

**CHILD WELFARE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

**SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR THE PERIOD OF**

**OCTOBER 1, 2002 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2003**

**ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES**

**[LAWS 2001, CHAPTER 223]**

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY**

**DIVISION OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

**ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

## **CHILD WELFARE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Arizona Revised Statute §8-526, as amended by Laws 2001, Chapter 223 requires the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) to compile information and produce a semi-annual report for the periods ending on March 31<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year regarding the Child Welfare Services program, including Child Protective Services (CPS). This report which is submitted in satisfaction of that mandate is for the semi-annual reporting period beginning on October 1, 2002 and ending on March 31, 2003

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**S.B. 1229**  
**OCTOBER 1, 2002 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2003**

Arizona Revised Statute §8-526, as amended by Laws 2001, Chapter 223 requires the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) to compile information semi-annually and produce a report for the periods ending on March 31<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year regarding the Child Welfare Service Program, including Child Protective Services (CPS). This semi-annual report, submitted in satisfaction of that mandate, is for the period of October 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003. 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 17,470 reports of child abuse, neglect and abandonment. Of these reports, 144 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 17,326 reports. This response rate has been maintained by the Division since January, 1998. During the reporting period, an additional 10,043 communications were received by Child Protective Hotline that did not meet the criteria of a report.

During the reporting period, there were 1,108 substantiated findings of abuse or neglect. In-home services were received in 721 of these cases, out-of-home services were received in 662 of these cases, and 306 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, 2003, there were 6,826 children in out-of-home care in Arizona. Of the total number of children in out-of-home care, there were 1,932 children placed with relatives. One thousand six hundred nine (1,609) children of the 6,826 in out-of-home care had a case plan goal of adoption, and 1,168 of the children with a case plan goal of adoption were placed in an adoptive home but the adoption had not yet been finalized. Three thousand two hundred thirty-seven (3,237) children had a case plan goal of "Return to Family". Four thousand eight hundred fifty-seven (4,857 or 71%) 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, 2,433 children were in family foster home settings. There were 1,865 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 1,695 (91%) of 1,865 foster homes this reporting period.

A.R.S. §8-516 also requires supervision of children in foster care. During this reporting period, 6,826 children in out-of-home care required visitation by their Child Protective Services case manager. Visitation was accurately documented for 4,656 (68%) of these children.

During the reporting period, 2,275 children left the care, custody and control of DES. The following are the reasons and the number of children who left care: 1,098 of the children were reunified with their parents or primary caretaker; 192 of the children reached the age of majority; 274 children left due to a legal guardianship being established; 185 of the children were placed with other relatives; 101 of the children were transferred to another agency; and 25 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 398 children with finalized adoptions.

## Semi-Annual Comparisons

	Apr 2000 – Sep 2000	Oct 2000 - Mar 2001	Apr 2001 - Sep 2001	Oct 2001 - Mar 2002	Apr 2002 – Sep 2002	Oct 2002 – Mar 2003
Number of Reports	16,047	16,394	17,064	17,504	17,104	17,470
Number of Reports Substantiated <sup>1</sup>	2,195 (20%)	1,850 (17%)	1,967 (17%)	1,801 (15%)	1,839 (15%)	1,108 (9%)
Number of Reports Investigated	12,233	12,123	12,673	13,848	14,330	14,634
Number of Reports Referred to Family Builders	3,713	4,172	4,284	3,527	2,644	2,691
Number of Substantiated Investigations- with No Services After the Investigation is Closed	929	548	600	538	459	306
Number of Substantiated Investigations-In-Home Services Provided After the Investigation is Closed	852	682	847	874	828	721
Number of Substantiated Investigations-Out of Home Provided Services After the Investigation is Closed	770	545	695	717	676	662
Number of new removals	N/A	N/A	2,387	2,501	2,655	2,961
Number of new removals with Voluntary under 18	N/A	N/A	N/A	306	294	332
Percentage of Annualized Turnover Rate of Staff	25.78%	22.42%	21.58%	21.58%	N/A	23.5%
Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care on the Last Day of the Reporting Period	6,612	6,254	6,121	6,104	6,270	6,826
Number of Children in Shelter for More than 21 Days	917	926	959	1,028	1,098	1,300
Number and Percentage of Children Receiving Visitation During the Last Month of the Reporting Period	4,346 (66%)	4,449 (71%)	4,152 (68%)	4,224 (69%)	4,249 (68%)	4,656 (68%)
Number and Percentage of Children <b>not</b> Receiving Visitation	2,266 (34%)	1,805 (29%)	1,969 (32%)	1,880 (31%)	2,021 (32%)	2,170 (32%)
Number and Percentage of Parents Receiving Visitation	636 (57%)	665 (60%)	639 (56%)	676 (58%)	772 (56%)	858 (55%)
Number of Licensed Foster Homes	1,810	1,788	1,792	1,756	1,778	1,865
Number of Foster Home Spaces Available to ACYF	4,479	4,272	4,211	3,683	3,731	3,923
Number of New Foster Homes	217	182	196	149	217	283
Number of Foster Homes Closed	236	204	192	183	195	196
Number and Percentage of Foster Homes Receiving Visitation During the Last Quarter of the Reporting Period	1,568 (87%)	1,546 (86%)	1,359 (76%)	1,399 (80%)	1,604 (90%)	1,695 (91%)
Number and Percentage of Foster Homes <b>not</b> Receiving Visitation	242 (13%)	242 (14%)	433 (24%)	357 (20%)	174 (10%)	170 (9%)
Number of Children Leaving DES Custody	2,598	2,337	2,394	2,417	2,376	2,275
Number of Children With a Case Plan Goal of Adoption	1,853	1,689	1,552	1,450	1,666	1,459
Number of Children With a Finalized Adoption	427	455	467	413	364	398

<sup>1</sup> Since the appeals process delays the substantiation of reports, revisions to the substantiation rate for the prior reporting period will occur with every semi-annual report produced.

### **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.

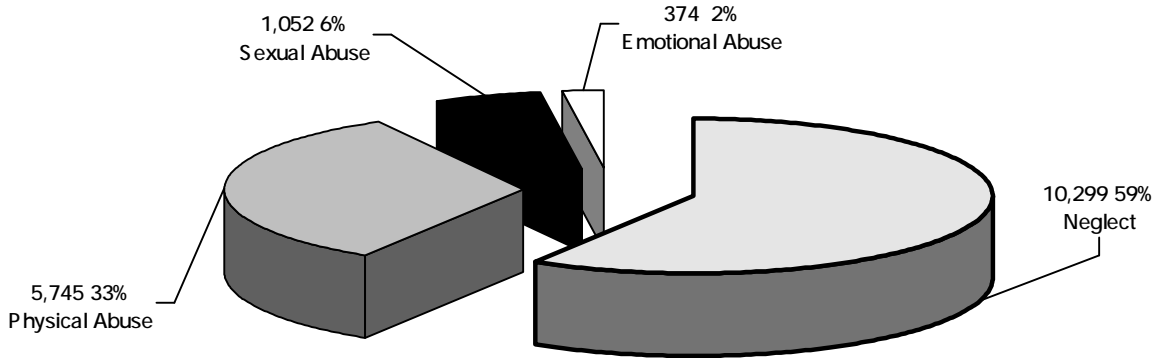
Between October 1, 2002 and March 31, 2003, there were 17,470 incoming communications to the Child Abuse Hotline which met the criteria of a report of abuse or neglect. Of these, 144 were within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments and were referred to those jurisdictions. This compares to 17,104 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 2002 through March 2003 shows 10,299 or 59% of the 17,470 reports of maltreatment were related to allegations of neglect, 5,745 or 33% of the reports were related to allegations of physical abuse, 1,052 or 6% of the reports were related to allegations of sexual abuse, and 374 or 2% of the reports were related to allegations of emotional abuse.

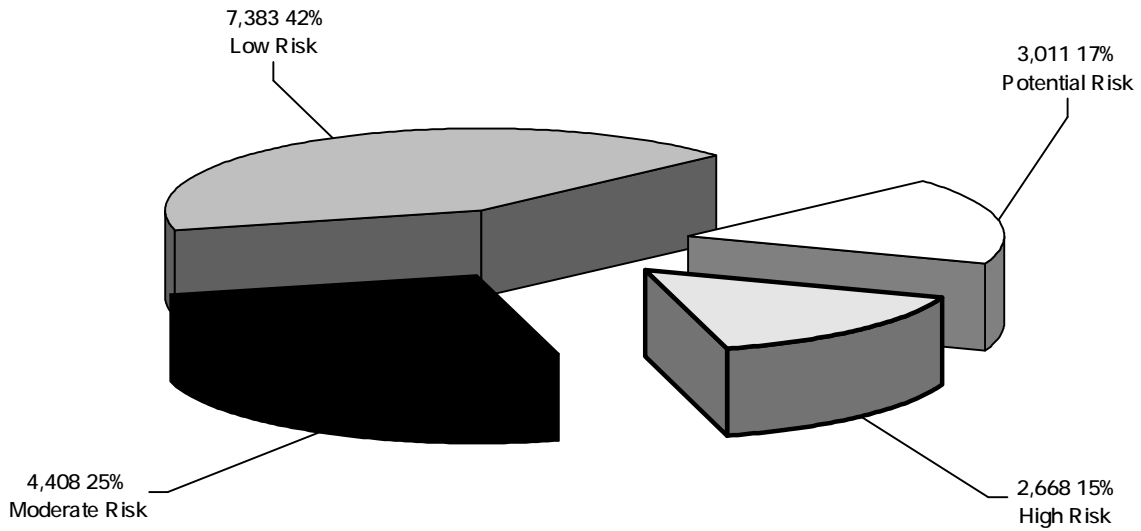
The second pie chart, on the following page, provides the number of reports received by report risk level for the October 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003 reporting period. Based on the type of maltreatment described in the report a risk level is assigned to the reports of alleged abuse. The pie chart shows 2,668 or 15% of the reports received were High Risk reports, 4,408 or 25% of the reports were Moderate Risk reports, 7,383 or 42% of the reports were classified as Low Risk reports, and 3,011 or 17% 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

**NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED BY CATEGORY OF MALTREATMENT  
FOR PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2002 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2003**



**NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED BY RISK LEVEL FOR THE PERIOD  
OCTOBER 1, 2002 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2003**



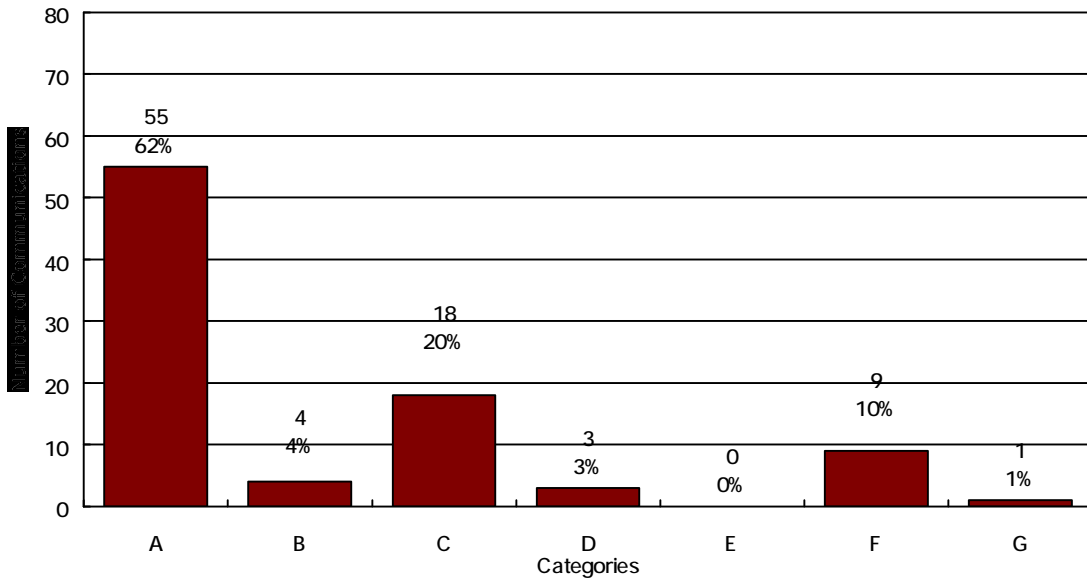
N=17,470

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



In addition to the 17,470 reports during the current reporting period, the Child Abuse Hotline received 10,043 communications that did not meet the statutory criteria of a report of maltreatment. A random sample of these communications is contained in the chart below.

**SAMPLE OF COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE THAT DO NOT MEET THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS OF A REPORT OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT**



N=90

- A = Concern Only/No Allegation of Child Abuse or Neglect**
- B = Out of CPS Jurisdiction**
- C = Call Appropriate for Law Enforcement Jurisdiction<sup>2</sup>**
- D = Non-Caretaker Neglect/Child No Longer at Risk**
- E = Insufficient Information**
- F = Truancy/Custody Issues**
- G = Current Case Questions or Referrals**

All communications that do not meet the statutory requirements for a field investigation of abuse or neglect are reviewed within forty-eight (48) hours by DES Quality Assurance staff.

<sup>2</sup> The category "Call Appropriate for Law Enforcement Jurisdiction" refers to a situation where the alleged perpetrator is not a parent or primary caretaker and the allegations, if true, would constitute a crime.

**Child Protective Services: Investigations**

On January 1, 1998, the Department implemented the Family Builders Program, a community based program operating in Maricopa and Pima counties, designed to provide services to families who are the subject of selected low risk and potential risk reports. On October 4, 1999, Yavapai, Coconino, Navajo, and Apache counties implemented the Family Builders program. On November 17, 1999 Graham, Greenlee, Cochise, and Santa Cruz counties implemented the Family Builders program. As a result of budget reductions, on January 1, 2002, the Family Builders program was eliminated from Graham, Cochise, Apache and Santa Cruz counties. In addition, the program was reduced in Coconino and Yavapai counties.

The following statistics were valid for the current reporting period:

- r 17,325 reports appropriate for investigation
- r 145 reports fell within the jurisdiction of military or tribal governments
- r 14,634 reports investigated by CPS
- r 2,691 reports were sent to Family Builders
- r 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, 2002 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2003**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	14	25	36	21	96	1%
COCHISE	73	126	208	72	479	3%
COCONINO	82	134	314	177	707	4%
GILA	28	53	91	31	203	1%
GRAHAM	10	31	43	16	100	1%
GREENLEE	3	3	11	6	23	<1%
LA PAZ	15	17	32	16	80	<1%
MARICOPA	1,786	2,534	4,194	1,729	10,243	58%
MOHAVE	71	194	304	107	676	4%
NAVAJO	28	36	53	15	132	1%
PIMA	296	762	1,321	553	2,932	16%
PINAL	114	209	323	117	763	4%
SANTA CRUZ	20	15	40	11	86	<1%
YAVAPAI	53	150	210	69	482	3%
YUMA	75	119	203	71	468	3%
STATEWIDE	2,668	4,408	7,383	3,011	17,470	100%
% OF TOTAL	15%	25%	43%	17%	100%	

**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%	

**NUMBER OF REPORTS RESPONDED TO BY TYPE OF MALTREATMENT AND COUNTY  
FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2002 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2003**

COUNTY	EMOTIONAL ABUSE	NEGLECT	PHYSICAL ABUSE	SEXUAL ABUSE	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	3	61	26	6	96	1%
COCHISE	15	277	155	32	479	3%
COCONINO	24	452	190	41	707	4%
GILA	3	137	54	9	203	1%
GRAHAM	2	60	31	7	100	1%
GREENLEE	1	15	5	2	23	<1%
LA PAZ	0	52	22	6	80	<1%
MARICOPA	176	6,050	3,411	606	10,243	58%
MOHAVE	14	387	229	46	676	4%
NAVAJO	5	85	35	7	132	1%
PIMA	91	1,666	1,002	173	2,932	16%
PINAL	10	445	261	47	763	4%
SANTA CRUZ	5	45	27	9	86	<1%
YAVAPAI	10	275	159	38	482	3%
YUMA	15	292	138	23	468	3%
STATEWIDE	374	10,299	5,745	1,052	17,470	100%
% OF TOTAL	2%	59%	33%	6%	100%	

**NUMBER OF REPORTS RESPONDED TO BY TYPE OF MALTREATMENT 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%	

**SUBSTANTIATED INVESTIGATIONS**

During the reporting period 12,904 reports were investigated and subject to substantiation, with 1,108 or 9% of the reports resulting in a substantiated finding of child abuse or neglect.<sup>3</sup> This compares to a revised substantiation rate of 15%, or 1,839 reports, for the period of April 2002 through September 2002. In addition, during the reporting period, October 2002 through March 2003, there were 885 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 9% substantiation rate for this period will be revised in the next report.

The following three tables show the number of substantiated CPS investigations by county and risk level. Of the reports with substantiated findings that were closed after investigation, one or more of the following actions took place: the parent(s) refused services<sup>4</sup>; appropriate referrals to community providers were made; or short-term services, such as child care, parent aide, parenting classes, substance abuse treatment or mental health services, were provided. The report risk level is determined by the highest risk level allegation in a report, in which at least one allegation is substantiated. However, this does not necessarily reflect the risk level of the substantiated allegation.

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<sup>3</sup> As of January 25, 1999 the Department does not substantiate potential risk reports.

<sup>4</sup> A.R.S. §8-803 provides that the Department has “no legal authority to compel the family to cooperate with the investigation or to receive protective services offered pursuant to the investigation.”

**NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS WITH SUBSTANTIATED FINDINGS IN WHICH THE CASE WAS CLOSED AFTER INVESTIGATION<sup>5</sup> BY RISK LEVEL AND COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2002 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2003**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	0	1	0	0	1	<1%
COCHISE	5	9	10	0	24	8%
COCONINO	3	2	3	0	8	3%
GILA	0	2	0	0	2	1%
GRAHAM	0	1	1	0	2	1%
GREENLEE	0	0	2	0	2	1%
LA PAZ	1	2	0	0	3	1%
MARICOPA	47	56	82	0	185	59%
MOHAVE	2	0	1	0	3	1%
NAVAJO	0	0	0	0	0	0%
PIMA	8	14	15	0	37	11%
PINAL	3	6	12	0	21	7%
SANTA CRUZ	1	4	1	0	6	2%
YAVAPAI	0	4	2	0	6	2%
YUMA	3	2	1	0	6	2%
STATEWIDE	73	103	130	0	306	100%
% OF TOTAL	24%	33%	43%	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, 2002 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2003**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	3	2	2	0	7	1%
COCHISE	17	20	15	0	52	7%
COCONINO	1	1	4	0	6	1%
GILA	8	4	1	0	13	2%
GRAHAM	3	5	3	0	11	2%
GREENLEE	2	0	1	0	3	<1%
LA PAZ	0	0	1	0	1	<1%
MARICOPA	137	79	73	0	289	40%
MOHAVE	9	6	6	0	21	3%
NAVAJO	0	0	0	0	0	0%
PIMA	80	81	73	0	234	31%
PINAL	18	3	5	0	26	4%
SANTA CRUZ	2	0	5	0	7	1%
YAVAPAI	3	11	9	0	23	3%
YUMA	12	10	6	0	28	4%
STATEWIDE	295	222	204	0	721	100%
% OF TOTAL	41%	31%	28%	0%	100%	

<sup>5</sup> The reports in Tables 3 through 5 are not mutually exclusive. The reports may simultaneously receive in-home services, out-of-home services, as well as services through the community.

**NUMBER OF REPORTS WITH SUBSTANTIATED FINDINGS IN WHICH OUT-OF-HOME  
SERVICES WERE PROVIDED BY RISK LEVEL AND BY COUNTY FOR  
THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2002 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2003**

COUNTY	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	POTENTIAL	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	3	1	2	0	6	1%
COCHISE	20	15	10	0	45	7%
COCONINO	3	1	2	0	6	1%
GILA	3	3	1	0	7	1%
GRAHAM	3	5	3	0	11	2%
GREENLEE	2	0	0	0	2	<1%
LA PAZ	0	0	0	0	0	0%
MARICOPA	154	68	52	0	274	40%
MOHAVE	9	2	6	0	17	3%
NAVAJO	0	0	0	0	0	0%
PIMA	84	74	67	0	225	34%
PINAL	18	2	5	0	25	4%
SANTA CRUZ	3	0	3	0	6	1%
YAVAPAI	4	9	8	0	21	3%
YUMA	10	6	1	0	17	3%
STATEWIDE	316	186	160	0	662	100%
% OF TOTAL	48%	28%	24%	0%	100%	

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

During the reporting period October 2002 through March 2003, 2,961 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 2002 – March 2003 reporting period. This child is included in the total number of children in out-of-home care. This compares to four infants delivered to Safe Haven Providers during the April 2002 – September 2002 reporting period.

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY COUNTY FOR THE  
PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2002 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2003**

COUNTY	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	26	1%
COCHISE	111	4%
COCONINO	74	3%
GILA	27	1%
GRAHAM	18	1%
GREENLEE	3	<1%
LA PAZ	10	<1%
MARICOPA	1,573	52%
MOHAVE	92	3%
NAVAJO	30	1%
PIMA	685	22%
PINAL	91	3%
SANTA CRUZ	15	1%
YAVAPAI	137	5%
YUMA	69	2%
STATEWIDE	2,961	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



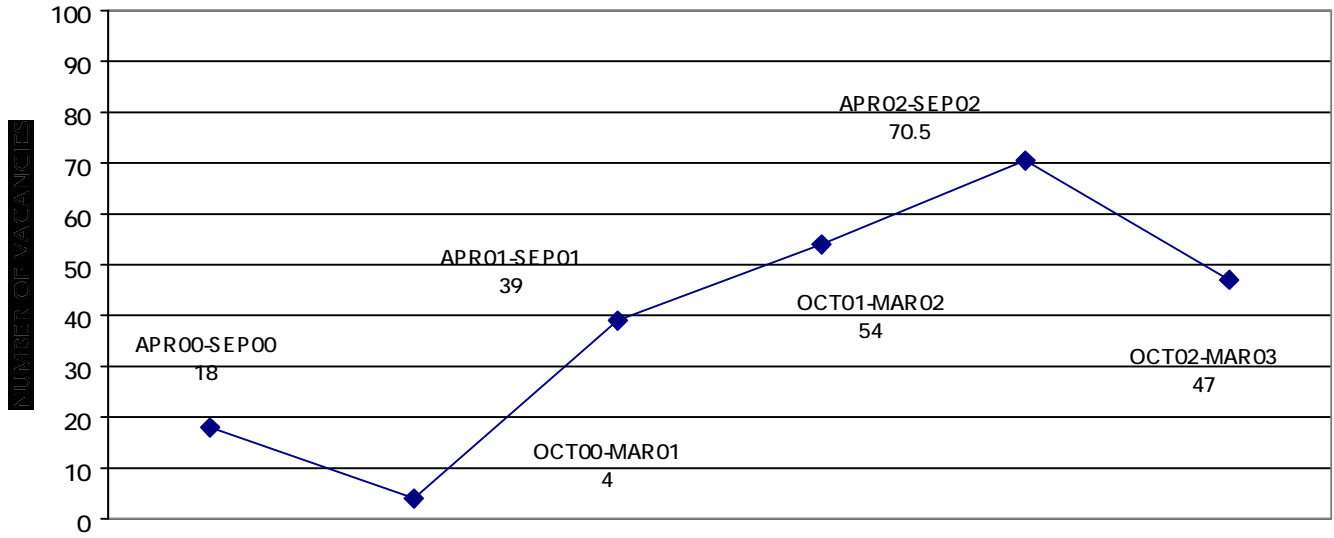
**NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE ENTERING OUT-OF-HOME  
CARE DUE TO A VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT BY COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OF  
OCTOBER 1, 2002 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2003**

COUNTY	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	% OF TOTAL
APACHE	15	5%
COCHISE	8	2%
COCONINO	20	6%
GILA	0	0%
GRAHAM	1	<1%
GREENLEE	1	<1%
LA PAZ	1	<1%
MARICOPA	206	62%
MOHAVE	24	7%
NAVAJO	4	1%
PIMA	16	5%
PINAL	4	1%
SANTA CRUZ	5	2%
YAVAPAI	21	6%
YUMA	6	2%
STATEWIDE	332	100%

**DIRECT CLIENT SERVICES POSITIONS**

There were 47 authorized Child Protective Services Specialist positions vacant on March 31, 2003. In addition, the DCYF training institute was in the process of training 53 staff to fill these vacancies.

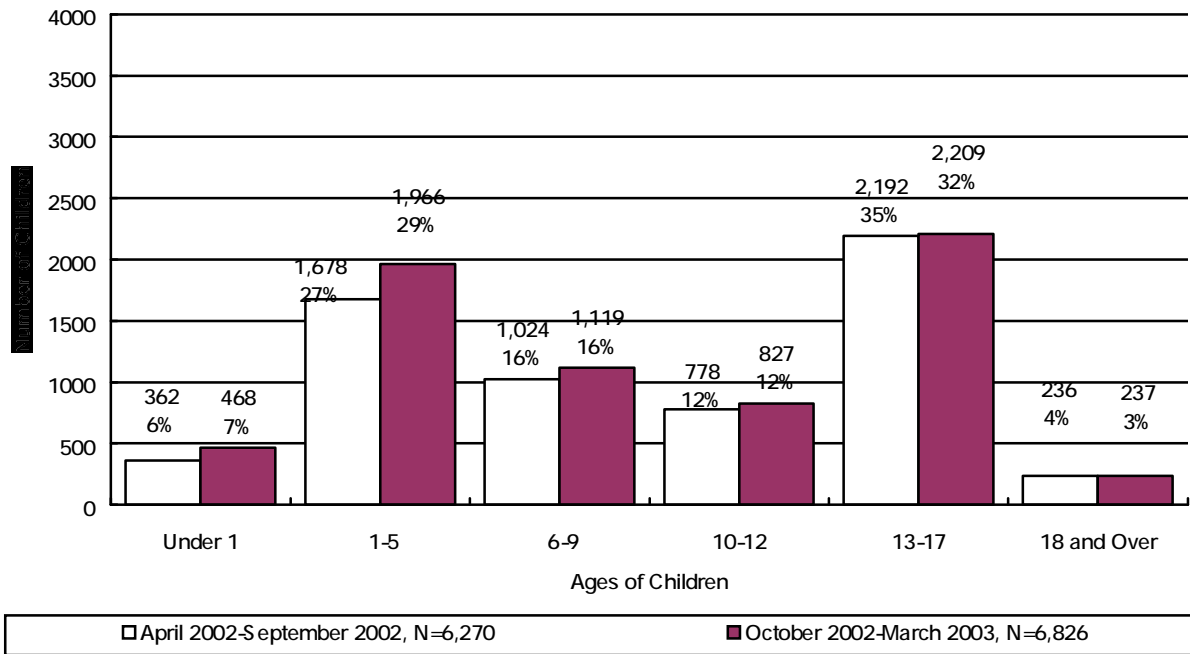
**VACANCIES BY REPORTING PERIOD**



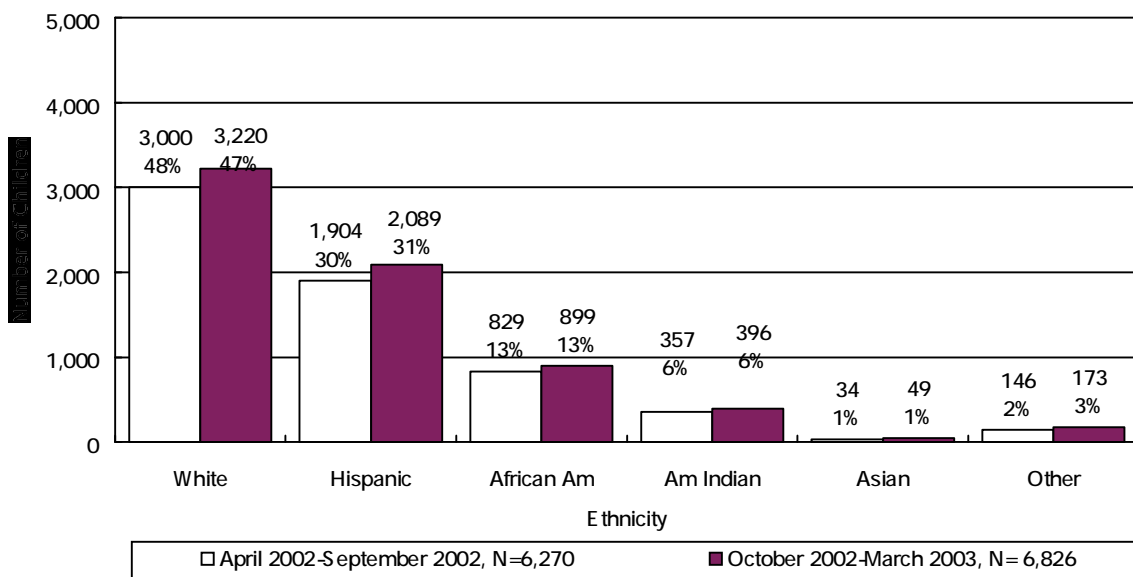
**CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE**

On March 31, 2003, there were 6,826 children in out-of-home care. During the reporting period of October 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003, there were 2,961 children removed from their home for some period of time.

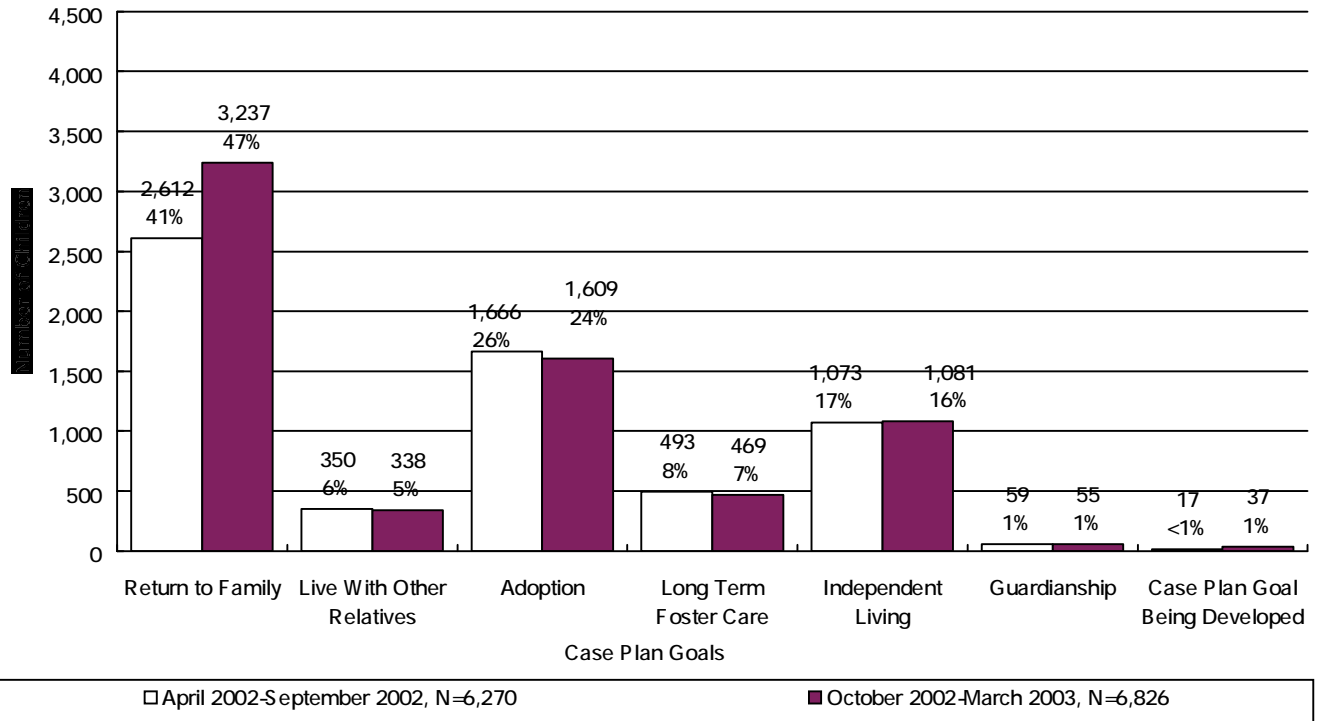
**THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY AGE**



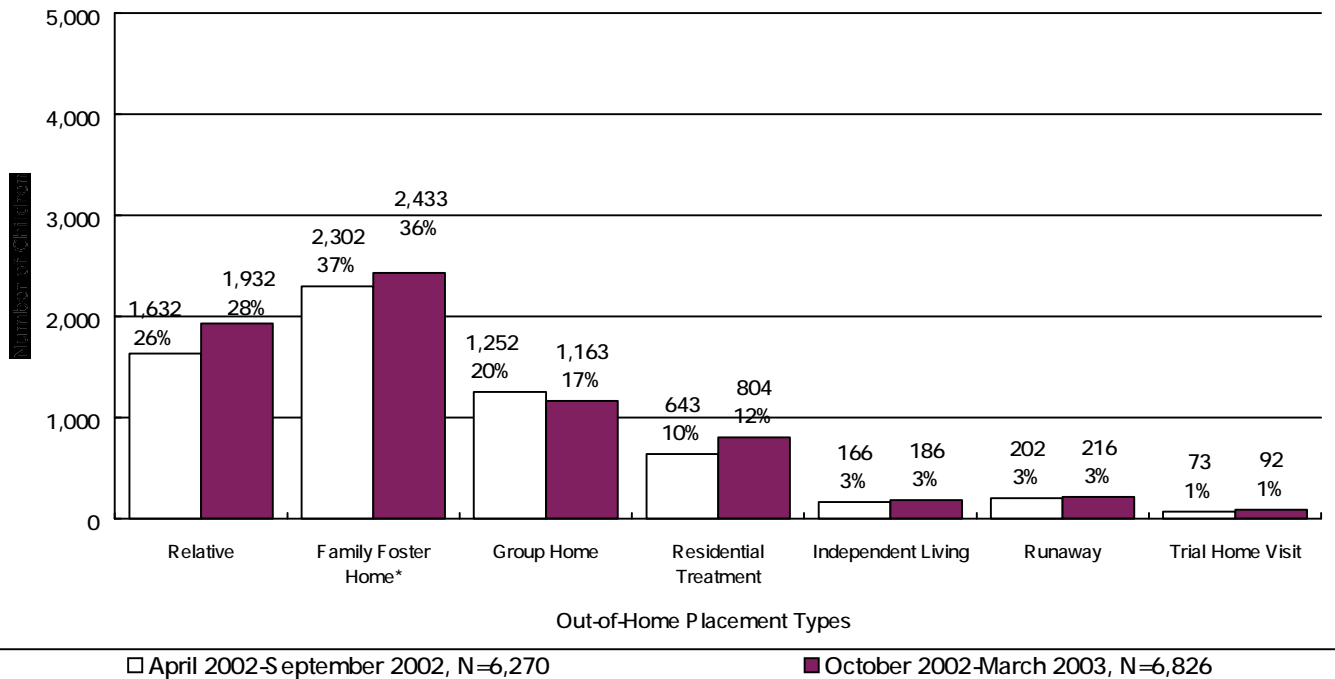
**THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY ETHNICITY**



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



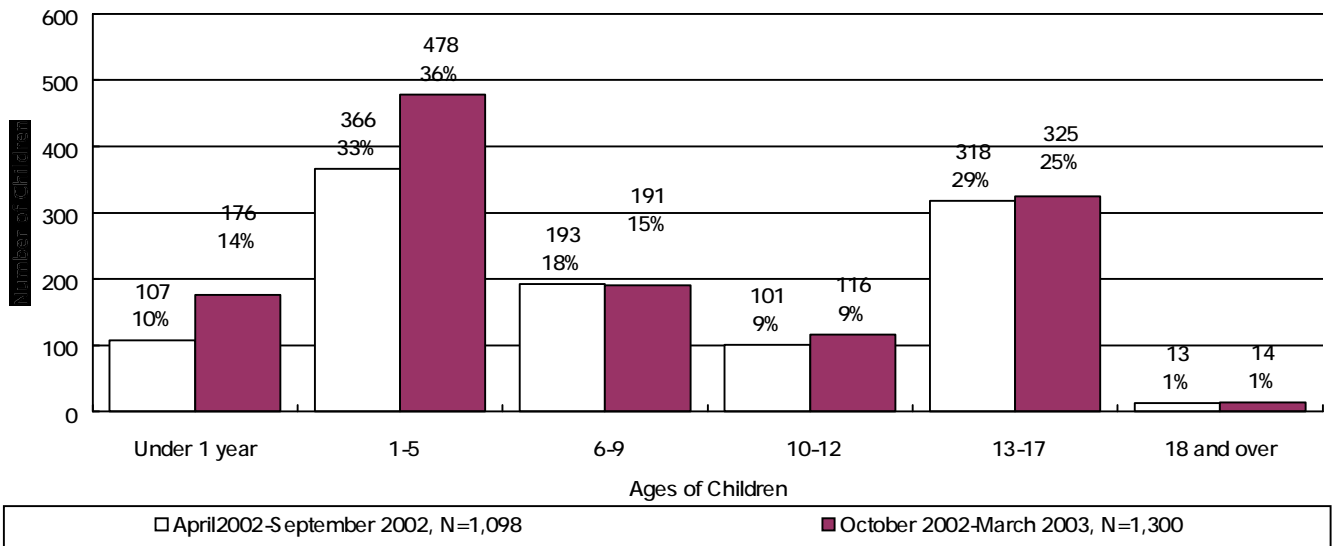
**THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN CARE BY PLACEMENT TYPE**



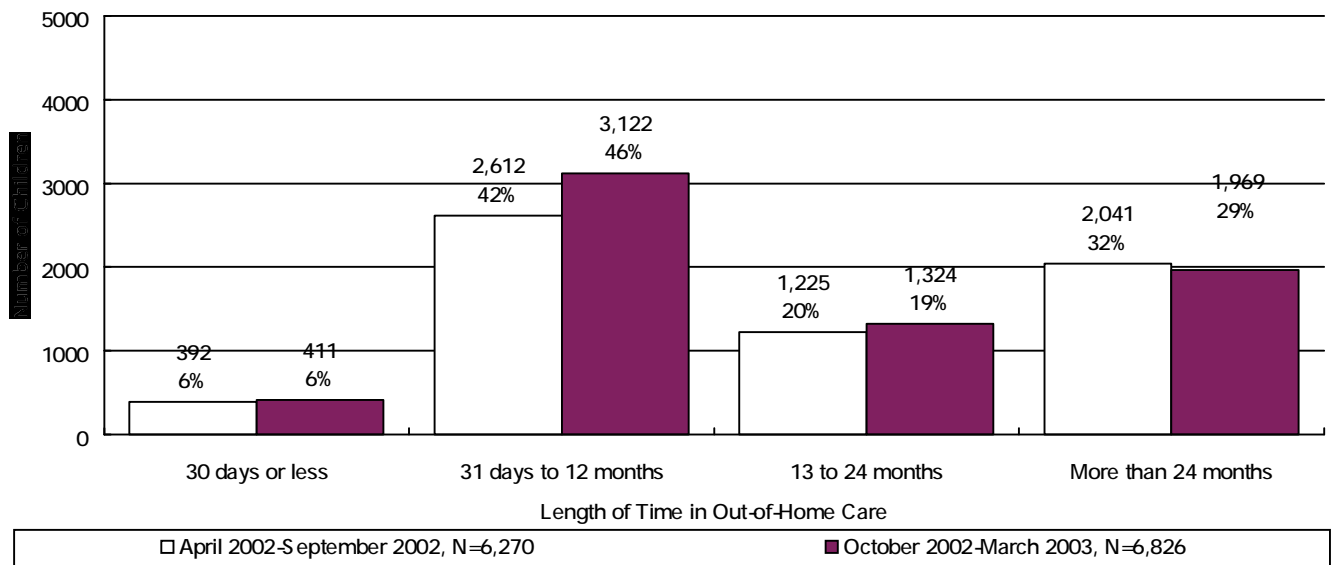
\* Category includes some relative placements.

During the reporting period, 1,300 children remained in a shelter or receiving home for more than 21 consecutive days. (See Chart 4) For the period of October 2002 through March 2003, 646 or 50% of the children were six years of age or older. In addition, 176 or 14% of the children were under one year.

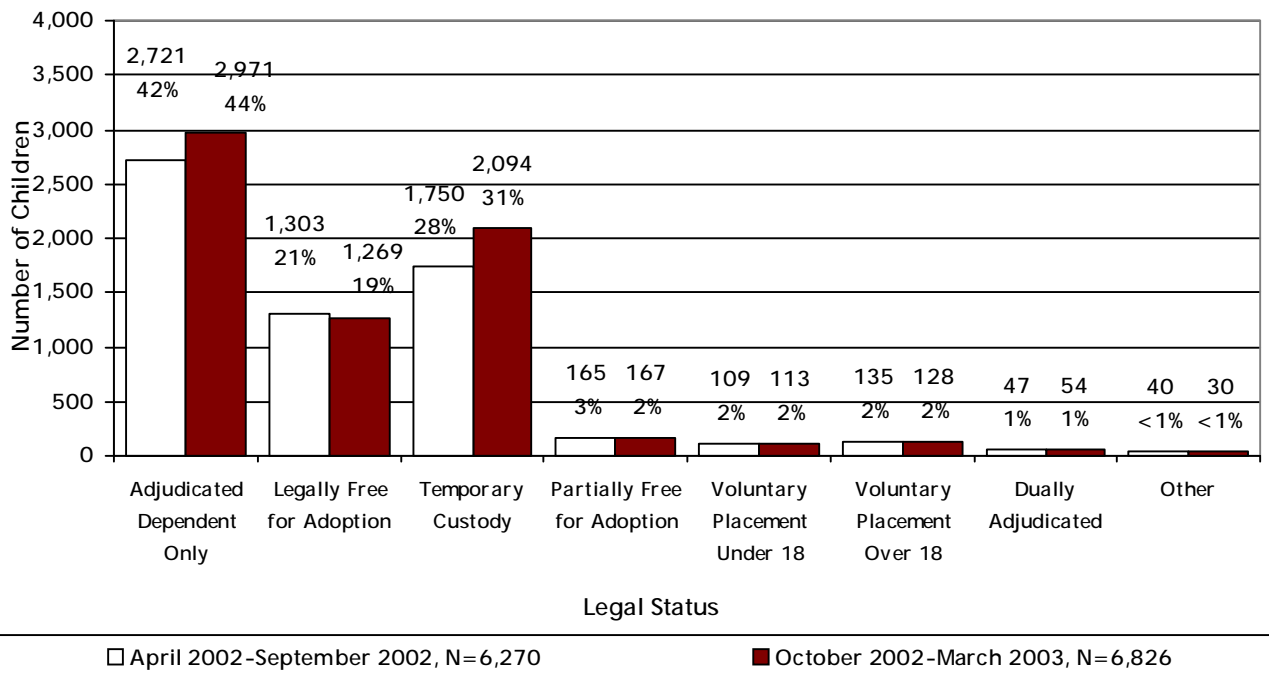
**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN SHELTER OR RECEIVING HOMES FOR MORE THAN 21 CONSECUTIVE DAYS BY AGE OF CHILD**



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



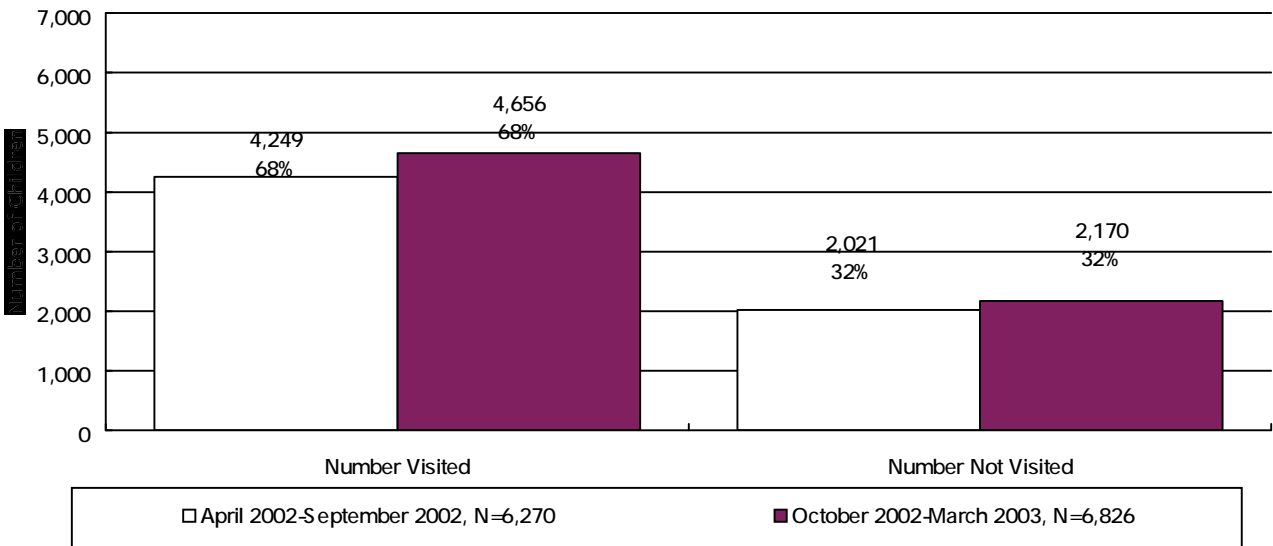
**CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE BY LEGAL STATUS**



At the end of the reporting period there were 6,826 children in out-of-home care who required visitation. Of these children, visitation was accurately documented in the automated system for 4,656 children or 68%.

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

**THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED THE REQUIRED VISITATION**



According to ACYF policy, case managers shall have face-to-face contact with all parents at least once a month, including any alleged parents and parents residing outside of the child’s home where the case plan goal is family reunification or remain with family. During the reporting period there were 1,553 parents who had a child with the case plan goal of return home. Of those parents requiring the visitation, 858 or 55% received the required visitation. The 55% visitation rate does not reflect attempted visitation where contact did not take place.

**FOSTER HOMES**

As of March 31, 2003, there were 1,865 licensed foster homes with 3,923 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, 2003 there were 744 unused spaces within these foster homes. Approximately 331 of the 744 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, 283 new homes were licensed to provide foster care and 196 homes left the system. This compares to 217 new homes being licensed and 195 homes leaving the system for the period covering April 2002 through September 2002.

The chart below gives the reasons for foster home closures for the period of October 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003.

**REASON FOR FOSTER HOME CLOSURE FOR THE PERIOD OF  
OCTOBER 1, 2002 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2003**



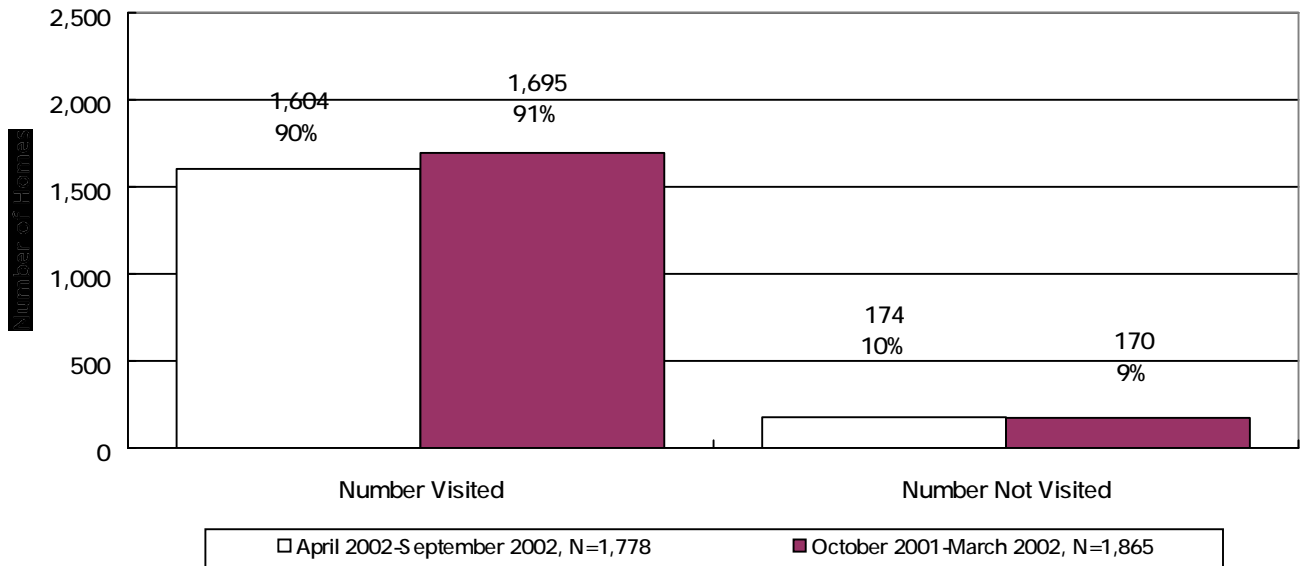
N= 196

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



During the reporting period there were 1,865 foster homes that required visitation. Of those homes 1,695 or 91% received the required visitation. This compares to 1,604 or 90% of the foster homes that received the required visitation for the period April 2002 through September 2003. The Department believes that more foster homes received the required visitation than is indicated in the chart below. The under reporting of foster home visitation is attributable to the lack of automation being used in reporting the foster home visitation process. The Department recognizes this as a problem and is working to correct this issue.

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



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

**CHILDREN EXITING OUT-OF-HOME CARE**

During the reporting period 2,275 children left the custody of the Department. This compares to 2,376 children exiting care during the prior reporting period. The comparison between the two reporting periods shows that 4% fewer children left care this reporting, compared to last.

**CHILDREN DISCHARGED BY PERIOD**

	NUMBER OF CHILDREN DISCHARGED	% CHANGE OVER PRIOR PERIOD
APRIL 2000 – SEPTEMBER 2000	2,598	+11%
OCTOBER 2000 – MARCH 2000	2,337	-10%
APRIL 2001 – SEPTEMBER 2001	2,394	+2%
OCTOBER 2001 – MARCH 2002	2,417	+1%
APRIL 2002 – SEPTEMBER 2002	2,376	-2%
OCTOBER 2002 – MARCH 2003	2,275	-4%

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, 2003**

<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	135	6%
Ages 1 - 5	718	31%
Ages 6 - 9	400	18%
Ages 10 - 12	247	11%
Ages 13 - 17	598	26%
18 and Over	177	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,275</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	1,047	46%
Hispanic	732	32%
African American	281	12%
American Indian	148	7%
Asian	17	1%
Other	50	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,275</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	1,174	52%
Two	435	19%
Three	229	10%
Four	157	7%
Five	69	3%
More than Five	211	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,275</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	754	33%
31 Days to 12 Months	654	29%
13 to 24 Months	369	16%
More than 24 Months	498	22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,275</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	8.64	9.24
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	1	2.55
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	5.78	15.48

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY  
FOR REASON OF "REUNIFICATION WITH PARENTS OR PRIMARY CARETAKER" FOR  
THE REPORTING PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2003**

<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	93	8%
Ages 1 - 5	335	30%
Ages 6 - 9	190	17%
Ages 10 - 12	129	12%
Ages 13 - 17	348	32%
18 and Over	3	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,098</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	493	45%
Hispanic	362	33%
African American	121	11%
American Indian	76	7%
Asian	11	1%
Other	35	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,098</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	716	65%
Two	197	18%
Three	77	7%
Four	42	4%
Five	15	1%
More than Five	51	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,098</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	521	47%
31 Days to 12 Months	407	37%
13 to 24 Months	107	10%
More than 24 Months	63	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,098</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	8.31	8.80
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	1	1.83
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	1.36	6.04

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY  
FOR REASON OF "LIVING WITH OTHER RELATIVES" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD  
ENDING MARCH 31, 2003**

<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	18	10%
Ages 1 - 5	48	26%
Ages 6 - 9	46	25%
Ages 10 - 12	22	12%
Ages 13 - 17	49	26%
18 and Over	2	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	84	45%
Hispanic	60	32%
African American	25	14%
American Indian	11	6%
Asian	2	1%
Other	3	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	154	83%
Two	22	12%
Three	3	2%
Four	2	1%
Five	0	0%
More than Five	4	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	144	78%
31 Days to 12 Months	33	18%
13 to 24 Months	5	3%
More than 24 Months	3	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	8.21	8.53
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	1	1.43
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	.16	2.6

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES  
CUSTODY FOR REASON OF "ADOPTION" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD  
ENDING MARCH 31, 2003**

<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	0	0%
Ages 1 - 5	204	51%
Ages 6 - 9	108	27%
Ages 10 - 12	46	12%
Ages 13 - 17	40	10%
18 and Over	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	181	45%
Hispanic	136	34%
African American	60	15%
American Indian	14	4%
Asian	3	1%
Other	4	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	68	17%
Two	116	29%
Three	88	22%
Four	61	15%
Five	30	8%
More than Five	35	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	1	<1%
31 Days to 12 Months	3	<1%
13 to 24 Months	111	28%
More than 24 Months	283	71%
<b>Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	5.74	6.50
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	3	3.05
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	30.5	34.97

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY  
FOR REASON OF "GUARDIANSHIP" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD  
ENDING MARCH 31, 2003**

<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	15	5%
Ages 1 - 5	95	35%
Ages 6 - 9	49	18%
Ages 10 - 12	41	15%
Ages 13 - 17	74	27%
18 and Over	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	130	48%
Hispanic	85	31%
African American	34	12%
American Indian	22	8%
Asian	0	0%
Other	3	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	143	52%
Two	55	20%
Three	33	12%
Four	21	8%
Five	6	2%
More than Five	16	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	39	14%
31 Days to 12 Months	109	40%
13 to 24 Months	102	37%
More than 24 Months	24	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	8.11	8.48
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	1	2.14
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	12.41	13.37

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY  
FOR REASONS OF "REACHING AGE OF MAJORITY" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD  
ENDING MARCH 31, 2003**

<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	0	0%
Ages 1 - 5	0	0%
Ages 6 - 9	0	0%
Ages 10 - 12	0	0%
Ages 13 - 17	21	11%
18 and Over	171	89%
<b>Total</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	102	53%
Hispanic	49	26%
African American	34	18%
American Indian	5	2%
Asian	0	0%
Other	2	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	22	11%
Two	20	10%
Three	19	10%
Four	23	12%
Five	15	8%
More than Five	93	49%
<b>Total</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	1	1%
31 Days to 12 Months	44	23%
13 to 24 Months	37	19%
More than 24 Months	110	57%
<b>Total</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	18.01	18.24
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	5	7.05
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	30.93	47.96



**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY  
FOR REASON OF "TRANSFER TO ANOTHER AGENCY" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD  
ENDING MARCH 31, 2003**

<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	7	7%
Ages 1 - 5	36	35%
Ages 6 - 9	7	7%
Ages 10 - 12	8	8%
Ages 13 - 17	43	43%
18 and Over	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	43	42%
Hispanic	31	31%
African American	6	6%
American Indian	18	18%
Asian	1	<1%
Other	2	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	51	50%
Two	21	21%
Three	9	9%
Four	7	7%
Five	2	2%
More than Five	11	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	27	27%
31 Days to 12 Months	53	52%
13 to 24 Months	6	6%
More than 24 Months	15	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	10.55	9.48
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	1	3.31
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	4.40	1.03

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY  
FOR REASON OF "RUNAWAY" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD  
ENDING MARCH 31, 2003**

<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	0	0%
Ages 1 - 5	0	0%
Ages 6 - 9	0	0%
Ages 10 - 12	1	4%
Ages 13 - 17	23	92%
18 and Over	1	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	13	52%
Hispanic	9	36%
African American	1	4%
American Indian	1	4%
Asian	0	0%
Other	1	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
One	19	76%
Two	3	12%
Three	0	0%
Four	1	4%
Five	1	4%
More than Five	1	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>By Length of Time in Care</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 30 Days	20	80%
31 Days to 12 Months	4	16%
13 to 24 Months	1	4%
More than 24 Months	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	15.98	15.81
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	1	1.68
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	.09	.14

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEAVING DES CUSTODY  
FOR REASON OF "DEATH OF CHILD" FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD ENDING  
MARCH 31, 2003**

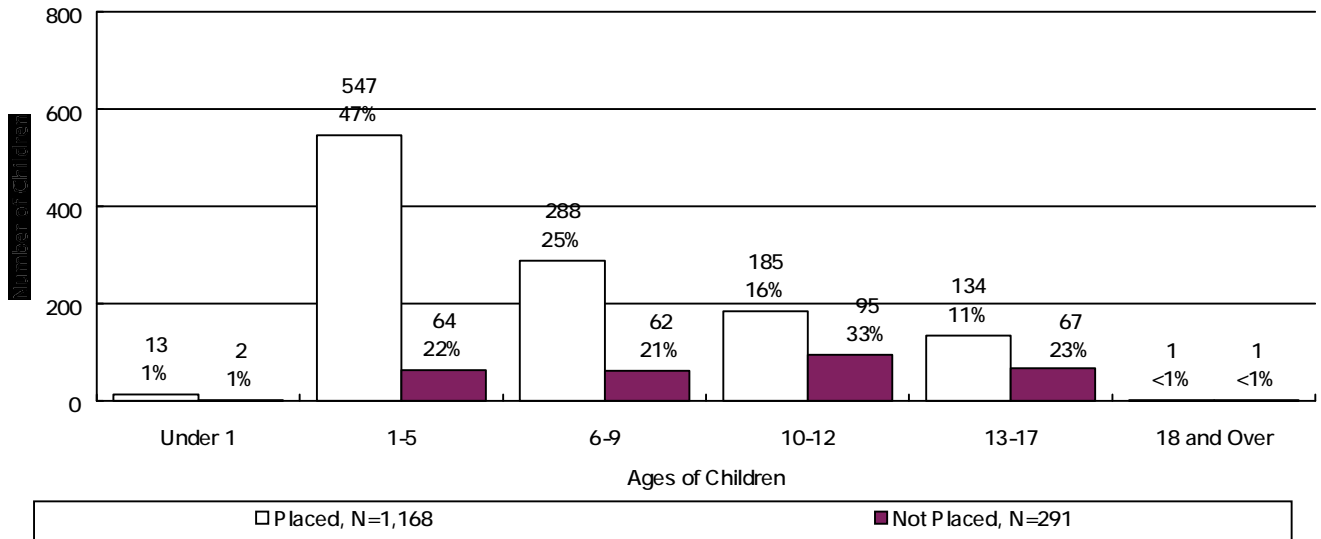
<b>By Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Under 1	2	100%
Ages 1 - 5	0	0%
Ages 6 - 9	0	0%
Ages 10 - 12	0	0%
Ages 13 - 17	0	0%
18 and Over	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
White	1	50%
Hispanic	0	0%
African American	0	0%
American Indian	1	50%
Asian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

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>By Age</b>	.12	.12
<b>By Number of Placements</b>	1.5	1.5
<b>By Months of Time in Care</b>	.95	.95

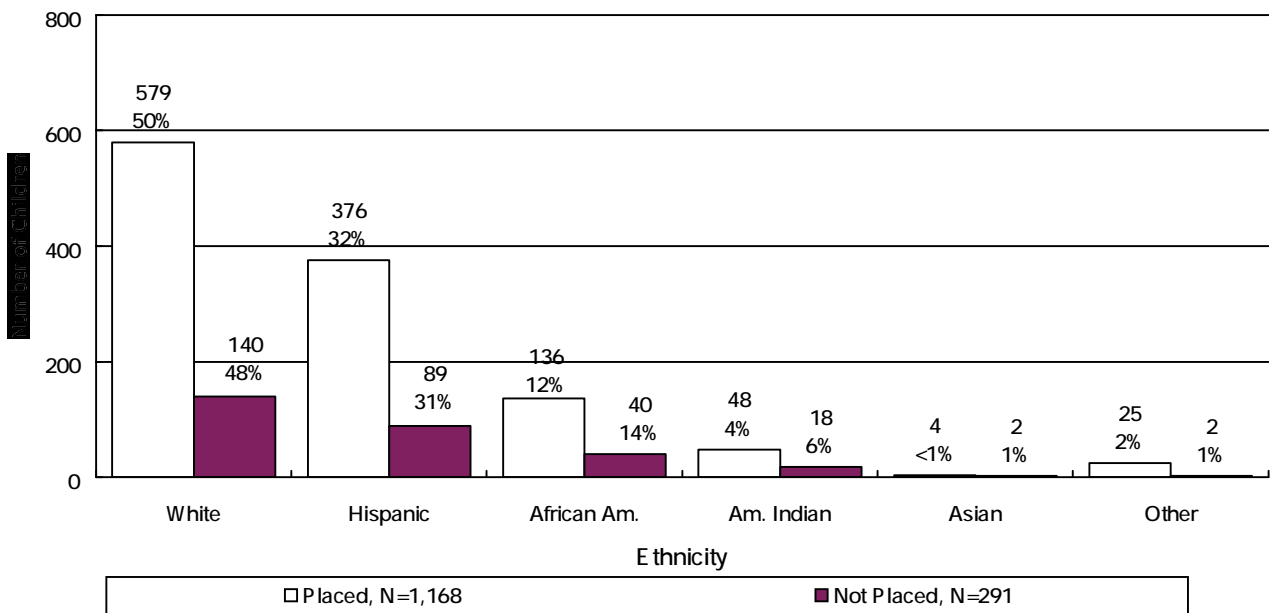
**CHILDREN WITH ADOPTIVE CASE PLAN GOALS**

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, 5 months.

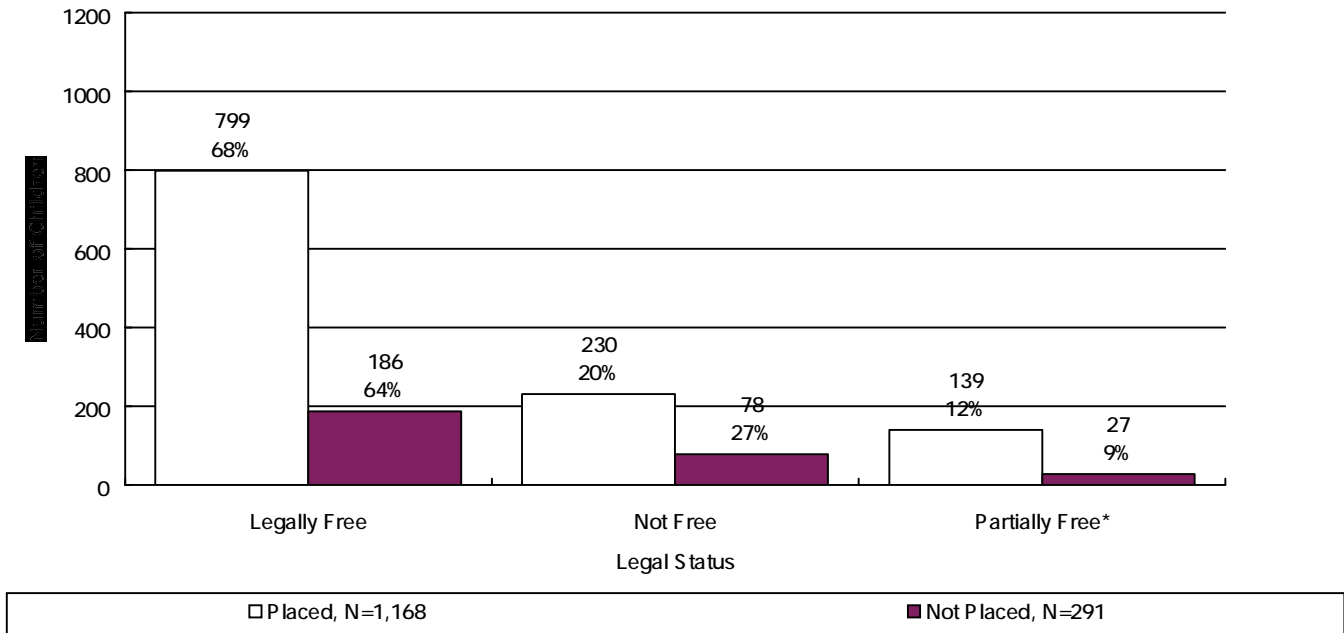
**THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A CASE PLAN GOAL OF ADOPTION BY AGE**



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

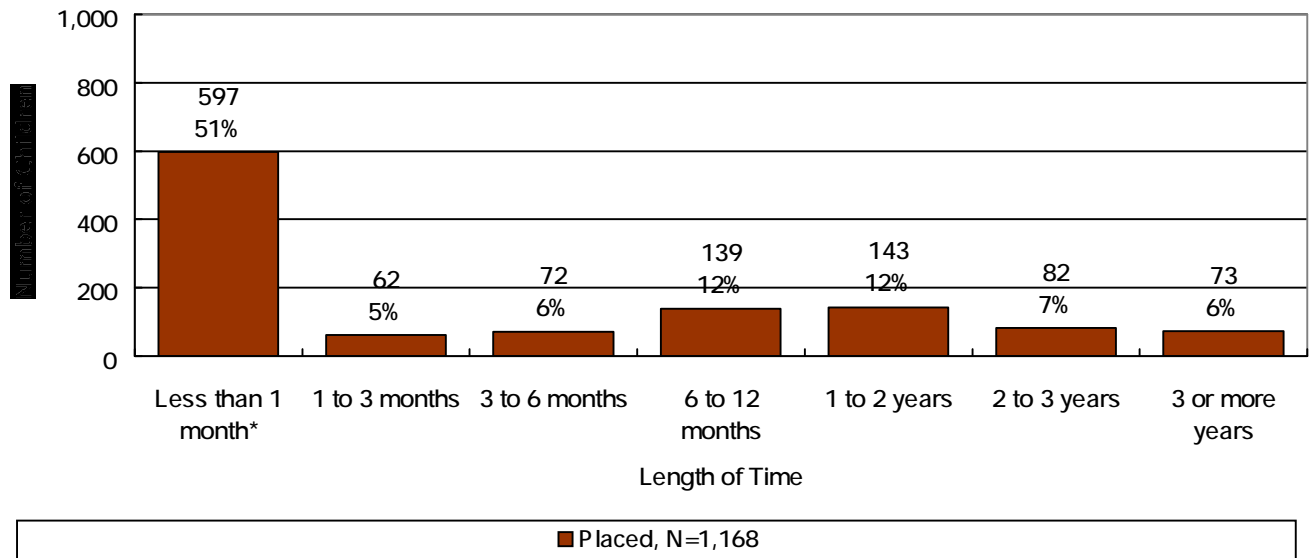


**THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH A CASE PLAN GOAL OF ADOPTION BY LEGAL STATUS**



\*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**

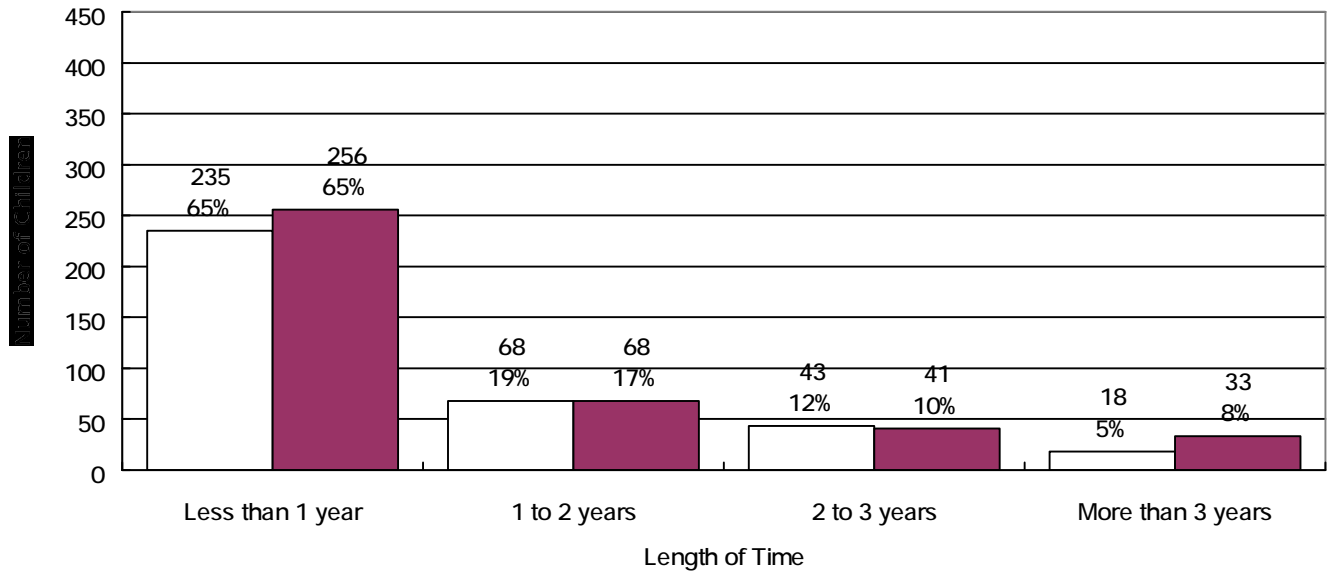


\*About 70% of children are adopted by relatives or their foster parents and are already in their prospective adoptive placement at the time the case plan goal changes to adoption.

**ADOPTIVE SERVICES**

There were 398 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.

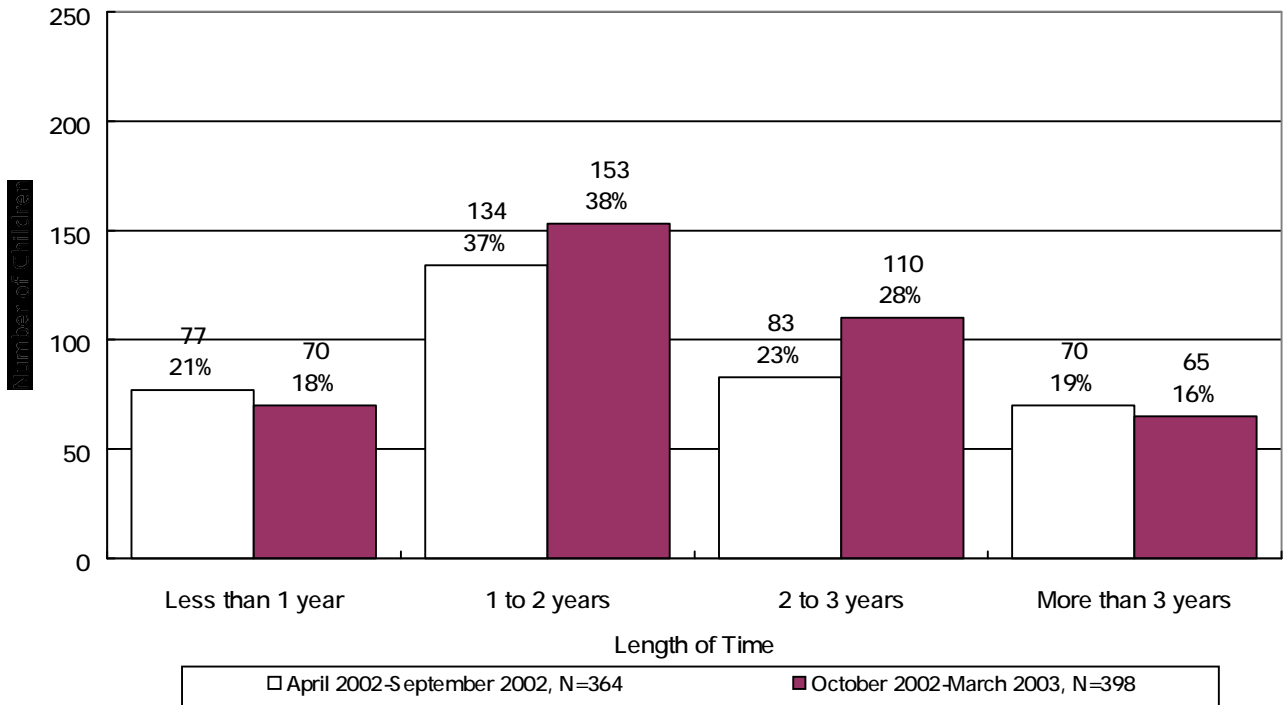
**THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITH A FINALIZED ADOPTION BY AVERAGE LENGTH OF TIME IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT BEFORE ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT**



□ April 2002-September 2002, N=364      ■ October 2002-March 2003, N=398

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.