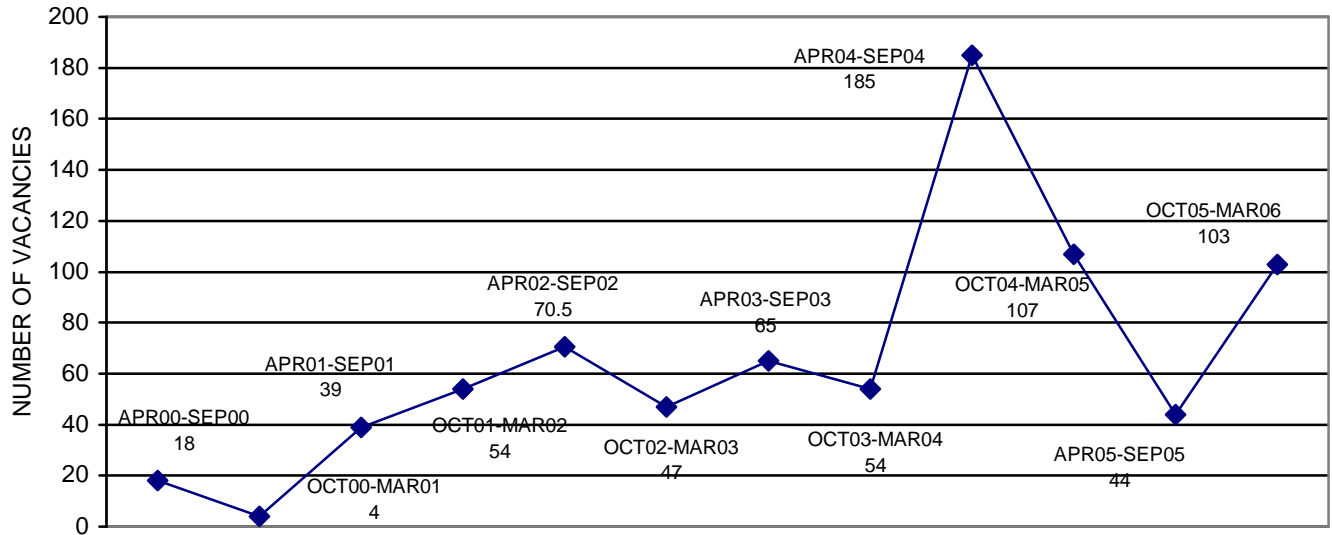
**NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME
CARE DUE TO A VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT BY COUNTY FOR PERIOD OF
OCTOBER 1, 2005 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2006**

COUNTY	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	5	2%
COCHISE	1	<1%
COCONINO	8	3%
GILA	0	0%
GRAHAM	0	0%
GREENLEE	0	0%
LA PAZ	5	2%
MARICOPA	172	59%
MOHAVE	27	9%
NAVAJO	12	4%
PIMA	26	9%
PINAL	8	3%
SANTA CRUZ	5	2%
YAVAPAI	14	5%
YUMA	7	2%
STATEWIDE	290	100%

DIRECT CLIENT SERVICES POSITIONS

There were 103 authorized Child Protective Services Specialist positions vacant on March 31, 2006.

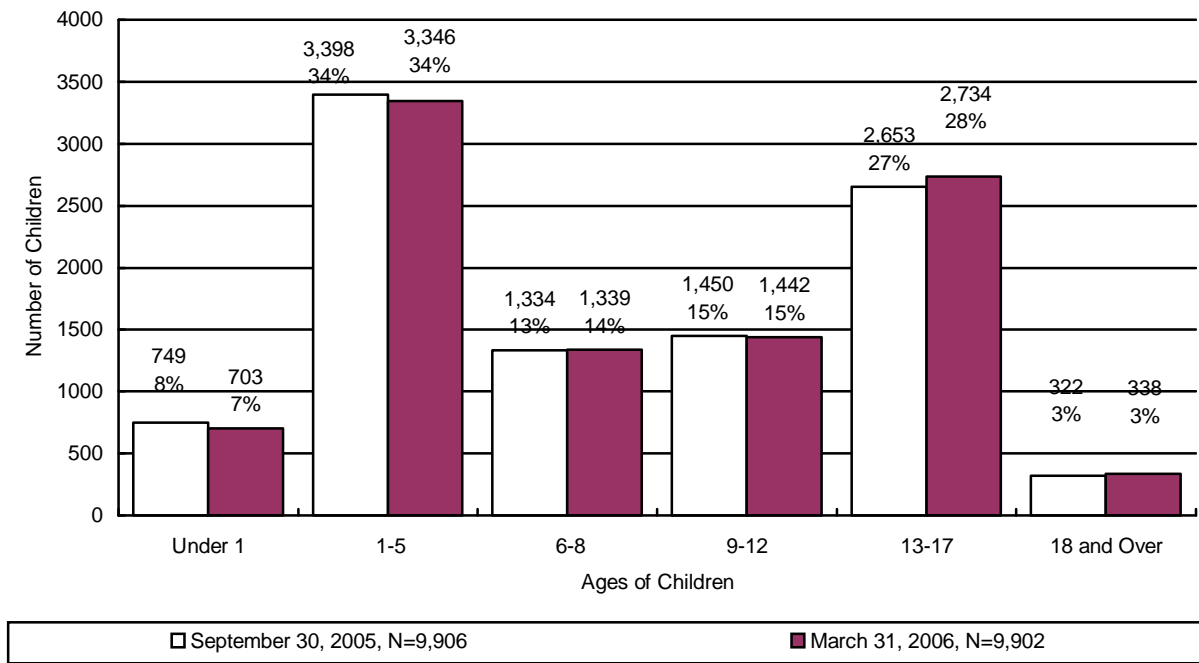
VACANCIES BY REPORTING PERIOD



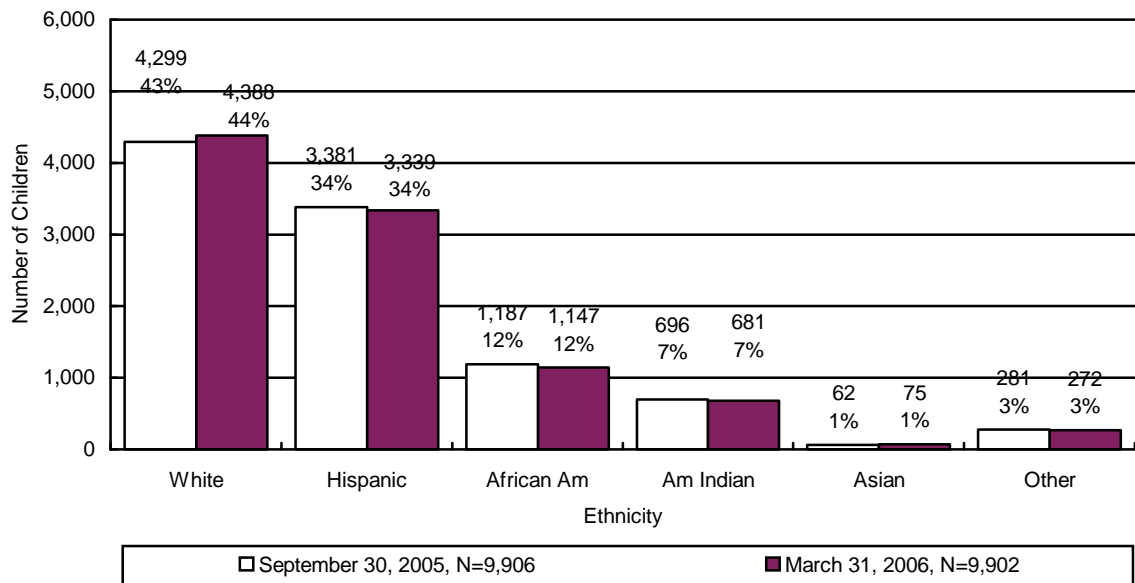
CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

On March 31, 2006, there were 9,902 children in out-of-home care. During the reporting period of October 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006 there were 3,753 children removed from their home for some period of time.

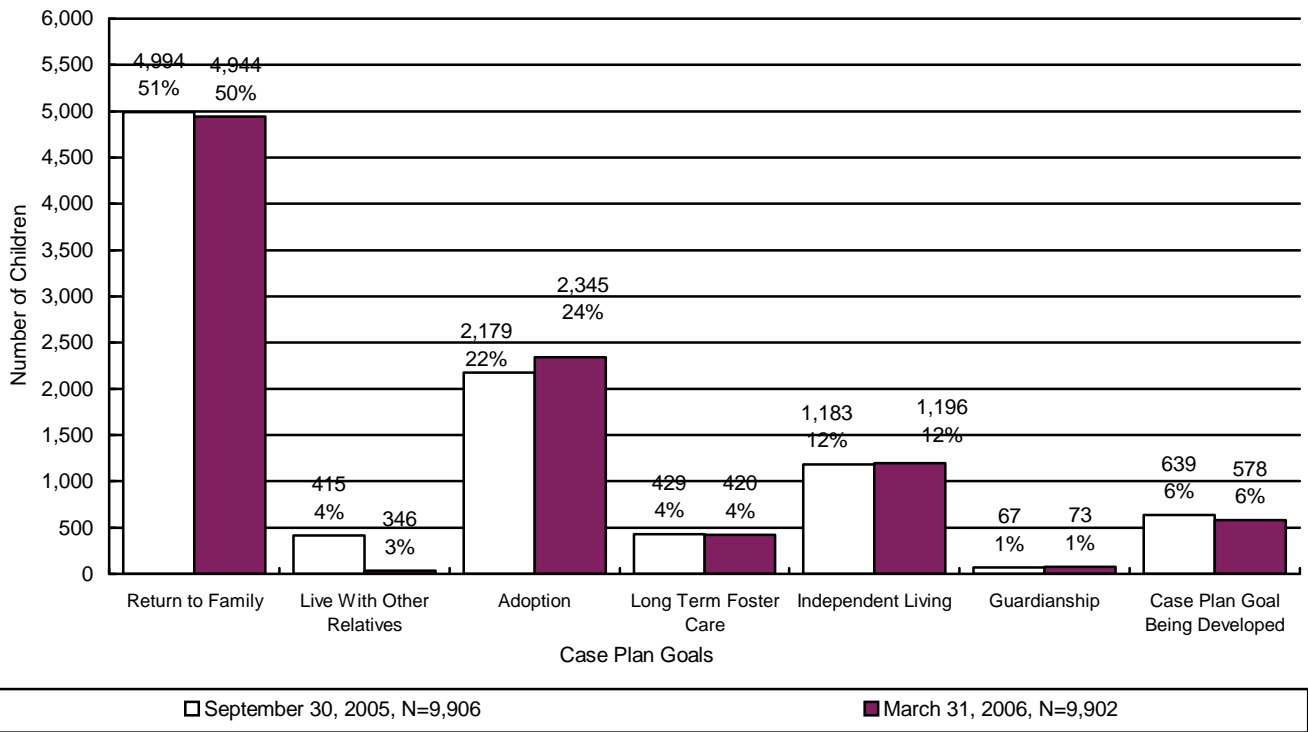
THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY AGE



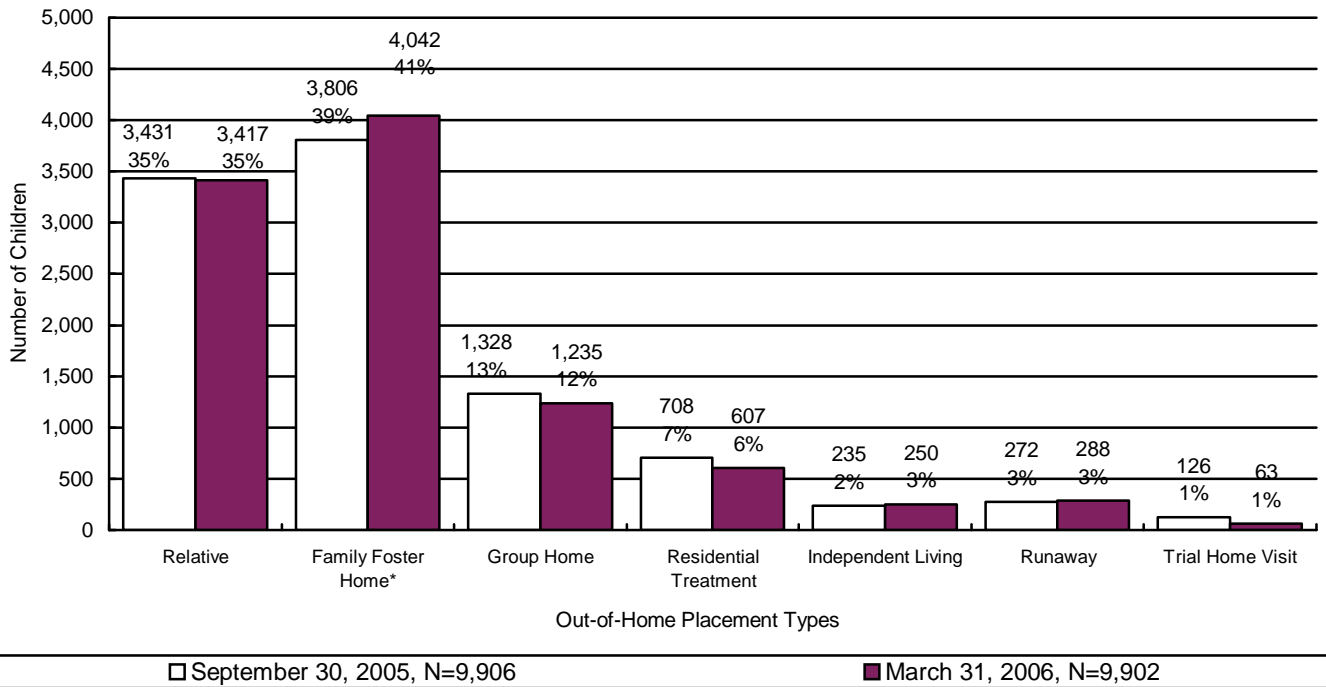
THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY ETHNICITY



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



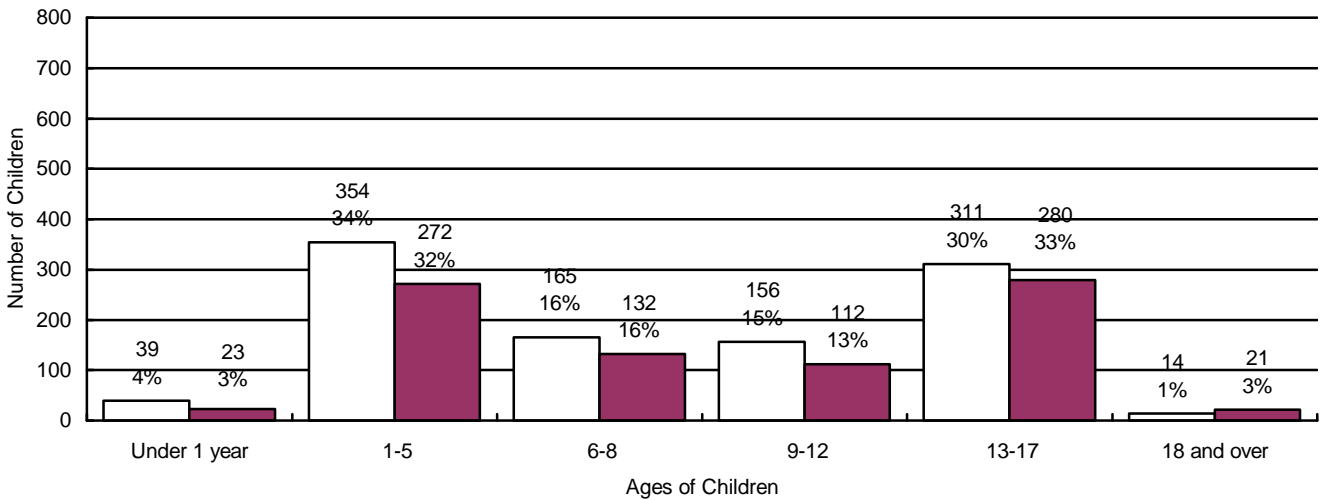
THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY PLACEMENT TYPE



* Category includes some relative placements.

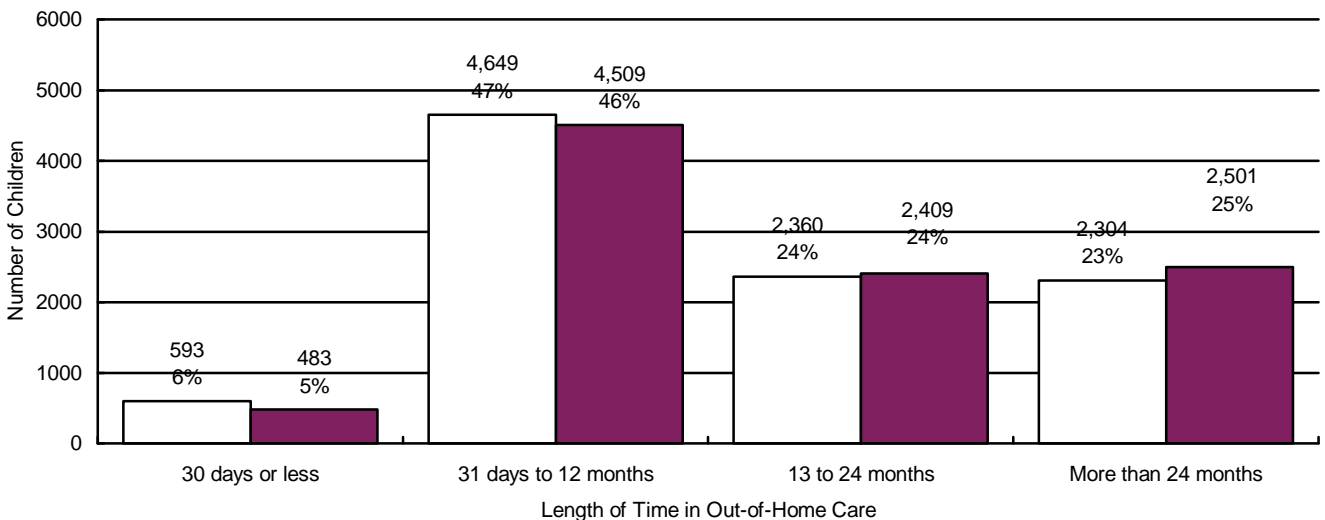
During the reporting period, 840 children remained in a shelter or receiving home for more than 21 consecutive days. (See Chart Below) For the period of October 2005 through March 2006, 545 or 65% of the children were six years of age or older. In addition, 23 or 3% of the children were under one year.

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



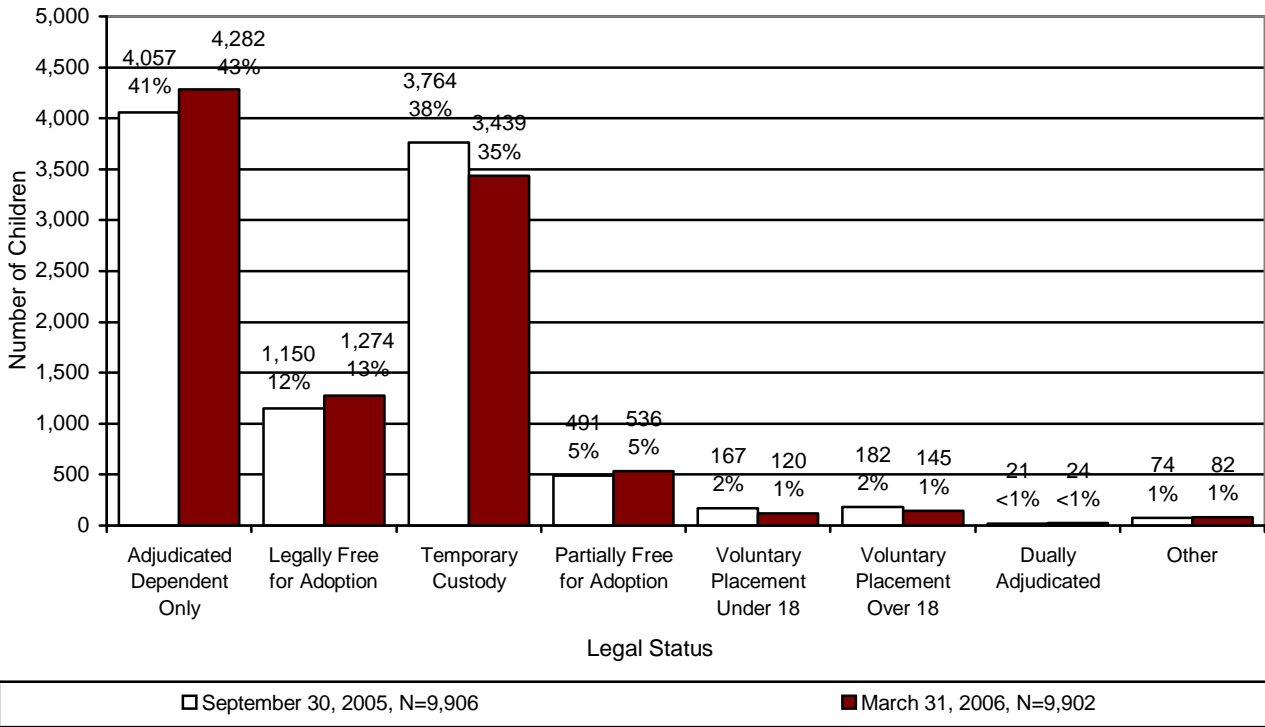
□ September 30, 2005, N=1,039 ■ March 31, 2006, N=840

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



□ September 30, 2005, N=9,906 ■ March 31, 2006, N=9,902

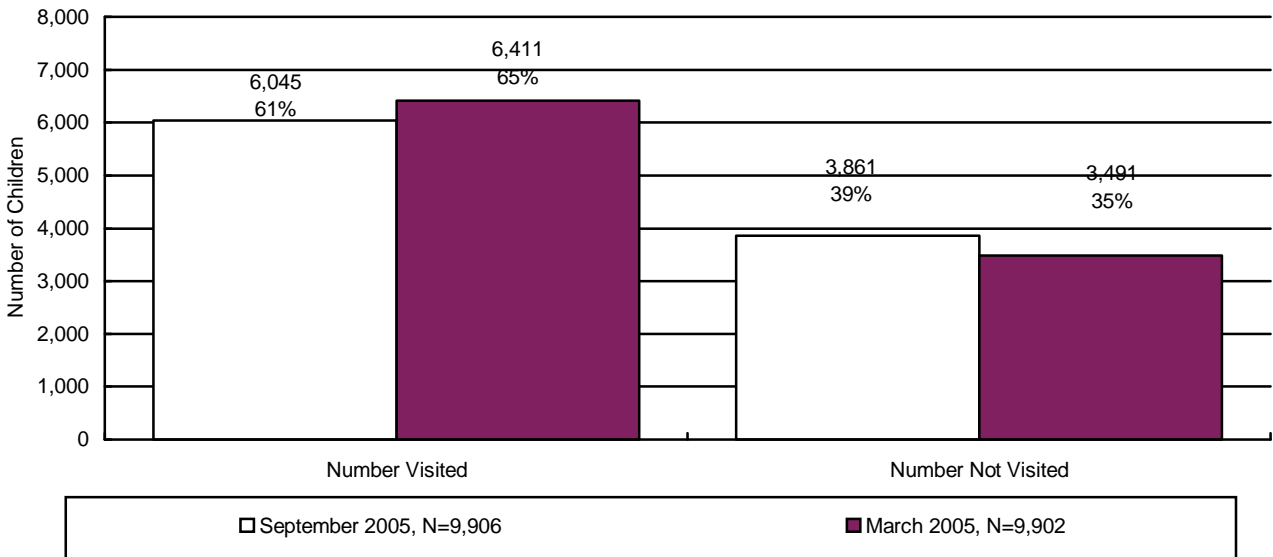
CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY LEGAL STATUS



At the end of the reporting period there were 9,902 children in out-of-home care who required visitation. Of these children, visitation was accurately documented in the automated system for 6,411 children or 65%.

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

THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED THE REQUIRED VISITATION



According to ACYF policy, case managers shall have face-to-face contact with all parents at least once a month, including any alleged parents and parents residing outside of the child’s home where the case plan goal is family reunification or remain with family. During the reporting period there were 2,213 parents who had a child with the case plan goal of return home. Of those parents requiring the visitation, 1,154 or 52% received the required visitation. The 52% visitation rate does not reflect attempted visitation where contact did not take place.

FOSTER HOMES

As of March 31, 2006 there were 2,207 licensed foster homes with 5,668 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.

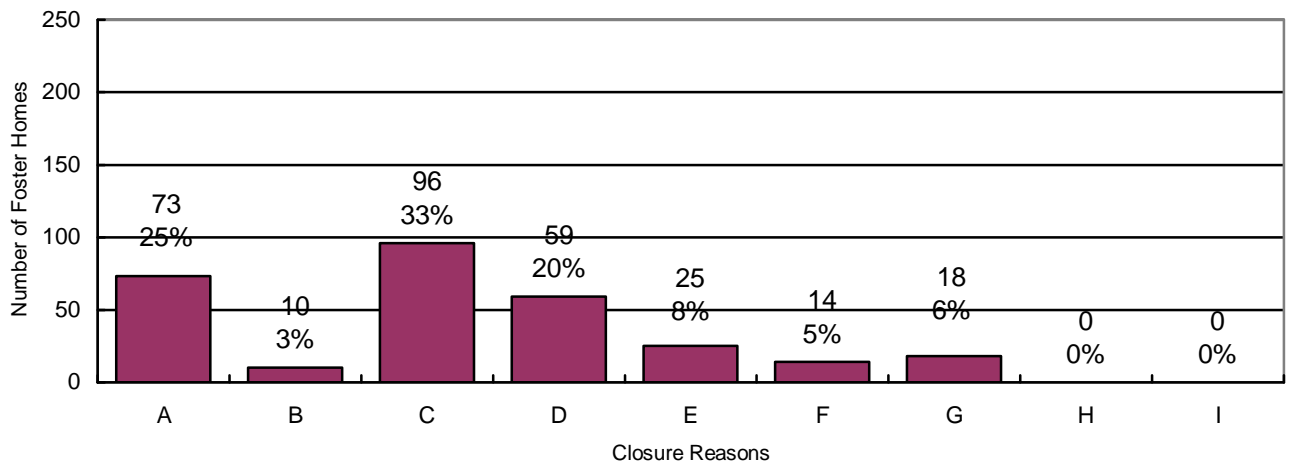
Foster home licenses specify the age range, gender and maximum number of children that can be placed in a home. Foster parents, in consultation with the licensing worker, decide the type of physical, behavioral and psychological needs of children they can effectively parent based upon their own skill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

As of March 31, 2006 there were 1,893 unused spaces within these foster homes. Approximately 1,196 of the 1,893 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, 328 new homes were licensed to provide foster care and 295 homes left the system. This compares to 397 new homes being licensed and 258 homes leaving the system for the period covering April 2005 through September 2005.

The chart below gives the reasons for foster home closures for the period of October 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006.

**REASON FOR FOSTER HOME CLOSURE FOR THE PERIOD OF
OCTOBER 1, 2005 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2006**

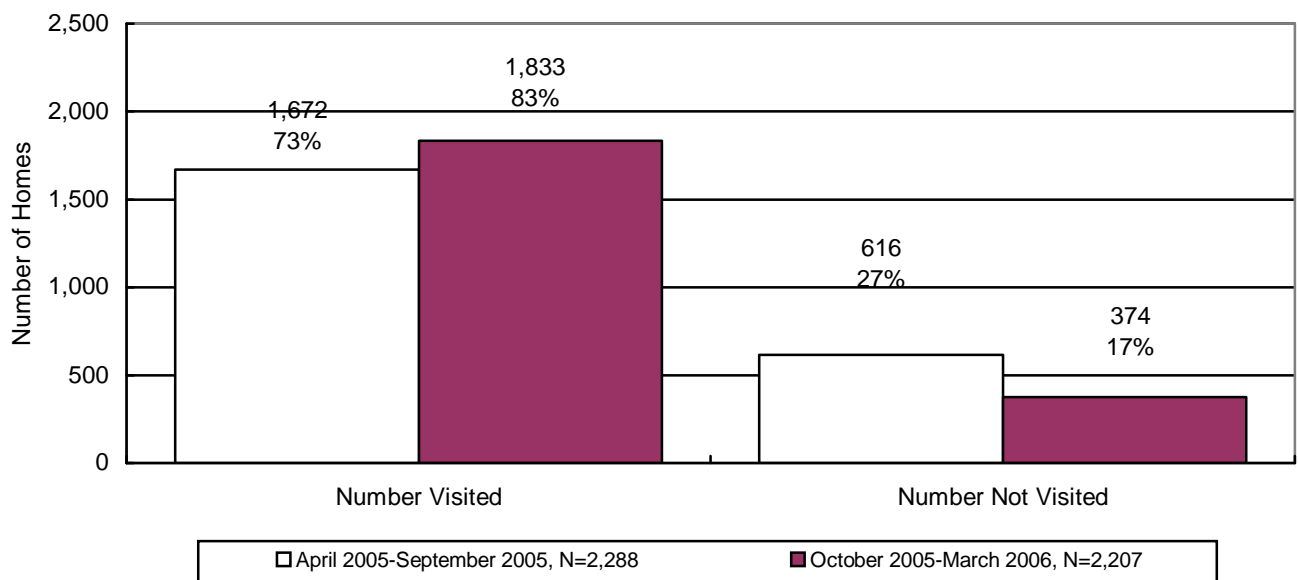


N= 295

- | | |
|--|---|
| 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 2,207 foster homes that required visitation. Of those homes, 1,833 or 83% received the required visitation. This compares to 1,672 or 73% of the foster homes that received the required visitation for the period April 2005 through September 2005. 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 3,506 children left the custody of the Department. This compares to 3,488 children exiting care during the prior reporting period. The comparison between the two reporting periods shows that <1% 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%
OCTOBER 2004 – MARCH 2005	2,726	-5%
APRIL 2004 – SEPTEMBER 2004	3,488	+28%
OCTOBER 2004 – MARCH 2005	3,506	+<1%

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, 2006

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	247	7%
Ages 1 - 5	1,231	35%
Ages 6 – 8	503	14%
Ages 9 - 12	535	15%
Ages 13 - 17	733	21%
18 and Over	257	7%
Total	3,506	100%

Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	1,369	39%
Hispanic	1,215	35%
African American	433	12%
American Indian	323	9%
Asian	37	1%
Other	129	4%
Total	3,506	100%

By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	1,901	54%
Two	701	20%
Three	367	10%
Four	176	5%
Five	106	3%
More than Five	255	7%
Total	3,506	100%

By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	1,057	30%
31 Days to 12 Months	1,023	29%
13 to 24 Months	719	21%
More than 24 Months	707	20%
Total	3,506	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	7.49	8.55
By Number of Placements	1.00	2.35
By Months of Time in Care	8.82	14.39

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF “REUNIFICATION WITH PARENTS OR PRIMARY CARETAKER” FOR
THE REPORTING PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2006**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	178	9%
Ages 1 – 5	607	34%
Ages 6 – 8	266	15%
Ages 9 - 12	284	16%
Ages 13 - 17	461	26%
18 and Over	4	<1%
Total	1,800	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	722	40%
Hispanic	601	33%
African American	218	12%
American Indian	152	9%
Asian	28	2%
Other	79	4%
Total	1,800	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	1,089	60%
Two	352	19%
Three	152	9%
Four	60	3%
Five	38	2%
More than Five	109	6%
Total	1,800	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	767	42%
31 Days to 12 Months	680	38%
13 to 24 Months	285	16%
More than 24 Months	68	4%
Total	1,800	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	7.18	8.05
By Number of Placements	1.00	1.68
By Months of Time in Care	1.97	6.22

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF “LIVING WITH OTHER RELATIVES” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING MARCH 31, 2006**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	9	6%
Ages 1 - 5	38	26%
Ages 6 – 8	23	16%
Ages 9 - 12	37	25%
Ages 13 - 17	40	27%
18 and Over	0	0%
Total	147	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	50	34%
Hispanic	67	46%
African American	17	12%
American Indian	7	5%
Asian	1	<1%
Other	5	3%
Total	147	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	125	85%
Two	10	7%
Three	2	1%
Four	0	0%
Five	0	0%
More than Five	10	7%
Total	147	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	122	83%
31 Days to 12 Months	20	14%
13 to 24 Months	4	3%
More than 24 Months	1	<1%
Total	147	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	9.36	8.90
By Number of Placements	1.00	1.11
By Months of Time in Care	13	1.32

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES
CUSTODY FOR REASON OF “ADOPTION” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING MARCH 31, 2006**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	10	2%
Ages 1 - 5	342	58%
Ages 6 – 8	104	18%
Ages 9 - 12	91	16%
Ages 13 - 17	38	6%
18 and Over	1	0%
Total	586	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	246	42%
Hispanic	211	36%
African American	77	13%
American Indian	37	6%
Asian	3	1%
Other	12	2%
Total	586	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	155	26%
Two	163	28%
Three	122	21%
Four	55	9%
Five	35	6%
More than Five	56	10%
Total	586	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	1	<1%
31 Days to 12 Months	23	4%
13 to 24 Months	166	28%
More than 24 Months	396	68%
Total	586	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	4.88	5.91
By Number of Placements	2.00	2.93
By Months of Time in Care	27.85	30.62

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF “GUARDIANSHIP” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING MARCH 31, 2006**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	31	6%
Ages 1 - 5	176	34%
Ages 6 – 8	97	19%
Ages 9 - 12	105	20%
Ages 13 - 17	112	21%
18 and Over	1	<1%
Total	522	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	170	33%
Hispanic	219	42%
African American	54	10%
American Indian	53	10%
Asian	4	1%
Other	22	4%
Total	522	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	317	61%
Two	103	20%
Three	41	8%
Four	28	5%
Five	12	2%
More than Five	21	4%
Total	522	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	89	17%
31 Days to 12 Months	178	34%
13 to 24 Months	201	39%
More than 24 Months	54	10%
Total	522	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	7.46	8.11
By Number of Placements	1.00	1.77
By Months of Time in Care	12.88	12.83

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASONS OF “REACHING AGE OF MAJORITY” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING MARCH 31, 2006**

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	15	6%
18 and Over	245	94%
Total	260	100%
Ethnicity		
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	127	49%
Hispanic	69	27%
African American	41	16%
American Indian	17	6%
Asian	0	0%
Other	6	2%
Total	260	100%
By Number of Placements		
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	28	11%
Two	28	11%
Three	32	12%
Four	24	9%
Five	16	6%
More than Five	132	51%
Total	260	100%
By Length of Time in Care		
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	5	2%
31 Days to 12 Months	38	15%
13 to 24 Months	46	18%
More than 24 Months	171	65%
Total	260	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	18.00	18.43
By Number of Placements	6.00	7.68
By Months of Time in Care	35.84	49.13

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF “TRANSFER TO ANOTHER AGENCY” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING MARCH 31, 2006**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	16	11%
Ages 1 - 5	64	42%
Ages 6 – 8	13	9%
Ages 9 - 12	18	12%
Ages 13 - 17	37	25%
18 and Over	2	<1%
Total	150	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	42	28%
Hispanic	34	23%
African American	17	11%
American Indian	53	36%
Asian	1	<1%
Other	3	2%
Total	150	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	71	48%
Two	39	26%
Three	17	11%
Four	8	5%
Five	4	3%
More than Five	11	7%
Total	150	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	48	32%
31 Days to 12 Months	72	48%
13 to 24 Months	15	10%
More than 24 Months	15	10%
Total	150	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	5.13	7.53
By Number of Placements	2.00	2.14
By Months of Time in Care	5.26	9.35

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF “RUNAWAY” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING MARCH 31, 2006**

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	29	88%
18 and Over	4	12%
Total	33	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	10	30%
Hispanic	11	34%
African American	7	21%
American Indian	3	9%
Asian	0	0%
Other	2	6%
Total	33	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	26	79%
Two	2	6%
Three	1	3%
Four	1	3%
Five	0	0%
More than Five	3	9%
Total	33	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	24	73%
31 Days to 12 Months	6	18%
13 to 24 Months	1	3%
More than 24 Months	2	6%
Total	33	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	16.40	16.42
By Number of Placements	1.00	2.03
By Months of Time in Care	1.00	5.68

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF “DEATH OF CHILD” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD ENDING
MARCH 31, 2006**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	3	38
Ages 1 - 5	4	50
Ages 6 – 8	0	0
Ages 9 - 12	0	0
Ages 13 - 17	1	12
18 and Over	0	0
Total	8	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	2	25
Hispanic	3	38
African American	2	25
American Indian	1	12
Asian	0	0
Other	0	0
Total	8	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	3	38
Two	4	50
Three	0	0
Four	0	0
Five	1	12
More than Five	0	0
Total	8	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	1	12
31 Days to 12 Months	6	76
13 to 24 Months	1	12
More than 24 Months	0	0
Total	8	100%

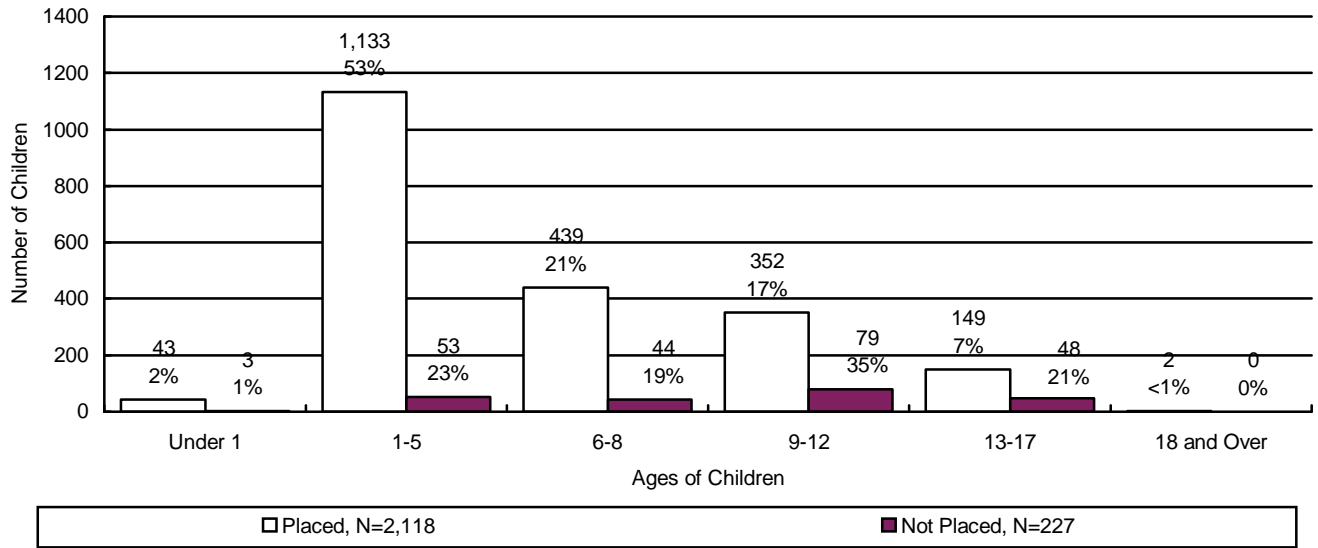
	Median	Average
By Age	1.74	3.77
By Number of Placements	2.00	2.43
By Months of Time in Care	3.16	5.39

Of the eight children who exited the foster care system for reason of death, four were attributable to child abuse or neglect.

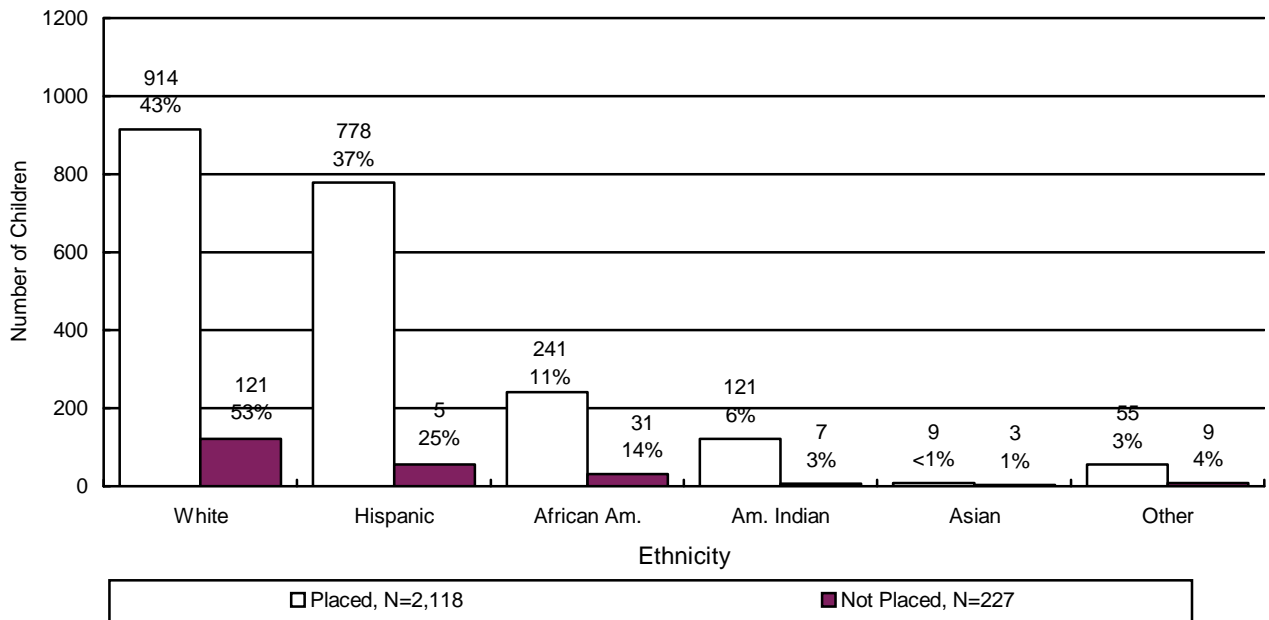
CHILDREN WITH ADOPTIVE CASE PLAN GOALS

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.

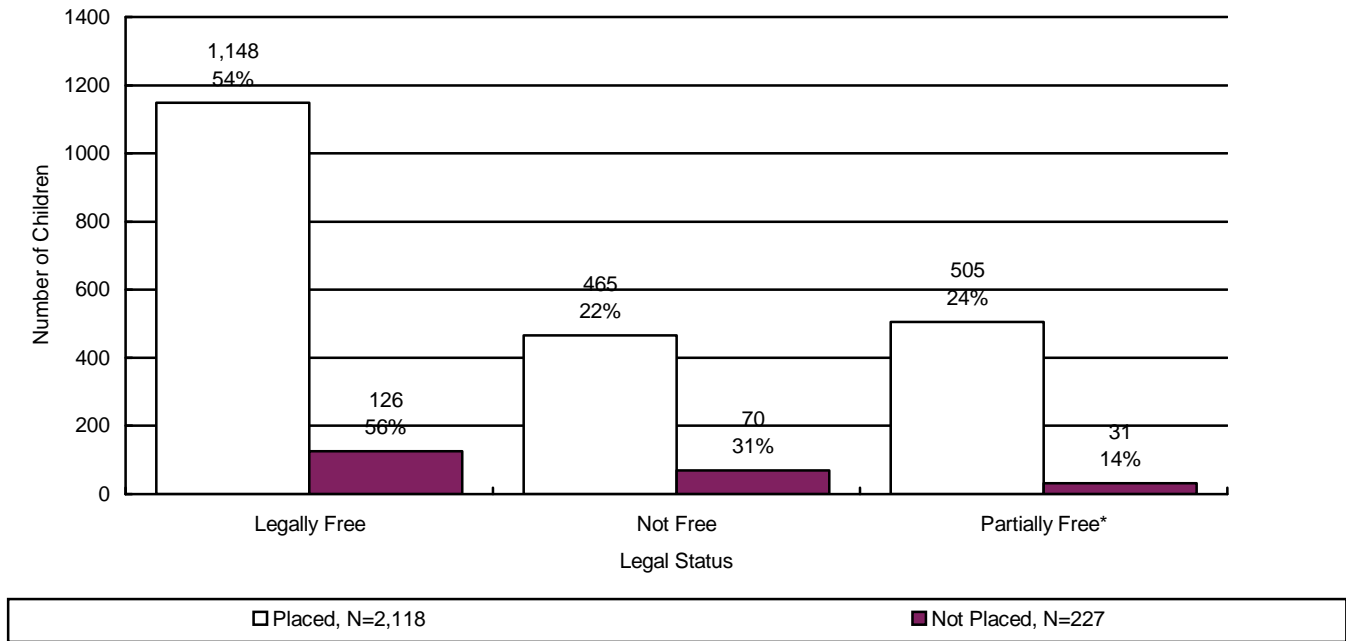
THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A CASE PLAN GOAL OF ADOPTION BY AGE



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

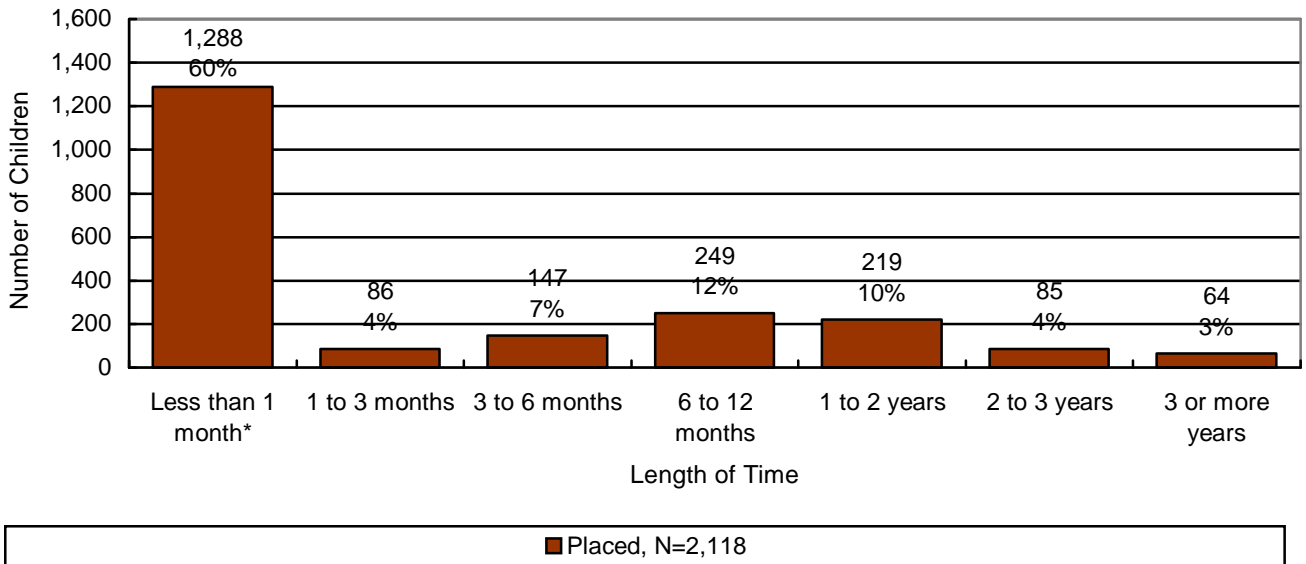


THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A CASE PLAN GOAL OF ADOPTION BY LEGAL STATUS



*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

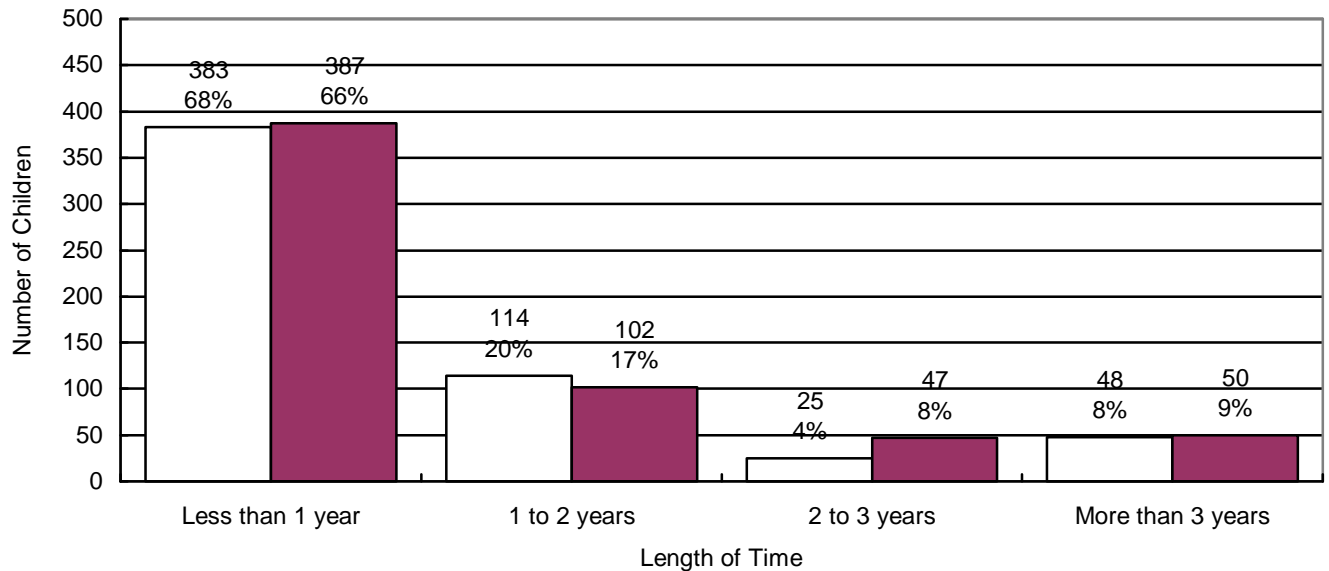


*About 70% of children are adopted by relatives or their foster parents and are already in their prospective adoptive placement at the time the case plan goal changes to adoption.

ADOPTIVE SERVICES

There were 586 children with a finalized adoption during the reporting period. The chart below displays the number of children with a finalized adoption during the reporting period by the average length of time in out-of-home placement before adoptive placement.

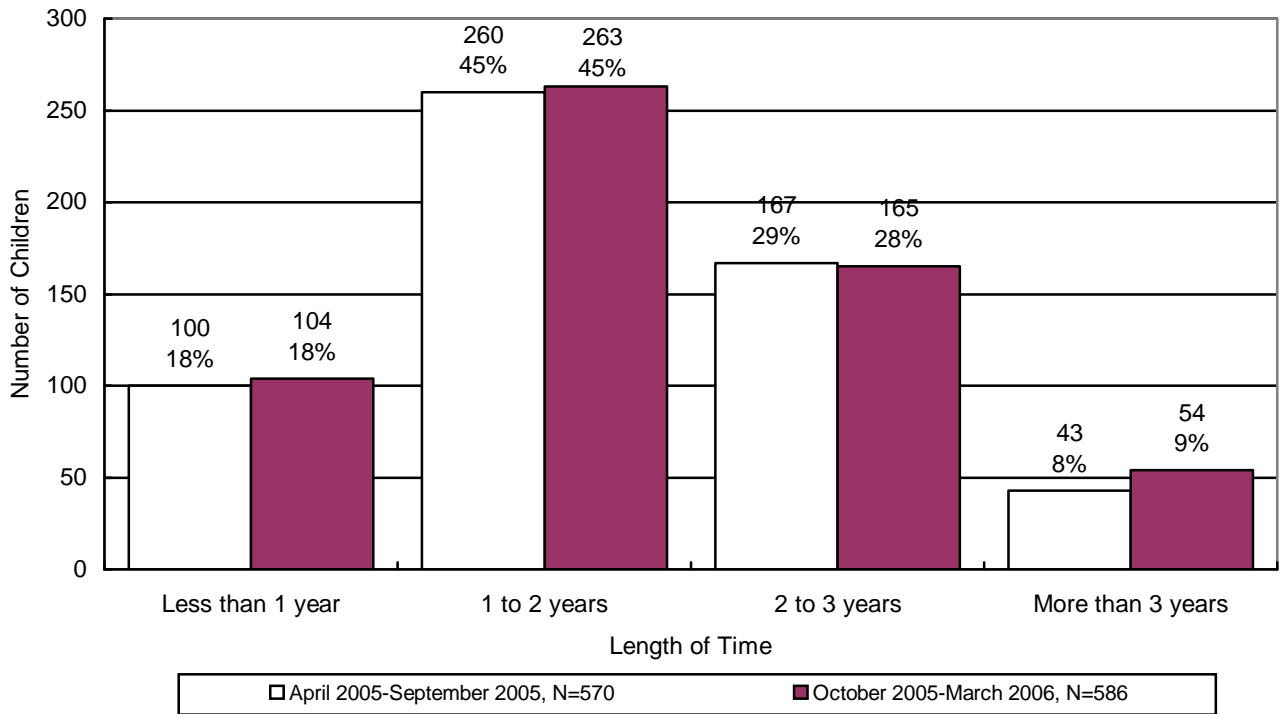
THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITH A FINALIZED ADOPTION BY AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT BEFORE ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT



□ April 2005-September 2005, N=570 ■ October 2005-March 2006, N=586

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.