



# Safety Permanency Well-being

Child Welfare Outcomes 2000:  
**Annual Report**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
ADMINISTRATION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES  
CHILDREN'S BUREAU

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# Executive Summary

## CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES 2000: ANNUAL REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*Child Welfare Outcomes 2000: Annual Report to Congress* (Outcomes Report) is the third annual report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (the Department). This report depicts the performance of States on the following national child welfare outcomes:

- Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect,
- Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care,
- Increase permanency for children in foster care,
- Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry,
- Reduce time in foster care to adoption,
- Increase placement stability, and
- Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions.

This third Outcomes Report—*Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*—is similar to earlier reports in that it presents the States' data on the outcome measures, the States' comments on their data, a discussion of data issues, and key findings of the data analyses.<sup>1</sup> A new feature of this report is the inclusion of qualitative information about State child welfare processes, practices, and policies. This provides depth and clarity to the interpretation of States' performance on the national child welfare outcome measures and helps determine possible reasons for a State's high or low performance on a given outcome.

Qualitative information was obtained from the Department's Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs). The CFSR is the Department's new results-oriented, comprehensive monitoring system. It was developed in response to the mandate in the Social Security Act Amendments of 1994 to promulgate regulations for review of State child and family services. Through the CFSR, the Department assists States in evaluating and improving their child welfare service systems. The CFSR examines State child welfare system operations through case reviews, interviews with stakeholders, and Statewide data pertaining to six outcome measures for which the Department has established national standards. These outcome measures pertain to the recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect, the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care, the length of stay in foster care prior to reunification, the length of stay in foster care prior to adoption, the rate of re-entry into foster care, and the stability of placements while in foster care. The Department prepares a final report on the CFSR findings with regard to strengths and areas needing improvement, and, based on this report, the States, working in conjunction with the Department, develop program improvement plans targeting key problem areas.

A Federal Comment page is included with the State data pages for each State that has a completed CFSR and an approved final report. The Federal Comment provides a discussion of: (1) the performance of States on the child welfare outcomes; (2) changes in performance over time; and (3) possible reasons for high or low performance based on qualitative information from the State's CFSR.

<sup>1</sup> For purposes of this report, the designation of "State" includes the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Therefore, there are potentially 52 entities that can report data for each measure.

*Child Welfare Outcomes 2000* is organized as follows:

- **Chapter I. Interpreting State Performance on the National Child Welfare Outcomes.** This chapter discusses how qualitative information from the CFSR Final Reports will be used to provide clarity and depth to understanding States' performance on the national child welfare outcomes.
- **Chapter II. Technical Issues to Consider in Interpreting Outcome Data.** This chapter presents and discusses key issues regarding reporting and interpreting data used to measure the performance of States on the national child welfare outcomes. A primary focus of discussion is the relevance of these issues for interpreting performance on the outcomes across States.
- **Chapter III. Key Findings: State Performance on the National Child Welfare Outcomes for 2000 and Changes in Performance from 1999 to 2000.** This chapter presents the findings of the analyses of States' performance in 2000 and changes in performance from 1999 to 2000. It includes a discussion of State policies and practices that may affect performance based on qualitative information obtained from the CFSR Final Reports on the 32 States that participated in the CFSR during 2001 and 2002.
- **Chapter IV. State Data Pages.** The State data pages include a section on context data, a section on outcomes data, a State comment page, and a Federal comment page for States that participated in a CFSR during 2001 and 2002.

Key findings and highlights of the report pertaining to the performance of States on each outcome and related measures are summarized below. Several data quality issues are discussed that have implications for interpreting performance on particular outcome measures. As these issues have emerged from the CFSRs and other sources, the Department has incorporated the relevant information into its efforts to assist States in developing program improvement plans after their initial CFSR. The Department also plans to take key data issues into consideration in assessing the effectiveness of strategies implemented as part of a State's program improvement plan.

## Key Findings

Because the period from 1999 to 2000 is too brief for a meaningful analysis of trends in performance, the assessment of change over time for individual outcomes offered in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000* provides only preliminary observations of the kinds of changes that are occurring. In addition, due to the short time frame, the percent change in performance experienced by an individual State from 1999 to 2000 cannot be compared against prior percent changes for that State. Consequently, to establish a standard against which to assess the extent of change occurring from 1999 to 2000, the mean and standard deviation for the percent change for all States was calculated. The analysis then focused on the extent to which the percent change exhibited by an individual State differed from the mean percent change exhibited for all States. For purposes of this report, a percent change that was at least one standard deviation from the mean percent change is considered as representing a "substantial" change in performance on the measure, as compared to changes exhibited by other States. In subsequent Outcomes Reports, the extent of change exhibited by a State will be compared to the percent change exhibited in previous years.

### ***Outcome 1: Reduce recurrence of child maltreatment***

States' performance with respect to reducing recurrence of child maltreatment is measured by the percentage of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of the reporting period and who had another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period.<sup>2</sup> States report the data used to calculate this measure to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS).

The maltreatment recurrence rate is considerable in many States. There were 34 States that provided sufficient data in 2000 to calculate this measure. The percentage of children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child maltreatment during the first 6 months of the reporting period who had another substantiated or indicated report within 6 months ranged from 3.0 to 13.1, with a median of 7.9. In 24 (71 percent) of these States, the rate of maltreatment recurrence was higher than the

<sup>2</sup> For example, if a child is a victim of maltreatment in January of a Calendar year, and again in March, then that would be considered recurrence of maltreatment.



national standard of 6.1 percent. In 9 States (26 percent), more than 10 percent of the children who were victims of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment during the first 6 months of the reporting period experienced another substantiated or indicated maltreatment within 6 months.

An additional concern is that the rate of maltreatment recurrence reported in the Outcomes Reports may be less than the actual rate. In some States, for example, maltreatment reports on children who are already being served as part of an open "in-home services" case are not subjected to a formal investigation. Consequently, if maltreatment recurred, it would not be reported to NCANDS. Also, some States assess certain kinds of maltreatment allegations through an alternative response system that does not require determination of whether maltreatment actually occurred. If "maltreatment" actually recurred in families receiving an alternative response assessment, it would not be reported to NCANDS.

The findings with regard to maltreatment recurrence suggest that greater efforts are needed to ensure the safety of children who come into contact with the child welfare system as a result of abuse or neglect.

### ***Outcome 2: Reduce maltreatment in foster care***

Maltreatment in foster care is assessed through the following measure: Of all children who were in foster care (including children in foster family homes, residential treatment centers, group homes, and other care facilities) during the reporting period, what percentage were the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff?

In 2000, 31 States reported sufficient data to NCANDS and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) to calculate this measure (compared to 21 States in 1999). The percentage of children who experience maltreatment in foster care ranged from 0.0 to 3.11, with a median of 0.45 percent. Nineteen States (61 percent) met the national standard of 0.57 percent. Although the incidence of maltreatment of children while they are in foster care is low across States, even a low incidence of maltreatment by foster parents and facility staff is not acceptable when the care of children is entrusted to the State.

### ***Outcome 3: Increase permanency for children in foster care***

The findings pertaining to permanency suggest that the majority of children in all States who exit foster care are exiting to permanent homes, either through reunification, guardianship, or adoption. For the 46 States that provided sufficient data to calculate this measure, the percentage of children exiting to a permanent home ranged from 68.6 to 94.5, with a median of 84.7 percent. No national standard was established for this outcome.

The data analyses also found, however, that success in attaining permanency was not equal for all children. Children with a diagnosed disability were significantly less likely than other children to exit foster care to a permanent home. Also, children who were older than age 12 at the time they entered foster care were significantly less likely than children with a diagnosed disability to exit to a permanent home. Children who are Hispanic or Black are as likely as White children to exit to permanency.<sup>3</sup> In four States, Native-American children were found to be less likely than White children to exit foster care to permanent homes.

Outcome 3 also incorporates an assessment of the percentages of children who exit foster care to emancipation who were younger than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care. For the 45 States that provided data sufficient to calculate this measure, the percentages ranged from 0 to 61.2, with a median of 24.2. In 15 States (33 percent), more than 31 percent of the children who emancipated from foster care had entered care at or before age 12. This suggests that in these States, a substantial percentage of children are growing up in foster care.

These findings suggest that greater efforts are needed to achieve permanency for children who have diagnosed disabilities, who entered foster care when they were older than age 12, and who are of Native American heritage.

<sup>3</sup> For these analyses, the categories of White and Black excluded children of Hispanic origin.

***Outcome 4: Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry***

For the 51 States providing sufficient data to calculate this measure, the percentages of children who exited foster care to reunification within 12 months of entry into care ranged from 34.9 to 87.0, with a median of 68.0. Twenty-one (41 percent) of these States met the national standard of 76.2 percent for this measure. These findings are consistent with preliminary CFSR information indicating that there is extensive variation among States with regard to the timeliness of reunifications.

Variation among States also was found for the rate of re-entries into foster care. For the 50 States that provided sufficient data to calculate the percentage of re-entries into foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode, the percentages ranged from 0.9 to 27.7, with a median of 10.3 percent. Eighteen (36 percent) of these States met the national standard of 8.6 percent for this measure.

A primary concern raised by the data analysis pertains to the correlation between reunifications occurring within 12 months of foster care and re-entries occurring within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode. This correlation was first noted in *Child Welfare Outcomes 1999*, and was even more substantial in the analysis of the FY 2000 data. The fact that only two States in FY 2000 exhibited both a high percentage of reunifications within 12 months and a low rate of re-entries within 12 months is disconcerting and raises serious concerns about the safety of some children who are being reunified with their families. The finding also raises questions regarding the quality of services provided to bring about reunifications, whether effective post-reunification services are being provided, and whether the criteria established for reunification are sufficient to ensure its stability. However, caution is warranted in interpreting these data because the two measures do not pertain to the same children (i.e., they are not longitudinal), making the exact nature of the relationship unclear. While it is legitimate to be concerned about the described results, the fact that the data derive from two different groups of children makes it possible that issues other than premature reunification or lack of reunification services are involved in this finding. The Department of Health and Human Services will need to address this question in the future.

***Outcome 5: Reduce time in foster care to adoption***

There was extensive variation among States with respect to the percentages of children exiting foster care to adoption within 24 months. For the 50 States providing sufficient data for this outcome measure, the percentages of children achieving finalized adoption within 24 months of entry into foster care ranged from 4.6 to 72.4, with a median of 19.7. Ten (21 percent) of these States met or exceeded the national standard of 32.0 percent.

Interpreting performance on this measure is difficult because of the differences in the ways States report exits to adoption to AFCARS, and because of efforts in some States to achieve adoption for children who have been in foster care for long periods of time. Despite the multitude of strategies developed over the past decade to expedite adoptions (such as mediation, concurrent planning, use of adoption specialists, and family group decision making), the findings suggest that many States continue to experience difficulties finalizing adoptions in a timely manner. Through the CFSRs, the Department has identified many barriers to timely adoptions ranging from casework practice issues to crowded court dockets and parental appeals of termination of parental rights petitions. The Department anticipates that States will begin to address relevant barriers as part of their program improvement plans developed in response to CFSR findings.

***Outcome 6: Increase placement stability***

Most States experience a fairly high level of success with respect to placement stability for children who have been in foster care for less than 12 months, although placement stability tends to decline for children remaining in foster care for longer periods of time. For the 50 States that provided data to calculate this measure, the percentages of children in foster care for less than 12 months who experienced no more than two placements ranged from 57.7 to 99.9, with a median of 84.3. Thirty percent of States met the national standard of 86.7 percent.

Interpreting performance on this measure is somewhat difficult because the reporting of placement changes to AFCARS has not been consistent across States. Recently, the Department issued clarifications regarding what constitutes a "placement" or a "placement change," and it is anticipated that there will be fewer inconsistencies in reporting in the future.

### ***Outcome 7: Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions***

Although many States have established policies that restrict the placement of young children in group homes and institutions, these policies are not always followed. Preliminary CFSR information suggests that States vary considerably with respect to this practice. While some States were found to be diligent about not placing young children in these settings, other States frequently used group homes, particularly shelters, as placement venues for children of all ages. This includes children placed in shelters for emergency care if that placement was longer than 24 hours.

Fifty States provided sufficient data to calculate this measure. The percentages of young children who were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care and who were placed in group homes or institutions ranged from 1.3 to 27.2, with a median of 9 percent. In four States, over 20 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 and younger were placed in group homes or institutions.

These findings suggest that only a few States are placing large percentages of young children in group homes and institutions. However, because group-like placements are in most cases inappropriate for young children, the fact that even a few States are using these placements for young children raises concerns regarding children's well-being.

### **Summary**

In general, the key findings reported in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000* suggest that greater efforts are necessary to promote attainment of the seven national child welfare outcomes and ensure the safety and permanency of children who come into contact with the nation's public child welfare system. It is anticipated that with the continuation of the annual Outcomes Reports, the CFSRs, and technical assistance provided by the Department and the Department's child welfare-related resource centers, States will begin to exhibit improvements on performance on these outcomes.

Finally, it is important to note that many of the challenges to attaining positive outcomes for children who come into contact with the child welfare system are external to the system itself. A child welfare agency cannot provide services to prevent removal from home or to support reunification if those services are not available in the community. Similarly, a child welfare agency cannot achieve timely permanency for children if the court system is not operating on the same timelines as the agency or has differing perceptions of what children need with regard to permanency. Preliminary CFSR information indicates that these external barriers and challenges exist in all States participating in a CFSR thus far. Consequently, a key focus of Department and State efforts must be on promoting and supporting greater collaboration among agencies and institutions serving these children and families.



# Introduction

## INTRODUCTION: CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES 2000

*Child Welfare Outcomes 2000: Annual Report to Congress* is the third in a series of annual reports from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (the Department). The reports are prepared in accordance with section 479(a) of the Social Security Act as amended by section 203(a) of the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997 (Appendix A). They depict the performance of States on seven national child welfare outcomes developed by the Department in consultation with State and local child welfare agency administrators and other experts in the child welfare field. These outcomes reflect widely accepted performance objectives for child welfare practice.

- Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect,
- Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care,
- Increase permanency for children in foster care,
- Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry,
- Reduce time in foster care to adoption,
- Increase placement stability, and
- Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions.

In the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports (Outcomes Reports), the following information is presented for each State (and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico):

- Data on the twelve measures (provided in Appendix B) developed to assess the performance of States on the seven national child welfare outcomes listed above,
- Selected State child population statistics,
- The numbers and characteristics of child maltreatment victims (defined as children who are the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report),
- The numbers and characteristics of children in foster care on a given day and children who entered and exited foster care,
- The numbers and characteristics of children “waiting for adoption” (defined as children who are legally free for adoption and/or have a goal of adoption but have not yet had a finalized adoption), and
- The numbers and characteristics of children for whom an adoption was finalized.

Before publishing the Outcomes Reports, the Department disseminates each State’s data pages to the State child welfare agency administrator and data managers for their review and comment. The State’s comments are presented in the Outcomes Reports with the State’s data pages. Thirty-seven States provided comments for *Child Welfare Outcomes 1998*; 38 States for *Child Welfare Outcomes 1999*; and 34 for *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

With the exception of the child population statistics, the data provided in the State data pages come from two Federal data reporting systems—the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). Through AFCARS and NCANDS, the Department collects and analyzes data and generates reports on children who come into contact with the State child welfare systems. The highlights of findings from the most recent report based on NCANDS data—*Child Maltreatment 2000*—are presented in Appendix C. The annual AFCARS Report for fiscal year (FY) 2000 is presented in Appendix D.

In addition to the State data pages and State comments, the first Outcomes Report—*Child Welfare Outcomes 1998*—provided a discussion of the development of the national child welfare outcomes and measures, including the principles that guided that process. The Department established these guiding principles (presented in Appendix E) in conjunction with a consultant work group comprised of representatives from a wide range of State and local organizations and agencies.

The second Outcomes Report—*Child Welfare Outcomes 1999*—identified issues related to the quality and quantity of State data and provided key findings regarding variations in States' performance on the outcomes, based on 1999 data. The second Outcomes Report also presented a discussion of the various components of the Department's comprehensive approach to assisting States in achieving safety, permanency, and well-being for all children who come into contact with public child welfare systems. One key Departmental initiative identified in this discussion was the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). The CFSR is the Department's new results-oriented, comprehensive monitoring system. It was developed in response to the mandate in the Social Security Amendments of 1994 to promulgate regulations for reviews of States' child and family services. Through the CFSR, the Department assists States in evaluating and improving their child welfare service systems.

This third Outcomes Report—*Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*—is similar to earlier reports in that it presents the State data pages, State comments, a discussion of data issues, and key findings of the data analyses. With this report, however, the Department introduces the Federal Comment page, which will be part of future Outcomes Reports. The Federal Comment page is included with each State's data pages and provides a discussion of the following: (1) a State's performance on the child welfare outcomes, (2) changes in performance over time, and (3) possible reasons for high or low performance based on qualitative information from the State's CFSR.<sup>1</sup> For *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*, Federal Comment pages are provided for the 17 States that participated in a CFSR in 2001 and 15 States that participated in a CFSR in 2002.<sup>2</sup>

*Child Welfare Outcomes 2000* is organized as follows:

- **Chapter I. Interpreting State Performance on the National Child Welfare Outcomes.** This chapter discusses how qualitative information from the CFSR Final Reports will be used to provide clarity and depth to understanding States' performance on the national child welfare outcomes.
- **Chapter II. Technical Issues to Consider in Interpreting Outcome Data.** This chapter presents and discusses key issues regarding reporting and interpreting data used to measure the performance of States on the national child welfare outcomes. A primary focus of discussion is the relevance of these issues for interpreting performance on the outcomes across States.
- **Chapter III. Key Findings: State Performance on the National Child Welfare Outcomes for 2000 and Changes in Performance from 1999 to 2000.** This chapter presents the findings of the analyses of the performance of States in 2000 and changes in performance from 1999 to 2000. It includes a discussion of State policies and practices that may affect performance based on qualitative information obtained from the CFSR Final Reports on the 32 States that participated in the CFSR during 2001 and 2002.
- **Chapter IV. State Data Pages.** The State data pages include a section on context data, a section on outcomes data, a State comment page, and a Federal comment page for States that participated in a CFSR during 2001 and 2002.

<sup>1</sup>There is a timelag between the data provided in the State data pages and the CFSR. For example, the data presented in this Outcomes Report pertain to the years 1998, 1999, and 2000. However, the CFSR reports cover reviews completed in either FY 2001 or FY 2002. This timelag is the result of the time required to process and analyze data reported to AFCARS and NCANDS. Because of the lag, changes in State policies or practices that occurred during the review period were not reflected in performance on the outcome measures; these will be noted when relevant.

<sup>2</sup>With each new Outcomes Report, CFSR Final Report information will be incorporated into the Federal Comment page for States that participate in a CFSR during the year that the Outcomes Report is prepared. For States that did not participate in a review during that year, the Federal Comment page will focus primarily on changes in performance on the national outcomes over time.

# I. INTERPRETING STATE PERFORMANCE ON NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES

Section 203 of the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) requires the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (the Department) to develop a set of child welfare outcome measures and to “. . . prepare and submit to the Congress a report on the performance of each State on each outcome measure, which shall examine the reasons for high performance and low performance and, where possible, make recommendations as to how State performance could be improved.” In earlier Outcomes Reports, the Department has reported the performance of States on each outcome measure, but has not been able to address the reasons for high and low performance or to provide recommendations for performance improvements. To accomplish these latter objectives, it is necessary to have in-depth qualitative information regarding a State’s child welfare policies, procedures, and practices. Through the Child and Family Service Reviews (CFSR), the Department now collects the kind of in-depth information that is necessary for understanding possible reasons for a State’s high or low performance on the national child welfare outcomes.

## Description of the CFSR

During a CFSR, information is obtained from the following sources:

- A report prepared by the State that provides the findings of the State’s self-assessment conducted prior to the on-site review;
- A State Data Profile prepared by the Department using data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS);<sup>1</sup> and
- An on-site review process that includes comprehensive reviews of 50 cases over 3 sites, and interviews or focus groups with parents, children (when appropriate), foster and adoptive parents, private service providers, child welfare agency caseworkers and supervisors, State and local child welfare agency administrators, and a range of other stakeholders at local and State levels.

The Department analyzes the information from these sources to determine whether the State is in substantial conformity with seven outcomes and seven systemic factors assessed through the CFSR. Substantial conformity means that the State has met Federal criteria established for each outcome and systemic factor. The outcomes assessed in the CFSR are somewhat different from those presented in the Outcomes Reports, although all outcomes pertain to children’s safety, permanency, and well-being. The systemic factors address issues such as the capabilities of the State’s information system; the effectiveness of case review practices and procedures; training for child welfare staff, foster parents, and adoptive parents; the quality assurance system; the availability of services; the responsiveness of the agency to the community; and the licensing, recruitment, and retention of foster and adoptive parents.

The results of the analyses are compiled in a final report identifying strengths and areas needing improvement. The State uses this report as a basis for developing a program improvement plan that targets areas of performance where a need for improvement was identified through the CFSR. During FY 2001, the Department conducted 17 reviews; during FY 2002, 15 additional reviews were completed. The Department plans to review all States by the end of FY 2004 (the review schedule is provided in Appendix F). In subsequent years, Department reviews will be used to assess a State’s progress in accordance with its program improvement plan.

The following sections of this chapter discuss how CFSR findings are used in the Outcomes Report to address the statutory mandate requiring the Department to examine reasons for high and low performance and to make recommendations regarding improvements in performance.

<sup>1</sup> In some instances, when appropriate, the Department approves the use of alternative sources of data from the State for some of the data provided in the State Data Profile. This is permitted by regulation.

## Using CFSR findings to enhance interpretation of the performance of States on the national child welfare outcomes

Although the Outcomes Reports and the CFSR represent distinct and separate activities within the Department, they share the same goal—that of assessing the performance of States in achieving safety, permanency, and well-being for all children who come into contact with the public child welfare system. In 2001, as part of the CFSR, the Department established national standards for six outcome measures included in the Outcomes Reports (Appendix G provides information on the development of the standards). The Department uses performance relative to these national standards, along with information from other sources, to determine a State's substantial conformity with relevant outcomes. The following are the selected outcome measures for which national standards exist (no standards were established for outcomes 3 and 7):

- **Outcome 1 – Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect.**

*Standard:* Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of the period under review, 6.1 percent or fewer children had another substantiated or indicated report within 6 months.

- **Outcome 2 – Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care.**

*Standard:* Of all children in foster care in the State during the period under review, 0.57 percent or fewer were the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member.

- **Outcome 4 – Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry.**

*Standard:* Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, 76.2 percent or more were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from the home.

*Standard:* Of all children who entered foster care during the period under review, 8.6 percent or fewer re-entered foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode.

- **Outcome 5 – Reduce time in foster care to adoption.**

*Standard:* Of all children who exited foster care to a finalized adoption during the year under review, 32 percent or more exited foster care in less than 24 months from the time of the latest removal from the home.

- **Outcome 6 – Increase placement stability.**

*Standard:* Of all children who have been in foster care for less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from the home, 86.7 percent or more have had no more than two placement settings.

A key difference between the CFSRs and the Outcomes Reports is that the latter are based solely on quantitative data from the national data reporting systems, while the former incorporate extensive qualitative information pertaining to State child welfare agency functioning and casework practices. In integrating information from both sources, the Department will use relevant qualitative information from the CFSR regarding State child welfare practices and policies to provide depth and clarity to the interpretation of States' performance on the national child welfare outcome measures.

Examples of the types of information that can be incorporated, if available and relevant, to enhance understanding of States' performance are provided below for each outcome.

### ***Outcome 1: Reduce recurrence of child abuse and neglect.***

- The extent to which children are maintained safely in their homes (including children who have been reunified with their families after a foster-care episode) and to which the risk of harm is reduced.
- The extent to which service participation and children's safety are monitored (for example, through frequent contact between caseworkers and the child and family or through followup with families in in-home services cases).
- The extent to which needs and risk assessments are sufficiently comprehensive to identify a family's underlying problems, such as domestic violence, mental illness, and/or substance abuse.
- The extent to which services are available throughout the State to support reunification and/or maintain children safely in their own homes.
- The extent to which basic and ongoing training for caseworkers and supervisors supports the development of social work skills pertaining to ensuring children's safety.



***Outcome 2: Reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect in foster care.***

- The extent to which foster families receive the supports and services they need to assist them in parenting children.
- The existence of clear standards for licensing and maintaining out-of-home placements that pertain to children's safety and the application of these standards to all foster homes (including kinship foster homes) and to all residential facilities.
- The extent to which the numbers of existing foster homes, therapeutic foster homes, and other types of placements are sufficient to permit careful matching of children and placement options.
- The extent to which the State adheres to the established standards, particularly with respect to the numbers of children permitted in the home.
- The extent to which training for foster parents is provided prior to placement of a child.

***Outcome 3: Increase permanency for children in foster care.***

- The extent to which appropriate permanency goals are established in a timely manner (including implementing concurrent goals, when relevant).
- The extent to which long-term foster care is used as a permanency goal.
- The extent to which permanency goals are attained in a timely manner and the effectiveness of various activities undertaken to attain those goals.
- The extent to which parents and children (when age appropriate) are involved in the case-planning process, both initially and on an ongoing basis.
- The extent to which contact with parents and children is of sufficient frequency and quality to promote attainment of permanency.

***Outcome 4: Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry.***

- The extent to which children are being reunified with their families in a timely manner.
- The extent to which services and supports are provided to children and parents to support eventual reunification, including parent-child visitation, preserving children's connections to family and community, and providing services to parents to address the risk issues that brought the child into foster care.
- The extent to which services are provided to children and families after reunification to prevent re-entry.
- The extent to which the services necessary at both pre- and post-reunification are available to children and families in all areas of the State.
- The extent to which training is provided to caseworkers and supervisors that focuses on permanency and practices intended to expedite permanency, such as concurrent planning and/or family group conferencing.

***Outcome 5: Reduce time in foster care to adoption.***

- The extent to which special activities or programs have been created specifically to expedite adoptions.
- The extent to which a permanency goal of adoption is established in a timely manner and petitions for termination of parental rights (TPR) are filed in accordance with ASFA timelines.
- The extent to which barriers to timely adoptions are addressed, including both internal (to the State child welfare agency) and external barriers, such as court delays or State policies regarding TPR hearings.
- The extent to which basic and ongoing training of caseworkers and supervisors addresses issues pertaining to adoption.
- The extent to which the child welfare agency and the courts collaborate effectively.
- The extent to which case reviews and permanency hearings are held in a timely manner and TPR is pursued when appropriate.

***Outcome 6: Increase placement stability.***

- The extent to which children's placements are stable.
- The extent to which shelter placements are used as initial placements and/or as temporary placements when other placements disrupt.
- The availability of regular and therapeutic foster family homes, particularly for children requiring higher levels of care, so that foster parents and children can be appropriately matched.

- The availability of placements for children requiring higher levels of care.
- The extent to which services are provided to foster parents to support a placement when there is a threat of disruption.
- The extent to which foster parents receive training on parenting children with behavioral and emotional problems.

***Outcome 7: Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions.***

- The availability of regular and therapeutic foster family homes.
- The extent to which shelter care placements are used for young children.

**Using CFSR findings to make recommendations to States for improving performance**

In addition to understanding reasons for high and low performance on the national child welfare outcomes, section 203 of ASFA also requires the Department to make recommendations, where possible, to assist States in improving performance on the outcomes. During the CFSR, information is collected from stakeholders about their experiences with various State child welfare services, program approaches, and policies. This CFSR information can be used, when relevant, to make suggestions in the Outcomes Reports, particularly in the Federal Comment pages, regarding practices that may improve outcome performance. In subsequent Outcomes Reports, CFSR information about the effectiveness of States’ strategies for achieving the goals of their program improvement plans may be useful for making recommendations to other States regarding improvements in performance.

Information from the CFSRs also may be used to identify general practices that appear to be linked to success in attaining positive outcomes for children. For example, CFSR Federal Team leaders, in analyzing the findings for the first 17 States reviewed, identified the following practices as particularly noteworthy:

- *Ongoing training pertaining to strengthening practice skills*: Training programs for child welfare workers that focus on improving case practice by strengthening practice skills and promoting professional development.
- *Concurrent planning*: Activities that involve establishing two potential goals for a child shortly after entry into foster care and engaging in simultaneous efforts to attain both goals to expedite permanency.
- *Individualized services*: Tailoring services to meet the unique needs of children and families as opposed to “one-size-fits-all” services that may not target the issues that need to be resolved to achieve safety, permanency, and well-being.
- *Post-reunification services*: Ensuring that families have the services they need to support and maintain reunification and prevent re-entry into foster care.
- *Specialized adoption-related services*: Focusing on recruiting families that are willing to adopt special-needs children, helping children make the transition to an adoptive family, and providing post-adoption support to prevent adoption disruption.

**Considerations in interpreting State performance on the national child welfare outcomes**

The Department anticipates that the use of CFSR information will add depth and clarity to interpretations of States’ performance on the national child welfare outcomes. This, in turn, will increase States’ ability to target areas where improvement is needed and consequently work to achieve better outcomes for children and families.

In understanding States’ performance, however, it is important to be aware of the various data issues and individual State child welfare policies and practices that affect performance on outcome measures. The following chapter discusses the key data issues and identifies the variations among States with respect to policies, practices, and data-reporting procedures that significantly affect interpreting performance.

# II. TECHNICAL ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN INTERPRETING OUTCOME DATA

The data provided in the State Data Pages of the Child Welfare Outcomes Report to Congress (Outcomes Report) come from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (the Department) Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). Since their inception, a key function of AFCARS and NCANDS has been to identify broad trends in child welfare that can be used for policy development and for disseminating information to Congress, the press, and the general public. These data-reporting systems represent considerable improvements over previous national systems with regard to providing consistent and comprehensive information pertaining to national trends in child maltreatment, children in foster care, and children adopted from the public child welfare system.

With the legislative requirement of an annual report to Congress that depicts the performance of States on a set of child-welfare outcomes, the function of NCANDS and AFCARS was expanded to include using State-level data to calculate specific outcome measures. This new function required a more sophisticated level of analyses than those conducted previously with the data. (The AFCARS and NCANDS data sources for each of the outcome measures are provided in Appendix H.) As a result, the first State-level computational analyses, conducted on 1997 data, revealed several data-quality problems at the State level. For example, there were large percentages of missing data and inconsistencies in the data that were reported.

However, since publication of *Child Welfare Outcomes 1998*—the first Outcomes Report—there has been significant improvement in data quality. The incidence of missing data and of data inconsistencies has declined considerably. Furthermore, many State child welfare agency administrators have indicated in their comment letters to the Outcomes Report that they have accessed, or are accessing, the Department's technical assistance resources to improve data quality and promote greater consistency in future years. As a result, the NCANDS and AFCARS data provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000* for calendar year (NCANDS) and fiscal year (AFCARS) 2000 present a fairly consistent and clear portrait of the child welfare context variables and outcome measures for many States. For most States, the 2000 data (and for many States, the 1999 data), can serve as a solid baseline for assessing continuous improvement over time regarding the performance of an individual State on the national child welfare outcomes.

Despite the considerable improvements in AFCARS and NCANDS data, there are several data-related issues to be considered. In *Child Welfare Outcomes 1999*, the chapter focusing on key findings describes the extensive variation among States regarding their child-welfare context (e.g., the numbers and characteristics of children in foster care, the numbers and characteristics of children who are victims of child maltreatment, and the numbers and characteristics of children who are adopted) and their performances on the national child welfare-outcomes. To a large extent, the cross-State variations found for the contextual features reflect real differences among States.<sup>1</sup> However, difficulties arise in the interpretation of cross-State variations in performance on the child welfare outcome measures. This is because State child-welfare policies, practices, and definitions differ, and these differences have implications for the data used to calculate the national outcome measures. Consequently, the finding that State A, for example, has a lower rate of child maltreatment recurrence than State B, based on data reported in outcome measure 1.1, does not necessarily mean that State A is more effective than State B in preventing the recurrence of maltreatment. Many other issues must be considered before such a conclusion can be drawn with any confidence.

In the following sections of this Chapter, these issues and their impact on the interpretation of performance on specific outcome measures are discussed for each of the national child-welfare outcomes. Some issues have emerged from in-depth assessments of child welfare systems conducted as part of the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR), and some have been raised by the findings of State surveys conducted by the Child Welfare League of America for the National Work Group to

<sup>1</sup>The one exception may be the numbers of child maltreatment victims. Because States have different definitions for case dispositions, variations in the number of child maltreatment victims may reflect those differences. For example, one State has determined that its findings with regard to maltreatment reports do not conform to NCANDS definitions of substantiation or indication, and therefore they report no maltreatment victims.

Improve Child Welfare Outcomes (National Work Group). Other issues were noted by State child welfare agency administrators in their comment letters submitted for inclusion with their State's data pages.

Although each issue discussed below has implications for the interpretation of the performance of States on the particular outcome measures, some have only a minimal effect, while others have a more significant impact. As these issues have emerged from the CFSRs and other sources, the Department has incorporated the information into its efforts to assist States in developing child welfare program improvement plans after their initial CFSR. The Department also plans to take key data issues into consideration in future CFSRs in assessing the effectiveness of strategies implemented as part of a State's program improvement plan. These plans are tailored to address the specific areas needing improvement identified through the CFSR.

The final section of this Chapter addresses the issue of the use of exit cohorts versus entry cohorts in assessing the performance of States in attaining the national child welfare outcomes for children in foster care. This issue is discussed in terms of how a focus on these different populations affects the assessment of State child welfare agency performance.

### **Outcome 1: Reduce recurrence of child maltreatment**

A State's performance with respect to reducing recurrence of child maltreatment is measured by outcome measure 1.1: Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of the reporting period, what percentage had another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period?<sup>2</sup> States report the data to calculate this measure to NCANDS through the Child File or the Detailed Case Data Component (DCDC).<sup>3</sup> Twenty-nine States in 1999 and 34 States in 2000 reported data to NCANDS that were sufficient to calculate this measure.

The following differences in State practices and procedures pertaining to maltreatment reports affect the data reported to NCANDS, and consequently the interpretation of States' performance on the measure.

- **Differences with respect to investigating reports on open cases.** In some States, allegations of child maltreatment are not assigned for an investigation if there is an open in-home services case on the family; in other States, all maltreatment allegations are investigated as new maltreatment reports, even if there is an open case on the family. Similarly, in some States, allegations of child maltreatment during a parent-child visitation episode are investigated as new maltreatment reports, while in some States they are not. Finally, in some States, children's disclosures of previous child maltreatment episodes after they enter foster care or after a case has been opened are investigated as new allegations of maltreatment, while in other States they are not. These variations in practice affect a State's rate of maltreatment recurrence and must be taken into consideration in interpreting differences in performance.
- **Differences with respect to the definition of an "indicated" report.** The measure of maltreatment recurrence includes only children who are the subject of maltreatment reports that have been substantiated or indicated. Although many States use different terms for child protective services dispositions, there is general acceptance among most States that the most serious level of finding used by a State (e.g., "confirmed," "services required," "valid," "petition filed") is equivalent, for purposes of NCANDS reporting, to a "substantiated" finding.<sup>4</sup> There is less agreement, however, about the use of "indicated" as a finding of a maltreatment investigation. The NCANDS definition of an indicated report is one in which maltreatment cannot be substantiated under State law or policy, but there is reason to suspect that the child might have been maltreated or is at risk of maltreatment. Although the number of States that employ the term "indicated" to describe a finding of an investigation has always been small (and has declined from 14 in 1996 to 10 in 2000), many States have dispositions, such as "services recommended" or "unconfirmed," that fall somewhere between a substantiated finding and an "invalid" finding. However, many States that have implemented these "midpoint" dispositions do not consider them equivalent to an "indicated" finding. A State's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months will be affected by its definitions of disposition options.

<sup>2</sup> For example, if a child is a victim of maltreatment in January of a calendar year, and again in March, then that would be considered recurrence of maltreatment.

<sup>3</sup> The Child File was recently implemented by NCANDS and has replaced the DCDC file in all but 5 of the 34 reporting States.

<sup>4</sup> The exception may be North Dakota, which by statute will not define a case as substantiated and therefore reports no maltreatment victims to NCANDS.

- **Differences with respect to the availability of an alternative response system and how cases assigned to an alternative response are reported to NCANDS.** Many States have implemented, or are in the process of implementing, alternative responses to child maltreatment reports that do not require making a determination as to whether maltreatment occurred. In some States, a report assigned to an alternative response is “screened out” of the child protection system. In these States, an allegation that is assigned to an alternative response (such as domestic violence, parental substance abuse, inadequate supervision, or inadequate parenting) will not be investigated and therefore will not be included in the NCANDS computation of maltreatment recurrence. However, in States that do not have an alternative response system, these allegations may be investigated, and therefore will be included in the computation of maltreatment recurrence.
- **Differences with respect to definitions of child maltreatment.** The fact that States differ regarding their definitions of what constitutes child maltreatment has an effect on the comparability of data pertaining to the recurrence of maltreatment. One example of this is the way that different States respond to reports of domestic violence (i.e., violence between adult partners). In some States, domestic violence reports are investigated as child maltreatment reports because they are perceived as a form of emotional maltreatment, but in other States, domestic violence reports are not considered child maltreatment unless there is actual physical harm to the child.

The issues discussed above reinforce the Department’s commitment to focusing its assessment of progress on the continuous improvement of individual States with regard to performance on the outcome measures pertaining to child maltreatment.

## **Outcome 2: Reduce maltreatment in foster care**

The outcome pertaining to maltreatment in foster care is assessed by calculating outcome measure 2.1: Of all children who were in foster care during the reporting period, what percentage was the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff? The number of children in foster care during the reporting period is calculated from data reported to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). The number of children who were the subjects of a report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff is determined from data reported to NCANDS. The following key issues relevant to interpreting State differences with regard to performance on this measure have been identified by the National Work Group and by the State child welfare agencies in their comments on their data.

- **Differences between children reported to NCANDS and AFCARS.** For outcome measure 2.1 to be a valid measure of maltreatment in foster care, the children who are included in the numerator (i.e., children maltreated in foster care) also must be included in the denominator (i.e., all children in foster care during the designated time period). However, in some States, this is not the case. According to a survey conducted by CWLA for the National Work Group, for example, more than 50 percent of the States responding reported that they include maltreatment of non-child welfare children in group homes, residential facilities, and detention facilities in the data they report to NCANDS if the perpetrator is a facility staff member. Because these children are not reported in AFCARS, they appear in the numerator, but not in the denominator. Another example pertains to children in the care of relatives who are not licensed as foster parents. If these children are maltreated by the relative caretaker, about 50 percent of the States responding to the survey noted that they do not include this maltreatment in the “foster parents” perpetrator category in NCANDS. In this situation, children appear in the denominator, but are not eligible for inclusion in the numerator. Although these problems are a concern to the Department, they apply to only a small number of cases. In addition, it is anticipated that the problems will be resolved in the near future. According to the CWLA report, three quarters of States responding to the survey indicated that they are able to identify the children who were in both their AFCARS and NCANDS systems.
- **Differences in the kinds of events that States consider maltreatment in foster care.** An additional variation that affects the calculation of this measure is that some States investigate foster home licensing violations as if they were maltreatment reports, even if the event would not be considered maltreatment if the family were not a foster family. In contrast, other States address licensing violations in the re-approval process and do not respond to them as maltreatment reports or report them as such to NCANDS.

### Outcome 3: Increase permanency for children in foster care

This outcome is assessed through five measures. The primary measure (measure 3.1) examines the percentage of children exiting foster care to a permanent placement—i.e., reunification, guardianship, and adoption. Subsequent measures assess exits to permanent placements for children with a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), children who entered foster care when they were older than age 12 (measure 3.3), and children of various races and ethnicity (measure 3.5). The fifth measure (measure 3.4) examines the percentages of children who exited foster care because they were emancipated and who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care.

The key issues pertaining to interpreting State performance with regard to exits to permanency are the following:

- **Missing data regarding the reason for discharge.** Although the extent of missing data has declined greatly since 1998, in several States at least 20 percent of the children exiting foster care did not have “reason-for-discharge” information. Some States reported in their comment letters that they have discharge reasons that are not among the options used by AFCARS and, when these are reported to AFCARS, they appear as missing data. These States have indicated that they are in the process of correcting this data coding and entry problem. It is anticipated that missing data will no longer be an issue with the next Outcomes Report.
- **Variations among States with respect to the use of guardianship as a permanency option.** The many variations in the use of guardianship as a permanency option include:
  - States permit guardianship as a permanency option for foster parents and relative caregivers with no limitations with regard to the age of the child.
  - States permit guardianship as a permanency option only for relatives, without regard to age restrictions.
  - States permit guardianship as a permanency option only for relatives and only for children who meet criteria, for age and time in foster care.
  - States do not permit guardianship as a permanency option unless parents are deceased.
  - States do or do not have a subsidized guardianship program that provides financial assistance to families who assume the guardianship of a child in foster care.

The availability of the option of guardianship will affect a State’s performance on outcome 3, particularly with respect to permanency for children who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care.

The fact that States are not consistent in their use of the AFCARS data element pertaining to the issue of diagnosed disability affects the interpretation of measure 3.2. In some States, when children enter care they may be reported as not having a diagnosed disability, but if a disability is diagnosed at a later time, the updated information is not always reported to AFCARS. In addition, some States do not report data for this element at all.

With respect to measure 3.4, there is anecdotal evidence that children who “age out” of the foster care system are not always reported as discharges to emancipation. Because many of these children tend to live with their parents when they leave, they are often reported as discharges to reunification. Similarly, anecdotal information also indicates that many children who leave foster care “unofficially” prior to an official termination may be reported to AFCARS as “runaways” even though they would have been emancipated from foster care in a few weeks or months.

### Outcome 4: Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

Two measures assess attainment of this outcome. Outcome measure 4.1 examines the time in care prior to reunification for all children discharged to reunification in the reporting period (e.g., less than 12 months, 12 to 24 months, 24 to 36 months, 36 to 48 months, and 48 or more months). Outcome measure 4.2 examines the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering care (1) within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode or (2) more than 12 months after discharge from a prior foster care episode.

The key problem relevant to interpreting the performance of States on outcome measure 4.1 (time to reunification) and 4.2 (rate of re-entry into foster care) is that States differ in their statutes, policies, and/or practices pertaining to reunification. Some

have statutes and/or policies that require the child welfare agency to maintain custody of a child for a specified amount of time (ranging from 3 to 12 months) after the child is physically reunified with parents. Other States do not have written policies pertaining to this practice, but engage in the practice on a routine basis to ensure children's successful reintegration into their families before transferring custody. Still others transfer custody to the primary caretakers at the time that children are physically reunified. These policies or practices affect the length of time to "final" reunification because children are not reported to AFCARS as discharged to reunification until custody is transferred. At the same time, the existence of these policies or practices also affects the rate of re-entry into foster care within 12 months because a "failed" trial reunification would not be considered a re-entry into foster care as custody was never transferred. An understanding of the performance of States on these measures must take into consideration their relevant policies and practices.

Another issue relevant to interpreting the performance of States on these measures pertains to the difference among the populations served by State child welfare agencies. In some States, the child welfare agency provides foster care services to children from the juvenile justice system, children who enter foster care because of their behavior (through petitions from the parents), and children who have been maltreated by parents or primary caretakers. In other States, the child welfare agency only serves children who have been found to be victims of child maltreatment or who have been voluntarily placed in foster care because parents are unable to take care of them. Anecdotal information from stakeholders interviewed during the CFSRs indicates that children who enter foster care through juvenile justice or as a result of a parental petition often are the most difficult to reunify and are the most likely to re-enter foster care after reunification. Although the extent of re-entries into foster care that involve older children who entered care through the juvenile justice system is not currently known, State variations in the kinds of populations served contribute to the difficulty of interpreting cross-State performance on this measure.

#### **Outcome 5: Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

The attainment of outcome 5 is assessed by outcome measure 5.1, which examines the time to adoption for all children who have a finalized adoption in the reporting year. The time periods examined are: (1) less than 12 months, (2) at least 12 months but less than 24 months, (3) at least 24 months but less than 36 months, (4) at least 36 months but less than 48 months, and (5) 48 or more months. Issues relevant to interpreting differences in States' performance on this measure include the following:

- **Differences among States in the way discharges to adoption are reported to AFCARS.** Some States incorrectly report to AFCARS the placement of children in an adoptive home as a discharge to adoption, while other States correctly report discharges to adoption to AFCARS only after legal finalization. The Department has clarified the requirements of the "discharge" element pertaining to adoption, and it is anticipated that discharges to adoption will be reported correctly by all States in future years. Another issue raised by some States in their comment letters is that caseworkers are reluctant to report discharges to adoptions for confidentiality reasons. The end result of these problems is that in several States, the number of discharges to adoption reported to the AFCARS Foster Care Database is considerably less than the number of finalized adoptions reported to the AFCARS Adoption Database. Although the AFCARS Adoption Database does include children adopted as infants through the State system who were never in foster care, the number of these children does not account for the large discrepancy found for some States between the two adoption figures. This makes it difficult to interpret States' performance on measure 5.1, because many of the adoptions that took place are not accounted for in the measure.
- **Differences among States with regard to their efforts to find adoptive homes for children who have been in foster care for long periods of time.** Because the data for outcome measure 5.1 are presented in terms of percentages of children exiting foster care, it appears as if those States that have made intensive efforts to find homes for children who have been in foster care for long periods of time are not effective in attaining finalized adoptions for children in the short-run. That is, the percentages of children achieving a finalized adoption within 24 months is low because the State has experienced recent success in finding adoptive homes for children who have been in foster care for long periods of time. This problem may be resolved to some extent by assessing the numbers of adoptions occurring within different time frames as well as the percentages. However, it is anticipated that this issue will become less relevant in future years as States experience success in finding adoptive homes for children who have been in foster care for many years.

## **Outcome 6: Increase placement stability**

Attainment of this outcome is assessed by measure 6.1, which examines the percentages of children who experience 2 or fewer placements and who have been in foster care for the following time periods: less than 12 months from removal from home, 12 to less than 24 months, 24 to less than 36 months, 36 to less than 48 months, and 48 or more months. A report by the National Work Group on the results of a State survey indicates that there is some inconsistency across States in the method used to determine placement changes for children in foster care. One area of inconsistency concerns what constitutes a “placement.” For example, some States have incorrectly counted trial home visits, respite care, psychiatric treatment episodes, or detention as “placement changes.”

Another area of inconsistency concerns how placement changes are conceptualized. In some States, a child’s move from one living arrangement to another is correctly reported as a placement change. However, other States do not report movement from one living arrangement to another as a placement change if the child is returning to a former living arrangement (i.e., these States incorrectly report placement changes on the basis of unique providers rather than actual placement change). There also are States that do not report placement changes that occur when a child’s placement is managed by a private foster care agency as long as the provider agency does not change. Other States only report placements that involve payments. If the child is placed with a relative who does not receive a foster care payment, the placement is not recorded in the State’s data system. The data team in the Children’s Bureau has provided substantial technical assistance to individual States regarding the correct coding of placements, and many States are beginning to rectify the problem. Recently, on July 3, 2002, the Department issued clarifications on how States are to report data to AFCARS pertaining to placements and placement changes. The Department anticipates that this clarification will result in greater consistency in reporting placement changes in future years.

## **Outcome 7: Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

This outcome is assessed by outcome measure 7.1: Of all children entering care during the reporting period who were age 12 or younger, what percentage was placed in a group home or institution? Several States have noted that when children first enter foster care, it is State policy to place these children in a short-term emergency shelter to better assess long-term placement needs. These States suggest that because these shelters meet the definitions provided for group homes or institutions, they are reported as such in the States’ AFCARS submissions. In contrast, States that do not use short-term shelter care as the initial placement for children tend to demonstrate lower percentages of children age 12 or younger being placed in group homes or institutions. Although this may be a valid concern for States, information from the CFSRs indicates that initial placements in shelters often are not as “short term” as they are intended to be. In addition, case reviews during the CFSRs have revealed that children as young as 3 years are being placed in shelters as initial placements.

## **Use of entry cohort, exit cohort, and point in time data to assess the performance of States in attaining the national child welfare outcomes**

The five national child welfare outcomes that pertain to children in foster care are assessed by measures that focus on different groups of children. Outcome measures 3.1 through 3.5, 4.1, and 5.1 focus on exit cohorts (i.e., the children exiting foster care in the specified reporting period). Outcome measures 4.2 and 7.1 are based on data from entry cohorts (i.e., children entering foster care during the specified reporting period), while outcome measure 6.1 is based on all children served by the foster care system during the specified reporting period.

Several representatives from State child welfare agencies and some child welfare researchers have expressed the opinion that the use of exit cohort data to assess the attainment of permanency is not valid. Their assertion is that it is not possible to assess real change in a State’s performance by looking at exit cohort data, because exit cohorts can only tell us about the experiences of children who leave foster care during a specified time period. Because children leaving foster care during the same time period have been in foster care for varying lengths of time, they have been affected by a variety of policies, practices, and environmental conditions pertaining to child welfare agency practices and procedures. In contrast, children entering foster care during the same time period (entry cohort) are subject to similar policies, practices, and conditions. Furthermore, a focus on recent entry cohorts permits an assessment of the impact of recent or current conditions on children’s experiences with respect to reunification, adoption, guardianship, placement changes, and types of placements. However, an analysis of entry cohorts does



not capture the experiences of children who are in care for long periods of time before achieving an outcome pertaining to permanency. Exit cohorts permit a focus on the point at which a given outcome is attained with regard to permanency.

There are pros and cons to each approach (exit and entry). The primary value of an entry cohort approach is that it provides information that is critical for child welfare agency managers regarding the effectiveness of current policies and practices influencing the movement of children through their foster care system. The drawback with respect to the Outcomes Report is that this approach requires several years of tracking of an individual cohort to assess overall time to permanency for all children in the cohort and to compare time to permanency from one cohort to another. For example, if a cohort were considered to be all of the children entering foster care in a given year, it would be necessary to follow even one cohort for almost 2 years to obtain information regarding the first 12 months in care for all of the children in the cohort. However, it is important to note that for the CFSR program improvement plan, it will be important to use any available information on entry cohorts to track the effectiveness of efforts to address specific areas needing improvement.

An exit cohort approach captures information about outcomes at the point of outcome attainment and yields information about children who have been in care for long periods of time as well as children who have been in care for only a few months. The disadvantage is that this approach captures this information only for children who exited foster care and, therefore, it may take years before the impact of new programs and policies will be demonstrated in the data.

The key issue is that an entry cohort approach to assessing permanency basically asks and answers different questions than does an exit cohort approach. The entry approach asks: What happens to children who enter foster care in a given year? How do they move through the system? How long do they remain in foster care? The exit approach looks retrospectively at children's experiences and asks: What outcomes did they experience? How long did it take them to achieve those outcomes? While both types of questions are valid and seek important information about children served by public child welfare systems, the Department determined that a focus on outcomes exemplified by the exit cohort approach was most responsive to the requirements of the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA). However, incorporation of the entry cohort analysis approach into the agency's work on outcomes continues to be explored. The integration of these approaches would permit both a focus on the outcomes that children experience and an assessment of the impact of newly implemented policies and programs on children who are newly entering the system.



# III. KEY FINDINGS: STATE PERFORMANCE ON THE NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES FOR 2000 AND CHANGES IN PERFORMANCE FROM 1999 TO 2000

The primary objectives of the Outcomes Reports to Congress are to: (1) describe the performance of States on the national child welfare outcomes for the target year and (2) track changes in performance over time, focusing on the continuous improvement of individual States.<sup>1</sup> This chapter provides key findings regarding State performance in 2000 and changes in performance from 1999 to 2000. Data from 1998 are not included in the analysis of change because of data quality issues pertaining to that year.<sup>2</sup>

Table 1 provides an overview of States' performance on selected outcome measures for 1999 and 2000. It includes descriptive statistics for selected outcome measures, the national standard for the outcome measures (when applicable), and the number of States reporting sufficient data for inclusion in the analysis.<sup>3</sup> The table shows extensive variation in performance for all measures in 1999 and 2000. For some measures, the pattern of performance across States is equally distributed along the range, while for other measures, States tend to cluster in the upper or lower regions of the range.

Because the period from 1999 to 2000 is too brief for a meaningful analysis of trends in performance, the assessment of change over time for individual outcomes offered in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000* provides only preliminary observations of the kinds of changes that are occurring. In addition, due to the short time frame, the percent change in performance experienced by an individual State from 1999 to 2000 cannot be compared against prior percent changes for that State. Consequently, to establish a standard against which to assess the extent of change occurring from 1999 to 2000, the mean and standard deviation for the percent change for all States was calculated. The analysis then focused on the extent to which the percent change exhibited by an individual State differed from the mean percent change exhibited for all States. For purposes of this report, a percent change that was at least one standard deviation from the mean percent change is considered as representing a "substantial" change in performance on the measure, as compared to changes exhibited by other States. In subsequent Reports to Congress, the extent of change exhibited by a State will be compared to the percent change exhibited in previous years.<sup>4</sup>

The rest of this chapter presents key findings of the analyses of the performance of States in 2000 and change in performance from 1999 to 2000 for the national child welfare outcomes pertaining to children's safety and permanency. Preliminary information obtained from the Department's Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR) is included to provide a context for interpreting States' performance. This information comes from the 32 States that participated in a CFSR in fiscal year (FY) 2001 and FY 2002. CFSR information pertaining to individual States is provided in the Federal Comment page included with the State's data pages.

## Outcome 1: Reduce recurrence of child abuse and neglect

The most important goal of welfare services is to ensure children's safety. Children who have been victims of maltreatment must be protected so that they do not become victims again. Child welfare agencies employ two strategies to prevent the recurrence of maltreatment—providing services to families to reduce risk of harm while children remain in their own homes, or removing children from their homes and placing them in foster care.

Preliminary findings from the CFSRs suggest that greater efforts are needed to reduce risk of harm to children while they remain in their own homes. In some States, many children in the cases reviewed as part of the CFSR experienced multiple

<sup>1</sup> For purposes of this report, the designation of "State" includes the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Therefore, technically, 52 entities may report data for each of the measures. However, because Puerto Rico did not report sufficient data to calculate any of the measures, it is not included in any of the analyses.

<sup>2</sup> Some, but not all, States submitted revised 1998 data in 2002.

<sup>3</sup> States were excluded from analyses of a given measure if 20 percent or more of the data for the measure were classified as "missing data," or if the validity of the data was highly questionable.

<sup>4</sup> A percent change differs from a change in percentage points. For example, if the percent of reunifications within 12 months is 50 percent in 1999, and 75 percent in 2000, the percent change would be a 50 percent increase. That is, year 2 minus year 1 divided by year 1.

**Table 1: Range and Median of State Performance on Selected Child Welfare Outcome Measures for 1999 and 2000**

Outcome Measure	1999				2000				National Standard (%)
	N*	Median	Minimum	Maximum	N*	Median	Minimum	Maximum	
1.1 Children experiencing a recurrence of maltreatment within 6 months	29	7.4	2.1	13.5	34	7.9	3.0	13.1	6.1
2.1 Children experiencing maltreatment while in foster care	21	0.52	0.05	2.31	30	0.47	0.00	3.11	0.57
3.1 Exits from foster care that were exits to a permanent home (i.e., adoption, guardianship, or reunification)	46	84.3	59.1	94.9	46	84.7	68.6	94.5	N/A
3.2 Exits of disabled children from foster care that were exits to a permanent home (i.e., adoption, guardianship, or reunification)	39	75.4	41.2	90.9	37	79.5	55.9	96.7	N/A
3.3 Exits of children who were older than 12 at the time of entry into foster care that were exits to a permanent home (i.e., adoption, guardianship, or reunification)	43	70.7	36.5	86.8	40	72.6	37.0	87.5	N/A
3.4 Children exiting foster care through emancipation who were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care	45	28.0	0.0	63.0	45	24.2	0.0	61.2	N/A
4.1 Exits to reunification that occurred within 12 months of time of entry into foster care	50	64.8	33.8	86.4	51	68.0	34.9	87.0	76.2
4.2 Children entering foster care that were re-entering care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode	49	10.6	1.0	26.7	50	10.3	0.9	27.7	8.6
5.1 Exits to adoption that occurred within 24 months of time of entry into foster care	48	24.1	3.0	70.7	48	19.7	4.6	72.4	32.0
6.1 Children in foster care for less than 12 months who experienced two or fewer placements	50	83.1	58.9	99.8	50	84.3	57.7	99.9	86.7
7.1 Children age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care who were placed in a group home or institution	51	8.8	1.4	26.3	50	9.0	1.3	27.2	N/A

\*N= Number of States reporting with sufficient data for analysis for both 1999 and 2000.

maltreatment reports over the life of the case. Although not all multiple maltreatment reports were substantiated, the frequency of reports suggests a pattern of risk of harm to the children that is not being adequately addressed by the child welfare agency.

Information from the CFSR Final Reports identified several reasons why children may remain at risk of harm in “in-home services” cases:

- In most States, a parent’s participation in services in an “in-home services” case is voluntary, even when the maltreatment has been substantiated. Caseworkers do not always have the skills and experience necessary to engage parents so that they will participate in recommended services and change the behaviors that contributed to a child’s maltreatment.
- Child welfare caseworkers often have excessive caseloads and, consequently, are not always able to monitor parents’ participation in services or progress in making the changes necessary to reduce the risk of harm to children.

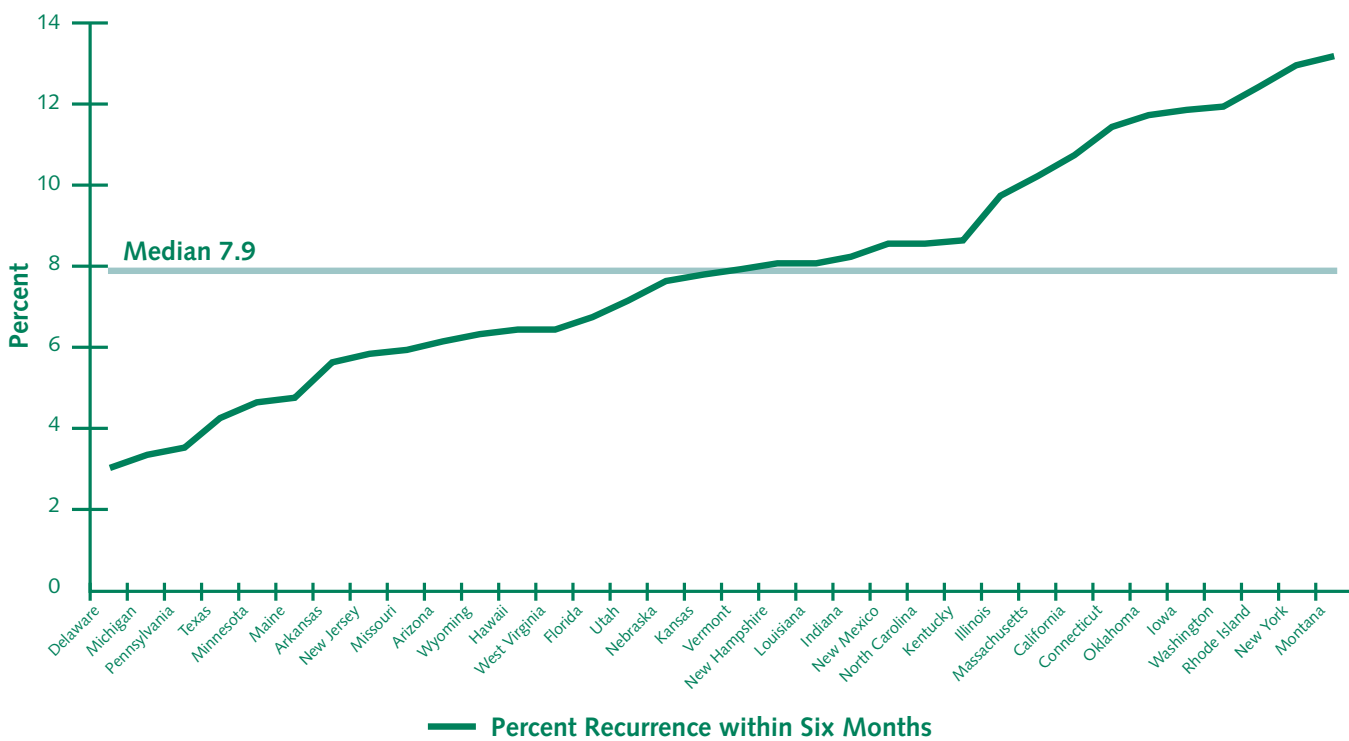
- Families do not always have access to the services they need to reduce the risk of harm to children, particularly substance abuse treatment and mental health services. The problems with access may be due to a scarcity of services in the community or to the family’s inability to afford the services.

The measure developed for the Outcomes Reports to assess the performance of States with regard to reducing recurrence of child abuse and neglect is:

*Outcome Measure 1.1: Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of the reporting period, what percentage had another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period?*

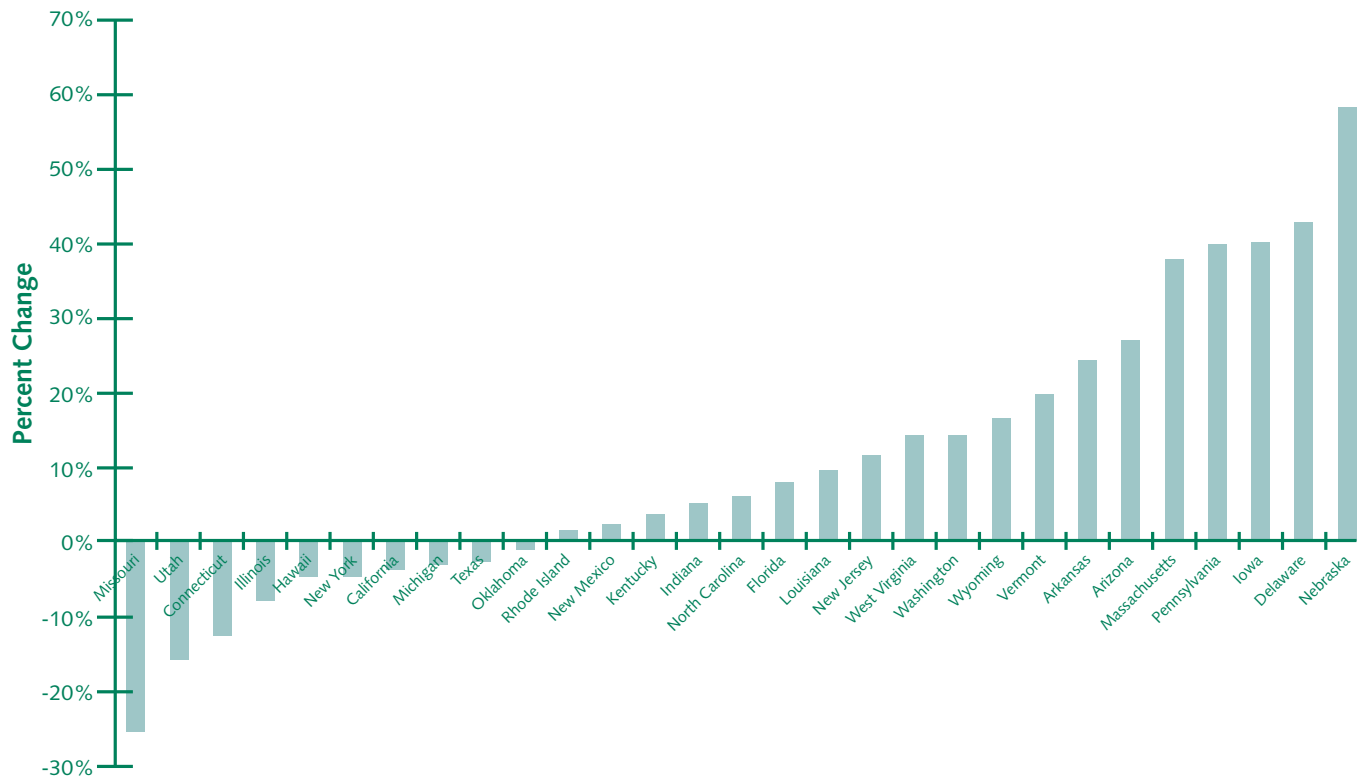
In 2000, 34 States provided sufficient data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) to calculate this outcome measure (compared to 29 States in 1999). As shown in figure 1, the percentage of children who were victims of two substantiated or indicated maltreatment reports within 6 months ranged from 3.0 to 13.1, with the median being 7.9. In 24 (71 percent) of the 34 States, the percentages exceeded the national standard of 6.1. In 9 States, more than 10 percent of the children who were victims of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment during the first 6 months of the reporting period experienced another substantiated or indicated maltreatment within a 6-month period.

**Figure 1.** *The distribution of States' performances relevant to the percentages of children experiencing a recurrence of maltreatment in 2000 (outcome measure 1.1)*



The change in performance from 1999 to 2000 for outcome measure 1.1 is depicted in figure 2 for the 29 States that provided data in both years. The percent change for these States ranged from -25.3 to +58.3, with a mean percent change of +10.5. Three States (Missouri, Utah, and Connecticut) exhibited substantial improvements in performance on this measure (“substantial” means that the percent change was at least one standard deviation [SD = 19.5] from the mean percent change for all States). In contrast, five States (Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Delaware, and Nebraska) exhibited substantial declines in performance on this measure. Delaware and Pennsylvania, however, despite declines in performance, still exhibited low rates of child maltreatment recurrence. Also, changes from 1999 to 2000 may be attributed at least in part to States’ efforts to increase the accuracy of data reported to NCANDS.

**Figure 2.** *Percent change in the percentages of children experiencing a recurrence of maltreatment from FY 1999 to FY 2000 (outcome measure 1.1)*



The overall performance of States in 2000 regarding this measure, as well as the number of States demonstrating substantial increases in this measure, suggest that the protection of children is a challenge for many States and that greater efforts are needed to ensure children’s safety. This concern is particularly critical in light of the possibility that the maltreatment recurrence rate calculated for outcome measure 1.1 may represent an undercount in many States, particularly in States that do not investigate maltreatment reports on families if there is an open case in the agency on that family.

**Outcome 2: Reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect in foster care**

A fundamental tenet of child welfare practice is that when children are removed from their homes and placed in the care and/or custody of the State child welfare agency, they will be placed in safe environments. Information from the CFSTRs indicates that this was most often the case—substantiated incidences of maltreatment in foster care by foster parents or facility staff members were rare. When maltreatment was found to occur, it appeared to result from poor matching of children and foster placements, overcrowding in foster family homes, or the absence of a clear State policy regarding use of physical restraints in residential care facilities.

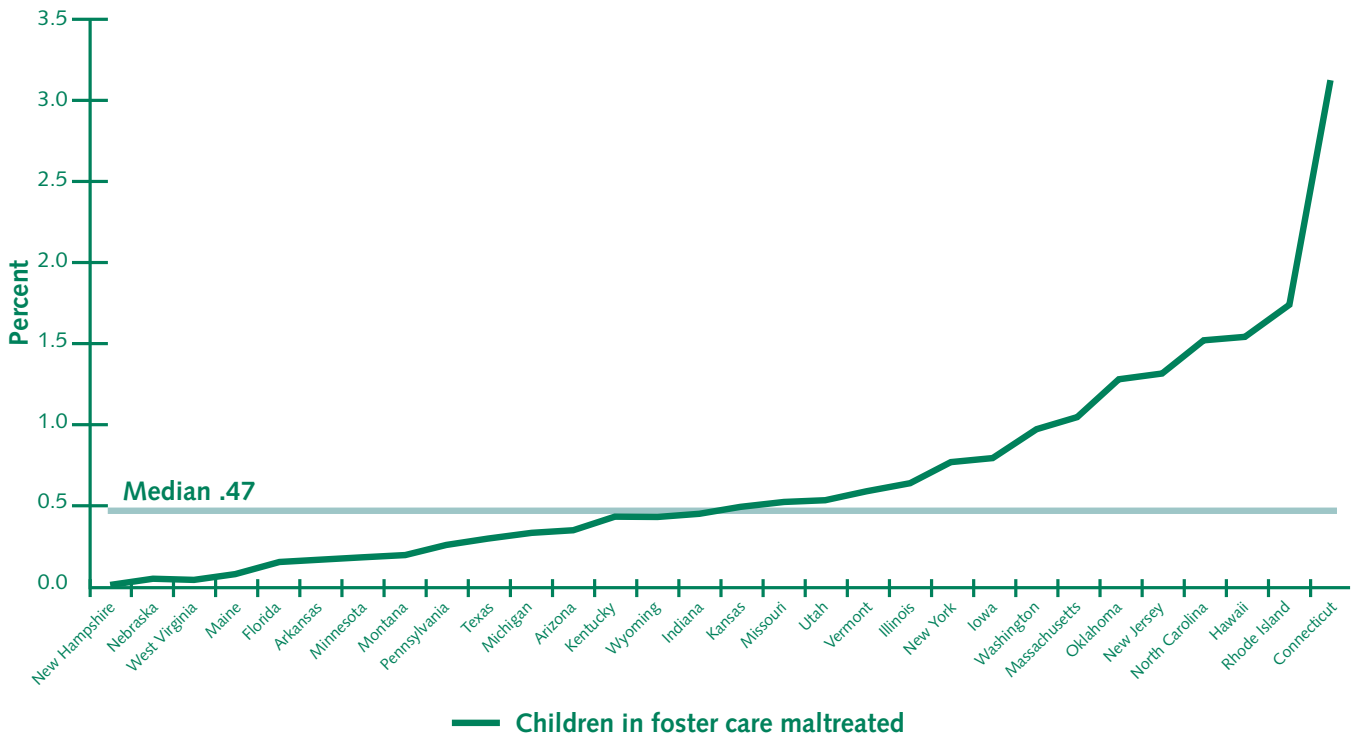
For the Outcomes Report, the following measure assesses this outcome:

*Outcome Measure 2.1: Of all children who were in foster care during the reporting period, what percentage was the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member?*

As noted in Chapter 2, there are several problems with the validity of this measure. However, the measure does permit a general picture of the extent of child maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members.

In 2000, 31 States reported sufficient data to NCANDS and AFCARS to calculate this measure (compared to 21 States in 1999). The key finding of the data analysis was that the percentage of children who experience maltreatment in foster care is small for all States, ranging from 0.0 to 3.11, with a median of .45 percent. Nineteen States (61 percent) met the national standard of .57 percent established for this measure. However, the distribution of percentages across States shown in figure 3 indicates that in 7 States (23 percent), more than 1 percent of the children in foster care experienced a substantiated report of

**Figure 3.** *The distribution of States' performances relevant to the percentages of children in foster care experiencing maltreatment from foster parents or facility staff in 2000 (outcome measure 2.1)*



maltreatment by foster care providers or facility staff in 2000. Although this is a small percentage, it is important to remember that the safety of each child represented in the statistic has been entrusted to the State.

Change in performance with regard to this measure is depicted in figure 4 for the 19 States providing data for the measure in 1999 and 2000. Because of the small percentages, the percent change in performance ranges considerably from -83 percent to +260 percent, with a mean percent change of +56.1 (SD = 103.5). Only one State (Florida) exhibited a substantial improvement in performance on this measure from 1999 to 2000. In contrast, four States (Washington, Wyoming, Vermont, and Arizona) exhibited substantial declines in performance, although Wyoming and Arizona continued to meet the national standard.

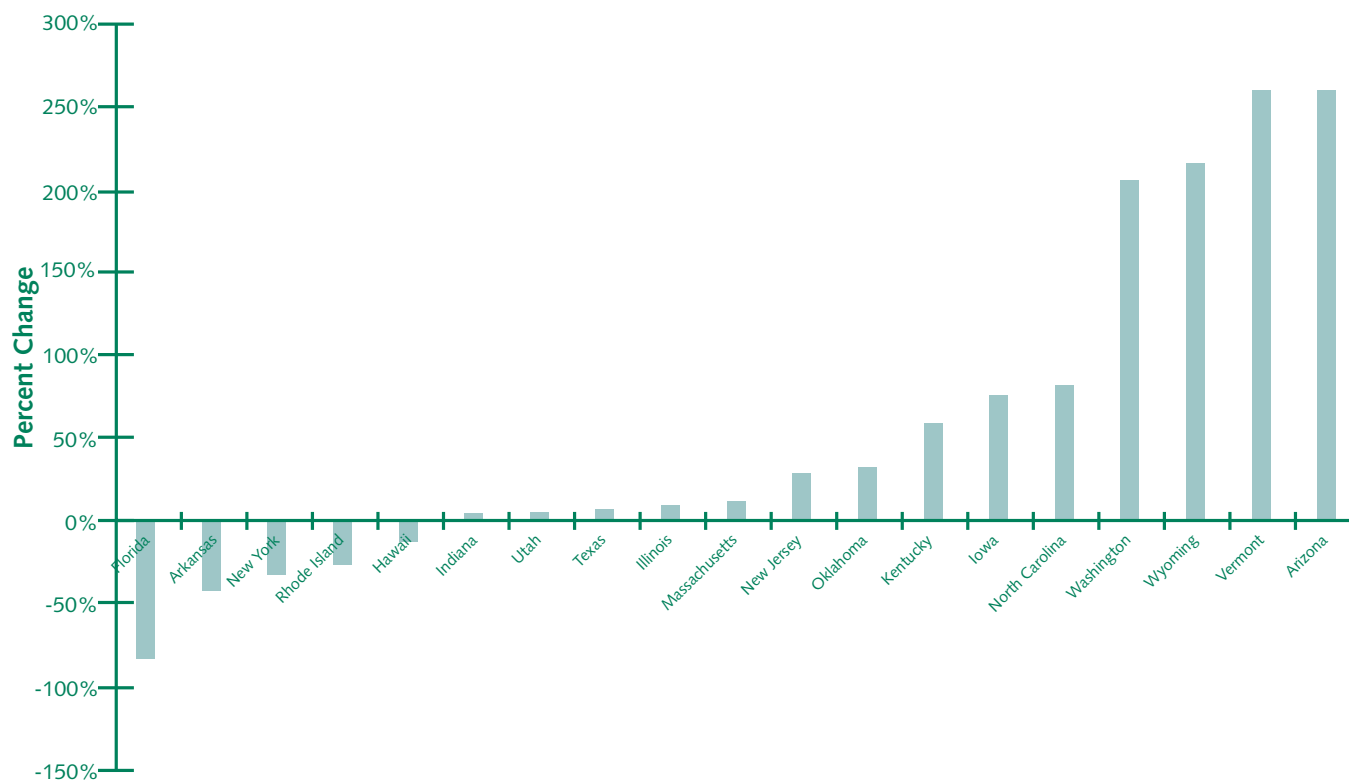
The findings for this analysis suggest that maltreatment in foster care is not a frequently occurring event. However, in some States the rate of maltreatment of children by their foster parents or facility staff suggests that greater efforts are needed to protect children who are in State custody.

**Outcome 3: Increase permanency for children in foster care**

An ongoing concern among policy makers and child welfare professionals is that too many children experience foster care as a “permanent” living arrangement. When these children leave the foster care system, it is usually because they have “aged out” of the system or “run away,” rather than because a permanent home was found for them. The Department’s efforts with regard to permanency are based on the belief that foster care is a temporary arrangement and not a place for children to grow up. Consequently, permanency planning efforts for children should begin as soon as a child enters foster care.

Preliminary CFSR findings indicate that many States are making diligent efforts to find permanent homes for children and have implemented policies and practices that make it more difficult for caseworkers to establish long-term foster care as a child’s “permanency” goal. However, in some States, these efforts do not apply equally to all children. Children who are “older,” who have disabilities, or who have behavior/emotional problems often are classified by child welfare agency staff and/or juvenile or family court judges as “unadoptable.” When reunification is not possible for these children labeled “unadoptable,” efforts rarely are made to seek other permanent arrangements. In one State, for example, only children age 6 or younger are eligible for a program implemented specifically to expedite permanency for children.

**Figure 4.** *Percent change in the percentages of children experiencing maltreatment from foster parents or facility staff in 2000 (outcome measure 2.1)*



CFSR information also suggests that permanency for children may be enhanced when States permit guardianship as a permanency option, and, in particular, when they have established subsidized guardianship programs for relatives and/or foster parents. Finally, in some States participating in a CFSR, there were financial deterrents to permanency, particularly for older children. For example, older children who age out of foster care often are eligible for a range of independent living services and college tuition benefits that are not available to children who have been adopted from the system or who are in a legal guardianship arrangement. The Federal Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) does permit States to use CFCIP funds for children who have been adopted or who have been discharged from foster care to legal guardians, if they wish to do so. However, in many States independent living services are supported by State as well as Federal funds, and States may choose not to provide independent living services or college tuition benefits to children who do not age out of foster care. In addition, at present, college tuition benefits are determined by State policies or laws and are not affected by the availability of Federal funds through the CFCIP.

For the Outcomes Reports, the performance of States with regard to increasing permanency for children is assessed by the following five measures:

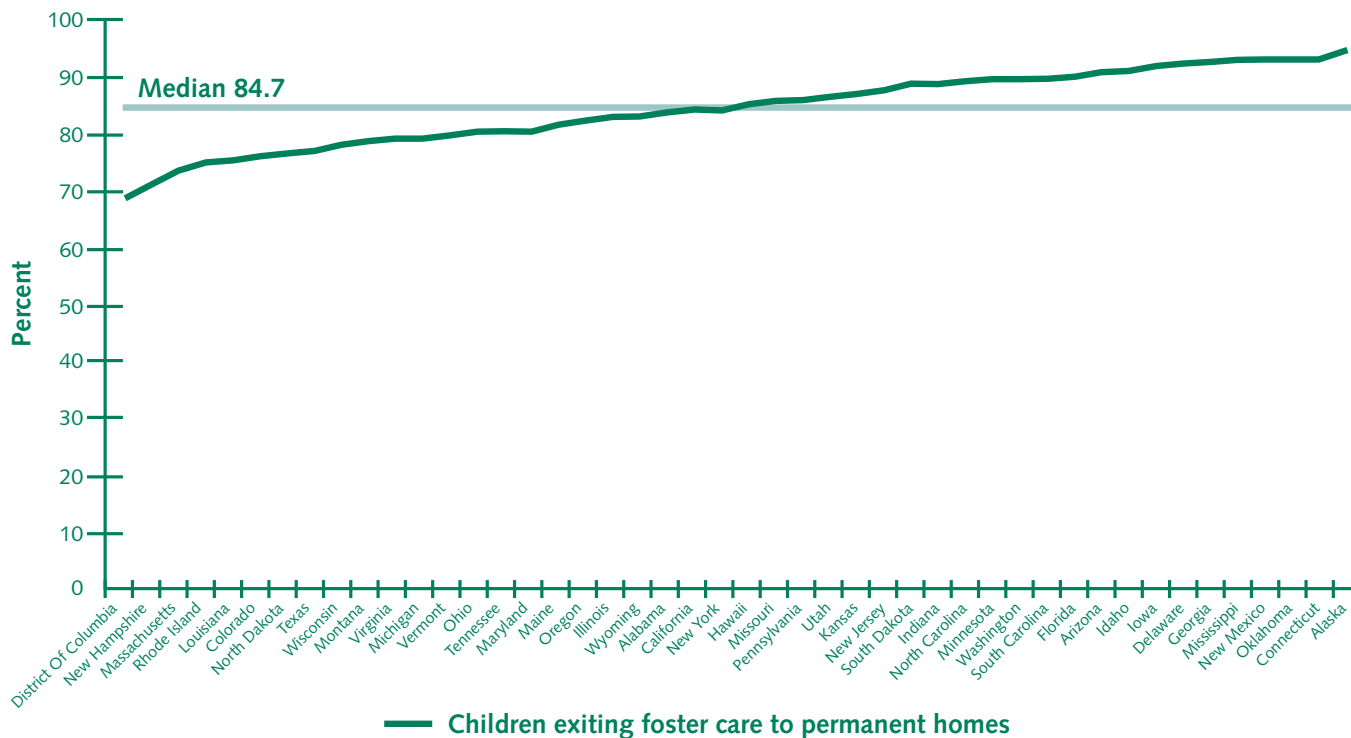
- *Measure 3.1: For all children who exited foster care, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?*
- *Measure 3.2: For children who exited foster care and were identified as having a diagnosed disability, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?*
- *Measure 3.3: For children who exited foster care and were older than age 12 at the time of their most recent entry into care, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?*
- *Measure 3.4: Of all children exiting foster care to emancipation, what percentage was age 12 or younger at the time of entry into care?*
- *Measure 3.5: For all children who exited foster care, what percentage by racial/ethnic category left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?*

In the analyses conducted on these measures (excluding measure 3.4), exits to reunification, adoption and legal guardianship were grouped together as “exits to permanency.” The key findings of the analyses of each measure are presented below.



**Outcome measure 3.1.** Forty-six States provided sufficient data to calculate measure 3.1 in fiscal year (FY) 2000. As shown in figure 5, States included in this analysis exhibited high levels of performance. The percentages of children exiting to permanency ranged from 68.6 to 94.5, with a median of 84.7 percent. In 11 States (24 percent), more than 90 percent of the children exiting foster care during fiscal year (FY) 2000 exited to permanency.

**Figure 5.** *The distribution of States' performance relevant to the percentages of children exiting to permanent homes in FY 2000 (outcome measure 3.1)*



Forty-five States reported sufficient data for this measure for FY 1999 and 2000. The percent change from 1999 to 2000, depicted in figure 6, ranged from +20.2 percent to -12.9 percent, with a mean percent change of .9 and a standard deviation of 5.2. Five States (Ohio, Georgia, Minnesota, Tennessee, and New Hampshire) exhibited substantial improvements in performance on this outcome. In contrast, five States (DC, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Louisiana, and Utah) demonstrated substantial declines in performance.

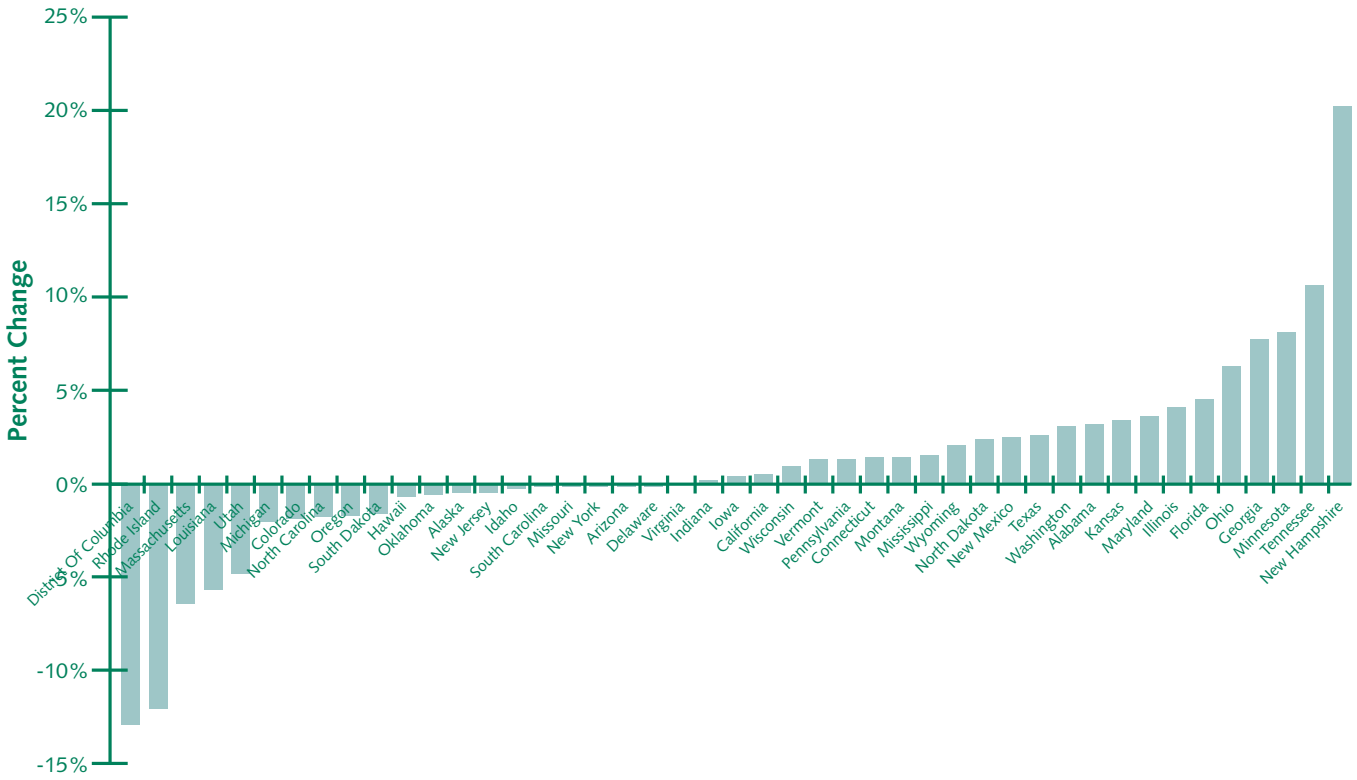
At this time, it is not clear whether changes in performance on outcome measure 3.1 from 1999 to 2000 reflect real changes in the attainment of permanency for children, or whether data quality issues may account for the observed changes. In general, however, in most States, the majority of children exiting foster care are exiting to permanent homes. Even those States exhibiting substantial declines in performance on this measure from 1999 to 2000 continued to demonstrate high percentages of children exiting to permanent homes.

**Outcome measure 3.2.** Measure 3.2 was designed to assess whether a State's effectiveness in finding permanent homes for children exiting foster care in FY 2000 applied equally to children with a diagnosed disability. Because not all States are consistent in their reporting of the AFCARS data element pertaining to diagnosed disability, only 37 States were included in the data analyses for this measure.<sup>5</sup>

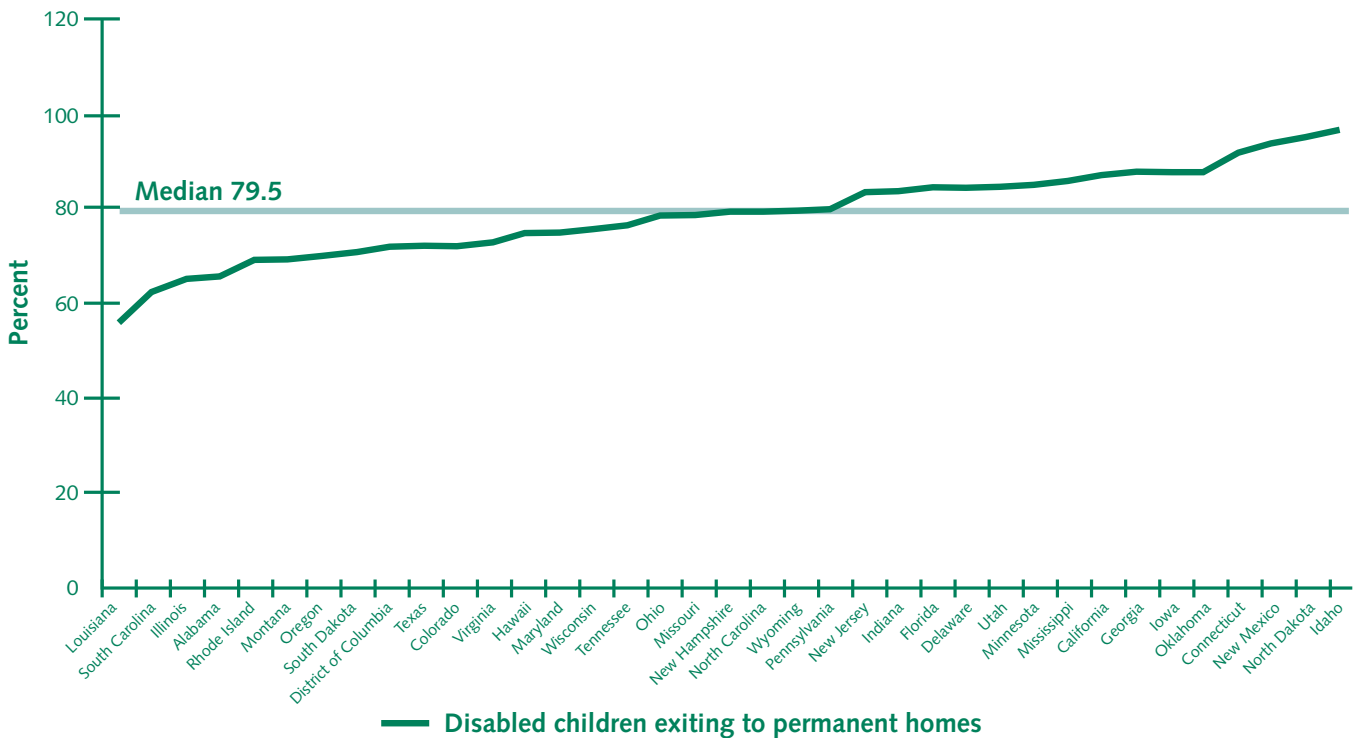
The distribution of performance on this measure across the 37 States included in the analysis is shown in figure 7. The percentages of children with diagnosed disabilities exiting foster care to a permanent home ranged from 55.9 to 96.7, with a

<sup>5</sup> States were excluded from the analyses if more than 20 percent of exits did not have "reason for discharge" information or if the percentage of children exiting care who were identified as having a diagnosed disability was less than one standard deviation below the mean for all States reporting data for this measure.

**Figure 6.** Percent change in the percentages of children exiting to permanent homes from FY 1999 to FY 2000 (outcome measure 3.1)



**Figure 7.** The distribution of States' performance relevant to the percentages of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care to permanent homes in FY 2000 (outcome measure 3.2)

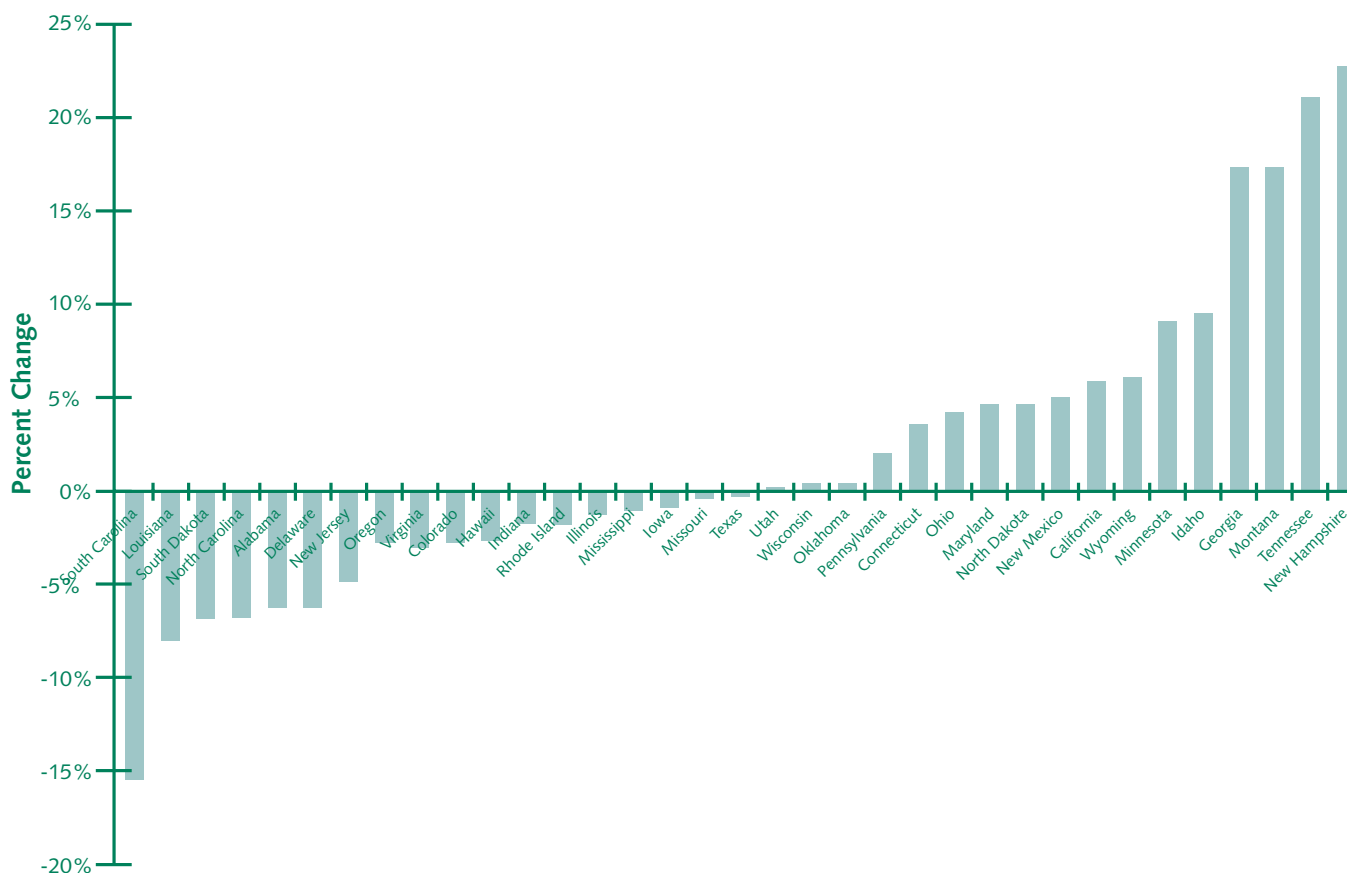


median of 78.8 percent. In 15 States, more than 80 percent of the children with a diagnosed disability exited to a permanent home.

An independent t-test to assess differences between means was conducted to compare the performance of States on outcome measure 3.2 in FY 2000 with performance on outcome measure 3.1 in FY 2000. The purpose of the statistical test was to determine whether the population included in outcome measure 3.2 (children with a diagnosed disability) represented a distinct subsample of the population included in 3.1 with regard to attainment of permanency for children exiting foster care in FY 2000. This analysis resulted in the finding of a significant difference in the performance of States on measures 3.1 and 3.2 ( $t=2.9$ ;  $p=0.005$ ), indicating that States experienced significantly less success in achieving permanency for children with a diagnosed disability who exited care than in achieving permanency for all children who exited foster care.

Changes in performance from 1999 to 2000 for measure 3.2 are depicted in figure 8. The percent change ranged from -15.4 to +22.8, with a mean percent change of 1.7 (SD = 8.2). Four States (Georgia, Montana, Tennessee, and New Hampshire) exhibited substantial improvements in performance on this measure; for two of these States (New Hampshire and Tennessee) the percent change was more than two standard deviations from the mean. Four States (South Carolina, Louisiana, South Dakota and North Carolina) exhibited substantial declines in performance on this measure.

**Figure 8.** *Percent change from FY 1999 to FY 2000 in the percentages of children with a diagnosed disability exiting foster care to permanent homes (outcome measure 3.2)*

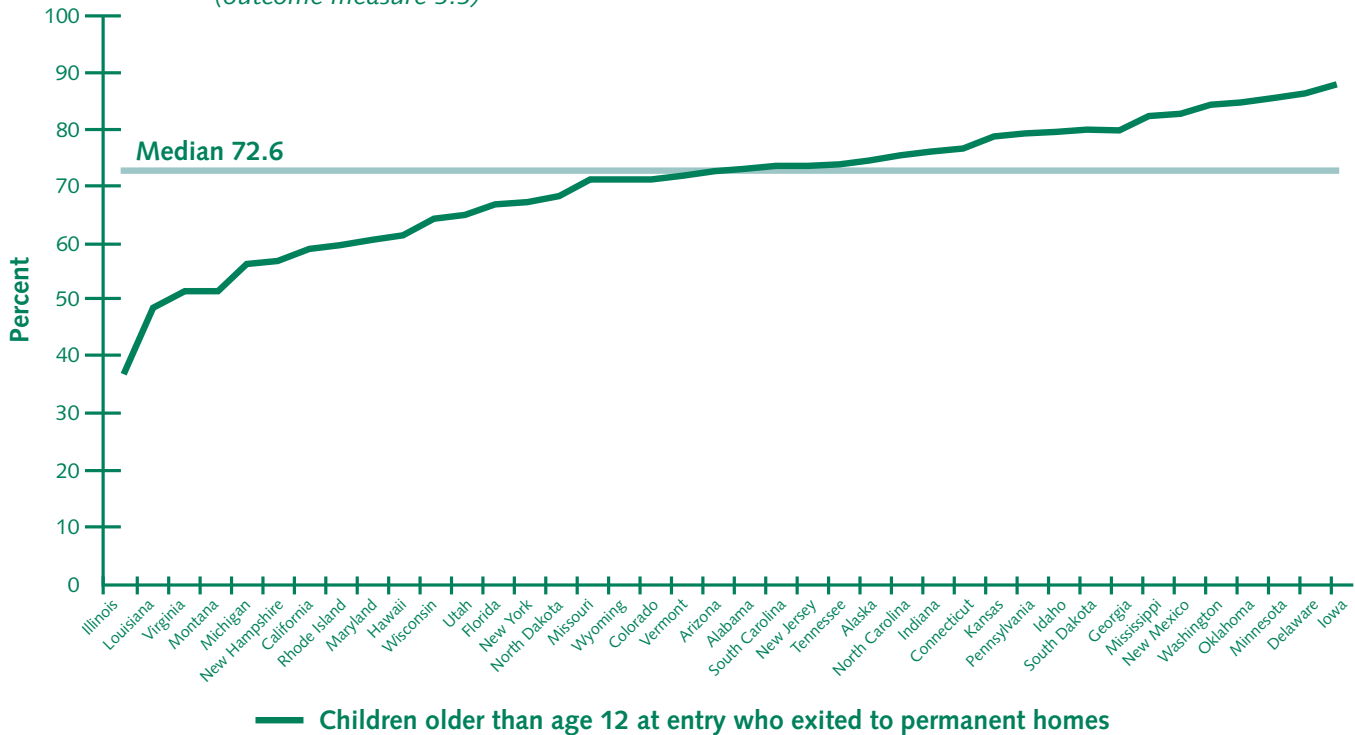


The findings for the analysis of measure 3.2 suggest that, although many States are experiencing some success in achieving permanency for children with a diagnosed disability, greater efforts are needed to find permanent homes for these children. The findings with regard to attaining permanency for these children are consistent with preliminary information from the CFSRs indicating that in some States, child welfare agency staff and/or juvenile or family court judges do not make concerted

efforts to establish permanency goals of adoption or guardianship for children with disabilities for whom reunification is an unlikely option.

**Outcome measure 3.3.** Measure 3.3 was designed to assess whether a State’s effectiveness in attaining permanency for children exiting foster care applied to children who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care. The distribution in performance for the 40 States providing sufficient data for this measure is presented in figure 9. The percentage of children exiting foster care to a permanent home who entered foster care when they were older than age 12 ranged from 37.0 to 87.5, with a median of 72.6. This median is 12 percentage points less than the median for outcome measure 3.1.

**Figure 9.** *The distribution of States' performance relevant to the percentages of children exiting foster care to a permanent home in FY 2000 who were older than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care (outcome measure 3.3)*

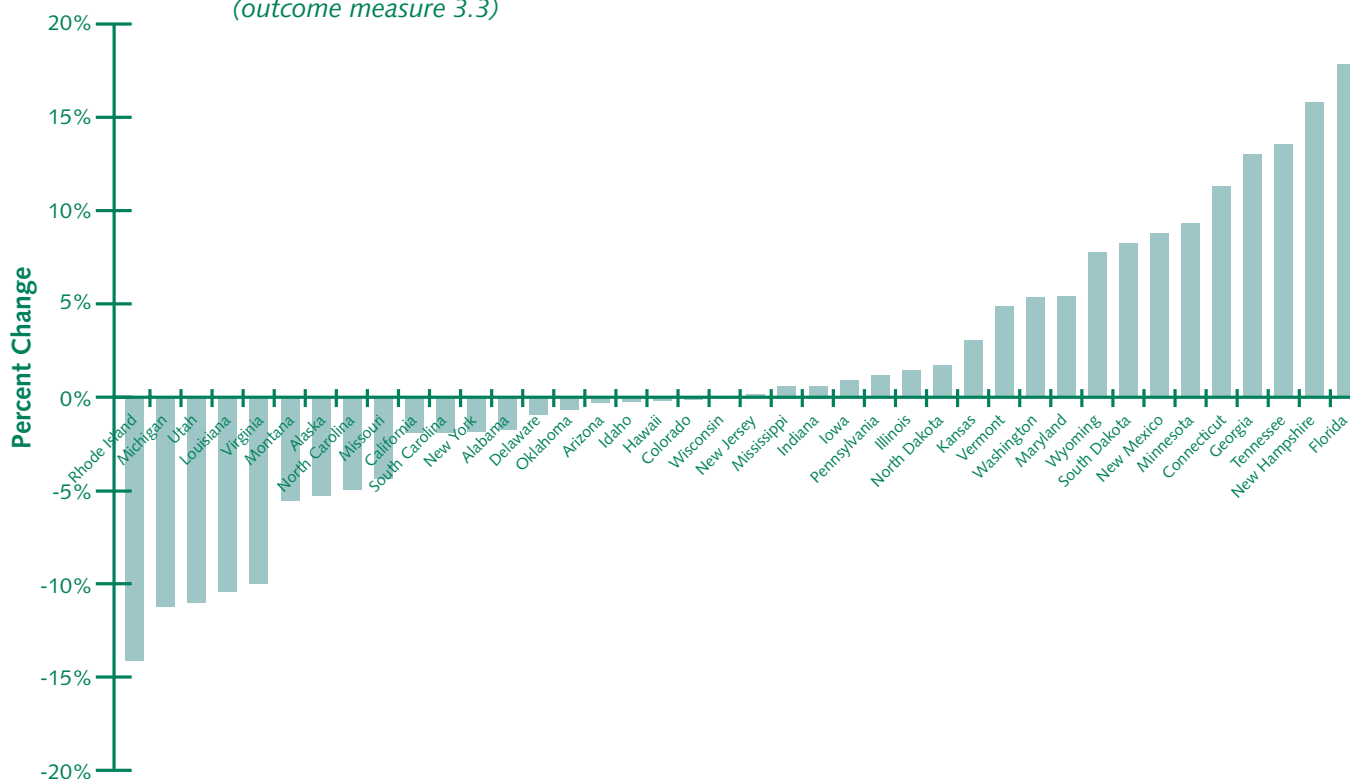


An independent t-test was conducted to compare the performance of States on this measure with their performance on measures 3.1 and 3.2. The difference in performance on measures 3.3 and 3.1 was found to be significant ( $t = 7.3$ ;  $p = 0.0001$ ), indicating that children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care represent a distinct subsample of the total population. These children were significantly less likely to exit foster care to a permanent home than all children who exited foster care in FY 2000. The performance of States on measures 3.3 and 3.2 also was found to be significantly different ( $t = 3.5$ ;  $p = 0.001$ ). This finding indicates that children who were older than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care were significantly less likely than children with a diagnosed disability to exit foster care to a permanent home.

An additional finding with regard to measure 3.3 is that when these children do exit to permanency, they exit to reunification. In fact, the mean percent of exits to reunification in FY 2000 for children who were older than 12 at the time of entry into foster care was 67.3, which accounts for a substantial portion of the mean percent of exits to all permanency options (70.3). Exits to adoption and guardianship were rare occurrences for these children, although exits to guardianships occurred more frequently than exits to adoption. Although there were only 3 States (Illinois, Indiana, and Montana) in which more than 2 percent of these children exited to adoption, there were 18 States in which more than 2 percent of these children exited to guardianship.

Forty States provided sufficient data to assess change in performance on this measure from FY 1999 to FY 2000. As shown in figure 10, the percent change ranged from -14.1 to 17.7, with a mean percent change of 1.0 (SD = 7.4). Seven States (New Mexico, Minnesota, Connecticut, Georgia, Tennessee, New Hampshire, and Florida) exhibited substantial improvements in performance on this measure from 1999 to 2000. Substantial declines in performance on this measure were found for five States (Rhode Island, Michigan, Utah, Louisiana, and Virginia). The findings for the analysis of outcome measure 3.3 are consistent with preliminary CFSR information indicating that in some States participating in the CFSR, child welfare agency staff and/or judges were unlikely to establish adoption or guardianship as a permanency goal for older children if reunification is not possible. For the most part, the findings suggest that greater efforts are needed to find permanent homes for children who enter foster care as teenagers and for whom reunification does not appear to be a likely outcome.

**Figure 10.** Percent change from FY 1999 to FY 2000 in the percentages of children exiting foster care to a permanent home who were older than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care (outcome measure 3.3)

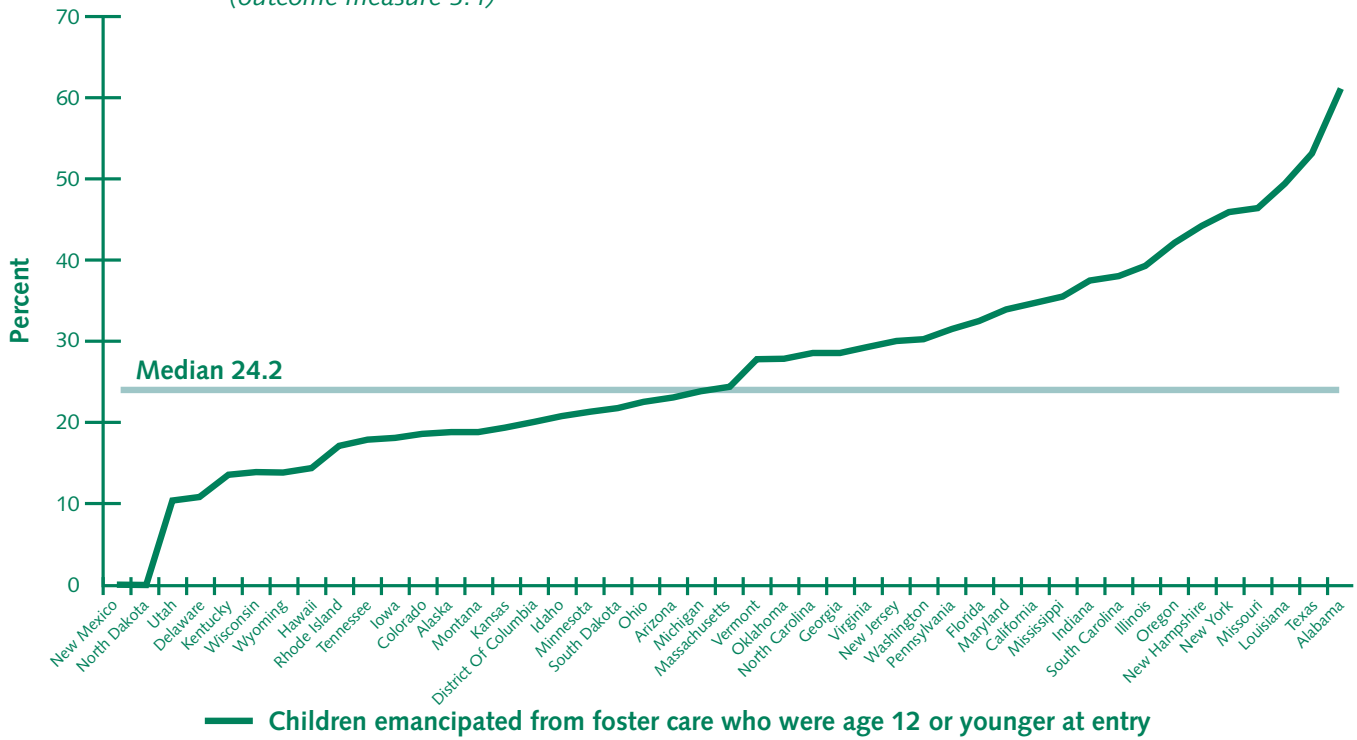


**Outcome measure 3.4.** The primary purpose of outcome measure 3.4 is to assess the percentage of children “aging out” of foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care. For these children, foster care may be viewed as the “place” where they grew up. Because it is a basic tenet of the Department that foster care is a temporary arrangement, States’ performance on this measure is of considerable interest.

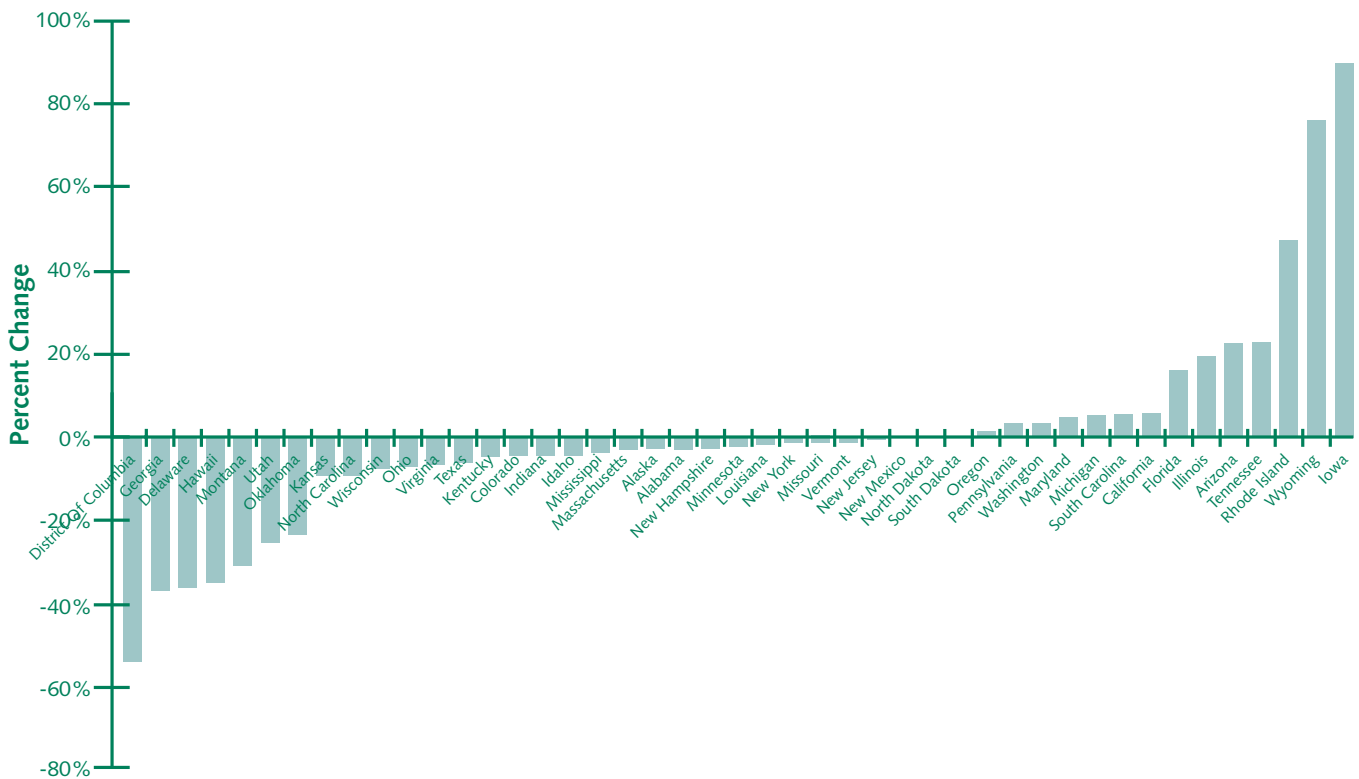
In FY 2000, 45 States provided data sufficient to calculate this measure. As shown in figure 11, the percentages of children who were emancipated from foster care, and who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care, ranged from 0.0 to 61.2, with a median of 24.2 percent (SD = 13.2). Most States fell below the midpoint (30.6 percent) of the range. However, 15 States were above the midpoint of the range with more than 31 percent of the children emancipated from foster care being age 12 or younger when they entered foster care.

The analysis of change in performance on this measure from 1999 to 2000, depicted in figure 12, indicates a range in percent change from -54.1 to 89.8 (SD=25.0 percent). Six States (DC, Georgia, Delaware, Hawaii, Montana, and Utah) exhibited substantial improvements in performance on this measure (SD=25.0 percent). Although three States (Rhode Island, Wyoming,

**Figure 11.** The distribution of States' performances relevant to the percentages of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care (outcome measure 3.4)



**Figure 12.** Percent change from FY 1999 to FY 2000 in the percentages of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care (outcome 3.4)

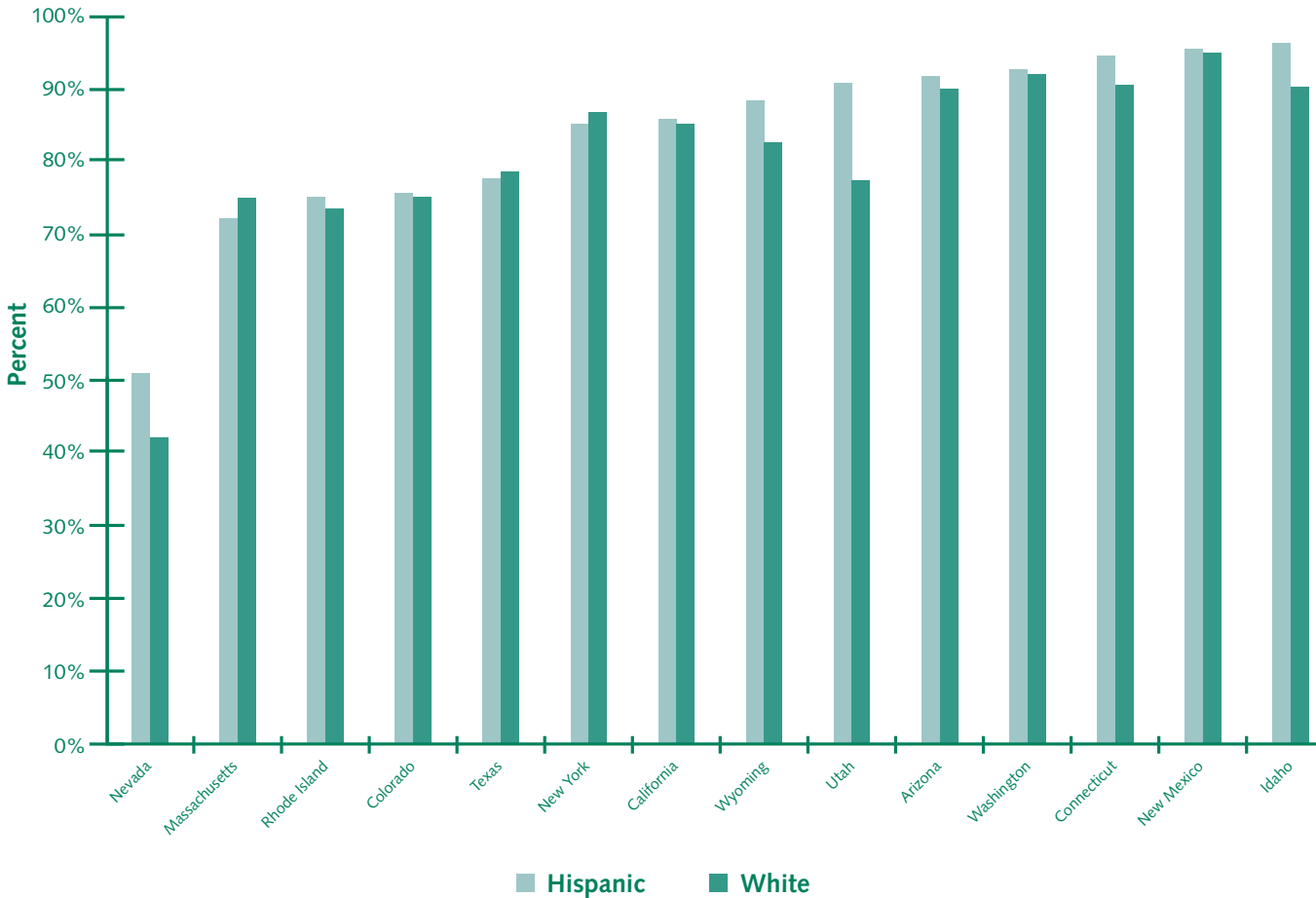


and Iowa) exhibited substantial declines in performance on this measure, these States still exhibited relatively small percentages of children aging out of foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care.

The findings for this measure are difficult to interpret because not all States consistently report “emancipation” as a discharge reason for children aging out of foster care. Because children who leave foster care when they become of age often go to live with their parents or relatives, some States will report this as a discharge to reunification. In addition, some States do not have “emancipation” as a discharge reason in their own systems, and the reason provided may be recorded in AFCARS as missing data. Finally, in some States, children are not automatically emancipated from foster care at age 18, but may no longer be reported to AFCARS. Although these data issues remain to be resolved, the available data suggest that greater efforts are needed in some States to ensure that young children entering foster care exit to permanent homes as quickly as possible.

**Outcome measure 3.5.** Measure 3.5 is designed to assess whether the performance of States with respect to achieving permanency for children exiting foster care varies as a function of children’s race or ethnicity. Figure 13 provides the results of the analysis of States’ effectiveness in achieving permanency for White children (excluding children of Hispanic origin) compared to Hispanic children. This comparison includes only the 14 States in which at least 10 percent of the children exiting foster care were reported to be Hispanic.<sup>6</sup> As demonstrated in figure 13, for all of the States except Utah and Nevada, the rate of exits to permanent homes did not differ as a function of race/ethnicity. In Utah, 90.7 percent of Hispanics exited to permanency compared to only 77.1 percent of White children; in Nevada, 51.1 percent of Hispanic children exited to permanency compared to 42.1 percent of White children. A t-test comparing percentages of exits to permanent homes for Hispanic and White children resulted in a finding of no significant difference ( $t=0.591, p=0.560$ ).

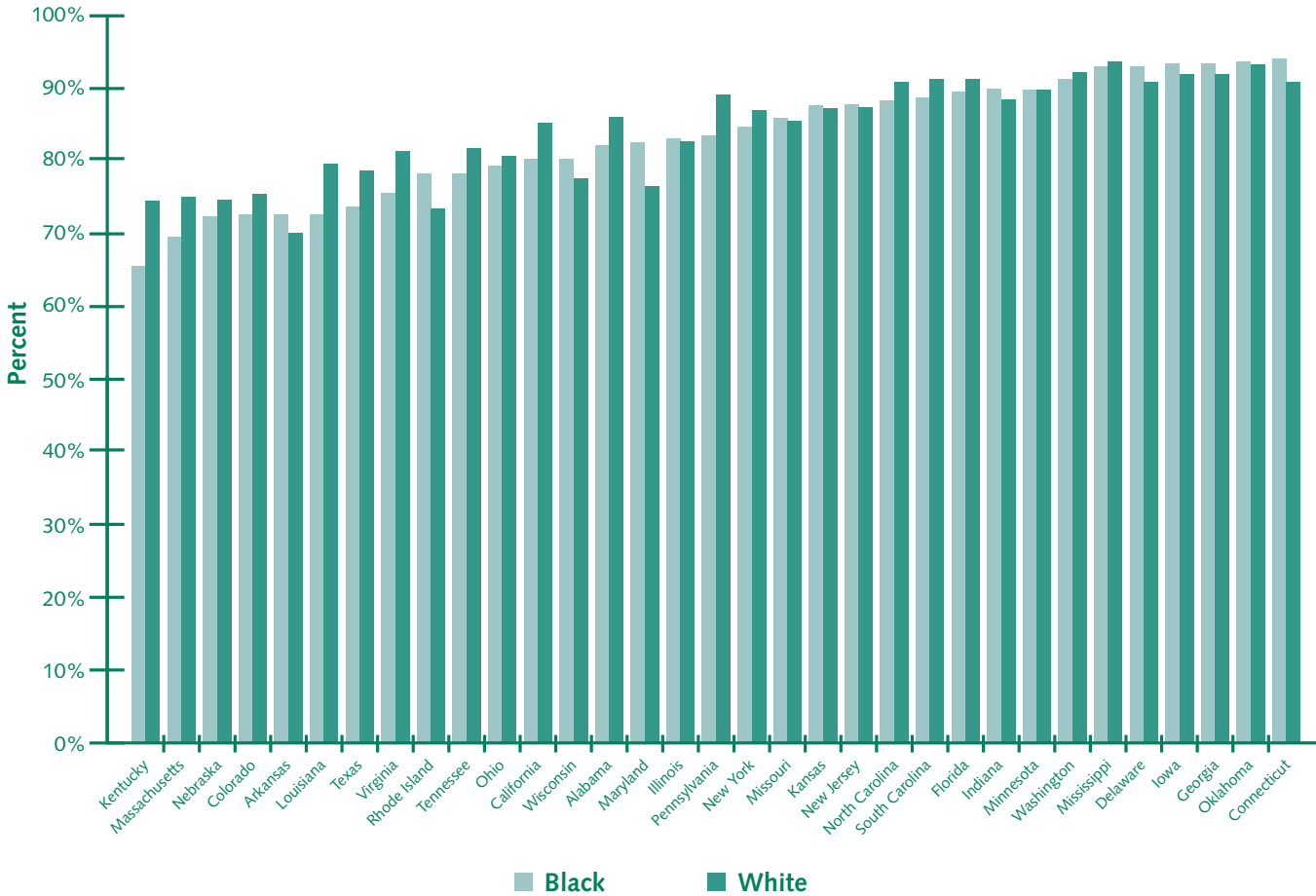
**Figure 13.** Comparison of States' performance with regard to exits to permanent homes for Hispanic and White children (outcome measure 3.5)



<sup>6</sup> The 10-percent level was chosen to ensure that there were a sufficient number of children represented in the group for a meaningful comparison.

Figure 14 provides the results of the analysis of States' effectiveness in achieving permanency for White children compared to Black children for the 33 States in which at least 10 percent of the children exiting foster care were Black and at least 10 percent were White. As shown in the graph, exits to permanency for these States did not vary as a function of race, with the possible exception of Kentucky, in which 65.4 percent of the Black children exited to permanent homes compared to 74.2 percent of White children. The t-test comparing percentages of exits to permanent homes for Black children and White children resulted in a finding of no significant difference ( $t=0.647$ ;  $p=0.520$ ).

**Figure 14.** Comparison of States' performance with regard to exits to permanent homes for Black and White children (outcome measure 3.5)



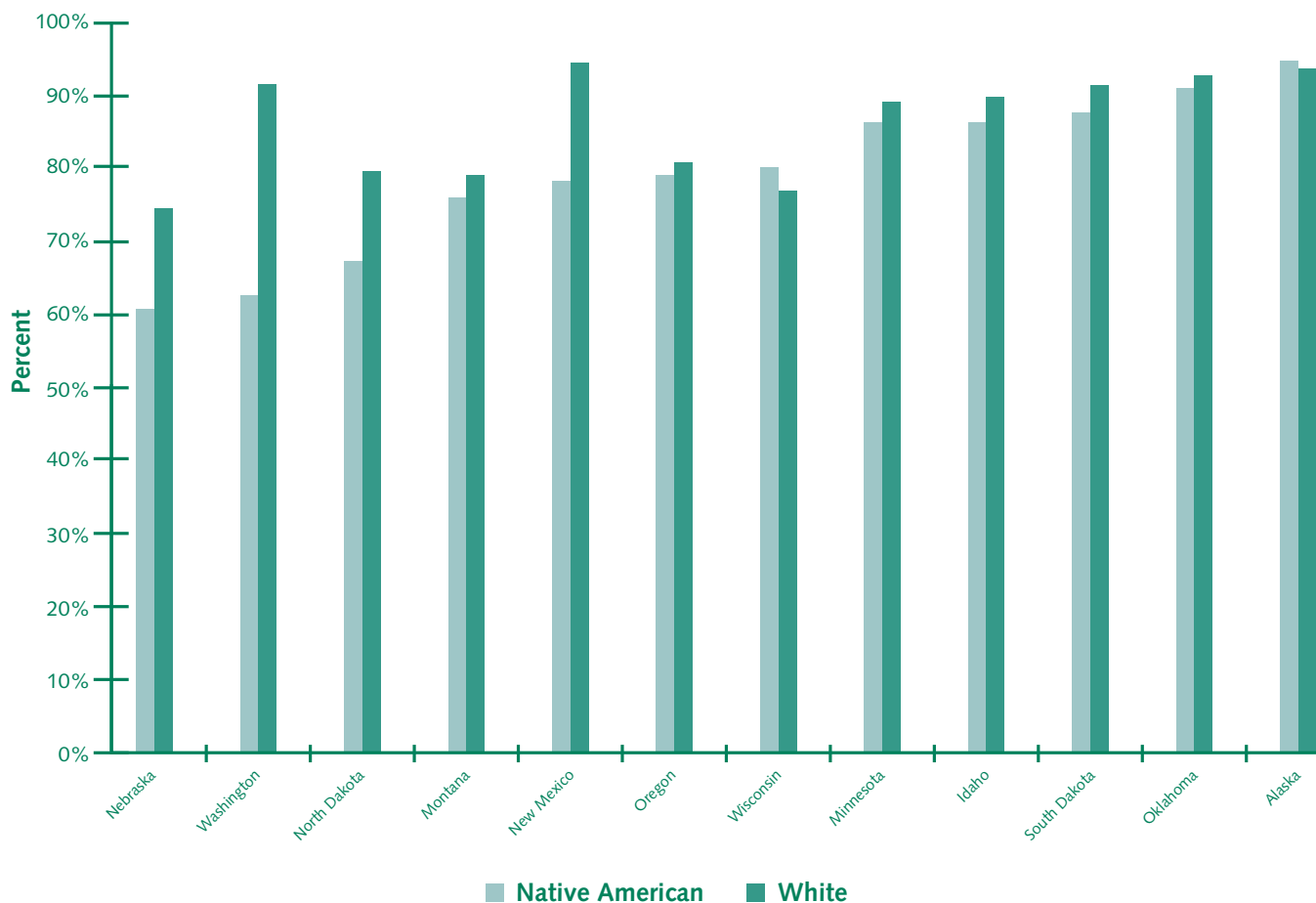
For Native American children, the analysis focused on 12 States in which at least 5 percent of the children exiting foster care were Native American. Figure 15 provides the comparisons for these States. As shown in the figure, the difference between exits to permanency for Native American children compared to White children was considerable in Nebraska, Washington, North Dakota, and New Mexico, with White children far more likely to exit to permanent homes than Native American children. In addition, although the t-test conducted to compare these variables for the 12 States did not reach the 0.05 level of significance, it did approach significance ( $t=1.84$ ;  $p=0.080$ ).

**Summary of findings for measures for outcome 3**

The analyses of the five measures developed to assess outcome 3 indicate that most States experienced success in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care in FY 2000. In addition, in most States, success in achieving permanency for these children did not vary as a function of the child's race or ethnicity. It should be noted, however, that this measure does not assess time to permanency, only the attainment of permanency.



**Figure 15.** Comparison of States' performance with regard to exits to permanent homes for Native American children and White children (outcome measure 3.5)



Despite the general success in attaining permanency, the analyses also demonstrate that success did not apply equally to all children. Children with diagnosed disabilities and children who were older than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care were at greater risk than other children of not exiting foster care to a permanent home. In fact, children who were older than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care were at greater risk than children with a diagnosed disability of not achieving a permanent home by the time they exited foster care. Another finding of concern pertained to the percentages of children exiting foster care to emancipation who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care. Although in most States this percentage was quite low, there were a number of States in which a substantial percentage of children who exited foster care in FY 2000 may be said to have grown up in the child welfare system.

Changes in performance from 1999 to 2000 across the measures did not follow any clear pattern. For almost all measures, as many States exhibited improvements in performance as exhibited declines in performance. With additional years of data, it should become clearer whether changes in data from 1999 to 2000 reflect real changes in performance or changes in data quality.

**Outcome 4. Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry**

Although achieving permanency for children is an important goal in general, it also is important that permanency be achieved as quickly as possible so that children spend a minimal amount of time in temporary living arrangements. The timeliness of permanency was a key issue addressed in the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997, and is a major focus of the Department's CFSR. As a result of the concern regarding timeliness of permanency, the Department developed a measure to assess time to reunification for children exiting foster care. However, to ensure that reunification is not achieved at the expense of children's safety, a second outcome measure was developed to assess the rate of re-entry into foster care.

Preliminary CFSR information indicates extensive variations among States with regard to the timeliness of reunifications. Some States participating in the CFSR during FY 2001 and FY 2002 were found to make diligent efforts to reunify families in a timely manner. In these States, the child welfare agency consistently provided services to parents to reduce the risk of harm to children, placed children in proximity to parents, ensured that the frequency of visitation between children and parents met their needs, provided services to ensure that the bond between parents and children was maintained or promoted, and/or involved families in the case planning process on an ongoing basis. Also, courts in these States were diligent in adhering to ASFA timelines and conducting permanency hearings. Other States, however, were found to be less consistent with respect to these efforts.

Variation among States also was found for the frequency of re-entries into foster care. A key problem identified by the CFSRs pertaining to re-entry into foster care was that many States are not consistent in the provision of post-reunification services to support families after children are returned home.

The measures assessing outcome 4 for the Outcomes Report are the following:

- *Measure 4.1: Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, what percentage was reunified in the following time periods?*
  - (1) *Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home*
  - (2) *At least 12 months, but less than 24 months*
  - (3) *At least 24 months, but less than 36 months*
  - (4) *At least 36 months, but less than 48 months*
  - (5) *48 or more months*
  
- *Measure 4.2: Of all children who entered foster care during the reporting period, what percentage re-entered care in the following time periods?*
  - (1) *Within 12 months of a prior foster care episode*
  - (2) *More than 12 months after a prior foster care episode*

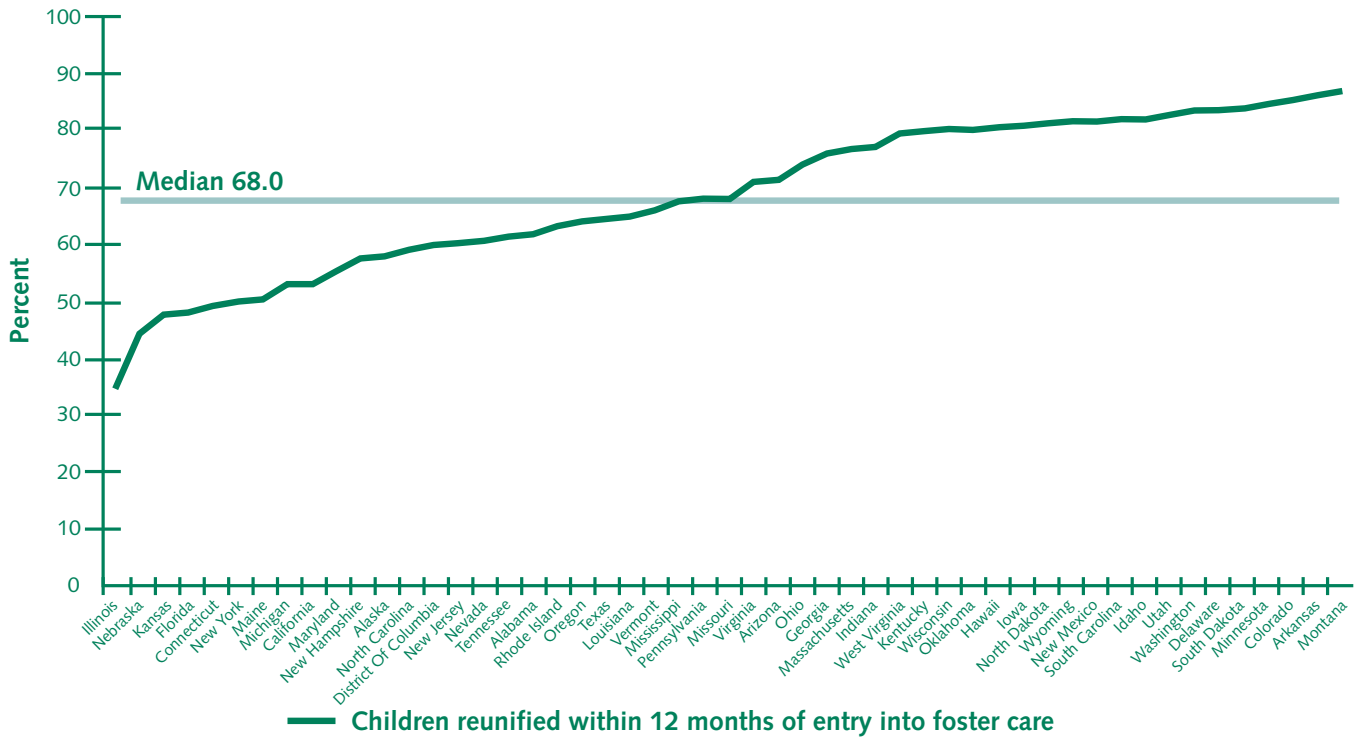
**Outcome 4.1.** In FY 2000, 51 States provided sufficient data for outcome measure 4.1. The analyses focused on the percentage of exits to reunification that occurred (1) within 12 months of the most recent entry into foster care and, (2) in 36 or more months from the most recent entry into foster care (combining data for 4 and 5, above).

As shown in figure 16, the percentages of children reunified within 12 months of entry into foster care ranged from 34.9 to 87.0, with a median of 68.0 percent. Twenty-one States (41 percent) met the national standard of 76.2 percent for this measure. However, in 5 States, fewer than 50 percent of the children were reunified within 12 months of entry into foster care. Fifty States had sufficient data to assess change in performance on this measure from FY 1999 to FY 2000. The percent change in performance, depicted in figure 17, ranged from -21 to 20.5, with a mean percent change of 2.0 (SD=7.6). Six States (North Dakota, Utah, Louisiana, Maryland, Indiana, and Georgia) exhibited substantial improvements in this measure. Five States (Maine, Nebraska, Michigan, New York, and Connecticut) exhibited substantial declines in performance; none of these five States performed higher than the median in either FY 1999 or FY 2000.

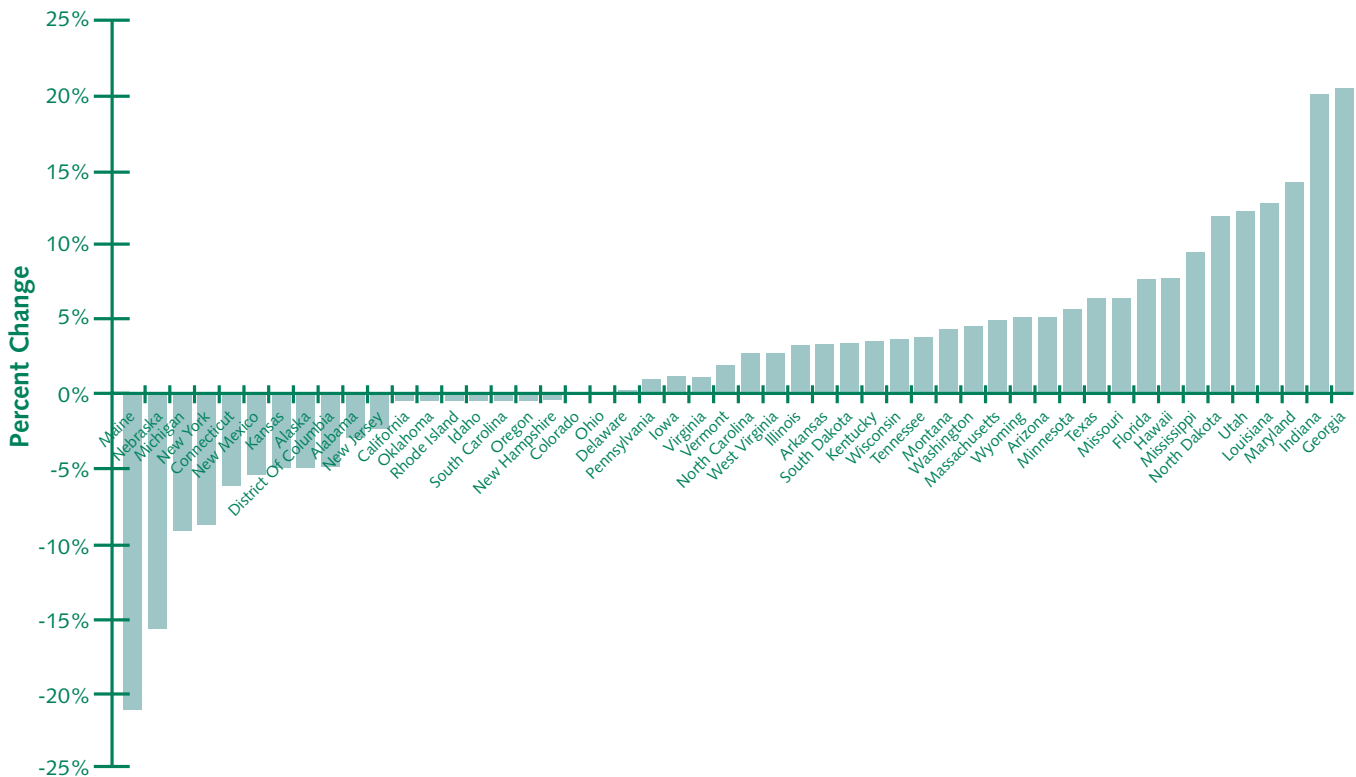
In FY 2000, the percentages of children exiting to reunification who were reunified 36 or more months after entry into foster care ranged from 0.2 to 28.1, with a median of 5.1 percent. As shown in figure 18, the majority of the States performed below the midpoint of the range (14.2 percent), with only three States (Maryland, New York, and Illinois) clustering at the upper end of the range. Overall, in 40 of the 51 States included in this analysis, less than 10 percent of the children who were reunified in FY 2000 were in care for more than 36 months.

Percent changes from FY 1999 to FY 2000 with respect to children reunified 36 or more months after entry into foster care ranged from -76.6 to +92.6, with a mean percent change of -8.7 (SD = 28.1). As shown in figure 19, thirty-three States

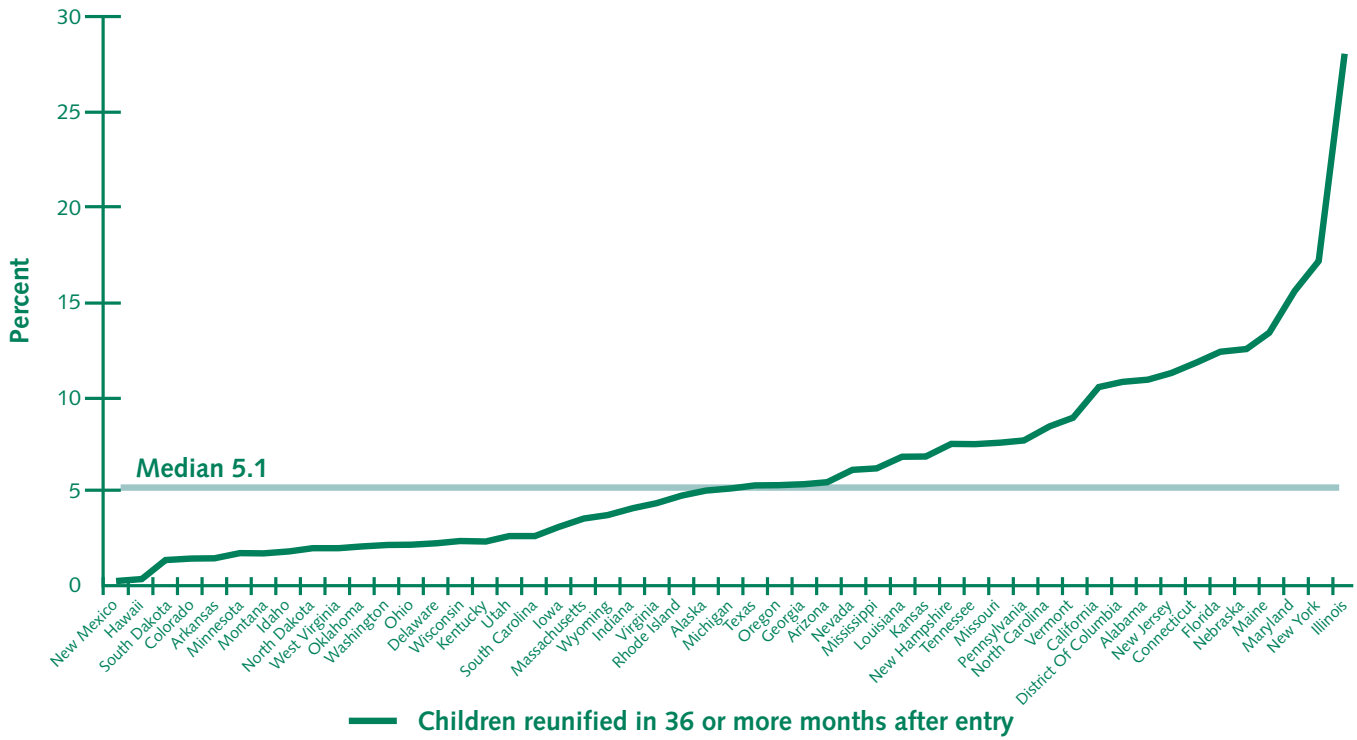
**Figure 16.** The distribution of States' performance relevant to the percentages of children reunified within 12 months of entry into foster care (outcome measure 4.1)



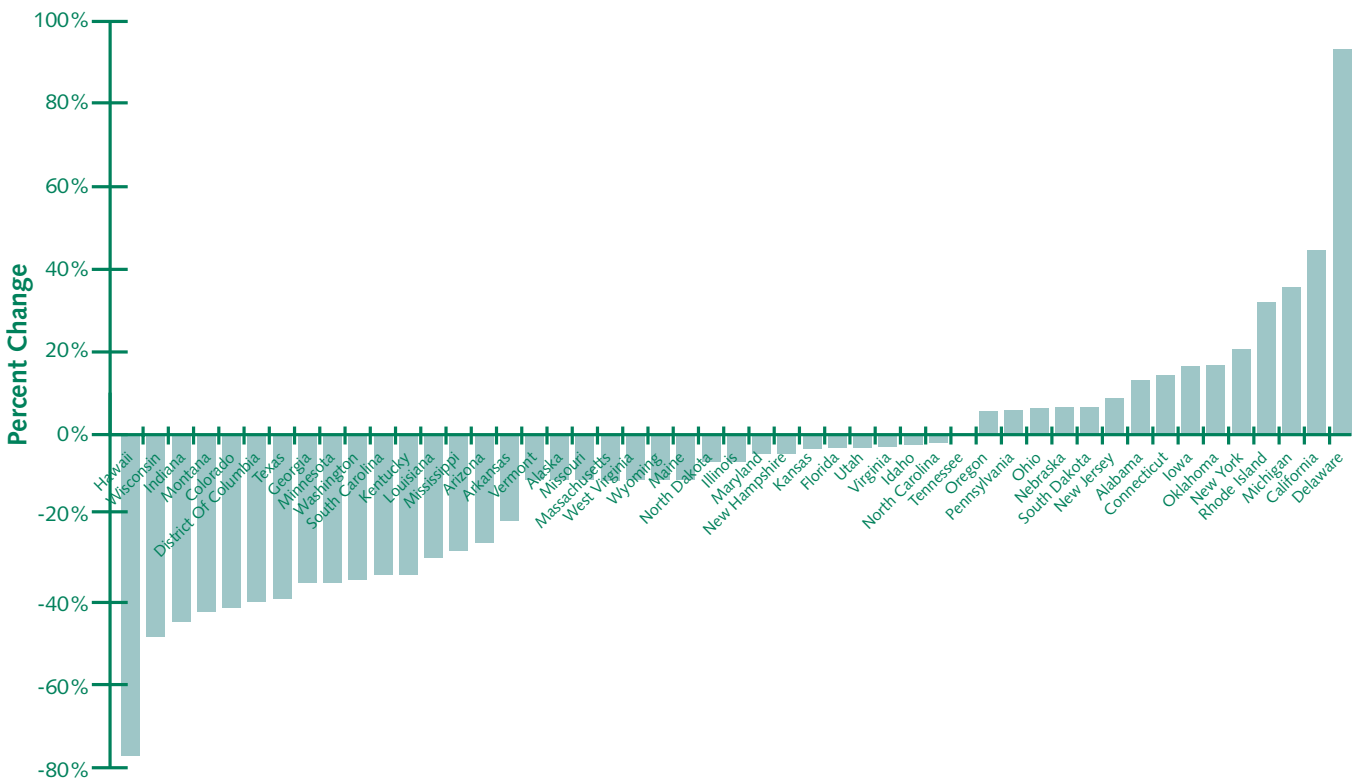
**Figure 17.** Percent change from FY 1999 to FY 2000 in the percentages of children reunified within 12 months of entry into foster care (outcome measure 4.1)



**Figure 18.** Distribution of States' performance relevant to the percentages of children reunified in 36 or more months after entry into foster care (outcome measure 4.1)



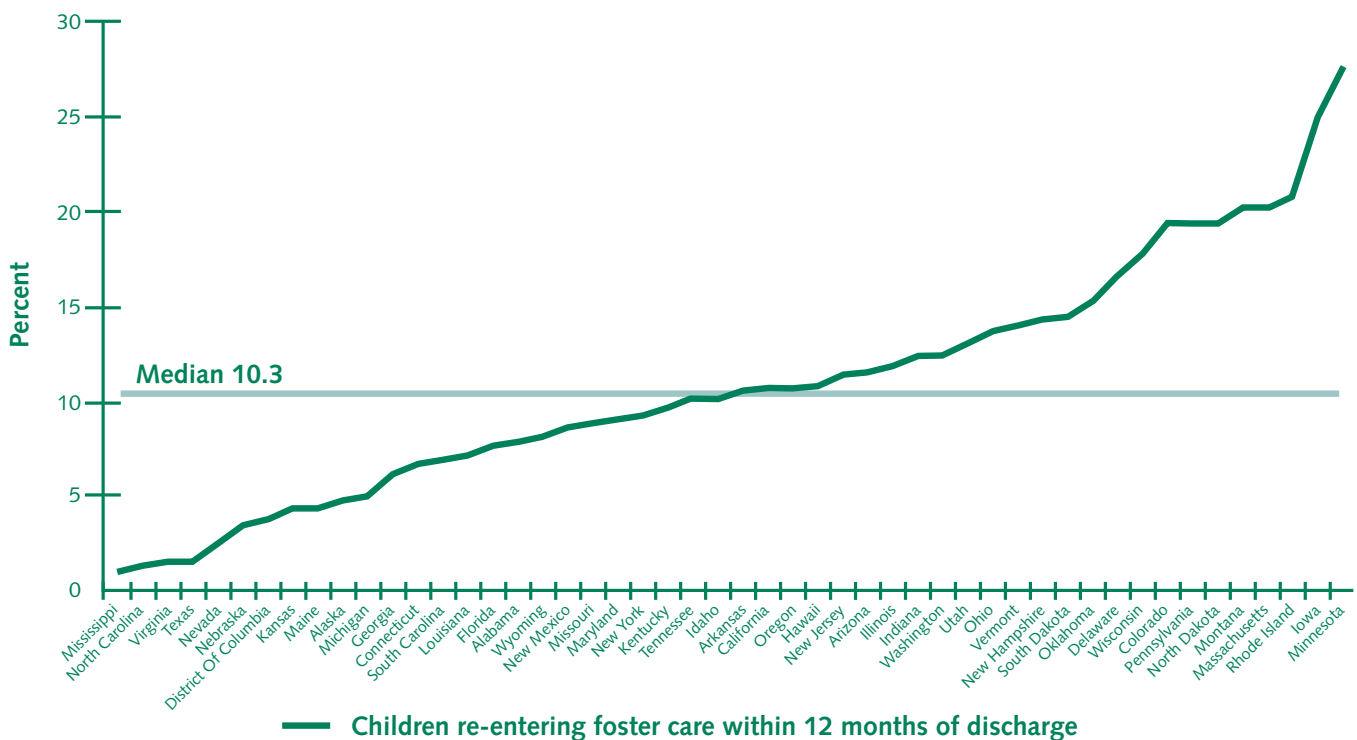
**Figure 19.** Percent change from FY 1999 to FY 2000 in the percentages of children reunified in 36 or more months after entry into foster care (outcome measure 4.1)



exhibited improvements in performance on this measure from 1999 to 2000, with 7 States (Hawaii, Wisconsin, Indiana, Montana, Colorado, DC, and Texas) demonstrating substantial improvements in performance. Five States (New York, Rhode Island, Michigan, California, and Delaware) exhibited substantial declines in performance on this measure. However, in three of these States (Rhode Island, Michigan, and Delaware) the percentages of children exiting to reunification 36 or more months after entry into foster were quite small.

**Outcome measure 4.2.** In FY 2000, 50 States provided sufficient data to calculate re-entries into foster care. As shown in figure 20, the percentage of re-entries into foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode ranged from 0.9 to 27.7, with a median of 10.3 percent. Eighteen States (36 percent) met the national standard of 8.6 percent. In 5 States (10 percent), more than 20 percent of the children entering foster care in FY 2000 were re-entering care within 12 months of discharge from a prior episode.

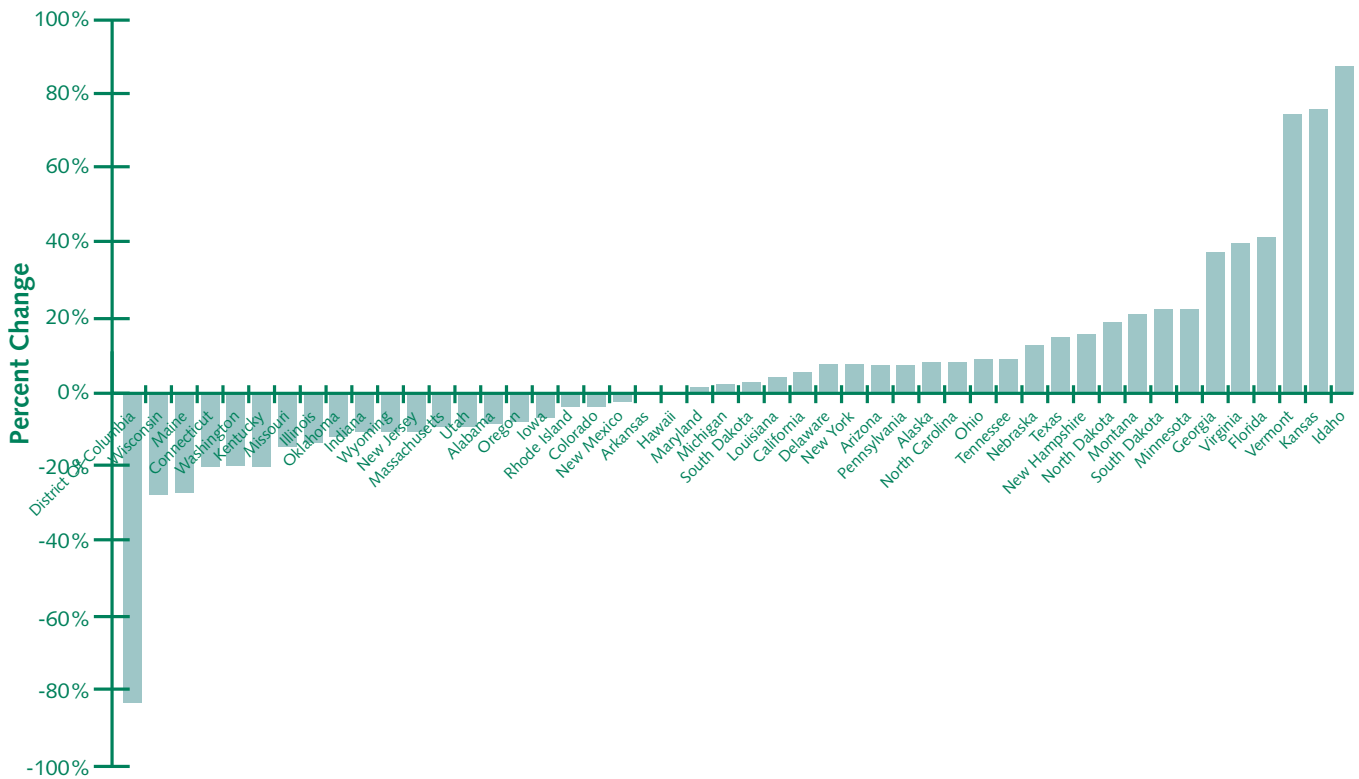
**Figure 20.** Distribution of States' performances relevant to re-entries into foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior episode (outcome measure 4.2)



Change in the performance of States on this measure from FY 1999 to FY 2000 for the 48 States with sufficient data for both years is depicted in figure 21. The percent change in performance ranged from -83.2 to +87.5, with a mean percent change of 4.8 (SD=27.8 percent). Four States (DC, Wisconsin, Maine, and Connecticut) exhibited substantial improvements in performance with regard to re-entries into foster care, while six States (Georgia, Virginia, Florida, Vermont, Kansas, and Idaho), exhibited substantial declines in performance. However, in four of these States (Georgia, Virginia, Florida, and Kansas), the percentage of re-entries in FY 2000 remained quite small and below the national standard.

An analysis also was conducted on the percentages of children entering foster care in FY 2000 who were re-entering foster care in more than 12 months from discharge from a prior foster care episode. These percentages ranged from 0 to 17.8, with a median of 7.0. In 10 States (20 percent), at least 10 percent of the children entering foster care were re-entering more than 12 months from discharge from a prior episode.

**Figure 21.** *Percent change from FY 1999 to FY 2000 in the percentages of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior episode (outcome measure 4.2)*



***The relationship between reunification and re-entry***

In order to assess attainment of outcome 4 (reduce time in foster care without increasing re-entry) the relationship between reunification within 12 months and re-entry into foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior episode was examined. For FY 2000, the correlation (Pearson’s  $r$ ) between the percent of reunifications occurring within 12 months of entry into care and the percent of re-entries into foster care within 12 months of discharge was .50 ( $p=0.0001$ ). States that had a high percentage of reunifications within 12 months tended to have a high percentage of re-entries into foster care within 12 months. States with a low percentage of reunifications within 12 months tended to have correspondingly lower percentage of re-entries. Of the 21 States that met the national standard of 76.2 percent for reunifications within 12 months of entry into foster care, only 2 (Wyoming and South Carolina) also met the national standard for re-entries into foster care. These findings raise the question of whether in some States children are being reunified before families have made the changes necessary to ensure that the risk of harm to children is no longer present.

The relationship also was examined between the performance of States (in FY 2000) with regard to reunifications within 12 months and re-entries that occurred more than 12 months after discharge from a prior foster care episode. This correlation did not approach significance (Pearson’s  $r=0.20$ ;  $p=0.163$ ), suggesting that expedited reunifications may be related to early re-entries into foster care, but not to re-entries that occur after children have been home for more than a year. This suggests that the first 12 months after reunification may be a particularly vulnerable time for families and that services are needed during this time period to support the children’s reintegration into the family.

**Outcome 5 – Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In recent years, extensive Federal efforts have focused on promoting adoption of children from the foster care system and expediting the adoption process for them and their adoptive families. ASFA addressed the issue of adoption through its requirement that States seek termination of parental rights (TPR) for children who have been in foster care for 15 of the most recent 22 months, unless there are compelling reasons for not doing so. ASFA also promoted adoption by expanding adoption-

assistance subsidies. The Department promotes the ongoing development of strategies and effective practices for increasing and expediting adoptions through a discretionary grant program called the Adoption Opportunities Program, a number of adoption-related resource centers, and a Clearinghouse on adoption information. The attainment of finalized adoptions in a timely manner is one of the primary indicators assessed in the CFSR.

Over the past few decades, professionals in the child welfare field have developed and implemented several strategies designed to expedite adoptions. These include, but are not limited to, concurrent planning, family group conferencing, mediation, the establishment of specialized adoption units or adoption specialist positions, and expedited permanency programs. Preliminary CFSR findings indicate that in many States, these practices are not implemented with sufficient frequency or adequate quality to consistently promote timely attainment of finalized adoptions.

The measure designed to assess outcome 5 is the following:

- *Measure 5.1: Of all children who exited foster care to a finalized adoption, what percentage exited care in the following time periods?*
  - (1) *Less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home*
  - (2) *At least 12 months but less than 24 months*
  - (3) *At least 24 months, but less than 36 months*
  - (4) *At least 36 months, but less than 48 months*
  - (5) *48 or more months*

The findings of the data analyses of the performance of States regarding adoptions occurring within 24 months of entry into foster care and adoptions occurring 48 or more months after entry into foster care are presented and discussed below.

***Adoptions within 24 months of entry into foster care.*** As shown in figure 22, for the 48 States with sufficient data for this measure, the percentages of children exiting to a finalized adoption within 24 months of entry into foster care ranged from 4.6 to 72.4 with a median of 19.7. Ten of the 48 States (21 percent) included in this analysis met or exceeded the national standard of 32.0 percent.<sup>7</sup>

Forty-six States provided sufficient data for this measure in FY 1999 and FY 2000. The percent change from 1999 to 2000 for these States, depicted in figure 23, ranged from -71.9 to +148.1, with a mean percent change of 4.3 (SD=42.3). Five States (New York, Virginia, Massachusetts, Mississippi, and Delaware) exhibited substantial improvements in performance on this measure. In contrast, eight States (New Mexico, DC, Nebraska, Florida, California, Maryland, Connecticut, and North Dakota) exhibited substantial declines in performance on the measure.

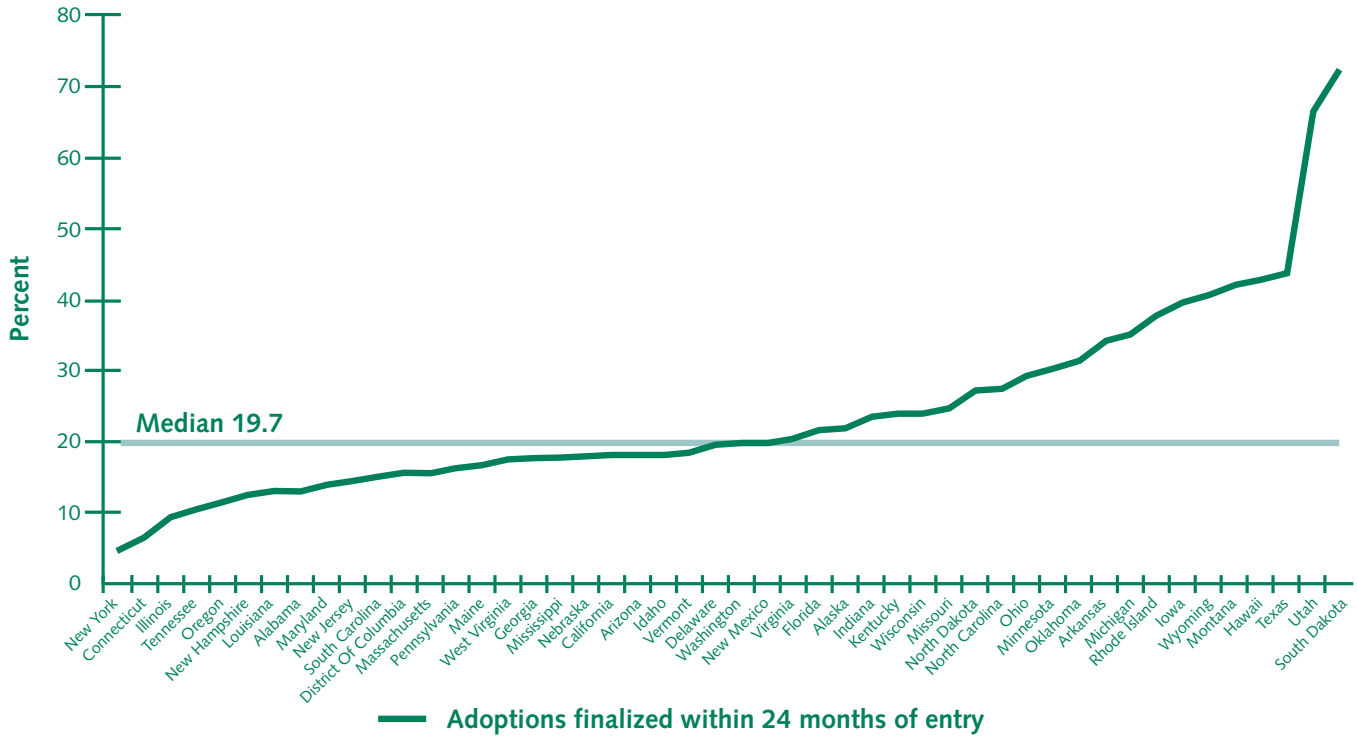
Interpreting change in performance on this measure is difficult because, for some States, the percentages provided for FY 1999 and FY 2000 are dramatically different, suggesting that differences may reflect changes in data quality rather than in performance. In New Mexico, for example, the percentage of children experiencing an adoption within 24 months in FY 1999 was 70.7, while in FY 2000, it was 19.8.

***Adoptions occurring 48 or more months after entry into foster care.*** Forty-eight States provided data sufficient to calculate this measure. Figure 24 provides the distribution across States for this measure, which ranged from 0 percent to 68.2 percent, with a median of 31.5 percent. In 21 States (44 percent), over one-third of the finalized adoptions occurred 48 or more months after the child's entry into foster care; in 4 of those States, more than 50 percent of the finalized adoptions took place after the child had been in foster care for 48 or more months.

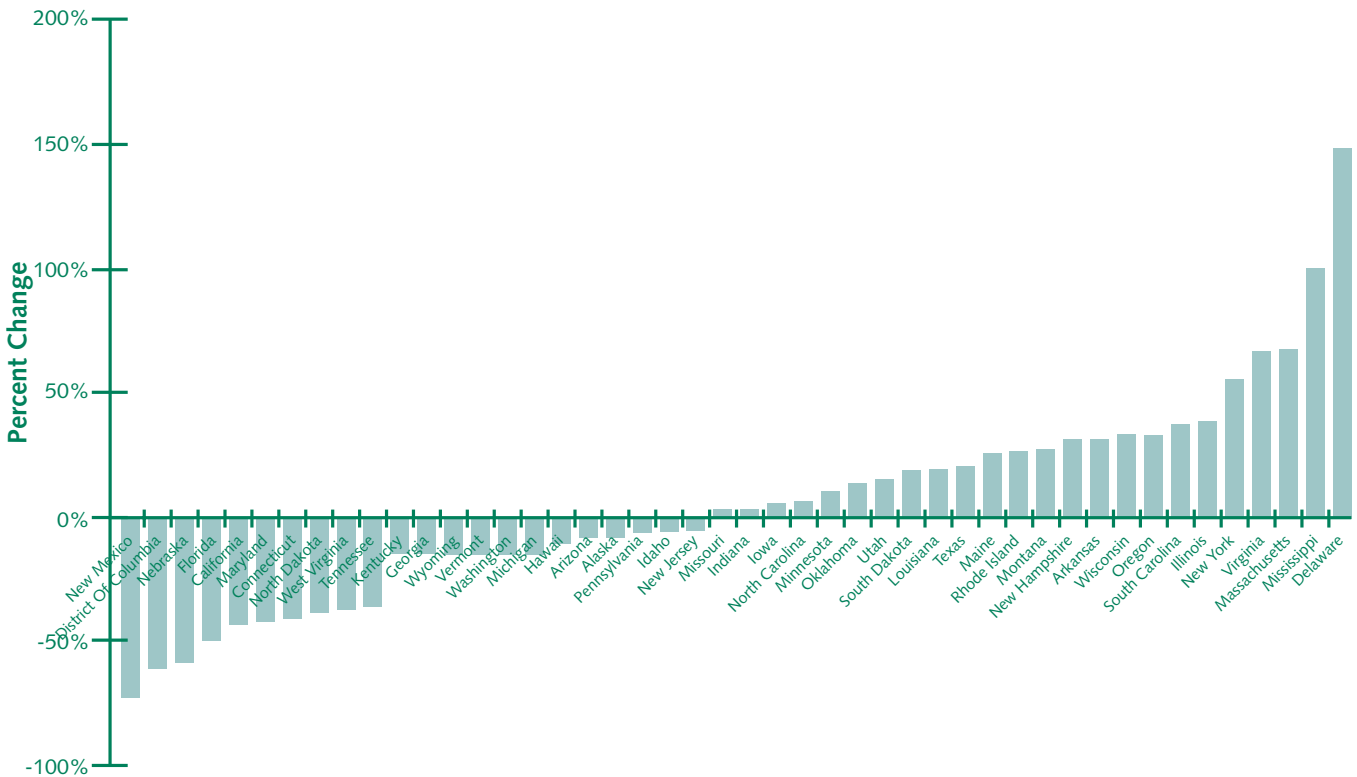
Changes from FY 1999 to FY 2000 for the 46 States providing data in both years are depicted in figure 25. The percent change ranged from -60.5 to +61.5, with a mean percent change of -1.3 (SD=27.3). Six States (Arkansas, Utah, Delaware,

<sup>7</sup> States were excluded from this analysis when their data pertaining to discharges to adoptions in FY 2000, as reported to the AFCARS Foster Care Database, were considerably different from their data pertaining to the number of finalized adoptions in FY 2000 reported to the AFCARS Adoption Database.

**Figure 22.** Distribution of States' performances relevant to the percentages of finalized adoptions in FY 2000 that were finalized within 24 months of entry into foster care (outcome measure 5.1)

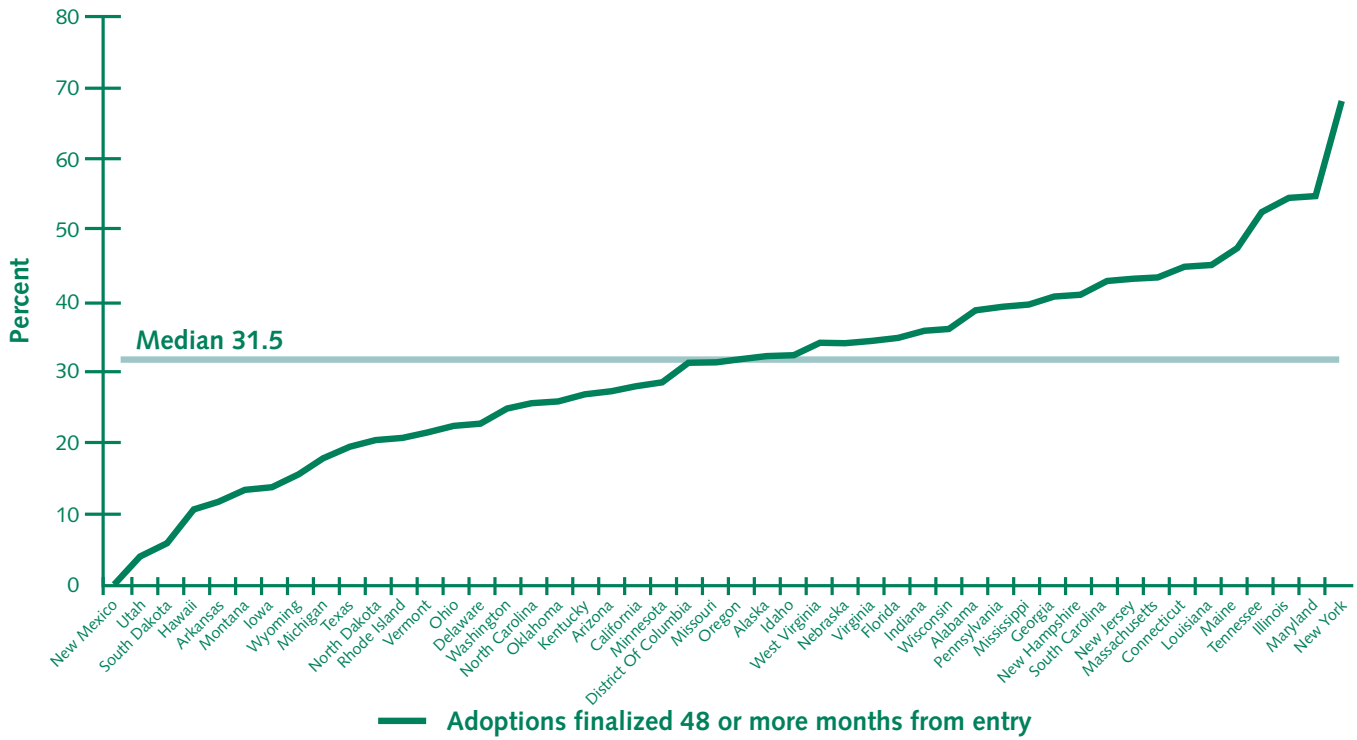


**Figure 23.** Percent change from FY 1999 to FY 2000 in the percentages of finalized adoptions within 24 months of entry into foster care (outcome measure 5.1)

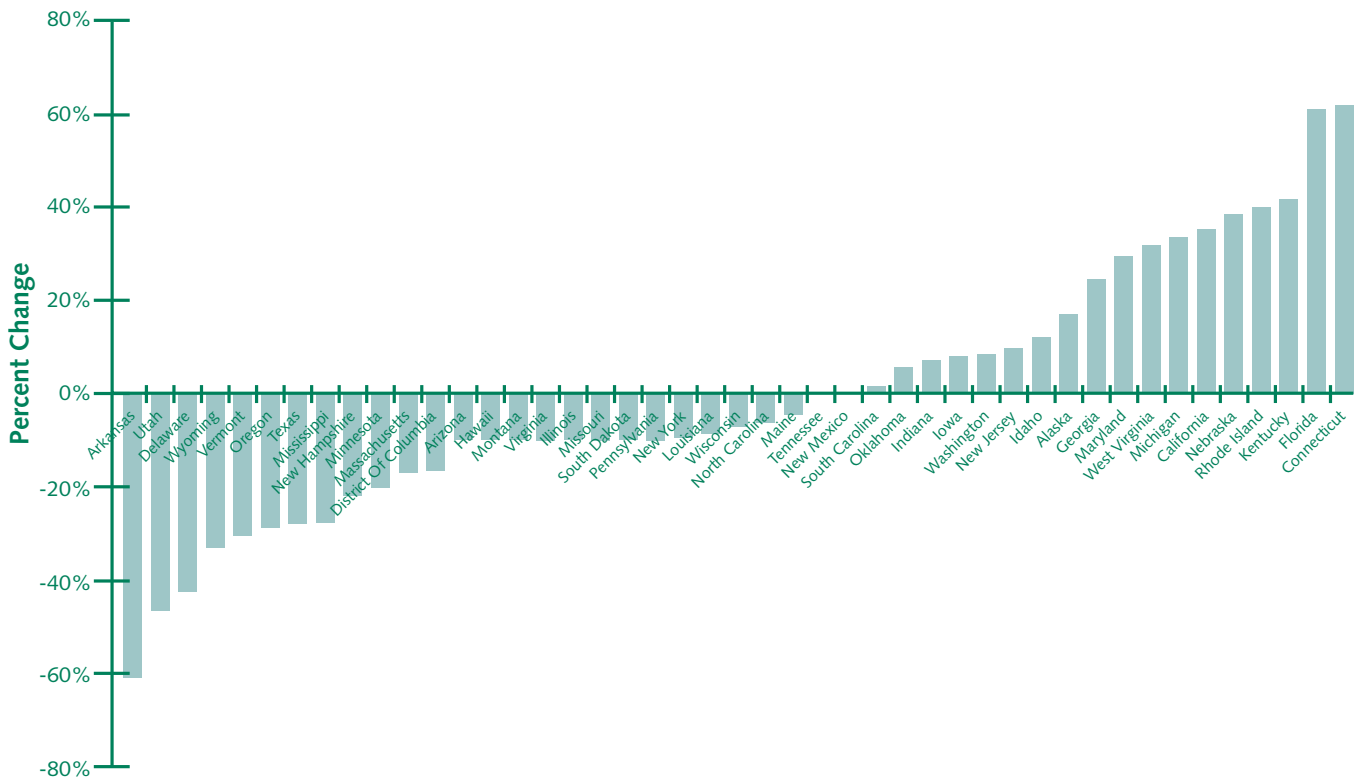




**Figure 24.** Distribution of States' performances relevant to the percentages of finalized adoptions that were finalized 48 or more months from the child's entry into foster care (outcome measure 5.1)



**Figure 25.** Percent change from FY 1999 to FY 2000 in the percentages of finalized adoptions occurring in 48 or more months from the child's entry into foster care (outcome measure 5.1)



Wyoming, Vermont, and Oregon) demonstrated substantial improvements in performance on this measure, while 9 States (Maryland, West Virginia, Michigan, California, Nebraska, Rhode Island, Kentucky, Florida, and Connecticut) exhibited substantial declines in performance.

### Summary of findings for Outcome 5

Despite possible data problems, the performance of the States on this outcome in FY 2000 suggests that concerted efforts are needed in many States to improve the timeliness of adoptions. This is consistent with information from the CFSR reviews indicating that there are still many barriers to achieving finalized adoptions within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care. These barriers range from casework practice problems to court-related problems such as crowded court dockets and court requirements for termination of parental rights.

However, it is possible that a State's lower percentages of children exiting to adoption within 24 months of entry may be due to the State's efforts to find adoptive placements for children who have been in care for long periods of time. If this proposition is valid, then States should exhibit declines in the percentages of children achieving a finalized adoption 48 or more months after entry into foster care as the children in foster care for long periods of time achieve their adoption goals. In FY 1999, there were 6 States (Mississippi, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Illinois, New York, and Tennessee) in which over 50 percent of the children exiting to adoption had been in foster care for 48 or more months. Although all of these States exhibited declines in this percentage in FY 2000, the percent change was fairly small, ranging from -0.4 (in Tennessee) to -27.4 (in Mississippi). It will remain to be seen whether these States continue to experience declines in the percentages of children achieving adoption in 48 or more months, and increases in percentages of exits to adoptions occurring within 24 months of entry into foster care.

### Outcome 6: Increase placement stability

When children are removed from their homes and placed in the care and custody of the State, it is not only imperative that they be placed in safe environments, but also that they experience stability and security in their living arrangements. Despite the importance of the stability of living arrangements, the common perception is that children in foster care are "bumped around" from place to place. The findings of the CFSR review suggest that this perception may be accurate for many children in foster care. Although some States participating in the CFSR in FY 2001 and FY 2002 experienced success in placing children in stable living arrangements, others were not consistently effective in ensuring placement stability.

Preliminary information from the CFSRs identified the following practices as associated with frequent placement changes: (1) a reliance on shelter care when children first enter care or when a placement disrupts; (2) a lack of careful matching between children's needs and placements because of an insufficient number of available foster care placements (including group homes as well as foster homes); (3) too few foster care placements for children with behavioral problems; and (4) insufficient assistance provided to foster families when placements are at risk of disruption. Stakeholders interviewed as part of the CFSR process frequently expressed the opinion that the use of relatives as foster care providers generally resulted in greater stability in foster care placements.

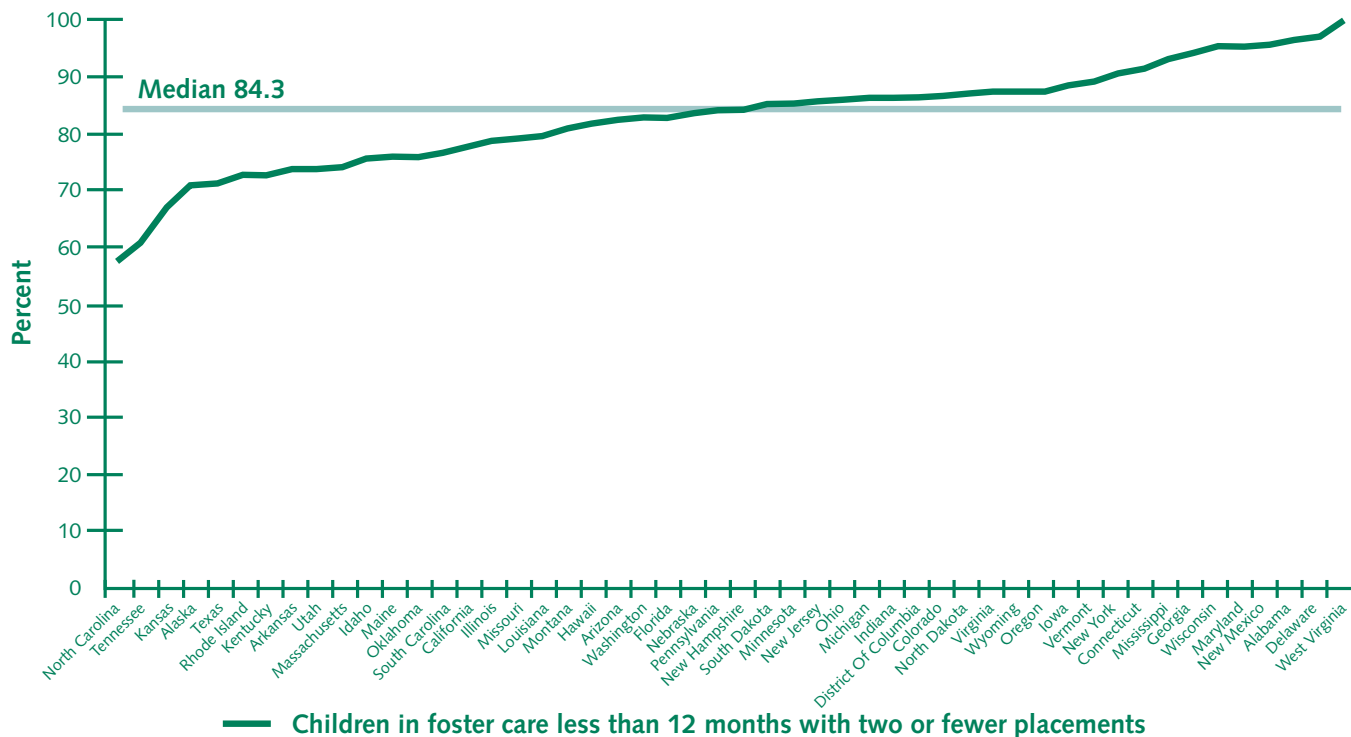
The measure designed to assess this outcome is:

- *Measure 6.1: Of all children served who had been in foster care for the time periods listed below, what percentage had no more than two placement settings during that time period?*
  - (1) *Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home*
  - (2) *At least 12 months but less than 24 months*
  - (3) *At least 24 months but less than 36 months*
  - (4) *At least 36 months but less than 48 months*
  - (5) *48 or more months*

In FY 2000, 50 States provided data to calculate this measure. The analysis focused on the percentages of children in foster care for less than 12 months who experienced no more than 2 placements. The distribution across States for this measure, which is

presented in figure 26, demonstrates that the percentages of children in foster care for less than 12 months who experienced no more than two placements ranged from 57.7 to 99.9, with a median of 84.3. Seventeen States (34 percent) met the national standard of 86.7 percent.

**Figure 26.** *Distribution of States' performances relevant to the percentages of children in foster care less than 12 months in FY 2000 who experienced two or fewer placements (outcome measure 6.1)*



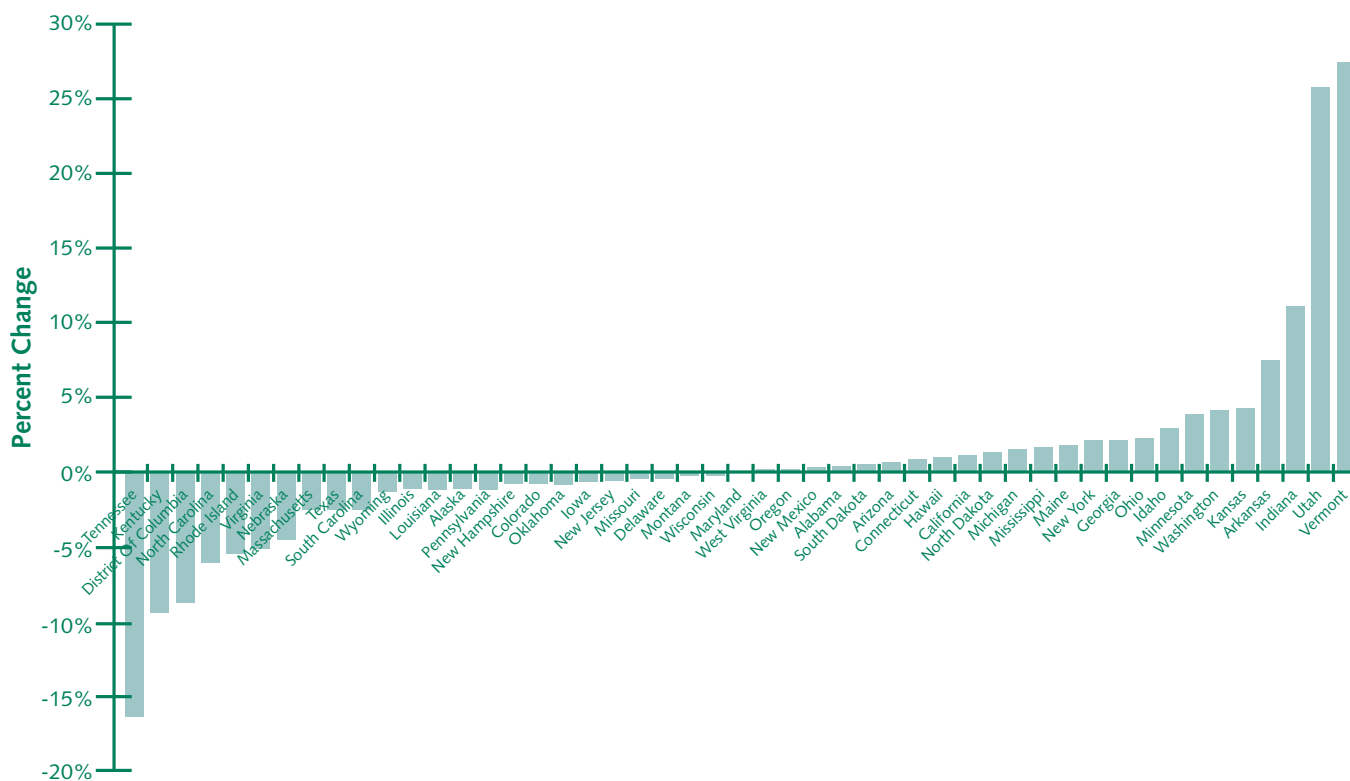
Forty-nine States were included in the analysis of change in performance from 1999 to 2000. The range with respect to percent change was from -16.2 to +27.3, with a mean percent change of 0.6 (SD=6.8 percent). As shown in figure 27, the vast majority of States exhibited minimal changes in this measure primarily because many of them were already performing in the high end of the range. Four States (Arkansas, Indiana, Utah and Vermont) exhibited substantial improvements in this measure, while three States (Tennessee, Kentucky, and DC) demonstrated substantial declines in performance on this measure.

As noted in Chapter 2, the reporting of placement changes to AFCARS has not been consistent across States, although consistency is expected to improve in the future with the clarification of guidelines issued by the Department in July of 2002. In the near future, the Department will be able to attribute changes over time on this measure to changes in the performance of a State rather than to changes in data reporting. Although the existing data issues make it difficult to interpret performance, there is some indication that most States experience a fairly high level of success with respect to placement stability for children who have been in foster care for less than 12 months.

**Outcome 7: Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions**

An ongoing concern in the field of child welfare pertains to the placement of young children in group homes or institutions. Although many States have established policies that restrict the placement of young children in these settings, these policies are not always followed. In addition, in many States, this policy may apply to very young children, such as toddlers and infants, but not to “older children,” who may be only 7 or 8 years old. Preliminary CFSR information suggests that States vary considerably with respect to this practice. While some States were found to be diligent about not placing young children in group homes or institutions, others frequently used group homes, particularly shelters, as placement venues for children of all ages.

**Figure 27.** Percent change from FY 1999 to FY 2000 in the percentages of children in foster care less than 12 months who experienced two or fewer placements (outcome measure 6.1)



This outcome is assessed by the following measure:

- *Measure 7.1: For all children who entered foster care during the reporting period and were age 12 or younger at the time of their most recent placement, what percentage was placed in a group home or institution?*

Fifty States provided sufficient data in FY 2000 to calculate this measure. As shown in figure 28, the performance of States on this measure ranged from 1.3 percent to 27.2 percent, with a median of 9 percent. In 4 States (Arizona, Minnesota, DC, and Iowa), over 20 percent of the children who entered foster care in FY 2000 who were age 12 and younger were placed in group homes or institutions. In 9 States (Hawaii, Washington, Utah, Arkansas, Ohio, Illinois, Kansas, Alaska, and Vermont), less than 5 percent of these children were placed in group homes or institutions.

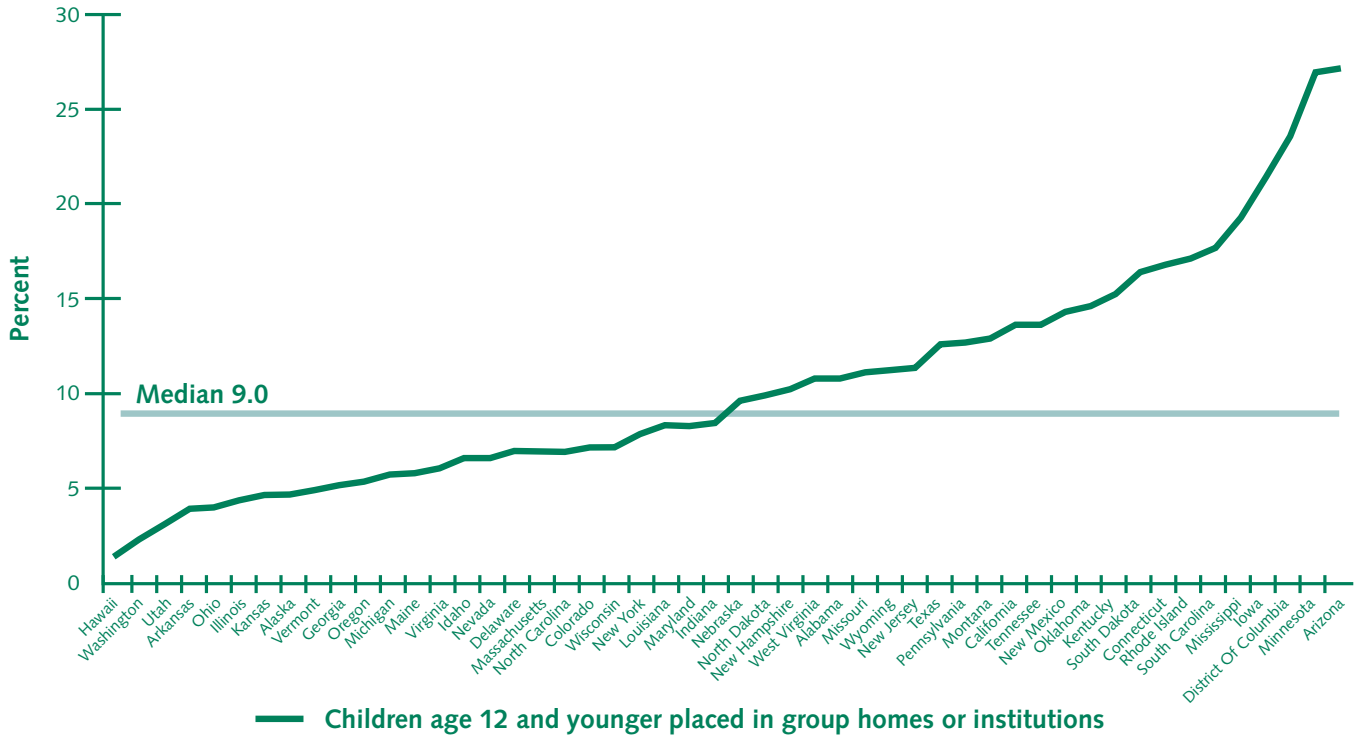
The percent change in performance on this measure, depicted in figure 29, ranged from -88.2 to +139.7 percent with a mean of -3.0 (SD = 35.3). Five States (Utah, Hawaii, Georgia, Arkansas, and Vermont) exhibited substantial improvements in performance on this measure, while 6 States (Delaware, DC, West Virginia, Montana, North Dakota, and Connecticut) exhibited substantial declines in performance.

The overall findings for this measure suggest that some States are placing a high percentage of young children in group homes and institutions. However, the fact that most States exhibited declines in this measure from 1999 to 2000 is a positive indication that States are attempting to keep young children in family rather than group settings.

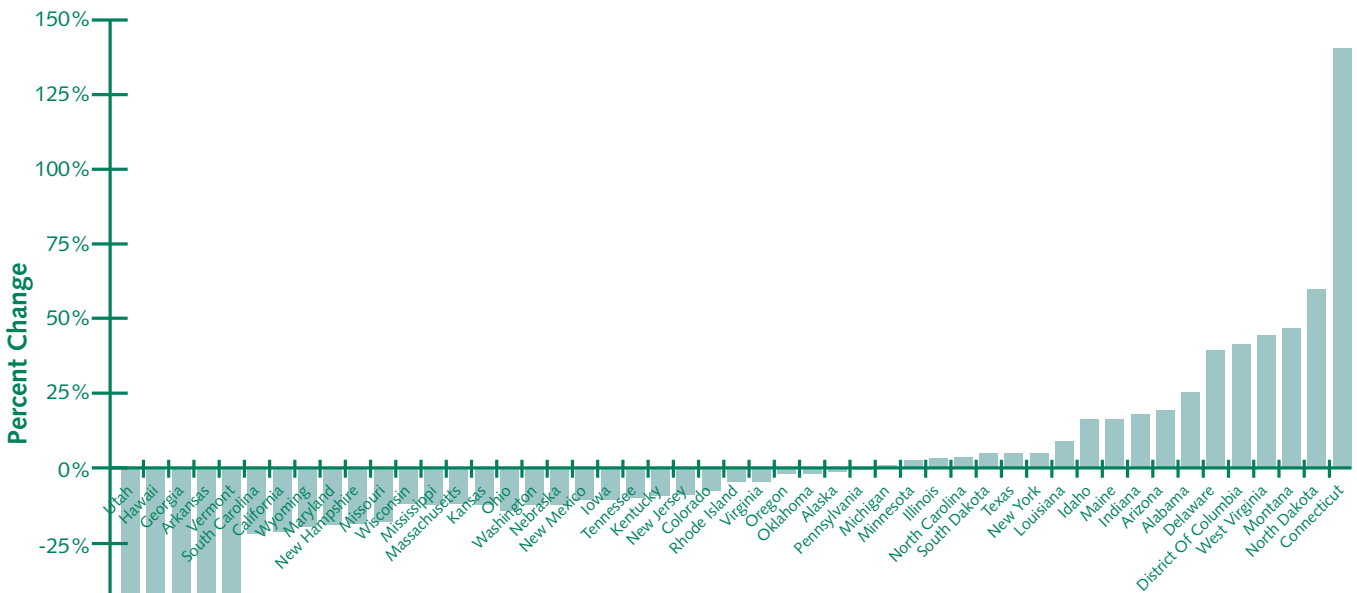
### Summary of Key Findings

In general, the key findings reported in this chapter suggest that much work needs to be done by States, with technical assistance from the Department, to promote attainment of the seven national child welfare outcomes and ensure the safety and permanency of children who come into contact with the Nation’s public child welfare systems. It is anticipated that with the ongoing efforts of the Outcomes Reports, the CFSRs, and the Department’s child welfare-related resource centers (identified in Appendix I), States will begin to exhibit greater and more consistent improvements on these outcomes.

**Figure 28.** Distribution of States' performances relevant to the percentages of children age 12 and younger who were placed in group homes or institutions (outcome measure 7.1)



**Figure 29.** Percent change from FY 1999 to FY 2000 in the percentages of children age 12 and under placed in group homes or institutions (outcome measure 7.1)



At present, however, the performance of many States on the outcome measures indicates that there are more challenges than successes. With regard to children's safety, for example, the rate of recurrence of maltreatment is substantial in many States. Although the incidence of maltreatment of children while they are in foster care is low across States, even a low incidence of maltreatment by foster parents and facility staff is not acceptable when the care of children is entrusted to the State.

On a more positive note, the findings pertaining to permanency suggest that the majority of children in all States who exit foster care are exiting to permanent homes, either through reunification, guardianship, or adoption. However, States were less successful in finding permanent homes for children who were older than age 12 when they entered care, or who have a diagnosed disability. One clearly positive finding is that children who are Hispanic or Black (excluding children of Hispanic origin) are as likely to exit to permanency as are children who are White (excluding children of Hispanic origin). In several States, however, Native-American children were found to be less likely than White children to exit to permanent homes.

A primary concern raised by the data analysis pertains to the correlation between reunifications occurring within 12 months of foster care and re-entries occurring within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode. This correlation was first noted in *Child Welfare Outcomes 1999*, and was even more substantial in the analysis of the FY 2000 data. The fact that only two States in FY 2000 exhibited both a high percentage of reunifications within 12 months and a low rate of re-entries within 12 months is disconcerting and raises serious concerns about the safety of some children who are being reunified with their families. The finding also raises questions regarding the quality of services provided to bring about reunifications, whether effective post-reunification services are being provided, and whether the criteria established for reunification are sufficient to ensure its stability. However, caution is warranted in interpreting these data because the two measures do not pertain to the same children (i.e., they are not longitudinal), making the exact nature of the relationship unclear. While it is legitimate to be concerned about the described results, the fact that the data derive from two different groups of children makes it possible that issues other than premature reunification or lack of reunification services are involved in this finding. The Department of Health and Human Services will need to address this question in the future.

Another area of concern pertains to the time children are in foster care before exiting to a finalized adoption. Despite the multitude of efforts that have been implemented over the past decade to expedite adoptions (such as mediation, concurrent planning, use of adoption specialists, and family group decision making), the data suggest that many States are continuing to experience difficulties finalizing adoptions in a timely manner. Through the CFSR, many barriers to timely adoptions have been identified, ranging from casework practice issues to crowded court dockets and parents' appeals of termination of parental rights decisions. It is anticipated that States will begin to address these barriers as part of their program improvement plans.

The outcome regarding placement stability appears highly positive when the assessment focuses on the placements experienced by children who have been in foster care for less than 12 months. However, the data demonstrate that the number of placements increases as time in foster care increases, indicating that long-term placement stability is an issue that many States need to address.

For the last outcome pertaining to placements of young children in group homes or institutions, it is clear that, in most States, this is not a common practice. However, because group-like placements are in most cases inappropriate for young children, even a small incidence of this occurrence raises concerns regarding children's well-being.

Finally, it is important to note that many of the challenges to attaining positive outcomes for children who come into contact with the child welfare system are external to the system itself. A child welfare agency cannot provide services to prevent removal from home or to support reunification if those services are not available in the community. Similarly, a child welfare agency cannot achieve timely permanency for children if the court system is not operating on the same time lines as the agency, or has differing perceptions of what children need with regard to permanency goals. Preliminary CFSR information indicates that these external barriers and challenges exist in almost all of the States participating in a CFSR thus far. Consequently, a key focus of Department and State efforts must be on supporting greater collaboration among agencies and institutions serving these children and families, and ensuring that key gaps in services are addressed.

While this chapter has focused on the performance of States taken together, the next chapter provides data relevant to the performance of individual States on each of the outcome measures. The number of States reporting for each measure is provided in Appendix J. For those States that have participated in a CFSR, a Federal Comment page is included with the State data that integrates findings from the CFSR with the performance of States on the seven national child welfare outcomes.





# IV.

## STATE DATA PAGES





### A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	1,084,135	1,066,177	1,123,422	Child maltreatment victims	16,668	13,773	9,990
Race/ethnicity (%) <sup>1</sup>				Children in foster care on 9/30	5,198	5,511	5,621
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.5	Children adopted	115	153	202
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.7	0.8	0.7				
Black	32.2	32.2	31.8				
Hispanic	1.4	1.5	2.2				
White	65.3	65.3	63.3				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.3				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.1				
% Child population in poverty	25.9	24.0	19.2				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	69.5	75.5	69.9				

### B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	35,705	35,919	32,655	32.9 per 1,000	33.7 per 1,000	29.1 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	16,668	13,773	9,990	15.4 per 1,000	12.9 per 1,000	8.9 per 1,000
Child fatalities	25	29	27	2.3 per 100,000	2.7 per 100,000	2.4 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	7.0	7.7	8.6	Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.2	0.1
1-5 years	27.8	27.2	27.4	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.2	0.2
6-10 years	30.6	29.3	27.9	Black	36.6	38.0	38.5
11-15 years	27.4	28.1	28.9	Hispanic	0.7	1.0	0.9
16+ years	5.6	5.1	5.2	White	62.1	60.0	59.7
Unknown	1.5	2.5	1.9	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	1.0	1.6	0.6
Number	16,668	13,773	9,990	Total % <sup>3</sup>	100.7	101.0	100.0
				Number	16,668	13,773	9,990

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	6.4	4.9	3.7
Medical neglect	—	—	—
Neglect	46.3	46.0	43.8
Physical abuse	39.7	40.9	40.4
Sexual abuse	21.4	23.1	26.5
Other	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	113.8	114.9	114.5
Number	16,668	13,773	9,990

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	5,246			2,803			2,851			5,198			8,049
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	4,839			2,734			2,062			5,511			7,573
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	5,294			2,661			2,334			5,621			7,955
Median Length of Stay (Months)													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	19.3			N/A			9.4			22.3			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	22.0			N/A			8.8			21.5			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	21.8			N/A			11.1			22.0			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	3.9	4.0	3.8	14.3	14.3	15.4	5.3	5.1	5.7	4.0	4.0	4.3	
1-5 years	24.5	22.6	23.3	24.3	25.2	24.2	25.0	25.4	25.7	23.5	23.5	22.8	
6-10 years	24.2	25.0	24.6	21.8	21.5	22.8	22.5	20.5	22.0	24.7	24.4	23.9	
11-15 years	28.5	30.2	29.8	28.5	28.7	29.5	24.0	24.5	23.5	29.0	29.7	30.8	
16-18 years	17.0	16.0	16.2	11.0	9.9	7.9	18.7	19.3	17.0	16.5	16.0	16.1	
19+ years	1.9	2.2	2.3	0.0	0.3	0.1	4.0	4.9	5.0	2.2	2.3	2.1	
Unknown	—	0.1	0.1	—	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.4	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>5,246</b>	<b>4,839</b>	<b>5,294</b>	<b>2,803</b>	<b>2,734</b>	<b>2,661</b>	<b>2,851</b>	<b>2,062</b>	<b>2,334</b>	<b>5,198</b>	<b>5,511</b>	<b>5,621</b>	
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%) <sup>5</sup>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0	0.1	—	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	—	0.1	0.1	0.0	
Black	55.1	55.6	55.9	48.9	49.5	46.1	48.7	48.7	47.7	55.2	55.1	54.6	
Hispanic	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.2	0.9	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.9	
White	43.8	43.5	42.9	49.4	48.9	51.2	49.6	49.9	50.8	43.7	43.7	43.6	
Two or more races	—	—	0.2	—	—	0.9	—	—	0.2	—	—	0.5	
Unknown	0.1	0.0	0.2	—	0.4	0.3	0.1	—	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>5,246</b>	<b>4,839</b>	<b>5,294</b>	<b>2,803</b>	<b>2,734</b>	<b>2,661</b>	<b>2,851</b>	<b>2,062</b>	<b>2,334</b>	<b>5,198</b>	<b>5,511</b>	<b>5,621</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	972	1,013	1,162
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	489	567	653
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	2.4	2.4	2.8
1-5 years	29.8	27.5	27.8
6-10 years	37.6	36.2	35.1
11-15 years	20.2	24.3	25.9
16+ years	5.3	5.1	4.6
Unknown	4.7	4.4	3.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>1,162</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.4	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
Black	55.7	53.4	53.6
Hispanic	1.0	0.4	0.7
White	42.5	45.5	45.0
Two or more races	—	—	0.3
Unknown	0.3	0.3	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>1,162</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	3.5	1.3	2.5
1-5 years	45.2	49.0	48.5
6-10 years	37.4	37.3	33.2
11-15 years	13.9	11.8	13.4
16+ years	—	0.7	2.5
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>202</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
Black	47.0	51.0	40.6
Hispanic	2.6	2.0	1.0
White	50.4	46.4	57.9
Two or more races	—	—	0.5
Unknown	—	0.7	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>202</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

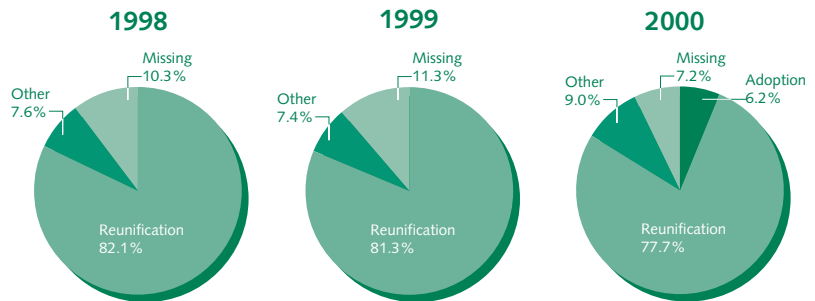
	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	6.2
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	82.1	81.3	77.7
Other	7.6	7.4	9.0
Missing data	10.3	11.3	7.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,851	2,062	2,334

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	12.4
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	60.6	69.9	53.2
Other	19.2	15.6	25.3
Missing data	20.2	14.5	9.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	208	173	186

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	77.7	74.1	72.8
Other	12.9	12.7	14.7
Missing data	9.4	13.2	12.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	837	629	651

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	64.4	63.0	61.2
Children older than 12 at entry	35.6	37.0	38.8
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	87	81	103

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6.0	—	—	8.7
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	100.0	50.0	—	80.0	60.0	—	82.5	80.6	75.7	88.6	86.4	87.0
Other	—	50.0	66.7	—	40.0	—	9.1	8.4	10.8	2.9	9.1	4.3
Missing data	—	—	33.3	20.0	—	—	8.4	11.1	7.5	8.6	4.5	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7	2	3	5	5	—	1,389	1,004	1,113	35	22	23

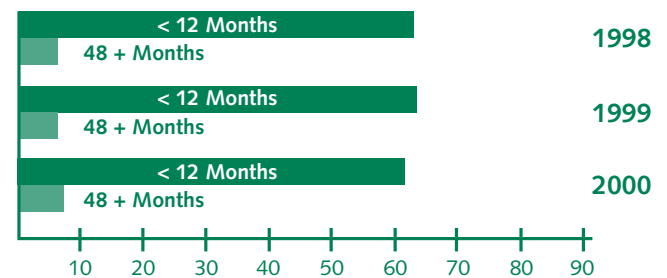
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	—	—	6.3	—	—	—	—	—	20.0	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	81.5	82.0	79.4	50.0	—	100.0	—	—	80.0	—	—	—
Other	6.3	6.2	7.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	12.2	11.8	7.0	50.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Number	1,413	1,029	1,185	2	—	5	—	—	5	—	—	—

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

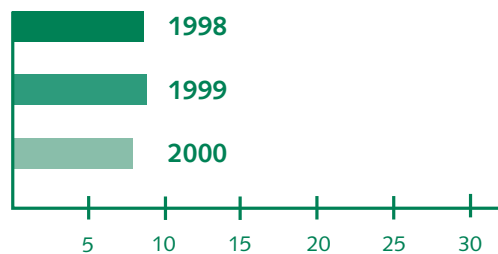
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	63.1	63.5	61.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	19.8	16.6	20.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	7.3	10.2	7.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.3	3.3	3.6
48 or more mos.	6.5	6.4	7.3
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,341	1,676	1,813

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	80.8	81.1	81.8
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	8.5	8.6	7.9
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	10.2	10.0	10.0
Missing data	0.5	0.3	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,803	2,734	2,661

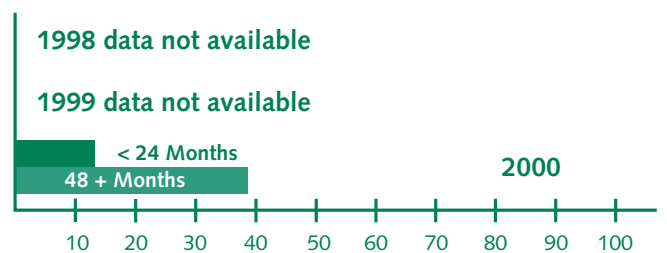
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	—	4.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	—	8.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	—	22.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	—	25.5
48 or more mos.	—	—	38.6
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	145

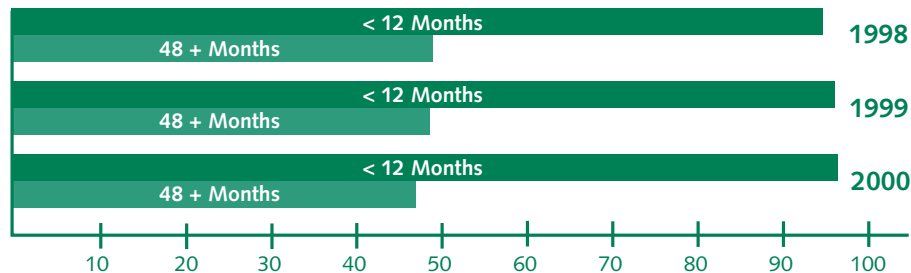
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	94.7	5.3	—	100.0	3,277
	1999	96.0	4.0	—	100.0	3,078
	2000	96.4	3.6	—	100.0	3,064
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	82.4	17.6	—	100.0	1,651
	1999	83.9	16.1	—	100.0	1,357
	2000	84.2	15.8	—	100.0	1,557
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	69.6	30.4	—	100.0	881
	1999	71.9	28.1	—	100.0	978
	2000	74.3	25.7	—	100.0	895
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	69.2	30.8	—	100.0	539
	1999	62.4	37.6	—	100.0	572
	2000	63.9	36.1	—	100.0	689
48 or more mos.	1998	49.0	51.0	—	100.0	1,689
	1999	48.6	51.4	—	100.0	1,577
	2000	47.0	53.0	—	100.0	1,743
Missing data	1998	91.7	8.3	—	100.0	12
	1999	90.9	9.1	—	100.0	11
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	7

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	2.4	1.8	4.0
Institutions	6.2	6.9	6.8
Other settings	88.1	87.8	88.4
Missing data	3.3	3.5	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,929	1,876	1,907

# Alabama

[ STATE COMMENT ]



The following discussion focuses on Alabama's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance (the Alabama CFSR was conducted in FY 2002). In addition, because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance on meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

Alabama's attainment of outcome 1 cannot be assessed as part of the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating this outcome. Only data from NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, for the CFSR, the State provided data for this outcome using an alternative source. These data are presented in Alabama's CFSR Final Report.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care**

Alabama's attainment of outcome 2 cannot be evaluated as part of the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to NCANDS for calculating this outcome. Only data from NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, for the CFSR, the State provided data for this outcome using an alternative source. These data are provided in Alabama's CFSR Final Report.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 83.9 percent of children leaving foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is lower than the national median of 84.7 percent), 65.6 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited from foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is lower than the national median of 79.5 percent), and 72.8 percent of children who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care exited to a permanent home (which is close to the national median of 72.6). In addition, 61.2 percent of the children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is the highest percentage for this measure of all States. These data suggest that the State is not consistently successful in attaining permanency for children in foster care and in ensuring that children do not "grow up" in foster care. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that a key barrier to attaining permanency is the agency practice, in some cases, of establishing a case goal of long-term foster care for children even when they are younger than 12 years old. This practice was noted to occur when the agency maintained a goal of reunification for a long period of time without implementing concurrent planning efforts. Often, when the agency re-evaluated the goal, the child was considered "too old" to be adopted, and the goal was changed to long-term foster care.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 61.7, which does not meet the national standard of 76.2 percent and is less than the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving timely reunifications: (1) inconsistent efforts on the part of the agency to maintain or strengthen the parent-child relationship through frequent visitation and other supportive services; (2) a lack of services to address the underlying causes of child maltreatment, particularly domestic violence and mental health services; (3) failure to consistently involve parents in the case planning process; and (4) infrequent face-to-face contacts between caseworkers and parents to ensure ongoing assessment of risk factors and expedite permanency.

Alabama's performance with regard to reunification within 12 months must be balanced by the finding that in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 7.9, which meets the national standard of 8.6 percent, and is lower than the national median of 10.3 percent. Information from the Final Report suggests that the low rate of re-entries into foster care may be attributed to the following agency practices: (1) providing families with extensive post-

reunification services for as long as the family believes they are necessary, and (2) requiring a committee review of all cases prior to case closure to ensure that risk factors have been adequately addressed.

#### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 13.1, which does not meet the national standard of 32.0 percent, and was lower than the national median of 19.7 percent. These data are difficult to interpret because the number of finalized adoptions in FY 2000 reported to the AFCARS Adoption Database was 202, but the number of children reported as exiting to a finalized adoption (outcome measures 3.1 and 5.1) was only 145. Therefore, the calculation of this measure included only 72 percent of the children who achieved a finalized adoption in FY 2000. However, information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving finalized adoptions in a timely manner: (1) agency delays in setting the goal of adoption, filing for termination of parental rights, and completing paperwork to finalize adoptions; (2) court delays in setting hearings; (3) the unwillingness of some judges in the State to terminate parental rights, particularly when children are older than age 10; (4) inconsistent efforts to search for adoptive placements for children; and (5) the failure in some cases to provide foster parents and relative caregivers with accurate information about adoption, such as the availability of adoption subsidies.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 96.4, which exceeds the national standard of 86.7 percent as well as the median of 84.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance on this outcome may be attributed to the following: (1) the agency practice of conducting thorough early assessments of children's placement needs to ensure appropriate matching of children and foster placements; and/or (2) the high level of supports and services that agency caseworkers tend to provide to foster parents.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 10.8, which is higher than the national median of 9.0 percent. The State's performance on this measure is difficult to interpret because information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that State policy strongly discourages the use of temporary placements in shelters, particularly for younger children, and that the number of therapeutic foster care (TFC) programs has significantly increased over the past 5 years to prevent placement of children in more restrictive environments.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that the child welfare agency is effective in meeting children's physical health needs, but is not as effective in addressing their educational or mental health needs. The Final Report identifies the following as possible barriers to meeting these needs: (1) inconsistent agency efforts to provide services to children once educational needs have been identified; (2) a lack of agency follow up to ensure that children are receiving recommended mental health services; and (3) the questionable quality of some of the mental health services available for children.

### A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	192,261	196,825	190,717	Child maltreatment victims	6,726	5,976	6,957
Race/ethnicity (%) <sup>1</sup>				Children in foster care on 9/30	1,940	2,248	2,193
Alaska Native/American Indian	22.8	23.2	19.4	Children adopted	95	137	202
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.6	4.6	4.1				
Black	3.8	3.7	3.6				
Hispanic	4.5	4.7	5.4				
White	64.3	63.8	58.8				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	8.4				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.3				
% Child population in poverty	11.3	8.0	10.6				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	52.0	41.5	39.8				

### B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	7,489	6,884	8,431	39.0 per 1,000	35.0 per 1,000	44.2 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	6,726	5,976	6,957	35.0 per 1,000	30.4 per 1,000	36.5 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	6	8	1.6 per 100,000	3.0 per 100,000	4.2 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	7.4	7.4	7.8	Alaska Native/American Indian	42.9	44.2	45.2
1-5 years	31.2	29.6	30.9	Asian/Pacific Islander	1.9	1.8	3.2
6-10 years	32.6	32.5	32.1	Black	7.4	5.7	6.4
11-15 years	24.3	25.1	24.4	Hispanic	2.3	2.2	2.4
16+ years	4.5	5.4	4.8	White	39.5	38.1	36.9
Unknown	—	—	—	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	8.3	10.3	5.8
Number	6,726	5,976	6,957	Total % <sup>3</sup>	102.3	102.2	100.0
				Number	6,726	5,976	6,957

#### Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	3.0	6.5	13.5
Medical neglect	—	—	—
Neglect	61.6	60.5	60.5
Physical abuse	30.7	29.6	26.6
Sexual abuse	15.3	15.2	12.1
Other	0.1	0.2	0.1
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	110.7	111.9	112.9
Number	6,726	5,976	6,957

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	1,483	1,092	635	1,940	2,575
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	1,800	1,180	732	2,248	2,980
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	2,010	1,096	913	2,193	3,106

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	17.8	N/A	10.9	13.8	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	13.9	N/A	12.2	15.2	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	15.0	N/A	14.3	16.7	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	4.7	4.8	4.9	13.0	15.9	14.7	2.8	5.7	3.0	4.6	4.7	4.0
1-5 years	30.8	31.7	29.8	32.8	30.0	32.2	32.9	34.7	29.9	31.5	30.1	31.5
6-10 years	28.9	29.9	30.7	27.8	29.7	29.7	30.7	27.9	31.1	29.1	30.7	30.8
11-15 years	24.9	24.4	25.3	22.7	20.2	20.5	19.7	19.7	23.3	24.6	24.7	24.8
16-18 years	10.5	8.8	9.2	3.7	4.1	2.8	13.1	11.1	12.5	9.2	9.1	8.2
19+ years	0.2	0.3	0.1	—	0.1	—	0.8	1.0	0.2	1.0	0.6	0.6
Unknown	—	0.1	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,483</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>2,010</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>1,180</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>1,940</b>	<b>2,248</b>	<b>2,193</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	52.7	55.7	55.0	55.7	53.2	57.4	50.7	51.5	51.4	55.0	55.7	57.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	0.7	0.9	1.6	1.2	0.5	1.7	1.1	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.9
Black	12.2	9.9	9.9	8.2	9.2	8.4	12.6	9.8	8.1	9.8	9.6	9.8
Hispanic	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.1	2.4	2.2	2.2	1.7
White	30.9	29.7	29.5	30.1	31.6	28.4	31.2	34.2	33.8	30.4	29.3	27.1
Two or more races	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	1.8	2.0	2.5	2.3	3.0	3.9	2.2	2.3	3.8	2.0	2.4	2.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,483</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>2,010</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>1,180</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>1,940</b>	<b>2,248</b>	<b>2,193</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	726	830	780
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	596	689	582

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	6.6	6.5	4.2
1-5 years	40.5	38.8	39.7
6-10 years	35.0	34.5	33.8
11-15 years	14.6	17.1	18.8
16+ years	2.1	2.5	2.4
Unknown	1.2	0.6	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>780</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	60.5	57.6	59.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.0	1.1	1.2
Black	7.7	9.0	9.4
Hispanic	2.6	2.3	2.1
White	25.9	27.7	25.3
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	2.3	2.3	2.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>780</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	3.6	3.0
1-5 years	48.4	53.3	37.6
6-10 years	36.8	34.3	44.6
11-15 years	14.7	6.6	14.4
16+ years	—	2.2	0.5
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>202</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	52.6	47.4	36.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.7	0.5
Black	22.1	13.9	3.5
Hispanic	3.2	9.5	8.9
White	22.1	27.7	30.2
Two or more races	—	0.7	19.8
Unknown	—	—	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>202</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

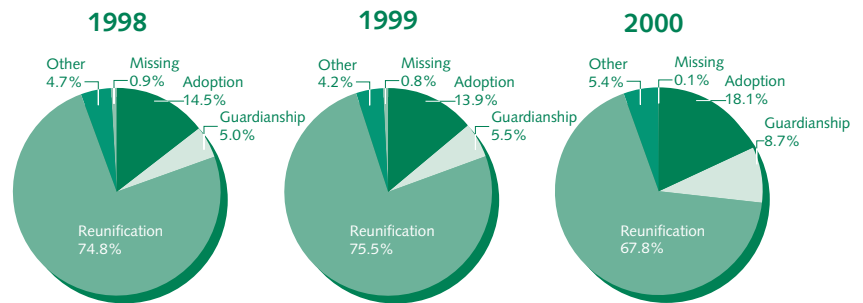
	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	14.5	13.9	18.1
Guardianship	5.0	5.5	8.7
Reunification	74.8	75.5	67.8
Other	4.7	4.2	5.4
Missing data	0.9	0.8	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	635	732	913

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	0.6
Guardianship	4.3	4.7	11.0
Reunification	73.5	73.6	62.6
Other	19.7	19.4	25.8
Missing data	2.6	2.3	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	117	129	155

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	21.4	19.4	18.8
Children older than 12 at entry	78.6	80.6	81.2
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	28	31	48

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	14.9	16.2	17.9	—	—	—	27.5	22.2	13.5	10.0	12.5	18.2
Guardianship	4.3	5.6	7.0	—	—	25.0	5.0	2.8	5.4	10.0	—	—
Reunification	74.8	74.0	69.9	90.9	87.5	75.0	62.5	70.8	73.0	80.0	87.5	81.8
Other	4.7	3.7	4.9	9.1	12.5	—	3.8	4.2	8.1	—	—	—
Missing data	1.2	0.5	0.2	—	—	—	1.2	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	322	377	469	11	8	4	80	72	74	10	8	22

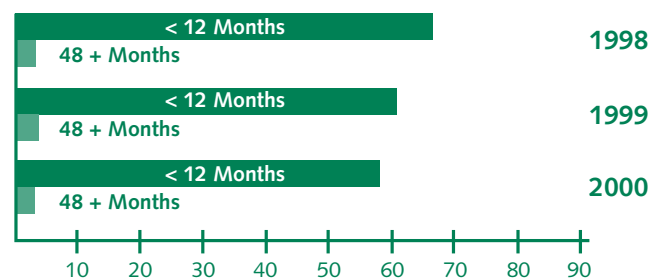
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	10.6	8.8	19.1	—	11.8	22.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	6.6	6.4	13.3	—	5.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	76.8	78.4	61.5	100.0	76.5	74.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	5.6	4.8	6.1	—	5.9	2.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	0.5	1.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number	198	250	309	14	17	35	—	—	—	—	—	—

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

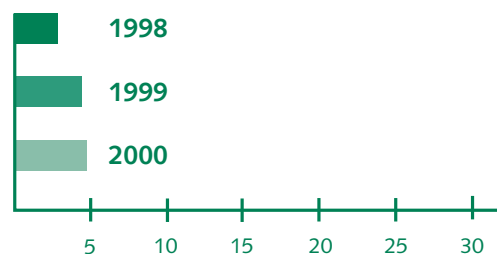
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	66.5	60.9	58.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	14.7	23.9	26.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	10.7	7.8	10.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.2	2.2	1.8
48 or more mos.	3.4	4.0	3.2
Missing data	1.5	1.3	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	475	553	619

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	81.1	81.3	81.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	2.9	4.4	4.7
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	9.1	7.6	7.9
Missing data	6.9	6.7	5.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,092	1,180	1,096

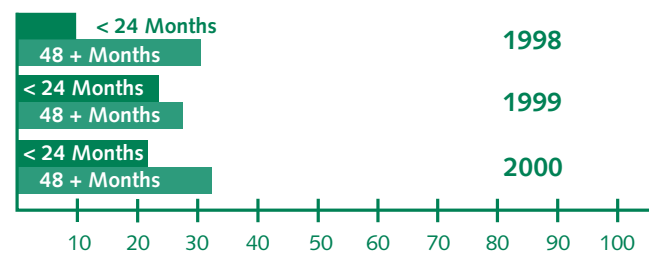
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	7.8	6.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	9.8	15.7	15.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	31.5	27.5	25.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	27.2	19.6	20.6
48 or more mos.	30.4	27.5	32.1
Missing data	1.1	2.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	92	102	165

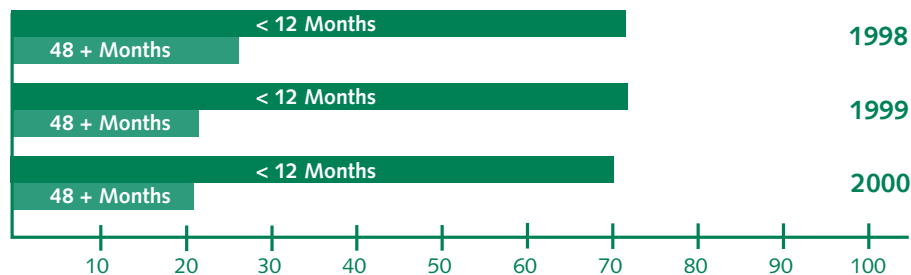
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	71.5	28.5	—	100.0	1,195
	1999	71.9	28.1	—	100.0	1,335
	2000	71.1	28.9	—	100.0	1,251
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	38.1	61.9	—	100.0	528
	1999	40.3	59.7	—	100.0	697
	2000	45.0	55.0	—	100.0	797
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	28.1	71.9	—	100.0	310
	1999	31.2	68.8	—	100.0	378
	2000	30.3	69.7	—	100.0	465
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	18.2	81.8	—	100.0	214
	1999	21.7	78.3	—	100.0	189
	2000	21.6	78.4	—	100.0	231
48 or more mos.	1998	26.0	74.0	—	100.0	315
	1999	21.3	78.7	—	100.0	367
	2000	20.9	79.1	—	100.0	354
Missing data	1998	92.3	7.7	—	100.0	13
	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	14
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	8

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	2.6	4.2	3.3
Institutions	0.6	0.5	1.4
Other settings	96.9	95.3	95.3
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	898	979	860

# Alaska

[ STATE COMMENT ]



The following discussion focuses on Alaska's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance (the Alaska CFSR was conducted in FY 2002). Because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

Alaska's attainment of outcome 1 cannot be assessed in the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) to calculate this outcome. Only data from NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, for the CFSR, the State provided data for this outcome using an alternative source. These data are presented in Alaska's CFSR Final Report.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care**

Alaska's attainment of outcome 2 cannot be evaluated in the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) to calculate this outcome. Only data from NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, for the CFSR, the State provided data for this outcome using an alternative source. These data are presented in Alaska's CFSR Final Report.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 94.6 percent of children leaving foster care were discharged to permanent homes, which is the highest rate reported nationally. In addition, 74.2 percent of children who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care exited to a permanent home (which is higher than the national median of 72.6), and 18.8 percent of children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry, which is lower than the national median of 24.2 percent. (The percent of children with a diagnosed disability leaving foster care who were discharged to permanent homes cannot be determined because the State does not provide data relevant to this measure to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System.) These data suggest that the State is generally effective in achieving permanency for children and in ensuring that young children do not "grow up" in foster care. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance on this outcome may be attributed in part to the State's subsidized guardianship program and to the implementation of the "Balloon" permanency project, which is designed to achieve permanency for children who have been in foster care for long periods of time.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reported reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 58.0, which does not meet the national standard of 76.2 percent and was lower than the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving timely reunifications: (1) a scarcity of services in many communities, particularly alcohol and drug treatment services; (2) inconsistent agency efforts to involve parents in the case planning process and to establish clear permanency goals in all case plans; and (3) infrequent face-to-face contacts between caseworkers and parents to ensure ongoing assessment of risk factors and expedite permanency.

Alaska's performance with regard to reunification within 12 months must be balanced by the finding that, in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 4.7, which is lower than the national standard of 8.6 percent and the national median of 10.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the low rate of re-entry may be attributed to the agency's efforts to ensure that all potential risk factors are addressed prior to reunification. As noted in the Final Report, stakeholders interviewed for the CFSR believe that although the agency may take a long time to return children to their homes, once reunification occurs, children remain safe in their homes.

### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 21.9, which does not meet the national standard of 32.0 percent, but is higher than the national median of 19.7 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving adoptions in a timely manner: (1) delays in establishing new permanency goals when reunification efforts are not successful; (2) delays in filing for termination of parental rights; (3) delays in conducting adoptive family home studies; and (4) an insufficient number of adoption specialists available to assist caseworkers in the adoption process.

### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 71.1, which does not meet the national standard of 86.7 percent and is lower than the national median of 84.3 percent. According to the CFSR Final Report, the State believes that the rate of placement change is due to the way the State information system records some placements. When children in foster care must travel to receive medical care, they often are placed in another foster home for an overnight stay because of flight schedules; the State information system counts these nights in temporary foster homes as a placement change. However, the CFSR Final Report indicates that placement stability is an area of concern and identifies the following as barriers to achieving placement stability: (1) a scarcity of foster care placements resulting in placements that do not meet children's needs; (2) the use of shelters in some areas of the State as the initial placement for children entering foster care; and (3) insufficient efforts in some areas of the State to provide the necessary services and supports to retain foster parents.

### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 4.7, which is lower than the national median of 9.0 percent. There was no information in the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance on this outcome measure.

### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, the CSFR Final Report indicates that the State is not consistently effective in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs. Information from the Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) inconsistencies in the agency's response to identified educational needs in cases in which children are receiving services while they remain in their homes; (2) failure to routinely provide health assessments for all children at the time of entry into foster care; (3) a lack of adequate mental health services throughout the State, particularly services for children diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

### A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	1,263,404	1,334,564	1,366,947	Child maltreatment victims	8,983	9,205	7,460
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	5,608	7,034	6,475
Alaska Native/American Indian	7.1	6.9	6.6	Children adopted	—	761	853
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.0	2.1	1.6				
Black	3.4	3.4	3.4				
Hispanic	31.8	32.6	36.1				
White	55.7	55.1	49.6				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.5				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.2				
% Child population in poverty	26.3	16.1	21.8				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	82.8	85.0	87.5				

### B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	60,610	52,611	51,811	48.0 per 1,000	39.4 per 1,000	37.9 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	8,983	9,205	7,460	7.1 per 1,000	6.9 per 1,000	5.5 per 1,000
Child fatalities	10	8	7	0.8 per 100,000	0.6 per 100,000	0.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	14.8	15.7	17.6	Alaska Native/American Indian	5.1	5.7	3.5
1-5 years	29.4	29.4	27.7	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	1.0	0.2
6-10 years	28.4	27.7	26.1	Black	8.8	9.2	7.9
11-15 years	22.1	22.4	23.0	Hispanic	29.6	31.0	33.9
16+ years	5.2	4.8	5.4	White	78.9	78.3	45.9
Unknown	0.2	—	0.2	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	3.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	6.4	5.9	5.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>8,983</b>	<b>9,205</b>	<b>7,460</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	129.6	131.0	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>8,983</b>	<b>9,205</b>	<b>7,460</b>

#### Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	1.8	1.2	1.5
Medical neglect	9.0	—	—
Neglect	60.8	58.4	71.4
Physical abuse	23.9	24.8	24.5
Sexual abuse	4.4	5.6	7.5
Other	0.1	10.0	—
Unknown	—	—	0.0
Total % <sup>4</sup>	100.0	100.0	104.9
<b>Number</b>	<b>8,983</b>	<b>9,205</b>	<b>7,460</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	3,498			4,300			2,190			5,608			7,798
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	7,515			4,372			4,853			7,034			11,887
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	6,887			4,644			5,056			6,475			11,531
Median Length of Stay (Months)													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	16.0			N/A			4.1			10.7			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	17.2			N/A			10.4			18.9			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	19.1			N/A			9.4			18.0			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	3.9	3.7	4.2	12.7	12.8	14.1	7.2	4.0	5.2	5.2	4.2	4.8	
1-5 years	26.6	27.6	27.0	28.1	28.0	26.7	28.1	28.5	29.0	27.1	26.9	25.9	
6-10 years	27.4	26.7	25.3	25.1	22.2	22.0	25.7	24.5	24.2	26.0	25.2	22.9	
11-15 years	29.8	28.1	28.7	24.9	26.6	27.1	22.6	22.7	23.3	27.9	29.0	30.8	
16-18 years	12.2	13.6	14.3	9.2	10.4	10.2	16.1	19.2	17.3	13.6	14.1	15.2	
19+ years	0.1	0.3	0.6	—	0.0	—	0.3	1.0	1.0	0.1	0.6	0.4	
Unknown	0.1	—	—	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	—	—	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>3,498</b>	<b>7,515</b>	<b>6,887</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>4,372</b>	<b>4,644</b>	<b>2,190</b>	<b>4,853</b>	<b>5,056</b>	<b>5,608</b>	<b>7,034</b>	<b>6,475</b>	
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%) <sup>5</sup>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	4.1	2.9	2.8	4.9	3.6	3.4	4.8	3.8	3.8	4.4	2.8	2.5	
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.0	
Black	14.6	12.8	12.5	11.1	8.5	9.1	12.1	9.5	9.5	12.8	12.4	12.4	
Hispanic	23.9	27.9	31.2	27.6	33.4	32.5	23.1	28.1	30.5	27.0	31.2	32.7	
White	55.3	52.0	48.5	50.2	48.4	48.4	55.9	53.4	50.5	51.2	48.7	46.9	
Two or more races	—	3.7	4.7	—	4.4	4.0	—	3.0	4.2	—	4.6	4.7	
Unknown	1.8	0.6	0.2	5.9	1.4	2.5	3.7	2.0	1.5	4.2	0.2	0.9	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>3,498</b>	<b>7,515</b>	<b>6,887</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>4,372</b>	<b>4,644</b>	<b>2,190</b>	<b>4,853</b>	<b>5,056</b>	<b>5,608</b>	<b>7,034</b>	<b>6,475</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	1,375	3,051	2,370
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	7	2,633	1,817
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	4.9	6.1	4.3
1-5 years	38.0	40.6	38.9
6-10 years	39.1	34.6	32.7
11-15 years	17.2	18.3	22.9
16+ years	0.6	0.4	1.2
Unknown	0.1	0.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,375</b>	<b>3,051</b>	<b>2,370</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	4.1	2.3	2.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	0.0	0.0
Black	14.1	11.4	10.6
Hispanic	25.7	33.1	37.0
White	53.2	48.1	44.9
Two or more races	—	4.8	5.1
Unknown	2.5	0.2	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,375</b>	<b>3,051</b>	<b>2,370</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	0.5	0.7
1-5 years	—	44.8	44.5
6-10 years	—	39.0	36.9
11-15 years	—	14.5	16.6
16+ years	—	1.2	1.2
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>761</b>	<b>853</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	1.1	2.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.3	—
Black	—	12.7	10.6
Hispanic	—	28.1	25.8
White	—	55.8	56.4
Two or more races	—	1.8	4.8
Unknown	—	0.1	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>761</b>	<b>853</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

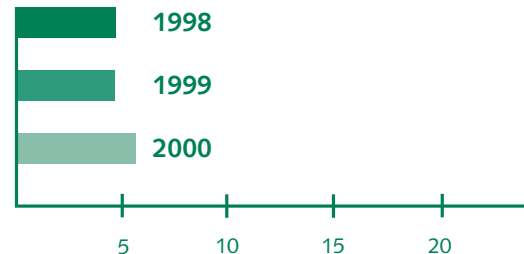
6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	95.2	95.2	93.9
Children with one or more recurrences	4.8	4.8	6.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,244	3,064	3,558

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

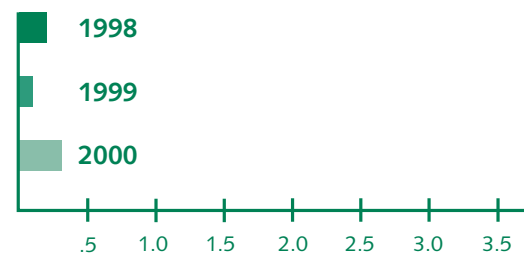


## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.2	0.1	0.3
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.8	99.9	99.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,543	9,419	10,450

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

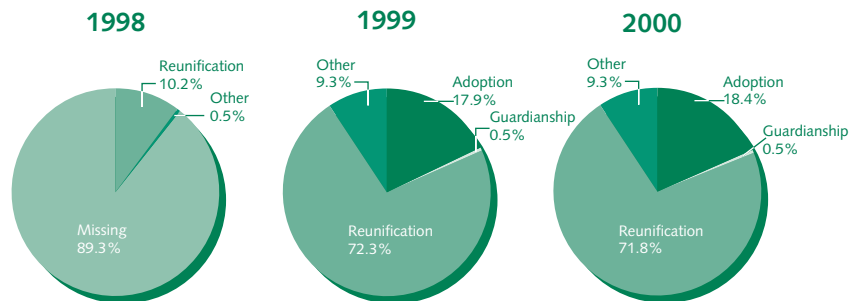


## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	17.9	18.4
Guardianship	—	0.5	0.5
Reunification	10.2	72.3	71.8
Other	0.5	9.3	9.3
Missing data	89.3	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,190	4,853	5,056

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	8.6	19.5
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	22.5	81.4	72.7
Other	—	10.0	7.8
Missing data	77.5	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	40	70	128

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	1.3	0.7
Guardianship	—	0.6	0.5
Reunification	7.6	70.7	71.3
Other	1.2	27.4	27.6
Missing data	91.2	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	567	1,333	1,312

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	50.0	18.9	23.1
Children older than 12 at entry	50.0	81.1	76.9
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4	444	450

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	9.3	13.6	—	20.0	—	—	23.8	20.9	—	17.6	16.2
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.4	0.2	—	0.4	0.6
Reunification	16.0	82.5	81.7	—	70.0	83.3	10.2	61.1	66.8	7.9	73.7	74.8
Other	—	8.2	4.7	—	10.0	16.7	0.8	14.7	12.1	0.6	8.4	8.4
Missing data	84.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	89.1	—	—	91.5	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	106	183	191	7	10	6	266	463	479	506	1,363	1,543

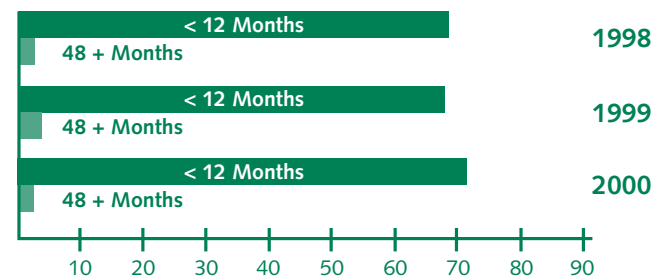
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	—	18.7	20.0	—	—	2.7	—	11.6	19.5	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	0.6	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	1.0	—	—	—
Reunification	10.4	71.5	69.4	15.0	94.7	97.3	—	84.2	73.3	—	—	—
Other	0.5	9.3	10.2	—	5.3	—	—	4.1	6.2	—	—	—
Missing data	89.1	—	—	85.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	—	—
Number	1,225	2,593	2,553	80	95	74	—	146	210	—	—	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

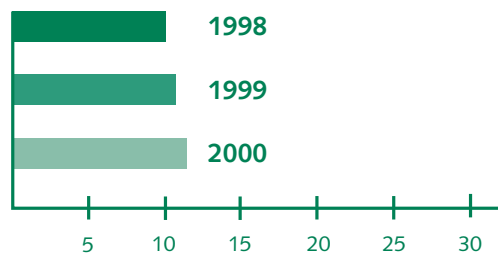
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	68.6	68.0	71.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	10.8	17.8	15.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.8	6.7	8.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.9	3.5	2.8
48 or more mos.	2.7	3.9	2.7
Missing data	11.2	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	223	3,511	3,632

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	84.3	87.1	84.7
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	10.0	10.7	11.5
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	2.8	2.2	3.9
Missing data	2.9	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,300	4,372	4,644

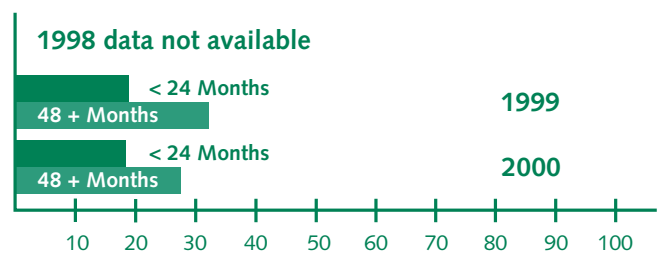
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	8.4	3.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	11.4	14.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	24.7	28.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	23.4	26.2
48 or more mos.	—	32.1	27.3
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	870	930

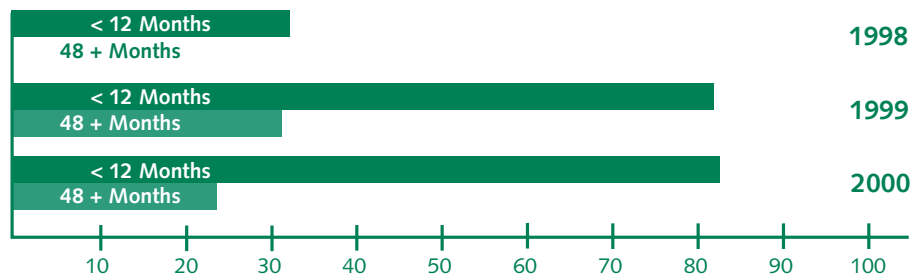
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	32.0	65.8	2.2	100.0	4,496
	1999	81.9	13.9	4.2	100.0	4,921
	2000	82.4	14.9	2.7	100.0	5,171
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	0.3	99.7	—	100.0	1,263
	1999	52.2	47.0	0.8	100.0	2,614
	2000	51.5	47.9	0.6	100.0	2,121
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	—	100.0	—	100.0	692
	1999	38.4	61.3	0.3	100.0	1,697
	2000	35.8	64.0	0.1	100.0	1,688
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	0.2	99.8	—	100.0	501
	1999	33.8	65.7	0.5	100.0	935
	2000	28.4	71.5	0.1	100.0	1,006
48 or more mos.	1998	—	99.6	0.4	100.0	757
	1999	31.1	68.8	0.2	100.0	1,697
	2000	23.5	76.3	0.2	100.0	1,530
Missing data	1998	47.2	32.6	20.2	100.0	89
	1999	78.3	—	21.7	100.0	23
	2000	66.7	—	33.3	100.0	15

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	6.4	5.7	6.6
Institutions	22.0	17.3	20.6
Other settings	71.5	63.4	67.0
Missing data	0.1	13.7	5.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,010	3,124	3,292

# Arizona

[ STATE COMMENT ]



The following discussion focuses on Arizona's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance. In using CFSR information to interpret performance, it is important to note that the Arizona CFSR was conducted in 2001 and the national data used for the review to assess performance regarding national standards was from 1999. However, the discussion of State performance relevant to the national standards in the Federal Comment section focuses on data from the year 2000, as provided in the State Data Pages. In addition, because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

In calendar year (CY) 2000, the State's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 6.1 percent, which equals the national standard and is lower than the national median of 7.9 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance on this measure may be attributed in part to the following: (1) a wide array of available services to prevent maltreatment, (2) the provision of preventive services in a timely manner, and (3) the development of special policies and procedures for investigating reports on families that have a prior history with child protective services.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care**

In CY 2000, the incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.3 percent, which meets the national standard of 0.57 percent and is lower than the national median of 0.47 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that performance on this measure may be attributed to the State's practice of applying a consistent set of licensing standards to all foster homes and routinely monitoring compliance with those standards.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 90.7 percent of children leaving foster care were discharged to permanent homes, which is higher than the national median of 84.7 percent. In addition, 92.2 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 79.5 percent), and 72.5 percent of children who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care exited to a permanent home (which is higher than the national median of 72.6). Finally, 23.1 percent of children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry, which is lower than the national median of 24.2 percent. These data suggest that the State is effective in achieving permanency for children, although a substantial percentage of children who emancipate from foster care appear to have "grown up" in foster care. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that State performance on this outcome may be attributed to the State's adherence to the permanency time-frames established by the Adoption and Safe Families Act and the use of mediation as an approach to facilitating attainment of permanency goals.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 71.5, which does not meet the national standard of 76.2 percent but exceeds the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving timely reunifications: (1) inconsistent agency efforts to involve parents in the case planning process; (2) insufficient services to promote reunification; and (3) lack of consistent implementation of concurrent planning.

Also in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 11.5, which does not meet the national standard of 8.6 percent and exceeds the national median of 10.3 percent. According to information provided in the CFSR Final Report, the State believes that these data may be inaccurate because children who are living with their families on a trial reunification basis and are then returned to out of home care may be erroneously recorded as exiting and

then re-entering foster care. Information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that the State does attempt to prevent foster care re-entry by providing intensive family preservation services as soon as children are reunified and maintaining these services for up to 4 months after reunification.

#### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 18.2, which does not meet the national standard of 32.0 percent and was slightly less than the national median of 19.7 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving adoptions in a timely manner: (1) disruptions in adoptive placements that occur because families are not adequately prepared to meet the child's special needs, (2) disruptions in adoptive placements that occur because children's behavioral and attachment issues are not adequately addressed prior to or during the adoptive placement; and (3) inconsistent implementation of concurrent planning.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 82.4, which does not meet the national standard of 86.7 percent, and was less than the national median of 84.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to placement stability: (1) inadequate preparation of, and support for, foster parents; (2) use of shelter care either at entry into foster care or when there are placement disruptions; and (3) an insufficient number of therapeutic foster homes to meet the needs of children with behavioral and emotional problems.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 27.2, which is the highest percentage reported nationally. According to information in the CFSR Final Report, the high percentage of children who are placed in group homes when they are age 12 or younger may be attributed to the State's practice of placing children, even young children, in emergency shelters at the time of entry into foster care.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State is not effective in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs. The Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) inconsistencies in agency efforts to conduct educational assessments and provide educational advocacy; (2) failure to provide health screenings in all cases at the time of entry into foster care; and (3) a lack of routine mental health assessments and referrals for mental health services.

### A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
<b>Total children under 18 years</b>	<b>653,721</b>	<b>660,224</b>	<b>680,369</b>	Child maltreatment victims	8,578	7,564	7,479
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	3,138	2,919	3,045
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.6	0.6	0.7	Children adopted	258	318	325
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	0.8	0.8				
Black	21.2	21.1	20.6				
Hispanic	3.0	3.2	4.7				
White	74.5	74.3	71.3				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.7				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.1				
<b>% Child population in poverty</b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>25.5</b>				
<b>% Child population living in metropolitan areas</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>45.4</b>	<b>50.5</b>				

### B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	29,572	23,970	23,335	45.2 per 1,000	36.3 per 1,000	34.3 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	8,578	7,564	7,479	13.1 per 1,000	11.5 per 1,000	11.0 per 1,000
Child fatalities	5	9	12	0.8 per 100,000	1.4 per 100,000	1.8 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	3.2	2.8	5.9	Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.2	0.1
1-5 years	28.0	27.4	27.4	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.1	0.3
6-10 years	31.3	29.8	29.3	Black	27.2	19.1	22.4
11-15 years	26.5	29.0	30.0	Hispanic	2.3	2.3	2.2
16+ years	8.9	10.3	6.9	White	67.0	56.6	72.5
Unknown	2.0	0.7	0.5	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	5.2	23.9	2.6
<b>Number</b>	<b>8,578</b>	<b>7,564</b>	<b>7,479</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	102.3	102.3	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>8,578</b>	<b>7,564</b>	<b>7,479</b>

#### Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	1.0	0.6	0.6
Medical neglect	4.5	4.8	3.4
Neglect	67.2	68.9	52.7
Physical abuse	27.5	27.2	22.3
Sexual abuse	27.2	37.0	27.9
Other	—	—	1.2
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	127.4	138.5	108.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>8,578</b>	<b>7,564</b>	<b>7,479</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	2,490	2,737	2,094	3,138	5,227
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	2,589	2,489	2,160	2,919	5,078
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	3,182	3,542	3,679	3,045	6,724

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	11.3	N/A	3.8	12.2	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	15.2	N/A	5.5	12.5	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	12.3	N/A	4.6	12.6	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	4.6	3.8	3.6	9.6	9.3	9.7	5.1	4.0	4.8	4.2	3.8	4.7
1-5 years	23.0	23.0	23.3	24.4	25.8	26.2	27.6	26.9	26.4	22.5	23.4	23.0
6-10 years	21.5	23.9	21.7	23.9	23.2	23.8	20.7	23.8	23.7	23.6	22.4	21.6
11-15 years	30.1	29.4	30.4	32.1	31.5	29.3	25.1	24.3	26.6	30.5	31.1	29.9
16-18 years	19.8	18.6	19.6	9.9	10.2	11.0	20.4	19.3	17.3	17.8	18.1	19.4
19+ years	0.7	1.2	1.3	—	0.0	—	0.8	1.6	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.3
Unknown	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	—	—	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,490</b>	<b>2,589</b>	<b>3,182</b>	<b>2,737</b>	<b>2,489</b>	<b>3,542</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>2,160</b>	<b>3,679</b>	<b>3,138</b>	<b>2,919</b>	<b>3,045</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/ Am. Indian	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3
Black	41.7	41.6	40.5	31.7	31.9	30.7	29.6	29.9	32.1	40.9	42.1	39.4
Hispanic	1.3	1.6	2.1	2.2	2.6	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.4	1.5	1.9	1.9
White	55.6	55.2	54.9	61.8	61.5	62.5	63.9	64.4	61.4	55.5	53.8	55.8
Two or more races	—	0.1	0.7	—	0.3	1.8	—	0.1	1.7	—	0.3	0.7
Unknown	0.6	0.9	1.2	3.7	2.9	2.3	3.2	2.5	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,490</b>	<b>2,589</b>	<b>3,182</b>	<b>2,737</b>	<b>2,489</b>	<b>3,542</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>2,160</b>	<b>3,679</b>	<b>3,138</b>	<b>2,919</b>	<b>3,045</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	335	867	817
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	37	287	63

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	4.5	4.6	3.7
1-5 years	30.4	36.1	30.7
6-10 years	33.1	31.4	33.3
11-15 years	30.1	26.0	28.9
16+ years	1.8	1.8	3.4
Unknown	—	0.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>817</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.1	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.1	0.1
Black	42.7	41.6	41.4
Hispanic	0.3	1.8	2.1
White	55.2	54.8	54.1
Two or more races	—	0.2	0.6
Unknown	1.8	1.3	1.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>817</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	3.1	3.5	3.4
1-5 years	38.4	41.2	39.4
6-10 years	38.8	30.8	27.1
11-15 years	17.1	20.4	24.6
16+ years	2.7	4.1	5.5
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>325</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	1.2	0.3	0.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	0.3	—
Black	22.1	40.3	36.6
Hispanic	2.3	1.6	4.0
White	73.6	53.1	57.2
Two or more races	—	—	0.9
Unknown	0.4	4.4	0.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>325</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

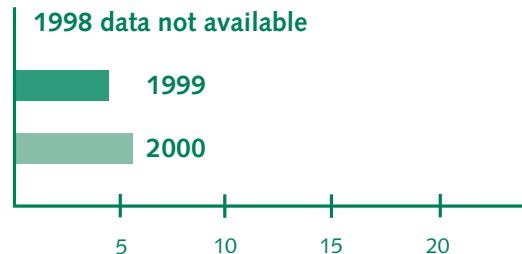
6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

### 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

#### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	95.5	94.4
Children with one or more recurrences	—	4.5	5.6
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	3,662	3,887

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

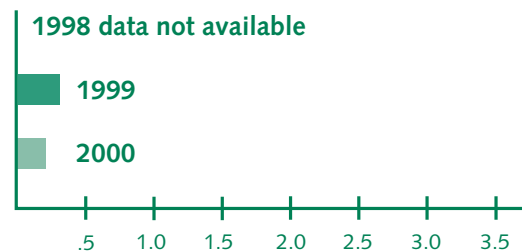


### 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

#### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	0.3	0.2
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	99.7	99.8
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	4,530	5,956

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

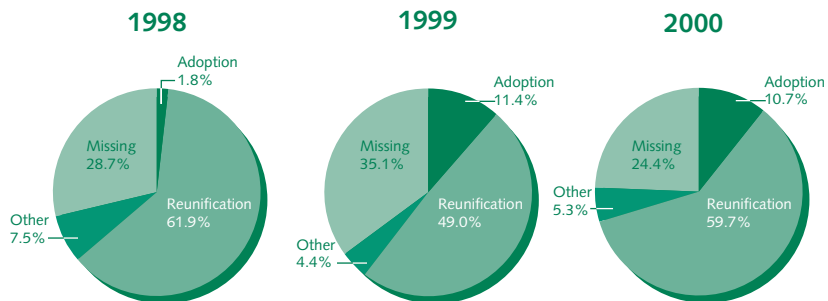


### 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

#### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	1.8	11.4	10.7
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	61.9	49.0	59.7
Other	7.5	4.4	5.3
Missing data	28.7	35.1	24.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,094	2,160	3,679

Percent Exits from Foster Care



#### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	4.2	16.5	15.8
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	63.9	44.6	51.1
Other	9.6	4.7	8.9
Missing data	22.3	34.2	24.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	166	278	783

#### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.1	1.3	2.0
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	45.5	40.1	54.4
Other	18.3	11.9	14.3
Missing data	36.1	46.7	29.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	743	673	1,136

#### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	10.2	9.4	14.5
Children older than 12 at entry	89.8	90.6	85.5
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	49	32	172

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	18.8	9.1	6.7	—	14.3	—	1.5	15.7	10.9	—	4.0	13.5
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	62.5	36.4	40.0	100.0	28.6	72.7	61.5	48.4	61.5	63.0	66.0	55.1
Other	6.2	9.1	6.7	—	—	—	5.3	3.7	5.0	4.3	2.0	3.4
Missing data	12.5	45.5	46.7	—	57.1	27.3	31.8	32.2	22.5	32.6	28.0	28.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	16	11	15	7	7	11	620	645	1,180	46	50	89

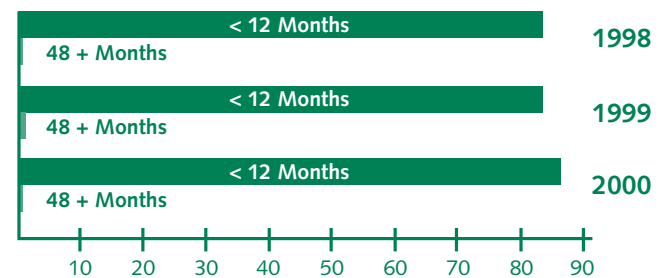
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	1.9	9.8	10.9	—	15.4	4.8	—	—	1.6	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	61.6	48.8	58.7	80.6	34.6	64.5	—	100.0	66.1	54.8	66.7	—
Other	8.9	4.9	5.8	5.6	3.8	3.2	—	—	—	3.2	3.7	—
Missing data	27.6	36.5	24.7	13.9	46.2	27.4	—	—	32.3	41.9	29.6	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—
Number	1,338	1,392	2,260	36	26	62	—	2	62	31	27	—

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

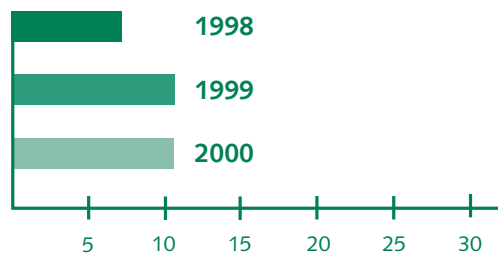
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	83.4	83.4	86.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	12.4	10.9	9.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.2	3.8	2.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.1	0.6	0.8
48 or more mos.	0.5	1.3	0.7
Missing data	0.3	0.1	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,297	1,059	2,196

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	89.7	78.7	85.8
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	7.1	10.6	10.5
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	0.1	1.6	2.6
Missing data	3.0	9.2	1.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,737	2,489	3,542

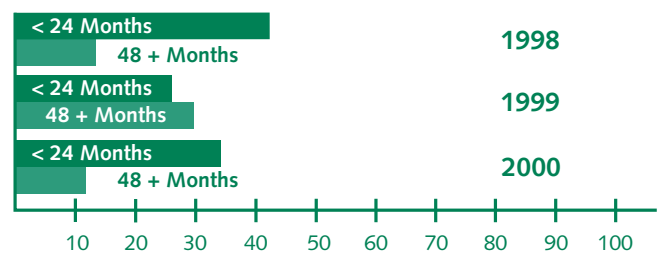
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	7.9	4.5	8.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	34.2	21.5	25.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	21.1	26.4	21.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	23.7	15.9	16.3
48 or more mos.	13.2	29.7	11.7
Missing data	—	2.0	16.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	38	246	392

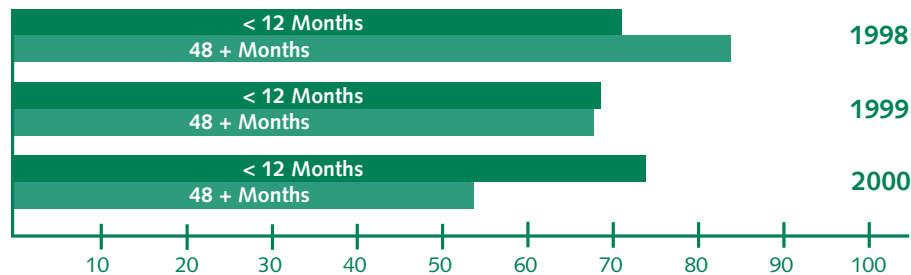
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	71.0	28.7	0.3	100.0	3,112
	1999	68.6	31.2	0.2	100.0	2,808
	2000	73.8	18.3	8.0	100.0	4,048
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	64.8	35.0	0.2	100.0	1,014
	1999	39.9	59.7	0.5	100.0	865
	2000	49.2	47.8	3.0	100.0	1,163
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	72.2	27.8	—	100.0	432
	1999	49.6	50.1	0.3	100.0	617
	2000	39.0	57.1	4.0	100.0	580
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	79.1	20.9	—	100.0	211
	1999	54.5	44.8	0.7	100.0	279
	2000	42.5	54.5	3.0	100.0	400
48 or more mos.	1998	83.9	16.1	—	100.0	440
	1999	67.8	31.6	0.6	100.0	475
	2000	53.7	44.0	2.3	100.0	441
Missing data	1998	72.2	22.2	5.6	100.0	18
	1999	82.4	14.7	2.9	100.0	34
	2000	75.0	—	25.0	100.0	92

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	—	—	—
Institutions	8.7	8.8	3.8
Other settings	88.9	90.7	96.0
Missing data	2.3	0.4	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,547	1,640	2,277

**Roy Kindle, Director**  
**Division of Children and Family Services**  
**Arkansas Department of Human Services**  
**501-682-8008**

The Division of Children and Family Services has reviewed the State's data for the Child Welfare Outcomes 2000: Annual Report and has the following comments:

There is a relatively high percentage of missing data pertaining to "Reason for Discharge" information reported for outcome measures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3. We have been reviewing the problem and received technical assistance from the National Resource Center on Information Technology to assist with programming changes needed to reduce the percent of "missing" data. CHRIS, our State Information System, allowed workers a selection entitled "Court Order" and that has been changed. The programming changes began June 2001 and would not be fully reflected in FY 2000 data. However, a preliminary review of FY 2001 data indicates that only 12 percent of the files do not have a "Reason for Discharge."

The data in Section C, regarding the difference in the number of children from the last day of the FFY 1999 reporting period (3,182) to the first day of the FFY 2000 reporting period (2,919) is related to client merge and delays in entering data by our family service workers. We have reviewed the problem and received technical assistance from the National Resource Center on Information Technology and expect continued improvements in FY 2001 data as we continue the work of cleaning up the data.

Missing data for Outcome Measure 5.1, the time to adoption, has increased from the previous year. There have been a number of enhancements to the CHRIS system that affected the adoptions data. We are working with the National Resource Center on Information Technology to assist us with our data problems and a preliminary analysis of the data indicates a reduction in "Missing" data category for FY 2001 data.



The following discussion focuses on Arkansas' performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance. In using CFSR information to interpret performance, it is important to note that the Arkansas CFSR was conducted in 2001 and the national data used to assess performance regarding national standards during the CFSR was from 1999. However, the discussion of State performance relevant to the national standards in the Federal Comment section focuses on the data for the year 2000, as provided in the State Data Pages. In addition, because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

In calendar year (CY) 2000, the rate of recurrence of maltreatment within 6 months was 5.6 percent, which is less than both the national standard of 6.1 percent and the national median of 7.9 percent. However, information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the actual rate of maltreatment recurrence may be higher than the reported rate of recurrence because the agency does not routinely investigate maltreatment reports as new reports when they are received on families with open child welfare agency cases.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care**

In CY 2000, the incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.2 percent, which meets the national standard of .57 percent and is lower than the national median of .47 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that performance on this outcome may be attributed in part to the following agency practices and policies: (1) random reviews of foster home records, (2) a requirement of annual recertification of foster homes by an external contractor, and (3) a requirement that caseworkers visit foster parents on a weekly basis.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

The State's performance relevant to this outcome as reported in the State Data Pages cannot be assessed because 24.4 percent of children who exited foster care in fiscal year (FY) 2000 did not have "reason for discharge" information reported to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System. Consequently, there is no "permanency" information for almost 900 children who exited foster care in FY 2000.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

It is difficult to assess the State's performance with regard to outcome 4 because of the missing data regarding reasons for discharge from foster care (24.4 percent of exits did not have "reason for discharge" information). For those reunifications that were reported in FY 2000, 86.2 percent occurred within 12 months of the child's entry into foster care. This exceeds both the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance on this outcome may be attributed in part to diligent efforts on the part of the child welfare agency to facilitate visitation between parents and children, including providing transportation when needed and supporting weekend visits.

Arkansas' high performance with regard to reunification within 12 months must be balanced by the finding that in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 10.5, which does not meet the national standard of 8.6 and is slightly higher than the national median of 10.3. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that re-entries into foster care may be attributed in part to the following: (1) reunifying families without sufficient assessment of change in the risk factors; and (2) insufficient services to support family reintegration after reunification.

### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

Arkansas' performance on outcome 5 cannot be assessed for the Federal Comment section. As noted previously, there are over 900 children who exited care for whom no "reason for discharge" information was provided. In addition, 16.6 percent (65) of the 392

children who exited to adoption did not have “time in care” information. Taken together, the missing data for this outcome prohibit assessment of State performance.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 73.8, which does not meet the national standard of 86.7 percent and is less than the national median of 84.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to placement stability: (1) inconsistent agency efforts to assess children’s needs to ensure an appropriate foster care placement; (2) insufficient services for foster parents, such as respite care, to prevent placement disruptions; and (3) a lack of placement resources for children with multiple behavioral and mental health problems.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 and younger who were placed in a group home or institution was 3.8, which is less than the national median of 9.0. Information in the CFSR Final Report suggests that performance on this outcome may be attributed to the fact that the agency does not rely on shelter care placements as the initial placement setting for young children entering foster care.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With regard to select child well-being indicators, the CFSR Final Report indicates that the State is not consistently effective in ensuring that children’s educational and physical and mental health needs are adequately addressed. The Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) a lack of agency follow up in some cases to ensure that recommended services are actually provided; (2) insufficient assessment of children’s needs, particularly their needs for mental health services; and (3) a failure in some cases to provide the services recommended by professional assessments.

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	8,911,372	8,923,423	9,249,829	Child maltreatment victims	157,683	130,510	129,678
Race/ethnicity (%) <sup>1</sup>				Children in foster care on 9/30	112,767	117,937	112,807
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.5	0.5	Children adopted	4,418	6,337	8,693
Asian/Pacific Islander	11.2	11.3	9.6				
Black	6.9	6.8	7.1				
Hispanic	41.2	41.9	43.8				
White	40.2	39.5	34.8				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	3.9				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.3				
% Child population in poverty	26.4	20.3	21.7				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	99.4	99.5	96.9				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	413,372	452,887	486,127	46.4 per 1,000	50.8 per 1,000	52.6 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	157,683	130,510	129,678	17.7 per 1,000	14.6 per 1,000	14.0 per 1,000
Child fatalities	26	33	30	0.3 per 100,000	0.4 per 100,000	0.3 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	6.0	9.7	9.5	Alaska Native/American Indian	1.1	1.0	1.0
1-5 years	29.0	29.3	29.1	Asian/Pacific Islander	3.2	4.0	3.8
6-10 years	31.4	31.1	30.8	Black	16.0	18.0	15.6
11-15 years	25.4	24.0	24.5	Hispanic	32.8	37.0	39.6
16+ years	8.2	6.0	6.2	White	37.8	33.0	32.9
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	-
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	41.9	44.0	7.1
Number	157,683	130,510	129,678	Total % <sup>3</sup>	132.8	137.0	100.0
				Number	157,683	130,510	129,678

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	8.1	17.8	18.7
Medical neglect	—	—	—
Neglect	51.9	56.3	56.7
Physical abuse	26.2	17.5	16.1
Sexual abuse	13.4	9.1	8.3
Other	0.4	9.8	10.5
Unknown	—	0.0	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	100.0	110.4	110.3
Number	157,683	130,510	129,678

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	109,819	52,997	50,049	112,767	162,816
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	113,506	43,587	39,156	117,937	157,093
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	117,234	45,685	50,112	112,807	162,919

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	19.8	N/A	12.6	21.6	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	20.8	N/A	14.9	25.2	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	24.5	N/A	18.2	26.6	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	4.2	3.7	3.5	13.6	14.7	14.0	4.0	4.0	3.6	3.8	3.5	3.4
1-5 years	29.8	26.7	24.8	28.5	27.2	26.6	30.8	30.5	29.0	27.8	24.5	22.9
6-10 years	29.0	27.5	27.2	22.5	23.7	23.6	23.5	23.7	25.8	29.1	27.5	25.9
11-15 years	24.2	26.5	27.5	24.5	24.6	25.9	18.8	19.2	20.7	26.7	27.3	28.8
16-18 years	12.2	15.0	16.1	10.7	9.7	9.9	20.2	20.5	19.1	12.2	16.0	17.1
19+ years	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	2.1	1.7	0.4	1.2	1.8
Unknown	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>109,819</b>	<b>113,506</b>	<b>117,234</b>	<b>52,997</b>	<b>43,587</b>	<b>45,685</b>	<b>50,049</b>	<b>39,156</b>	<b>50,112</b>	<b>112,767</b>	<b>117,937</b>	<b>112,807</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.7	1.9	2.1	3.0	3.6	3.4	3.0	3.2	3.1	1.7	2.1	2.2
Black	36.6	35.5	34.3	22.6	22.4	21.5	24.3	23.7	24.7	35.4	34.6	33.3
Hispanic	29.3	31.3	32.9	35.3	36.0	38.2	32.3	33.5	35.3	30.8	32.3	33.9
White	30.9	29.9	29.3	36.5	35.2	33.6	38.0	37.1	34.1	30.4	29.5	28.9
Two or more races	—	—	0.1	—	—	0.1	—	—	0.3	—	—	0.0
Unknown	0.4	0.2	0.2	1.2	1.5	1.9	1.1	1.2	1.3	0.5	0.4	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>109,819</b>	<b>113,506</b>	<b>117,234</b>	<b>52,997</b>	<b>43,587</b>	<b>45,685</b>	<b>50,049</b>	<b>39,156</b>	<b>50,112</b>	<b>112,767</b>	<b>117,937</b>	<b>112,807</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	4,455	9,894	12,632
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	1,915	6,911	9,791

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	8.0	4.2	3.7
1-5 years	55.2	51.6	46.5
6-10 years	26.2	30.0	32.3
11-15 years	9.0	12.4	14.8
16+ years	1.5	1.7	2.2
Unknown	0.2	0.1	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,455</b>	<b>9,894</b>	<b>12,632</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	1.1	1.0	0.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.5	1.6	1.9
Black	27.2	31.2	30.7
Hispanic	29.9	33.6	35.8
White	40.2	32.4	30.8
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	0.1	0.2	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,455</b>	<b>9,894</b>	<b>12,632</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	3.1	2.2	2.3
1-5 years	61.2	63.8	56.9
6-10 years	28.1	25.7	29.0
11-15 years	6.8	7.1	10.1
16+ years	0.7	1.2	1.7
Unknown	—	—	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,418</b>	<b>6,337</b>	<b>8,693</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.6	0.9	0.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.5	2.2	1.3
Black	24.2	19.5	22.0
Hispanic	33.5	31.7	34.1
White	38.0	42.9	34.7
Two or more races	—	0.0	0.2
Unknown	1.2	2.7	7.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,418</b>	<b>6,337</b>	<b>8,693</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

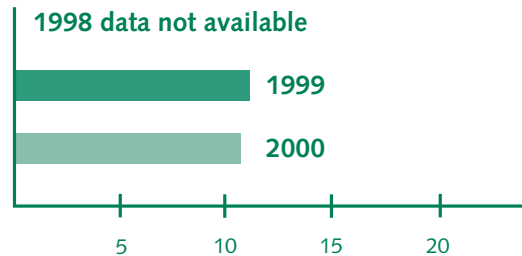
6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	88.9	89.3
Children with one or more recurrences	—	11.1	10.7
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	60,893	60,886

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences



## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

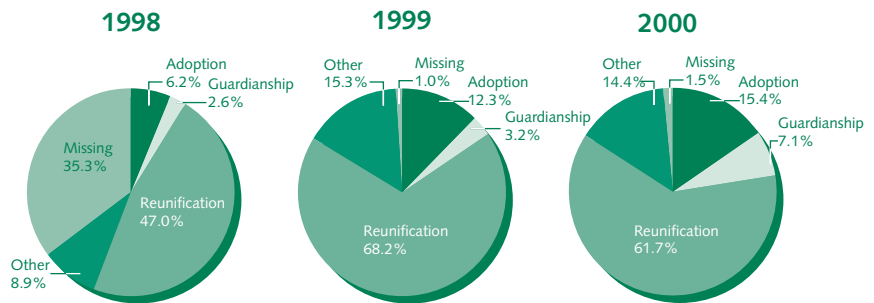
	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	6.2	12.3	15.4
Guardianship	2.6	3.2	7.1
Reunification	47.0	68.2	61.7
Other	8.9	15.3	14.4
Missing data	35.3	1.0	1.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	50,049	39,156	50,112

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	6.6	17.1	24.7
Guardianship	2.7	1.8	6.0
Reunification	46.1	63.1	56.1
Other	9.0	17.4	12.4
Missing data	35.6	0.7	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	988	2,228	4,441

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.4	0.7	0.6
Guardianship	0.9	1.5	2.2
Reunification	48.3	58.3	56.0
Other	21.5	38.7	39.9
Missing data	29.0	0.8	1.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	13,265	10,278	11,795

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	36.2	32.9	34.7
Children older than 12 at entry	63.7	67.1	65.3
Missing data	0.1	0.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,739	3,728	4,489

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	7.0	9.2	10.0	3.1	7.4	8.6	5.7	12.0	15.9	5.3	11.4	14.9
Guardianship	6.9	5.6	13.5	2.1	1.3	3.4	2.9	3.1	9.2	2.0	2.4	7.0
Reunification	43.4	69.0	58.0	52.9	78.7	75.9	44.8	62.6	54.9	50.0	71.9	63.8
Other	8.0	14.8	17.3	7.4	11.9	10.9	12.5	21.6	19.0	7.3	13.2	12.6
Missing data	34.8	1.3	1.2	34.6	0.8	1.2	34.1	0.7	1.1	35.3	1.1	1.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	627	533	572	1,504	1,237	1,553	12,166	9,269	12,385	16,168	13,108	17,696

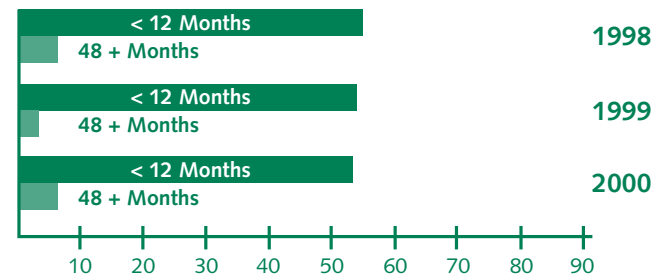
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	7.6	14.1	16.6	3.7	2.3	2.0	—	—	35.6	—	—	—
Guardianship	3.0	4.2	5.9	1.6	2.5	3.3	—	—	6.8	—	—	—
Reunification	45.5	66.9	62.4	45.6	86.1	86.0	—	—	47.0	—	—	—
Other	8.1	13.7	13.5	5.4	7.4	5.6	—	—	10.6	—	—	—
Missing data	35.9	1.1	1.5	43.8	1.7	3.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Number	19,009	14,533	17,110	575	476	664	—	—	132	—	—	—

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

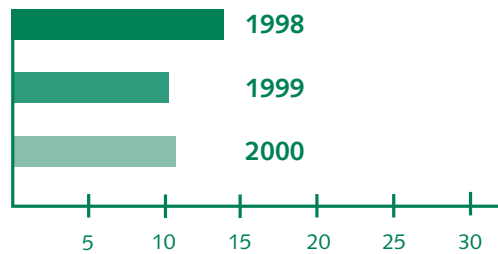
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	54.9	54.0	53.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	26.0	27.0	24.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	7.9	9.8	10.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.4	2.9	4.0
48 or more mos.	6.3	4.4	6.5
Missing data	1.5	1.9	1.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	23,519	26,707	30,908

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	78.2	81.1	80.1
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	13.9	10.2	10.7
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	6.9	8.4	9.0
Missing data	1.0	0.3	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	52,997	43,587	45,685

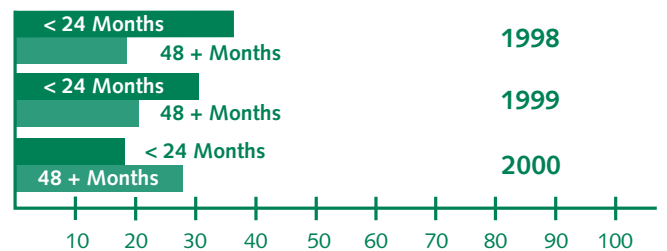
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	12.2	5.8	2.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	23.9	25.7	15.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	25.7	29.9	30.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	19.5	17.9	23.5
48 or more mos.	18.6	20.6	27.9
Missing data	0.2	0.1	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,105	4,815	7,693

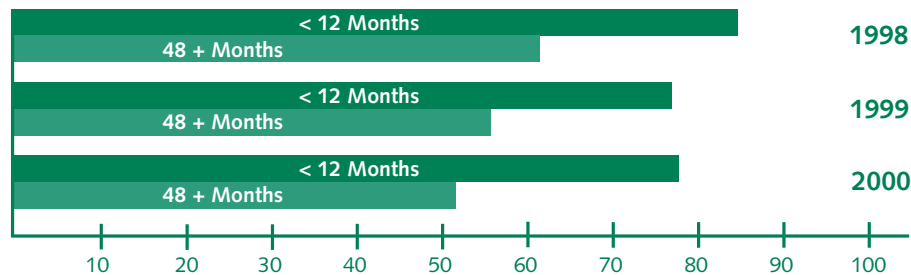
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	84.7	15.3	0.0	100.0	59,548
	1999	76.9	23.1	0.0	100.0	47,401
	2000	77.7	22.2	0.0	100.0	49,747
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	69.8	30.1	0.0	100.0	36,159
	1999	62.3	37.7	0.0	100.0	36,004
	2000	59.0	41.0	0.0	100.0	32,324
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	61.6	38.4	0.0	100.0	18,868
	1999	56.8	43.2	—	100.0	23,460
	2000	53.9	46.1	0.0	100.0	23,964
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	59.4	40.6	—	100.0	11,927
	1999	53.0	47.0	0.0	100.0	13,239
	2000	50.7	49.3	0.0	100.0	16,439
48 or more mos.	1998	61.4	38.5	0.0	100.0	35,355
	1999	55.6	44.4	—	100.0	36,243
	2000	51.4	48.6	0.0	100.0	39,691
Missing data	1998	99.5	0.5	—	100.0	959
	1999	94.8	5.2	—	100.0	746
	2000	94.6	5.4	—	100.0	754

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	4.6	4.3	3.8
Institutions	11.1	12.9	9.8
Other settings	84.3	82.8	86.4
Missing data	—	0.0	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	37,818	31,671	32,668

**Rita Saenz, Director  
Department of Social Services  
California Health and Human Services Agency  
916-657-2598**

In addition to our specific comments on the data, California has a number of concerns about the data indicators for the outcomes and the National Standards. States are evaluated against National Standards derived from data they reported through both voluntary and mandatory reporting systems. These systems lack uniformly enforced, consistent data definitions. The National Standards were developed without data from every state. Of those states that reported data on any specific standard, the values were set so that only 25 percent of the states could "pass." Failing even a single National Standard results in a finding of nonconformity. Moreover, questions exist about whether the data indicators, for which the National Standards were established, individually or in combination with one another, accurately capture program outcomes that are truly desirable.

With regard to California's data for Section C—Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)—the data suggest that there were 703 fewer children in care on October 1, 1999 (117,234) than on the preceding day, September 30, 1999 (117,937). This is misleading because September 30 is the end of one six-month reporting period, and October 1 is the beginning of a new six-month reporting period. The October report is not run until six months after the October 1 start date. The end of the FFY caseload cannot match the beginning of the FFY caseload when the files are six months apart. The discrepancy is caused by late entry adjustments to two different reporting periods.

The data for Section E—Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)—indicate that 8,693 children were adopted in FFY 2000. However, outcome measure 5.1 shows 7,693 children reported as discharged to a finalized adoption in FFY 2000 from the AFCARS Foster Care Database. The disparity may have occurred because: (1) information for this reporting period originated from two different tables, and (2) an AFCARS mapping error has been identified which resulted in foster care selection criteria that are too restrictive. This is scheduled for correction.

The data for outcome 3.4 indicate a continuous increase in the number of youth emancipated from foster care over the 3-year period. This trend is the result of improved reporting practices and the aging of the foster care population.

With regard to outcome 1.1—Recurrence of Maltreatment within 6 months—a state sample of cases indicated that approximately two thirds had at least one additional occurrence of abuse or neglect. The remaining cases (approximately 33 percent) had subsequent reports that referred to a previously reported instance of abuse or neglect or to an event that was not abuse or neglect. Following the Federal Child and Family Services Review, California will be examining this data more closely to improve data quality.

Finally, California's SACWIS is being reconfigured to capture the data necessary to compute outcome measure 2.1—Maltreatment in Foster Care.



The following discussion focuses on California's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance (the California CFSR was conducted in FY 2002). Because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

In calendar year (CY) 2000, California's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 10.7 percent, which is higher than both the national standard of 6.1 percent and the national median of 7.9 percent. According to information from the CFSR Final Report, the State believes that the actual rate of maltreatment recurrence is 7.3 percent, although this is still higher than the national standard of 6.1 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that a primary reason for the recurrence of maltreatment may be high caseworker caseloads that prevent caseworkers from conducting in-depth risk assessments and providing intensive in-home services.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care**

California's performance with regard to outcome 2 cannot be assessed in the Federal Comment section because the State did not provide data for CY 2000 to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) to calculate this measure. Only data from NCANDS are used for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, for the CFSR, the State provided data for this outcome measure using an alternative source. This information is provided in California's CFSR Final Report.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 84.2 percent of children exiting foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is about equal to the national median of 84.7), and 86.8 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 79.5 percent). However, only 58.8 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to permanency homes, which is lower than the national median of 72.6. These data suggest that although the State is effective in achieving permanency for children in general and for children with a diagnosed disability, it is less consistently effective in achieving permanency for children who are older than age 12 when they enter foster care. In addition, 34.7 percent of the children who were emancipated from foster care during FY 2000 were age 12 or younger when they entered care, which is higher than the national median of 24.2 percent. This suggests that a number of children exiting foster care in FY 2000 "grew up" in the system. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that a primary barrier to achieving permanency may be the agency practice of establishing legal guardianship relationships but maintaining the family on the foster care roles so that the child is not reported as discharged from foster care. Other potential barriers to achieving permanency include the following: (1) contact between caseworkers and parents in some cases that is not sufficient to promote attainment of case goals; (2) failure to file for termination of parental rights in some cases in which reunification efforts have not been successful, and (3) belief among some agency caseworkers that older children are "unadoptable."

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reported reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 53.2, which is lower than both the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that a key barrier to achieving reunification within 12 months of the time of entry into foster care is a California statute that permits an extension of reunification services to 18 months if the court determines that there is a likelihood that reunification will be successful within that extended period.

Also in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 10.7, which is higher than the national standard of 8.6 percent and about equal to the national median of 10.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to preventing foster care re-entries: (1) insufficient resources

for post-reunification services, and (2) adherence to timelines for reunification without consideration of whether sufficient services have been provided to reduce the risk of harm to children.

#### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 18.1 percent, which is lower than both the national standard of 32.0 percent and the national median of 19.7 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving adoptions in a timely manner: (1) the reluctance of the courts and the agency to seek termination of parental rights unless there is an adoptive home ready to take the child; (2) agency delays in conducting home studies and completing paperwork; and (3) the belief of many agency workers that the adoption assistance program does not provide sufficient financial supports and services to warrant moving children out of foster care.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 77.7, which is lower than both the national standard of 86.7 percent and the national median of 84.3. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving placement stability: (1) lack of adequate attention to the ability of foster parents or relative caretakers to meet the needs of specific children; (2) use of emergency shelter placements at the time of removal from home, particularly when children are removed by law enforcement personnel; and (3) lack of sufficient placement resources to meet the needs of children with complex mental health or behavioral problems.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 13.6 percent, which is higher than the national median of 9.0. Information in the CFSR Final Report suggests that performance on this measure may be attributed to the use of emergency shelter care at the time of children's entry into foster care, even for young children.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, information in the CSFR Final Report indicates that the State is generally effective in meeting children physical health needs but is less consistently effective in meeting children's educational and mental health needs. The following were identified in the CFSR Final Report as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) a failure in some cases to provide services to address identified educational needs; (2) a lack of responsiveness of the school system to children in foster care; (3) lack of sufficient training for caseworkers and foster parents on advocating for their children with the school system; (4) lack of sufficient attention to mental health needs of children who remain in their own homes; and (5) a lack of sufficient mental health services (with regard to both quantity and quality) for children, particularly when they are not in foster care but are receiving services while remaining in their own homes.

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	1,040,580	1,065,510	1,100,795	Child maltreatment victims	7,010	6,989	7,467
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	7,951	7,639	7,533
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.7	0.7	0.7	Children adopted	575	713	691
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.6	2.6	2.2				
Black	4.5	4.4	4.3				
Hispanic	20.7	21.3	23.5				
White	71.6	70.9	66.2				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.9				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.2				
% Child population in poverty	10.6	11.6	13.3				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	86.7	86.1	84.6				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	39,141	34,110	35,483	37.6 per 1,000	32.0 per 1,000	32.2 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	7,010	6,989	7,467	6.7 per 1,000	6.6 per 1,000	6.8 per 1,000
Child fatalities	28	32	31	2.7 per 100,000	3.0 per 100,000	2.8 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	9.3	9.8	10.0	Alaska Native/American Indian	1.3	1.3	1.2
1-5 years	30.4	30.2	30.8	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.9	0.8	0.8
6-10 years	32.0	31.8	30.5	Black	7.7	8.4	7.0
11-15 years	23.6	23.7	23.5	Hispanic	22.5	18.6	21.4
16+ years	4.3	4.2	4.7	White	73.0	62.8	64.9
Unknown	0.5	0.2	0.5	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	17.1	26.8	26.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>7,010</b>	<b>6,989</b>	<b>7,467</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	122.5	118.6	121.4
				<b>Number</b>	<b>7,010</b>	<b>6,989</b>	<b>7,467</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	11.7	14.6	15.9
Medical neglect	6.5	7.1	71.4
Neglect	67.7	70.7	72.2
Physical abuse	29.3	27.6	26.8
Sexual abuse	14.7	15.1	14.4
Other	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	129.9	135.1	200.7
<b>Number</b>	<b>7,010</b>	<b>6,989</b>	<b>7,467</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	6,006			7,147			5,202			7,951			13,153
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	6,131			7,183			5,675			7,639			13,314
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	6,103			6,942			5,512			7,533			13,045
Median Length of Stay (Months)													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	15.2			N/A			3.8			11.1			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	12.1			N/A			3.2			11.3			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	12.2			N/A			3.7			12.0			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	3.2	4.6	4.0	8.5	7.9	8.8	3.6	4.5	4.4	4.3	3.7	4.0	
1-5 years	18.2	18.0	17.8	19.2	19.1	20.4	18.8	18.8	19.4	18.8	19.1	20.1	
6-10 years	23.4	22.6	21.0	18.7	17.7	17.7	16.8	16.7	16.6	22.3	21.4	20.1	
11-15 years	34.4	34.2	36.7	36.6	38.6	35.5	31.3	32.9	32.2	34.0	35.5	34.3	
16-18 years	19.7	19.4	19.0	17.1	16.7	17.5	28.1	25.9	26.2	19.5	19.0	20.0	
19+ years	1.1	1.2	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.2	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.5	
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	—	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>6,006</b>	<b>6,131</b>	<b>6,103</b>	<b>7,147</b>	<b>7,183</b>	<b>6,942</b>	<b>5,202</b>	<b>5,675</b>	<b>5,512</b>	<b>7,951</b>	<b>7,639</b>	<b>7,533</b>	
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%) <sup>5</sup>													
Alaska Native/Am.Indian	2.3	2.0	2.7	2.0	2.6	2.0	2.3	2.4	2.7	2.1	2.3	2.1	
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.1	1.0	0.8	1.1	1.1	0.8	1.5	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.7	
Black	17.5	15.7	16.3	12.3	12.8	11.1	12.6	11.7	10.3	16.0	15.9	15.9	
Hispanic	22.4	24.9	25.5	26.6	26.6	28.7	24.5	25.6	27.9	24.8	26.0	26.7	
White	53.5	54.3	51.4	52.3	48.8	47.3	52.8	51.7	49.3	52.8	51.0	49.2	
Two or more races	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Unknown	3.2	2.2	3.3	5.6	8.0	10.0	6.3	7.3	8.9	3.4	3.9	5.4	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>6,006</b>	<b>6,131</b>	<b>6,103</b>	<b>7,147</b>	<b>7,183</b>	<b>6,942</b>	<b>5,202</b>	<b>5,675</b>	<b>5,512</b>	<b>7,951</b>	<b>7,639</b>	<b>7,533</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	1,480	1,682	1,788
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	974	1,211	1,267
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	1.7	1.7	2.0
1-5 years	30.1	28.7	28.7
6-10 years	39.2	36.4	35.1
11-15 years	25.5	28.9	30.0
16+ years	2.8	3.7	3.7
Unknown	0.7	0.5	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>1,682</b>	<b>1,788</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.8	1.7	2.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.9	1.1	0.4
Black	22.1	18.5	20.5
Hispanic	26.5	30.4	30.3
White	47.1	46.9	44.8
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	1.6	1.3	1.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>1,682</b>	<b>1,788</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	2.4	4.1	3.0
1-5 years	48.9	45.3	48.8
6-10 years	36.2	33.0	31.8
11-15 years	11.1	14.7	14.3
16+ years	1.4	2.9	2.0
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>691</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.1	1.4	1.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.2	—	0.7
Black	20.5	21.3	16.9
Hispanic	24.2	23.8	28.4
White	50.8	50.9	51.8
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	1.2	2.5	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>691</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

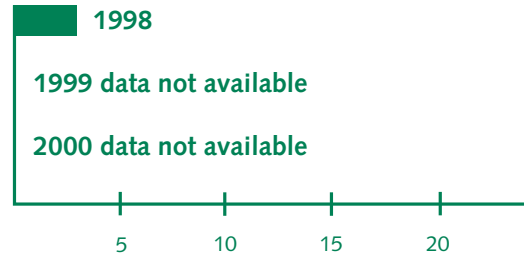
6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

### 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

#### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	97.0	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	3.0	—	—
Total %	100.0	—	—
Number	3,186	—	—

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences



### 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

#### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.2	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.8	—	—
Total %	100.0	—	—
Number	12,156	—	—

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

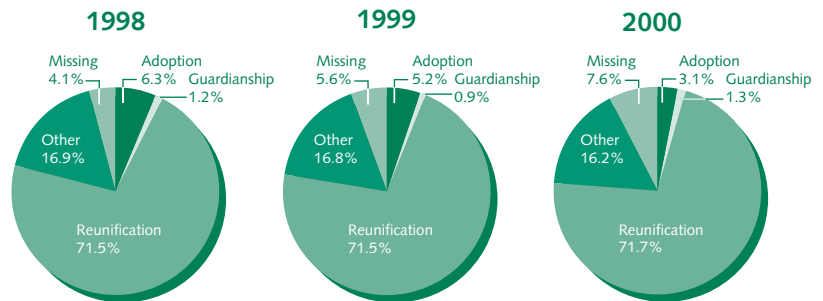


### 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

#### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	6.3	5.2	3.1
Guardianship	1.2	0.9	1.3
Reunification	71.5	71.5	71.7
Other	16.9	16.8	16.2
Missing data	4.1	5.6	7.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,202	5,675	5,512

Percent Exits from Foster Care



#### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	5.6	5.2	3.6
Guardianship	1.2	0.8	0.8
Reunification	68.4	68.2	67.9
Other	21.5	21.2	21.9
Missing data	3.4	4.6	5.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,517	1,773	1,793

#### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.3	0.4	0.4
Guardianship	0.6	0.5	0.8
Reunification	71.0	70.4	70.0
Other	27.8	28.2	28.6
Missing data	0.2	0.5	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,553	2,720	2,615

#### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	19.1	19.5	18.7
Children older than 12 at entry	80.9	80.5	81.3
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	262	246	252

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	10.7	3.0	4.8	2.6	—	7.1	11.2	10.5	4.8	5.2	5.3	2.9
Guardianship	0.8	2.2	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.8	1.6
Reunification	66.9	64.9	70.1	75.3	72.6	76.8	62.8	65.1	66.4	75.9	71.1	70.9
Other	19.8	28.4	17.7	16.9	24.7	8.9	19.0	16.4	18.8	15.0	17.3	16.0
Missing data	1.7	1.5	6.1	3.9	1.4	5.4	5.5	6.6	8.8	3.1	5.6	8.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	121	134	147	77	73	56	654	665	565	1,273	1,452	1,537

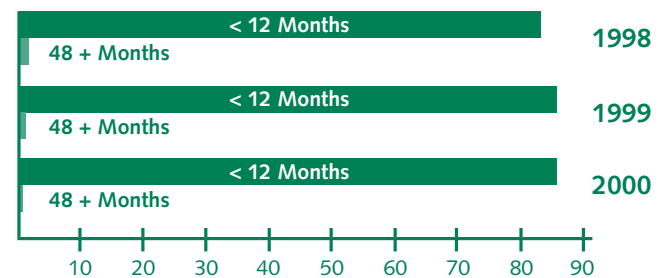
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	5.9	4.6	3.2	3.6	2.2	0.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	1.3	0.9	1.3	1.8	0.5	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	70.6	71.5	70.7	79.3	85.1	86.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	17.5	16.7	16.6	14.9	11.3	11.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	4.7	6.3	8.2	0.3	1.0	0.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number	2,748	2,936	2,716	329	415	491	—	—	—	—	—	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

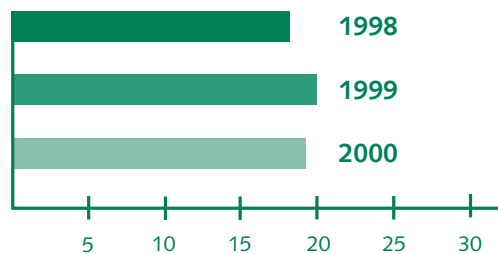
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	83.2	85.7	85.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	10.2	10.1	10.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.5	1.8	1.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.3	1.2	0.4
48 or more mos.	1.8	1.3	1.0
Missing data	—	—	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,718	4,058	3,954

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	70.4	67.5	69.8
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	18.3	20.0	19.3
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	10.7	10.9	10.4
Missing data	0.6	1.6	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,147	7,183	6,942

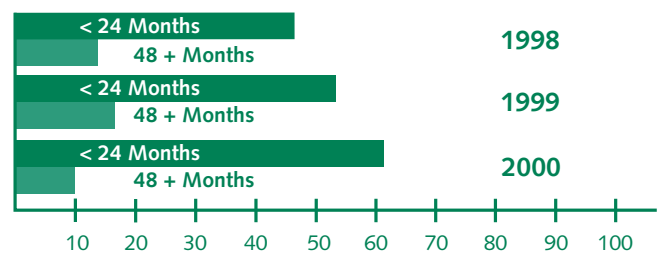
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	19.8	23.4	24.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	26.5	29.8	36.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	22.9	13.9	22.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	17.1	16.3	6.9
48 or more mos.	13.7	16.6	9.8
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	328	295	173

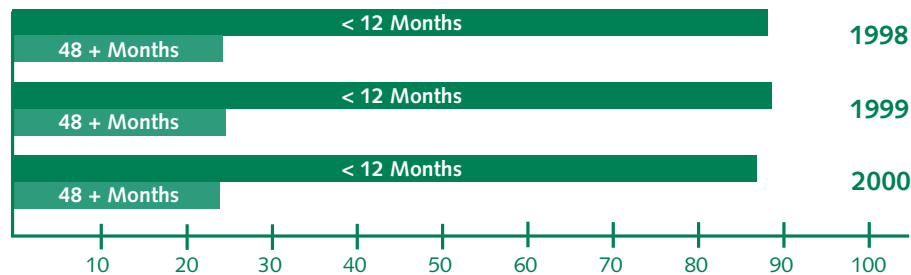
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	87.0	13.0	—	100.0	7,889
	1999	87.5	12.5	—	100.0	8,172
	2000	86.9	13.1	—	100.0	7,870
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	55.5	44.5	—	100.0	2,113
	1999	56.7	43.3	—	100.0	2,266
	2000	57.7	42.3	—	100.0	2,316
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	37.6	62.4	—	100.0	1,108
	1999	42.8	57.2	—	100.0	915
	2000	41.4	58.6	—	100.0	1,068
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	32.3	67.7	—	100.0	774
	1999	33.9	66.1	—	100.0	641
	2000	33.1	66.9	—	100.0	513
48 or more mos.	1998	24.2	75.8	—	100.0	1,243
	1999	24.4	75.6	—	100.0	1,293
	2000	23.9	76.1	—	100.0	1,231
Missing data	1998	96.2	3.8	—	100.0	26
	1999	96.3	3.7	—	100.0	27
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	47

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	1.8	1.5	1.4
Institutions	7.0	6.2	5.7
Other settings	91.2	92.3	92.9
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,809	3,777	3,783

**Jane Beveridge, Director  
Child Welfare Services  
Division of Child Welfare, Colorado Department of Human Services  
303-866-4365**

Colorado's comments on the State data presented in Child Welfare Outcomes 2000: Report to Congress are the following:

1. Colorado did not report data for outcomes 1.1 and 2.1 for 1999 and 2000, although data were reported for these outcomes in 1998. The data for outcomes 1.1 and 2.1 are determined by using the NCANDS Detailed Case Data Component (DCDC). Colorado did not submit a NCANDS DCDC for CY 1999 and CY 2000. However, Colorado did submit a DCDC for 1998. Colorado submitted a Summary Data Component (SDC) to NCANDS for CY 1999 and CY 2000 instead of a DCDC. Colorado replicated the DCDC data using the central registry for child protection data, an alternative data source to the DCDC, for use in the Child and Family Service Review.
2. With respect to Section C, there are 1,536 fewer children in care on October 1, 1999 than on September 30, 1999. This may be explained by errors detected in the code. This issue has been addressed because the code was fixed when Colorado's SACWIS system was implemented. The discrepancy between the children in care on the last day of the Federal Fiscal Year to the children in care on the first day of the Federal Fiscal Year should be reduced in future years.
3. Data for outcome measure 4.2 indicate that almost 20 percent of the children who entered care in FY 2000 were re-entering care within 12 months of a prior episode. Colorado has found that children 12 and older are much more prevalent among the re-entries compared to children younger than 12. No differences were found in comparing sex and race between children who had no re-entries within twelve months and children who had re-entries. The Colorado Department of Human Services serves the juvenile justice population and these children contribute to Colorado's re-entry rate. For children who re-enter, caretaker inability to cope, child behavioral problems, and the death of a parent are more likely to be reasons for removal, compared to children who do not have prior removals.
4. The data in Section E indicate that 689 children were adopted in FY 2000 according to the AFCARS Adoption Data Base, but, in outcome 5.1, only 173 of the exits from foster care in FY 2000 (from the AFCARS Foster Care Database) were reported as discharges to adoption. As we prepared for Colorado's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) we determined an alternative method to calculate outcome 5.1. The primary issue affecting the calculation of this outcome using the foster care file is a non-AFCARS code of 'P - Placed for Adoption' that Colorado uses. Children captured in the adoption file are not captured in the foster care file as exiting to adoption as the exit reason 'P' is recoded into Missing in the AFCARS files. As an alternative, the FFY 2000 AFCARS Adoption file and CWEST removal tables were used to create an alternative data source used to calculate outcome 5.1 for the CFSR. Of the 679 children with a finalized adoption in FY 2000, 49.5 percent achieved a finalized adoption in less than 24 months from the time of entry into care, 22.7 percent achieved a finalized adoption between 24 months and 36 months from the time of entry into care, 12.1 percent achieved a finalized adoption in more than 36 months but less than 48 months from the time of entry into foster care, and 12.4 percent achieved a finalized adoption in 48 months or more.



The following discussion focuses on Colorado's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance (the Colorado CFSR was conducted in FY 2002). Because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

Colorado's attainment of outcome 1 cannot be assessed in this Report because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) to calculate this outcome. Only data from NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, for the CFSR, the State provided data for this outcome using an alternative source. These data are presented in Colorado's CFSR Final Report.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care**

Colorado's attainment of outcome 2 cannot be evaluated in this Report because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) to calculate this measure. Only data from NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, for the CFSR, the State provided data for this outcome using an alternative source. These data are provided in Colorado's CFSR Final Report.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

The data for outcome 3 regarding permanency must be interpreted with caution because of the discrepancy between the number of finalized adoptions in fiscal year (FY) 2000 reported to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) Adoption Database (691) and the number of children reported to the AFCARS Foster Care Database as discharged to a finalized adoption (173) during FY 2000. The State notes in the State Comment section that this discrepancy is due to the State's use of a discharge code for adoption that is not accepted by AFCARS so that exits to adoption are recorded as "missing data." If these exits had been coded as discharges to adoption, the State would exhibit a better performance relevant to outcome 3 than is apparent from the data presented in the State Data Pages. However, even if the "missing data" percentages are added to the permanency exits (i.e., exits to adoption, guardianship, and reunification), the State's performance is still lower than the national median for exits to permanency for all children (84.7 percent), exits to permanency for children with a diagnosed disability (79.5 percent), and exits to permanency of children who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care (72.6 percent). Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that a key barrier to achieving permanency for children is the agency practice of establishing a case goal of long-term foster care when reunification efforts fail, rather than considering other permanency goals, such as adoption or guardianship. According to information provided in the CFSR Final Report, this practice appears to stem from a belief among many caseworkers that older children and children with disabilities are unlikely to be adopted.

The FY 2000 data also indicate that only 18.7 percent of children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry (which is less than the national median of 24.2 percent). Thus, the State does appear to be effective in ensuring that children who enter foster care at young ages do not "grow up" in the system. Information from the Final Report suggests that performance on this measure may be attributed in part to the State's Expedited Permanency Program for children age 6 and younger.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reported reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 85.7, which exceeds the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that performance on this measure may be attributed in part to an increased use of concurrent planning in the State. Stakeholders interviewed during the CFSR reported that concurrent planning has made birth parents more cognizant of the need to

engage in services and bring about changes in existing risk factors if they want to be reunified with their children.

Colorado's high performance with regard to reunification within 12 months must be balanced by the finding that, in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 19.3, which does not meet the national standard of 8.6 and is higher than the national median of 10.3. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that re-entries may be attributed in part to a lack of post-reunification services.

#### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

As noted in the discussion of outcome 3, there were approximately 500 discharges to adoption in FY 2000 that were not reported as discharges to adoption in the AFCARS Foster Care Database and therefore are not included in the assessment of outcome 5. Consequently, the data reported in the State Data Pages for outcome measure 5.1 are not reliable. Prior to the CFSR, the State revised their data pertaining to the percentage of adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care to include the missing data. This information, which is provided in the State Comment section, indicates that 49.5 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of entry into foster care, which exceeds both the national standard and the national median. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that performance on this outcome measure may be attributed to the State's Expedited Permanency Program for children age 6 and younger. However, information from the Final Report also indicates that the State is not diligent in its efforts to expedite adoptions for older children.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 86.9, which meets the national standard of 86.7 percent and is higher than the national median of 84.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that Colorado's performance on this outcome measure may be attributed to the following: (1) diligent agency efforts to place children with relatives whenever possible; and (2) provision of training to foster parents to ensure that they have the skills necessary to provide stability for the children placed in their care. However, the Final Report also notes that children in many of the cases reviewed for the CFSR did not experience placement stability, primarily because foster parents requested the child's removal and the agency did not attempt to resolve the problems leading to that request.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 7.1, which is lower than the national median of 9.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that performance on this outcome may be attributed to a focus on placement with relatives whenever possible.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, the CSFR Final Report indicates that the State is effective in addressing children's educational needs, but is less effective in meeting children's physical and mental health needs. The Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) delays in providing foster families with children's Medicaid cards, (2) a shortage of providers in the State who will accept Medicaid payments, and (3) insufficient agency follow up in some cases to ensure that children are receiving the necessary mental health services.

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	790,715	828,260	841,688	Child maltreatment victims	16,923	14,514	14,462
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	6,683	7,487	6,996
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	Children adopted	229	403	499
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.8	3.0	2.5				
Black	10.7	10.8	11.1				
Hispanic	12.4	12.8	13.7				
White	73.9	73.3	69.6				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.5				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.3				
% Child population in poverty	10.8	8.8	9.9				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	95.5	96.4	95.8				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	40,905	40,714	45,111	51.7 per 1,000	49.2 per 1,000	53.6 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	16,923	14,514	14,462	21.4 per 1,000	17.5 per 1,000	17.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	6	3	4	0.8 per 100,000	0.4 per 100,000	0.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	8.9	6.1	9.2	Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	—	0.1
1-5 years	30.3	29.9	29.8	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5	0.8	1.0
6-10 years	32.1	31.5	30.3	Black	19.3	23.1	23.9
11-15 years	23.2	25.9	25.6	Hispanic	16.2	32.9	24.7
16+ years	4.3	6.6	4.3	White	31.0	37.8	43.7
Unknown	1.1	—	0.9	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	49.1	38.4	4.5
<b>Number</b>	<b>16,923</b>	<b>14,514</b>	<b>14,462</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	116.2	132.9	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>16,923</b>	<b>14,514</b>	<b>14,462</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	52.8	49.8	33.9
Medical neglect	3.1	4.4	3.5
Neglect	86.2	90.2	60.2
Physical abuse	16.5	16.2	14.8
Sexual abuse	4.2	4.1	3.8
Other	7.8	4.9	2.7
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	170.7	169.7	119.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>16,923</b>	<b>14,514</b>	<b>14,462</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	5,143	5,222	3,682	6,683	10,365
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	6,612	3,098	2,169	7,487	9,710
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	6,636	2,763	2,368	6,996	9,399

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	9.5	N/A	6.7	11.5	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	21.0	N/A	17.3	23.0	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	25.1	N/A	18.0	24.6	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	5.0	3.3	3.2	10.5	13.8	13.6	5.6	5.7	4.8	4.0	3.2	2.9
1-5 years	30.5	27.1	24.2	26.2	25.3	24.1	27.1	32.2	30.6	28.5	23.6	20.9
6-10 years	27.2	27.0	27.5	23.7	24.2	21.0	23.5	27.2	27.2	27.6	26.0	24.9
11-15 years	26.2	28.8	31.0	30.7	31.6	35.8	25.6	18.3	19.7	28.0	29.7	32.5
16-18 years	10.3	12.3	12.6	8.5	4.9	5.4	16.7	13.1	14.7	11.0	15.5	16.7
19+ years	0.7	1.3	1.4	0.2	0.1	—	1.1	3.1	2.5	0.7	1.7	1.8
Unknown	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>5,143</b>	<b>6,612</b>	<b>6,636</b>	<b>5,222</b>	<b>3,098</b>	<b>2,763</b>	<b>3,682</b>	<b>2,169</b>	<b>2,368</b>	<b>6,683</b>	<b>7,487</b>	<b>6,996</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am.Indian	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.3
Black	37.0	38.3	37.7	31.2	32.7	32.0	33.1	33.6	33.7	34.6	37.5	36.7
Hispanic	30.2	25.5	25.7	36.3	26.9	26.2	35.3	27.2	28.0	32.1	25.5	25.1
White	32.5	32.3	32.3	32.0	33.8	35.4	31.1	32.8	32.1	32.9	32.6	33.6
Two or more races	—	2.3	2.7	—	3.1	3.3	—	2.4	3.1	—	2.6	2.8
Unknown	—	1.3	1.3	—	2.8	2.4	—	3.0	2.4	—	1.4	1.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>5,143</b>	<b>6,612</b>	<b>6,636</b>	<b>5,222</b>	<b>3,098</b>	<b>2,763</b>	<b>3,682</b>	<b>2,169</b>	<b>2,368</b>	<b>6,683</b>	<b>7,487</b>	<b>6,996</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	728	173	257
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	728	115	151
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	1.2	2.3	6.2
1-5 years	36.8	19.7	24.9
6-10 years	39.4	48.0	42.8
11-15 years	19.1	30.1	25.7
16+ years	2.7	—	0.4
Unknown	0.7	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>257</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	—	—
Black	38.6	42.8	36.6
Hispanic	25.3	30.6	36.2
White	35.9	22.0	22.2
Two or more races	—	2.9	3.1
Unknown	—	1.7	1.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>257</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	0.9	0.2	0.4
1-5 years	49.3	49.4	46.5
6-10 years	36.2	37.0	38.3
11-15 years	12.7	11.9	13.4
16+ years	0.9	1.5	1.4
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>499</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.2	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.2	—
Black	31.0	29.8	30.9
Hispanic	12.2	12.2	18.4
White	43.7	34.0	38.3
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	13.1	23.6	12.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>499</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

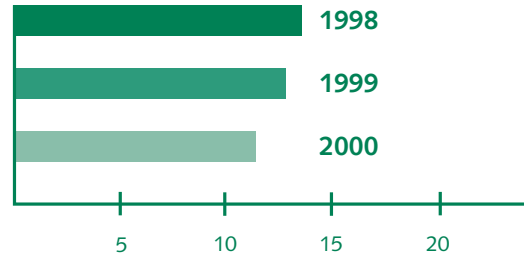
6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	86.4	87.0	88.6
Children with one or more recurrences	13.6	13.0	11.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,958	8,288	6,905

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

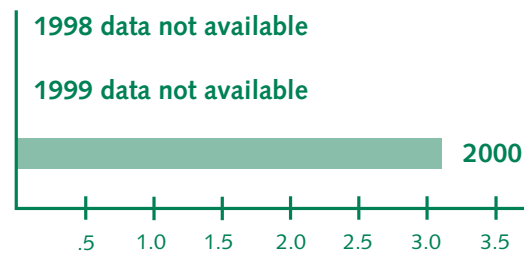


## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	3.1
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	96.9
Total %	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	8,847

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

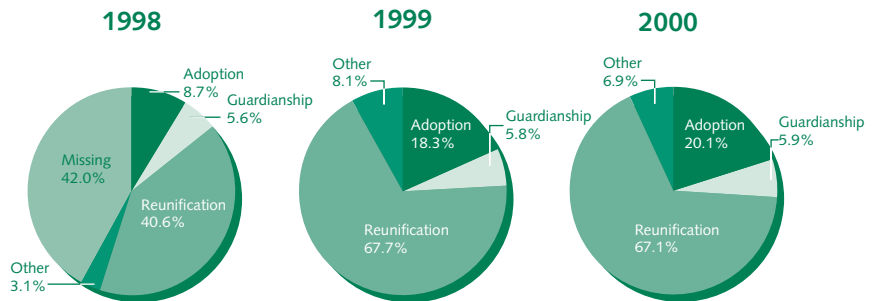


## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	8.7	18.3	20.1
Guardianship	5.6	5.8	5.9
Reunification	40.6	67.7	67.1
Other	3.1	8.1	6.9
Missing data	42.0	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,682	2,169	2,368

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	13.1	25.8
Guardianship	—	5.1	2.2
Reunification	39.1	70.5	63.8
Other	6.4	11.4	8.2
Missing data	54.5	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	110	176	279

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	1.1	1.1	0.2
Guardianship	1.3	1.3	3.4
Reunification	20.2	66.3	72.9
Other	8.6	31.1	23.4
Missing data	68.7	0.2	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,218	454	531

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	5.6	6.2	26.4
Children older than 12 at entry	94.4	92.2	73.6
Missing data	—	1.6	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	36	64	53

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	12.5	—	—	—	—	12.3	17.4	19.9	4.9	15.6	18.8
Guardianship	7.1	—	—	—	—	—	6.4	5.9	6.8	6.1	5.9	5.3
Reunification	64.3	75.0	100.0	80.0	100.0	92.9	39.1	67.9	66.9	45.4	73.1	70.3
Other	—	12.5	—	—	—	7.1	3.4	8.7	6.3	2.2	5.4	5.6
Missing data	28.6	—	—	20.0	—	—	38.8	0.1	0.1	41.3	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	14	8	2	5	15	14	1,218	728	798	1,301	591	664

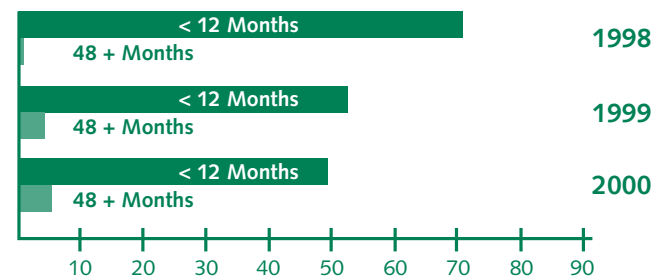
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	9.4	22.5	21.6	—	14.1	15.8	—	17.6	24.7	—	—	—
Guardianship	4.0	5.9	5.3	—	3.1	7.0	—	5.9	8.2	—	—	—
Reunification	36.2	61.0	63.7	—	79.7	73.7	—	72.5	65.8	—	—	—
Other	3.9	10.7	9.5	—	3.1	3.5	—	3.9	1.4	—	—	—
Missing data	46.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	—	—
Number	1,144	712	760	—	64	57	—	51	73	—	—	—

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

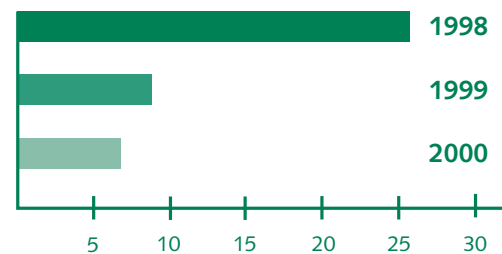
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	70.9	52.5	49.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	16.3	20.1	23.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	8.0	10.7	7.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.5	5.9	6.4
48 or more mos.	1.0	4.4	5.5
Missing data	1.2	6.4	7.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,494	1,469	1,590

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	68.3	87.2	88.3
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	25.6	8.7	6.7
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	5.5	3.6	4.7
Missing data	0.5	0.6	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,222	3,098	2,763

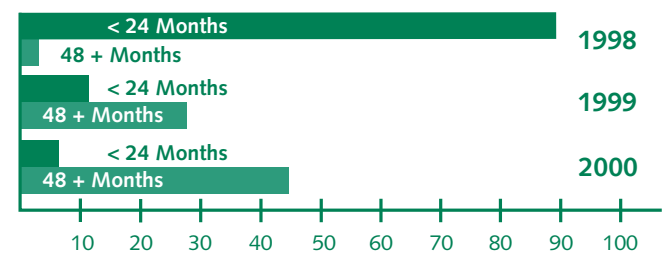
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	55.1	0.5	0.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	34.0	10.6	5.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.2	30.9	15.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.6	30.2	32.8
48 or more mos.	3.1	27.6	44.6
Missing data	5.0	0.3	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	321	398	475

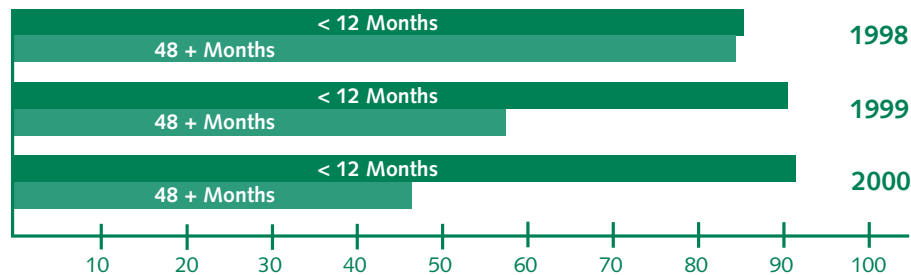
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	85.3	14.7	—	100.0	5,963
	1999	90.5	9.2	0.3	100.0	3,196
	2000	91.3	8.2	0.6	100.0	2,901
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	76.1	23.9	—	100.0	2,273
	1999	76.4	22.7	1.0	100.0	1,858
	2000	70.9	26.3	2.8	100.0	1,871
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	75.7	24.3	—	100.0	1,119
	1999	58.9	38.4	2.7	100.0	1,738
	2000	56.0	35.7	8.3	100.0	1,154
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	79.1	20.9	—	100.0	488
	1999	63.4	34.5	2.1	100.0	1,235
	2000	44.5	46.4	9.1	100.0	1,291
48 or more mos.	1998	84.2	15.8	—	100.0	412
	1999	57.4	40.3	2.4	100.0	1,513
	2000	46.4	45.3	8.3	100.0	2,019
Missing data	1998	90.9	9.1	—	100.0	110
	1999	87.1	12.9	—	100.0	170
	2000	87.1	12.9	—	100.0	163

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	0.5	0.7	2.2
Institutions	7.4	6.3	14.6
Other settings	92.1	93.0	83.3
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,374	2,180	1,807

# Connecticut

[ STATE COMMENT ]



The following discussion focuses on Connecticut's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance (the Connecticut CFSR was conducted in FY 2002). Because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

In calendar year (CY) 2000, the rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 11.4 percent, which does not meet the national standard of 6.1 percent and is higher than the national median of 7.9 percent. According to information provided in the CFSR Final Report, the State believes that the high incidence of maltreatment recurrence is due to a high substantiation rate and the fact that the threshold for substantiation is "reasonable cause to believe." However, information in the Final Report also identifies the following as potential barriers to preventing maltreatment recurrence: (1) long waiting lists for services in many areas of the State, (2) the agency's lack of legal authority to intervene with non-compliant families prior to a case being adjudicated by the court, and (3) the practice of closing cases or reunifying children with their families in some cases without an adequate assessment of change in risk factors.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care**

In CY 2000, the incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 3.1 percent, which does not meet the national standard of 0.57 percent and was the highest rate reported nationally. According to information provided in the CFSR Final Report, the State believes that the high incidence of child maltreatment in foster care is due to the fact that violations of licensing standards are investigated as if they are maltreatment reports. However, information in the Final Report also indicates that performance on this outcome may be attributed in part to the agency's practice of placing additional children in foster homes that are already at capacity levels.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 93.1 percent of children leaving foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 84.7 percent), 91.8 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 79.5 percent), and 76.5 percent of children who were older than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 72.6). This suggests that the State is effective in achieving permanency for children in foster care. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that performance on these measures may be attributed in part to the State's subsidized guardianship program. However, the data for FY 2000 also indicate that 26.4 percent of children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry, which is higher than the national median of 24.2. This suggests that the State is not consistently effective in ensuring that children who enter foster care at a young age do not "grow up" in the system. As noted in the CFSR Final Report, 11 percent of children in foster care in 2000 had a goal of permanent foster care and an additional 11 percent had a goal of independent living.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 49.3, which does not meet the national standard of 76.2 percent and is less than the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving reunifications in a timely manner: (1) a failure in some cases to address the underlying family problems associated with child maltreatment, such as domestic violence and mental illness; (2) infrequent face-to-face contacts between caseworkers and parents (particularly fathers) to ensure ongoing assessment of risk factors and expedite permanency; and (3) failure to consistently involve parents in the case planning process.

Connecticut's performance with regard to reunification within 12 months must be balanced by the finding that, in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 6.7, which meets the national standard of 8.6 percent and is lower than the national median of 10.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report

suggests that performance on this outcome measure may be attributed in part to the agency practice of ongoing monitoring of families when children have been physically reunified and prior to an official discharge from foster care.

#### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions that occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 6.5, which does not meet the national standard of 32.0 percent and is less than the national median of 19.7 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving adoptions in a timely manner: (1) court delays in holding permanency hearings, (2) agency delays in filing for termination of parental rights and in completing the paperwork necessary to move children to adoption; and (3) inconsistent use of concurrent planning among agency caseworkers.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 91.3, which meets the national standard of 86.7 percent and is greater than the national median of 84.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report cannot be used to interpret this finding because placement stability was identified as an area needing improvement for the State by stakeholders and by the findings of the case review process.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 16.8, which is greater than the national median of 9.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential explanations for performance on this measure: (1) the use of shelters as an initial placement for children between the ages of 3 and 12, or younger if they are part of a sibling group, and (2) the scarcity of therapeutic foster homes for young children with behavioral or emotional problems.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State is effective in addressing children's educational needs, but is not consistently effective in meeting children's physical and mental health needs. The Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) long waiting lists for mental health services in many areas of the State, particularly for Spanish-speaking families; (2) a lack of services for children with behavioral problems; and (3) a scarcity of dental providers who will accept Medicaid.

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
<b>Total children under 18 years</b>	<b>179,071</b>	<b>182,450</b>	<b>194,587</b>	Child maltreatment victims	2,894	2,111	1,813
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	1,480	1,193	1,098
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.3	Children adopted	62	33	103
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.2	2.3	2.0				
Black	23.7	24.0	23.7				
Hispanic	5.2	5.5	7.0				
White	68.7	67.9	64.2				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.5				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.3				
<b>% Child population in poverty</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>17.4</b>				
<b>% Child population living in metropolitan areas</b>	<b>82.6</b>	<b>81.8</b>	<b>81.9</b>				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	9,693	8,330	8,683	54.1 per 1,000	45.7 per 1,000	44.6 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	2,894	2,111	1,813	16.2 per 1,000	11.6 per 1,000	9.3 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	3	—	1.7 per 100,000	1.6 per 100,000	— per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	5.4	5.4	8.9	Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.1	—
1-5 years	28.7	25.8	26.5	Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.5	0.3
6-10 years	33.4	33.0	31.5	Black	48.3	44.6	44.1
11-15 years	23.8	25.6	25.5	Hispanic	4.9	7.9	7.0
16+ years	8.5	8.8	7.6	White	50.3	52.4	48.3
Unknown	0.0	1.4	—	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	1.5	0.9	0.3
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,894</b>	<b>2,111</b>	<b>1,813</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	104.9	106.5	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>2,894</b>	<b>2,111</b>	<b>1,813</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	16.2	15.5	18.7
Medical neglect	2.6	1.8	3.5
Neglect	39.4	37.5	32.0
Physical abuse	25.4	25.3	20.5
Sexual abuse	8.6	11.1	9.4
Other	7.8	9.0	16.0
Unknown	0.1	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	100.0	100.2	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,894</b>	<b>2,111</b>	<b>1,813</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	781			1,023			333			1,480			1,804
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	1,002			1,002			811			1,193			2,004
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	1,033			950			886			1,098			1,983
Median Length of Stay (Months)													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	12.7			N/A			3.5			9.5			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	11.5			N/A			3.7			12.5			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	14.1			N/A			5.4			13.7			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	5.6	4.2	4.4	7.7	11.1	10.0	—	4.8	4.5	3.6	4.5	3.9	
1-5 years	21.5	25.0	25.1	18.0	15.5	14.9	—	17.5	20.7	24.6	23.0	20.8	
6-10 years	23.3	26.3	24.5	17.0	14.7	15.2	—	18.0	16.8	25.0	22.9	22.4	
11-15 years	26.2	25.0	25.3	30.2	29.8	32.1	29.1	20.7	22.6	26.4	28.0	29.2	
16-18 years	23.3	19.4	20.5	27.1	28.9	27.8	70.6	38.3	34.9	19.9	21.4	23.6	
19+ years	—	0.2	0.3	—	—	—	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.1	
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>1,033</b>	<b>1,023</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>1,193</b>	<b>1,098</b>	
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%) <sup>5</sup>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	—	—	—	0.2	—	0.3	—	—	0.2	0.1	—	0.1	
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	0.1	—	0.3	—	—	0.2	—	—	0.1	0.1	
Black	58.0	62.5	61.9	59.4	59.8	61.4	59.5	58.2	59.8	58.6	63.1	63.0	
Hispanic	4.7	6.4	7.6	5.7	6.6	5.6	6.0	5.5	5.6	5.1	7.1	7.5	
White	32.3	30.6	30.2	30.7	32.8	32.7	32.4	34.8	34.1	31.2	29.7	29.3	
Two or more races	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Unknown	5.0	0.5	0.2	4.0	0.5	—	2.1	1.2	0.2	4.9	—	—	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>1,033</b>	<b>1,023</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>1,193</b>	<b>1,098</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	138	271	334
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	0	123	181
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	1.4	0.7	2.4
1-5 years	39.1	40.2	36.8
6-10 years	45.7	45.8	41.3
11-15 years	13.0	12.9	18.6
16+ years	0.7	0.4	0.6
Unknown	—	—	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>334</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
Black	57.2	66.8	67.7
Hispanic	5.8	6.3	6.3
White	26.8	26.9	26.0
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	10.1	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>334</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	—	—
1-5 years	38.7	57.6	58.3
6-10 years	46.8	42.4	32.0
11-15 years	14.5	—	9.7
16+ years	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>103</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
Black	51.6	39.4	55.3
Hispanic	8.1	6.1	3.9
White	14.5	51.5	38.8
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	25.8	3.0	1.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>103</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

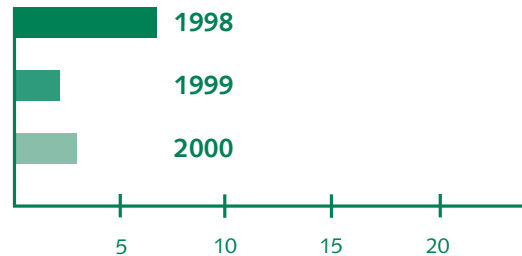
6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	93.1	97.9	97.0
Children with one or more recurrences	6.9	2.1	3.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,506	1,070	922

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences



## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.1	0.1	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.9	99.9	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	—
Number	1,730	1,869	—

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

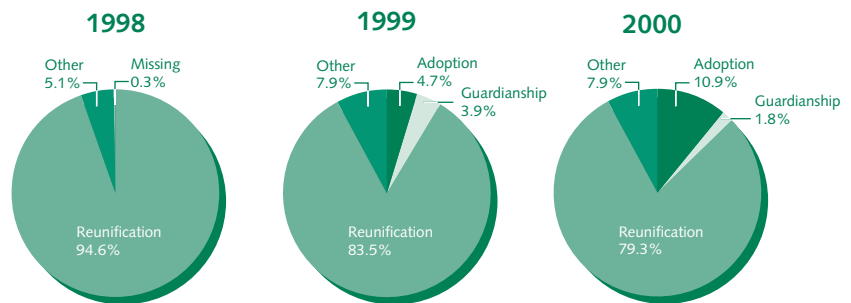


## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	4.7	10.9
Guardianship	—	3.9	1.8
Reunification	94.6	83.5	79.3
Other	5.1	7.9	7.9
Missing data	0.3	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	333	811	886

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	1.6	12.8
Guardianship	—	8.2	3.8
Reunification	93.3	80.3	67.9
Other	6.7	9.8	15.4
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	30	61	78

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	2.4	0.4
Reunification	94.5	84.3	85.5
Other	5.2	13.3	14.1
Missing data	0.3	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	325	414	447

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	—	17.0	10.9
Children older than 12 at entry	100.0	83.0	87.0
Missing data	—	—	2.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3	47	46

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.2	10.0	—	4.4	6.0
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.4	1.3	—	—	2.0
Reunification	—	—	100.0	—	100.0	—	94.9	84.7	81.3	95.0	86.7	88.0
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.5	7.6	7.4	5.0	8.9	4.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.5	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	100.0	—	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	—	2	—	2	—	198	472	530	20	45	50

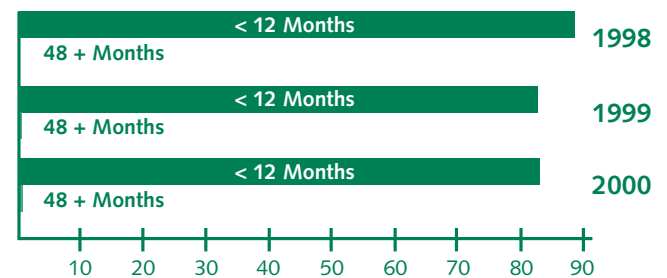
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	—	4.6	13.2	—	30.0	50.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	5.7	2.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	94.4	81.6	74.5	85.7	60.0	50.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	5.6	8.2	9.6	14.3	10.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number	108	282	302	7	10	2	—	—	—	—	—	—

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

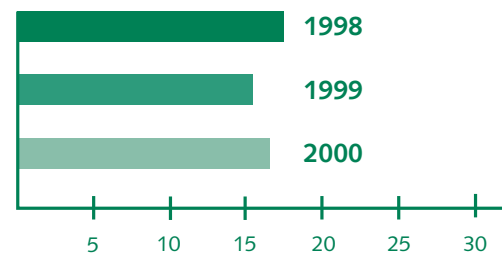
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	88.6	83.6	83.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	6.7	12.4	11.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1.3	2.4	2.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.3	0.6	1.4
48 or more mos.	—	0.6	0.9
Missing data	3.2	0.4	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	315	677	703

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	75.3	72.8	69.2
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	17.5	15.5	16.5
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	3.9	10.2	11.4
Missing data	3.3	1.6	2.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,023	1,002	950

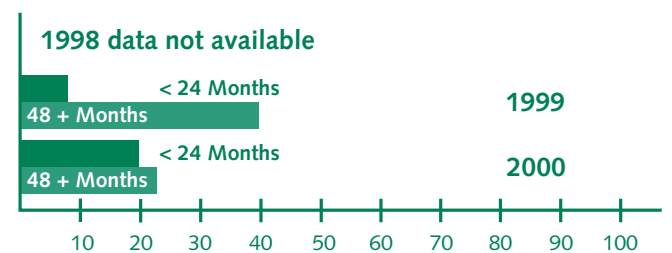
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	—	1.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	7.9	18.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	26.3	36.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	26.3	21.6
48 or more mos.	—	39.5	22.7
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	38	97

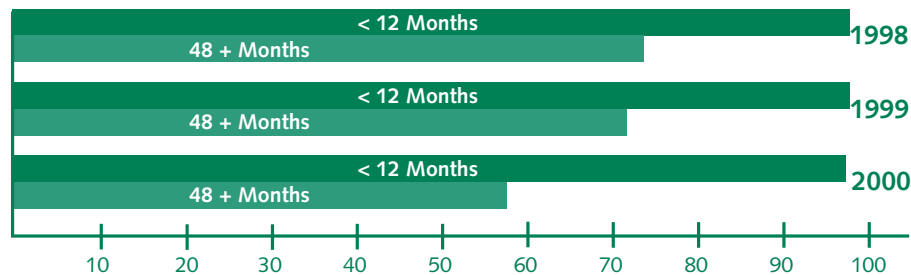
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	97.7	2.3	—	100.0	1,111
	1999	97.7	2.3	—	100.0	1,192
	2000	97.3	2.7	—	100.0	1,136
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	84.0	16.0	—	100.0	288
	1999	82.9	17.1	—	100.0	357
	2000	84.2	15.8	—	100.0	323
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	83.0	17.0	—	100.0	159
	1999	72.7	27.3	—	100.0	183
	2000	73.1	26.9	—	100.0	219
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	83.3	16.7	—	100.0	96
	1999	71.2	28.8	—	100.0	104
	2000	69.9	30.1	—	100.0	123
48 or more mos.	1998	73.6	26.4	—	100.0	140
	1999	71.6	28.4	—	100.0	162
	2000	57.5	42.5	—	100.0	179
Missing data	1998	100.0	—	—	100.0	10
	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	6
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	3

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	2.4	1.1	0.9
Institutions	2.0	3.9	5.9
Other settings	95.4	94.8	92.7
Missing data	0.2	0.2	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	502	466	438

**Carlyse Giddins, Director**  
**Division of Family Services**  
**Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families**  
**302-633-2657**

Delaware's comments on the State data presented in Child Welfare Outcomes 2000: Report to Congress are as follows:

1. The data in Section B indicate a decrease in the rate of child maltreatment victims from 16.2 per 1,000 in 1998 to 9.3 per 1,000 in 2000. Two factors contribute to this decrease:
  - In 1998 a bill was implemented establishing a child abuse registry for perpetrators involved in substantiated abuse and neglect cases. People on this registry would be prohibited from employment in day care or health care facilities. Following implementation of this legislation, we saw an approximate 20% increase in investigation dispositions of Unfounded Refer to Treatment and a similar 20% decrease in Founded Refer to Treatment dispositions. We believe that workers became more cautious about substantiating cases subject to the appeal process that is a part of the law establishing the registry.
  - Also, in 1998, we revised our intake criteria to screen out parent-child conflict cases with no abuse or neglect, individual adolescent adjustment problems, out-of-State runaways, and truancy cases.
  - Finally, the number of substantiated cases dropped 37% from 2,019 in 1998 to 1,263 in 2000.
2. Data were not available for computing outcome measure 2.1, Maltreatment in Foster Care, for FY 2000 but these data were available for FY 1998 and FY 1999. Our data for this measure represent an estimate, as we have not yet produced a satisfactory report on Abuse and Neglect in Foster Care.
3. The data for outcome measure 3.3 indicate that over 50% of the children who exited foster care in FY 2000 were older than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care. Using the data elements indicated in your document Child Welfare Outcomes: Data Sources and Elements along with our AFCARS data map, we calculate that of 542 children exiting child welfare services, 150 or 28%, were 12 or older when they entered care. At the present time we cannot directly query AFCARS data to verify the data provided in our State's data pages. The data that we provide to the Children's Bureau is an electronic extract. We have requested a file that would allow us to see and manipulate the data extracted by AFCARS.
4. Data indicate a considerable increase in the number of adoptions from 33 in FFY 1999 to 103 in FFY 2000. These numbers accurately reflect our increase in adoptions, which was substantial after passage of the Adoption and Safe Families Act.



The following discussion focuses on Delaware's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance. In using CFSR information to interpret performance, it is important to note that the Delaware CFSR was conducted in 2001 and the national data used for the review regarding national standards was from 1999. However, the discussion of State performance relevant to the national standards in the Federal Comment section focuses on data from the year 2000, as provided in the State Data Pages. In addition, because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

In calendar year (CY) 2000, the rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 3.0 percent, which meets the national standard of 6.1 and is the lowest rate nationally. Information provided in the CFSR Final Report suggests that Delaware's performance on this outcome may be attributed to the following: (1) the wide array of services available to families in cases in which children remain in their homes, (2) increased attention to safety issues in case management, and (3) the use of agency caseworkers as supports for families. However, information from the Final Report also suggests that the reported rate of maltreatment recurrence may be misleading because the agency generally does not conduct a formal investigation of maltreatment reports when they involve children who are already being served by the agency in open cases. Consequently, there may be instances of maltreatment recurrence that are not reported in the agency's information system.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care**

Delaware's attainment of outcome 2 cannot be evaluated in this Report because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating this outcome. Only data from NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, for the CFSR, the State provided data for this outcome using an alternative source. These data are presented in Delaware's CFSR Final Report.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 92.0 percent of children leaving foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 84.7), 84.5 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 79.5 percent), 85.9 percent of children who were older than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care exited foster care to permanent homes (which is substantially higher than the national median of 72.6), and 10.9 percent of children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care (which is lower than the national median of 24.2). These data suggest that the State is effective in establishing permanency for children in foster care, even older children and children with disabilities. Information from the CFSR Final Report notes that Delaware's performance on this outcome may be attributed to the following: (1) recent increases in permanency staff, (2) a policy of conducting permanency reviews for all children who have been in foster care for 9 out of 15 months, (3) engaging in concurrent planning on a routine basis, and (4) considering all possible permanency goals for a child before establishing long-term foster care or independent living as a case goal.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 83.6 percent, which exceeds both the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that Delaware's performance on this measure may be attributed to the following: (1) diligent efforts on the part of the agency to place children in foster care near their parents, (2) involvement of families in the case planning process, and (3) sufficient face-to-face contact between caseworkers and parents.

Delaware's performance with regard to reunification within 12 months must be balanced by the finding that, in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 16.5, which does not meet the national standard of 8.6, and exceeds the national median of 10.3. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential reasons for re-entries into foster care: (1) failure to conduct comprehensive risk assessments prior to reunification; and (2) failure to provide supportive services to families after reunification.

#### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 19.6, which does not meet the national standard of 32.0 percent, but was almost equal to the national median of 19.7 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving finalized adoptions in a timely manner: (1) agency delays in changing permanency goals from reunification to adoption and completing the paperwork necessary to finalize adoptions, (2) a scarcity of adoptive families, and (3) a State policy that requires a child to be in an adoptive home for one year prior to adoption finalization.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 97.3, which exceeds both the national standard of 86.7 percent and the national median of 84.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that Delaware's performance on this outcome may be attributed to the following: (1) the availability of services to stabilize placements and prevent disruptions, and (2) the establishment of a staff position of foster home coordinator, who is responsible for supporting foster parents and who serves as liaisons between the foster family and the agency caseworker.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 6.8, which is less than the national median of 9.0. Information in the CFSR Final Report suggests that Delaware's performance on this outcome may be attributed to the fact that group care settings are not used as placement options for children until all possible family-type placement resources have been considered.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, the CFSR Final Report indicates that the State is effective in meeting children's physical and mental health needs but is not consistently effective in meeting children's educational needs. Information from the Final Report suggests that the key issue pertaining to educational needs is that the agency does not consistently assess children to determine educational needs and, often, when needs are identified, they are not addressed.

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	102,959	95,290	114,992	Child maltreatment victims	4,916	2,308	2,911
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	3,397	3,466	3,054
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.2	0.2	Children adopted	139	166	319
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.6	2.7	1.5				
Black	75.8	74.3	74.3				
Hispanic	9.0	9.7	9.9				
White	12.5	13.2	11.9				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.9				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.3				
% Child population in poverty	40.2	24.5	21.4				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	100.0	100.0	100.0				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	9,862	5,014	7,578	95.8 per 1,000	52.6 per 1,000	65.9 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	4,916	2,308	2,911	47.7 per 1,000	24.2 per 1,000	25.3 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	5	5	2.9 per 100,000	5.2 per 100,000	4.3 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	12.1	7.8	Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—
1-5 years	—	32.4	30.0	Asian/Pacific Islander	—	1.0	0.5
6-10 years	—	31.0	33.8	Black	—	63.3	68.3
11-15 years	—	17.5	21.7	Hispanic	—	3.3	3.6
16+ years	—	6.8	6.7	White	—	1.6	1.4
Unknown	—	0.2	—	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	—	34.5	27.6
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>2,308</b>	<b>2,911</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	—	103.6	101.3
				<b>Number</b>	—	<b>2,308</b>	<b>2,911</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	—	3.8	14.7
Medical neglect	—	1.2	2.7
Neglect	75.9	71.8	68.0
Physical abuse	8.3	14.4	13.4
Sexual abuse	1.9	1.7	6.4
Other	13.9	19.2	25.8
Unknown	—	18.2	23.4
Total % <sup>4</sup>	100.0	130.3	154.5
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,916</b>	<b>2,308</b>	<b>2,911</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	2,966			1,408			979			3,397			4,374
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	2,894			1,231			659			3,466			4,125
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	2,594			775			315			3,054			3,369
Median Length of Stay (Months)													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	30.0			N/A			13.0			26.3			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	24.5			N/A			17.2			23.7			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	22.4			N/A			15.8			27.4			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	2.7	2.0	1.3	12.0	8.9	12.3	5.2	3.5	2.9	2.6	1.8	1.5	
1-5 years	27.7	27.4	21.2	34.3	27.3	29.9	33.2	31.1	25.7	26.1	23.3	20.1	
6-10 years	26.1	28.6	28.7	21.7	27.8	31.5	23.4	30.5	27.0	27.1	29.4	29.6	
11-15 years	22.7	23.3	27.4	20.7	20.8	20.4	16.8	14.3	20.3	23.1	23.7	26.7	
16-18 years	15.3	13.6	15.9	10.2	12.5	5.8	10.9	7.3	14.0	15.5	15.2	15.3	
19+ years	5.4	5.0	5.3	0.9	2.4	0.1	10.3	13.4	5.1	5.8	6.5	6.2	
Unknown	0.1	—	0.1	0.1	0.3	—	0.2	—	5.1	—	0.1	0.6	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,966</b>	<b>2,894</b>	<b>2,594</b>	<b>1,408</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>3,397</b>	<b>3,466</b>	<b>3,054</b>	
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%) <sup>5</sup>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.2	0.2	—	—	0.4	—	0.5	0.3	—	0.1	0.2	
Black	96.9	97.1	96.7	96.9	95.0	83.9	97.0	95.1	88.6	96.9	96.7	94.3	
Hispanic	0.3	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.9	3.4	0.7	3.0	2.2	0.4	0.8	1.3	
White	0.8	—	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	—	0.6	0.9	0.1	0.2	
Two or more races	—	—	0.5	—	0.3	0.5	—	—	0.6	—	0.1	0.5	
Unknown	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.9	2.6	11.6	2.1	1.4	7.6	1.9	2.2	3.5	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,966</b>	<b>2,894</b>	<b>2,594</b>	<b>1,408</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>3,397</b>	<b>3,466</b>	<b>3,054</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	1,005	64	1,086
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	15	44	0
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	1.5	—	1.0
1-5 years	39.8	18.8	26.9
6-10 years	43.2	57.8	47.6
11-15 years	14.4	17.2	23.4
16+ years	0.8	—	0.7
Unknown	0.3	6.2	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1,086</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
Black	97.3	98.4	96.8
Hispanic	—	—	1.0
White	1.3	1.6	0.4
Two or more races	—	—	0.2
Unknown	1.4	—	1.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1,086</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	0.6	1.6
1-5 years	49.6	41.0	34.5
6-10 years	33.8	42.8	44.8
11-15 years	14.4	13.9	16.3
16+ years	2.2	1.8	2.8
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>319</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
Black	98.6	97.6	96.9
Hispanic	0.7	—	1.6
White	0.7	—	0.6
Two or more races	—	—	0.3
Unknown	—	2.4	0.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>319</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

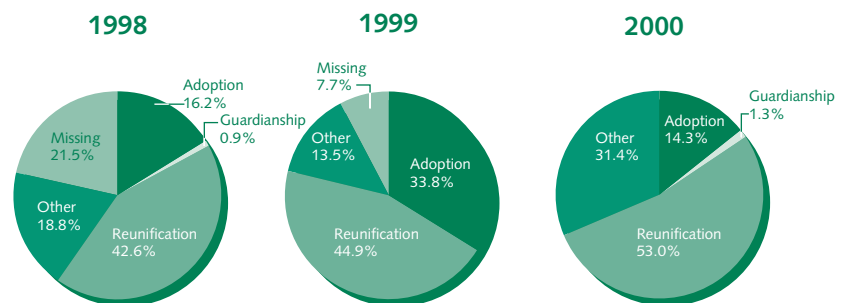
	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	16.2	33.8	14.3
Guardianship	0.9	—	1.3
Reunification	42.6	44.9	53.0
Other	18.8	13.5	31.4
Missing data	21.5	7.7	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	979	659	315

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	15.4	15.8	34.4
Guardianship	7.7	—	—
Reunification	15.4	21.1	37.5
Other	30.8	63.2	28.1
Missing data	30.8	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	13	19	32

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	3.3	21.9	—
Guardianship	2.8	—	—
Reunification	22.0	34.9	17.6
Other	36.0	33.6	82.4
Missing data	36.0	9.6	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	214	146	91

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	32.9	43.6	20.0
Children older than 12 at entry	65.9	56.4	80.0
Missing data	1.2	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	85	78	25

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—	—	—	—	16.3	34.4	15.8	14.3	10.0	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.9	—	1.4	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—	—	33.3	—	43.5	45.0	51.6	—	55.0	71.4
Other	—	—	—	—	33.3	100.0	18.0	13.2	31.2	14.3	15.0	28.6
Missing data	—	—	—	—	33.3	—	21.3	7.3	—	71.4	20.0	—
Total %	—	—	—	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	—	—	—	3	1	950	627	279	7	20	7

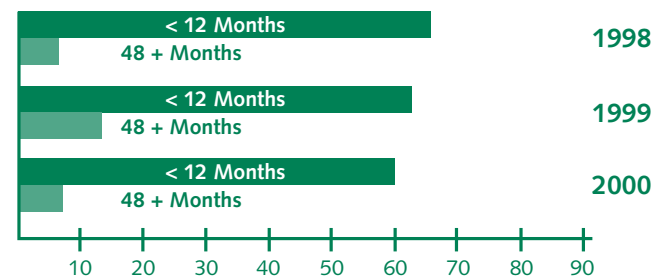
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	100.0	—	—	9.5	55.6	—	—	—	50.0	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	50.0	19.0	22.2	70.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	50.0	57.1	22.2	29.2	—	—	50.0	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	14.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Number	1	—	2	21	9	24	—	—	2	—	—	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

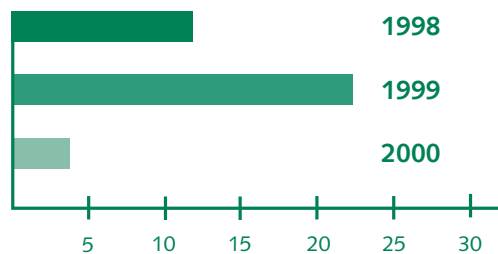
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	65.9	62.8	59.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	16.1	13.5	19.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.0	5.7	9.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.6	4.4	3.6
48 or more mos.	6.5	13.5	7.2
Missing data	3.8	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	417	296	167

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	56.0	64.7	85.4
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	11.8	22.3	3.7
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	5.0	12.8	6.2
Missing data	27.2	0.2	4.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,408	1,231	775

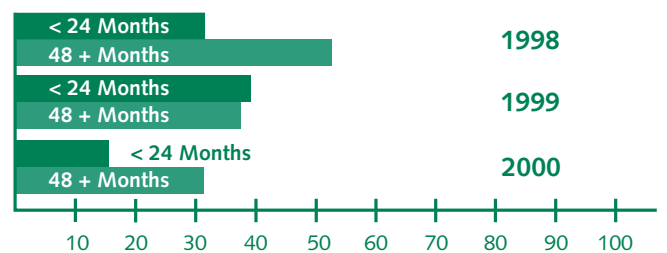
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	17.6	22.9	2.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.8	16.1	13.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.7	12.1	35.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	10.1	10.8	17.8
48 or more mos.	52.8	37.2	31.1
Missing data	—	0.9	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	159	223	45

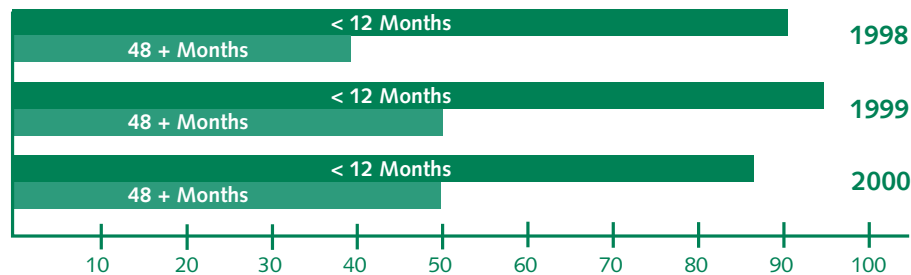
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	90.5	9.1	0.3	100.0	1,510
	1999	94.7	5.3	—	100.0	1,310
	2000	86.5	13.5	—	100.0	820
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	69.5	30.3	0.3	100.0	704
	1999	84.5	15.5	—	100.0	826
	2000	75.8	24.2	—	100.0	748
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	57.7	41.3	1.0	100.0	496
	1999	71.7	28.3	—	100.0	537
	2000	70.9	29.1	—	100.0	609
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	50.5	49.2	0.3	100.0	390
	1999	63.3	36.7	—	100.0	371
	2000	62.9	37.1	—	100.0	337
48 or more mos.	1998	39.1	60.9	—	100.0	1,247
	1999	50.0	50.0	—	100.0	1,067
	2000	49.9	50.1	—	100.0	855
Missing data	1998	85.2	7.4	7.4	100.0	27
	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	14
	2000	—	—	—	—	—

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	8.3	4.2	7.1
Institutions	11.0	12.5	16.5
Other settings	80.2	83.3	74.5
Missing data	0.5	—	2.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,017	814	595

**Olivia Golden, Director  
Child and Family Services Agency  
District of Columbia Department of Human Services  
202-442-6001**

The DC Child and Family Services Agency has experienced a substantial change in data collection and management that is probably responsible for most of the data anomalies. This change is the implementation of a new data management system that occurred in December 2000. At the break between fiscal years 1999 and 2000, the Agency shifted from the FOCUS database to the FACES case management system. Inconsistencies in data often follow the change to a new case management system, which has new accounting, tracking, reporting and documentation procedures. Users often need time to adapt to new case management systems, thereby adding to inaccuracies in data. More recently, the Agency has taken a number of steps to define, identify, and correct discrepancies in the historical data transferred from the previous system. In addition the Agency has provided training to all staff on the use of the new case management system.

One example of the inconsistencies from data conversion is evidenced by the data in Section C that indicates that there were 872 fewer children in care on October 1, 1999 (2,594) than on September 30, 1999 (3,466). This data anomaly coincides exactly with the implementation of the new case management system. The differences in the figures are likely artificial and the result of changing to the new system and the conversion of data from the previous system. Similar artificial differences are believed to be responsible for the trends seen in Outcome Measures 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 4.2, 5.1, and 7.1.



The following discussion focuses on the District of Columbia's (DC) performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from DC's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting DC's performance. In using CFSR information to interpret the data, it is important to note that the DC CFSR was conducted in 2001 and the national data used for the review to assess performance regarding national standards was from 1999. However, the discussion of DC's performance relevant to the national standards in the Federal Comment section focuses on data from the year 2000, as provided in the State Data Pages. In addition, because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

DC's attainment of outcome 1 cannot be assessed in the Federal Comment section because DC does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating this outcome. Only data from NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, for the CFSR, the State provided data for this outcome using an alternative source. These data are presented in DC's CFSR Final Report.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care**

DC's attainment of outcome 2 cannot be evaluated in the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating this outcome. Only data from NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, for the CFSR, DC provided data for this outcome using an alternative source. These data are provided in DC's CFSR Final Report.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 68.6 percent of children leaving foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 84.7 percent), 71.9 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care exited to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 79.5 percent), and 17.6 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at the time of entry into care exited to a permanent home (which is the lowest percentage reported nationally). These data suggest that DC is not consistently effective in achieving permanency for children in foster care. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving permanency for children in foster care: (1) inconsistencies in agency efforts to focus on permanency planning for children, (2) frequent use of independent living as a permanency goal without pursuing other goals after efforts to achieve reunification fail, (3) a lack of concurrent planning, and (4) infrequent coordination between the agency and private providers regarding children's permanency goals.

The FY 2000 data for outcome 3 also indicate that 20.0 percent of children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry, which is lower than the national median of 24.2 percent.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 59.9 percent, which is lower than the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving reunifications in a timely manner: (1) insufficient monitoring in some cases of parents' progress to determine if risk of harm has been reduced, (2) a lack of appropriate settings for parent-child visits that permit caseworkers to assess the quality of parent-child interactions, (3) inadequate assessments in some cases of the services needed to promote reunification and reduce risk factors, (4) insufficient face-to-face contact between caseworkers and parents to ensure ongoing assessment of risk factors and expedite permanency, and (5) inconsistent involvement of parents in the case planning process.

DC's performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months of entry into foster care must be balanced by the finding that in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 3.7, which meets the national standard of 8.6 percent and is lower than the national median of 10.3 percent. However, information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that a primary reason for the low rate of re-entry into foster care may be that children remain in foster care for long periods of time without achieving permanency.

#### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

DC's performance on outcome 5 cannot be assessed for the Federal Comment section. The data in the State Data Pages indicate that DC reported 319 adoptions in FY 2000 to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) Adoption Database (Section E), but only 45 discharges to adoption (outcome measures 3.1 and 5.1) were reported to the AFCARS Foster Care Database. Consequently, the FY 2000 data pertaining to the percent of adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care applies to only 14 percent of the finalized adoptions. The State Comment section attributes this problem to a recent shift in DC's management information system.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who were in foster care for less than 12 months and experienced no more than 2 placements was 86.5, which is close to the national standard of 86.7 percent, and is greater than the national median of 84.3. However, information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that placement stability is an area needing improvement for the State and identifies the following as potential barriers to placement stability: (1) a lack of ongoing assessment of the appropriateness of children's placement settings, (2) a lack of appropriate placements for children with mental health and emotional/behavioral problems, and (3) insufficient services and agency support for foster parents when there is a problem with a placement. Information from the CFSR Final Report also indicates that DC has recently developed several new initiatives designed to promote placement stability, including a Kinship Care Program and a comprehensive therapeutic foster home program.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger at entry into foster care who were placed in a group home or institution was 23.6, which is considerably higher than the national median of 9.0 and close to the highest percentage reported nationally of 27.2. No information was available in the CFSR Final Report that is relevant to interpreting DC's performance on this outcome.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that DC is not consistently effective in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health service needs. The Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to meeting those needs: (1) lack of sufficient attention to children's educational needs; (2) lack of follow-up to ensure that identified health needs are being addressed, particularly for children who are being served while they remain in their homes; (3) inadequate mental health assessment; and (4) a lack of adequate mental health services for children.

# Florida [ CONTEXT DATA ]

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	3,539,932	3,569,878	3,646,340	Child maltreatment victims	82,119	67,530	95,849
Race/ethnicity (%) <sup>1</sup>				Children in foster care on 9/30	26,320	34,292	35,656
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.3	Children adopted	1,549	1,355	1,609
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.9	2.0	1.7				
Black	21.1	21.2	20.6				
Hispanic	17.0	17.5	19.3				
White	59.7	59.0	55.4				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.4				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.4				
% Child population in poverty	22.1	18.4	16.0				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	95.0	95.0	93.2				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	186,967	160,105	205,179	52.8 per 1,000	44.8 per 1,000	56.3 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	82,119	67,530	95,849	23.2 per 1,000	18.9 per 1,000	26.3 per 1,000
Child fatalities	54	57	65	1.5 per 100,000	1.6 per 100,000	1.8 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	9.3	9.6	9.3	Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1
1-5 years	31.2	30.3	30.4	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	0.4	0.4
6-10 years	30.7	30.5	30.1	Black	31.8	31.9	29.9
11-15 years	23.4	23.7	24.1	Hispanic	7.6	8.1	7.2
16+ years	5.4	5.9	6.0	White	67.0	66.6	61.4
Unknown	0.0	0.1	0.1	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	0.7	1.0	0.9
Number	82,119	67,530	95,849	Total % <sup>3</sup>	107.6	108.1	100.0
				Number	82,119	67,530	95,849

### Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	3.0	3.0	3.4
Medical neglect	2.6	2.3	2.2
Neglect	41.5	39.8	35.9
Physical abuse	18.8	17.8	16.0
Sexual abuse	7.3	6.5	5.7
Other	50.8	54.7	61.6
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	124.0	124.1	124.8
Number	82,119	67,530	95,849

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	20,274	13,980	7,934	26,320	34,254
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	21,291	21,118	8,117	34,292	42,409
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	32,398	18,765	15,507	35,656	51,163

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	15.8	N/A	16.1	13.3	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	14.2	N/A	15.2	9.9	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	14.3	N/A	14.7	14.5	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	4.3	5.2	6.0	14.0	14.7	17.8	2.3	2.6	3.8	4.9	6.1	5.9
1-5 years	30.9	30.7	32.1	33.6	33.3	31.3	32.3	32.4	33.7	31.3	32.7	32.4
6-10 years	29.9	29.3	28.9	26.9	27.8	26.4	30.3	30.9	29.5	29.6	28.9	28.1
11-15 years	23.8	24.1	23.3	20.4	19.6	20.0	20.1	20.3	20.4	23.5	22.6	23.4
16-18 years	9.9	9.7	8.9	4.8	4.5	4.4	12.9	12.0	11.6	9.7	9.0	9.3
19+ years	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.1	1.6	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6
Unknown	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>20,274</b>	<b>21,291</b>	<b>32,398</b>	<b>13,980</b>	<b>21,118</b>	<b>18,765</b>	<b>7,934</b>	<b>8,117</b>	<b>15,507</b>	<b>26,320</b>	<b>34,292</b>	<b>35,656</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1
Black	52.7	51.0	47.2	45.4	42.8	39.1	49.6	48.4	41.7	49.7	46.5	45.4
Hispanic	4.4	4.8	9.0	4.5	5.4	8.8	4.1	4.4	7.6	4.6	5.3	9.5
White	42.2	43.5	40.3	49.3	49.9	48.9	45.4	46.6	47.5	45.0	46.7	41.7
Two or more races	—	—	2.9	—	0.8	2.5	—	—	2.4	—	0.5	2.9
Unknown	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>20,274</b>	<b>21,291</b>	<b>32,398</b>	<b>13,980</b>	<b>21,118</b>	<b>18,765</b>	<b>7,934</b>	<b>8,117</b>	<b>15,507</b>	<b>26,320</b>	<b>34,292</b>	<b>35,656</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	4,203	4,610	5,318
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	0	0	0

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	2.9	4.3	3.0
1-5 years	31.7	32.2	32.7
6-10 years	37.3	36.6	34.5
11-15 years	24.8	23.6	25.9
16+ years	3.0	2.8	3.5
Unknown	0.4	0.5	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,203</b>	<b>4,610</b>	<b>5,318</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.1	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.1	0.0
Black	50.3	49.7	48.3
Hispanic	4.4	4.5	10.8
White	44.5	44.4	36.4
Two or more races	—	0.3	4.0
Unknown	0.5	0.9	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,203</b>	<b>4,610</b>	<b>5,318</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	0.8	1.3	1.4
1-5 years	46.8	46.7	49.1
6-10 years	35.4	34.5	33.9
11-15 years	15.0	15.9	13.8
16+ years	1.9	1.7	1.7
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>1,355</b>	<b>1,609</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.1	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	—	0.1
Black	40.1	39.6	35.0
Hispanic	10.3	11.4	15.4
White	48.7	48.2	45.0
Two or more races	—	—	3.7
Unknown	0.5	0.7	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>1,355</b>	<b>1,609</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

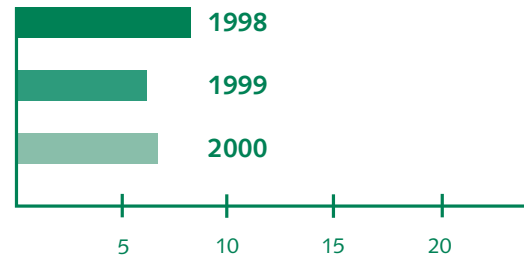
6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

### 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

#### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	91.8	93.8	93.3
Children with one or more recurrences	8.2	6.2	6.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	38,823	37,374	42,749

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

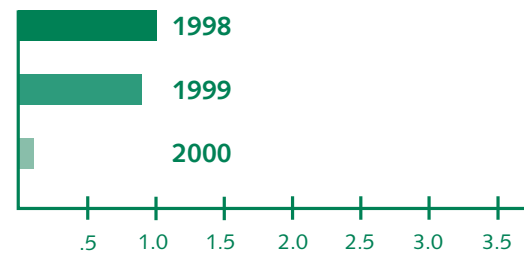


### 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

#### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	1.0	0.9	0.1
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.0	99.1	99.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	32,587	40,268	48,223

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

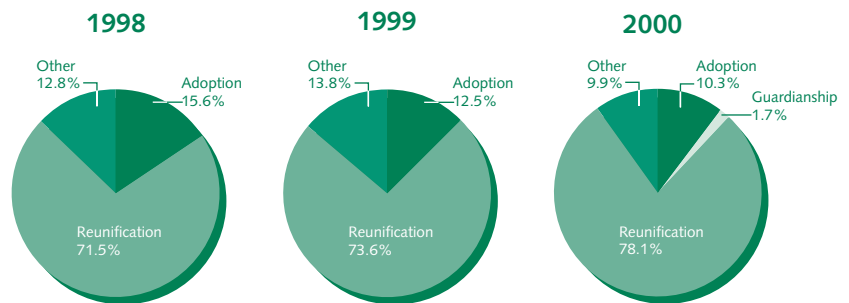


### 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

#### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	15.6	12.5	10.3
Guardianship	—	—	1.7
Reunification	71.5	73.6	78.1
Other	12.8	13.8	9.9
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,934	8,117	15,507

Percent Exits from Foster Care



#### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	66.7	21.3
Guardianship	—	—	1.9
Reunification	—	—	61.4
Other	—	33.3	15.5
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	3	1,782

#### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	3.0	2.1	0.6
Guardianship	—	—	2.8
Reunification	53.8	54.4	63.0
Other	43.2	43.5	33.5
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,406	1,347	2,386

#### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	27.8	28.0	32.6
Children older than 12 at entry	71.8	71.6	67.3
Missing data	0.4	0.3	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	684	649	900

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	6.7	22.2	11.8	11.1	9.1	5.7	12.8	10.0	8.4	11.0	12.7	17.4
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.6	—	—	0.9
Reunification	86.7	55.6	82.4	77.8	63.6	88.6	74.6	76.3	79.2	76.8	72.6	69.0
Other	6.7	22.2	5.9	11.1	27.3	5.7	12.6	13.7	10.8	12.2	14.7	12.6
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	15	9	17	18	11	35	3,937	3,932	6,469	327	354	1,182

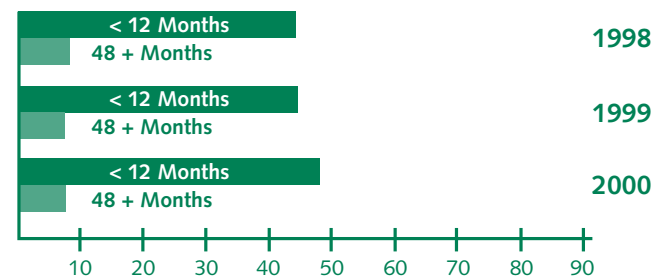
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	19.1	15.0	10.1	25.0	22.6	9.6	—	—	24.5	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	1.8	—	—	1.9	—	—	1.6	—	—	—
Reunification	67.6	71.2	79.1	66.7	58.1	75.0	—	—	69.7	—	—	—
Other	13.2	13.8	9.0	8.3	19.4	13.5	—	—	4.2	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Number	3,601	3,780	7,373	36	31	52	—	—	379	—	—	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

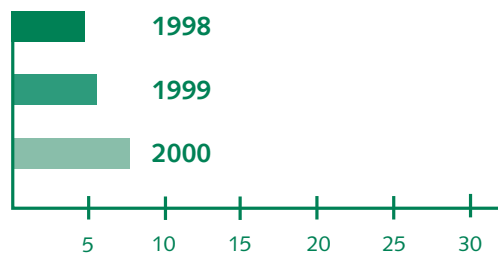
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	44.3	44.6	48.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	28.1	30.1	28.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	12.7	12.2	10.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	6.4	5.1	4.7
48 or more mos.	8.3	7.6	7.7
Missing data	0.2	0.4	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,674	5,978	12,117

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	87.7	87.6	88.2
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	4.7	5.4	7.6
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	7.6	6.4	4.2
Missing data	—	0.7	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	13,980	21,118	18,765

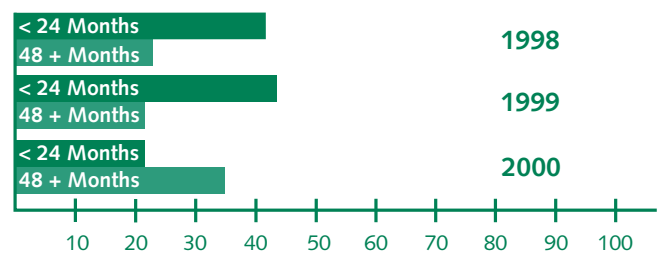
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	27.6	25.0	4.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.9	18.5	17.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	19.3	17.9	25.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	14.4	16.4	18.3
48 or more mos.	22.9	21.6	34.8
Missing data	1.9	0.6	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,241	1,017	1,593

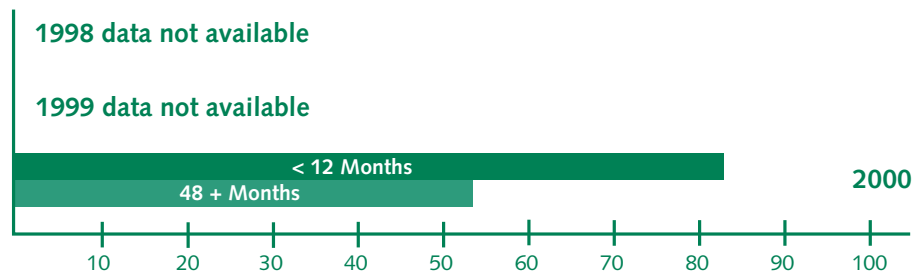
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	—	—	—	—	—
	2000	82.9	7.9	9.3	100.0	21,640
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	—	—	—	—	—
	2000	76.0	18.5	5.5	100.0	13,121
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	—	—	—	—	—
	2000	65.7	29.7	4.6	100.0	5,906
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	—	—	—	—	—
	2000	58.9	37.4	3.7	100.0	3,353
48 or more mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	—	—	—	—	—
	2000	53.4	42.9	3.7	100.0	7,017
Missing data	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	—	—	—	—	—
	2000	76.2	2.4	21.4	100.0	126

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	—	1.3	0.9
Institutions	—	0.1	0.3
Other settings	—	95.3	75.0
Missing data	—	3.3	23.7
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	4,093	13,744

**Mike Watkins, Director  
Office of Family Safety  
Florida Department of Children & Families  
850-922-2195**

Florida's Comments to be included in the Report to Congress are the following:

1. Florida's high percentage of "Other" maltreatments noted in Section B reflects the state category Threatened Harm. Almost a quarter of these relate to domestic violence.
2. The number and rate of child victims, as shown in Section B, increased in the State due to increased reporting and a higher volume of reports closed in the computer system in 2000.
3. Beginning FFY 2000, Florida reported data on Hispanic ethnicity, guardianship, placement date and number of placements. Data on termination of parental rights and all short-term emergency placements were first reported during FFY 2001. (Prior exclusion of many short-term placements artificially increased length of stay.) The discrepancy between discharges to adoption in the foster care file and the number of records in the adoption file is being addressed during FFY 2002.

Based on the ACF method of creating the annual foster care file and the limitations of the State's legacy system data, children entering care during the report year, but not recorded in the computer until later were included, but late discharges were not. Due to this, the federal data show higher entrants than discharges and a higher end count. This also explains why the number in care the first day of one fiscal year is less than the last day of the prior fiscal year. Because the State increased its efforts to enter discharges in a timely manner, the number of discharges improved in FFY 2000. FFY 2001 submissions from HomeSafenet will correct this problem.

Variations in law, rule and practice among states have been shown to have significant impact on the context and outcome data presented in this report. The reader is cautioned against assuming that differences in Florida data compared to other states reflect performance variances. This same issue calls to question the national standards, which do not take practice variations into account.



The following discussion focuses on Florida's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance. In using CFSR information to interpret performance, it is important to note that the Florida CFSR was conducted in 2001 and the national data used for the review to assess performance regarding national standards was from 1999. However, the discussion of State performance relevant to the national standards in this Federal Comment section focuses on data from the year 2000, as provided in the State Data Pages. In addition, because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

In calendar year (CY) 2000, the rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 6.7 percent, which does not quite meet the national standard of 6.1 percent, but is less than the national median of 7.9 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to preventing maltreatment recurrence: (1) inadequate risk assessments that often do not capture the underlying issues related to child maltreatment, (2) a lack of ongoing risk assessments in many of the cases in which children remain in their homes, and (3) insufficient face-to-face contact between agency caseworkers and children who are being served while remaining at home.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce incidence of maltreatment in foster care**

In CY 2000, the incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.1, which meets the national standard of 0.57 and is lower than the national median of 0.47 percent. Florida's 1999 data did not meet the national standard for this outcome measure. However, the percent change between 1999 and 2000 (-83 percent) suggests that there may be issues regarding data quality for this measure. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State engages in the following practices in an effort to reduce the incidence of maltreatment in foster care: (1) specialized training for foster parents that focuses on parenting children with behavioral problems, including how to effectively discipline these children; and (2) requiring re-approvals of foster homes on an annual basis.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 90.1 percent of children leaving foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 84.7 percent) and 84.6 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 79.5 percent). However, 66.4 percent of children who were older than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is less than the national median of 72.6 percent), and 32.6 percent of children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry (which is higher than the national median of 24.2 percent). These findings suggest that although the State is generally effective in achieving permanency for children in foster care, it is less consistent in attaining permanency for children who enter foster care at older ages. The data also indicate that approximately one-third of the children who are emancipated from foster care may be said to have "grown up" in the system (i.e., they were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care). Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that a key barrier to attaining permanency is the agency practice in some cases of establishing a goal of long-term foster care when reunification efforts fail, without full consideration of permanency options such as guardianship or adoption.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 48.0, which is less than the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving reunifications in a timely manner: (1) a lack of mental health services for children, (2) infrequent parent-child visitation particularly when children are placed in a different county from their parents, (3) needs assessments that are not sufficiently comprehensive, (4) delays in providing services to families due to waiting lists, and (5) provision of inappropriate or inadequate services when recommended services are not available.

Florida's performance with regard to reunifications occurring within 12 months must be balanced by the finding that in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 7.6, which meets the national standard of 8.6 percent and is less than the national median of 10.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the low rate of re-entries into foster care may be attributed to the following: (1) a policy requiring an administrative review and approval for any recommendation to the court for reunification, and (2) a practice of providing post-reunification supervision to families and maintaining frequent contact with families after reunification.

#### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 21.7, which does not meet the national standard of 32.0 percent, but is higher than national median of 19.7 percent. Florida's performance on this measure in 1999 (43.5 percent) did meet the national standard. However, the percent change in performance on this measure from FY 1999 to FY 2000 (-50 percent change) indicates that there may be data quality issues relevant to the measure. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the primary barrier to achieving adoptions within 24 months of entry into foster care is the delay in filing termination of parental rights petitions.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 82.9, which does not meet the national standard of 86.7 percent and is less than the national median of 84.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving placement stability: (1) insufficient placement facilities for youth, (2) a lack of respite services for foster parents, (3) difficulty retaining foster parents, and (4) the frequent use of shelter care as placements for children due to an insufficient number of foster family homes.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

The State's performance on outcome 7 cannot be assessed. In FY 2000, the State did not report placement setting information to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System for 23.7 percent of the children who entered foster care during the fiscal year and were age 12 or younger at the time of their placement.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that the State is not consistently effective in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs. The Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) insufficient agency attention to assessing and addressing children's educational needs, (2) a lack of documentation in case files regarding services provided to meet children's health care and dental needs, (3) a scarcity of mental health services for children, and (4) a scarcity of services for children who have been sexually abused.

### A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	2,022,351	2,056,885	2,169,234	Child maltreatment victims	24,567	26,888	30,806
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	9,937	11,991	11,204
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	Children adopted	720	1,129	1,057
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.1	2.2	2.0				
Black	34.0	33.9	34.1				
Hispanic	3.9	4.2	6.3				
White	59.9	59.5	55.5				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.7				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.3				
% Child population in poverty	25.9	19.5	16.9				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	62.5	64.1	69.4				

### B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	74,180	78,734	92,254	36.7 per 1,000	38.3 per 1,000	42.5 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	24,567	26,888	30,806	12.1 per 1,000	13.1 per 1,000	14.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	37	42	45	1.8 per 100,000	2.0 per 100,000	2.1 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	10.4	10.2	7.2	Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1
1-5 years	30.1	29.8	30.4	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	0.4	0.3
6-10 years	30.6	30.6	31.6	Black	47.8	47.4	46.2
11-15 years	23.7	24.3	24.3	Hispanic	2.6	3.1	3.3
16+ years	4.6	4.7	6.0	White	46.3	45.9	46.9
Unknown	0.6	0.4	0.4	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	5.5	6.2	3.3
<b>Number</b>	<b>24,567</b>	<b>26,888</b>	<b>30,806</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	102.6	103.1	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>24,567</b>	<b>26,888</b>	<b>30,806</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	4.1	3.9	4.6
Medical neglect	4.6	4.4	4.9
Neglect	62.3	63.1	68.9
Physical abuse	14.3	13.4	12.3
Sexual abuse	8.3	8.4	7.5
Other	6.5	6.7	8.1
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	100.0	100.0	106.2
<b>Number</b>	<b>24,567</b>	<b>26,888</b>	<b>30,806</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	9,844			3,724			3,632			9,937			13,568
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	11,040			7,218			6,267			11,991			18,258
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	8,832			7,028			4,657			11,204			15,860
Median Length of Stay (Months)													
FFY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	23.0			N/A			12.2			26.2			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	22.9			N/A			11.7			18.9			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	21.6			N/A			7.7			15.2			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	4.2	4.5	5.9	16.5	17.1	18.1	4.6	6.3	6.8	3.3	6.0	7.0	
1-5 years	28.4	27.7	28.0	28.8	28.9	28.0	29.2	30.4	31.3	27.7	27.1	28.4	
6-10 years	29.1	29.2	29.1	25.6	24.2	24.5	26.5	27.3	28.8	29.3	27.1	26.0	
11-15 years	27.6	26.8	31.5	23.3	24.3	25.0	23.1	22.7	24.6	27.2	27.5	29.3	
16-18 years	10.0	10.8	5.5	5.6	5.2	4.1	15.2	11.7	8.5	11.8	11.3	9.2	
19+ years	0.6	0.8	—	0.1	0.1	—	1.2	1.3	—	0.7	0.8	—	
Unknown	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	—	0.1	0.2	0.0	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>9,844</b>	<b>11,040</b>	<b>8,832</b>	<b>3,724</b>	<b>7,218</b>	<b>7,028</b>	<b>3,632</b>	<b>6,267</b>	<b>4,657</b>	<b>9,937</b>	<b>11,991</b>	<b>11,204</b>	
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%) <sup>5</sup>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	
Black	60.7	58.7	59.7	50.5	49.4	52.1	53.9	50.0	53.0	59.3	57.6	57.7	
Hispanic	1.4	3.0	2.4	4.0	4.4	4.3	3.9	2.6	3.7	1.4	4.1	3.0	
White	34.4	34.3	33.6	41.5	39.3	40.1	39.1	42.7	38.9	35.4	32.9	35.5	
Two or more races	—	—	2.9	—	1.3	2.3	—	—	2.3	—	0.8	2.8	
Unknown	3.1	3.7	1.0	3.4	4.9	0.7	2.4	4.3	1.3	3.5	4.1	0.7	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>9,844</b>	<b>11,040</b>	<b>8,832</b>	<b>3,724</b>	<b>7,218</b>	<b>7,028</b>	<b>3,632</b>	<b>6,267</b>	<b>4,657</b>	<b>9,937</b>	<b>11,991</b>	<b>11,204</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	2,403	2,713	2,875
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	1,394	1,323	1,511
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	2.4	4.6	3.9
1-5 years	32.6	27.2	31.4
6-10 years	35.5	36.2	35.0
11-15 years	24.2	26.6	26.0
16+ years	4.7	4.4	3.7
Unknown	0.7	1.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,403</b>	<b>2,713</b>	<b>2,875</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.4	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	0.4	0.3
Black	57.1	58.9	60.2
Hispanic	0.8	4.5	3.3
White	37.5	30.9	31.1
Two or more races	—	0.6	4.2
Unknown	4.1	4.3	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,403</b>	<b>2,713</b>	<b>2,875</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	1.5	1.9	0.8
1-5 years	47.5	44.5	38.8
6-10 years	35.0	38.4	40.2
11-15 years	14.3	13.7	17.3
16+ years	1.7	1.5	2.9
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>1,057</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.1	0.2
Black	56.4	55.4	56.1
Hispanic	2.4	1.9	1.9
White	38.8	41.0	35.6
Two or more races	0.1	1.1	4.2
Unknown	2.4	0.5	2.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>1,057</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

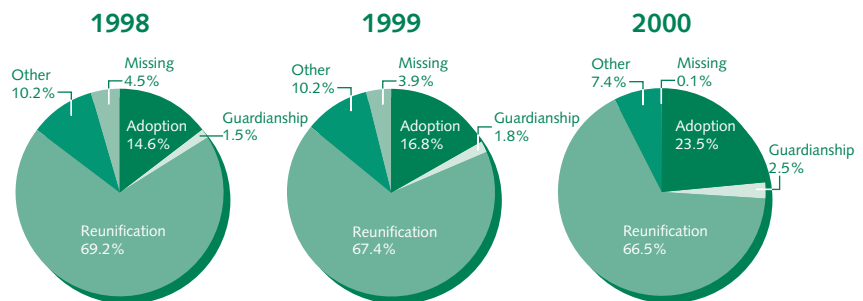
	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	14.6	16.8	23.5
Guardianship	1.5	1.8	2.5
Reunification	69.2	67.4	66.5
Other	10.2	10.2	7.4
Missing data	4.5	3.9	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,632	6,267	4,657

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	19.1	28.6	42.0
Guardianship	1.3	1.8	2.3
Reunification	51.5	44.3	43.2
Other	21.3	20.4	12.4
Missing data	6.8	5.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	456	619	474

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.8	0.4	1.2
Guardianship	2.0	1.5	2.3
Reunification	68.1	68.7	76.4
Other	25.4	25.5	19.9
Missing data	3.7	3.9	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	783	1,190	833

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	47.0	45.1	28.6
Children older than 12 at entry	53.0	54.9	71.4
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	232	346	56

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	30.8	100.0	57.1	—	4.8	35.3	13.6	15.9	24.3	15.4	3.1	17.9
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.0	2.3	3.4	—	—	1.2
Reunification	30.8	—	33.3	81.8	81.0	58.8	70.5	67.0	65.4	72.7	82.1	75.7
Other	—	—	9.5	18.2	—	5.9	9.2	10.8	6.9	9.8	3.7	5.2
Missing data	38.5	—	—	—	14.3	—	4.7	3.9	0.0	2.1	11.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	13	4	21	11	21	17	1,958	3,136	2,469	143	162	173

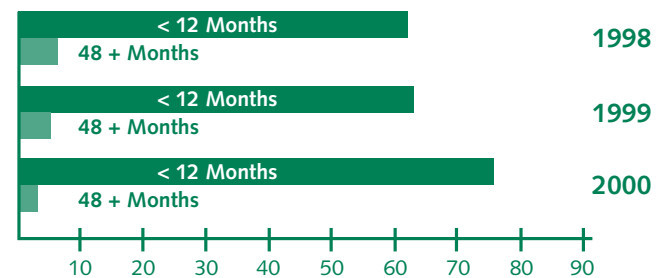
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	15.2	17.9	22.2	24.1	23.0	33.3	—	—	21.5	—	—	—
Guardianship	1.1	1.4	1.5	2.3	0.4	5.0	—	—	2.8	—	—	—
Reunification	67.7	66.8	67.8	62.1	68.5	55.0	—	—	69.2	—	—	—
Other	12.2	10.7	8.3	3.4	3.7	6.7	—	—	6.5	—	—	—
Missing data	3.9	3.2	0.2	8.0	4.4	—	—	—	—	—	100.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	100.0	—
Number	1,420	2,673	1,810	87	270	60	—	—	107	—	1	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

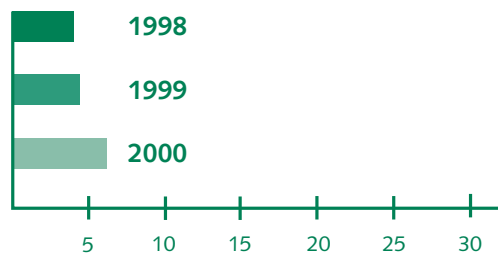
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	62.1	63.0	75.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	15.4	16.4	14.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	8.6	6.9	4.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	5.3	3.0	2.2
48 or more mos.	6.4	5.3	3.2
Missing data	2.2	5.4	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,512	4,223	3,097

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	92.4	91.0	87.6
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	4.0	4.4	6.1
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	3.1	3.6	5.8
Missing data	0.5	1.0	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,724	7,218	7,028

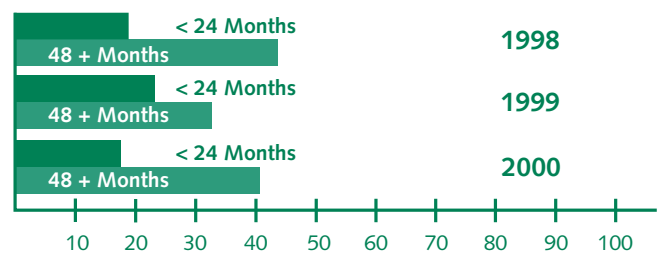
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	6.0	8.6	2.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	12.9	14.5	14.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	20.4	24.5	22.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	17.0	19.0	18.8
48 or more mos.	43.7	32.7	40.6
Missing data	—	0.8	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	529	1,050	1,093

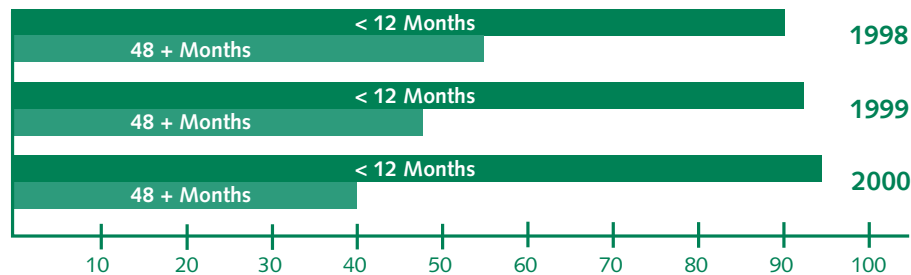
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	90.0	10.0	—	100.0	4,141
	1999	92.3	7.7	—	100.0	7,733
	2000	94.3	5.7	—	100.0	7,512
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	77.1	22.9	—	100.0	2,787
	1999	72.2	27.6	0.2	100.0	3,036
	2000	75.8	24.2	—	100.0	2,841
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	70.4	29.6	—	100.0	2,039
	1999	64.2	35.7	0.0	100.0	2,133
	2000	57.5	42.5	0.1	100.0	1,577
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	64.5	35.5	—	100.0	1,423
	1999	55.9	43.9	0.2	100.0	1,514
	2000	49.8	50.1	0.1	100.0	1,162
48 or more mos.	1998	54.8	45.2	—	100.0	3,105
	1999	47.7	52.2	0.1	100.0	3,496
	2000	40.0	60.0	0.1	100.0	2,757
Missing data	1998	97.3	2.7	—	100.0	73
	1999	96.8	3.2	—	100.0	346
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	11

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	5.8	3.9	2.1
Institutions	5.7	8.1	3.0
Other settings	88.5	88.0	94.9
Missing data	—	0.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,946	5,564	5,477

**Steve E. Love, Acting Director**  
**Division of Family and Children Services**  
**Georgia Department of Human Resources**  
**404-651-8049**

Georgia did not provide data for measures 1.1 and 2.1 because this information is obtained through NCANDS DCDC submission. Georgia does not have a Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) that allows for tracking of "unique" children receiving child protective services. Once SACWIS is developed, this information will become available.

Georgia's AFCARS data continues to be reported through legacy computer systems. Significant efforts are being made to identify the source of data discrepancies and to make corrections to the data as needed. The recent Child and Family Services Review illuminated data issues that are also being addressed. The review of Georgia's AFCARS data includes an analysis of the data extraction methodology, as well as an analysis at the data input level, in order to identify any flaws in the process. Georgia will continue to update and improve the legacy system in order to stay current with federal requirements and to provide consistent and accurate data while developing the SACWIS system.



The following discussion focuses on Georgia's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance. In using CFSR information to interpret performance, it is important to note that the Georgia CFSR was conducted in 2001 and the national data used for the review to assess performance regarding national standards was from 1999. However, the discussion of State performance relevant to the national standards in this Federal Comment section focuses on data from the year 2000, as provided in the State Data Pages. In addition, because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to child well-being with regard to meeting children's physical health, mental health, and educational needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

Georgia's performance on outcome 1 cannot be assessed in the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating this outcome. Only data from NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, for the CFSR, the State provided data for this outcome using an alternative source. These data are presented in Georgia's CFSR Final Report.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care**

Georgia's performance on outcome 2 cannot be evaluated in the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to NCANDS to calculate this outcome. Only maltreatment data from NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, for the CFSR, the State provided data for this measure using an alternative source. These data are provided in Georgia's CFSR Final Report.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 92.5 percent of children leaving foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 84.7 percent), 87.5 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 79.5 percent), and 79.9 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 72.6 percent). These data suggest that the State is generally effective in attaining permanency for children, even when they have a diagnosed disability or are older than age 12 when they enter foster care. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that Georgia's performance on these measures may be attributed to the following: (1) implementation of the Georgia Relative Care subsidy program, and (2) use of Family Group Conferencing to increase family participation and engage families in working toward permanency. However, the data for outcome 3 also demonstrate that 28.6 percent of children emancipating from foster care in FY 2000 were age 12 or younger at the time of entry, which is higher than the national median of 24.2 percent. This suggests that the State has not been consistently effective in ensuring that children who enter foster care at young ages do not "grow up" in the system.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 75.9 percent, which does not meet the national standard of 76.2 percent but exceeds the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving reunifications in a timely manner: (1) insufficient attention to ensuring that the needs of families are fully assessed and met (due in large part to high caseworker caseloads and staff turnover); (2) the scarcity of mental health, substance abuse treatment, and domestic violence services; (3) failure in some cases to individualize services for the family, and (4) inconsistencies with regard to involving families in the case planning process.

Georgia's performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be balanced by the finding that in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 6.1, which is lower than the national standard of 8.6 percent and the national median of 10.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests

that the low rate of foster care re-entries may be attributed to the provision of post-reunification services that include assistance with a family's concrete needs for rent and household goods.

#### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 17.6, which does not meet the national standard of 32.0 percent and was less than the national median of 19.7 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving finalized adoptions in a timely manner: (1) agency delays in filing for termination of parental rights (TPR), (2) court delays in hearing TPR petitions and finalizing adoptions, and (3) a failure in some cases to provide foster parents with accurate information about adoption. The Final Report also notes that when the agency considers children to be in stable foster care placements, little attention is given to seeking more permanent homes.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 94.3, which exceeds both the national median of 84.3 percent and the national standard of 86.7 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance on this outcome may be attributed to its First Placement/Best Placement policy, which requires (1) a careful determination of needs and services before placing a child with a foster family, and (2) a thorough exploration and evaluation of relative placements before children are placed in relative homes. However, information from the CFSR Final Report also indicates that placement stability was an area needing improvement due to the following: (1) frequent use of shelter care placements, even for newborn infants and very young children; (2) lack of resources to support relative placements; and (3) insufficient supports and services to foster parents to prevent placement disruptions.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 5.1, which is lower than the national median of 9.0. This is not consistent with information in the CFSR Final Report indicating that many young children in the State are being placed in emergency shelters and often remain in those placements for long periods of time.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, the CFSR Final Report indicates that the State is not consistently effective in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs. Information from the Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) lack of attention of agency caseworkers to children's education-related issues; (2) lack of sufficient access to health care providers and mental health services in rural areas and to affordable services in all areas; (3) long waiting lists for mental health services; and (4) insufficient follow up to ensure that children are receiving services to address identified needs.

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	298,327	289,340	295,767	Child maltreatment victims	2,185	2,669	3,533
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	2,441	2,203	2,379
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.4	0.2	Children adopted	301	281	280
Asian/Pacific Islander	62.2	62.8	40.9				
Black	2.7	2.5	1.8				
Hispanic	11.4	11.5	11.9				
White	23.3	22.8	15.0				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	29.9				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.3				
% Child population in poverty	21.0	13.5	13.9				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	73.3	72.8	70.6				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	3,568	4,646	6,184	12.0 per 1,000	16.1 per 1,000	20.9 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	2,185	2,669	3,533	7.3 per 1,000	9.2 per 1,000	11.9 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	5	3	1.0 per 100,000	1.7 per 100,000	1.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	13.2	13.4	13.6	Alaska Native/American Indian	1.0	0.9	0.2
1-5 years	28.5	27.5	28.8	Asian/Pacific Islander	59.8	61.9	46.5
6-10 years	27.8	28.6	28.6	Black	21.1	2.5	1.7
11-15 years	23.2	23.4	22.7	Hispanic	1.6	2.0	2.0
16+ years	5.6	5.9	5.9	White	15.1	12.1	10.8
Unknown	1.6	1.2	0.4	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	22.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	3.1	22.6	16.7
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,185</b>	<b>2,669</b>	<b>3,533</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	101.6	102.0	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>2,185</b>	<b>2,669</b>	<b>3,533</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	2.0	1.6	3.2
Medical neglect	1.1	0.6	1.6
Neglect	8.3	8.1	14.6
Physical abuse	10.4	6.5	13.7
Sexual abuse	6.6	5.3	7.0
Other	69.2	84.8	84.3
Unknown	2.3	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	100.0	106.9	124.4
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,185</b>	<b>2,669</b>	<b>3,533</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	2,077			1,774			1,410			2,441			3,851
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	2,185			1,718			1,700			2,203			3,903
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	2,145			2,002			1,768			2,379			4,147
Median Length of Stay (Months)													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	15.8			N/A			11.4			12.3			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	11.7			N/A			9.5			13.0			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	13.3			N/A			8.4			11.6			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	5.2	7.4	5.6	15.4	14.8	15.6	5.1	7.1	6.1	6.9	5.9	8.1	
1-5 years	35.1	32.4	30.9	30.2	27.5	28.2	32.8	31.6	30.1	32.7	31.0	29.2	
6-10 years	26.4	27.6	27.3	26.2	23.6	25.9	29.1	25.7	27.4	27.2	27.4	27.1	
11-15 years	22.8	22.3	23.5	22.2	24.4	22.7	19.2	21.0	21.4	22.7	23.5	23.7	
16-18 years	10.5	10.4	12.7	6.0	9.5	7.5	13.6	14.5	14.8	10.5	12.3	11.8	
19+ years	0.0	—	0.0	—	—	—	0.2	—	0.1	0.0	—	0.0	
Unknown	—	—	—	—	0.1	0.0	—	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,077</b>	<b>2,185</b>	<b>2,145</b>	<b>1,774</b>	<b>1,718</b>	<b>2,002</b>	<b>1,410</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,768</b>	<b>2,441</b>	<b>2,203</b>	<b>2,379</b>	
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%) <sup>5</sup>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	1.3	1.2	1.4	0.8	1.9	0.6	0.7	1.6	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.1	
Asian/Pacific Islander	76.7	77.5	74.3	74.5	70.3	57.0	74.0	71.5	66.6	76.7	76.5	65.4	
Black	2.1	2.0	2.5	2.9	3.4	2.4	3.5	2.9	2.5	1.9	2.3	2.4	
Hispanic	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.5	2.6	1.9	3.2	2.5	2.7	2.2	2.7	2.3	
White	12.2	13.0	12.7	13.8	14.0	11.6	14.7	14.8	13.7	11.9	12.3	11.1	
Two or more races	—	—	2.7	—	0.1	16.2	—	0.1	6.7	—	—	11.1	
Unknown	5.1	3.6	3.5	5.6	7.7	10.2	4.0	6.5	6.8	6.1	4.6	6.7	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,077</b>	<b>2,185</b>	<b>2,145</b>	<b>1,774</b>	<b>1,718</b>	<b>2,002</b>	<b>1,410</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,768</b>	<b>2,441</b>	<b>2,203</b>	<b>2,379</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	585	627	657
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	451	542	569
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	2.2	3.5	3.8
1-5 years	32.3	32.2	29.1
6-10 years	31.1	30.3	28.6
11-15 years	24.3	23.0	27.4
16+ years	9.9	11.0	11.1
Unknown	0.2	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>657</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.1	1.3	1.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	75.4	78.8	74.6
Black	2.7	2.2	3.2
Hispanic	2.6	3.5	3.5
White	14.2	12.9	9.0
Two or more races	—	—	5.2
Unknown	3.1	1.3	2.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>657</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	2.0	3.6	3.6
1-5 years	53.5	57.7	52.9
6-10 years	35.2	32.0	36.4
11-15 years	8.6	6.8	6.8
16+ years	0.7	—	0.4
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>280</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.0	1.4	1.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	79.7	80.1	77.9
Black	1.0	3.6	2.1
Hispanic	4.0	1.4	1.4
White	11.3	13.2	13.2
Two or more races	—	—	3.9
Unknown	2.0	0.4	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>280</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

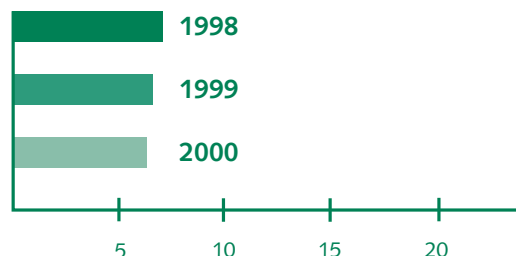
6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	92.9	93.3	93.6
Children with one or more recurrences	7.1	6.7	6.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,212	1,474	1,734

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

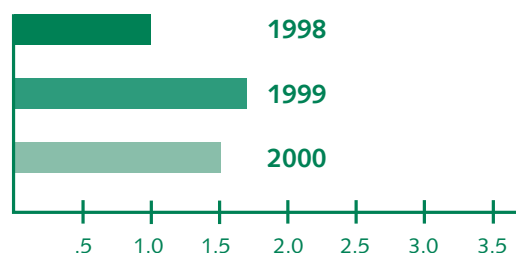


## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	1.0	1.7	1.5
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.0	98.3	98.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,528	3,434	3,711

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

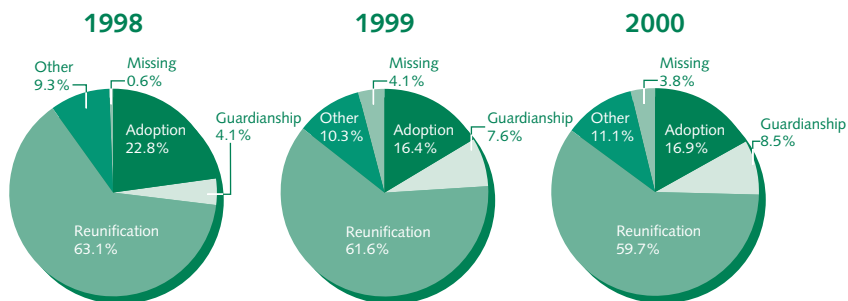


## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	22.8	16.4	16.9
Guardianship	4.1	7.6	8.5
Reunification	63.1	61.6	59.7
Other	9.3	10.3	11.1
Missing data	0.6	4.1	3.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,410	1,700	1,768

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	40.5	43.5	30.6
Guardianship	6.8	8.0	10.1
Reunification	38.5	25.3	34.1
Other	13.2	19.4	20.9
Missing data	1.0	3.8	4.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	205	237	258

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.3	0.5	0.5
Guardianship	3.5	4.4	7.2
Reunification	64.0	56.5	53.6
Other	31.1	29.3	31.7
Missing data	1.0	9.3	7.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	286	386	416

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	20.4	22.0	14.4
Children older than 12 at entry	79.6	78.0	85.6
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	103	127	125

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	70.0	14.8	27.8	25.4	17.8	19.0	6.1	20.0	13.6	24.4	9.3	8.5
Guardianship	—	29.6	—	4.6	8.5	9.8	12.2	—	—	2.2	7.0	4.3
Reunification	20.0	51.9	55.6	60.9	60.3	55.6	71.4	66.0	68.2	51.1	67.4	68.1
Other	10.0	3.7	16.7	8.6	10.1	12.5	10.2	6.0	11.4	22.2	14.0	12.8
Missing data	—	—	—	0.5	3.3	3.1	—	8.0	6.8	—	2.3	6.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	10	27	18	1,043	1,215	1,178	49	50	44	45	43	47

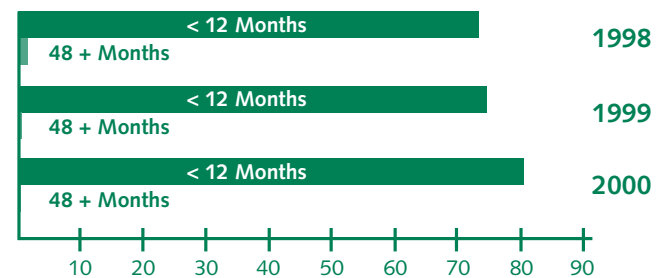
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	15.5	16.3	17.8	8.2	3.5	2.2	—	—	12.7	—	—	—
Guardianship	1.4	5.2	7.0	—	3.5	8.6	—	—	5.9	—	—	3.6
Reunification	73.9	63.1	60.3	71.4	63.5	76.3	—	100.0	76.3	100.0	88.5	75.0
Other	8.2	9.5	10.7	16.3	18.8	5.4	—	—	2.5	—	7.7	7.1
Missing data	1.0	6.0	4.1	4.1	10.6	7.5	—	—	2.5	—	3.8	14.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	207	252	242	49	85	93	—	2	118	7	26	28

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

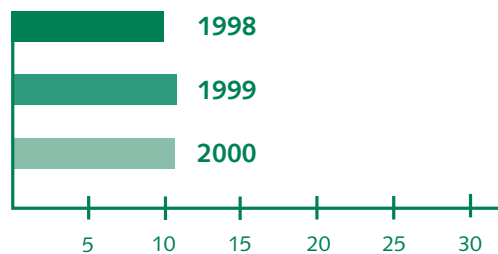
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	73.3	74.6	80.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	15.4	18.6	12.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.5	3.7	3.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.6	1.1	0.2
48 or more mos.	1.6	0.5	0.2
Missing data	2.7	1.4	3.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	890	1,047	1,055

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	79.3	77.5	79.1
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	9.8	10.8	10.7
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	9.7	10.8	9.2
Missing data	1.2	0.9	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,774	1,718	2,002

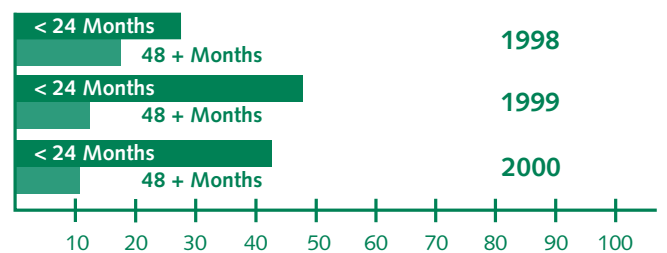
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	7.1	10.1	6.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	20.2	37.8	36.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	27.3	21.6	36.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	27.6	18.3	10.4
48 or more mos.	17.4	12.2	10.7
Missing data	0.3	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	322	278	299

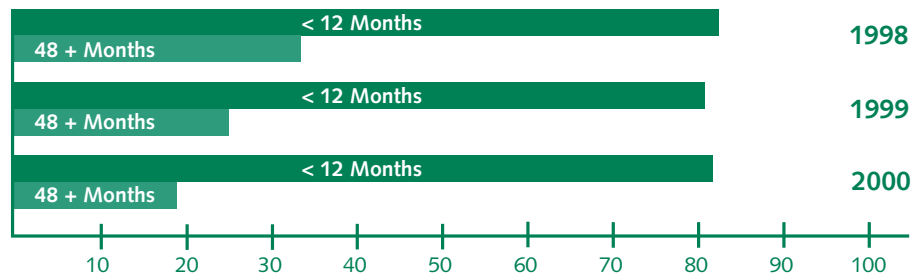
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	82.4	14.3	3.3	100.0	1,923
	1999	80.9	16.1	3.0	100.0	1,957
	2000	81.7	15.1	3.2	100.0	2,197
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	60.7	36.5	2.9	100.0	798
	1999	62.1	37.2	0.7	100.0	999
	2000	56.3	43.0	0.7	100.0	893
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	49.6	49.4	1.0	100.0	413
	1999	45.5	54.5	—	100.0	418
	2000	44.9	55.1	—	100.0	561
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	47.0	52.3	0.7	100.0	304
	1999	31.5	68.0	0.5	100.0	219
	2000	30.5	69.0	0.5	100.0	197
48 or more mos.	1998	33.2	63.6	3.1	100.0	382
	1999	24.9	75.1	—	100.0	289
	2000	18.8	81.2	—	100.0	261
Missing data	1998	77.4	3.2	19.4	100.0	31
	1999	61.9	—	38.1	100.0	21
	2000	57.9	—	42.1	100.0	38

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	10.6	5.4	0.3
Institutions	0.8	0.8	1.0
Other settings	85.7	90.6	94.9
Missing data	2.9	3.2	3.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,381	1,251	1,559

# Hawaii

[ STATE COMMENT ]



### A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	351,158	350,464	369,030	Child maltreatment victims	7,936	2,928	3,171
Race/ethnicity (%) <sup>1</sup>				Children in foster care on 9/30	963	959	1,034
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.3	1.2	1.4	Children adopted	14	107	140
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.1	1.1	0.8				
Black	0.4	0.4	0.4				
Hispanic	10.5	11.0	11.6				
White	86.7	86.2	83.4				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.2				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.1				
% Child population in poverty	22.5	21.9	21.0				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	33.6	37.3	39.0				

### B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	26,682	11,161	14,158	76.0 per 1,000	31.8 per 1,000	38.4 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	7,936	2,928	3,171	22.6 per 1,000	8.4 per 1,000	8.6 per 1,000
Child fatalities	5	4	1	1.4 per 100,000	1.1 per 100,000	0.3 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	2.8	5.8	7.9	Alaska Native/American Indian	1.5	1.6	2.8
1-5 years	23.5	21.8	31.3	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	0.1	0.5
6-10 years	27.6	21.3	29.3	Black	0.2	0.4	0.8
11-15 years	23.8	16.5	24.6	Hispanic	9.2	7.0	9.0
16+ years	11.8	4.5	5.7	White	78.5	55.7	81.9
Unknown	10.5	30.1	1.2	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	19.5	42.2	5.0
Number	7,936	2,928	3,171	Total % <sup>3</sup>	109.2	107.0	100.0
				Number	7,936	2,928	3,171

#### Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	—	0.3	1.4
Medical neglect	—	2.6	11.2
Neglect	47.5	49.5	46.4
Physical abuse	31.1	29.0	21.9
Sexual abuse	16.3	13.1	10.9
Other	4.8	1.7	0.6
Unknown	0.2	3.9	7.6
Total % <sup>4</sup>	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,936	2,928	3,171

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	682			851			572			963			1,533
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	757			999			806			959			1,756
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	900			1,125			991			1,034			2,025
Median Length of Stay (Months)													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	12.8			N/A			1.2			12.4			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	12.6			N/A			2.1			12.5			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	13.2			N/A			3.2			11.0			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	5.0	4.5	4.2	12.6	9.8	9.9	7.0	5.5	4.8	4.4	4.5	4.4	
1-5 years	27.6	25.4	27.0	25.7	29.1	27.1	30.8	28.4	28.2	25.5	26.4	27.4	
6-10 years	29.3	29.6	25.4	25.0	21.3	22.2	22.7	26.3	23.8	29.7	24.4	23.3	
11-15 years	26.2	30.4	28.9	28.4	28.5	30.1	26.7	26.1	26.0	27.5	29.2	30.6	
16-18 years	11.7	10.2	14.4	8.2	11.2	10.7	12.8	13.8	17.1	12.7	15.5	14.4	
19+ years	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	0.1	—	—	
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	—	—	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>1,125</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>1,034</b>	
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%) <sup>5</sup>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	2.9	8.5	9.6	3.6	6.2	5.3	2.1	4.5	5.2	4.0	9.5	9.1	
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.5	0.3	—	0.5	0.4	—	0.7	0.6	—	0.3	0.1	
Black	1.9	2.5	1.9	1.2	1.6	1.8	0.7	2.1	1.6	2.0	1.9	2.0	
Hispanic	7.3	11.4	13.4	10.8	12.5	10.4	12.9	10.9	13.6	7.1	12.8	10.0	
White	87.2	76.6	72.2	83.3	73.4	72.9	83.0	77.4	71.4	86.3	72.7	73.7	
Two or more races	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Unknown	0.6	0.5	2.6	1.1	5.8	9.2	1.2	4.3	7.5	0.6	2.8	5.1	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>1,125</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>1,034</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	149	86	208
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	97	13	207
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	2.7	1.2	1.0
1-5 years	30.9	38.4	28.8
6-10 years	38.3	37.2	31.3
11-15 years	20.8	20.9	32.2
16+ years	6.0	2.3	6.3
Unknown	1.3	—	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>208</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.3	7.0	12.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	0.5
Black	2.7	1.2	4.8
Hispanic	10.1	33.7	7.2
White	85.9	55.8	73.1
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	—	2.3	2.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>208</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	14.3	0.9	7.9
1-5 years	28.6	52.3	47.9
6-10 years	50.0	39.3	30.7
11-15 years	7.1	6.5	12.1
16+ years	—	0.9	1.4
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>140</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	3.7	4.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.9	5.0
Black	—	12.1	2.9
Hispanic	—	6.5	23.6
White	85.7	73.8	60.7
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	14.3	2.8	3.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>140</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

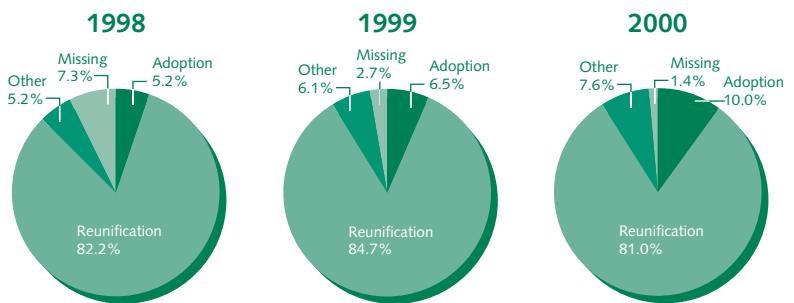
	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	5.2	6.5	10.0
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	82.2	84.7	81.0
Other	5.2	6.1	7.6
Missing data	7.3	2.7	1.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	572	806	991

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	9.8	13.7	40.0
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	74.5	74.5	56.7
Other	3.9	9.8	3.3
Missing data	11.8	2.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	51	51	60

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	0.3
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	78.2	79.5	79.0
Other	13.2	15.6	19.7
Missing data	8.6	4.9	1.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	174	224	295

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	10.5	21.9	20.9
Children older than 12 at entry	89.5	75.0	79.1
Missing data	—	3.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	19	32	43

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	5.6	11.5	—	16.7	—	—	41.2	6.2	9.5	5.7	21.5
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	41.7	88.9	75.0	—	83.3	83.3	75.0	58.8	93.8	74.3	88.6	74.8
Other	8.3	2.8	11.5	—	—	16.7	—	—	—	6.8	4.5	3.7
Missing data	50.0	2.8	1.9	—	—	—	25.0	—	—	9.5	1.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	12	36	52	—	6	6	4	17	16	74	88	135

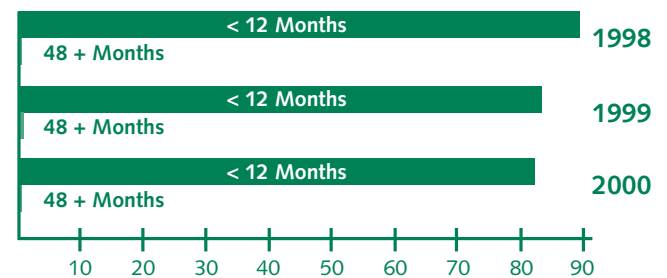
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	4.8	5.9	8.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	84.2	84.0	81.2	100.0	97.1	91.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	5.1	7.1	8.2	—	—	6.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	5.9	3.0	1.7	—	2.9	1.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number	475	624	708	7	35	74	—	—	—	—	—	—

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

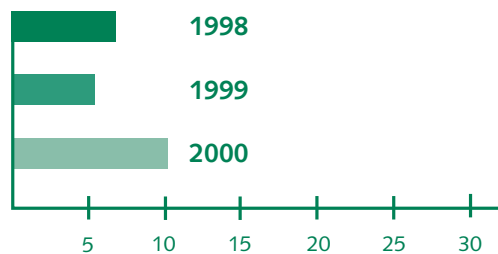
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	89.4	83.2	82.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	6.6	10.2	11.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1.9	2.3	4.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.9	0.9	1.2
48 or more mos.	0.4	1.0	0.6
Missing data	0.9	2.3	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	470	683	803

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	81.4	90.3	82.3
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	6.8	5.4	10.1
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	4.5	1.5	5.7
Missing data	7.3	2.8	1.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	851	999	1,125

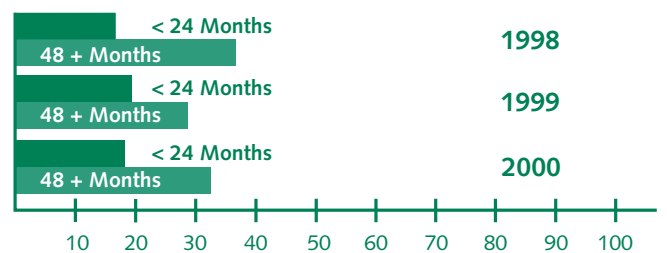
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	6.7	3.8	—
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	10.0	15.4	18.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	36.7	38.5	31.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	10.0	13.5	18.2
48 or more mos.	36.7	28.8	32.3
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	30	52	99

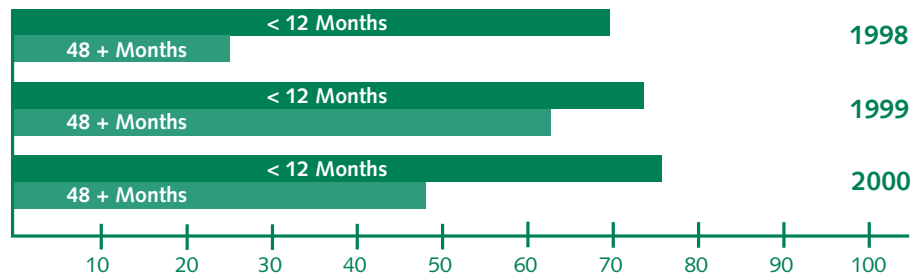
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	69.8	26.0	4.2	100.0	934
	1999	73.6	22.9	3.5	100.0	1,072
	2000	75.7	24.3	—	100.0	1,252
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	46.4	52.9	0.8	100.0	261
	1999	53.0	46.0	1.0	100.0	300
	2000	40.4	59.6	—	100.0	337
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	40.6	59.4	—	100.0	133
	1999	64.2	35.8	—	100.0	151
	2000	33.2	66.8	—	100.0	196
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	31.7	59.8	8.5	100.0	82
	1999	45.8	54.2	—	100.0	72
	2000	29.7	70.3	—	100.0	91
48 or more mos.	1998	25.0	69.2	5.8	100.0	120
	1999	62.8	37.2	—	100.0	148
	2000	48.0	52.0	—	100.0	148
Missing data	1998	100.0	—	—	100.0	3
	1999	92.3	7.7	—	100.0	13
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	1

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	3.2	3.9	4.5
Institutions	4.4	1.8	2.1
Other settings	91.6	93.3	93.5
Missing data	0.9	1.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	571	674	780

# Idaho

[ STATE COMMENT ]

### A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	3,187,332	3,181,338	3,245,451	Child maltreatment victims	35,657	33,125	31,446
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	48,737	40,270	33,125
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	Children adopted	4,656	7,028	5,668
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.4	3.5	3.0				
Black	18.5	18.5	18.5				
Hispanic	14.4	15.0	17.0				
White	63.6	63.0	59.2				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.0				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.2				
% Child population in poverty	17.5	15.0	17.0				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	80.1	88.6	86.3				

### B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	110,658	104,418	146,791	34.7 per 1,000	32.8 per 1,000	45.2 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	35,657	33,125	31,446	11.2 per 1,000	10.4 per 1,000	9.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	58	80	61	1.8 per 100,000	2.5 per 100,000	1.9 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	14.6	13.8	13.7	Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.1
1-5 years	32.8	32.9	33.3	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	0.4	3.6
6-10 years	29.9	30.1	29.2	Black	39.3	39.1	38.4
11-15 years	18.9	19.4	19.9	Hispanic	8.5	8.5	9.4
16+ years	3.6	3.7	3.8	White	48.6	48.6	48.0
Unknown	0.1	0.1	0.1	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	11.6	11.9	0.5
<b>Number</b>	<b>35,657</b>	<b>33,125</b>	<b>31,446</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	108.5	108.5	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>35,657</b>	<b>33,125</b>	<b>31,446</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	1.3	1.2	0.2
Medical neglect	3.5	3.1	3.4
Neglect	44.8	40.6	44.0
Physical abuse	11.4	11.2	12.7
Sexual abuse	10.1	10.2	10.1
Other	43.2	42.8	43.7
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	114.3	109.0	114.1
<b>Number</b>	<b>35,657</b>	<b>33,125</b>	<b>31,446</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	52,134	9,229	12,627	48,737	61,363
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	46,526	7,856	14,112	40,270	54,382
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	37,987	6,643	11,505	33,125	44,630

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	35.6	N/A	42.7	40.0	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	40.0	N/A	47.3	40.9	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	39.3	N/A	45.6	40.0	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	3.1	3.4	3.4	24.8	23.5	22.7	1.9	1.9	1.8	3.4	3.3	3.2
1-5 years	29.9	27.8	26.3	27.8	28.7	27.7	27.5	27.9	27.9	27.7	26.0	25.0
6-10 years	29.9	29.6	27.2	21.1	21.6	19.7	29.4	32.2	29.2	29.7	27.9	25.4
11-15 years	22.9	23.4	24.1	19.0	18.5	20.5	18.7	19.7	19.8	23.7	24.4	24.6
16-18 years	11.1	12.2	14.2	6.5	6.9	7.9	12.9	10.4	11.2	12.1	13.8	15.4
19+ years	3.0	3.4	4.7	0.7	0.8	1.4	7.5	5.6	5.9	3.3	4.4	6.3
Unknown	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	2.1	2.3	4.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>52,134</b>	<b>46,526</b>	<b>37,987</b>	<b>9,229</b>	<b>7,856</b>	<b>6,643</b>	<b>12,627</b>	<b>14,112</b>	<b>11,505</b>	<b>48,737</b>	<b>40,270</b>	<b>33,125</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Black	77.6	77.3	74.8	64.0	60.5	58.2	69.3	72.2	68.9	77.2	75.8	73.5
Hispanic	4.6	4.8	5.0	7.2	6.0	5.8	6.1	5.0	5.5	4.7	4.9	5.0
White	16.3	16.5	18.5	26.4	30.8	32.4	22.7	21.2	23.3	16.5	17.6	19.6
Two or more races	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	1.3	1.3	1.5	2.2	2.4	3.2	1.6	1.4	2.0	1.3	1.5	1.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>52,134</b>	<b>46,526</b>	<b>37,987</b>	<b>9,229</b>	<b>7,856</b>	<b>6,643</b>	<b>12,627</b>	<b>14,112</b>	<b>11,505</b>	<b>48,737</b>	<b>40,270</b>	<b>33,125</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	23,023	13,909	7,990
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	6,066	12,706	6,964

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	2.1	2.4	1.1
1-5 years	35.5	35.7	29.8
6-10 years	39.4	38.9	39.0
11-15 years	21.0	21.6	27.9
16+ years	1.6	1.1	1.8
Unknown	0.3	0.3	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>23,023</b>	<b>13,909</b>	<b>7,990</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0	0.1	0.1
Black	83.3	78.0	77.1
Hispanic	4.0	4.2	4.3
White	11.6	16.1	17.1
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	1.0	1.5	1.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>23,023</b>	<b>13,909</b>	<b>7,990</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	0.8	0.5	0.5
1-5 years	39.2	36.6	39.7
6-10 years	40.9	41.8	40.4
11-15 years	17.0	19.0	17.7
16+ years	2.1	2.1	1.7
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,656</b>	<b>7,028</b>	<b>5,668</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.1	0.1
Black	75.1	79.9	76.9
Hispanic	4.6	4.1	4.8
White	18.8	14.7	16.0
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	1.3	1.2	2.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,656</b>	<b>7,028</b>	<b>5,668</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

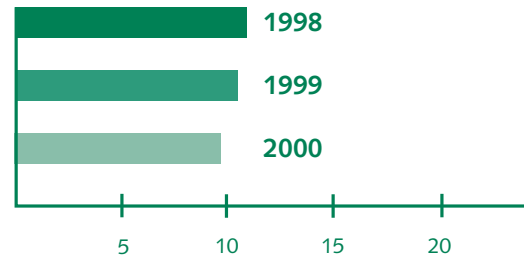


### 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

#### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	89.0	89.5	90.3
Children with one or more recurrences	11.0	10.5	9.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	16,960	15,520	15,391

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

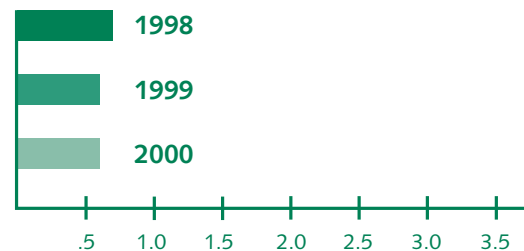


### 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

#### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.7	0.6	0.6
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.3	99.4	99.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	58,640	51,374	41,699

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

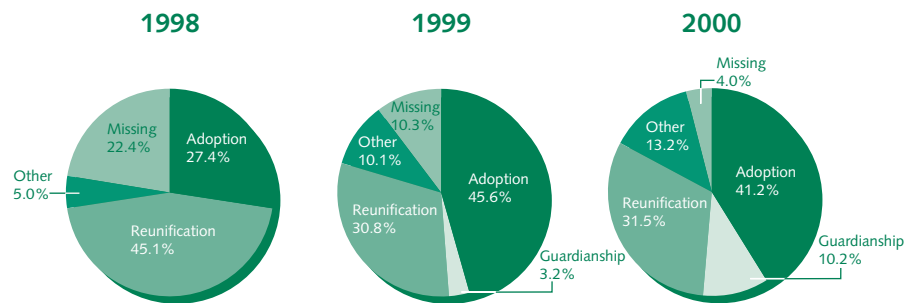


### 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

#### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	27.4	45.6	41.2
Guardianship	0.0	3.2	10.2
Reunification	45.1	30.8	31.5
Other	5.0	10.1	13.2
Missing data	22.4	10.3	4.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	12,627	14,112	11,505

Percent Exits from Foster Care



#### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	32.2	39.7	35.0
Guardianship	—	3.0	7.0
Reunification	29.1	23.6	23.5
Other	8.4	20.5	25.0
Missing data	30.3	13.2	9.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,687	2,083	1,859

#### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.7	2.0	2.5
Guardianship	—	0.5	2.0
Reunification	30.3	33.9	32.5
Other	18.7	47.3	51.5
Missing data	50.3	16.3	11.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,296	1,925	1,742

#### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	28.1	32.9	39.2
Children older than 12 at entry	71.9	66.9	60.5
Missing data	—	0.2	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	516	1,234	1,366

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	13.3	33.3	50.0	10.7	17.4	26.1	29.3	50.4	45.3	22.9	38.3	31.2
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.3	11.9	—	0.1	5.2
Reunification	53.3	40.0	20.0	53.6	60.9	56.5	41.7	25.0	25.7	56.3	47.5	45.8
Other	20.0	20.0	20.0	25.0	21.7	4.3	4.9	9.5	13.2	5.1	6.1	11.7
Missing data	13.3	6.7	10.0	10.7	—	13.0	24.1	11.8	4.0	15.7	7.9	6.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	15	15	10	28	23	23	8,747	10,187	7,931	765	705	631

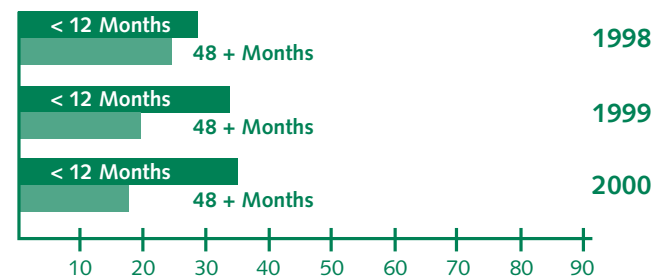
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	23.4	31.9	31.2	26.0	38.1	45.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	0.1	3.6	7.0	—	0.5	4.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	51.5	45.2	44.4	58.5	46.4	39.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	5.1	13.2	13.9	3.0	6.7	8.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	19.9	6.1	3.5	12.5	8.2	1.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number	2,872	2,988	2,682	200	194	228	—	—	—	—	—	—

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

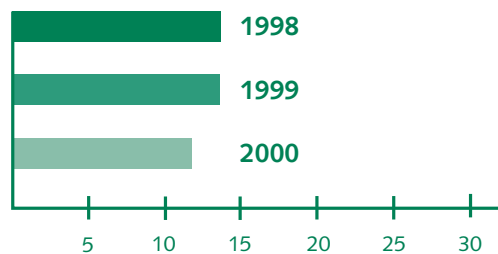
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	28.7	33.8	34.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	16.3	18.7	21.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	15.2	15.9	12.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	14.8	10.4	10.2
48 or more mos.	24.5	19.5	17.9
Missing data	0.6	1.7	2.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,696	4,343	3,621

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	78.3	75.9	75.6
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	13.6	13.6	11.8
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	6.5	6.7	7.6
Missing data	1.5	3.7	4.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,229	7,856	6,643

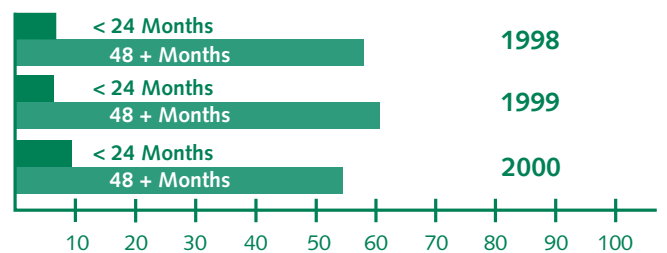
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	1.2	1.4	1.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	5.6	5.3	8.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	13.1	12.8	14.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	21.9	19.0	21.7
48 or more mos.	58.0	60.7	54.4
Missing data	0.1	0.8	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,466	6,441	4,739

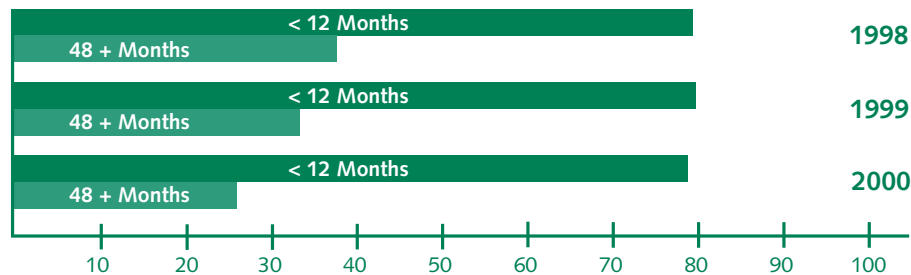
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	79.4	20.6	0.1	100.0	9,787
	1999	79.8	20.2	0.0	100.0	8,223
	2000	78.9	21.0	0.1	100.0	6,904
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	61.6	38.4	—	100.0	8,434
	1999	60.5	39.5	—	100.0	7,467
	2000	60.6	39.4	—	100.0	6,452
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	55.5	44.5	—	100.0	8,964
	1999	52.1	47.9	—	100.0	7,131
	2000	49.3	50.7	—	100.0	6,159
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	49.3	50.7	—	100.0	9,213
	1999	44.3	55.7	—	100.0	7,059
	2000	41.0	59.0	—	100.0	5,288
48 or more mos.	1998	37.5	62.5	0.0	100.0	24,849
	1999	33.2	66.8	—	100.0	24,278
	2000	25.8	74.2	0.0	100.0	19,567
Missing data	1998	56.9	2.6	40.5	100.0	116
	1999	85.3	1.3	13.4	100.0	224
	2000	87.7	0.8	11.5	100.0	260

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	0.4	0.2	0.2
Institutions	3.4	3.9	4.0
Other settings	93.9	94.0	95.7
Missing data	2.3	1.8	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,376	6,198	5,042

**Jess McDonald, Director**  
**Illinois Department of Children & Family Services**  
**217-524-2035**

Illinois' dramatic improvements in reducing its substitute care population, and moving children to permanency, are not reflected in DHHS's outcome measures. Illinois strongly disagreed with the methods used to establish national performance indicators during the original comment period and continues to do so.

In March 1997, Illinois' substitute care population was 51,841. In March of 2002, the population dropped to 25,125, a decrease of over 50%. During this period, intake into the substitute care population declined from approximately 16,000 to 5,700 placements. Illinois moved over 9,500 children to adoptions or guardianship in FY 1999, another 7,900 children in FY 2000 and 5,400 in FY 2001. Achieving the national standard of adoptions within 24-months will be difficult since a large proportion continues to involve children who have been in foster care for lengthy periods of time. Children in substitute care are also safer. Maltreatment of children in foster care has fallen from 0.72% in FY 1995 to 0.51% in FY 2001.

The data reported for children investigated for abuse and neglect suggests an increase that is incorrect. The data reported would appear to include all children in families investigated rather than just the number of children reported as alleged victims. The states are currently working with NCANDS staff to resolve this reporting discrepancy.

Differences in state laws, policies, and practices do not allow for valid interstate comparisons and contribute to arbitrary national standards. In FY 2001, Illinois registered a re-abuse rate of 9.8%--significantly higher than the imputed national standard. But this standard is based on data from only 33 states. Re-abuse is most common in neglect cases, yet the national standard includes at least one state that excludes general neglect from its reporting law. Illinois is also being compared to states that use widely different standards of evidence of abuse and neglect. These differences render interstate comparisons precarious.

# Indiana [ CONTEXT DATA ]

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	1,517,366	1,528,991	1,574,396	Child maltreatment victims	18,962	21,608	21,890
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	5,070	8,933	7,482
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	Children adopted	795	759	1,147
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.0	1.1	0.9				
Black	10.1	10.2	10.3				
Hispanic	3.4	3.6	4.8				
White	85.2	84.9	81.6				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.9				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.3				
% Child population in poverty	13.3	8.5	10.4				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	54.6	60.1	72.2				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	102,155	91,625	23,369	67.3 per 1,000	59.9 per 1,000	14.8 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	18,962	21,608	21,890	12.5 per 1,000	14.1 per 1,000	13.9 per 1,000
Child fatalities	65	41	40	4.3 per 100,000	2.7 per 100,000	2.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	6.2	3.3	8.1	Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	1.4	0.2
1-5 years	25.0	27.8	27.3	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.2	0.3
6-10 years	27.8	30.4	29.0	Black	17.1	17.6	17.9
11-15 years	25.4	29.0	27.2	Hispanic	1.1	1.7	4.2
16+ years	15.6	9.5	4.6	White	76.5	71.3	74.6
Unknown	—	—	3.8	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	6.0	9.4	1.3
<b>Number</b>	<b>18,962</b>	<b>21,608</b>	<b>21,890</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	101.1	101.7	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>18,962</b>	<b>21,608</b>	<b>21,890</b>

### Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	—	—	—
Medical neglect	5.6	5.5	3.6
Neglect	124.3	124.9	66.2
Physical abuse	32.0	31.1	18.1
Sexual abuse	26.1	25.6	19.2
Other	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	188.0	187.1	107.1
<b>Number</b>	<b>18,962</b>	<b>21,608</b>	<b>21,890</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	8,259	6,328	9,524	5,070	14,587
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	8,419	4,808	4,313	8,933	13,227
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	7,084	5,576	5,197	7,482	12,660

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	18.2	N/A	8.8	19.1	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	19.6	N/A	13.2	17.7	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	17.9	N/A	10.2	12.7	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	3.7	4.3	4.3	11.5	13.7	13.3	5.2	4.1	5.2	4.4	4.3	5.0
1-5 years	24.2	26.0	25.6	22.9	26.3	26.2	22.3	27.3	27.5	26.2	26.0	25.3
6-10 years	22.7	24.5	24.9	20.5	23.3	24.6	20.8	23.0	25.5	23.2	24.5	23.9
11-15 years	28.5	29.2	29.4	33.2	28.2	28.6	31.3	24.4	25.1	24.6	29.1	30.2
16-18 years	17.7	15.1	15.2	11.5	8.3	7.2	19.2	18.9	15.4	14.8	15.1	14.7
19+ years	1.9	0.8	0.5	0.1	0.0	—	1.0	2.1	1.3	3.8	0.9	0.7
Unknown	1.2	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	3.0	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>8,259</b>	<b>8,419</b>	<b>7,084</b>	<b>6,328</b>	<b>4,808</b>	<b>5,576</b>	<b>9,524</b>	<b>4,313</b>	<b>5,197</b>	<b>5,070</b>	<b>8,933</b>	<b>7,482</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	0.2	—	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.2	—	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	—	0.1	0.2	—	0.2	0.2	—	0.2	0.1	—	0.1
Black	32.2	1.3	42.9	27.5	0.8	31.3	28.1	0.2	33.4	33.9	1.5	40.7
Hispanic	1.6	98.1	3.8	2.2	97.5	4.5	2.2	99.6	4.2	1.3	97.1	4.0
White	56.9	0.5	51.6	58.3	1.5	61.2	58.6	0.1	60.1	56.2	1.2	53.0
Two or more races	—	—	1.1	—	0.0	2.2	—	—	1.7	—	0.0	1.5
Unknown	8.9	0.1	0.3	11.5	0.2	0.4	10.7	0.0	0.1	8.1	0.2	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>8,259</b>	<b>8,419</b>	<b>7,084</b>	<b>6,328</b>	<b>4,808</b>	<b>5,576</b>	<b>9,524</b>	<b>4,313</b>	<b>5,197</b>	<b>5,070</b>	<b>8,933</b>	<b>7,482</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	443	2,632	1,966
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	124	1,408	1,008

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	2.0	1.5	1.9
1-5 years	42.4	31.3	30.1
6-10 years	31.2	35.0	31.7
11-15 years	17.6	27.3	31.6
16+ years	3.6	4.4	4.2
Unknown	3.2	0.5	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>2,632</b>	<b>1,966</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	—	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
Black	38.6	0.2	47.8
Hispanic	1.8	99.6	3.1
White	54.6	0.2	47.3
Two or more races	—	—	1.4
Unknown	4.5	—	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>2,632</b>	<b>1,966</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	0.9	0.9	0.6
1-5 years	39.1	43.2	38.7
6-10 years	41.1	35.7	37.9
11-15 years	16.7	17.5	18.9
16+ years	2.1	2.6	3.8
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>1,147</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	—	0.2
Black	29.4	—	42.8
Hispanic	3.3	99.7	2.4
White	59.9	0.3	52.9
Two or more races	—	—	1.3
Unknown	7.3	—	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>1,147</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

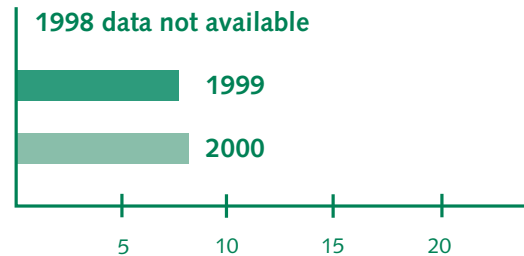
6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

### 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

#### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	92.2	91.8
Children with one or more recurrences	—	7.8	8.2
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	8,791	10,096

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

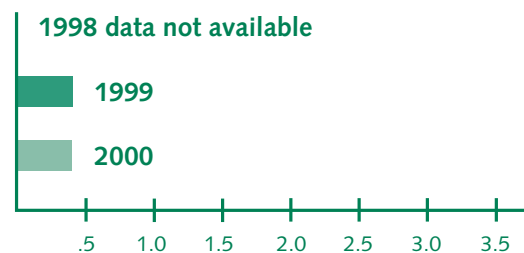


### 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

#### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	0.4	0.4
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	99.6	99.6
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	12,468	11,227

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

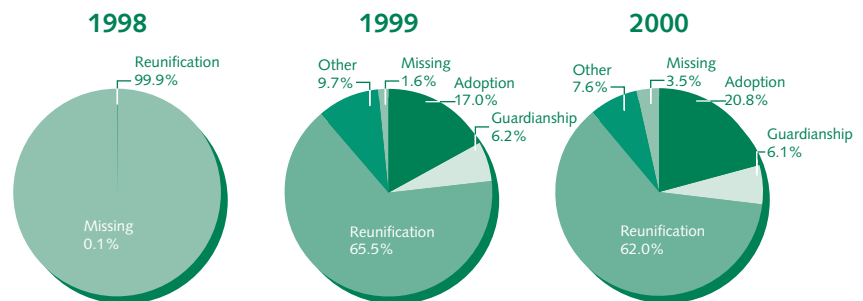


### 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

#### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	17.0	20.8
Guardianship	—	6.2	6.1
Reunification	0.1	65.5	62.0
Other	—	9.7	7.6
Missing data	99.9	1.6	3.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,524	4,313	5,197

Percent Exits from Foster Care



#### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	30.7	33.9
Guardianship	—	5.8	4.7
Reunification	0.5	48.7	45.0
Other	—	11.2	13.7
Missing data	99.5	3.6	2.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	422	277	380

#### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	1.0	2.0
Guardianship	—	2.4	3.6
Reunification	0.1	72.2	70.3
Other	—	21.9	19.6
Missing data	99.9	2.6	4.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,040	1,135	1,243

#### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	—	39.1	37.4
Children older than 12 at entry	—	60.9	61.9
Missing data	—	—	0.7
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	340	294

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	27.3	—	—	18.2	—	—	27.4	—	17.1	12.3
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	9.1	—	—	7.0	—	6.2	4.1
Reunification	—	—	72.7	—	—	54.5	0.1	80.0	55.1	—	65.4	77.2
Other	—	—	—	—	—	18.2	—	20.0	7.3	—	9.7	4.6
Missing data	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	99.9	—	3.3	100.0	1.6	1.8
Total %	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	17	—	11	17	—	11	2,678	10	1,736	211	4,295	219

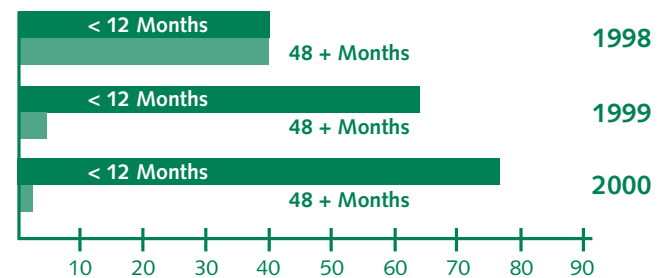
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	—	—	17.8	—	—	—	—	—	20.0	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	5.8	—	—	—	—	—	3.3	—	—	—
Reunification	0.1	83.3	64.4	—	100.0	100.0	—	—	73.3	—	—	—
Other	—	16.7	8.2	—	—	—	—	—	1.1	—	—	—
Missing data	99.9	—	3.8	100.0	—	—	—	—	2.2	100.0	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	100.0	—	—
Number	5,578	6	3,123	428	2	7	—	—	90	595	—	—

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

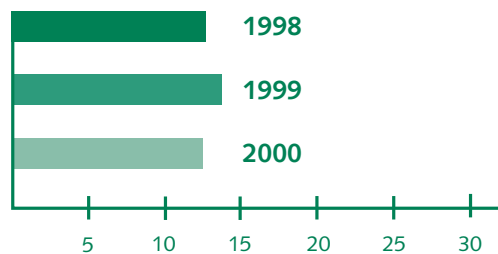
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	40.0	64.0	76.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	21.7	15.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	6.1	3.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	2.9	1.8
48 or more mos.	40.0	4.6	2.4
Missing data	20.0	0.8	0.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5	2,825	3,224

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	78.2	78.2	80.0
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	12.7	13.8	12.4
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	6.3	5.9	6.7
Missing data	2.8	2.1	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,328	4,808	5,576

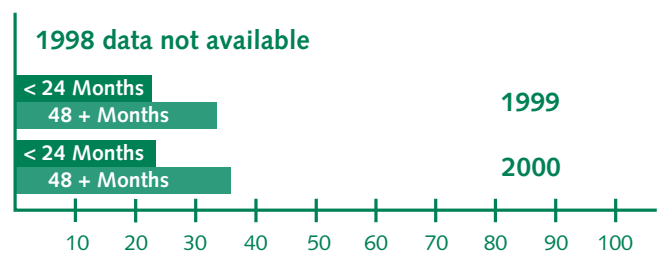
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	3.7	3.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	19.1	20.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	27.2	25.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	16.3	15.6
48 or more mos.	—	33.4	35.7
Missing data	—	0.3	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	734	1,080

Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry

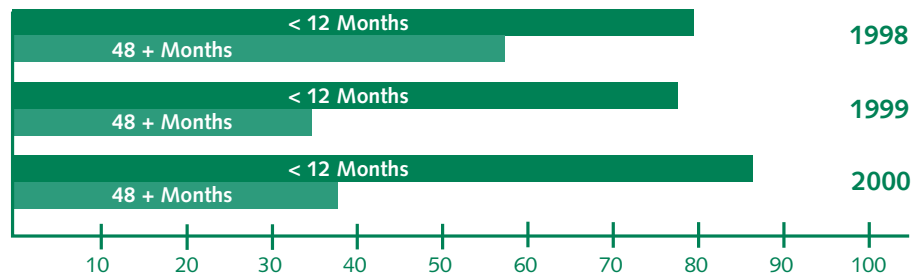




## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	79.5	20.4	0.1	100.0	7,102
	1999	77.7	22.0	0.2	100.0	5,411
	2000	86.3	13.5	0.2	100.0	6,438
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	66.9	32.0	1.1	100.0	2,396
	1999	59.6	40.2	0.1	100.0	2,814
	2000	62.6	37.4	—	100.0	2,174
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	62.4	36.9	0.7	100.0	1,568
	1999	50.2	49.6	0.2	100.0	1,465
	2000	48.0	52.0	—	100.0	1,335
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	61.4	37.8	0.8	100.0	1,027
	1999	45.1	54.9	—	100.0	943
	2000	41.6	58.4	—	100.0	728
48 or more mos.	1998	57.2	42.2	0.6	100.0	2,030
	1999	34.7	65.1	0.1	100.0	2,550
	2000	37.8	62.2	0.1	100.0	1,975
Missing data	1998	95.7	3.2	1.1	100.0	464
	1999	88.6	4.5	6.8	100.0	44
	2000	90.0	10.0	—	100.0	10

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	1.5	2.2	3.4
Institutions	9.0	4.9	4.9
Other settings	66.3	92.0	91.5
Missing data	23.2	0.9	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,925	3,432	3,804

# Indiana

[ STATE COMMENT ]

The following discussion focuses on Indiana's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance. In using CFSR information to interpret the data, it is important to note that the Indiana CFSR was conducted in 2001 and the national data used for the review to assess performance regarding national standards was from 1999. However, the discussion of Indiana's performance relevant to the national standards in the Federal Comment section focuses on data from the year 2000, as provided in the State Data Pages. In addition, because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance on meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

In calendar year (CY) 2000, the rate of maltreatment recurrence in less than 6 months was 8.2 percent, which is higher than the national standard of 6.1 percent and the national median of 7.9 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the actual rate of maltreatment recurrence may be higher than the reported rate of recurrence because the agency does not routinely investigate maltreatment reports as new reports when they are received on families with open child welfare agency cases. Final Report information identified the following as potential barriers to preventing maltreatment recurrence: (1) inconsistent quality of risk assessments with regard to identifying underlying issues that contribute to or cause the child maltreatment, such as substance abuse and domestic violence, and (2) delays in initiating service provision.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce incidence of maltreatment in foster care**

In CY 2000, the incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.4 percent, which is less than the national standard of 0.57 percent and the national median of 0.47 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that performance on this measure may be attributed in part to the following practices: (1) a complete criminal background check must be conducted for all foster parents, and (2) foster parents must attend pre-service and in-service training as a condition of licensing.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 88.9 percent of children leaving foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 84.7 percent), 83.6 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 79.5 percent), and 75.9 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care exited to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 72.6). Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential reasons for the State's effectiveness in attaining permanency for children exiting foster care: (1) the practice of holding permanency hearings on a frequent basis, (2) the existence of a subsidized guardianship program, and (3) the use of family group conferencing in some areas of the State to engage children and parents in case planning. Despite these positive findings, 37.4 percent of the children who emancipated from foster care in FY 2000 were age 12 or younger at entry, which is higher than the national median of 24.2.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 76.9, which exceeds both the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. However, performance on this measure in FY 1999 was 64.0 percent, which means that the State did not meet the national standard at the time of the CFSR. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's improved level of performance on this measure may be attributed to the following: (1) an emphasis on ensuring that parents receive the services they need to address risk factors; (2) greater support for regular visitation between children and their parents by arranging and providing transportation and flexible scheduling, and permitting visitation in the homes of foster families; (3) the use of family group therapy to promote or maintain bonds between parents and children; and (4) the fact that in many cases, permanency reviews are occurring more often than every 6 months.

Indiana's high performance with regard to reunification within 12 months must be balanced by the finding that in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 12.4, which exceeds both the national standard of 8.6 and the national median of 10.3. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as barriers to preventing re-entries into foster care: (1) a lack of post-reunification services in most areas of the State; and (2) insufficient efforts to link families to community supports after reunification.

#### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all adoptions finalized within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 23.5, which does not meet the national standard of 32.0 percent but is higher than the national median of 19.7 percent. Information in the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving adoptions in a timely manner: (1) court delays in resolving appeals to termination of parental rights; and (2) agency delays in identifying and locating fathers, recruiting adoptive families, completing home studies, and filing termination of parental rights petitions.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who were in foster care for less than 12 months and experienced no more than 2 placements was 86.3, which does not meet the national standard of 86.7 percent but is higher than the national median of 84.3 percent. Information from the CFSR identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving placement stability: (1) the shortage of placement resources for special needs children, and (2) the frequent use of shelter care as the initial placement for children entering foster care.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 8.3, which is lower than the national median of 9.0 percent. Despite this finding, information in the CFSR Final Report notes that shelters frequently are used as a child's initial placement in foster care, even for young children.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that the State agency is not consistently effective in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs. The Final Report identifies the following as possible barriers to meeting those needs: (1) a lack of follow up on education-related problems, (2) inadequate assessments that do not fully explore children's needs, (3) delays in mental health assessments and service delivery for mental health needs, (4) insufficient contact between caseworkers and children in foster care to ensure that needs are being identified and addressed.

### A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
<b>Total children under 18 years</b>	<b>722,139</b>	<b>719,685</b>	<b>733,638</b>	Child maltreatment victims	7,311	9,763	10,822
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	4,920	4,854	5,068
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.4	0.4	Children adopted	525	764	735
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.7	1.7	1.4				
Black	2.5	2.5	2.9				
Hispanic	3.1	3.3	4.5				
White	92.4	92.0	88.8				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.8				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.2				
<b>% Child population in poverty</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>8.4</b>				
<b>% Child population living in metropolitan areas</b>	<b>47.3</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>45.7</b>				

### B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	28,072	26,812	31,317	38.9 per 1,000	37.3 per 1,000	42.7 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	7,311	9,763	10,822	10.1 per 1,000	13.6 per 1,000	14.8 per 1,000
Child fatalities	10	11	10	1.4 per 100,000	1.5 per 100,000	1.4 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	8.4	4.5	8.8	Alaska Native/American Indian	1.3	0.9	0.8
1-5 years	32.5	34.1	34.7	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	0.7	0.6
6-10 years	28.7	30.3	28.5	Black	8.2	8.0	8.3
11-15 years	20.6	22.3	21.4	Hispanic	3.5	3.7	3.9
16+ years	4.8	7.4	5.6	White	71.4	74.2	74.0
Unknown	5.0	1.4	1.0	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	18.8	16.2	12.5
<b>Number</b>	<b>7,311</b>	<b>9,763</b>	<b>10,822</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	103.5	103.7	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>7,311</b>	<b>9,763</b>	<b>10,822</b>

#### Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	0.4	1.2	1.2
Medical neglect	2.9	1.6	1.6
Neglect	59.4	63.1	68.1
Physical abuse	22.0	25.2	22.4
Sexual abuse	13.2	11.1	8.7
Other	4.1	2.4	2.8
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	102.1	104.7	104.7
<b>Number</b>	<b>7,311</b>	<b>9,763</b>	<b>10,822</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	4,846			5,331			5,257			4,920			10,177
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	4,954			5,343			5,443			4,854			10,297
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	4,862			5,620			5,414			5,068			10,482
Median Length of Stay (Months)													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	12.9			N/A			4.0			12.5			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	13.5			N/A			4.7			11.7			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	12.5			N/A			4.3			10.7			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	2.5	2.6	2.4	5.3	4.9	6.4	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.6	2.4	3.2	
1-5 years	18.4	17.2	16.9	13.2	15.0	15.2	14.0	15.4	15.8	16.8	16.4	16.7	
6-10 years	20.1	20.1	18.5	13.0	12.9	13.4	12.3	14.1	13.7	19.9	18.1	16.4	
11-15 years	35.6	36.4	37.6	44.1	43.0	40.9	34.6	33.4	32.7	37.1	38.5	38.5	
16-18 years	23.3	23.6	24.5	24.4	24.1	24.0	36.0	34.6	34.5	23.4	24.4	25.0	
19+ years	0.1	0.1	0.1	—	—	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	
Unknown	0.0	—	—	0.1	—	0.1	0.1	—	0.0	—	—	0.0	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,846</b>	<b>4,954</b>	<b>4,862</b>	<b>5,331</b>	<b>5,343</b>	<b>5,620</b>	<b>5,257</b>	<b>5,443</b>	<b>5,414</b>	<b>4,920</b>	<b>4,854</b>	<b>5,068</b>	
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%) <sup>5</sup>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	2.7	2.6	2.1	1.5	1.7	1.4	1.7	2.3	1.4	2.5	1.9	2.1	
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.9	
Black	13.6	13.6	12.3	10.2	9.1	9.3	10.3	10.6	10.3	13.5	12.0	11.1	
Hispanic	3.1	3.9	4.0	3.7	3.8	4.1	3.1	3.7	4.1	3.8	4.0	4.0	
White	72.9	71.0	71.3	70.6	72.0	71.8	71.9	71.5	72.6	71.5	71.5	70.5	
Two or more races	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	1.1	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.8	
Unknown	6.7	8.2	9.2	13.1	12.4	11.4	12.2	11.2	10.1	7.8	9.4	10.6	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,846</b>	<b>4,954</b>	<b>4,862</b>	<b>5,331</b>	<b>5,343</b>	<b>5,620</b>	<b>5,257</b>	<b>5,443</b>	<b>5,414</b>	<b>4,920</b>	<b>4,854</b>	<b>5,068</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	1,039	1,044	1,019
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	938	922	826
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	2.1	2.4	1.8
1-5 years	33.5	32.6	31.6
6-10 years	36.4	32.9	31.1
11-15 years	23.1	25.7	28.9
16+ years	4.6	5.4	5.9
Unknown	0.3	1.1	0.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,039</b>	<b>1,044</b>	<b>1,019</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	5.4	4.3	3.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.1	0.4	0.6
Black	20.3	19.1	17.6
Hispanic	3.5	5.6	4.8
White	66.3	63.7	63.9
Two or more races	—	—	0.6
Unknown	3.5	7.0	9.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,039</b>	<b>1,044</b>	<b>1,019</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	0.8	1.2	1.8
1-5 years	47.0	44.4	44.9
6-10 years	36.8	37.7	34.4
11-15 years	13.1	14.9	17.4
16+ years	2.3	1.8	1.5
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>735</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	5.5	3.3	3.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.0	1.2	—
Black	16.6	17.8	20.5
Hispanic	2.3	5.2	6.0
White	69.1	64.1	65.6
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	5.5	8.4	4.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>735</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

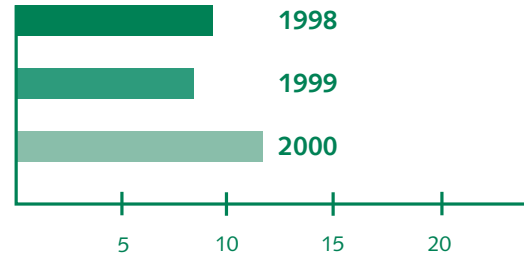
6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	90.8	91.6	88.2
Children with one or more recurrences	9.2	8.4	11.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,698	8,699	5,041

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

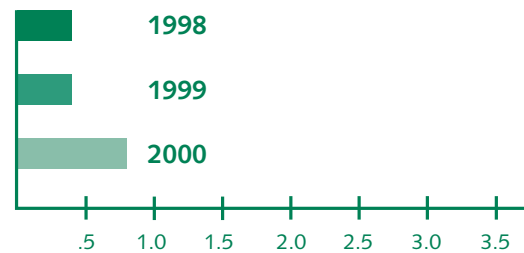


## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.4	0.4	0.8
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.6	99.6	99.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,875	9,136	9,381

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

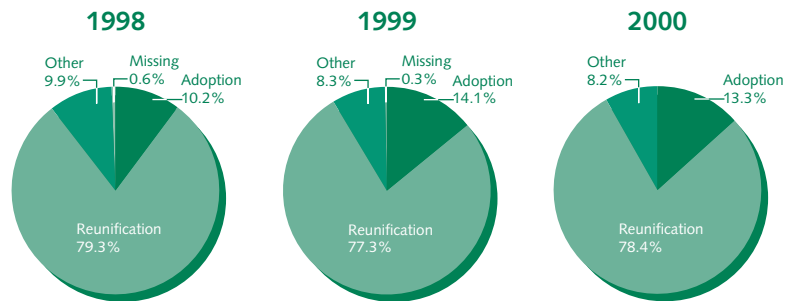


## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	10.2	14.1	13.3
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	79.3	77.3	78.4
Other	9.9	8.3	8.2
Missing data	0.6	0.3	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,257	5,443	5,414

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	27.0	40.8	43.8
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	55.6	47.7	43.9
Other	15.8	10.8	12.3
Missing data	1.6	0.7	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	891	969	886

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.5	0.4	0.5
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	84.1	86.4	87.0
Other	15.3	13.2	12.5
Missing data	0.1	0.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,175	3,106	2,995

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	2.7	9.5	18.1
Children older than 12 at entry	97.3	90.5	81.9
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	255	231	249

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	32.6	20.2	29.9	11.6	21.6	—	17.0	23.2	24.7	9.3	19.6	18.9
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	53.9	73.4	64.9	74.4	59.5	95.7	70.2	68.3	68.3	85.8	73.9	74.8
Other	11.2	6.5	5.2	11.6	18.9	4.3	10.7	8.3	6.8	4.3	6.5	6.3
Missing data	2.2	—	—	2.3	—	—	2.0	0.2	0.2	0.6	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	89	124	77	43	37	47	540	577	558	162	199	222

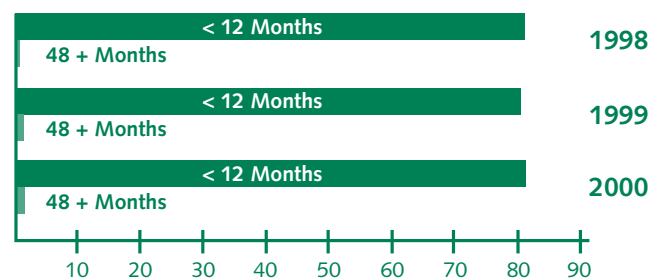
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	9.7	12.7	11.7	4.9	11.0	10.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	79.9	78.4	79.8	85.8	81.6	79.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—
Other	10.2	8.6	8.4	8.9	7.2	10.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	0.3	0.3	—	0.5	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—
Number	3,782	3,892	3,928	639	608	549	2	6	33	—	—	—

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

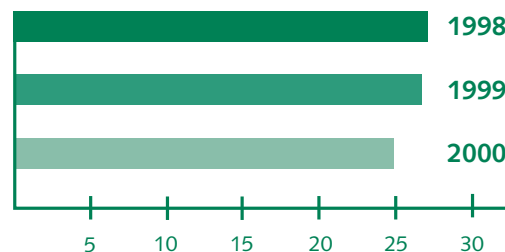
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	81.0	80.2	81.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.5	13.2	11.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.7	3.2	3.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.1	1.1	1.3
48 or more mos.	0.9	1.5	1.8
Missing data	0.8	0.7	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,168	4,207	4,247

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	66.4	64.8	66.4
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	27.0	26.7	24.9
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	5.7	7.7	8.2
Missing data	0.9	0.8	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,331	5,343	5,620

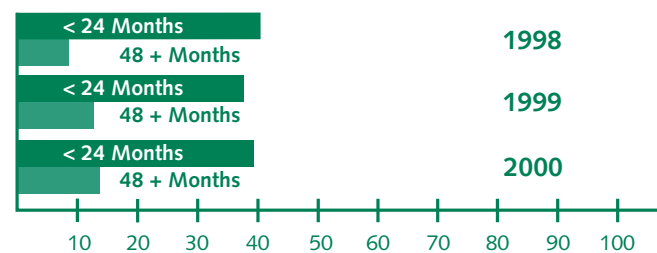
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	17.3	15.5	18.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	23.2	22.0	20.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	32.0	27.4	27.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	17.7	22.1	19.2
48 or more mos.	8.7	12.7	13.8
Missing data	1.1	0.3	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	538	769	720

Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry

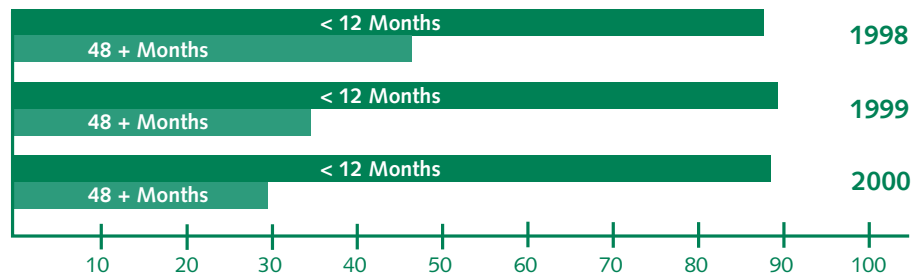




## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	87.7	12.3	—	100.0	6,100
	1999	89.2	10.8	—	100.0	6,162
	2000	88.6	11.4	—	100.0	6,474
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	56.3	43.7	—	100.0	1,746
	1999	58.0	42.0	—	100.0	1,750
	2000	53.8	46.2	—	100.0	1,743
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	34.4	65.6	—	100.0	993
	1999	33.3	66.7	—	100.0	958
	2000	38.1	61.9	—	100.0	908
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	33.7	66.3	—	100.0	751
	1999	28.6	71.4	—	100.0	598
	2000	25.4	74.6	—	100.0	531
48 or more mos.	1998	46.2	53.8	—	100.0	528
	1999	34.6	65.4	—	100.0	772
	2000	29.4	70.6	—	100.0	779
Missing data	1998	100.0	—	—	100.0	59
	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	57
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	47

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	14.8	17.7	16.8
Institutions	5.6	6.1	4.7
Other settings	78.0	74.4	78.3
Missing data	1.6	1.7	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,120	2,197	2,416

**Mary Nelson, Administrator**  
**Division of Adult, Children & Family Services**  
**Iowa Department of Human Services**  
**515-281-5521**

**Context.** Iowa's system serves children placed due to delinquency, emotional/behavioral problems, and abuse/neglect. Caseloads and supervisor:caseworker ratios are two to three times national standards. This past year, DHS underwent a major restructuring of our field and state offices, as well as significant reductions in staff.

**Safety.** Child abuse reports have continued to increase—largely due to greater attention on child safety. In 2001, we investigated 25,696 abuse/neglect reports, and confirmed abuse/neglect for 12,117 children.

Iowa's recurrence rate and incidence of abuse in care are both higher than the national standard. We recently reviewed a sample of recurrence data, however, and found that 20 percent did not actually reflect subsequent abuse – rather, they reflected updated information on the same incident or a report of “historical” abuse that occurred before our first contact with the family. Excluding these would reduce our reoccurrence rate to 9.4%.

**Permanency.** Iowa's “time to re-unification” meets the national standard, while our re-entry rate is higher. Iowa's higher re-entry rate likely reflects our shorter lengths of stay. Re-entry rates are highest for youth age 11 and older who are in placement due to their behavior rather than abuse/neglect – for these youth, brief placements help to maintain the child in their permanent setting. Additionally, when a child is returned home, the court returns custody to the family the same day rather than using a “trial home visit” where the state maintains custody for a period of time, allowing the child to come back into care without counting as a “re-entry.”

DHS adoptions have stabilized at around 700 per year. Our “time to adoption” and our placement stability rate meet the national standard.

DHS remains committed to working with Courts and others to improve the safety, permanency and well-being of the children and families we serve.

For more detailed comments, please go to <http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/publications.asp>

### A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	697,452	698,637	712,993	Child maltreatment victims	5,312	8,452	8,356
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	8,488	6,774	6,569
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.8	0.8	1.0	Children adopted	419	566	469
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.0	2.1	1.7				
Black	6.8	6.8	6.9				
Hispanic	7.9	8.4	10.4				
White	82.5	81.9	77.0				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.9				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.2				
% Child population in poverty	13.6	18.5	15.0				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	63.7	65.6	57.5				

### B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	26,751	28,694	30,627	38.4 per 1,000	41.1 per 1,000	43.0 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	5,312	8,452	8,356	7.6 per 1,000	12.1 per 1,000	11.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	13	6	7	1.9 per 100,000	0.9 per 100,000	1.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	22.5	6.9	7.5	Alaska Native/American Indian	0.8	0.7	1.1
1-5 years	24.5	31.5	31.4	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	0.1	0.5
6-10 years	28.0	31.7	30.4	Black	13.4	14.3	14.7
11-15 years	20.1	24.2	25.0	Hispanic	3.6	4.9	2.7
16+ years	4.9	5.4	5.6	White	77.3	75.9	74.3
Unknown	—	0.4	—	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	8.1	8.8	5.3
<b>Number</b>	<b>5,312</b>	<b>8,452</b>	<b>8,356</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	103.6	104.8	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>5,312</b>	<b>8,452</b>	<b>8,356</b>

#### Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	11.1	14.0	88.1
Medical neglect	2.5	3.0	26.2
Neglect	45.5	49.5	77.0
Physical abuse	28.7	30.8	54.3
Sexual abuse	19.3	15.7	27.4
Other	—	—	82.5
Unknown	27.6	—	4.2
Total % <sup>4</sup>	134.6	113.0	359.8
<b>Number</b>	<b>5,312</b>	<b>8,452</b>	<b>8,356</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	5,205	6,683	3,400	8,488	11,888
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	4,959	3,376	1,562	6,774	8,335
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	5,166	3,191	1,788	6,569	8,357

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	11.1	N/A	12.7	8.8	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	11.4	N/A	12.9	13.9	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	12.3	N/A	13.2	14.8	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	0.6	3.3	3.9	4.1	10.9	10.0	0.9	2.0	2.3	2.0	3.6	3.0
1-5 years	3.6	20.0	21.3	7.2	21.7	21.4	7.3	16.4	18.3	5.3	21.5	23.5
6-10 years	4.8	21.3	21.3	8.5	20.6	20.2	7.0	17.6	16.4	6.4	21.5	21.3
11-15 years	15.1	34.4	32.5	19.9	33.5	35.0	21.4	28.3	28.6	13.0	30.4	30.3
16-18 years	13.7	20.1	20.2	11.5	12.6	13.0	30.1	33.7	32.9	9.2	21.5	20.7
19+ years	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	1.8	1.7	1.3	0.4	1.0	0.8
Unknown	61.8	0.1	0.2	48.7	0.7	0.3	31.4	0.2	0.2	63.7	0.5	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>5,205</b>	<b>4,959</b>	<b>5,166</b>	<b>6,683</b>	<b>3,376</b>	<b>3,191</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>1,562</b>	<b>1,788</b>	<b>8,488</b>	<b>6,774</b>	<b>6,569</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.2	1.4	0.7	1.2	1.3	2.1	1.4	1.4	0.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.5	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.4
Black	21.1	22.3	22.3	16.9	18.3	18.1	16.9	15.4	16.8	19.5	21.9	21.8
Hispanic	7.7	6.7	6.2	7.0	6.8	3.8	7.4	7.2	5.0	7.3	6.6	5.4
White	66.7	67.4	67.1	71.6	70.4	72.6	70.6	72.2	72.8	69.0	67.8	68.2
Two or more races	—	—	0.6	—	0.0	1.0	—	—	0.6	—	0.0	0.8
Unknown	2.2	1.9	1.9	2.6	2.6	3.3	2.8	3.2	2.2	2.2	1.9	2.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>5,205</b>	<b>4,959</b>	<b>5,166</b>	<b>6,683</b>	<b>3,376</b>	<b>3,191</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>1,562</b>	<b>1,788</b>	<b>8,488</b>	<b>6,774</b>	<b>6,569</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	1,528	1,757	1,910
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	789	987	1,190

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	2.0	2.0	1.7
1-5 years	5.0	26.0	27.3
6-10 years	5.8	28.9	27.2
11-15 years	9.8	32.2	31.8
16+ years	2.8	9.4	10.0
Unknown	74.7	1.5	2.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,528</b>	<b>1,757</b>	<b>1,910</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	1.9	1.6	1.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.3	0.1
Black	27.5	29.3	29.0
Hispanic	5.8	5.7	6.6
White	61.6	60.7	60.1
Two or more races	—	0.1	1.1
Unknown	3.0	2.4	1.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,528</b>	<b>1,757</b>	<b>1,910</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	0.5	0.2	—
1-5 years	37.9	39.4	39.9
6-10 years	36.5	34.8	32.6
11-15 years	19.8	21.9	20.9
16+ years	3.6	3.7	6.4
Unknown	1.7	—	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>469</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	1.7	1.8	1.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	—	0.9
Black	21.5	26.9	27.9
Hispanic	6.2	8.3	5.3
White	67.3	58.8	59.3
Two or more races	—	1.4	1.9
Unknown	3.1	2.8	3.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>469</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

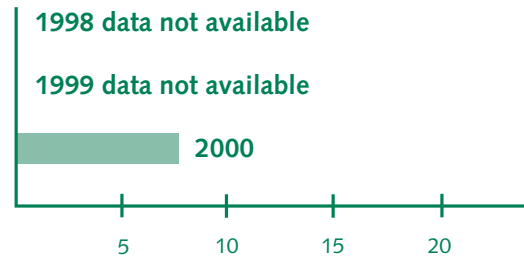
6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

### 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

#### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	—	92.2
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	7.8
Total %	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	4,080

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

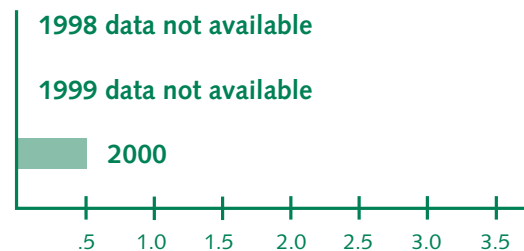


### 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

#### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	0.5
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	99.5
Total %	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	7,928

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

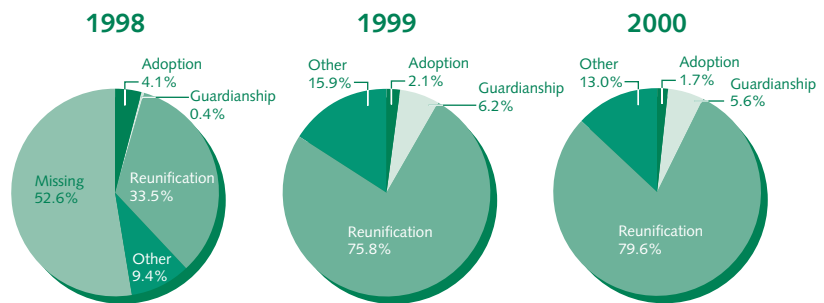


### 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

#### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	4.1	2.1	1.7
Guardianship	0.4	6.2	5.6
Reunification	33.5	75.8	79.6
Other	9.4	15.9	13.0
Missing data	52.6	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,400	1,562	1,788

Percent Exits from Foster Care



#### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	44.4	8.3	22.2
Guardianship	—	—	5.6
Reunification	11.1	66.7	66.7
Other	—	25.0	5.6
Missing data	44.4	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9	12	18

#### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.4	0.1	0.2
Guardianship	0.2	3.9	4.6
Reunification	32.9	72.1	73.5
Other	9.8	23.9	21.7
Missing data	56.6	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,412	727	808

#### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	17.7	23.7	19.5
Children older than 12 at entry	45.8	76.3	80.5
Missing data	36.5	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	96	114	149

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	20.0	—	—	—	—	—	5.2	3.7	2.3	4.4	2.7	2.2
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10.4	5.3	0.8	4.4	3.4
Reunification	5.0	80.0	64.9	47.2	90.9	81.8	24.0	65.1	79.7	34.9	78.8	86.5
Other	20.0	20.0	35.1	—	9.1	18.2	10.9	20.7	12.7	3.2	14.2	7.9
Missing data	55.0	—	—	52.8	—	—	59.9	—	—	56.7	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	40	20	37	36	11	11	576	241	300	252	113	89

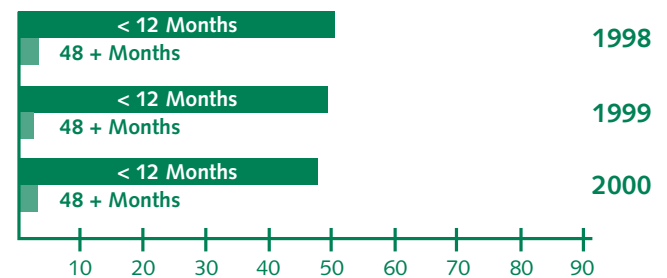
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	3.4	1.6	1.5	8.3	6.0	—	—	—	9.1	—	—	—
Guardianship	0.4	5.9	6.3	1.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	36.3	77.2	79.3	25.0	84.0	89.7	—	—	72.7	—	—	—
Other	9.6	15.3	12.8	10.4	10.0	10.3	—	—	18.2	—	—	—
Missing data	50.3	—	—	55.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Number	2,400	1,127	1,301	96	50	39	—	—	11	—	—	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

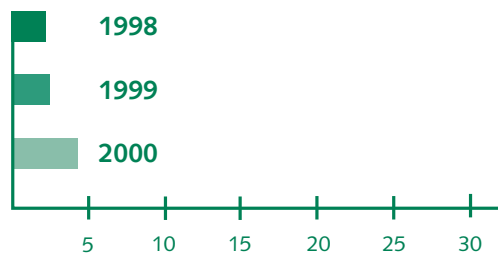
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	50.4	50.3	47.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	28.2	31.8	33.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	9.1	9.6	11.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.8	4.3	3.7
48 or more mos.	3.3	2.8	3.2
Missing data	6.1	1.2	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,140	1,184	1,424

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	92.3	91.1	89.6
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	2.3	2.4	4.3
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	0.7	0.7	1.1
Missing data	4.7	5.8	5.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,683	3,376	3,191

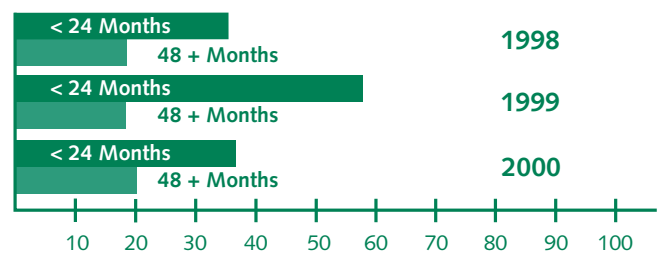
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	13.7	30.3	16.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	21.6	27.3	20.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	30.2	6.1	36.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	12.9	18.2	6.7
48 or more mos.	18.7	18.2	20.0
Missing data	2.9	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	139	33	30

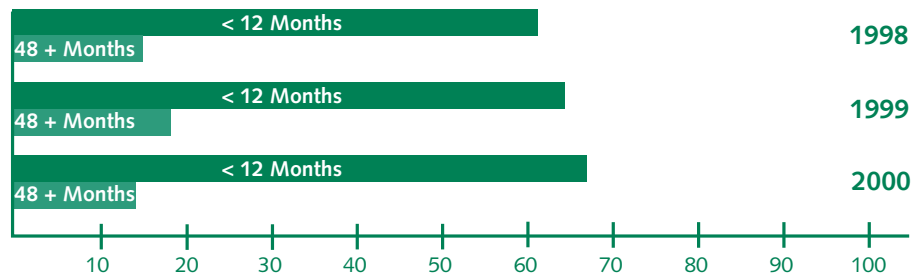
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	61.1	38.9	—	100.0	6,930
	1999	64.2	27.2	8.6	100.0	3,732
	2000	67.0	27.8	5.2	100.0	3,591
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	30.0	70.0	—	100.0	2,384
	1999	44.5	50.7	4.9	100.0	2,377
	2000	42.5	55.2	2.2	100.0	2,339
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	14.4	85.6	—	100.0	952
	1999	30.2	66.3	3.5	100.0	1,040
	2000	28.3	69.4	2.3	100.0	1,224
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	10.3	89.7	—	100.0	447
	1999	21.2	76.8	2.0	100.0	449
	2000	20.7	76.8	2.5	100.0	569
48 or more mos.	1998	14.7	85.3	—	100.0	876
	1999	18.1	79.5	2.4	100.0	701
	2000	14.0	85.0	1.0	100.0	628
Missing data	1998	58.5	41.5	—	100.0	299
	1999	75.0	11.1	13.9	100.0	36
	2000	66.7	16.7	16.7	100.0	6

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	4.2	3.2	1.6
Institutions	3.7	2.3	2.9
Other settings	92.1	93.5	94.2
Missing data	—	1.1	1.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	976	1,806	1,701

**Marilyn L. Jacobson, Assistant Secretary  
Children and Family Policy  
Kansas Department of Social & Rehabilitation Services  
785-348-6448**

Data in Section C indicate a considerable decrease in the number entering and exiting foster care from FY 1998 to FY 1999. This discrepancy can be attributed to our legacy system conversion of foster care data in the fall of 1997. Data in Section C also indicate that there were 1,608 fewer children in care on October 1, 1999 (5,166) than on September 30, 1999 (6,774). At the time of this publication, we have not been able to determine an explanation for the variance in numbers, and will continue to research the data discrepancy between the two calendar days.

Data in Section E indicate that 469 children were adopted in FY 2000 (from the AFCARS Adoption Database). However, as shown in outcome 5.1, only 30 of the exits from foster care (from the AFCARS Foster Care Database) were reported as discharges to adoption. At the time of this publication, we have not been able to confirm an explanation for the variance in number; however, it would appear that staff were not entering an accurate reason for discharge.



The following discussion focuses on Kansas' performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance. In using CFSR information to interpret performance, it is important to note that the Kansas CFSR was conducted in 2001 and the national data used for the review to assess performance regarding national standards was from 1999. However, the discussion on State performance relevant to the national standards in this comment section focuses on data from 2000, as provided in the State Data Pages. In addition, because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

In calendar year (CY) 2000, the rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 7.8 percent, which does not meet the national standard of 6.1 but is about equal to the national median of 7.9 percent. For the CFSR conducted in 2001, the State provided data for this measure from a data source other than the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). The State's calculations produced a recurrence rate of 3.2 percent, resulting in the State meeting the national standard for this measure during the CFSR. The differences in rate suggest data quality issues that must be resolved before performance on this outcome can be interpreted. However, information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to preventing maltreatment recurrence: (1) the practice of providing short-term family preservation services in some cases to families that need more intensive, long-term services; and (2) a failure to consistently adhere to agency policy requiring special supervisory reviews of cases with multiple unsubstantiated reports.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce incidence of maltreatment in foster care**

In CY 2000, the incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.5, which meets the national standard of 0.57 but exceeds the national median of 0.47 percent. For the CFSR conducted in 2001, the State provided data for this measure from a data source other than NCANDS. The State's calculations produced a maltreatment in foster care rate of 1.5 percent, resulting in the State not meeting the national standard for this measure during the CFSR. Again, the differences in rate between 1999 and 2000 suggest that there are data quality issues that must be resolved before performance on this outcome can be assessed.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 86.9 percent of children exiting foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 84.7 percent), 78.3 percent of children exiting foster care who entered foster care when they were older than age 12 were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 72.6), and only 19.5 percent of children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care (which is lower than the national median of 24.2). (Also in FY 2000, 94.5 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to permanent homes, but only 18 children were reported in this category.) Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance on these measures may be attributed to the following: (1) the existence of a permanent guardianship subsidy program, (2) the fact that agency policy does not include "long-term foster care" as a case goal, and (3) the fact that case reviews occur regularly and frequently.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 47.8, which is lower than the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that a key barrier to achieving reunifications in a timely manner is that there often is a delay in providing services to parents to resolve risk issues.

Kansas' performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be balanced by the finding that in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 4.3, which is lower than both

the national standard of 8.6 percent and the national median of 10.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the low re-entry rate may be attributed to (1) the fact that the State maintains children in out-of-home placements until family issues are fully resolved, and (2) the availability of flexible funds to provide post-reunification services that meet families' specific needs.

#### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

The data reported in the State Data Pages regarding time in foster care to adoption (outcome measure 5.1) cannot be interpreted in a meaningful way. In FY 2000, the State reported 469 adoptions to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) Adoption Data Base. However, the State reported only 30 children as discharged to finalized adoptions to the AFCARS Foster Care Database. Consequently, the finding regarding the percentage of finalized adoptions achieved within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care is based on only 7.5 percent of the children adopted in 2000. The State comment letter indicated that the State is investigating the reason for this discrepancy.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 67.0, which is less than the national standard of 86.7 percent and the national median of 84.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving placement stability: (1) the frequent use of shelter placements for children at the point of entry into foster care, (2) the lack of specialized foster homes to accommodate children with multiple problems, (3) inadequate matching of children's needs and foster placements, and (4) a lack of respite care and supports for foster parents.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 4.5, which is lower than the national median of 9.0. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that performance on this measure may be attributed to a State requirement that contracted foster care provider agencies must place at least 85 percent of the children referred to them in family foster care.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, the CFSR Final Report indicates that the State is effective in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs. In addition, the services provided by mental health centers were reported to be of high quality, although a key concern identified was a lack of available services to address the needs of severely emotionally disturbed children.

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
<b>Total children under 18 years</b>	<b>988,293</b>	<b>965,528</b>	<b>994,818</b>	Child maltreatment victims	22,875	18,650	18,600
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	—	5,698	6,152
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.2	Children adopted	208	360	395
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	0.8	0.7				
Black	8.7	8.7	8.9				
Hispanic	1.1	1.2	1.9				
White	89.3	89.2	86.3				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.7				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.3				
<b>% Child population in poverty</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>15.3</b>				
<b>% Child population living in metropolitan areas</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>49.0</b>				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	63,439	63,384	63,967	64.2 per 1,000	65.6 per 1,000	64.3 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	22,875	18,650	18,600	23.1 per 1,000	19.3 per 1,000	18.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	18	5	21	1.8 per 100,000	0.5 per 100,000	2.1 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	7.0	7.3	7.9	Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.1	0.0
1-5 years	32.6	32.0	32.3	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.2	0.1
6-10 years	30.9	32.0	30.7	Black	12.7	13.9	13.0
11-15 years	23.9	23.1	23.9	Hispanic	0.1	0.1	0.3
16+ years	5.6	5.6	5.3	White	80.4	78.3	76.6
Unknown	0.0	0.0	—	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	6.7	7.5	8.4
<b>Number</b>	<b>22,875</b>	<b>18,650</b>	<b>18,600</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	100.1	100.1	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>22,875</b>	<b>18,650</b>	<b>18,600</b>

### Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	10.8	4.1	2.5
Medical neglect	—	—	—
Neglect	61.4	63.7	67.5
Physical abuse	26.8	27.6	27.2
Sexual abuse	7.7	7.7	7.8
Other	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	106.7	103.2	105.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>22,875</b>	<b>18,650</b>	<b>18,600</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	—			—			—			—			—
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	5,153			4,096			3,551			5,698			9,249
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	5,494			4,749			4,091			6,152			10,243
<b>Median Length of Stay (Months)</b>													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	—			N/A			—			—			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	13.7			N/A			5.4			16.3			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	16.4			N/A			4.9			15.5			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	—	3.9	4.0	—	11.5	11.0	—	5.7	5.1	—	4.0	4.3	
1-5 years	—	24.3	22.1	—	25.1	25.2	—	27.2	25.1	—	22.5	22.9	
6-10 years	—	25.0	24.1	—	22.3	21.6	—	21.8	22.4	—	24.8	23.0	
11-15 years	—	30.1	31.0	—	29.9	30.8	—	24.1	25.8	—	30.9	30.5	
16-18 years	—	16.6	17.7	—	11.2	11.4	—	20.4	20.5	—	17.0	17.9	
19+ years	—	0.1	1.1	—	0.0	0.1	—	0.8	0.7	—	0.7	1.4	
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.3	—	—	0.0	
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>5,153</b>	<b>5,494</b>	—	<b>4,096</b>	<b>4,749</b>	—	<b>3,551</b>	<b>4,091</b>	—	<b>5,698</b>	<b>6,152</b>	
<b>Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup></b>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	—	0.2	0.1	—	0.1	0.3	—	0.2	0.3	—	0.1	0.1	
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.1	0.1	—	0.3	0.2	—	0.3	0.2	—	0.1	0.1	
Black	—	23.4	23.6	—	16.6	13.6	—	16.1	18.0	—	23.0	19.6	
Hispanic	—	0.3	0.4	—	0.4	0.7	—	0.3	0.4	—	0.4	0.7	
White	—	68.7	68.0	—	72.9	73.1	—	75.0	72.4	—	67.8	69.0	
Two or more races	—	—	1.1	—	0.0	2.5	—	—	1.6	—	0.0	1.9	
Unknown	—	7.5	6.6	—	9.7	9.7	—	8.1	7.3	—	8.7	8.6	
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>5,153</b>	<b>5,494</b>	—	<b>4,096</b>	<b>4,749</b>	—	<b>3,551</b>	<b>4,091</b>	—	<b>5,698</b>	<b>6,152</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	—	1,730	2,039
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	—	6	2
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	1.7	2.1
1-5 years	—	31.0	27.9
6-10 years	—	36.6	35.1
11-15 years	—	27.1	30.4
16+ years	—	3.3	4.3
Unknown	—	0.2	0.2
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>1,730</b>	<b>2,039</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.1	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
Black	—	27.6	23.9
Hispanic	—	0.2	0.6
White	—	62.7	65.7
Two or more races	—	0.1	1.6
Unknown	—	9.3	8.0
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>1,730</b>	<b>2,039</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	0.5	1.7	1.5
1-5 years	47.1	41.4	45.3
6-10 years	40.4	36.7	32.7
11-15 years	10.1	18.1	17.0
16+ years	1.4	2.2	3.5
Unknown	0.5	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>395</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.0	—	0.5
Black	19.2	28.1	36.7
Hispanic	2.9	—	1.8
White	58.2	59.4	57.7
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	18.8	12.5	3.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>395</b>

<sup>5</sup> In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

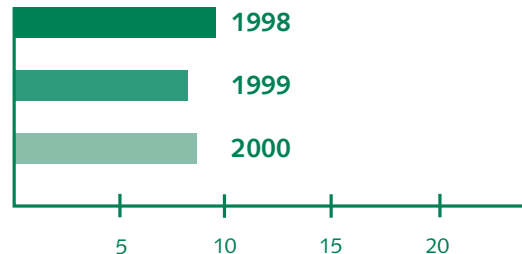
<sup>6</sup> Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	90.5	91.7	91.4
Children with one or more recurrences	9.5	8.3	8.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,714	7,245	7,994

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

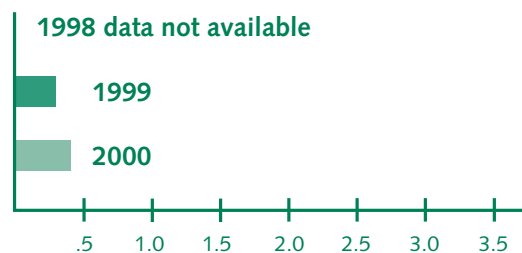


## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	0.3	0.4
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	99.7	99.6
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	8,516	9,268

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care



## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

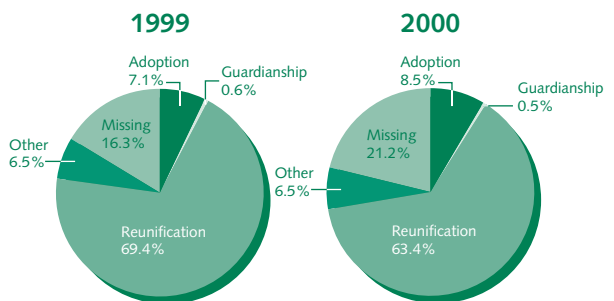
### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	7.1	8.5
Guardianship	—	0.6	0.5
Reunification	—	69.4	63.4
Other	—	6.5	6.5
Missing data	—	16.3	21.2
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	3,551	4,091

1998

1998 data not available

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	14.3	21.7
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	—	54.3	39.1
Other	—	8.6	28.3
Missing data	—	22.9	10.9
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	35	46

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	0.2	0.7
Guardianship	—	0.4	0.9
Reunification	—	63.8	60.8
Other	—	16.5	15.4
Missing data	—	19.1	22.2
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	1,168	1,428

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	—	14.5	13.8
Children older than 12 at entry	—	85.5	86.2
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	173	218

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	12.5	9.1	—	8.3	—	—	9.6	14.6	—	—	13.3
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.0	0.1	—	—	—
Reunification	—	62.5	90.9	—	41.7	44.4	—	58.9	50.7	—	44.4	73.3
Other	—	—	—	—	—	11.1	—	6.8	5.3	—	22.2	—
Missing data	—	25.0	—	—	50.0	44.4	—	23.6	29.3	—	33.3	13.3
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	8	11	—	12	9	—	572	735	—	9	15

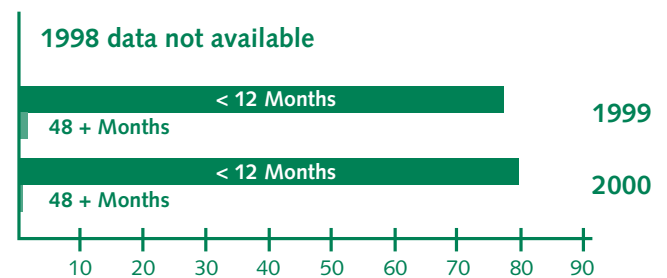
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	—	6.4	7.0	—	8.7	5.7	—	—	18.8	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	0.5	0.6	—	1.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	—	71.7	66.5	—	71.5	65.0	—	—	51.6	—	—	—
Other	—	6.7	7.0	—	4.2	5.4	—	—	4.7	—	—	—
Missing data	—	14.7	18.9	—	14.6	23.9	—	—	25.0	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Number	—	2,662	2,960	—	288	297	—	—	64	—	—	—

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

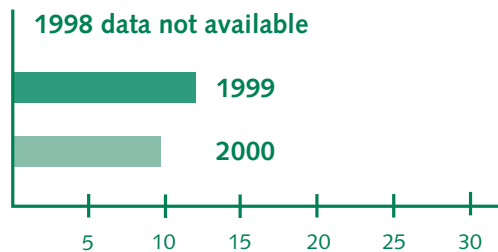
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	77.1	79.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	13.9	13.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	5.3	4.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	1.7	1.4
48 or more mos.	—	1.9	1.0
Missing data	—	0.2	0.7
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	2,466	2,593

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	—	85.6	85.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	—	12.0	9.7
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	—	2.2	4.2
Missing data	—	0.1	0.3
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	4,096	4,749

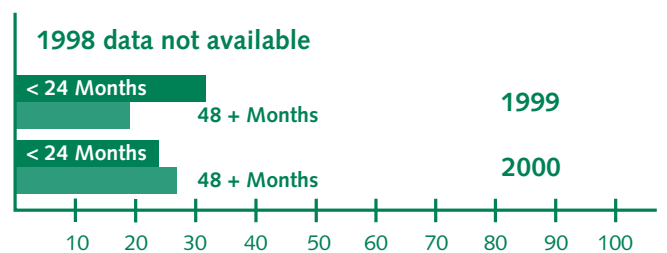
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	7.1	5.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	24.5	18.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	23.3	28.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	26.1	20.7
48 or more mos.	—	19.0	26.8
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	253	347

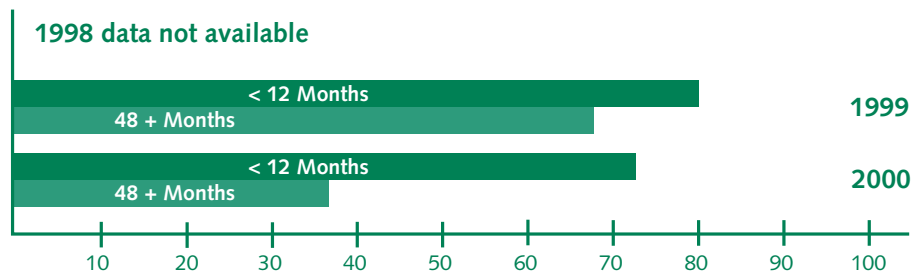
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	80.0	20.0	—	100.0	4,718
	2000	72.7	27.3	0.1	100.0	5,436
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	57.8	42.2	—	100.0	1,902
	2000	33.3	66.6	0.1	100.0	1,739
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	51.7	48.3	—	100.0	1,284
	2000	23.7	76.2	0.2	100.0	1,234
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	59.1	40.9	—	100.0	618
	2000	25.1	74.9	—	100.0	886
48 or more mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	67.8	32.2	—	100.0	705
	2000	36.7	63.3	—	100.0	918
Missing data	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	22
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	30

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	—	—	0.0
Institutions	—	16.9	15.3
Other settings	—	83.1	84.7
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	2,734	3,077

# Kentucky

[ STATE COMMENT ]



### A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	1,191,412	1,190,001	1,219,799	Child maltreatment victims	13,773	12,614	10,618
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	6,301	5,581	5,406
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.4	0.6	Children adopted	237	356	476
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.4	1.4	1.2				
Black	39.2	39.4	39.7				
Hispanic	2.8	2.9	2.5				
White	56.1	55.8	54.6				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.2				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.2				
% Child population in poverty	24.2	26.6	23.7				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	77.6	72.3	75.3				

### B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	45,318	46,230	36,355	38.0 per 1,000	38.8 per 1,000	29.8 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	13,773	12,614	10,618	11.6 per 1,000	10.6 per 1,000	8.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	27	21	30	2.3 per 100,000	1.8 per 100,000	2.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	7.3	7.8	8.2	Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1
1-5 years	30.6	29.6	30.4	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	0.4	0.3
6-10 years	30.3	29.8	31.7	Black	53.9	51.9	51.1
11-15 years	24.6	25.7	25.0	Hispanic	0.5	0.8	1.0
16+ years	7.2	7.0	4.7	White	44.7	46.6	46.0
Unknown	0.1	0.2	—	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	0.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	1.0	0.9	0.8
<b>Number</b>	<b>13,773</b>	<b>12,614</b>	<b>10,618</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	100.5	100.8	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>13,773</b>	<b>12,614</b>	<b>10,618</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	4.0	4.2	4.3
Medical neglect	—	—	—
Neglect	69.5	68.1	76.5
Physical abuse	19.5	20.9	23.0
Sexual abuse	6.6	6.5	6.7
Other	0.4	0.3	0.3
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	100.0	100.0	110.8
<b>Number</b>	<b>13,773</b>	<b>12,614</b>	<b>10,618</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	5,649			3,051			2,399			6,301			8,700
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	5,523			2,912			2,854			5,581			8,435
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	5,395			3,157			3,146			5,406			8,552
Median Length of Stay (Months)													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	23.0			N/A			15.8			19.6			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	22.9			N/A			13.5			19.5			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	19.8			N/A			11.8			16.3			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	2.5	2.8	2.4	10.3	9.2	9.8	3.7	2.5	2.8	2.8	2.4	2.7	
1-5 years	25.2	22.2	21.1	22.6	22.8	22.5	28.9	24.2	22.4	21.0	21.0	20.7	
6-10 years	27.8	26.7	24.5	22.2	20.6	20.7	26.4	23.5	19.9	25.3	24.4	24.0	
11-15 years	31.2	34.9	36.0	35.8	37.9	38.1	20.0	26.1	28.6	36.2	36.5	36.3	
16-18 years	13.3	13.4	15.9	9.1	9.4	8.9	21.0	23.7	26.2	14.7	15.7	16.4	
19+ years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>5,649</b>	<b>5,523</b>	<b>5,395</b>	<b>3,051</b>	<b>2,912</b>	<b>3,157</b>	<b>2,399</b>	<b>2,854</b>	<b>3,146</b>	<b>6,301</b>	<b>5,581</b>	<b>5,406</b>	
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%) <sup>5</sup>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	
Black	66.3	64.6	62.9	60.0	59.7	57.2	62.4	61.7	58.9	64.7	63.5	61.9	
Hispanic	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.6	0.5	0.8	1.3	0.6	0.7	0.9	
White	32.2	33.7	34.0	38.0	38.2	39.8	36.0	36.4	37.8	33.6	34.7	35.2	
Two or more races	—	—	1.4	—	—	0.7	—	—	1.1	—	—	1.2	
Unknown	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.3	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>5,649</b>	<b>5,523</b>	<b>5,395</b>	<b>3,051</b>	<b>2,912</b>	<b>3,157</b>	<b>2,399</b>	<b>2,854</b>	<b>3,146</b>	<b>6,301</b>	<b>5,581</b>	<b>5,406</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	1,171	1,477	1,542
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	253	375	514
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	2.3	1.2	1.0
1-5 years	31.0	28.4	26.7
6-10 years	41.0	39.3	35.9
11-15 years	23.7	29.1	32.3
16+ years	2.0	2.1	4.0
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,171</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>1,542</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.3	0.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
Black	61.1	62.5	60.4
Hispanic	0.5	0.5	0.6
White	36.7	35.8	36.6
Two or more races	—	—	1.7
Unknown	1.3	0.9	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,171</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>1,542</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	1.7	1.4	0.6
1-5 years	37.1	37.1	35.1
6-10 years	45.1	44.7	40.8
11-15 years	15.2	14.9	21.8
16+ years	0.8	2.0	1.7
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>476</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.8	0.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	—	—
Black	64.1	64.3	59.9
Hispanic	—	0.3	1.3
White	34.6	34.0	36.8
Two or more races	—	—	1.5
Unknown	0.8	0.6	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>476</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

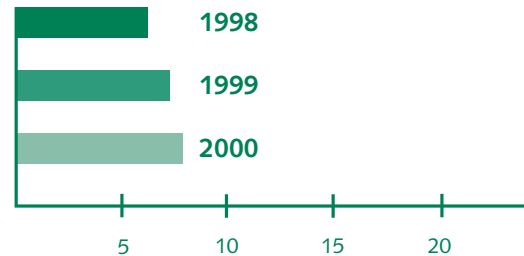
6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	93.8	92.7	92.0
Children with one or more recurrences	6.2	7.3	8.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,466	4,489	5,021

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences



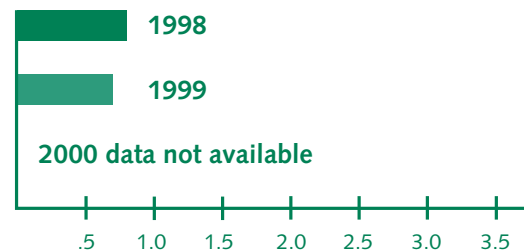
## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

(NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.8	0.7	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.2	99.3	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	—
Number	8,063	7,793	—

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

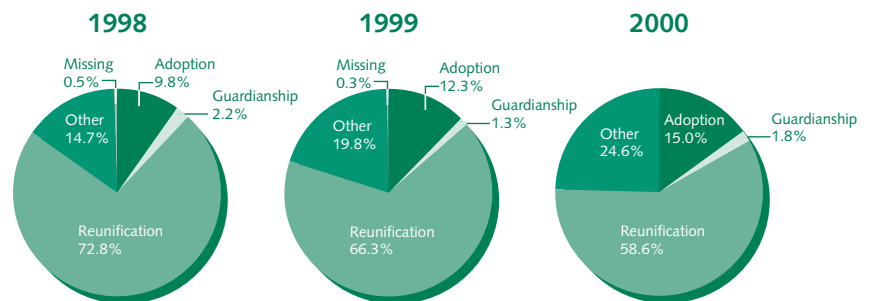


## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	9.8	12.3	15.0
Guardianship	2.2	1.3	1.8
Reunification	72.8	66.3	58.6
Other	14.7	19.8	24.6
Missing data	0.5	0.3	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,399	2,854	3,146

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	21.1	16.7	12.6
Guardianship	2.9	1.0	0.9
Reunification	39.1	43.1	42.4
Other	36.2	39.1	44.1
Missing data	0.8	0.2	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	384	599	762

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	0.1	0.3
Guardianship	1.9	1.1	1.4
Reunification	60.3	52.6	46.6
Other	37.0	45.2	51.8
Missing data	0.8	1.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	476	812	1,101

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	50.3	50.2	49.3
Children older than 12 at entry	49.7	49.8	50.7
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	304	315	298

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	27.3	25.0	16.7	—	—	9.6	12.7	15.1	—	4.5	14.6
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.0	1.0	1.4	—	4.5	—
Reunification	42.9	45.5	75.0	33.3	62.5	70.0	72.7	65.1	56.0	76.9	72.7	65.9
Other	57.1	27.3	—	50.0	37.5	30.0	15.1	20.9	27.5	23.1	18.2	19.5
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.5	0.3	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7	11	8	6	8	10	1,497	1,761	1,853	13	22	41

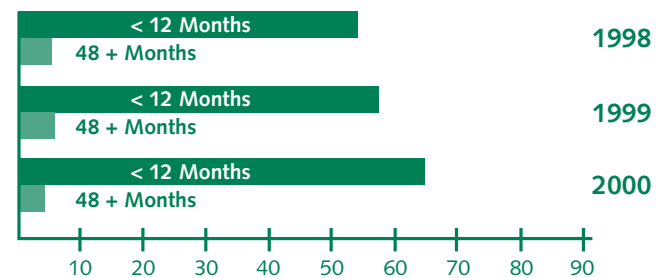
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	10.2	11.6	14.8	23.1	15.4	9.1	—	—	20.6	—	—	—
Guardianship	2.3	1.8	2.5	15.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	73.7	68.4	61.9	53.8	69.2	72.7	—	—	64.7	—	—	—
Other	13.3	17.9	20.8	7.7	15.4	18.2	—	—	14.7	—	—	—
Missing data	0.5	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Number	863	1,039	1,189	13	13	11	—	—	34	—	—	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

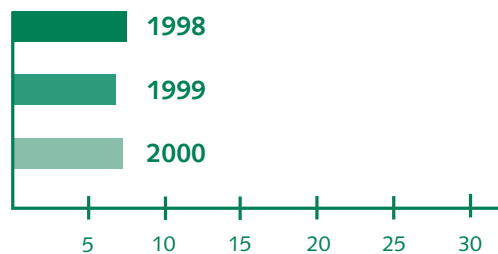
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	54.0	57.5	64.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	26.2	24.4	20.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	10.3	8.4	7.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.8	3.6	2.6
48 or more mos.	5.3	6.0	4.3
Missing data	0.3	0.1	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,747	1,893	1,843

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	83.3	85.0	84.4
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	7.4	6.8	7.1
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	9.2	8.2	8.5
Missing data	0.1	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,051	2,912	3,157

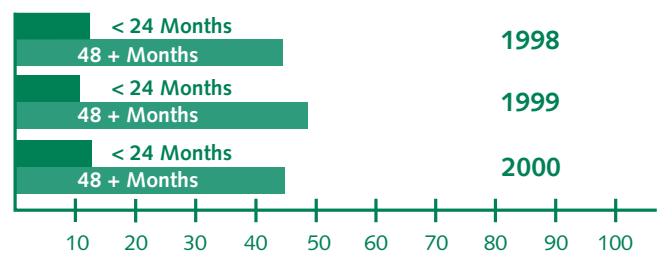
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	4.2	3.4	1.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	8.1	7.4	11.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	19.5	19.1	21.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	23.7	21.1	20.3
48 or more mos.	44.5	48.9	44.9
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	236	350	472

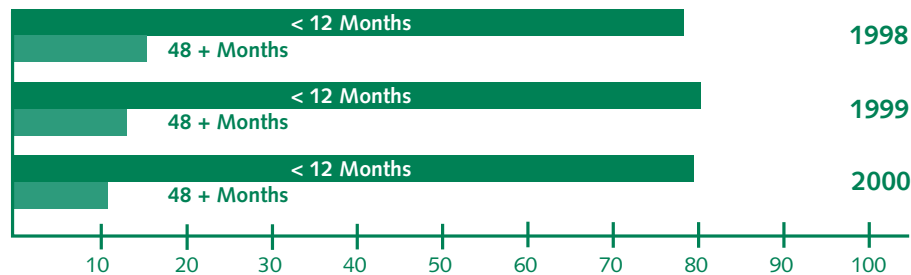
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	78.3	20.4	1.3	100.0	3,415
	1999	80.3	18.7	1.0	100.0	3,394
	2000	79.4	19.3	1.4	100.0	3,849
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	45.8	53.9	0.4	100.0	1,628
	1999	50.1	49.8	0.1	100.0	1,585
	2000	49.7	49.8	0.5	100.0	1,510
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	29.0	70.8	0.2	100.0	1,005
	1999	30.8	69.0	0.1	100.0	898
	2000	30.4	69.5	0.1	100.0	862
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	25.0	74.9	0.1	100.0	669
	1999	20.1	79.5	0.5	100.0	648
	2000	22.3	77.7	—	100.0	561
48 or more mos.	1998	15.3	84.5	0.2	100.0	1,962
	1999	13.0	86.9	0.1	100.0	1,888
	2000	10.8	89.1	0.1	100.0	1,762
Missing data	1998	85.7	9.5	4.8	100.0	21
	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	22
	2000	87.5	—	12.5	100.0	8

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	2.2	2.1	2.1
Institutions	5.5	5.6	6.3
Other settings	92.3	92.3	91.7
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,889	1,762	1,901

# Louisiana

[ STATE COMMENT ]

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	291,585	290,439	301,238	Child maltreatment victims	3,579	4,154	4,779
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	3,595	3,154	3,191
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.6	0.6	0.7	Children adopted	125	202	411
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.9	1.0	0.9				
Black	0.6	0.5	0.8				
Hispanic	1.0	1.0	1.2				
White	97.0	96.9	94.6				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.7				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.1				
% Child population in poverty	15.5	17.5	8.9				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	37.2	40.9	36.0				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	9,030	9,877	9,687	31.0 per 1,000	34.0 per 1,000	32.2 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	3,579	4,154	4,779	12.3 per 1,000	14.3 per 1,000	15.9 per 1,000
Child fatalities	4	3	2	1.4 per 100,000	1.0 per 100,000	0.7 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	10.7	9.8	9.3	Alaska Native/American Indian	0.8	0.5	0.5
1-5 years	32.0	31.3	30.6	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	0.2	0.5
6-10 years	31.7	31.8	31.0	Black	0.5	0.6	0.9
11-15 years	22.5	23.6	23.1	Hispanic	0.5	—	1.2
16+ years	3.1	3.3	3.6	White	49.5	97.4	44.0
Unknown	—	—	2.4	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	0.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	48.8	1.3	52.4
<b>Number</b>	<b>3,579</b>	<b>4,154</b>	<b>4,779</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	100.5	100.0	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>3,579</b>	<b>4,154</b>	<b>4,779</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	64.2	54.5	54.5
Medical neglect	—	—	—
Neglect	65.9	59.1	62.0
Physical abuse	39.8	34.4	30.3
Sexual abuse	23.2	21.5	20.4
Other	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	193.0	169.5	167.2
<b>Number</b>	<b>3,579</b>	<b>4,154</b>	<b>4,779</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	2,658	1,646	712	3,595	4,304
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	2,675	1,014	535	3,154	3,689
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	2,860	1,052	721	3,191	3,912

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	26.2	N/A	15.0	18.7	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	27.8	N/A	19.5	27.0	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	27.9	N/A	31.7	24.9	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	2.2	3.7	3.4	16.0	17.2	19.6	4.6	4.9	4.0	4.9	3.6	4.2
1-5 years	21.1	20.6	20.8	24.7	28.4	25.6	23.2	28.8	30.5	21.4	21.1	21.1
6-10 years	26.3	27.2	26.6	22.7	22.9	23.3	20.4	24.5	24.5	25.6	26.3	23.9
11-15 years	29.6	31.0	30.3	28.5	27.0	26.6	21.2	16.8	18.0	29.1	30.1	30.8
16-18 years	17.1	15.6	16.6	6.9	4.3	4.8	23.7	19.4	16.5	15.6	16.7	17.2
19+ years	2.1	1.8	2.2	—	0.1	0.2	5.5	5.4	5.1	1.9	2.1	2.8
Unknown	1.7	0.1	—	1.2	0.1	—	1.4	0.2	1.2	1.6	0.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,658</b>	<b>2,675</b>	<b>2,860</b>	<b>1,646</b>	<b>1,014</b>	<b>1,052</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>3,595</b>	<b>3,154</b>	<b>3,191</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	0.9	1.6	1.3	1.8	0.9	1.4	2.9	2.6	1.8	0.9	1.2	1.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.3	—	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.7
Black	2.4	2.1	1.7	1.5	1.0	1.4	2.5	1.9	1.1	1.9	1.8	1.8
Hispanic	1.3	2.2	2.3	2.1	1.4	2.1	1.0	0.9	1.5	1.7	2.1	2.4
White	93.3	91.0	85.3	83.7	63.3	60.7	90.7	78.7	84.0	89.4	84.2	77.5
Two or more races	—	—	0.4	—	0.2	1.2	—	—	0.8	—	0.1	0.6
Unknown	1.7	2.7	8.4	10.4	32.9	32.2	2.5	15.9	10.3	5.6	10.2	15.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,658</b>	<b>2,675</b>	<b>2,860</b>	<b>1,646</b>	<b>1,014</b>	<b>1,052</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>3,595</b>	<b>3,154</b>	<b>3,191</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	1,199	1,098	1,101
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	175	688	735

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	5.3	3.2	4.0
1-5 years	28.7	33.5	32.2
6-10 years	34.8	43.2	38.4
11-15 years	21.2	17.9	23.3
16+ years	6.3	2.2	1.9
Unknown	3.8	—	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,199</b>	<b>1,098</b>	<b>1,101</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	1.4	1.5	2.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5	0.2	0.3
Black	2.4	2.7	2.2
Hispanic	0.8	1.4	2.5
White	91.9	89.8	83.1
Two or more races	—	—	0.8
Unknown	2.9	4.5	9.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,199</b>	<b>1,098</b>	<b>1,101</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	0.5	0.2
1-5 years	36.0	37.1	45.5
6-10 years	35.2	47.5	39.7
11-15 years	23.2	13.4	14.1
16+ years	3.2	1.5	0.5
Unknown	2.4	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>411</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	4.8	4.5	1.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
Black	1.6	2.0	2.2
Hispanic	1.6	1.0	0.7
White	88.8	92.1	90.8
Two or more races	—	—	0.7
Unknown	3.2	0.5	3.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>411</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

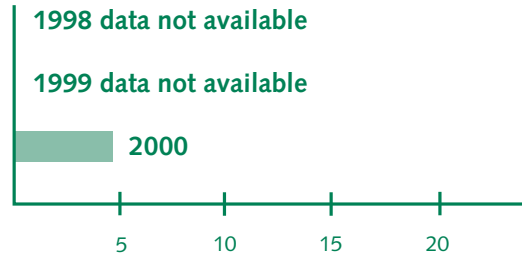


## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	—	95.3
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	4.7
Total %	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	2,107

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences



## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	0.1
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	99.9
Total %	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	3,767

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

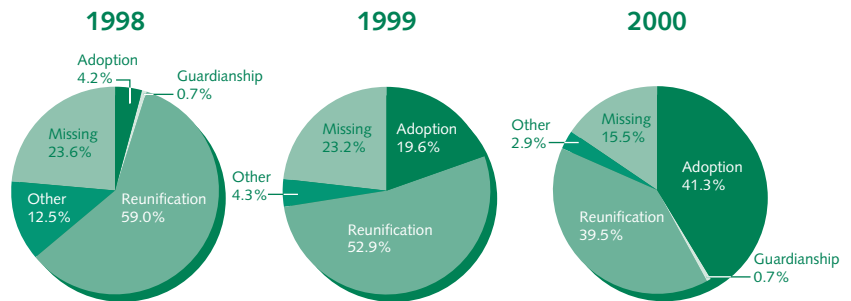


## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	4.2	19.6	41.3
Guardianship	0.7	—	0.7
Reunification	59.0	52.9	39.5
Other	12.5	4.3	2.9
Missing data	23.6	23.2	15.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	712	535	721

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	46.2	52.4
Guardianship	—	—	14.3
Reunification	50.0	15.4	14.3
Other	—	15.4	—
Missing data	50.0	23.1	19.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2	13	21

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—
Guardianship	1.5	—	—
Reunification	40.3	52.5	47.3
Other	32.8	11.7	8.2
Missing data	25.4	35.8	44.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	201	120	146

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	21.7	36.8	26.7
Children older than 12 at entry	78.3	63.2	73.3
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	60	19	15

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	28.6	38.5	—	—	—	5.6	30.0	62.5	14.3	20.0	27.3
Guardianship	9.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	76.2	50.0	30.8	50.0	—	66.7	61.1	20.0	25.0	—	40.0	45.5
Other	9.5	7.1	23.1	50.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	20.0	—
Missing data	4.8	14.3	7.7	—	—	33.3	33.3	50.0	12.5	85.7	20.0	27.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	21	14	13	2	—	3	18	10	8	7	5	11

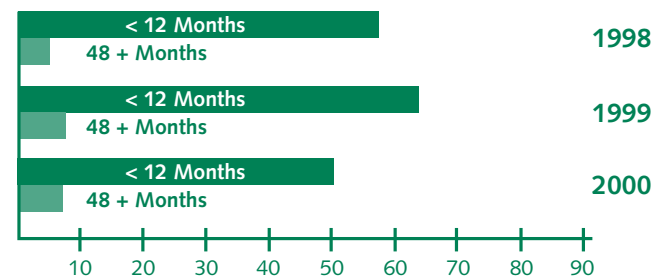
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	4.2	22.8	45.2	—	1.2	11.0	—	—	50.0	16.7	—	—
Guardianship	0.5	—	0.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	59.1	47.5	34.3	75.0	84.7	82.2	—	—	50.0	16.7	—	100.0
Other	13.2	5.0	2.6	—	—	2.7	—	—	—	16.7	—	—
Missing data	23.1	24.7	17.0	25.0	14.1	4.1	—	—	—	50.0	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0
Number	646	421	606	12	85	73	—	—	6	6	—	1

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

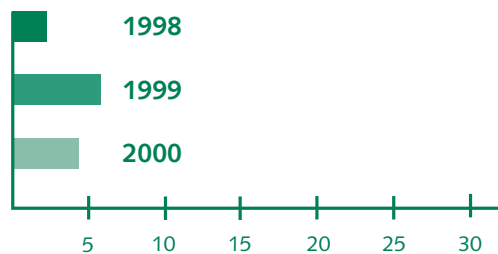
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	57.4	64.0	50.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	23.3	13.8	21.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	9.8	7.1	14.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.3	7.4	6.0
48 or more mos.	5.0	7.8	7.4
Missing data	1.2	—	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	420	283	285

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	89.2	91.3	93.1
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	2.2	5.8	4.3
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	0.5	1.9	2.4
Missing data	8.1	1.0	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,646	1,014	1,052

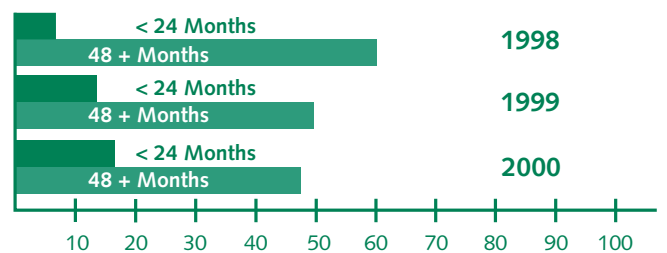
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	2.9	1.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	6.7	10.5	15.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	20.0	19.0	19.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	10.0	18.1	16.1
48 or more mos.	60.0	49.5	47.3
Missing data	3.3	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	30	105	298

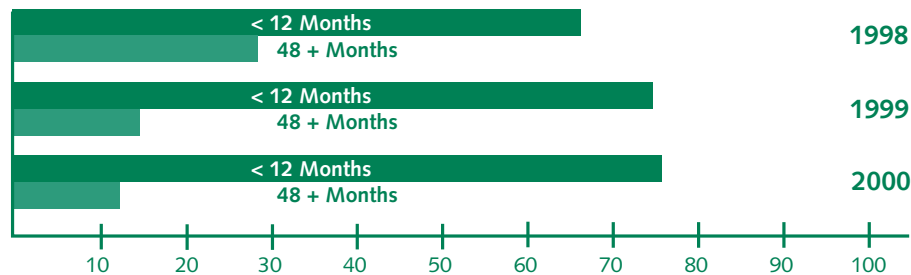
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	66.1	32.6	1.3	100.0	1,737
	1999	74.5	24.3	1.2	100.0	1,076
	2000	75.8	23.5	0.6	100.0	1,093
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	45.1	54.5	0.4	100.0	697
	1999	41.3	58.4	0.3	100.0	673
	2000	46.6	53.1	0.3	100.0	746
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	33.8	65.6	0.6	100.0	479
	1999	32.5	67.3	0.2	100.0	514
	2000	25.8	74.0	0.2	100.0	550
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	31.3	68.4	0.3	100.0	358
	1999	21.9	77.9	0.3	100.0	366
	2000	20.5	79.5	—	100.0	415
48 or more mos.	1998	28.2	71.2	0.6	100.0	1,002
	1999	14.4	85.3	0.4	100.0	1,059
	2000	12.1	87.6	0.3	100.0	1,107
Missing data	1998	80.6	9.7	9.7	100.0	31
	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	1
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	1

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	1.1	2.6	3.6
Institutions	2.5	2.4	2.2
Other settings	87.2	93.0	89.9
Missing data	9.3	2.0	4.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,012	760	775

# Maine

[ STATE COMMENT ]

# Maryland

[ CONTEXT DATA ]

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	1,287,190	1,309,432	1,356,172	Child maltreatment victims	14,234	—	—
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	12,890	13,455	13,113
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.3	Children adopted	477	592	537
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.3	4.4	3.7				
Black	31.3	31.6	31.9				
Hispanic	4.5	4.7	5.3				
White	59.6	58.9	55.9				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.7				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.3				
% Child population in poverty	14.4	6.6	8.5				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	86.7	89.2	93.1				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	55,964	—	—	43.5 per 1,000	— per 1,000	— per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	14,234	—	—	11.1 per 1,000	— per 1,000	— per 1,000
Child fatalities	24	—	—	1.9 per 100,000	— per 100,000	— per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	—	—	Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—
1-5 years	—	—	—	Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
6-10 years	—	—	—	Black	—	—	—
11-15 years	—	—	—	Hispanic	—	—	—
16+ years	—	—	—	White	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	—	—	—	Other/Unknown	—	—	—
<b>Number</b>	—	—	—	Total % <sup>3</sup>	—	—	—
				<b>Number</b>	—	—	—

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	—	—	—
Medical neglect	—	—	—
Neglect	—	—	—
Physical abuse	—	—	—
Sexual abuse	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	—	—	—
<b>Number</b>	—	—	—

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	11,719			4,467			3,296			12,890			16,186
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	12,452			3,936			2,933			13,455			16,388
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	12,295			3,928			3,110			13,113			16,223
Median Length of Stay (Months)													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	25.6			N/A			14.0			26.2			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	28.8			N/A			16.7			31.9			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	31.7			N/A			17.5			33.6			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	2.6	2.8	3.0	14.2	16.9	17.5	4.7	5.0	5.8	2.9	3.0	3.0	
1-5 years	25.1	21.8	20.1	26.6	26.4	26.0	27.4	27.3	24.8	22.6	20.2	20.3	
6-10 years	30.5	30.1	28.5	26.3	24.4	24.3	25.9	28.8	27.1	30.4	28.3	26.1	
11-15 years	27.2	29.2	30.3	26.1	26.2	25.8	23.4	21.8	23.0	27.8	29.3	30.2	
16-18 years	12.9	14.0	15.9	6.8	6.0	6.3	15.7	13.7	16.0	13.2	15.4	16.1	
19+ years	1.7	2.1	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	2.8	3.3	3.3	3.0	3.7	4.3	
Unknown	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>11,719</b>	<b>12,452</b>	<b>12,295</b>	<b>4,467</b>	<b>3,936</b>	<b>3,928</b>	<b>3,296</b>	<b>2,933</b>	<b>3,110</b>	<b>12,890</b>	<b>13,455</b>	<b>13,113</b>	
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%) <sup>5</sup>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	
Black	79.2	79.4	78.6	70.4	68.7	68.7	67.5	70.8	68.2	79.2	78.1	78.1	
Hispanic	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.8	2.3	2.0	2.0	1.7	0.8	0.9	1.3	
White	18.7	18.2	18.7	25.2	26.4	26.2	28.7	24.2	27.7	18.4	19.3	18.8	
Two or more races	—	—	0.5	—	—	1.2	—	—	0.7	—	—	0.6	
Unknown	0.7	1.0	0.8	2.6	2.6	1.1	1.5	2.4	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.8	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>11,719</b>	<b>12,452</b>	<b>12,295</b>	<b>4,467</b>	<b>3,936</b>	<b>3,928</b>	<b>3,296</b>	<b>2,933</b>	<b>3,110</b>	<b>12,890</b>	<b>13,455</b>	<b>13,113</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	2,211	2,806	3,076
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	972	1,304	1,693
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	1.0	1.1	1.5
1-5 years	31.3	27.8	27.6
6-10 years	43.0	41.1	37.5
11-15 years	21.8	26.1	28.7
16+ years	2.4	3.5	3.8
Unknown	0.5	0.5	1.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,211</b>	<b>2,806</b>	<b>3,076</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0	0.1	—
Black	77.6	79.2	79.7
Hispanic	0.6	0.5	0.8
White	20.2	19.1	18.1
Two or more races	—	—	0.7
Unknown	1.4	1.0	0.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,211</b>	<b>2,806</b>	<b>3,076</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	2.3	1.0	1.7
1-5 years	44.7	41.4	37.1
6-10 years	41.5	41.2	45.3
11-15 years	10.7	15.5	14.7
16+ years	0.8	0.8	1.3
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>537</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.3	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.6	0.3	0.6
Black	65.2	71.8	67.2
Hispanic	2.5	0.2	2.4
White	30.8	26.7	27.4
Two or more races	—	0.5	2.4
Unknown	0.8	0.2	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>537</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

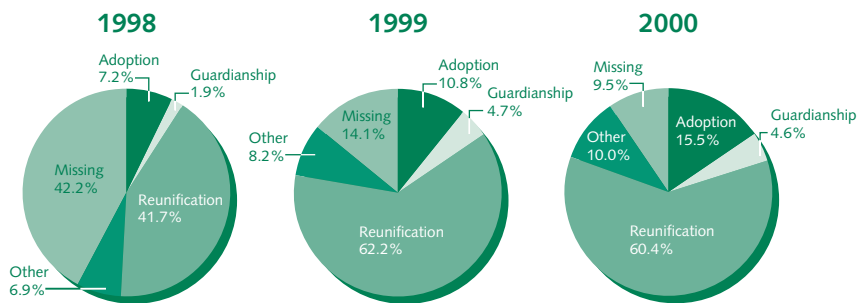
	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	7.2	10.8	15.5
Guardianship	1.9	4.7	4.6
Reunification	41.7	62.2	60.4
Other	6.9	8.2	10.0
Missing data	42.2	14.1	9.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,296	2,933	3,110

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	9.2	13.5	13.7
Guardianship	1.1	2.4	2.2
Reunification	38.1	55.7	59.0
Other	14.2	16.5	16.0
Missing data	37.5	12.0	9.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	544	460	556

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.3	1.0	1.3
Guardianship	1.3	3.0	2.9
Reunification	39.4	53.2	56.0
Other	18.1	24.8	27.6
Missing data	41.0	18.0	12.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	757	596	682

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	32.2	32.5	33.9
Children older than 12 at entry	67.8	67.5	66.1
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	143	166	230

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	25.0	50.0	12.5	—	31.3	6.3	10.3	16.8	7.7	5.0	9.6
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	12.5	6.3	2.3	5.7	6.0	4.6	—	—
Reunification	16.7	62.5	50.0	62.5	50.0	43.8	40.3	63.3	59.4	44.6	63.3	67.3
Other	—	12.5	—	12.5	12.5	6.3	6.3	7.1	8.9	3.1	10.0	17.3
Missing data	83.3	—	—	12.5	25.0	12.5	44.6	13.6	8.9	40.0	21.7	5.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6	8	4	8	8	16	2,224	2,077	2,122	65	60	52

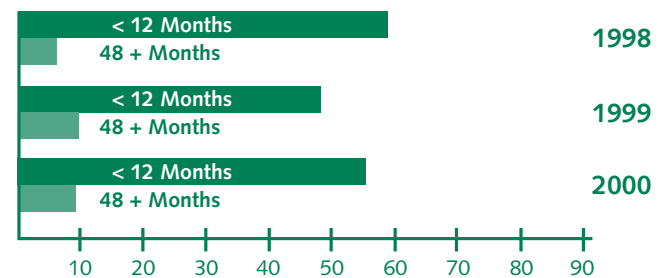
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	9.2	13.0	11.7	—	—	20.6	—	—	18.2	8.3	10.0	—
Guardianship	0.7	2.3	1.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.1	2.9	—
Reunification	44.9	58.3	63.1	—	—	58.8	—	—	54.5	41.7	67.1	—
Other	8.9	11.5	12.4	—	—	11.8	—	—	9.1	2.1	5.7	—
Missing data	36.3	14.9	11.2	—	—	8.8	—	—	18.2	45.8	14.3	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	—
Number	945	710	860	—	—	34	—	—	22	48	70	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

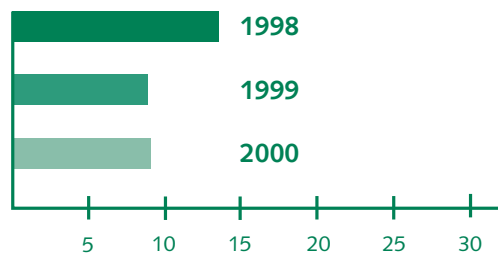
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	58.9	48.4	55.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	17.9	19.0	17.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	8.7	16.3	11.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	8.1	6.3	6.3
48 or more mos.	6.1	9.9	9.3
Missing data	0.3	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,376	1,823	1,879

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	74.4	80.6	79.5
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	13.5	8.9	9.0
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	11.1	9.8	11.0
Missing data	1.0	0.7	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,467	3,936	3,928

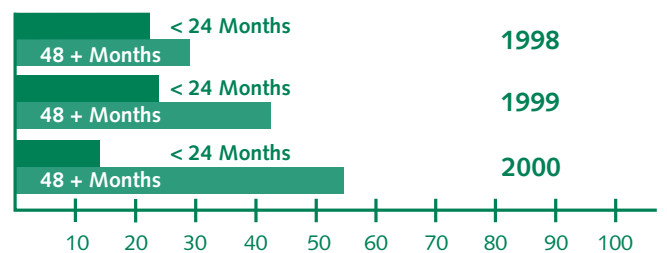
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	6.3	10.7	6.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	16.0	13.2	7.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	25.6	15.5	16.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	22.7	18.3	15.0
48 or more mos.	29.0	42.3	54.7
Missing data	0.4	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	238	317	481

Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry

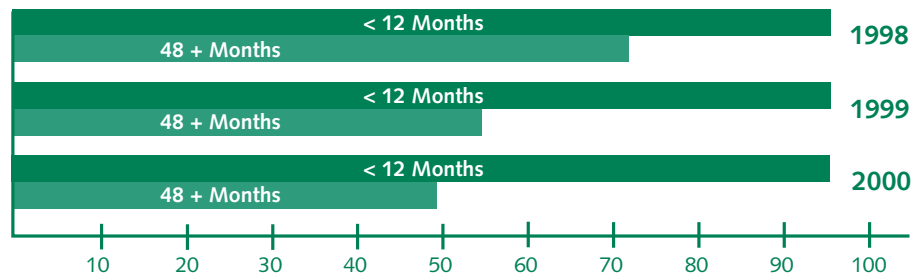




## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	95.4	4.6	—	100.0	4,909
	1999	95.4	4.6	—	100.0	4,252
	2000	95.4	4.6	—	100.0	4,246
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	88.2	11.8	—	100.0	3,221
	1999	82.2	17.8	—	100.0	2,900
	2000	81.9	18.1	—	100.0	2,733
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	82.8	17.2	—	100.0	2,136
	1999	69.7	30.3	—	100.0	2,361
	2000	70.3	29.7	—	100.0	2,122
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	78.5	21.5	—	100.0	1,752
	1999	60.8	39.2	—	100.0	1,678
	2000	57.8	42.2	—	100.0	1,666
48 or more mos.	1998	71.9	28.1	—	100.0	4,109
	1999	54.5	45.5	—	100.0	5,184
	2000	49.2	50.8	—	100.0	5,450
Missing data	1998	100.0	—	—	100.0	59
	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	13
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	6

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	4.7	6.4	4.2
Institutions	1.3	3.9	4.1
Other settings	93.0	87.5	90.1
Missing data	1.0	2.2	1.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,258	3,042	3,029

# Maryland

[ STATE COMMENT ]

**Linda E. Mouzon, Executive Director  
Social Services Administration  
Maryland Department of Human Resources  
800-332-6347**

Maryland does not have data available for Section B or outcome measures 1.1 and 2.1 because until 1998 Maryland could not by law maintain a centralized database containing the names of alleged child maltreatment victims or perpetrators. Maryland could only track incidents or households in which presumed maltreatment occurred. Since then the database has been upgraded and department staff are using victim and perpetrator identifiers; however, for calendar year 2000 data, records of many child protective service investigations still lack these identifiers.

In previous years, the NCANDS contractor created child counts for Maryland by multiplying Maryland's household count by a national average number of children per household. Maryland prefers blanks in these charts to the use of a child multiplier until better data can be submitted.

Counts of children in foster care in sections C and E and outcome measures 3 through 7 include children in kinship care as well as foster care. For technical reasons, the number of exits from foster care shown for three years in section C is an undercount. The undercount inflates the number of children in care each year in the 9/30 column of section C. The number of children in care shown in the 10/1 column and the number of entries for each year are correct.

The difference between the adoption counts in section E and exits to adoption in outcome measures 3.1 and 5.1 is due to the fact that the former is a manual count and the latter is derived from DHR's Client Information System (CIS). The former is used for AFCARS adoption reporting (section E) while the latter is used to count exits to adoption (measures 3.1 and 5.1) when reporting AFCARS foster care data.

The manual count is more accurate than the CIS count because tracking adoptions on CIS is difficult. To maintain confidentiality, children drop out of the data system when they assume new identities in the process of adoption. This leads to an undercount of exits to adoption. The count of 537 children is likely to increase slightly when adoptions finalized in FFY 2000 are picked up from Maryland's FFY 2001 AFCARS adoption report.

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
<b>Total children under 18 years</b>	<b>1,457,703</b>	<b>1,468,554</b>	<b>1,500,064</b>	Child maltreatment victims	27,559	29,633	32,334
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	—	11,169	11,619
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	Children adopted	1,100	922	861
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.9	5.2	4.0				
Black	7.8	8.1	6.5				
Hispanic	10.0	10.4	10.5				
White	77.1	76.2	75.2				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.7				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.8				
<b>% Child population in poverty</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>15.8</b>				
<b>% Child population living in metropolitan areas</b>	<b>97.1</b>	<b>96.9</b>	<b>96.3</b>				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	52,899	56,620	61,226	36.3 per 1,000	38.6 per 1,000	40.8 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	27,559	29,633	32,334	18.9 per 1,000	20.2 per 1,000	21.6 per 1,000
Child fatalities	13	—	4	0.9 per 100,000	— per 100,000	0.3 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	—	8.1	Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	0.1
1-5 years	—	—	28.8	Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	1.8
6-10 years	—	—	30.5	Black	—	—	12.4
11-15 years	—	—	26.0	Hispanic	—	—	11.4
16+ years	—	—	5.5	White	—	—	39.0
Unknown	—	—	1.1	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	0.9
Total %	—	—	100.0	Other/Unknown	—	—	34.3
<b>Number</b>	—	—	<b>32,334</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	—	—	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	—	—	<b>32,334</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	—	—	0.4
Medical neglect	—	—	—
Neglect	—	—	87.4
Physical abuse	—	—	18.9
Sexual abuse	—	—	3.2
Other	—	—	0.1
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	—	—	110.0
<b>Number</b>	—	—	<b>32,334</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	—			—			—			—			—
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	11,550			7,368			7,749			11,169			18,918
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	10,630			7,381			6,392			11,619			18,011
Median Length of Stay (Months)													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	—			N/A			—			—			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	22.1			N/A			10.7			18.5			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	19.2			N/A			8.3			17.4			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	—	2.4	2.6	—	8.5	9.2	—	3.0	3.0	—	2.6	3.0	
1-5 years	—	22.4	20.0	—	19.5	18.9	—	21.4	19.7	—	20.0	19.5	
6-10 years	—	24.4	23.4	—	19.1	19.2	—	21.3	20.0	—	22.9	21.1	
11-15 years	—	30.2	32.0	—	39.1	40.2	—	28.4	30.5	—	32.6	34.0	
16-18 years	—	18.0	19.2	—	13.3	12.2	—	23.1	23.9	—	19.2	19.4	
19+ years	—	1.9	2.3	—	0.2	0.1	—	1.6	1.6	—	2.2	2.4	
Unknown	—	0.6	0.6	—	0.3	0.1	—	1.2	1.2	—	0.6	0.6	
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>11,550</b>	<b>10,630</b>	—	<b>7,368</b>	<b>7,381</b>	—	<b>7,749</b>	<b>6,392</b>	—	<b>11,169</b>	<b>11,619</b>	
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%) <sup>5</sup>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	—	0.3	0.2	—	0.3	0.2	—	0.2	0.2	—	0.3	0.3	
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	1.6	1.5	—	1.6	1.9	—	1.7	1.9	—	1.5	1.6	
Black	—	20.1	19.0	—	15.4	13.5	—	18.4	15.8	—	18.2	17.3	
Hispanic	—	21.0	20.6	—	16.7	16.5	—	18.2	16.6	—	20.0	20.3	
White	—	48.7	48.4	—	47.1	45.1	—	47.9	48.2	—	48.3	46.4	
Two or more races	—	0.4	0.6	—	0.2	1.1	—	0.3	0.6	—	0.4	0.9	
Unknown	—	8.0	9.6	—	18.7	21.6	—	13.4	16.8	—	11.3	13.2	
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>11,550</b>	<b>10,630</b>	—	<b>7,368</b>	<b>7,381</b>	—	<b>7,749</b>	<b>6,392</b>	—	<b>11,169</b>	<b>11,619</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	—	3,278	3,147
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	—	927	897
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	2.5	3.0
1-5 years	—	39.5	38.6
6-10 years	—	41.2	38.5
11-15 years	—	16.1	19.2
16+ years	—	0.7	0.5
Unknown	—	0.1	0.1
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>3,278</b>	<b>3,147</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.3	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	2.1	1.9
Black	—	19.5	16.4
Hispanic	—	24.9	24.8
White	—	44.2	45.0
Two or more races	—	0.9	1.1
Unknown	—	8.1	10.6
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>3,278</b>	<b>3,147</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	0.5	0.3	1.4
1-5 years	46.9	44.7	48.1
6-10 years	39.2	41.8	37.4
11-15 years	12.7	12.7	12.5
16+ years	0.6	0.5	0.6
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>861</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.2	0.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.6	0.9	2.3
Black	22.8	23.8	21.5
Hispanic	23.1	20.9	20.3
White	46.2	51.6	49.7
Two or more races	—	—	2.8
Unknown	7.0	2.6	2.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>861</b>

<sup>5</sup> In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

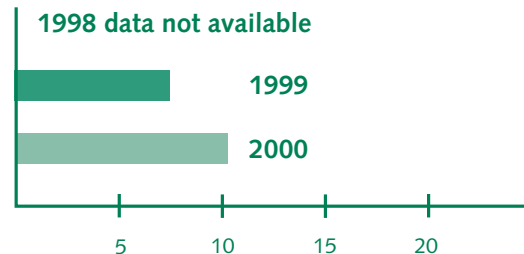
<sup>6</sup> Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	92.6	89.8
Children with one or more recurrences	—	7.4	10.2
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	14,167	15,354

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

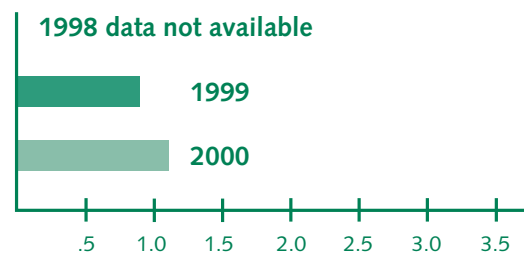


## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	0.9	1.1
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	99.1	98.9
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	16,590	16,175

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care



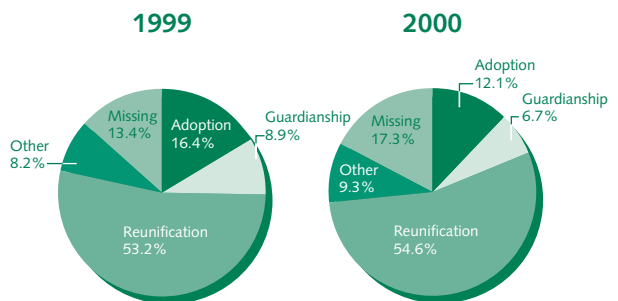
## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	16.4	12.1
Guardianship	—	8.9	6.7
Reunification	—	53.2	54.6
Other	—	8.2	9.3
Missing data	—	13.4	17.3
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	7,749	6,392

1998 data not available

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	29.4	16.7
Guardianship	—	5.9	8.3
Reunification	—	29.4	25.0
Other	—	17.6	33.3
Missing data	—	17.6	16.7
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	17	12

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	0.1	0.1
Guardianship	—	3.0	2.6
Reunification	—	64.2	59.5
Other	—	16.0	16.8
Missing data	—	16.6	21.0
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	2,957	2,694

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	—	25.0	24.2
Children older than 12 at entry	—	74.6	75.8
Missing data	—	0.3	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	635	557

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	5.9	—	—	5.3	11.7	—	20.2	17.0	—	21.7	14.6
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	0.8	2.5	—	13.7	9.1	—	7.0	6.3
Reunification	—	88.2	30.0	—	71.2	65.0	—	43.0	43.0	—	49.0	51.4
Other	—	5.9	50.0	—	9.1	5.8	—	8.6	11.6	—	8.2	8.8
Missing data	—	—	20.0	—	13.6	15.0	—	14.5	19.3	—	14.1	18.9
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	17	10	—	132	120	—	1,422	1,010	—	1,414	1,058

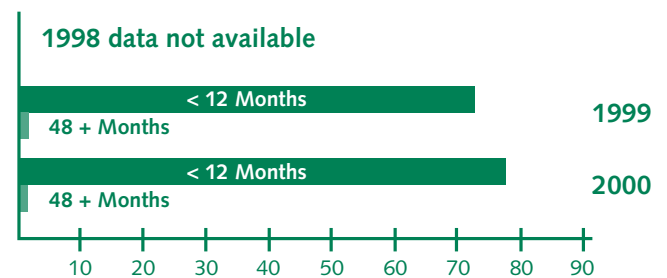
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	—	16.1	12.9	—	18.0	7.9	—	57.1	41.5	—	0.1	0.1
Guardianship	—	8.9	7.1	—	9.3	8.4	—	—	—	—	4.1	3.4
Reunification	—	53.8	54.8	—	49.4	46.3	—	33.3	51.2	—	77.2	72.3
Other	—	9.1	10.3	—	8.7	15.0	—	—	—	—	2.3	2.8
Missing data	—	12.1	14.8	—	14.7	22.4	—	9.5	7.3	—	16.3	21.4
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	3,708	3,079	—	334	214	—	21	41	—	701	860

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

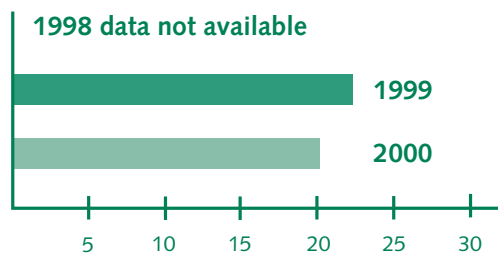
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	72.9	76.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	15.3	14.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	5.4	4.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	2.3	1.9
48 or more mos.	—	1.9	1.7
Missing data	—	2.1	1.1
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	4,121	3,489

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	—	66.0	68.3
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	—	22.3	20.2
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	—	11.3	11.3
Missing data	—	0.4	0.1
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	7,368	7,381

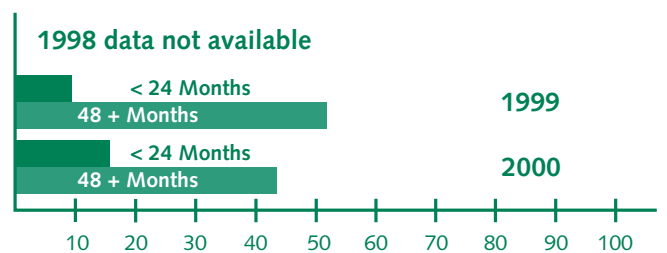
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	2.5	2.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	6.8	13.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	17.2	20.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	21.2	20.3
48 or more mos.	—	52.0	43.2
Missing data	—	0.3	0.1
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	1,271	773

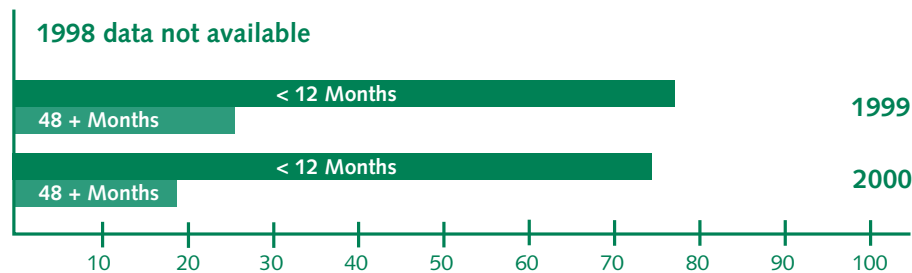
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	77.0	18.4	4.7	100.0	8,170
	2000	74.3	22.7	3.1	100.0	8,154
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	58.7	40.1	1.2	100.0	3,252
	2000	53.8	44.8	1.4	100.0	3,386
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	49.4	50.5	0.1	100.0	2,187
	2000	46.0	53.3	0.7	100.0	1,933
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	39.9	60.1	—	100.0	1,460
	2000	34.1	65.9	—	100.0	1,338
48 or more mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	25.3	74.7	0.0	100.0	3,626
	2000	18.7	81.3	—	100.0	3,079
Missing data	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	46.6	0.9	52.5	100.0	223
	2000	56.2	0.8	43.0	100.0	121

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	—	3.8	3.4
Institutions	—	4.4	3.5
Other settings	—	91.5	92.9
Missing data	—	0.3	0.3
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	3,877	3,998

**Lewis H. Spence, Commissioner  
Department of Social Services  
Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
617-748-2000**

The following comments relate to the Massachusetts data included in the Children's Bureau Child Welfare Outcomes 2000: Annual Report.

The Massachusetts Department of Social Services' staff are addressing the issues that have been raised in the review of our State's data tables. All of the discrepancies noted pertain to placement dynamics (entries/exits) and placement discharge reasons. These data quality issues are being addressed as part of an ongoing effort to improve the accuracy of the data we submit to the AFCARS and NCANDS system. Efforts have been and continue to be made to improve the data collected in FamilyNet, the Massachusetts SACWIS system, and extracted in the AFCARS and NCANDS data files. This undertaking includes edits to require the entry of key data elements, such as child's race and Hispanic origin identity of a child's parent/caretakers, and discharge reason. Edits have also been implemented to increase the quality of data, such as requiring verification for the use of adoption as a discharge reason. In tandem with these edits, data cleanups have been completed to ensure compliance with available federal definitions such as home removal episodes including "trial home visits." Many of these enhancements were recently implemented. We expect the quality of our data to continue to improve over time as the aforementioned changes take effect and future changes are initiated.



The following discussion focuses on Massachusetts' performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance on the outcome measures. In using CFSR information to interpret performance, it is important to note that the Massachusetts CFSR was conducted in 2001 and the national data used for the review to assess performance regarding national standards was from 1999. However, the discussion of State performance relevant to the national standards in the Federal Comment section focuses on data from 2000, as provided in the State Data Pages. In addition, because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

In calendar year (CY) 2000, the rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 10.2 percent, which exceeds both the national standard of 6.1 percent and the national median of 7.9 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to preventing maltreatment recurrence: (1) an inconsistency in the quality of child and family assessments, particularly with regard to identifying underlying issues leading to maltreatment such as substance abuse or domestic violence; (2) delays in providing services to parents in some cases in which children remain in their own homes; and (3) provision of services that do not always adequately address identified needs.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce incidence of maltreatment in foster care**

In CY 2000, the incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 1.1 percent, which is higher than both the national standard of 0.57 percent and the national median of 0.47 percent. The CFSR Final Report indicates that the following recent changes in agency practices and policies are designed to reduce the incidence of maltreatment in foster care: (1) revising standards for approving or licensing foster homes, (2) increasing supports and training for foster and adoptive parents, (3) reducing the number of children who can be placed in any one foster home, and (4) developing a centralized Special Investigations Unit for investigating reports of maltreatment in foster homes and institutions.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

Data for outcome 3 indicate that in fiscal year (FY) 2000, 73.4 percent of children leaving foster care were discharged to permanent homes, which is lower than the national median of 84.7 percent. However, the State's performance relevant to outcome 3 cannot be meaningfully interpreted because 17 percent of all exits from foster care in FY 2000 did not have "reason for discharge" information, and 21 percent of exits from foster care of children who were older than age 12 at the time of entry into care did not have "reason for discharge" information. In addition, only 12 of the 6,392 children who exited foster care in FY 2000 were reported to have a diagnosed disability.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 76.6, which is greater than the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. However, because 17 percent of exits from foster care in FY 2000 did not have "reason for discharge" information, the number of children reported as exiting to reunification in outcome measure 4.1 may not be accurate. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that Massachusetts' effectiveness in attaining timely reunifications may be attributed to the following: (1) diligent efforts by agency staff and foster care providers to promote parent-child contacts and relationships, (2) implementation of permanency mediation as an alternative to court action, and (3) implementation of the Family Based Services initiative.

Massachusetts' performance with regard to reunification within 12 months must be balanced by the finding that in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 20.2, which is greater than the national standard of 8.6 and is twice the national median of 10.3. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that a

key barrier to preventing foster care re-entries is the lack of post-reunification support services for families, particularly for families in which child neglect is a chronic problem, and for adolescents with multiple behavioral and emotional problems.

#### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 15.7, which is less than both the national median of 19.7 percent and the national standard of 32.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving timely adoptions: (1) agency delays in completing paperwork and finalizing permanency plans, and (2) court delays in scheduling termination of parental rights (TPR) or obtaining decisions on TPR appeals.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children in foster care for less than 12 months who experienced no more than 2 placements was 74.3, which is lower than both the national standard of 86.7 percent and the national median of 84.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that a key barrier to achieving placement stability is the scarcity of placement resources for adolescents, particularly adolescents with substance abuse or behavioral problems.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 6.9, which is lower than the national median of 9.0. Information in the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance on this measure may be attributed to the agency's case practice guidelines that direct staff to place all children, regardless of age, in the least restrictive and most family-like settings that can assure their safety.

#### **Child well-being**

With respect to child well-being, information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that while the State is effective in meeting children's educational needs it is not consistently effective in meeting their physical and mental health needs. The Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to meeting children's physical and mental health needs: (1) a lack of provision of services to meet identified health needs, (2) a scarcity of dental services that will accept Medicaid, and (3) inadequate mental health screenings and delays in service provision, due in large part to a scarcity of mental health services.

### A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	2,551,615	2,561,139	2,595,767	Child maltreatment victims	22,744	24,505	26,680
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	18,583	20,300	20,034
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.7	0.6	0.6	Children adopted	2,257	2,446	2,803
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.8	1.9	1.8				
Black	17.1	17.2	17.3				
Hispanic	3.9	4.1	4.8				
White	76.5	76.2	72.4				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.8				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.2				
% Child population in poverty	15.3	14.1	13.6				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	87.2	91.3	83.2				

### B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	156,425	166,160	164,369	61.3 per 1,000	64.9 per 1,000	63.3 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	22,744	24,505	26,680	8.9 per 1,000	9.6 per 1,000	10.3 per 1,000
Child fatalities	40	48	—	1.6 per 100,000	1.9 per 100,000	— per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	11.0	11.9	12.4	Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.7	0.6
1-5 years	30.3	28.9	27.9	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5	0.4	—
6-10 years	30.9	31.0	30.6	Black	39.8	40.7	39.7
11-15 years	23.0	23.5	24.0	Hispanic	2.6	2.4	2.2
16+ years	4.8	4.7	5.1	White	54.7	55.8	53.7
Unknown	—	—	—	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	4.4	2.4	3.8
<b>Number</b>	<b>22,744</b>	<b>24,505</b>	<b>26,680</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	102.6	102.4	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>22,744</b>	<b>24,505</b>	<b>26,680</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	6.0	6.9	7.3
Medical neglect	2.3	2.3	2.7
Neglect	46.3	70.8	68.7
Physical abuse	19.9	20.9	22.7
Sexual abuse	6.8	6.5	5.9
Other	25.3	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	106.6	107.4	107.3
<b>Number</b>	<b>22,744</b>	<b>24,505</b>	<b>26,680</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	13,570	10,220	5,207	18,583	23,790
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	16,111	10,929	6,740	20,300	27,040
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	17,129	10,707	7,802	20,034	27,836

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	13.3	N/A	12.4	13.5	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	13.6	N/A	13.9	14.4	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	14.5	N/A	15.3	14.7	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	4.6	4.7	4.5	13.0	12.8	13.9	2.8	2.6	2.7	5.2	5.3	5.2
1-5 years	27.1	26.6	25.2	26.2	24.6	27.0	24.0	24.2	24.8	28.0	26.6	27.3
6-10 years	22.0	23.5	24.4	22.1	22.5	24.4	20.5	20.6	22.5	23.7	25.0	25.2
11-15 years	24.8	24.7	25.5	27.2	26.9	24.5	19.7	19.4	20.0	23.9	24.7	24.9
16-18 years	19.8	18.8	18.3	10.8	11.3	9.5	26.5	26.7	24.7	17.6	16.9	16.0
19+ years	1.3	1.4	1.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	6.0	4.9	4.1	1.3	1.3	1.3
Unknown	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.6	1.7	0.5	0.3	1.6	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>13,570</b>	<b>16,111</b>	<b>17,129</b>	<b>10,220</b>	<b>10,929</b>	<b>10,707</b>	<b>5,207</b>	<b>6,740</b>	<b>7,802</b>	<b>18,583</b>	<b>20,300</b>	<b>20,034</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Black	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hispanic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
White	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Two or more races	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Number</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	7,665	8,495	7,745
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	4,257	5,166	5,226

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	6.7	5.9	5.7
1-5 years	38.9	35.6	33.0
6-10 years	31.5	33.6	31.8
11-15 years	18.7	20.3	23.9
16+ years	3.2	3.4	4.1
Unknown	1.0	1.2	1.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>7,665</b>	<b>8,495</b>	<b>7,745</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
Black	—	—	—
Hispanic	—	—	—
White	—	—	—
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
<b>Number</b>	—	—	—

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	1.3	1.3	1.5
1-5 years	44.9	47.1	43.3
6-10 years	37.8	34.3	36.7
11-15 years	13.8	15.9	15.9
16+ years	2.2	1.6	2.5
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,257</b>	<b>2,446</b>	<b>2,803</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	1.4	1.0	0.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	0.1	0.2
Black	53.0	51.5	49.5
Hispanic	3.2	4.3	4.1
White	41.4	42.4	41.1
Two or more races	—	0.0	4.2
Unknown	0.7	0.7	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,257</b>	<b>2,446</b>	<b>2,803</b>

<sup>5</sup> In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

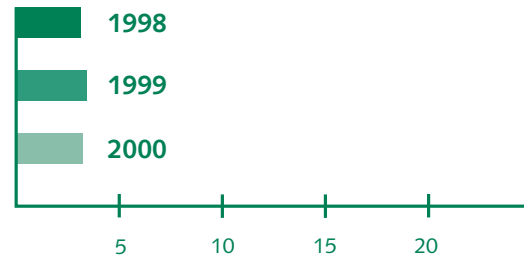
<sup>6</sup> Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	96.9	96.6	96.7
Children with one or more recurrences	3.1	3.4	3.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	11,430	11,576	13,482

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences



## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	0.3
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	99.7
Total %	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	26,044

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

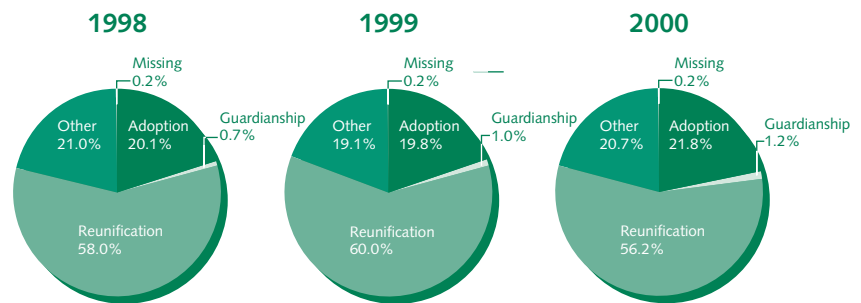


## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	20.1	19.8	21.8
Guardianship	0.7	1.0	1.2
Reunification	58.0	60.0	56.2
Other	21.0	19.1	20.7
Missing data	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,207	6,740	7,802

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	2.7	1.6	1.4
Guardianship	0.7	0.8	1.1
Reunification	57.9	60.7	53.6
Other	38.4	36.5	43.4
Missing data	0.3	0.3	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,073	2,606	2,812

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

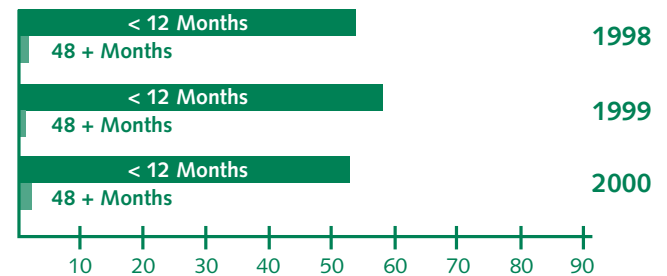
	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	24.4	22.8	23.9
Children older than 12 at entry	74.9	76.5	75.5
Missing data	0.7	0.7	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	426	587	564

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

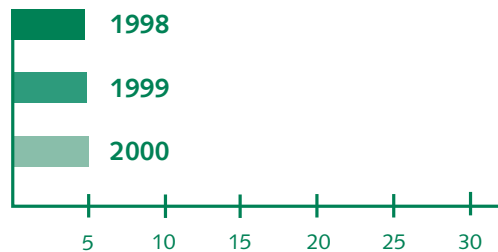
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	53.8	58.1	52.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	27.7	25.0	28.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	8.8	7.7	7.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.3	2.4	3.0
48 or more mos.	1.7	1.4	2.2
Missing data	4.7	5.3	6.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,018	4,041	4,383

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	89.8	90.3	90.0
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	4.7	4.9	5.0
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	5.0	4.4	4.6
Missing data	0.4	0.4	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	10,220	10,929	10,707

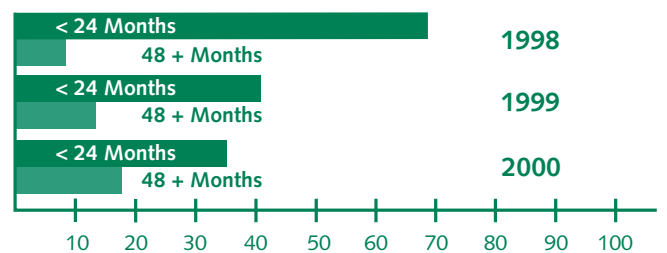
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	48.3	16.7	12.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	20.3	24.2	22.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	13.3	29.2	31.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	9.3	16.4	16.0
48 or more mos.	8.2	13.4	17.8
Missing data	0.7	0.2	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,048	1,333	1,699

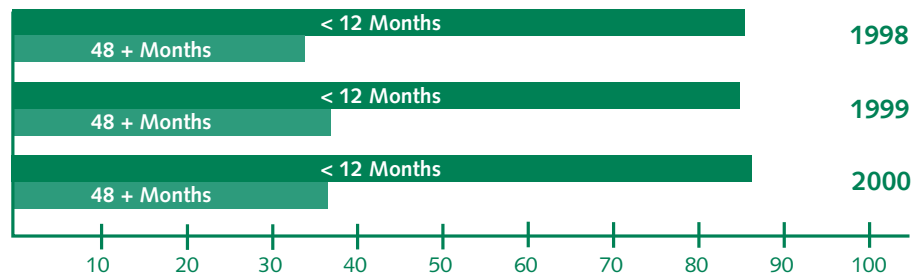
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	85.2	14.8	—	100.0	10,985
	1999	84.9	15.1	—	100.0	11,750
	2000	86.2	13.8	—	100.0	11,588
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	65.8	34.2	—	100.0	5,758
	1999	66.1	33.9	—	100.0	6,824
	2000	65.8	34.2	—	100.0	6,997
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	52.8	47.2	—	100.0	2,987
	1999	56.0	44.0	—	100.0	3,614
	2000	59.4	40.6	—	100.0	3,863
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	44.8	55.2	—	100.0	1,539
	1999	49.0	51.0	—	100.0	1,914
	2000	49.8	50.2	—	100.0	2,091
48 or more mos.	1998	33.7	66.3	—	100.0	2,214
	1999	36.8	63.2	—	100.0	2,572
	2000	36.5	63.5	—	100.0	2,865
Missing data	1998	93.5	6.5	—	100.0	307
	1999	95.6	4.4	—	100.0	366
	2000	97.2	2.8	—	100.0	432

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	0.0	0.1	0.0
Institutions	6.2	5.6	5.7
Other settings	93.8	94.3	94.3
Missing data	—	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,929	7,339	7,623

**Douglas E. Howard**  
**Michigan Family Independence Agency**  
**517-373-2035**

Michigan reported 49 child fatalities in the NCANDS (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System) Agency File for 2000. We cannot explain why that data did not appear here since HHS has acknowledged receipt of our report, and has included the information in the CFSR (Child and Family Services Review) data profile.

The difference in the child count between September 30, 1999 and October 1, 1999 may be attributed, at least in part, to which episodes are counted in the AFCARS (Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System) data. Our understanding is that many states show this difference and it has not been resolved either at the state or federal level.

Old race data codes could not be reported in the AFCARS format for the period. Beginning in October 2001, Michigan's race coding is AFCARS compliant.

The AFCARS adoption information is accurate. The undercount in foster care exits to adoption is a data definition and data entry problem. Michigan's SACWIS (Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System), implemented statewide in 2001, will resolve the problem with exits after October 1, 2001.

Prior to implementing SACWIS, Michigan could not accurately report exits of disabled children. This problem will be resolved by SACWIS.

Michigan supports development of comparable welfare data among the states, the evolution of measurable outcomes in child welfare, and use of data to improve child welfare outcomes.



The following discussion focuses on Michigan's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance (the Michigan CFSR was conducted in FY 2002). Because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

In calendar year (CY) 2000, Michigan's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 3.3 percent, which is lower than both the national standard of 6.1 percent and the national median of 7.9 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's effectiveness in preventing maltreatment recurrence may be attributed in part to (1) the active prosecution of offenders, particularly in domestic violence cases; (2) the efforts of contracted service providers who provide services to families while children remain in their homes; and (3) the State's use of a Structured Decision Making Risk Assessment model with all families.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care**

In CY 2000, the incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.3 percent, which is lower than both the national standard of 0.57 percent and the national median of 0.47 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the low incidence of maltreatment in foster care may be attributed in part to the following: (1) the State's practice of conducting annual licensing reviews of all child placing agencies and child care institutions, (2) the requirement that child placing agencies must conduct annual reviews of all individual foster homes, and (3) the State's cap on the ratio of foster care cases at 20 cases per worker to ensure adequate attention to foster care providers as well as children.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 79.2 percent of children exiting foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is lower than the national median of 84.7) and 56.1 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is lower than the national median of 72.6). (The State did not provide data pertaining to children with a diagnosed disability.) These findings suggest that the State is not consistently effective in achieving permanency for children, particularly for children who enter foster care when they are older. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving permanency: (1) a lack of consistent and routine permanency hearings that focus on advancing permanency for children, (2) lack of sufficient attention to meeting the service needs of parents and relatives to promote reunification or permanent placement, and (3) the fact that the State does not have a supported or assisted guardianship program that offers financial assistance (beyond Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) to relatives who wish to assume guardianship of children in their care.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reported reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 52.9, which is lower than both the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving reunifications in a timely manner: (1) inconsistent efforts to provide the services to parents that are necessary to permit reunification, (2) lack of adequate housing in the community, and (3) the fact that parents experience long waiting lists for substance abuse treatment services despite legislation requiring that parents of children in foster care be given priority.

Michigan's performance with regard to time to reunification must be balanced by the finding that in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 5.0, which is lower than both the national standard of 8.6 percent and the national median of 10.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's effectiveness in preventing re-entries into foster care may be attributed to the caution taken by the courts and by the State child

welfare agency in making the decision to return the child home. In addition, when children are returned home, the court and the agency continue to supervise the family to monitor children's safety.

#### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 35 percent, which is higher than both the national standard of 32.0 percent and the national median of 19.7 percent. However, the State's performance with regard to achieving adoptions in a timely manner cannot be assessed because the number of discharges to adoption reported to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) Foster Care Database (1,699) only accounts for 61 percent of the adoptions reported to the AFCARS Adoption Database (2,803). As noted in the State Comment section, the State considers the data reported to the AFCARS Adoption Database as reflecting the correct number of adoptions. Consequently, the percentage of finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of entry into foster care reported in outcome measure 5.1 cannot be considered accurate.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 86.2, which is lower than the national standard of 86.7 percent, but greater than the national median of 84.3. According to information provided in the CFSR Final Report, the State believes that problems with placement stability may be attributed to the use of shelter care as an initial placement in some areas of the State and to inadequate support for foster parents to assist them in parenting children with behavioral and/or emotional problems.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 5.7 percent, which is lower than the national median of 9.0. There is no information in the CFSR Final Report that explains the performance of the State on this outcome measure.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, information in the CFSR Final Report indicates that the State is generally effective in meeting children physical health needs but is less consistently effective in meeting children's educational and mental health needs. The following were identified in the final report as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) a failure in some cases to conduct assessments of children's educational needs or to link children to services to meet identified needs; (2) a lack of responsiveness of local school systems to agency attempts to advocate for children in foster care; (3) difficulties in accessing mental health services for children, and (4) lack of routine mental health assessments and provision of services to address identified mental health needs.

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	1,259,447	1,271,850	1,286,894	Child maltreatment victims	10,572	11,113	11,824
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	8,521	8,996	8,530
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.8	1.8	1.5	Children adopted	429	633	614
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.1	4.3	4.2				
Black	4.1	4.3	4.9				
Hispanic	2.8	3.0	4.3				
White	87.1	86.6	82.0				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.9				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.2				
% Child population in poverty	17.8	7.9	8.5				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	73.5	73.8	71.1				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	24,844	24,855	24,840	19.7 per 1,000	19.5 per 1,000	19.3 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	10,572	11,113	11,824	8.4 per 1,000	8.7 per 1,000	9.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	28	21	0.2 per 100,000	2.2 per 100,000	1.6 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	5.6	6.2	8.4	Alaska Native/American Indian	7.5	10.1	7.1
1-5 years	30.8	31.3	30.2	Asian/Pacific Islander	2.8	4.0	3.7
6-10 years	35.2	35.1	34.1	Black	25.9	28.1	25.1
11-15 years	23.5	22.0	22.1	Hispanic	6.7	7.4	7.2
16+ years	4.9	4.7	4.5	White	62.6	62.6	48.9
Unknown	0.1	0.8	0.8	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	4.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	1.2	1.9	3.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>10,572</b>	<b>11,113</b>	<b>11,824</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	106.7	114.1	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>10,572</b>	<b>11,113</b>	<b>11,824</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	0.9	1.0	0.8
Medical neglect	3.5	4.6	0.2
Neglect	69.4	77.4	73.6
Physical abuse	26.1	24.8	21.9
Sexual abuse	8.1	7.3	7.4
Other	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	108.1	115.0	104.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>10,572</b>	<b>11,113</b>	<b>11,824</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	7,118	9,574	8,171	8,521	16,692
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	8,012	10,724	9,743	8,996	18,736
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	7,664	10,803	9,939	8,530	18,467

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	16.9	N/A	2.1	12.7	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	13.7	N/A	2.3	12.5	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	14.8	N/A	2.0	12.7	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	2.3	2.6	2.8	5.3	5.8	5.6	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.6	3.0	3.0
1-5 years	17.2	15.6	16.3	15.7	14.6	14.3	15.8	14.5	15.3	15.3	15.6	15.3
6-10 years	23.7	21.5	21.4	15.2	14.8	15.0	16.2	15.0	15.0	20.9	19.8	19.1
11-15 years	35.8	36.9	35.1	41.3	39.7	39.6	34.3	34.2	33.8	37.6	35.8	36.4
16-18 years	20.2	22.5	23.5	22.1	24.7	25.2	29.3	32.1	31.5	22.7	24.8	25.2
19+ years	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.1	1.1	1.1	1.4	0.8	0.9	0.9
Unknown	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>7,118</b>	<b>8,012</b>	<b>7,664</b>	<b>9,574</b>	<b>10,724</b>	<b>10,803</b>	<b>8,171</b>	<b>9,743</b>	<b>9,939</b>	<b>8,521</b>	<b>8,996</b>	<b>8,530</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	11.8	11.9	11.3	8.2	8.0	8.4	7.8	8.4	8.5	11.6	11.1	10.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.2	1.2	1.4	2.2	2.7	3.1	2.2	2.6	3.1	1.3	1.5	1.5
Black	20.5	20.2	22.5	19.1	19.1	19.4	19.0	18.3	20.0	20.3	20.9	21.5
Hispanic	4.5	4.8	5.4	5.1	5.2	5.4	4.8	4.8	5.1	4.8	5.2	5.8
White	54.0	54.1	52.0	57.6	58.4	56.8	57.9	58.8	56.9	54.2	54.2	52.5
Two or more races	7.2	7.0	6.9	5.6	5.0	4.8	5.6	5.3	4.7	7.0	6.4	6.8
Unknown	0.9	0.8	0.5	2.3	1.6	2.0	2.7	1.8	1.6	0.8	0.7	1.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>7,118</b>	<b>8,012</b>	<b>7,664</b>	<b>9,574</b>	<b>10,724</b>	<b>10,803</b>	<b>8,171</b>	<b>9,743</b>	<b>9,939</b>	<b>8,521</b>	<b>8,996</b>	<b>8,530</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	2,215	2,147	1,839
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	1,850	1,763	1,480

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	4.4	3.6	3.2
1-5 years	28.9	28.8	25.8
6-10 years	37.2	34.5	31.9
11-15 years	22.2	24.4	28.4
16+ years	5.6	6.7	7.6
Unknown	1.8	2.0	3.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,215</b>	<b>2,147</b>	<b>1,839</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	8.9	8.4	8.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5	0.5	0.4
Black	31.2	31.0	31.2
Hispanic	6.3	6.4	6.3
White	42.5	44.4	43.6
Two or more races	10.2	9.1	10.0
Unknown	0.2	0.2	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,215</b>	<b>2,147</b>	<b>1,839</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	1.2	1.6	1.6
1-5 years	36.4	40.4	40.9
6-10 years	45.9	41.5	39.4
11-15 years	14.9	15.6	17.8
16+ years	1.6	0.8	0.3
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>614</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	8.6	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.6	—	—
Black	42.2	33.0	29.0
Hispanic	5.6	3.5	4.1
White	42.0	46.4	47.9
Two or more races	—	11.8	11.1
Unknown	—	5.2	8.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>614</b>

<sup>5</sup> In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

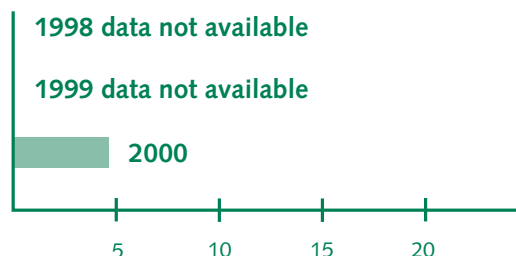
<sup>6</sup> Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	—	95.4
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	4.6
Total %	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	6,334

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences



## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	0.2
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	99.8
Total %	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	16,382

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

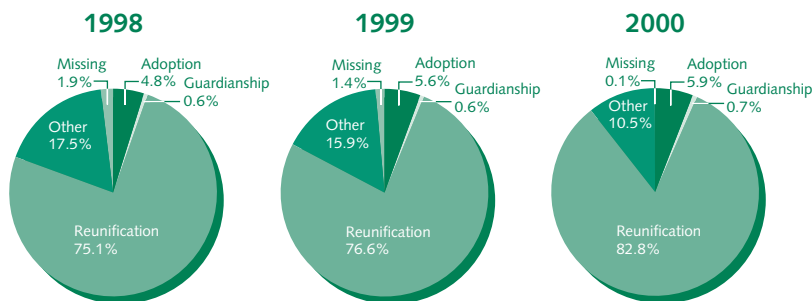


## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	4.8	5.6	5.9
Guardianship	0.6	0.6	0.7
Reunification	75.1	76.6	82.8
Other	17.5	15.9	10.5
Missing data	1.9	1.4	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,171	9,743	9,939

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	5.1	9.0	12.7
Guardianship	0.6	0.5	0.7
Reunification	67.4	68.4	71.6
Other	22.0	19.1	14.9
Missing data	4.8	2.9	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,735	2,510	2,591

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.2	0.0	—
Guardianship	0.3	0.3	0.2
Reunification	75.5	77.8	85.2
Other	22.3	20.6	14.6
Missing data	1.7	1.3	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,432	5,573	5,597

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	22.3	21.9	21.4
Children older than 12 at entry	77.7	78.1	78.4
Missing data	—	—	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	291	347	527

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	4.7	6.0	4.7	1.1	0.8	1.0	7.7	10.2	8.5	4.6	7.1	7.1
Guardianship	0.3	0.1	0.5	—	—	—	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.4	1.0
Reunification	74.6	76.3	81.3	71.4	80.0	91.7	70.1	70.2	80.3	80.4	75.0	83.3
Other	18.6	15.8	13.4	23.1	16.1	7.1	18.2	16.9	10.4	14.2	16.7	8.6
Missing data	1.7	1.8	0.1	4.4	3.1	0.3	3.5	2.2	0.1	0.3	0.9	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	635	818	845	182	255	312	1,556	1,781	1,987	393	468	510

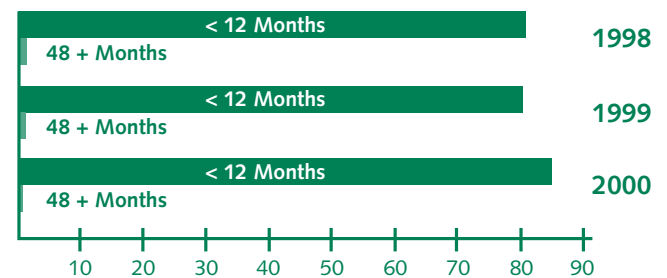
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	3.4	3.5	4.8	2.3	1.1	0.6	12.1	14.7	14.1	—	—	—
Guardianship	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5	—	0.6	0.4	1.4	1.3	—	—	—
Reunification	76.4	78.8	84.0	87.6	86.8	89.4	71.7	70.7	73.1	—	—	—
Other	17.9	15.9	10.5	8.8	11.5	8.7	14.5	13.1	11.5	—	—	—
Missing data	1.6	1.1	0.1	0.9	0.6	0.6	1.3	0.2	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—
Number	4,732	5,729	5,655	217	174	161	456	518	469	—	—	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

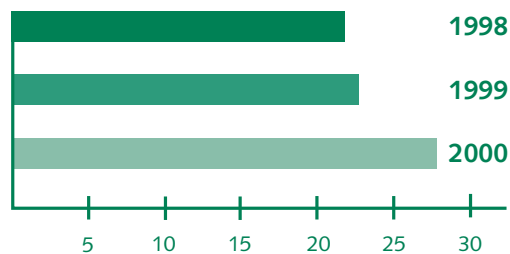
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	80.7	80.3	84.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	9.7	10.5	8.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.4	2.7	1.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.3	1.3	0.7
48 or more mos.	1.6	1.4	1.0
Missing data	4.3	3.9	3.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,140	7,461	8,232

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	65.2	62.9	61.2
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	21.8	22.7	27.7
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.4	8.6	8.6
Missing data	4.6	5.8	2.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,574	10,724	10,803

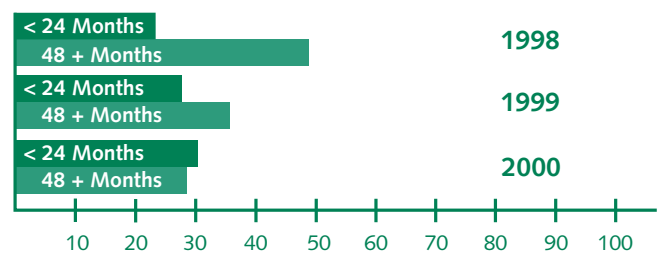
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	10.5	11.4	7.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	12.8	16.1	22.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	13.8	18.9	23.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	14.3	17.6	17.3
48 or more mos.	48.7	35.5	28.5
Missing data	—	0.5	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	392	546	585

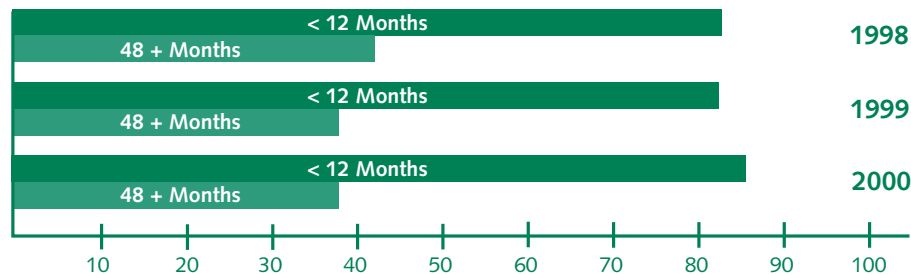
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	82.7	17.3	—	100.0	10,232
	1999	82.3	17.7	—	100.0	11,596
	2000	85.4	14.6	—	100.0	11,762
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	51.5	48.5	—	100.0	2,239
	1999	49.9	50.1	—	100.0	2,794
	2000	54.4	45.6	—	100.0	2,484
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	41.6	58.4	—	100.0	1,161
	1999	39.9	60.1	—	100.0	1,199
	2000	39.6	60.4	—	100.0	1,317
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	36.6	63.4	—	100.0	749
	1999	37.8	62.2	—	100.0	799
	2000	40.4	59.6	—	100.0	713
48 or more mos.	1998	42.0	58.0	—	100.0	1,957
	1999	37.8	62.2	—	100.0	1,961
	2000	37.8	62.2	—	100.0	1,866
Missing data	1998	100.0	—	—	100.0	354
	1999	99.0	1.0	—	100.0	387
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	325

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	1.7	2.4	4.6
Institutions	25.5	24.0	22.4
Other settings	50.9	60.3	73.0
Missing data	21.9	13.3	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,206	4,532	4,600

# Minnesota

[ STATE COMMENT ]



The following discussion focuses on Minnesota's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance. In using CFSR information to interpret the data, it is important to note that the Minnesota CFSR was conducted in 2001 and the national data used for the review to assess performance regarding national standards was from 1999. However, the discussion of State performance relevant to the national standards in the Federal Comment section focuses on data from 2000, as provided in the State Data Pages. In addition, because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

In calendar year (CY) 2000, the rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 4.6 percent, which is lower than both the national standard of 6.1 percent and the national median of 7.9 percent. This statistic is somewhat difficult to interpret because the State has recently implemented an Alternative Response approach that deflects child maltreatment reports from the traditional response of investigation and substantiation.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce incidence of maltreatment in foster care**

In CY 2000, the incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.2 percent, which is lower than both the national standard of 0.57 percent and the national median of 0.47 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance on this measure may be attributed in part to the following: (1) creation of foster parent support groups; (2) extensive training for foster parents; and (3) foster home licensing standards that are applied uniformly to relative as well as non-relative homes.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 89.4 percent of children existing foster care were discharged to permanent placements (which is higher than the national median of 84.7 percent), 85.0 percent of disabled children leaving foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 79.5 percent), 85.4 percent of children who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care exited to permanent homes (which approaches the highest reported rate of 87.5), and 21.4 percent of children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care (which is lower than the national median of 24.2 percent). These data suggest that the State is effective in attaining permanency for children in foster care. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that Minnesota's performance on this outcome may be attributed in part to a special program implemented to promote attainment of permanency for children who are 8 years old or younger.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reunification's occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 84.9, which is higher than the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR suggests that performance on this measure may be attributed to the wide array of available services, and the ability to individualize services to meet a family's unique needs.

Minnesota's high performance with regard to reunification within 12 months must be balanced by the finding that in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 27.7, which exceeds the national standard of 8.6 percent and was the highest rate reported nationally. However, according to information provided in the CFSR Final Report, the State believes that the reported re-entry rate may be distorted because the State information system counts short-term emergency placements as foster care entries and respite care as a foster care placement.

### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 30.3, which does not meet the national standard of 32.0 percent, but is higher than the national median of 19.7 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving finalized adoptions in a timely manner: (1) inconsistent use of concurrent planning, especially for older children, and (2) the differential payment rates for foster care and adoption assistance.

### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 85.4, which does not meet the national standard of 86.7 percent but is greater than the national median of 84.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving placement stability: (1) the use of emergency shelters and temporary foster homes as initial placements for children entering foster care, (2) an agency policy of not placing children with relatives until relatives are fully licensed, and (3) a lack of sufficient services to prevent disruptions in foster placements.

### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 27.0 percent, which is higher than the national median of 9.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance on this outcome may be related to the following: (1) the use of emergency shelters as the initial placement for many children entering care, even young children; and (2) a chronic shortage of foster and adoptive homes for children with behavioral problems.

### **Child well-being outcomes**

With regard to child well-being, the CFSR Final Report indicates that Minnesota is not consistently effective in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs. The Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) multiple school changes for children in foster care; (2) failure in many cases to make educational needs a priority; (3) lack of dentists willing to accept Medicaid; (4) inconsistency in conducting initial health assessments for children entering foster care; and (5) a lack of initial mental health assessments to ensure that mental health needs are identified.

### A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
<b>Total children under 18 years</b>	<b>756,875</b>	<b>752,866</b>	<b>775,187</b>	Child maltreatment victims	6,079	6,523	6,389
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	3,359	3,196	3,292
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.5	0.5	Children adopted	170	237	288
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	0.8	0.7				
Black	45.0	44.8	44.7				
Hispanic	1.0	1.0	1.6				
White	52.8	52.8	51.6				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	0.9				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.1				
<b>% Child population in poverty</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>17.3</b>				
<b>% Child population living in metropolitan areas</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>35.7</b>				

### B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	32,404	29,422	30,670	42.8 per 1,000	39.1 per 1,000	39.6 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	6,079	6,523	6,389	8.0 per 1,000	8.7 per 1,000	8.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	5	7	12	0.7 per 100,000	0.9 per 100,000	1.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	5.0	6.1	6.3	Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.2	0.2
1-5 years	29.3	28.9	30.5	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.5	0.6
6-10 years	31.8	29.6	31.5	Black	51.5	52.8	50.1
11-15 years	25.0	25.8	25.5	Hispanic	1.1	1.6	10.2
16+ years	8.9	9.6	6.2	White	47.8	46.3	49.1
Unknown	—	—	—	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	0.4	0.2	—
<b>Number</b>	<b>6,079</b>	<b>6,523</b>	<b>6,389</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	101.1	101.6	110.2
				<b>Number</b>	<b>6,079</b>	<b>6,523</b>	<b>6,389</b>

#### Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	2.5	2.7	2.0
Medical neglect	—	—	—
Neglect	62.0	47.0	47.0
Physical abuse	19.7	26.6	25.3
Sexual abuse	13.4	21.1	22.7
Other	2.4	2.6	3.0
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>6,079</b>	<b>6,523</b>	<b>6,389</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	2,852	1,821	1,325	3,359	4,673
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	3,121	1,750	1,676	3,196	4,871
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	3,013	2,005	1,726	3,292	5,018

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	18.9	N/A	10.1	17.4	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	18.3	N/A	12.5	17.9	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	18.0	N/A	10.1	16.0	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	3.7	3.6	3.7	12.1	11.3	11.0	4.6	3.3	3.9	3.7	3.5	3.7
1-5 years	27.1	25.5	26.3	28.4	29.4	28.4	29.9	25.5	27.2	25.9	26.4	26.2
6-10 years	27.3	27.5	27.3	25.3	27.9	27.4	25.7	30.8	30.0	27.1	26.9	26.9
11-15 years	26.6	27.4	27.0	25.9	24.1	25.6	24.3	23.1	23.9	26.5	27.1	26.5
16-18 years	13.5	14.4	14.1	6.6	6.9	7.0	11.8	14.7	12.6	14.4	13.9	14.5
19+ years	1.5	1.2	1.6	—	0.1	0.0	2.7	2.2	2.4	1.8	1.9	1.9
Unknown	0.3	0.4	0.1	1.6	0.3	0.5	1.1	0.5	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,852</b>	<b>3,121</b>	<b>3,013</b>	<b>1,821</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>2,005</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>1,676</b>	<b>1,726</b>	<b>3,359</b>	<b>3,196</b>	<b>3,292</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	—	—	0.0	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	0.0	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2
Black	56.8	58.6	59.4	55.5	55.7	53.9	50.7	54.4	57.3	58.4	59.2	57.1
Hispanic	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7
White	41.4	40.3	39.6	42.9	43.3	45.1	47.2	44.9	41.7	40.0	39.5	41.9
Two or more races	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	0.2	0.2	0.0	1.0	0.2	0.1	0.9	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,852</b>	<b>3,121</b>	<b>3,013</b>	<b>1,821</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>2,005</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>1,676</b>	<b>1,726</b>	<b>3,359</b>	<b>3,196</b>	<b>3,292</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	616	581	520
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	174	289	256
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	1.0	1.7	1.3
1-5 years	26.3	21.2	22.9
6-10 years	35.9	33.9	31.2
11-15 years	25.8	27.7	28.8
16+ years	8.8	11.7	10.6
Unknown	2.3	3.8	5.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>520</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.6	0.2	0.2
Black	64.6	68.8	68.8
Hispanic	—	0.2	—
White	34.6	30.5	31.0
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	0.2	0.3	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>520</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	1.8	0.8	1.4
1-5 years	27.6	32.5	33.3
6-10 years	37.6	47.3	42.7
11-15 years	25.3	18.6	18.4
16+ years	7.1	0.8	4.2
Unknown	0.6	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>288</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	1.2	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	1.7	—
Black	48.8	49.4	55.2
Hispanic	1.8	—	0.3
White	47.6	48.5	44.4
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	0.6	0.4	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>288</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

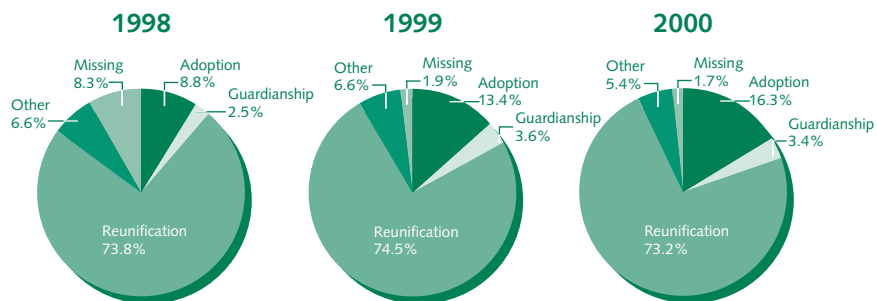
	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	8.8	13.4	16.3
Guardianship	2.5	3.6	3.4
Reunification	73.8	74.5	73.2
Other	6.6	6.6	5.4
Missing data	8.3	1.9	1.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,325	1,676	1,726

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	16.6	23.4	24.5
Guardianship	5.1	3.6	7.4
Reunification	52.6	59.5	53.7
Other	16.0	11.7	13.3
Missing data	9.7	1.8	1.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	175	222	188

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	0.3	1.6
Guardianship	2.1	3.6	3.6
Reunification	66.8	77.9	77.0
Other	19.6	16.2	15.6
Missing data	11.4	2.1	2.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	280	389	365

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	30.4	36.8	35.5
Children older than 12 at entry	69.6	61.8	64.5
Missing data	—	1.3	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	56	76	62

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—	—	—	—	7.4	12.4	15.9	50.0	—	8.3
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.7	2.4	3.4	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—	25.0	—	100.0	75.1	77.7	73.3	41.7	62.5	83.3
Other	—	—	—	50.0	100.0	—	5.7	5.9	5.9	8.3	25.0	8.3
Missing data	—	—	—	25.0	—	—	9.1	1.5	1.5	—	12.5	—
Total %	—	—	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	—	—	4	1	4	672	912	989	12	8	12

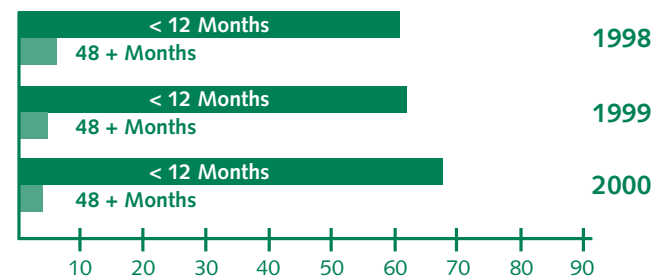
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	9.4	14.9	17.2	8.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	2.4	5.2	3.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	73.3	70.9	72.6	75.0	33.3	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	7.5	7.0	4.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	7.4	2.0	1.9	16.7	66.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number	625	752	720	12	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

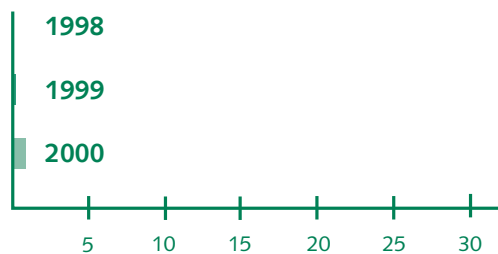
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	60.9	61.9	67.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	18.6	19.3	19.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	8.6	9.8	6.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.8	3.8	2.3
48 or more mos.	6.2	4.9	4.0
Missing data	2.9	0.4	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	978	1,248	1,263

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	98.8	98.6	98.0
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	—	0.1	0.9
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	—	—	0.6
Missing data	1.2	1.3	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,821	1,750	2,005

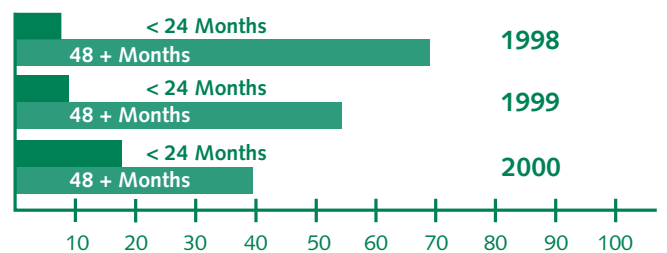
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	2.6	—	6.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	5.2	8.9	11.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	12.9	17.8	20.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	10.3	19.1	22.7
48 or more mos.	69.0	54.2	39.4
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	116	225	282

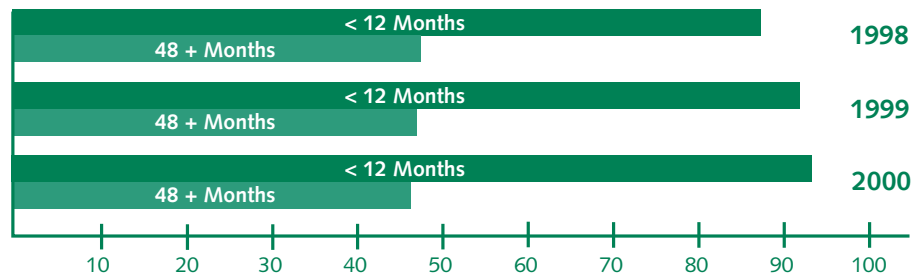
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	87.2	7.7	5.1	100.0	1,993
	1999	91.7	7.2	1.1	100.0	1,992
	2000	93.2	6.5	0.3	100.0	2,297
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	74.0	22.5	3.5	100.0	915
	1999	77.4	21.2	1.4	100.0	1,053
	2000	80.1	19.5	0.4	100.0	945
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	68.7	30.1	1.2	100.0	515
	1999	62.9	34.8	2.2	100.0	580
	2000	70.9	29.1	—	100.0	611
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	62.7	34.2	3.0	100.0	330
	1999	65.6	34.4	—	100.0	323
	2000	59.6	40.4	—	100.0	369
48 or more mos.	1998	47.2	50.1	2.7	100.0	886
	1999	46.9	51.8	1.3	100.0	898
	2000	46.3	52.6	1.1	100.0	789
Missing data	1998	70.6	8.8	20.6	100.0	34
	1999	88.0	—	12.0	100.0	25
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	7

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	16.2	20.7	17.4
Institutions	1.9	2.4	1.8
Other settings	76.7	76.9	80.7
Missing data	5.2	—	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,267	1,309	1,474

**Sue M. Perry, Director**  
**Division of Family and Children's Services**  
**Mississippi Department of Human Services**  
**601-359-4999**

In response to the Data Issues for Mississippi, we offer the following explanations:

Outcome Measures 1.1 and 2.1: This information is obtained through NCANDS DCDC submissions. At this time, Mississippi submits SDC instead of DCDC due to constraints on our previous data system. We have now implemented our Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) and we will be able to submit DCDC in 2003 for 2002 data.

Outcome Measure 7.1: This information is obtained from the living arrangement code in AFCARS. The particular code for group home is also the same code for emergency shelters in which most of our children are admitted on a short-term basis (but more than 24 hours) before a more permanent placement is located. Also, our previous data system coded children placed in a foster home that is licensed through a group home as having a living arrangement of group home placement. Our SACWIS system will be able to capture this information more accurately.



## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	1,406,616	1,399,492	1,427,692	Child maltreatment victims	12,556	9,079	7,658
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	12,495	12,577	13,181
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.4	Children adopted	640	849	1,265
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.2	1.3	1.1				
Black	14.3	14.4	14.3				
Hispanic	2.2	2.3	3.0				
White	81.9	81.7	78.9				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.1				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.2				
% Child population in poverty	18.7	18.2	10.2				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	72.9	74.0	68.7				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	75,178	71,351	74,412	53.4 per 1,000	51.0 per 1,000	52.1 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	12,556	9,079	7,658	8.9 per 1,000	6.5 per 1,000	5.4 per 1,000
Child fatalities	28	36	48	2.0 per 100,000	2.6 per 100,000	3.4 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	5.7	5.5	6.4	Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.3
1-5 years	28.1	28.7	27.9	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.3	0.4
6-10 years	33.3	31.2	30.4	Black	27.5	26.0	22.5
11-15 years	28.0	29.5	29.1	Hispanic	1.1	0.9	1.8
16+ years	4.6	4.7	5.5	White	70.3	72.0	74.2
Unknown	0.2	0.3	0.7	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	1.8	1.4	0.7
<b>Number</b>	<b>12,556</b>	<b>9,079</b>	<b>7,658</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	101.1	100.9	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>12,556</b>	<b>9,079</b>	<b>7,658</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	2.0	1.5	4.0
Medical neglect	2.8	2.5	2.7
Neglect	54.6	49.6	45.2
Physical abuse	21.7	24.1	27.4
Sexual abuse	18.3	26.0	28.3
Other	9.5	5.2	2.6
Unknown	0.7	1.1	2.7
Total % <sup>4</sup>	109.5	110.1	112.9
<b>Number</b>	<b>12,556</b>	<b>9,079</b>	<b>7,658</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	10,941			6,504			4,950			12,495			17,445
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	11,540			6,341			5,304			12,577			17,881
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	11,474			7,216			5,509			13,181			18,690
Median Length of Stay (Months)													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	19.3			N/A			10.6			18.8			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	19.3			N/A			12.8			18.9			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	19.3			N/A			12.2			17.0			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	3.4	3.7	3.9	12.5	12.7	12.7	4.2	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.8	4.1	
1-5 years	24.6	23.5	22.2	24.7	24.2	24.7	24.6	24.6	25.1	23.4	22.8	22.5	
6-10 years	26.2	26.2	26.5	23.4	24.2	24.1	23.4	24.3	25.2	26.2	26.3	25.2	
11-15 years	29.9	29.7	30.4	32.0	31.4	31.4	27.3	24.9	26.0	29.6	30.3	30.9	
16-18 years	14.2	15.0	15.0	7.3	7.4	7.1	17.5	18.8	16.6	15.0	15.0	15.3	
19+ years	1.7	1.8	1.9	0.0	0.0	—	2.5	2.9	2.4	1.8	1.9	1.9	
Unknown	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.1	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>10,941</b>	<b>11,540</b>	<b>11,474</b>	<b>6,504</b>	<b>6,341</b>	<b>7,216</b>	<b>4,950</b>	<b>5,304</b>	<b>5,509</b>	<b>12,495</b>	<b>12,577</b>	<b>13,181</b>	
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%) <sup>5</sup>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.2	
Black	42.9	43.5	43.6	35.9	35.0	31.3	33.4	33.5	32.4	43.1	43.5	41.6	
Hispanic	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.6	2.1	1.9	1.1	1.0	1.2	
White	55.2	54.7	54.5	61.8	62.3	65.3	64.0	63.6	64.3	55.2	54.7	56.4	
Two or more races	—	—	0.0	—	—	0.1	—	—	0.0	—	—	0.1	
Unknown	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.4	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>10,941</b>	<b>11,540</b>	<b>11,474</b>	<b>6,504</b>	<b>6,341</b>	<b>7,216</b>	<b>4,950</b>	<b>5,304</b>	<b>5,509</b>	<b>12,495</b>	<b>12,577</b>	<b>13,181</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	2,459	3,143	3,131
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	1,323	2,150	1,527
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	1.9	1.9	1.8
1-5 years	29.8	28.0	26.8
6-10 years	35.4	35.4	33.9
11-15 years	26.3	28.1	32.0
16+ years	4.8	5.3	4.8
Unknown	1.8	1.2	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,459</b>	<b>3,143</b>	<b>3,131</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.3	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.2	0.1
Black	45.3	43.2	47.3
Hispanic	1.1	1.1	1.1
White	53.2	54.9	50.8
Two or more races	—	—	0.1
Unknown	0.1	0.3	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,459</b>	<b>3,143</b>	<b>3,131</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	1.2	1.3	2.3
1-5 years	42.8	45.1	42.1
6-10 years	36.7	32.9	35.1
11-15 years	16.6	17.2	17.3
16+ years	2.7	3.5	3.2
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>1,265</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.7	0.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	0.1	0.2
Black	39.8	39.8	39.3
Hispanic	0.3	1.1	1.1
White	58.9	58.2	58.3
Two or more races	—	—	0.3
Unknown	0.2	0.1	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>1,265</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

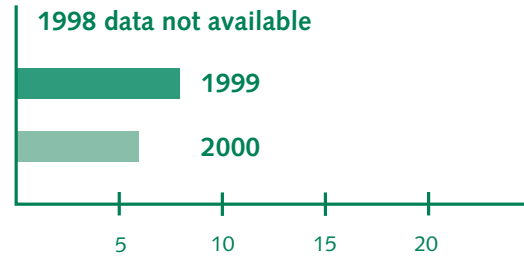
6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	92.1	94.1
Children with one or more recurrences	—	7.9	5.9
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	4,109	3,436

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

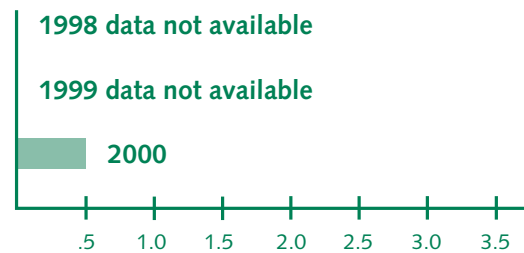


## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	0.5
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	99.5
Total %	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	17,316

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

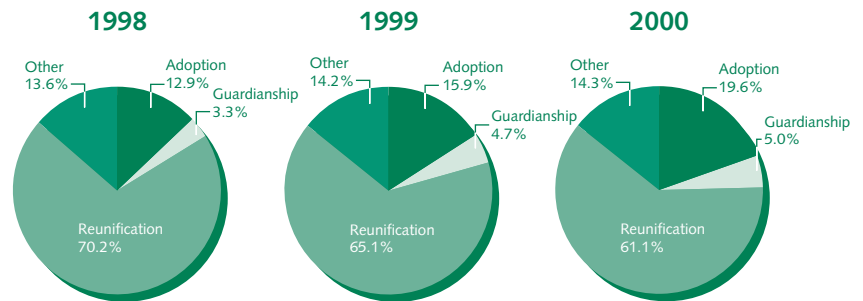


## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	12.9	15.9	19.6
Guardianship	3.3	4.7	5.0
Reunification	70.2	65.1	61.1
Other	13.6	14.2	14.3
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,950	5,304	5,509

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	18.4	24.3	22.0
Guardianship	2.5	3.8	5.7
Reunification	61.0	50.9	51.0
Other	18.0	21.0	21.3
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,378	822	1,308

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.4	1.3	1.4
Guardianship	1.7	2.5	3.2
Reunification	73.2	70.1	66.2
Other	24.7	26.0	29.3
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,523	1,597	1,521

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	49.3	47.1	46.5
Children older than 12 at entry	50.7	52.9	53.5
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	489	594	600

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	21.4	42.9	35.7	8.7	8.3	5.7	15.4	19.0	23.0	2.6	7.9	12.7
Guardianship	7.1	—	—	—	8.3	—	3.5	5.0	4.8	—	3.5	1.0
Reunification	57.1	50.0	50.0	87.0	75.0	85.7	67.4	63.0	58.0	83.1	64.9	75.5
Other	14.3	7.1	14.3	4.3	8.3	8.6	13.7	13.1	14.2	14.3	23.7	10.8
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	14	14	14	23	12	35	1,655	1,776	1,784	77	114	102

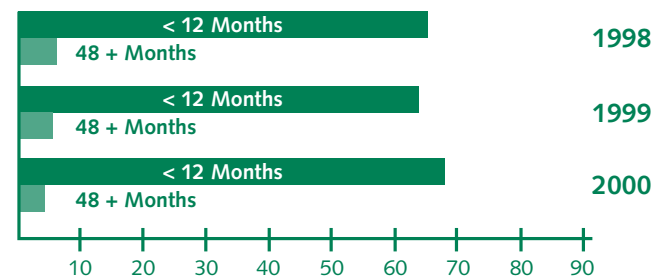
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	11.9	14.5	18.2	6.7	7.7	17.4	—	—	50.0	—	—	—
Guardianship	3.3	4.7	5.3	6.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11.1
Reunification	71.2	66.3	61.9	80.0	84.6	78.3	—	—	50.0	—	—	88.9
Other	13.6	14.6	14.6	6.7	7.7	4.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	100.0
Number	3,166	3,375	3,540	15	13	23	—	—	2	—	—	9

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

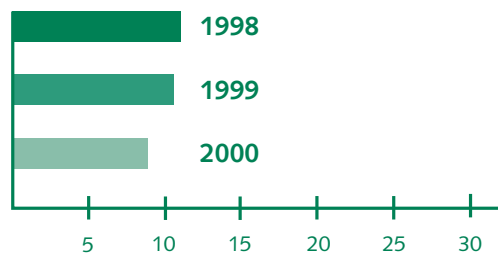
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	65.1	63.9	68.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	16.4	19.2	16.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	8.0	6.5	7.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.6	3.4	3.1
48 or more mos.	6.1	5.8	4.5
Missing data	0.9	1.2	1.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,473	3,455	3,367

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	76.8	76.8	78.1
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	11.0	10.5	8.8
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	10.2	10.9	10.9
Missing data	2.0	1.8	2.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,504	6,341	7,216

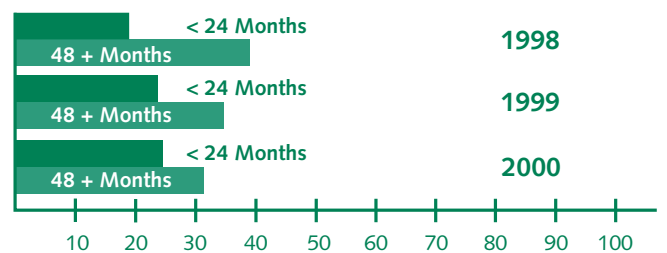
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	3.4	5.0	5.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	15.5	18.8	19.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	20.0	24.8	25.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	22.2	16.7	18.6
48 or more mos.	38.9	34.7	31.2
Missing data	—	—	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	640	844	1,078

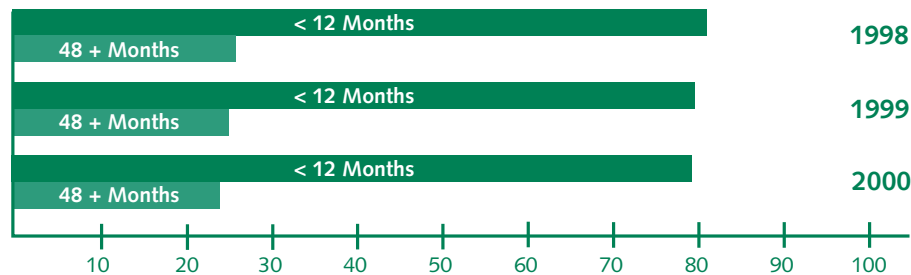
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	80.9	19.1	—	100.0	7,105
	1999	79.4	20.6	—	100.0	7,048
	2000	79.1	20.9	—	100.0	8,020
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	54.1	45.9	—	100.0	3,485
	1999	56.0	44.0	—	100.0	3,768
	2000	53.6	46.4	—	100.0	3,630
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	43.0	57.0	—	100.0	2,291
	1999	44.1	55.9	—	100.0	2,265
	2000	43.1	56.9	—	100.0	2,381
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	35.0	65.0	—	100.0	1,439
	1999	34.7	65.3	—	100.0	1,544
	2000	34.6	65.4	—	100.0	1,452
48 or more mos.	1998	25.6	74.4	—	100.0	3,075
	1999	24.8	75.2	—	100.0	3,194
	2000	23.9	76.1	—	100.0	3,171
Missing data	1998	98.0	2.0	—	100.0	50
	1999	93.5	6.5	—	100.0	62
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	36

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	1.7	1.6	1.8
Institutions	12.1	12.0	9.3
Other settings	86.1	86.4	88.9
Missing data	—	0.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,464	4,402	5,051

**Denise Cross, Director**  
**Missouri Division of Family Services**  
**Missouri Department of Social Services**  
**573-751-3221**

Missouri continues to be committed to providing the most accurate data possible through our NCANDS and AFCARS transmissions. We continue to enhance our data systems to more completely detail our compliance with the mandates of ASFA and to better serve our families. We have, once again, seen a significant increase in adoptions of foster children. We have also intensified our efforts to safely return children to their families and have seen an increase in the percentage of children returned home within 12 months of placement. Our Child Fatality Review Panels continue their aggressive pursuit to accurately identify all child maltreatment deaths.

The data in Section C indicate that Missouri had 1,103 fewer children in care on 10-1-99 than on 9-30-99. This difference is because the 10-1 number counts only those children in the care and custody of Missouri placed in alternative care. The 9-30 number also includes children in the temporary custody of adoptive parents, children in the custody of other agencies, and children for whom the agency provides supervision services only who are generally in the custody of relatives.

Missouri is committed to providing timely and accurate data to ACF. We continue to believe our data would be more accurate if we were permitted to update past transmissions every time we sent a new transmission.

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	224,403	223,819	230,062	Child maltreatment victims	3,292	3,414	3,347
Race/ethnicity (%) <sup>1</sup>				Children in foster care on 9/30	1,991	2,156	2,180
Alaska Native/American Indian	10.1	10.4	9.2	Children adopted	149	187	236
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	0.8	0.6				
Black	0.4	0.3	0.4				
Hispanic	2.6	2.7	3.2				
White	86.2	85.7	83.9				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.6				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.1				
% Child population in poverty	20.5	21.8	24.6				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	19.8	23.3	32.9				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	19,004	20,315	21,127	84.7 per 1,000	90.8 per 1,000	91.8 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	3,292	3,414	3,347	14.7 per 1,000	15.3 per 1,000	14.5 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	4	2	1.3 per 100,000	1.8 per 100,000	0.9 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	7.3	7.0	7.8	Alaska Native/American Indian	25.0	24.9	25.6
1-5 years	33.7	31.9	32.3	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.3	0.4
6-10 years	31.1	32.0	31.2	Black	1.2	0.8	1.2
11-15 years	23.2	24.8	25.0	Hispanic	2.8	1.9	2.5
16+ years	4.7	4.2	3.7	White	56.5	57.1	55.0
Unknown	—	0.0	0.1	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	17.2	16.8	15.3
Number	3,292	3,414	3,347	Total % <sup>3</sup>	102.8	101.9	100.0
				Number	3,292	3,414	3,347

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	15.9	12.2	13.4
Medical neglect	2.5	2.5	2.1
Neglect	54.3	62.0	60.6
Physical abuse	13.0	9.2	9.0
Sexual abuse	9.7	9.2	10.8
Other	4.7	4.9	4.1
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,292	3,414	3,347

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	1,711			1,503			1,223			1,991			3,214
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	1,891			1,596			1,331			2,156			3,487
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	1,918			1,588			1,327			2,180			3,506
Median Length of Stay (Months)													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	16.8			N/A			3.4			17.0			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	18.6			N/A			4.5			15.6			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	15.9			N/A			5.1			16.0			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	4.1	5.0	4.7	14.0	13.1	13.7	7.2	7.4	7.0	4.9	4.6	4.7	
1-5 years	24.9	24.1	24.9	29.4	27.2	29.0	30.1	27.0	30.4	25.4	24.3	25.9	
6-10 years	28.0	27.2	27.7	23.7	26.7	25.8	25.3	26.1	24.0	26.3	26.9	26.7	
11-15 years	30.2	28.8	29.7	25.7	25.8	23.7	24.4	22.7	23.4	28.7	29.7	28.9	
16-18 years	12.7	14.8	12.9	7.2	7.1	7.9	12.4	15.7	14.5	14.4	14.4	13.6	
19+ years	0.1	0.2	0.1	—	0.1	0.1	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.3	
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,711</b>	<b>1,891</b>	<b>1,918</b>	<b>1,503</b>	<b>1,596</b>	<b>1,588</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>1,331</b>	<b>1,327</b>	<b>1,991</b>	<b>2,156</b>	<b>2,180</b>	
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%) <sup>5</sup>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	27.7	26.3	29.5	28.7	31.0	32.4	30.3	25.8	27.5	26.9	30.1	32.8	
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.2	
Black	1.3	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.4	1.6	1.9	1.6	1.4	
Hispanic	1.8	3.1	3.3	3.9	2.9	4.3	2.9	2.9	3.6	2.8	3.1	3.9	
White	66.3	64.5	61.9	58.7	59.0	55.7	60.7	64.2	61.0	64.0	60.6	58.0	
Two or more races	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Unknown	2.6	3.9	3.4	6.7	5.2	5.9	5.1	5.0	5.7	4.1	4.1	3.8	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,711</b>	<b>1,891</b>	<b>1,918</b>	<b>1,503</b>	<b>1,596</b>	<b>1,588</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>1,331</b>	<b>1,327</b>	<b>1,991</b>	<b>2,156</b>	<b>2,180</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	709	780	854
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	626	690	717
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	2.0	2.4	3.4
1-5 years	26.8	24.9	24.7
6-10 years	27.9	27.8	29.3
11-15 years	33.3	32.6	31.1
16+ years	9.2	10.9	10.0
Unknown	0.8	1.4	1.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>854</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	18.9	19.0	23.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.7	0.5	0.2
Black	1.4	2.1	2.6
Hispanic	2.8	3.8	4.4
White	72.2	70.3	65.9
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	3.9	4.4	3.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>854</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	1.6	1.3
1-5 years	44.3	46.5	52.5
6-10 years	36.9	30.5	28.4
11-15 years	16.8	18.7	15.7
16+ years	2.0	2.7	2.1
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>236</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	10.7	18.7	14.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	1.1	0.4
Black	1.3	1.1	0.4
Hispanic	3.4	2.1	6.8
White	83.9	73.3	71.6
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	0.7	3.7	6.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>236</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

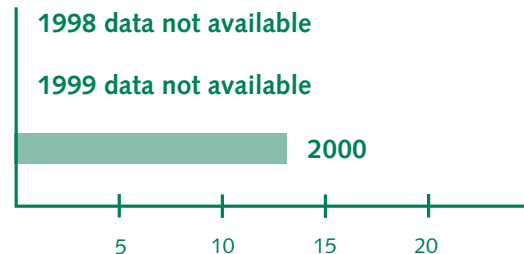


### 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

#### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	—	86.9
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	13.1
Total %	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	1,112

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

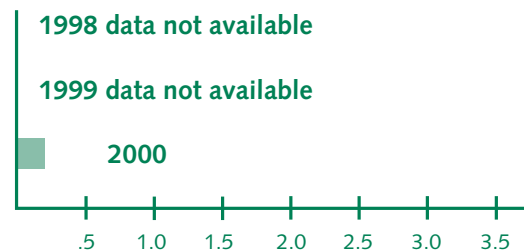


### 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

#### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	0.2
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	99.8
Total %	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	3,221

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

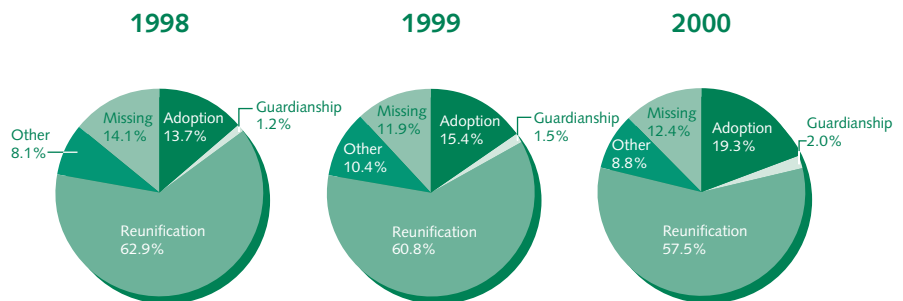


### 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

#### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	13.7	15.4	19.3
Guardianship	1.2	1.5	2.0
Reunification	62.9	60.8	57.5
Other	8.1	10.4	8.8
Missing data	14.1	11.9	12.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,223	1,331	1,327

Percent Exits from Foster Care



#### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	22.7	28.2	38.5
Guardianship	—	5.1	1.5
Reunification	40.9	25.6	29.2
Other	27.3	23.1	15.4
Missing data	9.1	17.9	15.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	22	39	65

#### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.3	0.3	2.2
Guardianship	2.7	1.6	1.9
Reunification	51.0	52.5	47.4
Other	27.2	34.0	29.9
Missing data	18.8	11.6	18.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	298	318	321

#### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	20.8	27.3	18.9
Children older than 12 at entry	79.2	72.7	81.1
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	53	99	90

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	5.1	11.4	9.9	—	22.2	12.5	16.7	11.1	9.5	17.1	10.3	35.4
Guardianship	1.6	1.7	1.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.6	2.1
Reunification	65.0	61.8	64.9	—	66.7	25.0	41.7	72.2	66.7	65.7	66.7	52.1
Other	5.1	4.7	5.2	—	11.1	25.0	8.3	16.7	9.5	5.7	—	2.1
Missing data	23.2	20.4	18.6	100.0	—	37.5	33.3	—	14.3	11.4	20.5	8.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	371	343	365	1	9	8	12	18	21	35	39	48

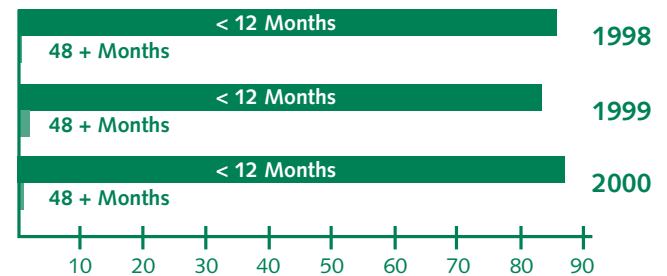
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	18.1	17.0	22.9	10.5	20.0	19.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	0.8	1.4	2.2	5.3	1.5	2.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	61.5	59.2	54.1	70.2	67.7	61.8	—	—	—	80.0	100.0	—
Other	10.1	13.7	11.0	1.8	3.1	5.3	—	—	—	20.0	—	—
Missing data	9.6	8.8	9.8	12.3	7.7	10.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	100.0	100.0	—
Number	742	855	809	57	65	76	—	—	—	5	2	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

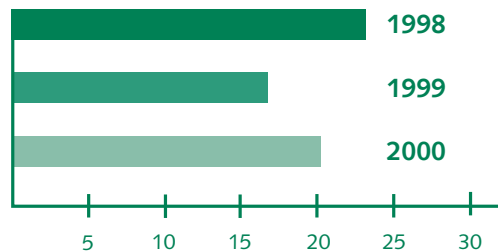
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	85.6	83.4	87.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.2	10.8	9.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.6	2.8	1.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.4	1.0	0.8
48 or more mos.	0.3	2.0	0.9
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	769	809	763

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	69.2	72.0	68.5
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	23.2	16.8	20.2
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	5.0	8.3	8.9
Missing data	2.6	2.9	2.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,503	1,596	1,588

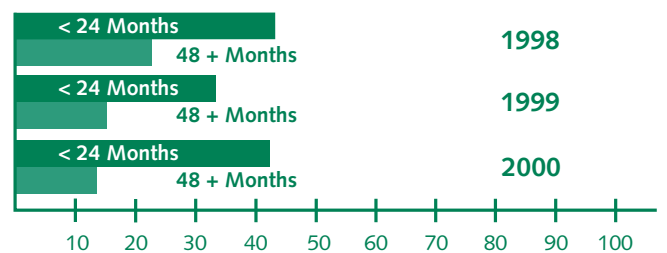
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	15.6	14.1	10.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	27.5	19.0	31.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	22.8	32.2	30.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	11.4	19.5	13.3
48 or more mos.	22.8	15.1	13.3
Missing data	—	—	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	167	205	256

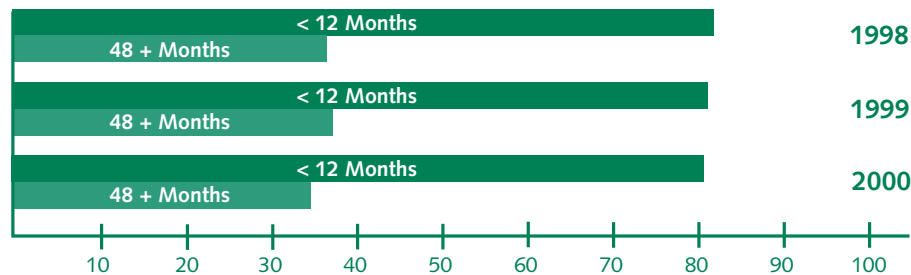
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	81.9	18.1	—	100.0	1,668
	1999	81.0	19.0	—	100.0	1,770
	2000	80.8	19.2	—	100.0	1,779
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	61.6	38.4	—	100.0	560
	1999	50.4	49.6	—	100.0	607
	2000	57.5	42.5	—	100.0	669
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	47.8	52.2	—	100.0	362
	1999	50.3	49.7	—	100.0	366
	2000	41.7	58.3	—	100.0	391
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	49.4	50.6	—	100.0	241
	1999	40.1	59.9	—	100.0	252
	2000	42.9	57.1	—	100.0	212
48 or more mos.	1998	36.3	63.7	—	100.0	380
	1999	37.0	63.0	—	100.0	487
	2000	34.5	65.5	—	100.0	452
Missing data	1998	100.0	—	—	100.0	3
	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	5
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	3

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	10.8	8.6	11.9
Institutions	0.4	0.2	1.0
Other settings	88.7	91.2	87.1
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,145	1,204	1,220

# Montana

[ STATE COMMENT ]

The following discussion focuses on Montana's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance (the Montana CFSR was conducted in FY 2002). Because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

In calendar year (CY) 2000, Montana's rate of maltreatment recurrence was 13.1 percent, which is higher than the national standard of 6.1 percent and the national median of 7.9 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the actual rate of maltreatment recurrence may be higher than the reported rate because in some areas of the State new maltreatment reports on open child welfare cases were not fully investigated to the point of substantiation and in other areas, maltreatment reports on open cases were not recorded as new reports. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's rate of maltreatment recurrence may be attributed in part to the following: (1) families being reunified without parents having made the necessary changes to reduce risk of harm, (2) a failure in some cases to provide services necessary to target the problems contributing to the risk of harm to children, and (3) inadequate monitoring of parent's participation in services in cases in which children remain in their homes.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care**

In CY 2000, the incidence of maltreatment in foster care was .2 percent, which is lower than both the national standard of .57 percent and the national median of .47 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the rate of maltreatment in foster care may be attributed in part to the State's licensing requirements for foster care families and group homes, although it was noted that some foster homes have placements that are beyond their original licensing capacity.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 78.8 percent of children exiting foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is lower than the national median of 84.7), 69.2 percent of children with a diagnosed disability exiting foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is lower than the national median of 79.5 percent), and 51.5 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is lower than the national median of 72.6). Although these data suggest that the State has not been effective in achieving permanency for children in foster care, they are difficult to interpret because "reason for discharge" information was not reported to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) for 12.4 percent of the children exiting foster care in FY 2000, and 18.7 percent of the children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to attaining permanency: (1) the frequent agency practice of establishing long-term foster care as a "permanency" goal without exploring adoption and guardianship as possible alternatives, and (2) agency delays in changing the case goal of reunification even when reunification efforts have not been successful.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reported reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 87.0, which is higher than both the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.6 percent. However, information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that timely reunification is an area needing improvement for the State based on the findings from some case reviews that the agency did not make diligent efforts to achieve the goal of reunification. The CFSR Final Report does not provide information that might explain the discrepancy between the case review findings and the State data as reported to AFCARS.

Also in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 20.2, which is considerably higher than both the national standard of 8.6 percent and the national median of 10.3 percent. According

to information from the CFSR Final Report, the State believes that the rate of foster care re-entry is due to the way the State's management information system records exits and entries. Because the management information system is a payment system, many workers believe that they have to close the case as a foster care case if the child runs away or leaves a foster family to enter respite care for the weekend, go home for a trial visit, or enter a hospital. The worker then re-opens the case as a foster care case when the child returns to the foster family. However, cases are not to be reported as exits from foster care to AFCARS unless the State is no longer responsible for the care and supervision of the child. As noted in the CFSR Final Report a system change is planned to address this problem.

#### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 42.1, which is higher than the national standard of 32.0 percent and the national median of 19.7 percent. However, information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that timely adoption is an area needing improvement for the State based on findings from the case reviews. The CFSR Final Report does not provide information that might explain the discrepancy between the case review findings and the State data as reported to AFCARS.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 80.8, which is lower than both the national standard of 86.7 percent and the national median of 84.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving placement stability for children in foster care: (1) the frequent use of shelter care when there is a placement disruption, and (2) a lack of placement options for children requiring therapeutic settings.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 12.9, which is higher than the national median of 9.0. According to information in the CFSR Final Report, the high percentage of children who are placed in group homes when they are age 12 or younger may be attributed to the use of shelter care at entry into foster care and when placements disrupt.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, information in the CSFR Final Report indicates that the State is generally effective in meeting children's educational needs, but is less effective in meeting children's physical and mental health needs. The following were identified in the Final Report as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) inadequate assessments of children's health needs, (2) a lack of dental providers in the State who will accept Medicaid, (3) failure in some cases to assess mental health needs when there is a need for such an assessment, and (4) the reduction in mental health services due to budget cuts. As noted in the Final Report, Medicaid eligible children are no longer able to access mental health services unless they are diagnosed as severely emotionally disturbed.

# Nebraska

[ CONTEXT DATA ]

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	445,642	443,800	450,242	Child maltreatment victims	4,219	3,474	3,701
Race/ethnicity (%) <sup>1</sup>				Children in foster care on 9/30	—	5,146	5,674
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.3	1.3	1.2	Children adopted	—	279	300
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.7	1.7	1.3				
Black	5.0	5.0	5.3				
Hispanic	6.5	6.9	8.3				
White	85.6	85.0	81.8				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.1				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.2				
% Child population in poverty	12.9	11.5	11.4				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	55.6	53.4	52.7				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	14,641	13,582	9,940	32.9 per 1,000	30.6 per 1,000	22.1 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	4,219	3,474	3,701	9.5 per 1,000	7.8 per 1,000	8.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	—	1	—	— per 100,000	0.2 per 100,000	— per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	6.2	8.4	9.5	Alaska Native/American Indian	—	4.6	6.1
1-5 years	33.1	31.3	31.0	Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.8	0.6
6-10 years	31.1	31.0	29.7	Black	—	12.4	12.9
11-15 years	24.5	22.3	22.7	Hispanic	—	—	6.8
16+ years	5.0	4.3	4.8	White	—	66.1	66.6
Unknown	—	2.7	2.3	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	—	16.1	7.0
Number	4,219	3,474	3,701	Total % <sup>3</sup>	—	100.0	100.0
				Number	—	3,474	3,701

### Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	—	3.9	4.9
Medical neglect	—	0.2	0.1
Neglect	66.4	64.5	70.9
Physical abuse	29.2	21.6	23.3
Sexual abuse	11.4	9.8	10.9
Other	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	106.9	100.0	110.1
Number	4,219	3,474	3,701

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	—	—	—	—	—
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	4,440	2,806	2,100	5,146	7,246
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	5,054	3,134	2,514	5,674	8,188

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	—	N/A	—	—	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	9.2	N/A	11.0	14.8	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	14.6	N/A	14.3	14.4	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	—	2.3	2.5	—	7.6	7.6	—	2.4	1.8	—	2.4	2.6
1-5 years	—	20.2	17.5	—	17.0	19.4	—	21.6	18.2	—	16.8	17.8
6-10 years	—	22.8	19.4	—	16.1	17.1	—	23.6	19.2	—	18.7	18.1
11-15 years	—	33.7	34.7	—	37.3	35.0	—	22.9	23.6	—	33.8	31.9
16-18 years	—	20.9	25.9	—	21.9	21.0	—	29.5	37.2	—	28.3	29.6
19+ years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>4,440</b>	<b>5,054</b>	—	<b>2,806</b>	<b>3,134</b>	—	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2,514</b>	—	<b>5,146</b>	<b>5,674</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	—	7.5	7.8	—	8.1	7.1	—	8.3	7.2	—	7.5	7.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.2	0.3	—	0.6	0.8	—	0.5	0.6	—	0.3	0.4
Black	—	16.8	16.5	—	13.0	14.4	—	13.2	13.5	—	16.2	16.6
Hispanic	—	7.2	7.6	—	9.5	8.6	—	9.5	8.9	—	7.5	7.5
White	—	66.3	66.0	—	67.4	67.8	—	66.8	67.9	—	66.7	66.1
Two or more races	—	0.2	0.2	—	0.1	0.1	—	0.1	0.1	—	0.2	0.1
Unknown	—	1.8	1.6	—	1.3	1.3	—	1.6	1.8	—	1.7	1.4
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>4,440</b>	<b>5,054</b>	—	<b>2,806</b>	<b>3,134</b>	—	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2,514</b>	—	<b>5,146</b>	<b>5,674</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	—	437	488
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	—	231	258

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	3.9	4.1
1-5 years	—	38.9	35.0
6-10 years	—	35.2	36.5
11-15 years	—	19.0	20.5
16+ years	—	2.7	2.3
Unknown	—	0.2	1.6
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>437</b>	<b>488</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	5.3	7.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.2	0.2
Black	—	17.4	19.7
Hispanic	—	10.8	10.0
White	—	64.1	60.5
Two or more races	—	0.2	0.2
Unknown	—	2.1	1.6
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>437</b>	<b>488</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	1.1	—
1-5 years	—	43.4	41.7
6-10 years	—	40.9	40.7
11-15 years	—	12.5	15.7
16+ years	—	2.2	2.0
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>279</b>	<b>300</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	2.2	4.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
Black	—	19.4	22.0
Hispanic	—	6.8	4.3
White	—	70.3	67.7
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	—	1.4	1.7
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>279</b>	<b>300</b>

<sup>5</sup> In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

<sup>6</sup> Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

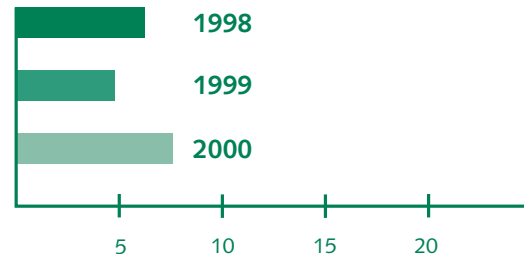


## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	93.8	95.2	92.4
Children with one or more recurrences	6.2	4.8	7.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	613	1,118	1,425

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences



## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

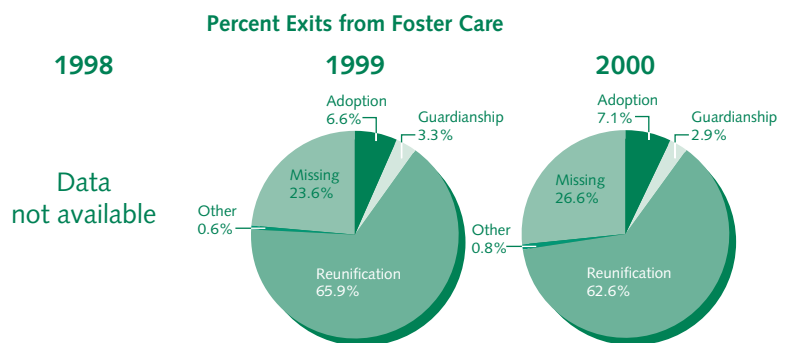
### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	0.0
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	100.0
Total %	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	7,605

## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	6.6	7.1
Guardianship	—	3.3	2.9
Reunification	—	65.9	62.6
Other	—	0.6	0.8
Missing data	—	23.6	26.6
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	2,100	2,514



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	6.7	10.3
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	—	66.7	65.5
Other	—	—	—
Missing data	—	26.7	24.1
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	15	29

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	0.1
Guardianship	—	1.8	1.3
Reunification	—	76.7	72.8
Other	—	0.2	0.7
Missing data	—	21.2	25.1
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	825	1,191

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	—	50.0	50.0
Children older than 12 at entry	—	50.0	50.0
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	2	2

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	1.7	2.8	—	—	—	—	5.4	10.6	—	7.5	2.7
Guardianship	—	1.1	1.7	—	—	—	—	4.0	5.3	—	2.5	3.1
Reunification	—	55.4	56.4	—	81.8	71.4	—	61.7	56.2	—	58.3	61.8
Other	—	—	2.8	—	—	—	—	1.4	0.9	—	0.5	—
Missing data	—	41.7	36.5	—	18.2	28.6	—	27.4	27.1	—	31.2	32.4
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	175	181	—	11	14	—	277	340	—	199	225

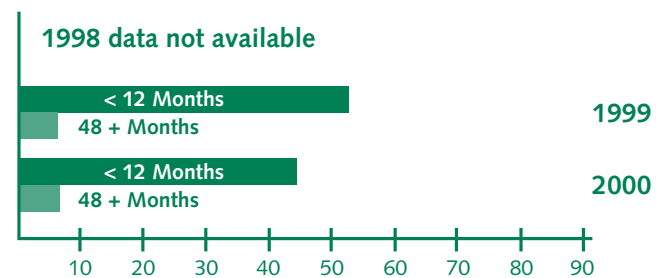
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	—	7.4	7.5	—	3.0	9.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	3.7	2.5	—	—	2.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	—	68.6	64.6	—	78.8	65.9	—	100.0	50.0	—	—	—
Other	—	0.5	0.6	—	—	2.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	19.7	24.8	—	18.2	20.5	—	—	50.0	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	—	—
Number	—	1,403	1,708	—	33	44	—	2	2	—	—	—

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

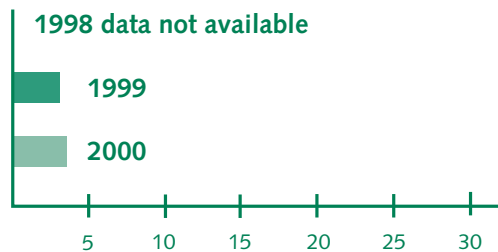
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	52.6	44.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	26.4	30.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	9.2	12.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	5.3	5.8
48 or more mos.	—	6.5	6.7
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	1,384	1,575

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	—	91.8	92.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	—	3.1	3.5
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	—	0.2	2.1
Missing data	—	4.9	1.5
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	2,806	3,134

Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	18.1	—
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	24.6	17.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	10.9	26.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	21.7	21.8
48 or more mos.	—	24.6	34.1
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	138	179

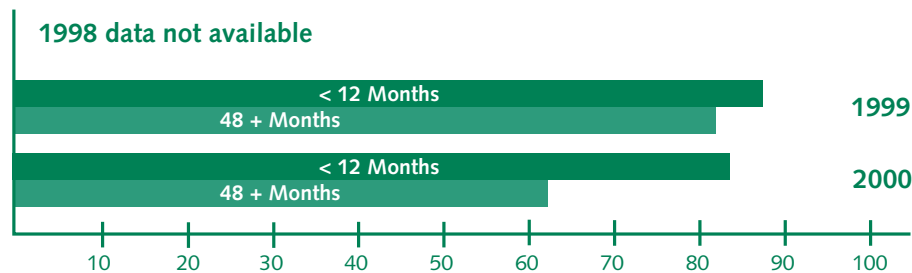
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	87.4	12.6	—	100.0	3,321
	2000	83.4	16.6	—	100.0	3,575
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	72.7	27.3	—	100.0	2,111
	2000	56.8	43.2	—	100.0	2,097
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	77.1	22.9	—	100.0	699
	2000	52.3	47.7	—	100.0	1,347
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	81.4	18.6	—	100.0	414
	2000	59.8	40.2	—	100.0	440
48 or more mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	81.9	18.1	—	100.0	691
	2000	62.1	37.9	—	100.0	728
Missing data	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	10
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	1

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	—	2.8	3.0
Institutions	—	8.3	6.6
Other settings	—	89.0	90.4
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	1,307	1,586

# Nebraska

[ STATE COMMENT ]

The following discussion focuses on Nebraska's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance (the Nebraska CFSR was conducted in FY 2002). Because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

In calendar year (CY) 2000, the State's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 7.6 percent, which does not meet the national standard of 6.1 but is lower than the national median of 7.9 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the reported rate of maltreatment recurrence may be less than the actual rate because maltreatment reports on families with open child welfare cases are not always investigated as new reports and therefore are not always entered into the State's automated information system. The Final Report also identifies the following as potential barriers to preventing maltreatment recurrence: (1) a scarcity of services, (2) delays in service provision to families whose children remain at home, and (3) insufficient face-to-face contact between caseworkers and children to ensure adequate monitoring of children's safety.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care**

In CY 2000, the incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.0 percent (it was actually .04 percent), which is lower than both the national standard of 0.57 percent and the national median of 0.47 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance on this outcome measure may be attributed in part to a State requirement that foster parents obtain at least 21 hours of pre-service training and 12 hours of in-service training per year using the PRIDE curriculum.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

The State's performance relevant to this outcome cannot be assessed because 26.6 percent of children who exited foster care in fiscal year fiscal year (FY) 2000 did not report "reason for discharge" information to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). Consequently, the percentage of children achieving permanency at exit from foster care cannot be determined.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reported reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 44.4, which is lower than the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. However, because reason for discharge information was not reported to AFCARS for almost 27 percent of children exiting foster care in FY 2000, the current data pertaining to the time to reunification cannot be meaningfully interpreted. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State is not consistent in reunifying children in a timely manner and identifies the following as potential barriers to reunification: (1) inconsistent efforts to provide families with services that address the necessary risk factors, (2) inconsistent efforts to involve parents in the case planning process, and (3) insufficient contacts between caseworkers and parents.

Nebraska's data regarding re-entries into foster care indicate that in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 3.5, which is lower than both the national standard of 8.6 and the national median of 10.3. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance on this outcome measure may be attributed in part to the following: (1) the provision of post-reunification services, (2) ensuring that families have completed necessary treatments before children are returned home, and (3) providing monitoring after reunification to ensure children's safety.

### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reported finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 17.9, which is lower than the national standard of 32.0 percent and the national median of 19.7 percent. However, Nebraska's data pertaining to time in foster care to finalized adoption cannot be meaningfully interpreted because of the following data quality issues:

(1) reason for discharge information was not reported to AFCARS for almost 27 percent of the children exiting foster care in FY 2000, and (2) the State reported 300 finalized adoptions to the AFCARS Adoption Database (Section E), but only 179 exits to a finalized adoption to the AFCARS Foster Care Database (Outcome measure 3.1 and 5.1). Consequently, the time to adoption data pertains to only 60 percent of the finalized adoptions. Information from the CFSR Report indicates that the State is not consistently effective in its efforts to achieve adoptions in a timely manner and identifies the following as potential barriers: (1) delays in filing termination of parental rights petitions, (2) lack of concurrent planning in many cases, and (3) agency delays in conducting home studies and completing the paperwork necessary to finalize adoptions.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 83.4, which is lower than both the national standard of 86.7 percent and the national median of 84.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving placement stability: (1) a scarcity of foster homes, resulting in an inability to appropriately match children with foster care placements; (2) a lack of sufficient support services to assist foster parents in parenting children with behavioral and emotional problems; and (3) the frequent practice of placing children in emergency shelters at the time of the initial removal from the home.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 9.6, which is higher than the national median of 9.0. Information in the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance on this outcome may be attributed to the following: (1) placing children in emergency shelters when they are initially removed from the home, and (2) the scarcity of family foster homes.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, information from the CSFR Final Report indicates that the State is not consistently effective in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs. The Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) educational assessments are not conducted on a routine basis; (2) educational services are not always provided when a need is identified; (3) children are not consistently receiving needed medical and dental services; and (4) children are not consistently receiving mental health services to address identified concerns.

# Nevada [ CONTEXT DATA ]

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	467,107	491,476	511,799	Child maltreatment victims	8,014	8,238	5,775
Race/ethnicity (%) <sup>1</sup>				Children in foster care on 9/30	—	—	1,615
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.7	1.7	1.2	Children adopted	—	123	231
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.5	4.8	4.0				
Black	8.4	8.3	8.0				
Hispanic	22.4	23.6	28.6				
White	63.0	61.6	54.0				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	4.1				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.2				
% Child population in poverty	17.4	17.3	12.4				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	85.9	83.5	86.7				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	23,229	27,682	20,437	49.7 per 1,000	56.3 per 1,000	39.9 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	8,014	8,238	5,775	17.2 per 1,000	16.8 per 1,000	11.3 per 1,000
Child fatalities	13	7	3	2.8 per 100,000	1.4 per 100,000	0.6 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	11.8	12.3	11.1	Alaska Native/American Indian	1.9	1.3	1.2
1-5 years	35.5	36.7	36.1	Asian/Pacific Islander	1.4	1.0	0.7
6-10 years	30.0	29.3	28.7	Black	19.0	20.2	23.7
11-15 years	19.5	18.6	19.0	Hispanic	13.6	7.2	4.5
16+ years	3.2	3.1	3.3	White	61.6	65.3	66.2
Unknown	—	—	1.9	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	16.1	12.1	3.6
Number	8,014	8,238	5,775	Total % <sup>3</sup>	113.6	107.2	100.0
				Number	8,014	8,238	5,775

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	3.9	3.7	3.5
Medical neglect	3.1	2.2	1.9
Neglect	58.6	22.1	42.8
Physical abuse	17.4	14.6	18.0
Sexual abuse	3.4	2.8	4.5
Other	46.4	54.7	51.2
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	132.8	100.0	122.0
Number	8,014	8,238	5,775

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	—			—			—			—			—
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	—			—			—			—			—
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	1,329			673			387			1,615			2,002
<b>Median Length of Stay (Months)</b>													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	—			N/A			—			—			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	—			N/A			—			—			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	16.7			N/A			13.3			17.0			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	—	—	5.7	—	—	19.2	—	—	4.7	—	—	4.5	
1-5 years	—	—	31.2	—	—	36.0	—	—	33.1	—	—	34.7	
6-10 years	—	—	27.8	—	—	23.8	—	—	31.5	—	—	26.7	
11-15 years	—	—	26.6	—	—	17.1	—	—	24.0	—	—	23.2	
16-18 years	—	—	7.9	—	—	3.7	—	—	5.7	—	—	10.2	
19+ years	—	—	0.5	—	—	—	—	—	1.0	—	—	0.4	
Unknown	—	—	0.4	—	—	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	0.3	
Total %	—	—	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	—	—	<b>1,329</b>	—	—	<b>673</b>	—	—	<b>387</b>	—	—	<b>1,615</b>	
<b>Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup></b>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	—	—	1.4	—	—	0.6	—	—	2.6	—	—	0.8	
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	2.1	—	—	2.1	—	—	2.8	—	—	1.9	
Black	—	—	20.9	—	—	15.6	—	—	6.5	—	—	22.2	
Hispanic	—	—	10.3	—	—	10.1	—	—	12.1	—	—	9.8	
White	—	—	57.0	—	—	60.2	—	—	63.8	—	—	56.7	
Two or more races	—	—	2.8	—	—	3.1	—	—	1.3	—	—	3.3	
Unknown	—	—	5.4	—	—	8.3	—	—	10.9	—	—	5.3	
Total %	—	—	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	—	—	<b>1,329</b>	—	—	<b>673</b>	—	—	<b>387</b>	—	—	<b>1,615</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	—	—	68
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	—	—	67
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	—	1.5
1-5 years	—	—	35.3
6-10 years	—	—	32.4
11-15 years	—	—	23.5
16+ years	—	—	7.4
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	—	<b>68</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	1.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	2.9
Black	—	—	22.1
Hispanic	—	—	5.9
White	—	—	66.2
Two or more races	—	—	1.5
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	—	<b>68</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	3.3	3.0
1-5 years	—	56.1	59.7
6-10 years	—	27.6	26.0
11-15 years	—	13.0	9.5
16+ years	—	—	1.7
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>123</b>	<b>231</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.8	1.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	1.3
Black	—	17.1	22.5
Hispanic	—	6.5	12.6
White	—	74.8	60.2
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	—	0.8	2.2
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>123</b>	<b>231</b>

<sup>5</sup> In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

<sup>6</sup> Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.



## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%) 1998 1999 2000

Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

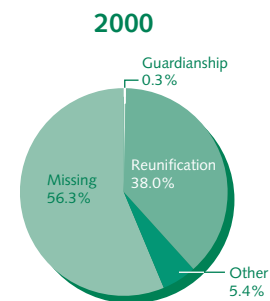
### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—
Guardianship	—	—
Reunification	—	—
Other	—	—
Missing data	—	—
Total %	—	—
Number	—	—

Percent Exits from Foster Care

1998 Data not available

1999 Data not available



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—
Guardianship	—	—
Reunification	—	—
Other	—	—
Missing data	—	—
Total %	—	—
Number	—	—

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—
Guardianship	—	—
Reunification	—	—
Other	—	—
Missing data	—	—
Total %	—	—
Number	—	—

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	—	—
Children older than 12 at entry	—	—
Missing data	—	—
Total %	—	—
Number	—	—

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—	—	—	9.1	—	—	40.0	—	—	51.1
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.0	—	—	8.5
Missing data	—	—	100.0	—	—	90.9	—	—	56.0	—	—	40.4
Total %	—	—	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	10	—	—	11	—	—	25	—	—	47

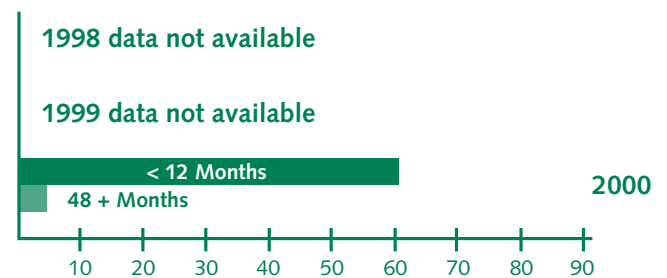
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	41.7	—	—	16.7	—	—	40.0	—	—	—
Other	—	—	4.5	—	—	4.8	—	—	60.0	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	53.4	—	—	78.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Number	—	—	247	—	—	42	—	—	5	—	—	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

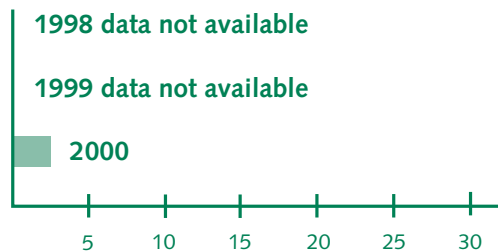
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	—	60.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	—	27.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	—	5.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	—	1.4
48 or more mos.	—	—	4.8
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	147

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	—	—	78.6
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	—	—	2.5
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	—	—	1.5
Missing data	—	—	17.4
Total %	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	673

Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



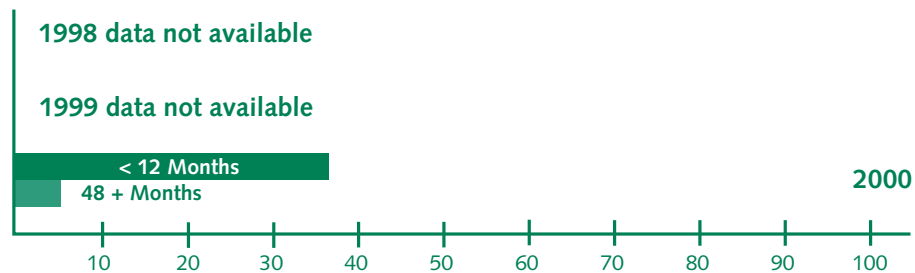
#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	—	—
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	—	—
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	—	—
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	—	—
48 or more mos.	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	—	—	—	—	—
	2000	36.3	1.3	62.4	100.0	760
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	—	—	—	—	—
	2000	6.5	3.3	90.2	100.0	510
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	—	—	—	—	—
	2000	5.3	1.6	93.1	100.0	245
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	—	—	—	—	—
	2000	4.0	2.9	93.1	100.0	173
48 or more mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	—	—	—	—	—
	2000	5.1	8.9	86.0	100.0	314
Missing data	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	—	—	—	—	—
	2000	—	—	—	—	—

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	—	—	0.9
Institutions	—	—	5.7
Other settings	—	—	93.4
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	212

**Edward Cotton, Administrator  
Division of Child and Family Services  
Nevada Department of Human Resources  
775-684-4400**

Our Year 2000 data indicates a decrease in Nevada's rate of child maltreatment. It is possible that previous years' data were more prone to duplication than are the year 2000 counts, but that cannot account entirely for the difference. A portion of the decrease is due to some cases not being converted properly to a newer one. However, the year 2000 numbers don't seem attributable solely to data collection or reporting artifact. Maltreatment rates have decreased. Hopefully this trend will continue to hold in the years that follow.

The data in Section B (maltreatment type) classified as "other" is due to a data collection artifact. Nevada's largest and most populous county (Clark) has been collecting and reporting maltreatment data to the State of Nevada using the county's own management information system. The county system does not discriminate maltreatment types into as many subcategories as are called for in the Annual Report. Those maltreatment cases not matching Annual Report subcategories are automatically classified as "other." The State and Clark County have begun the difficult process of converting the county to the State's SACWIS system (UNITY). I expect an appreciable reduction in the "other" subcategory numbers once this system conversion is accomplished.

The two remaining issues (missing "reason for discharge" information and low emancipation counts) mean the necessary data were not being consistently entered and maintained/updated in the new UNITY system. We expect that increasing training support for caseworkers using the system will result in better quality data, and we intend to buttress that training with more stringent supervisory oversight. Our program evaluation and data section will assist the process with regular monthly reports reflecting case data compliance for each office.

Nevada recently had its first successful AFCARS data submission. We are making progress. We are determined to realize our goal of accurate, current and complete program data.

# New Hampshire

[ CONTEXT DATA ]

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	298,610	304,436	309,562	Child maltreatment victims	1,159	926	842
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	—	1,448	1,342
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	Children adopted	51	62	96
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.3	1.4	1.3				
Black	0.6	0.6	0.8				
Hispanic	2.1	2.3	2.5				
White	95.7	95.5	93.4				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.6				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.2				
% Child population in poverty	14.6	8.1	7.7				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	67.3	63.4	61.7				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	8,974	8,833	8,138	30.1 per 1,000	29.0 per 1,000	26.3 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	1,159	926	842	3.9 per 1,000	3.0 per 1,000	2.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	1	3	9	0.3 per 100,000	1.0 per 100,000	2.9 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	—	7.4	Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	0.1
1-5 years	—	—	27.2	Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	0.5
6-10 years	—	—	28.9	Black	—	—	1.8
11-15 years	—	—	31.5	Hispanic	—	—	5.2
16+ years	—	—	4.0	White	—	—	54.4
Unknown	—	—	1.1	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.0
Total %	—	—	100.0	Other/Unknown	—	—	37.1
<b>Number</b>	—	—	<b>842</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	—	—	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	—	—	<b>842</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	3.9	5.3	2.5
Medical neglect	—	1.9	2.6
Neglect	66.3	65.2	64.6
Physical abuse	27.4	27.5	18.5
Sexual abuse	27.8	25.7	20.8
Other	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	125.4	125.7	109.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,159</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>842</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	—			—			—			—			—
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	1,315			573			440			1,448			1,888
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	1,369			511			538			1,342			1,880
<b>Median Length of Stay (Months)</b>													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	—			N/A			—			—			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	20.3			N/A			14.3			22.9			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	24.0			N/A			17.4			26.1			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	—	2.3	2.4	—	10.1	10.0	—	3.0	2.4	—	2.5	1.9	
1-5 years	—	21.3	20.7	—	23.0	23.9	—	22.0	23.2	—	20.2	20.1	
6-10 years	—	26.2	28.5	—	23.2	21.3	—	14.5	23.8	—	27.2	25.3	
11-15 years	—	30.9	31.4	—	35.6	34.6	—	22.3	19.9	—	32.7	36.0	
16-18 years	—	17.4	15.7	—	8.0	10.0	—	32.7	26.4	—	16.0	15.6	
19+ years	—	1.8	1.3	—	—	—	—	5.0	3.2	—	1.4	1.0	
Unknown	—	0.1	—	—	—	0.2	—	0.5	1.1	—	0.1	—	
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>1,315</b>	<b>1,369</b>	—	<b>573</b>	<b>511</b>	—	<b>440</b>	<b>538</b>	—	<b>1,448</b>	<b>1,342</b>	
<b>Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup></b>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	—	0.2	0.1	—	—	—	—	0.2	—	—	0.1	0.1	
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.2	0.3	—	0.3	0.4	—	—	0.6	—	0.3	0.2	
Black	—	1.7	1.8	—	1.9	4.1	—	2.0	2.0	—	1.7	2.5	
Hispanic	—	3.9	4.9	—	6.6	4.9	—	4.1	5.6	—	4.9	4.6	
White	—	90.6	89.1	—	83.8	81.2	—	87.3	84.4	—	88.9	88.0	
Two or more races	—	3.0	3.2	—	2.1	2.3	—	1.4	1.1	—	3.2	3.7	
Unknown	—	0.4	0.6	—	5.2	7.0	—	5.0	6.3	—	0.9	0.7	
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>1,315</b>	<b>1,369</b>	—	<b>573</b>	<b>511</b>	—	<b>440</b>	<b>538</b>	—	<b>1,448</b>	<b>1,342</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	—	232	229
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	—	195	118
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	4.3	—
1-5 years	—	44.8	38.4
6-10 years	—	39.2	43.7
11-15 years	—	10.3	16.6
16+ years	—	1.3	0.9
Unknown	—	—	0.4
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>232</b>	<b>229</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.9	0.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
Black	—	2.6	1.7
Hispanic	—	3.9	6.1
White	—	88.4	86.9
Two or more races	—	4.3	4.4
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>232</b>	<b>229</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	—	1.0
1-5 years	51.0	48.4	44.8
6-10 years	33.3	40.3	45.8
11-15 years	13.7	9.7	7.3
16+ years	2.0	1.6	1.0
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>96</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.0	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	3.1
Black	7.8	—	2.1
Hispanic	5.9	6.5	8.3
White	84.3	87.1	85.4
Two or more races	—	4.8	—
Unknown	—	1.6	1.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>96</b>

<sup>5</sup> In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

<sup>6</sup> Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

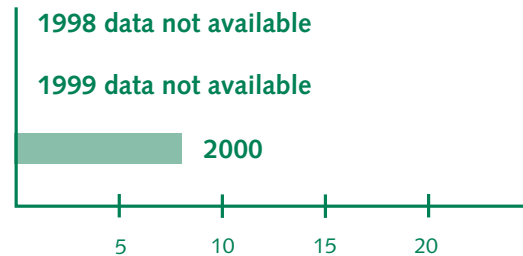
# New Hampshire [ OUTCOMES DATA ]

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	—	92.0
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	8.0
Total %	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	289

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences



## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

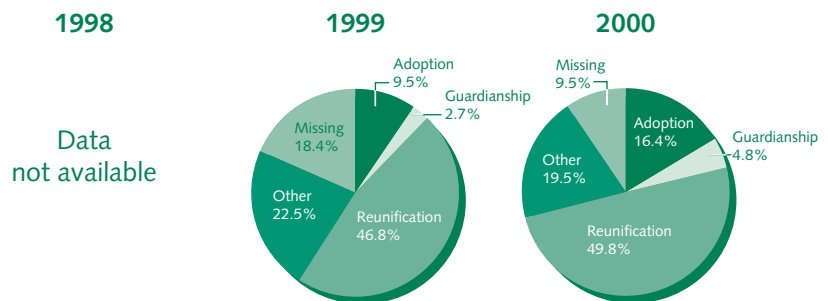
	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	0.0
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	100.0
Total %	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	1,756

## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	9.5	16.4
Guardianship	—	2.7	4.8
Reunification	—	46.8	49.8
Other	—	22.5	19.5
Missing data	—	18.4	9.5
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	440	538

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	26.1	40.4
Guardianship	—	3.4	2.3
Reunification	—	35.2	36.8
Other	—	23.9	14.6
Missing data	—	11.4	5.8
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	88	171

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	1.7	1.1
Reunification	—	47.2	55.5
Other	—	32.6	33.5
Missing data	—	18.5	9.9
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	178	182

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	—	45.5	44.3
Children older than 12 at entry	—	54.5	55.7
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	66	61

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27.3	—	11.1	10.0
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.3
Reunification	—	—	—	—	—	33.3	—	44.4	36.4	—	44.4	56.7
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22.2	27.3	—	22.2	16.7
Missing data	—	100.0	—	—	—	66.7	—	33.3	9.1	—	22.2	13.3
Total %	—	100.0	—	—	—	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	9	11	—	18	30

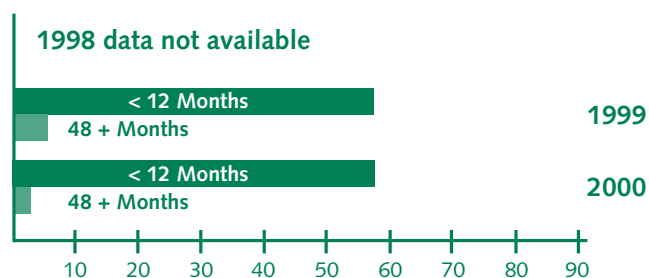
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	—	9.9	18.1	—	25.0	—	—	16.7	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	3.1	5.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	—	47.7	48.5	—	—	66.7	—	33.3	33.3	—	50.0	71.4
Other	—	22.4	19.8	—	50.0	16.7	—	33.3	33.3	—	16.7	14.3
Missing data	—	16.9	8.1	—	25.0	16.7	—	16.7	33.3	—	33.3	14.3
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	384	454	—	4	6	—	6	6	—	18	28

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

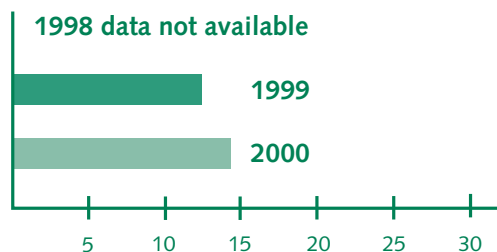
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	57.8	57.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	28.2	24.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	5.3	9.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	1.9	4.5
48 or more mos.	—	5.8	3.0
Missing data	—	1.0	1.1
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	206	268

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	—	72.9	72.2
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	—	12.4	14.3
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	—	3.8	5.1
Missing data	—	10.8	8.4
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	573	511

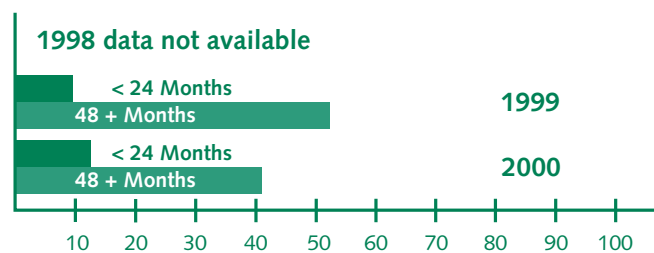
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	—	2.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	9.5	10.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	21.4	18.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	16.7	28.4
48 or more mos.	—	52.4	40.9
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	42	88

Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry

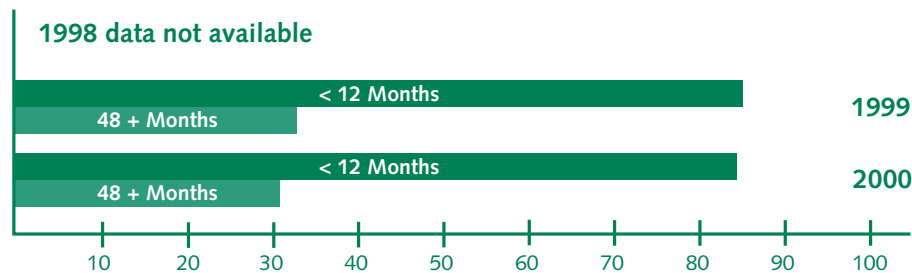




## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	85.0	15.0	—	100.0	639
	2000	84.3	15.7	—	100.0	587
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	63.5	36.5	—	100.0	395
	2000	61.2	38.8	—	100.0	361
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	56.3	43.7	—	100.0	279
	2000	53.0	47.0	—	100.0	266
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	45.9	54.1	—	100.0	172
	2000	52.3	47.7	—	100.0	222
48 or more mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	32.6	67.4	—	100.0	399
	2000	30.9	69.1	—	100.0	437
Missing data	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	4
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	7

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	—	11.3	9.9
Institutions	—	1.4	0.3
Other settings	—	86.5	88.9
Missing data	—	0.8	0.9
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	364	332

# New Hampshire [ STATE COMMENT ]

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	1,990,439	2,003,204	2,087,558	Child maltreatment victims	9,851	9,222	8,727
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	9,182	9,494	9,794
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.1	Children adopted	814	732	837
Asian/Pacific Islander	6.0	6.3	5.9				
Black	15.9	15.9	15.6				
Hispanic	15.5	15.8	16.2				
White	62.4	61.8	59.4				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.3				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.3				
% Child population in poverty	15.0	10.1	10.9				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	100.0	100.0	100.0				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	75,988	74,585	69,305	38.2 per 1,000	37.2 per 1,000	33.2 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	9,851	9,222	8,727	4.9 per 1,000	4.6 per 1,000	4.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	29	29	25	1.5 per 100,000	1.4 per 100,000	1.2 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	2.5	2.4	15.6	Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.3	0.3
1-5 years	30.1	30.6	26.6	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.9	0.7	0.8
6-10 years	33.8	33.1	29.6	Black	49.6	47.2	44.1
11-15 years	23.1	24.2	22.4	Hispanic	13.7	15.3	5.5
16+ years	7.6	7.3	5.5	White	33.5	33.6	36.0
Unknown	2.9	2.5	0.3	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	15.9	18.2	13.3
<b>Number</b>	<b>9,851</b>	<b>9,222</b>	<b>8,727</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	113.7	115.3	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>9,851</b>	<b>9,222</b>	<b>8,727</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	2.9	2.8	3.3
Medical neglect	3.4	3.2	14.4
Neglect	63.2	62.7	52.8
Physical abuse	22.5	23.3	24.9
Sexual abuse	8.0	8.0	8.7
Other	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	0.1
Total % <sup>4</sup>	100.0	100.0	104.1
<b>Number</b>	<b>9,851</b>	<b>9,222</b>	<b>8,727</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	8,672	4,747	4,246	9,182	13,419
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	8,894	4,768	4,178	9,494	13,662
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	9,241	4,654	4,109	9,794	13,895

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	20.1	N/A	11.7	19.8	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	20.0	N/A	11.7	20.3	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	20.5	N/A	12.6	20.8	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	7.6	7.5	6.7	21.4	20.2	20.9	6.3	6.7	6.0	7.5	6.5	6.3
1-5 years	32.1	32.1	31.2	21.2	20.9	21.0	26.2	27.3	26.0	32.2	31.4	31.3
6-10 years	23.2	23.3	24.5	16.4	18.3	17.6	18.1	17.8	18.1	22.9	24.0	24.1
11-15 years	23.2	23.8	24.0	28.2	27.8	27.6	23.0	22.7	22.7	24.1	24.4	25.3
16-18 years	13.2	12.7	12.9	12.6	12.7	12.7	24.2	23.0	24.2	12.9	13.1	12.6
19+ years	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.1	2.0	2.1	2.6	0.4	0.7	0.5
Unknown	0.0	0.1	0.0	—	0.0	—	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>8,672</b>	<b>8,894</b>	<b>9,241</b>	<b>4,747</b>	<b>4,768</b>	<b>4,654</b>	<b>4,246</b>	<b>4,178</b>	<b>4,109</b>	<b>9,182</b>	<b>9,494</b>	<b>9,794</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1
Black	65.3	64.9	63.2	55.8	55.6	53.3	57.5	56.7	53.2	64.1	63.8	62.7
Hispanic	10.1	9.3	8.3	8.5	7.8	7.6	9.8	9.5	9.0	9.4	8.4	7.6
White	21.5	21.6	22.4	27.7	28.5	28.0	27.4	26.8	28.5	21.9	22.8	22.5
Two or more races	—	—	1.3	—	0.0	1.3	—	—	1.5	—	0.0	1.2
Unknown	2.5	3.5	4.3	7.1	7.6	9.1	4.7	6.2	7.0	3.9	4.4	5.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>8,672</b>	<b>8,894</b>	<b>9,241</b>	<b>4,747</b>	<b>4,768</b>	<b>4,654</b>	<b>4,246</b>	<b>4,178</b>	<b>4,109</b>	<b>9,182</b>	<b>9,494</b>	<b>9,794</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	3,908	4,427	5,032
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	2,900	3,655	4,129

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	4.6	3.7	3.9
1-5 years	42.2	41.4	39.9
6-10 years	28.3	29.8	29.7
11-15 years	18.3	18.3	20.3
16+ years	5.8	5.8	5.0
Unknown	0.7	1.1	1.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>3,908</b>	<b>4,427</b>	<b>5,032</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.5	0.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.2	0.2
Black	69.9	70.6	68.7
Hispanic	8.9	8.0	7.4
White	18.3	18.0	17.9
Two or more races	—	0.0	1.6
Unknown	2.4	2.8	3.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>3,908</b>	<b>4,427</b>	<b>5,032</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	1.5	1.0	0.7
1-5 years	55.0	58.5	57.6
6-10 years	32.6	29.5	29.7
11-15 years	10.4	10.4	10.3
16+ years	0.5	0.7	1.7
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>837</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.4	0.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.3	—
Black	69.4	65.3	65.7
Hispanic	9.0	9.0	6.7
White	20.6	22.3	22.1
Two or more races	—	0.3	3.0
Unknown	0.9	2.5	2.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>837</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

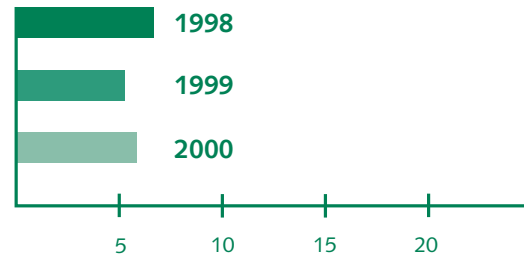
6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	93.4	94.8	94.2
Children with one or more recurrences	6.6	5.2	5.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,633	4,514	4,335

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

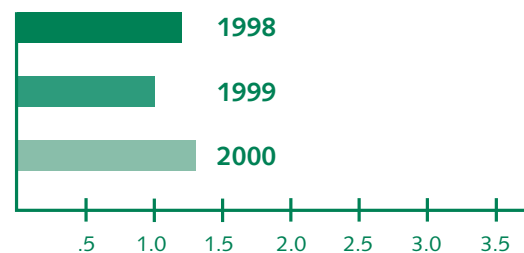


## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	1.2	1.0	1.3
Children not maltreated while in foster care	98.8	99.0	98.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	12,617	12,825	12,932

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

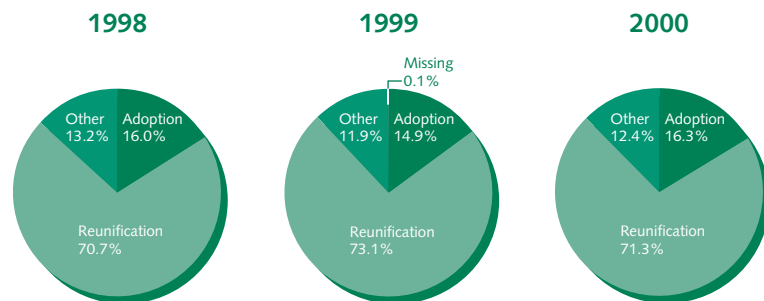


## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	16.0	14.9	16.3
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	70.7	73.1	71.3
Other	13.2	11.9	12.4
Missing data	0.0	0.1	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,246	4,178	4,109

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	34.7	31.0	30.9
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	50.4	56.5	52.4
Other	14.9	12.5	16.8
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	845	768	758

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.2	—	0.4
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	71.7	73.3	73.1
Other	28.0	26.4	26.6
Missing data	0.1	0.3	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,426	1,388	1,408

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	31.1	30.1	30.0
Children older than 12 at entry	68.9	69.3	70.0
Missing data	—	0.6	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	334	309	307

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	13.6	10.5	—	7.1	—	19.1	17.2	19.2	12.9	12.9	11.4
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	60.0	77.3	84.2	63.2	64.3	93.3	68.5	70.4	68.3	68.4	71.4	74.3
Other	40.0	9.1	5.3	36.8	28.6	6.7	12.4	12.3	12.5	18.7	15.7	14.3
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0	0.2	0.0	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5	22	19	19	14	15	2,440	2,371	2,186	418	395	370

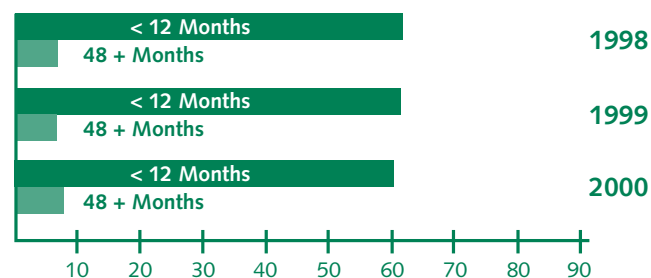
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	13.3	12.8	14.8	2.0	5.8	4.5	—	—	32.3	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	73.4	76.2	72.2	88.9	87.2	87.1	—	—	59.7	—	—	—
Other	13.3	10.9	13.0	9.0	7.0	8.4	—	—	8.1	—	—	—
Missing data	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Number	1,165	1,119	1,170	199	257	287	—	—	62	—	—	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

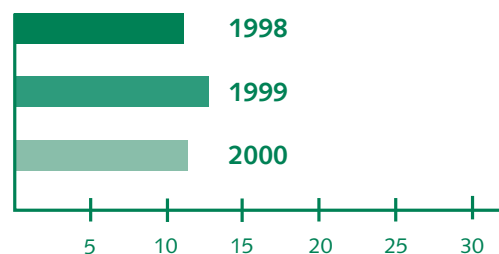
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	61.8	61.7	60.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	17.0	18.6	18.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	8.1	8.1	7.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	4.0	3.5	3.6
48 or more mos.	6.8	6.8	7.7
Missing data	2.3	1.2	2.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,004	3,053	2,929

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	77.6	77.2	77.1
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	11.1	12.7	11.3
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	9.6	8.8	9.9
Missing data	1.8	1.3	1.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,747	4,768	4,654

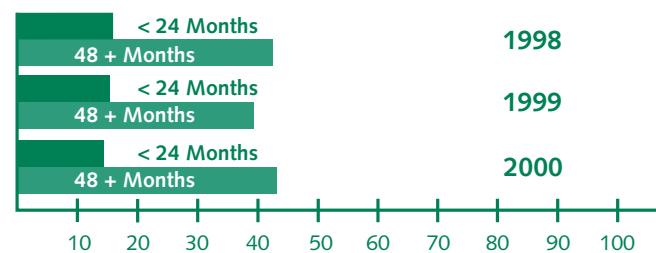
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	5.4	3.5	3.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	10.5	11.6	11.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	17.5	19.0	19.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	23.0	24.5	22.1
48 or more mos.	42.4	39.1	43.0
Missing data	1.2	2.3	1.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	679	621	670

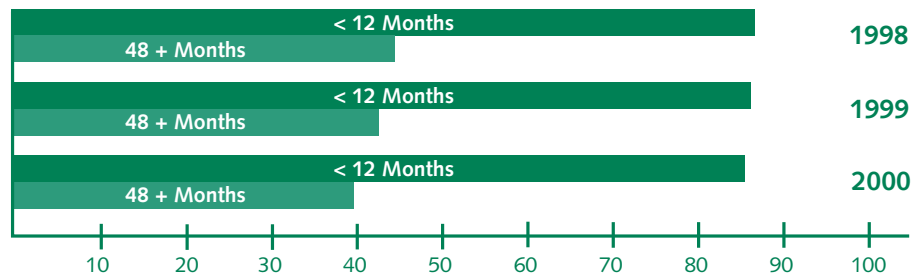
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	86.5	12.4	1.1	100.0	5,300
	1999	86.1	12.1	1.8	100.0	5,403
	2000	85.6	12.5	1.9	100.0	5,286
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	67.5	30.1	2.5	100.0	2,628
	1999	69.7	28.3	2.0	100.0	2,636
	2000	67.3	29.6	3.1	100.0	2,739
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	59.5	38.1	2.4	100.0	1,692
	1999	60.6	36.6	2.8	100.0	1,809
	2000	59.8	37.5	2.7	100.0	1,759
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	53.3	42.5	4.1	100.0	1,329
	1999	53.4	43.6	3.0	100.0	1,213
	2000	54.6	42.2	3.2	100.0	1,328
48 or more mos.	1998	44.4	53.7	1.9	100.0	2,388
	1999	42.5	55.0	2.5	100.0	2,538
	2000	39.6	58.1	2.4	100.0	2,713
Missing data	1998	91.5	—	8.5	100.0	82
	1999	93.7	1.6	4.8	100.0	63
	2000	97.1	—	2.9	100.0	70

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	7.0	4.9	4.1
Institutions	7.7	7.4	7.2
Other settings	84.4	86.9	88.3
Missing data	0.9	0.8	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,082	3,082	3,018

**Charles Venti, Director  
Division of Youth and Family Services  
New Jersey Department of Human Services  
609-292-6920**

The reason for the difference between the Children Adopted count (Context Data E.) in the adoption file and the total in Time to Adoption (Outcome Data 5.1) is that the number in Time to Adoption is based on some case managers' selection of a reason other than 'adoption' for placement closing. We believe that the Children Adopted count more accurately reflects the total number of adoptions in New Jersey.



## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	504,210	495,612	508,574	Child maltreatment victims	4,241	3,730	6,288
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	821	1,941	1,912
Alaska Native/American Indian	11.8	11.9	11.7	Children adopted	197	258	347
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.2	1.2	0.9				
Black	1.7	1.7	1.7				
Hispanic	48.4	49.2	50.9				
White	36.9	36.0	32.5				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.1				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.2				
% Child population in poverty	30.7	29.7	24.9				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	49.6	56.4	54.1				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	13,403	12,084	20,956	26.6 per 1,000	24.4 per 1,000	41.2 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	4,241	3,730	6,288	8.4 per 1,000	7.5 per 1,000	12.4 per 1,000
Child fatalities	5	7	6	1.0 per 100,000	1.4 per 100,000	1.2 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	5.5	7.5	Alaska Native/American Indian	—	8.6	10.4
1-5 years	—	23.0	25.6	Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.7	0.3
6-10 years	—	31.1	30.4	Black	—	3.7	3.0
11-15 years	—	27.1	25.5	Hispanic	—	45.9	48.2
16+ years	—	9.0	4.8	White	—	75.7	30.4
Unknown	—	4.3	6.1	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.5
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	—	11.2	6.2
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>3,730</b>	<b>6,288</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	—	145.9	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	—	<b>3,730</b>	<b>6,288</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	13.7	16.5	6.6
Medical neglect	2.7	2.8	2.3
Neglect	52.3	52.4	63.4
Physical abuse	24.9	22.3	33.5
Sexual abuse	6.3	6.0	6.0
Other	0.1	0.0	0.1
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	100.0	100.0	112.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,241</b>	<b>3,730</b>	<b>6,288</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	470			1,480			1,137			821			1,950
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	1,761			1,829			1,691			1,941			3,590
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	1,731			1,780			1,716			1,912			3,511
Median Length of Stay (Months)													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	2.1			N/A			0.3			6.9			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	14.0			N/A			1.0			18.4			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	18.2			N/A			1.2			17.5			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	5.3	4.3	4.2	11.4	11.8	11.5	8.6	6.6	6.9	6.7	4.1	4.0	
1-5 years	29.6	31.4	27.7	32.9	33.7	31.0	31.9	35.8	33.4	32.9	28.1	25.1	
6-10 years	33.8	30.6	31.5	26.8	28.1	28.2	27.4	30.0	29.5	30.5	30.9	30.1	
11-15 years	23.8	26.3	28.2	23.2	21.3	24.0	24.1	20.7	23.4	23.1	26.5	28.2	
16-18 years	7.2	7.4	8.4	5.7	5.1	5.3	7.9	6.9	6.8	6.7	10.4	12.6	
19+ years	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	
Unknown	—	—	—	0.1	—	0.1	—	—	—	0.1	—	—	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>1,761</b>	<b>1,731</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>1,829</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>1,137</b>	<b>1,691</b>	<b>1,716</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>1,941</b>	<b>1,912</b>	
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%) <sup>5</sup>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	7.2	5.7	6.5	12.0	13.5	9.7	14.6	14.8	10.8	5.5	6.5	6.6	
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	—	0.3	0.4	
Black	6.2	8.0	7.7	5.9	4.2	4.8	4.3	4.4	5.5	8.2	7.4	6.5	
Hispanic	55.1	56.3	55.2	44.9	48.3	49.3	41.0	46.4	48.7	56.4	56.6	54.7	
White	31.3	29.4	28.9	28.4	31.3	32.6	30.0	32.3	31.4	28.0	28.1	30.2	
Two or more races	—	0.3	1.0	—	1.0	2.2	—	0.5	1.8	—	0.8	1.5	
Unknown	0.2	—	0.3	8.6	1.3	1.1	9.9	1.1	1.6	1.9	0.3	0.2	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>1,761</b>	<b>1,731</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>1,829</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>1,137</b>	<b>1,691</b>	<b>1,716</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>1,941</b>	<b>1,912</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	120	878	822
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	18	53	22
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	5.0	1.7	1.8
1-5 years	33.3	32.0	30.7
6-10 years	36.7	41.8	37.1
11-15 years	23.3	23.2	28.8
16+ years	1.7	1.3	1.6
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>822</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.5	5.9	6.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.2	0.2
Black	5.0	8.5	7.9
Hispanic	69.2	58.5	56.2
White	23.3	26.2	28.0
Two or more races	—	0.6	1.6
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>822</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	2.0	1.2	1.4
1-5 years	41.1	32.9	46.7
6-10 years	36.0	46.1	38.0
11-15 years	17.8	17.1	13.5
16+ years	2.5	2.7	0.3
Unknown	0.5	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>347</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	3.0	—	0.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	4.0
Black	4.1	—	4.3
Hispanic	47.7	54.3	59.1
White	42.1	45.7	30.3
Two or more races	—	—	1.7
Unknown	3.0	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>347</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

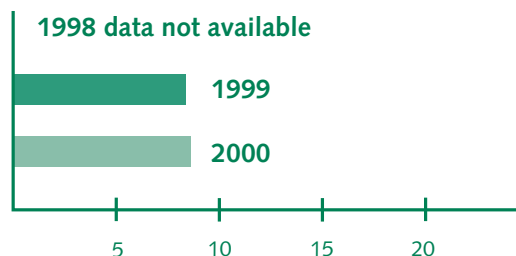
6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	91.7	91.5
Children with one or more recurrences	—	8.3	8.5
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	915	2,986

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences



## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

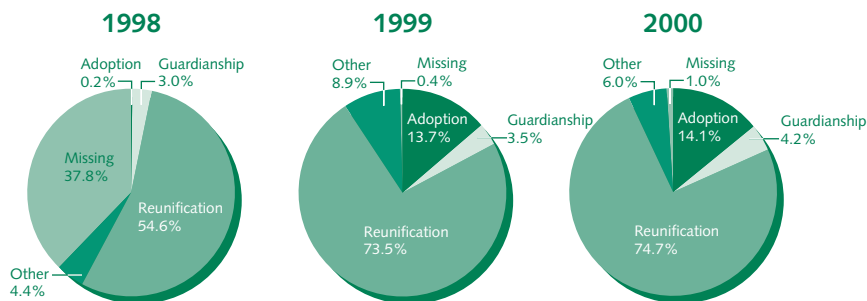
	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.2	13.7	14.1
Guardianship	3.0	3.5	4.2
Reunification	54.6	73.5	74.7
Other	4.4	8.9	6.0
Missing data	37.8	0.4	1.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,137	1,691	1,716

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	21.0	21.1
Guardianship	1.3	1.0	3.0
Reunification	30.8	67.6	69.9
Other	11.5	9.5	6.0
Missing data	56.4	1.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	78	105	133

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	5.2	1.8
Guardianship	1.7	1.4	3.5
Reunification	48.0	69.2	77.1
Other	7.4	23.5	16.9
Missing data	42.8	0.7	0.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	229	289	284

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	—	—	—
Children older than 12 at entry	100.0	100.0	100.0
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6	22	26

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	3.2	8.6	—	—	—	—	28.4	18.9	0.4	18.2	16.0
Guardianship	3.6	4.4	3.8	—	14.3	—	—	1.4	4.2	5.4	3.7	4.7
Reunification	51.2	66.0	65.9	100.0	85.7	66.7	51.0	66.2	68.4	50.6	71.8	74.6
Other	12.7	26.0	21.1	—	—	33.3	2.0	4.1	8.4	2.4	5.6	3.9
Missing data	32.5	0.4	0.5	—	—	—	46.9	—	—	41.2	0.6	0.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	166	250	185	3	7	3	49	74	95	466	785	836

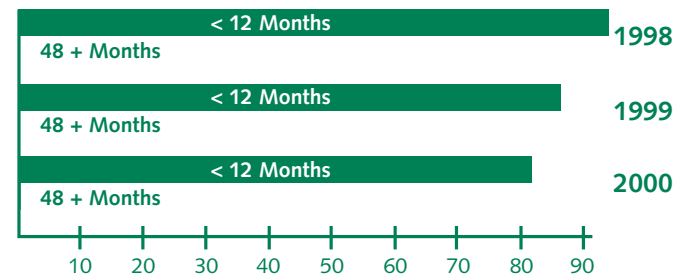
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	—	11.0	13.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	0.9	3.1	4.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	57.8	79.0	77.0	60.0	92.9	100.0	—	100.0	87.1	76.6	100.0	100.0
Other	5.0	6.9	3.3	—	7.1	—	—	—	12.9	—	—	—
Missing data	36.4	—	1.9	40.0	—	—	—	—	—	23.4	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	341	547	538	65	14	25	—	9	31	47	5	3

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

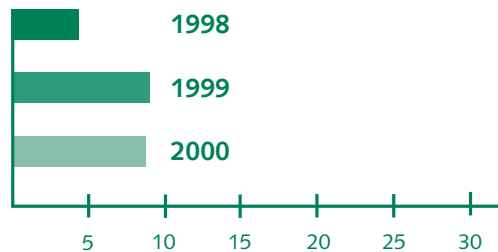
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	94.0	86.4	81.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	0.2	9.5	5.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	0.2	0.2	2.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	—	0.2
48 or more mos.	—	—	0.1
Missing data	5.6	3.9	10.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	621	1,243	1,282

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	90.8	88.6	86.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	4.4	8.9	8.7
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	0.1	1.0	2.2
Missing data	4.7	1.5	2.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,480	1,829	1,780

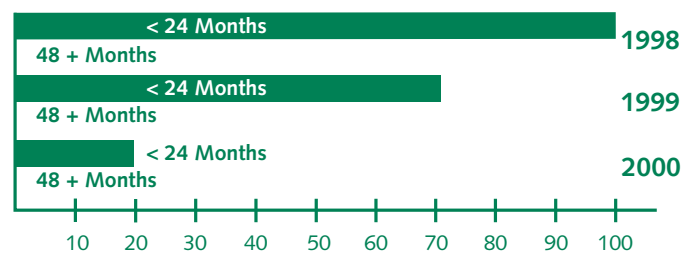
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	2.2	2.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	100.0	68.5	16.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	26.7	67.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	—	6.6
48 or more mos.	—	—	—
Missing data	—	2.6	6.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2	232	242

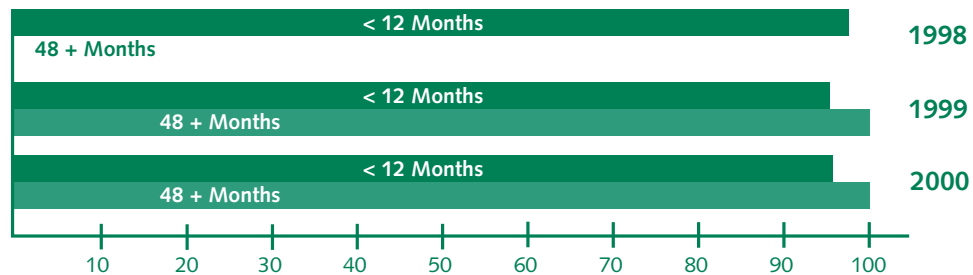
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	97.7	2.3	—	100.0	1,589
	1999	95.4	4.6	—	100.0	1,958
	2000	95.6	4.4	—	100.0	1,946
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	96.7	3.3	—	100.0	305
	1999	99.7	0.3	—	100.0	744
	2000	99.6	0.4	—	100.0	478
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	100.0	—	—	100.0	1
	1999	99.5	0.5	—	100.0	842
	2000	99.8	0.2	—	100.0	522
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	—	—	—	—	—
	2000	99.8	0.2	—	100.0	513
48 or more mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	1
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	1
Missing data	1998	100.0	—	—	100.0	55
	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	45
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	51

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	13.3	14.2	12.2
Institutions	2.3	1.7	2.1
Other settings	84.3	84.1	85.8
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,193	1,481	1,411

**Deborah Hartz, Cabinet Secretary**  
**New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department**  
**505-827-7602**

New Mexico has unique practices to harmonize the requirements of State law and federal mandates, while serving diverse communities that are not only rural, but involve urban settings, as well. New Mexico's population requires us to address needs specific to multicultural populations, as well as sovereignty issues with Tribal governments. Some of the specific data discrepancies can be explained as follows.

*Section B: Child Maltreatment Data*

The 1998 and 1999 numbers reflect "accepted reports." The 2000 numbers accurately capture the number of children who are the subject of an investigated report. The trend has remained stable over time when the same measure is calculated.

*Section C: Children in Foster Care*

The difference of 210 children between 9/30/99 and 10/1/99 results from the six-month period of time staff have to enter data for one AFCARS submission and not the other. Internal monthly data shows no significant change in the number of children in care from any given day to the next.

*Section D: Children Waiting to be Adopted*

New Mexico experiences some AFCARS mapping issues which accounts for the inaccurate number of 22 terminations of parental rights. For the 2000 reporting year, of the 822 children waiting for adoption, 484 parental rights had been terminated.

*Section E: Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)*

As is the case with the majority of AFCARS reporting states (*source: Child Welfare Outcomes: 1992*), the AFCARS adoption file is the more accurate file because of the design of the flow in the NM SACWIS and field use of the system. In 1998, 197 children finalized to adoption; in 1999, 258 children finalized to adoption; and in 2000, 347 children finalized to adoption. An online modification has been implemented to resolve the discrepancy between the two fields.

*Measure 2.1: Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)*

For the three reporting years, New Mexico law required investigation of reports of maltreatment in foster care to be completed by law enforcement outside of the agency. The reports were routed directly to law enforcement and not included in the agency's database. Beginning in 2001, reports of maltreatment by foster care providers are being entered in the SACWIS system and data are currently being collected.

The following discussion focuses on New Mexico's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's Performance. In using CFSR information to interpret performance, it is important to note that the New Mexico CFSR was conducted in 2001, and the national data used for the review to assess performance regarding national standards was from 1999. However, the discussion on State performance relevant to the national standards in the Federal Comment section focuses on data from the year 2000, as provided in the State Data Pages. In addition, because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

In calendar year (CY) 2000, the rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 8.5 percent, which is higher than both the national standard of 6.1 percent and the national median of 7.9 percent. In CY 1999, the State's rate of maltreatment recurrence (8.3 percent) also was higher than the national standard. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the reported rate of maltreatment recurrence may be less than the actual rate because maltreatment reports on families with open child welfare case are not always investigated as new reports. Information from the CFSR Final Report also identifies the following as potential barriers to preventing maltreatment recurrence: (1) the practice of providing families with services that may not be of sufficient intensity and duration to address risk factors, and (2) inconsistent monitoring of parent's progress to ensure that risk factors are being addressed.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce incidence of maltreatment in foster care**

New Mexico's attainment of outcome 2 cannot be evaluated as part of the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to NCANDS for calculating this outcome. As noted in the State's Comment section, reports of maltreatment by foster care providers were not included in the agency's data base until 2001.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 93.0 percent of children exiting foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 84.7 percent), 94.0 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 79.5 percent), and 82.4 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered care were discharged to permanency homes (which is higher than the national median of 72.6 percent). Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential reasons for New Mexico's performance on this outcome: (1) the agency practice of not assigning a goal of long-term foster care without careful consideration of all other permanency options, and (2) the existence of a State subsidized guardianship program.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 81.8, which exceeds both the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance with regard to achieving reunifications in a timely manner may be attributed to the following: (1) the availability of community-based services and extensive family preservation services that are accessible to families after reunification, (2) the ability to individualize services to meet the unique needs of families, and (3) the regularity of periodic reviews and permanency hearings.

In FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 8.7, which does not meet the national standard of 8.6 percent but is lower than the national median of 10.3 percent. The CFSR Final Report indicates that for FY 1999, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge was 7.2 percent which does meet the national standard. However, the data reported to AFCARS for FY 1999 demonstrate that the rate of re-entry into foster care for that year was 8.9 percent. The reason for this data inconsistency is not clear. It may be that the State used an

alternative source to calculate the foster care re-entry rate or that the State revised its data for FY 1999. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the key reasons for foster care re-entries in the State may be (1) a lack of consistency in providing families with post-reunification services, and (2) insufficient resolution of a family's substance abuse issues prior to reunification.

#### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 19.8, which does not meet the national standard of 32.0 percent, but is about equal to the national median of 19.7 percent. There was a decrease in performance on this measure with regard to data reported to AFCARS of 50.9 percentage points between FY 1999 and FY 2000, suggesting a dramatic change in practice with regard to entering and reporting data to AFCARS. In fact, the State provided revised 1999 data (23.4 percent) for this measure from an alternative data source for the CFSR (which still does not meet the national standard). In addition, the State reported 347 finalized adoptions to the AFCARS Adoption Data Base for FY 2000, but only 242 exits to finalized adoptions. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that delays in achieving finalized adoptions may be attributed in part to delays in home studies and in filing and attaining termination of parental rights.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children experiencing no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 95.6, which exceeds the national standard of 86.7 percent and the national median of 84.3 percent. Information from the CFSR suggests that the State's performance on this measure may be attributed to the following: (1) appropriately matching children with families that meet their needs, and (2) making diligent efforts to seek relatives as potential placement resources.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 14.3, which is higher than the national median of 9.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance in this area may be related to the frequent use of emergency shelters as initial placements for children of all ages and the general shortage of family foster home placement resources.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With regard to child well-being outcomes, information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that the State is not consistently effective in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs. The Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) a failure in some cases to provide services to address identified educational needs; (2) a scarcity of dentists in the State who are willing to accept Medicaid; and (3) lack of mental health resources to meet children's treatment needs.



# New York

[ CONTEXT DATA ]

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	4,502,611	4,440,924	4,690,107	Child maltreatment victims	83,537	64,045	74,065
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	53,555	51,159	47,208
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.4	Children adopted	4,819	4,864	4,234
Asian/Pacific Islander	5.6	5.8	5.0				
Black	16.8	16.7	17.8				
Hispanic	19.2	19.5	19.0				
White	58.2	57.8	54.6				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.6				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.5				
% Child population in poverty	26.2	21.8	19.5				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	90.7	92.2	92.3				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	240,655	186,002	230,449	53.4 per 1,000	41.9 per 1,000	49.1 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	83,537	64,045	74,065	18.6 per 1,000	14.4 per 1,000	15.8 per 1,000
Child fatalities	61	79	79	1.4 per 100,000	1.8 per 100,000	1.7 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	5.1	9.1	Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.2	0.3
1-5 years	—	26.2	27.4	Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.1	0.8
6-10 years	—	29.7	30.6	Black	—	31.0	32.3
11-15 years	—	25.3	27.0	Hispanic	—	18.4	18.0
16+ years	—	9.2	5.8	White	—	38.0	41.5
Unknown	—	4.5	0.1	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	—	30.7	7.1
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>64,045</b>	<b>74,065</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	—	118.4	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	—	<b>64,045</b>	<b>74,065</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	1.5	1.7	1.1
Medical neglect	5.0	6.2	3.7
Neglect	19.0	23.3	89.5
Physical abuse	21.9	24.8	13.9
Sexual abuse	5.3	5.6	4.1
Other	148.2	182.9	22.8
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	200.9	244.6	135.2
<b>Number</b>	<b>83,537</b>	<b>64,045</b>	<b>74,065</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	54,102	19,749	20,324	53,555	73,851
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	53,483	18,172	20,497	51,159	71,655
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	50,847	16,601	20,243	47,208	67,448

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	32.1	N/A	20.9	28.6	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	28.7	N/A	22.5	28.3	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	28.6	N/A	22.4	29.8	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	3.5	3.6	3.4	15.5	15.4	14.8	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.6	3.4	3.2
1-5 years	27.5	26.7	26.1	23.9	22.9	22.2	22.8	21.6	22.1	26.6	26.1	25.4
6-10 years	28.2	27.8	27.1	21.1	21.2	20.0	24.0	24.6	24.0	27.8	27.2	26.1
11-15 years	25.3	25.8	26.6	32.7	33.7	35.9	25.8	26.3	26.7	26.4	27.1	28.1
16-18 years	12.6	13.1	13.5	6.7	6.7	7.1	18.3	18.3	18.2	12.8	13.2	13.7
19+ years	2.8	3.0	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.4	5.6	4.8	2.7	2.9	3.4
Unknown	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.4	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>54,102</b>	<b>53,483</b>	<b>50,847</b>	<b>19,749</b>	<b>18,172</b>	<b>16,601</b>	<b>20,324</b>	<b>20,497</b>	<b>20,243</b>	<b>53,555</b>	<b>51,159</b>	<b>47,208</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.3
Black	48.8	46.6	44.9	34.1	33.8	38.8	41.3	40.1	40.3	46.2	44.7	44.7
Hispanic	14.8	15.0	15.3	13.5	13.6	15.8	13.6	13.5	14.7	14.8	15.1	15.7
White	13.2	13.5	13.9	21.5	23.2	25.0	19.7	20.5	20.3	13.8	14.1	15.1
Two or more races	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	22.9	24.5	25.4	30.2	28.6	19.4	24.7	25.3	23.9	24.9	25.7	24.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>54,102</b>	<b>53,483</b>	<b>50,847</b>	<b>19,749</b>	<b>18,172</b>	<b>16,601</b>	<b>20,324</b>	<b>20,497</b>	<b>20,243</b>	<b>53,555</b>	<b>51,159</b>	<b>47,208</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	17,818	18,762	17,327
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	13,596	14,707	12,520

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	0.9	2.4	1.6
1-5 years	29.6	31.9	31.6
6-10 years	37.8	35.5	35.3
11-15 years	27.4	26.4	27.8
16+ years	3.3	2.8	2.8
Unknown	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>17,818</b>	<b>18,762</b>	<b>17,327</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.1	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.2	0.2
Black	51.1	48.7	47.9
Hispanic	14.0	14.3	14.8
White	9.9	11.5	11.8
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	24.9	25.3	25.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>17,818</b>	<b>18,762</b>	<b>17,327</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	0.4	0.1	0.4
1-5 years	31.7	28.4	31.6
6-10 years	42.0	41.4	38.1
11-15 years	21.4	25.3	25.6
16+ years	4.4	4.7	4.3
Unknown	—	0.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,819</b>	<b>4,864</b>	<b>4,234</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.1	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.1	0.2
Black	52.1	50.3	46.5
Hispanic	14.1	13.6	12.5
White	10.4	10.5	11.8
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	23.2	25.4	28.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,819</b>	<b>4,864</b>	<b>4,234</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

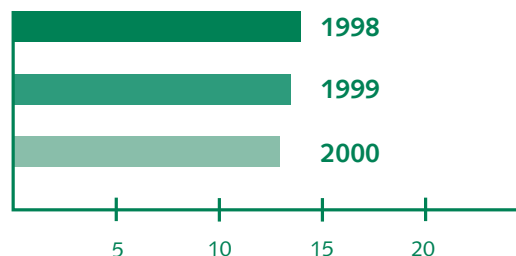
6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	86.1	86.5	87.1
Children with one or more recurrences	13.9	13.5	12.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	33,579	33,687	32,876

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

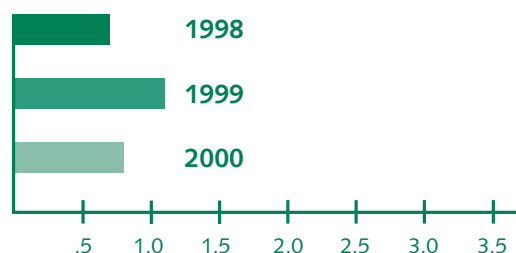


## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.7	1.1	0.8
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.3	98.9	99.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	69,304	66,252	62,090

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

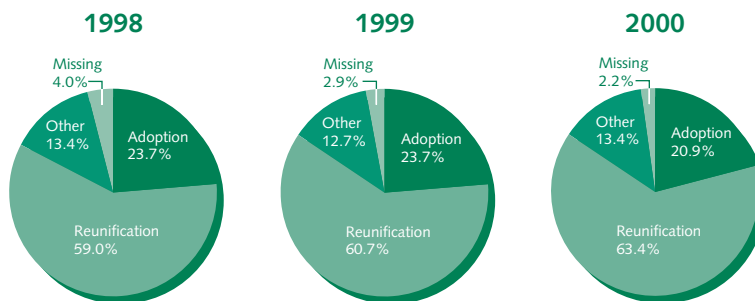


## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	23.7	23.7	20.9
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	59.0	60.7	63.4
Other	13.4	12.7	13.4
Missing data	4.0	2.9	2.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	20,324	20,497	20,243

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.6	0.4	0.5
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	64.9	68.5	66.5
Other	28.1	27.2	29.5
Missing data	6.4	4.0	3.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,890	5,773	5,697

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	47.5	46.7	46.0
Children older than 12 at entry	51.9	53.2	53.8
Missing data	0.6	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,491	1,543	1,566

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	2.0	6.1	6.6	11.2	9.2	8.6	30.6	29.8	24.1	25.4	23.8	17.9
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	87.8	79.6	86.9	57.3	73.8	74.2	51.4	53.3	60.0	58.1	60.0	67.5
Other	10.2	8.2	6.6	28.1	15.4	16.1	14.4	14.0	13.7	12.6	12.8	12.0
Missing data	—	6.1	—	3.4	1.5	1.1	3.6	2.9	2.2	3.9	3.4	2.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	49	49	61	89	65	93	8,388	8,212	8,162	2,767	2,777	2,973

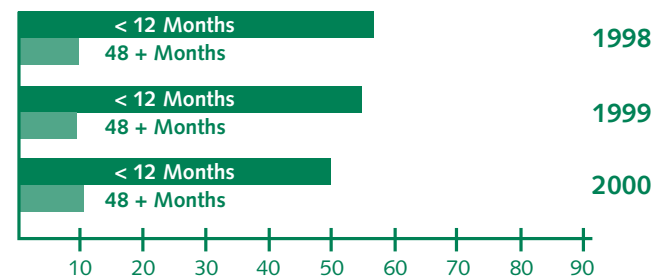
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	12.3	12.1	12.1	20.6	23.8	25.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	70.5	75.5	74.5	62.7	60.4	56.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	12.5	10.1	11.1	12.7	12.9	15.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	4.8	2.2	2.3	4.0	3.0	2.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number	4,005	4,203	4,108	5,026	5,191	4,846	—	—	—	—	—	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

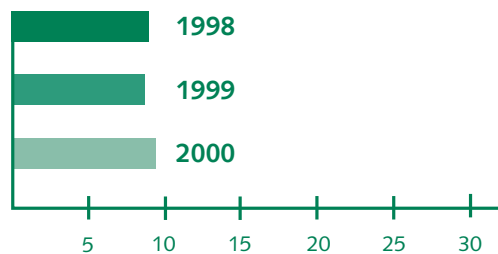
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	56.7	54.7	49.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	19.1	19.9	20.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	8.0	10.7	11.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	4.5	4.5	6.6
48 or more mos.	9.9	9.7	10.5
Missing data	1.9	0.5	1.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	11,990	12,439	12,839

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	78.8	78.8	78.5
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	8.9	8.7	9.3
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	12.0	12.5	12.2
Missing data	0.3	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	19,749	18,172	16,601

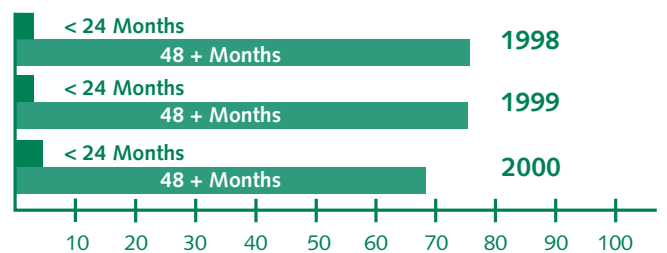
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	0.7	0.5	0.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	2.3	2.5	3.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	8.7	10.1	11.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	12.9	11.7	15.8
48 or more mos.	75.3	75.2	68.2
Missing data	0.1	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,808	4,860	4,230

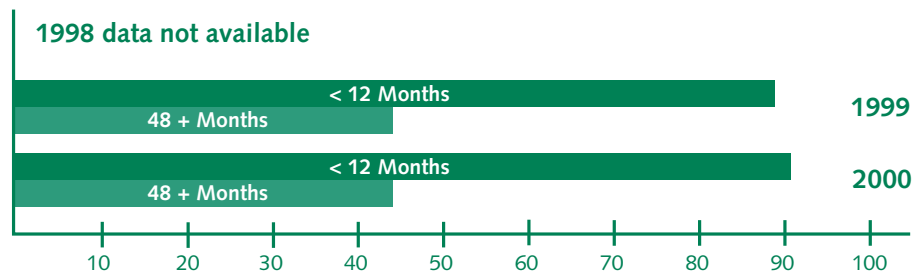
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	88.9	9.7	1.4	100.0	20,348
	2000	90.8	9.2	—	100.0	18,750
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	74.5	25.5	—	100.0	12,833
	2000	75.5	24.0	0.5	100.0	11,607
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	65.5	34.5	—	100.0	9,435
	2000	65.3	33.5	1.2	100.0	9,426
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	57.9	42.1	—	100.0	6,697
	2000	58.5	40.1	1.4	100.0	7,071
48 or more mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	44.0	56.0	—	100.0	22,197
	2000	44.0	55.1	0.9	100.0	20,419
Missing data	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	93.1	6.9	—	100.0	145
	2000	96.6	3.4	—	100.0	175

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	1.5	1.6	1.5
Institutions	5.5	5.8	6.3
Other settings	93.0	92.5	92.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	13,456	12,251	10,791

**William F. Baccaglini, Director  
Strategic Planning and Policy Development  
New York State Office of Children and Family Services  
518-473-1776**

New York's SACWIS system, CONNECTIONS, is partly implemented. Child protective data and facility and resource information are operational. Currently, NCANDS data are being submitted through the SACWIS system; AFCARS data continue to be reported through the legacy systems, which are unable to meet some reporting requirements. Significant efforts are being made to support the production of outcome measures until full SACWIS implementation. Data to support the reporting of the outcomes will be enhanced in future submissions. For Outcome Measure 3.2, the SACWIS functionality that supports this reporting is not yet operational.

New York State objects to the use of outcome measures presented in this report to construct national standards for the Child and Family Services Review, against which State performance is judged. Comparisons across states on these outcome measures are invalidated by extensive inter-state variation in the way events and populations are defined and counted, in case volume and composition, and in data quality. For example: a State rate of recurrence of reported abuse/neglect may be exaggerated due to statutory definitions and subsequent reports on the same incident being treated as a new report where there are minor differences in the reported information. In the areas of reunification and adoption, the use of exit cohorts to track progress is unlikely to represent accurately changes in length of stay caused by improvements in State policies and practices. Efforts to reduce a backlog of cases in foster care for an extended period can actually increase time to reunification or adoption among exit cohorts because the cohorts discharged after this programmatic shift contain a higher concentration of children who had been in foster care a long time.

The following discussion focuses on New York's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance. In using CFSR information to interpret performance, it is important to note that the New York CFSR was conducted in 2001 and the national data used at that time to assess performance regarding national standards was from 1999. However, the discussion of State performance in the Federal Comment section focuses on data from the year 2000, as provided in the State Data Pages. Because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

In calendar year (CY) 2000, the rate of maltreatment recurrence in 6 months was 12.9 percent, which is higher than the national standard of 6.1 percent and the national median of 7.9 percent. According to information provided in the CFSR Final Report, the State believes that the actual maltreatment recurrence rate is lower than the reported rate because the State's information system records all maltreatment reports as new reports, even if they involve the same incident. Information from the CFSR Final Report also indicates that the State's performance on this outcome measure may be attributed in part to the agency practice in some cases of focusing on the specific child maltreatment incident in responding to a maltreatment report rather than conducting a comprehensive assessment of the family that takes all risk factors into consideration.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce incidence of maltreatment in foster care**

In CY 2000, the incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.8 percent, which is higher than the national standard of 0.57 percent and the national median of .47 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential reasons for the State's performance on this outcome measure: (1) the poor quality of some foster homes, (2) inadequate screening of foster homes in some instances, and (3) inadequate supports for foster parents to assist them in parenting children with behavioral and emotional problems.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 84.3 percent of children exiting foster care were discharged to permanent homes, which is about equal to the national median of 84.7 percent. However, only 67.0 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to permanent homes, which is lower than the national median of 72.6 percent. In addition, 46.0 percent of the children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into care, which is higher than the national median of 24.2 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to attaining permanency for some children: (1) inconsistent implementation of concurrent planning, (2) lack of effective coordination between the child welfare agency and the court systems, and (3) failure in some cases to revise permanency goals when reunification is unlikely to occur.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 49.9, which is lower than the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving reunifications in a timely manner: (1) inconsistent involvement of parents in the case planning process, (2) the establishment of visitation plans in some cases that are not consistent with a permanency goal of reunification, (3) a failure in some cases to provide services that target the risk factors that are barriers to reunification, and (4) frequent delays in service provision to parents.

Also in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 9.3, which is higher than the national standard of 8.6 percent but lower than the national median of 10.3 percent. Although the State

met the national standard for this measure for the 2001 CFSR, based on revised 1999 data from a source other than the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), the data reported to AFCARS for both FY 1999 and FY 2000 do not meet the national standard. Information in the CFSR Final Report suggests that one barrier to preventing foster care re-entries is the scarcity of post-reunification services.

#### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 4.6, which does not meet the national standard of 32.0 percent and was the lowest rate reported nationally. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving adoptions in a timely manner: (1) agency delays in filing for termination of parental rights (TPR), searching for absent parents, and recruiting adoptive families; (2) court delays in holding permanency and TPR hearings; (3) inconsistent implementation of concurrent planning; (4) an inadequate number of attorneys; and (5) the existence of New York State laws and regulations regarding time lines for termination of parental rights and adoption finalization that do not facilitate achieving finalized adoptions within 24 months of entry into foster care.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 90.8, which exceeds both the national median of 84.3 percent and the national standard of 86.7 percent. However, information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that placement stability was a concern in a number of cases reviewed due to a lack of appropriate matching with foster parents and incomplete assessments of children's placement needs at the time of entry into foster care.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 7.8, which is lower than the national median of 9.0. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance on this measure may be attributed to the practice of placing young children in the least restrictive environments, based on their needs.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that the State is effective in meeting children's educational and physical health needs but is not effective in meeting children's mental health needs. The Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to meeting mental health needs: (1) a scarcity of available mental health services, resulting in long waits for services; and (2) a lack of specialized services to assist children who exhibit complex mental health problems.



## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	1,919,774	1,940,947	1,964,047	Child maltreatment victims	37,357	36,976	36,186
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	11,314	11,339	10,847
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.7	1.7	1.5	Children adopted	882	949	1337
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.6	1.7	1.6				
Black	26.6	26.4	26.2				
Hispanic	3.3	3.6	6.1				
White	66.8	66.6	62.5				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.8				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.3				
% Child population in poverty	16.9	18.5	18.5				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	72.8	76.5	67.9				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	125,862	127,522	123,043	65.6 per 1,000	65.7 per 1,000	62.6 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	37,357	36,976	36,186	19.5 per 1,000	19.1 per 1,000	18.4 per 1,000
Child fatalities	23	21	—	1.2 per 100,000	1.1 per 100,000	— per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	7.1	1.7	9.4	Alaska Native/American Indian	2.3	2.4	1.9
1-5 years	35.5	32.8	32.5	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	1.1	0.7
6-10 years	29.8	32.4	31.6	Black	39.1	37.9	36.6
11-15 years	19.5	24.5	23.0	Hispanic	7.0	6.9	8.2
16+ years	8.1	8.5	3.4	White	56.2	57.1	51.8
Unknown	—	—	0.0	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	0.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	1.6	1.5	0.2
<b>Number</b>	<b>37,357</b>	<b>36,976</b>	<b>36,186</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	107.0	106.9	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>37,357</b>	<b>36,976</b>	<b>36,186</b>

### Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	0.4	0.3	0.3
Medical neglect	2.6	2.5	2.1
Neglect	87.2	87.8	89.9
Physical abuse	3.9	3.6	3.9
Sexual abuse	4.1	3.7	3.5
Other	1.8	2.1	0.4
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>37,357</b>	<b>36,976</b>	<b>36,186</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	9,843	5,464	3,993	11,314	15,307
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	10,265	5,391	4,317	11,339	15,656
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	9,870	5,458	4,481	10,847	15,328

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	16.1	N/A	13.4	16.3	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	16.9	N/A	13.0	17.9	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	17.7	N/A	14.9	16.4	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	4.6	4.6	4.3	14.9	15.1	16.0	3.9	4.7	4.2	4.5	4.3	5.1
1-5 years	27.6	27.1	26.5	28.9	26.5	25.7	30.0	29.3	29.7	27.5	26.3	25.8
6-10 years	26.8	26.4	26.5	23.7	24.2	23.3	25.1	24.2	25.0	26.5	26.3	24.8
11-15 years	29.0	29.5	29.9	27.6	29.2	29.6	21.6	24.6	23.2	28.8	29.4	30.6
16-18 years	11.5	11.5	12.1	4.8	4.9	5.3	18.3	15.9	16.8	11.8	12.9	12.9
19+ years	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.7
Unknown	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>9,843</b>	<b>10,265</b>	<b>9,870</b>	<b>5,464</b>	<b>5,391</b>	<b>5,458</b>	<b>3,993</b>	<b>4,317</b>	<b>4,481</b>	<b>11,314</b>	<b>11,339</b>	<b>10,847</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	1.7	1.5	1.9	1.9	2.6	3.5	2.7	2.4	3.0	1.4	1.7	2.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.3
Black	54.3	53.1	50.9	43.9	41.6	41.5	45.4	45.1	43.8	52.4	50.7	49.1
Hispanic	4.7	5.6	6.2	8.0	7.9	6.5	6.3	6.6	7.6	5.7	6.3	5.8
White	38.5	39.2	39.9	45.4	47.1	46.8	44.5	45.2	44.3	39.7	40.7	41.6
Two or more races	—	—	0.5	—	0.0	1.2	—	—	0.4	—	0.0	0.9
Unknown	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>9,843</b>	<b>10,265</b>	<b>9,870</b>	<b>5,464</b>	<b>5,391</b>	<b>5,458</b>	<b>3,993</b>	<b>4,317</b>	<b>4,481</b>	<b>11,314</b>	<b>11,339</b>	<b>10,847</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	4,298	3,603	3,715
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	2,486	1,757	2,134

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	4.9	2.7	2.8
1-5 years	35.2	31.1	29.7
6-10 years	33.1	33.9	31.9
11-15 years	22.5	26.3	28.5
16+ years	3.9	5.1	6.6
Unknown	0.5	0.9	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,298</b>	<b>3,603</b>	<b>3,715</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	1.3	1.4	1.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.1	0.4
Black	53.8	53.5	53.9
Hispanic	5.4	5.9	5.7
White	38.9	38.5	37.1
Two or more races	—	—	1.0
Unknown	0.6	0.6	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,298</b>	<b>3,603</b>	<b>3,715</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	4.3	3.8	4.0
1-5 years	44.0	46.4	44.9
6-10 years	33.3	32.0	33.5
11-15 years	15.6	16.2	15.3
16+ years	2.7	1.6	2.2
Unknown	—	—	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>1,337</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	1.4	0.6	1.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	0.5	0.5
Black	54.2	51.6	44.9
Hispanic	2.8	4.1	6.7
White	40.1	41.8	42.9
Two or more races	—	—	3.1
Unknown	0.7	1.3	0.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>1,337</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

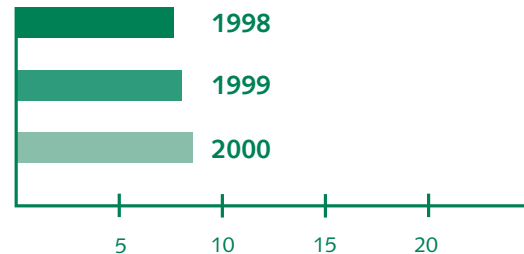
6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	92.4	92.0	91.5
Children with one or more recurrences	7.6	8.0	8.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	14,261	14,159	15,841

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

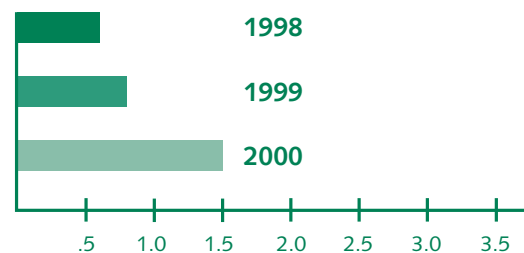


## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.6	0.8	1.5
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.4	99.2	98.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	14,316	14,447	14,121

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

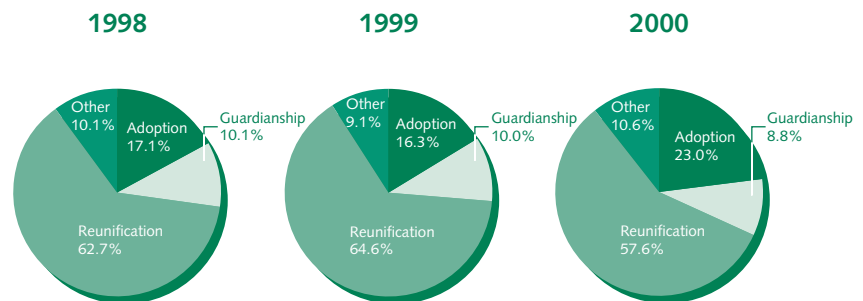


## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	17.1	16.3	23.0
Guardianship	10.1	10.0	8.8
Reunification	62.7	64.6	57.6
Other	10.1	9.1	10.6
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,993	4,317	4,481

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	28.2	24.1	27.0
Guardianship	10.0	8.0	6.8
Reunification	47.0	53.3	45.8
Other	14.8	14.7	20.5
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	642	565	533

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	1.4	0.8	0.9
Guardianship	6.9	7.8	5.7
Reunification	65.8	70.6	68.7
Other	25.8	20.8	24.7
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	972	1,024	1,088

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	27.3	33.2	28.5
Children older than 12 at entry	72.7	66.8	71.5
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	256	244	277

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	9.2	3.8	11.3	4.8	11.1	4.3	19.4	17.7	24.4	10.7	11.6	21.4
Guardianship	20.2	40.4	33.8	9.5	—	4.3	12.6	10.3	7.9	8.7	10.2	7.0
Reunification	67.0	53.8	43.6	66.7	88.9	78.3	57.6	62.8	55.9	71.0	71.2	60.7
Other	3.7	1.9	11.3	19.0	—	13.0	10.4	9.1	11.9	9.5	7.0	10.9
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	109	104	133	21	18	23	1,813	1,946	1,963	252	285	341

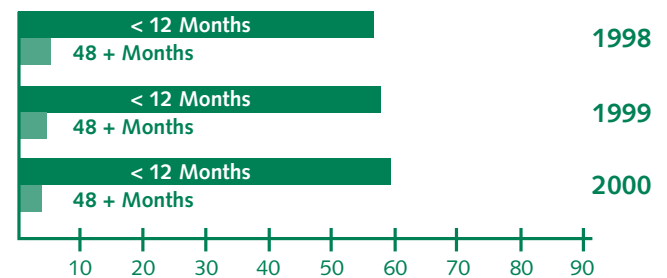
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	16.3	16.4	22.6	13.6	23.1	47.1	—	—	25.0	—	—	—
Guardianship	7.2	8.2	8.3	9.1	—	17.6	—	—	20.0	—	—	—
Reunification	66.4	65.7	59.8	59.1	76.9	17.6	—	—	50.0	—	—	—
Other	10.1	9.8	9.3	18.2	—	17.6	—	—	5.0	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Number	1,776	1,951	1,984	22	13	17	—	—	20	—	—	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

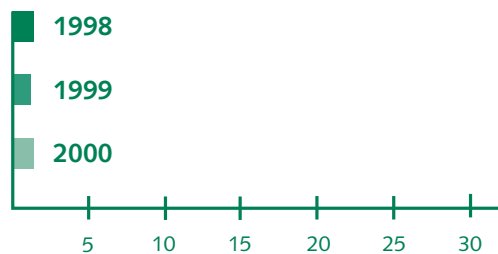
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	56.6	57.7	59.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	25.4	24.1	23.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	8.9	9.4	9.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.8	3.8	4.3
48 or more mos.	5.3	4.7	4.0
Missing data	0.2	0.4	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,503	2,789	2,579

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	96.7	97.9	97.5
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	1.3	1.2	1.3
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	2.0	0.9	1.3
Missing data	—	0.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,464	5,391	5,458

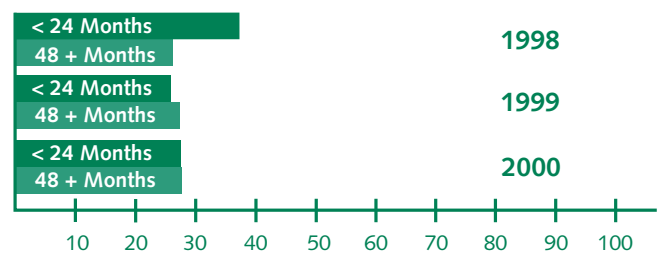
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	14.8	8.5	6.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	22.3	17.4	21.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	21.4	28.9	28.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	15.5	18.0	19.0
48 or more mos.	26.0	27.1	25.5
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	682	705	1,029

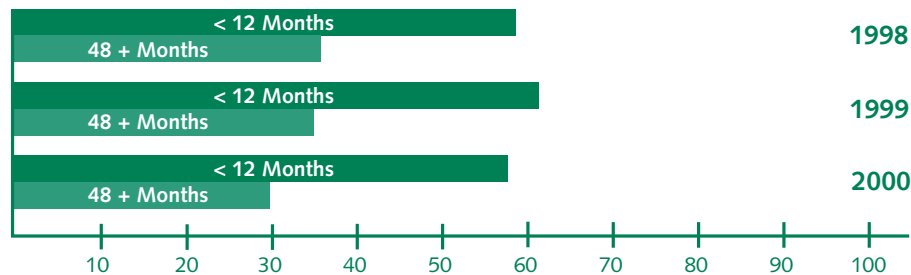
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	58.7	41.3	—	100.0	6,263
	1999	61.3	38.7	—	100.0	6,260
	2000	57.7	42.3	—	100.0	6,312
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	46.7	53.3	—	100.0	3,631
	1999	41.5	58.5	—	100.0	3,523
	2000	38.9	61.1	—	100.0	3,329
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	40.7	59.3	—	100.0	1,894
	1999	39.9	60.1	—	100.0	2,205
	2000	30.8	69.2	—	100.0	2,074
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	40.9	59.1	—	100.0	1,188
	1999	37.8	62.2	—	100.0	1,184
	2000	31.8	68.2	—	100.0	1,287
48 or more mos.	1998	35.7	64.3	—	100.0	2,306
	1999	35.0	65.0	—	100.0	2,453
	2000	29.7	70.3	—	100.0	2,313
Missing data	1998	88.0	12.0	—	100.0	25
	1999	80.6	19.4	—	100.0	31
	2000	84.6	15.4	—	100.0	13

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	3.0	3.0	3.3
Institutions	3.3	3.7	3.6
Other settings	93.6	93.2	93.0
Missing data	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,096	3,950	3,963

# North Carolina

[ STATE COMMENT ]

**Pheon E. Beal, Director**  
**Division of Social Services**  
**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services**  
**919-733-3055**

In reviewing the attached North Carolina Context data, our analysis indicates that the data presented in this report are consistent with the data that we have used in generating our Child Welfare Outcomes and Measures. In the context data document you have listed two areas of concern:

Section C--Children in Foster Care, which includes 1,469 fewer children in care on October 1, 1999 (9,870) than on September 30, 1999 (11,339); and Section E--Children Adopted, which includes a discrepancy between the number of children adopted in FY 2000 (1,337) and the number of exits from foster care that were reported as discharges to adoption (1,029).

During previous conversations with staff from the Children's Bureau, we have tried to determine why the number of children in foster care differs from September 30 to October 1. We will continue to consult with the Children's Bureau in order to determine the cause of this discrepancy. Our analysis of the second issue indicates that the discrepancy is primarily one of verification and timely data entry. The Adoption Information Management System (state-level adoption database) captures child-specific adoption information once the final adoption decree has been filed. State personnel enter this data after receiving hard copies of the decrees. Data produced from AIMS has a high degree of reliability. It is from this system we report the actual number of children adopted. The Child Placement and Payment System (State wide foster care database) is the source for data on numbers of children who exit foster care for adoption. County child welfare workers and data entry staff input this information into the CPPS database. At this time this information can not be verified at the State level for timely data entry. Currently, the AIMS and the CPPS databases are not linked for purposes of reporting.

The following discussion focuses on North Carolina's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance. In using CFSR information to interpret performance, it is important to note that the North Carolina CFSR was conducted in 2001 and the national data used for the review to assess performance regarding national standards was from 1999. However, the discussion of State performance relevant to the national standards in this Federal Comment section focuses on data from the year 2000, as provided in the State Data Pages. In addition, because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

In calendar year (CY) 2000, the rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 8.5 percent, which is higher than the national standard of 6.1 percent and the national median of 7.9 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the actual rate of maltreatment recurrence may be higher than the reported rate because maltreatment reports on open child welfare cases are not treated as new reports and subjected to an investigation. The following are potential barriers to preventing maltreatment recurrence based on information from the CFSR Final Report: (1) the high workloads carried by caseworkers; (2) a lack of sufficient risk assessment in some cases, particularly risk associated with substance abuse or domestic violence; (3) failure in some cases to provide services in a timely manner; and (4) provision of time-limited services that are not extensive or intensive enough to meet the needs of some families.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce incidence of maltreatment in foster care**

In CY 2000, the incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 1.5, which is higher than both the national standard of 0.57 and the national median of 0.47 percent. There is no information in the CFSR Final Report that may be used to interpret the State's performance on this outcome measure.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 89.4 percent of children leaving foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 84.7 percent), 79.6 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 79.5 percent), and 75.3 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 72.6 percent). These findings suggest that the State is generally effective in achieving permanency for children in foster care. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that performance on this outcome may be attributed in part to the following: (1) adherence to the requirements of the Adoption and Safe Families Act with regard to moving children to permanency; (2) efforts by the Court Improvement Project to enhance the quality of court decisions regarding children and families; and (3) infrequent use of "long-term foster care" as a child's case goal.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 59.2, which is less than the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that a key barrier to achieving reunifications in a timely manner is the high level of staff turnover, which results in insufficient case planning and follow up with parents.

North Carolina's performance with regard to reunifications occurring within 12 months must be balanced by the finding that in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 1.3, which is less than both the national standard of 8.6 percent and the national median of 10.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the low rate of re-entries into foster care may be attributed to the liberal use of trial home placements and the availability of post-reunification services.

### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 27.5, which does not meet the national standard of 32.0 percent but is higher than the national median of 19.7 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State has made diligent efforts to expedite adoptions including enacting legislation to decrease the time required to finalize adoption and increasing the amount of the adoption assistance payment. According to information in the CFSR Final Report, a primary barrier to achieving adoptions within 24 months of entry may be delays in court hearings due to the limited court time allocated to dependency issues and to the frequent practice of some judges of granting continuances in dependency cases.

### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 57.7, which is lower than both the national standard of 86.7 percent and the national median of 84.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving placement stability: (1) insufficient placement facilities for youth, particularly therapeutic foster homes; (2) a lack of adequate support for foster parents to assist them in parenting children with behavioral and emotional problems; and (3) inadequate matching of children with foster care placements based on the children's needs.

### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children entering foster care who were age 12 and younger and who were placed in a group home or institution was 6.9, which is lower than the national median of 9.0. There is no information in the CFSR Final Report that may be used to explain the State's performance on this measure.

### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that North Carolina is generally effective in meeting children's physical health needs, but is not as consistently effective in meeting children's educational and mental health needs. The Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) a lack of routine screening of the child's potential educational needs, particularly in cases in which children are not in foster care placements; (2) insufficient agency attention to assessing mental health needs and/or providing services to meet those needs; (3) insufficient mental health services; (4) poor quality mental health services in some cases; and (5) payment issues that prevent social workers from accessing some services for children and families.



## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	162,611	160,092	160,849	Child maltreatment victims	—	1,284	—
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	1,170	1,143	1,129
Alaska Native/American Indian	8.3	8.5	7.8	Children adopted	111	139	105
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.2	1.2	0.6				
Black	0.7	0.8	0.8				
Hispanic	1.7	1.8	2.0				
White	88.1	87.7	86.6				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.1				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.1				
% Child population in poverty	20.1	19.2	15.3				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	38.0	37.8	42.6				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	7,098	6,926	6,985	43.7 per 1,000	43.3 per 1,000	43.4 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	—	1,284	—	— per 1,000	8.0 per 1,000	— per 1,000
Child fatalities	—	—	—	— per 100,000	— per 100,000	— per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	6.9	—	Alaska Native/American Indian	—	26.2	—
1-5 years	—	26.3	—	Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.2	—
6-10 years	—	33.6	—	Black	—	3.5	—
11-15 years	—	28.0	—	Hispanic	—	3.3	—
16+ years	—	5.3	—	White	—	68.8	—
Unknown	—	—	—	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	—	100.0	—	Other/Unknown	—	1.2	—
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>1,284</b>	—	Total % <sup>3</sup>	—	103.3	—
				<b>Number</b>	—	<b>1,284</b>	—

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	—	48.3	—
Medical neglect	—	4.3	—
Neglect	—	64.0	—
Physical abuse	—	12.5	—
Sexual abuse	—	7.2	—
Other	—	136.3	—
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	—	272.6	—
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>1,284</b>	—

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	785	1,056	671	1,170	1,841
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	1,005	965	827	1,143	1,970
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	974	1,006	851	1,129	1,980

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	12.8	N/A	7.0	10.8	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	11.1	N/A	8.0	10.8	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	10.9	N/A	6.4	10.8	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	5.2	5.9	5.4	12.1	13.5	12.0	3.4	2.5	4.7	8.5	8.9	6.8
1-5 years	21.3	13.4	14.4	11.9	16.4	14.0	18.3	16.1	14.9	15.2	16.3	16.3
6-10 years	22.5	20.6	19.9	14.4	15.3	15.6	17.9	15.6	15.2	18.2	19.2	17.4
11-15 years	33.1	33.5	34.7	37.7	35.1	36.7	25.0	26.7	29.1	33.4	32.6	34.9
16-18 years	17.5	25.8	24.8	23.8	19.7	21.7	34.9	38.1	35.4	23.9	22.2	23.6
19+ years	0.3	0.8	0.7	—	—	—	0.3	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.8
Unknown	0.1	—	—	0.1	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>1,056</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>1,143</b>	<b>1,129</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	36.7	34.2	33.1	25.9	27.5	28.2	27.7	30.6	29.7	32.1	31.1	31.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.2	0.8	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.7	1.0
Black	1.9	1.8	2.4	2.7	2.5	1.8	2.2	1.6	2.2	2.4	2.5	1.9
Hispanic	1.8	3.1	2.5	5.2	5.0	4.2	4.3	5.3	3.9	3.4	3.1	2.9
White	59.1	59.6	60.3	65.0	63.6	62.1	65.0	61.8	61.8	61.0	61.4	60.8
Two or more races	0.4	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.6	3.2	0.1	0.5	2.1	0.9	1.0	2.0
Unknown	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	—	—	0.1	—	—	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>1,056</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>1,143</b>	<b>1,129</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	370	387	343
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	323	332	262

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	23.5	22.2	14.9
1-5 years	33.0	29.7	32.1
6-10 years	26.5	26.4	22.4
11-15 years	15.7	19.6	25.9
16+ years	0.8	1.0	4.4
Unknown	0.5	1.0	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>343</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	29.2	25.1	26.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5	2.1	2.6
Black	4.9	4.7	2.9
Hispanic	3.0	3.4	3.8
White	61.1	63.6	62.4
Two or more races	1.4	1.3	2.0
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>343</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	45.9	48.2	41.9
1-5 years	36.9	31.7	34.3
6-10 years	9.0	14.4	18.1
11-15 years	7.2	4.3	4.8
16+ years	0.9	1.4	1.0
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>105</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	4.5	14.4	9.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
Black	4.5	5.0	3.8
Hispanic	3.6	7.2	4.8
White	87.4	73.4	79.0
Two or more races	—	—	2.9
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>105</b>

<sup>5</sup> In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

<sup>6</sup> Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

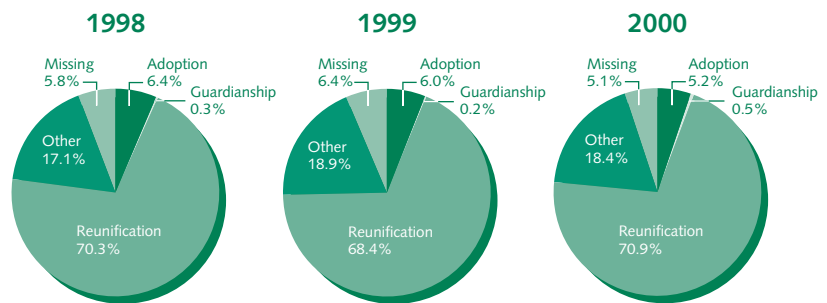
	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	6.4	6.0	5.2
Guardianship	0.3	0.2	0.5
Reunification	70.3	68.4	70.9
Other	17.1	18.9	18.4
Missing data	5.8	6.4	5.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	671	827	851

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	89.7	90.9	85.4
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	6.9	—	9.8
Other	3.4	4.5	—
Missing data	—	4.5	4.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	29	44	41

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	0.4	—
Guardianship	0.3	0.4	0.9
Reunification	64.4	65.8	67.0
Other	26.5	25.2	25.1
Missing data	8.8	8.0	7.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	351	448	463

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	—	—	—
Children older than 12 at entry	100.0	100.0	100.0
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	37	42	43

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	1.6	5.1	4.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6.8	—
Guardianship	0.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	75.3	64.0	63.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	86.7	76.9	63.2	86.2	75.0	81.8
Other	17.7	25.3	22.9	—	—	—	6.7	15.4	31.6	13.8	15.9	9.1
Missing data	4.8	5.5	9.9	—	—	—	6.7	7.7	5.3	—	2.3	9.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>33</b>

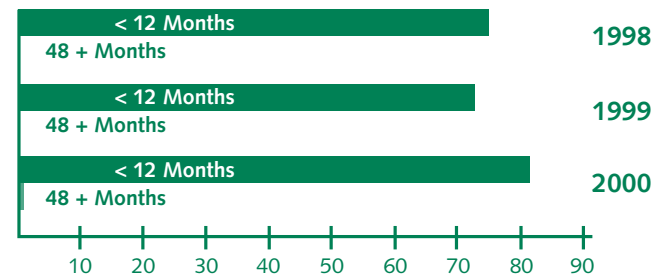
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	9.2	6.7	6.1	—	—	—	—	—	11.1	—	—	—
Guardianship	0.2	0.4	0.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	66.5	69.5	73.4	100.0	—	—	—	100.0	88.9	—	—	—
Other	17.4	16.2	17.1	—	—	—	100.0	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	6.7	7.2	2.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—
<b>Number</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

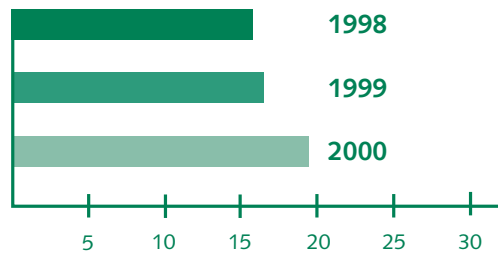
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	74.8	72.8	81.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	19.3	21.0	13.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	4.9	3.9	2.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.4	2.1	1.3
48 or more mos.	—	—	0.7
Missing data	0.6	0.2	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>603</b>

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	65.1	70.7	71.3
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	15.8	16.4	19.4
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	7.1	9.1	7.0
Missing data	12.0	3.8	2.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,056</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>1,006</b>

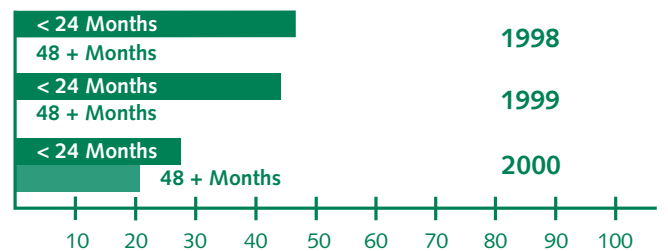
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	18.6	22.0	11.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	27.9	22.0	15.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	46.5	14.0	36.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	7.0	42.0	15.9
48 or more mos.	—	—	20.5
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>44</b>

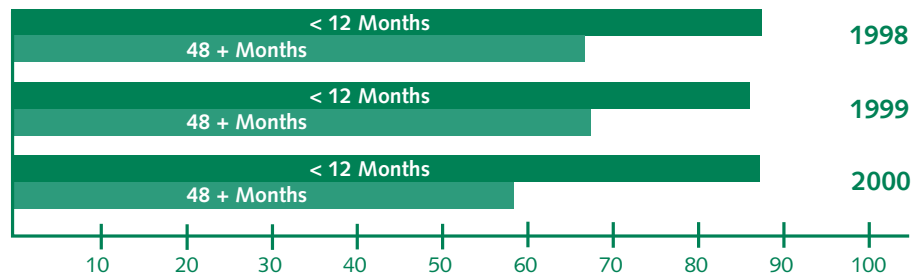
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	87.2	8.2	4.6	100.0	1,157
	1999	86.0	10.9	3.0	100.0	1,151
	2000	87.1	12.6	0.3	100.0	1,210
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	75.1	22.7	2.3	100.0	309
	1999	68.8	30.3	0.9	100.0	426
	2000	63.5	36.2	0.3	100.0	359
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	67.4	30.8	1.8	100.0	227
	1999	65.9	33.3	0.7	100.0	138
	2000	54.5	45.5	—	100.0	167
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	69.8	27.1	3.1	100.0	129
	1999	61.3	36.0	2.7	100.0	150
	2000	61.0	39.0	—	100.0	77
48 or more mos.	1998	66.7	—	33.3	100.0	12
	1999	67.3	30.7	2.0	100.0	101
	2000	58.3	40.5	1.2	100.0	163
Missing data	1998	85.7	—	14.3	100.0	7
	1999	50.0	—	50.0	100.0	4
	2000	50.0	—	50.0	100.0	4

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	1.1	1.4	1.0
Institutions	4.9	4.7	8.8
Other settings	94.0	93.6	90.2
Missing data	—	0.2	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	452	487	489

# North Dakota

[ STATE COMMENT ]

The following discussion focuses on North Dakota's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance. In using CFSR information to interpret performance, it is important to note that the North Dakota CFSR was conducted in 2001 and the national data used for the review to assess performance on national standards was from 1999. However, the discussion on State performance relevant to the national standards in the Federal Comment section focuses on data from the year 2000, as provided in the State Data Pages. In addition, because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

North Dakota's attainment of outcome 1 cannot be assessed in the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) to calculate this outcome. Only data from NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, for the CFSR, the State provided data for this outcome using an alternative source. These data are presented in North Dakota's CFSR Final Report.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce incidence of maltreatment in foster care**

North Dakota's attainment of outcome 2 cannot be evaluated in the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to NCANDS for calculating this outcome. Only data from NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, for the CFSR, the State provided data for this outcome using an alternative source. These data are provided in North Dakota's CFSR Final Report.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 76.6 percent of children exiting foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is lower than the national median of 84.7 percent) and only 67.9 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is lower than the national median of 72.6 percent). However, in FY 2000, 95.2 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to permanent homes (although only 42 children were included in this assessment), and none of the children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry. These data suggest that although the State is not consistently effective in achieving permanency for children in foster care, particularly children who enter foster care when they are older than age 12, they are somewhat successful in ensuring that children who enter foster care at relatively young ages do not "grow up" in the system. Information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that the key barriers to achieving permanency are court-related. These include: (1) the frequent granting of continuances of permanency hearings; (2) the lack of training for judges regarding permanency issues; (3) delays in obtaining decisions on appeals to termination of parental rights; and (4) the unwillingness of some judges in the State to grant termination of parental rights in cases in which parents have substance abuse problems, mental illness, developmental disabilities, are incarcerated, or in cases in which children are teenagers.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 81.4, which is higher than both the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. Although the FY 2000 data indicate that the State meets the national standard, North Dakota did not meet this standard during the 2001 CFSR based on data from FY 1999. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's improved performance on this outcome measure from 1999 to 2000 may be attributed to the following: (1) the availability of a wide array of services to ensure reduction of risk of harm to children, (2) diligent efforts to support parent-child visitation, and (3) a newly implemented Guardian ad Litem program.

North Dakota's effectiveness with regard to reunification within 12 months must be balanced by the finding that in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 19.4. This percentage exceeds both the national standard of 8.6 percent and the national median of 10.3 percent. The re-entry rate also did not meet the standards in FY 1999 for the 2001 CFSR. Information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that the State plans to examine this issue to better understand the reasons for re-entries into foster care.

#### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 27.3, which is lower than the national standard of 32.0 percent, but exceeds the national median of 19.7 percent. However, FY 1999 data indicate that 44 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care. Consequently, the State met the national standard for this outcome measure for the 2001 CFSR. The discrepancy between the State's performance on this measure in 1999 and 2000 suggests that there may be data quality issues relevant to this measure. In addition, in both 1999 and 2000, the number of children reported as exiting to adoption to the Adoption Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) Foster Care Database is considerably less than the number of finalized adoptions reported to the AFCARS Adoption Database. Although this additional discrepancy also prevents a meaningful interpretation of the State's performance on this outcome measure, information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State is effective in achieving adoptions in a timely manner and attributes this in part to the implementation of a concurrent planning approach to permanency planning.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children in foster care for less than 12 months who experienced no more than 2 placements was 87.1, which exceeds both the national median of 84.3 percent and the national standard of 86.7 percent. However, FY 1999 data indicate that 86.2 percent of children in foster care for less than 12 months experienced no more than 2 placements, which is lower than (although quite close to) the national standard of 86.7 percent. Consequently, the State did not meet the national standard for this measure for the 2001 CFSR. Case review findings reported in the CFSR Final Report suggest that the State is effective in ensuring placement stability. This was attributed in part to the extensive supports and services provided to foster parents, including support groups and specialized training.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 9.8, which is higher than the national median of 9.0 percent. According to information provided in the CFSR Final Report, State policy requires that children be placed in the least restrictive environment possible.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that the agency is effective in meeting children's educational and physical health needs, but is not as consistent in meeting children's mental health needs. The Final Report identified the following as potential barriers to meeting children's mental health needs: (1) failure to conduct mental health assessments in some cases in which there was indication of a possible mental health problem; and (2) a scarcity of placement options for children with serious mental health service needs.



## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	2,844,005	2,844,071	2,888,339	Child maltreatment victims	58,938	55,921	54,084
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	—	20,078	20,365
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	Children adopted	1,015	1,868	2,044
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.3	1.4	1.1				
Black	14.5	14.5	14.2				
Hispanic	2.3	2.4	2.8				
White	81.7	81.6	79.2				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.3				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.3				
% Child population in poverty	16.1	17.6	14.6				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	84.6	89.5	80.7				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	135,613	128,924	120,712	47.7 per 1,000	45.3 per 1,000	41.8 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	58,938	55,921	54,084	20.7 per 1,000	19.7 per 1,000	18.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	60	58	58	2.1 per 100,000	2.0 per 100,000	2.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	7.6	7.6	8.2	Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.3	0.4
1-5 years	30.6	29.6	30.2	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.2	0.3
6-10 years	30.0	29.9	29.6	Black	31.8	30.1	31.2
11-15 years	23.0	23.8	23.7	Hispanic	1.3	1.3	1.1
16+ years	6.1	6.2	6.3	White	62.6	64.0	63.5
Unknown	2.7	2.8	1.9	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	4.1	4.8	5.4
<b>Number</b>	<b>58,938</b>	<b>55,921</b>	<b>54,084</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	100.4	100.7	101.8
				<b>Number</b>	<b>58,938</b>	<b>55,921</b>	<b>54,084</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	3.1	4.2	5.5
Medical neglect	0.0	0.0	0.0
Neglect	55.0	53.3	52.7
Physical abuse	27.3	28.0	27.7
Sexual abuse	14.1	14.1	14.0
Other	—	—	—
Unknown	0.4	0.3	0.1
Total % <sup>4</sup>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>58,938</b>	<b>55,921</b>	<b>54,084</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	—	—	—	—	—
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	16,951	15,946	12,819	20,078	32,897
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	19,100	15,396	14,131	20,365	34,496

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	—	N/A	—	—	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	12.6	N/A	4.8	13.4	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	14.0	N/A	7.4	14.4	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	—	5.3	5.4	—	12.7	12.9	—	5.7	5.4	—	5.5	5.4
1-5 years	—	24.0	24.9	—	24.8	24.7	—	25.5	27.3	—	24.8	24.8
6-10 years	—	23.0	23.8	—	21.5	21.1	—	20.2	21.5	—	23.5	23.0
11-15 years	—	29.0	28.5	—	28.6	28.5	—	25.3	24.0	—	28.6	28.8
16-18 years	—	17.2	16.1	—	12.0	12.6	—	21.7	20.4	—	15.9	16.6
19+ years	—	0.7	0.8	—	0.0	0.0	—	1.1	1.2	—	0.9	0.8
Unknown	—	0.9	0.6	—	0.3	0.2	—	0.5	0.2	—	0.9	0.6
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>16,951</b>	<b>19,100</b>	—	<b>15,946</b>	<b>15,396</b>	—	<b>12,819</b>	<b>14,131</b>	—	<b>20,078</b>	<b>20,365</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	—	—	0.2	—	—	0.1	—	—	0.2	—	—	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	0.2	—	—	0.3	—	—	0.3	—	—	0.1
Black	—	—	46.9	—	0.1	41.0	—	—	40.3	—	0.1	47.0
Hispanic	—	0.7	2.6	—	0.8	2.8	—	1.2	2.9	—	0.5	2.5
White	—	0.3	44.2	—	0.5	50.5	—	0.2	50.7	—	0.5	44.4
Two or more races	—	—	5.1	—	—	4.2	—	—	4.3	—	—	4.9
Unknown	—	99.0	0.9	—	98.6	1.3	—	98.6	1.2	—	98.9	1.0
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>16,951</b>	<b>19,100</b>	—	<b>15,946</b>	<b>15,396</b>	—	<b>12,819</b>	<b>14,131</b>	—	<b>20,078</b>	<b>20,365</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	—	3,476	4,439
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	—	590	3,035

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	3.1	2.8
1-5 years	—	27.7	26.6
6-10 years	—	30.4	29.3
11-15 years	—	30.5	31.4
16+ years	—	6.9	8.2
Unknown	—	1.5	1.7
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>3,476</b>	<b>4,439</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
Black	—	0.2	48.0
Hispanic	—	0.4	2.0
White	—	0.3	44.2
Two or more races	—	—	5.4
Unknown	—	99.1	0.4
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>3,476</b>	<b>4,439</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	2.0	7.4	6.3
1-5 years	53.7	48.6	48.4
6-10 years	29.6	28.7	28.9
11-15 years	13.1	13.1	13.7
16+ years	1.7	2.2	2.7
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>1,868</b>	<b>2,044</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.2	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.1	0.3
Black	41.6	50.9	42.5
Hispanic	2.0	0.4	3.6
White	50.7	46.6	45.6
Two or more races	—	—	6.8
Unknown	5.6	1.9	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>1,868</b>	<b>2,044</b>

<sup>5</sup> In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

<sup>6</sup> Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

### 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

#### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

### 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

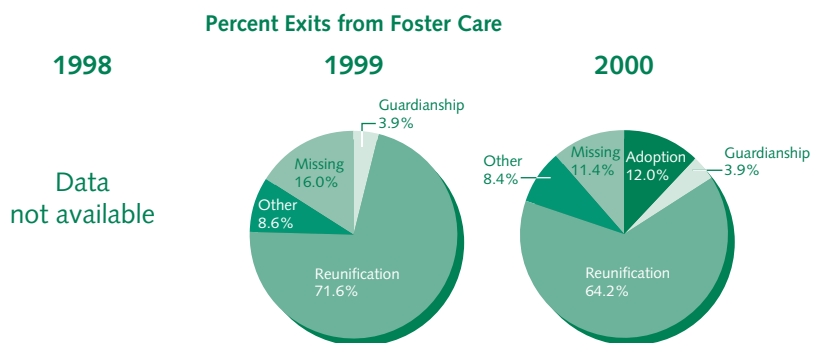
#### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

### 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

#### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	12.0
Guardianship	—	3.9	3.9
Reunification	—	71.6	64.2
Other	—	8.6	8.4
Missing data	—	16.0	11.4
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	12,819	14,131



#### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	15.6
Guardianship	—	2.8	3.5
Reunification	—	72.6	59.5
Other	—	15.7	13.7
Missing data	—	8.9	7.7
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	4,391	4,930

#### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	0.4
Guardianship	—	3.1	3.0
Reunification	—	50.8	52.8
Other	—	18.1	20.1
Missing data	—	28.0	23.6
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	4,548	4,601

#### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	—	24.2	22.5
Children older than 12 at entry	—	75.6	77.3
Missing data	—	0.2	0.2
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	952	1,028

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	9.7	—	—	10.0	—	—	12.0	—	—	15.3
Guardianship	—	—	6.5	—	—	2.5	—	—	4.3	—	4.5	5.8
Reunification	—	—	64.5	—	—	75.0	—	—	62.9	—	68.8	62.0
Other	—	—	6.5	—	—	—	—	—	8.8	—	5.2	8.0
Missing data	—	—	12.9	—	—	12.5	—	—	12.0	—	21.4	8.8
Total %	—	—	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	—	31	—	—	40	—	—	5,701	—	154	411

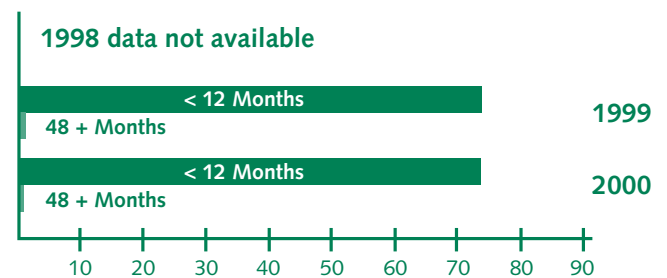
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	—	—	11.5	—	—	6.3	—	—	18.0	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	4.3	3.5	—	3.9	3.4	—	—	5.1	—	—	—
Reunification	—	78.3	65.3	—	71.6	66.3	—	—	63.2	—	—	—
Other	—	4.3	8.3	—	8.6	5.7	—	—	7.8	—	—	—
Missing data	—	13.0	11.4	—	16.0	18.3	—	—	5.9	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Number	—	23	7,167	—	12,642	175	—	—	606	—	—	—

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

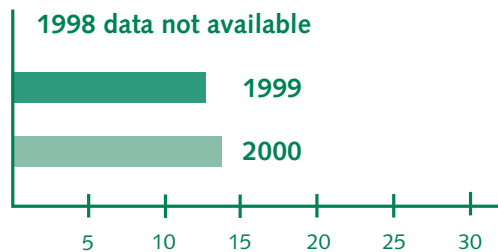
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	74.0	73.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	19.3	18.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	3.7	3.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	0.9	1.1
48 or more mos.	—	1.2	1.1
Missing data	—	0.9	1.3
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	9,172	9,074

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	—	68.7	72.0
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	—	12.6	13.7
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	—	11.4	12.4
Missing data	—	7.3	1.9
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	15,946	15,396

Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	—	5.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	—	23.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	—	28.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	—	20.2
48 or more mos.	—	—	22.3
Missing data	—	—	0.1
Total %	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	1,694

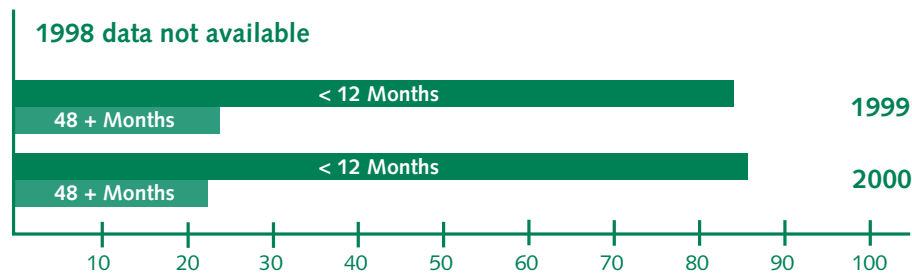
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	84.0	12.2	3.7	100.0	18,460
	2000	85.8	12.0	2.2	100.0	17,945
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	62.1	37.4	0.6	100.0	6,503
	2000	62.1	37.5	0.3	100.0	6,921
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	47.3	52.2	0.5	100.0	2,883
	2000	45.2	54.5	0.2	100.0	3,446
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	32.2	67.2	0.5	100.0	1,523
	2000	34.8	64.9	0.3	100.0	2,096
48 or more mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	23.7	75.4	1.0	100.0	3,367
	2000	22.3	77.0	0.7	100.0	3,906
Missing data	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	79.5	0.6	19.9	100.0	161
	2000	68.7	—	31.3	100.0	182

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	—	1.1	1.1
Institutions	—	3.5	2.8
Other settings	—	95.4	96.1
Missing data	—	0.0	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	10,527	10,102

# Ohio

[ STATE COMMENT ]

The following discussion focuses on Ohio's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance (the Ohio CFSR was conducted in FY 2002). Because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

#### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

Ohio's performance with regard to outcome 1 cannot be assessed in the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating this measure. Only data from NCANDS are presented for this measure in the Report to Congress. However, for the CFSR, the State provided data for this measure using an alternative source. These data are presented in Ohio's CFSR Final Report.

#### **Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care**

Ohio's performance with regard to outcome 2 cannot be assessed in the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to NCANDS for calculating this measure. Only data from NCANDS are presented for this measure in the Report to Congress. However, for the CFSR, the State provided data for this measure using an alternative source. These data are provided in Ohio's CFSR Final Report.

#### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 80.1 percent of children leaving foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is lower than the national median of 84.7 percent), and 78.6 percent of children with a diagnosed disability leaving foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is lower than the national median of 79.5 percent). (The data for children older than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care cannot be assessed because "reason for discharge" information was not reported for almost 24 percent of those children.) In general, the data pertaining to outcome 3 suggest that the State is not consistently effective in attaining permanency for children exiting foster care. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving permanency: (1) a lack of adequate collaboration between the agency and the courts, and (2) a frequent agency practice of establishing a case goal of long-term foster care when reunification efforts fail, without first considering the permanency goals of guardianship or adoption.

#### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reported reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 73.9, which is lower than the national standard of 76.2 percent, but higher than the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report notes that the State believes that the rate of reunification within 12 months is actually higher than the rate reported to the Federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) because the State may not be reporting "reason for discharge" information to AFCARS for all children. The table for outcome measure 3.1 supports this contention because for FY 2000, "reason for discharge" information was not reported for 11.4 percent of children exiting from foster care. The CFSR Final Report also identifies lack of access to services, waiting lists for services, and crowded court dockets as key barriers to timely reunifications.

In FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 13.7, which exceeds the national standard of 8.6 percent and the national median of 10.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential reasons for foster care re-entries: (1) families are reunified in some cases without adequate assessments of parents' progress in making the necessary changes, (2) the fact that the agency does not use trial home visits or increased visitation prior to reunification to ensure family stability, and (3) a scarcity of supportive services to families provided at the time of reunification.

**Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 29.2, which does not meet the national standard of 32.0, but is higher than the national median of 19.7. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving adoptions in a timely manner: (1) agency related delays including delays in finding adoptive placements and lack of concurrent planning efforts, and (2) court-related delays due to crowded dockets and attorney's requests for continuances.

**Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children experiencing no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 85.8, which does not meet the national standard of 86.7 percent, but is higher than the national median of 84.3. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving placement stability: (1) a scarcity of appropriate placements for children with behavior problems, (2) lack of services to caregivers to assist them in parenting children with behavior or emotional problems, and (3) the frequent practice of placing children in shelters on an emergency basis at the point of entry into the system.

**Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 3.9, which is lower than the national median of 9.0. According to information in the CFSR Final Report, the low percentage of young children placed in group homes may be attributed to the State's efforts to place children in foster placements that are in their own neighborhoods.

**Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that the State is not consistently effective in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs. The Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) lack of adequate assessments of children's educational needs; (2) insufficient attention to children's needs for health care services; (3) scarcity of doctors and dentists who will accept Medicaid in some areas of the State (4) failure in some cases to provide mental health services to children with identified mental health needs; and (5) lack of sufficient mental health services in most areas of the State.



## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
<b>Total children under 18 years</b>	<b>879,367</b>	<b>882,062</b>	<b>892,360</b>	Child maltreatment victims	16,584	16,210	13,861
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	7,233	8,173	8,406
Alaska Native/American Indian	10.1	9.7	10.6	Children adopted	505	825	1,062
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.4	1.5	1.3				
Black	9.6	9.5	9.3				
Hispanic	6.0	6.2	7.9				
White	72.9	73.1	64.6				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	6.2				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.1				
<b>% Child population in poverty</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>24.1</b>				
<b>% Child population living in metropolitan areas</b>	<b>61.5</b>	<b>61.7</b>	<b>61.5</b>				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	60,340	60,955	59,955	68.6 per 1,000	69.1 per 1,000	67.2 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	16,584	16,210	13,861	18.9 per 1,000	18.4 per 1,000	15.5 per 1,000
Child fatalities	45	47	45	5.1 per 100,000	5.3 per 100,000	5.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	8.9	9.3	11.2	Alaska Native/American Indian	13.6	14.4	12.7
1-5 years	31.3	31.4	32.6	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	0.5	0.5
6-10 years	30.2	30.5	28.7	Black	14.3	13.5	12.9
11-15 years	23.0	23.0	21.7	Hispanic	4.7	5.2	6.2
16+ years	4.9	4.4	4.5	White	68.7	69.1	63.0
Unknown	1.8	1.4	1.2	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	3.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	3.1	2.6	1.2
<b>Number</b>	<b>16,584</b>	<b>16,210</b>	<b>13,861</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	104.7	105.2	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>16,584</b>	<b>16,210</b>	<b>13,861</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	10.9	11.4	11.2
Medical neglect	3.3	3.1	3.3
Neglect	93.7	98.0	80.0
Physical abuse	24.9	24.9	19.9
Sexual abuse	8.5	8.0	7.8
Other	10.6	13.2	—
Unknown	—	—	1.4
Total % <sup>4</sup>	151.9	158.6	123.6
<b>Number</b>	<b>16,584</b>	<b>16,210</b>	<b>13,861</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	6,214	6,346	5,337	7,233	12,560
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	6,432	6,484	4,746	8,173	12,916
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	7,204	6,558	5,364	8,406	13,762

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	13.2	N/A	4.2	12.9	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	14.5	N/A	6.4	11.6	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	13.4	N/A	7.6	11.9	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	4.0	4.4	4.2	11.3	11.1	11.5	5.9	5.3	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.9
1-5 years	27.0	27.7	25.8	27.7	27.1	26.7	27.6	28.7	26.5	26.9	26.7	26.4
6-10 years	26.7	27.4	26.3	23.2	21.1	21.6	23.7	23.7	23.0	26.2	25.0	24.5
11-15 years	27.5	27.0	27.5	25.2	25.2	24.7	23.1	21.1	22.7	26.0	27.0	26.3
16-18 years	14.5	13.3	16.0	12.6	15.4	15.4	18.9	20.9	23.0	16.3	16.5	17.4
19+ years	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	—	0.0	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4
Unknown	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>6,214</b>	<b>6,432</b>	<b>7,204</b>	<b>6,346</b>	<b>6,484</b>	<b>6,558</b>	<b>5,337</b>	<b>4,746</b>	<b>5,364</b>	<b>7,233</b>	<b>8,173</b>	<b>8,406</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	14.5	14.7	12.0	15.3	14.3	18.4	14.2	14.0	12.8	15.4	14.8	16.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.5
Black	25.7	24.8	21.6	20.0	19.5	17.3	20.6	20.7	19.7	24.5	23.0	19.5
Hispanic	4.5	4.6	4.7	5.3	5.6	6.0	5.5	5.5	6.6	4.4	4.8	4.5
White	55.0	55.3	51.0	58.4	58.7	50.0	58.9	58.6	52.5	55.1	56.1	49.3
Two or more races	—	0.1	10.2	—	1.0	6.9	—	0.3	7.7	—	0.7	9.2
Unknown	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>6,214</b>	<b>6,432</b>	<b>7,204</b>	<b>6,346</b>	<b>6,484</b>	<b>6,558</b>	<b>5,337</b>	<b>4,746</b>	<b>5,364</b>	<b>7,233</b>	<b>8,173</b>	<b>8,406</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	1,422	1,832	1,767
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	11	25	18

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	3.1	2.6	2.5
1-5 years	32.9	29.9	29.3
6-10 years	36.1	33.1	33.1
11-15 years	24.8	30.2	31.2
16+ years	2.8	3.8	3.5
Unknown	0.3	0.4	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,422</b>	<b>1,832</b>	<b>1,767</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	13.6	13.9	11.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.3	—
Black	35.0	31.1	25.4
Hispanic	4.5	5.0	3.7
White	46.5	49.3	47.2
Two or more races	—	0.2	11.8
Unknown	0.4	0.3	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,422</b>	<b>1,832</b>	<b>1,767</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	2.0	2.1	1.4
1-5 years	45.1	39.4	40.9
6-10 years	34.1	37.0	35.4
11-15 years	16.4	19.0	18.6
16+ years	2.4	2.5	3.7
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>1,062</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	11.7	9.6	11.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	0.4	0.9
Black	24.4	22.5	24.9
Hispanic	3.2	4.2	6.5
White	56.2	56.6	51.1
Two or more races	3.6	6.3	4.6
Unknown	0.6	0.4	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>1,062</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

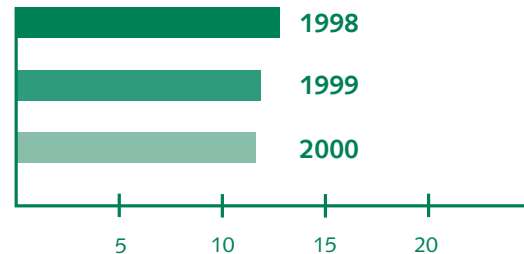
6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	87.3	88.2	88.3
Children with one or more recurrences	12.7	11.8	11.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,667	7,108	6,287

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

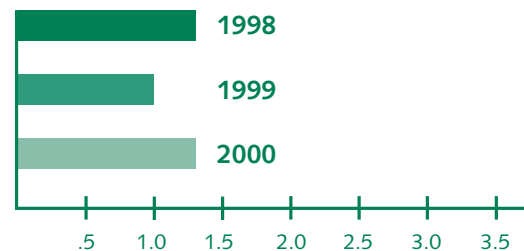


## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	1.3	1.0	1.3
Children not maltreated while in foster care	98.7	99.0	98.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	11,483	11,868	12,478

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

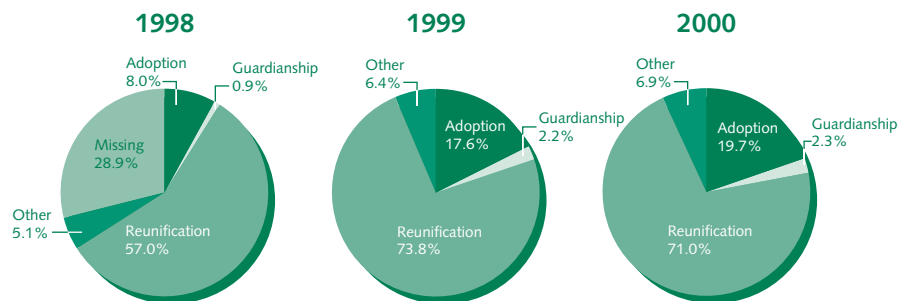


## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	8.0	17.6	19.7
Guardianship	0.9	2.2	2.3
Reunification	57.0	73.8	71.0
Other	5.1	6.4	6.9
Missing data	28.9	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,337	4,746	5,364

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	20.4	39.6	42.0
Guardianship	0.7	2.2	2.4
Reunification	35.5	45.7	43.4
Other	9.2	12.6	12.2
Missing data	34.2	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	991	692	655

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.7	1.0	1.3
Guardianship	0.5	0.4	0.9
Reunification	46.5	83.4	82.2
Other	11.1	15.1	15.7
Missing data	41.2	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,599	1,448	1,794

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	31.5	36.4	27.8
Children older than 12 at entry	68.5	63.6	68.5
Missing data	—	—	3.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	92	88	54

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	7.0	15.0	10.0	9.1	—	—	8.5	17.7	22.3	7.1	17.8	21.5
Guardianship	0.9	2.7	1.5	—	—	—	0.3	0.6	1.8	—	3.1	2.5
Reunification	60.1	75.3	79.7	63.6	100.0	82.4	56.3	74.9	69.3	63.6	73.0	70.1
Other	6.5	6.9	8.9	—	—	17.6	4.6	6.7	6.6	3.7	6.2	5.9
Missing data	25.6	—	—	27.3	—	—	30.4	—	—	25.5	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	759	665	688	11	14	17	1,097	981	1,055	294	259	354

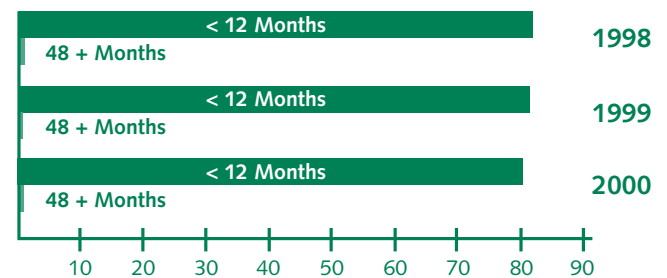
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	8.3	18.2	19.4	—	9.4	24.0	—	33.3	30.2	—	—	—
Guardianship	1.2	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.1	4.0	—	—	2.2	—	—	—
Reunification	56.0	73.0	70.9	40.0	81.2	68.0	—	60.0	62.8	—	—	—
Other	5.2	6.2	7.0	2.9	6.2	4.0	—	6.7	4.9	—	—	—
Missing data	29.3	—	—	54.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	—	—
Number	3,141	2,780	2,814	35	32	25	—	15	411	—	—	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

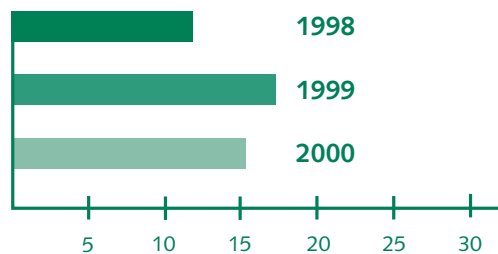
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	81.6	81.5	80.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.5	12.0	13.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.7	3.5	3.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.4	1.1	1.2
48 or more mos.	1.0	0.7	0.9
Missing data	0.8	1.2	0.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,042	3,504	3,811

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	82.1	74.8	76.0
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	11.9	17.3	15.3
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	4.4	5.2	6.9
Missing data	1.7	2.7	1.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,346	6,484	6,558

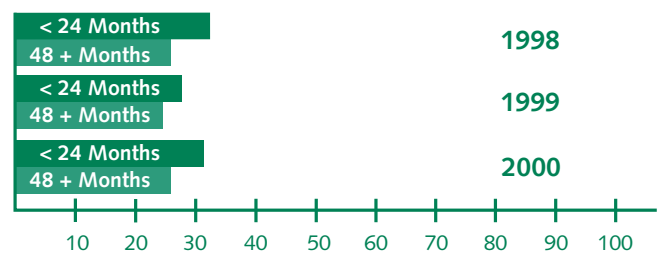
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	10.5	7.7	6.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	21.7	19.9	24.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	20.3	26.4	26.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	21.3	21.5	16.4
48 or more mos.	25.7	24.5	25.9
Missing data	0.5	—	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	428	833	1,056

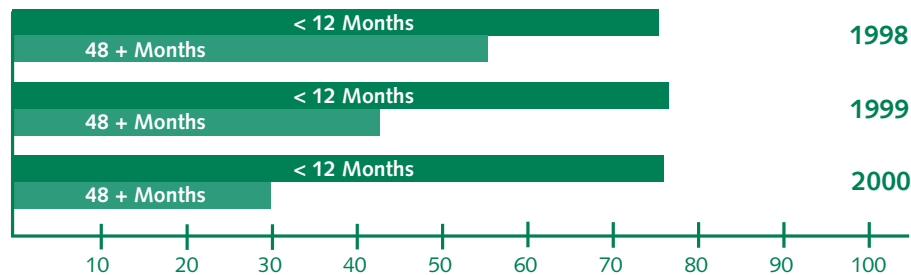
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	75.3	24.7	—	100.0	7,192
	1999	76.5	23.5	—	100.0	7,269
	2000	75.9	24.1	—	100.0	7,618
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	47.8	52.2	—	100.0	2,282
	1999	42.0	58.0	—	100.0	2,231
	2000	48.2	51.8	—	100.0	2,566
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	40.6	59.4	—	100.0	1,211
	1999	32.8	67.2	—	100.0	1,296
	2000	30.9	69.1	—	100.0	1,330
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	44.9	55.1	—	100.0	709
	1999	33.5	66.5	—	100.0	805
	2000	23.7	76.3	—	100.0	806
48 or more mos.	1998	55.2	44.8	—	100.0	1,124
	1999	42.6	57.4	—	100.0	1,259
	2000	29.8	70.2	—	100.0	1,414
Missing data	1998	97.6	2.4	—	100.0	42
	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	56
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	28

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	18.0	13.4	13.2
Institutions	1.3	1.5	1.3
Other settings	80.7	85.2	85.4
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,225	4,081	4,182

**Linda Smith, Director  
Children and Family Services Division  
Oklahoma Department of Human Services  
405-521-3646**

Oklahoma's comments regarding State data for *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000: Annual Report* are the following:

*Child Welfare Context Data, Section A, Child Maltreatment Victims*

An alternative response system was implemented in April 1999. Changes in overall and individual findings were made in May 2000. Effective December 2000, children assessed under the alternative response system were no longer reported to NCANDS as victims. These changes affected the number of child maltreatment victims and the victimization rate for Oklahoma.

*Child Welfare Context Data, Section B, Child Fatalities*

Oklahoma investigates all child fatalities, including those with no surviving siblings, and those not reported directly to the agency. Child fatalities due to failure to protect or improper supervision, such as unsupervised or improperly supervised children who die in a house fire or by drowning, are included in the statistics. These factors may account for the higher rate of child fatalities attributed to maltreatment in Oklahoma.

*Child Welfare Context Data, Section C*

The Oklahoma AFCARS extraction process was based on placement transaction dates, rather than removal transaction dates, resulting in under-reporting of foster care entries and exits. The extraction process has been corrected effective for the submission period beginning April 1, 2001.

*Child Welfare Context Data, Section D, Termination of Parental Rights (TPR)*

The TPR data includes only children with a case plan goal of adoption, for whom the parental rights of both parents were terminated, and who exited to finalized adoption during the year.

*Child Welfare Outcome Data, Measure 2.1, Maltreatment in Foster Care*

The Oklahoma NCANDS submission includes maltreatment in foster care, but excludes maltreatment in institutions.

*Child Welfare Outcome Data, Measure 4.2, Foster Care Re-entries*

Oklahoma under-reported foster care entries and exits resulting in an inaccurate rate of foster care re-entries within a 12-month period of a prior episode.

*Child Welfare Outcome Data, Measure 5.1, Exits to Adoption*

Oklahoma reported exits to trial rather than finalized adoptions for 1998-2000.

*Child Welfare Outcome Data, Measure 6.1, Number of Placements*

Oklahoma included respite, short-term hospital and psychiatric stays, and multiple placements with the same provider, in the number of placement settings for 1998-2000.

The following discussion focuses on Oklahoma's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance (the Oklahoma CFSR was conducted in FY 2002). Because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

In calendar year (CY) 2000, the rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months of a prior substantiated report was 11.7 percent, which is higher than both the national standard of 6.1 percent and the national median of 7.9 percent. Information from the CFSR suggests that the actual maltreatment recurrence rate may be higher than the reported rate because maltreatment reports on open child welfare agency cases are not always investigated as new reports, although this practice is not consistent with agency policy. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to preventing maltreatment recurrence: (1) a high level of staff turnover among staff conducting investigations and assessments; (2) the agency's reluctance to establish court-ordered services in cases in which children remain in their homes, so that parent's participation in services is voluntary; and (3) the questionable effectiveness of services for ensuring the child's safety and reducing risk of harm.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce incidence of maltreatment in foster care**

In CY 2000, the incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 1.3 percent, which is higher than both the national standard of 0.57 percent and the national median of 0.47 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that although the State has numerous standards in place to ensure that children in foster care are protected, concerns were identified regarding the quality of some foster home placements.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 93.0 percent of children leaving foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 84.7 percent), 87.8 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is greater than the national median of 79.5 percent), and 84.4 percent of children who were older than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care exited to permanent homes (which is greater than the national median of 72.6 percent). These data suggest that the State is effective in attaining permanency for children, including children with disabilities and children who are older than age 12 when they enter foster care. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that performance on this outcome may be attributed in part to the following: (1) multidisciplinary Permanency Planning Reviews that are held every 6 months for as long as a child is in foster care; (2) a quality assurance system that examines outcomes related to permanency as well as safety and well-being, and (3) diligent efforts to establish permanency goals in a timely manner and to change goals when necessary.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 80.2, which exceeds both the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that this performance may be attributed in part to the following: (1) the State's guardianship program that uses funds from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program to assist relatives seeking guardianship, and (2) efforts to pilot Family Group Conferencing programs in several locations in the State.

Oklahoma's success with regard to reunification within 12 months must be balanced by the finding that in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 15.3, which exceeds both the national median of 10.3 percent and the national standard of 8.6 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report notes that the State believes that the actual re-entry rate is lower than the reported rate because some children who are reported as reunified in the automated system actually remain in Department custody and are on a trial home visit. When these children come back into foster

care for safety reasons, it is recorded as a re-entry even though the child has remained in State custody. However, information from the CFSR Final Report also notes that there is a lack of post-reunification services for families and children. Although legislation (Aftercare Legislation) was passed to protect children after reunification, the legislation does not provide additional dollars to support post-reunification services.

#### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 31.3, which does not meet the national standard of 32.0 percent, but is higher than the national median of 19.7 percent. According to information from the CFSR Final Report, the State believes that the actual percentage of finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of entry into foster care is lower than the reported rate because the State has been coding adoptive placements as discharges to adoption to the Federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, rather than only reporting finalized adoptions, as is required by the data indicator. Information from the CFSR Final Report also identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving timely adoptions: (1) delays in filing for termination of parental rights (TPR); (2) a lack of understanding among agency staff of the adoption process; (3) delays in establishing the goal of adoption when reunification efforts appear unsuccessful; and (4) the State statute that permits jury trials for adjudication and termination of parental rights hearings. As noted in the CFSR Final Report, the State has implemented recent initiatives to address many of these barriers.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children in foster care for less than 12 months who experienced no more than 2 placements was 75.9, which is less than both the national standard of 86.7 percent and the national median of 84.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving placement stability for children: (1) a reliance on shelter placements at the point of initial entry into foster care and as interim placements when other placements disrupt; (2) a scarcity of placement resources, particularly therapeutic foster homes; (3) placements in foster homes that often are made without careful matching of children's needs and foster parent's skills; and (4) excessive caseloads that make it difficult for workers to be sufficiently responsive to the needs and concerns of foster parents.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 14.5, which is higher than the national median of 9.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance on this measure may be attributed to pervasive use of shelter care as initial placements for children of all ages.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that the agency is not consistent in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs. The Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) insufficient attention in some cases to children's educational needs; (2) failure to provide comprehensive health assessments for some children at the point of entry into foster care; (3) the scarcity of high quality medical and dental service providers who will accept Medicaid payments, resulting in long waiting lists for critical services; and (4) a lack of sufficient mental health services for children.



## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	825,170	827,501	846,526	Child maltreatment victims	10,147	11,241	11,381
Race/ethnicity (%) <sup>1</sup>				Children in foster care on 9/30	9,242	9,278	9,193
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.4	1.4	1.5	Children adopted	665	765	831
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.7	3.9	3.1				
Black	2.0	2.0	1.9				
Hispanic	9.7	10.3	12.7				
White	83.1	82.4	76.3				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	4.2				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.2				
% Child population in poverty	18.6	17.0	21.8				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	69.1	66.2	73.1				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	27,680	24,627	27,616	33.5 per 1,000	29.8 per 1,000	32.6 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	10,147	11,241	11,381	12.3 per 1,000	13.6 per 1,000	13.4 per 1,000
Child fatalities	17	18	21	2.1 per 100,000	2.2 per 100,000	2.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	12.3	12.5	12.1	Alaska Native/American Indian	2.2	2.3	2.9
1-5 years	35.2	35.1	37.3	Asian/Pacific Islander	1.0	1.2	0.9
6-10 years	31.0	29.9	29.0	Black	5.1	4.9	4.3
11-15 years	18.5	19.3	19.0	Hispanic	8.1	8.9	8.4
16+ years	3.0	3.2	2.7	White	55.9	56.5	56.0
Unknown	—	—	—	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	35.8	35.2	27.5
Number	10,147	11,241	11,381	Total % <sup>3</sup>	108.1	108.9	100.0
				Number	10,147	11,241	11,381

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	7.5	6.7	6.4
Medical neglect	4.2	4.3	3.6
Neglect	22.4	21.1	21.1
Physical abuse	14.2	13.2	12.1
Sexual abuse	14.1	11.8	10.4
Other	62.5	68.7	58.4
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	125.0	125.7	112.0
Number	10,147	11,241	11,381

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	8,832	4,875	4,465	9,242	13,707
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	9,018	4,818	4,558	9,278	13,836
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	9,081	4,675	4,563	9,193	13,756

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	15.8	N/A	11.4	17.5	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	18.0	N/A	12.5	18.5	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	19.1	N/A	13.9	18.5	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	4.2	4.3	4.8	13.5	14.9	15.0	3.0	3.2	3.0	4.3	4.9	4.6
1-5 years	31.3	29.7	29.0	29.4	29.8	32.2	31.6	30.2	31.0	29.6	29.1	31.0
6-10 years	28.6	28.9	28.8	24.4	25.0	23.3	26.0	26.6	24.9	28.5	28.8	27.2
11-15 years	26.1	26.6	26.7	26.2	24.4	24.8	24.1	24.0	24.6	27.0	26.8	27.7
16-18 years	9.4	10.2	10.2	6.5	5.7	4.7	14.2	14.9	15.1	10.2	10.0	9.0
19+ years	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.1	—	1.1	1.0	1.3	0.3	0.4	0.5
Unknown	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	—	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>8,832</b>	<b>9,018</b>	<b>9,081</b>	<b>4,875</b>	<b>4,818</b>	<b>4,675</b>	<b>4,465</b>	<b>4,558</b>	<b>4,563</b>	<b>9,242</b>	<b>9,278</b>	<b>9,193</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	4.6	5.0	4.6	4.7	4.0	5.1	4.0	4.5	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.7	1.1	1.2	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.9
Black	11.4	11.0	10.4	6.9	6.1	6.1	7.3	7.1	7.4	11.0	10.3	9.7
Hispanic	6.4	7.1	7.3	9.0	8.3	10.6	7.6	7.9	9.0	7.1	7.3	8.2
White	66.9	64.6	63.5	60.6	60.7	55.4	64.4	62.7	58.8	64.8	63.5	61.8
Two or more races	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	—	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.4
Unknown	10.0	11.5	13.1	18.0	19.6	21.5	15.8	16.9	19.1	11.4	13.1	14.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>8,832</b>	<b>9,018</b>	<b>9,081</b>	<b>4,875</b>	<b>4,818</b>	<b>4,675</b>	<b>4,465</b>	<b>4,558</b>	<b>4,563</b>	<b>9,242</b>	<b>9,278</b>	<b>9,193</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	2,781	3,000	3,150
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	0	0	0

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	6.0	5.9	5.4
1-5 years	46.0	45.6	46.8
6-10 years	36.6	36.4	35.2
11-15 years	10.8	11.7	11.9
16+ years	0.6	0.4	0.6
Unknown	0.0	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,781</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,150</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	3.2	3.0	2.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	0.5	0.5
Black	11.9	11.2	10.3
Hispanic	7.9	8.3	8.6
White	65.1	61.7	60.3
Two or more races	0.5	0.6	0.8
Unknown	11.0	14.7	16.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,781</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,150</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	0.3	0.3	0.1
1-5 years	53.4	47.1	51.0
6-10 years	34.1	39.9	34.2
11-15 years	11.4	11.4	13.6
16+ years	0.8	1.4	1.1
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>831</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	2.1	—	4.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.5	—	0.5
Black	10.8	—	11.6
Hispanic	10.1	12.0	12.0
White	74.3	—	71.0
Two or more races	—	—	0.2
Unknown	1.2	88.0	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>831</b>

<sup>5</sup> In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

<sup>6</sup> Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

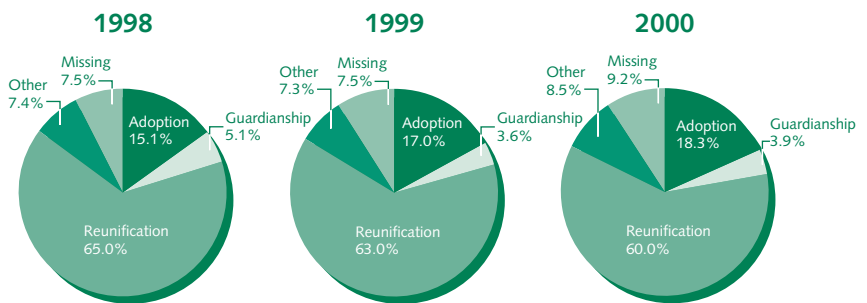
	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	15.1	17.0	18.3
Guardianship	5.1	3.6	3.9
Reunification	65.0	63.0	60.0
Other	7.4	7.3	8.5
Missing data	7.5	9.0	9.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,465	4,558	4,563

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	16.6	21.7	23.1
Guardianship	4.1	2.1	3.1
Reunification	54.3	49.0	43.9
Other	13.6	13.3	14.2
Missing data	11.5	13.9	15.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,537	1,568	1,488

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.2	0.4	0.3
Guardianship	1.7	1.9	2.2
Reunification	61.0	57.7	49.5
Other	23.0	22.4	25.8
Missing data	14.0	17.6	22.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,042	1,054	1,046

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	35.0	41.6	42.2
Children older than 12 at entry	65.0	58.4	57.8
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	117	101	147

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	4.4	9.3	13.1	—	10.5	10.0	19.6	30.2	26.0	9.1	11.9	15.4
Guardianship	9.4	4.9	9.0	—	—	2.5	5.8	4.0	5.9	3.2	1.7	1.5
Reunification	61.7	65.9	57.2	81.2	65.8	65.0	56.3	46.9	46.3	74.0	75.0	68.7
Other	7.2	7.8	5.4	12.5	7.9	15.0	9.2	12.3	10.3	8.3	4.2	6.1
Missing data	17.2	12.2	15.3	6.2	15.8	7.5	9.2	6.5	11.5	5.3	7.2	8.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	180	205	222	32	38	40	327	324	339	339	360	409

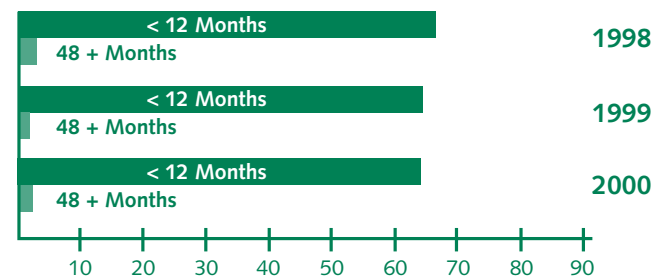
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	17.3	18.6	19.5	10.4	10.2	14.9	28.6	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	4.9	3.7	3.6	5.2	4.0	4.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	62.7	60.6	57.6	74.0	72.5	69.3	71.4	—	100.0	—	—	—
Other	8.3	8.0	9.8	2.4	4.0	5.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	6.8	9.1	9.5	7.9	9.2	6.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	—	—	—
Number	2,875	2,860	2,682	705	771	870	7	—	1	—	—	—

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

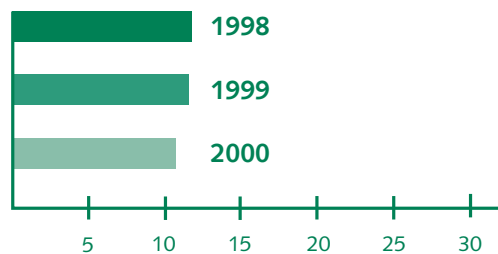
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	66.6	64.6	64.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	21.4	22.9	23.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	6.6	7.4	7.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.6	2.7	2.8
48 or more mos.	2.8	2.3	2.6
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,901	2,873	2,739

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	77.0	77.7	80.8
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	11.7	11.6	10.7
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	11.4	10.7	8.5
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,875	4,818	4,675

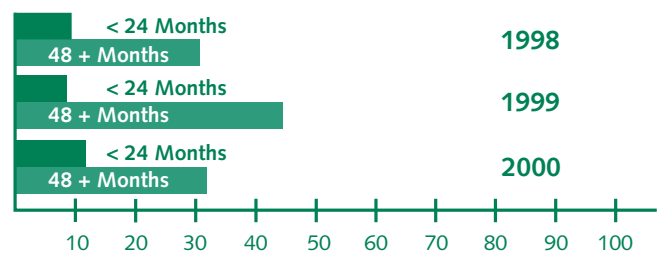
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	1.2	0.5	0.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	8.0	8.1	10.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	25.8	22.8	27.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	34.2	24.1	29.4
48 or more mos.	30.8	44.4	31.8
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	675	775	836

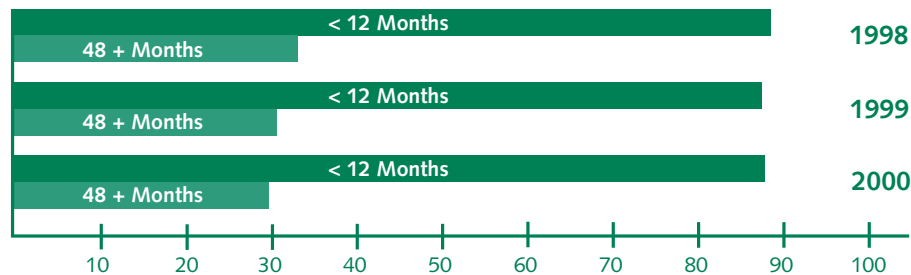
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	88.5	11.5	—	100.0	5,781
	1999	87.4	12.6	—	100.0	5,641
	2000	87.6	12.4	—	100.0	5,485
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	65.0	35.0	—	100.0	3,063
	1999	67.9	32.1	—	100.0	2,897
	2000	65.1	34.9	—	100.0	2,917
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	52.1	47.9	—	100.0	1,628
	1999	51.6	48.4	—	100.0	1,952
	2000	56.0	44.0	—	100.0	1,753
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	40.9	59.1	—	100.0	1,282
	1999	44.2	55.8	—	100.0	1,111
	2000	41.4	58.6	—	100.0	1,352
48 or more mos.	1998	33.0	67.0	—	100.0	1,929
	1999	30.5	69.5	—	100.0	2,210
	2000	29.6	70.4	—	100.0	2,231
Missing data	1998	100.0	—	—	100.0	24
	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	25
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	18

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	0.7	0.9	1.2
Institutions	3.8	4.5	4.1
Other settings	95.4	94.5	94.7
Missing data	0.0	0.1	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,696	3,764	3,748

**Ramona L. Foley, Administrator**  
**Office for Services to Children and Families**  
**Oregon Department of Human Resources**  
**503-945-5651**

Oregon's comments on the State data to be included in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000: Annual Report* are the following:

In the 'Context Data, Section B, the numbers of 'children subject of an investigated report' are estimated. Beginning in 2000, child maltreatment victim counts are duplicate victim counts, in compliance with NCANDS DCDC definitions. New edits in Oregon's automated system will reduce the number of 'unknown/other' in race/ethnicity in future submissions. Oregon has a high percentage of victims in the 'Other' maltreatment type category, reflecting 'threat of harm' victims. Oregon does not participate in NCANDS DCDC, but Outcome measures 1.1 and 2.1, calculated with Federal guidance, are available.

Oregon's definition of 'exit from foster care' was previously inconsistent with the Federal definition: Children who had physically left foster care were not counted, even though they were still in State custody. The data were re-run for all of the prior AFCARS periods to correct the definition. The figures in the 'Context Data: Sections C and D' and in the 'Outcome Data' were impacted: the number and length of stay of children in foster care and the percentages of children in AFCARS trial home visits and in runaway status all increased.

For a child in runaway status or on an AFCARS trial home visit, we are currently correcting the date of current placement to be the begin date of the foster care placement that ended in the run/AFCARS trial home visit (ACYF-PIQ-9S-01. Question 35).

Unlike the data in Section C, internal analyses of Oregon's AFCARS data using identifying information found no difference between the number of children in care on September 30 versus October 1. It is noted that many states show the same pattern as Oregon in the 1999 report.

The low percentage of 'waiting children' whose parents' rights have been terminated is currently being corrected. Approximately 70 percent of waiting children are legally free.

The following discussion focuses on Oregon's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance. In using CFSR information to interpret performance, it is important to note that the Oregon CFSR was conducted in 2001 and the national data used during the review to assess performance regarding national standards was from 1999. However, the discussion on State performance relevant to the national standards in the Federal Comment section focuses on data from 2000, as provided in the State Data Pages. In addition, because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

#### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

Oregon's performance with regard to outcome 1 cannot be assessed in the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating this outcome. Only data from NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, for the CFSR, the State provided data for this outcome measure using an alternative source. These data are presented in Oregon's CFSR Final Report.

#### **Outcome 2. Reduce incidence of maltreatment in foster care**

Oregon's attainment of outcome 2 cannot be evaluated in the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to NCANDS for calculating this measure. Only data from NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, for the CFSR, the State provided data for this outcome measure using an alternative source. These data are presented in Oregon's CFSR Final Report.

#### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 82.2 percent of children leaving foster care were discharged to permanent homes, which is less than the national median of 84.7 percent. (It is not possible to assess State's performance with regard to the attainment of permanency for children with a diagnosed disability or for children who were older than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care because of missing "reason for discharge" data.) In addition, 42.2 percent of children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry, which is substantially greater than the national median of 24.2 percent. These data suggest that the State is not consistently effective in establishing permanency for children in foster care. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following agency practices as potential barriers to achieving permanency for children: (1) establishing a goal of long-term foster care rather than adoption or guardianship in some cases when reunification efforts have not been successful, (2) basing decisions regarding permanency goals on available resources rather than on the child's needs, (3) postponing permanency planning until a child's treatment needs are addressed, and (4) failure to routinely implement concurrent planning in cases in which reunification is questionable.

#### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 64.3, which is lower than both the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving reunifications in a timely manner: (1) inconsistencies in the quality of assessments of parents' service needs; (2) gaps in the service array, particularly substance abuse treatment and domestic violence services; and (3) the scarcity of culturally appropriate services.

Also in FY 2000, 10.7 percent of children entering foster care were re-entering within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode. This percentage is higher than the national standard of 8.6 percent and the national median of 10.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential reasons for foster care re-entries: (1) the practice in some cases of reunifying families without reassessing risk factors to determine if there has been a substantial change in the risk of harm to the child, and (2) the lack of post-reunification services and monitoring.

### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 11.5, which is lower than the national standard of 32.0 percent and the national median of 19.7 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving adoptions in a timely manner: (1) a failure to implement concurrent planning on a routine basis; (2) agency-related delays in completing the paperwork necessary for home studies, subsidy applications, and termination of parental rights referral packets; (3) court delays due to continuances and crowded court dockets; and (4) the financial disparities between foster care payments and adoption subsidies.

### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 foster care placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 87.6, which is higher than the national standard of 86.7 percent and the national median of 84.3 percent. The State did not meet the national standard for this measure during the 2001 CFSR based on 1999 data reported to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). However, Oregon revised its 1999 data for AFCARS and, as a result of this revision, the placement stability data meet the national standard in both FY 1999 and FY 2000. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential reasons for the State's performance on this outcome: (1) frequent use of relatives as placement resources, (2) provision of sufficient support services to foster parents, and (3) diligent efforts to match children and foster family homes.

### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 5.3, which is lower than the national median of 9.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance on this measure may be attributed in part to the State's commitment to placing children in family-based care situations.

### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that the agency is generally effective in meeting children's physical health needs, but is less consistently effective in meeting their educational and mental health needs. The Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) frequent school changes for children in foster care; (2) lack of training for agency staff to assess children's educational needs and make appropriate referrals; and (3) a scarcity of services to address complex mental health needs, particularly in rural areas, often resulting in long waiting lists for services.



## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
<b>Total children under 18 years</b>	<b>2,859,828</b>	<b>2,852,520</b>	<b>2,922,221</b>	Child maltreatment victims	5,392	5,076	5,002
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	23,070	22,690	21,631
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	Children adopted	1,516	1,454	1,712
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.0	2.1	1.9				
Black	12.1	12.2	12.7				
Hispanic	4.1	4.3	5.1				
White	81.6	81.3	78.2				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.8				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.2				
<b>% Child population in poverty</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>10.6</b>				
<b>% Child population living in metropolitan areas</b>	<b>84.8</b>	<b>90.0</b>	<b>84.8</b>				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	22,589	22,437	22,694	7.9 per 1,000	7.9 per 1,000	7.8 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	5,392	5,076	5,002	1.9 per 1,000	1.8 per 1,000	1.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	52	50	38	1.8 per 100,000	1.8 per 100,000	1.3 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	3.1	0.6	5.6	Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—
1-5 years	22.5	21.0	21.5	Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
6-10 years	30.5	28.3	29.4	Black	—	—	—
11-15 years	32.1	32.5	32.8	Hispanic	—	—	—
16+ years	11.8	17.6	10.5	White	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	0.2	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	—	—	—
<b>Number</b>	<b>5,392</b>	<b>5,076</b>	<b>5,002</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	—	—	—
				<b>Number</b>	—	—	—

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	1.9	2.0	2.0
Medical neglect	2.8	2.4	2.9
Neglect	3.8	3.8	3.6
Physical abuse	41.1	62.1	37.6
Sexual abuse	46.4	80.4	49.9
Other	5.8	1.8	6.3
Unknown	—	—	0.0
Total % <sup>4</sup>	101.8	152.5	102.5
<b>Number</b>	<b>5,392</b>	<b>5,076</b>	<b>5,002</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	20,983	13,019	10,933	23,070	34,002
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	21,809	13,299	12,419	22,690	35,108
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	21,322	12,235	11,926	21,631	33,557

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	23.6	N/A	10.4	19.6	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	20.5	N/A	10.3	19.2	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	20.3	N/A	10.5	19.9	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	3.5	3.4	3.4	11.4	10.7	10.6	3.4	3.1	3.4	4.0	3.9	3.2
1-5 years	22.8	21.1	21.0	18.8	18.8	18.5	20.0	18.9	18.6	21.3	20.5	20.5
6-10 years	25.0	23.9	24.2	16.2	16.8	17.0	17.6	16.7	17.5	23.3	23.4	23.3
11-15 years	30.0	30.7	31.6	34.4	34.6	36.2	27.3	26.9	27.7	30.3	31.3	33.1
16-18 years	17.5	19.5	18.3	19.1	18.9	17.6	29.2	31.6	30.1	19.5	19.3	18.4
19+ years	1.2	1.4	1.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.5	2.6	2.5	1.4	1.5	1.5
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>20,983</b>	<b>21,809</b>	<b>21,322</b>	<b>13,019</b>	<b>13,299</b>	<b>12,235</b>	<b>10,933</b>	<b>12,419</b>	<b>11,926</b>	<b>23,070</b>	<b>22,690</b>	<b>21,631</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4
Black	54.5	52.4	53.3	41.4	40.9	40.2	43.8	42.6	42.9	52.2	51.0	51.6
Hispanic	9.7	10.7	8.5	11.0	11.1	9.2	9.6	10.5	8.2	10.5	11.0	9.1
White	34.8	36.0	37.3	46.3	46.9	49.4	45.5	45.6	47.7	36.2	37.1	38.4
Two or more races	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	—	—	0.0	—	—	0.0
Unknown	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>20,983</b>	<b>21,809</b>	<b>21,322</b>	<b>13,019</b>	<b>13,299</b>	<b>12,235</b>	<b>10,933</b>	<b>12,419</b>	<b>11,926</b>	<b>23,070</b>	<b>22,690</b>	<b>21,631</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	4,768	4,891	5,210
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	739	846	1,008

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	2.6	2.1	1.6
1-5 years	35.9	32.1	30.6
6-10 years	37.2	37.5	36.7
11-15 years	20.7	24.1	26.4
16+ years	3.3	3.6	4.0
Unknown	0.4	0.6	0.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,768</b>	<b>4,891</b>	<b>5,210</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	0.4	0.5
Black	58.2	54.3	57.2
Hispanic	11.1	12.4	9.5
White	29.7	32.4	32.3
Two or more races	—	—	0.0
Unknown	0.5	0.4	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,768</b>	<b>4,891</b>	<b>5,210</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	0.8	1.0	0.6
1-5 years	44.2	43.6	40.3
6-10 years	38.9	38.2	38.5
11-15 years	14.2	14.9	18.0
16+ years	2.0	2.3	2.5
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,516</b>	<b>1,454</b>	<b>1,712</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.1	0.2
Black	62.1	57.4	55.6
Hispanic	4.6	4.7	6.5
White	30.3	36.5	37.0
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	2.7	1.2	0.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,516</b>	<b>1,454</b>	<b>1,712</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

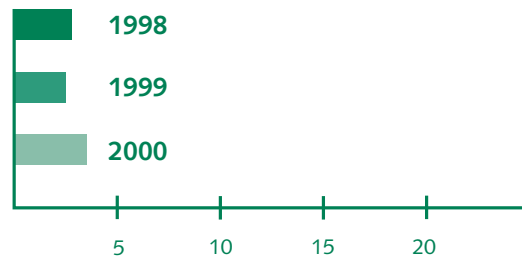
6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	97.2	97.5	96.5
Children with one or more recurrences	2.8	2.5	3.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,755	2,522	2,606

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences



## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	0.2
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	99.8
Total %	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	30,739

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

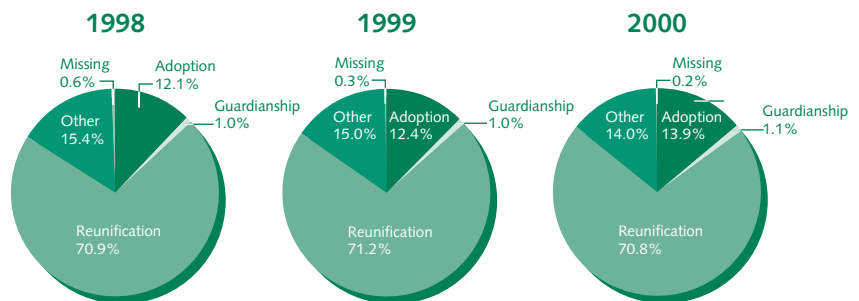


## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	12.1	12.4	13.9
Guardianship	1.0	1.0	1.1
Reunification	70.9	71.2	70.8
Other	15.4	15.0	14.0
Missing data	0.6	0.3	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	10,933	12,419	11,926

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	14.9	16.7	19.4
Guardianship	1.3	1.3	1.8
Reunification	64.8	60.3	58.7
Other	18.9	21.6	20.0
Missing data	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,035	2,526	2,396

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.2	0.2	0.5
Guardianship	1.1	1.0	0.9
Reunification	75.9	77.0	77.6
Other	21.8	21.3	20.6
Missing data	1.0	0.5	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,688	5,761	5,295

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	33.8	30.6	31.5
Children older than 12 at entry	66.1	68.9	68.5
Missing data	0.2	0.4	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	634	702	688

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	9.1	—	12.5	7.8	3.3	6.6	16.0	16.4	17.1	12.4	10.0	13.8
Guardianship	—	—	12.5	—	—	—	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.0	1.2	1.0
Reunification	81.8	87.5	75.0	62.7	71.7	68.9	63.8	64.2	64.6	64.3	68.9	68.3
Other	9.1	12.5	—	27.5	25.0	24.6	18.3	17.9	16.7	21.1	19.5	16.7
Missing data	—	—	—	2.0	—	—	1.0	0.4	0.3	1.1	0.4	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	11	16	8	51	92	61	4,793	5,296	5,116	1,050	1,302	978

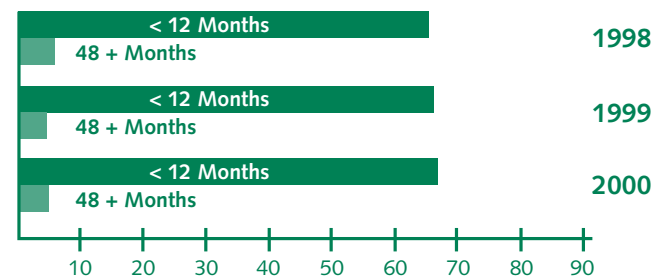
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	8.4	9.5	11.1	5.3	13.3	14.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.8	2.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	79.2	78.2	76.8	82.5	77.8	73.7	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Other	11.3	11.2	11.1	10.5	6.7	10.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	0.2	0.2	0.2	—	—	1.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Number	4,971	5,668	5,686	57	45	76	—	—	1	—	—	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

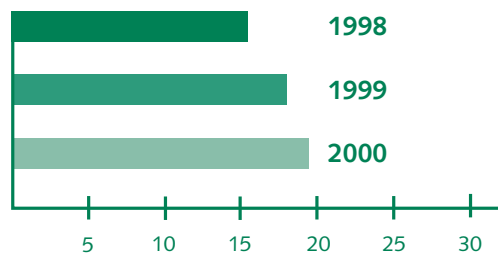
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	66.3	67.1	67.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	16.5	19.7	18.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	7.0	5.6	5.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.8	2.5	2.8
48 or more mos.	6.0	4.7	4.9
Missing data	0.4	0.4	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,754	8,844	8,443

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	77.7	74.6	71.8
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	15.5	18.0	19.3
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	5.4	7.2	8.7
Missing data	1.4	0.2	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	13,019	13,299	12,235

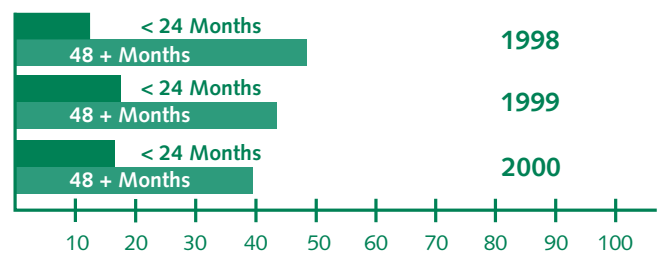
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	2.0	2.3	2.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	10.3	15.2	14.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	18.4	21.1	24.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	21.1	18.1	19.6
48 or more mos.	48.3	43.4	39.2
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,324	1,543	1,655

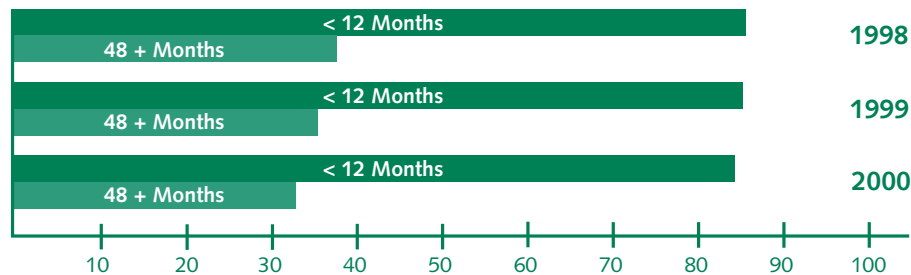
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	85.6	13.5	0.9	100.0	14,556
	1999	85.1	14.9	0.0	100.0	15,210
	2000	84.2	15.8	0.0	100.0	14,127
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	66.1	33.7	0.2	100.0	5,725
	1999	65.3	34.7	—	100.0	6,593
	2000	62.5	37.5	—	100.0	6,415
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	55.2	44.8	—	100.0	3,646
	1999	55.4	44.6	—	100.0	3,695
	2000	54.2	45.8	—	100.0	3,784
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	48.8	51.2	—	100.0	2,655
	1999	48.8	51.2	—	100.0	2,466
	2000	48.4	51.6	—	100.0	2,417
48 or more mos.	1998	37.5	62.4	0.0	100.0	7,342
	1999	35.2	64.7	0.0	100.0	7,050
	2000	32.7	67.2	0.0	100.0	6,772
Missing data	1998	89.7	5.1	5.1	100.0	78
	1999	96.8	3.2	—	100.0	94
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	42

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	4.4	4.3	3.8
Institutions	9.5	8.5	8.9
Other settings	86.1	87.2	87.3
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,856	6,987	6,549

**Wayne Stevenson, Deputy Secretary  
Office of Children, Youth and Families  
Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare  
717-787-4756**

Pennsylvania's comments on State data for the *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000: Annual Report* are the following:

Data on the race/ethnicity of child maltreatment victims are not available because Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law prohibits the collection of this information.

Data required for the calculation of the incidence of child maltreatment in foster care (outcome measure 2.1) were not available for 1998 and 1999.

AFCARS data indicate that there were fewer children in care on October 1, 1998 than on September 30, 1998 and on October 1, 1999 than September 30, 1999. We believe this is due to:

- The way the federal data files are constructed to include only a child's most recent placement episode; and
- The fact that AFCARS element 21 (Date of latest removal from home) can change from episode to episode. For example, a child removed from home on August 10, 1998 and discharged from placement on December 10, 1998 would be counted as in placement on 9/30/98. If the same child was again removed from home on January 10, 1999, he would not be counted on 10/1/1998 even though he was in care at that time.

The following discussion focuses on Pennsylvania's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance (the Pennsylvania CFSR was conducted in FY 2002). Because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

In calendar year (CY) 2000, Pennsylvania's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 3.5 percent, which is lower than both the national standard of 6.1 percent and the national median of 7.9 percent. However, it is important to note that most reports of child neglect, including environmental concerns and lack of supervision, are not considered "child maltreatment" in Pennsylvania and therefore are not reported to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). The State is unique in this approach to reports involving child neglect. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the agency practice of conducting risk assessments on an ongoing basis may contribute to the prevention of maltreatment recurrence.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care**

In CY 2000, the incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.2 percent, which is lower than both the national standard of 0.57 percent and the national median of 0.47 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential reasons for the low incidence of maltreatment in foster care: (1) comprehensive standards for foster family homes and child care institutions, (2) routine monitoring of foster family homes and child care institutions for compliance with State standards, and (3) routine implementation of criminal background checks for all foster parents.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 85.8 percent of children exiting foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 84.7), 79.9 percent of children with a diagnosed disability exiting foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 79.5 percent), and 79.0 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to permanency homes (which is higher than the national median of 72.6). These findings suggest that the State is generally effective in achieving permanency for children. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that this effectiveness may be attributed to the following: (1) the availability of a subsidized guardianship permanency option; (2) agency efforts to implement special approaches to permanency, such as permanency roundtables and specialized reunification units; and (3) timely administrative reviews and permanency hearings, due primarily to increased judicial resources. Despite these findings, however, 31.5 percent of children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry, which is higher than the national median of 24.2 percent. This suggests that the State is not consistently effective in ensuring that children who enter foster care at relatively young ages do not "grow up" in the system.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reported reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 67.7, which is lower than both the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. However, according to the CFSR Final Report, the court does not permit transfer of custody until a child has been physically reunified with the family for 6 months. Therefore, many children may be physically reunified within 12 months, but this would not be reported to the Adoption Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) because the State maintains care and supervision responsibility. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving reunifications in a timely manner: (1) placement of children in foster care in some cases in locations that are far away from parents and therefore prevent frequent parent-child visits, and (2) insufficient contact between caseworkers and parents to promote reunification.

Also in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 19.3, which is higher than the national standard of 8.6 percent and the national median of 10.3 percent. According to information provided in the CFSR Final Report, the State has found that children between the ages of 10 and 13 are more likely than children in any other age group to experience a re-entry into foster care. The Final Report notes that the State recommends a specific focus on the developmental needs of children in this age group to achieve an understanding of why they may be re-entering foster care.

#### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 16.4, which is lower than both the national standard of 32.0 percent and the national median of 19.7 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving adoptions in a timely manner: (1) agency delays in changing goals from reunification to adoption, filing for termination of parental rights (TPR), conducting home studies, and searching for absent parents; (2) court-related delays due to crowded court dockets and TPR appeals; and (3) the attitude of both court and agency personnel that some children are "unadoptable."

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 84.2, which is lower than the national standard of 86.7 percent, but about equal to the national median of 84.3. According to information provided in the CFSR Final Report, the State believes that the data on placement stability is due to the large percentage of older children in foster care and children entering care due to their own behavior problems.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 12.7, which is higher than the national median of 9.0. There is no information in the CFSR Final Report that explains the high percentage of young children placed in group homes and institutions.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, information in the CSFR Final Report indicates that the State is generally effective in meeting children's physical health needs but is less consistently effective in meeting children's educational and mental health needs. The following were identified in the final report as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) a failure in some cases to provide educational services to address identified needs, (2) inadequate assessments of children's mental health needs, and (3) a lack of sufficient mental health services for families.



## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	1,222,818	—	1,092,101	Child maltreatment victims	—	—	—
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	6,629	7,760	—
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	Children adopted	281	326	231
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	0.1				
Black	—	—	0.1				
Hispanic	—	—	99.0				
White	—	—	0.7				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	0.1				
Other	N/A	N/A	—				
% Child population in poverty	—	—	—				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	—	—	83.2				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	—	—	—	— per 1,000	— per 1,000	— per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	—	—	—	— per 1,000	— per 1,000	— per 1,000
Child fatalities	—	—	—	— per 100,000	— per 100,000	— per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	—	—	Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—
1-5 years	—	—	—	Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
6-10 years	—	—	—	Black	—	—	—
11-15 years	—	—	—	Hispanic	—	—	—
16+ years	—	—	—	White	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	—	—	—	Other/Unknown	—	—	—
<b>Number</b>	—	—	—	Total % <sup>3</sup>	—	—	—
				<b>Number</b>	—	—	—

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	—	—	—
Medical neglect	—	—	—
Neglect	—	—	—
Physical abuse	—	—	—
Sexual abuse	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	—	—	—
<b>Number</b>	—	—	—

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	6,073			2,171			1,615			6,629			8,244
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	6,568			2,703			1,510			7,760			9,271
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	—			—			—			—			—
Median Length of Stay (Months)													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	21.6			N/A			11.5			28.0			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	26.6			N/A			13.0			26.4			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	—			N/A			—			—			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	3.3	2.9	—	14.2	12.8	—	4.0	2.9	—	2.9	2.9	—	
1-5 years	32.7	29.1	—	35.5	34.3	—	40.1	36.6	—	29.2	27.4	—	
6-10 years	31.9	32.4	—	29.8	29.7	—	31.3	31.4	—	32.3	32.2	—	
11-15 years	26.0	26.7	—	17.1	19.8	—	19.6	21.5	—	26.5	26.7	—	
16-18 years	6.0	8.7	—	2.6	2.8	—	4.7	7.4	—	9.0	9.1	—	
19+ years	—	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	0.3	—	—	1.6	—	
Unknown	0.1	0.1	—	0.8	0.6	—	0.2	—	—	0.2	0.1	—	
Total %	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	
<b>Number</b>	<b>6,073</b>	<b>6,568</b>	—	<b>2,171</b>	<b>2,703</b>	—	<b>1,615</b>	<b>1,510</b>	—	<b>6,629</b>	<b>7,760</b>	—	
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%) <sup>5</sup>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	0.0	0.0	—	0.1	—	—	—	0.1	—	0.1	0.0	—	
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0	0.0	—	
Black	0.2	0.2	—	0.1	0.0	—	0.1	0.1	—	0.2	0.2	—	
Hispanic	99.1	99.4	—	99.8	99.8	—	99.6	99.5	—	99.2	99.5	—	
White	0.4	0.3	—	0.0	0.1	—	0.3	0.2	—	0.3	0.3	—	
Two or more races	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Unknown	0.2	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	—	0.2	0.1	—	
Total %	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	
<b>Number</b>	<b>6,073</b>	<b>6,568</b>	—	<b>2,171</b>	<b>2,703</b>	—	<b>1,615</b>	<b>1,510</b>	—	<b>6,629</b>	<b>7,760</b>	—	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	628	625	—
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	144	165	—
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	3.0	1.6	—
1-5 years	18.0	14.7	—
6-10 years	39.8	38.6	—
11-15 years	30.6	34.6	—
16+ years	6.1	6.6	—
Unknown	2.5	4.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	—
<b>Number</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>625</b>	—
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
Black	—	—	—
Hispanic	99.5	99.8	—
White	0.5	0.2	—
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	—
<b>Number</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>625</b>	—

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	5.0	6.1	4.8
1-5 years	56.6	42.0	48.1
6-10 years	24.6	36.8	34.2
11-15 years	10.0	13.5	9.5
16+ years	3.9	1.5	3.5
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>231</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	—	—
Black	—	—	0.4
Hispanic	98.9	99.7	98.7
White	0.4	0.3	0.9
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	0.4	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>231</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%) 1998 1999 2000

Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from

Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

### 3.4 Exits to

Emancipation (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	—	—	—
Children older than 12 at entry	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—
Total %	—	—	—	—	—	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—
Number	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1,608	1,503	—
	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	—	—
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	—	—
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	—	—
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	—	—
48 or more mos.	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	94.4	92.9	—
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	1.8	1.2	—
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	3.7	5.8	—
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	—
Number	2,171	2,703	—

Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



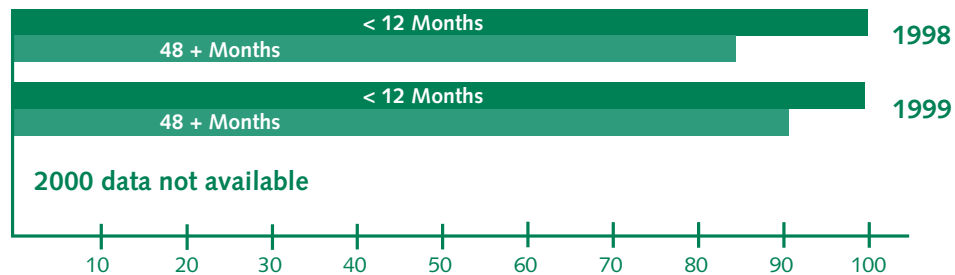
## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	—	—
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	—	—
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	—	—
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	—	—
48 or more mos.	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	99.9	0.1	—	100.0	2,708
	1999	99.6	0.4	—	100.0	3,073
	2000	—	—	—	—	—
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	99.6	0.4	—	100.0	1,610
	1999	99.5	0.5	—	100.0	1,748
	2000	—	—	—	—	—
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	99.1	0.9	—	100.0	1,169
	1999	99.4	0.6	—	100.0	1,050
	2000	—	—	—	—	—
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	97.9	2.1	—	100.0	1,214
	1999	98.8	1.2	—	100.0	901
	2000	—	—	—	—	—
48 or more mos.	1998	84.3	15.7	—	100.0	1,530
	1999	90.6	9.4	—	100.0	2,491
	2000	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	1998	100.0	—	—	100.0	13
	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	8
	2000	—	—	—	—	—

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	5.0	0.4	—
Institutions	5.3	6.6	—
Other settings	89.7	93.0	—
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	—
Number	1,894	2,330	—

# Puerto Rico

[ STATE COMMENT ]

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	237,917	241,180	247,822	Child maltreatment victims	3,448	3,485	3,361
Race/ethnicity (%) <sup>1</sup>				Children in foster care on 9/30	2,844	2,621	2,302
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.6	0.6	0.6	Children adopted	222	292	260
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.2	3.2	2.7				
Black	5.5	5.5	5.5				
Hispanic	10.3	10.9	14.1				
White	80.5	79.8	72.7				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	3.3				
Other	N/A	N/A	1.2				
% Child population in poverty	22.8	14.3	15.8				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	93.1	92.2	94.3				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	9,863	9,424	11,531	41.5 per 1,000	39.1 per 1,000	46.5 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	3,448	3,485	3,361	14.5 per 1,000	14.4 per 1,000	13.6 per 1,000
Child fatalities	2	4	3	0.8 per 100,000	1.7 per 100,000	1.2 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	6.8	6.8	9.8	Alaska Native/American Indian	1.5	1.0	1.2
1-5 years	29.1	29.0	30.0	Asian/Pacific Islander	2.3	2.1	1.8
6-10 years	31.5	32.0	30.5	Black	17.1	16.3	14.0
11-15 years	23.5	23.0	23.9	Hispanic	16.8	17.3	18.2
16+ years	8.0	8.4	4.8	White	72.8	72.6	61.3
Unknown	1.0	0.8	1.0	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	6.3	8.0	2.4
Number	3,448	3,485	3,361	Total % <sup>3</sup>	116.8	117.3	100.0
				Number	3,448	3,485	3,361

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	0.7	0.6	0.2
Medical neglect	2.5	2.2	2.3
Neglect	84.7	84.6	73.9
Physical abuse	28.9	26.6	19.8
Sexual abuse	8.9	8.9	7.4
Other	3.4	3.8	6.1
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	129.1	126.7	109.8
Number	3,448	3,485	3,361

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	1,907	1,623	915	2,844	3,530
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	2,102	1,403	1,018	2,621	3,505
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	2,181	1,409	1,348	2,302	3,590

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	15.6	N/A	7.4	14.2	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	15.5	N/A	11.1	15.3	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	16.6	N/A	11.7	15.1	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	5.0	5.4	4.8	11.7	14.0	12.7	6.3	6.1	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.9
1-5 years	23.2	22.5	20.4	18.8	19.1	16.0	22.8	26.8	22.7	20.9	20.5	17.7
6-10 years	21.8	20.6	19.2	17.3	15.1	15.6	19.2	21.5	16.5	19.9	17.6	17.5
11-15 years	25.8	29.7	30.4	33.1	33.2	38.4	26.2	25.9	25.9	27.5	28.4	33.7
16-18 years	20.0	18.6	21.8	18.4	17.7	17.2	22.2	17.1	26.0	22.8	24.4	22.1
19+ years	3.7	3.0	3.5	0.4	0.6	0.1	2.3	2.4	3.6	3.8	3.9	4.0
Unknown	0.5	0.0	—	0.2	0.1	—	0.9	0.2	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,907</b>	<b>2,102</b>	<b>2,181</b>	<b>1,623</b>	<b>1,403</b>	<b>1,409</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>2,844</b>	<b>2,621</b>	<b>2,302</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	2.1	1.6	1.2	1.5	2.2	1.2	2.2	3.1	1.0	1.7	1.4	1.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	1.3	2.0	1.7	2.4	1.3	1.0	1.5	2.1	1.2	2.0	1.7
Black	25.5	23.4	22.6	17.9	18.1	16.3	19.5	19.6	18.8	22.6	21.3	20.7
Hispanic	13.1	15.5	13.4	16.0	15.0	20.2	13.7	19.7	18.6	14.3	14.0	14.7
White	54.3	54.3	58.0	59.3	59.4	58.0	59.5	51.9	56.7	56.3	57.9	58.7
Two or more races	—	—	0.0	—	—	0.9	—	—	0.2	—	—	0.5
Unknown	4.3	3.9	2.7	3.7	2.8	2.1	4.3	4.1	2.6	3.8	3.3	2.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,907</b>	<b>2,102</b>	<b>2,181</b>	<b>1,623</b>	<b>1,403</b>	<b>1,409</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>2,844</b>	<b>2,621</b>	<b>2,302</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	322	339	399
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	100	87	238

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	1.2	1.5	0.8
1-5 years	40.4	34.8	28.3
6-10 years	41.3	36.6	32.8
11-15 years	15.2	25.1	33.8
16+ years	1.6	2.1	3.0
Unknown	0.3	—	1.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>399</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	2.2	0.9	1.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	1.2	1.5
Black	27.0	32.2	27.6
Hispanic	14.9	13.3	19.3
White	50.6	45.1	47.1
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	5.0	7.4	3.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>399</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	1.8	1.4	2.3
1-5 years	52.3	45.2	51.5
6-10 years	34.2	37.3	30.4
11-15 years	9.5	14.4	14.6
16+ years	2.3	1.7	1.2
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>260</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.9	2.1	0.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.8	0.7	0.8
Black	29.7	25.7	25.8
Hispanic	6.3	12.7	15.4
White	36.0	45.5	53.8
Two or more races	—	—	1.5
Unknown	25.2	13.4	2.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>260</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

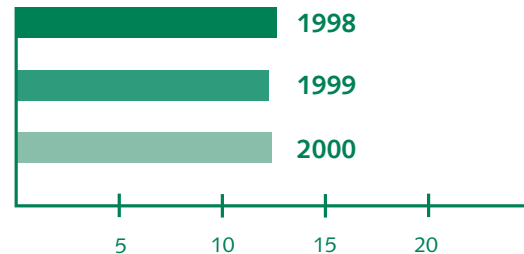


## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	87.4	87.8	87.6
Children with one or more recurrences	12.6	12.2	12.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,751	1,781	1,634

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

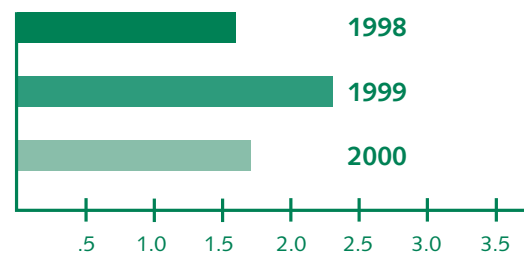


## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	1.6	2.3	1.7
Children not maltreated while in foster care	98.4	97.7	98.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,400	3,292	3,177

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

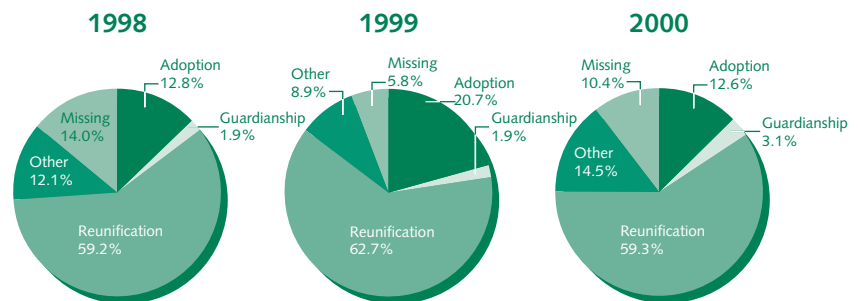


## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	12.8	20.7	12.6
Guardianship	1.9	1.9	3.1
Reunification	59.2	62.7	59.3
Other	12.1	8.9	14.5
Missing data	14.0	5.8	10.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	915	1,018	1,348

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	11.9	30.2	13.5
Guardianship	—	0.5	4.2
Reunification	51.2	39.6	51.4
Other	14.4	18.7	18.1
Missing data	22.5	11.0	12.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	160	182	259

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	0.3	0.5
Guardianship	1.1	0.6	0.7
Reunification	53.8	68.3	58.3
Other	20.3	18.2	25.8
Missing data	24.8	12.5	14.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	359	319	563

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	16.7	11.6	17.1
Children older than 12 at entry	80.6	83.7	81.7
Missing data	2.8	4.7	1.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	36	43	82

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	10.0	21.9	7.7	11.1	26.7	—	24.7	22.5	18.9	7.2	23.9	11.2
Guardianship	—	9.4	15.4	—	—	—	5.1	2.5	5.1	3.2	0.5	2.4
Reunification	85.0	56.2	61.5	44.4	66.7	82.1	46.1	58.0	53.9	73.6	65.2	61.8
Other	—	9.4	7.7	33.3	6.7	14.3	13.5	12.0	14.6	3.2	6.0	12.7
Missing data	5.0	3.1	7.7	11.1	—	3.6	10.7	5.0	7.5	12.8	4.5	12.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	20	32	13	9	15	28	178	200	254	125	201	251

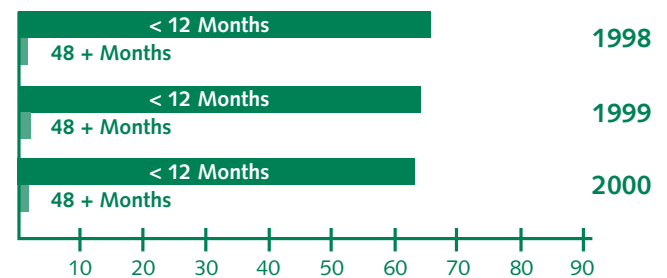
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	9.7	17.6	11.5	20.5	33.3	14.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	0.7	1.9	2.6	—	—	2.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	59.7	64.2	59.0	56.4	57.1	65.7	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Other	13.8	9.1	15.4	12.8	7.1	11.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	16.0	7.2	11.4	10.3	2.4	5.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Number	544	528	764	39	42	35	—	—	3	—	—	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

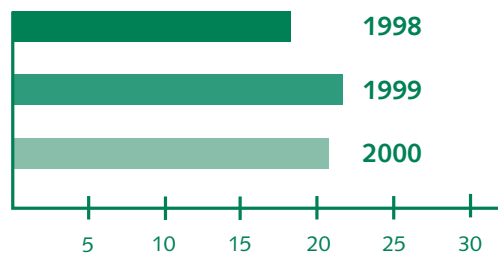
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	65.9	64.1	63.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	9.0	17.2	19.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.0	4.1	5.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.8	1.4	3.0
48 or more mos.	1.8	2.2	1.8
Missing data	19.4	11.0	6.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	542	638	800

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	48.4	65.0	66.7
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	18.2	21.6	20.8
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.3	8.7	11.1
Missing data	25.1	4.7	1.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,623	1,403	1,409

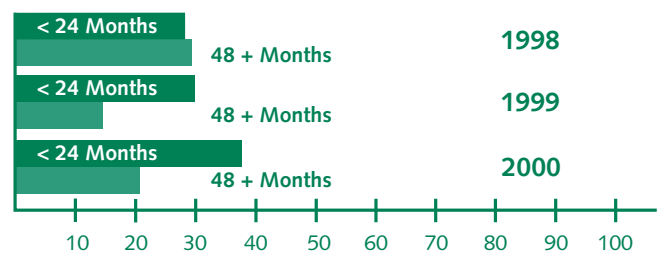
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	5.1	9.5	7.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	23.1	20.4	30.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	13.7	26.5	24.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	20.5	12.3	16.5
48 or more mos.	29.1	14.7	20.6
Missing data	8.5	16.6	1.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	117	211	170

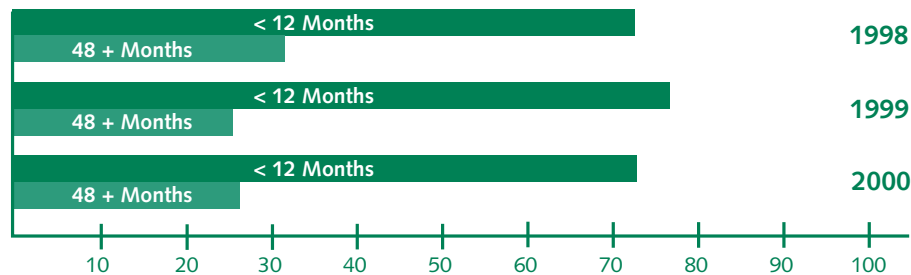
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	72.7	27.3	0.1	100.0	1,712
	1999	76.7	22.6	0.7	100.0	1,593
	2000	72.6	27.4	—	100.0	1,653
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	47.0	47.0	5.9	100.0	761
	1999	58.1	37.9	3.9	100.0	762
	2000	55.1	44.9	—	100.0	742
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	35.2	54.4	10.4	100.0	327
	1999	34.4	53.1	12.5	100.0	480
	2000	45.5	54.3	0.2	100.0	409
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	27.8	48.9	23.2	100.0	237
	1999	29.5	56.5	14.0	100.0	207
	2000	28.5	70.4	1.1	100.0	284
48 or more mos.	1998	31.4	54.4	14.2	100.0	478
	1999	25.3	59.3	15.5	100.0	459
	2000	26.1	73.5	0.4	100.0	494
Missing data	1998	66.7	33.3	—	100.0	15
	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	4
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	8

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	19.8	16.6	15.8
Institutions	0.6	1.3	1.2
Other settings	79.6	82.1	82.9
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	470	469	726

**Jay G. Lindgren, Jr., Director**  
**Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families**  
**401-528-3548**

The State of Rhode Island applauds this national effort to measure key child welfare outcomes. We realize that this is truly a work-in-progress for the Federal Government as well as the states. We are very proud of our accomplishments in implementing the Rhode Island Children's Information System (RICHIST), including being the third state to complete a national SACWIS Assessment Review. All of this is helping us as we work to become a more “fact-based” learning organization.

The data submitted to AFCARS for our children in foster care include not only traditional child welfare youth, but also juvenile justice, children's mental health, and developmentally disabled youth.

*Outcome Measure 1: Recurrence of Maltreatment within 6 Months*

We assume our relatively high rates of recurrence reflect in part Rhode Island's priority on responding aggressively to reports of abuse or neglect. By statute every individual in Rhode Island is a mandatory reporter of suspected abuse or neglect. We are very aggressive in investigating child abuse reports that have been disclosed by the victim after the initial child abuse investigation has begun but which relate to incidents of child abuse and neglect prior to the initial opening of an investigation. These reports appear to be incidents of repeat abuse because the report date occurs after the initial report is received.

*Outcome Measure 2: Maltreatment in Foster Care*

Comments on Outcome Measure 1 (above) also should be considered in relation to this measure. Rhode Island data include indicated allegations of abuse and neglect at the state juvenile detention and correctional facility. Rhode Island data also include indicated allegations of corporal punishment by foster parents which is prohibited by Rhode Island law.

*Outcome Measure 3: Increase Permanency*

Rhode Island continues to work on improving data quality. The percentage of missing data on a year-to-year basis must be considered when looking at these trends.

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	959,296	955,930	1,009,641	Child maltreatment victims	8,432	9,580	11,246
Race/ethnicity (%) <sup>1</sup>				Children in foster care on 9/30	4,644	4,645	4,566
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.3	Children adopted	465	456	378
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.0	1.0	0.9				
Black	36.5	36.1	36.4				
Hispanic	1.7	1.9	2.8				
White	60.6	60.8	58.0				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.5				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.2				
% Child population in poverty	20.1	17.5	17.8				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	63.6	67.9	69.4				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	38,238	39,902	38,844	39.9 per 1,000	41.7 per 1,000	38.5 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	8,432	9,580	11,246	8.8 per 1,000	10.0 per 1,000	11.1 per 1,000
Child fatalities	16	13	20	1.7 per 100,000	1.4 per 100,000	2.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	3.9	8.2	8.1	Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.3	0.2
1-5 years	35.6	26.9	28.2	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.6	0.4
6-10 years	29.9	31.3	29.9	Black	47.2	45.9	45.6
11-15 years	24.2	24.9	26.2	Hispanic	0.4	1.5	1.7
16+ years	5.7	8.7	6.0	White	49.9	52.6	52.3
Unknown	0.8	0.0	1.5	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	2.7	0.7	1.5
Number	8,432	9,580	11,246	Total % <sup>3</sup>	100.4	101.7	101.7
				Number	8,432	9,580	11,246

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	0.9	0.5	0.6
Medical neglect	4.4	4.1	4.0
Neglect	46.5	54.8	53.0
Physical abuse	14.7	13.7	13.6
Sexual abuse	8.4	6.3	5.4
Other	52.1	67.7	70.0
Unknown	—	0.1	8.9
Total % <sup>4</sup>	126.9	147.2	155.5
Number	8,432	9,580	11,246

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	5,142			3,191			3,689			4,644			8,333
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	4,631			3,036			3,022			4,645			7,667
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	4,516			3,190			3,140			4,566			7,706
Median Length of Stay (Months)													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	27.0			N/A			8.1			24.8			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	24.7			N/A			5.9			20.3			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	20.4			N/A			5.4			20.7			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	4.2	4.9	4.5	14.8	14.6	15.4	6.3	6.9	6.9	4.9	4.5	5.2	
1-5 years	24.6	23.1	22.0	25.7	23.9	25.8	26.8	27.3	28.7	23.0	22.1	21.6	
6-10 years	24.5	24.5	23.2	25.2	24.5	26.2	26.1	24.9	24.8	24.5	23.3	22.9	
11-15 years	28.4	29.8	32.0	27.5	31.0	27.6	22.3	24.2	23.4	29.7	32.0	31.6	
16-18 years	16.7	15.8	16.3	6.2	6.0	5.1	16.0	14.0	13.8	15.7	16.1	16.7	
19+ years	1.5	1.9	1.9	0.2	0.0	—	2.1	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	
Unknown	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	—	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>5,142</b>	<b>4,631</b>	<b>4,516</b>	<b>3,191</b>	<b>3,036</b>	<b>3,190</b>	<b>3,689</b>	<b>3,022</b>	<b>3,140</b>	<b>4,644</b>	<b>4,645</b>	<b>4,566</b>	
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%) <sup>5</sup>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	
Black	62.7	62.5	62.4	51.6	55.1	51.7	54.1	55.1	54.2	61.9	62.5	60.6	
Hispanic	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.4	1.4	2.7	1.3	1.4	2.2	0.9	1.0	1.4	
White	34.9	36.1	36.0	45.2	42.8	44.6	42.8	43.0	42.7	35.7	36.0	37.4	
Two or more races	—	—	0.0	—	—	0.4	—	—	0.3	—	—	0.2	
Unknown	1.0	0.1	—	1.6	0.1	0.0	1.4	0.1	—	1.1	0.0	0.0	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>5,142</b>	<b>4,631</b>	<b>4,516</b>	<b>3,191</b>	<b>3,036</b>	<b>3,190</b>	<b>3,689</b>	<b>3,022</b>	<b>3,140</b>	<b>4,644</b>	<b>4,645</b>	<b>4,566</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	1,927	2,071	2,014
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	704	620	593
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	3.0	3.1	3.5
1-5 years	29.6	30.1	26.9
6-10 years	33.5	31.1	30.6
11-15 years	28.1	31.1	32.2
16+ years	4.6	4.1	6.3
Unknown	1.1	0.5	0.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,927</b>	<b>2,071</b>	<b>2,014</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.4	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.1	0.1
Black	66.4	66.1	63.3
Hispanic	0.6	0.6	0.8
White	31.1	32.8	35.4
Two or more races	—	—	0.1
Unknown	1.3	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,927</b>	<b>2,071</b>	<b>2,014</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	1.9	2.2	2.1
1-5 years	40.4	43.9	47.1
6-10 years	39.4	38.2	32.3
11-15 years	16.1	14.0	17.5
16+ years	2.2	1.8	1.1
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>378</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	—	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	0.3
Black	68.4	61.4	63.5
Hispanic	0.4	0.7	1.3
White	29.0	36.6	34.7
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	1.7	1.3	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>378</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%) 1998 1999 2000

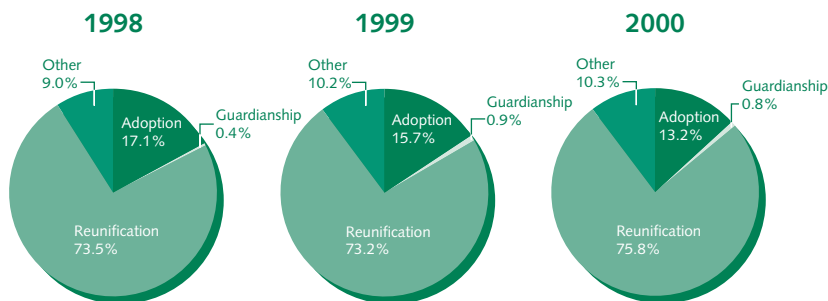
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	17.1	15.7	13.2
Guardianship	0.4	0.9	0.8
Reunification	73.5	73.2	75.8
Other	9.0	10.2	10.3
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,689	3,022	3,140

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	32.7	36.8	29.3
Guardianship	—	0.5	0.7
Reunification	48.9	36.8	32.7
Other	18.4	26.0	37.4
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	370	389	297

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.6	0.5	0.7
Guardianship	0.2	0.9	0.7
Reunification	74.3	73.7	71.8
Other	24.9	24.8	26.8
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	871	742	717

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	35.1	36.1	38.1
Children older than 12 at entry	64.9	63.9	61.9
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	285	249	268

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	16.7	50.0	11.1	—	—	8.3	20.1	17.0	15.1	23.4	9.8	8.6
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.6	0.9	0.5	—	—	—
Reunification	66.7	—	77.8	100.0	100.0	75.0	69.4	71.5	73.0	74.5	85.4	87.1
Other	16.7	50.0	11.1	—	—	16.7	9.9	10.6	11.4	2.1	4.9	4.3
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	12	2	9	3	10	12	1,997	1,666	1,701	47	41	70

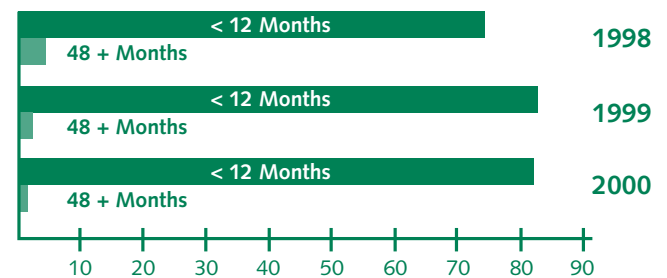
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	12.9	14.2	11.0	23.1	50.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	0.1	0.9	1.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	78.8	75.0	78.6	73.1	50.0	—	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Other	8.1	9.9	9.2	3.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Number	1,578	1,299	1,340	52	4	—	—	—	8	—	—	—

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

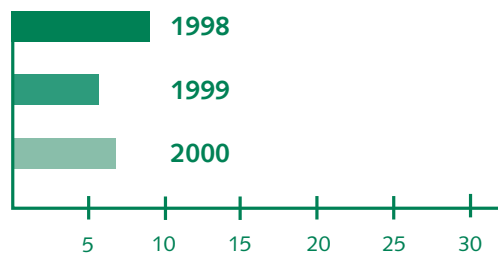
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	74.2	82.7	82.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.1	10.4	12.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.8	2.8	2.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.8	1.5	0.9
48 or more mos.	4.6	2.5	1.8
Missing data	0.6	0.2	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,713	2,212	2,380

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	82.2	85.4	85.1
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	9.0	5.6	6.8
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.1	8.6	7.9
Missing data	0.6	0.3	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,191	3,036	3,190

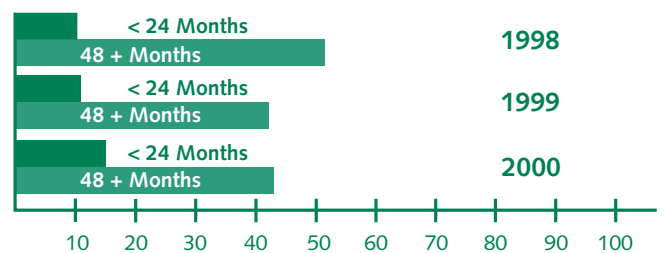
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	3.2	2.3	3.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	7.0	8.6	11.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	17.6	20.8	24.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	20.8	26.1	17.9
48 or more mos.	51.3	42.1	42.9
Missing data	0.2	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	631	475	413

Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry

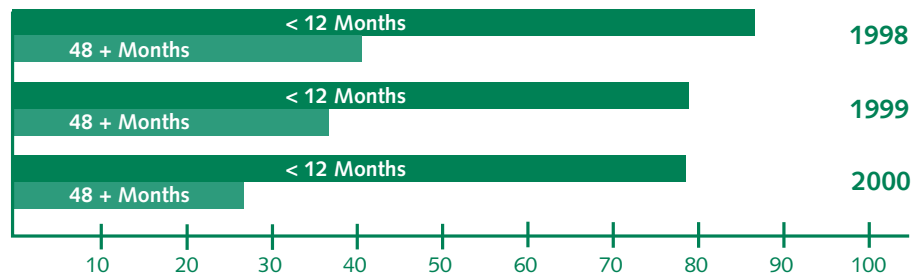




## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	86.6	13.3	0.1	100.0	3,657
	1999	78.8	19.6	1.6	100.0	3,498
	2000	76.8	22.0	1.1	100.0	3,658
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	63.2	36.7	0.1	100.0	1,085
	1999	55.8	43.5	0.6	100.0	1,236
	2000	43.8	55.8	0.5	100.0	1,225
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	51.9	48.0	0.1	100.0	902
	1999	44.7	54.1	1.2	100.0	689
	2000	38.4	61.6	—	100.0	821
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	50.9	49.1	—	100.0	812
	1999	38.1	61.7	0.2	100.0	572
	2000	29.3	70.7	—	100.0	464
48 or more mos.	1998	40.5	59.5	—	100.0	1,844
	1999	36.6	63.4	—	100.0	1,658
	2000	26.7	73.3	—	100.0	1,534
Missing data	1998	100.0	—	—	100.0	33
	1999	85.7	—	14.3	100.0	14
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	4

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	28.5	4.9	4.2
Institutions	1.5	17.8	13.5
Other settings	61.5	77.3	82.3
Missing data	8.5	—	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,324	2,137	2,384

Elizabeth G. Patterson, State Director  
South Carolina Department of Social Services  
803-898-7360

The following are comments on South Carolina's data for *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000: Annual Report*.

**• The data in Section D indicate that parental rights have been terminated for only 593 of the 1,014 children waiting to be adopted in FY 2000.**

The number of children for whom termination of parental rights was completed was underreported because of a miscommunication to the programmers about which data files to use in pulling this data. We also overstated the number of children with a goal of adoption for the same reason. As of September 30, 2000, there were 1,405 children with a plan of adoption. Of these, 687 children (48.9%) had completed TPR actions.

**• No data were provided to calculate outcome measures 1.1 and 2.1.**

South Carolina submitted data in Summary Data Component format for Calendar Year 1998, 1999, and 2000. The questions 1.1 and 2.1 are not asked on the SDC survey. Data for question 1.1 is not currently available from the automated system. Data for question 2.1 reveals that on average, less than .5% of children in foster care were found to have been abused or neglected while in foster care during these periods. [36 children abused/neglected in calendar year 1998 out of 8,333 foster children (FFY 1998); 48 children in CY 1999 out of 7,667 foster children. (FFY 1999); and 36 children abused/neglected in CY 2000 out of 7,706 foster children (FFY (2000)]. Programming modifications are being made to capture this information as well as to submit data in the Detailed Case Data Component (DCDC) format.

**• The data for outcome measure 7.1 indicate that 17.7 percent of the children entering foster care in FY 2000 who were age 12 or younger were placed in institutions or group homes.**

Our data system was coding private foster family homes licensed by child placing agencies as group homes. Corrections to this overlapped the time of this report.

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	200,937	198,037	202,649	Child maltreatment victims	2,647	2,561	3,081
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	—	1,101	1,215
Alaska Native/American Indian	14.1	14.4	13.3	Children adopted	55	84	94
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	0.9	0.6				
Black	0.7	0.7	0.8				
Hispanic	1.8	1.8	2.2				
White	82.6	82.1	80.6				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.3				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.1				
% Child population in poverty	20.4	7.3	13.3				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	38.9	36.1	34.3				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	5,313	4,709	5,605	26.4 per 1,000	23.8 per 1,000	27.7 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	2,647	2,561	3,081	13.2 per 1,000	12.9 per 1,000	15.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	3	6	1.5 per 100,000	1.5 per 100,000	3.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	0.8	—	4.1	Alaska Native/American Indian	45.1	—	45.4
1-5 years	20.9	—	28.6	Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
6-10 years	35.5	—	30.2	Black	—	—	—
11-15 years	27.8	—	24.4	Hispanic	—	—	—
16+ years	10.7	—	10.5	White	42.6	—	48.0
Unknown	4.3	—	2.3	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	—	100.0	Other/Unknown	12.3	—	6.6
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,647</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3,081</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	100.0	—	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>2,647</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3,081</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	10.6	11.4	11.3
Medical neglect	—	—	—
Neglect	73.0	70.9	70.3
Physical abuse	23.3	25.1	21.5
Sexual abuse	8.3	10.0	6.3
Other	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	115.3	117.5	109.4
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,647</b>	<b>2,561</b>	<b>3,081</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	—	—	—	—	—
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	898	1,308	1,106	1,101	2,206
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	816	1,441	1,042	1,215	2,257

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	—	N/A	—	—	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	12.7	N/A	2.3	10.5	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	11.3	N/A	2.2	8.3	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	—	4.6	5.5	—	13.9	12.8	—	9.5	9.7	—	6.3	6.1
1-5 years	—	28.7	27.2	—	33.8	32.8	—	35.8	33.3	—	26.9	29.4
6-10 years	—	29.5	28.8	—	26.0	26.4	—	26.9	27.2	—	27.6	25.8
11-15 years	—	28.1	27.7	—	20.6	21.9	—	18.9	19.8	—	28.9	28.9
16-18 years	—	8.9	10.3	—	5.3	5.8	—	8.4	9.7	—	10.1	9.5
19+ years	—	0.1	0.2	—	—	—	—	0.2	0.3	—	0.2	0.1
Unknown	—	0.1	0.2	—	0.5	0.2	—	0.3	0.1	—	0.1	0.2
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>898</b>	<b>816</b>	—	<b>1,308</b>	<b>1,441</b>	—	<b>1,106</b>	<b>1,042</b>	—	<b>1,101</b>	<b>1,215</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	—	63.8	63.4	—	60.2	59.7	—	59.2	60.3	—	64.2	61.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	0.1	—	0.1	0.1	—	—	0.1	—	0.1	0.2
Black	—	1.8	2.3	—	2.7	2.2	—	2.4	2.9	—	2.2	1.6
Hispanic	—	1.9	3.6	—	3.4	4.2	—	2.0	4.1	—	3.5	3.9
White	—	32.3	29.0	—	32.7	31.3	—	35.9	30.8	—	29.2	30.2
Two or more races	—	—	1.2	—	0.2	2.0	—	0.1	1.1	—	0.1	2.3
Unknown	—	0.2	0.4	—	0.8	0.5	—	0.4	0.8	—	0.7	0.2
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>898</b>	<b>816</b>	—	<b>1,308</b>	<b>1,441</b>	—	<b>1,106</b>	<b>1,042</b>	—	<b>1,101</b>	<b>1,215</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	—	284	311
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	—	198	238

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	8.5	4.2
1-5 years	—	26.1	32.8
6-10 years	—	32.4	28.6
11-15 years	—	27.5	31.5
16+ years	—	5.3	2.6
Unknown	—	0.4	0.3
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>284</b>	<b>311</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	58.1	56.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.4	—
Black	—	2.8	2.6
Hispanic	—	4.2	4.8
White	—	33.5	34.4
Two or more races	—	0.4	1.6
Unknown	—	0.7	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>284</b>	<b>311</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	1.8	1.2	4.3
1-5 years	45.5	45.2	55.3
6-10 years	32.7	39.3	26.6
11-15 years	18.2	9.5	13.8
16+ years	1.8	4.8	—
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>94</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	34.5	46.4	51.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
Black	1.8	2.4	—
Hispanic	1.8	3.6	6.4
White	61.8	46.4	37.2
Two or more races	—	—	5.3
Unknown	—	1.2	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>94</b>

<sup>5</sup> In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

<sup>6</sup> Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

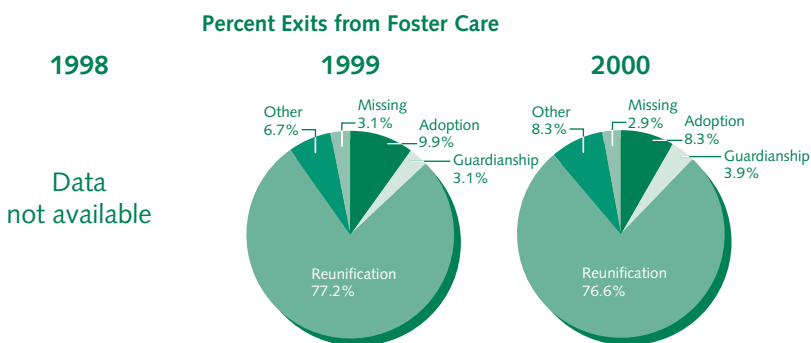
### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	9.9	8.3
Guardianship	—	3.1	3.9
Reunification	—	77.2	76.6
Other	—	6.7	8.3
Missing data	—	3.1	2.9
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	1,106	1,042



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	23.9	29.1
Guardianship	—	8.0	4.5
Reunification	—	44.2	37.3
Other	—	17.7	20.9
Missing data	—	6.2	8.2
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	113	110

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	0.5	1.0
Guardianship	—	4.9	5.6
Reunification	—	68.3	73.2
Other	—	18.0	15.7
Missing data	—	8.2	4.5
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	183	198

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	—	21.7	21.7
Children older than 12 at entry	—	78.3	78.3
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	23	23

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	6.6	6.5	—	—	100.0	—	7.4	6.7	—	9.1	11.6
Guardianship	—	2.6	4.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	—	80.9	76.8	—	—	—	—	92.6	83.3	—	68.2	67.4
Other	—	6.9	9.1	—	—	—	—	—	10.0	—	18.2	16.3
Missing data	—	3.1	3.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.5	4.7
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	655	628	—	—	1	—	27	30	—	22	43

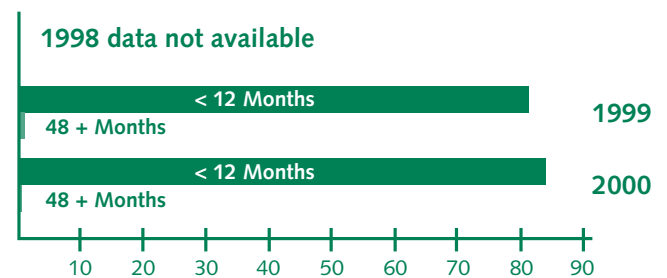
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	—	15.6	11.2	—	25.0	12.5	—	—	9.1	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	4.3	3.4	—	—	12.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	—	70.8	76.9	—	75.0	75.0	—	—	81.8	—	—	—
Other	—	6.3	5.6	—	—	—	—	—	9.1	—	—	—
Missing data	—	3.0	2.8	—	—	—	—	100.0	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	—	—
Number	—	397	321	—	4	8	—	1	11	—	—	—

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

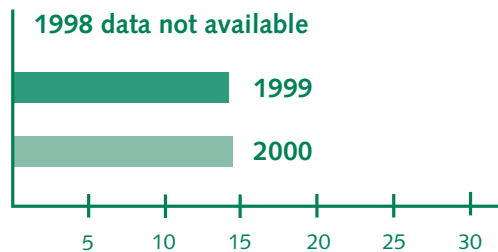
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	81.1	84.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	9.4	6.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	2.2	1.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	0.4	0.9
48 or more mos.	—	0.9	0.5
Missing data	—	6.0	6.6
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	854	798

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	—	62.1	65.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	—	14.1	14.4
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	—	22.5	17.8
Missing data	—	1.3	1.8
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	1,308	1,441

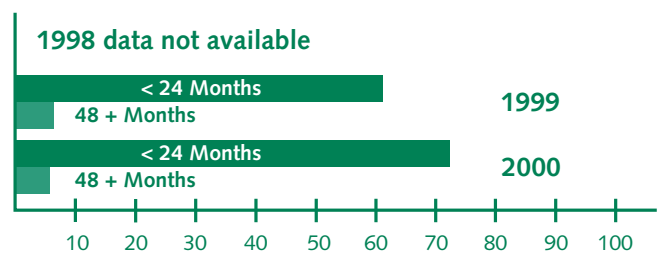
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	24.5	31.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	36.4	41.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	28.2	19.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	4.5	2.3
48 or more mos.	—	6.4	5.7
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	110	87

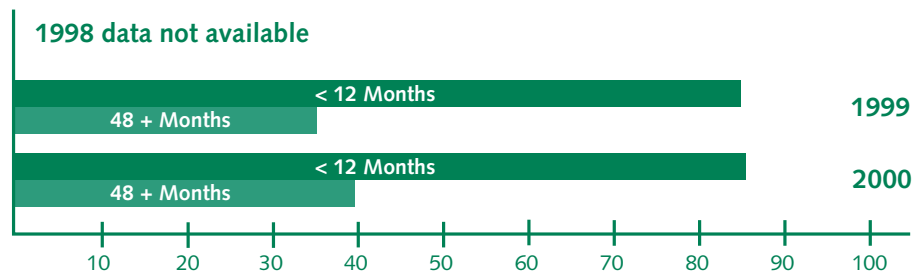
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	84.9	13.8	1.4	100.0	1,387
	2000	85.3	13.8	0.9	100.0	1,529
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	68.3	31.7	—	100.0	357
	2000	58.0	41.7	0.3	100.0	319
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	46.0	53.4	0.6	100.0	176
	2000	51.1	48.9	—	100.0	137
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	41.6	57.1	1.3	100.0	77
	2000	39.6	60.4	—	100.0	96
48 or more mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	35.3	64.0	0.7	100.0	139
	2000	39.6	60.4	—	100.0	111
Missing data	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	95.7	4.3	—	100.0	70
	2000	92.3	1.5	6.2	100.0	65

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	—	0.7	1.2
Institutions	—	15.1	15.3
Other settings	—	83.3	83.3
Missing data	—	1.0	0.3
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	1,015	1,108

**Virgena Wieseler, Administrator  
Child Protection Services  
South Dakota Department of Social Services  
605-773-3227**

In Section C - Children in Foster Care we re-ran the data for the number of children in care on 09-30-99 (1039) and 10-01-99 (996). The difference is 43 children, however we believe that number represents the number of children who we showed as discharged to adoption but were not yet finalized. With our latest submission of AFCARS data for fiscal year 2002 A, we are now reporting children as still in care.

Data were not available to calculate outcome measures 1.1 and 2.1 because South Dakota does not submit DCDC data. South Dakota completed SDC for NCANDS and SDC does not include these data. However, data regarding recurrence obtained in preparation for South Dakota's Child and Family Service Review in October 2001 was 14.5% in 1998, 11.1% in 1999 and 11% in 2000.



The following discussion focuses on South Dakota's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance. In using CFSR information to interpret performance, it is important to note that the South Dakota CFSR was conducted in 2001 and the national data used for the review to assess performance regarding national standards was from 1999. However, the discussion on State performance relevant to the national standards in the Federal Comment section focuses on data from 2000, as provided in the State Data Pages. In addition, because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

South Dakota's attainment of outcome 1 cannot be assessed in the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating this outcome. Only data from NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, for the CFSR, the State provided data for this outcome using an alternative source. These data are presented in South Dakota's CFSR Final Report and in the State Comment section.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce incidence of maltreatment in foster care**

South Dakota's attainment of outcome 2 cannot be evaluated in the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to NCANDS for calculating this outcome. Only data from NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, for the CFSR, the State provided data for this outcome using an alternative source. These data are presented in South Dakota's CFSR Final Report.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 88.8 percent of children leaving foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 84.7 percent), and 79.8 percent of children who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care exited foster care to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 72.6). Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance on these measures may be attributed to the availability of subsidized guardianship as a permanency option. However, only 70.9 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to permanent homes, which is less than the national median of 79.5 percent. This suggests that although the State appears to be generally effective in establishing permanency for children, it is less effective in establishing permanency for children with a diagnosed disability.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 84.0, which is higher than both the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance on this outcome measure may be attributed in part to the following: (1) diligent efforts to promote parent-child visitation, (2) frequent caseworker visits with parents, and (3) an extensive array of services.

South Dakota's high performance with regard to reunification within 12 months must be balanced by the finding that in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 14.4, which is higher than both the national standard of 8.6 percent and the national median of 10.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential reasons for performance on this outcome measure: (1) inadequate risk assessment prior to reunification in some cases, (2) reunification of some families when there is no evidence of behavior change by the parents (e.g., the parents did not complete a recommended treatment program), and (3) lack of post-reunification services.

### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 72.4, which

is higher than the national standard of 32.0 percent and is the highest rate reported nationally. However, information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that the data for measure 5.1 concerning time to adoption are not accurate because the State data system records adoptive placements as discharges to adoption rather than only recording finalized adoptions as discharges, as is required by the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). Therefore, it is not possible to interpret the data for this measure provided in the Report to Congress. According to information in the CFSR Final Report, the State plans to correct this problem in their future submissions to AFCARS.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placements in their first 12 months in foster care was 85.3, which does not meet the national standard of 86.7 percent, but is higher than the national median of 84.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the key barrier to achieving placement stability for children as the scarcity of foster homes and placement settings, which results in placement decisions being based on available “beds” rather than on the needs of the child.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 16.5, which is higher than the national median of 9.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State’s performance on this measure may be attributed to a lack of mental health day-treatment options for children and home-based mental health services. As noted in the Final Report, the lack of these services results in placement in residential treatment facilities, even for young children who might otherwise be treated in their own homes, or in less restrictive placements within their communities.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that the State is not consistently effective in meeting children’s educational, physical health, and mental health needs. The Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) a lack of attention to children’s educational needs, particularly in the children’s case plans, (2) a failure to provide some children with health screenings at the time of entry into foster care, (3) a lack of dentists willing to accept Medicaid payments, (4) a lack of mental health assessments and a failure to provide services in all cases in which mental health needs were identified and services recommended, and (5) significant gaps in mental health services for children, particularly day treatment and home-based services.

### A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	1,331,402	1,340,930	1,398,521	Child maltreatment victims	9,930	10,611	16,572
Race/ethnicity (%) <sup>1</sup>				Children in foster care on 9/30	—	10,796	10,144
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	Children adopted	337	382	431
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.2	1.2	1.0				
Black	21.4	21.4	21.1				
Hispanic	1.6	1.7	2.8				
White	75.6	75.4	73.0				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.6				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.2				
% Child population in poverty	20.3	17.4	19.7				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	76.2	73.4	69.0				

### B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	32,286	33,629	51,917	24.2 per 1,000	25.1 per 1,000	37.1 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	9,930	10,611	16,572	7.5 per 1,000	7.9 per 1,000	11.8 per 1,000
Child fatalities	12	16	3	0.9 per 100,000	1.2 per 100,000	0.2 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	9.6	9.1	9.9	Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.0	0.1
1-5 years	31.7	30.5	30.9	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	0.3	0.3
6-10 years	31.2	31.1	29.4	Black	31.1	31.6	30.4
11-15 years	22.1	23.8	24.0	Hispanic	0.8	1.5	1.0
16+ years	5.2	5.2	5.7	White	63.5	62.5	64.2
Unknown	0.1	0.3	0.2	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	4.9	5.6	4.0
Number	9,930	10,611	16,572	Total % <sup>3</sup>	100.8	101.5	100.0
				Number	9,930	10,611	16,572

#### Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	1.8	1.2	2.3
Medical neglect	3.1	3.1	3.3
Neglect	43.0	43.5	42.9
Physical abuse	19.6	20.0	20.0
Sexual abuse	22.4	21.0	21.0
Other	10.1	11.2	10.5
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,930	10,611	16,572

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	—	—	—	—	—
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	8,296	5,968	3,481	10,796	14,264
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	9,034	5,480	4,370	10,144	14,514

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	—	N/A	—	—	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	17.5	N/A	12.3	13.6	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	17.9	N/A	11.8	16.8	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	—	2.7	2.7	—	9.0	7.8	—	2.6	2.3	—	3.2	2.5
1-5 years	—	18.5	17.4	—	13.1	13.9	—	15.5	13.3	—	16.6	17.3
6-10 years	—	18.9	18.9	—	12.6	12.5	—	11.9	12.2	—	17.6	17.4
11-15 years	—	30.8	30.8	—	35.3	36.6	—	19.1	21.2	—	29.8	30.9
16-18 years	—	28.3	29.2	—	30.0	29.2	—	48.5	48.0	—	31.8	31.1
19+ years	—	0.7	0.9	—	—	—	—	2.0	2.7	—	1.0	0.7
Unknown	—	0.1	0.1	—	0.0	—	—	0.4	0.3	—	0.1	0.1
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>8,296</b>	<b>9,034</b>	—	<b>5,968</b>	<b>5,480</b>	—	<b>3,481</b>	<b>4,370</b>	—	<b>10,796</b>	<b>10,144</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	—	0.2	0.2	—	0.3	0.3	—	0.3	0.3	—	0.2	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.3	0.4	—	0.5	0.5	—	0.4	0.4	—	0.4	0.4
Black	—	38.2	40.0	—	35.2	30.4	—	29.9	31.5	—	39.2	38.4
Hispanic	—	1.4	1.6	—	1.6	2.4	—	1.2	2.2	—	1.5	1.8
White	—	59.5	56.7	—	61.5	64.5	—	67.5	64.8	—	58.0	57.4
Two or more races	—	—	1.2	—	—	1.0	—	—	0.3	—	—	1.4
Unknown	—	0.5	0.1	—	1.0	0.9	—	0.7	0.5	—	0.7	0.4
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>8,296</b>	<b>9,034</b>	—	<b>5,968</b>	<b>5,480</b>	—	<b>3,481</b>	<b>4,370</b>	—	<b>10,796</b>	<b>10,144</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	—	1,666	2,044
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	—	992	397

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	2.1	1.5
1-5 years	—	23.9	27.4
6-10 years	—	34.1	35.9
11-15 years	—	30.0	29.4
16+ years	—	8.1	4.9
Unknown	—	1.7	0.9
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>1,666</b>	<b>2,044</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.2	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.2	0.2
Black	—	48.3	45.7
Hispanic	—	1.9	1.9
White	—	49.1	49.7
Two or more races	—	—	2.3
Unknown	—	0.4	0.0
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	—	<b>1,666</b>	<b>2,044</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	1.5	1.0	0.5
1-5 years	46.9	44.5	35.3
6-10 years	32.3	34.0	40.6
11-15 years	16.3	17.0	20.4
16+ years	3.0	3.4	3.2
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>431</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.8	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
Black	44.8	37.4	38.3
Hispanic	3.6	2.4	3.0
White	51.0	59.2	56.1
Two or more races	—	—	1.4
Unknown	0.3	0.3	1.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>431</b>

<sup>5</sup> In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

<sup>6</sup> Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

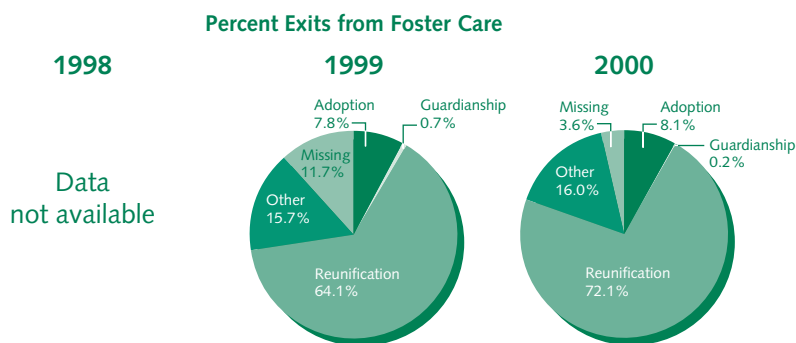
### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%) 1998 1999 2000

Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from

Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	7.8	8.1
Guardianship	—	0.7	0.2
Reunification	—	64.1	72.1
Other	—	15.7	16.0
Missing data	—	11.7	3.6
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	3,481	4,370



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	18.2	24.4
Guardianship	—	0.7	—
Reunification	—	44.2	52.0
Other	—	22.6	20.0
Missing data	—	14.2	3.6
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	274	225

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	0.1	0.0
Guardianship	—	0.4	0.1
Reunification	—	64.4	73.6
Other	—	22.3	22.0
Missing data	—	12.8	4.2
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	2,045	2,599

### 3.4 Exits to

Emancipation (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	—	14.5	17.8
Children older than 12 at entry	—	84.9	82.2
Missing data	—	0.6	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	496	596

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7.5	7.8	—	11.9	10.4
Guardianship	—	11.1	—	—	—	—	—	1.3	0.1	—	—	—
Reunification	—	77.8	72.7	—	71.4	70.6	—	65.9	70.1	—	61.9	69.8
Other	—	11.1	18.2	—	28.6	17.6	—	15.7	17.6	—	14.3	11.5
Missing data	—	—	9.1	—	—	11.8	—	9.6	4.4	—	11.9	8.3
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	9	11	—	14	17	—	1,041	1,378	—	42	96

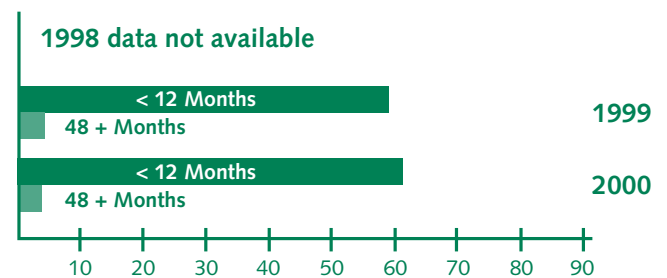
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	—	7.9	8.2	—	4.2	—	—	—	21.4	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	0.4	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	—	63.1	73.0	—	83.3	85.0	—	—	71.4	—	—	100.0
Other	—	15.8	15.6	—	4.2	—	—	—	7.1	—	—	—
Missing data	—	12.7	2.9	—	8.3	15.0	—	—	—	—	100.0	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	2,350	2,833	—	24	20	—	—	14	—	1	1

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

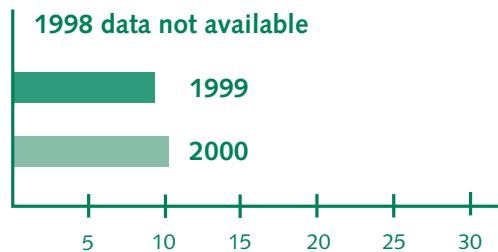
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	59.0	61.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	24.8	23.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	8.2	6.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	3.3	3.5
48 or more mos.	—	4.3	4.0
Missing data	—	0.5	0.9
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	2,233	3,150

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	—	84.2	83.1
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	—	9.3	10.1
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	—	6.2	6.8
Missing data	—	0.4	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	5,968	5,480

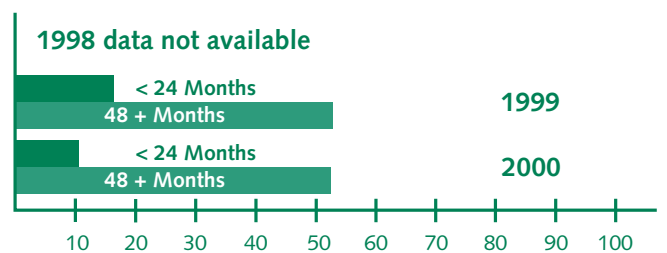
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	3.0	3.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	13.3	7.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	17.4	17.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	13.3	19.5
48 or more mos.	—	52.6	52.4
Missing data	—	0.4	0.3
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	270	353

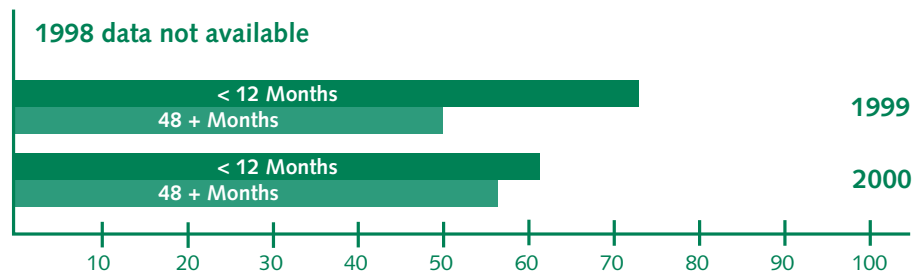
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	72.9	25.2	1.9	100.0	6,734
	2000	61.1	32.4	6.5	100.0	6,334
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	52.2	47.3	0.5	100.0	2,876
	2000	47.4	49.6	3.0	100.0	2,950
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	51.0	48.8	0.2	100.0	1,448
	2000	53.5	44.0	2.5	100.0	1,635
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	48.5	51.2	0.3	100.0	934
	2000	54.4	43.5	2.0	100.0	981
48 or more mos.	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	50.0	49.6	0.4	100.0	2,245
	2000	56.2	41.0	2.8	100.0	2,556
Missing data	1998	—	—	—	—	—
	1999	81.5	14.8	3.7	100.0	27
	2000	34.5	—	65.5	100.0	58

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	—	8.3	5.9
Institutions	—	6.8	7.6
Other settings	—	84.5	86.4
Missing data	—	0.4	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	2,264	1,987

**Page B. Walley, Commissioner  
Tennessee Department of Children's Services  
615-741-9699**

The following are the comments on our State data for the *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000: Annual Report*.

As a general comment, we have serious concerns about the national standards for compliance with the federal child welfare outcomes being based upon data that are not comparable across states for various reasons. In particular, there is considerable variability in the populations of children included in foster care, how permanency goals and concurrent goals are measured, how states measure and record placements and placement changes, and how types of placements are mapped to the standard AFCARS placement settings. We strongly encourage the Children's Bureau to consider states' concerns about the lack of comparability of data that affect states' performance on the outcomes, especially with such severe consequences as possible financial penalties. We also want to note that the Federal requirement of quarterly reports on progress with regard to the State's Program Improvement Plan does not permit sufficient time to demonstrate progress on outcomes, although it may permit some assessment of early progress with regard to process measures.

A second general comment is that the Tennessee Department of Children's Services includes both child welfare and juvenile justice programs. As a result, AFCARS numbers and demographic information may be influenced by some juvenile justice cases that were part of the child welfare system for only a brief period of time during the reporting year. We strongly recommend that the Children's Bureau add adjudication type as a required AFCARS data element so that states such as Tennessee and others that include juvenile justice youth can accurately report the full range of children and youth in state custody.

The data in section B indicate a considerable increase in the number and rate of child maltreatment reports and child maltreatment victims from 1998 to 2000. In addition, the data in Section C indicate that there were 1,762 fewer children in foster care on October 1, 1999 (9,034) than there were on September 30, 1999 (10,796). Both of these data issues are due to the fact that during this time period, the State has been transitioning from a legacy system to a SACWIS (TN KIDS). Now that TN KIDS is operational, we anticipate that these data problems will no longer be an issue.

Another data issue is that the data in Section E indicate that 431 children were adopted in FY 2000 (from the AFCARS Adoption Database). However, as shown in outcome measure 5.1, only 353 of the exits from foster care in FY 2000 (from the AFCARS Foster Care Database) were reported as discharges to adoption. The legacy system that we had been using was not capable of handling the adoptions data and consequently a separate reporting method was used for the adoptions AFCARS reporting. The state is confident that its AFCARS Adoption Database numbers are accurate. While there were significant discrepancies in agreement between the two reports during the first half of the fiscal year, problems related to the discrepancies had been largely resolved and, during the second half of the year, the discrepancy involved only 2 cases.



The following discussion focuses on Tennessee's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance (the Tennessee CFSR was conducted in FY 2002). Because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's physical health, mental health, and educational needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

Tennessee's attainment of outcome 1 cannot be assessed in the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating this outcome measure. Only data from NCANDS are presented for this outcome measure in the Report to Congress. However, for the CFSR, the State provided data for this outcome using an alternative source. These data are presented in Tennessee's CFSR Final Report.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care**

Tennessee's attainment of outcome 2 cannot be evaluated in this Report because the State does not provide data to NCANDS for calculating this outcome. Only data from NCANDS are presented for this outcome measure in the Report to Congress. However, for the CFSR, the State provided data for this outcome using an alternative source. These data are presented in Tennessee's CFSR Final Report.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 80.4 percent of children exiting foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is lower than the national median of 84.7 percent), and 76.4 percent of children with a diagnosed disability exiting foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is lower than the national median of 79.5 percent). Although these data suggest that the State is not consistently effective in achieving permanency for children in foster care, the data for outcome 3 also indicated that 73.6 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is higher than the national median of 72.6), and only 17.8 percent of children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry (which is lower than the national median of 24.2 percent). These data suggest that the State has experienced success in achieving permanency for children who are older than age 12 when they enter foster care and in ensuring that children who enter foster care at younger ages do not "grow up" in the system. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that a key barrier to attaining permanency may be the frequent agency practice of establishing a goal of long-term foster care when reunification efforts fail without exploring adoption or guardianship as possible alternatives.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 61.3, which is lower than both the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving reunification in a timely manner: (1) the lack of diligent efforts in some cases to engage parents in services to promote reunification, (2) the tendency of the agency to focus on the child's needs rather than the family's needs in providing services and conducting assessments, (3) the high caseloads carried by workers that make it difficult to provide the necessary level of case management, and (4) insufficient contact between caseworkers and parents whose children are in foster care to promote movement toward permanency (contact often occurs less often than the once-a-month required by agency policy).

Also in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 10.1, which does not meet the national standard of 8.6 percent, but is almost equal to the national median of 10.3 percent.

Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to preventing re-entries into foster care: (1) the lack of adequate assessment in some cases of the change in risk factors prior to reunifying children with their families; and (2) the fact

that until 2002, the agency was not able to provide post-reunification services to families for more than 90 days after reunification. However, a new law requires that families be provided with services for 9 months after reunification.

#### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 10.5, which is lower than both the national standard of 32.0 percent and the national median of 19.7 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to attaining adoptions in a timely manner: (1) agency delays in changing permanency goals when reunification efforts are not successful, (2) agency delays in filing for termination of parental rights (TPR) and completing home studies in a timely manner, (3) lack of consistent effort to identify or search for fathers early on in a case, and (4) delays due to parents' appeals of TPR decisions.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 61.1, which is lower than both the national standard of 86.7 percent and the national median of 84.3 percent. According to information in the CFSR Final Report, the State believes that the actual number of placements changes may be higher than the number reported to the Federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System because the State's management information system does not capture changes in foster care placements for children who remain with the same private child placement provider agency. That is, a child could move from one foster home to another, but if both foster homes were under the supervision of the same foster care provider agency, this move would not be recorded in the State's management information system. This suggests that placement stability is a concern for the State. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving placement stability for children in foster care: (1) a lack of appropriate placements resources to ensure appropriate matching between children and placements, (2) an inconsistency on the part of the agency with regard to providing supportive services to foster parents to help maintain placements when they are at risk of disruption, and (3) the large number of adolescents in the system who have serious behavior problems that result in placement disruptions.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 13.5, which is higher than the national median of 9.0. Information in the CFSR Final Report suggests that the high percentage of children who are placed in group homes when they are age 12 or younger may be attributed in part to the scarcity of family foster homes, particularly for children with emotional problems.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, information in the CSFR Final Report indicates that the State is effective in meeting children's physical health needs, including their need for dental services. However, information from the Final Report also suggests that the State is less effective in meeting children's educational and mental health needs. The Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) a lack of consistent and adequate assessment of children's educational needs and mental health needs; (2) a failure in some cases to provide services to address identified educational and mental health needs in some cases; and (3) the difficulty obtaining high quality mental health services for children, often due to problems with insurance coverage and waiting lists for basic services, such as counseling.

### A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	5,629,200	5,719,234	5,886,759	Child maltreatment victims	39,925	39,488	45,800
Race/ethnicity (%) <sup>1</sup>				Children in foster care on 9/30	15,182	16,326	18,236
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.3	Children adopted	1,602	2,054	2,029
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.6	2.7	2.4				
Black	12.4	12.3	12.4				
Hispanic	38.5	39.1	40.5				
White	46.4	45.7	42.6				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.6				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.1				
% Child population in poverty	24.4	22.1	22.9				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	82.9	81.4	85.7				

### B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	172,718	170,834	193,966	30.7 per 1,000	29.9 per 1,000	32.9 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	39,925	39,488	45,800	7.1 per 1,000	6.9 per 1,000	7.8 per 1,000
Child fatalities	176	143	177	3.1 per 100,000	2.5 per 100,000	3.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	11.2	10.7	11.3	Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.2
1-5 years	33.2	33.0	30.3	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.6	0.7	0.5
6-10 years	31.0	31.3	26.2	Black	24.8	24.5	20.4
11-15 years	21.3	21.1	18.5	Hispanic	34.9	33.7	36.6
16+ years	3.3	3.9	3.0	White	69.6	73.2	38.7
Unknown	0.1	0.0	10.8	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	4.7	1.4	1.7
Number	39,925	39,488	45,800	Total % <sup>3</sup>	134.9	133.7	100.0
				Number	39,925	39,488	45,800

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	3.9	3.5	3.4
Medical neglect	4.8	5.1	4.7
Neglect	57.3	59.6	59.3
Physical abuse	29.9	29.3	28.2
Sexual abuse	15.7	14.9	14.6
Other	3.4	3.5	1.4
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	115.0	115.9	111.5
Number	39,925	39,488	45,800

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	15,818			7,025			7,665			15,182			22,843
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	15,582			8,938			8,200			16,326			24,520
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	16,571			9,939			8,283			18,236			26,510
Median Length of Stay (Months)													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	22.4			N/A			17.2			18.8			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	20.1			N/A			15.8			14.5			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	15.7			N/A			13.6			13.5			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	5.0	5.2	6.9	18.7	20.1	20.7	4.8	5.2	5.6	5.3	7.0	7.4	
1-5 years	27.8	26.3	26.5	30.1	31.4	32.6	33.2	34.1	36.1	26.7	26.8	28.4	
6-10 years	25.6	26.1	25.3	22.8	22.8	22.6	23.0	22.6	23.4	26.3	25.5	24.7	
11-15 years	27.7	28.9	28.8	22.8	20.3	20.2	17.2	17.5	17.3	29.1	28.5	27.9	
16-18 years	13.6	13.5	12.5	5.6	5.4	3.9	20.8	20.0	17.4	12.5	12.1	11.6	
19+ years	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	—	—	0.9	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Unknown	0.0	—	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	—	0.0	—	0.0	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>15,818</b>	<b>15,582</b>	<b>16,571</b>	<b>7,025</b>	<b>8,938</b>	<b>9,939</b>	<b>7,665</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>8,283</b>	<b>15,182</b>	<b>16,326</b>	<b>18,236</b>	
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%) <sup>5</sup>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	
Black	32.9	31.8	30.1	27.6	26.8	25.3	31.0	30.1	27.4	31.4	29.9	28.6	
Hispanic	31.4	32.4	33.5	35.1	35.9	35.3	32.9	33.3	34.3	32.4	33.8	34.1	
White	32.0	32.5	32.7	33.3	33.0	34.4	31.6	32.7	33.8	32.8	32.7	33.2	
Two or more races	1.8	1.8	2.4	2.4	2.8	3.3	2.2	1.8	2.7	1.9	2.4	2.7	
Unknown	1.4	1.0	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.9	2.0	1.4	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.7	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>15,818</b>	<b>15,582</b>	<b>16,571</b>	<b>7,025</b>	<b>8,938</b>	<b>9,939</b>	<b>7,665</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>8,283</b>	<b>15,182</b>	<b>16,326</b>	<b>18,236</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	6,389	6,616	7,214
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	4,467	5,067	5,492
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	3.5	4.3	4.7
1-5 years	32.0	29.7	30.5
6-10 years	34.3	33.1	31.3
11-15 years	26.8	29.1	29.4
16+ years	3.2	3.8	4.1
Unknown	0.1	—	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>6,389</b>	<b>6,616</b>	<b>7,214</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.4	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0	0.2	0.2
Black	33.4	32.6	30.9
Hispanic	32.4	32.8	34.0
White	30.4	30.4	30.9
Two or more races	2.2	2.7	2.9
Unknown	1.2	0.9	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>6,389</b>	<b>6,616</b>	<b>7,214</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	2.8	2.9	3.2
1-5 years	51.7	49.2	52.5
6-10 years	33.3	32.1	30.3
11-15 years	11.4	14.6	12.8
16+ years	0.7	1.2	1.3
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,602</b>	<b>2,054</b>	<b>2,029</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	0.2	0.1
Black	34.0	30.0	25.8
Hispanic	31.0	35.4	36.9
White	29.0	30.5	31.6
Two or more races	—	—	3.4
Unknown	5.5	3.7	1.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,602</b>	<b>2,054</b>	<b>2,029</b>

<sup>5</sup> In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

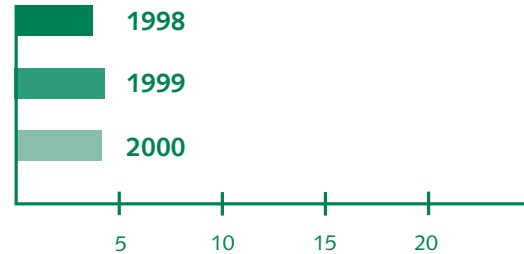
<sup>6</sup> Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

### 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

#### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	96.3	95.7	95.8
Children with one or more recurrences	3.7	4.3	4.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	20,794	20,929	22,290

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences



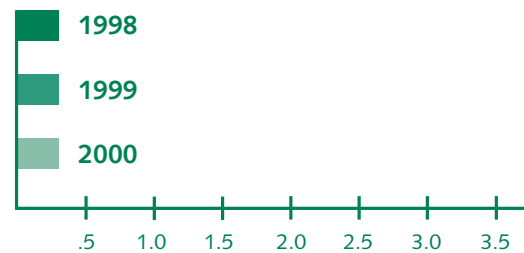
### 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

(NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

#### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.3	0.3	0.3
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.7	99.7	99.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	19,915	22,791	24,433

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

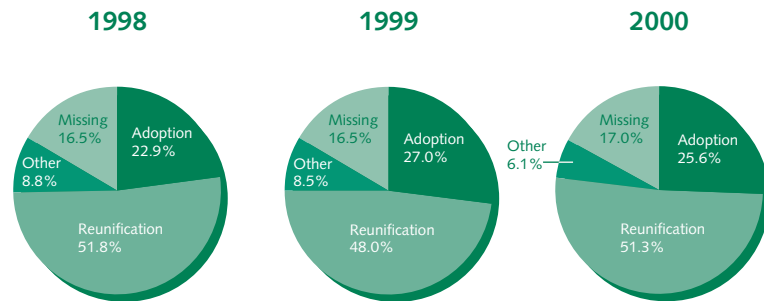


### 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

#### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	22.9	27.0	25.6
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	51.8	48.0	51.3
Other	8.8	8.5	6.1
Missing data	16.5	16.5	17.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,665	8,200	8,283

Percent Exits from Foster Care



#### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	22.9	31.4	32.1
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	52.1	40.7	39.8
Other	11.0	12.8	9.8
Missing data	14.0	15.2	18.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,504	1,936	2,186

#### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.4	1.3	2.0
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	30.1	28.8	33.6
Other	23.4	20.9	17.6
Missing data	46.1	49.0	46.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,570	1,489	1,473

#### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	48.7	56.4	53.1
Children older than 12 at entry	51.3	43.6	46.9
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	556	569	377

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	16.0	13.8	36.7	8.3	4.0	8.6	23.5	24.5	23.2	22.6	30.4	28.1
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	52.0	48.3	50.0	50.0	92.0	85.7	49.0	49.5	50.2	52.9	45.6	49.6
Other	4.0	20.7	3.3	8.3	—	—	8.6	7.9	6.3	7.5	8.1	5.7
Missing data	28.0	17.2	10.0	33.3	4.0	5.7	18.9	18.1	20.4	17.0	15.9	16.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	25	29	30	12	25	35	2,373	2,470	2,272	2,521	2,730	2,843

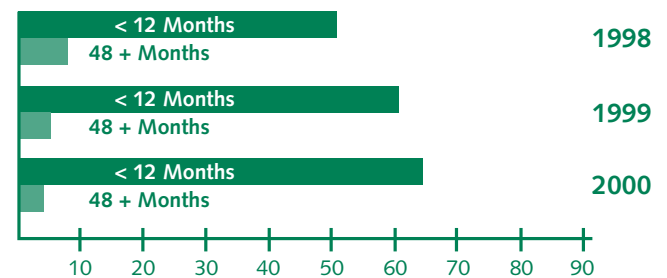
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	22.0	25.6	24.7	33.8	43.2	35.7	26.1	27.7	28.6	11.8	14.3	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	53.4	48.8	53.6	45.1	38.9	35.7	61.2	57.4	56.8	29.4	9.5	—
Other	10.9	10.0	7.0	5.3	5.3	2.9	2.4	3.4	2.6	—	—	—
Missing data	13.7	15.7	14.7	15.8	12.6	25.7	10.3	11.5	11.9	58.8	76.2	100.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,419	2,682	2,798	133	95	70	165	148	227	17	21	8

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

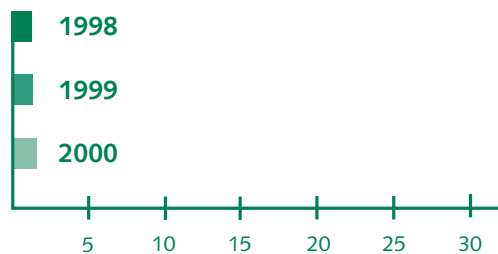
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	50.8	60.6	64.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	27.4	25.1	26.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	8.7	5.6	3.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	4.8	3.3	1.1
48 or more mos.	8.0	5.3	4.2
Missing data	0.3	0.1	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,972	3,938	4,251

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	96.7	96.4	95.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	1.3	1.3	1.5
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	0.6	1.1	1.5
Missing data	1.4	1.2	1.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,025	8,938	9,939

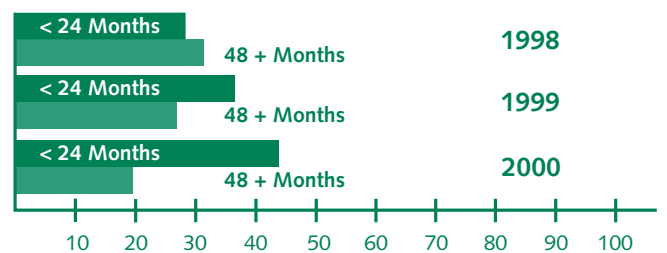
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	5.5	7.1	7.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	22.7	29.2	36.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	21.4	20.8	23.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	19.1	16.0	13.1
48 or more mos.	31.3	26.9	19.5
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,754	2,211	2,120

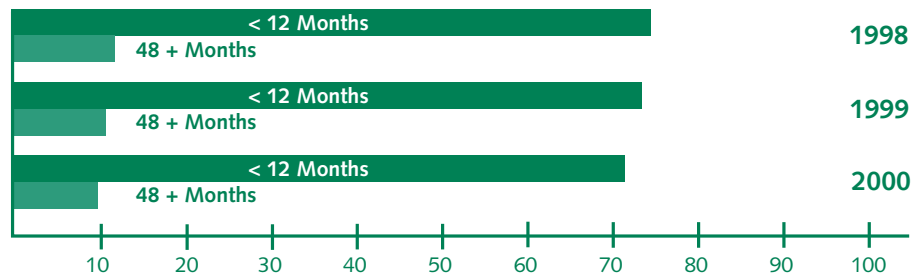
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	74.3	25.7	0.0	100.0	8,521
	1999	73.3	26.7	0.0	100.0	10,684
	2000	71.2	28.8	—	100.0	12,019
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	44.4	55.6	—	100.0	4,657
	1999	42.7	57.3	—	100.0	4,593
	2000	44.5	55.5	—	100.0	5,890
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	30.6	69.4	—	100.0	2,445
	1999	27.2	72.8	—	100.0	2,491
	2000	22.9	77.1	—	100.0	2,373
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	23.0	77.0	—	100.0	1,790
	1999	22.4	77.6	—	100.0	1,537
	2000	18.6	81.4	—	100.0	1,518
48 or more mos.	1998	11.5	88.5	—	100.0	5,370
	1999	10.6	89.4	—	100.0	5,175
	2000	9.7	90.3	—	100.0	4,673
Missing data	1998	68.3	31.7	—	100.0	60
	1999	77.5	22.5	—	100.0	40
	2000	59.5	40.5	—	100.0	37

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	2.2	3.0	3.5
Institutions	9.7	9.0	9.1
Other settings	83.4	83.8	83.9
Missing data	4.8	4.1	3.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,474	7,122	8,043

**Sarah Webster, Director  
Child Protection Services  
Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services  
512-438-4800**

An analysis of the 2000 Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data to be published in the *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000 Annual Report* clearly demonstrates improved accuracy for most of the data. While the percent of discharges with a missing reason remains too high, the count of discharges has dramatically improved. One of the issues contributing to missing discharge reasons is related to data on youth who age out of our legal responsibility. These youth may continue to reside in foster care through their 20th birthday if they will graduate from a high school or technical school by their 20th birthday. These youth have been represented in the AFCARS dataset with a discharge date, but with a current foster care placement, resulting in a missing discharge reason.

The Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (PRS) is currently building and testing a data warehouse for creation and submission of AFCARS data. We anticipate that the warehouse will first be used for the May 15, 2002 submission of the FFY 2002 A data set, and will improve the accuracy of our AFCARS reporting. Ensuring that data published in the Annual Report accurately reflects Texas' performance continues to be a high priority for PRS.



The following discussion focuses on Texas' performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance (the Texas CFSR was conducted in FY 2002). Because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

In calendar year (CY) 2000, the rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 4.2 percent, which is lower than both the national standard of 6.1 percent and the national median of 7.9. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance in preventing maltreatment recurrence may be attributed to the following: (1) the use of a comprehensive risk assessment model that shifts the focus of the child maltreatment investigation from the specific incident to the general risk factors in the family, and (2) the practice of re-assessing potential risk factors on an ongoing basis.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce incidence of maltreatment in foster care**

In CY 2000, the incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.3 percent, which is lower than both the national standard of 0.57 percent and the national median of 0.47 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance on this measure may be attributed in part to the following: (1) an effective foster parent training program, (2) consistent application of licensing standards for foster homes, and (3) stringent requirements in conducting criminal background checks on all potential and licensed foster parents.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

Although in fiscal year (FY) 2000, 76.0 percent of children exiting foster care were discharged to permanent homes, which is less than the national median of 84.7 percent, it is not possible to assess State performance on this outcome because "reason for discharge" information was not provided to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System for 17 percent of the children exiting foster care during FY 2000. In addition, discharge reasons were not provided for 18.3 percent of the children with a diagnosed disability who exited from foster care, or for 46.8 percent of children who exited from foster care who were older than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care. However, 53.1 percent of the children exiting foster care to emancipation were younger than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care, which is considerably higher than the national median of 24.2 percent. This suggests that the State is not consistently effective in ensuring that children do not "grow up" in the foster care system.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 64.4, which is lower than both the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. According to information provided in the CFSR Final Report, the State believes that performance on this measure is due to the agency's practice of maintaining legal custody of a child for 3 to 6 months after physical reunification to continue monitoring the family and support children's safety. Information from the Final Report also identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving reunifications in a timely manner: (1) inconsistencies with regard to involving parents in the case planning process, (2) a scarcity of substance abuse and mental health services to address family safety issues and facilitate reunification, and (3) the high rate of caseworker turnover, which results in families not always receiving the level of case management necessary to expedite reunification.

The State's performance with regard to reunification within 12 months must be balanced by the finding that in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 1.5, which is considerably lower than both the national standard of 8.6 percent and the national median of 10.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that prevention of foster care re-entries may be attributed in large part to the agency practice of maintaining custody and continued monitoring of the child for 3 to 6 months after physical reunification takes place.

### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 43.7, which is higher than the national standard of 32.0 percent and the national median of 19.7 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance on this outcome measure may be attributed in part to the following: (1) the implementation of an expedited decision-making process regarding termination of parental rights (TPR) and (2) the practice of "dual licensing" of foster/adoptive homes. However, information from the CFSR Final Report identifies timely adoptions as an area needing improvement for the State. The Report notes that there often are delays in attaining adoptions due to a practice of not referring a child to adoption recruiters until after TPR had been finalized and to the fact that because the number of TPRs is increasing, it is difficult for adoption recruiters to keep up with the demand.

### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children in foster care for less than 12 months who experienced no more than 2 placements was 71.2, which is lower than the national standard of 86.7 percent and the national median of 84.3 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving placement stability: (1) insufficient placement resources, especially for children requiring high levels of care; (2) the use of shelter care and emergency foster family care for initial placements or when existing placements disrupt; (3) inadequate supports for foster parents, particularly relative caregivers, to assist them in parenting children with behavioral or emotional problems; and (4) the lack of substantive financial assistance to relative caregivers.

### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 12.6, which is higher than the national median of 9.0. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State's performance on this measure may be due in part to the use of shelter care for children at their initial placement into foster care regardless of age.

### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State is not consistently effective in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs. The Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) frequent placement changes that result in children experiencing multiple school changes; (2) a lack of training of caseworkers to be effective advocates for children with the school system and to accurately assess the need for mental health services; (3) a failure in some cases to provide health assessments at the child's entry into foster care or to address identified mental health needs; (4) a scarcity of medical, dental, and mental health service providers willing to accept Medicaid; and (5) the fact that funds for contracted services often are depleted before the end of the fiscal year so that few services are available during the last 2 months of a fiscal year.

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	701,300	707,366	718,698	Child maltreatment victims	7,990	8,660	8,729
Race/ethnicity (%) <sup>1</sup>				Children in foster care on 9/30	2,468	2,273	1,805
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.5	1.5	1.4	Children adopted	334	369	303
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.6	2.7	2.1				
Black	0.7	0.7	0.8				
Hispanic	8.3	8.7	10.9				
White	87.0	86.4	82.4				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.3				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.1				
% Child population in poverty	12.2	7.1	11.5				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	83.5	80.0	75.9				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	27,222	26,847	25,102	38.8 per 1,000	38.0 per 1,000	34.9 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	7,990	8,660	8,729	11.4 per 1,000	12.2 per 1,000	12.1 per 1,000
Child fatalities	12	7	12	1.7 per 100,000	1.0 per 100,000	1.7 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	3.7	4.1	7.9	Alaska Native/American Indian	3.0	2.0	1.2
1-5 years	29.2	30.8	31.7	Asian/Pacific Islander	1.8	1.2	1.0
6-10 years	31.4	30.0	29.7	Black	2.4	1.9	1.6
11-15 years	26.7	25.5	24.5	Hispanic	12.7	12.9	13.1
16+ years	8.9	9.6	6.0	White	71.5	49.7	38.7
Unknown	—	—	0.2	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	21.4	45.3	44.4
Number	7,990	8,660	8,729	Total % <sup>3</sup>	112.7	112.9	100.0
				Number	7,990	8,660	8,729

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	40.3	41.4	40.8
Medical neglect	1.4	1.2	1.0
Neglect	33.0	28.8	29.3
Physical abuse	18.8	16.6	15.8
Sexual abuse	23.2	21.8	19.6
Other	11.6	10.1	9.5
Unknown	—	0.0	0.0
Total % <sup>4</sup>	128.3	119.9	116.0
Number	7,990	8,660	8,729

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	2,228	2,196	1,956	2,468	4,424
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	2,222	2,383	2,332	2,273	4,605
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	1,921	2,148	2,264	1,805	4,069

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	11.7	N/A	5.5	12.5	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	12.7	N/A	5.5	11.2	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	12.0	N/A	5.8	10.4	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	2.9	3.6	4.4	10.3	12.8	12.8	6.4	7.9	8.1	3.7	4.8	5.1
1-5 years	19.9	19.1	16.6	28.9	26.6	32.8	28.7	29.0	30.3	20.1	17.9	20.0
6-10 years	23.0	22.6	19.6	23.2	22.7	23.1	23.2	23.3	21.4	22.6	19.6	20.5
11-15 years	34.1	34.1	36.6	29.5	29.2	23.1	24.8	23.3	21.0	33.4	35.9	35.2
16-18 years	19.8	20.1	22.2	8.1	8.6	8.1	16.2	15.4	17.8	19.6	21.2	18.6
19+ years	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.0	—	—	0.6	0.9	1.3	0.6	0.6	0.6
Unknown	0.0	—	—	—	—	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,228</b>	<b>2,222</b>	<b>1,921</b>	<b>2,196</b>	<b>2,383</b>	<b>2,148</b>	<b>1,956</b>	<b>2,332</b>	<b>2,264</b>	<b>2,468</b>	<b>2,273</b>	<b>1,805</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	6.2	4.2	5.2	4.3	5.1	2.8	6.2	3.1	2.4	4.5	6.3	5.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.0
Black	4.0	3.6	3.0	3.8	4.8	1.9	4.3	4.3	1.1	3.6	4.1	4.2
Hispanic	13.6	14.2	13.8	15.9	16.2	18.6	15.7	15.5	16.1	14.0	15.0	16.6
White	73.0	72.7	49.3	69.7	62.6	33.3	68.5	67.5	29.5	73.6	67.5	55.1
Two or more races	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	2.6	4.5	28.0	5.1	10.4	42.4	4.2	8.8	50.3	3.6	6.3	17.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,228</b>	<b>2,222</b>	<b>1,921</b>	<b>2,196</b>	<b>2,383</b>	<b>2,148</b>	<b>1,956</b>	<b>2,332</b>	<b>2,264</b>	<b>2,468</b>	<b>2,273</b>	<b>1,805</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	658	325	371
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	647	245	310

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	6.8	4.3	9.4
1-5 years	35.0	27.4	29.4
6-10 years	36.3	32.0	32.1
11-15 years	18.5	30.5	25.9
16+ years	2.1	4.6	3.2
Unknown	1.2	1.2	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>371</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	1.2	1.5	4.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	1.5	0.8
Black	4.3	4.9	4.3
Hispanic	17.5	19.4	22.6
White	72.8	67.1	57.7
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	3.5	5.5	9.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>371</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	4.8	7.6	7.6
1-5 years	47.9	43.1	50.8
6-10 years	34.1	36.9	29.7
11-15 years	12.9	12.2	10.6
16+ years	0.3	0.3	1.3
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>303</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	1.8	0.5	1.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.9	—	1.3
Black	4.2	2.4	3.3
Hispanic	16.2	20.3	18.5
White	62.6	33.9	54.5
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	14.4	42.8	20.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>303</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

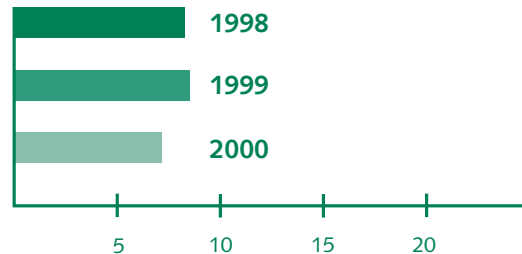
6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	91.7	91.6	92.9
Children with one or more recurrences	8.3	8.4	7.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,967	4,062	4,241

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

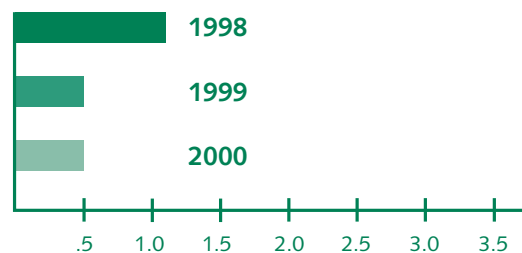


## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	1.1	0.5	0.5
Children not maltreated while in foster care	98.9	99.5	99.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,885	4,069	3,495

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

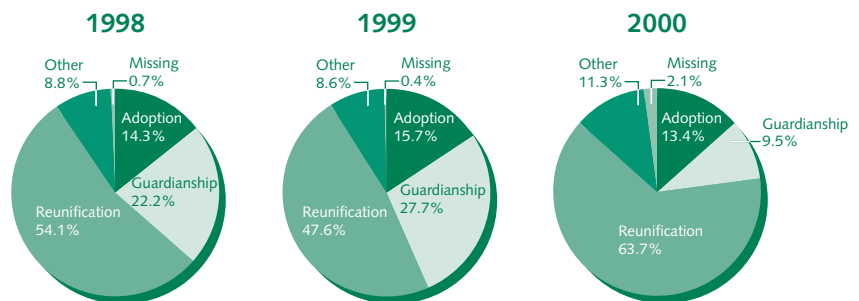


## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	14.3	15.7	13.4
Guardianship	22.2	27.7	9.5
Reunification	54.1	47.6	63.7
Other	8.8	8.6	11.3
Missing data	0.7	0.4	2.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,956	2,332	2,264

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	14.4	21.1	23.2
Guardianship	16.4	18.9	8.3
Reunification	52.5	44.5	53.2
Other	16.7	15.5	14.0
Missing data	—	—	1.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	299	375	457

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.2	0.3	0.8
Guardianship	13.8	15.3	6.5
Reunification	59.8	57.1	57.4
Other	25.7	26.6	33.7
Missing data	0.5	0.7	1.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	552	608	618

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	12.8	14.0	10.5
Children older than 12 at entry	87.2	86.0	89.5
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	109	121	172

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	4.1	4.1	9.3	15.0	—	25.0	16.7	12.0	25.0	14.6	20.5	15.1
Guardianship	25.6	38.4	7.4	10.0	27.8	12.5	27.4	31.0	—	18.2	29.1	7.4
Reunification	62.8	49.3	66.7	65.0	66.7	37.5	46.4	51.0	58.3	61.7	46.3	68.2
Other	6.6	6.8	16.7	10.0	5.6	25.0	9.5	5.0	16.7	5.5	3.9	7.9
Missing data	0.8	1.4	—	—	—	—	—	1.0	—	—	0.3	1.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>365</b>

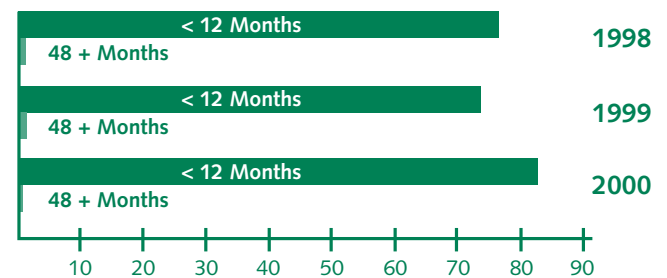
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	15.4	16.3	21.0	7.2	9.7	8.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	23.0	26.0	3.3	16.9	33.0	14.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	50.8	46.8	52.8	71.1	51.5	69.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	10.0	10.4	22.0	3.6	5.3	5.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	0.8	0.4	0.9	1.2	0.5	3.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,340</b>	<b>1,574</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>1,138</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

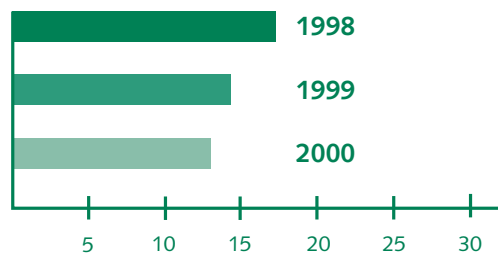
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	76.6	73.9	82.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	15.6	16.9	11.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.4	4.7	2.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.0	1.2	1.8
48 or more mos.	1.2	1.5	0.8
Missing data	2.2	1.9	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>1,109</b>	<b>1,442</b>

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	69.6	75.9	73.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	17.3	14.3	13.0
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.6	7.8	6.7
Missing data	4.5	2.1	6.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,196</b>	<b>2,383</b>	<b>2,148</b>

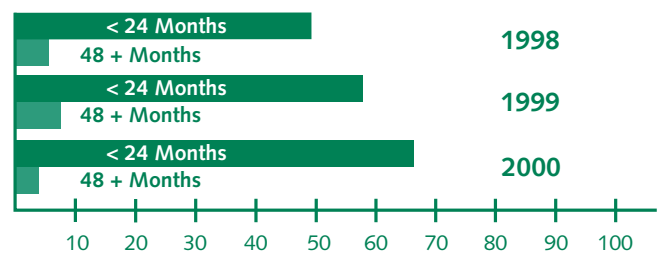
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	12.9	15.6	27.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	36.2	42.3	39.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	33.0	25.4	23.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	12.2	9.3	5.9
48 or more mos.	5.7	7.4	3.9
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>304</b>

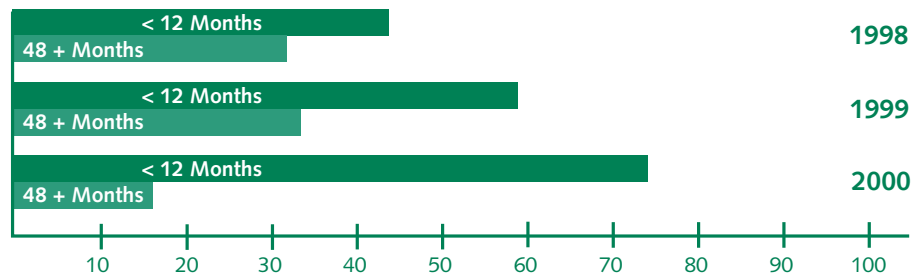
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	43.7	56.3	—	100.0	2,449
	1999	58.9	41.1	—	100.0	2,674
	2000	74.0	26.0	—	100.0	2,575
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	22.5	77.5	—	100.0	1,003
	1999	24.7	75.3	—	100.0	904
	2000	31.3	68.7	—	100.0	684
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	24.4	75.6	—	100.0	446
	1999	28.9	71.1	—	100.0	494
	2000	16.5	83.5	—	100.0	327
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	33.6	66.4	—	100.0	229
	1999	28.6	71.4	—	100.0	199
	2000	14.6	85.4	—	100.0	219
48 or more mos.	1998	31.6	68.4	—	100.0	247
	1999	33.2	66.8	—	100.0	280
	2000	16.0	84.0	—	100.0	256
Missing data	1998	82.0	18.0	—	100.0	50
	1999	90.7	9.3	—	100.0	54
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	8

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	19.6	25.0	1.2
Institutions	0.3	0.4	1.9
Other settings	80.0	74.4	97.0
Missing data	0.1	0.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,318	1,600	1,295

Richard Anderson, Director  
Division of Child & Family Services  
Utah Department of Human Services  
801-538-4100

Utah's comments on State data for the *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000: Annual Report* are the following:

**Regarding foster care exits:**

Utah has closure reason of discharge to relative/guardian. Prior to 2000, this category was mapped to guardianship. Upon determining that most of these cases were relatives, Utah changed the mapping to reunification. Consequently 1998-1999 guardianship closures are inflated. This correction is reflected in 2000.

**Regarding placement changes:**

Placement changes data are inflated. Utah used to count every coding change, which included actual movement and changes in service levels. For example, if a child was with a foster parent but the care level increased from basic to specialized foster care it would have shown as a placement change even though the child was with the same provider. The programming for this was fixed to only show actual movement of children to different providers. This fix is reflected in part in 2000, and will be fully seen in 2001. Utah also includes all placements, no matter how short.

**Regarding placement settings:**

It was determined that many placement settings were incorrectly mapped to group homes. This error has been remedied and is reflected in the 2000 report.

**Regarding ethnicity of victims, children in foster care and adopted:**

Errors were found with edits in the system and a glitch, which caused ethnicity to be set to unknown. These errors have been fixed and will be reflected in the 2001-2002 data.

**Regarding maltreatment type:**

In October 1997 Utah started tracking domestic violence related abuse as an allegation subcategory of emotional abuse. In 1998, it became one of the most substantiated allegations investigated, resulting in an increase in the percentage of emotional abuse from 2.9 percent in 1997 to 40.3 percent in 1998.

Utah completes an annual outcome measure report with data from our SACWIS system that includes these measures as well as many others in the areas of safety, permanency, and well being. This report is available on our web site at [www.dds.state.ut.us](http://www.dds.state.ut.us).



### A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
<b>Total children under 18 years</b>	<b>141,347</b>	<b>139,346</b>	<b>147,523</b>	Child maltreatment victims	887	1,080	1,347
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	1,316	1,445	1,318
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.4	Children adopted	118	139	122
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.0	1.0	1.0				
Black	0.5	0.5	0.7				
Hispanic	0.9	0.9	1.2				
White	97.3	97.3	94.7				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.8				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.2				
<b>% Child population in poverty</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>18.1</b>				
<b>% Child population living in metropolitan areas</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>27.5</b>				

### B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	1,973	2,453	3,609	14.0 per 1,000	17.6 per 1,000	24.5 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	887	1,080	1,347	6.3 per 1,000	7.8 per 1,000	9.1 per 1,000
Child fatalities	0	4	1	0.0 per 100,000	2.9 per 100,000	0.7 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	3.8	4.2	5.0	Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.1	0.2
1-5 years	21.6	25.1	22.4	Asian/Pacific Islander	1.0	0.6	1.4
6-10 years	34.0	31.6	29.9	Black	0.7	0.6	1.6
11-15 years	30.7	29.0	34.7	Hispanic	0.1	0.6	0.4
16+ years	8.2	10.1	7.9	White	98.1	97.9	95.8
Unknown	1.6	0.1	—	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	0.2	0.8	0.6
<b>Number</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>1,347</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	100.1	100.6	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>1,347</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	1.1	0.9	0.9
Medical neglect	2.7	1.9	2.2
Neglect	36.8	43.7	38.2
Physical abuse	26.5	22.0	22.1
Sexual abuse	41.8	40.4	40.8
Other	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	108.9	108.9	104.2
<b>Number</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>1,347</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	1,188	783	655	1,316	1,971
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	1,417	750	722	1,445	2,167
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	1,211	788	684	1,318	1,999

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	20.9	N/A	13.7	17.5	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	20.5	N/A	16.0	19.9	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	20.1	N/A	15.1	15.9	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	1.9	2.1	2.1	5.5	7.2	7.2	1.1	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.3
1-5 years	12.8	13.1	11.1	14.3	14.5	15.9	15.3	16.2	14.5	12.4	12.4	12.4
6-10 years	14.6	16.6	14.1	15.6	16.3	14.6	11.9	14.8	14.2	15.6	15.4	13.7
11-15 years	40.9	39.6	41.5	50.2	49.9	48.4	30.4	27.3	27.9	39.4	42.2	40.2
16-18 years	29.2	28.5	31.1	14.4	12.1	14.0	38.3	37.5	39.8	30.2	27.6	31.0
19+ years	0.7	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	3.1	2.1	1.2	0.2	0.1	0.3
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>1,211</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>1,316</b>	<b>1,445</b>	<b>1,318</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	0.3	0.2	0.3	—	0.1	0.3	0.2	—	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.5	1.1	0.4	0.9	0.2	0.3	0.2
Black	1.9	2.2	1.8	1.3	1.3	2.4	0.9	2.4	2.5	2.0	1.7	1.8
Hispanic	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5
White	96.1	96.3	96.5	96.9	97.1	95.4	96.8	96.0	95.5	96.3	96.8	96.4
Two or more races	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	0.6	0.6	0.3	1.0	0.3	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.3	0.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>1,211</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>1,316</b>	<b>1,445</b>	<b>1,318</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	215	403	252
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	159	351	184

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	3.3	3.7	1.6
1-5 years	27.9	28.3	22.6
6-10 years	26.0	29.3	25.8
11-15 years	33.5	32.0	37.7
16+ years	8.4	6.2	9.5
Unknown	0.9	0.5	2.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>252</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.2	0.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
Black	1.9	2.0	1.6
Hispanic	0.9	1.2	0.8
White	96.3	95.8	96.0
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	0.9	0.7	1.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>252</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	1.7	0.7	1.6
1-5 years	49.2	43.2	48.4
6-10 years	38.1	38.8	31.1
11-15 years	10.2	15.8	18.0
16+ years	0.8	1.4	0.8
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>122</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	1.6
Black	1.7	4.3	4.9
Hispanic	—	—	2.5
White	98.3	95.7	90.2
Two or more races	—	—	0.8
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>122</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

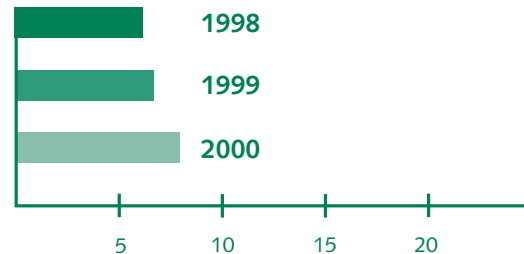
6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	93.9	93.4	92.1
Children with one or more recurrences	6.1	6.6	7.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	495	547	658

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences



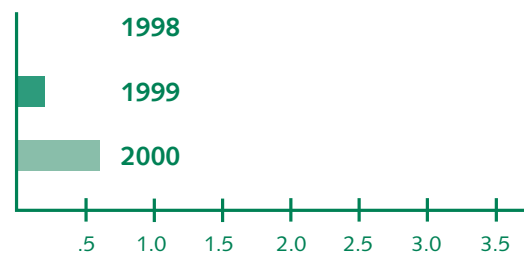
## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

(NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.0	0.2	0.6
Children not maltreated while in foster care	100.0	99.8	99.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,808	1,832	1,864

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

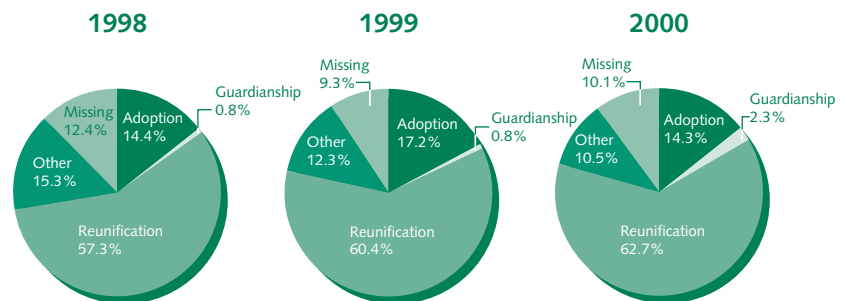


## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	14.4	17.2	14.3
Guardianship	0.8	0.8	2.3
Reunification	57.3	60.4	62.7
Other	15.3	12.3	10.5
Missing data	12.4	9.3	10.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	655	722	684

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	11.1	5.9	18.8
Guardianship	—	—	6.2
Reunification	16.7	35.3	43.8
Other	50.0	41.2	18.8
Missing data	22.2	17.6	12.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	18	17	16

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.3	—	0.3
Guardianship	0.3	0.5	2.9
Reunification	61.1	67.6	68.2
Other	22.4	17.9	15.5
Missing data	15.9	14.0	13.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	370	364	343

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	17.0	28.1	27.7
Children older than 12 at entry	83.0	71.9	72.3
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	53	57	65

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—	28.6	—	—	16.7	23.5	11.8	—	—	75.0
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.9	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—	71.4	100.0	83.3	50.0	70.6	58.8	100.0	66.7	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	16.7	33.3	5.9	5.9	—	33.3	—
Missing data	100.0	—	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	17.6	—	—	25.0
Total %	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1	—	1	7	3	6	6	17	17	3	3	4

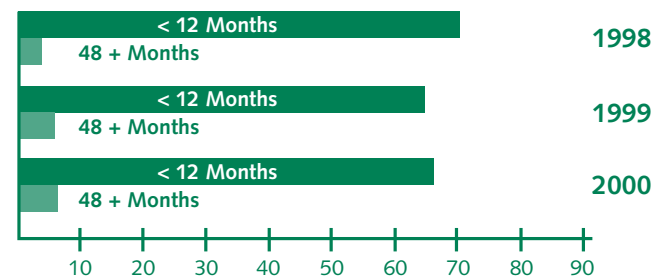
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	14.2	17.3	13.9	25.0	—	66.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	0.8	0.9	2.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	57.3	59.6	63.2	25.0	100.0	33.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	15.1	12.6	10.7	50.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	12.6	9.7	9.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number	634	693	653	4	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

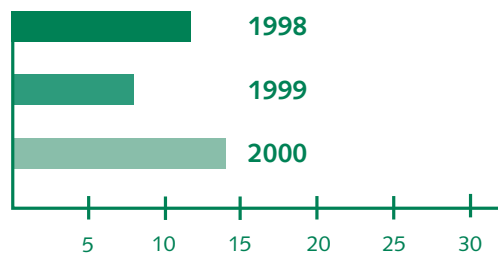
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	70.4	64.9	66.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.1	16.7	18.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	8.3	7.3	6.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	4.3	5.0	2.6
48 or more mos.	4.0	6.0	6.3
Missing data	—	—	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	375	436	429

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	77.1	82.9	73.7
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	11.7	8.0	14.0
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	6.3	9.1	7.7
Missing data	4.9	—	4.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	783	750	788

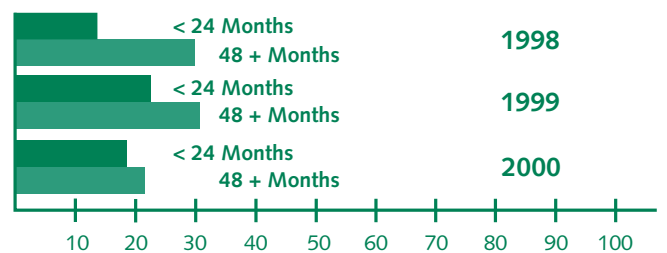
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	—	4.8	2.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.8	17.7	16.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	24.5	30.6	32.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	31.9	16.1	27.6
48 or more mos.	29.8	30.6	21.4
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	94	124	98

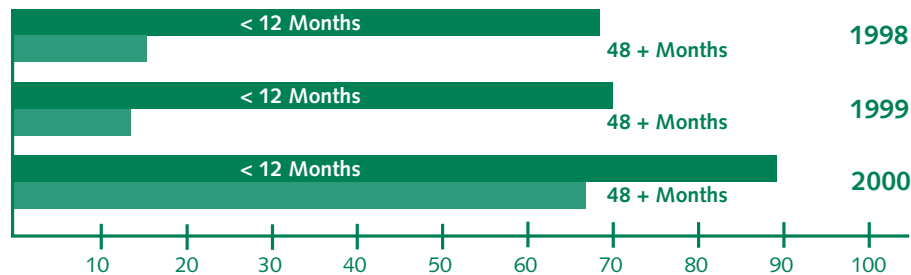
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	68.5	31.5	—	100.0	829
	1999	70.0	30.0	—	100.0	839
	2000	89.1	10.9	—	100.0	853
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	31.8	68.2	—	100.0	371
	1999	35.8	64.2	—	100.0	433
	2000	80.6	19.4	—	100.0	402
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	25.8	74.2	—	100.0	275
	1999	30.3	69.7	—	100.0	297
	2000	77.8	22.2	—	100.0	261
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	20.7	79.3	—	100.0	184
	1999	27.5	72.5	—	100.0	211
	2000	78.3	21.7	—	100.0	161
48 or more mos.	1998	15.2	84.8	—	100.0	309
	1999	13.6	86.4	—	100.0	383
	2000	66.9	33.1	—	100.0	320
Missing data	1998	100.0	—	—	100.0	3
	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	4
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	2

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	5.6	9.2	4.0
Institutions	1.5	1.7	0.9
Other settings	92.9	89.1	95.2
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	340	359	352

**Don Mandelkorn, Division Director**  
**Social Services Division**  
**Vermont Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services**  
**802-241-2126**

The Vermont Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services provides child protective, child welfare and juvenile justice services through a single, integrated system of care. Social workers in twelve district offices, primarily with mixed caseloads, serve families and children in custody for abuse/neglect, behavioral issues, and juvenile delinquency. Over two-thirds of children served in out-of-home care are at least twelve years of age. All of these children are included in the state's AFCARS population. This reality has a significant impact on our data with regard to the following:

- **Re-entry within twelve months of discharge** – Children can and do exit as abuse/neglected children and re-enter due to behavioral or juvenile justice issues. In other states, these children would enter another system, and therefore not "re-enter" the child welfare system.
- **Placement stability** – We face particular challenges in promoting placement stability for children who experience many behavioral challenges. Vermont does not rely on locked care for juvenile justice clients. Our sole locked facility has 30 beds.
- **Time to reunification** – The families of children who enter out-of-home care in Vermont have often had many family services targeted at preventing placement. Children who do enter care, especially at older ages, often need placement and treatment of significant duration.

It is important to note the department investigates all sexual abuse of minors, not just by caretakers. Because of this, about 40% of substantiated child abuse in Vermont is sexual abuse. The number of substantiated victims has been rising over the last few years, following a policy change that created a greater role for the department in protecting children whose parents are abusing substances and children who are otherwise at risk of harm due to parental incapacity or failure to provide age-appropriate supervision. This is included in the neglect category.

Our data also indicate that there are about 200 or so fewer children in custody on 10/1/99 than on 9/30/99. This has occurred in many states, and is an artifact of how AFCARS data was submitted. For this reason, it seems inadvisable for the Children's Bureau to include these data, which look wrong on their face. Why not just show the number of children in care on 10/1 of each year? (We have since corrected this problem for current submissions, but not yet resubmitted corrected files for those time periods.)

The following discussion focuses on Vermont's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance. In using CFSR information to interpret the data, it is important to note that the Vermont CFSR was conducted in 2001 and the national data used for the review to assess performance regarding national standards was from 1999. However, the discussion on State performance relevant to the national standards in the Federal Comment section focuses on data from 2000, as provided in the State Data Pages. In addition, because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

In calendar year (CY) 2000, the rate of maltreatment recurrence in less than 6 months was 7.9 percent, which does not meet the national standard of 6.1 percent but equals the national median. According to information in the CFSR Final Report, the State believes that the rate of maltreatment recurrence may be attributed to the fact that the State "substantiates" reports based on "risk of harm" and does not require evidence of actual maltreatment for substantiation. However, information from the Final Report also notes that there is a lack of ongoing assessment and monitoring of services to children and families in cases in which children remain in their homes, which may result in maltreatment recurrence.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce incidence of maltreatment in foster care**

In CY 2000, the incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.6 percent, which is higher than the national standard of 0.57 percent and the national median of 0.45 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that performance on this measure may be attributed in part to a lack of adequate monitoring of foster parent's compliance with pre-service training requirements.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 79.3 percent of children exiting foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is lower than the national median of 84.7 percent), 71.4 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is less than the national median of 72.6 percent), and 27.7 percent of children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry (which is higher than the national median of 24.2 percent). (Only 16 of the 684 children who exited foster care in FY 2000 were reported to have a diagnosed disability.)

Although these data suggest that the State is not consistently effective in establishing permanency for children, the data must be interpreted with caution because "reason for discharge" information was not provided to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System for 10.1 percent of the children exiting foster care. However, information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that a key barrier to achieving permanency may be the practice of establishing long-term foster care as a permanency goal without a thorough exploration of the alternatives of adoption or guardianship.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of reported reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 66.2, which is lower than both the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving reunifications in a timely manner: (1) a lack of ongoing assessment of service participation or of the efficacy of services being provided to parents to reduce risk factors, and (2) insufficient contact between caseworkers and parents to monitor progress.

Also in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 14.0, which is higher than the national standard of 8.6 percent and the national median of 10.3 percent. However, in FY 1999, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior episode was 8.0 percent, which met the national standard. The reason for the increase in foster care re-entries from FY 1999 to FY 2000 is not clear. However, according to

information from the CFSR Final Report, the State believes that a large percentage of re-entries into foster care are children who entered care through the Juvenile Services System and not the child protection system.

#### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 18.3, which is lower than the national standard of 32.0 percent and the national median of 19.7 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving adoptions in a timely manner: (1) extensive court delays (from 6 to 12 months) in scheduling termination of parental rights (TPR) hearings after the agency has filed the petition, (2) the absence of a Statewide comprehensive recruitment strategy for adoptive families, (3) a reluctance on the part of agency caseworkers to use cross-jurisdictional placement resources, and (4) a lack of adoption planning and recruitment for older children. Information from the CFSR Final Report also notes, however, that the State has recently assigned additional staff to the adoption program area and encouraged foster parents to adopt their foster children.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experience no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 89.1, which is higher than the national standard of 86.7 percent and the national median of 84.3 percent. However, the State's performance on this measure in FY 1999 (70.0 percent) did not meet the national standard and therefore the issue of placement stability was identified as an area needing improvement for the State during the CFSR conducted in 2001. The reason for the improvement in placement stability from FY 1999 to FY 2000 is not clear, although information from the CFSR Final Report notes that the agency is highly supportive of foster care providers in their efforts to parent children with behavioral and emotional problems.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 4.9, which is lower than the national median of 9.0. A potential reason for the State's high level of performance on this measure is the infrequent use of shelter care for young children.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that the State is generally effective in meeting children's educational and physical health needs. However, the State is less consistently effective in meeting children's mental health needs. Information from the Final Report notes that the key barrier to meeting children's mental health needs is the lack of sufficient high quality mental health services throughout the State, particularly for children with severe and chronic mental health issues.



### A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	1,644,678	1,664,810	1,738,262	Child maltreatment victims	9,766	8,199	7,416
Race/ethnicity (%) <sup>1</sup>				Children in foster care on 9/30	7,213	7,356	7,380
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.3	Children adopted	235	326	448
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.0	4.1	3.5				
Black	23.0	23.1	23.1				
Hispanic	4.9	5.1	5.9				
White	67.9	67.5	64.0				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.9				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.4				
% Child population in poverty	18.8	10.9	7.8				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	77.8	81.8	80.4				

### B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	49,026	53,462	40,799	29.8 per 1,000	32.1 per 1,000	23.5 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	9,766	8,199	7,416	5.9 per 1,000	4.9 per 1,000	4.3 per 1,000
Child fatalities	29	36	31	1.8 per 100,000	2.2 per 100,000	1.8 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	7.1	3.9	9.4	Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.0
1-5 years	30.3	30.4	30.6	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	1.1	1.4
6-10 years	32.8	31.8	31.1	Black	39.4	39.3	36.6
11-15 years	23.9	24.7	23.2	Hispanic	4.6	3.1	6.4
16+ years	5.9	8.4	5.6	White	51.3	51.6	49.6
Unknown	—	0.9	0.2	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	3.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	8.3	7.9	2.8
Number	9,766	8,199	7,416	Total % <sup>3</sup>	104.6	103.1	100.0
				Number	9,766	8,199	7,416

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	4.1	3.4	1.8
Medical neglect	2.6	1.0	2.4
Neglect	65.4	64.7	58.6
Physical abuse	28.1	31.1	28.5
Sexual abuse	16.2	14.4	11.0
Other	1.0	—	—
Unknown	—	0.1	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	117.4	114.6	102.4
Number	9,766	8,199	7,416

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	5,916	2,639	1,354	7,213	8,555
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	6,149	2,683	1,483	7,356	8,832
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	6,246	2,743	1,614	7,380	8,989

### Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	26.2	N/A	11.9	25.5	N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	25.2	N/A	11.2	24.6	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	24.7	N/A	14.4	24.3	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:		
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Under 1 year	2.1	2.2	2.4	10.5	11.4	11.4	3.6	4.6	4.8	2.2	2.3	2.4
1-5 years	20.4	18.1	16.9	22.4	21.8	22.4	24.9	23.2	25.0	19.1	17.4	17.0
6-10 years	23.0	21.5	21.7	21.2	20.8	21.4	20.8	21.4	22.1	22.4	21.1	20.3
11-15 years	32.9	33.6	33.6	33.7	34.3	33.9	24.7	22.5	20.8	31.2	31.7	32.3
16-18 years	19.7	22.1	22.3	12.1	11.7	11.0	23.0	23.7	22.2	21.8	23.5	23.6
19+ years	1.8	2.5	3.0	0.0	0.0	—	2.7	3.7	3.7	3.1	3.7	4.2
Unknown	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	—	0.4	0.8	1.5	0.3	0.3	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>5,916</b>	<b>6,149</b>	<b>6,246</b>	<b>2,639</b>	<b>2,683</b>	<b>2,743</b>	<b>1,354</b>	<b>1,483</b>	<b>1,614</b>	<b>7,213</b>	<b>7,356</b>	<b>7,380</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>5</sup>

Alaska Native/Am. Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7
Black	54.0	53.6	54.2	44.3	46.1	40.1	41.1	46.0	44.2	52.9	52.4	51.2
Hispanic	3.6	3.2	3.5	3.8	5.3	4.4	4.2	5.3	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.8
White	40.7	41.1	40.1	49.5	45.9	50.0	53.2	46.7	48.5	41.6	41.7	41.9
Two or more races	0.4	0.7	0.9	0.4	1.0	4.0	0.1	0.1	2.4	0.4	0.9	1.8
Unknown	0.4	0.6	0.5	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.5	1.1	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>5,916</b>	<b>6,149</b>	<b>6,246</b>	<b>2,639</b>	<b>2,683</b>	<b>2,743</b>	<b>1,354</b>	<b>1,483</b>	<b>1,614</b>	<b>7,213</b>	<b>7,356</b>	<b>7,380</b>

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	2,167	2,169	2,084
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	904	727	602

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	4.0	4.2	4.6
1-5 years	39.7	37.7	35.8
6-10 years	40.0	40.2	39.5
11-15 years	15.2	16.6	19.0
16+ years	0.8	0.9	0.9
Unknown	0.3	0.4	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,167</b>	<b>2,169</b>	<b>2,084</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.6	0.6	0.4
Black	54.4	54.7	53.6
Hispanic	4.1	4.1	4.1
White	39.5	38.4	38.9
Two or more races	0.6	1.2	2.2
Unknown	0.7	0.9	0.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,167</b>	<b>2,169</b>	<b>2,084</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	0.4	1.5	0.2
1-5 years	34.9	45.7	36.2
6-10 years	47.7	37.4	42.0
11-15 years	15.7	15.3	18.8
16+ years	1.3	—	2.9
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>448</b>

### Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	1.8	0.4
Black	43.8	45.1	45.8
Hispanic	4.7	5.8	4.7
White	49.4	45.4	44.4
Two or more races	—	1.5	4.0
Unknown	1.7	0.3	0.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>448</b>

<sup>5</sup> In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

<sup>6</sup> Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

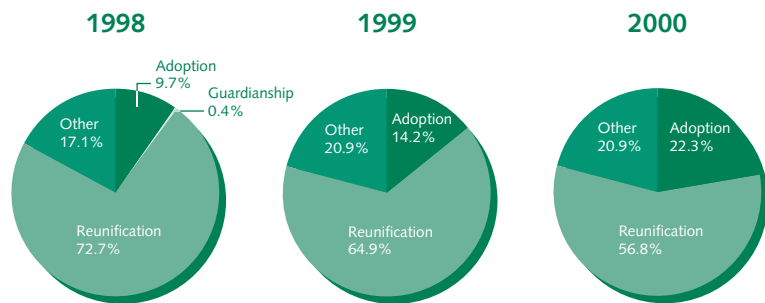
	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	9.7	14.2	22.3
Guardianship	0.4	—	—
Reunification	72.7	64.9	56.8
Other	17.1	20.9	20.9
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,354	1,483	1,614

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	16.5	16.6	22.9
Guardianship	0.4	—	—
Reunification	60.9	58.5	49.9
Other	22.2	24.9	27.2
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	243	265	375

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.2	0.4	0.6
Guardianship	0.2	—	—
Reunification	61.8	56.7	50.8
Other	37.8	42.9	48.6
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	434	485	502

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	36.6	31.5	29.4
Children older than 12 at entry	63.4	68.5	70.6
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	134	203	228

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—	—	—	27.3	10.4	12.8	21.7	—	10.3	26.8
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.5	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	100.0	50.0	100.0	63.6	88.9	54.5	68.6	64.4	53.4	86.0	62.8	57.1
Other	—	50.0	—	36.4	11.1	18.2	20.5	22.9	24.8	14.0	26.9	16.1
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1	2	1	11	9	11	557	682	713	57	78	56

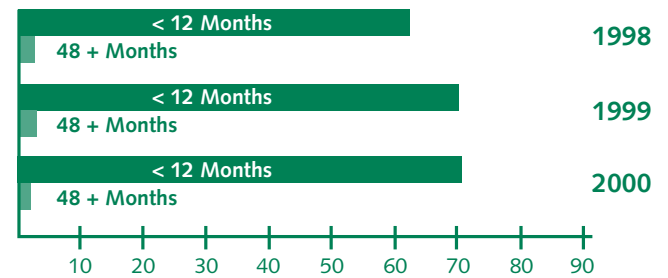
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	10.3	16.2	22.9	—	11.8	38.5	—	100.0	7.9	—	—	—
Guardianship	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	74.9	65.2	58.2	85.7	76.5	53.8	100.0	—	92.1	—	—	—
Other	14.6	18.6	18.9	14.3	11.8	7.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—
Number	720	693	782	7	17	13	1	2	38	—	—	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

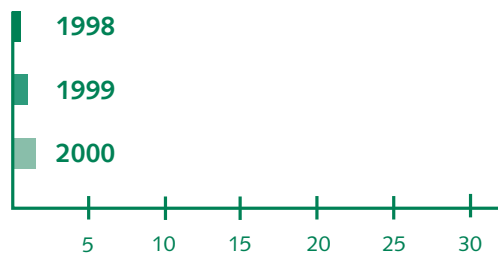
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	62.4	70.1	70.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	20.2	17.3	18.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	8.6	6.8	5.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	4.6	1.5	2.3
48 or more mos.	2.7	3.0	2.1
Missing data	1.4	1.5	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	985	962	917

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	97.9	98.0	97.0
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	0.5	1.0	1.5
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	—	0.2	0.4
Missing data	1.6	0.7	1.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,639	2,683	2,743

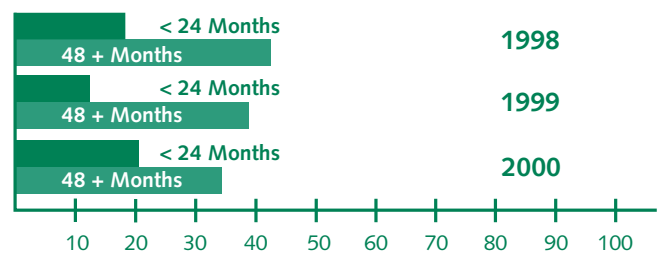
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	4.5	1.4	3.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.6	10.9	17.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	19.7	23.7	26.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	19.7	25.1	18.6
48 or more mos.	42.4	38.9	34.2
Missing data	—	—	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	132	211	360

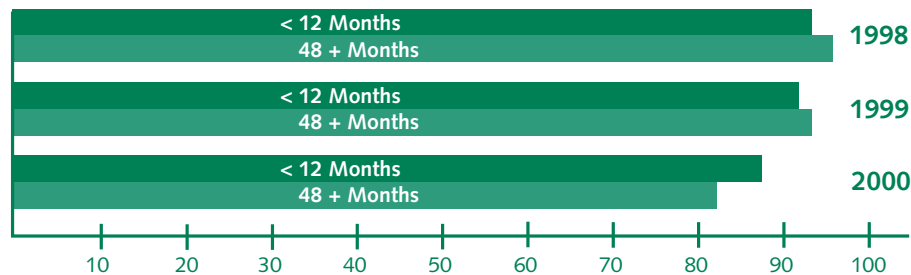
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	93.1	6.9	—	100.0	2,851
	1999	91.9	8.1	—	100.0	2,867
	2000	87.4	12.6	—	100.0	2,937
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	90.9	9.1	—	100.0	1,529
	1999	85.1	14.9	—	100.0	1,754
	2000	74.7	25.3	—	100.0	1,727
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	92.2	7.8	—	100.0	1,089
	1999	86.9	13.1	—	100.0	1,091
	2000	69.6	30.4	—	100.0	1,212
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	94.5	5.5	—	100.0	880
	1999	87.5	12.5	—	100.0	767
	2000	74.0	26.0	—	100.0	816
48 or more mos.	1998	95.9	4.1	—	100.0	2,192
	1999	93.3	6.7	—	100.0	2,335
	2000	82.1	17.9	—	100.0	2,292
Missing data	1998	100.0	—	—	100.0	14
	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	18
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	5

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	6.6	0.5	0.6
Institutions	0.2	5.7	5.4
Other settings	93.0	93.1	93.1
Missing data	0.2	0.6	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,632	1,653	1,716

**Cathleen Newbanks, Director  
Division of Service Programs  
Virginia Department of Social Services  
804-692-1900**

Virginia's comments to be included with the State Data Pages are as follows:

With regard to the context data for children fatalities, although not currently available through our NCANDS Child File, Virginia reports child fatality data through the Agency File.

With regard to outcome measures 1.1 and 2.1, data currently available through our SACWIS system to calculate these measures may not be valid. Virginia is working to improve data quality through training and feedback to local agencies.

Foster Care and Adoption data for 1998 may not be accurate due to conversion from our legacy system to our SACWIS and subsequent implementation issues.

Some children were not properly discharged from foster care in the automated system, therefore there is an under-reporting of numbers of children exiting care. This under-reporting is most obvious when numbers of children in care at the beginning of a fiscal year are compared to those in care at the end of the preceding fiscal year.

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	1,472,490	1,486,340	1,513,843	Child maltreatment victims	12,926	8,039	7,095
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	8,872	8,688	8,945
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.0	2.0	1.8	Children adopted	878	1,047	1,141
Asian/Pacific Islander	6.5	6.8	5.5				
Black	3.8	3.9	3.7				
Hispanic	9.7	10.1	11.7				
White	77.9	77.2	71.5				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	5.5				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.3				
% Child population in poverty	15.0	10.7	15.0				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	76.5	77.0	83.0				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	47,281	53,060	38,070	32.1 per 1,000	35.7 per 1,000	25.1 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	12,926	8,039	7,095	8.8 per 1,000	5.4 per 1,000	4.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	8	6	7	0.5 per 100,000	0.4 per 100,000	0.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	12.7	12.0	11.6	Alaska Native/American Indian	7.0	9.1	6.6
1-5 years	31.2	32.4	32.5	Asian/Pacific Islander	2.4	2.6	2.5
6-10 years	32.0	30.5	31.6	Black	9.5	10.5	8.8
11-15 years	20.5	20.6	19.8	Hispanic	8.3	12.8	12.9
16+ years	3.7	4.1	3.0	White	71.3	75.0	66.5
Unknown	0.0	0.4	1.6	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	9.8	8.5	2.7
<b>Number</b>	<b>12,926</b>	<b>8,039</b>	<b>7,095</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	108.3	118.4	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>12,926</b>	<b>8,039</b>	<b>7,095</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	9.8	10.9	6.4
Medical neglect	4.9	6.6	3.7
Neglect	65.4	70.8	71.0
Physical abuse	29.9	27.1	21.7
Sexual abuse	11.2	9.0	7.0
Other	1.3	2.3	0.3
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	122.4	126.8	110.1
<b>Number</b>	<b>12,926</b>	<b>8,039</b>	<b>7,095</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	8,454			7,541			7,123			8,872			15,995
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	8,695			7,369			7,376			8,688			16,064
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	8,484			7,590			7,129			8,945			16,074
Median Length of Stay (Months)													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	18.9			N/A			2.9			16.8			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	17.0			N/A			5.1			16.5			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	16.8			N/A			3.6			15.9			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	5.4	5.5	6.2	12.5	14.3	14.5	5.0	5.3	5.6	5.6	6.3	6.7	
1-5 years	32.7	32.1	32.0	24.1	24.8	24.4	24.8	26.7	26.5	32.2	31.8	31.9	
6-10 years	26.0	26.8	26.9	20.7	20.3	20.4	21.4	21.4	22.9	26.6	26.5	24.7	
11-15 years	23.2	23.9	24.4	32.1	30.1	29.9	30.7	28.9	28.5	24.1	24.7	25.4	
16-18 years	11.6	11.1	10.2	10.5	10.4	10.7	16.8	16.8	16.0	11.0	10.4	10.9	
19+ years	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	
Unknown	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>8,454</b>	<b>8,695</b>	<b>8,484</b>	<b>7,541</b>	<b>7,369</b>	<b>7,590</b>	<b>7,123</b>	<b>7,376</b>	<b>7,129</b>	<b>8,872</b>	<b>8,688</b>	<b>8,945</b>	
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%) <sup>5</sup>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	8.2	8.8	8.8	9.0	8.7	7.3	8.4	8.6	7.4	8.8	8.9	8.7	
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.3	1.1	1.1	
Black	15.7	14.8	14.0	11.0	9.4	8.7	11.9	10.5	10.2	14.8	13.9	12.6	
Hispanic	9.4	10.3	11.8	11.0	12.8	12.0	9.9	11.0	12.2	10.3	11.8	11.6	
White	59.3	58.7	57.7	60.9	60.8	62.0	61.5	62.2	61.4	58.8	57.6	58.4	
Two or more races	5.4	5.5	6.0	5.3	5.5	5.7	5.3	4.8	4.9	5.4	6.1	6.6	
Unknown	0.6	0.5	0.6	1.1	1.3	2.5	1.2	1.2	2.1	0.5	0.6	1.0	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>8,454</b>	<b>8,695</b>	<b>8,484</b>	<b>7,541</b>	<b>7,369</b>	<b>7,590</b>	<b>7,123</b>	<b>7,376</b>	<b>7,129</b>	<b>8,872</b>	<b>8,688</b>	<b>8,945</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	4,131	3,720	2,669
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	3,911	3,368	2,216
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	8.3	7.3	3.7
1-5 years	45.6	44.6	41.4
6-10 years	31.4	31.1	31.7
11-15 years	12.1	14.4	19.7
16+ years	2.3	2.4	3.3
Unknown	0.2	0.2	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,131</b>	<b>3,720</b>	<b>2,669</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	5.1	4.9	4.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	0.9	0.8
Black	16.6	16.9	17.9
Hispanic	11.1	11.6	11.4
White	59.5	58.8	57.7
Two or more races	6.2	6.3	6.6
Unknown	0.6	0.6	0.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,131</b>	<b>3,720</b>	<b>2,669</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	1.3	1.6	1.3
1-5 years	56.2	57.6	55.9
6-10 years	33.8	31.6	32.3
11-15 years	8.1	8.2	9.3
16+ years	0.7	1.0	1.2
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>1,047</b>	<b>1,141</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	3.3	2.1	3.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.0	0.3	0.8
Black	13.7	5.4	13.2
Hispanic	9.0	10.8	12.2
White	66.6	36.5	63.6
Two or more races	5.6	3.2	5.9
Unknown	0.8	41.7	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>1,047</b>	<b>1,141</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

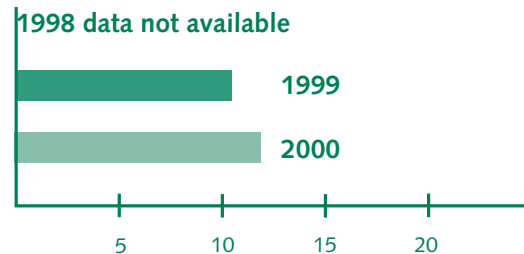


## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	89.6	88.1
Children with one or more recurrences	—	10.4	11.9
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	3,378	3,075

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

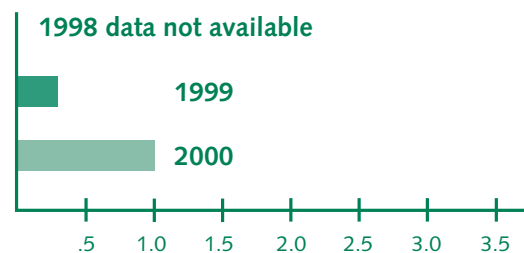


## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	0.3	1.0
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	99.7	99.0
Total %	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	15,499	14,375

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

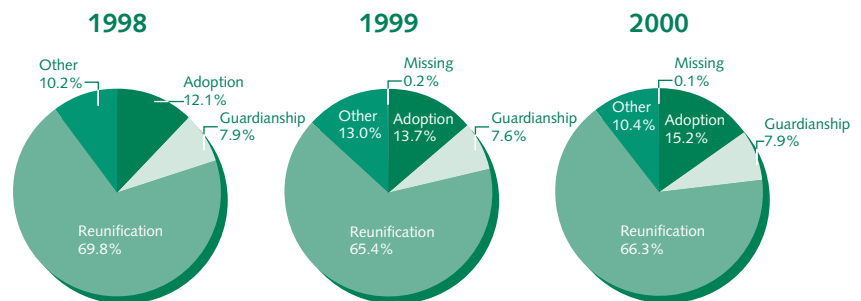


## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	12.1	13.7	15.2
Guardianship	7.9	7.6	7.9
Reunification	69.8	65.4	66.3
Other	10.2	13.0	10.4
Missing data	0.0	0.2	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,123	7,376	7,129

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.1	0.1	0.3
Guardianship	2.2	3.3	2.2
Reunification	82.9	76.4	81.6
Other	14.9	19.9	15.7
Missing data	—	0.2	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,475	2,372	2,246

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	31.6	29.4	30.3
Children older than 12 at entry	68.4	70.4	69.4
Missing data	—	0.2	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	405	405	333

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	4.9	7.1	7.6	8.0	3.0	7.0	14.2	14.5	19.6	11.5	13.5	15.9
Guardianship	9.7	9.0	11.2	8.0	10.5	3.9	14.6	16.6	12.8	7.9	6.6	5.5
Reunification	62.9	51.3	43.9	76.0	69.9	79.1	62.7	56.7	58.5	73.6	69.0	71.2
Other	22.5	32.5	37.3	8.0	16.5	8.5	8.5	12.0	9.1	7.0	10.8	7.4
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	1.6	—	0.1	—	—	0.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>868</b>

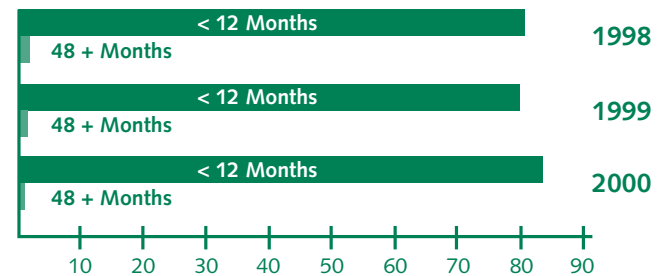
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	13.0	14.9	15.7	6.8	8.2	2.6	12.9	13.9	18.2	—	—	—
Guardianship	6.4	6.3	7.3	8.0	2.4	2.6	7.1	5.7	10.5	—	—	—
Reunification	71.0	67.5	68.9	78.4	77.6	85.0	71.2	69.9	58.7	—	—	—
Other	9.7	11.1	8.0	6.8	11.8	9.8	8.7	10.2	12.5	—	—	—
Missing data	0.0	0.2	0.2	—	—	—	—	0.3	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,383</b>	<b>4,586</b>	<b>4,374</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>351</b>	—	—	—

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

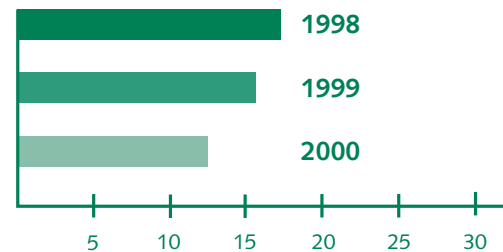
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	80.6	79.8	83.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	7.2	9.6	8.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.5	3.3	2.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.4	1.5	1.0
48 or more mos.	2.0	1.8	1.1
Missing data	5.3	4.0	3.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,969</b>	<b>4,826</b>	<b>4,727</b>

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	68.3	67.9	69.6
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	17.3	15.6	12.4
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	10.4	9.6	9.3
Missing data	3.9	7.0	8.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>7,541</b>	<b>7,369</b>	<b>7,590</b>

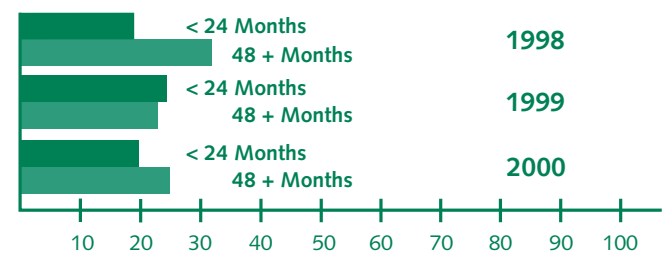
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	1.6	2.2	1.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	17.3	22.0	17.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	23.9	28.4	32.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	25.2	24.6	22.7
48 or more mos.	31.9	22.8	24.7
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>1,012</b>	<b>1,084</b>

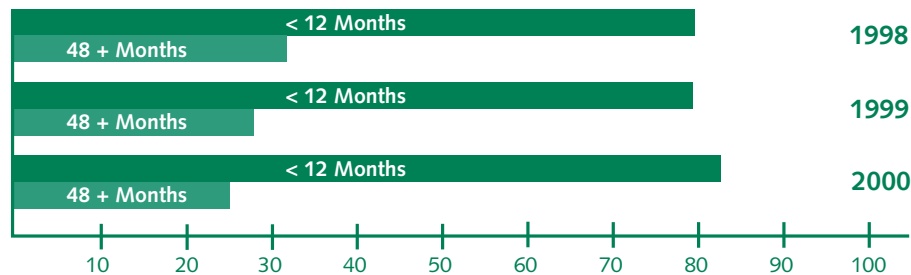
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	79.6	19.7	0.7	100.0	7,691
	1999	79.5	20.1	0.4	100.0	7,736
	2000	82.8	16.8	0.4	100.0	7,917
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	53.6	46.2	0.2	100.0	2,840
	1999	54.8	45.0	0.2	100.0	3,044
	2000	55.0	44.9	0.2	100.0	3,108
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	45.4	54.6	0.1	100.0	1,791
	1999	44.9	55.1	—	100.0	1,877
	2000	44.3	55.6	0.1	100.0	1,870
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	34.1	65.8	0.1	100.0	1,249
	1999	35.3	64.7	—	100.0	1,108
	2000	36.0	64.0	—	100.0	1,097
48 or more mos.	1998	31.7	68.0	0.3	100.0	2,038
	1999	27.9	71.7	0.4	100.0	1,931
	2000	25.0	74.6	0.4	100.0	1,755
Missing data	1998	91.2	7.8	1.0	100.0	386
	1999	92.1	6.5	1.4	100.0	368
	2000	94.8	3.7	1.5	100.0	327

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	1.3	1.3	1.2
Institutions	1.7	1.3	1.1
Other settings	96.8	97.0	97.4
Missing data	0.3	0.4	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,795	3,890	4,531

**Rosalyn Oreskovich, Assistant Secretary  
Children's Administration  
Washington Department of Social and Health Services  
360-902-7820**

Washington State continues to focus efforts on achieving permanency for children in out-of-home care in the shortest time possible. More children were adopted and a higher percentage of children were reunified within twelve months of placement than ever before. The number of legally-free children waiting for a permanent home has decreased significantly since 1998, a remarkable accomplishment, since over 1,000 new children become legally-free each year.

Washington State has developed many tools during the past year to improve the safety of children, including a safety assessment, safety plan, and reunification assessment and plan. In spite of this primary emphasis on child safety, our recurrence rate remains high, in part because the federal measure is impacted by the overall founded rate, but does not include it as a calculation variable. Since we began sending Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act required notification letters to all perpetrators of founded abuse in FFY 1999, the founded rate has dropped by over 50 percent. Our founded cases now represent our most severe. Our documentation of multiple victims and multiple findings on each referral may also produce an inflated recurrence rate when compared to systems that do not record data this way.

The Governor and legislature of Washington State are committed to managing by outcomes, and we have been tracking performance on select outcomes for several years. We support the federal effort to evaluate state's performance in comparison to national standards, but some unique characteristics of Washington's child welfare system make this comparison difficult. Because the scope of this report does not permit clarification of laws and policies that may influence the data, some of the results presented may be misleading. We support the federal government's efforts to explore state differences which may impact the comparability of the data. This work will assist us in improving child welfare services for all children and their families.

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	404,254	403,481	402,393	Child maltreatment victims	7,791	8,609	8,244
Race/ethnicity (%) <sup>1</sup>				Children in foster care on 9/30	3,082	3,169	3,388
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.2	Children adopted	211	312	352
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.6	0.5	0.5				
Black	3.8	3.5	3.6				
Hispanic	0.8	0.7	1.0				
White	94.7	95.1	93.0				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	1.5				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.2				
% Child population in poverty	23.7	22.6	18.0				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	48.5	51.1	42.6				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	33,601	36,142	27,145	83.1 per 1,000	89.6 per 1,000	67.5 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	7,791	8,609	8,244	19.3 per 1,000	21.3 per 1,000	20.5 per 1,000
Child fatalities	1	1	4	0.2 per 100,000	0.2 per 100,000	1.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	3.6	3.2	6.2	Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.1	—
1-5 years	27.4	25.2	27.9	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.1	0.3
6-10 years	27.7	28.2	26.6	Black	5.6	5.1	4.2
11-15 years	22.3	23.2	23.8	Hispanic	1.1	0.6	0.6
16+ years	7.6	7.8	5.5	White	86.2	84.0	83.8
Unknown	11.3	12.3	9.9	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	7.9	10.7	8.4
Number	7,791	8,609	8,244	Total % <sup>3</sup>	101.1	100.6	100.0
				Number	7,791	8,609	8,244

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	8.4	9.9	10.4
Medical neglect	1.4	1.4	1.2
Neglect	43.3	43.8	47.5
Physical abuse	27.1	25.1	29.1
Sexual abuse	10.2	8.6	7.7
Other	14.3	18.7	18.7
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	104.7	107.7	114.6
Number	7,791	8,609	8,244

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	2,838			2,011			1,767			3,082			4,849
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	2,989			2,151			1,973			3,169			5,140
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	3,252			2,392			2,256			3,388			5,644
Median Length of Stay (Months)													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	17.3			N/A			8.7			16.8			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	17.8			N/A			9.1			16.3			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	17.8			N/A			8.7			15.1			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	2.6	2.6	2.3	7.8	7.8	8.4	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.8	3.3	
1-5 years	16.1	16.9	15.7	16.6	17.4	17.8	13.0	17.5	14.5	17.5	16.4	17.4	
6-10 years	19.7	20.6	19.8	16.2	16.5	15.4	12.5	15.4	15.7	21.0	20.5	18.9	
11-15 years	33.1	32.6	34.2	37.4	37.8	37.3	27.3	26.3	27.4	32.2	33.5	34.1	
16-18 years	26.5	25.5	26.0	21.7	20.3	21.1	40.5	35.0	36.8	24.5	24.7	24.4	
19+ years	2.0	1.8	1.9	0.1	0.1	—	3.7	2.9	2.5	1.8	2.0	1.9	
Unknown	—	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	—	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,838</b>	<b>2,989</b>	<b>3,252</b>	<b>2,011</b>	<b>2,151</b>	<b>2,392</b>	<b>1,767</b>	<b>1,973</b>	<b>2,256</b>	<b>3,082</b>	<b>3,169</b>	<b>3,388</b>	
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%) <sup>5</sup>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	—	—	0.1	0.0	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	0.1	
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.1	0.0	—	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Black	11.8	12.5	9.1	11.3	8.0	6.8	11.3	9.5	8.2	11.7	11.4	8.1	
Hispanic	1.3	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.6	1.3	1.1	0.8	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.2	
White	85.7	85.3	84.2	85.0	86.1	81.9	85.2	86.9	83.2	85.5	84.9	83.3	
Two or more races	—	—	3.9	—	0.2	3.0	—	—	3.0	—	0.2	3.8	
Unknown	1.0	0.9	1.7	2.8	5.0	6.8	2.2	2.7	4.3	1.5	2.5	3.5	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,838</b>	<b>2,989</b>	<b>3,252</b>	<b>2,011</b>	<b>2,151</b>	<b>2,392</b>	<b>1,767</b>	<b>1,973</b>	<b>2,256</b>	<b>3,082</b>	<b>3,169</b>	<b>3,388</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	843	779	766
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	13	12	23
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	3.7	3.6	3.9
1-5 years	33.5	30.8	28.7
6-10 years	39.7	40.9	38.8
11-15 years	20.8	22.5	24.5
16+ years	2.1	1.8	3.8
Unknown	0.2	0.4	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>766</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	0.1	0.1
Black	14.6	15.7	10.3
Hispanic	1.4	1.3	1.3
White	83.4	81.9	81.2
Two or more races	—	0.4	5.9
Unknown	0.6	0.6	1.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>766</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	0.9	1.0	0.6
1-5 years	45.0	42.9	32.7
6-10 years	37.9	39.7	44.9
11-15 years	13.3	14.4	20.2
16+ years	2.8	1.9	1.7
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>352</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.4	—	—
Black	10.0	9.3	15.1
Hispanic	1.4	0.6	2.8
White	83.4	86.9	76.4
Two or more races	—	—	5.4
Unknown	3.8	3.2	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>352</b>

<sup>5</sup> In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

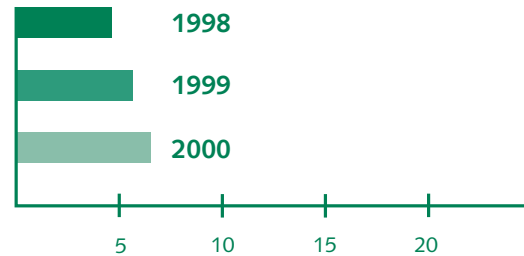
<sup>6</sup> Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	95.4	94.4	93.6
Children with one or more recurrences	4.6	5.6	6.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,325	2,500	3,997

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences



## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

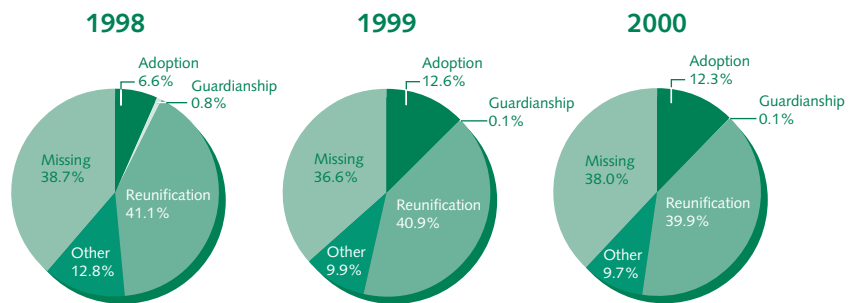
	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	0.0
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	100.0
Total %	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	5,208

## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	6.6	12.6	12.3
Guardianship	0.8	0.1	0.1
Reunification	41.1	40.9	39.9
Other	12.8	9.9	9.7
Missing data	38.7	36.6	38.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,767	1,973	2,256

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	2.8	9.7	—
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	34.8	29.9	—
Other	16.9	16.9	—
Missing data	45.5	43.5	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	—
Number	431	154	—

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	0.1	0.1
Guardianship	0.1	0.1	0.1
Reunification	39.2	38.4	39.4
Other	18.5	15.4	14.7
Missing data	42.2	46.1	45.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,041	983	1,180

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	8.2	29.1	34.5
Children older than 12 at entry	90.4	70.9	65.5
Missing data	1.4	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	73	79	87

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	—	—	—	—	6.5	12.3	26.5	5.0	13.3	11.1
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.0	0.5	0.5	—	—	—
Reunification	100.0	—	—	—	—	100.0	36.0	40.1	30.8	35.0	53.3	48.1
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	14.5	14.4	8.1	10.0	13.3	—
Missing data	—	—	—	100.0	100.0	—	42.0	32.6	34.1	50.0	20.0	40.7
Total %	100.0	—	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1	—	—	2	3	1	200	187	185	20	15	27

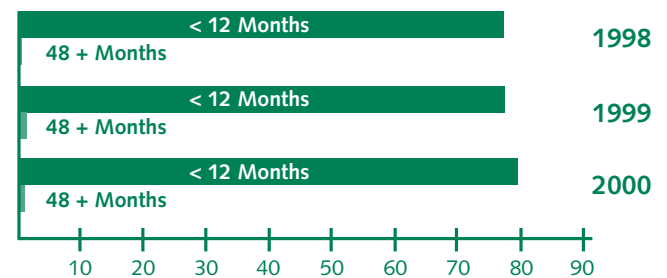
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	6.7	13.0	11.1	3.7	—	1.0	—	—	22.1	—	—	—
Guardianship	0.8	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	41.5	40.3	40.3	63.0	64.7	46.9	—	—	41.2	45.5	62.2	—
Other	12.8	9.6	10.2	7.4	5.9	6.1	—	—	8.8	—	2.7	—
Missing data	38.2	37.2	38.4	25.9	29.4	45.9	—	—	27.9	54.5	35.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	—
Number	1,506	1,714	1,877	27	17	98	—	—	68	11	37	—

#### 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

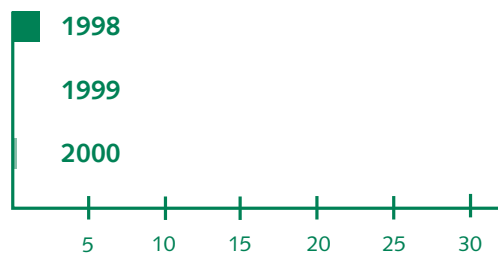
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	77.2	77.3	79.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	18.2	16.1	14.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.4	4.2	3.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.4	1.1	0.9
48 or more mos.	0.7	1.2	1.1
Missing data	0.1	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	727	807	901

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	97.4	99.9	99.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	1.8	0.0	0.1
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	0.0	—	—
Missing data	0.8	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,011	2,151	2,392

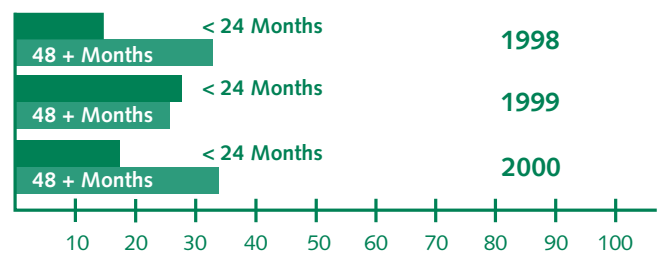
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



#### 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	0.9	3.2	1.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.8	24.2	15.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	28.4	29.0	29.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	24.1	17.7	19.1
48 or more mos.	32.8	25.8	33.9
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	116	248	277

Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry

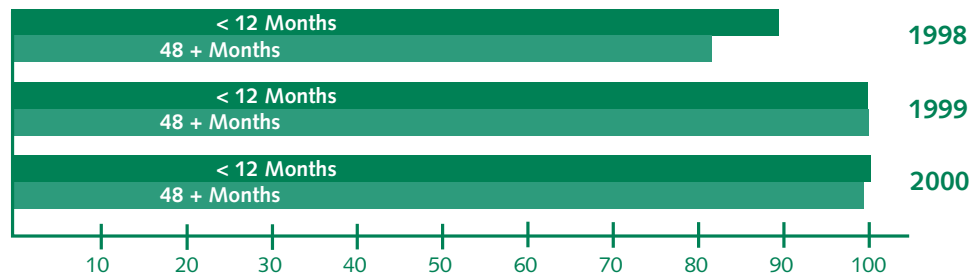




## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	89.4	10.6	—	100.0	2,306
	1999	99.8	0.2	—	100.0	2,518
	2000	99.9	0.1	—	100.0	2,827
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	85.9	14.1	—	100.0	944
	1999	99.6	0.4	—	100.0	902
	2000	99.6	0.4	—	100.0	999
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	83.0	17.0	—	100.0	499
	1999	99.6	0.4	—	100.0	553
	2000	99.3	0.7	—	100.0	558
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	86.9	13.1	—	100.0	312
	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	366
	2000	99.7	0.3	—	100.0	354
48 or more mos.	1998	81.6	18.4	—	100.0	773
	1999	99.9	0.1	—	100.0	792
	2000	99.4	0.6	—	100.0	904
Missing data	1998	100.0	—	—	100.0	15
	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	9
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	2

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	4.8	4.3	9.6
Institutions	1.5	3.1	1.1
Other settings	80.7	77.4	89.3
Missing data	13.0	15.2	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	870	967	1,072

**Ann M. Burds, Director  
Office of Social Services  
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources  
304-558-7980**

A review of the data pages that are included in the Report as well as a previous review of data prior to the on-site portion of the Child and Family Services Review indicates that some of the information reported by the Department is not accurate. Specifically, the number of child fatalities, the number of children who were the subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment, and the number of children maltreated in foster care are in all likelihood incorrect.

The Department previously submitted revised data for 1998 and 1999 on the number of children who were the subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment. The revised data, which does not appear in the 2000 Report, reduces the number of children by several thousand. We believe that the data reporting problem has been corrected and that the numbers for 2000 are accurate.

We also recognize that the data for the number of children maltreated while in foster care is incorrect. Revisions have been made to our automated case management information system so that accurate data will be reported in the future. It is not possible, however, to go back and capture data for the years covered in the 2000 Report.

Based on recent case reviews, we believe the number of child fatalities may be under reported. The Department will work with the Child Fatality Review Team to explore the possibility of obtaining better data in the future on this important subject. It may not be possible to go back and capture accurate data for the years covered by the Report.

As a result of the Child and Family Services Review, the Department will reexamine its approaches to data collection. Part of the solution may involve changes in our automated case information system. A part of the solution may also involve better case management practices as documentation and record maintenance continue to be concerns of the Department.

The following discussion focuses on West Virginia's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance (the West Virginia CFSR was conducted in FY 2002). Because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

## **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

In calendar year (CY) 2000, the State's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 6.4 percent, which does not meet the national standard of 6.1 percent, but is lower than the national median of 7.9 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that maltreatment recurrence may be attributed in part to the inconsistent implementation across caseworkers of the agency's risk assessment and safety evaluation procedures.

## **Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care**

In CY 2000, the reported incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.0 percent. However, an assessment of the State's performance on this measure is not possible because, as noted in the State Comment section, the data used to calculate this measure are incorrect. The State Comment section also notes that revisions have been made to the automated case management information system to ensure accurate reporting of data for this measure in the future.

## **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

The State's performance relevant to this outcome cannot be assessed because the State did not report "reason for discharge" information to the Federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) for 38.0 percent of children who exited foster care in fiscal year (FY) 2000.

## **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

The State's performance with regard to outcome 4 must be considered in the context of the fact that 38.0 percent of children reported to AFCARS as exiting foster care in FY 2000 did not have "reason for discharge" information. Because some of these children may have been reunified at discharge, the percentage of children reunified within 12 months cannot be accurately established. For those children who were reported as reunified, 79.5 percent were reunified within 12 months of entry into foster care, which is higher than both the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that attainment of reunifications in a timely manner may be attributed in part to the use of Multidisciplinary Treatment Teams to expedite decision making regarding permanency and to the court's efforts to track permanency timeframes.

Also in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 0.1, which is considerably lower than the national standard of 8.6 percent and the national median of 10.3 percent. However, according to information provided in the CFSR Final Report, the State believes that the data used to calculate this measure are inaccurate and is implementing procedures to ensure greater data accuracy for this measure in the future.

## **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

The State's performance with regard to outcome 5 must be considered in the context of the fact that 38.0 percent of children who exited foster care in FY 2000 did not have "reason for discharge" information. Since it is possible that some of these children may have been adopted, the missing data suggest that the actual percentage of children adopted within 24 months of entry into foster care cannot be established. In fact, the number of adoptions reported to the AFCARS Adoption Database (352) exceeds the number reported to the AFCARS Foster Care Database as discharges to adoption (277). The data that are available for this outcome indicate that in FY 2000, the percentage of all reported finalized adoptions that occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 17.3, which is lower than both the national standard of 32.0 and the national median of 19.7. Information from the CFSR Final Report

identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving adoptions in a timely manner: (1) a lack of concurrent planning, (2) delays in making appropriate changes in permanency goals for children, (3) delays in filing for termination of parental rights (TPR), and (4) a lack of consistent agency support for adoption by relatives or foster parents.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 99.9, which is higher than both the national standard of 86.7 percent and the national median of 84.3. According to information provided in the CFSR Final Report, the State believes that the reported percentage of children experiencing no more than 2 placement is likely to be inaccurate because the State information system only tracks when a child is moved from one private child placement agency to another, not when a child is moved from one foster care placement to another. Information from the CFSR Final Report based on the case reviews and stakeholder interviews indicates that placement stability is an area needing improvement in the State due primarily to a scarcity of specialized placements for children with behavioral problems or special care needs and the frequent use of shelter care as an “emergency” placement for children entering foster care or for children experiencing a placement disruption.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 10.7, which exceeds the national median of 9.0. According to information in the CFSR Final Report, the high percentage of children who are placed in group homes when they are age 12 or younger may be attributed to the State’s use of emergency shelter placements at entry into foster care and when foster care placements disrupt.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, information from the CSFR Final Report indicates that the State is not consistently effective in meeting children’s educational and physical and mental health needs. The following were identified as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) lack of routine assessment of children’s educational needs, (2) failure in some cases to provide comprehensive health assessments at entry into foster care, (3) the difficulties experienced by foster parents in accessing health services for foster children, and (4) a scarcity of high quality mental health services that are provided for a sufficient amount of time to address children’s needs.

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	1,351,044	1,348,268	1,368,756	Child maltreatment victims	8,168	9,791	12,001
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	10,076	9,637	10,148
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.2	1.2	1.1	Children adopted	643	642	736
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.5	2.6	2.6				
Black	7.9	7.9	8.3				
Hispanic	4.0	4.2	5.5				
White	84.3	84.1	80.4				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.0				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.1				
% Child population in poverty	13.5	9.3	13.7				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	74.2	72.4	68.5				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	22,232	34,311	37,455	16.5 per 1,000	25.4 per 1,000	27.4 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	8,168	9,791	12,001	6.0 per 1,000	7.3 per 1,000	8.8 per 1,000
Child fatalities	11	9	10	0.8 per 100,000	0.7 per 100,000	0.7 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	4.0	5.8	5.6	Alaska Native/American Indian	2.7	3.0	2.8
1-5 years	23.8	24.9	24.7	Asian/Pacific Islander	1.9	2.0	2.1
6-10 years	24.4	27.6	26.1	Black	22.8	30.0	18.9
11-15 years	25.5	34.2	35.1	Hispanic	4.7	5.4	5.2
16+ years	7.6	7.3	8.0	White	52.1	58.5	70.0
Unknown	14.7	0.1	0.5	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	20.5	6.5	1.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>8,168</b>	<b>9,791</b>	<b>12,001</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	104.7	105.4	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>8,168</b>	<b>9,791</b>	<b>12,001</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	0.9	0.7	0.4
Medical neglect	0.7	—	0.6
Neglect	37.6	42.2	27.8
Physical abuse	22.4	21.9	15.3
Sexual abuse	27.3	37.9	40.1
Other	14.6	23.2	20.5
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	103.6	125.8	104.7
<b>Number</b>	<b>8,168</b>	<b>9,791</b>	<b>12,001</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	9,356			5,566			4,846			10,076			14,922
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	8,945			6,015			5,323			9,637			14,960
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	9,869			4,645			4,366			10,148			14,514
Median Length of Stay (Months)													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	19.1			N/A			5.4			23.9			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	19.3			N/A			5.9			20.8			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	19.0			N/A			6.5			25.0			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	2.5	2.4	3.0	7.3	8.0	8.3	3.0	2.4	3.2	2.0	2.7	1.4	
1-5 years	24.1	23.6	22.7	16.2	18.5	17.5	17.7	17.1	17.4	21.1	21.5	21.5	
6-10 years	26.0	27.7	27.7	16.9	17.1	17.7	16.8	17.8	18.6	25.6	27.0	25.9	
11-15 years	29.3	31.1	31.1	42.1	41.1	41.0	33.9	34.3	33.0	30.6	32.4	32.2	
16-18 years	16.5	14.9	15.2	17.4	15.3	15.4	28.3	28.0	27.6	17.7	15.7	17.1	
19+ years	1.5	0.2	0.4	—	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.5	0.2	2.5	0.5	1.8	
Unknown	0.2	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	—	0.6	0.1	0.1	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>9,356</b>	<b>8,945</b>	<b>9,869</b>	<b>5,566</b>	<b>6,015</b>	<b>4,645</b>	<b>4,846</b>	<b>5,323</b>	<b>4,366</b>	<b>10,076</b>	<b>9,637</b>	<b>10,148</b>	
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%) <sup>5</sup>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	3.3	3.4	3.0	5.1	4.0	4.2	5.2	4.5	5.1	3.4	3.2	2.7	
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.9	1.2	1.0	3.2	2.4	2.6	2.3	2.6	2.9	1.5	1.2	0.9	
Black	50.1	49.0	52.8	20.6	25.5	23.3	20.3	21.3	19.7	48.1	49.6	53.5	
Hispanic	4.4	4.4	4.7	3.5	5.0	4.6	3.3	3.8	3.8	4.4	5.1	5.0	
White	41.4	42.0	38.2	67.6	62.9	63.9	68.9	67.9	67.5	42.6	40.8	37.4	
Two or more races	—	—	0.3	—	0.1	1.5	—	—	1.1	—	0.1	0.5	
Unknown	—	—	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	—	—	—	—	0.0	0.0	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>9,356</b>	<b>8,945</b>	<b>9,869</b>	<b>5,566</b>	<b>6,015</b>	<b>4,645</b>	<b>4,846</b>	<b>5,323</b>	<b>4,366</b>	<b>10,076</b>	<b>9,637</b>	<b>10,148</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	865	902	969
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	606	658	703
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	1.7	3.0	2.1
1-5 years	31.1	26.9	28.4
6-10 years	35.4	35.4	34.3
11-15 years	24.2	27.1	27.8
16+ years	5.7	6.9	5.4
Unknown	2.0	0.8	2.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>969</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	7.1	6.5	4.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	1.0	0.8
Black	33.3	34.7	35.8
Hispanic	3.7	3.9	5.5
White	55.7	53.7	51.5
Two or more races	—	0.2	2.0
Unknown	—	—	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>969</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	0.6	2.3	2.7
1-5 years	42.8	41.0	42.1
6-10 years	37.6	40.0	36.5
11-15 years	16.0	13.6	16.8
16+ years	3.0	3.1	1.8
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>736</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	5.0	5.0	4.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	—	1.0
Black	47.6	41.7	38.5
Hispanic	5.0	6.1	6.5
White	42.1	47.2	47.8
Two or more races	—	—	1.2
Unknown	—	—	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>736</b>

<sup>5</sup> In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

<sup>6</sup> Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

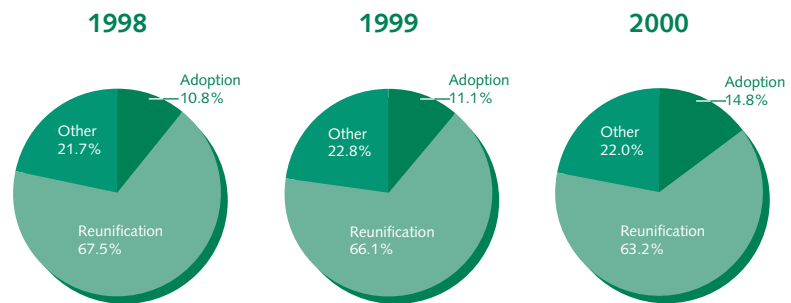
	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—

## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	10.8	11.1	14.8
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	67.5	66.1	63.2
Other	21.7	22.8	22.0
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,846	5,323	4,366

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	23.7	24.0	31.0
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	51.7	51.3	44.6
Other	24.6	24.7	24.4
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,650	1,735	1,565

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	0.4	0.6	0.7
Guardianship	—	—	—
Reunification	64.9	63.6	63.4
Other	34.7	35.9	35.9
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,388	2,626	2,073

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	16.4	15.0	13.8
Children older than 12 at entry	83.6	85.0	86.2
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	268	274	217

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	13.0	11.8	15.4	0.9	—	5.5	22.4	20.7	28.9	12.6	17.7	22.9
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	62.5	65.4	65.2	76.8	73.9	67.7	58.5	57.6	51.0	67.9	60.1	57.2
Other	24.5	22.8	19.5	22.3	26.1	26.8	19.1	21.6	20.0	19.5	22.2	19.9
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>166</b>

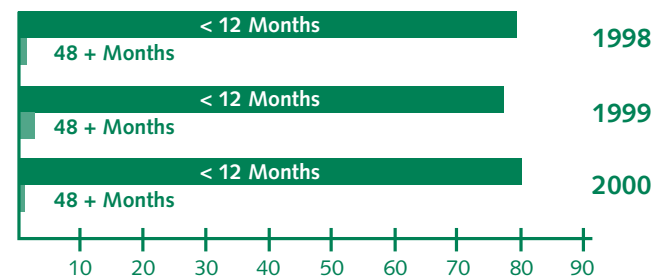
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	7.5	8.0	10.5	—	—	—	—	—	14.3	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	70.3	68.9	66.6	—	—	—	—	—	73.5	—	—	—
Other	22.3	23.1	22.9	—	—	—	—	—	12.2	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
<b>Number</b>	<b>3,340</b>	<b>3,612</b>	<b>2,945</b>	—	—	—	—	—	<b>49</b>	—	—	—

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

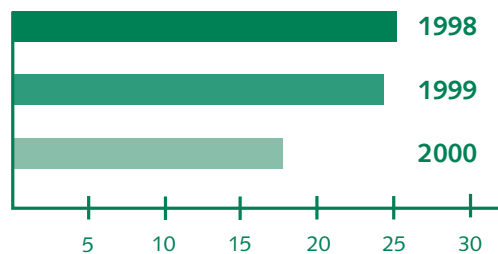
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	79.3	77.1	80.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.5	13.7	13.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.6	4.5	4.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.4	1.9	1.1
48 or more mos.	1.5	2.7	1.2
Missing data	0.6	0.2	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>3,273</b>	<b>3,521</b>	<b>2,760</b>

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	68.5	69.0	75.2
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	25.1	24.3	17.7
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	6.4	6.7	7.1
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>5,566</b>	<b>6,015</b>	<b>4,645</b>

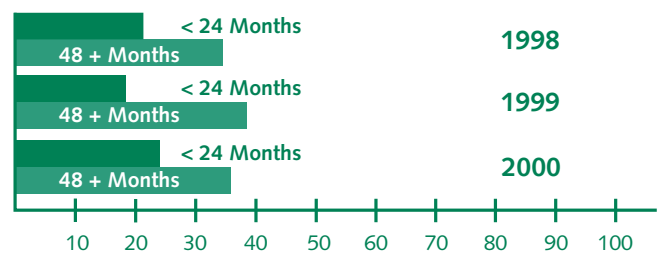
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	5.2	6.6	7.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	15.9	11.5	16.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	18.5	20.7	23.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	26.0	22.6	16.9
48 or more mos.	34.4	38.5	35.9
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>644</b>

Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry

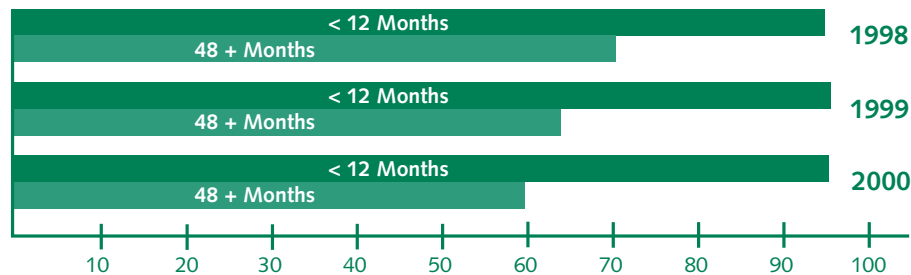




## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	94.9	5.1	—	100.0	6,403
	1999	95.3	4.7	—	100.0	6,961
	2000	95.2	4.8	—	100.0	5,503
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	83.3	16.7	—	100.0	2,650
	1999	83.0	17.0	—	100.0	2,586
	2000	84.7	15.3	—	100.0	2,912
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	73.6	26.4	—	100.0	1,965
	1999	72.6	27.4	—	100.0	1,701
	2000	75.1	24.9	—	100.0	2,058
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	69.8	30.2	—	100.0	1,210
	1999	61.8	38.2	—	100.0	1,241
	2000	67.4	32.6	—	100.0	1,222
48 or more mos.	1998	70.3	29.6	0.1	100.0	2,649
	1999	64.0	36.0	0.0	100.0	2,432
	2000	59.8	40.2	0.0	100.0	2,808
Missing data	1998	100.0	—	—	100.0	45
	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	39
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	11

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	5.2	5.0	3.0
Institutions	5.4	3.6	4.2
Other settings	89.4	91.4	92.9
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,725	3,042	2,382

**Susan N. Dreyfus, Administrator**  
**Division of Children and Family Services**  
**Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services**  
**608-267-3905**

The Wisconsin child welfare program is primarily county-operated except for the special needs adoption program and child welfare services in Milwaukee County, which are operated by DCFS. The State is currently implementing a new SACWIS system called WiSACWIS, however, the data in this report are primarily from legacy systems.

Child maltreatment reporting in Wisconsin includes both caregivers and non-caregivers and Wisconsin currently reports using the SDC format. The child maltreatment data shown for 1998 to 2000 is not complete due to the timing of the NCANDS data submission. Child maltreatment reports are submitted to the State by county agencies and the processing and compilation of maltreatment data for the prior calendar year is not complete by the due date of the annual NCANDS report. Maltreatment information will be collected more timely in WiSACWIS. The complete maltreatment information for Wisconsin is:

	<b>CY1998</b>	<b>CY1999</b>	<b>CY2000</b>
Reports	42,520	40,188	38,116
Child Victims	14,154	11,646	12,109
Child Fatalities	13	11	10

The legacy systems do not permit computation of recurrence of maltreatment or maltreatment of children in foster care. Measurement of both of these outcomes will be possible as the WiSACWIS system is implemented Statewide.

For foster care, the reduction in case load between FY 1998 and FY 1999 reflects preparation during 1999 for WiSACWIS, which purged old case data for Milwaukee County. The population served includes children who were placed due to voluntary placement agreements, maltreatment, status offenses, and delinquent behaviors. The "Other" reasons for exit include reaching age of majority and transfer to a correctional or mental health institution. Wisconsin uses guardianship as a permanency outcome, but data are not captured in the legacy system showing exits to guardianship.

The adoption data show the total number of finalized adoptions for children with special needs for whom the adoptive parents received Adoption Assistance. Some exits to adoption may not be reflected in the foster care data due to the transition to WiSACWIS in Milwaukee. In addition, some children were adopted from outside of the foster care system.

## A. Key Context Statistics

General Population	1998	1999	2000	Child Welfare	1998	1999	2000
Total children under 18 years	129,406	126,807	128,873	Child maltreatment victims	807	1,221	1,332
<b>Race/ethnicity (%)<sup>1</sup></b>				Children in foster care on 9/30	759	774	815
Alaska Native/American Indian	3.0	3.1	2.9	Children adopted	34	46	61
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.9	1.0	0.5				
Black	0.7	0.7	0.8				
Hispanic	8.3	8.5	9.0				
White	87.1	86.7	84.7				
Two or more races	N/A	N/A	2.0				
Other	N/A	N/A	0.1				
% Child population in poverty	17.8	14.8	15.0				
% Child population living in metropolitan areas	38.4	32.9	29.7				

## B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	1998	Number 1999	2000	1998	Rate 1999	2000
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	2,209	3,331	3,864	17.1 per 1,000	26.3 per 1,000	30.0 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims <sup>2</sup>	807	1,221	1,332	6.2 per 1,000	9.6 per 1,000	10.3 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	1	1	2.3 per 100,000	0.8 per 100,000	0.8 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000	Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	3.7	3.2	8.7	Alaska Native/American Indian	3.7	5.7	5.8
1-5 years	34.1	33.7	32.3	Asian/Pacific Islander	0.7	0.3	0.6
6-10 years	33.3	31.7	32.1	Black	1.0	1.8	1.7
11-15 years	21.6	22.0	21.9	Hispanic	6.1	6.6	8.2
16+ years	4.6	6.4	5.0	White	76.6	75.9	76.8
Unknown	2.7	2.9	—	Two or more races	N/A	N/A	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	Other/Unknown	18.0	16.2	6.9
<b>Number</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>1,221</b>	<b>1,332</b>	Total % <sup>3</sup>	106.1	106.6	100.0
				<b>Number</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>1,221</b>	<b>1,332</b>

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1998	1999	2000
Emotional abuse	1.5	1.6	1.1
Medical neglect	1.7	1.8	1.2
Neglect	66.5	63.9	63.1
Physical abuse	25.9	29.4	27.3
Sexual abuse	11.2	9.0	10.3
Other	1.0	1.0	0.7
Unknown	—	—	—
Total % <sup>4</sup>	107.8	106.6	103.6
<b>Number</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>1,221</b>	<b>1,332</b>

1 The 2000 Census of the United States includes two new race categories: (1) Persons of two or more races and (2) Other.

2 Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

3 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

4 Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

## C. Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1			Entered Care			Exited Care			In Care on 9/30			Total Served
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	758			689			688			759			1,447
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	742			715			683			774			1,457
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	759			786			731			815			1,545
Median Length of Stay (Months)													
FY1998 (10/1/97-9/30/98)	15.6			N/A			4.4			16.5			N/A
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	16.3			N/A			5.2			13.0			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	13.0			N/A			4.3			12.5			N/A
Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:			Entered Care During:			Exited Care During:			In Care On:			
	10/1/97	10/1/98	10/1/99	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00	
Under 1 year	1.6	1.5	1.4	5.7	5.5	5.3	3.2	3.4	3.7	1.4	1.4	1.1	
1-5 years	20.8	20.9	16.5	21.6	18.3	19.5	20.2	21.4	22.3	20.4	16.3	11.2	
6-10 years	20.1	21.4	21.5	11.9	16.6	11.8	12.5	16.7	15.7	20.9	21.1	18.2	
11-15 years	34.4	31.7	35.3	36.9	38.3	42.0	30.4	26.5	26.9	32.4	36.2	41.2	
16-18 years	21.6	23.3	23.2	23.4	21.0	21.1	32.1	31.2	29.8	23.6	23.0	26.4	
19+ years	1.1	0.7	1.4	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.0	0.6	1.4	0.7	1.4	1.2	
Unknown	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.1	—	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.7	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>815</b>	
Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%) <sup>5</sup>													
Alaska Native/Am. Indian	2.8	3.4	3.6	3.3	2.8	1.8	2.8	2.3	2.6	3.3	3.7	2.7	
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.8	0.3	0.3	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.5	
Black	3.3	3.2	4.3	0.9	2.9	2.2	1.0	1.6	1.8	3.2	4.4	4.5	
Hispanic	9.8	8.1	9.5	8.7	8.7	11.2	10.6	7.0	12.7	8.0	9.6	8.2	
White	81.1	83.3	80.5	83.5	80.7	79.4	80.8	84.0	78.2	83.5	80.2	81.5	
Two or more races	—	—	—	—	—	0.8	—	—	0.5	—	—	0.2	
Unknown	2.2	1.2	1.4	3.3	4.8	3.9	4.5	4.7	3.1	1.2	1.4	2.3	
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<b>Number</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>815</b>	

## D. Children Waiting to Be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)<sup>6</sup>

Overview	9/30/98	9/30/99	9/30/00
Children waiting to be adopted	140	145	125
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR)	109	107	89
Age of Waiting Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	4.3	2.1	2.4
1-5 years	40.0	35.2	23.2
6-10 years	41.4	40.0	43.2
11-15 years	12.1	18.6	25.6
16+ years	2.1	4.1	5.6
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>125</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.4	2.1	1.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
Black	7.1	5.5	6.4
Hispanic	15.0	12.4	12.0
White	76.4	80.0	79.2
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>125</b>

## E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1998	1999	2000
Under 1 year	—	2.2	—
1-5 years	47.1	47.8	39.3
6-10 years	32.4	30.4	41.0
11-15 years	20.6	13.0	14.8
16+ years	—	6.5	4.9
Unknown	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>61</b>
Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)			
Alaska Native/American Indian	5.9	2.2	1.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—
Black	2.9	10.9	8.2
Hispanic	8.8	8.7	11.5
White	82.4	71.7	78.7
Two or more races	—	—	—
Unknown	—	6.5	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>61</b>

5 In this and subsequent race/ethnicity tables, data for two or more races may be provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States' resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of two or more races and therefore may not be comparable to the 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

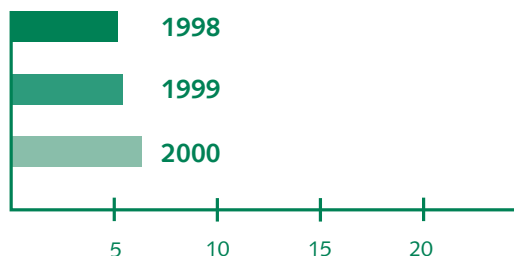
6 Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated. Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation, have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

## 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)

### 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children without a recurrence	94.9	94.6	93.7
Children with one or more recurrences	5.1	5.4	6.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	568	631	620

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

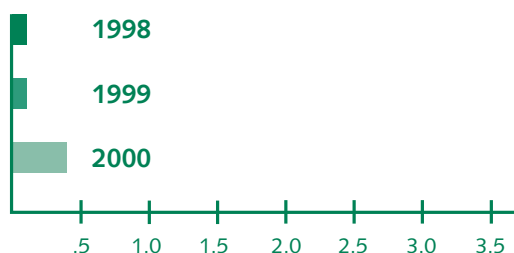


## 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan—Sept)

### 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.1	0.1	0.4
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.9	99.9	99.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,556	1,482	1,406

Percent Children Maltreated While In Foster Care

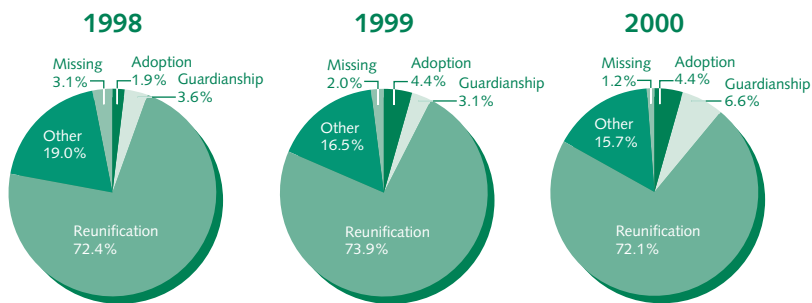


## 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	1.9	4.4	4.4
Guardianship	3.6	3.1	6.6
Reunification	72.4	73.9	72.1
Other	19.0	16.5	15.7
Missing data	3.1	2.0	1.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	688	683	731

Percent Exits from Foster Care



### 3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	4.2	7.9	7.2
Guardianship	3.1	3.7	9.2
Reunification	64.6	63.4	63.2
Other	23.4	22.0	17.8
Missing data	4.7	3.0	2.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	192	164	152

### 3.3 Exits of Children Over Age 12 at Entry (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	—	—	0.3
Guardianship	0.8	1.2	1.7
Reunification	69.9	64.7	69.0
Other	25.7	32.5	27.8
Missing data	3.6	1.6	1.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	362	320	345

### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Children age 12 or younger at entry	21.7	7.9	13.9
Children older than 12 at entry	78.3	89.5	86.1
Missing data	—	2.6	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	23	38	36

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)	Alaska Native/A.I.			Asian/P.I.			Black			Hispanic		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Adoption	5.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	36.4	—	1.4	6.2	6.5
Guardianship	—	—	5.3	—	—	—	—	—	30.8	6.8	6.2	6.5
Reunification	94.7	93.8	63.2	100.0	50.0	85.7	57.1	54.5	53.8	65.8	64.6	75.3
Other	—	6.2	31.6	—	50.0	14.3	42.9	—	15.4	21.9	22.9	10.8
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9.1	—	4.1	—	1.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	19	16	19	2	2	7	7	11	13	73	48	93

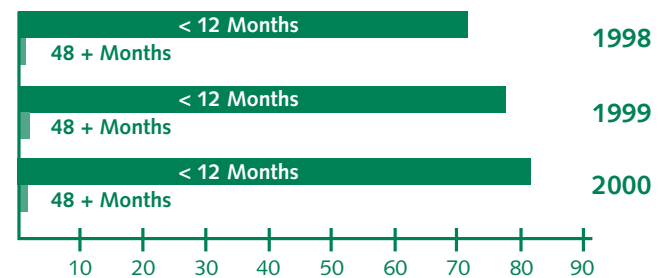
  

	White			Unable to Determine			Two or More Races			Missing Data		
Adoption	2.0	4.0	4.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	3.2	3.1	6.1	6.5	—	8.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	72.3	73.7	72.0	77.4	90.6	69.6	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Other	19.6	16.9	15.9	9.7	9.4	21.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	2.9	2.3	1.4	6.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	—	—	—
Number	556	574	572	31	32	23	—	—	4	—	—	—

## 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

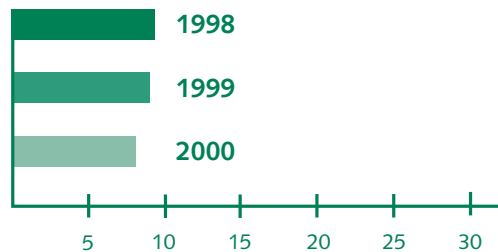
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	71.5	77.6	81.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	17.1	13.5	12.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	8.2	4.6	1.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.6	2.6	2.1
48 or more mos.	1.6	1.8	1.7
Missing data	—	—	0.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	498	505	527

Percent Reunifications in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1998	1999	2000
Children entering care for the first time	86.1	80.4	85.0
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	9.3	9.0	8.0
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	0.1	—	—
Missing data	4.5	10.6	7.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	689	715	786

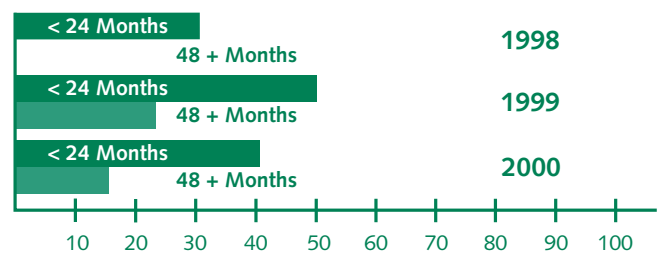
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



## 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1998	1999	2000
Less than 12 mos.	7.7	20.0	21.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	23.1	30.0	18.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	46.2	23.3	21.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	23.1	3.3	21.9
48 or more mos.	—	23.3	15.6
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	13	30	32

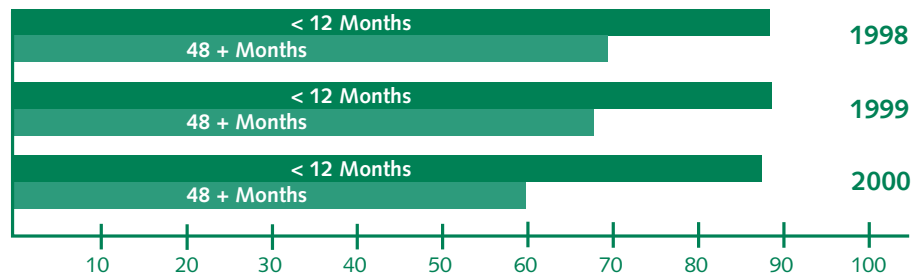
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 or in 48 + Months of Entry



## 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1998	88.3	11.7	—	100.0	795
	1999	88.5	10.8	0.7	100.0	834
	2000	87.4	11.7	0.9	100.0	907
At least 12 mos., but <24 mos.	1998	66.7	33.3	—	100.0	273
	1999	67.4	32.6	—	100.0	230
	2000	60.5	38.8	0.7	100.0	276
At least 24 mos., but <36 mos.	1998	52.9	47.1	—	100.0	155
	1999	54.1	45.9	—	100.0	133
	2000	48.5	51.5	—	100.0	97
At least 36 mos., but <48 mos.	1998	59.6	40.4	—	100.0	109
	1999	43.6	56.4	—	100.0	94
	2000	44.0	56.0	—	100.0	84
48 or more mos.	1998	69.3	30.7	—	100.0	114
	1999	67.7	32.3	—	100.0	158
	2000	59.8	40.2	—	100.0	179
Missing data	1998	100.0	—	—	100.0	1
	1999	87.5	12.5	—	100.0	8
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	2

Percent of Children Who Have Been in Care for Less Than 12 Months or More Than 48 Months Who Experience 2 or Fewer Placements



## 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database)

### 7.1 Most Recent Placement Settings of Children Who Entered Care During the Fiscal Year and Were Age 12 or Younger at the Time of This Placement (%)

	1998	1999	2000
Group homes	4.6	9.0	6.4
Institutions	2.8	5.0	4.8
Other settings	92.6	86.0	88.8
Missing data	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	282	301	312

# Wyoming

[ STATE COMMENT ]



The following discussion focuses on Wyoming's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. Information from the State's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Final Report is used to provide a context for interpreting the State's performance (the Wyoming CFSR was conducted in FY 2002). Because data reported in the State Data Pages do not address child well-being issues, the last section of this discussion provides information from the CFSR Final Report relevant to the State's performance in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs.

### **Outcome 1. Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect**

In calendar year (CY) 2000, the State's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 6.3 percent, which is slightly higher than the national standard of 6.1, but lower than the national median of 7.9 percent. According to information provided in the CFSR Final Report, the actual rate of maltreatment recurrence may be higher than the reported rate because maltreatment reports involving children in open child protective services cases usually are not treated as new reports and are not subjected to an investigation. Information in the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential reasons for child maltreatment recurrence: (1) insufficient safety assessments in some cases; (2) failure in some cases to provide services that are adequate to reduce the risk of harm; and (3) infrequent face-to-face contact between caseworkers and children in cases in which children remain in their homes.

### **Outcome 2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care**

In CY 2000, the incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.5 percent, which is lower than the national standard of 0.57 percent but higher than the national median of 0.47 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential reasons for a relatively low incident of maltreatment in foster care: (1) routine criminal background checks, and (2) annual re-licensure of foster homes and child care facilities.

### **Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care**

In fiscal year (FY) 2000, 83.1 percent of children exiting foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is close to the national median of 84.7 percent), 79.6 percent of children with a diagnosed disability leaving foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is close to the national median of 79.5 percent), and 71.0 percent of children who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care exited to a permanent home (which is close to the national median of 72.6 percent). These data suggest that the State is only moderately effective in achieving permanency for children. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving permanency: (1) a frequent practice of establishing long-term foster care as a permanency goal when reunification efforts fail without consideration of the alternative options of guardianship or adoption, and (2) the reluctance of agency and court personnel in some areas of the State to file for termination of parental rights unless an adoptive family has been identified for the child. In contrast, information from the Final Report suggests that permanency is facilitated by the subsidized guardianship program implemented in 1999.

### **Outcome 4. Reduce time to reunification without increasing re-entry**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all reported reunifications occurring within 12 months of children's entry into foster care was 81.6, which is higher than both the national standard of 76.2 percent and the national median of 68.0 percent. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that attainment of reunifications in a timely manner may be attributed to the following: (1) the implementation of Family Group Conferencing, (2) diligent efforts to locate absent parents, (3) and the Multidisciplinary Team process. However, information from the CFSR Final Report based on case reviews indicates that the timeliness of reunifications is an area needing improvement for the State. Barriers to timely reunification were noted to be a lack of intensive home-based services and the practice of placing children outside of their communities of origin. There was no information in the CFSR Final Report that might explain the discrepancy between the case review findings and the State data.

Also in FY 2000, the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 8.0, which is lower than the national standard of 8.6 and the national median of 10.3. There was no specific information from the

CFSR Final Report to explain the State's performance with regard to preventing foster care re-entry. However, according to the CFSR Final Report, adolescents are more likely to re-enter foster care than younger children.

#### **Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

In FY 2000, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care was 40.7, which is higher than the national standard of 32.0 and the national median of 19.7. Information from the CFSR Final Report identified the following as potential reasons for achieving adoptions in a timely manner: (1) implementation of Family Group Conferencing; (2) diligent efforts to locate absent parents, and (3) increased recruitment efforts. However, information from the CFSR Final Report based on case reviews indicates that the timeliness of adoptions is an area needing improvement for the State. According to the CFSR Final Report, delays in adoptions often are due to the agency's reluctance to pursue termination of parental rights unless an adoptive family has been identified. The CFSR Final Report does not provide information that explains the discrepancy between the case review findings and the State data.

#### **Outcome 6. Increase placement stability**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placements during their first 12 months in foster care was 87.4, which is higher than both the national standard of 86.7 percent and the national median of 84.3 percent. However, information from the CFSR Final Report based on case reviews indicates that placement stability is an area needing improvement for the State. The Final Report does not provide information to explain the discrepancy between the case review findings and the State data.

#### **Outcome 7. Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions**

In FY 2000, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 11.2, which is higher than the national median of 9.0. According to information in the CFSR Final Report, the high percentage of children who are placed in group homes when they are age 12 or younger may be attributed to the scarcity of foster homes.

#### **Child well-being outcomes**

With respect to child well-being, the CSFR Final Report indicates that the State is not consistently effective in meeting children's educational and physical and mental health needs. The following were identified in the CFSR Final Report as potential barriers to meeting these needs: (1) a lack of services provided to address identified educational needs; (2) a failure to consistently provide health assessments and routine health care services to children in foster care; and (3) the scarcity of mental health services for children, often resulting in long waiting lists for services.

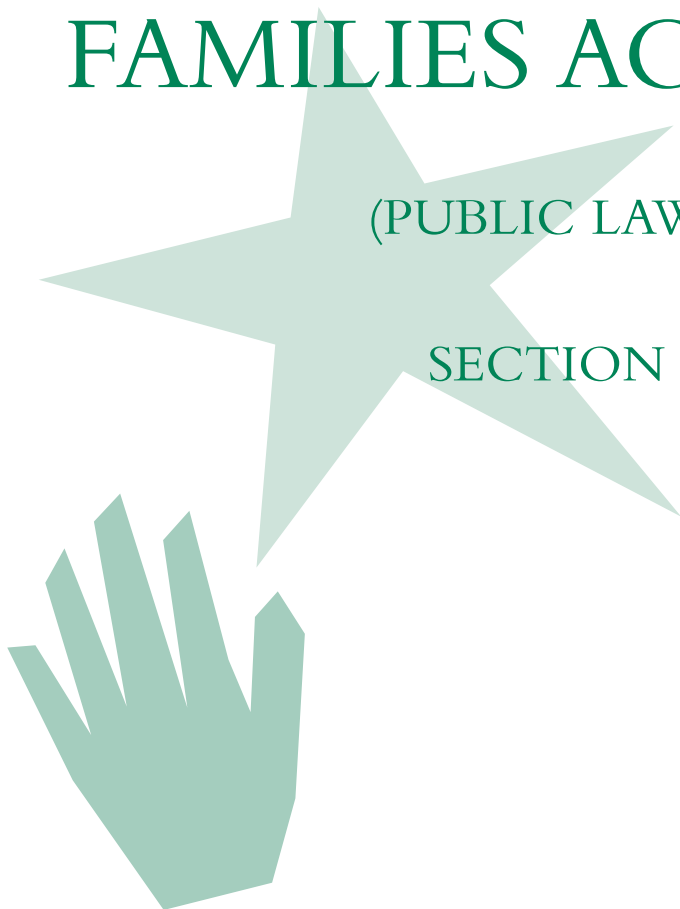


# Appendix A

## ADOPTION AND SAFE FAMILIES ACT OF 1997

(PUBLIC LAW 105-89)

SECTION 203(A)





## Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-89)

### SEC. 203. Performance of States in Protecting Children.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT ON STATE PERFORMANCE.—Part E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670 et seq.) is amended by addition at the end of the following:

SEC. 479A. Annual Report.

The Secretary, in consultation with Governors, State legislatures, State and local public officials responsible for administering child welfare programs, and child welfare advocates, shall:

- (1) develop a set of outcome measures (including length of stay in foster care, number of foster care placements, and number of adoptions) that can be used to assess the performance of States in operating child protection and child welfare programs pursuant to parts B and E to ensure the safety of children;
- (2) to the maximum extent possible, the outcome measures should be developed from data available from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System;
- (3) develop a system for rating the performance of States with respect to the outcome measures and provide to the States an explanation of the rating system and how scores are determined under the rating system;
- (4) prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to ensure that States provide to the Secretary the data necessary to determine State performance with respect to each outcome measure, as a condition of the State receiving funds under this part; and
- (5) on May 1, 1999, and annually thereafter, prepare and submit to the Congress a report on the performance of each State on each outcome measure, which shall examine the reasons for high performance and low performance and, where possible, make recommendations as to how State performance could be improved.



# Appendix B

## CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES AND MEASURES







# Child Welfare Outcomes and Measures

This document provides information about the child welfare outcomes and measures for **Child Welfare Outcomes 2000: Annual Report**.

## Child Welfare Outcome 1:

### Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

Measure 1.1: Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of the reporting period, what percentage had another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period?

## Child Welfare Outcome 2:

### Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

Measure 2.1: Of all children who were in foster care during the reporting period, what percentage was the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff?

*Note: The reporting period for this measure is January 1 - September 30 (9 months).*

## Child Welfare Outcome 3:

### Increase permanency for children in foster care

Measure 3.1: For all children who exited foster care, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?

Measure 3.2: For children who exited foster care and were identified as having a diagnosed disability, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?

Measure 3.3: For children who exited foster care and were older than age 12 at the time of their most recent entry into care, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?

Measure 3.4: Of all children exiting foster care to emancipation, what percentage was age 12 or younger at the time of entry into care?

Measure 3.5: For all children who exited foster care, what percentage by racial/ethnic category left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?

## Child Welfare Outcome 4:

### Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

Measure 4.1: Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, what percentage was reunified in the following time periods?

- (1) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home
- (2) At least 12 months, but less than 24 months
- (3) At least 24 months, but less than 36 months
- (4) At least 36 months, but less than 48 months
- (5) 48 or more months

Measure 4.2: Of all children who entered foster care during the reporting period, what percentage re-entered care:

- (1) Within 12 months of a prior foster care episode?
- (2) More than 12 months after a prior foster care episode?

**Child Welfare Outcome 5:****Reduce time in foster care to adoption**

Measure 5.1: Of all children who exited foster care to a finalized adoption, what percentage exited care in the following time periods?

- (1) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home
- (2) At least 12 months, but less than 24 months
- (3) At least 24 months, but less than 36 months
- (4) At least 36 months, but less than 48 months
- (5) 48 or more months

**Child Welfare Outcome 6:****Increase placement stability**

Measure 6.1: Of all children served who had been in foster care for the time periods listed below, what percentage had no more than two placement settings during that time period?

- (1) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home
- (2) At least 12 months, but less than 24 months
- (3) At least 24 months, but less than 36 months
- (4) At least 36 months, but less than 48 months
- (5) 48 or more months

**Child Welfare Outcome 7:****Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions**

Measure 7.1: For all children who entered foster care during the reporting period and were age 12 or younger at the time of their most recent placement, what percentage was placed in a group home or an institution?

# Appendix C

HIGHLIGHTS OF  
FINDINGS FROM  
*CHILD*

*MALTREATMENT 2000*





# Children's Bureau Administration on Children, Youth and Families

## National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)

### Summary of Key Findings from Calendar Year 2000

April 2002

The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) was developed by the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Human Services in partnership with the States to collect annual statistics on child maltreatment from State child protective services agencies. This summary of key findings presents highlights based on data submissions by the States for calendar year 2000.

#### INVESTIGATIONS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2000, three million referrals concerning the welfare of approximately five million children were made to CPS agencies throughout the United States. Of these, approximately two-thirds (62%) were screened in; one-third (38%) were screened out. Screened-in referrals alleging that a child was being abused or neglected received investigations or assessments to determine whether the allegations of maltreatment could be substantiated. Some of the screened-out reports were referred to the attention of other service agencies.
- Professionals, including teachers, law enforcement officers, social services workers, and physicians, made more than half (56%) of the screened-in reports. Others, including family members, neighbors, and other members of the community, made the remaining 44 percent of screened-in referrals.
- Almost one-third of investigations or assessments (32%) resulted in a finding that the child was maltreated or at risk of maltreatment. The remaining investigations resulted in a finding that the maltreatment did not occur, the child was not at risk of maltreatment, or there was insufficient information to make a determination.

#### VICTIMS OF MALTREATMENT

- Approximately 879,000 children were found to be victims of child maltreatment. Maltreatment categories typically include neglect, medical neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and psychological maltreatment. Almost two-thirds of child victims (63%) suffered neglect (including medical neglect); 19 percent were physically abused; 10 percent were sexually abused; and 8 percent were psychologically maltreated.
- The rate of child victims per 1,000 children in the population had been decreasing steadily from 15.3 victims per 1,000 children in the population in 1993 to 11.8 victims per 1,000 children in the population in 1999. The victimization rate increased slightly to 12.2 per 1,000 children in the year 2000. Whether or not this is a trend cannot be determined until additional data are collected. Victimization rates declined as age increased. The rate of victimization for children in the age group of birth to 3 years old was 15.7 victims per 1,000 children of the same age. The rate of victimization for children ages 16 and 17 was 5.7 victims per 1,000 children of the same age in the population.
- Victimization rates were similar for male and female victims (11.2 and 12.8 per 1,000 children respectively) except for victims of sexual abuse. The rate for sexual abuse was 1.7 victims per 1,000 female children compared to 0.4 victims per 1,000 male children. More than half of all victims were White (51%); a quarter (25%) were African American; 15 percent were Hispanic. American Indian/Alaska Natives accounted for 2 percent of victims, and Asian/Pacific Islanders accounted for 1 percent of victims.<sup>1</sup>

#### PERPETRATORS

- Most States define perpetrators of child abuse or neglect as parents and other caretakers, such as relatives, babysitters, and foster parents, who have maltreated a child. Sixty percent of perpetrators were females and 40 percent were males. The median age of female perpetrators was 31 years; the median age of male perpetrators was 34 years.
- More than 80 percent of victims (84%) were abused by a parent or parents. Mothers acting alone were responsible for 47 percent of neglect victims and 32 percent of physical abuse victims. Nonrelatives, fathers acting alone, and other relatives were responsible for 29 percent, 22 percent and 19 percent, respectively, of sexual abuse victims.

#### FATALITIES

- Child fatalities are the most tragic consequence of maltreatment. Approximately 1,200 children died of abuse or neglect in the year 2000—a rate of 1.71 children per 100,000 children in the population. The increase in the rate of fatalities compared to earlier years is hypothesized to be largely attributable to improved reporting.<sup>2</sup>

- Youngest children were the most vulnerable. Children younger than one year old accounted for 44 percent of child fatalities and 85 percent of child fatalities were younger than 6 years of age.

## **SERVICES**

- Services to prevent the abuse or neglect of children were provided by various State and local agencies to an estimated three million children. Because of the difficulties in collecting these data, this may be an undercount.
- More than half of the child victims (55% or an estimated 478,000) received services—including about one-fifth of all victims who were removed from their homes and placed in foster care—as a result of the investigation or assessment conducted by the child protective services agency. In addition, approximately one-fifth of children who were not found to be victims of maltreatment (19% or an estimated 385,000 children) also received services.

## **SUMMARY**

- Child abuse and neglect continues to be a significant problem in the United States. These statistics can help us understand the scope of the problem, who is affected, and what type of services are being provided by State and local agencies.

1 The percentages do not add to 100% due to missing data.

2 Child fatality estimates are based on data recorded by CPS agencies or such other agencies as the coroner's office or fatality review boards as to factors leading to the death of a child. Reported deaths may have not yet been the subject of court proceedings to determine the cause of death.

# Appendix D

## THE AFCARS REPORT: FY2000







# The AFCARS Report

Interim FY 2000 Estimates as of August 2002 (7)

## How many children were in foster care on September 30, 2000? 556,000

**SOURCE:** Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for the FY 2000, 10/1/99 through 9/30/00.

**NOTES:** Of the 52 jurisdictions (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) participating in AFCARS, useable foster care data were received from 51. Although the percentage distributions within questions have remained relatively constant since the first report (TAR 1), there is considerable variation in the estimated numbers. This is due in part to improvements in the quality of the data and to the use of different estimation procedures. (See TAR 5 for a detailed discussion of the various estimation procedures that have been utilized.) The estimates for the number of children in foster in TAR 7 are lower than previous estimates for FY 2000 because this estimate is based on resubmitted data from a large number of states containing more accurate counts of children who discharged from foster care. Data from both regular and revised submissions received by June 19, 2002 are included in the estimates. Missing data are not used in the calculation of percentages. Some percentages do not total 100% and/or the estimated numbers do not add up to the total number in the category due to rounding.

### What were the ages of the children in foster care?

Mean Yrs	10.1	
Median Yrs	10.4	
Under 1 Yr	4%	22,766
1 thru 5 Yrs	24%	134,919
6 thru 10 Yrs	25%	137,047
11 thru 15 Yrs	29%	161,397
16 thru 18 Yrs	16%	89,751
19 + Yrs	2%	10,120

### What were the placement settings of children in foster care?

Pre-Adoptive Home	4%	23,159
Foster Family Home (Relative)	25%	137,385
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	47%	260,636
Group Home	8%	43,893
Institution	10%	56,512
Supervised Independent Living	1%	5,108
Runaway	2%	9,964
Trial Home Visit	3%	19,343

### What were the lengths of stay for the children in foster care?

Mean Months	33	
Median Months	20	
< 1 Month	4%	23,057
1 to 5 Mos	16%	87,222
6 to 11 Mos	15%	83,723
12 to 17 Mos	12%	64,299
18 to 23 Mos	9%	47,742
24 to 29 Mos	7%	41,101
30 to 35 Mos	6%	32,799
3 to 4 Yrs	15%	82,784
5 Yrs or More	17%	93,274

### What were the case goals of the children in foster care?

Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s)	43%	239,552
Live with Other Relative(s)	5%	25,291
Adoption	20%	110,536
Long Term Foster Care	9%	49,609
Emancipation	6%	33,026
Guardianship	3%	15,201
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	15%	82,785

### Children in foster care on September 30, 2000 (continued)

What was the race/ethnicity of the children in foster care?

AI/AN Non-Hispanic	2%	10,994
Asian/PI Non-Hispanic	1%	5,978
Black Non-Hispanic	40%	220,660
Hispanic	15%	81,890
White Non-Hispanic	38%	208,632
UnKnown/Unable to Determine	4%	20,280
Two or More Races Non-Hispanic	1%	7,566

What was the gender of the children in foster care?

Male	52%	291,340
Female	48%	264,660

**NOTE:** Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could receive more than one race designation.

### How many children entered foster care during FY 2000? 291,000

What were the ages of the children who entered care during FY 2000?

Mean Yrs	8.6	
Median Yrs	8.7	
Under 1 Yr	13%	39,060
1 thru 5 Yrs	25%	71,505
6 thru 10 Yrs	21%	62,535
11 thru 15 Yrs	29%	85,593
16 thru 18 Yrs	11%	32,091
19+ Yrs	0%	216

What was the race/ethnicity of the children who entered care during FY 2000?

AI/AN Non-Hispanic	3%	7,906
Asian/PI Non-Hispanic	2%	4,550
Black Non-Hispanic	29%	83,283
Hispanic	15%	42,480
White Non-Hispanic	47%	135,566
UnKnown/Unable to Determine	4%	12,049
Two or More Races Non-Hispanic	2%	5,166

**NOTE:** Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could receive more than one race designation.

### How many children exited foster care during FY 2000? 275,000

What were the ages of the children who exited care during FY 2000?

Mean Yrs	10.2	
Median Yrs	10.2	
Under 1 Yr	4%	11,136
1 thru 5 Yrs	26%	71,223
6 thru 10 Yrs	23%	63,953
11 thru 15 Yrs	24%	66,806
16 thru 18 Yrs	21%	56,617
19 + Yrs	2%	5,265

What was the race/ethnicity of the children who exited care during FY 2000?

AI/AN Non-Hispanic	2%	6,550
Asian/PI Non-Hispanic	2%	4,426
Black Non-Hispanic	31%	84,920
Hispanic	15%	40,097
White Non-Hispanic	45%	123,021
UnKnown/Unable to Determine	4%	11,987
Two or More Races Non-Hispanic	1%	3,998

**NOTE:** Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could receive more than one race designation.

### Children who exited foster care (continued)

What were the lengths of stay of the children who exited foster care during FY 2000?

Mean Months	22.7	
Median Months	12.0	
< 1 Month	19%	52,312
1 to 5 Mos	17%	46,091
6 to 11 Mos	14%	39,288
12 to 17 Mos	11%	29,377
18 to 23 Mos	8%	20,872
24 to 29 Mos	6%	16,409
30 to 35 Mos	5%	13,108
3 to 4 Yrs	11%	30,204
5 Yrs or More	10%	27,338

What were the outcomes for the children exiting foster care during FY 2000?

Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	57%	157,712
Living with Other Relative(s)	10%	26,291
Adoption	17%	46,581
Emancipation	7%	19,895
Guardianship	4%	10,341
Transfer to Another Agency	3%	7,726
Runaway	2%	5,865
Death of Child	0%	589

**NOTE:** Deaths are attributable to a variety of causes including medical conditions, accidents and homicide.

### How many children were waiting to be adopted on September 30, 2000? **131,000**

**NOTES:** Waiting children are identified as children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. Children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the estimate.

What is the gender distribution of the waiting children?

Male	52%	68,686
Female	48%	62,314

What is the racial/ethnic distribution of the waiting children?

AI/AN Non-Hispanic	2%	2,306
Asian/PI Non-Hispanic	1%	1,119
Black Non-Hispanic	43%	56,195
Hispanic	13%	17,441
White Non-Hispanic	34%	45,130
UnKnown/Unable to Determine	5%	6,612
Two or More Races Non-Hispanic	2%	2,197

**NOTE:** Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could receive more than one race designation.

How old were the waiting children when they were removed from their parents or caretakers?

Mean Yrs	4.5	
Median Yrs	3.7	

How old were the waiting children on September 30, 2000?

Mean Yrs	8.1
Median Yrs	8.0

less than 1	27%	35,322
1-5	40%	51,874
6-10	26%	33,957
11-15	7%	9,584
16-18	0%	263

less than 1	3%	3,932
1-5	33%	43,697
6-10	34%	44,868
11-15	26%	33,572
16-18	4%	4,930

### Children waiting to be adopted on September 30,2000 (continued)

How many months have the waiting children been in continuous foster care?			Where were the waiting children living on September 30, 2000?		
Mean Months	44		Pre-Adoptive Home	14%	18,239
Median Months	35		Foster Family Home (Relative)	19%	24,966
			Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	58%	75,613
less than 1 month	1%	717	Group Home	3%	3,906
1 through 5 months	4%	4,779	Institution	6%	7,280
6 through 11 months	7%	9,253	Supervised Independent Living	0%	92
12 through 17 months	10%	12,691	Runaway	0%	483
18 through 23 months	10%	13,466	Trial Home Visit	0%	422
24 through 29 months	11%	13,949			
30 through 35 months	9%	12,053			
36 through 59 months	25%	32,966			
60 or more months	24%	31,126			

### How many children in foster care had their parental rights terminated for all living parents? 75,000

As of September 30, 2000, how many months had elapsed since the parental rights of these foster children were terminated?

Mean Months	22
Median Months	14

### How many children were adopted from the public foster care system in FY 2000? 51,000

**SOURCE:** Adoptions can be reported to the AFCARS adoption database at any time after the adoption has been finalized. TAR 7 includes adoptions finalized in FY 2000 reported in regular and revised submissions by June 19, 2002.

**NOTES:** The number of jurisdictions reporting useable data was 52, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The previous estimate of 50,000 adoptions for FY 2000 which has been reported in other materials from the Children's Bureau was based on data reported in regular and revised data submissions received by May 15, 2001. The number of adoptions reported here do not equal the number of adoption discharges reported under foster care exits because the adoptions reported here include adoptions of some children who were not in foster care but received other support from the public agency. In addition, states have historically under reported adoption discharges. In contrast, states tend to more accurately report the adoptions to the AFCARS adoption database because those are the adoptions used to calculate adoption incentive awards. Missing data are not used in the calculation of percentages. Some percentages do not add up to 100% and/or the estimated numbers do not add up to the total number in the category due to rounding.

## Children adopted in FY 2000 (continued)

What is the gender distribution of the children adopted from the public foster care system?

Male	50%	25,460
Female	50%	25,540

What is the racial/ethnic distribution of the children adopted from the public foster care system?

AI/AN Non-Hispanic	1%	643
Asian/PI Non-Hispanic	1%	89
Black Non-Hispanic	39%	9,659
Hispanic	14%	,234
White Non-Hispanic	38%	9,562
UnKnown/Unable to Determine	5%	2,463
Two or More Races Non-Hispanic	2%	951

**NOTE:** Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could receive more than one race designation

How old were the children when they were adopted from the public foster care system?

Mean Yrs	6.9
Median Yrs	6.3

How many months did it take after termination of parental rights for the children to be adopted?

Mean Months	16
Median Months	12

under 1	2%	929
1-5	45%	23,149
6-10	35%	17,835
11-15	16%	7,954
16-18	2%	1,087
19+	0%	43

<1 mos	4%	1,903
1-5 mos	18%	8,994
6-11 mos	29%	14,617
12-17 mos	20%	10,449
18-23 mos	12%	6,224
24-29 mos	6%	3,185
30-35 mos	4%	1,960
3-4 yrs	5%	2,661
5+ yrs	2%	1,009

What proportion of the children adopted are receiving an adoption subsidy?

Yes	88%	44,986
No	12%	6,014

What was the relationship of the adoptive parents to the child prior to the adoption?

non-relative	18%	9,326
foster parent	61%	30,969
step-parent	0%	94
other relative	21%	10,612

**NOTE:** Relatives who were also foster parents were counted as relatives.

Adoptive Family Structure

Married Couple	66%	33,440
Unmarried Couple	1%	451
Single Female	32%	16,083
Single Male	2%	1,026



# Appendix E

GUIDING PRINCIPLES  
FOR DEVELOPING THE  
CHILD WELFARE  
OUTCOMES AND  
MEASURES







## GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES

During the fall of 1998, the Department of Health and Human Services engaged in a consultation process with representatives from State, Tribal, county and municipal child welfare agencies; private nonprofit child and family services agencies; State legislatures; Governors' offices; juvenile and family courts; local child advocacy organizations; and a national public employees union. The purpose of the consultation process was to obtain assistance from the field in developing a national set of child welfare outcomes and measures.

Discussions held during consultation meetings resulted in establishing four principles that served to guide the development of the child welfare outcomes and measures. These principles are the following:

- **The outcome measures should reflect performance that is to a large extent within the control of State child welfare systems.** It is difficult to identify outcomes that can be linked solely to child welfare system operations because of the dependency of child welfare on the functioning of many other systems. The outcomes related to safety, permanency, and well-being are significantly influenced by factors beyond the control of a child welfare agency. For example, the capacity and functioning of juvenile or family court systems, juvenile justice systems, law enforcement systems, mental health services, and substance abuse treatment systems in a State or community significantly affect a child welfare agency's ability to impact outcomes in the areas of safety, permanency, and well-being for the children it serves. In addition, economic conditions or the extent of substance abuse problems in a community can increase the number of children who are unsafe in their own homes or reduce the number of children who can be safely returned to their families once they have been removed from their homes.
- **The outcome measures should be assessed in ways that limit the potential for misinterpretation.** Determining the meaning of changes in State performance is complex. Such changes can be the result of other influencing factors and/or imbalances in the child welfare system. Basically, positive or negative changes must be viewed in relation to other conditions in the State. For example, an increase in the number of child abuse and/or neglect reports could be the result of an economic downturn or an increase in the extent of substance abuse problems in a community. Equally important is for States to focus attention on strengthening all parts of the system to ensure a balanced approach to systems performance. This will result in (1) better decisions for the children and families who come into contact with the child welfare agency and (2) improved performance on the outcome measures overall. Conversely, if a State focuses on improving one part of its system such as reducing the time children spend in foster care, the State may achieve the desired goal but negatively impact some other part of the system, e.g., increase the rate of re-entry of children into foster care.
- **The outcome measures should be used to assess the continuous improvement of each State over time, rather than compare the performance of States with one another.** Comparison across States on their performance on the outcome measures is difficult due to variations in State population demographics, programs, and policies and must be undertaken with great care. State performance is better assessed by tracking a State's own continuous improvement over time. Some useful factors in considering State variations may include the proportion of children in poverty in each State; the State's definition of abuse and/or neglect; the State's standards that prompt the removal of children from their homes and the decision to return them home; the resources available in the community to meet the needs of children and families; the resources allocated by the State to the child welfare system to develop and test innovative strategies to attain desired outcomes; and the internal capacity of the child welfare agency in terms of staffing, caseload size, and other factors.
- **The outcome measures should be based on data that are available through existing data collection systems in order to limit the reporting burden on the States.** There have been great advances at the State and Federal Government levels in collecting, analyzing, and reporting child welfare data, using the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). This is evident by the number of States reporting data in this first annual report. Despite this progress, a significant number of States are in the process of improving their data collection capabilities through the design and implementation of new and improved Statewide Automated Child Welfare Systems (SACWIS). As a result, many State SACWIS systems are still developing and being refined, which means that the national collection and reporting of data to support measuring some or all of the outcomes are not yet available for all States. The Department is confident that State data will continue to improve each year and in subsequent annual reports and is providing assistance to States on

developing and implementing their SACWIS systems, in addition to assistance on improving the quality of their data submissions on the outcome measures.

# Appendix F

## CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEWS





## Shedule of Child and Family Service Reviews for Fiscal Years 2002, 2003 & 2004

Region	State	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
I	New Hampshire		X	
	Rhode Island			X
	Maine		X	
	Connecticut	X		
II	New Jersey			X
	Puerto Rico		X	
III	Maryland			X
	Pennsylvania	X		
	West Virginia	X		
	Virginia		X	
IV	Alabama	X		
	Tennessee	X		
	Mississippi			X
	South Carolina		X	
	Kentucky		X	
V	Illinois		X	
	Michigan	X		
	Ohio	X		
	Wisconsin		X	
VI	Louisiana		X	
	Oklahoma	X		
	Texas	X		
VII	Iowa		X	
	Missouri			X
	Nebraska	X		
VIII	Colorado	X		
	Utah		X	
	Wyoming	X		
	Montana	X		
IX	California	X		
	Nevada			X
	Hawaii		X	
X	Washington			X
	Alaska	X		
	Idaho		X	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>



# Appendix G

## INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL  
STANDARDS FOR  
THE CHILD AND  
FAMILY SERVICES REVIEWS







<h1>ACF</h1> <p>Administration for Children and Families</p>	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Administration on Children, Youth and Families	
	<b>1. Log No:</b> ACYF-CB-IM-01-07	<b>2. Issuance Date:</b> August 16, 2001
	<b>3. Originating Office:</b> Children's Bureau	
	<b>4. Key Words:</b> National Standards, Program Improvement Plans, Child and Family Services (CFS) Reviews	

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

**TO:** State and Territorial Agencies Administering or Supervising the Administration of Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act, ACF Regional Administrators and Hub Directors

**SUBJECT:** Updated National Standards for the Child and Family Service Reviews and Guidance on Program Improvement Plans

**LEGAL AND RELATED REFERENCES:**

Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act, the Social Security Act Amendments of 1994 (Public Law 103-432), 45 CFR 1355.34(a) and (b), 45 CFR 1355.35(a) and (e), 45 CFR 1355.36(d), ACYF-CB-IM-00-11, and ACYF-CB-IM-01-01

**PURPOSE:** The purposes of this information memorandum (IM) are: (1) to provide updated information on the national standards that are used to determine, in part, whether or not States are operating in substantial conformity with State plan requirements, and; (2) to provide guidance for use by States and Regional Offices in negotiating the amount of improvement necessary toward meeting the national standards through an approved program improvement plan (PIP).

**INFORMATION:**

***Background***

In accordance with 45 CFR 1355.34(a) and (b), a State must, in part, meet national standards for certain statewide data indicators and achieve certain outcomes for children and families to be determined in substantial conformity in a child and family services review. In ACYF-CB-IM-

00-11<sup>1</sup> we transmitted national standards for the six statewide data indicators used, in part, to determine if States are operating in substantial conformity with titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act (the Act). We have updated the national standards because of corrected State data that form the basis for the standards and a number of improved procedural measures that we describe below.

In addition, if a State is determined not to be in substantial conformity because the State's data did not meet the national standards, the State is required to develop a PIP (45 CFR 1355.35(a)) that sets forth the amount of progress the State will make toward meeting the national standards for the statewide data indicator(s). In addition to updating the national standards, we are providing guidance for use by States and Regional Offices in determining the amount of improvement that States must make toward meeting the standards through the implementation of a PIP. We note that a PIP is required of States determined not to be in substantial conformity on any of the outcomes and systemic factors examined as a part of the child and family services reviews. A State may be determined not to be in substantial conformity for reasons other than failure to meet the national standards, such as the failure of a sufficient number of cases reviewed onsite to be rated as substantially achieved. This Information Memorandum addresses the extent of improvement that will be required of States through a PIP due to determinations that States are not operating in substantial conformity based in whole or in part on the failure of the State to meet the national standards, and does not address States' failure to achieve substantial conformity due to other reasons.

### ***Updated National Standards***

The updated national standards reflect changes in four areas:

- The use of corrected State data submitted to AFCARS and NCANDS for the time periods used to calculate the standards;
- The application of new rules that disregard skewed data points in calculating the national standards;
- The inclusion of a sampling error associated with each national standard; and
- The rounding of the national standards to one decimal point.

We discuss each of these changes below.

*Corrected State data.* In preparing for the CFS reviews, a number of States examined their data submissions to AFCARS and NCANDS in previous years and re-submitted their data for purposes of the CFS reviews. We encouraged States to analyze their data critically so that the reviews would reflect the most accurate picture available of outcomes for children and families. Therefore, we have incorporated the corrected data into the national standards.

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<sup>1</sup> ACYF-CB-IM-00-11 was later amended by ACYF-CB-IM-01-01 due to a typographical error in describing our methodology for calculating the national standard for the statewide data indicator, "foster care re-entries." We are rescinding both ACYF-CB-IM-00-11 and ACYF-CB-IM-01-01 due to the revisions in the national standards and are placing a background paper on the Children's Bureau website that includes relevant information from the two Information Memoranda noted above.

*New rules for disregarding extreme data points.* When recalculating the national standards, we applied new rules that disregarded extreme data points in individual States' data that were used to calculate the national standards. We excluded State data indicators that were 0% and 100% from the data points used to determine the standards, believing that such extreme values were unlikely to be accurate and would skew the standards in one direction or another.

*Inclusion of sampling error in the standards.* In calculating the new national standards, we included the sampling error associated with each data indicator as part of the actual standard. Even with the use of more accurate data to calculate the national standards, we realize that there is a certain range within which a State's data can be considered to meet the standard statistically. We chose to incorporate the sampling error into the standards because we do not believe it is appropriate to subject a State to a potential penalty if the State is within a statistically acceptable range of the national standard.

*Rounding of the national standards.* When we updated the national standards to incorporate sampling errors, we believed that the full benefits to the States of including the sampling error in the standard would be best applied by rounding the standards using decimal points. We chose to round the standards to only one decimal point because we do not believe it is appropriate to attempt to measure State performance to the degree of precision implied by two decimal places. The exception to this rounding procedure is the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care and has been rounded to two decimal points due to the small number of such incidents reported by States.

***Determining a State's Achievement of the National Standard***

In determining whether or not a State meets the national standard for a particular statewide data indicator, we will compare the State's data used in its CFS review to the updated national standards below. We will round the State's data for individual indicators using the same rationale described above for rounding the national standards, i.e., rounding to one decimal point for each of the six indicators except the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care, which will be rounded to two decimal points. As shown in the chart below, each of the updated national standards works to the advantage of the States in meeting the standards. For States that have already undergone CFS reviews in FY 2001, we will apply the updated national standards retroactively to decisions regarding substantial conformity.

Our methodology for calculating the updated national standards and for determining whether a State's data meet the national standards are indicated in the chart below:

<b>Data Indicator</b>	<b>75<sup>th</sup> Percentile</b>	<b>Sampling Error</b>	<b>Updated National Standard*</b>	<b>Old National Standard (For comparison only)</b>	<b>Method of Determining if State Meets National Standard</b>
Recurrence of maltreatment	5.15%	0.90%	<b>6.1%</b>	5%	A State will be determined to meet the national standard if its data on this indicator are equal to, or less than, the updated national standard.

<b>Data Indicator</b>	<b>75<sup>th</sup> Percentile</b>	<b>Sampling Error</b>	<b>Updated National Standard*</b>	<b>Old National Standard (For comparison only)</b>	<b>Method of Determining if State Meets National Standard</b>
Incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care	0.4247%	0.1439%	<b>0.57%</b>	0.4%	A State will be determined to meet the national standard if its data on this indicator are equal to, or less than, the updated national standard .
Foster care re-entries	7.23%	1.35%	<b>8.6%</b>	6%	A State will be determined to meet the national standard if its data on this indicator are equal to, or less than, the updated national standard.
Stability of foster care placements	88.58%	1.90%	<b>86.7%</b>	89%	A State will be determined to meet the national standard if its data on this indicator are equal to, or greater than, the updated national standard.
Length of time to achieve reunification	78.62%	2.42%	<b>76.2%</b>	78%	A State will be determined to meet the national standard if its data on this indicator are equal to, or greater than, the updated national standard.
Length of time to achieve adoption	34.89%	2.90%	<b>32.0%</b>	36%	A State will be determined to meet the national standard if its data on this indicator are equal to, or greater than, the updated national standard.

\*Rounded as noted above

### ***Determining a State's Improvement with regard to the National Standards***

In situations where a State does not meet a national standard, the regulations require that the PIP, which is jointly developed by the Regional Office and the State, set forth the amount of progress the statewide data will make toward meeting the national standards. (45 CFR 1355.35(a)(1)(i),(iv)). The PIP must also specify a period in which ACF can measure a State's progress in achieving the negotiated improvement (45 CFR 1355.5(e)(1)). We will consider the sampling error for each indicator as a minimum percentage of improvement for a State to make over the course of a PIP. For example, if a State's recurrence of child maltreatment is 10% at the time of the review, at a minimum we would expect the State to improve by at least .90% on this indicator as part of an approved PIP, thus reducing the incidence of recurrent maltreatment to 9.1%, in order to consider that improvement has been made. We believe that using the sampling error as a framework is appropriate because where a State's improvement exceeds the sampling error, we can conclude that a statistically significant improvement has been made.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> In situations where the amount of a State's improvement on an indicator exceeds the sampling error, we can determine that improvement has occurred in a statistical sense, since exceeding the sampling error will indicate a statistically significant difference (improvement) between the State's performance on the period under review and the subsequent evaluation period specified in the PIP.

In addition to the sampling error, the Regional Office may also consider other programmatic factors in negotiating the amount of improvement States are required to make in a PIP. Such programmatic factors may include the extent to which a State's data fall below or exceed the national standard, the factors affecting the State's lack of substantial conformity, the difficulty and time involved in program improvement efforts in achieving overall improvement, whether the area needing improvement is an egregious area affecting child safety, and the amount of performance improvement the State may have already achieved subsequent to generating the original data profiles used in the reviews.

### *Evaluating a State's Improvement in Meeting the National Standards*

To determine the amount of progress a State has made toward meeting the national standard, we will compute the difference between the State's data as indicated in the original data profile and the subsequent period specified in the PIP. For example, if a State fails to meet a national standard based on data from Federal fiscal year 1999, and the PIP includes the negotiated provision that we use data from Federal fiscal year 2003 to gauge the State's progress toward meeting the national standard, we will compute the difference between the data from those two time periods.

If the difference indicates a level of improvement that meets or exceeds the approved amount of improvement specified in the PIP, we will determine that the State has successfully completed that portion of the PIP and the associated penalties will be rescinded (section 1355.36(d)). If the State does not meet or exceed the approved amount of improvement specified in the PIP, the associated penalties will be withheld as specified in 45 CFR 1355.36. States that do not achieve the updated national standard in subsequent reviews will again be determined out of substantial conformity and be required to establish new benchmarks of improvement to be made toward attainment of the national standard, using the same procedures described in this Information Memorandum<sup>3</sup> and subject to the penalty provisions in 45 CFR 1355.36.

INQUIRIES TO:      ACF Regional Offices

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James A. Harrell  
Acting Commissioner  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families

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<sup>3</sup> More information on developing program improvement plans can be found in chapter 7 of the CFS review procedures manual.



# Appendix H

## CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES DATA SOURCES







# Child Welfare Outcomes: Data Sources and Elements

## Context Data

### Data Items

### Data Sources and Elements

#### Section A. Key Context Statistics

TOTAL CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS	U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
CHILD POPULATION IN POVERTY	U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
CHILD POPULATION LIVING IN METROPOLITAN AREAS	U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
CHILD MALTREATMENT VICTIMS	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau

For 1998 and 1999, the data source was NCANDS SDC: Sum of Item 3.2 A, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment or Risk of Maltreatment was Substantiated, and Item 3.2 B, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment was Indicated

For 2000, there are three possible data sources:

(1) NCANDS Child File, 2000: Elements 27, 29, 31, 33, Maltreatment Disposition Level;

(2) NCANDS DCDC, 2000: Element 21, 23, 25, 27, Maltreatment Disposition Level; or

(3) NCANDS SDC, 2000: Sum of Item 3.1A, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment was Substantiated; 3.1B, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment was Indicated; and 3.1C, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment was Given an Alternative Response that Identified Child Victim(s).

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE ON 9/30 (End of FY)	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau
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AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database

CHILDREN ADOPTED	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau
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AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Element 4, State Involvement

#### Section B. Child Maltreatment Data

CHILDREN SUBJECT OF AN INVESTIGATED REPORT ALLEGING CHILD MALTREATMENT	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau
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For 1998 and 1999, the data source was NCANDS SDC: Item 3.2, Children Subject of a CPS Investigation or Assessment by Disposition Pertaining to the Child

For 2000, there were three possible data sources:

(1) NCANDS Child File, 2000: Elements 27, 29, 31, 33, Maltreatment Disposition Level;

(2) NCANDS DCDC, 2000: Elements 21, 23, 25, 27, Maltreatment Disposition Level; or

(3) NCANDS SDC, 2000: Item 3.1, Children Subject of a CPS Investigation or Assessment by Disposition.

CHILD MALTREATMENT VICTIMS

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau

For 1998 and 1999, the data source was NCANDS SDC: Sum of Item 3.2 A, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment or Risk of Maltreatment was Substantiated; and Item 3.2 B, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment was Indicated.

For 2000, there are three possible data sources:

- (1) NCANDS Child File, 2000: Elements 27, 29, 31, 33, Maltreatment Disposition Level;
- (2) NCANDS DCDC, 2000: Element 21, 23, 25, 27, Maltreatment Disposition Level; or
- (3) NCANDS SDC, 2000: Sum of Item 3.1A, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment was Substantiated; 3.1B, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment was Indicated; and 3.1C, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment was Given an Alternative Response that Identified Child Victim(s).

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CHILD FATALITIES

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau

For 1998 and 1999 the data source was NCANDS Summary Data Component: Item 5.1, Child Victims Who Died as a Result of Maltreatment.

For 2000, there are three possible data sources:

- (1) NCANDS Child File, 2000: Element 34, Maltreatment Death;
- (2) NCANDS DCDC, 2000: Element 28, Maltreatment Death; or
- (3) NCANDS SDC, 2000: Item 5.1, Child Victims who Died as a Result of Maltreatment.

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AGE OF CHILD VICTIMS

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau

For 1998 and 1999, the data source was NCANDS SDC: Item 4.2, Child Victims by Age

For 2000, there are three possible data sources:

- (1) NCANDS Child File, 2000: Element 12, Child Age at Report, or a combination of Element 6, Report Date and Element 13, Child Date of Birth;
- (2) NCANDS DCDC, 2000: Element 11, Child Age at Report, or a combination of Element 6, Report Date and Element 12, Child Date of Birth; or
- (3) NCANDS SDC, 2000: Item 4.2, Child Victims By Age.

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RACE/ETHNICITY OF CHILD VICTIMS

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau

For 1998 and 1999, the data source was NCANDS SDC: Item 4.4, Child Victims by Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity; and Item 4.5, Child Victims by Race.

For 2000, there are three possible data sources:

- (1) NCANDS Child File, 2000: Elements 15 through 20, Child Race, and Element 21, Child Ethnicity;
- (2) NCANDS DCDC, 2000: Element 14, Child Race, and Element 15, Child Ethnicity; or
- (3) NCANDS SDC, 2000: Item 4.4, Child Victims by Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity, and Item 4.5, Child Victims by Race.

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MALTREATMENT TYPE OF CHILD VICTIMS

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau

For 1998 and 1999, the data source was NCANDS SDC: Item 4.1, Child Victims by Type of Maltreatment.

For 2000, there are three possible data sources:

- (1) NCANDS Child File, 2000: Elements 26 through 33, Maltreatment Type, Maltreatment Disposition Level;
  - (2) NCANDS DCDC, 2000: Elements 20 through 27, Maltreatment Type, Maltreatment Disposition Level; or
  - (3) NCANDS SDC, 2000: Item 4.1, Child Victims by Type of Maltreatment.
-

### Section C. Children in Foster Care

CHILDREN (for each FY) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IN CARE ON 10/1</li><li>• ENTERED CARE</li><li>• EXITED CARE</li><li>• IN CARE ON 9/30</li><li>• TOTAL SERVED (FY)</li></ul>	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau  AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care
CHILDREN'S MEDIAN LENGTH OF STAY (for each FY) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IN CARE ON 10/1</li><li>• EXITED CARE</li><li>• IN CARE ON 9/30</li></ul>	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau  AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care
AGE OF CHILDREN (for each FY) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IN CARE ON 10/1</li><li>• ENTERED CARE</li><li>• EXITED CARE</li><li>• IN CARE ON 9/30</li></ul>	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau  AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care
RACE/ETHNICITY OF CHILDREN (for each FY) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IN CARE ON 10/1</li><li>• ENTERED CARE</li><li>• EXITED CARE</li><li>• IN CARE ON 9/30</li></ul>	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau  AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 8, Race; and Element 9, Hispanic Origin

### Section D. Children Waiting to be Adopted on 9/30 (End of Fiscal Year)

CHILDREN WAITING TO BE ADOPTED	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau  AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 35, Death of Parent; Element 43, Most Recent Case Plan Goal; Element 47, Date of Mother's Termination of Parental Rights; Element 48, Date of Father's Termination of Parental Rights
CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS' RIGHTS HAVE BEEN TERMINATED	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau  AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 35, Death of Parent; Element 47, Date of Mother's Termination of Parental Rights; Element 48, Date of Father's Termination of Parental Rights
AGE OF WAITING CHILDREN	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau  AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 35, Death of Parent; Element 43, Most Recent Case Plan Goal; Element 47, Date of Mother's Termination of Parental Rights; Element 48, Date of Father's Termination of Parental Rights
RACE/ETHNICITY OF WAITING CHILDREN	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau  AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 8, Race; Element 9, Hispanic Origin; Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 35, Death of Parent; Element 43, Most Recent Case Plan Goal; Element 47, Date of Mother's Termination of Parental Rights; Element 48, Date of Father's Termination of Parental Rights

### Section E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

AGE OF CHILDREN ADOPTED	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau  AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Element 4, State Involvement; Element 5, Child's Date of Birth
RACE/ETHNICITY OF CHILDREN ADOPTED	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau  AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Element 4, State Involvement; Element 7, Race; Element 8, Hispanic Origin

## Child Welfare Outcome Measures

## Data Sources and Elements

### Outcome 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect

#### 1.1 RECURRENCE OF MALTREATMENT

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau

For 1998 and 1999 (unless a State submitted revised data) the data source was NCANDS Detailed Care Data Component: Element 3, Report ID; Element 4, Child ID; Element 6, Report Date; and Element 8, Report Disposition.

For 2000 there were two possible data sources:

(1) NCANDS Child File, 2000: Element 3, Report ID; Element 4, Child ID; Element 6, Report Date; and Elements 27, 29, 31, and 33, Maltreatment Disposition Level; or

(2) NCANDS DCDC, 2000: Element 3, Report ID; Element 4, Child ID; Element 6, Report Date; and Elements 21, 23, 25, and 27, Maltreatment Disposition Level.

### Outcome 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care

#### 2.1 MALTREATMENT IN FOSTER CARE

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau

AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database, Element 21, Date of Latest Removal, and Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care

For 1998 and 1999 the data source was NCANDS DCDC: Element 3, Report ID; Element 4, Child ID; Elements 80, 93, and 106, Perpetrator Relationship.

For 2000 there were two possible data sources:

(1) NCANDS Child File 2000: Element 3, Report ID; Element 4, Child ID; and Elements 89, 108, and 127, Perpetrator Relationship; or

(2) NCANDS DCDC 2000: Element 3, Report ID; Element 4, Child ID, Elements 80, 93, and 106, Perpetrator Relationship.

### Outcome 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care

#### 3.1 EXITS FROM FOSTER CARE

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau

AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care; Element 58, Reasons for Discharge

#### 3.2 EXITS OF DISABLED CHILDREN

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau

AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 10, Child Diagnosed with Disabilities; Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care; Element 58, Reasons for Discharge

#### 3.3 EXITS OF CHILDREN AGE 12 OR OLDER AT ENTRY

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau

AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 58, Reasons for Discharge

#### 3.4 EXITS TO EMANCIPATION

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau

AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 58, Reasons for Discharge

#### 3.5 EXITS BY RACE/ETHNICITY

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau

AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 8, Race; Element 9, Hispanic Origin; Element 58, Reasons for Discharge

### Outcome 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry

#### 4.1 TIME TO REUNIFICATION

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau

AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care; Element 58, Reasons for Discharge

4.2 CHILDREN WHO ENTERED FOSTER CARE DURING FISCAL YEAR U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau  
AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 19, Total Number of Removals; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care

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**Outcome 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption**

5.1 TIME TO ADOPTION U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau  
AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care; Element 58, Reasons for Discharge

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**Outcome 6. Increase Placement Stability**

6.1 NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS BY TIME IN CARE U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau  
AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 24, Number of Previous Settings in Episode; Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care

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**Outcome 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions**

7.1 PLACEMENT SETTINGS OF CHILDREN AGE 12 OR YOUNGER WHO ENTERED CARE DURING FY U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau  
AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 23, Placement Date in Current Setting; Element 41, Current Placement Setting

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# Appendix I

CHILDREN'S BUREAU  
TRAINING AND  
TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE NETWORK







# Children's Bureau Training and Technical Assistance Network

## National Resource Centers, Clearinghouses, and Technical Assistance Support Systems March 2002

The Children's Bureau, in the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, provides an array of training and technical assistance (T/TA) support resources through grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements. Currently, the Bureau operates ten National Resource Centers (NRCs), two Clearinghouses, and four technical support projects.

### National Resource Centers

The overarching goal of the eight NRCs described below is to help States, Tribes, and public child welfare agencies implement Federal legislation intended to ensure the safety, well-being, and permanent placement of children who enter the child welfare system. These Centers conduct needs assessments, provide on-site technical assistance, identify and disseminate best practices, and coordinate and collaborate with other national resource centers and agencies.

**Program:** National Child Welfare Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice  
**Organization:** Learning Systems Group  
**Address:** 1150 Connecticut Ave., NW  
Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20036  
**Phone:** (202) 638-7922  
**Fax:** (202) 628-3812  
**E-Mail:** [info@cwresource.org](mailto:info@cwresource.org)  
**URL:** <http://www.cwresource.org>  
**Contact:** Elena Cohen, Director

The Center works with state and tribal child welfare staff to translate the tenets of the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) into family-centered practices that support the safety, permanency, and well-being of children while meeting the needs of families. The Center provides training and technical assistance that meets the unique needs of each state to institutionalize a safety-focused, family-centered, and community-based approach as the cornerstone of service delivery. This improves both practice and the organizational environment needed to achieve positive system outcomes. For example, the Center helps states develop family preservation and family support approaches; family conferencing and family decision making models; and family-centered practice supervision. The Center also provides training and technical assistance around developing resources and services, involving community stakeholders, and building and sustaining community collaboratives for child protection.

**Program:** National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement  
**Organization:** Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service  
University of Southern Maine  
**Address:** PO Box 15010  
400 Congress Street  
Portland, ME 04112  
**Phone:** (800) HELP KID; (207) 780-5813  
**Fax:** (207) 780-5817  
**E-Mail:** [clearing@usm.maine.edu](mailto:clearing@usm.maine.edu)  
**URL:** <http://www.muskie.usm.maine.edu/helpkids>  
**Contact:** Kris Sahonchik, Executive Director

The Center strengthens and supports State and Tribal agencies committed to the welfare of children, youth, and families through training, technical assistance, and evaluation. The aim is to improve management and operations, bolster organizational capacity and promote service integration, resulting in improved outcomes for children and families. The Center can help States and Tribes develop the following: targeted outcomes for children and families; quality assurance systems to monitor agency performance; collaborative strategies among agencies, especially in the areas of domestic violence and substance abuse services, court and legal systems, and community programs. Resource Center services include phone consultation, technical assistance, training, a yearly teleconference training program, Managing Care newsletter, and a clearinghouse of print, video and audio materials.

**Program:** National Child Welfare Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues  
**Organization:** ABA Center on Children and the Law  
**Address:** 740 15th St., NW  
Washington, DC 20005-1019  
**Phone:** (800) 285-2221  
**Fax:** (202) 662-1755  
**E-Mail:** mark.hardin@staff.abanet.org  
**URL:** <http://www.abanet.org/child/rcjji>  
**Contact:** Mark Hardin, Director  
Mimi Laver for TA requests  
(202) 662-1736

The Center provides expertise to State and Tribal agencies and courts on legal and judicial aspects of child welfare, including court improvement, agency and court collaboration, timely decisions on termination of parental rights, non-adversarial case resolution, reasonable efforts requirements, legal representation of children, parents and child welfare agencies, permanent guardianship, confidentiality, legal ethics for child welfare attorneys, action planning for courts and agency representatives, the interplay of domestic violence and child welfare and other emerging child welfare issues related to requirements of the Adoption and Safe Families Act, the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act of 1994, as amended, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, and the Indian Child Welfare Act. In addition, the Center works with State agencies and courts to integrate courts into the CFSR process.

**Program:** National Resource Center for Foster Care and Permanency Planning  
**Organization:** Hunter College School of Social Work  
**Address:** 129 E. 79th St.  
8th Floor  
New York, NY 10021  
**Phone:** (212) 452-7431  
**Fax:** (212) 452-7051  
**E-Mail:** mrengmal@aol.com  
**URL:** <http://guthrie.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcp>  
**Contact:** Gerald P. Mallon, Center Director

The Center focuses on increasing the capacity and resources of State, Tribal, and other publicly supported child welfare agencies to achieve permanency for youth and children in out-of-home care. In particular, this center helps States and Tribes respond to policy and systemic changes in child welfare brought about by implementation of the Federal Adoption and Safe Families Act, the Safe and Stable

Families Act, the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Act, the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act, and the Indian Child Welfare Act. These changes encompass such issues as concurrent permanency planning, recruitment and retention of resource families, post-permanency services, insuring appropriate child assessments and placement stability, family group conferencing, kinship care, and health and mental health care issues for children in foster care. The Center is specifically focused on assisting States in response to the Child and Family Services Review process by providing technical assistance, training, and information services in the area of permanency.

**Program:** National Resource Center for Information Technology in Child Welfare  
**Organization:** Child Welfare League of America  
**Address:** 50 F Street, NW  
6th Floor  
Washington, DC 20001-2085  
**Phone:** (877) 672-4829 (toll free)  
(202) 662-4285  
**Fax:** (202) 737-3687  
**E-Mail:** NRCITCW@cwla.org  
**URL:** <http://www.nrcitcw.org>  
**Contact:** Tom Hay, Project Manager  
Don Perry, Director

The Center helps State, local, and Tribal child welfare agencies, and family and juvenile courts use automated information systems to improve outcomes in the child welfare system. The Center provides technical assistance in the collection of data (as required by Federal law) for the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), and disseminates information on best practices related to Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information Systems (SACWIS). The Center also helps its clients use data to improve services to children, youth, and families; evaluate results; and make informed decisions about policies, programs, and practices.

**Program:** National Resource Center for Special Needs Adoption  
**Organization:** Spaulding for Children  
**Address:** Crossroad Office Center  
16250 Northland Dr.  
Suite 120  
Southfield, MI 48075  
**Phone:** (248) 443-7080  
**Fax:** (248) 443-7099  
**E-Mail:** sfc@Spaulding.org  
**URL:** <http://www.spaulding.org/adoption/NRC-adoption.html>  
**Contact:** Drenda Lakin, Director

The Center works with States, Tribes, and agencies to increase the number of children with special needs who are adopted and to improve the effectiveness and quality of adoption and post-adoption services provided to them and their families. The Center has various materials that may be of assistance to States and Tribes.

**Program:** National Resource Center for Youth Services  
**Organization:** University of Oklahoma  
**Address:** College of Continuing Education  
4502 E. 41st St., Bldg 4 W  
Tulsa, OK 74135  
**Phone:** (918) 660-3700  
**Fax:** (918) 660-3737  
**E-Mail:** Pcorreia@ou.edu  
**URL:** <http://www.nrcys.ou.edu/nrcyd.htm>  
**Contact:** Peter R. Correia III, Director

The Center provides consultation, training, and technical assistance to State, Tribal, and other publicly supported child welfare agencies to increase their capacity for: provision of culturally competent, competency-based services; preparation for the statewide assessment portion of the CFSR initiative; development and implementation of a program improvement plan based on the State's CFSR; incorporation of youth development/involvement approaches into all areas of programs and services; implementation of the Foster Care Independence Act and Adoption and Safe Families Act legislation; development of policies and practices that effectively incorporate such legislation; and provision of training on permanency planning for adolescents.

**Program:** National Resource Center on Child Maltreatment  
**Organization:** Child Welfare Institute  
**Address:** 3950 Shackleford Road, Suite 175  
Duluth, GA 30096  
**Phone:** (770) 935-8484 ext. 206  
**Fax:** (770) 935-0344  
**E-Mail:** NRCCM@gocwi.org  
**URL:** <http://www.gocwi.org/nrccm>  
**Contact:** Barry Salovitz

The Center provides expert consultation, technical assistance, training, and knowledge assimilation and development activities in the area of Child Protective Services (CPS). The goal of the Center is to assist states, tribes and local CPS agencies build their capacity to effectively reduce child abuse and neglect and improve their assessment and response to maltreated children and their families. The Center's objectives are to identify, develop and promote the application of effective practice strategies and models; to identify and facilitate essential connections that promote a coordinated response to child maltreatment; and to bolster the capabilities of managers, supervisors, and caseworkers. Jointly operated by the Child Welfare Institute and ACTION for Child Protection, the Center plays a central role in building capacity as needs are identified via the Child and Family Services Reviews, implementation of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act and the Adoption and Safe Families Act.

*The following two NRCs were established to support statutorily mandated programs and provide services primarily to grantees.*

**Program:** National Abandoned Infants Assistance Resource Center  
**Organization:** University of California at Berkeley  
**Address:** School of Social Welfare  
1950 Addison St.  
Suite 104  
Berkeley, CA 94704-1182  
**Phone:** (510) 643-8390  
**Fax:** (510) 643-7019  
**E-Mail:** aia@uclink4.berkeley.edu  
**URL:** <http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~aiarc>  
**Contact:** Jeanne Pietrzak, Director

The Center provides training, technical assistance, research and information to professionals to enhance the quality of social and health services offered to families and their

children who are abandoned or at risk of abandonment due to perinatal substance abuse and/or HIV. The Center generates and disseminates training and information on a wide range of child welfare and HIV and drug issues, particularly as they relate to the safety, well-being, and permanence of children.

**Program:** National Resource Center for Community-Based Family Resource and Support Programs (FRIENDS)

**Organization:** Chapel-Hill Training Outreach Project, Inc.

**Address:** 800 Eastowne Dr.  
Suite 105  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

**Phone:** (919) 933-7716

**Fax:** (919) 968-8879

**E-Mail:** [jldenniston@intrex.net](mailto:jldenniston@intrex.net)

**URL:** <http://www.friendsnrc.org>

**Contact:** Jack Denniston, Program Manager

FRIENDS provides training and technical assistance to State lead agencies implementing the Community-Based Family Resource and Support (CBFRS) program in the following key areas: outcome evaluation and peer review, parent leadership, family resource and support programs and services, services to diverse populations, establishment of respite care programs, prevention networks, and creation of funding strategies. Requests for FRIENDS services are initiated by CBFRS State lead agencies.

## National Clearinghouses

The Children's Bureau operates two related clearinghouses to meet the cross-disciplinary needs of professionals working in child abuse and neglect, child welfare, and adoption. The clearinghouses serve as central gateways to government and other resources related to these fields. Both clearinghouses maintain extensive document collections and provide information and referrals, technical assistance, and other products and services.

**Program:** National Adoption Information Clearinghouse

**Organization:** Caliber Associates, Inc.

**Address:** 330 C Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20447

**Phone:** (888) 251-0075

**Fax:** (703) 385-3206

**E-Mail:** [naic@calib.com](mailto:naic@calib.com)

**URL:** <http://www.calib.com/naic>

**Contact:** Mary Sullivan, Project Director

The National Adoption Information Clearinghouse offers easily accessible information on all aspects of infant and intercountry adoption and the adoption of special needs children. The Clearinghouse develops and maintains a computerized database of books, journal articles, and other materials on adoption and related topics; conducts database searches; publishes materials on adoption; and gives referrals to related services and experts in the field. The Clearinghouse also maintains a database of experts knowledgeable in various areas of adoption practice. The Clearinghouse's primary audiences are adoption professionals, adoptive families, adoptees, and birth relatives.

**Program:**        **National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information**

**Organization:** Caliber Associates, Inc.  
**Address:** 330 C St., SW  
Washington, DC 20447  
**Phone:** (800) 394-3366  
**Fax:** (703) 385-3206  
**E-Mail:** nccanch@calib.com  
**URL:** <http://www.calib.com/nccanch>  
**Contact:** Candy Hughes, Project Director

The National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information was first established in 1974 by the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to collect, organize, and disseminate information on all aspects of child maltreatment to build the capacity of professionals in the field. The Clearinghouse collects and shares relevant materials on child maltreatment and child welfare, including prevention and family support programs. The Clearinghouse provides tailored services and information to meet the specific needs of users. It offers numerous materials and resources in print and online.

## Technical Assistance Support Systems

The Children's Bureau has funded four technical assistance support projects to further enhance specific research and program areas.

**Program:**        **National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect**

**Organization:** Cornell University  
**Address:** Family Life Development Center  
MVR Hall  
Ithaca, NY 14853-4401  
**Phone:** (607) 255-7799  
**Fax:** (607) 255-8562  
**E-Mail:** NDACAN@cornell.edu  
**URL:** <http://www.ndacan.cornell.edu>  
**Contact:** Elliott Smith, Project Manager  
(607) 255-8104

The National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect facilitates secondary analysis of research data relevant to the study of child abuse and neglect. The Archive maintains numerous databases including the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS).

**Program:**        **Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC)**

**Organization:** Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children  
American Public Human Services Association  
810 First St., NE  
Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20002-4267  
**Phone:** (202) 682-0100  
**Fax:** (202) 289-6555  
**E-Mail:** icpcinbox@aphsa.org  
**URL:** <http://icpc.aphsa.org>  
**Contact:** Dennis Eshman, Secretariat for AAICPC Manager, ICPC

The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) is a uniform State law that establishes a contract among party States to ensure that children placed across State lines receive adequate protection and services. The primary function of the ICPC is to protect the interests of children and of States by requiring that certain procedures are followed in making and maintaining the interstate placement of children going into adoption, residential care or foster family homes, or being placed with relatives.

**Program:** Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA)  
**Organization:** Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance  
American Public Human Services Association  
**Address:** 810 First St., NE  
Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20002  
**Phone:** (202) 682-0100  
**Fax:** (202) 289-6555  
**E-Mail:** loppenheim@aphsa.org  
**URL:** <http://aaicama.aphsa.org/>  
**Contact:** Liz Oppenheim, Program Director

The Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance facilitates the administration of, and advocates State participation in, the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA). ICAMA is the legal mechanism by which member States regulate and coordinate the interstate delivery of services to children with special needs adopted pursuant to adoption assistance agreements. The Association provides technical and legal assistance, education and training, and materials on practice and policy issues.

**Program:** Technical Assistance and Training Coordinating Contract  
**Organization:** Gallup Organization  
Government Division  
**Address:** 901 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
**Phone:** (202) 715-3030/ (402) 486-6504  
**Fax:** (202) 715-3042/ (402) 486-6300  
**E-Mail:** helen\_raikes@gallup.com  
**Contact:** Helen Raikes

This technical assistance and training contract was established to work with the National Resource Centers and to coordinate T/TA for Federal Central and Regional Office staff.

# Appendix J

## NUMBER OF STATES REPORTING FOR 2000







**A. Key Context Statistics**

**B. Child Maltreatment Data**

State	A. Key Context Statistics				B. Child Maltreatment Data					
	Population	Race	Poverty	Metro Area	Investigated Reports	Maltreatment Victims	Fatalities	Age	Race	Maltreatment Type
Alabama	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Alaska	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Arizona	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Arkansas	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
California	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Colorado	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Connecticut	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Delaware	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
District Of Columbia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Florida	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Georgia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hawaii	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Idaho	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Illinois	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Indiana	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Iowa	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kansas	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kentucky	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Louisiana	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Maine	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Maryland	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Massachusetts	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Michigan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Minnesota	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mississippi	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Missouri	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Montana	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nebraska	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nevada	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
New Hampshire	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
New Jersey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
New Mexico	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
New York	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
North Carolina	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
North Dakota	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ohio	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Oklahoma	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Oregon	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pennsylvania	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Puerto Rico	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rhode Island	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
South Carolina	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
South Dakota	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tennessee	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Texas	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Utah	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vermont	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Virginia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Washington	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
West Virginia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wisconsin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wyoming	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>49</b>

State	C. Children In Foster Care		D. Waiting Children		E. Children Adopted		
	Age	Race	TPR	Age	Race	Age	Race
Alabama	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Alaska	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Arizona	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Arkansas	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
California	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Colorado	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Connecticut	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Delaware	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
District Of Columbia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Florida	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Georgia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hawaii	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Idaho	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Illinois	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Indiana	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Iowa	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kansas	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kentucky	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Louisiana	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Maine	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Maryland	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Massachusetts	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Michigan	X		X	X		X	X
Minnesota	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mississippi	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Missouri	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Montana	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nebraska	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nevada	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
New Hampshire	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
New Jersey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
New Mexico	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
New York	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
North Carolina	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
North Dakota	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ohio	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Oklahoma	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Oregon	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pennsylvania	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Puerto Rico						X	X
Rhode Island	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
South Carolina	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
South Dakota	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tennessee	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Texas	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Utah	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vermont	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Virginia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Washington	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
West Virginia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wisconsin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wyoming	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>

**Outcome Measures**

State	1.1	2.1	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	4.1	4.2	5.1	6.1	7.1
Alabama			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Alaska			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Arizona	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Arkansas	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
California	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Colorado			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Connecticut	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Delaware	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
District Of Columbia			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Florida	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Georgia			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hawaii	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Idaho			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Illinois	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Indiana	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Iowa	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kansas	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kentucky	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Louisiana	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Maine	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Maryland			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Massachusetts	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Michigan	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Minnesota	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mississippi			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Missouri	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Montana	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nebraska	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nevada			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
New Hampshire	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
New Jersey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
New Mexico	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
New York	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
North Carolina	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
North Dakota			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ohio			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Oklahoma	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Oregon			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pennsylvania	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Puerto Rico												
Rhode Island	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
South Carolina			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
South Dakota			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tennessee			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Texas	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Utah	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vermont	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Virginia			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Washington	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
West Virginia	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wisconsin			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wyoming	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>



# Appendix K

## CLARIFICATION NOTES





## CLARIFICATION NOTES

This appendix provides additional clarification of selected data items in this report. The following items are discussed: Child Maltreatment Victims; Child Fatalities; Race/Ethnicity; Foster Care Counts, Median Length of Stay of Children in Foster Care; Children Waiting to be Adopted; Children Adopted; Recurrence of Maltreatment; Group Homes and Institutions; and Child Welfare and the Juvenile Justice Population.

### Child Maltreatment Victims

In the NCANDS, a victim is defined as a child who has been found by the child protective services agency to have been the subject of a substantiated or indicated report of maltreatment. If a child is the subject of more than one substantiated or indicated report, he or she may be counted more than once as a victim.

A “substantiated report” is one in which the allegation of maltreatment or risk of maltreatment was supported or founded according to State law or State policy. An “indicated report” is one in which there was reason to suspect maltreatment, but maltreatment was unable to be founded under State law or State policy.

The majority of States report to NCANDS using only the category of “substantiated.” Those States that use both categories, “substantiated” and “indicated,” may have higher rates of child maltreatment victims than those States that use only one category. The counts of victims are based on both substantiated and indicated findings in the following States: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Montana, South Dakota, and Washington. (See *Child Maltreatment 1999* on the Internet at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb> for additional information.)

### Child Fatalities

The numbers of child fatalities reported by State child welfare agencies are based on information that is available to the State child protective services agency. These numbers are influenced by the specific State and local policies and protocols for investigating child deaths, including suspicious deaths, such as deaths due to drowning or car accidents, which could be either accidental or due to neglect.

Investigations of child deaths are conducted by local law enforcement agencies, coroner’s offices, fatality review boards, and courts. The State statistics on child fatalities due to maltreatment may undercount the actual number of such deaths if the results of these investigations are not provided to the State agency or if suspicious child deaths are not fully investigated.

### Race/Ethnicity

Because the NCANDS Summary Data Component collects aggregate data, it has not always been possible to eliminate the duplicated counting of child victims as being of Hispanic ethnicity and of a certain race. Therefore, the total shown for the race/ethnicity of child victims in Context Data: Section B is greater than 100 percent for some States, indicating that Hispanic children are counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race. Case-level data from the AFCARS are used in reporting the race and ethnicity of children in foster care and who are adopted. A child’s race/ethnicity is counted as Hispanic if his/her Hispanic Origin is indicated to be “Yes,” regardless of race, including those children whose race has been identified in AFCARS as “Unable to Determine” or for whom the race data are missing. A child is identified by his/her reported race, if “Hispanic Origin” has been coded as “No” or “Unable to Determine,” or the Hispanic Origin data are missing. A child’s race/ethnicity is identified as “Unknown,” in the following instances: (1) if a child’s race is indicated as “Unable to Determine” and Hispanic Origin is “No” or missing, (2) if a child’s race is missing and Hispanic Origin is “No” or “Unable to Determine”, or (3) if data on both race and Hispanic Origin are missing. In legacy child welfare information systems, data may not be collected for each child on both Hispanic ethnicity and race and therefore the number of children reported as being of Hispanic ethnicity may be an undercount.

This year’s report reflects changes in the year 2000 decennial Census race question. The Context A race/ethnicity table utilizing Census data includes two new categories: (1) two or more races, and (2) other. AFCARS and NCANDS have also added a “two or more races” category and as a result, tables throughout the report include information on the number of children of two or more races. NCANDS data on “two or more races” of child victims of maltreatment are presented beginning with the year 2000 since



comparable data for previous years are not available. In contrast, data contained in the race tables in Sections Context C, Context D, Context E, and Outcome 3.5 for “two or more races” may have been provided for 1998 and 1999 because of States’ resubmissions. However, data for 1998 and 1999 may not capture all children of “two or more races” and therefore may not be comparable to 2000 data pertaining to two or more races.

### **Foster Care Counts**

In several States there are many more children in foster care on the last day of one fiscal year than on the first day of the next fiscal year. The difference may result from the State’s extraction process. AFCARS uses a computer-generated transaction date (Foster Care #57) for Date of Discharge (Foster Care #56) that occurs within the six-month report period. As a result, even if a child was discharged in Fiscal Year (FY) 1999, the State will report that child’s record with the discharge date in the first 2000 AFCARS report, because the transaction date indicates that the discharge date was not entered into the system until after the FY 1999 period ended.

Unless the State’s AFCARS extraction process uses transaction dates, a child discharged from foster care late in one six-month period may never be reported to AFCARS as discharged from care. When the State’s AFCARS extraction process uses the computer-generated transaction date of all records with a discharge date, then the State’s next AFCARS report will correctly report children discharged in earlier periods, even though these discharges were not entered into the system and reported before. It is important to note that there will always be a slight undercount of the number of children in care on the first day of the report year, because of the way the annual file is constructed from the six-month AFCARS submissions.

In addition, some children who are reported in AFCARS as discharged to reunification may still be under the placement, care or supervision of the State child welfare agency. If a child is in his or her own home on a trial visit basis for more than 6 months, and no extended time period has been specified for the trial home visit by the court or the agency, then the agency is to enter the date the child has been in his or her own home for 6 months as the discharge date.

### **Median Length of Stay of Children in Foster Care**

The median is the score of the middle case, when the scores for all cases are arranged in order. For example, if data on 125 children are ordered from the shortest length of stay to the longest length of stay, the length of stay of the 63rd child (the child in the middle of the distribution) is the median length of stay.

### **Children Waiting to be Adopted**

The term “waiting children” is defined for analytical purposes as those children who have a case plan of adoption regardless of whether parents’ rights have been terminated, and those children under 16 years of age whose parents’ rights have been terminated, even if their case goal is “independent living” rather than adoption.

### **Children Adopted**

Adoption is defined as the establishment of a legal relationship of parent and child between persons who are not so related by birth, with the same mutual rights and obligations that exist between children and their birth parents. The completion of the legal process marks the achievement of adoption. Because adoptions finalized in any fiscal year can be reported to AFCARS without penalties in any subsequent year, the data in this report may reflect some degree of undercount of the total number of children who were adopted during FYs 1998 and 1999.

The data submitted to AFCARS on adoption of children may include children who were adopted without the involvement of the State child welfare system. However, only children who have been designated to have had “state agency involvement” are reported as adopted children in the Context Data, Section E. Adoptions taking place with “state agency involvement” include adoptions of (1) children who were placed for adoption by the child welfare agency; (2) special needs children for whom non-recurring expenses were reimbursed and who were adopted in the State, whether or not they were in the public foster care system prior to the adoption; and (3) children for whom an adoption assistance payment or service is being provided based on arrangements made by or through the State agency.

For some States, there are inconsistencies between the number of adoptions reported in Context Data, Section E and the numbers reported for outcome measure 5.1 assessing time to adoption. Most of these inconsistencies are due to fewer children being reported as exiting care to adoption on the AFCARS Foster Care Database than are reported as having finalized adoptions on the AFCARS Adoption Database. One possible reason for this disparity is that adoption is not being used consistently as a “discharge reason” on State reports to the AFCARS Foster Care Database. Some States in their comment letters suggested that this might be due to staff concerns about confidentiality when a child is discharged to adoption, or to the State’s use of a “discharge code” that is not AFCARS compliant when an adoptive placement is made and the child is discharged from foster care. Another possible reason for the discrepancy is that this outcome refers only to those children who have been in foster care and have been adopted, while the context data refer to all children who were classified as having been adopted with “State agency involvement.” However, an analysis conducted on these data indicated that private adoptions occurring with “state agency involvement,” account for only a small percentage of the discrepancy.

The numbers of adoptions reported in Context Data: Section E may differ from those associated with the Adoption Incentive Program because adoptions reported for that program are identified through a different AFCARS data element and must qualify in other ways to be counted toward the award of incentive funds.

### **Group Homes and Institutions**

For measure 7.1, which assesses placements of young children in group homes or institutions, the category of “group home” is defined as a licensed or approved home providing 24-hour care for children in a small group setting that generally has 7 to 12 children. (Some States may include settings with fewer than seven children as group homes.) “Institution” is defined as a child care facility operated by a public or private agency and providing 24-hour care and/or treatment for children who require being separated from their own homes and a group living experience. These facilities may include child-care institutions, residential treatment facilities, maternity homes, long term hospital care, and juvenile justice facilities. In some instances, children may live in a group home in a campus setting, classified as an institution. The category of “other settings” includes pre-adoptive homes, relative foster family homes, non-relative foster family homes, supervised independent living, and trial home visits.

Several States indicated in their comments that they use short-term emergency shelter placements for young children when there is concern for their safety. Because these shelters meet the AFCARS definitions for group home or institution based on the number of children that can be cared for in the shelter, the States code their emergency shelter placements as either group homes or institutions in their AFCARS files.

### **Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Population**

Some States include children who are in the State’s juvenile justice system in their child welfare foster care populations. Some of these children were already in foster care when they became involved with the juvenile justice system. Other children became involved with the juvenile justice system and then were placed in an eligible title IV–E reimbursable foster care setting. Both of these groups of children are considered children in foster care for whom the State has placement, care, or supervision responsibility, and therefore are reported on AFCARS. The proportion of juvenile justice system children in individual State foster care populations varies extensively.





