

CHILD WELFARE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD OF

APRIL 1, 2005 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 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 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, 2005 and ending on September 30, 2005.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
S.B. 1229
APRIL 1, 2005 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 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 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, 2005 through September 30, 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 18,797 reports of child abuse, neglect and abandonment. Of these reports, 220 were within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments and were referred to those jurisdictions. During the reporting period, an additional 11,239 communications were received by Child Protective Services Hotline that did not meet the criteria of a report.

During the reporting period, there were 1,265 substantiated findings of abuse or neglect. In-home services were received in 921 of these cases, out-of-home services were received in 693 of these cases, and 327 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, 2005, there were 9,906 children in out-of-home care in Arizona. Of the total number of children in out-of-home care, there were 3,431 children placed with relatives. Two thousand one hundred seventy (2,170) children of the 9,906 in out-of-home care had a case plan goal of adoption, and 1,898 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 ninety-four (4,994) children had a case plan goal of "Return to Family". Seven thousand six hundred two (7,602 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, 3,806 children were in family foster home settings. There were 2,288 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 1,672 (73%) of 2,288 foster homes this reporting period.

A.R.S. §8-516 also requires supervision of children in foster care. During this reporting period, 9,906 children in out-of-home care required visitation by their Child Protective Services case manager. Visitation was accurately documented for 6,045 (61%) of these children.

During the reporting period, 3,488 children left the care, custody and control of DES. The following are the reasons and the number of children who left care: 1,822 of the children were reunified with their parents or primary caretaker; 304 of the children reached the age of majority; 457 children left due to a legal guardianship being established; 155 of the children were placed with other relatives; 143 of the children were transferred to another agency; and 30 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 570 children with finalized adoptions.

Semi-Annual Comparisons

	Oct 2002 – Mar 2003	Apr 2003– Sep 2003	Oct 2003 – Mar 2004	Apr 2004– Sep 2004	Oct 2004 - Mar 2005	Apr 2005– Sep 2005
Number of Reports	17,470	18,680	20,242	19,165	18,839	18,797
Number of Reports Substantiated ¹	1,924 (15%)	2,299 (17%)	2,363 (15%)	2,157 (14%)	1,734 (11%)	1,265 (8%)
Number of Reports Investigated ²	14,634	15,729	17,428	19,011	18,663	18,577
Number of Reports Referred to Family Builders	2,691	2,781	2,628	1,145	N/A ³	N/A
Number of Substantiated Investigations- with No Services After Investigation is Closed	306	565	570	226	316	327
Number of Substantiated Investigations-In-Home Services Provided After Investigation is Closed	721	1,035	1,188	780	943	921
Number of Substantiated Investigations-Out of Home Services Provided After Investigation is Closed	662	890	986	581	706	693
Number of new removals	2,961	3,349	3,504	3,630	3,617	4,078
Number of new removals with Voluntary under 18	332	311	256	279	118	420
Percentage of Annualized Turnover Rate of Staff	23.5%	27.66%	N/A ⁴	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care on the Last Day of Reporting Period	6,826	7,535	8,246	8,839	9,536	9,906
Number of Children in Shelter for More than 21 Days	1,300	1,323	1,431	1,319	1,127	1,039
Number and Percentage of Children Receiving Visitation In the Last Month of Reporting Period	4,656 (68%)	4,890 (65%)	5,266 (64%)	5,475 (62%)	6,506 (68%)	6,045 (61%)
Number and Percentage of Children not Receiving Visitation	2,170 (32%)	2,645 (35%)	2,980 (36%)	3,364 (38%)	3,030 (32%)	3,861 (39%)
Number and Percentage of Parents Receiving Visitation	858 (55%)	851 (50%)	973 (51%)	1,049 (50%)	1,255(56%)	1,080 (48%)
Number of Licensed Foster Homes	1,865	1,892	2,007	2,191	2,267	2,288
Number of Foster Home Spaces Available to ACYF	3,923	3,982	3,691	4,044	5,020	4,905
Number of New Foster Homes	283	308	334	410	400	397
Number of Foster Homes Closed	196	281	219	197	410	258
Number and Percentage of Foster Homes Receiving Visitation In the Last Qtr. Of Reporting Period	1,695 (91%)	1,606 (85%)	1,774 (88%)	1,723 (79%)	1,791 (79%)	1,672 (73%)
Number and Percentage of Foster Homes not Receiving Visitation	170 (9%)	286 (15%)	233 (12%)	466 (21%)	476 (21%)	968 (42%)
Number of Children Leaving DES Custody	2,275	2,528	2,655	2,883	2,726	3,488
Number of Children With a Case Plan Goal of Adoption	1,459	1,485	1,629	1,893	2,044	2,170
Number of Children With a Finalized Adoption	398	408	380	373	430	570

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 Refers to reports assigned for investigation.

³ Effective July 1, 2004 reports could no longer be dispositioned to the Family Builders program for investigation.

⁴ This 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.

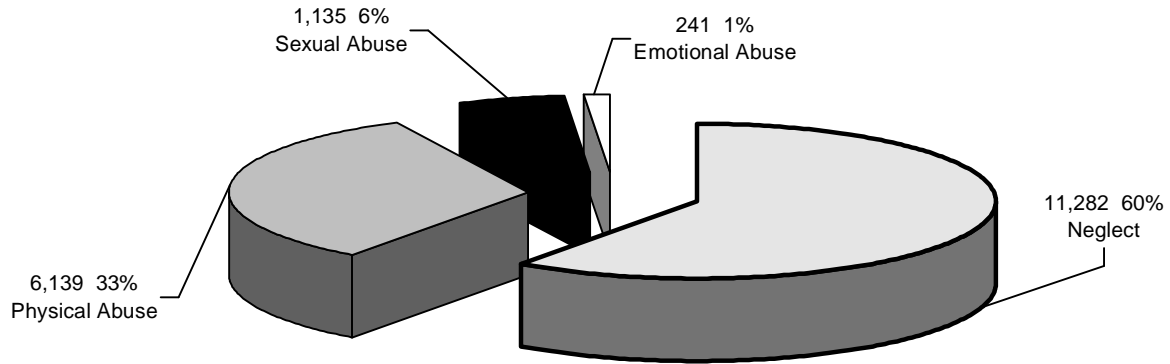
Between April 1, 2005 and September 30, 2005, there were 18,797 incoming communications to the Child Abuse Hotline which met the criteria of a report of abuse or neglect. Of these, 220 were within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments and were referred to those jurisdictions. This compares to 18,839 incoming communications received during the last reporting period which met the criteria of a report of abuse or neglect.

As illustrated on the following page, the period covering April 1, 2005 and September 30, 2005, shows 11,282 or 60% of the 18,797 reports of maltreatment were related to allegations of neglect, 6,139 or 33% of the reports were related to allegations of physical abuse, 1,135 or 6% of the reports were related to allegations of sexual abuse, and 241 or 1% of the reports were related to allegations of emotional abuse.

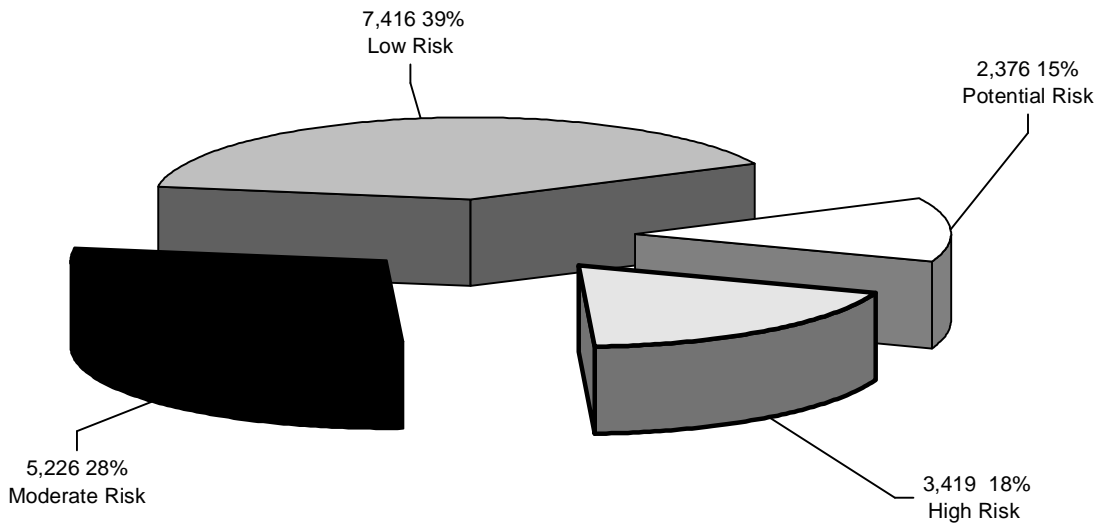
The second pie chart, on the following page, provides the number of reports received by report risk level for the April 1, 2005 and September 30, 2005 reporting period. Based on the type of maltreatment described in the report a risk level is assigned to the reports of alleged abuse. The pie chart shows 3,419 or 18% of the reports received were High Risk reports, 5,226 or 28% of the reports were Moderate Risk reports, 7,416 or 39% of the reports were classified as Low Risk reports, and 2,736 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

**NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED BY CATEGORY OF MALTREATMENT
FOR PERIOD APRIL 1, 2005 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2005**



**NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED BY RISK LEVEL
FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1, 2005 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2005**

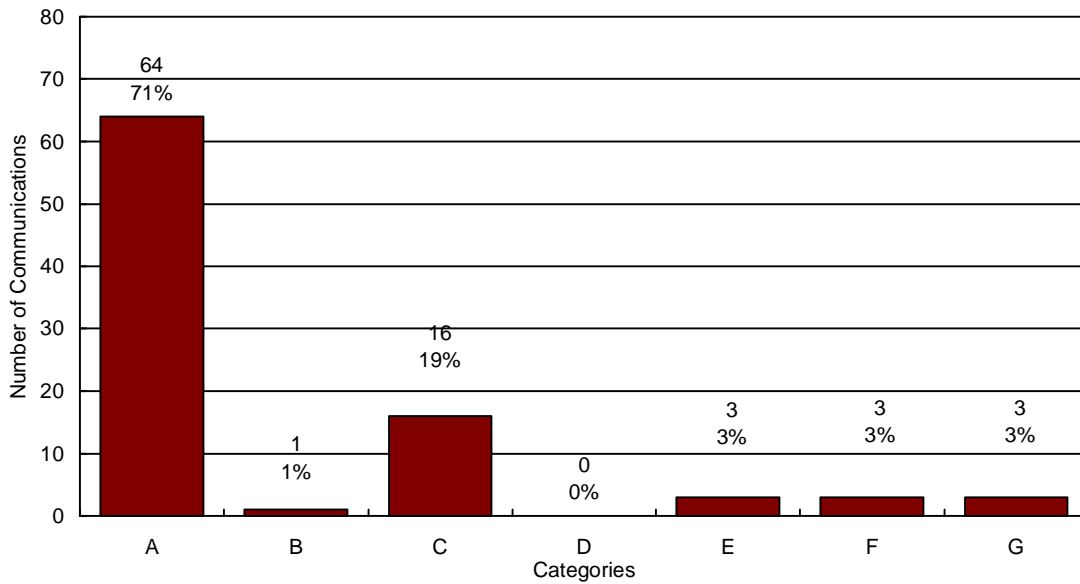


N=18,797

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

In addition to the 18,797 reports during the current reporting period, the Child Abuse Hotline received 11,239 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 Jurisdiction⁵**
- 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.

⁵ 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:

- 18,797 reports appropriate for investigation
- 220 reports fell within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments
- 18,577 reports investigated by CPS
- 100% response rate achieved for period

The Department would like to acknowledge the performance audit, Timeliness and Thoroughness of Investigations, issued in December of 2005 by the Office of the Auditor General. We continue to take steps to improve our investigative performance and our delivery of services to children and families. The eleven reports referred to by the Auditor General as not having been investigated were not received during the current reporting period. Each report during this reporting period has been investigated and is reflected in our 100% investigation rate for this report.

The following tables display investigations by risk level, category of maltreatment, and county. The numbers displayed in the tables include reports that fall within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments.

**NUMBER OF REPORTS RESPONDED TO BY RISK LEVEL AND COUNTY
FOR PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 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%	

**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 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, 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%	

SUBSTANTIATED INVESTIGATIONS

During the reporting period 15,867 reports were investigated and subject to substantiation, with 8% or 1,265 of the reports resulting in a substantiated finding of child abuse or neglect.⁶ This compares to a revised substantiation rate of 11%, or 1,734 reports, for the period of October 2004 through March 2005. In addition, during the reporting period, April 2005 through September 2005, there were 301 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 services⁷; 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.

⁶ As of January 25, 1999 the Department does not substantiate potential risk reports.

⁷ 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 INVESTIGATION⁸ BY RISK LEVEL AND COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2005 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	0	1	1	0	2	1%
COCHISE	1	12	9	0	22	7%
COCONINO	4	1	8	0	13	4%
GILA	3	2	2	0	7	2%
GRAHAM	0	3	2	0	5	2%
GREENLEE	0	0	0	0	0	0%
LA PAZ	2	1	1	0	4	1%
MARICOPA	22	43	64	0	129	38%
MOHAVE	1	3	2	0	6	2%
NAVAJO	0	2	1	0	3	1%
PIMA	11	28	48	0	87	27%
PINAL	5	11	5	0	21	6%
SANTA CRUZ	0	1	1	0	2	1%
YAVAPAI	5	5	7	0	17	5%
YUMA	4	3	2	0	9	3%
STATEWIDE	58	116	153	0	327	100%
% OF TOTAL	18%	35%	47%	0%	100%	

NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS WITH SUBSTANTIATED FINDINGS AFTER INVESTIGATION IN WHICH IN-HOME SERVICES WERE PROVIDED BY RISK LEVEL AND BY COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2005 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	1	0	2	0	3	<1%
COCHISE	8	20	8	0	36	4%
COCONINO	6	11	7	0	24	3%
GILA	9	3	0	0	12	1%
GRAHAM	2	3	4	0	9	1%
GREENLEE	2	0	0	0	2	<1%
LA PAZ	4	1	0	0	5	1%
MARICOPA	139	92	100	0	331	35%
MOHAVE	16	9	8	0	33	4%
NAVAJO	15	7	5	0	27	3%
PIMA	111	103	87	0	301	32%
PINAL	18	16	8	0	42	5%
SANTA CRUZ	1	3	0	0	4	<1%
YAVAPAI	16	22	17	0	55	6%
YUMA	15	11	11	0	37	4%
STATEWIDE	363	301	257	0	921	100%
% OF TOTAL	39%	33%	28%	0%	100%	

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.

**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, 2005 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2005**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	2	0	2	0	4	1%
COCHISE	7	19	5	0	31	4%
COCONINO	6	8	3	0	17	2%
GILA	8	2	0	0	10	1%
GRAHAM	1	2	4	0	7	1%
GREENLEE	2	0	0	0	2	<1%
LA PAZ	3	1	0	0	4	1%
MARICOPA	124	48	46	0	218	31%
MOHAVE	14	8	6	0	28	4%
NAVAJO	12	2	3	0	17	2%
PIMA	104	79	63	0	246	36%
PINAL	18	14	7	0	39	6%
SANTA CRUZ	1	3	0	0	4	1%
YAVAPAI	15	17	10	0	42	6%
YUMA	12	4	8	0	24	3%
STATEWIDE	329	207	157	0	693	100%
% OF TOTAL	47%	30%	23%	0%	100%	

CHILDREN ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME CARE

During the reporting period April 2005 through September 2005, 4,078 children were removed from their home for some period of time. The table below shows the new removals for the period by county.

There were four newborn infants delivered to Safe Haven providers during the April 2005 – September 2005 reporting period. This compares to one infant being delivered to Safe Haven Providers during the October 2004 – March 2005 reporting period.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2005 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

COUNTY	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	29	1%
COCHISE	135	3%
COCONINO	67	2%
GILA	42	1%
GRAHAM	31	1%
GREENLEE	10	<1%
LA PAZ	10	<1%
MARICOPA	2,080	50%
MOHAVE	106	3%
NAVAJO	102	3%
PIMA	904	21%
PINAL	263	6%
SANTA CRUZ	27	1%
YAVAPAI	186	5%
YUMA	86	2%
STATEWIDE	4,078	100%

The following table shows the children, under the age of 18, who entered the foster care system through a voluntary placement by county for the current reporting period. Voluntary foster care may be provided when the parents or legal guardians of a child have requested such assistance, and have signed a legally binding written agreement not to exceed ninety days, for the temporary placement of the child in foster care while risk factors are addressed to enable the child to live safely at home. A voluntary foster care agreement may be utilized only when it is likely that the circumstances that brought the child into foster care are likely to be remedied within the ninety day period of time. A.R.S. §8-806 authorizes the Department to provide voluntary foster care placement for children for a period not to exceed 90 days and no more than two periods within twenty-four consecutive months.

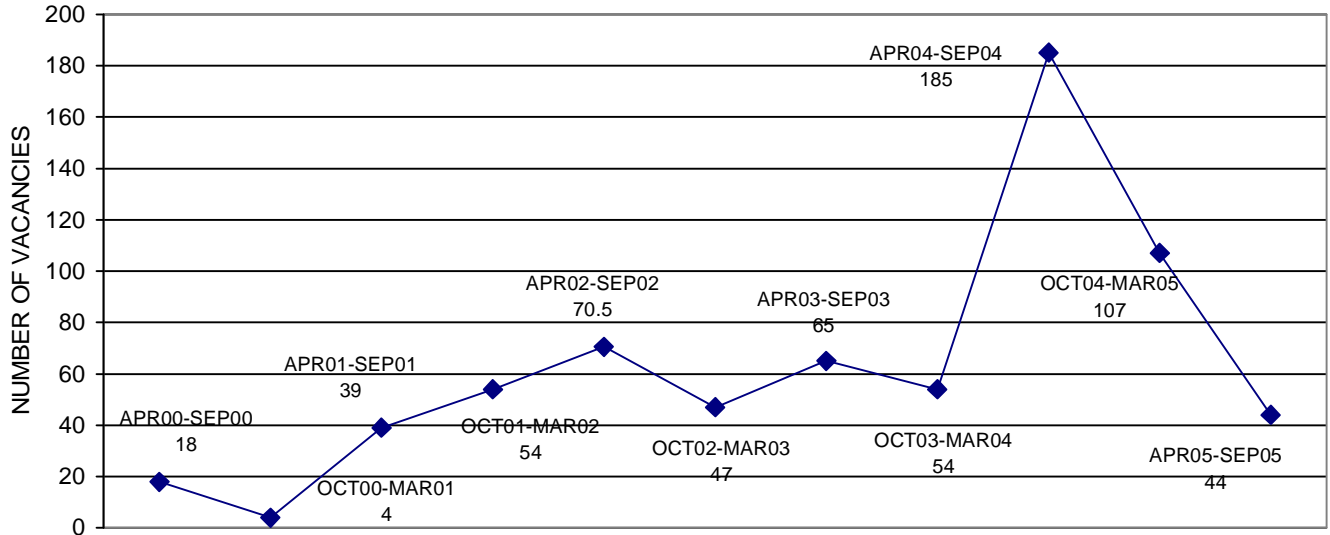
**NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME
CARE DUE TO A VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT BY COUNTY FOR PERIOD OF
APRIL 1, 2005 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2005**

COUNTY	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	3	1%
COCHISE	8	2%
COCONINO	7	2%
GILA	0	0%
GRAHAM	2	<1%
GREENLEE	1	<1%
LA PAZ	2	<1%
MARICOPA	288	68%
MOHAVE	36	9%
NAVAJO	14	3%
PIMA	34	8%
PINAL	5	1%
SANTA CRUZ	3	1%
YAVAPAI	12	3%
YUMA	5	1%
STATEWIDE	420	100%

DIRECT CLIENT SERVICES POSITIONS

There were 44 authorized Child Protective Services Specialist positions vacant on September 30, 2005.

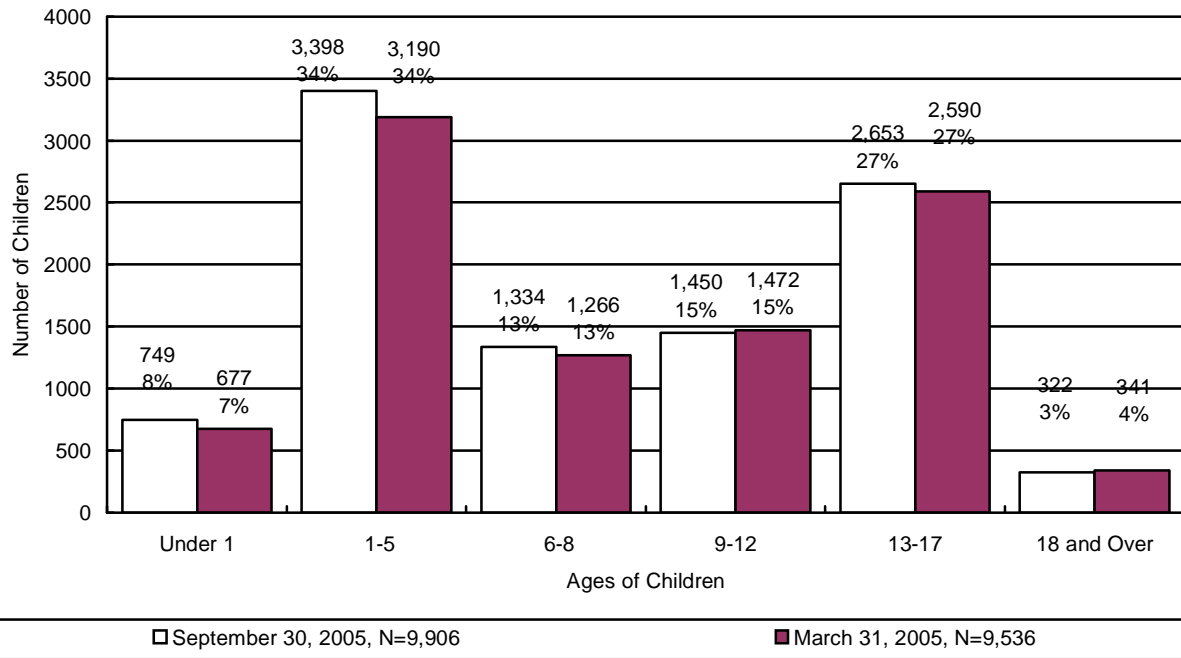
VACANCIES BY REPORTING PERIOD



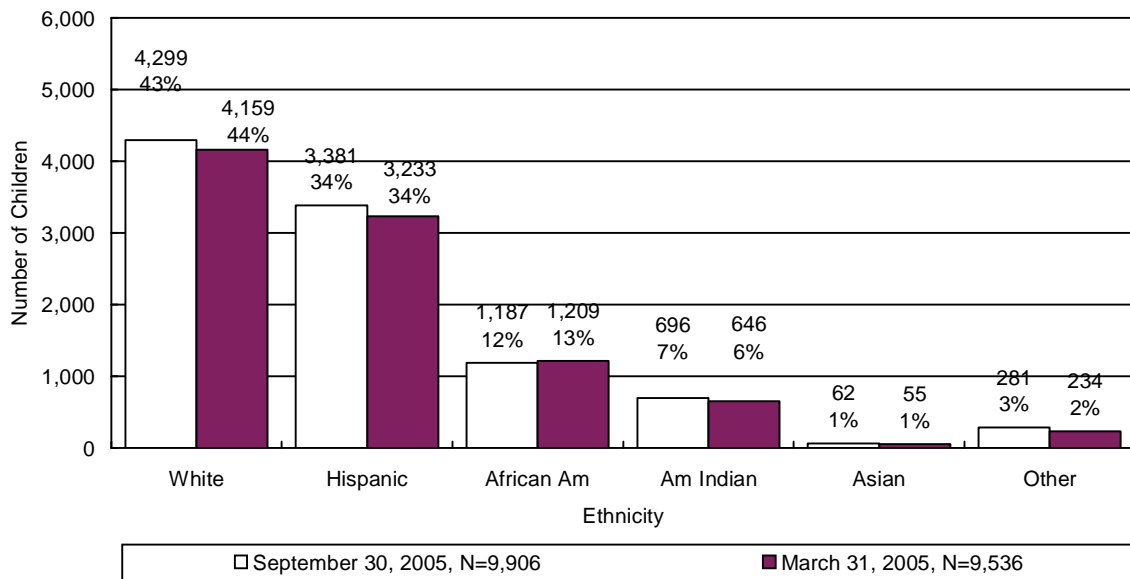
CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

On September 30, 2005, there were 9,906 children in out-of-home care. During the reporting period of April 1, 2005 through September 30, 2005 there were 4,078 children removed from their home for some period of time.

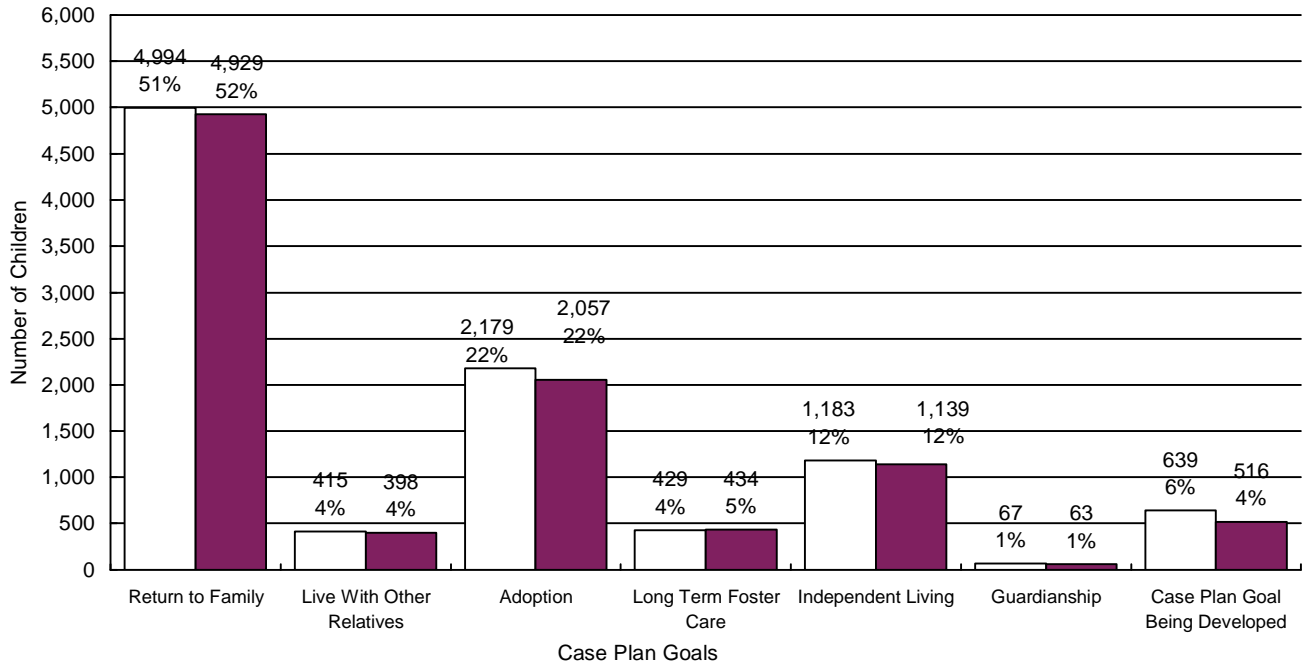
THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY AGE



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



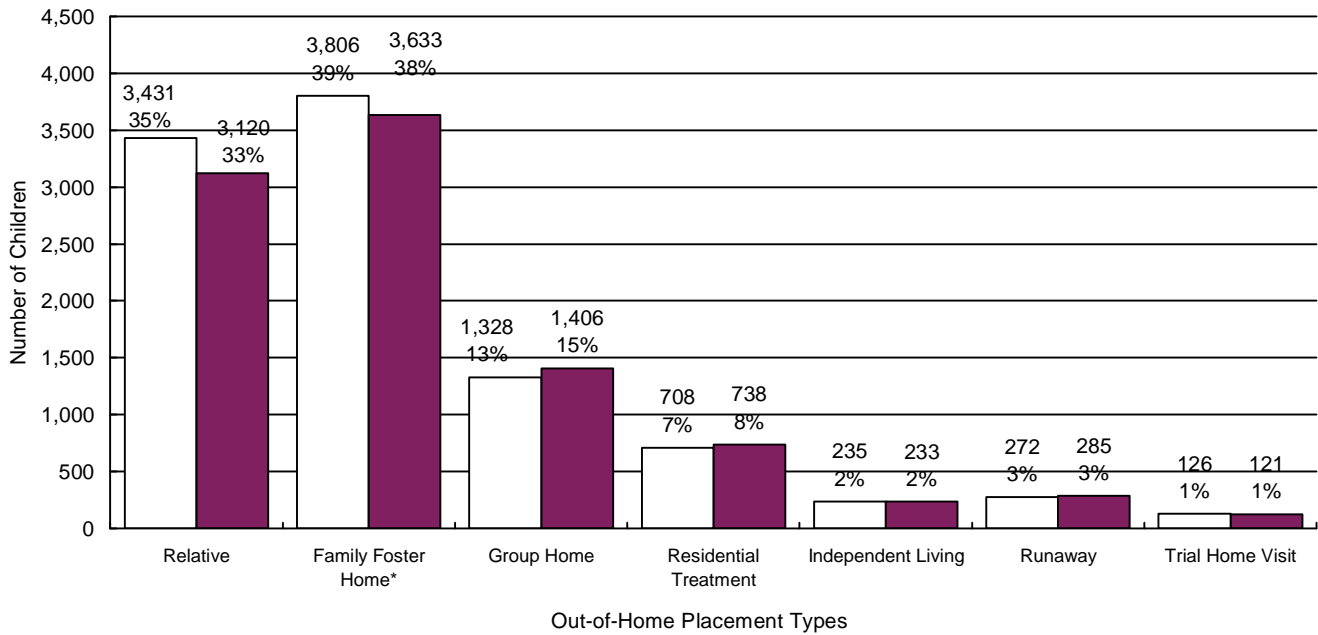
THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY CASE PLAN GOAL



□ September 30, 2005, N=9,906

■ March 31, 2005, N=9,536

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



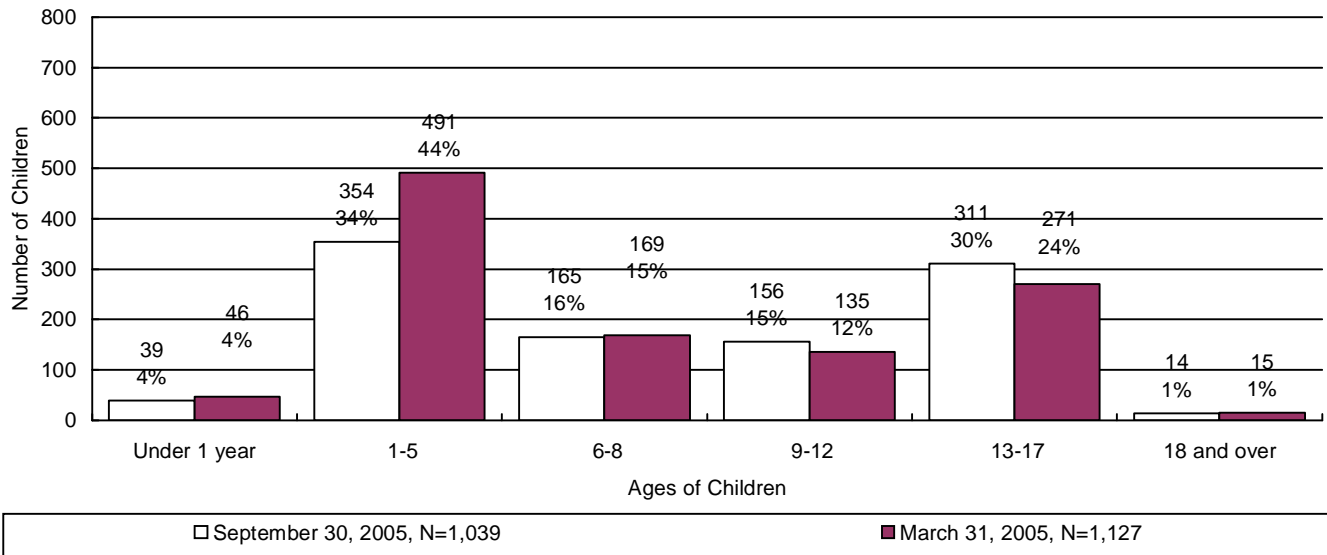
□ September 30, 2005, N=9,906

■ March 31, 2005, N=9,536

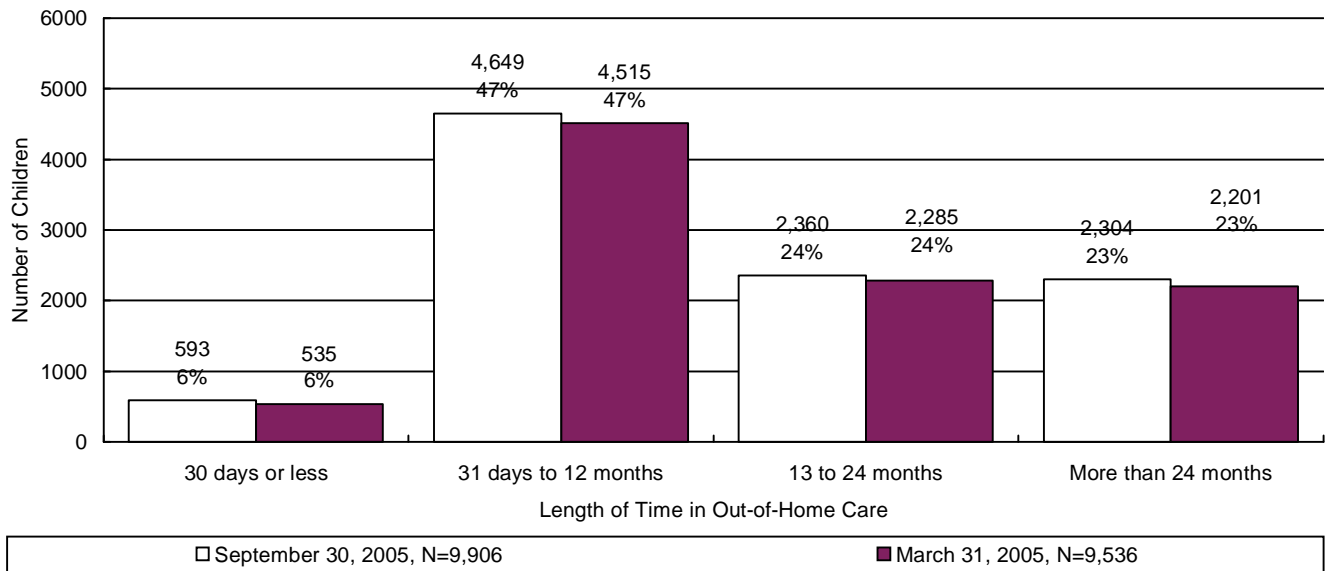
* Category includes some relative placements.

During the reporting period, 1,039 children remained in a shelter or receiving home for more than 21 consecutive days. (See Chart Below) For the period of April 2005 through September 2005, 646 or 62% of the children were six years of age or older. In addition, 39 or 4% of the children were under one year.

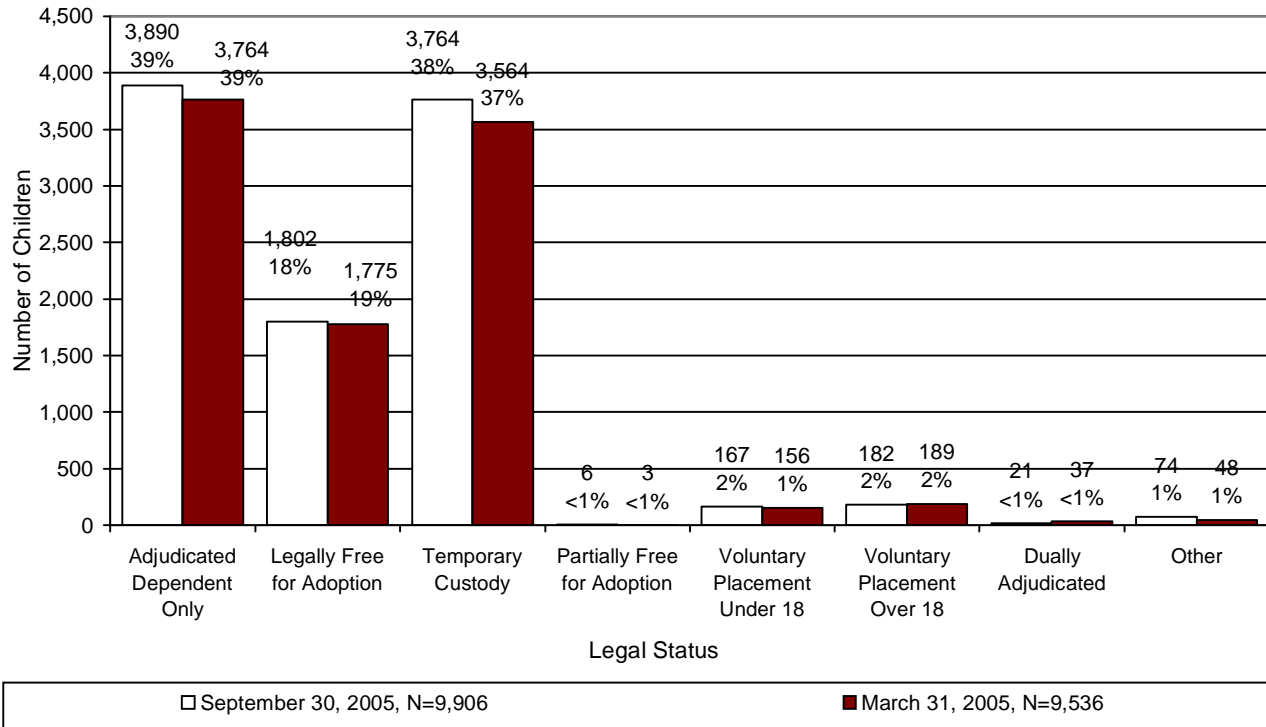
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN SHELTER OR RECEIVING HOMES FOR MORE THAN 21 CONSECUTIVE DAYS BY AGE OF CHILD



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



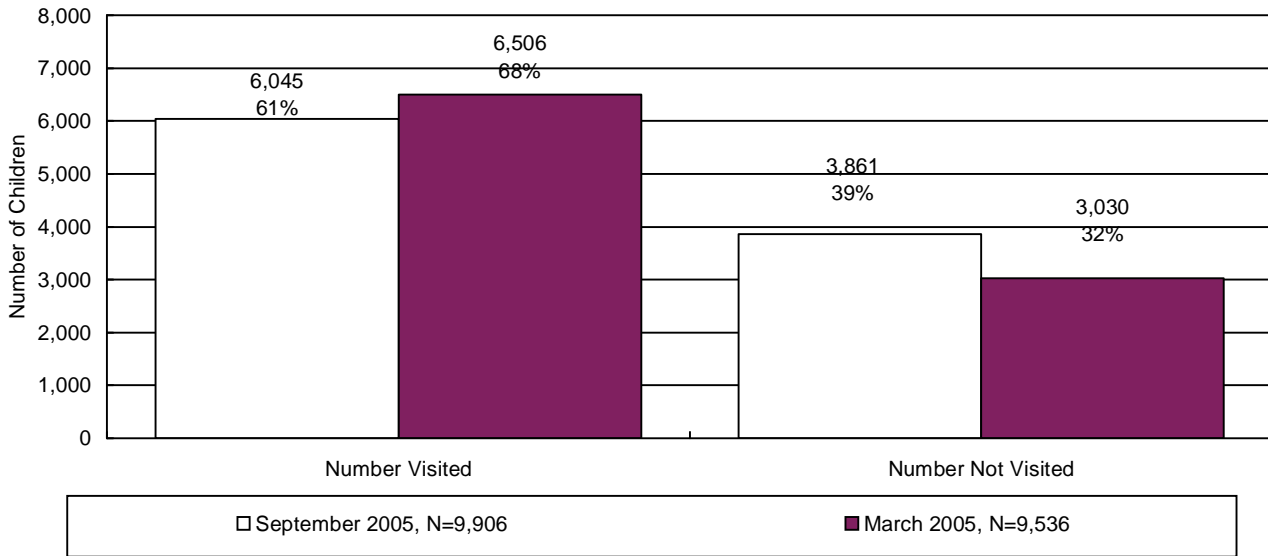
CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY LEGAL STATUS



At the end of the reporting period there were 9,906 children in out-of-home care who required visitation. Of these children, visitation was accurately documented in the automated system for 6,045 children or 61%.

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 2,255 parents who had a child with the case plan goal of return home. Of those parents requiring the visitation, 1,080 or 48% received the required visitation. The 48% visitation rate does not reflect attempted visitation where contact did not take place.

FOSTER HOMES

As of September 30, 2005 there were 2,288 licensed foster homes with 4,905 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.

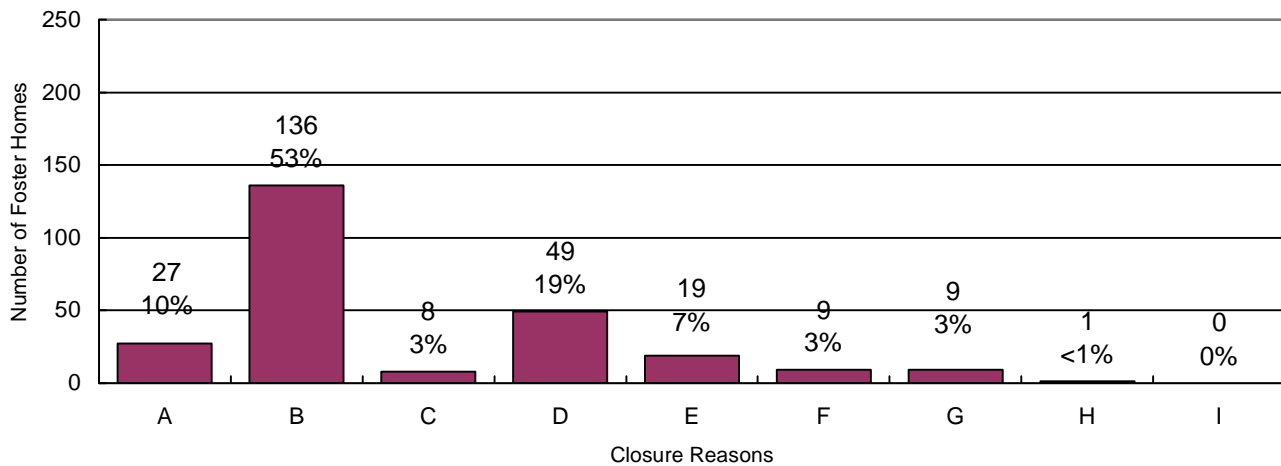
Foster home licenses specify the age range, gender and maximum number of children that can be placed in a home. Foster parents, in consultation with the licensing worker, decide the type of physical, behavioral and psychological needs of children they can effectively parent based upon their own skill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

As of September 30, 2005 there were 1,099 unused spaces within these foster homes. Approximately 663 of the 1,099 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, 397 new homes were licensed to provide foster care and 258 homes left the system. This compares to 400 new homes being licensed and 410 homes leaving the system for the period covering October 2004 through March 2005.

The chart below gives the reasons for foster home closures for the period of April 1, 2005 through September 30, 2005.

**REASON FOR FOSTER HOME CLOSURE FOR THE PERIOD OF
APRIL 1, 2005 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2005**

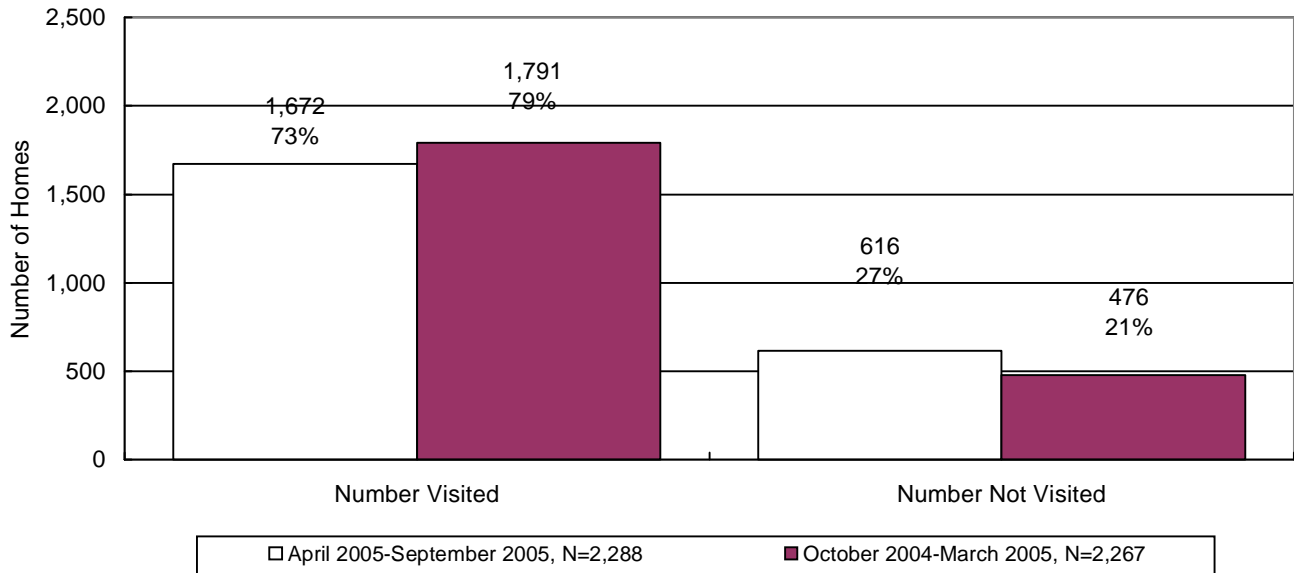


N= 258

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

During the reporting period, there were 2,288 foster homes that required visitation. Of those homes, 1,672 or 73% received the required visitation. This compares to 1,791 or 79% of the foster homes that received the required visitation for the period October 2004 through March 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 3,488 children left the custody of the Department. This compares to 2,726 children exiting care during the prior reporting period. The comparison between the two reporting periods shows that 28% 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%

The following nine tables depict the children who exited out-of-home care by the reason for leaving care. The tables display the following information: reasons the child left custody, their age, their ethnicity, the number of placements each child had, the length of time in out-of-home care.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY FOR THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	207	6%
Ages 1 - 5	1,160	33%
Ages 6 – 8	478	14%
Ages 9 - 12	559	16%
Ages 13 - 17	803	23%
18 and Over	281	8%
Total	3,488	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	1,552	44%
Hispanic	1,142	33%
African American	419	12%
American Indian	222	6%
Asian	27	1%
Other	126	4%
Total	3,488	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	1,879	54%
Two	717	21%
Three	340	10%
Four	191	5%
Five	102	3%
More than Five	259	7%
Total	3,488	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	1,037	29%
31 Days to 12 Months	1,012	29%
13 to 24 Months	716	21%
More than 24 Months	723	21%
Total	3,488	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	8.33	8.98
By Number of Placements	1.00	2.39
By Months of Time in Care	8.65	15.05

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF “REUNIFICATION WITH PARENTS OR PRIMARY CARETAKER” FOR THE
REPORTING PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2005**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	143	8%
Ages 1 – 5	596	32%
Ages 6 – 8	245	13%
Ages 9 - 12	289	16%
Ages 13 - 17	542	30%
18 and Over	7	<1%
Total	1,822	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	806	43%
Hispanic	601	33%
African American	193	11%
American Indian	124	7%
Asian	10	1%
Other	88	5%
Total	1,822	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	1,163	64%
Two	368	20%
Three	135	7%
Four	71	4%
Five	39	2%
More than Five	46	3%
Total	1,822	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	744	41%
31 Days to 12 Months	735	40%
13 to 24 Months	242	13%
More than 24 Months	101	6%
Total	1,822	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	8.19	8.59
By Number of Placements	1.00	1.72
By Months of Time in Care	2.57	6.60

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF “LIVING WITH OTHER RELATIVES” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2005**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	16	10%
Ages 1 - 5	44	29%
Ages 6 – 8	28	18%
Ages 9 - 12	36	23%
Ages 13 - 17	31	20%
18 and Over	0	0%
Total	155	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	60	39%
Hispanic	42	27%
African American	27	17%
American Indian	15	10%
Asian	5	3%
Other	6	4%
Total	155	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	137	88%
Two	12	8%
Three	2	1%
Four	0	0%
Five	1	1%
More than Five	3	2%
Total	155	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	121	78%
31 Days to 12 Months	32	21%
13 to 24 Months	1	<1%
More than 24 Months	1	<1%
Total	155	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	7.32	7.95
By Number of Placements	1.00	1.14
By Months of Time in Care	.13	1.13

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES
CUSTODY FOR REASON OF “ADOPTION” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2005**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	0	0%
Ages 1 - 5	326	57%
Ages 6 – 8	103	18%
Ages 9 - 12	102	18%
Ages 13 - 17	39	7%
18 and Over	0	0%
Total	570	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	269	47%
Hispanic	201	35%
African American	62	11%
American Indian	27	5%
Asian	5	1%
Other	6	1%
Total	570	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	171	30%
Two	170	30%
Three	109	19%
Four	51	9%
Five	25	4%
More than Five	44	8%
Total	570	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	2	<1%
31 Days to 12 Months	7	1%
13 to 24 Months	191	34%
More than 24 Months	370	64%
Total	570	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	5.28	6.12
By Number of Placements	2.00	2.59
By Months of Time in Care	26.78	29.50

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF “GUARDIANSHIP” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2005**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	24	5%
Ages 1 - 5	137	30%
Ages 6 – 8	85	19%
Ages 9 - 12	110	24%
Ages 13 - 17	101	22%
18 and Over	0	0%
Total	457	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	201	44%
Hispanic	141	31%
African American	72	16%
American Indian	24	5%
Asian	5	1%
Other	14	3%
Total	457	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	260	57%
Two	105	23%
Three	41	9%
Four	24	5%
Five	13	3%
More than Five	14	3%
Total	457	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	71	16%
31 Days to 12 Months	136	30%
13 to 24 Months	208	45%
More than 24 Months	42	9%
Total	457	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	8.37	8.44
By Number of Placements	1.00	1.85
By Months of Time in Care	13.82	13.28

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASONS OF “REACHING AGE OF MAJORITY” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2005**

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	30	10%
18 and Over	274	90%
Total	304	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	145	47%
Hispanic	94	31%
African American	47	15%
American Indian	15	5%
Asian	2	1%
Other	1	<1%
Total	304	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	30	10%
Two	32	11%
Three	35	12%
Four	41	13%
Five	21	7%
More than Five	145	47%
Total	304	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	6	2%
31 Days to 12 Months	42	14%
13 to 24 Months	56	18%
More than 24 Months	200	66%
Total	304	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	18.00	18.38
By Number of Placements	5.00	7.88
By Months of Time in Care	37.24	53.81

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF “TRANSFER TO ANOTHER AGENCY” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2005**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	21	15%
Ages 1 - 5	53	37%
Ages 6 – 8	17	12%
Ages 9 - 12	22	15%
Ages 13 - 17	30	21%
18 and Over	0	0%
Total	143	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	51	36%
Hispanic	52	36%
African American	16	11%
American Indian	16	11%
Asian	0	0%
Other	8	6%
Total	143	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	87	61%
Two	27	19%
Three	16	11%
Four	4	3%
Five	3	2%
More than Five	6	4%
Total	143	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	63	43%
31 Days to 12 Months	54	38%
13 to 24 Months	18	13%
More than 24 Months	8	6%
Total	143	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	5.47	7.11
By Number of Placements	1.00	1.89
By Months of Time in Care	2.50	6.99

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF “RUNAWAY” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2005**

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	30	100%
18 and Over	0	0%
Total	30	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	17	57%
Hispanic	7	23%
African American	2	7%
American Indian	1	3%
Asian	0	0%
Other	3	10%
Total	30	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	28	94%
Two	1	3%
Three	1	3%
Four	0	0%
Five	0	0%
More than Five	0	0%
Total	30	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	27	90%
31 Days to 12 Months	3	10%
13 to 24 Months	0	0%
More than 24 Months	0	0%
Total	30	100%

	Median	Average
By Age	15.92	15.74
By Number of Placements	1.00	1.10
By Months of Time in Care	.90	.40

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY
FOR REASON OF “DEATH OF CHILD” FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD ENDING
SEPTEMBER 30, 2005**

By Age	Number	Percentage
Under 1	3	43%
Ages 1 - 5	3	43%
Ages 6 – 8	0	0%
Ages 9 - 12	0	0%
Ages 13 - 17	1	14%
18 and Over	0	0%
Total	7	100%
Ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	3	43%
Hispanic	4	57%
African American	0	0%
American Indian	0	0%
Asian	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total	7	100%
By Number of Placements	Number	Percentage
One	3	43%
Two	2	29%
Three	1	14%
Four	0	0%
Five	0	0%
More than Five	1	14%
Total	7	100%
By Length of Time in Care	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 Days	3	43%
31 Days to 12 Months	3	43%
13 to 24 Months	0	0%
More than 24 Months	1	14%
Total	7	100%

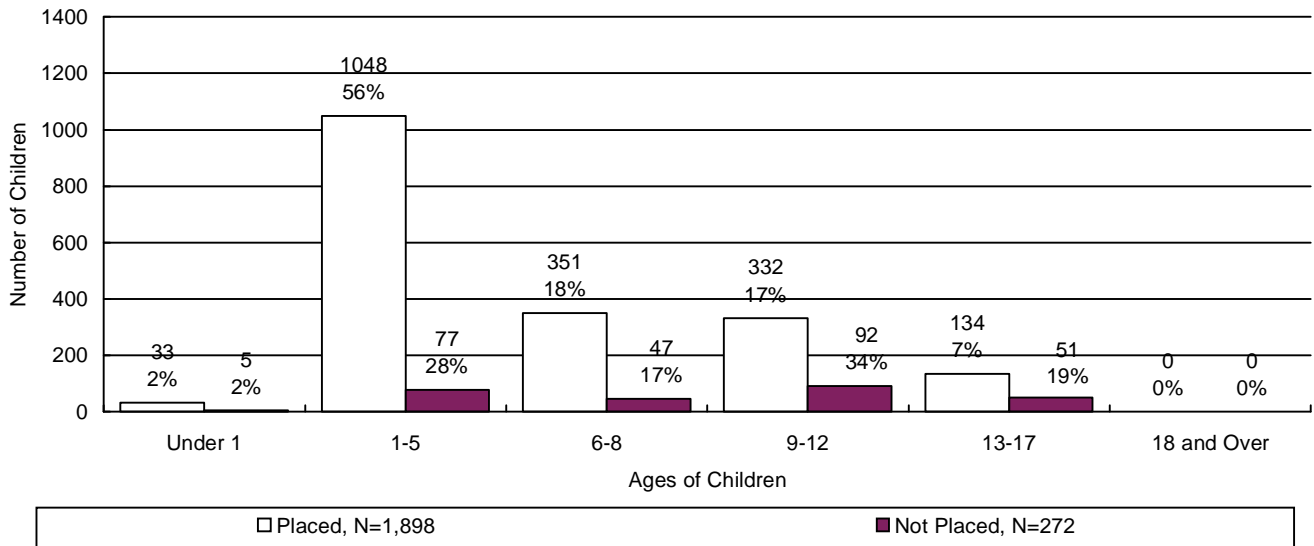
	Median	Average
By Age	1.36	3.77
By Number of Placements	2.00	2.43
By Months of Time in Care	1.32	5.39

Of the seven children who exited the foster care system for reason of death, one was attributable to child abuse or neglect.

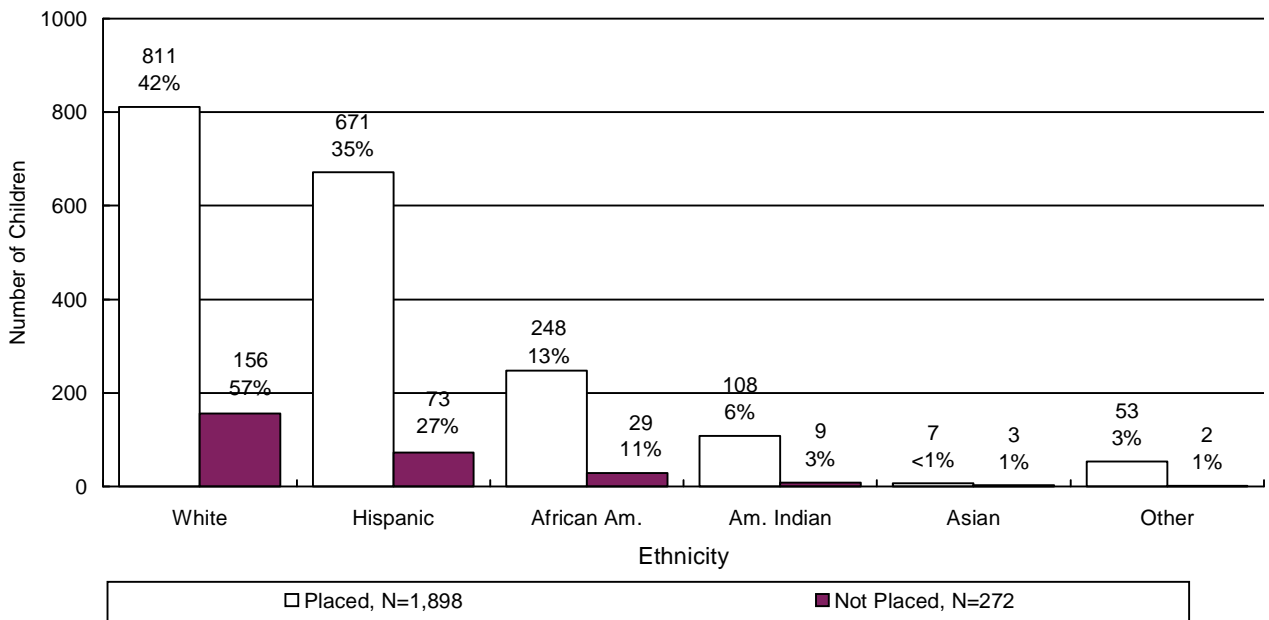
CHILDREN WITH ADOPTIVE CASE PLAN GOALS

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.

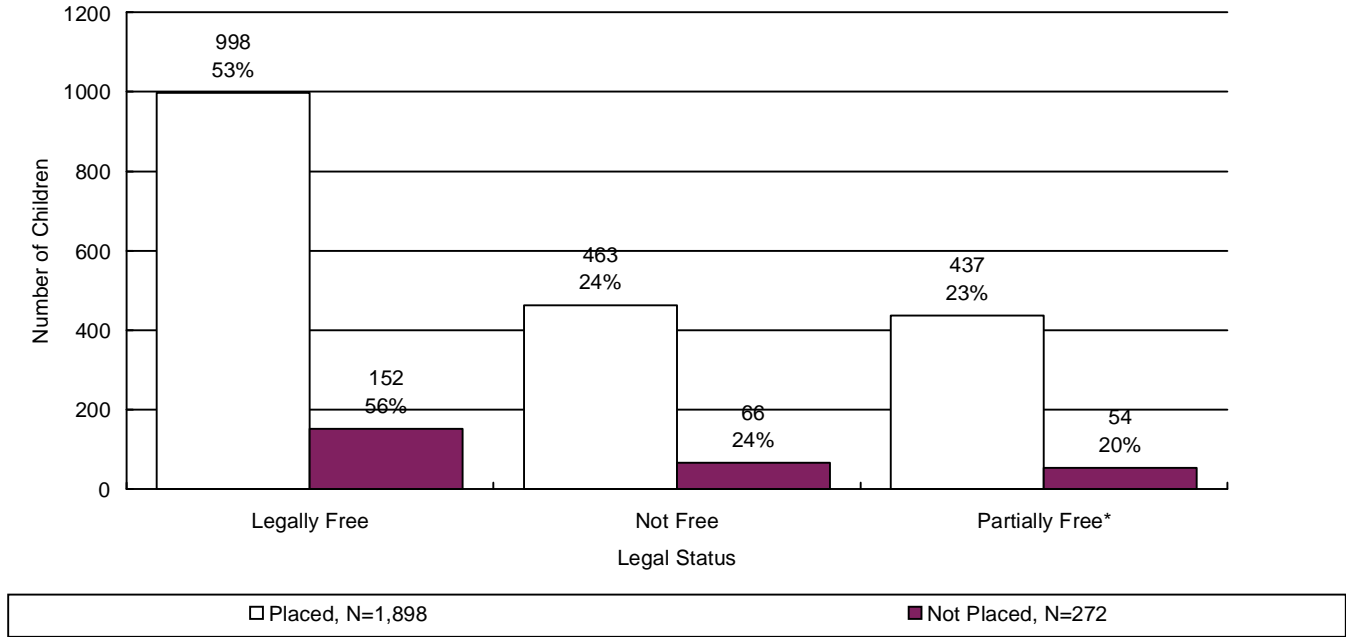
THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A CASE PLAN GOAL OF ADOPTION BY AGE



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

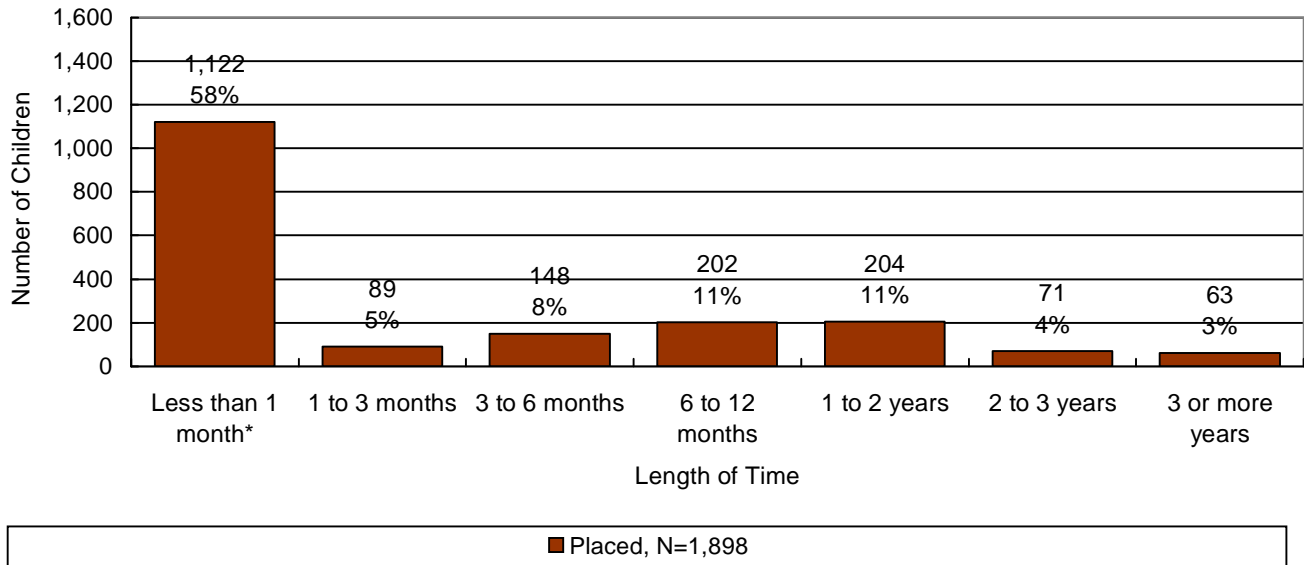


THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A CASE PLAN GOAL OF ADOPTION BY LEGAL STATUS



*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

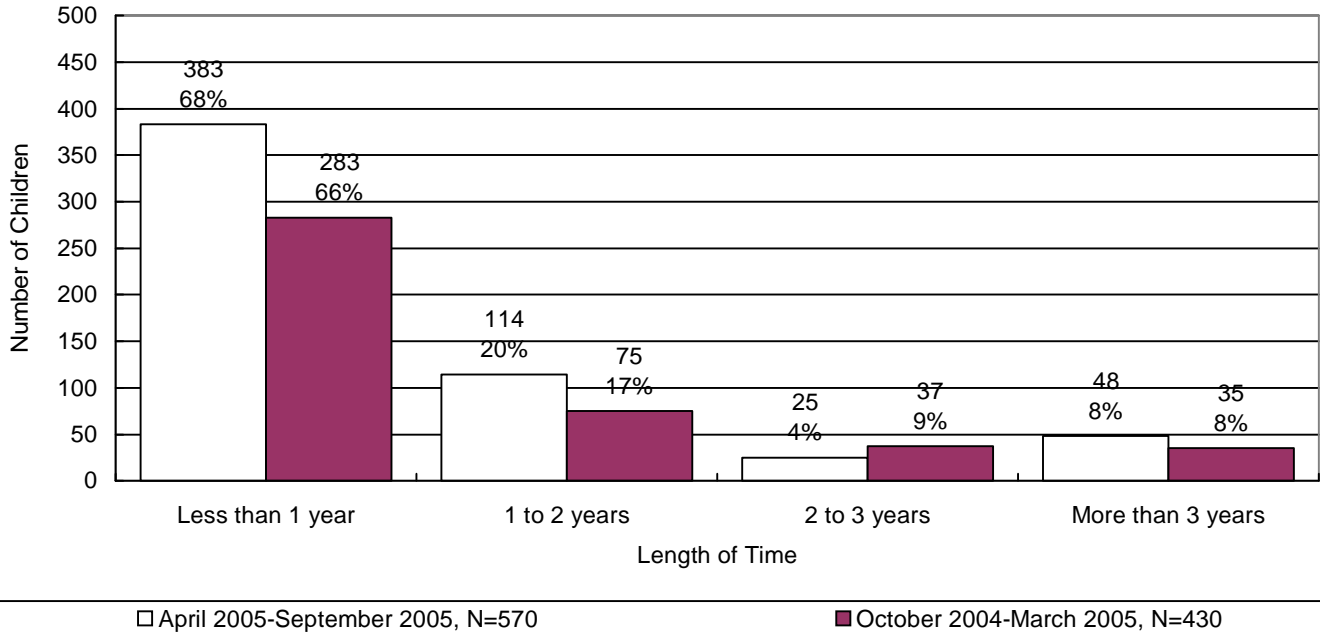


*About 70% of children are adopted by relatives or their foster parents and are already in their prospective adoptive placement at the time the case plan goal changes to adoption.

ADOPTIVE SERVICES

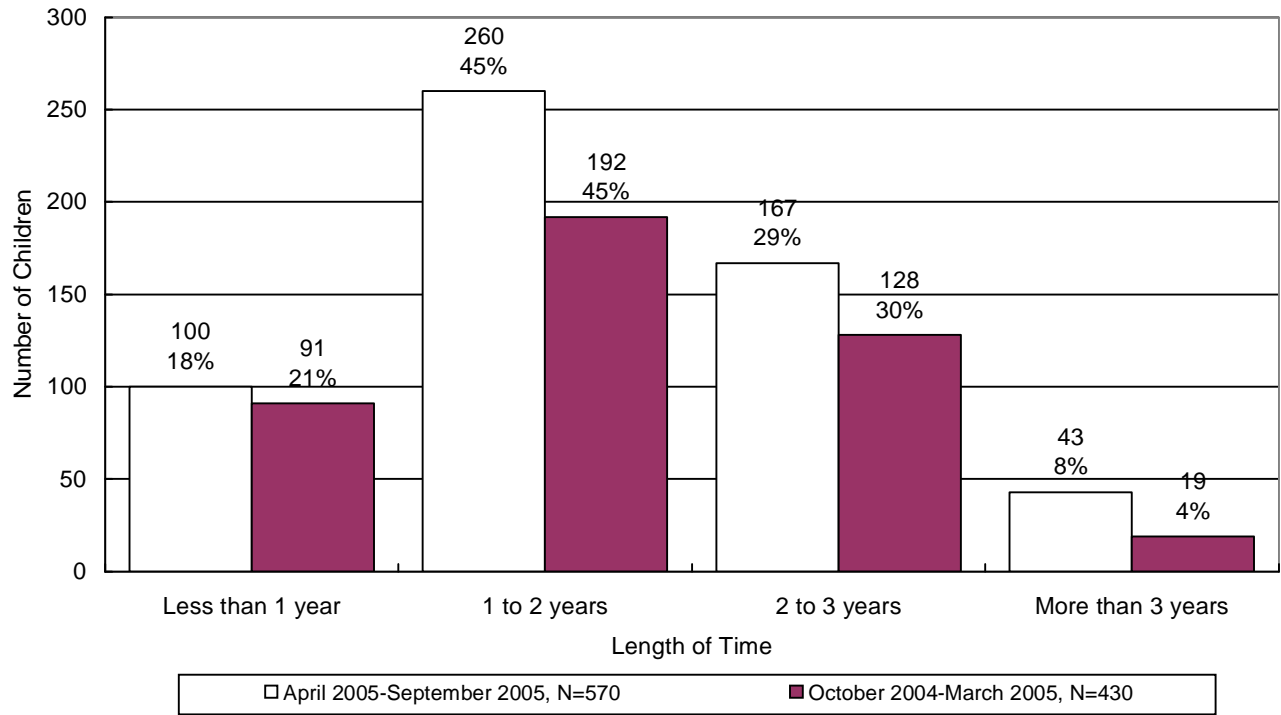
There were 570 children with a finalized adoption during the reporting period. The chart below displays the number of children with a finalized adoption during the reporting period by the average length of time in out-of-home placement before adoptive placement.

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.