



Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005

Report to Congress



SAFETY



PERMANENCY

WELL-BEING



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Children's Bureau

This report was prepared by the Children's Bureau (ACYF, ACF) of
the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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Executive Summary

CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES 2002–2005: REPORT TO CONGRESS

Child Welfare Outcomes 2002–2005: Report to Congress (Child Welfare Outcomes Report) is the seventh in a series of annual reports from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (the Department).¹ The reports are developed in accordance with section 479A of the Social Security Act (as amended by the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997) and provide information pertaining to State performance on the following national child welfare outcomes:²

- **Outcome 1**—Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect
- **Outcome 2**—Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care
- **Outcome 3**—Increase permanency for children in foster care
- **Outcome 4**—Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing reentry
- **Outcome 5**—Reduce time in foster care to adoption
- **Outcome 6**—Increase placement stability
- **Outcome 7**—Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions

The outcomes reflect widely accepted performance objectives for child welfare practice. They were established by the Department in consultation with State and local child welfare agency administrators, child advocacy organizations, child welfare researchers, State legislators, and other experts in the child welfare field.

The Child Welfare Outcomes Reports are designed to inform Congress, the States, and the public about State performance on key child welfare outcomes and change in performance over time. The underlying goal of the reports is to promote continuous improvement in the outcomes experienced by children served by child welfare systems throughout the Nation.

The first six Child Welfare Outcomes Reports presented data for each State regarding the following: (1) 12 measures that assessed State performance relevant to the seven national child welfare outcomes; and (2) contextual factors to assist in interpretation of State performance on the outcomes. These contextual factors included the number and characteristics of children who were the subject of substantiated child abuse or neglect reports and children who were in the State's foster care system. The current report, *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002–2005*, incorporates data on the 12 original outcome measures and data on 15 additional measures that the Department recently developed to assess State performance during the second round of the Department's Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs), which began in March 2007.³

The current report includes data on the 12 original outcome measures as well as 15 additional measures that the Department recently developed for the second round of the Child and Family Services Reviews.

Although the new measures originally were developed for use during the second round of the CFSRs, the Department determined that information regarding performance on these measures should be included in the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports. The new measures assess critical performance areas relevant to the seven national child welfare outcomes established for the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports, and therefore are consistent with the mission of these reports. Data for all measures and contextual factors come from the Federal Government's Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). The data years reported reflect the Federal fiscal year (October 1 to September 30), unless otherwise noted.

In addition to reporting data on the outcome measures and contextual factors for each State, the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports present findings of analyses conducted across States. These findings pertain to variations across States in performance on the outcome measures, changes in State performance over time, and the relationships between contextual factors and State performance. The Executive Summary provides a synopsis of findings with regard to safety-related outcomes (outcomes 1 and 2), permanency-related outcomes (outcomes 3, 4, and 5), and outcomes addressing placement stability (outcome 6) and placements for young children (outcome 7). The measures relevant to each of these outcomes are described and explained in appendix B.

¹ The unit of the Department that has primary responsibility for this report is the Children's Bureau within the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, in the Administration for Children and Families. All of the years shown in the report and tables represent the Federal fiscal year (October 1–September 30) unless otherwise noted.

² In this report, the designation of "State" includes the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Therefore, the report provides information on 52 States.

³ Key measures are presented in the tables included in the Executive Summary. The measures that the Department recently developed for the CFSRs are preceded by a "C." All measures presented in the data pages of the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports are described in appendix B.

The change in State performance over time was assessed by calculating a percent change in performance.⁴ Using a percent change calculation permits an assessment of the extent of change occurring over time by taking into account the size of the percentages being compared. For example, a change from 6 percent in 2002 to 7 percent in 2005 represents a change of only 1 percentage point; however, it reflects a +16.7 percent change. In contrast, a change from 75 percent to 80 percent represents a change of 5 percentage points, but only a +6.7 percent change. Consistent with the Department’s approach in prior Child Welfare Outcomes Reports, a percent change of 5.0 or greater was used as an indicator that meaningful change occurred. That is, if the percent change in performance from 2002 to 2005 was not at least 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative), a determination was made that there was “no change” in performance.

Safety-Related Outcomes (Outcomes 1 and 2)

A primary objective of State child welfare systems is to ensure that children who have been found to be victims of maltreatment are protected from further abuse or neglect. Two outcomes reflect this objective—outcome 1: reduce the recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect, and outcome 2: reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care.

For the purposes of the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports, a child is considered to be a victim of maltreatment if he or she is the subject of a substantiated or indicated allegation of child abuse or neglect. In 2005, State child maltreatment victim rates ranged across States from 1.6 child victims per 1,000 children in the State’s population to 32.1 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. The median for all States was 10.4 child victims per 1,000 children in the population.⁵ In many States, the representation of African-American, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native children in the victim population is disproportionately high compared to their representation in the State population.

A primary objective of State child welfare systems is to ensure that children who have been found to be victims of maltreatment are protected from further abuse and neglect.

The median performance across States on the measures relevant to outcomes 1 and 2 is presented in table 1 for the years 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005 for measure 1.1, and for the years 2003, 2004, and 2005 for measure 2.1.⁶ For comparison purposes, data are presented only for States that provided data for the measures in all of the relevant years.⁷

Table 1. Median of State performance on measures pertaining to outcome 1: Reduce the recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect, and outcome 2: Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

Outcome Measures	Median Performance by Year			
	2002*	2003	2004	2005
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? (N=42)	7.5%	7.3%	6.8%	6.6%
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 were the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member? (N=41)		0.41	0.37	0.42

*Data for 2002 for measure 1.1 are for a calendar year. NCANDS did not change to a fiscal year basis until 2003.

⁴ Percent change is calculated by subtracting “old” data from “new” data, dividing by old data, and multiplying by 100. For example, if maltreatment recurrence was 9.2 in 2002 and 7.6 in 2005, the percent change would be $[(7.6-9.2)/9.2] \times 100 = -17.4$ percent change.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Data for measure 2.1 begins with 2003 rather than 2002, because a change in the NCANDS reporting period from a calendar year to a fiscal year in 2003 resulted in a change in the specifications of the measure.

⁷ The identifying numbers for each of the measures correspond to the identifying numbers for the measures used in the State Data Pages. These also are used in the description of the measures provided in appendix B.

As shown in table 1, the median of State performance on the measure pertaining to maltreatment recurrence (measure 1.1) improved from 7.5 percent in 2002 to 6.6 percent in 2005 (a 12.0 percent change). In addition, 64 percent of the 42 applicable States (N=27) demonstrated improved performance on this measure from 2002 to 2005, compared to 26 percent of States (N=11) exhibiting a decline in performance.

Of the States submitting data for all 4 years, 64 percent demonstrated an improvement in performance on the measure of maltreatment recurrence.

In 2005, the percentage of children who experienced a recurrence of maltreatment (as assessed by measure 1.1) ranged across States from 1.9 to 13.4, with a median of 6.6 percent (N=49 States).

One possible explanation for this variation in State performance is that performance regarding maltreatment recurrence is related to variation in State victim rates. For example, many States that had a relatively high child victim rate in 2005 also had a relatively high percentage of children who experienced a maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period (Pearson's $r=0.63$).⁸ In addition, the data for both variables may be affected by differences in State statutes, policies, and practices regarding definitions of child maltreatment and evidentiary requirements for substantiation of a child maltreatment allegation. The data also may be affected by the kinds of decisions that are made regarding investigations of maltreatment allegations. For example, whether an allegation is "screened out," and therefore not investigated, or whether an allegation is referred for an alternative response rather than an investigation. Research would be useful to explore these and other possible explanations.

State variation in the percentage of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period also may be affected by the implementation of an "alternative response" approach to maltreatment allegations. In alternative response approaches, child welfare agencies respond to a maltreatment allegation that is considered to involve minimal risk of harm to a child with a referral for a family assessment rather than with a formal investigation to determine the disposition (i.e., the validity of the allegation). In some States, when reports are referred for an alternative response, no formal investigation is conducted and there is no disposition regarding the allegation. In these situations, the children who are the alleged victims are not reported to the NCANDS Child File. Consequently, these children are not counted as victims in NCANDS.⁹

In addition, in some States, the data for the measure of maltreatment recurrence may not reflect the actual incidence of recurrence because maltreatment allegations involving children in open child protective services cases often are not formally investigated but are referred to the existing caseworker and supervisor for follow up. Again, since there is no formal disposition, the child who is the subject of the report often is not reported to the NCANDS Child File.

In State data for 2005, there were correlations between maltreatment recurrence and the types of maltreatment experienced by victims. These were the following:

- Many States with a relatively high percentage of children who were victims of sexual abuse also had a relatively low percentage of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period (Pearson's $r=-0.33$).
- Many States with a relatively high percentage of children who were victims of physical abuse also had a relatively low percentage of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period (Pearson's $r=-0.38$).
- States with a relatively high percentage of children who were victims of neglect also had a relatively high percentage of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period (Pearson's $r=0.35$).

These correlations suggest that child maltreatment recurrence is more likely to involve neglect than either physical or sexual abuse, a finding that is supported by the results of multiple research efforts.¹⁰ The relationships between recurrence and types of maltreatment may be due to the fact that substantiated allegations of sexual or physical abuse often are followed by legal actions against the perpetrators as well as actions designed to ensure that

Child maltreatment recurrence is more likely to involve neglect than either physical or sexual abuse.

⁸ A correlation coefficient describes the extent of the relationship between two variables. It does not describe a causal relationship between the variables. The Child Welfare Outcomes Reports use Guilford's suggested interpretations for correlation coefficients: (1) a correlation of 0.20–0.40 indicates a low correlation; (2) a correlation of 0.40–0.70 indicates a moderate correlation; (3) a correlation of 0.70–0.90 indicates a high correlation; and (4) a correlation of 0.90–1.00 indicates a very high correlation. See Guilford, J. P. (1956). *Fundamental statistics in psychology and education* (3rd ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

⁹ In 2005, there were two States that reported "alternative response victims" to NCANDS and 10 States that reported "alternative response non-victims."

¹⁰ See the following for examples: (1) Drake, B., Jonson-Reid, M., Way, I., & Chung, S. (2003). Substantiation and recidivism. *Child Maltreatment*, 8(4), 248–260; (2) Lipien, L., & Forthofer, M. S. (2004). An event history analysis of recurrent child maltreatment reports in Florida. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 28(9), 947–966; and (3) Fluke, J. D., Shusterman, G. R., Hollinshead, D., & Yuan, Y-Y.T. (2005). *Rereporting and recurrence of child maltreatment: Findings from NCANDS*. Retrieved (2004) from <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/05/child-maltreat-rereporting/index.htm>

the perpetrator is prevented from further unsupervised contact with the victim until identified problems have been resolved. In contrast, substantiated allegations of neglect often are not followed by these actions unless the neglect is considered extremely severe.

With regard to maltreatment of children in foster care (measure 2.1), the data presented in table 1 indicate no noteworthy changes in median performance from 2003 (0.41%) to 2005 (0.42%). In addition, although 46 percent of the States exhibited improvement in performance on this measure, another 46 percent demonstrated a decline in performance.

In general, the data for the two safety-related measures indicate that across all States, fairly small percentages of child victims reported to NCANDS experience another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period, and even smaller percentages of children in foster care are reported to NCANDS as victims of maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member. However, because these events have considerable implications for children’s safety and their immediate and future well-being, even small percentages are to be viewed with concern.

Permanency-Related Outcomes (Outcomes 3, 4, and 5)

Outcome 3—Increase permanency for children in foster care

State child welfare agencies are responsible for ensuring that permanent homes are found for all children in foster care; foster care is intended to be a temporary, not permanent, living arrangement for a child. For the Child Welfare Outcomes Report, a child has achieved permanency when the child is reported to AFCARS as discharged from foster care and the reason for discharge is one of the following:

(1) reunification with parents or primary caretakers, (2) living with other relatives, (3) legally adopted, or (4) living with a legal guardian.¹¹

In 2005, the foster care entry rate across States ranged from 1.8 children entering foster care per 1,000 children in the State’s population to 10.4 children entering foster care per 1,000 children in the State’s population, with a median of 4.7. Also in 2005, in many States the representation of African-American, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native children in the State’s foster care entry population was disproportionately high compared to their representation in the State’s child population.

Foster care is intended to be a temporary, not permanent, living arrangement for a child.

Table 2 provides the medians of State performance on measures pertaining to outcome 3: increase permanency for children in foster care. The data are shown for 2002 through 2005 for some measures and for 2004 and 2005 for other measures.¹² For comparison purposes, data are presented only for States that provided data for the measures in all of the relevant years.

Table 2. Median State performance on measures pertaining to outcome 3: Increase permanency for children in foster care

Outcome Measures	Median Performance by Year			
	2002	2003	2004	2005
Measure 3.1: Of all children who exited foster care during the reporting period, what percentage left to either reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship (i.e., were discharged to a permanent home)? (N=52)	85.7%	86.1%	87.4%	87.8%
Measure 3.2: Of all children who exited foster care and were identified as having a diagnosed disability, what percentage left to either reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship (i.e., were discharged to a permanent home)? (N=49)	79.8	78.6	79.0	79.0
Measure 3.3: Of all children who exited foster care and were older than age 12 at the time of their most recent entry into care, what percentage left to either reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship (i.e., were discharged to a permanent home)? (N=52)	71.7	71.3	72.3	73.1
Measure 3.4: Of all children exiting foster care to emancipation, what percentage were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care? (N=52)	26.7	28.4	28.1	27.6
Measure C3.1: Of all children who were in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year, what percentage were discharged to a permanent home by the last day of the year and prior to their 18th birthday? (N=51)			25.0	26.4
Measure C3.2: Of all children who were discharged from foster care during the fiscal year, and who were legally free for adoption, what percentage were discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18th birthday?*(N=51)			96.8	95.7
Measure C3.3: Of all children who either (1) were discharged from foster care prior to age 18 during the fiscal year with a discharge reason of emancipation, or (2) reached their 18th birthday while in foster care, what percentage were in foster care for 3 years or longer? (N=51)			47.8	48.2

*A child is considered to be “legally free” for adoption if there is a parental rights termination date reported to AFCARS for both mother and father.

¹¹ For the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports and the CFSRs, the discharge reasons of “reunification with parents or primary caretakers” and “living with other relatives” are combined into the category of “reunification.”

¹² The measures that only have data for 2004 and 2005 are those that were developed for the second round of the CFSRs. Data for earlier years are not available for those measures.

As shown in table 2, there was no noteworthy change in median performance across States for most measures relevant to increasing permanency for children in foster care. The one exception to this was the measure assessing permanency for children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). Median performance on this measure improved from 25.0 percent in 2004 to 26.4 percent in 2005 (a 5.6 percent change).

The analysis of change in performance for individual States did not reveal national patterns for most measures pertaining to outcome 3. Across these measures, many States demonstrated improved performance, but many States also demonstrated performance declines. Again, measure C3.1 was an exception. For this measure, 55 percent of the States (N=28) exhibited improvement from 2004 to 2005, while only 20 percent (N=10) demonstrated a performance decline.

The data in table 2 also indicate that, for all years, the majority of children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home (the 2005 median across States=87.8 percent). The remaining 12.2 percent of children exiting foster care did not achieve permanency at the time of discharge. Most of these children leave foster care when they reach the age of legal majority and/or are emancipated.¹³ Consequently, they face the considerable responsibilities of independent living at a young age and usually without the supports that often are provided by a family.

Children emancipating from foster care at age 18 face the considerable responsibilities of independent living at a young age.

For 2005, the median percentages across States with regard to achieving permanency for children with a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2, median=79.0 percent), and for children who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3, median=73.1 percent) were less than the median percent for all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1, median=87.8 percent). This pattern was true for all 4 years shown in the table and suggests that greater efforts are needed to achieve permanency for these children.

Another key finding with regard to achieving permanency for children exiting foster care is that the majority of children in all States who were legally free for adoption at the time of exit from foster care in both 2004 and 2005 were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2, 2005 median=95.7 percent). This finding is critical because, when a State terminates the parental rights of a child's parents, it is important for the State to ensure the child has an alternative legal "parent" before the child leaves foster care. Even small percentages of legally free children not exiting foster care to a permanent home should prompt concern.

Although, across States, most children exiting foster care are discharged to a permanent home, the data presented in table 2 also indicate that many children who eventually achieve permanency or who are emancipated from foster care have been in foster care for long periods of time. For example, measure C3.1 assesses the percentage of children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the year who achieve permanency by the end of the year. Performance on this measure ranged across States from 9.1 percent to 37.7 percent, with a median of only 26.4 percent. This indicates that, in all States, the majority of children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the year were still in foster care on the last day of the year. In addition, in at least one-half of the States, about 50 percent or more of the children who were discharged from foster care to emancipation had been in foster care for at least 3 years (measure C3.3; median=48.2 percent). In at least one-half of the States, about 28 percent or more of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.3, median=27.6 percent). The data for all these measures suggest that, in many States, substantial percentages of children in foster care are spending several years of their childhood without a permanent home.

Substantial percentages of children in foster care are spending many years of their childhood without a permanent home.

Outcome 4—Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing reentry

Most children who enter foster care eventually will be reunified with their parents or other family members. It is important that children be returned to the care of their families as quickly as possible and that, when the children are returned, the family receives adequate services to support the reunification and prevent the recurrence of safety or risk factors. Outcome 4 addresses the importance of achieving reunifications as quickly as possible after the child enters foster care and ensuring the reunifications are "permanent" (i.e., the child does not reenter foster care shortly after being reunified). Table 3 provides the median State performance for key measures relevant to outcome 4.¹⁴

¹³ Other possible discharge reasons are "transfer to another agency" or "death of child."

¹⁴ Calculations for three of these measures (measures C1.1, C1.2, and C1.3) exclude children who were discharged from foster care in less than 8 days from the time of entry into foster care and incorporate, when relevant, what is termed the "trial home visit adjustment." Additional information on these measures and adjustments is provided in appendix B.

Table 3. Median of State performance on measures pertaining to outcome 4: Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing reentry

Outcome Measures	Median Performance by Year* (numbers are expressed as percentages except median months, as noted)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005
Measure 4.1: Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, what percentage were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care? (N= 52)	68.1	71.2	70.0	71.0
Measure C1.1: Of all children who were discharged from foster care to reunification in the fiscal year and who had been in foster care for 8 days or longer, what percentage were reunified in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal from home (including the trial home visit adjustment, if relevant)? (N= 51)			69.9	70.2
Measure C1.2: Of all children who were discharged from foster care to reunification in the fiscal year, and who had been in foster care for 8 days or longer, what was the median length of stay in months from the date of the latest removal from home until the date of discharge to reunification (including the trial home visit adjustment, if relevant)? (N=51)			6.5 mos.	6.9 mos.
Measure C1.3: Of all children who entered foster care for the first time in the 6-month period just prior to the fiscal year, and who remained in foster care for 8 days or longer, what percentage were discharged from foster care to reunification in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal from home (including the trial home visit adjustment, if relevant)? (N=48)			39.3	39.9
Measure C1.4: Of all children who were discharged from foster care to reunification in the 12-month period prior to the target fiscal year, what percentage reentered foster care in less than 12 months from the date of discharge? (N=48)			15.2	14.8

* The last four measures were developed for the second round of the CFSRs; therefore, data for those measures are presented for 2004 and 2005 only.

As shown in table 3, there are no noteworthy changes over time in the median performance across States for the measures relevant to outcome 4 (i.e., for all measures, the calculated percent change was less than 5.0 in either direction). In addition, the analysis of individual States did not reveal national patterns of change in performance over time. Although many States exhibited improved performance on the measures, many other States exhibited performance declines or no change in performance.

Also as shown in table 3, the timeliness of reunification is measured in a variety of ways in order to capture State performance from a range of perspectives. One way timeliness of reunification is measured is by focusing on all children exiting foster care to reunification (an exit cohort analysis) and assessing the length of time that they were in foster care prior to reunification. The measures that assess the timeliness of reunification of children exiting foster care (measures 4.1, C1.1, and C1.2) indicate that, in the majority of States, many children who are discharged to reunification are reunified in a timely manner. In 2005, for example, the majority of reunifications in at least one-half of the States occurred in less than 12 months from the child's entry into foster care (median=71.0 percent for measure 4.1, and 70.2 percent for measure C1.1), and the median length of stay in foster care for children reunified was 6.9 months.

Another way to measure timeliness of reunification is to follow children from the time of entry into foster care over time (e.g., 12 months) to determine the percentage that are reunified within a particular timeframe (entry cohort analysis). A somewhat different picture emerges from the data for this (measure C1.3, median across States=39.9 percent). Performance on this measure in 2005 indicates that, in one-half of the States, fewer than 40 percent of the children entering foster care are discharged to reunification in less than 12 months from the date of entry. Although not all of these children will exit foster care to reunification, many of them eventually will be reunified, and they will have been in foster care for 12 months or longer.

The data for 2005 also suggest that many States experience challenges in ensuring that children who are reunified do not reenter foster care within a 12-month period (measure C1.4, median = 14.8 percent). In five States, 25 percent or more of the children exiting foster care in 2004 reentered in less than 12 months. In addition, many States that, in 2005, had a relatively high percentage of children reunified in less than 12 months, also had a relatively high percentage of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months (Pearson's $r = 0.45$). The relationship between these measures has been a consistent finding reported in the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports and raises the following concerns: (1) children are reunified with their families before all of the problems that resulted in the child's initial entry into foster care were adequately resolved, and/or (2) at the time of reunification, new problems emerged that were not sufficiently addressed during or after the reunification process.

A relationship also was found between performance on the measure of foster care reentry (measure C1.4) and the percentage of children entering foster care who were age 13 or older. Many States with relatively high percentages of foster care reentry also had relatively high percentages of children entering foster care who were age 13 or older (Pearson's $r=0.48$). This finding is important because the challenges that older children and their families present to State child welfare systems with regard to meeting their short- and long-term reunification needs often are different from those presented by younger children and their families.

The challenges that older children present to State child welfare systems can be quite different from those presented by younger children and their families.

Outcome 5—Reduce time in foster care to adoption

Achieving adoptions in a timely manner is an important goal for our Nation’s child welfare systems. The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997 includes statutory requirements relevant to achieving timely adoptions for children in foster care. In 2005, many States that had a high percentage of reunifications occurring in less than 12 months also had a high percentage of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months (Pearson’s $r=0.51$). This relationship suggests that some States are generally effective in achieving permanency for children in a timely manner, regardless of whether it is through reunification or adoption. Table 4 presents the median performance across States for measures pertaining to the timeliness of adoptions.

Table 4. Median of State performance on measures pertaining to outcome 5: Reduce time in foster care to adoption

Outcome Measures	Median Performance by Year* (numbers are expressed as percentages except median months, as noted)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005
Measure 5.1: Of all children who were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during the fiscal year, what percentage were discharged in less than 24 months from the date of the latest removal from home? (N=52)	25.5	23.9	24.9	28.5
Measure C2.2: Of all children who were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during the fiscal year, what was the median length of stay in foster care in months from the date of latest removal from home to the date of discharge to adoption? (N=51)			32.4 mos.	31.5 mos.
Measure C2.3: Of all children in foster care on the first day of the fiscal year who were in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer, what percentage were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the last day of the fiscal year? ** (N=51)			20.2	20.7
Measure C2.4: Of all children in foster care on the first day of the fiscal year who were in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer, and who were not legally free for adoption prior to that day, what percentage became legally free for adoption during the first 6 months of the fiscal year? *** (N=51)			8.9	9.1
Measure C2.5: Of all children who became legally free for adoption during the 12 months prior to the fiscal year, what percentage were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption in less than 12 months from the date of becoming legally free? (N=48)			45.8	44.1

* The last four measures were developed for the second round of the CFSRs; therefore, data for those measures are presented for 2004 and 2005 only.

** The denominator for this measure excludes children who, by the last day of the fiscal year, were discharged from foster care with a discharge reason of reunification with parents or primary caretakers, living with other relatives, or guardianship.

***A child is considered to be “legally free” for adoption if there is a parental rights termination date reported to AFCARS for both mother and father. Also, the denominator for this measure excludes children who, during the first 6 months of the year, were discharged from foster care with a discharge reason of reunification with parents or primary caretakers, living with other relatives, or guardianship.

As shown in table 4, median State performance with respect to adoptions occurring in less than 24 months of the child’s entry into foster care (measure 5.1) improved from 25.5 percent in 2002 to 28.5 percent in 2005 (an 11.8 percent change). An additional key finding is that 63 percent of States (N=33) exhibited improvement in performance on this measure, while only 25 percent of States (N=13) demonstrated a performance decline.

Despite improvements in achieving adoptions in less than 24 months from the time of the child’s entry into foster care (measure 5.1), performance on the other measures pertaining to outcome 5 suggest that achieving timely adoptions remains a challenge for many States. For example, across States in 2005, the median length of stay in foster care prior to adoption (measure C2.2) was 31.5 months; only 25 percent of States had a median length of stay prior to adoption that was less than 30 months. Also in 2005, the medians indicate that, in most States, only small percentages of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year either were adopted by the end of the fiscal year (measure C2.3, median=20.7 percent), or became legally free within the first 6 months of the fiscal year (measure C2.4, median=9.1 percent). These latter measures (measures C2.3 and C2.4) reflect the statutory requirements of ASFA that States pursue adoption as a permanency option for children who have been in foster care for 15 of the most recent 22 months, unless there is a compelling reason why pursuing adoption would not be in the best interests of the child.¹⁵

Despite improvements in adoptions occurring in less than 24 months, achieving adoptions in a timely manner is still a challenge for many States.

¹⁵ ASFA requires State child welfare agencies to file a petition to terminate parental rights and pursue adoption for a child who has been in foster care for 15 of the most recent 22 months, unless the agency documents a compelling reason why such action would not be in the best interests of the child. A 17-month rather than a 15-month time frame was chosen for the measure because, in accordance with ASFA, a child is considered to have “entered foster care” (for purposes of starting the clock for the 15 of 22 months) on the earlier of: (1) the first judicial finding that the child has been subjected to abuse and neglect, or (2) the date that is 60 days after the date on which the child is removed from the home. The 17-month time frame is used in the measure because AFCARS does not collect information pertaining to the date of the first judicial finding.

Placement Settings While in Foster Care (Outcomes 6 and 7)

State child welfare agencies are responsible for ensuring that children who are removed from their homes are placed in settings that are stable and appropriate to the age and needs of the children. The outcomes that relate to these issues are outcome 6: increase placement stability, and outcome 7: reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions. Table 5 presents the findings with regard to median State performance on measures pertaining to these outcomes.¹⁶

Table 5. Median of State performance on measures pertaining to outcome 6: Increase placement stability, and outcome 7: Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions

Outcome Measures	Median Performance by Year			
	2002	2003	2004	2005
Measure 6.1a: Of all children served in foster care during the fiscal year who were in care for less than 12 months, what percentage had no more than two placement settings? (N=52)	84.2%	83.9%	83.5%	83.3%
Measure 6.1b: Of all children served in foster care during the fiscal year who were in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months, what percentage had no more than two placement settings? (N=52)	57.3	58.8	58.5	59.4
Measure 6.1c: Of all children served in foster care during the fiscal year who were in foster care for at least 24 months, what percentage had no more than two placement settings? (N=52)	35.3	33.5	32.1	32.3
Measure 7.1: Of all children who entered foster care during the fiscal year and were age 12 or younger at the time of their most recent placement, what percentage were placed in a group home or institution? (N=52)	8.6	8.1	7.2	7.2

As shown in table 5, States are generally effective in achieving placement stability for children in foster care for less than 12 months (measure 6.1a, 2005 median =83.3 percent). The median of State performance on this measure did not change substantively from 2002 to 2005 (i.e., the percent change was less than 5.0 in either direction), and 77 percent of States (N=40) exhibited no change in performance on this measure from 2002 to 2005. The lack of change in performance on this measure may be attributable in part to the already high percentages of placement stability for children in foster care for less than 12 months in 2002.

The data in table 5 also demonstrate that in 2005, as well as in prior years, placement stability declined dramatically for the measure that focuses on children in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months (measure 6.1b, 2005 median=59.4 percent). It then declined even further for children in foster care for 24 months or longer (measure 6.1c, 2005 median=32.3 percent). In addition, 60 percent (N= 31) of the individual States exhibited a decline in performance on this latter measure (measure 6.1c) from 2002 to 2005.

The longer children are in foster care, the more placement settings they experience.

Child welfare organizations and State agency administrators and staff frequently have suggested that, for some States, poor performance on the measures of placement stability is due to the large number of adolescents in their foster care systems. However, the findings of the data analyses conducted for the Child Welfare Outcomes Report do not support this interpretation. States with relatively high percentages of children age 13 or older either entering foster care in 2005, or in foster care on the last day of the fiscal year, are neither more nor less likely to have low percentages of children experiencing placement stability, regardless of the length of time the children are in foster care. In fact, the correlations among these factors are close to zero.

With regard to placements of young children in group homes or institutions (measure 7.1), the data in table 5 indicate that median State performance changed from 8.6 percent in 2002 to 7.2 percent in 2005 (a 16.3 percent change). In addition, 77 percent of the States (N=40) exhibited improvement in performance on this measure compared to only 15 percent (N=8) exhibiting a performance decline.

SUMMARY

The findings reported in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002–2005: Report to Congress* suggest that, although States are improving in some areas with regard to achieving positive outcomes for children who come into contact with State child welfare systems, many challenges remain. The specific issues associated with these challenges will be identified for individual States through the second round of the Department’s CFSRs. The data presented in the Child Welfare Outcomes Report may serve as a guide to point the way to those areas where States are experiencing the greatest challenges.

¹⁶ For the Child Welfare Outcomes Report, a child is considered to have achieved placement stability if the child experiences two or fewer placement settings during a single foster care episode.

Introduction

Child Welfare Outcomes 2002–2005: Report to Congress (Child Welfare Outcomes Report) is the seventh in a series of annual reports prepared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (the Department) in accordance with section 479A of the Social Security Act.¹⁷ (Appendix A provides the specifications of section 479A.) The reports reflect the Department's responsibility for monitoring State performance in operating child protection and child welfare programs under titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act. The Children's Bureau is the agency within the Department's Administration for Children, Youth and Families that carries out this responsibility and prepares the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports.

In preparation for the first Child Welfare Outcomes Report, the Department consulted with State and local child welfare agency administrators, child advocacy organizations, child welfare researchers, State legislators, and other experts in the child welfare field to identify outcomes and measures reflecting widely accepted performance objectives for child welfare practice. This consultation process resulted in the following national child welfare outcomes:

- **Outcome 1**—Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect
- **Outcome 2**—Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care
- **Outcome 3**—Increase permanency for children in foster care
- **Outcome 4**—Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing reentry
- **Outcome 5**—Reduce time in foster care to adoption
- **Outcome 6**—Increase placement stability
- **Outcome 7**—Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions

The first six Child Welfare Outcomes Reports provided information on 12 measures developed by the Department to assess State performance on these national outcomes. In the current report, information is presented on these 12 measures and also on 15 additional measures. The 15 additional measures were developed in 2006 to be used as part of the assessment of State performance during the second round of the Department's Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs), which began in March 2007.¹⁸ Although the new measures were originally developed for use during the CFSRs, the Department determined that information regarding performance on these measures should be included in the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports. The new measures assess critical performance areas relevant to the seven national child welfare outcomes, and therefore are consistent with the mission of the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports.

This report includes data on the 12 original Child Welfare Outcomes Report measures and 15 new outcome measures developed for the second round of the Department's Child and Family Services Reviews.

The Department was in the process of developing the new measures during 2005 and 2006. Because it was considered important to include these measures in all future Child Welfare Outcomes Reports, a decision was made to delay publication of the 2004 data until the measures were finalized and could be included in the report. Consequently, the 2004 data for the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports were not published in a separate report but instead are included in this report, *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002–2005*. This report incorporates data from 2004 and 2005 on the 15 new measures as well as data from 2002 through 2005 on the 12 original measures.

OUTCOME MEASURES

Descriptions of the 27 outcome measures included in this Child Welfare Outcomes Report are provided in appendix B. Data for both the original and new outcome measures come from the Department's two national child welfare-related data systems—the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). The specific NCANDS and AFCARS data elements used to calculate each outcome measure are presented in appendix C.

Through NCANDS, the Department collects and analyzes State data pertaining to children who come into contact with public child protective services agencies as alleged victims of child abuse or neglect. Data from this system are published annually in a report entitled *Child Maltreatment*. The highlights of *Child Maltreatment 2005* are presented in appendix D. The Child File is the component of NCANDS that is the primary data source for the safety-related outcome measures included in the Child Welfare

¹⁷ All years indicated in the Child Welfare Outcomes Report reflect Federal fiscal years (October 1—September 30), unless otherwise noted.

¹⁸ Complete information on the CFSR process is provided on the Children's Bureau's website at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwmonitoring/index.htm#CFSR>.

Outcomes Reports. The NCANDS Child File is a data file that States submit annually on a voluntary basis. The file contains detailed case information about children who are the subjects of an investigation or assessment in response to a maltreatment allegation. A Child File is established for all children associated with reports that have received a disposition during the reporting period. Although the disposition usually refers to a “finding” regarding the allegation, it also can include those reports that were “closed without a finding.”

AFCARS, which is a mandatory data system for States, is the Department’s national system for collecting, analyzing, and reporting data on children who are served by State foster care systems. Appendix E presents the annual AFCARS report for 2005.

The quality and availability of data for the original outcome measures have improved extensively since the publication of the first Child Welfare Outcomes Report—*Child Welfare Outcomes 1998*. For example, 49 States submitted an NCANDS Child File for 2005 compared to 22 States submitting this file for 1998. Similarly, 52 States reported sufficient 2005 data to AFCARS to calculate the 12 original AFCARS-related outcome measures, compared with 33 States providing sufficient 1998 data for all measures. This progress may be attributed to substantial State efforts over the past several years to improve their information systems, as well as technical assistance provided by the Department in the area of information systems and data quality. In addition, as States improved their data information systems, they resubmitted corrected data for prior years, thus increasing the accuracy of the data for all of the years included in the report. Although some data quality issues remain in a few States, the data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002–2005* can be interpreted with greater confidence than ever before.

The availability and quality of data for the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports have improved substantially over the past 6 years.

The 15 new measures included in the current Child Welfare Outcomes Reports were developed in response to recommendations regarding potential improvements to the CFSRs. In the first round of the CFSRs (conducted from 2001 to 2004), six national data measures were used as part of the assessment of State performance. National standards were established for each of the six measures and States were expected to meet the national standards (as well as case review requirements) in order to be in substantial conformity with the particular outcome being assessed.

After completion of the first round of the CFSRs in 2004, the Department contracted with a consultant to convene a workgroup to consider potential improvements to the CFSR process. One of the improvements suggested by the workgroup was to replace the six single data measures used in the first round of the CFSRs with data composites incorporating multiple measures addressing a particular program area. The Department agreed that a data composite approach would provide a more comprehensive picture of State performance and began a process for developing data composites to be used for the CFSRs.¹⁹ The end products of this process were four data composites, incorporating a subset of 15 individual measures pertaining to permanency and placement stability for children in foster care. Composite scores were generated for the four data composites and national standards were established for the composite scores, but not for the individual measures. The measures subsumed under each composite are detailed in appendix B.

No data composites were developed pertaining to children’s safety. After careful consideration and analyses of several measures, the Department determined that data composites in the area of safety were not possible given the available data elements and, in some situations, difficulty interpreting performance. However, for the CFSRs, two minor changes were made in the two existing safety measures. Maltreatment in foster care is now evaluated based on 12 months of data rather than 9, and both safety measures are stated and evaluated in the positive direction (Absence of Maltreatment in Foster Care and Absence of Recurrence). The Child Welfare Outcomes Report incorporates the 12-month framework for the maltreatment in foster care measure, but continues to use the original wording for the measures.²⁰

¹⁹ Because the details about this process and about the composites, including the statistical methodology used, and feedback received from the field are provided in the Federal Register Announcement posted on the Children’s Bureau’s website, they will not be reviewed in this report. See the following website for the Federal Register Announcement regarding the data indicators for the second round of the CFSRs. http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwmonitoring/legislation/fed_reg.htm.

²⁰ Detailed information about the safety-related measures to be used in the second round of the CFSRs is provided in the Federal Register Announcement posted on the Children’s Bureau’s website, http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwmonitoring/legislation/fed_reg.htm.

CONTEXT DATA IN THE CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES REPORT

In addition to data pertaining to State performance on the outcome measures, the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports present data on child welfare-related contextual factors relevant to understanding and interpreting State performance on the outcome measures.²¹ The context factors include the following:

- A State's estimated child population statistics with regard to the number and race/ethnicity of children.²²
- The number and characteristics (age, race/ethnicity, and type of maltreatment) of child maltreatment victims (defined as children who are the subject of a substantiated or indicated abuse or neglect allegation).²³
- The number and characteristics (age and race/ethnicity) of children in foster care at the start of the fiscal year and of children who entered and exited foster care during the fiscal year.²⁴
- The median length of stay of children in foster care.
- The number and characteristics (age and race/ethnicity) of children "waiting for adoption" (defined as children who are legally free for adoption and/or for whom a goal of adoption was established but an adoption was not finalized by the end of the fiscal year).²⁵
- The number and characteristics (age and race/ethnicity) of children for whom an adoption was finalized during the fiscal year.

DATA ANALYSES IN THE CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES REPORT

The Child Welfare Outcomes Report presents key findings of analyses conducted across States. These findings pertain to variations across States in performance on the outcome measures, change in performance on the measures over time, and the relationships between contextual factors and State performance.

Change in State performance over time was assessed by calculating a percent change in performance on the measures.²⁶ Using a **percent change calculation** permits an assessment of the extent of change occurring over time by taking into account the size of the percentages being compared. For example, a change from 6 percent in 2002 to 7 percent in 2005 represents a change of only 1 percentage point; however, it reflects a +16.7 percent change. In contrast, a change from 75 percent to 80 percent represents a change of 5 percentage points, but only a +6.7 percent change. Consistent with the Department's approach in prior Child Welfare Outcomes Reports, a percent change of 5.0 or greater in either direction was used as a general indicator that meaningful change occurred. That is, for purposes of the analyses presented in the Child Welfare Outcomes Report, if the percent change in performance from 2002 to 2005 was less than 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative), a determination was made that there was "no change" in performance.

Relationships between measures and context variables were assessed using correlation coefficients, specifically Pearson's *r*. This coefficient can range from -1 to +1. In the Child Welfare Outcomes Report, these coefficients are interpreted in accordance with J.P. Guilford's suggested interpretations for correlation coefficient values.²⁷ These are as follows:

- A coefficient of plus or minus 0.20–0.40 indicates a low correlation.
- A coefficient of plus or minus 0.40–0.70 indicates a moderate correlation.
- A coefficient of plus or minus 0.70–0.90 indicates a high correlation.
- A coefficient of plus or minus 0.90–1.00 indicates a very high correlation.

²¹ For purposes of this report, the term "State" refers to the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Therefore, the report provides information on 52 States.

²² These data come from the Census Bureau and reflect estimates rather than actual numbers.

²³ *Child Maltreatment 2005* provides the following definitions: (1) Substantiation refers to a type of investigation disposition that concludes that the allegation of maltreatment or risk of maltreatment was supported or founded by State law or State policy; (2) Indicated refers to an investigation disposition that concludes that maltreatment cannot be substantiated under State law or policy, but there was reason to suspect that the child may have been maltreated or was at risk of maltreatment. This is applicable only to States that distinguish between substantiated and indicated dispositions.

²⁴ The term "foster care" as it is used in the Child Welfare Outcomes Report refers to a variety of out-of-home placement settings, including foster family homes, group homes, shelters, residential treatment facilities, and similar placements for children who are under the care and supervision of a State child welfare agency for at least 24 hours.

²⁵ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years of age or older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. This definition may differ from definitions used by individual States.

²⁶ Percent change is calculated by subtracting "old" data from "new" data, dividing by old data and multiplying by 100. For example, if maltreatment recurrence was 9.2 in 2002 and 7.6 in 2005, the percent change would be $[(7.6-9.2)/9.2] \times 100 = -17.4$ percent change.

²⁷ Guilford, J. P. (1956). *Fundamental statistics in psychology and education* (3rd ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

ORGANIZATION OF THE CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES REPORT

Child Welfare Outcomes 2002–2005: Report to Congress is organized as follows:

Chapter I: Keeping Children Safe. This chapter focuses on the findings of the data analyses pertaining to State performance on the two outcome measures assessing children’s safety and the relationships between performance on these measures and various context variables.

Chapter II: Finding Permanent Homes for Foster Children. In this chapter, findings are presented for the nine measures that address the general issue of State performance in achieving permanency for children. Two of these measures address the issue of the length of time children spend in foster care when they are emancipated without having found a permanent home.

Chapter III: Timeliness of Reunifications and Adoptions for Foster Children. In this chapter, data are presented and discussed concerning State performance on the timeliness of adoptions and reunifications.

Chapter IV: Achieving Stable and Appropriate Placement Settings in Foster Care. This chapter presents and discusses key findings pertaining to the placement stability of children in foster care for varying periods of time and the placement settings for children who enter foster care when they are age 12 or younger.

Chapter V: State Performance Relevant to the Seven National Child Welfare Outcomes. This chapter includes data for each State on each of the measures and context variables. It also includes a comment from the State, if one was provided, and a brief overview of performance.

Appendices

- Appendix A: Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-89) Section 203(a)
- Appendix B: Child Welfare Outcomes and Measures
- Appendix C: Child Welfare Outcome Measures - Data Sources and Data Elements
- Appendix D: Highlights from *Child Maltreatment 2005*
- Appendix E: The AFCARS Report - 2005

I: Keeping Children Safe

Child protection is the primary obligation of public child welfare agencies, particularly with regard to preventing the recurrence of child maltreatment for those children who already have been identified as victims.²⁸ Child welfare agencies may meet this obligation by removing children from their homes and placing them in safe out-of-home care environments or by providing services to the children and their families to ensure children's safety while the children remain in their homes.

To promote understanding of State performance with regard to child protection, the Child Welfare Outcomes Report provides the following data for each State: (1) the number and characteristics of child victims, (2) the percentage of child victims who experience a recurrence of maltreatment within a 6-month period, and (3) the percentage of child victims whose perpetrators were foster care providers or facility staff members. This chapter presents key findings of the analyses of these data across States.²⁹

The rate of child victims varies considerably across States, from 1.6 victims per 1,000 children to 32.1 victims per 1,000 children.

THE NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILD VICTIMS

According to *Child Maltreatment 2005*, 899,000 children were estimated to be victims of maltreatment in 2005, and the national child victim rate was 12.1 child victims per 1,000 children in the population. The rate of child victims, however, varies considerably across States.³⁰ In 2005, States with the lowest child victim rates were Pennsylvania (1.6 child victims per 1,000 children), New Hampshire (3.1 child victims per 1,000 children), and Virginia (3.6 child victims per 1,000 children). States with the highest child victim rates were Florida (32.1 child victims per 1,000 children), the District of Columbia (25.2 child victims per 1,000 children), and West Virginia (24.9 child victims per 1,000 children). In 2005, the median child victim rate across all States was 10.4 child victims per 1,000 children.

There are multiple possible explanations for differences in child victim rates across States. One explanation concerns State definitions of child maltreatment. States with broader definitions of child maltreatment may have higher victim rates than States with narrower definitions. Also, States, such as Florida, that have "indicated" as a possible disposition option may be more likely to have higher victim rates than States that do not have this option. Another possible explanation pertains to variations in the level of evidence required for substantiation that either the maltreatment occurred or that the child was at risk. In addition, child victim rates may be lower in States that have implemented "alternative response" approaches to maltreatment allegations than they are in States that do not have this type of response. In alternative response approaches, child welfare agencies respond to a maltreatment allegation that is considered to involve minimal risk of harm to a child with a referral for a family assessment rather than with a formal investigation to determine the validity of the allegation. Because alternative response approaches usually do not involve a finding (i.e., a disposition) regarding the validity of the allegation, many children who are the subject of an allegation referred for an alternative response may not be reported to the NCANDS Child File and thus are not counted as victims in the NCANDS data.³¹

Table I-1 presents 2005 information pertaining to the age, type of maltreatment experienced, and race/ethnicity of child maltreatment victims. As shown in the table, there was considerable variation across States with respect to these characteristics.

²⁸ For purposes of this report, a victim of child abuse or neglect is defined as a child for whom an allegation of abuse or neglect has been substantiated or indicated by an investigation or assessment. This definition is from *Child Maltreatment 2005*.

²⁹ Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the chapter come from NCANDS.

³⁰ A State's rate of child victims is defined as the number of child victims reported to NCANDS per 1,000 children in the State's population. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

³¹ Two States report "alternative response victims" to NCANDS, and 10 States use the "alternative response non-victims" category.

Table I-1. Age, type of maltreatment experienced, and race/ethnicity of child maltreatment victims in 2005

Characteristics of Child Maltreatment Victims	Range Across States	Median Across States
Age of Children at Time of Maltreatment Report		
Not yet 1 year old	5.0%– 18.4%	11.0%
At least 1 year old, but not yet 6 years old	19.5 – 40.4	31.6
At least 6 years old, but not yet 11 years old	22.7 – 29.2	26.6
At least 11 years old, but not yet 16 years old	16.3- 36.7	23.8
At least 16 years old	3.2 – 12.3	5.2
Type of Maltreatment Experienced*		
Neglect (not medical neglect)	3.5 – 91.5	68.1
Physical abuse	3.5 – 48.4	17.6
Psychological/emotional abuse	0.1-53.3	2.2
Sexual abuse	2.7 – 62.5	7.6
Medical neglect	0 – 9.4	2.4
Other	0 – 89.6	2.6
Children's Race/Ethnicity		
Alaska Native/American Indian	0 – 49.7	0.4
Asian	0 – 10.8	0.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0 – 18.0	0.1
Black (Non Hispanic)	0.4 – 62.0	14.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.7 – 50.5	6.5
White (Non Hispanic)	0.4 – 94.8	53.0
Multiple Races	0.1 – 40.4	2.7

* Variations in types of maltreatment experienced may be attributed to differences in State definitions of maltreatment. For example, in some States, psychological or emotional abuse is incorporated into the State definition of child abuse and neglect. As another example, allegations of child neglect in Pennsylvania are addressed by the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families agency, and the State does not report an allegation of neglect to the NCANDS Child File unless it is determined to be "severe neglect." Consequently, Pennsylvania has the lowest percentage of children reported as victims of neglect and the highest percentage of victims reported as victims of sexual abuse.

With regard to race/ethnicity, in many States, the percentage of Black, Hispanic, or American Indian/Alaska Native child victims in 2005 exceeded the percentage of these children in the State's population.³² There was no State in which the percentage of White (non-Hispanic) child victims exceeded the percentage of these children in the State's child population. The following key findings pertain to the disproportionate representation of Black (non-Hispanic) children among State child victims:

- In 28 States, the percentage of Black (non-Hispanic) child victims was at least one and one-half times greater than the percentage of these children in the State's population.
- In four States, the percentage of Black (non-Hispanic) child victims was at least three times greater than the percentage of these children in the State's population (Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Utah).
- In nine States, there was no disproportionate representation of Black (non-Hispanic) children. That is, the percentage of Black (non-Hispanic) child victims was less than or about equal to the percentage of these children in the State's child population (Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and West Virginia).

In many States, the percentage of Black, Hispanic, or American Indian/Alaska Native child victims in 2005 exceeded the percentage of these children in the State's population.

³² The analysis of disproportionate representation was conducted for Black (non-Hispanic), White (non-Hispanic), American Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic), and Hispanic children. Other races were not included in the analysis because of their very small representation in the population of the majority of States.

Key findings with regard to the disproportionate representation of Hispanic child victims (of any race) are the following:

- In eight States, the percentage of Hispanic child victims (of any race) was at least one and one-half times greater than the percentage of these children in the State's child population (Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Utah).
- In four States, the percentage of Hispanic child victims (of any race) was more than two times greater than the percentage of these children in the State's child population (Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Dakota, and Utah).
- In 33 States, there was no disproportionate representation of Hispanic children. That is, the percentage of Hispanic child victims (of any race) was less than or about equal to the percentage of these children in the State's population.

The following findings pertain to the disproportionate representation of American Indian/Alaska Native child victims:

- In 15 States, the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native child victims was at least one and one-half times greater than the percentage of these children in the State's population.
- In six States, the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native child victims was more than three times greater than the percentage of these children in the State's population (Minnesota, Nebraska, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, and Wisconsin).
- In 31 States, the representation of American Indian/Alaska Native children in the child victim population was not disproportionate to their representation in the State population. That is, the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native child victims was less than or about equal to the percentage of these children in the State's population.

INCIDENCE OF MALTREATMENT RECURRENCE AND MALTREATMENT OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

State performance with regard to children's safety is addressed through outcome 1: reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect, and outcome 2: reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care. Table I-2 summarizes State performance in 2005 on the measures pertaining to these outcomes.

Table I-2. Summary of State performance in 2005 on measures pertaining to outcome 1: Reduce recurrence of child abuse and neglect, and outcome 2: Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care*

Outcome Measures	25th Percentile	50th Percentile (Median)	75th Percentile	Range
Measure 1.1: Percentage of child victims experiencing a recurrence of child maltreatment within a 6-month period. (N=49)	4.6%	6.6%	8.4%	1.9 – 13.4%
Measure 2.1: Percentage of children in foster care who were victims of maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member. (N=46)	0.23	0.42	0.59	0.00 – 1.55

*The number of States (N) identified for each measure represents those States that provided sufficient data to NCANDS to calculate the measure.

Recurrence of maltreatment

There are a number of potential explanations for the range in performance across States (i.e., 1.9 percent to 13.4 percent) with respect to maltreatment recurrence (measure 1.1). One explanation may be that the range reflects the variation in child victim rates across States. A key finding of the data analyses was that, in 2005, many States that had relatively high victim rates also had relatively high percentages of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period (Pearson's $r = 0.63$).

Another possible explanation for the range in State performance with regard to maltreatment recurrence may be differences in agency policies or practices regarding allegations of child maltreatment involving children who currently are being served by the child protective services (CPS) system (i.e., the agency has an open case involving the child). During the first round of the CFSRs, the Department learned that, in many States, when a maltreatment allegation is received on a family currently being served by the CPS system, the allegation frequently is referred to the current caseworker and/or supervisor for follow up rather than referred for a formal investigation or assessment. Without a formal investigation or assessment of the allegation, there often is no formal disposition, and the information regarding the child who is the subject of the allegation is not reported to the NCANDS Child File. Consequently, the allegation does not get counted as a possible incident of maltreatment recurrence.

Many States that had relatively high victim rates in 2005 also had relatively high percentages of maltreatment recurrence.

The range in performance with regard to maltreatment recurrence also appears to be related in part to differences across States with regard to the types of maltreatment experienced by children. Several relationships were found between types of maltreatment and maltreatment recurrence:

- Many States with a relatively high percentage of children who were victims of sexual abuse also had a relatively low percentage of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period (Pearson's $r = -0.33$).
- Many States with a relatively high percentage of children who were victims of physical abuse also had a relatively low percentage of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period (Pearson's $r = -0.38$).
- Many States with a relatively high percentage of children who were victims of neglect had a relatively high percentage of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period (Pearson's $r = 0.35$).

These correlations are consistent with research indicating that child maltreatment recurrence is more likely to involve neglect than either physical or sexual abuse.³³ The relationships between recurrence and types of maltreatment may be due to the fact that substantiated allegations of sexual or physical abuse often are followed by legal actions against the perpetrators as well as actions designed to ensure that the perpetrator is prevented from further unsupervised contact with the victim until identified problems have been resolved. In contrast, substantiated allegations of neglect often are not followed by these actions unless the neglect is considered extremely severe.

The recurrence of child maltreatment is more likely to involve neglect than either physical or sexual abuse.

Maltreatment of children in foster care

Variations in State performance regarding maltreatment of children in foster care (range = 0–1.55 percent) can be influenced by the fact that some children who are not under the care or supervision of the State child welfare agency are reported to the NCANDS Child File as victims of maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member. This is because the only way to currently identify a child as “maltreated in foster care” is through the use of the perpetrator code. When this code indicates that the perpetrator is a facility staff member, the maltreatment incident is categorized as maltreatment in foster care. However, a fraction of these cases may include children who are not in foster care but instead are in facilities operated by the public mental health system, juvenile justice system, or in a private mental health or substance abuse treatment facility. Although the number of these children who are the victims of maltreatment while in a residential facility is probably small, it can affect the calculation of the outcome measure somewhat because these children will appear in the numerator for the measure, but not in the denominator.

The Department recently addressed this issue by instituting a different system for identifying which children are maltreated in foster care. States are being asked to include an AFCARS ID in the NCANDS Child File so the two files can be linked and it can be determined whether a child is in foster care at the time of the maltreatment. However, participation in the NCANDS Child File is voluntary on the part of States and was not implemented consistently by States as of 2005. Current efforts to encourage States to supply the AFCARS identification number should provide greater clarity regarding this measure in the future.

CHANGES IN PERFORMANCE ON MEASURES OF MALTREATMENT RECURRENCE AND MALTREATMENT OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

The change in State performance over time was assessed by calculating a percent change in performance.³⁴ Using a percent change calculation permits an assessment of the extent of change occurring over time by taking into account the size of the percentages being compared. For example, a change from 6.0 percent to 7.0 percent represents a change of only 1 percentage point; however, it reflects a +16.7 percent change. In contrast, a change from 75.0 percent to 80.0 percent represents a change of 5 percentage points, but only a +6.7 percent change. Consistent with the approach used in prior Child Welfare Outcomes Reports, a percent change of 5.0 or greater was used as an indicator that meaningful change occurred. That is, for purposes of the analyses presented in this chapter, if the percent change in performance from 2002 to 2005 was not at least 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative), a determination was made that there was “no change” in performance.

³³ See the following for examples: (1) Drake, B., Jonson-Reid, M., Way, I., & Chung, S. (2003). Substantiation and recidivism. *Child Maltreatment*, 8(4), 248–260; (2) Lipien, L., & Forthofer, M. S. (2004). An event history analysis of recurrent child maltreatment reports in Florida. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 28(9), 947–966; and (3) Fluke, J. D., Shusterman, G. R., Hollinshead, D., & Yuan, Y.-Y.T. (2005). Rereporting and recurrence of child maltreatment: Findings from NCANDS. Retrieved 2004, from <https://webmail.hhs.gov/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/05/child-maltreat-rereporting/index.htm>

³⁴ Percent change is calculated by subtracting “old” data from “new” data, dividing by old data and multiplying by 100. For example, if maltreatment recurrence was 9.2 in 2002 and 7.6 in 2005, the percent change would be $[(7.6-9.2)/9.2] \times 100 = -17.4$ percent change.

For the measure of maltreatment recurrence (measure 1.1), performance in 2005 was compared to performance in 2002. For the measure of maltreatment in foster care, performance in 2005 was compared to performance in 2003.³⁵ Table I-3 presents key findings regarding the change in State performance on these measures.

Table I-3. Change in performance over time for outcome measures 1.1 and 2.1

Outcome Measures	Change in Performance: Number and Percentage of States		
	Improved performance	Declined in performance	No change in performance
Measure 1.1: Change from 2002 to 2005 in the percentage of child victims experiencing a recurrence of child maltreatment within a 6-month period. (N=42)	27 (64%)	11 (26%)	4 (10%)
Measure 2.1: Change from 2003 to 2005 in the percentage of children in foster care who were victims of maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member. (N=41)	19 (46%)	19 (46%)	3 (7%)

The number of States shown in the table (N) reflects the number that provided data for all years. As shown in table I-3, 64 percent of the applicable States demonstrated improved performance with regard to the measure of recurrence of child maltreatment (measure 1.1). In addition, the median across States for this measure changed from 7.5 percent in 2002 to 6.6 percent in 2005, demonstrating improvement in performance (a 12 percent change).

The majority of States demonstrated improved performance from 2002 to 2005 with regard to maltreatment recurrence.

With regard to performance on the measure of maltreatment of children in foster care (measure 2.1), there were no noteworthy patterns of change from 2003 to 2005 for individual States. In addition, the median across States for this measure changed minimally from 0.41 percent in 2003 to 0.42 percent in 2005.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS REGARDING KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

The data for the two safety measures indicate that fairly small percentages of child victims reported to NCANDS experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period, and even smaller percentages of children in foster care were reported to be victims of maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member. However, because these events have serious implications for children’s safety and their immediate and future well-being, even small percentages are to be viewed with concern. Performance comparisons across States on these measures are difficult to interpret due to variations in State policies and practices that affect the measures. Nonetheless, many States improved their performance from 2002 to 2005 with regard to achieving outcome 1: reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect.

³⁵ This is because measure 2.1 changed in 2003. In 2002, because NCANDS and AFCARS were on different reporting periods, the numerator and denominator for measure 2.1 included only children served in foster care from January 1 to September 30. In 2003, the NCANDS reporting period shifted from a calendar year to a fiscal year. As a result, the numerator and denominator for measure 2.1 include children served in foster care for the entire 12-month fiscal year.

II: Finding Permanent Homes for Foster Children

Many situations come to the attention of child welfare agencies in which it is necessary for a State to remove a child from his or her home and place the child in a temporary living situation, referred to in this report as foster care. However, foster care is intended as a temporary, not permanent, living arrangement for a child. Once removal occurs, it is the responsibility of the State (usually the child welfare agency working in conjunction with the family and the courts) to return the child to his or her home or find another permanent home for the child. This responsibility is reflected in national child welfare outcome 3: increase permanency for children in foster care.

For the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports and the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs), a child has reached a permanent home when the child is reported to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting system (AFCARS) as discharged from foster care and the discharge reason is one of the following: (1) reunified with parents or primary caretakers, (2) living with other relatives, (3) legally adopted, or (4) living with a legal guardian.³⁶ To assess State performance with regard to achieving permanent homes for children, the Child Welfare Outcomes Report provides the following data for each State: (1) the number and characteristics of children in foster care, and (2) the percentages of children in foster care who achieve permanency. This chapter presents key findings of the analyses of these data across States.³⁷

For the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports and the CFSRs, a child in foster care achieves a permanent home when the child is reunified with his or her family (including living with relatives other than the parents), when a finalized adoption has occurred, or when the child is discharged from foster care to the care of a legal guardian.

THE NUMBER AND CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

In 2005, approximately 513,000 children nationally were in foster care on the last day of the fiscal year. During that year, 311,000 children entered foster care and 285,000 children exited foster care. States differed considerably in 2005 with respect to both the numbers of children in foster care and the rate of foster care entry, defined as the number of children entering foster care per 1,000 children in the State population. States with a relatively low rate of foster care entry in 2005 were Illinois (1.8 children per 1,000 in the population), New Hampshire (1.8 children per 1,000 in the population), and Virginia (1.9 children per 1,000 in the population). States with a relatively high rate of foster care entry in 2005 were Wyoming (10.4 children per 1,000 in the population), Iowa (10.1 children per 1,000 in the population), and Nebraska (9.1 children per 1,000 in the population). The median across States was 4.7 children per 1,000 in the population.

The rate of foster care entry in 2005 varied across States from 1.8 children per 1,000 children in the population to 10.4 children per 1,000 children in the population.

The reasons for variations in the rate of foster care entry are difficult to ascertain. The variation cannot be attributed entirely to differences in the rate of child victims in a State because the correlation between foster care entry rates and child victims rates in 2005 is low (Pearson's $r = 0.28$). The variation also cannot be attributed to differences in characteristics of either the child victim population or the child foster care population because the correlations between foster care entry rates and child characteristics for both populations are close to zero.

Table II-1 presents information for 2005 pertaining to the ages of children and their race/ethnicity at the time of entry into foster care.

³⁶ For the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports, the discharge reasons of "reunification with parents or primary caretakers" and "living with other relatives" are combined into the category of "reunification."

³⁷ With the exception of data pertaining to State child populations, which come from the Current Population Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau, the data presented in this chapter come from AFCARS.

Table II-1. The range and median across States in 2005 with regard to children’s age and race/ethnicity at entry into foster care (N=52)

Characteristics of children entering foster care in 2005	Range	Median
Children’s age at entry		
Birth to age 5	28.1–58.6%	43.4%
Age 6 to 12	15.8–34.4	27.0
Age 13 to 15	10.0–35.3	19.2
Age 16 or older	3.4–29.1	9.5
Children’s race/ethnicity at entry		
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1–51.9	0.4
Asian	0–11.4	0.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0–21.0	0.1
Black (Non-Hispanic)	0.1–74.9	18.3
Hispanic (of any race)	0–21.0	0.1
White (Non-Hispanic)	0.1–94.4	49.3
Multiple races	0.3–41.7	3.3

In 2005, States differed considerably with respect to the ages of children entering foster care, particularly with regard to children age 13 or older. In Delaware, for example, approximately 56 percent of the children entering foster care were age 13 or older at the time of entry. In contrast, in Texas only 13 percent of the children entering foster care were age 13 or older at entry. Overall, in 15 States at least 40 percent of children entering foster care were age 13 or older, and in 11 States less than 20 percent of the children entering foster care were age 13 or older. This age difference is an important distinction because adolescents often require services and placement resources that are different from those needed by younger children. In addition, the families of adolescents often have different needs compared to the families of younger children with regard to the services necessary to achieve permanency. Consequently, States with relatively large percentages of children entering foster care as adolescents may need to implement practices and policies that differ from those that are needed in States with relatively small percentages of children entering foster care as adolescents.

There were many States in which the race or ethnicity of children entering foster care was disproportionate to the representation of that race or ethnicity in the State’s child population.

States also varied in 2005 with regard to the race/ethnicity of their foster care populations. Although this variation often reflected differences in the distribution of races and ethnicity in the State population, there were many States in which the race/ethnicity of children entering foster care was disproportionate to the percentage of these children in the State population.³⁸ However, there were no States in which the percentage of White (non-Hispanic) children entering foster care exceeded the percentage of those children in the State population. The following are key findings with regard to the disproportionate representation of Black (non-Hispanic) children in the population of children entering foster care in 2005:

The percentage of Black (non-Hispanic) children entering foster care was substantially larger than the percentage of these children in the State population in all but four States.

- In 39 States, the percentage of Black (non-Hispanic) children entering foster care was at least one and one-half times larger than the percentage of these children in the State’s child population.
- In nine States, the percentage of Black (non-Hispanic) children entering foster care was at least three times larger than the percentage of these children in the State’s child population (Iowa, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin, and Wyoming).
- There were only four States in which the percentage of Black (non-Hispanic) children entering foster care was less than or about equal to the percentage of these children in the child population (District of Columbia, Hawaii, Mississippi, and South Carolina).

³⁸ The analysis of disproportionate representation was conducted for Black (non-Hispanic), White (non-Hispanic), American Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic), and Hispanic children. Other races were not included in the analysis because of their very small representation in the population of the majority of States.

Key findings with regard to the disproportionate representation of Hispanic children (of any race) in the population of children entering foster care are as follows:

- In 13 States, the percentage of Hispanic children (of any race) entering foster care was at least one and one-half times larger than the percentage of these children in the State’s child population.
- In two States, the percentage of Hispanic children (of any race) entering foster care was at least three times larger than the percent of these children in the State’s child population (Maine and North Dakota).
- In 24 States, the percentage of Hispanic children (of any race) entering foster care was less than or about equal to the percentage of these children in the State’s child population.

The findings with regard to the disproportionate representation of American Indian/Alaska Native children among children entering foster care are the following:

- In 16 States, the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native children entering foster care was at least 1.5 times larger than the percentage of these children in the State’s child population.
- In 10 States, the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native children entering foster care was at least three times larger than the percentage of these children in the State’s child population.
- In four States, the percentage of Alaska Native/American Indian children entering foster care was at least five times greater than the percentage of these children in the State’s child population (Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Oregon).
- In 26 States, the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native children entering foster care was less than or about equal to the percentage of these children in the State’s child population.

ACHIEVING PERMANENCY FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

The original measures established to assess State performance with regard to achieving permanency for children in foster care are shown in Table II-2, along with the new measures that are part of composite 3.³⁹ Measures that are part of composite 3 are preceded by a “C.” More details on all the measures are provided in appendix B.

Table II-2. Summary of State performance in 2005 on measures pertaining to child welfare outcome 3: Increase permanency for children in foster care

Outcome Measures*	Performance Variables			
	25th Percentile	Median	75th Percentile	Range
Measure 3.1: Percentage of all children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home.** (N=52)	84.9%	87.8%	90.8%	67.8–95.6%
Measure 3.2: Percentage of all children with a diagnosed disability exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home.*** (N=51)	75.0	79.0	84.4	34.2–95.4
Measure 3.3: Percentage of all children who entered foster care when they were older than age 12 who were discharged to a permanent home. (N=52)	66.2	73.1	78.6	41.1–88.5
Measure 3.4: Percentage of all children who were emancipated from foster care who entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger. (N=52)	21.8	27.6	35.8	5.8–61.1
Measure C3.1: Percentage of children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year who were discharged to a permanent home or who turned 18 by the end of the year. (N=52)	21.9	26.4	31.1	9.1–37.7
Measure C3.2: Percentage of children discharged from foster care who were legally free for adoption at the time of discharge and who exited to a permanent home. (N=52)	92.9	95.7	97.8	82.2–100
Measure C3.3: Percentage of children emancipated or turning age 18 while in foster care who were in foster care for 3 years or longer. (N=52)	38.7	48.1	56.2	21.7–76.2

* Appendix B provides definitions for each of these measures.

**A discharge to a permanent home is a discharge to reunification (including living with other relatives), adoption, or guardianship.

***There are only 51 States included for this measure because New York does not report data to AFCARS on the data element pertaining to a “diagnosed disability.”

Measures 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, and C3.2 assess permanency for children at the time of discharge from foster care. The data in table II-2 suggest that, in 2005, States were particularly successful in achieving permanent homes for children discharged from foster care who

³⁹ Appendix B provides additional information about composite 3.

were legally free for adoption at the time of discharge (measure C3.2, median = 95.7 percent).⁴⁰ However, even small percentages of legally free children who do not exit foster care to a permanent home are cause for concern.

The data in table II-2 also indicate that in 2005, States were somewhat successful in achieving a permanent home for all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1, median = 87.8 percent). However, States were less successful in achieving permanent homes for children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2, median = 79.0 percent), or for children exiting foster care who entered foster care when they were older than age 12 (measure 3.3, median = 73.1 percent).

For all States, most of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer at the start of the year were still in foster care by the end of the year.

Measure C3.1 follows a cohort of children (those who have been in foster care for 24 months or longer) from the first day of the fiscal year to the last. The focus is on the percentage of these children who achieve permanency prior to the last day of the year. The data for this measure presented in table II-2 suggest that achieving permanency for children in foster care for 24 months or longer is a challenge for all States (median for measure C3.1 = 26.4 percent). The range for this measure for 2005 (9.1 percent–37.7 percent) suggests that, for all States, most of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer at the start of the year were still in foster care by the end of the year. An additional finding was that many States that had a relatively high percentage of children exiting foster care to a permanent home (measure 3.1) also had a relatively high percentage of children in foster care for 24 months or longer who achieved permanency by the end of the fiscal year (Pearson's $r = 0.32$). This suggests that some States that are generally successful in achieving permanency for children at the time of exit from foster care also are successful in achieving permanency for children in foster care for long periods of time.

Children who exit foster care to emancipation

Measures 3.4 and C3.3 focus on children who exit foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation. These are children for whom the State was unable to find a permanent home. The issue addressed by these measures is how long these children were in foster care before emancipation. That is, did they spend a large portion of their formative years in foster care, or did they enter foster care in mid- or late adolescence?

In general, the percentage of children exiting foster care who are reported to AFCARS as having a discharge reason of emancipation varies considerably across States. States with the lowest percentage of children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation are Wyoming (4.8 percent), Nevada (3.4 percent), Connecticut (2.1 percent), and Puerto Rico (1.9 percent). States with the highest percentages are Virginia (22.5 percent), Maine (20.7 percent), Illinois (15.0 percent), and the District of Columbia (14.1 percent). In 2005, the median across States was 7.6 percent for children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation.

The percentage of children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation ranges across States from 1.9 percent to 22.5 percent, with a median of 7.6 percent.

The reasons for the extensive variation across States in the percentage of children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation are not known. While it might be expected that the variation would be due to differences across States in the ages of children entering foster care, this was not the case. The percentage of children discharged from foster care who were emancipated was not found to be related to the percentage of children entering foster care in the State who were age 13 or older. In fact, the correlation was close to zero.

The data shown in table II-2 suggest that, in many States, a substantial percentage of children emancipated from foster care in 2005 were in foster care for long periods of time before they were emancipated (measures 3.4 and C3.3). In about one-half of the States, 28 percent or more of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4), and 48 percent or more of the children emancipated from foster care were in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). As would be expected, performance on these two measures is highly correlated (Pearson's $r = 0.83$).

In about one-half of the States, 28 percent or more of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care.

⁴⁰ A child is considered legally free for adoption if a termination of parental rights date is reported to AFCARS for both mother and father.

CHANGE IN STATE PERFORMANCE WITH REGARD TO ACHIEVING PERMANENCY

The change in State performance over time was assessed by calculating a percent change in performance.⁴¹ Using a percent change calculation permits an assessment of the extent of change occurring over time by taking into account the size of the percentages being compared. For example, a change from 6 percent in 2002 to 7 percent in 2005 represents a change of only 1 percentage point; however, it reflects a +16.7 percent change. In contrast, a change from 75 percent to 80 percent represents a change of 5 percentage points, but only a +6.7 percent change. Consistent with the Department’s approach in prior Child Welfare Outcomes Reports, a percent change of 5.0 or greater was used as an indicator that meaningful change occurred. That is, for purposes of the analyses presented in this chapter, if the percent change in performance from 2002 to 2005 was not at least 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative), a determination was made that there was “no change” in performance.

For measures 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4, change was assessed from 2002 to 2005. For measures C3.1, C3.2, and C3.3, change was assessed from 2004 to 2005 because data are not available for these new measures for earlier years. Table II-3 presents a summary of findings regarding the change in State performance on the measures pertaining to achieving permanency for children in foster care. The analyses included only those States that provided data for a measure in all relevant years.

Table II-3. Number and percentage of States exhibiting improvement, decline, or no change in performance over time on measures pertaining to outcome 3: Increase permanency for children in foster care

Outcome Measures	Change in Performance: Number and Percentage of States		
	Improved performance	Declined in performance	No change in performance
Measure 3.1: Change from 2002 to 2005 in the percentage of all children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home. (N=52)	10 (19%)	5 (10%)	37 (71%)
Measure 3.2: Change from 2002 to 2005 in the percentage of all children with a diagnosed disability exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home. (N=46)	10 (20)	20 (41)	19 (39)
Measure 3.3: Change from 2002 to 2005 in the percentage of all children who entered care when they were age 13 or older who were discharged to a permanent home. (N=52)	14 (27)	13 (25)	25 (48)
*Measure 3.4: Change from 2002 to 2005 in the percentage of all children emancipated from foster care who entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (N=52).	23 (44)	19 (37)	10 (19)
Measure C3.1: Change from 2004 to 2005 in the percentage of children in foster care for 24 months or longer who were discharged to a permanent home by the end of the year. (N=51)	28 (55)	10 (20)	13 (25)
Measure C3.2: Change from 2004 to 2005 in the percentage of children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption who were discharged to a permanent home. (N=51)	2 (4)	5 (10)	44 (86)
*Measure C3.3: Change from 2004 to 2005 in the percentage of children emancipated or turning age 18 while in foster care who were in foster care for 3 years or longer. (N=51).	12 (23)	15 (29)	23 (47)

*For these measures, a reduction in percentage reflects an improvement in performance.

As shown in table II-3, there were no clear patterns of change across States for most of these measures. In fact, the majority of States exhibited no change in performance on the measure 3.1, which assesses exits to a permanent home of all children exiting foster care to a permanent home. Similarly, the majority of States did not show a change for measure C3.2, which assesses exits to permanent homes of children who were legally free for adoption. The absence of change in performance on these measures may be due in large part to the high performance on the measures of most States for all relevant years.

One measure that exhibited change in performance over time pertained to the percentage of children in foster care for 24 months or longer who achieve permanency by the end of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). For this measure, 55 percent of States exhibited improvement from 2004 to 2005, while only 20 percent of States exhibited a performance decline. In comparison, for measure 3.4, 41 percent of the States declined in performance compared to only 20 States exhibiting improvement.

⁴¹ Percentage change is calculated by subtracting “old” data from “new” data, dividing by old data and multiplying by 100. For example, if maltreatment recurrence was 9.2 in 2002 and 7.6 in 2005, the percentage change would be $[(7.6-9.2)/9.2] \times 100 = -17.4$ percent change.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS REGARDING ACHIEVING PERMANENCY FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

The data for 2005 pertaining to achieving permanency for children in foster care depict a somewhat variable picture of performance. For example, the measures assessing permanency for children at the time of discharge from foster care indicate that, across the States, the majority of children exiting foster care in 2005 were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.1, median = 87.8 percent). A particularly encouraging finding is that the majority of the children who were legally free for adoption at the time of exit from foster care were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2, median = 95.7 percent). This finding is critical because, when a State terminates parental rights, it is important for the State to ensure that before the child leaves foster care, the child has a permanent family he or she can count on.

Despite these findings, the data shown in table II-2 also indicate that, in 2005, some States experienced challenges with regard to finding permanent homes for children with disabilities (measure 3.2, range = 34.2 to 95.4 percent), and for children who enter foster care when they are older than age 12 (measure 3.3, range = 41.1 to 88.5 percent). This has been a consistent finding of the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports and suggests that greater efforts are necessary to achieve permanency for these groups of children.

Across States, most children discharged from foster care exit to permanent homes. However, all States experience challenges in finding permanent homes for children who have been in foster care for 2 years or longer.

Additional concerns are raised by State performance on the measures assessing permanency for children in foster care for relatively long periods of time. The percentages of children in foster care for 24 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who achieved permanency by the end of the fiscal year were fairly small for all States (measure C3.1, range from 9.1 to 37.7 percent). In addition, for at least half of the States, many of the children who were discharged from foster care to emancipation had been in foster care for long periods of time. These findings suggest that there are children in foster care who are essentially growing up in the system.

The data with regard to change in performance over time did not present any clear patterns of change. For most measures, States were equally as likely to improve in performance as they were to decline in performance. The one exception pertained to a change in performance from 2004 to 2005 with regard to the percentage of children in foster care for 24 months or longer who achieved permanency by the end of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). For this measure, 55 percent of the States exhibited improvement.

III: Timeliness of Reunifications and Adoptions for Foster Children

The timeliness of permanency is critical for children’s well-being. Over the last few decades, Federal legislation pertaining to child welfare has focused on preventing children from remaining in foster care for long periods of time. Most recently, the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA) established statutory requirements relevant to achieving permanency for children in foster care. This chapter focuses on the timeliness of achieving permanency through reunification and adoption. Timeliness of guardianships is not assessed because the percentage of children who were discharged from foster care in 2005 to guardianship is very small in almost all States.

The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 established statutory requirements for States relevant to achieving permanency for children in foster care.

TIMELINESS OF REUNIFICATIONS⁴²

The assessment of the timeliness of reunification addresses national child welfare outcome 4: reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing reentry. The wording of this outcome is intended to ensure that reunifications are not viewed as timely if they are not permanent; that is, if the child reenters foster care fairly soon after being reunified.

Table III-1 presents summary data regarding State performance in 2005 on key measures assessing both the timeliness and permanency of reunification. The table includes one of the measures originally developed for the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports (measure 4.1), as well as the four new measures developed for use in the second round of the CFSRs.⁴³ The calculations of three of the new measures shown in the table (C1.1, C1.2, and C1.3) incorporate the “less than 8 days exclusion” and the “trial home visit adjustment.” These are described in detail in appendix B.

Table III-1. Summary of State performance in 2005 on measures pertaining to child welfare outcome 4: Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing reentry

Outcome Measures*	Performance Variables (numbers are expressed as percentages except median months, as noted)			
	25th Percentile	Median	75th Percentile	Range
Measure 4.1: Percentage of reunifications occurring in less than 12 months of the child’s entry into foster care. (N=52)	62.9	71.0	76.7	37.7–91.8
Measure C1.1: Percentage of reunifications occurring in less than 12 months of the child’s entry into foster care, with the 8-day and trial home visit adjustments. (N=52)	65.6	70.4	74.1	41.7–90.1
Measure C1.2: Median length of stay in months for children reunified, with the 8-day and trial home visit adjustments.** (N=52)	5.7mos	6.8 mos.	8.2 mos.	1.6–14.5 mos.
Measure C1.3: Percentage of reunifications occurring in less than 12 months of the child’s entry into foster care for children entering foster care for the first time, with the 8-day and trial home visit adjustments. (N=50)	29.0	38.7	48.3	19.4–69.7
Measure C1.4: Percentage of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months from being reunified.** (N=50)	9.0	14.8	19.0	1.4–30.0

* Appendix B provides complete definitions of each measure.

** For these measures, lower percentages are associated with higher performance and higher percentages are associated with lower performance.

Impact of the less than 8 days exclusion and the trial home visit adjustment on State performance regarding reunifications occurring in less than 12 months

Outcome measures 4.1 and C1.1 assess the percentage of reunifications occurring in less than 12 months from a child’s entry into foster care. The key difference between the measures is that the calculation of measure C1.1 excludes children who were discharged from foster care in less than 8 days and incorporates the trial home visit adjustment, which takes into account children who are physically reunified with their families for a period of time prior to reunification but are not officially discharged from foster care. The calculation of measure 4.1 does not involve these adjustments. The data presented in table III-1 indicate that these adjustments

⁴² For the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports and the CFSRs, children are considered to be reunified if the discharge reason provided to AFCARS is either (1) reunified with parent or primary caretaker or (2) living with other relatives.

⁴³ Four measures comprise composite I: timeliness and permanency of reunifications. More information regarding this composite is provided in appendix B.

resulted in minimal differences in percentages for the national medians and percentiles. For example, the median across States for measure 4.1 was 71.0 percent, while the median for measure C1.1 was 70.4 percent.

However, there were 16 States whose percentages for measures 4.1 and C1.1 were quite different. For six of these States (Arizona, Hawaii, Illinois, Nevada, New Mexico, and Washington), in 2005, the percentage of reunifications occurring in less than 12 months was considerably lower when the adjustments were applied (measure C1.1) than when the adjustments were not applied (measure 4.1). The direction of this difference indicates that these States had relatively high percentages of children discharged from foster care in less than 8 days.

In comparison, there were 10 States (Alaska, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Puerto Rico, and Texas) in which the percentage of reunifications occurring in less than 12 months was substantially higher when the adjustments were applied to the measure (measure C1.1) than when the adjustments were not applied (measure 4.1). The direction of this difference suggests that a substantial percentage of children in these States were in a trial home visit for more than 30 days at the time of their discharge from foster care to reunification. These States may engage in the practice of physically reunifying children for a period of time prior to actual discharge from foster care.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of reunification

Timeliness of reunification is assessed through a number of perspectives in order to provide a comprehensive picture of performance with regard to this outcome. Three of the measures of timeliness of reunification focus on children's length of stay in foster care at the time that they are discharged from foster care to reunification (measures 4.1, C1.1, and C1.2). The 2005 data shown in table III-1 suggest that, in many States, a majority of children discharged to reunification were reunified in a timely manner. Across States, the median length of stay of children reunified was 6.8 months (measure C1.2), and the median percentage of reunifications occurring in less than 12 months was about 70 percent (measure 4.1 and C1.1).

In contrast to these measures, one of the measures of timeliness provides a longitudinal analysis of children from the time of entry into foster care (i.e., an entry cohort analysis). This measure follows children entering foster care for 12 months to determine the percentage that was reunified within this time period. As shown in table III-1, the median across States of children entering foster care who were reunified in less than 12 months was only 38.7 percent and the 75th percentile was only 48.3 percent (measure C1.3). Thus, in at least 75 percent of the States, the majority of children who entered foster care in the last 6 months of 2004 were still in foster care 12 months later.

In almost all States, the majority of children who entered foster care in the last 6 months of 2004 were still in foster care 12 months later.

Measure C1.4 assesses the permanency of reunification by following children who were discharged from foster care to reunification for a 12-month period and identifying the percentage of those children who reentered foster care within that time period.⁴⁴ The data for measure C1.4 indicate that reentry into foster care is an area needing improvement for many States. The median across States for this measure is close to 15 percent, and in five States (Delaware, Indiana, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Pennsylvania), approximately 25 percent or more of the children exiting foster care in 2004 reentered foster care in less than 12 months.

The following are additional key findings with regard to the timeliness of reunification for 2005:

- *A moderate correlation was found between timeliness of reunification and reentry.* Many States with a relatively high percentage of children reunified in less than 12 months (measure C1.1) also had a relatively high percentage of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months (measure C1.4) (Pearson's $r = 0.45$). The relationship between reunification and reentry is even higher (Pearson's $r = 0.54$) when the reunification measure does not exclude children who were discharged from foster care in less than 8 days (measure 4.1). The fact that the correlation is higher when the measure includes children in foster care for less than 8 days suggests that many children who are discharged from foster care in less than 8 days may be reentering foster care within the year.

For many States, foster care reentry is an area where improvement is needed.

⁴⁴ As noted in chapter I, in prior Child Welfare Outcomes Reports, reentry into foster care was measured by the percentage of children entering foster care who were reentering in less than 12 months. This measure was intended as a proxy measure of reentry because, at the time that the measures were developed for the Child Welfare Outcome Report, it was not possible to track children in AFCARS across fiscal years. The effectiveness of the original measure 4.2 as a proxy measure is supported by the high correlation between performance on measure 4.2 and new measure C1.4 (Pearson's $r = 0.872$). Measure C1.4 will now be reported as the key measure for reentry because it is more precise than the proxy measure.

- *Moderate correlations were found between the timeliness of reunification measures and foster care entry rates.* Many States with relatively high foster care entry rates also had relatively high percentages of reunifications occurring in less than 12 months (Pearson's $r = 0.39$) and relatively low median lengths of stay (Pearson's $r = -0.41$). More investigation is needed to understand the reasons for these relationships.
- *Moderate correlations were found between the measure of reentry into foster care and the age of children entering foster care in a State.* Many States with a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were age 13 or older at the time of entry also had a relatively high percentage of children reentering foster care (measure C1.4) (Pearson's $r = 0.48$). Similarly, many States with a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care at age 12 or younger also had a relatively low percentage of children reentering foster care (Pearson's $r = -0.421$). Compared to younger children, older children may present very different challenges to States with regard to meeting their short- and long-term needs and addressing the needs of their families.

CHANGES IN STATE PERFORMANCE WITH REGARD TO ACHIEVING TIMELY REUNIFICATIONS

Table III-2 provides findings with regard to changes in performance on the measures relevant to child welfare outcome 4: reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing reentry. The change in State performance over time was assessed by calculating a percent change in performance.⁴⁵ Using a percent change calculation permits an assessment of the extent of change occurring over time by taking into account the size of the percentages being compared. For example, a change from 6 percent in 2002 to 7 percent in 2005 represents a change of only 1 percentage point; however, it reflects a +16.7 percent change. In contrast, a change from 75 percent to 80 percent represents a change of 5 percentage points, but only a +6.7 percent change. Consistent with the Department's approach in prior Child Welfare Outcomes Reports, a percent change of 5.0 or greater was used as an indicator that meaningful change occurred. That is, for purposes of the analyses presented in this chapter, if the percent change in performance from 2002 to 2005 was not at least 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative), a determination was made that there was "no change" in performance.

Change in performance for measure 4.1 is assessed from 2002 to 2005. Change in performance on the other measures is assessed from 2004 to 2005 because data are not available for these measures in prior years.

Table III-2. Number and percentage of States exhibiting improvement, decline, or no change in performance over time on measures pertaining to outcome 4: Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing reentry

Outcome Measures	Change in Performance: Number and Percentage of States		
	Improved performance	Declined in performance	No change in performance
Measure 4.1: Change in performance from 2002 to 2005 in the percentage of reunifications in less than 12 months of a child's entry into foster care. (N=52)	15 (29%)	14 (27%)	23 (44%)
Measure C1.1: Change in performance from 2004 to 2005 with regard to reunifications in less than 12 months with adjustments. (N=51)	6 (12%)	9 (18%)	36 (70%)
Measure C1.2: Change in performance from 2004 to 2005 with regard to median length of stay in foster care for children reunified. (N=51)	10 (20%)	19 (37%)	22 (43%)
Measure C1.3: Change in performance from 2004 to 2005 with regard to reunifications in less than 12 months for children entering foster care. (N=48)	14 (29%)	16 (33%)	18 (38%)
Measure C1.4: Change in performance from 2004 to 2005 with regard to reentry into foster care. (N=48)	19 (40%)	17 (35%)	12 (25%)

As shown in table III-2, there are no national patterns of improvement or decline in performance on these measures. Regardless of the measure, some States exhibited improvement, some declined in performance, and some exhibited no change. States were least likely to exhibit a change in performance on outcome measure C1.1.

⁴⁵ Percent change is calculated by subtracting "old" data from "new" data, dividing by old data and multiplying by 100. For example, if maltreatment recurrence was 9.2 in 2002 and 7.6 in 2005, the percentage change would be $[(7.6-9.2)/9.2] \times 100 = -17.4$ percent change.

TIMELINESS OF ADOPTIONS

The assessment of timeliness of adoptions addresses national child welfare outcome 5: reduce time in foster care to adoption. Table III-3 presents summary data regarding State performance in 2005 on the measures relevant to this outcome. The table includes one of the measures originally developed for the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports (measure 5.1) as well as five new measures pertaining to adoption recently developed for use in the second round of the CFSRs (measures C2.1, C2.2, C2.3, C2.4, and C2.5).⁴⁶

Table III-3. Summary of State performance in 2005 on the measures pertaining to achieving adoptions in a timely manner

Outcome Measures*	Performance Variables (numbers are expressed as percentages except median months, as noted)			
	25th Percentile	Median	75th Percentile	Range
Measure 5.1: Percentage of children discharged to adoption in less than 12 months from the date of entry into foster care. (N=52)	2.2	3.6	6.2	0–34.1
Measure C2.1: Percentage of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months from the date of entry into foster care. (N=52)	21.1	29.1	33.5	7.5–81.3
Measure C2.2: State’s median length of stay in months for children adopted. (N=52)	29.5 mos.	31.5 mos.	35.3 mos.	15.4–53.0 mos.
Measure C2.3: Percentage of children in foster care for 17 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year who are adopted by the last day of the year. (N=52)	16.8	20.9	22.6	3.1–33.0
Measure C2.4: Percentage of children in foster care for 17 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year who become legally free for adoption in the first 6 months of the year. (N=52)	4.7	8.8	11.0	0–23.7
Measure C2.5: Percentage of children who are legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. (N=50)	37.4	45.1	56.4	16.4–87.7

* Chapter I and appendix B provide complete definitions of each measure.

Outcome measures 5.1, C2.1, and C2.2 focus on the length of time in foster care of children who are discharged to adoption. Performance on these measures in 2005 suggests that achieving timely adoptions is a challenge for all but a few States. As shown in table III-3, the percentage of adoptions that occur in less than 12 months from the child’s entry into foster care is quite low in almost all States (measure 5.1, median = 3.6 percent). Three States, however, had relatively large percentages of adoptions occurring in less than 12 months. These were Utah (34 percent), Iowa (32 percent), and Wyoming (20.6 percent).

Achieving timely adoptions is a challenge for all but a few States.

The data in table III-3 indicate that the percentage of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months from the child’s entry into foster care also is fairly low (measure C2.1, median = 29.1 percent), although higher than the percentage for measure 5.1. There were only three States, for example, in which at least 50 percent of adoptions occurred in less than 24 months of the child’s entry into foster care (Colorado, Iowa, and Utah). In addition, across States, the median length of stay in foster care for children adopted is 31.5 months (measure C2.2). In about 25 percent of the States, the median length of stay of children adopted is at least 3 years.

Two measures reported in table III-3 (measures C2.3 and C2.4) assess the timeliness of adoptions using a longitudinal analysis. The measures focus on children who were in foster care for at least 17 months on the first day of the fiscal year and follow them to determine: (1) the percentage that are adopted by the end of the fiscal year (measure C2.3) and (2) the percentage who became legally free for adoption in the first 6 months of the fiscal year. The data presented in table III-3 suggest that, across States, only a small percentage of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of 2005 were adopted by the end of that year (measure C2.3, median = 20.9 percent).⁴⁷ The data also indicate that, across States, an even smaller percentage of children in foster care for 17 months or longer on the first day of 2005 became legally free for adoption within the first 6 months of that year (measure

Across States, only a small percentage of children in foster care for 17 months or longer on the first day of 2005 were either adopted by the end of the fiscal year or became legally free for adoption in the first 6 months of 2005.

⁴⁶ These five new measures comprise composite 2: timeliness of adoptions. More information on this composite is provided in appendix B.

⁴⁷ Measures C2.3 and C2.4 exclude children retrospectively from the denominator if the children exited from foster care during the specified time period to either reunification or guardianship.

C2.4, median = 8.8 percent). As shown in the range for this measure, in the highest performing State, only 23.7 percent of the children in foster care for 17 months or longer became legally free for adoption in the first 6 months of 2005.

Measure C2.5 follows children for a 12-month period from the time that they became legally free for adoption to identify the percentage of children whose adoptions were finalized during that time period. As shown in table III-3, the range in performance on this measure across States is extensive (16.4 to 87.7 percent). For example, in three States (Maine, South Dakota, and West Virginia), less than 25 percent of the children who were legally free for adoption were adopted less than 12 months after becoming legally free for adoption. However, in three States (District of Columbia, New Hampshire, and Utah), 80 percent or more of the children who were legally free for adoption were adopted in less than 12 months after becoming legally free. An additional key finding with regard to the timeliness of adoptions for 2005 was a moderate correlation between performance on the measure of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months (measure C2.1) and performance on the measure of reunifications occurring in less than 12 months (measure C1.1) (Pearson's $r = 0.51$). Many States with a relatively high percentage of children adopted in less than 24 months also had a relatively high percentage of children reunified in less than 12 months. This suggests that some States are more successful than others in achieving timely permanency for children in foster care, regardless of whether it is through reunification or adoption.

CHANGE IN PERFORMANCE WITH REGARD TO TIMELINESS OF ADOPTIONS

Table III-4 provides key findings with regard to changes in performance on the measures assessing timely adoptions. Change in performance for the original outcome measure 5.1b (adoptions occurring in less than 24 months) is assessed from 2002 to 2005. Change in performance on the new outcome measures is assessed from 2004 to 2005 because data are not available for these measures in prior years.

Many States that are more successful than others in achieving reunifications in a timely manner also are more successful than other States in achieving timely adoptions.

Table III-4. Number and percentage of States exhibiting improvement, decline, or no change in performance on measures pertaining to outcome 5: Reduce time in foster care to adoption

Outcome Measures	Change in Performance: Number and Percentage of States		
	Improved performance	Declined in performance	No change in performance
Measure 5.1b: Change from 2002 to 2005 in the percentage of children discharged to adoption in less than 24 months from the date of entry into foster care. (N=52)	33 (63%)	13 (25%)	6 (12%)
Measure C2.2: Change from 2004 to 2005 in the median length of stay in months for children adopted. (N=51)	12 (24%)	10 (20%)	29 (56%)
Measure C2.3: Change from 2004 to 2005 in the percentage of children in foster care for 17 months or longer on the first day of the year who were adopted by the end of the year. (N=51)	22 (43%)	15 (29%)	14 (27%)
Measure C2.4: Change from 2004 to 2005 in the percentage of children in foster care for 17 months or longer on the first day of the year who became legally free for adoption in the first 6 months of the year. (N=51)	22 (43%)	22 (43%)	7 (14%)
Measure C2.5: Change from 2004 to 2005 in the percentage of children who were legally free for adoption who were adopted within 12 months of becoming legally free. (N=48)	16 (33.3%)	16 (33.3%)	16 (33.3%)

The data presented in table III-4 reveal a national pattern of change with regard to the percentage of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months. For measure 5.1b, 63 percent of the States (N= 33) demonstrated improved performance from 2002 to 2005.⁴⁸ There are no noteworthy patterns of change in performance for the other measures.

⁴⁸ Original Child Welfare Outcomes measure 5.1 incorporates a range of time periods. The 24-month time period was chosen for this analysis because data are available for 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005. This time period also is captured in measure C2.1.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS REGARDING ACHIEVING REUNIFICATIONS AND ADOPTIONS IN A TIMELY MANNER

The focus on achieving permanency must begin immediately upon the child's entry into foster care.

Achieving timely reunifications

For 2005, the measures that assess the timeliness of reunification from the point of discharge from foster care suggest that, in most States, many children who exit foster care to reunification are reunified in a timely manner. However, the measure that assesses timeliness of reunification from the perspective of children entering foster care (i.e., an entry cohort measure), indicates that, in most States, the majority of children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2004 were still in foster care 12 months later. Although not all of these children will eventually exit foster care to reunification, many of them will be reunified, and they will have been in foster care for a year or longer.

The data for 2005 also suggest that many States experience challenges in ensuring that children who are reunified do not reenter foster care within the year. A consistent finding of the data analyses for the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports is that many States that have a high percentage of reunifications occurring in less than 12 months from the child's entry into foster care also have a high percentage of children who reenter foster care in less than 12 months from the time of reunification. This is an important finding because it raises the possibility that, at the time of reunification, not all of the problems that resulted in the child's initial entry into foster care were adequately resolved, or that new problems arose at the point of reunification that were not sufficiently addressed by the agency.

An additional consistent finding is that many States with a relatively high percentage of foster care reentries also had a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were adolescents (age 13 or older). The challenges that these children present to State child welfare systems with regard to meeting the reunification needs of the children and their families are quite different than those encountered in working with younger children and their families.

There was no clear pattern nationally with regard to a change in performance on most of the measures pertaining to reunification. Although many States exhibited improved performance on the measures, many other States exhibited declines or no change in performance.

Achieving timely adoptions

The data for 2005 with regard to timely adoptions indicate that achieving adoptions in a timely manner remains a significant challenge for almost all States. The exceptions to this pattern are Colorado, Iowa, and Utah where approximately 50 percent or more of the adoptions finalized in 2005 occurred less than 24 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care. A clear area for further investigation is why these States are so much more successful than other States in achieving timely adoptions.

The challenges in achieving adoptions in a timely manner are apparent from the data for all of the relevant measures. However, 63 percent of States exhibited an improvement in performance in the percentage of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months from the child's entry into foster care. This indicates that, despite the challenges, many States are making concerted efforts to expedite the adoption process for children.

Many States are making concerted efforts to expedite the adoption process for children.

IV: Achieving Stable and Appropriate Placement Settings in Foster Care

The State child welfare agency has the responsibility to ensure that children are in stable placements while they are in foster care. Placement stability is addressed in national child welfare outcome 6: increase placement stability. For the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports, a child is considered to have achieved placement stability if the child experiences two or fewer placement settings during a single foster care episode.⁴⁹

State child welfare agencies also are responsible for ensuring that children in foster care are in placements that are appropriate to their age and service needs. This is addressed in national outcome 7: reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions. For many young children (but not all), an age-appropriate placement means a family setting rather than a group home or institution. However, young children who need particular types of care to meet either their mental health or physical health needs should be placed in the most appropriate environments to meet those needs.

Table IV-1 presents the findings of State performance on measures of placement stability and placements of young children in group homes or institutions. With regard to placement stability, the data presented in the table reflect the various time frames relevant to the original Child Welfare Outcomes Report measure 6.1.⁵⁰

Table IV-1. Summary of State performance in 2005 on measures pertaining to outcome 6: Increase placement stability, and outcome 7: Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions

Outcome Measures	Performance Variables			
	25th Percentile	Median	75th Percentile	Range
Measure 6.1a: Percentage of children in foster care for less than 12 months who experience two or fewer placement settings. (N=52)	80.8%	83.3%	86.7%	56.6–99.6%
Measure 6.1b: Percentage of children in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months who experience two or fewer placement settings. (N=52)	51.4	59.4	65.3	32.3–99.7
Measure 6.1c: Percentage of children in foster care for 24 months or longer who experience two or fewer placement settings. (N=52)	26.9	32.3	38.3	11.6–99.3
Measure 7.1: Percentage of children entering foster care at age 12 or younger who are placed in group homes or institutions. (N=52)	4.9	7.2	11.9	0.9–24.6

As shown in table IV-1, in most States, the majority of children in foster care for less than 12 months in 2005 experienced no more than two placement settings (measure 6.1a, median = 83.3 percent). For example, there were only two States (North Carolina = 56.6 percent and Vermont = 66.5 percent) in which performance on this measure was below 70 percent. Despite the generally positive level of performance on this measure across States, it is important to remember that placement stability while in foster care is critical to children's well-being. Therefore, there is reason for concern when any child has three or more placement settings while in foster care.

Although most States appear to be generally successful in achieving placement stability for children in foster care for less than 12 months, State performance changes dramatically when children are in foster care for longer periods of time. As shown in table IV-1, the median across States declines from 83.3 percent for children in foster care for less than 12 months to only 59.4 percent for children in foster care for 12 to 24 months, and then declines even further to 32.3 percent for children in foster care for 24 months or longer.

Surprisingly, State performance with regard to placement stability was not found to be associated with the ages of children entering foster care or with the ages of children in foster care on the last day of the fiscal year. Child welfare organizations and State agency administrators and staff frequently have suggested that, for some States, poor performance on the measures of placement stability is due to the large number of adolescents in their foster care systems. However, the findings of the data analysis conducted for the Child Welfare Outcomes Report do not support this interpretation. States with relatively high percentages of children age 13 or older either entering foster care in 2005 or in foster care on the last day of the year were neither more nor less likely to have low percentages of children experiencing placement stability, regardless of the length of time the children were in foster care. In fact, the correlations among these factors are close to zero.

⁴⁹ The count of placement settings does not include temporary stays in hospitals, camps, respite care, or institutional placements.

⁵⁰ For the second round of the CFSRs, three new measures were developed as part of composite 4: placement stability. These are not shown in this chapter because the measures are almost identical to the original measures of placement stability incorporated in measure 6.1. It was determined that it would be more useful to provide data for measure 6.1 in this chapter because these data are available for all 4 years.

The one variable that was found to be associated with placement stability was the median length of stay in foster care prior to adoption. The following correlations were found:

- Many States with a relatively high median length of stay prior to adoption also had a relatively high percentage of placement stability for children in foster care for 12 to 24 months (Pearson’s $r = 0.40$).
- Many States with a relatively high median length of stay prior to adoption also had a relatively high percentage of placement stability for children in foster care for 24 months or longer (Pearson’s $r = 0.44$).

Although more information is needed to understand these relationships, one possible explanation is that, in some States, if children are perceived as being in stable placements (possibly preadoptive homes), States may be less likely to make concerted efforts to finalize the adoptions than they might be if the children were not in stable placements.

The data in table IV-1 also indicate that, in most States, young children entering foster care are not frequently placed in group homes or institutions. For 10 States, 5 percent or less of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution.

CHANGE IN STATE PERFORMANCE FROM 2002 TO 2005

The change in State performance over time was assessed by calculating a percent change in performance.⁵¹ Using a percent change calculation permits an assessment of the extent of change occurring over time by taking into account the size of the percentages being compared. For example, a change from 6 percent in 2002 to 7 percent in 2005 represents a change of only 1 percentage point; however, it reflects a +16.7 percent change. In contrast, a change from 75 percent to 80 percent represents a change of 5 percentage points, but only a +6.7 percent change. Consistent with the Department’s approach in prior Child Welfare Outcomes Reports, a percent change of 5.0 or greater was used as an indicator that meaningful change occurred. That is, for purposes of the analyses presented in this chapter, if the percent change in performance from 2002 to 2005 was not at least 5.0 in either direction (i.e., positive or negative), a determination was made that there was “no change” in performance.

Table IV-2 provides the number and percentage of States that improved performance, declined in performance, or exhibited no change in performance with regard to key measures for outcomes 6 and 7.⁵²

Table IV-2. Number of States exhibiting improvement, decline, or no change in performance from 2002 to 2005 with regard to measures pertaining to outcome 6 and outcome 7 (N=52)

Outcome Measures	Change in Performance: Number and Percentage of States		
	Improved performance	Declined in performance	No change in performance
Measure 6.1a: Percentage of children in foster care for less than 12 months who experience two or fewer placement settings. (N=52)	10 (19%)	2 (4%)	40 (77%)
Measure 6.1b: Percentage of children in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months who experience two or fewer placement settings. (N=52)	17 (33%)	13 (25%)	22 (42%)
Measure 6.1c: Percentage of children in foster care for at least 24 months who experience two or fewer placement settings. (N=52)	9 (17%)	31 (60%)	12 (23%)
Measure 7.1: Percentage of children entering foster care when they were age 12 or younger who were placed in a group home or institution. (N=52)	40 (77%)	8 (15%)	4 (8%)

As shown in table IV-2, most States did not exhibit a change in performance with regard to placement stability for children in foster care for less than 12 months. This is not surprising given the fairly high percentages for this measure in all years. Of the 12 States that did demonstrate performance change, 10 demonstrated improved performance. However, 60 percent of the States exhibited a decline in performance from 2002 to 2005 on the measure assessing placement stability for children in foster care for 24 months or longer (measure 6.1c). This raises questions about the ability of the States to maintain stability for children in foster care for long periods of time.

⁵¹ Percent change is calculated by subtracting “old” data from “new” data, dividing by old data and multiplying by 100. For example, if maltreatment recurrence was 9.2 in 2002 and 7.6 in 2005, the percent change would be $[(7.6-9.2)/9.2] \times 100 = -17.4$ percent change.

⁵² The data for the new measures of placement stability are not shown because they are essentially the same as the old measures, and because the data for the old measures permit a comparison from 2002 to 2005 rather than from 2004 to 2005.

With regard to outcome measure 7.1, the data presented in table IV-2 indicate a clear pattern over time of fewer placements of young children in group homes and institutions. Performance on this measure was not found to be related to performance on any of the other outcome measures or to the number and characteristics of children in the State's foster care population.

There is a clear pattern over time of fewer placements of young children in group homes and institutions.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

A consistent finding of the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports is that, although States are fairly successful in achieving placement stability for children in foster care for less than 12 months, the percentage of children who have placement stability declines considerably the longer the children are in foster care. This is an ongoing area in need of improvement, as indicated by the fact that 60 percent of States exhibited a decline in performance from 2002 to 2005 with regard to placement stability for children in foster care for 24 months or longer. Also, because the results of the analyses indicate that State performance on this measure is not related to the percentages of adolescents in the State's foster care system, research in this area would be helpful in understanding the problem.

Placement stability declines substantially the longer a child is in foster care.

The national pattern of change in performance with regard to placements of young children in group homes or institutions suggests that most States are making concerted efforts to avoid placing young children in these settings unnecessarily.

V: State Performance Relevant to the Seven National Child Welfare Outcomes

The previous chapters provide key findings of an analysis of performance across States relevant to the seven national child welfare outcomes. This chapter presents data for each State on the 12 measures originally developed for the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports, and on an additional 15 measures recently developed for the second round of the Child and Family Services Reviews. As noted in earlier chapters, the 15 additional measures are relevant to the seven national child welfare outcomes addressed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Report. Therefore, data on these measures are included in this report and will be included in all future Child Welfare Outcomes Reports.

The data pages also include the composite scores for each State for the four CFSR-related composites for informational purposes. These composite scores are based on the results of a Principal Components Analysis conducted by the Children's Bureau. This process is explained in detail in the Federal Register Announcement published on the Children's Bureau's website at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwmonitoring/legislation/fed_reg.htm

The data on the outcome measures are presented by State rather than by measure. This is because the focus of the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports is on continuous improvement in performance within each State rather than on comparisons of performance across States.

VIEWING THE STATE DATA PAGES

The State data pages are structured as follows:

- Data for the context variables.
- Data showing State performance on the original outcome measures.
- Data pertaining to State performance on the 15 new measures and the State's composite scores for 2005.
- State Comment Page: A page presenting each State's comments on its own data (provided only when a State submitted a comment for publication).
- Federal Comment Page: A brief summary prepared by the Department of the strengths and opportunities for improvement with regard to the seven outcome domains.

The following convention was used to distinguish among various types of data reporting:

- If a State's data for any of the context variables or outcome measures was 0 percent, this is indicated by a 0.0.
- If a State's data was greater than 0 percent but less than 0.1 percent, this is indicated by a < 0.1.
- If a particular cell is not applicable to a State, that is, there is no reason to assume that the State would have data for that cell, this is indicated by NA.
- If a particular cell is applicable to a State, that is, there is reason to assume that the State would have data for that cell but no data were provided, this is indicated by a dash (-).

Alabama

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	1,107,108	1,107,973	1,094,533	1,089,753
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4
Asian	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	31.9	31.8	31.7	31.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.2
White (non-Hispanic)	63.1	63.0	62.8	62.6
Two or more races	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3
Child population in poverty (%)	19.1	22.3	24.2	24.7

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	9,903	9,290	9,414	9,029
Children in foster care on 9/30	5,883	6,079	5,934	6,913
Children adopted	249	329	398	336

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	32,682	29.5 per 1,000	29,679	26.8 per 1,000	31,300	28.6 per 1,000	27,378	25.1 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	9,903	8.9 per 1,000	9,290	8.4 per 1,000	9,414	8.6 per 1,000	9,029	8.3 per 1,000
Child fatalities	29	2.6 per 100,000	22	2.0 per 100,000	11	1.0 per 100,000	24	2.2 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	7.5	7.4	8.8	9.6
1-5 years	26.4	27.0	28.1	28.8
6-10 years	25.4	24.1	22.5	22.7
11-15 years	28.3	29.8	28.8	27.2
16+ years	5.7	5.6	5.4	4.6
Unknown	6.6	6.2	6.4	7.1
Number	9,903	9,290	9,414	9,029

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	30.3	29.9	29.5	23.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.5
White (non-Hispanic)	54.5	48.9	52.2	45.5
Two or more races	—	—	—	0.2
Unknown	12.7	16.1	15.7	28.1
Number	9,903	9,290	9,414	9,029

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	2.3	1.3	0.8	0.7
Medical neglect	—	—	—	—
Neglect	42.0	39.6	43.6	44.5
Physical abuse	45.6	38.6	40.5	40.5
Sexual abuse	23.8	24.7	24.0	23.5
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Number	9,903	9,290	9,414	9,029

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	—	—	—	55.8
Median	—	—	—	>24, but <48

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	5,450	5,651	5,382	6,348	3,125	3,246	3,598	3,844	2,692	2,818	3,046	3,279	5,883	6,079	5,934	6,913
Median length of stay (months)	20.8	19.7	18.1	19.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.1	11.1	8.1	9.4	19.1	18.3	17.7	19.2

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.8	14.9	13.3	14.5	15.2	6.2	5.4	6.1	5.5	4.1	3.9	4.2	4.9
1 year	4.7	5.0	4.3	5.3	6.7	6.2	7.1	6.7	6.4	6.5	6.9	6.2	4.8	4.4	5.2	5.2
2 years	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.7	6.0	5.5	5.8	6.8	6.9	6.5	6.5	6.4	4.6	4.6	4.4	5.4
3 years	4.5	4.0	4.2	4.7	4.6	5.7	5.2	5.8	6.2	6.2	6.4	7.0	3.9	4.3	4.2	4.6
4 years	4.5	4.0	4.5	4.0	4.9	5.1	4.9	5.0	5.8	5.0	5.6	5.6	4.0	4.3	3.7	4.4
5 years	3.9	3.6	3.5	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.8	4.6	4.8	5.1	5.0	5.3	3.9	3.4	4.2	3.7
6 years	4.1	4.0	4.1	3.7	4.2	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.3	4.5	5.2	4.9	3.8	4.0	3.5	4.2
7 years	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.4	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.8	3.9	4.2	3.8	3.8	3.9
8 years	4.5	4.0	4.1	3.9	5.1	3.9	4.0	3.8	5.1	4.4	4.4	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.0
9 years	4.6	4.9	4.3	3.6	4.8	3.9	4.0	3.2	4.4	4.1	4.9	2.9	5.0	4.0	3.6	3.7
10 years	5.3	4.7	4.8	4.1	4.5	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.9	4.2	4.1	3.8	4.7	4.6	4.2	3.6
11 years	5.6	5.2	5.1	4.3	3.9	4.8	4.3	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.4	3.8	5.2	4.8	4.5	4.0
12 years	5.8	5.9	6.3	5.2	4.9	5.5	4.9	4.5	3.9	3.8	4.4	3.9	5.8	5.8	5.3	4.9
13 years	6.2	6.4	7.4	6.5	5.5	6.0	6.2	5.4	3.7	4.2	4.8	4.5	6.4	6.7	6.9	5.1
14 years	6.5	6.9	7.5	6.9	6.6	5.9	5.3	6.6	4.4	4.2	4.6	4.9	7.0	7.0	7.4	7.2
15 years	7.4	7.2	8.1	7.8	6.4	6.7	6.3	6.6	6.4	5.4	4.5	4.8	7.2	7.6	8.3	7.8
16 years	7.7	7.4	8.5	8.0	5.4	6.0	6.3	5.3	5.2	5.5	6.3	5.6	7.3	7.7	8.5	7.8
17 years	6.3	7.3	7.8	7.4	2.8	4.0	3.6	3.3	4.0	5.5	4.4	5.0	7.1	7.1	7.8	7.5
18 years	3.8	4.2	3.1	4.9	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	5.4	5.7	5.4	5.7	4.1	4.9	5.2	4.9
19 years	1.6	1.9	0.0	2.3	0.0	0.2	<.1	0.2	2.8	3.4	1.3	4.0	1.9	2.1	1.3	2.3
20+ years	0.8	0.9	0.0	0.6	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	1.6	1.9	0.0	1.8	0.8	1.0	0.0	1.0
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.4	0.1	<.1	0.0	<.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	<.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	51.6	51.0	50.2	48.1	41.3	41.9	41.2	40.0	42.6	42.9	42.2	42.3	50.3	49.9	48.8	46.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	0.9	1.2	1.6	1.9	1.5	2.6	2.9	3.3	1.2	2.2	2.8	3.5	1.1	1.5	1.8	1.9
White (non-Hispanic)	46.4	46.8	47.3	48.4	56.3	54.5	53.9	55.4	55.2	54.0	53.7	52.8	47.7	47.6	48.0	50.2
Two or more races	0.6	0.7	0.6	1.2	0.4	0.5	1.4	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.6	1.0	1.1
Unknown	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	1,476	1,546	1,599	2,128
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	900	865	730	1,189

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.7	3.6	5.7	5.5
1 year	5.3	4.3	6.8	7.0
2 years	5.7	6.3	5.4	7.0
3 years	5.1	5.0	6.1	6.3
4 years	4.9	5.4	5.1	6.5
5 years	6.6	5.5	5.8	5.0
6 years	5.2	6.1	5.1	6.4
7 years	6.1	5.1	5.8	6.2
8 years	6.4	6.1	5.5	5.8
9 years	6.8	6.0	5.3	5.1
10 years	6.5	6.6	5.6	5.3
11 years	7.4	6.2	6.1	5.4
12 years	7.6	7.2	5.1	5.2
13 years	6.1	8.2	6.4	4.3
14 years	5.8	5.8	6.8	5.4
15 years	4.0	5.3	5.3	5.5
16 years	3.8	3.8	4.5	4.3
17 years	2.9	3.4	3.5	3.8
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Asian	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	49.6	48.3	47.5	43.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.9
White (non-Hispanic)	48.4	49.3	49.3	52.1
Two or more races	0.5	0.6	1.5	1.9
Unknown	0.3	0.5	0.1	<.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	249	329	398	336

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.8	1.2	2.0	0.3
1 year	5.6	8.2	6.8	5.4
2 years	10.4	9.7	7.0	8.3
3 years	12.9	12.5	11.6	15.2
4 years	12.4	8.5	8.3	11.6
5 years	6.4	5.5	7.5	8.3
6 years	8.4	8.8	7.3	6.8
7 years	4.4	7.3	9.0	4.8
8 years	6.0	8.5	6.3	6.3
9 years	8.0	5.5	6.5	5.1
10 years	6.0	5.5	5.8	4.2
11 years	6.8	3.6	5.8	4.8
12 years	2.8	4.9	5.5	5.1
13 years	2.0	3.0	4.5	5.1
14 years	1.6	2.7	2.5	2.4
15 years	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.4
16 years	1.2	1.5	1.3	2.4
17 years	1.6	0.9	0.3	1.5
18 years	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.3
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	40.6	45.6	35.4	34.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.4	1.5	1.8	1.5
White (non-Hispanic)	56.2	51.4	61.8	61.3
Two or more races	2.4	1.5	0.8	2.7
Unknown	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Alabama

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	98.1
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	1.9
Number	—	—	—	4,012

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care

(NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	—	—	0.14
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	—	—	99.86
Number	N/A	—	—	10,192

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	9.2	11.7	13.0	10.2
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	77.1	75.7	79.9	79.0
Other	8.2	12.1	7.1	10.8
Missing data	5.5	0.6	0.0	0.0
Number	2,692	2,818	3,046	3,279

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	13.0	14.8	17.4	20.7
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	53.0	59.6	68.6	56.2
Other	24.7	24.8	14.0	23.2
Missing data	9.3	0.7	0.0	0.0
Number	215	270	236	276

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.7
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	72.2	75.1	83.8	77.0
Other	16.7	23.5	16.2	22.3
Missing data	10.8	1.2	0.0	0.0
Number	665	758	742	915

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	52.2	47.5	50.8	43.9
Children older than 12 at entry	47.8	52.5	49.2	56.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	115	177	61	189

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.8	12.4	11.0	8.4
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	100.0	100.0	66.7	100.0	50.0	0.0	60.0	0.0	73.6	71.5	81.7	77.4
Other	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	50.0	0.0	40.0	100.0	10.9	15.1	7.3	14.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.6	0.9	0.0	0.0
Number	3	3	3	4	2	0	5	1	1,146	1,208	1,284	1,388

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	7.9	7.1	4.3	9.3	11.1	15.0	11.8
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	62.5	77.8	85.7	81.7	80.3	79.1	78.3	80.3
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	31.3	14.3	7.1	13.9	5.8	9.5	6.8	7.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.6	0.3	0.0	0.0
Number	0	0	0	2	32	63	84	115	1,487	1,523	1,637	1,732

	Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	12.5	0.0	16.7	0.0	42.9	33.3	11.1	29.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	75.0	50.0	83.3	100.0	57.1	60.0	85.2	67.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.7	3.7	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	8	6	6	6	14	15	27	31	0	0	0	0

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	61.4	64.4	68.5	67.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	20.9	20.3	19.0	18.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	7.5	6.8	7.2	7.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.8	3.5	2.1	3.1
48 or more mos.	6.4	5.0	3.2	3.6
Missing data	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Number	2,076	2,132	2,435	2,591

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	82.3	81.8	81.7	80.6
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	8.6	8.7	9.9	9.4
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	9.0	9.1	7.9	9.2
Missing data	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.8
Number	3,125	3,246	3,598	3,844

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	2.4	1.8	2.5	0.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.3	13.4	13.1	16.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	24.3	21.3	21.0	19.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	17.4	21.6	28.8	26.0
48 or more mos.	44.5	41.9	34.6	37.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	247	329	396	335

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	92.2	92.6	89.3	89.1	79.8	75.7	73.1	72.4	53.5	51.9	51.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	95.5	87.5
Children with 3 or more placements	7.8	7.4	10.7	10.9	20.2	24.3	26.9	27.6	46.5	48.1	49.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	12.5
Number	3,617	3,726	4,081	4,412	1,589	1,787	1,725	1,907	3,365	3,369	3,152	3,865	4	15	22	8

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	3.2	2.3	1.4	1.1
Institutions	4.3	4.2	3.2	2.6
Other settings	92.4	92.5	94.1	93.7
Missing data	0.1	0.9	1.3	2.5
Number	1,731	1,707	1,783	1,935

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	120.0
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	66.3	65.5
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	7.0	7.6
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	48.2	48.8
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	7.8	10.6

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	56.5
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	15.7	17.7
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	41.5	41.4
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	14.6	10.6
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	4.6	9.1
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	32.5	31.4

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	106.6
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	20.8	17.8
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	97.5	97.1
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	49.1	50.8

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	109.5
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	87.4	87.5
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	73.4	72.6
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	51.9	51.4

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Alabama

STATE COMMENT

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The following are Alabama's comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress*.

Section B: The increase in the percentage of children for whom age and race/ethnicity is missing is due to our current SACWIS not requiring data in these fields. We are currently in the process of changing systems, therefore this problem should be eliminated in the near future.

Section C and Outcome Measure 3.4: The number of children age 18 or older discharged to emancipation may appear to be low due to a large number of children in this age group exiting to reunification.

Section D: Of the children awaiting adoption, approximately only half were reported as having a termination of parental rights for both parents. State definitions counts children in this category as soon as the case plan of adoption is established, not necessarily when termination has been achieved.

Outcome Measure 1.1: Recurrence of maltreatment within 6 months is at 1.9 percent, which is 4.7 percent below the national median of 6.6 percent.

Outcome Measure 3.1: The percentage of children exiting to a permanent home is at 89.2 percent, which is 1.7 percent above the national median of 87.5 percent.

Outcome Measure 3.2: The percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability who exited foster care to a permanent home increased by 10.9 percent from 2002 to 2005 to 76.9 percent.

Outcome Measure 3.3: The percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at the time of entry into foster care who exited to a permanent home is at 77.7 percent, which is 4.7 percent above the national median of 73.0 percent.

Outcome Measure 3.4: The percent of children emancipating who were ages 12 or younger at entry improved by 6.9 percent from 2004 to 2005 to 43.9 percent.

Outcome Measure 4.1: The percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care increased by 5.7 percent from 2002 to 2005 to 67.3 percent.

Outcome Measure 5.1: The percentage of adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care increased by 3.9 percent from 2002 to 2005 to 17.6 percent.

Outcome Measure 6.1: The percentage of children experiencing two or fewer placements who were in foster care for less than 12 months is 89.1 percent, which is 5.9 percent above the national median of 83.2 percent.

Outcome Measure 7.1: The percentage of children entering foster care at age 12 and younger who were placed in a group home or institution is 3.7 percent, which is below the national median of 7.2 percent.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Alabama's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 1.9 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 6.6 percent.

In 2005, 0.14 percent of children in foster care in Alabama were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 0.42 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 89.2 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 76.9 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 77.9 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All percentages are about equal to or exceed the national median for each measure (medians for measures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 17.8 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged to a permanent home by the end of the fiscal year and prior to their 18th birthday (measure C3.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 26.4 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (14.4 percent change).

In 2005, 97.1 percent of the children exiting foster care whose parents' rights had been terminated were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage exceeds the national median of 95.7 percent.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 5.8 percent of the children who exited foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation," and 43.9 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent, but represents improvement in performance from 2002 (15.9 percent change).

In 2005, 50.8 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 65.5 percent of reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 70.4 percent for this measure.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 48.8 percent of all children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent.

Measure C1.4 indicates that 10.6 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is less than the national median of 14.8 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (35.9 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is replacing measure 4.2 as an assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 17.6 percent of the finalized adoptions occurred in less than 24 months from the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 29.1 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (28.5 percent change).

In 2005, 10.6 percent of the children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 20.9 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (27.4 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 31.4 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is less than the national median of 45.1 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 87.5 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months had two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 51.4 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings. This percentage exceeds the national median of 32.3 percent.

In 2005, 3.7 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 7.2 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (50.7 percent change).

Alaska

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	192,428	189,289	188,229	188,324
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	19.7	19.8	20.1	20.4
Asian	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Hispanic (of any race)	6.0	6.3	6.6	6.8
White (non-Hispanic)	58.4	57.9	57.6	57.1
Two or more races	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.6
Child population in poverty (%)	11.3	11.2	12.0	12.1

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	7,950	7,996	—	2,693
Children in foster care on 9/30	2,072	2,040	1,825	1,791
Children adopted	230	208	182	204

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	10,002	52.0 per 1,000	10,575	55.9 per 1,000	—	— per 1,000	6,813	36.2 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	7,950	41.3 per 1,000	7,996	42.2 per 1,000	—	— per 1,000	2,693	14.3 per 1,000
Child fatalities	1	0.5 per 100,000	2	1.1 per 100,000	—	— per 100,000	3	1.6 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	8.0	8.0	—	11.3
1-5 years	31.7	32.2	—	33.1
6-10 years	30.1	29.6	—	25.5
11-15 years	25.6	25.8	—	23.7
16+ years	4.6	4.4	—	3.9
Unknown	—	—	—	2.5
Number	7,950	7,996	—	2,693

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	48.0	46.8	—	49.7
Asian	2.4	0.8	—	0.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	5.9	6.0	—	5.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	1.6	—	1.0
Hispanic (of any race)	2.0	2.4	—	2.8
White (non-Hispanic)	38.0	37.5	—	34.0
Two or more races	—	—	—	3.0
Unknown	3.7	5.0	—	3.6
Number	7,950	7,996	—	2,693

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	8.7	11.3	—	29.4
Medical neglect	—	—	—	3.7
Neglect	62.3	59.8	—	61.8
Physical abuse	21.1	21.8	—	14.6
Sexual abuse	7.9	7.2	—	4.5
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Number	7,950	7,996	—	2,693

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	—	—	—	706.0
Median	—	—	—	>144, but <168

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	1,848	1,878	1,875	1,617	1,068	943	665	929	844	781	715	790	2,072	2,040	1,825	1,791
Median length of stay (months)	17.7	17.0	16.9	13.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	19.1	14.5	17.7	14.9	16.5	17.5	21.3	15.3

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.7	4.8	3.9	4.5	15.3	14.4	18.0	16.8	3.2	3.6	4.2	3.2	4.7	4.1	3.7	5.6
1 year	7.2	5.3	6.6	5.8	6.7	8.5	8.7	8.4	7.6	6.7	6.3	4.3	5.3	6.7	5.6	6.6
2 years	6.4	7.2	5.5	6.3	7.2	6.5	7.1	7.1	6.5	9.1	8.5	8.0	7.5	5.4	6.5	7.2
3 years	6.5	6.2	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.2	7.8	5.6	7.3	7.3	6.6	8.0	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.4
4 years	5.4	6.1	5.6	6.1	5.6	5.8	5.4	6.2	8.4	9.3	6.9	6.3	6.0	5.6	5.6	5.7
5 years	5.9	4.6	5.1	5.4	4.9	5.1	5.3	5.3	6.3	5.0	6.2	6.1	4.2	5.0	5.2	5.5
6 years	5.0	5.6	4.7	4.8	6.2	6.2	4.2	5.2	5.2	6.7	5.7	5.4	5.6	4.9	4.4	5.5
7 years	5.9	5.9	5.2	5.9	5.1	4.5	4.8	4.8	5.3	5.5	5.5	4.8	5.8	5.1	5.2	4.9
8 years	5.8	5.2	5.2	5.2	4.6	5.0	5.6	4.7	5.9	6.1	5.6	5.3	5.3	4.9	5.0	5.2
9 years	5.5	5.3	5.3	4.6	5.0	4.8	4.7	3.7	4.4	4.5	4.2	4.7	5.3	5.1	4.9	4.9
10 years	6.3	5.8	5.5	5.3	5.3	4.8	4.1	4.0	5.0	5.5	6.0	4.2	5.6	5.4	5.1	4.4
11 years	6.1	6.1	5.9	4.3	5.2	6.0	3.6	4.2	6.3	5.6	4.9	4.2	6.1	5.6	4.7	5.5
12 years	5.8	5.7	6.6	5.3	5.1	5.6	3.9	5.1	4.7	5.5	5.5	4.9	5.8	6.5	5.6	3.9
13 years	5.3	5.8	6.1	6.3	5.2	4.2	4.8	4.0	5.3	2.8	3.8	5.1	5.6	6.1	6.5	4.9
14 years	4.9	5.5	6.0	5.8	4.8	4.9	3.2	5.6	4.3	3.8	5.0	4.9	5.6	5.8	5.7	6.0
15 years	5.4	5.5	5.3	6.1	3.7	3.3	3.8	4.7	3.2	3.6	3.1	4.6	5.6	5.5	5.9	6.2
16 years	4.3	4.6	5.3	5.6	2.2	3.4	3.6	3.1	3.0	3.2	4.2	3.9	4.7	5.3	5.8	5.9
17 years	3.1	3.2	4.2	4.9	1.6	0.8	1.4	1.4	3.4	3.2	2.9	4.9	3.2	4.2	5.3	4.5
18 years	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.4	<.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	3.9	2.0	4.3	5.9	1.5	1.9	2.4	1.8
19 years	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.9	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.3
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.4	<.1	0.2	0.2	0.0
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	61.4	61.4	63.3	49.8	55.0	61.7	56.5	51.8	56.2	55.8	61.5	49.6	60.2	63.7	61.5	50.9
Asian	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.5	1.2	0.7	0.3	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	9.1	9.4	7.3	6.1	10.6	6.4	8.9	5.2	10.1	10.9	7.6	6.5	9.5	7.5	7.8	5.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	1.2	1.7	2.2	3.8	2.5	3.4	1.4	4.2	1.7	1.3	2.5	5.7	1.7	2.6	1.8	3.4
White (non-Hispanic)	26.5	25.5	25.5	26.8	29.4	26.1	32.5	25.8	29.9	28.4	26.7	23.7	26.6	24.7	27.6	27.6
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.0
Unknown	1.1	1.3	1.2	0.4	2.0	2.1	0.8	2.2	1.8	2.4	1.0	0.9	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	617	634	649	488
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	353	363	337	104

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.8	1.9	1.1	3.7
1 year	5.3	5.7	5.4	7.2
2 years	7.9	4.9	7.9	7.0
3 years	6.8	7.1	5.1	9.2
4 years	6.6	6.9	6.2	8.0
5 years	6.0	5.0	5.4	5.9
6 years	7.1	6.8	4.9	6.6
7 years	7.6	6.2	6.3	6.4
8 years	6.0	6.0	6.2	8.2
9 years	6.6	6.0	6.2	4.9
10 years	8.1	5.7	6.3	6.1
11 years	6.0	7.9	5.9	6.4
12 years	6.2	7.1	7.9	3.1
13 years	5.8	6.8	6.9	4.9
14 years	4.2	6.2	7.1	4.7
15 years	3.1	4.4	5.2	4.1
16 years	2.9	3.3	3.4	2.9
17 years	0.8	2.2	2.8	0.8
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	64.8	64.0	63.0	50.8
Asian	1.0	0.8	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	8.1	8.8	9.4	6.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.3	0.3	0.9	3.1
White (non-Hispanic)	25.1	25.1	25.9	28.9
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.5
Unknown	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	230	208	182	204

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.4	2.9	2.2	0.0
1 year	10.4	5.8	4.4	3.9
2 years	7.4	10.1	12.6	10.8
3 years	12.2	7.2	7.1	8.3
4 years	12.2	12.5	10.4	9.3
5 years	10.4	8.2	4.4	10.3
6 years	3.9	5.8	4.9	6.4
7 years	3.9	7.7	10.4	7.8
8 years	10.4	6.7	9.9	5.4
9 years	5.2	9.6	6.0	6.9
10 years	4.8	7.2	6.0	6.4
11 years	7.8	3.8	6.0	4.4
12 years	5.2	3.8	4.4	6.4
13 years	2.6	1.9	1.6	5.9
14 years	1.7	2.9	3.8	2.5
15 years	0.4	1.4	2.7	2.5
16 years	0.4	1.4	1.1	2.0
17 years	0.4	0.5	1.6	1.0
18 years	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	48.3	61.1	54.9	44.6
Asian	1.3	1.9	5.5	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	7.0	5.3	9.3	8.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	3.9	6.3	4.9	4.4
White (non-Hispanic)	34.8	25.5	24.2	21.6
Two or more races	4.8	0.0	1.1	20.1
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Alaska

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	92.0
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	8.0
Number	—	—	—	1,165

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care

(NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	—	—	0.98
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	—	—	99.02
Number	N/A	—	—	2,546

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	25.7	22.5	24.9	29.2
Guardianship	5.6	4.1	6.2	5.2
Reunification	62.9	66.7	62.5	56.6
Other	3.2	3.5	4.3	9.0
Missing data	2.6	3.2	2.1	0.0
Number	844	781	715	790

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	—	—	—	66.4
Guardianship	—	—	—	6.5
Reunification	—	—	—	18.5
Other	—	—	—	8.6
Missing data	—	—	—	0.0
Number	—	—	—	232

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	2.3	5.2	3.0	4.9
Guardianship	10.2	6.2	7.1	8.0
Reunification	75.0	63.9	65.7	51.9
Other	10.9	21.6	23.2	35.2
Missing data	1.6	3.1	1.0	0.0
Number	128	97	99	162

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	50.0	22.2	23.3	5.8
Children older than 12 at entry	50.0	77.8	76.7	88.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.8
Number	26	27	30	52

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				2002	Asian				2002	Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	24.7	25.9	24.1	27.8	25.0	11.1	100.0	50.0	24.7	12.9	27.8	33.3		
Guardianship	6.1	3.9	6.8	6.9	0.0	11.1	0.0	0.0	8.2	1.2	1.9	5.9		
Reunification	61.2	62.6	62.3	53.6	75.0	66.7	0.0	50.0	63.5	80.0	66.7	54.9		
Other	3.6	2.5	3.9	11.7	0.0	11.1	0.0	0.0	3.5	3.5	3.7	5.9		
Missing data	4.4	5.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.0		
Number	474	436	440	392	4	9	5	2	85	85	54	51		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				2002	Hispanic (of any race)				2002	White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	35.7	0.0	16.7	15.6	28.2	23.0	24.6	25.7		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	4.4	4.0	5.9	6.3	2.1		
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	64.3	100.0	66.7	73.3	65.1	65.3	63.4	64.2		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	6.7	2.4	5.4	4.7	8.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.5	1.0	0.0		
Number	0	0	0	3	14	10	18	45	252	222	191	187		

	Unable to Determine				2002	Two or More Races				2002	Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	13.3	0.0	28.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	73.3	100.0	57.1	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	40.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0		
Other	6.7	0.0	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	15	19	7	7	0	0	0	97	0	0	0	6		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	53.3	58.7	47.9	62.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	27.1	29.8	34.7	23.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	12.2	7.9	10.7	5.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	4.1	1.9	3.1	0.4
48 or more mos.	2.6	1.3	3.6	2.9
Missing data	0.6	0.4	0.0	4.7
Number	531	521	447	447

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	80.9	79.9	78.2	84.6
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	3.6	5.0	5.3	4.8
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	10.7	12.7	13.7	7.0
Missing data	4.9	2.4	2.9	3.6
Number	1,068	943	665	929

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	1.4	6.8	3.9	1.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	16.6	17.0	11.8	23.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	30.4	29.5	33.1	27.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	26.7	21.6	26.4	24.7
48 or more mos.	21.7	25.0	24.7	18.2
Missing data	3.2	0.0	0.0	4.3
Number	217	176	178	231

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	73.6	74.2	71.7	82.1	42.2	42.0	42.1	62.1	25.3	18.9	19.7	32.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	26.4	25.8	28.3	17.9	57.8	58.0	57.9	37.9	74.7	81.1	80.3	67.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,165	1,083	773	1,051	675	709	672	670	1,058	1,020	1,093	824	18	9	2	1

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	3.6	2.9	2.9	8.8
Institutions	0.9	0.4	1.3	3.3
Other settings	95.5	96.7	95.8	87.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	862	735	550	702

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	—
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	—	73.4
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	—	6.5
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	—	—
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	—	—

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	—
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	—	26.2
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	—	34.1
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	—	26.9
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	—	4.7
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	—	—

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	—
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	—	34.5
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	—	100.0
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	—	33.3

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	—
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	—	80.5
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	—	62.2
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	—	32.6

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Alaska's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 8.0 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 6.6 percent. Alaska did not report data for this measure in prior years.

In 2005, 0.98 percent of children in foster care in Alaska were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 0.42 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 91.0 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) and 91.4 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home. Both percentages exceed the national medians for these measures (medians for measures 3.1 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent and 79 percent, respectively). However, only 64.8 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 73.1 percent for this measure and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (25.9 percent change).

In 2005, 34.5 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged to a permanent home by the end of the fiscal year and prior to their 18th birthday (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent.

In 2005, 100 percent of the children exiting foster care whose parents' rights had been terminated were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2).

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 6.6 percent of the children who exited foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation," and 5.8 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage is less than the national median of 27.6 percent. Comparisons with performance in prior years are not feasible because of the variation in number of children emancipated.

In 2005, 33.3 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 73.4 percent of reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 70.4 percent for this measure.

Measures C1.3 and C1.4 cannot be calculated for Alaska because the State does not provide unique encrypted identifiers to permit tracking children across years.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 25.1 percent of finalized adoptions occurred in less than 24 months from the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 29.1 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (39.4 percent change).

In 2005, 26.9 percent of the children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent.

Measure C2.5 cannot be calculated for Alaska because the State does not provide unique encrypted identifiers to permit tracking children across years.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 80.5 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months had two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 32.6 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings. This percentage is about equal to the national median of 32.3 percent.

In 2005, 12.1 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 7.2 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (168.9 percent change).

Arizona

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	1,476,856	1,519,312	1,547,260	1,580,436
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.2
Asian	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	37.8	38.5	39.3	39.9
White (non-Hispanic)	48.5	47.8	47.1	46.4
Two or more races	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2
Child population in poverty (%)	19.3	19.1	21.1	21.6

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	5,114	4,838	7,344	6,119
Children in foster care on 9/30	6,173	7,469	9,119	10,075
Children adopted	793	839	729	1,012

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	52,288	35.4 per 1,000	76,227	50.2 per 1,000	81,121	52.4 per 1,000	84,154	53.3 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	5,114	3.5 per 1,000	4,838	3.2 per 1,000	7,344	4.8 per 1,000	6,119	3.9 per 1,000
Child fatalities	21	1.4 per 100,000	14	0.9 per 100,000	23	1.5 per 100,000	22	1.4 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	12.0	15.5	18.4	15.2
1-5 years	31.7	32.2	31.8	34.3
6-10 years	26.8	24.7	23.8	24.4
11-15 years	24.0	22.5	20.9	21.5
16+ years	5.3	5.0	5.1	4.6
Unknown	0.1	—	—	—
Number	5,114	4,838	7,344	6,119

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	3.7	3.6	3.6	4.0
Asian	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	7.1	7.3	6.8	6.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.2	0.3	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	36.0	34.9	37.1	37.8
White (non-Hispanic)	45.8	46.0	44.6	43.7
Two or more races	3.1	3.9	3.5	3.4
Unknown	3.6	3.7	3.8	4.0
Number	5,114	4,838	7,344	6,119

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.9
Medical neglect	—	—	—	—
Neglect	70.4	74.4	76.6	75.0
Physical abuse	24.9	22.2	20.5	21.3
Sexual abuse	7.7	6.0	5.8	6.2
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Number	5,114	4,838	7,344	6,119

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	49.0	49.4	53.0	58.4
Median	>24, but <48	>24, but <48	>24, but <48	>24, but <48

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	5,902	6,057	7,129	8,329	5,049	6,208	7,098	7,548	4,778	4,796	5,108	5,802	6,173	7,469	9,119	10,075
Median length of stay (months)	16.1	13.8	11.3	11.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.7	7.1	7.4	8.9	13.7	11.0	11.6	12.1

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	5.1	5.7	7.6	7.2	13.3	16.9	16.7	17.0	4.8	6.7	6.8	6.2	5.8	7.5	7.5	7.7
1 year	6.3	7.0	8.0	8.5	6.9	6.5	7.7	7.6	6.8	6.5	8.1	7.5	7.0	7.9	8.4	8.5
2 years	5.7	5.9	6.6	7.4	6.6	7.5	6.6	6.1	6.8	8.0	7.3	7.7	5.9	6.5	7.2	7.4
3 years	5.2	5.5	5.8	6.5	5.8	6.2	6.5	6.4	6.2	6.5	6.7	6.8	5.5	5.8	6.5	6.7
4 years	4.2	4.9	5.3	5.8	4.9	5.5	5.8	5.4	5.0	5.9	5.6	5.8	4.9	5.4	5.7	6.0
5 years	4.5	3.7	4.4	5.4	4.4	4.9	5.1	5.0	4.8	5.2	5.5	5.6	3.7	4.4	5.4	5.8
6 years	4.4	4.6	4.0	4.5	5.0	4.5	4.4	4.4	5.1	4.4	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.1	4.4	5.2
7 years	4.2	4.1	4.5	4.1	4.3	4.9	4.0	4.2	4.6	4.9	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.5	4.0	4.3
8 years	4.4	3.9	4.3	4.1	3.7	3.9	4.1	4.3	4.6	4.0	4.4	4.2	4.0	4.3	4.2	4.0
9 years	4.3	3.9	3.7	4.2	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.7	4.3	3.9	3.6	4.1	4.0
10 years	4.5	3.7	3.8	3.6	4.0	3.4	3.4	3.4	4.5	3.4	3.2	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.6
11 years	4.5	4.3	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.1	3.3	3.9	4.1	3.7	3.3	3.9	4.3	3.7	3.9	3.6
12 years	5.4	4.3	4.3	3.6	4.0	3.7	3.9	3.7	4.1	3.9	3.7	3.8	4.3	4.3	3.6	3.6
13 years	5.6	5.3	4.4	4.5	5.1	4.3	4.6	4.2	4.5	4.0	3.8	4.5	5.4	4.4	4.6	3.9
14 years	7.0	6.3	5.2	4.9	6.2	5.1	5.7	5.2	5.4	4.6	4.9	4.1	6.4	5.4	5.0	4.9
15 years	7.7	7.5	6.2	5.4	7.1	5.3	5.3	5.9	6.0	4.9	5.1	4.7	7.5	6.3	5.5	5.4
16 years	7.4	8.6	7.5	6.5	6.7	5.5	5.3	5.7	5.9	5.5	5.1	5.1	8.7	7.4	6.4	6.1
17 years	6.9	7.4	7.4	6.8	4.4	4.2	4.1	3.8	7.4	9.8	7.8	4.8	7.4	7.5	6.6	6.3
18 years	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.7	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	4.5	2.9	5.0	6.7	1.9	1.7	2.0	1.8
19 years	0.6	1.0	0.8	0.9	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.9
20+ years	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.4	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.5
Missing data	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.4	0.3	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	2.3	2.1	2.4	2.3	3.8	3.3	3.1	3.2	4.0	3.0	3.3	2.9	2.1	2.5	2.5	2.6
Asian	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	<.1	0.3	<.1	0.4	0.2	<.1	0.2	0.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	10.8	9.7	8.8	8.5	7.6	7.7	7.3	7.6	8.9	8.7	7.4	8.3	9.7	8.7	8.4	7.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.2	<.1	0.3	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	34.1	34.9	35.9	38.1	35.7	36.2	38.1	38.0	35.0	35.0	36.9	37.3	34.7	35.9	37.0	38.5
White (non-Hispanic)	46.6	47.4	46.0	44.1	45.9	44.6	43.5	43.0	44.9	46.0	44.5	43.5	47.4	46.0	44.9	43.6
Two or more races	5.0	4.5	4.6	4.7	3.6	4.8	3.9	3.6	4.0	4.7	4.1	4.2	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.2
Unknown	1.2	1.4	2.0	2.1	3.2	3.0	3.7	4.2	2.9	2.5	3.3	3.5	1.5	2.0	2.6	2.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	1,649	1,676	2,099	2,375
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,273	1,218	1,496	1,692

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.8	2.5	3.1	2.9
1 year	9.4	11.5	12.2	12.2
2 years	8.4	8.8	10.4	11.0
3 years	7.0	7.3	8.5	8.8
4 years	6.4	6.7	7.0	8.5
5 years	5.5	5.7	6.7	7.8
6 years	6.6	5.2	6.4	7.3
7 years	6.4	6.0	5.3	5.0
8 years	5.4	6.0	6.1	5.0
9 years	6.9	5.1	6.0	5.3
10 years	5.6	5.8	4.8	5.1
11 years	6.1	5.8	5.1	4.4
12 years	5.8	5.4	4.5	4.1
13 years	6.7	5.6	4.4	3.5
14 years	4.9	5.4	4.6	3.5
15 years	4.7	4.2	3.2	3.7
16 years	1.3	2.1	1.4	1.4
17 years	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.5
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.3
Asian	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	8.6	7.8	7.3	7.9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	35.4	35.4	36.9	38.8
White (non-Hispanic)	49.0	48.0	46.5	45.0
Two or more races	5.5	6.0	5.7	4.4
Unknown	0.7	1.6	2.2	2.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	793	839	729	1,012

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.1	2.1	1.1	0.3
1 year	10.3	11.6	12.8	12.5
2 years	12.5	14.5	15.6	17.0
3 years	10.0	10.8	10.3	12.0
4 years	7.8	7.4	9.9	9.8
5 years	8.1	7.7	8.2	8.5
6 years	6.8	7.7	5.2	6.3
7 years	6.6	6.6	6.2	6.3
8 years	6.9	5.4	5.8	4.9
9 years	5.8	5.5	4.4	5.4
10 years	5.5	3.7	4.0	4.2
11 years	5.4	3.9	3.8	2.9
12 years	3.9	4.2	3.6	3.2
13 years	3.8	2.9	3.2	3.1
14 years	1.8	2.7	2.3	1.8
15 years	1.1	1.8	1.6	1.0
16 years	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.8
17 years	0.9	0.5	1.1	0.0
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.4	0.7	0.7	0.9
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	8.6	6.6	6.9	4.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	40.6	38.9	42.0	40.1
White (non-Hispanic)	42.7	48.2	43.1	45.8
Two or more races	6.3	5.2	6.0	7.2
Unknown	0.4	0.5	1.4	1.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Arizona

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	96.5	96.6	97.0	96.9
Children with one or more recurrences	3.5	3.4	3.0	3.1
Number	2,353	2,237	3,001	2,340

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.17	0.30	0.13
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.83	99.70	99.87
Number	N/A	12,265	14,227	15,877

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	17.0	17.6	15.3	18.3
Guardianship	12.9	12.4	13.0	13.1
Reunification	56.6	55.7	57.4	54.8
Other	13.6	14.2	14.3	13.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4,778	4,796	5,108	5,802

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	25.1	28.7	26.3	28.2
Guardianship	13.3	11.6	11.1	13.6
Reunification	42.3	36.8	37.6	36.1
Other	19.3	22.8	25.0	22.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,353	1,555	1,732	2,217

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.6
Guardianship	7.1	8.1	8.5	8.9
Reunification	63.9	58.2	57.5	58.3
Other	28.3	33.1	33.1	32.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,334	1,267	1,422	1,464

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	26.5	26.9	23.0	28.9
Children older than 12 at entry	73.5	73.1	77.0	71.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	400	412	453	509

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	4.7	4.1	4.1	5.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	16.2	14.4	13.2	10.0		
Guardianship	14.5	11.0	14.7	15.4	0.0	25.0	10.5	0.0	13.4	13.6	11.1	15.0		
Reunification	66.8	67.6	62.9	59.8	100.0	75.0	73.7	75.0	48.5	53.3	53.4	56.7		
Other	14.0	17.2	18.2	19.5	0.0	0.0	15.8	0.0	21.9	18.7	22.2	18.3		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	193	145	170	169	12	4	19	12	425	418	378	480		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.6	19.3	16.8	20.0	16.4	18.4	15.3	19.1		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.2	14.7	13.9	12.6	12.0	10.8	12.8	13.1		
Reunification	100.0	100.0	80.0	100.0	55.4	53.7	57.9	54.4	58.0	55.9	56.6	53.8		
Other	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	11.8	12.3	11.4	13.1	13.5	14.9	15.4	14.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	1	3	5	7	1,671	1,677	1,887	2,163	2,143	2,204	2,273	2,521		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	2.9	4.1	8.3	7.8	25.4	19.6	23.7	28.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	12.1	11.6	10.1	12.7	17.6	10.7	13.0	14.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	75.7	69.4	72.8	70.6	42.0	58.5	49.3	45.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	9.3	14.9	8.9	8.8	15.0	11.2	14.0	12.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	140	121	169	204	193	224	207	246	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	83.8	85.0	84.6	82.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.6	11.1	12.3	14.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.7	2.1	1.9	2.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6
48 or more mos.	1.1	1.1	0.6	0.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,704	2,673	2,931	3,177

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	79.7	82.8	83.4	83.7
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	12.2	10.1	9.7	8.9
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.1	7.1	6.9	7.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	5,049	6,208	7,098	7,548

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	2.1	1.5	2.7	1.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	26.4	28.2	35.3	32.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	31.1	35.7	37.0	46.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	20.0	19.8	13.4	13.9
48 or more mos.	20.5	14.8	11.6	5.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	811	845	784	1,059

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	83.5	83.0	81.9	83.2	51.0	50.5	55.5	56.5	21.3	20.4	21.3	27.0	94.7	100.0	87.0	86.7
Children with 3 or more placements	16.2	16.5	15.3	14.3	48.9	49.4	44.4	43.5	78.7	79.6	78.6	73.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	5,605	6,802	7,775	8,238	2,242	2,515	3,438	4,083	3,085	2,926	2,991	3,526	19	22	23	30

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	9.3	9.5	10.2	9.4
Institutions	25.0	19.3	18.8	13.7
Other settings	65.7	71.3	70.6	76.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0
Number	3,510	4,631	5,080	5,379

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	108.5
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	75.7	73.4
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	5.5	5.7
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	30.0	27.2
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	19.3	20.0

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	111.8
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	38.1	34.0
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	26.9	26.7
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	23.8	28.4
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	9.7	10.3
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	47.1	39.9

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	119.2
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	23.1	27.6
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	94.6	95.1
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	42.0	44.4

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	89.0
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	80.8	82.2
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	55.8	56.6
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	21.9	28.0

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Arizona's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 3.1 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 6.6 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (11.4 percent change).

In 2005, 0.13 percent of children in foster care in Arizona were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 0.42 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (56.7 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 86.2 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 77.9 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 67.8 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All percentages are less than the national median for each measure (medians for measures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 27.6 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged to a permanent home by the last day of the year and prior to their 18th birthday (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (19.5 percent change).

In 2005, 95.1 percent of the children exiting foster care whose parents' rights had been terminated were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is less than the national median of 95.7 percent for this measure.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 8.8 percent of the children who exited foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation," and 28.9 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 to 2005 (9.1 percent change).

In 2005, 44.4 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). Although this percentage is less than the national median of 48.1 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2004 (5.7 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 73.4 percent of reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 70.4 percent for this measure.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 27.2 percent of all children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent.

Measure C1.4 indicates that 20.0 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is among the highest in the nation. Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is replacing measure 4.2 as an assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 34 percent of the finalized adoptions occurred in less than 24 months from the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 29.1 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (19.3 percent change). However, there was a decline in performance on this measure from 2004 to 2005 (10.5 percent change).

In 2005, 28.4 percent of the children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (19.3 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 39.9 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is less than the national median of 45.1 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (15.3 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 82.2 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months had two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 28 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings. This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent.

In 2005, 23.1 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 7.2 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (32.7 percent change).

Arkansas

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	677,522	682,013	676,550	675,622
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6
Asian	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	20.4	20.3	20.1	19.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	5.6	6.1	6.5	7.0
White (non-Hispanic)	70.7	70.3	69.9	69.6
Two or more races	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8
Child population in poverty (%)	31.2	26.8	21.8	18.6

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	7,302	7,232	7,276	8,124
Children in foster care on 9/30	2,971	3,014	3,097	3,230
Children adopted	297	385	331	316

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	26,237	38.7 per 1,000	44,521	65.3 per 1,000	44,472	65.7 per 1,000	46,950	69.5 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	7,302	10.8 per 1,000	7,232	10.6 per 1,000	7,276	10.8 per 1,000	8,124	12.0 per 1,000
Child fatalities	13	1.9 per 100,000	10	1.5 per 100,000	12	1.8 per 100,000	17	2.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	5.8	6.3	5.6	7.0
1-5 years	27.9	28.3	28.7	28.5
6-10 years	28.1	27.4	26.9	26.7
11-15 years	30.5	30.5	30.6	28.5
16+ years	7.2	6.8	6.9	7.9
Unknown	0.5	0.8	1.2	1.4
Number	7,302	7,232	7,276	8,124

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Asian	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	21.2	21.5	20.5	18.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.1	0.0	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	4.6	4.3	4.9	4.8
White (non-Hispanic)	69.3	69.1	69.6	69.8
Two or more races	3.9	4.4	4.4	5.4
Unknown	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.7
Number	7,302	7,232	7,276	8,124

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	0.7	1.1	1.0	1.3
Medical neglect	2.8	3.0	3.1	3.3
Neglect	50.4	54.5	56.8	55.7
Physical abuse	21.0	18.9	18.4	19.3
Sexual abuse	32.7	29.2	27.8	29.2
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.0
Number	7,302	7,232	7,276	8,124

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	1.0	0.9	0.6	0.5
Median	<24	<24	<24	<24

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	2,817	2,864	2,903	2,982	3,350	3,561	3,458	3,629	3,196	3,411	3,264	3,381	2,971	3,014	3,097	3,230
Median length of stay (months)	12.4	12.9	13.1	14.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.8	2.2	2.3	2.3	12.6	12.5	13.5	12.6

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	4.4	3.6	4.4	4.4	10.7	12.0	11.5	12.8	6.2	6.9	6.7	7.1	3.6	4.3	4.3	5.9
1 year	5.9	6.5	5.9	5.8	6.8	6.5	7.1	8.1	6.5	6.5	6.9	7.0	6.5	5.9	6.0	5.9
2 years	5.5	5.7	5.6	5.7	7.4	7.2	7.1	6.8	7.1	7.3	7.4	6.7	5.9	5.9	5.7	6.4
3 years	4.1	5.6	5.7	5.4	5.7	5.6	6.9	5.4	6.0	6.3	6.9	6.1	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.7
4 years	4.0	4.0	5.3	5.5	4.8	5.8	5.8	5.7	4.9	5.9	6.4	5.8	4.0	5.2	5.5	5.5
5 years	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.7	4.6	4.8	5.2	5.3	4.3	4.7	5.1	5.4	4.1	4.0	4.6	5.0
6 years	3.7	4.2	3.7	4.7	4.3	5.1	4.8	4.8	4.3	5.4	4.4	5.4	4.2	3.6	4.6	4.1
7 years	4.3	3.9	4.4	3.6	4.8	4.3	5.1	4.5	4.6	3.9	5.4	4.1	4.1	4.4	3.7	4.8
8 years	4.3	4.2	3.9	4.2	4.1	4.5	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.7	4.3	4.0	4.2	3.9	4.1	4.1
9 years	4.1	4.0	4.1	3.9	4.3	3.9	4.3	3.9	4.1	4.2	4.5	3.9	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.2
10 years	4.7	4.6	3.7	4.2	4.8	4.0	4.2	3.7	4.3	4.3	3.9	3.9	4.6	3.8	4.1	3.8
11 years	4.9	5.5	4.2	3.9	4.7	3.8	4.0	3.8	4.5	4.0	3.7	3.6	5.4	4.1	4.0	4.0
12 years	5.0	4.8	5.2	4.5	4.4	5.2	4.6	4.3	4.8	4.9	4.3	4.1	4.7	5.2	4.5	3.9
13 years	6.0	5.2	5.9	5.6	5.8	5.3	4.7	5.1	5.1	3.5	4.4	4.8	5.2	6.0	5.7	5.0
14 years	7.3	6.6	6.3	6.0	5.6	5.8	5.2	5.9	4.8	5.0	4.6	5.1	6.5	6.3	5.9	5.5
15 years	7.6	8.4	8.0	7.2	6.1	6.5	6.4	5.6	5.4	5.9	5.1	5.6	8.5	8.2	7.4	6.8
16 years	8.4	8.0	8.9	9.1	6.9	5.7	5.2	5.7	6.2	5.6	5.1	5.4	7.8	8.9	8.8	7.3
17 years	8.5	8.3	7.2	7.9	4.1	4.0	3.8	4.3	7.1	7.1	5.5	5.6	8.1	7.1	7.8	8.6
18 years	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	4.4	3.0	4.2	5.2	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.3
19 years	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9
20+ years	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.4
Missing data	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.1	0.2	<.1	0.2	0.2	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	<.1	0.0
Asian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	<.1	0.3	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	33.8	31.7	30.8	28.5	25.0	27.0	24.6	24.9	26.5	27.3	26.4	24.9	31.8	31.0	28.5	28.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	2.2	3.2	3.4	4.3	5.4	4.3	5.4	5.7	4.7	4.1	4.9	4.4	3.2	3.5	4.1	5.8
White (non-Hispanic)	57.9	57.8	56.9	57.5	64.2	61.7	63.3	62.8	64.1	62.1	62.5	63.4	58.4	57.5	58.2	57.2
Two or more races	5.0	6.6	8.2	8.8	4.6	6.5	5.7	5.9	3.7	5.9	5.5	6.0	6.0	7.4	8.2	8.4
Unknown	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	981	983	940	984
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	414	413	385	428

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.0	3.2	2.6	3.6
1 year	8.6	7.1	5.4	6.3
2 years	8.9	6.9	6.5	6.3
3 years	6.9	6.5	6.3	7.7
4 years	6.1	6.9	7.3	7.2
5 years	6.0	4.4	6.4	6.5
6 years	6.0	5.6	6.0	5.9
7 years	5.2	5.6	5.4	6.4
8 years	6.0	6.6	6.0	4.8
9 years	5.1	6.3	6.3	6.0
10 years	7.0	5.5	6.5	5.3
11 years	7.1	6.0	5.7	6.0
12 years	5.7	7.9	6.7	5.4
13 years	5.9	6.1	6.6	6.2
14 years	5.9	5.6	5.9	6.1
15 years	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.3
16 years	1.6	3.0	3.1	3.8
17 years	0.3	1.1	1.7	1.3
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	30.8	28.8	27.9	24.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	2.5	2.8	4.1	5.9
White (non-Hispanic)	59.0	59.8	58.1	60.3
Two or more races	6.4	7.9	9.3	8.9
Unknown	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	297	385	331	316

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.0	2.6	2.1	1.6
1 year	5.7	7.0	6.9	5.4
2 years	9.8	14.5	12.7	8.2
3 years	9.8	10.6	11.5	9.5
4 years	7.1	10.1	10.9	7.0
5 years	5.4	6.8	6.0	10.1
6 years	5.7	7.5	6.3	9.8
7 years	7.7	3.6	7.3	5.4
8 years	7.1	4.2	5.7	6.3
9 years	7.7	5.2	6.0	6.3
10 years	5.4	6.0	4.5	6.6
11 years	5.7	5.2	4.2	5.4
12 years	4.4	2.9	5.4	4.4
13 years	3.4	3.9	4.2	4.4
14 years	3.4	4.9	2.4	2.5
15 years	3.7	2.3	1.5	3.8
16 years	3.0	1.6	1.5	1.3
17 years	2.0	1.0	0.6	1.9
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	33.0	30.9	30.8	30.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.7	4.4	4.5	5.1
White (non-Hispanic)	60.9	61.0	59.2	60.1
Two or more races	3.4	3.6	5.1	4.4
Unknown	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Arkansas

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	94.1	94.9	95.5	94.7
Children with one or more recurrences	5.9	5.1	4.5	5.3
Number	3,523	3,214	3,521	3,740

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.33	0.20	0.23
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.67	99.80	99.77
Number	N/A	6,425	6,361	6,611

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	9.3	11.0	11.3	9.8
Guardianship	1.7	2.3	2.3	3.2
Reunification	81.0	80.3	79.8	78.9
Other	8.0	6.4	6.6	8.0
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1
Number	3,196	3,411	3,264	3,381

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	20.7	20.0	20.0	19.1
Guardianship	1.9	1.1	2.9	4.0
Reunification	59.9	61.9	62.3	56.0
Other	17.4	17.0	14.9	20.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Number	362	370	591	470

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	1.7	1.1	1.3	1.3
Guardianship	2.7	3.7	3.9	5.5
Reunification	73.7	76.5	75.4	72.6
Other	21.8	18.7	19.4	20.6
Missing data	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	966	937	850	957

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	14.3	16.4	20.1	19.8
Children older than 12 at entry	85.7	83.6	79.9	80.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	223	195	199	232

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	10.6	11.5	10.9	10.1		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.7	1.4	3.0		
Reunification	100.0	100.0	80.0	83.3	90.9	100.0	80.0	80.0	79.9	78.5	79.5	75.8		
Other	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	9.1	0.0	0.0	20.0	8.9	8.3	8.2	11.2		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	7	4	5	6	11	5	5	10	846	932	862	842		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.3	4.7	10.6	9.4	10.8	9.1	10.5	11.3	9.8		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.7	1.3	1.4	2.2	2.6	2.8	3.3		
Reunification	0.0	0.0	66.7	85.7	89.3	87.9	85.5	83.1	80.7	80.7	79.7	80.0		
Other	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	4.7	0.7	3.8	4.7	8.0	6.1	6.2	6.9		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1		
Number	0	0	3	7	150	141	159	148	2,049	2,118	2,039	2,145		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	26.7	45.5	23.1	10.5	6.8	12.0	14.6	9.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	7.7	10.5	2.5	2.5	1.1	3.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	66.7	54.5	69.2	73.7	83.9	80.0	78.1	77.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	6.7	0.0	0.0	5.3	6.8	5.0	6.2	9.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	15	11	13	19	118	200	178	204	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	86.1	87.9	88.1	88.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	9.4	8.2	8.4	8.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.4	2.3	1.6	1.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5
48 or more mos.	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.4
Missing data	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.2
Number	2,589	2,740	2,604	2,668

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	81.5	81.8	81.3	81.6
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	11.2	11.4	10.7	10.5
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	7.0	6.7	7.8	7.6
Missing data	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3
Number	3,350	3,561	3,458	3,629

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	7.1	3.5	5.4	5.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	27.0	35.0	33.9	25.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	30.7	34.0	35.5	36.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	17.9	18.2	14.6	17.7
48 or more mos.	16.2	9.4	10.6	14.4
Missing data	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	296	374	369	333

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	76.8	77.8	78.0	75.3	40.7	38.7	39.6	39.1	24.4	23.0	22.4	19.3	69.8	78.9	64.9	70.8
Children with 3 or more placements	21.7	21.5	20.9	23.2	59.0	61.2	60.3	60.9	73.7	77.0	77.6	80.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.2
Number	3,773	3,992	3,886	4,083	1,073	1,071	1,053	1,046	1,268	1,324	1,385	1,458	53	38	37	24

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	1.7	0.6	0.7	1.4
Institutions	11.5	12.8	9.3	7.4
Other settings	86.8	86.5	89.8	91.2
Missing data	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Number	2,336	2,540	2,535	2,609

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	149.4
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	89.7	90.1
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	1.7	1.6
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	68.9	69.7
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	13.3	14.5

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	105.5
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	39.3	30.9
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	27.1	30.5
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	22.1	22.4
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	6.0	5.2
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	46.0	45.8

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	115.4
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	25.0	24.4
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	96.6	95.7
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	38.8	43.2

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	69.6
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	74.2	72.1
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	39.4	39.1
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	22.2	19.6

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Arkansas

STATE COMMENT

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Arkansas performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent “no change.”

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 5.3 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 6.6 percent. Although performance improved from 2002 to 2005 (10.2 percent change), the 2005 percentage represents a decline in performance from 2004 (17.8 percent change).

In 2005, 0.23 percent of children in foster care in Arkansas were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 0.42 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2003 to 2005 (30.3 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 91.9 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 79.1 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 79.4 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All percentages exceed the national median for each measure (medians for measures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively). However, performance with regard to measure 3.2 declined from 2002 (18.4 percent change).

In 2005, 24.4 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged to a permanent home by the last day of the year and prior to their 18th birthday (measure C3.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 26.4 percent.

In 2005, 95.7 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is equal to the national median.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 6.9 percent of children who exited foster care had a discharge reason of “emancipation,” and 19.8 percent of those children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). Although this latter percentage is among the lowest in the nation, it represents a substantial decline in performance on this measure from 2002 (38.5 percent change).

In 2005, 43.2 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). Although this percentage is less than the national median of 48.1 percent, it represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2004 (11.3 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 90.1 percent of reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is one of the highest in the nation.

The data for measure C1.3 indicate that 69.7 percent of all children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent.

The data for measure C1.4 indicate that 14.5 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is about equal to the national median of 14.8 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (9.0 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 30.9 percent of the finalized adoptions occurred in less than 24 months from the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 29.1 percent, it represents a slight decline in performance from 2002 (9.4 percent change), and an even larger decline in performance from 2004 (21.4 percent change).

In 2005, 22.4 percent of the children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent.

The data for measure C2.5 indicate that 45.8 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is about equal to the national median of 45.1 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 72.1 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months had two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is among the lowest in the nation.

In 2005, 19.3 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is among the lowest in the nation and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (20.9 percent change).

In 2005, 23.1 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this percentage is the second highest in the nation, it represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (32.7 percent change).

California

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	9,452,391	9,419,970	9,596,463	9,701,862
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Asian	9.7	9.7	9.8	9.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	7.0	6.8	6.7	6.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	45.0	45.7	46.4	47.0
White (non-Hispanic)	34.3	33.7	33.1	32.6
Two or more races	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3
Child population in poverty (%)	18.7	18.5	19.0	18.5

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	132,181	106,198	98,201	95,314
Children in foster care on 9/30	100,451	97,261	92,344	81,174
Children adopted	8,840	7,473	7,766	7,549

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	512,880	54.3 per 1,000	462,976	49.2 per 1,000	442,741	46.1 per 1,000	434,589	44.8 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	132,181	14.0 per 1,000	106,198	11.3 per 1,000	98,201	10.2 per 1,000	95,314	9.8 per 1,000
Child fatalities	140	1.5 per 100,000	—	— per 100,000	140	1.5 per 100,000	140	1.4 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	9.8	10.2	10.8	11.9
1-5 years	28.3	27.9	28.3	28.3
6-10 years	30.1	29.0	28.1	27.4
11-15 years	25.8	26.3	26.0	25.4
16+ years	6.1	6.6	6.8	7.0
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	132,181	106,198	98,201	95,314

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.9	1.1	1.1	0.7
Asian	3.4	3.1	2.9	2.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	14.4	15.0	15.0	13.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.4	0.4	0.4
Hispanic (of any race)	18.3	44.0	44.8	48.7
White (non-Hispanic)	31.3	31.7	30.6	26.5
Two or more races	2.7	—	—	3.1
Unknown	29.1	4.8	5.3	4.8
Number	132,181	106,198	98,201	95,314

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	16.3	17.7	17.8	17.9
Medical neglect	—	—	—	—
Neglect	44.3	66.5	67.8	70.8
Physical abuse	13.2	14.9	13.9	12.7
Sexual abuse	7.5	8.4	8.1	7.4
Unknown	0.0	—	—	—
Other	33.0	0.2	0.2	0.1
Number	132,181	106,198	98,201	95,314

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	85.5	195.0	163.9	159.7
Median	>24, but <48	>96, but <120	>96, but <120	>96, but <120

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	99,519	95,815	90,197	79,991	46,557	45,796	45,317	43,772	45,625	44,350	43,170	42,589	100,451	97,261	92,344	81,174
Median length of stay (months)	24.8	22.9	21.9	20.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.5	14.9	14.5	13.6	22.9	22.0	20.6	18.8

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.7	4.1	4.5	4.8	14.4	15.5	15.7	16.9	4.1	4.6	4.8	5.4	4.0	4.4	4.7	5.4
1 year	4.5	4.8	5.1	5.5	6.0	6.2	6.4	6.5	5.4	6.0	6.5	7.0	4.8	5.0	5.3	5.6
2 years	4.7	4.4	4.6	5.0	5.3	5.6	5.8	5.8	6.3	6.5	6.6	6.9	4.4	4.6	4.8	5.1
3 years	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.5	5.1	4.8	5.1	5.2	5.8	5.5	5.7	6.0	4.4	4.1	4.4	4.4
4 years	4.3	4.1	4.1	3.9	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	5.4	5.4	5.1	5.0	4.1	4.1	3.8	4.2
5 years	4.5	4.0	3.8	3.8	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.7	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.6	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.8
6 years	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.7	4.8	4.4	4.3	4.4	5.2	4.6	4.4	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.8	3.8
7 years	4.8	4.4	4.2	3.7	4.7	4.5	4.1	4.2	5.0	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.5	4.2	3.8	3.8
8 years	5.2	4.6	4.4	4.0	4.4	4.4	4.2	3.9	4.8	4.6	4.3	4.0	4.6	4.4	4.1	3.7
9 years	5.2	4.9	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.8	4.6	4.5	4.1	3.9	5.0	4.4	4.3	4.0
10 years	5.6	5.1	4.8	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.7	4.5	4.3	4.0	3.7	5.1	4.8	4.4	4.2
11 years	5.5	5.5	5.0	4.6	4.1	4.0	3.8	3.7	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.6	5.4	5.0	4.7	4.3
12 years	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.1	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.0	4.2	4.3	3.8	3.5	5.6	5.5	5.1	4.8
13 years	5.8	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.1	5.0	5.1	4.7	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.8	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.4
14 years	6.2	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.4
15 years	6.8	7.2	7.3	7.5	6.7	6.5	6.7	6.6	4.7	4.9	4.7	5.0	7.1	7.3	7.5	7.5
16 years	7.2	7.9	8.0	8.2	6.8	6.6	6.8	6.9	5.4	5.0	5.3	5.4	7.7	8.0	8.2	8.3
17 years	6.9	7.5	8.1	8.2	4.1	4.3	4.1	4.2	6.9	7.1	7.0	6.5	7.3	8.1	8.1	8.3
18 years	2.7	2.9	3.1	3.4	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	8.5	8.7	10.0	10.4	3.0	3.4	3.5	3.2
19 years	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.2
20+ years	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8
Missing data	0.2	0.5	0.9	1.3	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.9	1.3	1.8

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Asian	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	2.1	2.2	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.2	1.9	1.9	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	31.4	30.2	29.0	27.3	19.0	18.3	17.9	17.6	21.3	20.5	20.0	20.0	30.2	29.0	27.7	25.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
Hispanic (of any race)	36.7	38.0	39.9	42.0	42.1	43.0	44.7	46.8	40.1	40.0	42.0	44.1	37.7	39.4	41.3	43.5
White (non-Hispanic)	26.2	25.9	24.9	24.3	30.5	30.1	28.6	27.2	30.8	31.3	29.9	28.2	26.1	25.4	24.4	23.8
Two or more races	2.9	3.2	3.5	3.7	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.3	3.1	3.4	3.6	3.5	2.9	3.2	3.5	3.6
Unknown	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	6,300	5,437	4,851	4,121
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	990	1,032	976	876

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	7.5	10.1	11.8	13.1
1 year	9.8	10.9	12.3	13.9
2 years	6.6	8.8	8.2	9.2
3 years	6.8	5.4	7.3	6.5
4 years	6.6	5.7	4.4	5.8
5 years	6.8	5.3	4.5	4.4
6 years	7.0	5.3	4.5	4.1
7 years	7.3	5.7	4.4	3.6
8 years	5.9	5.9	4.7	3.6
9 years	6.7	5.1	5.2	4.3
10 years	5.9	5.9	4.5	4.2
11 years	5.5	5.3	5.8	4.0
12 years	4.7	5.1	4.6	5.1
13 years	4.0	4.2	4.9	4.4
14 years	2.8	3.7	4.0	4.1
15 years	2.7	2.9	3.8	3.7
16 years	2.2	2.6	2.8	3.7
17 years	1.3	2.2	2.5	2.5
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.7
Asian	1.0	0.8	1.4	1.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	32.3	31.6	29.8	27.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4
Hispanic (of any race)	37.1	38.2	39.6	41.5
White (non-Hispanic)	24.9	24.9	24.2	24.4
Two or more races	3.7	3.6	4.0	4.2
Unknown	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	8,840	7,473	7,766	7,549

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.3	1.6	2.0	1.9
1 year	9.1	11.3	12.7	13.4
2 years	12.6	13.0	14.3	15.6
3 years	11.5	11.1	12.0	11.8
4 years	9.8	9.7	9.4	8.9
5 years	8.1	8.2	7.7	7.3
6 years	7.7	7.2	6.3	6.5
7 years	6.7	6.5	6.2	5.5
8 years	6.0	5.7	5.1	4.9
9 years	5.2	5.2	4.8	4.5
10 years	4.7	4.7	4.0	4.2
11 years	4.0	4.2	3.8	3.8
12 years	3.5	3.2	3.3	3.0
13 years	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.4
14 years	2.2	1.9	2.0	2.1
15 years	1.6	1.4	1.6	1.7
16 years	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.3
17 years	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.0
18 years	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
19 years	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.4
Asian	1.4	1.6	1.1	1.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	22.6	20.2	20.6	19.0
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.4
Hispanic (of any race)	40.8	39.7	40.7	43.7
White (non-Hispanic)	28.7	32.0	31.5	30.1
Two or more races	1.6	5.5	5.3	5.0
Unknown	3.8	0.2	0.2	<.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

California

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	88.8	90.8	91.2	91.6
Children with one or more recurrences	11.2	9.2	8.8	8.4
Number	61,017	49,327	45,799	44,306

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.25	0.28	0.43
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.75	99.72	99.57
Number	N/A	141,611	135,514	123,763

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	18.3	17.3	17.6	17.8
Guardianship	5.2	5.2	4.6	3.8
Reunification	58.2	61.8	60.4	60.8
Other	15.3	15.4	17.2	17.4
Missing data	3.0	0.3	0.2	0.2
Number	45,625	44,350	43,170	42,589

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	27.2	24.6	26.7	27.8
Guardianship	4.9	5.3	4.9	3.8
Reunification	49.9	52.6	49.7	48.5
Other	15.0	17.4	18.6	19.7
Missing data	3.0	0.2	0.1	0.2
Number	10,700	13,213	13,817	14,120

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.8
Guardianship	2.3	2.6	2.3	1.9
Reunification	55.2	60.0	55.7	56.0
Other	39.0	36.3	41.2	41.1
Missing data	2.7	0.3	0.2	0.2
Number	11,393	10,927	11,322	11,467

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	43.3	45.3	43.9	44.5
Children older than 12 at entry	56.7	54.7	56.1	55.5
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Number	4,011	4,486	4,535	4,393

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	12.4	9.4	6.1	11.3	11.4	12.7	9.6	12.9	19.6	17.3	17.0	16.8		
Guardianship	9.0	12.0	10.6	7.1	2.2	2.8	3.1	3.0	6.5	6.2	5.9	4.7		
Reunification	59.3	60.4	65.2	60.8	72.1	76.0	73.2	69.8	50.1	52.1	50.7	52.0		
Other	16.9	17.7	17.9	20.4	11.7	8.2	13.8	14.0	21.7	24.0	26.2	26.2		
Missing data	2.5	0.6	0.3	0.3	2.6	0.3	0.4	0.4	2.1	0.4	0.3	0.4		
Number	445	351	379	309	952	990	805	800	9,730	9,095	8,629	8,506		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	15.2	9.1	11.8	14.6	19.0	17.2	18.3	17.9	17.1	17.4	17.8	18.7		
Guardianship	9.1	2.0	4.6	0.8	4.9	4.9	4.2	3.4	4.8	5.2	4.5	3.7		
Reunification	67.0	76.8	67.5	72.9	59.6	65.2	63.0	63.8	60.2	62.3	61.3	61.4		
Other	6.6	10.6	15.6	11.7	12.7	12.6	14.4	14.8	15.3	14.8	16.3	16.0		
Missing data	2.0	1.5	0.4	0.0	3.8	0.1	0.2	0.1	2.5	0.3	0.2	0.2		
Number	197	198	237	240	18,288	17,756	18,121	18,770	14,047	13,879	12,908	12,031		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	2.4	3.6	3.2	0.9	26.2	27.6	24.3	24.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	2.7	2.0	0.8	1.4	4.9	5.1	4.3	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	79.8	85.7	85.0	83.0	57.3	56.2	59.8	57.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	10.7	8.4	11.0	14.7	9.0	10.7	11.4	14.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	4.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	2.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	550	561	525	430	1,416	1,520	1,566	1,503	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	61.2	61.4	62.8	65.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	22.3	24.2	23.5	23.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	7.0	6.4	6.0	4.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.7	2.2	2.0	1.6
48 or more mos.	4.7	4.1	4.1	3.5
Missing data	2.2	1.7	1.6	1.4
Number	26,555	27,402	26,076	25,913

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	78.1	77.8	77.2	77.4
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	11.0	11.2	11.2	11.2
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	10.8	10.9	11.6	11.4
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1
Number	46,557	45,796	45,317	43,772

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	3.4	3.4	4.1	4.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	17.6	21.8	24.3	25.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	25.0	26.9	29.2	32.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	19.4	18.3	17.4	17.4
48 or more mos.	34.4	29.5	25.2	20.4
Missing data	0.3	<.1	0.0	0.0
Number	8,367	7,664	7,594	7,565

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	80.3	80.0	80.8	81.9	57.8	56.9	56.7	57.0	41.4	37.9	36.2	34.7	94.5	98.0	98.6	98.2
Children with 3 or more placements	19.6	20.0	19.2	18.1	42.1	43.1	43.3	43.0	58.6	62.1	63.8	65.3	5.5	1.9	1.4	1.8
Number	50,785	50,412	50,176	48,889	29,440	29,928	28,818	26,607	64,880	60,581	55,893	47,643	971	690	627	624

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	5.1	6.4	5.5	5.0
Institutions	8.7	6.4	5.6	5.5
Other settings	86.0	87.0	88.8	89.5
Missing data	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0
Number	32,521	32,164	31,632	30,837

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	110.9
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	65.3	68.7
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	7.3	6.3
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	31.4	32.2
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	16.5	16.5

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	72.1
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	28.3	30.0
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	32.4	31.1
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	13.2	15.4
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	0.3	0.3
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	35.7	31.1

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	105.8
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	17.7	19.1
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	97.3	97.4
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	48.7	50.1

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	88.3
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	77.9	79.0
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	56.3	56.6
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	34.2	32.3

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

California

STATE COMMENT

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

California's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 8.4 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 6.6 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (25.0 percent change).

In 2005, 0.43 percent of children in foster care in California were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 0.42 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2003 (72.0 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 82.4 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) and 65.9 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. Both percentages are less than the national medians for these measures (87.8 percent for measure 3.1 and 73.1 percent for measure 3.3). However, 80.1 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 79.0 percent for this measure.

In 2005, 19.1 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged to a permanent home by the last day of the year and prior to their 18th birthday (measure C3.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 26.4 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (7.9 percent change).

In 2005, 97.4 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage exceeds the national median of 95.7 percent.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 10.3 percent of children who exited foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation," and 44.5 percent of those children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent.

In 2005, 50.1 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 68.7 percent of reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 70.4 percent.

The data for measure C1.3 indicate that 32.2 percent of all children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent.

The data for measure C1.4 indicate that 16.5 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage exceeds the national median of 14.8 percent. Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 29.9 percent of the finalized adoptions occurred in less than 24 months from the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 29.1 percent, but represents improvement in performance from 2002 (42.4 percent change).

In 2005, 15.4 percent of the children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 20.9 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (16.7 percent change).

The data for measure C2.5 indicate that 31.1 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is less than the national median of 45.1 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (12.9 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 79.0 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months had two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 32.3 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is equal to the national median.

In 2005, 10.5 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 7.2 percent, it represents improvement in performance from 2002 (23.9 percent change).

Colorado

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	1,151,118	1,152,751	1,178,889	1,180,525
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Asian	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	25.0	25.8	26.4	26.9
White (non-Hispanic)	65.0	64.3	63.7	63.2
Two or more races	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8
Child population in poverty (%)	12.5	11.9	11.7	14.7

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	7,570	8,137	9,578	9,406
Children in foster care on 9/30	9,209	8,754	8,196	8,213
Children adopted	992	1,037	961	967

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	40,552	35.2 per 1,000	43,217	37.5 per 1,000	45,121	38.3 per 1,000	41,166	34.9 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	7,570	6.6 per 1,000	8,137	7.1 per 1,000	9,578	8.1 per 1,000	9,406	8.0 per 1,000
Child fatalities	25	2.2 per 100,000	27	2.3 per 100,000	35	3.0 per 100,000	20	1.7 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	10.8	10.3	10.9	11.5
1-5 years	31.6	33.0	34.2	33.4
6-10 years	29.5	29.0	26.9	27.1
11-15 years	23.7	23.2	23.1	22.9
16+ years	4.3	4.5	4.8	4.9
Unknown	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
Number	7,570	8,137	9,578	9,406

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.6
Asian	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	8.7	7.8	7.5	6.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.1	0.1	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	34.3	34.0	36.1	37.1
White (non-Hispanic)	51.1	52.7	51.5	51.0
Two or more races	1.9	2.2	2.3	2.6
Unknown	2.0	1.8	1.1	1.1
Number	7,570	8,137	9,578	9,406

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	5.5	5.0	5.3	5.1
Medical neglect	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.7
Neglect	44.9	46.6	53.8	63.2
Physical abuse	25.0	21.5	19.0	17.3
Sexual abuse	11.8	11.5	10.7	10.1
Unknown	16.7	18.0	15.0	8.1
Other	—	—	—	—
Number	7,570	8,137	9,578	9,406

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	51.3	50.9	38.4	32.1
Median	<24	<24	<24	<24

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	7,814	8,425	7,989	7,744	7,738	7,613	7,782	7,651	6,343	7,284	7,577	7,182	9,209	8,754	8,196	8,213
Median length of stay (months)	12.6	12.8	12.8	12.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.5	6.8	6.6	6.2	12.3	13.1	11.9	11.6

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	4.1	4.4	4.9	5.0	10.1	11.0	11.2	11.9	4.4	5.0	5.3	5.7	4.5	4.7	4.9	5.3
1 year	4.3	4.8	4.9	5.7	5.3	5.4	5.9	6.3	5.6	6.4	6.7	7.2	4.8	4.6	5.4	5.4
2 years	4.5	4.0	4.3	4.5	4.5	5.1	5.6	5.0	5.0	5.5	5.6	6.1	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.8
3 years	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.8	4.7	4.9	4.6	4.8	5.3	5.5	4.1	4.2	4.0	3.8
4 years	3.1	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.6	4.5	4.4	4.1	3.6	4.7	4.9	5.0	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.2
5 years	3.5	2.8	3.6	3.7	3.2	3.8	3.9	4.2	3.9	3.8	4.1	4.3	2.9	3.6	3.6	3.3
6 years	3.2	3.1	2.9	3.3	3.0	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.2	3.5	4.1	4.2	3.1	3.0	3.3	3.3
7 years	3.7	3.0	3.6	2.9	3.2	4.1	3.1	3.0	3.4	3.8	3.2	3.5	3.1	3.7	2.8	3.0
8 years	4.0	3.4	3.0	3.6	2.9	3.5	3.3	2.9	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.1	3.6	2.8
9 years	3.8	3.8	3.4	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.0	3.8	3.6	3.1	3.3
10 years	4.7	3.5	4.0	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.2	2.7	3.7	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.5	4.1	3.5	3.0
11 years	4.7	4.3	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.9	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.1	2.9	4.3	3.9	3.9	3.3
12 years	4.7	5.0	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.2	4.4	4.1	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.6	4.9	4.7	4.5	4.4
13 years	6.2	5.4	5.6	5.4	6.0	5.3	5.7	5.6	5.0	4.0	4.4	3.9	5.4	5.8	5.6	5.3
14 years	7.6	7.2	6.5	6.8	8.5	7.3	7.6	7.5	6.3	5.7	5.4	5.4	7.5	6.7	7.2	7.0
15 years	8.7	8.6	8.2	8.1	10.2	9.3	9.0	9.0	9.3	7.9	7.3	6.8	8.9	8.4	8.5	8.5
16 years	9.3	9.8	9.1	9.2	11.0	9.1	8.9	9.6	9.8	9.0	7.8	7.9	10.0	9.2	9.6	10.1
17 years	9.0	9.6	10.0	9.7	7.7	6.9	7.4	7.5	9.2	9.0	8.4	8.0	9.3	9.6	9.4	10.3
18 years	4.7	5.6	5.9	5.8	1.5	0.9	0.9	1.0	6.2	5.9	6.9	6.5	5.3	5.4	5.6	5.4
19 years	1.7	2.5	2.7	2.7	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.2	2.0	2.8	2.7	2.3	2.3	2.6	2.6	2.7
20+ years	0.5	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	1.1	1.7	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.3
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.2	0.4	0.4	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.4	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.2	0.9	1.0	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.1
Asian	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	15.0	12.9	12.2	11.2	11.2	9.6	8.9	9.2	13.3	10.7	9.4	9.3	12.9	12.0	11.7	11.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.2	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	31.5	32.2	33.2	33.7	34.3	36.0	36.4	36.8	33.3	35.2	36.8	35.1	32.6	33.0	32.9	35.4
White (non-Hispanic)	49.0	50.3	49.8	49.9	50.5	50.1	50.0	49.3	49.3	50.0	49.4	50.7	50.0	50.4	50.3	48.7
Two or more races	1.9	2.3	2.8	3.0	2.5	2.8	3.1	2.8	2.1	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.2	2.4	3.0	2.9
Unknown	0.4	0.2	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.1	<.1
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	1,873	1,479	1,543	1,737
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,065	752	787	988

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	4.6	3.0	3.7	3.1
1 year	8.2	7.2	9.1	9.9
2 years	7.7	7.4	7.3	8.3
3 years	7.4	5.7	7.7	5.7
4 years	7.0	6.2	5.7	5.5
5 years	5.5	6.3	6.2	5.6
6 years	5.9	5.1	5.7	5.4
7 years	6.2	5.6	4.6	5.2
8 years	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.1
9 years	6.1	5.9	5.4	6.0
10 years	5.4	6.8	5.5	4.9
11 years	7.1	5.1	6.1	5.8
12 years	6.4	6.3	5.8	5.4
13 years	5.1	7.0	6.0	5.9
14 years	4.6	6.2	6.5	6.1
15 years	3.7	4.7	4.9	6.2
16 years	1.9	3.4	2.5	4.1
17 years	1.1	2.3	1.4	2.0
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.3	0.7	0.6	0.8
Asian	<.1	0.1	0.3	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	16.4	16.5	12.9	11.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	<.1	0.0	0.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	33.2	32.8	34.3	35.6
White (non-Hispanic)	45.7	46.7	48.9	47.8
Two or more races	2.7	2.6	2.9	3.9
Unknown	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	992	1,037	961	967

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.5	2.5	2.7	2.7
1 year	11.8	15.5	15.5	16.5
2 years	10.9	12.2	10.0	14.8
3 years	9.4	11.1	9.2	11.1
4 years	9.9	8.9	9.3	11.2
5 years	7.0	8.2	8.3	5.9
6 years	7.2	4.5	6.6	6.4
7 years	5.5	5.8	5.2	4.8
8 years	5.6	5.0	4.1	4.1
9 years	4.6	4.1	5.8	4.6
10 years	6.5	4.4	4.5	3.3
11 years	5.4	4.9	5.3	3.6
12 years	4.5	4.7	3.4	2.6
13 years	3.5	2.6	3.0	2.4
14 years	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.5
15 years	1.4	0.6	1.6	1.8
16 years	1.7	1.5	1.6	0.6
17 years	0.6	0.4	1.4	1.1
18 years	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.1
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.7	1.2	0.3	0.5
Asian	0.5	<.1	0.5	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	18.1	13.8	11.1	8.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	31.0	36.0	35.4	34.2
White (non-Hispanic)	46.3	44.8	48.1	52.1
Two or more races	2.3	4.0	4.5	4.2
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Colorado

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	96.7	97.0	96.0	96.1
Children with one or more recurrences	3.3	3.0	4.0	3.9
Number	3,597	3,574	4,739	4,599

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.54	0.68	0.87
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.46	99.32	99.13
Number	N/A	16,038	15,771	15,395

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	13.6	13.1	12.5	13.1
Guardianship	2.6	3.6	3.5	4.0
Reunification	65.5	68.2	70.4	70.7
Other	14.1	13.7	12.9	12.0
Missing data	4.2	1.4	0.7	0.2
Number	6,343	7,284	7,577	7,182

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	19.4	17.0	15.4	16.3
Guardianship	2.1	2.2	1.4	1.9
Reunification	48.4	49.7	56.7	54.5
Other	22.2	28.6	25.3	27.0
Missing data	8.0	2.5	1.2	0.4
Number	1,683	1,297	1,122	842

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.6
Guardianship	1.5	1.6	1.1	1.5
Reunification	61.9	68.2	71.2	72.4
Other	27.3	27.0	26.6	25.4
Missing data	8.5	2.3	0.1	<.1
Number	2,825	2,978	2,980	2,724

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	16.4	19.5	21.8	21.2
Children older than 12 at entry	83.6	80.5	78.2	78.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	329	436	399	359

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	20.5	16.7	4.1	5.6	12.5	2.9	3.1	7.1	18.5	17.9	13.9	11.5		
Guardianship	2.6	4.5	1.4	3.3	2.5	5.9	0.0	7.1	4.1	3.4	4.9	5.2		
Reunification	60.3	57.6	73.0	62.2	72.5	61.8	78.1	73.8	56.6	60.8	63.5	67.8		
Other	12.8	21.2	21.6	28.9	5.0	26.5	18.8	11.9	16.5	15.9	16.5	15.4		
Missing data	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.5	2.9	0.0	0.0	4.3	2.1	1.1	0.1		
Number	78	66	74	90	40	34	32	42	844	776	713	670		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	22.2	33.3	12.5	12.9	12.6	11.8	13.0	12.6	12.0	12.5	13.4		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	3.8	4.4	3.6	1.8	3.4	2.5	3.8		
Reunification	100.0	44.4	33.3	62.5	65.2	69.1	71.4	72.7	68.2	69.8	71.4	70.3		
Other	0.0	33.3	33.3	25.0	13.6	12.8	11.5	10.5	13.7	13.7	13.2	12.1		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.1	1.6	0.8	0.2	3.6	1.2	0.4	0.3		
Number	5	9	6	8	2,115	2,563	2,790	2,523	3,124	3,639	3,745	3,639		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.9	21.4	20.8	18.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	5.1	6.0	5.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	80.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	59.8	62.2	62.5	65.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.4	11.2	8.3	10.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	0.0	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	5	1	1	0	132	196	216	210	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	84.0	77.5	76.2	80.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.3	15.0	14.8	13.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1.8	3.6	4.1	3.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.2
48 or more mos.	0.5	0.9	1.0	0.9
Missing data	1.7	2.1	2.9	0.7
Number	4,152	4,968	5,337	5,078

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	63.8	71.2	71.5	70.6
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	18.5	17.4	15.9	16.4
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	11.7	10.7	11.9	11.6
Missing data	5.9	0.6	0.7	1.4
Number	7,738	7,613	7,782	7,651

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	11.8	15.6	9.9	10.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	33.8	38.0	42.9	42.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	25.3	25.2	27.9	27.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	14.0	10.7	9.3	10.6
48 or more mos.	13.6	9.3	8.9	8.8
Missing data	1.5	1.3	1.1	0.1
Number	865	957	946	941

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	79.9	80.6	81.5	82.0	54.8	53.1	55.5	59.7	38.6	37.2	32.0	31.6	69.8	72.0	62.3	70.7
Children with 3 or more placements	16.3	15.0	13.9	13.8	43.0	45.9	43.3	39.2	60.4	61.9	67.5	67.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	8,777	8,776	8,918	8,952	3,034	3,240	3,087	2,984	3,602	3,840	3,543	3,384	139	182	223	75

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	1.3	1.2	1.2	0.9
Institutions	13.5	10.0	5.4	4.5
Other settings	85.3	88.8	93.4	94.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4,074	4,379	4,428	4,320

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	120.8
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	78.4	80.6
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	5.2	4.7
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	55.3	57.6
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	21.0	19.7

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	112.5
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	53.4	52.9
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	22.7	23.4
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	18.6	20.4
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	3.8	3.3
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	56.3	51.8

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	129.5
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	20.0	21.9
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	97.9	98.3
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	25.7	27.2

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	94.5
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	83.3	83.5
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	56.9	61.2
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	34.0	34.3

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Colorado

STATE COMMENT

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Colorado's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 3.9 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 6.6 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (18.2 percent change).

In 2005, 0.87 percent of children in foster care in Colorado were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is among the highest in the nation and represents a decline in performance from 2003 (61.1 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 87.8 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) and 74.5 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. These percentages are about equal to the national median for each measure (medians for measures 3.1 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent and 73.1 percent, respectively). However, 72.7 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median for this measure of 79.0 percent.

In 2005, 21.9 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged to a permanent home by the end of the year and prior to their 18th birthday (measure C3.1). Although this percentage is less than the national median of 26.4 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (9.5 percent change).

In 2005, 98.3 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e. a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is among the highest in the nation.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 5.0 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation," and 21.2 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). Although this latter percentage is less than national median of 27.6 percent, it represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2002 (29.3 percent change).

In 2005, 27.2 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). Although this percentage is among the lowest in the nation, it represents a slight decline in performance on this measure from 2004 (5.8 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 80.6 percent of reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 70.4 percent.

The data for measure C1.3 indicate that 57.6 percent of all children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is among the highest in the nation.

The data for measure C1.4 indicate that 19.7 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage exceeds the national median of 14.8 percent and represents a slight decline in performance from 2004 (6.2 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 52.9 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is among the highest in the nation and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (15.8 percent change).

In 2005, 20.4 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 20.9 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (9.7 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 51.8 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent, it represents a slight decline in performance from 2004 (8.0 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 83.5 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months had two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 31.6 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced 2 or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent.

In 2005, 5.4 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 7.2 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2002 (63.5 percent change).

Connecticut

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	872,853	835,375	838,788	835,006
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	11.4	11.3	11.3	11.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	14.3	14.7	15.0	15.2
White (non-Hispanic)	69.1	68.6	68.1	67.6
Two or more races	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3
Child population in poverty (%)	11.0	10.1	12.2	12.4

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	12,818	12,256	13,285	11,419
Children in foster care on 9/30	6,007	6,742	6,803	7,032
Children adopted	617	342	349	740

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	53,414	61.2 per 1,000	50,115	60.0 per 1,000	48,657	58.0 per 1,000	45,064	54.0 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	12,818	14.7 per 1,000	12,256	14.7 per 1,000	13,285	15.8 per 1,000	11,419	13.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	11	1.3 per 100,000	6	0.7 per 100,000	9	1.1 per 100,000	9	1.1 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	9.3	9.2	9.7	11.0
1-5 years	29.6	29.0	29.6	29.3
6-10 years	28.7	28.2	27.8	26.9
11-15 years	26.9	27.9	27.2	27.4
16+ years	4.9	5.2	5.3	5.1
Unknown	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4
Number	12,818	12,256	13,285	11,419

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	24.3	23.8	23.7	22.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.1	0.1	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	26.0	25.7	27.2	25.6
White (non-Hispanic)	43.6	44.1	42.8	44.0
Two or more races	3.1	3.5	3.5	4.1
Unknown	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.6
Number	12,818	12,256	13,285	11,419

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	28.3	33.6	33.3	30.5
Medical neglect	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.1
Neglect	68.8	68.1	70.4	74.1
Physical abuse	12.1	11.5	10.4	7.1
Sexual abuse	4.3	4.5	4.7	4.6
Unknown	—	2.2	4.1	3.7
Other	2.1	0.9	—	—
Number	12,818	12,256	13,285	11,419

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	54.8	50.4	50.1	41.4
Median	>24, but <48	>24, but <48	>24, but <48	>24, but <48

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	6,157	5,755	6,000	6,080	2,763	3,130	2,922	2,856	2,787	2,143	2,119	1,904	6,007	6,742	6,803	7,032
Median length of stay (months)	29.3	21.7	19.9	21.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.4	12.1	11.3	14.7	28.2	20.0	21.6	22.1

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.9	3.5	3.8	3.8	13.3	13.7	15.0	15.0	4.1	5.2	6.6	5.9	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.6
1 year	3.8	4.4	5.0	4.3	6.3	5.8	5.4	5.1	5.5	5.9	5.9	7.0	4.0	4.7	4.4	4.4
2 years	4.5	3.9	4.5	4.9	5.0	5.3	5.7	4.8	5.6	6.0	6.5	6.8	3.7	4.4	4.9	4.0
3 years	4.7	4.5	4.2	4.2	5.1	5.4	4.9	4.8	6.6	5.6	6.3	7.1	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.1
4 years	4.2	3.8	4.2	3.9	5.4	5.1	4.9	4.6	6.5	5.7	5.6	6.8	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.5
5 years	4.2	3.6	3.6	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.4	4.0	5.0	5.5	4.7	5.1	3.7	3.6	4.0	3.7
6 years	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.9	3.9	4.3	5.2	3.6	5.0	4.9	5.7	5.0	3.7	3.3	3.9	3.7
7 years	4.8	3.7	3.4	3.7	3.6	3.3	3.9	4.0	4.6	4.4	4.9	3.9	3.7	3.2	3.5	3.7
8 years	5.1	4.4	3.8	3.4	4.3	3.6	3.3	3.6	5.2	3.8	3.6	4.6	4.2	3.7	3.2	3.5
9 years	5.3	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.7	4.9	4.3	4.0	3.4	4.7	4.1	3.6	3.3
10 years	5.9	4.8	4.7	4.6	3.7	4.4	4.1	4.1	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.4	4.9	4.5	4.3	3.6
11 years	5.6	5.6	5.2	5.2	3.9	4.8	4.2	3.6	4.2	4.9	3.8	3.4	6.0	5.0	4.8	4.6
12 years	5.3	5.7	6.0	5.7	5.0	5.1	5.1	4.4	3.9	3.7	3.5	3.3	5.5	5.7	5.3	5.3
13 years	6.9	6.4	6.5	7.0	6.4	6.6	6.1	6.2	4.2	5.1	4.4	4.6	6.1	6.1	6.5	6.0
14 years	7.0	8.5	8.2	7.5	8.3	8.2	7.7	8.6	4.7	4.4	5.8	4.2	8.2	7.5	7.1	7.7
15 years	9.3	9.7	10.0	9.4	11.1	10.3	9.0	11.4	7.2	6.2	6.2	5.9	8.8	9.8	9.1	9.5
16 years	7.7	9.2	8.5	8.6	5.6	4.4	4.9	5.5	9.9	9.7	8.6	7.8	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.5
17 years	4.5	5.2	5.6	6.1	1.3	1.5	2.3	2.8	5.2	5.3	4.2	4.0	5.5	6.6	7.0	7.7
18 years	2.0	2.3	2.6	3.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	2.2	3.0	3.5	3.9	3.3	3.4	4.1	4.6
19 years	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.5	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.2	0.9	0.8	1.6	1.5	1.8	2.2
20+ years	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.1
Missing data	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.6	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.4	0.9	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.8

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	<.1	0.1	0.2	<.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.3	1.1	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	36.1	34.4	33.0	31.7	29.8	29.5	27.3	27.8	30.1	30.1	29.6	30.0	35.9	33.4	31.7	30.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	26.1	27.4	28.2	29.9	28.1	28.8	31.4	29.8	27.3	27.2	28.6	30.3	26.5	28.1	29.5	29.7
White (non-Hispanic)	33.2	33.4	33.6	32.8	35.8	35.9	34.1	36.0	36.8	36.5	34.9	33.1	32.8	33.6	33.4	34.0
Two or more races	3.3	3.6	4.0	4.5	3.7	3.4	4.6	3.6	4.0	3.5	4.2	4.6	3.2	3.5	4.1	4.1
Unknown	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.7	2.1	1.7	1.8	2.6	1.4	1.4	1.8	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	1,034	1,305	1,382	1,312
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	584	663	714	614

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.8	2.8	3.3	4.3
1 year	7.3	6.8	6.5	8.1
2 years	7.3	8.8	8.6	7.2
3 years	7.4	7.0	7.0	6.5
4 years	5.3	7.6	7.5	6.5
5 years	4.7	5.1	6.7	5.9
6 years	5.0	5.5	6.2	6.3
7 years	5.6	5.7	5.9	6.3
8 years	7.1	5.9	5.9	6.0
9 years	6.9	7.7	5.9	5.8
10 years	8.6	7.2	7.0	5.7
11 years	8.0	6.7	6.2	6.2
12 years	6.1	6.3	5.8	5.7
13 years	5.4	5.1	4.9	5.6
14 years	6.7	4.7	4.6	4.7
15 years	3.9	4.4	3.8	4.0
16 years	1.2	2.2	2.7	3.1
17 years	0.9	0.6	1.5	2.1
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	<.1	0.2	0.3	0.3
Asian	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	33.9	33.2	33.5	30.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	28.2	29.7	30.5	29.8
White (non-Hispanic)	32.0	30.3	28.4	32.5
Two or more races	5.3	6.3	6.8	6.4
Unknown	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	617	342	349	740

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.5	0.6	0.6	9.3
1 year	5.0	8.2	8.6	15.8
2 years	8.6	12.9	17.5	11.6
3 years	13.0	11.1	14.0	9.2
4 years	10.5	9.1	9.5	9.9
5 years	7.8	6.1	8.0	6.9
6 years	7.1	7.3	6.3	7.0
7 years	7.5	6.1	5.2	5.0
8 years	9.1	7.3	3.4	5.0
9 years	8.6	7.3	4.9	3.9
10 years	5.0	4.1	6.6	3.4
11 years	6.2	8.8	5.7	3.5
12 years	4.4	3.8	3.2	3.0
13 years	3.7	2.0	4.3	1.9
14 years	1.6	1.2	1.1	1.9
15 years	0.6	2.6	0.9	0.9
16 years	0.8	1.2	0.0	1.4
17 years	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.4
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	27.4	25.4	27.2	30.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	26.1	31.0	26.1	32.3
White (non-Hispanic)	35.3	34.8	37.8	27.4
Two or more races	9.9	8.2	8.0	1.9
Unknown	1.3	0.6	0.3	0.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Connecticut

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	88.2	89.9	91.1	91.6
Children with one or more recurrences	11.8	10.1	8.9	8.4
Number	5,730	5,331	6,070	5,358

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	—	—	—
Number	N/A	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	22.3	15.5	13.8	22.7
Guardianship	4.3	5.4	4.9	4.6
Reunification	67.7	73.8	76.9	67.4
Other	5.6	5.2	4.4	5.1
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.1
Number	2,787	2,143	2,119	1,904

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	20.1	16.7	17.2	20.4
Guardianship	2.1	4.3	4.3	2.5
Reunification	69.5	70.3	68.9	67.7
Other	8.1	8.7	9.6	9.2
Missing data	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2
Number	816	630	534	446

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.9
Guardianship	1.6	2.4	1.6	2.9
Reunification	84.4	87.2	88.2	84.7
Other	13.8	10.2	10.2	11.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Number	751	580	559	452

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	37.5	43.5	47.1	40.0
Children older than 12 at entry	59.4	54.3	52.9	60.0
Missing data	3.1	2.2	0.0	0.0
Number	32	46	34	40

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	20.0	50.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.7	16.3	12.4	22.6	
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	0.0	0.0	6.4	7.3	6.1	6.5	
Reunification	80.0	50.0	50.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	81.8	100.0	0.0	66.9	71.4	76.2	65.2	
Other	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	0.0	0.0	4.8	5.1	5.3	5.8	
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Number	5	4	6	0	9	23	11	9	838	646	627	572		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.4	14.1	11.9	23.2	23.4	15.9	16.2	20.9		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	5.0	3.6	2.9	3.7	4.3	4.3	5.1		
Reunification	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	70.2	76.8	81.9	69.7	65.9	72.8	73.9	68.0		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.3	4.0	2.6	4.0	7.0	7.0	5.5	5.9		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2		
Number	0	1	0	0	761	582	607	577	1,025	782	740	631		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	3.3	0.0	14.8	31.5	25.3	23.3	38.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.0	3.3	0.0	0.0	4.5	6.7	11.1	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	100.0	93.3	100.0	85.2	60.4	66.7	63.3	54.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.6	1.3	2.2	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	38	30	38	27	111	75	90	88	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	48.8	60.5	63.0	58.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	22.6	21.3	21.9	23.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	6.8	6.0	5.8	6.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	4.7	2.8	2.6	2.7
48 or more mos.	7.1	6.3	4.7	5.5
Missing data	10.0	3.2	2.0	2.9
Number	1,888	1,581	1,629	1,284

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	83.6	83.6	83.6	81.6
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	8.6	7.0	7.2	7.6
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	7.0	8.3	8.4	9.5
Missing data	0.8	1.1	0.8	1.2
Number	2,763	3,130	2,922	2,856

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	1.6	0.9	2.4	2.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	9.0	12.0	17.5	21.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	20.1	30.9	28.1	25.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	20.9	21.6	21.2	22.9
48 or more mos.	48.3	34.5	30.5	27.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0
Number	621	333	292	433

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	87.7	85.4	84.9	85.3	67.5	64.5	64.5	62.5	33.9	36.8	36.2	32.8	80.8	94.2	95.6	86.0
Children with 3 or more placements	12.2	14.1	14.6	14.0	28.5	32.7	33.9	33.5	46.2	59.5	59.8	59.0	18.3	5.8	4.4	11.6
Number	2,787	3,420	3,302	3,092	1,483	1,756	1,880	1,876	4,316	3,640	3,695	3,925	334	69	45	43

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	3.1	3.4	3.6	3.7
Institutions	18.7	15.9	13.6	11.3
Other settings	78.0	79.8	81.0	84.9
Missing data	0.1	1.0	1.7	0.2
Number	1,752	2,103	1,988	1,835

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	98.8
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	62.7	58.3
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	9.2	9.7
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	33.8	27.9
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	12.7	14.0

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	71.7
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	19.9	24.0
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	37.0	36.1
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	8.7	11.9
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	6.1	4.7
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	32.9	42.9

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	97.9
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	13.3	16.2
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	98.7	98.7
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	56.8	59.3

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	98.1
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	84.6	85.2
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	65.5	65.0
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	37.8	35.0

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Connecticut

STATE COMMENT

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Connecticut's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 8.4 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (outcome measure 1.1). Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 6.6 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (28.8 percent change).

Connecticut does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System to calculate the number of children who are victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members.

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 94.7 percent of all children exiting foster care were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.1), 90.6 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.2), and 88.5 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care were discharged to a permanent home. The State's percentages exceed the national medians for all three measures (medians for measures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 16.2 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged to a permanent home by the last day of the year and prior to their 18th birthday (measure C3.1). Although this percentage is less than the national median of 26.4 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (21.8 percent change).

In 2005, 98.7 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is among the highest in the nation.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 40.0 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of "emancipation" were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (15.1 percent change).

In 2005, 59.3 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 58.3 percent of reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 70.4 percent and represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2004.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 27.9 percent of all children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (17.5 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 14.0 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is about equal to the national median of 14.8 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (10.2 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 24.0 percent of finalized adoptions occurred in less than 24 months from the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 29.1 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (126.4 percent change).

In 2005, 11.9 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). Although this percentage is less than the national median of 20.9 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (36.8 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 42.9 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is less than the national median of 45.1 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (30.4 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 85.2 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 32.8 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 32.3 percent.

In 2005, 15.0 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 7.2 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (31.2 percent change).

Delaware

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	189,698	198,842	193,506	195,879
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Asian	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	24.4	24.5	24.7	25.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	7.8	8.4	8.8	9.2
White (non-Hispanic)	62.9	62.0	61.1	60.2
Two or more races	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.8
Child population in poverty (%)	12.6	11.0	13.0	14.2

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	1,304	1,236	1,581	1,960
Children in foster care on 9/30	886	814	849	962
Children adopted	133	101	73	78

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	8,042	42.4 per 1,000	12,497	62.9 per 1,000	12,307	63.6 per 1,000	13,878	70.9 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	1,304	6.9 per 1,000	1,236	6.2 per 1,000	1,581	8.2 per 1,000	1,960	10.0 per 1,000
Child fatalities	0	0.0 per 100,000	0	0.0 per 100,000	1	0.5 per 100,000	0	0.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	9.3	8.1	9.3	8.9
1-5 years	30.2	30.2	28.7	31.2
6-10 years	29.1	31.5	26.8	28.5
11-15 years	24.9	24.1	26.6	24.0
16+ years	6.4	6.1	8.7	7.4
Unknown	0.1	—	—	—
Number	1,304	1,236	1,581	1,960

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	—	0.1	0.1	0.4
Asian	0.2	1.0	0.1	0.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	48.2	46.3	42.0	45.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.3	0.1	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	8.5	7.5	8.7	9.3
White (non-Hispanic)	42.8	44.5	49.0	44.2
Two or more races	—	—	—	—
Unknown	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1
Number	1,304	1,236	1,581	1,960

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	20.6	22.6	24.7	22.6
Medical neglect	3.3	4.0	3.2	2.0
Neglect	41.3	36.5	29.4	28.0
Physical abuse	21.1	25.1	26.2	27.8
Sexual abuse	8.7	12.4	13.2	9.3
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	14.2	6.6	12.2	10.4
Number	1,304	1,236	1,581	1,960

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	0.6	0.9	1.1	0.8
Median	<24	<24	<24	<24

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	895	761	716	712	918	861	880	925	928	810	749	681	886	814	849	962
Median length of stay (months)	15.1	13.1	12.3	11.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.6	3.0	3.0	3.3	11.9	11.3	10.8	9.3

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	4.1	4.1	5.0	5.9	8.5	8.8	10.8	10.3	3.0	3.8	5.2	3.8	4.1	4.5	5.2	5.1
1 year	4.9	6.8	6.0	7.3	4.0	4.4	4.4	4.2	3.2	4.8	4.1	5.4	6.3	5.4	6.5	6.4
2 years	4.8	5.1	5.6	6.2	2.8	2.3	3.8	3.9	3.8	4.1	3.9	6.2	4.5	5.0	5.3	5.0
3 years	3.6	4.2	4.3	5.2	2.4	2.3	3.0	3.8	2.5	3.5	4.0	5.0	4.2	3.9	4.7	5.0
4 years	4.1	3.7	3.2	3.4	2.8	2.0	2.7	2.7	3.1	2.6	3.5	3.2	3.5	2.9	3.1	3.7
5 years	3.9	3.9	2.7	2.7	2.3	2.3	2.6	3.2	3.7	3.2	3.1	1.9	3.5	2.3	2.6	3.2
6 years	3.1	2.5	3.9	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.6	3.6	2.2	3.5	2.5	2.4	3.4	2.4	3.0
7 years	4.0	2.6	2.9	2.8	1.5	2.1	1.9	2.4	2.7	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.6	2.6	2.4	3.1
8 years	5.1	2.6	3.1	3.1	1.9	2.3	2.2	1.8	3.6	1.6	1.9	2.6	2.4	2.9	2.8	2.9
9 years	4.8	3.4	2.8	3.5	1.7	2.4	1.8	2.4	3.0	2.7	2.0	1.2	3.0	2.7	3.3	3.3
10 years	5.5	4.5	3.8	2.4	2.4	2.8	1.7	1.7	3.9	2.8	2.4	1.6	4.1	3.3	2.0	3.1
11 years	4.0	4.9	4.1	3.4	2.2	1.6	1.1	2.7	1.9	1.7	1.3	1.9	4.4	4.3	3.1	2.3
12 years	5.4	4.5	5.3	4.4	2.9	2.8	3.2	2.2	3.0	2.5	1.9	1.9	4.1	4.5	4.5	3.7
13 years	5.6	5.9	5.0	5.9	4.2	6.2	5.0	6.1	3.2	4.4	3.9	3.1	6.2	5.3	5.5	5.4
14 years	6.0	7.4	8.0	7.2	8.5	9.8	10.2	8.8	5.9	6.9	6.4	5.9	7.8	8.1	8.4	7.9
15 years	8.2	8.5	9.6	9.6	16.0	12.7	14.7	12.2	11.7	9.3	11.9	10.1	9.4	11.2	11.9	10.6
16 years	9.6	11.4	9.6	11.8	18.4	15.7	14.2	14.8	13.3	14.0	11.9	15.4	13.3	11.5	13.1	11.5
17 years	10.6	11.4	12.2	9.6	13.5	16.5	13.6	13.1	15.7	18.1	16.4	12.6	12.2	12.8	10.1	12.1
18 years	2.5	2.4	2.5	3.4	1.3	0.8	1.0	1.2	8.6	8.8	9.3	12.6	2.0	2.8	3.3	2.2
19 years	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.6	1.2	0.9	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.3
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Asian	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	61.2	61.4	60.1	56.2	57.4	57.1	53.5	56.8	56.0	58.6	56.1	54.5	62.8	59.7	56.9	57.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	6.8	6.7	6.1	7.0	8.9	6.5	8.0	9.1	9.7	6.7	6.9	9.1	6.0	6.5	7.3	7.7
White (non-Hispanic)	31.8	31.9	33.7	36.0	33.0	35.9	38.0	33.1	33.7	34.3	36.6	35.2	31.0	33.7	35.5	33.7
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	210	144	216	274
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	135	84	117	141

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.9	4.2	4.2	6.2
1 year	13.3	9.0	11.1	11.7
2 years	8.6	9.7	10.2	9.1
3 years	8.1	11.1	10.6	8.0
4 years	7.1	5.6	5.6	6.2
5 years	7.1	5.6	2.8	5.5
6 years	4.8	6.3	4.6	4.4
7 years	2.9	4.2	4.6	5.1
8 years	7.1	4.9	4.2	5.1
9 years	5.2	6.3	6.9	5.1
10 years	6.7	4.9	3.7	6.2
11 years	5.7	6.9	6.9	1.8
12 years	5.2	6.3	6.0	5.8
13 years	8.6	6.3	6.0	5.5
14 years	3.8	2.8	6.5	4.0
15 years	2.9	4.2	4.6	4.7
16 years	0.0	2.1	0.9	2.9
17 years	0.0	0.0	0.5	2.6
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	61.0	63.2	63.4	59.9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	3.8	3.5	6.5	5.5
White (non-Hispanic)	35.2	33.3	30.1	33.9
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	133	101	73	78

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.0	0.0	1.4	5.1
1 year	3.0	13.9	11.0	11.5
2 years	12.8	17.8	12.3	14.1
3 years	8.3	9.9	17.8	16.7
4 years	9.8	10.9	12.3	10.3
5 years	3.8	9.9	5.5	1.3
6 years	5.3	5.0	6.8	5.1
7 years	7.5	4.0	5.5	5.1
8 years	10.5	2.0	4.1	7.7
9 years	7.5	7.9	2.7	0.0
10 years	7.5	4.0	5.5	6.4
11 years	6.8	5.0	4.1	2.6
12 years	6.8	4.0	2.7	3.8
13 years	4.5	3.0	2.7	3.8
14 years	1.5	1.0	0.0	3.8
15 years	3.8	2.0	2.7	1.3
16 years	0.8	0.0	1.4	0.0
17 years	0.0	0.0	1.4	1.3
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	60.9	52.5	63.0	52.6
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	9.8	7.9	4.1	3.8
White (non-Hispanic)	29.3	39.6	32.9	42.3
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Delaware

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	98.8	97.0	98.0	97.1
Children with one or more recurrences	1.2	3.0	2.0	2.9
Number	737	675	740	870

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care

(NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.43	0.19	0.12
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.57	99.81	99.88
Number	N/A	1,622	1,596	1,637

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	14.7	13.0	9.7	11.0
Guardianship	4.4	3.8	3.9	4.8
Reunification	72.7	72.2	76.8	73.7
Other	8.2	11.0	9.6	10.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	928	810	749	681

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	29.6	21.7	16.7	18.4
Guardianship	8.5	10.1	7.6	3.9
Reunification	49.3	42.0	48.5	56.6
Other	12.7	26.1	27.3	21.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	71	69	66	76

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.0
Guardianship	0.6	0.8	1.6	1.1
Reunification	86.1	82.9	84.0	82.9
Other	12.9	16.1	14.1	16.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	505	473	426	380

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	14.3	16.4	12.7	11.9
Children older than 12 at entry	84.3	80.6	85.7	86.6
Missing data	1.4	3.0	1.6	1.5
Number	70	67	63	67

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.4	12.0	11.0	10.2	
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.4	4.0	4.0	4.9	
Reunification	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	72.1	70.7	75.2	74.7	
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.1	13.3	9.8	10.2	
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Number	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	520	475	420	371		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	14.8	3.8	4.8	14.7	14.4	9.1	14.2		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.4	0.0	1.9	3.2	4.5	4.3	4.0	5.4		
Reunification	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	75.6	79.6	88.5	75.8	72.5	73.0	76.6	70.8		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.9	5.6	5.8	16.1	8.3	8.3	10.2	9.6		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	1	0	0	1	90	54	52	62	313	278	274	240		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Reunification	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Number	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	85.2	92.3	89.0	89.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.0	5.3	9.6	6.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1.0	0.5	0.7	2.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.9	0.9	0.3	0.4
48 or more mos.	1.5	0.9	0.2	1.0
Missing data	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.8
Number	675	585	575	502

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	63.4	62.7	71.1	67.4
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	24.1	23.5	18.2	18.2
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	10.8	12.9	10.1	13.0
Missing data	1.7	0.9	0.6	1.5
Number	918	861	880	925

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	2.9	4.8	4.1	5.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.0	27.6	23.3	37.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	31.6	29.5	35.6	32.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	30.1	21.0	26.0	9.3
48 or more mos.	24.3	17.1	11.0	16.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	136	105	73	75

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	98.3	97.7	97.4	96.0	77.3	78.7	82.0	83.9	52.8	49.6	46.3	53.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	1.7	2.3	2.6	4.0	22.7	21.3	18.0	16.1	47.2	50.4	53.7	46.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,057	1,007	985	1,044	278	244	278	274	470	365	324	313	8	6	9	6

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	5.2	3.7	6.4	2.0
Institutions	1.4	2.4	0.8	1.2
Other settings	93.1	93.3	92.8	96.3
Missing data	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.5
Number	347	327	362	404

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	128.5
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	87.6	88.5
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	2.9	3.0
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	62.9	59.6
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	25.3	22.8

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	104.1
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	27.4	42.7
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	32.5	27.9
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	22.3	22.1
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	11.6	10.8
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	45.8	38.9

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	140.5
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	24.2	27.6
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	98.8	95.1
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	20.9	21.8

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	98.4
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	97.1	95.6
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	82.3	83.7
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	46.9	54.8

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Delaware

STATE COMMENT

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Delaware's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 2.9 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). Although this percentage is less than the national median of 6.6 percent, it represents a decline in performance compared to 2002 (141.7 percent change).

In 2005, 0.12 percent of children in foster care in Delaware were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 0.42 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2003 (72.1 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 89.5 percent of all children exiting foster care were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.1), 78.9 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.2), and 84.0 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.3). The State's percentages are either about equal to or exceed the national medians for all three measures (medians for measures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 27.6 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged to a permanent home by the end of the fiscal year and prior to their 18th birthday (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (14.0 percent change).

In 2005, 95.1 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is less than the national median of 95.7 percent for this measure.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 11.9 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of "emancipation" were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This percentage is not only less than the national median of 27.6 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (16.8 percent change).

In 2005, 21.8 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 88.5 percent of reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 70.4 percent for this measure.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 59.6 percent of all children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2004 (5.2 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 22.8 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 14.8 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (9.9 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 42.6 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 29.1 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (206.5 percent change).

In 2005, 22.1 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent.

Measure C2.5 indicates that 38.9 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is less than the national median of 45.1 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (15.1 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 95.6 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 53.7 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 32.3 percent.

In 2005, 3.2 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 7.2 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2002 (51.5 percent change).

District of Columbia

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	112,128	108,403	109,547	112,837
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Asian	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	72.9	72.4	71.4	70.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	10.0	10.4	10.6	10.7
White (non-Hispanic)	13.5	13.7	14.4	14.9
Two or more races	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8
Child population in poverty (%)	33.0	31.5	27.3	38.6

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	3,032	2,518	2,378	2,840
Children in foster care on 9/30	3,321	3,092	2,608	2,505
Children adopted	253	242	433	310

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	8,243	73.5 per 1,000	10,960	101.1 per 1,000	12,074	110.2 per 1,000	11,950	105.9 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	3,032	27.0 per 1,000	2,518	23.2 per 1,000	2,378	21.7 per 1,000	2,840	25.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	13	11.6 per 100,000	6	5.5 per 100,000	5	4.6 per 100,000	2	1.8 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	9.4	10.8	12.8	12.0
1-5 years	25.8	25.2	24.9	23.1
6-10 years	31.5	29.4	27.2	28.0
11-15 years	26.6	28.4	28.8	30.2
16+ years	6.6	6.2	6.3	6.7
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Number	3,032	2,518	2,378	2,840

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.0	—	—	0.1
Asian	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	52.2	55.9	60.3	62.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.1	—	—
Hispanic (of any race)	2.6	2.4	2.6	3.3
White (non-Hispanic)	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.4
Two or more races	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.8
Unknown	43.9	40.3	36.1	33.0
Number	3,032	2,518	2,378	2,840

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	—	—	—	—
Medical neglect	—	—	—	—
Neglect	79.2	82.3	85.8	84.2
Physical abuse	22.9	19.5	15.3	16.1
Sexual abuse	5.3	4.9	4.6	5.7
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	0.1	—	—	—
Number	3,032	2,518	2,378	2,840

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	96.5	35.0	55.8	32.4
Median	<24	<24	<24	<24

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	2,905	3,130	2,903	2,653	812	719	729	902	396	757	1,024	1,050	3,321	3,092	2,608	2,505
Median length of stay (months)	31.8	38.1	39.4	37.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.8	36.4	40.6	36.0	37.2	42.8	37.0	30.4

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.7	11.6	12.2	11.8	13.2	4.8	2.5	2.1	2.4	1.6	1.6	2.0	2.8
1 year	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.6	6.5	5.7	7.3	5.7	4.5	2.5	2.0	1.8	2.7	2.6	2.8	3.7
2 years	3.4	3.0	3.4	3.3	5.7	5.6	5.3	4.9	4.3	4.0	4.6	4.8	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.0
3 years	4.1	3.6	3.3	3.7	5.0	5.6	5.2	5.7	4.5	5.3	5.5	5.1	3.6	3.2	3.6	3.4
4 years	4.3	4.7	4.1	2.6	4.7	4.5	4.3	5.2	3.3	5.5	5.0	5.8	4.6	3.6	2.7	3.5
5 years	4.7	4.7	4.3	3.8	5.3	4.5	4.7	5.7	5.3	5.4	6.0	5.0	4.3	4.2	3.7	2.9
6 years	4.8	5.0	4.7	4.0	5.8	4.5	6.0	5.3	5.3	5.7	5.2	6.1	4.8	4.6	3.9	3.4
7 years	5.5	5.4	5.0	4.6	4.6	4.7	5.5	4.3	3.8	6.5	6.0	4.6	4.9	4.6	4.7	3.4
8 years	6.0	5.8	5.4	4.8	4.7	5.1	4.3	4.1	5.1	6.3	5.1	6.9	5.3	5.1	4.9	4.0
9 years	6.5	5.8	5.2	4.1	5.0	4.6	4.5	5.0	7.8	6.9	7.6	6.1	5.8	5.3	4.3	4.0
10 years	6.0	6.4	5.7	5.1	6.8	3.5	4.1	4.8	6.1	5.4	4.3	3.7	6.2	5.4	5.0	4.2
11 years	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.1	4.3	7.0	4.9	5.7	5.1	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.2
12 years	6.2	6.3	5.9	5.5	5.7	5.6	6.2	5.2	5.3	6.2	6.7	5.9	6.3	6.4	5.3	6.0
13 years	5.6	6.1	5.7	6.8	5.0	6.1	7.4	5.4	4.0	6.6	5.1	5.3	6.1	6.1	6.4	5.1
14 years	6.1	5.3	6.2	5.9	4.7	6.0	5.2	6.5	3.5	4.0	5.3	4.3	5.7	6.2	5.9	7.5
15 years	5.2	5.7	6.1	6.9	5.2	7.6	5.3	5.9	4.8	4.1	3.3	4.1	5.9	6.2	7.0	6.5
16 years	5.8	5.5	5.5	6.4	5.2	4.0	3.7	4.2	2.8	2.5	2.9	3.3	5.5	6.1	6.7	7.7
17 years	5.2	5.5	5.5	6.5	3.1	2.6	3.2	3.0	1.5	2.6	3.1	2.4	6.0	5.9	5.9	6.8
18 years	4.5	4.5	5.4	5.6	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.0	1.8	1.6	2.1	2.9	4.6	5.4	5.6	6.4
19 years	3.6	3.9	4.7	5.6	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	2.8	1.3	1.7	1.7	3.7	4.4	5.5	5.0
20+ years	1.9	2.3	3.4	4.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	10.6	6.5	3.9	6.5	2.9	3.6	4.4	5.3
Missing data	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.1	3.0	2.4	6.6	5.2	0.3	0.6	0.2	<.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	92.2	89.0	91.7	90.8	62.7	61.2	85.3	74.9	75.3	78.6	89.5	85.4	87.0	85.1	90.8	87.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	1.7	2.1	3.1	3.2	3.3	2.9	4.5	5.4	2.8	2.2	3.2	4.2	1.9	2.3	3.5	3.6
White (non-Hispanic)	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	1.1	0.7	0.3	0.1	1.0	0.8	0.2	<.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Two or more races	0.6	0.5	1.0	4.6	0.1	0.8	2.3	4.2	0.5	0.7	1.8	3.8	0.5	0.6	1.0	4.8
Unknown	5.1	7.8	2.9	0.3	32.1	34.2	2.2	0.2	20.5	17.4	2.3	0.2	9.8	11.6	2.9	0.3
Missing data	0.0	<.1	0.9	0.8	0.0	0.0	5.2	14.6	0.0	0.1	2.5	5.9	0.0	0.0	1.5	3.6

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	1,169	1,124	787	612
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1	47	57	29

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.3	0.3	1.0	1.8
1 year	2.1	2.3	3.0	4.7
2 years	2.5	2.9	5.6	4.9
3 years	4.5	4.4	3.8	4.1
4 years	6.2	5.6	4.6	5.6
5 years	5.8	6.9	5.7	3.8
6 years	7.4	6.6	6.0	3.9
7 years	6.7	6.9	8.1	4.7
8 years	8.6	7.5	7.4	6.9
9 years	9.2	8.2	7.2	7.0
10 years	9.0	8.8	7.6	7.7
11 years	8.0	9.6	10.2	8.8
12 years	9.1	8.4	7.9	10.0
13 years	7.6	8.0	7.0	8.3
14 years	6.2	5.6	6.4	7.7
15 years	3.9	4.4	3.8	4.7
16 years	2.4	2.2	3.4	3.3
17 years	0.7	1.4	1.3	2.1
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	<.1	0.3	0.1	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	95.0	90.6	92.5	93.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.2	1.8	2.5	1.6
White (non-Hispanic)	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
Two or more races	0.6	0.6	1.0	3.3
Unknown	2.8	6.5	3.3	0.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.5

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	253	242	433	310

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.3
1 year	0.4	0.4	0.2	1.6
2 years	3.6	4.5	4.6	7.7
3 years	7.9	4.5	6.0	6.5
4 years	7.5	5.4	8.1	5.8
5 years	5.5	6.2	9.0	6.5
6 years	5.9	11.2	5.5	10.3
7 years	6.7	10.3	5.3	7.4
8 years	13.4	7.9	7.2	9.7
9 years	7.9	9.5	10.6	9.0
10 years	8.3	9.5	5.3	6.8
11 years	9.1	7.4	8.8	6.8
12 years	9.1	8.7	8.8	6.1
13 years	5.5	5.4	8.3	4.8
14 years	4.0	2.5	5.1	4.8
15 years	0.8	2.5	2.5	3.5
16 years	2.8	1.7	2.3	1.9
17 years	0.8	1.2	1.8	0.3
18 years	0.4	1.2	0.2	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	99.2	97.9	97.5	96.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.4	0.4	0.9	1.9
White (non-Hispanic)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.3
Unknown	0.4	1.7	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

District of Columbia

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	93.6	91.9	87.4	94.7
Children with one or more recurrences	6.4	8.1	12.6	5.3
Number	1,413	1,215	1,131	1,333

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.70	0.30	0.34
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.30	99.70	99.66
Number	N/A	3,849	3,632	3,555

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	4.3	37.1	35.2	29.4
Guardianship	1.3	7.9	23.7	20.6
Reunification	76.5	44.5	27.1	34.5
Other	17.9	10.4	13.8	15.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0
Number	396	757	1,024	1,050

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	13.8	58.6	40.3	23.3
Guardianship	3.4	6.1	13.9	8.3
Reunification	48.3	23.2	27.5	41.7
Other	34.5	12.1	18.3	26.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	29	99	295	60

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	1.0	5.4	1.9	2.0
Guardianship	0.0	1.8	11.8	5.9
Reunification	46.9	49.1	31.1	33.2
Other	52.1	43.8	55.3	58.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	96	112	161	202

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	27.8	29.6	34.7	25.0
Children older than 12 at entry	72.2	67.6	65.3	75.0
Missing data	0.0	2.8	0.0	0.0
Number	54	71	118	148

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	40.0	50.0	5.7	45.2	37.0	30.9		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	8.6	24.7	22.1		
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	40.0	50.0	69.8	34.5	23.8	30.4		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	20.0	0.0	23.5	11.8	14.2	16.6		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0		
Number	0	0	0	2	0	1	5	2	298	595	916	897		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.8	9.1	15.9	0.0	16.7	0.0	100.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.2	6.8	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0		
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	70.6	54.5	63.6	100.0	66.7	50.0	0.0		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.6	18.2	13.6	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	0	0	0	0	11	17	33	44	4	6	2	1		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	5.3	29.2	0.0	0.0	40.0	50.0	47.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.5		
Guardianship	2.5	5.3	16.7	50.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	100.0	23.1	9.7		
Reunification	96.3	87.1	41.7	50.0	100.0	20.0	50.0	17.5	0.0	0.0	73.1	80.6		
Other	1.2	2.3	12.5	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	3.2		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	81	132	24	2	2	5	18	40	0	1	26	62		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	68.0	62.3	54.2	74.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.9	13.1	18.4	10.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	7.6	11.0	13.7	5.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	4.6	5.6	3.6	1.9
48 or more mos.	5.9	8.0	9.7	7.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0
Number	303	337	277	362

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	81.2	74.4	73.1	82.5
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	9.7	12.8	14.8	7.8
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.6	12.2	11.4	9.5
Missing data	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.2
Number	812	719	729	902

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	0.0	1.1	1.9	1.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	5.9	3.9	5.6	5.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	0.0	11.0	13.3	20.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	11.8	19.2	18.1	20.7
48 or more mos.	82.4	64.4	61.1	51.8
Missing data	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0
Number	17	281	360	309

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	84.5	91.2	85.0	82.6	57.9	62.0	69.8	60.0	50.0	41.9	48.9	38.7	0.0	100.0	100.0	85.7
Children with 3 or more placements	15.5	8.8	11.0	16.0	42.1	38.0	24.0	34.7	50.0	58.1	50.7	60.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.3
Number	878	753	754	993	508	513	496	495	2,331	2,578	2,366	2,060	0	5	16	7

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	9.5	0.8	9.4	12.3
Institutions	20.0	28.0	1.5	0.3
Other settings	64.3	68.9	89.0	87.1
Missing data	6.2	2.2	0.0	0.3
Number	566	489	456	618

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	97.3
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	51.3	71.3
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	11.5	5.3
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	29.2	29.4
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	18.8	24.8

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	91.9
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	7.5	7.5
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	53.0	50.8
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	20.9	21.1
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	7.4	7.4
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	76.7	87.7

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	116.7
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	30.5	32.9
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	99.7	99.7
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	61.3	60.5

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	122.4
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	88.1	82.4
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	74.7	63.4
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	53.8	43.0

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

District of Columbia

STATE COMMENT

Uma S. Ahluwalia, Interim Director
Child and Family Services Agency
District of Columbia

The following are the District of Columbia's comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress*.

Section B (Child Maltreatment Data): Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims: The District would like to clarify that there has been greater emphasis in the past on ensuring the accuracy and completeness of race/ethnicity data for children in out-of-home care, as opposed to those served in the in-home population. For example, in FY 2005, only 3.6% of the foster care population was missing race/ethnicity data. Only 0.3% had race/ethnicity listed as "unknown." Recently, the agency has begun to emphasize the importance of entering timely, accurate, and complete demographic data for all children served, whether a child is in in-home care, out-of-home care, or referred to a community agency.

Outcome Measure 3.1: Fluctuation in these data is partly the result of CFSA's consistent reform efforts and vast improvements in system-wide performance for achieving timely permanence for children. By lowering social worker caseloads and implementing better practices, children and families are protected from languishing in the system without closure. This trend also highlights the emphasis the District has placed on preventing re-entry into foster care by providing families with a timely and easily accessible array of supportive, community-based service. Caution should be used, however, in comparing data from FY 2002 to subsequent years. Data quality improved as users became more familiar with the application and the mapping logic to capture various data elements was standardized. In addition, CFSA's reform efforts have significantly picked up momentum since 2004 with significant program improvements manifested in the last two years, thus contributing to fluctuations in the data.

Outcome Measure 3.2: It should be noted that in FY 2004, the agency began an initiative to adjust the mapping of disability data for children in foster care, based upon AFCARS definitions. At that time, the mapping of disabilities encompassed an overly broad category of conditions, which resulted in an inflated number of children being categorized as disabled. Subsequently, the agency sought technical assistance both from another state and from the National Resource Center for Child Welfare Data and Technology. This strategy led to a more accurate count of disabled children in care for FY 2005. Technical assistance concluded and the project was completed in FY 2006. As a result of this initiative, the agency anticipates a further but slight adjustment to these numbers for FY 2006.

Outcome Measures 3.3 and 3.4: The increase in children remaining in foster care until the age of 21 in part reflects the past legacy of failure to achieve permanency. It is also the result of an increase in adolescents entering care. The District would like to emphasize however, caution should be used in comparing data from FY 2002 to subsequent years as the data integrity without our SACWIS application has matured since implementation in FY 1999. Data quality improved as users became more familiar with the application and the mapping logic to capture various data elements was standardized. In addition, CFSA's reform efforts have significantly picked up momentum since 2004, with significant program improvement manifested in the last two years, thus contributing to the fluctuations in the data.

District of Columbia

FEDERAL COMMENT

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The District of Columbia's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 5.3 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 6.6 percent and represents an improvement in performance compared to 2002 (17.2 percent change).

In 2005, 0.34 percent of children in foster care in the District of Columbia were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 0.42 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2003 (51.4 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 84.5 percent of all children exiting foster care were discharged to a permanent home (measure 3.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 87.8 percent. However, the data for outcome measures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 indicate extensive variations in population size, suggesting possible data quality issues with regard to those measures.

In 2005, 32.9 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged to a permanent home by the end of the fiscal year and prior to their 18th birthday (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (7.9 percent change).

In 2005, 99.7 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is among the highest in the nation.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 25.0 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of "emancipation" were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). Comparisons across years are not feasible because of considerable variation in the total numbers of children reported as exits to emancipation.

In 2005, 60.5 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 71.3 percent of reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 70.4 percent.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 29.4 percent of all children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent.

Measure C1.4 indicates that 24.8 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage not only exceeds the national median of 14.8 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2004 (31.9 percent change). Because outcome measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace outcome measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 7.5 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is the lowest in the nation. However, it represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (27.1 percent change).

In 2005, 21.1 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent.

Measure C2.5 indicates that 87.7 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2004 (14.3 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 82.4 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is equal to the national median.

In 2005, 38.7 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 32.3 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (22.6 percent change).

In 2005, 12.6 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 7.2 percent. However, the data for this measure exhibit wide variation, suggesting potential data quality concerns.

Florida

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	3,882,271	3,924,123	4,003,290	4,067,877
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Asian	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	21.2	21.1	21.1	21.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	20.7	21.4	22.1	22.8
White (non-Hispanic)	54.2	53.5	52.7	52.0
Two or more races	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9
Child population in poverty (%)	16.5	19.2	17.0	15.8

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	122,131	138,499	129,914	130,633
Children in foster care on 9/30	31,963	30,677	28,864	29,312
Children adopted	2,309	2,786	3,264	3,020

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	254,856	65.7 per 1,000	350,385	89.3 per 1,000	329,158	82.2 per 1,000	334,293	82.2 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	122,131	31.5 per 1,000	138,499	35.3 per 1,000	129,914	32.5 per 1,000	130,633	32.1 per 1,000
Child fatalities	97	2.5 per 100,000	101	2.6 per 100,000	86	2.2 per 100,000	117	2.9 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	9.3	9.3	9.5	9.9
1-5 years	31.8	32.3	33.0	33.3
6-10 years	28.1	27.7	26.7	26.3
11-15 years	24.6	24.6	24.4	23.8
16+ years	6.2	6.1	6.4	6.5
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	122,131	138,499	129,914	130,633

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	30.4	31.2	29.9	29.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	8.2	9.4	12.4	12.9
White (non-Hispanic)	60.1	57.8	55.2	54.8
Two or more races	—	0.1	1.2	1.4
Unknown	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.6
Number	122,131	138,499	129,914	130,633

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	2.9	2.4	1.9	1.8
Medical neglect	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.6
Neglect	32.4	30.2	29.8	30.2
Physical abuse	14.5	13.9	13.2	12.0
Sexual abuse	4.9	4.5	4.1	4.0
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	66.0	67.3	67.5	69.2
Number	122,131	138,499	129,914	130,633

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	13.0	13.0	11.8	10.7
Median	<24	<24	<24	<24

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	28,503	31,713	30,029	27,704	20,800	20,549	19,932	22,147	17,340	21,585	21,097	20,539	31,963	30,677	28,864	29,312
Median length of stay (months)	14.4	12.9	12.5	12.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.2	12.1	12.0	11.8	12.4	12.4	12.2	10.2

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	5.8	6.2	6.8	6.8	16.1	16.6	16.8	16.9	3.9	4.3	4.5	4.6	6.4	6.8	6.9	7.7
1 year	7.5	7.6	7.9	8.5	7.4	7.5	8.2	8.1	7.0	7.2	7.8	8.3	7.8	8.0	8.5	8.8
2 years	7.5	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.6	7.5	7.9	8.2	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.8
3 years	6.7	6.8	7.0	6.9	6.1	6.5	6.4	6.9	7.2	7.2	7.4	7.6	6.8	7.0	6.9	7.0
4 years	5.8	6.2	6.2	6.4	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.3	6.7	6.7	6.9	6.3	6.2	6.4	6.3
5 years	5.3	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.9	5.9	6.1	6.5	6.3	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.9
6 years	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.1	4.9	5.0	4.9	5.4	5.2	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.0	5.2	5.1	5.2
7 years	5.4	4.9	4.8	4.8	5.0	4.7	4.9	4.7	5.1	4.9	5.3	5.2	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
8 years	5.4	5.1	4.6	4.4	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.4	5.7	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1	4.6	4.4	4.5
9 years	5.5	5.0	4.7	4.2	4.6	4.5	4.2	4.0	5.2	4.8	4.6	4.3	5.0	4.7	4.3	4.0
10 years	5.4	5.1	4.7	4.2	4.6	4.4	4.1	3.9	5.2	4.9	4.5	4.3	5.0	4.7	4.2	4.1
11 years	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.2	3.7	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.0	5.0	4.9	4.6	3.9
12 years	4.8	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.4	3.9	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.2	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.4
13 years	5.1	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.1	4.9	5.0	5.0	4.6
14 years	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.2	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.2	4.9	5.0	5.2	5.3
15 years	4.9	4.8	5.3	5.5	3.9	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.5	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.7	5.3	5.5	5.2
16 years	4.6	4.6	5.1	5.7	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.4	3.5	3.8	4.5	5.0	5.5	5.4
17 years	3.9	4.1	4.6	5.0	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	4.9	6.1	4.7	3.3	3.9	4.4	4.8	5.2
18 years	0.9	0.9	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	2.9	2.7	4.0	5.8	1.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
19 years	0.4	0.3	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.7	<.1	<.1	0.4	<.1	0.0	<.1
20+ years	0.2	0.2	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	<.1	0.0	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1
Missing data	0.2	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.3	0.4	<.1	<.1	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Asian	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	44.6	42.7	42.6	40.8	36.9	37.7	36.1	34.7	39.9	38.4	39.1	37.4	42.2	42.4	40.7	38.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	8.4	8.7	9.3	9.5	8.6	8.7	8.9	9.9	8.4	8.2	8.8	9.1	8.5	9.0	9.3	10.1
White (non-Hispanic)	44.0	45.5	45.3	46.6	51.5	51.0	52.1	52.4	48.8	50.3	49.3	50.6	46.2	45.8	47.0	48.1
Two or more races	2.4	2.1	2.0	2.3	1.5	1.3	1.9	2.2	1.9	1.9	1.7	2.1	2.0	1.8	2.1	2.4
Unknown	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.2	1.0	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	8,043	8,166	7,684	7,374
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	3,495	4,331	3,996	3,958

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.4
1 year	5.7	5.7	7.2	7.2
2 years	7.6	7.2	7.7	7.6
3 years	6.9	7.1	7.1	6.7
4 years	6.8	6.3	6.4	6.3
5 years	6.2	5.8	5.9	6.1
6 years	5.2	5.0	5.0	5.4
7 years	5.0	5.0	4.6	4.6
8 years	5.7	4.9	4.2	4.3
9 years	5.7	5.9	4.7	4.1
10 years	6.2	5.6	5.1	4.8
11 years	6.6	6.3	5.6	5.0
12 years	6.4	6.7	6.0	6.0
13 years	5.7	6.4	6.5	6.1
14 years	6.1	5.9	6.5	7.0
15 years	5.1	5.9	5.9	6.3
16 years	3.8	4.5	5.4	5.1
17 years	2.4	2.9	3.5	4.0
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	46.4	45.4	44.8	42.2
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	9.8	9.6	8.9	8.8
White (non-Hispanic)	40.0	41.2	42.6	45.0
Two or more races	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.2
Unknown	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	2,309	2,786	3,264	3,020

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.8	1.3	1.3	2.0
1 year	10.1	7.7	7.3	10.1
2 years	13.0	11.8	10.5	12.6
3 years	12.5	12.4	11.6	12.8
4 years	8.5	11.0	9.8	9.7
5 years	7.5	8.3	9.0	8.8
6 years	6.1	7.4	6.6	6.9
7 years	6.0	5.5	6.6	5.2
8 years	5.1	5.6	5.8	4.7
9 years	6.6	5.1	5.8	4.3
10 years	4.8	4.7	5.3	3.9
11 years	4.3	5.0	4.2	3.8
12 years	4.4	4.2	4.2	3.4
13 years	3.0	3.2	4.2	3.5
14 years	2.3	2.0	3.0	3.1
15 years	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.0
16 years	1.2	1.7	1.6	1.7
17 years	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.3
18 years	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	35.6	34.1	35.4	35.2
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	0.1	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	9.3	8.8	9.5	7.5
White (non-Hispanic)	50.2	51.8	50.6	52.8
Two or more races	4.2	3.6	3.3	3.7
Unknown	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Florida

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	91.3	90.8	90.8	88.7
Children with one or more recurrences	8.7	9.2	9.2	11.3
Number	56,714	57,625	58,497	60,963

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.47	0.45	0.53
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.53	99.55	99.47
Number	N/A	52,262	49,961	49,851

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	11.1	12.9	15.2	14.6
Guardianship	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.9
Reunification	77.6	73.3	73.7	74.1
Other	7.3	8.7	7.1	7.3
Missing data	0.2	1.3	0.0	<.1
Number	17,340	21,585	21,097	20,539

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	26.6	29.8	34.7	33.7
Guardianship	2.7	3.9	3.5	2.9
Reunification	56.2	46.0	46.0	44.4
Other	14.4	19.4	15.8	18.9
Missing data	0.1	0.9	0.0	<.1
Number	2,092	2,574	2,463	2,264

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	1.0	1.4	1.7	1.8
Guardianship	4.6	4.7	6.1	6.5
Reunification	66.5	60.2	64.6	64.8
Other	27.6	32.3	27.6	26.9
Missing data	0.2	1.5	0.0	0.0
Number	3,347	4,092	3,765	3,786

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	21.2	26.9	27.8	28.7
Children older than 12 at entry	78.8	73.1	72.2	71.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	939	1,594	1,332	1,344

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	11.5	28.1	15.7	8.8	0.0	6.7	4.8	8.2	10.1	11.4	13.7	13.7		
Guardianship	11.5	1.6	13.7	10.5	6.7	4.4	6.3	2.0	3.8	4.1	4.2	4.2		
Reunification	73.1	65.6	64.7	78.9	90.0	77.8	81.0	79.6	77.7	72.1	74.1	73.2		
Other	3.8	1.6	5.9	1.8	3.3	11.1	7.9	10.2	8.2	10.7	8.0	8.9		
Missing data	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.7	0.0	0.0		
Number	26	64	51	57	30	45	63	49	6,917	8,282	8,252	7,672		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	7.7	26.7	0.0	11.7	13.8	16.7	12.0	11.5	13.2	15.7	15.3		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.8		
Reunification	100.0	92.3	73.3	0.0	75.8	70.5	71.4	76.4	78.2	74.8	74.1	74.7		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	9.1	11.2	8.7	7.6	6.3	7.0	6.3	6.2		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	1.2	0.0	<.1	0.2	1.1	0.0	0.0		
Number	2	13	15	2	1,463	1,770	1,866	1,872	8,459	10,866	10,405	10,397		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	8.3	16.4	22.5	24.5	23.9	24.9	28.2	25.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	5.6	2.1	3.8	0.0	2.1	1.2	1.6	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	79.6	77.1	68.8	69.8	69.0	67.4	64.9	68.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	6.5	2.9	5.0	5.7	5.1	5.7	5.2	4.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	108	140	80	53	335	405	365	437	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	57.7	60.7	62.7	63.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	26.4	27.1	26.8	27.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	9.2	6.7	6.5	6.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.1	2.8	2.1	1.7
48 or more mos.	3.3	2.4	1.7	1.3
Missing data	0.3	0.1	<.1	<.1
Number	13,464	15,817	15,540	15,228

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	85.6	84.0	82.3	80.8
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	6.9	8.2	9.1	9.4
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	2.3	5.1	6.5	8.3
Missing data	5.2	2.7	2.1	1.5
Number	20,800	20,549	19,932	22,147

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	4.8	4.3	4.0	5.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	23.4	18.4	19.8	23.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	27.6	28.3	28.4	29.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	18.7	20.7	19.0	19.1
48 or more mos.	25.5	28.3	28.7	21.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,931	2,775	3,212	3,002

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	84.4	83.4	82.8	81.4	75.5	69.9	65.6	61.6	53.6	47.0	39.9	34.2	41.4	77.1	80.4	82.1
Children with 3 or more placements	11.6	13.9	15.5	17.2	24.2	29.9	34.3	38.4	46.2	52.9	60.0	65.8	0.9	0.7	0.0	0.0
Number	24,183	25,668	24,829	26,541	10,867	12,133	11,869	11,119	14,137	14,321	13,161	12,085	116	140	102	106

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.8
Institutions	5.0	5.0	5.3	5.3
Other settings	93.2	93.1	93.0	92.8
Missing data	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1
Number	16,511	16,353	15,915	17,781

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	110.7
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	60.8	61.2
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	10.3	10.0
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	45.3	46.0
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	10.1	10.9

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	111.5
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	23.9	29.7
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	35.1	32.2
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	26.0	24.1
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	10.5	12.5
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	47.4	54.0

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	123.5
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	35.3	32.6
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	93.8	92.0
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	47.1	49.2

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	92.9
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	83.7	81.7
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	65.7	61.6
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	39.9	34.2

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Florida

STATE COMMENT

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Florida's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 11.3 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage not only exceeds the national median of 6.6 percent, but also represents a decline in performance from 2002 (30.0 percent change).

In 2005, 0.53 percent of children in foster care in Florida were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage not only exceeds the national median of 0.42 percent for this measure, but also represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2003 (12.8 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 92.6 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 84.6 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 73.1 percent of the children exiting foster care who entered foster care when they were older than age 12 were discharged to a permanent home. All percentages are either equal to or exceed the national medians for these measures (medians for measures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 32.6 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged to a permanent home by the last day of the year and prior to their 18th birthday (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (7.6 percent change).

In 2005, 92.0 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is less than the national median of 95.7 percent for this measure.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 28.7 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of "emancipation" were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This percentage is less than the national median of 27.6 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (35.4 percent change).

In 2005, 49.2 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 61.2 percent of reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 70.4 percent for this measure.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 46.0 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent.

Measure C1.4 indicates that 10.9 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is less than the national median of 14.8 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (7.9 percent change). Because outcome measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace outcome measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 29.7 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 29.1 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2002 (5.3 percent change).

In 2005, 24.1 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (7.3 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 54.0 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage not only exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent, but also represents improvement in performance from 2004 (13.9 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 81.7 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 34.2 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 32.3 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2002 (36.2 percent change).

In 2005, 7.1 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 7.2 percent.

Georgia

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	2,268,477	2,296,759	2,332,567	2,362,722
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	34.3	34.2	34.1	34.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	7.4	8.0	8.6	9.2
White (non-Hispanic)	54.4	53.8	53.1	52.3
Two or more races	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.7
Child population in poverty (%)	16.0	17.7	19.9	21.2

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	41,206	43,923	52,851	47,158
Children in foster care on 9/30	13,149	13,578	14,216	13,965
Children adopted	1,135	1,097	1,275	1,152

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	126,677	55.8 per 1,000	121,269	52.8 per 1,000	203,671	87.3 per 1,000	174,409	73.8 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	41,206	18.2 per 1,000	43,923	19.1 per 1,000	52,851	22.7 per 1,000	47,158	20.0 per 1,000
Child fatalities	51	2.3 per 100,000	49	2.1 per 100,000	98	4.2 per 100,000	76	3.2 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	10.3	10.4	9.7	10.6
1-5 years	31.6	32.2	31.8	32.3
6-10 years	29.1	27.9	28.8	28.2
11-15 years	23.9	23.9	24.5	24.0
16+ years	4.8	4.4	4.9	4.9
Unknown	0.2	1.3	0.3	—
Number	41,206	43,923	52,851	47,158

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.1	0.0	—	0.0
Asian	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	42.0	41.4	42.4	39.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	0.1	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	3.8	5.9	6.9	6.7
White (non-Hispanic)	50.3	49.6	55.6	51.4
Two or more races	—	—	—	1.0
Unknown	3.5	2.7	—	0.8
Number	41,206	43,923	52,851	47,158

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	4.1	3.5	21.1	21.4
Medical neglect	4.0	4.5	4.9	5.0
Neglect	74.6	79.6	69.0	70.3
Physical abuse	9.6	9.9	10.8	10.4
Sexual abuse	5.5	5.0	4.6	4.6
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	11.3	4.3	1.2	1.1
Number	41,206	43,923	52,851	47,158

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	—	—	—	—
Median	—	—	—	—

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	12,812	12,955	13,610	14,142	9,766	10,568	11,699	10,887	9,431	9,946	11,094	11,064	13,149	13,578	14,216	13,965
Median length of stay (months)	15.4	14.9	13.9	13.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.1	7.7	7.1	9.4	15.1	13.8	13.1	13.5

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	6.1	6.4	6.1	6.4	16.3	16.0	15.7	16.2	6.6	7.2	6.4	6.6	6.3	6.2	6.5	6.6
1 year	7.8	7.6	7.7	7.8	7.4	7.4	7.2	7.1	7.6	7.1	7.1	7.8	7.4	7.7	7.7	7.3
2 years	6.9	7.0	7.3	6.9	6.2	6.8	6.8	5.9	7.1	7.6	7.7	7.2	7.0	7.3	7.0	6.7
3 years	5.8	6.4	6.2	6.7	6.1	5.9	6.1	5.8	6.7	7.2	7.2	7.0	6.4	6.2	6.7	6.0
4 years	5.0	5.3	5.7	5.4	5.2	5.5	5.1	5.4	5.9	6.1	6.0	6.2	5.2	5.8	5.4	5.8
5 years	4.7	4.7	4.7	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.6	4.8	4.7	5.1	5.0
6 years	5.1	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.8	4.7	5.0	5.4	5.3	4.9	5.4	5.3	4.5	4.5	4.5	5.2
7 years	4.8	4.8	4.4	4.5	4.8	5.1	4.4	4.0	5.0	5.1	4.7	4.4	4.8	4.4	4.5	4.5
8 years	4.7	4.1	4.4	4.2	4.4	4.0	4.4	4.1	5.1	4.5	4.7	4.3	4.1	4.5	4.2	4.0
9 years	5.0	4.7	4.0	4.2	4.7	4.5	4.2	3.8	4.6	4.5	4.2	4.2	4.7	4.0	4.1	4.0
10 years	5.2	5.1	4.5	4.1	4.5	4.3	4.3	3.8	4.4	4.5	4.2	3.9	5.0	4.5	4.1	3.9
11 years	5.1	5.2	5.1	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.2	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.1	5.1	5.1	4.6	4.1
12 years	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.3	4.6	5.0	4.9	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.1	5.2	5.3	5.2	4.9
13 years	5.7	5.5	5.7	5.6	4.6	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.3	4.6	4.7	4.3	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.6
14 years	5.7	6.1	5.9	6.1	5.4	5.2	5.6	6.0	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.9	6.0	5.9	6.1	6.4
15 years	5.9	6.2	6.3	6.5	5.4	5.3	5.4	6.6	5.7	5.1	4.9	5.5	6.0	6.3	6.5	7.0
16 years	5.8	6.0	6.1	6.3	4.7	4.1	4.2	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.7	5.2	5.7	6.0	6.2	6.8
17 years	4.3	4.6	4.6	5.1	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.7	4.3	5.1	4.6	3.4	4.6	4.5	5.0	5.6
18 years	1.0	0.4	1.4	0.4	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	2.5	1.9	4.0	5.5	1.3	1.5	0.3	0.4
19 years	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.6	<.1
20+ years	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Asian	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	55.4	53.2	51.3	49.3	47.3	46.6	46.5	45.1	50.0	49.0	48.7	48.2	53.3	51.1	49.4	46.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	3.4	3.5	3.9	4.7	4.6	5.8	6.3	5.9	4.5	5.3	5.5	5.6	3.5	4.0	4.6	4.8
White (non-Hispanic)	37.6	40.0	41.3	42.7	44.8	43.8	44.0	45.7	41.8	42.2	42.4	42.6	40.0	41.3	42.7	45.0
Two or more races	2.9	2.7	3.0	2.7	2.2	2.7	2.0	2.1	2.7	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.6	3.0	2.6	2.4
Unknown	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	3,184	2,474	2,507	2,370
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,808	1,413	1,374	1,409

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.9	2.3	3.0	2.8
1 year	8.4	5.4	6.5	7.1
2 years	9.5	9.1	8.0	8.4
3 years	7.7	8.6	9.2	7.2
4 years	5.9	6.0	6.7	7.4
5 years	5.6	5.9	5.8	5.2
6 years	5.7	5.3	5.1	6.3
7 years	6.0	5.4	4.5	4.8
8 years	5.0	5.5	5.9	4.6
9 years	5.1	5.2	5.5	5.1
10 years	6.1	4.7	5.1	5.4
11 years	6.5	6.6	5.4	5.2
12 years	5.7	6.8	5.9	5.4
13 years	5.2	6.3	6.8	7.2
14 years	5.6	5.5	5.5	6.5
15 years	4.1	5.8	4.8	5.4
16 years	2.3	3.4	3.6	3.2
17 years	1.7	2.2	2.5	2.8
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Asian	0.1	<.1	0.0	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	54.3	53.8	53.4	50.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.1	0.2	0.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	3.2	2.7	4.0	4.9
White (non-Hispanic)	37.7	38.9	39.0	40.1
Two or more races	4.1	4.0	3.3	3.5
Unknown	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	1,135	1,097	1,275	1,152

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.1	0.8	0.9	1.2
1 year	6.5	7.5	7.7	9.5
2 years	12.0	12.9	13.7	13.5
3 years	10.1	11.8	13.5	12.3
4 years	8.0	8.1	11.5	11.0
5 years	7.8	8.6	7.3	7.9
6 years	7.0	5.6	6.8	6.3
7 years	6.9	6.3	6.5	5.1
8 years	8.0	5.6	4.1	4.4
9 years	6.0	5.7	5.3	5.7
10 years	5.8	6.0	3.4	4.3
11 years	6.0	4.9	3.8	3.1
12 years	4.1	3.6	3.5	3.6
13 years	2.7	4.1	3.3	3.1
14 years	2.7	3.0	3.0	2.1
15 years	2.5	1.9	2.9	2.5
16 years	1.7	2.2	1.3	2.4
17 years	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.4
18 years	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	<.1	0.2	0.2	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	50.1	50.8	45.8	46.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	5.4	4.6	4.0	4.4
White (non-Hispanic)	37.2	36.7	42.2	40.2
Two or more races	6.4	5.7	7.1	8.3
Unknown	0.8	1.9	0.5	0.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Georgia

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	93.0
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	7.0
Number	—	—	—	20,713

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	—	—	—
Number	N/A	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	12.4	10.8	11.3	12.0
Guardianship	2.1	1.9	2.4	2.3
Reunification	75.5	77.8	76.1	74.5
Other	7.8	9.4	10.2	11.2
Missing data	2.2	<.1	0.0	0.0
Number	9,431	9,946	11,094	11,064

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	22.7	18.5	19.0	19.7
Guardianship	2.2	1.6	1.9	1.6
Reunification	57.2	62.1	58.0	58.6
Other	13.1	17.9	21.1	20.1
Missing data	4.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,314	1,542	1,903	2,507

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	1.1	0.6	1.0	1.1
Guardianship	2.0	2.5	2.7	2.4
Reunification	76.0	74.3	69.4	68.3
Other	17.4	22.6	26.9	28.3
Missing data	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,864	1,969	2,349	2,462

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	45.0	40.5	36.1	33.1
Children older than 12 at entry	55.0	59.5	63.9	66.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	318	402	621	683

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	6.5	5.6	0.0	12.9	11.0	10.7	11.8		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	0.0	2.8	3.6	2.8	2.4	2.3	2.5		
Reunification	83.3	75.0	66.7	100.0	87.9	78.3	83.3	89.3	73.6	77.6	76.2	73.2		
Other	16.7	25.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	15.2	8.3	7.1	8.3	9.0	10.8	12.5		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	6	8	3	8	33	46	36	28	4,712	4,872	5,400	5,334		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	30.0	0.0	11.9	10.2	8.7	8.6	11.4	10.3	11.8	12.2		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.6	2.6	2.1		
Reunification	100.0	100.0	70.0	66.7	79.7	80.6	84.4	80.2	77.6	78.0	75.4	75.6		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	6.5	7.9	5.8	9.9	7.6	10.1	10.1	10.2		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	<.1	0.0	0.0		
Number	4	3	10	6	428	532	608	625	3,946	4,202	4,703	4,715		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	7.8	4.9	12.5	7.5	21.5	22.1	21.8	23.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	1.4	5.0	2.8	0.9	2.3	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	86.3	83.6	75.0	78.8	64.5	71.6	64.9	66.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	5.9	11.5	11.1	8.8	6.4	5.4	11.1	7.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	51	61	72	80	251	222	262	268	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	73.1	73.5	74.6	70.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	17.4	17.0	16.8	19.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.4	5.7	4.9	5.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.0
48 or more mos.	2.4	2.1	1.6	1.8
Missing data	0.1	<.1	0.2	<.1
Number	7,117	7,742	8,440	8,244

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	85.9	86.0	85.5	85.1
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	7.2	7.9	7.8	8.1
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	6.0	5.5	6.5	6.5
Missing data	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.3
Number	9,766	10,568	11,699	10,887

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	2.2	2.4	2.1	1.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	14.7	14.7	15.7	18.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	28.4	33.2	31.2	31.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	21.9	22.4	24.5	20.2
48 or more mos.	32.8	27.3	26.6	27.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,167	1,076	1,257	1,324

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	90.7	91.3	89.4	88.5	79.7	74.8	72.7	71.3	54.4	55.1	53.7	49.5	90.9	92.9	96.2	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	9.3	8.7	10.6	11.5	20.3	25.2	27.3	28.7	45.6	44.9	46.3	50.5	9.1	7.1	3.8	0.0
Number	11,351	12,390	13,567	12,937	4,469	4,445	5,015	5,452	6,703	6,632	6,674	6,599	55	56	53	41

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	2.2	4.1	4.2	4.8
Institutions	1.9	2.2	2.5	2.8
Other settings	94.3	93.7	93.2	92.4
Missing data	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	6,939	8,170	8,984	8,085

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	129.1
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	72.3	68.2
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	5.7	7.4
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	48.9	51.2
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	9.1	9.2

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	94.6
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	17.8	20.4
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	36.3	35.0
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	21.1	21.8
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	10.4	11.2
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	50.4	55.0

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	119.5
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	30.6	30.8
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	94.5	94.4
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	50.0	48.2

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	107.3
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	87.9	86.8
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	72.6	71.2
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	53.9	49.6

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Georgia

STATE COMMENT

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Georgia's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 7.0 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 6.6 percent. Georgia did not report data for this measure in prior years.

Georgia does not report data for maltreatment of children in foster care (measure 2.1).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 88.8 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) and 79.9 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home. These percentages are about equal to the national medians for these measures (medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 are 87.8 percent and 79 percent, respectively). However, 71.8 percent of the children exiting foster care who entered foster care when they were older than age 12 were discharged to a permanent home. This percentage is less than the national median of 73.1 percent.

In 2005, 30.8 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged to a permanent home by the last day of the year and prior to their 18th birthday (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent.

In 2005, 94.4 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is less than the national median of 95.7 percent.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 33.1 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of "emancipation" were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent, it represents improvement in performance from 2002 (26.4 percent change).

In 2005, 48.2 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 68.2 percent of reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 70.4 percent.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 51.2 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent.

Measure C1.4 indicates that 9.2 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is less than the national median of 14.8 percent. Because outcome measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace outcome measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 20.4 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). Although this percentage is less than the national median of 29.1 percent, it represents improvement in performance from 2002 (20.7 percent change).

In 2005, 21.8 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent.

Measure C2.5 indicates that 55.0 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage not only exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent, but also represents improvement in performance from 2004 (9.1 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 86.8 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 49.6 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 32.3 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2002 (8.0 percent change).

In 2005, 7.6 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 7.2 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2002 (85.4 percent change).

Hawaii

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	295,514	297,142	298,693	299,852
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	29.8	29.9	30.1	30.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	11.6	11.4	11.2	11.0
Hispanic (of any race)	12.7	13.0	13.0	13.2
White (non-Hispanic)	15.3	15.4	15.6	15.8
Two or more races	28.4	28.0	27.7	27.3
Child population in poverty (%)	14.4	12.0	9.6	10.0

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	3,744	4,046	3,629	2,762
Children in foster care on 9/30	2,762	2,886	2,953	2,766
Children adopted	366	318	375	452

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	7,318	24.8 per 1,000	8,230	27.7 per 1,000	7,186	24.1 per 1,000	5,426	18.1 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	3,744	12.7 per 1,000	4,046	13.6 per 1,000	3,629	12.2 per 1,000	2,762	9.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	7	2.4 per 100,000	6	2.0 per 100,000	6	2.0 per 100,000	2	0.7 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	14.6	13.6	15.3	18.4
1-5 years	28.4	28.2	28.5	28.7
6-10 years	26.8	27.1	25.3	23.2
11-15 years	23.5	24.1	24.8	24.2
16+ years	6.3	6.5	5.8	5.0
Unknown	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.5
Number	3,744	4,046	3,629	2,762

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Asian	35.3	11.5	11.0	10.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.3	1.7	1.8	1.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	19.8	20.4	18.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.6	1.5	2.6	2.5
White (non-Hispanic)	10.9	9.5	11.0	9.8
Two or more races	34.1	32.3	36.0	40.4
Unknown	16.7	23.4	17.1	16.7
Number	3,744	4,046	3,629	2,762

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	3.3	2.5	1.8	0.9
Medical neglect	2.2	1.6	1.5	2.2
Neglect	18.5	16.9	15.1	15.0
Physical abuse	12.7	11.9	11.0	11.1
Sexual abuse	6.6	5.7	5.4	5.6
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	87.1	88.2	87.4	89.6
Number	3,744	4,046	3,629	2,762

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	79.7	80.2	51.2	31.0
Median	>24, but <48	>24, but <48	<24	<24

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	2,509	2,675	2,847	2,882	2,350	2,327	2,305	1,920	2,097	2,116	2,199	2,036	2,762	2,886	2,953	2,766
Median length of stay (months)	11.7	11.7	12.4	13.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.0	7.1	8.1	11.7	11.4	12.6	13.4	14.8

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	7.9	8.6	7.2	7.1	17.2	15.9	16.9	19.2	6.3	7.8	6.5	6.9	8.6	7.2	7.2	7.7
1 year	7.7	8.2	7.6	8.0	6.0	6.1	6.9	6.5	7.9	7.2	8.0	6.8	8.3	7.6	8.0	7.8
2 years	6.5	5.8	7.2	6.3	5.4	5.1	5.9	5.2	6.8	6.9	7.2	7.5	5.9	7.2	6.3	6.8
3 years	6.0	5.4	5.0	6.7	4.9	5.6	5.8	5.3	4.7	5.6	5.8	5.8	5.4	4.9	6.9	5.7
4 years	4.9	5.9	5.8	4.5	5.6	5.8	3.8	4.9	6.0	5.8	5.1	5.4	5.9	5.5	4.4	6.1
5 years	5.0	5.1	5.3	4.9	6.3	4.3	4.9	4.6	6.8	5.2	5.1	4.4	5.1	5.4	4.8	4.4
6 years	5.4	4.8	4.6	5.1	4.7	4.7	5.1	4.7	4.8	5.1	5.3	5.5	4.7	4.7	5.1	4.8
7 years	5.6	4.5	4.9	4.9	4.6	4.4	4.8	4.1	5.4	4.2	4.9	4.5	4.5	4.8	4.8	4.8
8 years	5.8	5.5	4.9	4.6	4.8	5.1	3.9	3.9	5.1	4.3	4.2	4.5	5.5	4.9	4.7	4.4
9 years	4.8	5.1	5.8	4.9	4.6	5.0	4.7	4.8	5.1	5.2	4.7	4.3	5.1	5.9	5.0	4.7
10 years	4.8	4.6	4.6	5.1	4.3	4.9	4.8	3.8	5.0	4.0	5.0	4.8	4.6	4.6	5.2	4.2
11 years	5.6	5.0	5.1	4.4	5.0	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.8	5.3	5.0	5.3	4.5	4.8
12 years	4.6	5.8	5.1	5.6	4.6	5.5	4.7	3.5	4.8	6.0	4.0	3.9	5.8	5.1	5.7	3.9
13 years	4.1	5.2	5.6	5.0	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.2	4.0	5.0	5.5	5.0	5.1	5.7	4.9	5.1
14 years	5.1	4.6	5.0	5.8	4.6	5.0	5.0	6.9	4.1	4.4	5.3	5.5	4.6	5.2	5.8	6.0
15 years	5.6	5.8	5.1	5.4	4.7	4.9	4.8	5.7	4.8	5.1	4.4	4.8	5.6	5.1	5.2	6.6
16 years	5.1	5.0	5.8	5.5	3.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.4	4.5	3.7	3.9	4.9	5.8	5.4	6.4
17 years	5.2	4.9	4.8	6.0	3.4	2.8	3.0	2.8	6.3	8.8	5.9	2.9	4.9	4.8	5.8	5.5
18 years	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.3	0.1	3.3	0.9	4.4	8.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2
19 years	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1
20+ years	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.3	<.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	<.1	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.4
Asian	19.8	16.3	14.1	12.5	13.8	13.2	10.9	11.4	17.8	15.5	12.9	13.0	16.2	14.4	12.5	11.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.9	1.5	1.2	0.9	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.3	1.6	1.1	0.9	0.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	34.8	31.2	28.8	26.5	25.9	25.9	23.3	21.0	29.0	28.2	25.6	23.5	31.6	29.2	26.9	24.9
Hispanic (of any race)	2.0	1.9	2.3	3.0	1.9	1.8	3.0	2.8	2.2	2.1	3.0	2.9	1.8	1.7	2.3	3.0
White (non-Hispanic)	10.7	9.6	8.6	8.8	11.7	10.3	11.9	10.9	13.2	11.2	12.1	11.1	9.7	9.0	8.6	8.6
Two or more races	26.8	34.7	39.6	44.0	35.7	34.6	37.2	41.7	27.9	32.3	34.7	39.9	33.5	36.3	41.3	45.4
Unknown	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.1	4.4	4.1	4.1	3.6	4.1	3.3	3.7	2.9	3.0	3.3	3.2	2.5
Missing data	0.7	1.6	2.1	1.9	4.9	8.5	7.8	6.4	3.6	5.1	5.5	4.1	2.0	4.5	4.0	3.4

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	708	764	919	878
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	657	692	838	806

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.7	2.1	2.0	1.7
1 year	6.6	6.8	7.9	8.0
2 years	6.6	6.4	6.4	7.6
3 years	6.1	4.8	6.9	5.7
4 years	4.8	5.4	3.9	7.2
5 years	4.1	5.0	4.7	3.1
6 years	3.7	5.6	5.5	4.7
7 years	5.4	3.9	4.7	5.4
8 years	5.6	5.5	5.1	4.8
9 years	7.5	6.2	5.1	5.0
10 years	4.8	5.8	5.3	4.8
11 years	5.8	4.7	5.0	5.5
12 years	6.4	5.5	6.2	4.2
13 years	5.9	6.5	5.5	6.5
14 years	5.5	6.5	7.0	6.3
15 years	6.2	4.7	6.1	8.3
16 years	7.1	7.9	5.1	6.0
17 years	5.2	6.7	7.5	5.4
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.6
Asian	20.5	15.3	14.3	13.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.1	2.0	1.7	0.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	37.3	34.9	29.1	26.1
Hispanic (of any race)	1.7	1.7	2.1	4.1
White (non-Hispanic)	9.0	7.5	6.6	5.8
Two or more races	26.1	35.3	44.7	47.6
Unknown	2.0	1.4	0.9	1.6
Missing data	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.5

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	366	318	375	452

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	4.6	5.7	4.5	4.4
1 year	18.6	14.5	15.5	15.0
2 years	14.2	14.8	16.3	14.8
3 years	6.6	11.3	9.3	11.1
4 years	9.0	9.1	8.0	9.1
5 years	9.0	6.6	7.5	5.8
6 years	5.2	4.4	8.8	8.4
7 years	6.0	4.4	6.4	4.4
8 years	5.2	4.7	5.6	7.3
9 years	5.2	6.0	2.1	3.8
10 years	4.6	5.3	4.5	3.8
11 years	4.1	4.4	2.1	3.5
12 years	3.3	2.5	2.1	3.3
13 years	1.9	2.5	2.7	2.2
14 years	1.1	1.3	2.7	1.5
15 years	0.5	1.6	1.3	0.2
16 years	0.8	0.3	0.3	1.1
17 years	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.2
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.2
Asian	21.3	23.9	13.1	12.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.2	1.6	1.3	1.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	30.1	27.7	23.2	21.7
Hispanic (of any race)	2.2	0.6	4.3	3.8
White (non-Hispanic)	6.8	4.7	5.9	7.5
Two or more races	33.1	39.6	49.6	51.5
Unknown	3.8	0.9	1.3	1.1
Missing data	0.3	0.9	0.8	0.2

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Hawaii

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	95.2	94.0	95.5	97.3
Children with one or more recurrences	4.8	6.0	4.5	2.7
Number	1,780	1,988	1,827	1,319

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	1.30	0.70	0.79
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	98.70	99.30	99.21
Number	N/A	5,002	5,152	4,802

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	18.5	16.6	17.2	21.4
Guardianship	10.7	10.7	10.3	10.7
Reunification	61.0	62.6	61.9	55.2
Other	8.9	8.3	9.3	11.7
Missing data	0.9	1.8	1.3	1.0
Number	2,097	2,116	2,199	2,036

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	54.9	45.9	47.8	44.0
Guardianship	11.3	11.3	8.2	11.6
Reunification	20.7	27.8	27.2	24.7
Other	11.7	10.8	12.5	18.5
Missing data	1.5	4.1	4.3	1.1
Number	266	194	184	275

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.6	1.4	0.2	1.3
Guardianship	7.1	6.9	10.2	7.9
Reunification	62.5	64.0	58.0	55.1
Other	27.8	23.8	29.5	34.0
Missing data	1.9	3.9	2.1	1.7
Number	464	491	512	479

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	19.6	20.8	18.4	11.4
Children older than 12 at entry	80.4	79.2	81.6	88.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	138	120	147	166

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	50.0	0.0	28.6	16.7	20.9	24.7	17.3	19.3	26.7	11.9	8.5	13.0		
Guardianship	50.0	12.5	14.3	16.7	9.4	10.1	9.9	6.8	6.7	0.0	2.1	4.3		
Reunification	0.0	62.5	42.9	0.0	56.1	54.6	60.6	63.6	51.1	78.6	83.0	73.9		
Other	0.0	25.0	14.3	66.7	13.4	10.1	10.6	9.8	13.3	7.1	6.4	8.7		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.6	1.8	0.4	2.2	2.4	0.0	0.0		
Number	2	8	7	6	374	328	284	264	45	42	47	46		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	18.6	15.6	16.3	20.0	23.9	4.4	24.2	28.8	10.1	10.5	9.0	14.2		
Guardianship	15.1	14.3	13.0	16.7	8.7	11.1	4.5	5.1	8.7	11.0	11.3	9.7		
Reunification	52.6	56.9	56.1	45.5	56.5	71.1	65.2	45.8	70.3	64.1	66.2	60.2		
Other	12.0	11.2	13.1	16.7	8.7	11.1	6.1	16.9	10.1	8.4	10.2	13.7		
Missing data	1.6	2.0	1.4	1.0	2.2	2.2	0.0	3.4	0.7	5.9	3.4	2.2		
Number	608	596	563	479	46	45	66	59	276	237	266	226		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	17.4	7.2	9.8	8.3	21.9	20.2	23.3	27.8	1.3	1.9	5.0	2.4		
Guardianship	4.7	14.5	15.9	11.7	10.4	8.9	9.2	9.5	1.3	5.6	5.8	9.5		
Reunification	72.1	66.7	63.4	71.7	63.6	65.2	59.9	52.7	97.3	87.0	85.0	82.1		
Other	3.5	10.1	11.0	8.3	3.8	4.8	6.7	9.4	0.0	4.6	4.2	3.6		
Missing data	2.3	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.0	0.9	0.0	2.4		
Number	86	69	82	60	585	683	764	812	75	108	120	84		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	83.8	81.2	79.9	77.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.4	15.2	15.0	16.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1.7	3.0	4.3	4.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.9
48 or more mos.	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,280	1,325	1,361	1,123

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	79.4	76.9	76.9	72.4
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	9.1	10.7	11.1	10.3
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	10.3	11.4	11.3	15.3
Missing data	1.2	1.0	0.7	1.9
Number	2,350	2,327	2,305	1,920

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	8.3	9.4	8.2	8.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	39.3	39.9	43.5	30.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	34.4	36.8	28.8	39.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	11.9	10.0	11.6	12.6
48 or more mos.	6.2	4.0	7.9	8.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	387	351	379	436

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	84.3	84.4	85.2	84.4	66.9	66.3	64.4	64.5	38.7	38.1	41.6	41.4	85.7	0.0	87.5	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	13.3	12.8	12.2	13.9	32.8	32.9	35.0	35.1	61.0	61.4	58.2	58.6	0.0	0.0	12.5	0.0
Number	2,652	2,634	2,606	2,215	1,152	1,263	1,296	1,176	1,048	1,105	1,242	1,407	7	0	8	4

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.4
Institutions	1.8	1.0	1.1	2.1
Other settings	95.4	95.9	96.4	95.6
Missing data	2.2	2.8	1.9	1.9
Number	1,796	1,781	1,744	1,414

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	115.5
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	71.5	70.2
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	6.0	6.4
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	39.3	37.8
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	16.4	15.1

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	113.7
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	51.7	39.2
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	23.4	26.4
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	22.1	26.9
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	16.3	12.1
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	35.1	36.8

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	125.2
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	31.7	34.3
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	84.9	83.9
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	35.3	38.8

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	99.2
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	85.0	83.6
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	64.8	64.8
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	41.9	41.4

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Hawaii's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 2.7 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage not only is less than the national median of 6.6 percent, but also represents a substantial improvement in performance from 2002 (42.8 percent change).

In 2005, 0.79 percent of children in foster care in Hawaii were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 0.42 percent for this measure, it represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2003 (39.2 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 87.3 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) and 80.3 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home. Both percentages exceed the national medians for those measures (medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 are 87.8 percent and 79 percent, respectively). However, 64.3 of the children exiting foster care who entered foster care when they were older than age 12 were discharged to a permanent home. This percentage is less than the national median of 73.1 percent and represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2002 (8.4 percent change).

In 2005, 34.3 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged to a permanent home by the last day of the year and prior to their 18th birthday (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (8.2 percent change).

In 2005, 83.9 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is one of the lowest in the nation.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 11.4 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of "emancipation" were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This percentage is less than the national median of 27.6 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (41.8 percent change).

In 2005, 38.8 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 70.2 percent of reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 70.4 percent for this measure. The percentage for outcome measure C1.1 is lower than the percentage of all reunifications occurring in less than 12 months shown in outcome measure 4.1 (77.8 percent).

Measure C1.3 indicates that 37.8 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent.

Measure C1.4 indicates that 15.1 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 14.8 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (7.9 percent change). Because outcome measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace outcome measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 39.2 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 29.1 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2002 (17.6 percent) and a more substantial decline in performance from 2004 (24.2 percent change).

In 2005, 26.9 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (21.7 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 36.8 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is less than the national median of 45.1 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 83.6 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 41.4 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 32.3 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (7.0 percent change).

In 2005, 2.5 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is among the lowest in the nation.

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	370,439	372,027	372,411	374,180
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Asian	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	12.3	12.6	12.9	13.2
White (non-Hispanic)	83.1	82.8	82.4	82.2
Two or more races	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0
Child population in poverty (%)	15.0	13.8	12.5	12.4

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	1,947	1,527	1,856	1,912
Children in foster care on 9/30	1,246	1,401	1,565	1,818
Children adopted	118	138	176	149

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	9,412	25.4 per 1,000	9,458	25.4 per 1,000	9,669	26.0 per 1,000	9,646	25.8 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	1,947	5.3 per 1,000	1,527	4.1 per 1,000	1,856	5.0 per 1,000	1,912	5.1 per 1,000
Child fatalities	2	0.5 per 100,000	2	0.5 per 100,000	4	1.1 per 100,000	0	0.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	9.8	12.0	14.4	14.7
1-5 years	34.5	34.6	31.5	33.8
6-10 years	26.6	26.0	24.7	23.9
11-15 years	23.8	22.3	23.0	22.1
16+ years	5.3	5.1	6.4	5.5
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Number	1,947	1,527	1,856	1,912

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	4.3	3.5	4.2	4.5
Asian	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.2	0.1	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	14.7	13.0	12.9	14.4
White (non-Hispanic)	74.7	77.1	76.6	75.5
Two or more races	0.6	1.2	0.7	1.6
Unknown	4.7	3.7	4.1	3.4
Number	1,947	1,527	1,856	1,912

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.4
Medical neglect	2.3	2.0	1.5	1.6
Neglect	67.4	70.1	69.7	71.9
Physical abuse	19.7	16.9	18.9	18.0
Sexual abuse	7.9	7.7	6.3	6.1
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	7.9	9.4	8.6	7.4
Number	1,947	1,527	1,856	1,912

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	100.3	89.9	64.8	60.3
Median	>24, but <48	>24, but <48	>24, but <48	>24, but <48

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	1,080	1,210	1,345	1,505	1,213	1,292	1,557	1,722	1,047	1,101	1,337	1,409	1,246	1,401	1,565	1,818
Median length of stay (months)	11.2	12.4	13.2	12.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.9	3.2	4.4	5.3	12.3	12.9	11.8	10.8

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	4.4	3.2	5.5	5.9	9.6	13.1	14.5	14.6	5.5	6.4	7.5	7.3	3.4	5.6	6.0	6.2
1 year	5.8	6.9	6.2	7.5	8.3	7.0	6.1	7.5	6.8	5.7	5.8	6.3	7.1	6.0	7.4	8.4
2 years	5.6	6.1	5.5	5.6	7.2	6.5	4.9	6.4	6.9	8.0	5.8	6.5	6.2	5.5	5.6	6.9
3 years	5.5	6.6	6.3	6.3	6.0	7.0	7.2	5.3	5.7	6.7	6.7	5.7	6.6	6.5	6.3	6.1
4 years	4.9	5.6	6.3	5.6	4.9	5.5	5.1	5.9	5.0	5.8	6.1	6.1	5.5	6.1	5.5	6.1
5 years	5.0	4.0	6.1	6.0	5.3	5.3	5.6	5.5	5.6	4.6	6.1	5.6	4.1	6.1	5.8	5.2
6 years	4.6	5.1	4.6	4.9	4.2	4.5	3.4	5.3	4.3	3.9	4.3	5.8	5.0	4.8	4.8	5.6
7 years	4.4	4.1	5.1	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.2	4.8	5.3	4.1	3.8	4.0	4.3	5.0	4.7	5.5
8 years	5.7	4.6	4.6	4.1	4.7	3.9	4.5	4.2	5.3	3.8	4.2	4.6	4.3	4.6	4.4	4.0
9 years	5.5	5.0	4.4	4.5	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.5	3.9	4.4	5.3	4.8	5.0	4.3	4.5	4.4
10 years	5.6	5.1	4.4	4.5	4.7	3.7	4.8	3.1	5.0	4.3	4.7	4.0	5.2	4.3	4.4	4.1
11 years	4.2	5.2	5.1	4.1	4.7	4.0	5.1	4.2	4.7	4.2	4.6	3.6	5.2	5.1	4.3	3.9
12 years	6.4	5.4	5.1	5.5	5.4	5.2	5.2	4.3	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.2	5.2	4.9	5.4	5.0
13 years	4.3	6.6	4.8	6.4	4.8	3.9	5.7	5.1	3.8	5.4	4.5	5.3	6.4	4.8	6.3	5.2
14 years	6.2	5.2	6.5	4.5	6.9	5.7	4.7	5.7	5.7	5.3	4.9	5.5	5.2	6.4	4.7	5.6
15 years	6.5	6.9	6.2	6.4	5.5	6.7	5.4	4.8	4.8	5.7	4.9	4.3	6.9	6.1	6.4	5.3
16 years	7.5	7.6	7.1	6.4	5.7	6.0	5.5	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.4	4.8	7.7	7.5	6.6	6.4
17 years	7.5	6.3	6.2	6.5	3.1	3.2	4.1	3.7	6.5	10.1	6.2	4.6	6.3	6.3	6.5	6.1
18 years	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	1.3	4.4	6.7	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.2
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	9.2	10.0	9.2	8.8	4.8	4.4	5.1	5.3	5.2	4.4	5.6	7.4	8.3	9.3	8.2	6.6
Asian	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.1	<.1	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.5	0.3	<.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.0	1.3	1.9	1.6	0.8	1.5	1.2	0.8	1.5	1.0	1.4	0.8	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.4	0.2	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.3	0.2	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	<.1	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	12.7	12.0	14.2	14.6	11.0	14.5	13.7	15.7	11.7	12.3	13.5	13.3	11.8	14.1	14.4	16.7
White (non-Hispanic)	75.4	74.8	72.2	72.3	81.2	77.0	77.0	75.7	80.5	80.3	76.7	75.9	76.7	72.5	73.1	72.7
Two or more races	0.4	1.4	2.2	2.5	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.7	0.0	0.6	1.0	1.7	1.2	1.7	2.4	2.4
Unknown	0.0	0.2	<.1	0.0	1.2	1.2	1.0	0.3	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.1	<.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	258	254	310	373
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	258	192	243	278

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.9	0.8	1.9	3.5
1 year	4.3	4.3	5.5	6.4
2 years	6.2	6.3	5.5	9.7
3 years	4.3	6.3	5.8	5.1
4 years	5.4	8.7	7.4	5.4
5 years	1.9	7.9	6.1	6.2
6 years	5.0	6.7	7.1	5.4
7 years	4.3	7.1	4.5	5.1
8 years	4.3	6.7	5.5	4.0
9 years	5.0	6.3	5.5	5.9
10 years	8.5	5.1	5.8	5.9
11 years	6.6	6.7	4.5	5.4
12 years	6.2	5.9	6.8	4.6
13 years	9.7	4.3	6.8	6.4
14 years	7.0	6.3	5.8	6.2
15 years	8.5	3.9	5.8	5.1
16 years	6.6	5.1	4.5	4.0
17 years	4.3	1.6	5.2	5.9
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	9.3	13.4	11.0	7.2
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.6	0.4	1.0	1.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	9.7	17.7	16.8	20.9
White (non-Hispanic)	79.5	65.4	67.4	65.7
Two or more races	0.0	2.8	3.5	4.8
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	118	138	176	149

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.5	3.6	0.6	2.7
1 year	11.0	8.7	8.0	3.4
2 years	11.0	12.3	6.3	8.7
3 years	10.2	12.3	10.8	8.1
4 years	9.3	8.7	11.4	8.1
5 years	6.8	5.8	8.5	6.7
6 years	5.1	5.1	5.7	7.4
7 years	7.6	6.5	4.5	8.1
8 years	7.6	5.1	8.0	5.4
9 years	5.9	1.4	8.5	2.7
10 years	5.1	6.5	5.1	5.4
11 years	4.2	5.8	4.0	3.4
12 years	3.4	3.6	5.7	5.4
13 years	4.2	5.1	3.4	6.7
14 years	1.7	4.3	5.1	4.7
15 years	0.8	1.4	0.6	4.0
16 years	3.4	0.7	2.8	4.0
17 years	0.0	2.9	1.1	4.0
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.5	8.0	9.7	13.4
Asian	1.7	2.2	1.1	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	14.4	2.2	0.0	0.7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	13.6	7.2	18.2	14.8
White (non-Hispanic)	66.9	80.4	68.2	69.1
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	2.8	2.0
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	95.8	93.5	93.9	96.2
Children with one or more recurrences	4.2	6.5	6.1	3.8
Number	990	633	902	912

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.12	0.31	0.19
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.88	99.69	99.81
Number	N/A	2,502	2,902	3,227

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	8.8	11.0	12.1	10.4
Guardianship	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.8
Reunification	81.8	80.5	79.2	80.6
Other	9.2	8.2	8.2	8.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,047	1,101	1,337	1,409

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	41.9	58.1	67.4	28.4
Guardianship	0.0	0.8	2.8	1.7
Reunification	41.9	31.0	20.6	53.8
Other	16.3	10.1	9.2	16.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	86	129	141	359

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	1.0	1.0	1.7	2.0
Guardianship	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6
Reunification	73.3	77.0	74.9	76.1
Other	25.3	21.7	23.1	21.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	288	304	351	351

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	15.5	19.7	16.9	25.8
Children older than 12 at entry	84.5	80.3	83.1	74.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	71	66	77	89

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	7.4	22.9	22.7	19.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.3	0.0	0.0	9.1	
Guardianship	1.9	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Reunification	74.1	64.6	60.0	65.4	0.0	100.0	100.0	75.0	81.3	90.9	89.5	72.7		
Other	16.7	12.5	16.0	15.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	12.5	9.1	10.5	18.2		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	54	48	75	104	0	4	7	4	16	11	19	11		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.6	6.7	17.8	11.2	8.8	11.4	10.5	9.4		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.7	0.0	1.6	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.7		
Reunification	100.0	0.0	50.0	100.0	81.3	85.2	75.0	79.8	82.2	80.2	81.2	82.3		
Other	0.0	100.0	50.0	0.0	7.3	7.4	7.2	7.4	8.9	8.0	7.7	7.5		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	2	1	2	3	123	135	180	188	843	884	1,026	1,070		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	35.7	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	88.9	90.9	92.9	100.0	0.0	100.0	57.1	75.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	11.1	9.1	7.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	9	11	14	5	0	7	14	24	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	83.5	84.5	83.9	79.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.0	13.4	11.4	16.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.3	1.2	2.5	2.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.8	0.3	1.0	1.1
48 or more mos.	0.1	0.2	1.0	1.1
Missing data	0.2	0.2	<.1	<.1
Number	856	886	1,059	1,136

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	83.6	81.0	81.4	83.2
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	11.5	11.9	10.1	8.9
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	4.9	7.0	8.5	7.8
Missing data	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.2
Number	1,213	1,292	1,557	1,722

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	6.5	1.7	2.5	6.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	23.9	19.8	19.8	19.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	26.1	44.6	40.1	30.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	26.1	21.5	19.8	22.6
48 or more mos.	17.4	12.4	17.9	21.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	92	121	162	146

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	84.9	85.5	86.6	86.2	48.8	53.2	57.7	56.4	33.4	35.8	32.2	31.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	15.1	14.5	13.4	13.5	51.2	46.8	42.3	43.6	66.6	64.2	67.8	68.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,364	1,448	1,733	1,927	455	506	513	637	464	542	650	654	10	6	6	9

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	6.3	3.3	4.0	4.2
Institutions	3.0	2.4	2.8	2.8
Other settings	90.6	94.3	93.2	93.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	886	952	1,152	1,299

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	125.4
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	81.5	76.0
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	4.0	4.8
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	60.5	55.0
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	15.0	15.5

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	88.1
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	22.2	25.3
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	31.2	34.4
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	25.7	22.7
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	15.2	11.0
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	38.0	41.4

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	116.1
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	32.2	31.4
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	97.7	91.0
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	32.2	44.4

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	91.5
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	84.0	84.2
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	57.8	56.3
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	32.0	31.6

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

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The following are Idaho's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress*.

Outcome Measure 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care: The number of children placed in foster care increased at a rapid rate in Idaho. Even with this swift increase, the percent of children maltreated while in foster care has decreased and remains well below the national median.

Outcome Measure 3.2 Exits of Children with a Diagnosed Disability: The number of children exiting foster care with a diagnosed disability has risen significantly. The percent that are exiting to adoption has declined by almost 40%. Instead of exiting to adoption, these children with diagnosed disabilities are exiting mostly to reunification and to a lesser extent they are exiting to "other."

Outcome Measure 4.1 Time to Reunification: It would appear that the time to reunification is slipping out of the "Less than 12 months" category and into the "At least 12 months but less than 24 months" category with all other categories remaining static. This trend is of interest, but it should also be noted that Idaho's measure for this outcome is well above the national median.

Outcome Measure 5.1 Time to Adoption: The percentage of children whose adoption is taking place between 24 and 36 months is decreasing and being equally offset by adoptions that are taking place in less than 12 months, between 36 and 48 months, and 48 or more months. This allows for the measure to move closer to the national median.

AREAS OF IMPROVED PERFORMANCE:

Outcome measure 1.1: The percent of children experiencing a recurrence of maltreatment within 6 months decreased from 4.2 in 2002 to 3.8 in 2005, although there were increases in 2003 and 2004. In addition, the 2005 percent is among the lowest in the nation.

Outcome measure 7.1: The percent of children entering foster care at age 12 or younger who were placed in a group home or institution declined from 9.3 in 2002 to 7.0 in 2005. The 2005 percent is less than the national median for this measure of 7.2.

AREAS WHERE IMPROVEMENTS MAY BE NEEDED:

Outcome measure 3.4: The percent of children emancipated from foster care that were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care increased from 15.5 in 2002 to 25.8 in 2005. However, the 2005 percent is less than the national median for this measure of 27.7 percent.

Outcome measure 5.1: The percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months from a child's entry into foster care decreased from 30.4 in 2002 to 25.4 in 2005. In addition, the 2005 percent is less than the national median for this measure of 29.1 percent.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Idaho's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 3.8 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 6.6 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2002 (9.5 percent change).

In 2005, 0.19 percent of children in foster care in Idaho were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 0.42 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 91.8 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 83.9 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 78.7 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All three percentages exceed the national medians for these measures (medians for measures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 31.4 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent.

In 2005, 91.0 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is less than the national median of 95.7 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (6.9 percent change).

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 6.3 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 25.8 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage is less than the national median of 27.6 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2002 (66.5 percent change).

In 2005, 44.4 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). Although this percentage is less than the national median of 48.1 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2004 (37.9 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 76.0 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 70.4 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (6.7 percent change).

Measure C1.3 indicates that 55.0 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (9.1 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 15.5 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage exceeds the national median of 14.8 percent. Because outcome measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace outcome measure 4.2 as the assessment of a State's rate of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 25.4 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 29.1 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (16.4 percent change).

In 2005, 22.7 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (11.7 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 41.4 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is less than the national median of 45.1 percent, but represents improvement in performance from 2004 (8.9 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 84.2 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 31.6 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent.

In 2005, 7.0 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 7.2 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2002 (24.7 percent change).

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	3,254,523	3,230,606	3,238,150	3,241,039
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	18.5	18.3	18.2	18.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	18.1	18.6	19.2	19.6
White (non-Hispanic)	58.3	57.7	57.2	56.7
Two or more races	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.9
Child population in poverty (%)	17.7	17.4	18.0	15.6

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	28,160	28,344	29,150	29,325
Children in foster care on 9/30	24,344	21,608	19,931	19,431
Children adopted	3,634	2,706	2,227	1,838

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	137,321	42.2 per 1,000	134,919	41.8 per 1,000	142,727	44.1 per 1,000	146,091	45.1 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	28,160	8.7 per 1,000	28,344	8.8 per 1,000	29,150	9.0 per 1,000	29,325	9.1 per 1,000
Child fatalities	70	2.2 per 100,000	61	1.9 per 100,000	85	2.6 per 100,000	68	2.1 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	13.8	13.4	13.7	13.6
1-5 years	34.0	33.5	34.2	35.0
6-10 years	28.1	28.1	27.3	26.8
11-15 years	20.3	20.7	20.9	20.7
16+ years	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9
Unknown	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.1
Number	28,160	28,344	29,150	29,325

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	36.3	35.2	33.9	33.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.1	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	9.3	10.3	10.1	10.1
White (non-Hispanic)	51.0	52.1	53.4	54.1
Two or more races	—	—	—	—
Unknown	3.1	1.9	2.1	2.1
Number	28,160	28,344	29,150	29,325

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Medical neglect	3.5	3.4	3.1	2.7
Neglect	55.3	58.3	63.5	66.2
Physical abuse	35.5	34.8	28.3	26.5
Sexual abuse	16.2	19.2	20.3	18.9
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	6.2	0.0	—	—
Number	28,160	28,344	29,150	29,325

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	16.3	14.1	13.8	12.8
Median	>24, but <48	>24, but <48	>24, but <48	>24, but <48

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	26,353	22,814	20,693	19,819	5,973	5,794	5,669	5,718	7,986	7,002	6,472	6,106	24,344	21,608	19,931	19,431
Median length of stay (months)	40.6	39.3	35.4	33.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	38.4	35.1	34.5	31.0	40.0	36.2	33.6	31.7

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.8	4.1	4.3	4.4	23.9	23.0	22.8	23.7	2.8	3.2	3.2	3.7	3.9	4.1	4.5	4.5
1 year	4.9	5.8	5.7	5.8	8.2	7.5	8.3	8.2	4.6	5.8	5.2	4.9	5.5	5.5	5.9	6.3
2 years	5.5	5.2	6.1	5.9	6.5	6.6	6.2	6.6	7.0	6.4	7.2	7.5	5.1	6.0	5.9	6.1
3 years	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.6	5.7	5.5	6.0	5.6	7.7	6.6	7.3	6.9	5.0	5.0	5.7	5.6
4 years	4.5	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.5	5.3	4.9	5.3	6.7	6.3	5.8	6.7	4.8	4.6	4.9	5.1
5 years	4.5	4.1	4.6	4.5	4.7	4.5	5.0	4.7	5.0	6.0	5.5	6.3	4.1	4.4	4.6	4.5
6 years	4.2	4.3	3.9	4.3	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.9	5.4	5.1	5.8	4.3	3.7	4.2	4.2
7 years	4.6	4.1	4.2	3.7	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.2	5.2	4.6	4.9	4.6	4.1	4.1	3.7	3.8
8 years	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.3	3.8	3.6	5.4	5.0	4.4	4.8	4.2	4.0	4.0	3.5
9 years	4.6	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.8	4.2	3.4	3.7	5.5	4.8	4.0	4.4	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.7
10 years	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.0	3.2	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.7
11 years	4.7	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.8	4.2	3.3	4.4	3.8	4.3	4.1	4.3	4.0	4.1	3.7
12 years	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.2	4.0	4.6	4.6	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.3	4.0	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.0
13 years	4.7	4.6	5.0	4.5	4.2	4.5	3.8	3.8	3.5	3.7	4.5	3.9	4.7	4.9	4.4	4.3
14 years	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.1	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.3	3.2	3.2	3.8	3.6	5.0	4.9	5.0	4.6
15 years	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.2	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.4	2.6	2.8	3.6	3.5	5.4	5.3	5.0	5.4
16 years	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	2.7	3.2	3.4	3.5	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.7	5.6	5.9	5.4	5.5
17 years	6.1	6.2	5.8	6.3	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.5	2.0	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.9
18 years	5.2	5.7	5.6	5.4	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.7	4.7	4.6	4.3	3.8	5.6	5.7	5.1	5.9
19 years	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.8	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.3	3.2	3.4	2.8	2.5	4.4	4.7	4.8	4.5
20+ years	3.3	3.7	3.5	3.5	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	7.7	8.3	5.0	5.6	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.4
Missing data	0.2	0.2	0.2	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	2.3	3.1	5.3	4.5	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.2	<.1	<.1	0.2	<.1	0.2	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1
Asian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	72.4	69.6	67.6	65.4	53.4	53.6	49.9	48.7	66.1	62.4	58.9	55.5	69.7	67.7	65.4	63.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	5.3	5.6	5.6	5.7	6.8	5.5	4.9	6.2	5.8	5.4	5.2	5.9	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.8
White (non-Hispanic)	20.3	22.4	24.6	26.8	36.1	38.1	43.0	42.7	25.7	29.2	33.6	36.6	22.5	24.4	27.0	28.4
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	1.8	2.1	2.0	2.0	3.4	2.4	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.7	1.8	1.8	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	6,193	3,780	3,432	3,347
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	3,552	3,169	2,882	2,811

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.9	1.0	0.7	0.7
1 year	6.2	3.5	3.0	3.9
2 years	7.2	6.3	6.1	6.8
3 years	7.8	6.2	7.5	8.6
4 years	7.3	6.3	6.7	8.2
5 years	6.2	6.3	6.7	6.9
6 years	6.3	5.4	6.3	6.1
7 years	6.0	5.9	5.3	6.1
8 years	6.2	5.6	6.1	4.2
9 years	6.2	6.3	6.0	5.9
10 years	6.5	6.5	6.4	5.6
11 years	6.5	6.8	6.2	6.3
12 years	7.0	7.2	6.9	6.0
13 years	6.1	8.1	7.3	6.6
14 years	5.3	7.5	7.7	7.1
15 years	4.7	7.4	7.3	7.3
16 years	1.1	2.5	2.4	2.5
17 years	0.5	1.2	1.4	1.1
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Asian	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	69.9	69.6	67.8	64.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	3.8	3.5	4.3	5.2
White (non-Hispanic)	23.8	24.6	25.4	28.1
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	2.4	2.1	2.5	2.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	3,634	2,706	2,227	1,838

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.4
1 year	4.2	6.2	5.6	5.9
2 years	10.0	9.5	11.7	11.9
3 years	11.7	9.9	12.3	11.0
4 years	9.1	10.0	9.3	10.3
5 years	7.0	8.9	7.9	9.5
6 years	6.4	7.4	7.8	8.2
7 years	7.3	6.3	6.5	6.8
8 years	6.8	6.7	5.9	7.0
9 years	7.7	6.3	5.5	5.8
10 years	6.3	6.6	5.4	5.2
11 years	6.1	5.5	5.3	4.2
12 years	4.8	5.4	4.3	3.6
13 years	4.6	4.1	4.4	4.0
14 years	2.9	3.0	3.2	2.2
15 years	2.0	1.9	2.3	2.0
16 years	1.3	0.8	1.2	1.0
17 years	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.7
18 years	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2
19 years	0.1	<.1	0.0	0.0
20+ years	<.1	0.1	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.0	<.1	0.0
Asian	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	72.3	68.4	66.1	60.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	5.3	4.4	4.0	4.4
White (non-Hispanic)	20.4	24.0	27.3	32.6
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	1.6	3.1	2.3	2.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	92.5	92.5	92.4	92.2
Children with one or more recurrences	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.8
Number	13,232	13,172	13,299	13,124

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.69	0.60	0.54
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.31	99.40	99.46
Number	N/A	28,608	26,362	25,537

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	42.8	37.8	32.6	29.6
Guardianship	<.1	0.3	8.7	9.5
Reunification	37.1	41.5	41.3	44.4
Other	16.3	18.3	16.2	15.3
Missing data	3.8	2.1	1.2	1.1
Number	7,986	7,002	6,472	6,106

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	41.7	38.0	31.6	30.7
Guardianship	0.1	0.4	8.3	8.9
Reunification	26.2	27.8	25.3	21.8
Other	26.9	31.7	32.1	36.6
Missing data	5.0	2.2	2.6	2.0
Number	1,998	2,070	1,797	1,466

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	2.6	3.0	4.5	2.5
Guardianship	0.2	0.3	5.0	5.0
Reunification	43.2	47.4	45.0	47.3
Other	47.2	45.3	42.6	42.9
Missing data	6.8	4.1	2.9	2.4
Number	1,057	981	892	844

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	61.0	65.1	63.4	61.1
Children older than 12 at entry	38.9	34.9	36.4	38.8
Missing data	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1
Number	1,250	1,238	1,020	916

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	57.1	0.0	7.1	0.0	33.3	21.4	31.6	25.0	47.7	41.8	36.5	32.1		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	10.5	0.0	<.1	0.2	10.9	11.9		
Reunification	28.6	40.0	92.9	40.0	50.0	42.9	57.9	37.5	29.4	33.9	31.4	35.0		
Other	14.3	60.0	0.0	40.0	16.7	28.6	0.0	25.0	19.0	22.0	19.7	19.5		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1	0.0	12.5	3.8	2.1	1.4	1.4		
Number	14	5	14	5	12	14	19	8	5,279	4,368	3,812	3,389		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	39.8	31.0	25.2	22.5	31.3	30.2	26.8	26.5		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	5.6	6.4	0.0	0.5	5.2	6.5		
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	47.3	52.0	56.7	58.3	53.6	54.9	55.7	56.4		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.3	14.9	12.2	12.5	11.3	12.2	11.2	9.7		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	1.1	0.3	0.3	3.9	2.2	1.1	0.8		
Number	0	0	0	0	467	377	337	360	2,050	2,046	2,174	2,236		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	34.1	43.2	36.2	38.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	7.8	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	51.2	50.0	44.8	48.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	10.4	5.7	10.3	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	4.3	1.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	164	192	116	108	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	52.3	58.5	56.6	58.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	19.3	16.5	17.9	18.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	10.3	9.2	9.9	10.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	5.2	5.5	4.6	5.3
48 or more mos.	11.7	9.0	8.6	6.3
Missing data	1.2	1.3	2.4	1.0
Number	2,965	2,904	2,673	2,714

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	83.7	81.5	83.0	83.1
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	8.2	9.1	8.6	8.4
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	7.8	9.0	8.1	8.2
Missing data	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3
Number	5,973	5,794	5,669	5,718

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	8.5	11.9	10.2	11.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	19.2	18.3	23.0	23.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	19.9	18.3	20.0	20.4
48 or more mos.	50.2	49.3	44.4	42.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	3,415	2,646	2,110	1,805

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	80.8	82.6	82.3	83.4	64.0	63.7	64.4	65.2	31.3	29.9	30.1	29.8	93.0	93.2	87.1	98.1
Children with 3 or more placements	19.2	17.3	17.7	16.6	36.0	36.3	35.6	34.8	68.7	70.1	69.9	70.2	7.0	6.8	12.9	1.9
Number	6,436	6,231	5,998	6,112	4,834	4,349	4,192	4,267	20,999	17,955	16,102	15,104	57	73	70	54

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Institutions	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.3
Other settings	97.7	98.0	98.2	98.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4,882	4,680	4,581	4,554

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	45.7
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	46.0	46.6
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	13.7	13.2
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	17.7	19.8
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	15.4	16.2

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	77.7
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	12.6	13.4
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	43.7	43.3
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	16.9	15.5
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	10.0	9.6
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	61.6	56.8

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	97.4
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	24.2	23.4
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	99.0	98.9
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	76.9	76.2

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	91.5
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	80.4	81.0
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	64.6	65.4
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	34.4	34.7

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

**Erwin McEwen, Acting Director
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services**

The following are Illinois' comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress*.

In Table 3.1, we wish to present alternative results for exits to guardianship. In 2004, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services rewrote much of our AFCARS computer program specifically targeting exits from foster care. Prior to that time, exits to guardianship in particular were not being captured properly. While this primarily affected exits to guardianship, overall exits and the percentage breakouts were impacted. We wish to provide a more accurate depiction of Illinois guardianship exit data for 2002-2003; the data for 2004 forward appears to be accurate. In 2002-2003, approximately 9% of exits were to subsidized guardianship.

There have been data inconsistencies identified by ACF for exits to emancipation and exits of those age 18 or older. To address the inconsistencies, we are in the process of completing additional examinations of our exit data. Once this process has come to fruition, Illinois will likely resubmit prior years' AFCARS data.

While Illinois has several areas of improved performance, there is still an area identified as needing improvement: the percent of children exiting foster care to emancipation involves children younger than 12 when entering care. Illinois has the highest percentage in the nation. This is factual. The Illinois ward population has decreased substantially in recent years as more children move to permanency, but those legacy cases remaining often have been in the system for several years. A recent three-state study by the University of Chicago Chapin Hall Center for Children found that wards who stay in the system longer after age 18 are better prepared economically, socially and educationally for adulthood. Illinois has many programs for these older youth who will be prepared for an independent life either through supervised independent living, transitional living or college and job training programs.

While Illinois was cited as having two areas of improved performance, it was also noted that in both of these areas, Illinois is still among the lowest performing states in the nation. One area of improved performance is that of reunifications achieved within 12 months. Illinois is currently in the process of training and implement a new reunification model that will train both casework staff and foster parents to look at reunification in a different way. Additional work with birth parents before reunification and frequent involvement after reunification will allow children to return home sooner while increasing the likelihood that they will remain safely at home.

The second area of improved performance was that of adoptions in less than 24 months. Illinois continues to perform low on this measure. As part of its Program Improvement Plan, Illinois has begun several steps to ensure more timely adoptions. DCFS staff has met with many court jurisdictions in the state to discuss practice related to facilitating adoptions including timely setting of permanency goals, permanency hearings, and ways to reduce time from termination of parental rights to finalized adoptions. The University of Illinois Child and Family Research Center will be preparing outcome data by court jurisdiction so that DCFS can assess progress as well as on-going deficiencies in specific areas of the state.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Illinois performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent “no change.”

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 7.8 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is greater than the national median of 6.6 percent.

In 2005, 0.54 percent of children in foster care in Illinois were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 0.42 percent for this measure, it represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2003 (21.7 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 83.5 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 87.8 percent). For measure 3.2, 61.4 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 79.0 percent). In measure 3.2 54.8 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is lower than the national median of 73.1 percent, and is also among the lowest percentages in the nation).

In 2005, 23.4 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year and prior to their 18th birthday (measure C3.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 26.4 percent.

In 2005, 98.9 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is among the highest in the nation.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 61.1 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of “emancipation” were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent.

In 2005, 76.2 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 46.6 percent of reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 70.4 percent for this measure.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 19.8 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (11.9 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 16.2 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage exceeds the national median of 14.8 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (5.2 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 13.4 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). Although this percentage is less than the national median of 29.1 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (25.2 percent change).

In 2005, 15.5 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 20.9 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (8.3 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 56.8 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2004 (7.8 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 81.0 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 29.8 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent.

In 2005, 1.5 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is among the lowest in the nation and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (31.8 percent change).

Indiana

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	1,594,857	1,603,901	1,600,295	1,602,847
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	10.6	10.7	10.8	10.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	5.4	5.7	6.0	6.3
White (non-Hispanic)	81.0	80.5	80.0	79.5
Two or more races	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1
Child population in poverty (%)	10.5	13.7	18.5	18.6

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	20,416	21,205	18,869	19,062
Children in foster care on 9/30	8,478	8,815	9,778	11,257
Children adopted	923	766	1,000	976

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	50,163	31.5 per 1,000	52,071	32.5 per 1,000	54,679	34.2 per 1,000	57,752	36.0 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	20,416	12.8 per 1,000	21,205	13.2 per 1,000	18,869	11.8 per 1,000	19,062	11.9 per 1,000
Child fatalities	58	3.6 per 100,000	49	3.1 per 100,000	77	4.8 per 100,000	29	1.8 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	9.4	8.7	10.3	11.1
1-5 years	30.4	30.4	30.8	30.4
6-10 years	28.0	28.1	26.5	26.0
11-15 years	26.9	27.5	27.0	27.2
16+ years	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.3
Unknown	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Number	20,416	21,205	18,869	19,062

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	17.6	16.0	16.6	17.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.1	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	4.3	4.8	5.0	5.7
White (non-Hispanic)	73.9	75.1	74.2	72.1
Two or more races	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.7
Unknown	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7
Number	20,416	21,205	18,869	19,062

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	—	—	—	—
Medical neglect	2.8	2.9	3.0	2.5
Neglect	66.6	66.9	70.3	70.6
Physical abuse	17.8	17.6	14.6	13.8
Sexual abuse	20.6	20.3	20.8	21.3
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Number	20,416	21,205	18,869	19,062

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	140.0	139.4	131.2	102.1
Median	>24, but <48	>24, but <48	>24, but <48	>24, but <48

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	7,380	7,577	8,224	9,859	5,676	6,084	7,026	7,571	4,579	4,846	5,472	6,173	8,478	8,815	9,778	11,257
Median length of stay (months)	15.1	13.0	12.3	12.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.9	9.7	9.9	10.4	12.5	12.4	11.3	12.5

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	5.6	5.9	6.4	6.0	15.2	15.1	15.0	16.0	4.8	4.6	5.3	5.1	5.9	6.4	6.2	6.7
1 year	6.2	7.4	7.2	7.1	7.1	6.8	6.7	7.2	6.7	6.8	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.1	7.4	7.2
2 years	6.0	6.0	6.6	6.5	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.7	7.4	7.1	7.5	7.9	6.1	6.8	6.7	6.7
3 years	4.7	5.8	6.1	6.2	5.8	5.8	6.8	6.0	5.5	6.8	7.0	6.7	5.8	6.1	6.4	5.9
4 years	4.9	4.5	5.2	5.7	5.2	5.2	5.5	5.3	5.7	5.7	5.7	6.6	4.6	5.2	5.8	5.6
5 years	4.2	4.5	4.6	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.4	4.9	5.2	5.4	4.7	4.7	5.2	5.3
6 years	4.1	4.5	4.8	4.6	4.8	5.3	5.2	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.3	4.3	4.8	4.7	4.8
7 years	4.5	4.1	4.4	4.5	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.6	5.0	5.1	4.0	4.4	4.6	4.4
8 years	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.9	4.5	4.0	3.8	4.9	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3
9 years	4.8	4.6	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	3.6	4.2	4.3	4.9	3.7	4.2	4.5	4.0	4.1	3.9
10 years	5.1	4.6	4.7	4.0	4.5	4.4	4.1	3.6	4.7	4.1	4.1	3.8	4.6	4.5	4.0	3.7
11 years	5.0	4.9	4.4	4.5	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.5	4.0	4.2	4.8	4.4	4.5	4.2
12 years	5.4	5.2	4.8	4.6	4.9	4.5	5.2	4.5	4.8	4.5	4.5	3.7	5.1	4.8	4.7	4.5
13 years	5.6	5.4	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.0	5.2	4.8	4.5	4.2	4.0	5.4	5.1	5.1	5.2
14 years	6.8	6.0	6.0	5.5	5.2	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.0	5.3	5.0	4.5	5.9	6.0	5.6	5.8
15 years	6.9	6.6	6.3	6.1	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.9	5.0	6.5	6.1	6.3	6.2
16 years	7.0	7.0	6.6	6.0	5.1	4.8	4.5	4.8	5.3	5.1	4.6	4.8	7.0	6.4	6.2	6.0
17 years	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.4	2.6	2.9	2.8	2.9	5.4	5.9	4.9	5.0	5.9	5.9	5.6	5.3
18 years	2.0	2.1	2.2	1.9	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	5.3	5.0	5.8	5.6	2.4	2.3	2.0	2.0
19 years	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
20+ years	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.3
Missing data	<.1	0.0	<.1	1.7	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	1.6

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
Asian	0.2	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	38.1	35.9	34.7	32.4	29.9	28.0	27.8	27.7	32.3	28.7	29.9	27.2	35.7	34.4	32.4	32.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	4.7	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.1	6.3	5.5	6.3	4.8	6.2	5.8	5.2	4.9	5.4	5.2	5.9
White (non-Hispanic)	53.9	54.7	55.5	57.6	60.2	61.1	61.7	60.1	59.4	61.2	59.9	62.3	55.1	55.6	57.5	56.7
Two or more races	2.5	3.7	3.9	4.3	4.2	3.8	4.2	5.2	2.8	3.2	3.7	4.6	3.5	4.0	4.2	4.8
Unknown	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	2,330	2,396	2,550	3,195
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,045	1,072	977	1,642

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.1	1.8	1.5	1.7
1 year	8.2	7.2	8.5	8.1
2 years	7.2	9.0	8.7	8.7
3 years	7.0	7.5	8.0	7.3
4 years	5.5	7.0	8.3	6.9
5 years	5.2	5.8	6.2	7.1
6 years	5.5	6.2	5.7	5.5
7 years	5.4	5.6	5.8	5.4
8 years	5.7	5.3	5.1	5.6
9 years	6.0	5.1	5.4	4.9
10 years	6.3	6.3	5.2	5.1
11 years	6.7	5.4	6.2	5.1
12 years	6.3	6.4	4.9	6.0
13 years	6.2	6.0	6.0	5.2
14 years	6.2	5.5	4.8	5.4
15 years	6.8	4.8	4.9	4.4
16 years	2.9	3.3	2.7	4.6
17 years	2.0	1.8	2.1	3.1
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.3
Asian	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	41.5	39.9	37.6	37.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	4.2	5.0	4.7	4.6
White (non-Hispanic)	50.3	49.5	52.1	53.0
Two or more races	3.3	4.8	4.9	4.9
Unknown	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	923	766	1,000	976

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.5	0.8	1.4	1.3
1 year	4.9	5.4	8.2	7.7
2 years	10.5	11.9	12.9	16.8
3 years	8.5	9.7	10.9	10.2
4 years	8.5	7.0	8.7	9.7
5 years	7.8	5.6	7.2	8.0
6 years	7.3	7.0	6.1	7.0
7 years	7.4	5.7	6.7	6.6
8 years	6.1	5.4	5.9	6.1
9 years	5.9	5.9	4.0	4.4
10 years	6.7	6.3	4.4	4.7
11 years	5.2	6.5	5.3	4.9
12 years	5.4	5.9	4.1	3.8
13 years	4.3	5.1	3.7	2.4
14 years	3.7	4.4	3.5	2.4
15 years	2.9	3.0	2.1	1.5
16 years	2.9	2.5	2.7	1.6
17 years	1.5	1.6	1.7	0.7
18 years	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.1
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.7
Asian	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	43.3	43.9	35.0	32.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.6	4.7	4.2	3.6
White (non-Hispanic)	52.7	49.1	53.2	55.9
Two or more races	2.3	2.0	6.8	7.1
Unknown	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Indiana

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	93.1	93.0	93.7	92.7
Children with one or more recurrences	6.9	7.0	6.3	7.3
Number	10,123	9,485	8,699	8,502

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.55	0.68	0.70
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.45	99.32	99.30
Number	N/A	13,661	15,250	17,430

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	24.6	17.9	18.0	16.2
Guardianship	7.1	8.3	7.8	8.0
Reunification	57.8	62.3	62.6	64.7
Other	7.3	6.6	7.4	11.1
Missing data	3.2	4.9	4.2	0.0
Number	4,579	4,846	5,472	6,173

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	37.8	24.9	28.1	28.0
Guardianship	4.1	5.9	4.7	6.0
Reunification	42.5	48.9	49.5	50.3
Other	12.2	14.5	13.2	15.6
Missing data	3.4	5.9	4.4	0.0
Number	320	442	612	582

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	3.2	2.1	2.8	1.9
Guardianship	5.0	7.4	6.4	6.0
Reunification	65.2	62.4	61.2	63.1
Other	20.1	18.1	21.9	29.0
Missing data	6.4	10.0	7.7	0.0
Number	1,050	1,184	1,279	1,476

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	31.6	31.0	28.4	26.2
Children older than 12 at entry	67.6	68.3	71.2	73.8
Missing data	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.0
Number	256	252	313	302

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	25.0	71.4	58.3	0.0	5.9	0.0	14.3	35.3	26.5	21.6	18.6		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.9	0.0	14.3	7.5	7.3	4.8	5.6		
Reunification	71.4	50.0	14.3	33.3	81.8	82.4	81.8	64.3	45.9	55.8	61.3	62.1		
Other	28.6	0.0	14.3	8.3	9.1	0.0	18.2	7.1	8.2	7.1	9.2	13.7		
Missing data	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	5.9	0.0	0.0	3.1	3.2	3.1	0.0		
Number	7	4	7	12	11	17	11	14	1,480	1,392	1,637	1,680		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.8	14.4	13.5	13.8	20.3	14.5	16.0	14.6		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.8	4.3	7.2	7.8	6.8	9.2	9.4	9.3		
Reunification	0.0	100.0	85.7	100.0	67.1	69.6	69.5	68.8	62.9	64.0	62.6	65.7		
Other	100.0	0.0	14.3	0.0	8.6	5.4	5.7	9.7	6.8	6.8	7.1	10.4		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7	6.4	4.1	0.0	3.2	5.6	5.0	0.0		
Number	1	2	7	2	222	299	318	320	2,722	2,964	3,276	3,846		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	9.1	18.2	25.0	22.8	14.0	28.3	24.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	9.1	6.3	3.9	10.2	7.3	4.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	88.9	90.9	72.7	37.5	68.5	68.8	61.5	64.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	11.1	0.0	0.0	31.3	1.6	2.5	1.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	4.5	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	9	11	11	16	127	157	205	283	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	77.8	76.3	74.4	72.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	15.1	17.0	19.6	20.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	4.2	4.1	4.0	5.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.1
48 or more mos.	1.7	1.4	1.0	1.1
Missing data	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0
Number	2,648	3,018	3,424	3,993

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	79.8	80.9	81.2	82.0
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	11.5	9.0	9.0	7.6
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.1	9.0	9.3	10.0
Missing data	0.6	1.2	0.5	0.5
Number	5,676	6,084	7,026	7,571

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	4.6	2.1	3.6	4.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	22.8	23.4	28.8	27.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	33.2	33.9	36.0	40.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	14.3	19.2	13.7	16.8
48 or more mos.	25.1	21.4	17.9	11.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,127	866	985	999

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	86.1	86.7	83.5	84.5	60.9	62.8	61.5	61.1	38.8	35.5	33.9	36.8	100.0	100.0	95.0	82.9
Children with 3 or more placements	13.8	13.1	15.5	15.4	39.1	37.0	37.5	38.8	61.2	64.5	65.0	63.2	0.0	0.0	5.0	17.1
Number	6,534	7,093	8,150	8,939	2,659	2,959	3,371	3,967	3,842	3,586	3,709	4,489	21	23	20	35

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	1.1	1.2	1.4	0.9
Institutions	5.9	6.8	9.1	7.6
Other settings	92.9	92.0	89.5	91.5
Missing data	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4,296	4,574	5,301	5,680

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	123.3
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	75.5	75.4
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	6.4	6.7
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	40.8	41.8
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	15.9	14.0

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	115.6
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	32.4	31.9
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	29.3	28.2
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	25.2	22.7
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	16.0	15.6
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	55.2	57.3

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	120.1
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	29.2	26.4
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	97.0	94.3
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	41.5	45.6

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	95.6
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	83.4	83.3
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	62.1	61.2
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	34.8	37.1

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Indiana

STATE COMMENT

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Indiana's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 7.3 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 6.6 percent.

In 2005, 0.70 percent of children in foster care in Indiana were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 0.42 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2003 (27.3 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 88.9 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) and 84.3 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home. Both percentages exceed the national median for these measures (medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 are 87.8 percent and 79 percent, respectively). However, 71.0 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. This percentage is less than the national median of 73.1 percent.

In 2005, 26.4 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage is equal to the national median, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (9.6 percent change).

In 2005, 94.3 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is less than the national median of 95.7 percent.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 4.9 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 26.2 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage is less than the national median of 27.6 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2002 (17.1 percent change).

In 2005, 45.6 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 48.1 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (9.9 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 75.4 percent of reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 70.4 percent.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 41.8 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent.

Measure C1.4 indicates that 14.0 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is about equal to the national median of 14.8 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2004 (11.9 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of a State's rate of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 31.9 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 29.1 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2002 (16.4 percent change).

In 2005, 22.7 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (9.9 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 57.3 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 83.3 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 37.1 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 32.3 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2004 (6.6 percent change).

In 2005, 8.5 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 7.2 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (21.4 percent change).

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	698,045	693,428	680,437	670,801
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Asian	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	5.1	5.3	5.6	5.8
White (non-Hispanic)	88.3	87.9	87.4	87.0
Two or more races	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0
Child population in poverty (%)	10.7	13.4	12.8	14.5

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	12,202	13,303	13,804	14,016
Children in foster care on 9/30	5,238	5,011	5,384	6,794
Children adopted	886	1,130	1,061	947

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	34,793	49.8 per 1,000	36,544	52.7 per 1,000	37,163	54.6 per 1,000	38,038	56.7 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	12,202	17.5 per 1,000	13,303	19.2 per 1,000	13,804	20.3 per 1,000	14,016	20.9 per 1,000
Child fatalities	15	2.2 per 100,000	16	2.3 per 100,000	8	1.2 per 100,000	9	1.3 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	9.7	10.2	9.8	10.4
1-5 years	36.1	37.2	38.0	39.1
6-10 years	26.7	26.2	26.2	26.0
11-15 years	21.2	20.5	20.5	19.8
16+ years	5.3	4.9	4.7	4.5
Unknown	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.2
Number	12,202	13,303	13,804	14,016

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.9
Asian	0.7	1.1	1.0	0.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	8.4	8.3	7.9	8.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.3	0.3	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	4.5	4.5	4.7	5.6
White (non-Hispanic)	71.7	69.8	69.4	67.0
Two or more races	0.3	1.0	1.3	1.7
Unknown	13.9	13.9	14.6	15.1
Number	12,202	13,303	13,804	14,016

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	1.2	1.3	1.1	0.7
Medical neglect	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.0
Neglect	71.8	74.0	75.4	78.5
Physical abuse	17.4	15.5	14.2	13.4
Sexual abuse	7.3	6.7	6.2	5.8
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	7.0	9.4	11.1	9.9
Number	12,202	13,303	13,804	14,016

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	2.9	2.9	2.3	2.1
Median	<24	<24	<24	<24

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	5,063	4,998	4,906	4,738	5,821	5,736	5,962	6,781	5,647	5,723	5,484	4,725	5,238	5,011	5,384	6,794
Median length of stay (months)	11.0	11.5	10.5	11.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.2	4.9	3.9	5.3	10.8	9.9	10.4	7.7

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.6	4.2	4.0	4.3	8.0	8.0	8.8	9.8	3.4	3.4	4.2	3.8	4.2	4.2	4.3	5.3
1 year	4.6	4.8	5.0	4.9	4.5	5.2	4.9	6.2	4.1	5.4	5.3	5.6	4.8	5.2	4.7	6.1
2 years	4.4	4.8	4.4	4.6	4.0	4.4	4.6	5.8	4.4	5.1	5.2	5.5	4.7	4.4	4.6	5.6
3 years	4.2	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.4	3.7	4.0	5.3	3.9	4.4	4.5	5.0	3.9	3.7	3.8	5.2
4 years	3.5	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.1	3.8	3.5	4.6	3.5	3.9	3.8	4.4	3.9	3.7	3.6	4.1
5 years	3.5	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.6	4.2	3.1	3.5	3.7	4.1	3.2	3.4	3.3	4.2
6 years	2.9	3.3	3.1	3.3	2.4	3.0	3.1	4.0	2.6	3.2	3.2	3.6	3.3	3.1	3.2	3.5
7 years	2.9	2.8	3.2	2.9	2.4	2.7	2.9	3.5	2.5	2.8	2.9	3.1	2.7	3.1	2.8	3.8
8 years	2.9	2.9	2.6	3.1	2.6	2.6	2.8	3.3	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.9	2.9	2.6	3.1	3.4
9 years	4.0	3.6	3.4	2.9	3.0	3.1	2.4	2.8	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.4	3.6	3.5	2.7	3.3
10 years	4.2	3.9	3.4	3.1	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.9	2.8	2.4	4.0	3.6	3.0	3.2
11 years	4.4	5.1	4.3	4.1	4.6	3.9	3.1	3.4	3.6	3.5	2.8	3.0	5.1	4.2	3.9	3.2
12 years	5.4	5.3	5.2	4.7	4.9	5.5	4.6	4.0	3.9	4.5	3.9	3.3	5.4	5.3	4.5	4.5
13 years	6.8	6.5	6.7	6.6	7.5	7.5	7.3	5.8	5.8	6.1	6.0	4.3	6.7	6.6	6.2	5.5
14 years	8.6	8.8	8.5	9.0	10.0	9.8	10.0	8.2	7.6	7.3	7.6	7.2	8.9	8.8	9.2	7.2
15 years	10.5	10.8	11.3	10.1	12.1	11.3	11.4	10.5	11.1	10.2	9.0	9.7	10.6	11.4	10.9	9.7
16 years	11.9	10.8	12.6	12.5	13.0	11.6	11.9	10.0	13.2	11.0	11.3	10.8	10.7	12.2	13.0	11.0
17 years	10.6	10.2	10.2	11.2	8.1	7.7	8.3	5.9	15.9	14.0	13.4	12.3	9.7	9.8	11.5	9.5
18 years	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	3.4	2.9	4.6	6.1	1.2	1.3	1.7	1.5
19 years	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.2	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	<.1	0.2	0.1
20+ years	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	2.6	2.6	2.4	1.9	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.7	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.1	2.0	1.6
Asian	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.7	1.1	1.3	1.0	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.1	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	12.2	11.9	13.1	13.6	10.4	11.2	11.3	12.6	10.9	10.9	10.8	11.9	11.7	12.3	13.5	13.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	4.8	5.0	5.6	5.1	4.6	5.4	5.2	6.2	4.7	5.4	5.7	6.1	4.6	5.0	5.1	5.6
White (non-Hispanic)	70.3	70.1	74.8	75.4	69.9	71.0	75.9	71.5	70.3	70.2	75.8	73.9	69.8	71.0	75.0	72.6
Two or more races	0.4	0.9	1.6	1.4	0.2	1.0	1.0	1.6	0.3	0.9	1.4	1.5	0.2	1.1	1.2	1.6
Unknown	9.0	1.6	0.6	1.3	12.6	3.1	2.2	4.1	11.3	2.5	1.8	2.7	10.5	2.3	1.2	3.2
Missing data	<.1	7.4	0.9	0.1	0.2	5.2	1.1	0.6	0.1	7.0	1.2	0.4	<.1	5.4	0.8	0.5

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	1,263	1,131	1,139	1,265
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,049	947	945	1,027

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.8	2.7	3.1	4.1
1 year	7.2	7.3	8.4	8.4
2 years	8.0	8.4	7.3	8.5
3 years	7.0	5.7	6.4	7.9
4 years	7.7	6.5	6.6	6.9
5 years	4.8	4.7	6.3	5.6
6 years	6.7	5.8	5.4	4.9
7 years	4.1	5.2	4.7	5.5
8 years	5.3	5.0	5.4	5.1
9 years	4.8	5.6	5.0	5.5
10 years	6.1	4.9	5.6	4.6
11 years	7.2	6.0	5.6	4.1
12 years	5.5	6.2	5.3	5.5
13 years	6.2	5.7	5.3	4.7
14 years	5.5	6.2	5.2	4.7
15 years	4.0	5.2	6.0	5.4
16 years	4.4	4.7	4.8	4.5
17 years	2.9	4.2	3.7	4.1
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	4.4	2.8	2.9	1.9
Asian	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	13.8	13.4	18.8	17.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.3	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	6.3	6.5	5.6	7.5
White (non-Hispanic)	63.7	67.8	69.1	67.7
Two or more races	0.4	1.0	1.9	1.9
Unknown	10.5	2.2	0.5	2.4
Missing data	0.2	5.7	0.5	0.2

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	886	1,130	1,061	947

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.8	1.9	2.4	2.9
1 year	8.8	12.0	11.8	12.2
2 years	11.4	11.7	12.7	12.9
3 years	11.5	10.9	11.0	11.0
4 years	9.4	9.6	8.8	9.6
5 years	8.0	8.4	7.3	8.1
6 years	6.1	6.5	7.2	7.9
7 years	5.5	5.3	5.7	6.0
8 years	5.8	4.5	6.1	4.9
9 years	5.9	4.9	5.3	5.5
10 years	5.3	5.1	4.1	4.4
11 years	5.2	4.4	3.8	3.1
12 years	5.2	4.2	3.9	3.4
13 years	4.0	3.2	4.1	2.4
14 years	2.8	2.8	2.4	2.1
15 years	1.5	1.9	1.4	2.0
16 years	1.0	1.3	0.9	0.6
17 years	0.9	1.2	1.0	0.7
18 years	0.0	0.2	<.1	0.2
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.3	3.5	2.6	2.4
Asian	0.7	0.9	0.6	1.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	19.0	15.0	11.5	16.2
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	0.2	0.4
Hispanic (of any race)	6.9	7.4	9.2	6.0
White (non-Hispanic)	65.3	67.9	71.3	69.8
Two or more races	0.0	1.9	3.8	3.0
Unknown	5.9	1.5	0.5	1.2
Missing data	0.0	1.8	0.3	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	88.6	88.6	90.0	90.6
Children with one or more recurrences	11.4	11.4	10.0	9.4
Number	5,778	5,808	6,358	6,116

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care

(NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.68	0.37	0.30
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.32	99.63	99.70
Number	N/A	10,734	10,868	11,519

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	15.4	18.9	18.5	19.1
Guardianship	0.5	0.7	0.6	1.1
Reunification	76.0	72.6	74.3	72.5
Other	8.1	7.7	6.7	7.3
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0
Number	5,647	5,723	5,484	4,725

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	50.2	36.8	30.5	32.8
Guardianship	0.8	0.1	1.0	0.5
Reunification	36.5	50.3	57.1	51.3
Other	12.4	12.7	11.4	15.4
Missing data	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.0
Number	896	1,400	1,467	928

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	1.0	1.6	1.2	1.5
Guardianship	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.7
Reunification	85.8	84.5	86.6	84.4
Other	12.6	13.4	11.5	13.3
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0
Number	2,920	2,641	2,599	2,181

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	20.3	21.0	18.5	15.2
Children older than 12 at entry	79.7	79.0	81.5	84.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	286	291	319	342

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	18.9	33.1	22.1	22.3	15.8	14.9	7.9	17.6	22.9	24.8	19.2	25.2		
Guardianship	1.1	1.7	2.9	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.8	1.1		
Reunification	70.5	53.7	63.5	71.8	68.4	76.6	76.2	70.6	69.4	66.0	73.1	67.7		
Other	9.5	11.6	11.5	4.9	15.8	8.5	15.9	11.8	7.5	8.9	6.9	6.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	95	121	104	103	38	47	63	51	615	621	594	563		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	20.0	16.7	21.4	21.6	24.2	30.0	19.4	13.9	17.2	17.0	18.1		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.0	1.4	0.5	0.8	0.6	1.0		
Reunification	0.0	80.0	75.0	78.6	72.4	71.0	65.5	73.7	77.1	74.4	75.7	72.9		
Other	0.0	0.0	8.3	0.0	5.6	4.5	4.5	5.5	8.5	7.6	6.7	7.9		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0		
Number	0	10	12	14	268	310	313	289	3,970	4,020	4,156	3,491		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	13.3	13.8	12.4	9.4	53.3	25.5	44.2	37.7	0.0	20.9	30.9	0.0		
Guardianship	0.9	1.4	0.0	3.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.5	1.5	0.0		
Reunification	79.3	77.2	86.6	84.3	33.3	72.5	51.9	56.5	100.0	70.4	58.8	100.0		
Other	6.4	7.6	1.0	2.4	13.3	2.0	3.9	4.3	0.0	8.3	8.8	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	639	145	97	127	15	51	77	69	7	398	68	18		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	83.2	81.3	85.0	80.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	10.9	12.6	10.7	14.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.7	3.0	2.2	2.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.2	1.2	0.6	0.8
48 or more mos.	1.4	1.4	0.8	0.9
Missing data	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.5
Number	4,292	4,157	4,072	3,425

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	63.5	65.2	66.1	70.9
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	25.3	24.5	22.6	18.4
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	9.7	9.4	10.8	10.1
Missing data	1.5	0.8	0.5	0.6
Number	5,821	5,736	5,962	6,781

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	22.0	23.7	31.6	32.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	30.4	37.6	33.5	34.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	28.7	24.3	23.6	21.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	11.2	8.4	5.2	6.8
48 or more mos.	7.1	5.7	5.5	4.5
Missing data	0.7	0.3	0.6	1.0
Number	869	1,084	1,013	903

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	89.4	90.2	89.3	91.3	56.7	56.6	57.2	57.4	30.2	28.3	27.0	27.7	98.5	97.8	98.1	98.0
Children with 3 or more placements	10.6	9.8	10.7	8.7	43.3	43.4	42.8	42.6	69.8	71.7	73.0	72.3	1.5	2.2	1.9	2.0
Number	6,736	6,621	6,876	7,539	2,042	2,071	2,020	2,058	2,041	1,996	1,919	1,871	65	46	53	51

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	17.8	16.7	15.2	10.2
Institutions	3.9	4.2	4.0	2.8
Other settings	78.3	79.1	80.8	87.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,826	2,941	3,005	3,677

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	100.9
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	82.1	76.0
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	3.5	5.0
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	61.3	57.2
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	29.8	28.1

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	117.4
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	65.4	67.4
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	18.4	18.2
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	25.3	22.8
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	4.5	3.9
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	51.2	43.0

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	124.1
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	29.1	22.9
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	97.2	97.8
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	36.3	33.8

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	94.6
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	87.6	90.3
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	57.2	57.3
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	26.8	27.4

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Mary Nelson, Administrator
Division of Child and Family Services
Iowa Department of Human Services

The following are Iowa's comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress*.

Context. Iowa's system serves children placed due to abuse/neglect, delinquency, and emotional or behavioral problems. Caseloads and supervisor-to-worker ratios are two to three times the national standards. Over the past four years, Iowa has implemented a redesign of its child welfare system.

Safety. Child abuse reports have continued to increase – largely due to greater attention on child safety.

Iowa's reoccurrence rate has shown steady improvement over the past three years, but is still higher than the national standard. A study of reoccurrence cases has shown that many of these reports actually deal with reporting prior instances of "historical" abuse rather than an actual reoccurrence of abuse. Iowa has also shown improvement in its abuse in foster care rate and now outperforms the national median.

Permanency. The percentage of adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child entering foster care continues to improve and is among the highest in the nation. The percentage of children who "age out" of the system that were 12 or younger when they entered foster care continues to decline and is one of the lowest in the nation.

Iowa's re-entry into foster care within twelve months of discharge has shown improvement, but still ranks as one of the highest in the country. This is likely due to Iowa's reliance on short lengths of stay to stabilize behavior. Iowa's percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in group care has also shown improvement, but is still among the highest in the nation. Iowa continues to develop strategies to reduce reliance on congregate care, including the development of an expanded service array.

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>

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Iowa's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 9.4 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 6.6 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (17.5 percent change).

In 2005, 0.30 percent of children in foster care in Iowa were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 0.42 percent for this measure and represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2003 (55.9 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 92.7 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 84.6 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 86.6 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care were discharged to a permanent home. All percentages exceed the national medians for those measures (medians for measures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 22.9 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged to a permanent home by the last day of the year or prior to their 18th birthday (measure C3.1). This percentage not only is less than the national median of 26.4 percent, but also represents a decline in performance from 2004 (21.3 percent change).

In 2005, 97.8 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage exceeds the national median of 95.7 percent.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 15.2 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of "emancipation" were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This percentage is less than the national median of 27.6 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (25.1 percent change).

In 2005, 33.3 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 48.1 percent and represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2004 (6.9 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 76.0 percent of reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 70.4 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2004 (7.4 percent change).

Measure C1.3 indicates that 57.2 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent, it represents a slight decline in performance from 2002 (6.7 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 28.1 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage exceeds the national median of 14.8 percent and is among the highest percentages in the nation. However, performance on this measure improved from 2004 (5.7 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry (i.e., it follows children for up to 24 months), it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 67.4 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 29.1 percent.

In 2005, 22.8 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (9.9 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 43.0 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is less than the national median of 45.1 percent and represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2004 (16.0 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 90.3 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 27.7 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (8.3 percent change).

In 2005, 13.0 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 7.2 percent, it represents improvement in performance from 2002 (38.7 percent change).

Kansas

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	696,519	695,081	683,491	674,285
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Asian	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	11.1	11.5	11.9	12.2
White (non-Hispanic)	76.4	76.0	75.5	75.1
Two or more races	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.0
Child population in poverty (%)	12.0	14.5	15.6	17.8

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	6,425	5,682	4,895	2,775
Children in foster care on 9/30	6,190	5,781	6,060	5,835
Children adopted	475	546	653	649

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	26,696	38.3 per 1,000	24,250	34.9 per 1,000	24,140	35.3 per 1,000	21,240	31.5 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	6,425	9.2 per 1,000	5,682	8.2 per 1,000	4,895	7.2 per 1,000	2,775	4.1 per 1,000
Child fatalities	1	0.1 per 100,000	5	0.7 per 100,000	8	1.2 per 100,000	6	0.9 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	7.3	6.8	7.2	7.0
1-5 years	33.7	34.7	34.3	36.5
6-10 years	29.4	28.9	27.8	27.9
11-15 years	24.0	24.1	24.6	23.5
16+ years	5.2	5.1	5.6	4.8
Unknown	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.3
Number	6,425	5,682	4,895	2,775

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.9	1.4	0.7	0.9
Asian	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	14.2	14.9	12.1	13.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.9	1.8	2.7	3.9
White (non-Hispanic)	74.5	73.7	75.4	75.4
Two or more races	1.8	2.1	2.5	2.6
Unknown	6.4	5.9	6.3	3.7
Number	6,425	5,682	4,895	2,775

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	17.0	18.2	16.0	15.4
Medical neglect	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.9
Neglect	27.4	26.5	25.7	21.4
Physical abuse	25.8	25.7	25.3	21.7
Sexual abuse	14.3	15.2	16.6	23.4
Unknown	0.8	0.8	1.2	2.3
Other	23.1	22.2	23.8	22.8
Number	6,425	5,682	4,895	2,775

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	23.2	18.4	18.3	69.4
Median	<24	<24	<24	>24, but <48

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	5,132	5,389	5,237	5,656	2,766	2,677	3,038	3,119	1,710	2,285	2,216	2,940	6,190	5,781	6,060	5,835
Median length of stay (months)	15.1	16.8	15.8	14.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.3	18.7	20.0	17.5	16.6	16.1	14.3	13.6

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.7	10.0	10.9	11.9	11.9	1.4	1.7	1.9	1.7	3.1	3.1	3.6	4.2
1 year	4.7	5.2	5.3	5.5	5.9	6.0	5.6	6.6	3.4	4.2	4.6	4.6	4.8	5.1	5.3	5.9
2 years	5.3	5.0	5.3	5.4	4.4	4.7	5.3	6.0	4.0	6.0	5.7	5.3	4.9	5.2	5.2	5.9
3 years	4.9	5.3	4.6	5.6	4.3	5.0	5.0	4.7	4.2	5.4	5.3	5.7	5.4	4.7	5.4	5.4
4 years	4.1	5.2	4.7	4.6	4.1	3.7	4.3	4.9	3.4	5.6	4.6	5.4	5.0	4.6	4.5	5.0
5 years	4.1	4.1	4.7	4.4	3.3	3.7	3.9	4.0	3.8	5.0	4.3	4.5	4.0	4.7	4.4	4.2
6 years	3.8	4.0	3.9	4.6	3.6	3.0	3.9	3.7	3.0	3.0	4.6	4.9	3.8	3.8	4.5	4.1
7 years	3.7	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.1	3.4	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.5	4.2	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9
8 years	4.3	3.7	4.1	3.8	3.5	4.0	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.9	3.6	4.1	3.8	3.8
9 years	4.9	4.8	4.0	3.7	3.6	2.9	3.4	3.0	2.7	3.2	3.9	3.9	4.3	3.8	3.7	3.1
10 years	4.6	5.1	4.7	3.9	4.1	3.5	2.8	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.5	4.9	4.5	3.7	3.8
11 years	4.2	4.9	5.1	4.3	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.2	3.1	4.1	4.2	3.4	4.7	5.0	4.3	3.6
12 years	4.7	4.9	5.4	5.3	5.4	4.7	4.8	4.4	3.5	4.3	3.7	4.0	4.8	5.1	5.1	4.4
13 years	6.7	5.3	5.7	5.9	6.1	6.8	6.2	6.1	4.7	3.7	4.2	4.1	5.2	5.7	5.8	5.9
14 years	7.0	7.4	6.7	7.2	9.0	9.0	8.4	7.8	6.3	5.8	5.1	5.2	7.4	6.8	7.2	7.0
15 years	9.3	8.1	8.6	7.8	11.0	10.2	9.5	9.6	7.2	6.9	5.4	6.1	8.3	8.6	8.0	8.7
16 years	9.7	9.8	9.2	9.9	9.5	9.2	8.8	8.3	10.4	8.1	8.5	8.1	10.2	9.2	10.0	9.2
17 years	8.0	7.8	8.8	8.5	5.0	4.9	5.3	5.5	14.2	11.1	8.9	7.4	8.6	9.3	8.6	9.3
18 years	2.0	1.4	1.4	1.6	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	12.3	9.9	13.0	12.6	2.4	2.1	2.4	2.0
19 years	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	1.1	1.3	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4
20+ years	<.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	<.1	<.1
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	<.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	<.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.8	0.6	1.0	1.1	0.7	1.6	0.9	1.0	1.1	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.7	1.0	1.1	1.2
Asian	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	21.6	20.5	21.4	20.1	14.4	16.3	14.3	14.5	14.1	13.6	15.3	14.9	20.4	21.3	20.0	19.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.9	4.7	4.2	5.7	5.6	4.2	4.5	4.6	6.0	5.4	4.9	5.7	5.7
White (non-Hispanic)	68.0	68.0	66.0	66.8	72.2	68.5	72.0	72.6	75.4	74.9	72.6	72.8	67.8	65.5	66.5	66.9
Two or more races	1.6	2.3	2.2	2.6	2.0	2.9	2.8	3.3	1.4	2.6	1.8	2.0	1.8	2.4	2.7	3.3
Unknown	2.5	3.2	3.9	3.1	5.6	5.9	3.9	2.4	3.3	3.3	4.4	2.9	3.6	4.5	3.7	2.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	2,049	1,958	1,924	1,811
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,361	1,403	1,370	1,188

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.7	1.5	1.9	2.1
1 year	5.1	5.4	5.1	5.2
2 years	6.4	5.6	5.7	7.0
3 years	6.9	5.3	5.8	6.1
4 years	6.3	6.1	5.1	6.0
5 years	6.0	5.8	6.0	5.5
6 years	5.2	5.0	5.5	5.6
7 years	4.9	5.5	5.7	5.3
8 years	4.5	5.4	5.6	5.1
9 years	5.7	5.1	4.9	5.0
10 years	6.5	7.0	5.3	5.4
11 years	6.5	7.6	7.1	5.2
12 years	5.8	7.2	7.9	6.8
13 years	5.6	6.2	6.8	7.9
14 years	7.8	5.6	7.5	7.0
15 years	5.8	7.2	5.9	7.2
16 years	6.0	4.3	5.4	4.1
17 years	3.4	4.3	2.7	3.3
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.7	0.5	1.1	1.2
Asian	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	28.9	29.9	27.8	28.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	5.3	4.6	5.6	5.1
White (non-Hispanic)	60.3	59.3	60.3	58.0
Two or more races	2.1	2.3	2.3	3.7
Unknown	2.4	2.9	2.7	3.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	475	546	653	649

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.6
1 year	6.9	7.0	6.9	7.9
2 years	10.1	11.9	9.8	9.4
3 years	13.5	11.7	9.5	9.4
4 years	7.2	12.1	8.9	9.1
5 years	7.2	9.9	9.2	8.2
6 years	6.9	5.5	8.7	7.2
7 years	7.2	5.1	6.7	8.0
8 years	4.6	4.8	6.1	6.5
9 years	6.1	3.8	6.6	5.1
10 years	6.3	4.0	5.1	4.6
11 years	4.6	5.1	6.9	5.4
12 years	6.3	5.5	5.4	5.2
13 years	3.4	2.9	3.7	3.9
14 years	2.5	5.1	2.5	3.7
15 years	1.5	2.2	2.1	2.8
16 years	2.7	1.6	1.4	1.8
17 years	2.1	1.1	0.3	0.6
18 years	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3
19 years	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.5	0.2	0.3	1.5
Asian	0.0	0.4	0.5	0.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	25.7	21.1	23.9	20.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	7.8	3.8	3.7	4.5
White (non-Hispanic)	62.7	68.3	68.8	71.6
Two or more races	1.1	2.0	0.8	0.5
Unknown	1.3	4.2	2.1	0.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	91.8	92.9	93.5	94.6
Children with one or more recurrences	8.2	7.1	6.5	5.4
Number	3,137	2,555	2,540	1,225

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care

(NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.57	0.53	0.13
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.43	99.47	99.87
Number	N/A	8,066	8,275	8,775

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	1.8	19.2	25.3	22.1
Guardianship	9.1	9.1	6.5	6.7
Reunification	72.9	56.8	52.7	57.3
Other	15.6	14.1	15.5	13.7
Missing data	0.6	0.9	<.1	0.2
Number	1,710	2,285	2,216	2,940

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	20.0	90.8	94.5	88.2
Guardianship	4.0	0.4	1.4	1.1
Reunification	44.0	5.4	1.7	6.1
Other	24.0	2.3	2.5	4.6
Missing data	8.0	1.2	0.0	0.0
Number	25	260	363	458

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.1	1.0	0.7	1.7
Guardianship	6.9	6.4	5.3	7.3
Reunification	64.8	59.6	61.7	61.1
Other	27.2	30.5	32.1	29.3
Missing data	1.0	2.4	0.1	0.6
Number	815	859	812	1,040

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	16.9	16.7	20.8	21.4
Children older than 12 at entry	83.1	83.3	79.2	78.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	195	233	259	299

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	5.3	11.1	35.7	0.0	0.0	22.2	27.8	1.2	24.8	39.2	31.1		
Guardianship	0.0	15.8	11.1	3.6	0.0	0.0	22.2	0.0	12.0	10.3	4.4	6.4		
Reunification	66.7	31.6	44.4	50.0	87.5	60.0	33.3	66.7	70.5	48.2	40.4	44.2		
Other	33.3	47.4	33.3	10.7	12.5	20.0	22.2	5.6	16.2	15.4	15.9	18.3		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0		
Number	18	19	18	28	8	5	9	18	241	311	339	437		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	16.5	13.9	17.7	2.1	18.5	23.9	21.6		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.2	5.8	3.0	5.7	9.3	9.1	7.3	6.9		
Reunification	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	76.4	60.2	64.4	61.1	73.0	57.9	53.4	58.3		
Other	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	18.1	15.5	18.8	14.9	14.8	13.7	15.4	13.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.6	0.8	0.8	<.1	0.2		
Number	0	0	2	0	72	103	101	175	1,290	1,711	1,609	2,139		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	19.7	19.4	2.4	0.0	20.0	15.0	5.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.0	7.9	3.1	6.0	16.7	6.7	2.5	10.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	75.4	59.2	69.4	82.1	75.0	66.7	67.5	76.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	24.6	13.2	8.2	9.5	8.3	6.7	15.0	8.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	57	76	98	84	24	60	40	59	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	42.3	43.9	44.9	46.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	33.7	36.2	35.8	36.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	15.5	12.1	10.7	11.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	4.7	4.9	5.0	2.7
48 or more mos.	3.4	2.6	3.1	2.3
Missing data	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.2
Number	1,247	1,297	1,168	1,686

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	87.9	88.2	86.7	87.3
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	3.8	3.4	3.6	3.9
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	4.4	5.5	6.5	6.2
Missing data	4.0	2.9	3.3	2.6
Number	2,766	2,677	3,038	3,119

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	22.6	0.9	3.8	3.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	29.0	14.4	18.8	26.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	6.5	32.9	28.4	31.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	22.6	30.4	25.2	18.6
48 or more mos.	19.4	21.5	23.9	20.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	31	438	560	649

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	69.0	69.4	70.1	73.6	42.0	47.5	45.7	47.9	21.9	22.1	21.3	21.9	63.6	69.6	82.1	63.6
Children with 3 or more placements	28.9	29.3	27.3	25.1	56.7	50.9	51.4	49.1	76.1	75.1	75.3	75.5	36.4	30.4	17.9	27.3
Number	3,079	3,010	3,330	3,602	2,099	2,047	2,112	2,401	2,709	2,986	2,805	2,750	11	23	28	22

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	1.6	1.4	0.7	0.3
Institutions	1.1	1.2	0.8	0.8
Other settings	97.0	97.3	98.0	98.8
Missing data	0.3	0.1	0.5	<.1
Number	1,483	1,457	1,679	1,772

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	115.9
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	57.1	61.0
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	10.6	9.3
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	20.6	28.9
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	6.7	7.0

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	86.4
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	22.5	29.2
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	35.6	30.9
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	21.6	23.7
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	9.2	7.4
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	25.8	28.1

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	124.3
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	27.3	29.8
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	88.9	91.1
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	39.1	37.1

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	77.1
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	71.1	73.8
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	47.3	49.3
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	22.3	23.0

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Kansas performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent “no change.”

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 5.4 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 6.6 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2002 (34.1 percent change).

In 2005, 0.13 percent of children in foster care in Kansas were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 0.42 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2003 (77.2 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 86.1 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) and 70.1 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. Both percentages are less than the national medians for these measures (medians for measures 3.1 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent and 73.1 percent, respectively). However, 95.4 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 79 percent for this measure.

In 2005, 29.8 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2004 (9.2 percent change).

In 2005, 91.1 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is less than the national median of 95.7 percent for this measure.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 10.2 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of “emancipation” and 21.4 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage is less than the national median of 27.6 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2002 (26.6 percent change).

In 2005, 37.1 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3), which is less than the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 61.0 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 70.4 percent.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 28.9 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent, but represents improvement in performance from 2004 (40.3 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 7.0 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is less than the national median of 14.8 percent. Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of a State's rate of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 29.1 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measure 5.1). This percentage is equal to the national median.

In 2005, 23.7 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent.

Measure C2.5 indicates that 28.1 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is less than the national median of 45.1 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (8.9 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 73.8 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 23.0 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent.

In 2005, 1.1 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is among the lowest in the nation and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (59.3 percent change).

Kentucky

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	931,588	994,182	980,187	980,160
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.1	2.3	2.5	2.6
White (non-Hispanic)	86.1	85.8	85.6	85.4
Two or more races	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0
Child population in poverty (%)	21.4	18.1	23.8	21.2

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	16,945	18,178	19,186	19,474
Children in foster care on 9/30	6,814	6,895	7,000	7,287
Children adopted	559	612	805	876

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	62,738	67.4 per 1,000	69,201	69.6 per 1,000	73,375	74.9 per 1,000	75,625	77.2 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	16,945	18.2 per 1,000	18,178	18.3 per 1,000	19,186	19.6 per 1,000	19,474	19.9 per 1,000
Child fatalities	23	2.5 per 100,000	6	0.6 per 100,000	38	3.9 per 100,000	29	3.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	9.2	9.7	10.2	11.0
1-5 years	34.5	34.4	34.8	35.3
6-10 years	28.3	27.7	27.6	26.8
11-15 years	22.6	22.9	22.3	22.0
16+ years	5.4	5.3	5.1	4.9
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Number	16,945	18,178	19,186	19,474

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	11.9	12.9	12.5	13.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.2	0.3	1.5	1.9
White (non-Hispanic)	74.7	73.4	74.5	73.1
Two or more races	1.7	2.3	2.4	2.7
Unknown	11.4	10.7	8.9	9.0
Number	16,945	18,178	19,186	19,474

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	1.5	1.1	0.8	0.6
Medical neglect	—	—	—	—
Neglect	75.9	79.2	82.8	85.0
Physical abuse	19.6	17.5	14.9	12.4
Sexual abuse	6.6	5.9	4.8	5.1
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Number	16,945	18,178	19,186	19,474

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	52.5	56.5	41.8	44.9
Median	<24	<24	<24	<24

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	5,970	6,394	6,533	6,769	5,250	5,485	5,562	6,015	4,406	4,984	5,095	5,497	6,814	6,895	7,000	7,287
Median length of stay (months)	16.9	14.5	13.8	13.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.3	6.9	7.6	7.6	13.7	13.0	12.8	11.6

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	4.0	3.9	4.7	5.3	10.9	12.6	13.3	13.5	5.2	5.4	6.1	6.2	3.9	4.7	5.2	5.5
1 year	4.3	5.2	5.2	5.7	6.4	6.0	6.4	6.3	5.5	6.3	6.2	7.1	5.2	5.3	5.7	6.0
2 years	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	5.6	5.9	5.9	5.2	5.9	6.6	6.7	6.3	4.8	4.7	4.7	5.0
3 years	4.6	4.6	4.2	4.7	4.9	5.0	5.5	5.1	5.7	6.0	5.7	6.0	4.4	4.1	4.7	4.1
4 years	4.0	4.5	4.0	4.1	4.7	4.7	5.0	4.7	5.0	5.3	5.5	5.1	4.5	4.0	4.1	3.9
5 years	3.8	4.1	4.0	3.9	4.8	4.2	4.7	4.4	4.7	4.9	4.3	4.9	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.8
6 years	3.6	3.6	4.0	4.0	3.3	4.0	4.3	4.0	4.1	4.4	4.6	4.6	3.5	4.0	4.0	3.6
7 years	4.1	3.5	3.6	3.3	4.5	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.6	3.8	4.8	4.4	3.4	3.7	3.2	3.5
8 years	4.4	4.1	3.6	3.3	3.5	3.7	3.4	3.7	4.0	4.1	4.0	3.7	3.9	3.6	3.3	3.4
9 years	4.2	4.1	3.8	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.1	3.5	3.9	3.5	3.6	3.6	4.0	3.8	3.4	3.2
10 years	4.5	4.2	4.1	3.3	3.8	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.4	4.1	4.1	3.3	3.4
11 years	5.1	4.6	3.9	4.1	3.8	3.8	4.2	3.6	4.0	3.5	3.7	3.3	4.4	3.9	4.0	3.5
12 years	5.0	5.2	4.8	4.5	5.1	4.1	4.2	4.6	4.4	4.0	3.6	3.8	5.0	4.9	4.6	4.5
13 years	6.0	5.6	6.0	5.5	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.6	4.2	3.9	4.0	4.0	5.7	5.9	5.5	5.4
14 years	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.2	7.6	7.2	7.0	7.1	5.2	4.8	5.2	4.5	7.1	7.0	7.3	7.2
15 years	7.9	8.2	8.7	8.6	8.0	8.3	7.3	7.8	6.3	6.0	5.4	5.6	8.4	8.6	8.5	8.9
16 years	9.1	8.9	10.0	9.7	8.2	7.7	7.5	7.8	6.7	6.5	6.1	6.1	9.3	9.7	9.6	9.8
17 years	8.3	8.9	9.1	10.1	5.7	5.7	5.1	5.3	8.8	10.8	7.5	6.7	9.3	9.2	10.4	10.5
18 years	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.6	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	5.6	4.0	7.3	8.8	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.9
19 years	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.2	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.2
20+ years	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.8	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	1.1	1.2	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.7
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.4	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	<.1	0.2	0.1	<.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	<.1
Asian	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	<.1	0.1	0.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	19.7	18.1	17.7	18.4	14.3	13.9	14.5	15.9	15.5	14.3	13.5	14.7	18.2	17.5	18.3	19.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7
White (non-Hispanic)	73.0	74.2	74.9	74.6	74.0	75.7	76.8	74.4	74.8	75.4	78.1	76.8	72.6	74.6	74.1	72.7
Two or more races	3.6	3.4	4.4	4.1	2.1	3.5	2.7	4.2	2.4	2.9	3.5	3.8	3.2	3.8	3.7	4.4
Unknown	2.7	3.2	1.9	1.9	8.7	5.9	5.0	4.7	6.4	6.3	3.7	3.8	4.9	3.1	3.1	2.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	1,926	2,032	1,969	2,126
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	33	14	13	1,213

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.7	2.2	2.0	2.0
1 year	4.0	4.3	5.9	5.4
2 years	4.8	5.8	5.5	5.5
3 years	5.8	5.1	5.5	4.9
4 years	5.6	5.0	5.1	4.8
5 years	4.7	5.5	4.9	4.8
6 years	4.5	5.3	5.1	4.4
7 years	5.0	4.7	4.9	5.0
8 years	5.7	4.9	3.8	4.3
9 years	6.7	6.1	5.0	4.1
10 years	7.0	6.0	4.9	5.2
11 years	7.8	6.7	6.1	4.8
12 years	7.8	7.1	6.0	6.5
13 years	6.9	7.7	7.7	7.2
14 years	7.4	7.9	8.7	9.5
15 years	8.0	7.6	8.7	9.2
16 years	4.4	5.8	6.4	7.8
17 years	2.1	2.3	3.7	4.6
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.1	0.2	<.1
Asian	<.1	<.1	0.2	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	18.9	17.5	18.3	20.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.8	1.1	0.8	1.0
White (non-Hispanic)	73.3	74.3	72.8	70.8
Two or more races	4.4	5.0	5.7	5.0
Unknown	2.4	1.9	2.0	2.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	559	612	805	876

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.9	2.8	1.4	0.9
1 year	5.7	6.2	5.7	8.3
2 years	8.6	7.0	9.2	11.1
3 years	8.6	8.3	9.1	8.7
4 years	6.3	8.2	7.6	8.0
5 years	7.7	8.8	7.0	7.0
6 years	8.1	5.1	6.2	8.0
7 years	7.3	5.7	8.4	6.1
8 years	7.0	5.6	6.0	5.0
9 years	7.2	6.0	6.0	4.7
10 years	5.4	5.4	6.6	5.0
11 years	5.9	6.0	5.8	5.0
12 years	4.8	6.9	4.5	5.8
13 years	6.3	5.1	4.8	2.5
14 years	4.7	4.2	3.6	2.7
15 years	2.7	3.4	3.7	4.6
16 years	1.4	2.6	2.9	3.8
17 years	1.6	2.3	1.5	2.5
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	29.5	26.1	17.8	13.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	3.2	2.8	4.2	3.3
White (non-Hispanic)	65.3	70.6	71.9	74.7
Two or more races	0.0	0.2	5.6	6.8
Unknown	0.5	0.2	0.5	1.6
Missing data	1.4	0.2	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Kentucky

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	91.7	91.6	92.2	93.0
Children with one or more recurrences	8.3	8.4	7.8	7.0
Number	6,628	6,738	7,343	7,438

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.57	0.37	0.52
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.43	99.63	99.48
Number	N/A	11,879	12,095	12,784

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	12.6	12.6	14.3	16.0
Guardianship	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7
Reunification	69.3	68.5	68.4	72.3
Other	9.2	9.5	10.0	11.0
Missing data	8.4	8.7	6.7	0.0
Number	4,406	4,984	5,095	5,497

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	13.1	30.9	27.3	29.5
Guardianship	6.0	6.5	2.3	2.1
Reunification	59.5	38.1	43.8	36.3
Other	14.3	19.4	23.4	32.2
Missing data	7.1	5.0	3.1	0.0
Number	84	139	128	146

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.5	1.2	1.7	2.4
Guardianship	0.8	1.3	0.9	0.9
Reunification	69.4	67.9	68.2	69.0
Other	22.4	23.5	25.4	27.6
Missing data	7.0	6.1	3.7	0.0
Number	1,454	1,597	1,601	1,727

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	18.7	18.9	20.1	19.1
Children older than 12 at entry	81.3	81.1	79.9	80.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	353	413	472	544

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	19.9	18.1	16.8	14.4		
Guardianship	0.0	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.9		
Reunification	0.0	87.5	66.7	50.0	100.0	66.7	88.9	66.7	57.5	55.9	59.6	68.7		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	16.7	12.6	12.2	15.7	16.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	9.1	13.0	7.1	0.0		
Number	0	8	9	10	2	6	9	6	684	714	686	806		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	37.1	17.9	35.0	25.0	11.1	12.0	13.8	16.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6		
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	60.0	51.3	55.0	66.7	71.0	70.1	69.5	72.9		
Other	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	2.9	7.7	10.0	8.3	9.0	9.6	9.4	10.5		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.1	0.0	0.0	8.5	7.7	6.6	0.0		
Number	0	0	2	2	35	39	40	36	3,294	3,757	3,981	4,222		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	4.6	2.5	4.8	8.2	28.0	22.9	22.2	29.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.7	0.9	2.7	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.6	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	82.7	83.2	85.1	86.5	60.7	61.1	61.1	63.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	3.9	4.1	3.7	4.8	7.5	8.3	6.1	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	8.1	9.2	3.7	0.0	3.7	7.6	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	284	316	188	208	107	144	180	207	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	79.9	79.6	78.6	79.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.2	13.7	15.4	15.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.4	3.7	3.5	3.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.9	1.6	1.0	1.1
48 or more mos.	1.1	1.3	1.2	0.7
Missing data	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.2
Number	3,054	3,415	3,483	3,977

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	80.8	81.4	79.7	80.9
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	10.9	10.6	11.6	9.3
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	7.8	7.7	8.4	9.5
Missing data	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3
Number	5,250	5,485	5,562	6,015

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	3.9	5.0	4.1	3.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.0	16.0	18.3	25.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	23.3	22.2	28.2	35.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	26.8	19.5	22.0	17.6
48 or more mos.	35.0	37.4	25.7	17.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0
Number	557	626	728	880

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	79.0	83.5	87.5	87.1	53.8	59.0	58.4	57.7	33.2	33.1	31.5	29.4	89.2	90.5	97.6	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	21.0	16.5	12.5	12.9	46.2	41.0	41.6	42.3	66.8	66.9	68.5	70.6	10.8	9.5	2.4	0.0
Number	5,924	6,421	6,444	7,062	1,917	2,199	2,385	2,522	3,342	3,238	3,224	3,179	37	21	42	21

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1
Institutions	10.6	10.6	11.1	11.8
Other settings	89.3	89.3	88.9	88.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	3,308	3,500	3,666	3,892

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	124.5
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	75.7	76.9
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	5.5	5.3
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	51.6	54.3
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	15.9	15.9

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	123.5
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	22.8	29.0
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	35.4	31.3
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	23.1	27.5
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	0.1	23.7
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	100.0	44.3

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	130.0
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	28.0	30.5
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	100.0	94.3
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	34.6	33.5

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	92.2
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	86.1	85.9
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	58.7	57.7
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	30.9	29.1

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Kentucky

STATE COMMENT

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Kentucky's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 7.0 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is greater than the national median of 6.6 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (15.7 percent change).

In 2005, 0.52 percent of children in foster care in Kentucky were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 0.42 percent for this measure. In addition, although it represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2003, there is a substantial decline in performance on the measure from 2004 (40.5 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 89.0 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home. This percentage exceeds the national median of 87.8 percent. However, 67.9 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2005 who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) and 72 percent of the children exiting foster care in 2005 who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. Both percentages are lower than the national medians for these measures (medians for measures 3.1 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent and 73.1 percent, respectively). The State's performance with regard to children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability represents a considerable decline from 2002 (125.2 percent change). The median for measure 3.2 (children with a diagnosed disability exiting to permanent homes) is 79 percent.

In 2005, 30.5 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the end of the fiscal year or prior to their 18th birthday. This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent and represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2004 (8.9 percent change).

In 2005, 94.3 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is less than the national median of 95.7 percent for this measure.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 19.1 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of "emancipation" were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This percentage is less than the national median of 27.6 percent.

In 2005, 33.5 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 76.9 percent of reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 70.4 percent for this measure.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 54.3 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2004 (5.2 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 15.9 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage exceeds the national median of 14.8 percent. Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry (i.e., it follows children for up to 24 months), it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of a State's rate of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 29.0 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 29.1 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2004 (94.6 percent change).

In 2005, 27.5 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (19.0 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 44.3 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is less than the national median of 45.1 percent. The percentage shown for this measure in 2004 suggests a data quality issue that was resolved for 2005.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 85.9 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 29.4 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (11.4 percent change).

In 2005, 11.8 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 7.2 percent and represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2002 (11.3 percent change).

Louisiana

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	1,185,674	1,177,555	1,164,961	1,147,651
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Asian	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	40.1	40.1	40.2	40.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.9
White (non-Hispanic)	54.2	54.1	53.9	53.7
Two or more races	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2
Child population in poverty (%)	26.4	25.5	20.6	24.7

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	10,971	11,432	10,862	12,366
Children in foster care on 9/30	4,829	4,541	4,397	4,833
Children adopted	487	497	455	469

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	37,825	31.9 per 1,000	41,726	35.4 per 1,000	39,337	33.8 per 1,000	44,630	38.9 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	10,971	9.3 per 1,000	11,432	9.7 per 1,000	10,862	9.3 per 1,000	12,366	10.8 per 1,000
Child fatalities	37	3.1 per 100,000	43	3.7 per 100,000	18	1.6 per 100,000	21	1.8 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	8.9	8.5	8.4	9.3
1-5 years	31.5	32.8	33.6	32.4
6-10 years	29.4	28.8	28.4	27.2
11-15 years	25.1	25.0	24.8	23.8
16+ years	5.1	5.0	4.8	5.4
Unknown	—	—	—	1.9
Number	10,971	11,432	10,862	12,366

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	47.8	48.6	46.6	44.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.1	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.9	1.0	1.4	1.1
White (non-Hispanic)	49.0	47.9	49.6	52.5
Two or more races	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
Unknown	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.2
Number	10,971	11,432	10,862	12,366

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.4
Medical neglect	—	—	—	—
Neglect	75.8	76.9	75.0	76.2
Physical abuse	22.1	22.0	29.6	27.7
Sexual abuse	7.5	7.4	7.1	7.2
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.2
Number	10,971	11,432	10,862	12,366

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	153.2	166.5	157.4	162.7
Median	>48, but <72	>48, but <72	>48, but <72	>48, but <72

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	4,851	4,598	4,314	4,224	2,974	2,809	2,754	3,371	2,996	2,866	2,671	2,762	4,829	4,541	4,397	4,833
Median length of stay (months)	15.9	16.2	15.5	15.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.5	11.9	11.8	11.4	15.4	14.5	14.8	11.9

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.8	3.9	4.5	4.0	11.3	12.2	11.7	14.0	3.2	3.1	2.9	4.6	3.8	4.4	4.0	5.5
1 year	5.0	4.7	5.8	6.7	6.1	7.1	6.6	7.2	4.3	5.3	6.1	6.3	4.6	5.6	6.7	6.3
2 years	4.9	5.3	5.5	5.4	5.0	6.1	6.1	6.1	5.7	6.0	6.5	7.1	5.2	5.4	5.4	6.6
3 years	4.3	5.0	5.6	5.3	4.7	6.0	5.8	5.7	4.5	5.7	7.0	5.6	5.0	5.5	5.2	5.3
4 years	4.1	4.1	4.7	4.8	4.2	4.9	5.3	4.0	4.2	5.0	6.1	5.8	4.0	4.6	4.7	4.8
5 years	3.2	4.3	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.6	4.6	5.3	3.5	5.0	5.9	4.9	4.3	4.3	4.0	4.1
6 years	4.3	3.4	4.4	3.8	3.8	4.6	3.8	4.7	3.6	4.0	4.9	4.8	3.5	4.3	3.8	4.1
7 years	4.2	4.2	3.6	3.7	3.0	4.2	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.8	4.5	3.5	4.2	3.7	3.7	3.9
8 years	4.7	4.0	4.2	3.6	3.7	3.4	4.5	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.3	4.0	3.9	4.1	3.5	4.1
9 years	4.5	4.7	3.6	4.4	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.1	3.9	3.8	3.2	3.4	4.6	3.6	4.3	3.5
10 years	5.3	4.3	5.0	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.2	4.2	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.7	4.5	4.9	3.7	4.1
11 years	5.2	5.9	4.8	5.0	4.3	4.1	4.6	3.8	3.3	3.9	4.2	4.0	5.7	4.7	4.9	4.1
12 years	5.8	5.6	6.4	4.8	4.5	4.6	4.8	5.1	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.7	5.6	6.4	4.7	4.9
13 years	7.2	6.4	5.9	7.1	7.0	6.8	6.3	5.9	5.3	4.7	4.5	3.9	6.5	6.1	7.2	6.0
14 years	8.3	8.3	7.5	7.5	9.6	7.2	7.4	7.4	7.4	5.9	4.7	5.4	8.4	7.8	7.5	8.0
15 years	9.8	9.4	8.3	9.6	11.2	8.3	9.6	6.9	10.1	8.6	5.9	6.8	9.8	8.6	9.8	8.5
16 years	9.2	8.9	8.7	9.5	8.5	6.7	6.9	7.1	10.0	8.4	6.5	7.9	9.1	9.0	9.7	8.8
17 years	7.1	7.5	7.2	7.1	2.1	2.0	1.7	1.7	12.0	15.5	10.2	5.2	7.4	7.1	7.1	7.7
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	5.5	9.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3
Asian	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	60.4	57.4	56.3	55.9	54.4	55.6	53.8	48.4	58.9	56.8	53.5	54.3	57.6	56.7	56.4	51.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.3	0.8	1.2	1.2	1.3	0.8	1.4	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.2
White (non-Hispanic)	36.8	39.6	40.5	41.3	42.3	41.3	43.2	48.3	37.7	40.2	42.7	42.6	39.7	40.3	40.9	45.5
Two or more races	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.4	1.0	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.8	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.6
Unknown	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	1,471	1,315	1,179	1,162
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	935	830	790	809

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.3
1 year	4.0	5.6	6.2	4.4
2 years	5.9	5.4	6.4	7.8
3 years	6.3	6.8	5.3	6.1
4 years	5.1	5.5	6.1	6.7
5 years	5.4	5.4	4.5	4.5
6 years	4.2	5.2	4.6	4.0
7 years	6.5	4.0	4.4	4.4
8 years	5.8	5.9	3.2	5.4
9 years	6.6	4.5	6.4	4.5
10 years	7.1	7.1	4.7	6.3
11 years	8.0	6.6	6.5	4.8
12 years	6.6	8.1	6.6	6.3
13 years	7.1	5.9	8.7	7.1
14 years	6.7	7.7	5.9	9.1
15 years	6.5	6.5	8.3	5.4
16 years	3.7	5.8	6.2	7.1
17 years	3.1	3.0	4.8	4.7
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.2
Asian	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	59.7	59.6	58.2	57.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.9
White (non-Hispanic)	36.8	37.5	38.5	39.9
Two or more races	1.5	0.8	1.2	1.1
Unknown	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	487	497	455	469

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.6
1 year	5.7	6.0	7.5	7.2
2 years	11.5	11.5	11.6	16.4
3 years	9.2	11.3	9.5	10.0
4 years	7.8	8.0	10.8	11.5
5 years	6.8	8.7	10.3	9.2
6 years	8.2	6.2	9.0	6.2
7 years	8.8	7.0	5.7	6.6
8 years	7.8	9.3	6.8	5.3
9 years	7.4	7.6	3.7	5.1
10 years	4.7	5.2	6.2	5.5
11 years	3.9	6.6	5.5	5.1
12 years	3.7	3.6	2.2	3.0
13 years	3.7	4.4	3.3	3.6
14 years	3.7	1.4	2.6	0.9
15 years	2.7	1.8	2.2	1.5
16 years	2.9	0.4	1.5	1.5
17 years	0.4	0.2	0.7	0.6
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.4
Asian	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	50.1	54.1	54.1	51.6
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.2	1.6	0.9	0.6
White (non-Hispanic)	45.8	41.9	42.9	44.8
Two or more races	2.5	2.2	0.4	1.7
Unknown	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Louisiana

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	92.5	91.3	93.5	93.4
Children with one or more recurrences	7.5	8.7	6.5	6.6
Number	4,938	4,908	4,799	5,294

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care

(NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	—	0.27	0.59
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	—	99.73	99.41
Number	N/A	—	7,068	7,595

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	16.2	17.2	17.0	16.4
Guardianship	2.1	1.8	1.1	1.4
Reunification	55.2	67.5	69.4	70.3
Other	26.5	13.6	12.5	11.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,996	2,866	2,671	2,762

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	19.9	17.7	23.1	24.6
Guardianship	1.4	1.3	0.9	2.0
Reunification	33.5	56.3	46.3	51.5
Other	45.3	24.7	29.7	21.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	654	531	451	447

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.7	0.2	1.6	0.9
Guardianship	1.4	1.4	1.1	2.0
Reunification	44.4	74.1	71.3	74.6
Other	53.5	24.3	26.0	22.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,095	931	705	807

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	49.1	49.1	47.2	46.4
Children older than 12 at entry	50.9	50.9	52.8	53.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	291	279	265	263

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	16.7	0.0	27.3	22.2	6.7	0.0	16.7	0.0	13.7	16.4	17.2	15.3		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	9.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	1.5	0.8	1.1		
Reunification	50.0	25.0	63.6	55.6	86.7	81.0	72.2	100.0	55.4	67.4	68.7	69.7		
Other	33.3	75.0	0.0	22.2	6.7	19.0	11.1	0.0	29.0	14.6	13.2	13.8		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	6	4	11	9	15	21	18	4	1,766	1,627	1,429	1,500		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	34.8	10.5	17.6	19.8	17.8	17.0	17.4		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7	1.9	1.3	1.9		
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	65.0	60.9	84.2	70.6	53.8	68.1	69.7	71.3		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.5	4.3	5.3	11.8	23.8	12.2	11.9	9.4		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	0	0	0	0	40	23	38	17	1,129	1,151	1,140	1,177		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	7.7	14.3	20.0	54.5	40.7	9.5	26.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.0	30.8	7.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	94.4	46.2	78.6	72.0	36.4	55.6	71.4	60.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	5.6	15.4	0.0	8.0	9.1	3.7	19.0	13.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	18	13	14	25	22	27	21	30	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	68.3	68.6	68.6	71.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	23.1	22.4	23.1	21.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.0	5.4	3.7	4.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.0	1.3	2.2	1.2
48 or more mos.	2.4	1.8	2.1	2.1
Missing data	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.2
Number	1,653	1,934	1,855	1,942

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	83.8	84.1	82.5	85.1
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	6.8	7.1	8.6	6.6
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	9.4	8.8	8.9	8.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,974	2,809	2,754	3,371

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	2.5	1.6	2.4	2.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	15.7	17.3	19.6	22.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	30.9	33.1	31.9	41.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	23.7	19.5	23.1	20.8
48 or more mos.	27.2	28.5	22.9	13.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	485	492	454	453

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	81.7	80.9	82.0	82.1	56.2	56.8	58.5	54.3	35.0	31.3	27.2	28.2	75.0	78.9	83.3	93.3
Children with 3 or more placements	16.2	18.0	16.8	15.9	43.4	43.2	41.5	45.7	65.0	68.7	72.8	71.8	0.0	0.0	4.2	0.0
Number	3,682	3,443	3,261	3,898	1,549	1,516	1,536	1,473	2,586	2,429	2,247	2,209	8	19	24	15

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	2.2	1.0	1.3	1.0
Institutions	5.1	3.2	4.3	2.5
Other settings	92.7	95.8	94.3	96.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,759	1,894	1,817	2,299

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	118.5
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	67.4	68.2
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	9.0	8.3
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	44.1	47.3
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	9.4	11.5

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	105.3
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	22.0	24.5
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	34.5	31.0
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	19.5	18.6
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	9.2	9.1
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	49.9	50.0

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	75.4
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	23.6	21.9
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	89.8	87.5
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	63.7	64.2

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	88.0
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	81.4	82.4
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	58.4	54.3
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	27.2	28.2

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Louisiana

STATE COMMENT

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Louisiana's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 6.6 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is equal to the national median and represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2002 (12.0 percent change).

In 2005, 0.59 percent of children in foster care in Louisiana were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 0.42 percent for this measure. In addition, although it represents an improvement in performance from 2003 (66.9 percent change), there was a decline in performance from 2004 to 2005 (118.5 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 88.1 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 78.1 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 77.5 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care were discharged to a permanent home. All percentages are about equal to or exceed the national medians for those measures (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively). In addition, all percentages represent improvements in performance on these measures from 2002 to 2005.

In 2005, 21.9 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 26.4 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (7.2 percent change).

In 2005, 82.4 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is one of the lowest in the nation.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 46.4 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of "emancipation" were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (5.5 percent change).

In 2005, 64.2 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 68.2 percent of reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 70.4 percent.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 47.3 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (7.3 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 11.5 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. Although this percentage is less than the national median of 14.8 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2004 (22.3 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry (i.e., it follows children for up to 24 months), it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 24.5 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 29.1 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (34.6 percent change).

In 2005, 18.6 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 20.9 percent.

Measure C2.5 indicates that 50.0 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 82.4 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is equal to the national median.

In 2005, 28.2 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (19.4 percent change).

In 2005, 3.5 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is among the lowest in the nation and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (52.1 percent change).

Maine

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	279,058	286,746	282,129	277,336
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Asian	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4
White (non-Hispanic)	94.6	94.4	94.2	94.1
Two or more races	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8
Child population in poverty (%)	19.1	15.6	14.0	15.8

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	3,746	4,719	4,235	3,349
Children in foster care on 9/30	3,084	2,760	2,584	2,309
Children adopted	318	287	307	318

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	8,121	29.1 per 1,000	9,413	32.8 per 1,000	9,543	33.8 per 1,000	9,241	33.3 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	3,746	13.4 per 1,000	4,719	16.5 per 1,000	4,235	15.0 per 1,000	3,349	12.1 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	1.1 per 100,000	3	1.1 per 100,000	2	0.7 per 100,000	1	0.4 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	11.6	11.8	12.0	12.6
1-5 years	34.4	33.5	33.9	32.6
6-10 years	29.2	29.5	27.5	28.1
11-15 years	21.5	21.8	23.1	22.7
16+ years	3.4	3.5	3.5	4.1
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Number	3,746	4,719	4,235	3,349

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.9	0.9	0.6	1.1
Asian	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.1	0.1	—
Hispanic (of any race)	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.7
White (non-Hispanic)	47.9	57.4	61.3	63.5
Two or more races	0.8	0.9	1.3	1.7
Unknown	48.2	38.7	34.6	30.5
Number	3,746	4,719	4,235	3,349

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	55.0	58.0	54.0	44.9
Medical neglect	—	—	—	—
Neglect	66.1	71.9	70.7	65.9
Physical abuse	28.3	27.2	26.9	22.4
Sexual abuse	16.9	14.3	12.3	12.7
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Number	3,746	4,719	4,235	3,349

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	402.0	380.7	358.8	253.2
Median	>264, but <288	>264, but <288	>240, but <264	>168, but <192

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	2,974	2,789	2,743	2,573	850	904	808	727	740	933	967	991	3,084	2,760	2,584	2,309
Median length of stay (months)	23.6	24.4	26.0	27.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	26.6	25.7	26.5	30.1	26.1	25.8	26.7	26.5

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.3	19.5	16.8	18.2	20.1	3.1	2.6	3.2	2.3	3.9	3.8	3.4	4.2
1 year	4.7	5.2	5.5	5.2	6.2	7.4	7.4	6.6	5.7	4.9	5.6	4.6	4.7	5.5	5.1	5.3
2 years	4.2	5.1	5.0	5.8	4.9	6.4	5.1	7.0	7.7	8.0	6.7	7.6	4.7	5.0	5.8	5.3
3 years	4.3	3.9	5.0	4.5	4.1	6.4	5.0	5.9	5.1	4.9	5.1	7.1	3.4	5.0	4.6	4.6
4 years	3.8	4.6	4.2	4.4	4.4	6.0	4.5	5.9	4.5	6.8	7.1	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.4	4.6
5 years	3.1	3.7	4.1	3.8	4.4	4.0	4.5	4.8	4.1	3.6	4.3	6.6	3.6	4.1	3.7	3.9
6 years	3.7	3.8	3.8	4.2	5.6	3.5	4.3	5.1	4.5	5.1	3.8	3.9	3.6	3.8	4.2	3.8
7 years	3.5	4.1	3.4	3.9	5.1	6.4	4.2	4.4	3.6	4.6	3.7	4.9	3.8	3.4	3.9	4.2
8 years	4.4	4.2	4.3	3.4	5.1	3.8	4.2	3.0	4.1	4.9	3.5	3.3	3.9	4.3	3.5	3.8
9 years	4.8	4.6	4.2	4.4	3.8	4.4	4.1	2.6	5.5	3.8	4.0	3.9	4.4	4.2	4.4	3.3
10 years	5.3	4.9	4.7	4.4	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.9	3.4	4.5	4.6	4.3	4.2
11 years	5.3	5.9	5.1	4.4	4.7	4.4	3.6	3.2	3.9	4.4	3.8	2.9	5.4	5.0	4.3	4.8
12 years	6.1	6.0	6.1	5.4	4.7	5.9	3.8	4.3	3.9	3.3	4.3	3.5	5.5	6.2	5.4	4.5
13 years	6.9	7.3	6.9	6.6	6.6	4.4	6.4	5.8	3.0	2.7	3.5	2.7	6.7	6.9	6.6	5.9
14 years	6.8	7.9	7.8	8.1	5.5	5.0	7.1	5.5	2.7	3.4	3.6	3.4	7.3	7.8	8.0	7.9
15 years	8.1	8.3	8.9	9.3	5.9	6.1	6.9	6.6	2.8	3.5	4.2	3.8	7.6	8.9	9.2	9.3
16 years	8.2	8.8	9.0	9.9	4.1	3.3	6.4	4.8	5.0	3.8	4.3	5.5	8.3	8.9	9.9	10.3
17 years	6.4	7.9	7.9	8.8	1.1	2.0	0.9	1.2	8.8	25.8	13.1	5.1	7.5	8.0	8.8	9.8
18 years	3.3	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	10.3	0.2	11.6	19.7	3.3	0.2	0.3	0.3
19 years	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.1	0.0	0.3	0.7	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.9	0.7	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.3
Asian	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.8	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.7	2.2	1.4	1.7	2.6	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.9	2.1	1.6	1.7	1.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.8	2.5	2.8	3.0	1.2	3.1	3.0	4.4	2.2	2.5	2.5	4.3	2.5	2.8	2.9	2.8
White (non-Hispanic)	76.0	81.8	83.1	82.9	63.6	80.0	77.6	73.2	74.2	76.2	79.3	80.9	73.1	83.1	82.8	80.7
Two or more races	1.6	1.9	1.4	1.4	2.2	0.9	1.1	2.2	0.9	2.6	1.0	1.5	1.9	1.3	1.4	1.6
Unknown	16.1	10.5	9.7	9.6	28.6	12.9	14.6	15.0	19.6	15.0	13.8	10.0	18.7	9.7	9.7	11.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	971	756	781	754
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	681	605	610	562

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.2	1.2	0.8	1.1
1 year	6.1	4.9	3.6	5.6
2 years	7.1	7.7	9.2	7.2
3 years	5.4	7.4	6.1	6.9
4 years	6.7	5.7	6.4	6.4
5 years	6.8	6.7	5.1	5.8
6 years	5.4	5.4	6.1	6.0
7 years	5.9	5.4	6.5	5.8
8 years	5.6	5.2	5.4	6.1
9 years	6.5	6.1	6.7	5.2
10 years	7.6	6.9	6.4	7.6
11 years	8.8	8.6	6.4	6.8
12 years	6.7	7.4	6.9	6.2
13 years	7.0	8.3	7.2	5.7
14 years	4.5	6.5	8.2	6.2
15 years	4.1	2.5	5.0	7.0
16 years	2.1	2.8	2.6	2.8
17 years	0.7	1.3	1.4	1.7
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.0	0.7	1.3	1.6
Asian	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.9	1.9	1.7	1.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	3.3	3.0	3.7	2.3
White (non-Hispanic)	75.4	82.5	84.3	82.9
Two or more races	1.6	1.7	1.8	2.4
Unknown	15.2	9.7	6.7	9.3
Missing data	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	318	287	307	318

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.3	1.0	0.3	0.6
1 year	8.2	6.6	7.5	5.7
2 years	13.2	11.5	11.1	12.6
3 years	8.5	7.3	11.1	12.6
4 years	8.8	9.8	11.1	6.0
5 years	6.6	5.6	7.8	8.8
6 years	7.2	9.1	7.5	5.3
7 years	4.7	5.9	5.2	8.2
8 years	6.0	8.7	5.9	5.7
9 years	8.8	5.9	5.5	5.7
10 years	5.7	5.6	5.2	4.4
11 years	5.3	7.3	4.6	3.8
12 years	5.0	4.2	7.5	5.7
13 years	4.4	4.2	2.9	3.8
14 years	3.8	1.7	2.9	4.1
15 years	2.2	2.8	2.0	3.8
16 years	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.9
17 years	0.6	1.4	0.7	2.5
18 years	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	3.1	1.4	0.7	2.5
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.3	1.4	0.3	1.6
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.9	2.4	3.3	4.1
White (non-Hispanic)	77.7	76.0	79.8	83.3
Two or more races	0.9	3.1	2.3	0.9
Unknown	15.1	15.7	13.7	6.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	94.0	91.6	91.8	91.6
Children with one or more recurrences	6.0	8.4	8.2	8.4
Number	1,778	1,996	2,016	1,615

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.16	0.28	0.30
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.84	99.72	99.70
Number	N/A	3,693	3,551	3,300

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	32.3	30.1	29.1	31.5
Guardianship	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3
Reunification	43.0	46.1	49.2	46.1
Other	5.9	23.5	21.5	21.4
Missing data	18.4	0.0	0.0	0.7
Number	740	933	967	991

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	50.0	32.7	27.7	41.1
Guardianship	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.6
Reunification	20.0	29.1	35.0	23.3
Other	6.7	37.6	36.5	33.9
Missing data	23.3	0.0	0.0	1.1
Number	30	165	137	180

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	1.2	1.3	1.3	2.2
Guardianship	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.9
Reunification	42.8	36.7	45.7	41.8
Other	13.3	61.6	52.6	53.8
Missing data	42.2	0.0	0.0	1.3
Number	173	237	230	225

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	39.4	31.1	39.3	42.0
Children older than 12 at entry	60.6	68.9	60.7	58.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	33	209	196	205

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	54.5	26.7	11.1	42.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	83.3	36.4	26.7	7.7	26.3		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	6.7	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	27.3	26.7	66.7	57.1	0.0	40.0	100.0	16.7	36.4	40.0	69.2	57.9		
Other	0.0	46.7	22.2	0.0	0.0	60.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.7	23.1	15.8		
Missing data	18.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.2	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	11	15	18	7	1	5	1	6	11	15	13	19		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	31.3	30.4	41.7	30.2	32.8	29.8	28.7	32.9		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.3	0.0	2.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0		
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	43.8	60.9	37.5	62.8	39.5	44.2	47.3	43.5		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.5	4.3	20.8	4.7	6.9	25.9	23.7	22.7		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.6	0.0	0.0	0.9		
Number	0	0	0	0	16	23	24	43	549	711	767	802		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	28.3	32.1	30.8	19.2	42.9	37.5	70.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.7	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	57.2	55.7	58.6	56.6	57.1	50.0	30.0	60.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0		
Other	2.8	12.1	10.5	22.2	0.0	12.5	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	11.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	145	140	133	99	7	24	10	15	0	0	1	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	39.0	50.2	40.8	41.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	37.7	27.9	34.2	30.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	11.3	12.3	13.2	12.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	6.0	5.3	5.0	7.2
48 or more mos.	6.0	3.7	6.1	8.5
Missing data	0.0	0.5	0.6	0.0
Number	318	430	476	457

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	88.5	89.5	86.4	87.6
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	7.4	3.4	6.9	6.1
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	3.1	7.1	6.7	6.3
Missing data	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	850	904	808	727

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	1.3	2.8	2.5	1.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	20.5	15.3	14.6	10.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	31.8	22.1	27.0	23.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	16.3	24.2	26.0	24.0
48 or more mos.	29.7	35.6	29.9	40.4
Missing data	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	239	281	281	312

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	76.1	81.8	79.4	82.1	44.8	52.9	56.9	56.1	16.0	23.3	22.8	22.1	83.3	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	22.3	15.9	18.7	16.6	55.0	46.9	43.0	43.8	83.9	76.6	77.2	77.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	911	982	889	814	877	765	745	676	2,030	1,942	1,912	1,808	6	4	5	2

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	4.7	1.9	2.6	0.6
Institutions	1.9	0.9	0.7	0.4
Other settings	91.7	79.6	90.3	98.9
Missing data	1.6	17.7	6.4	0.2
Number	618	701	575	545

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	83.0
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	46.3	42.8
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	13.1	14.5
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	29.6	25.3
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	6.3	9.3

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	89.0
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	17.1	12.2
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	38.9	42.8
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	14.7	18.4
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	6.7	7.2
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	21.6	21.0

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	50.1
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	19.8	25.5
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	92.8	92.6
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	69.2	74.1

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	86.2
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	80.2	82.4
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	57.0	56.2
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	22.9	22.2

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Maine's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 8.4 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 6.6 percent and represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2002 (40.0 percent change).

In 2005, 0.30 percent of children in foster care in Maine were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). Although this percentage is less than the national median of 0.42 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2003 (87.5 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 77.9 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 65.0 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 44.9 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All percentages are substantially lower than the national medians for those measures (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively). The percentage for measure 3.3 is among the lowest in the nation.

In 2005, 25.5 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). Although this percentage is less than the national median of 26.4 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (28.8 percent change).

In 2005, 92.6 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is less than the national median of 95.7 percent for this measure.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 20.7 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation." This is one of the highest percentages in the nation. In addition, 42.0 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2003 (35.0 percent change). (The data for 2002 are not reliable because only 33 children were reported as emancipated, compared to approximately 200 children in each of years 2003, 2004, and 2005.)

In 2005, 74.1 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent and represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2004 (7.1 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 42.8 percent of reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is among the lowest in the nation and represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2004 (7.6 percent change).

Measure C1.3 indicates that 25.3 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (14.5 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 9.3 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. Although this percentage is less than the national median of 14.8 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2004 (47.6 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry (i.e., it follows children for up to 24 months), it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 12.2 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is among the lowest in the nation and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (44.0 percent change).

In 2005, 18.4 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 20.9 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (25.2 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 21.0 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is among the lowest in the nation.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 82.4 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is equal to the national median.

In 2005, 22.1 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (38.1 percent change).

In 2005, 1.0 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is one of the lowest in the nation and represents improvement in performance from 2002 (84.8 percent change).

Maryland

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	1,379,925	1,378,092	1,394,808	1,402,961
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	32.4	32.5	32.6	32.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	5.9	6.4	6.8	7.3
White (non-Hispanic)	54.9	54.2	53.5	52.8
Two or more races	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.7
Child population in poverty (%)	7.4	10.6	11.0	13.3

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	15,843	16,688	15,180	14,603
Children in foster care on 9/30	12,026	11,521	11,111	10,867
Children adopted	949	742	915	620

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	37,177	26.9 per 1,000	31,919	23.2 per 1,000	30,538	21.9 per 1,000	29,289	20.9 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	15,843	11.5 per 1,000	16,688	12.1 per 1,000	15,180	10.9 per 1,000	14,603	10.4 per 1,000
Child fatalities	33	2.4 per 100,000	27	2.0 per 100,000	28	2.0 per 100,000	28	2.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	6.3	7.6	8.2	9.8
1-5 years	27.0	27.4	28.0	28.8
6-10 years	29.5	28.7	28.5	26.5
11-15 years	27.6	28.9	27.9	26.9
16+ years	7.8	7.4	7.4	8.0
Unknown	1.8	—	—	—
Number	15,843	16,688	15,180	14,603

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1
Asian	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	50.4	50.4	47.5	48.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.1	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	4.0	4.1	4.8	5.4
White (non-Hispanic)	39.4	38.7	40.0	39.2
Two or more races	—	—	—	—
Unknown	5.5	5.8	6.5	6.3
Number	15,843	16,688	15,180	14,603

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Medical neglect	—	—	—	—
Neglect	55.8	57.5	59.2	61.8
Physical abuse	32.4	32.0	30.4	26.7
Sexual abuse	14.1	12.5	12.4	13.4
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Number	15,843	16,688	15,180	14,603

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	—	—	—	—
Median	—	—	—	—

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	11,848	11,113	10,749	10,193	3,563	3,470	3,564	3,353	3,445	3,062	3,265	2,679	12,026	11,521	11,111	10,867
Median length of stay (months)	34.4	33.3	32.4	30.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22.0	20.2	21.4	17.7	34.0	32.3	31.1	30.4

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.0	3.7	3.6	3.7	18.4	18.4	18.3	20.5	5.3	4.9	5.4	7.1	3.6	3.6	3.7	4.0
1 year	3.8	3.8	4.4	4.5	5.7	5.8	5.0	6.6	4.9	6.7	5.1	5.4	3.7	4.3	4.4	4.6
2 years	4.3	3.8	3.8	4.3	4.8	5.0	5.1	4.4	6.1	5.6	6.0	6.8	3.8	3.7	4.4	4.3
3 years	4.2	3.7	3.5	3.5	4.2	4.9	4.7	4.0	5.8	5.5	5.5	5.4	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.8
4 years	3.6	4.0	3.7	3.4	5.3	4.1	4.6	4.1	4.9	5.0	5.1	4.7	4.1	3.6	3.4	3.3
5 years	3.4	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.8	4.0	4.1	3.7	4.6	4.0	5.0	4.4	3.4	3.8	3.3	3.2
6 years	3.6	3.2	3.4	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.5	4.0	4.6	3.9	4.2	4.8	3.3	3.4	3.8	3.4
7 years	4.0	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.9	3.7	4.2	3.5	4.6	3.5	3.9	3.6	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.6
8 years	4.7	4.2	3.5	3.5	4.3	4.4	3.4	3.0	4.4	4.1	3.9	4.0	4.1	3.4	3.3	3.2
9 years	5.5	4.6	4.2	3.5	4.5	4.4	3.9	3.0	4.4	4.2	3.7	3.3	4.6	4.1	3.5	3.3
10 years	5.5	5.7	4.8	4.3	4.8	4.0	4.6	3.9	4.7	5.1	3.7	3.7	5.5	4.6	4.2	3.5
11 years	6.0	5.7	5.7	5.2	5.7	4.6	4.5	3.7	5.1	4.2	4.3	3.8	5.6	5.5	5.0	4.2
12 years	6.0	6.3	6.0	5.9	5.5	5.4	5.0	4.8	4.4	4.9	4.1	4.3	6.1	5.8	5.7	5.3
13 years	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.6	5.3	5.8	6.3	5.8	3.8	4.5	4.5	3.9	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.1
14 years	6.9	7.5	7.3	7.4	6.3	6.6	6.3	6.6	4.5	4.8	5.2	5.1	7.2	7.1	7.2	7.0
15 years	6.6	7.4	8.0	8.0	6.2	6.3	6.4	7.2	5.2	5.2	4.7	4.7	7.2	7.9	7.7	8.0
16 years	7.3	7.1	7.5	8.8	4.5	5.0	5.9	6.9	5.1	5.6	5.8	7.3	6.7	7.4	8.3	8.2
17 years	6.1	7.3	6.7	7.4	2.8	3.5	4.1	4.0	4.4	5.6	5.6	6.1	7.0	6.7	7.0	8.2
18 years	4.9	4.8	5.4	5.2	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	6.0	7.6	6.2	7.2	4.8	5.6	5.3	5.6
19 years	2.9	3.7	3.4	4.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	2.7	3.1	2.7	3.1	3.6	3.4	4.1	3.9
20+ years	1.1	0.2	1.4	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	3.5	1.9	1.7	1.2	2.3	2.8	2.7	3.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.9	0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	78.1	76.7	75.7	74.9	62.6	63.2	62.7	63.7	68.3	66.6	65.2	66.3	76.3	75.3	74.5	73.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.8	2.4	3.4	3.3	2.0	2.5	3.2	2.7	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.8
White (non-Hispanic)	18.7	19.6	20.1	20.8	31.0	28.7	28.9	28.5	26.9	27.5	27.2	26.8	20.0	20.3	20.8	21.6
Two or more races	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.9	1.4	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.0
Unknown	0.6	0.8	1.2	1.3	2.0	3.3	2.5	2.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.2	0.9	1.4	1.5	1.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	2,933	2,500	2,202	1,954
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,524	1,336	1,200	1,093

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.8
1 year	4.5	4.1	4.5	4.4
2 years	5.8	5.1	6.9	7.4
3 years	5.6	6.4	4.8	5.9
4 years	7.0	5.4	5.2	4.7
5 years	5.3	5.8	5.1	4.7
6 years	5.3	5.1	5.7	5.6
7 years	5.9	5.1	5.2	5.2
8 years	5.8	5.6	4.8	5.2
9 years	6.9	6.0	4.8	4.9
10 years	8.1	6.0	5.9	4.4
11 years	6.8	7.9	6.4	6.1
12 years	7.6	6.9	7.8	6.4
13 years	6.5	7.7	6.7	7.8
14 years	6.4	6.8	7.8	6.9
15 years	5.4	6.8	7.4	8.1
16 years	3.7	4.8	5.8	6.1
17 years	2.5	3.9	4.4	5.5
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Asian	0.2	0.2	<.1	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	79.3	79.7	77.2	74.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2
White (non-Hispanic)	17.7	16.8	18.4	20.9
Two or more races	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.2
Unknown	0.9	1.1	1.9	2.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	949	742	915	620

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.5	0.9	0.5	1.8
1 year	4.2	6.5	6.1	4.8
2 years	9.1	9.7	10.5	13.5
3 years	11.9	10.2	9.5	11.3
4 years	8.3	10.0	10.3	7.9
5 years	9.0	7.4	9.7	8.9
6 years	8.4	5.7	6.6	7.3
7 years	8.6	5.7	5.9	7.9
8 years	7.0	5.8	5.8	6.1
9 years	7.1	5.8	5.0	5.5
10 years	5.9	7.4	6.2	4.0
11 years	6.0	3.6	4.7	3.1
12 years	4.7	5.0	5.6	4.5
13 years	2.5	4.0	2.1	2.4
14 years	3.3	4.2	4.7	4.4
15 years	1.8	3.2	1.7	2.3
16 years	0.9	1.6	3.1	3.4
17 years	0.5	2.0	1.5	1.0
18 years	0.2	1.2	0.4	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	72.8	69.1	71.0	62.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.1	0.7	1.1	1.0
White (non-Hispanic)	23.3	25.6	21.4	31.0
Two or more races	2.3	2.7	3.5	3.1
Unknown	0.3	1.2	2.8	2.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Maryland

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	92.0	93.1	93.0	92.8
Children with one or more recurrences	8.0	6.9	7.0	7.2
Number	7,400	7,862	7,000	6,651

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	<.1	0.10	0.12
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.97	99.90	99.88
Number	N/A	14,583	14,313	13,546

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	22.5	21.6	20.2	13.8
Guardianship	0.6	1.2	1.1	0.6
Reunification	58.5	52.7	57.9	47.1
Other	14.7	14.6	15.9	8.7
Missing data	3.8	9.9	4.8	29.7
Number	3,445	3,062	3,265	2,679

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	19.4	20.9	21.6	14.5
Guardianship	0.7	1.0	1.2	1.1
Reunification	49.5	48.0	47.4	42.8
Other	26.5	21.4	24.4	11.8
Missing data	3.9	8.7	5.4	29.9
Number	717	631	755	663

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	1.5	2.0	1.9	1.0
Guardianship	1.3	1.4	1.7	0.4
Reunification	52.5	49.6	51.5	48.5
Other	37.3	34.2	36.5	18.3
Missing data	7.5	12.7	8.4	31.7
Number	751	695	776	703

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	43.5	44.7	42.7	39.3
Children older than 12 at entry	56.5	55.3	57.3	60.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	384	295	361	140

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.3	44.4	33.3	0.0	24.9	23.0	23.3	14.6		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	1.3	1.0	0.7		
Reunification	50.0	60.0	66.7	33.3	42.9	33.3	33.3	53.8	57.3	49.1	55.5	46.3		
Other	50.0	0.0	16.7	33.3	28.6	11.1	11.1	7.7	13.7	14.8	16.1	8.8		
Missing data	0.0	40.0	0.0	33.3	14.3	11.1	22.2	38.5	3.4	11.9	4.1	29.6		
Number	4	5	6	3	7	9	9	13	2,353	2,039	2,129	1,776		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.4	8.5	5.6	17.1	19.7	14.9	13.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.5	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.8	1.5	0.6		
Reunification	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	67.1	61.0	58.5	48.6	61.0	59.9	62.3	49.3		
Other	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	17.1	14.3	15.1	13.9	17.0	14.5	16.1	8.9		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.7	7.8	17.9	31.9	4.4	5.0	5.2	28.3		
Number	1	0	1	0	70	77	106	72	925	841	887	718		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	3.0	13.0	13.6	13.6	40.4	15.6	21.3	13.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	75.8	60.9	68.2	49.2	46.2	64.4	68.9	36.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	12.1	4.3	12.1	0.0	9.6	20.0	8.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	9.1	21.7	6.1	35.6	3.8	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	33	46	66	59	52	45	61	38	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	50.3	45.1	48.4	50.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	22.0	27.1	23.1	24.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	9.2	11.4	12.1	10.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	5.8	4.9	4.1	5.6
48 or more mos.	10.1	11.5	9.4	9.4
Missing data	2.5	0.0	3.0	0.0
Number	2,014	1,615	1,891	1,262

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	79.7	79.3	80.5	78.7
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	8.5	8.8	7.3	8.5
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	11.7	11.8	12.2	12.5
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.2
Number	3,563	3,470	3,564	3,353

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	3.6	3.5	4.1	3.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.2	12.7	10.6	15.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	18.6	20.9	22.4	21.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	16.3	17.1	16.6	17.8
48 or more mos.	50.1	45.8	46.1	41.6
Missing data	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0
Number	775	660	661	370

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	94.3	94.4	93.5	89.7	77.8	80.1	79.8	77.5	50.4	50.8	50.5	51.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	5.5	5.6	6.5	10.3	21.6	19.9	20.2	22.5	49.4	49.2	49.5	48.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	3,957	3,844	3,898	3,705	2,539	2,552	2,504	2,537	8,904	8,178	7,895	7,285	11	9	16	19

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	5.7	6.2	7.4	11.6
Institutions	1.2	0.6	1.3	2.8
Other settings	91.7	90.9	90.2	84.3
Missing data	1.4	2.3	1.1	1.3
Number	2,643	2,492	2,503	2,279

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	99.8
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	54.7	55.6
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	10.3	9.9
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	22.4	23.9
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	14.4	11.6

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	46.4
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	14.8	18.7
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	44.5	42.3
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	9.8	5.7
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	4.2	3.9
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	42.9	40.0

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	90.3
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	16.1	10.4
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	98.2	98.9
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	62.6	62.0

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	112.4
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	93.1	89.2
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	79.7	77.4
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	51.0	51.8

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Maryland

STATE COMMENT

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Maryland's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 7.2 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 6.6 percent and represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2002 (10.0 percent change).

In 2005, 0.12 percent of children in foster care in Maryland were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). Although this percentage is less than the national median of 0.42 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2003 (a 33.3 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

Data with regard to exits from foster care cannot be analyzed for Maryland because in 2005, 29.7 percent of the children reported to AFCARS as discharged from foster care did not have the discharge reason reported. This represents a decline in the quality of data compared to earlier years. In 2004, for example, only 4.8 percent of the children exiting foster care did not have a discharge reason.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 89.2 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 51.2 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 32.3 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (38.1 percent change).

In 2005, 14.4 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 7.2 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (108.7 percent change).

Massachusetts

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	1,463,340	1,487,118	1,464,189	1,458,036
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	11.1	11.4	11.6	11.8
White (non-Hispanic)	75.0	74.5	74.1	73.7
Two or more races	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.2
Child population in poverty (%)	13.0	12.0	10.1	11.6

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	34,995	36,500	36,201	35,887
Children in foster care on 9/30	12,510	12,608	12,562	12,244
Children adopted	808	733	812	832

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	64,343	44.0 per 1,000	83,258	56.0 per 1,000	81,219	55.5 per 1,000	79,909	54.8 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	34,995	23.9 per 1,000	36,500	24.5 per 1,000	36,201	24.7 per 1,000	35,887	24.6 per 1,000
Child fatalities	17	1.2 per 100,000	14	0.9 per 100,000	11	0.8 per 100,000	7	0.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	8.3	8.2	8.7	9.2
1-5 years	29.4	29.5	29.7	29.1
6-10 years	29.4	28.6	27.8	27.7
11-15 years	26.7	27.2	27.2	27.2
16+ years	5.8	6.2	6.3	6.5
Unknown	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2
Number	34,995	36,500	36,201	35,887

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Asian	1.7	1.5	1.8	1.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	14.0	14.1	14.0	13.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	19.9	20.7	21.2	20.8
White (non-Hispanic)	46.9	47.3	45.6	45.4
Two or more races	1.9	2.3	2.2	2.6
Unknown	15.5	14.0	15.1	15.7
Number	34,995	36,500	36,201	35,887

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Medical neglect	—	—	—	—
Neglect	89.0	89.8	90.5	91.1
Physical abuse	16.9	16.2	15.0	14.1
Sexual abuse	3.5	3.0	2.9	2.7
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	34,995	36,500	36,201	35,887

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	19.3	19.8	19.0	18.6
Median	<24	<24	<24	<24

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	11,503	12,240	12,293	12,275	6,555	6,507	6,616	6,413	5,548	6,139	6,347	6,444	12,510	12,608	12,562	12,244
Median length of stay (months)	19.1	19.2	19.1	18.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.7	13.0	12.6	13.1	18.6	18.7	18.4	18.4

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.4	10.8	10.8	10.9	10.9	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4
1 year	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.9	4.3	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.5	4.6	4.7	3.9	3.9	4.2	4.3
2 years	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.7	4.9	4.2	5.0	3.9	3.7	3.9	3.8
3 years	4.0	3.9	3.6	3.9	4.2	3.6	3.9	3.6	4.3	4.1	4.3	5.0	3.9	3.6	3.8	3.3
4 years	3.7	3.9	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.9	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.3
5 years	3.2	3.7	3.7	3.1	3.9	3.4	3.2	3.8	3.8	4.1	3.9	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.2	3.4
6 years	3.8	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.2	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.0
7 years	3.6	3.7	3.2	3.3	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.1	3.5	3.2	3.6	3.9	3.7	3.1	3.3	3.2
8 years	4.1	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.3	2.8	3.0	3.3	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.1	3.3
9 years	4.3	4.1	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.2	3.3	3.0	4.1	3.5	3.3	3.3
10 years	4.4	4.3	4.2	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.5	2.8	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.4	4.3	4.1	3.6	3.2
11 years	4.8	4.4	4.6	4.2	3.6	4.2	3.7	4.1	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.4	4.5	4.6	4.1	3.9
12 years	5.7	5.0	4.9	4.7	5.5	5.3	5.2	4.9	3.6	3.7	4.1	3.3	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.4
13 years	6.3	6.8	6.2	6.3	7.8	7.7	8.2	6.8	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.5	7.0	6.3	6.3	6.0
14 years	7.8	7.8	8.5	7.8	9.8	10.7	10.3	9.5	6.0	6.6	6.7	6.0	7.9	8.6	8.0	7.7
15 years	9.0	9.6	9.7	10.2	12.0	11.6	12.0	12.9	8.8	8.8	9.2	9.2	9.8	9.9	10.3	10.1
16 years	9.3	9.9	9.8	10.1	9.8	9.9	9.5	9.9	10.0	10.0	9.9	9.7	9.9	9.9	10.1	10.9
17 years	8.2	8.3	9.0	9.0	2.8	3.6	3.6	3.4	9.9	12.3	9.5	7.9	8.2	8.9	8.9	9.1
18 years	3.3	3.2	3.3	4.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.7	7.4	5.2	7.2	8.5	3.1	3.2	3.9	4.3
19 years	1.5	1.9	2.0	2.3	<.1	0.2	<.1	0.3	1.7	1.8	1.4	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.8
20+ years	1.0	0.9	1.3	1.4	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.1	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.3	1.4	1.8
Missing data	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	1.6	1.3	1.8	2.0	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.4

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	<.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Asian	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.8	2.5	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.5	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	18.6	17.9	17.9	17.2	15.8	16.1	15.3	15.7	17.1	15.8	16.5	15.5	17.8	18.0	17.2	17.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	24.8	25.3	25.0	24.8	24.4	24.3	25.0	23.9	23.6	25.4	26.1	24.5	25.2	24.7	24.4	24.5
White (non-Hispanic)	49.8	49.6	49.5	49.6	49.8	49.5	48.9	49.3	50.0	50.0	48.5	49.8	49.7	49.4	49.7	49.4
Two or more races	2.2	2.4	2.7	3.1	2.7	2.6	3.1	3.2	2.2	2.3	2.6	3.2	2.4	2.5	3.0	3.1
Unknown	2.1	2.7	2.9	3.2	3.7	3.8	4.0	3.7	2.6	3.2	3.1	3.6	2.7	3.0	3.4	3.3
Missing data	0.5	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.9	1.6	1.4	1.7	2.1	1.0	0.9	0.8	<.1	0.4	0.3	0.5

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	3,107	3,052	3,006	2,869
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,177	957	1,159	1,286

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.3	3.2	3.7	3.8
1 year	7.7	7.9	8.8	9.6
2 years	8.2	8.4	8.7	8.5
3 years	8.4	8.2	8.1	7.6
4 years	8.5	8.0	8.1	7.9
5 years	7.5	8.4	7.2	7.2
6 years	6.7	6.7	8.2	6.7
7 years	7.7	7.0	6.9	6.8
8 years	6.8	7.0	6.0	6.5
9 years	7.4	6.3	6.6	6.0
10 years	6.6	6.9	5.8	5.4
11 years	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.5
12 years	5.0	5.3	4.8	5.0
13 years	4.5	4.2	4.0	4.6
14 years	2.7	3.3	3.4	3.7
15 years	2.0	1.8	2.7	3.1
16 years	0.8	1.1	0.8	1.8
17 years	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.3
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.2
Asian	1.8	1.4	1.0	1.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	15.8	16.2	15.3	15.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	31.2	29.9	29.6	28.0
White (non-Hispanic)	44.7	45.0	45.6	47.0
Two or more races	3.3	3.6	4.3	4.4
Unknown	3.0	3.6	4.0	4.3
Missing data	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	808	733	812	832

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.6	1.5	1.4	0.8
1 year	10.4	11.1	10.0	12.7
2 years	11.9	11.6	11.6	14.4
3 years	8.4	9.7	10.2	12.4
4 years	10.6	10.4	10.6	10.7
5 years	7.8	8.0	7.6	8.3
6 years	7.2	8.0	9.6	7.6
7 years	6.8	6.3	5.0	7.0
8 years	6.2	6.4	6.7	5.5
9 years	7.3	6.0	4.9	5.2
10 years	5.0	6.5	5.8	4.3
11 years	4.5	4.2	5.5	3.1
12 years	5.2	3.4	3.3	3.0
13 years	2.8	2.5	3.4	1.6
14 years	1.4	1.8	1.4	1.3
15 years	1.6	0.7	1.4	1.1
16 years	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.5
17 years	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.5
18 years	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2
Asian	1.4	2.2	1.1	0.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	15.0	11.3	16.3	15.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	25.4	28.4	25.9	27.4
White (non-Hispanic)	50.4	50.5	49.3	46.6
Two or more races	5.7	3.4	3.9	4.7
Unknown	2.1	4.0	3.6	5.2
Missing data	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Massachusetts

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	89.0	89.0	89.4	89.4
Children with one or more recurrences	11.0	11.0	10.6	10.6
Number	16,462	17,359	17,484	16,957

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	1.32	1.13	1.26
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	98.68	98.87	98.74
Number	N/A	18,747	18,909	18,688

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	14.3	12.5	12.6	13.9
Guardianship	7.9	8.0	8.8	7.8
Reunification	60.2	65.1	65.5	64.9
Other	15.5	14.3	13.1	13.4
Missing data	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	5,548	6,139	6,347	6,444

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	26.8	37.6	46.5	45.1
Guardianship	6.3	6.6	6.1	7.6
Reunification	43.5	39.2	35.0	31.7
Other	21.8	16.5	12.4	15.6
Missing data	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	395	587	637	738

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2
Guardianship	2.7	3.3	3.1	3.2
Reunification	65.0	69.7	72.2	70.8
Other	29.1	26.7	24.4	25.8
Missing data	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,262	2,527	2,600	2,627

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	23.1	23.3	23.7	21.8
Children older than 12 at entry	76.9	76.5	76.2	78.2
Missing data	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
Number	726	759	731	771

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	7.1	0.0	0.0	10.4	7.1	9.6	3.1	12.4	10.0	11.8	13.2
Guardianship	8.3	0.0	11.1	0.0	4.8	3.1	9.6	7.4	11.1	11.2	8.4	8.3
Reunification	83.3	50.0	77.8	40.0	70.4	74.8	68.9	82.2	57.3	63.8	64.0	62.5
Other	8.3	42.9	11.1	60.0	13.6	15.0	11.9	7.4	16.4	15.0	15.7	15.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	12	14	9	5	125	127	135	163	947	973	1,048	997

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	50.0	0.0	50.0	15.4	13.7	13.0	15.8	14.5	12.5	12.7	13.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.0	5.7	7.6	6.3	8.3	8.9	9.9	8.5
Reunification	0.0	50.0	100.0	50.0	62.9	67.8	68.3	65.4	58.7	62.9	63.8	64.3
Other	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.3	12.8	11.0	12.4	16.5	15.6	13.7	14.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1	2	1	2	1,308	1,562	1,657	1,577	2,774	3,068	3,078	3,208

	Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	13.3	15.9	14.2	18.9	35.2	20.9	15.8	22.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	6.3	2.1	4.6	6.9	4.9	10.1	10.9	7.7	4.3	0.0	1.8	3.8
Reunification	69.9	72.3	66.5	63.9	55.7	61.2	65.5	63.3	68.1	98.3	91.2	86.5
Other	8.4	9.7	14.7	10.3	4.1	7.9	7.9	6.8	22.4	1.7	7.0	9.6
Missing data	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	143	195	197	233	122	139	165	207	116	59	57	52

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	71.6	66.7	68.4	67.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	16.8	18.7	18.7	19.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.8	7.6	6.3	6.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.2	3.6	2.5	2.6
48 or more mos.	2.9	3.0	3.8	3.6
Missing data	0.7	0.5	0.4	<.1
Number	3,338	3,998	4,158	4,180

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	74.9	75.8	76.6	75.8
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	11.2	11.7	11.4	11.4
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	13.9	12.5	12.0	12.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0
Number	6,555	6,507	6,616	6,413

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	2.0	1.6	1.8	1.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	17.2	18.0	17.6	22.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	26.3	26.7	29.6	23.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	24.4	22.0	24.3	20.8
48 or more mos.	30.2	31.7	26.7	31.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	796	767	797	895

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	75.8	75.8	79.6	80.3	52.5	51.9	52.8	51.9	29.5	28.7	26.5	25.7	41.7	34.0	90.7	96.7
Children with 3 or more placements	21.4	21.5	20.0	19.7	47.4	48.0	47.2	48.1	70.5	71.3	73.5	74.3	1.7	0.0	0.0	3.3
Number	7,356	7,584	7,746	7,598	3,700	3,838	3,867	3,919	6,942	7,278	7,253	7,141	60	47	43	30

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	3.3	3.3	3.7	2.8
Institutions	3.6	3.4	3.5	2.9
Other settings	93.0	93.2	92.7	94.1
Missing data	0.1	<.1	0.1	0.2
Number	3,562	3,476	3,517	3,414

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	116.3
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	71.7	71.0
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	6.1	6.4
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	46.3	45.8
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	16.9	15.8

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	78.0
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	19.3	23.6
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	36.5	37.0
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	13.1	14.8
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	5.7	5.3
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	51.3	49.3

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	120.2
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	22.8	24.8
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	99.2	98.0
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	46.9	44.6

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	83.8
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	78.5	78.5
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	52.5	51.9
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	27.1	26.3

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Massachusetts

STATE COMMENT

Lewis H. Spence, Commissioner
Department of Social Services
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The following are Massachusetts' comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress*.

The Massachusetts Department of Social Services started reporting on children with no alleged maltreatment but who were included in reports alleging the maltreatment of their siblings or other children in the household in 2003. For 2003, 17,231 children (duplicated count) were included in reports of maltreatment although no maltreatment was alleged for these children. This accounts for the increased number and rate of "Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment" from 2002 to 2003.

Outcome measure 2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%). In 2003, Massachusetts started reporting AFCARS IDs on the NCANDS Child File. Although this information was provided for both 2004 and 2005, the numerator for this measure still includes children who were not in DSS custody and placement, and therefore were not in the denominator derived from the AFCARS report for the same period. In 2005, 39 of 236 children who were maltreated by a placement provider were not included in the count of children in placement for the same period. If the numerator were limited to those children who were also reported on AFCARS for the same period, the percentage of children not maltreated would be 98.95%.

Outcome measure 1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months does not fairly represent the recurrence rate for Massachusetts as compared to most other states because investigations in Massachusetts are completed within 10 days rather than 30-60 days (which is the standard across most other states). Consequently, more investigations meet the criteria of having both the report date and the disposition date fall within 6 months. As a result, the percentage of children found to have a recurrence is necessarily higher relative to these other states, as nearly a full 6 months worth of supported investigations is included in the measure for Massachusetts not the 4-5 months included for states with longer investigations. Additionally, Massachusetts policy requires that all reports of child abuse/neglect be screened and investigated based upon the merit of the report, without regard to whether the child is currently receiving services from DSS.

Outcome measure 4.1 Time to Reunification. The decline in the percent of children reunified within 12 months of placement from 71.6% in 2002 to 67.6% in 2005 is not the complete picture. When looking at reunification within 12 months from the perspective of first time entry cohorts, the picture of program performance is more positive. Of the children who entered placement for the first time in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005, the percentage of reunified children in those entry cohorts reunified within 12 months were 73%, 73%, 74%, 79% and 88% respectively. If the denominator is limited to those children who were reunified within 24 months, the percentages reunified within 12 months were 79%, 80%, 80% and 82% (excluding 2005). A number of reasons exist for this apparent paradox: e.g., increased success in reunifying children who have been in care for longer periods of time.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Massachusetts performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent “no change.”

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 10.6 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This exceeds the national median of 6.6 percent.

In 2005, 1.26 percent of children in foster care in Massachusetts were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 0.42 percent and is one of the highest percentages in the nation.

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 86.6 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 84.4 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 74.2 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All percentages exceed the national medians for those measures (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 24.8 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (8.8 percent change).

In 2005, 98.0 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is among the highest in the nation.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 12.0 percent of all children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of “emancipation” and 21.8 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage is less than the national median of 27.6 percent and represents an improvement in performance on this measure.

In 2005, 44.6 percent of the children who were emancipated from foster care had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 71.0 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 70.4 percent for this measure.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 45.8 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent.

Measure C1.4 indicates that 15.8 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage exceeds the national median of 14.8 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (6.5 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry (i.e., it follows children for up to 24 months), it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 23.6 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 29.1 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (22.4 percent change).

In 2005, 14.8 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 20.9 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (13.0 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 49.3 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 78.5 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 25.7 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (12.9 percent change).

In 2005, 5.7 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 7.2 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (17.4 percent change).

Michigan

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	2,570,264	2,538,920	2,533,439	2,524,274
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5
Asian	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	5.0	5.2	5.3	5.4
White (non-Hispanic)	72.3	72.0	71.8	71.6
Two or more races	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.7
Child population in poverty (%)	15.0	14.6	19.3	16.3

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	28,830	28,690	28,035	24,603
Children in foster care on 9/30	21,251	21,376	21,173	20,498
Children adopted	2,848	2,622	2,801	2,884

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	190,164	74.0 per 1,000	194,813	76.7 per 1,000	196,873	77.7 per 1,000	173,806	68.9 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	28,830	11.2 per 1,000	28,690	11.3 per 1,000	28,035	11.1 per 1,000	24,603	9.8 per 1,000
Child fatalities	—	— per 100,000	—	— per 100,000	—	— per 100,000	—	— per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	12.3	12.3	12.6	14.5
1-5 years	28.0	28.5	27.9	28.1
6-10 years	28.4	26.9	26.3	25.0
11-15 years	26.0	27.0	27.5	26.9
16+ years	5.3	5.4	5.7	5.6
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Number	28,830	28,690	28,035	24,603

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.8
Asian	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	35.8	34.7	34.5	35.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic (of any race)	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.6
White (non-Hispanic)	57.9	59.1	59.5	58.4
Two or more races	—	—	—	—
Unknown	2.2	1.9	1.4	1.3
Number	28,830	28,690	28,035	24,603

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	5.4	4.1	3.3	2.2
Medical neglect	2.4	2.2	2.2	1.8
Neglect	69.2	70.5	71.9	75.1
Physical abuse	19.8	20.1	19.6	17.9
Sexual abuse	5.8	5.5	5.2	4.8
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	3.5	3.2	3.4	2.6
Number	28,830	28,690	28,035	24,603

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	—	—	—	—
Median	—	—	—	—

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	21,059	20,710	20,664	20,747	10,019	9,650	9,741	9,296	9,827	8,979	9,234	9,546	21,251	21,376	21,173	20,498
Median length of stay (months)	15.3	16.1	15.8	15.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	18.2	20.6	20.2	19.5	15.6	15.6	15.2	15.7

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	4.5	4.5	4.7	5.0	13.9	15.7	15.0	16.1	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.1	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.2
1 year	5.6	6.0	5.9	5.7	6.2	5.7	5.4	6.0	5.6	5.7	6.0	6.7	5.8	6.0	5.7	6.2
2 years	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.6	5.3	5.1	5.5	6.1	6.5	6.7	6.3	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.3
3 years	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.2	4.8	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.9	6.2	5.7	5.9	5.1	5.0	5.1	4.8
4 years	4.7	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.1	4.4	4.5	4.7	5.3	5.3	5.7	5.6	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.7
5 years	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.6	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.7	4.7	5.1	5.0	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.0
6 years	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.2	3.7	4.0	4.5	4.8	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.3	3.9	4.1
7 years	4.8	4.4	4.1	4.0	4.7	4.1	4.1	3.9	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.1	4.0	3.7
8 years	4.8	4.8	4.1	4.0	4.7	3.8	4.0	3.9	4.5	4.7	4.2	4.3	4.8	4.1	3.9	3.8
9 years	4.7	5.0	4.4	4.2	4.8	4.1	4.0	3.7	4.5	4.7	4.1	4.5	4.9	4.4	4.1	3.9
10 years	4.9	5.1	4.7	4.3	4.7	4.4	4.3	3.5	4.7	4.7	4.9	4.0	5.0	4.6	4.2	3.7
11 years	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.5	4.9	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.9	5.0	4.6	4.1
12 years	5.0	5.5	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.3	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.5	4.3	5.4	5.1	5.1	4.8
13 years	4.8	5.3	6.1	5.7	5.5	6.1	5.9	5.8	3.9	4.4	4.6	4.5	5.3	6.0	5.6	5.4
14 years	5.6	5.7	6.4	7.2	6.3	7.1	7.5	7.1	4.2	4.3	4.5	4.7	5.7	6.2	7.0	6.6
15 years	6.3	6.8	7.1	8.0	6.9	7.1	7.9	8.1	4.2	4.6	4.6	5.1	6.7	6.9	7.8	8.4
16 years	7.4	7.5	7.9	8.4	6.2	6.2	6.5	7.0	5.6	4.7	4.9	5.7	7.2	7.8	8.2	9.1
17 years	7.1	6.8	6.9	7.4	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.3	7.2	5.6	6.1	6.7	6.6	6.9	7.5	7.6
18 years	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	8.1	9.9	8.5	7.6	3.4	3.9	4.0	4.3
19 years	1.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	3.9	3.3	4.2	3.7	1.0	0.0	0.2	<.1
20+ years	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.1
Asian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	52.7	52.3	50.8	50.7	43.9	43.5	44.9	41.3	45.0	46.5	44.2	45.0	52.1	50.7	51.0	49.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	3.4	3.7	4.0	4.1	4.3	4.7	4.9	5.3	4.1	4.1	4.9	4.9	3.5	4.0	4.1	4.3
White (non-Hispanic)	39.3	39.4	40.4	40.0	46.3	46.3	44.9	47.4	45.4	43.8	45.3	45.2	39.8	40.6	40.4	41.0
Two or more races	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.6	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.3
Unknown	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	6,752	6,968	6,486	7,061
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	6,596	6,605	6,223	5,913

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.1	3.1	2.7	4.3
1 year	5.5	5.6	5.3	6.7
2 years	5.9	6.1	5.8	6.0
3 years	5.7	5.4	5.5	5.5
4 years	5.8	4.9	4.6	5.1
5 years	5.3	5.0	4.2	4.7
6 years	4.9	4.8	4.5	4.4
7 years	5.7	4.3	4.8	4.3
8 years	6.0	4.7	4.7	4.4
9 years	6.4	5.6	4.9	4.8
10 years	6.4	6.1	5.5	4.8
11 years	6.7	6.3	6.2	5.5
12 years	6.8	6.6	6.5	6.2
13 years	6.7	7.0	7.3	6.9
14 years	6.2	6.9	8.3	7.9
15 years	6.0	6.9	7.8	8.5
16 years	4.8	5.9	6.5	5.9
17 years	3.3	4.8	4.9	4.1
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.1
Asian	<.1	0.2	0.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	59.8	58.0	55.5	51.6
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	3.0	3.4	3.4	3.9
White (non-Hispanic)	32.9	34.3	36.4	38.6
Two or more races	3.1	2.8	3.4	3.8
Unknown	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	2,848	2,622	2,801	2,884

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.9
1 year	9.1	8.5	9.8	10.5
2 years	10.2	10.3	10.6	9.9
3 years	9.7	9.0	9.3	9.4
4 years	8.3	7.8	8.2	8.3
5 years	7.0	6.4	7.6	6.7
6 years	7.4	7.6	6.8	6.3
7 years	6.0	6.5	5.8	6.3
8 years	6.0	7.3	4.7	5.9
9 years	6.2	6.2	5.8	5.6
10 years	6.1	6.3	6.4	5.7
11 years	5.5	5.7	5.5	4.7
12 years	5.7	5.3	5.2	5.3
13 years	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.5
14 years	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.7
15 years	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.6
16 years	1.7	1.1	1.4	1.7
17 years	0.7	1.1	1.5	1.0
18 years	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.1
19 years	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.6
Asian	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	43.3	46.3	44.9	42.2
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	4.2	5.0	5.0	5.2
White (non-Hispanic)	45.7	41.8	42.5	46.2
Two or more races	5.5	6.1	6.5	5.5
Unknown	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Michigan

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	92.2	93.0	94.5	95.4
Children with one or more recurrences	7.8	7.0	5.5	4.6
Number	14,334	12,705	11,460	9,900

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.40	0.32	0.12
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.60	99.68	99.88
Number	N/A	30,360	30,405	30,043

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	22.4	28.4	29.3	29.1
Guardianship	3.6	4.3	4.6	4.6
Reunification	61.0	54.8	54.1	55.0
Other	12.3	11.8	11.2	10.5
Missing data	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8
Number	9,827	8,979	9,234	9,546

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	36.2	39.3	39.0	35.9
Guardianship	2.5	2.8	3.4	3.4
Reunification	45.0	38.5	38.2	39.1
Other	15.7	18.2	17.9	20.2
Missing data	0.7	1.1	1.4	1.4
Number	1,532	1,375	1,323	1,296

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	2.7	3.0	3.1	3.2
Guardianship	2.9	4.4	5.8	5.5
Reunification	59.8	58.7	58.5	60.7
Other	32.1	31.6	29.7	28.0
Missing data	2.4	2.3	2.8	2.6
Number	2,987	2,391	2,458	2,679

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	20.4	28.6	31.3	29.0
Children older than 12 at entry	79.6	71.2	68.7	71.0
Missing data	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
Number	607	664	667	514

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	14.9	33.6	28.7	33.0	5.3	0.0	13.8	8.3	20.4	27.6	29.5	27.2		
Guardianship	3.0	0.9	5.2	3.8	0.0	9.1	0.0	0.0	3.5	4.2	4.1	4.5		
Reunification	74.6	59.3	58.3	51.9	78.9	63.6	72.4	83.3	61.1	55.0	53.3	56.4		
Other	7.5	5.3	7.0	10.4	15.8	27.3	13.8	8.3	14.1	12.6	12.3	11.2		
Missing data	0.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.7		
Number	134	113	115	106	38	11	29	12	4,427	4,173	4,084	4,295		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	30.0	10.0	57.1	23.1	31.2	28.8	27.9	23.6	28.2	29.0	29.9		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	5.0	14.3	4.0	4.4	3.6	5.2	3.6	4.4	5.1	4.7		
Reunification	50.0	60.0	80.0	28.6	60.9	56.2	58.3	57.5	60.8	54.6	54.1	54.3		
Other	50.0	10.0	5.0	0.0	11.5	7.9	8.9	8.4	11.1	11.7	10.7	10.2		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.4	1.1	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.9		
Number	2	10	20	14	399	365	448	463	4,465	3,933	4,182	4,311		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	29.2	13.8	4.0	11.8	35.2	36.5	34.4	44.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	4.2	0.0	4.0	0.0	3.0	5.5	5.4	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	62.5	72.4	76.0	41.2	55.3	49.9	52.3	45.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	4.2	10.3	16.0	47.1	5.9	8.1	6.9	6.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.9	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	24	29	25	17	338	345	331	328	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	38.8	40.6	39.6	37.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	39.6	36.9	40.5	42.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	13.3	13.7	12.3	12.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	5.2	4.7	4.6	4.3
48 or more mos.	3.1	3.9	2.8	3.5
Missing data	<.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Number	5,994	4,920	4,995	5,255

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	90.5	93.9	92.0	92.2
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	7.7	3.1	3.7	2.8
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	1.1	2.1	3.3	3.3
Missing data	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.8
Number	10,019	9,650	9,741	9,296

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	11.3	3.9	3.8	4.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	30.3	23.4	26.4	28.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	32.6	35.9	33.8	32.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	15.9	19.1	18.5	18.5
48 or more mos.	9.8	17.4	17.5	16.8
Missing data	0.1	0.2	0.1	<.1
Number	2,199	2,546	2,702	2,779

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	85.3	84.5	83.9	86.1	67.2	65.0	61.6	69.1	35.5	36.2	31.2	39.6	85.4	70.2	80.9	90.6
Children with 3 or more placements	14.7	15.5	16.1	13.9	32.8	35.0	38.4	30.9	64.5	63.8	68.8	60.4	14.6	29.8	19.1	9.4
Number	11,663	10,967	11,021	10,741	8,433	8,082	8,310	8,472	10,941	11,227	11,027	10,798	41	84	47	32

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Institutions	2.4	2.4	2.0	2.3
Other settings	97.6	97.6	98.0	97.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	6,999	6,577	6,538	6,295

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	98.0
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	44.3	41.7
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	13.1	13.5
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	22.3	24.1
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	3.5	4.4

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	92.0
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	30.2	32.5
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	30.7	29.9
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	24.6	24.8
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	14.6	11.8
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	22.2	32.1

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	123.5
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	28.9	31.2
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	96.8	96.8
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	46.2	48.1

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	102.3
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	83.8	85.9
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	61.9	69.3
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	32.2	40.9

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Michigan

STATE COMMENT

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Michigan's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 4.6 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 6.6 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (41.0 percent change).

In 2005, 0.12 percent of children in foster care in Michigan were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 0.42 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2003 (70.0 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 88.7 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) and 78.4 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home (national medians for measures 3.1 and 3.2 are 87.8 percent and 79 percent, respectively). However, 69.4 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. This percentage is less than the national median of 73.1 percent, but performance on the measure improved from 2002 to 2005 (6.1 percent change).

In 2005, 31.2 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (8.0 percent change).

In 2005, 96.8 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage exceeds the national median of 95.7 percent for this measure.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 5.0 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 29 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2003 (42.2 percent change).

In 2005, 48.1 percent of the children emancipated had been in foster care for 3 years or longer. This percentage is equal to the national median.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 41.7 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is among the lowest in the nation and represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2004 (5.9 percent change).

Measure C1.3 indicates that 24.1 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (8.1 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 4.4 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. Although this percentage is less than the national median of 14.8 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2004 (25.7 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry (i.e., it follows children for up to 24 months), it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 32.5 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 29.1 percent. Although the percent for 2005 represents a decline in performance compared to 2002 (21.9 percent change), it reflects a continuous improvement in performance from 2003 (19.0 percent change) and 2004 (7.6 percent change).

In 2005, 24.8 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent.

Measure C2.5 indicates that 32.1 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is less than the national median of 45.1 percent, but represents improvement in performance from 2004 (44.6 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 85.9 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months but at least 8 days experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 39.6 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 32.3 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (11.5 percent change).

In 2005, 2.3 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is among the lowest in the nation.

Minnesota

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	1,252,125	1,248,770	1,240,280	1,229,578
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Asian	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	5.5	5.7	5.9	6.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	4.8	5.1	5.3	5.5
White (non-Hispanic)	81.0	80.4	79.8	79.3
Two or more races	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0
Child population in poverty (%)	7.7	9.7	9.0	10.0

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	9,982	9,230	8,183	8,499
Children in foster care on 9/30	8,052	6,770	6,540	6,978
Children adopted	626	644	603	732

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	26,344	21.0 per 1,000	25,878	20.7 per 1,000	25,595	20.6 per 1,000	27,682	22.5 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	9,982	8.0 per 1,000	9,230	7.4 per 1,000	8,183	6.6 per 1,000	8,499	6.9 per 1,000
Child fatalities	16	1.3 per 100,000	15	1.2 per 100,000	10	0.8 per 100,000	15	1.2 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	9.0	9.0	11.6	10.9
1-5 years	32.5	32.0	32.1	31.6
6-10 years	30.5	29.9	28.8	29.1
11-15 years	23.1	24.2	22.7	23.2
16+ years	4.7	4.9	4.8	5.2
Unknown	0.2	—	—	—
Number	9,982	9,230	8,183	8,499

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	6.2	6.8	6.4	6.5
Asian	3.2	2.6	2.3	2.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	25.0	23.4	23.8	22.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	8.4	9.1	8.9	9.7
White (non-Hispanic)	49.4	48.5	45.9	47.7
Two or more races	5.8	7.6	8.7	8.4
Unknown	1.9	1.9	4.0	3.5
Number	9,982	9,230	8,183	8,499

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.8
Medical neglect	0.3	1.4	1.2	1.6
Neglect	73.1	72.8	75.4	76.4
Physical abuse	21.5	19.7	17.9	16.9
Sexual abuse	9.2	10.3	10.4	10.7
Unknown	—	—	0.0	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Number	9,982	9,230	8,183	8,499

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	23.9	113.2	94.7	86.7
Median	<24	>48, but <72	>48, but <72	>24, but <48

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	7,435	6,885	6,288	6,120	10,317	8,080	7,806	8,166	9,700	8,195	7,554	7,308	8,052	6,770	6,540	6,978
Median length of stay (months)	14.2	13.0	14.3	12.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.4	3.2	3.2	3.4	12.1	13.3	11.8	9.9

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.3	3.8	4.2	4.9	6.5	7.6	9.0	10.2	3.5	3.5	4.7	5.0	3.7	4.2	4.9	6.0
1 year	3.6	4.1	4.2	4.3	3.6	4.2	4.8	5.1	3.6	4.7	4.9	5.1	3.7	4.2	4.4	5.3
2 years	3.1	3.6	4.0	4.2	3.3	3.9	4.3	4.6	3.4	4.0	4.4	4.5	3.3	3.9	4.1	4.6
3 years	3.3	3.6	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.9	4.0	3.3	3.7	4.4	4.7	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.8
4 years	2.9	3.6	3.6	3.0	2.8	3.2	3.6	3.4	2.9	3.4	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.5	2.9	3.5
5 years	2.6	2.9	3.3	3.7	2.4	3.2	3.4	3.5	2.7	3.3	3.9	3.7	2.7	3.2	3.6	2.9
6 years	2.9	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.4	2.8	3.1	3.5	2.4	2.7	2.9	3.7	2.4	2.8	2.7	3.0
7 years	2.9	3.0	2.7	3.2	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.1	2.8	2.7	3.1	3.2
8 years	3.3	3.1	3.2	2.9	2.7	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.9	2.9	3.2	3.0	2.8	3.1	2.8	3.0
9 years	4.3	3.5	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.0	2.7	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9
10 years	4.5	4.6	3.6	3.0	3.7	3.5	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.1	2.9	4.2	3.4	3.0	3.1
11 years	4.9	5.1	5.0	3.9	3.3	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.5	3.3	3.0	4.5	4.8	3.8	3.5
12 years	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.2	4.7	4.8	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.0	3.7	3.5	5.5	5.8	5.2	4.4
13 years	6.5	7.3	7.3	7.0	6.9	7.7	6.8	6.4	5.1	5.9	5.5	5.2	7.1	7.4	7.1	6.4
14 years	8.3	8.9	9.1	8.8	9.7	9.3	9.4	8.6	8.2	8.1	7.6	7.3	8.6	9.2	8.9	8.3
15 years	11.2	10.4	10.3	10.9	12.8	11.7	11.1	11.2	11.2	10.2	9.4	9.7	10.3	10.5	11.2	10.6
16 years	11.1	12.7	11.6	12.1	12.9	11.7	11.3	10.8	12.7	11.4	10.0	10.2	12.2	11.9	12.4	12.2
17 years	10.5	11.3	12.4	12.5	11.1	9.7	8.7	8.3	13.2	16.3	12.2	9.3	11.3	12.3	12.5	12.5
18 years	3.7	<.1	0.4	0.9	1.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	6.5	2.9	6.8	9.9	3.6	0.7	0.8	1.0
19 years	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	<.1	0.0	1.2	<.1	<.1	0.3	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	12.4	12.0	12.3	10.8	9.4	9.8	8.9	10.3	9.6	9.6	10.0	9.0	11.9	12.3	11.0	12.2
Asian	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.6	3.2	3.0	3.0	2.5	3.3	3.0	2.8	2.7	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	20.9	21.3	22.1	21.3	19.4	20.0	20.2	19.0	19.0	19.3	20.7	20.5	21.2	22.2	21.4	19.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	6.2	7.0	7.6	7.5	6.6	7.7	7.7	8.4	6.4	7.3	7.8	7.6	6.5	7.4	7.4	8.4
White (non-Hispanic)	51.8	50.4	49.1	50.2	54.6	52.6	51.0	51.2	55.3	53.7	50.3	51.6	51.2	49.0	50.0	49.9
Two or more races	6.3	7.3	7.0	7.5	4.6	5.6	6.3	6.2	4.3	5.8	5.9	6.3	6.6	7.0	7.4	7.2
Unknown	0.6	0.5	0.5	1.1	2.1	1.3	2.8	2.3	2.0	1.2	2.3	2.2	0.8	0.5	1.1	1.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.1

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	1,548	1,918	1,795	1,553
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,208	1,402	1,379	1,271

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	4.3	5.7	6.3	5.6
1 year	5.1	7.6	6.9	8.4
2 years	5.9	6.9	6.1	6.6
3 years	5.0	5.5	6.5	5.3
4 years	5.6	6.2	4.3	5.3
5 years	4.8	5.5	5.3	3.4
6 years	4.2	4.4	4.8	4.2
7 years	4.8	4.1	4.3	4.1
8 years	5.0	4.2	3.8	3.4
9 years	5.0	4.6	4.7	3.5
10 years	7.4	4.8	4.4	4.2
11 years	6.8	7.0	5.0	4.4
12 years	7.1	6.7	6.8	5.0
13 years	6.5	5.9	6.7	7.4
14 years	6.0	6.8	6.4	7.4
15 years	6.1	5.4	7.0	7.5
16 years	5.2	4.8	5.6	7.8
17 years	5.3	3.8	5.0	6.3
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	9.5	8.4	8.4	8.1
Asian	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	34.2	29.2	28.1	26.9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	7.0	9.1	8.7	10.6
White (non-Hispanic)	38.0	43.1	44.6	43.8
Two or more races	10.1	9.1	8.9	9.0
Unknown	0.3	0.5	0.6	1.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	626	644	603	732

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.4	3.4	2.5	7.4
1 year	9.9	14.1	13.3	15.7
2 years	12.1	13.2	10.9	10.9
3 years	8.3	9.6	10.9	10.9
4 years	8.0	8.5	8.5	6.1
5 years	7.2	7.1	8.3	7.2
6 years	6.4	6.5	7.8	7.0
7 years	7.0	6.2	5.5	5.7
8 years	8.0	6.2	4.8	5.6
9 years	5.3	4.7	5.3	4.0
10 years	4.5	5.3	4.6	4.2
11 years	5.3	4.5	4.3	3.8
12 years	6.1	4.2	4.6	2.7
13 years	3.8	2.2	3.2	3.3
14 years	2.6	1.4	2.7	1.8
15 years	1.0	1.2	1.3	2.3
16 years	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.0
17 years	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.3
18 years	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.1
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	22.2	20.7	23.7	17.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	8.8	8.1	11.9	7.5
White (non-Hispanic)	54.2	53.0	49.3	55.2
Two or more races	10.2	15.1	10.4	13.9
Unknown	4.6	3.3	4.5	1.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Minnesota

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	94.1	94.6	94.8	94.4
Children with one or more recurrences	5.9	5.4	5.2	5.6
Number	5,170	4,372	4,025	4,066

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.33	0.30	0.42
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.67	99.70	99.58
Number	N/A	14,965	14,094	14,286

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	6.6	7.8	8.0	9.5
Guardianship	0.9	6.7	7.6	6.7
Reunification	80.7	73.6	72.0	70.6
Other	11.9	11.9	12.4	13.2
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	9,700	8,195	7,554	7,308

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	10.1	8.4	8.4	10.0
Guardianship	0.7	4.4	4.5	4.6
Reunification	70.3	69.7	66.0	61.6
Other	18.8	17.5	21.0	23.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	3,028	2,333	2,073	1,976

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
Guardianship	0.3	2.2	2.8	2.2
Reunification	82.1	78.9	77.1	76.0
Other	17.4	18.7	19.9	21.5
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	5,270	4,099	3,480	3,400

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	26.0	23.1	28.6	26.1
Children older than 12 at entry	74.0	76.9	71.4	73.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	561	584	630	655

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	3.7	4.7	5.6	7.0	0.0	1.6	1.4	3.6	7.7	9.7	8.9	10.1		
Guardianship	2.9	9.8	13.6	12.5	0.0	8.6	1.9	2.0	0.3	8.4	9.1	5.4		
Reunification	78.3	69.0	66.2	64.7	91.0	82.0	87.0	85.8	80.0	70.3	70.7	71.7		
Other	15.1	16.5	14.6	15.7	9.0	7.8	9.6	8.6	12.0	11.6	11.2	12.8		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	927	788	755	655	323	244	208	197	1,847	1,579	1,565	1,498		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.2	9.2	11.7	7.6	6.4	7.1	7.6	10.1		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	6.3	7.6	9.6	0.8	5.4	6.0	5.8		
Reunification	100.0	50.0	50.0	100.0	78.9	76.5	72.1	73.5	80.8	75.0	72.9	70.0		
Other	0.0	50.0	50.0	0.0	9.7	8.0	8.6	9.4	12.0	12.5	13.5	14.1		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	10	2	2	3	616	600	592	554	5,365	4,403	3,803	3,771		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	2.0	2.8	3.8	13.0	16.8	13.1	13.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.0	5.0	5.7	8.1	1.0	7.3	8.0	8.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	94.4	82.0	83.5	79.4	75.2	68.8	67.3	66.3	0.0	100.0	75.0	85.7		
Other	5.6	11.0	8.0	8.8	10.8	7.1	11.6	12.1	0.0	0.0	25.0	14.3		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	196	100	176	160	416	477	449	463	0	2	4	7		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	89.9	90.8	91.4	91.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	7.9	7.0	6.3	6.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.6
48 or more mos.	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5
Missing data	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0
Number	7,826	6,028	5,439	5,156

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	59.5	63.4	65.3	67.3
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	28.1	26.1	23.0	20.5
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	10.0	10.2	11.0	11.5
Missing data	2.5	0.3	0.8	0.7
Number	10,317	8,080	7,806	8,166

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	6.6	6.2	5.6	6.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	28.4	35.9	38.6	39.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	31.7	24.7	28.0	28.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	15.4	17.4	13.5	15.4
48 or more mos.	17.9	15.7	14.3	10.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	637	643	607	694

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	87.5	88.4	87.9	83.1	56.7	58.6	57.8	51.5	36.9	32.9	32.2	30.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.5
Children with 3 or more placements	12.5	11.6	12.1	16.8	43.3	41.4	42.2	48.5	63.1	67.0	67.8	69.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5
Number	11,742	9,527	9,047	9,359	2,254	2,122	1,906	1,991	3,722	3,271	3,081	2,869	34	45	60	67

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	4.2	3.2	3.1	3.6
Institutions	16.4	14.4	13.9	11.1
Other settings	79.4	82.5	83.0	85.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Number	4,586	3,963	4,058	4,354

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	117.1
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	87.7	89.0
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	3.3	3.3
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	66.4	62.8
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	28.1	27.9

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	90.0
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	44.2	45.7
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	25.8	26.4
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	14.2	17.0
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	2.1	2.7
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	42.5	40.1

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	106.4
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	15.4	17.1
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	90.7	91.3
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	45.2	42.1

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	85.8
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	84.8	79.7
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	57.8	51.4
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	32.2	30.1

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Minnesota's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 5.6 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 6.6 percent.

In 2005, 0.42 percent of children in foster care in Minnesota were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is equal to the national median, but represents a decline in performance from 2003 (27.3 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 86.8 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) and 76.2 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home. Both percentages are less than the national medians for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1 and 3.2 are 87.8 percent and 79 percent, respectively). However, 78.5 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. This percentage exceeds the national median of 73.1 percent.

In 2005, 17.1 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 26.4 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (19.7 percent change).

In 2005, 91.3 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is less than the national median of 95.7 percent.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 9.0 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 26.1 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage is less than the national median of 27.6 percent.

In 2005, 42.1 percent of the children emancipated had been in foster care for 3 years or longer. This percentage is less than the national median of 48.1 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (6.9 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 89.0 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is among the highest in the nation.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 62.8 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (5.4 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 27.9 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is one of the highest in the nation. Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry (i.e., it follows children for up to 24 months), it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 45.7 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 29.1 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (30.6 percent change).

In 2005, 17.0 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 20.9 percent, but represents improvement in performance from 2004 (19.7 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 40.1 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is less than the national median of 45.1 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (5.6 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 79.7 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 82.4 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (6.0 percent change).

In 2005, 30.1 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (6.0 percent change).

In 2005, 14.7 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 7.2 percent, but represents improvement in performance from 2002 (28.6 percent change).

Mississippi

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	760,747	761,268	749,569	748,544
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Asian	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	44.7	44.7	44.7	44.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.9
White (non-Hispanic)	51.6	51.5	51.4	51.3
Two or more races	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Child population in poverty (%)	25.3	23.1	26.6	30.7

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	4,003	5,940	5,674	6,154
Children in foster care on 9/30	2,686	2,721	2,989	3,269
Children adopted	227	183	270	244

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	18,009	23.7 per 1,000	24,503	32.2 per 1,000	24,546	32.8 per 1,000	24,648	32.9 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	4,003	5.3 per 1,000	5,940	7.8 per 1,000	5,674	7.6 per 1,000	6,154	8.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	7	0.9 per 100,000	13	1.7 per 100,000	19	2.5 per 100,000	14	1.9 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	8.1	8.0	9.1	9.2
1-5 years	30.2	28.9	30.4	29.3
6-10 years	30.2	30.4	29.2	29.2
11-15 years	25.7	26.8	25.6	26.7
16+ years	5.9	6.0	5.6	5.5
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Number	4,003	5,940	5,674	6,154

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Asian	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	41.9	41.5	40.4	41.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.2
White (non-Hispanic)	38.8	39.3	40.1	42.5
Two or more races	0.4	0.6	0.6	1.0
Unknown	17.3	17.5	17.5	14.2
Number	4,003	5,940	5,674	6,154

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	9.7	9.3	11.7	11.0
Medical neglect	3.0	3.1	3.3	2.9
Neglect	54.0	55.0	52.5	56.6
Physical abuse	20.7	22.8	22.6	21.2
Sexual abuse	16.8	15.1	15.9	15.0
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.5
Number	4,003	5,940	5,674	6,154

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	104.8	177.2	137.6	111.7
Median	>24, but <48	>24, but <48	>24, but <48	>24, but <48

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	2,614	2,675	2,697	2,880	1,582	1,570	1,852	2,048	1,510	1,525	1,560	1,659	2,686	2,721	2,989	3,269
Median length of stay (months)	16.2	17.3	17.1	13.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.5	11.8	12.3	11.1	17.1	17.2	13.9	13.1

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.7	4.1	4.2	4.5	12.8	13.7	13.3	14.5	3.6	4.3	3.5	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.6	5.5
1 year	5.8	4.9	5.3	6.3	6.4	6.8	6.6	7.7	6.2	6.6	5.5	5.8	5.1	5.4	6.3	6.4
2 years	5.4	5.7	5.3	5.6	6.4	5.9	5.7	6.2	7.1	5.7	6.0	6.4	5.6	5.2	5.5	6.5
3 years	4.9	4.6	5.3	5.9	5.2	5.4	6.9	5.9	6.3	6.0	5.4	6.8	4.8	5.4	6.0	6.2
4 years	4.6	5.0	4.7	5.5	5.4	5.2	5.7	6.1	5.4	5.3	6.0	5.8	4.7	4.6	5.4	5.3
5 years	5.2	5.0	4.6	5.8	5.0	4.3	6.5	5.4	5.2	6.0	4.7	5.8	5.0	4.4	5.5	5.3
6 years	4.7	4.4	4.5	4.8	3.9	5.3	5.0	5.1	5.3	4.7	5.5	6.0	4.3	4.9	5.1	5.5
7 years	5.2	4.6	4.3	4.1	5.4	4.7	4.4	4.4	5.3	5.2	5.1	4.8	4.5	4.4	4.1	4.3
8 years	4.5	5.0	4.7	4.3	4.7	5.0	4.8	3.9	5.0	4.5	4.5	5.5	5.0	4.8	4.3	3.9
9 years	5.2	4.6	5.0	4.5	5.9	4.6	3.8	4.2	6.0	4.6	4.1	4.0	4.6	5.0	4.6	3.9
10 years	4.9	5.0	4.5	4.3	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.5	4.6	5.4	4.7	4.5	5.0	4.5	4.4	4.6
11 years	4.6	4.9	5.6	5.1	4.7	5.4	5.3	4.5	4.2	4.6	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.3	5.1	4.0
12 years	4.3	4.9	5.3	5.3	4.7	4.6	5.6	5.4	3.6	4.6	6.2	4.1	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.3
13 years	4.8	5.5	5.5	5.1	6.3	5.8	4.8	5.3	5.0	5.0	5.3	4.5	5.5	5.1	5.1	5.8
14 years	7.0	5.1	5.9	5.7	5.5	5.2	5.1	5.7	5.0	4.5	5.2	4.6	5.3	5.9	5.7	5.8
15 years	6.4	7.1	5.6	5.9	5.9	4.7	4.7	5.1	5.0	4.7	3.9	5.0	7.1	5.8	5.8	5.7
16 years	7.0	6.7	6.8	5.9	4.3	5.0	4.5	4.1	5.4	4.8	4.4	3.7	6.6	6.6	5.9	6.1
17 years	5.6	6.5	6.2	6.1	2.3	3.2	2.4	2.1	3.6	5.8	4.7	4.8	6.3	6.5	6.0	5.0
18 years	4.4	3.3	3.5	3.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	4.7	5.0	5.9	5.2	3.5	3.5	3.0	3.0
19 years	1.3	2.4	1.5	1.6	0.0	0.1	<.1	0.0	1.8	1.4	1.0	1.4	2.5	1.7	1.7	1.3
20+ years	0.3	0.4	1.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	1.2	2.4	1.6	0.4	1.7	0.6	0.5
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.3	1.1	0.4	<.1	0.2	0.1	0.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1
Asian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.3	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	55.6	53.3	53.7	50.1	47.9	45.9	44.0	45.9	52.6	48.9	51.2	43.8	52.7	51.5	49.0	50.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	0.9	0.9	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.5	0.8	2.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.6	0.9	1.0	1.3	1.7
White (non-Hispanic)	42.3	41.4	41.6	45.7	41.1	40.0	48.1	48.4	41.7	41.8	42.1	50.8	41.9	40.4	45.4	44.8
Two or more races	0.4	0.6	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.2	1.5	2.1	0.3	0.7	1.3	1.2	0.8	0.9	1.4	1.9
Unknown	0.3	1.8	0.2	0.4	0.8	2.4	0.6	0.7	0.5	4.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.5
Missing data	0.4	1.7	1.3	0.7	7.2	8.9	4.4	0.3	3.1	2.8	3.6	1.6	2.9	5.3	2.0	<.1

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	803	810	914	857
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	210	212	329	302

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.5	2.6	4.6	2.5
1 year	4.9	5.2	6.5	6.7
2 years	6.1	5.8	6.6	7.9
3 years	5.1	7.2	7.0	6.2
4 years	5.5	4.4	6.6	5.8
5 years	6.1	4.9	6.0	6.2
6 years	5.7	5.8	5.1	6.5
7 years	6.6	5.9	4.3	4.9
8 years	7.0	6.2	5.0	5.1
9 years	5.9	6.0	6.8	5.0
10 years	6.7	6.2	4.8	6.0
11 years	7.0	7.0	5.5	4.7
12 years	6.5	7.0	6.3	5.7
13 years	6.8	6.4	6.2	6.2
14 years	4.5	6.2	5.8	6.4
15 years	6.0	5.1	5.7	5.6
16 years	3.4	5.2	4.4	5.1
17 years	2.9	2.8	2.8	3.5
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
Asian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	54.2	53.3	51.0	52.9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.4	1.0	2.2	1.8
White (non-Hispanic)	43.0	41.9	42.8	42.6
Two or more races	1.1	1.0	2.5	2.1
Unknown	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.6
Missing data	0.6	2.0	1.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	227	183	270	244

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0
1 year	4.8	4.9	5.2	4.9
2 years	11.0	7.1	6.7	8.6
3 years	6.6	8.2	8.9	10.7
4 years	7.0	8.7	9.6	8.2
5 years	7.9	10.4	4.1	10.2
6 years	7.9	6.0	7.8	7.4
7 years	7.9	8.2	10.7	5.7
8 years	5.7	7.1	5.2	5.3
9 years	5.3	5.5	4.1	7.0
10 years	5.7	4.9	8.9	7.4
11 years	5.3	4.4	7.0	5.3
12 years	4.0	6.0	7.0	5.3
13 years	5.3	7.1	5.6	3.3
14 years	4.0	4.9	3.7	4.5
15 years	5.7	2.7	1.9	2.5
16 years	4.4	1.1	1.1	2.0
17 years	1.3	2.2	1.9	1.2
18 years	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.4
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0
Asian	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	50.7	45.4	46.7	41.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
Hispanic (of any race)	1.8	1.1	2.6	2.9
White (non-Hispanic)	46.3	50.8	48.1	52.5
Two or more races	0.4	2.2	2.2	2.0
Unknown	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Mississippi

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	95.4	95.7	95.5	94.7
Children with one or more recurrences	4.6	4.3	4.5	5.3
Number	2,065	2,604	2,646	2,805

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.57	0.48	0.49
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.43	99.52	99.51
Number	N/A	4,245	4,549	4,928

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	15.5	11.9	17.4	14.0
Guardianship	1.5	1.3	3.7	6.4
Reunification	63.4	44.9	67.5	71.8
Other	7.1	6.1	10.2	6.8
Missing data	12.5	35.7	1.3	1.0
Number	1,510	1,525	1,560	1,659

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	17.8	12.1	30.5	27.6
Guardianship	1.8	3.3	2.0	3.9
Reunification	64.0	50.0	52.2	55.5
Other	12.0	11.0	15.1	11.5
Missing data	4.4	23.6	0.2	1.4
Number	225	182	456	355

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	1.8	0.3	1.7	1.3
Guardianship	2.1	1.1	3.5	5.2
Reunification	63.0	44.4	67.1	72.8
Other	21.7	16.2	26.7	20.1
Missing data	11.4	37.9	1.0	0.5
Number	332	351	401	383

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	31.5	32.3	26.7	28.6
Children older than 12 at entry	68.5	67.7	73.3	71.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	89	62	116	98

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	22.2	14.6	11.3	15.9	12.7		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	1.1	3.3	5.8		
Reunification	100.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	75.0	77.8	64.2	46.2	66.2	71.9		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	9.4	6.3	13.7	8.1		
Missing data	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.8	35.1	1.0	1.5		
Number	1	2	1	0	2	0	4	9	794	746	798	726		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	20.0	10.5	35.0	25.9	17.6	14.3	19.8	15.1		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	1.9	4.1	7.4		
Reunification	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	65.0	57.9	55.0	70.4	62.5	43.1	67.7	70.8		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	3.7	4.8	6.6	6.9	6.1		
Missing data	100.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	31.6	5.0	0.0	12.9	34.2	1.5	0.7		
Number	4	2	0	1	20	19	20	27	630	638	656	842		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	20.0	40.0	28.6	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.5	0.0	0.0	4.8	0.0	2.1	0.0	5.4	3.8		
Reunification	85.7	33.8	100.0	87.5	80.0	40.0	57.1	80.0	63.8	60.5	91.1	92.3		
Other	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	9.5	0.0	4.3	4.7	1.8	3.8		
Missing data	14.3	63.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	29.8	34.9	1.8	0.0		
Number	7	65	4	8	5	10	21	20	47	43	56	26		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	56.8	64.5	66.5	69.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	29.5	21.3	21.3	20.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	6.4	8.2	7.3	5.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.0	2.5	2.3	2.2
48 or more mos.	4.3	3.4	2.6	2.4
Missing data	0.0	0.1	<.1	0.2
Number	958	685	1,053	1,191

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	94.8	91.3	90.8	90.5
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	4.6	6.1	5.2	4.3
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	0.4	1.9	4.0	5.1
Missing data	0.1	0.7	0.0	0.0
Number	1,582	1,570	1,852	2,048

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	2.6	0.0	1.5	0.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	16.2	13.7	9.6	17.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	23.5	21.4	23.6	29.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	21.4	19.8	22.9	26.6
48 or more mos.	36.3	45.1	42.4	27.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	234	182	271	233

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	55.3	58.1	79.7	80.8	47.4	51.8	58.5	55.6	28.1	33.0	39.5	35.5	71.4	23.5	100.0	87.5
Children with 3 or more placements	9.7	10.8	15.8	18.6	28.4	28.6	37.7	44.1	56.9	56.1	58.0	63.9	0.0	5.9	0.0	12.5
Number	1,831	1,825	2,090	2,422	944	920	939	1,033	1,414	1,483	1,518	1,465	7	17	2	8

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	25.5	21.6	20.3	17.4
Institutions	0.0	0.2	0.7	1.8
Other settings	74.5	78.1	78.9	80.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	770	810	1,368	1,550

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	125.4
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	63.4	69.2
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	8.3	7.6
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	33.2	43.4
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	10.9	8.2

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	104.0
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	11.1	16.8
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	42.8	38.0
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	22.1	19.7
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	10.5	10.2
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	36.4	64.9

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	117.5
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	31.3	26.6
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	98.3	96.5
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	40.9	54.7

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	90.5
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	82.1	80.8
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	60.7	55.8
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	40.9	36.4

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Mississippi

STATE COMMENT

Rickie Felder, Director
Division of Family and Children's Services
Mississippi Department of Human Services

The following are Mississippi's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress*.

DATA QUESTIONS AND INCONSISTENCIES

Section B: Implementation of our SACWIS system, development of reports, and quality assurance measures have allowed us to do a better job of completing intakes and dispositions.

Section D: A child in Division of Family and Children's Services (DFCS) custody may have a plan of adoption without a termination of parental rights order. However, we do not consider these children freed for adoption until the court holds the termination hearing and grants a termination of parental rights order. Only at this point are the children considered free for adoption.

Outcome Measure 23.4: Some children who exited care were discharged for reasons other than emancipation even though emancipation was the plan. Some of these children were released due to guardianship, reunification or living with other relatives. However, regardless of the exit reason, all children age 14 and older are eligible to receive Independent Living Skills training to help transition them into life after foster care.

Outcome Measure 6.1: Mississippi has made a conscientious effort to place children in settings other than shelters for the first placement. The AFCARS extraction routine was also corrected for the 2003B AFCARS file in order to follow the AFCARS guidelines. The combination of both these factors did increase Mississippi's data quality.

AREAS OF IMPROVED PERFORMANCE:

Outcome Measure 3.4: Again, some children who exited care were discharged for other reasons than emancipation, even though emancipation was the plan. Some of these children were released due to guardianship, reunification or living with other relatives after participating in the Independent Living Skills program.

Outcome Measure 4.1: With the Implementation of Family Team Meetings, concurrent planning, intensive in-home services, and the hiring of new CPS workers, our agency staff are able to make a more concerted effort to establish reunification in a more timely manner while still decreasing re-entries within the 12 month period after reunification.

AREAS WHERE IMPROVEMENTS MAY BE NEEDED

Outcome Measure 1.1: Data quality is continually improving due to the workers' improved knowledge of the SACWIS. Children are being linked to previous cases in which they were involved rather than being reentered into the system as a new person.

Outcome Measure 5.1: Mississippi continues to have older children adopted who have been in the child welfare system for a long time.

Outcome Measure 7.1: Mississippi has a shortage of foster care homes willing to accept children with extreme behavioral or emotional problems. Unfortunately, the number of children coming into custody with behavioral or emotional problems is increasing. Group Homes in Mississippi are expected to provide a family-type setting with a limited number of children placed in each one at any given time. However, improvements continue to be made. Mississippi has seen a 6.35 reduction rate since 2002.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Mississippi's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 5.3 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 6.6 percent, but represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2002 (15.2 percent change).

In 2005, 0.49 percent of children in foster care in Mississippi were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 0.42 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2003 (14.0 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 92.2 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 87.0 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 79.3 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All percentages exceed the national medians for those measures (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 26.6 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 26.4 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (15.0 percent change).

In 2005, 96.5 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage exceeds the national median of 95.7 percent.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 5.9 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 28.6 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (9.2 percent change).

In 2005, 54.7 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent and represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2004 (33.7 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 69.2 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 70.4 percent for this measure, but represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2004 (9.1 percent change).

Measure C1.3 indicates that 43.4 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (30.7 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 8.2 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is less than the national median of 14.8 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (24.8 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry (i.e., it follows children for up to 24 months), it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 17.2 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 29.1 percent. Change in performance can only be assessed from 2004 because of missing data in prior years. The 2005 percentage reflects an improvement in performance from 2004 (55.0 percent change).

In 2005, 19.7 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 20.9 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (10.9 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 64.9 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent and represents an improvement from 2004 (78.3 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 80.8 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months but at least 8 days experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 82.4 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (46.1 percent change).

In 2005, 35.5 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 32.3 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (26.3 percent change).

In 2005, 19.2 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this percentage is among the highest in the nation, it represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (24.7 percent change).

Missouri

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	1,397,461	1,407,342	1,384,542	1,378,232
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Asian	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.7
White (non-Hispanic)	78.6	78.3	78.0	77.8
Two or more races	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.3
Child population in poverty (%)	15.3	14.7	17.7	17.7

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	9,810	10,183	9,616	8,945
Children in foster care on 9/30	13,029	11,900	11,681	11,344
Children adopted	1,542	1,405	1,391	1,309

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	80,653	57.7 per 1,000	84,383	60.0 per 1,000	82,442	59.5 per 1,000	82,252	59.7 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	9,810	7.0 per 1,000	10,183	7.2 per 1,000	9,616	7.0 per 1,000	8,945	6.5 per 1,000
Child fatalities	53	3.8 per 100,000	45	3.2 per 100,000	48	3.5 per 100,000	42	3.1 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.6
1-5 years	30.1	30.3	30.7	29.9
6-10 years	29.2	27.1	27.3	26.4
11-15 years	28.7	30.5	29.1	30.3
16+ years	5.6	5.6	6.1	6.7
Unknown	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1
Number	9,810	10,183	9,616	8,945

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.3
Asian	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	18.7	18.8	22.3	19.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.1	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.3	2.2	2.8	3.0
White (non-Hispanic)	77.0	76.6	72.6	75.6
Two or more races	—	—	—	—
Unknown	1.4	1.7	1.5	1.3
Number	9,810	10,183	9,616	8,945

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	6.3	6.1	6.2	6.2
Medical neglect	3.4	3.2	3.0	3.8
Neglect	48.8	50.4	50.5	51.7
Physical abuse	28.2	27.9	28.8	27.5
Sexual abuse	28.7	27.9	27.2	26.2
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.1
Number	9,810	10,183	9,616	8,945

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	50.0	49.9	54.3	57.2
Median	>24, but <48	>24, but <48	>24, but <48	>24, but <48

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	12,232	12,118	11,193	11,002	7,139	6,342	6,535	6,342	6,342	6,560	6,047	6,000	13,029	11,900	11,681	11,344
Median length of stay (months)	16.9	16.3	17.4	16.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.3	15.4	14.3	15.2	15.9	16.8	16.3	15.6

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	4.1	4.2	4.6	4.9	13.7	14.5	14.9	15.1	4.1	3.7	4.7	4.0	4.4	4.7	5.0	5.4
1 year	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.3	6.1	6.2	6.8	7.0	5.5	6.4	6.8	6.4	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.9
2 years	4.7	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.4	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.0	6.1	6.6	5.9	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.9
3 years	4.5	4.6	4.9	4.6	5.6	5.0	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.9	6.5	5.7	4.7	5.0	4.6	5.1
4 years	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.8	4.9	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.4	5.2	5.5	4.5	4.2	4.6	4.4
5 years	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.7	4.9	4.6	4.8	4.8	5.2	5.1	3.9	4.2	4.2	4.3
6 years	4.2	3.9	3.9	4.1	4.4	4.2	4.7	4.8	4.4	4.5	4.3	5.2	3.9	3.9	4.2	4.0
7 years	4.7	4.1	3.6	4.0	4.5	4.2	4.5	4.4	5.1	4.0	4.4	4.7	4.2	3.7	4.0	4.3
8 years	4.9	4.6	4.1	4.0	4.7	4.3	4.0	4.2	4.8	4.6	4.1	3.9	4.5	4.1	3.9	3.9
9 years	5.0	4.6	4.3	3.7	4.6	4.4	4.0	4.1	5.3	4.8	4.0	4.3	4.7	4.3	3.8	3.8
10 years	5.2	4.9	4.6	4.3	5.1	4.6	4.2	4.0	4.4	4.2	4.6	4.1	5.0	4.6	4.3	3.7
11 years	5.3	5.2	4.8	4.5	5.0	4.9	4.5	4.2	4.8	5.2	4.5	4.5	5.2	4.7	4.5	4.1
12 years	5.8	5.5	5.6	4.9	5.3	5.4	5.3	4.8	4.8	4.4	4.8	3.9	5.5	5.6	4.9	4.6
13 years	5.8	6.2	5.9	5.9	6.1	6.2	5.6	5.9	4.7	5.1	4.7	4.5	6.2	5.9	5.9	5.6
14 years	6.7	6.6	7.1	6.7	6.7	6.3	6.4	6.3	5.4	5.0	4.9	5.1	6.4	7.1	6.7	6.7
15 years	7.6	7.5	7.3	7.6	7.1	7.1	6.8	6.6	6.0	5.7	5.2	5.9	7.4	7.2	7.5	7.2
16 years	7.6	7.7	7.8	8.0	5.4	5.1	5.0	5.4	6.1	6.3	5.9	6.0	7.7	7.7	7.9	7.6
17 years	5.2	6.1	6.2	6.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	5.4	5.7	4.6	5.6	5.9	6.1	6.2	6.5
18 years	3.0	2.9	3.6	3.6	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	4.1	4.3	4.5	4.7	2.9	3.6	3.6	3.5
19 years	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.3	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	1.7	1.5	1.6	2.0	1.7	1.8	2.3	2.2
20+ years	0.7	1.1	1.2	1.4	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	1.8	2.3	2.5	3.0	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.5
Missing data	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4
Asian	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	37.0	34.4	33.7	31.9	26.9	24.9	23.7	23.9	29.2	25.6	26.0	24.8	35.2	34.2	32.2	31.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	1.5	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.4	3.0	3.1	2.1	2.0	2.7	2.9	1.5	1.9	2.1	2.2
White (non-Hispanic)	60.3	62.4	63.0	64.7	68.8	70.5	71.5	71.1	66.7	70.4	69.7	70.6	61.8	62.3	64.3	65.2
Two or more races	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	<.1	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	<.1	0.2	0.2	0.3
Unknown	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.6	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.8	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	2,844	3,351	3,191	2,278
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,599	1,658	1,509	1,262

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.1	4.0	5.5	2.2
1 year	5.5	6.9	6.3	4.9
2 years	5.6	6.1	6.3	5.2
3 years	4.5	6.9	6.0	5.2
4 years	4.9	5.5	5.6	4.8
5 years	4.4	5.0	4.7	5.0
6 years	4.2	4.9	4.5	4.0
7 years	5.2	4.6	4.6	4.0
8 years	5.8	5.2	4.9	4.8
9 years	6.0	6.0	4.8	4.8
10 years	6.8	6.1	6.2	5.0
11 years	7.1	6.1	6.1	6.8
12 years	7.8	6.9	6.4	6.7
13 years	7.7	7.1	7.1	7.8
14 years	7.2	7.3	7.2	9.1
15 years	7.3	6.0	7.0	9.3
16 years	4.5	3.6	3.9	7.1
17 years	2.2	1.9	2.7	3.3
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3
Asian	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	43.2	38.3	38.0	41.0
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.3	2.1	2.2	1.8
White (non-Hispanic)	54.0	58.0	58.5	56.0
Two or more races	<.1	0.3	0.4	0.2
Unknown	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	1,542	1,405	1,391	1,309

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.2	2.6	3.7	4.9
1 year	9.3	10.3	11.2	10.9
2 years	10.5	11.2	10.9	11.2
3 years	8.5	8.1	9.9	8.3
4 years	8.6	7.7	7.8	8.4
5 years	6.2	6.0	7.3	6.5
6 years	6.4	5.7	5.2	6.2
7 years	6.5	6.0	5.1	6.0
8 years	6.9	5.4	5.0	4.5
9 years	6.2	6.7	4.8	5.0
10 years	5.7	4.7	5.1	3.9
11 years	5.3	6.2	4.7	4.7
12 years	4.8	5.3	4.9	4.4
13 years	4.2	4.5	4.2	2.9
14 years	2.9	3.3	3.6	3.4
15 years	1.7	2.8	2.8	3.0
16 years	1.6	1.8	2.7	2.4
17 years	1.0	1.4	0.8	2.4
18 years	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.5
19 years	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.4
20+ years	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
Asian	<.1	0.6	0.6	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	36.6	31.2	31.3	28.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	2.5	2.3	4.0	3.7
White (non-Hispanic)	59.8	64.8	63.0	67.0
Two or more races	0.1	<.1	0.5	0.7
Unknown	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.2
Missing data	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Missouri

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	92.1	91.7	91.5	93.4
Children with one or more recurrences	7.9	8.3	8.5	6.6
Number	4,588	4,268	4,191	3,841

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.51	0.55	0.37
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.49	99.45	99.63
Number	N/A	18,460	17,728	17,344

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	23.7	20.7	22.1	21.2
Guardianship	13.3	10.8	11.9	11.9
Reunification	55.5	60.3	57.8	57.3
Other	7.4	8.2	8.2	9.6
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.1
Number	6,342	6,560	6,047	6,000

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	24.4	20.6	21.2	21.9
Guardianship	11.7	8.7	8.8	9.9
Reunification	49.1	56.1	54.5	52.4
Other	14.8	14.6	15.5	15.6
Missing data	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.3
Number	1,390	1,395	1,271	1,285

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	2.8	2.6	2.8	3.5
Guardianship	10.2	5.4	8.0	6.1
Reunification	67.1	70.0	64.9	65.6
Other	19.9	21.9	24.3	24.8
Missing data	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Number	1,631	1,671	1,476	1,594

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	30.2	30.0	26.1	27.8
Children older than 12 at entry	69.8	70.0	73.9	72.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	275	337	329	345

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	26.3	15.6	14.8	11.5	8.3	39.1	43.8	10.0	29.9	25.2	26.7	23.6		
Guardianship	5.3	6.3	0.0	7.7	12.5	4.3	0.0	20.0	18.3	15.0	17.1	14.2		
Reunification	68.4	68.8	77.8	61.5	58.3	47.8	56.3	70.0	44.2	48.7	44.0	48.3		
Other	0.0	9.4	7.4	19.2	20.8	8.7	0.0	0.0	7.7	11.1	12.2	13.7		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.2		
Number	19	32	27	26	24	23	16	10	1,850	1,682	1,571	1,488		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	28.4	22.9	33.5	26.7	21.2	19.1	20.0	20.2		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.2	4.6	3.7	7.4	11.3	9.6	10.5	11.4		
Reunification	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	58.2	64.1	59.1	58.5	60.0	64.3	62.6	60.1		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.2	8.4	3.7	7.4	7.4	7.0	6.9	8.2		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.1		
Number	1	3	1	2	134	131	164	176	4,232	4,617	4,215	4,233		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	8.0	15.0	8.8	6.4	28.6	8.3	36.8	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	13.3	5.0	5.9	4.3	28.6	16.7	10.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	73.3	60.0	79.4	80.9	42.9	75.0	52.6	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	5.3	20.0	5.9	8.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	75	60	34	47	7	12	19	18	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	66.6	59.5	65.0	61.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	19.4	24.1	21.3	23.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	6.0	8.2	5.6	7.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.9
48 or more mos.	4.3	4.4	4.1	4.5
Missing data	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.2
Number	3,519	3,954	3,495	3,436

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	74.9	74.2	76.1	78.1
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	8.6	8.9	8.2	8.0
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	9.2	10.0	9.1	11.9
Missing data	7.2	6.8	6.6	2.0
Number	7,139	6,342	6,535	6,342

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	6.7	7.2	7.7	9.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	23.4	25.8	25.8	25.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	25.4	31.8	31.5	29.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	18.3	18.3	18.9	18.6
48 or more mos.	25.3	16.6	15.8	17.4
Missing data	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.0
Number	1,505	1,358	1,337	1,271

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	78.8	78.6	79.5	80.8	53.1	51.8	51.6	50.9	28.7	26.2	24.2	23.1	94.4	98.6	100.0	93.3
Children with 3 or more placements	21.2	21.4	20.5	19.0	46.9	48.2	48.4	49.1	71.3	73.8	75.8	76.9	5.6	1.4	0.0	3.3
Number	8,064	7,399	7,425	7,261	4,430	4,422	3,961	3,968	6,806	6,566	6,261	6,055	71	73	81	60

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	1.6	1.2	0.8	0.9
Institutions	6.4	5.6	4.3	5.5
Other settings	92.0	93.2	94.9	93.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	3,454	2,986	3,171	4,603

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	119.3
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	67.9	66.8
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	7.0	7.8
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	37.2	34.9
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	8.3	8.7

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	125.1
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	33.7	34.7
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	29.9	29.7
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	21.5	21.3
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	13.0	11.8
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	67.2	69.2

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	113.6
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	28.8	29.2
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	97.5	97.1
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	55.5	57.5

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	83.2
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	77.4	79.3
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	51.6	50.9
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	25.5	24.5

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Missouri's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 6.6 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is equal to the national median and represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2002 (17.7 percent change).

In 2005, 0.37 percent of children in foster care in Missouri were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 0.42 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2003 (27.5 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 90.4 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 84.2 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 75.2 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. Although all percentages exceed the national medians for those measures, performance on all measures declined from 2002 (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 29.2 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent.

In 2005, 97.1 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage exceeds the national median of 95.7 percent.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 5.8 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 27.8 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 27.6 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (7.9 percent change).

In 2005, 57 percent of the children who exited foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 66.8 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 70.4 percent.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 34.9 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (6.2 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 8.7 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is less than the national median of 14.8 percent. Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 34.6 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 29.1 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (15.0 percent change).

In 2005, 21.3 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent.

Measure C2.5 indicates that 69.2 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 79.3 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 23.1 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (19.5 percent change).

In 2005, 6.4 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 7.2 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (20.0 percent change).

Montana

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	216,320	215,774	208,093	204,994
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	9.6	9.8	9.9	10.1
Asian	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.6
White (non-Hispanic)	83.7	83.4	83.2	83.0
Two or more races	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
Child population in poverty (%)	18.5	20.2	16.5	19.8

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	1,995	1,951	1,753	2,095
Children in foster care on 9/30	1,912	1,866	2,030	2,222
Children adopted	247	224	192	244

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	17,078	79.0 per 1,000	14,966	69.4 per 1,000	12,406	59.6 per 1,000	13,793	67.3 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	1,995	9.2 per 1,000	1,951	9.0 per 1,000	1,753	8.4 per 1,000	2,095	10.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	—	— per 100,000	3	1.4 per 100,000	2	1.0 per 100,000	2	1.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	9.0	9.7	10.0	13.9
1-5 years	33.0	35.0	36.6	35.7
6-10 years	24.9	24.1	26.1	24.0
11-15 years	24.0	22.1	19.3	19.9
16+ years	4.8	3.7	3.9	4.2
Unknown	4.3	5.4	4.0	2.4
Number	1,995	1,951	1,753	2,095

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	21.8	21.4	22.2	23.7
Asian	0.2	—	0.3	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.3	0.8	0.7	0.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.1	0.2	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	3.5	2.9	4.4	4.1
White (non-Hispanic)	52.6	52.5	52.0	48.0
Two or more races	2.5	3.0	3.1	4.0
Unknown	18.1	19.3	17.1	18.9
Number	1,995	1,951	1,753	2,095

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	0.6	15.5	22.2	20.4
Medical neglect	1.7	1.6	1.6	2.4
Neglect	34.5	38.7	69.4	74.3
Physical abuse	67.6	59.1	12.6	10.7
Sexual abuse	10.3	8.7	8.7	6.9
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	11.2	0.3	0.2	0.4
Number	1,995	1,951	1,753	2,095

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	236.5	316.5	198.2	245.9
Median	>24, but <48	>24, but <48	>24, but <48	>24, but <48

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	1,886	1,777	1,794	1,939	1,306	1,175	1,228	1,432	1,280	1,087	992	1,149	1,912	1,866	2,030	2,222
Median length of stay (months)	17.5	17.4	17.2	16.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.6	10.1	9.4	12.3	16.5	16.2	15.9	13.5

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	4.0	4.6	4.3	4.8	14.2	13.9	15.4	17.8	5.2	4.9	5.2	5.9	4.8	4.7	4.7	6.6
1 year	5.4	6.0	6.6	6.7	8.7	8.3	8.2	9.1	6.7	7.2	8.1	6.5	6.2	6.8	6.7	7.8
2 years	5.7	5.8	6.8	6.4	8.0	8.4	8.0	7.1	8.2	7.5	6.6	7.2	6.0	6.8	6.6	7.6
3 years	4.7	5.5	6.0	7.5	7.4	6.6	6.0	6.8	6.6	7.2	5.7	7.7	5.6	5.9	7.4	5.9
4 years	4.9	5.5	5.2	6.2	5.7	5.4	6.4	5.9	5.8	6.2	7.4	8.2	5.5	5.3	6.2	6.3
5 years	4.8	4.4	4.6	4.8	5.1	5.9	5.0	4.7	5.5	5.2	5.0	6.2	4.4	4.6	5.0	5.3
6 years	4.9	4.6	4.0	4.6	4.1	3.9	5.8	5.5	5.0	6.6	4.6	5.5	4.8	3.9	4.7	4.6
7 years	4.5	4.7	4.0	4.4	4.1	4.3	4.6	4.9	4.5	4.7	3.7	4.6	4.6	3.9	4.6	5.0
8 years	5.8	3.9	4.0	4.1	3.4	4.3	4.2	4.3	5.2	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.8	4.1	4.3	4.4
9 years	5.8	5.0	4.5	4.4	5.0	4.6	3.7	3.8	5.0	4.9	3.5	4.1	4.8	4.3	4.3	3.9
10 years	5.2	6.5	5.6	4.7	5.2	5.3	4.5	3.3	5.0	4.3	4.5	3.7	6.4	5.5	4.6	4.1
11 years	6.3	5.1	6.6	4.7	4.5	4.4	3.5	3.4	4.8	4.3	4.5	3.9	4.8	6.4	4.8	4.2
12 years	6.4	6.5	5.3	6.0	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.8	3.9	5.1	4.2	6.1	5.3	5.9	4.3
13 years	6.6	5.7	6.2	5.1	4.3	4.9	4.8	4.7	5.0	5.2	4.1	4.2	5.9	6.3	5.1	6.2
14 years	6.3	6.6	6.1	6.4	5.0	5.2	5.0	4.6	4.9	5.0	5.8	4.4	6.6	6.1	6.2	5.2
15 years	6.2	6.3	6.4	5.4	4.7	5.0	3.5	4.1	4.7	4.5	3.5	3.4	6.2	6.3	5.5	6.5
16 years	5.9	5.6	5.8	6.2	3.6	3.6	4.4	3.8	3.8	4.1	4.6	3.9	5.6	6.0	5.9	5.4
17 years	5.2	6.2	5.6	5.5	2.2	1.7	2.6	2.2	3.8	5.8	5.4	4.4	6.0	5.5	5.4	5.3
18 years	1.4	1.4	2.0	1.7	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	4.0	6.9	6.2	1.7	2.0	1.7	1.4
19 years	<.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.8	1.3	1.7	0.4	0.3	0.3	<.1
20+ years	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.2	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	32.8	31.6	33.7	32.6	27.9	29.8	29.9	32.6	27.4	26.6	28.7	30.7	33.1	33.4	33.8	33.6
Asian	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.4	<.1	<.1	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.2	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.1	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.8	1.4	0.8	1.0	1.5	1.7	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	<.1	0.2	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	4.1	5.0	5.5	5.8	6.0	5.2	6.0	4.9	4.7	4.0	5.7	6.7	5.1	5.7	5.7	4.7
White (non-Hispanic)	58.6	57.4	54.6	53.8	52.1	52.4	53.6	51.0	57.9	60.5	57.8	53.4	54.7	52.4	52.4	52.2
Two or more races	0.5	1.3	2.0	3.7	3.8	4.4	4.9	5.6	2.3	2.7	2.7	3.5	1.6	2.5	3.3	5.0
Unknown	2.6	2.9	2.8	2.6	8.0	6.6	4.2	4.1	6.2	4.3	3.4	3.7	3.9	4.4	3.3	3.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	669	639	713	646
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	561	545	596	550

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.2	1.3	0.4	1.7
1 year	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.6
2 years	6.0	6.6	5.9	5.9
3 years	4.3	6.3	7.2	6.3
4 years	5.2	5.0	6.2	6.5
5 years	4.2	4.9	6.2	5.4
6 years	4.9	4.2	6.2	3.1
7 years	5.1	3.3	3.5	4.8
8 years	4.6	4.7	3.4	3.9
9 years	5.2	3.8	4.1	4.2
10 years	8.2	5.5	4.3	3.9
11 years	6.4	8.5	5.6	4.6
12 years	7.2	6.9	8.0	6.0
13 years	6.6	8.5	6.6	8.5
14 years	6.6	6.6	8.6	6.5
15 years	6.4	7.7	6.5	9.8
16 years	6.4	6.6	7.6	7.1
17 years	6.0	5.5	5.6	7.1
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	26.0	26.9	29.9	24.5
Asian	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.1	1.6	1.5	2.0
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	4.6	6.3	4.9	5.3
White (non-Hispanic)	63.5	60.6	58.5	61.1
Two or more races	1.2	1.1	2.1	4.0
Unknown	2.4	3.3	2.8	2.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	247	224	192	244

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.4	1.3	2.6	2.5
1 year	6.9	11.2	9.9	8.2
2 years	11.7	8.9	16.1	9.8
3 years	8.5	10.7	12.0	12.3
4 years	8.1	8.5	8.3	12.7
5 years	9.3	8.5	3.6	11.5
6 years	8.5	8.0	7.8	9.8
7 years	6.5	7.1	5.7	4.9
8 years	5.7	7.6	7.8	4.9
9 years	10.5	5.4	4.2	3.7
10 years	5.3	3.1	3.6	4.9
11 years	6.9	4.5	5.7	3.3
12 years	3.6	4.5	6.3	4.1
13 years	3.2	3.1	0.5	4.1
14 years	2.4	3.1	1.6	2.0
15 years	1.6	0.9	2.1	0.4
16 years	0.8	2.2	1.6	0.8
17 years	0.0	1.3	0.5	0.0
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	18.2	17.0	17.2	24.6
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.0	1.8	0.0	1.2
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	8.1	4.0	13.5	9.8
White (non-Hispanic)	71.3	73.7	68.2	60.2
Two or more races	0.4	3.6	1.0	3.3
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Montana

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	88.0	90.5	93.5	92.8
Children with one or more recurrences	12.0	9.5	6.5	7.2
Number	934	814	815	1,001

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.24	0.23	0.36
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.76	99.77	99.64
Number	N/A	2,952	3,022	3,371

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	18.8	20.8	17.9	20.8
Guardianship	6.5	5.1	4.4	8.0
Reunification	59.4	57.7	57.8	57.4
Other	8.0	9.5	13.2	9.9
Missing data	7.3	7.0	6.7	3.9
Number	1,280	1,087	992	1,149

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	31.6	38.6	31.6	29.6
Guardianship	3.1	2.3	0.0	11.3
Reunification	36.7	25.0	31.6	27.8
Other	23.5	22.7	25.3	22.6
Missing data	5.1	11.4	11.4	8.7
Number	98	88	79	115

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.8	2.3	1.3	1.4
Guardianship	7.2	4.7	4.4	3.6
Reunification	46.6	48.1	47.3	55.4
Other	28.9	28.0	30.1	31.5
Missing data	16.5	16.8	16.8	8.1
Number	249	214	226	222

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	32.9	38.2	34.8	34.4
Children older than 12 at entry	67.1	61.8	65.2	65.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	82	76	92	90

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	12.5	14.5	10.5	17.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.5	26.3	21.1	0.0	21.4
Guardianship	10.5	6.2	6.7	10.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.5	9.1	0.0
Reunification	63.0	59.9	57.2	57.8	0.0	0.0	66.7	87.5	63.2	57.9	90.9	64.3
Other	3.7	11.8	18.2	10.5	0.0	100.0	33.3	0.0	5.3	0.0	0.0	14.3
Missing data	10.3	7.6	7.4	4.2	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.3	10.5	0.0	0.0
Number	351	289	285	353	1	1	3	8	19	19	11	14

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.0	20.9	43.9	29.9	23.3	24.6	21.1	23.3
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	2.3	3.5	11.7	5.4	5.0	3.3	7.0
Reunification	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	55.0	69.8	38.6	46.8	53.6	53.6	57.1	56.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	2.3	8.8	6.5	11.3	9.6	12.0	10.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	4.7	5.3	5.2	6.3	7.1	6.5	3.8
Number	0	1	2	1	60	43	57	77	741	658	573	613

	Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	31.0	7.4	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	6.3	0.0	5.9	4.8	0.0	3.4	3.7	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	88.6	89.4	82.4	76.2	93.1	58.6	70.4	65.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Other	2.5	4.3	5.9	11.9	0.0	6.9	7.4	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	2.5	6.4	5.9	7.1	3.4	0.0	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	79	47	34	42	29	29	27	40	0	0	0	1

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	80.5	77.5	75.7	75.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	14.2	15.6	18.2	18.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.0	3.8	3.0	3.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.9	1.8	0.9	1.2
48 or more mos.	1.3	1.1	2.3	2.0
Missing data	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
Number	760	627	573	659

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	69.9	69.0	72.2	76.9
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	16.1	18.8	13.4	10.1
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	12.9	11.4	12.4	11.5
Missing data	1.1	0.8	2.0	1.5
Number	1,306	1,175	1,228	1,432

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	1.2	3.1	6.2	2.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	32.0	30.1	32.0	23.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	28.2	28.3	33.1	37.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	17.8	17.7	12.9	20.5
48 or more mos.	20.7	20.8	15.7	15.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	241	226	178	239

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	84.1	86.8	86.4	86.4	54.6	68.4	63.8	68.8	33.4	36.5	37.0	37.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	15.9	13.2	13.6	13.6	45.4	31.6	36.2	31.2	66.6	63.5	63.0	62.5	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,489	1,365	1,371	1,581	663	561	647	731	1,039	1,026	998	1,050	1	0	6	9

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	9.4	7.8	5.2	5.2
Institutions	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4
Other settings	90.3	91.7	94.3	94.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,036	928	961	1,132

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	102.8
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	74.5	75.5
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	5.1	5.4
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	39.0	38.2
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	26.0	23.0

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	98.3
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	38.2	25.9
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	26.6	31.7
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	14.3	21.0
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	13.3	16.9
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	37.8	34.1

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	104.7
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	16.9	27.6
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	86.8	88.3
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	48.9	61.5

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	100.5
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	84.8	85.0
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	64.0	68.9
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	36.8	37.8

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Montana's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 7.2 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is greater than the national median of 6.6 percent. Although the percentage represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (40.0 percent change), it reflects a decline in performance from 2004 (10.8 percent change).

In 2005, 0.36 percent of children in foster care in Montana were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). Although this percentage is less than the national median of 0.42 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2003 (50.0 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 86.2 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is about equal to the national median of 87.8 percent. However, only 68.7 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) and 60.4 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. Both of these percentages are lower than the national medians for those measures (79.0 percent for measure 3.2 and 73.1 percent for measure 3.3).

In 2005, 27.6 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (63.6 percent change).

In 2005, 88.3 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is one of the lowest in the nation.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 7.8 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 34.4 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent.

In 2005, 61.5 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent and represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2004 (25.8 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 75.5 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 70.4 percent for this measure.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 38.2 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is about equal to the national median of 38.7 percent.

Measure C1.4 indicates that 23.0 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 14.8 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (11.5 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 25.9 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 29.1 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (22.0 percent change).

In 2005, 21.0 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 20.9 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (46.9 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 34.1 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is not only less than the national median of 45.1 percent, but also represents a decline in performance from 2004 (9.9 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 85.0 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 37.5 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 32.3 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (12.3 percent change).

In 2005, 5.6 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 7.2 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2002 (42.9 percent change).

Nebraska

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	439,393	440,840	434,566	431,629
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Asian	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	9.5	10.1	10.6	10.9
White (non-Hispanic)	80.5	79.7	79.1	78.6
Two or more races	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2
Child population in poverty (%)	13.0	11.0	10.2	11.3

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	3,909	3,875	4,785	6,630
Children in foster care on 9/30	5,724	5,148	6,292	6,231
Children adopted	356	281	367	356

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	12,262	27.9 per 1,000	14,767	33.5 per 1,000	24,235	55.8 per 1,000	35,621	82.5 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	3,909	8.9 per 1,000	3,875	8.8 per 1,000	4,785	11.0 per 1,000	6,630	15.4 per 1,000
Child fatalities	13	3.0 per 100,000	16	3.6 per 100,000	11	2.5 per 100,000	6	1.4 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	10.3	11.4	10.0	11.0
1-5 years	35.7	34.1	36.2	35.4
6-10 years	27.6	27.0	26.3	26.9
11-15 years	21.1	22.0	21.6	21.0
16+ years	4.5	4.4	4.8	4.9
Unknown	0.9	1.1	1.1	0.8
Number	3,909	3,875	4,785	6,630

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	6.0	6.9	5.8	5.7
Asian	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	10.6	9.7	11.3	12.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	8.0	8.4	10.2	9.0
White (non-Hispanic)	67.1	66.7	64.0	62.2
Two or more races	0.5	0.7	0.2	0.8
Unknown	7.3	6.9	7.9	8.8
Number	3,909	3,875	4,785	6,630

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	6.9	8.0	5.7	5.5
Medical neglect	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Neglect	71.7	72.7	79.2	83.1
Physical abuse	22.1	21.2	18.2	14.0
Sexual abuse	9.6	10.0	8.0	8.9
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Number	3,909	3,875	4,785	6,630

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	653.4	328.0	239.2	207.4
Median	>120, but <144	>48, but <72	>48, but <72	>24, but <48

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	5,568	5,388	5,255	5,716	3,351	2,907	4,155	3,939	3,195	3,147	3,118	3,424	5,724	5,148	6,292	6,231
Median length of stay (months)	13.9	14.7	14.7	12.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.1	14.6	14.2	12.7	14.2	15.0	11.1	12.5

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.6	2.8	2.9	3.6	8.5	8.8	9.0	10.4	2.0	2.1	2.1	3.0	2.8	3.0	3.5	4.0
1 year	3.9	4.3	4.2	5.2	5.0	4.7	4.9	5.3	3.3	3.9	3.3	4.6	4.2	4.2	4.9	5.0
2 years	4.0	4.4	4.6	4.6	3.8	4.4	4.3	5.1	4.0	3.8	4.6	4.7	4.4	4.6	4.5	5.3
3 years	4.2	4.0	4.3	4.9	4.1	3.9	4.1	4.7	4.4	3.9	4.5	4.3	4.0	4.4	4.7	4.6
4 years	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.1	3.5	4.3	4.4	4.0	3.5	4.2	4.8	4.0	4.1	3.9	4.7
5 years	3.2	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.3	3.6	4.3	4.3	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.2
6 years	3.0	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.2	3.7	3.3	4.0	3.8	4.1	3.7	3.9	3.7	3.6
7 years	3.8	3.3	3.4	3.6	2.9	2.8	3.2	3.4	3.1	3.2	4.1	3.7	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.8
8 years	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.2	2.9	2.8	2.9	3.3	3.8	2.5	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.1	3.3
9 years	4.1	3.6	3.2	3.3	3.6	2.6	3.3	3.1	3.2	3.1	2.9	3.3	3.6	3.2	3.3	3.2
10 years	3.8	4.0	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.6	2.8	3.2	3.5	3.7	3.3	3.1	3.9	3.5	3.2	3.2
11 years	3.7	3.5	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.3	2.9	3.1	3.6	3.9	3.7	3.3
12 years	4.3	4.3	3.8	4.2	4.6	4.5	4.4	3.8	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.5	4.3	3.9	4.1	4.2
13 years	5.2	4.9	5.8	4.7	6.7	6.4	5.4	6.1	4.0	3.7	4.1	3.7	5.2	5.6	4.7	4.9
14 years	7.0	6.5	6.6	7.0	8.3	8.6	8.5	8.1	4.5	4.9	4.6	4.3	6.8	6.5	7.2	6.5
15 years	10.3	9.2	9.6	9.2	10.3	11.1	11.2	9.1	6.4	6.1	6.3	5.8	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.4
16 years	11.6	12.1	11.0	11.3	11.2	10.8	11.2	10.5	10.0	9.0	8.7	8.6	12.1	11.1	12.1	10.7
17 years	11.9	11.4	11.6	10.4	7.9	9.0	8.6	7.5	12.0	13.5	11.4	11.3	10.9	11.8	11.0	10.7
18 years	5.9	6.9	5.9	5.5	1.5	1.1	1.3	1.1	12.6	16.4	14.4	10.8	6.5	6.1	5.6	5.4
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.7	2.4	4.1	5.6	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	7.0	7.3	8.2	7.7	8.4	8.6	8.4	9.9	7.7	7.2	9.3	7.8	7.4	8.1	7.8	9.0
Asian	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.5	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	18.0	17.1	15.6	15.2	12.7	11.6	13.1	12.7	14.3	14.6	12.9	12.3	17.0	15.6	15.3	15.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	8.2	8.0	8.2	10.0	8.7	10.0	11.6	10.9	9.2	9.5	8.7	11.4	7.9	8.3	10.2	9.8
White (non-Hispanic)	64.0	65.1	65.3	63.7	67.4	66.9	63.0	61.7	65.4	66.1	66.6	63.9	65.1	65.5	63.2	62.3
Two or more races	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8
Unknown	1.7	1.6	1.6	2.5	1.6	2.0	3.0	3.4	1.8	1.9	1.6	3.3	1.5	1.6	2.5	2.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	616	787	902	913
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	549	622	554	488

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.3	0.8	1.3	1.8
1 year	3.1	4.3	6.8	4.7
2 years	6.7	6.9	6.8	7.3
3 years	6.0	8.0	7.8	7.9
4 years	7.3	7.6	6.4	7.0
5 years	7.5	7.4	7.0	6.8
6 years	6.3	7.5	6.5	6.6
7 years	6.0	6.1	8.2	5.3
8 years	6.2	5.7	5.2	6.6
9 years	7.5	5.8	5.4	5.9
10 years	7.8	6.4	6.4	5.4
11 years	6.0	7.0	5.9	6.8
12 years	5.2	5.6	6.8	6.1
13 years	6.0	4.7	5.2	6.6
14 years	4.5	5.7	4.2	5.5
15 years	6.2	4.3	4.9	3.9
16 years	4.5	4.3	3.3	3.7
17 years	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.2
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	6.3	6.9	8.9	8.7
Asian	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	27.4	23.1	20.3	19.6
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	6.7	6.4	9.5	11.7
White (non-Hispanic)	54.7	59.6	57.2	56.0
Two or more races	0.5	1.3	1.3	1.2
Unknown	3.9	2.7	2.3	2.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	356	281	367	356

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.8	1.1	0.0	0.8
1 year	4.8	7.5	3.3	8.1
2 years	10.7	10.7	10.1	11.8
3 years	11.5	10.7	12.5	9.0
4 years	10.7	9.3	9.0	11.0
5 years	9.3	8.2	10.9	7.3
6 years	7.9	8.9	7.9	7.9
7 years	6.7	8.2	6.3	9.6
8 years	7.9	6.0	8.2	6.5
9 years	6.5	8.2	4.1	6.5
10 years	6.5	5.3	4.9	5.1
11 years	5.6	5.0	6.0	4.8
12 years	3.4	3.9	4.6	3.7
13 years	2.0	2.8	3.8	2.5
14 years	2.8	1.8	3.0	1.1
15 years	1.4	1.1	2.2	1.7
16 years	1.1	0.4	0.5	2.0
17 years	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8
18 years	0.0	0.4	1.1	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	6.2	6.4	5.4	5.1
Asian	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	15.4	18.1	18.3	17.7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	10.4	13.9	6.8	7.0
White (non-Hispanic)	66.0	57.7	67.6	66.3
Two or more races	1.1	0.4	1.1	0.3
Unknown	0.8	2.8	0.8	3.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Nebraska

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	95.3	92.9	91.2	90.1
Children with one or more recurrences	4.7	7.1	8.8	9.9
Number	1,557	1,566	1,883	2,509

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.13	0.17	0.42
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.87	99.83	99.58
Number	N/A	8,295	9,410	9,655

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	9.0	8.9	11.5	10.0
Guardianship	6.8	8.3	9.3	7.8
Reunification	73.7	74.1	69.4	73.2
Other	4.8	5.1	5.5	6.9
Missing data	5.7	3.7	4.2	2.2
Number	3,195	3,147	3,118	3,424

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	35.5	28.1	27.8	16.1
Guardianship	6.1	7.8	7.2	7.8
Reunification	51.2	54.8	56.5	64.6
Other	2.8	6.4	5.7	10.8
Missing data	4.3	2.9	2.8	0.7
Number	391	409	460	870

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.2
Guardianship	3.6	5.0	7.2	5.9
Reunification	80.1	81.4	78.1	78.9
Other	7.9	8.2	9.1	12.5
Missing data	8.2	5.2	5.2	2.5
Number	1,602	1,546	1,410	1,465

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	2.4	2.3	5.9	15.2
Children older than 12 at entry	97.6	97.7	94.1	84.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	83	86	101	158

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	6.1	8.8	6.2	7.5	0.0	22.2	0.0	4.8	9.6	11.5	15.6	13.6		
Guardianship	7.3	14.6	11.4	7.5	12.5	0.0	12.5	0.0	12.3	8.0	9.7	9.3		
Reunification	75.9	67.7	74.4	77.2	81.3	66.7	87.5	90.5	63.7	70.9	67.2	65.2		
Other	3.7	3.5	3.1	7.1	0.0	11.1	0.0	4.8	4.8	3.7	2.2	9.0		
Missing data	6.9	5.3	4.8	0.7	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.6	5.9	5.2	2.9		
Number	245	226	289	267	32	9	8	21	457	460	403	420		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.2	12.7	7.7	6.2	9.4	7.7	12.0	10.4		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.5	6.0	8.9	9.0	5.4	8.3	9.2	7.4		
Reunification	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	72.5	74.2	73.1	77.2	75.8	75.4	68.4	73.3		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7	4.0	5.5	4.1	5.1	5.7	6.4	6.9		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1	3.0	4.8	3.6	4.3	2.9	4.0	2.0		
Number	1	1	2	2	295	299	271	390	2,091	2,079	2,078	2,189		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	5.2	9.8	6.0	9.6	18.8	8.3	23.5	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	5.2	1.6	2.0	4.4	6.3	0.0	11.8	19.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	74.1	75.4	78.0	76.3	62.5	83.3	64.7	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	6.9	4.9	12.0	8.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	8.6	8.2	2.0	0.9	12.5	8.3	0.0	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	58	61	50	114	16	12	17	21	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	54.5	52.4	54.2	58.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	25.7	23.6	24.4	26.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	11.1	12.0	10.7	8.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	4.9	5.6	4.5	3.4
48 or more mos.	3.8	6.3	6.1	3.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,356	2,331	2,165	2,507

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	80.6	81.7	80.1	81.0
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	11.7	9.8	9.9	9.2
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	7.7	8.6	9.8	9.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Number	3,351	2,907	4,155	3,939

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	3.1	3.2	2.5	4.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	15.2	20.6	12.8	17.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	33.9	24.6	31.8	27.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	30.8	25.3	25.4	22.3
48 or more mos.	17.0	26.3	27.4	28.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	289	281	358	341

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	81.6	82.9	81.6	82.3	48.9	50.1	50.6	47.9	30.3	28.5	28.1	28.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	18.4	17.1	18.4	17.7	51.1	49.9	49.4	52.1	69.7	71.5	71.9	71.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	3,997	3,591	4,683	4,698	2,221	2,002	2,083	2,420	2,691	2,698	2,620	2,529	10	4	24	8

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	4.2	5.2	4.2	5.4
Institutions	2.4	1.4	0.9	0.9
Other settings	93.4	93.4	94.9	93.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,815	1,557	2,216	2,238

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	111.0
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	64.2	68.5
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	7.4	6.9
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	33.2	39.2
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	11.0	16.7

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	81.1
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	15.4	22.1
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	37.0	36.4
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	18.5	17.3
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	8.8	6.0
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	38.1	42.2

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	142.6
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	33.5	30.6
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	98.6	97.8
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	22.4	25.1

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	85.8
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	80.6	81.6
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	51.0	48.4
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	29.4	29.5

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Todd Reckling, Administrator
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

The following are Nebraska's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress*.

In July 2005, Nebraska changed their data system to more accurately reflect reasons for discharge and discharge transaction dates. Because these changes were not in effect between October 1, 2004 and June 20, 2005, there may be inconsistencies in the measurement of the State's FY 2004 – FY 2005 outcomes. The data will be more accurate in the FY 2005 – FY 2006 report.

Section B (Maltreatment Information Overview): Nebraska experienced an increase in the number/rate of child maltreatment victims from 2002 to 2005. A recent focus on the safety and welfare of children has led to the creation of new staff positions, the implementation of a new screening tool, and the launching of public awareness campaigns. These changes may have increased the number/rate of reports received and substantiated.

Section C (Children in Foster Care): The discrepancy between the number of children in care at the close of 2004 and the beginning of 2005 is due to the changes in how Nebraska measures reasons for and dates of discharge mentioned above. This discrepancy will not exist in future reports.

Section D (Children Waiting for Adoption): Nebraska's percent of cases with children awaiting adoption and in which parental rights have been terminated is lower than the national average. In Nebraska, however, it is possible to set a goal of adoption without terminating parental rights. Also, staff has not accurately documented termination of parental rights in the past, which is now being corrected.

Outcome Measure 3.4 (Exits to Emancipation): In 2005, the number of youth in foster care who are 18 or older at the time of exit was larger than the number of youth emancipated. The aforementioned changes in how we measure reasons for discharge will likely remedy that discrepancy and increase the number of emancipated youth. (Note: In Nebraska, however, many youth who are age 18 or older and who return to a previous home are reported as being discharged to reunification rather than emancipation.)

Outcome Measure 4.1 (Time to Reunification): Despite an increase in the past year, Nebraska falls below the national median for the percent of reunifications occurring in less than 12 months of a child's entry into care. This is impacted by the way in which reunification was measured. The new Federal measure contains an adjustment for children returned home for a trial period (an option Nebraska frequently utilizes) and will potentially increase the number of reunifications in less than 12 months.

Outcome Measure 1.1 (Recurrence of Maltreatment): There was an increase in the percent of children that experienced a recurrence of maltreatment during a 6-month period. This may be due to the focus on child safety mentioned above and the additional direction given to staff on how and when to document subsequent abuse/neglect reports.

Outcome Measure 2.1 (Maltreatment in Foster Care): There has been a policy change in Nebraska requiring caseworkers to submit new reports of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff and new instances of abuse. This increased the number of children in this category.

Outcome Measure 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4 (Exits to Permanency): From 2002 to 2005 there was an increase in the percent of children who exited care but did not enter into a permanent home and an increase in the percent of children who entered care at the age of 12 or younger and who exited to emancipation. Both are a reflection of the changes in how we have measured the reasons for discharge.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Nebraska's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 9.9 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage not only exceeds the national median of 6.6 percent, but also represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2002 (110.6 percent change).

In 2005, 0.42 percent of children in foster care in Nebraska were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is equal to the national median and represents a decline in performance from 2003 (223.1 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 91.0 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 88.5 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 85.0 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All three percentages exceed the national medians for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 30.6 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (8.7 percent change).

In 2005, 97.8 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage exceeds the national median of 95.7 percent.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 4.6 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 15.2 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent. However, in Nebraska, the age of majority is 19; 16.4 percent of the children discharged from foster care were age 18 or older at the time of discharge, and many of these children are reported as discharges to reunification.

In 2005, 25.1 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent and represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2004 (12.1 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 68.5 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 70.4 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (6.7 percent change).

Measure C1.3 indicates that 39.2 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (18.1 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 16.7 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage exceeds the national median of 14.8 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (51.8 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 22.0 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 29.1 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (20.2 percent change).

In 2005, 17.3 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 20.9 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (6.5 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 42.2 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is less than the national median of 45.1 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (10.8 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 81.6 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 28.4 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (6.3 percent change).

In 2005, 6.3 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 7.2 percent.

Nevada

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	572,590	581,397	603,596	621,180
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Asian	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Hispanic (of any race)	30.7	31.6	32.5	33.5
White (non-Hispanic)	51.7	50.6	49.4	48.1
Two or more races	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0
Child population in poverty (%)	12.1	14.8	13.8	13.4

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	5,008	4,578	4,462	4,971
Children in foster care on 9/30	3,291	3,525	4,050	4,670
Children adopted	254	289	283	434

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	22,491	39.3 per 1,000	27,329	47.0 per 1,000	24,695	40.9 per 1,000	27,738	44.7 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	5,008	8.8 per 1,000	4,578	7.9 per 1,000	4,462	7.4 per 1,000	4,971	8.0 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	0.5 per 100,000	3	0.5 per 100,000	2	0.3 per 100,000	17	2.7 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	13.1	16.0	17.3	18.1
1-5 years	36.6	36.2	34.7	35.9
6-10 years	25.0	25.6	25.4	23.9
11-15 years	19.0	18.3	19.1	18.8
16+ years	3.7	3.8	3.4	3.2
Unknown	1.3	0.1	—	—
Number	5,008	4,578	4,462	4,971

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	1.7	1.1	0.5	0.4
Asian	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	18.7	17.4	16.6	14.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.9	1.2	0.8
Hispanic (of any race)	4.6	21.7	20.8	22.3
White (non-Hispanic)	70.0	48.3	52.2	51.1
Two or more races	—	4.3	4.1	4.6
Unknown	3.9	5.3	3.7	5.0
Number	5,008	4,578	4,462	4,971

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	2.5	6.8	5.1	7.9
Medical neglect	2.0	1.2	1.9	1.7
Neglect	52.6	82.1	82.0	82.8
Physical abuse	17.6	16.0	18.0	17.8
Sexual abuse	4.9	3.8	3.8	4.3
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	20.5	—	—	—
Number	5,008	4,578	4,462	4,971

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	—	44.6	48.4	48.2
Median	—	>24, but <48	>24, but <48	>24, but <48

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	2,934	3,071	3,524	4,060	3,435	3,676	4,101	3,759	3,078	3,222	3,575	3,149	3,291	3,525	4,050	4,670
Median length of stay (months)	20.4	13.3	13.8	12.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	0.6	0.6	7.2	17.7	13.7	12.3	12.6

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	5.4	9.0	10.3	9.6	16.1	20.1	20.2	21.8	10.6	10.1	11.3	9.5	6.2	10.4	9.9	10.1
1 year	6.5	8.8	8.9	9.2	7.7	7.8	6.8	7.6	7.1	8.0	8.4	9.1	7.0	9.1	9.4	9.6
2 years	7.3	7.0	8.5	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.9	8.4	7.9	6.7	8.7	7.5	8.0
3 years	6.4	6.4	6.8	7.6	6.3	6.6	6.1	6.6	7.3	6.5	6.2	7.4	6.8	6.8	7.7	7.1
4 years	5.5	5.2	6.2	6.4	5.4	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.8	6.6	6.7	7.3	5.3	6.2	6.2	6.7
5 years	5.4	6.0	5.4	5.6	6.1	5.8	5.4	5.5	5.9	5.8	5.9	6.2	5.9	5.4	5.7	5.7
6 years	4.9	4.9	5.5	5.2	5.5	5.2	5.7	4.9	5.8	5.9	6.6	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.1
7 years	5.7	4.6	4.4	4.7	5.2	4.5	5.1	4.5	5.4	5.3	4.8	4.9	4.7	4.3	4.7	4.8
8 years	5.2	5.6	3.9	4.7	4.7	4.2	4.7	4.6	5.1	5.3	4.8	4.2	5.5	3.8	4.7	4.5
9 years	5.0	3.9	4.4	3.8	4.1	3.8	4.0	4.0	5.2	4.3	4.1	4.9	4.2	4.3	3.9	4.6
10 years	5.0	4.3	3.8	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.7	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.3	3.7	4.3	3.8
11 years	4.5	4.5	4.1	3.8	4.4	4.2	4.2	3.4	4.7	4.4	4.6	4.2	4.4	4.0	3.7	3.9
12 years	4.2	4.7	4.1	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.9	4.0	3.4	4.0	4.2	3.8	4.2	4.2	3.6	3.5
13 years	5.1	4.3	4.4	4.1	3.9	4.0	4.1	3.6	4.5	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.1	3.7
14 years	4.5	4.9	4.3	4.6	4.1	4.1	4.4	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.2	5.0	4.3	4.5	3.9
15 years	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.7	3.8	3.5	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.8	4.5	4.8	4.4	4.3
16 years	4.7	4.2	4.3	4.8	3.6	3.0	2.3	2.6	3.1	3.4	2.9	3.2	4.6	4.3	4.6	4.3
17 years	4.3	4.6	3.4	3.4	2.9	1.6	1.4	1.6	2.5	3.0	1.7	1.9	5.0	3.5	3.5	4.1
18 years	3.5	1.8	1.9	1.9	0.3	<.1	<.1	0.0	2.1	2.0	2.3	2.6	3.1	1.8	1.7	1.6
19 years	1.0	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.1	2.2	0.6	0.4	0.6
20+ years	0.5	0.2	<.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.7	<.1	0.2	<.1
Missing data	0.7	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.7	0.2	<.1	0.1	1.0	0.2	<.1	0.1	0.5	<.1	<.1	<.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.3	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.5
Asian	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	20.6	23.1	22.7	22.8	19.4	21.1	21.8	19.7	20.3	21.0	22.1	20.5	19.6	22.9	22.3	21.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.6	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.7
Hispanic (of any race)	11.2	14.9	16.5	17.2	21.0	21.9	22.2	24.3	21.3	21.8	22.3	20.9	12.0	15.8	17.2	20.4
White (non-Hispanic)	57.0	54.0	52.6	52.3	49.7	48.0	48.3	46.0	50.1	48.3	47.3	48.8	55.7	52.9	52.9	49.6
Two or more races	4.9	3.9	5.2	5.2	4.2	5.7	4.5	4.9	4.0	4.3	4.5	4.9	5.0	5.4	5.2	5.2
Unknown	4.5	1.4	0.6	0.2	3.4	1.3	0.9	2.4	1.9	2.2	1.3	1.7	5.7	0.6	0.2	1.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	532	1,055	1,139	1,211
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1	90	82	144

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	7.9	10.1	9.5	8.7
1 year	7.5	12.4	11.6	11.1
2 years	8.6	10.9	10.4	10.3
3 years	8.3	8.0	10.0	8.7
4 years	7.3	7.0	7.2	8.1
5 years	8.6	7.0	6.6	6.4
6 years	6.8	7.2	6.5	5.9
7 years	5.8	5.1	6.3	5.6
8 years	7.7	3.8	5.1	5.6
9 years	7.0	5.3	3.9	5.3
10 years	4.9	4.4	5.0	3.6
11 years	5.6	4.1	4.1	5.0
12 years	4.5	3.0	3.3	4.0
13 years	2.4	2.9	2.6	3.9
14 years	3.4	2.7	2.0	2.4
15 years	2.1	2.8	2.4	2.6
16 years	0.9	1.9	2.0	1.9
17 years	0.6	1.3	1.5	0.8
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.6	0.2	0.7
Asian	0.6	<.1	0.4	0.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	21.1	22.3	22.5	22.7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1.7	1.3	1.2	0.7
Hispanic (of any race)	9.6	15.3	15.2	17.0
White (non-Hispanic)	58.3	53.2	54.0	52.5
Two or more races	6.6	6.8	6.4	5.2
Unknown	2.3	0.5	0.2	0.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	254	289	283	434

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.8	1.0	1.4	2.8
1 year	10.2	10.4	13.8	15.2
2 years	11.4	13.8	16.3	16.4
3 years	11.4	13.1	8.8	9.4
4 years	9.1	11.1	8.5	10.6
5 years	5.9	6.6	7.4	6.7
6 years	7.9	5.5	8.8	6.2
7 years	7.9	8.7	6.7	7.1
8 years	7.9	3.5	4.6	4.1
9 years	5.9	7.3	6.7	3.9
10 years	4.3	5.2	1.1	3.7
11 years	4.7	3.8	4.9	3.7
12 years	4.3	3.8	4.6	2.8
13 years	4.7	1.7	3.2	3.0
14 years	2.0	0.3	0.4	1.8
15 years	0.4	2.4	0.7	1.8
16 years	0.8	1.0	1.8	0.5
17 years	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.2
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.5
Asian	2.4	2.1	0.4	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	26.4	23.9	20.8	20.7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1.2	0.3	0.4	1.6
Hispanic (of any race)	9.1	14.5	21.2	14.1
White (non-Hispanic)	55.9	55.4	53.7	53.9
Two or more races	4.7	3.5	2.8	6.5
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Nevada

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	—	94.7	94.7	93.7
Children with one or more recurrences	—	5.3	5.3	6.3
Number	—	2,056	2,108	2,292

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care

(NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	<.1	0.21	0.19
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.99	99.79	99.81
Number	N/A	6,747	7,625	7,819

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	7.0	4.4	8.0	12.6
Guardianship	2.0	0.7	1.4	10.7
Reunification	68.6	88.1	85.1	70.3
Other	2.8	6.8	5.5	6.3
Missing data	19.6	0.0	0.0	0.1
Number	3,078	3,222	3,575	3,149

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	11.4	16.8	39.0	59.1
Guardianship	2.3	1.2	1.0	5.8
Reunification	54.5	59.0	41.9	24.3
Other	9.1	23.1	18.1	10.6
Missing data	22.7	0.0	0.0	0.2
Number	44	173	210	416

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.2
Guardianship	0.8	0.7	2.0	6.3
Reunification	74.8	83.9	80.0	72.6
Other	6.5	15.2	18.1	20.5
Missing data	17.6	0.0	0.0	0.4
Number	523	566	559	511

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	35.7	28.3	38.8	42.1
Children older than 12 at entry	64.3	70.7	60.2	57.9
Missing data	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0
Number	42	99	103	107

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	4.5	26.3	10.5	3.1	12.1	2.6	9.7	6.7	3.4	7.3	11.8		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	12.9	2.4	1.2	1.8	14.4		
Reunification	66.7	72.7	73.7	73.7	65.6	81.8	92.1	67.7	75.5	86.1	84.5	66.4		
Other	0.0	22.7	0.0	15.8	0.0	6.1	5.3	9.7	2.1	9.3	6.4	7.3		
Missing data	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.3	0.0	0.0	0.2		
Number	15	22	19	19	32	33	38	31	624	677	791	645		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	7.7	0.0	9.7	13.7	3.2	2.1	5.5	8.2	8.9	5.9	9.3	14.7		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	6.5	15.7	1.7	0.1	1.1	10.2	2.0	0.8	1.3	9.2		
Reunification	84.6	78.3	77.4	62.7	77.0	93.9	91.2	77.5	62.8	86.9	82.5	69.2		
Other	0.0	21.7	6.5	7.8	1.1	3.8	2.1	4.1	3.4	6.4	6.9	6.8		
Missing data	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.9	0.0	0.0	0.2		
Number	26	23	31	51	657	704	798	657	1,543	1,555	1,691	1,538		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	1.7	2.8	6.4	11.3	9.0	3.6	9.4	15.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	6.8	2.8	2.1	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.6	13.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	47.5	87.3	85.1	81.1	69.7	88.3	86.3	66.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	16.9	7.0	6.4	3.8	2.5	8.0	3.8	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	27.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	59	71	47	53	122	137	160	155	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	90.6	77.5	78.3	73.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	4.7	14.7	14.0	17.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1.6	4.2	5.0	5.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.5	1.6	1.3	1.8
48 or more mos.	2.5	1.9	1.1	1.7
Missing data	<.1	0.2	0.3	0.3
Number	2,112	2,839	3,042	2,214

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	84.8	83.7	83.9	84.2
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	6.9	7.4	6.5	6.2
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	5.6	7.6	9.0	9.4
Missing data	2.7	1.3	0.7	0.2
Number	3,435	3,676	4,101	3,759

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	10.7	5.6	7.7	8.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	18.1	24.6	21.7	22.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	22.3	26.1	31.8	30.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	16.7	16.9	14.0	16.8
48 or more mos.	32.1	26.8	24.8	21.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	215	142	286	398

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	90.7	72.5	73.5	71.5	81.3	49.9	67.2	35.9	84.5	59.0	77.0	27.0	88.9	68.8	78.1	95.8
Children with 3 or more placements	5.0	6.1	9.9	24.9	18.7	4.3	7.0	61.1	15.5	6.0	8.9	70.4	0.0	31.3	18.8	0.0
Number	3,673	3,964	4,486	4,173	890	1,292	1,428	1,749	1,797	1,475	1,679	1,873	9	16	32	24

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	<.1	0.3	0.5	0.6
Institutions	90.0	42.4	33.0	24.0
Other settings	9.8	37.7	48.2	75.0
Missing data	0.2	19.6	18.3	0.4
Number	1,986	3,054	3,413	3,066

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	125.9
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	63.3	65.6
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	8.5	7.4
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	44.9	35.9
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	8.3	7.8

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	81.6
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	29.4	30.7
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	30.5	31.1
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	18.5	22.0
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	0.2	1.9
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	20.0	30.4

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	110.6
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	26.8	32.0
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	93.3	98.1
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	64.8	66.4

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	69.3
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	81.7	67.3
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	90.5	37.1
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	89.7	27.4

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Nevada's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 6.3 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 6.6 percent, but represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2002 (18.9 percent change).

In 2005, 0.19 percent of children in foster care in Nevada were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 0.42 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 93.6 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 89.2 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 79.1 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All three percentages exceed the national medians for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 32.0 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (19.4 percent change).

In 2005, 98.1 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage exceeds the national median of 95.7 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (5.1 percent change).

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 3.4 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 42.1 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2003 (48.9 percent change).

In 2005, 66.4 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 65.6 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 70.4 percent.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 35.9 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (20.0 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 7.8 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is less than the national median of 14.8 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (6.0 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 30.7 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 29.1 percent.

In 2005, 22.0 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (18.9 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 30.4 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is less than the national median of 45.1 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (52.0 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

Data pertaining to placement stability, as shown in measures 6.1, C4.1, C4.2, and C4.3, are highly variable across years and between measures, suggesting potential data quality issues for these measures.

In 2005, 24.6 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this percentage is the highest in the nation, it represents improvement in performance from 2003 (29.7 percent change).

New Hampshire

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	308,371	306,231	304,994	303,151
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.8	3.0	3.1	3.3
White (non-Hispanic)	93.0	92.7	92.4	92.1
Two or more races	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.7
Child population in poverty (%)	5.8	7.2	7.4	5.5

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	962	1,043	948	941
Children in foster care on 9/30	1,291	1,217	1,236	1,178
Children adopted	114	131	102	124

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	10,564	34.3 per 1,000	9,697	31.7 per 1,000	9,037	29.6 per 1,000	9,275	30.6 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	962	3.1 per 1,000	1,043	3.4 per 1,000	948	3.1 per 1,000	941	3.1 per 1,000
Child fatalities	0	0.0 per 100,000	3	1.0 per 100,000	0	0.0 per 100,000	2	0.7 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	8.4	8.5	8.5	10.6
1-5 years	24.7	27.7	30.3	28.1
6-10 years	28.0	28.7	27.6	27.1
11-15 years	31.2	28.2	27.3	29.5
16+ years	6.9	5.8	6.2	4.7
Unknown	0.8	1.1	—	—
Number	962	1,043	948	941

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.3	0.4	0.2	—
Asian	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.3	1.8	3.0	2.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	0.2	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	3.6	4.1	5.6	6.0
White (non-Hispanic)	89.1	86.8	82.2	82.0
Two or more races	0.8	1.6	2.8	2.9
Unknown	3.5	5.0	5.9	6.2
Number	962	1,043	948	941

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	1.9	1.5	2.5	1.0
Medical neglect	2.8	2.2	1.9	2.6
Neglect	60.3	62.9	63.8	66.4
Physical abuse	21.4	19.4	21.3	20.4
Sexual abuse	21.2	20.8	18.6	19.7
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Number	962	1,043	948	941

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	14.2	14.3	17.5	19.2
Median	<24	<24	<24	<24

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	1,240	1,252	1,199	1,178	563	578	560	548	512	613	523	549	1,291	1,217	1,236	1,178
Median length of stay (months)	26.0	23.9	25.4	25.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.3	13.8	13.1	16.3	23.2	24.0	24.0	22.4

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.0	2.3	1.8	3.0	10.8	8.5	11.4	12.8	3.5	2.9	3.1	3.1	2.0	1.7	3.0	3.1
1 year	3.9	4.2	4.0	3.1	5.0	5.2	3.8	5.5	3.1	2.9	2.9	4.0	4.3	3.8	3.2	4.3
2 years	4.0	3.9	4.9	4.0	5.2	5.0	5.4	4.7	3.5	5.5	4.8	4.0	4.0	4.8	4.0	3.8
3 years	4.5	4.2	3.7	4.8	5.0	5.7	5.2	4.7	5.1	4.7	5.4	5.3	4.0	4.0	4.9	4.2
4 years	5.1	4.6	3.9	3.7	3.9	4.3	5.2	3.5	4.9	4.2	5.2	4.9	4.6	4.2	4.0	4.4
5 years	3.8	4.3	4.7	4.2	3.2	4.0	4.6	4.2	4.9	4.4	3.8	4.9	4.3	4.7	4.1	3.2
6 years	3.7	3.4	3.4	4.8	3.0	2.4	3.4	3.8	4.7	3.4	2.7	4.0	3.2	3.5	4.8	3.9
7 years	4.2	3.8	2.8	4.1	3.6	2.9	3.8	3.8	3.7	4.7	3.1	6.2	3.8	2.9	4.0	4.0
8 years	5.1	3.8	3.3	3.1	3.0	4.0	3.4	3.8	3.3	3.3	3.1	1.6	3.5	3.3	2.8	4.2
9 years	5.3	5.3	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.6	2.7	2.4	3.9	4.1	3.8	2.7	5.3	3.7	3.1	2.9
10 years	5.8	5.0	5.3	3.1	5.5	3.1	3.0	1.6	6.3	3.3	4.0	1.5	5.0	5.3	3.0	3.7
11 years	6.1	5.8	5.5	5.4	6.0	5.9	3.9	3.1	4.5	3.1	3.3	3.8	5.5	5.9	5.3	3.0
12 years	6.5	6.4	6.8	5.4	4.4	5.5	4.5	4.7	4.9	4.7	5.2	2.2	6.6	6.7	5.3	5.6
13 years	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.6	7.1	6.4	7.3	8.4	4.9	4.6	4.6	5.1	7.4	6.7	7.8	7.0
14 years	7.9	8.2	8.6	7.0	8.5	10.0	8.0	10.6	5.7	6.4	4.2	6.6	8.0	8.9	7.4	8.1
15 years	7.7	9.3	9.8	10.7	9.1	11.1	12.5	13.0	6.3	8.8	8.4	8.4	9.5	9.3	11.2	10.9
16 years	8.0	8.5	10.0	9.6	7.8	7.3	7.3	5.8	7.8	9.8	11.9	8.9	8.6	9.7	9.9	10.7
17 years	5.6	6.9	7.4	8.7	5.0	4.7	4.6	3.3	8.4	9.0	8.8	7.8	7.1	7.5	8.0	7.9
18 years	2.0	2.0	2.6	2.5	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.2	7.4	6.0	10.5	11.8	2.1	2.6	2.5	3.0
19 years	0.9	0.5	0.8	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	2.4	1.0	1.6	0.5	0.7	1.2	1.0
20+ years	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	1.6	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.7	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.2	0.2	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.2	<.1	0.2	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.3	3.8	3.3	4.1	4.1	3.6	4.3	3.8	2.5	3.4	2.9	3.8	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.2	<.1	<.1	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	4.9	5.4	4.9	5.2	5.2	6.6	5.5	6.8	4.9	7.2	4.6	5.3	5.0	5.0	5.3	5.9
White (non-Hispanic)	86.3	85.0	81.1	80.6	86.7	78.5	81.4	77.6	86.9	83.0	79.7	76.9	86.2	82.9	81.8	80.8
Two or more races	3.8	3.2	4.3	4.4	1.4	2.9	3.6	2.9	3.7	2.1	4.2	5.1	2.8	3.6	4.0	3.4
Unknown	1.1	1.7	5.7	5.3	1.8	7.8	5.0	8.4	1.6	2.9	7.8	8.4	1.2	3.9	4.4	5.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	193	175	239	272
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	25	20	73	24

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0
1 year	2.6	1.7	3.3	4.4
2 years	6.7	7.4	6.7	3.3
3 years	5.2	5.7	9.2	7.4
4 years	6.2	7.4	7.5	7.4
5 years	8.3	6.9	9.2	5.1
6 years	7.3	5.7	10.5	7.7
7 years	6.7	4.0	6.7	7.7
8 years	8.3	5.1	3.8	6.3
9 years	9.8	7.4	5.4	7.4
10 years	8.3	10.9	4.2	7.0
11 years	7.3	8.6	7.1	5.5
12 years	9.3	9.1	3.8	6.6
13 years	4.7	7.4	7.9	4.8
14 years	5.2	5.7	5.0	8.1
15 years	1.6	4.0	5.0	4.4
16 years	1.0	1.7	2.5	4.8
17 years	1.6	1.1	0.8	2.2
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.6	1.1	2.5	2.2
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	7.3	9.7	8.4	7.7
White (non-Hispanic)	86.0	82.3	81.6	81.3
Two or more races	3.6	5.7	5.9	4.8
Unknown	0.0	0.6	1.7	4.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	114	131	102	124

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.8	0.8	0.0	2.4
1 year	2.6	2.3	3.9	5.6
2 years	6.1	9.2	12.7	6.5
3 years	8.8	11.5	9.8	16.1
4 years	7.0	8.4	7.8	8.9
5 years	8.8	6.1	3.9	13.7
6 years	10.5	9.2	4.9	9.7
7 years	7.0	11.5	7.8	12.1
8 years	5.3	6.1	5.9	0.8
9 years	5.3	11.5	3.9	4.0
10 years	8.8	4.6	11.8	0.8
11 years	8.8	2.3	5.9	3.2
12 years	7.9	7.6	5.9	4.0
13 years	4.4	3.1	6.9	4.8
14 years	3.5	3.1	3.9	1.6
15 years	1.8	2.3	2.9	1.6
16 years	0.9	0.0	2.0	2.4
17 years	0.9	0.8	0.0	1.6
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
Asian	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.9	1.5	2.9	2.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.8	0.0	1.6
Hispanic (of any race)	0.9	6.1	2.9	8.1
White (non-Hispanic)	90.4	88.5	91.2	82.3
Two or more races	4.4	0.0	0.0	4.0
Unknown	1.8	3.1	2.0	1.6
Missing data	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

New Hampshire

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	97.4	95.4	95.4	94.0
Children with one or more recurrences	2.6	4.6	4.6	6.0
Number	388	413	436	401

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	N/A	1,830	1,759	1,726

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	19.1	20.4	18.9	22.4
Guardianship	5.3	4.9	2.7	1.3
Reunification	54.9	50.6	56.0	51.5
Other	17.2	18.9	20.7	22.8
Missing data	3.5	5.2	1.7	2.0
Number	512	613	523	549

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	29.1	27.2	15.1	21.1
Guardianship	4.9	4.0	0.5	0.0
Reunification	42.7	38.4	60.0	49.8
Other	16.5	22.5	23.2	27.8
Missing data	6.8	7.9	1.1	1.4
Number	103	151	185	209

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.7	0.5	0.5	1.0
Guardianship	3.3	4.1	2.1	1.0
Reunification	58.9	58.6	58.0	60.0
Other	30.5	31.8	38.3	35.1
Missing data	6.6	5.0	1.0	2.9
Number	151	220	193	205

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	42.9	32.4	30.0	50.7
Children older than 12 at entry	57.1	67.6	70.0	49.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	56	71	60	73

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	50.0	50.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	9.5	20.0	19.0	
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.4	4.8	0.0	4.8	
Reunification	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	50.0	69.2	57.1	33.3	42.9	
Other	100.0	25.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	50.0	50.0	0.0	14.3	46.7	28.6	
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	14.3	0.0	4.8	
Number	1	4	2	1	1	1	0	2	2	13	21	15	21	

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	4.0	27.3	20.8	37.9	37.9	20.0	20.2	19.7	21.8	
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0	9.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	4.1	3.1	1.2	
Reunification	0.0	33.3	50.0	0.0	40.0	43.2	79.2	48.3	48.3	56.0	52.5	56.6	53.8	
Other	0.0	33.3	50.0	0.0	32.0	15.9	0.0	13.8	13.8	16.6	18.5	18.7	20.9	
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	4.7	1.9	2.4	
Number	0	3	2	0	25	44	24	29	29	445	509	417	422	

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	11.1	4.9	8.7	36.8	23.1	27.3	39.3	39.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Guardianship	12.5	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.4	4.5	3.6	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Reunification	62.5	38.9	58.5	41.3	36.8	23.1	36.4	46.4	46.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Other	12.5	33.3	34.1	50.0	21.1	23.1	31.8	10.7	10.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Missing data	12.5	5.6	2.4	0.0	5.3	15.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Number	8	18	41	46	19	13	22	28	28	0	0	0	0	

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	62.6	62.3	65.5	63.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	21.4	24.2	21.5	20.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	7.8	4.5	3.1	6.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.1	4.2	2.4	4.9
48 or more mos.	6.0	4.2	6.5	3.9
Missing data	0.0	0.6	1.0	1.1
Number	281	310	293	283

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	72.3	74.0	71.3	75.0
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	17.4	16.6	17.1	13.5
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	4.6	6.4	6.1	6.4
Missing data	5.7	2.9	5.5	5.1
Number	563	578	560	548

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	4.1	0.0	1.0	4.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	12.2	16.8	12.1	11.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	25.5	25.6	20.2	38.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	21.4	18.4	27.3	27.6
48 or more mos.	36.7	39.2	39.4	18.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	98	125	99	123

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	87.4	83.9	82.6	81.2	73.4	72.4	65.3	65.0	42.3	39.7	39.2	38.2	100.0	100.0	87.5	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	12.6	16.1	17.4	18.8	26.6	27.6	34.7	35.0	57.7	60.3	60.8	61.8	0.0	0.0	12.5	0.0
Number	617	660	649	618	354	341	303	323	827	824	799	783	5	5	8	2

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	11.3	10.6	8.5	9.2
Institutions	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.6
Other settings	87.8	88.5	91.5	90.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	345	340	331	315

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	92.2
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	65.6	62.4
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	8.1	8.7
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	—	34.6
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	—	20.9

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	97.5
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	13.1	15.4
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	41.5	34.9
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	13.5	16.1
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	4.8	4.5
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	—	84.4

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	97.7
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	17.1	18.5
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	100.0	99.2
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	61.7	65.6

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	95.5
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	82.1	80.1
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	65.3	65.1
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	39.7	39.1

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

New Hampshire

STATE COMMENT

Maggie Bishop, Director
Division for Children, Youth and Families
New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

The following are New Hampshire's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress*.

New Hampshire is in the process of revising our data in accordance with an AFCARS Improvement Plan. We expect the reviewed data submissions will result in changes in performance on the outcomes.

We are also implementing changes in the collection of permanency related information, including details regarding Termination of Parental Rights. We anticipate data resubmissions to have a significant impact on the permanency-related outcomes and performance measures.

Readers are strongly cautioned that the data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress* may not accurately reflect New Hampshire's performance in these areas.

New Hampshire

FEDERAL COMMENT

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

New Hampshire's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 6.0 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (outcome measure 1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 6.6 percent, but represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2002 (130.8 percent change).

New Hampshire does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System in order to calculate the percentage of children in foster care who are maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member.

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 75.2 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 70.9 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 62.0 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All three percentages are less than the national medians for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 18.5 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 26.4 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (8.2 percent change).

In 2005, 99.2 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is among the highest in the nation.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 13.3 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 50.7 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (18.2 percent change).

In 2005, 65.6 percent of children emancipated from foster care had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent and represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2004 (6.3 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 62.4 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 70.4 percent, but represents improvement in performance from 2004 (6.7 percent change).

Measure C1.3 indicates that 34.6 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent. Data for 2004 are not available for this measure.

Measure C1.4 indicates that 20.9 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage exceeds the national median of 14.8 percent. Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 15.4 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 29.1 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (17.6 percent change).

In 2005, 16.1 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 20.9 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (19.3 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 84.4 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent. Data for 2004 for this measure are not available.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 80.1 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 38.2 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 32.3 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2002 (9.7 percent change).

In 2005, 9.8 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 7.2 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (19.7 percent change).

New Jersey

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	2,127,391	2,131,617	2,156,059	2,161,801
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian	6.6	6.8	7.0	7.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	15.8	15.7	15.6	15.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	17.1	17.6	18.1	18.6
White (non-Hispanic)	58.6	57.9	57.3	56.7
Two or more races	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.9
Child population in poverty (%)	9.3	11.2	8.4	8.8

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	8,103	8,123	8,159	9,812
Children in foster care on 9/30	11,442	12,800	12,702	12,042
Children adopted	1,385	953	1,328	1,380

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	70,786	33.3 per 1,000	77,915	36.6 per 1,000	79,057	36.7 per 1,000	61,041	28.2 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	8,103	3.8 per 1,000	8,123	3.8 per 1,000	8,159	3.8 per 1,000	9,812	4.5 per 1,000
Child fatalities	30	1.4 per 100,000	34	1.6 per 100,000	34	1.6 per 100,000	30	1.4 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	14.6	13.9	13.0	12.4
1-5 years	26.6	27.8	27.2	28.0
6-10 years	28.3	27.3	27.5	27.5
11-15 years	24.0	24.6	25.5	24.9
16+ years	6.4	6.4	6.7	7.1
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Number	8,103	8,123	8,159	9,812

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	44.7	41.6	37.4	33.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	4.7	4.6	5.8	5.8
White (non-Hispanic)	35.1	36.6	35.9	33.3
Two or more races	—	—	—	—
Unknown	14.2	16.3	19.7	26.5
Number	8,103	8,123	8,159	9,812

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	3.7	4.2	4.0	1.5
Medical neglect	13.1	12.5	11.7	9.4
Neglect	53.5	51.9	52.3	49.6
Physical abuse	24.1	25.6	26.6	33.4
Sexual abuse	9.2	9.3	8.1	8.8
Unknown	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Other	—	—	—	—
Number	8,103	8,123	8,159	9,812

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	—	—	—	—
Median	—	—	—	—

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	10,772	11,252	12,542	12,971	6,052	6,994	7,184	6,626	5,404	5,503	7,101	7,599	11,442	12,800	12,702	12,042
Median length of stay (months)	19.0	18.0	17.2	16.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.5	11.9	12.8	15.3	18.0	17.3	16.9	18.2

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	7.4	7.5	7.5	6.9	20.9	20.1	19.2	19.0	5.6	5.8	5.0	5.4	7.4	7.4	7.0	6.4
1 year	7.2	7.8	8.1	8.3	6.0	6.0	5.8	6.1	6.3	6.4	6.4	7.3	7.8	8.1	8.3	7.5
2 years	6.8	6.7	7.2	7.0	4.8	5.3	4.8	5.6	7.1	6.6	7.4	7.4	6.6	7.2	7.1	7.5
3 years	6.0	5.7	5.7	5.8	4.5	4.7	4.5	5.0	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.2	5.7	5.7	5.9	6.3
4 years	5.5	4.9	5.0	4.9	3.6	4.1	4.4	4.8	5.7	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.3
5 years	4.5	4.6	4.8	4.4	3.8	4.2	3.9	4.8	4.6	4.2	5.0	5.1	4.6	4.8	4.4	4.4
6 years	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.3	3.4	3.6	3.6	4.1	3.7	4.1	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.3
7 years	5.0	4.2	4.1	4.1	3.8	3.6	3.9	3.8	4.0	3.8	3.9	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.2
8 years	4.8	4.8	3.9	3.9	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.7	3.9	3.9	4.0
9 years	5.1	4.5	4.4	3.9	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.4	4.4	3.5	3.7	3.2	4.4	4.4	3.9	3.8
10 years	4.8	5.1	4.5	4.6	4.1	3.7	4.2	3.3	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.5	5.1	4.6	4.6	3.8
11 years	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.3	3.9	4.1	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.7	4.1	3.8	4.7	4.9	4.3	4.8
12 years	4.7	4.9	5.0	5.0	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.3	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.7	4.9	5.0	5.0	4.7
13 years	5.0	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.1	5.2	5.6	5.1	3.8	4.3	4.3	4.5	5.1	5.2	5.4	5.4
14 years	5.2	5.6	5.6	5.9	6.7	6.3	5.9	5.3	5.3	5.4	4.9	4.8	5.6	5.5	5.9	5.8
15 years	6.1	5.9	6.1	6.5	6.8	6.4	7.1	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.0	5.8	6.0	5.9	6.4	6.3
16 years	5.8	5.9	6.0	6.5	6.3	6.4	6.2	5.9	6.7	6.9	6.2	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.5	6.5
17 years	4.5	5.4	5.4	5.7	4.4	4.1	4.7	4.5	6.4	6.7	6.1	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.7	6.3
18 years	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.8	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.7	6.7	7.6	7.5	7.9	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.9
19 years	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7
20+ years	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
Missing data	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	<.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	62.4	62.1	60.6	59.9	53.0	50.3	47.8	45.3	53.8	50.9	49.8	51.9	61.5	60.5	59.3	56.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	7.2	6.7	6.7	6.3	6.2	6.4	7.0	6.9	7.8	7.0	7.6	6.6	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.5
White (non-Hispanic)	22.5	22.6	23.4	23.9	27.7	30.2	30.3	29.6	27.1	29.7	29.5	27.1	23.1	23.7	24.1	25.0
Two or more races	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.2	1.6	1.8	1.3	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.6
Unknown	5.7	6.3	7.0	7.7	10.5	11.0	12.9	16.4	8.9	9.9	11.3	12.3	6.7	7.3	8.0	9.7
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	5,041	5,206	5,092	4,525
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	2,796	2,836	2,362	2,965

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	8.2	8.3	9.4	6.3
1 year	11.0	11.6	12.6	11.4
2 years	9.7	10.4	10.9	11.5
3 years	8.6	8.4	8.8	8.9
4 years	7.2	7.3	6.7	6.6
5 years	6.3	6.0	6.0	5.5
6 years	5.8	6.1	5.1	5.2
7 years	5.5	5.3	4.9	4.8
8 years	5.8	4.7	4.7	4.4
9 years	5.3	5.4	4.4	4.4
10 years	5.7	5.1	4.8	4.1
11 years	4.6	4.9	4.7	4.6
12 years	4.0	4.3	4.2	4.8
13 years	3.8	3.3	3.8	4.3
14 years	3.1	3.3	3.3	4.5
15 years	2.3	2.6	3.1	4.0
16 years	1.7	1.7	1.6	2.8
17 years	1.4	1.4	1.1	1.9
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	<.1	0.1	0.2
Asian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	66.4	65.6	65.1	62.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	6.4	6.4	6.0	6.1
White (non-Hispanic)	18.5	18.8	19.3	20.8
Two or more races	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.3
Unknown	5.8	6.2	6.6	8.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	1,385	953	1,328	1,380

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.1	0.9	1.1	0.6
1 year	7.5	8.2	6.8	9.6
2 years	13.4	14.2	14.6	16.5
3 years	13.3	16.5	14.5	14.8
4 years	12.6	10.5	9.9	9.9
5 years	10.0	8.2	8.7	9.1
6 years	5.9	7.9	7.9	6.8
7 years	7.3	6.9	6.7	5.4
8 years	5.1	6.5	5.5	5.1
9 years	5.6	4.0	5.0	4.4
10 years	5.1	5.6	4.2	3.5
11 years	4.0	2.9	4.5	4.2
12 years	3.7	2.3	3.8	2.7
13 years	2.3	1.2	2.3	2.3
14 years	1.5	1.9	1.7	1.6
15 years	0.7	1.5	1.2	1.7
16 years	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.8
17 years	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.6
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1
19 years	0.0	0.1	0.0	<.1
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.0	<.1
Asian	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	64.3	59.3	57.8	64.6
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	7.0	7.1	7.9	5.7
White (non-Hispanic)	20.7	22.2	23.0	18.8
Two or more races	3.2	2.9	2.9	3.6
Unknown	4.4	8.2	8.2	7.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

New Jersey

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	93.1	94.4	95.0	95.1
Children with one or more recurrences	6.9	5.6	5.0	4.9
Number	4,081	3,815	3,927	3,962

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care

(NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.76	0.76	0.63
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.24	99.24	99.37
Number	N/A	18,246	19,726	19,597

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	25.1	16.5	18.5	17.4
Guardianship	0.0	0.3	4.4	7.6
Reunification	64.8	68.8	67.4	65.7
Other	9.3	10.1	9.7	9.3
Missing data	0.8	4.2	<.1	0.0
Number	5,404	5,503	7,101	7,599

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	43.3	35.2	39.3	37.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	1.8	2.4
Reunification	46.5	52.1	46.9	48.4
Other	10.0	11.2	11.9	12.2
Missing data	0.3	1.6	0.0	0.0
Number	1,033	950	1,149	1,115

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.7
Guardianship	0.0	0.2	2.1	3.5
Reunification	75.9	72.7	72.5	70.4
Other	23.2	24.8	24.8	25.5
Missing data	0.5	2.0	<.1	0.0
Number	1,606	1,687	2,032	2,042

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	26.9	25.8	22.7	25.1
Children older than 12 at entry	73.1	72.7	75.6	74.7
Missing data	0.0	1.5	1.7	0.2
Number	290	330	418	467

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	20.0	8.3	0.0	9.1	7.7	3.8	12.9	13.0	29.8	19.4	21.5	21.3		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	22.2	9.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	5.0	7.9		
Reunification	70.0	75.0	55.6	72.7	65.4	76.9	74.2	73.9	59.8	65.7	62.9	60.3		
Other	10.0	16.7	22.2	9.1	26.9	15.4	12.9	13.0	9.4	10.3	10.7	10.5		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	1.0	4.2	0.0	0.0		
Number	10	12	9	11	26	26	31	23	2,909	2,799	3,535	3,947		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.3	16.3	18.6	15.3	19.2	12.3	14.5	12.9		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	2.0	4.2	0.0	0.2	4.7	8.4		
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	65.1	65.3	66.5	68.9	71.2	73.0	72.4	70.5		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.9	15.0	12.8	11.6	9.4	9.9	8.5	8.2		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	4.5	0.0	0.0		
Number	1	0	0	0	421	386	537	498	1,465	1,636	2,093	2,061		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	12.7	12.8	14.0	9.8	49.4	27.3	41.1	35.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	2.9	6.8	0.0	0.0	1.1	7.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	78.6	75.2	76.5	78.1	49.4	64.6	52.6	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	7.5	7.5	6.5	5.4	1.1	3.0	5.3	6.3	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	1.2	4.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	5.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	482	545	801	933	89	99	95	126	1	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	63.5	62.2	62.8	56.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	20.1	19.5	19.4	22.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	6.5	6.2	6.9	7.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.6	3.5	2.7	2.9
48 or more mos.	4.9	4.8	4.4	5.1
Missing data	2.4	3.8	3.8	5.3
Number	3,504	3,788	4,786	4,992

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	81.0	83.4	85.4	84.8
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	8.2	7.8	6.3	6.6
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	9.0	7.4	7.1	7.3
Missing data	1.9	1.4	1.2	1.4
Number	6,052	6,994	7,184	6,626

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	3.8	3.8	3.3	2.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.1	17.9	12.2	14.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	22.5	22.6	24.0	25.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	21.2	21.5	24.7	22.9
48 or more mos.	38.4	33.4	35.5	34.0
Missing data	0.9	0.8	0.3	0.5
Number	1,356	906	1,317	1,321

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	85.1	83.1	81.1	82.5	69.0	60.3	57.1	62.3	47.8	44.5	40.8	37.6	89.0	95.4	95.1	88.1
Children with 3 or more placements	13.6	15.9	17.9	16.6	29.0	38.5	42.3	37.2	49.4	52.9	57.4	61.1	0.9	3.8	0.0	1.5
Number	6,762	7,757	8,200	7,532	3,474	3,780	4,351	4,602	6,479	6,578	7,033	7,202	109	131	142	261

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	3.5	3.1	2.8	2.8
Institutions	5.1	4.1	4.0	3.3
Other settings	91.2	92.6	93.2	93.9
Missing data	0.3	0.1	0.0	<.1
Number	4,111	4,870	4,912	4,710

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	112.5
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	64.5	57.9
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	7.9	9.6
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	39.4	42.0
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	12.7	8.9

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	92.9
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	15.6	17.2
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	40.1	39.3
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	20.6	21.3
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	10.8	16.4
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	34.7	49.5

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	128.3
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	28.1	31.2
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	96.6	95.8
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	40.9	39.2

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	96.2
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	81.0	82.3
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	57.3	62.5
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	41.6	38.3

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

New Jersey

STATE COMMENT

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

New Jersey's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 4.9 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is not only less than the national median of 6.6 percent, but also represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (29.0 percent change).

In 2005, 0.63 percent of children in foster care in New Jersey were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 0.42 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2003 (17.1 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 90.7 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 87.8 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 74.6 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All three percentages exceed the national medians for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 31.2 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (11.0 percent change).

In 2005, 95.8 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 95.7 percent.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 6.1 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 25.1 percent of those children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage is less than the national median of 27.6 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (10.6 percent change).

In 2005, 39.2 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 57.9 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 70.4 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (10.2 percent change).

Measure C1.3 indicates that 42.0 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (6.6 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 8.9 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is less than the national median of 14.8 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (30.0 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 17.0 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This is less than the national median of 29.1 percent.

In 2005, 21.3 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent.

Measure C2.5 indicates that 49.5 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (42.7 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 82.3 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 37.6 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 32.3 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2002 (21.3 percent change).

In 2005, 6.3 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 7.2 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (29.1 percent change).

New Mexico

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	500,506	502,034	492,287	489,482
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	12.3	12.4	12.5	12.5
Asian	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	51.4	51.4	51.6	51.8
White (non-Hispanic)	32.0	31.7	31.5	31.3
Two or more races	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8
Child population in poverty (%)	24.4	26.9	23.4	24.7

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	6,273	6,238	6,150	7,285
Children in foster care on 9/30	1,885	2,122	2,150	2,291
Children adopted	275	220	265	289

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	22,997	46.0 per 1,000	25,259	50.3 per 1,000	26,095	53.0 per 1,000	32,950	67.3 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	6,273	12.5 per 1,000	6,238	12.4 per 1,000	6,150	12.5 per 1,000	7,285	14.9 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	0.6 per 100,000	4	0.8 per 100,000	8	1.6 per 100,000	12	2.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	8.1	9.0	9.5	10.2
1-5 years	27.1	26.8	28.8	29.6
6-10 years	29.7	28.6	28.5	27.7
11-15 years	25.1	24.7	23.6	22.7
16+ years	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.7
Unknown	5.1	5.9	4.8	5.1
Number	6,273	6,238	6,150	7,285

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	9.3	8.0	8.7	6.5
Asian	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.1	2.7	2.5	3.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.1	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	47.2	46.6	47.6	50.5
White (non-Hispanic)	28.4	28.8	28.2	24.4
Two or more races	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9
Unknown	9.9	11.8	11.0	13.3
Number	6,273	6,238	6,150	7,285

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	3.9	5.5	6.0	22.1
Medical neglect	2.4	2.4	2.0	2.4
Neglect	67.7	67.6	69.4	70.4
Physical abuse	33.9	32.2	29.9	14.5
Sexual abuse	6.1	6.2	5.5	5.3
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
Number	6,273	6,238	6,150	7,285

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	204.7	162.2	159.9	—
Median	>72, but <96	>48, but <72	>48, but <72	—

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	1,441	1,534	1,749	1,962	1,968	1,941	2,235	2,236	1,606	1,426	1,841	1,907	1,885	2,122	2,150	2,291
Median length of stay (months)	15.1	12.9	11.8	11.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	0.3	0.5	1.1	12.1	12.0	11.5	12.1

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	4.4	5.0	6.5	5.5	12.0	13.5	11.9	13.9	7.0	6.8	6.6	6.5	5.3	6.1	5.3	6.0
1 year	6.0	7.2	7.3	7.5	8.5	8.1	8.5	9.7	7.7	8.4	9.0	8.1	6.8	6.9	7.3	8.3
2 years	5.1	5.7	7.2	7.2	7.8	6.9	7.1	7.9	7.7	7.5	7.7	8.3	6.0	7.2	7.1	7.6
3 years	5.8	6.1	5.1	7.1	7.8	7.4	7.2	6.4	8.4	7.9	7.7	7.0	6.2	5.7	6.7	7.3
4 years	4.6	5.9	6.1	5.9	5.3	6.1	5.7	6.0	6.1	6.2	5.3	6.2	5.6	6.1	5.7	6.6
5 years	4.0	4.4	5.3	5.0	5.7	5.9	4.9	5.6	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.8	4.3	5.6	5.0	5.7
6 years	4.4	3.5	4.7	5.0	4.8	4.9	5.4	5.6	5.4	4.5	6.4	6.0	3.7	4.8	4.8	5.0
7 years	5.1	4.7	4.3	4.7	5.1	4.9	5.1	5.0	4.8	5.8	4.9	4.9	4.3	3.9	4.5	5.0
8 years	5.6	5.0	4.2	4.3	5.4	4.6	4.7	4.2	5.3	5.5	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.1	4.4	4.6
9 years	6.0	5.2	3.8	4.5	4.9	4.4	5.1	4.3	6.4	5.8	4.7	4.3	5.1	4.0	4.4	4.1
10 years	6.5	5.5	5.1	4.6	4.6	5.0	5.0	4.2	5.4	5.1	4.6	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.4	3.9
11 years	5.2	5.8	5.3	5.1	4.9	4.3	4.6	3.6	5.5	4.1	4.6	3.8	5.5	5.0	5.1	4.2
12 years	7.6	5.0	5.9	5.1	4.7	4.9	4.5	4.6	5.7	4.7	5.2	5.0	4.6	5.7	5.1	4.5
13 years	6.5	6.6	5.3	5.7	4.9	4.8	5.4	4.3	5.3	4.8	4.8	4.8	6.3	4.9	5.5	4.8
14 years	6.9	7.3	6.5	5.8	3.8	4.4	5.1	4.3	3.5	4.3	4.9	5.0	6.6	6.0	5.6	5.0
15 years	6.7	6.1	7.3	6.7	4.2	4.3	4.9	4.3	4.1	4.6	4.8	5.0	5.6	6.6	6.4	5.2
16 years	5.6	7.0	5.6	6.5	3.6	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.4	4.0	4.1	4.9	6.3	5.3	6.3	5.7
17 years	4.0	3.9	4.5	3.7	2.0	2.2	1.3	2.0	1.9	3.4	2.7	2.7	5.3	5.7	4.8	5.3
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.6	1.4	2.0	2.6	1.7	1.6	1.2
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	9.2	9.9	6.6	5.1	11.8	9.1	8.4	9.0	13.4	12.0	10.5	9.1	9.1	7.4	5.1	5.7
Asian	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.2	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	<.1	0.3	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	6.5	6.1	5.5	5.1	3.6	3.0	2.6	3.4	3.7	3.5	2.7	3.7	5.8	5.1	4.9	4.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	55.4	54.0	53.1	53.5	45.9	46.5	48.9	52.9	45.8	46.1	46.6	49.9	52.5	52.1	54.3	55.9
White (non-Hispanic)	26.3	27.0	31.2	32.3	30.5	31.7	29.9	24.8	28.9	29.5	28.8	27.5	28.2	29.9	31.9	28.9
Two or more races	2.4	2.2	2.7	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.9	2.2	1.9	1.9	3.4	2.1	2.6	2.3	2.2	2.5
Unknown	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.6	3.6	2.8	2.6	1.7	3.5	3.0	2.8	2.0	1.2	1.0	0.6	0.4
Missing data	0.0	<.1	0.4	0.8	2.1	4.7	4.6	5.7	2.5	3.7	5.1	5.2	0.4	1.9	0.7	1.9

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	514	583	631	705
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	8	5	444	452

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.1	3.1	1.6	2.3
1 year	7.6	6.3	5.9	7.2
2 years	6.2	7.4	6.8	7.1
3 years	4.5	5.8	7.4	7.8
4 years	7.0	7.2	5.5	7.5
5 years	4.3	6.7	5.5	6.5
6 years	4.1	4.6	6.2	5.2
7 years	5.1	3.4	4.3	5.4
8 years	7.8	5.7	4.1	5.2
9 years	6.4	6.0	6.0	4.8
10 years	8.2	6.9	4.8	4.7
11 years	8.0	6.9	6.7	5.4
12 years	6.4	8.1	6.8	6.8
13 years	8.2	6.0	7.3	5.7
14 years	6.8	7.7	6.3	6.0
15 years	4.9	5.8	7.9	5.1
16 years	2.3	2.4	6.3	5.7
17 years	0.2	0.0	0.5	1.6
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	9.9	6.9	5.7	3.7
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	7.8	6.5	8.6	5.7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	54.5	56.8	54.2	57.4
White (non-Hispanic)	24.3	26.9	29.6	29.2
Two or more races	3.5	2.1	1.4	3.3
Unknown	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1
Missing data	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.6

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	275	220	265	289

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.1	6.4	3.4	2.1
1 year	9.5	7.7	17.0	8.0
2 years	11.3	10.0	10.9	7.6
3 years	9.5	10.0	9.8	8.0
4 years	8.4	5.0	6.8	8.0
5 years	8.0	4.5	7.2	7.6
6 years	6.9	5.9	5.3	6.2
7 years	2.5	5.0	6.4	5.2
8 years	7.6	4.5	2.6	4.2
9 years	7.3	8.6	3.0	3.8
10 years	8.4	7.3	3.0	7.6
11 years	4.7	3.6	5.3	5.5
12 years	3.3	4.1	5.7	5.2
13 years	3.3	4.5	3.0	7.6
14 years	3.3	5.5	3.0	2.4
15 years	3.6	3.2	3.8	5.5
16 years	0.7	2.7	3.4	3.8
17 years	0.7	1.4	0.4	1.7
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	3.3	8.6	0.8	4.5
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	7.3	6.4	5.7	5.9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	55.6	53.2	55.8	48.1
White (non-Hispanic)	30.2	29.5	34.0	39.1
Two or more races	3.6	1.8	2.6	1.7
Unknown	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

New Mexico

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	93.1	92.4	91.7	91.4
Children with one or more recurrences	6.9	7.6	8.3	8.6
Number	2,889	2,883	2,855	2,950

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	1.47	1.41	0.36
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	98.53	98.59	99.64
Number	N/A	3,475	3,984	4,198

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	16.2	16.1	13.7	15.4
Guardianship	2.9	4.0	6.3	6.1
Reunification	67.7	69.8	73.4	73.9
Other	6.2	4.8	5.2	4.5
Missing data	6.9	5.3	1.4	0.2
Number	1,606	1,426	1,841	1,907

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	19.4	31.3	15.5	44.0
Guardianship	7.1	3.8	12.7	7.2
Reunification	53.1	46.3	57.3	39.2
Other	12.2	15.0	11.8	8.8
Missing data	8.2	3.8	2.7	0.8
Number	98	80	110	375

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	1.2	0.4	1.5	3.6
Guardianship	2.5	5.4	5.7	7.5
Reunification	79.4	78.1	80.5	76.9
Other	11.9	12.1	11.1	11.7
Missing data	4.9	4.0	1.2	0.3
Number	243	224	334	359

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	9.1	50.0	43.9	34.9
Children older than 12 at entry	90.9	50.0	56.1	65.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	11	22	41	43

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	7.4	11.7	2.1	9.8	0.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	28.8	36.0	26.0	32.4		
Guardianship	0.9	2.9	8.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	8.0	4.2		
Reunification	63.7	55.0	73.7	75.7	100.0	33.3	100.0	100.0	62.7	56.0	52.0	57.7		
Other	22.3	11.1	11.9	14.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	6.0	14.0	5.6		
Missing data	5.6	19.3	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.1	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	215	171	194	173	3	3	1	5	59	50	50	71		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	20.5	19.5	16.8	17.0	14.4	13.8	15.1	15.4		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.1	5.2	5.7	8.2	3.0	2.9	6.6	5.5		
Reunification	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	63.6	68.5	71.8	71.5	73.5	74.3	75.1	75.0		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7	3.2	4.3	3.0	3.7	5.0	2.5	3.8		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	3.7	1.4	0.2	5.4	4.0	0.8	0.2		
Number	1	1	0	2	736	657	858	951	464	421	530	525		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	1.8	0.0	3.9	2.6	25.8	11.1	11.1	7.3	0.0	0.0	2.1	4.0		
Guardianship	0.0	2.3	2.0	10.3	0.0	14.8	14.3	2.4	2.5	0.0	1.1	1.0		
Reunification	82.5	95.3	80.4	87.2	58.1	70.4	58.7	85.4	90.0	90.6	95.7	89.0		
Other	14.0	2.3	7.8	0.0	9.7	3.7	15.9	4.9	5.0	5.7	1.1	6.0		
Missing data	1.8	0.0	5.9	0.0	6.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	3.8	0.0	0.0		
Number	57	43	51	39	31	27	63	41	40	53	94	100		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	90.5	86.4	89.6	85.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	3.7	5.2	8.7	11.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	0.2	0.7	0.9	2.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	<.1	0.3	0.4	0.2
48 or more mos.	0.0	0.7	<.1	0.2
Missing data	5.5	6.6	0.4	<.1
Number	1,088	995	1,352	1,409

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	84.8	85.6	85.8	84.6
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	9.5	8.4	6.7	7.3
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	5.0	5.8	7.2	7.8
Missing data	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.2
Number	1,968	1,941	2,235	2,236

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	2.3	6.1	6.7	3.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	30.4	27.9	38.1	28.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	29.6	28.4	27.4	34.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	12.3	11.8	13.1	19.5
48 or more mos.	18.8	20.5	14.3	14.3
Missing data	6.5	5.2	0.4	0.0
Number	260	229	252	293

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	87.5	87.2	85.0	86.4	51.7	56.5	48.3	49.6	43.7	40.7	15.5	19.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	12.5	12.8	15.0	13.6	48.3	43.5	51.7	50.4	56.3	59.3	84.5	81.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,109	2,049	2,451	2,423	511	682	786	964	765	723	740	804	24	21	7	7

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	10.4	9.6	10.0	5.2
Institutions	2.6	2.2	3.3	6.4
Other settings	87.0	88.2	86.7	88.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,597	1,556	1,768	1,803

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	119.1
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	73.1	69.7
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	5.4	7.1
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	27.6	28.5
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	12.9	9.7

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	120.6
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	45.0	32.1
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	26.5	31.1
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	26.2	33.0
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	17.8	9.8
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	39.8	51.2

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	126.1
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	27.3	37.7
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	95.5	95.5
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	59.7	53.4

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	79.9
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	76.1	78.4
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	48.3	49.6
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	15.6	19.0

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

New Mexico

STATE COMMENT

**Angela Adams, Director
Protective Services
New Mexico, Children, Youth and Families Department**

The following are New Mexico's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress*.

New Mexico attained an estimated population of 1,928,384 in 2005. This state is distinguished by its racial and ethnic composition. Persons of Hispanic and American Indian origin account for more than 50% of New Mexico's population. This is significantly higher than the estimated 15.4 percent seen nationally. Thus, New Mexico's population distribution requires child- and family-serving agencies to address needs specific to multicultural populations and to address unique sovereignty issues with Tribal governments.

Notably, New Mexico stakeholders have worked together to significantly improve performance that has resulted in a decrease in the number of children in foster care who were victims of maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member. Additionally, over the last couple of years New Mexico has allocated significant resources to the enhancement of its SACWIS (called FACTS), to more accurately capture child welfare data. In 2006 New Mexico's data system was awarded Tier 1 status by ACF, signifying compliance with all SACWIS requirements.

Concerning issues in Section B, in 2005, the State made a significant commitment in resources both to accelerate the disposition of pending investigations and to rewrite its NCANDS batch software. The increase in child victim numbers is attributable to these factors. Concerning Sections C and D, New Mexico is collaborating with ACF staff to modify FACTS to take into account the dropping of child cases and missing Termination of Parental Rights information from federal reporting. Once these mapping and coding modifications are complete, the State is planning to resubmit the AFCARS files as part of the CFSR /Round II review. These changes will provide more accurate data.

For outcome measure 1.1, the State has conducted a Repeat Maltreatment Summit to review data, identify critical factors, and develop a preliminary work plan to reduce repeat maltreatment. Additionally, New Mexico is developing work groups to identify strategies to decrease the incidence of repeat maltreatment, including increased family engagement, visitation strategies/supports, post-reunification support, etc. Further, changes to New Mexico's NCANDS mapping may contribute to the difference in the 2002 and 2005 rates for the recurrence of maltreatment.

For outcome measure 4.1, the methodology changes, especially the 8-day rule, for the Round II CFSR is not necessarily reflective of the State's statutory functioning and the consequent work focus for the child welfare system. In New Mexico, approximately 50 percent of the children brought into the child welfare system, exit care in under eight days. This is because many children enter the child welfare system through the sole discretion and direction of law enforcement. Thus the Round II measures exclude a significant part of the child welfare system's work in New Mexico. This issue is being discussed and addressed by the CFSR Round II Self Assessment Team.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

New Mexico's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 8.6 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 6.6 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (24.6 percent change).

In 2005, 0.36 percent of children in foster care in New Mexico were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 0.42 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2003 (75.5 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 95.4 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 90.4 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability, and 88.0 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All percentages exceed the national medians for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 37.7 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (38.1 percent change).

In 2005, 95.5 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 95.7 percent.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 2.3 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 34.9 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (20.5 percent change).

In 2005, 53.4 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent, but represents improvement in performance from 2004 (10.6 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 69.7 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 70.4 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (5.0 percent change).

Measure C1.3 indicates that 28.5 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent.

Measure C1.4 indicates that 9.7 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is less than the national median of 14.8 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (24.8 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 32.1 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 29.1 percent.

In 2005, 33.0 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (26.0 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 51.2 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (28.6 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 78.4 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 19.0 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent. The extensive variation in percentages for this measure suggests data quality concerns.

In 2005, 11.6 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 7.2 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (10.8 percent change).

New York

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	4,613,251	4,532,748	4,572,363	4,545,884
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Asian	5.6	5.8	5.9	6.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	18.1	18.0	17.9	17.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	19.6	19.8	20.0	20.1
White (non-Hispanic)	54.6	54.3	54.0	53.8
Two or more races	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.9
Child population in poverty (%)	20.5	19.9	21.3	20.5

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	79,049	75,784	74,483	70,878
Children in foster care on 9/30	40,753	37,067	33,445	30,420
Children adopted	3,791	3,870	4,261	3,422

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	262,643	56.9 per 1,000	253,866	56.0 per 1,000	250,459	54.8 per 1,000	236,897	52.1 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	79,049	17.1 per 1,000	75,784	16.7 per 1,000	74,483	16.3 per 1,000	70,878	15.6 per 1,000
Child fatalities	68	1.5 per 100,000	62	1.4 per 100,000	71	1.6 per 100,000	75	1.7 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	8.3	8.3	8.5	8.2
1-5 years	27.3	27.3	26.8	27.3
6-10 years	29.3	28.8	28.3	27.5
11-15 years	28.5	28.9	29.2	29.2
16+ years	6.4	6.7	7.1	7.7
Unknown	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Number	79,049	75,784	74,483	70,878

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4
Asian	0.4	0.8	0.9	0.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	29.0	27.5	26.9	26.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	18.9	18.5	18.9	19.1
White (non-Hispanic)	41.2	41.0	40.8	40.9
Two or more races	2.6	2.1	2.0	2.1
Unknown	7.4	9.7	10.0	10.1
Number	79,049	75,784	74,483	70,878

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.7
Medical neglect	3.7	3.6	3.9	4.1
Neglect	90.1	90.4	90.8	91.5
Physical abuse	12.9	12.8	12.1	11.2
Sexual abuse	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.9
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	24.5	25.1	25.4	24.8
Number	79,049	75,784	74,483	70,878

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	9.3	9.3	8.7	6.0
Median	<24	<24	<24	<24

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	43,228	40,322	36,766	33,776	15,432	13,598	12,705	11,284	17,970	16,905	16,085	14,711	40,753	37,067	33,445	30,420
Median length of stay (months)	30.3	28.8	28.6	28.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	21.7	22.6	23.6	22.2	28.5	28.0	27.8	27.9

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.9	13.4	13.1	13.5	13.4	3.2	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0
1 year	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.1	5.1	4.9	4.7	5.0	3.2	3.2	2.9	3.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.2
2 years	5.0	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.1	3.9	4.4	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.5
3 years	4.9	4.9	4.6	4.3	4.2	3.8	3.8	4.1	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.9	4.6	4.3	4.2
4 years	4.9	4.7	4.6	4.2	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.4	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.3	4.7	4.6	4.2	4.1
5 years	4.6	4.5	4.2	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.1	3.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.6	4.2	4.0	3.7
6 years	4.6	4.5	4.3	3.8	3.7	3.3	3.6	3.1	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.5	4.2	3.9	3.6
7 years	4.9	4.4	4.2	4.1	3.7	3.4	3.0	2.7	4.3	4.1	3.8	3.8	4.4	4.2	4.1	3.6
8 years	4.9	4.7	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.3	3.2	2.8	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.7	4.7	4.1	3.9	3.6
9 years	4.9	4.8	4.4	3.8	3.9	3.6	3.0	2.7	4.3	4.4	3.8	3.5	4.8	4.4	3.8	3.5
10 years	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.2	3.8	3.4	3.5	2.6	4.3	4.1	4.2	3.6	4.8	4.6	4.2	3.6
11 years	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.6	4.2	3.9	3.8	3.7	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.0
12 years	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.7	5.2	4.8	4.9	4.4	4.6	4.0	4.1	3.9	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.6
13 years	5.4	5.5	5.7	5.5	7.3	7.4	6.9	6.7	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.2	5.6	5.7	5.4	5.3
14 years	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.9	9.6	10.0	10.3	10.4	6.3	6.2	5.9	5.8	6.5	6.7	6.9	6.7
15 years	7.1	7.5	7.7	8.2	11.3	12.4	13.0	14.1	7.5	7.8	7.9	8.2	7.6	7.8	8.2	8.9
16 years	7.0	7.4	8.3	9.0	6.4	8.3	8.6	10.1	8.6	9.0	9.3	10.3	7.4	8.4	8.8	9.4
17 years	5.2	5.9	6.6	7.4	2.4	3.1	3.5	3.3	6.2	6.7	7.2	7.8	5.9	6.6	7.4	7.8
18 years	3.6	3.6	4.1	4.6	0.2	<.1	0.1	0.2	4.3	4.6	5.4	6.2	3.5	4.1	4.5	5.1
19 years	2.6	2.6	2.7	3.3	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.6	2.6	3.2	3.6
20+ years	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	4.9	5.3	4.4	4.5	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.7
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.4	0.5	1.7	1.5	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.2

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Asian	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	46.6	47.5	47.4	47.5	44.7	41.9	40.5	41.3	42.0	43.5	41.9	41.9	47.9	47.2	47.4	47.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	16.9	17.8	18.9	19.2	19.9	20.5	19.5	18.1	17.5	17.6	18.6	17.6	17.7	18.9	19.3	19.6
White (non-Hispanic)	16.5	17.5	18.4	18.8	26.8	27.8	28.3	28.6	22.2	23.3	24.2	24.3	17.8	18.6	19.3	19.8
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	19.5	16.6	14.7	13.8	7.5	8.9	10.7	11.2	17.4	14.8	14.5	15.3	15.9	14.6	13.3	12.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	13,730	12,529	10,650	9,219
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	7,656	7,147	5,482	4,970

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6
1 year	3.4	3.7	3.4	3.3
2 years	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.6
3 years	6.7	6.5	6.1	6.2
4 years	6.7	6.7	6.1	5.9
5 years	7.0	6.4	6.4	5.7
6 years	6.7	6.5	5.9	5.7
7 years	6.2	6.2	6.5	5.6
8 years	7.0	6.0	5.9	5.9
9 years	6.9	6.7	5.8	5.4
10 years	7.0	6.8	6.7	5.4
11 years	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.4
12 years	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8
13 years	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.9
14 years	6.0	6.2	6.6	7.2
15 years	5.4	5.8	6.4	7.5
16 years	2.6	3.4	4.5	5.7
17 years	1.7	2.0	3.0	4.1
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Asian	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	49.6	49.4	50.1	49.9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	16.1	17.3	18.2	19.6
White (non-Hispanic)	12.5	13.2	14.0	15.2
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	21.3	19.8	17.1	14.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	3,791	3,870	4,261	3,422

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
1 year	2.2	1.7	1.9	3.0
2 years	6.3	6.0	6.3	7.1
3 years	9.1	8.3	9.4	8.5
4 years	8.4	8.8	8.4	7.9
5 years	7.0	8.0	8.4	7.4
6 years	7.4	7.9	7.2	8.2
7 years	7.4	7.9	7.4	7.1
8 years	7.9	6.6	6.4	7.0
9 years	7.1	7.6	6.4	6.1
10 years	7.4	6.8	6.9	6.5
11 years	6.6	6.1	5.8	6.3
12 years	6.2	5.7	5.9	5.9
13 years	4.6	5.0	5.9	5.2
14 years	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.2
15 years	3.1	3.6	3.6	3.2
16 years	2.0	2.5	2.6	2.7
17 years	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.8
18 years	0.8	0.7	1.0	1.0
19 years	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3
20+ years	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	<.1	0.1	0.2	<.1
Asian	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	45.4	47.0	46.1	45.6
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	14.6	14.4	15.5	15.8
White (non-Hispanic)	15.0	16.3	17.1	18.1
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	24.7	21.9	20.8	20.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

New York

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	86.3	85.7	86.0	87.3
Children with one or more recurrences	13.7	14.3	14.0	12.7
Number	34,528	31,504	31,698	31,343

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.76	0.71	1.07
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.24	99.29	98.93
Number	N/A	53,920	49,471	45,060

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	21.1	22.8	24.8	23.1
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	63.1	61.2	58.3	59.7
Other	13.5	13.9	14.8	15.1
Missing data	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.1
Number	17,970	16,905	16,085	14,711

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.7	0.9	1.1	0.9
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	68.8	68.8	67.1	68.3
Other	27.1	27.3	28.8	28.0
Missing data	3.4	3.1	3.0	2.9
Number	5,519	5,595	5,422	5,362

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	44.5	39.6	37.7	36.9
Children older than 12 at entry	53.7	58.6	59.8	60.4
Missing data	1.8	1.8	2.4	2.7
Number	1,498	1,471	1,481	1,420

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	1.8	11.4	18.5	5.3	8.5	14.1	13.3	11.5	22.8	24.7	27.5	25.2		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	85.5	77.3	68.5	82.5	67.0	71.7	69.3	67.9	60.4	58.2	54.6	56.9		
Other	10.9	9.1	13.0	3.5	21.7	13.0	14.7	20.5	14.6	15.2	15.9	16.1		
Missing data	1.8	2.3	0.0	8.8	2.8	1.1	2.7	0.0	2.1	1.9	2.0	1.9		
Number	55	44	54	57	106	92	75	78	7,548	7,354	6,732	6,168		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.6	18.8	20.4	20.7	14.2	15.8	17.8	17.3		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.4	64.3	61.3	62.6	74.1	72.5	69.9	69.1		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.2	14.2	15.4	15.2	10.0	10.1	10.4	10.9		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7	2.8	2.8	1.5	1.8	1.5	1.8	2.6		
Number	0	0	0	0	3,140	2,972	2,994	2,583	3,997	3,936	3,896	3,574		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	30.0	33.7	35.0	30.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	52.0	48.2	45.0	48.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	15.5	15.9	18.1	18.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	2.5	2.2	1.9	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	3,124	2,507	2,334	2,251	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	53.3	52.1	51.8	50.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	19.9	21.5	22.4	23.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	9.4	10.4	10.5	10.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.5
48 or more mos.	10.7	9.4	8.8	9.0
Missing data	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2
Number	11,347	10,353	9,375	8,779

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	76.2	74.8	74.4	74.6
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	10.2	10.7	10.7	10.5
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	13.6	14.5	14.9	14.2
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.7
Number	15,432	13,598	12,705	11,284

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	0.9	0.6	1.3	1.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	4.3	4.5	5.0	6.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	13.6	12.8	14.5	17.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	17.5	16.4	18.3	18.0
48 or more mos.	63.5	65.6	60.8	56.7
Missing data	0.2	<.1	<.1	0.3
Number	3,790	3,858	3,996	3,399

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	91.4	91.3	91.7	90.5	76.3	75.2	74.1	72.8	51.7	50.2	48.6	44.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	93.5
Children with 3 or more placements	8.6	8.7	8.3	8.9	23.7	24.8	25.9	27.2	48.3	49.8	51.4	56.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8
Number	17,593	15,650	14,614	13,191	9,971	9,689	8,570	8,173	31,032	28,517	26,220	23,634	64	64	67	62

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	1.9	1.9	1.7	2.2
Institutions	6.4	6.9	6.3	6.3
Other settings	91.1	91.2	91.8	91.4
Missing data	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.0
Number	9,551	7,873	7,137	6,036

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	83.6
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	48.8	47.3
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	12.3	12.9
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	37.6	35.6
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	12.5	12.0

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	59.1
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	6.4	7.8
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	55.7	53.0
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	19.8	19.0
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	9.0	10.3
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	44.1	44.0

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	113.6
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	28.9	27.9
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	96.5	96.8
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	55.3	54.8

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	109.3
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	91.1	90.4
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	74.0	72.8
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	50.5	46.1

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

New York

STATE COMMENT

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

New York's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 12.7 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 6.6 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (7.3 percent change).

In 2005, 1.07 percent of children in foster care in New York were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 0.42 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2003 (40.8 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 82.2 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) and 69.2 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. Both percentages are less than the national medians for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent and 73.1 percent, respectively). New York does not provide data on children with a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2).

In 2005, 27.9 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent.

In 2005, 96.8 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage exceeds the national median of 95.7 percent.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 9.7 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 36.9 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (17.1 percent change).

In 2005, 54.8 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 47.3 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is among the lowest in the nation.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 35.6 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (5.3 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 12.0 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is less than the national median of 14.8 percent. Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 7.7 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). Although this percentage is one of the lowest in the nation, it represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (48.1 percent change).

In 2005, 19.0 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 20.9 percent.

Measure C2.5 indicates that 44.0 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is less than the national median of 45.1 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 90.4 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 44.0 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 32.3 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2002 (14.9 percent change).

In 2005, 8.5 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 7.2 percent.

North Carolina

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	2,068,840	2,087,443	2,118,492	2,141,041
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Asian	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	25.9	25.7	25.5	25.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	7.3	7.9	8.5	9.1
White (non-Hispanic)	61.9	61.4	60.9	60.5
Two or more races	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8
Child population in poverty (%)	20.6	23.1	19.2	18.3

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	35,523	32,847	33,849	33,250
Children in foster care on 9/30	9,527	9,534	10,077	10,698
Children adopted	1,324	1,296	1,198	1,203

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	127,702	61.7 per 1,000	120,194	57.6 per 1,000	134,436	63.5 per 1,000	135,809	63.4 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	35,523	17.2 per 1,000	32,847	15.7 per 1,000	33,849	16.0 per 1,000	33,250	15.5 per 1,000
Child fatalities	26	1.3 per 100,000	—	— per 100,000	—	— per 100,000	—	— per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	9.8	9.9	9.7	10.4
1-5 years	33.3	33.6	34.1	33.9
6-10 years	28.9	27.4	27.3	26.6
11-15 years	24.1	24.9	24.5	24.4
16+ years	3.9	4.1	4.4	4.7
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	35,523	32,847	33,849	33,250

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	1.7	1.8	2.1	1.9
Asian	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	34.0	33.7	33.2	33.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.3	0.3	0.4
Hispanic (of any race)	8.4	8.3	8.9	9.0
White (non-Hispanic)	53.7	53.6	52.3	52.2
Two or more races	0.9	1.3	2.1	2.2
Unknown	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.9
Number	35,523	32,847	33,849	33,250

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	0.3	0.4	—	0.4
Medical neglect	2.1	2.1	—	1.5
Neglect	90.3	90.3	0.0	64.3
Physical abuse	3.5	3.1	—	3.5
Sexual abuse	3.5	3.6	—	3.8
Unknown	0.0	—	100.0	25.9
Other	0.4	0.5	—	0.7
Number	35,523	32,847	33,849	33,250

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	51.2	52.9	49.5	49.7
Median	>24, but <48	>24, but <48	>24, but <48	>24, but <48

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	9,316	9,140	9,182	9,651	5,615	5,461	6,089	6,529	5,404	5,067	5,194	5,482	9,527	9,534	10,077	10,698
Median length of stay (months)	15.8	13.8	14.0	13.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.7	13.2	13.6	12.8	14.0	14.0	13.1	13.1

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	5.2	5.9	5.5	6.0	16.3	16.2	16.1	16.6	4.5	4.0	4.7	4.3	5.8	5.6	6.0	6.3
1 year	6.6	6.4	7.5	6.8	6.8	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.8	7.2	7.9	7.8	6.3	7.5	6.8	7.5
2 years	5.9	5.9	6.3	7.0	6.3	6.5	6.2	6.0	7.3	6.7	7.4	7.6	6.0	6.3	7.0	6.3
3 years	5.0	5.2	5.7	5.5	5.3	5.7	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.9	6.5	5.2	5.8	5.6	6.0
4 years	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.5	5.3	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.5	6.1	4.8	5.0	5.6	5.6
5 years	4.1	4.4	4.8	4.8	4.3	4.7	4.9	5.3	5.1	5.6	5.5	5.3	4.4	4.8	4.9	5.3
6 years	4.3	4.0	4.2	4.6	4.8	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.7	4.2	4.4	5.1	4.0	4.2	4.5	4.7
7 years	4.2	4.3	3.6	4.0	4.3	3.5	4.0	4.0	4.5	4.7	4.3	4.4	4.3	3.6	4.0	4.2
8 years	4.7	4.3	3.8	3.6	4.3	3.7	3.6	4.2	4.3	4.3	3.8	3.8	4.3	3.8	3.6	4.0
9 years	5.1	4.7	4.2	3.7	4.4	3.7	3.2	3.5	4.1	4.4	3.5	3.6	4.7	4.1	3.7	3.7
10 years	5.4	5.2	4.0	3.9	4.3	4.0	4.0	3.6	4.6	4.5	3.9	3.8	5.1	4.0	3.9	3.6
11 years	5.2	5.1	5.1	4.2	4.5	4.7	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.8	4.7	4.0	5.1	5.0	4.2	3.9
12 years	5.5	5.4	5.0	5.0	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.1	4.5	4.4	4.1	3.9	5.4	5.0	4.9	4.3
13 years	6.1	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.1	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.1	5.8	5.5	5.3	5.1
14 years	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.5	6.1	6.6	6.6	6.0	5.3	4.8	5.0	4.7	6.6	6.8	6.5	6.0
15 years	7.4	7.1	7.7	7.9	6.4	6.8	6.8	6.6	5.8	5.2	5.5	5.4	7.0	7.7	7.7	7.4
16 years	7.2	7.4	7.1	7.4	4.3	4.0	4.5	4.5	5.8	5.5	5.7	6.1	7.3	7.1	7.4	7.5
17 years	4.9	5.7	6.0	5.6	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.5	5.9	8.9	5.9	4.2	5.7	6.1	5.7	6.2
18 years	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	4.5	3.4	5.8	7.6	1.4	1.1	1.8	1.6
19 years	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.5	0.8	0.5	0.6
20+ years	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	2.1	1.6	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.7	1.8	2.8	1.6	2.8	3.0	1.7	2.1	2.1	1.5
Asian	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	47.4	44.8	43.1	43.5	38.1	37.4	38.4	36.1	42.5	40.0	38.0	38.3	44.7	43.1	42.9	41.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	5.7	5.7	5.9	6.5	7.4	7.6	9.0	8.8	7.4	7.0	7.9	8.2	5.7	6.1	6.7	7.0
White (non-Hispanic)	42.7	45.1	45.9	44.1	49.6	49.6	46.3	49.0	44.9	48.5	48.5	46.6	45.5	45.9	44.8	45.9
Two or more races	1.7	2.1	2.3	2.8	1.7	1.8	2.6	3.0	1.4	1.9	2.2	2.6	1.9	2.1	2.6	3.0
Unknown	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	3,119	3,087	3,074	3,137
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,774	1,786	1,607	1,654

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.9	2.9	3.4	3.7
1 year	5.8	6.7	6.6	6.9
2 years	5.7	6.9	7.8	7.0
3 years	5.7	6.0	6.3	7.3
4 years	5.4	5.1	5.6	6.2
5 years	4.7	5.2	4.6	6.3
6 years	4.2	4.3	5.3	5.1
7 years	4.8	3.8	4.4	4.6
8 years	4.9	4.7	3.8	4.7
9 years	5.8	4.7	4.8	4.1
10 years	6.7	5.2	4.9	4.8
11 years	6.9	6.7	4.8	4.7
12 years	7.1	6.3	6.5	4.7
13 years	7.1	6.1	6.2	6.0
14 years	7.3	7.5	6.2	5.9
15 years	6.2	7.5	7.3	6.1
16 years	5.0	5.9	6.7	6.3
17 years	3.8	4.4	4.8	5.5
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.4	1.7	1.8	0.9
Asian	0.4	0.1	0.2	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	47.2	44.6	43.8	42.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	4.8	6.1	5.7	6.1
White (non-Hispanic)	43.3	44.4	44.5	45.8
Two or more races	2.6	2.9	3.6	3.9
Unknown	0.2	<.1	0.2	0.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	1,324	1,296	1,198	1,203

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.3	4.7	4.1	3.8
1 year	11.3	10.3	11.8	12.1
2 years	10.6	11.0	12.2	11.6
3 years	9.8	8.1	10.2	11.2
4 years	7.9	7.5	7.1	8.5
5 years	6.8	8.0	8.2	7.1
6 years	6.1	5.6	5.9	6.7
7 years	5.6	5.0	4.8	5.6
8 years	5.1	5.5	5.7	5.1
9 years	5.4	5.7	4.0	3.3
10 years	6.0	5.0	4.5	4.5
11 years	4.9	5.6	5.3	4.1
12 years	5.0	5.1	3.6	3.6
13 years	3.2	4.0	3.8	3.0
14 years	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.7
15 years	2.4	2.7	1.6	2.7
16 years	2.0	2.0	3.1	2.9
17 years	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.4
18 years	0.2	0.2	0.3	<.1
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.4	0.6	1.5	2.3
Asian	0.2	0.4	<.1	0.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	43.9	41.4	34.2	35.7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	6.3	5.0	8.3	8.0
White (non-Hispanic)	40.8	43.4	49.0	45.0
Two or more races	6.8	9.0	6.8	8.2
Unknown	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3
Missing data	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

North Carolina

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	91.0	91.8	92.1	93.3
Children with one or more recurrences	9.0	8.2	7.9	6.7
Number	15,834	14,556	13,311	11,275

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	1.01	1.00	0.82
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	98.99	99.00	99.18
Number	N/A	14,601	15,271	16,180

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	23.2	23.4	23.3	20.7
Guardianship	12.2	10.8	12.9	13.1
Reunification	55.8	54.9	52.9	55.6
Other	8.8	10.9	10.9	10.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Number	5,404	5,067	5,194	5,482

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	23.9	26.9	23.0	19.2
Guardianship	11.5	9.0	11.3	10.0
Reunification	46.3	42.7	47.3	51.0
Other	18.2	21.4	18.4	19.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	615	599	575	551

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	2.6	2.8	3.1	3.0
Guardianship	9.0	8.2	9.8	9.6
Reunification	66.5	62.2	60.3	60.9
Other	21.9	26.8	26.9	26.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,240	1,240	1,261	1,380

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	32.6	30.7	29.6	27.6
Children older than 12 at entry	67.4	69.3	70.4	72.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Number	328	387	389	417

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	12.6	18.5	15.2	16.3	20.7	25.0	0.0	11.9	26.2	25.3	22.2	19.3		
Guardianship	29.8	16.0	34.5	16.3	6.9	5.0	33.3	2.4	12.3	12.0	11.1	14.5		
Reunification	48.3	56.8	45.5	62.7	69.0	65.0	50.0	71.4	52.1	50.4	53.6	54.1		
Other	9.3	8.6	4.8	4.8	3.4	5.0	16.7	14.3	9.4	12.3	13.1	12.1		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	151	81	145	166	29	20	12	42	2,297	2,028	1,974	2,098		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	27.3	16.7	42.9	16.8	16.9	19.9	18.9	21.7	21.9	24.5	21.7		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	8.3	28.6	9.0	6.5	10.8	8.9	11.7	10.3	13.4	12.4		
Reunification	100.0	72.7	75.0	28.6	67.9	68.6	59.6	63.5	57.8	57.2	52.3	55.4		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.3	7.9	9.8	8.7	8.8	10.6	9.8	10.4		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1		
Number	12	11	12	14	399	354	408	449	2,428	2,460	2,518	2,552		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	27.3	37.5	15.4	12.5	37.7	45.4	42.0	35.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	27.3	25.0	7.7	25.0	7.8	10.3	12.5	15.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	45.5	25.0	69.2	56.3	46.8	41.2	35.7	45.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	0.0	12.5	7.7	6.3	7.8	3.1	9.8	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	11	16	13	16	77	97	112	145	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	60.2	64.0	60.8	62.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	25.1	23.4	27.1	24.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	7.7	6.5	6.8	6.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.1	2.9	2.1	2.5
48 or more mos.	3.7	3.1	3.1	2.9
Missing data	0.2	0.1	0.2	<.1
Number	3,017	2,784	2,749	3,047

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	97.6	96.9	97.2	96.8
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.8
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	1.2	1.6	1.3	1.3
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1
Number	5,615	5,461	6,089	6,529

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	6.3	5.9	6.0	6.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	25.3	28.8	33.9	32.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	27.3	28.2	28.2	31.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	17.2	15.9	16.1	14.3
48 or more mos.	23.9	21.3	15.7	15.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Number	1,252	1,185	1,208	1,135

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	57.7	52.3	56.6	56.6	37.1	30.2	27.1	32.3	18.0	14.4	13.8	11.6	92.9	97.4	94.3	93.3
Children with 3 or more placements	42.3	47.7	43.4	43.4	62.9	69.8	72.9	67.7	82.0	85.6	86.2	88.4	7.1	2.6	5.7	6.7
Number	6,707	6,525	7,057	7,655	3,325	3,574	3,702	3,995	4,885	4,463	4,477	4,500	14	39	35	30

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	2.8	2.9	2.2	2.3
Institutions	4.7	5.0	6.6	5.8
Other settings	92.5	92.1	91.2	91.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4,130	3,965	4,399	4,782

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	139.4
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	69.7	72.1
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	6.7	6.4
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	29.9	30.2
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	1.6	2.3

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	123.8
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	39.9	38.9
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	26.8	27.6
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	23.5	22.5
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	13.6	14.4
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	60.1	62.1

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	117.4
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	27.6	27.6
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	95.2	94.1
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	50.8	49.5

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	52.4
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	55.0	55.4
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	27.0	32.2
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	13.7	11.6

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

North Carolina

STATE COMMENT

Sherry S. Bradsher, Director
Division of Social Services
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

The following are North Carolina's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress*.

North Carolina has experienced a steady decline in the rate of child maltreatment victims. The state attributes this decline to the implementation of North Carolina's Multiple Response System (MRS). As part of the MRS initiative, social workers are encouraged to provide services to families immediately, such that at the time of case decision a safety risk no longer exists for the child. In order to capture cases where this is occurring, North Carolina implemented a new case decision finding in February 2006 – "Services Provided, No Longer Needed."

North Carolina's data shows that only 53% of children waiting to be adopted in North Carolina were reported to have a termination of parental rights. We believe that this is an error in our AFCARS mapping. As such, we have engaged in technical assistance with the National Resource Center for Child Welfare Data and Technology (NRC-CWDT). North Carolina is currently in the process of re-mapping this data with the goal of re-programming the data submission by Fall 2007.

With regard to the discrepancy between Outcome Measure 3.4 and the total number of children exiting foster care over 18, we believe this is due to errors in data entry and errors in AFCARS mapping. To address these issues, North Carolina is re-programming its AFCARS data according to the recommendations by the NRC-CWDT. The state is also revising its data entry manual and drafting plans to train social workers to do more accurate data entry in the future.

North Carolina is proud to show many areas of improved performance, including the percentage of children experiencing maltreatment recurrence, the percentage of children maltreated in foster care, the percentage of children exiting foster care to emancipation who were aged twelve or younger when they entered foster care, and the percentage of adoptions that occur within 24 months of a child's entry into care. We believe these improvements are tied to the MRS initiative, which seeks to instill family-centered practice at every level of North Carolina's child welfare system.

With regard to placement stability, North Carolina falls under the national median. After reviewing our data with the NRC-CWDT we believe that this is a result of errors in data entry, as well as errors in our AFCARS mapping. To address these issues, North Carolina re-mapped the AFCARS data regarding placement moves effective for the Fall 2006 AFCARS data submission. The state is also revising its data entry manual and drafting plans to train social workers to do more accurate data entry in the future. Although we believe placement stability is an area in which we could improve, we do not believe the current outcome measure accurately reflects practice in North Carolina.

North Carolina also falls under the national median with regard to the percentage of children who were age twelve or younger when they were placed in a group home or institution. In 2006, North Carolina started focusing on this issue closely and since last year we have seen a .7% decrease in the number of children who were age 12 or younger when they were placed in group homes or institutions as a result. The state plans to continue diligent efforts to further reduce this number.

North Carolina

FEDERAL COMMENT

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

North Carolina's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 6.7 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is slightly higher than the national median of 6.6 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (25.6 percent change).

In 2005, 0.82 percent of children in foster care in North Carolina were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 0.42 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2003 (18.9 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 89.4 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 80.2 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 73.5 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All three percentages exceed the national medians for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 27.6 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent.

In 2005, 94.1 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is less than the national median of 95.7 percent.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 7.6 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 27.6 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage is equal to the national median and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (15.3 percent change).

In 2005, 49.5 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 72.1 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 70.4 percent.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 30.2 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent.

Measure C1.4 indicates that 2.3 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is one of the lowest in the nation. Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 38.9 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 29.1 percent.

In 2005, 22.5 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent.

Measure C2.5 indicates that 62.1 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 55.4 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 11.6 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (35.6 percent change).

In 2005, 8.1 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 7.2 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (8.0 percent change).

North Dakota

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	146,812	146,827	138,955	136,518
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	8.3	8.6	8.8	9.1
Asian	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.4
White (non-Hispanic)	86.1	85.7	85.2	84.9
Two or more races	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Child population in poverty (%)	16.5	12.7	12.1	13.3

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	1,493	1,494	1,668	1,547
Children in foster care on 9/30	1,197	1,238	1,314	1,364
Children adopted	137	120	128	152

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	7,089	48.3 per 1,000	5,900	40.2 per 1,000	6,818	49.1 per 1,000	6,972	51.1 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	1,493	10.2 per 1,000	1,494	10.2 per 1,000	1,668	12.0 per 1,000	1,547	11.3 per 1,000
Child fatalities	2	1.4 per 100,000	0	0.0 per 100,000	0	0.0 per 100,000	0	0.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	6.0	6.9	6.9	8.1
1-5 years	31.4	30.9	31.6	32.2
6-10 years	27.2	29.9	27.1	26.8
11-15 years	28.3	26.6	27.9	25.1
16+ years	7.2	5.5	6.5	7.6
Unknown	—	—	—	0.3
Number	1,493	1,494	1,668	1,547

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	19.3	22.2	20.0	23.8
Asian	0.7	1.0	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.8	4.4	5.2	3.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	1.0	0.2	—
Hispanic (of any race)	3.8	4.1	6.1	6.3
White (non-Hispanic)	73.2	70.6	73.6	70.5
Two or more races	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Number	1,493	1,494	1,668	1,547

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	52.3	53.0	51.3	53.3
Medical neglect	3.6	—	—	—
Neglect	64.6	88.2	87.8	80.1
Physical abuse	22.6	22.1	17.6	16.7
Sexual abuse	9.2	11.8	9.4	7.7
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Number	1,493	1,494	1,668	1,547

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	—	—	—	—
Median	—	—	—	—

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	1,017	1,066	1,140	1,183	1,044	1,050	1,048	1,092	864	878	874	911	1,197	1,238	1,314	1,364
Median length of stay (months)	10.5	11.3	10.7	10.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.6	8.0	9.0	8.8	10.5	10.5	10.6	11.0

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.5	3.9	2.8	3.9	10.1	9.0	11.9	13.8	2.7	3.2	3.8	4.4	6.0	4.5	5.9	6.6
1 year	3.9	3.2	3.6	4.1	3.7	3.9	5.7	4.9	3.4	3.6	4.2	3.6	4.6	4.3	4.8	5.3
2 years	2.9	4.5	4.6	4.4	3.5	5.4	4.8	6.6	2.9	4.8	5.4	6.1	4.0	4.7	4.3	4.8
3 years	3.9	3.6	4.1	4.5	4.0	3.7	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.0	3.8	4.3	3.4	3.9	4.4	4.8
4 years	2.9	3.6	4.1	4.5	3.4	3.3	4.2	3.9	3.0	2.6	4.2	4.4	3.4	4.0	4.2	4.5
5 years	2.6	3.6	3.2	3.8	3.5	4.0	4.1	3.3	3.4	4.2	4.0	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.9	3.9
6 years	2.8	2.3	3.4	3.4	2.1	3.4	3.3	3.7	2.2	3.6	3.0	3.4	2.3	3.4	3.4	4.0
7 years	3.2	2.6	2.7	4.1	2.2	3.9	3.2	3.8	2.7	3.2	3.8	3.1	2.5	2.9	4.0	3.8
8 years	4.3	3.6	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.3	3.1	3.4	1.7	3.8	1.8	3.7	3.4	2.5	2.3	4.3
9 years	2.6	4.0	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.5	3.1	2.7	3.6	4.0	3.5	2.3	3.9	3.1	3.0	2.9
10 years	5.3	3.6	3.8	2.7	3.1	3.8	2.8	2.9	2.2	2.7	3.4	2.7	3.3	3.6	2.6	2.5
11 years	4.2	4.8	4.2	4.1	3.1	3.7	3.1	3.2	3.4	4.7	2.3	3.2	4.8	4.0	4.0	3.2
12 years	6.3	5.5	4.7	5.1	5.4	5.1	4.3	4.1	3.5	3.9	3.7	3.3	5.2	4.6	4.6	4.5
13 years	6.6	7.7	7.0	6.2	7.5	6.3	6.3	4.5	5.8	4.3	4.3	3.6	7.5	6.7	6.2	4.8
14 years	7.4	7.3	9.4	7.9	7.3	8.6	7.5	7.6	5.9	6.3	5.3	4.5	7.8	9.4	7.6	8.6
15 years	10.7	9.8	10.2	10.6	12.5	9.7	11.4	10.1	10.2	7.6	8.7	7.6	9.4	9.5	10.6	10.0
16 years	11.7	13.2	10.0	10.7	12.8	10.5	8.9	10.1	12.8	10.8	10.6	9.8	12.9	9.8	10.7	10.7
17 years	12.6	10.6	13.6	11.2	10.1	9.7	7.8	7.1	16.1	15.5	13.5	13.3	9.8	13.0	10.4	9.2
18 years	2.2	2.2	2.4	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.4	6.2	9.5	12.1	1.8	2.3	2.8	1.3
19 years	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3
20+ years	0.2	0.0	0.3	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	<.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	31.1	31.1	28.8	27.2	26.1	22.9	20.5	25.5	27.1	25.4	21.5	26.5	29.7	28.1	27.0	26.4
Asian	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.6	0.5	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.0	0.2	0.3	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.8	1.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.2	2.5	2.5	3.1	2.4	3.6	3.0	2.2	2.9	3.9	2.3	2.3	2.8	2.5	3.0	2.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	0.0	0.3	0.3	<.1	0.3	0.3	<.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	3.0	3.9	3.9	4.2	5.4	5.6	6.0	7.5	4.1	5.9	5.8	6.1	4.3	4.0	4.3	5.6
White (non-Hispanic)	58.3	57.5	60.0	59.3	61.7	63.0	64.1	58.5	63.0	59.8	66.1	60.5	57.9	60.6	59.2	57.9
Two or more races	3.5	4.0	3.4	4.1	3.8	3.7	4.9	5.2	2.8	4.8	3.8	3.2	4.3	3.2	4.3	5.6
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	320	316	277	341
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	191	185	162	220

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	15.6	11.4	14.4	15.5
1 year	7.8	10.4	7.9	8.8
2 years	5.3	7.3	6.5	7.3
3 years	4.7	6.0	8.3	7.3
4 years	5.9	5.4	6.5	6.7
5 years	3.8	7.3	5.8	6.2
6 years	3.4	4.1	6.5	5.6
7 years	2.5	3.2	5.4	6.7
8 years	5.6	3.8	2.9	7.0
9 years	6.9	4.4	4.3	3.5
10 years	4.1	6.3	3.6	2.6
11 years	8.8	5.4	5.1	3.8
12 years	5.6	5.7	4.7	4.1
13 years	6.9	5.4	4.7	4.1
14 years	5.0	7.3	5.1	3.5
15 years	2.8	2.5	5.1	3.2
16 years	3.1	1.9	2.2	2.6
17 years	2.2	2.2	1.1	1.2
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	29.1	27.5	27.4	18.2
Asian	1.6	3.2	5.4	4.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	4.1	2.8	4.3	4.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	3.4	4.7	5.1	7.9
White (non-Hispanic)	54.7	57.0	49.8	56.6
Two or more races	7.2	4.7	7.9	8.2
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	137	120	128	152

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	37.2	27.5	25.0	28.9
1 year	10.9	5.0	10.2	7.2
2 years	6.6	6.7	7.0	6.6
3 years	4.4	7.5	8.6	5.9
4 years	8.0	2.5	8.6	9.2
5 years	5.8	2.5	6.3	4.6
6 years	2.9	4.2	5.5	6.6
7 years	3.6	3.3	3.1	5.3
8 years	2.9	2.5	0.8	5.3
9 years	4.4	7.5	6.3	2.6
10 years	0.7	5.0	3.1	2.0
11 years	2.9	10.0	3.1	3.9
12 years	2.9	5.0	1.6	2.6
13 years	2.9	4.2	5.5	2.6
14 years	1.5	1.7	1.6	2.0
15 years	0.7	3.3	3.1	2.0
16 years	0.7	0.8	0.0	1.3
17 years	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.3
18 years	0.7	0.8	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	9.5	10.8	3.9	19.7
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	5.8	0.8	3.1	3.9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	7.3	2.5	7.8	7.2
White (non-Hispanic)	65.7	71.7	72.7	57.2
Two or more races	11.7	14.2	12.5	9.9
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

North Dakota

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	—	—	—
Number	N/A	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	7.8	8.9	10.1	9.5
Guardianship	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.4
Reunification	66.7	66.2	60.4	57.8
Other	23.4	23.3	27.5	29.3
Missing data	1.6	1.3	1.8	2.9
Number	864	878	874	911

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	7.2	11.0	11.6	11.0
Guardianship	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.2
Reunification	62.5	59.2	51.2	51.3
Other	28.7	28.4	34.9	37.5
Missing data	1.2	1.2	1.8	0.0
Number	432	419	447	429

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Guardianship	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.2
Reunification	65.3	64.3	57.7	54.8
Other	32.1	33.7	39.6	42.6
Missing data	1.3	1.5	2.2	2.1
Number	476	401	402	425

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	17.2	11.7	19.4	13.4
Children older than 12 at entry	82.8	88.3	80.6	86.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	58	60	62	67

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	4.7	5.4	2.7	7.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.0	4.0	2.9	10.0	14.3
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	62.4	66.8	59.0	52.7	0.0	100.0	66.7	50.0	64.0	70.6	65.0	61.9
Other	31.2	26.5	36.2	36.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	32.0	26.5	25.0	9.5
Missing data	1.7	1.3	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.3
Number	234	223	188	241	0	2	3	10	25	34	20	21

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.7	1.9	17.6	10.7	8.6	10.3	11.4	9.3
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.2
Reunification	100.0	0.0	100.0	33.3	60.0	71.2	68.6	67.9	68.8	64.8	60.0	59.9
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	34.3	25.0	11.8	16.1	19.9	23.2	26.5	27.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	2.0	3.6	1.8	1.1	1.7	2.7
Number	2	0	1	3	35	52	51	56	544	525	578	551

	Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	23.8	18.2	17.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	70.8	69.0	57.6	44.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.2	4.8	24.2	31.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	0	0	0	0	24	42	33	29	0	0	0	0

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	80.9	80.2	77.5	76.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.0	13.3	16.7	17.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.8	4.1	3.4	4.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.9
48 or more mos.	0.7	1.2	1.3	0.9
Missing data	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2
Number	576	581	528	527

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	67.5	72.2	76.6	77.8
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	19.5	15.7	12.1	9.6
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	9.7	9.9	9.4	11.2
Missing data	3.3	2.2	1.8	1.4
Number	1,044	1,050	1,048	1,092

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	9.0	5.1	10.2	5.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	28.4	17.9	25.0	28.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	28.4	42.3	37.5	34.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	19.4	17.9	21.6	24.1
48 or more mos.	14.9	16.7	5.7	6.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	67	78	88	87

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	84.5	84.0	83.6	84.8	62.6	58.9	55.3	52.1	43.6	45.1	43.3	39.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	15.2	16.0	16.4	15.2	37.4	41.1	44.7	47.9	56.4	54.9	56.7	60.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,236	1,262	1,256	1,287	398	375	463	501	420	474	462	480	7	5	7	7

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	3.3	1.2	1.2	0.5
Institutions	9.0	7.8	5.3	6.7
Other settings	87.5	91.0	93.5	92.8
Missing data	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	513	566	586	642

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	111.8
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	74.1	73.0
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	7.5	7.2
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	39.6	40.9
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	20.3	16.9

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	81.9
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	35.2	34.5
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	27.5	29.0
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	17.4	17.0
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	4.9	7.1
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	32.1	29.8

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	134.7
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	23.7	21.1
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	93.5	96.7
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	31.4	25.3

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	92.5
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	81.9	83.4
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	54.6	51.9
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	43.9	39.8

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

North Dakota

STATE COMMENT

No comment submitted.

North Dakota

FEDERAL COMMENT

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

North Dakota's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

North Dakota does not report data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System for calculating the safety measures.

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 67.7 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 62.5 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 55.2 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All three percentages are among the lowest in the nation for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 21.1 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 26.4 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (11.0 percent change).

In 2005, 96.7 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage exceeds the national median of 95.7 percent for this measure.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 7.4 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 13.4 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage is less than the national median of 27.6 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (22.1 percent change).

In 2005, 25.3 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 48.1 percent and represents an improvement from 2004 (19.4 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 73.0 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 70.4 percent.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 40.9 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent.

Measure C1.4 indicates that 16.9 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage exceeds the national median of 14.8 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (16.7 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 34.4 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This is different than the percentage for measure C1.1 (34.5 percent) because measure C1.1 excludes children who were 18 or older on the first day of the fiscal year. The percentage of children adopted in less than 24 months exceeds the national median of 29.1 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2002 (8.0 percent change).

In 2005, 17.0 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 20.9 percent.

Measure C2.5 indicates that 29.8 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is less than the national median of 45.1 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (7.2 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 83.4 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 39.2 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 32.3 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2002 (10.1 percent change).

In 2005, 7.2 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is equal to the national median and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (41.5 percent change).

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	2,879,927	2,815,289	2,779,212	2,759,112
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	14.6	14.7	14.8	14.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.2
White (non-Hispanic)	78.8	78.5	78.2	78.0
Two or more races	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.5
Child population in poverty (%)	11.8	16.5	17.1	17.4

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	50,141	47,444	43,093	42,483
Children in foster care on 9/30	21,038	19,323	18,004	17,442
Children adopted	2,396	2,420	2,201	2,044

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	110,495	38.4 per 1,000	108,816	38.7 per 1,000	110,972	39.9 per 1,000	112,600	40.8 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	50,141	17.4 per 1,000	47,444	16.9 per 1,000	43,093	15.5 per 1,000	42,483	15.4 per 1,000
Child fatalities	72	2.5 per 100,000	68	2.4 per 100,000	61	2.2 per 100,000	83	3.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	7.7	8.2	9.0	9.6
1-5 years	30.9	31.2	31.4	31.3
6-10 years	28.2	27.3	26.9	26.0
11-15 years	24.7	25.2	25.3	25.7
16+ years	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.8
Unknown	2.0	1.6	1.1	0.6
Number	50,141	47,444	43,093	42,483

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Asian	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	29.4	28.3	26.1	26.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.2	1.5	1.3	1.4
White (non-Hispanic)	62.1	62.7	63.9	64.8
Two or more races	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.1
Unknown	5.8	6.0	6.9	5.8
Number	50,141	47,444	43,093	42,483

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	13.4	13.9	10.4	9.9
Medical neglect	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Neglect	54.3	53.6	56.0	55.0
Physical abuse	23.2	22.9	21.3	20.9
Sexual abuse	15.5	15.5	17.5	18.6
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Number	50,141	47,444	43,093	42,483

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	38.0	36.9	34.9	34.9
Median	<24	<24	<24	<24

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	20,477	19,763	18,426	17,343	14,982	13,997	13,152	12,300	14,421	14,437	13,574	12,201	21,038	19,323	18,004	17,442
Median length of stay (months)	13.8	14.4	14.9	15.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.8	9.7	9.8	9.8	14.1	14.6	14.6	14.5

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	5.7	5.6	5.7	6.2	14.0	14.4	15.2	15.8	5.3	5.8	6.0	6.4	5.6	5.6	6.2	6.0
1 year	6.1	6.1	6.3	5.8	6.4	6.5	5.8	6.4	7.3	6.8	6.7	7.4	6.1	6.3	5.9	6.5
2 years	5.1	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.8	6.6	6.3	7.0	6.5	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.2
3 years	4.7	4.6	5.0	4.7	5.1	5.0	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.5	6.1	6.0	4.7	5.1	4.7	4.6
4 years	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.9	5.1	4.8	5.1	5.4	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.3
5 years	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.8	4.5	4.0	4.3	4.0	4.4	4.4	4.7	4.7	4.1	4.1	3.8	3.9
6 years	4.1	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.8	4.2	3.9	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.2	3.7	3.8	4.0	3.4
7 years	4.2	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.7	4.0	4.2	3.9	4.1	4.3	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.8
8 years	4.6	4.1	3.7	3.6	4.2	3.4	3.5	3.4	4.2	3.8	3.6	3.9	4.1	3.6	3.6	3.3
9 years	4.4	4.4	3.8	3.6	4.2	3.6	3.5	3.5	4.3	3.9	3.5	3.4	4.4	3.8	3.6	3.6
10 years	4.8	4.6	4.2	3.8	4.3	3.8	3.4	3.0	4.0	4.0	3.5	3.3	4.5	4.2	3.7	3.5
11 years	4.8	4.9	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.1	3.8	3.6	4.4	4.2	3.6	3.5	4.7	4.4	4.2	3.6
12 years	4.9	4.9	5.1	4.8	4.4	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.4	4.8	5.1	4.9	4.5
13 years	5.7	5.6	5.7	6.0	5.7	5.9	5.9	5.8	4.3	4.6	4.4	4.4	5.5	5.7	6.0	5.6
14 years	6.3	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.5	7.0	6.4	7.0	5.2	5.5	5.0	5.0	6.5	6.5	6.5	7.1
15 years	7.4	7.4	7.6	7.7	7.3	7.7	7.5	7.2	5.9	6.7	6.0	5.5	7.4	7.7	7.7	7.7
16 years	7.9	8.2	8.3	8.9	6.8	7.1	7.3	7.3	6.2	6.5	6.3	6.0	8.1	8.3	8.9	8.9
17 years	7.2	8.0	8.4	8.8	4.6	4.9	5.3	4.9	6.7	7.5	6.5	5.6	7.7	8.1	8.7	9.2
18 years	2.6	2.6	3.0	2.9	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	6.6	6.2	8.3	9.3	2.6	3.0	2.9	3.2
19 years	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.9	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9
20+ years	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5
Missing data	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	47.7	46.3	44.7	42.7	38.8	38.7	38.3	36.7	41.8	41.5	41.2	39.0	45.3	44.3	42.6	41.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.8	2.6	2.8	3.0	2.7	3.3	3.0	3.4	3.1	3.1	2.8	3.3	2.5	2.7	3.0	3.1
White (non-Hispanic)	43.9	46.3	48.2	50.1	53.0	53.5	54.4	55.0	49.3	50.6	51.3	53.4	46.6	48.3	50.4	51.2
Two or more races	4.3	3.7	3.5	3.3	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.5	4.0	3.4	3.5	3.1	3.7	3.4	3.1	3.6
Unknown	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.6	2.1	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.5	1.1	1.0	0.7	1.6	1.0	0.6	0.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	5,616	5,099	4,814	4,348
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	4,225	3,955	3,784	3,340

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	4.2	3.8	3.4	3.3
1 year	6.1	6.5	6.5	6.5
2 years	6.2	6.4	5.9	6.3
3 years	5.3	5.8	5.4	5.4
4 years	5.4	5.0	5.7	5.1
5 years	4.3	5.1	4.5	5.1
6 years	4.7	4.3	5.0	4.4
7 years	4.8	4.8	4.6	5.2
8 years	5.4	4.7	5.0	4.5
9 years	6.4	5.4	5.2	5.2
10 years	6.3	6.0	5.7	5.2
11 years	6.6	6.6	5.9	5.6
12 years	6.6	6.5	6.8	6.1
13 years	6.5	6.8	7.2	6.7
14 years	6.7	6.7	6.8	7.7
15 years	6.2	6.7	7.1	7.3
16 years	4.9	5.0	5.2	5.8
17 years	3.4	3.9	4.1	4.7
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	<.1	0.3	0.2	0.3
Asian	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	53.4	51.1	49.1	46.9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.8	3.0	3.3	3.8
White (non-Hispanic)	38.6	40.7	43.4	45.0
Two or more races	4.3	4.3	3.4	3.3
Unknown	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	2,396	2,420	2,201	2,044

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.6	4.5	5.6	3.9
1 year	10.2	11.2	9.9	11.4
2 years	10.8	11.4	12.0	11.5
3 years	8.6	8.3	10.0	8.9
4 years	8.7	6.7	7.9	7.8
5 years	5.7	6.7	6.9	6.6
6 years	6.3	5.3	5.8	6.2
7 years	6.1	4.9	5.5	5.1
8 years	5.6	5.0	4.4	5.8
9 years	6.0	5.6	4.6	4.2
10 years	4.9	6.0	5.0	5.0
11 years	6.2	5.3	4.7	4.5
12 years	4.7	4.6	4.3	3.7
13 years	3.5	3.7	3.6	4.5
14 years	3.4	3.1	3.4	3.2
15 years	2.5	3.1	2.4	3.2
16 years	1.4	2.7	1.8	2.5
17 years	1.3	1.5	1.9	1.7
18 years	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3
19 years	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.2
Asian	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	45.5	45.0	41.2	40.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	2.7	2.9	2.5	3.7
White (non-Hispanic)	44.3	45.5	49.8	50.4
Two or more races	6.8	5.6	5.7	4.7
Unknown	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	91.8	91.6	92.5	93.2
Children with one or more recurrences	8.2	8.4	7.5	6.8
Number	24,703	21,770	20,059	19,336

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care

(NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.30	0.32	0.43
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.70	99.68	99.57
Number	N/A	33,760	31,578	29,643

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	14.9	15.3	15.2	15.9
Guardianship	4.6	3.9	3.6	3.7
Reunification	64.8	63.9	63.2	65.9
Other	9.1	9.4	10.6	10.9
Missing data	6.6	7.5	7.4	3.6
Number	14,421	14,437	13,574	12,201

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	18.5	20.0	20.2	23.4
Guardianship	3.1	2.5	2.8	2.9
Reunification	56.4	53.9	50.7	48.6
Other	16.0	16.8	20.5	22.6
Missing data	6.0	6.8	5.8	2.6
Number	4,186	3,936	3,417	2,659

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.5
Guardianship	3.8	3.5	2.7	3.5
Reunification	60.6	57.2	57.4	62.7
Other	22.5	23.4	25.6	27.0
Missing data	12.0	14.9	13.5	5.3
Number	4,298	4,524	4,228	3,617

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	26.4	21.5	24.7	26.3
Children older than 12 at entry	73.4	78.4	75.3	73.7
Missing data	0.2	<.1	0.0	0.0
Number	1,161	1,211	1,293	1,214

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	5.3	7.1	25.0	16.7	3.0	0.0	8.7	5.4	16.0	16.4	15.1	16.3		
Guardianship	15.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7	4.9	4.7	3.7	3.1		
Reunification	68.4	78.6	58.3	58.3	66.7	72.7	73.9	78.4	62.1	59.8	60.6	63.9		
Other	5.3	14.3	16.7	8.3	3.0	18.2	17.4	2.7	9.3	9.4	11.3	12.7		
Missing data	5.3	0.0	0.0	16.7	27.3	9.1	0.0	10.8	7.7	9.7	9.3	3.9		
Number	19	14	12	12	33	22	23	37	6,034	5,996	5,593	4,759		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	13.9	14.9	14.5	18.3	13.5	14.1	14.7	15.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.8	6.8	2.9	2.7	4.2	3.2	3.5	4.2		
Reunification	50.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	66.8	66.1	68.3	67.7	67.3	67.2	65.5	67.5		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.4	9.0	7.7	7.4	9.2	9.4	10.3	9.9		
Missing data	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.1	3.2	6.6	4.0	5.8	6.1	6.0	3.4		
Number	2	6	1	1	440	443	379	405	7,112	7,307	6,963	6,520		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	5.2	11.3	6.8	7.7	25.1	23.9	26.3	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	2.4	3.8	3.0	6.6	4.9	1.6	4.2	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	72.5	68.6	72.0	72.5	57.9	58.8	55.4	59.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	6.2	10.7	4.5	4.4	7.4	10.0	9.3	10.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	13.7	5.7	13.6	8.8	4.7	5.7	4.7	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	211	159	132	91	570	490	471	376	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	73.0	72.1	71.4	72.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	20.6	21.1	21.0	19.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.5	4.1	4.6	4.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.0
48 or more mos.	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0
Missing data	0.9	0.7	1.0	1.1
Number	9,345	9,220	8,585	8,046

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	72.4	71.0	70.4	73.1
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	13.1	13.9	14.5	12.4
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	13.5	14.0	13.9	13.4
Missing data	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.1
Number	14,982	13,997	13,152	12,300

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	4.7	4.8	6.3	5.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	23.5	23.7	22.0	25.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	28.5	26.4	31.5	30.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	20.0	19.3	18.6	17.7
48 or more mos.	23.3	25.9	21.7	20.8
Missing data	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1
Number	2,143	2,215	2,064	1,936

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	84.5	85.9	86.2	86.6	61.1	62.0	61.1	61.8	31.0	31.7	30.8	30.6	76.9	82.0	76.3	80.3
Children with 3 or more placements	13.5	12.5	12.2	12.3	38.6	37.8	38.6	37.8	68.7	68.0	69.0	69.1	0.6	0.7	0.0	0.0
Number	17,791	16,706	15,547	14,531	7,542	7,200	6,610	6,152	9,970	9,704	9,261	8,787	156	150	160	173

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.6
Institutions	2.4	2.4	3.0	2.2
Other settings	96.6	96.4	96.3	97.2
Missing data	0.1	0.1	<.1	<.1
Number	10,103	9,239	8,702	8,195

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	107.8
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	69.0	70.7
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	7.3	7.0
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	44.6	46.8
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	17.7	18.2

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	99.6
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	28.3	30.9
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	31.6	31.6
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	21.4	20.7
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	11.3	9.3
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	40.8	43.2

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	116.7
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	24.5	24.1
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	92.4	93.6
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	47.0	43.8

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	95.7
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	86.2	86.1
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	61.4	62.2
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	31.3	31.1

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Ohio's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 6.8 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 6.6 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (17.1 percent change).

In 2005, 0.43 percent of children in foster care in Ohio were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 0.42 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2003 (43.3 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 85.5 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 74.9 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 67.7 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All three percentages are less than the national medians for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 24.1 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 26.4.

In 2005, 93.6 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is less than the national median of 95.7 percent.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 10.0 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 26.3 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage is less than the national median of 27.6 percent.

In 2005, 43.8 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 48.1 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (6.8 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 70.7 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 70.4 percent.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 46.8 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent.

Measure C1.4 indicates that 18.2 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage exceeds the national median of 14.8 percent. Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of a State's rate of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 30.8 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 29.1 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (9.2 percent change).

In 2005, 20.7 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 20.9 percent.

Measure C2.5 indicates that 43.2 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is less than the national median of 45.1 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (5.9 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 86.1 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 30.6 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent.

In 2005, 2.8 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage among the lowest in the nation and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (15.2 percent change).

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	873,560	878,243	859,870	853,336
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	10.4	10.3	10.2	10.1
Asian	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	9.4	9.3	9.3	9.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	8.7	9.1	9.5	9.8
White (non-Hispanic)	64.5	64.3	64.1	64.0
Two or more races	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.5
Child population in poverty (%)	19.3	17.0	14.1	20.8

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	13,721	12,529	12,483	13,941
Children in foster care on 9/30	8,812	9,226	10,572	11,489
Children adopted	1,014	1,152	1,142	1,015

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	68,971	79.0 per 1,000	63,935	72.8 per 1,000	63,684	74.1 per 1,000	65,716	77.0 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	13,721	15.7 per 1,000	12,529	14.3 per 1,000	12,483	14.5 per 1,000	13,941	16.3 per 1,000
Child fatalities	23	2.6 per 100,000	29	3.3 per 100,000	39	4.5 per 100,000	41	4.8 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	12.5	12.9	14.0	15.1
1-5 years	33.9	35.6	35.7	37.1
6-10 years	26.6	25.4	24.8	24.3
11-15 years	22.8	21.8	20.9	19.1
16+ years	4.2	4.2	4.5	4.4
Unknown	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
Number	13,721	12,529	12,483	13,941

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	15.0	15.5	15.7	9.1
Asian	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	13.4	12.8	13.7	11.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.4	0.4	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	9.0	9.6	10.7	11.1
White (non-Hispanic)	59.0	57.9	56.5	51.7
Two or more races	2.1	2.9	2.6	16.0
Unknown	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.3
Number	13,721	12,529	12,483	13,941

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	4.7	4.4	4.3	22.6
Medical neglect	3.3	3.6	2.8	3.5
Neglect	85.9	86.5	88.0	82.4
Physical abuse	20.5	18.8	19.0	18.3
Sexual abuse	7.6	7.4	6.9	6.4
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Number	13,721	12,529	12,483	13,941

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	312.2	235.5	206.4	161.5
Median	>120, but <144	>96, but <120	>72, but <96	>72, but <96

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	8,217	8,307	9,009	10,266	6,923	6,668	6,626	7,263	6,328	5,749	5,063	6,041	8,812	9,226	10,572	11,489
Median length of stay (months)	15.1	14.8	13.4	14.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.7	7.6	11.7	13.4	14.5	13.5	14.0	13.4

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	5.4	5.7	6.0	6.0	14.7	14.9	16.3	18.1	5.9	5.9	4.9	4.6	5.7	6.0	6.0	7.4
1 year	7.1	7.2	6.9	7.9	7.9	8.3	8.5	8.1	7.3	8.2	7.3	7.0	7.2	6.9	7.8	7.8
2 years	6.7	7.6	7.2	7.4	7.7	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.3	8.2	8.0	8.2	7.6	7.1	7.4	7.8
3 years	6.2	6.7	7.0	6.9	6.7	7.0	6.8	6.8	7.3	8.0	7.4	7.2	6.6	7.0	6.8	7.4
4 years	5.9	6.1	6.3	6.4	6.2	6.2	6.1	7.0	6.5	6.8	7.1	7.2	5.9	6.2	6.3	6.8
5 years	5.4	5.5	5.9	6.0	5.5	5.9	5.7	6.1	6.1	6.3	6.4	6.5	5.4	5.7	6.0	5.9
6 years	4.8	5.1	5.5	5.6	5.0	5.0	5.3	4.9	5.6	5.4	5.7	6.0	5.1	5.3	5.6	5.7
7 years	5.4	4.6	5.0	5.3	4.5	4.6	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.4	4.4	4.8	5.3	5.1
8 years	5.0	4.9	4.5	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.0	4.4	5.2	4.8	4.3	5.1	4.8	4.4	4.8	4.8
9 years	5.1	4.9	4.7	4.4	4.8	4.9	4.2	3.9	5.4	5.1	4.5	4.5	4.8	4.7	4.4	4.4
10 years	5.4	4.7	4.9	4.7	4.7	3.9	4.7	4.0	4.9	4.1	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.2
11 years	5.3	5.4	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.4	4.2	3.6	4.9	4.6	4.3	4.6	5.4	4.7	4.7	4.1
12 years	5.3	5.7	5.5	4.8	5.2	4.5	4.4	3.8	4.8	4.5	4.7	4.4	5.5	5.3	4.7	4.3
13 years	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.0	4.2	4.4	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.4	5.4	5.3	5.0	4.4
14 years	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.3	4.6	4.5	4.2	3.9	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.0	5.4	5.4	5.3	4.9
15 years	5.6	5.2	5.6	5.3	3.5	4.2	3.7	3.5	3.8	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.9	5.5	5.3	5.0
16 years	5.7	5.5	5.1	5.2	3.6	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.7	3.1	3.8	3.8	5.4	5.0	5.1	4.9
17 years	4.3	4.4	4.3	3.9	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.8	4.1	5.0	5.0	3.6	5.0	5.0	4.3	4.6
18 years	0.5	0.2	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	3.3	2.3	4.2	5.0	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.4
19 years	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1
20+ years	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	13.6	13.1	12.0	11.5	12.3	12.1	10.7	10.7	12.8	12.6	11.7	10.7	13.1	12.6	11.4	11.4
Asian	0.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	<.1	0.1	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	18.9	18.4	16.7	16.0	14.7	14.6	15.9	16.6	15.1	16.4	16.5	15.5	18.4	17.0	16.4	16.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.2	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	5.7	8.0	9.3	10.7	9.8	9.6	11.5	12.0	7.4	8.6	10.0	10.8	7.7	8.8	10.4	11.5
White (non-Hispanic)	48.7	47.0	45.9	44.6	49.1	48.3	46.2	43.9	50.8	49.5	48.2	47.1	47.5	46.4	45.0	42.9
Two or more races	12.7	13.1	15.7	17.0	13.4	14.7	15.3	16.4	13.3	12.3	13.3	15.5	12.9	14.8	16.6	17.4
Unknown	0.2	0.2	<.1	<.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	<.1	0.3	0.3	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	2,434	2,565	3,081	3,993
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	0	1,489	1,606	1,829

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.9	2.3	4.3	6.5
1 year	6.7	5.3	7.0	7.7
2 years	8.5	7.1	6.5	7.7
3 years	7.1	7.1	6.5	6.8
4 years	7.1	6.7	6.4	6.2
5 years	6.7	5.8	6.1	5.7
6 years	6.1	6.1	5.4	5.5
7 years	5.9	5.3	5.6	5.0
8 years	6.2	4.6	4.4	4.6
9 years	6.2	5.7	4.5	4.8
10 years	6.1	5.6	5.0	4.5
11 years	6.7	6.0	5.4	4.6
12 years	6.9	6.4	6.1	5.1
13 years	5.3	6.4	6.1	5.5
14 years	4.7	6.0	6.6	5.8
15 years	3.5	5.7	6.0	5.3
16 years	2.9	4.4	4.9	4.7
17 years	0.7	3.4	3.3	4.1
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	8.9	11.6	11.5	10.0
Asian	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	23.4	22.3	19.1	18.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	6.2	6.7	9.3	10.5
White (non-Hispanic)	48.0	46.7	45.3	43.8
Two or more races	13.1	12.6	14.6	16.7
Unknown	0.3	<.1	<.1	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	1,014	1,152	1,142	1,015

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.6
1 year	8.9	9.1	8.1	8.6
2 years	10.9	9.8	11.9	11.5
3 years	10.0	11.4	9.6	10.6
4 years	8.4	9.8	11.2	9.3
5 years	8.3	9.3	8.8	9.6
6 years	6.7	7.5	7.5	8.6
7 years	7.0	6.0	5.6	6.9
8 years	7.2	5.6	5.6	5.0
9 years	6.0	6.2	5.2	4.5
10 years	5.1	4.7	4.4	4.4
11 years	3.5	4.3	4.3	4.8
12 years	4.3	4.2	4.5	3.8
13 years	4.1	3.3	4.1	3.7
14 years	3.0	3.4	3.1	2.8
15 years	2.7	2.5	1.8	2.1
16 years	1.5	1.0	1.6	1.6
17 years	1.4	1.0	1.5	1.4
18 years	<.1	0.0	0.4	0.2
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	11.6	10.7	13.2	13.3
Asian	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	19.3	18.7	19.4	15.9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	<.1	0.5	0.4	0.7
Hispanic (of any race)	3.6	4.1	6.1	7.7
White (non-Hispanic)	53.1	53.5	50.3	51.9
Two or more races	11.8	12.4	10.5	10.5
Unknown	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	90.4	90.4	91.8	91.4
Children with one or more recurrences	9.6	9.6	8.2	8.6
Number	6,495	5,609	5,808	6,258

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	1.25	1.23	1.18
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	98.75	98.77	98.82
Number	N/A	14,975	15,635	17,529

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	16.6	20.5	23.0	17.4
Guardianship	5.8	7.5	0.6	1.1
Reunification	68.9	63.6	67.0	73.8
Other	8.5	8.2	9.1	7.8
Missing data	0.1	<.1	0.3	<.1
Number	6,328	5,749	5,063	6,041

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	27.3	29.4	29.3	21.0
Guardianship	4.9	5.1	0.5	1.4
Reunification	47.6	45.7	48.4	56.0
Other	19.9	19.5	21.5	21.6
Missing data	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1
Number	916	785	781	806

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	2.1	2.4	2.9	2.1
Guardianship	5.4	6.1	0.8	1.1
Reunification	65.1	66.7	66.2	69.5
Other	27.0	24.6	29.7	27.3
Missing data	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.0
Number	1,117	958	957	1,067

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	28.8	37.5	26.7	25.5
Children older than 12 at entry	71.2	62.5	73.3	74.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	340	283	315	329

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	15.7	16.3	24.4	21.1	0.0	5.9	0.0	0.0	18.3	21.7	24.5	16.4		
Guardianship	3.9	5.9	0.2	2.0	0.0	5.9	0.0	0.0	6.3	6.5	0.1	0.7		
Reunification	63.4	59.8	57.7	64.0	100.0	82.4	83.3	100.0	67.6	64.4	66.7	75.4		
Other	16.9	18.0	16.4	12.9	0.0	5.9	16.7	0.0	7.7	7.2	8.8	7.5		
Missing data	0.1	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0		
Number	811	724	591	644	17	17	6	16	957	941	834	935		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	16.7	0.0	20.0	0.0	9.9	16.1	17.0	15.6	17.3	21.4	23.8	18.4		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.4	5.5	1.4	1.5	6.2	8.5	0.7	0.9		
Reunification	66.7	100.0	70.0	75.0	76.8	71.3	74.1	77.4	69.2	63.6	67.4	73.3		
Other	16.7	0.0	10.0	25.0	7.7	7.1	7.3	5.5	7.1	6.4	8.1	7.3		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	<.1	0.1	<.1		
Number	6	9	10	4	466	492	505	655	3,214	2,844	2,442	2,843		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	12.5	23.5	0.0	25.0	16.8	23.7	22.3	14.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	12.5	5.9	0.0	0.0	5.9	8.1	0.4	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	75.0	70.6	100.0	75.0	69.6	60.1	68.7	77.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.6	8.1	8.3	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	16	17	1	8	841	705	674	936	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	80.2	83.1	69.3	58.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.5	12.1	20.0	27.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	4.1	2.8	6.8	10.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.4	1.2	2.4	2.9
48 or more mos.	0.8	0.9	1.7	1.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4,360	3,658	3,392	4,456

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	78.0	75.9	83.5	86.6
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	13.8	15.0	6.2	5.5
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.2	9.0	9.8	7.4
Missing data	0.0	<.1	0.5	0.4
Number	6,923	6,668	6,626	7,263

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	3.4	4.1	4.5	2.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	23.0	22.4	23.2	25.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	30.3	33.1	33.4	32.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	19.9	18.8	20.5	18.2
48 or more mos.	23.4	21.6	18.4	22.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,049	1,181	1,166	1,050

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	72.3	73.6	76.8	75.4	46.0	43.9	50.0	51.7	25.1	24.4	27.5	27.6	90.9	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	25.7	24.8	23.2	24.5	53.7	55.8	50.0	48.3	74.8	75.6	72.5	72.4	9.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	7,798	7,622	7,194	8,016	3,029	3,087	3,910	4,499	4,291	4,243	4,507	4,983	22	23	24	31

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	14.8	14.0	12.7	13.5
Institutions	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.4
Other settings	83.6	84.8	86.1	85.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	5,492	5,279	5,285	5,855

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	120.8
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	78.1	64.8
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	2.6	8.2
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	33.8	32.7
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	18.4	8.7

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	101.0
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	27.7	27.5
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	31.3	31.9
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	24.1	21.1
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	11.2	10.2
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	46.5	48.0

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	115.5
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	29.5	31.0
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	90.7	90.2
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	48.1	51.7

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	78.4
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	72.4	71.2
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	50.0	51.8
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	27.5	27.7

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

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The following are Oklahoma's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress*.

Section D: Children Waiting to be Adopted: Oklahoma's policy and practice is to change a child's goal to adoption at the earliest time after determining reunification efforts have failed. This often results in the goal becoming adoption prior to termination of parental rights and has resulted in children moving more quickly to permanence.

Outcome Measure 3.4: In FY 2005, 321 children exited due to emancipation, 253 were age 18 or older. The data has been reviewed and it has been determined that the majority of the discrepancies are due to data entry error. Additional SACWIS edits are planned to help prevent future data entry error.

Outcome Measure 1.1: Recurrence of Maltreatment: Oklahoma has continued to make steady improvement on this measure and is approaching the national median.

Outcome Measure 2.1: Maltreatment in Foster Care: There continues to be difficulty in reaching the national median due to (1) the increased number of children entering foster care and (2) entry of inappropriate confirmations that are actually not maltreatment. SACWIS modifications are planned.

Outcome Measure 3.4: Children Exited Due to Emancipation: This decrease may in part be a reflection of Oklahoma's emphasis on permanency for older youth.

Outcome Measure 7.1: Children 12 or Younger with Placements in Group Homes or Institutions: Oklahoma includes brief stays in shelters in the group home category of placement settings. This may account for Oklahoma's higher percentage of children in group home settings as compared to other states.

Outcome Measure 4.1: Time to Reunification: The procedure for documentation of Trial Reunification has impacted this measure. Although the percentage of children reunified in less than 12 months has decreased, the percentage returned between 12 and 36 months has increased, which has resulted in a slight decrease of .2% in the percentage of children reunified within 36 months of removal since 2004.

Outcome Measure 6.1: Number of Placements: Standing court orders in Oklahoma's two largest metropolitan counties require children entering care to do so through admission to OKDHS operated shelters. Policy mandates that any child under the age of 6 be placed in an Emergency Foster Care setting following admission to the shelter. This results in high numbers of placements in a short period of time for metro area children who comprise approximately half of all children in out of home care. In addition, emphasis on reunification of siblings, placement with relatives, and placement in the child's home community may cause an additional placement but results in greater well-being.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Oklahoma's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 8.6 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 6.6 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (10.4 percent change).

In 2005, 1.18 percent of children in foster care in Oklahoma were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 0.42 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 92.3 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 78.4 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 72.7 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All three percentages are equal to or exceed the national medians for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 31.0 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent.

In 2005, 90.2 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is less than the national median of 95.7 percent.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 5.5 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 25.5 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage is less than the national median of 27.6 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (11.5 percent change).

In 2005, 51.8 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 64.8 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 70.4 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (17.0 percent change).

Measure C1.3 indicates that 32.7 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent.

Measure C1.4 indicates that 8.7 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is less than the national median of 14.8 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (52.7 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of a State's rate of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 27.5 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 29.1 percent.

In 2005, 21.1 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 20.9 percent.

Measure C2.5 indicates that 48.0 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 71.2 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 27.7 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent.

In 2005, 14.9 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 7.2 percent.

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	855,107	849,172	852,357	849,944
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3
Asian	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	13.9	14.6	15.2	15.7
White (non-Hispanic)	75.5	74.8	74.2	73.6
Two or more races	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9
Child population in poverty (%)	13.9	20.1	15.6	17.7

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	9,228	10,368	11,759	12,414
Children in foster care on 9/30	9,101	9,117	10,048	11,021
Children adopted	1,115	849	943	1,030

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	27,913	32.6 per 1,000	32,694	38.5 per 1,000	37,865	44.4 per 1,000	40,110	47.2 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	9,228	10.8 per 1,000	10,368	12.2 per 1,000	11,759	13.8 per 1,000	12,414	14.6 per 1,000
Child fatalities	21	2.5 per 100,000	14	1.7 per 100,000	8	0.9 per 100,000	18	2.1 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	13.7	12.9	13.6	14.3
1-5 years	36.8	36.2	35.7	35.4
6-10 years	27.7	27.8	27.1	27.4
11-15 years	18.8	19.9	19.9	19.2
16+ years	3.1	3.2	3.7	3.7
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Number	9,228	10,368	11,759	12,414

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	5.9	5.9	8.6	7.8
Asian	1.4	0.8	0.8	0.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	4.9	4.5	5.1	5.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.3	0.3	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	11.7	11.6	13.3	14.3
White (non-Hispanic)	64.4	63.8	63.4	64.0
Two or more races	—	—	—	—
Unknown	11.7	13.0	8.5	7.9
Number	9,228	10,368	11,759	12,414

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	4.6	3.9	4.0	2.8
Medical neglect	4.5	4.5	4.5	2.5
Neglect	26.9	25.6	26.8	30.8
Physical abuse	11.2	11.1	9.7	8.6
Sexual abuse	10.0	10.7	9.8	8.7
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	55.2	57.7	59.0	58.9
Number	9,228	10,368	11,759	12,414

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	—	—	—	—
Median	—	—	—	—

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	8,652	8,454	8,959	9,841	5,095	4,976	5,544	6,199	4,646	4,313	4,455	5,019	9,101	9,117	10,048	11,021
Median length of stay (months)	18.4	17.4	16.6	15.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.9	13.1	13.6	13.8	15.8	16.4	14.8	14.4

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	4.8	5.2	5.5	6.2	16.3	16.2	17.0	17.9	3.6	3.9	3.5	4.1	5.7	5.6	6.2	6.3
1 year	6.3	6.7	6.7	7.2	7.8	8.2	8.4	8.4	6.3	6.7	7.2	7.4	6.9	6.6	7.3	8.3
2 years	6.6	6.4	7.2	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.3	8.0	7.7	7.1	7.9	8.4	6.5	7.3	7.1	7.5
3 years	6.8	6.2	6.4	6.7	6.9	7.0	6.7	6.0	7.9	7.3	7.8	7.8	6.3	6.4	6.7	6.4
4 years	5.9	6.3	5.9	6.1	6.3	6.2	6.0	5.9	7.1	7.1	6.8	6.9	6.2	5.9	6.1	5.9
5 years	5.3	5.0	5.9	5.4	5.4	5.6	6.0	5.8	7.1	6.1	6.9	5.8	5.1	5.8	5.5	6.0
6 years	5.1	4.8	5.0	5.3	5.0	5.3	5.1	5.1	5.6	5.5	5.9	5.8	4.8	5.0	5.3	5.1
7 years	5.0	4.8	4.9	4.7	4.3	4.8	4.8	4.6	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.4	4.8	4.9	4.6	5.2
8 years	5.2	4.8	4.6	4.7	5.1	4.3	4.3	4.5	5.1	4.9	4.7	4.5	4.8	4.5	4.7	4.4
9 years	4.9	5.1	4.3	4.4	4.1	3.8	4.2	4.2	4.7	5.0	4.5	4.2	5.0	4.3	4.4	4.7
10 years	5.6	4.8	4.6	4.2	4.2	4.2	3.8	3.8	4.6	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.7	4.6	4.2	4.2
11 years	5.6	5.1	4.8	4.5	4.7	4.5	3.7	3.8	5.3	4.2	4.1	4.0	5.0	4.7	4.4	4.0
12 years	5.8	5.6	5.0	4.6	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.3	5.1	3.7	3.9	5.5	5.0	4.6	4.5
13 years	6.0	6.0	5.6	5.3	4.9	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.8	4.3	4.4	4.5	6.0	5.6	5.3	4.5
14 years	5.6	5.9	6.0	5.5	4.4	4.7	4.7	4.9	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.4	5.8	6.0	5.5	5.4
15 years	5.4	5.8	5.7	5.6	4.2	4.3	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.4	4.6	4.3	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.4
16 years	4.9	5.4	5.2	5.5	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.1	4.0	4.5	3.6	4.3	5.3	5.2	5.5	5.1
17 years	3.5	4.2	4.5	4.4	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.5	3.2	4.0	3.6	3.7	4.1	4.5	4.3	4.4
18 years	1.3	1.4	1.8	1.8	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	4.1	4.1	5.8	4.6	1.4	1.8	1.8	1.9
19 years	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7
20+ years	0.1	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.4	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	5.7	8.1	9.2	11.4	8.7	9.7	12.6	10.3	5.5	7.6	8.4	10.3	7.5	9.2	11.4	11.3
Asian	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	9.5	8.3	7.3	6.8	5.5	4.3	5.1	5.4	7.9	5.7	5.8	5.7	8.1	7.3	6.8	6.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	8.5	10.2	10.3	10.8	11.2	11.5	12.6	13.3	9.5	11.5	11.9	13.0	9.5	10.3	10.9	11.2
White (non-Hispanic)	61.3	60.8	59.1	56.7	55.0	56.5	54.5	54.2	58.0	59.4	59.0	55.6	59.5	59.1	56.7	55.8
Two or more races	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.8	2.3	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.7	1.6
Unknown	13.8	11.3	12.6	12.7	17.9	16.3	13.4	13.7	17.6	14.4	13.6	13.8	14.1	12.5	12.6	12.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	2,503	3,164	3,302	3,441
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,298	1,509	1,485	1,493

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.9	6.3	7.0	7.1
1 year	8.4	10.1	10.5	11.6
2 years	8.9	11.1	10.7	10.5
3 years	8.6	9.3	10.1	8.9
4 years	9.3	8.7	8.8	8.7
5 years	7.8	8.8	7.5	8.5
6 years	6.4	7.1	7.7	6.2
7 years	7.2	6.0	5.9	7.0
8 years	6.2	5.8	6.0	5.0
9 years	6.4	5.1	5.2	5.5
10 years	5.8	4.6	4.2	4.4
11 years	5.4	4.3	4.0	3.7
12 years	4.4	3.5	3.4	3.7
13 years	3.7	2.9	2.6	2.6
14 years	2.4	2.6	2.3	2.2
15 years	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8
16 years	1.8	0.9	1.6	1.4
17 years	1.4	1.0	0.7	1.1
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	5.0	7.9	8.7	8.6
Asian	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	9.3	7.8	6.1	6.0
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	9.1	11.5	11.7	11.2
White (non-Hispanic)	60.4	56.9	55.3	55.0
Two or more races	0.6	0.6	0.9	1.6
Unknown	14.7	14.3	16.3	16.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	1,115	849	943	1,030

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2
1 year	5.8	5.7	6.4	8.2
2 years	12.5	10.7	12.4	15.6
3 years	12.8	14.3	13.6	13.6
4 years	11.5	11.2	10.4	11.0
5 years	9.7	9.4	10.9	9.0
6 years	7.6	8.7	10.1	9.6
7 years	7.6	7.2	7.1	7.0
8 years	6.1	5.8	5.4	5.0
9 years	6.4	7.2	5.9	4.8
10 years	5.3	4.9	4.2	4.2
11 years	5.1	3.9	4.1	3.8
12 years	3.0	4.4	3.1	2.3
13 years	2.8	2.9	2.4	2.5
14 years	1.9	1.3	2.0	1.4
15 years	1.0	0.9	0.6	1.0
16 years	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.9
17 years	0.3	0.6	0.6	<.1
18 years	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.3
Asian	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	8.3	3.4	6.7	2.9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	15.2	12.6	13.3	18.8
White (non-Hispanic)	67.3	73.4	72.4	68.4
Two or more races	7.4	9.7	7.2	8.8
Unknown	0.2	0.1	0.1	<.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	—	—	—
Number	N/A	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	24.2	19.9	21.2	20.6
Guardianship	5.2	4.3	4.4	4.9
Reunification	59.8	63.0	62.7	63.5
Other	6.7	9.5	8.5	9.1
Missing data	4.0	3.2	3.2	1.9
Number	4,646	4,313	4,455	5,019

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	33.4	28.6	26.2	26.3
Guardianship	5.6	4.0	3.9	4.7
Reunification	44.9	47.3	52.1	50.4
Other	10.9	16.5	14.1	16.2
Missing data	5.2	3.6	3.7	2.4
Number	1,354	1,253	1,287	1,310

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.3	0.9	0.9	0.4
Guardianship	4.6	3.6	4.2	3.3
Reunification	61.0	59.8	62.2	64.0
Other	24.7	28.8	25.3	27.5
Missing data	9.5	7.0	7.5	4.8
Number	782	805	817	953

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	41.4	42.6	47.5	42.7
Children older than 12 at entry	58.6	57.4	52.5	57.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	157	202	198	253

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	10.9	11.6	16.0	20.1	32.1	6.1	0.0	29.7	27.5	17.4	26.6	15.7		
Guardianship	16.8	13.1	8.5	11.4	0.0	3.0	14.3	10.8	6.0	4.5	3.5	0.0		
Reunification	60.2	60.5	64.5	60.7	42.9	78.8	66.7	56.8	50.7	55.5	47.9	61.2		
Other	7.4	10.0	7.2	6.6	25.0	12.1	9.5	2.7	8.4	18.2	15.8	19.9		
Missing data	4.7	4.9	3.7	1.2	0.0	0.0	9.5	0.0	7.4	4.5	6.2	3.1		
Number	256	329	375	517	28	33	21	37	367	247	259	286		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	10.5	9.1	20.0	50.0	25.9	14.7	17.6	21.0	23.9	21.3	21.9	20.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.4	3.0	3.6	3.4	4.9	3.9	4.3	4.4		
Reunification	78.9	90.9	75.0	50.0	62.6	74.5	71.1	65.6	59.7	61.1	61.0	63.8		
Other	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	4.3	4.6	5.7	7.8	7.5	10.3	9.7	9.7		
Missing data	10.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	3.2	2.1	2.1	4.1	3.3	3.1	2.0		
Number	19	11	20	8	441	498	529	652	2,694	2,561	2,627	2,792		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	26.3	23.9	22.8	24.2	38.1	42.9	16.7	24.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	2.1	2.7	3.1	4.9	28.6	0.0	5.6	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	63.7	65.2	67.7	63.5	33.3	50.0	66.7	69.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	4.4	6.3	3.5	5.8	0.0	7.1	11.1	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	3.5	1.9	3.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	820	620	606	694	21	14	18	33	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	64.4	65.9	64.4	65.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	25.9	26.1	27.5	27.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.4	4.7	4.3	4.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.2	1.4	1.8	1.3
48 or more mos.	2.1	1.9	2.0	1.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,779	2,719	2,795	3,186

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	79.7	80.4	81.7	81.7
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	10.8	9.8	8.4	8.3
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	9.6	9.8	9.8	10.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Number	5,095	4,976	5,544	6,199

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	0.8	1.4	1.2	0.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.7	12.5	16.4	17.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	30.5	37.0	35.8	41.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	30.5	26.5	25.7	25.6
48 or more mos.	26.6	22.6	20.9	15.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,123	857	943	1,036

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	88.4	86.4	85.4	84.3	66.7	65.5	64.5	66.0	38.1	31.4	33.1	33.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	11.6	13.6	14.6	15.7	33.3	34.5	35.5	34.0	61.9	68.6	66.9	66.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	5,887	5,726	6,318	7,145	2,809	2,951	3,292	3,733	5,039	4,729	4,866	5,134	12	24	27	28

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3
Institutions	4.2	4.0	4.0	3.9
Other settings	95.1	95.7	95.7	95.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4,069	3,990	4,440	5,032

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	118.5
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	73.6	76.2
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	6.5	6.3
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	37.6	40.6
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	16.1	15.9

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	96.5
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	17.6	18.0
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	35.0	33.3
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	21.0	21.9
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	10.1	12.0
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	45.8	48.3

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	108.5
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	24.3	25.9
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	97.8	98.5
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	61.7	62.2

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	96.7
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	84.4	83.4
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	64.8	65.9
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	33.6	34.4

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Oregon's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

Oregon does not submit a Child File to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System. Therefore, there are no data for Oregon pertaining to the two safety measures.

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 89.0 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) and 81.4 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home. Both percentages exceed the national median for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1 and 3.2 are 87.8 percent and 79 percent, respectively). However, 67.7 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. This percentage is less than the national median of 73.1 percent for this measure.

In 2005, 25.9 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 26.4, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (6.6 percent change).

In 2005, 98.5 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is among the highest in the nation.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 5.0 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 42.7 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent.

In 2005, 62.2 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 76.2 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 70.4 percent.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 40.6 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2004 (8.0 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 15.9 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage exceeds the national median of 14.8 percent. Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of a State's rate of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 18.0 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 29.1 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (44.0 percent change).

In 2005, 21.9 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent.

Measure C2.5 indicates that 48.3 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (5.5 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 83.4 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 34.4 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 32.3 percent.

In 2005, 4.2 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 7.2 percent.

Pennsylvania

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	2,863,452	2,830,694	2,837,009	2,816,739
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	13.0	13.2	13.3	13.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	5.4	5.7	6.0	6.4
White (non-Hispanic)	77.6	77.1	76.5	76.0
Two or more races	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.9
Child population in poverty (%)	13.8	15.5	17.2	16.9

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	5,057	4,571	4,647	4,353
Children in foster care on 9/30	21,410	20,845	21,944	21,691
Children adopted	2,020	1,946	1,898	2,065

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	24,330	8.5 per 1,000	23,601	8.3 per 1,000	23,862	8.4 per 1,000	23,114	8.2 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	5,057	1.8 per 1,000	4,571	1.6 per 1,000	4,647	1.6 per 1,000	4,353	1.6 per 1,000
Child fatalities	52	1.8 per 100,000	46	1.6 per 100,000	42	1.5 per 100,000	40	1.4 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	5.1	5.4	5.3	5.0
1-5 years	22.3	20.2	18.9	19.5
6-10 years	26.8	26.9	26.0	26.4
11-15 years	34.0	35.3	37.6	36.7
16+ years	11.8	12.1	12.3	12.3
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Number	5,057	4,571	4,647	4,353

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	—	—	—	—
Asian	—	—	—	—
Black (non-Hispanic)	—	—	—	—
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic (of any race)	—	—	—	—
White (non-Hispanic)	—	—	—	—
Two or more races	—	—	—	—
Unknown	100.0	—	—	—
Number	5,057	4,571	4,647	4,353

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	1.6	1.4	1.6	1.1
Medical neglect	2.9	2.6	2.2	2.0
Neglect	3.9	3.9	2.6	3.5
Physical abuse	38.3	36.6	34.3	32.4
Sexual abuse	54.3	57.2	60.7	62.5
Unknown	0.7	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Number	5,057	4,571	4,647	4,353

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	—	—	—	—
Median	—	—	—	—

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	19,750	19,791	19,995	20,613	13,684	13,039	14,574	14,658	12,024	11,985	12,625	13,582	21,410	20,845	21,944	21,691
Median length of stay (months)	19.5	17.9	17.1	15.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.6	9.4	10.6	10.9	16.7	17.0	14.6	14.4

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.1	3.5	3.5	3.8	10.3	10.1	11.5	11.2	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.9	3.5	4.5	4.8
1 year	4.2	4.3	4.7	4.9	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.8	4.0	3.9	3.7	4.0	4.2	4.6	4.9	5.0
2 years	4.5	4.3	4.7	4.9	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.8	4.5	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.5	4.7	4.9
3 years	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.3	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.9	4.3	3.5	3.9	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.5
4 years	4.0	4.1	3.7	4.0	3.1	3.3	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.9	3.6	3.8	4.1
5 years	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.1	2.6	2.9	2.8	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.5
6 years	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.6	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.7	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5
7 years	4.4	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.1	2.9	2.4	2.6	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.8	3.6	3.5	3.3	3.3
8 years	4.4	4.3	3.6	3.6	3.0	3.1	2.9	2.5	3.3	3.4	2.8	2.7	4.1	3.6	3.4	3.2
9 years	4.7	4.4	4.3	3.4	3.2	3.1	2.7	2.5	3.1	3.0	3.2	2.9	4.3	4.1	3.3	3.2
10 years	5.0	4.8	4.6	4.1	3.3	3.3	2.9	2.5	3.3	3.2	3.0	2.8	4.6	4.6	4.0	3.2
11 years	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.5	3.8	3.8	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.3	3.4	3.0	4.9	4.8	4.4	4.1
12 years	5.6	5.6	5.6	4.9	4.3	4.7	4.3	4.4	3.5	3.8	4.0	3.8	5.3	5.5	4.8	4.7
13 years	6.4	6.2	6.4	6.2	7.0	6.6	6.6	6.3	5.3	4.8	5.1	4.9	6.3	6.4	6.3	5.6
14 years	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.3	9.8	10.2	9.5	9.5	7.1	7.1	7.4	6.9	7.9	7.7	7.5	7.3
15 years	8.6	8.8	9.1	8.8	11.8	12.4	13.0	12.2	9.2	9.7	10.4	9.6	9.2	9.5	9.2	9.1
16 years	8.9	9.3	9.5	10.2	11.7	11.3	12.0	13.0	11.4	11.1	11.4	11.7	9.7	9.8	10.4	10.3
17 years	7.5	8.1	8.6	9.5	7.1	7.2	8.2	8.1	11.3	12.6	11.5	11.5	8.2	8.8	9.4	9.8
18 years	3.0	2.8	2.7	3.3	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.9	7.5	6.6	7.8	9.5	2.9	3.1	3.4	4.0
19 years	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.3
20+ years	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	51.1	49.8	48.5	47.8	40.1	38.4	41.0	41.7	40.5	39.6	40.9	42.7	50.1	48.6	47.8	46.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	8.1	7.4	8.3	8.4	10.6	8.8	8.7	8.7	9.2	7.9	8.9	8.2	9.1	7.9	8.2	8.7
White (non-Hispanic)	39.8	39.9	39.6	40.2	47.9	48.5	45.9	45.3	48.9	50.1	46.5	45.4	39.9	39.4	39.8	40.4
Two or more races	<.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3
Unknown	0.2	2.2	2.8	2.9	0.6	3.5	3.5	3.4	0.6	1.6	2.6	2.9	0.3	3.3	3.4	3.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	4,201	4,032	3,996	3,679
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	868	868	1,165	1,561

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.3	1.6	2.7	3.5
1 year	5.2	5.2	6.5	7.2
2 years	6.3	7.1	7.1	8.3
3 years	6.7	6.4	7.3	8.0
4 years	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.4
5 years	6.5	6.2	6.1	5.9
6 years	5.6	5.5	6.1	5.8
7 years	5.8	5.5	5.2	5.5
8 years	6.9	5.4	5.4	5.2
9 years	6.5	6.7	5.1	5.1
10 years	7.0	6.6	6.7	4.3
11 years	6.6	6.6	6.1	6.2
12 years	6.5	6.6	5.9	6.0
13 years	5.9	6.1	6.2	5.4
14 years	6.0	5.7	5.5	5.2
15 years	4.5	5.4	4.7	5.0
16 years	3.1	4.3	4.2	3.8
17 years	2.2	2.5	3.0	3.1
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Asian	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	54.5	51.1	46.4	45.0
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	8.4	9.5	8.9	10.0
White (non-Hispanic)	36.0	35.1	40.2	40.1
Two or more races	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3
Unknown	0.4	3.4	4.0	4.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	2,020	1,946	1,898	2,065

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.3
1 year	6.6	6.7	7.1	7.9
2 years	10.0	8.3	10.7	11.2
3 years	9.3	9.8	8.4	9.2
4 years	7.8	8.3	9.3	9.9
5 years	7.8	8.6	8.0	8.0
6 years	7.6	7.8	6.5	7.3
7 years	7.1	5.7	6.4	6.1
8 years	6.7	6.5	6.2	4.9
9 years	6.2	6.7	6.3	5.9
10 years	7.1	5.9	4.9	6.5
11 years	6.1	6.1	6.3	5.0
12 years	4.9	5.3	4.8	4.6
13 years	3.6	3.8	4.2	3.6
14 years	2.7	4.3	2.8	3.3
15 years	2.6	2.6	3.0	2.6
16 years	1.5	1.6	2.4	1.1
17 years	1.2	0.9	1.3	1.1
18 years	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.5
19 years	0.0	<.1	0.2	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.1	0.2	<.1
Asian	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	53.1	52.5	51.1	45.2
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	7.5	6.5	10.7	9.4
White (non-Hispanic)	38.0	40.0	37.0	44.2
Two or more races	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2
Unknown	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Pennsylvania

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	97.1	96.9	97.1	97.2
Children with one or more recurrences	2.9	3.1	2.9	2.8
Number	2,492	2,166	2,245	2,036

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.18	0.20	0.19
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.82	99.80	99.81
Number	N/A	32,830	34,569	35,271

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	16.6	16.0	15.1	15.2
Guardianship	1.2	2.3	6.2	6.7
Reunification	68.1	67.6	64.1	63.5
Other	13.8	14.0	14.5	14.6
Missing data	0.3	0.2	<.1	<.1
Number	12,024	11,985	12,625	13,582

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	22.4	21.4	17.8	16.7
Guardianship	1.5	1.7	3.8	3.7
Reunification	53.4	54.0	56.6	57.0
Other	22.3	22.6	21.7	22.6
Missing data	0.4	0.2	0.1	<.1
Number	2,420	2,063	2,251	2,568

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.6
Guardianship	1.1	1.1	2.1	2.3
Reunification	77.2	76.0	73.8	73.7
Other	20.9	22.1	23.3	23.4
Missing data	0.4	0.1	<.1	<.1
Number	5,576	5,545	5,910	6,440

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	31.4	29.6	27.0	29.6
Children older than 12 at entry	68.6	70.4	73.0	70.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	742	844	1,025	949

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	30.0	25.0	36.4	10.5	11.5	12.5	10.4	10.2	21.5	20.8	18.0	14.9		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.5	0.0	2.1	0.0	1.7	1.2	2.8	10.2	10.1		
Reunification	65.0	56.3	50.0	73.7	67.2	60.4	61.2	57.6	59.4	59.3	55.0	57.6		
Other	5.0	18.8	13.6	5.3	21.3	25.0	28.4	30.5	17.5	17.1	16.6	17.2		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2		
Number	20	16	22	19	61	48	67	59	4,866	4,745	5,167	5,800		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.7	10.3	15.7	14.2	13.6	13.3	12.4	15.2		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.9	3.2	4.9	1.3	1.9	3.2	3.8		
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	72.2	69.3	68.1	64.3	74.4	73.8	71.5	69.2		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.3	17.6	13.0	16.6	10.4	10.9	12.9	11.8		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.3	<.1	0.0	<.1		
Number	0	0	0	0	1,110	950	1,123	1,120	5,882	6,006	5,876	6,164		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	10.0	6.7	16.9	22.0	33.3	15.4	10.3	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	1.4	3.6	7.9	7.8	0.0	0.0	5.1	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	77.1	72.2	62.2	57.3	66.7	84.6	79.5	75.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	11.4	17.0	13.0	12.9	0.0	0.0	2.6	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	70	194	331	396	15	26	39	24	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	70.9	72.9	72.2	71.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	16.4	15.9	17.5	18.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.6	5.2	5.1	5.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.7	2.4	2.2	1.9
48 or more mos.	3.9	3.2	2.8	2.5
Missing data	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.3
Number	8,189	8,103	8,096	8,619

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	66.1	68.2	67.6	67.9
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	23.8	22.7	22.6	22.9
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	10.0	9.0	9.7	9.1
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Number	13,684	13,039	14,574	14,658

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	2.6	2.7	3.5	2.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	16.9	15.5	18.3	18.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	28.4	25.5	27.6	32.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	18.6	21.9	20.4	20.6
48 or more mos.	33.5	34.4	30.3	25.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,001	1,912	1,910	2,060

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	85.3	85.8	87.2	86.7	63.8	65.1	66.7	66.1	45.1	44.6	44.5	43.1	95.5	100.0	100.0	97.2
Children with 3 or more placements	14.7	14.2	12.8	13.3	36.2	34.9	33.3	33.9	54.9	55.4	55.5	56.9	3.8	0.0	0.0	2.8
Number	15,392	14,936	16,304	16,708	6,054	6,433	6,904	7,442	11,856	11,405	11,263	11,013	132	56	98	108

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	3.9	3.5	3.4	3.3
Institutions	7.3	6.5	5.2	4.4
Other settings	88.7	90.0	91.4	92.3
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	6,899	6,659	7,091	7,194

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	82.7
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	69.6	69.7
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	6.5	6.7
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	43.3	44.7
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	28.5	30.0

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	97.3
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	21.8	21.3
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	36.3	34.8
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	18.9	21.5
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	4.2	8.2
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	68.5	60.8

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	132.5
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	29.2	31.6
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	97.1	96.9
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	36.0	35.9

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	101.9
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	86.0	85.5
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	66.8	66.1
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	45.1	44.0

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Pennsylvania

STATE COMMENT

**BethAnn Smetak, Acting Deputy Secretary
Children, Youth and Families
Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare**

The following are Pennsylvania's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress*.

Section B (Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims)

Data on the race/ethnicity of child maltreatment victims is not available because Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law prohibits the collection of this information.

Section D (Children Waiting to Be Adopted)

AFCARS data indicates that as of 9/30/05, parental rights had been terminated for 42% of the 3,679 children waiting to be adopted. We believe the AFCARS foster care data does not provide a complete account of the number of children waiting to be adopted who have had termination of parental rights (TPR).

A separate report that is produced from the Pennsylvania Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network indicates that for the period ending 9/30/05 there were 3,501 children with a goal of adoption and of those 1,769 (51%) had a TPR completed, 1,614 (46%) had a TPR pending, and 118 (3%) had a TPR appeal.

A delay in entering the TPR dates into AFCARS by county child welfare agencies may be contributing to the discrepancies between the two sets of data. The state continues to improve the quality of the AFCARS data in this area.

Outcome Measure 3.4

Pennsylvania is committed to providing permanency for all children regardless of age and, in addition to the 878 children age 18 and over discharged to emancipation, there were 552 children age 18 and over discharged to one of the four permanency options of reunification, other relatives, adoption or legal custodian (guardianship) in FFY 2005.

Outcome Measure 4.2

Pennsylvania had identified outcome measure 4.2 and composite measure C1.4, foster care re-entry, as an area needing improvement. This is an area we will continue to monitor.

Pennsylvania

FEDERAL COMMENT

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Pennsylvania's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 2.8 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). Although this percentage is less than the national median of 6.6 percent, Pennsylvania's performance on this measure cannot be compared to the performance of other States. Pennsylvania is unique among States in that it does not consider "neglect" as maltreatment and does not report allegations of neglect to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System unless they are severe.

In 2005, 0.19 percent of children in foster care in Pennsylvania were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 0.42 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 85.4 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) and 77.4 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home. These percentages are less than the national medians for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1 and 3.2 are 87.8 percent and 79 percent, respectively). However, 76.6 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. This percentage exceeds the national median of 73.1 percent for this measure.

In 2005, 31.6 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (8.2 percent change).

In 2005, 96.9 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage exceeds the national median of 95.7 percent for this measure.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 7.0 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 29.6 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (5.7 percent change).

In 2005, 35.9 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3), which is less than the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 69.7 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 70.4 percent.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 44.7 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent.

Measure C1.4 indicates that 30.0 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is the highest in the nation and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (5.3 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 21.3 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 29.1 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (9.2 percent change).

In 2005, 21.5 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is slightly higher than the national median of 20.9 percent, and represents an improvement in performance on this measure (13.8 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 60.8 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (11.2 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 85.5 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 43.1 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 32.3 percent.

In 2005, 7.7 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 7.2 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (31.3 percent change).

Puerto Rico

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	—	—	—	1,032,105
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	—
Asian	—	—	—	—
Black (non-Hispanic)	—	—	—	—
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	—	—	—	—
Hispanic (of any race)	—	—	—	—
White (non-Hispanic)	—	—	—	—
Two or more races	—	—	—	—
Child population in poverty (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	—	—	—	15,807
Children in foster care on 9/30	8,179	7,585	7,663	6,786
Children adopted	431	674	490	246

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	—	— per 1,000	—	— per 1,000	—	— per 1,000	49,507	48.0 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	—	— per 1,000	—	— per 1,000	—	— per 1,000	15,807	15.3 per 1,000
Child fatalities	—	— per 100,000	—	— per 100,000	—	— per 100,000	4	0.4 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—
1-5 years	—	—	—	—
6-10 years	—	—	—	—
11-15 years	—	—	—	—
16+ years	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	15,807

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	—	—	—	—
Asian	—	—	—	—
Black (non-Hispanic)	—	—	—	—
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic (of any race)	—	—	—	—
White (non-Hispanic)	—	—	—	—
Two or more races	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	15,807

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	—	—	—	16.3
Medical neglect	—	—	—	—
Neglect	—	—	—	51.0
Physical abuse	—	—	—	24.1
Sexual abuse	—	—	—	4.3
Unknown	—	—	—	0.2
Other	—	—	—	4.2
Number	—	—	—	15,807

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	—	—	—	—
Median	—	—	—	—

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	7,062	7,566	7,463	6,598	3,483	2,652	2,138	1,936	2,369	2,624	1,937	1,748	8,179	7,585	7,663	6,786
Median length of stay (months)	21.2	21.8	27.9	31.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.0	12.1	13.4	14.5	22.4	27.5	34.9	37.6

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.5	3.5	2.8	3.0	12.3	12.9	12.6	13.9	4.4	3.6	4.2	5.5	3.4	2.8	2.5	2.7
1 year	5.0	4.6	4.4	3.4	6.9	6.2	5.8	6.5	7.9	6.8	7.2	6.4	4.4	4.2	3.1	3.2
2 years	4.9	5.1	4.5	4.0	7.2	6.1	6.3	5.5	7.1	6.6	8.1	6.2	4.9	4.4	3.7	3.3
3 years	5.2	5.4	5.0	4.5	6.7	5.8	6.2	6.1	8.3	7.2	7.5	7.4	5.0	4.8	4.1	3.9
4 years	5.6	5.2	5.1	5.0	6.2	6.1	6.0	6.0	7.6	6.8	8.1	6.6	4.9	4.8	4.4	4.1
5 years	5.9	5.6	5.6	5.3	6.6	6.9	5.9	5.5	6.9	7.3	7.1	7.5	5.3	5.2	4.9	4.9
6 years	6.1	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.9	5.6	5.1	7.2	7.1	6.8	6.2	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.0
7 years	6.3	6.4	5.6	6.3	6.4	5.3	5.4	4.8	7.6	7.7	6.2	6.9	6.1	5.6	5.6	5.4
8 years	6.2	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.7	4.9	4.7	4.9	7.5	7.3	5.7	6.2	5.7	5.5	5.3	5.9
9 years	6.2	5.8	5.8	6.1	4.7	4.4	3.4	3.9	5.8	5.8	5.2	5.0	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.4
10 years	6.8	6.4	5.8	6.1	5.4	4.9	5.0	3.7	5.1	6.0	4.7	5.0	6.1	5.4	5.4	5.7
11 years	6.3	6.6	6.7	6.7	4.8	4.1	4.1	4.7	4.9	5.4	4.9	5.0	6.2	6.0	5.8	5.9
12 years	6.4	6.4	6.7	7.1	4.2	4.4	4.5	3.8	4.8	4.4	5.0	3.8	6.0	6.3	6.3	6.4
13 years	5.9	6.5	7.0	7.8	4.0	4.6	5.1	5.1	3.6	4.9	3.9	4.6	6.2	6.4	6.9	7.3
14 years	6.3	6.0	6.8	8.2	3.8	3.8	5.9	5.0	3.6	4.2	4.5	4.2	5.7	6.4	7.0	8.0
15 years	5.7	6.3	6.9	8.3	3.4	4.3	4.3	5.2	3.2	3.0	3.8	5.4	6.0	6.0	7.3	8.0
16 years	4.2	4.0	5.1	4.8	2.3	2.1	2.7	3.1	2.5	2.8	3.4	2.4	5.4	6.3	6.6	8.2
17 years	3.2	3.8	4.0	0.7	0.7	1.5	1.2	0.8	0.8	1.3	1.4	2.1	3.5	3.9	5.1	4.9
18 years	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.2	0.9	3.0	3.8	3.7	<.1
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0
Missing data	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.7	2.6	4.9	5.3	6.5	1.1	1.0	2.2	2.6	0.8	1.5	1.3	1.7

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	<.1	0.1	0.6	<.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	99.0	99.1	99.0	99.0	98.9	99.3	99.0	98.8	98.5	99.4	98.7	98.5	99.1	99.1	99.0	99.1
White (non-Hispanic)	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.5	1.0	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	1,444	1,404	1,599	1,542
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	34	33	28	26

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	5.6	3.0	1.9	1.5
1 year	7.1	6.3	3.9	3.0
2 years	8.2	7.2	6.0	3.7
3 years	7.5	8.4	6.1	5.8
4 years	8.0	8.8	7.3	6.2
5 years	9.8	8.2	8.8	7.7
6 years	10.5	9.4	8.8	8.2
7 years	10.2	9.5	10.1	9.3
8 years	8.7	9.6	9.4	9.6
9 years	6.6	8.3	9.4	8.9
10 years	5.3	5.9	7.3	9.3
11 years	3.9	5.1	6.5	7.5
12 years	2.6	3.5	5.7	6.9
13 years	1.7	2.3	3.6	5.3
14 years	1.6	1.7	2.6	3.2
15 years	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.9
16 years	0.6	1.2	0.8	1.2
17 years	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	99.2	99.2	98.9	98.8
White (non-Hispanic)	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.9
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	431	674	490	246

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	4.9	3.0	2.7	2.4
1 year	11.4	14.1	14.7	8.5
2 years	7.4	10.2	11.8	12.6
3 years	8.8	9.9	6.5	6.5
4 years	7.4	9.6	13.5	9.8
5 years	9.0	7.6	7.6	10.2
6 years	4.9	12.0	6.3	9.8
7 years	7.4	9.2	6.3	9.3
8 years	4.6	6.8	6.1	6.5
9 years	8.6	3.7	3.9	4.9
10 years	6.3	3.6	4.7	4.1
11 years	3.7	4.0	3.9	2.8
12 years	4.6	0.4	3.9	2.0
13 years	0.9	0.9	2.2	2.8
14 years	0.9	1.8	1.6	2.0
15 years	2.3	0.9	2.0	1.2
16 years	3.9	0.9	1.0	1.2
17 years	0.9	0.4	0.4	1.6
18 years	0.5	0.0	0.6	1.2
19 years	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	99.1	100.0	100.0	100.0
White (non-Hispanic)	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Puerto Rico

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	—	—	—
Number	N/A	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	7.9	6.5	7.4	8.7
Guardianship	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1
Reunification	86.9	89.6	88.1	86.8
Other	1.9	1.4	2.0	2.1
Missing data	3.3	2.5	2.5	2.3
Number	2,369	2,624	1,937	1,748

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	7.8	7.2	7.3	6.2
Guardianship	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	76.5	85.2	85.0	85.6
Other	9.6	4.5	4.7	4.8
Missing data	5.4	3.1	3.1	3.4
Number	166	223	193	146

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	91.8	90.1	90.7	88.3
Other	4.6	7.3	6.4	7.4
Missing data	3.2	2.6	2.9	4.3
Number	219	274	204	188

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	53.8	40.0	73.9	43.5
Children older than 12 at entry	46.2	56.0	26.1	52.2
Missing data	0.0	4.0	0.0	4.3
Number	13	25	23	23

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	66.7	100.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	2	6	2

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.8	6.5	7.5	8.8	22.2	0.0	0.0	5.6
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	86.9	89.6	88.1	86.8	77.8	100.0	100.0	88.9
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	1.4	1.9	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	2.5	2.5	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6
Number	0	0	2	0	2,334	2,608	1,912	1,722	18	13	17	18

	Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	50.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	50.0	0.0	0.0	83.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	59.3	52.8	46.5	44.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	28.1	32.1	33.5	32.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	7.2	8.0	11.0	11.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.0	2.8	3.4	3.8
48 or more mos.	2.2	4.0	5.3	7.5
Missing data	1.2	0.3	0.4	0.3
Number	2,058	2,352	1,707	1,518

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	94.4	91.2	89.7	92.6
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	1.3	1.9	3.4	1.9
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	3.5	5.1	5.2	4.5
Missing data	0.8	1.9	1.6	1.0
Number	3,483	2,652	2,138	1,936

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	6.5	5.3	2.8	2.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	20.4	24.1	20.8	15.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	14.0	22.4	27.1	19.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	16.1	10.0	16.0	17.8
48 or more mos.	42.5	38.2	33.3	44.7
Missing data	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	186	170	144	152

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	99.8	99.7	99.6	99.6	99.8	99.7	99.8	99.7	98.7	98.8	99.0	99.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4,143	3,436	2,624	2,364	2,046	2,123	1,804	1,464	4,316	4,634	5,157	4,690	40	25	16	16

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.4
Institutions	3.1	5.2	8.1	6.8
Other settings	96.4	94.4	91.3	92.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,598	2,053	1,555	1,396

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	118.3
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	60.0	57.9
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	9.9	10.1
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	—	19.4
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	—	1.4

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	38.6
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	23.6	17.8
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	35.8	45.1
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	2.4	3.1
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	0.1	0.0
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	—	65.0

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	142.7
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	8.1	9.1
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	100.0	100.0
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	73.5	50.0

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	150.1
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	99.7	99.7
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	99.8	99.7
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	98.9	99.3

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Puerto Rico

STATE COMMENT

**Carmen R. Nazario, Administrator
Department of the Family
Puerto Rico Administration for Children and Families**

The following are Puerto Rico's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress*.

Puerto Rico does not have an automated system that allows it to collect information on many of the data elements required by NCANDS and the current AFCARS system does not meet the agency's needs. 2004 was the first year that we submitted a summary of the SDC File. During the past year we have been working on the automation of our information systems, and currently we are in the pilot testing stage of the application that will allow us to submit a complete NCANDS File. We expect to submit the Child File during 2006 and send a complete transmission by 2008. In addition, we are in the process of selecting the company that will be contracted to establish the new AFCARS application. Through this application we will solve the discrepancies that we have been experiencing between the AFCARS Adoption File and the AFCARS Foster Care File. We expect to have the new application running by 2008. However, 2009 is going to be the first year that we can compare the AFCARS and NCANDS data since we need a period of time for the data to become stable.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Puerto Rico's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

Puerto Rico does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System for calculating measures pertaining to safety.

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 95.6 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 91.7 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 88.3 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All three percentages exceed the national medians for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

Several quality issues are raised by the data for the measures included in Composite 3, which makes it difficult to assess Puerto Rico's performance on any of the measures.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 57.9 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 70.4 percent.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 19.4 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent. Data for 2004 were not available for this measure.

Measure C1.4 indicates that 1.4 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is the lowest in the nation. Data for 2004 are not available for this measure. Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 17.2 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 29.1 percent and represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2002 (36.1 percent change).

In 2005, 3.1 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is the lowest in the nation.

Measure C2.5 indicates that 65.0 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent. Data for 2004 are not available for this measure.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 99.7 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 7.3 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 7.2 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2002 (102.8 percent change).

Rhode Island

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	239,248	244,049	243,813	245,354
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Asian	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	15.3	16.0	16.5	17.0
White (non-Hispanic)	72.3	71.5	70.7	70.1
Two or more races	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6
Child population in poverty (%)	15.2	17.1	18.3	18.1

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	3,247	3,290	3,068	3,366
Children in foster care on 9/30	2,383	2,357	2,414	2,509
Children adopted	256	264	235	217

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	10,772	45.0 per 1,000	10,362	42.5 per 1,000	9,920	40.7 per 1,000	10,734	43.8 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	3,247	13.6 per 1,000	3,290	13.5 per 1,000	3,068	12.6 per 1,000	3,366	13.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	1	0.4 per 100,000	1	0.4 per 100,000	3	1.2 per 100,000	5	2.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	10.9	10.6	12.2	12.5
1-5 years	31.0	30.3	28.7	30.2
6-10 years	27.7	27.0	27.2	26.0
11-15 years	24.2	25.3	25.2	23.7
16+ years	5.9	6.7	6.6	7.2
Unknown	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.4
Number	3,247	3,290	3,068	3,366

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.9	0.9	1.2	0.7
Asian	2.1	2.2	2.0	1.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	14.6	12.0	12.2	11.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.1	—	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	17.7	20.3	22.1	21.6
White (non-Hispanic)	60.0	58.8	55.4	55.9
Two or more races	2.5	3.3	3.2	3.7
Unknown	2.3	2.5	3.9	4.8
Number	3,247	3,290	3,068	3,366

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.3
Medical neglect	1.9	2.2	1.8	2.5
Neglect	76.3	78.5	77.0	82.9
Physical abuse	19.8	17.9	19.4	14.2
Sexual abuse	7.0	6.8	5.3	5.0
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	1.7	2.3	2.8	2.4
Number	3,247	3,290	3,068	3,366

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	—	22.2	33.5	36.9
Median	—	<24	<24	>24, but <48

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	2,160	2,132	2,227	2,306	1,582	1,567	1,649	1,561	1,378	1,347	1,462	1,358	2,383	2,357	2,414	2,509
Median length of stay (months)	15.6	14.2	14.7	15.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.2	10.7	9.9	10.7	13.9	13.9	14.7	15.2

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	4.6	4.4	4.3	5.8	10.9	10.3	12.2	14.3	4.1	4.1	4.0	6.0	4.3	4.3	5.8	5.4
1 year	5.0	4.5	5.2	4.1	4.0	5.4	3.4	3.7	5.8	4.9	4.7	6.7	4.4	4.8	4.0	5.1
2 years	3.8	4.1	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.1	4.4	4.0	4.7	5.5	5.7	3.7	4.0	3.9	3.6	3.3
3 years	3.7	3.9	3.5	3.3	4.2	3.2	3.0	2.9	4.4	3.9	4.7	4.2	3.8	3.4	3.3	3.3
4 years	2.5	3.4	3.3	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.1	4.1	3.5	3.1	3.5	3.2	3.1	3.5
5 years	3.1	2.7	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.4	2.5	3.3	2.8	3.4	3.3	2.8	2.7	2.9	3.1	2.8
6 years	2.3	2.8	2.9	2.6	2.3	2.4	1.9	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.8	2.5	3.3
7 years	3.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.4	2.7	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.9
8 years	3.9	2.9	2.6	2.3	2.5	1.9	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.2	2.3	1.9	3.0	2.5	2.3	2.6
9 years	3.2	4.2	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.9	2.5	2.2	2.7	2.7	2.4	4.0	2.7	2.5	2.7
10 years	3.7	3.3	4.2	3.0	3.0	2.6	3.0	2.7	3.0	2.4	2.4	2.4	3.0	3.9	2.9	2.9
11 years	4.1	3.9	3.7	4.4	3.2	3.2	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.3	3.0	3.6	3.4	4.2	2.9
12 years	4.8	4.4	4.9	4.0	3.9	5.1	3.8	4.4	3.3	3.8	4.0	3.3	4.6	4.8	4.0	4.6
13 years	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.4	8.1	8.9	7.8	6.6	5.0	5.0	5.8	5.0	5.7	5.9	5.3	4.8
14 years	8.6	7.8	7.9	7.5	11.4	10.6	9.4	9.2	8.3	8.0	7.3	6.8	8.0	7.8	7.7	6.9
15 years	9.3	10.0	9.0	9.3	12.4	12.4	13.2	11.9	10.4	10.2	10.7	9.8	10.1	9.5	9.5	9.0
16 years	11.2	10.5	10.3	10.4	9.7	10.8	11.5	11.7	10.0	11.6	8.6	8.4	10.8	10.7	10.6	11.1
17 years	8.0	9.3	9.4	10.2	8.6	7.5	8.8	7.6	11.1	9.7	12.5	11.0	10.0	9.8	10.7	10.4
18 years	4.7	4.6	5.9	5.7	0.8	1.1	0.7	0.7	6.5	5.3	4.7	6.9	4.7	6.3	5.7	6.2
19 years	2.7	2.8	3.1	4.0	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.2	1.4	1.6	2.4	2.9	2.8	3.1	4.1	3.3
20+ years	1.7	1.9	1.7	2.2	0.2	<.1	0.1	0.0	2.4	2.9	1.8	2.9	1.8	1.7	2.1	2.6
Missing data	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.0	1.1	1.6	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.5	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.2	0.9	0.5	<.1	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.6
Asian	1.7	2.1	1.8	1.4	2.0	2.2	1.7	2.4	1.6	2.5	2.2	1.5	2.0	1.9	1.5	2.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	20.3	19.4	18.6	17.3	16.4	16.0	15.3	15.6	17.1	16.9	16.9	14.7	19.6	18.5	17.4	17.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	<.1	0.0	0.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	15.8	17.8	18.4	19.0	19.0	20.0	19.7	21.7	17.8	19.4	19.9	20.2	16.8	18.3	18.4	20.0
White (non-Hispanic)	57.5	54.7	54.7	54.2	55.8	55.1	54.2	52.0	58.2	56.3	53.8	56.3	55.9	54.1	54.9	51.8
Two or more races	1.7	3.4	4.1	5.1	2.1	3.6	4.2	3.9	1.6	2.5	3.8	5.0	2.0	4.1	4.3	4.4
Unknown	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.8	3.1	1.8	3.4	3.2	2.3	1.0	2.3	2.0	2.1	1.8	2.1	2.6
Missing data	0.0	<.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.4	<.1	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.2	<.1	<.1

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	385	304	309	382
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	206	157	150	190

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.0	1.6	2.9	1.3
1 year	6.0	6.6	5.5	8.1
2 years	9.9	4.9	6.1	2.6
3 years	7.0	7.2	4.2	5.8
4 years	5.7	4.9	5.2	6.0
5 years	3.6	3.6	4.5	5.2
6 years	4.4	5.3	4.2	5.5
7 years	3.1	4.6	4.2	5.8
8 years	6.0	6.6	4.5	4.5
9 years	8.6	4.6	4.9	4.7
10 years	6.5	5.9	5.5	6.0
11 years	6.2	6.9	7.8	6.5
12 years	6.5	7.9	7.4	7.9
13 years	7.5	7.9	5.5	7.3
14 years	7.8	7.9	8.7	5.5
15 years	7.0	7.9	8.1	7.6
16 years	2.1	4.3	6.5	5.5
17 years	1.0	1.3	4.2	4.2
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.0	1.0	1.9	3.9
Asian	0.8	1.3	0.3	0.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	20.0	21.1	20.7	20.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.3	0.0	1.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	16.1	23.0	19.7	21.7
White (non-Hispanic)	56.6	49.3	49.2	44.5
Two or more races	3.4	3.3	4.9	5.8
Unknown	1.8	1.0	2.3	2.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	256	264	235	217

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.7	2.7	2.6	3.2
1 year	13.3	12.1	11.5	16.1
2 years	10.5	15.5	14.9	12.9
3 years	9.8	11.0	13.6	9.7
4 years	7.8	9.8	7.7	9.7
5 years	7.4	8.3	7.2	5.1
6 years	6.6	2.3	6.4	6.0
7 years	6.3	5.7	4.7	6.0
8 years	7.8	3.8	3.0	2.3
9 years	5.1	6.4	6.8	4.1
10 years	6.6	4.2	3.0	2.3
11 years	3.9	3.4	3.8	6.5
12 years	4.3	3.0	4.7	3.7
13 years	1.6	1.9	3.8	3.7
14 years	3.1	2.7	1.7	1.8
15 years	0.8	2.7	2.6	4.1
16 years	1.2	3.8	1.3	1.4
17 years	0.8	0.4	0.9	0.5
18 years	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.6	0.8	0.0	0.9
Asian	0.4	0.4	0.9	1.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	25.4	17.8	18.3	18.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4
Hispanic (of any race)	11.7	16.7	18.7	22.1
White (non-Hispanic)	55.1	55.7	50.6	48.4
Two or more races	2.7	7.6	8.1	6.0
Unknown	3.1	1.1	0.4	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	3.0	1.4

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Rhode Island

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	89.8	88.9	92.2	91.1
Children with one or more recurrences	10.2	11.1	7.8	8.9
Number	1,532	1,500	1,416	1,548

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	1.73	1.29	1.55
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	98.27	98.71	98.45
Number	N/A	3,699	3,876	3,867

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	13.7	16.6	16.2	16.1
Guardianship	2.2	2.5	2.1	1.6
Reunification	69.7	64.0	64.9	66.0
Other	13.2	16.9	16.8	16.3
Missing data	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,378	1,347	1,462	1,358

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	10.3	15.4	16.2	19.7
Guardianship	1.3	2.5	0.4	0.6
Reunification	65.5	60.2	61.1	55.2
Other	22.0	22.0	22.3	24.5
Missing data	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	232	364	475	466

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.3	1.4	0.3	0.8
Guardianship	1.5	1.7	0.7	1.1
Reunification	72.7	66.9	70.3	71.1
Other	23.4	30.0	28.7	27.0
Missing data	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	662	647	698	651

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	17.7	20.0	35.4	25.2
Children older than 12 at entry	82.3	78.8	64.6	74.8
Missing data	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0
Number	62	85	82	103

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	11.8	16.7	0.0	0.0	4.5	2.9	6.3	15.0	16.6	16.3	17.4	19.5		
Guardianship	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.4	1.6	0.5		
Reunification	70.6	50.0	62.5	100.0	72.7	76.5	71.9	65.0	64.7	65.6	61.9	59.0		
Other	17.6	8.3	37.5	0.0	22.7	20.6	21.9	20.0	15.7	17.6	19.0	21.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	17	12	8	1	22	34	32	20	235	227	247	200		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	75.0	15.5	16.5	17.2	15.3	12.3	16.2	15.5	14.1		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.4	2.1	1.5	2.5	3.8	2.2	2.2		
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	69.0	65.5	62.2	68.6	71.3	63.4	67.0	67.0		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	10.6	17.6	18.6	14.6	13.0	16.6	15.4	16.6		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	0	0	0	4	245	261	291	274	802	759	787	764		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	9.4	15.4	9.1	7.4	31.8	47.1	30.4	30.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	81.3	69.2	63.6	88.9	50.0	41.2	55.4	58.8	66.7	85.7	100.0	0.0		
Other	6.3	15.4	27.3	3.7	18.2	11.8	7.1	10.3	33.3	14.3	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	32	13	33	27	22	34	56	68	3	7	8	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	66.1	68.3	70.6	73.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	17.5	20.3	19.7	18.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	7.7	7.0	6.2	5.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.0	1.6	1.7	1.5
48 or more mos.	3.0	1.9	1.3	1.7
Missing data	2.6	0.9	0.5	0.0
Number	960	862	949	896

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	68.0	60.3	64.4	68.9
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	19.2	20.3	21.0	16.4
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	11.5	13.1	13.9	13.8
Missing data	1.3	6.3	0.7	0.8
Number	1,582	1,567	1,649	1,561

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	8.5	9.8	7.6	6.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	36.5	40.6	42.2	41.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	23.3	21.4	27.0	28.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	11.1	10.7	9.7	12.4
48 or more mos.	18.5	16.5	13.1	10.6
Missing data	2.1	0.9	0.4	0.0
Number	189	224	237	218

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	82.2	71.1	85.3	86.9	60.3	57.6	63.3	68.6	33.9	27.1	32.1	32.0	100.0	85.7	90.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	17.8	28.9	13.4	13.0	39.7	42.4	36.7	31.4	65.9	72.9	67.8	68.0	0.0	14.3	0.0	0.0
Number	1,797	1,786	1,886	1,830	793	833	840	856	1,134	1,066	1,130	1,174	18	14	20	7

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	18.9	18.9	17.9	16.7
Institutions	0.8	0.5	0.1	0.4
Other settings	80.3	80.6	81.9	83.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	762	756	781	792

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	101.8
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	69.9	73.7
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	6.6	6.3
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	48.6	48.6
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	21.2	24.9

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	135.1
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	50.0	48.6
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	24.1	25.0
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	18.8	16.3
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	8.9	12.3
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	79.9	78.8

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	114.2
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	20.4	17.9
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	97.6	97.0
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	35.7	41.0

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	99.9
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	85.7	86.2
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	63.6	69.2
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	33.6	33.4

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Rhode Island

STATE COMMENT

No comment submitted.

Rhode Island

FEDERAL COMMENT

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Rhode Island's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 8.9 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 6.6 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (12.7 percent change). However, the percentage for 2005 represents a decline in performance from 2004 (14.1 percent change).

In 2005, 1.55 percent of children in foster care in Rhode Island were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is the highest in the nation. The national median is 0.42 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 83.7 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 75.5 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 73.0 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All three percentages are less than the national medians for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 17.9 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 26.4 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (12.3 percent change).

In 2005, 97.0 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage exceeds the national median of 95.7 percent for this measure.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 7.6 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 25.2 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage is less than the national median of 27.6 percent, but represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2002 (42.4 percent change). However, the 2005 percentage represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (28.8 percent change).

In 2005, 41.0 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 48.1 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (14.8 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 73.7 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 70.4 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (5.4 percent).

Measure C1.3 indicates that 48.6 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent.

Measure C1.4 indicates that 24.9 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage exceeds the national median of 14.8 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (17.5 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 48.6 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 29.1 percent and represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2002 (8.0 percent change).

In 2005, 16.3 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 20.9 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (13.3 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 78.8 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 86.2 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months but at least 8 days experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 32.0 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 32.3 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2002 (5.6 percent change).

In 2005, 17.1 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). Although this percentage exceeds the national median of 7.2 percent, it represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (13.2 percent change).

South Carolina

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	979,163	1,023,504	1,024,700	1,027,202
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Asian	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	35.9	35.5	35.2	34.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	3.3	3.6	3.9	4.3
White (non-Hispanic)	58.2	58.1	58.1	58.1
Two or more races	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6
Child population in poverty (%)	19.0	17.4	21.0	19.4

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	10,738	11,143	9,950	10,759
Children in foster care on 9/30	4,818	4,801	4,635	4,757
Children adopted	345	281	366	412

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	30,937	31.6 per 1,000	39,368	38.5 per 1,000	38,462	37.5 per 1,000	38,238	37.2 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	10,738	11.0 per 1,000	11,143	10.9 per 1,000	9,950	9.7 per 1,000	10,759	10.5 per 1,000
Child fatalities	16	1.6 per 100,000	20	2.0 per 100,000	21	2.1 per 100,000	23	2.2 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	10.7	11.0	12.7	13.4
1-5 years	27.0	28.3	30.4	31.3
6-10 years	26.9	26.7	25.9	24.9
11-15 years	25.2	25.1	25.0	24.5
16+ years	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.9
Unknown	5.4	4.3	1.2	1.0
Number	10,738	11,143	9,950	10,759

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
Asian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	41.0	39.9	39.1	36.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	2.8	2.7	2.8	3.2
White (non-Hispanic)	50.9	52.3	53.2	54.0
Two or more races	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.0
Unknown	2.3	2.1	1.6	2.4
Number	10,738	11,143	9,950	10,759

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	2.2	1.3	1.3	1.3
Medical neglect	3.4	4.1	3.7	4.0
Neglect	64.8	64.8	67.5	69.8
Physical abuse	33.4	34.7	32.3	30.0
Sexual abuse	8.8	7.8	8.5	8.4
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Number	10,738	11,143	9,950	10,759

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	103.8	20.7	13.8	14.1
Median	<24	<24	<24	<24

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	4,688	4,738	4,678	4,594	3,537	3,416	3,108	3,234	3,407	3,353	3,151	3,071	4,818	4,801	4,635	4,757
Median length of stay (months)	19.4	18.8	18.2	18.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.0	5.9	6.4	6.4	18.4	18.3	18.6	17.3

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	4.7	5.1	4.4	5.2	14.1	13.6	14.8	15.4	5.8	6.0	6.0	6.2	5.2	4.4	5.2	5.7
1 year	5.7	5.6	6.0	5.4	5.9	6.4	7.2	7.5	6.2	6.5	6.3	6.6	5.7	6.0	5.5	6.7
2 years	4.7	5.5	5.8	6.2	6.1	5.9	6.1	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.9	5.5	5.7	6.3	5.7
3 years	4.5	4.3	5.3	5.2	4.9	4.8	5.2	5.1	5.8	5.3	6.7	5.8	4.3	5.2	5.1	5.5
4 years	4.1	4.1	3.9	4.3	4.5	5.4	4.7	5.3	4.9	5.7	5.4	5.2	4.0	3.9	4.4	4.6
5 years	3.5	3.8	3.7	3.8	4.0	4.4	4.5	4.8	4.1	4.3	4.9	5.3	3.8	3.7	3.9	4.2
6 years	3.5	3.2	4.1	4.2	4.9	4.4	5.7	4.7	5.4	4.4	4.3	5.0	3.2	4.1	4.2	4.1
7 years	3.7	3.3	3.5	4.5	4.1	4.5	4.7	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.3	4.7	3.3	3.5	4.5	3.9
8 years	4.5	3.9	3.7	3.4	4.7	4.8	4.3	3.6	5.2	4.3	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.5	4.0
9 years	4.3	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.9	3.8	4.2	3.6	5.1	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.2
10 years	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.0	5.1	4.7	3.8	3.6	4.5	4.1	4.1	3.2	4.6	4.5	4.1	4.0
11 years	5.4	4.7	4.6	5.0	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.6	4.8	4.3	3.3	3.7	4.8	4.4	5.0	4.3
12 years	5.2	5.7	5.6	5.1	6.0	6.0	4.9	4.5	5.1	4.6	4.2	4.6	5.6	5.4	5.1	5.3
13 years	6.1	6.0	7.2	6.2	5.3	7.1	6.2	6.2	4.3	5.0	5.4	4.4	5.9	7.0	6.2	5.6
14 years	7.0	6.7	7.5	7.9	6.5	6.4	6.2	6.4	5.4	4.9	5.1	5.2	6.7	7.4	8.0	7.3
15 years	8.2	7.9	8.0	8.5	6.8	6.1	6.5	7.2	5.6	4.7	4.7	5.3	7.9	7.7	8.5	8.8
16 years	8.2	8.8	9.3	8.5	5.6	5.4	5.2	5.4	5.1	4.6	5.3	4.9	8.8	8.8	8.5	9.2
17 years	7.0	7.6	8.3	8.3	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.5	4.1	7.8	7.0	3.5	7.5	7.9	8.2	8.0
18 years	3.1	3.0	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	5.1	6.9	8.5	11.6	3.0	0.3	0.2	<.1
19 years	1.2	1.6	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.6	1.4	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	1.1	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.2	0.0	<.1	1.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	<.1	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	<.1	0.3	0.2	<.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Asian	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	60.0	55.1	53.4	50.3	49.2	43.4	41.5	41.0	54.0	44.7	46.2	43.5	56.3	54.0	50.3	48.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	1.4	2.4	2.2	2.8	3.7	3.5	4.4	6.2	2.5	3.8	3.5	4.7	2.3	2.2	2.8	3.8
White (non-Hispanic)	37.7	40.2	41.1	42.6	45.0	49.2	48.8	47.2	41.7	48.3	46.6	47.6	40.2	40.9	42.5	42.5
Two or more races	0.4	2.0	2.9	3.9	0.9	3.0	4.2	5.0	0.9	2.5	2.9	3.7	0.5	2.4	3.9	4.8
Unknown	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.1	<.1	0.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	1,936	1,493	1,769	1,819
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	539	587	834	844

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.9	2.6	3.2	3.2
1 year	6.8	6.6	6.5	7.5
2 years	7.0	8.5	7.8	6.9
3 years	6.3	6.8	7.8	7.6
4 years	5.5	5.4	5.8	7.0
5 years	5.3	4.6	5.8	5.2
6 years	4.4	6.4	4.2	5.1
7 years	4.4	4.6	5.9	4.7
8 years	4.8	3.6	4.4	5.8
9 years	5.8	5.4	5.2	4.0
10 years	5.3	6.6	4.9	5.9
11 years	6.3	5.9	6.7	5.3
12 years	8.0	6.4	6.1	7.1
13 years	6.8	8.0	6.5	6.4
14 years	7.6	6.6	7.2	5.7
15 years	5.9	7.0	6.3	6.9
16 years	4.8	3.3	4.0	3.9
17 years	2.2	1.9	1.6	1.9
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.0
Asian	0.0	<.1	0.2	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	60.7	60.9	55.8	50.9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.5	1.2	2.4	3.6
White (non-Hispanic)	37.3	34.7	37.0	39.9
Two or more races	0.4	2.9	4.5	5.4
Unknown	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	345	281	366	412

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.7	1.8	2.7	1.9
1 year	7.0	6.4	8.2	8.7
2 years	9.9	10.7	14.2	11.4
3 years	11.6	13.2	15.3	11.7
4 years	7.8	13.5	9.0	10.4
5 years	8.7	10.0	6.6	11.2
6 years	7.8	5.7	5.7	6.8
7 years	6.7	4.3	5.7	5.6
8 years	7.0	6.4	5.2	5.8
9 years	6.1	5.0	4.1	4.4
10 years	7.0	5.3	5.2	4.4
11 years	6.4	3.9	3.6	2.4
12 years	3.2	6.0	3.6	6.6
13 years	4.1	2.5	3.3	3.9
14 years	2.0	0.7	3.3	2.7
15 years	1.2	2.1	1.4	1.2
16 years	1.4	0.4	1.1	0.7
17 years	0.6	1.4	1.6	0.2
18 years	0.0	0.7	0.3	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Asian	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	60.3	51.2	45.9	49.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.7	2.5	1.1	4.1
White (non-Hispanic)	36.2	43.4	48.4	40.5
Two or more races	1.4	2.5	4.6	4.9
Unknown	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

South Carolina

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	96.1	97.1	97.8	97.2
Children with one or more recurrences	3.9	2.9	2.2	2.8
Number	5,275	5,463	4,777	5,199

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.38	0.49	0.57
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.62	99.51	99.43
Number	N/A	8,154	7,786	7,828

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	10.5	8.8	11.9	13.6
Guardianship	0.9	0.7	1.0	1.3
Reunification	71.2	75.7	74.3	71.7
Other	9.2	14.7	12.8	13.3
Missing data	8.2	0.1	0.0	0.0
Number	3,407	3,353	3,151	3,071

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	20.8	10.2	13.5	19.0
Guardianship	0.6	1.3	0.0	1.3
Reunification	29.8	17.2	18.3	13.9
Other	40.5	71.3	68.3	65.8
Missing data	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	168	157	104	79

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.0
Guardianship	1.6	0.2	1.9	1.2
Reunification	67.4	67.5	68.5	67.6
Other	21.8	31.7	28.9	31.2
Missing data	8.9	0.1	0.0	0.0
Number	831	906	851	821

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	38.8	42.4	39.1	36.6
Children older than 12 at entry	61.2	57.6	60.9	63.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	250	432	348	361

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	75.0	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.3	9.8	11.7	15.4		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.3	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.0		
Reunification	33.3	77.8	100.0	0.0	71.4	88.9	85.7	80.0	68.5	71.4	71.6	67.2		
Other	50.0	22.2	0.0	25.0	14.3	11.1	0.0	20.0	10.4	17.9	15.9	16.3		
Missing data	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	0.1	0.0	0.0		
Number	6	9	6	4	7	9	7	5	1,840	1,498	1,456	1,336		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.1	5.6	3.6	11.7	9.6	8.2	12.5	11.8		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.4	1.3	0.7	1.4	1.5		
Reunification	66.7	0.0	100.0	0.0	80.2	87.3	90.0	75.2	73.7	78.1	75.5	75.2		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.7	7.1	6.4	11.7	8.1	12.9	10.6	11.5		
Missing data	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.3	0.1	0.0	0.0		
Number	3	0	4	0	86	126	110	145	1,420	1,621	1,467	1,461		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.2	9.6	18.7	18.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	100.0	100.0	80.0	100.0	79.3	85.5	73.6	76.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	3.6	7.7	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	16	7	10	5	29	83	91	115	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	79.3	81.4	79.0	80.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	12.9	12.9	13.9	12.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.7	3.5	4.5	4.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.6	1.1	1.1	1.7
48 or more mos.	2.2	1.0	1.5	1.1
Missing data	0.2	<.1	0.0	0.0
Number	2,425	2,539	2,340	2,203

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	82.9	82.1	83.6	84.1
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	5.3	8.8	6.5	5.2
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.3	8.7	9.7	10.2
Missing data	3.6	0.4	0.2	0.4
Number	3,537	3,416	3,108	3,234

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	3.1	3.1	3.2	2.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	12.3	11.5	16.5	13.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	23.0	25.4	25.5	28.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	24.6	25.4	24.5	20.8
48 or more mos.	37.0	34.6	30.3	35.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	357	295	376	419

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	77.8	84.9	81.2	80.1	41.7	80.6	46.4	46.9	21.7	79.2	25.3	25.9	86.4	92.3	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	22.1	13.3	18.7	19.9	58.3	18.0	53.6	53.1	78.3	19.6	74.7	74.1	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4,030	3,970	3,601	3,726	1,388	1,379	1,439	1,357	2,785	2,792	2,732	2,738	22	13	14	7

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	5.9	0.7	10.9	10.2
Institutions	28.7	20.1	9.6	9.1
Other settings	65.1	79.2	79.4	80.7
Missing data	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,593	2,424	2,295	2,352

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	140.4
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	74.7	76.8
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	4.3	4.2
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	59.0	55.8
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	9.8	7.3

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	88.9
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	19.7	15.5
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	37.1	39.5
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	13.5	16.2
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	10.7	10.6
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	41.6	51.3

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	78.0
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	18.0	20.4
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	86.7	91.4
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	61.7	61.2

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	79.3
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	78.6	77.2
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	46.4	46.9
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	25.3	25.9

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

South Carolina

STATE COMMENT

Wendell Price, Interim State Director
South Carolina Department of Social Services

The following are South Carolina's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress*.

Outcome Measure 2.1 The percent of children in foster care who were victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members: Per federal definition, the number of children who are victims includes children in custody of the state. Note, in South Carolina, the state does not hold legal custody of children in state residential facilities such as the Department of Juvenile Justice. South Carolina is studying the increase in the rate of maltreatment in residential facilities.

Outcome Measure 3.4 Exits to Emancipation: The age of majority in South Carolina is 18; however, children who remain in care past age 18 are coded for AFCARS reporting as having exited care due to "emancipation" on their 18th birthday (per federal requirements).

Outcome Measure 7.1 The percent of children entering foster care at age 12 or younger who were placed in a group home or institution: 17.4% of the total number in a group home or institution exited foster care in 7 days or less from entry; 36% of the total exited in 35 days or less from entry; 51% of the total in a group or institution were in emergency shelters.

South Carolina

FEDERAL COMMENT

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

South Carolina's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 2.8 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 6.6 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (28.2 percent change).

In 2005, 0.57 percent of children in foster care in South Carolina were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 0.42 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2003 (50.0 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 86.6 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 34.2 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability, and 68.8 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All percentages are less than the national medians for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 20.4 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 26.4 percent, but represents improvement in performance from 2004 (13.3 percent change).

In 2005, 91.4 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is less than the national median of 95.7 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (5.4 percent change).

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 11.8 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 36.6 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (5.7 percent change).

In 2005, 61.2 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 76.8 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 70.4 percent.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 55.8 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent.

Measure C1.4 indicates that 7.3 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is less than the national median of 14.8 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (25.5 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 15.6 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 29.1 percent.

In 2005, 16.2 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 20.9 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (20.0 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 51.3 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2004 (23.3 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 77.2 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 25.9 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (19.4 percent change).

In 2005, 19.3 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is one of the highest in the nation, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (44.2 percent change).

South Dakota

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	195,625	195,426	190,874	188,270
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	14.0	14.3	14.6	14.9
Asian	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.2
White (non-Hispanic)	79.6	79.1	78.5	78.1
Two or more races	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3
Child population in poverty (%)	12.2	14.0	18.6	16.0

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	3,961	4,346	1,917	1,442
Children in foster care on 9/30	1,396	1,537	1,582	1,712
Children adopted	145	144	176	113

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	8,411	43.0 per 1,000	9,925	50.8 per 1,000	8,355	43.8 per 1,000	7,158	38.0 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	3,961	20.3 per 1,000	4,346	22.2 per 1,000	1,917	10.0 per 1,000	1,442	7.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	5	2.6 per 100,000	5	2.6 per 100,000	3	1.6 per 100,000	4	2.1 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	4.9	10.2	11.8	17.2
1-5 years	29.7	33.3	37.0	36.9
6-10 years	31.6	30.0	26.4	23.0
11-15 years	24.4	21.1	19.2	17.4
16+ years	8.1	4.5	4.3	4.2
Unknown	1.4	0.9	1.3	1.4
Number	3,961	4,346	1,917	1,442

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	41.5	35.6	40.4	49.2
Asian	—	0.1	0.2	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	—	1.7	1.9	2.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.1	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	—	4.4	5.1	4.8
White (non-Hispanic)	44.9	44.0	40.6	35.4
Two or more races	—	3.5	3.8	4.6
Unknown	13.6	10.7	7.9	3.0
Number	3,961	4,346	1,917	1,442

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	23.4	17.7	14.1	3.7
Medical neglect	—	—	—	—
Neglect	84.4	73.1	79.0	87.0
Physical abuse	20.7	20.8	14.6	13.0
Sexual abuse	4.7	4.2	4.0	4.1
Unknown	—	0.1	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Number	3,961	4,346	1,917	1,442

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	—	431.4	277.8	197.0
Median	—	>216, but <240	>168, but <192	>120, but <144

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	1,201	1,253	1,447	1,519	1,348	1,375	1,274	1,365	1,153	1,091	1,139	1,172	1,396	1,537	1,582	1,712
Median length of stay (months)	15.0	16.1	13.7	14.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.9	3.1	6.3	7.3	13.7	12.7	14.2	12.5

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.7	3.8	4.1	4.6	13.7	11.6	13.0	14.6	8.2	6.3	6.2	6.1	3.8	4.4	4.9	5.7
1 year	6.5	5.8	6.8	5.5	7.4	10.5	8.8	8.5	7.4	8.2	8.2	7.1	6.2	7.2	5.9	7.4
2 years	5.7	5.9	6.9	6.5	7.0	9.0	6.8	8.8	7.6	8.2	8.1	9.1	5.6	7.0	6.4	6.8
3 years	5.6	5.5	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.5	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.9	8.0	7.8	5.8	6.6	6.5	5.8
4 years	5.9	4.9	4.7	6.1	6.5	6.7	6.4	7.2	7.0	7.1	6.2	10.0	4.7	4.7	6.0	5.4
5 years	5.5	5.8	3.9	4.9	6.3	5.7	6.2	5.5	7.2	6.8	5.5	4.3	6.2	4.0	4.8	5.0
6 years	4.7	5.1	5.7	4.9	6.2	6.5	6.7	5.3	6.2	6.1	5.9	6.5	5.0	6.0	4.8	5.7
7 years	5.3	4.7	5.2	6.5	5.7	5.2	5.4	5.1	6.5	5.6	4.9	4.9	4.6	5.1	6.3	4.8
8 years	5.8	5.0	4.8	4.7	5.0	5.4	5.4	4.3	5.2	5.5	6.6	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.7	5.4
9 years	5.7	4.9	4.4	4.9	5.2	4.6	3.7	3.7	4.9	4.1	4.6	4.1	5.2	4.5	4.8	4.4
10 years	4.6	5.6	5.0	3.9	4.5	3.9	5.0	3.9	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.1	5.4	5.2	3.9	4.5
11 years	5.8	5.1	5.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.9	4.6	4.5	3.8	4.9	3.5	5.2	5.6	4.9	4.0
12 years	6.2	5.5	5.5	5.2	4.5	4.7	4.2	4.6	4.1	4.5	4.8	3.2	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.7
13 years	6.4	6.7	6.2	5.7	4.5	3.6	5.1	4.0	3.8	2.7	4.3	4.5	6.5	5.9	5.6	5.6
14 years	6.3	6.2	6.1	5.9	3.5	4.1	3.1	4.0	3.5	4.1	3.4	3.9	6.3	6.1	6.0	5.5
15 years	5.6	6.9	6.2	6.2	3.3	3.1	3.8	3.9	2.8	3.0	3.2	2.8	6.6	5.8	6.3	6.1
16 years	6.6	5.8	6.6	6.1	3.7	2.3	2.1	2.8	3.0	1.8	2.7	3.2	5.6	6.4	6.1	6.1
17 years	4.5	6.0	4.8	5.7	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.6	3.5	6.5	3.1	2.8	5.7	4.4	5.5	5.0
18 years	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	2.7	4.4	6.4	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.6
19 years	<.1	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.3
20+ years	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	<.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	<.1	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	59.8	55.6	53.4	53.3	57.9	54.0	53.4	51.9	58.7	54.0	52.2	53.2	58.8	55.3	54.2	52.2
Asian	0.4	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	<.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	<.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.2	2.3	1.9	1.4	2.4	2.2	2.0	3.4	1.3	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.3	2.1	1.5	2.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.3	0.2	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	3.9	5.7	6.0	7.2	5.1	6.3	6.8	7.1	4.3	6.2	5.3	7.3	4.7	5.9	7.1	7.1
White (non-Hispanic)	30.9	32.1	32.9	33.2	30.6	32.5	33.8	32.0	30.5	33.5	34.4	32.5	30.9	31.4	32.5	32.7
Two or more races	3.7	4.2	5.6	4.6	3.6	4.7	3.7	5.3	4.5	3.5	5.0	3.7	2.9	5.1	4.5	5.8
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.2	<.1	0.4	0.0	0.2	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	433	443	480	472
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	377	418	423	392

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.2	1.1	2.7	1.3
1 year	5.1	2.7	2.9	5.9
2 years	6.2	6.1	5.2	5.1
3 years	7.6	6.1	5.0	6.1
4 years	4.6	4.3	5.8	4.4
5 years	5.8	3.6	4.8	6.8
6 years	4.2	7.2	3.1	5.7
7 years	3.7	5.0	8.3	4.2
8 years	6.7	4.5	6.5	6.1
9 years	6.0	6.3	5.8	5.7
10 years	6.9	6.3	5.0	5.5
11 years	6.2	6.5	5.8	4.0
12 years	6.9	6.5	6.3	7.6
13 years	7.9	6.3	5.4	5.1
14 years	6.5	9.0	8.3	5.5
15 years	6.5	6.8	8.5	8.5
16 years	3.9	7.2	5.4	7.4
17 years	4.2	4.3	5.0	4.9
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	54.0	47.9	40.8	42.8
Asian	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.3	1.4	1.7	2.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	4.8	6.5	10.8	10.0
White (non-Hispanic)	33.9	37.2	41.3	39.2
Two or more races	4.4	6.8	5.2	5.5
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	145	144	176	113

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.4	0.0	1.1	0.0
1 year	6.2	4.2	9.1	5.3
2 years	17.9	9.7	14.8	10.6
3 years	11.7	18.1	10.2	8.8
4 years	9.0	12.5	9.1	13.3
5 years	9.7	9.0	7.4	3.5
6 years	8.3	6.9	5.1	6.2
7 years	9.0	9.0	5.7	10.6
8 years	4.8	4.9	6.3	8.8
9 years	4.8	6.3	11.4	1.8
10 years	4.1	4.2	3.4	3.5
11 years	4.8	4.2	5.7	6.2
12 years	2.8	3.5	2.8	6.2
13 years	3.4	2.1	4.5	5.3
14 years	0.7	3.5	0.0	5.3
15 years	0.7	1.4	2.3	1.8
16 years	0.7	0.0	1.1	0.0
17 years	0.0	0.7	0.0	2.7
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	56.6	53.5	43.8	23.9
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.7	4.9	0.6	0.9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	4.1	6.3	8.0	8.8
White (non-Hispanic)	34.5	29.9	37.5	61.1
Two or more races	4.1	5.6	10.2	4.4
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

South Dakota

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	—	85.6	93.1	95.4
Children with one or more recurrences	—	14.4	6.9	4.6
Number	—	1,757	839	720

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.99	0.11	0.28
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.01	99.89	99.72
Number	N/A	2,628	2,721	2,884

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	14.9	13.7	11.5	9.6
Guardianship	3.8	5.4	6.9	10.5
Reunification	61.5	66.7	65.2	59.9
Other	9.5	14.1	16.3	20.0
Missing data	10.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,153	1,091	1,139	1,172

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	33.1	21.9	33.3	24.2
Guardianship	4.8	7.7	8.7	12.1
Reunification	36.3	37.9	31.9	28.0
Other	20.2	32.5	26.1	35.7
Missing data	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	124	169	138	157

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	1.1	0.6	0.5	1.0
Guardianship	2.7	4.7	7.0	5.6
Reunification	59.6	60.0	55.6	54.4
Other	28.4	34.7	36.9	39.0
Missing data	8.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	183	170	187	195

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	9.8	33.3	22.7	34.9
Children older than 12 at entry	90.2	66.7	77.3	65.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	41	63	66	83

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				2002	Asian				2002	Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	12.6	12.9	9.9	4.2	100.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	13.3	25.9	3.4	3.3		
Guardianship	3.2	8.1	10.4	14.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7	0.0	3.3		
Reunification	61.4	63.0	59.3	55.9	0.0	100.0	100.0	20.0	73.3	70.4	89.7	86.7		
Other	9.9	16.0	20.3	25.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	60.0	13.3	0.0	6.9	6.7		
Missing data	12.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	677	589	595	624	2	2	1	5	15	27	29	30		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				2002	Hispanic (of any race)				2002	White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.0	13.2	21.7	11.6	19.9	13.7	11.7	18.1		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	1.5	0.0	9.3	4.8	1.6	3.6	5.8		
Reunification	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	62.0	67.6	55.0	61.6	61.4	73.0	73.7	64.0		
Other	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	12.0	17.6	23.3	17.4	7.4	11.7	11.0	12.1		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.5	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	0	1	3	2	50	68	60	86	352	366	392	381		

	Unable to Determine				2002	Two or More Races				2002	Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.5	21.1	21.1	14.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.8	7.9	5.3	4.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	80.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	59.6	60.5	63.2	60.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.5	10.5	10.5	20.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	5	0	2	1	52	38	57	43	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	88.3	85.2	84.1	80.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	6.1	6.7	13.7	15.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.8	1.5	1.7	2.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3
48 or more mos.	0.8	1.1	0.1	0.7
Missing data	1.7	4.9	0.0	0.0
Number	709	728	743	702

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	71.2	74.2	77.9	77.9
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	19.9	16.9	13.5	13.3
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.5	7.9	7.7	8.2
Missing data	0.4	0.9	0.9	0.5
Number	1,348	1,375	1,274	1,365

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	19.2	8.7	1.5	0.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	28.5	24.7	29.0	25.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	34.9	29.3	37.4	39.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	8.1	24.0	21.4	21.2
48 or more mos.	9.3	13.3	10.7	12.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	172	150	131	113

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	81.8	82.3	82.7	78.8	54.2	51.5	49.9	49.7	28.5	23.4	21.5	19.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	16.7	17.7	17.3	21.2	45.8	48.5	50.1	50.3	71.5	76.2	78.5	80.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,487	1,494	1,476	1,582	406	404	525	537	632	688	716	761	24	42	4	4

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	3.5	2.1	0.0	0.0
Institutions	16.7	17.4	16.4	14.2
Other settings	79.9	80.2	83.6	85.8
Missing data	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
Number	1,093	1,154	1,063	1,121

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	120.4
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	85.0	79.1
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	3.9	5.1
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	51.3	44.9
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	21.4	19.2

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	73.9
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	30.5	26.5
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	30.5	31.2
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	17.7	14.5
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	4.7	2.1
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	25.1	18.7

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	77.6
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	20.4	22.4
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	87.7	82.2
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	50.7	63.4

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	77.3
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	79.2	74.8
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	49.9	49.7
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	21.3	18.7

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

South Dakota

STATE COMMENT

Virgena Wieseler
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South Dakota Department of Social Services

The following are South Dakota's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress*.

Section B, Maltreatment information overview: The change in the number of victims is affected by the fact that South Dakota changed from three outcomes of abuse and neglect, unsubstantiated, indicated and substantiated, to just unsubstantiated and substantiated beginning in 2004.

Children in foster care: The variance in the number of children in care from 2004 to 2005 was due to the extraction method used at that time. Data were not being extracted by transaction date. This has been changed.

Outcome measure 1.1: The decrease in percent of children who experience recurrence decreased because of the addition of some positive process and changes in policy.

1. A policy was put into place regarding improved time frames for submission of the report to the supervisor for screening.
2. A policy was put into place regarding duplicate reports. The current policy relates to when the report is received in comparison to a prior report.
3. A tool for screening and responding to reports was developed called Child Maltreatment Screening Guideline and Response Decision. The tool is a standardized way to deal with every report assigning those cases that CPS should be involved in.
4. A new process was put in place for intervening with families when a report is assigned to a social worker. The process is called Initial Family Assessment (IFA). The assessment provides an outcome to the reported incident and evaluates safety for children as well as providing a risk rating. Service provision at the conclusion of the IFA depends upon the safety and risk factors.
5. A policy was put into place to delete "indicated" as an outcome. The outcomes used now are unsubstantiated and substantiated.

Outcome measures 3.1, 3.2, 3.3: There was a percentage of data in 2002 that was missing in each of those categories. The combined percentage of children exiting into adoption, guardianship, and reunification for 2002 did not vary much in 2005 for 3.1 and 3.3 when all the data was accounted for. 2003 and 2004 did have a positive increase in those three permanency categories in 2003 and 2004.

Outcome measure 4.1: South Dakota continues to be at a high level for reunification even though there was a decrease from 2002 to 2005. The first two categories (less than 24 months) account for 96.2% of all reunifications.

Outcome measure 5.1: The reason for such a significant change from 2002 to 2005 is because of the definition of adoption that was used until 2002 to extract the data. That was corrected by the time the 2003 data was submitted.

South Dakota

FEDERAL COMMENT

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

South Dakota's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 4.6 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 6.6 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (68.1 percent change).

In 2005, 0.28 percent of children in foster care in South Dakota were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 0.42 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 80.0 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 64.3 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 61.0 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All percentages are less than the national medians for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 22.4 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 26.4 percent, but represents improvement in performance from 2004 (9.8 percent change).

In 2005, 82.2 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is one of the lowest in the nation and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (6.3 percent change).

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 7.1 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 34.9 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (53.7 percent change).

In 2005, 63.4 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (25.0 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 79.1 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 70.4 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (6.9 percent change).

Measure C1.3 indicates that 44.9 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (12.5 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 19.2 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage exceeds the national median of 14.8 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (10.3 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 26.6 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 29.1 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (44.2 percent change).

In 2005, 14.5 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 20.9 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (18.1 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 18.7 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is one of the lowest in the nation and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (25.5 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 77.3 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 19.2 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (32.6 percent change).

In 2005, 14.2 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 7.2 percent, but represents improvement in performance from 2002 (29.7 percent change).

Tennessee

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	1,404,661	1,394,479	1,391,289	1,390,522
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	21.4	21.4	21.4	21.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	3.3	3.5	3.9	4.2
White (non-Hispanic)	72.5	72.1	71.7	71.3
Two or more races	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7
Child population in poverty (%)	20.0	18.7	20.4	19.5

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	8,494	9,421	14,840	18,376
Children in foster care on 9/30	9,359	9,487	9,590	9,017
Children adopted	922	954	891	1,114

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	37,525	26.7 per 1,000	46,522	33.4 per 1,000	74,835	53.8 per 1,000	94,469	67.9 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	8,494	6.1 per 1,000	9,421	6.8 per 1,000	14,840	10.7 per 1,000	18,376	13.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	18	1.3 per 100,000	24	1.7 per 100,000	15	1.1 per 100,000	34	2.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	10.3	12.3	12.9	12.8
1-5 years	30.8	30.4	30.4	31.2
6-10 years	27.9	27.4	25.8	25.8
11-15 years	24.5	24.0	24.6	23.8
16+ years	6.4	5.5	6.2	6.1
Unknown	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2
Number	8,494	9,421	14,840	18,376

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	27.8	25.6	26.7	24.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.1	0.1	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.4	3.1	3.2	3.0
White (non-Hispanic)	60.0	57.4	58.0	62.6
Two or more races	—	—	—	—
Unknown	9.3	13.5	11.4	9.2
Number	8,494	9,421	14,840	18,376

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	1.4	0.6	0.4	0.5
Medical neglect	7.2	2.1	2.2	2.0
Neglect	45.0	49.3	51.9	53.3
Physical abuse	34.0	32.7	31.6	33.3
Sexual abuse	26.2	24.6	24.1	20.4
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	6.0	0.3	—	—
Number	8,494	9,421	14,840	18,376

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	—	51.3	139.4	23.7
Median	—	<24	>24, but <48	<24

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	8,755	7,470	7,752	8,382	6,047	6,305	6,715	7,056	5,443	4,288	4,877	6,421	9,359	9,487	9,590	9,017
Median length of stay (months)	16.5	15.8	12.9	12.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.7	12.3	10.4	10.2	13.2	11.4	12.0	11.3

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.8	3.6	4.2	4.3	9.4	9.3	11.1	11.1	3.6	3.5	5.6	4.6	3.3	3.8	4.1	4.4
1 year	3.3	4.0	4.6	4.9	3.7	4.3	5.2	5.2	3.5	4.4	4.8	5.5	3.5	4.2	4.8	5.4
2 years	3.8	4.0	4.6	4.6	3.5	4.5	4.1	4.2	3.6	4.0	4.8	4.8	3.5	4.1	4.4	4.1
3 years	3.8	4.1	4.6	4.2	3.2	3.8	4.2	3.5	3.5	4.1	5.1	4.1	3.7	4.1	4.2	4.3
4 years	3.6	3.9	4.2	4.2	2.9	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.7	3.7	3.9	3.6	3.5	3.9	4.1	3.9
5 years	3.5	3.5	3.8	3.8	2.7	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.1	4.0	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.5	3.8	3.9
6 years	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	2.3	3.1	3.3	2.9	3.1	3.9	3.8	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.6	3.7
7 years	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.4	2.2	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.3
8 years	3.6	3.3	3.6	3.3	2.1	3.1	2.4	2.4	2.6	3.5	3.1	2.8	2.9	3.3	3.2	3.2
9 years	4.1	4.0	3.4	3.2	2.6	3.0	2.8	2.2	2.9	3.4	3.0	2.6	3.6	2.9	3.1	2.9
10 years	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.0	2.7	3.0	2.8	2.5	3.4	3.4	3.6	2.4	3.6	3.6	3.1	3.2
11 years	4.1	4.6	4.3	3.4	3.0	3.4	3.0	2.5	2.9	3.5	3.3	2.2	3.9	3.8	3.4	3.2
12 years	4.8	5.0	4.8	4.4	4.1	4.4	4.2	3.9	3.0	3.7	3.5	3.0	4.4	4.5	4.3	3.8
13 years	5.6	6.3	6.0	5.6	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.4	3.2	4.5	3.7	3.9	5.9	5.6	5.5	5.1
14 years	7.2	7.3	7.3	6.9	9.3	8.1	7.6	7.9	5.4	4.2	4.9	4.8	7.4	7.5	6.9	7.2
15 years	10.6	9.1	8.8	9.5	12.2	11.0	10.2	10.9	7.5	5.6	5.6	6.9	9.7	10.1	9.6	9.7
16 years	12.6	11.8	10.8	11.2	14.7	12.6	12.2	13.3	10.7	6.9	6.6	8.9	13.2	12.4	12.0	12.8
17 years	12.9	12.2	12.2	13.9	13.2	10.5	10.8	11.7	17.5	20.6	12.8	11.3	14.4	13.7	13.6	13.3
18 years	2.5	2.2	1.9	2.6	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.7	12.8	9.4	14.2	17.6	4.2	2.8	2.9	2.8
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.7	1.0	1.5	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	<.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	<.1	<.1
Asian	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	36.2	35.1	33.8	33.7	27.4	27.1	27.3	26.4	29.8	27.8	27.5	29.1	34.2	33.1	32.5	31.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	2.2	2.9	2.9	3.6	3.6	3.7	4.6	4.2	3.0	4.2	4.2	4.2	2.7	2.8	3.5	3.7
White (non-Hispanic)	58.6	59.0	59.4	58.8	66.2	65.2	63.8	64.3	64.2	65.1	63.8	62.5	60.2	60.4	60.3	60.5
Two or more races	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.3	1.4	1.4	1.8	2.4	1.6	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.6
Unknown	0.2	0.3	1.2	1.3	0.9	2.3	1.7	2.4	0.8	0.7	1.6	1.8	0.3	1.5	1.4	1.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	2,336	1,964	1,775	1,717
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	435	460	484	743

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.8	1.2	0.7	1.7
1 year	3.1	3.3	3.6	4.9
2 years	4.5	4.8	4.4	4.0
3 years	5.5	4.6	4.6	5.3
4 years	5.6	5.0	5.2	4.3
5 years	5.7	4.6	4.7	4.9
6 years	5.4	5.0	3.9	4.5
7 years	5.6	4.8	4.1	4.0
8 years	5.0	4.5	4.3	4.2
9 years	6.4	4.3	4.5	4.3
10 years	6.8	5.5	3.9	4.5
11 years	7.1	6.5	5.2	4.4
12 years	7.1	7.1	6.6	4.7
13 years	8.0	7.6	8.6	5.9
14 years	7.2	8.7	9.0	9.0
15 years	6.7	7.9	9.4	9.3
16 years	5.5	8.2	9.5	11.5
17 years	2.9	6.1	7.7	8.7
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.2	0.1	<.1
Asian	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	39.7	40.7	39.6	35.2
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	3.1	2.9	3.0	4.1
White (non-Hispanic)	53.7	51.8	53.2	56.2
Two or more races	3.0	3.7	2.9	3.0
Unknown	<.1	0.3	0.8	1.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	922	954	891	1,114

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.6	1.0	1.5	1.4
1 year	4.0	4.8	4.9	7.5
2 years	5.7	5.8	8.2	10.4
3 years	7.8	6.3	8.2	7.3
4 years	8.4	8.0	6.3	7.5
5 years	7.9	8.0	7.4	6.1
6 years	8.0	7.1	6.4	5.6
7 years	7.3	6.5	5.8	6.3
8 years	6.7	6.8	6.4	5.1
9 years	6.1	7.2	5.2	4.5
10 years	7.7	6.6	5.7	4.7
11 years	5.7	6.7	5.5	3.8
12 years	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.7
13 years	3.6	5.2	4.5	6.2
14 years	5.9	3.5	5.3	5.4
15 years	3.8	4.2	4.7	4.8
16 years	2.3	2.8	3.5	4.1
17 years	1.2	2.4	4.2	3.5
18 years	0.3	1.2	0.4	0.3
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
20+ years	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3
Asian	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	35.5	30.2	25.4	28.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	3.5	4.3	3.4	4.7
White (non-Hispanic)	53.8	57.0	63.3	61.1
Two or more races	6.3	8.1	7.7	4.8
Unknown	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Tennessee

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	—	96.6	96.4	91.9
Children with one or more recurrences	—	3.4	3.6	8.1
Number	—	3,992	5,794	7,870

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	—	0.24	0.87
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	—	99.76	99.13
Number	N/A	—	14,467	15,438

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	16.5	22.0	18.2	17.5
Guardianship	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6
Reunification	70.9	58.9	63.4	67.5
Other	11.1	18.6	17.9	14.5
Missing data	1.2	0.1	0.0	0.0
Number	5,443	4,288	4,877	6,421

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	50.0	50.4	47.8	42.7
Guardianship	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.5
Reunification	37.8	27.1	27.9	37.1
Other	11.1	21.9	24.2	19.7
Missing data	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	458	494	542	628

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.4	1.4	1.6	2.4
Guardianship	<.1	0.3	0.7	0.9
Reunification	78.8	61.3	61.6	71.0
Other	18.6	36.9	36.1	25.7
Missing data	2.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Number	2,779	1,832	1,944	3,035

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	11.1	15.7	19.3	16.1
Children older than 12 at entry	88.9	84.3	80.7	83.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	488	658	735	753

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	30.8	7.1	33.3	22.2	0.0	13.0	21.4	20.0	26.1	18.6	17.1		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	7.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5		
Reunification	90.9	69.2	71.4	66.7	55.6	80.0	78.3	71.4	67.4	52.4	60.6	65.4		
Other	9.1	0.0	14.3	0.0	16.7	20.0	8.7	7.1	11.1	20.8	20.3	17.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.0		
Number	11	13	14	9	18	5	23	14	1,623	1,190	1,340	1,870		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.8	25.0	11.3	20.4	14.7	19.8	18.2	17.3		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	1.2	0.0	1.0	1.5	<.1	0.1	0.3	0.6		
Reunification	0.0	0.0	100.0	66.7	77.8	61.7	71.1	68.4	72.4	61.4	64.0	68.1		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.3	13.3	16.7	9.7	11.5	18.5	17.4	14.1		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.1	0.0	0.0		
Number	0	0	7	3	162	180	204	269	3,496	2,791	3,113	4,010		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	4.4	3.6	9.1	9.4	35.2	38.3	40.4	28.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	86.7	89.3	79.2	82.9	52.3	51.9	47.5	62.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	6.7	7.1	11.7	6.8	11.4	9.9	12.1	8.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	45	28	77	117	88	81	99	129	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	65.0	72.4	76.0	73.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	22.7	19.2	16.7	18.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	6.5	4.5	4.4	4.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.4	1.8	1.3	1.6
48 or more mos.	3.1	1.8	1.4	1.2
Missing data	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3
Number	3,857	2,527	3,093	4,332

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	81.2	82.8	84.4	81.9
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	11.1	9.5	8.6	10.8
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	7.7	7.6	7.0	7.3
Missing data	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0
Number	6,047	6,305	6,715	7,056

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	2.4	2.8	2.8	4.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	9.3	11.0	18.2	23.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	16.4	18.2	25.7	28.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	16.8	17.8	19.2	17.2
48 or more mos.	55.1	50.2	34.0	26.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	899	944	890	1,121

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	64.9	72.3	73.7	72.9	35.3	39.1	45.8	45.2	39.8	31.4	26.0	26.8	57.1	83.3	84.8	96.9
Children with 3 or more placements	32.5	26.8	25.3	26.3	64.2	60.4	53.9	54.6	59.6	68.2	73.9	73.2	2.4	4.8	4.3	3.1
Number	7,110	6,998	7,469	8,257	2,990	2,706	3,188	3,295	4,660	4,029	3,764	3,854	42	42	46	32

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	2.3	0.9	0.5	0.4
Institutions	2.2	1.6	1.8	1.5
Other settings	95.5	97.5	97.7	98.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,526	3,191	3,483	3,464

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	119.7
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	74.0	73.0
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	6.2	7.0
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	32.2	25.0
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	16.7	11.1

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	91.4
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	21.0	27.6
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	37.9	32.5
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	24.1	28.6
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	5.3	8.6
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	50.8	36.7

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	141.0
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	28.9	34.3
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	93.3	93.2
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	25.1	21.7

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	75.3
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	72.8	71.9
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	46.5	46.3
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	26.4	27.3

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Tennessee

STATE COMMENT

Viola P. Miller, Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Children's Services

The following are Tennessee's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress*.

Section B (Maltreatment information overview): The considerable increase in the number and rate of child maltreatment victims reported between 2002 and 2005 is a result of the data quality impact of migrating from a manual data collection and reporting process in 2002 to the current electronic data collection and reporting process.

Section C (Children in foster care): Using the current point-in-time methodology for AFCARS reporting, the possibility will always exist for some difference in the number of active cases on the last day of one reporting cycle and the number of active cases on the first day of the next reporting cycle. As a result of technical assistance in 2005 from the National Resource Center for Child Welfare Data and Technology (NRC-CWDT) and a review of the AFCARS code, several coding modifications have been implemented that have improved the consistency of the data between submissions and significantly reduced the number of dropped cases. Evidence and review of the current submissions indicate these code changes have been successful and changes should be reflected in future reporting.

Section D (Children waiting to be adopted): As a result of technical assistance in 2005 from the NRC-CWDT and a review of the AFCARS code, modifications have been implemented to include waivers of parental rights for FC elements #47 and 48 and AD elements #19 and 20 for fathers pursuant to Tennessee law. Other issues contributing to a lower percentage of termination data on both parents include missing data and inconsistent data entry practice. These issues are being addressed through training.

Outcome Measure 3.4: To accurately assess this measure, the state has requested additional information from ACF regarding the definition for the discharge reason "emancipation." In Tennessee, children may exit from foster care at age 18 for reasons other than emancipation or "aging out" as in the case of being reunified with family members, relative placement guardianship, or in rare cases, an adoption that is not finalized until the child turns 18. Other situations include those children who are subsequently transferred to another agency or who are on runaway upon reaching the age of majority.

Outcome measure 1.1: We believe the 2005 data has been impacted by addressing and resolving a significant backlog of open cases and somewhat impacted by ongoing data entry issues being addressed through training. As a result, we continue to struggle with stabilizing the data to the extent that we can develop a realistic and accurate baseline from which to mark improvement. Additional technical assistance from the NRC-CWDT is being considered.

Outcome measures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3: We believe any increase in exits from foster care that were not to a permanent home are the result of the overall increase in total exits between 2003 and 2005, the significant focus on permanency or exiting custody for children in foster care for more than 2 years, and changes in overall population or case mix.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Tennessee's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 8.1 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 6.6 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2003 (138.2 percent change).

In 2005, 0.87 percent of children in foster care in Tennessee were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 0.42 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (262.5 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 85.6 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 87.8 percent. However, 80.3 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 73.4 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. The percentages are about equal to the national medians for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 34.3 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (18.7 percent change).

In 2005, 93.2 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is less than the national median of 95.7 percent.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 11.7 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 16.1 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage is less than the national median of 27.6 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002, but an improvement in performance from 2004.

In 2005, 21.7 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 48.1 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2004 (13.5 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 73.0 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 70.4 percent.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 25.0 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (22.4 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 11.1 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is less than the national median of 14.8 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (33.5 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 27.6 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 29.1 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (135.9 percent change).

In 2005, 28.6 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (18.7 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 36.7 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is less than the national median of 45.1 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (27.8 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 71.9 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 26.8 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (32.7 percent change).

In 2005, 1.9 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is one of the lowest in the nation and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (57.8 percent change).

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	6,102,316	6,240,162	6,266,779	6,326,285
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Asian	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	12.4	12.3	12.1	12.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	42.0	42.7	43.4	44.0
White (non-Hispanic)	41.4	40.7	40.0	39.5
Two or more races	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4
Child population in poverty (%)	22.0	24.0	23.2	25.0

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	48,808	50,522	50,891	61,994
Children in foster care on 9/30	21,353	21,880	24,529	28,883
Children adopted	2,299	2,504	2,556	3,181

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	210,375	34.5 per 1,000	215,602	34.6 per 1,000	226,614	36.2 per 1,000	269,122	42.5 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	48,808	8.0 per 1,000	50,522	8.1 per 1,000	50,891	8.1 per 1,000	61,994	9.8 per 1,000
Child fatalities	206	3.4 per 100,000	203	3.3 per 100,000	212	3.4 per 100,000	197	3.1 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	12.0	13.2	13.7	13.8
1-5 years	35.1	36.3	37.1	37.5
6-10 years	28.1	26.8	25.9	26.1
11-15 years	20.6	20.2	20.0	18.8
16+ years	4.1	3.5	3.3	3.7
Unknown	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
Number	48,808	50,522	50,891	61,994

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Asian	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	18.7	17.8	17.3	16.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.1	0.1	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	39.3	40.4	40.9	43.3
White (non-Hispanic)	37.5	37.3	37.2	35.2
Two or more races	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.8
Unknown	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.7
Number	48,808	50,522	50,891	61,994

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	2.5	2.1	1.9	1.5
Medical neglect	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.4
Neglect	61.7	63.8	66.3	70.7
Physical abuse	26.9	26.9	26.2	23.4
Sexual abuse	15.4	14.6	13.4	11.9
Unknown	—	—	0.0	—
Other	0.9	—	—	—
Number	48,808	50,522	50,891	61,994

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	156.2	161.6	167.7	186.8
Median	>120, but <144	>120, but <144	>120, but <144	>120, but <144

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	18,695	20,612	21,758	24,110	11,766	11,513	13,613	16,933	9,108	10,245	10,842	12,160	21,353	21,880	24,529	28,883
Median length of stay (months)	13.6	13.6	13.9	12.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.7	14.4	14.0	14.2	13.2	14.0	12.8	11.5

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	7.2	7.6	7.6	8.0	20.9	21.9	21.0	21.7	5.6	5.4	5.8	5.9	7.6	7.4	8.0	8.3
1 year	7.7	8.0	8.4	8.0	8.8	9.4	9.0	9.3	11.3	11.9	11.6	11.7	8.1	8.4	8.1	8.9
2 years	6.4	6.5	6.6	7.1	7.3	7.7	8.1	8.4	9.8	10.1	10.0	10.1	6.5	6.7	7.1	7.3
3 years	5.6	5.6	5.9	6.2	6.5	7.2	6.8	7.1	7.8	7.9	8.2	8.6	5.7	6.1	6.2	6.7
4 years	4.8	5.2	5.4	5.7	5.6	6.3	6.5	6.0	6.1	6.7	6.5	6.7	5.3	5.5	5.7	5.8
5 years	4.8	4.5	4.9	5.4	5.2	5.4	5.7	6.0	5.6	5.7	6.3	6.4	4.6	5.0	5.4	5.4
6 years	4.3	4.7	4.5	4.7	4.4	5.1	5.0	5.5	4.6	5.2	4.9	5.3	4.7	4.5	4.7	5.4
7 years	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.8	4.3	4.7	5.0	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.9
8 years	4.6	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.2	3.9	3.8	4.3	3.9	4.4	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.5
9 years	4.9	4.7	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.4	4.1	4.0	3.8	3.4	4.7	4.2	4.1	4.1
10 years	5.0	4.9	4.5	4.3	3.9	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	4.8	4.5	4.3	4.1
11 years	5.2	4.9	4.8	4.5	3.8	3.4	3.8	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.3	4.9	4.7	4.5	4.0
12 years	5.2	5.4	4.9	4.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.3	2.6	3.3	3.3	3.1	5.3	4.9	4.7	4.3
13 years	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.2	4.0	3.7	3.8	3.3	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.7	5.5	5.5	5.1	4.7
14 years	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.8	4.2	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.9	6.0	5.7	5.8	5.2
15 years	6.4	6.3	6.3	5.8	4.0	3.3	3.6	3.1	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.5	6.2	6.2	5.8	5.7
16 years	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.3	3.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	3.8	2.5	2.3	2.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	5.6
17 years	5.5	5.4	5.7	5.6	1.5	0.8	0.8	0.8	9.9	12.7	6.7	2.4	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.2
18 years	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.2	0.0	6.4	10.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	<.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	<.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Asian	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	27.8	27.7	25.8	24.6	25.5	22.0	21.6	21.1	25.8	25.8	23.4	22.3	27.4	25.6	24.5	23.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	35.1	35.8	36.8	38.9	36.6	37.9	40.0	40.2	35.4	36.2	36.6	39.4	35.8	36.8	38.6	39.4
White (non-Hispanic)	33.1	32.2	33.0	32.3	33.0	35.1	34.1	33.5	34.4	33.3	35.3	33.7	32.5	33.2	32.6	32.4
Two or more races	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.9	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.5
Unknown	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	8,440	8,625	9,913	10,768
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	6,267	6,398	7,132	7,965

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	5.2	4.5	5.4	5.2
1 year	8.6	9.2	8.9	9.5
2 years	6.7	7.2	7.8	7.4
3 years	5.8	6.1	6.5	6.7
4 years	5.5	6.0	5.8	6.0
5 years	5.2	5.7	6.0	5.8
6 years	5.3	4.8	5.2	5.8
7 years	5.0	5.2	5.1	5.5
8 years	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2
9 years	5.6	5.2	5.1	4.6
10 years	6.5	5.5	5.5	5.1
11 years	6.3	6.4	5.6	5.2
12 years	6.8	6.1	6.0	5.4
13 years	6.1	6.3	5.7	5.6
14 years	5.9	6.1	6.0	5.7
15 years	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.7
16 years	3.1	3.3	3.0	3.7
17 years	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.8
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	30.0	28.6	28.2	27.2
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	35.1	36.5	37.4	37.8
White (non-Hispanic)	30.5	30.1	29.6	29.8
Two or more races	3.3	3.6	3.7	4.2
Unknown	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	2,299	2,504	2,556	3,181

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.0	2.4	3.2	3.2
1 year	16.0	15.2	17.8	15.7
2 years	16.9	16.1	16.7	15.8
3 years	9.9	10.7	11.2	11.8
4 years	8.4	8.2	8.6	8.5
5 years	6.5	7.5	6.7	8.0
6 years	6.9	7.0	5.2	6.5
7 years	5.4	5.2	6.2	4.8
8 years	4.7	4.5	4.3	4.8
9 years	5.1	4.8	3.8	3.6
10 years	4.3	4.3	3.1	3.9
11 years	4.2	4.2	3.1	3.4
12 years	2.2	3.2	3.6	3.1
13 years	1.8	2.2	2.2	2.1
14 years	1.9	2.1	1.5	1.8
15 years	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.4
16 years	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.9
17 years	0.6	0.3	0.8	0.6
18 years	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.3
Asian	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	25.4	24.2	23.6	21.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	36.6	39.1	38.2	44.4
White (non-Hispanic)	33.1	31.7	32.3	28.3
Two or more races	3.8	3.9	4.4	4.5
Unknown	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	95.9	95.5	96.0	95.9
Children with one or more recurrences	4.1	4.5	4.0	4.1
Number	24,467	24,031	24,224	29,158

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.30	0.25	0.55
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.70	99.75	99.45
Number	N/A	32,125	35,371	41,043

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	24.7	24.0	23.3	26.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	57.2	62.3	62.4	59.7
Other	4.6	5.8	5.9	12.4
Missing data	13.5	7.8	8.5	1.9
Number	9,108	10,245	10,842	12,160

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	31.8	32.7	31.3	32.7
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	44.5	46.8	47.3	45.5
Other	7.7	8.3	8.6	20.2
Missing data	15.9	12.2	12.9	1.6
Number	2,484	2,665	2,947	3,533

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	1.9	2.4	1.7	2.3
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	38.0	49.8	49.5	42.7
Other	14.0	25.0	25.2	50.8
Missing data	46.1	22.8	23.6	4.2
Number	1,656	1,527	1,615	1,772

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	46.9	33.0	40.0	41.1
Children older than 12 at entry	53.1	67.0	60.0	58.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	288	297	325	1,368

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	10.7	33.3	33.3	11.4	18.4	28.0	48.6	24.2	22.5	23.6	24.9		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	77.8	75.0	33.3	37.0	71.4	78.9	64.0	40.5	54.1	63.4	61.0	58.4		
Other	0.0	10.7	4.8	29.6	0.0	2.6	2.0	10.8	5.0	5.4	6.0	14.8		
Missing data	22.2	3.6	28.6	0.0	17.1	0.0	6.0	0.0	16.6	8.7	9.4	2.0		
Number	9	28	21	27	35	38	50	37	2,349	2,644	2,534	2,714		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.7	26.0	24.4	29.2	23.8	22.7	21.2	21.9		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	83.3	80.0	66.7	75.0	57.8	60.7	62.3	57.6	58.2	62.6	63.6	63.4		
Other	16.7	20.0	33.3	25.0	3.9	6.3	5.8	11.4	5.3	6.0	6.3	12.7		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.7	7.0	7.5	1.8	12.7	8.7	8.9	2.0		
Number	6	5	3	4	3,224	3,707	3,965	4,791	3,131	3,409	3,824	4,097		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	32.8	21.0	22.8	32.8	29.1	29.8	30.7	33.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	50.0	71.6	62.0	58.2	63.2	64.7	60.5	59.8	20.0	25.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	4.7	2.5	6.3	9.0	1.4	1.5	2.5	5.7	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	12.5	4.9	8.9	0.0	6.3	4.0	6.3	0.7	80.0	50.0	100.0	0.0		
Number	64	81	79	67	285	329	365	423	5	4	1	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	62.9	59.5	61.2	63.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	32.3	33.6	31.7	31.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.2	3.3	3.8	2.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.9	1.7	1.7	1.3
48 or more mos.	1.6	1.9	1.5	1.0
Missing data	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1
Number	5,206	6,387	6,760	7,261

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	90.9	91.5	90.6	91.3
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.3
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	2.5	3.8	4.5	4.4
Missing data	4.2	2.5	2.5	2.0
Number	11,766	11,513	13,613	16,933

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	7.0	5.6	6.2	6.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	43.1	40.6	42.5	42.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	30.3	31.6	30.0	28.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	9.1	12.0	11.0	11.4
48 or more mos.	10.5	10.2	10.3	10.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,252	2,459	2,526	3,165

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	70.3	69.7	71.4	77.9	42.1	37.3	38.6	48.0	15.0	15.0	14.4	16.9	62.0	100.0	92.3	92.7
Children with 3 or more placements	25.4	30.2	28.4	22.1	57.3	62.7	61.4	52.0	84.9	85.0	85.6	83.1	8.5	0.0	3.1	7.3
Number	14,088	14,060	16,458	20,073	7,359	8,278	8,383	9,980	8,943	9,783	10,465	10,908	71	4	65	82

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	5.4	4.8	5.7	4.6
Institutions	9.9	7.3	6.7	4.7
Other settings	83.6	86.4	86.1	89.8
Missing data	1.2	1.6	1.5	1.0
Number	9,483	9,798	11,296	14,328

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	127.5
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	68.6	70.8
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	9.8	9.7
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	37.9	33.9
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	3.5	4.5

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	98.8
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	48.7	49.2
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	24.3	24.2
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	16.1	18.6
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	5.4	4.2
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	37.4	37.6

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	88.4
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	16.3	17.9
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	93.6	87.5
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	64.6	63.1

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	77.7
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	70.9	77.5
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	38.6	48.1
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	14.5	16.9

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Texas performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent “no change.”

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 4.1 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 6.6 percent.

In 2005, 0.55 percent of children in foster care in Texas were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 0.42 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2003 (83.3 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 85.7 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 78.2 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 45.0 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All percentages are less than the national medians for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 17.9 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 26.4 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (9.8 percent change).

In 2005, 87.5 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is less than the national median of 95.7 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (6.5 percent change).

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 11.2 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of “emancipation” and 41.1 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent.

In 2005, 63.1 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 70.8 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 70.4 percent.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 33.9 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (10.6 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 4.5 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is less than the national median of 14.8 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (28.6 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 49.1 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 29.1 percent.

In 2005, 18.6 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 20.9 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (15.5 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 37.6 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is less than the national median of 45.1 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 77.5 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 82.4 percent, but represents improvement in performance from 2004 (9.3 percent change).

In 2005, 16.9 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (16.6 percent change).

In 2005, 9.3 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 7.2 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (39.2 percent change).

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	713,012	742,927	740,114	742,556
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3
Asian	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8
Hispanic (of any race)	12.0	12.5	12.9	13.3
White (non-Hispanic)	81.6	81.1	80.7	80.4
Two or more races	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1
Child population in poverty (%)	12.5	12.4	12.9	11.8

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	10,282	12,366	13,559	13,152
Children in foster care on 9/30	2,025	2,033	2,108	2,285
Children adopted	346	311	298	350

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	29,836	41.9 per 1,000	31,529	42.4 per 1,000	33,746	45.6 per 1,000	33,684	45.4 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	10,282	14.4 per 1,000	12,366	16.6 per 1,000	13,559	18.3 per 1,000	13,152	17.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	12	1.7 per 100,000	9	1.2 per 100,000	10	1.4 per 100,000	10	1.4 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	7.8	7.8	8.0	8.1
1-5 years	32.3	32.7	34.3	34.1
6-10 years	26.9	27.1	26.6	26.7
11-15 years	26.6	26.0	24.9	24.5
16+ years	6.2	6.1	6.0	6.3
Unknown	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2
Number	10,282	12,366	13,559	13,152

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	2.4	1.8	2.1	2.3
Asian	2.4	0.7	0.8	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.4	2.7	2.5	3.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	1.6	1.7	1.8
Hispanic (of any race)	19.8	21.6	23.0	23.8
White (non-Hispanic)	68.1	69.6	67.8	65.9
Two or more races	—	1.2	1.5	1.7
Unknown	3.9	0.7	0.7	0.8
Number	10,282	12,366	13,559	13,152

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	40.9	44.0	45.0	42.5
Medical neglect	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.4
Neglect	21.3	20.9	21.0	20.7
Physical abuse	16.1	14.2	12.6	14.7
Sexual abuse	21.7	19.6	18.8	19.3
Unknown	0.1	—	—	—
Other	14.5	15.8	17.6	19.2
Number	10,282	12,366	13,559	13,152

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	150.9	141.5	136.4	125.8
Median	>72, but <96	>72, but <96	>96, but <120	>72, but <96

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	1,966	1,926	1,943	2,054	2,177	1,928	1,954	2,215	2,118	1,821	1,791	1,984	2,025	2,033	2,108	2,285
Median length of stay (months)	11.5	11.0	10.8	11.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.1	6.9	7.1	7.5	10.4	10.3	10.9	9.7

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.9	5.0	4.4	5.4	12.8	10.5	13.8	12.4	8.1	7.9	8.5	8.8	5.1	4.0	5.5	4.6
1 year	3.7	3.5	3.9	4.3	6.6	6.6	7.1	6.7	7.1	7.0	7.1	7.7	3.4	3.7	4.2	3.9
2 years	4.5	3.9	3.6	3.6	5.1	6.4	6.8	6.6	6.0	6.7	7.5	7.2	4.0	3.5	3.5	4.4
3 years	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.7	5.7	4.7	5.6	5.3	6.1	5.4	6.0	6.6	3.2	3.4	3.8	2.8
4 years	3.5	3.2	3.3	3.1	5.2	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.7	5.0	6.4	5.0	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.5
5 years	3.1	3.3	3.1	2.8	5.1	3.9	4.7	4.4	5.5	4.6	5.0	4.6	3.2	3.2	2.8	3.2
6 years	3.2	2.9	2.6	3.4	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.5	3.0	2.5	3.3	3.2
7 years	3.5	2.7	3.3	2.9	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.8	4.1	3.5	3.6	3.8	2.7	3.1	2.8	3.0
8 years	4.0	3.2	2.7	3.3	3.9	3.1	3.0	3.8	4.2	3.5	3.4	3.8	3.2	2.4	3.1	3.2
9 years	3.4	3.8	3.4	2.9	4.3	3.8	3.1	3.0	4.2	3.8	2.8	2.6	3.7	3.1	2.8	3.5
10 years	4.4	3.8	4.1	3.8	4.2	3.5	3.3	3.1	4.2	3.6	3.2	2.7	4.0	3.9	3.8	2.9
11 years	5.0	4.9	4.6	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.4	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.3	4.8	4.5	4.0	4.2
12 years	5.6	5.8	5.1	5.1	4.5	4.7	5.5	4.6	4.2	3.3	3.7	3.3	5.7	5.1	5.3	4.4
13 years	7.7	6.0	6.9	6.6	5.7	6.2	5.7	6.2	4.1	4.0	4.4	3.8	6.1	7.0	6.8	6.4
14 years	9.3	9.2	8.7	7.7	6.2	7.8	6.6	6.5	5.1	5.0	4.7	3.5	9.1	8.9	8.2	9.2
15 years	10.3	10.5	10.6	9.8	7.1	8.9	7.1	7.4	5.3	6.4	6.1	5.8	10.5	11.3	9.9	10.0
16 years	8.6	12.5	11.2	10.7	7.0	7.5	5.8	7.0	5.6	7.0	5.6	5.0	12.5	12.0	10.7	11.0
17 years	8.7	9.5	11.7	11.8	4.1	5.2	4.1	6.1	4.2	7.0	4.7	6.1	9.6	12.2	11.5	11.3
18 years	2.8	2.2	2.7	4.6	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	7.4	7.0	8.2	10.4	2.3	2.7	4.4	4.2
19 years	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.3	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.7
20+ years	0.2	0.3	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	<.1	<.1	0.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	5.1	5.2	6.0	5.4	4.0	4.7	3.4	3.3	3.8	3.9	4.1	2.7	5.2	6.0	5.3	5.7
Asian	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.8	1.1	0.7	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	4.5	5.7	3.8	4.6	4.4	3.7	4.0	4.6	3.4	5.5	3.0	4.4	5.5	3.9	4.6	4.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.9	0.8	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.9	1.1	0.5	1.1	2.1	0.9	1.3	1.3	1.1
Hispanic (of any race)	18.6	21.1	20.6	21.2	20.4	23.7	26.4	26.5	18.9	23.4	26.7	25.6	20.2	21.4	20.8	22.5
White (non-Hispanic)	56.7	64.2	67.3	65.6	58.7	65.6	64.3	61.1	55.6	63.8	64.5	63.0	60.0	65.8	66.9	63.5
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4
Unknown	13.3	2.1	<.1	0.2	11.0	0.7	0.4	0.7	16.7	2.5	0.1	0.6	7.3	0.4	0.3	0.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	448	446	437	436
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	197	175	141	142

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	6.7	4.9	7.3	7.3
1 year	4.2	5.2	8.5	7.6
2 years	8.0	6.7	6.6	8.9
3 years	6.3	6.5	6.4	5.0
4 years	5.8	4.9	3.9	5.7
5 years	5.8	6.1	3.9	7.1
6 years	6.0	4.9	6.6	4.4
7 years	4.9	5.2	5.5	6.2
8 years	6.9	5.2	5.9	5.7
9 years	7.4	6.7	4.3	5.3
10 years	5.6	6.3	7.3	5.0
11 years	7.1	7.2	6.6	7.3
12 years	6.9	7.2	6.4	5.7
13 years	5.1	6.7	6.2	6.0
14 years	4.9	5.6	4.8	5.7
15 years	5.1	4.5	6.2	4.4
16 years	2.2	4.0	1.4	1.6
17 years	0.9	2.2	2.1	0.9
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.9	2.7	4.8	2.3
Asian	1.3	2.0	1.1	1.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	5.1	2.9	5.0	5.7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	25.7	24.4	24.0	25.2
White (non-Hispanic)	58.7	67.5	64.5	64.2
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Unknown	7.8	0.2	0.0	0.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	346	311	298	350

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	9.0	10.9	8.1	8.6
1 year	15.9	17.4	15.1	18.0
2 years	11.0	11.9	13.1	12.3
3 years	10.7	9.3	10.4	11.4
4 years	6.9	7.7	11.1	4.9
5 years	7.5	7.4	6.4	5.1
6 years	6.1	8.4	5.7	6.3
7 years	6.9	4.5	5.7	6.6
8 years	6.4	4.2	4.0	6.0
9 years	4.0	4.8	3.4	5.1
10 years	4.3	3.9	5.4	3.7
11 years	3.5	3.5	2.7	3.1
12 years	2.9	0.6	3.0	2.9
13 years	1.7	2.3	1.3	2.3
14 years	0.9	0.6	3.0	0.6
15 years	0.9	1.0	1.0	2.0
16 years	0.6	1.3	0.7	0.9
17 years	0.9	0.3	0.0	0.3
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.0	3.5	1.7	4.0
Asian	0.3	1.6	1.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	4.6	7.4	1.0	5.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.6
Hispanic (of any race)	25.7	24.4	28.5	30.9
White (non-Hispanic)	54.0	57.9	67.4	58.0
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1
Unknown	13.3	4.5	0.3	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	92.3	92.3	92.8	93.4
Children with one or more recurrences	7.7	7.7	7.2	6.6
Number	5,042	5,664	6,373	6,221

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care

(NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.39	0.51	0.42
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.61	99.49	99.58
Number	N/A	3,854	3,897	4,269

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	16.4	17.0	16.2	18.0
Guardianship	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.6
Reunification	70.5	65.0	69.1	61.8
Other	10.9	16.4	13.2	18.3
Missing data	0.4	0.2	<.1	0.2
Number	2,118	1,821	1,791	1,984

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	22.0	23.4	17.7	22.3
Guardianship	1.4	1.8	1.7	2.0
Reunification	60.2	53.1	57.1	51.0
Other	16.1	21.8	23.5	24.6
Missing data	0.3	0.0	0.0	<.1
Number	354	556	716	1,111

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	1.4	0.3	1.0	1.3
Guardianship	1.9	1.7	2.1	2.2
Reunification	62.7	53.1	57.2	48.6
Other	34.1	44.6	39.5	47.6
Missing data	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3
Number	592	572	512	597

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	8.8	14.4	13.0	24.1
Children older than 12 at entry	91.2	85.6	87.0	75.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	170	146	162	216

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	8.6	15.5	6.8	26.4	10.0	83.3	20.0	0.0	22.5	22.8	5.7	22.7		
Guardianship	8.6	5.6	4.1	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	3.8	0.0		
Reunification	63.0	63.4	67.1	37.7	50.0	0.0	70.0	57.1	62.0	57.4	71.7	56.8		
Other	19.8	15.5	21.9	32.1	40.0	16.7	10.0	42.9	15.5	16.8	18.9	20.5		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	81	71	73	53	10	6	10	7	71	101	53	88		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	22.2	0.0	4.8	22.2	17.8	17.8	21.5	16.0	15.4	16.9	16.7		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	5.0	4.8	0.2	1.2	0.8	1.8	1.7	1.3	1.4	1.4		
Reunification	78.3	77.8	80.0	81.0	69.6	66.5	72.0	63.5	69.7	66.1	67.7	61.6		
Other	21.7	0.0	15.0	9.5	8.0	14.1	9.4	13.0	12.0	17.1	13.9	20.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.7	<.1	<.1	0.2		
Number	23	9	20	42	401	427	478	507	1,178	1,162	1,155	1,249		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	13.3	31.1	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	77.7	46.7	50.0	54.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	81.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	6.2	22.2	0.0	45.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	354	45	2	11	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	83.3	82.3	85.3	86.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.6	12.4	10.8	10.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.9	2.3	1.7	1.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.6
48 or more mos.	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.7
Missing data	0.2	1.1	0.4	0.0
Number	1,493	1,183	1,237	1,227

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	76.6	77.0	75.7	76.4
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	14.5	11.2	12.8	13.3
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.4	8.6	11.2	9.1
Missing data	0.5	3.3	0.3	1.1
Number	2,177	1,928	1,954	2,215

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	33.9	38.7	36.4	34.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	44.0	37.1	38.5	47.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	13.5	13.9	16.2	9.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.7	7.1	5.8	3.9
48 or more mos.	4.9	3.2	3.1	5.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	348	310	291	358

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	74.9	72.5	71.7	74.2	39.4	33.8	37.5	36.2	15.3	15.3	14.3	15.8	100.0	94.4	70.0	90.0
Children with 3 or more placements	25.0	26.7	26.0	22.8	60.5	65.9	62.4	63.8	84.7	84.7	85.7	84.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,575	2,325	2,342	2,605	749	716	742	821	811	795	803	833	8	18	10	10

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	1.3	1.8	1.3	0.7
Institutions	4.2	9.4	2.5	2.7
Other settings	94.4	86.9	96.1	96.6
Missing data	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0
Number	1,417	1,193	1,335	1,442

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	127.6
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	87.4	84.6
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	3.0	4.1
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	55.4	55.6
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	13.4	19.3

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	147.8
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	74.9	81.3
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	16.2	15.4
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	15.4	12.1
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	1.9	3.3
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	84.3	80.3

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	122.1
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	16.4	15.9
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	97.3	95.0
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	32.4	29.1

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	68.9
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	71.1	74.1
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	37.7	36.2
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	14.0	15.9

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

**Richard Anderson, Director
Division of Child and Family Services
Utah Department of Human Services**

The following are Utah's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress*.

Utah utilizes SACWIS system data and Case Reviews regularly to evaluate performance on outcomes and services to children and families. For more information on Utah's Child and Family Services, as well as our performance and regular reports, please visit our website at www.hsdcsf.utah.gov.

Regarding Maltreatment Type of Child Victims, in October 1997, Utah passed a law defining child witnessing, or knowledge of, domestic violence as a type of child abuse. This allegation type is mapped to emotional abuse in NCANDS and accounts for the large percentage of emotional abuse allegations in Utah.

Utah is currently working to reduce re-entry of children to foster care and improve placement stability. We have seen a reduction in re-entry during the last year and these improvements should be reflected in our 2006 data. An AFCARS review revealed that we were counting more placements than necessary and we have been working on system improvements to count placements accurately. Improvements in tracking and practice are expected to show in 2006 data on placement stability.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Utah's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 6.6 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is equal to the national median of 6.6 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (14.3 percent change).

In 2005, 0.42 percent of children in foster care in Utah were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is equal to the national median.

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 81.4 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 75.3 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 52.1 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All percentages are less than the national medians for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 15.9 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 26.4 percent.

In 2005, 95.0 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 95.7 percent.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 10.9 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 24.1 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage is less than the national median of 27.6 percent.

In 2005, 29.1 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 84.6 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 70.4 percent.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 55.6 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent.

Measure C1.4 indicates that 19.3 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage exceeds the national median of 14.8 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (44.0 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 81.3 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is the highest in the nation.

In 2005, 12.1 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 20.9 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (21.4 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 80.3 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent and is among the highest in the nation.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 74.1 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 15.9 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (13.6 percent change).

In 2005, 3.4 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 7.2 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2002 (38.2 percent change).

Vermont

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	139,662	137,446	134,894	132,619
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Asian	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
White (non-Hispanic)	95.0	95.0	94.9	94.9
Two or more races	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7
Child population in poverty (%)	12.8	10.9	10.3	7.4

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	1,447	1,233	1,138	1,080
Children in foster care on 9/30	1,526	1,409	1,432	1,436
Children adopted	153	167	220	166

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	4,000	28.6 per 1,000	3,632	26.4 per 1,000	3,361	24.9 per 1,000	3,099	23.4 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	1,447	10.4 per 1,000	1,233	9.0 per 1,000	1,138	8.4 per 1,000	1,080	8.1 per 1,000
Child fatalities	0	0.0 per 100,000	1	0.7 per 100,000	0	0.0 per 100,000	0	0.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	6.2	6.8	6.8	8.0
1-5 years	25.3	26.3	26.8	25.6
6-10 years	29.0	27.7	26.0	27.2
11-15 years	32.3	32.4	32.2	30.9
16+ years	7.2	6.7	8.3	8.2
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Number	1,447	1,233	1,138	1,080

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.1	0.1	—	—
Asian	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.6	0.9	2.8	1.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.7
White (non-Hispanic)	95.4	94.6	93.0	94.8
Two or more races	—	0.3	0.2	—
Unknown	3.0	3.3	3.7	3.0
Number	1,447	1,233	1,138	1,080

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	0.5	1.2	0.3	1.1
Medical neglect	2.8	3.2	2.6	1.9
Neglect	6.2	4.8	5.7	5.6
Physical abuse	51.8	52.8	49.4	48.4
Sexual abuse	43.4	42.1	45.7	46.5
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Number	1,447	1,233	1,138	1,080

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	104.7	100.0	81.5	82.1
Median	>24, but <48	>24, but <48	>24, but <48	>24, but <48

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	1,351	1,442	1,350	1,375	832	725	840	770	657	760	763	714	1,526	1,409	1,432	1,436
Median length of stay (months)	20.0	15.8	17.7	15.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	18.5	13.8	19.9	14.8	16.2	17.5	15.5	16.0

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.6	2.8	1.6	2.8	8.1	6.5	8.0	11.2	1.8	1.7	2.5	3.1	2.8	1.6	2.7	3.5
1 year	3.0	4.1	4.7	2.5	5.5	5.4	4.6	4.0	3.3	3.4	5.2	4.3	3.9	4.5	2.4	3.4
2 years	3.6	4.0	4.4	3.7	3.6	4.1	3.2	3.9	4.6	3.9	5.4	3.9	3.8	4.3	3.6	2.9
3 years	2.3	2.8	3.8	2.9	3.4	3.6	4.4	3.1	2.1	4.6	6.3	3.6	2.8	3.6	2.9	3.1
4 years	3.1	3.3	2.4	3.9	3.1	3.4	4.0	3.1	3.0	2.6	4.2	4.9	3.1	2.5	3.7	2.7
5 years	2.4	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.6	1.9	2.5	3.4	3.2	3.7	4.1	4.2	2.8	3.1	1.9	2.7
6 years	3.4	2.8	3.4	3.5	3.0	4.8	3.8	3.2	2.7	3.0	2.5	3.5	2.7	3.3	3.3	2.2
7 years	2.5	3.5	3.2	3.7	2.9	2.9	2.5	2.3	2.4	3.0	3.1	3.6	3.4	3.1	3.6	2.9
8 years	2.8	2.6	3.6	2.8	2.3	2.8	3.2	3.0	1.8	3.0	3.7	3.4	2.5	3.4	2.7	3.8
9 years	3.6	3.7	2.4	3.0	3.2	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.6	3.0	2.0	3.5	2.4	3.1	2.0
10 years	3.8	4.0	3.8	2.5	4.3	4.7	3.5	3.1	3.3	3.2	2.4	2.5	3.9	3.8	2.4	3.4
11 years	3.4	4.2	4.6	4.4	3.2	4.8	2.7	2.5	2.7	4.2	3.1	2.7	4.1	4.5	4.3	3.0
12 years	4.3	3.7	5.5	5.7	5.3	5.4	7.0	5.5	3.7	3.0	4.3	3.2	3.4	5.5	5.6	4.7
13 years	6.6	6.6	4.8	7.3	8.7	8.3	9.8	9.6	5.3	5.1	4.3	4.9	6.5	5.0	7.3	6.8
14 years	8.7	8.0	8.4	8.7	11.8	14.8	10.8	10.5	7.5	8.0	3.8	4.9	8.1	8.4	8.6	10.3
15 years	13.8	13.0	12.5	12.4	14.5	13.7	14.3	15.2	8.5	8.3	8.4	6.6	12.7	12.1	12.6	12.4
16 years	13.3	14.1	13.0	14.0	10.2	7.4	9.0	8.7	10.4	10.5	6.4	9.9	13.6	13.3	13.8	14.5
17 years	14.1	11.9	13.3	12.1	4.2	2.6	3.7	4.9	16.7	14.9	12.5	10.6	11.9	12.5	12.2	12.7
18 years	2.5	2.2	1.6	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	13.4	10.7	14.5	17.8	4.0	2.8	2.9	2.6
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.4
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.1	<.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	<.1	0.2	0.2
Asian	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.2	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.1	1.7	1.7	2.3	1.2	1.7	2.9	2.3	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.6	2.3	2.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	<.1	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.4	0.8	1.1	0.7	1.3	0.7	0.5	1.7	0.5	0.3	1.2	1.3	0.9	1.1	0.7	1.0
White (non-Hispanic)	96.6	96.5	96.2	95.5	96.3	95.9	94.0	94.5	96.2	96.6	95.5	95.5	96.6	96.2	95.3	95.0
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	<.1	0.2	<.1	0.6	0.4	0.1	1.2	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.2	<.1	0.8	0.6
Missing data	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.7	1.5	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.4	1.2	0.6	0.1	0.7	0.5	0.5

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	419	367	267	265
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	268	284	231	215

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	5.5	1.6	1.5	1.5
1 year	6.7	9.8	3.7	4.5
2 years	6.7	7.1	6.4	4.5
3 years	5.3	7.6	5.2	6.8
4 years	6.0	4.9	7.5	6.4
5 years	4.8	6.5	1.5	4.5
6 years	3.8	3.8	5.2	2.3
7 years	6.0	6.0	5.2	4.2
8 years	4.1	5.2	5.6	7.2
9 years	5.3	3.5	4.9	3.8
10 years	5.3	4.1	4.5	6.0
11 years	6.7	4.6	5.2	5.3
12 years	4.3	6.8	6.7	6.4
13 years	5.0	3.5	8.2	6.8
14 years	8.4	3.5	5.2	8.3
15 years	6.4	8.7	5.6	6.0
16 years	6.4	5.4	9.7	6.0
17 years	3.6	7.1	7.9	9.4
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	1.7	1.1	0.7	2.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.7	1.9	0.4	1.1
White (non-Hispanic)	96.2	95.9	98.1	95.8
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.4

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	153	167	220	166

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	5.9	0.6	1.4	1.8
1 year	7.8	5.4	8.6	8.4
2 years	15.0	9.6	11.4	9.0
3 years	5.2	10.2	13.6	10.2
4 years	6.5	5.4	8.6	10.2
5 years	7.8	9.6	10.9	9.0
6 years	9.2	6.0	7.3	7.2
7 years	5.2	5.4	6.4	7.8
8 years	3.3	7.8	6.8	7.2
9 years	3.9	8.4	5.0	1.2
10 years	7.8	3.6	3.2	4.8
11 years	5.9	4.8	4.5	3.6
12 years	4.6	4.8	3.2	6.0
13 years	4.6	5.4	2.3	3.0
14 years	3.3	6.6	0.5	4.8
15 years	0.7	3.0	4.1	1.2
16 years	2.0	3.0	0.9	1.2
17 years	1.3	0.6	1.4	3.0
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	5.9	0.6	1.4	2.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.0	1.8	2.3	0.6
White (non-Hispanic)	93.5	94.0	92.3	89.8
Two or more races	0.7	3.6	3.6	6.0
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.2

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Vermont

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	94.5	94.5	95.5	96.0
Children with one or more recurrences	5.5	5.5	4.5	4.0
Number	668	563	550	499

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.14	0.73	0.14
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.86	99.27	99.86
Number	N/A	2,167	2,190	2,145

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	20.5	20.4	27.8	21.8
Guardianship	2.1	1.1	1.2	1.1
Reunification	62.9	61.6	55.8	61.3
Other	14.3	17.0	14.9	15.7
Missing data	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.0
Number	657	760	763	714

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	10.0	6.4	23.8	23.4
Guardianship	5.0	2.1	1.3	1.7
Reunification	65.0	53.2	49.0	46.0
Other	20.0	38.3	25.2	28.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0
Number	20	47	151	239

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.9	1.4	2.3	2.2
Guardianship	2.9	0.8	1.0	0.3
Reunification	74.7	69.6	69.1	71.9
Other	21.5	28.1	26.8	25.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0
Number	340	359	298	320

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	21.3	22.7	28.7	21.9
Children older than 12 at entry	78.7	77.3	71.3	77.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Number	89	119	108	96

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.4	28.6	14.3	27.3
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	100.0	50.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	75.0	71.4	57.1	71.4	72.7
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	25.0	7.1	14.3	14.3	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2	2	1	0	1	1	0	4	14	14	14	11

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	55.6	0.0	20.9	20.0	28.0	21.8
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	2.2	1.1	1.2	1.0
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	22.2	77.8	62.3	61.7	55.6	61.0
Other	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	66.7	0.0	22.2	11.1	14.4	17.2	15.0	16.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.0
Number	0	1	1	0	3	2	9	9	632	734	729	682

	Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	50.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	100.0	100.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	88.9	50.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	3	9	4

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	60.8	70.3	65.7	63.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	17.9	18.2	18.5	21.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	10.9	6.4	8.0	6.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.9	2.4	2.3	3.4
48 or more mos.	6.5	2.4	4.7	4.3
Missing data	0.0	0.4	0.7	0.7
Number	413	468	426	438

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	81.9	81.5	78.6	79.5
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	10.2	9.5	11.7	10.3
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	7.9	9.0	9.8	10.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	832	725	840	770

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	0.7	1.9	3.8	7.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	22.2	18.7	26.9	28.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	46.7	33.5	46.2	34.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	14.8	29.0	12.7	22.4
48 or more mos.	15.6	16.8	9.9	7.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0
Number	135	155	212	156

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	63.9	63.2	68.5	66.5	40.1	40.4	36.8	39.3	19.5	21.1	23.5	19.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	36.1	36.8	31.5	33.5	59.9	59.6	63.2	60.7	80.5	78.9	76.5	80.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	904	845	914	887	414	539	475	545	863	781	797	712	2	2	4	1

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	3.9	4.5	4.2	6.3
Institutions	0.7	0.5	1.4	1.0
Other settings	95.4	95.0	94.4	92.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	411	378	430	382

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	107.9
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	67.0	66.0
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	6.1	7.8
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	42.1	35.2
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	18.9	15.6

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	107.7
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	30.8	35.5
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	28.8	28.4
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	23.5	20.2
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	10.4	8.6
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	59.2	59.0

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	114.2
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	26.8	26.4
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	92.1	94.0
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	60.5	47.5

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	64.0
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	65.0	63.4
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	37.1	39.4
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	24.0	19.9

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Vermont

STATE COMMENT

**Cynthia K. Walcott, Deputy Commissioner
Family Services Division
Vermont Department for Children and Families**

The following are Vermont's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress*.

The Vermont Department for Children and Family's Family Services Division is an integrated system delivering child protection, child welfare and juvenile justice services through 12 district offices. The department is responsible for about 1500 children in custody for abuse and neglect (61% of children in custody), delinquency (25%), or because they are beyond parental control (14%). In addition, social work staff supervise about 300 youth on juvenile probation.

We investigate reports of sexual abuse by out-of-home perpetrators. For this reason, 43.3 % of substantiated abuse in 2005 was sexual abuse.

Children can "exit" one part of our system as an abused child and "reenter" as a delinquent child, making our rate of re-entry appear quite high. About 60% of children in custody are age 12 and older. This reality has substantial impact on placement stability, length of stay and permanency outcomes.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Vermont's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 4.0 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 6.6 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (27.3 percent change).

In 2005, 0.14 percent of children in foster care in Vermont were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 0.42 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 84.2 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) and 71.7 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home. These percentages are less than the national medians for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1 and 3.2 are 87.8 percent and 79 percent, respectively). However, 74.4 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. This percentage exceeds the national median of 73.1 percent for this measure.

In 2005, 26.4 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage is equal to the national median.

In 2005, 94.0 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is less than the national median of 95.7 percent.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 13.4 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 21.9 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage is less than the national median of 27.6 percent.

In 2005, 47.5 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3), which is less than the national median of 48.1 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (27.4 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 66.0 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 70.4 percent.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 35.2 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent and represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2004 (16.4 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 15.6 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage exceeds the national median of 14.8 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (17.5 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 35.9 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 29.1 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2002 (56.8 percent change).

In 2005, 20.2 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 20.9 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (14.0 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 59.0 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 63.4 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months but at least 8 days experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is among the lowest in the nation.

In 2005, 19.9 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is among the lowest in the nation. Although there was no change in performance on this measure compared to 2002, there was a decline in performance from 2004 (17.4 percent change).

In 2005, 7.3 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 7.2 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (58.7 percent change).

Virginia

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	1,779,408	1,798,767	1,804,900	1,824,568
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	23.0	22.9	22.7	22.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	6.7	7.1	7.5	7.8
White (non-Hispanic)	63.5	63.0	62.5	62.1
Two or more races	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0
Child population in poverty (%)	13.8	13.5	11.7	12.5

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	7,571	6,485	6,959	6,469
Children in foster care on 9/30	7,109	7,046	6,869	7,022
Children adopted	424	487	525	510

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	40,552	22.8 per 1,000	31,813	17.7 per 1,000	56,088	31.1 per 1,000	56,156	30.8 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	7,571	4.3 per 1,000	6,485	3.6 per 1,000	6,959	3.9 per 1,000	6,469	3.6 per 1,000
Child fatalities	22	1.2 per 100,000	31	1.7 per 100,000	28	1.6 per 100,000	26	1.4 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	12.2	9.1	10.2	9.7
1-5 years	29.9	30.7	32.0	33.6
6-10 years	28.5	27.6	25.1	25.5
11-15 years	23.4	24.7	24.1	23.4
16+ years	5.8	6.9	6.5	6.4
Unknown	0.2	1.1	2.1	1.4
Number	7,571	6,485	6,959	6,469

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
Asian	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	36.9	36.8	33.2	37.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.1	0.0	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	6.1	6.5	8.0	7.9
White (non-Hispanic)	47.8	48.3	49.0	46.5
Two or more races	4.4	4.1	5.5	4.9
Unknown	3.9	3.5	3.7	2.4
Number	7,571	6,485	6,959	6,469

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.1
Medical neglect	2.5	2.9	2.4	2.7
Neglect	59.1	59.9	61.8	59.8
Physical abuse	27.1	24.5	24.6	27.4
Sexual abuse	13.2	16.7	15.8	15.0
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	0.1	0.0
Number	7,571	6,485	6,959	6,469

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	213.9	167.2	176.1	209.1
Median	>48, but <72	>48, but <72	>48, but <72	>48, but <72

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	6,139	6,152	6,221	6,920	3,274	3,351	3,418	3,518	2,307	2,459	2,772	3,417	7,109	7,046	6,869	7,022
Median length of stay (months)	20.8	20.0	19.5	18.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.5	14.2	14.7	14.6	19.3	18.8	18.2	18.3

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.5	2.8	2.9	3.2	11.3	11.3	12.1	11.9	4.2	4.3	3.8	3.8	2.9	3.0	3.4	3.2
1 year	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.2	5.0	5.8	5.2	5.6	4.6	4.3	4.4	5.1	3.7	4.1	4.3	4.5
2 years	3.4	3.7	4.0	3.7	4.5	5.1	4.5	4.7	4.9	5.4	5.5	4.5	3.8	4.0	3.7	4.2
3 years	3.7	3.2	3.6	3.9	3.4	3.7	4.4	5.5	4.9	4.2	4.5	5.0	3.2	3.7	3.9	3.9
4 years	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.9	4.1	3.9	4.6	4.8	4.3	4.0	3.2	3.1	3.4	4.1
5 years	3.1	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.9	3.4	3.9	3.9	3.7	4.0	4.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1
6 years	3.3	3.1	3.1	2.8	4.0	3.3	2.9	3.7	3.7	3.1	3.4	3.2	2.9	3.1	2.9	3.2
7 years	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.0	3.7	3.3	3.6	3.3	4.0	2.8	2.9	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.1	2.8
8 years	4.1	3.9	3.4	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.2	3.5	4.3	4.4	3.3	2.8	3.7	3.3	3.4	3.1
9 years	4.4	4.0	4.0	3.6	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.0	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.3	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.5
10 years	4.7	4.6	4.3	3.7	4.3	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.5	4.6	4.3	3.7	3.5
11 years	5.5	5.4	5.0	4.4	5.1	4.2	3.9	3.1	3.4	3.2	3.7	2.8	5.2	4.8	4.4	3.7
12 years	6.2	6.1	5.9	5.0	5.2	5.5	4.9	4.8	3.9	3.7	3.2	3.5	5.8	5.6	5.1	4.8
13 years	6.8	7.8	7.8	7.1	7.7	7.4	6.5	7.2	4.7	3.8	4.0	4.0	7.2	7.4	7.1	6.1
14 years	9.0	8.2	9.4	8.9	8.2	8.1	9.7	8.2	4.4	5.2	5.8	4.8	8.0	8.9	8.8	8.5
15 years	10.1	11.0	10.4	11.2	8.9	9.5	9.9	9.4	5.4	5.4	6.3	7.0	10.2	9.9	11.0	10.6
16 years	11.2	12.1	12.4	11.7	9.3	8.2	9.2	9.6	5.4	5.5	7.4	7.1	11.2	11.8	11.6	12.6
17 years	10.3	10.8	10.5	12.4	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.3	15.5	28.5	13.5	5.4	11.3	11.7	12.3	12.2
18 years	0.9	0.0	0.0	1.3	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	9.6	1.0	12.8	21.0	2.8	1.3	1.2	2.3
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Asian	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	50.3	48.5	47.0	43.4	40.4	38.7	36.0	37.3	43.7	43.7	43.3	39.4	47.9	45.5	43.0	42.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	3.8	4.2	4.9	5.9	5.8	6.4	7.6	7.0	6.3	5.0	6.4	6.6	3.9	4.9	5.6	6.1
White (non-Hispanic)	42.2	42.9	42.9	44.4	47.4	48.7	49.3	49.3	44.9	46.5	45.7	48.0	43.7	44.4	45.0	45.1
Two or more races	2.8	3.7	4.3	5.5	4.9	5.0	6.1	5.0	3.4	3.9	3.6	5.0	3.5	4.2	5.5	5.6
Unknown	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting for Adoption”⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	1,487	1,571	1,611	1,822
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	54	99	84	941

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.6	2.1	3.1	2.0
1 year	5.6	5.3	6.2	5.4
2 years	6.3	7.2	5.6	6.9
3 years	5.9	7.3	7.0	5.5
4 years	6.3	5.0	7.0	6.1
5 years	6.1	5.5	5.0	5.7
6 years	6.1	5.9	5.7	4.5
7 years	6.4	6.2	6.0	4.7
8 years	7.1	6.6	5.9	5.2
9 years	7.9	7.4	6.5	5.7
10 years	7.3	8.5	7.5	5.8
11 years	8.3	7.1	7.9	7.3
12 years	7.5	7.5	6.2	6.9
13 years	5.9	6.4	7.3	6.6
14 years	4.2	5.1	5.5	7.2
15 years	3.8	3.7	4.7	6.9
16 years	2.2	2.5	2.2	5.2
17 years	0.8	0.9	0.7	2.4
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	<.1	0.3	<.1	0.0
Asian	<.1	<.1	0.2	0.3
Black (non-Hispanic)	53.9	51.6	46.9	46.0
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	4.3	4.8	4.8	4.7
White (non-Hispanic)	37.3	37.9	39.9	41.4
Two or more races	3.8	5.1	7.3	7.3
Unknown	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	424	487	525	510

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.2	0.6	0.2	1.0
1 year	5.4	6.0	5.3	8.2
2 years	7.8	8.6	11.0	10.2
3 years	8.0	9.9	8.0	9.2
4 years	10.6	8.6	7.4	10.8
5 years	9.4	8.0	6.3	7.8
6 years	6.8	8.8	6.3	5.5
7 years	6.4	5.7	5.3	6.9
8 years	7.3	6.6	6.7	4.3
9 years	8.3	6.0	5.5	6.7
10 years	6.1	8.6	6.7	5.3
11 years	8.0	4.1	6.7	5.5
12 years	5.7	6.0	6.7	4.5
13 years	3.5	4.1	4.4	3.9
14 years	2.1	3.1	5.3	3.9
15 years	2.4	3.5	2.9	3.3
16 years	0.7	0.4	2.7	1.4
17 years	0.9	1.0	1.7	1.6
18 years	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.4
Black (non-Hispanic)	51.2	42.5	47.8	46.7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	4.0	4.3	4.6	3.5
White (non-Hispanic)	38.7	44.8	39.0	40.8
Two or more races	6.1	8.0	7.6	8.2
Unknown	0.0	0.2	0.6	0.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Virginia

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	97.8	97.9	97.0	97.6
Children with one or more recurrences	2.2	2.1	3.0	2.4
Number	3,507	2,659	2,938	3,078

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care

(NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.27	0.40	0.24
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.73	99.60	99.76
Number	N/A	9,503	9,639	10,438

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	19.6	19.5	21.3	19.1
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	53.8	52.5	53.8	50.0
Other	26.6	28.1	25.0	26.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.6
Number	2,307	2,459	2,772	3,417

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	21.4	24.8	28.5	26.6
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	39.3	31.8	32.2	23.4
Other	39.3	43.4	39.3	46.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1
Number	486	553	575	616

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.9
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reunification	43.6	43.2	49.3	45.1
Other	55.7	56.3	49.8	50.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7
Number	795	945	1,040	1,326

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	26.9	22.0	24.1	26.8
Children older than 12 at entry	73.1	78.0	75.8	73.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1
Number	510	587	586	770

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	33.3	16.7	75.0	33.3	25.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	21.6	19.8	23.7	20.3		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	66.7	66.7	25.0	0.0	37.5	100.0	40.0	50.0	50.1	48.3	49.3	43.4		
Other	0.0	16.7	0.0	66.7	37.5	0.0	60.0	25.0	28.2	31.9	27.0	32.5		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8		
Number	3	6	4	3	16	4	10	12	1,009	1,075	1,201	1,347		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.2	20.3	17.4	14.3	18.5	18.5	19.0	17.3		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	61.4	61.8	59.6	62.1	54.6	55.0	56.9	54.3		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.4	17.9	23.0	17.4	26.8	26.5	24.1	23.6		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8		
Number	0	1	0	0	145	123	178	224	1,036	1,143	1,268	1,641		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	10.0	8.3	9.1	25.0	17.9	29.5	29.0	31.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	90.0	58.3	81.8	60.0	69.2	52.6	57.0	45.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	0.0	33.3	9.1	10.0	12.8	17.9	14.0	15.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	20	12	11	20	78	95	100	170	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	67.4	72.0	69.3	68.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	21.8	19.3	19.8	23.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	6.5	5.7	6.2	4.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.7	1.4	1.8	1.8
48 or more mos.	1.5	1.5	2.2	1.5
Missing data	1.0	0.2	0.6	0.3
Number	1,241	1,290	1,490	1,710

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	91.0	90.3	91.3	88.8
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	5.1	5.3	4.6	4.4
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	2.2	2.9	2.6	4.7
Missing data	1.7	1.5	1.6	2.1
Number	3,274	3,351	3,418	3,518

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	2.0	3.1	2.2	3.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	17.2	15.0	18.0	19.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	24.5	28.2	28.6	29.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	21.6	21.7	20.0	20.9
48 or more mos.	34.7	31.9	31.0	27.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Number	453	479	590	652

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	85.7	85.6	84.8	85.7	63.7	62.3	59.2	61.3	52.3	47.2	42.0	39.3	84.0	83.3	73.7	88.5
Children with 3 or more placements	14.1	14.2	15.0	14.0	36.0	37.6	40.6	38.6	47.5	52.7	57.9	60.6	4.0	0.0	0.0	3.8
Number	3,549	3,718	3,771	3,985	1,909	1,971	2,058	2,343	3,930	3,808	3,791	4,084	25	6	19	26

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.7
Institutions	7.6	6.7	7.6	6.1
Other settings	91.2	92.2	91.5	92.9
Missing data	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3
Number	1,883	1,983	1,985	1,979

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	128.3
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	70.9	70.9
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	5.7	5.8
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	25.3	28.7
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	11.3	7.7

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	65.4
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	20.2	23.2
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	36.5	34.4
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	14.7	14.8
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	2.2	2.5
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	52.3	37.3

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	102.2
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	17.1	17.5
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	99.8	92.8
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	47.8	49.1

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	97.7
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	84.0	84.9
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	59.4	61.4
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	42.1	39.7

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Virginia

STATE COMMENT

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Virginia's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 2.4 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 6.6 percent.

In 2005, 0.24 percent of children in foster care in Virginia were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 0.42 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 69.1 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 50.0 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 46.0 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All three of these percentages are among the lowest in the nation for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 17.5 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 26.4 percent.

In 2005, 92.8 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is less than the national median of 95.7 percent.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 22.5 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" (which is one of the highest percentages in the nation) and 26.8 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage is less than the national median of 27.6 percent.

In 2005, 49.1 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 48.1 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (6.8 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 70.9 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 70.4 percent.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 28.7 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (13.4 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 7.7 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is less than the national median of 14.8 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (31.9 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 23.1 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 29.1 percent, but represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2002 (20.3 percent change).

In 2005, 14.8 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 20.9 percent.

Measure C2.5 indicates that 37.3 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is less than the national median of 45.1 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 84.9 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months but at least 8 days experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 39.3 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 32.3 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2002 (24.9 percent change).

In 2005, 6.8 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 7.2 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (20.9 percent change).

Washington

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	1,513,360	1,496,581	1,486,020	1,484,365
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Asian	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.6
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Hispanic (of any race)	12.5	12.9	13.4	13.9
White (non-Hispanic)	70.9	70.3	69.7	69.2
Two or more races	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4
Child population in poverty (%)	14.1	19.1	15.8	14.9

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	4,673	6,020	6,730	7,932
Children in foster care on 9/30	9,669	9,213	9,368	10,068
Children adopted	1,077	1,315	1,245	1,306

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	28,718	19.0 per 1,000	47,713	31.9 per 1,000	50,865	34.2 per 1,000	53,124	35.8 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	4,673	3.1 per 1,000	6,020	4.0 per 1,000	6,730	4.5 per 1,000	7,932	5.3 per 1,000
Child fatalities	15	1.0 per 100,000	9	0.6 per 100,000	7	0.5 per 100,000	9	0.6 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	14.1	13.6	13.8	15.4
1-5 years	34.4	34.5	36.1	34.5
6-10 years	27.5	25.7	25.2	26.3
11-15 years	19.8	21.1	19.7	19.0
16+ years	2.8	3.4	3.5	3.6
Unknown	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.1
Number	4,673	6,020	6,730	7,932

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	7.4	7.0	7.3	7.5
Asian	1.8	1.3	1.6	1.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	9.5	9.3	8.9	6.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.5	0.6	0.4
Hispanic (of any race)	11.7	14.3	15.7	15.4
White (non-Hispanic)	66.1	63.8	62.5	65.9
Two or more races	—	—	—	—
Unknown	3.6	3.8	3.3	3.5
Number	4,673	6,020	6,730	7,932

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	5.3	1.1	—	—
Medical neglect	3.5	0.7	—	—
Neglect	73.1	78.2	80.1	83.1
Physical abuse	21.3	19.8	18.9	16.5
Sexual abuse	6.9	7.6	6.9	6.0
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	0.3	0.1	—	—
Number	4,673	6,020	6,730	7,932

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	—	10.8	12.0	12.8
Median	—	<24	<24	<24

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	9,339	9,320	8,896	9,188	6,704	6,196	6,554	7,004	6,374	6,303	6,082	6,124	9,669	9,213	9,368	10,068
Median length of stay (months)	15.6	15.8	16.1	14.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.8	11.2	9.4	9.4	16.3	16.3	14.9	14.8

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	6.9	7.3	7.8	7.5	17.2	18.2	17.3	20.7	4.9	4.8	4.9	5.9	7.1	7.6	7.5	9.2
1 year	8.0	8.7	8.7	9.3	6.3	6.0	7.4	7.1	5.8	6.9	7.3	7.4	8.5	8.6	9.2	9.1
2 years	7.0	7.6	7.9	7.7	5.3	5.8	5.7	6.2	6.5	7.2	7.5	7.0	7.4	7.8	7.6	8.3
3 years	6.8	6.6	6.4	7.3	5.5	5.4	5.9	5.6	6.0	6.7	6.4	6.4	6.6	6.5	7.3	7.0
4 years	5.8	6.3	6.4	6.2	4.9	4.4	5.0	5.1	6.0	5.0	6.0	5.8	6.4	6.4	6.1	6.4
5 years	5.9	5.0	5.6	5.6	4.5	3.8	4.6	4.0	5.1	4.7	5.3	5.2	5.0	5.6	5.5	5.6
6 years	5.1	5.6	4.7	5.3	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.7	4.8	4.6	5.2	5.6	4.6	5.2	4.9
7 years	4.6	4.3	4.8	4.4	3.6	3.6	3.5	4.0	4.1	4.4	3.9	4.0	4.3	4.8	4.4	4.8
8 years	4.6	4.6	4.2	4.6	3.8	3.2	3.6	3.6	4.0	3.5	3.8	3.9	4.5	4.1	4.6	4.2
9 years	4.8	4.5	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.5	3.1	3.3	4.0	3.9	3.4	3.6	4.4	4.2	4.0	4.4
10 years	5.3	4.7	4.3	4.0	3.5	3.6	3.1	3.2	4.2	4.1	3.6	3.5	4.7	4.3	3.9	3.8
11 years	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.0	3.8	4.7	3.5	3.5	3.6	4.5	3.9	3.4	4.9	4.4	4.0	3.9
12 years	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.4	3.3	4.9	4.7	4.3	3.5	4.7	4.7	4.4	3.8
13 years	5.1	4.8	4.8	4.8	5.8	5.6	5.4	4.4	5.6	5.4	5.0	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.4
14 years	4.6	5.2	5.1	5.0	6.6	6.7	6.5	5.5	6.7	6.1	6.2	6.2	5.1	5.1	5.1	4.6
15 years	5.4	4.8	5.4	5.5	7.0	7.1	7.3	6.5	7.2	6.5	7.1	6.9	4.7	5.5	5.3	4.9
16 years	5.6	5.3	5.0	5.6	6.4	6.2	5.9	6.3	7.0	6.2	6.1	7.2	5.3	5.0	5.6	5.1
17 years	4.4	5.0	5.1	4.5	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.5	5.8	7.9	5.6	4.6	5.0	5.1	4.6	4.9
18 years	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	<.1	0.2	0.2	3.8	2.7	5.2	5.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.7
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	8.8	8.5	8.8	8.7	6.4	7.2	7.0	6.7	6.2	6.7	6.9	6.8	8.8	8.9	8.8	8.4
Asian	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.7	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.6	1.3	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	11.7	11.2	11.5	11.6	8.7	9.6	8.6	6.7	9.4	9.4	8.2	8.1	11.1	11.3	11.6	10.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5
Hispanic (of any race)	12.1	11.9	12.7	13.8	13.0	13.4	14.9	14.4	13.6	12.3	13.5	14.5	11.8	12.7	13.7	13.8
White (non-Hispanic)	58.6	59.8	58.2	55.6	61.8	59.3	57.0	59.0	60.4	61.5	60.9	59.2	59.7	58.3	55.6	55.8
Two or more races	6.8	6.7	6.7	7.7	5.9	6.3	7.6	8.1	6.1	6.1	6.5	7.0	6.7	6.8	7.5	8.5
Unknown	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.7	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.9
Missing data	<.1	0.1	0.4	0.5	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.9	1.0	0.8	1.1	1.2	0.1	0.4	0.6	1.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	2,639	2,366	2,317	2,167
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	2,007	1,829	1,871	1,810

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.4
1 year	9.1	9.9	9.0	7.8
2 years	10.5	9.1	9.5	9.7
3 years	7.9	8.2	8.5	8.9
4 years	8.2	7.9	6.9	7.5
5 years	6.4	7.4	7.1	6.6
6 years	6.8	5.5	6.5	5.7
7 years	4.9	5.7	4.7	6.0
8 years	5.8	4.7	5.6	4.2
9 years	5.4	5.1	4.9	5.0
10 years	5.2	4.9	4.7	4.6
11 years	5.6	4.7	4.6	4.1
12 years	4.5	4.8	4.5	4.8
13 years	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.6
14 years	4.3	4.6	4.1	4.7
15 years	3.1	4.2	4.7	4.5
16 years	2.6	3.3	4.1	4.7
17 years	2.5	2.6	3.2	4.2
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	6.7	6.3	5.6	5.6
Asian	0.6	0.6	0.4	1.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	15.2	13.5	13.2	13.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	12.1	12.9	13.7	14.4
White (non-Hispanic)	55.6	58.5	57.7	55.9
Two or more races	8.6	7.5	8.1	7.9
Unknown	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.9
Missing data	<.1	0.1	0.4	0.6

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	1,077	1,315	1,245	1,306

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.9	1.9	2.2	2.1
1 year	12.3	13.3	14.9	14.3
2 years	16.7	15.8	16.0	15.5
3 years	11.4	13.5	11.2	11.9
4 years	11.0	9.2	11.5	11.0
5 years	9.1	8.1	9.2	8.0
6 years	7.7	7.4	6.9	8.1
7 years	6.0	5.8	5.5	5.4
8 years	4.3	4.7	4.7	5.7
9 years	5.1	4.7	3.3	4.4
10 years	4.0	3.9	3.4	3.7
11 years	2.8	4.0	3.6	3.1
12 years	2.8	2.7	2.2	2.5
13 years	2.1	1.8	2.3	1.6
14 years	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.5
15 years	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.8
16 years	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3
17 years	0.5	0.7	0.5	<.1
18 years	0.3	<.1	0.0	0.0
19 years	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	5.5	5.1	4.1	5.2
Asian	1.1	0.9	0.6	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	11.3	9.3	7.4	8.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.4	0.5	<.1	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	14.2	11.1	12.5	14.4
White (non-Hispanic)	61.1	65.2	69.0	63.5
Two or more races	5.8	6.5	4.9	6.2
Unknown	0.6	1.4	1.4	1.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Washington

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	89.2	89.2	90.4	89.9
Children with one or more recurrences	10.8	10.8	9.6	10.1
Number	2,422	2,407	2,779	3,050

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.23	0.36	0.27
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.77	99.64	99.73
Number	N/A	15,516	15,450	16,192

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	15.4	19.4	18.6	19.3
Guardianship	7.8	8.4	6.5	5.6
Reunification	66.5	61.4	61.8	61.6
Other	7.6	7.7	7.9	7.5
Missing data	2.7	3.1	5.3	6.1
Number	6,374	6,303	6,082	6,124

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	16.7	11.5	15.7	19.3
Guardianship	14.8	19.2	8.6	21.1
Reunification	51.9	48.7	57.1	39.4
Other	16.7	14.1	15.7	15.6
Missing data	0.0	6.4	2.9	4.6
Number	54	78	70	109

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.3
Guardianship	4.1	4.2	3.6	3.0
Reunification	80.7	78.2	77.4	77.7
Other	13.9	15.3	16.4	16.4
Missing data	1.1	1.8	2.2	2.6
Number	1,930	1,806	1,764	1,787

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	26.3	25.7	28.6	25.6
Children older than 12 at entry	73.7	74.3	71.4	74.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	327	338	357	344

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/American Indian					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	13.2	14.7	10.5	14.4	8.7	14.6	9.6	10.9	19.9	18.5	17.3	19.8		
Guardianship	9.6	13.0	13.8	15.6	1.9	6.1	9.6	1.8	11.2	9.8	6.0	7.5		
Reunification	51.9	51.1	53.8	47.1	76.7	63.4	67.1	72.7	59.9	57.7	59.0	59.4		
Other	21.3	19.1	19.3	16.0	10.7	8.5	12.3	3.6	6.8	10.6	11.5	9.3		
Missing data	4.1	2.1	2.6	6.9	1.9	7.3	1.4	10.9	2.2	3.4	6.2	4.0		
Number	395	423	420	418	103	82	73	55	599	593	497	495		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	13.8	24.0	6.9	8.6	16.5	18.1	17.6	19.3	15.3	20.5	21.0	20.8		
Guardianship	10.3	8.0	6.9	2.9	8.1	9.8	5.4	3.3	7.2	7.6	6.0	4.9		
Reunification	75.9	64.0	58.6	80.0	65.0	62.9	64.0	63.9	68.6	62.0	61.1	61.8		
Other	0.0	4.0	10.3	0.0	6.9	6.8	6.6	5.7	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.8		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	17.2	8.6	3.5	2.3	6.5	7.9	2.3	3.4	5.4	5.7		
Number	29	25	29	35	866	774	819	891	3,849	3,879	3,703	3,627		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	3.5	13.2	11.1	10.6	15.2	21.2	13.9	16.9	1.6	6.0	10.8	9.6		
Guardianship	5.9	8.8	0.0	2.9	9.0	8.3	7.6	6.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4		
Reunification	81.2	73.6	87.7	76.9	62.8	62.4	66.3	61.0	96.7	88.0	80.0	80.8		
Other	5.9	3.3	1.2	6.7	8.8	5.2	8.4	7.7	0.0	4.0	3.1	6.8		
Missing data	3.5	1.1	0.0	2.9	4.1	2.8	3.8	8.2	1.6	2.0	6.2	1.4		
Number	85	91	81	104	387	386	395	426	61	50	65	73		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	76.3	75.1	76.4	75.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	14.6	14.7	13.0	14.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.8	6.7	6.8	5.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.8	2.2	2.4	2.3
48 or more mos.	1.4	1.4	1.4	2.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4,241	3,870	3,756	3,770

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	76.3	76.2	77.1	78.3
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	12.9	11.2	11.2	10.9
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	10.4	12.2	11.3	10.5
Missing data	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Number	6,704	6,196	6,554	7,004

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	2.2	2.2	2.9	2.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	22.3	22.5	26.8	28.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	34.9	35.5	36.2	33.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	20.1	22.8	18.5	19.5
48 or more mos.	20.4	17.0	15.6	15.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	980	1,221	1,130	1,183

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	84.2	85.3	84.7	85.5	58.2	59.1	60.8	59.1	32.6	31.6	32.1	33.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	92.9
Children with 3 or more placements	15.8	14.7	15.3	14.5	41.8	40.9	39.2	40.9	67.4	68.4	67.9	66.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1
Number	7,344	6,783	7,122	7,557	3,650	3,748	3,452	3,851	5,035	4,968	4,857	4,756	14	17	19	28

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	1.6	3.2	2.3	1.7
Institutions	1.4	0.8	0.9	0.6
Other settings	97.0	96.1	96.8	97.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	4,651	4,284	4,582	5,054

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	105.3
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	65.4	65.6
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	5.7	5.8
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	30.7	27.1
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	16.4	17.3

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	116.0
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	29.7	31.5
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	30.1	29.8
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	23.1	23.6
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	16.0	15.3
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	51.8	54.9

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	124.2
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	32.7	33.6
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	95.9	95.8
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	54.0	48.4

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	91.3
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	79.9	81.3
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	60.8	59.1
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	32.1	33.1

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Washington

STATE COMMENT

**Cheryl Stephani, Assistant Secretary
Children's Administration
Washington Department of Social and Health Services**

The following are Washington's comments on the State's data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress*.

Washington State's focus is on achieving safety for all children we serve and on securing stable permanent homes for children in out-of-home care in the shortest time possible. To ensure the safety of children returning home, a reunification assessment is used to evaluate their safety before returning home and transition and safety plans are used when children are reunified with their parents. These tools continue to reduce our re-entry rate. While our foster care re-entry rate continues to decline for all children exiting care, Washington is exceeding the national median for re-entry in 2004-2005 for children discharged as reunified. However, the preliminary data for the composite measure, timeliness and permanency of reunification, indicates we are above the national median in 2004 and continue to increase in 2005.

Our performance in completing adoptions within target timeframes continued to increase, from 24.5 percent in 2002 to 31.5 percent in 2005. Additionally, the 2005 percent exceeds the national median of 29.1 percent. The number of legally-free children waiting for a permanent home shows an ongoing decrease. Washington also shows improvement in composite three: achieving permanency for children in foster care for long periods. In an effort to improve practice and statewide consistency, new initiatives are underway to better engage families in order to prevent placement of children in out-of-home care, to safely reunite children with their parents, and to increase relative involvement.

Washington State continues to use a safety assessment and safety plan during investigations of abuse and neglect. We have reduced response times during investigations and focused our attention on children who remained in their own homes following the investigation and successfully reduced our maltreatment recurrence rate.

The Governor and legislature of Washington State are committed to management accountability and performance measurement. The Children's Administration tracks performance on safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes and uses outcome data in making decisions. While we support the federal effort to evaluate states' performance in comparison to federal standards, 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 comparability of the data. This work will assist the federal government and individual states toward efforts to improve child welfare services for all children and their families

Washington

FEDERAL COMMENT

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Washington's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 10.1 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 6.6 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (6.5 percent change), although there was a decline in performance from 2004 (5.2 percent change).

In 2005, 0.27 percent of children in foster care in Washington were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 0.42 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 86.5 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) were discharged to a permanent home. This is less than the national median of 87.8 percent. However, 79.8 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) and 81.0 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. These two percentages exceed the national medians for these measures (national medians for measures 3.2 and 3.3 are 79 percent and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 33.6 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent.

In 2005, 95.8 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 95.7 percent.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 5.6 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 25.6 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This percentage is less than the national median of 27.6 percent.

In 2005, 48.4 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 48.1 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (10.4 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 65.6 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 70.4 percent.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 27.1 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (11.7 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 17.3 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage exceeds the national median of 14.8 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (5.5 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 31.5 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 29.1 percent and represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2002 (28.6 percent change).

In 2005, 23.6 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent.

Measure C2.5 indicates that 54.9 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (6.0 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 81.3 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months but at least 8 days experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 33.1 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 32.3 percent.

In 2005, 2.3 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is among the lowest in the nation and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (23.3 percent change).

West Virginia

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	389,171	390,901	384,641	382,497
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
White (non-Hispanic)	93.2	93.1	93.1	93.1
Two or more races	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.7
Child population in poverty (%)	25.1	26.7	18.0	21.4

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	6,635	8,875	8,446	9,511
Children in foster care on 9/30	3,220	4,069	3,990	4,331
Children adopted	361	322	384	368

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	24,089	61.9 per 1,000	43,437	111.1 per 1,000	40,916	106.4 per 1,000	50,249	131.4 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	6,635	17.1 per 1,000	8,875	22.7 per 1,000	8,446	22.0 per 1,000	9,511	24.9 per 1,000
Child fatalities	29	7.5 per 100,000	30	7.7 per 100,000	12	3.1 per 100,000	16	4.2 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	6.9	7.4	7.3	8.2
1-5 years	29.8	29.6	29.6	31.2
6-10 years	27.1	26.8	27.2	27.0
11-15 years	24.3	25.6	24.6	23.5
16+ years	5.7	5.4	5.8	5.9
Unknown	6.4	5.2	5.5	4.2
Number	6,635	8,875	8,446	9,511

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	—	0.0	—	0.0
Asian	0.2	—	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.1	0.1	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	0.8	0.8	0.7	1.0
White (non-Hispanic)	83.5	82.9	82.6	83.1
Two or more races	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.7
Unknown	8.6	8.9	9.1	8.9
Number	6,635	8,875	8,446	9,511

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	19.2	21.0	20.9	22.8
Medical neglect	1.3	1.1	1.5	1.2
Neglect	54.9	53.7	54.7	54.9
Physical abuse	30.7	32.0	27.6	27.2
Sexual abuse	7.7	6.6	5.3	4.7
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	6.4	5.3	7.4	7.9
Number	6,635	8,875	8,446	9,511

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	232.8	266.0	281.5	474.7
Median	>168, but <192	>192, but <216	>192, but <216	>216, but <240

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	3,364	2,990	2,871	3,090	2,358	2,347	2,402	3,026	2,502	1,268	1,283	1,785	3,220	4,069	3,990	4,331
Median length of stay (months)	16.6	18.2	17.4	14.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.2	13.5	15.7	12.2	15.1	12.8	11.7	10.0

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.5	2.9	3.1	3.3	8.2	9.0	9.3	9.9	2.7	2.3	1.9	2.3	3.2	3.5	3.8	4.9
1 year	3.2	3.8	4.1	4.6	4.3	4.1	4.1	5.2	3.6	4.2	3.6	4.9	3.7	3.9	4.1	4.4
2 years	3.3	3.8	3.3	3.9	3.8	3.5	4.5	4.2	3.2	4.3	5.2	5.2	3.5	3.3	3.9	4.5
3 years	3.2	3.2	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.2	3.3	3.9	3.7	2.9	4.4	3.9	3.3	3.5	3.2	3.3
4 years	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.8	3.5	2.9	3.5	3.8	3.6	3.3	4.7	4.3	3.1	3.4	3.3	3.8
5 years	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2	2.8	3.3	3.7	3.3	2.8	3.7	3.6	3.3	3.1	3.0	3.3	3.7
6 years	3.1	3.4	3.2	3.5	3.7	2.4	3.0	3.3	3.3	2.8	3.7	2.5	3.3	3.0	3.3	3.5
7 years	2.8	3.1	2.8	3.1	2.5	2.0	2.2	2.6	2.9	3.5	2.5	3.5	3.2	2.7	2.8	3.2
8 years	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.1	2.4	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.1	3.2	2.6	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.9
9 years	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.2	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.7	2.7	3.2	2.9	2.9	3.5	3.0	2.9	2.9
10 years	3.7	3.2	3.7	3.3	2.7	3.1	2.6	3.1	2.8	1.7	3.0	2.5	3.0	3.2	2.9	3.0
11 years	3.9	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.4	3.7	3.7	2.7	3.4	2.0	3.5	2.2	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.3
12 years	5.2	4.6	5.1	4.2	4.4	4.7	3.7	4.6	2.7	3.4	3.0	3.1	4.5	4.7	3.9	4.0
13 years	6.7	6.5	5.9	6.2	7.3	8.0	6.8	5.8	4.4	4.3	3.6	3.4	6.6	5.7	5.8	5.2
14 years	9.5	9.1	8.6	7.1	10.5	10.6	9.0	9.2	6.9	8.0	5.3	4.9	9.3	8.4	7.2	8.2
15 years	12.2	11.6	10.4	11.3	13.7	12.4	13.1	12.3	11.1	9.5	7.2	8.9	11.6	10.5	11.1	10.0
16 years	11.5	12.6	12.4	12.6	11.6	12.2	12.9	11.8	12.4	9.0	9.7	12.4	12.8	12.9	13.0	12.2
17 years	10.6	9.3	11.2	10.5	7.0	8.9	7.8	7.8	13.6	15.5	14.0	13.0	9.9	13.2	12.3	10.9
18 years	3.3	3.9	3.1	3.4	1.0	0.8	1.3	0.9	8.2	9.5	11.1	10.3	3.7	3.9	4.7	4.1
19 years	1.7	1.0	1.5	1.7	0.4	<.1	0.2	0.1	2.1	2.6	2.3	2.4	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.3
20+ years	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	1.2	2.0	1.2	1.1	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.4
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.2	<.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1
Asian	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	7.9	6.9	7.6	7.9	6.2	6.9	6.6	7.1	7.3	7.9	6.8	6.6	7.1	6.6	7.3	7.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	<.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.0	1.2	1.6	1.6	0.7	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.7
White (non-Hispanic)	83.9	81.2	84.5	83.5	82.4	77.8	83.2	84.0	82.7	80.6	83.6	85.3	83.8	79.4	84.0	83.2
Two or more races	4.3	8.1	4.9	5.6	4.0	6.9	4.0	5.1	4.0	6.5	4.8	4.4	4.4	7.9	4.4	5.7
Unknown	2.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	5.4	1.4	1.1	0.6	4.2	0.6	0.6	0.6	3.4	1.2	1.0	0.7
Missing data	0.0	1.8	1.1	0.8	0.2	6.0	3.8	1.5	0.0	3.5	2.7	2.0	0.1	3.7	2.2	0.8

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	960	1,012	973	975
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	729	724	656	669

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.9	4.7	4.1	5.9
1 year	5.7	5.9	6.9	5.9
2 years	5.3	5.3	5.4	8.0
3 years	5.0	5.6	6.4	5.5
4 years	5.0	4.8	6.0	5.3
5 years	4.0	4.9	5.1	6.3
6 years	5.8	5.9	6.1	5.1
7 years	4.9	5.1	5.0	6.4
8 years	4.7	5.5	4.9	4.6
9 years	4.7	5.4	5.7	4.3
10 years	5.7	4.6	4.7	4.1
11 years	6.3	6.4	6.2	5.2
12 years	5.6	7.3	6.0	6.2
13 years	7.2	5.8	7.0	6.3
14 years	7.9	7.0	5.4	7.0
15 years	7.3	7.4	6.3	5.3
16 years	6.8	4.1	5.9	4.3
17 years	4.3	3.9	3.0	4.2
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	7.5	6.6	6.8	8.2
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	1.4	2.2	0.9	2.5
White (non-Hispanic)	84.1	79.3	85.3	80.7
Two or more races	5.8	9.7	5.7	7.9
Unknown	1.3	1.3	1.0	0.6
Missing data	0.0	0.9	0.3	0.1

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	361	322	384	368

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	0.6	0.3	0.8	0.8
1 year	6.6	10.9	6.8	9.8
2 years	7.2	11.5	12.0	10.9
3 years	10.8	6.5	9.6	8.2
4 years	10.5	9.0	8.9	9.8
5 years	7.5	7.8	8.1	8.7
6 years	6.9	8.1	8.6	6.5
7 years	7.5	8.4	6.3	6.3
8 years	4.7	4.0	7.6	7.1
9 years	7.5	4.7	6.0	4.3
10 years	7.5	3.1	5.7	5.4
11 years	6.4	4.0	5.7	4.6
12 years	4.7	4.7	3.6	5.2
13 years	2.8	4.7	3.9	2.2
14 years	3.9	5.6	2.9	2.2
15 years	2.5	3.4	2.1	2.7
16 years	0.6	2.2	1.0	2.2
17 years	1.9	1.2	0.3	2.4
18 years	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.8
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	6.1	9.3	6.0	7.9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	0.6	1.2	2.3	0.8
White (non-Hispanic)	84.8	81.4	83.6	84.8
Two or more races	8.3	7.5	7.3	6.3
Unknown	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

West Virginia

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	92.1	89.9	88.9	86.6
Children with one or more recurrences	7.9	10.1	11.1	13.4
Number	3,294	4,031	4,100	3,905

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	0.77	0.66	0.59
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.23	99.34	99.41
Number	N/A	5,337	5,273	6,116

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	10.4	22.5	28.0	21.2
Guardianship	0.6	2.1	3.8	2.8
Reunification	20.7	53.5	51.1	58.8
Other	8.1	12.1	13.8	13.2
Missing data	60.2	9.7	3.3	4.0
Number	2,502	1,268	1,283	1,785

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	—	37.4	43.7	28.9
Guardianship	—	1.9	2.4	2.3
Reunification	—	36.8	32.3	47.7
Other	—	13.6	18.2	17.6
Missing data	—	10.2	3.4	3.5
Number	—	361	412	568

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.8	1.6	0.9	1.3
Guardianship	0.4	1.6	1.8	2.0
Reunification	20.8	66.3	71.0	71.6
Other	12.6	17.3	20.9	20.1
Missing data	65.4	13.1	5.4	4.9
Number	1,295	624	556	849

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	19.2	30.7	38.8	28.5
Children older than 12 at entry	80.8	69.3	61.2	71.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	99	137	152	186

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.6	25.0	24.1	21.2
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.0	4.6	0.8
Reunification	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.8	52.0	52.9	69.5
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	9.3	13.0	17.2	6.8
Missing data	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	62.8	9.0	1.1	1.7
Number	1	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	183	100	87	118

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				Hispanic (of any race)				White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	22.2	52.9	16.7	10.8	23.1	27.9	21.2
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	2.5	4.1	3.2
Reunification	33.3	50.0	100.0	0.0	22.5	44.4	23.5	61.1	20.5	52.6	50.6	57.7
Other	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	7.5	11.1	23.5	16.7	8.3	12.2	14.0	13.7
Missing data	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	65.0	22.2	0.0	5.6	59.7	9.5	3.4	4.2
Number	3	2	1	0	40	9	17	18	2,068	1,022	1,073	1,522

	Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	1.0	25.0	37.5	9.1	21.2	24.4	43.5	34.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0
Reunification	25.7	50.0	50.0	72.7	18.2	54.9	46.8	50.6	0.0	79.5	82.9	80.6
Other	6.7	12.5	12.5	0.0	4.0	11.0	6.5	10.1	0.0	6.8	8.6	19.4
Missing data	66.7	12.5	0.0	9.1	56.6	9.8	3.2	5.1	0.0	13.6	5.7	0.0
Number	105	8	8	11	99	82	62	79	0	44	35	36

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	74.3	72.9	74.2	71.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	16.2	16.6	17.5	20.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.8	7.2	4.3	4.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.9	1.8	1.8	1.4
48 or more mos.	0.8	1.5	2.0	1.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4
Number	518	679	656	1,049

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	86.6	84.2	81.8	81.3
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	8.4	7.2	8.8	7.4
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	3.5	3.3	4.2	4.7
Missing data	1.4	5.3	5.2	6.6
Number	2,358	2,347	2,402	3,026

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	2.3	2.5	1.1	2.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	26.5	26.3	24.8	30.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	35.4	36.5	34.3	31.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	20.0	16.8	24.8	19.0
48 or more mos.	15.8	17.9	15.0	16.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	260	285	359	379

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	82.3	84.0	86.2	87.5	53.0	57.2	60.3	64.0	38.3	33.8	28.8	32.6	100.0	100.0	92.9	66.7
Children with 3 or more placements	17.7	15.9	13.8	11.9	47.0	42.8	39.7	36.0	61.7	66.2	71.2	67.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	2,795	2,536	2,574	3,285	1,102	1,041	1,048	1,218	1,815	1,751	1,637	1,601	10	9	14	12

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	8.8	7.8	5.9	6.2
Institutions	1.3	1.0	0.7	1.2
Other settings	89.9	87.9	92.3	91.5
Missing data	0.0	3.3	1.0	1.0
Number	1,072	1,019	1,069	1,372

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	96.0
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	73.4	71.1
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	6.8	7.4
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	20.7	23.4
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	16.1	20.3

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	82.9
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	25.9	32.9
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	31.4	30.4
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	20.2	22.2
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	4.1	6.1
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	20.8	16.4

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	120.5
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	23.6	25.4
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	92.6	93.0
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	40.5	38.5

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	97.2
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	85.4	87.3
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	59.9	63.8
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	28.7	32.5

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

West Virginia

STATE COMMENT

No comment submitted.

West Virginia

FEDERAL COMMENT

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

West Virginia's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 13.4 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 6.6 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (69.6 percent change).

In 2005, 0.59 percent of children in foster care in West Virginia were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 0.42 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2003 (23.4 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 82.8 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1) and 78.9 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2) were discharged to a permanent home. These percentages are less than the national medians for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1 and 3.2 87.8 percent and 79 percent, respectively). However, 74.9 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home, which exceeds the national median of 73.1 percent for this measure.

In 2005, 25.4 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 26.4 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (7.6 percent change).

In 2005, 93.0 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage is less than the national median of 95.7 percent.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 10.4 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 28.5 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (26.5 percent change). Comparisons with earlier years (i.e., 2002 or 2003) are not meaningful because of missing data regarding discharge reasons.

In 2005, 38.5 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 48.1 percent.

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 71.1 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is slightly higher than the national median of 70.4 percent.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 23.4 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage is less than the national median of 38.7 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (13.0 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 20.3 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage exceeds the national median of 14.8 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (26.1 percent change). Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of a State's rate of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 33.0 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 29.1 percent and represents an improvement in performance on this measure from 2002 (14.6 percent change).

In 2005, 22.2 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage exceeds the national median of 20.9 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (9.9 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 16.4 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage is the lowest in the nation and represents a decline in performance from 2004 (21.2 percent change).

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 87.3 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months but at least 8 days experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 32.6 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 32.3 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (14.9 percent change).

In 2005, 7.4 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 7.2 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (26.7 percent change).

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	1,338,064	1,332,894	1,307,986	1,295,995
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Asian	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8
Black (non-Hispanic)	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	6.0	6.3	6.5	6.8
White (non-Hispanic)	79.7	79.3	78.9	78.6
Two or more races	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.1

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child population in poverty (%)	12.1	15.4	18.0	13.6
Child Welfare Summary				
	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	11,628	10,174	9,325	9,686
Children in foster care on 9/30	8,744	7,824	7,812	8,109
Children adopted	1,028	1,187	1,152	910

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	42,087	31.5 per 1,000	41,377	31.0 per 1,000	40,205	30.7 per 1,000	41,430	32.0 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	11,628	8.7 per 1,000	10,174	7.6 per 1,000	9,325	7.1 per 1,000	9,686	7.5 per 1,000
Child fatalities	14	1.1 per 100,000	12	0.9 per 100,000	11	0.8 per 100,000	13	1.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	6.1	6.2	6.5	7.7
1-5 years	22.7	23.0	22.8	25.9
6-10 years	25.1	24.1	22.4	24.1
11-15 years	37.7	37.6	37.5	32.1
16+ years	7.9	8.3	9.5	9.1
Unknown	0.6	0.7	1.2	1.1
Number	11,628	10,174	9,325	9,686

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	3.3	3.1	2.5	3.5
Asian	1.8	1.3	1.4	1.1
Black (non-Hispanic)	18.9	21.0	21.3	22.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	—	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	4.5	3.2	4.3	7.1
White (non-Hispanic)	67.6	65.0	58.7	53.5
Two or more races	—	—	—	—
Unknown	4.0	6.3	11.7	11.9
Number	11,628	10,174	9,325	9,686

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.3
Medical neglect	0.7	0.7	0.6	—
Neglect	26.3	25.0	28.2	28.4
Physical abuse	14.5	13.8	14.0	12.7
Sexual abuse	42.2	41.4	43.3	37.8
Unknown	—	—	—	—
Other	21.8	23.1	17.4	25.0
Number	11,628	10,174	9,325	9,686

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	—	—	—	97.5
Median	—	—	—	>24, but <48

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	7,795	7,641	7,183	7,444	5,054	5,010	5,643	6,099	5,186	5,832	5,682	5,754	8,744	7,824	7,812	8,109
Median length of stay (months)	22.5	23.5	19.5	15.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.3	9.5	9.4	7.4	21.3	18.3	13.5	14.1

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	3.1	3.3	4.0	4.0	9.6	10.8	10.5	10.6	2.9	3.0	3.5	3.8	3.1	3.9	4.3	4.2
1 year	3.8	4.4	4.6	5.1	4.8	5.0	5.5	5.1	4.9	4.6	4.0	4.8	4.1	4.3	5.1	5.3
2 years	4.8	4.3	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.2	4.8	5.1	4.9	4.4	4.9	4.0	4.6	5.0	4.8
3 years	5.1	4.8	3.9	4.6	4.1	3.9	4.7	4.3	5.4	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.5	3.9	4.5	4.8
4 years	4.3	4.8	4.6	3.7	3.8	4.5	4.1	3.7	4.7	5.2	4.6	3.7	4.7	4.8	3.8	4.1
5 years	4.4	4.3	4.7	4.2	3.3	3.7	3.8	3.0	4.5	4.2	4.4	3.5	4.1	4.7	4.2	3.8
6 years	4.8	4.2	4.2	4.2	3.0	3.6	3.5	3.5	4.5	3.9	4.3	3.7	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.9
7 years	5.1	4.5	4.1	4.3	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.8	4.0	3.3	3.7	4.3	4.1	4.2	3.9
8 years	5.5	5.1	4.2	3.7	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.2	4.6	4.3	3.9	3.4	4.8	4.2	3.5	3.9
9 years	5.7	5.1	4.7	4.3	3.8	3.5	3.3	2.7	4.2	4.1	3.4	2.9	5.0	4.8	4.1	3.5
10 years	5.8	5.6	4.9	4.6	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.2	4.3	4.0	3.9	3.6	5.3	4.9	4.3	4.0
11 years	6.0	5.9	5.5	4.7	4.4	3.6	3.7	3.3	4.0	4.5	4.4	3.4	5.6	5.3	4.5	4.2
12 years	6.7	5.9	5.9	5.5	4.7	5.1	5.3	4.0	4.4	4.9	5.1	3.6	6.1	5.7	5.5	5.0
13 years	6.5	7.1	6.7	6.5	7.2	7.6	6.6	6.7	4.0	5.2	5.0	5.9	7.5	6.7	6.7	5.8
14 years	6.9	7.6	8.1	7.7	9.6	8.5	9.9	9.2	6.0	6.4	7.5	7.3	7.9	8.2	7.6	7.7
15 years	7.7	7.8	9.0	9.9	11.3	11.4	10.6	12.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	10.4	8.3	9.1	10.0	9.6
16 years	7.5	8.3	8.0	9.6	11.1	9.9	10.8	12.9	10.3	9.5	10.7	12.1	8.6	8.3	10.1	11.0
17 years	5.3	5.7	6.7	7.1	4.4	4.0	3.3	3.8	9.0	9.6	7.9	8.9	6.1	6.8	7.1	8.5
18 years	0.8	1.0	1.3	1.6	<.1	0.3	0.3	<.1	4.1	4.1	5.9	5.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.7
19 years	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.5	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.3
20+ years	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Missing data	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.2	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	2.1	1.8	2.2	2.8	3.2	3.9	3.7	4.0	3.2	2.8	2.9	2.7	1.8	2.4	2.8	3.8
Asian	0.9	1.2	1.0	1.0	2.2	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.9	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	53.6	50.1	44.4	41.6	26.5	25.3	28.4	27.4	29.9	33.7	33.1	30.7	49.3	44.0	40.1	38.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	7.3	7.6	7.7	7.3	7.7	8.0	8.2	7.6	7.3	7.5	7.4	7.9	7.6	7.6	8.1	7.3
White (non-Hispanic)	32.9	35.2	39.7	42.1	56.4	55.8	51.3	53.5	53.4	49.4	48.9	52.0	36.5	40.1	42.4	43.9
Two or more races	3.0	3.5	3.9	4.3	2.8	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.4	3.2	3.7	3.9	4.4
Unknown	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.5	1.0	2.0	1.7	0.4	0.6	1.2	1.3	0.2	0.7	1.3	1.2
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.4	<.1	0.6	0.7	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.3

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	1,667	1,707	1,341	1,280
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	384	611	571	666

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	2.5	3.3	4.0	3.2
1 year	3.4	4.7	6.6	6.3
2 years	3.8	5.9	7.3	6.8
3 years	6.6	5.9	6.4	6.3
4 years	6.1	6.7	4.5	7.1
5 years	5.9	7.3	6.3	4.8
6 years	5.9	6.1	6.4	6.4
7 years	6.2	6.6	6.0	5.6
8 years	7.2	6.1	5.1	5.4
9 years	8.3	6.9	6.2	5.2
10 years	8.0	7.4	6.4	6.2
11 years	8.0	7.4	6.6	6.7
12 years	7.9	7.8	7.2	6.6
13 years	6.7	5.8	7.2	5.5
14 years	5.0	4.6	4.6	5.8
15 years	3.8	4.1	4.5	5.2
16 years	2.4	2.3	3.4	4.0
17 years	2.2	1.2	1.3	2.7
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.5	1.6	1.6	2.5
Asian	<.1	0.9	0.7	1.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	67.5	59.4	52.1	47.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	8.6	9.5	9.7	9.8
White (non-Hispanic)	18.4	23.9	30.1	33.1
Two or more races	3.7	4.4	5.0	5.9
Unknown	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.2
Missing data	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	1,028	1,187	1,152	910

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	6.3	5.4	2.7	5.1
1 year	7.2	7.8	7.6	8.9
2 years	9.0	7.4	7.6	10.5
3 years	8.6	7.5	7.9	8.2
4 years	8.2	9.6	8.2	6.5
5 years	7.9	6.0	6.9	5.3
6 years	7.4	6.8	7.9	6.5
7 years	7.4	6.7	6.3	8.1
8 years	7.4	6.8	6.0	5.8
9 years	6.5	7.8	6.1	4.6
10 years	6.6	5.7	6.0	4.9
11 years	4.7	5.2	6.6	4.9
12 years	3.8	5.1	5.7	4.5
13 years	2.3	4.1	4.7	6.5
14 years	2.9	3.1	3.8	3.3
15 years	1.3	3.0	3.0	2.5
16 years	1.1	1.3	2.2	2.4
17 years	1.2	0.3	0.9	1.3
18 years	0.3	0.2	<.1	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.8	2.2	2.2	1.2
Asian	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.7
Black (non-Hispanic)	40.2	43.7	51.2	44.9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	7.6	8.0	8.0	10.4
White (non-Hispanic)	44.5	39.9	33.2	37.0
Two or more races	5.7	5.9	4.6	4.9
Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Wisconsin

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	92.6
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	7.4
Number	—	—	—	4,263

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care

(NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	—	—	0.54
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	—	—	99.46
Number	N/A	—	—	13,543

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	20.6	22.1	21.8	15.2
Guardianship	1.1	5.6	6.1	5.5
Reunification	62.3	58.0	60.6	68.3
Other	15.4	11.4	11.4	11.0
Missing data	0.5	2.9	0.2	0.0
Number	5,186	5,832	5,682	5,754

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	25.6	41.9	40.7	36.9
Guardianship	0.2	1.7	2.4	2.9
Reunification	54.5	39.6	41.8	45.9
Other	19.7	14.7	14.8	14.3
Missing data	0.0	2.1	0.3	0.0
Number	1,019	1,304	973	918

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.8	1.2	1.3	0.8
Guardianship	0.4	1.1	1.7	2.4
Reunification	68.5	70.2	75.5	77.8
Other	30.0	22.6	21.3	18.9
Missing data	0.4	5.0	0.3	0.0
Number	1,698	1,796	1,836	2,265

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	18.9	18.1	27.4	29.9
Children older than 12 at entry	65.3	71.0	59.4	63.9
Missing data	15.9	10.9	13.3	6.2
Number	334	238	475	438

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	6.0	15.2	10.8	4.4	2.4	4.5	9.8	5.4	26.3	26.9	32.2	23.0		
Guardianship	0.0	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.4	2.7	10.9	8.7	8.1		
Reunification	69.0	61.0	69.3	80.4	85.7	71.4	79.3	83.8	57.4	50.3	47.3	56.0		
Other	24.4	19.5	13.9	13.3	11.9	19.6	10.9	5.4	13.3	8.0	11.7	12.9		
Missing data	0.6	2.4	4.2	0.0	0.0	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.2	3.9	0.0	0.0		
Number	168	164	166	158	84	112	92	74	1,551	1,966	1,881	1,766		
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	20.5	24.1	26.5	17.5	18.1	18.8	15.0	10.8		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	9.8	10.0	8.1	0.3	1.5	4.2	3.6		
Reunification	0.0	100.0	66.7	100.0	65.1	57.4	53.3	67.0	64.4	63.5	68.9	74.9		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.6	7.5	10.2	7.4	17.0	13.6	11.7	10.7		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	2.6	<.1	0.0		
Number	0	2	3	5	381	439	422	457	2,767	2,879	2,779	2,990		
	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	2.9	6.0	6.9	35.1	37.3	34.0	25.1	3.7	12.5	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	5.0	11.8	4.5	4.2	1.6	7.3	7.4	9.2	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0		
Reunification	85.0	82.4	79.1	83.3	42.6	41.8	54.0	53.8	96.3	87.5	89.5	100.0		
Other	10.0	0.0	10.4	5.6	11.7	11.8	4.7	11.8	0.0	0.0	8.8	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0	9.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	20	34	67	72	188	220	215	195	27	16	57	37		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	66.5	66.4	70.6	74.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.4	13.1	12.2	12.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.3	4.7	3.4	3.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.4	3.0	1.5	1.4
48 or more mos.	2.6	5.2	3.7	2.7
Missing data	9.8	7.5	8.7	5.5
Number	3,233	3,383	3,441	3,931

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	68.4	70.7	71.9	69.4
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	22.2	21.1	19.2	22.5
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	6.2	5.0	4.2	6.7
Missing data	3.2	3.3	4.7	1.4
Number	5,054	5,010	5,643	6,099

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	3.5	6.2	7.9	8.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	6.8	7.6	13.7	20.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	10.5	9.6	16.0	23.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	6.4	10.2	10.3	13.1
48 or more mos.	11.0	17.0	31.5	28.9
Missing data	61.9	49.5	20.5	6.3
Number	1,067	1,290	1,241	875

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	92.3	92.6	90.5	88.9	73.9	72.4	71.0	65.4	64.6	52.1	47.7	39.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	7.7	7.4	9.5	11.1	26.1	27.6	29.0	34.6	35.4	47.9	52.3	60.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	5,741	5,743	6,364	6,851	2,051	2,131	2,277	2,729	5,026	4,752	4,166	3,937	31	25	19	26

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	7.3	6.7	4.2	2.7
Institutions	3.5	3.0	2.6	3.5
Other settings	87.8	89.6	93.2	93.8
Missing data	1.4	0.8	0.0	0.0
Number	2,796	2,862	3,226	3,297

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	94.9
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	71.6	72.6
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	5.8	5.6
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	—	—
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	—	—

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	117.2
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	26.8	29.7
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	38.5	33.6
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	21.8	19.7
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	10.9	10.0
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	—	—

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	119.8
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	30.3	26.4
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	97.5	98.6
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	53.5	45.7

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	101.9
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	89.2	87.0
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	71.0	65.3
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	47.6	39.9

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Wisconsin

STATE COMMENT

**William R. Fiss, Interim Administrator
Division of Children and Family Services
Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services**

The following are Wisconsin's comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002-2005: Report to Congress*.

The Wisconsin child welfare program is county-operated, except for the special needs adoption program and child welfare services in Milwaukee County, which are operated by the state Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

For Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2005, Wisconsin submitted NCANDS data via the Child and Agency File formats. For previous FFY periods, alternative methodologies were used to estimate performance on the Maltreatment Recurrence and Maltreatment in Foster Care Outcomes. These methodologies included using county survey approach and, more recently using state-generated data from the Wisconsin Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (eWiSACWIS). Both of these alternate approaches were reviewed and approved by the federal Children's Bureau for use in the Child and Family Services Review process. The Wisconsin results on these measures for the last several calendar year (CY) periods are as follows:

Safety Outcome Measures	WI Data 2002 (Percent)	WI Data 2003 (Percent)	WI Data 2004 (Percent)	WI Data 2005 (Percent)
Safety Outcome 1 – Recurrence of Maltreatment	6.04	7.13	5.25	5.27
Safety Outcome 2 – Maltreatment in Foster Care	0.26	0.30	0.57	0.47

The foster care population served in Wisconsin includes children who are placed in out-of-home care for child protection, juvenile justice or voluntary reasons. The juvenile justice population has a significant impact on foster care performance measures, including the re-entry rate.

Current data quality initiatives to improve placement data include the following:

- Providing technical assistance to child welfare agencies to support more accurate NCANDS and AFCARS reporting;
- Identifying errors in placement documentation that are improperly inflating the re-entry rate;
- Improving accurate and timely data entry of basic demographic and client characteristic information to better understand the needs and concerns of children and families served in the child welfare system;
- Correcting placement data incompletely converted to eWiSACWIS to accurately track placement history and to better meet AFCARS reporting requirements, and;
- Initiating development of an eWiSACWIS data warehouse to increase reporting capacity.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Wisconsin's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 7.4 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 6.6 percent. Wisconsin did not provide data for this measure for the years prior to 2005.

In 2005, 0.54 percent of children in foster care in Wisconsin were found to be victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members (measure 2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 0.42 percent. Wisconsin did not provide data for this measure for the years prior to 2005.

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 89.0 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 85.7 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 81.0 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All percentages exceed the national medians for these measures (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 26.4 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage is equal to the national median, but represents a decline in performance from 2004 (12.9 percent change).

In 2005, 98.6 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2). This percentage exceeds the national median of 95.7 percent.

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 7.6 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 29.9 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This latter percentage exceeds the national median of 27.6 percent and represents a decline in performance from 2002 (58.2 percent change).

In 2005, 45.7 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 48.1 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (14.6 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 72.6 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 70.4 percent.

Data are not available for Wisconsin for measures C1.3 and C1.4 because the State does not provide encrypted identifiers that permit tracking children across years.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 28.0 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 29.1 percent. Comparisons cannot be made across years because of missing data in the years prior to 2005.

In 2005, 19.7 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 20.9 percent.

Data are not available for measure C2.5 because Wisconsin does not provide encrypted identifiers that permit tracking children across years.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 87.0 percent of the children in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 39.9 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 32.3 percent.

In 2005, 6.2 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 7.2 percent and represents improvement in performance from 2002 (42.6 percent change).

Wyoming

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children under 18 years	122,344	121,073	116,932	114,321
Race/ethnicity (%)²				
Alaska Native/American Indian	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.3
Asian	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Black (non-Hispanic)	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	9.1	9.2	9.5	9.5
White (non-Hispanic)	84.6	84.4	84.1	84.0
Two or more races	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9
Child population in poverty (%)	10.7	13.1	13.0	13.7

Child Welfare Summary

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Child maltreatment victims ³	692	786	678	853
Children in foster care on 9/30	929	1,055	1,209	1,263
Children adopted	52	56	56	61

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁴

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	4,355	35.6 per 1,000	4,529	37.4 per 1,000	3,734	31.9 per 1,000	3,936	34.4 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁵	692	5.7 per 1,000	786	6.5 per 1,000	678	5.8 per 1,000	853	7.5 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	2.5 per 100,000	8	6.6 per 100,000	4	3.4 per 100,000	2	1.8 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	9.7	9.7	10.9	14.9
1-5 years	37.3	35.1	34.1	40.4
6-10 years	25.4	27.2	26.3	25.0
11-15 years	22.8	24.4	25.4	16.3
16+ years	4.8	3.6	3.2	3.4
Unknown	—	—	0.1	—
Number	692	786	678	853

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	3.0	1.9	1.3	1.3
Asian	0.3	0.3	—	—
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.5	2.8	2.2	1.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic (of any race)	5.9	7.8	9.9	8.6
White (non-Hispanic)	81.8	78.1	77.7	76.8
Two or more races	0.1	1.0	0.9	0.1
Unknown	6.4	8.1	8.0	11.6
Number	692	786	678	853

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁶

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Emotional abuse	0.7	10.3	15.9	13.2
Medical neglect	2.9	1.1	2.5	1.6
Neglect	60.7	65.0	62.8	71.0
Physical abuse	30.8	14.8	8.3	7.0
Sexual abuse	12.3	11.3	10.6	7.4
Unknown	—	—	—	0.1
Other	—	5.6	4.7	5.9
Number	692	786	678	853

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Mean	6.6	22.8	21.6	23.9
Median	<24	<24	<24	<24

¹ A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau (in Section A. Context Statistics) and the 2002 data only from NCANDS (in Section B. Child Maltreatment Data). All other data on this page are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² Race/ethnicity data represent population estimates from the Census Bureau. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).

³ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

⁴ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

⁵ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁶ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

(Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System [AFCARS] Foster Care File)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number	847	875	951	1,088	809	979	1,143	1,186	727	799	885	1,011	929	1,055	1,209	1,263
Median length of stay (months)	10.4	11.4	10.5	10.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.2	7.2	5.9	7.1	11.8	10.5	10.0	9.1

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.3	2.4	1.8	4.0	6.4	5.7	7.3	9.7	2.6	2.1	2.4	4.9	2.3	1.7	3.6	4.0
1 year	2.6	3.5	4.0	4.2	4.7	3.6	4.7	7.4	3.9	4.5	4.0	5.8	3.3	4.1	4.0	5.5
2 years	2.8	3.3	3.7	4.0	4.4	4.7	3.8	5.3	4.0	4.3	5.2	5.7	3.1	3.7	3.9	5.1
3 years	3.0	3.8	3.5	3.9	4.7	4.1	4.1	4.6	4.1	4.0	3.6	4.0	3.6	3.4	3.5	4.6
4 years	3.3	3.7	3.5	3.9	3.3	3.3	3.8	4.6	3.4	3.5	3.7	4.5	3.4	3.5	3.5	4.0
5 years	2.8	2.7	4.2	4.6	3.7	4.4	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.4	2.6	3.9	4.1	3.7
6 years	2.0	2.2	2.7	3.8	2.5	2.7	3.5	3.8	2.9	3.3	3.3	3.6	1.9	2.5	3.5	4.1
7 years	3.8	2.3	2.5	3.1	2.3	2.2	3.3	4.0	3.2	2.1	3.8	3.4	2.3	2.3	2.9	4.3
8 years	2.7	3.3	2.4	2.6	3.0	2.2	2.2	2.4	3.0	1.8	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.5	2.4	2.9
9 years	3.2	3.3	3.6	2.2	2.3	2.3	3.1	2.1	1.7	3.3	3.3	2.1	3.1	3.2	2.1	2.9
10 years	3.4	3.4	3.2	2.9	2.7	3.6	1.9	2.1	3.0	2.3	2.3	2.6	3.3	2.9	2.7	2.1
11 years	4.7	4.0	5.0	3.7	4.2	4.9	3.1	2.4	3.4	3.5	3.2	2.5	3.9	4.7	3.2	2.5
12 years	6.1	4.5	4.9	4.3	4.0	5.0	4.0	3.6	3.9	3.8	3.8	2.9	4.2	4.6	4.3	4.1
13 years	5.8	7.5	6.4	6.1	6.3	8.7	7.3	5.7	4.5	5.4	4.9	4.5	7.4	6.2	6.0	4.4
14 years	8.1	7.3	10.8	7.3	9.8	10.8	9.0	9.5	6.2	8.3	8.1	5.2	7.4	10.2	7.7	8.7
15 years	11.0	10.5	9.5	12.0	11.6	11.2	14.9	11.6	9.4	8.6	10.1	10.0	10.5	9.6	12.8	11.8
16 years	17.5	12.9	13.0	12.4	15.5	13.1	12.8	10.4	12.7	12.0	11.8	10.6	13.8	13.6	12.9	11.5
17 years	11.9	14.9	10.5	10.5	8.0	7.4	6.7	6.4	15.7	13.1	11.6	11.0	15.3	11.8	11.2	9.3
18 years	3.3	3.2	3.8	2.8	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.3	7.3	9.4	7.2	8.1	4.1	4.5	4.1	3.0
19 years	0.1	0.9	0.5	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.6	1.2	0.7
20+ years	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.3
Missing data	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1 FY				Entered Foster Care in FY				Exited Foster Care in FY				In Foster Care on 9/30 FY			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/ American Indian	1.4	1.7	2.0	0.8	2.3	2.0	2.4	2.2	1.9	1.9	4.0	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.0	1.1
Asian	0.4	0.3	0.3	<.1	0.1	0.4	<.1	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.3	<.1	0.3	0.3	<.1	0.2
Black (non-Hispanic)	2.5	3.2	3.8	3.1	2.2	2.6	2.3	3.1	1.2	1.9	2.5	1.6	3.2	3.6	3.3	4.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	<.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Hispanic (of any race)	7.6	7.4	7.3	9.3	8.0	8.3	10.7	10.8	8.1	8.3	8.5	10.3	7.5	7.6	9.6	9.9
White (non-Hispanic)	86.0	84.0	82.0	82.2	81.6	80.3	76.8	74.2	84.0	82.0	76.4	79.8	83.6	82.1	81.2	76.6
Two or more races	0.6	0.5	1.1	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.9	0.9	0.8
Unknown	1.7	2.9	3.6	3.6	5.2	5.4	7.3	9.0	3.9	5.0	7.9	5.8	3.0	3.6	3.9	6.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

D. Characteristics of Children "Waiting for Adoption"⁷ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total waiting children	101	90	71	74
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	53	59	50	47

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	4.0	1.1	2.8	0.0
1 year	2.0	3.3	5.6	5.4
2 years	3.0	0.0	5.6	4.1
3 years	5.0	5.6	1.4	2.7
4 years	7.9	6.7	5.6	5.4
5 years	6.9	6.7	7.0	5.4
6 years	5.9	3.3	1.4	8.1
7 years	3.0	3.3	4.2	8.1
8 years	5.9	4.4	2.8	6.8
9 years	5.0	7.8	2.8	6.8
10 years	6.9	6.7	5.6	2.7
11 years	10.9	8.9	5.6	4.1
12 years	6.9	11.1	9.9	6.8
13 years	6.9	6.7	9.9	8.1
14 years	7.9	8.9	8.5	8.1
15 years	6.9	4.4	11.3	5.4
16 years	1.0	10.0	4.2	6.8
17 years	4.0	1.1	5.6	5.4
18 years	—	—	—	—
19 years	—	—	—	—
20+ years	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.0	3.3	5.6	8.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	6.9	7.8	7.0	1.4
White (non-Hispanic)	89.1	86.7	81.7	87.8
Two or more races	0.0	1.1	2.8	1.4
Unknown	0.0	1.1	2.8	1.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total children adopted	52	56	56	61

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Under 1 year	1.9	0.0	3.6	6.6
1 year	17.3	10.7	8.9	4.9
2 years	11.5	8.9	5.4	8.2
3 years	3.8	3.6	7.1	11.5
4 years	3.8	14.3	3.6	6.6
5 years	7.7	14.3	3.6	13.1
6 years	9.6	8.9	8.9	6.6
7 years	7.7	3.6	1.8	6.6
8 years	5.8	3.6	8.9	1.6
9 years	5.8	7.1	5.4	4.9
10 years	7.7	3.6	7.1	4.9
11 years	7.7	3.6	10.7	3.3
12 years	1.9	3.6	5.4	3.3
13 years	1.9	3.6	1.8	4.9
14 years	1.9	3.6	7.1	1.6
15 years	1.9	5.4	5.4	6.6
16 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
17 years	0.0	1.8	5.4	4.9
18 years	1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black (non-Hispanic)	5.8	5.4	5.4	3.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	11.5	1.8	7.1	14.8
White (non-Hispanic)	80.8	85.7	83.9	78.7
Two or more races	1.9	0.0	1.8	1.6
Unknown	0.0	7.1	0.0	1.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

⁷ There is no Federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here. Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in the *Child Welfare Outcomes* reports. Only children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table.

Wyoming

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children without a recurrence	91.9	94.4	96.9	95.5
Children with one or more recurrences	8.1	5.6	3.1	4.5
Number	332	355	325	421

2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS Foster Care File⁸)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children maltreated while in foster care	N/A	<.1	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	N/A	99.95	—	—
Number	N/A	1,854	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Foster Care File)

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	6.7	7.1	7.2	6.2
Guardianship	4.0	3.8	4.4	6.7
Reunification	74.7	76.1	81.0	78.8
Other	10.9	9.1	5.4	6.2
Missing data	3.7	3.9	1.9	2.0
Number	727	799	885	1,011

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	11.1	22.1	17.1	9.7
Guardianship	5.9	4.1	5.5	8.5
Reunification	62.2	59.0	66.4	69.7
Other	17.8	9.8	7.5	8.5
Missing data	3.0	4.9	3.4	3.6
Number	135	122	146	165

3.3 Exits of Children Older Than Age 12 at Entry Into Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.5	0.2	1.1	0.4
Guardianship	1.9	2.4	2.0	3.9
Reunification	73.4	76.9	84.8	82.2
Other	18.8	15.4	9.9	12.4
Missing data	5.4	5.1	2.2	1.1
Number	368	415	446	461

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children age 12 or younger at entry	12.9	11.5	7.3	8.2
Children older than 12 at entry	87.1	88.5	92.7	91.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	62	61	41	49

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.					Asian					Black (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.2	20.0	13.6	12.5	
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	25.0	
Reunification	78.6	93.3	77.1	66.7	100.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	66.7	66.7	81.8	56.3		
Other	7.1	6.7	5.7	9.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	6.7	0.0	6.3	
Missing data	14.3	0.0	14.3	23.8	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0	
Number	14	15	35	21	1	4	3	1	9	15	22	16		

	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White (non-Hispanic)			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.2	1.5	8.0	8.7	6.5	7.5	7.8	6.2		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	3.0	2.7	4.8	4.4	4.1	4.9	7.1		
Reunification	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	78.0	89.4	82.7	82.7	74.0	74.4	80.2	78.8		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.1	1.5	5.3	2.9	11.6	10.2	5.9	6.4		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	4.5	1.3	1.0	3.4	3.8	1.2	1.5		
Number	0	1	1	0	59	66	75	104	611	655	676	807		

	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005		2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoption	0.0	10.0	0.0	1.7	20.0	0.0	33.3	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	4.3	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	82.1	82.5	88.6	84.7	80.0	66.7	66.7	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Other	10.7	5.0	2.9	6.8	0.0	33.3	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	7.1	2.5	4.3	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	28	40	70	59	5	3	3	3	0	0	0	0		

⁸ For the years 2003, 2004, and 2005, the denominator for this measure includes all children served in foster care during the 12-month fiscal year. In 2002, only children served in the first 9 months of the calendar year were included in the denominator because of differences in the NCANDS and AFCARS reporting periods. Therefore, the data for 2002 are not provided for this measure.

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Foster Care File)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	73.8	78.1	76.4	74.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	18.8	16.9	17.4	19.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.9	3.3	4.2	4.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.8	0.8	1.1	0.9
48 or more mos.	1.7	0.8	0.8	0.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	543	608	717	797

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children entering care for the first time	91.5	93.4	94.1	95.4
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	4.8	4.2	4.0	3.6
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
Missing data	3.2	1.9	1.8	1.0
Number	809	979	1,143	1,186

5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Foster Care File)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Less than 12 mos.	10.2	10.5	7.8	20.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	32.7	28.1	34.4	12.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	14.3	26.3	32.8	38.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	8.2	19.3	14.1	15.9
48 or more mos.	34.7	15.8	10.9	12.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	49	57	64	63

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children with 2 or fewer placements	85.0	88.9	90.2	86.7	62.4	68.9	67.8	68.9	38.2	32.9	34.7	32.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	14.3	9.4	8.5	11.8	36.6	30.6	31.5	30.9	61.2	66.3	65.3	67.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	938	1,122	1,303	1,402	383	360	432	479	327	365	357	386	8	7	2	7

7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Foster Care File)

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 (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Group homes	5.3	6.2	3.9	3.2
Institutions	4.7	4.0	4.5	2.0
Other settings	90.0	89.8	91.5	94.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	301	401	532	656

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews⁹

Composite One: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	138.7
C1.1: Percent of reunifications that occur in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	71.6	69.5
C1.2: Median length of stay in months of children exiting to reunification (with adjustments)	6.2	6.4
C1.3: Percent of children in entry cohort who are reunified in less than 12 months (with adjustments)	49.3	54.9
C1.4: Percent of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months	6.4	6.6

Composite Two: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	121.8
C2.1: Percent of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months	42.2	33.3
C2.2: Median length of stay in months of children who are adopted	26.8	30.7
C2.3: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are adopted by the end of the year	16.7	18.3
C2.4: Percent of children in foster care for 17+ months on first day of fiscal year who are not legally free for adoption who become legally free within 6 months	4.9	7.9
C2.5: Percent of children legally free for adoption who are adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free	68.6	68.0

Composite Three: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	148.2
C3.1: Percent of children in foster care for 24+ months on the first day of fiscal year who exit to permanency by age 18 or by the end of the fiscal year	29.9	31.7
C3.2: Percent of children who are legally free for adoption who exit to a permanent home	98.0	100.0
C3.3: Percent of children emancipated or reaching age 18 who were in foster care for at least 3 years	15.8	24.8

Composite Four: Placement Stability While in Foster Care

	2004	2005
Composite Score	—	100.9
C4.1: Percent of children in care for less than 12 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	90.0	86.4
C4.2: Percent of children in care for 12 to 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	68.1	69.0
C4.3: Percent of children in care for at least 24 months with 2 or fewer placement settings	35.4	32.1

⁹ State composite scores for 2004 are not provided because that year's data served as the source data for the establishment of the national standards. Composite scores are not used for performance assessment purposes until 2005; therefore, only 2005 composite scores are provided. Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the State did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

Wyoming

STATE COMMENT

No comment submitted.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Wyoming's performance in achieving outcomes related to the safety and permanency of children served by the child welfare system is discussed below. The discussion focuses on performance in 2005 and change in performance over time, which is determined by calculating the percent change from a prior year to 2005. The prior year selected varies depending on the availability and reliability of data. A percent change that is less than 5.0 (either positive or negative) is considered to represent "no change."

The discussion incorporates information about performance on the seven outcomes that have been part of the Report to Congress since its inception. In general, data are provided for these outcomes from 2002 to 2005 and their measures are identified using the labels provided in the data pages (e.g., measure 1.1, 2.1, etc.). The discussion also incorporates information about performance on measures included in four composite data indicators recently developed for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews. (See appendix B for a discussion of these measures.) The composites and measures are presented on the last page of the data pages and are identified below using the labels provided on the data page (e.g., measure C1.2, C1.3, etc.). Data are available for these outcome measures for 2004 and 2005 only.

Outcomes Pertaining to Safety

In 2005, 4.5 percent of the children who were victims of child maltreatment in the first 6 months of the fiscal year experienced another maltreatment incident within a 6-month period (measure 1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 6.6 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (44.4 percent change).

Wyoming does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System for calculating the percentage of children in foster care who were victims of maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member (measure 2.1).

Outcomes Pertaining to Permanency

Performance with regard to exits from foster care to a permanent home (i.e., children discharged from foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification).

In 2005, 91.7 percent of all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1), 87.9 percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2), and 86.5 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (measure 3.3) were discharged to a permanent home. All three percentages exceed the national medians for these measures and are among the highest in the nation (national medians for measures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 are 87.8 percent, 79 percent, and 73.1 percent, respectively).

In 2005, 31.7 percent of the children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the fiscal year were discharged from foster care to a permanent home by the last day of the fiscal year (measure C3.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 26.4 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (6.0 percent change).

In 2005, 100 percent of the children exiting foster care who were legally free for adoption (i.e., a parental rights termination date was reported for both parents) were discharged to a permanent home (measure C3.2).

Performance with regard to children remaining in foster care until emancipated.

In 2005, 4.8 percent of the children exiting foster care had a discharge reason of "emancipation" and 8.2 percent of these children were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4). This percentage is among the lowest in the nation and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (36.4 percent change).

In 2005, 24.8 percent of the children exiting foster care with a discharge reason of emancipation had been in foster care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). Although this percentage is less than the national median of 48.1 percent, it represents a decline in performance from 2004 (57.0 percent change).

Performance with regard to the timeliness and permanency of reunifications.

In 2005, 69.5 percent of the reunifications of children who were in foster care for 8 days or longer occurred in less than 12 months from the time of the child's entry into foster care (measure C1.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 70.4 percent.

Measure C1.3 indicates that 54.9 percent of the children entering foster care in the last 6 months of 2005 were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care. This percentage exceeds the national median of 38.7 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (11.4 percent change).

Measure C1.4 indicates that 6.6 percent of children exiting foster care to reunification in 2005 reentered foster care in less than 12 months. This percentage is less than the national median of 14.8 percent. Because measure C1.4 is a longitudinal measure of foster care reentry, it is intended to replace measure 4.2 as the assessment of foster care reentry.

Performance with regard to the timeliness of adoptions.

In 2005, 33.3 percent of finalized adoptions occurred within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care (measures 5.1 and C2.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 29.1 percent, but represents a decline in performance on this measure from 2002 (22.4 percent change).

In 2005, 18.3 percent of children in foster care for 17 months or longer at the start of the fiscal year who did not exit to reunification or guardianship were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the end of the year (measure C2.3). This percentage is less than the national median of 20.9 percent, but represents an improvement in performance from 2004 (9.6 percent change).

Measure C2.5 indicates that 68.0 percent of children who became legally free for adoption in 2005 (i.e., there was a termination of parental rights date reported for mother and father) were adopted in less than 12 months of becoming legally free. This percentage exceeds the national median of 45.1 percent.

Outcomes Pertaining to the Stability and Appropriateness of Placements

In 2005, 86.4 percent of the children in foster care for less than 12 months but at least 8 days experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure C4.1). This percentage exceeds the national median of 82.4 percent.

In 2005, 32.6 percent of children in foster care for 24 months or longer experienced two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1). This percentage is about equal to the national median of 32.3 percent, but represents a decline in performance from 2002 (14.7 percent change).

In 2005, 5.2 percent of the children entering foster care at age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). This percentage is less than the national median of 7.2 percent and represents an improvement in performance from 2002 (48.0 percent change).

Appendix 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

The 12 Original Outcome Measures for the Child Welfare Outcomes 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 fiscal year, what percentage was the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff?

Child Welfare Outcome 3: Increase permanency for children in foster care

Measure 3.1: For all children who exited foster care in the fiscal year, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?

Measure 3.2: For children who exited foster care in the fiscal year 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 in the fiscal year 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 in the fiscal year 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 in the fiscal year, 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 reentry

Measure 4.1: Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care in the fiscal year, what percentage was reunified in the following time periods?

- (a) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home
- (b) At least 12 months, but less than 24 months
- (c) At least 24 months, but less than 36 months
- (d) At least 36 months, but less than 48 months
- (e) 48 or more months

Measure 4.2: Of all children who entered foster care during the fiscal year, what percentage reentered care:

- (a) Within 12 months of a prior foster care episode?
- (b) 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 in the fiscal year to a finalized adoption, what percentage exited care in the following time periods?

- (a) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home
- (b) At least 12 months, but less than 24 months
- (c) At least 24 months, but less than 36 months
- (d) At least 36 months, but less than 48 months
- (e) 48 or more months

Child Welfare Outcome 6: Increase placement stability

Measure 6.1: Of all children served in the fiscal year 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?

- (a) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home
- (b) At least 12 months, but less than 24 months
- (c) At least 24 months, but less than 36 months
- (d) At least 36 months, but less than 48 months
- (e) 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 fiscal year 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?

The 15 new outcome measures developed for the second round of the CFSRs

Although some of the 15 new measures are similar to the original ones, an important difference is that the calculation for all new measures excludes children who were age 18 or older on the first day of the fiscal year. The calculation for the original measures does not exclude this population. A key reason for the exclusion of these children in the new measures is to ensure greater consistency across States. States vary considerably with regard to their reporting of children age 18 or older to AFCARS. Some States do not report these children, some States report all children in foster care regardless of age, and some States report only some of the children age 18 or older in foster care.

The 15 new outcome measures included in the Child Welfare Outcomes Report are incorporated into four separate data composites. The measures subsumed under each composite are presented below. The detailed information on how the individual measures are combined to form the composites is provided in the Federal Register Announcement published by the Department on the Children's Bureau's website at: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwmonitoring/legislation/fed_reg.htm

Permanency composite 1: Timeliness and permanency of reunifications

This composite addresses issues relevant to national child welfare outcome 4: reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing reentry. The Department considers children as discharged from foster care to reunification if the reason for discharge reported to AFCARS is either "reunification with parent or primary caretaker" or "living with other relative." It is important to note that the discharge reason of living with other relatives only applies to children discharged from foster care to the care of a relative. It does not apply to children in the foster care system in out-of-home placements with relatives, and it does not apply to children discharged from foster care to a legal guardian, even if the legal guardian is a relative.

The calculation of three of the measures included in permanency composite 1 excludes children who were discharged from foster care in less than 8 days, and incorporates a “trial home visit” adjustment, when relevant. These are explained below.

- *Exclusions of children discharged from foster care in less than 8 days.* The calculation of some of the new measures excludes children who were discharged from foster care in less than 8 days from the time of entry. This exclusion was not part of the calculation of any of the original child welfare outcomes measures. When the exclusion is incorporated, it is explicitly stated in the wording of the measure. The decision to exclude these children from the calculation of some of the measures, particularly the timeliness of reunification measures, was based on two factors: (1) the extensive variation across States in the percentages of children discharged from foster care after having been in foster care for very short periods of time (i.e., less than 8 days) and; (2) the fact that the kinds of case practices and agency efforts necessary to achieve a timely reunification for a child who has been removed from home and placed in foster care are not usually applicable for these very short-term placements. The Department believes that the exclusion of these very short-term placements from measures of timeliness of reunification and placement stability provides a more accurate portrait of State performance in these areas.
- *The trial home visit adjustment.* The new timeliness of reunification measures incorporate what is referred to as the trial home visit adjustment. The use of this adjustment is explicitly stated in all measures to which it applies. The trial home visit adjustment addresses the variation across States with regard to the practice of returning children in foster care to their families without discharging them from foster care for a period of time in order to provide continued monitoring and/or services. This practice often is referred to as “physical reunification,” and may be required in State statute, written into agency policy, or simply reflect standard case practice in a State. To allow for greater uniformity across States in measuring length of stay in foster care, the Department developed the trial home visit adjustment as a proxy for physical reunification.

The adjustment works in the following way: When a child is discharged from foster care to reunification, if the child’s current placement setting is “Trial Home Visit,” any trial home visit in excess of 30 days is excluded when calculating length of stay in foster care.¹ An important feature of this adjustment, however, is that the child must have been discharged from foster care with a discharge reason of reunification or living with other relatives before the trial home visit adjustment is considered.

The individual measures included in permanency composite 1 (C1) are as follows:

- **Individual Measure C1.1:** Of all children who were discharged from foster care to reunification in the fiscal year, and who had been in foster care for 8 days or longer, what percentage were reunified in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal from home? (This includes the trial home visit adjustment, if relevant.)
- **Individual Measure C1.2:** Of all children who were discharged from foster care to reunification in the fiscal year, and who had been in foster care for 8 days or longer, what was the median length of stay in months from the date of the latest removal from home until the date of discharge to reunification? (This includes the trial home visit adjustment, if relevant.)
- **Individual Measure C1.3:** Of all children who entered foster care for the first time in the 6-month period just prior to the target year, and who remained in foster care for 8 days or longer, what percentage was discharged from foster care to reunification in less than 12 months from the date of latest removal from home? (This includes the trial home visit adjustment, if relevant.)

Measure C1.3 reflects a new approach to assessing timeliness of reunification for both the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports and the CFSRs. Instead of evaluating timeliness from the perspective of children discharged from foster care, this measure (usually referred to as an “entry cohort” measure) evaluates timeliness of reunification from the perspective of children entering foster care. This approach was not possible when measures were initially developed for the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports because, at that time, most States did not use consistent encrypted child identifiers that permitted tracking children over time. The same child was sometimes assigned a different encrypted ID in different years. At present, all but two States are using consistent identifiers, and even those two States are planning to do this soon.

¹ More information on this adjustment is provided in the Federal Register of November 9, 2005 and June 7, 2006 and on the Children’s Bureau website.

- **Individual Measure C1.4:** Of all children who were discharged from foster care to reunification in the 12-month period prior to the target year, what percentage reentered foster care in less than 12 months from the date of discharge?

Similar to measure C1.3, this measure became possible only when States began reporting unique encrypted identifiers that permit a longitudinal assessment of children over reporting periods. The measure tracks children who exited foster care to reunification to identify those who reentered foster care in less than 12 months. Therefore, it assesses State performance with regard to the permanency of reunifications. Because the longitudinal measure of reentry into foster care is a more direct measure than the original reentry measure, it will replace the original measure as the assessment of reentry.

Permanency composite 2: Timeliness of adoptions

This composite addresses national child welfare outcome 5: reduce time in foster care to adoption. The following measures are included in permanency composite 2 (C2).

- **Individual Measure C2.1:** Of all children who were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during the fiscal year, what percentage was discharged in less than 24 months from the date of the latest removal from home?
- **Individual Measure C2.2:** Of all children who were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during the target year, what was the median length of stay in foster care in months from the date of latest removal from home to the date of discharge to adoption?
- **Individual Measure C2.3:** Of all children in foster care on the first day of the 12-month target period who were in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer, what percentage was discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the last day of the 12-month target period?
- **Individual Measure C2.4:** Of all children in foster care on the first day of the 12-month target period who were in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer, and who were not legally free for adoption prior to that day, what percentage became legally free for adoption during the first 6 months of the 12-month target period? (A child is considered to be legally free for adoption if there is a parental rights termination date reported to AFCARS for both mother and father.)

Similar to the entry cohort measure of reunification and the new measure of reentry, individual measures C2.3 and C2.4 capture State performance in achieving timely adoptions from a longitudinal perspective, rather than from the point of discharge from foster care. The measures reflect the statutory requirement of the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997 that States pursue adoption as a permanency goal for any child who has been in foster care for 15 of the most recent 22 months, unless the agency documents a compelling reason why such action would not be in the best interests of the child.²

- **Individual Measure C2.5:** Of all children who became legally free for adoption during the 12 months prior to the target year, what percentage was discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption in less than 12 months from the date of becoming legally free?

This is another longitudinal measure that became possible when States began reporting unique encrypted identifiers for children that permitted tracking them over time.

² ASFA requires State child welfare agencies to file a petition to terminate parental rights and pursue adoption for a child who has been in foster care for 15 of the most recent 22 months, unless the agency documents a compelling reason why such action would not be in the best interests of the child. A 17-month rather than a 15-month time frame was chosen for the measure because, in accordance with ASFA, a child is considered to have “entered foster care” (for purposes of starting the clock for the 15 of 22 months) on the earlier of: (1) the first judicial finding that the child has been subjected to abuse and neglect, or (2) the date that is 60 days after the date on which the child is removed from the home. The 17-month time frame is used in the measure because AFCARS does not collect information pertaining to the date of the first judicial finding.

Permanency composite 3: Achieving permanency for children in foster care for long periods of time

This composite addresses issues relevant to national child welfare outcome 3: increase permanency for children in foster care. The following measures are included in permanency composite 3 (C3):

- **Individual Measure C3.1:** Of all children who were in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the target year, what percentage was discharged to a permanent home by the last day of the year and prior to their 18th birthday?³
- **Individual Measure C3.2:** Of all children who were discharged from foster care during the target year, and who were legally free for adoption (i.e., there is a parental rights termination date for both parents) at the time of discharge, what percentage was discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18th birthday?

This measure reflects the concern of the field that, by pursuing termination of parental rights for children who have been in foster care for 15 of the most recent 22 months, child welfare agencies may be creating “legal orphans,” that is, children who, at the time of discharge from foster care, have no legal parents and no permanent home.

- **Individual Measure C3.3:** Of all children who either (1) prior to age 18, were discharged from foster care during the 12-month target period with a discharge reason of emancipation, or (2) reached their 18th birthday while in foster care but had not yet been discharged from foster care, what percentage was in foster care for 3 years or longer?

This measure, and the original measure 3.4 in the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports, are both intended to assess whether children are spending a large part of their childhood in foster care without ever being discharged to a permanent home.

Permanency composite 4: Placement stability

Permanency composite 4 (C4) is consistent with the objectives of national child welfare outcome 6: increase placement stability. The three individual measures included in this composite are similar to the original measure 6.1 in the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports. As previously noted, however, one difference is that the measures included in this composite exclude children who were age 18 or older on the first day of the fiscal year. Measure 6.1 does not exclude these children. In addition, measure C4.1 excludes children who were not in foster care for at least 8 days. (See composite 1 for an explanation of the 8-day exclusion.)

- **Individual Measure C4.1:** Of all children who were served in foster care during the fiscal year, and who were in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months, what percentage had two or fewer placement settings?
- **Individual Measure C4.2:** Of all children who were served in foster care during the fiscal year, and who were in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months, what percentage had two or fewer placement settings?
- **Individual Measure C4.3:** Of all children who were served in foster care during the fiscal year, and who were in foster care for at least 24 months, what percentage had two or fewer placement settings?

³ The 24-month period was chosen because nationally, about 50 percent of the children in foster care on any given day have been in foster care for approximately 2 years or longer.

Appendix C

CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES: DATA SOURCES AND ELEMENTS (2002, 2003, 2004, 2005)

CONTEXT INFORMATION

Items	Data Sources and Elements
Section A. Context Statistics	
Total children under 18 years	U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
Race/ethnicity (%)	U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
Child population in poverty (%)	U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
Section B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse And Neglect Data System)	
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau, National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) Two possible data sources: (1) NCANDS Child File: Elements 27, 29, 31, 33, Maltreatment Disposition Level; or (2) NCANDS SDC: Item 3.1, Children Subject of a CPS Investigation or Assessment by Disposition
Total child maltreatment victims	Two possible data sources: (1) NCANDS Child File: Elements 27, 29, 31, 33, Maltreatment Disposition Level; or (2) NCANDS SDC: 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)
Child fatalities	Two possible data sources: (1) NCANDS Child File: Element 34, Maltreatment Death; or (2) NCANDS SDC: Item 5.1, Child Victims Who Died as a Result of Maltreatment
Age of child victims	Two possible data sources: (1) NCANDS Child File: Element 12, Child Age at Report, or a combination of Element 6, Report Date and Element 13, Child Date of Birth; or (2) NCANDS SDC: Item 4.2, Child Victims By Age
Race/ethnicity of child victims	Two possible data sources: (1) NCANDS Child File: Elements 15 through 20, Child Race, and Element 21, Child Ethnicity; or (2) NCANDS SDC: Item 4.4, Child Victims by Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity, and Item 4.5, Child Victims by Race
Maltreatment type of child victims	Two possible data sources: (1) NCANDS Child File: Elements 26 through 33, Maltreatment Type, Maltreatment Disposition Level; or (2) NCANDS SDC: Item 4.1, Child Victims by Type of Maltreatment
Time to investigation	Mean time to investigation in hours is computed from the Child File records using the Report Date, Field 6; and the Investigation Start Date, Field 7. The result is converted to hours by multiplying by 24. Median time to investigation in hours is computed from the NCANDS Child File records using the Report Date, Field 6; and the Investigation Start Date, Field 7. The result is converted to hours by multiplying by 24.
Section C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care (Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System)	
Total number (for each FY) In care on 10/1 • Entered care • Exited care • In care on 9/30	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 56, Date of Discharge From Foster Care
Median length of stay (for each FY) • In care on 10/1 • Exited care • In care on 9/30	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 56, Date of Discharge From Foster Care
Age of children (for each FY) • In care on 10/1 • Entered care • Exited care • In care on 9/30	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 56, Date of Discharge From Foster Care

Items	Data Sources and Elements
Race/ethnicity of children (for each FY) In care on 10/1 • Entered care • Exited care • In care on 9/30	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 8, Race; and Element 9, Hispanic Origin
Section D. Characteristics of Children “Waiting For Adoption” on 9/30 (AFCARS)	
Total waiting children	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 35, Death of Parent; Element 43, Most Recent Case Plan Goal; Element 47, Date of Mother’s Termination of Parental Rights; and Element 48, Date of Father’s Termination of Parental Rights
Number of waiting children whose parents’ rights have been terminated	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 35, Death of Parent; Element 47, Date of Mother’s Termination of Parental Rights; and Element 48, Date of Father’s Termination of Parental Rights
Age of children waiting for adoption	AFCARS Foster Care File: 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 children waiting for adoption	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 8, Race; and 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. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS)	
Total children adopted	AFCARS Adoption File: Element 21, Date Adoption Legalized
Age of children adopted	AFCARS Adoption File: Element 4, State Involvement; Element 5, Child’s Date of Birth; and Element 21, Date Adoption Legalized
Race/ethnicity of children adopted	AFCARS Adoption File: Element 4, State Involvement; Element 7, Race; and Element 8, Hispanic Origin

OUTCOME INFORMATION

Outcome Measures	Data Sources and Elements
Outcome 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS)	
1.1 Recurrence of maltreatment within 6 months	NCANDS Child File: Field 4, Child ID; Field 6, Report Date; Fields 27, 29, 31, and 33, Maltreatment Disposition Level(s); and Field 34, Maltreatment Death
Outcome 2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS and AFCARS)	
2.1 Maltreatment in foster care	AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; and Element 56, Date of Discharge From Foster Care NCANDS Child File: Field 4, Child ID; Field 6, Report Date; Fields 27, 29, 31, and 33, Maltreatment Disposition Level(s); Field 34, Maltreatment Death; and Fields 89,108, 127, Perpetrator Relationship
Outcome 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS)	
3.1 Exits of children from foster care	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 56, Date of Discharge From Foster Care; and Element 58, Reasons for Discharge
3.2 Exits of children with a diagnosed disability	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 10, Child Diagnosed With Disabilities; Element 56, Date of Discharge From Foster Care; and Element 58, Reasons for Discharge
3.3 Exits of children older than age 12 at entry	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 56, Date of Discharge From Foster Care; and Element 58, Reasons for Discharge
3.4 Exits to emancipation	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 56, Date of Discharge From Foster Care; and Element 58, Reasons for Discharge
3.5 Exits by race/ethnicity	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 8, Race; Element 9, Hispanic Origin; Element 56, Date of Discharge From Foster Care; and Element 58, Reasons for Discharge
Outcome 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS)	
4.1 Time to reunification	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 56, Date of Discharge From Foster Care; and Element 58, Reasons for Discharge
4.2 Children reentering foster care	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 19, Total Number of Removals; Element 20, Date of Discharge From Last Foster Care Episode; and Element 21, Date of Latest Removal
Outcome 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS)	
5.1 Time to adoption	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 56, Date of Discharge From Foster Care; and Element 58, Reasons for Discharge
Outcome 6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS)	

6.1 Number of placements by time in care	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 23, Date of Placement in Current Placement Setting; Element 24, Number of Previous Settings in Episode; and Element 56, Date of Discharge From Foster Care
Outcome 7. Reduce Placement of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS)	
7.1 Placement settings of children age 12 or younger who entered care during FY	AFCARS Foster Care File: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 23, Date of Placement in Current Placement Setting; Element 41, Current Placement Setting
Composite 1. Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification	
<i>Please note: Construction of the source file for calculating ALL Composite 1 measures must have Element 3, FIPS code; Element 4, Record Number; and Element 6, Date of Birth. For each individual measure under Composite 1, other elements needed for the calculations are shown next to the applicable measure.</i>	
C1.1 Reunification in less than 12 months	Element 56, Date of Discharge; Element 58, Reason for Discharge; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 41, Current Placement Setting; Element 23, Date of Placement in Current Placement Setting
C1.2 Median length of stay to reunification	Element 56; Date of Discharge; Element 58, Reason for Discharge; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 41, Current Placement Setting; Element 23, Date of Placement in Current Placement Setting
C1.3 Entry cohort reunification	Element 18, Date of First Removal From Home; Element 19, Total Number of Removals; Element 56, Date of Discharge; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 58, Reason for Discharge; Element 20, Date Child was Discharged From Last Foster Care Episode; Element 41, Current Placement Setting; Element 23, Date of Placement in Current Placement Setting
C1.4 Reentry of children exiting	Element 56; Date of Discharge; Element 58, Reason for Discharge; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 20, Date Child was Discharged From Last Foster Care Episode; Element 19, Total Number of Removals
Composite 2. Timeliness of Adoptions	
<i>Please Note: Construction of the source file for calculating ALL Composite 2 measures must have Element 3, FIPS code; Element 4, Record Number; and Element 6, Date of Birth. For each individual measure under Composite 2, other elements needed for the calculations are shown next to the applicable measure.</i>	
C2.1 Adoptions in less than 24 months	Element 56, Date of Discharge; Element 58, Reason for Discharge; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal
C2.2 Median length of stay to adoption	Element 56, Date of Discharge; Element 58, Reason for Discharge; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal
C2.3 Adoption of children in care for 17 months or longer	Element 56, Date of Discharge; Element 58, Reason for Discharge; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal
C2.4 Achieving legal freedom of children in care for 17 months or longer	Element 56, Date of Discharge; Element 58, Reason for Discharge; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 47, Date of Termination of Parental Rights for Mother; Element 48, Date of Termination of Parental Rights for Father
C2.5 Adoption of children who are legally free	Element 56, Date of Discharge; Element 58, Reason for Discharge; Element 47, Date of Termination of Parental Rights for Mother; Element 48, Date of Termination of Parental Rights for Father
Composite 3. Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time	
<i>Please Note: Construction of the source file for calculating ALL Composite 3 measures must have Element 3, FIPS code; Element 4, Record Number; and Element 6, Date of Birth. For each individual measure under Composite 3, other elements needed for the calculations are shown next to the applicable measure.</i>	
C3.1 Permanency for children in foster care for 24 + months	Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 56, Date of Discharge; Element 58, Reason for Discharge; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal
C3.2 Permanency for children who are legally free	Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 56, Date of Discharge; Element 58, Reason for Discharge; Element 47, Date of Termination of Parental Rights for Mother; Element 48, Date of Termination of Parental Rights for Father
C3.3 Children emancipated or 18 years old in foster care for 3 years or longer	Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 56, Date of Discharge; Element 58, Reason for Discharge; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 19, Total Number of Removals; Element 20, Date Child was Discharged From Last Foster Care Episode; Element 18, Date of First Removal From Home
Composite 4. Placement Stability While in Foster Care	
<i>Please Note: Construction of the source file for calculating ALL Composite 4 measures must have Element 3, FIPS code; Element 4, Record Number; and Element 6, Date of Birth. For each individual measure under Composite 4, other elements needed for the calculations are shown next to the applicable measure.</i>	
C4.1 Placement stability for children in care for less than 12 months	Element 56, Date of Discharge; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 23, Date of Placement in Current Placement Setting; Element 24, Number of Previous Placement Settings During This Removal Episode
C4.2 Placement stability for children in care for 12 to 24 months	Element 56, Date of Discharge; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 23, Date of Placement in Current Placement Setting; Element 24, Number of Previous Placement Settings During This Removal Episode
C4.3 Placement stability for children in care for 24 + months	Element 56, Date of Discharge; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 23, Date of Placement in Current Placement Setting; Element 24, Number of Previous Placement Settings During This Removal Episode

Appendix D

HIGHLIGHTS FROM *CHILD MALTREATMENT 2005*

What is the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS)?

NCANDS is a federally sponsored effort that collects and analyzes annual data on child abuse and neglect. The 1988 Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) directed the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to establish a national data collection and analysis program. The Children's Bureau in the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, collects and analyzes the data.

The data are submitted voluntarily by the States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The first report from NCANDS was based on data for 1990; the report for 2005 data is the 16th issuance of this annual report.

How are the data used?

Data are used for the annual report, *Child Maltreatment*, which is published each spring. In addition, data are used in several efforts by the Children's Bureau to measure the impact and effectiveness of child protective services (CPS). Data from NCANDS are used in the Child and Family Services Reviews of the States, in the *Child Welfare Outcomes: Annual Report to Congress*, and in the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART).

What data are collected?

NCANDS collects case-level data on all children who received an investigation or assessment by a CPS agency. States that are unable to provide case-level data submit aggregated counts of key indicators.

Case-level data include information on the characteristics of referrals of abuse or neglect that are made to CPS agencies, the children referred, the types of maltreatment that are alleged, the dispositions (or findings) of the investigations, the risk factors for the child and the caregivers, the services provided, and the perpetrators.

Where are the data available?

Restricted usage files of State case-level data are available for researchers from the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect at www.ndacan.cornell.edu. In addition, aggregated counts of key indicators by State are available for 1990-2005.

The *Child Maltreatment* reports are available on the Internet at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/index.htm#can.

How many children were reported and investigated for abuse and neglect?

During Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2005, an estimated 3.3 million referrals, involving the alleged maltreatment of approximately 6.0 million children, were made to CPS agencies. The increase of approximately 73,000 children who received an investigation during FFY 2005, compared to FFY 2004, is largely due to the inclusion of data from Alaska and Puerto Rico for FFY 2005. An estimated 3.6 million children in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico received investigations by CPS agencies.

- A majority (62.1%) of referrals were screened in for investigation or assessment by CPS agencies.
- Approximately 30 percent (28.5%) of the reports included at least one child who was found to be a victim of abuse or neglect.
- About 60 percent (60.3%) of the reports were found to be unsubstantiated; about 25 percent (25.2%) of the reports were substantiated.

Who reported child maltreatment?

For FFY 2005, more than one-half of all reports (55.8%) of alleged child abuse or neglect were made by professionals. They were primarily made by educators, police and lawyers, and social services staff. The remaining reports were made by nonprofessionals, including friends, neighbors, and relatives. Approximately two-thirds of substantiated or indicated reports were made by professional sources.

Who were the child victims?

During FFY 2005, an estimated 899,000 children in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico were determined to be victims of abuse or neglect. The increase of approximately 20,000 victims in FFY 2005, compared to FFY 2004, is largely due to the inclusion of data from Alaska and Puerto Rico for FFY 2005. Additional findings regarding children confirmed as victims by CPS agencies in FFY 2005 are the following:

- Children in the age group of birth to 3 years had the highest rate of victimization at 16.5 per 1,000 children of the same age group in the national population;
- More than one-half of the victims were 7 years old or younger (54.5%);
- More than one-half of the child victims were girls (50.7%), and 47.3 percent were boys; and
- Approximately one-half of all victims were White (49.7%); one-quarter (23.1%) were African-American; and 17.4 percent were Hispanic.

What were the most common types of maltreatment?

As in prior years, neglect was the most common form of child maltreatment. CPS investigations determined that:

- More than 60 percent (62.8%) of the victims suffered neglect;
- More than 15 percent (16.6%) of the victims suffered physical abuse;
- Less than 10 percent (9.3%) of the victims suffered sexual abuse; and
- Less than 10 percent (7.1%) of the victims suffered from emotional maltreatment.

How many children died from abuse or neglect?

Child fatalities are the most tragic consequence of maltreatment. Yet, each year children die from abuse and neglect. During FFY 2005:

- An estimated 1,460 children died due to child abuse or neglect;
- The overall rate of child fatalities was 1.96 deaths per 100,000 children;
- More than 40 percent (42.2%) of child fatalities were attributed to neglect; physical abuse also was a major contributor to child fatalities;
- More than three-quarters (76.6%) of the children who died due to child abuse and neglect were younger than 4 years old;
- Infant boys (younger than 1 year) had the highest rate of fatalities, at 17.3 deaths per 100,000 boys of the same age in the national population; and
- Infant girls had a rate of 14.5 deaths per 100,000 girls of the same age.

Who is responsible for the abuse and neglect?

In FFY 2005, more than three-quarters of perpetrators of child maltreatment (79.4%) were parents, and another 6.8 percent were other relatives of the victim. Unrelated caregivers (foster parents, residential facility staff, child daycare providers, and legal guardians) accounted for less than 10.1 percent of perpetrators. Women comprised a larger percentage of all perpetrators than men, 57.8 percent compared to 42.2 percent. More than three-fourths of all perpetrators were younger than age 40.

- Of the perpetrators who maltreated children, less than 8 percent (7.7%) committed sexual abuse, while 61.0 percent committed neglect.
- Of the perpetrators who were parents, more than 90 percent (90.6%) were the biological parents, 4.3 percent were the stepparents, and 0.7 percent were the adoptive parents of the victim. The parental relationship was unknown for 4.5 percent of the victims.

Who received services?

During an investigation, CPS agencies provide services to children and their families, both in the home and in foster care.

- Sixty percent (60.4%) of victims and 26.9 percent of nonvictims received services.
- Of the children who were placed in foster care, 21.7 percent were victims and 4.5 percent were nonvictims.

Appendix E

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families,
Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau, www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/icb

The AFCARS Report

Preliminary FY 2005 Estimates as of September 2006 (13)

SOURCE: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for the FY 2005, 10/1/04 through 9/30/05.

NOTES: Data from both the regular and revised submissions received by September 2006 are included in the information below. Missing data are not used in the calculation of percentages. Percentages in some tables may not total 100% due to rounding.

How many children were in foster care on September 30, 2005? 513,000

What were the ages of the children in foster care?

Mean Years	10.0	
Median Years	10.6	
Less than 1 Year	6%	29,034
1 Year	6%	32,439
2 Years	6%	29,580
3 Years	5%	26,552
4 Years	5%	24,558
5 Years	4%	22,405
6 Years	4%	21,521
7 Years	4%	20,687
8 Years	4%	19,717
9 Years	4%	19,375
10 Years	4%	19,488
11 Years	4%	20,693
12 Years	5%	23,570
13 Years	5%	27,081
14 Years	6%	33,002
15 Years	8%	38,589
16 Years	8%	41,695
17 Years	8%	39,018
18 Years	3%	14,007
19 Years	1%	5,963
20 Years	1%	4,027

What were the lengths of stay in foster care?

Mean Months	28.6	
Median Months	15.5	
Less than 1 Month	5%	26,302
1 to 5 Months	20%	100,275
6 to 11 Months	17%	89,460
12 to 17 Months	12%	63,885
18 to 23 Months	9%	45,912
24 to 29 Months	7%	34,928
30 to 35 Months	5%	24,302
3 to 4 Years	11%	58,341
5 Years or More	14%	69,595

What were the placement settings of children in foster care?

Pre-Adoptive Home	4%	18,691
Foster Family Home (Relative)	24%	124,153
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	46%	236,775
Group Home	8%	43,440
Institution	10%	51,210
Supervised Independent Living	1%	5,918
Runaway	2%	10,930
Trial Home Visit	4%	21,883

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2005 (continued)

What were the case goals of the children in foster care?

Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s)	51%	262,706
Live with Other Relative(s)	4%	21,722
Adoption	20%	100,949
Long Term Foster Care	7%	37,628
Emancipation	6%	31,938
Guardianship	3%	15,653
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	8%	42,403

What was the gender of the children in foster care?

Male	52%	269,036
Female	48%	243,964

What was the race/ethnicity of the children in foster care?

AI/AN-Non Hispanic	2%	10,617
Asian-Non Hispanic	1%	2,973
Black -Non Hispanic	32%	166,482
Hawaiian/ PI-Non Hispanic	0%	1,433
Hispanic	18%	93,996
White-Non Hispanic	41%	208,537
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	11,771
Two or More-Non Hispanic	3%	17,191

NOTE: Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

How many children entered foster care during FY 2005? 311,000

What were the ages of the children who entered care during FY 2005?

Mean Years	8.2	
Median Years	7.7	
Less than 1 Year	15%	46,954
1 Year	7%	20,981
2 Years	6%	18,427
3 Years	5%	16,728
4 Years	5%	15,229
5 Years	5%	14,359
6 Years	4%	13,505
7 Years	4%	12,323
8 Years	4%	11,528
9 Years	3%	10,833
10 Years	3%	10,643
11 Years	4%	11,448
12 Years	4%	13,085
13 Years	5%	16,362
14 Years	7%	20,426
15 Years	7%	23,291
16 Years	7%	21,624
17 Years	4%	12,345
18 Years	0%	730
19 Years	0%	138
20 Years	0%	41

What was the race/ethnicity of the children who entered care during FY 2005?

AI/AN-Non Hispanic	2%	7,036
Asian-Non Hispanic	1%	2,454
Black -Non Hispanic	26%	80,430
Hawaiian/ PI-Non Hispanic	0%	1,031
Hispanic	18%	56,603
White-Non Hispanic	47%	144,679
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	8,126
Two or More-Non Hispanic	3%	10,642

NOTE: Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

How many children exited foster care during FY 2005? 287,000

What were the ages of the children who exited care during FY 2005?

Mean Years	9.8	
Median Years	9.7	
Less than 1 Year	5%	14,081
1 Year	7%	19,053
2 Years	7%	19,013
3 Years	6%	17,404
4 Years	5%	15,551
5 Years	5%	14,177
6 Years	5%	13,296
7 Years	4%	12,089
8 Years	4%	11,367
9 Years	4%	10,593
10 Years	4%	10,378
11 Years	4%	10,501
12 Years	4%	10,738
13 Years	4%	12,144
14 Years	5%	14,215
15 Years	6%	16,989
16 Years	6%	18,559
17 Years	6%	17,635
18 Years	8%	23,282
19 Years	1%	3,781
20 Years	1%	2,154

What were the outcomes for the children exiting foster care during FY 2005?

Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	54%	155,608
Living with Other Relative(s)	11%	31,362
Adoption	18%	51,323
Emancipation	9%	24,407
Guardianship	4%	12,881
Transfer to Another Agency	2%	6,440
Runaway	2%	4,445
Death of Child	0%	534

NOTE: Deaths are attributable to a variety of causes including medical conditions, accidents and homicide.

What were the lengths of stay of the children who exited foster care during FY 2005?

Mean Months	21.0
Median Months	12.0
Less than 1 Month	17% 49,072
1 to 5 Months	16% 46,904
6 to 11 Months	17% 48,053
12 to 17 Months	13% 37,041
18 to 23 Months	9% 25,639
24 to 29 Months	6% 18,389
30 to 35 Months	5% 13,597
3 to 4 Years	9% 26,755
5 Years or More	8% 21,550

What was the race/ethnicity of the children who exited care during FY 2005?

AI/AN-Non Hispanic	2%	5,857
Asian-Non Hispanic	1%	2,328
Black -Non Hispanic	28%	81,542
Hawaiian/ PI-Non Hispanic	0%	982
Hispanic	17%	49,398
White-Non Hispanic	45%	130,235
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	7,363
Two or More-Non Hispanic	3%	9,295

NOTE: Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

How many children were waiting to be adopted on September 30, 2005? 114,000

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	53%	60,843
Female	47%	53,157

How old were the waiting children when they were removed from their parents or caretakers?

Mean Years	5.1
Median Years	4.5
Less than 1 Year	23% 26,769
1 Year	8% 9,498
2 Years	7% 8,393
3 Years	7% 8,072
4 Years	7% 7,841
5 Years	7% 7,506
6 Years	7% 7,547
7 Years	6% 7,110
8 Years	6% 6,517
9 Years	5% 5,936
10 Years	5% 5,223
11 Years	4% 4,416
12 Years	3% 3,553
13 Years	2% 2,576
14 Years	2% 1,715
15 Years	1% 910
16 Years	0% 350
17 Years	0% 67

How many months have the waiting children been in continuous foster care?

Mean Months	41.6
Median Months	30.7
Less than 1 Month	1% 587
1 through 5 Months	4% 4,219
6 through 11 Months	8% 9,314
12 through 17 Months	12% 13,769
18 through 23 Months	13% 14,555
24 through 29 Months	12% 13,210
30 through 35 Months	9% 9,731
36 through 59 Months	21% 24,220
60 or more Months	21% 24,395

What is the racial/ethnic distribution of the waiting children?

AI/AN-Non Hispanic	2%	2,120
Asian-Non Hispanic	0%	448
Black -Non Hispanic	36%	40,840
Hawaiian/ PI-Non Hispanic	0%	307
Hispanic	15%	17,240
White-Non Hispanic	40%	45,096
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	3,328
Two or More-Non Hispanic	4%	4,620

NOTE: Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

Children waiting to be adopted on September 30, 2005 (continued)

Where were the waiting children living on September 30, 2005?			How old were the waiting children on September 30, 2005?		
Pre-Adoptive Home	13%	14,752	Mean Years	8.6	
Foster Family Home (Relative)	19%	21,147	Median Years	8.4	
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	55%	63,235	Less than 1 Year	4%	4,203
Group Home	4%	5,094	1 Year	7%	8,374
Institution	7%	8,354	2 Years	7%	8,456
Supervised Independent Living	0%	121	3 Years	7%	7,694
Runaway	1%	648	4 Years	6%	7,166
Trial Home Visit	1%	651	5 Years	6%	6,585
			6 Years	5%	6,179
			7 Years	5%	5,972
			8 Years	5%	5,734
			9 Years	5%	5,688
			10 Years	5%	5,786
			11 Years	5%	6,144
			12 Years	6%	6,583
			13 Years	6%	6,718
			14 Years	6%	6,996
			15 Years	6%	6,841
			16 Years	5%	5,214
			17 Years	3%	3,668

How many children in foster care had their parental rights terminated for all living parents? 66,000

As of September 30, 2005, how many months had elapsed since the parental rights of these foster children were terminated?

Mean Months	27.0
Median Months	15.3

How many children were adopted with public agency involvement in FY 2005? 51,000

SOURCE: Adoptions can be reported to the AFCARS adoption database at any time after the adoption has been finalized. This report includes adoptions finalized in FY 2005 reported in regular and revised submissions by August 25, 2006.

NOTES: The number of adoptions reported here does 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 underreported 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 the percentages. Percentages in some tables may not total 100% due to rounding.

What is the gender distribution of the children adopted from the public foster care system?

Male	51%	25,962
Female	49%	25,038

What percentage of the children adopted receive an adoption subsidy?

Yes	89%	45,590
No	11%	5,410

How old were the children when they were adopted from the public foster care system?

Mean Years	6.7	
Median Years	5.6	
Less than 1 Year	2%	1,108
1 Year	10%	5,280
2 Years	13%	6,458
3 Years	11%	5,449
4 Years	9%	4,638
5 Years	8%	3,937
6 Years	7%	3,589
7 Years	6%	3,085
8 Years	5%	2,753
9 Years	5%	2,454
10 Years	5%	2,367
11 Years	4%	2,147
12 Years	4%	1,986
13 Years	3%	1,702
14 Years	3%	1,367
15 Years	2%	1,125
16 Years	2%	830
17 Years	1%	579
18 Years	0%	120
19 Years	0%	20
20 Years	0%	7

What is the racial/ethnic distribution of the children adopted from the public foster care system?

AI/AN-Non Hispanic	1%	694
Asian-Non Hispanic	1%	337
Black-Non Hispanic	30%	15,230
Hawaiian/PI-Non Hispanic	0%	162
Hispanic	18%	8,959
White-Non Hispanic	43%	22,088
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	1,098
Two or More-Non Hispanic	5%	2,433

NOTE: Using U.S. Bureau of the Census standards, children of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Beginning in FY 2000, children could be identified with more than one race designation.

How many months did it take after termination of parental rights for the children to be adopted?

Mean Months	15.2	
Median Months	10.7	
Less than 1 Month	3%	1,315
1 thru 5 Months	22%	11,299
6 thru 11 Months	31%	15,879
12 thru 17 Months	18%	9,381
18 thru 23 Months	9%	4,833
24 thru 29 Months	5%	2,740
30 thru 35 Months	3%	1,639
3 thru 4 Years	5%	2,686
5 Years or More	2%	1,228

Children Adopted in FY 2005 (Continued)

What is the family structure of the child's adoptive family?

Married Couple	68%	34,898
Unmarried Couple	2%	797
Single Female	27%	13,822
Single Male	3%	1,483

What was the relationship of the adoptive parents to the child prior to the adoption?

Non-Relative	15%	7,502
Foster Parent	60%	30,683
Step-Parent	0%	56
Other Relative	25%	12,759