

CHILD WELFARE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD OF

APRIL 1, 2002 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES

[LAWS 2001, CHAPTER 223]

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

DIVISION OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
S.B. 1229
APRIL 1, 2002 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

Arizona Revised Statute §8-526, as amended by Laws 2001, Chapter 223 requires the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) to compile information semi-annually and produce a report for the periods ending on March 31st and September 30th of each year regarding the Child Welfare Service Program, including Child Protective Services (CPS). This semi-annual report, submitted in satisfaction of that mandate, is for the period of April 1, 2002 through September 30, 2002. 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 17,104 reports of child abuse, neglect and abandonment. Of these reports, 130 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 16,974 reports. This response rate has been maintained by the Division since January, 1998. During the reporting period, an additional 10,524 communications were received by Child Protective Services Central Intake that did not meet the criteria of a report.

During the reporting period, there were 1,334 substantiated findings of abuse or neglect. In-home services were received in 828 of these cases, out-of-home services were received in 676 of these cases, and 459 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, 2002, there were 6,270 children in out-of-home care in Arizona. Of the total number of children in out-of-home care, there were 1,632 children placed with relatives. One thousand six hundred sixty-six (1,666) children of the 6,270 in out-of-home care had a case plan goal of adoption, and 1,186 of the children with a case plan goal of adoption were placed in an adoptive home but the adoption had not yet been finalized. Two thousand six hundred twelve (2,612) children had a case plan goal of "Return to Family". Four thousand two hundred twenty-nine (4,229 or 67%) of the total number of children had been in out-of-home care for less than two years. For children who had been in out-of-home care longer than two years, each had a case plan goal developed to lead to permanency.

At the end of the reporting period, 2,302 children were in family foster home settings. There were 1,778 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 1,604 (90%) of 1,778 foster homes this reporting period.

A.R.S. §8-516 also requires supervision of children in foster care. During this reporting period, 6,270 children in out-of-home care required visitation by their Child Protective Services case manager. Visitation was accurately documented for 4,249 (68%) of these children.

During the reporting period, 2,376 children left the care, custody and control of DES. The following are the reasons and the number of children who left care: 1,232 of the children were reunified with their parents or primary caretaker; 185 of the children reached the age of majority; 260 children left due to a legal guardianship being established; 197 of the children were placed with other relatives; 113 of the children were transferred to another agency; and 21 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 364 children with finalized adoptions.

CHILD WELFARE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Arizona Revised Statute §8-526, as amended by Laws 2001, Chapter 223 requires the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) to compile information and produce a semi-annual report for the periods ending on March 31st and September 30th of each year regarding the Child Welfare Services program, including Child Protective Services (CPS). This report which is submitted in satisfaction of that mandate is for the semi-annual reporting period beginning on April 1, 2002 and ending on September 30, 2002. It provides information relative to child abuse and neglect reports, investigations, shelter and receiving home services, foster homes, length of time in care, and Child Protective Services staffing, adoption services and visitation compliance. The specific reporting requirements are as follows:

- Child Protective Services reports [A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(1)]; Pg. 2
- Child Protective Services reports responded to [A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(2), (A)(3)]; Pgs. 6 & 7
- Child Protective Services case closures [A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(1-4)(a)(b)(c)]; Pg. 10
- Newborn Infants delivered to safe haven providers. [A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(5)]; Pg. 13
- Children entering foster care [A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(6)]; Pg. 14
- Child Protective Services direct service staff [A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(7)]; Pg. 16
- Children in shelter or receiving homes [A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(8)]; Pg. 17
- Foster home availability and activity [A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(9-11)]; Pgs. 18-20
- Case manager visitation compliance [A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(12)]; Pg. 21
- Foster care [A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(13)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)]; Pg. 22
- Parental visitation [A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(14)]; Pg. 26
- Children leaving custody [A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(15)(a)(b)(c)(d)]; Pg. 27
- Adoptive services [A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(16-18)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)]. Pgs. 37-41

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORTS

A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(1)

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED, BY MAJOR CATEGORY AND BY RISK LEVEL. THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE A DESCRIPTION OF SOME OF THOSE INCOMING COMMUNICATIONS DETERMINED NOT TO MEET THE CRITERIA OF A REPORT AS CHOSEN BY A RANDOM SAMPLE.

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, 2002 and September 30, 2002, there were 17,104 incoming communications to the Child Abuse Hotline which met the criteria of a report of abuse or neglect. Of these, 130 were within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments and were referred to those jurisdictions. This compares to 17,504 incoming communications received during the last reporting period which met the criteria of a report of abuse or neglect.

As illustrated in *Chart 1*, the period covering April 2002 through September 2002 shows 10,196 or 60% of the 17,104 reports of maltreatment were related to allegations of neglect, 5,515 or 32% of the reports were related to allegations of physical abuse, 1055 or 6% of the reports were related to allegations of sexual abuse, and 338 or 2% of the reports were related to allegations of emotional abuse.

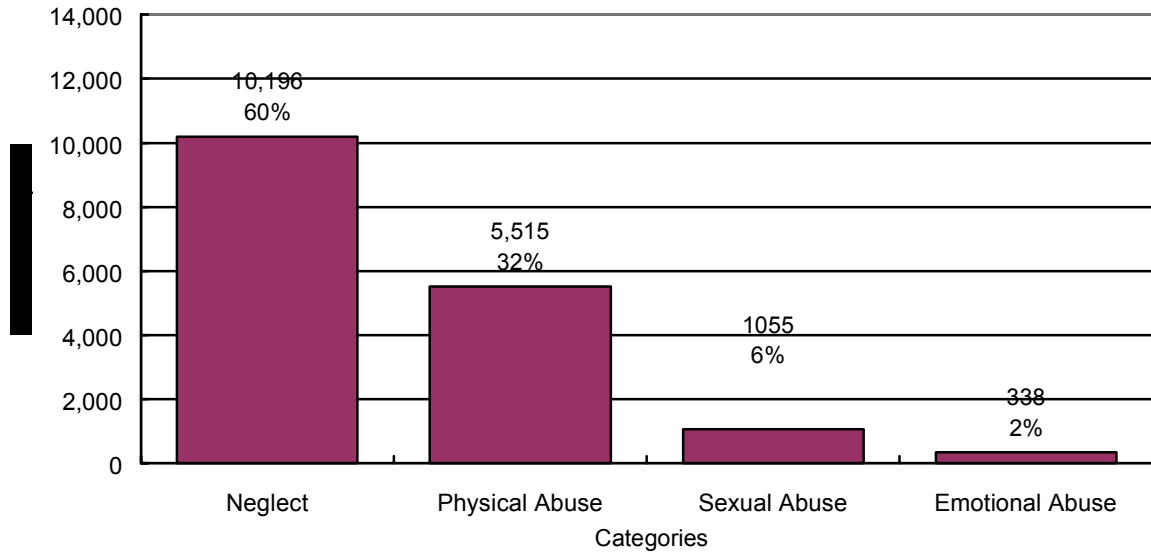
As illustrated in *Chart 1A*, the period covering October 2001 through March 2002 shows 10,130 or 59% of the 17,504 reports of maltreatment were related to allegations of neglect, 5,995 or 34% of the reports were related to allegations of physical abuse, 947 or 5% of the reports were related to allegations of sexual abuse, and 432 or 2% of the reports were related to allegations of emotional abuse.

Chart 2 provides the number of reports received by report risk level for the April 1, 2002 through September 30, 2002 reporting period. Based on the type of maltreatment a risk level is assigned to reports of alleged abuse.

In addition to the 17,104 reports presented in *Chart 1*, the Child Abuse Hotline received 10,524 communications that did not meet the statutory criteria of a report of maltreatment. A random sample of these communications is contained in *Chart 3*.

Chart 1

NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED BY MAJOR CATEGORY FOR PERIOD APRIL 1, 2002 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

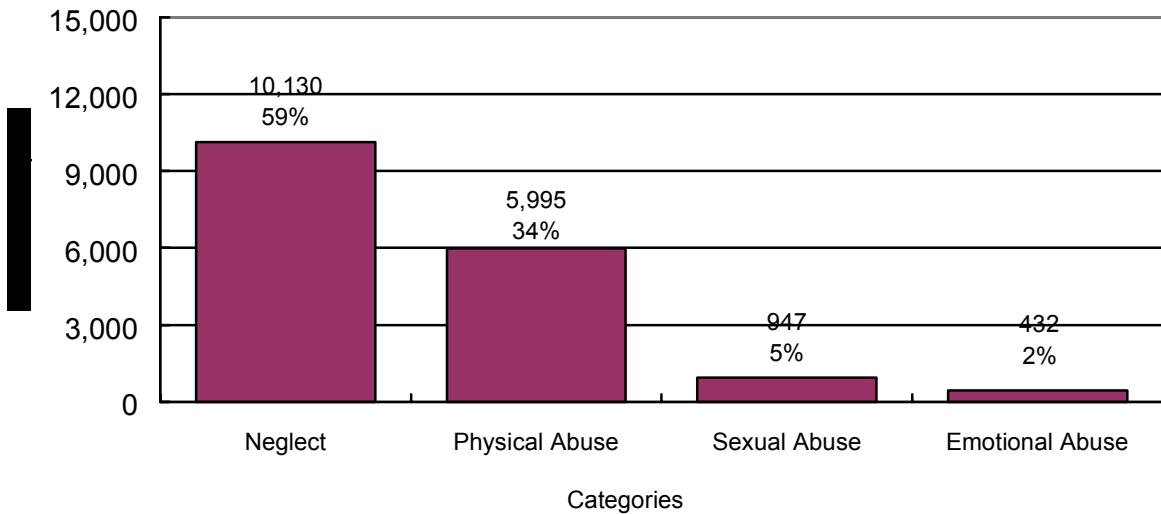


N= 17,104

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

Chart 1A

NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED BY MAJOR CATEGORY FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2001 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2002

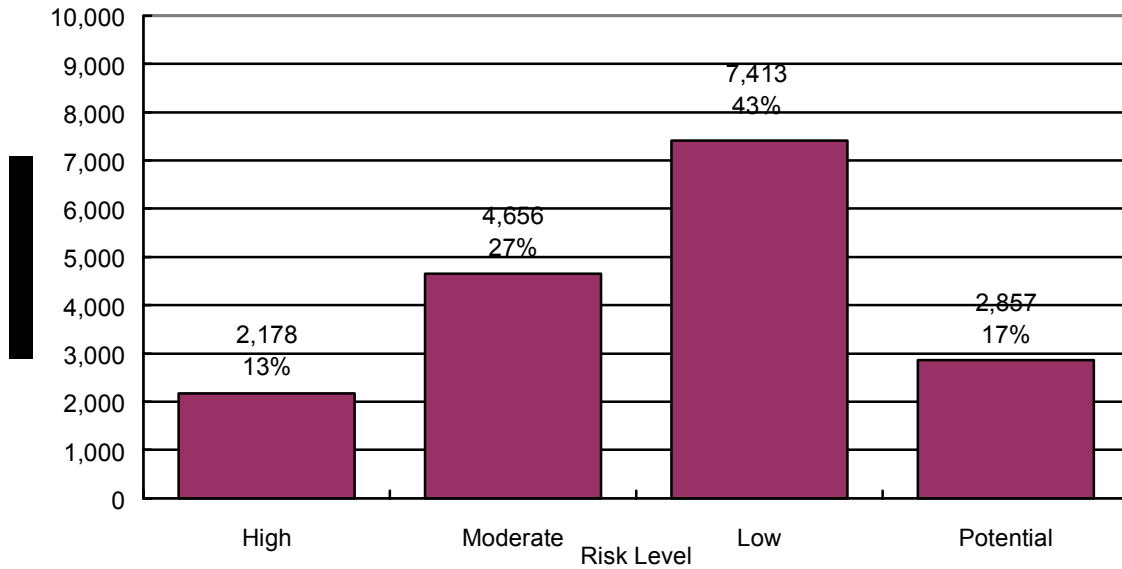


N= 17,504

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

Chart 2

**NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED BY RISK LEVEL FOR THE PERIOD
APRIL 1, 2002 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2002**

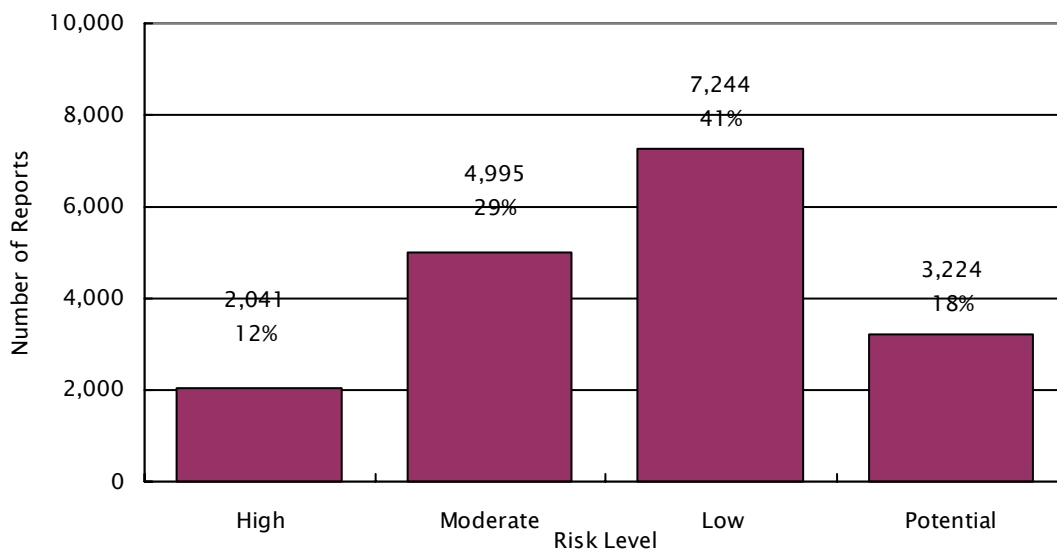


N=17,104

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

Chart 2A

**NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED BY RISK LEVEL FOR THE PERIOD
OCTOBER 1, 2001 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2002**

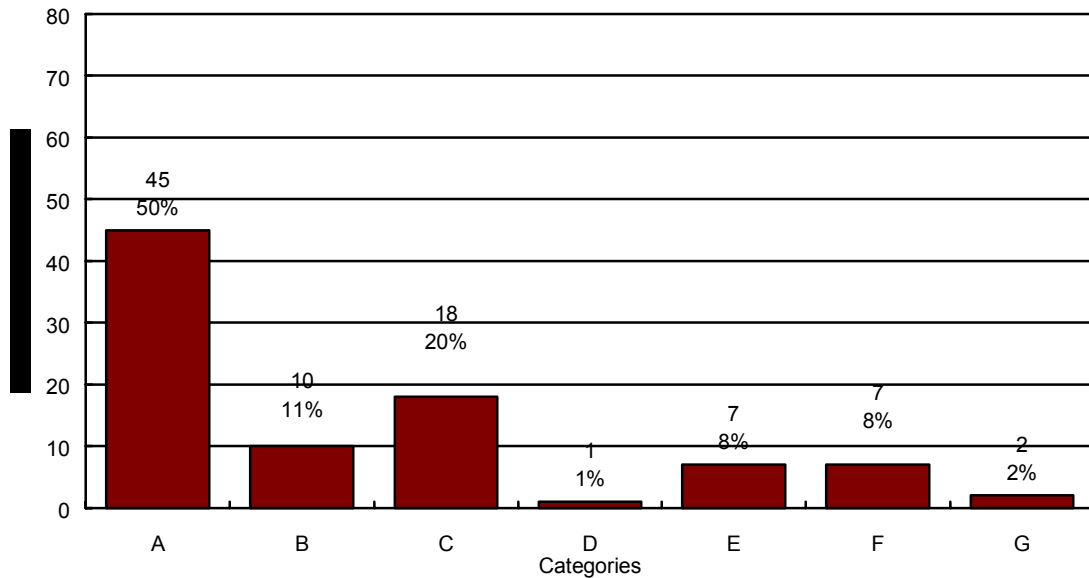


N= 17,504

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

Chart 3

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 Jurisdiction¹**
- 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.

¹ 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
A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(2)**

THE NUMBER OF REPORTS NOT RESPONDED TO BY RISK LEVEL, BY COUNTY, AND STATEWIDE. THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE A DESCRIPTION OF SOME OF THESE CASES CHOSEN BY RANDOM SAMPLE.

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.

Of the 16,974² reports deemed appropriate for investigation, CPS assigned 14,330 reports to CPS Specialists for an investigation. The Department referred 2,644 reports to Family Builders for response, which resulted in a combined response rate of 100% for the reporting period. One hundred thirty reports were within the jurisdiction of the military or tribal governments and were referred to those jurisdictions for investigation.

² One hundred thirty reports falling within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments are excluded from this number.

**CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES INVESTIGATIONS (Cont.)
A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(3)**

THE NUMBER OF REPORTS RESPONDED TO BY RISK LEVEL, BY MAJOR CATEGORY, BY COUNTY, AND STATEWIDE.

As shown in *Tables 1 and 1A*, and *Tables 2 and 2A* by report risk level, between April 1, 2002 through September 30, 2002, there were 14,330 CPS investigations, and 2,644 reports referred to Family Builders for 16,974 total responses³.

Table 1

**NUMBER OF REPORTS RESPONDED TO BY RISK LEVEL AND COUNTY
FOR PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2002 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2002**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	21	25	25	11	82	<1%
COCHISE	56	122	181	89	448	3%
COCONINO	83	130	309	182	704	4%
GILA	27	55	107	24	213	1%
GRAHAM	5	42	58	18	123	1%
GREENLEE	1	9	9	1	20	<1%
LA PAZ	10	20	28	7	65	<1%
MARICOPA	1,341	2,726	4,214	1,615	9,896	57%
MOHAVE	75	184	279	106	644	4%
NAVAJO	35	21	62	17	135	1%
PIMA	295	815	1,376	510	2,996	18%
PINAL	70	197	324	100	691	4%
SANTA CRUZ	15	15	37	16	83	<1%
YAVAPAI	79	178	205	84	546	3%
YUMA	65	117	199	77	458	3%
STATEWIDE	2,178	4,656	7,413	2,857	17,104	100%
% OF TOTAL	13%	27%	43%	17%	100%	

³ One hundred thirty reports falling within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments were referred to those jurisdictions for investigation and were excluded from the calculation of the investigation rate, but are included in Table 1.

Table 1A⁴

**NUMBER OF REPORTS RESPONDED TO BY RISK LEVEL AND COUNTY
FOR PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2001 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2002**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	10	27	31	10	78	<1%
COCHISE	75	137	210	101	523	3%
COCONINO	82	133	305	202	722	4%
GILA	26	70	105	40	241	1%
GRAHAM	10	32	46	19	107	<1%
GREENLEE	5	1	9	2	17	<1%
LA PAZ	11	19	24	12	66	<1%
MARICOPA	1,281	2,983	4,028	1,788	10,080	58%
MOHAVE	65	190	300	138	693	4%
NAVAJO	29	35	47	23	134	1%
PIMA	263	823	1,398	619	3,103	18%
PINAL	67	235	302	107	711	4%
SANTA CRUZ	8	25	30	4	67	<1%
YAVAPAI	59	157	212	83	511	3%
YUMA	50	128	197	76	451	3%
STATEWIDE	2,041	4,995	7,244	3,224	17,504	100%
% OF TOTAL	12%	29%	41%	18%	100%	

⁴ One hundred twenty-nine reports falling within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments were referred to those jurisdictions for investigation and were excluded from the calculation of the investigation rate, but are included in Table 1A.

Table 2⁵

**NUMBER OF REPORTS RESPONDED TO BY MAJOR CATEGORY AND COUNTY
FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2002 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2002**

COUNTY	EMOTIONAL ABUSE	NEGLECT	PHYSICAL ABUSE	SEXUAL ABUSE	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	2	51	22	7	82	<1%
COCHISE	9	279	132	28	448	3%
COCONINO	20	452	195	37	704	4%
GILA	6	125	61	21	213	1%
GRAHAM	3	85	28	7	123	1%
GREENLEE	0	14	5	1	20	<1%
LA PAZ	2	41	18	4	65	<1%
MARICOPA	168	5,843	3,260	625	9,896	57%
MOHAVE	20	394	198	32	644	4%
NAVAJO	2	93	32	8	135	1%
PIMA	84	1,725	1,017	170	2,996	18%
PINAL	6	435	208	42	691	4%
SANTA CRUZ	2	55	23	3	83	<1%
YAVAPAI	6	326	173	41	546	3%
YUMA	8	278	143	29	458	3%
STATEWIDE	338	10,196	5,515	1,055	17,104	100%
% OF TOTAL	2%	60%	32%	6%	100%	

Table 2A⁶

**NUMBER OF REPORTS RESPONDED TO BY MAJOR CATEGORY AND COUNTY
FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2001 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2002**

COUNTY	EMOTIONAL ABUSE	NEGLECT	PHYSICAL ABUSE	SEXUAL ABUSE	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	2	47	23	6	78	<1%
COCHISE	13	309	171	30	523	3%
COCONINO	32	416	244	30	722	4%
GILA	6	153	68	14	241	1%
GRAHAM	4	63	31	9	107	1%
GREENLEE	0	9	6	2	17	<1%
LA PAZ	2	45	17	2	66	<1%
MARICOPA	213	5,869	3,479	519	10,080	58%
MOHAVE	9	409	232	43	693	4%
NAVAJO	2	82	44	6	134	1%
PIMA	97	724	1,125	157	3,103	18%
PINAL	20	428	212	51	711	4%
SANTA CRUZ	3	31	28	5	67	<1%
YAVAPAI	14	278	177	42	511	3%
YUMA	15	267	138	31	451	3%
STATEWIDE	432	10,130	5,995	947	17,504	100%

⁵ One hundred thirty reports were classified as no jurisdiction and are included in Table 2.

⁶ One hundred twenty-nine reports were classified as no jurisdiction and are included in Table 2A.

% OF TOTAL	3%	58%	34%	5%	100%	
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SUBSTANTIATED AFTER INVESTIGATION FINDINGS

A.R.S. 8-526(A)(4)(a)(b)(c)

THE NUMBER OF REPORTS WITH A SUBSTANTIATED FINDING AFTER INVESTIGATION, BY RISK LEVEL, BY COUNTY, AND STATEWIDE THAT RESULTED IN:

- (a) THE CASE BEING CLOSED AFTER AN INVESTIGATION.**
- (b) IN-HOME SERVICES BEING PROVIDED AFTER AN INVESTIGATION.**
- (c) OUT-OF-HOME SERVICES BEING PROVIDED AFTER AN INVESTIGATION.**

During the reporting period 12,619 reports were investigated and subject to substantiation, with 1,334 or 11% of the reports resulting in a substantiated finding of child abuse or neglect.⁷ This compares to a revised substantiation rate of 15%, or 1,801 reports, for the period of October 2001 through March 2002. In addition, during the reporting period, April 2002 through September 2002, there were 578 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 reports by the total number of reports. 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 11% substantiation rate for this period will be revised in the next report.

⁷ As of January 25, 1999 the Department does not substantiate potential risk reports.

Table 3⁸

**NUMBER OF REPORTS WITH SUBSTANTIATED FINDINGS IN
WHICH THE CASE WAS CLOSED AFTER INVESTIGATION
BY RISK LEVEL AND COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OF
APRIL 1, 2002 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2002**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	1	2	0	0	3	1%
COCHISE	4	7	5	0	16	3%
COCONINO	2	4	7	0	13	3%
GILA	2	1	4	0	7	2%
GRAHAM	0	0	0	0	0	0%
GREENLEE	0	0	0	0	0	0%
LA PAZ	0	1	0	0	1	<1%
MARICOPA	31	90	125	0	246	54%
MOHAVE	4	3	0	0	7	2%
NAVAJO	0	0	2	0	2	<1%
PIMA	18	36	42	0	96	21%
PINAL	0	12	8	0	20	4%
SANTA CRUZ	1	2	2	0	5	1%
YAVAPAI	2	13	10	0	25	5%
YUMA	5	8	5	0	18	4%
STATEWIDE	70	179	210	0	459	100%
% OF TOTAL	15%	39%	46%	0%	100%	

Of the reports with substantiated findings that were closed after investigation, one or more of the following actions took place: the parent(s) refused services⁹; 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.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.”

Table 4

**NUMBER OF REPORTS WITH SUBSTANTIATED FINDINGS AFTER
INVESTIGATION IN WHICH IN-HOME SERVICES WERE PROVIDED
BY RISK LEVEL AND BY COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OF
APRIL 1, 2002 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2002**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	5	3	0	0	8	1%
COCHISE	10	17	18	0	45	5%
COCONINO	12	5	4	0	21	3%
GILA	5	3	3	0	11	1%
GRAHAM	2	7	6	0	15	2%
GREENLEE	0	1	2	0	3	<1%
LA PAZ	1	0	0	0	1	<1%
MARICOPA	132	103	87	0	322	38%
MOHAVE	5	6	2	0	13	2%
NAVAJO	6	0	0	0	6	1%
PIMA	83	96	88	0	267	32%
PINAL	18	10	14	0	42	5%
SANTA CRUZ	1	1	1	0	3	<1%
YAVAPAI	16	9	7	0	32	4%
YUMA	17	9	13	0	39	5%
STATEWIDE	313	270	245	0	828	100%
% OF TOTAL	38%	33%	30%	0%	100%	

Table 5

**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, 2002 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2002**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	5	3	3	0	8	1%
COCHISE	11	12	13	0	36	5%
COCONINO	12	2	3	0	17	3%
GILA	4	0	0	0	4	1%
GRAHAM	2	7	5	0	14	2%
GREENLEE	0	0	1	0	1	<1%
LA PAZ	1	0	0	0	1	<1%
MARICOPA	123	63	55	0	241	35%
MOHAVE	4	5	2	0	11	2%
NAVAJO	7	0	0	0	7	1%
PIMA	86	86	73	0	245	36%
PINAL	21	6	14	0	41	6%
SANTA CRUZ	1	0	1	0	2	<1%
YAVAPAI	16	5	6	0	27	4%
YUMA	13	5	3	0	21	3%
STATEWIDE	306	194	176	0	676	100%
% OF TOTAL	45%	29%	26%	0%	100%	

ABANDONED NEWBORNS

A.R.S. 8-526(A)(5)

THE NUMBER OF NEWBORN INFANTS DELIVERED TO SAFE HAVEN PROVIDERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-3623.01.

There were four newborn infants delivered to safe haven providers during the April 2002 – September 2002 reporting period.

CHILDREN ENTERING CARE

A.R.S. 8-526(A)(6)

THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY COUNTY DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, AND THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF THE CHILDREN ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY COUNTY DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD WHO ARE VOLUNTARY PLACEMENTS FOR CHILDREN UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

During the reporting period April 2002 through September 2002, 2,655 children were removed from their home for some period of time. Table 6 shows the new removals for the period by county. Table 7 displays the children removed during the reporting period who were voluntary placements for children under the age of eighteen.

Table 6

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2002 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

COUNTY	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	20	1%
COCHISE	81	3%
COCONINO	61	2%
GILA	17	1%
GRAHAM	29	1%
GREENLEE	1	<1%
LA PAZ	2	<1%
MARICOPA	1,364	50%
MOHAVE	69	3%
NAVAJO	26	1%
PIMA	704	27%
PINAL	101	4%
SANTA CRUZ	7	<1%
YAVAPAI	111	4%
YUMA	62	2%
STATEWIDE	2,655	100%

Table 7¹⁰

NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME CARE DUE TO A VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT BY COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2002 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

COUNTY	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	5	2%
COCHISE	7	2%
COCONINO	11	4%
GILA	0	0%
GRAHAM	2	1%
GREENLEE	1	<1%
LA PAZ	0	0%
MARICOPA	192	64%
MOHAVE	21	7%
NAVAJO	2	1%
PIMA	11	4%
PINAL	8	3%
SANTA CRUZ	0	0%
YAVAPAI	23	8%
YUMA	11	4%
STATEWIDE	294	100%

¹⁰ 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.

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES DIRECT SERVICE STAFF

A.R.S. 8-526(A)(7)

THE NUMBER OF DIRECT CLIENT SERVICE POSITIONS THAT ARE VACANT AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD.

There were 70.5 authorized Child Protective Services Specialist positions vacant on September 30, 2002.

CHILDREN IN SHELTER OR RECEIVING HOMES

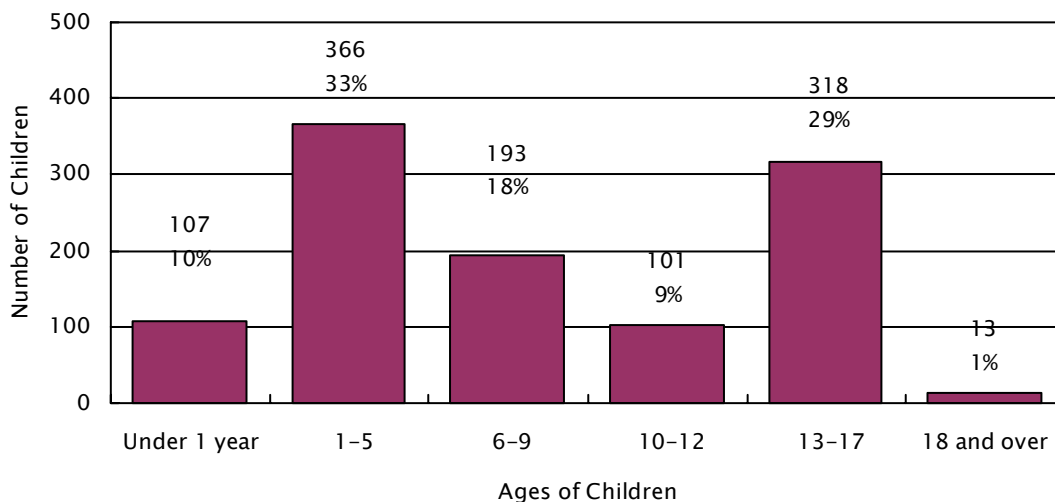
A.R.S. 8-526(A)(8)

THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE REMAINED IN A SHELTER OR RECEIVING HOME FOR MORE THAN TWENTY-ONE CONSECUTIVE DAYS, BY THE CHILD'S AGE GROUP.

During the reporting period, 1,098 children remained in a shelter or receiving home for more than 21 consecutive days. (See Chart 4) For the period of April 2002 through September 2002, 625 or 57% of the children were six years of age or older. In addition, 107 or 10% of the children were under one year.

Chart 4

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN SHELTER OR RECEIVING HOMES FOR MORE THAN 21 CONSECUTIVE DAYS BY AGE OF CHILD FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2002 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2002



N=1,098

FOSTER HOME AVAILABILITY

A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(9)

THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF LICENSED FOSTER HOMES AND THE NUMBER OF LICENSED AND AVAILABLE SPACES IN THOSE HOMES.

As of September 30, 2002, there were 1,778 licensed foster homes with 3,731 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, 2002 there were 778 unused spaces within these foster homes. Approximately 310 additional 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.

**FOSTER HOME ACTIVITY
A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(10)**

THE NUMBER AND TYPE OF LICENSED FOSTER HOMES THAT LEAVE THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM AND THE REASON FOR THE EXIT.

During the reporting period, 217 new homes were licensed to provide foster care and 195 homes left the system. This compares to 149 new homes being licensed and 185 homes leaving the system for the period covering October 2001 through March 2002.

Chart 5 gives the reasons for foster home closures for the period of April 1, 2002 through September 30, 2002.

Chart 5

**REASON FOR FOSTER HOME CLOSURE FOR THE PERIOD OF
2002 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2002**

APRIL 1,



N= 195

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

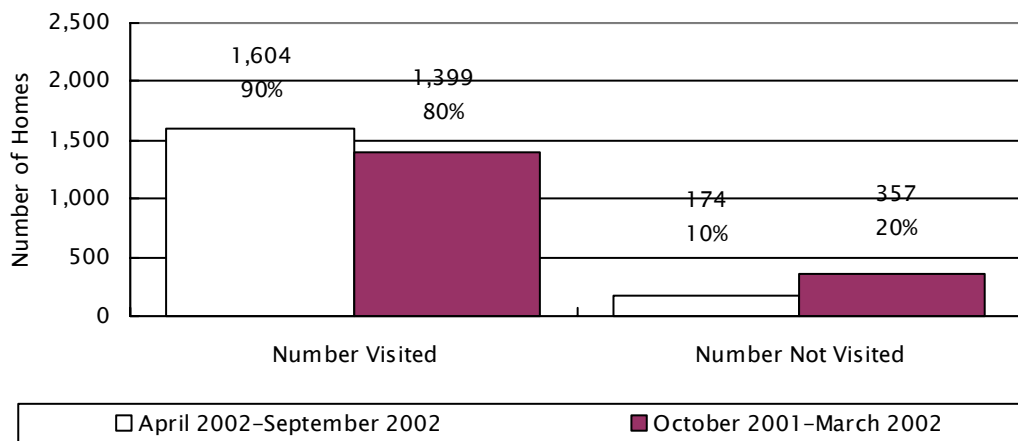
**FOSTER HOME ACTIVITY-VISITATION(Cont.)
A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(11)**

**THE NUMBER OF LICENSED FOSTER HOMES THAT RECEIVE THE REQUIRED VISITATION BY
CASE MANAGERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 8-516.**

During the reporting period there were 1,778 foster homes that required visitation. Of those homes 1,604 or 90% received the required visitation. This compares to 1,399 or 80% of the foster homes that received the required visitation for the period October 2001 through March 2002. The Department believes that more foster homes received the required visitation than is indicated in Chart 6. 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.

Chart 6

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



N= 1,778 April 2002 - September 2002

N= 1,756 October 2001 - March 2002

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

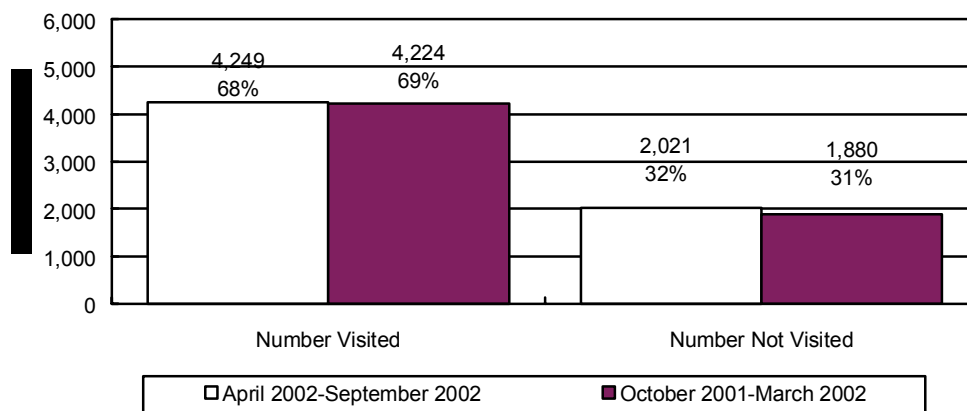
**AFOSTER HOME ACTIVITY-CHILD VISITATION(Cont.)
A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(12)**

THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN PLACED IN THE CARE, CUSTODY AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD AND THE NUMBER OF THESE CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE THE REQUIRED VISITATION BY CASE MANAGERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 8-516.

At the end of the reporting period there were 6,270 children in out-of-home care who required visitation. Of these children, visitation was accurately documented in the automated system for 4,249 children or 68%. The Department has verified that more children received the required visitation than is indicated in Chart 7. 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.

Chart 7

THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED THE REQUIRED VISITATION¹¹



N= 6,270 April 2002-September 2002

N= 6,104 October 2001-March 2002

¹¹ Required visitation is performed monthly by DES case managers, contracted case managers, and/or other professionals as approved by supervisor or as established by policy.

OUT-OF-HOME CARE

A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(13)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)

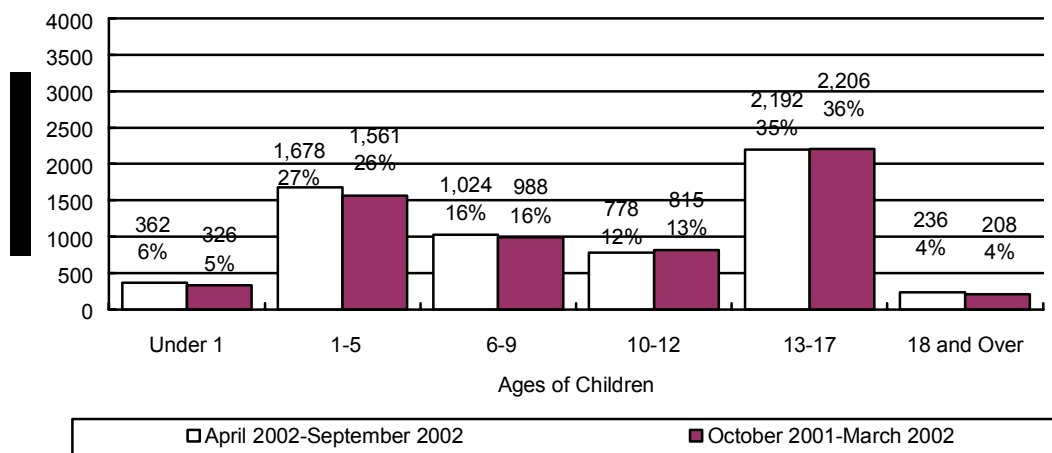
THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO ARE IN THE CARE, CUSTODY AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD WHO ARE IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT AND AS CATEGORIZED BY:

- (a) AGE.**
- (b) ETHNICITY.**
- (c) CASE PLAN GOAL.**
- (d) TYPE OF OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT.**
- (e) LENGTH OF TIME IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT OF LESS THAN THIRTY DAYS, THIRTY-ONE DAYS TO TWELVE CONSECUTIVE MONTHS, TWELVE TO TWENTY-FOUR CONSECUTIVE MONTHS AND MORE THAN TWENTY-FOUR CONSECUTIVE MONTHS.**
- (f) PRIMARY LEGAL STATUS INCLUDING VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT FOR A CHILD UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, TEMPORARY CUSTODY, ADJUDICATED DEPENDENT, FREE FOR ADOPTION, VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT FOR A CHILD OVER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, DUALY ADJUDICATED OR ANY OTHER LEGAL STATUS.**

On September 30, 2002, there were 6,270 children in out-of-home care. During the reporting period of April 1, 2002 through September 30, 2002, there were 2,655 children removed from their home for some period of time.

Chart 8

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

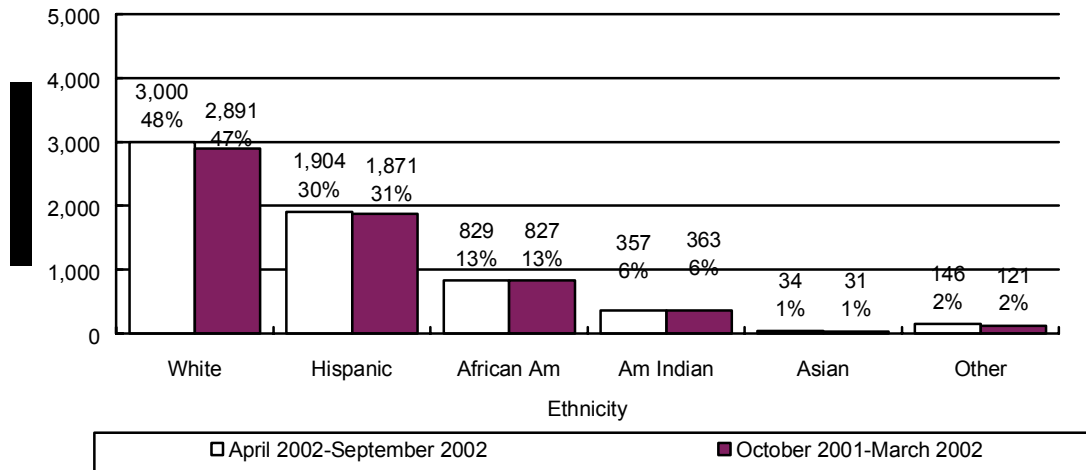


N= 6,270 April 2002-September 2002

N= 6,104 October 2001-March 2002

Chart 9

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

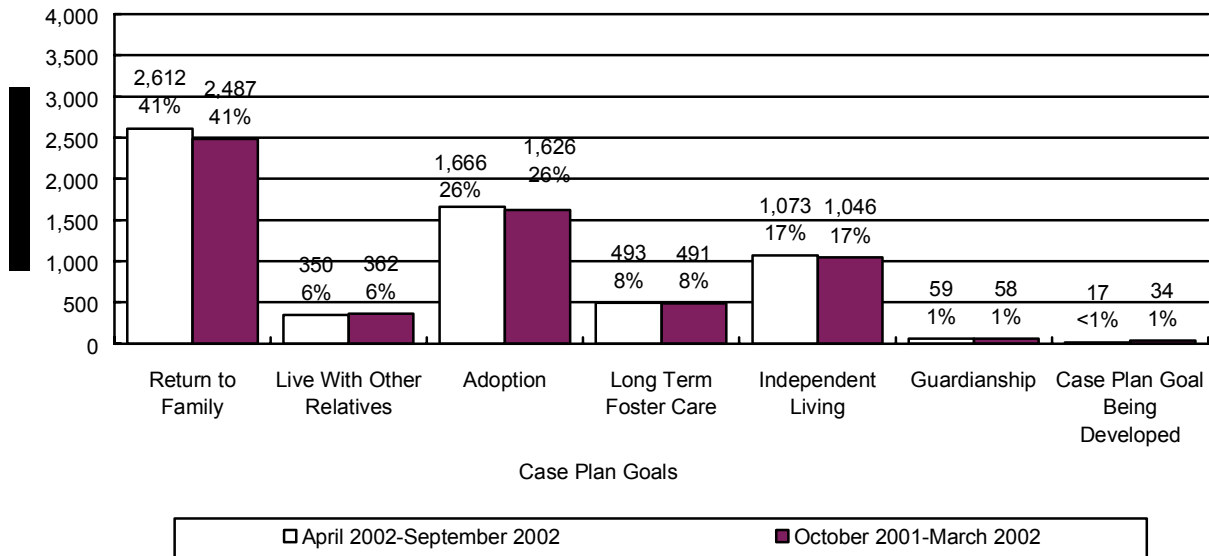


N= 6,270 April 2002-September 2002

N= 6,104 October 2001-March 2002

Chart 10

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

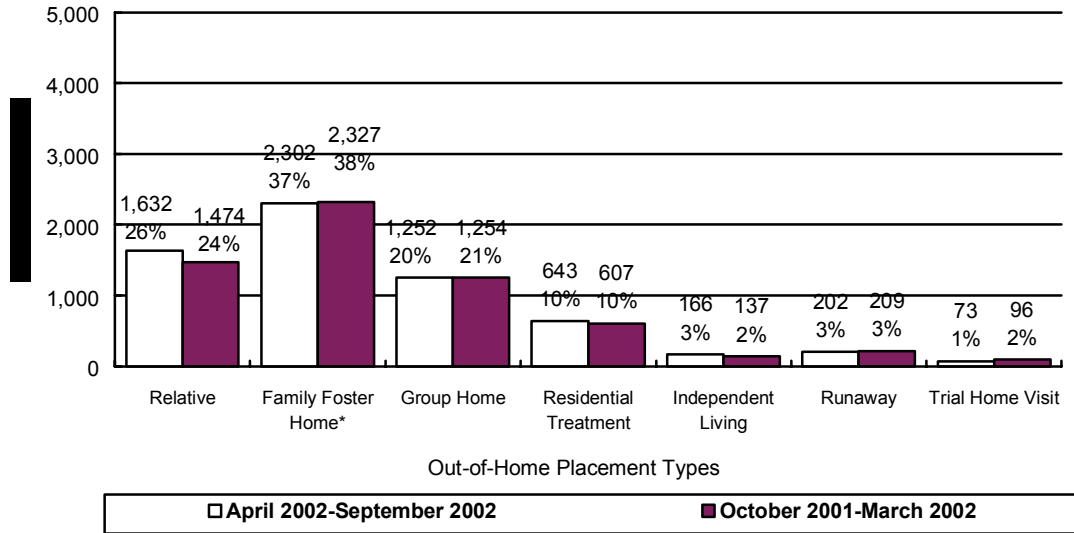


N= 6,270 April 2002-September 2002

N= 6,104 October 2001-March 2002

Chart 11

THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN CARE BY PLACEMENT TYPE



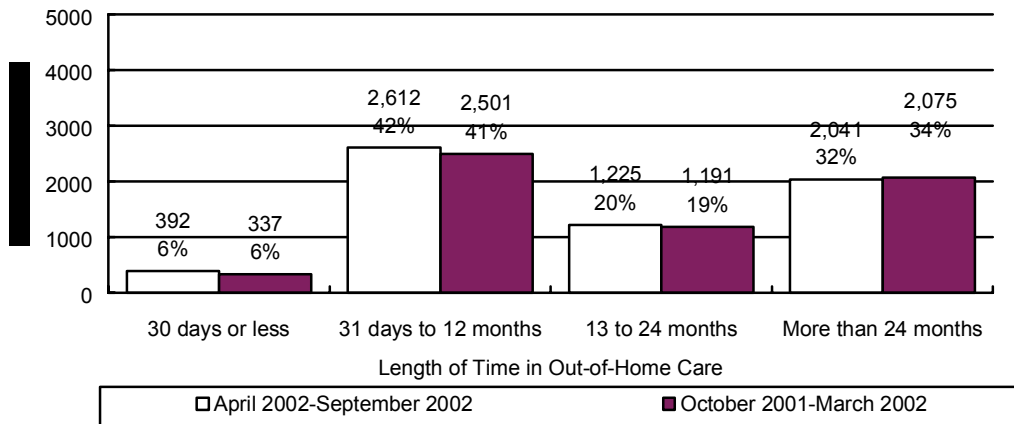
N= 6,270 April 2002-September 2002

N= 6,104 October 2001-March 2002

* Category includes some relative placements.

Chart 12

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

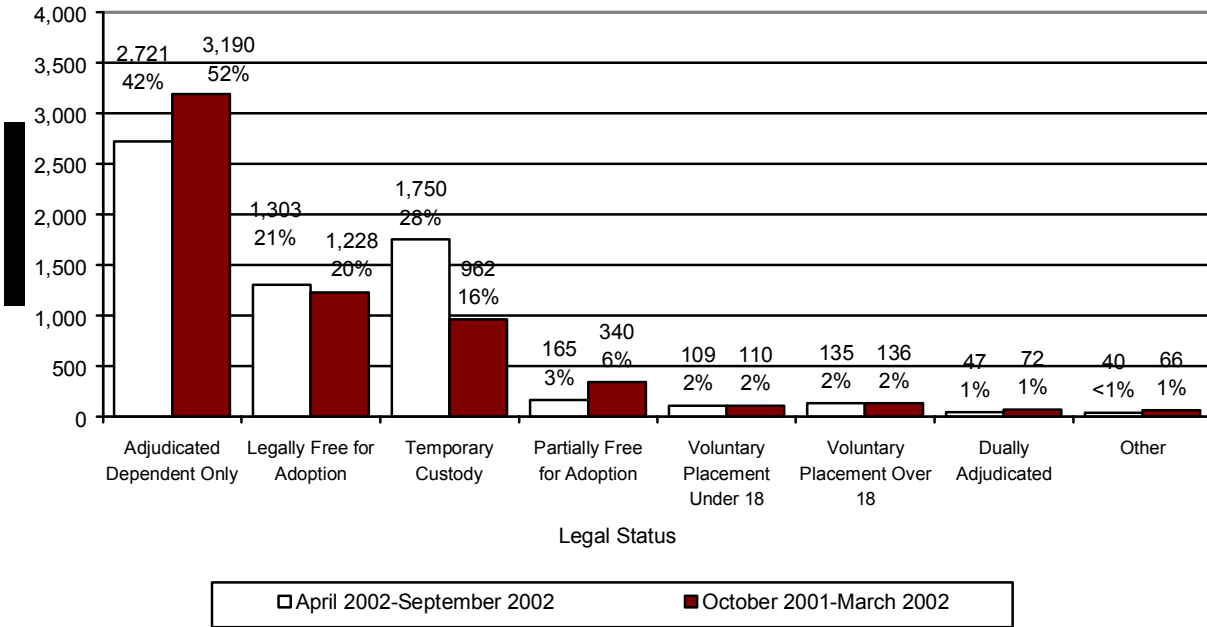


N= 6,270 April 2002-September 2002

N= 6,104 October 2001-March 2002

CHART 13¹²

THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY LEGAL STATUS



N=6,270 April 2002-September 2002

N= 6,104 October 2001-March 2002

¹² With the exception of the category of Voluntary Placement Under 18, all children are Adjudicated Dependent. The categories shown reflect additional legal findings.

A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(14)

IF THE CASE PLAN IS TO RETURN THE CHILD TO THE PARENT, THE PERCENTAGE OF PARENTS WHO RECEIVE THE REQUIRED CONTACT BY CASE MANAGERS.

According to ACYF policy, case managers shall have face-to-face contact with all parents at least once a month, including any alleged parents and parents residing outside of the child's home where the case plan goal is family reunification or remain with family. During the reporting period there were 1,367 parents who had a child with the case plan goal of return home. Of those parents requiring the visitation, 772 or 56% received the required visitation. The 56% visitation rate does not reflect attempted visitation where contact did not take place.

REASON FOR LEAVING DES CUSTODY

A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(15)(a)(b)(c)(d)

THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO LEFT THE CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD BY REASON FOR LEAVING CARE AND AS CATEGORIZED BY:

- (a) AGE.**
- (b) ETHNICITY.**
- (c) NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS.**
- (d) AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME IN FOSTER CARE.**

During the reporting period 2,376 children left the custody of the Department. Tables 8 through 16 depict the reasons the child left custody, their age, their ethnicity, the number of placements each child had, and the average length of time in foster care.

Table 8
TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY FOR THE END OF THE
REPORTING PERIOD ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	130	5%
Ages 1 - 5	712	30%
Ages 6 - 9	402	17%
Ages 10 - 12	280	12%
Ages 13 - 17	684	29%
18 and Over	168	7%
Total	2,376	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	1,031	43%
Hispanic	809	34%
African American	268	11%
American Indian	165	7%
Asian	18	1%
Other	85	4%
Total	2,376	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	1,288	54%
Two	436	18%
Three	213	10%
Four	120	5%
Five	74	3%
More than Five	245	10%
Total	2,376	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	853	36%
31 Days to 12 Months	656	27%
13 to 24 Months	374	16%
More than 24 Months	493	21%
Total	2,376	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	9.5	9.5
By Number of Placements	1	2.5
By Months of Time in Care	6.6	14.8

**Table 9
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF “REUNIFICATION WITH PARENTS OR PRIMARY CARETAKER” FOR
THE REPORTING PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	81	7%
Ages 1 - 5	327	27%
Ages 6 - 9	217	17%
Ages 10 - 12	147	12%
Ages 13 - 17	457	37%
18 and Over	3	<1%
Total	1,232	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	543	44%
Hispanic	435	35%
African American	111	9%
American Indian	75	6%
Asian	8	1%
Other	60	5%
Total	1,232	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	800	65%
Two	230	19%
Three	79	6%
Four	41	3%
Five	23	2%
More than Five	59	5%
Total	1,232	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	606	49%
31 Days to 12 Months	415	34%
13 to 24 Months	151	12%
More than 24 Months	60	5%
Total	1,232	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	9.9	9.5
By Number of Placements	1	1.9
By Months of Time in Care	1.1	6.3

**Table 10
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF "LIVING WITH OTHER RELATIVES" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	20	10%
Ages 1 - 5	74	38%
Ages 6 - 9	34	17%
Ages 10 - 12	23	12%
Ages 13 - 17	45	22%
18 and Over	1	<1%
Total	197	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	77	39%
Hispanic	63	32%
African American	27	14%
American Indian	24	12%
Asian	0	0%
Other	6	3%
Total	197	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	177	89%
Two	15	8%
Three	3	2%
Four	1	<1%
Five	0	0%
More than Five	1	<1%
Total	197	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	162	82%
31 Days to 12 Months	34	17%
13 to 24 Months	0	0%
More than 24 Months	1	<1%
Total	197	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	6.4	7.7
By Number of Placements	1	1.1
By Months of Time in Care	.13	.76

**Table 11
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES
CUSTODY FOR REASON OF "ADOPTION" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	7	2%
Ages 1 - 5	192	53%
Ages 6 - 9	85	23%
Ages 10 - 12	52	14%
Ages 13 - 17	28	8%
18 and Over	0	0%
Total	364	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	140	38%
Hispanic	136	37%
African American	58	16%
American Indian	21	6%
Asian	7	2%
Other	2	1%
Total	364	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	71	20%
Two	102	27%
Three	76	21%
Four	36	10%
Five	28	8%
More than Five	51	14%
Total	364	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	0	0%
31 Days to 12 Months	11	3%
13 to 24 Months	101	28%
More than 24 Months	252	69%
Total	364	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	5.4	6.4
By Number of Placements	3	3.2
By Months of Time in Care	30.5	34.3

**Table 12
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF "GUARDIANSHIP" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	10	4%
Ages 1 - 5	82	32%
Ages 6 - 9	53	20%
Ages 10 - 12	42	16%
Ages 13 - 17	73	28%
18 and Over	0	0%
Total	260	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	131	51%
Hispanic	79	30%
African American	24	9%
American Indian	18	7%
Asian	0	0%
Other	8	3%
Total	260	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	142	56%
Two	47	18%
Three	34	13%
Four	20	7%
Five	6	2%
More than Five	11	4%
Total	260	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	32	12%
31 Days to 12 Months	113	44%
13 to 24 Months	74	28%
More than 24 Months	41	16%
Total	260	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	8.6	8.8
By Number of Placements	1	2
By Months of Time in Care	11.9	14

**Table 13
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASONS OF “REACHING AGE OF MAJORITY” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	0	0%
Ages 1 - 5	0	0%
Ages 6 - 9	0	0%
Ages 10 - 12	0	0%
Ages 13 - 17	23	12%
18 and Over	162	88%
Total	185	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	93	50%
Hispanic	44	24%
African American	31	17%
American Indian	15	8%
Asian	0	0%
Other	2	1%
Total	185	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	21	12%
Two	19	10%
Three	13	7%
Four	13	7%
Five	13	7%
More than Five	106	57%
Total	185	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	2	1%
31 Days to 12 Months	34	18%
13 to 24 Months	33	18%
More than 24 Months	116	63%
Total	185	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	18	18.3
By Number of Placements	7	7.5
By Months of Time in Care	36.5	50.2

Table 14
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF “TRANSFER TO ANOTHER AGENCY” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	10	9%
Ages 1 - 5	37	33%
Ages 6 - 9	13	12%
Ages 10 - 12	16	14%
Ages 13 - 17	36	32%
18 and Over	1	<1%
Total	113	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	41	36%
Hispanic	41	36%
African American	12	11%
American Indian	10	9%
Asian	3	3%
Other	6	5%
Total	113	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	58	51%
Two	19	17%
Three	8	7%
Four	9	8%
Five	4	4%
More than Five	15	13%
Total	113	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	31	27%
31 Days to 12 Months	46	41%
13 to 24 Months	15	13%
More than 24 Months	21	19%
Total	113	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	9	8.7
By Number of Placements	1	8.7
By Months of Time in Care	6.8	14.4

**Table 15
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF “RUNAWAY” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	0	0%
Ages 1 - 5	0	0%
Ages 6 - 9	0	0%
Ages 10 - 12	0	0%
Ages 13 - 17	21	100%
18 and Over	0	0%
Total	21	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	6	29%
Hispanic	11	52%
African American	3	14%
American Indian	0	0%
Asian	0	0%
Other	1	5%
Total	21	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	18	86%
Two	3	14%
Three	0	0%
Four	0	0%
Five	0	0%
More than Five	0	0%
Total	21	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	20	95%
31 Days to 12 Months	1	5%
13 to 24 Months	0	0%
More than 24 Months	0	0%
Total	21	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	15.7	15.9
By Number of Placements	1	1.1
By Months of Time in Care	.1	.3

**Table 16
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF "DEATH OF CHILD" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD ENDING
SEPTEMBER 30, 2002**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	2	50%
Ages 1 - 5	0	0%
Ages 6 - 9	0	0%
Ages 10 - 12	0	0%
Ages 13 - 17	1	25%
18 and Over	1	25%
Total	4	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	0	0%
Hispanic	0	0%
African American	2	50%
American Indian	2	50%
Asian	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total	4	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	1	25%
Two	1	25%
Three	0	0%
Four	0	0%
Five	0	0%
More than Five	2	50%
Total	4	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	0	0%
31 Days to 12 Months	2	50%
13 to 24 Months	0	0%
More than 24 Months	2	50%
Total	4	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	8.7	9.3
By Number of Placements	4	5.8
By Months of Time in Care	30	36

ADOPTIVE CASE PLAN GOALS

A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(16) & (17)

THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITH A CASE PLAN GOAL OF ADOPTION AND WHO ARE NOT PLACED IN AN ADOPTIVE HOME AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD.

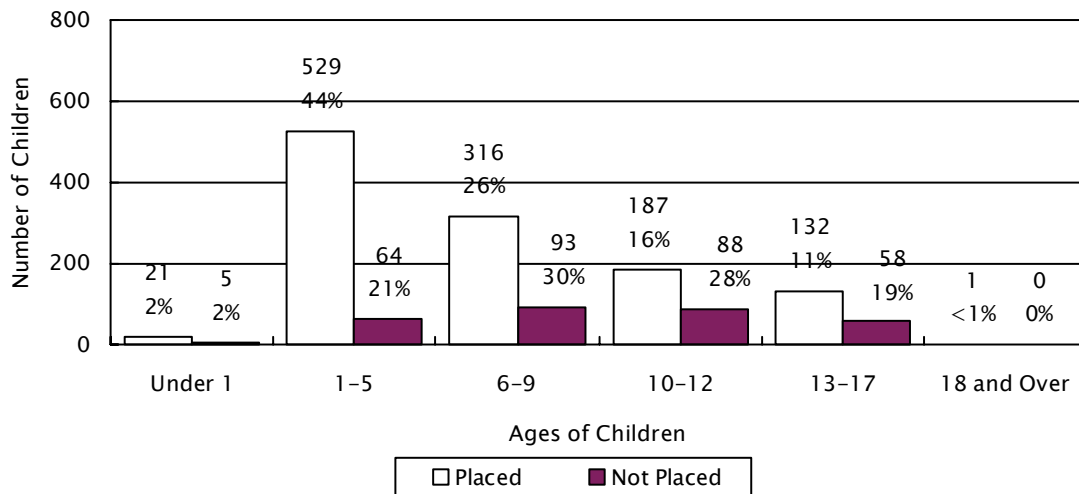
THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITH A CASE PLAN GOAL OF ADOPTION AND WHO ARE PLACED IN AN ADOPTIVE HOME AT THE END OF THE REPORT PERIOD AND AS CATEGORIZED BY:

- (a) AGE.
- (b) ETHNICITY.
- (c) AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE.
- (d) LEGAL STATUS.
- (15)(d) LENGTH OF TIME FROM CHANGE OF CASE PLAN GOAL TO ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT.

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, 9 months.

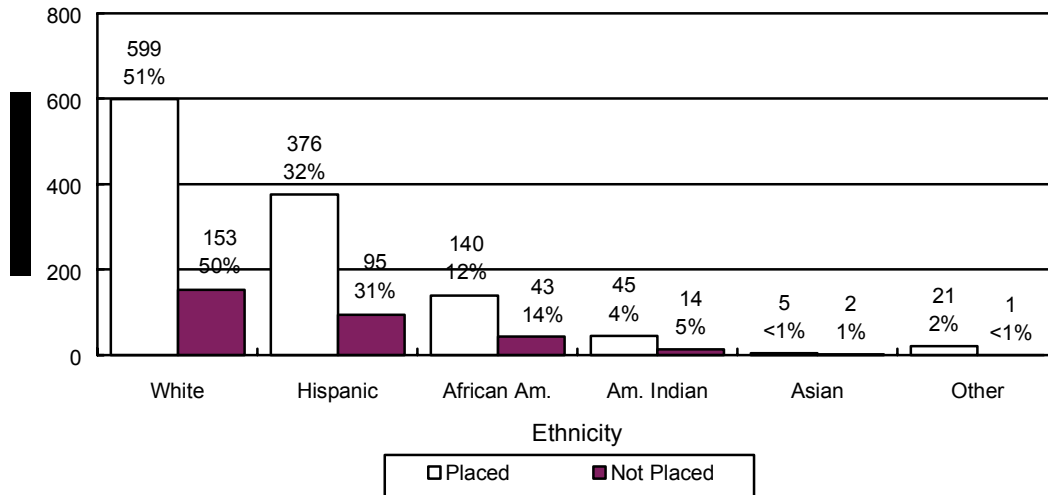
Chart 14

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



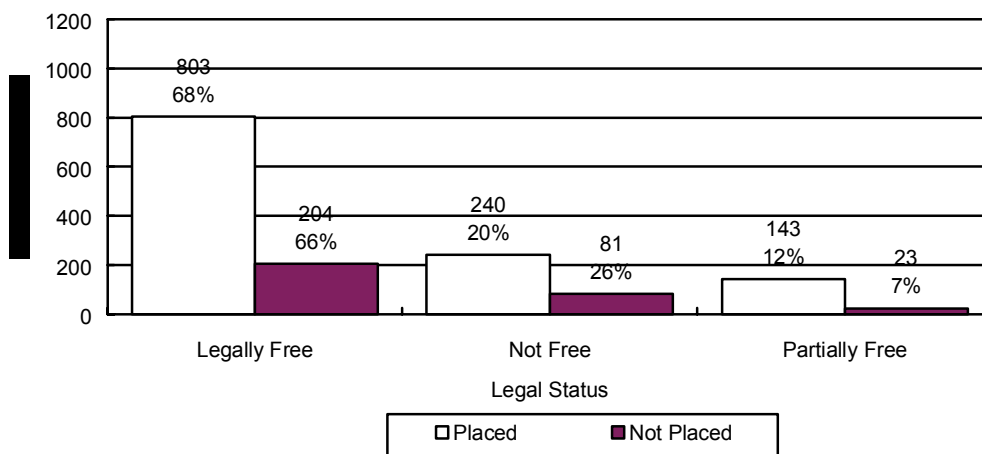
N= 1,186 Placed N= 308 Not Placed

Chart 15
THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A CASE PLAN GOAL OF ADOPTION BY ETHNICITY



N= 1,186 Placed N= 308 Not Placed

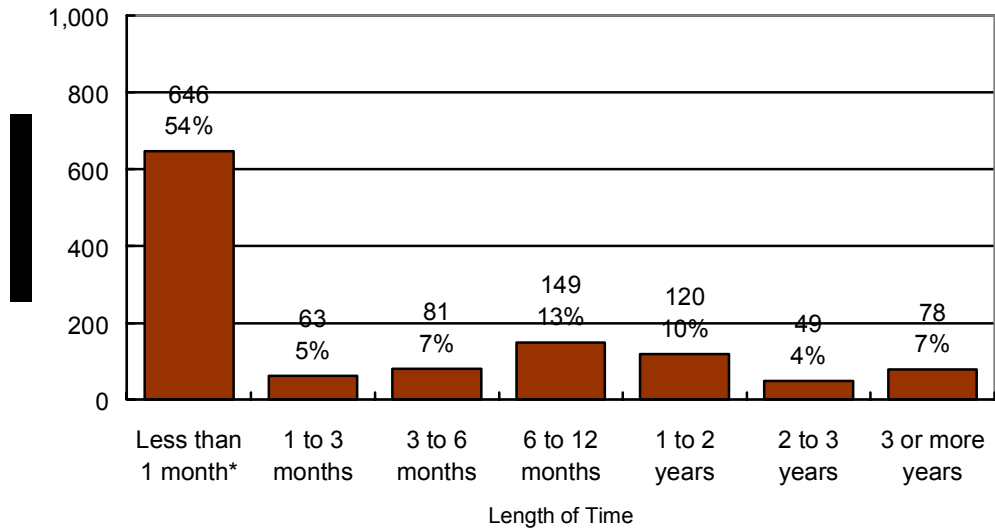
Chart 16
THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A CASE PLAN GOAL OF ADOPTION BY LEGAL STATUS



N= 1,186 Placed N= 308 Not Placed

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

Chart 17
THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN BY LENGTH OF TIME FROM CHANGE
OF CASE PLAN GOAL OF ADOPTION TO ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT



N= 1,186 Placed

*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.

ADOPTION SERVICES
A.R.S. 8-526 (A)(18)(a)(b)

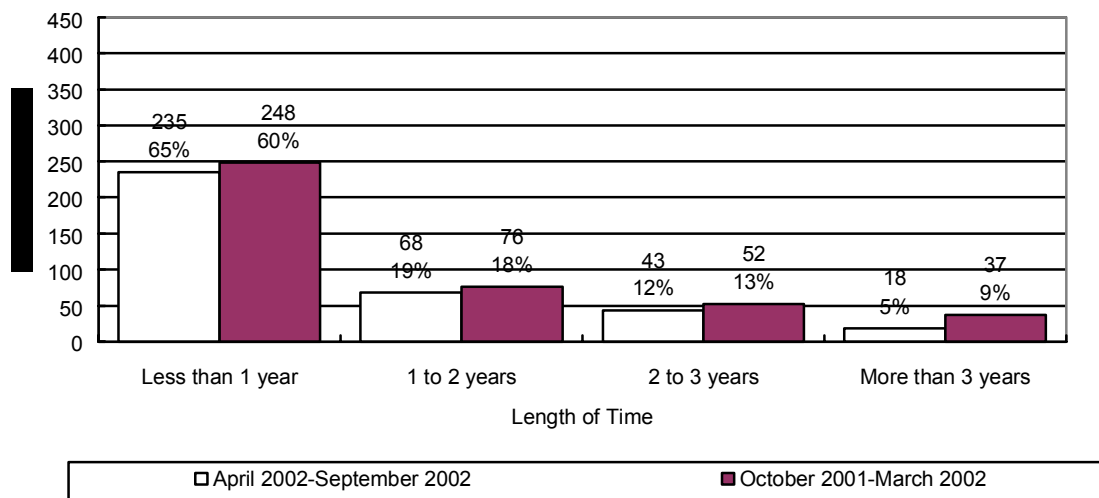
THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHOSE ADOPTIONS WERE FINALIZED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD AND AS CATEGORIZED BY:

- (a) AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT BEFORE ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT.**
- (b) AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME IN ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT BEFORE THE FINAL ORDER OF ADOPTION.**

There were 364 children with a finalized adoption during the reporting period. *Chart 17* 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. *Chart 18* displays the number of children with a finalized adoption by average length of time in adoptive placement before the final order of adoption.

Chart 18

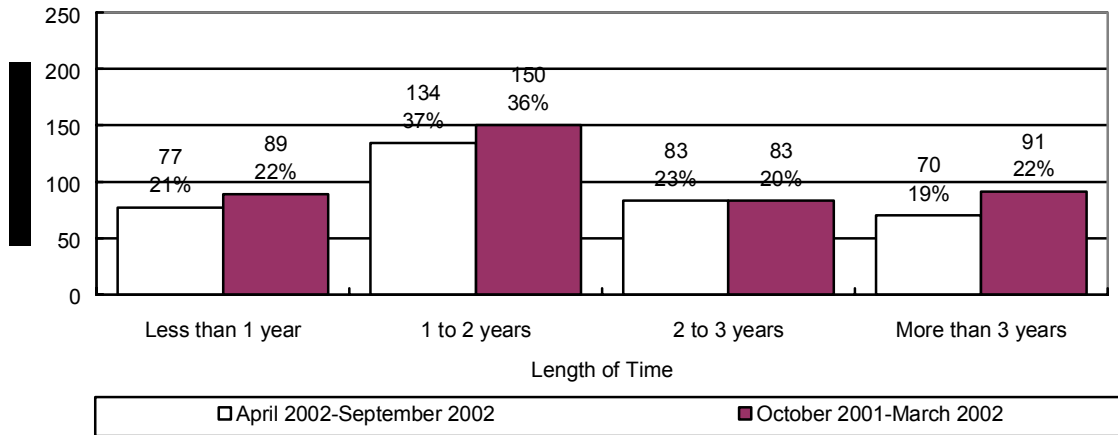
THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITH A FINALIZED ADOPTION BY AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT BEFORE ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT



N= 364 April 2002 - September 2002
N= 413 October 2001 - March 2002

Chart 19

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



N= 364 April 2002-September 2002

N= 413 October 2001-March 2002

*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.