

Child Welfare Outcomes 2002:
Annual Report



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

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Executive Summary

CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES 2002: ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

Child Welfare Outcomes 2002: Annual Report to Congress (Report to Congress) is the fifth 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 re-entry
- 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 Department established these national outcomes in consultation with State and local child welfare agency administrators, child advocacy organizations, child welfare researchers, and other experts in the child welfare field. The outcomes reflect widely accepted performance objectives for child welfare practice and adherence to a set of guiding principles. The purpose of the Report to Congress is to improve outcomes for children and families served by the Nation's child welfare system by providing data pertaining to State performance on key outcomes over time. To this end, the Report to Congress presents data for each State regarding: (1) 12 measures developed to assess the national outcomes listed above; and (2) such contextual factors as the number and characteristics of children who are the subject of substantiated child abuse or neglect reports and of children in the State's foster care system. The report also presents key findings across States with regard to the relationship between contextual factors and State performance on the outcome measures. Data pertaining to the measures and the contextual factors come from the Federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System and the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System.

In addition to the State data, discussions of State performance in the Report to Congress incorporate information from the Department's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). Although the Report to Congress and the CFSR represent separate activities within the Department, both are designed to provide information that can be used by States to improve their child welfare services and child outcomes. The CFSR examines State child welfare system operations through case reviews and interviews with stakeholders and determines each State's conformity with seven outcomes and seven systemic factors. The CFSR also assesses each State's performance on 6 outcome measures selected from the 12 measures developed for the Report to Congress. Prior to implementation of the CFSR, the Department established national standards for these six measures that are used to determine State conformity with specific outcomes.

The following sections of the Executive Summary provide key findings from the Report to Congress.

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.

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

State Performance in Preventing Maltreatment Recurrence (Outcome 1)

Children's safety is the major concern of the Nation's child welfare systems. One indicator of child safety is whether children who are victims of maltreatment are protected from further abuse or neglect. To assess State performance with regard to keeping children safe, the Department developed the following outcome and measure.

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

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

In 2002, many States experienced challenges in preventing the recurrence of child maltreatment. For the 42 States providing sufficient data to calculate outcome measure 1.1, the incidence of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period ranged from 1.2 percent to 13.7 percent, with a median of 7.5 percent. Only 16 of the 42 States (38 percent) met the national standard established for this measure (6.1 percent or less).

Interpreting State performance on this outcome measure, however, requires a consideration of at least one key aspect of the State context—the rate of child victims per 1,000 children in the population.³ In 2002, the rate of child victims varied considerably across States, from 1.8 per 1,000 children in the population to 41.3 per 1,000 children in the population. The national median for all States was 10.8 child victims per 1,000 children in the population.

A substantial positive relationship was found between a State's rate of child victims and the State's percentage of maltreatment recurrence (Spearman's $\rho = +0.613$). In general, States with a relatively high rate of child victims tended to have a relatively high percentage of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period, and vice versa. This relationship suggests that State performance on the measure of maltreatment recurrence may be at least in part a function of State policies and definitions regarding child maltreatment. For example, State definitions of child maltreatment that are relatively broad in scope may result in both higher victim rates and higher maltreatment recurrence percentages than those found in States with narrower definitions of child maltreatment.

CFSR findings identified the following as barriers to preventing maltreatment recurrence that were found in at least one-third of the States:

- Agency risk and safety assessments often are not sufficiently comprehensive to capture underlying family issues that contribute to maltreatment, such as substance abuse, mental illness, and domestic violence.
- The child welfare agency is not consistent in providing sufficient services to address risk of harm to children, particularly in cases in which children remain in their homes.
- The child welfare agency does not consistently monitor families to assess service participation and change in risk factors.

State Performance in Preventing Maltreatment of Children in Foster Care (Outcome 2)

The child welfare focus on keeping children safe applies to children in foster care as well as children in their own homes. When children are removed from their homes and placed in alternative living situations, it is a

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

State's responsibility to ensure that these living situations are safe. The Department established the following outcome and measure to assess State performance with regard to this responsibility.

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

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

In 2002, of the 42 States providing sufficient data to calculate outcome measure 2.1, the percentage of children in foster care who were victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff ranged from 0.05 to 1.62, with a median of 0.39. The median performance across States was actually less than the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and 25 (59 percent) of the 42 States met the national standard. In addition, State performance on this measure improved from 1999 to 2002.

Information from the CFSR suggests that States promote the safety of children in foster care by establishing licensing standards for foster homes and care facilities, including standards that prevent overcrowding in foster homes and standards regarding use of restraints and corporal punishment. Children's safety also is supported when States mandate training for foster parents and facility staff both before licensure and on an ongoing basis.

State Performance in Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care (Outcome 3)

A primary goal of child welfare services is to find permanent homes for children in foster care through reunification with their families, adoption, or legal guardianship. The Department developed the following outcome and measures to assess performance with regard to this goal.

Outcome 3—Increase permanency for children in foster care.

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

Most States were successful in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care. The percentage of all children exiting foster care in FY 2002 who were reunified, adopted, or placed with a legal guardian ranged across States from 73.4 to 94.8 with a median of 86.1. In most States, the majority of children achieved permanency through reunification with primary caretakers or permanent placement with relatives (median = 65.1 percent). The national median for the percentage of children discharged to adoption was 16.2 percent, and the national median for the percentage of children discharged to a legal guardianship was 2.2 percent.

In FY 2002, States were generally successful in achieving permanency for most children exiting foster care. They were less successful, however, if the children exiting foster care had a diagnosed disability or were age 13 or older when they entered foster care. For example, while the median percentage exiting to permanency for all children was 86.1, the median percentage for children with a diagnosed disability was 79.8, and the median percentage for children age 13 and older at the time of entry into foster care was 72.0.

Although only a small percentage of children exiting foster care in most States were emancipated (a median of 6.6 percent in FY 2002), the percentage of children exiting to emancipation who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care ranged from 8.8 to 61.0 with a median of 26.9. In more than 50 percent of the States, at least one-fourth of the children emancipated appear to have grown up in foster care.

State Performance with Regard to Reunifying Children in a Timely Manner (Outcome 4)

Although achieving permanency for children in foster care is an important role of the child welfare agency, there is concern in the field that States are not consistent in their efforts to ensure that children achieve permanency in a timely manner. The Department established the following outcome and measures to assess State performance with regard to reunifying children with their families safely and in a timely manner.

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

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

With respect to outcome measure 4.1, the Department determined that reunification was timely if it occurred within 12 months of the child's entry into foster care. The Department also established a national standard for this measure of 76.2 percent or more. The incidence of reunifications in FY 2002 that occurred within 12 months of entry into foster care ranged across States from 38.8 percent to 90.5 percent, with a median of 68.1 percent. Although only 18 States (37 percent) met the national standard established for this measure, this represents a considerable increase from FY 1999, when only 22 percent of the States met the national standard.

It is difficult to interpret State performance with regard to reunifications occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care. One reason for this difficulty is the consistent finding (in FYs 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002) of a positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode (Spearman's $\rho^4 = +0.546$ for FY 2002). In general, States with a relatively high percentage of reunifications within 12 months tended to have a relatively high percentage of re-entries into foster care within 12 months. For example, although 22 States (44 percent) met the national standard established for re-entry within 12 months of a prior foster care episode (8.6 percent or less), only 1 State that met the national standard for this measure also met the national standard for the percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care.

It is not known at this time why this relationship occurs with such consistency. One explanation may be that States with high percentages of reunifications within 12 months and high re-entry rates may be reunifying children without adequately addressing the issues that required the child to be removed from home in the first place.

⁴ Spearman's rho is a rank-order correlation coefficient used when one or both variables is on an ordinal scale.

Another reason why it is difficult to interpret State performance with regard to timely reunification is the positive relationship that was found in FY 2002 between a State's percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care and the State's rate of entry of children into foster care (the number of children entering foster care per 1,000 children in the population) (Spearman's rho = +0.405). States with a relatively high rate of entry into foster care tended to have a relatively high percentage of children reunified within 12 months of entry into foster care and vice versa. This association may be attributed to the possibility that States with a high rate of entry into foster care may be more likely than other States to remove children from the home on a short-term basis, either to assess the family situation or to address a current crisis situation. As a result, such States would be more likely to reunify a larger percentage of children within a short time frame than States that do not engage in this practice.

It also is difficult to interpret State performance with regard to the percentage of re-entries into foster care occurring within 12 months of exit from a prior foster care episode. This difficulty may be attributed to the positive relationship found between the percentage of children entering foster care in a State who were age 16 and older and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (Spearman's rho = +0.456). Generally, States with a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were 16 and older tended to have a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. Eight States were in the top quartile (which included 13 States) of the ranking for both the percentage of children age 16 and older entering foster care and the percentage of re-entries into foster care. Seven of these were States in which the child welfare system provides out-of-home placement services to children from the juvenile justice system. These findings indicate that States providing child welfare foster care services to older children, and particularly those States whose child welfare systems serve juvenile justice populations, are more likely to have a higher incidence of re-entry than States whose child welfare systems do not serve this population.

CFSR findings suggest that a key barrier to achieving reunification in a timely manner is a lack of adequate and/or timely services to parents (18 States). In addition, a key barrier to preventing re-entry is a lack of sufficient and adequate post-reunification services to assist the family in the reintegration process (13 States). Both of these findings suggest that the availability of appropriate services is critical to ensuring both timely reunification and the prevention of re-entry.

State Performance with Regard to Achieving Adoptions in a Timely Manner (Outcome 5)

In response to a concern that children in foster care who are not reunified with their families tend to spend many years in foster care before a finalized adoption occurs, the Department established the following outcome and measure.

Outcome 5—Reduce time in foster care to adoption.

Outcome measure 5.1—Of all children who exited foster care to a finalized adoption, what percentage exited care in the following time periods?

- (1) Less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home*
- (2) At least 12 months but less than 24 months*
- (3) At least 24 months but less than 36 months*
- (4) At least 36 months but less than 48 months*
- (5) 48 or more months*

The Department also determined that concerted efforts should be made to achieve a finalized adoption for children within 24 months of entry into foster care. A national standard was established for this measure of 32.0 percent or more children adopted within 24 months of the time of entry into foster care.

In FY 2002, the percentage of adoptions occurring within 24 months of entry into foster care ranged extensively across States from 5.2 to 77.9 with a median of 23.0. Only 12 (28 percent) of the 43 States included in the analysis met the national standard established for this measure.⁵ However, the vast majority of States (72 percent) improved in performance from FY 2000 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of adoptions occurring within 24 months of entry into foster care.

FY 2002 data also indicate that there is a substantial, negative, relationship between the percentage of Black children in a State's foster care population and the percentage of adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (Spearman's rho = -0.498). States with a relatively high percentage of Black children in foster care tended to have a relatively low percentage of adoptions finalized within 24 months of entry into foster care, and vice versa. Additional research and information is necessary to uncover the specific factors that may explain this relationship.

Information in the CFSR report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving adoption in a timely manner:

- The agency or court is inconsistent with regard to seeking termination of parental rights (TPR) in accordance with the provisions of the Adoption and Safe Families Act (26 States).
- Many judges are reluctant to terminate parental rights, either because adequate services have not been provided to parents or because an adoptive family has not been identified (19 States).
- There are delays in attaining TPR because of crowded court dockets and/or a lengthy appeals process (20 States).
- The agency is not consistent with regard to conducting adoption home studies or completing adoption paperwork in a timely manner (17 States).

State Performance in Ensuring Stable and Age-Appropriate Placements for Children in Foster Care (Outcomes 6 and 7)

When children are removed from their homes by the State and placed in alternative living situations, it is the responsibility of the State to ensure that these children's alternative living situations are stable and age-appropriate. The Department developed the following outcomes and measures to assess State performance in meeting this responsibility.

Outcome 6—Increase placement stability.

Outcome measure 6.1—Of all children served who had been in foster care for the time periods listed below, what percentage had no more than two placement settings during that time period?

- (1) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home*
- (2) At least 12 months but less than 24 months*
- (3) At least 24 months but less than 36 months*
- (4) At least 36 months but less than 48 months*
- (5) 48 or more months*

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

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

⁵ Three States were excluded because 20 percent or more of the exits from foster care did not have "reason for discharge" information. Six States were excluded because there was a substantial discrepancy between the number of children reported to the AFCARS Adoption Database as adopted in FY 2002 and the number of children reported to the AFCARS Foster Care Database as exits to a finalized adoption in FY 2002.

With regard to placement stability, the percentage of children in foster care for less than 12 months who experienced no more than two placement settings ranged from 55.3 to 99.8, with a median of 84.1. However, only 14 States (27 percent) met the national standard (86.7 percent or more) established for this measure. In addition, in FY 2002, the percentage of children experiencing no more than two placement settings declined substantially with increasing time in foster care.

The CFSR report identifies the following as common barriers with regard to achieving placement stability:

- The child welfare agency does not provide sufficient services to foster parents to prevent placement disruptions (21 States).
- Because of a lack of available placements, placement decisions tend to be based on what is available rather than on what is appropriate for the child (21 States).
- Emergency shelters frequently are used for initial placements and as temporary placements after a disruption occurs (18 States).
- There is a scarcity of appropriate placement options for children with developmental disabilities or behavioral problems (19 States).

With regard to age-appropriate placements, it was found that in most States, only a small percentage of children age 12 and younger are placed in a group home or institution. The percentage of children age 12 and younger who were placed in either a group home or an institution (combined) ranged across States from 2.3 to 34.7, with a median of 8.6.

Summary of Performance

The results of the analyses of State performance on the Report to Congress outcomes suggest that many States are moving in the direction of improved performance, particularly with regard to reducing maltreatment of children in foster care by foster parents or facility staff members, achieving permanency for children in foster care, and ensuring placement stability for children during the first 12 months that they are in foster care. However, as in prior years, the analyses for FY 2002 indicate that many States continue to experience challenges in reducing the incidence of maltreatment recurrence. In addition, some States continue to experience challenges in finding permanent homes for children who have a diagnosed disability; children who enter foster care when they are adolescents; children who are Black; and children who are Alaska Native/Native American.

The results also indicate that many States experience success in reunifying children in a timely manner. However, this success is tempered by the consistent finding of a positive correlation between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. In addition, although there was an increase in the number of States exhibiting improvements with regard to achieving adoptions within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care, States continue to experience challenges in this area. CFSR findings suggest that efforts to achieve timely adoptions are often impeded by the reluctance on the part of some judges and agency staff to seek termination of parental rights (TPR), and the lengthy legal procedures often required to achieve a final TPR.

Finally, the findings of the analyses of the relationships between contextual factors and performance on the outcome measures suggest that interpretation of a State's performance on any of the measures must take into account key context variables relevant to that State. These findings also suggest that further research is necessary to explain some of the inter-relationships between context and outcome performance and to identify the extent of the impact of contextual factors on performance and potential intervening variables.

Introduction

Child Welfare Outcomes 2002: Annual Report to Congress (Report to Congress) is the fifth in a series of annual reports from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (the Department).¹ The Report to Congress is prepared in accordance with section 479A of the Social Security Act (as amended by the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997). The specifications of section 479A are presented in appendix A.

The Report to Congress provides information pertaining to the performance of States on the following seven 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 re-entry.
- 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 Department established these national outcomes in consultation with State and local child welfare agency administrators, child advocacy organizations, child welfare researchers, and other experts in the child welfare field. The outcomes reflect widely accepted performance objectives for child welfare practice and adherence to a set of guiding principles (presented in appendix B). The measures developed to assess attainment of each outcome are provided in appendix C.

To enhance interpretation of State performance on the seven outcomes, the Report to Congress provides information on select context variables relevant to each State's child welfare system. These context variables are the following:

- A State's child population statistics with regard to the number and race/ethnicity of children.
- 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 maltreatment allegation).³
- The number and characteristics (age and race/ethnicity) of children in foster care at the start and end of the fiscal year and of children who entered and exited foster care during the fiscal year.
- The median length of stay of children in foster care.
- The number and characteristics 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). Children 16 years of age and older who have a goal of emancipation and whose parents have had their parental rights terminated are excluded.
- The number and characteristics (age and race/ethnicity) of children for whom an adoption was finalized during the fiscal year.

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.

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

³ Indicated is defined as 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.

With the exception of the child population statistics, which are obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau, the data presented in the Report to Congress come from two Federal national reporting systems—the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). Through NCANDS, the Department collects and analyzes data pertaining to children who come into contact with public child protective services as alleged victims of child abuse or neglect. The highlights of findings from the most recent Department report based on NCANDS data—*Child Maltreatment 2002*—are presented in appendix D. Through AFCARS, the Department collects and analyzes data and generates reports on children who are served by State and local foster care systems.⁴ The annual AFCARS report for fiscal year 2002 is presented in appendix E. The specific NCANDS and AFCARS data elements used to calculate each outcome measure are provided in appendix F. Data for NCANDS are reported for a calendar year while AFCARS data are reported for a fiscal year (FY). Fiscal year data are specifically identified as FY.

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

- **Chapter I. Achieving Positive Outcomes for Children and Families.** This chapter describes the outcomes and measures that the Department has developed to assess State performance with regard to achieving positive outcomes for children and families.
- **Chapter II. Achieving Safety-Related Outcomes.** This chapter presents the findings pertaining to (1) State performance on the Report to Congress safety outcomes, and (2) the relationships between child welfare agency context variables and State performance on safety outcomes.
- **Chapter III. Achieving Permanency-Related Outcomes for Children in Foster Care.** This chapter provides key findings regarding (1) State performance on the Report to Congress permanency outcomes, and (2) the relationships between context variables and State performance on permanency outcomes.
- **Chapter IV. Achieving Outcomes Related to Placement Stability and Age-Appropriate Placements for Children in Foster Care.** This chapter reports the findings pertaining to (1) State performance in achieving placement stability and age-appropriate placements for children in foster care, and (2) the relationships between child welfare agency context variables and State performance on these outcomes.
- **Chapter V. Summary: State Performance on the Seven National Child Welfare Outcomes.** This chapter provides an overall discussion of the key findings of the cross-State analyses and the implication of the findings for understanding State performance. The discussion incorporates relevant information from the findings of the Department’s Child and Family Services Review.
- **Chapter VI. State Data Pages.** This chapter presents the data pages for each State and includes the State’s comments on the data (if provided), as well as a Federal Comment section providing an analysis of each State’s performance.⁵

⁴ The term foster care as it is used in the Report to Congress refers to all forms of out-of-home care for children in the child welfare system, including foster family homes, group homes, shelters, residential treatment facilities, and similar placements for children who are in State custody or under State child welfare agency supervision.

⁵ Prior to publication of the Report to Congress, the Department disseminates each State’s data pages to the State child welfare agency director and data managers for their review and comment. If the State agency director or data manager believes that the data presented reflect reporting errors rather than actual performance, the State may resubmit data. A State also may provide a formal commentary to clarify various aspects of its data. If a State child welfare agency director chooses to comment on the State’s data, these comments are included with that State’s data pages.

I. ACHIEVING POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN

The Department of Health and Human Services (the Department) is the Federal agency responsible for implementing and/or monitoring programs and services that address the needs of children and families who come into contact with public child welfare systems. Within the Department, these responsibilities are carried out by the Children's Bureau of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families within the Administration for Children and Families.

The primary responsibility of the Children's Bureau is to assist States in the delivery of child welfare services that protect children and strengthen families. The Children's Bureau provides grants to States, Tribes, and communities to operate a range of child welfare services, including child protective services (child abuse and neglect), family preservation and support, foster care, adoption, and independent living. In addition, the Children's Bureau supports child welfare agency staff training, the development of new technology, and innovative programming through demonstration grants.

In recent years, a primary objective of the Department has been to monitor and enhance State capacity to achieve national outcomes pertaining to the safety, permanency, and well-being of children served by State child welfare systems. Two Department activities were undertaken within the Children's Bureau to meet this objective. One activity is the *Child Welfare Outcomes: Annual Report to Congress* (Report to Congress). This activity assesses State performance on national outcomes based on data from two Federal national reporting systems—the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). The second activity is the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). The CFSR is the Department's results-oriented, comprehensive, monitoring system first implemented in fiscal year (FY) 2001. It was developed in response to a mandate in the Social Security Amendments of 1994 for the Department to promulgate regulations for reviews of State child and family services programs under titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act. The CFSR uses a wide range of information sources to assess State performance, including NCANDS and AFCARS, intensive case reviews, interviews and focus groups with stakeholders in each State, and information provided by the States in a Self-Assessment Report.

Although the Report to Congress and the CFSR are separate activities within the Department, they share the same overarching goal—to provide the Department and the States with information that can be used to enhance the safety, permanency, and well-being of all children who come into contact with the Nation's child welfare systems. To accomplish this goal, the Department established outcomes and indicators for both the Report to Congress and the CFSR. The following sections of this chapter present these outcomes and indicators and the rationale for their selection.

SAFETY-RELATED OUTCOMES

According to *Child Maltreatment 2002* (an annual report published by the Children's Bureau that provides State and national child maltreatment data from NCANDS), an estimated 1.8 million referrals alleging child abuse or neglect were accepted by State and local child protective services (CPS) agencies for investigation or assessment. These referrals included more than 3 million children; approximately 896,000 of these children were determined by the CPS agencies to be victims of child abuse or neglect.⁶ The outcomes and indicators

⁶ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families. *Child Maltreatment 2002*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2004. For *Child Maltreatment 2002*, a victim is defined as a child who was the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report, or whose maltreatment report has a disposition of "alternative response - victim." However, children considered as alternative response victims are not included in the calculation of the Report to Congress safety outcome measures.

designed to assess State performance with regard to keeping these children safe are presented below for both the Report to Congress and the CFSR.

Safety outcomes in the Report to Congress

The Department, through the activities of the Children’s Bureau, supports many child maltreatment primary prevention efforts intended to assist families who have not yet come to the attention of public CPS agencies. However, the primary objective of the Children’s Bureau is to ensure that those children who are determined by CPS agencies to be victims of (or to be at high risk for) abuse or neglect are kept safe from further maltreatment, whether they are in their own homes or in an out-of-home placement. To address this concern, the Department established the following two safety-related outcomes for the Report to Congress.

- 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 1 reflects the Department’s belief that the primary obligation of the public child welfare system is to implement policies, practices, and procedures that will protect children from continued abuse or neglect by a parent or primary caretaker. A State child welfare agency may protect children from continued harm by providing the children and parents with sufficient services to reduce the risk of harm to the children or, when this approach is clearly insufficient, by removing the child from the home. The measure developed for the Report to Congress as an indicator of outcome 1 is the following: *Outcome measure 1.1—Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of the reporting period, what percentage had another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period?*

The specific form of this outcome measure is a response to both the structure of the NCANDS data system and research findings regarding maltreatment recurrence. A 6-month time frame for maltreatment recurrence was established to ensure that the measure captured the actual incidence of maltreatment recurrence rather than estimating the incidence. In addition, multiple research findings indicate that the highest incidence of maltreatment recurrence tends to occur within 6 months of a prior incident. Therefore, the Department determined that the 6-month time frame was sufficient to assess State performance in this area.⁷

Outcome 2 reflects the Department’s belief that public child welfare agencies have an obligation to ensure that children placed by the State in out-of-home care do not become victims of abuse or neglect by the people responsible for their care—i.e., foster parents or facility staff members. Child welfare agencies ensure children’s safety in foster care through various practices and policies, including licensing procedures, training for foster parents and facility staff members, appropriate matching of children and placement resources, and the provision of supportive services to foster parents. The measure developed as an indicator for outcome 2 is the following: *Outcome measure 2.1—Of all children who were in foster care during the reporting period, what percentage was the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member?*

This measure is calculated from data reported to both NCANDS and AFCARS. States report data relevant to the number of children in foster care to AFCARS. Data pertaining to maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members are reported to NCANDS. Recently, some concerns have been identified with regard to this measure that the Department is currently addressing by exploring clarification of who is to be included in the numerator and denominator for each State. For example, in some States, the children reported to NCANDS as maltreated in mental health or juvenile justice facilities are not reported to AFCARS because they are not included in the State’s foster care population. Therefore, all of the children represented in the numerator are

⁷ Fluke, J., Yuan, Y., & Edwards, M. (1999). Recurrence of maltreatment: An application of the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 23(7), 633-650. DePanfilis, D., & Zuravin, S. (1998). Rates, patterns, and frequency of child maltreatment recurrences among families known to CPS. *Child Maltreatment*, 3(1), 27-42.

not included in the denominator. In other States this is not a problem because these children are included in the State's foster care population and therefore are reported to AFCARS as well as NCANDS.

Safety outcomes in the CFSR

The CFSR assesses State performance in keeping children safe based on data from the two safety-related outcome measures developed for the Report to Congress and information from intensive case reviews pertaining to the following safety-related outcomes:

- Safety outcome 1—Children are first and foremost protected from abuse and neglect.
- Safety outcome 2—Children are safely maintained in their homes when possible.

The CFSR process determines whether States are in substantial conformity with these outcomes. A State is determined to be in substantial conformity with safety outcome 1 if the following criteria are met:

- The State's data from AFCARS and NCANDS (for the target year) meets the national standards established for measures of maltreatment recurrence and maltreatment in foster care.
- At least 90 percent of the cases reviewed during the onsite CFSR were determined to have substantially achieved the outcome.

The national standards established for measures of maltreatment recurrence and maltreatment in foster care apply to the outcome measures developed for the Report to Congress. These standards are as follows:

- Maltreatment recurrence national standard—*Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of the reporting period, 6.1 percent or less had another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period.*
- Maltreatment in foster care national standard—*Of all children who were in foster care during the reporting period, 0.57 percent or less were the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member.*

A case was determined to have “substantially achieved” the CFSR safety outcome 1 when the case review process resulted in the following information⁸:

- The investigation of a child maltreatment allegation was conducted in accordance with State-established time frames.
- There was no substantiated (or indicated) maltreatment within 6 months of a prior substantiated (or indicated) maltreatment that involved similar circumstances and the same perpetrator.

A determination of whether a case “substantially achieved” CFSR safety outcome 2 was based on the following case review information:

- The agency made concerted efforts to maintain the child in the home, if possible.
- If it was possible to keep the child in the home rather than placing the child in foster care, the agency provided the necessary services to ensure the child's safety.
- The agency made concerted efforts to reduce the risk of harm to the child.

These indicators address two concerns with respect to child welfare practice. One concern is that children sometimes are removed from their homes in situations in which the provision of services to the family could

⁸ The case review process includes reviews of case files and interviews with key individuals involved in the case, such as parents and children (if appropriate), caseworkers, supervisors, guardians ad litem, and service providers.

have prevented the removal. The other concern is that children sometimes are left in their homes without sufficient services or monitoring to ensure their continued safety.

Taken together, information pertaining to State performance on the safety-related outcomes and indicators assessed through the Report to Congress and the CFSR provides a portrait of State effectiveness with regard to keeping children safe. The Report to Congress presents general findings relevant to statewide performance, while the CFSR adds an indepth understanding of case-level practices and agency policies and procedures.

ACHIEVING PERMANENCY-RELATED OUTCOMES AND OUTCOMES RELEVANT TO PLACEMENT STABILITY AND APPROPRIATENESS

The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997 emphasizes permanency as the primary goal for children in foster care, and provides guidelines for achieving this goal in a timely manner. A child may be said to have achieved a permanent home when the child is reunified with his or her family, when a finalized adoption has occurred, or when a legal guardian has been established for the child. The key concern reflected in ASFA is that children should not grow up in foster care. If it is necessary to remove children from their homes, reasonable efforts must be made either to return them to their families quickly and safely or to find another permanent home for them. A related concern underlying the Department's approach to permanency is that when children are in foster care, they should be in placements that are stable and appropriate. The outcomes and measures established for the Report to Congress and the CFSR that are designed to assess permanency, placement stability, and placement appropriateness are presented below.

Permanency- and placement-related outcomes in the Report to Congress

For the Report to Congress, the Department established the following outcomes as reflecting State performance in achieving permanency for children in foster care.

- Outcome 3—Increase permanency for children in foster care.
- Outcome 4—Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry.
- Outcome 5—Reduce time in foster care to adoption.
- Outcome 6—Increase placement stability.
- Outcome 7—Reduce placements of young children in group homes and institutions.

State performance on these outcomes is calculated from data that States report to AFCARS. The Department established outcome 3 to assess State performance with regard to attaining permanent homes for all children in foster care and for specific subpopulations of children. The following measures were for outcome 3:

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

Outcome 4 is designed to ensure that children who are reunified with their families are reunified in a timely manner, but are not reunified “too soon”—i.e., before the conditions leading to the removal of the child are adequately addressed. The following measures were established to assess State performance on outcome 4:

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

The Department established outcome 5 to assess State performance in achieving adoptions in a timely manner. This outcome reflects the concern that there are children who are in foster care for long periods of time before adoption is actively pursued as a permanency goal. The result is that these children do not experience permanent homes through adoption in a timely manner.

The Department developed the following measure to assess performance on this outcome.

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

Outcome 6 reflects the Department’s belief that States have an obligation to ensure that children who are placed in foster care experience stability. The following outcome measure was developed to assess performance on this outcome.

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

Outcome 7 reflects the Department’s belief that a family foster home usually is the most appropriate foster care environment for young children. The measure developed for this outcome reflects a concern in the field that some young children are being placed in group homes or institutions rather than in family settings. The measure is the following.

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

Permanency- and placement-related outcomes in the CFSR

The CFSR assesses State performance with regard to achieving permanency and placement stability for children based on whether a State is in “substantial conformity” with the following outcomes:

- Permanency outcome 1—Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.
- Permanency outcome 2—The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved.

A State may be found to be in substantial conformity with permanency outcome 1 if the following criteria are met:

- The State’s data from AFCARS meet the national standards established by the Department for measures of timeliness to reunification and adoption, re-entry into foster care, and placement stability.
- At least 90 percent of the cases reviewed were determined to have substantially achieved the outcome.

The Department developed national standards relevant to this outcome that are derived from the Report to Congress outcome measures 4.1, 4.2, 5.1 and 6.1. These national standards are as follows.

- Timeliness to reunification—*Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, 76.2 percent or more were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home.*
- Re-entry—*Of all children who entered foster care during the reporting period, 8.6 percent or less were re-entering foster care within 12 months of a prior foster care episode.*
- Timeliness to adoption—*Of all children who exited foster care to a finalized adoption, 32 percent or more exited foster care in less than 24 months from the time of the latest removal from home.*
- Placement stability—*Of all children who have been in foster care for less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home, 86.7 percent or more have had no more than two placement settings.*

The determination that a case “substantially achieved” permanency outcome 1 was based on the following information from the case review:

- During the period under review, the child did not re-enter foster care within 12 months of a prior foster care episode.
- The child was in a stable foster care placement.
- The agency established an appropriate permanency goal in a timely manner.
- The agency made concerted efforts to achieve the permanency goal in a timely manner.

Permanency outcome 2 assesses State performance with regard to policies and practices that are believed to promote the attainment of permanency in a timely manner. A determination that a case had “substantially achieved” permanency outcome 2 was based on the efforts of the child welfare agency to meet the following criteria.⁹

- Place children in close proximity to their parents.
- Place children with their siblings.
- Promote frequent visitation between children in foster care and their parents and siblings in foster care.
- Preserve children’s connections to extended family, community, schools, religion, and heritage.
- Seek and assess relatives as potential placement resources.
- Maintain or enhance the parent child relationship while the child is in foster care.

⁹ The determination of “substantial achievement” requires that a case meet three of these criteria if applicable given the circumstances of the child and family.

The following chapters provide key findings with regard to State performance on the Report to Congress outcome measures. To enhance an understanding and interpretation of performance on these outcomes, chapter V also presents relevant information from the CFSR findings.

II. ACHIEVING SAFETY OUTCOMES

This chapter presents the findings of the analyses of data from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) pertaining to both child maltreatment population characteristics and State performance on outcomes pertaining to child safety. The number of States included in each analysis varies because of differences in the number of States reporting data for a particular variable or outcome measure.

The chapter includes a description of: (1) the characteristics of State child maltreatment populations, and (2) State performance on national measures of child safety. State performance is reported with respect to the data for 2002, and change in performance is reported based on data from 1999 to 2002. A State was determined to exhibit a change in performance from 1999 to 2002 if the percent change was greater than 5.0 in either direction.¹⁰

This chapter also includes the findings regarding the relationships between the characteristics of State maltreatment populations and State performance on child safety outcome measures. The initial decision to include information pertaining to the characteristics of State child maltreatment populations in the Report to Congress State data pages was based on the assumption that a comprehensive understanding of State performance with regard to achieving the national outcomes may require a consideration of contextual factors, such as population characteristics.

The relationships between population characteristics and State outcome performance were assessed using Spearman's rank order correlation analysis (ρ). Because the data represent the entire population of maltreatment reports rather than a sample of those reports, the determination of statistical significance is not appropriate. Instead, Guilford's suggested interpretation for correlation values, provided in appendix G, is used to identify the strength of the relationship.¹¹

CHARACTERISTICS OF STATE MALTREATMENT POPULATIONS

According to the NCANDS data, in 2002, the rate of child victims¹² per 1,000 children in the population varied considerably across States, from 1.8 child victims per 1,000 in the population in Pennsylvania¹³ to 41.3 child victims per 1,000 in the population in Alaska, with a median of 10.8 child victims. Six States had child victim rates of less than 5 per 1,000 children in the population (Arizona, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington). In comparison, 5 States had victim rates of more than 20 per 1,000 children in the population (Alaska, the District of Columbia, Florida, Massachusetts, and South Dakota).

Analyses of NCANDS data indicate a similar variation across States with regard to substantiation rates. The substantiation rate, as distinguished from the rate of child victims per 1,000 children in the population, addresses how likely it is that a State will substantiate a report of child maltreatment. Thus, States could have the same number of reports of maltreatment, yet one State may substantiate a larger number of reports. Consequently, the substantiation rate may be defined as the number of children who were determined to be victims of a "substantiated" or "indicated" maltreatment report, divided by the total number of children who were the subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment. In 2002, State substantiation rates ranged from 9.1 percent in New Hampshire to 79.5 percent in Alaska, with a median of 27.5 percent. Three

¹⁰ Percent change is calculated by subtracting the percentage for 1999 from the percentage for 2002 and dividing by the percentage for 1999.

¹¹ Guilford, J.P. (1956). *Fundamental statistics in psychology and education* (3rd ed.). New York: McGraw Hill.

¹² A child victim is defined in NCANDS as the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report.

¹³ Pennsylvania's victim rate is due to the fact that the State does not report child neglect to NCANDS unless it is severe neglect.

States had substantiation rates of at least 50 percent (Alaska, Hawaii, and Massachusetts). In contrast, 5 States had substantiation rates of 15 percent or less (Arizona, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, and New Jersey).

Neither the substantiation rate nor the rate of child victims in 2002 was found to be related to the size of a State's child population. However, a strong relationship was found between the child victim rate and the substantiation rate (Spearman's rho = +0.711). A State with a relatively high substantiation rate tended to have a relatively high rate of child victims per 1,000 children in the population, while a State with a relatively low substantiation rate tended to have a relatively low rate of child victims per 1,000 children in the population. This finding suggests that the rate of child victims in a State is in part a function of State policies and definitions regarding child maltreatment.

State variations with regard to the age of child maltreatment victims

The information provided in table II-1 below indicates that in 2002, there was considerable variation among States with respect to the age of child victims. In most States, the majority of child victims were younger than age 6. However, in 50 percent of the States, at least 30 percent of child victims were 11 years of age or older.

This suggests that the common perception of child maltreatment victims as being very young children is not accurate in many States.

Table II-1. Range and median of State percentages of child victims in 2002 by age group (N=51)

Ages of Children	Range Across States (%)	Median Percent
Younger than 1 year old	4.9 – 14.6	9.3
1 year to younger than 6 years old	22.3 – 37.3	30.9
6 years to younger than 11 years old	24.9 – 31.6	28.1
11 years to younger than 16 years old	18.8 – 37.7	24.5
16 years and older	2.8 – 11.8	5.4

State variation with regard to the race/ethnicity of child maltreatment victims

As shown in table II-2, States vary considerably with regard to the race/ethnicity of child victims. In 2002 the majority of child victims in most States were White.¹⁴ There were only 5 States in which 15 percent or more of child victims were Alaska Native/Native American (Alaska, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and South Dakota). In addition, although Asian/Pacific Islander children comprised 35.3 percent of the child victim population in Hawaii, the next highest percentage was 3.4 in California.

Table II-2. Range and median of State percentages of child victims in 2002 by race/ethnicity (N=50)

Race/Ethnicity	Percent Range Across States (Difference)	Median Percent
White	0.6 – 95.4 (94.8)	54.5
Black	0.6 – 52.2 (51.6)	14.6
Hispanic (not including Puerto Rico)	0.8 – 47.2 (46.4)	4.6
Alaska Native/Native American	0.0 – 48.0 (48.0)	.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1 – 35.3 (35.2)	.4

Table II-3 provides information pertaining to the relationship between the percentage of children in the State population who were of a particular race/ethnicity and the percentage of that State's child victims who were of the same race/ethnicity.

¹⁴ For purposes of this report, the term White refers to all children identified as White who are not Hispanic. The term Black refers to all children identified as Black who are not Hispanic. The term Hispanic refers to all children identified as being of Hispanic origin, regardless of race.

Table II-3. Relationship between the percentage of child victims by race/ethnicity and the percentage of State child population by race/ethnicity (All 2002 numbers count at the Report-Child pair level so the same child may be reported more than once in these data)*

Relationship of percentage of victims to percentage in the population*	Hispanic (N = 50)	White (N= 50)	Black (N = 50)	Alaska Native/Native American (N = 48)
Number (%) of States in which the percentage of child victims exceeded the percent in the population.	6 (12)	0	32 (64)	13 (27)
Number (%) of States in which the percentage of victims was about equal to the percent in the population.	27 (54)	22 (44)	15 (30)	20 (42)
Number (%) of States in which the percentage of victims was less than the population percent.	17 (34)	28 (56)	3 (6)	15 (31)

* The information is presented for the number of States with the percentage of States shown in parentheses.

The following are the key findings relevant to this table.

- There were no States in which the percentage of White child victims exceeded the percentage of White children in the population.
- In 6 States, the percentage of Hispanic child victims exceeded the percentage of Hispanic children in the population (Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Utah).
- In 32 States, the percentage of Black child victims exceeded the percentage of Black children in the population. In 22 of these 32 States, the percentage of Black child victims was at least twice the percentage of Black children in the State population; in one State (Minnesota), the percentage of Black child victims was five times the percentage of Black children in the population.
- In 13 States, the percentage of Alaska Native/Native American child victims exceeded the percentage of these children in the population. In 10 of these 13 States, the percentage of Alaska Native/Native American child victims was at least twice the percentage in the population; in 7 of the 13 States the percentage of Alaska Native/Native American child victims was three times the percentage in the population (Idaho, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, and Wisconsin).

State variation with regard to types of maltreatment experienced by child victims

As shown in table II-4, in 2002, the types of maltreatment experienced by child victims varied across States. Although in most States, the majority of child victims were victims of “neglect (not including medical neglect),” there were a few States in which this type of maltreatment accounted for only a small percentage of child victims.

Some of the variation depicted in table II-4 may be attributed to differences in State definitions of maltreatment. For example, in some States, psychological/emotional abuse is incorporated into the State definition of child abuse and neglect, while in other States this type of abuse generally is not part of the legal definition of child maltreatment. As another example, in Pennsylvania, neglect is handled by the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families agency and the State does not report allegations of neglect to NCANDS unless it is determined to be “severe neglect.” Consequently, for the

Table II-4. Range and median of State percentages of child victims in 2002 by types of maltreatment

Type of Maltreatment	Percent Range (Difference)	Median Percent
Neglect (not medical neglect) (N = 51)	3.9 – 90.3 (86.4)	60.7
Physical abuse (N = 51)	3.5 – 67.6 (64.1)	21.4
Psychological/emotional abuse (N = 49)	0.2 – 55.0 (54.8)	3.3
Sexual abuse (N = 51)	3.5 – 54.3 (50.8)	9.2
Medical neglect (N = 40)	0.0 – 13.1 (13.1)	2.8

NCANDS data, Pennsylvania had the lowest percentage of children reported as victims of neglect. Furthermore, because Pennsylvania does not include most neglect in NCANDS reporting, other categories of abuse, such as sexual abuse, appear magnified.

No meaningful relationship was found between the types of maltreatment experienced by child victims and the ages or race/ethnicity of child victims.

STATE PERFORMANCE WITH REGARD TO KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

The Department developed the following outcomes and measures relevant to keeping children safe.

- Outcome 1—Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect.
Outcome measure 1.1—Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of the reporting period, what percentage had another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period?
- Outcome 2—Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care.
Outcome measure 2.1—Of all children who were in foster care during the reporting period, what percentage was the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member?

Key findings with regard to State performance on these outcome measures for 2002 and changes in State performance from 1999 to 2002 are presented below.

State performance regarding maltreatment recurrence

In 2002, 42 States provided sufficient data to NCANDS to calculate the Report to Congress measure of maltreatment recurrence. Analyses of these data resulted in the following findings:

- The percentage of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period ranged from 1.2 in Delaware to 13.7 in New York, with a median of 7.5.
- Sixteen States (38 percent) met the national standard of 6.1 percent or less for the measure of maltreatment recurrence (Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, and Virginia).

Information pertaining to change in performance on this measure from 1999 to 2002 is provided in table II-5. As shown in the table, State performance exhibited an increase from 1999 to 2002 in the percentage of States meeting the national standard (+11.8 percent change). However, the increase in the number of States reporting from 1999 to 2002 suggests that these findings should be interpreted with caution, because different States were represented in the population from one year to the next.

Table II-5. State performance from 1999 through 2002 with regard to maltreatment recurrence (outcome measure 1.1)

Analysis Results	1999	2000	2001	2002
Number of States reporting	29	34	40	42
Mean performance (percent recurrence in 6 months)	7.5	7.9	7.7	7.1
Median performance (percent recurrence in 6 months)	7.4	7.9	8.0	7.5
Range across States (percent recurrence in 6 months)	2.1-13.5	3.0-13.1	2.8-14.1	1.2-13.7
Percent of States meeting national standard of 6.1 percent or less	34	29	32.5	38

Figure II-1 shows the percentages of States exhibiting improvement, decline, or no change in performance from 1999 to 2002 for the States that provided data in both years. A State was determined to exhibit a change in performance from 1999 to 2002 if the percent change was greater than plus or minus 5.0.¹⁵ Two States that improved in performance from 1999 to 2002 met the national standard in both time periods (i.e., 1999 and 2002). Two States (Hawaii and Vermont) went from not meeting the national standard in 1999 to meeting the national standard in 2002.

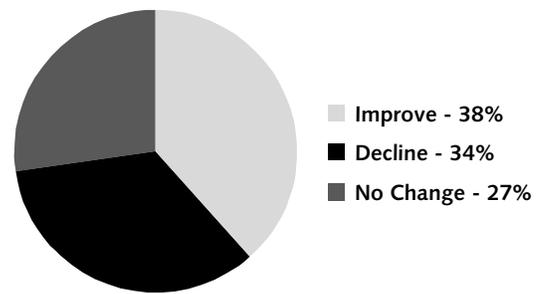


Figure II-1. Percentage of States exhibiting improvement, decline, or no change in performance with regard to maltreatment recurrence from 1999 to 2002 (N = 29 States) (outcome measure 1.1).

State performance regarding maltreatment in foster care

In FY 2002, 42 States provided sufficient data to NCANDS and AFCARS to calculate outcome measure 2.1—the percentage of children in foster care for the first 9 months of the calendar year who were maltreated by foster parents or facility staff. Analyses of these data resulted in the following findings:

- The percentage of children in foster care who were victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff ranged from 0.05 in Vermont to 1.62 in Oklahoma, with a median of 0.39.
- Twenty-five (59 percent) of the 42 States met the national standard of 0.57 or less for this measure.

Table II-6 provides data pertaining to State performance on this measure from 1999 through 2002. As shown in the table, the number of States providing sufficient data to calculate the measure doubled from 1999 to 2002. Both the mean performance and median performance exhibited improvement from 1999 to 2002. Although the percentage of States meeting the national standard declined slightly from 2001 to 2002, the percentage in 2002 represents a +13.8 percent change from 1999. Again, the increase in the number of States reporting from 1999 (21 States) to 2002 (42 States) suggests that these findings should be interpreted with caution, because different States are represented in the population from one year to the next.

Table II-6. State performance from 1999 to 2002 with regard to maltreatment of children in foster care by foster parents or facility staff (outcome measure 2.1)

Analysis Results	1999	2000	2001	2002
Number of States reporting	21	30	37	42
Mean performance (percent maltreated while in foster care)	0.67	0.60	0.52	0.52
Median performance (percent maltreated while in foster care)	0.52	0.48	0.48	0.39
Range across States (percent maltreated while in foster care)	0.05-2.31	0.01-1.66	0.02-1.62	0.05-1.62
Percent of States meeting national standard of 0.57 percent or less	52.3	60.0	65.8	59.5

¹⁵ Percent change is calculated by subtracting the percentage for 1999 from the percentage for 2002 and dividing by the percentage for 1999.

Figure II-2 presents the percentage of States exhibiting improvement, decline, or no change in performance from 1999 to 2002 (for the 21 States that provided data in both years). Five of the 10 States that improved in performance from 1999 to 2002 met the national standard in both 1999 and 2002. Four of the 10 States that declined in performance from 1999 to 2002 continued to meet the national standard despite the decline. Only one State (Florida) went from not meeting the standard in 1999 to meeting the standard in 2002.

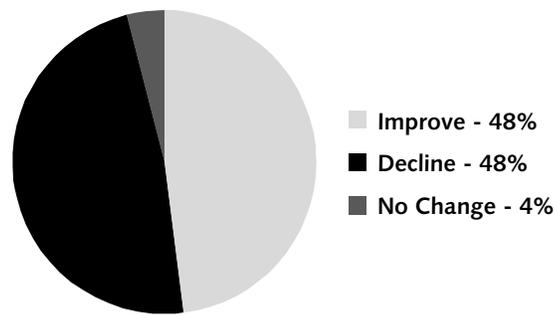


Figure II-2. Percentage of States exhibiting improvement, decline, or no change in performance with regard to maltreatment in foster care from 1999 to 2001 and from 1999 to 2002 (N = 29 States) (outcome measure 2.1).

STATE CHILD VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS AND STATE PERFORMANCE WITH REGARD TO MALTREATMENT RECURRENCE

Analyses were conducted to assess whether various aspects of the State child welfare context affected performance on outcome measure 1.1. The contextual factors examined were the following:

- Rate of child victims per 1,000 children in the population.
- Age of child victims.
- Race/ethnicity of child victims.
- Type of maltreatment experienced by child victims.

A substantial positive relationship (according to Guildford's suggested interpretation provided in appendix G) was found between the rate of child victims per 1,000 children in the population and State performance on outcome measure 1.1 (Spearman's rho = .613). In general, States with a relatively high rate of child victims tended to have a relatively high rate of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period. In contrast, States with a relatively low rate of child victims tended to have a relatively low rate of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period.

The following are specific findings with regard to this relationship:

- Thirteen of the 21 States with child victim rates that were less than the national median met the national standard of 6.1 percent or less for the maltreatment recurrence measure.
- Only 2 of the 21 States with victim rates greater than the national median met the national standard of 6.1 percent or less.
- Sixteen of the 20 States that exceeded the national median for the measure of maltreatment recurrence also exceeded the national median for the rate of child victims in 2002.

One explanation for the relationship may be that State definitions of maltreatment that are relatively broad in scope compared to those of other States may result in both higher victim rates and higher maltreatment recurrence rates as calculated by outcome measure 1.1. This suggests that State policies and definitions regarding child maltreatment may impact both the number of victims and the incidence of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period.

A negative substantial relationship was found between the percentage of child victims experiencing sexual abuse and State performance on the measure of maltreatment recurrence (Spearman's rho = -0.489). States with a relatively high percentage of child victims experiencing sexual abuse tended to have a relatively low

incidence of maltreatment recurrence. Correspondingly, States with a relatively low percentage of child victims experiencing sexual abuse tended to have a relatively high incidence of maltreatment recurrence. It is difficult to interpret this finding without additional research information pertaining to the relationship between maltreatment recurrence and child sexual abuse.

No substantial relationships were found between the percentage of children experiencing psychological or emotional abuse and State performance on the measure of maltreatment recurrence. Also, no substantial relationships were found between the percentage of child victims who were of a particular age or race/ethnicity and State performance on the outcome measure of maltreatment recurrence.

III. ACHIEVING PERMANENCY OUTCOMES

This chapter presents key findings regarding State performance on the Report to Congress permanency outcomes. The data reported in the chapter are from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). The analyses examined State differences with regard to (1) foster care population characteristics, (2) performance on achieving the outcome measures pertaining to permanency in FY 2002, and (3) change in outcome performance from 1999 to 2002. A State was determined to exhibit a change in performance if the percent change was greater than 5.0 in either direction.

This chapter also presents findings pertaining to the relationship between State's foster care population characteristics and State performance on the outcome measures. These analyses are designed to assess the extent to which an understanding of State performance requires a consideration of particular contextual factors. Again, Guilford's suggested interpretations for the Spearman rho correlation coefficients (appendix G) were used to describe the relationships.

The number of States included in each analysis varies. States are excluded from an analysis if they do not report data or if there are apparent data quality issues, usually related to missing data or data discrepancies. In particular, States were excluded from many analyses if 20 percent or more of the exits from foster care in a given year did not have "reason for discharge" information. Additionally, States were excluded from the analysis of timeliness of adoption if there was a substantial discrepancy between the number of finalized adoptions reported to the AFCARS Adoption file and the number of exits to adoption reported to the AFCARS Foster Care file.

STATE FOSTER CARE POPULATIONS

The State data pages presented in chapter VI provide data pertaining to select context variables, as well as to performance on the national outcome measures. The context variables include: (1) the size of the State foster care population; (2) the number of children exiting and entering foster care and the number served on the first and last days of the Federal fiscal year; (3) the median length of stay of children in foster care; and (4) the age and race/ethnicity of the children entering and exiting foster care and children adopted from the foster care system. The findings regarding State differences on these context variables are presented below.

State variations in the size of foster care populations

The size of State foster care populations varies considerably. For example, in FY 2002, 146,070 children were served in foster care in California compared to 1,656 children in Wyoming. The median across States for the number of children served in FY 2002 was 9,413. The number of children served in California is more than 15 times the median number and is almost 2.5 times the number served in New York, which has the second largest foster care population (58,660 children).

The number of children entering foster care in FY 2002 also varied considerably, from 46,557 children in California to 563 children in New Hampshire, with a median of 3,537 children. Again, the number of children entering foster care in California was almost 13 times the median and more than twice the number of children entering foster care in Florida, which had the second largest foster care entry population in FY 2002 (20,800).

The ratio of exits to entries in FY 2002 varied across States as well. In Illinois, for example, the number of exits was 133 percent of the number of entries into foster care (i.e., exits were greater than entries). In

contrast, in the District of Columbia, the number of exits was 49 percent of the number of entries (i.e., more than twice the number of children entered foster care than exited foster care). There were only two States in which the number of exits from foster care was substantially larger than the number of entries (Illinois and New York).

Extensive variation was found in FY 2002 for the rate of entry into foster care—i.e., the number of children entering foster care per 1,000 children in the population. The rate of entry ranged from 1.8 children in New Hampshire to 8.3 children in Iowa, with a median of 4.5. Three States had foster care entry rates that were at least 8.0 children per 1,000 in the population (Hawaii, Iowa, and Minnesota). Four States had foster care entry rates that were less than 2.0 children per 1,000 in the population (Illinois, New Hampshire, Texas, and Virginia).

State variation with respect to child characteristics

As shown in table III-1, States varied with respect to the ages of the children entering foster care in FY 2002. The most extensive variation occurred for the 16 and older age group. All 8 of the States in which more than 20 percent of the children entering foster care were age 16 or older are States that provide child welfare agency foster care services to children who are in the juvenile justice system (Colorado, Delaware, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Tennessee, and Wyoming).

State differences also were found with regard to the race/ethnicity of children entering foster care in FY 2002, as shown in table III-2. The largest range occurred for White children, with a difference across States of 95.2 percent.

Table III-1. Range and median of State percentages of children entering foster care in FY 2002 by age group (N = 52)

Age Group	Percent Range (Difference)	Median Percent
Younger than 1 year	6.4-23.9 (17.5)	13.3
1 year to younger than 6 years	14.4 – 35.1 (20.6)	26.0
6 years to younger than 11 years	10.0 – 28.3 (18.3)	20.7
11 years to younger than 16 years	19.7 – 43.5 (23.8)	28.2
16 years and older	3.1 – 33.2 (30.1)	10.1

Table III-2. Range and median for State percentages of children entering foster care in FY 2002 by race/ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Percent Range (% difference)	Median %
White	1.1-96.3 (95.2)	50.5
Black	0.8-62.7 (61.9)	19.4
Hispanic (not including Puerto Rico)	0.6-45.9 (45.3)	6.0
Alaska Native/Native American	0-57.9 (57.9)	0.3
Asian	0-13.8 (13.8)	0.4

The information in table III-3 on the following page indicates that States also varied with respect to the relationship between the percentage of children in the State population of a particular race/ethnicity and the percentage of children entering foster care of the same race/ethnicity. The following are key findings with regard to the analysis conducted for table III-3.

- There were no States in which the percentage of White children entering foster care exceeded the percentage of White children in the population.
- In 9 States (18 percent), the percentage of Hispanic children entering foster care was larger than the percentage of Hispanic children in the population. In six of these States, the percentage of Hispanic children entering foster care was twice as large as the percentage of Hispanic children in the population (Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota).
- In 40 States (78 percent), the percentage of Black children entering foster care exceeded the percentage of Black children in the State population. In 31 of these States, the percentage of Black children entering foster care was more than twice the percentage of Black children in the population. In eight

States the percentage of Black children entering foster care was more than three times the percentage of Black children in the population (Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Utah, and Wisconsin).

- States with a relatively large percentage of Black children in the State population tended to have smaller discrepancies between the percentage of Black children entering foster care and the percentage of Black children in the population. For example, in 9 of the 13 States with a Black child population greater than 20 percent, the percentage of Black children entering foster care was about equal to the percentage of Black children in the population.
- In 18 States (36 percent), the percentage of Alaska Native/Native American children entering foster care exceeded the percentage of Native American children in the population. In five of these States, the percentage of Alaska Native/Native American children entering foster care was more than four times as great as the percentage in the population (Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, and South Dakota).
- In contrast to the findings for Black children, States with a relatively large percentage of Alaska Native/Native American children tended to have a relatively large discrepancy between the percentage of Alaska Native/Native American children entering foster care and the percentage of those children in the population.

Table III-3. Relationship of percentage of children entering foster care by race/ethnicity to percentage of child population by race/ethnicity in FY 2002

Relationship of percentage of victims to percentage in the population*	Hispanic (N = 51)**	White (N = 51)	Black (N = 51)	Alaska Native/Native American (N = 50)
Number (%) of States in which the percentage of children entering foster care exceeded (1.5 or more times) the percent in the population.	9 (18)	0	40 (78)	18 (36)
Number (%) of States in which the percentage of children entering foster care was about equal (less than 1.5 times) to the percent in the population.	30 (59)	34 (67)	11 (22)	12 (24)
Number (%) of States in which the percentage of children entering foster care was less than (more than 1.5 times) the population percent.	12 (23)	17 (33)	0	20 (40)

* The data presented are in number of States with percentages provided in parentheses.

** Excludes Puerto Rico

State variation with respect to the characteristics of adopted children

Table III-4 presents the range and median percentages of children in various age groups reported to AFCARS as being adopted from foster care in FY 2002. As shown in the table, the median percentage across States is largest for the group of children who are at least 1 year of age, but younger than 6. At 6 years and above, the median percentage declines as age increases.

Table III-4. Range and median of State percentages of children adopted from foster care in FY 2002 in various age groups (N = 52)

Age Group	Percent Range (Difference)	Median Percent
Younger than 1 year	0.2 – 37.2* (37.0)	1.4
1 year to younger than 6 years	25.0 – 60.6 (35.6)	45.1
6 years to younger than 11 years	14.6 – 42.1 (27.5)	32.6
11 years to younger than 16 years	9.2 – 28.6 (19.4)	17.8
16 years and older	0.7 – 5.7 (5.0)	2.0

* In North Dakota, 37.2 percent of the children adopted were younger than 1 year old at the time of the finalized adoption. However, because North Dakota requires that all children who are adopted (even infants) must be in foster care prior to the adoption, the State's adoption population is different from other States. For example, the next highest State (Utah) has only 9.0 percent of children adopted who are younger than 1 year old.

Table III-5 provides the range and median percentages for the race/ethnicity of children reported to the AFCARS Adoption Database as having a finalized adoption in FY 2002. As shown in the table, there is considerable variation across States with regard to the race/ethnicity of adopted children.

Table III-5. Range and median of State percentages of children adopted from foster care in FY 2002 by race/ethnicity (N= 50)

Race/Ethnicity	Percent Range (% difference)	Median %
White (N = 50)	6.8 – 93.5 (86.7)	50.2
Black (N = 50)	0.7 – 72.9 (72.2)	25.7
Hispanic (not including Puerto Rico) (N = 50)	0.4 – 55.6 (55.2)	7.0
Alaska Native/Native American (N = 33)	< 0.1 – 56.6 (56.5)	1.5
Asian (N = 31)	< 0.1 – 21.3 (21.2)	0.4

STATE PERFORMANCE IN ACHIEVING PERMANENCY

A foster child may be said to have achieved permanency if the child has been reunified with parents and the State no longer has custody and care responsibilities; if the child has been adopted and the adoption is finalized; or if the custody of the child has been transferred to a legal guardian. The Department assesses State performance with regard to achieving permanency for children in foster care through the following measures developed to assess outcome 3—Increase permanency for children in foster care.

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

State performance with regard to achieving permanency for all children exiting foster care, for children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability, and for children exiting foster care who were age 13 or older when they entered foster care

Forty-nine States provided sufficient data in FY 2002 to calculate outcome measure 3.1.¹⁶ Table III-6 provides a summary of the data for this measure. As shown in the table, the majority of children exiting foster care in 2002 were discharged to permanent homes. In 3 States, more than 94 percent of children exiting foster care were discharged to a permanent home (Alaska, Connecticut, and Puerto Rico).

Table III-6. Range and median of State percentages of exits to permanency in FY 2002 (N= 49) (outcome measure 3.1)

Reason for Discharge from Foster Care	Percent Range (difference)	Median (%)
Discharge to permanent homes (reunification, adoption, guardianship)	73.4 – 94.8 (21.4)	86.1
• Discharge to reunification	37.1 – 86.9 (49.8)	65.1
• Discharge to adoption	1.8 – 42.8 (41.0)	16.2
• Discharge to guardianship	0 – 13.8 (13.8)	2.2

Generally speaking, the majority of children who are not discharged to a permanent home exit foster care because they are emancipated.

¹⁶ Three States (Nebraska, Nevada, and West Virginia) were excluded because 20 percent or more of the exits from foster care in FY 2002 did not have “reason for discharge” information.

The data in table III-6 also indicate that the majority of children exiting foster care in FY 2002 were reunified with parents or primary caretakers, although there was almost a 50 percent difference in this statistic across States. There was only one State (Illinois) in which the percentage of children exiting to adoption exceeded the percentage of children exiting to reunification. Although guardianship continues to be a fairly rare permanency option in most States, in 4 States, more than 10 percent of the children exiting foster care were discharged to a legal guardianship (Arizona, Hawaii, Missouri, and North Carolina).

State performance on outcome measure 3.1 from FY 1999 through FY 2002 is presented in table III-7. The data in the table pertain to the percentage of children exiting foster care who experienced any of the three types of permanency (i.e., reunification, adoption, or guardianship).

Table III-7. State performance from FY 1999 through FY 2002 with regard to exits to permanency (outcome measure 3.1)

Analysis Results	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
Number of States included in the analysis	46	47	51	49
Mean performance (percent exits to permanent homes)	83.9	84.2	84.8	85.8
Median performance (percent exits to permanent homes)	85.0	85.7	85.1	86.1
Range across States (percent exits to permanent homes)	59.6-94.9	66.9-94.5	68.8-97.3	73.4-94.8

Figure III-1 provides the percentage of States improving, declining, or exhibiting no change in performance on outcome measure 3.1 from FY 1999 to FY 2002. Most States exhibited no change in performance on this measure, but 35 percent did improve performance.

Outcome measure 3.2 addresses State performance with regard to achieving permanency for children exiting foster care who have a diagnosed disability. Forty-seven States provided sufficient data to AFCARS for FY 2002 to be included in the analysis of performance on this measure.¹⁷ A key finding was that States generally experienced less success in finding permanent homes for children in foster care who had a diagnosed disability (median = 79.8 percent) than they did finding permanent homes for all children in foster care (median = 86.1 percent).

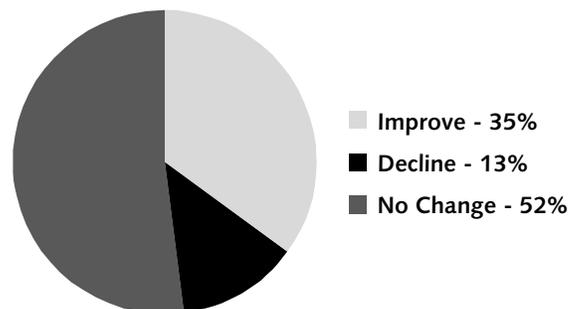


Figure III-1. Percentage of States exhibiting improvement, decline, or no change in performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to children exiting to permanency (N = 46) (outcome measure 3.1).

Outcome measure 3.3 assesses State performance with regard to achieving permanency for children exiting foster care who entered foster care when they were older than age 12. Key findings for FY 2002 with regard to this measure were the following (N = 48):¹⁸

- Most of the children discharged to permanent homes who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care were reunified with their families.
- In general, States experienced less success in finding permanent homes for children who entered foster care when they were older than age 12 (median = 72.0 percent), than they did finding permanent homes for children with a diagnosed disability (median = 79.8 percent).

¹⁷ Two States (Maine and Nevada) were excluded because 20 percent or more of exits of children with a diagnosed disability did not have “reason for discharge” information. Three States (Alaska, New York, West Virginia) were excluded because they did not provide data to calculate this measure.

¹⁸ Four States (Maine, Nebraska, Texas, and West Virginia) were excluded because 20 percent or more of the exits of children who were older than age 12 when they exited foster care did not have “reason for discharge” information.

- In 33 of the 44 States providing sufficient data for both measures, the percentage of children exiting to a permanent home who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care was less than the percentage of children exiting to a permanent home who had a diagnosed disability.

State performance regarding the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care

Outcome measure 3.4 is designed to assess whether children are, in effect, growing up in foster care. The measure examines the percentage of children exiting to emancipation who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care. In most States, only a small percentage of children exiting foster care are reported as discharged to emancipation, with a range from 0.5 percent in Puerto Rico to 22.1 in Virginia. In FY 2002, the median percentage of children exiting foster care to emancipation was 6.6 (N = 49 States).

The following are key findings with regard to the percentage of children exiting to emancipation in FY 2002 who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care:

- The percentage of children exiting to emancipation who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care ranged from 8.8 in Utah to 61.0 in Illinois, with a median of 26.9.
- In 4 States, more than 50 percent of the children emancipated from foster care in FY 2002 entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (Alabama, Alaska, Illinois, and Puerto Rico).
- In 3 States, less than 10 percent of the children emancipated from foster care in FY 2002 entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (New Mexico, South Dakota, and Utah).

Table III-8. State performance from FY 1999 through FY 2002 with regard to exits to emancipation of children who entered foster care when they were age 12 or younger (outcome measure 3.4)

Analysis Results	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
Number of States included in the analysis	44	45	49	49
Mean performance (percent of exits to emancipation who were age 12 or younger at entry)	28.7	28.2	30.4	29.1
Median performance (percent of exits to emancipation who were age 12 or younger at entry)	28.7	26.7	28.0	26.9

Table III-8 provides data pertaining to State performance on outcome measure 3.4 from FY 1999 through FY 2002. As shown in the table, there was little variation across years with respect to the mean or median performance on this outcome measure.

Figure III-2 provides the percentage of States exhibiting improvement, decline, or no change in performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children exiting to emancipation who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care. Although one-half of the States exhibited improved performance on this measure, a substantial percentage of States declined in performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002. The reasons for this decline are not known at this time.

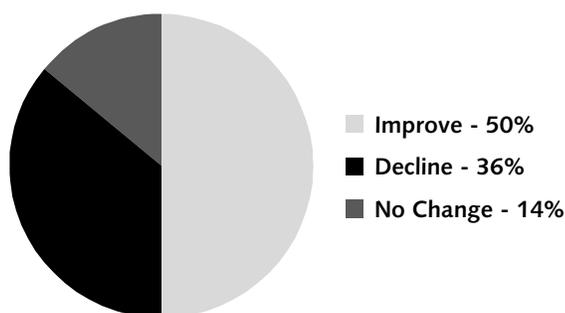


Figure III-2. Percentage of States exhibiting improvement, decline, or no change in performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to exits to emancipation of children who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (N=44) (outcome measure 3.4).

State performance with regard to exits to permanency of children of different races/ethnicity

Outcome measure 3.5 assesses State performance with regard to exits to permanency of children of various races/ethnicities. For Hispanics, Whites, and Blacks, the analysis was limited to those States in which the ethnic/racial group was represented by at least 10 percent of the children exiting foster care. For Native Americans, the analysis was limited to those States in which at least 5 percent of the children exiting foster care were Native American. The following are the key findings of the analyses of FY 2002 data:

- For the 13 States in which at least 10 percent of the children exiting foster care were Hispanic and at least 10 percent were White, there was no substantive difference between the percentage of exits to permanency for White children (mean = 86.0 percent) and the percentage of exits to permanency for Hispanic children (mean = 87.1 percent).
- For the 8 States in which at least 10 percent of the children exiting foster care were Black and at least 10 percent were Hispanic, there was no substantive difference between the percentage of exits to permanency for Black children (mean = 82.6 percent) and the percentage of exits to permanency for Hispanic children (mean = 84.9 percent).
- For the 33 States in which at least 10 percent of the children exiting foster care were Black and at least 10 percent were White, there were 23 States in which the percentage of Black children exiting to a permanent home was less than the percentage of White children exiting to a permanent home (table III-9).
- For the eight States in which at least five percent of the children exiting foster care were Native American and at least five percent were White, there were seven States in which the percentage of Alaska Native/Native American children exiting to a permanent home was less than the percentage of White children exiting to a permanent home (table III-10).

Table III-9. State percentages of exits to permanency for Black and White children in FY 2002

State	Percent Exiting to Permanency		
	Black	White	Difference
Nevada	84.6	74.2	10.4
Maryland	82.8	78.6	4.2
Wisconsin	86.5	82.9	3.6
Connecticut	95.1	93.0	2.1
Iowa	92.5	91.5	1.0
New York	83.2	88.2	1.0
Tennessee	87.9	87.2	0.7
Oklahoma	92.2	92.7	0.5
Delaware	91.9	91.7	0.2
Minnesota	88.0	88.0	0.0
Missouri	92.5	92.7	-0.2
Kansas	83.8	84.4	-0.6
North Carolina	90.6	91.2	-0.6
Massachusetts	80.8	81.4	-0.6
New Jersey	89.6	90.4	-0.8
Arkansas	91.0	92.0	-1.0
Indiana	88.7	89.8	-1.1
Georgia	89.3	90.5	-1.2
Virginia	71.8	73.2	-1.4
Florida	91.6	93.5	-1.9
Ohio	83.0	85.0	-2.0
Mississippi	79.7	82.4	-2.7
Rhode Island	83.4	86.2	-2.8
Michigan	85.0	88.1	-3.1
Colorado	79.3	82.6	-3.3
Texas	78.3	82.1	-3.8
Kentucky	78.4	82.4	-4.0
South Carolina	80.5	84.6	-4.1
Louisiana	71.0	76.2	-5.2
California	76.1	82.1	-6.0
Alabama	82.6	89.5	-6.9
Pennsylvania	82.1	89.6	-7.5
Illinois	77.2	84.8	-7.6

* The 33 States listed in this table are those in which at least 10 percent of the children exiting foster care were White and at least 10 percent were Black.

STATE PERFORMANCE IN ACHIEVING PERMANENCY IN A TIMELY MANNER

A primary goal of child welfare services is to achieve permanency for children as quickly as possible after they enter foster care, without jeopardizing their continued safety. To address the issue of timely permanency, the Department established two outcomes: outcome 4—Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry; and outcome 5—Reduce time in foster care to adoption.

*Table III-10. State percentages of children exiting to permanency for Alaska Native/Native American and White children in FY 2002**

State	Percent Exiting to Permanency		
	Alaska Native/ Native American	White	Difference
Montana	86.0	82.3	3.7
Minnesota	84.9	88.0	-3.1
Alaska	92.0	97.2	-5.2
South Dakota	77.3	86.1	-8.8
Oklahoma	83.0	92.7	-9.7
Nebraska	67.5	78.5	-11.0
North Dakota	67.1	78.3	-11.2
New Mexico	72.1	90.9	-18.8

* The eight States listed in this table are those in which at least five percent of children exiting foster care were Native American and at least five percent were White.

The measures developed to assess State performance in attaining outcomes 4 and 5 are the following:

- *Outcome measure 4.1—Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, what percentage was reunified in the following time periods?*
 - (1) less than 12 months
 - (2) at least 12 months but less than 24 months
 - (3) at least 24 months but less than 36 months
 - (4) at least 36 months but less than 48 months
 - (5) 48 or more months
- *Outcome measure 4.2—Of all children who entered foster care during the reporting period, what percentage re-entered care:*
 - (1) within 12 months of a prior foster care episode?
 - (2) 12 months or more after a prior foster care episode?
- *Outcome measure 5.1—Of all children who exited foster care to a finalized adoption, what percentage exited foster care in the following time periods?*
 - (1) Less than 12 months from the time of the latest removal from home
 - (2) At least 12 months but less than 24 months
 - (3) At least 24 months but less than 36 months
 - (4) At least 36 months but less than 48 months
 - (5) 48 or more months

State performance with regard to reunifying children in a timely manner

Forty-nine States were included in the analysis of State performance in FY 2002 with regard to time to reunification (outcome measure 4.1).¹⁹ Key findings were the following:

- Exits to reunification that occurred within 12 months of the child’s entry into foster care ranged from 38.8 percent in Michigan to 90.5 percent in New Mexico, with a median of 68.1 percent.
- 18 States (37 percent) met the national standard of 76.2 percent or more for reunifications occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care.
- In 3 States, more than 15 percent of the children exiting foster care to reunification had been in foster care for at least 36 months (Illinois, Maryland, and New York).

¹⁹ Three States (Nebraska, Nevada, and West Virginia) were excluded because 20 percent or more of the exits from foster care did not have “reason for discharge” information. Therefore, the number of children exiting to reunification is not known.

Table III-11 provides State performance on this measure from FY 1999 through FY 2002. The information in the table demonstrates that the percentage of States meeting the national standard for reunifications within 12 months increased considerably from 1999 to 2002 (+68.2 percent change), although the largest percentage of States meeting the standard occurred in FY 2000.

Table III-11. State performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to achieving reunification within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care (outcome measure 4.1)

Analysis Results	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
Number of States included in analysis	46	47	51	49
Mean performance (percent reunified within 12 months)	67.5	68.8	69.1	69.0
Median performance (percent reunified within 12 months)	64.8	68.0	69.1	68.0
Range across States	39.4-86.4	40.2-87.0	40.3-94.1	38.8-90.5
Percent of States meeting national standard of 76.2 percent or more	22	40	37	37

Figure III-3 provides the percentage of States exhibiting improvement, decline, and no change in performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002. As shown in the figure, many States exhibited no change in performance on this measure, although a large percentage of States improved in performance. Five States went from not meeting the national standard in FY 1999 to meeting the standard in FY 2002 (Arizona, Hawaii, Indiana, North Dakota, and Utah). None of the 8 States that declined in performance met the national standard in either FY 1999 or FY 2002.

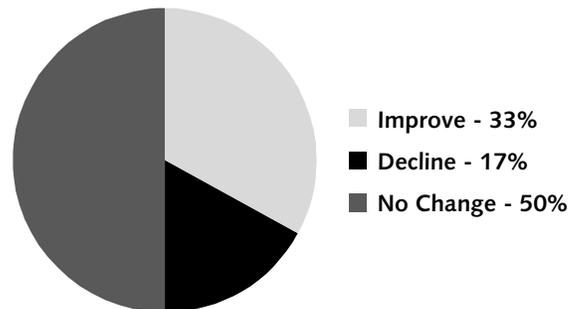


Figure III-3. Percentage of States exhibiting improvement, decline, and no change in performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002 regarding the percentage of children exiting foster care to reunification who were reunified within 12 months of the time of entry into foster care (outcome measure 4.1).

State performance with regard to foster care re-entry

The analyses of State performance with regard to re-entries into foster care in FY 2002 included all 52 States. Key findings were the following:

- The percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode ranged from 1.2 in North Carolina to 28.1 in Minnesota, with a median of 9.9.
- Twenty-two States (44 percent) met the national standard of 8.6 percent or fewer children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode.

Similar to prior years, a substantial positive relationship was found in FY 2002 between the percentage of reunifications in a State occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode (Spearman's rho = +0.546). In general, States with a relatively high percentage of reunifications within 12 months tended to have a relatively high percentage of re-entries into foster care within 12 months, and vice versa. Only 1 State (South Carolina) met both the national standard for reunification within 12 months and the national standard for re-entry within 12 months of a prior episode.²⁰

²⁰ Nevada's data also apparently met the national standard for both measures in FY 2002. However, in Nevada, 20 percent of the exits from foster care did not have "reason for discharge" information. Consequently, the actual number of exits to reunification is not known.

Table III-12 presents State performance on the measure of foster care re-entry from FY 1999 through FY 2002. The information in the table indicates that the percentage of States meeting the national standard for this measure increased from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+14.3 percent change).

Table III-12. State performance from FY 1999 through FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode (outcome measure 4.2)

Variables	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
Number of States in analysis	51	51	52	52
Mean performance (percent of entries that were re-entries within 12 months of a prior episode)	10.8	10.7	11.1	11.2
Median performance (percent of entries that were re-entries within 12 months of a prior episode)	10.2	10.2	10.1	9.9
Percent of States meeting national standard of 8.6 percent or less	35	37	38	40

Figure III-4 presents the percentage of States exhibiting improvement, decline, or no change in performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to foster care entries that were re-entries within 12 months. The following are key findings:

- Nine of the 23 States that declined in performance met the national standard in both FY 1999 and FY 2002, despite the decline. Only 1 State went from meeting the standard in FY 1999 to not meeting it in FY 2002.
- Six States went from not meeting the national standard in FY 1999 to meeting the standard in FY 2002 (Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, and Wyoming).

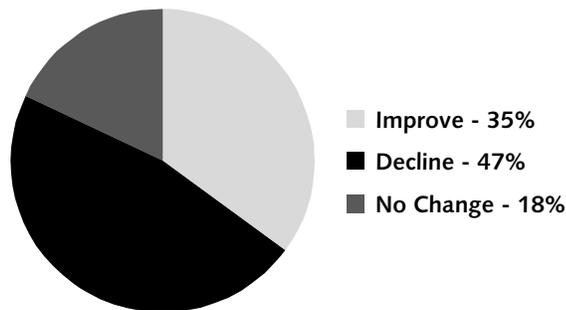


Figure III-4. Percentage of States exhibiting improvement, decline, and no change in performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to re-entries into foster care (N=49) (outcome measure 4.2).

State performance with regard to achieving adoptions in a timely manner

Forty-three States were included in the analysis of outcome measure 5.1 (the timeliness of adoptions) for FY 2002.²¹ The following are the key findings:

- The percentage of adoptions within 24 months of entry into foster care ranged from 5.2 in New York to 77.9 in Utah, with a median of 23.0.
- Twelve States (28 percent) met the national standard of 32 percent or more of all adoptions occurring within 24 months.
- The percentage of discharges to adoptions that occurred when the child had been in foster care for 48 or more months ranged from 4.9 percent in Utah to 63.8 percent in New York.

Table III-13 provides information pertaining to State performance with regard to timely adoptions for FY 2000 through FY 2002. FY 2000 was chosen as the comparison year because of the large number of States with data quality issues for this measure in FY 1999. As shown in the table, there was an increase in mean performance from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+9.5 percent change), although median performance remained

²¹ Three States (Nebraska, Nevada, and West Virginia) were excluded because 20 percent or more of the exits did not have “reason for discharge” information. Six States (the District of Columbia, Kansas, Maine, North Dakota, Rhode Island, and Puerto Rico) were excluded because there was a substantial discrepancy between the number of children reported to the AFCARS Adoption file as adopted in FY 2002 and the number of children reported to the AFCARS Foster Care file as exits to a finalized adoption in FY 2002.

somewhat similar for all 4 years. The percentage of States meeting the national standard increased from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+75 percent change).

Table III-13. State performance from FY 2000 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children adopted who were adopted within 24 months of entry into foster care (outcome measure 5.1)

Variables	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
Number of States in analysis	37	37	43
Mean performance (percent adoptions within 24 months of entry into foster care)	23.3	25.3	26.5
Median performance (percent adoptions within 24 months of entry into foster care)	18.2	20.9	23.0
Percent of States meeting national standard of 32.0 percent or more	16	24	28

Figure III-5 provides the percentage of States improving, declining, or exhibiting no change in performance from FY 2000 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children adopted within 24 months of the time of entry into foster care. As shown in the figure, the vast majority of States (72 percent) improved in performance from FY 2000 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of adoptions occurring within 24 months of entry into foster care. Two States went from not meeting the national standard in FY 2000 to meeting the national standard in FY 2002 (Minnesota and New Mexico).

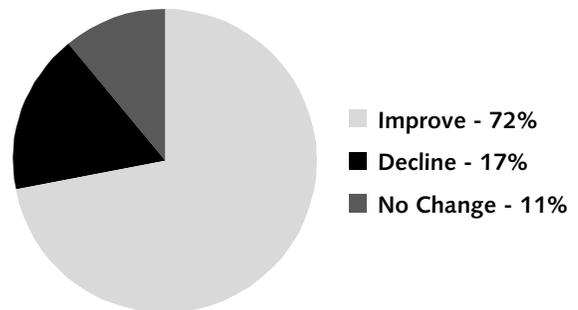


Figure III-5. Percentage of States exhibiting improvement, decline, or no change in performance from FY 2000 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children adopted within 24 months of entry into foster care (N=36) (outcome measure 5.1).

CONTEXT VARIABLES AND STATE PERFORMANCE ON PERMANENCY OUTCOMES

Analyses were conducted to examine the relationship between specific contextual factors and State performance on the outcome measures assessing (1) reunifications occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care (outcome measure 4.1), (2) adoptions occurring within 24 months of entry into foster care (outcome measure 5.1), and (3) entries into foster care that were re-entries within 12 months of a prior episode (outcome measure 4.2). The context variables examined were children’s age and race/ethnicity, median length of stay in foster care, and the State rate of foster care entry.

The relationship between age of children and State performance on permanency outcomes

No meaningful relationships were found between the ages of children entering foster care and State performance with regard to (1) the percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of the child’s entry into foster care, or (2) the percentage of finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child’s entry into foster care. However, a substantial relationship (according to Guilford’s suggested interpretations provided in appendix G) was found between the percentage of children entering foster care in a State who were age 16 and older and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (Spearman’s rho = +0.456). States with a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were 16 and older tended to have a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. Eight States were in the top quartile (which included 13 States) of the ranking for both the percentage of children age 16 and older entering

foster care and the percentage of re-entries into foster care. Seven of these States were those in which the child welfare system provides out-of-home placement services to children from the juvenile justice system (Colorado, Delaware, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin). This relationship suggests that States providing child welfare foster care services to older children, particularly children in the juvenile justice population, may be more likely to have a higher incidence of re-entry than States whose child welfare systems do not serve this population.

The relationship between race/ethnicity of children and State performance on permanency outcomes

No meaningful relationships were found between the percentages of White, Hispanic, and Alaska Native/Native American children in foster care in a State on the last day of FY 2002 and State performance with regard to (1) reunifications within 12 months or (2) finalized adoptions within 24 months. However, a substantial relationship was found between the percentage of Black children in a State's foster care population and the percentage of adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care (Spearman's $\rho = -0.498$). In general, States with a relatively high percentage of Black children in foster care tended to have a relatively low percentage of adoptions finalized within 24 months of entry into foster care. States with a relatively low percentage of Black children in foster care tended to have a relatively high percentage of adoptions finalized within 24 months of entry into foster care. Additional research on this issue is needed to better understand this relationship.

The relationship between median length of stay in foster care and performance on permanency outcomes

As might be expected, substantial relationships were found between median length of stay and outcome performance. The following were the key findings:

- States with a relatively long median length of stay tended to have a relatively low percentage of children reunified within 12 months; States with a relatively short median length of stay tended to have a relatively high percentage of children reunified within 12 months (Spearman's $\rho = -0.618$).
- States with a relatively high median length of stay tended to have a relatively low percentage of children adopted within 24 months of entry into foster care; States with a relatively low median length of stay tended to have a relatively high percentage of children adopted within 24 months of entry into foster care (Spearman's $\rho = -0.638$).

The relationship between rate of entry into foster care and performance on permanency outcome measures

Analyses were conducted to determine whether State rates of entry into foster care (i.e., number of children entering foster care per 1,000 children in the population) were associated with State performance on the outcome measures assessing re-entry into foster care and time to reunification and adoption. Only one meaningful relationship was found. States with a relatively high rate of entry into foster care tended to have a relatively high percentage of children reunified within 12 months of entry into foster care. Correspondingly, States with a relatively low rate of entry into foster care tended to have a relatively low percentage of children reunified within 12 months of entry into foster care (Spearman's $\rho = +0.405$). A possible explanation for this may be that States with a relatively high rate of entry into foster care may use foster care as a short-term placement option while conducting investigations or addressing crisis situations in the family. This would result in a higher percentage of reunifications in a short period of time.

IV. ACHIEVING APPROPRIATE AND STABLE PLACEMENTS

The Department believes that a State has an obligation to ensure that while children are in foster care, they experience stable and age-appropriate placements. The Report to Congress assesses State performance with regard to achieving these objectives through outcome 6—Increase placement stability, and outcome 7—Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions. The findings with regard to State performance on these outcomes are presented below.

STATE PERFORMANCE ON PLACEMENT-RELATED OUTCOME MEASURES

State performance with regard to placement stability

The measure developed to assess performance on Outcome 6 defines placement stability as “no more than two placement settings” and examines placement stability in several time frames. The measure is the following:

Outcome measure 6.1—Of all children served who had been in foster care for the time periods listed below, what percentage had no more than two placement settings during that time period?

- (1) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home*
- (2) At least 12 months but less than 24 months*
- (3) At least 24 months but less than 36 months*
- (4) At least 36 months but less than 48 months*
- (5) 48 or more months*

The following are key findings pertaining to State performance on this measure in FY 2002 (N=52):

- The percentage of children in foster care for less than 12 months who experienced no more than 2 placement settings ranged from 55.3 in Mississippi to 99.8 percent in Puerto Rico, with a median of 84.1.
- Fourteen States (27 percent) met the national standard for this measure of 86.7 percent or more children experiencing no more than 2 placement settings within 12 months of removal from the home.
- The percentage of children experiencing no more than 2 placement settings declines substantially with increasing time in foster care. For example, the percentage of children in foster care for more than 48 months who experienced no more than 2 placement settings ranged from 7.5 in Maine to 98.7 in Puerto Rico, with a median of 27.2 percent.

Information regarding State performance from FY 1999 through FY 2002 with regard to outcome measure 6.1 is provided in table IV-1. As shown in the table, there was little difference in performance over time. However, the percentage of States meeting the national standard declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-27 percent change). This finding is difficult to interpret because there was initial confusion among States with regard to what constituted a change in placement setting. For example, some States did not report a placement change if a child was placed with a caregiver with whom he or she had been placed before. Department clarification regarding placement settings may have resulted in changes in percentages on this measure for many States.

Table IV-1. State performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children experiencing no more than 2 placement settings within 12 months from the time of entry into foster care (outcome measure 6.2)

Variables	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
Number of States	50	50	51	52
Mean performance (percent experiencing no more than 2 placement settings within 12 months of entry into foster care)	82.8	82.5	82.6	81.8
Median performance (percent experiencing no more than 2 placement settings within 12 months of entry into foster care)	84.2	84.6	83.3	84.1
Percent of States meeting national standard of 86.7 percent or more of children having no more than 2 placements within 12 months of entry into foster care	37	31	25	27

Figure IV-1 provides the percentages of States exhibiting improvement, decline, or no change in performance on this measure from FY 1999 to FY 2002. As shown in the figure, the majority of States exhibited no change in performance on this measure.

State performance with regard to placements of young children in group homes and institutions

Outcome 7 examines State performance with regard to age-appropriate placements for young children. The outcome is based on the assumption that a group home or an institution usually is not the most appropriate placement setting for a young child. The measure developed to assess achievement of this outcome is the following:
Outcome measure 7.1—For all children who entered foster care during the reporting period and were age 12 or younger at the time of their most recent placement, what percentage was placed in a group home or institution?

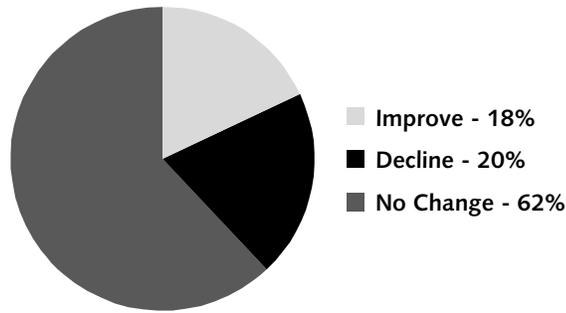


Figure IV-1. Percentage of States exhibiting improvement, decline, or no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002 in the percentage of children experiencing no more than 2 placement settings within 12 months of placement in foster care (N=50) (outcome measure 6.1).

Key findings of this analyses were the following (N=51)²²:

- The percentage of children age 12 and younger who were placed in a group home ranged from 0.03 in Kentucky to 25.4 in Mississippi, with a median of 3.5.
- The percentage of children age 12 and younger who were placed in an institution ranged from 0.4 in Montana to 28.7 in South Carolina, with a median of 4.2.
- The percentage of children age 12 and younger who were placed in either a group home or an institution (combined) ranged from 2.3 in Illinois to 34.7 in South Carolina, with a median of 8.6.

Table IV-2 presents information about performance on outcome measure 7.1 from FY 1999 through FY 2002. As shown in the table, there was little change in performance on this measure from FY 1999 to FY 2002. Both mean and median performance demonstrated improvement from 1999 to 2001, but then declined from 2001 to 2002.

²² One State (Nevada) was excluded because of data quality concerns.

Table IV-2. State performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children age 12 and younger who were placed in a group home or institution (outcome measure 7.1)

Variables	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
Number of States Included in Analysis	51	50	50	51
Mean performance (percent children age 12 and younger placed in a group home or institution)	10.9	10.3	9.1	11.0
Median performance (percent children age 12 and younger placed in a group home or institution)	8.8	9.0	6.6	8.6

Figure IV-2 provides the percentages of States exhibiting improvement, decline, or no change in performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002. An equal number of States improved in performance as declined in performance.

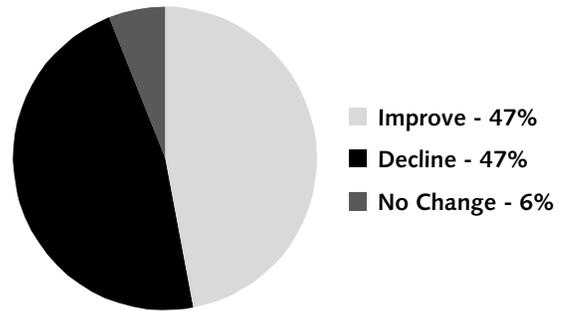


Figure IV-2. Percentage of States exhibiting improvement, decline, or no change in performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to placements of children age 12 and younger in group homes and institutions (N = 51) (outcome measure 7.1).

CONTEXT VARIABLES AND STATE PERFORMANCE

Analyses were conducted to examine the relationship of children’s age and race/ethnicity at entry into foster care to (1) the percentage of children in a State experiencing no more than 2 placement settings within 12 months of entry into foster care, and (2) the percentage of children age 12 and younger entering foster care in a State who were placed in group homes or institutions. No substantial relationships were found for these analyses.

V.

SUMMARY: STATE PERFORMANCE ON THE SEVEN NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES

This chapter provides a summary of the findings reported in chapters II, III, and IV, and a discussion of the implications of the findings for understanding State performance with regard to keeping children safe, achieving permanency for children, and ensuring that children are in stable and age-appropriate out-of-home placements. When relevant, the discussion incorporates information from the findings of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). A report detailing the CFSR findings is available on the Children's Bureau's Web site.

An overview of national performance on the Report to Congress outcome measures is provided in table V-1 on the following page. National performance was calculated by summing across States that reported data for each measure. For example, for outcome measure 1.1, the total number of children across all States who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse or neglect in the first 6 months of the target year was the denominator, and the total number of children across all States who had another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period was the numerator. These data differ from data in the tables in prior chapters that provide the means and the medians of State performance for each outcome measure.

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

Outcome 1—Reduce recurrence of child abuse and neglect

Although keeping children safe from further maltreatment is the most important role of the nation's child welfare system, the findings reported in chapter II suggest that many States continue to experience challenges in their efforts to reduce the recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect (outcome 1). In FY 2002, only 38 percent of the 42 States that reported data met the national standard for the measure of maltreatment recurrence of 6.1 percent or less; in almost one-fifth of the States, the percentage of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was greater than 10.0.

However, the findings reported in chapter II indicate that understanding a State's performance on the measure of maltreatment recurrence requires an examination of the State's context variables. For example, in FY 2002, States with a relatively high rate of child victims (number of child victims per 1,000 children in the State population) tended to have a relatively high percentage of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month period. This suggests that State differences in definitions of child maltreatment and criteria for substantiation may be associated with differences in State performance on the measure of maltreatment recurrence. In addition, States with a relatively high percentage of child victims experiencing sexual abuse tended to have a relatively low percentage of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months. Thus, State differences in the types of maltreatment experienced by child victims may impact State performance on the outcome measure assessing maltreatment recurrence.

Table V-1. National performance on child welfare outcome measures for all States reporting in fiscal years (FY)1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002 (N = number of States reporting)*

Outcome Measure	Year**				National Standard
	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	
1.1 Percent of children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of reporting period who had another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period.	8.5% (N=29)	8.6% (N=34)	8.9% (N=40)	8.8% (N=42)	6.1% or less
2.1 Percent of children in foster care who were the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member.	0.77% (N=21)	0.62% (N=31)	0.50% (N=38)	0.50% (N=42)	0.57% or less
3.1 Percent of children exiting foster care who exited to a permanent home (adoption, legal guardianship, or reunification).	82.6% (N=51)	83.9% (N=51)	84.4% (N=52)	85.2% (N=52)	NA***
3.2 Percent of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability who exited to a permanent home (adoption, guardianship, or reunification).	75.8% (N=47)	78.1% (N=46)	78.6% (N=48)	79.6% (N=49)	NA***
3.3 Percent of children exiting foster care who were older than 12 at the time of entry into foster care who exited to a permanent home (adoption, guardianship, or reunification).	67.0% (N=51)	67.3% (N=51)	67.6% (N=52)	69.4% (N=52)	NA***
3.4 Percent of children exiting foster care to emancipation who were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care.	31.9% (N=50)	32.0% (N=51)	32.2% (N=51)	33.7% (N=52)	NA***
4.1 Percent of children reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care who were reunified within 12 months from the time of entry into foster care.	64.6% (N=50)	64.9% (N=51)	65.7% (N=52)	67.2% (N=52)	76.2% or more
4.2 Percent of children entering foster care who were re-entering care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode.	11.1% (N=51)	11.4% (N=51)	11.5% (N=52)	11.4% (N=52)	8.6% or less
5.1 Percent of children exiting foster care to a finalized adoption who exited within 24 months from the time of the latest removal from home.	20.8% (N=48)	20.0% (N=50)	22.3% (N=52)	23.9% (N=52)	32.0% or more
6.1 Percent of children in foster care for less than 12 months who experienced two or fewer placements.	77.5% (N=51)	81.9% (N=51)	82.7% (N=52)	82.9% (N=52)	86.7% or more
7.1 Percent of children age 12 or younger at the time of their most recent placement who were placed in a group home or institution.	11.3% (N=51)	9.8% (N=51)	10.4% (N=52)	11.2% (N=52)	NA***

* States were excluded if they did not provide data for the measure.

**Measure 1.1 is based on a calendar year, measure 2.1 is based on the first 9 months of a calendar year, and all other measures are based on the Federal fiscal year.

***Not Applicable (NA) means that a national standard was not established for the measure.

Findings from the CFSR also indicate that keeping children safe is a challenge for many States. Only 6 of the 52 States achieved substantial conformity with either of the two CFSR Safety Outcomes. The CFSR identified the following as potential barriers to keeping children safe:

- Agency risk and safety assessments often are not sufficiently comprehensive to capture underlying family issues that contribute to maltreatment, such as substance abuse, mental illness, and domestic violence (22 States).
- The child welfare agency is not consistent in providing sufficient services to address risk of harm to children, particularly in cases in which children remain in their homes (22 States).
- The child welfare agency does not consistently monitor families to assess service participation and change in risk factors (20 States).

Another CFSR finding suggests that for some States, interpreting performance on the outcome measure pertaining to maltreatment recurrence is problematic. The CFSR indicated that in 16 States, either by practice or by policy, new maltreatment allegations on open child welfare cases often are addressed by the ongoing caseworker and do not go through the formal State or local reporting and investigation or assessment process. Consequently, these allegations are not reported to NCANDS and are not subject to an assessment of substantiation. This practice was found in 5 of the 16 States that met the national standard for maltreatment recurrence in 2002.

Outcome 2—Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

As reported in chapter III, many States are experiencing success in ensuring that children in foster care are not maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member. Almost 60 percent of the States met the national standard (0.57 percent or less) for this measure in 2002 and the national median is actually lower than the national standard. The data presented in chapter II, as well as the national data presented in table V-1, demonstrate considerable improvements in performance on this measure from 1999 to 2002.

Information from the CFSR suggests that State performance in ensuring that children do not experience maltreatment in foster care may be attributed to the following factors:

- The State establishes and adheres to standards regarding licensing requirements for foster homes and care facilities, including standards that prevent overcrowding in foster homes and standards regarding use of restraints and corporal punishment (51 States).
- The State mandates training for foster parents and facility staff both before licensure and on an ongoing basis (38 States).

ACHIEVING PERMANENCY FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Outcome 3—Increase permanency for children in foster care

The findings reported in chapter III indicate that most States are successful in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care. In FY 2002, the median percentage across States of children discharged to a permanent home was 86.1. In addition, the national percentage of children exiting foster care to a permanent home, as shown in table V-1, has increased steadily from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

Although States are successful in achieving permanency for the majority of children exiting foster care, the findings reported in chapter III indicate that the level of success declines when specific subpopulations are considered. For example, States are less successful in achieving permanency for (1) children exiting foster care who have a diagnosed disability, and (2) children exiting foster care who were age 13 or older when they

entered foster care. In addition, in 35 States, children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability were more likely to exit to a permanent home than were children exiting foster care who were age 13 or older when they entered care. These findings also are reflected in table V-1. As shown in this table, nationally, 85.2 percent of all children exiting foster care in FY 2002 were discharged to a permanent home, compared to 79.6 percent of children with a diagnosed disability, and 69.4 percent of children who were age 13 and older when they entered foster care.

Despite the general success of States in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care, the findings reported in chapter III suggest that a substantial percentage of children who exited foster care to emancipation in FY 2002 grew up in foster care—i.e., they were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care. In addition, the national data presented in table V-1 indicate that more than one-third of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care. However, the data reported in chapter III also suggest that many States are improving performance in this area.

Although the CFSR report does not address all of the permanency issues addressed under outcome 3 of the Report to Congress, information from the report does support the finding that achieving permanency for children who are age 13 or older when they enter foster care is a challenge for many States. According to CFSR case-level data analyses, only 54 percent of the children who were age 13 or older had case goals of reunification, guardianship, or adoption. The remaining 46 percent of the children had case goals of emancipation/independent living or long-term foster care leading to eventual emancipation.

The CFSR report identified the following potential barriers to achieving permanency for older children entering foster care:

- When older children cannot be reunified, a case goal of long-term foster care often is established without a thorough consideration of permanency options such as guardianship or adoption (15 States).
- The goal of reunification often is maintained for long periods of time even when it is apparent that reunification will not be possible (24 States).

Outcome 4—Reduce time in foster care without increasing re-entry

The findings reported in chapter III suggest that interpreting State performance with regard to the two measures (time in foster care to reunification, and the percentage of children entering foster who were re-entering) included in outcome 4 is a complex undertaking. One area of complexity is that information regarding timely reunification must be considered in conjunction with information about re-entry. The general finding in FY 2002 (as in all prior years) is that States with a relatively high percentage of reunifications within 12 months tend to have a relatively high percentage of re-entries into foster care within 12 months; 9 States were in the top quartile (comprised of 12 States) ranking for both measures. In FY 2002, only 1 State met the national standard for reunification within 12 months and the national standard for re-entry within 12 months of a prior foster care episode. This relationship raises the possibility that some reunifications may be occurring too soon—i.e., before the conditions that resulted in the removal of the child from the home in the first place are adequately addressed.

Other findings reported in chapter III suggest that an understanding of State performance with regard to timely reunification requires an understanding of various aspects of the State context. For example, a substantial relationship was found between the rate of entry of children into foster care (i.e., the number of children entering foster care per 1,000 children in the population) and the percentage of children reunified within 12 months of entry into foster care. States with a relatively high rate of entry into foster care tended to have a relatively high percentage of children reunified within 12 months. Seven States were in the top quartile ranking (comprised of 12 States) for both measures. This association may be attributed to the possibility that

States with a high rate of entry into foster care may be more likely than other States to remove children from the home on a short-term basis, either to assess the family situation or to address a current crisis situation. As a result, such States would be more likely to reunify a larger percentage of children within a short time frame than States that do not engage in this practice.

Another finding suggests that understanding State performance with regard to re-entries into foster care also requires attention to the ages of children entering foster care in the State. A substantial, positive correlation was found between the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were age 16 and older, and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. In general, States with a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were 16 and older tended to have a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode; 8 States were in the top quartile for both measures. An interesting finding is that most of the States that had both a high percentage of children entering foster at age 16 and older and a high percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of a prior episode were those that provide child welfare placement services to children in the juvenile justice system or to children who enter foster care as a result of behavior problems. This suggests that State policies with regard to the types of children served by the child welfare foster care system may impact performance on the outcome measure pertaining to foster care re-entry.

The CFSR report suggests that one key barrier to achieving reunification in a timely manner may be a lack of adequate and/or timely services to parents (18 States). In addition, a key barrier to preventing re-entry may be the lack of sufficient or adequate post-reunification services to assist the family in the reintegration process (13 States). Both of these findings suggest that service availability is critical to ensuring both timely reunification and the prevention of re-entry.

Outcome 5—Reduce time in foster care to adoption

The findings reported in chapter III indicate that States continue to experience challenges with regard to achieving adoptions in a timely manner. Only 29 percent of the States met the national standard for this measure. However, 72 percent of the States improved in performance on this measure from 1999 to 2002, although only 1 State went from not meeting the national standard in FY 1999 to meeting the standard in FY 2002. In addition, national data provided in table V-1 indicate an improvement in performance on this measure from 1999 to 2002 (+14.9 percent change).

Again, State performance on this outcome was found to be associated with a context variable. States with a relatively high percentage of Black children in their foster care populations tended to have a relatively low percentage of adoptions finalized within 24 months of entry into foster care.

Information in the CFSR report supports the Report to Congress finding that achieving adoptions in a timely manner is challenging for many States. The following barriers to achieving adoption in a timely manner were identified through the CFSR:

- The agency or court is inconsistent with regard to seeking termination of parental rights (TPR) in accordance with the provisions of the Adoption and Safe Families Act (26 States).
- Many judges are reluctant to terminate parental rights because adequate services have not been provided to parents or because an adoptive family has not been identified (19 States).
- There are delays in attaining TPR because of crowded court dockets and/or a lengthy appeals process (20 States).
- The agency is not consistent with regard to conducting adoption home studies or completing adoption paperwork in a timely manner (17 States).

ACHIEVING STABLE AND AGE-APPROPRIATE PLACEMENTS

Outcome 6—Increase placement stability

A key finding with regard to placement stability is that the majority of children in foster care for less than 12 months experience no more than 2 placement settings. The median for State performance on this measure was 84.2 percent. However, only 27 percent of the States met the national standard of 86.7 percent or more for this measure in FY 2002, which represents a decline in performance from FY 1999 (-27 percent change). Despite these findings, it is important to note that because the standard is so high and because performance on this measure is high in general, a slight change in numbers can result in a shift to either meeting the standard or no longer meeting the standard. For the most part, more than 60 percent of the States exhibited no real change in performance (i.e., less than plus or minus 5.0 percent change) on this measure from 1999 to 2002. In addition, State variation with regard to context variables was not associated with State variation with regard to placement stability within 12 months.

Another key finding with regard to placement stability is that it declines considerably the longer the child is in placement. The median across States for the percentage of children in foster care for more than 48 months who experienced no more than 2 placement settings was 27.2 percent, almost 60 percent less than the median for children in foster care for less than 12 months.

The CFSR report identifies the following as common barriers with regard to achieving placement stability:

- The child welfare agency does not provide sufficient services to foster parents to prevent placement disruptions (21 States).
- Because of a lack of available placements, placement decisions tend to be based on what is available rather than on what is appropriate for the child (21 States).
- Emergency shelters frequently are used for initial placements and as temporary placements after a disruption occurs (18 States).
- There is a scarcity of appropriate placement options for children with developmental disabilities or behavioral problems (19 States).

Reducing placements of young children in group homes or institutions

Although placement of young children in group homes or institutions is a relatively rare event, the findings in chapter IV indicate that in 8 States, more than 20 percent of the children age 12 or younger entering foster care in FY 2002 were placed in group homes or institutions.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The results of the analyses of State performance on the Report to Congress outcomes suggest that many States are moving in the direction of improved performance, particularly with regard to reducing maltreatment of children in foster care by foster parents or facility staff members, achieving permanency for children in foster care, and ensuring placement stability for children during the first 12 months that they are in foster care. However, as in prior years, the analyses for FY 2002 indicate that many States continue to experience challenges in reducing the incidence of maltreatment recurrence. In addition, some States continue to experience challenges in finding permanent homes for children who have a diagnosed disability and children who enter foster care when they are older.

The results also indicate that although many States experience success in reunifying children in a timely manner, this success is tempered by the consistent finding of a positive correlation between the percentage of

reunifications within 12 months and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. In addition, although there was an increase in the number of States exhibiting improvements with regard to achieving adoptions within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care, States continue to experience challenges in this area. CFSR findings suggest that efforts to achieve timely adoptions are often impeded by the reluctance on the part of some judges and agency staff to seek termination of parental rights (TPR), and the lengthy legal procedures often required to achieve a final TPR.

Finally, the findings suggest that an interpretation of performance of individual States on the outcomes must take into account the context variables relevant to that State. The following associations were found between context variables and performance on outcome measures for FY 2002 data:

- States with a relatively high rate of child victims per 1,000 children in the population tended to have a relatively high percentage of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month time period.
- States with a relatively high percentage of child victims experiencing sexual abuse tended to have a relatively low percentage of maltreatment recurrence within a 6-month time period.
- States with a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were age 16 and older tended to have a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode.
- States with a relatively high rate of entry of children into foster care tended to have a relatively high percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care.

The following chapter provides the data for each State relevant to the key context variables and the seven national outcomes. An important implication of the data analysis is that an understanding of State performance on a given measure requires an assessment of the context variables associated with performance on the measure. Consequently, relevant information pertaining to the context variables has been incorporated into the Federal Comment pages analyzing each State's performance on the national outcomes.

VI.

STATE DATA PAGES



Alabama

[CONTEXT DATA]

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	1,066,177	1,110,820	1,112,966	1,107,108
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5
Asian	N/A	0.7	0.7	0.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	32.2	31.8	31.8	31.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	1.5	2.2	2.3	2.5
White	65.3	63.3	63.3	63.1
Two or more races	N/A	1.3	1.3	1.3
Other	N/A	0.1	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	24.0	19.2	23.2	19.3

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	13,773	9,990	9,229	9,903
Children in foster care on 9/30	5,511	5,621	5,859	5,875
Children adopted	153	202	238	249

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	35,919	32,655	29,911	32,682	33.7 per 1,000	29.4 per 1,000	26.9 per 1,000	29.5 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	13,773	9,990	9,229	9,903	12.9 per 1,000	9.0 per 1,000	8.3 per 1,000	8.9 per 1,000
Child fatalities	29	27	24	29	2.7 per 100,000	2.4 per 100,000	2.2 per 100,000	2.6 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	7.7	8.6	8.5	7.5
1-5 years	27.2	27.4	28.0	26.4
6-10 years	29.3	27.9	27.7	25.4
11-15 years	28.1	28.9	28.2	28.3
16+ years	5.1	5.2	5.0	5.7
Unknown/Missing data	2.5	1.9	2.6	6.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	13,773	9,990	9,229	9,903

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
Black	38.0	38.5	33.5	30.3
Hispanic	1.0	0.9	1.3	2.1
White	60.0	59.7	62.5	54.5
Two or more races	1.0	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	0.7	0.6	2.3	12.7
Total % ⁴	101.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	13,773	9,990	9,229	9,903

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	4.9	3.7	3.4	2.3
Medical neglect	0.0	—	—	—
Neglect	46.0	43.8	44.5	42.0
Physical abuse	40.9	40.4	44.4	45.6
Sexual abuse	23.1	26.5	21.1	23.8
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	0.0	—	—	—
Total % ⁵	114.9	114.4	113.4	113.7
Number	13,773	9,990	9,229	9,903

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	4,839	2,734	2,062	5,511	7,573
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	5,294	2,661	2,334	5,621	7,955
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	5,458	2,672	2,271	5,859	8,130
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	5,448	3,117	2,690	5,875	8,565

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	22.0	N/A	8.8	21.5	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	21.8	N/A	11.1	22.0	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	21.8	N/A	12.4	21.5	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	20.8	N/A	11.1	19.1	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	4.0	3.8	4.1	3.7	14.3	15.4	15.4	14.9	5.1	5.7	5.3	6.2	4.0	4.3	3.9	4.1
1-5 years	22.6	23.3	22.2	21.9	25.2	24.2	26.6	26.4	25.4	25.7	27.9	30.1	23.5	22.8	23.0	21.2
6-10 years	25.0	24.6	23.8	22.7	21.5	22.8	21.5	23.0	20.5	22.0	19.9	22.0	24.4	23.9	23.0	21.7
11-15 years	30.2	29.8	31.5	31.4	28.7	29.5	27.7	27.2	24.5	23.5	22.8	22.0	29.7	30.8	31.0	31.7
16-18 years	16.0	16.2	16.3	17.8	9.9	7.9	8.5	8.5	19.3	17.0	17.9	14.6	16.0	16.1	16.9	18.5
19+ years	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.4	0.3	0.1	0.2	—	4.9	5.0	5.4	4.4	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.7
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,839	5,294	5,458	5,448	2,734	2,661	2,672	3,117	2,062	2,334	2,271	2,690	5,511	5,621	5,859	5,875

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1
Asian	N/A	—	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	—	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	55.6	55.9	54.5	51.6	49.5	46.1	42.6	41.2	48.7	47.7	48.7	42.4	55.1	54.6	51.3	50.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.5	0.9	1.5	1.1	1.0	0.5	1.2	0.6	0.9	1.0	1.1
White	43.5	42.9	43.7	46.5	48.9	51.2	55.6	56.4	49.9	50.8	50.1	55.4	43.7	43.6	46.7	47.7
Two or more races	N/A	0.2	0.5	0.6	N/A	0.9	0.6	0.4	N/A	0.2	0.4	0.5	N/A	0.5	0.6	0.6
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.3	—	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,839	5,294	5,458	5,448	2,734	2,661	2,672	3,117	2,062	2,334	2,271	2,690	5,511	5,621	5,859	5,875

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	1,013	1,162	1,288	1,535
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	567	653	839	1,088

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	2.4	2.8	2.1	3.6
1-5 years	27.5	27.8	25.2	26.8
6-10 years	36.2	35.1	32.8	30.0
11-15 years	24.3	25.9	30.5	29.9
16+ years	5.1	4.6	5.8	6.4
Unknown/Missing data	4.4	3.7	3.5	3.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,013	1,162	1,288	1,535

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0
Asian	N/A	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	53.4	53.6	51.6	49.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	0.4	0.7	1.2	1.1
White	45.5	45.0	45.7	48.7
Two or more races	N/A	0.3	1.0	0.5
Unknown/Missing data	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,013	1,162	1,288	1,535

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.3	2.5	2.5	0.8
1-5 years	49.0	48.5	46.6	47.8
6-10 years	37.3	33.2	33.2	32.9
11-15 years	11.8	13.4	16.4	15.3
16+ years	0.7	2.5	1.3	3.2
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	153	202	238	249

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	0.8	—
Asian	N/A	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	51.0	40.6	42.4	40.6
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	2.0	1.0	—	0.4
White	46.4	57.9	55.5	56.2
Two or more races	N/A	0.5	1.3	2.4
Unknown/Missing data	0.7	—	—	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	153	202	238	249

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

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

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

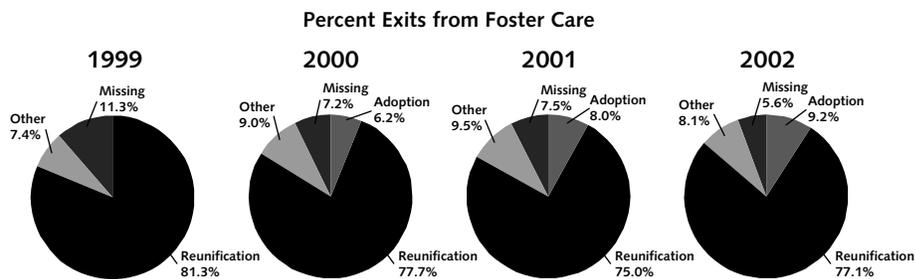
2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	6.2	8.0	9.2
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	81.3	77.7	75.0	77.1
Other	7.4	9.0	9.5	8.1
Missing data	11.3	7.2	7.5	5.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,062	2,334	2,271	2,690



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	12.4	8.4	13.1
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	69.9	53.2	62.3	53.3
Other	15.6	25.3	19.9	24.3
Missing data	14.5	9.1	9.4	9.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	173	186	191	214

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	0.2	0.3
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	74.1	72.8	71.6	72.2
Other	12.7	14.7	16.2	16.2
Missing data	13.2	12.4	12.0	11.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	629	651	623	662

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	63.0	61.2	60.0	53.1
Children older than 12 at entry	37.0	38.8	39.1	46.9
Missing data	—	—	0.9	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	81	103	110	113

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

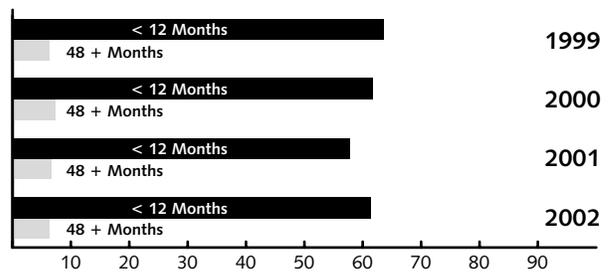
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	100.0	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	6.0	6.0	8.9	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	50.0	—	—	100.0	N/A	—	100.0	50.0	60.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	80.6	75.7	73.8	73.7	N/A	—	—	—
Other	50.0	66.7	—	—	N/A	—	—	50.0	40.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.4	10.8	11.1	10.6	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	—	33.3	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.1	7.5	9.1	6.8	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	—
Number	2	3	2	3	N/A	—	1	2	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,004	1,113	1,107	1,141	N/A	—	—	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	8.7	—	3.1	—	6.3	9.7	9.3	—	—	—	12.5	N/A	20.0	37.5	42.9	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	86.4	87.0	83.3	62.5	82.0	79.4	76.3	80.3	—	100.0	100.0	75.0	N/A	80.0	62.5	57.1	—	—	—	—
Other	9.1	4.3	—	31.3	6.2	7.3	8.1	5.7	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	4.5	—	16.7	3.1	11.8	7.0	6.0	4.8	—	—	—	12.5	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Number	22	23	12	32	1,029	1,185	1,137	1,490	—	5	4	8	N/A	5	8	14	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

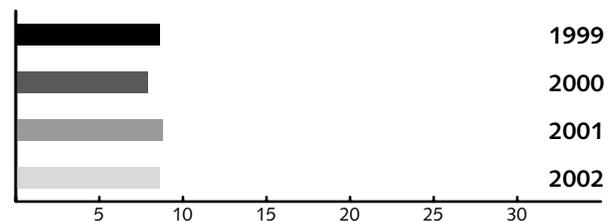
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	63.5	61.7	57.7	61.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	16.6	20.0	22.7	20.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	10.2	7.4	8.4	7.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.3	3.6	4.7	3.8
48 or more mos.	6.4	7.3	6.6	6.4
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,676	1,813	1,704	2,075

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	81.1	81.8	78.6	82.2
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	8.6	7.9	8.8	8.6
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	10.0	10.0	12.2	9.0
Missing data	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,734	2,661	2,672	3,117

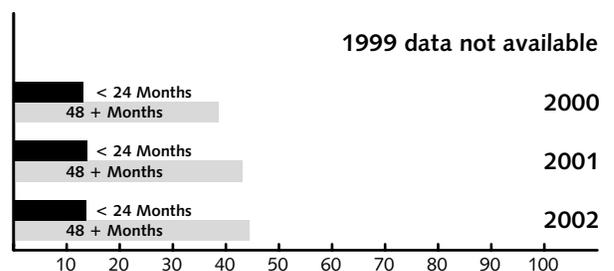
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	—	4.8	2.2	2.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	8.3	11.6	11.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	22.8	21.5	24.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	25.5	21.5	17.4
48 or more mos.	—	38.6	43.1	44.5
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	145	181	247

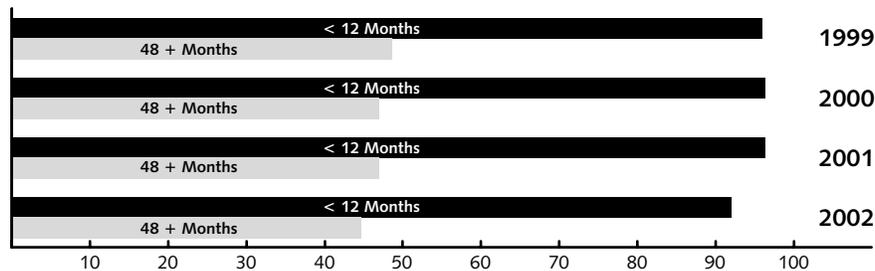
Percent Adoptions Occuring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	96.0	4.0	—	100.0	3,078
	2000	96.4	3.6	—	100.0	3,064
	2001	96.4	3.6	—	100.0	3,096
	2002	92.1	7.9	—	100.0	3,606
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	83.9	16.1	—	100.0	1,357
	2000	84.2	15.8	—	100.0	1,557
	2001	83.5	16.5	—	100.0	1,552
	2002	79.8	20.2	—	100.0	1,590
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	71.9	28.1	—	100.0	978
	2000	74.3	25.7	—	100.0	895
	2001	70.1	29.9	—	100.0	1,008
	2002	65.7	34.3	—	100.0	962
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	62.4	37.6	—	100.0	572
	2000	63.9	36.1	—	100.0	689
	2001	65.1	34.9	—	100.0	619
	2002	58.9	41.1	—	100.0	650
48 or more mos.	1999	48.6	51.4	—	100.0	1,577
	2000	47.0	53.0	—	100.0	1,743
	2001	46.9	53.1	—	100.0	1,854
	2002	44.7	55.3	—	100.0	1,753
Missing data	1999	90.9	9.1	—	100.0	11
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	7
	2001	100.0	—	—	100.0	1
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	4

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	1.8	4.0	3.3	3.2
Institutions	6.9	6.8	4.7	4.3
Other settings	87.8	88.4	91.5	92.4
Missing data	3.5	0.8	0.5	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,876	1,907	1,901	1,727

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

- The data in Section B Overview indicate that the number of child maltreatment victims declined from 13,773 in 1999 to 9,990 in 2000 and 9,229 in 2001. While it went back up to 9,903 in 2002, that is still below the 1999 level. The reason for this decline is that the disposition code of Reason to Suspect was eliminated.
- The 2002 data in Section B Overview (Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims) has 12.7 percent of the data in the "Other/Unknown" category. This is more than a five-fold increase over 2001. The problem is that with the implementation of ASSIST (the State SACWIS system) in 2001, "race/ethnicity" of child victims was no longer a mandatory reporting field.
- The data in Section C Overview (Number of Children in Foster Care) show a drop of 411 children in care from 9/30/01 to 10/01/01. This number reflects discharges entered after October 1, 2001, with a discharge date on or before September 30, 2001.
- There are no data available for outcome measures 1.1. and 2.1 because Alabama currently submits the NCANDS Summary Report only. We will capture measures 1.1 and 2.1 when we begin submitting the child file.

The following discussion focuses on Alabama's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Alabama Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2002, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2000. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Alabama's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

Alabama's performance on outcome 1 cannot be assessed as part of the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating this outcome. To ensure data consistency across States, only data submitted through NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, the State provided year 2000 data for this outcome for its CFSR using an alternative source. The State reported that 5.2 percent of the children who were the subjects of a substantiated or indicated child maltreatment in the first 6 months of 2000, experienced another substantiated or indicated maltreatment within 6 months. The national standard is 6.1 percent or fewer.

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

Alabama's performance on outcome 2 cannot be evaluated as part of the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to NCANDS for calculating this outcome. In order to ensure data consistency across States, only data submitted through the NCANDS system are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, the State provided year 2000 data for this outcome for its CFSR using an alternative source (0.15 percent of children in foster care for the first 9 months of the calendar year were maltreated by foster parents or facility staff members). The national standard is 0.57 percent or fewer.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 86.3 percent of children exiting foster care in Alabama were discharged to a permanent home (which is about equal to the national median of 86.1 percent), and 72.5 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is about equal to the national median of 72.0 percent). However, 66.4 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited from foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 79.8 percent). In addition, 53.1 percent of the children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care (which is almost twice the national median of 26.9 percent). Although this percentage is close to the highest in the nation, it represents an improvement in performance from FY 1999 to 2002 (-15.7 percent change). Alabama's performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002 improved slightly with regard to the percentage of children leaving foster care who were discharged to a permanent home (+6.2 percent change), but performance declined slightly relative to the percentage of children with a diagnosed disability who were discharged to a permanent home (-5.1 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Alabama occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 61.4 percent, which is less than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months showed no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

Because the cross-State analyses of performance on this measure found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months in a State and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Alabama's performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Alabama, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 8.6, which meets the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and is less than the national median (9.9 percent). Performance on this measure exhibited no change from FY 1999 to 2002. Thus, although Alabama has a relatively low percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, it also has a relatively low percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of a prior episode.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 13.8, which is less than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Alabama's performance on this measure improved slightly from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+5.1 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 92.1, which is more than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Alabama exhibited no change in performance on this measure from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 7.5, which is less than the national median of 8.6 percent. Alabama's performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-14.0 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	196,825	189,946	190,020	192,428
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	23.2	19.4	19.7	19.8
Asian	N/A	4.1	3.9	3.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	3.7	3.6	4.0	4.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.6	0.6
Hispanic	4.7	5.4	5.5	5.7
White	63.8	58.8	59.5	59.3
Two or more races	N/A	8.4	6.8	6.7
Other	N/A	0.3	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	8.0	10.6	12.5	11.4

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	5,976	6,957	15,947	7,950
Children in foster care on 9/30	2,248	2,193	1,993	2,072
Children adopted	137	202	278	224

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	6,884	8,431	18,422	10,002	35.0 per 1,000	44.4 per 1,000	96.9 per 1,000	52.0 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	5,976	6,957	15,947	7,950	30.4 per 1,000	36.6 per 1,000	83.9 per 1,000	41.3 per 1,000
Child fatalities	6	8	4	1	3.0 per 100,000	4.2 per 100,000	2.1 per 100,000	0.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	7.4	7.8	7.3	8.0
1-5 years	29.6	30.9	31.9	31.7
6-10 years	32.5	32.1	32.3	30.1
11-15 years	25.1	24.4	24.4	25.6
16+ years	5.4	4.8	4.1	4.6
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,976	6,957	15,947	7,950

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	44.2	45.2	46.7	48.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.8	3.2	3.3	2.4
Black	5.7	6.4	7.5	5.9
Hispanic	2.2	2.4	2.9	2.0
White	38.1	36.9	34.9	38.0
Two or more races	0.5	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	9.9	5.8	4.7	3.7
Total % ⁴	102.2	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,976	6,957	15,947	7,950

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	6.5	13.5	9.9	8.7
Medical neglect	0.0	—	—	—
Neglect	60.5	60.5	58.5	62.3
Physical abuse	29.6	26.6	22.1	21.1
Sexual abuse	15.2	12.1	9.4	7.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	0.2	0.1	0.1	—
Total % ⁵	111.9	112.8	100.0	100.0
Number	5,976	6,957	15,947	7,950

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	1,800	1,180	732	2,248	2,980
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	2,010	1,096	913	2,193	3,106
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	1,990	999	996	1,993	2,989
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	1,848	1,068	844	2,072	2,916

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	13.9	N/A	12.2	15.2	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	15.0	N/A	14.3	16.7	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	17.4	N/A	16.9	17.8	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	17.7	N/A	19.1	16.5	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	4.8	4.9	4.0	3.7	15.9	14.7	14.1	15.3	5.7	3.0	3.9	3.2	4.7	4.0	3.5	4.7
1-5 years	31.7	29.8	31.0	31.4	30.0	32.2	35.1	30.6	34.7	29.9	35.4	36.1	30.1	31.5	31.4	28.9
6-10 years	29.9	30.7	30.9	28.4	29.7	29.7	29.7	26.1	27.9	31.1	31.6	25.8	30.7	30.8	28.7	27.6
11-15 years	24.4	25.3	25.5	27.4	20.2	20.5	18.1	24.2	19.7	23.3	18.7	23.8	24.7	24.8	26.8	28.7
16-18 years	8.8	9.2	8.3	8.7	4.1	2.8	2.8	3.8	11.1	12.5	9.7	10.3	9.1	8.2	8.9	9.4
19+ years	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.1	—	0.1	—	1.0	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,800	2,010	1,990	1,848	1,180	1,096	999	1,068	732	913	996	844	2,248	2,193	1,993	2,072

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	55.7	55.0	59.8	61.4	53.2	57.4	59.6	55.0	51.5	51.4	58.9	56.2	55.7	57.7	60.2	60.2
Asian	N/A	0.9	1.0	0.8	N/A	0.5	1.1	0.6	N/A	0.4	1.5	0.5	N/A	0.9	0.8	0.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	9.9	9.9	10.0	9.1	9.2	8.4	9.4	10.6	9.8	8.1	11.1	10.1	9.6	9.8	9.1	9.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	2.0	2.2	1.6	1.2	1.8	1.5	0.9	2.5	1.1	2.4	1.6	1.7	2.2	1.7	1.3	1.7
White	29.7	29.5	26.3	26.5	31.6	28.4	27.2	29.4	34.2	33.8	24.5	29.9	29.3	27.1	27.6	26.6
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	2.0	2.5	1.3	1.1	3.0	3.9	1.8	2.0	2.3	3.8	2.3	1.8	2.4	2.7	1.1	1.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,800	2,010	1,990	1,848	1,180	1,096	999	1,068	732	913	996	844	2,248	2,193	1,993	2,072

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	830	780	772	667
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	689	582	553	482

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	6.5	4.2	3.9	2.7
1-5 years	38.8	39.7	38.6	32.4
6-10 years	34.5	33.8	32.5	36.3
11-15 years	17.1	18.8	22.4	24.6
16+ years	2.5	2.4	2.1	3.4
Unknown/Missing data	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	830	780	772	667

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	57.6	59.9	62.3	63.9
Asian	N/A	1.2	0.4	0.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	9.0	9.4	8.8	8.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	2.3	2.1	0.9	0.3
White	27.7	25.3	26.8	25.8
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	2.3	2.3	0.8	0.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	830	780	772	667

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	3.6	3.0	0.4	0.4
1-5 years	53.3	37.6	51.1	53.1
6-10 years	34.3	44.6	34.2	28.1
11-15 years	6.6	14.4	12.6	17.4
16+ years	2.2	0.5	1.8	0.9
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	137	202	278	224

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	47.4	36.6	35.6	48.7
Asian	N/A	0.5	—	1.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	13.9	3.5	5.0	7.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	9.5	8.9	7.6	4.0
White	27.7	30.2	25.5	33.9
Two or more races	N/A	19.8	26.3	4.9
Unknown/Missing data	—	0.5	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	137	202	278	224

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

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

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

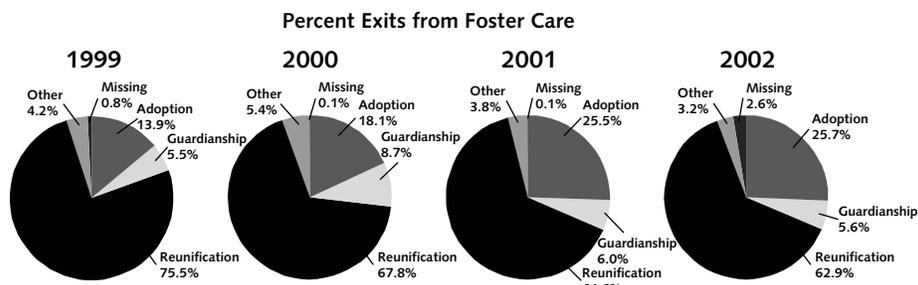
2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	13.9	18.1	25.5	25.7
Guardianship	5.5	8.7	6.0	5.6
Reunification	75.5	67.8	64.6	62.9
Other	4.2	5.4	3.8	3.2
Missing data	0.8	0.1	0.1	2.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	732	913	996	844



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	0.6	1.7	2.3
Guardianship	4.7	11.0	9.3	10.2
Reunification	73.6	62.6	67.8	75.0
Other	19.4	25.8	21.2	10.9
Missing data	2.3	—	—	1.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	129	155	118	128

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	19.4	18.8	27.3	50.0
Children older than 12 at entry	80.6	81.3	72.7	50.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	31	48	33	26

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

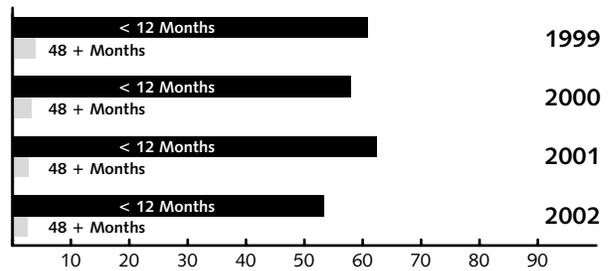
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	16.2	17.9	26.7	24.7	N/A	—	40.0	25.0	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	22.2	13.5	18.9	24.7	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	5.6	7.0	5.5	6.1	N/A	25.0	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.8	5.4	10.8	8.2	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	74.0	69.9	64.9	61.2	N/A	75.0	60.0	75.0	87.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	70.8	73.0	68.5	63.5	N/A	—	—	—
Other	3.7	4.9	2.9	3.6	N/A	—	—	—	12.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.2	8.1	1.8	3.5	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	0.5	0.2	—	4.4	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	—
Number	377	469	587	474	N/A	4	15	4	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	72	74	111	85	N/A	—	—	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	12.5	18.2	50.0	35.7	8.8	19.1	24.2	28.2	11.8	22.9	13.0	13.3	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	6.4	13.3	6.6	4.0	5.9	—	—	6.7	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	87.5	81.8	50.0	64.3	78.4	61.5	62.3	65.1	76.5	74.3	73.9	73.3	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	4.8	6.1	6.6	2.4	5.9	2.9	13.0	6.7	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	1.6	—	0.4	0.4	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number	8	22	16	14	250	309	244	252	17	35	23	15	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

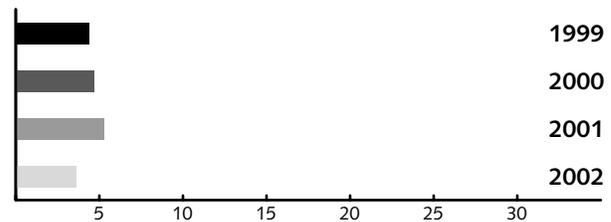
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	60.9	58.0	62.4	53.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	23.9	26.0	20.8	27.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	7.8	10.2	7.8	12.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.2	1.8	5.8	4.1
48 or more mos.	4.0	3.2	2.8	2.6
Missing data	1.3	0.8	0.5	0.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	553	619	643	531

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	81.3	81.9	81.7	80.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	4.4	4.7	5.3	3.6
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	7.6	7.9	7.8	10.7
Missing data	6.7	5.4	5.2	4.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,180	1,096	999	1,068

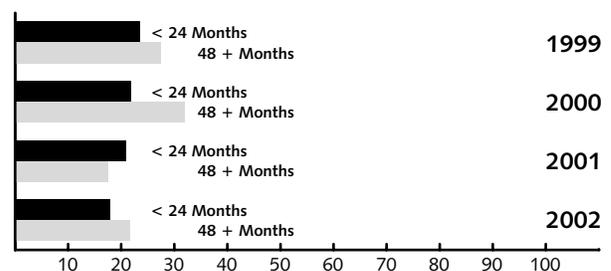
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	7.8	6.1	2.0	1.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	15.7	15.8	18.9	16.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	27.5	25.5	26.8	30.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	19.6	20.6	32.7	26.7
48 or more mos.	27.5	32.1	17.7	21.7
Missing data	2.0	—	2.0	3.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	102	165	254	217

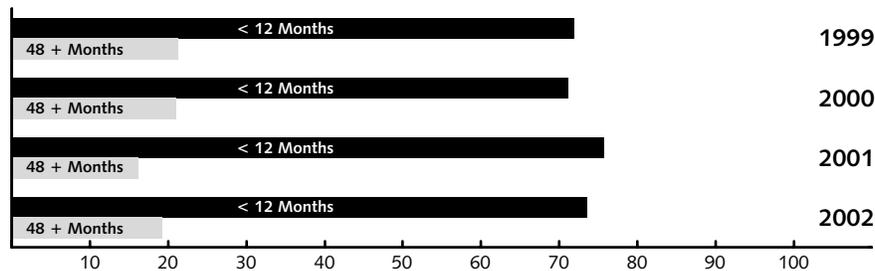
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	71.9	28.1	—	100.0	1,335
	2000	71.1	28.9	—	100.0	1,251
	2001	75.8	24.2	—	100.0	1,160
	2002	73.6	26.4	—	100.0	1,165
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	40.3	59.7	—	100.0	697
	2000	45.0	55.0	—	100.0	797
	2001	39.1	60.9	—	100.0	717
	2002	42.2	57.8	—	100.0	675
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	31.2	68.8	—	100.0	378
	2000	30.3	69.7	—	100.0	465
	2001	32.8	67.2	—	100.0	469
	2002	31.5	68.5	—	100.0	454
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	21.7	78.3	—	100.0	189
	2000	21.6	78.4	—	100.0	231
	2001	23.0	77.0	—	100.0	300
	2002	22.6	77.4	—	100.0	265
48 or more mos.	1999	21.3	78.7	—	100.0	367
	2000	20.9	79.1	—	100.0	354
	2001	16.2	83.8	—	100.0	334
	2002	19.2	80.8	—	100.0	339
Missing data	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	14
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	8
	2001	100.0	—	—	100.0	9
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	18

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	4.2	3.3	3.5	3.6
Institutions	0.5	1.4	0.5	0.9
Other settings	95.3	95.3	96.1	95.5
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	979	860	864	862

**Marcia Kennai, Deputy Commissioner
Office of Children's Services
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
907-465-3170**

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

- The large increase in child victims in 2001 is due in part to a change in Alaska's methodology for counting child maltreatment victims. Based on instructions from NCANDS, from 2001, children were counted once for each report disposed. In prior years, children were counted only once regardless of the number of reports disposed.

Also, data entry for completed investigations often lags behind actual disposition. During 2001, a clean-up effort to officially close and enter data for old investigations increased the numbers reported for that year. Twenty-three percent of the investigations reported in 2001 were for reports received prior to July 2000. As a result, data based on the number of investigations disposed during the year, including the number of victims, are significantly overstated in 2001 and understated in previous years.

- Ninety percent fewer old investigations were included in 2002 compared to 2001, influencing both the decline in reports and victims between those years. In addition, this decline reflects a decrease in both the number of reports received and the number of investigations assigned during the year that were completed in that year and entered into our MIS by the time the NCANDS report was generated. The decline in the number of reports received reflects changes in practice to improve consistency in the definition and entry of reports as well as any actual decline in calls.
- Alaska does not provide data for outcome measures 1.1. and 2.1 because Alaska's current MIS cannot produce the NCANDS Child File. For 2002, alternative data sources developed for the CFSR show a rate of 20.6 percent for measure 1.1 and 2.09 percent for measure 2.1.
- Data for outcome measure 3.2 are not available from our current MIS.

The following discussion focuses on Alaska's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Alaska Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2002, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2000. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Alaska's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

Alaska's performance on outcome 1 cannot be assessed as part of the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating this outcome. To ensure data consistency across States, only data submitted through NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, the State provided year 2000 data for this outcome for its CFSR using an alternative source. For that year, the State reported that 23.6 percent of the children who were the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report during the first 6 months of the calendar year were the subject of another substantiated or indicated report within 6 months of the first report. The national standard is 6.1 percent or fewer.

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

Alaska's performance on outcome 2 cannot be evaluated as part of the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to NCANDS for calculating this outcome. In order to ensure data consistency across States, only data submitted through the NCANDS system are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, the State provided year 2000 data for this outcome for its CFSR using an alternative source. For that year, the State reported that 1.91 percent of the children in foster care during the first 9 months of the calendar year were maltreated by foster parents or facility staff members. The national standard is 0.57 percent or fewer.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 94.2 percent of children exiting foster care in Alaska were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 86.1 percent), and 87.5 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 72.0 percent). (Performance pertaining to the percentage of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability cannot be assessed because Alaska did not provide data relevant to this measure in FY 2002.) In contrast to these findings, 50.0 percent of the children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is more than the national median of 26.9 percent. In addition, performance on this measure declined considerably from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+158.3 percent change). However, Alaska's performance improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to permanency for children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (+11.8 percent change). Performance on the measure concerning the percent of children leaving foster care to permanent homes exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Alaska occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 53.3, which is less than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-12.5 percent change).

Because the cross-State analyses of performance on this measure found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months in a State and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Alaska's performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Alaska, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 3.6, which is considerably less than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Thus, although Alaska had a relatively low percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, it also has a relatively low percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of a prior episode. Performance on the measure of foster care re-entry improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-19.3 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 18.0, which is less than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Alaska's performance on this measure declined from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (-17.6 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 73.6, which is less than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Alaska exhibited no change in performance on this measure from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 4.5, which is less than the national median of 8.6 percent. Performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	1,334,564	1,417,451	1,437,420	1,476,856
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	6.9	6.6	6.6	6.5
Asian	N/A	1.6	1.6	1.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.1	0.1
Hispanic	32.6	36.1	36.7	37.4
White	55.1	49.6	49.3	48.7
Two or more races	N/A	2.5	2.0	2.1
Other	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	16.1	21.8	22.3	19.1

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	9,205	7,460	5,389	5,114
Children in foster care on 9/30	7,034	6,475	6,050	6,211
Children adopted	761	853	938	793

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	52,611	51,811	54,166	52,288	39.4 per 1,000	36.5 per 1,000	37.7 per 1,000	35.4 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	9,205	7,460	5,389	5,114	6.9 per 1,000	5.3 per 1,000	3.8 per 1,000	3.5 per 1,000
Child fatalities	8	7	13	21	0.6 per 100,000	0.5 per 100,000	0.9 per 100,000	1.4 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	15.7	17.6	18.8	12.0
1-5 years	29.4	27.7	28.4	31.7
6-10 years	27.7	26.1	26.1	26.8
11-15 years	22.4	23.0	22.1	24.0
16+ years	4.8	5.4	4.6	5.3
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,205	7,460	5,389	5,114

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	5.7	3.5	3.3	3.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.0	0.2	0.4	0.7
Black	9.2	7.9	8.3	7.1
Hispanic	31.0	33.9	33.4	36.0
White	78.3	45.9	47.2	45.8
Two or more races	0.3	3.6	3.7	3.1
Unknown/Missing data	5.5	5.0	3.7	3.6
Total % ⁴	131.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,205	7,460	5,389	5,114

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	1.2	1.5	0.7	0.9
Medical neglect	0.0	—	—	—
Neglect	58.4	71.4	71.6	70.4
Physical abuse	24.8	24.5	25.3	24.9
Sexual abuse	5.6	7.5	6.1	7.7
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	0.0	—	—
Other	10.0	—	—	—
Total % ⁵	100.0	104.9	103.7	103.9
Number	9,205	7,460	5,389	5,114

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	7,515	4,372	4,853	7,034	11,887
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	6,887	4,644	5,056	6,475	11,531
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	6,264	4,515	4,729	6,050	10,779
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	5,905	5,069	4,763	6,211	10,974

Median Length of Stay (Months)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)		17.2			N/A				10.4				18.9			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)		19.1			N/A				9.4				18.0			N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)		18.3			N/A				9.6				15.8			N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)		16.2			N/A				7.4				13.7			N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	3.7	4.2	4.6	5.1	12.8	14.1	13.0	13.3	4.0	5.2	4.3	4.8	4.2	4.8	5.2	5.8
1-5 years	27.6	27.0	26.2	25.8	28.0	26.7	27.5	28.6	28.5	29.0	29.6	29.7	26.9	25.9	25.9	27.0
6-10 years	26.7	25.3	23.1	21.7	22.2	22.0	21.1	20.6	24.5	24.2	22.6	22.7	25.2	22.9	21.6	20.2
11-15 years	28.1	28.7	30.7	30.2	26.6	27.1	27.9	26.3	22.7	23.3	25.3	24.2	29.0	30.8	30.5	27.8
16-18 years	13.6	14.3	15.0	16.5	10.4	10.2	10.5	11.2	19.2	17.3	17.7	17.8	14.1	15.2	16.2	18.0
19+ years	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.0	—	—	0.1	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.7	1.3
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—	0.0	0.1	—	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,515	6,887	6,264	5,905	4,372	4,644	4,515	5,069	4,853	5,056	4,729	4,763	7,034	6,475	6,050	6,211

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.9	2.8	2.4	2.3	3.6	3.4	4.1	4.0	3.8	3.8	4.1	4.1	2.8	2.5	2.3	2.3
Asian	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.2	0.2	N/A	0.1	0.0	0.3	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	12.8	12.5	12.5	10.8	8.5	9.1	7.5	7.8	9.5	9.5	9.9	9.2	12.4	12.4	10.8	9.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	0.1	0.0	N/A	—	0.1	0.0	N/A	—	—	0.0
Hispanic	27.9	31.2	33.3	33.8	33.4	32.5	32.5	35.1	28.1	30.5	32.0	34.8	31.2	32.7	33.8	34.1
White	52.0	48.5	46.1	46.8	48.4	48.4	48.4	45.8	53.4	50.5	47.2	44.6	48.7	46.9	46.9	47.7
Two or more races	N/A	4.7	5.1	4.8	N/A	4.0	4.3	3.2	N/A	4.2	4.8	3.9	N/A	4.7	4.8	4.2
Unknown/Missing data	0.6	0.2	0.5	1.4	1.4	2.5	2.8	3.8	2.0	1.5	1.7	3.2	0.2	0.9	1.3	1.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,515	6,887	6,264	5,905	4,372	4,644	4,515	5,069	4,853	5,056	4,729	4,763	7,034	6,475	6,050	6,211

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	3,051	2,370	2,553	2,150
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	2,633	1,817	2,237	1,613

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	6.1	4.3	7.8	6.4
1-5 years	40.6	38.9	39.6	39.3
6-10 years	34.6	32.7	30.1	28.7
11-15 years	18.3	22.9	21.8	24.4
16+ years	0.4	1.2	0.7	1.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,051	2,370	2,553	2,150

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.3	2.0	1.3	1.0
Asian	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	11.4	10.6	9.0	7.7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	33.1	37.0	36.3	36.0
White	48.1	44.9	46.8	48.4
Two or more races	N/A	5.1	5.5	5.3
Unknown/Missing data	5.0	0.5	1.0	1.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,051	2,370	2,553	2,150

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	0.5	0.7	0.9	2.1
1-5 years	44.8	44.5	49.1	48.7
6-10 years	39.0	36.9	30.3	31.7
11-15 years	14.5	16.6	17.5	16.0
16+ years	1.2	1.2	2.2	1.5
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	761	853	938	793

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.1	2.5	1.5	1.4
Asian	N/A	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	12.7	10.6	9.9	8.6
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	28.1	25.8	38.3	40.6
White	55.8	56.4	43.7	42.7
Two or more races	N/A	4.8	6.4	6.3
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	—	0.2	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	761	853	938	793

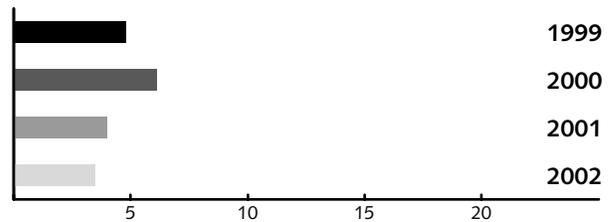
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	95.2	93.9	96.0	96.5
Children with one or more recurrences	4.8	6.1	4.0	3.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,064	3,558	2,461	2,353

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

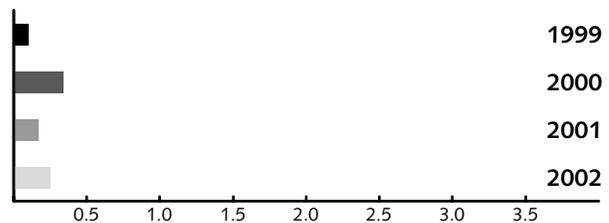


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.10	0.34	0.17	0.25
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.90	99.66	99.83	99.75
Total %	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	9,419	10,450	9,647	9,785

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

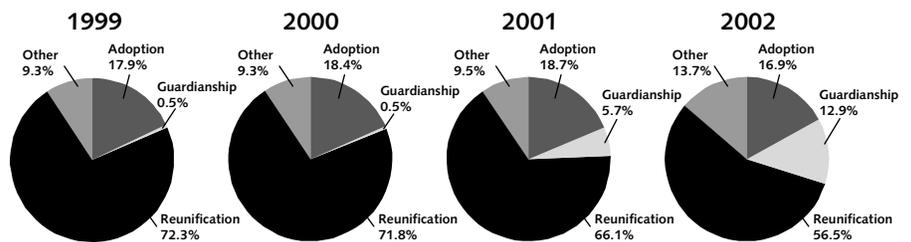


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	17.9	18.4	18.7	16.9
Guardianship	0.5	0.5	5.7	12.9
Reunification	72.3	71.8	66.1	56.5
Other	9.3	9.3	9.5	13.7
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,853	5,056	4,729	4,763

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	8.6	19.5	24.0	28.0
Guardianship	—	—	7.0	13.6
Reunification	81.4	72.7	57.3	37.4
Other	10.0	7.8	11.8	21.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	70	128	805	1,198

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	1.3	0.7	0.9	0.6
Guardianship	0.6	0.5	3.7	7.2
Reunification	70.7	71.3	70.9	63.6
Other	27.4	27.6	24.5	28.6
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,333	1,312	1,298	1,331

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	18.9	23.1	23.4	26.8
Children older than 12 at entry	81.1	76.9	76.6	73.2
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	444	450	363	396

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	9.3	13.6	5.1	4.6	N/A	—	—	—	20.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	23.8	20.9	17.1	15.8	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	4.1	14.9	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4	0.2	7.1	13.5	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	82.5	81.7	83.2	68.2	N/A	83.3	100.0	100.0	70.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	61.1	66.8	61.0	48.9	N/A	—	100.0	100.0
Other	8.2	4.7	7.7	12.3	N/A	16.7	—	—	10.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.7	12.1	14.8	21.8	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	100.0	100.0
Number	183	191	196	195	N/A	6	3	12	10	N/A	N/A	N/A	463	479	467	436	N/A	—	6	1

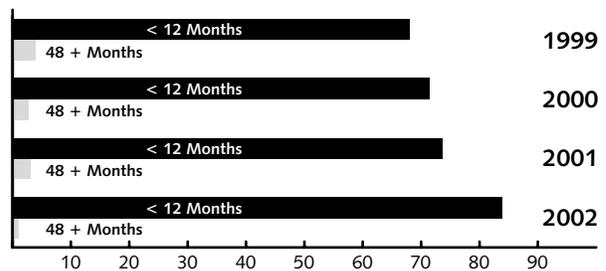
	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	17.6	16.2	22.7	19.8	18.7	20.0	17.3	16.4	—	2.7	2.4	2.6	11.6	19.5	26.9	26.6	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	0.4	0.6	4.8	13.3	0.6	0.4	6.1	12.1	—	—	2.4	11.2	N/A	1.0	7.5	17.9	—	—	—	—
Reunification	73.7	74.8	65.2	54.7	71.5	69.4	66.4	58.1	94.7	97.3	90.2	77.0	84.2	73.3	55.1	38.6	—	—	—	—
Other	8.4	8.4	7.3	12.2	9.3	10.2	10.2	13.4	5.3	—	4.9	9.2	4.1	6.2	10.6	16.8	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Number	1,363	1,543	1,514	1,657	2,593	2,553	2,234	2,126	95	74	82	152	146	210	227	184	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

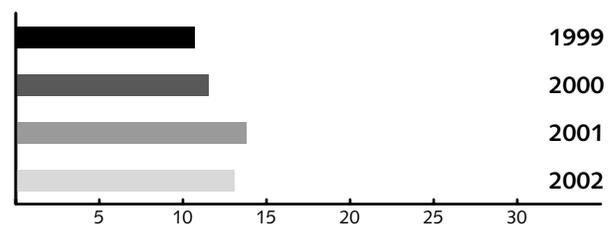
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	68.0	71.5	73.7	83.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	17.8	15.0	15.0	11.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	6.7	8.0	5.2	2.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.5	2.8	2.8	0.7
48 or more mos.	3.9	2.7	3.1	1.0
Missing data	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,511	3,632	3,127	2,689

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	87.1	84.7	80.5	78.8
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	10.7	11.5	13.8	13.1
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	2.2	3.9	5.7	8.2
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,372	4,644	4,515	5,069

Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months

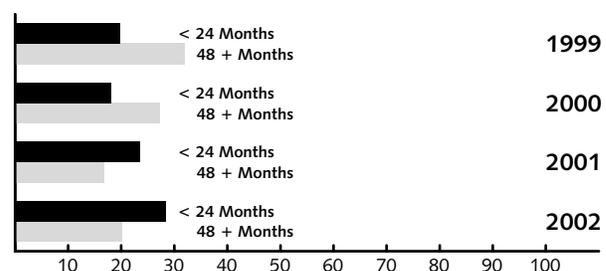


5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	8.4	3.8	4.4	2.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.4	14.4	19.1	26.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	24.7	28.3	35.5	31.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	23.4	26.2	24.0	19.8
48 or more mos.	32.1	27.3	16.9	20.3
Missing data	—	—	0.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	870	930	884	807

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



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	81.9	13.9	4.2	100.0	4,921
	2000	82.4	14.9	2.7	100.0	5,171
	2001	82.4	16.2	1.4	100.0	5,037
	2002	82.1	16.3	1.6	100.0	5,617
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	52.2	47.0	0.8	100.0	2,614
	2000	51.5	47.9	0.6	100.0	2,121
	2001	49.8	49.8	0.3	100.0	2,165
	2002	51.0	48.9	0.0	100.0	2,241
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	38.4	61.3	0.3	100.0	1,697
	2000	35.8	64.0	0.1	100.0	1,688
	2001	35.9	64.1	—	100.0	1,247
	2002	32.9	67.0	0.0	100.0	1,108
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	33.8	65.7	0.5	100.0	935
	2000	28.4	71.5	0.0	100.0	1,006
	2001	26.6	73.4	—	100.0	913
	2002	20.0	80.0	—	100.0	610
48 or more mos.	1999	31.1	68.8	0.2	100.0	1,697
	2000	23.5	76.3	0.2	100.0	1,530
	2001	16.2	83.8	—	100.0	1,404
	2002	12.2	87.8	—	100.0	1,375
Missing data	1999	78.3	—	21.7	100.0	23
	2000	66.7	—	33.3	100.0	15
	2001	15.4	—	84.6	100.0	13
	2002	87.0	—	13.0	100.0	23

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	5.7	6.6	7.7	8.4
Institutions	17.3	20.6	23.1	23.5
Other settings	63.4	67.0	68.5	67.2
Missing data	13.7	5.7	0.7	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,124	3,292	3,138	3,544

Arizona

[STATE COMMENT]

The following discussion focuses on Arizona's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Arizona Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2001, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 1999. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Arizona's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Arizona's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 3.5 percent, which is less than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure improved from 1999 to 2002 (-27.1 percent change).

The cross-State analysis found a substantial positive relationship between State performance on this outcome measure and State performance on the rate of child victims (i.e., the number of child victims per 1,000 children in the population). States with relatively low rates of child victims tended to have relatively low rates of maltreatment recurrence. For Arizona, both the incidence of maltreatment recurrence (3.5 percent) and the rate of child victims (3.5 children per 1,000 in the population) were in the bottom quartile of the State rankings. This suggests that the State's policies and laws pertaining to what constitutes maltreatment and what is necessary for substantiation may be related to its rate of maltreatment recurrence.

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

In CY 2002, Arizona's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.25 percent, which is less than both the national standard of 0.57 percent or less and the national median of 0.39 percent. However, performance on this measure declined from 1999 to 2002 (+161.64 percent change). This change in performance is difficult to interpret, because only 9 children were reported in 1999 as victims of maltreatment in foster care compared to 24 children reported as victims in 2002.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 86.3 percent of children exiting foster care in Arizona were discharged to a permanent home (which is about equal to the national median of 86.1 percent); 79.0 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is about equal to the national median of 79.8 percent); and 71.4 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is about equal to the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 26.8 percent of the children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is about equal to the national median of 26.9 percent. This suggests that the State experiences some success in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care. There was no change in performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of all children discharged to a permanent home, and the percentage of children discharged to a permanent home who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care. However, performance declined over this time period with regard to: (1) the percentage of children with a diagnosed disability discharged to a permanent home (-12.2 percent change), and (2) the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (+45.5 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Arizona occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 83.9, which is more than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+23.4 percent change).

Because the cross-State analyses of performance on this measure found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Arizona's performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Arizona, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 13.1, which is more than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+22.3 percent change). Thus, although Arizona had a relatively high percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 28.5, which does not meet the national standard (32.0 percent or more) but is more than the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Arizona's performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+56.8 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 82.1, which is less than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Arizona's performance on this measure exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger entering foster care who were placed in a group home or institution was 31.9, which was the second highest percentage in the Nation. In addition, Arizona's performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+39.0 percent).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	660,224	680,571	680,618	677,522
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7
Asian	N/A	0.8	0.8	0.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	21.1	20.6	20.7	20.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	3.2	4.7	4.9	5.0
White	74.3	71.3	71.1	70.8
Two or more races	N/A	1.7	1.7	1.7
Other	N/A	0.1	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	18.5	25.5	28.3	30.8

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	7,564	7,479	6,927	7,302
Children in foster care on 9/30	2,919	3,045	2,959	2,952
Children adopted	318	325	362	297

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	23,970	23,335	25,655	26,237	36.3 per 1,000	34.3 per 1,000	37.7 per 1,000	38.7 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	7,564	7,479	6,927	7,302	11.5 per 1,000	11.0 per 1,000	10.2 per 1,000	10.8 per 1,000
Child fatalities	9	12	22	13	1.4 per 100,000	1.8 per 100,000	3.2 per 100,000	1.9 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	2.8	5.9	5.0	5.8
1-5 years	27.4	27.4	27.8	27.9
6-10 years	29.8	29.3	27.3	28.1
11-15 years	29.0	30.0	31.5	30.5
16+ years	10.3	6.9	7.8	7.2
Unknown/Missing data	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,564	7,479	6,927	7,302

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3
Black	19.1	22.4	21.5	21.2
Hispanic	2.3	2.2	3.7	4.6
White	56.6	72.5	68.4	69.3
Two or more races	2.3	—	3.8	3.9
Unknown/Missing data	21.6	2.6	2.2	0.5
Total % ⁴	102.3	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,564	7,479	6,927	7,302

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.7
Medical neglect	4.8	3.4	3.4	2.8
Neglect	68.9	52.7	47.2	50.4
Physical abuse	27.2	22.3	26.5	21.0
Sexual abuse	37.0	27.9	30.6	32.7
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	0.0	1.2	0.4	0.2
Total % ⁵	138.5	108.1	109.0	107.8
Number	7,564	7,479	6,927	7,302

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	2,589	2,489	2,160	2,919	5,078
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	3,182	3,542	3,679	3,045	6,724
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	2,856	3,347	3,244	2,959	6,203
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	2,817	3,330	3,195	2,952	6,147

Median Length of Stay (Months)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	15.2				N/A				5.5				12.5			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	12.3				N/A				4.6				12.6			N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	12.6				N/A				3.0				11.8			N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	12.4				N/A				2.8				12.7			N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	3.8	3.6	4.8	4.4	9.3	9.7	9.6	10.8	4.0	4.8	5.2	6.2	3.8	4.7	4.3	3.6
1-5 years	23.0	23.3	23.2	23.2	25.8	26.2	27.9	29.3	26.9	26.4	29.0	28.8	23.4	23.0	23.5	26.1
6-10 years	23.9	21.7	21.5	21.1	23.2	23.8	23.3	22.3	23.8	23.7	23.6	21.5	22.4	21.6	21.0	20.9
11-15 years	29.4	30.4	29.6	30.9	31.5	29.3	29.0	26.6	24.3	26.6	24.4	24.5	31.1	29.9	31.0	30.4
16-18 years	18.6	19.6	19.6	19.1	10.2	11.0	10.2	11.0	19.3	17.3	16.6	17.7	18.1	19.4	18.8	18.0
19+ years	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	—	—	—	1.6	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.0
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	—	—	—	—	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,589	3,182	2,856	2,817	2,489	3,542	3,347	3,330	2,160	3,679	3,244	3,195	2,919	3,045	2,959	2,952

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.2
Asian	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.1	N/A	0.4	0.2	0.3	N/A	0.3	0.2	0.3	N/A	0.3	0.1	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	41.6	40.5	38.2	33.8	31.9	30.7	26.4	25.0	29.9	32.1	29.0	26.5	42.1	39.4	34.9	31.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	—	—	N/A	—	0.0	0.0	N/A	—	0.0	—	N/A	0.0	—	0.0
Hispanic	1.6	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.6	2.2	3.2	5.4	2.3	2.4	3.1	4.7	1.9	1.9	2.0	3.2
White	55.2	54.9	56.0	57.9	61.5	62.5	63.5	64.2	64.4	61.4	61.6	64.1	53.8	55.8	58.3	58.3
Two or more races	N/A	0.7	2.6	5.0	N/A	1.8	5.0	4.6	N/A	1.7	4.3	3.7	N/A	0.7	3.4	6.0
Unknown/Missing data	0.9	1.2	1.2	0.7	2.9	2.3	1.3	0.3	2.5	1.7	1.5	0.5	1.5	1.9	0.9	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,589	3,182	2,856	2,817	2,489	3,542	3,347	3,330	2,160	3,679	3,244	3,195	2,919	3,045	2,959	2,952

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview

	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	867	817	810	974
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	287	63	250	415

Age of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	4.6	3.7	3.2	2.1
1-5 years	36.1	30.7	30.2	36.3
6-10 years	31.4	33.3	32.5	29.1
11-15 years	26.0	28.9	31.0	30.5
16+ years	1.8	3.4	2.6	2.0
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	—	0.5	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	867	817	810	974

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	—	0.2	0.2
Asian	N/A	0.1	—	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	41.6	41.4	37.8	30.7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	1.8	2.1	1.7	2.6
White	54.8	54.1	55.6	59.0
Two or more races	N/A	0.6	3.6	6.5
Unknown/Missing data	1.5	1.7	1.1	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	867	817	810	974

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	3.5	3.4	1.7	3.0
1-5 years	41.2	39.4	40.9	37.7
6-10 years	30.8	27.1	32.9	33.7
11-15 years	20.4	24.6	19.3	20.5
16+ years	4.1	5.5	5.2	5.1
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	318	325	362	297

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.6	—	0.3
Asian	N/A	—	0.3	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	40.3	36.6	32.9	33.0
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	1.6	4.0	2.8	1.7
White	53.1	57.2	61.9	60.9
Two or more races	N/A	0.9	1.7	3.4
Unknown/Missing data	4.4	0.6	0.6	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	318	325	362	297

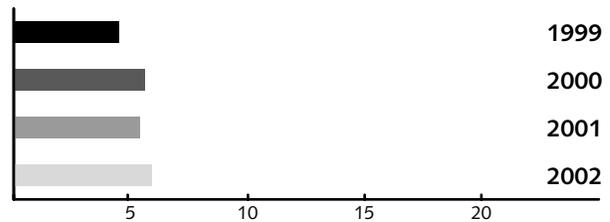
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	95.5	94.4	94.6	94.1
Children with one or more recurrences	4.5	5.6	5.4	5.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,662	3,887	3,372	3,523

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

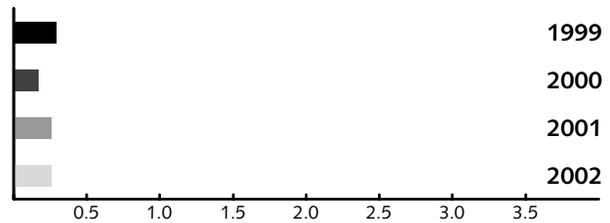


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.29	0.17	0.26	0.26
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.71	99.83	99.74	99.74
Total %	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	4,530	5,991	5,428	5,416

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

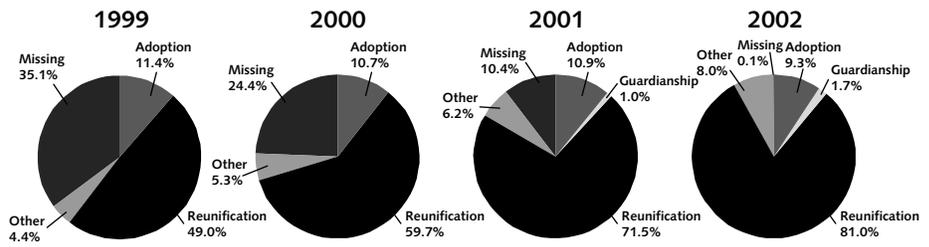


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	11.4	10.7	10.9	9.3
Guardianship	—	—	1.0	1.7
Reunification	49.0	59.7	71.5	81.0
Other	4.4	5.3	6.2	8.0
Missing data	35.1	24.4	10.4	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,160	3,679	3,244	3,195

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	16.5	15.8	21.7	20.9
Guardianship	—	—	0.7	1.9
Reunification	44.6	51.1	54.8	59.6
Other	4.7	8.9	13.6	17.5
Missing data	34.2	24.1	9.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	278	783	538	359

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	1.3	2.0	1.8	1.7
Guardianship	—	—	1.7	2.7
Reunification	40.1	54.4	66.8	73.7
Other	11.9	14.3	15.0	21.8
Missing data	46.7	29.2	14.7	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	673	1,136	946	966

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	9.4	14.5	19.9	14.3
Children older than 12 at entry	90.6	85.5	80.1	85.7
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	32	172	166	223

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

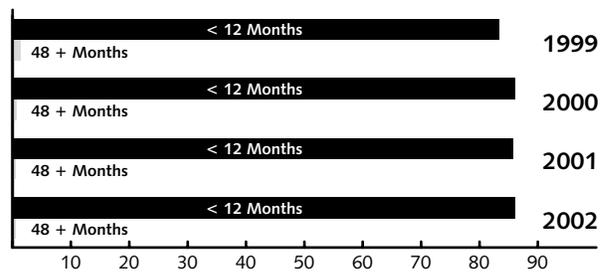
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	9.1	6.7	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	14.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.7	10.9	13.8	10.6	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	1.4	0.5	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	36.4	40.0	60.0	100.0	N/A	72.7	100.0	90.9	28.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	48.4	61.5	65.9	79.9	N/A	—	33.3	—
Other	9.1	6.7	—	—	N/A	—	—	9.1	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.7	5.0	6.3	8.9	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	45.5	46.7	40.0	—	N/A	27.3	—	—	57.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	32.2	22.5	12.6	0.1	N/A	—	66.7	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	100.0	—
Number	11	15	5	7	N/A	11	8	11	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	645	1,180	941	846	N/A	—	3	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	4.0	13.5	9.9	4.7	9.8	10.9	10.3	9.1	15.4	4.8	14.9	26.7	N/A	1.6	1.4	6.8	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	2.0	1.3	—	—	1.0	2.2	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	2.5	—	—	—	—
Reunification	66.0	55.1	78.2	89.3	48.8	58.7	72.5	80.7	34.6	64.5	70.2	66.7	100.0	66.1	89.9	83.9	66.7	—	—	—
Other	2.0	3.4	5.9	4.7	4.9	5.8	6.4	8.0	3.8	3.2	6.4	6.7	N/A	—	2.9	6.8	3.7	—	—	—
Missing data	28.0	28.1	4.0	—	36.5	24.7	9.8	0.0	46.2	27.4	8.5	—	N/A	32.3	5.8	—	29.6	—	100.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	—
Number	50	89	101	150	1,392	2,260	1,999	2,048	26	62	47	15	2	62	139	118	27	—	1	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

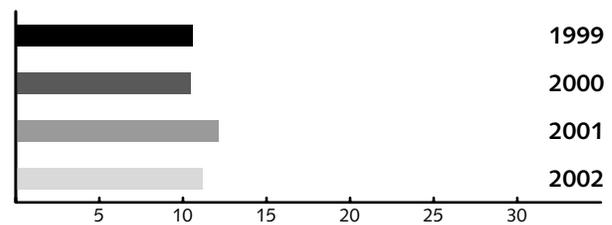
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	83.4	86.2	85.7	86.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	10.9	9.4	10.4	9.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.8	2.4	1.6	2.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.7
48 or more mos.	1.3	0.7	0.5	0.5
Missing data	0.1	0.5	1.3	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,059	2,196	2,319	2,588

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	78.7	85.8	81.4	81.7
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	10.6	10.5	12.1	11.2
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	1.6	2.6	5.8	6.8
Missing data	9.2	1.1	0.6	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,489	3,542	3,347	3,330

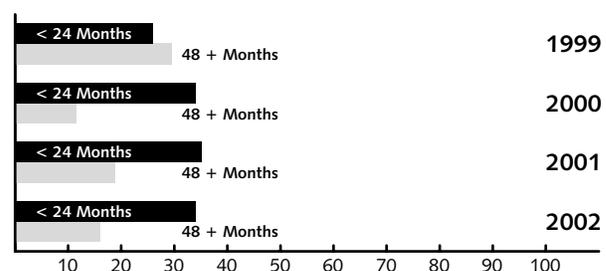
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	4.5	8.7	5.9	7.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	21.5	25.5	29.3	27.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	26.4	21.2	28.7	30.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	15.9	16.3	17.2	17.9
48 or more mos.	29.7	11.7	18.9	16.2
Missing data	2.0	16.6	—	1.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	246	392	355	296

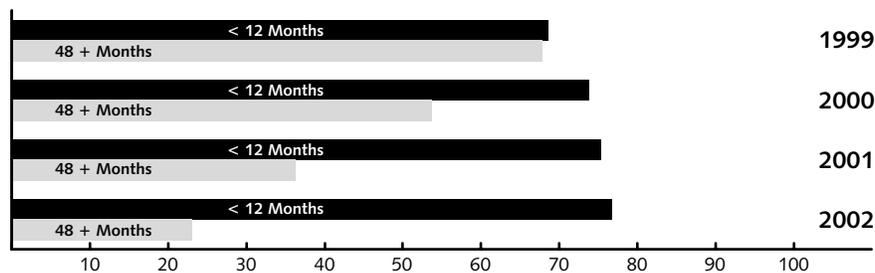
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	68.6	31.2	0.2	100.0	2,808
	2000	73.8	18.3	8.0	100.0	4,048
	2001	75.3	23.2	1.6	100.0	3,797
	2002	76.8	21.6	1.5	100.0	3,753
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	39.9	59.7	0.5	100.0	865
	2000	49.2	47.8	3.0	100.0	1,163
	2001	39.4	60.0	0.6	100.0	1,086
	2002	40.7	59.0	0.3	100.0	1,073
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	49.6	50.1	0.3	100.0	617
	2000	39.0	57.1	4.0	100.0	580
	2001	28.8	71.0	0.2	100.0	521
	2002	25.9	73.9	0.2	100.0	559
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	54.5	44.8	0.7	100.0	279
	2000	42.5	54.5	3.0	100.0	400
	2001	24.4	74.9	0.7	100.0	287
	2002	23.3	76.4	0.4	100.0	275
48 or more mos.	1999	67.8	31.6	0.6	100.0	475
	2000	53.7	44.0	2.3	100.0	441
	2001	36.2	62.1	1.7	100.0	475
	2002	23.0	71.9	5.1	100.0	434
Missing data	1999	82.4	14.7	2.9	100.0	34
	2000	75.0	—	25.0	100.0	92
	2001	70.3	—	29.7	100.0	37
	2002	69.8	—	30.2	100.0	53

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	—	—	0.7	1.8
Institutions	8.8	3.8	8.3	11.5
Other settings	90.7	96.0	90.9	86.7
Missing data	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,640	2,277	2,318	2,325

Arkansas

[STATE COMMENT]

The following discussion focuses on Arkansas' performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Arkansas Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2001, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 1999. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Arkansas' performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Arkansas' rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 5.9 percent, which is less than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). However, performance on this measure declined from 1999 to 2002 (+31.1 percent change).

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

In CY 2002, Arkansas' incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.26 percent, which is less than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure improved from 1999 to 2002 (-9.4 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 92.0 percent of children exiting foster care in Arkansas were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 86.1 percent); 82.5 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 78.1 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 14.3 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care (which is less than the national median of 26.9 percent). These findings suggest that the State is relatively successful in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care. Change in performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002 cannot be assessed because in FY 1999, more than 30 percent of the exits from foster care for the various measures did not have "reason for discharge" information (i.e., were recorded as missing data).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Arkansas occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 86.1, which is more than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Change in performance from 1999 to 2002 cannot be assessed because in FY 1999, 35.1 percent of the exits from foster care that were reported for outcome measure 3.1 did not have "reason for discharge" information.

Because the cross-State analyses of performance on this measure found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Arkansas' performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Arkansas, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 11.2, which is more than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the

national median (9.9 percent). In addition, performance on this measure declined slightly from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+6.0 percent change). Thus, although Arkansas had a relatively high percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 34.1, which is more than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure cannot be assessed because data in prior years exhibited a substantial discrepancy between the number of finalized adoptions the State provided in its AFCARS Adoption data submission and the number of exits to a finalized adoption the State provided in its AFCARS Foster Care data submission.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 76.8, which is less than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). However, Arkansas' performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+12.0 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 13.2, which is more than the national median of 8.6 percent. Performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+49.8 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	8,923,423	9,301,491	9,377,970	9,452,391
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Asian	N/A	9.6	9.5	9.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	11.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	6.8	7.1	7.2	7.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.4	0.4
Hispanic	41.9	43.8	44.3	44.9
White	39.5	34.8	35.2	34.7
Two or more races	N/A	3.9	3.0	3.0
Other	N/A	0.3	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	20.3	21.7	16.4	18.9

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	130,510	129,678	128,251	132,181
Children in foster care on 9/30	117,937	112,807	107,168	100,451
Children adopted	6,344	8,781	9,101	8,741

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	452,887	486,127	485,911	512,880	50.8 per 1,000	52.3 per 1,000	51.8 per 1,000	54.3 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	130,510	129,678	128,251	132,181	14.6 per 1,000	13.9 per 1,000	13.7 per 1,000	14.0 per 1,000
Child fatalities	33	30	—	—	0.4 per 100,000	0.3 per 100,000	— per 100,000	— per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	9.7	9.5	9.6	9.8
1-5 years	29.3	29.1	28.4	28.3
6-10 years	31.1	30.8	30.8	30.1
11-15 years	24.0	24.5	25.0	25.8
16+ years	6.0	6.2	6.1	6.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	130,510	129,678	128,251	132,181

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.0	3.8	3.5	3.4
Black	18.0	15.6	14.6	14.4
Hispanic	37.0	39.6	41.3	18.3
White	33.0	32.9	32.0	31.3
Two or more races	39.0	—	2.5	2.7
Unknown/Missing data	5.0	7.1	5.3	29.1
Total % ⁴	137.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	130,510	129,678	128,251	132,181

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	17.8	18.7	18.2	16.3
Medical neglect	0.0	—	—	—
Neglect	56.3	56.7	42.2	44.3
Physical abuse	17.5	16.1	14.5	13.2
Sexual abuse	9.1	8.3	8.3	7.5
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	0.0
Other	9.8	10.5	31.2	33.0
Total % ⁵	110.4	110.3	114.4	114.3
Number	130,510	129,678	128,251	132,181

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	113,506	43,587	39,156	117,937	157,093
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	117,234	45,685	50,112	112,807	162,919
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	106,088	45,176	44,096	107,168	151,264
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	99,519	46,557	45,625	100,451	146,076

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	20.8	N/A	14.9	25.2	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	24.5	N/A	18.2	26.6	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	26.2	N/A	17.0	25.3	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	24.8	N/A	15.5	22.9	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.7	14.7	14.0	13.9	14.4	4.0	3.6	3.8	4.1	3.5	3.4	3.6	4.0
1-5 years	26.7	24.8	23.3	22.4	27.2	26.6	26.1	25.7	30.5	29.0	28.2	27.9	24.5	22.9	22.0	21.7
6-10 years	27.5	27.2	26.2	25.4	23.7	23.6	23.1	22.4	23.7	25.8	24.7	24.1	27.5	25.9	24.9	23.5
11-15 years	26.5	27.5	29.3	30.2	24.6	25.9	26.1	26.3	19.2	20.7	20.9	21.3	27.3	28.8	29.7	30.5
16-18 years	15.0	16.1	16.5	16.8	9.7	9.9	10.7	11.1	20.5	19.1	20.7	20.8	16.0	17.1	17.5	18.0
19+ years	0.6	0.7	1.1	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.2	1.8	2.0	1.8
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	113,506	117,234	106,088	99,519	43,587	45,685	45,176	46,557	39,156	50,112	44,096	45,625	117,937	112,807	107,168	100,451

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.9	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.8	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.2	0.9	0.8
Asian	N/A	1.8	1.3	1.3	N/A	3.1	2.1	2.1	N/A	2.7	2.0	2.1	N/A	1.9	1.4	1.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	35.5	34.3	32.3	31.4	22.4	21.5	19.7	19.0	23.7	24.7	21.9	21.3	34.6	33.3	31.3	30.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.3	0.3	0.3	N/A	0.3	0.5	0.6	N/A	0.4	0.5	0.4	N/A	0.3	0.3	0.4
Hispanic	31.3	32.9	35.6	36.7	36.0	38.2	39.4	42.1	33.5	35.3	38.3	40.1	32.3	33.9	36.1	37.7
White	29.9	29.3	26.6	26.2	35.2	33.6	32.5	30.5	37.1	34.1	32.0	30.8	29.5	28.9	26.8	26.1
Two or more races	N/A	0.1	2.5	2.9	N/A	0.1	2.9	3.3	N/A	0.3	2.6	3.1	N/A	0.0	2.6	2.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.3	1.5	1.9	2.0	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.7	1.2	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	113,506	117,234	106,088	99,519	43,587	45,685	45,176	46,557	39,156	50,112	44,096	45,625	117,937	112,807	107,168	100,451

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	9,894	12,632	7,714	6,358
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	6,911	9,791	999	1,023

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	4.2	3.7	6.0	7.5
1-5 years	51.6	46.5	40.0	36.4
6-10 years	30.0	32.3	34.2	32.6
11-15 years	12.4	14.8	17.2	19.5
16+ years	1.7	2.2	2.1	3.5
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,894	12,632	7,714	6,358

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.7
Asian	N/A	1.7	0.9	1.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	31.2	30.7	34.0	32.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.2	0.3	0.3
Hispanic	33.6	35.8	37.5	37.1
White	32.4	30.8	23.3	24.8
Two or more races	N/A	—	3.2	3.7
Unknown/Missing data	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,894	12,632	7,714	6,358

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	2.2	2.3	1.8	2.1
1-5 years	63.8	56.8	52.0	51.2
6-10 years	25.7	28.9	31.2	30.3
11-15 years	7.1	10.1	12.6	14.0
16+ years	1.2	1.7	2.2	2.2
Unknown/Missing data	—	0.0	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,344	8,781	9,101	8,741

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.5
Asian	N/A	1.2	1.0	1.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	19.5	21.9	16.6	22.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.2	0.3	0.5
Hispanic	31.7	34.0	37.6	40.9
White	42.8	34.8	30.4	28.7
Two or more races	N/A	0.3	1.2	1.6
Unknown/Missing data	2.7	7.1	12.5	3.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,344	8,781	9,101	8,741

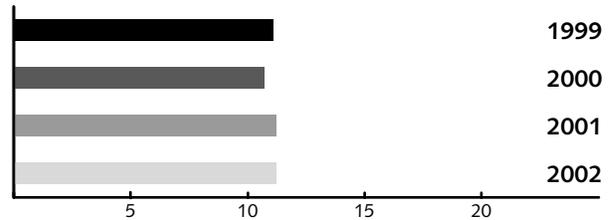
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	88.9	89.3	88.8	88.8
Children with one or more recurrences	11.1	10.7	11.2	11.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	60,893	60,886	59,715	61,017

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

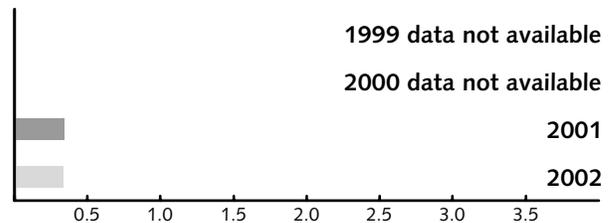


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	0.34	0.33
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	99.66	99.67
Total %	—	—	100.00	100.00
Number	—	—	140,134	134,724

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

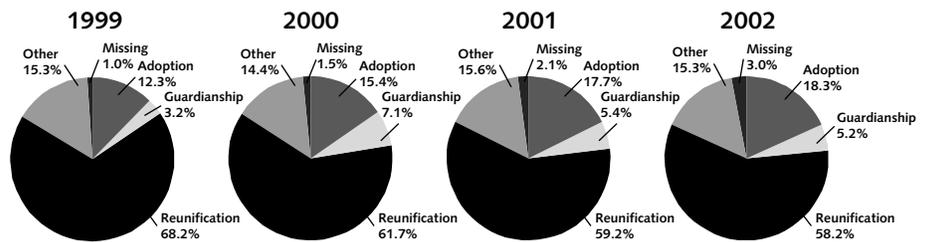


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	12.3	15.4	17.7	18.3
Guardianship	3.2	7.1	5.4	5.2
Reunification	68.2	61.7	59.2	58.2
Other	15.3	14.4	15.6	15.3
Missing data	1.0	1.5	2.1	3.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	39,156	50,112	44,096	45,625

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	17.1	24.7	27.5	27.2
Guardianship	1.8	6.0	5.1	4.9
Reunification	63.1	56.1	51.6	49.9
Other	17.4	12.4	13.8	15.0
Missing data	0.7	0.8	1.9	3.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,228	4,441	6,587	10,700

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8
Guardianship	1.5	2.2	2.1	2.3
Reunification	58.3	56.0	54.1	55.2
Other	38.7	39.9	41.3	39.0
Missing data	0.8	1.3	1.8	2.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	10,278	11,795	11,150	11,393

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	32.9	34.7	36.2	43.3
Children older than 12 at entry	67.1	65.3	63.8	56.7
Missing data	0.1	—	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,728	4,489	4,046	4,011

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

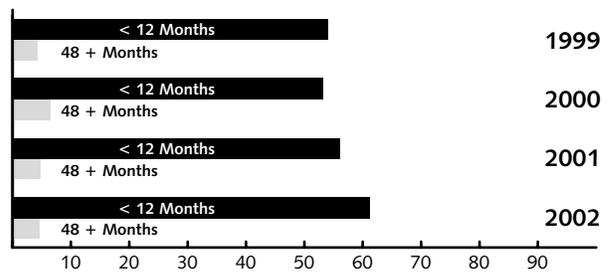
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	9.2	10.0	7.8	12.4	N/A	8.5	10.1	11.4	7.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.0	15.9	17.6	19.6	N/A	9.3	11.8	15.2
Guardianship	5.6	13.5	13.6	9.0	N/A	3.6	1.6	2.2	1.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.1	9.2	6.8	6.5	N/A	2.1	4.4	9.1
Reunification	69.0	58.0	58.3	59.3	N/A	76.5	75.5	72.1	78.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	62.6	54.9	52.0	50.1	N/A	71.1	69.1	67.0
Other	14.8	17.3	18.9	16.9	N/A	10.2	10.4	11.7	11.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	21.6	19.0	21.9	21.7	N/A	15.5	11.3	6.6
Missing data	1.3	1.2	1.4	2.5	N/A	1.1	2.4	2.6	0.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.7	1.1	1.6	2.1	N/A	2.1	3.4	2.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	533	572	434	445	N/A	1,359	887	952	1,237	N/A	N/A	N/A	9,269	12,385	9,647	9,730	N/A	194	204	197

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	11.4	14.9	17.8	19.0	14.1	16.6	18.7	17.1	2.3	2.0	3.5	2.4	N/A	35.6	23.7	26.2	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	2.4	7.0	4.9	4.9	4.2	5.9	5.2	4.8	2.5	3.3	3.4	2.7	N/A	6.8	5.6	4.9	—	—	—	—
Reunification	71.9	63.8	61.2	59.6	66.9	62.4	59.4	60.2	86.1	86.0	81.2	79.8	N/A	47.0	59.0	57.3	—	—	—	—
Other	13.2	12.6	13.8	12.7	13.7	13.5	14.5	15.3	7.4	5.6	9.1	10.7	N/A	10.6	9.7	9.0	—	—	—	—
Missing data	1.1	1.7	2.3	3.8	1.1	1.5	2.1	2.5	1.7	3.2	2.7	4.4	N/A	—	2.1	2.6	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Number	13,108	17,696	16,897	18,288	14,533	17,110	14,126	14,047	476	664	733	550	N/A	132	1,168	1,416	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

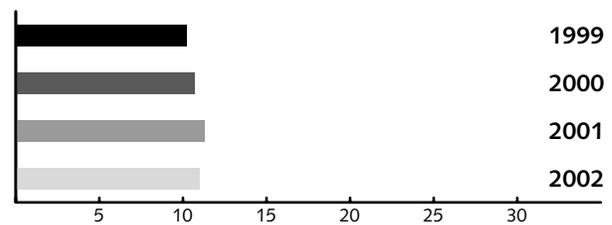
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	54.0	53.2	56.0	61.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	27.0	24.2	25.3	22.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	9.8	10.3	8.1	7.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.9	4.0	3.4	2.7
48 or more mos.	4.4	6.5	4.8	4.7
Missing data	1.9	1.8	2.3	2.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	26,707	30,908	26,091	26,555

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	81.1	80.1	78.6	78.1
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	10.2	10.7	11.3	11.0
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.4	9.0	10.1	10.8
Missing data	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	43,587	45,685	45,176	46,557

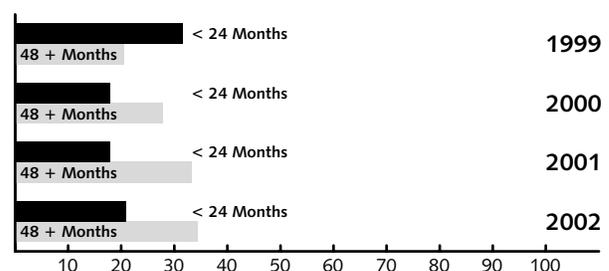
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	5.8	2.4	2.2	3.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	25.7	15.7	15.7	17.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	29.9	30.4	25.1	25.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	17.9	23.5	23.4	19.4
48 or more mos.	20.6	27.9	33.3	34.4
Missing data	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,815	7,693	7,801	8,367

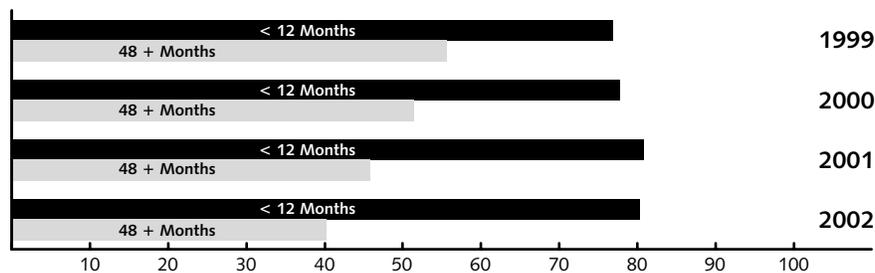
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	76.9	23.1	0.0	100.0	47,401
	2000	77.7	22.2	0.0	100.0	49,747
	2001	80.8	19.1	0.0	100.0	48,882
	2002	80.3	19.6	0.0	100.0	50,785
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	62.3	37.7	0.0	100.0	36,004
	2000	59.0	41.0	0.0	100.0	32,324
	2001	59.8	40.1	0.0	100.0	29,988
	2002	57.8	42.1	0.0	100.0	29,440
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	56.8	43.2	—	100.0	23,460
	2000	53.9	46.1	0.0	100.0	23,964
	2001	48.7	51.3	0.0	100.0	18,328
	2002	45.9	54.1	—	100.0	16,565
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	53.0	47.0	0.0	100.0	13,239
	2000	50.7	49.3	0.0	100.0	16,439
	2001	45.9	54.0	0.0	100.0	14,044
	2002	38.4	61.5	0.0	100.0	10,583
48 or more mos.	1999	55.6	44.4	—	100.0	36,243
	2000	51.4	48.6	0.0	100.0	39,691
	2001	45.8	54.2	0.0	100.0	39,182
	2002	40.2	59.8	0.0	100.0	37,732
Missing data	1999	94.8	5.2	—	100.0	746
	2000	94.6	5.4	—	100.0	754
	2001	94.6	5.4	—	100.0	840
	2002	94.5	5.5	—	100.0	971

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	4.3	3.8	3.9	5.1
Institutions	12.9	9.8	10.0	8.7
Other settings	82.8	86.4	86.0	86.0
Missing data	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	31,671	32,668	32,040	32,521

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

- In Section B—Maltreatment Information Overview—no data are available for child fatalities in 2001 or 2002. This is because California's child fatality data are derived from three distinct statewide data systems and are based on the number of unique cases identified in any one of these systems. The final numbers for these federal fiscal years have not yet been completed.
- The data in Section B—Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims—demonstrate a significant decrease in the category 'Hispanic' in 2002 (18.3 percent) compared to 2001 (41.3 percent). In addition, the 'Other' category increased from 5.3 percent in 2001 to 29.1 percent in 2002. These findings are due to recent changes in federal requirements that have required California to reassess the logic used to identify race and ethnicity. This process is not yet completed.
- The data in Section C—Children in Foster Care—show a decrease of 7.7 percent in the number of children in care from 9/30/01 to 10/01/01. Although the decrease appears to be for a 24-hour period, in fact, the inventory is for a year later because it is for a different reporting period. The decrease also is partly due to late reporting of case closures (exits from foster care).
- The data for outcome measure 1.1 indicate that 11.2 percent of children who were the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report during the first 6 months of the year, were the subject of another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period. Although this is 3.7 percentage points higher than the national median, based on a review of a sample of cases, the State believes the recurrence data to be seriously inflated due to county worker input of multiple referrals for the same instance of abuse.

The following discussion focuses on California's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The California Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2002, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2000. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for California's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, California's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 11.2 percent, which is more than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure exhibited no change from 1999 to 2002.

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

In CY 2002, California's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.33 percent, which is less than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure exhibited no change from 2001 (the first year that data were reported for the measure) to 2002.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 81.7 percent of children exiting foster care in California were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 86.1 percent), and 58.3 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 43.3 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger at the time they entered foster care, which is more than the national median of 26.9 percent. These findings suggest that the State experiences challenges in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care. However, 82.0 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited from foster care were discharged to a permanent home, which is more than the national median of 79.8 percent.

The State's performance on the measures for outcome 3 exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002, with the exception of the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care. Performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+31.7 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in California occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 61.2, which is less than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). However, performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months of entry into foster care improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+13.2 percent change).

California's performance in FY 2002 with regard to the percent of re-entries into foster care within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 11.0 percent. This is more than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). In addition, performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+8.4 percent change). These findings indicate that the positive association found across States between the percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months and

the percentage of re-entries occurring within 12 months does not apply to California. California had both a relatively low percentage of reunifications within 12 months and a relatively high percentage of re-entries within 12 months of a prior episode.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 20.9, which is less than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. California's performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+16.0 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 80.3, which is less than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median of 84.1 percent. Performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 13.8, which is more than the national median of 8.6 percent. Performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-19.4 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	1,065,510	1,127,272	1,136,591	1,151,118
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Asian	N/A	2.2	2.3	2.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	4.4	4.3	4.6	4.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.1	0.1
Hispanic	21.3	23.5	24.0	24.4
White	70.9	66.2	65.8	65.2
Two or more races	N/A	2.9	2.6	2.6
Other	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	11.6	13.3	10.6	12.3

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	6,989	7,467	4,837	7,570
Children in foster care on 9/30	7,639	7,533	7,138	9,209
Children adopted	716	698	656	919

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	34,110	35,483	30,983	40,552	32.0 per 1,000	31.5 per 1,000	27.3 per 1,000	35.2 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	6,989	7,467	4,837	7,570	6.6 per 1,000	6.6 per 1,000	4.3 per 1,000	6.6 per 1,000
Child fatalities	32	31	20	25	3.0 per 100,000	2.8 per 100,000	1.8 per 100,000	2.2 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	9.8	10.0	9.9	10.8
1-5 years	30.2	30.8	30.4	31.6
6-10 years	31.8	30.5	30.0	29.5
11-15 years	23.7	23.5	23.6	23.7
16+ years	4.2	4.7	5.4	4.3
Unknown/Missing data	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,989	7,467	4,837	7,570

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.3	1.2	1.8	1.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	0.8	1.3	1.0
Black	8.4	7.0	10.2	8.7
Hispanic	18.6	21.4	30.0	34.3
White	62.8	64.9	79.5	51.1
Two or more races	5.9	—	—	1.9
Unknown/Missing data	20.9	4.6	—	2.0
Total % ⁴	118.6	100.0	122.8	100.0
Number	6,989	7,467	4,837	7,570

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	14.6	15.9	16.9	5.5
Medical neglect	7.1	71.4	1.3	1.6
Neglect	70.7	72.2	41.0	44.9
Physical abuse	27.6	26.8	25.1	25.0
Sexual abuse	15.1	14.4	11.2	11.8
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	14.4	16.7
Other	0.0	—	—	—
Total % ⁵	135.1	200.7	109.9	105.5
Number	6,989	7,467	4,837	7,570

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	6,131	7,183	5,675	7,639	13,314
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	6,103	6,942	5,512	7,533	13,045
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	5,331	7,007	5,200	7,138	12,338
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	7,814	7,738	6,343	9,209	15,552

Median Length of Stay (Months)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	12.1				N/A				3.2				11.3			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	12.2				N/A				3.7				12.0			N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	11.9				N/A				4.0				9.6			N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	12.6				N/A				5.5				12.3			N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	4.6	4.0	4.5	4.1	7.9	8.8	8.6	10.1	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.4	3.7	4.0	4.5	4.5
1-5 years	18.0	17.8	21.6	19.4	19.1	20.4	18.9	20.6	18.8	19.4	22.3	22.7	19.1	20.1	19.8	19.6
6-10 years	22.6	21.0	20.7	19.4	17.7	17.7	18.3	15.6	16.7	16.6	17.8	16.8	21.4	20.1	18.9	16.9
11-15 years	34.2	36.7	32.0	32.0	38.6	35.5	34.6	32.8	32.9	32.2	28.5	27.8	35.5	34.3	33.4	31.0
16-18 years	19.4	19.0	19.7	23.0	16.7	17.5	19.4	20.3	25.9	26.2	25.2	25.2	19.0	20.0	21.9	24.7
19+ years	1.2	1.5	1.4	2.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.6	1.0	0.9	1.5	3.1	1.3	1.5	1.5	3.3
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	—	—	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	—	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,131	6,103	5,331	7,814	7,183	6,942	7,007	7,738	5,675	5,512	5,200	6,343	7,639	7,533	7,138	9,209

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.0	2.7	2.1	1.6	2.6	2.0	1.5	0.9	2.4	2.7	1.9	1.2	2.3	2.1	1.7	1.2
Asian	N/A	0.8	0.5	0.6	N/A	0.8	0.8	0.6	N/A	1.0	0.8	0.6	N/A	0.7	0.6	0.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	15.7	16.3	16.8	15.0	12.8	11.1	12.8	11.2	11.7	10.3	13.8	13.3	15.9	15.9	15.1	12.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	0.0	0.0	N/A	—	0.0	0.0	N/A	—	0.0	0.0	N/A	—	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	24.9	25.5	28.1	31.5	26.6	28.7	31.0	34.3	25.6	27.9	30.2	33.3	26.0	26.7	29.4	32.6
White	54.3	51.4	49.5	49.0	48.8	47.3	50.0	50.5	51.7	49.3	48.5	49.3	51.0	49.2	50.7	50.0
Two or more races	N/A	—	0.6	1.9	N/A	—	1.3	2.5	N/A	—	0.8	2.1	N/A	—	1.1	2.2
Unknown/Missing data	2.2	3.3	2.3	0.4	8.0	10.0	2.5	0.0	7.3	8.9	4.0	0.0	3.9	5.4	1.3	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,131	6,103	5,331	7,814	7,183	6,942	7,007	7,738	5,675	5,512	5,200	6,343	7,639	7,533	7,138	9,209

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview

	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	1,682	1,788	1,469	2,118
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,211	1,267	695	1,461

Age of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.7	2.0	4.3	6.2
1-5 years	28.7	28.7	35.7	36.9
6-10 years	36.4	35.1	32.4	28.0
11-15 years	28.9	30.0	23.9	25.5
16+ years	3.7	3.7	3.3	2.7
Unknown/Missing data	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,682	1,788	1,469	2,118

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.7	2.5	1.4	1.1
Asian	N/A	0.4	0.3	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	18.5	20.5	18.9	16.0
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	0.1	0.0
Hispanic	30.4	30.3	31.7	33.0
White	46.9	44.8	45.3	46.5
Two or more races	N/A	—	1.2	2.7
Unknown/Missing data	1.3	1.5	1.1	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,682	1,788	1,469	2,118

E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	4.1	3.0	3.2	1.6
1-5 years	45.4	48.6	50.5	49.4
6-10 years	32.8	32.1	28.7	28.9
11-15 years	14.8	14.3	15.7	17.2
16+ years	2.9	2.0	2.0	2.8
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	716	698	656	919

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.7	1.9	2.1	1.8
Asian	N/A	0.7	0.8	0.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	21.2	16.9	19.7	18.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	23.7	28.2	27.6	30.1
White	50.7	52.0	48.0	46.6
Two or more races	N/A	—	1.4	2.5
Unknown/Missing data	2.5	0.3	0.5	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	716	698	656	919

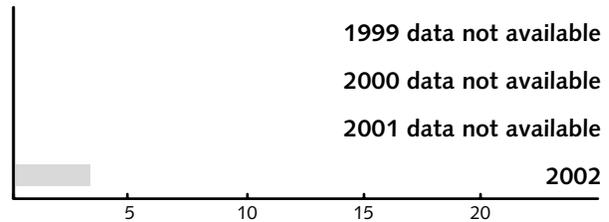
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	96.7
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	3.3
Total %	—	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	—	3,597

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

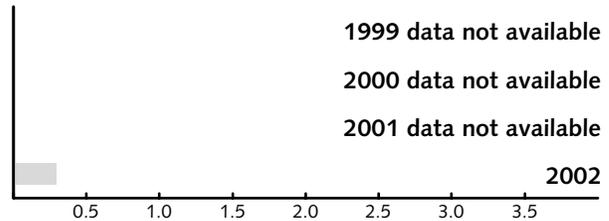


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	0.29
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	99.71
Total %	—	—	—	100.00
Number	—	—	—	14,218

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

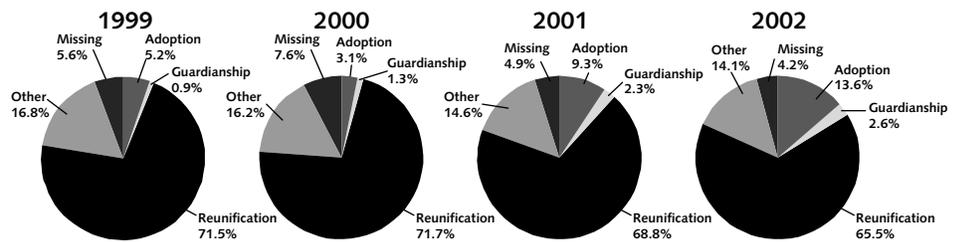


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	5.2	3.1	9.3	13.6
Guardianship	0.9	1.3	2.3	2.6
Reunification	71.5	71.7	68.8	65.5
Other	16.8	16.2	14.6	14.1
Missing data	5.6	7.6	4.9	4.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,675	5,512	5,200	6,343

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	5.2	3.6	8.5	19.4
Guardianship	0.8	0.8	2.2	2.1
Reunification	68.2	67.9	60.8	48.4
Other	21.2	21.9	23.7	22.2
Missing data	4.6	5.9	4.8	8.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,773	1,793	1,568	1,683

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.4	0.4	1.4	0.8
Guardianship	0.5	0.8	1.8	1.5
Reunification	70.4	70.0	66.0	61.9
Other	28.2	28.6	28.1	27.3
Missing data	0.5	0.2	2.7	8.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,720	2,615	2,288	2,825

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	19.5	18.7	22.9	16.4
Children older than 12 at entry	80.5	81.3	77.1	83.6
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	246	252	297	329

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

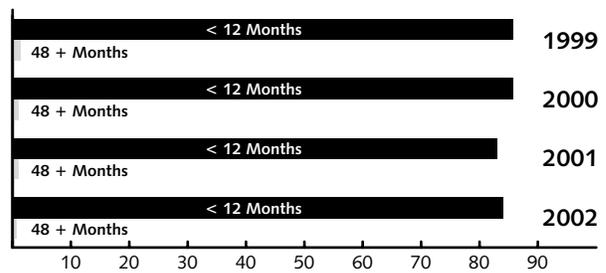
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	3.0	4.8	9.3	20.5	N/A	7.1	2.5	12.5	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.5	4.8	14.5	18.5	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	2.2	1.4	5.2	2.6	N/A	1.8	—	2.5	1.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.4	1.2	4.0	4.1	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	64.9	70.1	63.9	60.3	N/A	76.8	75.0	72.5	72.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	65.1	66.4	59.5	56.6	N/A	—	100.0	100.0
Other	28.4	17.7	12.4	12.8	N/A	8.9	22.5	5.0	24.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.4	18.8	16.6	16.5	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	1.5	6.1	9.3	3.8	N/A	5.4	—	7.5	1.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.6	8.8	5.4	4.3	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	100.0	100.0
Number	134	147	97	78	N/A	56	40	40	73	N/A	N/A	N/A	665	565	719	844	N/A	—	2	5

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	5.3	2.9	8.6	12.9	4.6	3.2	9.1	12.6	2.2	0.8	0.5	—	N/A	—	11.4	15.9	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	0.8	1.6	2.3	3.2	0.9	1.3	1.9	1.8	0.5	0.4	—	—	N/A	—	—	2.3	—	—	—	—
Reunification	71.1	70.9	69.0	65.2	71.5	70.7	70.4	68.2	85.1	86.4	81.3	80.0	N/A	—	70.5	59.8	—	—	100.0	—
Other	17.3	16.0	14.3	13.6	16.7	16.6	14.5	13.7	11.3	11.6	12.6	20.0	N/A	—	9.1	17.4	—	—	—	—
Missing data	5.6	8.5	5.9	5.1	6.3	8.2	4.0	3.6	1.0	0.8	5.6	—	N/A	—	9.1	4.5	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	—
Number	1,452	1,537	1,569	2,115	2,936	2,716	2,523	3,124	415	491	198	5	N/A	—	44	132	—	—	8	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

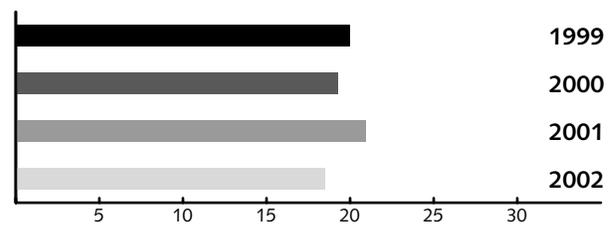
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	85.7	85.7	83.0	84.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	10.1	10.4	10.6	11.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1.8	1.7	2.4	1.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.2	0.4	0.6	0.7
48 or more mos.	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.5
Missing data	—	0.8	2.5	1.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,058	3,954	3,579	4,152

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	67.5	69.8	67.9	63.8
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	20.0	19.3	20.9	18.5
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	10.9	10.4	10.8	11.7
Missing data	1.6	0.5	0.5	5.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,183	6,942	7,007	7,738

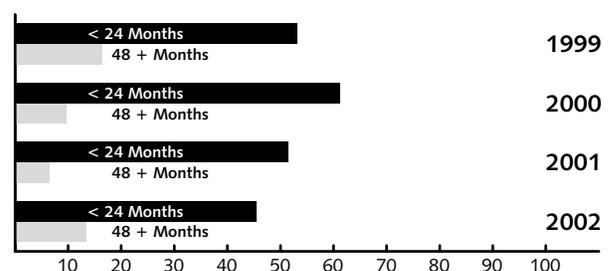
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	23.4	24.9	24.9	11.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	29.8	36.4	26.6	33.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	13.9	22.0	20.6	25.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	16.3	6.9	10.3	14.0
48 or more mos.	16.6	9.8	6.6	13.6
Missing data	—	—	10.9	1.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	295	173	485	865

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



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	87.5	12.5	—	100.0	8,172
	2000	86.9	13.1	—	100.0	7,870
	2001	79.1	17.8	3.2	100.0	7,762
	2002	79.9	16.3	3.7	100.0	8,777
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	56.7	43.3	—	100.0	2,266
	2000	57.7	42.3	—	100.0	2,316
	2001	50.0	49.0	1.0	100.0	2,016
	2002	54.8	43.0	2.2	100.0	3,034
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	42.8	57.2	—	100.0	915
	2000	41.4	58.6	—	100.0	1,068
	2001	33.1	65.8	1.0	100.0	975
	2002	46.0	52.7	1.3	100.0	1,401
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	33.9	66.1	—	100.0	641
	2000	33.1	66.9	—	100.0	513
	2001	22.9	76.2	0.9	100.0	424
	2002	37.8	61.2	1.0	100.0	770
48 or more mos.	1999	24.4	75.6	—	100.0	1,293
	2000	23.9	76.1	—	100.0	1,231
	2001	16.9	82.7	0.4	100.0	989
	2002	31.7	67.5	0.8	100.0	1,431
Missing data	1999	96.3	3.7	—	100.0	27
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	47
	2001	70.3	0.6	29.1	100.0	172
	2002	69.8	—	30.2	100.0	139

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	1.5	1.4	2.0	1.3
Institutions	6.2	5.7	10.6	13.5
Other settings	92.3	92.9	82.1	85.3
Missing data	—	—	5.3	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,777	3,783	3,062	4,074

Colorado

[STATE COMMENT]

The following discussion focuses on Colorado's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Colorado Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2002, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2000. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Colorado's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Colorado's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 3.3 percent, which is considerably lower than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). Change in performance on this measure from 1999 to 2002 cannot be assessed because the State did not report the necessary data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) prior to 2002.

The cross-State analyses found a substantial positive relationship between State performance on this outcome measure and the rate of child victims (i.e., the number of child victims per 1,000 children in the population) in a State. States with a relatively low rate of child victims tended to have a relatively low percentage of maltreatment recurrence. For Colorado, both the percentage of maltreatment recurrence (3.3 percent) and the rate of child victims (6.6 per 1,000 children in the population) were in the bottom quartile for all States.

The cross-State analyses also found a small, but definite, positive relationship between State performance on this outcome measure and the percentage of child victims in the State experiencing neglect. States with a relatively low percentage of child victims experiencing neglect tended to have a relatively low percentage of maltreatment recurrence. For Colorado, both the incidence of maltreatment recurrence (3.3 percent) and the percentage of child victims experiencing neglect (44.9 percent) were in the bottom quartile for all States. These findings suggest that the State's definitions and laws pertaining to what constitutes maltreatment and what is required for substantiation may be related to its performance on the outcome measure assessing maltreatment recurrence.

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

In CY 2002, Colorado's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.29 percent, which is less than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Change in performance on this measure from 1999 to 2002 cannot be assessed because the State did not report the necessary data to NCANDS prior to 2002.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 81.7 percent of children exiting foster care in Colorado were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 86.1 percent); 69.9 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 64.2 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care exited to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent). These findings suggest that the State is not consistently successful in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care.

However, 16.4 percent of the children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is less than the national median of 26.9 percent.

Colorado's performance improved slightly from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to: (1) the percentage of all children exiting foster care who exited to a permanent home (+5.3 percent change), and (2) the percentage of children exiting from foster care to emancipation who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (-15.9 percent change). However, performance declined with regard to: (1) the percentage of children exiting foster care to a permanent home who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (-10.0 percent change), and (2) the percentage of children exiting foster care to a permanent home who had a diagnosed disability (-5.9 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Colorado occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 84.0, which is more than the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

Because the cross-State analyses of performance on this measure found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months in a State and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Colorado's performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Colorado, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 18.5, which is considerably more than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). However, performance on this measure improved slightly from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-7.4 percent change). Thus, although Colorado had a high percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a high percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode.

The cross-State analysis of the measure of foster care re-entry also found a substantial positive relationship between State performance on this measure and the percentage of children entering foster care in the State in FY 2002 who were age 16 or older. States with a relatively high percentage of children age 16 and older entering foster care in FY 2002 tended to have a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. For Colorado, both the percentage of children entering foster care who were age 16 and older (20.9 percent) and the incidence of foster care re-entry (18.5 percent) were in the top quartile. One explanation for this is that children age 16 and older who enter foster care are often entering because of their own behaviors (or through the juvenile justice system) rather than as a result of maltreatment, and they may leave the foster care system before the behavior problems are fully resolved. This is particularly relevant to Colorado, because this State provides child welfare foster care services to children in the juvenile justice system.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 45.5, which is more than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure from FY 1999 to FY 2002 cannot be assessed, because data in prior years exhibited a substantial discrepancy between the number of finalized adoptions the State provided in its AFCARS Adoption data submission and the number of exits to a finalized adoption the State provided in its AFCARS Foster Care data submission.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 79.9, which is less than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-8.7 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 14.7, which is more than the national median of 8.6 percent. Colorado's performance on this measure declined considerably from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+92.5 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	828,260	857,653	859,155	872,853
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
Asian	N/A	2.5	2.7	2.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	10.8	11.1	11.5	11.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	12.8	13.7	13.9	14.1
White	73.3	69.6	69.5	69.1
Two or more races	N/A	2.5	2.1	2.1
Other	N/A	0.3	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	8.8	9.9	9.3	11.1

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	14,514	14,462	12,120	12,818
Children in foster care on 9/30	7,487	6,996	7,440	6,007
Children adopted	403	499	444	617

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	40,714	45,111	47,378	53,414	49.2 per 1,000	52.6 per 1,000	55.1 per 1,000	61.2 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	14,514	14,462	12,120	12,818	17.5 per 1,000	16.9 per 1,000	14.1 per 1,000	14.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	4	8	9	0.4 per 100,000	0.5 per 100,000	0.9 per 100,000	1.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	6.1	9.2	10.0	9.3
1-5 years	29.9	29.8	29.2	29.6
6-10 years	31.5	30.3	28.6	28.7
11-15 years	25.9	25.6	27.0	26.9
16+ years	6.6	4.3	4.8	4.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	14,514	14,462	12,120	12,818

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.6
Black	23.1	23.9	24.8	24.3
Hispanic	32.9	24.7	26.2	26.0
White	37.8	43.7	43.2	43.6
Two or more races	32.9	2.1	2.6	3.1
Unknown/Missing data	5.4	4.5	2.3	2.3
Total % ⁴	132.9	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	14,514	14,462	12,120	12,818

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	49.8	33.9	28.6	28.3
Medical neglect	4.4	3.5	3.2	3.0
Neglect	90.2	60.2	64.6	68.8
Physical abuse	16.2	14.8	14.2	12.1
Sexual abuse	4.1	3.8	3.9	4.3
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	4.9	2.7	2.6	2.1
Total % ⁵	169.7	118.9	117.1	118.6
Number	14,514	14,462	12,120	12,818

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	6,612	3,098	2,169	7,487	9,710
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	6,636	2,763	2,368	6,996	9,399
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	6,635	2,713	1,943	7,440	9,348
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	6,157	2,763	2,787	6,007	8,920

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	21.0	N/A	17.3	23.0	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	25.1	N/A	18.0	24.6	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	25.7	N/A	19.4	25.2	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	29.3	N/A	17.4	28.2	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	3.3	3.2	2.8	2.9	13.8	13.6	12.9	13.3	5.7	4.8	3.6	4.1	3.2	2.9	3.0	3.5
1-5 years	27.1	24.2	22.7	21.4	25.3	24.1	25.2	25.9	32.2	30.6	28.1	29.1	23.6	20.9	21.4	19.5
6-10 years	27.0	27.5	27.6	25.1	24.2	21.0	20.3	19.2	27.2	27.2	23.4	23.3	26.0	24.9	24.5	21.2
11-15 years	28.8	31.0	32.7	34.1	31.6	35.8	35.6	34.7	18.3	19.7	23.7	24.3	29.7	32.5	32.7	34.5
16-18 years	12.3	12.6	12.5	14.2	4.9	5.4	5.9	6.9	13.1	14.7	18.5	17.4	15.5	16.7	16.1	18.0
19+ years	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.9	0.1	—	0.0	0.0	3.1	2.5	2.1	1.4	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.5
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,612	6,636	6,635	6,157	3,098	2,763	2,713	2,763	2,169	2,368	1,943	2,787	7,487	6,996	7,440	6,007

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Asian	N/A	0.3	0.2	0.1	N/A	0.5	0.7	0.5	N/A	0.6	1.0	0.3	N/A	0.3	0.2	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	38.3	37.7	37.3	36.1	32.7	32.0	30.3	29.8	33.6	33.7	33.8	30.1	37.5	36.7	35.6	35.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	—	0.0	N/A	—	0.0	—	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	25.5	25.7	25.0	26.1	26.9	26.2	27.6	28.1	27.2	28.0	27.1	27.3	25.5	25.1	25.4	26.5
White	32.3	32.3	33.4	33.2	33.8	35.4	35.3	35.8	32.8	32.1	33.0	36.8	32.6	33.6	34.2	32.8
Two or more races	N/A	2.7	2.8	3.3	N/A	3.3	3.9	3.7	N/A	3.1	3.2	4.0	N/A	2.8	3.1	3.2
Unknown/Missing data	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.0	2.8	2.4	2.2	2.1	3.0	2.4	1.7	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,612	6,636	6,635	6,157	3,098	2,763	2,713	2,763	2,169	2,368	1,943	2,787	7,487	6,996	7,440	6,007

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	173	257	—	1,044
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	115	151	—	598

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	2.3	6.2	—	2.8
1-5 years	19.7	24.9	—	31.8
6-10 years	48.0	42.8	—	32.9
11-15 years	30.1	25.7	—	30.2
16+ years	—	0.4	—	2.2
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	—	100.0
Number	173	257	—	1,044

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	0.0
Asian	N/A	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	42.8	36.6	—	33.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	30.6	36.2	—	28.1
White	22.0	22.2	—	32.3
Two or more races	N/A	3.1	—	5.4
Unknown/Missing data	4.6	1.9	—	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	—	100.0
Number	173	257	—	1,044

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.5
1-5 years	49.4	46.5	54.7	44.9
6-10 years	37.0	38.3	31.5	37.3
11-15 years	11.9	13.4	11.9	16.5
16+ years	1.5	1.4	1.1	0.8
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	403	499	444	617

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	—	—	—
Asian	N/A	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	29.8	30.9	32.2	27.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	12.2	18.4	31.1	26.1
White	34.0	38.3	28.2	35.3
Two or more races	N/A	—	8.1	9.9
Unknown/Missing data	23.6	12.4	0.5	1.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	403	499	444	617

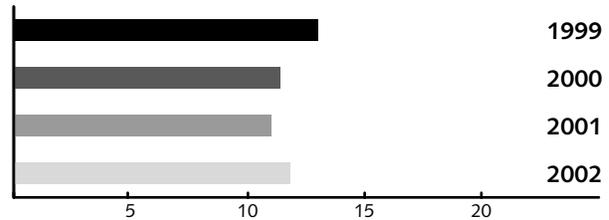
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	87.0	88.6	89.0	88.2
Children with one or more recurrences	13.0	11.4	11.0	11.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,288	6,905	5,328	5,730

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences



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

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

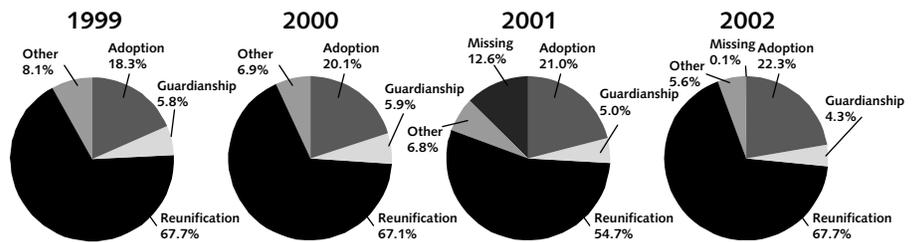
	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	18.3	20.1	21.0	22.3
Guardianship	5.8	5.9	5.0	4.3
Reunification	67.7	67.1	54.7	67.7
Other	8.1	6.9	6.8	5.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	12.6	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,169	2,368	1,943	2,787

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	13.1	25.8	20.9	20.1
Guardianship	5.1	2.2	3.2	2.1
Reunification	70.5	63.8	51.2	69.5
Other	11.4	8.2	10.6	8.1
Missing data	—	—	14.1	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	176	279	340	816

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	1.1	0.2	—	0.1
Guardianship	1.3	3.4	2.4	1.6
Reunification	66.3	72.9	64.9	84.4
Other	31.1	23.4	19.1	13.8
Missing data	0.2	0.2	13.7	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	454	531	498	751

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	6.3	26.4	31.3	37.5
Children older than 12 at entry	92.2	73.6	68.8	59.4
Missing data	1.6	—	—	3.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	64	53	32	32

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

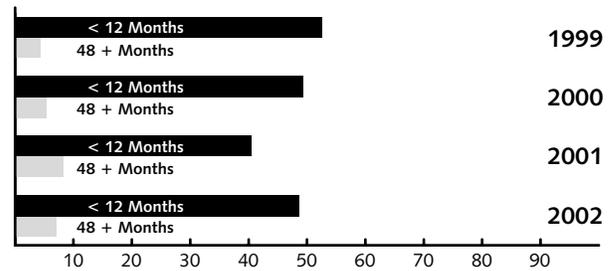
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	12.5	—	—	20.0	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.4	19.9	20.2	21.7	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.9	6.8	5.9	6.4	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	75.0	100.0	100.0	80.0	N/A	92.9	73.7	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	67.9	66.9	56.5	66.9	N/A	—	100.0	—
Other	12.5	—	—	—	N/A	7.1	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.7	6.3	5.9	4.8	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	26.3	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	0.1	0.1	11.4	0.1	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	100.0	—
Number	8	2	1	5	N/A	14	19	9	15	N/A	N/A	N/A	728	798	657	838	N/A	—	1	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	15.6	18.8	21.5	21.4	22.5	21.6	22.4	23.4	14.1	15.8	12.9	—	17.6	24.7	22.2	31.5	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	5.9	5.3	3.8	3.0	5.9	5.3	5.3	3.7	3.1	7.0	6.5	—	5.9	8.2	3.2	4.5	—	—	—	—
Reunification	73.1	70.3	54.2	70.2	61.0	63.7	52.3	65.9	79.7	73.7	71.0	100.0	72.5	65.8	50.8	60.4	—	—	—	—
Other	5.4	5.6	6.8	5.3	10.7	9.5	7.9	7.0	3.1	3.5	3.2	—	3.9	1.4	7.9	3.6	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	13.7	0.1	—	—	12.0	—	—	—	6.5	—	N/A	—	15.9	—	—	—	100.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	100.0	—
Number	591	664	526	761	712	760	642	1,025	64	57	31	38	51	73	63	111	—	—	3	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

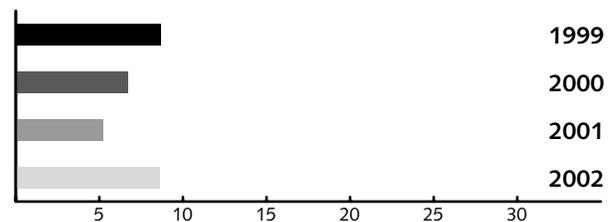
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	52.5	49.3	40.5	48.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	20.1	23.5	24.8	22.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	10.7	7.7	11.9	6.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	5.9	6.4	6.2	4.7
48 or more mos.	4.4	5.5	8.3	7.1
Missing data	6.4	7.7	8.4	10.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,469	1,590	1,062	1,888

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	87.2	88.3	85.4	83.6
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	8.7	6.7	5.2	8.6
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	3.6	4.7	9.1	7.0
Missing data	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,098	2,763	2,713	2,763

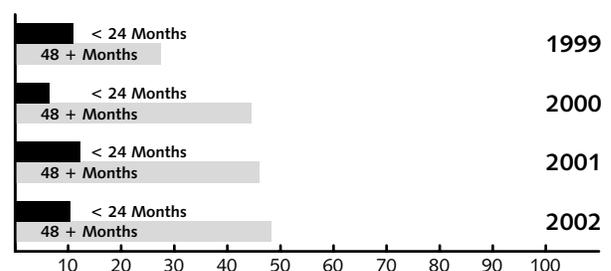
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	0.5	0.6	1.0	1.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	10.6	5.9	11.3	9.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	30.9	15.8	20.6	20.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	30.2	32.8	20.6	20.9
48 or more mos.	27.6	44.6	46.1	48.3
Missing data	0.3	0.2	0.5	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	398	475	408	621

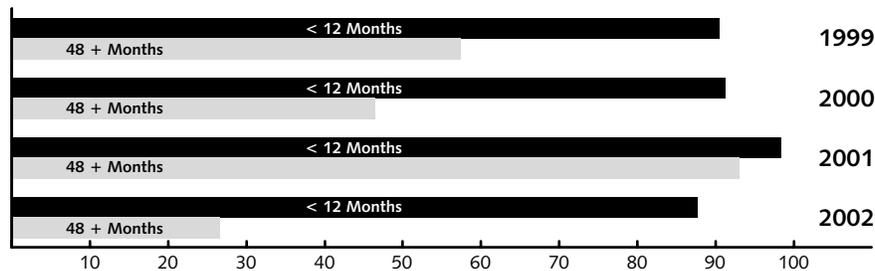
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	90.5	9.2	0.3	100.0	3,196
	2000	91.3	8.2	0.6	100.0	2,901
	2001	98.4	1.5	0.1	100.0	2,863
	2002	87.7	12.2	0.1	100.0	2,787
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	76.4	22.7	1.0	100.0	1,858
	2000	70.9	26.3	2.8	100.0	1,871
	2001	93.8	5.5	0.7	100.0	1,754
	2002	67.5	28.5	4.0	100.0	1,483
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	58.9	38.4	2.7	100.0	1,738
	2000	56.0	35.7	8.3	100.0	1,154
	2001	91.2	7.7	1.1	100.0	1,276
	2002	49.4	36.4	14.2	100.0	986
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	63.4	34.5	2.1	100.0	1,235
	2000	44.5	46.4	9.1	100.0	1,291
	2001	91.1	8.6	0.2	100.0	891
	2002	37.5	42.7	19.8	100.0	838
48 or more mos.	1999	57.4	40.3	2.4	100.0	1,513
	2000	46.4	45.3	8.3	100.0	2,019
	2001	93.0	6.7	0.3	100.0	2,489
	2002	26.5	51.2	22.2	100.0	2,492
Missing data	1999	87.1	12.9	—	100.0	170
	2000	87.1	12.9	—	100.0	163
	2001	77.3	16.0	6.7	100.0	75
	2002	80.8	18.3	0.9	100.0	334

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	0.7	2.2	3.9	3.1
Institutions	6.3	14.6	23.8	18.7
Other settings	93.0	83.3	72.2	78.0
Missing data	—	—	—	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,180	1,807	1,751	1,752

Connecticut

[STATE COMMENT]

The following discussion focuses on Connecticut's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Connecticut Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2002, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2000. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Connecticut's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Connecticut's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 11.8 percent, which is more than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). However, performance on this measure improved from 1999 to 2002 (-9.2 percent change).

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

Connecticut's performance on outcome 2 cannot be evaluated as part of the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating this outcome. In order to ensure data consistency across States, only data submitted through the NCANDS system are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. Although the State provided year 2000 data for this outcome for its CFSR, the State believes that these data did not accurately reflect the measure and requested that they be removed from the Report to Congress.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 94.3 percent of children exiting foster care in Connecticut were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 86.1 percent); 91.7 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 86.2 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 72.0 percent). This suggests that in FY 2002, the State experienced success in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care. However, 37.5 percent of the children exiting foster care through emancipation in FY 2002 were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is more than the national median of 26.9 percent.

Connecticut's performance improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children exiting foster care to a permanent home who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (+25.4 percent change). There was no change in performance on the other measures. Change in performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care is difficult to interpret, because twice as many children were reported as exits to emancipation in FY 1999 (64 children) compared to FY 2002 (32 children).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Connecticut occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 48.8, which is considerably less than the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). In addition, performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months declined slightly from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-7.1 percent change).

Because the cross-State analyses of performance on this measure found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months in a State and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Connecticut's performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Connecticut, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 8.6, which meets the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and is less than the national median (9.9 percent). Performance on the measure of re-entry did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002. Thus, although Connecticut had a relatively low percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively low percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 10.6, which is less than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Connecticut's performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+62.8 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 87.7, which is more than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 21.9, which is more than twice the national median of 8.6 percent. In addition, Connecticut's performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+213.5 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	182,450	190,175	191,092	189,698
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Asian	N/A	2.0	2.2	2.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	24.0	23.7	23.7	23.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	5.5	7.0	7.2	7.4
White	67.9	64.2	64.3	64.0
Two or more races	N/A	2.5	2.3	2.3
Other	N/A	0.3	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	17.6	17.4	9.3	12.7

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	2,111	1,813	1,666	1,304
Children in foster care on 9/30	1,193	1,098	1,023	886
Children adopted	33	103	117	133

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	8,330	8,683	8,437	8,042	45.7 per 1,000	45.7 per 1,000	44.2 per 1,000	42.4 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	2,111	1,813	1,666	1,304	11.6 per 1,000	9.5 per 1,000	8.7 per 1,000	6.9 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	0	1	0	1.6 per 100,000	0.0 per 100,000	0.5 per 100,000	0.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	5.4	8.9	9.1	9.3
1-5 years	25.8	26.5	25.9	30.2
6-10 years	33.0	31.5	30.5	29.1
11-15 years	25.6	25.5	26.2	24.9
16+ years	8.8	7.6	8.2	6.4
Unknown/Missing data	1.4	—	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,111	1,813	1,666	1,304

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	—	0.1	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2
Black	44.6	44.1	46.3	48.2
Hispanic	7.9	7.0	9.5	8.5
White	52.4	48.3	43.7	42.8
Two or more races	0.0	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	0.9	0.3	0.1	0.2
Total % ⁴	106.5	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,111	1,813	1,666	1,304

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	15.5	18.7	19.3	20.6
Medical neglect	1.8	3.5	1.9	3.3
Neglect	37.5	32.0	31.1	41.3
Physical abuse	25.3	20.5	22.3	21.1
Sexual abuse	11.1	9.4	9.7	8.7
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	9.0	16.0	15.7	14.2
Total % ⁵	100.2	100.0	100.0	109.2
Number	2,111	1,813	1,666	1,304

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	1,002	1,002	811	1,193	2,004
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	1,033	950	886	1,098	1,983
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	1,000	939	916	1,023	1,939
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	895	918	928	886	1,813

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	11.5	N/A	3.7	12.5	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	14.1	N/A	5.4	13.7	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	14.7	N/A	4.6	13.3	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	15.1	N/A	4.6	11.9	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.1	11.1	10.0	9.5	8.5	4.8	4.5	4.4	3.0	4.5	3.9	3.8	4.1
1-5 years	25.0	25.1	22.8	21.3	15.5	14.9	13.7	14.4	17.5	20.7	18.8	16.3	23.0	20.8	20.0	22.0
6-10 years	26.3	24.5	23.6	22.6	14.7	15.2	14.3	10.0	18.0	16.8	16.4	16.7	22.9	22.4	20.6	14.4
11-15 years	25.0	25.3	27.8	29.2	29.8	32.1	32.7	33.9	20.7	22.6	24.0	25.9	28.0	29.2	30.2	31.8
16-18 years	19.4	20.5	21.4	22.7	28.9	27.8	29.8	33.2	38.3	34.9	36.0	37.6	21.4	23.6	25.1	27.5
19+ years	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	—	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,002	1,033	1,000	895	1,002	950	939	918	811	886	916	928	1,193	1,098	1,023	886

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	0.1	—	—	0.3	0.1	0.2	—	0.2	0.2	0.1	—	0.0	—	0.1
Asian	N/A	0.0	—	0.1	N/A	—	0.1	0.3	N/A	—	—	0.3	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	62.5	61.9	62.0	61.2	59.8	61.4	57.1	57.4	58.2	59.8	57.8	56.0	63.1	63.0	61.3	62.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	0.1	N/A	—	—	0.1	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	6.4	7.6	8.0	6.8	6.6	5.6	7.7	8.9	5.5	5.6	9.3	9.7	7.1	7.5	6.5	6.0
White	30.6	30.2	29.9	31.8	32.8	32.7	35.0	33.0	34.8	34.1	32.8	33.7	29.7	29.3	32.1	31.0
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—												
Unknown/Missing data	0.5	0.2	—	—	0.5	—	—	—	1.2	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,002	1,033	1,000	895	1,002	950	939	918	811	886	916	928	1,193	1,098	1,023	886

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	271	334	319	210
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	123	181	192	135

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	0.7	2.4	4.4	2.9
1-5 years	40.2	36.8	34.2	44.3
6-10 years	45.8	41.3	36.4	26.7
11-15 years	12.9	18.6	24.5	26.2
16+ years	0.4	0.6	0.6	—
Unknown/Missing data	—	0.3	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	271	334	319	210

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	—
Asian	N/A	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	66.8	67.7	62.4	61.0
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	6.3	6.3	5.3	3.8
White	26.9	26.0	32.3	35.2
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	271	334	319	210

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	—	—	1.7	—
1-5 years	57.6	58.3	51.3	37.6
6-10 years	42.4	32.0	35.9	38.3
11-15 years	—	9.7	10.3	23.3
16+ years	—	—	0.9	0.8
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	33	103	117	133

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	—
Asian	N/A	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	39.4	55.3	61.5	60.9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	6.1	3.9	10.3	9.8
White	51.5	38.8	28.2	29.3
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	3.0	1.9	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	33	103	117	133

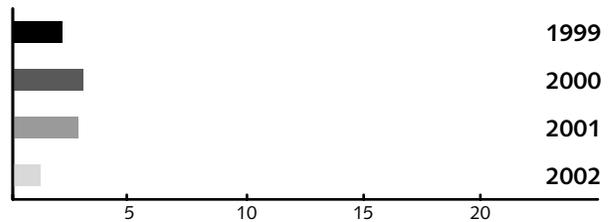
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	97.9	97.0	97.2	98.8
Children with one or more recurrences	2.1	3.0	2.8	1.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,070	922	1,058	737

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

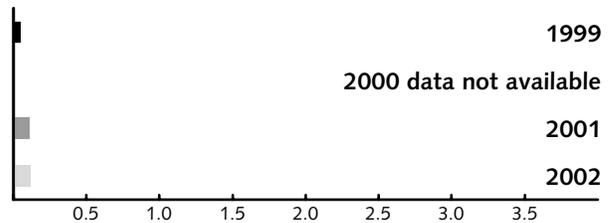


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.05	—	0.11	0.12
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.95	—	99.89	99.88
Total %	100.00	—	100.00	100.00
Number	1,869	—	1,750	1,627

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

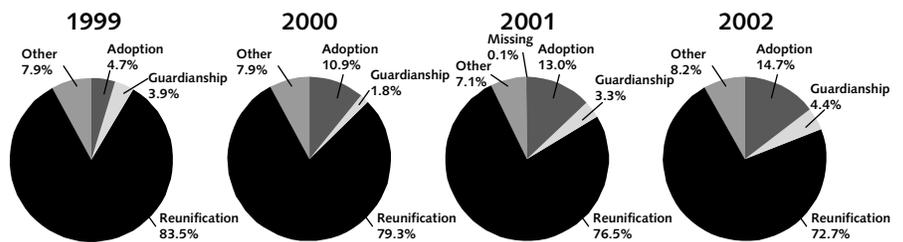


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	4.7	10.9	13.0	14.7
Guardianship	3.9	1.8	3.3	4.4
Reunification	83.5	79.3	76.5	72.7
Other	7.9	7.9	7.1	8.2
Missing data	—	—	0.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	811	886	916	928

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	1.6	12.8	12.2	29.6
Guardianship	8.2	3.8	8.1	8.5
Reunification	80.3	67.9	55.4	49.3
Other	9.8	15.4	24.3	12.7
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	61	78	74	71

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	0.2	0.4
Guardianship	2.4	0.4	0.9	0.6
Reunification	84.3	85.5	87.7	86.1
Other	13.3	14.1	11.3	12.9
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	414	447	470	505

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	17.0	10.9	24.0	14.3
Children older than 12 at entry	83.0	87.0	76.0	84.3
Missing data	—	2.2	—	1.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	47	46	50	70

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

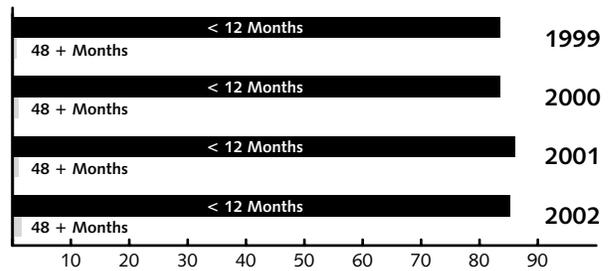
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.2	10.0	13.6	15.4	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.4	1.3	2.3	4.4	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	—	100.0	50.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	84.7	81.3	78.1	72.1	N/A	—	—	100.0
Other	—	—	50.0	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.6	7.4	5.9	8.1	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	0.2	—	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	100.0
Number	—	2	2	1	N/A	—	—	3	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	472	530	529	520	N/A	—	—	1

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	4.4	6.0	16.5	11.1	4.6	13.2	11.0	14.7	30.0	50.0	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	2.0	8.2	4.4	5.7	2.6	3.7	4.5	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	86.7	88.0	67.1	75.6	81.6	74.5	76.7	72.5	60.0	50.0	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	8.9	4.0	8.2	8.9	8.2	9.6	8.7	8.3	10.0	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number	45	50	85	90	282	302	300	313	10	2	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

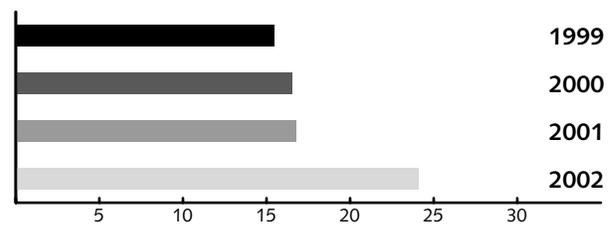
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	83.6	83.6	86.0	85.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	12.4	11.2	9.0	11.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.4	2.6	2.0	1.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.6	1.4	1.7	0.9
48 or more mos.	0.6	0.9	0.9	1.5
Missing data	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	677	703	701	675

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	72.8	69.2	71.4	63.4
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	15.5	16.5	16.8	24.1
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	10.2	11.4	11.1	10.8
Missing data	1.6	2.9	0.7	1.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,002	950	939	918

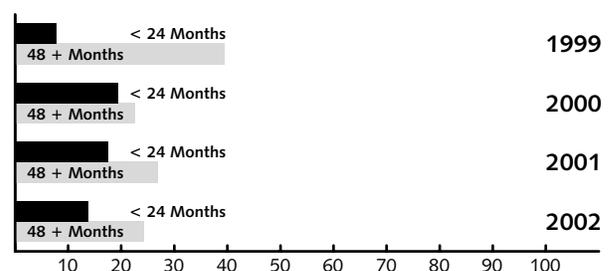
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	—	1.0	1.7	2.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	7.9	18.6	16.0	11.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	26.3	36.1	30.3	31.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	26.3	21.6	25.2	30.1
48 or more mos.	39.5	22.7	26.9	24.3
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	38	97	119	136

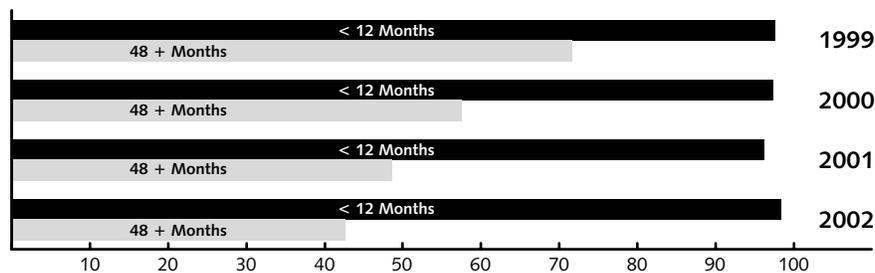
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	97.7	2.3	—	100.0	1,192
	2000	97.3	2.7	—	100.0	1,136
	2001	96.2	3.8	—	100.0	1,117
	2002	98.3	1.7	—	100.0	1,057
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	82.9	17.1	—	100.0	357
	2000	84.2	15.8	—	100.0	323
	2001	80.9	19.1	—	100.0	298
	2002	77.3	22.7	—	100.0	278
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	72.7	27.3	—	100.0	183
	2000	73.1	26.9	—	100.0	219
	2001	71.0	29.0	—	100.0	186
	2002	61.0	39.0	—	100.0	164
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	71.2	28.8	—	100.0	104
	2000	69.9	30.1	—	100.0	123
	2001	66.7	33.3	—	100.0	156
	2002	57.9	42.1	—	100.0	114
48 or more mos.	1999	71.6	28.4	—	100.0	162
	2000	57.5	42.5	—	100.0	179
	2001	48.6	51.4	—	100.0	179
	2002	42.7	57.3	—	100.0	192
Missing data	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	6
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	3
	2001	100.0	—	—	100.0	3
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	8

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	1.1	0.9	3.8	5.2
Institutions	3.9	5.9	2.8	1.4
Other settings	94.8	92.7	93.2	93.1
Missing data	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	466	438	395	347

Delaware

[STATE COMMENT]

The following discussion focuses on Delaware's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Delaware Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2001, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 1999. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Delaware's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Delaware's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 1.2 percent, which is the lowest in the nation. In addition, performance on this measure improved from 1999 to 2002 (-42.9 percent change).

The cross-State analysis of this measure found a substantial positive relationship between State performance on the measure and the State rate of child victims (i.e., the number of child victims per 1,000 children in the population). States with a relatively low rate of child victims tended to have a relatively low percentage of maltreatment recurrence. For Delaware, both the incidence of maltreatment recurrence (1.2 percent) and the rate of child victims (6.9 child victims per 1,000 children in the population) were in the bottom quartile of the State rankings.

The cross-State analysis of this measure also found a small, but definite, positive relationship between State performance on this measure and the percentage of child victims experiencing neglect. States with a relatively low percentage of child victims experiencing neglect tended to have a relatively low percentage of maltreatment recurrence. For Delaware, both the incidence of maltreatment recurrence (1.2 percent) and the percentage of child victims experiencing neglect (41.3) were in the bottom quartile of the State rankings. This suggests that a State's definitions and laws pertaining to what constitutes maltreatment and what is necessary for substantiation may be related to that State's performance on the outcome measure assessing maltreatment recurrence.

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

Delaware's performance regarding maltreatment of children in foster care is exceptional. In FY 2002, only two children were reported as victims of maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff members. In FY 1999, only one child was reported as a victim.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 91.8 percent of children exiting foster care in Delaware were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 86.1 percent); 87.3 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 87.1 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 14.3 percent of the children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is less than the national median of 26.9 percent. These findings suggest that the State is successful in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care. Delaware's performance on the measures assessing outcome 3 did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with the exception of performance related to the percentage of children exiting foster care to

emancipation who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care, which improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-16.1 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Delaware occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 85.2, which is more than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

Because the cross-State analyses of performance on this measure found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months in a State and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Delaware's performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Delaware, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 24.1, which is considerably more than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). In addition, performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+55.6 percent change). Thus, although Delaware had a relatively high percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode.

The cross-State analyses of performance on the measure of re-entry into foster care also found a substantial positive relationship between State performance on this measure and the percentage of children entering foster care in the State who were age 16 or older. States with a relatively high percentage of children age 16 and older entering foster care in FY 2002 tended to have a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. For Delaware, both the percentage of children entering foster care who were age 16 and older (33.2 percent) and the incidence of foster care re-entry (24.1) were in the top quartile of the State rankings. One explanation for this may be that children age 16 and older who enter foster care are often entering because of their own behaviors (or through the juvenile justice system) rather than as a result of maltreatment, and they may leave the foster care system before the behavior problems are fully resolved. This is particularly relevant to Delaware, because this State provides child welfare foster care services to children in the juvenile justice system.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 14.0, which is less than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Delaware's performance on this measure declined from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (-28.7 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 98.3, which is more than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 6.6, which is less than the national median of 8.6. Performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+34.3 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	95,290	109,679	112,281	112,128
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	N/A	1.5	1.9	2.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	74.3	74.3	72.4	70.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	9.7	9.9	10.6	11.2
White	13.2	11.9	13.2	14.3
Two or more races	N/A	1.9	1.7	1.7
Other	N/A	0.3	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	24.5	21.4	30.8	33.9

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	2,308	2,911	2,908	3,032
Children in foster care on 9/30	3,466	3,054	3,339	3,321
Children adopted	166	319	230	252

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	5,014	7,578	7,332	8,243	52.6 per 1,000	69.1 per 1,000	65.3 per 1,000	73.5 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	2,308	2,911	2,908	3,032	24.2 per 1,000	26.5 per 1,000	25.9 per 1,000	27.0 per 1,000
Child fatalities	5	5	9	7	5.2 per 100,000	4.6 per 100,000	8.0 per 100,000	6.2 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	12.1	7.8	9.2	9.4
1-5 years	32.4	30.0	28.2	25.8
6-10 years	31.0	33.8	31.5	31.5
11-15 years	17.5	21.7	24.2	26.6
16+ years	6.8	6.7	6.9	6.6
Unknown/Missing data	0.2	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,308	2,911	2,908	3,032

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	—	—	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.0	0.5	—	0.3
Black	63.3	68.3	70.6	52.2
Hispanic	3.3	3.6	2.6	2.6
White	1.6	1.4	0.5	0.6
Two or more races	0.0	—	0.3	0.4
Unknown/Missing data	34.5	24.0	26.0	43.9
Total % ⁴	103.6	97.8	100.0	100.0
Number	2,308	2,911	2,908	3,032

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	3.8	14.7	—	—
Medical neglect	1.2	2.7	—	—
Neglect	71.8	68.0	85.2	79.2
Physical abuse	14.4	13.4	17.3	22.9
Sexual abuse	1.7	6.4	3.8	5.3
Unknown/Missing data	18.2	23.4	—	—
Other	19.2	25.8	0.3	0.1
Total % ⁵	130.3	154.4	106.6	107.5
Number	2,308	2,911	2,908	3,032

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	2,894	1,231	659	3,466	4,125
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	2,594	775	315	3,054	3,369
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	2,907	822	390	3,339	3,729
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	2,905	812	396	3,321	3,717

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	24.5	N/A	17.2	23.7	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	22.4	N/A	15.8	27.4	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	28.5	N/A	18.7	32.6	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	31.8	N/A	10.8	37.2	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	2.0	1.3	1.3	1.7	8.9	12.3	12.5	11.6	3.5	2.9	3.3	4.8	1.8	1.5	1.9	1.6
1-5 years	27.4	21.2	19.9	18.9	27.3	29.9	28.5	27.2	31.1	25.7	22.8	22.0	23.3	20.1	19.2	18.3
6-10 years	28.6	28.7	30.5	28.8	27.8	31.5	26.3	26.8	30.5	27.0	27.4	28.0	29.4	29.6	28.3	27.0
11-15 years	23.3	27.4	28.1	29.5	20.8	20.4	25.7	24.9	14.3	20.3	23.1	22.7	23.7	26.7	28.5	30.1
16-18 years	13.6	15.9	15.2	15.6	12.5	5.8	6.9	8.6	7.3	14.0	9.7	6.1	15.2	15.3	15.5	16.1
19+ years	5.0	5.3	4.9	5.5	2.4	0.1	—	0.5	13.4	5.1	9.0	13.4	6.5	6.2	6.1	6.7
Unknown/Missing data	—	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	—	0.1	0.4	—	5.1	4.6	3.0	0.1	0.6	0.5	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,894	2,594	2,907	2,905	1,231	775	822	812	659	315	390	396	3,466	3,054	3,339	3,321

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0
Asian	N/A	0.2	0.1	0.2	N/A	0.4	0.5	0.4	N/A	0.3	—	—	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	97.1	96.7	94.8	92.2	95.0	83.9	78.0	62.7	95.1	88.6	88.5	75.3	96.7	94.3	91.4	87.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—												
Hispanic	0.8	0.8	1.2	1.7	1.9	3.4	2.4	3.3	3.0	2.2	2.6	2.8	0.8	1.3	1.4	1.9
White	—	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.5	1.1	—	0.6	0.5	1.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.4
Two or more races	N/A	0.5	0.5	0.6	N/A	0.5	0.5	0.1	N/A	0.6	1.0	0.5	N/A	0.5	0.4	0.5
Unknown/Missing data	1.9	1.6	3.1	5.1	2.6	11.6	18.1	32.1	1.4	7.6	7.4	20.5	2.2	3.5	6.3	9.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,894	2,594	2,907	2,905	1,231	775	822	812	659	315	390	396	3,466	3,054	3,339	3,321

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	64	1,086	1,148	1,178
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	44	—	—	1

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	—	1.0	0.5	0.3
1-5 years	18.8	26.9	20.6	20.9
6-10 years	57.8	47.6	44.9	40.6
11-15 years	17.2	23.4	31.5	34.5
16+ years	—	0.7	1.9	3.1
Unknown/Missing data	6.3	0.4	0.5	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	64	1,086	1,148	1,178

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	—
Asian	N/A	—	—	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	98.4	96.8	96.3	95.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	—	1.0	1.0	1.2
White	1.6	0.4	0.4	0.3
Two or more races	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.6
Unknown/Missing data	—	1.7	2.2	2.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	64	1,086	1,148	1,178

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	0.6	1.6	3.0	0.4
1-5 years	41.0	34.5	23.9	25.0
6-10 years	42.8	44.8	52.2	42.1
11-15 years	13.9	16.3	16.1	28.6
16+ years	1.8	2.8	4.8	4.0
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	166	319	230	252

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	—
Asian	N/A	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	97.6	96.9	99.6	99.2
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	—	1.6	—	0.4
White	—	0.6	—	—
Two or more races	N/A	0.3	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	2.4	0.6	0.4	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	166	319	230	252

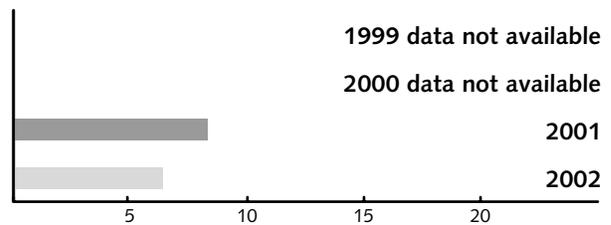
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	—	91.7	93.6
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	8.3	6.4
Total %	—	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	—	1,353	1,413

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

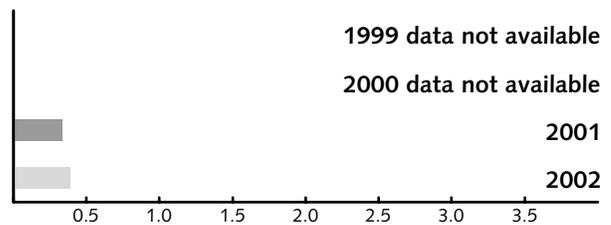


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	0.33	0.39
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	99.67	99.61
Total %	—	—	100.00	100.00
Number	—	—	3,651	3,621

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

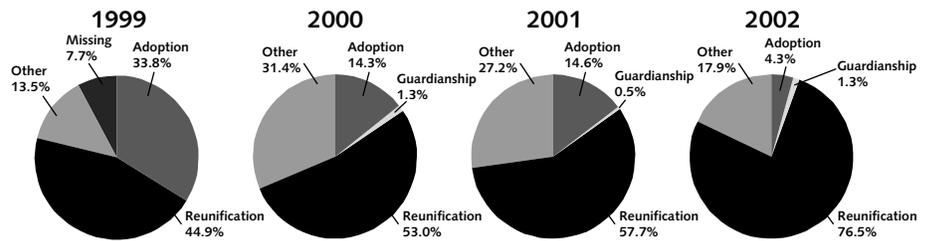


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	33.8	14.3	14.6	4.3
Guardianship	—	1.3	0.5	1.3
Reunification	44.9	53.0	57.7	76.5
Other	13.5	31.4	27.2	17.9
Missing data	7.7	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	659	315	390	396

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	15.8	34.4	35.1	13.8
Guardianship	—	—	—	3.4
Reunification	21.1	37.5	40.5	48.3
Other	63.2	28.1	24.3	34.5
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	19	32	37	29

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	21.9	—	2.1	1.0
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	34.9	17.6	26.8	46.9
Other	33.6	82.4	71.1	52.1
Missing data	9.6	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	146	91	97	96

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	43.6	20.0	26.5	27.8
Children older than 12 at entry	56.4	80.0	73.5	72.2
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	78	25	49	54

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

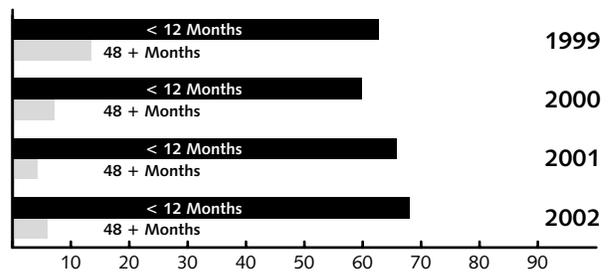
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	34.4	15.8	16.2	5.7	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	1.4	0.6	1.0	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	33.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	45.0	51.6	55.9	69.8	N/A	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	N/A	100.0	—	—	33.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.2	31.2	27.2	23.5	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	33.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.3	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—	N/A	100.0	—	—	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—	N/A	1	—	—	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	627	279	345	298	N/A	—	—	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	10.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	55.6	—	3.4	—	N/A	50.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.5	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	55.0	71.4	70.0	100.0	—	50.0	100.0	100.0	22.2	70.8	72.4	96.3	N/A	—	50.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Other	15.0	28.6	30.0	—	—	50.0	—	—	22.2	29.2	24.1	1.2	N/A	50.0	50.0	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	20.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Number	20	7	10	11	—	2	2	4	9	24	29	81	N/A	2	4	2	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

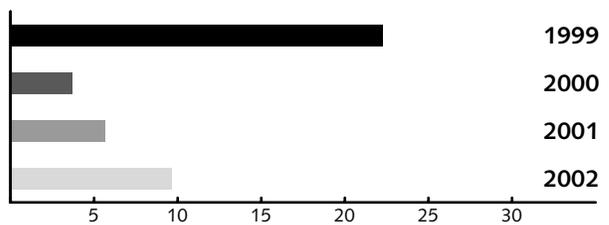
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	62.8	59.9	65.8	68.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.5	19.8	10.7	13.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.7	9.6	16.0	7.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	4.4	3.6	3.1	4.6
48 or more mos.	13.5	7.2	4.4	5.9
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	296	167	225	303

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	64.7	85.4	86.7	81.2
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	22.3	3.7	5.7	9.7
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	12.8	6.2	5.4	8.6
Missing data	0.2	4.6	2.2	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,231	775	822	812

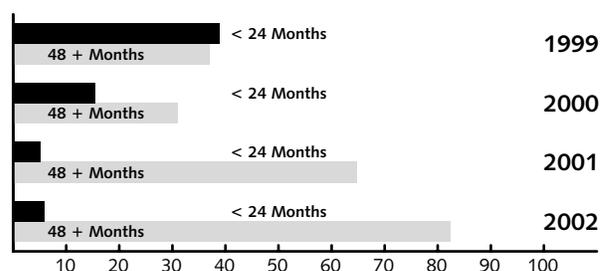
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	22.9	2.2	5.3	—
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	16.1	13.3	—	5.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	12.1	35.6	15.8	—
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	10.8	17.8	14.0	11.8
48 or more mos.	37.2	31.1	64.9	82.4
Missing data	0.9	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	223	45	57	17

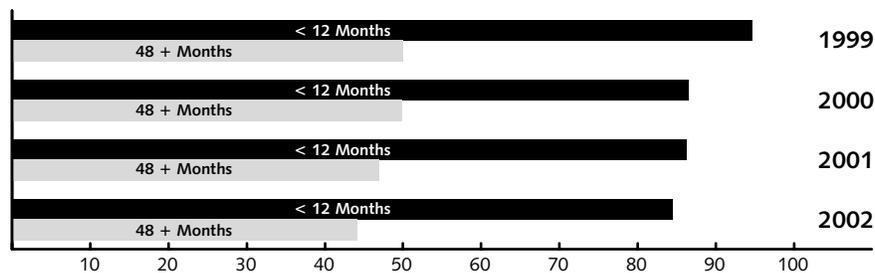
Percent Adoptions Occuring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	94.7	5.3	—	100.0	1,310
	2000	86.5	13.5	—	100.0	820
	2001	86.3	13.8	—	100.0	880
	2002	84.5	15.5	—	100.0	878
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	84.5	15.5	—	100.0	826
	2000	75.8	24.2	—	100.0	748
	2001	68.5	31.5	—	100.0	531
	2002	57.9	42.1	—	100.0	508
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	71.7	28.3	—	100.0	537
	2000	70.9	29.1	—	100.0	609
	2001	64.9	35.1	—	100.0	678
	2002	60.4	39.6	—	100.0	500
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	63.3	36.7	—	100.0	371
	2000	62.9	37.1	—	100.0	337
	2001	62.9	37.1	—	100.0	529
	2002	54.5	45.5	—	100.0	536
48 or more mos.	1999	50.0	50.0	—	100.0	1,067
	2000	49.9	50.1	—	100.0	855
	2001	46.9	53.1	—	100.0	1,111
	2002	44.1	55.9	—	100.0	1,295
Missing data	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	14
	2000	—	—	—	0.0	—
	2001	—	—	—	0.0	—
	2002	—	—	—	0.0	—

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	4.2	7.1	24.9	9.5
Institutions	12.5	16.5	20.6	20.0
Other settings	83.3	74.5	52.7	64.3
Missing data	—	2.0	1.8	6.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	814	595	598	566

The following discussion focuses on the District of Columbia's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The District of Columbia's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2001, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 1999. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for the District of Columbia's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, the District of Columbia's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 6.4 percent, which does not meet the national standard (6.1 percent or less), but is less than the national median (7.5 percent). There was no change in performance on this measure from 1999 to 2002.

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

In CY 2002, the District of Columbia's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.39 percent, which meets the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and is equal to the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure declined from 2001 to 2002 (+18.2 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 82.1 percent of children exiting foster care in the District of Columbia were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 86.1 percent); 65.5 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 47.9 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent). These findings suggest that the District of Columbia is not consistently successful in finding permanent homes for children discharged from foster care. In addition, 27.8 percent of the children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is more than the national median of 26.9 percent.

Performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002 improved with regard to: (1) the percentage of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care to a permanent home (+77.8 percent change), and (2) the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (-36.3 percent change). However, performance declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children discharged to a permanent home who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (-15.7 percent change). There was no change in performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of all children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in the District of Columbia occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 68.0, which does not meet the national standard (76.2 percent or more), but is equal to the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+8.2 percent change).

The District of Columbia's performance in FY 2002 with regard to the percent of re-entries into foster care within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 9.7 percent. This does not meet the national standard (8.6 percent or less), but is about equal to the national median (9.9 percent). Performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-56.3 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

The District of Columbia's performance on this measure cannot be assessed because there was a considerable discrepancy between the number of children the State provided in its AFCARS Adoption data submission as adopted in FY 2002 (252 children), and the number of children provided in its AFCARS Foster Care data submission as exiting foster care to a finalized adoption (17 children). This discrepancy also occurred in prior years.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 84.5, which does not meet the national standard (86.7 percent or more), but is about equal to the national median (84.1 percent). Performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-10.7 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 29.5, which is more than three times the national median of 8.6. In addition, performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+76.6 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	3,569,878	3,764,980	3,791,066	3,882,271
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Asian	N/A	1.7	1.8	1.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	21.2	20.6	21.2	21.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	17.5	19.3	19.9	20.4
White	59.0	55.4	55.0	54.3
Two or more races	N/A	2.4	1.8	1.8
Other	N/A	0.4	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	18.4	16.0	18.8	16.3

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	67,530	95,849	124,134	122,131
Children in foster care on 9/30	34,292	36,608	32,477	31,963
Children adopted	1,355	1,629	1,508	2,307

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	160,105	205,179	266,502	254,856	44.8 per 1,000	54.5 per 1,000	70.3 per 1,000	65.7 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	67,530	95,849	124,134	122,131	18.9 per 1,000	25.5 per 1,000	32.7 per 1,000	31.5 per 1,000
Child fatalities	57	65	91	97	1.6 per 100,000	1.7 per 100,000	2.4 per 100,000	2.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	9.6	9.3	8.8	9.3
1-5 years	30.3	30.4	31.0	31.8
6-10 years	30.5	30.1	29.5	28.1
11-15 years	23.7	24.1	24.6	24.6
16+ years	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.2
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	67,530	95,849	124,134	122,131

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Black	31.9	29.9	30.1	30.4
Hispanic	8.1	7.2	7.8	8.2
White	66.6	61.4	60.7	60.1
Two or more races	0.0	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
Total % ⁴	108.1	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	67,530	95,849	124,134	122,131

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	3.0	3.4	3.4	2.9
Medical neglect	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.9
Neglect	39.8	35.9	33.7	32.4
Physical abuse	17.8	16.0	15.8	14.5
Sexual abuse	6.5	5.7	5.2	4.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	54.7	61.6	63.3	66.0
Total % ⁵	124.1	124.8	123.4	122.6
Number	67,530	95,849	124,134	122,131

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	21,291	21,118	8,117	34,292	42,409
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	33,353	18,765	15,510	36,608	52,118
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	30,865	18,673	17,061	32,477	49,538
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	28,503	20,800	17,340	31,963	49,303

Median Length of Stay (Months)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	14.2				N/A				15.2				9.9			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	14.3				N/A				14.7				14.8			N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	14.4				N/A				13.8				13.9			N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	14.4				N/A				12.2				12.4			N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	5.2	5.9	5.8	5.8	14.7	17.8	16.0	16.1	2.6	3.8	3.9	3.9	6.1	5.8	5.8	6.4
1-5 years	30.7	32.1	32.5	32.7	33.3	31.3	32.0	32.2	32.4	33.7	34.2	34.0	32.7	32.4	33.2	34.0
6-10 years	29.3	28.9	28.5	26.6	27.8	26.4	25.9	24.0	30.9	29.5	28.8	26.5	28.9	28.2	27.0	24.9
11-15 years	24.1	23.2	23.4	24.7	19.6	20.0	21.3	22.4	20.3	20.4	21.6	23.2	22.6	23.3	23.9	24.6
16-18 years	9.7	9.1	9.1	9.4	4.5	4.4	4.7	5.2	12.0	11.6	10.7	11.5	9.0	9.5	9.4	9.4
19+ years	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6
Unknown/Missing data	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	21,291	33,353	30,865	28,503	21,118	18,765	18,673	20,800	8,117	15,510	17,061	17,340	34,292	36,608	32,477	31,963

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
Asian	N/A	0.1	0.1	0.1	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.3	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.2	N/A	0.0	0.1	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	51.0	47.4	44.9	44.6	42.8	39.1	38.8	36.9	48.4	41.7	40.7	39.9	46.5	45.6	43.6	42.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	—	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	4.8	9.0	8.9	8.4	5.4	8.8	7.9	8.6	4.4	7.6	8.8	8.4	5.3	9.4	8.3	8.5
White	43.5	40.2	42.5	44.0	49.9	48.9	50.4	51.5	46.6	47.6	46.6	48.8	46.7	41.6	44.9	46.2
Two or more races	N/A	2.9	3.2	2.4	N/A	2.5	1.9	1.5	N/A	2.4	3.1	1.9	N/A	2.9	2.5	2.0
Unknown/Missing data	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.7	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	21,291	33,353	30,865	28,503	21,118	18,765	18,673	20,800	8,117	15,510	17,061	17,340	34,292	36,608	32,477	31,963

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview

	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	4,610	5,395	7,850	8,126
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	—	—	3,720	3,584

Age of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	4.3	2.9	3.9	2.9
1-5 years	32.2	32.8	35.4	32.9
6-10 years	36.6	34.5	29.9	27.6
11-15 years	23.6	25.8	26.1	29.6
16+ years	2.8	3.5	4.3	6.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,610	5,395	7,850	8,126

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.3
Asian	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	49.7	48.4	44.9	46.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	4.5	10.9	9.4	9.7
White	44.4	36.2	41.6	39.9
Two or more races	N/A	3.9	3.5	3.0
Unknown/Missing data	1.2	0.4	0.4	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,610	5,395	7,850	8,126

E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.3	1.5	1.8	1.8
1-5 years	46.7	49.0	51.3	51.7
6-10 years	34.5	33.8	31.5	28.6
11-15 years	15.9	13.9	13.1	15.9
16+ years	1.7	1.8	2.3	2.1
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,355	1,629	1,508	2,307

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	—	0.1	0.1
Asian	N/A	0.0	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	39.6	35.1	35.5	35.6
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	11.4	15.2	13.5	9.3
White	48.2	45.0	45.6	50.2
Two or more races	N/A	3.7	5.0	4.2
Unknown/Missing data	0.7	1.0	0.4	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,355	1,629	1,508	2,307

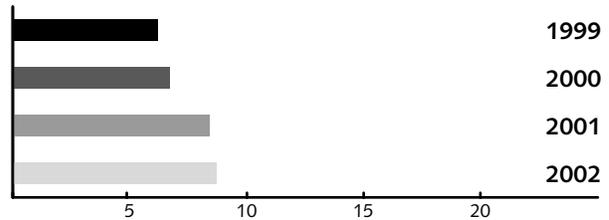
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	93.8	93.3	91.6	91.3
Children with one or more recurrences	6.2	6.7	8.4	8.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	37,374	42,749	51,084	56,714

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

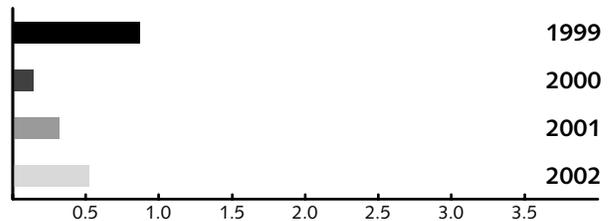


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.87	0.14	0.32	0.52
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.13	99.86	99.68	99.48
Total %	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	40,268	49,176	43,917	45,534

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

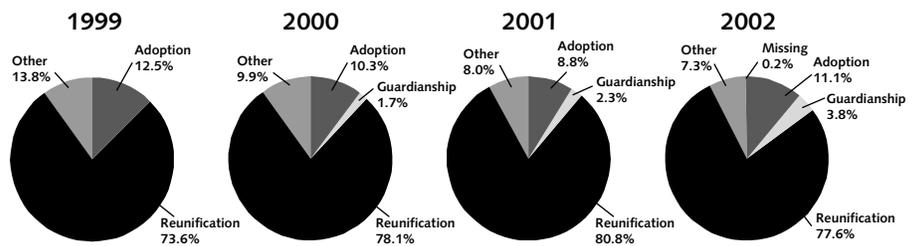


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	12.5	10.3	8.8	11.1
Guardianship	—	1.7	2.3	3.8
Reunification	73.6	78.1	80.8	77.6
Other	13.8	9.9	8.0	7.3
Missing data	—	—	—	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,117	15,510	17,061	17,340

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	66.7	21.3	19.1	26.6
Guardianship	—	1.9	2.3	2.7
Reunification	—	61.4	63.0	56.2
Other	33.3	15.5	15.6	14.4
Missing data	—	—	—	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3	1,782	1,823	2,092

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	2.1	0.6	1.0	1.0
Guardianship	—	2.8	3.1	4.6
Reunification	54.4	63.0	68.8	66.5
Other	43.5	33.5	27.1	27.6
Missing data	—	—	—	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,347	2,386	2,742	3,347

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	28.0	32.6	28.5	21.2
Children older than 12 at entry	71.6	67.3	71.5	78.8
Missing data	0.3	0.1	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	649	900	828	939

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

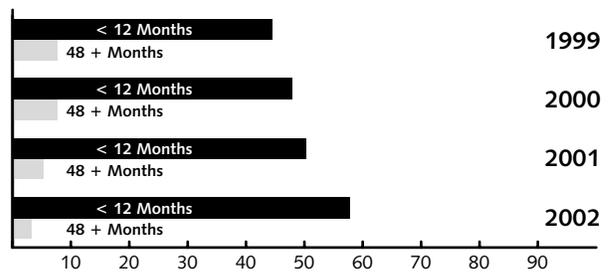
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	22.2	11.8	7.7	11.5	N/A	5.7	—	—	9.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.0	8.4	7.3	10.1	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	11.5	N/A	—	—	6.7	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	1.6	1.9	3.8	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	55.6	82.4	69.2	73.1	N/A	88.6	94.6	90.0	63.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	76.3	79.2	82.0	77.7	N/A	—	66.7	100.0
Other	22.2	5.9	23.1	3.8	N/A	5.7	5.4	3.3	27.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.7	10.8	8.7	8.2	N/A	—	33.3	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	0.2	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	100.0	100.0
Number	9	17	26	26	N/A	35	37	30	11	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,932	6,469	6,946	6,917	N/A	—	3	2

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	12.7	17.4	12.2	11.7	15.0	10.0	9.0	11.5	22.6	9.6	5.8	8.3	N/A	24.5	17.7	23.9	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	0.9	3.9	3.3	—	1.8	2.5	3.8	—	1.9	1.4	5.6	N/A	1.6	1.3	2.1	—	—	—	—
Reunification	72.6	69.0	74.5	75.8	71.2	79.1	81.3	78.2	58.1	75.0	81.2	79.6	N/A	69.7	75.2	69.0	—	—	—	—
Other	14.7	12.6	9.4	9.1	13.8	9.0	7.2	6.3	19.4	13.5	11.6	6.5	N/A	4.2	5.7	5.1	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	0.2	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Number	354	1,182	1,505	1,463	3,780	7,376	7,951	8,459	31	52	69	108	N/A	379	524	335	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

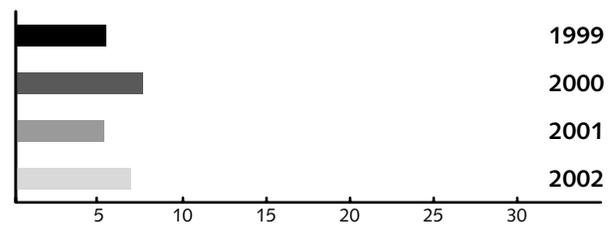
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	44.6	48.0	50.2	57.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	30.1	28.5	31.0	26.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	12.2	10.4	9.4	9.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	5.1	4.7	3.9	3.1
48 or more mos.	7.6	7.7	5.2	3.3
Missing data	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,978	12,120	13,788	13,464

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	87.6	88.2	86.2	85.6
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	5.4	7.6	5.3	6.9
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	6.4	4.2	2.2	2.3
Missing data	0.7	—	6.2	5.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	21,118	18,765	18,673	20,800

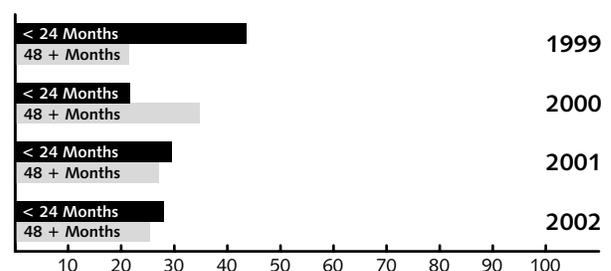
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	25.0	4.1	10.1	4.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	18.5	17.6	19.5	23.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	17.9	25.1	26.0	27.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	16.4	18.3	17.1	18.7
48 or more mos.	21.6	34.8	27.2	25.5
Missing data	0.6	0.1	0.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,017	1,593	1,506	1,931

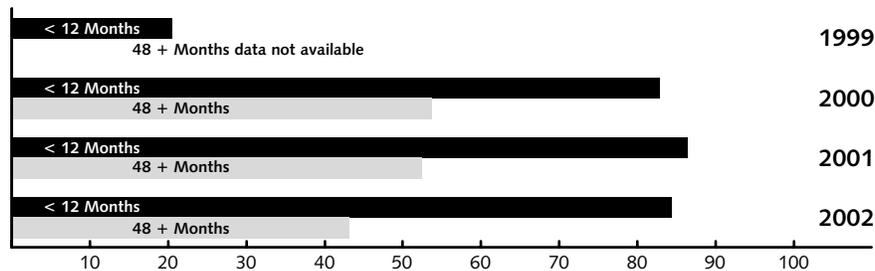
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	20.5	3.3	76.2	100.0	22,730
	2000	82.9	7.9	9.3	100.0	21,641
	2001	86.4	8.1	5.5	100.0	22,371
	2002	84.4	11.6	4.0	100.0	24,183
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	—	—	100.0	100.0	8,674
	2000	75.9	18.6	5.5	100.0	13,575
	2001	78.9	18.0	3.0	100.0	12,156
	2002	75.5	24.2	0.4	100.0	10,867
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	—	—	100.0	100.0	4,296
	2000	65.8	29.6	4.6	100.0	6,082
	2001	69.5	28.7	1.8	100.0	6,241
	2002	63.1	36.7	0.2	100.0	5,430
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	—	—	100.0	100.0	2,390
	2000	58.9	37.3	3.8	100.0	3,462
	2001	59.0	39.1	1.9	100.0	3,022
	2002	54.9	44.9	0.2	100.0	3,351
48 or more mos.	1999	—	—	100.0	100.0	4,198
	2000	53.7	42.6	3.8	100.0	7,232
	2001	52.4	46.0	1.6	100.0	5,670
	2002	43.1	56.7	0.2	100.0	5,356
Missing data	1999	15.7	0.8	83.5	100.0	121
	2000	76.2	2.4	21.4	100.0	126
	2001	53.8	1.3	44.9	100.0	78
	2002	41.4	0.9	57.8	100.0	116

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	1.3	0.9	1.4	1.7
Institutions	0.1	0.3	4.2	5.0
Other settings	95.3	75.0	90.5	93.2
Missing data	3.3	23.7	3.9	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,093	13,744	14,790	16,511

Jerry Regier, Secretary
Florida Department of Children and Families
850-922-2195

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

- With regard to Section B—Child Maltreatment Data—the number and rate of child victims increased in FFY 2000 and 2001 due to increased reporting and more timely closures. Also, our victim count is high in the “Other” category because Florida includes Threatened Harm in “Other” maltreatments. Almost a quarter of these are domestic violence.
- With regard to Section C—Children in Foster Care—based on the ACF method of creating the annual foster care file and historical limitations of the state's legacy system data, the data in section C would indicate that Florida experienced a decrease of 3,974 victims from 09/30/01 to 10/01/01. Late entries were captured, but late discharges were not. Due to this, the federal data show higher entrants than discharges and a higher end count. Discharge data improved in FFY 2000 due to diligent state efforts.
- As of 03/01/04, 15,526 dependent-children are currently placed with relatives who are receiving TANF support for foster care maintenance. Florida is currently approaching a change in this model to support family preservation through voluntary placement of children with relatives when appropriate, without adjudication. The TANF funded relative caregiver program has contributed to a higher number of children in relative care.
- With regard to Section D—Children Waiting to be Adopted—beginning FFY 2000, Florida began to capture guardianship, Hispanic ethnicity, and placements; in FFY 2001, termination of parental rights and all short-term emergency placements (prior exclusion of many short-term placements artificially increased length of stay). Data on termination of parental rights may still be missing for children when TPR occurred prior to FFY 2001.

The following discussion focuses on Florida's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Florida Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2001, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 1999. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Florida's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Florida's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 8.7 percent, which is more than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure declined from 1999 to 2002 (+40.3 percent change).

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

In CY 2002, Florida's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.52 percent, which meets the national standard (0.57 percent or less), but is more than the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure declined from 1999 to 2002 (-40.34 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 92.6 percent of children exiting foster care in Florida were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 86.1 percent); 85.4 percent of children with a diagnosed disability exiting foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 72.2 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is about equal to the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 21.2 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is less than the national median of 26.9 percent. Performance on all measures for outcome 3 improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002. These data suggest that in FY 2002, Florida was generally successful in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Florida occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 57.7, which is less than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). However, performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+29.9 percent change).

Because the cross-State analyses of performance on this measure found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months in a State and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Florida's performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Florida, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 6.9, which is less than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Thus, although Florida had a relatively low percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively low percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who

were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. Performance on the measure of foster care re-entry declined from FY 1999 to 2002 (+29.9 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 28.2, which does not meet the national standard (32.0 percent or more), but is more than the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Florida's performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+29.9 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 84.4, which does not meet the national standard (86.7 percent or more), but is about equal to the national median (84.1 percent). Performance on this measure did not change from FY 2000 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 6.7, which is less than the national median of 8.6 percent. However, performance on this measure declined considerably from FY 2000 (1.2 percent) to FY 2002 (6.7 percent) (a +458.3 percent change). Performance in FY1999 is not considered because of poor data quality for this measure in that year.

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	2,056,885	2,198,552	2,228,608	2,268,477
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	N/A	2.0	2.1	2.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	33.9	34.1	33.8	33.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	4.2	6.3	6.7	7.2
White	59.5	55.5	55.6	55.2
Two or more races	N/A	1.7	1.5	1.6
Other	N/A	0.3	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	19.5	16.9	19.5	15.9

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	26,888	30,806	36,744	41,206
Children in foster care on 9/30	11,991	11,204	13,175	13,149
Children adopted	1,141	1,085	977	1,097

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	78,734	92,254	114,653	126,677	38.3 per 1,000	42.0 per 1,000	51.5 per 1,000	55.8 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	26,888	30,806	36,744	41,206	13.1 per 1,000	14.0 per 1,000	16.5 per 1,000	18.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	42	45	48	51	2.0 per 100,000	2.0 per 100,000	2.2 per 100,000	2.2 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	10.2	7.2	10.0	10.3
1-5 years	29.8	30.4	31.0	31.6
6-10 years	30.6	31.6	30.2	29.1
11-15 years	24.3	24.3	24.0	23.9
16+ years	4.7	6.0	4.6	4.8
Unknown/Missing data	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	26,888	30,806	36,744	41,206

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4
Black	47.4	46.2	44.4	42.0
Hispanic	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.8
White	45.9	46.9	48.4	50.3
Two or more races	6.2	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	3.3	3.4	3.5
Total % ⁴	103.1	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	26,888	30,806	36,744	41,206

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	3.9	4.6	4.5	4.1
Medical neglect	4.4	4.9	4.3	4.0
Neglect	63.1	68.9	72.4	74.6
Physical abuse	13.4	12.3	11.1	9.6
Sexual abuse	8.4	7.5	6.0	5.5
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	6.7	8.1	9.1	11.3
Total % ⁵	100.0	106.3	107.4	109.1
Number	26,888	30,806	36,744	41,206

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	11,040	7,218	6,267	11,991	18,258
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	8,832	7,028	4,657	11,204	15,860
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	11,363	9,065	7,250	13,175	20,428
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	12,812	9,766	9,431	13,149	22,578

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	22.9	N/A	11.7	18.9	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	21.6	N/A	7.7	15.2	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	16.3	N/A	6.2	15.6	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	15.4	N/A	8.1	15.1	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	4.5	5.9	6.6	6.1	17.1	18.1	16.3	16.3	6.3	6.8	7.2	6.6	6.0	7.0	6.0	6.3
1-5 years	27.7	28.0	28.5	30.2	28.9	28.0	30.4	29.9	30.4	31.3	33.3	32.8	27.1	28.4	29.4	30.8
6-10 years	29.2	29.1	26.1	24.8	24.2	24.5	23.8	23.2	27.3	28.8	26.5	24.5	27.1	26.0	24.4	23.0
11-15 years	26.8	31.5	28.8	27.7	24.3	25.0	24.2	24.7	22.7	24.6	24.2	24.1	27.5	29.3	27.2	27.7
16-18 years	10.8	5.5	10.0	11.2	5.2	4.1	5.2	5.8	11.7	8.5	8.8	11.8	11.3	9.2	12.3	11.6
19+ years	0.8	—	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	1.3	—	0.0	0.2	0.8	—	0.7	0.6
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	—	—	—	0.2	0.0	0.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	11,040	8,832	11,363	12,812	7,218	7,028	9,065	9,766	6,267	4,657	7,250	9,431	11,991	11,204	13,175	13,149

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.3	N/A	0.4	0.4	0.3	N/A	0.4	0.5	0.3	N/A	0.3	0.2	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	58.7	59.7	58.0	55.4	49.4	52.1	48.7	47.3	50.0	53.0	50.9	50.0	57.6	57.7	55.5	53.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	—	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	3.0	2.4	3.1	3.4	4.4	4.3	4.7	4.6	2.6	3.7	4.6	4.5	4.1	3.0	3.4	3.5
White	34.3	33.6	35.3	37.6	39.3	40.1	42.9	44.8	42.7	38.9	40.6	41.8	32.9	35.5	37.6	40.0
Two or more races	N/A	2.9	2.9	2.9	N/A	2.3	2.6	2.2	N/A	2.3	2.7	2.7	N/A	2.8	2.9	2.6
Unknown/Missing data	3.7	1.0	0.4	0.3	4.9	0.7	0.6	0.6	4.3	1.3	0.8	0.5	4.1	0.7	0.3	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	11,040	8,832	11,363	12,812	7,218	7,028	9,065	9,766	6,267	4,657	7,250	9,431	11,991	11,204	13,175	13,149

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	2,713	2,875	4,329	3,254
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,323	1,511	3,399	2,186

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	4.6	3.9	6.6	3.9
1-5 years	27.2	31.4	37.9	37.1
6-10 years	36.2	35.0	30.2	27.7
11-15 years	26.6	26.0	22.1	26.9
16+ years	4.4	3.7	2.5	4.0
Unknown/Missing data	1.1	—	0.7	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,713	2,875	4,329	3,254

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.0	—	—
Asian	N/A	0.3	0.1	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	58.9	60.2	54.6	54.7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	0.0	0.1
Hispanic	4.5	3.3	3.3	3.2
White	30.9	31.1	37.6	37.4
Two or more races	N/A	4.2	4.0	4.0
Unknown/Missing data	4.9	0.8	0.3	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,713	2,875	4,329	3,254

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.8	0.8	0.2	1.1
1-5 years	44.5	38.7	45.0	44.3
6-10 years	38.5	40.4	36.2	33.6
11-15 years	13.7	17.2	16.3	18.0
16+ years	1.5	2.9	2.3	3.0
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,141	1,085	977	1,097

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.7	—	—	—
Asian	N/A	0.2	0.8	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	54.9	55.8	48.7	50.0
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	1.8	2.1	5.4	5.4
White	40.6	35.8	35.4	37.6
Two or more races	N/A	4.1	7.7	6.4
Unknown/Missing data	0.5	2.0	1.9	0.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,141	1,085	977	1,097

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

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

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

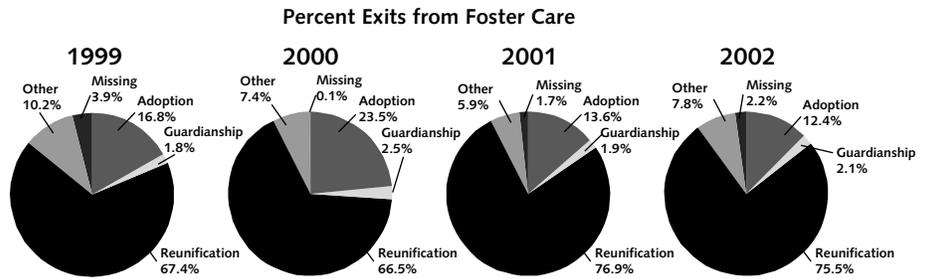
2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	16.8	23.5	13.6	12.4
Guardianship	1.8	2.5	1.9	2.1
Reunification	67.4	66.5	76.9	75.5
Other	10.2	7.4	5.9	7.8
Missing data	3.9	0.1	1.7	2.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,267	4,657	7,250	9,431



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	28.6	42.0	22.4	22.7
Guardianship	1.8	2.3	2.0	2.2
Reunification	44.3	43.2	62.0	57.2
Other	20.4	12.4	8.1	13.1
Missing data	5.0	—	5.5	4.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	619	474	787	1,314

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.4	1.2	0.2	1.1
Guardianship	1.5	2.3	2.3	2.0
Reunification	68.7	76.4	81.6	76.0
Other	25.5	19.9	13.8	17.4
Missing data	3.9	0.2	2.0	3.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,190	833	1,242	1,864

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	45.1	28.6	41.1	45.0
Children older than 12 at entry	54.9	71.4	58.0	55.0
Missing data	—	—	0.9	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	346	56	112	318

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

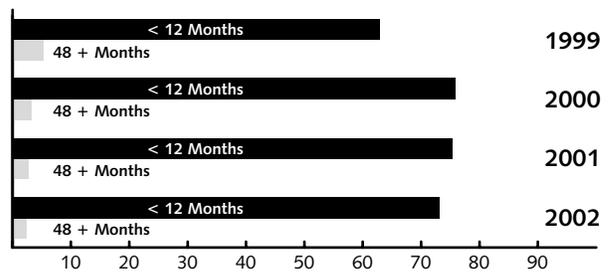
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	100.0	57.1	—	—	N/A	35.3	18.2	3.0	4.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.9	24.3	13.2	12.9	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	6.1	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.3	3.4	2.1	2.8	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	—	33.3	100.0	83.3	N/A	58.8	75.8	87.9	81.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	67.0	65.4	77.1	73.6	N/A	—	50.0	100.0
Other	—	9.5	—	16.7	N/A	5.9	3.0	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.8	6.9	5.4	8.3	N/A	—	50.0	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	3.0	3.0	14.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.9	0.0	2.1	2.4	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	100.0	100.0
Number	4	21	5	6	N/A	17	33	33	21	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,136	2,469	3,691	4,712	N/A	—	2	4

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	3.1	17.9	14.8	11.9	17.9	22.2	13.0	11.4	23.0	33.3	14.5	7.8	N/A	21.5	29.5	21.5	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	1.2	0.6	—	1.4	1.5	1.8	1.5	0.4	5.0	—	—	N/A	2.8	1.0	2.8	—	—	—	—
Reunification	82.1	75.7	77.9	79.7	66.8	67.8	77.3	77.6	68.5	55.0	78.2	86.3	N/A	69.2	64.2	64.5	—	—	—	—
Other	3.7	5.2	5.2	6.5	10.7	8.3	6.8	7.6	3.7	6.7	7.3	5.9	N/A	6.5	3.6	6.4	—	—	—	—
Missing data	11.1	—	1.5	1.9	3.2	0.2	1.2	1.8	4.4	—	—	—	N/A	—	1.6	4.8	100.0	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—
Number	162	173	330	428	2,673	1,810	2,941	3,946	270	60	55	51	N/A	107	193	251	1	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

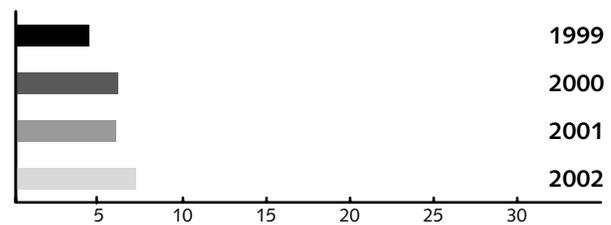
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	63.0	75.9	75.4	73.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	16.4	14.4	16.7	17.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	6.9	4.2	3.8	5.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.0	2.2	1.4	1.7
48 or more mos.	5.3	3.2	2.7	2.4
Missing data	5.4	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,223	3,097	5,574	7,117

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	91.0	87.6	87.7	85.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	4.4	6.1	6.0	7.2
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	3.6	5.8	5.8	6.0
Missing data	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,218	7,028	9,065	9,766

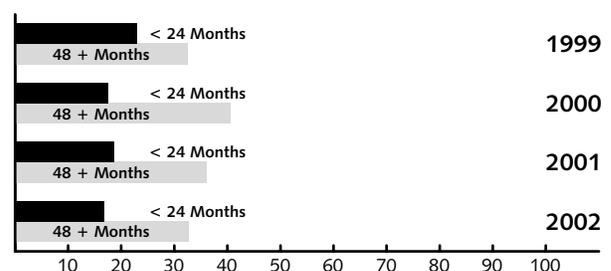
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	8.6	2.7	3.3	2.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	14.5	14.9	15.4	14.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	24.5	22.9	25.8	28.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	19.0	18.8	19.5	21.9
48 or more mos.	32.7	40.6	36.0	32.8
Missing data	0.8	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,050	1,093	989	1,167

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



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	92.3	7.7	—	100.0	7,733
	2000	94.3	5.7	—	100.0	7,512
	2001	91.5	8.5	—	100.0	10,154
	2002	90.7	9.3	—	100.0	11,351
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	72.2	27.6	0.2	100.0	3,036
	2000	75.8	24.2	—	100.0	2,841
	2001	79.6	20.4	—	100.0	4,104
	2002	79.7	20.3	—	100.0	4,469
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	64.2	35.7	0.0	100.0	2,133
	2000	57.5	42.5	0.0	100.0	1,577
	2001	64.5	35.5	—	100.0	1,962
	2002	70.9	29.1	—	100.0	2,546
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	55.9	43.9	0.2	100.0	1,514
	2000	49.8	50.1	0.0	100.0	1,162
	2001	51.7	48.1	0.2	100.0	1,154
	2002	59.4	40.6	—	100.0	1,265
48 or more mos.	1999	47.7	52.2	0.0	100.0	3,496
	2000	40.0	60.0	0.0	100.0	2,757
	2001	38.5	61.4	0.0	100.0	3,040
	2002	37.7	62.2	0.0	100.0	2,892
Missing data	1999	96.8	3.2	—	100.0	346
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	11
	2001	92.9	7.1	—	100.0	14
	2002	90.9	9.1	—	100.0	55

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	3.9	2.1	1.6	2.2
Institutions	8.1	3.0	1.6	1.9
Other settings	88.0	94.9	95.0	94.3
Missing data	0.0	—	1.8	1.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,564	5,477	6,040	6,939

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Georgia Department of Human Resources
404-651-8409

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

- Georgia did not provide data that could be used to calculate outcome measures 1.1 and 2.1. Georgia does not have a Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) that allows for tracking of “unique” children receiving child protective services.
- With regard to Section C—Children in Foster Care—annual foster care data are created from two six-month files for the report year and the first six-month period of the following year. An analysis of the data indicate that in many instances a child was discharged from AFCARS during a six-month period within the report year but the transaction was not entered into the system until a later six-month period of the following year. In our legacy system these transactions are not picked up in the next transmission. This could result in the differences in end of year total and the beginning year total. Changes have been made to improve timeliness of data entered, and changes have been made in data extraction methodology.

Georgia will continue to update and improve the legacy data system in order to stay current with federal requirements to provide consistent and accurate data.

The following discussion focuses on Georgia's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Georgia Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2001, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 1999. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Georgia's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

Georgia's performance on outcome 1 cannot be assessed as part of the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating this outcome. To ensure data consistency across States, only data submitted through NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, the State provided year 1999 data for this outcome for its CFSR using an alternative source. For that year, the State reported that 4.2 percent of the children who were the subject of a substantiated or indicated child maltreatment report during the first 6 months of the calendar year experienced another substantiated or indicated maltreatment within 6 months of the first report. The national standard for this measure is 6.1 percent or fewer.

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

Georgia's performance on outcome 2 cannot be evaluated as part of the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to NCANDS for calculating this outcome. In order to ensure data consistency across States, only data submitted through the NCANDS system are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, the State provided year 1999 data for this outcome for its CFSR using an alternative source. For that year, the State reported that 1.08 percent of the children in foster care for the first 9 months of the calendar year were victims of maltreatment by foster parents or a facility staff member. The national standard for this measure is 0.57 percent or fewer.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 89.9 percent of children exiting foster care in Georgia were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 86.1 percent); 82.0 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited from foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 79.1 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 72.0 percent). This suggests that the State is generally successful in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care. However, 45.0 percent of the children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is more than the national median of 26.9 percent.

Georgia's performance improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with respect to: (1) the percentage of children with a diagnosed disability exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home (+9.9 percent change), and (2) the percentage of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care and who were discharged to a permanent home (+12.0 percent change). The other measures for outcome 3 exhibited no change in performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Georgia occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 73.1, which does not meet the national standard (76.2 percent or more), but is more than the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+15.9 percent change).

Georgia's performance in FY 2002 with regard to the percent of re-entries into foster care within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 7.2 percent, which is less than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). However, performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to 2002 (+63.5 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 17.0, which is less than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Performance on this measure did not change from FY 2000 to FY 2002.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 90.7, which is more than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 4.1, which is less than the national median of 8.6 percent. Georgia's performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-65.6 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	289,340	291,560	294,855	295,514
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	N/A	40.9	33.3	33.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	62.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	2.5	1.8	2.1	2.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	9.5	9.2
Hispanic	11.5	11.9	12.3	12.5
White	22.8	15.0	17.6	17.6
Two or more races	N/A	29.9	25.0	24.6
Other	N/A	0.3	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	13.5	13.9	15.9	15.6

Child Welfare Summary

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	2,669	3,533	3,982	3,744
Children in foster care on 9/30	2,205	2,401	2,584	2,762
Children adopted	281	280	260	366

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	4,646	6,184	7,334	7,318	16.1 per 1,000	21.2 per 1,000	24.9 per 1,000	24.8 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	2,669	3,533	3,982	3,744	9.2 per 1,000	12.1 per 1,000	13.5 per 1,000	12.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	5	3	3	7	1.7 per 100,000	1.0 per 100,000	1.0 per 100,000	2.4 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	13.4	13.6	14.4	14.6
1-5 years	27.5	28.8	30.7	28.4
6-10 years	28.6	28.6	27.0	26.8
11-15 years	23.4	22.7	21.6	23.5
16+ years	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.3
Unknown/Missing data	1.2	0.4	0.2	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,669	3,533	3,982	3,744

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	61.9	46.5	41.9	35.3
Black	2.5	1.7	1.5	1.3
Hispanic	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.6
White	12.1	10.8	9.0	10.9
Two or more races	0.0	22.1	30.9	34.1
Unknown/Missing data	22.6	16.7	14.6	16.7
Total % ⁴	102.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,669	3,533	3,982	3,744

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	1.6	3.2	4.2	3.3
Medical neglect	0.6	1.6	1.8	2.2
Neglect	8.1	14.6	16.2	18.5
Physical abuse	6.5	13.7	13.6	12.7
Sexual abuse	5.3	7.0	7.0	6.6
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	84.8	84.3	86.5	87.1
Total % ⁵	106.9	124.4	129.3	130.4
Number	2,669	3,533	3,982	3,744

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	2,156	1,683	1,634	2,205	3,839
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	2,154	1,929	1,682	2,401	4,083
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	2,311	2,193	1,920	2,584	4,504
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	2,509	2,350	2,097	2,762	4,859

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	11.7	N/A	9.5	13.1	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	13.4	N/A	8.5	12.2	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	12.3	N/A	7.7	11.4	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	11.7	N/A	7.0	11.4	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	7.4	5.6	8.0	7.9	15.0	15.9	16.7	17.2	7.3	6.1	7.8	6.3	5.8	8.0	8.0	8.6
1-5 years	32.5	30.7	28.8	30.1	27.6	28.2	27.5	28.1	32.3	30.4	29.3	32.2	30.7	29.0	29.9	30.6
6-10 years	27.6	27.5	26.7	26.3	23.5	25.9	25.4	23.0	25.8	27.9	25.5	25.4	27.3	26.8	26.1	24.4
11-15 years	22.2	23.2	23.6	25.0	24.3	22.7	23.2	24.2	20.6	20.9	21.7	21.8	23.3	23.8	25.3	26.2
16-18 years	10.4	12.9	12.9	10.7	9.6	7.3	7.1	7.4	14.0	14.5	15.6	14.1	13.0	12.4	10.7	10.1
19+ years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	0.0
Unknown/Missing data	—	0.0	—	—	—	0.1	0.1	0.1	—	0.1	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,156	2,154	2,311	2,509	1,683	1,929	2,193	2,350	1,634	1,682	1,920	2,097	2,205	2,401	2,584	2,762

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.2	1.4	1.0	0.7	2.0	0.6	0.4	0.0	1.7	1.0	0.7	0.0	1.4	1.1	0.7	0.6
Asian	N/A	21.1	21.7	19.8	N/A	23.1	17.8	13.8	N/A	23.1	20.5	17.8	N/A	21.3	19.3	16.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	73.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	65.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	66.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	71.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	1.9	2.3	2.4	1.9	3.4	2.4	1.9	1.7	2.8	2.3	2.6	2.1	2.4	2.4	1.9	1.6
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	50.3	41.5	34.8	N/A	32.6	27.6	25.9	N/A	41.4	34.1	29.0	N/A	42.3	35.2	31.6
Hispanic	2.8	2.7	2.3	2.0	2.5	1.9	2.4	1.9	2.7	2.5	2.8	2.2	2.7	2.2	2.1	1.8
White	13.1	12.7	11.2	10.7	13.9	11.2	12.5	11.7	14.5	13.4	13.3	13.2	12.7	11.1	10.7	9.7
Two or more races	N/A	7.3	16.4	26.8	N/A	21.5	32.6	35.7	N/A	10.8	20.8	27.9	N/A	16.2	26.9	33.5
Unknown/Missing data	2.2	2.1	3.5	3.3	4.6	6.6	4.8	9.3	4.9	5.5	5.2	7.7	2.1	3.3	3.3	5.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,156	2,154	2,311	2,509	1,683	1,929	2,193	2,350	1,634	1,682	1,920	2,097	2,205	2,401	2,584	2,762

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	1,161	1,207	1,160	847
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,102	1,156	1,120	802

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	6.0	8.4	7.5	4.6
1-5 years	34.8	31.5	32.5	28.8
6-10 years	29.9	29.1	26.7	26.6
11-15 years	21.4	23.7	25.1	28.7
16+ years	7.8	7.2	7.7	11.2
Unknown/Missing data	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,161	1,207	1,160	847

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.2	1.5	0.9	1.1
Asian	N/A	19.6	19.7	20.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	71.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	2.8	2.8	2.5	1.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	44.2	38.0	37.2
Hispanic	2.7	2.7	2.0	1.8
White	11.2	9.5	8.0	7.9
Two or more races	N/A	17.2	26.0	27.9
Unknown/Missing data	9.3	2.4	2.8	2.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,161	1,207	1,160	847

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	3.6	3.6	5.4	4.6
1-5 years	57.7	52.9	54.2	57.4
6-10 years	32.0	36.4	26.9	26.2
11-15 years	6.8	6.8	12.3	10.9
16+ years	—	0.4	1.2	0.8
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	281	280	260	366

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.4	1.1	3.1	0.3
Asian	N/A	18.2	21.2	21.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	80.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	3.6	2.1	1.9	2.2
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	59.6	45.0	30.1
Hispanic	1.4	1.4	3.1	2.2
White	13.2	13.2	9.2	6.8
Two or more races	N/A	3.9	15.8	33.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.4	0.4	0.8	4.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	281	280	260	366

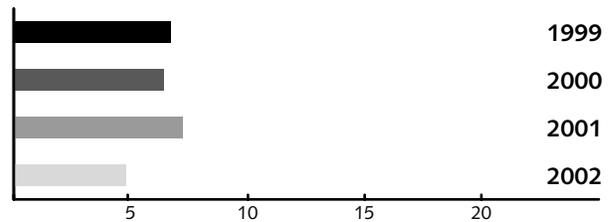
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	93.3	93.6	92.8	95.2
Children with one or more recurrences	6.7	6.4	7.2	4.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,474	1,734	1,669	1,780

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

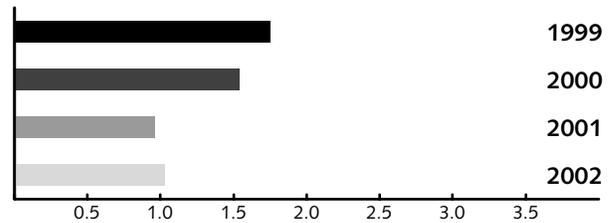


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	1.75	1.54	0.96	1.03
Children not maltreated while in foster care	98.25	98.46	99.04	98.97
Total %	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	3,434	3,701	4,050	4,386

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

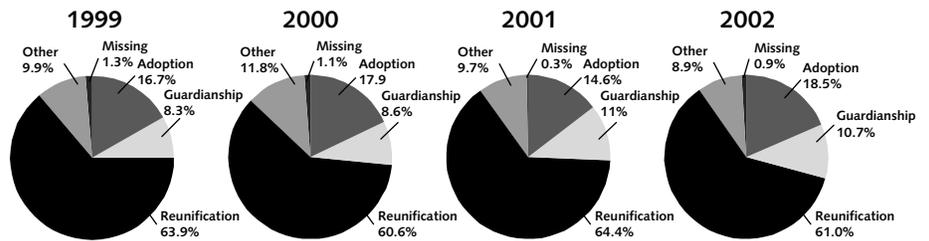


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	16.7	17.9	14.6	18.5
Guardianship	8.3	8.6	11.0	10.7
Reunification	63.9	60.6	64.4	61.0
Other	9.9	11.8	9.7	8.9
Missing data	1.3	1.1	0.3	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,634	1,682	1,920	2,097

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	42.4	31.8	38.8	54.9
Guardianship	8.6	9.2	9.7	11.3
Reunification	29.0	37.5	36.1	20.7
Other	18.0	20.7	15.4	11.7
Missing data	2.0	0.8	—	1.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	245	261	227	266

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.6
Guardianship	5.3	8.1	8.1	7.1
Reunification	61.9	56.0	60.4	62.5
Other	29.2	33.0	30.8	27.8
Missing data	3.1	2.4	0.5	1.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	360	382	442	464

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	21.2	15.7	15.1	19.6
Children older than 12 at entry	78.8	84.3	84.9	80.4
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	118	121	139	138

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

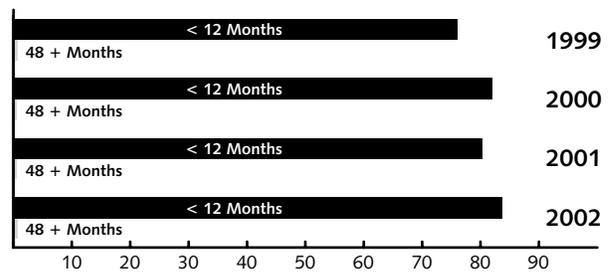
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	14.3	31.3	57.1	50.0	N/A	14.4	14.5	20.9	19.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	21.7	15.4	12.2	26.7	N/A	22.1	18.3	18.6
Guardianship	32.1	—	7.1	50.0	N/A	7.2	12.2	9.4	9.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	4.1	6.7	N/A	11.0	14.7	15.1
Reunification	50.0	50.0	28.6	—	N/A	62.7	63.7	56.1	60.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	69.6	71.8	69.4	51.1	N/A	53.9	55.3	52.6
Other	3.6	18.8	7.1	—	N/A	14.1	9.4	13.4	10.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.5	10.3	14.3	13.3	N/A	12.3	11.5	12.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—	N/A	1.5	0.3	0.3	1.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.2	2.6	—	2.2	N/A	0.6	0.3	1.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	28	16	14	2	N/A	389	394	374	1,092	N/A	N/A	N/A	46	39	49	45	N/A	697	655	608

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	9.1	9.5	17.0	23.9	16.0	18.7	11.7	10.1	1.6	2.7	5.3	17.4	8.4	17.1	11.8	21.9	—	5.0	—	1.3
Guardianship	6.8	4.8	24.5	8.7	4.6	6.7	8.2	8.7	4.8	9.6	8.8	4.7	8.4	7.7	5.5	10.4	—	5.0	9.5	1.3
Reunification	75.0	71.4	49.1	56.5	66.7	59.1	65.6	70.3	74.2	80.8	70.2	72.1	78.5	69.6	78.5	63.6	88.9	75.0	88.1	97.3
Other	9.1	14.3	9.4	8.7	10.5	13.8	13.7	10.1	19.4	4.1	15.8	3.5	4.7	5.0	4.0	3.8	11.1	10.0	2.4	—
Missing data	—	—	—	2.2	2.1	1.8	0.8	0.7	—	2.7	—	2.3	N/A	0.6	0.3	0.3	—	5.0	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	44	42	53	46	237	225	256	276	62	73	57	86	107	181	400	585	18	20	42	75

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

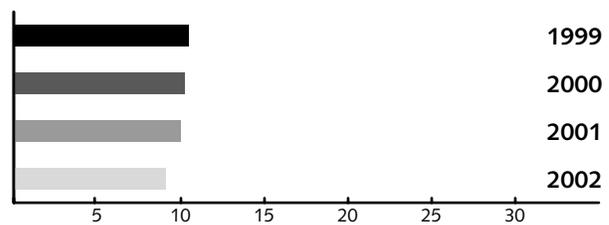
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	76.0	82.1	80.3	83.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	18.4	13.5	16.1	13.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	4.1	3.9	3.2	1.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.7
48 or more mos.	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,044	1,019	1,236	1,280

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	78.4	79.8	79.2	79.4
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	10.5	10.2	10.0	9.1
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	10.8	9.4	10.1	10.3
Missing data	0.2	0.6	0.7	1.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,683	1,929	2,193	2,350

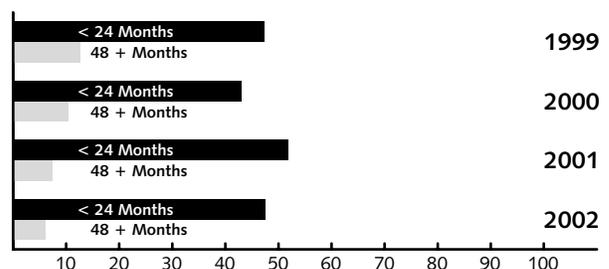
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	8.8	6.3	13.6	8.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	38.5	36.9	38.2	39.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	21.6	35.9	27.9	34.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	18.3	10.3	12.9	11.9
48 or more mos.	12.8	10.6	7.5	6.2
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	273	301	280	387

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



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	84.3	13.6	2.1	100.0	1,922
	2000	85.0	12.9	2.1	100.0	2,144
	2001	83.8	14.9	1.3	100.0	2,477
	2002	84.3	13.3	2.4	100.0	2,652
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	64.0	34.9	1.1	100.0	992
	2000	60.2	39.5	0.3	100.0	896
	2001	66.5	33.0	0.5	100.0	1,028
	2002	66.9	32.8	0.3	100.0	1,152
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	51.7	48.3	—	100.0	412
	2000	47.4	52.2	0.3	100.0	578
	2001	42.6	57.4	—	100.0	469
	2002	51.4	48.3	0.4	100.0	518
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	34.1	65.9	—	100.0	214
	2000	36.5	63.5	—	100.0	200
	2001	32.4	67.3	0.4	100.0	275
	2002	35.2	64.8	—	100.0	233
48 or more mos.	1999	31.4	68.6	—	100.0	296
	2000	25.0	75.0	—	100.0	264
	2001	22.4	77.6	—	100.0	254
	2002	19.5	80.1	0.3	100.0	297
Missing data	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	3
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	1
	2001	100.0	—	—	100.0	1
	2002	85.7	—	14.3	100.0	7

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.6
Institutions	1.0	1.5	0.8	1.8
Other settings	96.8	96.5	97.9	95.4
Missing data	1.7	1.6	0.9	2.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,229	1,507	1,687	1,796

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Child Welfare Services Branch
Social Services Division
Hawaii Department of Human Services
808-586-5667**

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

- With regard to Outcome 2.1.—Maltreatment in Foster Care—we believe Hawaii's numbers for maltreatment in foster care are higher than the national average because of miscoding errors during data entry. Hawaii is making changes to data mapping and data entry practices, which will generate accurate numbers for future transmissions.
- With regard to Child Fatalities, Hawaii's child fatality numbers include children who died while the family had an active ongoing Child Welfare Services (CWS) case and children who were reported to CWS after their death. It is important to note that Hawaii's numbers include accidental child deaths and deaths resulting from child abuse or neglect.

The following discussion focuses on Hawaii's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Hawaii Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2003, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2001. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Hawaii performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2001*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered as representing "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Hawaii's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 4.8 percent, which is less than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure improved from 1999 to 2002 (-28.4 percent change).

The cross-State analyses of this measure found a small, but definite, positive relationship between State performance on this outcome measure and the percentage of child victims in the State experiencing neglect. States with a relatively low percentage of child victims experiencing neglect tended to have a relatively low percentage of maltreatment recurrence. For Hawaii, both the incidence of maltreatment recurrence (6.1 percent) and the percentage of child victims experiencing neglect (18.5 percent) were in the bottom quartile of the State rankings. This suggests that a State's definitions and laws pertaining to what constitutes maltreatment may be related to the State's performance on the outcome measure assessing maltreatment recurrence.

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

In CY 2002, Hawaii's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 1.03 percent, which is more than both the national standard (0.57 percent) and the national median (0.39 percent). However, performance on this measure improved from 1999 to 2002 (-41.05 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 90.2 percent of children exiting foster care in Hawaii were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 86.1 percent); 86.8 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 70.3 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 about equal to the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 19.6 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care, which is less than the national median of 26.9 percent. This suggests that the State is generally successful in achieving permanency for the children who are discharged from the foster care system.

Hawaii's performance improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to: (1) the percentage of children with a diagnosed disability exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home (+8.6 percent change), and (2) the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care (-7.7 percent change). Performance on the other measures relevant to outcome 3 did not change.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Hawaii occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 83.8, which is more than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+10.3 percent change).

Because the cross-State analysis of performance on this measure found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Hawaii's performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Hawaii, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 9.1, which does not meet the national standard (8.6 percent or less), but is less than the national median (9.9 percent). Performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+29.9 percent change). Thus, although Hawaii had a relatively high percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 47.5, which is more than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Hawaii's performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+10.1 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 84.3, which does not meet the national standard (86.7 percent or more), but is about equal to the national median (84.1 percent). Performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 2.4, which is less than the national median of 8.6 percent. Hawaii's performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+63.5 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	350,464	371,641	370,645	370,439
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.4
Asian	N/A	0.8	0.9	0.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.1	0.1
Hispanic	11.0	11.6	11.9	12.3
White	86.2	83.4	83.0	82.7
Two or more races	N/A	2.2	2.0	2.0
Other	N/A	0.1	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	21.9	21.0	15.9	14.8

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	2,928	3,171	3,557	1,947
Children in foster care on 9/30	959	1,015	1,114	1,246
Children adopted	107	140	132	118

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	11,161	14,158	9,959	9,412	31.8 per 1,000	38.1 per 1,000	26.9 per 1,000	25.4 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	2,928	3,171	3,557	1,947	8.4 per 1,000	8.5 per 1,000	9.6 per 1,000	5.3 per 1,000
Child fatalities	4	1	4	2	1.1 per 100,000	0.3 per 100,000	1.1 per 100,000	0.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	5.8	7.9	8.0	9.8
1-5 years	21.8	31.3	32.1	34.5
6-10 years	21.3	29.3	29.9	26.6
11-15 years	16.5	24.6	24.1	23.8
16+ years	4.5	5.7	5.9	5.3
Unknown/Missing data	30.1	1.2	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,928	3,171	3,557	1,947

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.6	2.8	3.7	4.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.2
Black	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.8
Hispanic	7.0	9.0	10.4	14.7
White	55.7	81.9	74.6	74.7
Two or more races	0.3	—	0.1	0.6
Unknown/Missing data	41.9	5.0	10.1	4.7
Total % ⁴	107.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,928	3,171	3,557	1,947

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	0.3	1.4	3.3	0.8
Medical neglect	2.6	11.2	2.0	2.3
Neglect	49.5	46.4	61.9	67.4
Physical abuse	29.0	21.9	19.9	19.7
Sexual abuse	13.1	10.9	8.3	7.9
Unknown/Missing data	3.9	7.6	—	—
Other	1.7	0.6	9.1	7.9
Total % ⁵	100.0	100.0	104.5	106.0
Number	2,928	3,171	3,557	1,947

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	757	999	806	959	1,756
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	899	1,127	1,011	1,015	2,026
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	989	1,209	1,084	1,114	2,198
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	1,080	1,213	1,047	1,246	2,293

Median Length of Stay (Months)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	12.6				N/A				2.1				12.5			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	13.4				N/A				3.3				11.0			N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	11.4				N/A				3.3				11.1			N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	11.2				N/A				2.9				12.3			N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	4.5	4.2	3.8	4.4	9.8	9.8	10.4	9.6	5.5	5.0	5.3	5.5	4.5	4.0	4.4	3.4
1-5 years	25.4	27.0	27.5	26.9	29.1	27.2	28.4	31.7	28.4	28.3	29.8	30.0	26.4	27.3	26.4	29.5
6-10 years	29.6	25.4	23.3	25.9	21.3	22.3	24.6	22.5	26.3	23.7	23.7	23.9	24.4	23.3	25.2	23.8
11-15 years	30.4	28.9	30.7	27.5	28.5	30.3	27.7	27.4	26.1	25.9	27.3	24.0	29.2	30.9	27.9	29.0
16-18 years	10.2	14.5	14.7	15.3	11.2	10.6	8.9	8.7	13.8	16.9	13.8	16.5	15.5	14.4	16.1	14.4
19+ years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	757	899	989	1,080	999	1,127	1,209	1,213	806	1,011	1,084	1,047	959	1,015	1,114	1,246

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	8.5	9.7	9.4	9.2	6.2	5.7	5.2	4.8	4.5	5.6	6.3	5.2	9.5	9.3	7.9	8.3
Asian	N/A	0.2	0.2	—	N/A	0.2	0.5	0.0	N/A	0.4	0.4	—	N/A	—	0.4	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	2.5	2.2	2.6	2.0	1.6	2.2	1.2	0.8	2.1	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.9	2.9	2.0	1.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.1	—	0.4	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	—	—	0.2	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.2
Hispanic	11.4	13.9	9.7	12.7	12.5	10.1	12.0	11.0	10.9	13.5	9.6	11.7	12.8	10.1	12.3	11.8
White	76.6	72.6	78.1	75.4	73.4	76.7	80.6	81.2	77.4	72.3	81.6	80.5	72.7	77.4	77.4	76.7
Two or more races	N/A	0.2	—	0.4	N/A	—	—	0.9	N/A	0.0	—	—	N/A	0.0	—	1.2
Unknown/Missing data	0.5	1.0	—	—	5.8	5.1	0.3	1.2	4.3	6.5	0.4	0.9	2.8	—	—	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	757	899	989	1,080	999	1,127	1,209	1,213	806	1,011	1,084	1,047	959	1,015	1,114	1,246

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	86	379	243	274
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	13	378	242	274

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.2	4.7	0.8	2.6
1-5 years	38.4	32.5	22.6	23.7
6-10 years	37.2	30.1	33.3	26.3
11-15 years	20.9	28.8	33.3	37.2
16+ years	2.3	3.7	9.1	10.2
Unknown/Missing data	—	0.3	0.8	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	86	379	243	274

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	7.0	11.3	8.6	9.1
Asian	N/A	—	0.4	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	1.2	2.9	1.6	1.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.3	—	—
Hispanic	33.7	9.2	10.7	9.5
White	55.8	76.3	78.6	79.9
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	2.3	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	86	379	243	274

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	0.9	7.9	2.3	2.5
1-5 years	52.3	47.9	55.3	48.3
6-10 years	39.3	30.7	24.2	31.4
11-15 years	6.5	12.1	16.7	14.4
16+ years	0.9	1.4	1.5	3.4
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	107	140	132	118

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	3.7	4.3	13.6	2.5
Asian	N/A	1.4	0.8	1.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	12.1	2.9	8.3	14.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	3.6	3.0	0.8
Hispanic	6.5	23.6	12.1	13.6
White	73.8	60.7	62.1	66.9
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	2.8	3.6	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	107	140	132	118

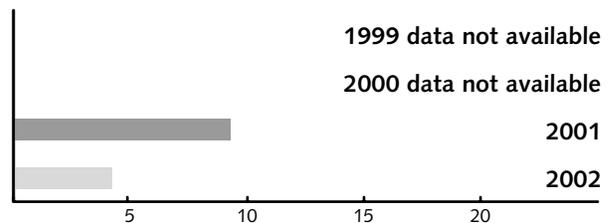
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	—	90.7	95.8
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	9.3	4.2
Total %	—	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	—	1,747	990

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

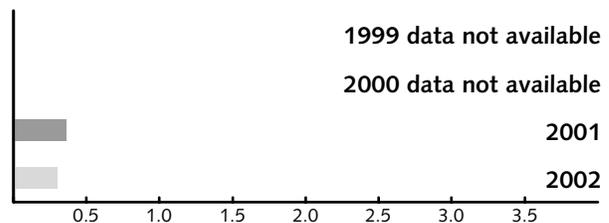


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	0.36	0.30
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	99.64	99.70
Total %	—	—	100.00	100.00
Number	—	—	1,941	2,030

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

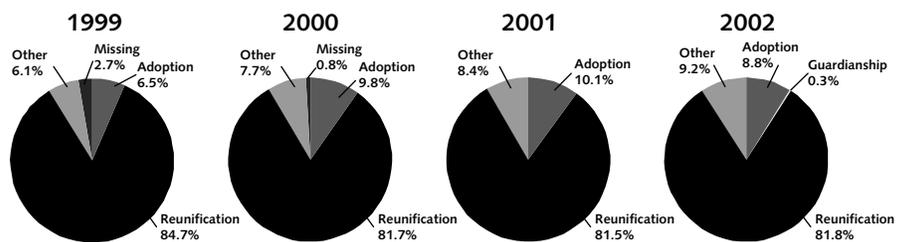


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	6.5	9.8	10.1	8.8
Guardianship	—	—	—	0.3
Reunification	84.7	81.7	81.5	81.8
Other	6.1	7.7	8.4	9.2
Missing data	2.7	0.8	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	806	1,011	1,084	1,047

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	13.7	39.4	55.2	41.9
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	74.5	57.6	31.0	41.9
Other	9.8	3.0	13.8	16.3
Missing data	2.0	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	51	66	58	86

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	0.3	0.3	1.0
Guardianship	—	—	—	0.3
Reunification	79.5	78.9	77.9	73.3
Other	15.6	20.1	21.8	25.3
Missing data	4.9	0.7	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	224	298	317	288

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	21.9	20.5	10.3	15.5
Children older than 12 at entry	75.0	79.5	89.7	84.5
Missing data	3.1	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	32	44	58	71

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

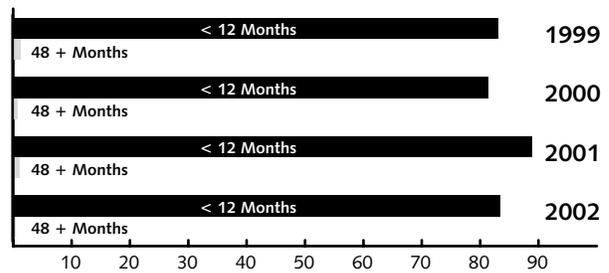
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	5.6	10.5	27.9	7.4	N/A	—	—	—	16.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	41.2	6.3	36.8	6.3	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	1.9	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	88.9	77.2	58.8	74.1	N/A	75.0	100.0	—	83.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	58.8	93.8	52.6	81.3	N/A	—	—	100.0
Other	2.8	12.3	13.2	16.7	N/A	25.0	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	10.5	12.5	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	2.8	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	100.0
Number	36	57	68	54	N/A	4	4	—	6	N/A	N/A	N/A	17	16	19	16	N/A	—	—	2

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	5.7	21.3	7.7	10.6	5.9	8.6	8.6	8.8	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	0.8	—	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	88.6	75.0	81.7	81.3	84.0	82.1	83.6	82.2	97.1	92.4	100.0	88.9	N/A	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	4.5	3.7	10.6	7.3	7.1	8.2	7.8	8.9	—	7.6	—	11.1	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	1.1	—	—	—	3.0	1.1	—	—	2.9	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number	88	136	104	123	624	731	885	843	35	66	4	9	N/A	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

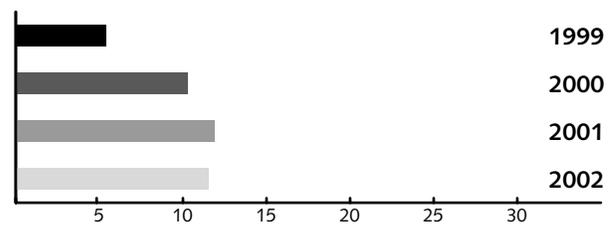
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	83.2	81.5	88.9	83.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	10.2	12.5	8.0	13.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.3	4.1	1.4	2.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.9	1.2	0.5	0.8
48 or more mos.	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.1
Missing data	2.3	0.1	0.5	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	683	826	883	856

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	90.3	81.3	83.9	83.6
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	5.4	10.3	11.9	11.5
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	1.5	6.7	3.1	4.9
Missing data	2.8	1.7	1.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	999	1,127	1,209	1,213

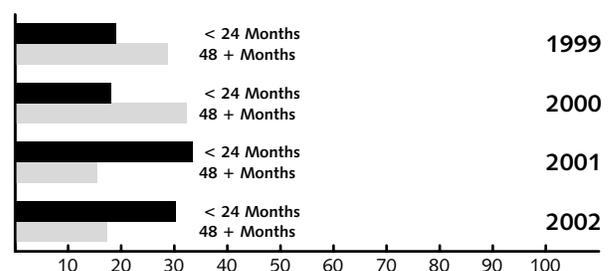
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	3.8	—	—	6.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	15.4	18.2	33.6	23.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	38.5	31.3	29.1	26.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	13.5	18.2	21.8	26.1
48 or more mos.	28.8	32.3	15.5	17.4
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	52	99	110	92

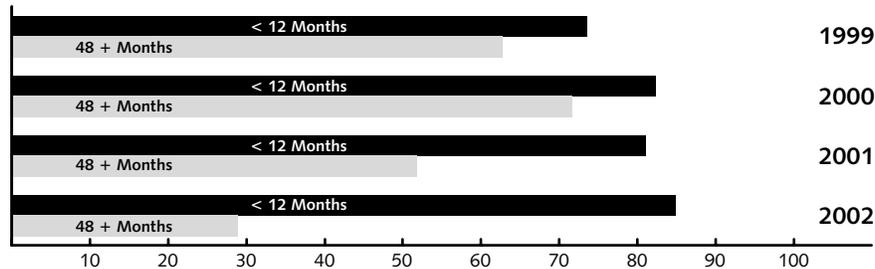
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	73.6	22.9	3.5	100.0	1,072
	2000	82.3	17.7	—	100.0	1,254
	2001	81.1	18.8	0.0	100.0	1,397
	2002	84.9	15.1	—	100.0	1,364
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	53.0	46.0	1.0	100.0	300
	2000	49.6	50.4	—	100.0	339
	2001	49.3	50.7	—	100.0	371
	2002	48.8	51.2	—	100.0	455
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	64.2	35.8	—	100.0	151
	2000	51.3	48.7	—	100.0	193
	2001	36.3	63.7	—	100.0	182
	2002	40.3	59.7	—	100.0	201
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	45.8	54.2	—	100.0	72
	2000	38.5	61.5	—	100.0	91
	2001	28.8	71.2	—	100.0	104
	2002	27.3	72.7	—	100.0	110
48 or more mos.	1999	62.8	37.2	—	100.0	148
	2000	71.6	28.4	—	100.0	148
	2001	51.8	48.2	—	100.0	137
	2002	28.8	71.2	—	100.0	153
Missing data	1999	92.3	7.7	—	100.0	13
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	1
	2001	100.0	—	—	100.0	7
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	10

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	3.9	4.2	4.4	6.3
Institutions	1.8	2.0	2.0	3.0
Other settings	93.3	93.7	93.7	90.6
Missing data	1.0	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	674	783	870	886

Idaho

[STATE COMMENT]

The following discussion focuses on Idaho's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Idaho Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2003, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2001. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CSFR findings for Idaho's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2001*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Idaho's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 4.2 percent, which is less than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure improved slightly from 2001 to 2002 (-5.5 percent change).

The cross-State analyses of this outcome measure found a substantial positive relationship between State performance on this measure and the rate of child victims (i.e., the number of child victims per 1,000 children in the population). States with a relatively low rate of child victims tended to have a relatively low rate of maltreatment recurrence. For Idaho, both the incidence of maltreatment recurrence (4.2 percent) and the rate of child victims (5.3 per 1,000 children in the population) were in the bottom quartile of the State rankings. This suggests that a State's definitions and laws pertaining to what constitutes maltreatment and what is necessary for substantiation may be related to the State's performance on the measure of maltreatment recurrence.

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

In CY 2002, Idaho's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.30 percent, which is less than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure did not change from 2001 to 2002.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 90.8 percent of children exiting foster care in Idaho were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 86.1 percent); 83.7 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 74.7 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 more than the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 15.5 percent of the children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is less than the national median of 26.9 percent. These findings suggest that the State is generally successful in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care.

Idaho's performance improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children emancipating from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (-29.2 percent change). Performance declined slightly from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to: (1) the percentage of children with a diagnosed disability exiting foster care who were discharged to permanent homes (+5.1 percent change), and (2) the percentage of children exiting foster care to a permanent home who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (-6.1 percent change). There was no change in performance on outcome measure 3.1.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Idaho occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 83.5, which is more than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months declined slightly from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-5.1 percent change).

Because the cross-State analysis of performance on this measure found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Idaho's performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Idaho, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 11.5, which is more than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Thus, although Idaho had a relatively high percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 30.4, which does not meet the national standard (32.0 percent or more), but is more than the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure cannot be assessed, because there was a substantial discrepancy in FY 1999 and FY 2000 between the number of finalized adoptions that the State provided in the AFCARS Adoption data submission (Section E) and the number of exits to a finalized adoption provided in the AFCARS Foster Care data submission (measure 3.1 and 5.1).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 84.9, which does not meet the national standard (86.7 percent or more), but is more than the national median (84.1 percent). Idaho's performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+15.3 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 9.4, which is more than the national median of 8.6 percent. Idaho's performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+66.2 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	3,181,338	3,231,805	3,247,687	3,254,523
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Asian	N/A	3.0	3.2	3.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	18.5	18.5	18.4	18.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	15.0	17.0	17.6	18.1
White	63.0	59.2	58.9	58.3
Two or more races	N/A	2.0	1.7	1.7
Other	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	15.0	17.0	15.8	18.0

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	33,125	31,447	27,557	28,160
Children in foster care on 9/30	34,327	29,565	28,202	24,344
Children adopted	7,028	5,664	4,104	3,633

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	104,418	146,792	142,967	137,321	32.8 per 1,000	45.4 per 1,000	44.0 per 1,000	42.2 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	33,125	31,447	27,557	28,160	10.4 per 1,000	9.7 per 1,000	8.5 per 1,000	8.6 per 1,000
Child fatalities	80	61	79	70	2.5 per 100,000	1.9 per 100,000	2.4 per 100,000	2.2 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	13.8	13.7	13.9	13.8
1-5 years	32.9	33.3	33.2	34.0
6-10 years	30.1	29.2	28.6	28.1
11-15 years	19.4	19.9	20.3	20.3
16+ years	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.8
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	33,125	31,447	27,557	28,160

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	3.6	0.3	0.3
Black	39.1	38.4	37.2	36.3
Hispanic	8.5	9.4	10.0	9.3
White	48.6	48.0	48.4	51.0
Two or more races	11.2	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	0.7	0.5	4.1	3.1
Total % ⁴	108.5	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	33,125	31,447	27,557	28,160

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Medical neglect	3.1	3.4	3.1	3.5
Neglect	40.6	44.0	43.7	55.3
Physical abuse	11.2	12.7	12.8	35.5
Sexual abuse	10.2	10.1	10.0	16.2
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	42.8	43.7	43.5	6.2
Total % ⁵	109.0	114.1	113.3	116.9
Number	33,125	31,447	27,557	28,160

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	39,564	7,325	12,562	34,327	46,889
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	33,266	6,607	10,308	29,565	39,873
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	30,202	6,350	8,350	28,202	36,552
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	26,353	5,973	7,986	24,344	32,326

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	39.3	N/A	47.2	39.0	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	39.5	N/A	45.5	38.3	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	42.4	N/A	40.4	41.1	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	40.6	N/A	38.4	40.0	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	3.8	3.7	3.3	3.8	24.0	22.3	23.4	23.9	2.1	2.0	2.8	2.8	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.9
1-5 years	29.0	27.2	25.0	24.8	28.1	27.1	29.9	30.6	30.1	30.5	30.2	31.0	27.0	25.3	24.3	24.6
6-10 years	28.0	26.1	24.7	22.3	20.2	19.4	21.5	20.7	32.6	30.0	28.8	25.7	26.0	24.2	22.4	20.9
11-15 years	21.8	22.3	24.0	24.1	18.4	20.9	20.4	20.1	17.1	16.5	17.2	17.8	22.5	23.0	24.6	24.1
16-18 years	13.5	15.4	16.4	17.1	8.4	8.5	4.7	4.6	9.3	10.1	9.4	9.6	15.6	16.9	16.6	17.1
19+ years	3.9	5.2	6.6	7.7	0.9	1.6	0.1	0.2	6.1	6.1	7.5	10.8	5.2	7.0	7.9	8.4
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	2.6	4.8	4.1	2.3	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	39,564	33,266	30,202	26,353	7,325	6,607	6,350	5,973	12,562	10,308	8,350	7,986	34,327	29,565	28,202	24,344

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Asian	N/A	0.1	0.1	0.1	N/A	0.2	0.3	0.1	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.2	N/A	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	77.3	75.6	74.3	72.4	59.8	58.4	55.1	53.4	72.9	71.0	66.8	66.1	75.1	73.4	72.2	69.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.3	6.1	5.9	6.5	6.8	5.3	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.5
White	16.1	17.4	18.7	20.3	31.1	32.3	35.1	36.1	19.9	20.8	25.0	25.7	17.9	19.5	20.5	22.5
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.8	2.7	3.1	2.9	3.4	1.6	2.0	2.1	2.1	1.5	1.7	1.8	2.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	39,564	33,266	30,202	26,353	7,325	6,607	6,350	5,973	12,562	10,308	8,350	7,986	34,327	29,565	28,202	24,344

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	17,020	12,391	10,166	6,770
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	16,310	11,699	9,607	6,223

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	5.2	4.7	4.7	3.2
1-5 years	40.2	38.7	37.8	35.7
6-10 years	36.8	35.4	31.9	30.7
11-15 years	16.9	20.1	24.1	28.4
16+ years	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.6
Unknown/Missing data	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	17,020	12,391	10,166	6,770

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0
Asian	N/A	0.0	0.1	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	76.8	74.5	72.0	69.7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	4.6	4.6	4.3	3.8
White	16.7	18.9	21.5	23.9
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	17,020	12,391	10,166	6,770

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5
1-5 years	36.6	39.7	40.0	42.1
6-10 years	41.8	40.4	38.7	34.4
11-15 years	19.0	17.7	18.7	20.5
16+ years	2.1	1.7	2.2	2.6
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,028	5,664	4,104	3,633

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
Asian	N/A	0.1	0.0	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	79.9	76.9	77.1	72.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	4.1	4.8	4.6	5.3
White	14.7	16.0	16.5	20.4
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	1.2	2.1	1.5	1.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,028	5,664	4,104	3,633

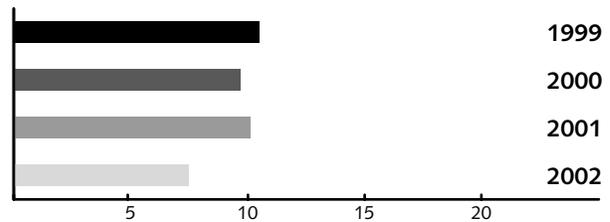
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	89.5	90.3	89.9	92.5
Children with one or more recurrences	10.5	9.7	10.1	7.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	15,520	15,391	13,074	13,232

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

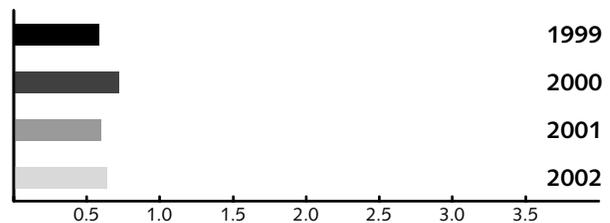


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.58	0.72	0.60	0.64
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.42	99.28	99.40	99.36
Total %	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	51,374	36,884	32,962	30,348

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

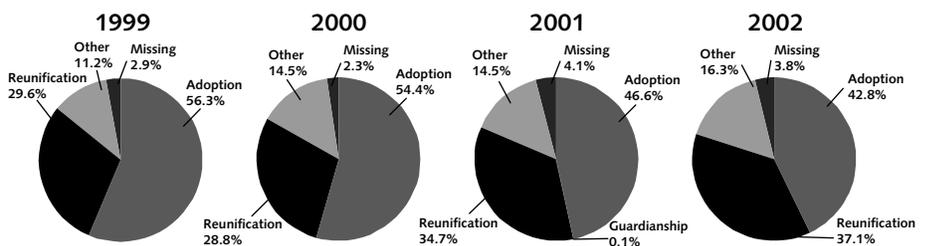


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	56.3	54.4	46.6	42.8
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Reunification	29.6	28.8	34.7	37.1
Other	11.2	14.5	14.5	16.3
Missing data	2.9	2.3	4.1	3.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	12,562	10,308	8,350	7,986

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	48.8	43.2	38.2	41.7
Guardianship	0.1	—	0.1	0.1
Reunification	21.3	23.4	28.1	26.2
Other	23.4	26.8	24.6	26.9
Missing data	6.5	6.6	9.1	5.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,786	1,633	1,617	1,998

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	2.0	2.8	2.6	2.6
Guardianship	0.1	—	—	0.2
Reunification	33.7	31.9	42.2	43.2
Other	52.5	57.4	46.4	47.2
Missing data	11.8	7.9	8.8	6.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,743	1,552	1,170	1,057

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	31.3	38.1	53.7	61.0
Children older than 12 at entry	68.4	61.1	46.3	38.9
Missing data	0.3	0.8	—	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,219	1,350	1,131	1,250

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

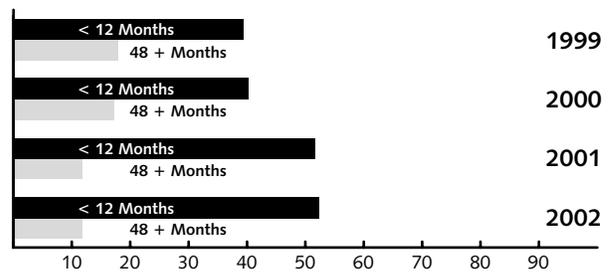
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	38.5	55.6	100.0	57.1	N/A	30.0	7.1	33.3	20.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	62.6	60.1	55.0	47.7	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0	—	0.1	0.0	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	30.8	22.2	—	28.6	N/A	55.0	71.4	50.0	60.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	24.5	23.5	25.9	29.4	N/A	—	—	—
Other	23.1	22.2	—	14.3	N/A	10.0	21.4	16.7	20.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.4	14.2	15.7	19.0	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	7.7	—	—	—	N/A	5.0	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.6	2.2	3.2	3.8	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	—
Number	13	9	10	14	N/A	20	14	12	20	N/A	N/A	N/A	9,163	7,315	5,576	5,279	N/A	—	—	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	43.3	41.9	37.0	39.8	38.3	38.4	27.3	31.3	41.4	58.9	34.5	34.1	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	45.9	43.6	46.6	47.3	42.8	42.1	54.0	53.6	42.9	31.7	52.0	51.2	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	7.2	11.7	12.1	10.3	15.3	16.6	12.4	11.3	10.6	9.4	6.8	10.4	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	3.6	2.8	4.3	2.6	3.6	2.9	6.3	3.9	5.1	—	6.8	4.3	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number	669	613	489	467	2,499	2,149	2,084	2,050	198	202	177	164	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

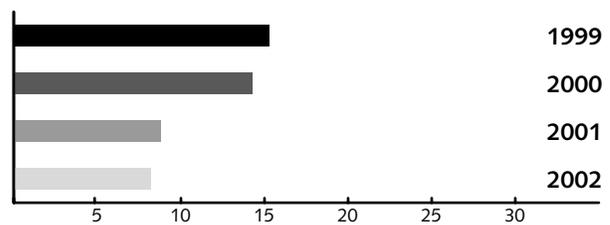
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	39.4	40.2	51.7	52.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	15.9	17.4	17.3	19.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	14.0	11.9	12.4	10.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	9.9	9.2	5.0	5.2
48 or more mos.	18.0	17.2	11.9	11.7
Missing data	2.7	4.1	1.7	1.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,720	2,970	2,901	2,965

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	72.8	73.2	81.5	83.7
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	15.3	14.3	8.8	8.2
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	6.8	7.8	9.4	7.8
Missing data	5.1	4.6	0.3	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,325	6,607	6,350	5,973

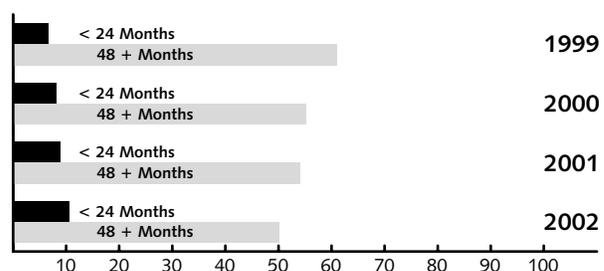
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	1.3	1.0	1.5	2.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	5.4	7.3	7.4	8.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	12.5	14.1	17.8	19.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	19.1	21.8	19.1	19.9
48 or more mos.	61.0	55.3	54.2	50.2
Missing data	0.8	0.5	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,070	5,606	3,891	3,415

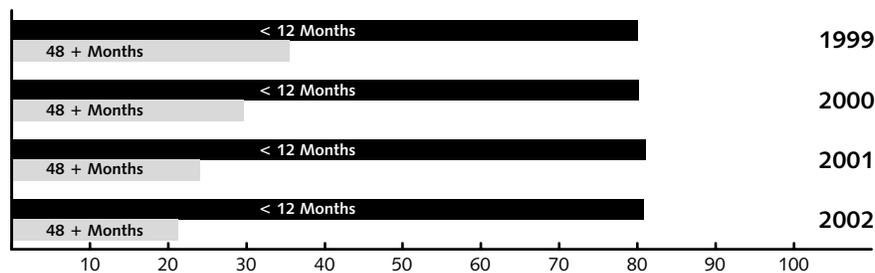
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	80.0	18.0	2.0	100.0	7,555
	2000	80.2	18.0	1.7	100.0	6,733
	2001	81.0	19.0	—	100.0	6,778
	2002	80.8	19.2	—	100.0	6,436
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	62.6	37.0	0.4	100.0	6,566
	2000	63.3	36.3	0.4	100.0	5,674
	2001	63.8	36.2	—	100.0	4,751
	2002	64.0	36.0	—	100.0	4,834
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	54.8	45.1	0.1	100.0	6,198
	2000	52.4	47.5	0.0	100.0	5,349
	2001	55.7	44.3	—	100.0	4,836
	2002	54.6	45.4	—	100.0	3,775
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	48.1	51.9	0.0	100.0	6,006
	2000	44.9	55.0	0.0	100.0	4,690
	2001	45.1	54.9	—	100.0	3,904
	2002	46.7	53.3	—	100.0	3,288
48 or more mos.	1999	35.5	64.5	0.0	100.0	20,280
	2000	29.6	70.4	0.0	100.0	17,130
	2001	24.0	76.0	—	100.0	16,226
	2002	21.3	78.7	—	100.0	13,936
Missing data	1999	74.3	0.4	25.4	100.0	284
	2000	78.1	0.7	21.2	100.0	297
	2001	100.0	—	—	100.0	57
	2002	93.0	7.0	—	100.0	57

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Institutions	4.1	4.2	2.3	2.0
Other settings	95.6	95.6	97.4	97.7
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,687	4,936	5,149	4,882

The following discussion focuses on Illinois' performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Illinois Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2003, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2001. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Illinois performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2001*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Illinois' rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 7.5 percent, which does not meet the national standard (6.1 percent or less), but is equal the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure improved from 1999 to 2002 (-28.6 percent change).

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

In CY 2002, Illinois' incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.64 percent, which is more than both the national standard (0.57 percent) and the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure declined from 1999 to 2002 (+9.96 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 79.9 percent of children exiting foster care in Illinois were discharged to a permanent home (which is less the national median of 86.1 percent); 68.1 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited from foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 46.0 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is considerably less than the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 61.0 percent of the children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is the highest in the nation. These findings suggest that the State experiences challenges in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care.

Illinois' performance improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children exiting to a permanent home who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care (+28.6 percent change). However, performance declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to: (1) the percentage of children leaving foster care who were discharged to permanent homes (-7.0 percent change), and (2) the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (+95.0 percent change). There was no change in performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children with a diagnosed disability who were discharged to a permanent home.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Illinois occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 52.3, which is less than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). However, performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+32.6 percent change).

Because the cross-State analysis of this measure found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Illinois' performance in FY 2002 with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Illinois, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 8.2, which is less than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Thus, although Illinois had a relatively low percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively low percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. Performance on the measure of foster care re-entry improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-46.4 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 10.7, which is less than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+27.4 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 80.8, which is less than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 2.3, which is less than the national median of 8.6 percent. Illinois' performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-48.5 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	1,528,991	1,585,879	1,587,570	1,594,857
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	N/A	0.9	1.0	1.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	10.2	10.3	10.5	10.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	3.6	4.8	5.0	5.2
White	84.9	81.6	81.4	81.2
Two or more races	N/A	1.9	1.9	1.9
Other	N/A	0.3	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	8.5	10.4	11.3	10.5

Child Welfare Summary

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	21,608	21,890	21,128	20,416
Children in foster care on 9/30	8,933	7,482	8,383	8,640
Children adopted	759	1,147	878	920

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	91,625	23,369	53,503	50,163	59.9 per 1,000	14.7 per 1,000	33.7 per 1,000	31.5 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	21,608	21,890	21,128	20,416	14.1 per 1,000	13.8 per 1,000	13.3 per 1,000	12.8 per 1,000
Child fatalities	41	40	46	58	2.7 per 100,000	2.5 per 100,000	2.9 per 100,000	3.6 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	3.3	8.1	9.0	9.4
1-5 years	27.8	27.3	29.1	30.4
6-10 years	30.4	29.0	28.6	28.0
11-15 years	29.0	27.2	28.0	26.9
16+ years	9.5	4.6	5.1	5.2
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	3.8	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	21,608	21,890	21,128	20,416

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3
Black	17.6	17.9	16.4	17.6
Hispanic	1.7	4.2	4.5	4.3
White	71.3	74.6	75.5	73.9
Two or more races	2.4	1.6	2.1	3.0
Unknown/Missing data	7.0	1.3	0.8	0.7
Total % ⁴	101.7	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	21,608	21,890	21,128	20,416

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	0.0	—	—	—
Medical neglect	5.5	3.6	3.2	2.8
Neglect	124.9	66.2	64.9	66.6
Physical abuse	31.1	18.1	18.2	17.8
Sexual abuse	25.6	19.2	20.5	20.6
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	0.0	—	—	—
Total % ⁵	187.1	107.1	106.8	107.8
Number	21,608	21,890	21,128	20,416

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	8,419	4,808	4,313	8,933	13,227
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	7,084	5,576	5,197	7,482	12,660
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	7,723	5,399	4,750	8,383	13,122
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	7,385	5,844	4,590	8,640	13,229

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	19.6	N/A	13.2	17.7	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	17.9	N/A	10.2	12.7	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	16.6	N/A	11.2	13.9	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	15.1	N/A	10.9	12.1	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	4.3	4.3	4.2	5.6	13.7	13.3	14.8	15.2	4.1	5.2	4.7	4.8	4.3	5.0	5.5	6.1
1-5 years	26.0	25.6	26.1	25.9	26.3	26.2	27.8	29.6	27.3	27.5	30.3	30.6	26.0	25.3	25.8	28.5
6-10 years	24.5	24.9	24.5	23.0	23.3	24.6	21.3	22.2	23.0	25.5	23.3	23.1	24.5	23.9	22.4	21.5
11-15 years	29.2	29.4	30.4	29.8	28.2	28.6	27.5	25.0	24.4	25.1	25.3	24.0	29.1	30.2	29.5	27.8
16-18 years	15.1	15.2	14.0	15.1	8.3	7.2	8.4	7.9	18.9	15.4	14.6	16.0	15.1	14.7	15.7	15.4
19+ years	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.0	—	—	—	2.1	1.3	1.7	1.5	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.6
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,419	7,084	7,723	7,385	4,808	5,576	5,399	5,844	4,313	5,197	4,750	4,590	8,933	7,482	8,383	8,640

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.1	—	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.3
Asian	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.2	N/A	0.1	0.3	0.1	N/A	0.1	0.1	0.2	N/A	0.0	0.2	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	1.3	42.9	41.1	38.1	0.8	31.3	30.5	30.1	0.2	33.4	34.5	32.3	1.5	40.7	38.0	35.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	—	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	98.1	3.8	4.1	4.7	97.5	4.5	5.7	5.2	99.6	4.2	4.8	4.8	97.1	4.0	4.8	5.0
White	0.5	51.6	52.8	53.9	1.5	61.2	59.3	59.9	0.1	60.1	58.4	59.5	1.2	53.0	53.7	55.0
Two or more races	N/A	1.1	1.4	2.5	N/A	2.2	3.4	4.3	N/A	1.7	1.7	2.8	N/A	1.5	2.6	3.6
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,419	7,084	7,723	7,385	4,808	5,576	5,399	5,844	4,313	5,197	4,750	4,590	8,933	7,482	8,383	8,640

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	2,632	1,966	2,392	2,365
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,408	1,008	1,128	1,062

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.5	1.9	1.6	1.2
1-5 years	31.3	30.1	29.4	32.9
6-10 years	35.0	31.7	31.9	28.4
11-15 years	27.3	31.6	31.8	31.8
16+ years	4.4	4.2	4.8	4.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,632	1,966	2,392	2,365

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.3	0.1	0.3
Asian	N/A	—	0.0	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	0.2	47.8	45.7	41.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	99.6	3.1	2.8	4.2
White	0.2	47.3	48.7	50.4
Two or more races	N/A	1.4	2.3	3.4
Unknown/Missing data	—	0.3	0.2	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,632	1,966	2,392	2,365

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	0.9	0.6	1.1	0.5
1-5 years	43.2	38.7	41.1	40.1
6-10 years	35.7	37.9	35.3	33.2
11-15 years	17.5	18.9	19.1	21.6
16+ years	2.6	3.8	3.3	4.6
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	759	1,147	878	920

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	0.3	—
Asian	N/A	0.2	—	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	—	42.8	50.0	43.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	99.7	2.4	3.4	1.6
White	0.3	52.9	44.8	52.5
Two or more races	N/A	1.3	1.4	2.3
Unknown/Missing data	—	0.3	0.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	759	1,147	878	920

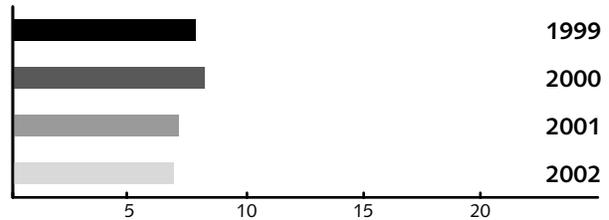
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	92.2	91.8	92.9	93.1
Children with one or more recurrences	7.8	8.2	7.1	6.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,791	10,096	10,056	10,123

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

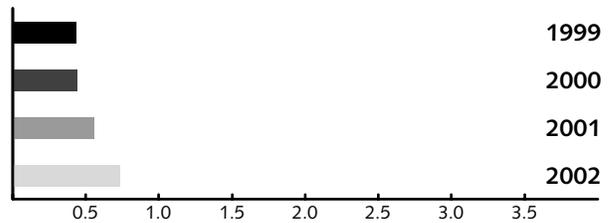


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.43	0.44	0.56	0.73
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.57	99.56	99.44	99.27
Total %	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	12,468	11,468	12,029	12,076

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

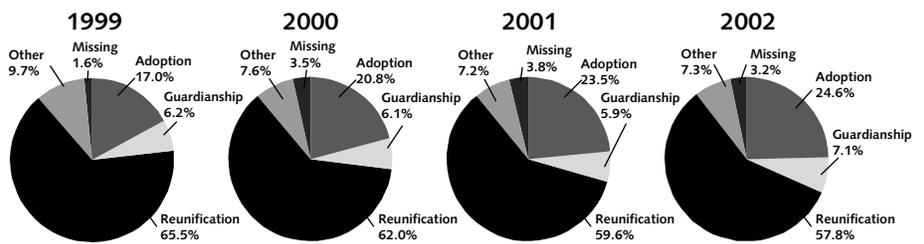


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	17.0	20.8	23.5	24.6
Guardianship	6.2	6.1	5.9	7.1
Reunification	65.5	62.0	59.6	57.8
Other	9.7	7.6	7.2	7.3
Missing data	1.6	3.5	3.8	3.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,313	5,197	4,750	4,590

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	30.7	33.9	39.9	37.5
Guardianship	5.8	4.7	1.8	4.0
Reunification	48.7	45.0	40.5	42.7
Other	11.2	13.7	14.7	12.4
Missing data	3.6	2.6	3.0	3.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	277	380	333	323

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	1.0	2.0	1.9	3.2
Guardianship	2.4	3.6	4.7	5.0
Reunification	72.2	70.3	70.3	65.0
Other	21.9	19.6	18.5	20.3
Missing data	2.6	4.4	4.6	6.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,135	1,243	1,133	1,055

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	39.1	37.4	39.2	31.5
Children older than 12 at entry	60.9	61.9	60.8	67.7
Missing data	—	0.7	—	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	340	294	260	257

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

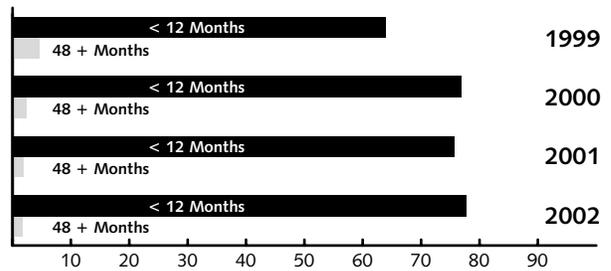
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	27.3	8.3	—	N/A	28.6	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	27.4	34.0	35.2	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	14.3	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	7.0	5.6	7.5	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	—	72.7	83.3	71.4	N/A	57.1	100.0	81.8	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	80.0	55.1	51.3	45.9	N/A	50.0	—	—
Other	—	—	—	28.6	N/A	—	—	9.1	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	20.0	7.3	6.1	8.2	N/A	50.0	—	100.0
Missing data	—	—	8.3	—	N/A	—	—	9.1	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	3.3	3.1	3.1	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	—	100.0
Number	—	11	12	7	N/A	7	6	11	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	1,736	1,637	1,481	N/A	4	—	1

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	17.1	12.3	20.1	10.8	—	17.8	17.8	20.2	—	—	12.5	—	N/A	20.0	19.5	22.7	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	6.2	4.1	6.6	10.8	—	5.8	6.1	6.8	—	—	—	—	N/A	3.3	4.9	4.7	—	—	—	—
Reunification	65.4	77.2	64.6	67.1	83.3	64.4	63.6	62.8	100.0	100.0	87.5	88.9	N/A	73.3	70.7	68.0	—	—	—	—
Other	9.7	4.6	4.8	8.6	16.7	8.2	8.2	6.9	—	—	—	11.1	N/A	1.1	4.9	1.6	—	—	—	—
Missing data	1.6	1.8	3.9	2.7	—	3.8	4.3	3.3	—	—	—	—	N/A	2.2	—	3.1	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Number	4,295	219	229	222	6	3,123	2,776	2,731	2	7	8	9	N/A	90	82	128	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

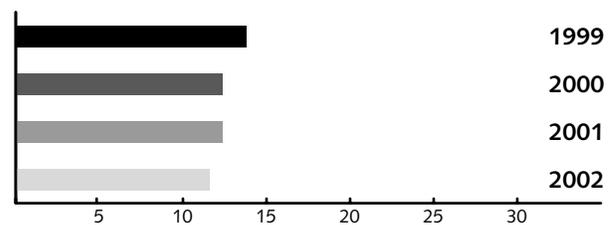
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	64.0	76.9	75.7	77.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	21.7	15.0	15.1	15.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	6.1	3.3	4.9	4.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.9	1.8	2.1	1.2
48 or more mos.	4.6	2.4	1.9	1.7
Missing data	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,825	3,224	2,833	2,653

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	78.2	80.0	79.0	79.6
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	13.8	12.4	12.4	11.6
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	5.9	6.7	8.0	8.1
Missing data	2.1	0.9	0.6	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,808	5,576	5,399	5,844

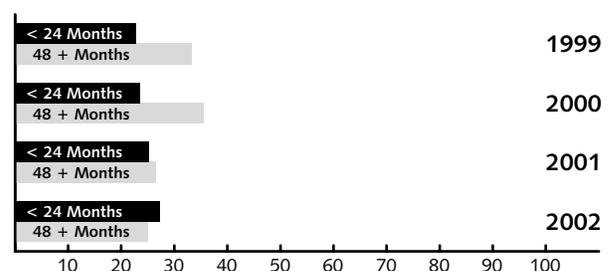
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	3.7	3.3	4.6	4.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	19.1	20.2	20.7	22.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	27.2	25.2	32.1	33.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	16.3	15.6	15.9	14.3
48 or more mos.	33.4	35.7	26.7	25.2
Missing data	0.3	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	734	1,080	1,115	1,128

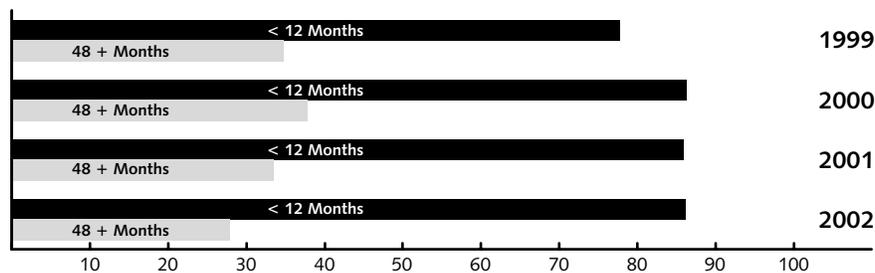
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	77.7	22.0	0.2	100.0	5,411
	2000	86.3	13.5	0.2	100.0	6,438
	2001	85.9	14.0	0.1	100.0	6,245
	2002	86.2	13.6	0.2	100.0	6,696
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	59.6	40.2	0.1	100.0	2,814
	2000	62.6	37.4	—	100.0	2,174
	2001	64.8	35.2	—	100.0	2,606
	2002	60.9	39.1	—	100.0	2,661
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	50.2	49.6	0.2	100.0	1,465
	2000	48.0	52.0	—	100.0	1,335
	2001	50.4	49.6	0.0	100.0	1,511
	2002	52.3	47.7	—	100.0	1,489
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	45.1	54.9	—	100.0	943
	2000	41.6	58.4	—	100.0	728
	2001	42.0	58.0	—	100.0	860
	2002	35.5	64.4	0.1	100.0	724
48 or more mos.	1999	34.7	65.1	0.1	100.0	2,550
	2000	37.8	62.2	0.0	100.0	1,975
	2001	33.4	66.6	—	100.0	1,892
	2002	27.9	72.1	—	100.0	1,631
Missing data	1999	88.6	4.5	6.8	100.0	44
	2000	90.0	10.0	—	100.0	10
	2001	100.0	—	—	100.0	8
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	28

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	2.2	3.4	1.4	1.1
Institutions	4.9	4.9	5.7	5.9
Other settings	92.0	91.5	92.6	92.9
Missing data	0.9	0.1	0.3	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,432	3,804	3,875	4,358

Indiana

[STATE COMMENT]

The following discussion focuses on Indiana's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Indiana Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2001, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 1999. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CSFR findings for Indiana's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Indiana's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 6.9 percent, which does not meet the national standard (6.1 percent or less), but is less than the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure improved from 1999 to 2002 (-11.5 percent change).

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

In CY 2002, Indiana's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.73 percent, which is more than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure declined from 1999 to 2002 (+71.73 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 89.5 percent of children exiting foster care in Indiana were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 86.1 percent); 84.2 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 73.3 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 72.0 percent). These findings suggest that the State is generally successful in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care. However, 31.5 percent of the children exiting foster care through emancipation in FY 2002 were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is more than the national median of 26.9 percent.

Indiana's performance improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (-19.4 percent change). Performance on the other measures did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Indiana occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 77.8, which is more than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+21.6 percent change).

Because the cross-State analysis found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months in a State and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Indiana's performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Indiana, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster

care episode was 11.6, which is more than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Thus, although Indiana had a relatively high percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. The State's performance on the measure of foster care re-entry improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-16.4 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 27.4, which is less than the national standard (32.0 percent or more), but is more than the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Indiana's performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+16.5 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 86.2, which does not meet the national standard (86.7 percent or more), but is more than the national median (84.1 percent). Indiana's performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+10.9 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 7.0, which is less than the national median of 8.6 percent. Performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	719,685	715,986	710,735	698,045
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Asian	N/A	1.4	1.5	1.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	2.5	2.9	3.2	3.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	3.3	4.5	4.6	4.8
White	92.0	88.8	88.4	88.1
Two or more races	N/A	1.8	1.8	1.9
Other	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	9.9	8.4	7.6	10.7

Child Welfare Summary

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	9,763	10,822	12,792	12,202
Children in foster care on 9/30	4,854	5,068	5,202	5,238
Children adopted	764	729	661	882

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	26,812	31,317	37,704	34,793	37.3 per 1,000	43.7 per 1,000	53.0 per 1,000	49.8 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	9,763	10,822	12,792	12,202	13.6 per 1,000	15.1 per 1,000	18.0 per 1,000	17.5 per 1,000
Child fatalities	11	10	15	15	1.5 per 100,000	1.4 per 100,000	2.1 per 100,000	2.2 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	4.5	8.8	8.6	9.7
1-5 years	34.1	34.7	35.9	36.1
6-10 years	30.3	28.5	28.2	26.7
11-15 years	22.3	21.4	20.9	21.2
16+ years	7.4	5.6	4.9	5.3
Unknown/Missing data	1.4	1.0	1.5	1.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,763	10,822	12,792	12,202

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7
Black	8.0	8.3	8.1	8.4
Hispanic	3.7	3.9	5.1	4.5
White	74.2	74.0	72.0	71.7
Two or more races	6.4	—	—	0.3
Unknown/Missing data	9.8	12.5	13.2	13.9
Total % ⁴	103.7	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,763	10,822	12,792	12,202

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.2
Medical neglect	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Neglect	63.1	68.1	71.9	71.8
Physical abuse	25.2	22.4	18.7	17.4
Sexual abuse	11.1	8.7	8.1	7.3
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	2.4	2.8	3.8	7.0
Total % ⁵	104.7	104.8	105.5	106.3
Number	9,763	10,822	12,792	12,202

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	4,954	5,343	5,443	4,854	10,297
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	4,862	5,620	5,414	5,068	10,482
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	5,085	5,829	5,712	5,202	10,914
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	5,063	5,821	5,647	5,238	10,884

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	13.5	N/A	4.7	11.7	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	12.5	N/A	4.3	10.7	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	11.3	N/A	4.2	10.7	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	11.0	N/A	4.2	10.8	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	2.6	2.4	3.2	3.6	4.9	6.4	6.7	8.0	2.3	2.9	2.9	3.4	2.4	3.2	3.7	4.2
1-5 years	17.2	16.9	16.8	20.2	15.0	15.2	17.0	18.2	15.4	15.8	14.6	19.0	16.4	16.7	20.4	20.4
6-10 years	20.1	18.5	16.9	16.9	12.9	13.4	14.3	13.5	14.1	13.7	13.8	12.9	18.1	16.4	16.6	16.6
11-15 years	36.4	37.6	38.1	35.6	43.0	40.9	40.0	39.1	33.4	32.7	34.6	32.0	38.5	38.5	36.1	36.7
16-18 years	23.6	24.5	24.9	23.5	24.1	24.0	21.9	21.1	34.6	34.5	33.8	32.5	24.4	25.0	23.0	21.7
19+ years	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	—	0.0	0.0	—	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	0.0	0.0	—	0.1	0.0	0.1	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,954	4,862	5,085	5,063	5,343	5,620	5,829	5,821	5,443	5,414	5,712	5,647	4,854	5,068	5,202	5,238

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	2.6	2.1	2.3	2.6	1.7	1.4	2.1	1.5	2.3	1.4	2.0	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.4	2.4
Asian	N/A	0.8	0.9	0.7	N/A	0.9	0.7	0.7	N/A	0.9	0.9	0.7	N/A	0.9	0.7	0.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	13.6	12.3	11.5	12.2	9.1	9.3	10.8	10.4	10.6	10.3	10.5	10.9	12.0	11.1	11.8	11.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—												
Hispanic	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.8	3.8	4.1	4.6	4.6	3.7	4.1	4.1	4.7	4.0	4.0	4.7	4.6
White	71.0	71.3	70.6	70.3	72.0	71.8	71.0	69.9	71.5	72.6	71.4	70.3	71.5	70.5	70.1	69.8
Two or more races	N/A	0.3	0.6	0.4	N/A	1.1	0.2	0.2	N/A	0.6	0.4	0.3	N/A	0.8	0.4	0.2
Unknown/Missing data	8.2	9.2	9.9	9.1	12.4	11.4	10.7	12.7	11.2	10.1	10.6	11.4	9.4	10.6	9.9	10.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,954	4,862	5,085	5,063	5,343	5,620	5,829	5,821	5,443	5,414	5,712	5,647	4,854	5,068	5,202	5,238

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	1,044	1,019	1,130	1,284
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	922	826	961	1,070

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	2.4	1.8	2.2	2.7
1-5 years	32.6	31.6	34.3	34.0
6-10 years	32.9	31.1	27.9	26.6
11-15 years	25.7	28.9	28.5	28.3
16+ years	5.4	5.9	6.5	7.2
Unknown/Missing data	1.1	0.7	0.5	1.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,044	1,019	1,130	1,284

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	4.3	3.1	2.7	4.3
Asian	N/A	0.6	0.4	0.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	19.1	17.6	13.7	13.7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	5.6	4.8	6.4	6.2
White	63.7	63.9	66.4	64.1
Two or more races	N/A	0.6	0.7	0.4
Unknown/Missing data	7.0	9.4	9.6	10.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,044	1,019	1,130	1,284

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.2	1.8	2.0	1.8
1-5 years	44.4	44.9	43.7	49.0
6-10 years	37.7	34.3	31.6	28.6
11-15 years	14.9	17.6	19.1	18.7
16+ years	1.8	1.5	3.6	1.9
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	764	729	661	882

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	3.3	3.2	3.0	2.2
Asian	N/A	—	1.1	0.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	17.8	20.4	20.6	19.0
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	5.2	6.0	6.2	6.8
White	64.1	65.6	63.2	65.5
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	8.4	4.8	5.9	5.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	764	729	661	882

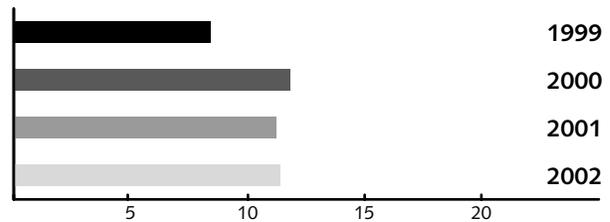
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	91.6	88.2	88.8	88.6
Children with one or more recurrences	8.4	11.8	11.2	11.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,699	5,041	6,184	5,778

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

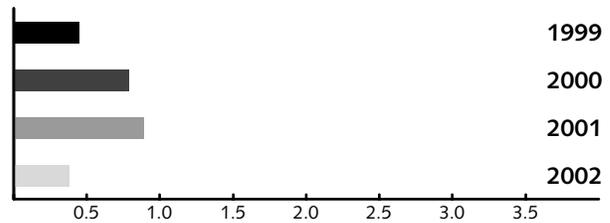


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.45	0.79	0.89	0.38
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.55	99.21	99.11	99.62
Total %	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	9,136	9,381	9,638	9,599

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

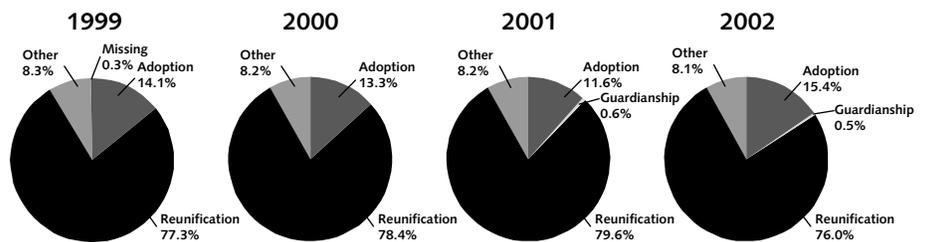


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	14.1	13.3	11.6	15.4
Guardianship	—	—	0.6	0.5
Reunification	77.3	78.4	79.6	76.0
Other	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.1
Missing data	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,443	5,414	5,712	5,647

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	40.8	43.8	39.5	50.2
Guardianship	—	—	0.4	0.8
Reunification	47.7	43.9	47.3	36.5
Other	10.8	12.3	12.7	12.4
Missing data	0.7	—	—	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	969	886	919	896

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.4	0.5	0.9	1.0
Guardianship	—	—	0.4	0.6
Reunification	86.4	87.0	86.7	85.8
Other	13.2	12.5	12.0	12.6
Missing data	0.0	—	—	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,106	2,995	3,127	2,920

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	9.5	18.1	26.0	20.3
Children older than 12 at entry	90.5	81.9	74.0	79.7
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	231	249	269	286

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

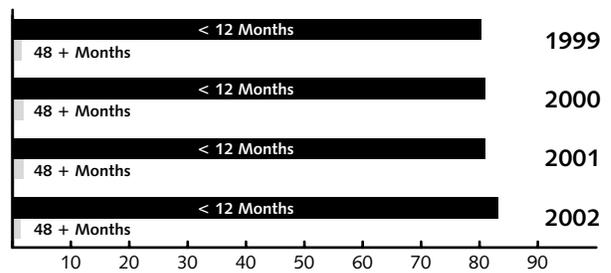
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	20.2	29.9	18.6	18.9	N/A	—	11.1	15.8	21.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	23.2	24.7	19.5	22.9	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	0.9	1.1	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	0.7	0.2	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	73.4	64.9	70.8	70.5	N/A	95.7	75.9	68.4	59.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	68.3	68.3	72.2	69.4	N/A	—	—	—
Other	6.5	5.2	9.7	9.5	N/A	4.3	13.0	15.8	18.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.3	6.8	7.7	7.5	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	0.2	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	—
Number	124	77	113	95	N/A	47	54	38	37	N/A	N/A	N/A	577	558	601	615	N/A	—	—	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	19.6	18.9	15.7	21.6	12.7	11.7	9.6	13.9	11.0	10.2	13.7	13.3	N/A	—	26.1	53.3	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	0.4	—	—	0.7	0.5	—	—	0.2	0.9	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	73.9	74.8	75.0	72.4	78.4	79.8	81.1	77.1	81.6	79.4	80.8	79.3	100.0	100.0	73.9	33.3	—	—	—	100.0
Other	6.5	6.3	9.3	5.6	8.6	8.4	8.6	8.5	7.2	10.4	5.4	6.4	N/A	—	—	13.3	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	0.3	—	0.0	0.0	0.2	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	100.0
Number	199	222	236	268	3,892	3,928	4,077	3,970	608	549	608	639	6	33	23	15	—	—	—	7

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

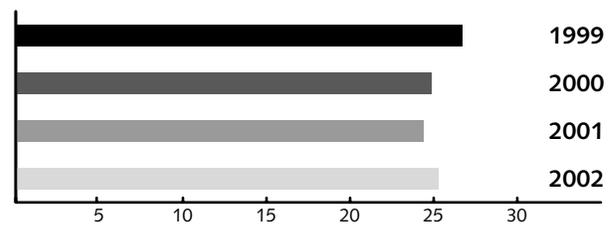
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	80.2	81.1	81.1	83.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.2	11.6	12.1	10.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.2	3.4	3.2	2.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.2
48 or more mos.	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.4
Missing data	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,207	4,247	4,547	4,292

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	64.8	66.4	67.1	63.5
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	26.7	24.9	24.4	25.3
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	7.7	8.2	7.9	9.7
Missing data	0.8	0.5	0.6	1.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,343	5,620	5,829	5,821

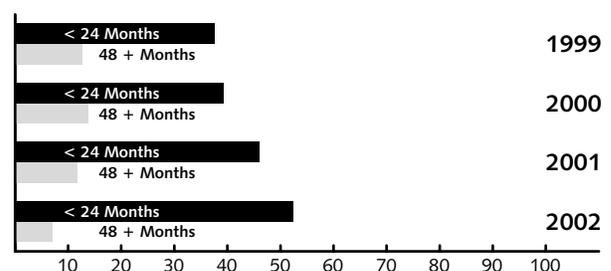
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	15.5	18.6	18.1	22.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	22.0	20.8	27.9	30.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	27.4	27.4	26.9	28.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	22.1	19.2	15.0	11.2
48 or more mos.	12.7	13.8	11.8	7.1
Missing data	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	769	720	662	869

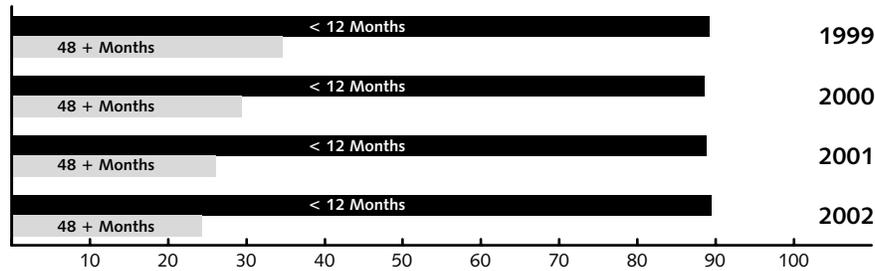
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	89.2	10.8	—	100.0	6,162
	2000	88.6	11.4	—	100.0	6,474
	2001	88.8	11.2	—	100.0	6,782
	2002	89.4	10.6	—	100.0	6,736
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	58.0	42.0	—	100.0	1,750
	2000	53.8	46.2	—	100.0	1,743
	2001	54.7	45.3	—	100.0	1,935
	2002	56.7	43.3	—	100.0	2,042
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	33.3	66.7	—	100.0	958
	2000	38.1	61.9	—	100.0	908
	2001	33.7	66.3	—	100.0	900
	2002	36.5	63.5	—	100.0	956
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	28.6	71.4	—	100.0	598
	2000	25.4	74.6	—	100.0	531
	2001	27.5	72.5	—	100.0	520
	2002	25.1	74.9	—	100.0	423
48 or more mos.	1999	34.6	65.4	—	100.0	772
	2000	29.4	70.6	—	100.0	779
	2001	26.0	74.0	—	100.0	734
	2002	24.3	75.7	—	100.0	662
Missing data	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	57
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	47
	2001	97.7	2.3	—	100.0	43
	2002	98.5	1.5	—	100.0	65

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	17.7	16.8	18.0	17.8
Institutions	6.1	4.7	4.6	3.9
Other settings	74.4	78.3	77.3	78.3
Missing data	1.7	0.3	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,197	2,416	2,722	2,826

Mary Nelson, Administrator
Division of Behavioral, Developmental and Protective Services
for Families, Adults and Children
Iowa Department of Human Services
515-281-5521

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

- **Context.** Iowa serves children referred for abuse/neglect, delinquency, and emotional/behavioral problems. Our caseloads and supervisor:worker ratios are almost twice national standards. State revenue declines have led to reductions in service array (especially in-home services) and infrastructure (e.g., training and quality assurance).
- **Safety.** Child abuse reports peaked in 2001, and have since declined/stabilized. Iowa's reoccurrence rate exceeds the national standard of 6.1 percent. Analysis of a data sample indicates that a significant percentage of Iowa's reoccurrence rate is not really repeat maltreatment - rather, it reflects the same incident or abuse that occurred before our first contact with the family. Excluding these reduces our reoccurrence to 9.1 percent. Iowa achieved substantial conformity with the federal outcome (for the Child and Family Services Review) that children are safely maintained in their homes when possible and appropriate. Iowa's incidence of abuse in foster care met the national standard in 2002. Iowa's CFSR Program Improvement Plan (PIP) identifies expansion of our Community Partnership for Protecting Children initiative as a key strategy for improving child safety.
- **Permanency.** Iowa's time to reunification, placement stability and time to adoption meet the national standard. In 2002, DHS finalized a record 1,037 adoptions. Iowa's foster care re-entry is higher than the national standard. Re-entry is highest for youth age 11 and older who are placed due to behavior. Iowa recently implemented a trial home visit policy to help reduce re-entries. With regard to Outcome 7, 17.8 percent of youth age 12 and under in foster care are placed in group care - twice the national median of 8.6 percent. We are implementing an aggressive recruitment strategy to increase availability of resource families.
- **Well-Being.** Iowa met the federal outcome (for the Child and Family Services Review) for education, but needs to improve physical and mental health outcomes, and family capacity to provide for their children's needs. Iowa's CFSR PIP identifies family team meetings as a key strategy for improving family engagement and permanency.

The following discussion focuses on Iowa's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Iowa Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2003, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2001. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Iowa's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2001*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Iowa's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 11.4 percent, which is more than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure declined from 1999 to 2002 (+35.3 percent change).

The cross-State analyses found a substantial positive relationship between State performance on this outcome measure and the State rate of child victims (i.e., the number of child victims per 1,000 children in the population). States with a relatively high rate of child victims tended to have a relatively high percentage of maltreatment recurrence. For Iowa, both the incidence of maltreatment recurrence (11.4 percent) and the rate of child victims (17.5 per 1,000 children in the population) were in the top quartile of the State rankings.

The cross-State analyses also found a small, but definite, positive relationship between performance on this outcome measure and the percentage of child victims experiencing neglect. States with a relatively high percentage of child victims experiencing neglect tended to have a relatively high percentage of maltreatment recurrence. For Iowa, both the incidence of maltreatment recurrence (11.4 percent) and the percentage of child victims experiencing neglect (71.8 percent) were in the top quartile of the State rankings. These findings suggest that a State's definitions and laws pertaining to what constitutes maltreatment may be related to a State's performance on the measure assessing maltreatment recurrence.

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

In CY 2002, Iowa's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.38 percent, which meets the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and is about equal to the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure improved from 1999 to 2002 (-15.37 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 91.9 percent of children exiting foster care in Iowa were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 86.1 percent); 87.5 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 87.4 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 20.3 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care, which is less than the national median of 26.9 percent. These findings suggest that the State is generally successful in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care.

Iowa's performance declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (+112.9 percent change). Performance on the other measures relevant to outcome 3 showed no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Iowa occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 83.2, which is more than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

Because the cross-State analysis found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months in a State and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Iowa's performance in FY 2002 with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Iowa, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 25.3, which is more than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Thus, although Iowa had a relatively high percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. Performance on the measure of foster care re-entry improved slightly from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-5.4 percent change).

The cross-State analysis also found a substantial positive relationship between State performance on the measure of re-entry into foster care and the percentage of children entering foster care in the State who were age 16 or older. States with a relatively high percentage of children age 16 and older entering foster care in FY 2002 tended to have a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. For Iowa, both the percentage of children entering foster care who were age 16 and older (21.1 percent) and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode (25.3) were in the top quartile of the State rankings. One explanation for this may be that children age 16 and older who enter foster care often are entering because of their own behaviors (or through the juvenile justice system) rather than as a result of maltreatment, and they may leave the foster care system before the behavior problems are fully resolved. This is particularly relevant to Iowa, because this State provides child welfare foster care services to children in the juvenile justice system.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 52.4, which is more than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Iowa's performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+32.7 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 89.4, which is more than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 21.7, which is considerably more than the national median of 8.6 percent. However, Iowa's performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-9.2 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	698,637	703,314	702,262	696,519
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.9
Asian	N/A	1.7	1.9	2.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	6.8	6.9	7.2	7.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	8.4	10.4	10.7	11.0
White	81.9	77.0	76.6	76.1
Two or more races	N/A	2.9	2.7	2.7
Other	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	18.5	15.0	14.4	12.2

Child Welfare Summary

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	8,452	8,356	7,308	6,425
Children in foster care on 9/30	6,774	6,569	6,409	6,190
Children adopted	566	468	428	471

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	28,694	30,627	7,814	26,696	41.1 per 1,000	43.5 per 1,000	11.1 per 1,000	38.3 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	8,452	8,356	7,308	6,425	12.1 per 1,000	11.9 per 1,000	10.4 per 1,000	9.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	6	7	7	1	0.9 per 100,000	1.0 per 100,000	1.0 per 100,000	0.1 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	6.9	7.5	7.1	7.3
1-5 years	31.5	31.4	32.9	33.7
6-10 years	31.7	30.4	30.0	29.4
11-15 years	24.2	25.0	24.4	24.0
16+ years	5.4	5.6	5.1	5.2
Unknown/Missing data	0.4	—	0.5	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,452	8,356	7,308	6,425

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.7	1.1	1.0	0.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.3
Black	14.3	14.7	13.5	14.2
Hispanic	4.9	2.7	2.1	1.9
White	75.9	74.3	75.2	74.5
Two or more races	6.3	1.3	1.7	1.8
Unknown/Missing data	2.5	5.3	6.1	6.4
Total % ⁴	104.8	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,452	8,356	7,308	6,425

Maltreatment Type of

Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	14.0	88.1	17.0	17.0
Medical neglect	3.0	26.2	2.5	2.2
Neglect	49.5	77.0	27.6	27.4
Physical abuse	30.8	54.3	27.4	25.8
Sexual abuse	15.7	27.4	13.8	14.3
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	4.2	0.6	0.8
Other	0.0	82.5	23.0	23.1
Total % ⁵	113.0	359.7	111.9	110.6
Number	8,452	8,356	7,308	6,425

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	4,959	3,376	1,562	6,774	8,335
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	5,166	3,191	1,788	6,569	8,357
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	5,376	2,834	1,801	6,409	8,210
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	5,132	2,766	1,710	6,190	7,898

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	11.4	N/A	12.9	13.9	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	12.3	N/A	13.2	14.8	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	13.3	N/A	15.5	16.9	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	15.1	N/A	16.3	16.6	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	3.3	3.9	3.1	3.2	10.9	10.0	11.0	10.0	2.0	2.3	1.9	1.4	3.6	3.0	3.1	3.1
1-5 years	20.0	21.3	22.6	23.1	21.7	21.4	21.8	22.0	16.4	18.3	17.0	18.8	21.5	23.5	24.0	24.1
6-10 years	21.3	21.3	21.8	21.4	20.6	20.2	20.4	17.9	17.6	16.4	17.7	16.0	21.5	21.3	21.8	20.5
11-15 years	34.4	32.5	32.1	32.0	33.5	35.0	33.8	35.4	28.3	28.6	26.7	24.7	30.4	30.3	30.4	30.4
16-18 years	20.1	20.2	19.7	19.7	12.6	13.0	12.7	14.6	33.7	32.9	34.8	36.8	21.5	20.7	19.8	21.2
19+ years	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	—	1.7	1.3	1.7	2.2	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.7
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,959	5,166	5,376	5,132	3,376	3,191	2,834	2,766	1,562	1,788	1,801	1,710	6,774	6,569	6,409	6,190

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.3	1.5	0.8	0.8	1.4	0.7	1.0	0.7	1.3	2.1	0.7	1.1	1.4	0.9	0.9	0.7
Asian	N/A	0.4	0.4	0.3	N/A	0.5	0.3	0.3	N/A	0.6	0.6	0.5	N/A	0.4	0.3	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	22.3	22.3	22.7	21.6	18.3	18.1	15.9	14.4	15.4	16.8	16.8	14.1	21.9	21.8	21.4	20.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	—	—	N/A	—	0.0	0.0	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	6.7	6.2	5.5	5.3	6.8	3.8	3.8	4.7	7.2	5.0	3.8	4.2	6.6	5.4	5.2	5.4
White	67.4	67.1	67.3	68.0	70.4	72.6	72.7	72.2	72.2	72.8	73.8	75.4	67.8	68.2	67.8	67.8
Two or more races	N/A	0.6	1.0	1.6	N/A	1.0	1.8	2.0	N/A	0.6	0.9	1.4	N/A	0.8	1.4	1.8
Unknown/Missing data	1.9	1.9	2.4	2.5	2.6	3.3	4.4	5.6	3.2	2.2	3.4	3.3	1.9	2.5	3.0	3.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,959	5,166	5,376	5,132	3,376	3,191	2,834	2,766	1,562	1,788	1,801	1,710	6,774	6,569	6,409	6,190

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	1,757	1,910	2,063	2,082
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	987	1,190	1,350	1,401

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	2.0	1.7	1.9	1.7
1-5 years	26.0	27.3	28.2	30.4
6-10 years	28.9	27.2	27.2	26.6
11-15 years	32.2	31.8	32.0	30.9
16+ years	9.4	10.0	8.8	9.2
Unknown/Missing data	1.5	2.0	1.9	1.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,757	1,910	2,063	2,082

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.6	1.2	1.1	0.7
Asian	N/A	0.0	0.3	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	29.3	29.0	29.8	29.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	5.7	6.6	6.8	5.3
White	60.7	60.1	58.9	60.2
Two or more races	N/A	1.1	1.0	2.1
Unknown/Missing data	2.4	1.9	2.1	2.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,757	1,910	2,063	2,082

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	0.2	—	—	0.6
1-5 years	39.4	39.7	41.8	45.2
6-10 years	34.8	32.7	34.1	30.8
11-15 years	21.9	20.9	18.7	18.3
16+ years	3.7	6.4	5.4	5.1
Unknown/Missing data	—	0.2	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	566	468	428	471

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.8	1.5	0.7	1.5
Asian	N/A	0.9	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	26.9	27.8	20.1	25.7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	8.3	5.3	2.8	7.9
White	58.8	59.4	71.5	62.6
Two or more races	N/A	1.9	1.4	1.1
Unknown/Missing data	2.8	3.2	3.5	1.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	566	468	428	471

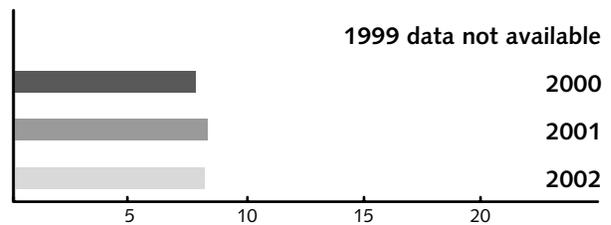
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	92.2	91.7	91.8
Children with one or more recurrences	—	7.8	8.3	8.2
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	4,080	3,533	3,137

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

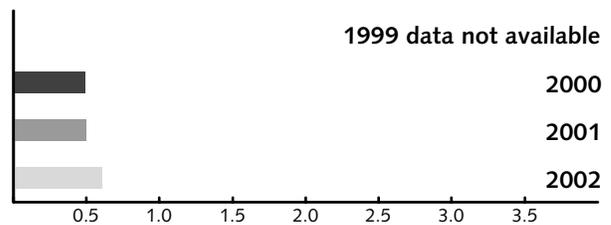


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	0.49	0.50	0.61
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	99.51	99.50	99.39
Total %	—	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	—	7,961	7,796	7,481

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

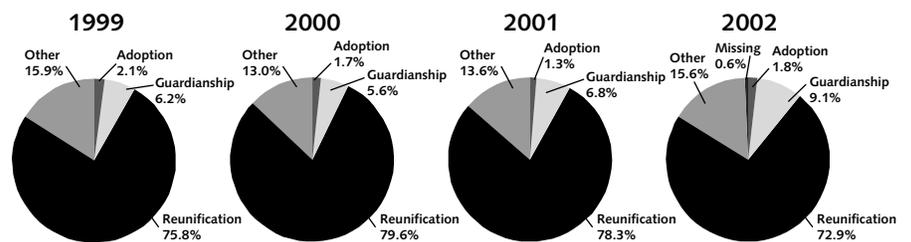


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	2.1	1.7	1.3	1.8
Guardianship	6.2	5.6	6.8	9.1
Reunification	75.8	79.6	78.3	72.9
Other	15.9	13.0	13.6	15.6
Missing data	—	—	—	0.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,562	1,788	1,801	1,710

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	8.3	22.2	7.1	20.0
Guardianship	—	5.6	7.1	4.0
Reunification	66.7	66.7	64.3	44.0
Other	25.0	5.6	21.4	24.0
Missing data	—	—	—	8.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	12	18	14	25

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1
Guardianship	3.9	4.6	5.1	6.9
Reunification	72.1	73.5	69.9	64.8
Other	23.9	21.7	24.8	27.2
Missing data	—	—	—	1.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	727	808	830	815

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	23.7	19.5	12.5	16.9
Children older than 12 at entry	76.3	80.5	87.5	83.1
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	114	149	160	195

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

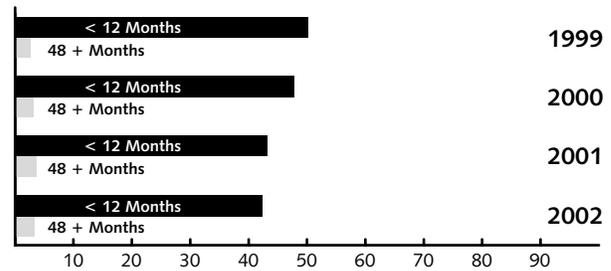
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.7	2.3	0.7	1.2	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	33.3	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.4	5.3	6.3	12.0	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	80.0	64.9	58.3	66.7	N/A	81.8	63.6	87.5	90.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	65.1	79.7	77.8	70.5	N/A	—	—	—
Other	20.0	35.1	8.3	33.3	N/A	18.2	36.4	12.5	9.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	20.7	12.7	15.2	16.2	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	—
Number	20	37	12	18	N/A	11	11	8	11	N/A	N/A	N/A	241	300	302	241	N/A	—	—	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	2.7	2.2	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.4	2.1	6.0	—	—	—	N/A	9.1	6.3	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	4.4	3.4	5.8	4.2	5.9	6.3	6.5	9.3	—	—	12.9	—	N/A	—	—	16.7	—	—	—	—
Reunification	78.8	86.5	65.2	76.4	77.2	79.3	79.5	73.0	84.0	89.7	75.8	75.4	N/A	72.7	81.3	75.0	—	—	—	—
Other	14.2	7.9	27.5	18.1	15.3	12.8	12.5	14.8	10.0	10.3	11.3	24.6	N/A	18.2	12.5	8.3	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.8	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Number	113	89	69	72	1,127	1,301	1,329	1,290	50	39	62	57	N/A	11	16	24	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

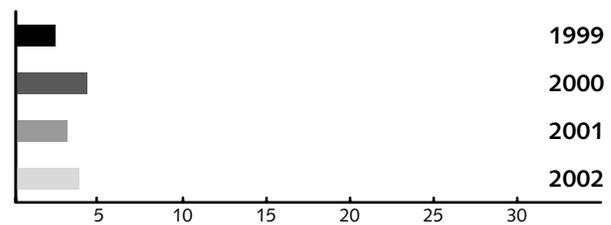
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	50.3	47.8	43.2	42.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	31.8	33.0	35.0	33.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	9.6	11.9	13.8	15.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	4.3	3.7	4.2	4.7
48 or more mos.	2.8	3.2	3.7	3.4
Missing data	1.2	0.4	0.1	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,184	1,424	1,411	1,247

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	91.1	89.6	89.9	87.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	2.4	4.3	3.1	3.8
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	0.7	1.1	2.8	4.4
Missing data	5.8	5.1	4.2	4.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,376	3,191	2,834	2,766

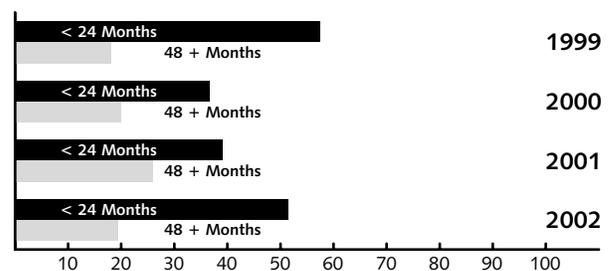
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	30.3	16.7	4.3	22.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	27.3	20.0	34.8	29.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	6.1	36.7	34.8	6.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	18.2	6.7	—	22.6
48 or more mos.	18.2	20.0	26.1	19.4
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	33	30	23	31

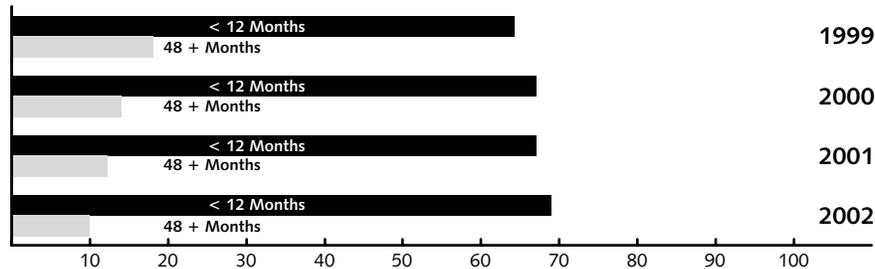
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	64.2	27.2	8.6	100.0	3,732
	2000	67.0	27.8	5.2	100.0	3,591
	2001	67.0	28.3	4.7	100.0	3,192
	2002	69.0	28.9	2.1	100.0	3,079
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	44.5	50.7	4.9	100.0	2,377
	2000	42.5	55.2	2.2	100.0	2,339
	2001	42.2	55.6	2.2	100.0	2,319
	2002	42.0	56.7	1.2	100.0	2,099
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	30.2	66.3	3.5	100.0	1,040
	2000	28.3	69.4	2.3	100.0	1,224
	2001	27.8	70.3	1.9	100.0	1,254
	2002	29.4	68.6	1.9	100.0	1,243
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	21.2	76.8	2.0	100.0	449
	2000	20.7	76.8	2.5	100.0	569
	2001	19.5	78.5	2.0	100.0	697
	2002	23.3	73.8	2.9	100.0	615
48 or more mos.	1999	18.1	79.5	2.4	100.0	701
	2000	14.0	85.0	1.0	100.0	628
	2001	12.2	86.7	1.1	100.0	744
	2002	10.0	88.7	1.3	100.0	851
Missing data	1999	75.0	11.1	13.9	100.0	36
	2000	66.7	16.7	16.7	100.0	6
	2001	75.0	—	25.0	100.0	4
	2002	63.6	36.4	—	100.0	11

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	3.2	1.6	1.6	1.6
Institutions	2.3	2.9	1.3	1.1
Other settings	93.5	94.2	96.1	97.0
Missing data	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,806	1,701	1,585	1,483

**Sandra Hazlett, Director Children and Family Services
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The following are Kansas' comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002: Report to Congress*:

- With regard to Section B, readers may notice that data under maltreatment types reflect that 23 percent of child victims in Kansas are due to a report type of “other.” This reported victim population of “other” is due to a maltreatment reason categorized in Kansas as “Lack of Supervision.”
- With regard to Section C (data pertaining to entrances and exits from foster care), during FFY2001 and FFY2002, Kansas had an AFCARS programming error which prevented accurate reporting of the number of children discharged from foster care (Exits) for reason of adoption. The impact of this programming error is that Kansas underreported exits from foster care for reason of adoption as reflected in Tables 3. 1 and 5. 1, as well as the total number of exits reported in Section C. Kansas has corrected this programming error. Additional information in Section C regarding median length of stay indicates that the length of stay for children in care on October 1, 2001, (15.1 months) is nearly two months less than the median length of stay for children in care one day earlier on September 30, 2001(16.9 months). At the time of this publication, Kansas is unable to determine the reason for the difference in median length of stay.
- With regard to performance on outcomes 4.1 and 6.1, Kansas does not meet national standards for timely reunification or placement stability. Kansas is addressing these outcomes in our Program Improvement Plan.

The following discussion focuses on Kansas' performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Kansas Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2001, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 1999. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Kansas' performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Kansas' rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 8.2 percent, which is more than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure declined from 1999 to 2002 (+5.1 percent change).

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

In CY 2002, Kansas' incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.61 percent, which is more than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure declined from 1999 to 2002 (+24.5 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 83.9 percent of children exiting foster care in Kansas were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 86.1 percent); 68.0 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 71.8 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care exited to a permanent home (which is about equal to the national median of 72.0 percent). These findings suggest that the State experiences challenges in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care. However, 16.9 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care, which is less than the national median of 26.9 percent.

Performance improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (-28.5 percent change). However, performance declined with regard to: (1) the percentage of children with a diagnosed disability exiting foster care to a permanent home (-9.3 percent change), and (2) the percentage of children exiting to a permanent home who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (-5.6 percent change). There was no change in performance with regard to the percentage of all children exiting foster care to permanent homes.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Kansas occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 42.3, which is less than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-15.7 percent change).

Because the cross-State analysis found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months in a State and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Kansas' performance in FY 2002 with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Kansas, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 3.8, which is considerably less than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Thus, although Kansas had a relatively low percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a low percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 51.6. However, this percentage is difficult to interpret because it is based on the number of children reported as exits from foster care to a finalized adoption. There was a substantial discrepancy between the number of finalized adoptions the State provided in its AFCARS Adoption data submission (471 finalized adoptions) and the number of exits to a finalized adoption the State provided in its AFCARS Foster Care data submission (31 children reported as exiting to a finalized adoption). This extremely large discrepancy also occurred in FYs 1999, 2000, and 2001.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 69.0, which is less than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+7.4 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 2.7, which is less than the national median of 8.6 percent. Performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-50.8 percent change).

Kentucky

[CONTEXT DATA]

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	965,528	956,590	956,596	931,588
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	N/A	0.7	0.8	0.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	8.7	8.9	9.2	9.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	1.2	1.9	2.0	2.1
White	89.2	86.3	86.2	85.9
Two or more races	N/A	1.7	1.7	1.7
Other	N/A	0.3	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	16.7	15.3	17.2	22.0

Child Welfare Summary

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	18,650	18,600	16,544	16,945
Children in foster care on 9/30	5,942	6,017	6,165	6,814
Children adopted	360	396	548	559

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	63,384	63,967	56,478	62,738	65.6 per 1,000	66.9 per 1,000	59.0 per 1,000	67.3 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	18,650	18,600	16,544	16,945	19.3 per 1,000	19.4 per 1,000	17.3 per 1,000	18.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	5	21	31	23	0.5 per 100,000	2.2 per 100,000	3.2 per 100,000	2.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	7.3	7.9	8.2	9.2
1-5 years	32.0	32.3	32.4	34.5
6-10 years	32.0	30.7	30.3	28.3
11-15 years	23.1	23.9	23.8	22.6
16+ years	5.6	5.3	5.3	5.4
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	18,650	18,600	16,544	16,945

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Black	13.9	13.0	13.1	11.9
Hispanic	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2
White	78.3	76.6	75.2	74.7
Two or more races	0.0	1.5	1.8	1.7
Unknown/Missing data	7.5	8.4	9.6	11.4
Total % ⁴	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	18,650	18,600	16,544	16,945

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	4.1	2.5	2.1	1.5
Medical neglect	0.0	—	—	—
Neglect	63.7	67.5	71.4	75.9
Physical abuse	27.6	27.2	23.9	19.6
Sexual abuse	7.7	7.8	7.0	6.6
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	0.0	—	—	—
Total % ⁵	103.2	105.0	104.4	103.6
Number	18,650	18,600	16,544	16,945

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	5,122	4,170	3,350	5,942	9,292
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	5,253	4,128	3,364	6,017	9,381
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	5,804	4,590	4,230	6,165	10,394
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	5,970	5,250	4,406	6,814	11,220

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	13.4	N/A	5.1	15.5	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	16.9	N/A	5.4	16.6	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	18.3	N/A	5.3	16.5	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	16.9	N/A	6.3	13.7	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	4.0	3.9	3.5	4.0	11.8	10.7	11.6	10.9	6.0	5.3	5.5	5.2	4.2	3.6	4.1	3.9
1-5 years	23.6	22.2	21.5	21.6	24.7	24.8	24.8	26.4	26.5	25.9	26.0	26.9	22.5	22.2	21.3	22.8
6-10 years	24.2	23.9	22.3	20.8	22.5	21.0	21.0	18.7	21.6	22.1	21.8	20.2	24.2	22.6	20.6	18.9
11-15 years	29.9	31.0	31.0	31.0	29.5	31.4	29.3	29.9	22.1	23.9	23.4	24.1	31.0	31.4	31.0	30.6
16-18 years	16.9	17.6	19.9	20.2	11.4	12.1	13.3	14.0	21.7	21.1	21.7	21.1	16.8	18.6	20.5	21.1
19+ years	1.3	1.4	1.7	2.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	1.8	1.1	1.3	2.3	1.3	1.6	2.4	2.5
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	—	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.1	—	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,122	5,253	5,804	5,970	4,170	4,128	4,590	5,250	3,350	3,364	4,230	4,406	5,942	6,017	6,165	6,814

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
Asian	N/A	0.1	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.1	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	24.4	23.9	21.5	19.7	17.6	14.7	15.4	14.3	17.2	18.2	17.3	15.5	23.6	20.8	19.8	18.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	—	0.0	N/A	0.0	—	—	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.7
White	69.0	69.0	71.5	73.0	74.2	76.4	76.8	74.0	74.9	72.8	75.2	74.8	69.3	72.0	72.9	72.6
Two or more races	N/A	2.8	3.9	3.6	N/A	2.7	2.6	2.1	N/A	1.5	3.0	2.4	N/A	3.5	3.5	3.2
Unknown/Missing data	3.9	3.4	2.1	2.7	5.3	5.0	4.6	8.7	6.8	6.6	3.9	6.4	3.3	2.7	2.8	4.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,122	5,253	5,804	5,970	4,170	4,128	4,590	5,250	3,350	3,364	4,230	4,406	5,942	6,017	6,165	6,814

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	1,789	2,018	1,932	1,932
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	196	121	76	34

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	2.3	1.7	1.8	1.7
1-5 years	31.7	27.8	25.5	24.8
6-10 years	36.1	34.6	31.3	28.9
11-15 years	26.5	31.3	35.7	37.8
16+ years	3.1	4.3	5.6	6.5
Unknown/Missing data	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,789	2,018	1,932	1,932

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2
Asian	N/A	—	—	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	28.5	24.4	21.9	18.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	0.2	0.9	1.1	0.8
White	64.6	68.2	71.0	73.3
Two or more races	N/A	4.1	4.0	4.5
Unknown/Missing data	6.6	2.4	1.9	2.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,789	2,018	1,932	1,932

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.7	1.5	0.7	0.9
1-5 years	41.4	45.5	39.2	36.9
6-10 years	36.7	32.6	36.5	34.9
11-15 years	18.1	16.9	20.1	24.3
16+ years	2.2	3.5	3.5	3.0
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	360	396	548	559

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.3	—	—
Asian	N/A	0.5	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	28.1	36.6	35.2	29.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	—	1.8	3.3	3.2
White	59.4	57.8	60.8	65.3
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	12.5	3.0	0.7	2.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	360	396	548	559

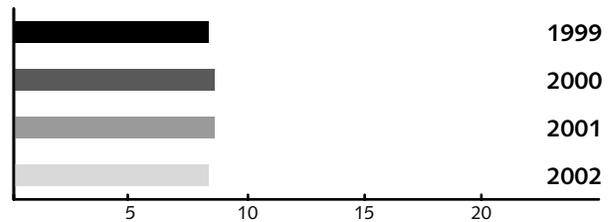
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	91.7	91.4	91.4	91.7
Children with one or more recurrences	8.3	8.6	8.6	8.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,245	7,994	8,345	6,628

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

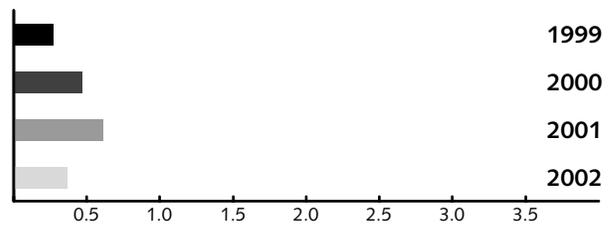


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.27	0.47	0.61	0.37
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.73	99.53	99.39	99.63
Total %	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	8,516	8,575	9,444	10,254

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

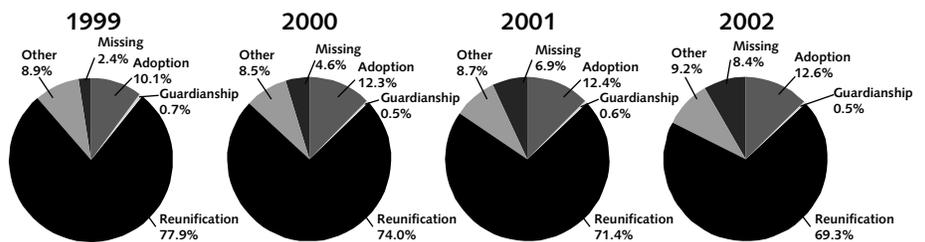


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	10.1	12.3	12.4	12.6
Guardianship	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.5
Reunification	77.9	74.0	71.4	69.3
Other	8.9	8.5	8.7	9.2
Missing data	2.4	4.6	6.9	8.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,350	3,364	4,230	4,406

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	24.4	25.6	23.8	13.1
Guardianship	2.4	—	3.8	6.0
Reunification	51.2	43.6	47.5	59.5
Other	19.5	28.2	17.5	14.3
Missing data	2.4	2.6	7.5	7.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	41	39	80	84

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.8	1.0	0.6	0.5
Guardianship	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.8
Reunification	72.1	72.0	69.6	69.4
Other	21.5	20.2	21.9	22.4
Missing data	4.9	5.8	7.2	7.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,179	1,168	1,413	1,454

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	11.7	13.8	12.2	18.7
Children older than 12 at entry	88.3	86.2	87.1	81.3
Missing data	—	—	0.7	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	222	232	303	353

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

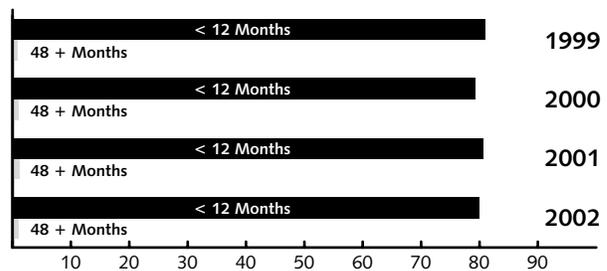
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	12.5	10.0	33.3	—	N/A	—	—	—	10.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.0	22.3	19.5	19.9	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.4	0.2	0.5	1.0	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	62.5	90.0	66.7	—	N/A	87.5	75.0	100.0	50.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	73.4	62.8	60.1	57.5	N/A	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	N/A	12.5	25.0	—	40.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.7	8.0	9.9	12.6	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	25.0	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.6	6.7	10.0	9.1	N/A	100.0	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	—	—
Number	8	10	3	—	N/A	8	4	2	10	N/A	N/A	N/A	575	611	730	684	N/A	1	—	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	16.7	10.0	37.1	8.8	9.8	10.7	11.1	12.3	8.1	7.9	4.6	9.1	33.3	19.5	28.0	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	5.0	—	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.4	—	1.8	0.7	N/A	—	0.8	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	80.0	83.3	75.0	60.0	79.0	76.6	73.3	71.0	78.4	79.4	83.5	82.7	81.8	58.8	70.3	60.7	—	—	—	—
Other	20.0	—	10.0	2.9	8.9	8.7	9.0	9.0	7.5	9.4	4.9	3.9	N/A	3.9	0.8	7.5	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	2.6	4.2	6.4	8.5	1.3	3.1	1.8	8.1	9.1	3.9	8.6	3.7	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Number	10	12	20	35	2,509	2,448	3,181	3,294	227	223	164	284	11	51	128	107	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

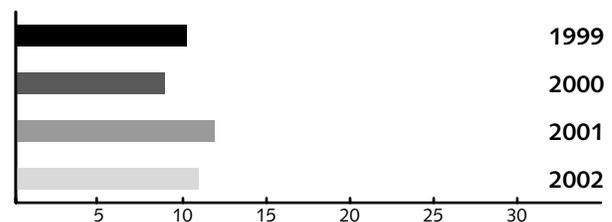
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	81.1	79.3	80.6	79.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.7	13.3	12.2	13.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	4.7	3.9	4.3	3.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.9
48 or more mos.	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.1
Missing data	0.4	0.8	0.3	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,610	2,491	3,019	3,054

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	87.6	87.5	80.8	80.8
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	10.2	8.9	11.9	10.9
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	2.0	3.6	6.9	7.8
Missing data	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,170	4,128	4,590	5,250

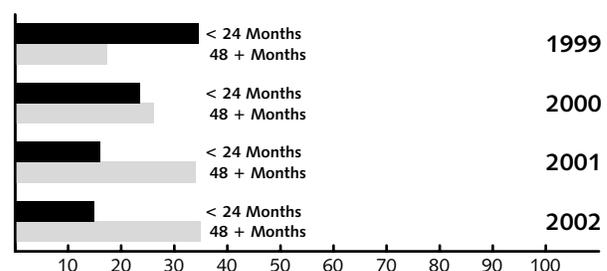
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	9.7	5.6	1.9	3.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	24.8	18.1	14.3	11.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	26.5	27.5	26.3	23.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	21.5	22.5	23.5	26.8
48 or more mos.	17.4	26.3	34.0	35.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	339	414	524	557

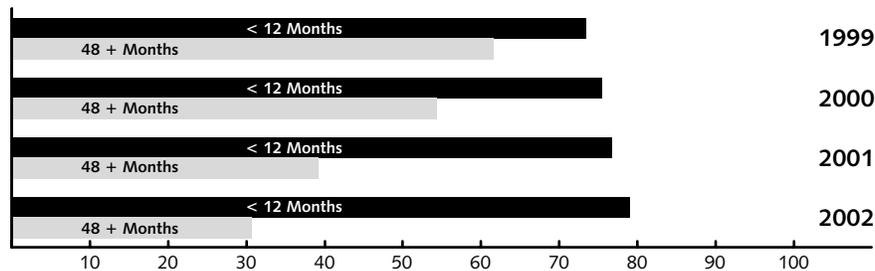
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	73.5	26.5	—	100.0	4,799
	2000	75.5	24.5	—	100.0	4,667
	2001	76.7	23.3	—	100.0	5,265
	2002	79.0	21.0	—	100.0	5,924
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	50.2	49.8	—	100.0	1,888
	2000	49.7	50.3	—	100.0	1,681
	2001	45.2	54.8	—	100.0	1,742
	2002	53.8	46.2	—	100.0	1,917
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	47.6	52.4	—	100.0	1,287
	2000	39.0	61.0	—	100.0	1,209
	2001	38.3	61.7	—	100.0	1,142
	2002	36.6	63.4	—	100.0	1,074
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	52.7	47.3	—	100.0	601
	2000	38.8	61.2	—	100.0	886
	2001	27.9	72.1	—	100.0	877
	2002	33.3	66.7	—	100.0	744
48 or more mos.	1999	61.6	38.4	—	100.0	690
	2000	54.3	45.7	—	100.0	915
	2001	39.2	60.8	—	100.0	1,353
	2002	30.7	69.3	—	100.0	1,524
Missing data	1999	81.5	18.5	—	100.0	27
	2000	91.3	8.7	—	100.0	23
	2001	100.0	—	—	100.0	15
	2002	89.2	10.8	—	100.0	37

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	—	—	0.0	0.0
Institutions	17.3	15.3	10.7	10.6
Other settings	82.7	84.7	89.2	89.3
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,782	2,681	2,989	3,308

Mike Robinson, Commissioner
Kentucky Department for Community Based Services
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
502-564-3703

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

- The Children's Bureau noted as a data issue for review that as of 9/30/02 data, parental rights had been terminated for only 2% of the 1,932 children waiting to be adopted in Kentucky (Section D). Due to data entry and functionality limitations in Kentucky's child welfare data system, The Worker Information SysTem (TWIST), the data captured in Section D of the report are not an accurate account of the State's efforts toward permanency for children. Recognizing these issues, this State agency added a new functionality to the data system in June 2003. However, the new functionality was not consistently applied until November 2003. Thus, DCBS hypothesizes that child welfare outcome data for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2003 will also show a low percentage of children available for adoption whose parental rights have been terminated. We anticipate that the implementation of the new functionality and Kentucky's Program Improvement Plan should result in an increase in that percentage for FFY 2004.
- In Section C of the report, the number of children in foster care, particularly on 9/30, reflects any child who is in the custody of the State agency and receiving services. Thus, the figures include children who may be in their home for State supportive services, such as mental health treatment and/or reunification services.

The following discussion focuses on Kentucky's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Kentucky Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2003, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2001. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Kentucky's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2001*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Kentucky's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 8.3 percent, which is more than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure exhibited no change from 1999 to 2002.

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

In CY 2002, Kentucky's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.37 percent, which is less than the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). However, performance on this measure declined from 1999 to 2002 (+37.0 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 82.4 percent of children exiting foster care in Kentucky were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 86.1 percent); 78.6 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 70.6 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent). These findings suggest that the State experiences challenges in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care. However, 18.7 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is less the national median of 26.9 percent.

Kentucky's performance declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with respect to: (1) the percentage of children exiting foster care who were discharged to permanent homes (-7.1 percent change), and (2) the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 and younger when they entered foster care (+59.6 percent change). Performance on the other measures for outcome 3 did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Kentucky occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 79.9, which is more than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

Because the cross-State analysis found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months in a State and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Kentucky's performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months in FY 2002 must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Kentucky, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 10.9, which is more than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Thus, although Kentucky had a relatively high percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. Kentucky's performance with regard to the measure of re-entry into foster care declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+7.3 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 14.9, which is less than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Kentucky's performance on this measure declined from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (-37.0 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 79.0, which is less than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). However, performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+7.5 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 10.7, which is more than the national median of 8.6 percent. Performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-38.3 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	1,190,001	1,201,185	1,201,111	1,185,674
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6
Asian	N/A	1.2	1.2	1.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	39.4	39.7	39.7	39.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	2.9	2.5	2.6	2.6
White	55.8	54.6	54.6	54.3
Two or more races	N/A	1.2	1.3	1.3
Other	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	26.6	23.7	23.1	26.0

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	12,614	10,618	11,158	10,971
Children in foster care on 9/30	5,581	5,406	5,024	4,829
Children adopted	356	476	470	487

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	46,230	36,355	38,085	37,825	38.8 per 1,000	30.3 per 1,000	31.7 per 1,000	31.9 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	12,614	10,618	11,158	10,971	10.6 per 1,000	8.8 per 1,000	9.3 per 1,000	9.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	21	30	33	37	1.8 per 100,000	2.5 per 100,000	2.8 per 100,000	3.1 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	7.8	8.2	8.5	8.9
1-5 years	29.6	30.4	30.8	31.5
6-10 years	29.8	31.7	30.4	29.4
11-15 years	25.7	25.0	25.3	25.1
16+ years	7.0	4.7	4.9	5.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.2	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	12,614	10,618	11,158	10,971

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4
Black	51.9	51.1	49.6	47.8
Hispanic	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.9
White	46.6	46.1	48.0	49.0
Two or more races	0.0	0.6	0.4	0.6
Unknown/Missing data	0.9	0.8	0.7	1.0
Total % ⁴	100.8	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	12,614	10,618	11,158	10,971

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	4.2	4.3	4.2	3.7
Medical neglect	0.0	—	—	—
Neglect	68.1	76.5	76.7	75.8
Physical abuse	20.9	23.0	22.4	22.1
Sexual abuse	6.5	6.7	7.8	7.5
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Total % ⁵	100.0	110.8	111.1	109.1
Number	12,614	10,618	11,158	10,971

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	5,523	2,912	2,854	5,581	8,435
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	5,395	3,157	3,146	5,406	8,552
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	5,194	3,014	3,184	5,024	8,208
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	4,851	2,974	2,996	4,829	7,825

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	22.9	N/A	13.5	19.5	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	19.8	N/A	11.8	16.3	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	17.1	N/A	11.7	15.3	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	15.9	N/A	11.5	15.4	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	2.8	2.4	2.7	2.8	9.2	9.8	10.0	11.3	2.5	2.8	2.9	3.2	2.4	2.7	2.7	3.8
1-5 years	22.2	21.1	20.8	21.4	22.8	22.5	23.3	24.1	24.2	22.4	22.3	22.1	21.0	20.7	21.3	23.2
6-10 years	26.7	24.5	24.3	23.1	20.6	20.7	19.1	17.6	23.5	19.9	20.5	18.7	24.4	24.0	22.8	20.6
11-15 years	34.9	36.0	35.8	36.3	37.9	38.1	38.6	36.6	26.1	28.6	29.3	30.1	36.5	36.3	36.8	35.9
16-18 years	13.4	15.9	16.4	16.3	9.4	8.9	9.1	10.6	23.7	26.2	24.9	25.9	15.7	16.4	16.4	16.5
19+ years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,523	5,395	5,194	4,851	2,912	3,157	3,014	2,974	2,854	3,146	3,184	2,996	5,581	5,406	5,024	4,829

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.4
Asian	N/A	0.3	0.3	0.4	N/A	0.2	0.4	0.5	N/A	0.3	0.3	0.5	N/A	0.2	0.3	0.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	64.6	62.9	61.7	60.4	59.7	57.2	58.1	54.4	61.7	58.9	59.9	58.9	63.5	61.9	60.7	57.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	0.1	—	N/A	—	0.0	—	N/A	—	0.0	—
Hispanic	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.6	1.0	1.3	0.8	1.3	1.2	1.3	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.8
White	33.7	34.0	35.4	36.8	38.2	39.8	39.0	42.3	36.4	37.8	37.1	37.7	34.7	35.2	36.5	39.7
Two or more races	N/A	1.4	1.2	1.1	N/A	0.7	0.4	0.4	N/A	1.1	0.7	0.7	N/A	1.2	1.0	0.8
Unknown/Missing data	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,523	5,395	5,194	4,851	2,912	3,157	3,014	2,974	2,854	3,146	3,184	2,996	5,581	5,406	5,024	4,829

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	1,477	1,542	1,441	1,472
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	375	514	553	939

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.2	1.0	1.4	1.4
1-5 years	28.4	26.7	25.4	26.6
6-10 years	39.3	35.9	34.4	30.2
11-15 years	29.1	32.3	33.1	35.0
16+ years	2.1	4.0	5.7	6.8
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,477	1,542	1,441	1,472

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1
Asian	N/A	—	0.3	0.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	62.5	60.4	58.8	59.6
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	0.5	0.6	1.0	1.0
White	35.8	36.6	37.7	36.9
Two or more races	N/A	1.7	2.0	1.5
Unknown/Missing data	0.9	0.3	0.1	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,477	1,542	1,441	1,472

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.4	0.6	0.2	1.0
1-5 years	37.1	35.1	37.7	41.1
6-10 years	44.7	40.8	41.3	37.0
11-15 years	14.9	21.8	17.4	17.7
16+ years	2.0	1.7	3.4	3.3
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	356	476	470	487

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.2
Asian	N/A	—	—	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	64.3	59.9	58.1	50.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	0.3	1.3	0.4	1.2
White	34.0	36.8	38.9	45.8
Two or more races	N/A	1.5	1.7	2.5
Unknown/Missing data	0.6	0.2	0.2	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	356	476	470	487

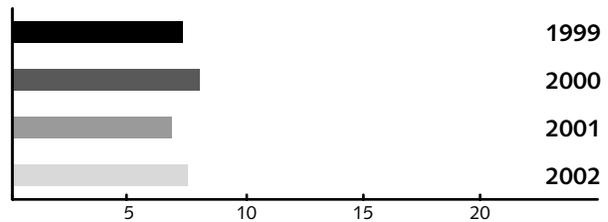
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	92.7	92.0	93.2	92.5
Children with one or more recurrences	7.3	8.0	6.8	7.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,489	5,021	4,670	4,938

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

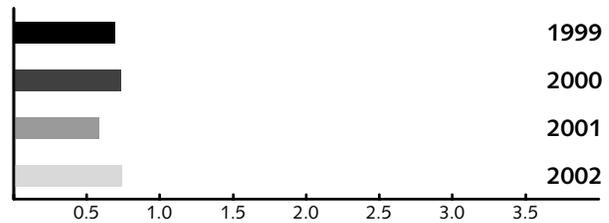


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.69	0.73	0.58	0.74
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.31	99.27	99.42	99.26
Total %	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	7,793	7,847	7,351	7,055

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

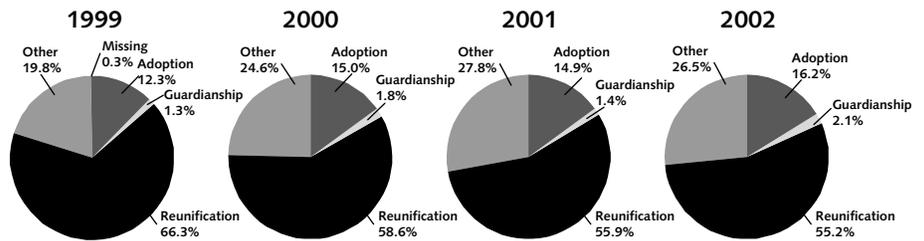


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	12.3	15.0	14.9	16.2
Guardianship	1.3	1.8	1.4	2.1
Reunification	66.3	58.6	55.9	55.2
Other	19.8	24.6	27.8	26.5
Missing data	0.3	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,854	3,146	3,184	2,996

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	16.7	12.6	13.2	19.9
Guardianship	1.0	0.9	—	1.4
Reunification	43.1	42.4	40.1	33.5
Other	39.1	44.1	46.7	45.3
Missing data	0.2	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	599	762	713	654

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.7
Guardianship	1.1	1.4	0.6	1.4
Reunification	52.6	46.6	41.0	44.4
Other	45.2	51.8	57.8	53.5
Missing data	1.0	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	812	1,101	1,128	1,095

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	50.2	49.3	51.1	49.1
Children older than 12 at entry	49.8	50.7	48.9	50.9
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	315	298	311	291

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

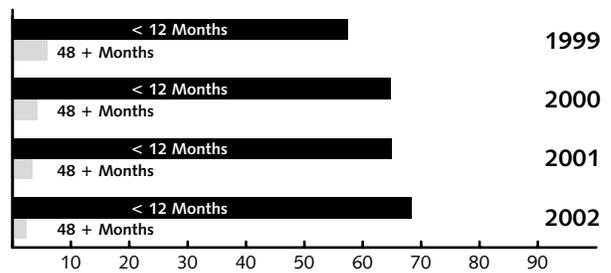
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	27.3	25.0	30.0	16.7	N/A	—	—	6.7	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.7	15.1	14.4	13.7	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.0	1.4	1.2	1.8	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	45.5	75.0	60.0	50.0	N/A	70.0	87.5	86.7	62.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	65.1	56.0	54.8	55.4	N/A	—	100.0	—
Other	27.3	—	10.0	33.3	N/A	30.0	12.5	6.7	37.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	20.9	27.5	29.6	29.0	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	100.0	—
Number	11	8	10	6	N/A	10	8	15	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,761	1,853	1,908	1,766	N/A	—	3	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	4.5	14.6	5.1	15.0	11.6	14.8	15.7	19.8	15.4	9.1	8.3	—	N/A	20.6	36.4	54.5	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	4.5	—	—	2.5	1.8	2.5	1.8	2.7	—	—	16.7	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	72.7	65.9	71.8	65.0	68.4	61.9	56.8	53.8	69.2	72.7	50.0	94.4	N/A	64.7	63.6	36.4	—	—	—	—
Other	18.2	19.5	23.1	17.5	17.9	20.8	25.8	23.8	15.4	18.2	25.0	5.6	N/A	14.7	—	9.1	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Number	22	41	39	40	1,039	1,189	1,182	1,129	13	11	12	18	N/A	34	22	22	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

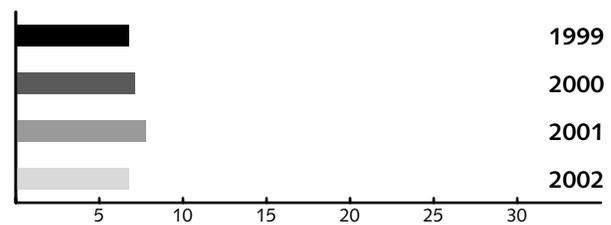
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	57.5	64.8	65.0	68.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	24.4	20.9	23.9	23.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	8.4	7.1	5.9	5.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.6	2.6	1.6	1.0
48 or more mos.	6.0	4.3	3.4	2.4
Missing data	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,893	1,843	1,781	1,653

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	85.0	84.4	83.0	83.8
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	6.8	7.1	7.8	6.8
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.2	8.5	9.2	9.4
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,912	3,157	3,014	2,974

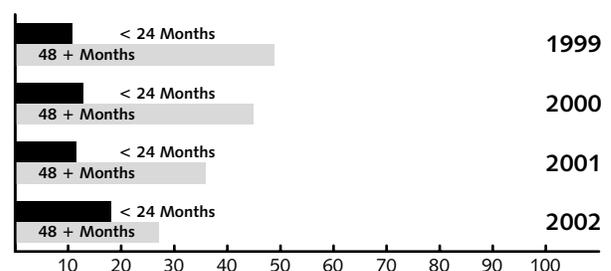
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	3.4	1.5	1.1	2.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	7.4	11.4	10.6	15.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	19.1	21.8	28.3	30.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	21.1	20.3	24.1	23.7
48 or more mos.	48.9	44.9	35.9	27.2
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	350	472	473	485

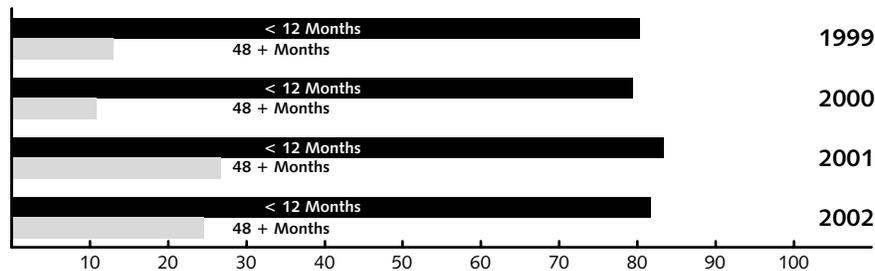
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	80.3	18.7	1.0	100.0	3,394
	2000	79.4	19.3	1.4	100.0	3,849
	2001	83.3	15.3	1.4	100.0	3,784
	2002	81.7	16.2	2.0	100.0	3,682
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	50.1	49.8	0.1	100.0	1,585
	2000	49.7	49.8	0.5	100.0	1,510
	2001	56.7	42.6	0.6	100.0	1,588
	2002	56.2	43.4	0.4	100.0	1,549
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	30.8	69.0	0.1	100.0	898
	2000	30.4	69.5	0.1	100.0	862
	2001	48.1	51.5	0.4	100.0	757
	2002	45.4	54.6	—	100.0	800
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	20.1	79.5	0.5	100.0	648
	2000	22.3	77.7	—	100.0	561
	2001	42.2	57.8	—	100.0	521
	2002	48.0	52.0	—	100.0	435
48 or more mos.	1999	13.0	86.9	0.0	100.0	1,888
	2000	10.8	89.1	0.0	100.0	1,762
	2001	26.7	73.2	0.0	100.0	1,554
	2002	24.6	75.3	0.0	100.0	1,351
Missing data	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	22
	2000	87.5	—	12.5	100.0	8
	2001	50.0	—	50.0	100.0	4
	2002	75.0	—	25.0	100.0	8

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	2.1	2.1	1.5	2.2
Institutions	5.6	6.3	6.2	5.1
Other settings	92.3	91.7	92.3	92.7
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,762	1,901	1,801	1,759

Louisiana

[STATE COMMENT]

The following discussion focuses on Louisiana's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Louisiana Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2003, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2001. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Louisiana's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2001*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Louisiana's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 7.5 percent, which does not meet the national standard (6.1 percent or less), but is equal to the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure exhibited no change from 1999 to 2002.

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

In CY 2002, Louisiana's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.74 percent, which is more than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure declined slightly from 1999 to 2002 (+6.79 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 73.5 percent of children exiting foster care in Louisiana were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 86.1 percent); 54.7 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 46.5 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 49.1 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care, which is more than the national median of 26.9 percent. These findings suggest that the State experiences considerable challenges in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care.

Louisiana's performance declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to: (1) the percentage of all children exiting foster care to a permanent home (-8.0 percent change); (2) the percentage of children with a diagnosed disability exiting foster care to a permanent home (-9.9 percent change); and (3) the percentage of children exiting to a permanent home who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (-13.6 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Louisiana occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 68.3, which does not meet the national standard (76.2 percent or more), but is about equal to the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+18.8 percent change).

Because the cross-State analysis found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Louisiana's performance in FY 2002 with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Louisiana, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 6.8, which is less than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Thus, although Louisiana had a relatively low percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively low percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 18.1, which is less than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Louisiana's performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+40.4 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 81.7, which is less than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 7.3, which is less than the national median of 8.6 percent. Performance on this measure improved slightly from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-5.0 percent change).

Maine

[CONTEXT DATA]

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	290,439	290,212	286,097	279,058
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7
Asian	N/A	0.9	1.0	1.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.2
White	96.9	94.6	94.4	94.4
Two or more races	N/A	1.7	1.7	1.7
Other	N/A	0.1	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	17.5	8.9	12.4	18.3

Child Welfare Summary

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	4,154	4,779	4,355	3,746
Children in foster care on 9/30	3,154	3,191	3,226	3,084
Children adopted	202	379	364	311

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	9,877	9,687	9,163	8,121	34.0 per 1,000	33.4 per 1,000	32.0 per 1,000	29.1 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	4,154	4,779	4,355	3,746	14.3 per 1,000	16.5 per 1,000	15.2 per 1,000	13.4 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	2	0	0	1.0 per 100,000	0.7 per 100,000	0.0 per 100,000	0.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	9.8	9.3	10.4	11.6
1-5 years	31.3	30.6	31.8	34.4
6-10 years	31.8	31.0	30.7	29.2
11-15 years	23.6	23.1	24.1	21.5
16+ years	3.3	3.6	3.0	3.4
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	2.4	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,154	4,779	4,355	3,746

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.3
Black	0.6	0.9	0.7	1.3
Hispanic	0.0	1.2	0.8	0.7
White	97.4	44.0	43.4	47.9
Two or more races	0.0	0.6	0.8	0.8
Unknown/Missing data	1.3	52.4	53.3	48.2
Total % ⁴	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,154	4,779	4,355	3,746

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	54.5	54.5	54.1	55.0
Medical neglect	0.0	—	—	—
Neglect	59.1	62.0	62.3	66.1
Physical abuse	34.4	30.3	27.0	28.3
Sexual abuse	21.5	20.4	20.3	16.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	0.0	—	—	—
Total % ⁵	169.5	167.2	163.7	166.3
Number	4,154	4,779	4,355	3,746

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	2,675	1,014	535	3,154	3,689
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	2,860	1,052	721	3,191	3,912
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	2,894	1,047	715	3,226	3,941
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	2,974	850	740	3,084	3,824

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	27.8	N/A	19.5	27.0	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	27.9	N/A	31.7	24.9	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	25.7	N/A	31.2	23.6	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	23.6	N/A	26.6	26.1	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	3.7	3.4	3.7	3.9	17.2	19.6	18.9	19.5	4.9	4.0	4.9	3.1	3.6	4.2	4.1	3.9
1-5 years	20.6	20.8	20.2	20.1	28.4	25.6	27.3	24.0	28.8	30.5	33.1	27.0	21.1	21.1	20.6	20.9
6-10 years	27.2	26.6	24.0	21.8	22.9	23.3	20.3	23.2	24.5	24.5	22.1	21.1	26.3	23.9	21.6	20.2
11-15 years	31.0	30.3	32.4	33.3	27.0	26.6	26.7	27.4	16.8	18.0	14.0	16.4	30.1	30.8	32.1	32.5
16-18 years	15.6	16.6	17.0	18.0	4.3	4.8	6.5	5.8	19.4	16.5	17.8	24.1	16.7	17.2	18.1	19.1
19+ years	1.8	2.2	2.7	3.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	5.4	5.1	6.6	8.4	2.1	2.8	3.4	3.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	—	—	0.0	0.1	—	—	—	0.2	1.2	1.5	—	0.1	—	0.1	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,675	2,860	2,894	2,974	1,014	1,052	1,047	850	535	721	715	740	3,154	3,191	3,226	3,084

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.4	1.9	1.8	2.6	1.8	2.5	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2
Asian	N/A	0.5	0.6	0.4	N/A	0.8	—	0.2	N/A	0.4	0.6	0.1	N/A	0.6	0.4	0.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	2.1	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.0	1.4	2.3	2.2	1.9	1.1	2.8	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.3	—	N/A	—	0.1	—	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.8	1.4	2.1	2.4	1.2	0.9	1.5	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.2	2.5
White	91.0	85.3	78.9	76.0	63.3	60.7	60.3	63.6	78.7	84.0	70.2	74.2	84.2	77.5	74.8	73.1
Two or more races	N/A	0.4	1.1	1.6	N/A	1.2	1.4	2.2	N/A	0.8	1.0	0.9	N/A	0.6	1.2	1.9
Unknown/Missing data	2.7	8.4	14.2	16.1	32.9	32.2	31.4	28.7	15.9	10.3	20.8	19.6	10.2	15.8	18.3	18.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,675	2,860	2,894	2,974	1,014	1,052	1,047	850	535	721	715	740	3,154	3,191	3,226	3,084

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	1,098	1,101	1,008	984
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	688	735	713	705

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	3.2	4.0	2.7	3.2
1-5 years	33.5	32.2	30.0	31.7
6-10 years	43.2	38.4	36.2	30.6
11-15 years	17.9	23.3	28.1	30.8
16+ years	2.2	1.9	2.0	2.8
Unknown/Missing data	—	0.1	1.1	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,098	1,101	1,008	984

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.5	2.0	1.6	1.0
Asian	N/A	0.3	0.3	0.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	2.7	2.2	1.6	2.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	1.4	2.5	2.5	3.3
White	89.8	83.1	77.9	75.7
Two or more races	N/A	0.8	1.3	1.6
Unknown/Missing data	4.5	9.2	14.9	15.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,098	1,101	1,008	984

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	0.5	0.3	2.5	0.3
1-5 years	37.1	45.4	45.9	45.7
6-10 years	47.5	39.8	34.3	31.8
11-15 years	13.4	14.0	14.6	20.9
16+ years	1.5	0.5	2.7	1.3
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	202	379	364	311

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	4.5	2.1	1.4	3.2
Asian	N/A	—	0.5	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	2.0	2.4	2.5	1.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	1.0	0.8	0.5	1.9
White	92.1	90.5	86.5	77.2
Two or more races	N/A	0.8	1.4	1.0
Unknown/Missing data	0.5	3.4	7.1	15.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	202	379	364	311

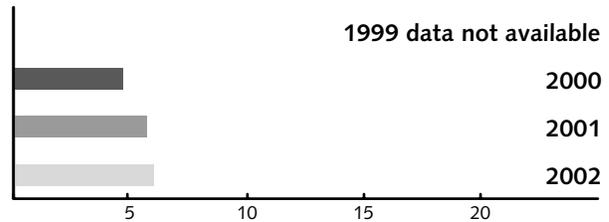
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	95.3	94.3	94.0
Children with one or more recurrences	—	4.7	5.7	6.0
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	2,107	2,280	1,778

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

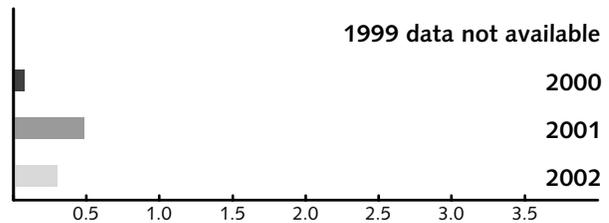


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	0.08	0.48	0.30
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	99.92	99.52	99.70
Total %	—	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	—	3,767	3,724	3,620

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

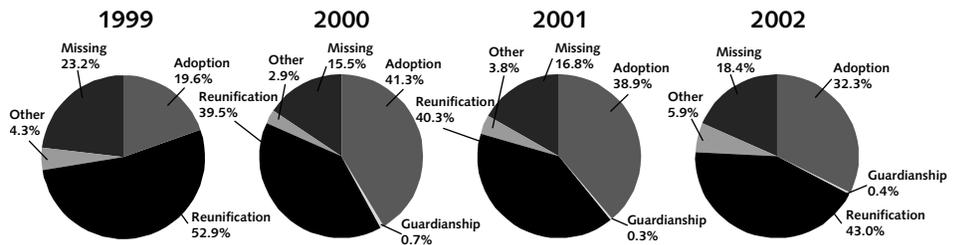


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	19.6	41.3	38.9	32.3
Guardianship	—	0.7	0.3	0.4
Reunification	52.9	39.5	40.3	43.0
Other	4.3	2.9	3.8	5.9
Missing data	23.2	15.5	16.8	18.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	535	721	715	740

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	46.2	52.4	37.8	50.0
Guardianship	—	14.3	2.7	—
Reunification	15.4	14.3	16.2	20.0
Other	15.4	—	13.5	6.7
Missing data	23.1	19.0	29.7	23.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	13	21	37	30

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	0.8	1.2
Guardianship	—	—	0.8	0.6
Reunification	52.5	47.3	39.4	42.8
Other	11.7	8.2	12.1	13.3
Missing data	35.8	44.5	47.0	42.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	120	146	132	173

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	36.8	26.7	33.3	39.4
Children older than 12 at entry	63.2	73.3	66.7	60.6
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	19	15	24	33

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	28.6	38.5	22.2	54.5	N/A	—	25.0	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	30.0	62.5	50.0	36.4	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	9.1	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	50.0	30.8	66.7	27.3	N/A	66.7	25.0	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	20.0	25.0	45.0	36.4	N/A	—	100.0	—
Other	7.1	23.1	—	—	N/A	—	25.0	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	14.3	7.7	11.1	18.2	N/A	33.3	25.0	100.0	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	50.0	12.5	5.0	18.2	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	100.0	—
Number	14	13	18	11	N/A	3	4	1	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	8	20	11	N/A	—	1	—

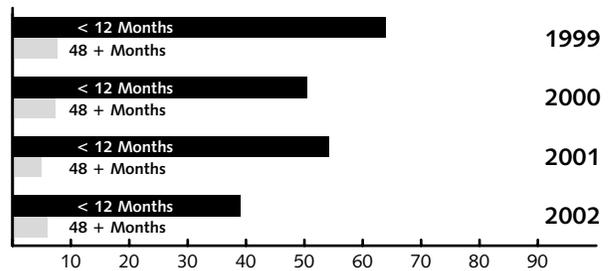
	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	20.0	27.3	21.4	31.3	22.8	45.2	46.4	32.8	1.2	11.0	14.8	28.3	N/A	50.0	71.4	42.9	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	0.8	0.4	0.2	—	—	—	0.7	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	40.0	45.5	42.9	43.8	47.5	34.3	28.9	39.5	84.7	82.2	75.8	57.2	N/A	50.0	14.3	57.1	—	100.0	—	—
Other	20.0	—	—	12.5	5.0	2.6	4.8	6.9	—	2.7	1.3	2.8	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	20.0	27.3	35.7	12.5	24.7	17.0	19.5	20.6	14.1	4.1	8.1	11.0	N/A	—	14.3	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	—	—
Number	5	11	14	16	421	606	502	549	85	73	149	145	N/A	6	7	7	—	1	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	64.0	50.5	54.2	39.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.8	21.1	26.4	37.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	7.1	14.7	10.4	11.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	7.4	6.0	3.5	6.0
48 or more mos.	7.8	7.4	4.9	6.0
Missing data	—	0.4	0.7	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	283	285	288	318

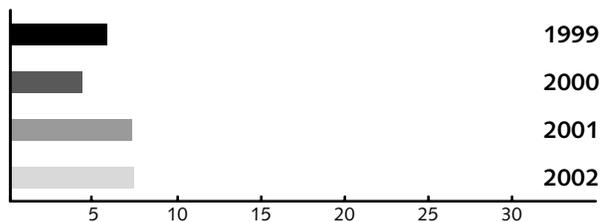
Percent Reunification in < 12 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	91.3	93.1	89.3	88.5
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	5.8	4.3	7.3	7.4
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	1.9	2.4	3.1	3.1
Missing data	1.0	0.3	0.4	1.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,014	1,052	1,047	850

Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months

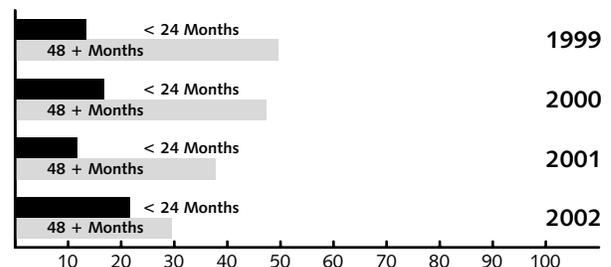


5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	2.9	1.0	3.2	1.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	10.5	15.8	8.6	20.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	19.0	19.8	24.1	31.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	18.1	16.1	26.3	16.3
48 or more mos.	49.5	47.3	37.8	29.7
Missing data	—	—	—	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	105	298	278	239

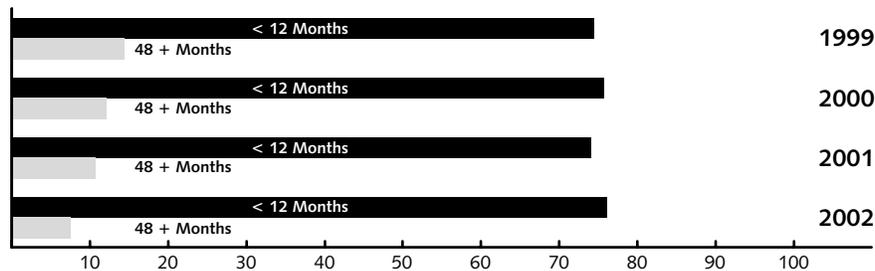
Percent Adoptions Occuring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	74.5	24.3	1.2	100.0	1,076
	2000	75.8	23.5	0.6	100.0	1,093
	2001	74.1	25.1	0.8	100.0	1,103
	2002	76.1	22.3	1.6	100.0	911
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	41.3	58.4	0.3	100.0	673
	2000	46.6	53.1	0.3	100.0	746
	2001	48.0	51.5	0.5	100.0	825
	2002	44.8	55.0	0.2	100.0	877
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	32.5	67.3	0.2	100.0	514
	2000	25.8	74.0	0.2	100.0	550
	2001	33.0	67.0	—	100.0	573
	2002	27.1	72.9	—	100.0	630
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	21.9	77.9	0.3	100.0	366
	2000	20.5	79.5	—	100.0	415
	2001	16.6	83.4	—	100.0	379
	2002	19.6	80.4	—	100.0	392
48 or more mos.	1999	14.4	85.3	0.4	100.0	1,059
	2000	12.1	87.6	0.3	100.0	1,107
	2001	10.7	89.0	0.3	100.0	1,059
	2002	7.5	92.2	0.3	100.0	1,008
Missing data	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	1
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	1
	2001	100.0	—	—	100.0	2
	2002	83.3	—	16.7	100.0	6

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	2.6	3.6	4.4	4.7
Institutions	2.4	2.2	1.6	1.9
Other settings	93.0	89.9	89.1	91.7
Missing data	2.0	4.3	4.8	1.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	760	775	746	618

Maine

[STATE COMMENT]

The following discussion focuses on Maine's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Maine Child and Family Services Review (CF SR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2003, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2001. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CF SR findings for Maine's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2001*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Maine's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 6.0 percent, which meets the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and is less than the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure exhibited no change from 2000 (the first year that the State reported data for the measure) to 2002.

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

In CY 2002, Maine's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.30 percent, which is less than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Change in performance on this measure is difficult to assess because only 3 children were reported as maltreated in foster care in 2000, and only 11 children were reported as maltreated in foster care in 2002.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 75.7 percent of children exiting foster care in Maine were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 86.1 percent); 70.0 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 44.6 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 39.4 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care, which is more than the national median of 26.9 percent. These findings suggest that the State experiences considerable challenges in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care. Change in performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002 cannot be assessed because for all measures in FY 1999, more than 20 percent of the children reported as exiting foster care in FY 1999 did not have "reason for discharge" information.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Maine occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 39.0, which is considerably less than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Change in performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002 cannot be assessed because in FY 1999, 23.2 percent of the children reported as exiting foster care did not have "reason for discharge" information.

Because the cross-State analysis found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Maine's performance in FY 2002 with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Maine, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 7.4, which is less than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Thus,

although Maine had a relatively low percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively low percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. Maine's performance with regard to the measure of foster care re-entry declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+27.4 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

Maine's performance in FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care cannot be assessed because of the discrepancy between the number of adoptions provided in the State's AFCARS Adoption data submission (311 children) and the number of exits from foster care to a finalized adoption provided in the State's AFCARS Foster Care data submission (239 children).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 76.1, which is less than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 6.6, which is less than the national median of 8.6 percent. However, performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+32.7 percent change).

Maryland

[CONTEXT DATA]

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	1,309,432	1,360,165	1,368,380	1,379,925
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Asian	N/A	3.7	3.8	3.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	31.6	31.9	31.8	31.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	4.7	5.3	5.5	5.6
White	58.9	55.9	56.2	56.0
Two or more races	N/A	2.7	2.4	2.4
Other	N/A	0.3	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	6.6	8.5	7.6	7.2

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	0	0	19,750	15,843
Children in foster care on 9/30	13,455	13,113	12,564	12,026
Children adopted	593	549	815	938

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	0	0	19,750	37,177	0.0 per 1,000	0.0 per 1,000	14.4 per 1,000	26.9 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	0	0	19,750	15,843	0.0 per 1,000	0.0 per 1,000	14.4 per 1,000	11.5 per 1,000
Child fatalities	0	—	27	—	0.0 per 100,000	— per 100,000	2.0 per 100,000	— per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	0.0	—	5.1	6.3
1-5 years	0.0	—	26.9	27.0
6-10 years	0.0	—	30.6	29.5
11-15 years	0.0	—	26.7	27.6
16+ years	0.0	—	10.7	7.8
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	1.8
Total %	0.0	—	100.0	100.0
Number	0	0	19,750	15,843

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	—	0.1	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0	—	1.0	0.7
Black	0.0	—	55.0	50.4
Hispanic	0.0	—	3.2	4.0
White	0.0	—	38.7	39.4
Two or more races	0.0	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	2.0	5.5
Total % ⁴	0.0	—	100.0	100.0
Number	0	0	19,750	15,843

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	0.0	—	0.3	0.2
Medical neglect	0.0	—	—	—
Neglect	0.0	—	56.8	55.8
Physical abuse	0.0	—	31.3	32.4
Sexual abuse	0.0	—	12.5	14.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	0.0	—	—	—
Total % ⁵	0.0	—	100.9	102.5
Number	0	0	19,750	15,843

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	12,452	3,936	2,933	13,455	16,388
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	12,295	3,928	3,110	13,113	16,223
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	11,966	3,662	3,064	12,564	15,628
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	11,848	3,563	3,445	12,026	15,411

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	28.8	N/A	16.7	31.9	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	31.7	N/A	17.5	33.6	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	33.4	N/A	18.8	34.6	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	34.4	N/A	22.0	34.0	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	2.8	3.0	3.1	3.0	16.9	17.5	17.9	18.4	5.0	5.8	6.9	5.3	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.6
1-5 years	21.8	20.1	19.7	19.2	26.4	26.0	24.2	23.8	27.3	24.8	25.6	26.4	20.2	20.3	19.4	18.7
6-10 years	30.1	28.5	26.3	23.3	24.4	24.3	21.8	21.3	28.8	27.1	25.3	22.7	28.3	26.1	23.2	20.8
11-15 years	29.2	30.3	31.6	32.2	26.2	25.8	28.7	29.0	21.8	23.0	23.1	23.0	29.3	30.2	31.4	32.5
16-18 years	14.0	15.9	16.6	18.3	6.0	6.3	7.3	7.4	13.7	16.0	15.0	15.5	15.4	16.1	18.0	18.5
19+ years	2.1	2.3	2.8	4.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	3.3	3.3	4.1	6.3	3.7	4.3	4.9	5.8
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0	—	—	—	0.9	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	12,452	12,295	11,966	11,848	3,936	3,928	3,662	3,563	2,933	3,110	3,064	3,445	13,455	13,113	12,564	12,026

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian	N/A	0.3	0.2	0.2	N/A	0.4	0.4	0.3	N/A	0.5	0.3	0.2	N/A	0.3	0.3	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	79.4	78.6	78.5	78.1	68.7	68.7	67.8	62.6	70.8	68.2	68.8	68.3	78.1	78.1	77.7	76.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	—	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.8	2.3	2.2	2.8	2.0	1.7	2.3	2.0	0.9	1.3	1.3	1.5
White	18.2	18.7	18.5	18.7	26.4	26.2	26.7	31.0	24.2	27.7	26.0	26.9	19.3	18.8	19.0	20.0
Two or more races	N/A	0.5	0.7	0.9	N/A	1.2	1.7	1.2	N/A	0.7	1.3	1.5	N/A	0.6	0.9	0.8
Unknown/Missing data	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.6	2.6	1.1	1.0	2.0	2.4	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	12,452	12,295	11,966	11,848	3,936	3,928	3,662	3,563	2,933	3,110	3,064	3,445	13,455	13,113	12,564	12,026

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	2,806	3,076	3,302	3,007
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,304	1,693	1,749	1,601

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.1	1.5	1.4	0.9
1-5 years	27.8	27.6	27.6	27.5
6-10 years	41.1	37.5	34.2	31.3
11-15 years	26.1	28.7	29.9	32.1
16+ years	3.5	3.8	5.2	6.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.5	1.0	1.7	2.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,806	3,076	3,302	3,007

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	—	0.0	0.0
Asian	N/A	—	0.2	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	79.2	79.7	80.6	79.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.9
White	19.1	18.1	16.8	17.9
Two or more races	N/A	0.7	0.9	1.0
Unknown/Missing data	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,806	3,076	3,302	3,007

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.0	1.6	0.7	0.5
1-5 years	41.3	36.2	42.6	42.5
6-10 years	41.3	45.5	38.5	37.1
11-15 years	15.5	15.1	15.8	18.1
16+ years	0.8	1.5	2.3	1.7
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	593	549	815	938

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	—	—	0.1
Asian	N/A	0.5	0.1	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	71.7	67.9	72.8	72.9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	0.2	2.4	2.0	1.1
White	26.6	26.8	22.0	23.1
Two or more races	N/A	2.4	3.2	2.3
Unknown/Missing data	0.2	—	—	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	593	549	815	938

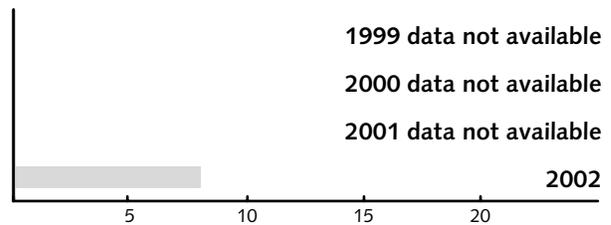
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	92.0
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	8.0
Total %	—	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	—	7,400

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

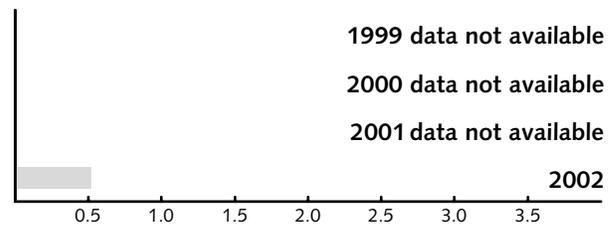


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	0.52
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	99.48
Total %	—	—	—	100.00
Number	—	—	—	9,612

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

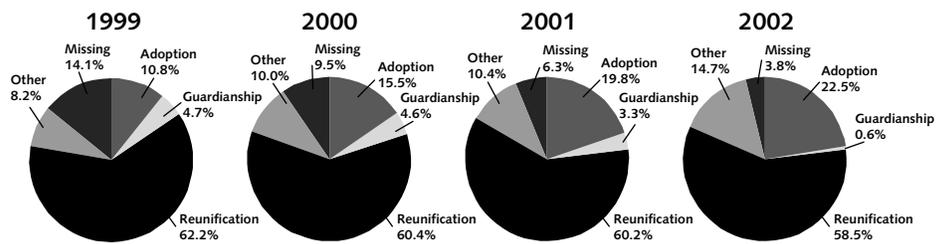


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	10.8	15.5	19.8	22.5
Guardianship	4.7	4.6	3.3	0.6
Reunification	62.2	60.4	60.2	58.5
Other	8.2	10.0	10.4	14.7
Missing data	14.1	9.5	6.3	3.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,933	3,110	3,064	3,445

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	13.5	13.7	17.9	19.4
Guardianship	2.4	2.2	2.8	0.7
Reunification	55.7	59.0	55.7	49.5
Other	16.5	16.0	16.6	26.5
Missing data	12.0	9.2	7.1	3.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	460	556	609	717

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	1.0	1.3	1.8	1.5
Guardianship	3.0	2.9	3.7	1.3
Reunification	53.2	56.0	58.0	52.5
Other	24.8	27.6	29.3	37.3
Missing data	18.0	12.2	7.2	7.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	596	682	652	751

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	32.5	33.9	36.8	43.5
Children older than 12 at entry	67.5	66.1	63.2	56.5
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	166	230	231	384

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

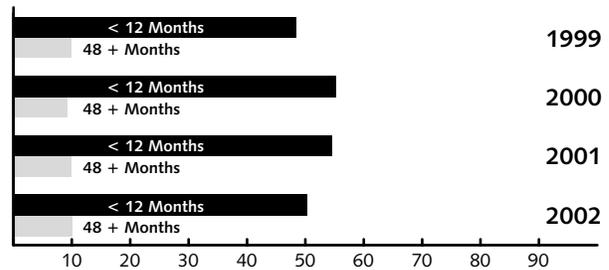
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	25.0	50.0	—	—	N/A	26.7	—	14.3	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.3	16.8	22.0	24.9	N/A	100.0	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	6.7	—	—	12.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.7	6.0	3.9	0.6	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	62.5	50.0	100.0	50.0	N/A	46.7	77.8	42.9	50.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	63.3	59.4	57.4	57.3	N/A	—	—	100.0
Other	12.5	—	—	50.0	N/A	6.7	22.2	28.6	12.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.1	8.9	10.6	13.7	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	N/A	13.3	—	14.3	25.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.6	8.9	6.0	3.4	N/A	—	100.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8	4	4	4	N/A	15	9	7	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,077	2,122	2,109	2,353	N/A	1	1	1

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	5.0	9.6	9.9	10.0	13.0	11.7	14.9	17.1	—	20.6	12.5	3.0	N/A	18.2	29.3	40.4	10.0	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	1.4	—	2.3	1.5	2.1	0.5	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	2.4	—	2.9	—	—	—
Reunification	63.3	67.3	73.2	67.1	58.3	63.1	65.7	61.0	—	58.8	78.1	75.8	N/A	54.5	56.1	46.2	67.1	—	—	—
Other	10.0	17.3	8.5	17.1	11.5	12.4	10.4	17.0	—	11.8	9.4	12.1	N/A	9.1	—	9.6	5.7	—	—	—
Missing data	21.7	5.8	7.0	5.7	14.9	11.2	6.8	4.4	—	8.8	—	9.1	N/A	18.2	12.2	3.8	14.3	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—
Number	60	52	71	70	710	860	797	925	—	34	32	33	N/A	22	41	52	70	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

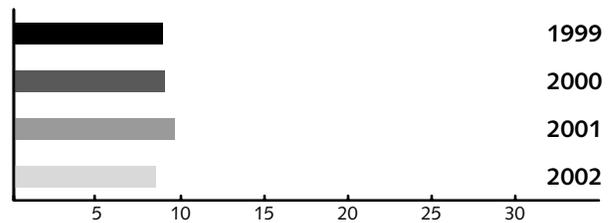
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	48.4	55.3	54.6	50.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	19.0	17.2	18.7	22.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	16.3	11.9	11.5	9.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	6.3	6.3	5.3	5.8
48 or more mos.	9.9	9.3	9.9	10.1
Missing data	—	—	0.1	2.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,823	1,879	1,846	2,014

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	80.6	79.5	79.6	79.7
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	8.9	9.0	9.6	8.5
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	9.8	11.0	10.7	11.7
Missing data	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,936	3,928	3,662	3,563

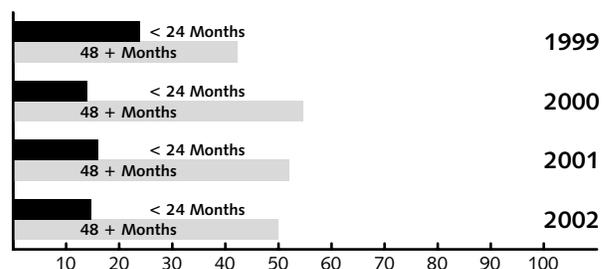
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	10.7	6.7	4.8	3.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.2	7.3	11.2	11.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	15.5	16.4	14.5	18.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	18.3	15.0	17.3	16.3
48 or more mos.	42.3	54.7	52.1	50.1
Missing data	—	—	—	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	317	481	606	775

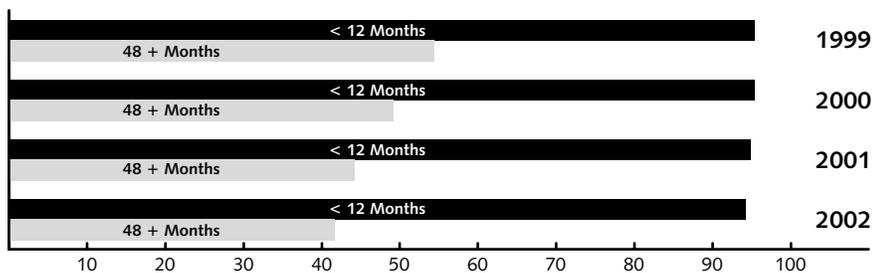
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	95.4	4.6	—	100.0	4,252
	2000	95.4	4.6	—	100.0	4,246
	2001	94.9	5.1	—	100.0	4,053
	2002	94.3	5.5	0.2	100.0	3,957
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	82.2	17.8	—	100.0	2,900
	2000	81.9	18.1	—	100.0	2,733
	2001	79.8	20.2	—	100.0	2,574
	2002	77.8	21.6	0.6	100.0	2,539
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	69.7	30.3	—	100.0	2,361
	2000	70.3	29.7	—	100.0	2,122
	2001	67.5	32.5	—	100.0	1,955
	2002	69.6	29.7	0.8	100.0	1,892
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	60.8	39.2	—	100.0	1,678
	2000	57.8	42.2	—	100.0	1,666
	2001	58.0	42.0	—	100.0	1,484
	2002	59.0	40.7	0.3	100.0	1,430
48 or more mos.	1999	54.5	45.5	—	100.0	5,184
	2000	49.2	50.8	—	100.0	5,450
	2001	44.3	55.7	—	100.0	5,560
	2002	41.7	58.3	0.0	100.0	5,582
Missing data	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	13
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	6
	2001	100.0	—	—	100.0	2
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	11

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	6.4	4.2	5.9	5.7
Institutions	3.9	4.1	1.4	1.2
Other settings	87.5	90.1	91.2	91.7
Missing data	2.2	1.6	1.5	1.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,042	3,029	2,699	2,643

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Maryland Department of Human Resources
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The following are Maryland's comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002: Report to Congress*:

- Maryland's population of children under age 18 grew slightly (.8 percent) between 2001 and 2002. During the same period, the number at children in out-of-home care declined 4 percent and entries into out-of-home care declined 3 percent. The number of children previously in out-of-home care who were adopted continued to increase sharply in 2002 to 938 children, up 15 percent from the previous year.
- Another accomplishment is that Maryland submitted case level data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for the first time in 2002. Child protective service (CPS) data prior to 2002 reported in *Child Welfare Outcomes* is problematic because Maryland was limited to reporting CPS data by household rather than by individual child victim. Counts of child victims in previous years were estimated.
- Section C shows that length of stay in out-of-home care remained largely unchanged in 2002 except for an increase among children exiting out-of-home placement. One reason for this increase is the aging of the out-of-home care population. In 2000, 46 percent of children in out-of-home care in Maryland were age 11 or older. In 2002, over half (51 percent) were age 11 or older.
- The difference in Section D between the number of children "waiting to be adopted" (3,007) and the number of children (1,601) whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR) is due to the fact that the process of TPR has started but not necessarily been completed on all children with a permanency plan of adoption.
- The difference between the adoption counts in Section E and exits to adoption reported in Measures 3.1 and 5.1 is due to the fact that the former is a manual count and the latter is derived from Maryland's Foster Care and Adoption Child Tracking System (FACTS). The former is used for the federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) adoption data submission while the latter is used to count exits when reporting AFCARS foster care data. Tracking adoptions on FACTS is difficult because children drop out of the system when they assume new identities. For this reason, manual counts tend to be more accurate than FACTS counts of adoption.

The following discussion focuses on Maryland's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Maryland Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2004, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2002. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Maryland's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided below.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than plus or minus 5.0 was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Maryland's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 8.0 percent, which is more than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure over time cannot be assessed, because 2002 was the first year the State provided the necessary data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). Information from the Maryland CFSR Final Report suggests that performance with regard to maltreatment recurrence may be attributed to: (1) the scarcity of services available for families, particularly in some areas of the State; and (2) an agency practice of sometimes closing cases before all of the maltreatment issues are addressed, particularly issues pertaining to substance abuse and domestic violence.

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

In CY 2002, Maryland's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.52 percent, which meets the national standard (0.57 percent or less), but is more than the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure over time cannot be assessed because 2002 was the first year the State provided the necessary data to NCANDS. Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the State addresses the safety of children in foster care through providing adequate initial and ongoing training to foster parents and facility staff and by establishing licensing standards that ensure children's safety.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 81.5 percent of children leaving foster care in Maryland were discharged to permanent homes (which is less than the national median of 86.1 percent), 69.6 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited from foster care were discharged to permanent homes (which is less than the national median of 79.8 percent), and 55.3 percent of children who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care exited to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 43.5 percent of the children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is more than the national median of 26.9 percent. These findings suggest that the State experiences challenges in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care.

Maryland's performance declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (+33.7 percent change). There was no change in performance on the other measures. Information from the CFSR Final Report identified the following as potential barriers to achieving permanency: (1) a practice of establishing permanency goals that are not appropriate given the needs of the child and the circumstances of the case, and (2) delays in some cases in changing goals for children when it is evident that reunification will be unlikely.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Maryland occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 50.3, which does not meet the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and is less than the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002. Information from the CFSR Final Report identified the following as potential barriers to achieving reunification in a timely manner: (1) lack of agency effort to address the issues in the family that are impeding attainment of the goal; (2) lack of services for parents that are needed for reunification, such as substance abuse treatment services, mental health services, or services for developmental disabilities; (3) lack of transportation to help parents access services; and (4) insufficient low-income housing in the community.

Because the cross-State analysis found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Maryland's performance in FY 2002 with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Maryland, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 8.5, which meets the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and is less than the national median (9.9 percent). Thus, although Maryland had a relatively low percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively low percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. Performance on the measure of foster care re-entry did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 14.8. It is difficult to interpret performance on this measure because of the discrepancy between the number of adoptions provided in the State's AFCARS Adoption data submission (938 adoptions) and the number of exits to a finalized adoption provided in the State's AFCARS Foster Care data submission (775 children).

Information from the Maryland CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving adoptions in a timely manner: (1) the lengthy process required for termination of parental rights (TPR); (2) agency delays in filing for TPR; (3) a reluctance on the part of the agency to seek an adoptive home until after TPR has been attained; and (4) a common court practice of extending the goal of reunification even when the prognosis for reunification is low. The CFSR Final Report notes, however, that when mediation services are used early on in a case, many of the barriers to timely adoption are overcome.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 94.3, which is more than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 6.9, which is less than the national median of 8.6 percent. Maryland's performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-33.1 percent change).

Massachusetts

[CONTEXT DATA]

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	1,468,554	1,467,524	1,473,056	1,463,340
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	N/A	4.0	4.2	4.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	5.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	8.1	6.5	7.3	7.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	10.4	10.5	10.8	11.0
White	76.2	75.2	75.4	74.8
Two or more races	N/A	2.7	2.0	2.1
Other	N/A	0.8	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	19.5	15.8	11.9	13.2

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	29,633	34,150	34,721	34,995
Children in foster care on 9/30	11,169	11,619	11,568	12,510
Children adopted	922	861	778	808

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	56,620	63,446	63,305	64,343	38.6 per 1,000	43.2 per 1,000	43.0 per 1,000	44.0 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	29,633	34,150	34,721	34,995	20.2 per 1,000	23.3 per 1,000	23.6 per 1,000	23.9 per 1,000
Child fatalities	0	4	19	17	0.0 per 100,000	— per 100,000	— per 100,000	— per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	0.0	8.1	8.1	8.3
1-5 years	0.0	29.0	29.4	29.4
6-10 years	0.0	30.6	30.1	29.4
11-15 years	0.0	25.9	26.5	26.7
16+ years	0.0	5.5	5.5	5.8
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	0.9	0.5	0.4
Total %	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	29,633	34,150	34,721	34,995

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0	2.0	1.9	1.7
Black	0.0	13.6	14.2	14.0
Hispanic	0.0	15.9	18.4	19.9
White	0.0	43.5	45.2	46.9
Two or more races	0.0	1.5	1.7	1.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	23.5	18.5	15.5
Total % ⁴	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	29,633	34,150	34,721	34,995

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.3
Medical neglect	0.0	—	—	—
Neglect	0.0	87.0	88.1	89.0
Physical abuse	0.0	19.0	17.9	16.9
Sexual abuse	0.0	3.5	3.2	3.5
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2
Total % ⁵	0.0	110.0	109.6	109.9
Number	29,633	34,150	34,721	34,995

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	11,550	7,368	7,749	11,169	18,918
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	10,630	7,381	6,392	11,619	18,011
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	11,030	7,174	6,636	11,568	18,204
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	11,503	6,555	5,548	12,510	18,058

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	22.1	N/A	10.7	18.5	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	19.2	N/A	8.3	17.4	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	17.9	N/A	9.4	17.5	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	19.1	N/A	12.7	18.6	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	2.4	2.6	3.0	3.1	8.5	9.2	9.7	10.8	3.0	3.0	3.4	3.2	2.6	3.0	3.2	3.3
1-5 years	22.4	20.0	19.8	18.8	19.5	18.9	20.3	20.5	21.4	19.7	21.5	21.5	20.0	19.5	18.9	19.2
6-10 years	24.4	23.4	21.4	20.2	19.1	19.2	17.4	17.0	21.3	20.0	18.0	17.2	22.9	21.1	20.2	18.6
11-15 years	30.2	32.0	33.3	33.7	39.1	40.2	38.9	38.7	28.4	30.5	31.0	26.4	32.6	34.0	33.7	34.1
16-18 years	18.0	19.2	19.5	20.9	13.3	12.2	13.3	12.9	23.1	23.9	23.3	27.3	19.2	19.4	20.9	21.2
19+ years	1.9	2.3	2.4	2.6	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	1.6	1.6	1.7	2.8	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.7
Unknown/Missing data	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	11,550	10,630	11,030	11,503	7,368	7,381	7,174	6,555	7,749	6,392	6,636	5,548	11,169	11,619	11,568	12,510

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Asian	N/A	1.5	1.6	1.8	N/A	1.9	2.0	2.5	N/A	1.9	1.9	2.3	N/A	1.6	1.7	1.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	20.1	19.0	17.7	18.6	15.4	13.5	13.5	15.8	18.4	15.8	14.8	17.1	18.2	17.3	16.8	17.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	—	—	0.0
Hispanic	21.0	20.6	21.0	24.8	16.7	16.5	15.4	24.4	18.2	16.6	18.1	23.6	20.0	20.3	19.1	25.2
White	48.7	48.4	46.8	49.8	47.1	45.1	43.9	49.8	47.9	48.2	46.5	50.0	48.3	46.4	45.2	49.7
Two or more races	N/A	0.6	1.0	2.2	N/A	1.1	1.3	2.7	N/A	0.6	1.3	2.2	N/A	0.9	1.1	2.4
Unknown/Missing data	8.0	9.6	11.6	2.6	18.7	21.6	23.8	4.6	13.4	16.8	17.2	4.7	11.3	13.2	15.9	2.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	11,550	10,630	11,030	11,503	7,368	7,381	7,174	6,555	7,749	6,392	6,636	5,548	11,169	11,619	11,568	12,510

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	3,278	3,147	2,912	3,114
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	927	897	720	1,193

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	2.5	3.0	3.2	3.2
1-5 years	39.5	38.6	39.7	40.1
6-10 years	41.2	38.5	36.8	35.1
11-15 years	16.1	19.2	19.2	20.1
16+ years	0.7	0.5	1.0	1.3
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,278	3,147	2,912	3,114

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1
Asian	N/A	1.9	2.0	1.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	19.5	16.4	14.4	15.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	0.0
Hispanic	24.9	24.8	25.6	31.1
White	44.2	45.0	41.7	44.8
Two or more races	N/A	1.1	1.8	3.3
Unknown/Missing data	9.1	10.6	14.4	3.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,278	3,147	2,912	3,114

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	0.3	1.4	1.2	1.4
1-5 years	44.7	48.1	48.7	49.1
6-10 years	41.8	37.4	32.8	32.4
11-15 years	12.7	12.5	16.3	15.5
16+ years	0.5	0.6	1.0	1.4
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	922	861	778	808

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.6	0.1	—
Asian	N/A	2.3	1.7	1.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	23.8	21.5	17.4	15.0
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	20.9	20.3	23.1	25.4
White	51.6	49.7	52.2	50.4
Two or more races	N/A	2.8	2.1	5.7
Unknown/Missing data	2.6	2.8	3.5	2.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	922	861	778	808

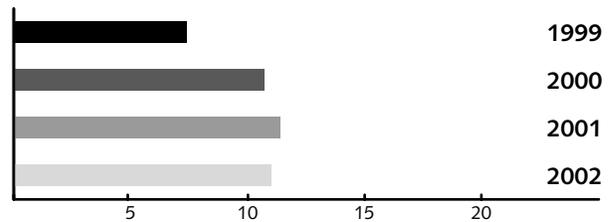
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	92.6	89.3	88.6	89.0
Children with one or more recurrences	7.4	10.7	11.4	11.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	14,167	16,225	17,022	16,462

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

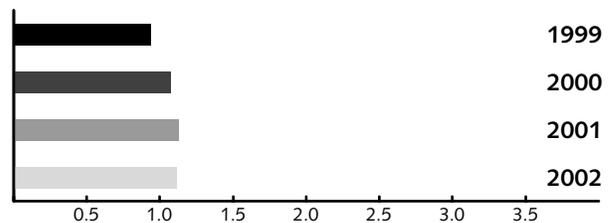


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.94	1.07	1.13	1.11
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.06	98.93	98.87	98.89
Total %	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	16,590	16,579	16,619	16,650

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

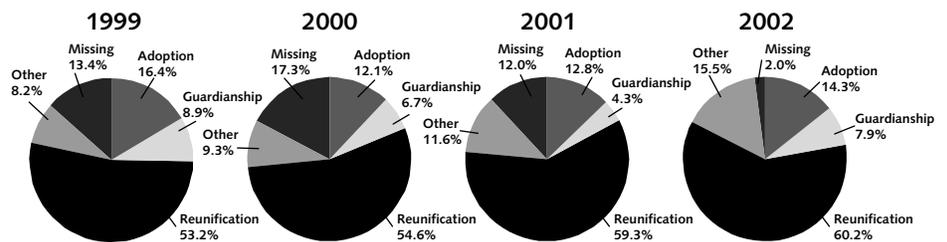


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	16.4	12.1	12.8	14.3
Guardianship	8.9	6.7	4.3	7.9
Reunification	53.2	54.6	59.3	60.2
Other	8.2	9.3	11.6	15.5
Missing data	13.4	17.3	12.0	2.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,749	6,392	6,636	5,548

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	29.4	16.7	38.9	26.8
Guardianship	5.9	8.3	—	6.3
Reunification	29.4	25.0	38.9	43.5
Other	17.6	33.3	11.1	21.8
Missing data	17.6	16.7	11.1	1.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	17	12	18	395

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Guardianship	3.0	2.6	1.9	2.7
Reunification	64.2	59.5	61.3	65.0
Other	16.0	16.8	22.0	29.1
Missing data	16.6	21.0	14.6	3.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,957	2,694	2,655	2,262

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	25.0	24.2	25.5	23.1
Children older than 12 at entry	74.6	75.8	74.5	76.9
Missing data	0.3	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	635	557	542	726

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

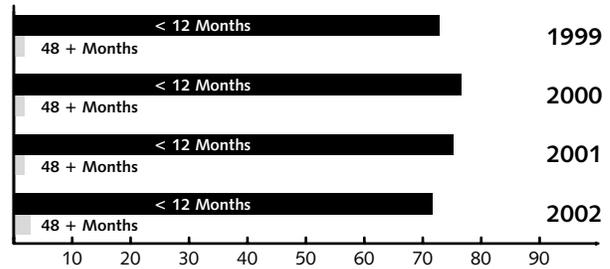
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	5.9	—	30.8	—	N/A	11.8	15.4	10.4	5.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	20.2	17.0	15.9	12.4	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	7.7	8.3	N/A	2.5	1.6	4.8	0.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.7	9.1	5.4	11.1	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	88.2	30.0	46.2	83.3	N/A	64.7	61.8	70.4	71.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	43.0	43.0	52.2	57.3	N/A	100.0	50.0	—
Other	5.9	50.0	7.7	8.3	N/A	5.9	13.0	13.6	9.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.6	11.6	14.2	16.4	N/A	—	—	100.0
Missing data	—	20.0	7.7	—	N/A	15.1	8.1	0.8	13.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.5	19.3	12.3	2.9	N/A	—	50.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	17	10	13	12	N/A	119	123	125	132	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,422	1,010	982	947	N/A	1	2	1

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	21.7	14.6	16.4	15.4	16.1	12.9	14.2	14.5	18.0	7.9	6.8	13.3	57.1	41.5	22.9	35.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	—
Guardianship	7.0	6.3	4.2	6.0	8.9	7.1	4.5	8.3	9.3	8.4	5.3	6.3	N/A	—	2.4	4.9	4.1	3.4	2.9	4.3
Reunification	49.0	51.4	53.8	62.9	53.8	54.8	57.3	58.7	49.4	46.3	68.0	69.9	33.3	51.2	62.7	55.7	77.2	72.3	78.1	68.1
Other	8.2	8.8	12.3	14.3	9.1	10.3	12.3	16.5	8.7	15.0	9.2	8.4	N/A	—	1.2	4.1	2.3	2.8	6.8	22.4
Missing data	14.1	18.9	13.3	1.4	12.1	14.8	11.7	2.1	14.7	22.4	10.7	2.1	9.5	7.3	10.8	—	16.3	21.4	12.1	5.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,414	1,058	1,204	1,308	3,708	3,079	3,088	2,774	334	214	206	143	21	41	83	122	701	860	935	116

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

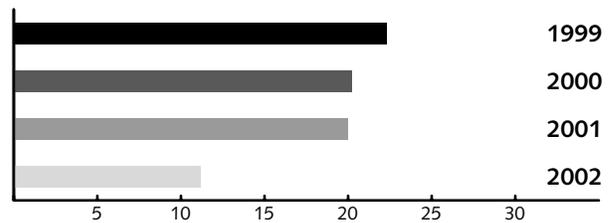
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	72.9	76.6	75.1	71.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	15.3	14.4	16.6	16.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.4	4.3	3.9	5.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.3	1.9	1.4	2.2
48 or more mos.	1.9	1.7	1.9	2.9
Missing data	2.1	1.1	1.1	0.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,121	3,489	3,935	3,338

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	66.0	68.3	68.2	74.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	22.3	20.2	20.0	11.2
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	11.3	11.3	11.7	13.9
Missing data	0.4	0.1	0.2	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,368	7,381	7,174	6,555

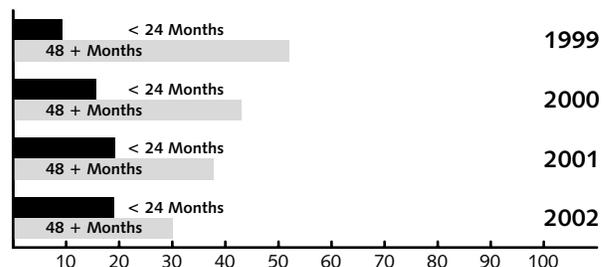
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	2.5	2.2	2.1	2.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	6.8	13.5	17.2	17.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	17.2	20.7	24.0	26.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	21.2	20.3	18.8	24.4
48 or more mos.	52.0	43.2	37.8	30.2
Missing data	0.3	0.1	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,271	773	849	796

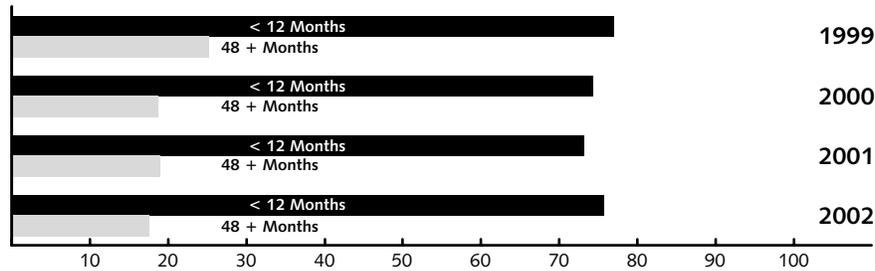
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	77.0	18.4	4.7	100.0	8,170
	2000	74.3	22.7	3.1	100.0	8,154
	2001	73.2	23.7	3.1	100.0	8,113
	2002	75.8	21.4	2.8	100.0	7,356
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	58.7	40.1	1.2	100.0	3,252
	2000	53.8	44.8	1.4	100.0	3,386
	2001	54.4	45.3	0.3	100.0	3,614
	2002	52.5	47.4	0.1	100.0	3,700
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	49.4	50.5	0.0	100.0	2,187
	2000	46.0	53.3	0.7	100.0	1,933
	2001	42.1	57.8	0.1	100.0	2,137
	2002	42.8	57.2	—	100.0	2,367
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	39.9	60.1	—	100.0	1,460
	2000	34.1	65.9	—	100.0	1,338
	2001	39.7	60.3	0.0	100.0	1,258
	2002	34.0	66.0	—	100.0	1,415
48 or more mos.	1999	25.3	74.7	0.0	100.0	3,626
	2000	18.7	81.3	—	100.0	3,079
	2001	19.0	81.0	—	100.0	2,984
	2002	17.5	82.5	—	100.0	3,160
Missing data	1999	46.6	0.9	52.5	100.0	223
	2000	56.2	0.8	43.0	100.0	121
	2001	57.1	1.0	41.8	100.0	98
	2002	41.7	1.7	56.7	100.0	60

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	3.8	3.4	4.0	3.3
Institutions	4.4	3.5	3.8	3.6
Other settings	91.5	92.9	92.1	93.0
Missing data	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,877	3,998	3,870	3,562

Lewis H. Spence, Commissioner
Department of Social Services Massachusetts Executive
Office of Health and Human Services
617-748-2000

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

- The Massachusetts Department of Social Services (DSS) continues to address the issues that have been raised in the review of our State's data tables. Discrepancies noted pertaining to placement discharge reasons have been corrected on resubmitted AFCARS files. DSS is committed to an ongoing effort to improve the accuracy of the data submitted to the AFCARS and NCANDS systems. Efforts have been and continue to be made to improve the data collected in FamilyNet, the Massachusetts SACWIS system, and to extract data for the AFCARS and NCANDS data files in compliance with the latest federal directives.
- No child fatalities are reported on the NCANDS Child file. In calendar year 2001, Massachusetts began counting all child abuse/neglect fatalities, whether they occurred in families known or unknown to the Department of Social Services. Counts in prior years were limited to children from families known to the Department.

The following discussion focuses on Massachusetts' performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Massachusetts Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2001, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 1999. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Massachusetts' performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Massachusetts' rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 11.0 percent, which is more than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure declined from 1999 to 2002 (+48.6 percent change).

The cross-State analyses found a substantial positive relationship between State performance on this outcome measure and the State rate of child victims (i.e., the number of child victims per 1,000 children in the population). States with a relatively high rate of child victims tended to have a relatively high rate of maltreatment recurrence. For Massachusetts, both the incidence of maltreatment recurrence (11.0 percent) and the rate of child victims (23.9 per 1,000 children in the population) were in the top quartile of the State rankings.

The cross-State analyses also found a small, but definite, positive relationship between performance on the measure of maltreatment recurrence and the State percentage of child victims experiencing neglect. States with a relatively high percentage of child victims experiencing neglect tended to have a relatively high percentage of maltreatment recurrence. For Massachusetts, both the incidence of maltreatment recurrence (11.0 percent) and the percentage of child victims experiencing neglect (89.0 percent) were in the top quartile of the State rankings. This suggests that a State's definitions and laws pertaining to what constitutes maltreatment may be related to the State's performance on the outcome measure assessing maltreatment recurrence.

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

In CY 2002, Massachusetts' incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 1.11 percent, which is more than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure declined from 1999 to 2002 (+18.0 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 82.4 percent of children exiting foster care in Massachusetts were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 86.1 percent); 76.7 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 67.9 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent). These findings suggest that the State experiences challenges in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care. However, 23.1 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care,

which is less than the national median of 26.9 percent. Performance improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to: the percentage of all children exiting foster care to a permanent home (+5.1 percent change); (2) the percentage of children with a diagnosed disability exiting foster care to a permanent home (+18.6 percent change); and (3) the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (-7.6 percent change). Performance did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children exiting foster care to a permanent home who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Massachusetts occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 71.6, which does not meet the national standard (76.2 percent or more), but is more than the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

Massachusetts' performance in FY 2002 with regard to the percent of re-entries into foster care within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 11.2 percent, which is more than the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). However, performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-49.6 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 19.2, which is less than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Massachusetts' performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+22.8 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 75.8, which is less than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 6.9, which is less than the national median of 8.6 percent. Performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-16.3 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	2,561,139	2,575,677	2,573,235	2,570,264
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Asian	N/A	1.8	2.0	2.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	17.2	17.3	17.5	17.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	4.1	4.8	4.8	4.9
White	76.2	72.4	72.6	72.3
Two or more races	N/A	2.8	2.4	2.5
Other	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	14.1	13.6	13.0	14.7

Child Welfare Summary

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	24,505	26,680	28,475	28,830
Children in foster care on 9/30	20,300	20,034	20,896	21,251
Children adopted	2,446	2,804	2,980	2,847

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	166,160	164,369	172,281	190,164	64.9 per 1,000	63.8 per 1,000	66.9 per 1,000	74.0 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	24,505	26,680	28,475	28,830	9.6 per 1,000	10.4 per 1,000	11.1 per 1,000	11.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	48	—	—	—	1.9 per 100,000	— per 100,000	— per 100,000	— per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	11.9	12.4	12.4	12.3
1-5 years	28.9	27.9	27.2	28.0
6-10 years	31.0	30.6	29.7	28.4
11-15 years	23.5	24.0	25.6	26.0
16+ years	4.7	5.1	5.1	5.3
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	24,505	26,680	28,475	28,830

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	—	0.4	0.4
Black	40.7	39.7	38.9	35.8
Hispanic	2.4	2.2	2.9	2.9
White	55.8	53.7	55.0	57.9
Two or more races	2.4	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	3.8	2.2	2.2
Total % ⁴	102.4	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	24,505	26,680	28,475	28,830

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	6.9	7.3	7.5	5.4
Medical neglect	2.3	2.7	2.5	2.4
Neglect	70.8	68.7	66.3	69.2
Physical abuse	20.9	22.7	21.3	19.8
Sexual abuse	6.5	5.9	5.8	5.8
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	0.0	—	3.6	3.5
Total % ⁵	107.4	107.3	107.0	106.1
Number	24,505	26,680	28,475	28,830

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	16,111	10,929	6,740	20,300	27,040
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	17,129	10,707	7,802	20,034	27,836
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	16,925	12,283	8,312	20,896	29,208
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	21,059	10,019	9,827	21,251	31,078

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	13.6	N/A	13.9	14.4	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	14.5	N/A	15.3	14.7	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	14.4	N/A	14.8	12.7	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	15.3	N/A	18.2	15.6	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	4.7	4.5	4.9	4.5	12.8	13.9	14.0	13.9	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.0	5.3	5.2	5.6	4.5
1-5 years	26.6	25.2	26.6	25.4	24.6	27.0	27.8	25.3	24.2	24.8	27.3	27.6	26.6	27.3	28.0	25.7
6-10 years	23.5	24.4	25.2	23.7	22.5	24.4	23.9	22.9	20.6	22.5	24.2	22.6	25.0	25.2	24.7	23.3
11-15 years	24.7	25.5	25.2	26.8	26.9	24.5	25.6	28.9	19.4	20.0	20.4	21.5	24.7	24.9	25.9	28.1
16-18 years	18.8	18.3	16.6	18.2	11.3	9.5	8.4	9.0	26.7	24.7	20.8	21.0	16.9	16.0	14.5	17.2
19+ years	1.4	1.5	1.2	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	4.9	4.1	3.6	5.0	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.2
Unknown/Missing data	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.0	1.7	0.5	0.2	—	1.6	1.1	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	16,111	17,129	16,925	21,059	10,929	10,707	12,283	10,019	6,740	7,802	8,312	9,827	20,300	20,034	20,896	21,251

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	1.1	—	—	0.2	1.4	—	—	—	1.4	—	—	0.1	1.2
Asian	N/A	—	—	0.2	N/A	—	0.0	0.3	N/A	—	—	0.4	N/A	—	0.0	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	—	—	—	52.7	—	—	8.7	43.9	—	—	—	45.0	—	—	5.1	52.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	0.0	N/A	—	—	0.3	N/A	—	—	0.0	N/A	—	—	0.1
Hispanic	—	—	—	3.4	—	—	0.7	4.3	—	—	—	4.1	—	—	0.4	3.5
White	—	—	—	39.3	—	—	8.3	46.3	—	—	—	45.4	—	—	4.9	39.8
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	3.1	N/A	—	0.6	3.2	N/A	—	—	3.4	N/A	—	0.3	3.0
Unknown/Missing data	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.2	100.0	100.0	81.4	0.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.2	100.0	100.0	89.1	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	16,111	17,129	16,925	21,059	10,929	10,707	12,283	10,019	6,740	7,802	8,312	9,827	20,300	20,034	20,896	21,251

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	8,495	7,745	7,839	6,874
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	5,166	5,226	6,174	6,750

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	5.9	5.7	5.6	2.1
1-5 years	35.6	33.0	32.0	27.6
6-10 years	33.6	31.8	30.3	29.0
11-15 years	20.3	23.9	26.3	31.8
16+ years	3.4	4.1	4.8	7.9
Unknown/Missing data	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,495	7,745	7,839	6,874

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	0.0	0.9
Asian	N/A	—	—	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	—	—	4.3	59.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	0.0
Hispanic	—	—	0.3	3.0
White	—	—	3.9	33.0
Two or more races	N/A	—	0.2	3.1
Unknown/Missing data	100.0	100.0	91.2	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,495	7,745	7,839	6,874

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.3	1.5	1.8	1.3
1-5 years	47.1	43.3	43.0	44.2
6-10 years	34.3	36.7	36.1	31.9
11-15 years	15.9	15.9	16.8	20.1
16+ years	1.6	2.5	2.2	2.5
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,446	2,804	2,980	2,847

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.9
Asian	N/A	0.2	—	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	51.5	49.5	48.5	43.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	—	—
Hispanic	4.3	4.1	4.3	4.2
White	42.4	41.0	40.3	45.7
Two or more races	N/A	4.2	5.8	5.4
Unknown/Missing data	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,446	2,804	2,980	2,847

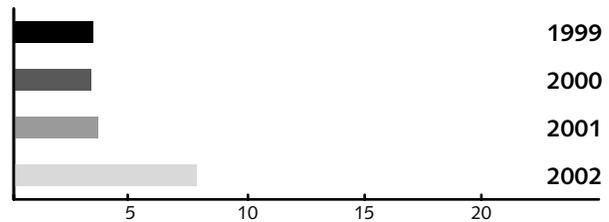
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	96.6	96.7	96.4	92.2
Children with one or more recurrences	3.4	3.3	3.6	7.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	11,576	13,482	14,171	14,334

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

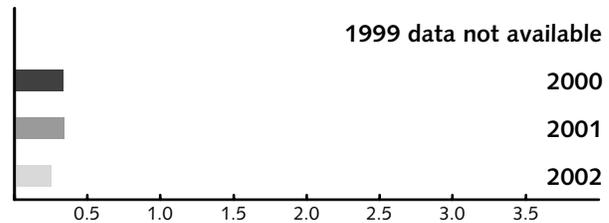


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	0.33	0.34	0.25
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	99.67	99.66	99.75
Total %	—	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	—	26,044	27,359	28,779

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

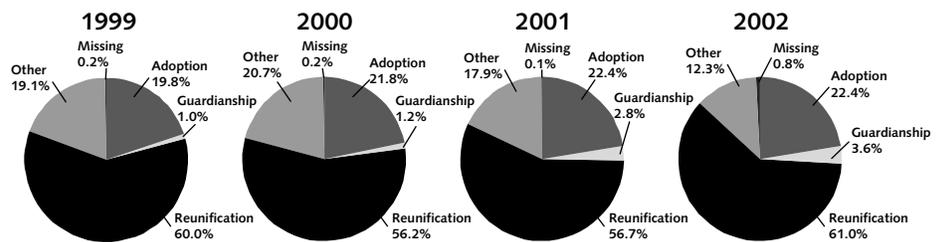


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	19.8	21.8	22.4	22.4
Guardianship	1.0	1.2	2.8	3.6
Reunification	60.0	56.2	56.7	61.0
Other	19.1	20.7	17.9	12.3
Missing data	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,740	7,802	8,312	9,827

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	—	36.2
Guardianship	—	—	—	2.5
Reunification	—	—	—	45.0
Other	—	—	—	15.7
Missing data	—	—	—	0.7
Total %	—	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	—	1,532

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	1.6	1.4	1.5	2.7
Guardianship	0.8	1.1	2.5	2.9
Reunification	60.7	53.6	54.5	59.8
Other	36.5	43.4	41.1	32.1
Missing data	0.3	0.5	0.4	2.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,606	2,812	2,532	2,987

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	22.8	23.9	24.3	20.4
Children older than 12 at entry	76.5	75.5	75.5	79.6
Missing data	0.7	0.5	0.2	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	587	564	485	607

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

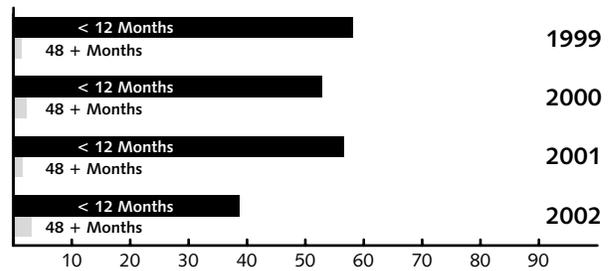
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	—	14.9	N/A	—	—	5.3	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	20.4	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	3.0	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	3.5	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—	74.6	N/A	—	—	78.9	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	61.1	N/A	—	—	50.0
Other	—	—	—	7.5	N/A	—	—	15.8	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	14.1	N/A	—	—	50.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	0.9	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	100.0	N/A	—	—	100.0	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	100.0	N/A	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	—	134	N/A	—	—	38	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	4,427	N/A	—	—	2

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	—	23.1	—	—	—	23.6	—	—	—	29.2	N/A	—	—	35.2	19.8	21.8	22.4	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	4.0	—	—	—	3.6	—	—	—	4.2	N/A	—	—	3.0	1.0	1.2	2.8	—
Reunification	—	—	—	60.9	—	—	—	60.8	—	—	—	62.5	N/A	—	—	55.3	60.0	56.2	56.7	—
Other	—	—	—	11.5	—	—	—	11.1	—	—	—	4.2	N/A	—	—	5.9	19.1	20.7	17.9	—
Missing data	—	—	—	0.5	—	—	—	0.8	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.1	—
Total %	—	—	—	100.0	—	—	—	100.0	—	—	—	100.0	N/A	—	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—
Number	—	—	—	399	—	—	—	4,465	—	—	—	24	N/A	—	—	338	6,740	7,802	8,312	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

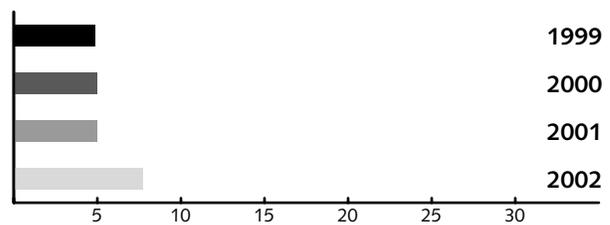
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	58.1	52.9	56.6	38.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	25.0	28.1	28.2	39.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	7.7	7.1	8.1	13.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.4	3.0	2.2	5.2
48 or more mos.	1.4	2.2	1.5	3.1
Missing data	5.3	6.8	3.2	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,041	4,383	4,713	5,994

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	90.3	90.0	90.9	90.5
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	4.9	5.0	5.0	7.7
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	4.4	4.6	3.6	1.1
Missing data	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	10,929	10,707	12,283	10,019

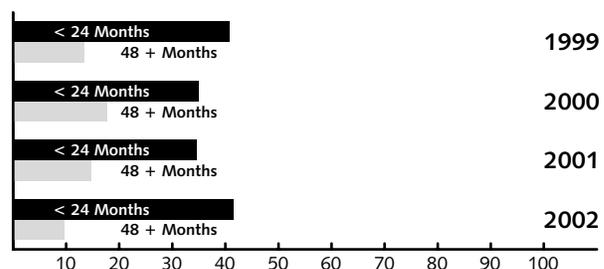
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	16.7	12.6	12.8	11.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	24.2	22.4	21.7	30.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	29.2	31.0	32.0	32.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	16.4	16.0	18.3	15.9
48 or more mos.	13.4	17.8	14.8	9.8
Missing data	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,333	1,699	1,860	2,199

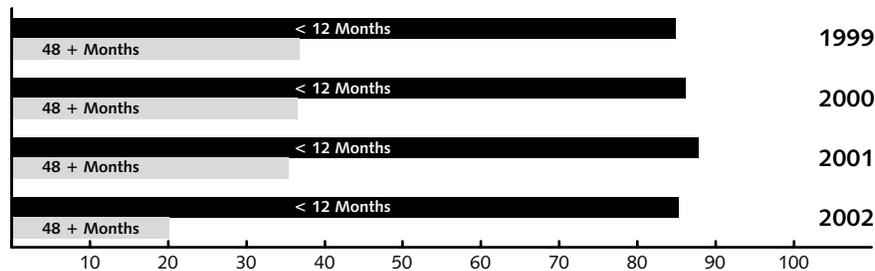
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	84.9	15.1	—	100.0	11,750
	2000	86.2	13.8	—	100.0	11,588
	2001	87.8	12.2	—	100.0	13,416
	2002	85.3	14.7	—	100.0	11,663
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	66.1	33.9	—	100.0	6,824
	2000	65.8	34.2	—	100.0	6,997
	2001	69.6	30.4	—	100.0	6,955
	2002	67.2	32.8	—	100.0	8,433
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	56.0	44.0	—	100.0	3,614
	2000	59.4	40.6	—	100.0	3,863
	2001	59.2	40.8	—	100.0	3,777
	2002	46.4	53.6	—	100.0	4,801
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	49.0	51.0	—	100.0	1,914
	2000	49.8	50.2	—	100.0	2,091
	2001	54.7	45.3	—	100.0	1,980
	2002	36.7	63.3	—	100.0	2,559
48 or more mos.	1999	36.8	63.2	—	100.0	2,572
	2000	36.5	63.5	—	100.0	2,865
	2001	35.4	64.6	—	100.0	2,820
	2002	20.1	79.9	—	100.0	3,581
Missing data	1999	95.6	4.4	—	100.0	366
	2000	97.2	2.8	—	100.0	432
	2001	97.3	2.7	—	100.0	260
	2002	85.4	14.6	—	100.0	41

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	0.1	0.0	0.0	—
Institutions	5.6	5.7	4.1	2.4
Other settings	94.3	94.3	95.9	97.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,339	7,623	8,525	6,999

Marianne Udow, Director
Michigan Family Independence Agency
517-373-2035

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

- For Section B, the number of child fatalities (Based on reports received by FIA, completed investigations and matched against vital statistics and child death review data for accuracy and reliability) and the child fatality rates for the missing years are:
2000 - 49 fatalities, 1.9 per 100,000
2001 - 54 fatalities, 2.1 per 100,000
2002 - 52 fatalities, 2.0 per 100,000
- For Section C, the Median Length of Stay data are not accurate. The Michigan SACWIS system known as SWSS FAJ (Services Worker Support System for Foster Care, Adoption and Juvenile Justice) was implemented between February 2001 and December 2001. The conversion and implementation was completed statewide with all converted cases activated by December 2001. The data that were available for this section are inaccurate due to the conversion process.
- For Section C, Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care data are missing for a number of years because the state of Michigan was not AFCARS compliant until 3/2002, and there were missing data elements in the AFCARS submissions.
- For Section E, Children Adopted, there is a discrepancy between finalized adoptions in 2002 and the number of children reported as discharged to adoption. This occurred due to redundant data systems. These systems are being combined to create a seamless and accurate multi-program AFCARS reporting system. The 2847 finalized adoptions reported in 2002 are accurate.
- Regarding Outcome Measure 3.3, Michigan is striving to increase the percentage of children age 12 and over at entry being discharged to a permanent home to meet the national median. Strategies are outlined in Michigan's Program Improvement Plan.
- With regard to Outcome Measure 4.1, the state of Michigan is striving to increase the percentage of exits to reunification that occurred within 12 months of entry into foster care to meet the national median. Strategies outlined in Michigan's Program Improvement Plan should increase the percentage.

The following discussion focuses on Michigan's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Michigan Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2002, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2000. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Michigan's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Michigan's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 7.8 percent, which is more than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure declined considerably from 1999 to 2002 (+129.4 percent change).

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

In CY 2002, Michigan's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.25 percent, which is less than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure improved from 2000 (the first year that data were reported for this measure) to 2002 (-24.2 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 86.9 percent of children exiting foster care in Michigan were discharged to a permanent home (which is about equal to the national median of 86.1 percent), and 83.7 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 79.8 percent). In addition, 20.4 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is less than the national median of 26.9 percent. However, 65.5 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home, which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent. These findings suggest that the State is less successful in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care who entered care when they were adolescents than it is in achieving permanency for other children, including children with a diagnosed disability.

Performance improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to: (1) the percentage of all children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home (+7.7 percent change), and (2) the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were 12 or younger when they entered foster care (-10.5 percent change). Performance on the other measures either exhibited no change or change could not be assessed.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Michigan occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 38.8, which is less than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-33.2 percent change).

Because the cross-State analysis found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months and the percentage of children in a State entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Michigan's performance in FY 2002 with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Michigan, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 7.7, which is less than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Thus, although Michigan had a relatively low percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively low percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. Performance on the measure of foster care re-entry declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+56.7 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 41.7. However, this percentage is difficult to interpret, because there was a substantial discrepancy between the number of adoptions provided in the State's AFCARS Adoption data submission (2,847 adoptions) and the number of exits from foster care to a finalized adoption provided in the State's AFCARS Foster Care data submission (2,199 exits from foster care to adoption). Even larger discrepancies occurred in FYs 1999, 2000, and 2001.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 85.3, which does not meet the national standard (86.7 percent or more), but is more than the national median (84.1 percent). Performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 2.4, which is less than the national median of 8.6 percent and the second lowest percentage nationally. Michigan's performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-57.3 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	1,271,850	1,272,504	1,264,306	1,252,125
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.5
Asian	N/A	4.2	4.2	4.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	4.3	4.9	5.4	5.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	3.0	4.3	4.4	4.6
White	86.6	82.0	81.7	81.2
Two or more races	N/A	2.9	2.8	2.9
Other	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	7.9	8.5	8.4	7.6

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	11,113	11,824	9,840	9,982
Children in foster care on 9/30	8,996	8,530	8,167	8,052
Children adopted	633	614	567	626

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	24,855	24,840	23,842	26,344	19.5 per 1,000	19.5 per 1,000	18.9 per 1,000	21.0 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	11,113	11,824	9,840	9,982	8.7 per 1,000	9.3 per 1,000	7.8 per 1,000	8.0 per 1,000
Child fatalities	28	21	16	16	2.2 per 100,000	1.6 per 100,000	1.3 per 100,000	1.3 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	6.2	8.4	8.6	9.0
1-5 years	31.3	30.2	28.5	32.5
6-10 years	35.1	34.1	33.9	30.5
11-15 years	22.0	22.1	23.0	23.1
16+ years	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.7
Unknown/Missing data	0.8	0.8	1.4	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	11,113	11,824	9,840	9,982

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	10.1	7.1	6.9	6.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.0	3.7	2.8	3.2
Black	28.1	25.1	24.9	25.0
Hispanic	7.4	7.2	6.9	8.4
White	62.6	48.9	49.7	49.4
Two or more races	0.0	4.9	4.9	5.8
Unknown/Missing data	1.9	3.0	3.9	1.9
Total % ⁴	114.1	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	11,113	11,824	9,840	9,982

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.8
Medical neglect	4.6	0.2	0.1	0.3
Neglect	77.4	73.6	72.1	73.1
Physical abuse	24.8	21.9	22.3	21.5
Sexual abuse	7.3	7.4	9.2	9.2
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	0.0	—	—	—
Total % ⁵	115.0	103.9	104.3	104.9
Number	11,113	11,824	9,840	9,982

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	8,012	10,724	9,743	8,996	18,736
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	7,664	10,803	9,939	8,530	18,467
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	7,424	10,012	9,269	8,167	17,436
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	7,435	10,317	9,700	8,052	17,752

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	13.7	N/A	2.3	12.5	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	14.8	N/A	2.0	12.7	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	14.6	N/A	2.1	12.7	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	14.2	N/A	2.4	12.1	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.3	5.8	5.6	5.9	6.5	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.7
1-5 years	15.6	16.3	16.0	15.5	14.6	14.3	14.4	15.6	14.5	15.3	16.2	15.9	15.6	15.3	14.9	16.3
6-10 years	21.5	21.4	20.4	18.0	14.8	15.0	14.4	14.8	15.0	15.0	15.0	14.6	19.8	19.1	17.0	15.5
11-15 years	36.9	35.1	35.1	36.7	39.7	39.6	39.7	37.5	34.2	33.8	32.2	31.9	35.8	36.4	37.8	36.0
16-18 years	22.5	23.5	24.6	25.4	24.7	25.2	25.4	25.4	32.1	31.5	32.4	32.4	24.8	25.2	25.8	27.2
19+ years	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.5	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	—	—	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,012	7,664	7,424	7,435	10,724	10,803	10,012	10,317	9,743	9,939	9,269	9,700	8,996	8,530	8,167	8,052

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	11.9	11.3	11.1	12.4	8.0	8.4	9.3	9.4	8.4	8.5	8.1	9.6	11.1	10.8	12.3	11.9
Asian	N/A	1.4	1.4	1.7	N/A	3.1	2.8	3.2	N/A	3.1	2.6	3.3	N/A	1.5	1.8	1.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	20.2	22.5	21.9	20.9	19.1	19.4	18.4	19.4	18.3	20.0	18.8	19.0	20.9	21.5	21.1	21.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	—	0.0	0.1	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	4.8	5.4	5.8	6.2	5.2	5.4	5.7	6.6	4.8	5.1	5.7	6.4	5.2	5.8	5.9	6.5
White	54.1	52.0	51.7	51.8	58.4	56.8	57.3	54.6	58.8	56.9	57.7	55.3	54.2	52.5	51.8	51.2
Two or more races	N/A	6.9	7.0	6.3	N/A	4.8	4.0	4.6	N/A	4.7	4.7	4.3	N/A	6.8	5.9	6.6
Unknown/Missing data	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.6	1.6	2.0	2.5	2.1	1.8	1.6	2.4	2.0	0.7	1.1	1.2	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,012	7,664	7,424	7,435	10,724	10,803	10,012	10,317	9,743	9,939	9,269	9,700	8,996	8,530	8,167	8,052

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	2,147	1,839	1,670	1,618
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,763	1,480	1,332	1,290

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	3.6	3.2	3.4	4.3
1-5 years	28.8	25.8	23.7	25.3
6-10 years	34.5	31.9	28.7	25.3
11-15 years	24.4	28.4	31.0	31.1
16+ years	6.7	7.6	9.8	10.2
Unknown/Missing data	2.0	3.1	3.4	3.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,147	1,839	1,670	1,618

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	8.4	8.4	8.9	9.3
Asian	N/A	0.4	0.4	0.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	31.0	31.2	31.6	34.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	6.4	6.3	6.6	6.7
White	44.4	43.6	42.7	38.4
Two or more races	N/A	10.0	9.7	10.0
Unknown/Missing data	9.3	0.3	0.2	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,147	1,839	1,670	1,618

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.6	1.6	1.9	3.4
1-5 years	40.4	40.9	47.6	45.5
6-10 years	41.5	39.4	33.2	31.2
11-15 years	15.6	17.8	16.0	18.7
16+ years	0.8	0.3	1.2	1.3
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	633	614	567	626

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	—
Asian	N/A	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	33.0	29.0	22.4	22.2
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	3.5	4.1	7.2	8.8
White	46.4	47.9	54.3	54.2
Two or more races	N/A	11.1	11.5	10.2
Unknown/Missing data	5.2	8.0	4.6	4.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	633	614	567	626

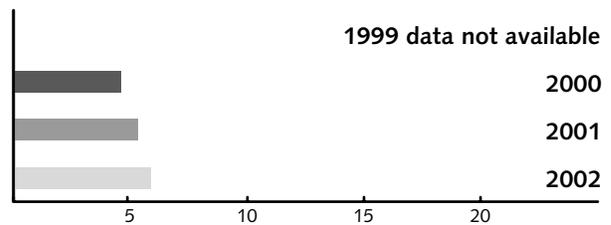
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	95.4	94.7	94.1
Children with one or more recurrences	—	4.6	5.3	5.9
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	6,334	4,903	5,170

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

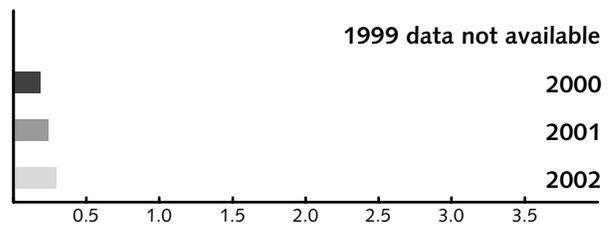


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	0.18	0.24	0.29
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	99.82	99.76	99.71
Total %	—	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	—	16,382	15,306	15,701

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

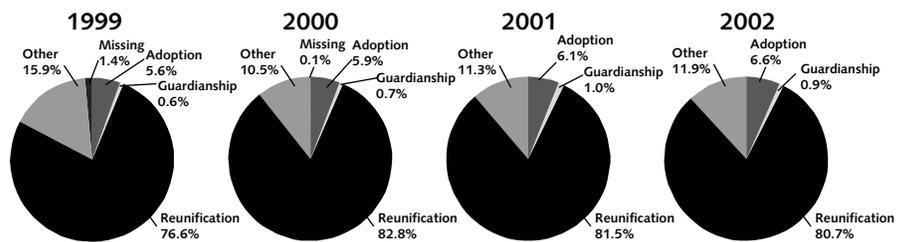


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	5.6	5.9	6.1	6.6
Guardianship	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.9
Reunification	76.6	82.8	81.5	80.7
Other	15.9	10.5	11.3	11.9
Missing data	1.4	0.1	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,743	9,939	9,269	9,700

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	9.0	12.7	11.4	10.1
Guardianship	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.7
Reunification	68.4	71.6	70.8	70.3
Other	19.1	14.9	17.3	18.8
Missing data	2.9	0.1	0.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,510	2,591	2,520	3,028

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.0	—	0.1	0.2
Guardianship	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3
Reunification	77.8	85.2	83.3	82.1
Other	20.6	14.6	16.4	17.4
Missing data	1.3	0.0	—	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,573	5,597	5,122	5,270

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	21.9	21.4	20.0	26.0
Children older than 12 at entry	78.1	78.4	80.0	74.0
Missing data	—	0.2	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	347	527	520	561

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

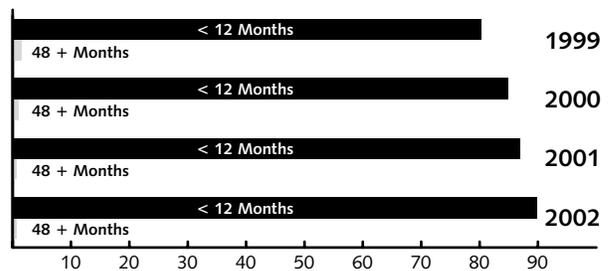
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	6.0	4.7	5.1	3.7	N/A	1.0	0.8	—	0.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.2	8.5	7.3	7.7	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	0.1	0.5	1.3	2.9	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.5	0.7	1.1	0.3	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	76.3	81.3	79.4	78.3	N/A	91.7	88.2	91.0	80.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	70.2	80.3	80.2	80.0	N/A	—	100.0	100.0
Other	15.8	13.4	14.2	15.1	N/A	7.1	10.9	9.0	16.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.9	10.4	11.3	12.0	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	1.8	0.1	—	—	N/A	0.3	—	—	3.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.2	0.1	0.1	—	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	100.0	100.0
Number	818	845	751	927	N/A	312	238	323	255	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,781	1,987	1,742	1,847	N/A	—	3	10

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	7.1	7.1	7.8	10.2	3.5	4.8	5.5	6.4	1.1	0.6	0.9	—	14.7	14.1	14.1	13.0	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	0.4	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.8	—	0.6	0.5	—	1.4	1.3	3.4	1.0	—	—	—	—
Reunification	75.0	83.3	79.2	78.9	78.8	84.0	82.7	80.8	86.8	89.4	88.2	94.4	70.7	73.1	70.2	75.2	—	—	—	—
Other	16.7	8.6	12.0	9.7	15.9	10.5	10.9	12.0	11.5	8.7	10.5	5.6	13.1	11.5	12.3	10.8	—	—	—	—
Missing data	0.9	—	—	—	1.1	0.1	—	0.0	0.6	0.6	—	—	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Number	468	510	524	616	5,729	5,655	5,351	5,365	174	161	220	196	518	469	440	416	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

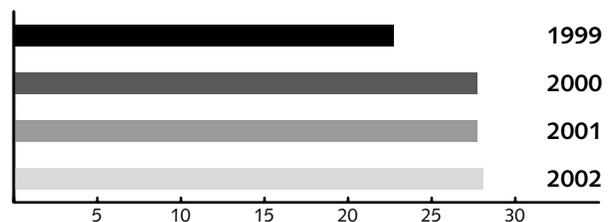
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	80.3	84.9	87.0	89.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	10.5	8.2	7.8	7.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.7	1.8	1.4	1.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.3	0.7	0.4	0.4
48 or more mos.	1.4	1.0	0.5	0.5
Missing data	3.9	3.4	2.8	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,461	8,232	7,551	7,826

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	62.9	61.2	60.7	59.5
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	22.7	27.7	27.7	28.1
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.6	8.6	9.6	10.0
Missing data	5.8	2.6	2.0	2.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	10,724	10,803	10,012	10,317

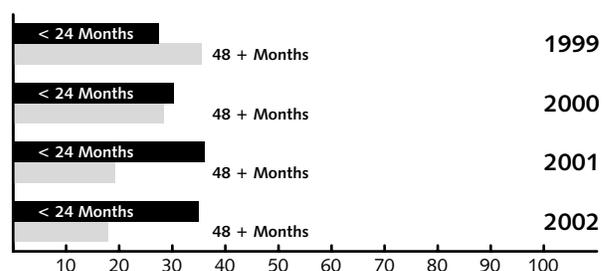
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	11.4	7.4	6.3	6.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	16.1	22.9	29.9	28.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	18.9	23.9	28.6	31.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	17.6	17.3	15.6	15.4
48 or more mos.	35.5	28.5	19.3	17.9
Missing data	0.5	—	0.2	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	546	585	569	637

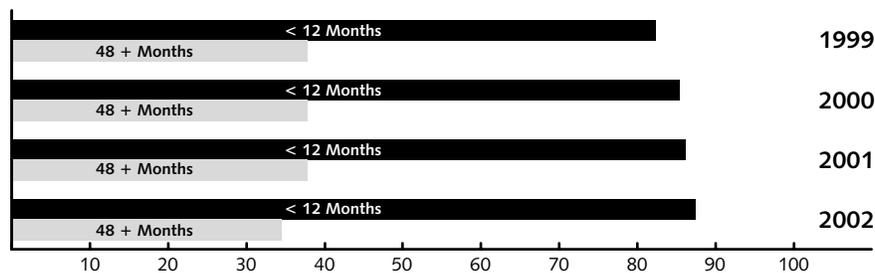
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	82.3	17.7	—	100.0	11,596
	2000	85.4	14.6	—	100.0	11,762
	2001	86.2	13.8	—	100.0	11,170
	2002	87.5	12.5	0.0	100.0	11,742
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	49.9	50.1	—	100.0	2,794
	2000	54.4	45.6	—	100.0	2,484
	2001	54.4	45.6	—	100.0	2,292
	2002	56.7	43.3	—	100.0	2,254
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	39.9	60.1	—	100.0	1,199
	2000	39.6	60.4	—	100.0	1,317
	2001	40.5	59.5	—	100.0	1,152
	2002	42.6	57.4	—	100.0	1,140
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	37.8	62.2	—	100.0	799
	2000	40.4	59.6	—	100.0	713
	2001	32.7	67.3	—	100.0	781
	2002	34.4	65.6	—	100.0	688
48 or more mos.	1999	37.8	62.2	—	100.0	1,961
	2000	37.8	62.2	—	100.0	1,866
	2001	37.7	62.3	—	100.0	1,785
	2002	34.4	65.6	—	100.0	1,894
Missing data	1999	99.0	1.0	—	100.0	387
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	325
	2001	99.6	0.4	—	100.0	256
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	34

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	2.4	4.6	4.7	4.2
Institutions	24.0	22.4	19.7	16.4
Other settings	60.3	73.0	75.6	79.4
Missing data	13.3	0.1	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,532	4,600	4,287	4,586

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Child Safety and Permanency
Minnesota Department of Human Services
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The following are Minnesota's comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002: Report to Congress*:

- The data in Section C indicate that there were 8,167 children in foster care on September 30, 2001 and 7,435 children in foster care on October 1, 2001, a difference of 732 children. The difference is due to a prior error in AFCARS record selection, which selected children on the basis of the discharge date rather than the discharge transaction date. As a result, some discharges from the end of a reporting period, especially those that were entered after an AFCARS file was extracted, were never included in an AFCARS file.
- Data for outcome measure 4.2 indicate that 28.1 percent of children entering foster care were re-entering care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode; the national median for this measure is 9.7 percent. A number of factors contribute to our re-entry rate. Analysis has revealed that some local agencies create new removal records when placement authority changes from voluntary to court-ordered, when respite care is provided, or when placement changes from emergency to non-emergency status. Another factor affecting re-entry is Minnesota's lack of provision for trial home visits as a dispositional alternative. The increasing number of children entering care with serious behavioral problems also affects the re-entry rate. For these children, placement is frequently a behavioral intervention.
- Data for outcome measure 7.1 indicate that 20.6 percent of children age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care were placed in a group home or institution. The national median for this measure is 8.6 percent for group homes and institutions combined. The relatively high percentage of children placed in group homes or institutions is due to the tendency of the county with the highest population in Minnesota to rely on a large facility as its emergency shelter rather than on smaller family foster home settings.

The following discussion focuses on Minnesota's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Minnesota Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2001, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 1999. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CSFR findings for Minnesota's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Minnesota's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 5.9 percent, which is less than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). However, performance on this measure declined from 2000 to 2002 (+28.3 percent change).

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

In CY 2002, Minnesota's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.29 percent, which is less than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure declined from 2000 to 2002 (+61.1 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 88.1 percent of children exiting foster care in Minnesota were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 86.1 percent); 81.2 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 82.6 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 26.0 percent of the children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is about equal to the national median of 26.9 percent. These findings suggest that the State is generally successful in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care.

Performance improved slightly from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to: (1) the percentage of all children exiting foster care to a permanent home (+6.5 percent change), and (2) the percentage of children who exited to a permanent home who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care (+5.7 percent change). Performance declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (+18.8 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Minnesota occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 89.9, which is more than the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and was the second highest percentage in the Nation. Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+12.0 percent change).

Because the cross-State analysis found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Minnesota's performance in FY 2002 with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Minnesota, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 28.1 percent, which was the highest in the nation. Thus, although Minnesota had a very high percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a very high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. In addition, performance on the measure of foster care re-entry declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+23.9 percent change).

The cross-State analyses also found a substantial positive relationship between State performance on the measure of foster care re-entry and the percentage of children entering foster care in the State who were age 16 or older. States with a relatively high percentage of children age 16 and older entering foster care in FY 2002 tended to have a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. For Minnesota, both the percentage of children entering foster care who were age 16 and older (25.6 percent) and the incidence of foster care re-entry (28.1 percent) were in the top quartile of the State rankings. One explanation for this may be that children age 16 and older who enter foster care are often entering because of their own behavior (or through the juvenile justice system) rather than as a result of maltreatment, and they may leave the foster care system before the behavior problems are fully resolved. This is particularly relevant to Minnesota, because the State provides child welfare foster care services to children in the juvenile justice system.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 35.0, which is more than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Minnesota's performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+15.7 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 87.5, which is more than the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Minnesota's performance on this measure improved slightly from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+6.3 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 20.6, which is considerably more than the national median of 8.6 percent. However, Minnesota's performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-21.9 percent change).

Mississippi

[CONTEXT DATA]

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	752,866	763,108	764,796	760,747
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Asian	N/A	0.7	0.7	0.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	44.8	44.7	44.6	44.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	1.0	1.6	1.6	1.6
White	52.8	51.6	51.6	51.5
Two or more races	N/A	0.9	1.0	1.0
Other	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	22.3	17.3	23.2	25.4

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	6,523	6,389	4,556	4,003
Children in foster care on 9/30	3,196	3,292	3,443	2,686
Children adopted	237	288	266	227

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	29,422	30,670	31,086	18,009	39.1 per 1,000	40.2 per 1,000	40.7 per 1,000	23.7 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	6,523	6,389	4,556	4,003	8.7 per 1,000	8.4 per 1,000	6.0 per 1,000	5.3 per 1,000
Child fatalities	7	12	5	7	0.9 per 100,000	1.6 per 100,000	0.6 per 100,000	0.9 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	6.1	6.3	6.3	8.1
1-5 years	28.9	30.5	27.2	30.2
6-10 years	29.6	31.5	25.9	30.2
11-15 years	25.8	25.5	25.5	25.7
16+ years	9.6	6.2	15.1	5.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,523	6,389	4,556	4,003

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4
Black	52.8	50.1	49.4	41.9
Hispanic	1.6	10.2	4.3	1.1
White	46.3	49.1	49.7	38.8
Two or more races	0.0	—	—	0.4
Unknown/Missing data	0.2	—	—	17.3
Total % ⁴	101.6	110.2	104.3	100.0
Number	6,523	6,389	4,556	4,003

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	2.7	2.0	2.4	9.7
Medical neglect	0.0	—	—	3.0
Neglect	47.0	47.0	59.8	54.0
Physical abuse	26.6	25.3	18.9	20.7
Sexual abuse	21.1	22.7	16.6	16.8
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	2.6	3.0	2.3	0.2
Total % ⁵	100.0	100.0	100.0	104.4
Number	6,523	6,389	4,556	4,003

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	3,121	1,750	1,676	3,196	4,871
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	3,013	2,005	1,726	3,292	5,018
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	3,041	2,094	1,692	3,443	5,135
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	2,614	1,582	1,510	2,686	4,196

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	18.3	N/A	12.5	17.9	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	18.0	N/A	10.1	16.0	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	15.7	N/A	10.2	14.1	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	16.2	N/A	12.5	17.1	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.7	11.3	11.0	12.0	12.8	3.3	3.9	4.3	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.7	4.3
1-5 years	25.5	26.3	26.7	26.0	29.4	28.4	27.9	28.5	25.5	27.2	29.7	30.2	26.4	26.2	26.3	25.1
6-10 years	27.5	27.3	26.7	24.4	27.9	27.4	24.5	24.7	30.8	30.0	28.7	26.3	26.9	26.9	24.8	23.4
11-15 years	27.4	27.0	27.0	27.2	24.1	25.6	26.4	27.2	23.1	23.9	22.2	22.9	27.1	26.5	27.0	27.8
16-18 years	14.4	14.1	14.3	17.0	6.9	7.0	8.4	6.6	14.7	12.6	12.7	13.8	13.9	14.5	16.2	16.3
19+ years	1.2	1.6	1.2	1.6	0.1	0.0	—	—	2.2	2.4	2.0	3.2	1.9	1.9	1.7	3.0
Unknown/Missing data	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,121	3,013	3,041	2,614	1,750	2,005	2,094	1,582	1,676	1,726	1,692	1,510	3,196	3,292	3,443	2,686

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	N/A	0.3	0.2	0.1	N/A	0.0	0.2	0.1	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.1	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	58.6	59.4	57.7	55.6	55.7	53.9	52.0	47.9	54.4	57.3	57.2	52.6	59.2	57.1	54.5	52.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	0.4	N/A	—	—	0.3	N/A	—	—	0.1
Hispanic	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.8	1.4	1.4	0.5	0.7	0.8	1.3	0.7	0.7	1.1	0.9
White	40.3	39.6	41.4	42.3	43.3	45.1	44.2	41.1	44.9	41.7	41.8	41.7	39.5	41.9	42.9	41.9
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	0.4	N/A	—	0.2	1.0	N/A	—	—	0.3	N/A	—	0.1	0.8
Unknown/Missing data	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.2	0.0	2.0	8.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	3.6	0.2	0.0	1.2	3.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,121	3,013	3,041	2,614	1,750	2,005	2,094	1,582	1,676	1,726	1,692	1,510	3,196	3,292	3,443	2,686

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	581	520	510	816
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	289	256	244	220

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.7	1.3	3.1	3.4
1-5 years	21.2	22.9	18.6	27.2
6-10 years	33.9	31.2	30.0	31.4
11-15 years	27.7	28.8	29.4	30.3
16+ years	11.7	10.6	12.2	6.1
Unknown/Missing data	3.8	5.2	6.7	1.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	581	520	510	816

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	0.1
Asian	N/A	0.2	—	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	68.8	68.8	62.2	54.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	0.2	—	0.2	0.4
White	30.5	31.0	37.5	42.6
Two or more races	N/A	—	0.2	1.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.3	—	—	1.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	581	520	510	816

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	0.8	1.4	—	—
1-5 years	32.5	33.3	41.7	37.4
6-10 years	47.3	42.7	36.5	32.6
11-15 years	18.6	18.4	19.2	24.2
16+ years	0.8	4.2	2.6	5.7
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	237	288	266	227

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	—
Asian	N/A	—	0.4	0.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	49.4	55.2	63.2	50.7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	—	0.3	—	1.8
White	48.5	44.4	36.5	46.3
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	0.4
Unknown/Missing data	0.4	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	237	288	266	227

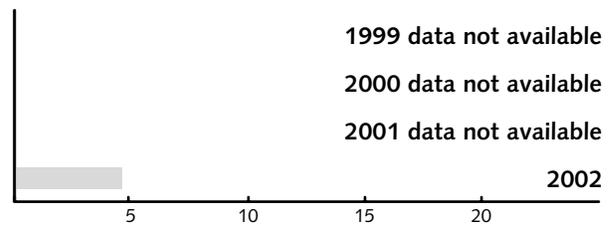
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	95.4
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	4.6
Total %	—	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	—	2,065

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

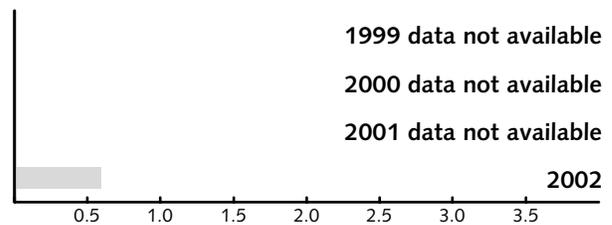


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	0.59
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	99.41
Total %	—	—	—	100.00
Number	—	—	—	3,887

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

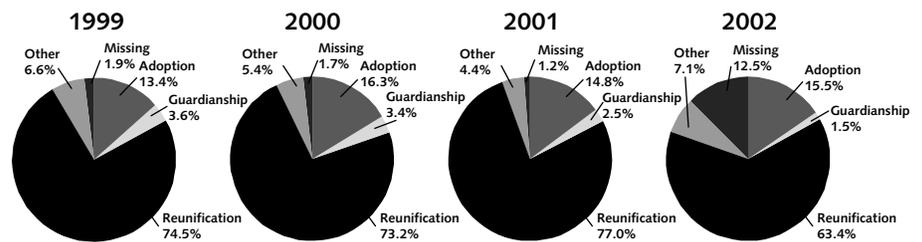


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	13.4	16.3	14.8	15.5
Guardianship	3.6	3.4	2.5	1.5
Reunification	74.5	73.2	77.0	63.4
Other	6.6	5.4	4.4	7.1
Missing data	1.9	1.7	1.2	12.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,676	1,726	1,692	1,510

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	23.4	24.5	20.0	17.8
Guardianship	3.6	7.4	7.7	1.8
Reunification	59.5	53.7	59.4	64.0
Other	11.7	13.3	11.6	12.0
Missing data	1.8	1.1	1.3	4.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	222	188	155	225

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.3	1.6	0.3	1.8
Guardianship	3.6	3.6	2.8	2.1
Reunification	77.9	77.0	82.4	63.0
Other	16.2	15.6	13.4	21.7
Missing data	2.1	2.2	1.1	11.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	389	365	352	332

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	36.8	35.5	37.1	31.5
Children older than 12 at entry	61.8	64.5	61.3	68.5
Missing data	1.3	—	1.6	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	76	62	62	89

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

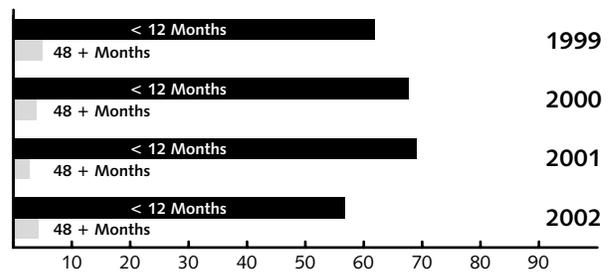
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	100.0	100.0	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.4	15.9	16.5	14.6	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.4	3.4	1.9	0.9	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—	100.0	N/A	100.0	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	77.7	73.3	76.1	64.2	N/A	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.9	5.9	4.3	9.4	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.5	1.5	1.1	10.8	N/A	—	—	100.0
Total %	—	—	—	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	—	1	N/A	4	1	2	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	912	989	967	794	N/A	—	—	4

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	8.3	—	20.0	14.9	17.2	12.6	17.6	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	20.0	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	7.1	5.0	5.2	3.3	3.4	2.2	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.1
Reunification	62.5	83.3	85.7	65.0	70.9	72.6	78.2	62.5	33.3	100.0	66.7	85.7	N/A	—	—	80.0	—	—	—	63.8
Other	25.0	8.3	7.1	—	7.0	4.9	4.5	4.8	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.3
Missing data	12.5	—	—	10.0	2.0	1.9	1.3	12.9	66.7	—	33.3	14.3	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	29.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	100.0	—	—	—	100.0
Number	8	12	14	20	752	720	707	630	3	1	3	7	N/A	—	—	5	—	—	—	47

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

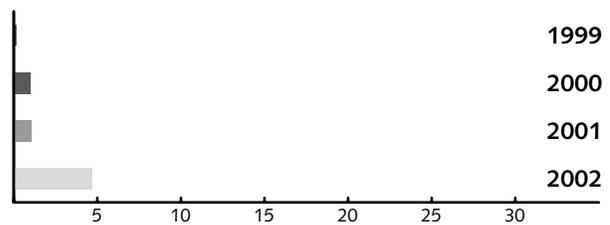
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	61.9	67.7	69.0	56.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	19.3	19.6	17.3	29.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	9.8	6.4	7.1	6.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.8	2.3	3.1	3.0
48 or more mos.	4.9	4.0	2.8	4.3
Missing data	0.4	0.1	0.8	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,248	1,263	1,303	958

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	98.6	98.0	98.6	94.8
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	0.1	0.9	1.0	4.6
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	—	0.6	0.3	0.4
Missing data	1.3	0.4	0.0	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,750	2,005	2,094	1,582

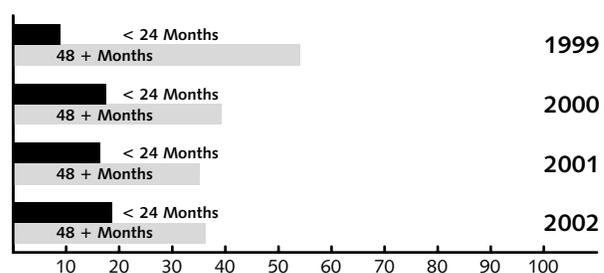
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	—	6.0	2.0	2.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	8.9	11.7	14.4	16.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	17.8	20.2	24.4	23.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	19.1	22.7	23.2	21.4
48 or more mos.	54.2	39.4	35.2	36.3
Missing data	—	—	0.8	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	225	282	250	234

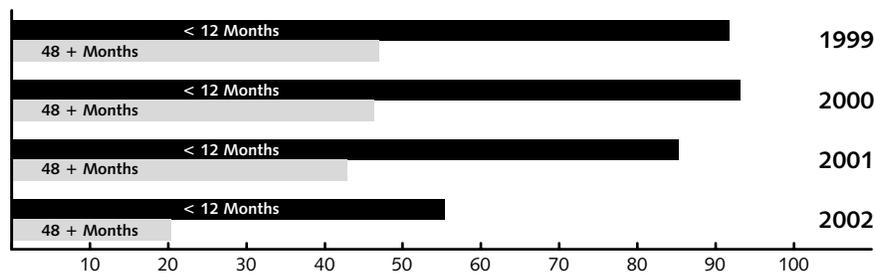
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	91.7	7.2	1.1	100.0	1,992
	2000	93.2	6.5	0.3	100.0	2,297
	2001	85.3	7.5	7.2	100.0	2,465
	2002	55.3	9.7	35.0	100.0	1,831
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	77.4	21.2	1.4	100.0	1,053
	2000	80.1	19.5	0.4	100.0	945
	2001	82.9	16.9	0.2	100.0	1,060
	2002	47.4	28.4	24.3	100.0	944
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	62.9	34.8	2.2	100.0	580
	2000	70.9	29.1	—	100.0	611
	2001	73.1	26.9	—	100.0	516
	2002	36.5	48.0	15.5	100.0	496
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	65.6	34.4	—	100.0	323
	2000	59.6	40.4	—	100.0	369
	2001	65.0	35.0	—	100.0	371
	2002	31.1	56.2	12.7	100.0	283
48 or more mos.	1999	46.9	51.8	1.3	100.0	898
	2000	46.3	52.6	1.1	100.0	789
	2001	42.9	56.4	0.7	100.0	702
	2002	20.3	64.3	15.4	100.0	635
Missing data	1999	88.0	—	12.0	100.0	25
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	7
	2001	95.2	—	4.8	100.0	21
	2002	71.4	—	28.6	100.0	7

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	20.7	17.4	24.2	25.5
Institutions	2.4	1.8	2.5	—
Other settings	76.9	80.7	73.2	74.5
Missing data	—	0.1	0.2	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,309	1,474	1,332	770

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

- With regard to Section B, 2002 was the first year that data were obtained from the Mississippi Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS). Previous year's data regarding the number of children who were subject of an investigated report were estimates based on information from our legacy system. Our SACWIS system captures every intake (report) and has the capability to count actual alleged victims. This explains the decline from 1999 to 2002 in the number of children who were the subject of an investigated report.
- With regard to Section C, October 1, 2001 was the date that our SACWIS system captured AFCARS data. Many inconsistencies were found in Mississippi's legacy system during conversion which led to several data clean up projects. This explains data discrepancies on in this section. Subsequent AFCARS submissions were made indicating the corrected data for 2002.
- The missing data for Outcome Measures 3.1 and 3.3 is the result of a lack of edit checks in place during the initial implementation of the SACWIS system. This situation has now been corrected with many edit checks in place and many more in the planning stages. Future AFCARS files will continue to show a decline in missing data.

The following discussion focuses on Mississippi's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Mississippi Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2004, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2002. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Mississippi's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided below.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Mississippi's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 4.6 percent, which is less than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure over time cannot be assessed because 2002 was the first year the State provided the necessary data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). Information from the Mississippi CFSR Final Report indicates that some stakeholders in the State believe that the low rate of maltreatment recurrence may be attributed to a practice in the State of not substantiating child maltreatment reports even when there is evidence to warrant substantiation.

The cross-State analyses found a substantial positive relationship between performance on this outcome measure and the State rate of child victims (i.e., the number of child victims per 1,000 children in the population). States with a relatively low rate of child victims tended to have a relatively low rate of maltreatment recurrence. For Mississippi, both the incidence of maltreatment recurrence (4.6 percent) and the rate of child victims (5.3 per 1,000 children in the population) were in the bottom quartile of the State rankings. This suggests that the State's definitions and laws pertaining to what constitutes maltreatment and what is necessary for substantiation may be related to its performance on the measure of maltreatment recurrence.

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

In CY 2002, Mississippi's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.59 percent, which is more than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure over time cannot be assessed because 2002 was the first year the State provided the necessary data to NCANDS. Information from the CFSR Final Report notes that some stakeholders in the State expressed the opinion that maltreatment in foster care may be the result of too many children being placed in a single foster home.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 80.5 percent of children exiting foster care in Mississippi were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 86.1 percent), and 66.9 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 31.5 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is more than the national median of 26.9 percent. These findings suggest that Mississippi experiences challenges in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care. However, 83.6 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home, which is more than the national median of 79.8 percent.

Performance improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (-14.6 percent change). However, performance declined with regard to: (1) the percentage of all children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home (-12.1 percent change), and (2) the percentage of children exiting foster care to a permanent home who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (-18.2 percent change). There was no change with regard to permanency for children with a diagnosed disability.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Mississippi occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 56.8, which is less than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-8.2 percent change). Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as barriers to timely reunification: (1) lack of consistent effort on the part of the child welfare agency to achieve reunification in a timely manner, and (2) frequent situations in which the court does not approve the agency's request for reunification.

Because the cross-State analysis found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months in the State and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Mississippi's performance in FY 2002 with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Mississippi, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 4.6, which is less than both the national standard (8.6 or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Thus, although Mississippi had a low percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a low percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. Change in performance on the measure of foster care re-entry from FY 1999 to FY 2002 cannot be assessed because of possible data quality issues in prior years.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 18.8, which is less than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Mississippi's performance on this measure improved slightly from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+6.1 percent change). Information in the CFSR Final Report identified the following as potential barriers to timely adoptions: (1) delays in attaining termination of parental rights (TPR); (2) delays in finalizing adoptions after TPR; and (3) a practice in some cases of maintaining the goal of reunification for long periods of time, even when the prognosis for reunification is low.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 55.3, which is the lowest percentage in the Nation. Mississippi's performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-39.7 percent change). Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as barriers to achieving placement stability: (1) the frequent use of shelter placements for children; (2) multiple placement disruptions due to the child's behavior and lack of support for foster parents in dealing with behavioral issues; and (3) the lack of therapeutic foster care homes for children who need that level of care.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 25.5, which is almost three times the national median of 8.6 percent. Mississippi's performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+10.0 percent change). Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that performance on this measure may be attributed to the frequent use of shelter placements, both at entry into foster care and when placements disrupt.

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	1,399,492	1,409,738	1,407,321	1,397,461
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4
Asian	N/A	1.1	1.1	1.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	14.4	14.3	14.5	14.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	2.3	3.0	3.0	3.1
White	81.7	78.9	78.8	78.6
Two or more races	N/A	2.1	2.1	2.1
Other	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	18.2	10.2	12.9	15.0

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	9,079	7,658	9,237	9,810
Children in foster care on 9/30	12,577	13,181	13,394	13,052
Children adopted	849	1,265	1,102	1,542

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	71,351	74,412	80,743	80,653	51.0 per 1,000	52.8 per 1,000	57.4 per 1,000	57.7 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	9,079	7,658	9,237	9,810	6.5 per 1,000	5.4 per 1,000	6.6 per 1,000	7.0 per 1,000
Child fatalities	36	48	33	52	2.6 per 100,000	3.4 per 100,000	2.3 per 100,000	3.7 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	5.5	6.4	5.2	6.2
1-5 years	28.7	27.9	29.4	30.1
6-10 years	31.2	30.4	29.6	29.2
11-15 years	29.5	29.1	30.0	28.7
16+ years	4.7	5.5	5.7	5.6
Unknown/Missing data	0.3	0.7	—	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,079	7,658	9,237	9,810

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3
Black	26.0	22.5	20.6	18.7
Hispanic	0.9	1.8	2.0	2.3
White	72.0	74.2	75.6	77.0
Two or more races	1.0	0.1	0.1	—
Unknown/Missing data	0.4	0.7	1.0	1.4
Total % ⁴	100.9	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,079	7,658	9,237	9,810

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	1.5	4.0	7.7	6.3
Medical neglect	2.5	2.7	3.0	3.4
Neglect	49.6	45.2	51.5	48.8
Physical abuse	24.1	27.4	27.3	28.2
Sexual abuse	26.0	28.3	24.5	28.7
Unknown/Missing data	1.1	2.7	—	—
Other	5.2	2.6	3.5	2.7
Total % ⁵	110.1	112.9	117.5	118.1
Number	9,079	7,658	9,237	9,810

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	11,540	6,341	5,304	12,577	17,881
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	11,474	7,216	5,509	13,181	18,690
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	11,705	7,392	5,703	13,394	19,097
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	12,647	7,401	6,996	13,052	20,048

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	19.3	N/A	12.8	18.9	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	19.3	N/A	12.2	17.0	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	17.0	N/A	12.8	15.5	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	16.7	N/A	14.0	15.8	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	3.7	3.9	4.1	4.1	12.7	12.7	12.7	13.7	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.1	3.8	4.1	4.3	4.5
1-5 years	23.5	22.2	22.1	22.6	24.2	24.7	25.8	26.0	24.6	25.1	27.0	27.2	22.8	22.5	22.6	23.4
6-10 years	26.2	26.5	24.7	24.1	24.2	24.1	24.0	23.1	24.3	25.2	23.7	24.0	26.3	25.2	23.9	22.0
11-15 years	29.7	30.4	31.2	31.0	31.4	31.4	30.5	30.3	24.9	26.0	25.3	25.5	30.3	30.9	30.8	31.0
16-18 years	15.0	15.0	15.8	15.9	7.4	7.1	7.0	6.8	18.8	16.6	16.1	15.7	15.0	15.3	16.0	16.4
19+ years	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.4	0.0	—	0.0	0.1	2.9	2.4	3.3	3.4	1.9	1.9	2.3	2.7
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.0	0.1	—	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.1	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	11,540	11,474	11,705	12,647	6,341	7,216	7,392	7,401	5,304	5,509	5,703	6,996	12,577	13,181	13,394	13,052

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3
Asian	N/A	0.2	0.3	0.2	N/A	0.6	0.4	0.4	N/A	0.6	0.5	0.4	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	43.5	43.6	41.1	37.3	35.0	31.3	27.7	27.0	33.5	32.4	32.6	30.9	43.5	41.6	37.3	34.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	0.0	N/A	—	—	0.0	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.8	1.8	2.1	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.7	2.1	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.5
White	54.7	54.5	56.8	59.9	62.3	65.3	68.2	68.6	63.6	64.3	64.0	65.0	54.7	56.4	60.0	62.2
Two or more races	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.1	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.1	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown/Missing data	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.7	1.1	1.4	0.2	0.6	0.7	1.3	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	11,540	11,474	11,705	12,647	6,341	7,216	7,392	7,401	5,304	5,509	5,703	6,996	12,577	13,181	13,394	13,052

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	3,143	3,131	3,015	2,907
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	2,150	1,527	1,615	1,660

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.9	1.8	2.4	3.0
1-5 years	28.0	26.8	25.3	24.8
6-10 years	35.4	33.9	31.2	27.7
11-15 years	28.1	32.0	35.1	37.0
16+ years	5.3	4.8	5.1	6.7
Unknown/Missing data	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,143	3,131	3,015	2,907

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Asian	N/A	0.1	0.2	0.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	43.2	47.3	45.2	43.2
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.3
White	54.9	50.8	52.5	54.0
Two or more races	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unknown/Missing data	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,143	3,131	3,015	2,907

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.3	2.3	2.6	3.0
1-5 years	45.1	42.1	46.5	43.3
6-10 years	32.9	35.1	31.6	31.8
11-15 years	17.2	17.3	15.9	18.8
16+ years	3.5	3.2	3.4	3.1
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	849	1,265	1,102	1,542

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.3
Asian	N/A	0.2	—	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	39.8	39.3	38.9	36.7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	1.1	1.1	2.0	2.5
White	58.2	58.3	58.5	59.9
Two or more races	N/A	0.3	—	0.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	849	1,265	1,102	1,542

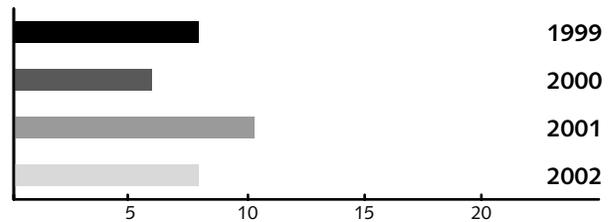
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	92.1	94.1	89.7	92.1
Children with one or more recurrences	7.9	5.9	10.3	7.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,109	3,436	4,128	4,588

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

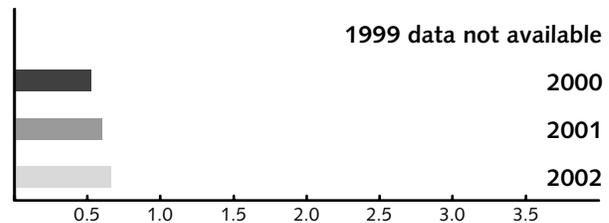


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	0.52	0.60	0.66
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	99.48	99.40	99.34
Total %	—	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	—	17,316	17,624	18,261

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

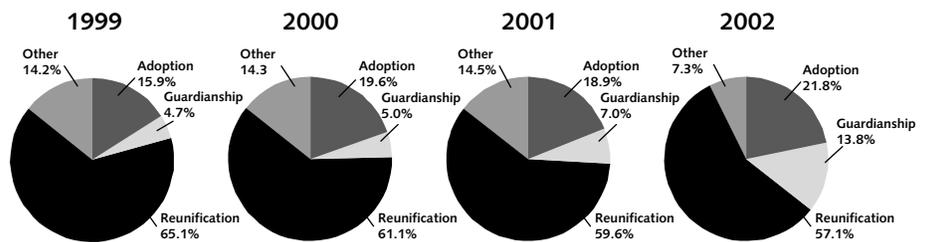


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	15.9	19.6	18.9	21.8
Guardianship	4.7	5.0	7.0	13.8
Reunification	65.1	61.1	59.6	57.1
Other	14.2	14.3	14.5	7.3
Missing data	—	—	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,304	5,509	5,703	6,996

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	24.3	22.0	20.6	22.5
Guardianship	3.8	5.7	6.9	12.4
Reunification	50.9	51.0	51.5	50.6
Other	21.0	21.3	20.9	14.5
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	822	1,308	1,318	1,522

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	1.3	1.4	2.5	2.5
Guardianship	2.5	3.2	5.0	11.0
Reunification	70.1	66.2	63.9	67.2
Other	26.0	29.3	28.5	19.2
Missing data	—	—	0.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,597	1,521	1,545	1,810

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	47.1	46.5	50.3	30.4
Children older than 12 at entry	52.9	53.5	49.7	69.6
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	594	600	676	299

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

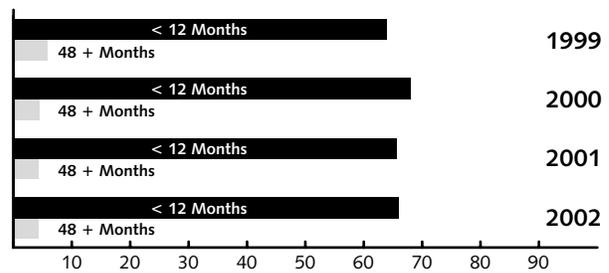
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	42.9	35.7	9.5	26.3	N/A	5.7	—	7.7	8.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	19.0	23.0	22.5	25.9	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	5.3	N/A	—	—	11.5	8.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.0	4.8	9.4	18.3	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	50.0	50.0	76.2	68.4	N/A	85.7	85.7	61.5	75.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	63.0	58.0	51.5	48.2	N/A	—	—	100.0
Other	7.1	14.3	14.3	—	N/A	8.6	14.3	19.2	8.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.1	14.2	16.6	7.5	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	100.0
Number	14	14	21	19	N/A	35	28	26	12	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,776	1,784	1,860	2,162	N/A	—	—	1

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	7.9	12.7	22.2	26.0	14.5	18.2	17.3	20.0	7.7	17.4	7.9	6.7	N/A	50.0	—	25.0	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	3.5	1.0	2.0	8.9	4.7	5.3	6.0	11.9	—	—	2.6	13.5	N/A	—	—	25.0	—	11.1	—	—
Reunification	64.9	75.5	57.6	60.3	66.3	61.9	63.3	60.7	84.6	78.3	73.7	75.3	N/A	50.0	100.0	50.0	—	88.9	100.0	—
Other	23.7	10.8	18.2	4.8	14.6	14.6	13.4	7.3	7.7	4.3	15.8	4.5	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	—
Number	114	102	99	146	3,375	3,540	3,652	4,545	13	23	38	89	N/A	2	2	8	—	9	3	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

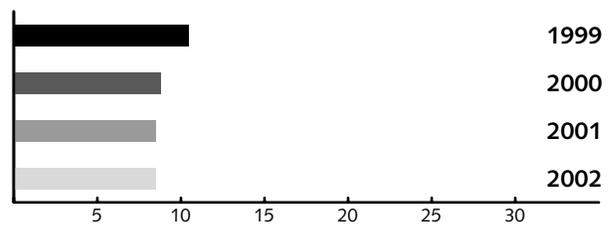
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	63.9	68.0	65.6	65.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	19.2	16.4	20.7	20.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	6.5	7.0	5.3	6.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.4	3.1	3.0	2.7
48 or more mos.	5.8	4.5	4.4	4.2
Missing data	—	1.2	1.0	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,455	3,367	3,400	3,993

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	76.8	78.1	77.9	74.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	10.5	8.8	8.5	8.5
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	10.9	10.9	11.0	9.5
Missing data	1.8	2.2	2.5	7.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,341	7,216	7,392	7,401

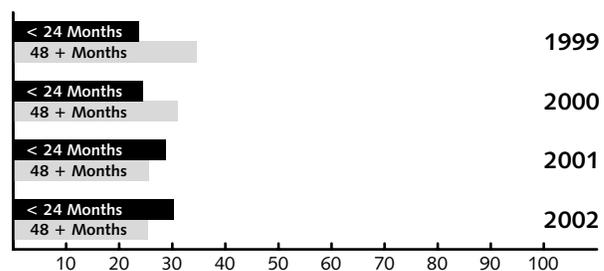
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	5.0	5.5	7.3	6.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	18.8	19.1	21.6	23.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	24.8	25.4	27.6	25.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	16.7	18.6	17.8	18.1
48 or more mos.	34.7	31.2	25.7	25.4
Missing data	—	0.2	0.1	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	844	1,078	1,076	1,525

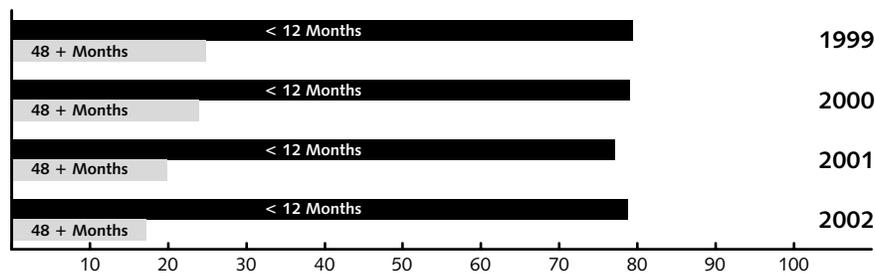
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	79.4	20.6	—	100.0	7,048
	2000	79.1	20.9	—	100.0	8,020
	2001	77.1	22.9	—	100.0	8,310
	2002	78.7	21.3	—	100.0	8,432
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	56.0	44.0	—	100.0	3,768
	2000	53.6	46.4	—	100.0	3,630
	2001	51.7	48.3	—	100.0	4,199
	2002	52.9	47.1	—	100.0	4,563
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	44.1	55.9	—	100.0	2,265
	2000	43.1	56.9	—	100.0	2,381
	2001	38.5	61.5	—	100.0	2,203
	2002	40.4	59.6	—	100.0	2,595
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	34.7	65.3	—	100.0	1,544
	2000	34.6	65.4	—	100.0	1,452
	2001	32.9	67.1	—	100.0	1,452
	2002	31.3	68.7	—	100.0	1,409
48 or more mos.	1999	24.8	75.2	—	100.0	3,194
	2000	23.9	76.1	—	100.0	3,171
	2001	19.8	80.2	—	100.0	2,885
	2002	17.2	82.8	—	100.0	2,966
Missing data	1999	93.5	6.5	—	100.0	62
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	36
	2001	95.8	4.2	—	100.0	48
	2002	96.4	3.6	—	100.0	83

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.5
Institutions	12.0	9.3	8.6	6.2
Other settings	86.4	88.9	89.6	92.3
Missing data	0.0	—	0.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,402	5,051	5,169	3,577

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Children's Division
Missouri Department of Social Services
573-522-8024

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

- Missouri continues to be committed to providing the most accurate data possible through our NCANDS and AFCARS transmissions. We continue to enhance our data systems to more completely detail our compliance with the mandates of ASFA and to better serve our families. We have continued our efforts to safely return children to their families and have seen a dramatic increase in the number of children returned home within 12 and 24 months of placement. We have also seen an increase in adoptions within 24 months of placement. Our Child Fatality Review Panels continue their aggressive pursuit to accurately identify all child maltreatment deaths.
- The data in Section C indicate that Missouri has significantly fewer children in care on October 1, 2000, than on September 30, 2000. We suspect this difference is because the October 1, 2000 total counts only those children in the care and custody of Missouri placed in alternative care. The September 30, 2000, total also includes children in the temporary custody of adoptive parents, children in the custody of other agencies, and children for whom the agency provides supervision services only who are generally in the custody of relatives.
- The seeming discrepancy between the number of children awaiting adoption and the number of children with termination of parental rights (Section D) reflects the practice in many Missouri courts to delay termination of parental rights until an adoptive home has been found for a specific child or sibling group.

The following discussion focuses on Missouri's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Missouri Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2004, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2002. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Missouri's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided below.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Missouri's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 7.9 percent, which does not meet the national standard (6.1 percent or less), but is about equal to the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure exhibited no change from 1999 to 2002. Information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that stakeholders in the State attribute maltreatment recurrence to poverty, a lack of funding for services, difficulties accessing services for children and families in the in-home services cases, and chronic neglect.

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

In CY 2002, Missouri's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.66 percent, which is more than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure declined from 2000 to 2002 (+26.9 percent change). Information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that the State is using a new curriculum for training foster parents that they hope will address the problem of risk of harm in foster care.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 92.7 percent of children exiting foster care in Missouri were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 86.1 percent); 85.5 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 80.8 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 72.0 percent). These findings suggest that the State is generally successful in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care. However, 30.4 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is more than the national median of 26.9 percent. Missouri's performance on all of the measures for outcome 3 improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Missouri occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 65.9, which is less than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to timely reunification: (1) an agency practice of using extended trial home visits rather than reunifying children even when safety issues have been resolved; (2) parental substance abuse relapse; (3) lack of adequate housing; and (4) the scarcity of services for parents.

Because the cross-State analysis found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Missouri's performance in FY 2002 with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Missouri, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 8.5 percent, which meets the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and is less than the national median (9.9 percent). Thus, although Missouri had a low percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a low percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. Performance on the measure of foster care re-entry improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-19.0 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 30.3, which does not meet the national standard (32.0 percent or more), but is more than the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Missouri's performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+23.2 percent change). Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as barriers to timely adoptions: (1) agency delays in filing for termination of parental rights (TPR) in a timely manner; (2) excessive caseloads of attorneys and social workers; (3) a perception on the part of the courts and the agency that children age 12 and older and children with behavioral issues are not going to be adopted; and (4) a lack of concerted efforts to find adoptive homes for children that do not have foster parents who are willing to adopt them.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 78.7, which is less than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Missouri exhibited no change in performance on this measure from FY 1999 to FY 2002. Information from the CFSR Final Report identified the following as potential barriers to placement stability: (1) a lack of appropriate resources to meet children's placement needs; (2) the use of emergency foster care placements when children enter foster care; (3) the rotation from one emergency foster care placement to another because of a lack of long-term placements; (4) insufficient training and support to foster parents to help them deal with children's behavioral problems; and (4) lack of support from the agency for relative placements.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 7.7, which is less than the national median of 8.6 percent. Missouri's performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-43.3 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	223,819	223,630	220,254	216,320
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	10.4	9.2	9.4	9.6
Asian	N/A	0.6	0.6	0.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	2.7	3.2	3.2	3.2
White	85.7	83.9	83.8	83.5
Two or more races	N/A	2.6	2.4	2.4
Other	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	21.8	24.6	16.4	18.0

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	3,414	2,431	1,935	1,995
Children in foster care on 9/30	2,156	2,180	2,008	1,912
Children adopted	187	238	275	247

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	20,315	15,788	15,032	17,078	90.8 per 1,000	70.6 per 1,000	68.2 per 1,000	78.9 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	3,414	2,431	1,935	1,995	15.3 per 1,000	10.9 per 1,000	8.8 per 1,000	9.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	4	1	4	4	1.8 per 100,000	0.4 per 100,000	1.8 per 100,000	1.9 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	7.0	8.8	9.4	9.0
1-5 years	31.9	29.1	32.7	33.0
6-10 years	32.0	31.5	28.0	24.9
11-15 years	24.8	24.1	23.0	24.0
16+ years	4.2	3.4	3.7	4.8
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	3.2	3.2	4.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,414	2,431	1,935	1,995

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	24.9	25.4	21.4	21.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2
Black	0.8	1.1	0.7	1.3
Hispanic	1.9	2.6	2.4	3.5
White	57.1	52.3	55.1	52.6
Two or more races	16.8	—	1.9	2.5
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	18.4	18.4	18.1
Total % ⁴	101.9	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,414	2,431	1,935	1,995

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	12.2	16.0	15.4	0.6
Medical neglect	2.5	2.7	2.0	1.7
Neglect	62.0	43.4	37.3	34.5
Physical abuse	9.2	44.8	53.2	67.6
Sexual abuse	9.2	14.8	14.9	10.3
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	4.9	0.4	1.1	11.2
Total % ⁵	100.0	122.1	123.9	125.9
Number	3,414	2,431	1,935	1,995

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	1,891	1,596	1,331	2,156	3,487
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	1,918	1,588	1,327	2,180	3,506
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	1,999	1,506	1,497	2,008	3,505
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	1,886	1,306	1,280	1,912	3,192

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	18.6	N/A	4.5	15.6	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	15.9	N/A	5.1	16.0	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	17.0	N/A	6.3	16.2	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	17.5	N/A	7.6	16.5	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	5.0	4.7	4.5	4.0	13.1	13.7	13.0	14.2	7.4	7.0	6.7	5.2	4.6	4.7	4.1	4.8
1-5 years	24.1	24.9	25.7	25.5	27.2	29.0	30.3	34.9	27.0	30.4	30.7	32.8	24.3	25.9	25.9	27.7
6-10 years	27.2	27.7	27.3	26.2	26.7	25.8	25.4	21.8	26.1	24.0	25.5	24.6	26.9	26.7	25.9	24.3
11-15 years	28.8	29.7	29.3	31.7	25.8	23.7	24.6	23.1	22.7	23.4	22.0	24.2	29.7	28.9	31.2	29.6
16-18 years	14.8	12.9	13.0	12.6	7.1	7.9	6.7	5.9	15.7	14.5	14.1	12.0	14.4	13.6	12.6	13.3
19+ years	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	—	—	1.1	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.4
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,891	1,918	1,999	1,886	1,596	1,588	1,506	1,306	1,331	1,327	1,497	1,280	2,156	2,180	2,008	1,912

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	26.3	29.5	32.7	32.8	31.0	32.4	30.3	27.9	25.8	27.5	30.6	27.4	30.1	32.8	32.5	33.1
Asian	N/A	0.3	0.3	0.2	N/A	0.4	0.0	0.2	N/A	0.6	0.1	0.0	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.8	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.1	1.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	0.0	—	N/A	—	0.0	—	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	3.1	3.3	4.2	4.1	2.9	4.3	3.9	6.0	2.9	3.6	4.3	4.7	3.1	3.9	3.9	5.1
White	64.5	61.9	58.3	58.6	59.0	55.7	55.7	52.1	64.2	61.0	56.8	57.9	60.6	58.0	57.5	54.7
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	0.5	N/A	—	0.7	3.8	N/A	—	0.2	2.3	N/A	—	0.3	1.6
Unknown/Missing data	3.9	3.4	3.0	2.6	5.2	5.9	8.2	8.0	5.0	5.7	6.2	6.2	4.1	3.8	4.5	3.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,891	1,918	1,999	1,886	1,596	1,588	1,506	1,306	1,331	1,327	1,497	1,280	2,156	2,180	2,008	1,912

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview

	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	780	854	752	692
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	690	717	631	586

Age of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	2.4	3.4	1.9	2.2
1-5 years	24.9	24.7	24.5	23.4
6-10 years	27.8	29.3	29.8	27.2
11-15 years	32.6	31.1	32.2	32.5
16+ years	10.9	10.0	10.5	12.1
Unknown/Missing data	1.4	1.5	1.2	2.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	780	854	752	692

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	19.0	23.4	24.9	25.6
Asian	N/A	0.2	0.3	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	2.1	2.6	1.9	2.0
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	3.8	4.4	4.5	4.5
White	70.3	65.9	65.3	64.2
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	1.2
Unknown/Missing data	4.4	3.4	3.2	2.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	780	854	752	692

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.6	1.3	2.5	0.4
1-5 years	46.5	52.5	42.2	44.5
6-10 years	30.5	28.6	32.7	36.4
11-15 years	18.7	15.5	19.3	17.8
16+ years	2.7	2.1	3.3	0.8
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	187	238	275	247

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	18.7	14.3	21.8	18.2
Asian	N/A	0.4	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	1.1	0.4	3.6	2.0
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	2.1	6.7	7.3	8.1
White	73.3	71.8	67.3	71.3
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	0.4
Unknown/Missing data	3.7	6.3	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	187	238	275	247

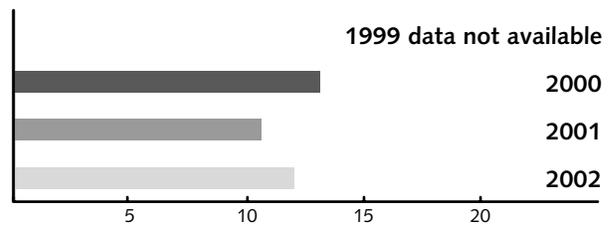
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	86.9	89.4	88.0
Children with one or more recurrences	—	13.1	10.6	12.0
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	1,112	871	934

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

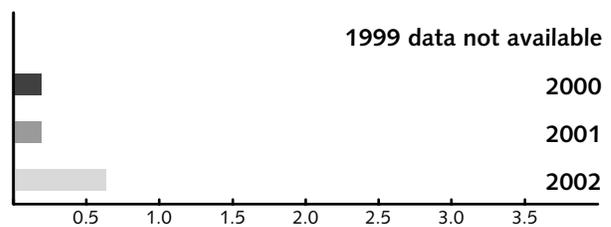


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	0.19	0.19	0.63
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	99.81	99.81	99.37
Total %	—	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	—	3,221	3,116	2,869

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

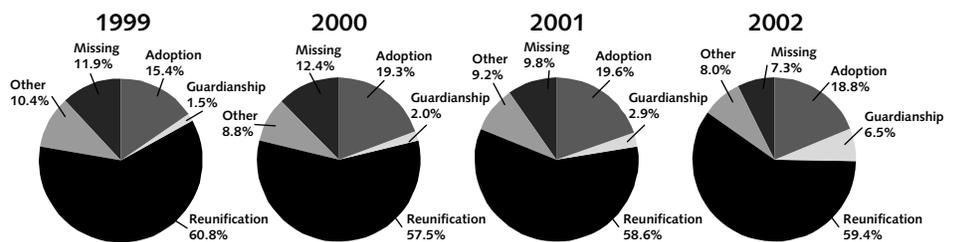


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	15.4	19.3	19.6	18.8
Guardianship	1.5	2.0	2.9	6.5
Reunification	60.8	57.5	58.6	59.4
Other	10.4	8.8	9.2	8.0
Missing data	11.9	12.4	9.8	7.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,331	1,327	1,497	1,280

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	28.2	38.5	39.2	31.6
Guardianship	5.1	1.5	2.4	3.1
Reunification	25.6	29.2	32.0	36.7
Other	23.1	15.4	19.2	23.5
Missing data	17.9	15.4	7.2	5.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	39	65	125	98

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.3	2.2	2.5	0.8
Guardianship	1.6	1.9	1.9	7.2
Reunification	52.5	47.4	46.2	46.6
Other	34.0	29.9	30.3	28.9
Missing data	11.6	18.7	19.1	16.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	318	321	314	249

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	27.3	18.9	34.3	32.9
Children older than 12 at entry	72.7	81.1	65.7	67.1
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	99	90	99	82

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

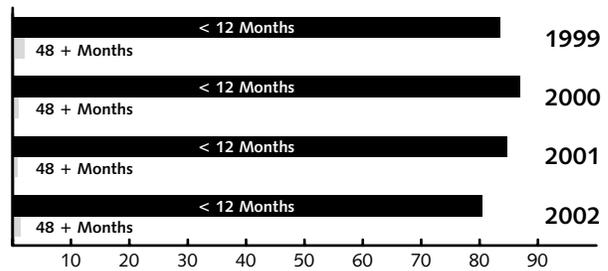
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	11.4	9.9	13.3	12.5	N/A	12.5	—	—	22.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.1	9.5	38.5	26.3	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	1.7	1.4	4.4	10.5	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	61.8	64.9	62.9	63.0	N/A	25.0	50.0	—	66.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	72.2	66.7	34.6	63.2	N/A	—	100.0	—
Other	4.7	5.2	4.6	3.7	N/A	25.0	—	—	11.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.7	9.5	19.2	5.3	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	20.4	18.6	14.8	10.3	N/A	37.5	50.0	100.0	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	14.3	7.7	5.3	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	100.0	—
Number	343	365	458	351	N/A	8	2	1	9	N/A	N/A	N/A	18	21	26	19	N/A	—	1	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	10.3	35.4	31.3	30.0	17.0	22.9	23.4	23.3	20.0	19.7	4.3	—	N/A	—	—	3.4	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	2.6	2.1	1.6	1.7	1.4	2.2	1.8	5.4	1.5	2.6	7.5	6.3	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	66.7	52.1	48.4	55.0	59.2	54.1	55.5	53.6	67.7	61.8	78.5	88.6	N/A	—	66.7	93.1	100.0	—	—	—
Other	—	2.1	10.9	3.3	13.7	11.0	11.5	11.3	3.1	5.3	5.4	2.5	N/A	—	33.3	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	20.5	8.3	7.8	10.0	8.8	9.8	7.8	6.3	7.7	10.5	4.3	2.5	N/A	—	—	3.4	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—
Number	39	48	64	60	855	809	850	741	65	76	93	79	N/A	—	3	29	2	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

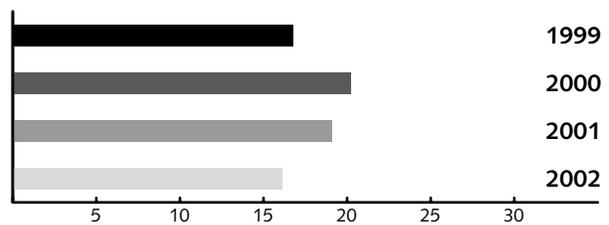
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	83.4	87.0	84.7	80.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	10.8	9.8	10.9	14.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.8	1.4	3.0	3.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.9
48 or more mos.	2.0	0.9	0.8	1.3
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	809	763	877	760

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	72.0	68.5	68.5	69.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	16.8	20.2	19.1	16.1
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.3	8.9	10.6	12.9
Missing data	2.9	2.4	1.9	1.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,596	1,588	1,506	1,306

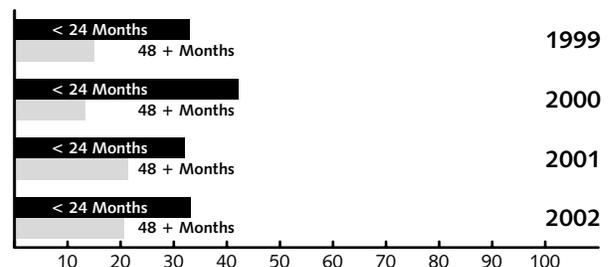
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	14.1	10.9	10.2	1.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	19.0	31.3	21.8	32.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	32.2	30.5	27.6	28.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	19.5	13.3	19.0	17.8
48 or more mos.	15.1	13.3	21.4	20.7
Missing data	—	0.8	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	205	256	294	241

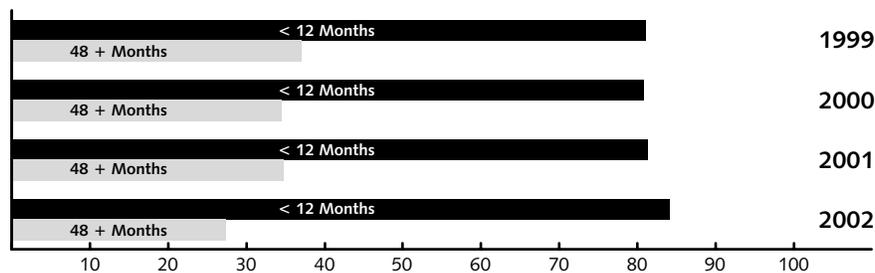
Percent Adoptions Occuring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	81.0	19.0	—	100.0	1,770
	2000	80.8	19.2	—	100.0	1,779
	2001	81.3	18.7	—	100.0	1,746
	2002	84.1	15.9	—	100.0	1,489
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	50.4	49.6	—	100.0	607
	2000	57.5	42.5	—	100.0	669
	2001	55.2	44.8	—	100.0	629
	2002	54.6	45.4	—	100.0	663
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	50.3	49.7	—	100.0	366
	2000	41.7	58.3	—	100.0	391
	2001	47.3	52.7	—	100.0	419
	2002	41.5	58.5	—	100.0	342
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	40.1	59.9	—	100.0	252
	2000	42.9	57.1	—	100.0	212
	2001	34.6	65.4	—	100.0	240
	2002	33.3	66.7	—	100.0	234
48 or more mos.	1999	37.0	63.0	—	100.0	487
	2000	34.5	65.5	—	100.0	452
	2001	34.7	65.3	—	100.0	470
	2002	27.4	72.6	—	100.0	463
Missing data	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	5
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	3
	2001	100.0	—	—	100.0	1
	2002	—	100.0	—	100.0	1

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	8.6	11.9	11.8	9.4
Institutions	0.2	1.0	0.9	0.4
Other settings	91.2	87.1	87.2	90.3
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,204	1,220	1,166	1,036

Montana

[STATE COMMENT]

The following discussion focuses on Montana's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Montana Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2002, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2000. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Montana's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Montana's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 12.0 percent, which is more than the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure improved from 2000 (which is the first year for which data are reported) to 2002 (-8.4 percent change).

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

In CY 2002, Montana's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.63 percent, which is more than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Change in performance on this measure is difficult to interpret because only 8 children were reported as maltreated in foster care in FY 2000, while 18 children were reported as maltreated in foster care in FY 2002.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 84.7 percent of children exiting foster care in Montana were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 86.1 percent); 71.4 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 54.6 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 32.9 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care, which is more than the national median of 26.9 percent. These findings suggest that the State experiences challenges in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care, particularly children who are age 13 or older when they entered foster care.

Montana's performance improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to: (1) the percentage of all children exiting foster care to a permanent home (+9.0 percent change), and (2) the percentage of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care to a permanent home (+21.1 percent change). Performance declined with regard to the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (+20.7 percent change for measure 3.4).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Montana occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 80.5, which is more than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

Because the cross-State analysis found a substantial positive relationship between State percentages of reunifications within 12 months and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Montana's performance in FY 2002 with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Montana, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 16.1 percent, which is higher than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Thus, although Montana had a high percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 that occurred within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. Performance on the measure of foster care re-entry did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 33.2, which is more than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Montana's performance on this measure declined from FY 2000 to FY 2004 (-21.3 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 84.1, which does not meet the national standard (86.7 percent or more), but is equal to the national median (84.1 percent). Performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 9.7, which is more than the national median of 8.6 percent. Montana's performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+10.7 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	443,800	444,051	442,774	439,393
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2
Asian	N/A	1.3	1.4	1.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	5.0	5.3	5.5	5.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	6.9	8.3	8.6	8.9
White	85.0	81.8	81.3	80.7
Two or more races	N/A	2.1	2.0	2.0
Other	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	11.5	11.4	13.5	12.7

Child Welfare Summary

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	3,474	3,612	3,314	3,909
Children in foster care on 9/30	5,146	5,674	6,254	6,430
Children adopted	279	293	292	308

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	13,582	9,997	10,707	12,262	30.6 per 1,000	22.5 per 1,000	24.2 per 1,000	27.9 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	3,474	3,612	3,314	3,909	7.8 per 1,000	8.1 per 1,000	7.5 per 1,000	8.9 per 1,000
Child fatalities	1	3	2	6	0.2 per 100,000	0.7 per 100,000	0.4 per 100,000	1.4 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	8.4	9.5	9.5	10.3
1-5 years	31.3	31.2	31.4	35.7
6-10 years	31.0	30.1	30.1	27.6
11-15 years	22.3	22.6	23.0	21.1
16+ years	4.3	4.6	4.6	4.5
Unknown/Missing data	2.7	2.1	1.3	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,474	3,612	3,314	3,909

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	4.6	6.1	5.6	6.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6
Black	12.4	12.6	11.2	10.6
Hispanic	0.0	7.0	8.3	8.0
White	66.1	67.2	65.9	67.1
Two or more races	8.6	0.1	0.2	0.5
Unknown/Missing data	7.5	6.4	8.1	7.3
Total % ⁴	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,474	3,612	3,314	3,909

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	3.9	5.1	6.7	6.9
Medical neglect	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Neglect	64.5	70.8	68.7	71.7
Physical abuse	21.6	23.6	26.1	22.1
Sexual abuse	9.8	10.4	11.5	9.6
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	0.0	—	—	—
Total % ⁵	100.0	110.0	113.1	110.4
Number	3,474	3,612	3,314	3,909

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	4,440	2,806	2,100	5,146	7,246
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	5,054	3,134	2,514	5,674	8,188
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	5,540	3,350	2,636	6,254	8,890
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	5,917	3,320	2,807	6,430	9,237

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	9.2	N/A	11.0	14.8	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	14.6	N/A	14.3	14.4	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	14.3	N/A	14.9	15.0	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	14.7	N/A	14.9	15.8	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	2.3	2.5	2.7	2.5	7.6	7.6	7.6	8.6	2.4	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.6
1-5 years	20.2	17.5	18.5	19.6	17.0	19.4	17.9	20.3	21.6	18.2	18.2	20.1	16.8	17.8	18.6	19.6
6-10 years	22.8	19.4	18.9	18.9	16.1	17.1	17.5	16.0	23.6	19.2	17.1	18.2	18.7	18.1	18.1	17.4
11-15 years	33.7	34.7	33.1	31.8	37.3	35.0	35.7	33.8	22.9	23.6	25.5	22.5	33.8	31.9	30.5	29.2
16-18 years	20.9	25.9	26.8	27.1	21.9	21.0	21.4	21.3	29.5	37.2	37.3	37.2	28.3	29.6	30.4	31.1
19+ years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,440	5,054	5,540	5,917	2,806	3,134	3,350	3,320	2,100	2,514	2,636	2,807	5,146	5,674	6,254	6,430

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	7.5	7.8	8.2	7.5	8.1	7.1	6.2	8.4	8.3	7.2	8.8	9.7	7.5	7.7	6.9	7.1
Asian	N/A	0.3	0.5	0.3	N/A	0.8	0.5	0.7	N/A	0.6	0.8	1.1	N/A	0.4	0.3	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	16.8	16.5	16.6	16.7	13.0	14.4	13.7	12.6	13.2	13.5	12.4	12.4	16.2	16.6	16.8	16.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	0.0	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	0.0
Hispanic	7.2	7.6	7.6	8.0	9.5	8.6	9.6	9.1	9.5	8.9	9.3	9.5	7.5	7.5	8.0	7.9
White	66.3	66.0	65.5	65.2	67.4	67.8	67.9	66.5	66.8	67.9	67.2	64.7	66.7	66.1	66.1	66.0
Two or more races	N/A	0.2	0.1	0.6	N/A	0.0	0.4	0.5	N/A	0.0	0.2	0.5	N/A	0.1	0.2	0.6
Unknown/Missing data	1.8	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.7	2.1	1.6	1.8	1.3	2.1	1.7	1.4	1.6	1.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,440	5,054	5,540	5,917	2,806	3,134	3,350	3,320	2,100	2,514	2,636	2,807	5,146	5,674	6,254	6,430

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	437	488	352	410
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	231	258	199	252

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	3.9	4.1	1.7	0.7
1-5 years	38.9	35.0	33.0	31.2
6-10 years	35.2	36.5	38.6	35.6
11-15 years	19.0	20.5	22.2	26.8
16+ years	2.7	2.3	4.0	4.4
Unknown/Missing data	0.2	1.6	0.6	1.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	437	488	352	410

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	5.3	7.8	8.5	10.5
Asian	N/A	0.2	0.3	0.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	17.4	19.7	21.6	31.0
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	10.8	10.0	9.7	6.6
White	64.1	60.5	58.0	49.0
Two or more races	N/A	0.2	—	0.7
Unknown/Missing data	2.3	1.6	2.0	1.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	437	488	352	410

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.1	—	1.4	1.0
1-5 years	43.4	41.0	42.8	48.7
6-10 years	40.9	41.0	33.9	34.7
11-15 years	12.5	16.0	19.2	14.0
16+ years	2.2	2.0	2.7	1.6
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	279	293	292	308

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.2	4.4	4.8	5.2
Asian	N/A	—	0.3	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	19.4	21.8	16.1	14.6
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	6.8	3.8	7.9	9.1
White	70.3	68.3	69.2	68.5
Two or more races	N/A	—	0.7	1.3
Unknown/Missing data	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	279	293	292	308

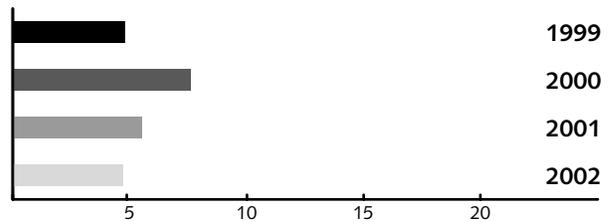
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	95.2	92.4	94.5	95.3
Children with one or more recurrences	4.8	7.6	5.5	4.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,118	1,425	1,427	1,557

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

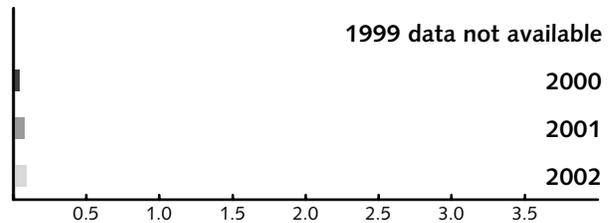


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	0.04	0.08	0.09
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	99.96	99.92	99.91
Total %	—	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	—	7,637	8,310	8,561

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

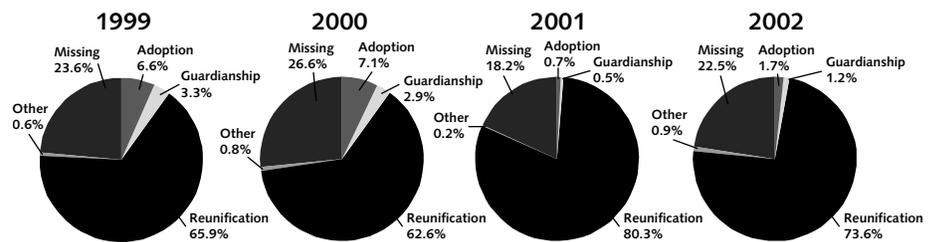


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	6.6	7.1	0.7	1.7
Guardianship	3.3	2.9	0.5	1.2
Reunification	65.9	62.6	80.3	73.6
Other	0.6	0.8	0.2	0.9
Missing data	23.6	26.6	18.2	22.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,100	2,514	2,636	2,807

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	6.7	10.3	—	6.6
Guardianship	—	—	2.3	0.4
Reunification	66.7	65.5	76.7	76.4
Other	—	—	—	—
Missing data	26.7	24.1	20.9	16.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	15	29	43	258

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	0.1	—	—
Guardianship	1.8	1.3	0.1	0.9
Reunification	76.7	72.8	82.2	75.8
Other	0.2	0.7	0.1	1.4
Missing data	21.2	25.1	17.7	21.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	825	1,191	1,234	1,290

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	50.0	50.0	—	—
Children older than 12 at entry	50.0	50.0	—	100.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	—	100.0
Number	2	2	—	2

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

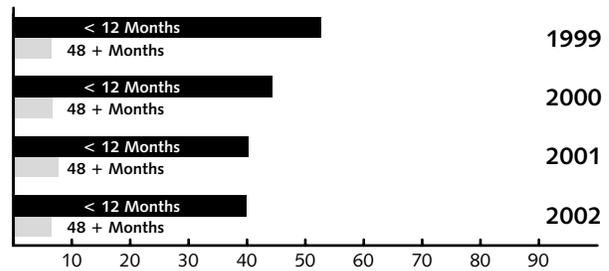
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	1.7	2.8	0.4	1.8	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.4	10.6	1.5	1.1	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	1.1	1.7	2.1	1.1	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.0	5.3	0.3	1.1	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	55.4	56.4	71.2	64.6	N/A	71.4	100.0	87.1	81.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	61.7	56.2	76.5	72.2	N/A	—	—	—
Other	—	2.8	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.4	0.9	0.3	0.9	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	41.7	36.5	26.2	32.5	N/A	28.6	—	12.9	18.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	27.4	27.1	21.3	24.6	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	—
Number	175	181	233	271	N/A	14	21	31	11	N/A	N/A	N/A	277	340	328	349	N/A	—	—	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	7.5	2.7	—	1.5	7.4	7.5	0.7	2.0	3.0	9.1	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	2.5	3.1	—	2.6	3.7	2.5	0.5	1.2	—	2.3	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	58.3	61.8	72.5	70.8	68.6	64.6	83.0	75.4	78.8	65.9	90.9	78.0	100.0	50.0	60.0	53.8	—	—	—	—
Other	0.5	—	—	1.5	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.9	—	2.3	—	3.4	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	31.2	32.4	27.5	23.6	19.7	24.8	15.7	20.6	18.2	20.5	9.1	18.6	N/A	50.0	40.0	46.2	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Number	199	225	244	267	1,403	1,708	1,772	1,817	33	44	33	59	2	2	5	13	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

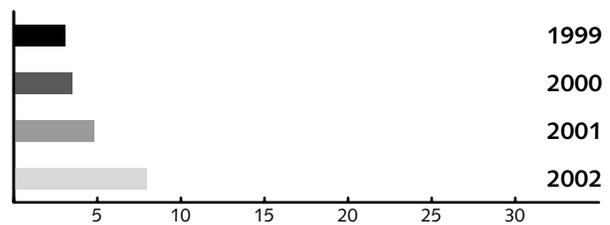
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	52.6	44.4	40.3	39.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	26.4	30.7	27.2	29.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	9.2	12.4	15.6	15.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	5.3	5.8	9.3	8.7
48 or more mos.	6.5	6.7	7.6	6.5
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,384	1,575	2,118	2,066

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	91.8	92.9	90.0	83.8
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	3.1	3.5	4.8	8.0
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	0.2	2.1	3.9	6.8
Missing data	4.9	1.5	1.3	1.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,806	3,134	3,350	3,320

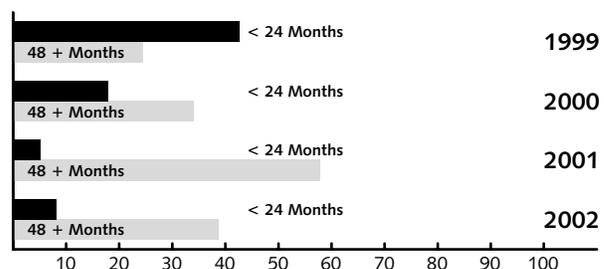
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	18.1	—	—	—
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	24.6	17.9	5.3	8.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	10.9	26.3	15.8	30.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	21.7	21.8	21.1	22.4
48 or more mos.	24.6	34.1	57.9	38.8
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	138	179	19	49

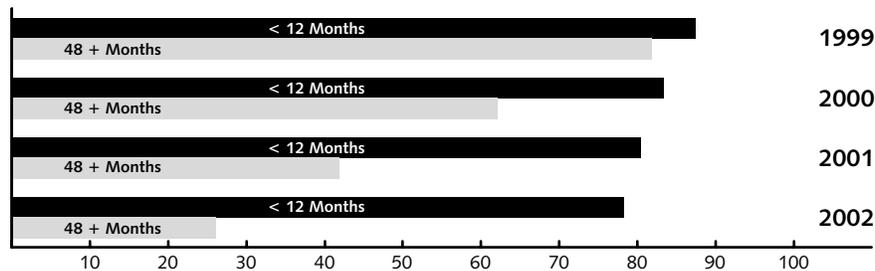
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	87.4	12.6	—	100.0	3,321
	2000	83.4	16.6	—	100.0	3,575
	2001	80.4	19.6	—	100.0	3,775
	2002	78.2	21.8	—	100.0	3,792
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	72.7	27.3	—	100.0	2,111
	2000	56.8	43.2	—	100.0	2,097
	2001	50.8	49.2	—	100.0	2,320
	2002	49.4	50.6	—	100.0	2,415
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	77.1	22.9	—	100.0	699
	2000	52.3	47.7	—	100.0	1,347
	2001	33.6	66.4	—	100.0	1,272
	2002	31.7	68.3	—	100.0	1,359
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	81.4	18.6	—	100.0	414
	2000	59.8	40.2	—	100.0	440
	2001	36.6	63.4	—	100.0	858
	2002	25.1	74.9	—	100.0	782
48 or more mos.	1999	81.9	18.1	—	100.0	691
	2000	62.1	37.9	—	100.0	728
	2001	41.9	58.1	—	100.0	664
	2002	26.0	74.0	—	100.0	884
Missing data	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	10
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	1
	2001	100.0	—	—	100.0	1
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	5

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	2.8	3.0	2.6	4.7
Institutions	8.3	6.6	6.0	3.1
Other settings	89.0	90.4	91.4	92.2
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,307	1,586	1,642	1,662

Sherri Haber, Deputy Administrator
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
402-471-7989

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

The issues we would like to address relate to measures 5.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, and 3.5. All of these measures tie to the 'Reason for Discharge'. The State of Nebraska has had technical and programmatic issues relating to the definition of Discharge. We believe these issues have been resolved for future reporting. We have requested assistance from the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Information Technology to review what we have done and once we all agree that Nebraska is reporting this information properly, resubmission of previous AFCARS will be completed. The 2004(A) AFCARS 'Reason for Discharge' data look very good, so we are hopeful we are on the right path. Once these are resolved, we should see a significant change our outcome measures.

The following discussion focuses on Nebraska's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Nebraska Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2002, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2000. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Nebraska's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Nebraska's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 4.7 percent, which is less than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). There was no change in performance on this measure from 1999 to 2002.

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

In CY 2002, Nebraska's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.09 percent, which is less than both the national standard (0.57 percent) and the national median (0.39 percent). Change in performance on this measure is difficult to assess because of the very small number of children reported as maltreated in foster care—three children in 2000 and eight children in 2002.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

Nebraska's performance with regard to outcome 3 cannot be assessed because of potential data quality issues. For most of the measures for outcome 3, 20 percent or more of the children reported as exiting from foster care did not have "reason for discharge" information. Only two children were reported to be emancipated from foster care in each of FYs 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Nebraska occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 39.9. However, the validity of the data is questionable because 22.5 percent of the exits from foster care in FY 2002 did not have "reason for discharge" information.

Nebraska's performance in FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of re-entries into foster care within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 8.0, which is less than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). However, performance on this measure declined considerably from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+158.4 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 8.2. However, the validity of the data is questionable because 22.5 percent of the exits from foster care in FY 2002 did not have "reason for discharge" information. Also, there was a substantial discrepancy between the number of adoptions provided in the State's AFCARS Adoption data submission (308 adoptions) and the number of exits to a finalized adoption reported in the State's AFCARS Foster Care data submission (49 exits to adoption). A similar discrepancy occurred in prior years.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 78.2, which is less than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Nebraska's performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-10.5 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 7.8, which is less than the national median of 8.6 percent. Nebraska's performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-29.6 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	491,476	543,372	551,467	572,590
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.7	1.2	1.2	1.2
Asian	N/A	4.0	4.0	3.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	8.3	8.0	8.1	7.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.4	0.4
Hispanic	23.6	28.6	29.0	29.6
White	61.6	54.0	53.9	53.5
Two or more races	N/A	4.1	3.5	3.5
Other	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	17.3	12.4	9.1	12.1

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	8,238	5,775	4,939	5,008
Children in foster care on 9/30	—	1,615	2,959	3,018
Children adopted	123	231	244	253

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	27,682	20,437	22,529	22,491	56.3 per 1,000	37.6 per 1,000	40.8 per 1,000	39.3 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	8,238	5,775	4,939	5,008	16.8 per 1,000	10.6 per 1,000	9.0 per 1,000	8.8 per 1,000
Child fatalities	7	3	4	3	1.4 per 100,000	0.6 per 100,000	0.7 per 100,000	0.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	12.3	11.1	12.5	13.1
1-5 years	36.7	36.1	33.3	36.6
6-10 years	29.3	28.7	28.1	25.0
11-15 years	18.6	19.0	20.7	19.0
16+ years	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.7
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	1.9	1.9	2.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,238	5,775	4,939	5,008

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.3	1.2	2.0	1.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.0	0.7	0.7	1.0
Black	20.2	23.7	18.6	18.7
Hispanic	7.2	4.5	4.6	4.6
White	65.3	66.2	70.2	70.0
Two or more races	4.9	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	7.2	3.6	3.9	3.9
Total % ⁴	107.2	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,238	5,775	4,939	5,008

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	3.7	3.5	4.7	2.5
Medical neglect	2.2	1.9	1.8	2.0
Neglect	22.1	42.8	34.8	52.6
Physical abuse	14.6	18.0	16.3	17.6
Sexual abuse	2.8	4.5	4.5	4.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	54.7	51.2	45.6	20.5
Total % ⁵	100.0	121.9	107.7	100.0
Number	8,238	5,775	4,939	5,008

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	—	—	—	—	
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	1,329	673	387	1,615	2,002
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	2,674	3,338	3,053	2,959	6,012
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	2,922	3,174	3,078	3,018	6,096

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	—	N/A	—	—	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	16.7	N/A	13.3	17.0	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	20.6	N/A	0.2	20.3	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	20.4	N/A	0.3	20.6	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	—	5.7	5.5	5.4	—	19.2	15.4	15.7	—	4.7	10.9	10.7	—	4.5	5.5	5.0
1-5 years	—	31.2	32.3	31.3	—	36.0	33.4	32.8	—	33.1	35.5	33.9	—	34.7	31.3	31.1
6-10 years	—	27.8	26.0	26.0	—	23.8	24.5	23.8	—	31.5	24.7	26.3	—	26.7	26.0	24.3
11-15 years	—	26.6	23.8	23.0	—	17.1	20.2	20.2	—	24.0	20.5	20.3	—	23.2	23.0	22.7
16-18 years	—	7.9	11.0	12.0	—	3.7	5.5	6.8	—	5.7	6.9	7.3	—	10.2	12.1	13.2
19+ years	—	0.5	0.8	1.4	—	—	0.0	—	—	1.0	0.6	0.6	—	0.4	1.4	3.1
Unknown/Missing data	—	0.4	0.6	0.7	—	0.3	1.0	0.7	—	—	1.0	1.0	—	0.3	0.7	0.6
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	1,329	2,674	2,922	—	673	3,338	3,174	—	387	3,053	3,078	—	1,615	2,959	3,018

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	1.4	0.3	0.3	—	0.6	0.8	0.2	—	2.6	0.9	0.5	—	0.8	0.3	0.0
Asian	N/A	1.1	0.6	0.6	N/A	1.0	1.2	1.0	N/A	2.6	1.2	1.0	N/A	0.7	0.7	0.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A												
Black	—	20.9	23.0	20.4	—	15.6	21.3	19.5	—	6.5	23.5	20.3	—	22.2	20.6	19.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	1.1	1.0	1.0	N/A	1.0	0.8	1.0	N/A	0.3	0.8	0.9	N/A	1.2	1.0	1.1
Hispanic	—	10.3	8.9	11.3	—	10.1	18.9	21.7	—	12.1	17.6	21.5	—	9.8	11.2	11.9
White	—	57.0	59.8	57.0	—	60.2	49.3	49.2	—	63.8	51.1	49.9	—	56.7	56.9	56.1
Two or more races	N/A	2.8	2.9	4.9	N/A	3.1	4.2	4.3	N/A	1.3	2.4	4.0	N/A	3.3	4.9	5.2
Unknown/Missing data	—	5.4	3.6	4.4	—	8.3	3.4	3.1	—	10.9	2.6	1.9	—	5.3	4.4	5.6
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	1,329	2,674	2,922	—	673	3,338	3,174	—	387	3,053	3,078	—	1,615	2,959	3,018

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview

	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	—	68	593	536
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	—	67	—	—

Age of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	—	1.5	5.9	7.5
1-5 years	—	35.3	45.9	40.7
6-10 years	—	32.4	31.5	31.9
11-15 years	—	23.5	15.2	18.1
16+ years	—	7.4	0.8	1.5
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	0.7	0.4
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	68	593	536

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	—	1.5	—	—
Asian	N/A	1.5	0.7	0.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	—	22.1	22.3	21.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	1.5	1.3	1.7
Hispanic	—	5.9	7.4	9.3
White	—	66.2	60.9	58.8
Two or more races	N/A	1.5	5.7	6.5
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	1.7	2.1
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	68	593	536

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	3.3	3.0	0.8	0.8
1-5 years	56.1	59.7	60.7	47.8
6-10 years	27.6	26.0	25.8	34.0
11-15 years	13.0	9.5	11.9	16.2
16+ years	—	1.7	0.8	1.2
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	123	231	244	253

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.8	1.3	0.8	0.4
Asian	N/A	1.3	2.0	2.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	17.1	22.5	23.0	26.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	1.2
Hispanic	6.5	12.6	12.3	9.1
White	74.8	60.2	61.9	56.1
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	4.7
Unknown/Missing data	0.8	2.2	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	123	231	244	253

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

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

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

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

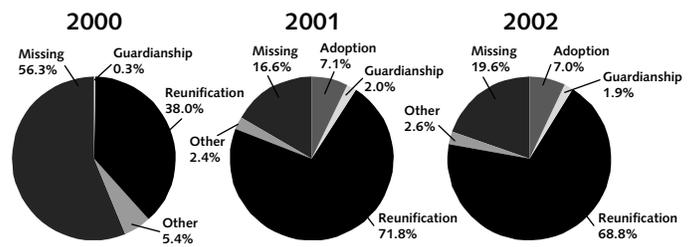
3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	7.1	7.0
Guardianship	—	0.3	2.0	1.9
Reunification	—	38.0	71.8	68.8
Other	—	5.4	2.4	2.6
Missing data	—	56.3	16.6	19.6
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	387	3,053	3,078

1999
1999 data
not available

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	33.3	11.4
Guardianship	—	9.1	—	2.3
Reunification	—	45.5	42.9	56.8
Other	—	—	14.3	9.1
Missing data	—	45.5	9.5	20.5
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	11	21	44

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	—	0.4
Guardianship	—	2.2	0.8	0.8
Reunification	—	26.7	78.2	75.3
Other	—	6.7	3.8	5.8
Missing data	—	64.4	17.2	17.7
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	45	495	515

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	—	50.0	67.5	39.5
Children older than 12 at entry	—	50.0	32.5	60.5
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	2	40	38

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

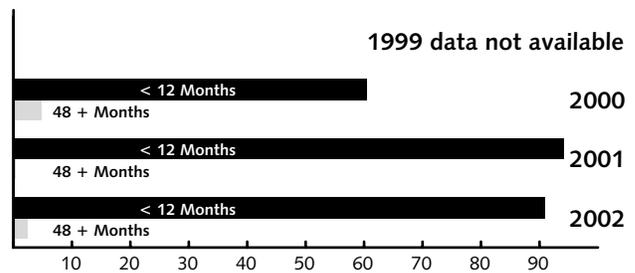
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	5.6	3.2	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	6.7	6.7	N/A	—	4.2	7.4
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	3.2	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	2.1	2.1	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	88.5	66.7	N/A	10.0	83.3	64.5	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	40.0	74.4	75.8	N/A	—	87.5	85.2
Other	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	4.0	3.2	2.1	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	—	100.0	11.5	33.3	N/A	90.0	11.1	29.0	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	56.0	13.5	13.3	N/A	100.0	8.3	7.4
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	10	26	15	N/A	10	36	31	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	25	716	625	N/A	1	24	27

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	2.2	3.2	—	—	9.4	9.0	—	—	6.3	1.7	N/A	—	2.7	8.9	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	0.7	1.7	—	0.4	2.6	2.0	—	—	2.5	6.8	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	—	51.1	79.9	76.7	—	41.7	67.9	63.2	—	16.7	45.0	47.5	N/A	40.0	83.8	69.9	—	—	—	—
Other	—	8.5	0.6	1.1	—	4.5	2.8	3.0	—	4.8	3.8	16.9	N/A	60.0	1.4	2.4	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	40.4	16.5	17.4	—	53.4	17.3	22.8	—	78.6	42.5	27.1	N/A	—	12.2	18.7	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Number	—	47	538	661	—	247	1,559	1,537	—	42	80	59	N/A	5	74	123	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

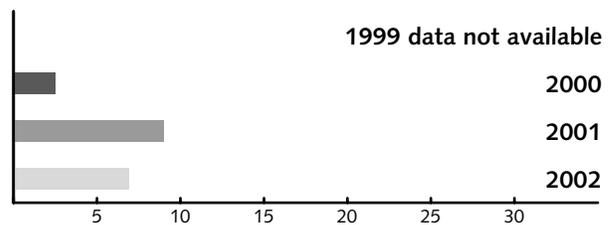
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	—	60.5	94.1	90.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	27.9	3.6	4.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	5.4	1.3	1.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	1.4	0.5	0.5
48 or more mos.	—	4.8	0.5	2.5
Missing data	—	—	—	0.0
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	147	2,193	2,119

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	—	78.6	84.0	85.4
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	—	2.5	9.0	6.9
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	—	1.5	3.4	5.7
Missing data	—	17.4	3.6	2.0
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	673	3,338	3,174

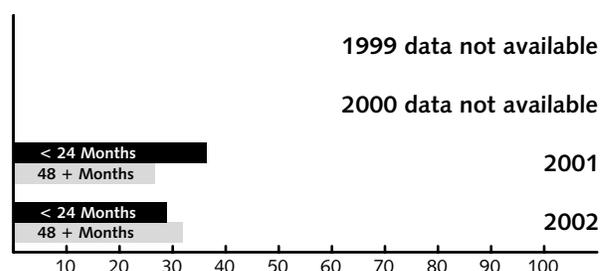
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	—	—	18.0	10.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	—	18.4	18.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	—	23.5	22.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	—	13.4	16.7
48 or more mos.	—	—	26.7	31.9
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	—	217	216

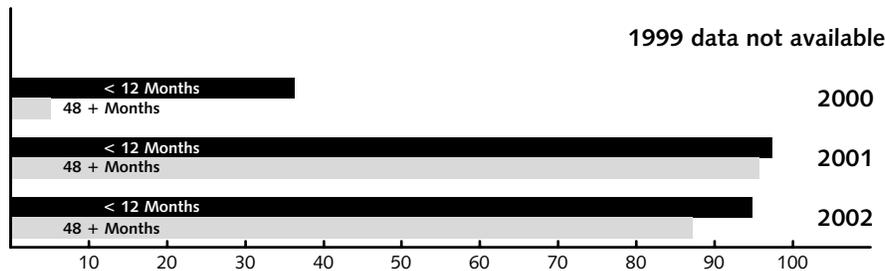
Percent Adoptions Occuring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	—	—	—	0.0	
	2000	36.3	1.3	62.4	100.0	760
	2001	97.4	2.6	—	100.0	3,531
	2002	94.9	5.1	—	100.0	3,415
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	—	—	—	0.0	
	2000	6.5	3.3	90.2	100.0	510
	2001	89.6	10.4	—	100.0	826
	2002	81.1	18.9	—	100.0	885
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	—	—	—	0.0	
	2000	5.3	1.6	93.1	100.0	245
	2001	94.8	5.2	—	100.0	503
	2002	76.4	23.6	—	100.0	543
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	—	—	—	0.0	
	2000	4.0	2.9	93.1	100.0	173
	2001	94.6	5.4	—	100.0	313
	2002	89.2	10.8	—	100.0	352
48 or more mos.	1999	—	—	—	0.0	
	2000	5.1	8.9	86.0	100.0	314
	2001	95.8	4.2	—	100.0	834
	2002	87.2	12.8	—	100.0	894
Missing data	1999	—	—	—	0.0	—
	2000	—	—	—	0.0	—
	2001	100.0	—	—	100.0	5
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	7

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	—	0.9	—	—
Institutions	—	5.7	93.8	92.6
Other settings	—	93.4	6.1	7.2
Missing data	—	—	0.1	0.2
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	212	2,140	1,947

Nevada

[STATE COMMENT]

The following discussion focuses on Nevada's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Nevada Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2004, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2002. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Nevada's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided below.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

Nevada's performance on outcome 1 cannot be assessed as part of the Federal Comment section because the State did not provide sufficient data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) to calculate this outcome at that time. To ensure data consistency across States, only data submitted through NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, the State provided 2002 data for this outcome for its CFSR using an alternative source. According to the alternative source, 7.6 percent of the children who were the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report in the first 6 months of the year experienced an additional substantiated or indicated maltreatment report within 6 months of the first report. The national standard for this measure is 6.1 percent or fewer.

Information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that repeat maltreatment was identified as an area needing improvement for the State. According to the CFSR Final Report, stakeholders expressed concern that maltreatment allegations on open child welfare cases frequently are not subjected to a formal investigation or assessment, and that many reports are not being substantiated when there is evidence to warrant substantiation. Stakeholders also expressed concern that there are no standard guidelines in the State for substantiating maltreatment reports.

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

Nevada's performance on outcome 2 cannot be evaluated as part of the Federal Comment section because the State did not provide data to NCANDS for calculating this outcome at that time. In order to ensure data consistency across States, only data submitted through the NCANDS system are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, the State provided 2002 data for this outcome for its CFSR using an alternative source. According to the alternative source, 0.17 percent of children in foster care for the first 6 months of 2002 were maltreated by foster parents or facility staff members. The national standard for this measure is 0.57 percent or fewer.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

Nevada's performance on the measures assessing outcome 3 cannot be assessed because of the large percentage of children exiting foster care in FY 2002, as well as in prior years, who did not have "reason for discharge" information.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Nevada occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 90.9. Performance on this measure cannot be interpreted because almost 20 percent of the children reported as exiting foster care in FY 2002 did not have "reason for discharge" information. Information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that stakeholders in the State believe that reunifications occur in a timely manner.

Nevada's performance in FY 2002 with regard to the percent of re-entries into foster care within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 6.9 percent, which is less than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Change in performance on this measure from FY 1999 to FY 2002 cannot be assessed because data are not available for FY 1999. Information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that the State's success in preventing re-entry into foster care may be attributed to the common practice of the agency to maintain custody of the child for up to 6 months after physical reunification occurs in order to support the reintegration of the family and to ensure that the family has continued access to services.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 29.1. However, performance on this measure cannot be interpreted because almost 20 percent of the children reported as exiting foster care in FY 2002 did not have "reason for discharge" information.

Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to timely adoptions: (1) agency delays in completing the necessary paperwork due to workload issues; (2) a lack of procedures in the State for approaching foster parents about the possibility of adoption; (3) a reluctance on the part of the agency to file for termination of parental rights if no adoptive home has been identified; (4) a lack of understanding of concurrent planning in some areas of the State; and (5) the high caseloads carried by State adoption workers.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 94.9, which is more than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Nevada's performance on this measure cannot be assessed due to potential data quality issues (i.e., fluctuations in performance from 36.3 percent in FY 2000 to 94.9 percent in FY 2002). Information from the CFSR Final Report suggests that the primary barrier to placement stability is the use of shelter placements as the first placements for children or when there is a placement disruption.

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

Nevada reported that in FY 2002, 92.6 percent of the children age 12 or younger were placed in a group home or institution, which is the highest percentage in the nation and more than 10 times the national median of 8.6 percent. Although it is believed that this percentage may reflect an error in data reporting, the CFSR Final Report suggests that shelter placements frequently are used as first placements for children, regardless of the age of the child.

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	304,436	309,624	307,717	308,371
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	N/A	1.3	1.4	1.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.6
White	95.5	93.4	93.2	93.1
Two or more races	N/A	1.6	1.5	1.6
Other	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	8.1	7.7	8.2	5.8

Child Welfare Summary

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	926	811	1,102	962
Children in foster care on 9/30	1,385	1,311	1,288	1,291
Children adopted	62	97	95	114

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	8,833	8,120	12,132	10,564	29.0 per 1,000	26.2 per 1,000	39.4 per 1,000	34.3 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	926	811	1,102	962	3.0 per 1,000	2.6 per 1,000	3.6 per 1,000	3.1 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	—	—	—	1.0 per 100,000	— per 100,000	— per 100,000	— per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	0.0	7.8	9.4	8.4
1-5 years	0.0	27.3	29.3	24.7
6-10 years	0.0	28.6	31.1	28.0
11-15 years	0.0	31.3	24.1	31.2
16+ years	0.0	4.1	5.1	6.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	1.0	0.9	0.8
Total %	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	926	811	1,102	962

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	—	0.3	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0	0.5	0.6	0.3
Black	0.0	2.2	3.0	2.3
Hispanic	0.0	5.3	3.6	3.6
White	0.0	65.7	79.4	89.1
Two or more races	0.0	1.0	1.5	0.8
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	25.3	11.5	3.5
Total % ⁴	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	926	811	1,102	962

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	5.3	2.6	3.6	1.9
Medical neglect	1.9	2.6	1.8	2.8
Neglect	65.2	64.4	63.4	60.3
Physical abuse	27.5	18.9	19.1	21.4
Sexual abuse	25.7	20.3	21.4	21.2
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	0.0	—	—	—
Total % ⁵	125.7	108.8	109.3	107.6
Number	926	811	1,102	962

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	1,264	522	401	1,385	1,786
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	1,317	484	491	1,311	1,801
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	1,222	534	468	1,288	1,756
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	1,240	563	512	1,291	1,803

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	20.9	N/A	15.4	23.5	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	24.6	N/A	18.3	26.1	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	27.6	N/A	20.3	25.2	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	26.0	N/A	15.3	23.2	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	2.4	2.6	1.9	2.0	11.1	10.3	10.7	10.8	3.2	2.9	3.4	3.5	2.6	2.0	2.1	2.0
1-5 years	22.2	21.0	20.1	21.3	24.9	25.2	29.2	22.2	25.2	25.3	25.2	21.5	20.6	20.1	21.4	21.3
6-10 years	26.9	29.2	26.6	24.1	25.1	22.5	21.5	18.7	15.7	25.9	20.7	21.9	28.2	25.7	24.5	20.8
11-15 years	30.3	30.8	35.3	35.6	32.6	32.6	28.5	35.2	20.9	17.1	22.6	26.2	31.8	35.7	35.3	36.9
16-18 years	16.3	15.0	15.0	15.6	6.3	9.1	9.6	13.0	28.9	23.8	22.6	23.6	15.3	15.5	15.5	17.8
19+ years	1.9	1.4	1.1	1.4	—	—	—	—	5.5	3.7	4.3	2.9	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.5	1.4	1.1	0.4	0.1	—	—	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,264	1,317	1,222	1,240	522	484	534	563	401	491	468	512	1,385	1,311	1,288	1,291

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	—	—	0.4	0.4	0.2	—	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4
Asian	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.2	N/A	0.4	0.2	0.2	N/A	0.6	0.2	0.2	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	1.7	1.9	2.6	3.3	2.1	4.3	3.2	4.1	1.5	2.9	1.3	2.5	1.9	2.4	3.3	4.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	—	—	0.4	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.2
Hispanic	3.9	5.2	4.7	4.9	7.5	5.2	5.6	5.2	4.0	5.9	4.7	4.9	5.2	4.9	5.0	5.0
White	89.7	87.7	87.4	86.3	82.2	82.4	85.6	86.7	86.8	83.1	89.1	86.9	87.7	87.5	86.0	86.2
Two or more races	N/A	3.5	4.1	3.8	N/A	2.7	2.2	1.4	N/A	1.4	2.8	3.7	N/A	4.0	3.8	2.8
Unknown/Missing data	0.7	1.2	0.7	1.1	5.6	5.0	2.8	1.8	5.2	6.1	1.7	1.6	1.2	0.8	1.2	1.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,264	1,317	1,222	1,240	522	484	534	563	401	491	468	512	1,385	1,311	1,288	1,291

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	289	283	230	194
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	257	195	122	26

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	4.5	1.8	1.7	—
1-5 years	44.6	38.9	32.2	28.9
6-10 years	39.8	42.0	39.1	40.2
11-15 years	10.0	16.3	24.3	28.4
16+ years	1.0	0.7	2.6	2.6
Unknown/Missing data	—	0.4	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	289	283	230	194

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.0
Asian	N/A	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	2.1	1.4	1.3	1.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	0.5
Hispanic	3.1	5.3	6.5	7.2
White	89.3	86.9	86.1	86.1
Two or more races	N/A	5.7	5.2	3.6
Unknown/Missing data	4.8	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	289	283	230	194

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	—	1.0	—	1.8
1-5 years	48.4	44.3	47.4	33.3
6-10 years	40.3	45.4	40.0	36.8
11-15 years	9.7	8.2	11.6	26.3
16+ years	1.6	1.0	1.1	1.8
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	62	97	95	114

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	—
Asian	N/A	—	—	0.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	—	2.1	3.2	0.9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	3.1	1.1	—
Hispanic	6.5	8.2	5.3	0.9
White	87.1	85.6	88.4	90.4
Two or more races	N/A	—	2.1	4.4
Unknown/Missing data	1.6	1.0	—	2.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	62	97	95	114

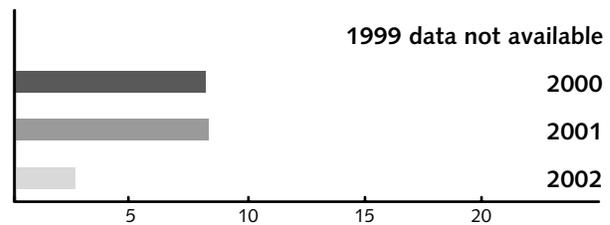
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	91.8	91.7	97.4
Children with one or more recurrences	—	8.2	8.3	2.6
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	281	384	388

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

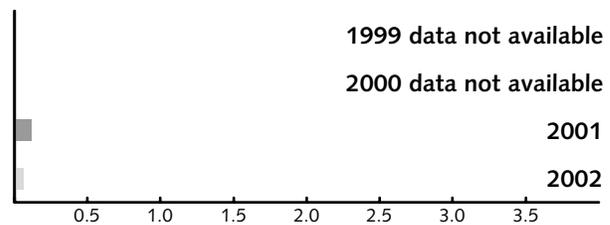


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	0.12	0.06
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	99.88	99.94
Total %	—	—	100.00	100.00
Number	—	—	1,631	1,708

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

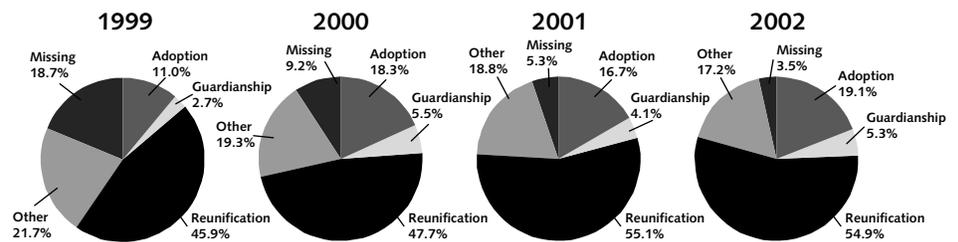


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	11.0	18.3	16.7	19.1
Guardianship	2.7	5.5	4.1	5.3
Reunification	45.9	47.7	55.1	54.9
Other	21.7	19.3	18.8	17.2
Missing data	18.7	9.2	5.3	3.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	401	491	468	512

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	27.1	44.3	33.3	29.1
Guardianship	3.5	3.2	1.4	4.9
Reunification	34.1	31.6	44.7	42.7
Other	24.7	15.8	14.9	16.5
Missing data	10.6	5.1	5.7	6.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	85	158	141	103

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	0.8	0.7
Guardianship	1.5	1.4	3.2	3.3
Reunification	45.6	52.8	44.4	58.9
Other	34.6	35.9	45.2	30.5
Missing data	18.4	9.9	6.3	6.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	136	142	126	151

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	45.3	45.6	33.3	42.9
Children older than 12 at entry	54.7	54.4	66.7	57.1
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	64	57	54	56

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

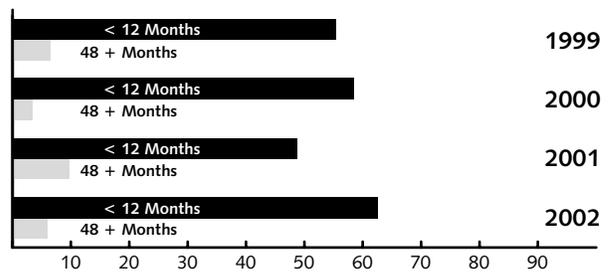
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	21.4	33.3	7.7	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	100.0	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	21.4	—	15.4	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—	—	N/A	33.3	—	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	50.0	35.7	33.3	69.2	N/A	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	100.0	N/A	—	100.0	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	21.4	16.7	—	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	100.0	—	—	—	N/A	66.7	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	50.0	—	16.7	7.7	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	—
Number	1	—	1	1	N/A	3	1	1	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	14	6	13	N/A	—	—	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	12.5	10.3	22.7	4.0	11.5	20.6	15.3	20.0	25.0	—	—	—	12.5	—	53.8	36.8	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	3.4	—	16.0	3.2	5.6	4.1	4.5	—	—	—	12.5	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	16.7	—
Reunification	43.8	58.6	68.2	40.0	45.4	46.1	56.6	56.0	50.0	60.0	100.0	62.5	50.0	42.9	15.4	36.8	52.9	68.0	16.7	—
Other	18.8	13.8	9.1	32.0	22.7	19.6	18.5	16.6	—	20.0	—	12.5	25.0	42.9	30.8	21.1	17.6	16.0	50.0	—
Missing data	25.0	13.8	—	8.0	17.2	8.1	5.5	2.9	25.0	20.0	—	12.5	12.5	14.3	—	5.3	29.4	16.0	16.7	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—
Number	16	29	22	25	348	408	417	445	4	5	2	8	8	7	13	19	17	25	6	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

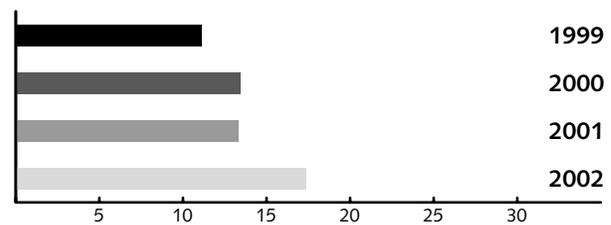
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	55.4	58.5	48.8	62.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	28.3	22.6	26.4	21.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.4	9.8	8.5	7.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.2	4.3	6.2	2.1
48 or more mos.	6.5	3.4	9.7	6.0
Missing data	2.2	1.3	0.4	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	184	234	258	281

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	73.0	69.4	71.9	72.3
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	11.1	13.4	13.3	17.4
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	4.0	5.4	5.6	4.6
Missing data	11.9	11.8	9.2	5.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	522	484	534	563

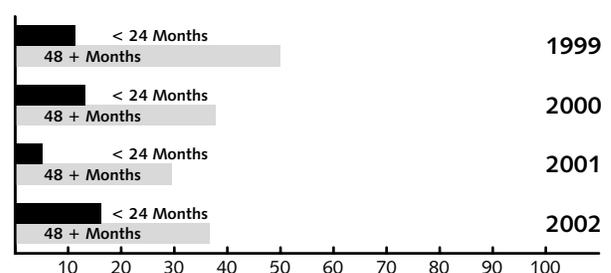
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	2.3	3.3	2.6	4.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	9.1	10.0	2.6	12.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	22.7	18.9	21.8	25.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	15.9	30.0	43.6	21.4
48 or more mos.	50.0	37.8	29.5	36.7
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	44	90	78	98

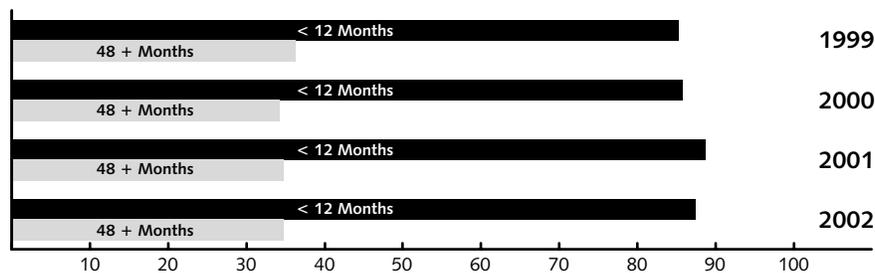
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	85.3	14.7	—	100.0	578
	2000	85.8	14.2	—	100.0	557
	2001	88.7	11.3	—	100.0	576
	2002	87.4	12.6	—	100.0	617
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	64.5	35.5	—	100.0	372
	2000	60.6	39.4	—	100.0	335
	2001	63.4	36.6	—	100.0	306
	2002	73.4	26.6	—	100.0	354
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	58.8	41.2	—	100.0	274
	2000	54.6	45.4	—	100.0	260
	2001	53.8	46.2	—	100.0	210
	2002	53.3	46.7	—	100.0	214
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	50.0	50.0	—	100.0	168
	2000	53.4	46.6	—	100.0	221
	2001	49.0	51.0	—	100.0	198
	2002	51.9	48.1	—	100.0	133
48 or more mos.	1999	36.2	63.8	—	100.0	389
	2000	34.2	65.8	—	100.0	421
	2001	34.7	65.3	—	100.0	464
	2002	34.8	65.2	—	100.0	480
Missing data	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	5
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	7
	2001	100.0	—	—	100.0	2
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	5

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	10.7	9.4	7.3	11.3
Institutions	1.1	0.3	—	0.9
Other settings	88.2	90.3	92.7	87.8
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	355	329	371	345

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The following are New Hampshire's comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002: Report to Congress*:

- The data in Section D indicate that as of 9/30/02, termination of parental rights had been obtained for only 13.4 percent of children waiting to be adopted. New Hampshire has experienced an increase in its utilization of Bridges, its State Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS). This means that staff is progressively enhancing the entry of case planning and outcome data into Bridges. Noting that the reporting period for the AFCARS Annual file is the twelve-month federal fiscal year, it is not surprising that few cases achieve establishment of the goal of adoption and court ordered termination of parental rights within the same federal fiscal year. Despite tight staffing constraints, NH has been working to reduce the period of time required for the overall adoption process but the average case still requires more than six months from the permanency hearing until the termination of parental rights petition is granted by the court.
- The data in Section E indicate that 114 children were reported to the AFCARS Adoption Database as adopted in FY 2002. However, the data for outcome measure 3.1 and 5.1 indicate that 98 children were reported to the AFCARS Foster Care Database as discharged to a finalized adoption. The apparent discrepancy of seventeen cases found when comparing the two files is explained as follows:
 - 6 children who were adopted had the Exit Care Reason Code “Not Applicable” instead of “Adoption” for Exit Care Reason
 - 4 children were discharged from foster care in FFY 2001 but the adoption was not finalized until FFY 2002.
 - 2 youths in juvenile cases were not open for IV-E.
 - 5 children received Adoption Subsidy but the placement history was not available.

The following discussion focuses on New Hampshire's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The New Hampshire Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2003, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2001. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for New Hampshire's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2001*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, New Hampshire's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 2.6 percent, which is less than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure improved considerably from 2000 to 2002 (-68.3 percent change).

The cross-State analyses found a substantial positive relationship between State performance on this outcome measure and the State rate of child victims (i.e., the number of child victims per 1,000 children in the population). States with a relatively low rate of child victims tended to have a relatively low rate of maltreatment recurrence. For New Hampshire, both the incidence of maltreatment recurrence (2.6 percent) and the rate of child victims (3.1 per 1,000) were in the bottom quartile of the State rankings. This suggests that the State's definitions and laws pertaining to what constitutes maltreatment and what is necessary for substantiation may be related to its performance on the measure of maltreatment recurrence.

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

In CY 2002, New Hampshire's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.06 percent, which is less than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure is difficult to interpret because in FY 2002, only one child was reported as maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member. Only two children were reported as maltreated in FY 2001.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 79.3 percent of children exiting foster care in New Hampshire were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 86.1 percent); 76.7 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 62.9 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 42.9 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care, which is more than the national median of 26.9 percent. These findings suggest that the State experiences challenges in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care. However, New Hampshire's performance on all of the measures for outcome 3 improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in New Hampshire occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 62.6, which is less than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+13.0 percent change).

For New Hampshire, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 17.4 percent, which is more than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Performance on the measure of foster care re-entry declined from FY 1999 to 2002 (+56.7 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 16.3, which is less than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. New Hampshire's performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+22.4 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 87.4, which is more than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and than national median (84.1 percent). Performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 12.2, which is more than the national median of 8.6 percent. New Hampshire's performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	2,003,204	2,096,596	2,108,533	2,127,391
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Asian	N/A	5.9	6.1	6.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	6.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	15.9	15.6	15.9	15.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	15.8	16.2	16.8	17.2
White	61.8	59.4	59.3	58.6
Two or more races	N/A	2.3	1.8	1.8
Other	N/A	0.3	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	10.1	10.9	9.6	9.3

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	9,222	8,826	8,536	8,103
Children in foster care on 9/30	9,494	9,794	10,666	11,442
Children adopted	732	832	1,030	1,378

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	74,585	69,120	70,599	70,786	37.2 per 1,000	33.0 per 1,000	33.5 per 1,000	33.3 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	9,222	8,826	8,536	8,103	4.6 per 1,000	4.2 per 1,000	4.1 per 1,000	3.8 per 1,000
Child fatalities	29	26	26	22	1.4 per 100,000	1.2 per 100,000	1.2 per 100,000	1.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	2.4	15.8	15.2	14.6
1-5 years	30.6	26.7	26.3	26.6
6-10 years	33.1	29.7	29.7	28.3
11-15 years	24.2	22.4	23.3	24.0
16+ years	7.3	5.5	5.4	6.4
Unknown/Missing data	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,222	8,826	8,536	8,103

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.0
Black	47.2	44.1	45.5	44.7
Hispanic	15.3	6.1	5.9	4.7
White	33.6	36.0	33.0	35.1
Two or more races	1.6	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	16.6	12.8	14.5	14.2
Total % ⁴	115.3	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,222	8,826	8,536	8,103

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	2.8	3.2	2.7	3.7
Medical neglect	3.2	14.4	14.1	13.1
Neglect	62.7	52.8	52.4	53.5
Physical abuse	23.3	24.7	25.3	24.1
Sexual abuse	8.0	8.9	8.9	9.2
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2
Other	0.0	—	—	—
Total % ⁵	100.0	104.1	103.6	103.8
Number	9,222	8,826	8,536	8,103

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	8,894	4,768	4,178	9,494	13,662
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	9,241	4,654	4,109	9,794	13,895
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	9,835	5,433	4,607	10,666	15,268
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	10,772	6,052	5,404	11,442	16,824

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	20.0	N/A	11.7	20.3	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	20.5	N/A	12.6	20.8	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	20.5	N/A	13.1	19.2	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	19.0	N/A	13.5	18.0	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	7.5	6.7	6.4	7.4	20.2	20.9	21.8	20.9	6.7	6.0	6.3	5.6	6.5	6.3	7.4	7.4
1-5 years	32.1	31.2	31.2	30.0	20.9	21.0	21.0	22.6	27.3	26.0	27.3	29.9	31.4	31.3	30.0	29.8
6-10 years	23.3	24.5	24.6	24.2	18.3	17.6	19.1	18.5	17.8	18.1	20.4	19.8	24.0	24.1	23.8	22.7
11-15 years	23.8	24.0	25.1	25.7	27.8	27.6	26.5	26.6	22.7	22.7	21.9	22.7	24.4	25.3	25.6	26.3
16-18 years	12.7	12.9	12.1	12.1	12.7	12.7	11.4	11.3	23.0	24.2	21.9	19.9	13.1	12.6	12.6	13.1
19+ years	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.1	2.6	2.0	2.0	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.7
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.0	0.1	—	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,894	9,241	9,835	10,772	4,768	4,654	5,433	6,052	4,178	4,109	4,607	5,404	9,494	9,794	10,666	11,442

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2
Asian	N/A	0.2	0.1	0.3	N/A	0.2	0.4	0.6	N/A	0.4	0.2	0.5	N/A	0.1	0.3	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	64.9	63.2	63.1	62.4	55.6	53.3	54.4	53.0	56.7	53.2	55.0	53.8	63.8	62.7	62.2	61.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	0.0	0.0	N/A	—	0.0	—	N/A	—	—	0.0	N/A	—	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	9.3	8.3	7.6	7.2	7.8	7.6	6.2	6.2	9.5	9.0	7.7	7.8	8.4	7.6	6.8	6.3
White	21.6	22.4	22.2	22.5	28.5	28.0	28.1	27.7	26.8	28.5	27.2	27.1	22.8	22.5	23.1	23.1
Two or more races	N/A	1.3	1.5	1.7	N/A	1.3	1.1	1.8	N/A	1.5	1.4	1.6	N/A	1.2	1.4	1.8
Unknown/Missing data	3.5	4.3	5.0	5.7	7.6	9.1	9.6	10.5	6.2	7.0	8.2	8.9	4.4	5.4	6.0	6.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,894	9,241	9,835	10,772	4,768	4,654	5,433	6,052	4,178	4,109	4,607	5,404	9,494	9,794	10,666	11,442

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	4,427	5,032	5,618	5,752
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	3,655	4,129	4,905	5,376

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	3.7	3.9	6.1	7.9
1-5 years	41.4	39.9	39.4	39.8
6-10 years	29.8	29.7	28.6	26.8
11-15 years	18.3	20.3	19.8	20.0
16+ years	5.8	5.0	5.2	4.7
Unknown/Missing data	1.1	1.2	0.9	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,427	5,032	5,618	5,752

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2
Asian	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	70.6	68.7	67.9	65.9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	8.0	7.4	6.8	6.6
White	18.0	17.9	18.4	19.1
Two or more races	N/A	1.6	1.9	2.4
Unknown/Missing data	2.8	3.8	4.5	5.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,427	5,032	5,618	5,752

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.0	0.7	1.0	1.0
1-5 years	58.5	57.6	56.5	56.6
6-10 years	29.5	29.9	30.1	29.2
11-15 years	10.4	10.1	11.6	12.3
16+ years	0.7	1.7	0.9	0.9
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	732	832	1,030	1,378

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.1
Asian	N/A	—	0.3	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	65.3	65.5	66.1	64.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	0.0
Hispanic	9.0	6.7	6.6	7.0
White	22.3	22.2	21.0	20.7
Two or more races	N/A	3.0	2.0	3.3
Unknown/Missing data	2.5	2.0	3.5	4.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	732	832	1,030	1,378

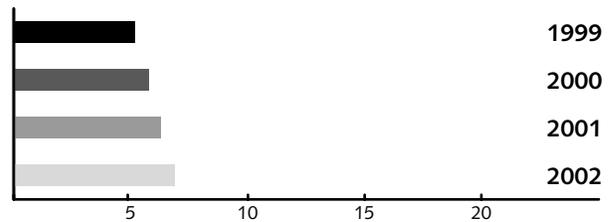
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	94.8	94.2	93.7	93.1
Children with one or more recurrences	5.2	5.8	6.3	6.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,514	4,346	4,344	4,081

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

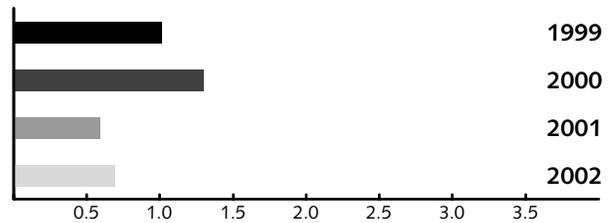


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	1.01	1.30	0.59	0.69
Children not maltreated while in foster care	98.99	98.70	99.41	99.31
Total %	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	12,825	12,997	14,294	15,705

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

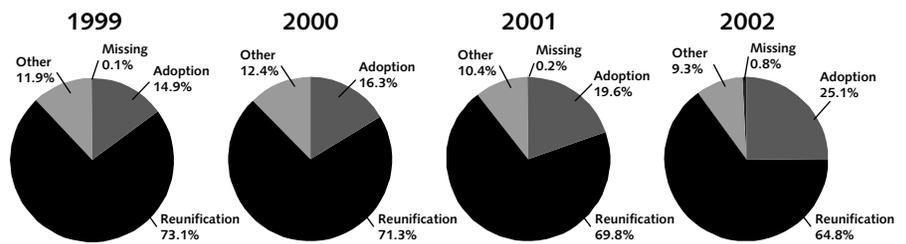


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	14.9	16.3	19.6	25.1
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	73.1	71.3	69.8	64.8
Other	11.9	12.4	10.4	9.3
Missing data	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,178	4,109	4,607	5,404

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	31.0	30.9	39.1	43.3
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	56.5	52.4	50.3	46.5
Other	12.5	16.8	10.5	10.0
Missing data	—	—	0.1	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	768	758	867	1,033

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	0.4	0.2	0.4
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	73.3	73.1	74.2	75.9
Other	26.4	26.6	25.3	23.2
Missing data	0.3	—	0.3	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,388	1,408	1,394	1,606

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	30.1	30.0	28.0	26.9
Children older than 12 at entry	69.3	70.0	71.6	73.1
Missing data	0.6	—	0.3	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	309	307	289	290

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

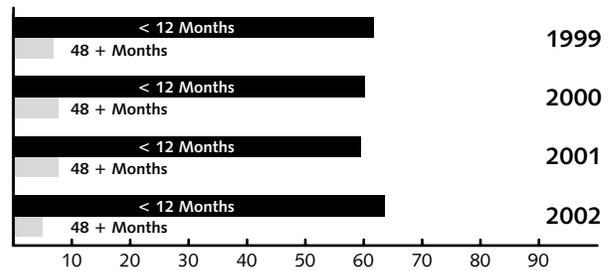
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	13.6	10.5	33.3	20.0	N/A	—	14.3	7.7	7.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.2	19.2	22.3	29.8	N/A	—	—	100.0
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	77.3	84.2	66.7	70.0	N/A	93.3	71.4	65.4	64.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	70.4	68.3	67.0	59.8	N/A	—	—	—
Other	9.1	5.3	—	10.0	N/A	6.7	14.3	26.9	28.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.3	12.5	10.5	9.4	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.3	1.0	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	100.0
Number	22	19	15	10	N/A	15	7	26	14	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,371	2,186	2,533	2,909	N/A	—	—	1

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	12.9	11.4	16.0	23.3	12.8	14.8	16.8	19.2	5.8	4.5	10.5	12.7	N/A	32.3	36.9	49.4	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	71.4	74.3	73.3	65.1	76.2	72.2	71.1	71.2	87.2	87.1	82.1	78.6	N/A	59.7	61.5	49.4	—	—	—	—
Other	15.7	14.3	10.7	10.9	10.9	13.0	11.9	9.4	7.0	8.4	7.1	7.5	N/A	8.1	1.5	1.1	—	—	—	100.0
Missing data	—	—	—	0.7	0.1	—	0.2	0.3	—	—	0.3	1.2	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	100.0
Number	395	370	356	421	1,119	1,170	1,251	1,465	257	287	380	482	N/A	62	65	89	—	—	—	1

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

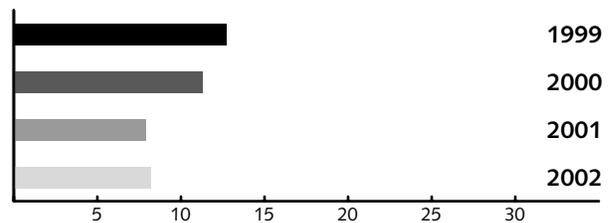
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	61.7	60.3	59.5	63.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	18.6	18.9	17.6	20.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	8.1	7.4	8.3	6.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.5	3.6	4.0	2.6
48 or more mos.	6.8	7.7	7.6	4.9
Missing data	1.2	2.1	3.0	2.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,053	2,929	3,215	3,504

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	77.2	77.1	81.6	81.0
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	12.7	11.3	7.9	8.2
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.8	9.9	8.4	9.0
Missing data	1.3	1.7	2.1	1.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,768	4,654	5,433	6,052

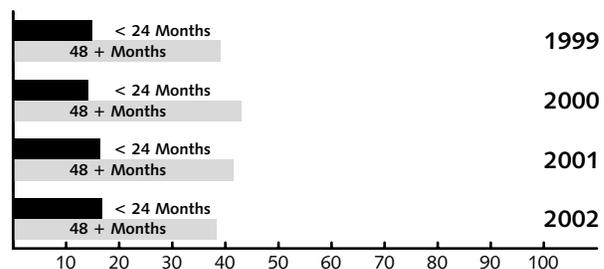
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	3.5	3.3	3.7	3.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.6	11.0	12.7	13.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	19.0	19.0	20.8	22.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	24.5	22.1	20.3	21.2
48 or more mos.	39.1	43.0	41.6	38.4
Missing data	2.3	1.6	1.0	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	621	670	901	1,356

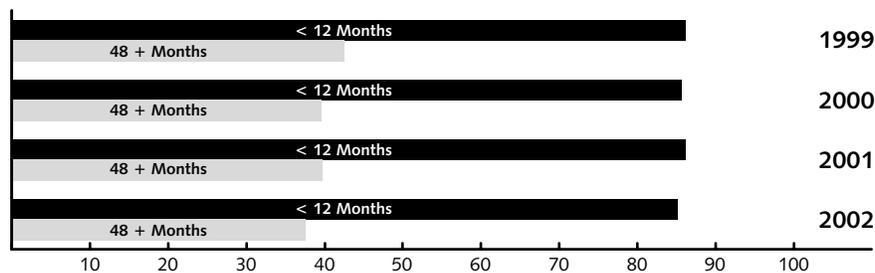
Percent Adoptions Occuring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	86.1	12.1	1.8	100.0	5,403
	2000	85.6	12.5	1.9	100.0	5,286
	2001	86.2	12.1	1.7	100.0	5,995
	2002	85.1	13.6	1.3	100.0	6,762
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	69.7	28.3	2.0	100.0	2,636
	2000	67.3	29.6	3.1	100.0	2,739
	2001	68.6	29.0	2.4	100.0	2,975
	2002	69.0	29.0	1.9	100.0	3,474
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	60.6	36.6	2.8	100.0	1,809
	2000	59.8	37.5	2.7	100.0	1,759
	2001	59.3	36.7	3.9	100.0	1,932
	2002	59.7	37.8	2.6	100.0	2,108
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	53.4	43.6	3.0	100.0	1,213
	2000	54.6	42.2	3.2	100.0	1,328
	2001	53.9	43.9	2.3	100.0	1,327
	2002	51.7	44.5	3.8	100.0	1,392
48 or more mos.	1999	42.5	55.0	2.5	100.0	2,538
	2000	39.6	58.1	2.4	100.0	2,713
	2001	39.7	57.7	2.6	100.0	2,927
	2002	37.6	59.9	2.6	100.0	2,979
Missing data	1999	93.7	1.6	4.8	100.0	63
	2000	97.1	—	2.9	100.0	70
	2001	96.4	0.9	2.7	100.0	112
	2002	89.0	0.9	10.1	100.0	109

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	4.9	4.1	4.5	3.5
Institutions	7.4	7.2	5.5	5.1
Other settings	86.9	88.3	89.2	91.2
Missing data	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,082	3,018	3,694	4,111

New Jersey

[STATE COMMENT]

The following discussion focuses on New Jersey's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The New Jersey Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2004, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2002. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for New Jersey's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided below.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, New Jersey's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 6.9 percent, which does not meet the national standard (6.1 percent or less), but is less than the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure declined from 1999 to 2002 (+32.7 percent change). Information from the New Jersey CFSR Final Report indicates that stakeholders in the State believe that the State's incidence of maltreatment recurrence is due to a lack of effective interventions with families, as well as difficulties in delivering services to families in a timely manner because of a scarcity of services.

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

In CY 2002, New Jersey's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.69 percent, which is more than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). However, performance on this measure improved from 1999 to 2002 (-31.93 percent change). Information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that the State is addressing the problem of maltreatment of children in foster care through a structured decision making process to assess risk and a placement assessment tool that can be used routinely with foster homes. However, the Final Report also indicates that stakeholders suggested that caseworkers need training with regard to knowing what to look for when assessing the safety of children in foster homes.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 89.9 percent of children exiting foster care in New Jersey were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 86.1 percent); 89.7 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 76.3 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 26.9 percent of the children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is equal to the national median of 26.9 percent. These findings suggest that the State is generally successful in finding permanent homes for children exiting foster care. New Jersey's performance improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (-10.6 percent change). Performance on the other measures for outcome 3 did not change.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in New Jersey occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 63.5, which is less than the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving reunifications in a timely manner: (1) delays in providing the services necessary to achieve reunification; (2) inadequate housing (a freeze on Section 8 housing); (3) a lack of services for parents,

particularly substance abuse treatment services; (4) a lack of sufficient visitation between children in foster care and their parents; and (5) a lack of recognition by parents of the problems that brought about the child's removal.

Because the cross-State analysis found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, New Jersey's performance in FY 2002 with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For New Jersey, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 8.2 percent, which is less than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Thus, although New Jersey had a relatively low percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively low percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. The State's performance on the measure of foster care re-entry improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-35.3 percent change). Information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that although the State's re-entry percentage meets the national standard, the State believes there is a need for more intensive in-home post-reunification services for families to prevent re-entry.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 17.0, which is less than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. New Jersey's performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+18.4 percent change).

Information from the CFSR Final Report identified the following as potential barriers to achieving adoptions in a timely manner: (1) lack of sufficient agency support for relatives who want to adopt; (2) court delays in scheduling termination of parental rights (TPR) hearings; (3) parents' appeals of TPR decisions; (4) the child's behavioral problems; and (5) maintaining a goal of reunification for too long a period of time, even when the prognosis for reunification is low.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 85.1, which does not meet the national standard (86.7 percent or more), but is more than the national median (84.1 percent). New Jersey's performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to placement stability: (1) lack of consistent efforts on the part of the agency to identify appropriate and long-term foster care placements when children first enter foster care; (2) a scarcity of placement resources that results in placements based on availability rather than appropriateness; (3) insufficient preparation of foster parents and children prior to a placement; and (4) an insufficient number of group home placements for adolescents that often results in night-to-night placements.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 8.6, which is equal to the national median of 8.6 percent. New Jersey's performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-30.6 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	495,612	502,387	501,239	500,506
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	11.9	11.7	11.7	11.9
Asian	N/A	0.9	1.0	1.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	49.2	50.9	50.8	50.9
White	36.0	32.5	32.9	32.7
Two or more races	N/A	2.1	1.6	1.6
Other	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	29.7	24.9	25.4	24.4

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	3,730	6,288	6,929	6,273
Children in foster care on 9/30	1,941	1,912	1,757	1,885
Children adopted	258	347	369	275

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	12,084	20,956	23,314	22,997	24.4 per 1,000	41.7 per 1,000	46.5 per 1,000	46.0 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	3,730	6,288	6,929	6,273	7.5 per 1,000	12.5 per 1,000	13.8 per 1,000	12.5 per 1,000
Child fatalities	7	—	—	—	1.4 per 100,000	— per 100,000	— per 100,000	— per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	5.5	7.5	8.0	8.1
1-5 years	23.0	25.6	25.7	27.1
6-10 years	31.1	30.4	30.8	29.7
11-15 years	27.1	25.5	24.0	25.1
16+ years	9.0	4.8	4.9	5.0
Unknown/Missing data	4.3	6.1	6.5	5.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,730	6,288	6,929	6,273

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	8.6	10.4	10.5	9.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.3
Black	3.7	3.0	3.0	3.1
Hispanic	45.9	48.2	46.5	47.2
White	75.7	30.4	29.1	28.4
Two or more races	4.2	1.5	1.7	1.9
Unknown/Missing data	7.1	6.2	8.9	9.9
Total % ⁴	145.9	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,730	6,288	6,929	6,273

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	16.5	6.6	6.9	3.9
Medical neglect	2.8	2.3	1.9	2.4
Neglect	52.4	63.4	64.5	67.7
Physical abuse	22.3	33.5	32.1	33.9
Sexual abuse	6.0	6.0	6.6	6.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Total % ⁵	100.0	111.9	112.0	114.0
Number	3,730	6,288	6,929	6,273

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	1,761	1,829	1,691	1,941	3,590
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	1,731	1,780	1,716	1,912	3,511
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	1,613	1,887	1,754	1,757	3,500
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	1,441	1,968	1,606	1,885	3,409

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	14.0	N/A	1.0	18.4	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	18.2	N/A	1.2	17.5	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	16.5	N/A	0.2	15.7	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	15.1	N/A	0.2	12.1	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	4.3	4.2	4.0	4.4	11.8	11.5	11.8	12.0	6.6	6.9	6.9	7.0	4.1	4.0	4.2	5.3
1-5 years	31.4	27.7	24.7	25.5	33.7	31.0	33.0	35.1	35.8	33.4	32.8	35.7	28.1	25.1	26.2	28.9
6-10 years	30.6	31.5	30.8	27.6	28.1	28.2	27.9	24.8	30.0	29.5	32.3	27.1	30.9	30.1	26.5	23.0
11-15 years	26.3	28.2	30.2	33.0	21.3	24.0	22.6	22.5	20.7	23.4	21.7	24.2	26.5	28.2	29.6	28.6
16-18 years	7.4	8.4	10.3	9.6	5.1	5.3	4.7	5.6	6.9	6.8	6.2	5.9	10.4	12.6	13.5	14.2
19+ years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	—	0.1	—	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,761	1,731	1,613	1,441	1,829	1,780	1,887	1,968	1,691	1,716	1,754	1,606	1,941	1,912	1,757	1,885

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	5.7	6.5	7.4	9.2	13.5	9.7	16.1	11.8	14.8	10.8	14.9	13.4	6.5	6.6	9.2	9.1
Asian	N/A	0.3	0.2	—	N/A	0.1	0.4	0.2	N/A	0.1	0.5	0.2	N/A	0.3	0.0	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	8.0	7.7	7.3	6.5	4.2	4.8	3.2	3.6	4.4	5.5	3.2	3.7	7.4	6.5	6.9	5.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.1	0.2	0.1	N/A	0.0	0.2	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.1
Hispanic	56.3	55.2	53.8	55.4	48.3	49.3	47.0	45.9	46.4	48.7	45.7	45.8	56.6	54.7	54.5	52.5
White	29.4	28.9	29.6	26.3	31.3	32.6	27.9	30.5	32.3	31.4	30.8	28.9	28.1	30.2	26.6	28.2
Two or more races	N/A	1.0	1.6	2.4	N/A	2.2	2.9	2.2	N/A	1.8	2.3	1.9	N/A	1.5	2.2	2.6
Unknown/Missing data	—	0.3	0.1	0.1	1.3	1.1	2.3	5.7	1.1	1.6	2.2	6.0	0.3	0.2	0.5	1.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,761	1,731	1,613	1,441	1,829	1,780	1,887	1,968	1,691	1,716	1,754	1,606	1,941	1,912	1,757	1,885

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	878	822	668	516
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	53	22	14	10

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
1-5 years	32.0	30.7	28.7	29.5
6-10 years	41.8	37.1	37.6	31.4
11-15 years	23.2	28.8	29.8	34.3
16+ years	1.3	1.6	1.8	2.7
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	0.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	878	822	668	516

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	5.9	6.1	7.0	9.9
Asian	N/A	0.2	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	8.5	7.9	8.7	7.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	58.5	56.2	57.2	54.7
White	26.2	28.0	24.6	24.2
Two or more races	N/A	1.6	2.5	3.5
Unknown/Missing data	0.6	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	878	822	668	516

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.2	1.4	0.5	1.1
1-5 years	32.9	46.7	37.4	46.5
6-10 years	46.1	38.0	42.5	32.7
11-15 years	17.1	13.5	16.8	18.2
16+ years	2.7	0.3	2.7	1.5
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	258	347	369	275

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.6	3.5	3.3
Asian	N/A	3.7	0.3	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	—	4.3	5.7	7.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.3	—	—
Hispanic	54.3	59.1	55.8	55.6
White	45.7	30.3	33.6	30.2
Two or more races	N/A	1.7	1.1	3.6
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	258	347	369	275

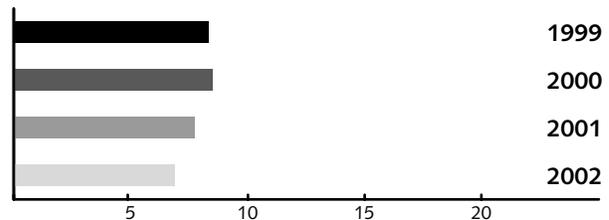
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	91.7	91.5	92.3	93.1
Children with one or more recurrences	8.3	8.5	7.7	6.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	915	2,986	2,891	2,889

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

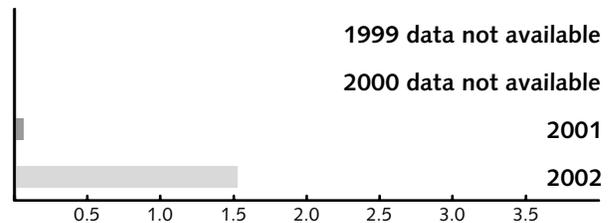


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	0.06	1.53
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	99.94	98.47
Total %	—	—	100.00	100.00
Number	—	—	3,083	3,015

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

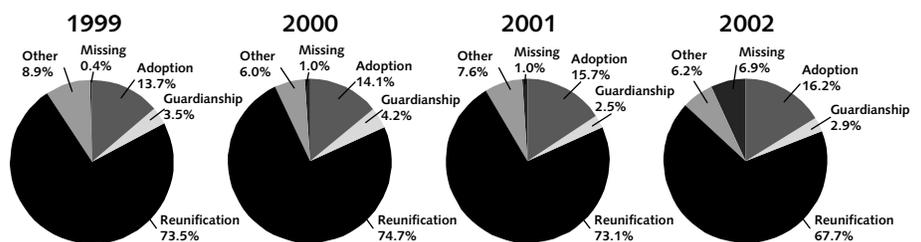


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	13.7	14.1	15.7	16.2
Guardianship	3.5	4.2	2.5	2.9
Reunification	73.5	74.7	73.1	67.7
Other	8.9	6.0	7.6	6.2
Missing data	0.4	1.0	1.0	6.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,691	1,716	1,754	1,606

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	21.0	21.1	30.8	19.4
Guardianship	1.0	3.0	4.8	7.1
Reunification	67.6	69.9	54.8	53.1
Other	9.5	6.0	5.8	12.2
Missing data	1.0	—	3.8	8.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	105	133	104	98

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	5.2	1.8	1.9	1.2
Guardianship	1.4	3.5	3.0	2.5
Reunification	69.2	77.1	76.3	79.4
Other	23.5	16.9	17.4	11.9
Missing data	0.7	0.7	1.5	4.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	289	284	270	243

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	—	—	—	9.1
Children older than 12 at entry	100.0	100.0	100.0	90.9
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	22	26	13	11

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

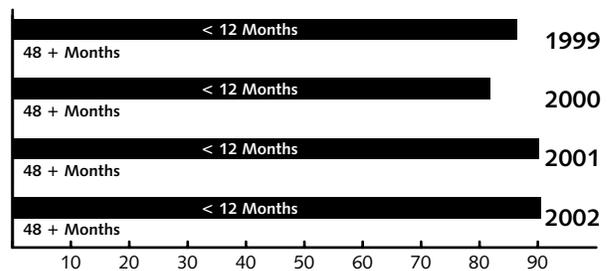
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	3.2	8.6	6.5	7.4	N/A	—	11.1	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	28.4	18.9	28.1	28.8	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	4.4	3.8	1.9	0.9	N/A	—	—	—	14.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.4	4.2	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	66.0	65.9	69.1	63.7	N/A	50.0	77.8	100.0	85.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	66.2	68.4	66.7	62.7	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0
Other	26.0	21.1	22.5	22.3	N/A	50.0	11.1	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.1	8.4	5.3	3.4	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	0.4	0.5	—	5.6	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	5.1	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	250	185	262	215	N/A	2	9	3	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	74	95	57	59	N/A	1	3	1

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	18.2	16.0	19.7	20.5	11.0	13.8	14.6	14.4	—	—	2.6	1.8	N/A	—	9.8	25.8	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	3.7	4.7	3.0	4.1	3.1	4.1	2.4	3.0	—	—	5.3	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.5
Reunification	71.8	74.6	73.1	63.6	79.0	77.0	75.6	73.5	92.9	100.0	78.9	82.5	100.0	87.1	68.3	58.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	90.0
Other	5.6	3.9	3.1	2.7	6.9	3.3	6.5	3.7	7.1	—	13.2	14.0	N/A	12.9	14.6	9.7	—	—	—	5.0
Missing data	0.6	0.7	1.1	9.1	—	1.9	0.9	5.4	—	—	—	1.8	N/A	—	7.3	6.5	—	—	—	2.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	785	836	802	736	547	538	541	464	14	25	38	57	9	31	41	31	5	3	1	40

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

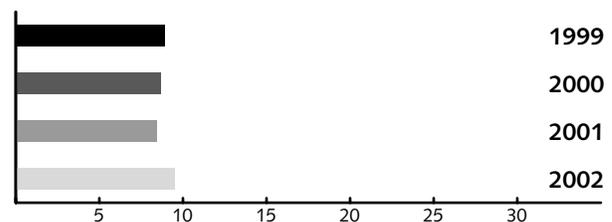
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	86.4	81.8	90.1	90.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	9.5	5.5	5.7	3.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	0.2	2.0	0.3	0.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	0.2	0.5	0.1
48 or more mos.	—	0.1	0.2	—
Missing data	3.9	10.4	3.2	5.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,243	1,282	1,283	1,088

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	88.6	86.9	86.1	84.8
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	8.9	8.7	8.4	9.5
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	1.0	2.2	4.7	5.0
Missing data	1.5	2.2	0.8	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,829	1,780	1,887	1,968

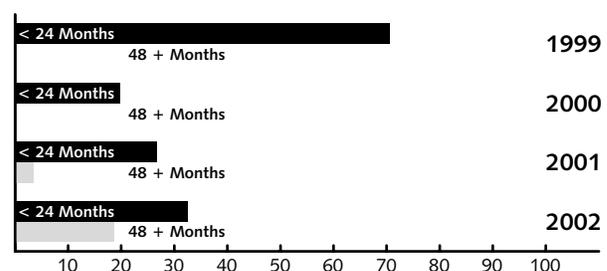
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	2.2	2.9	1.4	2.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	68.5	16.9	25.4	30.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	26.7	67.4	32.6	29.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	6.6	33.7	12.3
48 or more mos.	—	—	3.6	18.8
Missing data	2.6	6.2	3.3	6.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	232	242	276	260

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



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	95.4	4.6	—	100.0	1,958
	2000	95.6	4.4	—	100.0	1,946
	2001	88.0	12.0	—	100.0	2,001
	2002	87.5	12.5	—	100.0	2,109
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	99.7	0.3	—	100.0	744
	2000	99.6	0.4	—	100.0	478
	2001	58.0	42.0	—	100.0	579
	2002	51.7	48.3	—	100.0	511
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	99.5	0.5	—	100.0	842
	2000	99.8	0.2	—	100.0	522
	2001	43.3	56.7	—	100.0	305
	2002	38.7	61.3	—	100.0	310
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	—	—	—	0.0	—
	2000	99.8	0.2	—	100.0	513
	2001	44.7	55.3	—	100.0	264
	2002	34.6	65.4	—	100.0	127
48 or more mos.	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	1
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	1
	2001	59.3	40.7	—	100.0	300
	2002	51.8	48.2	—	100.0	328
Missing data	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	45
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	51
	2001	100.0	—	—	100.0	51
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	24

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	14.2	12.2	15.6	10.4
Institutions	1.7	2.1	3.2	2.6
Other settings	84.1	85.8	81.2	87.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,481	1,411	1,567	1,597

New Mexico

[STATE COMMENT]

The following discussion focuses on New Mexico's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The New Mexico Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2001, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 1999. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for New Mexico's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, New Mexico's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 6.9 percent, which does not meet the national standard (6.1 percent or less), but is less than the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure improved from 1999 to 2002 (-16.9 percent change).

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

In CY 2002, New Mexico's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 1.53 percent, which is more than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Change in performance on this measure is difficult to assess because only 2 children were reported as maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member in FY 2001 (the first year that data were provided for this measure) compared to 46 children in FY 2002.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 86.9 percent of children exiting foster care in New Mexico were discharged to a permanent home (which is about equal to the national median of 86.1 percent); 79.6 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is about equal to the national median of 79.8 percent). However, 83.1 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 72.0 percent). Although only 9.1 percent of the children emancipating from foster care were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, this is difficult to interpret because only 11 children were reported as emancipated from foster care in FY 2002.

New Mexico's performance improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children discharged to a permanent home who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (+9.7 percent change). However, performance declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children with a diagnosed disability who were discharged to a permanent home (-11.1 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in New Mexico occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 90.5, which is the highest percentage in the nation. Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

New Mexico's performance in FY 2002 with regard to the percent of re-entries into foster care within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 9.5 percent. This does not meet the national standard (8.6 percent or less), but is less than the national median of 9.9 percent. Performance on this measure declined slightly from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+6.7 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 32.7, which is more than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. New Mexico's performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+65.1 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 87.5, which is more than the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). However, New Mexico's performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-8.3 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 13.0, which is more than the national median of 8.6 percent. New Mexico's performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-18.3 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	4,440,924	4,618,595	4,634,371	4,613,251
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4
Asian	N/A	5.0	5.4	5.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	5.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	16.7	17.8	18.2	18.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	19.5	19.0	19.6	20.0
White	57.8	54.6	54.6	53.8
Two or more races	N/A	2.6	1.9	2.0
Other	N/A	0.5	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	21.8	19.5	20.0	20.4

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	64,045	74,065	77,860	79,049
Children in foster care on 9/30	51,159	47,118	43,365	40,753
Children adopted	4,864	4,234	3,934	3,791

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	186,002	230,449	251,164	262,643	41.9 per 1,000	49.9 per 1,000	54.2 per 1,000	56.9 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	64,045	74,065	77,860	79,049	14.4 per 1,000	16.0 per 1,000	16.8 per 1,000	17.1 per 1,000
Child fatalities	79	79	78	68	1.8 per 100,000	1.7 per 100,000	1.7 per 100,000	1.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	5.1	9.1	8.8	8.3
1-5 years	26.2	27.4	27.7	27.3
6-10 years	29.7	30.6	30.8	29.3
11-15 years	25.3	27.0	27.1	28.5
16+ years	9.2	5.8	5.6	6.4
Unknown/Missing data	4.5	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	64,045	74,065	77,860	79,049

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.8	0.8	0.4
Black	31.0	32.3	31.3	29.0
Hispanic	18.4	18.0	18.4	18.9
White	38.0	41.5	42.2	41.2
Two or more races	22.7	—	—	2.6
Unknown/Missing data	7.9	7.1	6.8	7.4
Total % ⁴	118.4	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	64,045	74,065	77,860	79,049

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	1.7	1.1	1.1	1.0
Medical neglect	6.2	3.7	3.6	3.7
Neglect	23.3	89.5	90.0	90.1
Physical abuse	24.8	13.9	13.0	12.9
Sexual abuse	5.6	4.1	3.8	4.0
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	182.9	22.8	24.3	24.5
Total % ⁵	244.6	135.1	135.8	136.2
Number	64,045	74,065	77,860	79,049

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	53,483	18,172	20,497	51,159	71,655
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	50,847	16,605	20,337	47,118	67,452
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	46,932	15,135	18,703	43,365	62,067
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	43,228	15,432	17,970	40,753	58,660

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	28.7	N/A	22.5	28.3	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	28.6	N/A	22.4	29.9	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	30.3	N/A	23.3	30.9	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	30.3	N/A	21.7	28.5	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	3.6	3.4	3.1	2.9	15.4	14.8	14.0	13.4	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.2	2.9	2.9
1-5 years	26.7	26.1	25.3	23.8	22.9	22.2	21.8	21.2	21.6	22.1	23.2	21.4	26.1	25.4	24.2	23.0
6-10 years	27.8	27.1	26.1	24.2	21.2	20.0	19.9	18.9	24.6	24.0	23.4	21.4	27.2	26.1	24.7	23.1
11-15 years	25.8	26.6	27.6	28.8	33.7	35.9	36.4	37.4	26.3	26.8	26.8	27.4	27.1	28.1	29.0	29.6
16-18 years	13.1	13.5	14.1	15.9	6.7	7.1	7.9	8.9	18.3	18.2	17.4	19.0	13.2	13.8	14.9	16.8
19+ years	3.0	3.2	3.7	4.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	5.6	4.8	5.0	7.2	2.9	3.4	4.1	4.5
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	1.2	1.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	53,483	50,847	46,932	43,228	18,172	16,605	15,135	15,432	20,497	20,337	18,703	17,970	51,159	47,118	43,365	40,753

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	N/A	0.3	0.3	0.4	N/A	0.6	0.8	0.6	N/A	0.5	0.5	0.6	N/A	0.3	0.4	0.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	46.6	44.9	44.6	46.6	33.8	38.8	43.0	44.7	40.1	40.3	40.9	42.0	44.7	44.7	45.7	47.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—												
Hispanic	15.0	15.3	15.7	16.9	13.6	15.8	19.7	19.9	13.5	14.7	17.0	17.5	15.1	15.7	16.5	17.7
White	13.5	13.9	15.0	16.5	23.2	25.0	27.7	26.8	20.5	20.3	21.5	22.2	14.1	15.1	16.6	17.8
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—												
Unknown/Missing data	24.5	25.4	24.1	19.5	28.6	19.4	8.5	7.5	25.3	23.9	19.8	17.4	25.7	24.0	20.5	15.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	53,483	50,847	46,932	43,228	18,172	16,605	15,135	15,432	20,497	20,337	18,703	17,970	51,159	47,118	43,365	40,753

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	18,762	17,325	14,840	14,760
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	14,707	12,519	8,559	10,622

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	2.4	1.6	0.6	1.1
1-5 years	31.9	31.6	30.0	30.2
6-10 years	35.5	35.3	34.5	32.9
11-15 years	26.4	27.8	30.0	30.4
16+ years	2.8	2.8	3.5	4.1
Unknown/Missing data	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	18,762	17,325	14,840	14,760

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Asian	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	48.7	47.9	48.2	48.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	14.3	14.8	15.3	15.7
White	11.5	11.8	11.2	14.0
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	25.3	25.1	25.0	21.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	18,762	17,325	14,840	14,760

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.4
1-5 years	28.4	31.6	34.2	33.0
6-10 years	41.4	38.1	36.7	37.2
11-15 years	25.3	25.6	24.7	24.8
16+ years	4.7	4.3	3.9	4.5
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,864	4,234	3,934	3,791

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Asian	N/A	0.2	0.1	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	50.3	46.5	46.3	45.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	13.6	12.5	13.9	14.6
White	10.5	11.8	13.0	15.0
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	25.4	28.9	26.5	24.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,864	4,234	3,934	3,791

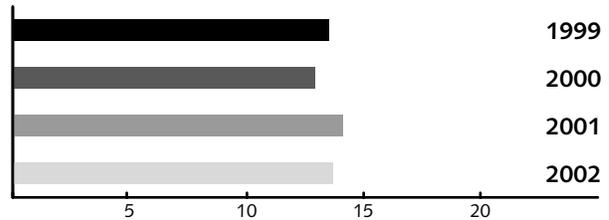
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	86.5	87.1	85.9	86.3
Children with one or more recurrences	13.5	12.9	14.1	13.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	33,687	32,876	34,768	34,528

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

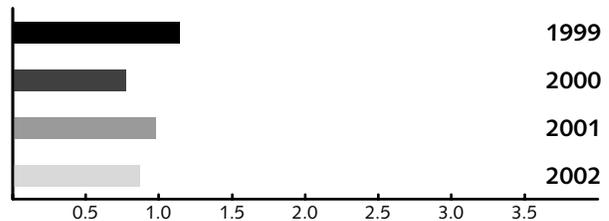


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	1.14	0.77	0.98	0.87
Children not maltreated while in foster care	98.86	99.23	99.02	99.13
Total %	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	66,252	62,873	57,405	54,375

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

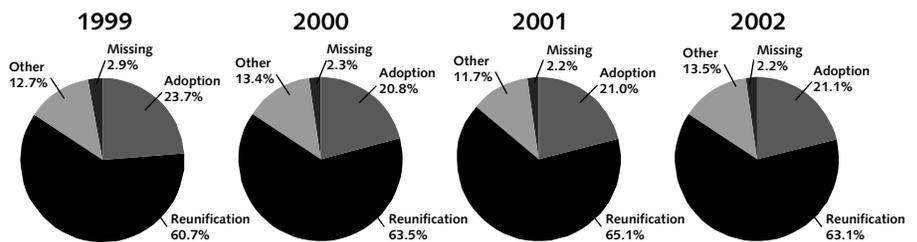


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	23.7	20.8	21.0	21.1
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	60.7	63.5	65.1	63.1
Other	12.7	13.4	11.7	13.5
Missing data	2.9	2.3	2.2	2.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	20,497	20,337	18,703	17,970

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.7
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	68.5	66.6	70.9	68.8
Other	27.2	29.4	25.3	27.1
Missing data	4.0	3.5	3.1	3.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,773	5,743	5,275	5,519

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	46.7	46.0	44.6	44.5
Children older than 12 at entry	53.2	53.9	55.4	53.7
Missing data	0.1	0.1	—	1.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,543	1,568	1,324	1,498

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

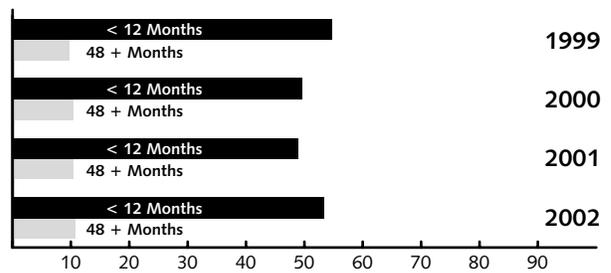
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	6.1	6.6	10.2	1.8	N/A	8.6	5.3	8.5	9.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	29.8	24.0	23.8	22.8	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	79.6	86.9	83.1	85.5	N/A	74.2	80.9	67.0	73.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	53.3	60.1	61.4	60.4	N/A	—	—	—
Other	8.2	6.6	5.1	10.9	N/A	16.1	11.7	21.7	15.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.0	13.7	12.8	14.6	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	6.1	—	1.7	1.8	N/A	1.1	2.1	2.8	1.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.9	2.2	2.0	2.1	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	—
Number	49	61	59	55	N/A	93	94	106	65	N/A	N/A	N/A	8,212	8,201	7,643	7,548	N/A	—	—	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	23.8	17.8	17.1	17.6	12.1	12.0	12.7	14.2	23.8	25.1	28.1	30.0	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	60.0	67.5	70.8	66.4	75.5	74.6	75.2	74.1	60.4	56.9	56.4	52.0	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	12.8	12.0	10.0	13.2	10.1	11.1	10.1	10.0	12.9	15.8	12.8	15.5	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	3.4	2.6	2.2	2.7	2.2	2.3	2.0	1.8	3.0	2.2	2.7	2.5	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number	2,777	2,983	3,180	3,140	4,203	4,138	4,029	3,997	5,191	4,861	3,698	3,124	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

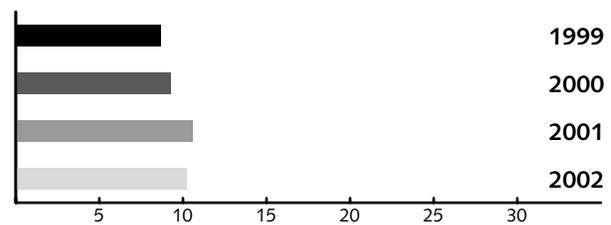
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	54.7	49.7	48.9	53.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	19.9	20.5	20.0	19.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	10.7	11.2	11.9	9.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	4.5	6.6	7.3	6.4
48 or more mos.	9.7	10.4	10.4	10.7
Missing data	0.5	1.6	1.6	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	12,439	12,914	12,181	11,347

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	78.8	78.5	76.7	76.2
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	8.7	9.3	10.6	10.2
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	12.5	12.2	12.6	13.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	18,172	16,605	15,135	15,432

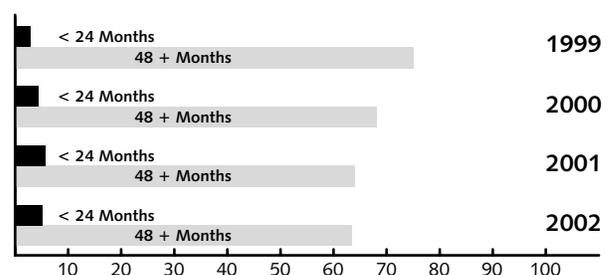
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	0.5	0.7	1.3	0.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	2.5	3.9	4.5	4.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	10.1	11.4	12.5	13.6
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	11.7	15.8	17.8	17.5
48 or more mos.	75.2	68.2	64.0	63.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	—	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,860	4,230	3,926	3,790

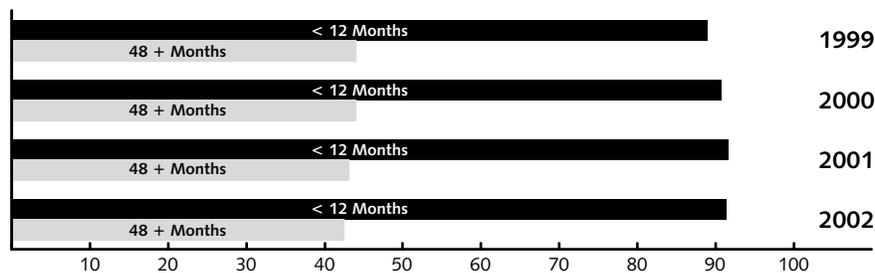
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	88.9	9.7	1.4	100.0	20,348
	2000	90.8	9.2	—	100.0	18,660
	2001	91.6	8.4	—	100.0	17,120
	2002	91.4	8.6	—	100.0	17,593
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	74.5	25.5	—	100.0	12,833
	2000	75.5	24.0	0.5	100.0	11,607
	2001	75.3	24.1	0.6	100.0	10,360
	2002	76.3	23.7	—	100.0	9,971
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	65.5	34.5	—	100.0	9,435
	2000	65.3	33.5	1.2	100.0	9,426
	2001	66.7	31.9	1.4	100.0	8,097
	2002	66.9	33.1	—	100.0	7,106
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	57.9	42.1	—	100.0	6,697
	2000	58.5	40.1	1.4	100.0	7,071
	2001	59.3	39.1	1.7	100.0	6,896
	2002	61.7	38.3	—	100.0	5,813
48 or more mos.	1999	44.0	56.0	—	100.0	22,197
	2000	44.0	55.1	0.9	100.0	20,419
	2001	43.2	55.6	1.1	100.0	19,354
	2002	42.5	57.5	—	100.0	18,113
Missing data	1999	93.1	6.9	—	100.0	145
	2000	96.3	3.7	—	100.0	269
	2001	95.8	4.2	—	100.0	240
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	64

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.9
Institutions	5.8	6.3	7.1	6.4
Other settings	92.5	92.2	91.2	91.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	12,251	10,791	9,699	9,551

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Strategic Planning and Policy Development
New York State Office of Children and Family Services
518-473-7793

The following are New York's comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002: Report to Congress*:

- New York's State Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS), CONNECTIONS, is partly implemented. Child protective data and facility and resource information are operational. Currently, NCANDS data are submitted through the SACWIS system; AFCARS data continue to be reported through the legacy systems and we are unable to meet some reporting requirements. Significant efforts are being made to support the production of outcome measures pending full SACWIS implementation. Data to support the reporting of the outcomes will be enhanced in future submissions. For Outcome Measure 3.2, the SACWIS functionality that supports this reporting is not yet operational.
- New York State, along with many other states, objects to the use of outcome measures presented in this report to construct national standards for the Child and Family Services Review, against which state performance is judged. Comparisons across states on these outcome measures are invalidated by extensive inter-state variation in the way events and populations are defined and counted, in case volume and composition, and in data quality. Further, these standards are based on the aspirational goals that all states meet the criterion that is currently not being met in most states nationwide. In addition, many states concede that the data submitted to support the standards is flawed. OCFS does not believe that the federal measures of "time to reunification" and "time to adoption" will accurately reflect the progress anticipated in New York over the next two years because of the exit cohort methodology used for these measures. Efforts to reduce a backlog of cases in foster care for an extended period can actually increase time to reunification or adoption among exit cohorts because the cohorts discharged after this programmatic shift contain a higher concentration of children who had been in foster care a long time.

The following discussion focuses on New York's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The New York Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2001, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 1999. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for New York's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, New York's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 13.7 percent, which is more than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure exhibited no change from 1999 to 2002.

The cross-State analyses of this measure found a substantial positive relationship between State performance on this outcome measure and the State rate of child victims (i.e., the number of child victims per 1,000 children in the population). States with a relatively high rate of child victims tended to have a relatively high rate of maltreatment recurrence. For New York, both the incidence of maltreatment recurrence (13.7 percent) and the rate of child victims (17.1 per 1,000 children in the population) were in the top quartile of the State rankings.

The cross-State analyses also found a small, but definite, positive relationship between State performance on this outcome measure and the percentage of child victims experiencing neglect. States with a relatively high percentage of child victims experiencing neglect tended to have a relatively high percentage of maltreatment recurrence. For New York, both the incidence of maltreatment recurrence (13.7 percent) and the percentage of child victims experiencing neglect (90.1 percent) were in the top quartile of the State rankings. These findings suggests that a State's definitions and laws pertaining to what constitutes maltreatment and what is necessary for substantiation may be related to its performance on the outcome measure of maltreatment recurrence.

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

In CY 2002, New York's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.87 percent, which is more than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure improved from 1999 to 2002 (-23.56 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 84.2 percent of children exiting foster care in New York were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 86.1 percent), and 69.5 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 44.5 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care, which is more than the national median of 26.9 percent. (No data are available with regard to children exiting foster care who have a diagnosed disability.) These

findings suggest that the State is not consistently successful in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care. New York's performance on these measures did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in New York occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 53.3, which is less than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

New York's performance in FY 2002 with regard to the percent of re-entries into foster care within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 10.2 percent, which is more than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to 2002 (+17.4 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 5.2, which is considerably less than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. New York's performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+13.3 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 91.4, which is more than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). New York's performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 8.4, which is about equal to the national median of 8.6 percent. New York's performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+11.9 percent change).

North Carolina

[CONTEXT DATA]

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	1,940,947	2,002,413	2,028,146	2,068,840
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.4
Asian	N/A	1.6	1.7	1.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	26.4	26.2	26.1	25.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	3.6	6.1	6.5	7.0
White	66.6	62.5	62.6	62.2
Two or more races	N/A	1.8	1.6	1.7
Other	N/A	0.3	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	18.5	18.5	16.4	20.3

Child Welfare Summary

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	36,976	36,186	36,601	35,523
Children in foster care on 9/30	11,339	10,847	10,130	9,527
Children adopted	949	1,337	1,327	1,324

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	127,522	123,043	122,354	127,702	65.7 per 1,000	61.5 per 1,000	60.3 per 1,000	61.7 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	36,976	36,186	36,601	35,523	19.1 per 1,000	18.1 per 1,000	18.0 per 1,000	17.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	21	0	—	—	1.1 per 100,000	0.0 per 100,000	— per 100,000	— per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.7	9.5	9.4	9.8
1-5 years	32.8	32.5	33.2	33.3
6-10 years	32.4	31.7	30.4	28.9
11-15 years	24.5	23.0	23.3	24.1
16+ years	8.5	3.4	3.7	3.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	36,976	36,186	36,601	35,523

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.4	1.9	1.7	1.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.1	0.7	0.9	0.9
Black	37.9	36.6	36.2	34.0
Hispanic	6.9	8.2	7.9	8.4
White	57.1	51.8	52.2	53.7
Two or more races	0.2	0.7	0.8	0.9
Unknown/Missing data	1.4	0.2	0.3	0.5
Total % ⁴	106.9	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	36,976	36,186	36,601	35,523

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Medical neglect	2.5	2.1	2.3	2.1
Neglect	87.8	89.9	90.0	90.3
Physical abuse	3.6	3.9	3.7	3.5
Sexual abuse	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.5
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	0.0
Other	2.1	0.4	0.4	0.4
Total % ⁵	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	36,976	36,186	36,601	35,523

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	10,265	5,391	4,317	11,339	15,656
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	9,870	5,458	4,481	10,847	15,328
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	10,068	5,301	5,239	10,130	15,369
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	9,316	5,615	5,404	9,527	14,931

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	16.9	N/A	13.0	17.9	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	17.7	N/A	14.9	16.4	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	16.5	N/A	14.7	16.3	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	15.8	N/A	13.7	14.0	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	4.6	4.3	5.1	5.2	15.1	16.0	15.4	16.3	4.7	4.2	3.8	4.5	4.3	5.1	5.0	5.8
1-5 years	27.1	26.5	25.6	26.4	26.5	25.7	28.3	28.0	29.3	29.7	30.9	31.9	26.3	25.8	26.3	26.7
6-10 years	26.4	26.5	25.0	23.7	24.2	23.3	23.4	22.1	24.2	25.0	24.7	22.2	26.3	24.8	23.5	22.4
11-15 years	29.5	29.9	31.0	30.8	29.2	29.6	26.8	26.9	24.6	23.2	23.8	24.0	29.4	30.6	30.3	29.9
16-18 years	11.5	12.1	12.5	13.1	4.9	5.3	5.9	6.6	15.9	16.8	15.7	16.3	12.9	12.9	13.9	14.4
19+ years	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8
Unknown/Missing data	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	10,265	9,870	10,068	9,316	5,391	5,458	5,301	5,615	4,317	4,481	5,239	5,404	11,339	10,847	10,130	9,527

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.5	1.9	2.3	2.1	2.6	3.5	2.6	2.1	2.4	3.0	3.2	2.8	1.7	2.3	2.0	1.7
Asian	N/A	0.3	0.2	0.3	N/A	0.3	0.4	0.6	N/A	0.4	0.2	0.5	N/A	0.2	0.3	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	53.1	50.9	49.3	47.4	41.6	41.5	38.7	38.1	45.1	43.8	43.5	42.5	50.7	49.1	46.8	44.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.1	N/A	0.2	0.3	0.2	N/A	0.0	0.1	0.2	N/A	0.1	0.2	0.1
Hispanic	5.6	6.2	5.6	5.7	7.9	6.5	8.8	7.4	6.6	7.6	7.6	7.4	6.3	5.8	6.2	5.7
White	39.2	39.9	41.2	42.7	47.1	46.8	47.5	49.6	45.2	44.3	44.2	44.9	40.7	41.6	42.9	45.5
Two or more races	N/A	0.5	1.0	1.7	N/A	1.2	1.7	1.7	N/A	0.4	0.9	1.4	N/A	0.9	1.4	1.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	10,265	9,870	10,068	9,316	5,391	5,458	5,301	5,615	4,317	4,481	5,239	5,404	11,339	10,847	10,130	9,527

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	3,603	3,715	3,337	3,133
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,757	2,134	2,047	1,822

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.9
1-5 years	31.1	29.7	27.7	27.1
6-10 years	33.9	31.9	29.5	26.4
11-15 years	26.3	28.5	31.8	34.5
16+ years	5.1	6.6	7.7	8.7
Unknown/Missing data	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,603	3,715	3,337	3,133

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.4
Asian	N/A	0.3	0.3	0.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	53.5	53.9	52.0	47.2
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.1
Hispanic	5.9	5.7	5.1	4.8
White	38.5	37.1	39.1	43.3
Two or more races	N/A	1.0	1.6	2.6
Unknown/Missing data	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,603	3,715	3,337	3,133

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	3.8	4.0	4.0	2.8
1-5 years	46.4	44.9	45.4	46.5
6-10 years	32.0	33.5	29.8	28.2
11-15 years	16.2	15.3	17.6	18.8
16+ years	1.6	2.2	2.7	3.2
Unknown/Missing data	—	0.1	0.5	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	949	1,337	1,327	1,324

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.6	1.2	1.9	1.4
Asian	N/A	0.5	0.5	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	51.6	44.9	48.2	43.9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	0.2	—
Hispanic	4.1	6.7	5.7	6.3
White	41.8	42.9	37.0	40.8
Two or more races	N/A	3.1	5.8	6.8
Unknown/Missing data	1.3	0.7	0.8	0.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	949	1,337	1,327	1,324

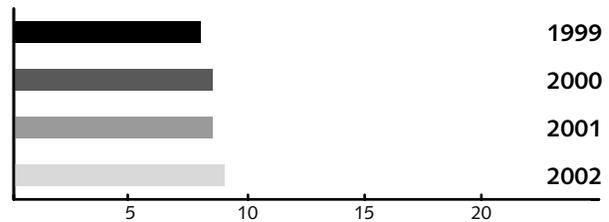
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	92.0	91.5	91.5	91.0
Children with one or more recurrences	8.0	8.5	8.5	9.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	14,159	15,841	16,315	15,834

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

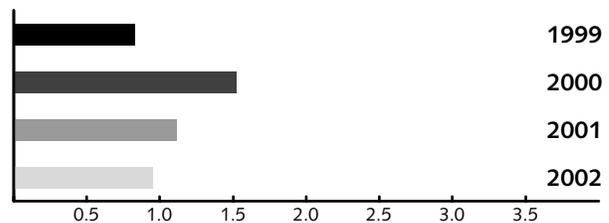


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.83	1.52	1.11	0.95
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.17	98.48	98.89	99.05
Total %	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	14,447	14,121	13,986	13,710

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

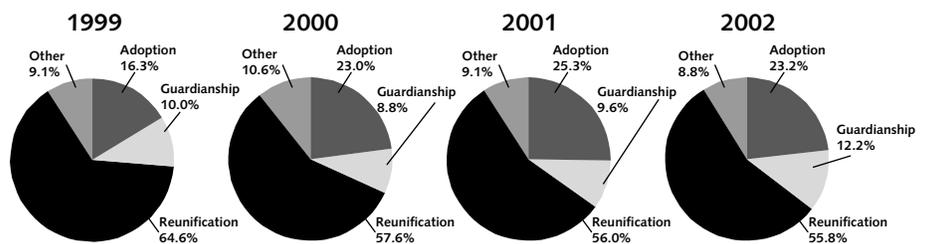


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	16.3	23.0	25.3	23.2
Guardianship	10.0	8.8	9.6	12.2
Reunification	64.6	57.6	56.0	55.8
Other	9.1	10.6	9.1	8.8
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,317	4,481	5,239	5,404

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	24.1	27.0	27.8	23.9
Guardianship	8.0	6.8	11.1	11.5
Reunification	53.3	45.8	44.1	46.3
Other	14.7	20.5	17.0	18.2
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	565	533	583	615

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.8	0.9	2.4	2.6
Guardianship	7.8	5.7	8.2	9.0
Reunification	70.6	68.7	67.9	66.5
Other	20.8	24.7	21.5	21.9
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,024	1,088	1,193	1,240

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	33.2	28.5	33.8	32.6
Children older than 12 at entry	66.8	71.5	66.2	67.4
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	244	277	302	328

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

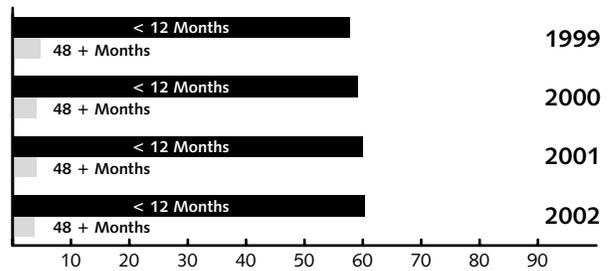
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	3.8	11.3	19.8	12.6	N/A	5.3	36.4	20.7	11.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.7	24.4	28.5	26.2	N/A	—	57.1	—
Guardianship	40.4	33.8	29.9	29.8	N/A	5.3	9.1	6.9	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	10.3	7.9	9.8	12.3	N/A	—	14.3	—
Reunification	53.8	43.6	46.1	48.3	N/A	78.9	54.5	69.0	88.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	62.8	55.9	50.8	52.1	N/A	75.0	28.6	100.0
Other	1.9	11.3	4.2	9.3	N/A	10.5	—	3.4	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.1	11.9	10.9	9.4	N/A	25.0	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	104	133	167	151	N/A	19	11	29	18	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,946	1,963	2,277	2,297	N/A	4	7	12

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	11.6	21.4	23.1	16.8	16.4	22.6	22.4	21.7	23.1	47.1	36.4	27.3	N/A	25.0	40.8	37.7	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	10.2	7.0	9.3	9.0	8.2	8.3	8.2	11.7	—	17.6	—	27.3	N/A	20.0	—	7.8	—	—	—	—
Reunification	71.2	60.7	61.2	67.9	65.7	59.8	61.0	57.8	76.9	17.6	63.6	45.5	N/A	50.0	55.1	46.8	—	—	—	—
Other	7.0	10.9	6.5	6.3	9.8	9.3	8.4	8.8	—	17.6	—	—	N/A	5.0	4.1	7.8	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Number	285	341	399	399	1,951	1,984	2,318	2,428	13	17	11	11	N/A	20	49	77	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

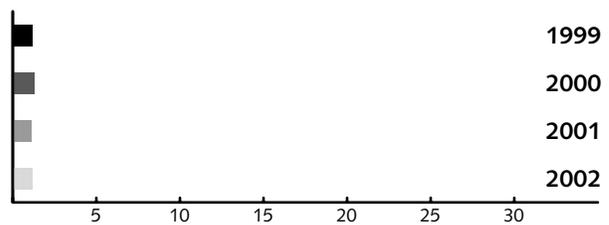
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	57.7	59.2	60.0	60.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	24.1	23.1	24.5	25.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	9.4	9.1	7.9	7.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.8	4.3	3.2	3.1
48 or more mos.	4.7	4.0	4.1	3.7
Missing data	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,789	2,579	2,932	3,017

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	97.9	97.5	97.7	97.6
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	0.9	1.3	1.1	1.2
Missing data	0.0	—	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,391	5,458	5,301	5,615

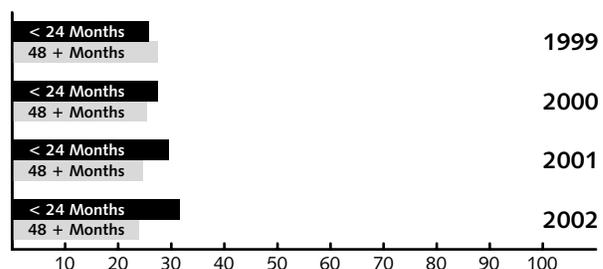
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	8.5	6.2	5.0	6.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	17.4	21.3	24.6	25.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	28.9	28.1	25.5	27.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	18.0	19.0	20.1	17.2
48 or more mos.	27.1	25.5	24.8	23.9
Missing data	—	—	0.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	705	1,029	1,326	1,252

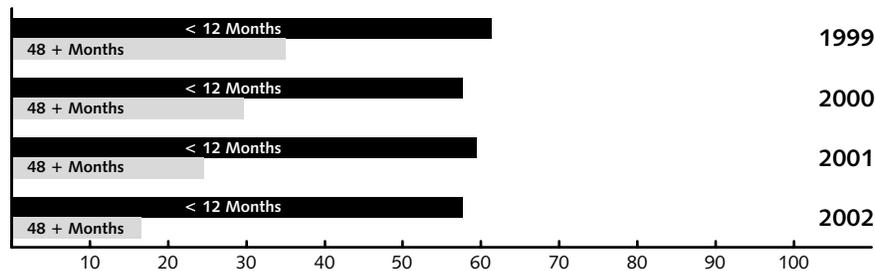
Percent Adoptions Occuring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	61.3	38.7	—	100.0	6,260
	2000	57.7	42.3	—	100.0	6,312
	2001	59.5	40.5	—	100.0	6,343
	2002	57.7	42.3	—	100.0	6,707
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	41.5	58.5	—	100.0	3,523
	2000	38.9	61.1	—	100.0	3,329
	2001	33.4	66.6	—	100.0	3,548
	2002	37.1	62.9	—	100.0	3,325
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	39.9	60.1	—	100.0	2,205
	2000	30.8	69.2	—	100.0	2,074
	2001	27.6	72.4	—	100.0	1,901
	2002	20.8	79.2	—	100.0	1,806
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	37.8	62.2	—	100.0	1,184
	2000	31.8	68.2	—	100.0	1,287
	2001	23.0	77.0	—	100.0	1,267
	2002	15.8	84.2	—	100.0	1,004
48 or more mos.	1999	35.0	65.0	—	100.0	2,453
	2000	29.7	70.3	—	100.0	2,313
	2001	24.5	75.5	—	100.0	2,287
	2002	16.5	83.5	—	100.0	2,075
Missing data	1999	80.6	19.4	—	100.0	31
	2000	84.6	15.4	—	100.0	13
	2001	91.3	8.7	—	100.0	23
	2002	92.9	7.1	—	100.0	14

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	3.0	3.3	3.0	2.8
Institutions	3.7	3.6	3.0	4.7
Other settings	93.2	93.0	93.9	92.5
Missing data	0.1	0.1	0.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,950	3,963	3,968	4,130

North Carolina

[STATE COMMENT]

The following discussion focuses on North Carolina's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. North Carolina's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2001, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 1999. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for North Carolina's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, North Carolina's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 9.0 percent, which is more than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure declined from 1999 to 2002 (+12 percent change).

The cross-State analyses found a substantial positive relationship between State performance on this outcome measure and the rate of child victims (i.e., the number of child victims per 1,000 children in the population). States with a relatively high rate of child victims tended to have a relatively high rate of maltreatment recurrence. For North Carolina, both the incidence of maltreatment recurrence (9.0 percent) and the rate of child victims (17.2 per 1,000 children in the population) were in the top quartile of the State rankings.

The cross-State analyses also found a small, but definite, positive relationship between performance on this outcome measure and the percentage of child victims in the State experiencing neglect. States with a relatively high percentage of child victims experiencing neglect tended to have a relatively high percentage of maltreatment recurrence. For North Carolina, both the incidence of maltreatment recurrence (9.0 percent) and the percentage of child victims experiencing neglect (90.3 percent) were in the top quartile of the State rankings. These findings suggest that a State's definitions and laws pertaining to what constitutes maltreatment and what is necessary for substantiation may be related to the State's performance on the outcome measure assessing maltreatment recurrence.

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

In CY 2002, North Carolina's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.95 percent, which is more than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure declined from 1999 to 2002 (+14.37 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 91.2 percent of children exiting foster care in North Carolina were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 86.1 percent); 81.8 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 78.1 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 72.0 percent). However, 32.6 percent of the children emancipating from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care, which is more than the national median of 26.9 percent. North Carolina's performance on the measures for outcome 3

exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002. These findings suggest that in FY 2002, the State was generally successful in attaining permanency for children exiting foster care, although almost one-third of the children who exited foster care to emancipation may be said to have grown up in foster care.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in North Carolina occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 60.2, which is less than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

Because the cross-State analyses found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, North Carolina's performance in FY 2002 with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For North Carolina, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 1.2, which was the lowest percentage in the Nation. Thus, although North Carolina had a relatively low percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of the child's entry into foster care, the State also had a very low percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. Performance on the measure of foster care re-entry exhibited no change from FY 1999 to 2002.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 31.6, which is close to the national standard (32.0 percent or more), and is more than the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. North Carolina's performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+15.0 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 57.7, which is less than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). This percentage is the second lowest percentage in the Nation. North Carolina's performance on this measure declined slightly from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-5.9 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 7.5, which is less than the national median of 8.6 percent. However, North Carolina's performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+12.7 percent change).

North Dakota

[CONTEXT DATA]

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	160,092	153,810	151,223	146,812
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	8.5	7.8	8.0	8.1
Asian	N/A	0.6	0.7	0.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0
White	87.7	86.6	86.4	86.2
Two or more races	N/A	2.1	1.8	1.8
Other	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	19.2	15.3	19.5	16.3

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	—	1,383	1,359	1,493
Children in foster care on 9/30	1,131	1,129	1,167	1,197
Children adopted	143	108	145	137

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	6,926	6,985	6,963	7,089	43.3 per 1,000	45.4 per 1,000	46.0 per 1,000	48.3 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	—	1,383	1,359	1,493	— per 1,000	9.0 per 1,000	9.0 per 1,000	10.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	0	0	1	2	0.0 per 100,000	0.0 per 100,000	0.7 per 100,000	1.4 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	6.9	6.6	6.0	6.0
1-5 years	26.3	26.8	28.8	31.4
6-10 years	33.6	32.8	30.8	27.2
11-15 years	28.0	26.5	26.7	28.3
16+ years	5.3	7.3	7.7	7.2
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	1,383	1,359	1,493

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	26.2	21.3	21.2	19.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.7
Black	3.5	3.1	3.8	3.8
Hispanic	3.3	2.0	1.8	3.8
White	68.8	73.8	72.0	73.2
Two or more races	0.8	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	0.5	—	1.0	—
Total % ⁴	103.3	100.3	100.0	100.8
Number	—	1,383	1,359	1,493

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	48.3	53.1	52.5	52.3
Medical neglect	4.3	2.6	1.7	3.6
Neglect	64.0	61.0	58.3	64.6
Physical abuse	12.5	18.9	18.4	22.6
Sexual abuse	7.2	6.5	8.2	9.2
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	1.4	3.2	—
Other	136.3	—	—	—
Total % ⁵	272.6	143.5	142.3	152.3
Number	—	1,383	1,359	1,493

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	1,002	954	825	1,131	1,956
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	974	1,006	851	1,129	1,980
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	982	1,013	828	1,167	1,995
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	1,017	1,044	864	1,197	2,061

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	11.0	N/A	8.0	10.8	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	10.9	N/A	6.4	10.8	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	11.0	N/A	7.1	10.2	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	10.5	N/A	6.6	10.5	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	5.9	5.4	4.2	3.5	12.4	12.0	8.8	10.1	2.5	4.7	3.0	2.7	8.0	6.8	5.4	6.0
1-5 years	13.5	14.4	15.7	16.2	16.7	14.0	16.3	18.3	16.0	14.9	16.8	16.9	16.6	16.3	16.9	19.0
6-10 years	20.6	19.9	17.9	18.2	15.6	15.6	15.8	13.1	15.6	15.2	13.0	12.4	19.5	17.4	17.7	15.5
11-15 years	33.6	34.7	35.9	35.2	35.4	36.7	36.4	35.6	26.7	29.1	26.8	28.7	32.9	34.9	35.0	34.7
16-18 years	25.7	24.8	25.3	26.5	19.9	21.7	22.6	22.9	38.2	35.4	39.4	38.3	22.5	23.6	24.5	24.5
19+ years	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.4	—	—	—	—	1.0	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.5	0.8	0.4	0.4
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	0.1	—	—	0.1	0.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,002	974	982	1,017	954	1,006	1,013	1,044	825	851	828	864	1,131	1,129	1,167	1,197

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	33.9	33.1	32.8	31.1	28.0	28.2	27.1	26.1	30.7	29.7	27.7	27.1	31.3	31.3	31.5	29.7
Asian	N/A	0.8	0.4	0.7	N/A	0.5	0.7	0.5	N/A	0.2	—	—	N/A	1.0	0.9	1.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	1.8	2.4	1.6	3.2	2.3	1.8	3.5	2.4	1.6	2.2	2.2	2.9	2.4	1.9	2.8	2.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	0.0	N/A	—	0.2	0.0	N/A	—	0.1	0.2	N/A	—	0.0	—
Hispanic	3.1	2.5	3.1	3.0	5.0	4.2	2.7	5.4	5.3	3.9	3.0	4.1	3.1	2.9	2.7	4.3
White	59.5	60.3	60.2	58.3	63.4	62.1	63.0	61.7	61.3	61.8	64.7	63.0	61.5	60.8	59.4	57.9
Two or more races	N/A	0.9	1.8	3.5	N/A	3.2	2.9	3.8	N/A	2.1	2.3	2.8	N/A	2.0	2.4	4.3
Unknown/Missing data	—	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0	0.0	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,002	974	982	1,017	954	1,006	1,013	1,044	825	851	828	864	1,131	1,129	1,167	1,197

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	409	343	322	340
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	370	262	191	228

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	18.8	14.9	13.7	14.7
1-5 years	31.1	32.1	28.3	28.8
6-10 years	29.3	22.4	24.5	22.6
11-15 years	19.1	25.9	27.0	28.5
16+ years	1.2	4.4	5.9	5.0
Unknown/Missing data	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	409	343	322	340

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	24.7	26.2	31.4	27.9
Asian	N/A	2.6	1.6	1.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	4.2	2.9	3.1	3.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	3.4	3.8	2.5	3.5
White	65.3	62.4	59.3	55.6
Two or more races	N/A	2.0	2.2	7.6
Unknown/Missing data	2.2	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	409	343	322	340

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	48.3	42.6	27.6	37.2
1-5 years	32.2	33.3	32.4	35.8
6-10 years	14.0	18.5	21.4	14.6
11-15 years	4.2	4.6	13.1	10.9
16+ years	1.4	0.9	5.5	1.5
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	143	108	145	137

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	4.9	10.2	23.4	9.5
Asian	N/A	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	—	3.7	4.8	5.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	7.0	4.6	4.1	7.3
White	14.7	78.7	66.2	65.7
Two or more races	N/A	2.8	1.4	11.7
Unknown/Missing data	0.7	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	143	108	145	137

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

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

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

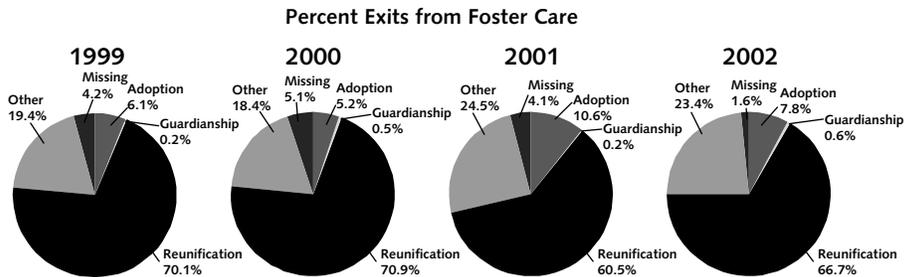
2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	6.1	5.2	10.6	7.8
Guardianship	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.6
Reunification	70.1	70.9	60.5	66.7
Other	19.4	18.4	24.5	23.4
Missing data	4.2	5.1	4.1	1.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	825	851	828	864



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	3.5	85.4	72.8	7.2
Guardianship	—	—	—	0.5
Reunification	68.8	9.8	16.5	62.5
Other	21.9	—	9.7	28.7
Missing data	5.8	4.9	1.0	1.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	398	41	103	432

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.4	—	0.9	0.4
Guardianship	0.4	0.9	0.4	0.8
Reunification	66.7	67.0	60.3	65.3
Other	26.1	25.1	35.8	32.1
Missing data	6.3	7.1	2.6	1.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	448	463	464	476

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	—	—	10.9	17.2
Children older than 12 at entry	100.0	100.0	89.1	82.8
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	42	43	46	58

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

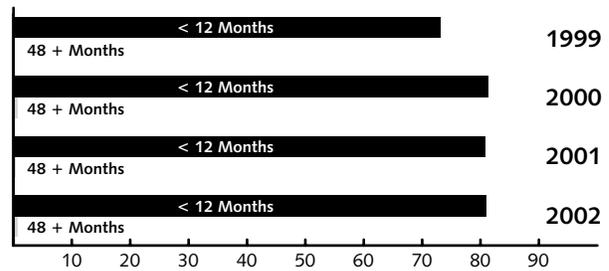
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	5.1	4.0	9.2	4.7	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	16.7	4.0	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	64.4	63.2	52.4	62.4	N/A	100.0	—	—	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	76.9	63.2	72.2	64.0	N/A	—	100.0	100.0
Other	25.7	22.9	32.8	31.2	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.4	31.6	11.1	32.0	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	4.7	9.9	5.7	1.7	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.7	5.3	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	—	—	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	100.0	100.0
Number	253	253	229	234	N/A	2	—	—	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	13	19	18	25	N/A	—	1	2

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	6.8	—	16.0	5.7	6.7	6.1	11.2	8.6	—	—	—	—	N/A	11.1	—	25.0	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.9	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	77.3	81.8	60.0	60.0	71.5	73.4	63.4	68.8	—	—	—	—	100.0	88.9	63.2	70.8	—	—	—	—
Other	15.9	9.1	16.0	34.3	17.0	17.1	22.2	19.9	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	15.8	4.2	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	9.1	8.0	—	4.3	2.7	2.8	1.8	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	21.1	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Number	44	33	25	35	506	526	536	544	—	—	—	—	7	18	19	24	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

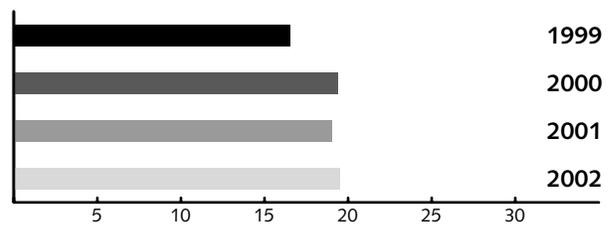
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	73.2	81.4	80.8	80.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	20.8	13.9	15.4	13.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.8	2.7	3.0	3.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.1	1.3	0.2	1.0
48 or more mos.	—	0.7	0.4	0.7
Missing data	0.2	—	0.2	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	578	603	501	576

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	70.4	71.3	66.2	67.5
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	16.5	19.4	19.0	19.5
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	9.1	7.0	10.2	9.7
Missing data	4.0	2.4	4.6	3.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	954	1,006	1,013	1,044

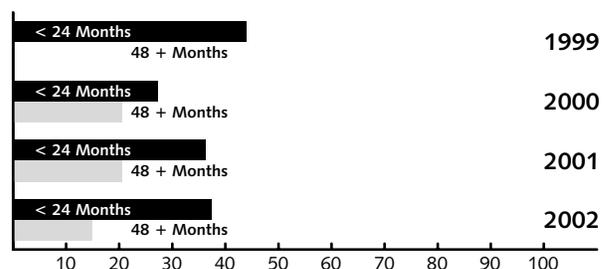
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	22.0	11.4	11.4	9.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	22.0	15.9	25.0	28.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	14.0	36.4	20.5	28.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	42.0	15.9	22.7	19.4
48 or more mos.	—	20.5	20.5	14.9
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	50	44	88	67

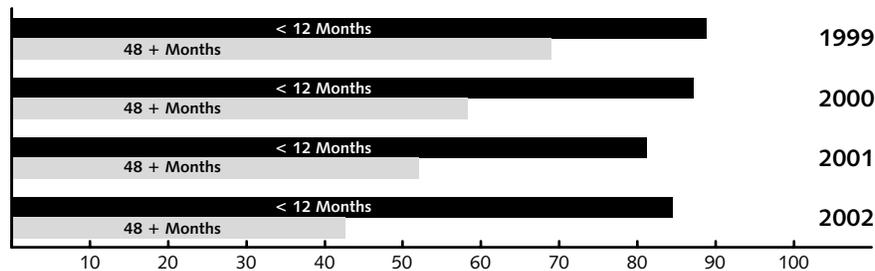
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	88.8	11.2	—	100.0	1,140
	2000	87.1	12.6	0.3	100.0	1,210
	2001	81.2	14.4	4.3	100.0	1,220
	2002	84.5	15.2	0.2	100.0	1,236
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	69.9	30.1	—	100.0	428
	2000	63.5	36.2	0.3	100.0	359
	2001	59.7	40.3	—	100.0	352
	2002	62.6	37.4	—	100.0	398
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	67.4	32.6	—	100.0	138
	2000	54.5	45.5	—	100.0	167
	2001	49.0	51.0	—	100.0	143
	2002	47.5	52.5	—	100.0	179
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	63.3	36.7	—	100.0	147
	2000	61.0	39.0	—	100.0	77
	2001	49.0	51.0	—	100.0	102
	2002	35.7	64.3	—	100.0	70
48 or more mos.	1999	69.0	31.0	—	100.0	100
	2000	58.3	40.5	1.2	100.0	163
	2001	52.0	46.9	1.1	100.0	175
	2002	42.7	57.3	—	100.0	171
Missing data	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	3
	2000	50.0	—	50.0	100.0	4
	2001	—	—	100.0	100.0	3
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	7

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	1.4	1.0	1.7	3.3
Institutions	5.2	8.8	5.7	9.0
Other settings	93.2	90.2	92.4	87.5
Missing data	0.2	—	0.2	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	497	489	459	513

North Dakota

[STATE COMMENT]

The following discussion focuses on North Dakota's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The North Dakota Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2001 and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 1999. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for North Dakota's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

North Dakota's performance on outcome 1 cannot be assessed as part of the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) to calculate this outcome. To ensure data consistency across States, only data submitted through NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, the State provided 1999 data for this outcome for its CFSR using an alternative source. For that year, the State reported that 11.7 percent of the children who were the subject of a substantiated or indicated child maltreatment report during the first 6 months of the year experienced another substantiated or indicated child maltreatment report within 6 months of the first report. The national standard for this measure is 6.1 percent or fewer.

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

North Dakota's performance on outcome 2 cannot be evaluated as part of the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to NCANDS for calculating this outcome. In order to ensure data consistency across States, only data submitted through the NCANDS system are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, the State provided 1999 data for this outcome for its CFSR using an alternative source. For that year, the State reported that 0.44 percent of the children in foster care for the first 9 months of the calendar year were victims of maltreatment by foster parents or facility staff members. The national standard for this measure is 0.57 percent or fewer.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 75 percent of children exiting foster care in North Dakota were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 86.1 percent); 70.0 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited from foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 66.6 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care exited to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent). However, only 17.2 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (which is less than the national median of 26.9 percent). North Dakota's performance on the measures for outcome 3 exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002. These findings suggest that North Dakota continues to experience challenges with regard to finding permanent homes for children exiting foster care. However, a relatively small percentage of those children who exit foster care to emancipation appear to have grown up in foster care.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in North Dakota occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 80.9, which is more than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+10.5 percent change).

Because the cross-State analyses found a substantial positive relationship between the percentage of reunifications within 12 months and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, North Dakota's performance in FY 2002 with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For North Dakota, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 19.5, which is considerably more than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). In addition, performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to 2002 (+18.7 percent change). Thus, while North Dakota had a relatively high percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode.

The cross-State analyses also found a substantial positive relationship between performance on the measure of foster care re-entry and the percentage of children entering foster care in the State who were age 16 or older. States with a relatively high percentage of children age 16 and older entering foster care in FY 2002 tended to have a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering with 12 months of a prior episode. For North Dakota, both the percentage of children entering foster care who were age 16 and older (26.9 percent) and the incidence of foster care re-entry (19.5 percent) were in the top quartile of the State rankings. One explanation for this may be that children age 16 and older who enter foster care are often entering because of their own behaviors (or through the juvenile justice system) rather than as a result of maltreatment, and they may leave the foster care system before behavior problems are fully resolved. This is particularly relevant to North Dakota, because this State provides child welfare foster care services to children in the juvenile justice system.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 37.4. However, this percentage is difficult to interpret, because there was a substantial discrepancy between the number of finalized adoptions the State provided in its AFCARS Adoption data submission (137 adoptions) and the number of exits from foster care to a finalized adoption provided in the State's AFCARS Foster Care data submission (67 exits from foster care to a finalized adoption). Thus, over 50 percent of the children reported to the AFCARS Adoption Data Base are not accounted for in "time to adoption" assessed by outcome measure 5.1. This discrepancy also was found in prior years.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 84.5, which does not meet the national standard (86.7 percent or more), but is about equal to the national median (84.1 percent). North Dakota exhibited no change in performance on this measure from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 12.3, which is more than the national median of 8.6 percent. North Dakota's performance on this measure declined substantially from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+85.0 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	2,844,071	2,875,220	2,876,999	2,879,927
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	N/A	1.1	1.2	1.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	14.5	14.2	14.5	14.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	2.4	2.8	2.8	2.8
White	81.6	79.2	79.1	78.9
Two or more races	N/A	2.3	2.2	2.3
Other	N/A	0.3	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	17.6	14.6	16.2	11.7

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	55,921	54,084	51,031	50,141
Children in foster care on 9/30	20,078	20,365	21,584	21,038
Children adopted	1,868	2,044	2,230	2,396

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	128,924	120,712	113,720	110,495	45.3 per 1,000	42.0 per 1,000	39.5 per 1,000	38.4 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	55,921	54,084	51,031	50,141	19.7 per 1,000	18.8 per 1,000	17.7 per 1,000	17.4 per 1,000
Child fatalities	58	58	80	72	2.0 per 100,000	2.0 per 100,000	2.8 per 100,000	2.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	7.6	8.2	7.9	7.7
1-5 years	29.6	30.2	30.2	30.9
6-10 years	29.9	29.6	28.9	28.2
11-15 years	23.8	23.7	24.7	24.7
16+ years	6.2	6.3	6.5	6.4
Unknown/Missing data	2.8	1.9	1.8	2.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	55,921	54,084	51,031	50,141

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2
Black	30.1	31.2	30.0	29.4
Hispanic	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.2
White	64.0	63.5	60.7	62.1
Two or more races	0.0	—	1.1	1.0
Unknown/Missing data	4.7	4.3	6.9	5.8
Total % ⁴	100.7	100.8	100.0	100.0
Number	55,921	54,084	51,031	50,141

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	4.2	5.5	11.2	13.4
Medical neglect	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Neglect	53.3	52.7	53.1	54.3
Physical abuse	28.0	27.7	25.6	23.2
Sexual abuse	14.1	14.0	15.4	15.5
Unknown/Missing data	0.3	0.1	—	—
Other	0.0	—	—	—
Total % ⁵	100.0	100.0	105.3	106.4
Number	55,921	54,084	51,031	50,141

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	16,951	15,946	12,819	20,078	32,897
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	19,100	15,396	14,131	20,365	34,496
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	19,563	16,157	14,136	21,584	35,720
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	20,477	14,982	14,421	21,038	35,459

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	12.6	N/A	4.8	13.4	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	14.0	N/A	7.4	14.4	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	14.7	N/A	7.6	13.4	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	13.8	N/A	9.8	14.1	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.7	12.7	12.9	13.8	14.0	5.7	5.4	5.7	5.3	5.5	5.4	5.7	5.6
1-5 years	24.0	24.9	24.7	24.2	24.8	24.7	24.0	26.1	25.5	27.3	27.1	28.7	24.8	24.8	24.4	24.8
6-10 years	23.0	23.8	23.2	22.2	21.5	21.1	20.4	20.1	20.2	21.5	20.8	20.9	23.5	23.0	22.0	20.7
11-15 years	29.0	28.5	28.8	29.0	28.6	28.5	29.1	28.2	25.3	24.0	24.9	23.8	28.6	28.8	28.9	29.0
16-18 years	17.2	16.1	16.8	17.7	12.0	12.6	12.6	11.5	21.7	20.4	20.2	19.5	15.9	16.6	17.6	18.5
19+ years	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.6	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	16,951	19,100	19,563	20,477	15,946	15,396	16,157	14,982	12,819	14,131	14,136	14,421	20,078	20,365	21,584	21,038

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.2	0.1	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.1	—	0.2	0.0	0.1	—	0.1	0.0	0.0
Asian	N/A	0.1	0.1	0.1	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.2	N/A	0.3	0.2	0.2	N/A	0.1	0.1	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	—	46.9	47.1	47.7	0.1	41.0	42.3	38.8	—	40.3	41.1	41.8	0.0	47.0	47.4	45.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	0.7	2.6	2.7	2.8	0.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	1.2	2.9	2.6	3.1	0.5	2.5	2.7	2.5
White	0.3	44.2	44.0	43.9	0.5	50.5	49.6	53.0	0.2	50.7	50.2	49.3	0.5	44.4	44.1	46.6
Two or more races	N/A	5.1	5.1	4.3	N/A	4.2	3.4	3.1	N/A	4.3	4.4	4.0	N/A	4.9	4.3	3.7
Unknown/Missing data	99.0	0.9	0.9	1.2	98.6	1.3	1.7	2.1	98.6	1.2	1.3	1.5	98.9	1.0	1.2	1.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	16,951	19,100	19,563	20,477	15,946	15,396	16,157	14,982	12,819	14,131	14,136	14,421	20,078	20,365	21,584	21,038

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview

	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	3,476	4,439	5,929	5,739
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	590	3,035	4,919	4,345

Age of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	3.1	2.8	2.7	4.1
1-5 years	27.7	26.6	26.9	26.8
6-10 years	30.4	29.3	28.0	27.0
11-15 years	30.5	31.4	31.4	31.9
16+ years	6.9	8.2	8.7	8.1
Unknown/Missing data	1.5	1.7	2.3	2.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,476	4,439	5,929	5,739

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.0	0.1	0.0
Asian	N/A	—	0.1	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	0.2	48.0	53.8	53.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	0.4	2.0	2.6	2.8
White	0.3	44.2	37.9	38.6
Two or more races	N/A	5.4	5.0	4.3
Unknown/Missing data	99.1	0.4	0.4	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,476	4,439	5,929	5,739

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	7.4	6.3	4.9	3.6
1-5 years	48.6	48.4	47.0	44.0
6-10 years	28.7	28.9	29.9	28.9
11-15 years	13.1	13.7	15.4	20.3
16+ years	2.2	2.7	2.8	3.2
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,868	2,044	2,230	2,396

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Asian	N/A	0.3	0.0	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	50.9	42.5	44.8	45.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	0.4	3.6	2.7	2.7
White	46.6	45.6	45.1	44.3
Two or more races	N/A	6.8	6.8	6.8
Unknown/Missing data	1.9	0.9	0.5	0.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,868	2,044	2,230	2,396

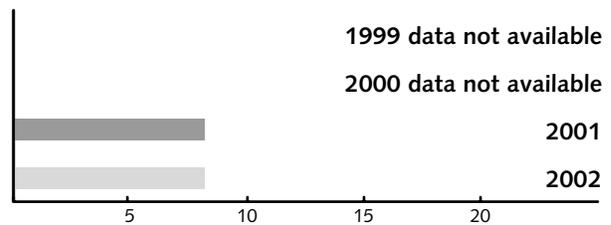
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	—	91.8	91.8
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	8.2	8.2
Total %	—	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	—	19,452	24,703

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

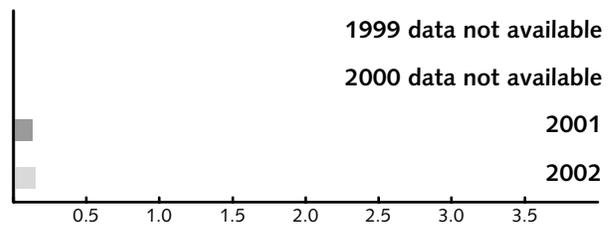


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	0.13	0.15
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	99.87	99.85
Total %	—	—	100.00	100.00
Number	—	—	32,418	31,956

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

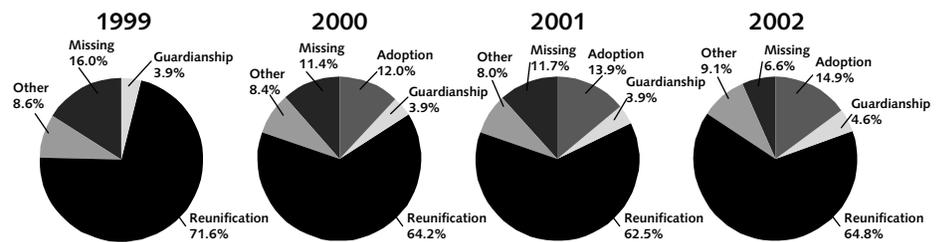


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	12.0	13.9	14.9
Guardianship	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.6
Reunification	71.6	64.2	62.5	64.8
Other	8.6	8.4	8.0	9.1
Missing data	16.0	11.4	11.7	6.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	12,819	14,131	14,136	14,421

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	15.6	18.0	18.5
Guardianship	2.8	3.5	3.3	3.1
Reunification	72.6	59.5	57.0	56.4
Other	15.7	13.7	14.7	16.0
Missing data	8.9	7.7	7.0	6.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,391	4,930	4,344	4,186

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	0.4	0.6	1.1
Guardianship	3.1	3.0	3.5	3.8
Reunification	50.8	52.8	50.3	60.6
Other	18.1	20.1	19.1	22.5
Missing data	28.0	23.6	26.4	12.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,548	4,601	4,603	4,298

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	24.2	22.5	22.2	26.4
Children older than 12 at entry	75.6	77.3	77.8	73.4
Missing data	0.2	0.2	—	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	952	1,028	1,013	1,161

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

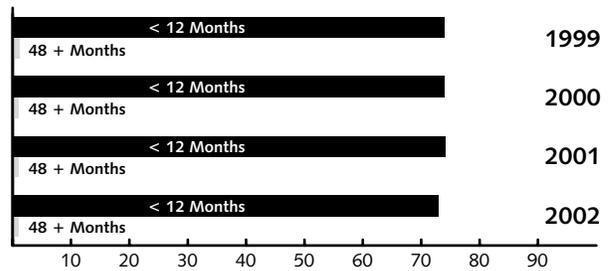
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	9.7	8.3	5.3	N/A	10.3	5.7	3.0	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	12.0	14.7	16.0	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	6.5	—	15.8	N/A	2.6	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	4.3	4.3	4.9	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	—	64.5	66.7	68.4	N/A	76.9	68.6	66.7	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	62.9	59.7	62.1	N/A	—	100.0	50.0
Other	—	6.5	16.7	5.3	N/A	—	11.4	3.0	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	8.8	7.8	9.3	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	—	12.9	8.3	5.3	N/A	10.3	14.3	27.3	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	12.0	13.6	7.7	N/A	100.0	—	50.0
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	31	12	19	N/A	39	35	33	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	5,701	5,806	6,034	N/A	1	3	2

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	15.3	15.7	13.9	—	11.5	13.0	13.5	—	6.3	4.4	5.2	N/A	18.0	19.8	25.1	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	4.5	5.8	4.9	6.8	4.3	3.5	3.5	4.2	3.9	3.4	2.2	2.4	N/A	5.1	4.5	4.9	—	—	—	—
Reunification	68.8	62.0	62.4	66.8	78.3	65.3	64.7	67.3	71.6	66.3	57.5	72.5	N/A	63.2	63.5	57.9	—	—	—	—
Other	5.2	8.0	9.7	8.4	4.3	8.3	8.2	9.2	8.6	5.7	5.5	6.2	N/A	7.8	8.0	7.4	—	—	—	—
Missing data	21.4	8.8	7.3	4.1	13.0	11.4	10.6	5.8	16.0	18.3	30.4	13.7	N/A	5.9	4.3	4.7	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Number	154	411	370	440	23	7,167	7,102	7,112	2,642	175	181	211	N/A	606	627	570	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

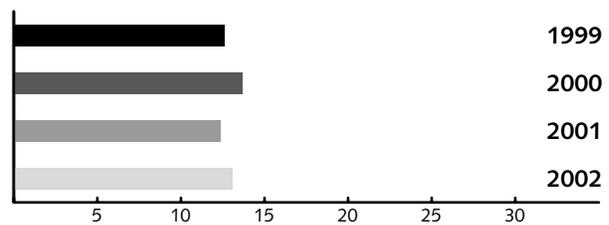
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	74.0	73.9	74.2	73.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	19.3	18.9	18.6	20.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.0
48 or more mos.	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0
Missing data	0.9	1.3	1.4	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,172	9,074	8,828	9,345

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	68.7	72.0	72.0	72.4
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	12.6	13.7	12.4	13.1
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	11.4	12.4	13.2	13.5
Missing data	7.3	1.9	2.4	1.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	15,946	15,396	16,157	14,982

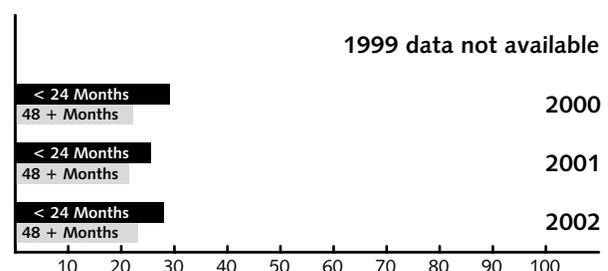
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	—	5.4	4.6	4.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	23.8	21.1	23.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	28.2	32.7	28.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	20.2	20.1	20.0
48 or more mos.	—	22.3	21.5	23.3
Missing data	—	0.1	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	—	1,694	1,967	2,143

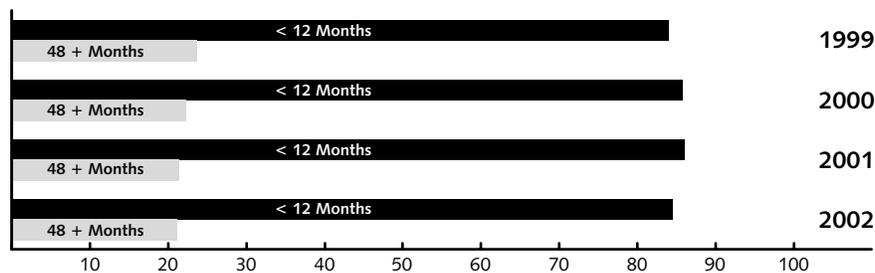
Percent Adoptions Occuring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	84.0	12.2	3.7	100.0	18,460
	2000	85.8	12.0	2.2	100.0	17,945
	2001	86.0	12.4	1.5	100.0	18,718
	2002	84.5	13.5	2.0	100.0	17,791
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	62.1	37.4	0.6	100.0	6,503
	2000	62.1	37.5	0.3	100.0	6,921
	2001	62.2	37.4	0.3	100.0	6,911
	2002	61.1	38.6	0.3	100.0	7,542
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	47.3	52.2	0.5	100.0	2,883
	2000	45.2	54.5	0.2	100.0	3,446
	2001	44.4	55.3	0.3	100.0	3,666
	2002	42.9	56.9	0.2	100.0	3,473
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	32.2	67.2	0.5	100.0	1,523
	2000	34.8	64.9	0.3	100.0	2,096
	2001	35.5	64.4	0.1	100.0	2,176
	2002	30.9	68.8	0.3	100.0	2,223
48 or more mos.	1999	23.7	75.4	1.0	100.0	3,367
	2000	22.3	77.0	0.7	100.0	3,906
	2001	21.4	77.9	0.7	100.0	4,102
	2002	21.2	78.3	0.4	100.0	4,274
Missing data	1999	79.5	0.6	19.9	100.0	161
	2000	68.7	—	31.3	100.0	182
	2001	55.8	1.4	42.9	100.0	147
	2002	76.9	0.6	22.4	100.0	156

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	1.1	1.1	1.2	0.9
Institutions	3.5	2.8	2.8	2.4
Other settings	95.4	96.1	95.9	96.6
Missing data	0.0	—	0.0	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	10,527	10,102	10,629	10,103

Ohio

[STATE COMMENT]

The following discussion focuses on Ohio's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Ohio Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2002, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2000. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Ohio's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Ohio's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 8.2 percent, which is more than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure exhibited no change from 2001 (the first year that these data were reported) to 2002.

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

In CY 2002, Ohio's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.15 percent, which is less than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure exhibited no change from 2001 (the first year that these data were reported) to 2002.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 84.3 percent of children exiting foster care in Ohio were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 86.1 percent); 78.0 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 65.6 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 26.4 percent of the children emancipating from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care, which is about equal to the national median of 26.9 percent. These findings suggest that the State is not consistently successful in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care.

Ohio's performance on these measures improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children exiting foster care who were discharged to permanent homes (+11.7 percent change). There was no change in performance with regard to the percentage of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability. Change in performance from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to finding permanent homes for children exiting foster care when they were age 13 or older cannot be assessed because of missing "reason for discharge" information for this measure in FY 1999. However, performance declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (+9.4 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Ohio occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 73.0, which does not meet the national standard (76.2 percent or more), but is more than the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

Because the cross-State analyses found a substantial positive relationship between performance on this measure and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Ohio's performance in FY 2002 with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Ohio, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 13.1, which is considerably more than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Thus, although Ohio had a relatively high (above the national median) percentage of children reunified within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode. Ohio's performance on the measure of foster care re-entry did not change from FY 1999 to 2002.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 28.2, which does not meet the national standard (32.0 percent or more), but is more than the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Performance on this measure did not change from FY 2000 to FY 2002.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 84.5, which does not meet the national standard (86.7 percent or more), but is about equal to the national median (84.1 percent). Performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 3.3, which is less than the national median of 8.6 percent. Ohio's performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-28.7 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	882,062	880,843	878,154	873,560
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	9.7	10.6	10.3	10.2
Asian	N/A	1.3	1.4	1.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	9.5	9.3	9.6	9.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	6.2	7.9	7.9	8.0
White	73.1	64.6	65.2	65.1
Two or more races	N/A	6.2	5.5	5.4
Other	N/A	0.1	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	16.7	24.1	21.4	19.3

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	16,210	13,861	13,698	13,721
Children in foster care on 9/30	8,173	8,406	8,674	8,812
Children adopted	829	1,073	959	1,011

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	60,955	59,955	63,520	68,971	69.1 per 1,000	68.1 per 1,000	72.3 per 1,000	78.9 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	16,210	13,861	13,698	13,721	18.4 per 1,000	15.7 per 1,000	15.6 per 1,000	15.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	47	—	28	23	5.3 per 100,000	— per 100,000	3.2 per 100,000	2.6 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	9.3	11.2	11.7	12.5
1-5 years	31.4	32.6	32.7	33.9
6-10 years	30.5	28.7	28.2	26.6
11-15 years	23.0	21.7	22.6	22.8
16+ years	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.2
Unknown/Missing data	1.4	1.2	0.2	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	16,210	13,861	13,698	13,721

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	14.4	12.7	13.6	15.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.7
Black	13.5	12.9	13.8	13.4
Hispanic	5.2	6.2	7.3	9.0
White	69.1	63.0	61.2	59.0
Two or more races	0.0	3.5	2.6	2.1
Unknown/Missing data	2.6	1.2	0.8	0.7
Total % ⁴	105.2	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	16,210	13,861	13,698	13,721

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	11.4	11.2	8.4	4.7
Medical neglect	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.3
Neglect	98.0	80.0	83.4	85.9
Physical abuse	24.9	19.9	20.0	20.5
Sexual abuse	8.0	7.8	7.6	7.6
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	1.4	0.1	0.0
Other	13.2	—	—	—
Total % ⁵	158.6	123.6	122.8	122.0
Number	16,210	13,861	13,698	13,721

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	6,432	6,484	4,746	8,173	12,916
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	7,204	6,558	5,364	8,406	13,762
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	8,051	6,487	5,864	8,674	14,538
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	8,217	6,923	6,328	8,812	15,140

Median Length of Stay (Months)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	14.5				N/A				6.4				11.6			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	13.4				N/A				7.6				11.9			N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	15.5				N/A				6.9				14.8			N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	15.1				N/A				6.7				14.5			N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	4.4	4.2	4.8	5.4	11.1	11.5	14.3	14.7	5.3	4.5	5.2	5.9	4.4	4.9	5.4	5.7
1-5 years	27.7	25.8	28.6	31.3	27.1	26.7	33.7	34.1	28.7	26.5	32.4	34.5	26.7	26.4	31.3	32.7
6-10 years	27.4	26.3	27.5	25.8	21.1	21.6	24.7	23.6	23.7	23.0	26.6	26.0	25.0	24.5	25.5	23.7
11-15 years	27.0	27.5	26.8	26.8	25.2	24.7	21.6	22.2	21.1	22.7	21.8	22.2	27.0	26.3	26.2	26.7
16-18 years	13.3	16.0	12.2	10.6	15.4	15.4	5.6	5.4	20.9	23.0	13.6	11.1	16.5	17.4	11.3	11.2
19+ years	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	—	0.0	0.0	—	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.0
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	0.0	—	—	0.1	0.1	0.0	—	0.1	0.1	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,432	7,204	8,051	8,217	6,484	6,558	6,487	6,923	4,746	5,364	5,864	6,328	8,173	8,406	8,674	8,812

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	14.7	12.0	12.6	13.6	14.3	18.4	13.7	12.3	14.0	12.8	12.9	12.8	14.8	16.4	13.2	13.1
Asian	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.1	N/A	0.4	0.4	0.3	N/A	0.2	0.4	0.3	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	24.8	21.6	20.4	18.9	19.5	17.3	15.5	14.7	20.7	19.7	16.7	15.1	23.0	19.5	19.3	18.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.2	0.0	N/A	0.4	0.2	0.1	N/A	0.1	0.3	0.0	N/A	0.3	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	4.6	4.7	5.0	5.7	5.6	6.0	7.5	9.8	5.5	6.6	6.8	7.4	4.8	4.5	5.7	7.7
White	55.3	51.0	49.0	48.7	58.7	50.0	51.5	49.1	58.6	52.5	51.7	50.8	56.1	49.3	49.0	47.5
Two or more races	N/A	10.2	12.4	12.7	N/A	6.9	10.8	13.4	N/A	7.7	10.6	13.3	N/A	9.2	12.4	12.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,432	7,204	8,051	8,217	6,484	6,558	6,487	6,923	4,746	5,364	5,864	6,328	8,173	8,406	8,674	8,812

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview

	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	1,832	1,767	2,390	2,435
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	25	18	—	—

Age of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	2.6	2.5	3.0	2.9
1-5 years	29.9	29.3	31.9	36.0
6-10 years	33.1	33.1	31.3	30.5
11-15 years	30.2	31.2	29.0	27.0
16+ years	3.8	3.5	4.8	3.6
Unknown/Missing data	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,832	1,767	2,390	2,435

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	13.9	11.4	10.8	8.9
Asian	N/A	—	—	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	31.1	25.4	24.9	23.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	0.0
Hispanic	5.0	3.7	4.7	6.2
White	49.3	47.2	45.8	48.0
Two or more races	N/A	11.8	13.5	13.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,832	1,767	2,390	2,435

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	2.2	1.4	1.3	1.0
1-5 years	39.3	41.0	39.7	46.3
6-10 years	36.9	35.4	37.0	32.1
11-15 years	19.1	18.5	19.8	17.6
16+ years	2.5	3.6	2.2	3.0
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	829	1,073	959	1,011

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	9.5	12.0	11.3	11.7
Asian	N/A	0.7	0.4	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	22.4	24.7	18.4	19.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.3	0.5	0.0
Hispanic	4.3	6.5	5.1	3.7
White	56.3	50.8	57.6	53.0
Two or more races	N/A	4.8	6.7	11.8
Unknown/Missing data	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	829	1,073	959	1,011

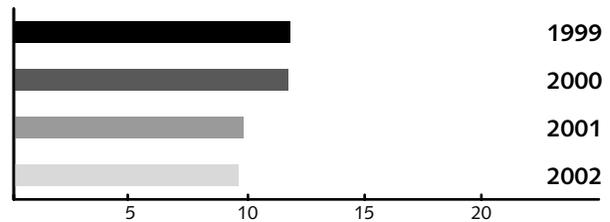
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	88.2	88.3	90.2	90.4
Children with one or more recurrences	11.8	11.7	9.8	9.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,108	6,287	6,249	6,495

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

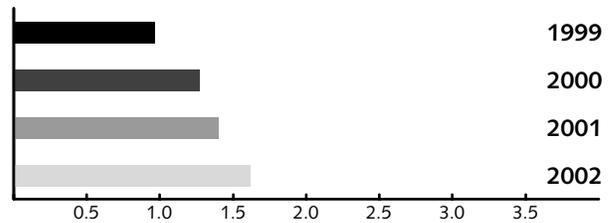


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.96	1.27	1.40	1.62
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.04	98.73	98.60	98.38
Total %	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	11,868	12,478	13,141	13,713

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

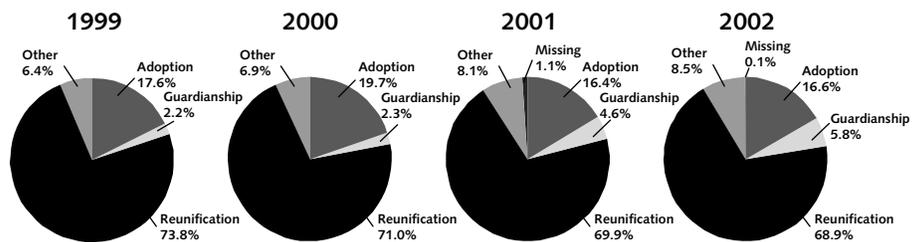


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	17.6	19.7	16.4	16.6
Guardianship	2.2	2.3	4.6	5.8
Reunification	73.8	71.0	69.9	68.9
Other	6.4	6.9	8.1	8.5
Missing data	—	—	1.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,746	5,364	5,864	6,328

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	39.6	42.0	26.8	27.3
Guardianship	2.2	2.4	4.4	4.9
Reunification	45.7	43.4	47.0	47.6
Other	12.6	12.2	21.2	19.9
Missing data	—	—	0.6	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	692	655	836	916

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	1.0	1.3	1.8	2.1
Guardianship	0.4	0.9	3.4	5.4
Reunification	83.4	82.2	72.0	65.1
Other	15.1	15.7	21.7	27.0
Missing data	—	—	1.1	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,448	1,794	1,205	1,117

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	36.4	27.8	33.6	28.8
Children older than 12 at entry	63.6	68.5	66.4	71.2
Missing data	—	3.7	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	88	54	280	340

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

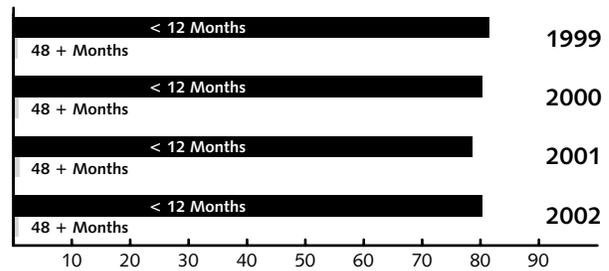
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	15.0	10.0	11.1	15.7	N/A	—	3.8	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.7	22.3	16.9	18.3	N/A	—	—	16.7
Guardianship	2.7	1.5	4.0	3.9	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.6	1.8	6.0	6.3	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	75.3	79.7	69.7	63.4	N/A	100.0	88.5	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	74.9	69.3	68.3	67.6	N/A	57.1	94.7	66.7
Other	6.9	8.9	14.0	16.9	N/A	—	7.7	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.7	6.6	7.6	7.7	N/A	42.9	5.3	16.7
Missing data	—	—	1.3	0.1	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	1.1	0.1	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	665	688	758	811	N/A	10	26	17	14	N/A	N/A	N/A	981	1,055	981	957	N/A	7	19	6

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	17.8	21.5	14.8	9.9	18.2	19.4	17.5	17.3	9.4	24.0	17.9	12.5	33.3	30.2	18.8	16.8	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	3.1	2.5	0.5	5.4	2.6	2.7	4.8	6.2	3.1	4.0	3.6	12.5	N/A	2.2	5.0	5.9	—	—	—	—
Reunification	73.0	70.1	79.4	76.8	73.0	70.9	69.3	69.2	81.3	68.0	78.6	75.0	60.0	62.8	67.4	69.6	—	—	—	—
Other	6.2	5.9	4.3	7.7	6.2	7.0	7.4	7.1	6.3	4.0	—	—	6.7	4.9	7.9	7.6	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	1.0	0.2	—	—	1.1	0.2	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	1.0	0.1	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Number	259	354	399	466	2,780	2,814	3,030	3,214	32	25	28	16	15	411	623	841	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

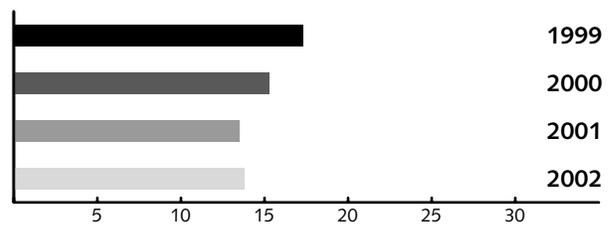
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	81.5	80.2	78.6	80.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	12.0	13.5	14.7	13.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.5	3.5	3.9	4.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.1	1.2	1.6	1.4
48 or more mos.	0.7	0.9	1.2	0.8
Missing data	1.2	0.7	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,504	3,811	4,097	4,360

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	74.8	76.0	78.4	78.0
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	17.3	15.3	13.5	13.8
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	5.2	6.9	8.0	8.2
Missing data	2.7	1.8	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,484	6,558	6,487	6,923

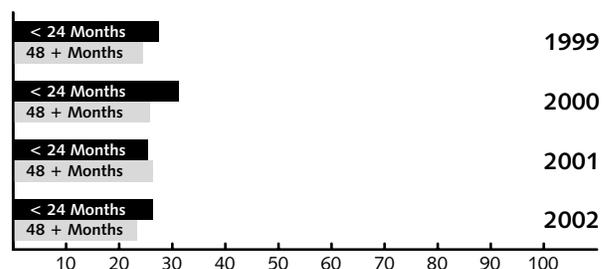
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	7.7	6.7	3.6	3.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	19.9	24.6	21.8	23.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	26.4	26.1	29.4	30.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	21.5	16.4	18.7	19.9
48 or more mos.	24.5	25.9	26.4	23.4
Missing data	—	0.3	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	833	1,056	962	1,049

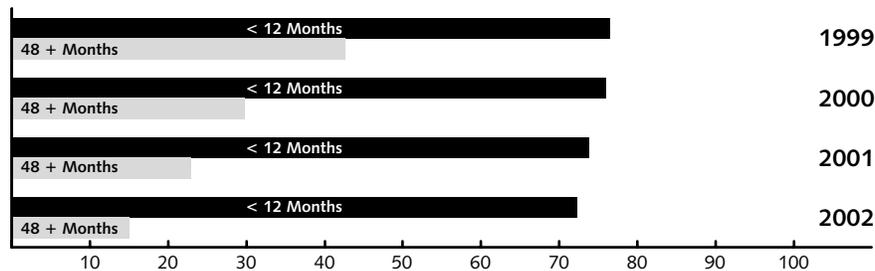
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	76.5	23.5	—	100.0	7,269
	2000	75.9	24.1	—	100.0	7,618
	2001	73.8	24.2	2.0	100.0	7,322
	2002	72.3	25.7	2.0	100.0	7,798
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	42.0	58.0	—	100.0	2,231
	2000	48.2	51.8	—	100.0	2,566
	2001	45.9	53.7	0.4	100.0	2,942
	2002	46.0	53.7	0.2	100.0	3,029
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	32.8	67.2	—	100.0	1,296
	2000	30.9	69.1	—	100.0	1,330
	2001	34.7	64.8	0.5	100.0	1,572
	2002	34.9	65.0	0.1	100.0	1,699
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	33.5	66.5	—	100.0	805
	2000	23.7	76.3	—	100.0	806
	2001	23.7	76.1	0.2	100.0	929
	2002	25.2	74.7	0.1	100.0	925
48 or more mos.	1999	42.6	57.4	—	100.0	1,259
	2000	29.8	70.2	—	100.0	1,414
	2001	22.9	77.1	—	100.0	1,768
	2002	15.1	84.8	0.0	100.0	1,667
Missing data	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	56
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	28
	2001	80.0	20.0	—	100.0	5
	2002	90.9	9.1	—	100.0	22

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	13.4	13.2	14.9	14.8
Institutions	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.6
Other settings	85.2	85.4	83.7	83.6
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,081	4,182	5,093	5,492

Howard H. Hendrick, Director
Oklahoma Department of Human Services
405-521-3646

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

- With regard to the Child Welfare Context Data, Section A, Child Maltreatment Victims, an alternative response system was implemented in Oklahoma in April 1999. Changes in overall and individual findings were made in May 2000. Effective December 2000, children assessed under the alternative response system were no longer reported to NCANDS as victims. These changes resulted in a decrease in the number of child maltreatment victims and the victimization rate for Oklahoma after 2000.
- With regard to Child Welfare Context Data, Section B, Child Fatalities, Oklahoma investigates all child fatalities, including those with no surviving siblings, and those not reported directly to the agency. Child fatalities due to failure to protect or improper supervision, such as unsupervised or improperly supervised children who die in a house fire or by drowning, are included in the statistics. The decrease in the number and rate of child fatalities from federal fiscal years 1998-2000 to 2001 is due in part to a change in reporting methodology. Prior to 2001, the state reported fatalities in the NCANDS Agency File based on date of death within the reporting period. Beginning in 2001, the state used data from the automated SACWIS system based on date of determination within the reporting period. The number of fatalities reported in the NCANDS Agency File for 2000 was 45.
- With regard to Outcome Measure 2.1, Maltreatment in Foster Care, the Oklahoma NCANDS submission includes maltreatment in family foster care, but excludes maltreatment in institutions.
- With regard to Outcome Measure 5.1, Exits to Adoption, Oklahoma reported exits to trial rather than finalized adoptions for 1998-2000. The data for 2001 represent exits to finalized adoptions.
- With regard to Outcome Measure 6.1, Number of Placements, Oklahoma included respite, short-term hospital and psychiatric stays, and multiple placements with the same provider, in the number of placement settings for 1998-2000. The data for 2001 do not include respite, short-term hospital and psychiatric stays, but do include multiple placements with the same providers.

The following discussion focuses on Oklahoma's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Oklahoma Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2002, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2000. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CSFR findings for Oklahoma's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Oklahoma's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 9.6 percent, which is more than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). However, performance on this measure improved from 1999 to 2002 (-18.6 percent change).

The cross-State analyses found a small, but definite, positive relationship between performance on this outcome measure and the percentage of child victims experiencing neglect. States with a relatively high percentage of child victims experiencing neglect tended to have a relatively high percentage of maltreatment recurrence. For Oklahoma, both the incidence of maltreatment recurrence (9.6 percent) and the percentage of child victims experiencing neglect (85.9 percent) were in the top quartile of the State rankings. This suggests that a State's definitions and laws pertaining to what constitutes maltreatment may be related to the State's performance on the measure of maltreatment recurrence.

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

In CY 2002, Oklahoma's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 1.62 percent, which was the highest in the Nation. Performance on this measure declined from 1999 to 2002 (+68.6 percent change). Performance on this measure may be attributed in part to the fact that the State reports licensing violations of foster parents to NCANDS as maltreatment, although it would not be considered maltreatment if the "parent" was not a foster parent.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 91.3 percent of children exiting foster care in Oklahoma were discharged to a permanent homes (which is more than the national median of 86.1 percent); 79.8 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is equal to the national median of 79.8 percent); and 72.5 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is about equal to the national median of 72.0 percent). This suggests that the State is somewhat successful in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care. However, 28.8 percent of the children emancipating from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care, which is more than the national median of 26.9 percent. Although Oklahoma exhibited no change in performance from FY 1999 to FY 2000 with regard to finding permanent homes for all children exiting foster care, performance declined with regard to: (1) the percentage of children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability and were discharged to a permanent home (-8.7 percent change), and the percentage of children exiting foster care to a permanent home who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (-14.6 percent change). The State's performance improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (-20.7 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Oklahoma occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 80.2, which is more than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

Because the cross-State analyses found a substantial positive relationship between performance on this measure and the State percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Oklahoma's performance in FY 2002 with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Oklahoma, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 13.8, which is considerably more than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Thus, although Oklahoma had a relatively high percentage of reunifications in FY 2002 that occurred within 12 months, the State also had a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode. Oklahoma's performance on the measure of foster care re-entry improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-20.2 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 26.4, which does not meet the national standard (32.0 percent or more), but is more than the national median of 23.0 percent. Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Oklahoma's performance on this measure declined from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (-15.8 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 72.3, which is less than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Oklahoma's performance on this measure declined slightly from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-5.4 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 16.4, which is more than the national median of 8.6 percent. Oklahoma's performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+10.7 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	827,501	855,026	853,083	855,107
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4
Asian	N/A	3.1	3.3	3.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	2.0	1.9	2.2	2.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.3	0.3
Hispanic	10.3	12.7	13.2	13.7
White	82.4	76.3	76.0	75.3
Two or more races	N/A	4.2	3.7	3.7
Other	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	17.0	21.8	15.1	13.4

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	11,241	11,381	9,011	9,228
Children in foster care on 9/30	9,278	9,193	8,966	9,101
Children adopted	765	831	1,071	1,115

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	24,627	27,616	25,618	27,913	29.8 per 1,000	32.3 per 1,000	30.0 per 1,000	32.6 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	11,241	11,381	9,011	9,228	13.6 per 1,000	13.3 per 1,000	10.6 per 1,000	10.8 per 1,000
Child fatalities	18	21	8	21	2.2 per 100,000	2.5 per 100,000	0.9 per 100,000	2.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	12.5	12.1	13.7	13.7
1-5 years	35.1	37.3	36.3	36.8
6-10 years	29.9	29.0	29.0	27.7
11-15 years	19.3	19.0	18.5	18.8
16+ years	3.2	2.7	2.5	3.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	11,241	11,381	9,011	9,228

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.3	2.9	3.8	5.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.2	0.9	1.0	1.4
Black	4.9	4.3	4.8	4.9
Hispanic	8.9	8.4	10.5	11.7
White	56.5	56.0	63.4	64.4
Two or more races	0.0	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	35.2	27.5	16.5	11.7
Total % ⁴	108.9	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	11,241	11,381	9,011	9,228

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	6.7	6.4	4.9	4.6
Medical neglect	4.3	3.6	4.5	4.5
Neglect	21.1	21.1	27.1	26.9
Physical abuse	13.2	12.1	12.8	11.2
Sexual abuse	11.8	10.4	10.5	10.0
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	68.7	58.4	50.6	55.2
Total % ⁵	125.7	112.0	110.4	112.4
Number	11,241	11,381	9,011	9,228

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	9,018	4,818	4,558	9,278	13,836
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	9,081	4,675	4,563	9,193	13,756
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	9,016	4,537	4,587	8,966	13,553
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	8,652	5,095	4,646	9,101	13,747

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	18.0	N/A	12.5	18.5	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	19.1	N/A	13.9	18.5	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	18.8	N/A	15.9	17.7	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	18.4	N/A	14.9	15.8	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	4.3	4.8	4.5	4.8	14.9	15.0	15.5	16.3	3.2	3.0	3.3	3.6	4.9	4.6	4.8	5.7
1-5 years	29.7	29.0	30.9	30.9	29.8	32.2	32.5	33.6	30.2	31.0	32.8	36.0	29.1	31.0	31.3	31.0
6-10 years	28.9	28.8	27.3	25.8	25.0	23.3	23.7	22.6	26.6	24.9	26.2	25.0	28.8	27.2	25.7	24.1
11-15 years	26.6	26.7	27.7	28.4	24.4	24.8	23.8	22.6	24.0	24.6	24.8	22.8	26.8	27.7	28.1	27.9
16-18 years	10.2	10.2	9.0	9.7	5.7	4.7	4.5	4.9	14.9	15.1	11.6	11.3	10.0	9.0	9.6	10.8
19+ years	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	—	—	0.0	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.1	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	—	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,018	9,081	9,016	8,652	4,818	4,675	4,537	5,095	4,558	4,563	4,587	4,646	9,278	9,193	8,966	9,101

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	5.0	4.6	4.6	5.7	4.0	5.1	6.5	8.7	4.5	4.9	4.7	5.5	4.7	4.7	5.5	7.5
Asian	N/A	0.6	0.8	0.5	N/A	1.0	0.5	0.7	N/A	0.7	1.0	0.6	N/A	0.8	0.5	0.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	11.0	10.4	9.7	9.5	6.1	6.1	6.5	5.5	7.1	7.4	7.2	7.9	10.3	9.7	9.4	8.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.2	0.1	0.3	N/A	0.1	0.5	0.5	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.4	N/A	0.1	0.3	0.4
Hispanic	7.1	7.3	8.2	8.5	8.3	10.6	10.0	11.2	7.9	9.0	9.5	9.5	7.3	8.2	8.5	9.5
White	64.6	63.5	61.9	61.3	60.7	55.4	58.3	55.0	62.7	58.8	59.6	58.0	63.5	61.8	61.3	59.5
Two or more races	N/A	0.3	0.4	0.4	N/A	0.1	0.4	0.4	N/A	0.0	0.4	0.5	N/A	0.4	0.4	0.4
Unknown/Missing data	11.5	13.1	14.2	13.8	19.6	21.5	17.3	17.9	16.9	19.1	17.4	17.6	13.1	14.3	14.2	14.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,018	9,081	9,016	8,652	4,818	4,675	4,537	5,095	4,558	4,563	4,587	4,646	9,278	9,193	8,966	9,101

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	3,000	3,150	2,680	2,518
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	—	—	—	1,331

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	5.9	5.4	4.2	3.9
1-5 years	45.6	46.8	48.0	42.8
6-10 years	36.4	35.2	33.9	31.8
11-15 years	11.7	11.9	13.1	18.0
16+ years	0.4	0.6	0.7	3.2
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,000	3,150	2,680	2,518

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	3.0	2.8	3.0	5.0
Asian	N/A	0.4	0.4	0.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	11.2	10.3	9.6	9.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.2	0.4
Hispanic	8.3	8.6	9.9	9.1
White	61.7	60.3	58.6	60.5
Two or more races	N/A	0.8	0.6	0.6
Unknown/Missing data	15.3	16.8	17.7	14.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,000	3,150	2,680	2,518

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	0.3	0.1	0.2	—
1-5 years	47.1	51.0	48.4	52.3
6-10 years	39.9	34.2	35.3	33.0
11-15 years	11.4	13.6	14.7	13.7
16+ years	1.4	1.1	1.5	1.0
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	765	831	1,071	1,115

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	4.3	3.8	0.9
Asian	N/A	0.5	0.4	0.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	—	11.6	8.4	8.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	0.0
Hispanic	12.0	12.0	13.2	15.2
White	—	71.0	71.2	67.3
Two or more races	N/A	0.2	2.2	7.4
Unknown/Missing data	88.0	0.4	0.7	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	765	831	1,071	1,115

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

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

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

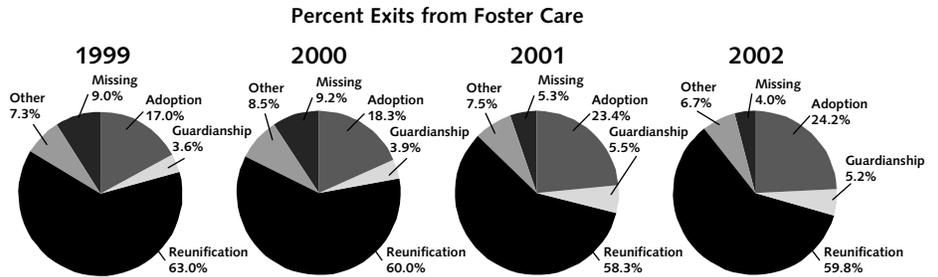
2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	17.0	18.3	23.4	24.2
Guardianship	3.6	3.9	5.5	5.2
Reunification	63.0	60.0	58.3	59.8
Other	7.3	8.5	7.5	6.7
Missing data	9.0	9.2	5.3	4.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,558	4,563	4,587	4,646



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	21.7	23.1	31.5	33.4
Guardianship	2.1	3.1	4.3	5.6
Reunification	49.0	43.9	45.7	44.9
Other	13.3	14.2	12.2	10.9
Missing data	13.9	15.8	6.3	5.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,568	1,488	1,381	1,354

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3
Guardianship	1.9	2.2	5.2	4.6
Reunification	57.7	49.5	58.3	61.0
Other	22.4	25.8	26.2	24.7
Missing data	17.6	22.2	10.1	9.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,054	1,046	829	782

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	41.6	42.2	42.1	41.4
Children older than 12 at entry	58.4	57.8	57.9	58.6
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	101	147	159	157

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

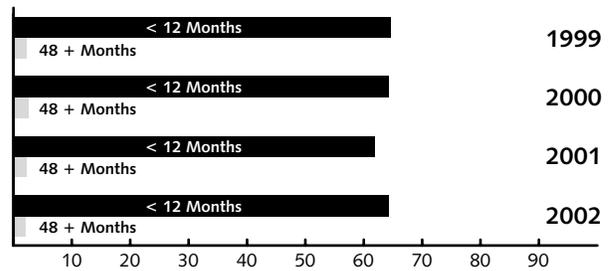
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	9.3	13.1	19.1	10.9	N/A	12.9	13.0	32.1	10.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	30.2	26.0	28.7	27.5	N/A	—	—	10.5
Guardianship	4.9	9.0	14.4	16.8	N/A	—	2.2	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.0	5.9	3.9	6.0	N/A	11.1	—	—
Reunification	65.9	57.2	54.0	60.2	N/A	67.7	76.1	42.9	65.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	46.9	46.3	46.5	50.7	N/A	55.6	85.7	78.9
Other	7.8	5.4	5.6	7.4	N/A	12.9	6.5	25.0	7.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.3	10.3	13.6	8.4	N/A	22.2	—	—
Missing data	12.2	15.3	7.0	4.7	N/A	6.5	2.2	—	15.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.5	11.5	7.3	7.4	N/A	11.1	14.3	10.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	205	222	215	256	N/A	31	46	28	38	N/A	N/A	N/A	324	339	331	367	N/A	9	7	19

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	11.9	15.4	16.6	25.9	18.6	19.5	23.7	23.9	10.2	14.9	25.3	26.3	N/A	—	50.0	38.1	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	1.7	1.5	2.5	5.4	3.7	3.6	5.6	4.9	4.0	4.3	5.4	2.1	N/A	—	—	28.6	—	—	—	—
Reunification	75.0	68.7	70.3	62.6	60.6	57.6	56.9	59.7	72.5	69.3	61.4	63.7	N/A	100.0	50.0	33.3	—	—	—	—
Other	4.2	6.1	4.6	4.3	8.0	9.8	8.6	7.5	4.0	5.2	3.5	4.4	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	7.2	8.3	6.0	1.8	9.1	9.5	5.2	4.1	9.2	6.3	4.5	3.5	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Number	360	409	434	441	2,860	2,682	2,736	2,694	771	870	800	820	N/A	1	18	21	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

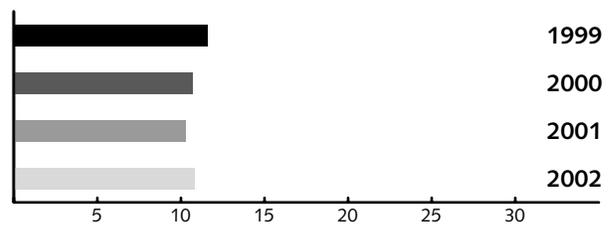
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	64.6	64.3	62.0	64.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	22.9	23.0	26.3	25.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	7.4	7.4	6.7	5.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.2
48 or more mos.	2.3	2.6	2.3	2.1
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,873	2,739	2,674	2,779

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	77.7	80.8	79.9	79.7
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	11.6	10.7	10.3	10.8
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	10.7	8.5	9.9	9.6
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,818	4,675	4,537	5,095

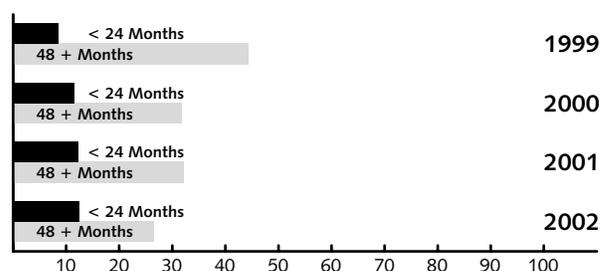
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	8.1	10.8	11.6	11.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	22.8	27.3	30.2	30.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	24.1	29.4	25.2	30.5
48 or more mos.	44.4	31.8	32.2	26.6
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	775	836	1,073	1,123

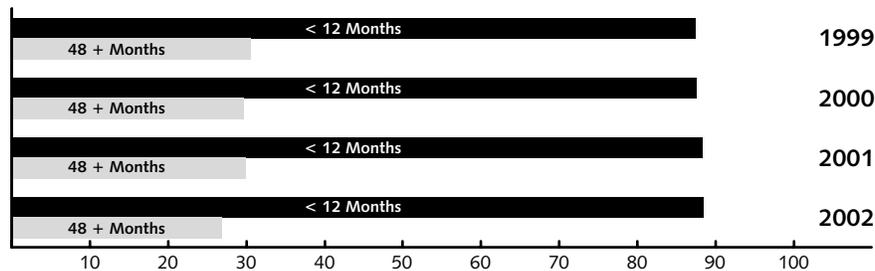
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	87.4	12.6	—	100.0	5,641
	2000	87.6	12.4	—	100.0	5,485
	2001	88.3	11.7	—	100.0	5,333
	2002	88.4	11.6	—	100.0	5,887
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	67.9	32.1	—	100.0	2,897
	2000	65.1	34.9	—	100.0	2,917
	2001	64.6	35.4	—	100.0	2,919
	2002	66.7	33.3	—	100.0	2,809
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	51.6	48.4	—	100.0	1,952
	2000	56.0	44.0	—	100.0	1,753
	2001	52.2	47.8	—	100.0	1,758
	2002	50.8	49.2	—	100.0	1,691
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	44.2	55.8	—	100.0	1,111
	2000	41.4	58.6	—	100.0	1,352
	2001	44.9	55.1	—	100.0	1,149
	2002	41.1	58.9	—	100.0	1,124
48 or more mos.	1999	30.5	69.5	—	100.0	2,210
	2000	29.6	70.4	—	100.0	2,231
	2001	29.9	70.1	—	100.0	2,391
	2002	26.9	73.1	—	100.0	2,224
Missing data	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	25
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	18
	2001	100.0	—	—	100.0	3
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	12

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	0.9	1.2	0.4	0.7
Institutions	4.5	4.1	3.5	4.2
Other settings	94.5	94.7	95.7	95.1
Missing data	0.1	0.0	0.3	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,764	3,748	3,635	4,069

Oregon

[STATE COMMENT]

The following discussion focuses on Oregon's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Oregon Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2001, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 1999. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Oregon's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

Oregon's performance on outcome 1 cannot be assessed as part of the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating this outcome. To ensure data consistency across States, only data submitted through NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, the State provided year 1999 data for this outcome for the CFSR using an alternative source. According to the alternative source, 2.1 percent of the children who were the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report during the first 6 months of the calendar year experienced another substantiated or indicated maltreatment report within 6 months of the first report. This meets the national standard for this measure of 6.1 percent or less.

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

Oregon's performance on outcome 2 cannot be evaluated as part of the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to NCANDS for calculating this outcome. In order to ensure data consistency across States, only data submitted through the NCANDS system are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, the State provided year 1999 data for the outcome for its CFSR using an alternative source. According to the alternative source, 0.80 percent of the children in foster care for the first 9 months of the calendar year were maltreated by foster parents or facility staff members. This does not meet the national standard of 0.57 percent or less.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 89.2 percent of children exiting foster care in Oregon were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 86.1 percent), and 83.9 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 79.8 percent). However, only 65.9 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 41.4 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care, which is substantially more than the national median of 26.9 percent. In general, these findings suggest that many of the children who are emancipated from foster care grew up in the foster care system. The findings also suggest that the State continues to experience challenges in finding permanent homes for children exiting foster care who entered foster care when they were age 13 or older.

Oregon's performance improved somewhat from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with respect to: (1) finding permanent homes for all children exiting foster care (+6.6 percent change); (2) finding permanent homes for children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (+15.3 percent change); and (3) finding permanent homes for children exiting foster care who were age 13 or older when they entered foster care (+9.8 percent change). There was no change in performance from FY 1999 to 2002 with regard to the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were younger than age 12 when they entered foster care.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Oregon occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 64.4, which is less than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

For Oregon, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 10.8, which is more than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Oregon's performance on the measure of foster care re-entry improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-7.1 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 12.5, which is less than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Oregon's performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+8.6 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 88.4, which is more than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Oregon's performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 4.9, which is less than the national median of 8.6 percent. Oregon's performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-9.8 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	2,852,520	2,896,337	2,880,499	2,863,452
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian	N/A	1.9	2.0	2.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	12.2	12.7	13.0	13.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	4.3	5.1	5.2	5.2
White	81.3	78.2	78.1	77.8
Two or more races	N/A	1.8	1.6	1.7
Other	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	12.8	10.6	14.0	13.6

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	5,076	5,002	4,784	5,057
Children in foster care on 9/30	22,690	21,631	21,237	21,434
Children adopted	1,454	1,712	1,564	2,020

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	22,437	22,694	23,012	24,330	7.9 per 1,000	7.8 per 1,000	8.0 per 1,000	8.5 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	5,076	5,002	4,784	5,057	1.8 per 1,000	1.7 per 1,000	1.7 per 1,000	1.8 per 1,000
Child fatalities	50	38	47	49	1.8 per 100,000	1.3 per 100,000	1.6 per 100,000	1.7 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	0.6	5.6	5.4	5.1
1-5 years	21.0	21.5	21.1	22.3
6-10 years	28.3	29.4	29.5	26.8
11-15 years	32.5	32.8	33.5	34.0
16+ years	17.6	10.5	10.5	11.8
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	0.2	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,076	5,002	4,784	5,057

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—	—
Black	—	—	—	—
Hispanic	—	—	—	—
White	—	—	—	—
Two or more races	—	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total % ⁴	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,076	5,002	4,784	5,057

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.6
Medical neglect	2.4	2.9	2.8	2.9
Neglect	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.9
Physical abuse	62.1	37.6	37.9	38.3
Sexual abuse	80.4	49.9	48.6	54.3
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.7
Other	1.8	6.3	6.4	—
Total % ⁵	152.5	102.3	102.2	101.7
Number	5,076	5,002	4,784	5,057

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	21,809	13,299	12,419	22,690	35,108
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	21,322	12,235	11,926	21,631	33,557
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	20,544	12,420	11,730	21,237	32,964
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	19,849	13,616	12,031	21,434	33,465

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	20.5	N/A	10.3	19.2	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	20.3	N/A	10.5	19.9	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	20.8	N/A	9.9	20.1	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	19.8	N/A	10.0	16.7	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	3.4	3.4	3.0	3.1	10.7	10.6	10.1	10.3	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.9	3.2	3.1	3.9
1-5 years	21.1	21.0	20.4	20.2	18.8	18.5	16.7	18.0	18.9	18.6	18.5	19.0	20.5	20.5	19.4	19.8
6-10 years	23.9	24.2	23.6	22.2	16.8	17.0	15.8	15.4	16.7	17.5	16.8	16.0	23.4	23.3	21.5	20.1
11-15 years	30.7	31.6	33.1	33.3	34.6	36.2	38.3	36.7	26.9	27.7	29.5	28.6	31.3	33.1	34.1	33.7
16-18 years	19.5	18.3	18.4	19.6	18.9	17.6	19.0	19.4	31.6	30.1	29.0	30.3	19.3	18.4	20.1	20.9
19+ years	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.9	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.6
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	21,809	21,322	20,544	19,849	13,299	12,235	12,420	13,616	12,419	11,926	11,730	12,031	22,690	21,631	21,237	21,434

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Asian	N/A	0.5	0.4	0.4	N/A	0.3	0.6	0.4	N/A	0.5	0.6	0.5	N/A	0.4	0.4	0.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	52.4	53.3	52.4	51.3	40.9	40.2	38.8	39.9	42.6	42.9	41.3	40.4	51.0	51.6	50.6	50.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—												
Hispanic	10.7	8.5	8.9	8.2	11.1	9.2	9.5	10.6	10.5	8.2	9.2	9.4	11.0	9.1	9.2	9.1
White	36.0	37.3	37.7	39.6	46.9	49.4	50.2	48.1	45.6	47.7	48.2	48.8	37.1	38.4	39.2	39.9
Two or more races	N/A	—	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.2	0.2	N/A	0.0	0.1	0.1	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	21,809	21,322	20,544	19,849	13,299	12,235	12,420	13,616	12,419	11,926	11,730	12,031	22,690	21,631	21,237	21,434

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview

	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	4,891	5,210	4,808	4,240
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	846	1,008	942	916

Age of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	2.1	1.6	1.5	2.3
1-5 years	32.1	30.6	30.3	30.8
6-10 years	37.5	36.7	35.0	31.6
11-15 years	24.1	26.4	27.7	29.4
16+ years	3.6	4.0	4.8	5.3
Unknown/Missing data	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,891	5,210	4,808	4,240

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Asian	N/A	0.5	0.4	0.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	54.3	57.2	55.7	54.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	12.4	9.5	10.3	8.3
White	32.4	32.3	33.0	36.0
Two or more races	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,891	5,210	4,808	4,240

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.0	0.6	0.9	1.0
1-5 years	43.6	40.3	43.0	41.5
6-10 years	38.2	38.5	33.4	34.7
11-15 years	14.9	18.0	19.4	20.0
16+ years	2.3	2.5	3.3	2.9
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,454	1,712	1,564	2,020

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3
Asian	N/A	0.2	0.6	0.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	57.4	55.6	45.7	53.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	4.7	6.5	9.1	7.5
White	36.5	37.0	44.1	38.0
Two or more races	N/A	—	0.2	0.3
Unknown/Missing data	1.2	0.6	0.2	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,454	1,712	1,564	2,020

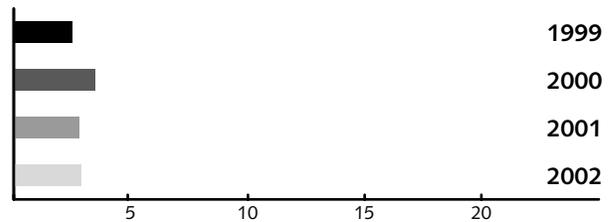
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	97.5	96.5	97.2	97.1
Children with one or more recurrences	2.5	3.5	2.8	2.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,522	2,606	2,421	2,492

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

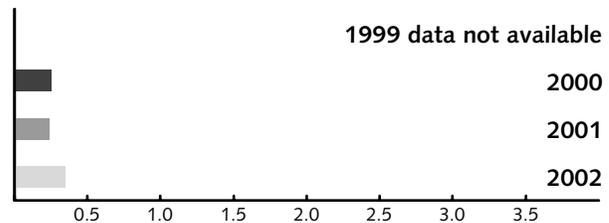


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	0.25	0.24	0.35
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	99.75	99.76	99.65
Total %	—	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	—	30,739	30,568	30,735

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

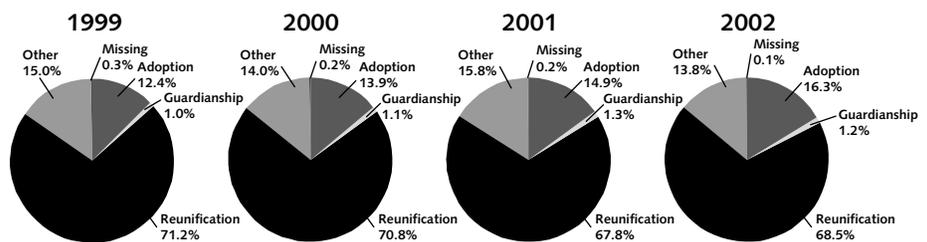


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	12.4	13.9	14.9	16.3
Guardianship	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.2
Reunification	71.2	70.8	67.8	68.5
Other	15.0	14.0	15.8	13.8
Missing data	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	12,419	11,926	11,730	12,031

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	16.7	19.4	20.5	21.9
Guardianship	1.3	1.8	1.6	1.5
Reunification	60.3	58.7	54.8	54.0
Other	21.6	20.0	23.0	22.4
Missing data	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,526	2,396	2,317	2,430

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.5
Guardianship	1.0	0.9	1.3	1.1
Reunification	77.0	77.6	74.1	77.8
Other	21.3	20.6	23.9	20.5
Missing data	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,761	5,295	5,251	5,520

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	30.6	31.5	32.9	32.8
Children older than 12 at entry	68.9	68.5	67.1	67.2
Missing data	0.4	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	702	688	680	740

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

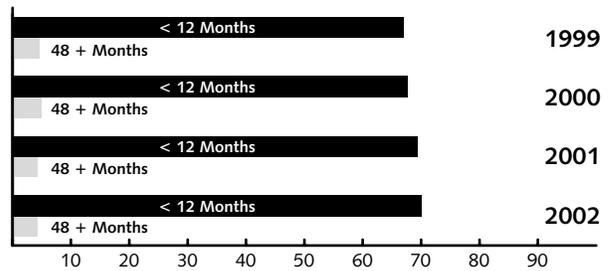
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	12.5	18.2	25.0	N/A	6.6	15.1	11.7	3.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.4	17.1	17.3	21.2	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	12.5	—	—	N/A	—	4.1	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.1	1.4	1.7	1.2	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	87.5	75.0	63.6	70.0	N/A	68.9	60.3	66.7	71.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	64.2	64.6	60.7	59.6	N/A	—	—	—
Other	12.5	—	18.2	5.0	N/A	24.6	20.5	21.7	25.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.9	16.7	20.3	17.7	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	—
Number	16	8	11	20	N/A	61	73	60	92	N/A	N/A	N/A	5,296	5,116	4,839	4,862	N/A	—	—	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	10.0	13.8	13.9	11.9	9.5	11.1	13.2	13.1	13.3	14.5	6.0	10.0	N/A	—	20.0	33.3	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.3	2.2	—	—	1.4	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	68.9	68.3	64.0	72.0	78.2	76.8	74.4	75.1	77.8	73.7	85.1	77.1	N/A	100.0	80.0	66.7	—	—	—	—
Other	19.5	16.7	20.2	15.4	11.2	11.1	11.3	10.3	6.7	10.5	9.0	11.4	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	0.4	0.2	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	—	1.3	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Number	1,302	978	1,076	1,129	5,668	5,686	5,649	5,875	45	76	67	70	N/A	1	15	15	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

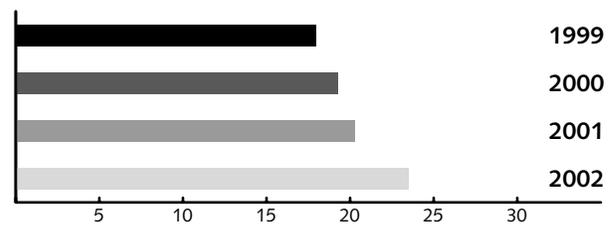
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	67.1	67.7	69.3	70.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	19.7	18.9	17.8	16.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.6	5.4	5.3	6.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.5	2.8	2.8	2.8
48 or more mos.	4.7	4.9	4.4	4.4
Missing data	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,844	8,443	7,950	8,246

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	74.6	71.8	70.7	66.5
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	18.0	19.3	20.3	23.5
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	7.2	8.7	8.9	9.9
Missing data	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	13,299	12,235	12,420	13,616

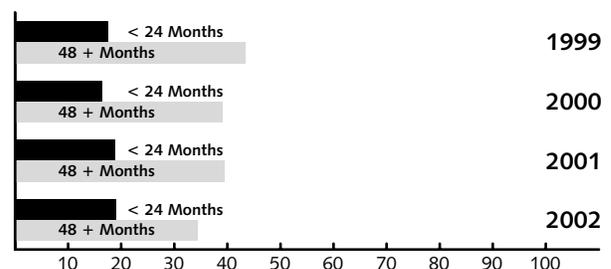
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	15.2	14.3	16.8	16.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	21.1	24.8	24.0	27.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	18.1	19.6	17.6	19.0
48 or more mos.	43.4	39.2	39.5	34.4
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,543	1,655	1,750	1,963

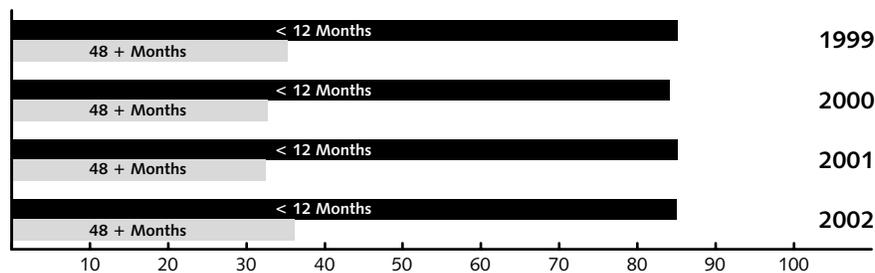
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	85.1	14.9	0.0	100.0	15,210
	2000	84.2	15.8	0.0	100.0	14,127
	2001	85.2	14.8	—	100.0	14,073
	2002	85.0	14.9	0.0	100.0	15,306
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	65.3	34.7	—	100.0	6,593
	2000	62.5	37.5	—	100.0	6,415
	2001	62.2	37.8	—	100.0	6,074
	2002	63.4	36.6	—	100.0	6,055
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	55.4	44.6	—	100.0	3,695
	2000	54.2	45.8	—	100.0	3,784
	2001	53.7	46.3	—	100.0	3,778
	2002	55.2	44.8	—	100.0	3,813
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	48.8	51.2	—	100.0	2,466
	2000	48.4	51.6	—	100.0	2,417
	2001	47.7	52.3	—	100.0	2,505
	2002	48.4	51.6	—	100.0	2,451
48 or more mos.	1999	35.2	64.7	0.0	100.0	7,050
	2000	32.7	67.2	0.0	100.0	6,772
	2001	32.4	67.6	0.0	100.0	6,483
	2002	36.1	63.9	0.0	100.0	5,728
Missing data	1999	96.8	3.2	—	100.0	94
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	42
	2001	100.0	—	—	100.0	51
	2002	98.2	0.9	0.9	100.0	112

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	4.3	3.8	4.1	3.9
Institutions	8.5	8.9	8.4	7.3
Other settings	87.2	87.3	87.5	88.8
Missing data	—	—	—	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,987	6,549	6,204	6,884

**Wayne Stevenson, Deputy Secretary
Children, Youth and Families
Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare
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The following are Pennsylvania's comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002: Report to Congress*:

Data on the race/ethnicity of child maltreatment victims are not available because Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Law prohibits the collection of this information.

The following discussion focuses on Pennsylvania's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Pennsylvania Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2002 and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2000. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Pennsylvania's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Pennsylvania's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 2.9, which is less than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). However, Pennsylvania's performance on this measure declined from 1999 to 2002 (+16.0 percent change).

The cross-State analyses found a substantial positive relationship between performance on this outcome measure and the State rate of child victims (i.e., the number of child victims per 1,000 children in the population). States with a relatively low rate of child victims tended to have a relatively low rate of maltreatment recurrence. For Pennsylvania, both the incidence of maltreatment recurrence (2.9 percent) and the rate of child victims (1.8 per 1,000 in the population) were in the bottom quartile of the State rankings. In fact, Pennsylvania's rate of child victims was the lowest in the nation.

The cross-State analyses also found a small, but definite, positive relationship between performance on this outcome measure and the percentage of child victims in the State who experienced neglect. States with a relatively low percentage of child victims experiencing neglect tended to have a relatively low percentage of maltreatment recurrence. For Pennsylvania, both the incidence of maltreatment recurrence (2.9 percent) and the percentage of child victims experiencing neglect (3.9 percent, which is the lowest in the Nation) were in the bottom quartile of the State rankings. These findings suggest that a State's definitions and laws pertaining to what constitutes maltreatment may be related to the State's performance on the measure of maltreatment recurrence. For example, Pennsylvania does not define child neglect as maltreatment unless it is determined to be "severe neglect." Although the State responds to reports of neglect with an assessment of risk, it does not report incidents of neglect to NCANDS as maltreatment if they do not meet the criteria of severity.

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

In CY 2002, Pennsylvania's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.35 percent, which is less than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure declined from 2000 (the first year the State reported these data) to 2002 (+45.8 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 86.1 percent of children exiting foster care in Pennsylvania were discharged to a permanent home (which is equal to the national median of 86.1 percent), and 79.3 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 72.0 percent). However, 77.4 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of

79.8 percent), and 32.8 percent of the children emancipating from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care, which is more than the national median of 26.9 percent. Pennsylvania's performance on the measures assessing permanency for children exiting foster care did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002. However, the State's performance with regard to the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+7.2 percent change). These findings suggest that although the State is generally successful in ensuring that children exiting foster care are discharged to permanent homes, almost one-third of children emancipated from foster care may be said to have grown up in the system.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Pennsylvania occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 70.1, which does not meet the national standard (76.2 percent or more), but is more than the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

Because the cross-State analyses found a substantial positive relationship between performance on this measure and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Pennsylvania's performance in FY 2002 with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Pennsylvania, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 23.5, which is more than the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and twice as much as the national median (9.9 percent). Thus, although Pennsylvania had a relatively high (above the national median) percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of the child's entry into foster care, the State also had a very high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode.

The cross-State analyses also found a substantial positive relationship between performance on the measure of foster care re-entry and the percentage of children entering foster care in the State who were age 16 or older. States with a relatively high percentage of children age 16 and older entering foster care in FY 2002 tended to have a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering with 12 months of a prior episode. For Pennsylvania, both the percentage of children entering foster care who were age 16 and older (19.6 percent) and the incidence of foster care re-entry (23.5 percent) were in the top quartile of the State rankings. One explanation for this may be that children age 16 and older who enter foster care are often entering because of their own behaviors (or through the juvenile justice system) rather than as a result of maltreatment, and they may leave the foster care system before their behavior problems are fully resolved.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 19.1, which is less than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Pennsylvania's performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+16.7 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 85.0, which does not meet the national standard (86.7 percent or more), but is more than the national median (84.1 percent). Pennsylvania's performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 11.2, which is more than the national median of 8.6 percent. Pennsylvania's performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-12.7 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	—	—	—	—
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	—
Asian	—	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—	—
Black	—	—	—	—
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	—	—	—	—
Hispanic	—	—	—	—
White	—	—	—	—
Two or more races	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
% Child population in poverty	—	—	—	—

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	—	—	—	—
Children in foster care on 9/30	7,760	—	8,476	8,179
Children adopted	490	428	503	408

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	—	—	—	—	— per 1,000	— per 1,000	— per 1,000	— per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	—	—	—	—	— per 1,000	— per 1,000	— per 1,000	— per 1,000
Child fatalities	—	—	—	—	— per 100,000	— per 100,000	— per 100,000	— per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—
1-5 years	—	—	—	—
6-10 years	—	—	—	—
11-15 years	—	—	—	—
16+ years	—	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	—	—	—
Black	—	—	—	—
Hispanic	—	—	—	—
White	—	—	—	—
Two or more races	—	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total % ⁴	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	—	—	—	—
Medical neglect	—	—	—	—
Neglect	—	—	—	—
Physical abuse	—	—	—	—
Sexual abuse	—	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—
Total % ⁵	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	6,568	2,703	1,510	7,760	9,271
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	—	—	—	—	—
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	6,195	3,254	977	8,476	9,449
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	7,062	3,483	2,369	8,179	10,545

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	26.6	N/A	13.0	26.4	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	—	N/A	—	—	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	27.4	N/A	11.7	22.4	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	21.2	N/A	11.0	22.4	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	2.9	—	3.2	3.5	12.8	—	12.5	12.3	2.9	—	4.3	4.4	2.9	—	3.4	3.4
1-5 years	29.1	—	24.6	26.6	34.3	—	35.0	33.6	36.6	—	40.2	37.8	27.4	—	25.4	24.6
6-10 years	32.4	—	31.4	31.5	29.7	—	29.5	28.3	31.4	—	32.8	33.3	32.2	—	30.1	29.2
11-15 years	26.7	—	32.2	30.6	19.8	—	19.2	20.1	21.5	—	21.2	20.1	26.7	—	28.7	30.1
16-18 years	8.7	—	8.3	7.4	2.8	—	2.9	3.1	7.4	—	1.3	3.3	9.1	—	12.1	11.9
19+ years	0.0	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	0.3	—	—	—	1.6	—	0.2	—
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	—	0.1	0.3	0.6	—	0.9	2.6	—	—	0.2	1.1	0.1	—	0.2	0.8
Total %	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
Number	6,568	—	6,195	7,062	2,703	—	3,254	3,483	1,510	—	977	2,369	7,760	—	8,476	8,179

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	—	0.2	—	—	—	0.0	—	0.1	—	—	—	0.0	—	0.2	—
Asian	N/A	—	0.0	—	N/A	—	0.0	—	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	0.0	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	0.2	—	0.1	0.2	0.0	—	0.3	0.3	0.0	—	—	0.6	0.2	—	0.2	0.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	0.1	—	N/A	—	0.6	—	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	0.3	—
Hispanic	99.4	—	98.7	99.0	99.8	—	98.6	98.9	99.5	—	99.3	98.5	99.5	—	98.6	99.1
White	0.3	—	0.6	0.7	0.1	—	0.5	0.6	0.2	—	0.3	0.8	0.3	—	0.6	0.6
Two or more races	N/A	—	0.0	—	N/A	—	0.0	—	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	0.0	—
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	0.0	0.2	0.0	—	—	0.2	0.0	—	0.4	0.0	0.0	—	—	0.2
Total %	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
Number	6,568	—	6,195	7,062	2,703	—	3,254	3,483	1,510	—	977	2,369	7,760	—	8,476	8,179

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	625	—	418	1,511
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	165	—	69	120

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.6	—	9.1	5.4
1-5 years	14.7	—	23.2	39.0
6-10 years	38.6	—	25.8	39.8
11-15 years	34.6	—	27.0	13.2
16+ years	6.6	—	11.0	1.7
Unknown/Missing data	4.0	—	3.8	0.9
Total %	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
Number	625	—	418	1,511

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	—
Asian	N/A	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	—	—	0.2	0.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	0.5	—
Hispanic	99.8	—	98.8	99.2
White	0.2	—	0.5	0.4
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	0.0
Total %	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
Number	625	—	418	1,511

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	6.1	5.8	3.2	4.9
1-5 years	42.7	44.2	47.3	45.1
6-10 years	36.9	34.3	31.2	30.6
11-15 years	13.1	9.6	12.5	13.2
16+ years	1.2	6.1	5.8	6.1
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	490	428	503	408

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	—
Asian	N/A	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	—	0.2	—	—
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	99.2	98.8	99.6	99.0
White	0.2	0.9	0.4	1.0
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	0.2	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	490	428	503	408

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

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

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

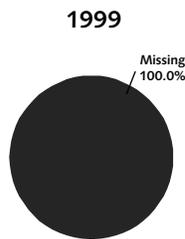
2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

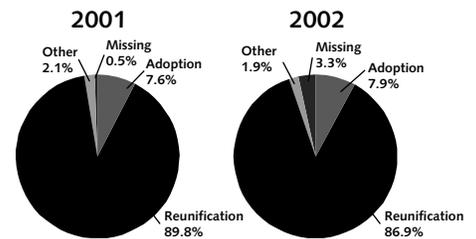
3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	7.6	7.9
Guardianship	—	—	—	0.0
Reunification	—	—	89.8	86.9
Other	—	—	2.1	1.9
Missing data	100.0	—	0.5	3.3
Total %	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
Number	1,510	—	977	2,369



Percent Exits from Foster Care

2000
2000 data not available



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	15.8	7.8
Guardianship	—	—	—	0.6
Reunification	—	—	80.7	76.5
Other	—	—	3.5	9.6
Missing data	100.0	—	—	5.4
Total %	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
Number	97	—	57	166

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	—	0.5
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	92.4	91.8
Other	—	—	7.6	4.6
Missing data	100.0	—	—	3.2
Total %	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
Number	199	—	66	219

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	—	—	62.5	53.8
Children older than 12 at entry	—	—	25.0	46.2
Missing data	—	—	12.5	—
Total %	—	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	—	8	13

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

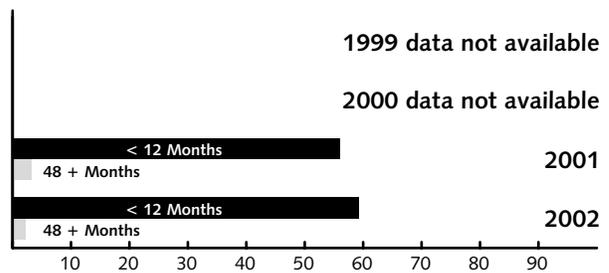
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	
Adoption	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	100.0	N/A	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—
Missing data	100.0	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	—	—	100.0	N/A	—	—	—	—
Number	2	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	—	—	15	N/A	—	—	—	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	
Adoption	—	—	7.5	7.8	—	—	33.3	22.2	—	—	—	50.0	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	89.8	86.9	—	—	66.7	77.8	—	—	100.0	50.0	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	2.2	1.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	100.0	—	0.5	3.4	100.0	—	—	—	100.0	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number	1,503	—	970	2,334	3	—	3	18	1	—	4	2	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

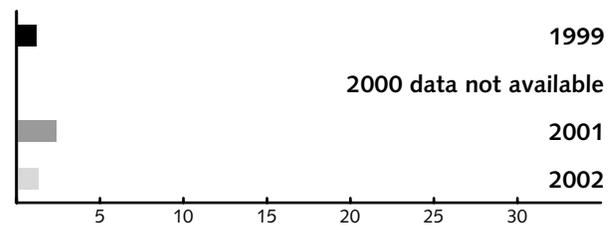
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	—	—	56.1	59.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	—	28.6	28.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	—	6.0	7.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	—	4.3	2.0
48 or more mos.	—	—	3.3	2.2
Missing data	—	—	1.6	1.2
Total %	—	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	—	877	2,058

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	92.9	—	90.7	94.4
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	1.2	—	2.4	1.3
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	5.8	—	5.6	3.5
Missing data	—	—	1.3	0.8
Total %	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
Number	2,703	—	3,254	3,483

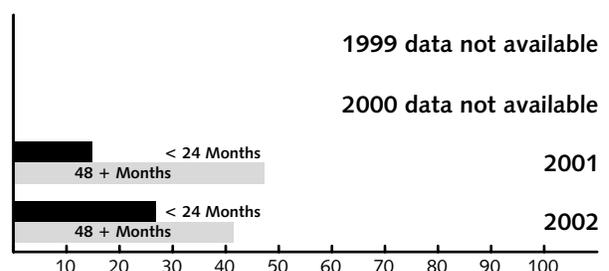
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	—	—	4.1	6.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	—	—	10.8	20.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	—	—	21.6	14.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	—	—	16.2	16.1
48 or more mos.	—	—	47.3	42.5
Missing data	—	—	—	0.5
Total %	—	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	—	74	186

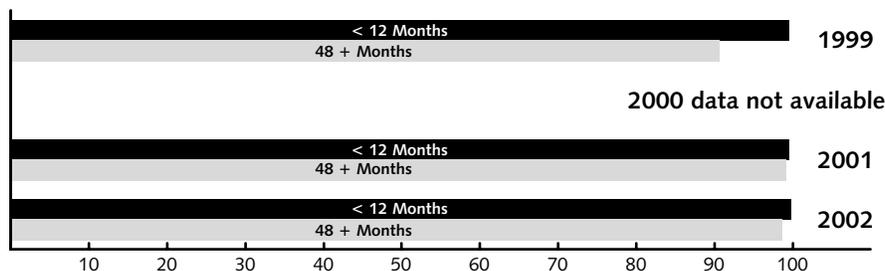
Percent Adoptions Occuring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	99.6	0.4	—	100.0	3,073
	2000	—	—	—	0.0	—
	2001	99.6	0.4	—	100.0	3,417
	2002	99.8	0.2	—	100.0	4,143
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	99.5	0.5	—	100.0	1,748
	2000	—	—	—	0.0	—
	2001	98.9	1.1	—	100.0	1,725
	2002	99.8	0.2	—	100.0	2,046
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	99.4	0.6	—	100.0	1,050
	2000	—	—	—	0.0	—
	2001	98.5	1.5	—	100.0	1,017
	2002	99.4	0.6	—	100.0	1,051
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	98.8	1.2	—	100.0	901
	2000	—	—	—	0.0	—
	2001	99.3	0.7	—	100.0	669
	2002	98.0	2.0	—	100.0	745
48 or more mos.	1999	90.6	9.4	—	100.0	2,491
	2000	—	—	—	0.0	—
	2001	99.2	0.8	—	100.0	2,610
	2002	98.7	1.3	—	100.0	2,520
Missing data	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	8
	2000	—	—	—	0.0	—
	2001	100.0	—	—	100.0	11
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	40

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	0.4	—	1.0	0.5
Institutions	6.6	—	6.7	3.1
Other settings	93.0	—	92.3	96.4
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	—	100.0	100.0
Number	2,330	—	2,719	2,598

Puerto Rico

[STATE COMMENT]

The following discussion focuses on Puerto Rico's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Puerto Rico Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2003, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2001. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Puerto Rico's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2001*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of Puerto Rico's performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

Puerto Rico's performance on outcome 1 cannot be assessed as part of the Federal Comment section because Puerto Rico does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating this outcome. To ensure data consistency across States, only data submitted through NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, Puerto Rico provided calendar year 2001 data for this outcome for the CFSR using an alternative source. For that year, Puerto Rico reported that 9.3 percent of the children who were the subject of a substantiated or indicated child maltreatment report during the first 6 months of the calendar year experienced another substantiated or indicated maltreatment report within 6 months of the first report. This does not meet the national standard of 6.1 percent or less.

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

Puerto Rico's performance on outcome 2 cannot be evaluated as part of the Federal Comment section because Puerto Rico does not provide data to NCANDS for calculating this outcome. In order to ensure data consistency across States, only data submitted through the NCANDS system are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, the Puerto Rico provided year 2001 data for this outcome for the CFSR using an alternative source. For that year, Puerto Rico reported that 0.45 percent of children in foster care for the first 9 months of the calendar year were victims of maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member. This meets the national standard of 0.57 percent or less.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 94.8 percent of children exiting foster care in Puerto Rico were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 86.1 percent); 84.9 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 92.2 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 72.0 percent). Despite these findings, 53.8 percent of the children exiting to emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is more than the national median of 26.9 percent. However, the State reported only 13 children as exiting foster care to emancipation in FY 2002. Change in performance on these measures from FY 1999 to FY 2002 cannot be assessed because of missing data in FY 1999.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Puerto Rico occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 59.3, which is less than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Change in performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months cannot be assessed because of missing data in FY 1999 and FY 2000.

Because the cross-State analyses found a substantial positive relationship between performance on this measure and the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Puerto Rico's performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Puerto Rico, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 1.3 percent, which is the second lowest re-entry rate in the Nation. Thus, while Puerto Rico had a relatively low percentage of reunifications within 12 months of entry into foster care, the State also had a very low percentage of re-entries into foster care within 12 months. Puerto Rico's performance on the measure of foster care re-entry did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 26.9 percent. This percentage is difficult to interpret because there was a substantial discrepancy between the number of adoptions provided in the State's AFCARS Adoption data submission (408 adoptions), and the number of exits from foster care to a finalized adoption reported in the State's AFCARS Foster Care data submission (186 exits to a finalized adoption). Consequently, 54 percent of the children reported as adopted in FY 2002 are not accounted for in the assessment of outcome measure 5.1—time to adoption.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 99.8, which is more than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). There was no change in performance on this measure from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 3.6, which is less than the national median of 8.6 percent. Puerto Rico's performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-48.3 percent change).

Rhode Island

[CONTEXT DATA]

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	241,180	243,545	243,064	239,248
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Asian	N/A	2.7	2.8	2.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	5.5	5.5	6.4	6.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	10.9	14.1	14.4	14.7
White	79.8	72.7	73.2	72.7
Two or more races	N/A	3.3	2.4	2.5
Other	N/A	1.2	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	14.3	15.8	11.0	15.0

Child Welfare Summary

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	3,485	3,361	3,319	3,247
Children in foster care on 9/30	2,621	2,302	2,414	2,383
Children adopted	292	260	267	256

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	9,424	11,531	11,369	10,772	39.1 per 1,000	47.3 per 1,000	46.8 per 1,000	45.0 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	3,485	3,361	3,319	3,247	14.4 per 1,000	13.8 per 1,000	13.6 per 1,000	13.6 per 1,000
Child fatalities	4	3	5	1	1.7 per 100,000	1.2 per 100,000	2.1 per 100,000	0.4 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	6.8	9.8	10.6	10.9
1-5 years	29.0	30.0	28.8	31.0
6-10 years	32.0	30.5	31.1	27.7
11-15 years	23.0	23.9	24.1	24.2
16+ years	8.4	4.8	5.3	5.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.8	1.0	0.1	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,485	3,361	3,319	3,247

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.0	1.2	1.2	0.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.1	1.8	2.2	2.1
Black	16.3	14.0	13.2	14.6
Hispanic	17.3	18.2	19.3	17.7
White	72.6	61.3	59.1	60.0
Two or more races	0.2	1.0	2.7	2.5
Unknown/Missing data	7.8	2.4	2.2	2.3
Total % ⁴	117.3	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,485	3,361	3,319	3,247

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.3
Medical neglect	2.2	2.3	2.0	1.9
Neglect	84.6	73.9	75.7	76.3
Physical abuse	26.6	19.8	19.7	19.8
Sexual abuse	8.9	7.4	5.9	7.0
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	3.8	6.1	5.2	1.7
Total % ⁵	126.7	109.7	108.7	107.0
Number	3,485	3,361	3,319	3,247

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	2,102	1,403	1,018	2,621	3,505
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	2,181	1,409	1,348	2,302	3,590
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	2,122	1,493	1,227	2,414	3,615
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	2,160	1,582	1,378	2,383	3,742

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	15.5	N/A	11.1	15.3	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	16.6	N/A	11.7	15.1	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	16.1	N/A	10.1	15.5	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	15.6	N/A	10.2	13.9	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	5.4	4.8	4.9	4.6	14.0	12.7	12.3	10.9	6.1	4.5	5.1	4.1	4.7	4.9	4.3	4.3
1-5 years	22.5	20.4	17.3	18.1	19.1	16.0	17.7	18.0	26.8	22.7	21.7	20.8	20.5	17.7	18.2	18.5
6-10 years	20.6	19.2	18.7	16.5	15.1	15.6	13.3	12.7	21.5	16.5	14.1	13.7	17.6	17.5	16.0	14.9
11-15 years	29.7	30.4	33.3	32.6	33.2	38.4	38.1	39.1	25.9	25.9	29.8	29.8	28.4	33.7	32.3	32.0
16-18 years	18.6	21.8	21.7	23.9	17.7	17.2	18.2	19.1	17.1	26.0	24.0	27.6	24.4	22.1	25.0	25.5
19+ years	3.0	3.5	4.1	4.4	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.3	2.4	3.6	4.3	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.6
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	0.0	—	0.1	—	—	—	0.2	0.9	1.1	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,102	2,181	2,122	2,160	1,403	1,409	1,493	1,582	1,018	1,348	1,227	1,378	2,621	2,302	2,414	2,383

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.4	2.2	1.2	1.3	1.5	3.1	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.5
Asian	N/A	2.0	1.4	1.7	N/A	1.2	2.2	2.0	N/A	2.0	2.0	1.6	N/A	1.6	1.6	2.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	23.4	22.6	21.4	20.3	18.1	16.3	17.1	16.4	19.6	18.8	18.3	17.1	21.3	20.7	20.5	19.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.1	—	—	N/A	0.0	—	—	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	15.5	13.4	14.8	15.8	15.0	20.2	17.3	19.0	19.7	18.6	16.1	17.8	14.0	14.7	15.6	16.8
White	54.3	58.0	58.3	57.5	59.4	58.0	58.8	55.8	51.9	56.7	60.1	58.2	57.9	58.7	57.7	55.9
Two or more races	N/A	0.0	1.0	1.7	N/A	0.9	1.3	2.1	N/A	0.2	0.6	1.6	N/A	0.5	1.5	2.0
Unknown/Missing data	3.9	2.7	1.8	1.5	2.8	2.1	1.9	3.3	4.1	2.6	2.0	2.5	3.3	2.4	1.8	2.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,102	2,181	2,122	2,160	1,403	1,409	1,493	1,582	1,018	1,348	1,227	1,378	2,621	2,302	2,414	2,383

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview

	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	339	399	409	397
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	87	238	253	225

Age of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.5	0.8	1.2	1.0
1-5 years	34.8	28.3	31.1	31.2
6-10 years	36.6	32.8	28.9	28.5
11-15 years	25.1	33.8	33.3	35.0
16+ years	2.1	3.0	4.6	3.8
Unknown/Missing data	—	1.3	1.0	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	339	399	409	397

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.9	1.3	0.7	1.0
Asian	N/A	1.3	0.7	0.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	32.2	27.6	30.3	20.7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.3	0.2	0.3
Hispanic	13.3	19.3	15.6	15.6
White	45.1	47.1	49.9	56.7
Two or more races	N/A	—	1.5	3.3
Unknown/Missing data	7.4	3.3	1.0	1.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	339	399	409	397

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.4	2.3	2.6	2.7
1-5 years	45.2	51.5	53.2	48.8
6-10 years	37.3	30.4	29.6	32.4
11-15 years	14.4	14.6	13.5	13.7
16+ years	1.7	1.2	1.1	2.3
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	292	260	267	256

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	2.1	0.4	2.2	1.6
Asian	N/A	0.8	2.2	0.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	25.7	25.8	24.3	25.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	12.7	15.4	13.1	11.7
White	45.5	53.8	46.8	55.1
Two or more races	N/A	1.5	3.0	2.7
Unknown/Missing data	13.4	2.3	8.2	3.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	292	260	267	256

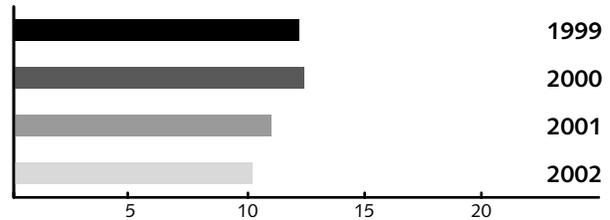
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	87.8	87.6	89.0	89.8
Children with one or more recurrences	12.2	12.4	11.0	10.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,781	1,634	1,624	1,532

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

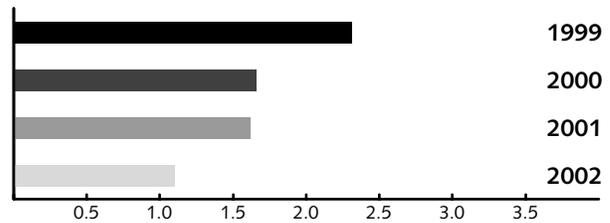


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	2.31	1.66	1.62	1.10
Children not maltreated while in foster care	97.69	98.34	98.38	98.90
Total %	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	3,292	3,304	3,327	3,443

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

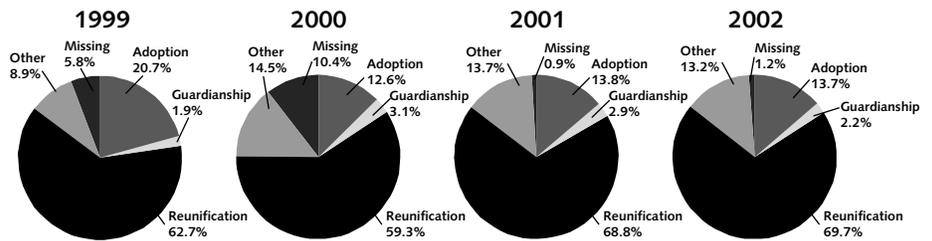


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	20.7	12.6	13.8	13.7
Guardianship	1.9	3.1	2.9	2.2
Reunification	62.7	59.3	68.8	69.7
Other	8.9	14.5	13.7	13.2
Missing data	5.8	10.4	0.9	1.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,018	1,348	1,227	1,378

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	30.2	13.5	12.4	10.3
Guardianship	0.5	4.2	3.3	1.3
Reunification	39.6	51.4	64.5	65.5
Other	18.7	18.1	19.4	22.0
Missing data	11.0	12.7	0.4	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	182	259	242	232

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.3	0.5	—	0.3
Guardianship	0.6	0.7	1.6	1.5
Reunification	68.3	58.3	72.4	72.7
Other	18.2	25.8	24.2	23.4
Missing data	12.5	14.7	1.8	2.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	319	563	561	662

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	11.6	17.1	18.2	17.7
Children older than 12 at entry	83.7	81.7	80.5	82.3
Missing data	4.7	1.2	1.3	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	43	82	77	62

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

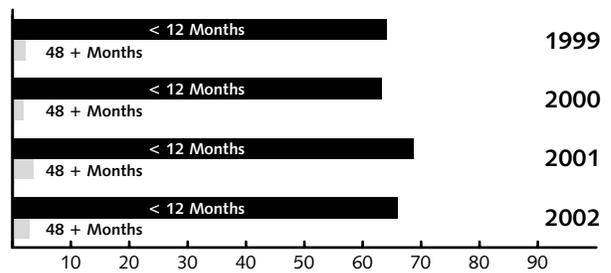
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	21.9	7.7	15.4	11.8	N/A	—	12.5	4.5	26.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	22.5	18.9	21.9	16.6	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	9.4	15.4	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.5	5.1	3.6	2.1	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	56.3	61.5	53.8	70.6	N/A	81.5	70.8	72.7	66.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	58.0	53.9	58.9	64.7	N/A	100.0	—	—
Other	9.4	7.7	30.8	17.6	N/A	14.8	16.7	22.7	6.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.0	14.6	14.3	15.7	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	3.1	7.7	—	—	N/A	3.7	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.0	7.5	1.3	0.9	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	—	—
Number	32	13	13	17	N/A	27	24	22	15	N/A	N/A	N/A	200	254	224	235	N/A	1	—	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	23.9	11.2	10.1	15.5	17.6	11.5	12.2	12.3	33.3	14.3	20.8	9.4	N/A	—	—	31.8	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	0.5	2.4	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.6	3.1	2.5	—	2.9	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	65.2	61.8	74.2	69.0	64.2	59.0	70.4	71.3	57.1	65.7	70.8	81.3	N/A	100.0	71.4	50.0	—	—	—	66.7
Other	6.0	12.7	13.1	10.6	9.1	15.4	13.6	13.0	7.1	11.4	8.3	6.3	N/A	—	—	18.2	—	—	—	33.3
Missing data	4.5	12.0	0.5	2.9	7.2	11.4	0.7	0.9	2.4	5.7	—	3.1	N/A	—	28.6	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	100.0
Number	201	251	198	245	528	764	737	802	42	35	24	32	N/A	3	7	22	—	—	—	3

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

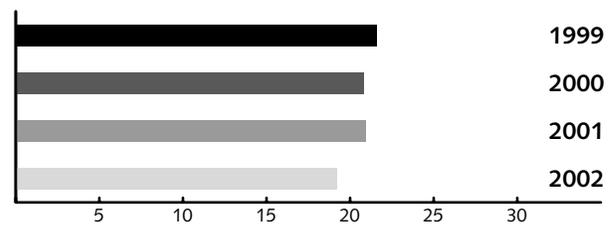
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	64.1	63.3	68.8	66.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	17.2	19.8	17.2	17.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	4.1	5.6	4.3	7.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.4	3.0	2.7	3.0
48 or more mos.	2.2	1.8	3.6	3.0
Missing data	11.0	6.6	3.4	2.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	638	800	844	960

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	65.0	66.7	64.8	68.0
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	21.6	20.8	20.9	19.2
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.7	11.1	13.2	11.5
Missing data	4.7	1.4	1.1	1.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,403	1,409	1,493	1,582

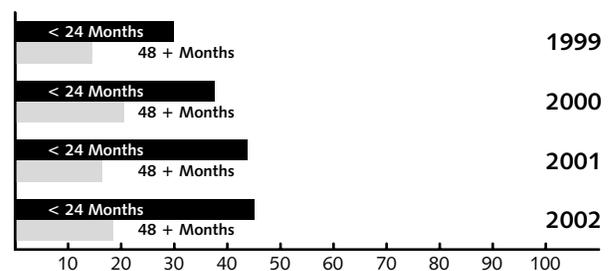
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	9.5	7.6	12.4	8.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	20.4	30.0	31.4	36.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	26.5	24.1	24.9	23.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	12.3	16.5	13.6	11.1
48 or more mos.	14.7	20.6	16.6	18.5
Missing data	16.6	1.2	1.2	2.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	211	170	169	189

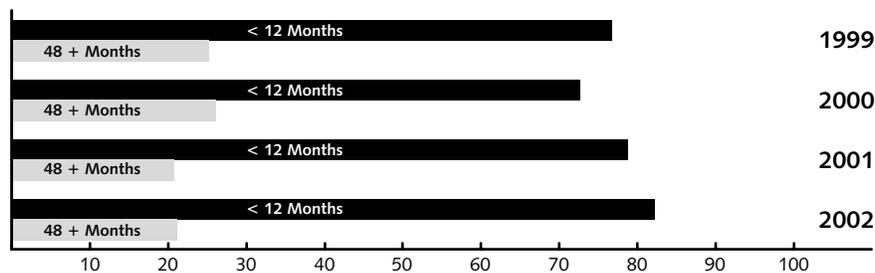
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	76.7	22.6	0.7	100.0	1,593
	2000	72.6	27.4	—	100.0	1,653
	2001	78.8	21.2	—	100.0	1,710
	2002	82.2	17.8	—	100.0	1,797
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	58.1	37.9	3.9	100.0	762
	2000	55.1	44.9	—	100.0	742
	2001	55.1	44.9	—	100.0	739
	2002	60.3	39.7	—	100.0	793
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	34.4	53.1	12.5	100.0	480
	2000	45.5	54.3	0.2	100.0	409
	2001	45.4	54.3	0.3	100.0	357
	2002	47.4	52.6	—	100.0	403
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	29.5	56.5	14.0	100.0	207
	2000	28.5	70.4	1.1	100.0	284
	2001	40.2	58.9	0.8	100.0	241
	2002	40.6	58.9	0.5	100.0	197
48 or more mos.	1999	25.3	59.3	15.5	100.0	459
	2000	26.1	73.5	0.4	100.0	494
	2001	20.8	78.3	0.9	100.0	553
	2002	21.2	78.5	0.4	100.0	534
Missing data	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	4
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	8
	2001	100.0	—	—	100.0	15
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	18

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	16.6	15.8	17.5	18.9
Institutions	1.3	1.2	1.9	0.8
Other settings	82.1	82.9	80.7	80.3
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	469	726	756	762

Jay G. Lindgren, Jr., Director
Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families
401-528-3548

The following are Rhode Island's comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002: Report to Congress*:

- The data submitted to AFCARS for our children in foster care include not only traditional child welfare youth, but also juvenile justice, children's mental health, and developmentally disabled youth. We believe that this additional population impacts many of the outcome measures including average length of stay (Measure 3), re-entry into foster care (Measure 4.2), as well as, the number of youth in group care settings (Measure 7.1).
- AFCARS adoption data show 256 children adopted in FY2003 but AFCARS Foster Care data shows only 189 children exiting to adoption. Programmed edits were changed in 2003 to improve the accuracy of data for children exiting foster care to adoption. The correct number of children adopted is 256.
- Rhode Island data include indicated allegations of corporal punishment by foster parents which is prohibited by state law. Institutional abuse includes the state's juvenile correctional and detention facilities and private psychiatric hospitals. These factors impact Outcome Measure 2.1.

Rhode Island strongly encourages the federal government to assist the states to use longitudinal analysis (e.g. follow entry cohorts), which more accurately describe our impact on the populations served.

The following discussion focuses on Rhode Island's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Rhode Island Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2004, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2002. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CSFR findings for Rhode Island's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in below.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than plus or minus 5.0 was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Rhode Island's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 10.2 percent, which is more than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure improved from 1999 to 2002 (-16 percent change). Findings reported in the CSFR Final Report suggest that maltreatment recurrence may be attributed to inconsistent practices with regard to (1) conducting adequate risk assessments; and (2) providing services to address risk issues, particularly parental substance abuse and mental illness, and domestic violence.

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

In CY 2002, Rhode Island's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 1.10 percent, which is more than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Rhode Island's performance on this measure improved from 1999 to 2002 (-52.4 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 85.6 percent of children exiting foster care in Rhode Island were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 86.1 percent), and 77.2 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 79.8 percent). However, 74.5 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care exited to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 72.0 percent). Only 17.7 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is less than the national median of 26.9 percent. Rhode Island's performance on most of the measures for outcome 3 either improved or showed no change. However, performance on the measure assessing the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+52.6 percent).

These data suggest that Rhode Island is not consistently successful in ensuring that children exiting foster care are discharged to permanent homes. The CSFR Final Report identified the following as potential barriers to achieving permanency for children: (1) the goal of long-term foster care is sometimes established without a full exploration of alternative goals; (2) the courts and the agency tend to maintain the goal of reunification for too long a period of time even when the situation indicates that reunification is unlikely to be achieved; (3) children who enter foster care through the juvenile justice system are served by probation staff who often do not view their role as pursuing permanency; and (4) although there are provisions for subsidizing guardianship with relatives, the subsidy is less than the foster care payment rate.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Rhode Island occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 66.1, which is less than both the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

For Rhode Island, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 19.2 percent, which is more than both the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent).

The cross-State analyses found a substantial positive relationship between performance on the measure of foster care re-entry and the percentage of children entering foster care in the State who were age 16 or older. States with a relatively high percentage of children age 16 and older entering foster care in FY 2002 tended to have a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering with 12 months of a prior episode. For Rhode Island, both the percentage of children entering foster care who were age 16 and older (19.4 percent) and the percentage of foster care re-entry (19.2 percent) were in the top quartile. One explanation for this is that children age 16 and older who enter foster care are often entering because of their own behaviors (or through the juvenile justice system) rather than as a result of maltreatment, and they may leave the foster care system before their behavior problems are fully resolved. This is particularly relevant to Rhode Island, because this State provides child welfare foster care services to children in the juvenile justice and mental health systems.

Information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that stakeholders in the State believe that the State's performance with regard to foster care re-entry may be attributed, in part, to the following: (1) a lack of sufficient post-reunification services to support the family, particularly when child behavior was the primary reason for entry into foster care, and (2) a tendency on the part of the agency and the courts to return children home "too soon."

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 45.0, which is more than both the national standard of 32.0 percent or more and the national median of 23.0 percent. This percentage is difficult to interpret because there was a substantial discrepancy between the number of adoptions in FY 2002 reported in the State's AFCARS Adoption data submission (256 adoptions) and the number of children exiting foster care to a finalized adoption reported in the State's AFCARS Foster Care data submission (189 exits to a finalized adoption).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 82.2, which is less than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Performance on this measure exhibited improvement from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+7.2 percent change). CFSR findings identified the following as potential barriers to placement stability in the State: (1) a lack of sufficient placement resources to meet children's needs; (2) an over-reliance on shelter care, even for young children; and (3) insufficient training and support in some instances for foster parents who are parenting children with behavioral problems.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 19.7, which is more than the national median of 8.6 percent. Rhode Island's performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+9.9 percent change). Information in the CFSR final report suggests that performance on this measure may be attributed in part to the State's reliance on shelter care, even for very young children.

South Carolina

[CONTEXT DATA]

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	955,930	983,824	988,687	979,163
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Asian	N/A	0.9	0.9	1.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	36.0	36.4	36.1	36.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	1.9	2.8	3.0	3.1
White	60.8	58.0	58.3	58.0
Two or more races	N/A	1.5	1.4	1.4
Other	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	17.5	17.8	23.0	19.2

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	9,580	11,246	11,199	10,738
Children in foster care on 9/30	4,545	4,525	4,774	4,818
Children adopted	456	378	384	344

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	39,902	38,844	36,836	30,937	41.7 per 1,000	39.5 per 1,000	37.3 per 1,000	31.6 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	9,580	11,246	11,199	10,738	10.0 per 1,000	11.4 per 1,000	11.3 per 1,000	11.0 per 1,000
Child fatalities	13	20	16	13	1.4 per 100,000	2.0 per 100,000	1.6 per 100,000	1.3 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	8.2	8.1	10.7	10.7
1-5 years	26.9	28.2	28.3	27.0
6-10 years	31.3	29.9	29.1	26.9
11-15 years	24.9	26.2	26.2	25.2
16+ years	8.7	6.0	5.2	4.8
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	1.7	0.4	5.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,580	11,246	11,199	10,738

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2
Black	45.9	45.6	43.9	41.0
Hispanic	1.5	1.7	2.3	2.8
White	52.6	52.3	50.7	50.9
Two or more races	0.2	—	1.9	2.6
Unknown/Missing data	0.6	—	0.6	2.3
Total % ⁴	101.7	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,580	11,246	11,199	10,738

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	0.5	0.6	2.9	2.2
Medical neglect	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.4
Neglect	54.8	53.0	68.1	64.8
Physical abuse	13.7	13.6	33.4	33.4
Sexual abuse	6.3	5.4	8.1	8.8
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	8.9	—	—
Other	67.7	70.0	0.2	0.4
Total % ⁵	147.2	155.5	116.6	113.0
Number	9,580	11,246	11,199	10,738

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	4,475	2,923	2,853	4,545	7,398
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	4,491	3,172	3,137	4,525	7,663
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	4,476	3,405	3,107	4,774	7,881
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	4,688	3,537	3,407	4,818	8,225

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	24.8	N/A	6.2	20.2	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	20.3	N/A	5.4	20.4	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	21.2	N/A	4.6	19.2	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	19.4	N/A	5.0	18.4	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	4.9	4.5	5.0	4.7	14.4	15.4	13.9	14.1	6.7	7.0	7.1	5.8	4.5	5.2	4.7	5.2
1-5 years	23.1	22.0	21.6	22.5	24.0	25.7	26.1	25.4	27.3	28.4	28.8	27.3	22.1	21.7	22.4	23.3
6-10 years	24.5	23.2	23.1	20.6	24.5	26.2	24.4	23.6	25.0	24.9	25.1	24.6	23.3	22.9	20.8	18.7
11-15 years	30.1	32.1	31.7	31.9	31.0	27.6	28.9	29.2	24.1	23.5	23.5	25.1	32.3	31.7	32.1	31.0
16-18 years	15.6	16.2	16.8	18.3	6.0	5.0	6.6	6.8	14.2	13.8	13.6	14.3	16.0	16.6	18.1	19.3
19+ years	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	—	—	0.0	0.1	2.3	2.0	1.6	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.3
Unknown/Missing data	—	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,475	4,491	4,476	4,688	2,923	3,172	3,405	3,537	2,853	3,137	3,107	3,407	4,545	4,525	4,774	4,818

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1
Asian	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.2	N/A	0.4	0.2	0.2	N/A	0.4	0.3	0.2	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	62.9	62.7	61.2	60.0	55.0	52.0	52.7	49.2	55.2	54.3	53.6	54.0	62.6	61.1	60.1	56.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.1	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	—	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.5	2.7	2.9	3.7	1.3	2.2	2.9	2.5	1.1	1.4	1.5	2.3
White	35.6	35.6	36.8	37.7	42.8	44.2	43.1	45.0	42.8	42.6	42.5	41.7	35.8	36.9	37.5	40.2
Two or more races	N/A	0.0	0.3	0.4	N/A	0.6	0.5	0.9	N/A	0.3	0.3	0.9	N/A	0.3	0.5	0.5
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	—	—	—	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,475	4,491	4,476	4,688	2,923	3,172	3,405	3,537	2,853	3,137	3,107	3,407	4,545	4,525	4,774	4,818

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	2,199	2,201	2,157	1,961
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	853	820	753	554

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	2.9	3.0	2.8	2.9
1-5 years	29.8	27.1	28.4	30.5
6-10 years	30.5	29.8	26.7	24.4
11-15 years	32.1	32.8	34.0	34.1
16+ years	4.2	6.6	7.1	6.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.5	0.6	1.0	1.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,199	2,201	2,157	1,961

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0
Asian	N/A	0.1	0.0	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	65.1	63.1	63.0	60.7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	0.9	1.0	1.3	1.5
White	33.4	35.3	35.0	37.3
Two or more races	N/A	0.3	0.4	0.4
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,199	2,201	2,157	1,961

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	2.2	2.1	2.9	1.7
1-5 years	43.9	47.1	43.2	44.8
6-10 years	38.2	32.3	32.0	34.6
11-15 years	14.0	17.5	17.7	16.9
16+ years	1.8	1.1	4.2	2.0
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	456	378	384	344

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.3	0.5	—
Asian	N/A	0.3	—	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	61.4	63.5	58.3	60.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	0.7	1.3	1.8	1.7
White	36.6	34.7	39.1	36.0
Two or more races	N/A	—	0.3	1.5
Unknown/Missing data	1.3	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	456	378	384	344

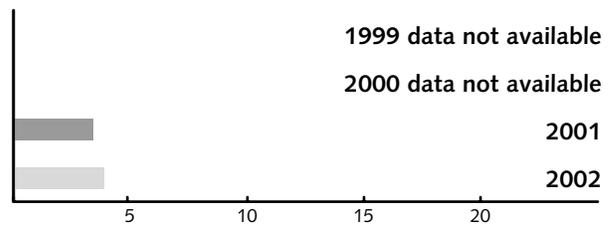
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	—	96.6	96.1
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	3.4	3.9
Total %	—	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	—	6,028	5,275

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

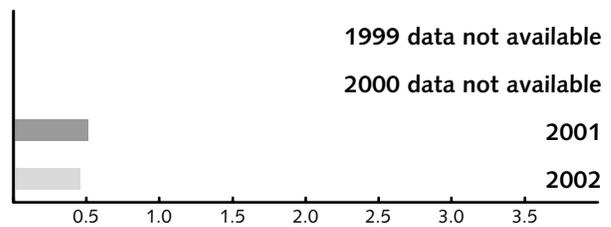


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	0.51	0.46
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	99.49	99.54
Total %	—	—	100.00	100.00
Number	—	—	7,194	7,355

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

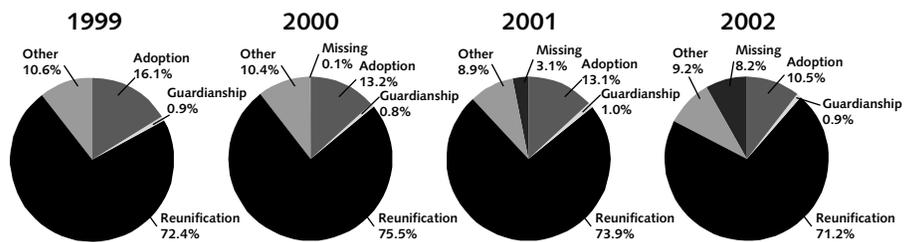


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	16.1	13.2	13.1	10.5
Guardianship	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.9
Reunification	72.4	75.5	73.9	71.2
Other	10.6	10.4	8.9	9.2
Missing data	0.0	0.1	3.1	8.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,853	3,137	3,107	3,407

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	36.1	28.3	29.5	20.8
Guardianship	0.5	1.0	—	0.6
Reunification	36.9	33.2	36.2	29.8
Other	26.5	37.5	32.9	40.5
Missing data	—	—	1.4	8.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	377	304	210	168

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.4
Guardianship	1.0	0.7	1.4	1.6
Reunification	72.6	71.4	70.6	67.4
Other	25.9	27.1	23.7	21.8
Missing data	—	0.1	3.4	8.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	700	720	725	831

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	35.1	37.6	35.0	38.8
Children older than 12 at entry	64.9	62.4	65.0	61.2
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	242	271	214	250

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

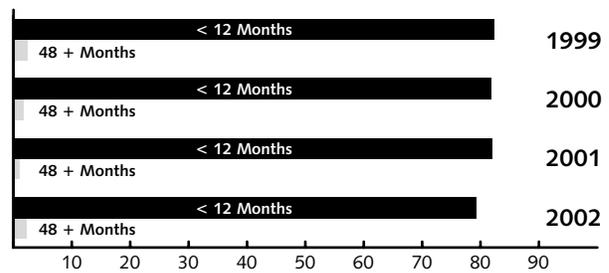
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	50.0	11.1	22.2	—	N/A	9.1	—	14.3	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.6	15.2	14.5	11.3	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	11.1	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.9	0.5	1.0	0.7	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	—	77.8	77.8	33.3	N/A	72.7	77.8	71.4	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	70.4	72.8	72.3	68.5	N/A	100.0	66.7	66.7
Other	50.0	11.1	—	50.0	N/A	18.2	11.1	14.3	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.2	11.5	9.4	10.4	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	16.7	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	2.9	9.1	N/A	—	33.3	33.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2	9	9	6	N/A	11	9	7	10	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,576	1,702	1,666	1,840	N/A	2	3	3

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	7.9	8.7	9.0	8.1	14.5	11.0	11.8	9.6	66.7	—	—	—	N/A	—	12.5	17.2	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.3	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	86.8	87.0	86.5	80.2	74.5	78.3	75.0	73.7	33.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	87.5	79.3	—	—	—	—
Other	5.3	4.3	3.4	4.7	10.0	9.4	8.9	8.1	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	1.1	5.8	0.1	0.1	3.3	7.3	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	3.4	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Number	38	69	89	86	1,220	1,335	1,322	1,420	3	1	1	16	4	8	8	29	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

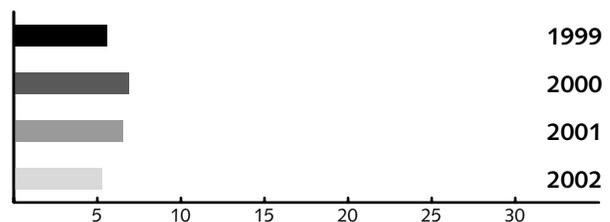
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	82.4	81.8	82.1	79.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	10.1	12.4	12.2	12.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.1	2.8	3.1	3.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.7	0.9	1.1	1.6
48 or more mos.	2.5	1.9	1.2	2.2
Missing data	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,066	2,370	2,296	2,425

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	85.0	85.0	84.3	82.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	5.6	6.9	6.5	5.3
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.7	7.9	8.0	8.3
Missing data	0.7	0.2	1.1	3.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,923	3,172	3,405	3,537

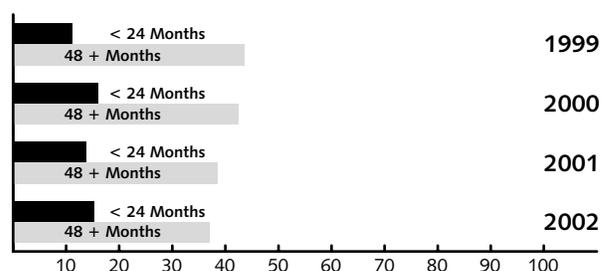
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	2.2	3.4	3.4	3.1
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	9.1	12.6	10.5	12.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	20.0	23.4	23.8	23.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	25.2	18.1	23.3	24.6
48 or more mos.	43.5	42.5	38.5	37.0
Missing data	—	—	0.5	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	460	414	408	357

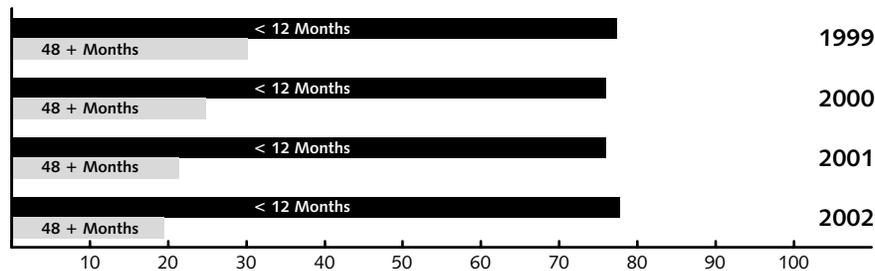
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	77.4	22.6	—	100.0	3,343
	2000	75.9	24.1	—	100.0	3,634
	2001	76.0	24.0	0.0	100.0	3,832
	2002	77.8	22.1	0.0	100.0	4,030
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	51.3	48.4	0.3	100.0	1,198
	2000	42.1	57.9	—	100.0	1,226
	2001	37.4	62.6	—	100.0	1,282
	2002	41.7	58.3	—	100.0	1,388
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	38.4	61.6	—	100.0	659
	2000	36.3	63.7	—	100.0	813
	2001	27.7	72.3	—	100.0	804
	2002	24.6	75.4	—	100.0	809
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	32.3	67.7	—	100.0	567
	2000	26.5	73.5	—	100.0	464
	2001	25.0	75.0	—	100.0	563
	2002	23.3	76.7	—	100.0	572
48 or more mos.	1999	30.2	69.7	0.0	100.0	1,617
	2000	24.8	75.1	0.0	100.0	1,520
	2001	21.4	78.5	0.0	100.0	1,387
	2002	19.4	80.6	—	100.0	1,404
Missing data	1999	92.9	7.1	—	100.0	14
	2000	83.3	16.7	—	100.0	6
	2001	92.3	7.7	—	100.0	13
	2002	86.4	4.5	9.1	100.0	22

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	3.6	3.9	3.4	5.9
Institutions	18.3	13.4	17.0	28.7
Other settings	78.1	82.6	79.5	65.1
Missing data	—	0.1	0.1	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,045	2,346	2,512	2,593

Mary C. Williams, Director
Division of Human Services
South Carolina Department of Social Services
808-898-7832

The following are South Carolina's comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002: Report to Congress*:

- The data in Section D were found to include duplicates, thereby bringing our total in the adoption file (285) closer to the foster care file (293).
- Data for outcome measure 7.1 indicating an increase in the number of children under the age of 12 entering care are accurate. The agency notes the increase and has begun assessing the issue.

The following discussion focuses on South Carolina's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The South Carolina's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2003, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2001. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for South Carolina's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2001*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, South Carolina's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 3.9 percent, which is less than both the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure declined from 2001 (the first year that the State reported data for the measure) to 2002 (+14.7 percent change). However, the State met the national standard in both years.

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

In CY 2002, South Carolina's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.46 percent, which meets the national standard (0.57 percent or less), but is more than the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure improved from 2001 (the first year that the State reported data for the measure) to 2002 (-9.8 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 82.6 percent of children exiting foster care in South Carolina were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 86.1 percent); 51.2 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 69.3 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 38.8 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care, which is more than the national median of 26.9 percent. South Carolina's performance on all of the measures for outcome 3 declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002. These findings suggest that the State is experiencing challenges in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in South Carolina occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 79.3, which is more than the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

Also in FY 2002, the percentage of entries into foster care that were re-entries within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode was 5.3, which is less than the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Performance on this measure improved slightly from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-6.3 percent change). South Carolina was the only States to meet the national standard for both the percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months and the percentage of children re-entering foster care within 12 months of a prior episode. The State had a relatively high percentage of reunifications occurring

within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care and a relatively low rate of entries into foster care that were re-entries within 12 month of a prior episode.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 15.4, which is less than both the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. South Carolina's performance on this measure exhibited no change from FY 2000 to FY 2002.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 77.8, which is less than both the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). South Carolina's performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 34.7, which is the highest in the nation and is 4 times the national median of 8.6 percent. Performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	198,037	199,517	197,879	195,625
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	14.4	13.3	13.5	13.7
Asian	N/A	0.6	0.7	0.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	1.8	2.2	2.3	2.3
White	82.1	80.6	80.3	80.0
Two or more races	N/A	2.3	2.1	2.2
Other	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	7.3	13.3	8.2	12.3

Child Welfare Summary

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	2,561	3,081	3,707	3,961
Children in foster care on 9/30	1,101	1,215	1,367	1,396
Children adopted	84	94	97	145

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	4,709	10,403	9,984	8,411	23.8 per 1,000	52.1 per 1,000	50.5 per 1,000	43.0 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	2,561	3,081	3,707	3,961	12.9 per 1,000	15.4 per 1,000	18.7 per 1,000	20.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	3	6	2	5	1.5 per 100,000	3.0 per 100,000	1.0 per 100,000	2.6 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	0.0	4.1	4.8	4.9
1-5 years	0.0	28.6	29.8	29.7
6-10 years	0.0	30.2	29.0	31.6
11-15 years	0.0	24.4	23.7	24.4
16+ years	0.0	10.5	10.1	8.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	2.3	2.6	1.4
Total %	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,561	3,081	3,707	3,961

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	45.4	45.1	41.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.0	—	—	—
Black	0.0	—	—	—
Hispanic	0.0	—	—	—
White	0.0	48.0	45.1	44.9
Two or more races	0.0	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	6.6	9.8	13.6
Total % ⁴	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,561	3,081	3,707	3,961

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	11.4	11.3	18.3	23.4
Medical neglect	0.0	—	—	—
Neglect	70.9	70.3	78.9	84.4
Physical abuse	25.1	21.5	19.7	20.7
Sexual abuse	10.0	6.3	4.6	4.7
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	0.0	—	—	—
Total % ⁵	117.5	109.4	121.5	133.2
Number	2,561	3,081	3,707	3,961

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	898	1,308	1,106	1,101	2,206
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	816	1,441	1,042	1,215	2,257
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	1,182	1,357	1,173	1,367	2,539
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	1,201	1,348	1,153	1,396	2,549

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	12.7	N/A	2.3	10.5	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	11.3	N/A	2.2	8.3	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	11.3	N/A	2.8	12.4	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	15.0	N/A	2.9	13.7	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	4.6	5.5	5.4	2.7	13.9	12.8	11.3	13.7	9.5	9.7	8.2	8.2	6.3	6.1	3.1	3.8
1-5 years	28.7	27.2	26.5	29.2	33.8	32.8	37.6	33.9	35.8	33.3	37.1	36.5	26.9	29.4	29.7	28.5
6-10 years	29.5	28.8	26.5	26.1	26.0	26.4	25.9	26.6	26.9	27.2	26.4	27.4	27.6	25.8	25.4	25.1
11-15 years	28.1	27.7	30.8	30.4	20.6	21.9	20.6	20.5	18.9	19.8	18.6	18.6	28.9	28.9	29.9	30.1
16-18 years	8.9	10.3	10.6	11.5	5.3	5.8	4.3	5.1	8.4	9.7	9.2	9.0	10.1	9.5	11.7	12.2
19+ years	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	—	—	—	—	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.2	0.2	—	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3	—	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	898	816	1,182	1,201	1,308	1,441	1,357	1,348	1,106	1,042	1,173	1,153	1,101	1,215	1,367	1,396

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	63.8	63.4	61.4	59.8	60.2	59.7	59.8	57.9	59.2	60.3	59.7	58.7	64.2	61.6	61.3	58.8
Asian	N/A	0.1	—	0.4	N/A	0.1	0.3	—	N/A	0.0	—	0.2	N/A	0.2	0.3	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	1.8	2.3	1.4	1.2	2.7	2.2	1.5	2.4	2.4	2.9	1.2	1.3	2.2	1.6	1.6	2.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	0.0	0.0	N/A	—	0.0	—	N/A	—	0.0	—	N/A	—	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	1.9	3.6	3.6	3.9	3.4	4.2	4.7	5.1	2.0	4.1	4.6	4.3	3.5	3.9	3.8	4.7
White	32.3	29.0	30.8	30.9	32.7	31.3	29.3	30.6	35.9	30.8	30.9	30.5	29.2	30.2	29.3	30.9
Two or more races	N/A	1.2	2.6	3.7	N/A	2.0	2.7	3.6	N/A	1.1	2.0	4.5	N/A	2.3	3.2	2.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.2	0.4	0.2	—	0.8	0.5	1.6	0.4	0.4	0.8	1.6	0.4	0.7	0.2	0.4	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	898	816	1,182	1,201	1,308	1,441	1,357	1,348	1,106	1,042	1,173	1,153	1,101	1,215	1,367	1,396

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	284	311	411	445
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	198	238	332	390

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	8.5	4.2	3.2	1.1
1-5 years	26.1	32.8	29.2	28.8
6-10 years	32.4	28.6	28.5	27.9
11-15 years	27.5	31.5	31.9	33.0
16+ years	5.3	2.6	6.6	7.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.4	0.3	0.7	1.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	284	311	411	445

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	58.1	56.6	57.9	53.7
Asian	N/A	—	0.2	0.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	2.8	2.6	1.9	2.2
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	4.2	4.8	3.2	4.7
White	33.5	34.4	33.8	34.6
Two or more races	N/A	1.6	2.9	4.3
Unknown/Missing data	1.1	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	284	311	411	445

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.2	4.3	2.1	1.4
1-5 years	45.2	55.3	51.5	54.5
6-10 years	39.3	26.6	37.1	31.0
11-15 years	9.5	13.8	7.2	12.4
16+ years	4.8	—	2.1	0.7
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	84	94	97	145

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	46.4	51.1	41.2	56.6
Asian	N/A	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	2.4	—	2.1	0.7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	3.6	6.4	11.3	4.1
White	46.4	37.2	41.2	34.5
Two or more races	N/A	5.3	4.1	4.1
Unknown/Missing data	1.2	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	84	94	97	145

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

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

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

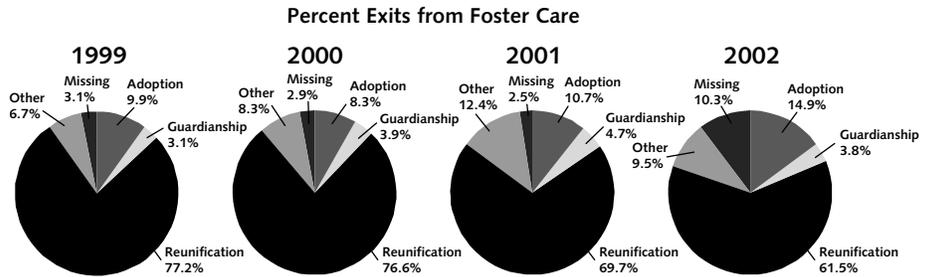
2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	9.9	8.3	10.7	14.9
Guardianship	3.1	3.9	4.7	3.8
Reunification	77.2	76.6	69.7	61.5
Other	6.7	8.3	12.4	9.5
Missing data	3.1	2.9	2.5	10.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,106	1,042	1,173	1,153



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	23.9	29.1	29.2	33.1
Guardianship	8.0	4.5	6.9	4.8
Reunification	44.2	37.3	33.8	36.3
Other	17.7	20.9	26.9	20.2
Missing data	6.2	8.2	3.1	5.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	113	110	130	124

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.5	1.0	—	1.1
Guardianship	4.9	5.6	3.8	2.7
Reunification	68.3	73.2	67.6	59.6
Other	18.0	15.7	23.8	28.4
Missing data	8.2	4.5	4.9	8.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	183	198	185	183

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	21.7	21.7	26.2	9.8
Children older than 12 at entry	78.3	78.3	73.8	90.2
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	23	23	42	41

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

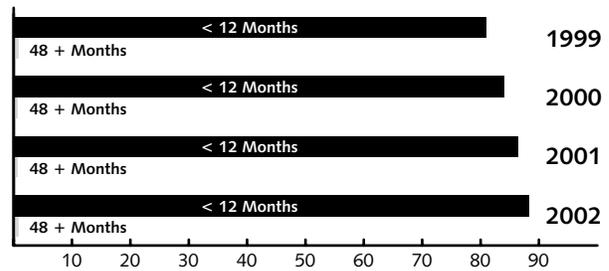
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	6.6	6.5	7.1	12.6	N/A	100.0	—	100.0	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.4	6.7	42.9	13.3	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	2.6	4.6	4.9	3.2	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	80.9	76.8	70.9	61.4	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	92.6	83.3	42.9	73.3	N/A	—	100.0	—
Other	6.9	9.1	14.1	9.9	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	10.0	14.3	13.3	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	3.1	3.0	3.0	12.9	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	—	100.0	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	100.0	—
Number	655	628	700	677	N/A	1	—	2	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	27	30	14	15	N/A	—	1	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	9.1	11.6	20.4	12.0	15.6	11.2	14.4	19.9	25.0	12.5	—	—	N/A	9.1	30.4	13.5	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	1.9	4.0	4.3	3.4	4.7	4.8	—	12.5	—	—	N/A	—	13.0	5.8	—	—	—	—
Reunification	68.2	67.4	66.7	62.0	70.8	76.9	69.6	61.4	75.0	75.0	84.2	80.0	N/A	81.8	43.5	59.6	—	—	—	—
Other	18.2	16.3	11.1	12.0	6.3	5.6	9.1	7.4	—	—	15.8	20.0	N/A	9.1	13.0	13.5	—	—	—	—
Missing data	4.5	4.7	—	10.0	3.0	2.8	2.2	6.5	—	—	—	—	100.0	—	—	7.7	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Number	22	43	54	50	397	321	362	352	4	8	19	5	1	11	23	52	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

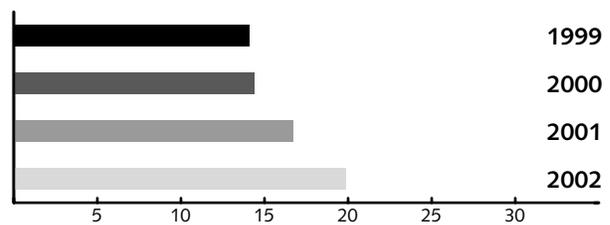
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	81.1	84.0	86.5	88.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	9.4	6.8	7.1	6.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	2.2	1.3	2.1	2.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	0.4	0.9	0.7	0.3
48 or more mos.	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.8
Missing data	6.0	6.6	3.1	1.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	854	798	817	709

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	62.1	65.9	69.0	71.2
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	14.1	14.4	16.7	19.9
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	22.5	17.8	14.0	8.5
Missing data	1.3	1.8	0.4	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,308	1,441	1,357	1,348

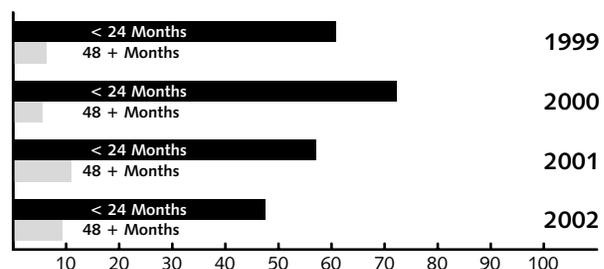
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	24.5	31.0	26.2	19.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	36.4	41.4	31.0	28.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	28.2	19.5	20.6	34.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	4.5	2.3	11.1	8.1
48 or more mos.	6.4	5.7	11.1	9.3
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	110	87	126	172

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



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	84.9	13.8	1.4	100.0	1,387
	2000	85.3	13.8	0.9	100.0	1,529
	2001	84.7	15.1	0.2	100.0	1,544
	2002	81.8	16.7	1.5	100.0	1,487
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	68.3	31.7	—	100.0	357
	2000	58.0	41.7	0.3	100.0	319
	2001	57.4	42.3	0.2	100.0	470
	2002	54.2	45.8	—	100.0	406
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	46.0	53.4	0.6	100.0	176
	2000	51.1	48.9	—	100.0	137
	2001	50.6	49.4	—	100.0	168
	2002	32.5	67.5	—	100.0	295
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	41.6	57.1	1.3	100.0	77
	2000	39.6	60.4	—	100.0	96
	2001	57.1	42.9	—	100.0	105
	2002	29.6	70.4	—	100.0	108
48 or more mos.	1999	35.3	64.0	0.7	100.0	139
	2000	39.6	60.4	—	100.0	111
	2001	44.2	55.8	—	100.0	226
	2002	22.7	77.3	—	100.0	229
Missing data	1999	95.7	4.3	—	100.0	70
	2000	92.3	1.5	6.2	100.0	65
	2001	96.2	3.8	—	100.0	26
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	24

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	0.7	1.2	1.7	3.5
Institutions	15.1	15.3	13.7	16.7
Other settings	83.3	83.3	84.6	79.9
Missing data	1.0	0.3	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,015	1,108	1,110	1,093

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605-773-3227

The following are South Dakota’s comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002: Report to Congress*:

- The data in Section C - Median Length of Stay - indicate that the median length of stay on 9/30/01 was 12.4 months while it was 15.1 months one day later (on 10/1/01). In our AFCARS submissions prior to the FFY -2002 A submission, the State reported that the child was discharged from foster care when the placement became an adoptive placement rather than at the time of adoptive finalization. Effective with the FFY -2002 A submission, the state reports discharges at the time of finalization. This accounts for the increase in median length of stay between the report ending on 9-30-2001 and the report ending on 3-30-2002 which includes the 10-01-01 date.
- The data in Section E - Number of Children Adopted indicate that 145 children were reported to the AFCARS Adoption Database as adopted in FY 2002. However, the data for outcome measures 3.1 and 5.1 indicate that 172 children were reported to the AFCARS Foster Care Database as discharged to a finalized adoption in FY 2002. In our AFCARS submissions prior to the FFY -2002 A file, the State incorrectly reported that the child was discharged from foster care when the placement became an adoptive placement rather than at the time of adoptive finalization. Effective with the FFY -2002 A submission, the State reports discharges at the time of finalization. This is the reason why outcome measures 3.1 and 5.1 indicate a high number of discharges to adoption as compared to the AFCARS Adoption Database.
- There are no data for outcome measure 1.1 - Recurrence of maltreatment within 6 months because South Dakota was not fully participating in NCANDS at that time.

South Dakota’s data for outcome measure 1.1 is as follows:

	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence (%)	88.9	79.1	84.7
Children with one or more recurrence (%)	11.1	20.9	15.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1314	1808	1972

- The data for outcome measure 4.2 indicate that 19.9 percent of children entering foster care were re-entering care within 12 months of discharge from a prior foster care episode. The national median for this measure is 9.7 percent. The State is working on this issue in its Program Improvement Plan (PIP). The goal in the PIP is to reduce the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode to 18.55 by September 2005. The State is developing a process and policy to implement ongoing assessment of children and families after the initial family assessment and throughout the life of the case. The process will include a family assessment, an individual assessment, and an assessment document. This will lead to better safety assessment, discharge planning and aftercare support for the family.

The following discussion focuses on South Dakota's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The South Dakota Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2001 and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 1999. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for South Dakota's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

South Dakota's performance on outcome 1 cannot be assessed as part of the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating this outcome. To ensure data consistency across States, only data submitted through NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, the State provided 1999 data for this outcome for the CFSR using an alternative source. For that year, the State reported that 11.1 percent of the children who were the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report during the first 6 months of the calendar year experienced another substantiated or indicated maltreatment within 6 months of the first report. This does not meet the national standard of 6.1 percent or less.

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

South Dakota's performance on outcome 2 cannot be evaluated as part of the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to NCANDS for calculating this outcome. In order to ensure data consistency across States, only data submitted through the NCANDS system are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, the State provided 1999 data for this outcome for the CFSR using an alternative source. For that year, the State reported that 0.57 percent of the children in foster care for the first 9 months of the calendar year were the victims of maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member. This is equal to the national standard of 0.57 percent or less.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 80.2 percent of children exiting foster care in South Dakota were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 86.1 percent); 74.2 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 63.4 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent). These findings suggest that the State experiences challenges in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care. However, only 9.8 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care, which is less than the national median of 26.9 percent.

South Dakota's performance declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to exits to permanency for all children (-11.1 percent change), as well as for children who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care (-14.1 percent change). Performance relative to exits to permanency for children with a diagnosed disability did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002. However, performance improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 in terms of the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (-55.1 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in South Dakota occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 88.3, which is more than the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months improved slightly from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+8.8 percent change).

Because the cross-State analyses found a substantial positive relationship between State variation in performance on this measure and State variation in the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, South Dakota's performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For South Dakota, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode was 19.9 percent, which is more than the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Thus, while South Dakota had a high percentage of reunifications within 12 months, the State also had a high rate of re-entry into foster care within 12 months. State performance on the measure of foster care re-entry declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+40.6 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 47.7, which is more than the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. South Dakota's performance on this measure declined from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (-34.2 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 81.8, which is less than the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). South Dakota's performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 20.1, which is considerably more than the national median of 8.6 percent. In addition, South Dakota's performance on this measure declined substantially from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+27.7 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	1,340,930	1,391,832	1,397,933	1,404,661
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	N/A	1.0	1.1	1.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	21.4	21.1	21.2	21.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	1.7	2.8	2.9	3.1
White	75.4	73.0	73.0	72.7
Two or more races	N/A	1.6	1.5	1.6
Other	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	17.4	19.7	20.4	19.4

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	10,611	16,572	9,571	8,494
Children in foster care on 9/30	10,796	10,144	9,679	9,359
Children adopted	382	431	646	922

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	33,629	51,917	50,870	37,525	25.1 per 1,000	37.3 per 1,000	36.4 per 1,000	26.7 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	10,611	16,572	9,571	8,494	7.9 per 1,000	11.9 per 1,000	6.8 per 1,000	6.1 per 1,000
Child fatalities	16	3	13	18	1.2 per 100,000	0.2 per 100,000	0.9 per 100,000	1.3 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	9.1	9.9	10.8	10.3
1-5 years	30.5	30.9	31.1	30.8
6-10 years	31.1	29.4	28.7	27.9
11-15 years	23.8	24.0	24.2	24.5
16+ years	5.2	5.7	5.1	6.4
Unknown/Missing data	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	10,611	16,572	9,571	8,494

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.3
Black	31.6	30.4	29.8	27.8
Hispanic	1.5	1.0	1.9	2.4
White	62.5	64.2	57.0	60.0
Two or more races	2.3	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	3.2	4.0	16.8	9.3
Total % ⁴	101.5	100.0	106.4	100.0
Number	10,611	16,572	9,571	8,494

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	1.2	2.3	1.1	1.4
Medical neglect	3.1	3.3	2.8	7.2
Neglect	43.5	42.9	39.5	45.0
Physical abuse	20.0	20.0	16.4	34.0
Sexual abuse	21.0	21.0	24.4	26.2
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	11.2	10.5	20.0	6.0
Total % ⁵	100.0	100.0	104.2	119.8
Number	10,611	16,572	9,571	8,494

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	8,296	5,968	3,481	10,796	14,264
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	9,034	5,480	4,370	10,144	14,514
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	9,101	5,667	5,089	9,679	14,768
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	8,755	6,047	5,443	9,359	14,802

Median Length of Stay (Months)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	17.5				N/A				12.3				13.6			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	17.9				N/A				11.8				16.8			N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	17.4				N/A				12.0				15.6			N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	16.5				N/A				11.7				13.2			N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.8	9.0	7.8	8.6	9.4	2.6	2.3	3.2	3.6	3.2	2.5	2.8	3.3
1-5 years	18.5	17.4	18.3	18.1	13.1	13.9	14.8	16.1	15.5	13.3	16.2	17.4	16.6	17.3	17.1	17.3
6-10 years	18.9	18.9	18.9	18.7	12.6	12.5	12.2	12.0	11.9	12.2	13.1	14.7	17.6	17.4	17.6	16.2
11-15 years	30.8	30.8	32.0	32.3	35.3	36.6	34.7	34.1	19.1	21.2	21.9	22.0	29.8	30.9	31.5	31.3
16-18 years	28.3	29.2	28.3	28.0	30.0	29.2	29.7	28.4	48.5	48.0	44.1	41.0	31.8	31.1	31.0	31.8
19+ years	0.7	0.9	—	—	—	0.0	—	—	2.0	2.7	1.4	1.3	1.0	0.7	0.1	0.0
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.1	—	—	0.0	—	—	—	0.4	0.3	—	—	0.1	0.1	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,296	9,034	9,101	8,755	5,968	5,480	5,667	6,047	3,481	4,370	5,089	5,443	10,796	10,144	9,679	9,359

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	N/A	0.4	0.4	0.3	N/A	0.4	0.2	0.2	N/A	0.4	0.4	0.3	N/A	0.4	0.3	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	38.2	40.0	38.1	36.2	35.2	30.4	28.1	27.4	29.9	31.5	30.9	29.8	39.2	38.4	36.0	34.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	0.0	0.0	—	N/A	0.0	0.0	—	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	1.4	1.6	1.9	2.2	1.6	2.4	2.9	3.6	1.2	2.2	2.8	3.0	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.7
White	59.5	56.7	57.5	58.6	61.5	64.5	65.3	66.2	67.5	64.8	63.6	64.2	58.0	57.4	58.8	60.2
Two or more races	N/A	1.2	1.8	2.3	N/A	1.0	2.0	1.4	N/A	0.3	1.7	1.6	N/A	1.4	1.9	2.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.5	0.0	0.3	0.2	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,296	9,034	9,101	8,755	5,968	5,480	5,667	6,047	3,481	4,370	5,089	5,443	10,796	10,144	9,679	9,359

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	1,666	2,044	2,289	2,346
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	992	397	480	442

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	2.1	1.5	1.8	1.8
1-5 years	23.9	27.4	26.5	24.3
6-10 years	34.1	35.9	33.1	29.1
11-15 years	30.0	29.4	33.2	36.0
16+ years	8.1	4.9	5.2	8.4
Unknown/Missing data	1.7	0.9	0.2	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,666	2,044	2,289	2,346

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3
Asian	N/A	0.2	0.4	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	48.3	45.7	43.4	39.6
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	1.9	1.9	1.8	3.1
White	49.1	49.7	51.6	53.7
Two or more races	N/A	2.3	2.4	2.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,666	2,044	2,289	2,346

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.0	0.5	1.1	1.6
1-5 years	44.5	35.3	35.3	33.8
6-10 years	34.0	40.6	37.5	35.8
11-15 years	17.0	20.4	21.5	24.8
16+ years	3.4	3.2	4.6	3.9
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	382	431	646	922

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.8	—	0.2	—
Asian	N/A	—	—	0.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	37.4	38.3	31.0	35.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	2.4	3.0	4.5	3.5
White	59.2	56.1	57.0	53.8
Two or more races	N/A	1.4	7.3	6.3
Unknown/Missing data	0.3	1.2	0.2	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	382	431	646	922

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

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

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

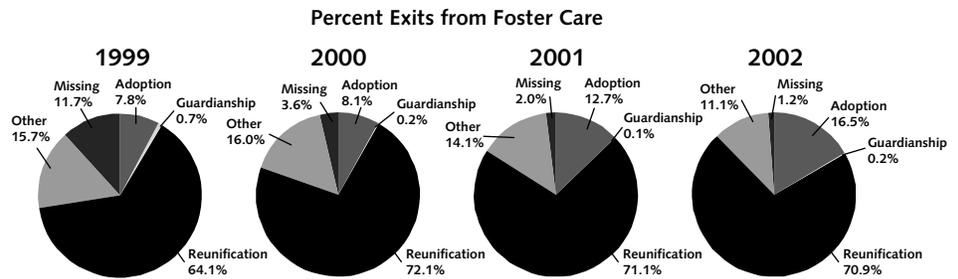
2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	7.8	8.1	12.7	16.5
Guardianship	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.2
Reunification	64.1	72.1	71.1	70.9
Other	15.7	16.0	14.1	11.1
Missing data	11.7	3.6	2.0	1.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,481	4,370	5,089	5,443



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	18.2	24.4	43.4	50.0
Guardianship	0.7	—	0.3	0.4
Reunification	44.2	52.0	41.8	37.8
Other	22.6	20.0	13.5	11.1
Missing data	14.2	3.6	1.0	0.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	274	225	392	458

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.4
Guardianship	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0
Reunification	64.4	73.6	74.4	78.8
Other	22.3	22.0	22.3	18.6
Missing data	12.8	4.2	3.0	2.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,045	2,599	2,793	2,779

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	14.5	17.8	12.7	11.1
Children older than 12 at entry	84.9	82.2	87.3	88.9
Missing data	0.6	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	496	596	581	488

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

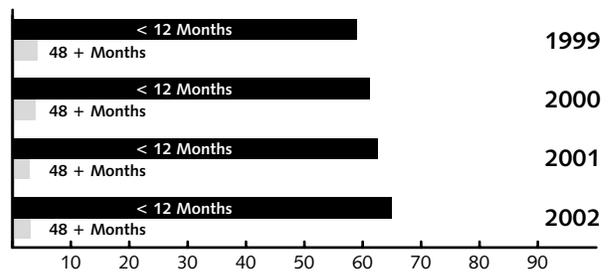
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	4.8	22.2	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.5	7.8	13.9	20.0	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	11.1	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.3	0.1	—	0.5	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	77.8	72.7	87.5	90.9	N/A	75.0	66.7	55.6	71.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	65.9	70.1	68.2	67.4	N/A	—	100.0	—
Other	11.1	18.2	—	9.1	N/A	18.8	28.6	16.7	28.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.7	17.6	15.8	11.1	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	—	9.1	12.5	—	N/A	6.3	—	5.6	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.6	4.4	2.0	1.0	N/A	100.0	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	—
Number	9	11	8	11	N/A	16	21	18	14	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,041	1,378	1,571	1,623	N/A	1	2	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	11.9	10.4	15.4	14.8	7.9	8.2	11.7	14.7	4.2	—	13.6	4.4	N/A	21.4	22.4	35.2	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	1.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	61.9	69.8	69.9	77.8	63.1	73.0	72.5	72.4	83.3	85.0	72.7	86.7	N/A	71.4	69.4	52.3	—	100.0	—	—
Other	14.3	11.5	12.6	4.3	15.8	15.6	13.5	11.5	4.2	—	9.1	6.7	N/A	7.1	7.1	11.4	—	—	—	—
Missing data	11.9	8.3	2.1	1.9	12.7	2.9	2.0	1.3	8.3	15.0	4.5	2.2	N/A	—	1.2	1.1	100.0	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—
Number	42	96	143	162	2,350	2,833	3,237	3,496	24	20	22	45	N/A	14	85	88	1	1	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

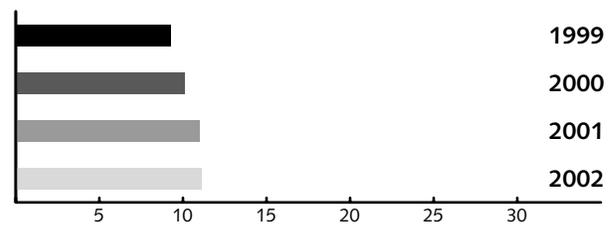
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	59.0	61.3	62.5	65.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	24.8	23.4	23.4	22.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	8.2	6.9	7.7	6.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.3	3.5	3.1	2.4
48 or more mos.	4.3	4.0	3.0	3.1
Missing data	0.5	0.9	0.3	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,233	3,150	3,617	3,857

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	84.2	83.1	81.9	81.2
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	9.3	10.1	11.0	11.1
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	6.2	6.8	7.0	7.7
Missing data	0.4	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,968	5,480	5,667	6,047

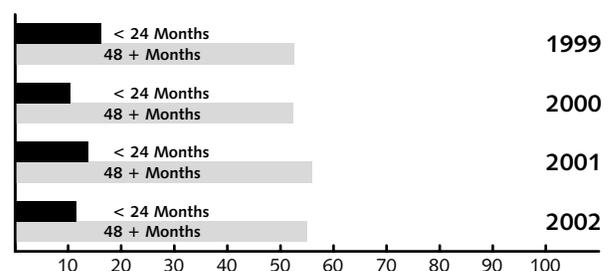
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	3.0	3.1	1.7	2.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.3	7.4	12.1	9.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	17.4	17.3	13.7	16.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	13.3	19.5	16.3	16.8
48 or more mos.	52.6	52.4	56.1	55.1
Missing data	0.4	0.3	0.2	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	270	353	644	899

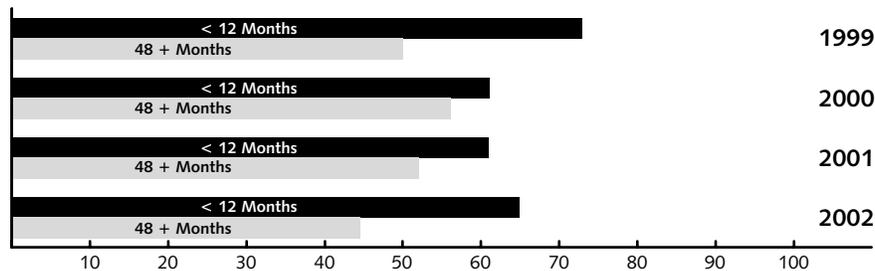
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	72.9	25.2	1.9	100.0	6,734
	2000	61.1	32.4	6.5	100.0	6,334
	2001	61.0	36.8	2.2	100.0	6,726
	2002	64.9	32.5	2.6	100.0	7,110
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	52.2	47.3	0.5	100.0	2,876
	2000	47.4	49.6	3.0	100.0	2,950
	2001	40.4	58.8	0.8	100.0	2,981
	2002	35.3	64.2	0.5	100.0	2,990
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	51.0	48.8	0.2	100.0	1,448
	2000	53.5	44.0	2.5	100.0	1,635
	2001	43.4	55.8	0.8	100.0	1,606
	2002	34.6	65.0	0.4	100.0	1,480
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	48.5	51.2	0.3	100.0	934
	2000	54.4	43.5	2.0	100.0	981
	2001	50.7	49.2	0.0	100.0	1,050
	2002	37.0	62.2	0.8	100.0	952
48 or more mos.	1999	50.0	49.6	0.4	100.0	2,245
	2000	56.2	41.0	2.8	100.0	2,556
	2001	52.1	47.4	0.5	100.0	2,383
	2002	44.5	54.9	0.6	100.0	2,228
Missing data	1999	81.5	14.8	3.7	100.0	27
	2000	34.5	—	65.5	100.0	58
	2001	50.0	4.5	45.5	100.0	22
	2002	57.1	2.4	40.5	100.0	42

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	8.3	5.9	4.6	2.3
Institutions	6.8	7.6	4.2	2.2
Other settings	84.5	86.4	91.2	95.5
Missing data	0.4	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,264	1,987	2,296	2,526

Tennessee

[STATE COMMENT]

The following discussion focuses on Tennessee's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Tennessee Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2002, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2000. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Tennessee's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

Tennessee's performance on outcome 1 cannot be assessed as part of the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating this outcome. To ensure data consistency across States, only data submitted through NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, the State provided year 2000 data for this outcome for the CFSR using an alternative source. For that year, the State reported that 2.8 percent of the children who were the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report during the first 6 months of the calendar year experienced another substantiated or indicated maltreatment within 6 months of the first report. This meets the national standard of 6.1 percent or less.

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

Tennessee's performance on outcome 2 cannot be evaluated as part of the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to NCANDS for calculating this outcome. In order to ensure data consistency across States, only data submitted through the NCANDS system are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, the State provided year 2000 data for this outcome for its CFSR using an alternative source. For that year, the State reported that 0.60 percent of children who were in foster care during the first 9 months of the calendar year were victims of maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member. This does not meet the national standard of 0.57 percent or less.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 87.6 percent of children exiting foster care in Tennessee were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 86.1 percent); 88.2 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 79.3 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 11.1 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care, which is less than the national median of 26.9 percent. Tennessee's performance on all of the measures for outcome 3 exhibited improvement from FY 1999 to FY 2002. These findings suggest that the State is generally successful in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Tennessee occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 65.0, which is less than the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). However, performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+10.2 percent change).

Also in FY 2002, the percentage of entries into foster care that were re-entries within 12 months of a prior foster care episode was 11.1, which is more than the national standard (8.6 percent or less) and the national median (9.9 percent). Performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+20.1 percent change). A cross-State analyses of this measure found a substantial positive relationship between State variation in performance on this measure in FY 2002 and State variation in the percentage of children age 16 and older who entered foster care in FY 2002. Tennessee had both a relatively high rate (above the national median) of foster care re-entry (11.1 percent) and a relatively high percentage (in the top quartile) of children age 16 and older entering foster care (28.4 percent).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 11.8, which is less than the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Tennessee's performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+12.5 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 64.9, which is less than the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Tennessee's performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-10.9 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 4.5, which is less than the national median of 8.6 percent. Tennessee's performance on this measure improved considerably from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-70.1 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	5,719,234	5,977,298	6,027,691	6,102,316
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Asian	N/A	2.4	2.5	2.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	12.3	12.4	12.4	12.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	39.1	40.5	41.3	41.9
White	45.7	42.6	42.2	41.7
Two or more races	N/A	1.6	1.3	1.3
Other	N/A	0.1	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	22.1	22.9	21.1	21.6

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	39,488	45,800	44,623	48,808
Children in foster care on 9/30	16,326	18,190	19,739	21,353
Children adopted	2,054	2,045	2,319	2,297

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	170,834	193,966	197,838	210,375	29.9 per 1,000	32.5 per 1,000	32.8 per 1,000	34.5 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	39,488	45,800	44,623	48,808	6.9 per 1,000	7.7 per 1,000	7.4 per 1,000	8.0 per 1,000
Child fatalities	143	177	206	206	2.5 per 100,000	3.0 per 100,000	3.4 per 100,000	3.4 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	10.7	11.3	12.5	12.0
1-5 years	33.0	30.3	34.6	35.1
6-10 years	31.3	26.2	28.9	28.1
11-15 years	21.1	18.5	20.4	20.6
16+ years	3.9	3.0	3.4	4.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	10.8	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	39,488	45,800	44,623	48,808

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.4
Black	24.5	20.4	19.4	18.7
Hispanic	33.7	36.6	38.7	39.3
White	73.2	38.7	37.6	37.5
Two or more races	0.5	2.0	2.1	2.4
Unknown/Missing data	0.9	1.7	1.5	1.5
Total % ⁴	133.7	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	39,488	45,800	44,623	48,808

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	3.5	3.4	3.0	2.5
Medical neglect	5.1	4.7	4.9	4.8
Neglect	59.6	59.3	60.6	61.7
Physical abuse	29.3	28.2	27.7	26.9
Sexual abuse	14.9	14.6	14.8	15.4
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	3.5	1.4	1.1	0.9
Total % ⁵	115.9	111.6	112.1	112.2
Number	39,488	45,800	44,623	48,808

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	15,582	8,938	8,200	16,326	24,520
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	16,303	9,869	7,989	18,190	26,172
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	17,914	10,680	8,858	19,739	28,594
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	18,695	11,766	9,108	21,353	30,461

Median Length of Stay (Months)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	20.1				N/A				15.8				14.5			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	15.8				N/A				13.6				13.6			N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	14.4				N/A				14.0				13.5			N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	13.6				N/A				13.7				13.2			N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	5.2	6.8	7.0	7.2	20.1	20.7	20.7	20.9	5.2	5.6	5.5	5.6	7.0	7.4	7.4	7.6
1-5 years	26.3	26.3	27.7	29.2	31.4	32.5	33.2	33.4	34.1	36.1	38.7	40.5	26.8	28.3	29.4	30.1
6-10 years	26.1	25.4	24.7	23.0	22.8	22.6	21.4	20.8	22.6	23.3	22.5	20.7	25.5	24.7	23.1	22.6
11-15 years	28.9	29.0	28.6	28.5	20.3	20.2	20.3	19.7	17.5	17.1	16.0	15.3	28.5	27.9	28.3	27.8
16-18 years	13.5	12.5	11.9	12.0	5.4	3.9	4.4	5.2	20.0	17.6	17.3	17.9	12.1	11.6	11.8	11.8
19+ years	0.1	0.0	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	0.5	0.2	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	—	—	0.0	—	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	15,582	16,303	17,914	18,695	8,938	9,869	10,680	11,766	8,200	7,989	8,858	9,108	16,326	18,190	19,739	21,353

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2
Asian	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.3	N/A	0.4	0.5	0.4	N/A	0.4	0.4	0.4	N/A	0.3	0.3	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	31.8	30.2	29.1	27.8	26.8	25.4	24.6	25.5	30.1	27.6	27.0	25.8	29.9	28.7	27.6	27.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	32.4	33.5	33.8	35.1	35.9	35.3	37.6	36.6	33.3	34.3	35.7	35.4	33.8	34.1	35.0	35.8
White	32.5	32.7	33.0	33.1	33.0	34.4	33.3	33.0	32.7	33.7	32.7	34.4	32.7	33.1	33.3	32.5
Two or more races	N/A	2.4	2.8	2.8	N/A	3.3	3.0	3.4	N/A	2.6	3.0	3.1	N/A	2.7	2.8	3.0
Unknown/Missing data	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.4	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	15,582	16,303	17,914	18,695	8,938	9,869	10,680	11,766	8,200	7,989	8,858	9,108	16,326	18,190	19,739	21,353

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	6,616	7,200	7,931	8,517
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	5,067	5,483	6,104	6,531

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	4.3	4.6	5.0	5.3
1-5 years	29.7	30.5	31.2	32.0
6-10 years	33.1	31.3	29.2	27.5
11-15 years	29.1	29.4	30.2	30.6
16+ years	3.8	4.2	4.3	4.6
Unknown/Missing data	—	0.0	—	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,616	7,200	7,931	8,517

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3
Asian	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	32.6	31.0	30.9	30.0
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	32.8	34.0	33.3	35.2
White	30.4	30.8	31.3	30.5
Two or more races	N/A	2.9	3.2	3.3
Unknown/Missing data	3.5	0.8	0.7	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,616	7,200	7,931	8,517

E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	2.9	3.2	3.8	3.0
1-5 years	49.2	52.6	54.6	57.7
6-10 years	32.1	30.2	28.8	26.5
11-15 years	14.6	12.7	11.6	11.2
16+ years	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.7
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,054	2,045	2,319	2,297

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.5	0.2	—
Asian	N/A	0.1	0.1	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	30.0	25.9	23.7	25.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	0.0	—
Hispanic	35.4	37.0	38.5	36.7
White	30.5	31.6	32.0	33.1
Two or more races	N/A	3.3	4.4	3.8
Unknown/Missing data	3.7	1.6	0.9	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,054	2,045	2,319	2,297

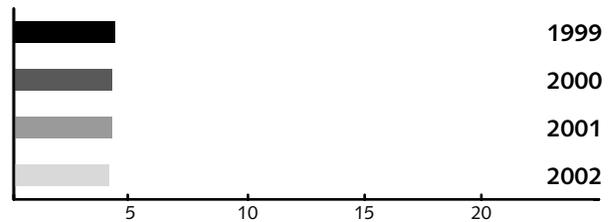
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	95.7	95.8	95.8	95.9
Children with one or more recurrences	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	20,929	22,290	22,414	24,467

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

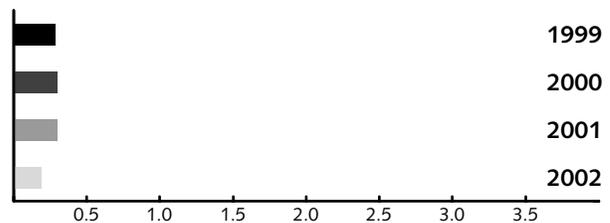


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.28	0.30	0.30	0.19
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.72	99.70	99.70	99.81
Total %	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	22,791	24,147	26,378	28,098

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

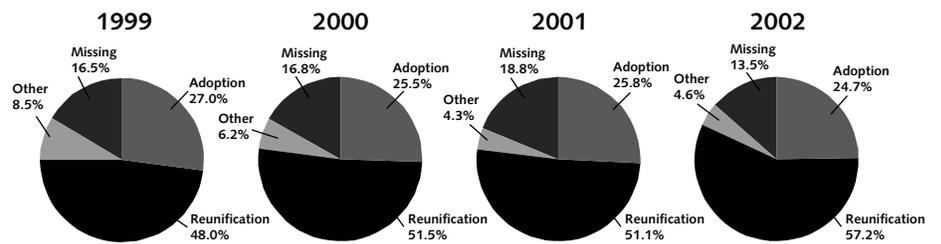


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	27.0	25.5	25.8	24.7
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	48.0	51.5	51.1	57.2
Other	8.5	6.2	4.3	4.6
Missing data	16.5	16.8	18.8	13.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,200	7,989	8,858	9,108

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	31.4	32.0	33.2	31.8
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	40.7	40.2	40.1	44.5
Other	12.8	9.7	7.0	7.7
Missing data	15.2	18.1	19.7	15.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,936	2,107	2,326	2,484

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	1.3	2.0	1.1	1.9
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	28.8	34.0	31.2	38.0
Other	20.9	17.6	12.9	14.0
Missing data	49.0	46.5	54.8	46.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,489	1,427	1,507	1,656

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	56.4	52.9	50.2	46.9
Children older than 12 at entry	43.6	47.1	49.8	53.1
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	569	365	259	288

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

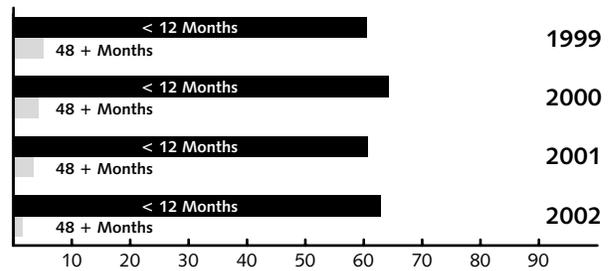
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	13.8	37.9	14.8	—	N/A	9.1	8.8	11.4	4.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	24.5	23.5	22.7	24.2	N/A	—	100.0	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	48.3	48.3	63.0	77.8	N/A	84.8	76.5	71.4	92.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	49.5	49.9	50.1	54.1	N/A	100.0	—	83.3
Other	20.7	3.4	7.4	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.9	6.4	5.2	5.0	N/A	—	—	16.7
Missing data	17.2	10.3	14.8	22.2	N/A	6.1	14.7	17.1	4.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	18.1	20.3	22.0	16.6	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	29	29	27	9	N/A	33	34	35	25	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,470	2,202	2,395	2,349	N/A	2	1	6

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	30.4	27.8	28.0	25.7	25.6	24.5	25.1	23.8	43.2	35.3	28.8	32.8	27.7	29.9	37.1	29.1	14.3	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	45.6	50.4	49.2	57.8	48.8	53.9	53.7	58.2	38.9	35.3	50.7	50.0	57.4	55.0	50.2	63.2	9.5	—	—	20.0
Other	8.1	5.5	3.9	3.9	10.0	7.1	4.3	5.3	5.3	2.9	1.4	4.7	3.4	2.4	2.6	1.4	—	—	—	—
Missing data	15.9	16.3	18.9	12.7	15.7	14.5	16.9	12.7	12.6	26.5	19.2	12.5	11.5	12.8	10.1	6.3	76.2	100.0	100.0	80.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,730	2,740	3,158	3,224	2,682	2,694	2,900	3,131	95	68	73	64	148	211	267	285	21	10	3	5

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

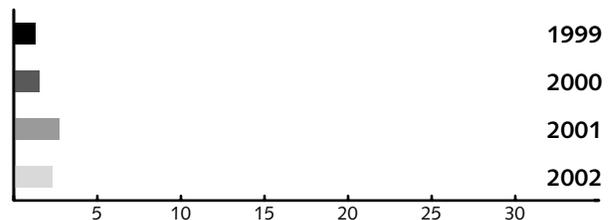
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	60.6	64.4	60.7	62.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	25.1	26.7	31.3	32.3
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.6	3.4	3.2	2.2
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.3	1.1	1.1	0.9
48 or more mos.	5.3	4.3	3.4	1.6
Missing data	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,938	4,115	4,524	5,206

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	96.4	95.9	92.1	90.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	1.3	1.5	2.7	2.3
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	1.1	1.5	2.0	2.5
Missing data	1.2	1.0	3.2	4.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,938	9,869	10,680	11,766

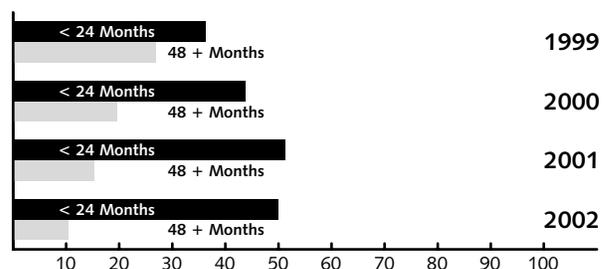
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	7.1	7.9	9.1	7.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	29.2	36.0	42.2	43.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	20.8	23.3	23.2	30.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	16.0	13.2	10.1	9.1
48 or more mos.	26.9	19.7	15.3	10.5
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,211	2,038	2,285	2,252

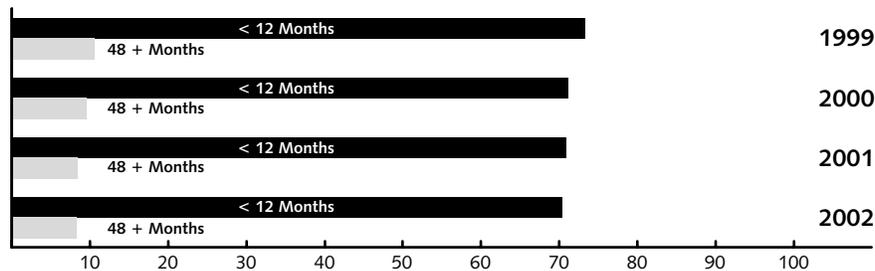
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	73.3	26.7	0.0	100.0	10,684
	2000	71.2	28.8	—	100.0	11,845
	2001	70.9	28.7	0.4	100.0	12,887
	2002	70.3	25.4	4.3	100.0	14,088
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	42.7	57.3	—	100.0	4,593
	2000	44.5	55.5	—	100.0	5,805
	2001	42.3	57.7	0.0	100.0	6,759
	2002	42.1	57.3	0.6	100.0	7,359
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	27.2	72.8	—	100.0	2,491
	2000	23.1	76.9	—	100.0	2,336
	2001	25.1	74.9	—	100.0	2,839
	2002	22.9	76.9	0.2	100.0	3,265
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	22.4	77.6	—	100.0	1,537
	2000	18.7	81.3	—	100.0	1,505
	2001	13.3	86.7	—	100.0	1,485
	2002	15.6	84.4	—	100.0	1,740
48 or more mos.	1999	10.6	89.4	—	100.0	5,175
	2000	9.6	90.4	—	100.0	4,644
	2001	8.4	91.6	—	100.0	4,589
	2002	8.2	91.8	0.0	100.0	3,938
Missing data	1999	77.5	22.5	—	100.0	40
	2000	62.2	37.8	—	100.0	37
	2001	37.1	60.0	2.9	100.0	35
	2002	62.0	8.5	29.6	100.0	71

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	3.0	3.5	3.5	5.4
Institutions	9.0	9.1	8.6	9.9
Other settings	83.8	84.0	85.2	83.6
Missing data	4.1	3.4	2.7	1.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,122	8,008	8,521	9,483

**Joyce James, Assistant Commissioner
Child Protective Services
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
512-438-4800**

The following are Texas' comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2002: Report to Congress*:

- Although the data for outcome measures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 indicate a substantial percentage of missing data with respect to “reason for discharge” information reported to AFCARS, there has been significant improvement in the percentage of missing data for these outcome measures since 1998. The Texas data show a history of missing discharge reasons, ranging from 13.4 percent to 18.7 percent for FY1998 through FY2002. The most recent data (2003), however, show that Texas has reduced this to 8 percent. As of September 2003, the reason for discharge data field was moved to a new location to make it more visible to caseworkers. It is now a required entry at case closure so we believe the percentage will continue to improve in future submissions.
- The data for outcome measure 3.4 indicate that 46.9 percent of children emancipated from foster care in FY2002 were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care. The national median for this measure is 26.9 percent. Texas permanency legislation was passed in 1998. Youth emancipating from foster care after having entered care at age 12 or younger are now exiting foster care. Future years will reflect the impact of permanency legislation with anticipated significant decreases in this percentage.

The following discussion focuses on Texas' performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Texas Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2002, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2000. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CSFR findings for Texas' performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Texas' rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 4.1 percent, which is less than the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure exhibited no change from 1999 to 2002.

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

In CY 2002, Texas' incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.19 percent, which is less than the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure improved from 1999 to 2002 (-31.3 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 81.9 percent of children exiting foster care in Texas were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 86.1 percent), and 76.3 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 79.8 percent). In addition, 46.9 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger at the time they entered foster care, which is considerably more than the national median of 26.9 percent. The State's performance with regard to the percentage of children exiting foster care to a permanent home who were older than age 12 when they entered foster care cannot be assessed, because 46.1 percent of the exits of these children did not have "reason for discharge" information. Although the data indicate that Texas is not consistently successful in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care, the State's performance generally improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 on the measures used to assess outcome 3.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Texas occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 62.9, which is less than the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

Because the cross-State analyses found a substantial positive relationship between State variation in performance on this measure and State variation in the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Texas' performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Texas, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode was 2.3 percent, which is the second lowest in the Nation. Thus, while Texas had a relatively low percentage of reunifications within 12 months, the State also had a low rate of re-entry into foster care within 12 months.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 50.1, which is more than the national standard (32.0 percent or more) and the national median (23.0 percent). Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Texas' performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+14.4 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 70.3, which is less than the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and the national median (84.1 percent). Texas' performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 15.3, which is more than the national median of 8.6 percent. In addition, Texas' performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+26.7 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	707,366	710,997	716,243	713,012
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5
Asian	N/A	2.1	1.7	1.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.9	0.9
Hispanic	8.7	10.9	11.2	11.6
White	86.4	82.4	81.7	81.3
Two or more races	N/A	2.3	2.2	2.2
Other	N/A	0.1	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	7.1	11.5	12.5	13.2

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	8,660	8,729	10,200	10,282
Children in foster care on 9/30	2,273	1,805	1,957	2,025
Children adopted	369	303	349	346

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	26,847	25,102	28,485	29,836	38.0 per 1,000	35.3 per 1,000	39.8 per 1,000	41.8 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	8,660	8,729	10,200	10,282	12.2 per 1,000	12.3 per 1,000	14.2 per 1,000	14.4 per 1,000
Child fatalities	7	12	11	12	1.0 per 100,000	1.7 per 100,000	1.5 per 100,000	1.7 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	4.1	7.9	7.2	7.8
1-5 years	30.8	31.7	30.0	32.3
6-10 years	30.0	29.7	28.8	26.9
11-15 years	25.5	24.5	27.3	26.6
16+ years	9.6	6.0	6.7	6.2
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	0.2	—	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,660	8,729	10,200	10,282

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.0	1.2	1.7	2.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.2	1.0	1.4	2.4
Black	1.9	1.6	2.0	3.4
Hispanic	12.9	13.1	13.9	19.8
White	49.7	38.7	43.9	68.1
Two or more races	45.3	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	44.4	37.1	3.9
Total % ⁴	112.9	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,660	8,729	10,200	10,282

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	41.4	40.8	31.7	40.9
Medical neglect	1.2	1.0	0.8	1.0
Neglect	28.8	29.3	25.9	21.3
Physical abuse	16.6	15.8	14.3	16.1
Sexual abuse	21.8	19.6	22.7	21.7
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	0.0	14.6	0.1
Other	10.1	9.5	7.2	14.5
Total % ⁵	119.9	116.0	117.2	115.6
Number	8,660	8,729	10,200	10,282

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	2,222	2,383	2,332	2,273	4,605
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	1,921	2,148	2,264	1,805	4,069
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	1,960	2,006	2,009	1,957	3,966
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	1,966	2,177	2,118	2,025	4,143

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	12.7	N/A	5.5	11.2	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	12.0	N/A	5.8	10.4	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	12.6	N/A	6.8	10.9	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	11.5	N/A	6.1	10.4	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	3.6	4.4	4.7	3.9	12.8	12.8	11.6	12.8	7.9	8.1	7.5	8.1	4.8	5.1	4.3	5.1
1-5 years	19.1	16.6	20.6	18.6	26.6	32.8	26.5	27.7	29.0	30.3	29.9	30.4	17.9	20.0	18.3	16.8
6-10 years	22.6	19.6	19.9	18.4	22.7	23.1	22.4	20.4	23.3	21.4	22.4	21.2	19.6	20.5	18.4	16.5
11-15 years	34.1	36.6	33.8	38.0	29.2	23.1	29.7	27.8	23.3	21.0	21.8	22.1	35.9	35.2	38.5	36.3
16-18 years	20.1	22.2	20.1	20.2	8.6	8.1	9.7	11.3	15.4	17.8	17.1	17.2	21.2	18.6	19.5	24.4
19+ years	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.9	—	—	—	—	0.9	1.3	1.2	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.7
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	0.1	—	—	0.1	0.1	—	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	—	—	—	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,222	1,921	1,960	1,966	2,383	2,148	2,006	2,177	2,332	2,264	2,009	2,118	2,273	1,805	1,957	2,025

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	4.2	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	2.8	3.1	4.0	3.1	2.4	3.8	3.8	6.3	5.9	4.5	5.2
Asian	N/A	0.5	1.1	0.9	N/A	0.6	0.3	0.4	N/A	0.5	0.6	0.5	N/A	0.6	0.9	0.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	3.6	3.0	5.5	4.5	4.8	1.9	2.9	4.4	4.3	1.1	4.5	3.4	4.1	4.2	3.8	5.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.2	0.7	0.9	N/A	0.4	1.1	1.1	N/A	0.2	0.9	1.1	N/A	0.4	0.8	0.9
Hispanic	14.2	13.8	19.2	18.6	16.2	18.6	20.8	20.4	15.5	16.1	21.9	18.9	15.0	16.6	18.1	20.2
White	72.7	49.3	59.2	56.7	62.6	33.3	42.7	58.7	67.5	29.5	47.3	55.6	67.5	55.1	54.5	60.0
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—												
Unknown/Missing data	4.5	28.0	9.1	13.3	10.4	42.4	29.0	11.0	8.8	50.3	21.0	16.7	6.3	17.2	17.4	7.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,222	1,921	1,960	1,966	2,383	2,148	2,006	2,177	2,332	2,264	2,009	2,118	2,273	1,805	1,957	2,025

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	325	371	336	456
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	245	310	254	207

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	4.3	9.4	6.0	7.2
1-5 years	27.4	29.4	29.8	30.3
6-10 years	32.0	32.1	32.1	30.3
11-15 years	30.5	25.9	28.3	28.7
16+ years	4.6	3.2	3.0	3.1
Unknown/Missing data	1.2	—	0.9	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	325	371	336	456

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	1.5	4.9	1.2	0.9
Asian	N/A	0.8	1.2	1.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	4.9	4.3	5.4	5.0
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	0.3	0.4
Hispanic	19.4	22.6	24.7	26.1
White	67.1	57.7	60.7	58.3
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	5.5	9.7	6.5	7.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	325	371	336	456

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	7.6	7.6	8.6	9.0
1-5 years	43.1	50.8	53.6	52.0
6-10 years	36.9	29.7	26.9	27.7
11-15 years	12.2	10.6	9.7	9.8
16+ years	0.3	1.3	1.1	1.4
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	369	303	349	346

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	0.5	1.7	2.9	2.0
Asian	N/A	1.0	1.4	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	2.4	3.3	5.7	4.6
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.3	1.1	—
Hispanic	20.3	18.5	28.4	25.7
White	33.9	54.5	51.9	54.0
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	42.8	20.8	8.6	13.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	369	303	349	346

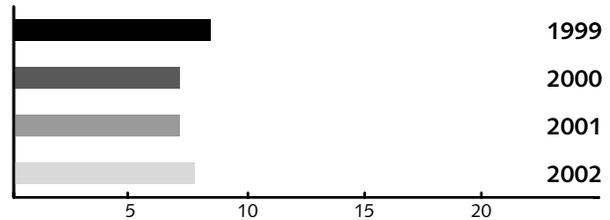
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	91.6	92.9	92.9	92.3
Children with one or more recurrences	8.4	7.1	7.1	7.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,062	4,241	4,965	5,042

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

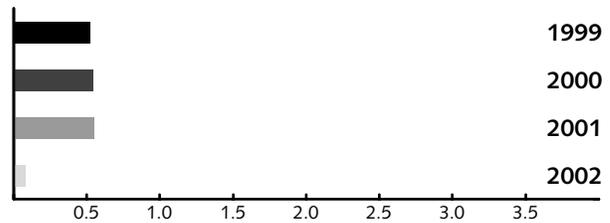


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.52	0.54	0.55	0.08
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.48	99.46	99.45	99.92
Total %	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	4,069	3,535	3,440	3,682

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

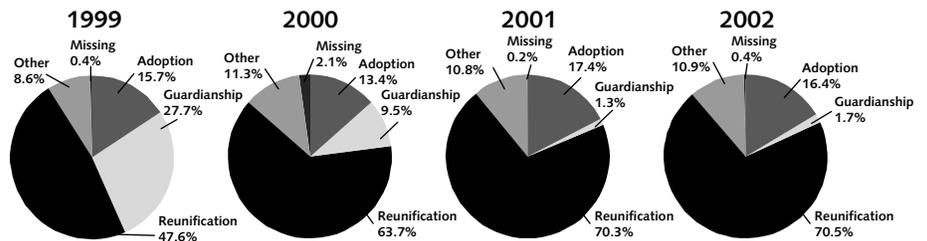


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	15.7	13.4	17.4	16.4
Guardianship	27.7	9.5	1.3	1.7
Reunification	47.6	63.7	70.3	70.5
Other	8.6	11.3	10.8	10.9
Missing data	0.4	2.1	0.2	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,332	2,264	2,009	2,118

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	21.1	23.2	26.0	22.0
Guardianship	18.9	8.3	1.2	1.4
Reunification	44.5	53.2	59.4	60.2
Other	15.5	14.0	12.8	16.1
Missing data	—	1.3	0.6	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	375	457	335	354

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.3	0.8	0.6	1.4
Guardianship	15.3	6.5	1.5	1.9
Reunification	57.1	57.4	65.5	62.7
Other	26.6	33.7	32.1	34.1
Missing data	0.7	1.6	0.4	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	608	618	545	592

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	14.0	10.5	13.5	8.8
Children older than 12 at entry	86.0	89.5	86.5	91.2
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	121	172	163	170

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

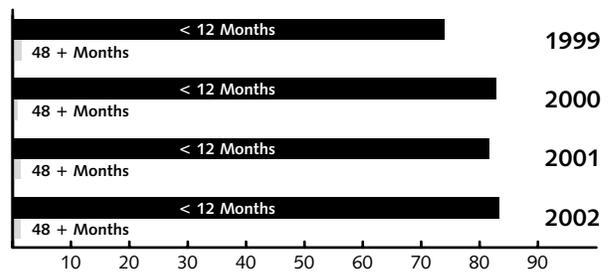
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	4.1	9.3	13.2	8.6	N/A	25.0	41.7	10.0	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.0	25.0	22.0	22.5	N/A	25.0	21.1	—
Guardianship	38.4	7.4	1.3	8.6	N/A	—	—	—	27.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	31.0	—	1.1	—	N/A	50.0	—	—
Reunification	49.3	66.7	63.2	63.0	N/A	41.7	33.3	50.0	66.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	51.0	58.3	61.5	62.0	N/A	25.0	63.2	78.3
Other	6.8	16.7	22.4	19.8	N/A	33.3	25.0	40.0	5.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.0	16.7	15.4	15.5	N/A	—	15.8	21.7
Missing data	1.4	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.0	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	73	54	76	81	N/A	12	12	10	18	N/A	N/A	N/A	100	24	91	71	N/A	4	19	23

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	20.5	15.1	22.5	22.2	16.3	21.0	19.1	16.0	9.7	8.3	7.1	13.3	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	29.1	7.4	—	0.2	26.0	3.3	1.6	1.7	33.0	14.1	2.4	2.5	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	46.3	68.2	72.0	69.6	46.8	52.8	64.6	69.7	51.5	69.0	85.7	77.7	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	3.9	7.9	5.0	8.0	10.4	22.0	14.6	12.0	5.3	5.4	4.3	6.2	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	0.3	1.4	0.5	—	0.4	0.9	0.1	0.7	0.5	3.2	0.5	0.3	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number	361	365	440	401	1,574	667	950	1,178	206	1,138	421	354	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

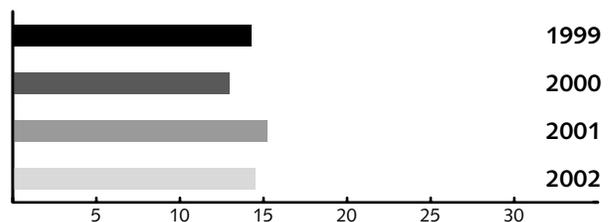
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	73.9	82.9	81.7	83.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	16.9	11.6	12.4	11.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	4.7	2.4	2.7	2.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.2	1.8	1.4	0.7
48 or more mos.	1.5	0.8	1.3	1.3
Missing data	1.9	0.5	0.4	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,109	1,442	1,412	1,493

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	75.9	73.9	75.1	76.6
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	14.3	13.0	15.2	14.5
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	7.8	6.7	8.1	8.4
Missing data	2.1	6.4	1.5	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,383	2,148	2,006	2,177

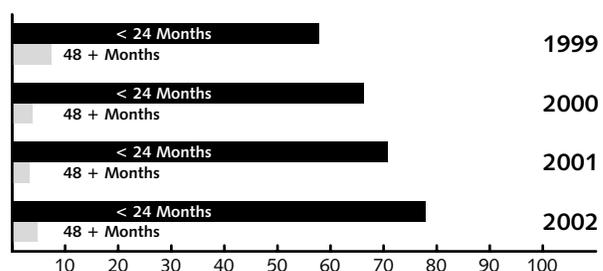
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	15.6	27.3	25.5	33.9
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	42.3	39.1	45.3	44.0
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	25.4	23.7	20.1	13.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	9.3	5.9	5.7	3.7
48 or more mos.	7.4	3.9	3.4	4.9
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	366	304	349	348

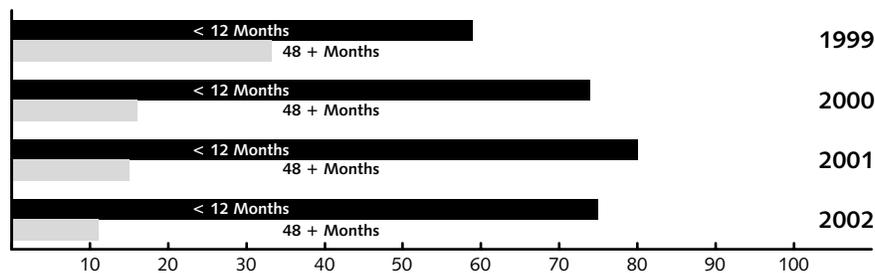
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	58.9	41.1	—	100.0	2,674
	2000	74.0	26.0	—	100.0	2,575
	2001	80.1	19.9	—	100.0	2,345
	2002	74.9	25.0	0.1	100.0	2,575
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	24.7	75.3	—	100.0	904
	2000	31.3	68.7	—	100.0	684
	2001	42.2	57.8	—	100.0	772
	2002	39.4	60.5	0.1	100.0	749
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	28.9	71.1	—	100.0	494
	2000	16.5	83.5	—	100.0	327
	2001	16.6	83.4	—	100.0	343
	2002	23.7	76.3	—	100.0	312
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	28.6	71.4	—	100.0	199
	2000	14.6	85.4	—	100.0	219
	2001	15.1	84.9	—	100.0	179
	2002	8.0	92.0	—	100.0	175
48 or more mos.	1999	33.2	66.8	—	100.0	280
	2000	16.0	84.0	—	100.0	256
	2001	15.0	85.0	—	100.0	321
	2002	11.1	88.9	—	100.0	324
Missing data	1999	90.7	9.3	—	100.0	54
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	8
	2001	83.3	16.7	—	100.0	6
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	8

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	25.0	1.2	1.1	1.3
Institutions	0.4	1.9	3.7	4.2
Other settings	74.4	97.0	95.1	94.4
Missing data	0.1	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,600	1,295	1,307	1,417

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Director
Division of Child and Family Services
Utah Department of Human Services
801-538-4100

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

- There has been an increase in the number of child maltreatment victims from 1998 to 2002: In 1997-1998 the Utah legislature passed legislation that made the witnessing or knowledge of domestic violence both a misdemeanor crime and child abuse. Since the passing of that legislation, Child and Family Services has received continual increases each year in the number of domestic violence-related referrals for investigation. Additionally we have seen an increase in the number of child endangerment referrals. Part of the increases may also be due to the recession that increased poverty and unemployment levels as studies have shown correlations between poverty and child abuse and neglect. Child and Family Services also received a lot of media attention due to a particular case during the past year, and that attention may have influenced the public to call in referrals about children they were concerned about.
- Regarding Section B, Maltreatment Type, in October 1997, Utah started tracking domestic violence related abuse as an allegation subcategory of emotional abuse. In 1998, it became one of the most substantiated allegations investigated resulting in a high percentage of child victims being reported to NCANDS as victims of emotional abuse.
- With regard to outcome measure 4.2, re-entry into foster care, although Utah has a re-entry rate that is above the national standard, there has been a decrease in this measure, and more recent data from our system shows that the decline is ongoing without seeing an increase in time to exit.
- With regard to outcome measure 5.1, time to adoption, in 1997 Utah Child and Family Services worked with our juvenile court system on a permanency project to aid in shortening the time to adoption by instituting 12 month time frame limitations and use of legal risk placements. The high percentage of children discharged to finalized adoption within 24 months is a result of the efforts made several years ago in this area.

Utah completes an annual report available at <http://www.hsdcs.state.ut.us/pdf/AnnuaIO3.pdf>

The following discussion focuses on Utah's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Utah Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2003, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2001. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Utah's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2001*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Utah's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 7.7 percent, which is more than the national standard (6.1 percent or less), but is about equal to the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure improved from 1999 to 2002 (-8.3 percent change).

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

In CY 2002, Utah's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.08 percent, which is less than both the national standard (0.57 percent or less) and the national median (0.39 percent). Performance on this measure improved considerably from 1999 to 2002 (-84.5 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 88.7 percent of children exiting foster care in Utah were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 86.1 percent); 83.6 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent homes (which is more than the national median of 79.8 percent); and only 8.8 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (which is less than the national median of 26.9 percent). However, 65.9 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent). Utah's performance with regard to exits to permanency for all children and for children with a diagnosed disability did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002. However, performance with regard to exits to permanency for children who were age 13 or older when they entered foster care declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-9.4 percent change). In contrast, Utah's performance with regard to the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care improved considerably from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-37.2 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Utah occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 83.3, which is more than the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median (68.0 percent). Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+12.8 percent change).

Because the cross-State analyses found a substantial positive relationship between State variation in performance on this measure and State variation in the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Utah's performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Utah, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode was 14.5 percent, which is in the top quartile of the State rankings. Therefore, while Utah had a relatively high percentage of

reunifications within 12 months, it also exhibited a high rate of re-entry into foster care within 12 months. State performance on the measure of foster care re-entry exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 77.9, which is the highest percentage in the Nation. Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Utah's performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+17.2 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 74.9, which is less than the national standard (86.7 percent or more) and than national median (84.1 percent). Utah's performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+27.2 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 5.6, which is less than the national median of 8.6 percent. Utah's performance on this measure improved considerably from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-78.1 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	139,346	143,707	141,415	139,662
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4
Asian	N/A	1.0	1.1	1.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.8
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.2
White	97.3	94.7	94.6	94.5
Two or more races	N/A	1.8	1.8	1.8
Other	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	12.5	18.1	12.2	12.2

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	1,080	1,347	1,139	1,447
Children in foster care on 9/30	1,445	1,389	1,382	1,526
Children adopted	139	117	116	153

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	2,453	3,609	3,558	4,000	17.6 per 1,000	25.1 per 1,000	25.2 per 1,000	28.6 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	1,080	1,347	1,139	1,447	7.8 per 1,000	9.4 per 1,000	8.1 per 1,000	10.4 per 1,000
Child fatalities	4	1	0	0	2.9 per 100,000	0.7 per 100,000	0.0 per 100,000	0.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	4.2	5.0	6.8	6.2
1-5 years	25.1	22.4	25.8	25.3
6-10 years	31.6	29.9	30.0	29.0
11-15 years	29.0	34.7	29.7	32.3
16+ years	10.1	7.9	7.6	7.2
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	—	0.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,080	1,347	1,139	1,447

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.6	1.4	0.8	0.2
Black	0.6	1.6	0.7	0.6
Hispanic	0.6	0.4	—	0.7
White	97.9	95.8	97.5	95.4
Two or more races	0.7	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.6	0.9	3.0
Total % ⁴	100.6	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,080	1,347	1,139	1,447

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.5
Medical neglect	1.9	2.2	2.3	2.8
Neglect	43.7	38.2	41.9	6.2
Physical abuse	22.0	22.1	20.5	51.8
Sexual abuse	40.4	40.8	37.8	43.4
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	0.0	—	—	—
Total % ⁵	108.9	104.2	103.6	104.7
Number	1,080	1,347	1,139	1,447

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	1,417	750	722	1,445	2,167
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	1,301	735	704	1,389	2,036
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	1,220	727	580	1,382	1,947
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	1,351	832	657	1,526	2,183

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	20.5	N/A	16.0	19.9	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	19.8	N/A	15.1	18.1	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	19.2	N/A	13.2	18.4	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	20.0	N/A	18.5	16.2	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	2.1	2.3	1.4	2.6	7.2	7.8	8.8	8.1	2.1	2.4	2.1	1.8	2.3	2.2	3.0	2.8
1-5 years	13.1	12.8	14.1	14.4	14.5	17.1	16.0	18.3	16.2	14.8	16.2	16.3	12.4	14.3	13.3	16.4
6-10 years	16.6	15.5	15.5	16.1	16.3	15.1	14.9	15.7	14.8	13.1	14.1	12.6	15.4	15.5	15.6	16.0
11-15 years	39.6	42.7	40.8	36.9	49.9	48.2	45.0	43.5	27.3	27.6	30.9	27.7	42.2	40.3	37.3	34.9
16-18 years	28.5	26.7	28.1	30.0	12.1	11.8	15.4	14.4	37.5	41.2	35.2	40.5	27.6	27.6	30.2	29.4
19+ years	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.1	1.0	1.4	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.5
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.2	—	—	—	—	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,417	1,301	1,220	1,351	750	735	727	832	722	704	580	657	1,445	1,389	1,382	1,526

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	—	0.1	—	0.1	—	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1
Asian	N/A	0.4	0.3	0.4	N/A	0.7	0.7	—	N/A	0.9	0.7	0.2	N/A	0.3	0.4	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	2.2	1.5	1.3	2.1	1.3	3.0	3.6	1.2	2.4	2.6	2.9	2.1	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	0.0	0.1	N/A	0.3	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	0.1	0.0	0.1
Hispanic	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	—	1.3	0.4	0.6	—	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.9
White	96.3	96.8	97.0	96.6	97.1	95.0	95.5	96.3	96.0	95.2	95.9	96.2	96.8	96.6	96.7	96.6
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.3	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,417	1,301	1,220	1,351	750	735	727	832	722	704	580	657	1,445	1,389	1,382	1,526

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview

	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	403	507	307	541
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	351	488	249	514

Age of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	3.7	4.9	2.6	6.1
1-5 years	28.3	30.2	22.5	33.6
6-10 years	29.3	28.4	27.7	25.1
11-15 years	32.0	30.2	39.1	25.5
16+ years	6.2	5.3	7.2	7.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	403	507	307	541

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
Asian	N/A	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.2	—	0.2
Hispanic	1.2	0.6	0.7	1.5
White	95.8	97.2	96.1	96.3
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	0.7	—	1.0	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	403	507	307	541

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	0.7	0.9	2.6	5.9
1-5 years	43.2	48.7	40.5	42.5
6-10 years	38.8	30.8	33.6	29.4
11-15 years	15.8	18.8	21.6	19.0
16+ years	1.4	0.9	1.7	3.3
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	139	117	116	153

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	—
Asian	N/A	0.9	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	4.3	3.4	—	5.9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	—	2.6	—	—
White	95.7	92.3	94.8	93.5
Two or more races	N/A	0.9	3.4	0.7
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	1.7	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	139	117	116	153

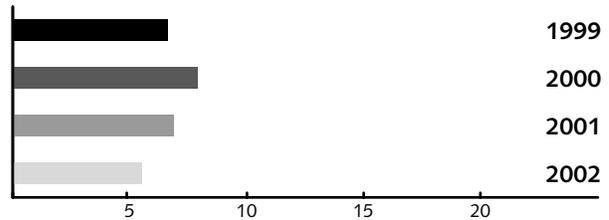
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	93.4	92.1	93.1	94.5
Children with one or more recurrences	6.6	7.9	6.9	5.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	547	658	563	668

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

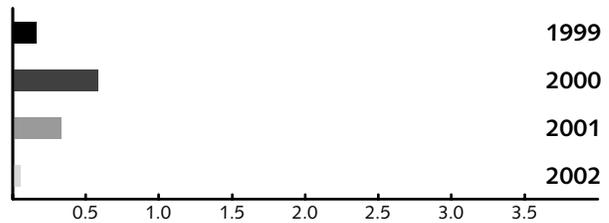


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.16	0.58	0.33	0.05
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.84	99.42	99.67	99.95
Total %	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	1,832	1,903	1,806	2,000

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

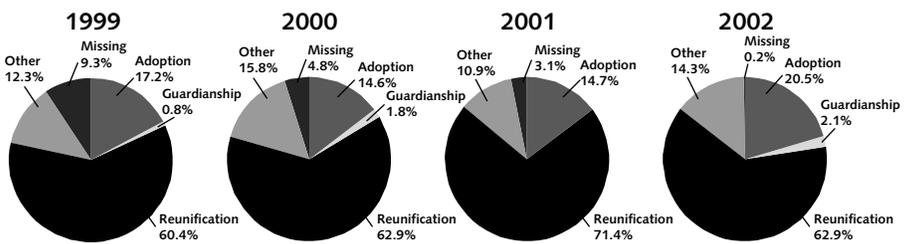


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	17.2	14.6	14.7	20.5
Guardianship	0.8	1.8	—	2.1
Reunification	60.4	62.9	71.4	62.9
Other	12.3	15.8	10.9	14.3
Missing data	9.3	4.8	3.1	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	722	704	580	657

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	5.9	13.6	17.6	10.0
Guardianship	—	4.5	—	5.0
Reunification	35.3	40.9	52.9	65.0
Other	41.2	36.4	17.6	20.0
Missing data	17.6	4.5	11.8	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	17	22	17	20

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	0.3	—	0.9
Guardianship	0.5	2.2	—	2.9
Reunification	67.6	68.7	82.7	74.7
Other	17.9	21.3	12.7	21.5
Missing data	14.0	7.5	4.6	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	364	319	284	340

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	28.1	28.6	30.8	21.3
Children older than 12 at entry	71.9	60.0	61.5	78.7
Missing data	—	11.4	7.7	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	57	105	52	89

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

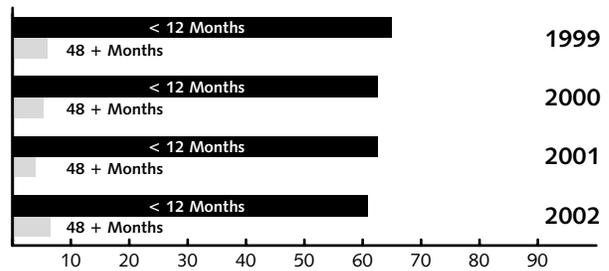
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	23.5	16.7	—	21.4	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	5.6	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—	100.0	N/A	83.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	70.6	61.1	94.1	71.4	N/A	—	—	—
Other	—	100.0	—	—	N/A	16.7	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.9	11.1	5.9	7.1	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	5.6	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	—	100.0	—	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	—
Number	—	1	—	2	N/A	6	4	1	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	17	18	17	14	N/A	—	—	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	75.0	—	—	17.3	14.2	15.3	20.9	—	25.0	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	100.0	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	0.9	1.8	—	2.2	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	66.7	—	—	33.3	59.6	63.4	70.3	62.3	100.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	100.0	100.0
Other	33.3	—	—	66.7	12.6	15.8	11.2	14.4	—	25.0	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	25.0	—	—	9.7	4.8	3.2	0.2	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	—	—	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3	4	—	3	693	670	556	632	6	4	2	1	N/A	—	—	—	—	1	1	4

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

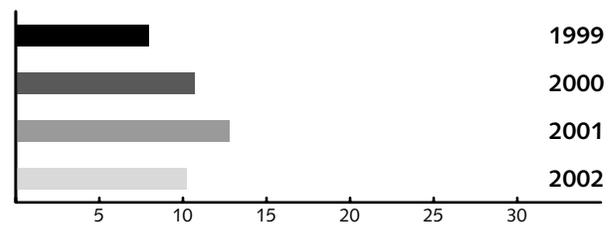
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	64.9	62.5	62.6	60.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	16.7	16.0	18.1	17.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	7.3	5.6	9.2	10.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	5.0	2.5	4.3	3.9
48 or more mos.	6.0	5.2	3.9	6.5
Missing data	—	8.1	1.9	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	436	443	414	413

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	82.9	79.9	77.9	81.9
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	8.0	10.7	12.8	10.2
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	9.1	9.4	9.4	7.9
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	750	735	727	832

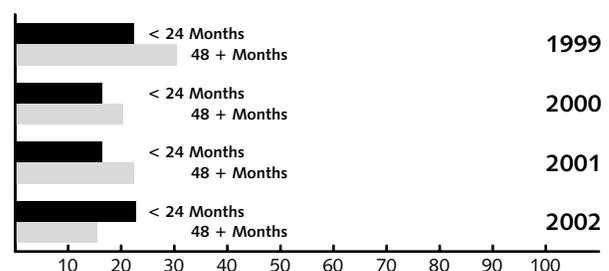
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	4.8	1.0	—	0.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	17.7	15.5	16.5	22.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	30.6	31.1	35.3	46.7
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	16.1	24.3	22.4	14.8
48 or more mos.	30.6	20.4	22.4	15.6
Missing data	—	7.8	3.5	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	124	103	85	135

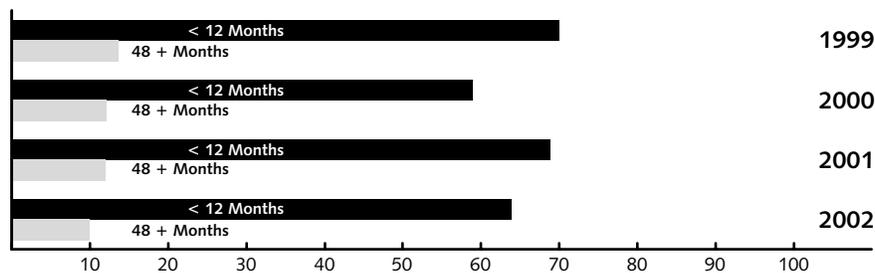
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	70.0	30.0	—	100.0	839
	2000	58.9	41.1	—	100.0	798
	2001	68.9	31.0	0.1	100.0	785
	2002	63.9	36.1	—	100.0	904
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	35.8	64.2	—	100.0	433
	2000	34.5	65.5	—	100.0	440
	2001	35.8	64.2	—	100.0	402
	2002	40.1	59.9	—	100.0	414
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	30.3	69.7	—	100.0	297
	2000	27.2	72.8	—	100.0	287
	2001	29.8	70.2	—	100.0	295
	2002	29.5	70.5	—	100.0	342
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	27.5	72.5	—	100.0	211
	2000	17.2	82.8	—	100.0	169
	2001	14.6	85.4	—	100.0	157
	2002	18.3	81.7	—	100.0	180
48 or more mos.	1999	13.6	86.4	—	100.0	383
	2000	12.1	87.9	—	100.0	340
	2001	12.0	87.7	0.3	100.0	308
	2002	10.0	90.0	—	100.0	341
Missing data	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	4
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	2
	2001	—	—	—	0.0	—
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	2

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	9.2	3.7	5.0	3.9
Institutions	1.7	0.9	0.9	0.7
Other settings	89.1	95.4	94.1	95.4
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	359	347	338	411

Don Mandelkorn, Director
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802-241-2126

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

The Vermont Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services is a state-supervised child protection, child welfare and juvenile justice system. Twelve local offices investigate report of child abuse and neglect. We investigate reports of sexual abuse by out-of-home perpetrators, resulting in a high percentage of substantiated abuse that is sexual abuse. Vermont has also seen a substantial increase in substantiated child abuse in the last several years due to an expanded role with parents whose use of drugs are putting children at risk of harm.

The Department is responsible for about 1600 children in custody for abuse and neglect (63 percent of children in custody), delinquency (22 percent), or because they are beyond parental control (15 percent). In addition, social work staff members supervise about 300 youth on juvenile probation.

Children can "exit" one part of our system as an abused child and "re- enter" as a delinquent child, making our rate of re-entry appear quite high. About 65 percent of children in custody are age 12 and older. This reality has substantial impact on placement stability, length of stay and permanency outcomes.

Some explanation of the Vermont data presented in this volume is in order:

- In Section B, Child Maltreatment, the change in type of abuse is due to clarification by NCANDS staff that we should include Risk of Physical Harm in physical abuse and Risk of Sexual Abuse in Sexual Abuse. These were formerly included in Neglect.
- The 2000 data for Outcome 6, Increase Placement Stability, is incorrect. Vermont has since re-submitted its AFCARS *me*. The correct figure for children in care for less than 12 months who have two or fewer placements is 58.9 percent.

The following discussion focuses on Vermont's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Vermont Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2001, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 1999. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Vermont's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Vermont's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 5.5 percent, which is less than the national standard (6.1 percent or less) and the national median (7.5 percent). Performance on this measure improved from 1999 to 2002 (-16.7 percent change).

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

In CY 2002, Vermont's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.05 percent. Vermont's performance with regard to this outcome is excellent. Only one child was reported as maltreated in foster care in 2002, and only three children were reported to be maltreated in foster care in 1999.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 85.5 percent of children exiting foster care in Vermont were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 86.1 percent). Additionally, 80.0 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 79.8 percent); 78.5 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care exited to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 72.0 percent); and 21.3 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care (which is less than the national median of 26.9 percent). Vermont's performance improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 on all measures relevant to outcome 3.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Vermont occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 60.8, which is less than the national standard (76.2 percent or more) and the national median of 68.0 percent. Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months declined slightly from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-6.4 percent change).

In FY 2002, the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode was 10.2, which is more than both the national standard of 8.6 percent or less and the national median of 9.9 percent. Performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+27.7 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 23.0, which does not meet the national standard of 32.0 percent or more, but is equal to the national median of 23.0 percent. Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Vermont's performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+39.1 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 63.9, which is less than both the national standard of 86.7 percent or more and the national median of 84.1 percent. Vermont's performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-8.6 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 4.6, which is less than the national median of 8.6 percent. Vermont's performance on this measure improved considerably from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-57.4 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	1,664,810	1,749,002	1,761,515	1,779,408
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2
Asian	N/A	3.5	3.7	3.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	23.1	23.1	23.2	23.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	5.1	5.9	6.2	6.4
White	67.5	64.0	64.1	63.7
Two or more races	N/A	2.9	2.5	2.6
Other	N/A	0.4	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	10.9	7.8	8.4	13.8

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	8,199	7,416	9,873	7,571
Children in foster care on 9/30	6,778	6,789	6,866	7,109
Children adopted	326	448	495	424

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	53,462	40,799	37,988	40,552	32.1 per 1,000	23.3 per 1,000	21.6 per 1,000	22.8 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	8,199	7,416	9,873	7,571	4.9 per 1,000	4.2 per 1,000	5.6 per 1,000	4.2 per 1,000
Child fatalities	36	31	36	22	2.2 per 100,000	1.8 per 100,000	2.0 per 100,000	1.2 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	3.9	9.4	10.4	12.2
1-5 years	30.4	30.6	29.6	29.9
6-10 years	31.8	31.1	30.3	28.5
11-15 years	24.7	23.2	23.7	23.4
16+ years	8.4	5.6	5.8	5.8
Unknown/Missing data	0.9	0.2	0.3	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,199	7,416	9,873	7,571

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.1	1.4	1.0	0.9
Black	39.3	36.7	37.3	36.9
Hispanic	3.1	6.4	6.3	6.1
White	51.6	49.7	48.6	47.8
Two or more races	2.6	3.0	3.4	4.4
Unknown/Missing data	5.3	2.8	3.3	3.9
Total % ⁴	103.1	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,199	7,416	9,873	7,571

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	3.4	1.8	1.6	1.8
Medical neglect	1.0	2.4	2.4	2.5
Neglect	64.7	58.6	58.8	59.1
Physical abuse	31.1	28.5	28.0	27.1
Sexual abuse	14.4	11.0	12.2	13.2
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	—	—	—
Other	0.0	—	—	—
Total % ⁵	114.6	102.3	103.0	103.7
Number	8,199	7,416	9,873	7,571

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	5,804	2,683	1,715	6,778	8,487
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	5,871	2,738	1,826	6,789	8,609
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	6,055	2,904	2,096	6,866	8,959
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	6,139	3,274	2,307	7,109	9,413

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	23.7	N/A	14.2	22.3	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	22.9	N/A	17.5	21.8	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	22.2	N/A	16.2	20.5	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	20.8	N/A	15.5	19.3	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.5	11.2	11.3	10.7	11.3	4.0	4.1	3.0	4.2	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.9
1-5 years	19.2	17.9	17.7	17.3	21.9	22.2	23.2	19.4	19.8	21.1	23.1	22.9	19.0	18.4	18.2	16.9
6-10 years	22.8	23.1	22.3	20.2	20.8	21.5	19.6	19.6	17.8	19.2	19.1	18.7	23.1	22.2	20.4	18.4
11-15 years	35.4	35.6	36.5	37.6	34.2	33.9	33.4	35.1	18.9	17.5	18.9	21.7	34.5	35.3	36.1	36.5
16-18 years	20.3	20.9	21.0	22.4	11.9	11.0	13.1	14.6	38.8	36.3	33.9	30.6	20.9	21.5	22.6	25.3
19+ years	—	—	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	0.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	—	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—	0.0	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,804	5,871	6,055	6,139	2,683	2,738	2,904	3,274	1,715	1,826	2,096	2,307	6,778	6,789	6,866	7,109

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Asian	N/A	0.6	0.4	0.3	N/A	0.5	0.2	0.5	N/A	1.0	0.4	0.7	N/A	0.4	0.3	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	53.4	53.9	51.8	50.3	46.1	39.9	40.9	40.4	46.2	45.6	44.2	43.7	52.3	50.5	49.5	47.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.0	—	N/A	0.0	—	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	—	N/A	0.0	—	0.0
Hispanic	3.1	3.6	3.8	3.8	5.3	4.4	4.8	5.8	4.3	3.4	5.0	6.3	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.9
White	41.3	40.3	41.5	42.2	46.0	50.3	48.2	47.4	47.3	46.9	46.6	44.9	41.7	42.5	42.8	43.7
Two or more races	N/A	1.0	1.9	2.8	N/A	4.1	4.5	4.9	N/A	2.2	3.1	3.4	N/A	1.9	2.7	3.5
Unknown/Missing data	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.9	0.7	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,804	5,871	6,055	6,139	2,683	2,738	2,904	3,274	1,715	1,826	2,096	2,307	6,778	6,789	6,866	7,109

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	2,178	2,132	1,947	1,489
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	749	640	484	54

Age of Waiting Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	4.3	4.9	4.1	2.6
1-5 years	38.4	36.0	34.4	30.1
6-10 years	40.5	40.1	37.6	34.7
11-15 years	15.8	18.2	22.9	29.6
16+ years	1.0	0.8	1.0	3.0
Unknown/Missing data	—	0.0	—	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,178	2,132	1,947	1,489

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Asian	N/A	0.3	0.3	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	54.2	53.0	54.2	53.9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	—	—
Hispanic	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.3
White	38.9	39.4	37.4	37.3
Two or more races	N/A	2.2	3.1	3.8
Unknown/Missing data	2.0	0.7	0.6	0.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,178	2,132	1,947	1,489

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.5	0.2	0.4	0.2
1-5 years	45.7	36.2	39.8	41.3
6-10 years	37.4	42.0	40.0	34.9
11-15 years	15.3	18.8	17.2	21.7
16+ years	—	2.9	2.6	1.9
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	326	448	495	424

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	—
Asian	N/A	0.4	0.6	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	45.1	45.8	41.0	51.2
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	5.8	4.7	4.8	4.0
White	45.4	44.4	45.5	38.7
Two or more races	N/A	4.0	7.9	6.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.3	0.7	0.2	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	326	448	495	424

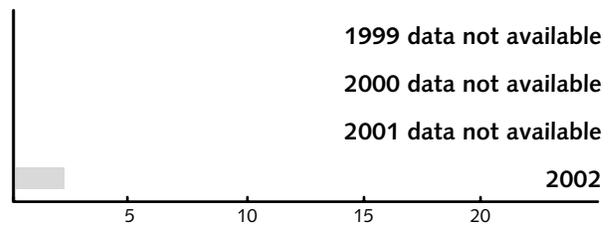
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	97.8
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	2.2
Total %	—	—	—	100.0
Number	—	—	—	3,507

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

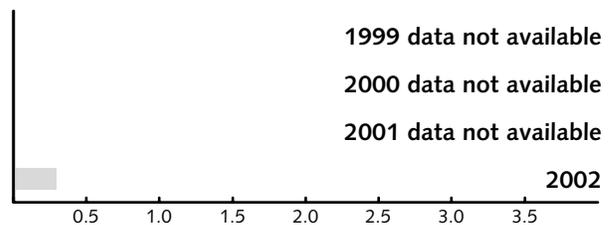


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	0.29
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	99.71
Total %	—	—	—	100.00
Number	—	—	—	8,883

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

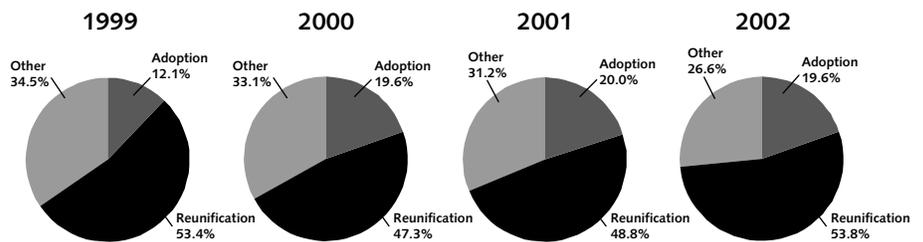


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	12.1	19.6	20.0	19.6
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	53.4	47.3	48.8	53.8
Other	34.5	33.1	31.2	26.6
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,715	1,826	2,096	2,307

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	13.1	19.0	20.5	21.4
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	42.0	38.9	32.5	39.3
Other	44.9	42.2	47.0	39.3
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	336	453	453	486

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.1	0.3	0.8	0.6
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	36.9	35.3	36.7	43.6
Other	62.9	64.4	62.5	55.7
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	674	660	774	795

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	26.3	29.9	24.3	26.9
Children older than 12 at entry	73.3	69.9	75.7	73.1
Missing data	0.4	0.2	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	520	542	556	510

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

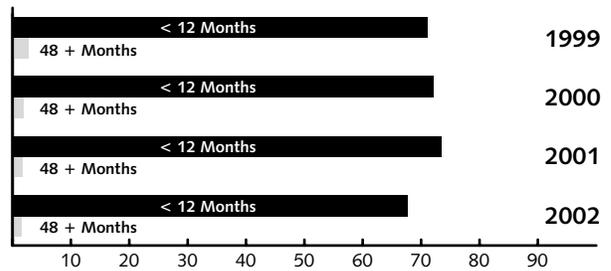
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	—	33.3	N/A	15.8	25.0	25.0	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.0	18.6	19.1	21.6	N/A	—	50.0	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	50.0	—	33.3	66.7	N/A	26.3	25.0	37.5	47.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	52.1	43.1	46.9	50.1	N/A	100.0	—	—
Other	50.0	100.0	66.7	—	N/A	57.9	50.0	37.5	52.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	36.9	38.3	34.0	28.2	N/A	—	50.0	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	—
Number	2	1	3	3	N/A	19	8	16	17	N/A	N/A	N/A	792	833	926	1,009	N/A	1	2	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	11.0	24.2	21.9	15.2	13.4	20.6	21.3	18.5	11.1	38.5	—	10.0	100.0	7.3	13.8	17.9	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	67.1	48.4	53.3	61.4	53.4	50.1	48.4	54.6	66.7	53.8	100.0	90.0	N/A	80.5	70.8	69.2	—	—	—	—
Other	21.9	27.4	24.8	23.4	33.2	29.3	30.3	26.8	22.2	7.7	—	—	N/A	12.2	15.4	12.8	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Number	73	62	105	145	811	856	976	1,036	18	13	11	20	2	41	65	78	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

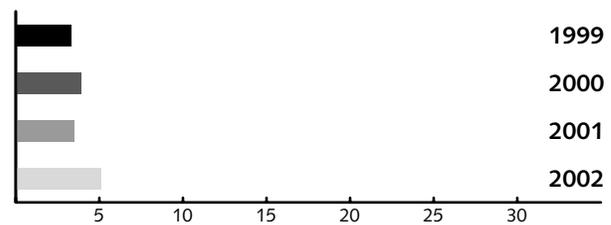
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	71.2	72.2	73.6	67.4
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	17.1	18.1	15.8	21.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	6.3	5.3	6.2	6.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.2	1.9	2.4	1.7
48 or more mos.	2.7	1.9	1.7	1.5
Missing data	1.4	0.7	0.4	1.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	916	864	1,022	1,241

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	94.6	92.1	93.0	91.0
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	3.3	3.9	3.5	5.1
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	0.7	1.5	1.7	2.2
Missing data	1.4	2.6	1.8	1.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,683	2,738	2,904	3,274

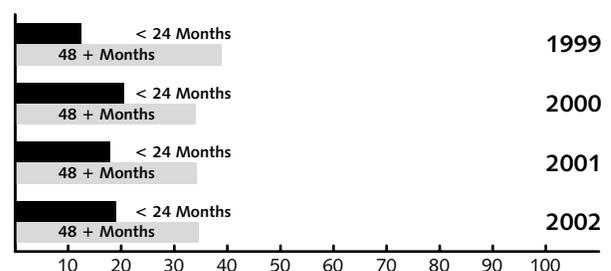
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	1.4	3.1	1.0	2.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.1	17.4	16.9	17.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	23.1	26.1	29.3	24.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	25.5	18.8	18.6	21.6
48 or more mos.	38.9	34.2	34.3	34.7
Missing data	—	0.6	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	208	357	420	453

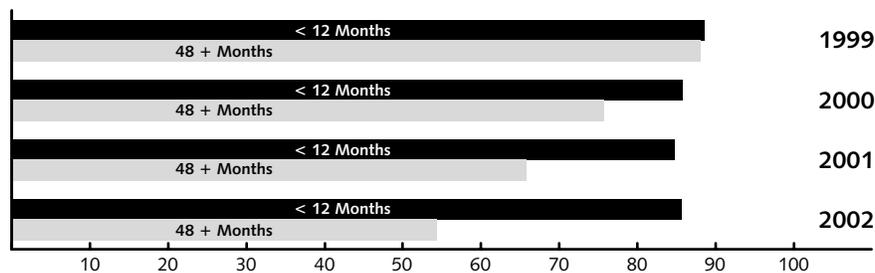
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	88.6	10.6	0.8	100.0	2,893
	2000	85.8	13.0	1.2	100.0	2,947
	2001	84.8	14.4	0.7	100.0	3,205
	2002	85.7	14.1	0.3	100.0	3,549
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	76.3	22.9	0.8	100.0	1,733
	2000	70.4	29.2	0.4	100.0	1,717
	2001	67.0	32.4	0.6	100.0	1,800
	2002	63.7	36.0	0.3	100.0	1,909
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	79.0	20.4	0.6	100.0	1,049
	2000	62.3	37.3	0.4	100.0	1,177
	2001	54.9	44.9	0.2	100.0	1,204
	2002	54.7	45.2	0.2	100.0	1,229
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	79.7	19.5	0.8	100.0	728
	2000	65.6	34.1	0.3	100.0	756
	2001	51.0	48.7	0.4	100.0	781
	2002	43.5	56.4	0.1	100.0	795
48 or more mos.	1999	88.1	11.4	0.5	100.0	2,065
	2000	75.7	23.9	0.4	100.0	2,007
	2001	65.8	34.0	0.3	100.0	1,965
	2002	54.4	45.3	0.3	100.0	1,906
Missing data	1999	84.2	—	15.8	100.0	19
	2000	60.0	—	40.0	100.0	5
	2001	50.0	—	50.0	100.0	4
	2002	84.0	4.0	12.0	100.0	25

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	0.7	0.6	0.6	1.0
Institutions	5.9	5.4	5.8	7.6
Other settings	92.7	93.1	93.4	91.2
Missing data	0.6	0.8	0.2	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,653	1,712	1,768	1,883

Virginia

[STATE COMMENT]

The following discussion focuses on Virginia's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Virginia Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2003, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2001. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Virginia's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2001*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than plus or minus 5.0 was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Virginia's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 2.2 percent, which is less than both the national standard of 6.1 percent or less and the national median of 7.5 percent. Change in performance on this measure cannot be assessed because 2002 was the first year the State reported these data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS).

The cross-State analyses found a substantial positive relationship between State variation in performance on this outcome measure and State variation in the rate of child victims (i.e., the number of child victims per 1,000 children in the population). For Virginia, both the incidence of maltreatment recurrence (2.2 percent) and the rate of child victims (4.2 per 1,000 children in the population) were in the bottom quartile of the State rankings. This suggests that State definitions and laws pertaining to what constitutes maltreatment and what is necessary for substantiation may be related to State performance on the measure of maltreatment recurrence.

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

In CY 2002, Virginia's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.29 percent, which is less than both the national standard of 0.57 percent or less and the national median of 0.39 percent. Change in performance on this measure cannot be assessed because 2002 was the first year that the State reported data for this measure to NCANDS.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 73.4 percent of children exiting foster care in Virginia were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 86.1 percent); 60.7 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 79.8 percent); and 44.3 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is considerably less than the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 26.9 percent of the children exiting foster care through emancipation were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is equal to the national median of 26.9 percent. These data suggest that the State experiences challenges in achieving permanency for children exiting foster care. However, performance on the measures of outcome 3 generally improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Virginia occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 67.4, which does not meet the national standard of 76.2 percent or more, but is about equal to the national median of 68.0 percent. Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months declined slightly from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-5.4 percent change).

Because the cross-State analyses found a substantial positive relationship between State variation in the percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care and State variation in the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Virginia's performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Virginia, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode was 5.1, which is less than both the national standard of 8.6 percent or less and the national median of 9.9 percent. Thus, while Virginia exhibited a relatively low percentage of reunifications within 12 months, it also exhibited a relatively low rate of re-entry into foster care within 12 months. State performance on the measure of foster care re-entry declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+55.5 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 19.2, which is less than both the national standard of 32.0 percent or more and the national median of 23.0 percent. Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Virginia's performance on this measure declined slightly from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (-6.1 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 85.7, which does not meet the national standard of 86.7 percent or more, but is more than the national median of 84.1 percent. Performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 8.6, which is equal to the national median of 8.6 percent. Virginia's performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+29.3 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	1,486,340	1,512,596	1,510,230	1,513,360
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.8
Asian	N/A	5.5	5.5	5.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	6.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	3.9	3.7	4.1	4.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.5	0.5
Hispanic	10.1	11.7	12.0	12.3
White	77.2	71.5	71.2	70.7
Two or more races	N/A	5.5	4.8	4.9
Other	N/A	0.3	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	10.7	15.0	13.7	14.1

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	8,039	7,095	6,010	4,673
Children in foster care on 9/30	8,688	8,945	9,101	8,738
Children adopted	1,047	1,141	1,204	1,077

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	53,060	38,070	35,491	28,718	35.7 per 1,000	25.2 per 1,000	23.5 per 1,000	19.0 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	8,039	7,095	6,010	4,673	5.4 per 1,000	4.7 per 1,000	4.0 per 1,000	3.1 per 1,000
Child fatalities	6	7	5	1	0.4 per 100,000	0.5 per 100,000	0.3 per 100,000	0.1 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	12.0	11.6	12.0	14.1
1-5 years	32.4	32.5	34.3	34.4
6-10 years	30.5	31.6	29.0	27.5
11-15 years	20.6	19.8	20.0	19.8
16+ years	4.1	3.0	3.0	2.8
Unknown/Missing data	0.4	1.6	1.7	1.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,039	7,095	6,010	4,673

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	9.1	6.6	6.7	7.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.6	2.5	2.4	1.8
Black	10.5	8.8	8.3	9.5
Hispanic	12.8	12.9	13.3	11.7
White	75.0	66.5	66.2	66.1
Two or more races	2.6	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	5.9	2.7	3.1	3.6
Total % ⁴	118.4	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,039	7,095	6,010	4,673

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	10.9	6.4	7.0	5.3
Medical neglect	6.6	3.7	3.7	3.5
Neglect	70.8	71.0	72.0	73.1
Physical abuse	27.1	21.7	21.4	21.3
Sexual abuse	9.0	7.0	6.7	6.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	2.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total % ⁵	126.8	110.1	111.1	110.4
Number	8,039	7,095	6,010	4,673

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	8,695	7,369	7,376	8,688	16,064
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	8,484	7,590	7,129	8,945	16,074
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	8,266	7,273	6,438	9,101	15,539
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	8,437	6,842	6,541	8,738	15,279

Median Length of Stay (Months)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	17.0				N/A				5.1				16.5			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	16.8				N/A				3.6				15.9			N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	16.2				N/A				4.1				15.4			N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	15.0				N/A				5.7				15.3			N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	5.5	6.2	6.8	7.1	14.3	14.5	15.3	16.9	5.3	5.6	5.2	5.7	6.3	6.7	7.1	7.4
1-5 years	32.1	32.0	32.2	33.5	24.8	24.4	25.3	26.7	26.7	26.5	27.5	29.5	31.8	31.9	32.7	34.1
6-10 years	26.8	26.9	24.9	23.9	20.3	20.4	19.4	19.1	21.4	22.9	20.5	20.4	26.5	24.7	23.8	23.4
11-15 years	23.9	24.4	25.1	24.9	30.1	29.9	29.3	27.1	28.9	28.5	29.0	27.9	24.7	25.4	24.8	23.9
16-18 years	11.1	10.2	10.7	10.6	10.4	10.7	10.6	10.1	16.8	16.0	17.2	16.5	10.4	10.9	11.1	11.1
19+ years	0.4	0.2	0.2	—	0.0	0.0	0.1	—	0.6	0.4	0.4	—	0.2	0.2	0.4	—
Unknown/Missing data	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	—	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,695	8,484	8,266	8,437	7,369	7,590	7,273	6,842	7,376	7,129	6,438	6,541	8,688	8,945	9,101	8,738

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	8.8	8.8	8.4	8.4	8.7	7.3	8.2	6.3	8.6	7.4	7.4	6.6	8.9	8.7	9.0	8.1
Asian	N/A	0.9	0.9	1.0	N/A	1.4	1.6	1.2	N/A	1.5	1.6	1.6	N/A	0.9	0.9	0.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	14.8	14.0	13.1	12.0	9.4	8.7	8.6	8.6	10.5	10.2	10.0	9.2	13.9	12.6	11.7	11.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.1	0.2	0.2	N/A	0.3	0.4	0.5	N/A	0.3	0.3	0.4	N/A	0.2	0.2	0.3
Hispanic	10.3	11.8	11.5	12.0	12.8	12.0	12.2	12.7	11.0	12.2	12.1	13.2	11.8	11.6	11.6	11.7
White	58.7	57.7	58.4	59.1	60.8	62.0	60.4	62.0	62.2	61.4	60.2	60.7	57.6	58.4	58.7	60.2
Two or more races	N/A	6.0	6.9	6.4	N/A	5.7	4.4	5.5	N/A	4.9	4.9	5.7	N/A	6.6	6.3	6.2
Unknown/Missing data	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	1.3	2.5	4.3	3.2	1.2	2.1	3.4	2.6	0.6	1.0	1.6	1.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,695	8,484	8,266	8,437	7,369	7,590	7,273	6,842	7,376	7,129	6,438	6,541	8,688	8,945	9,101	8,738

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview

	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	3,720	2,669	2,302	3,361
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	3,368	2,216	1,854	3,034

Age of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	7.3	3.7	3.3	7.1
1-5 years	44.6	41.4	39.6	44.1
6-10 years	31.1	31.7	30.5	26.7
11-15 years	14.4	19.7	21.6	18.1
16+ years	2.4	3.3	4.8	3.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,720	2,669	2,302	3,361

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	4.9	4.9	4.8	5.7
Asian	N/A	0.6	0.7	0.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	16.9	17.9	17.5	13.2
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.2	0.3	0.3
Hispanic	11.6	11.4	11.7	11.7
White	58.8	57.7	57.0	60.4
Two or more races	N/A	6.6	7.3	7.1
Unknown/Missing data	7.0	0.7	0.8	0.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,720	2,669	2,302	3,361

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.8
1-5 years	57.6	55.9	57.1	60.6
6-10 years	31.6	32.3	30.9	27.1
11-15 years	8.2	9.3	9.9	9.2
16+ years	1.0	1.2	0.7	1.2
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,047	1,141	1,204	1,077

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	2.1	3.9	4.8	5.5
Asian	N/A	0.7	1.0	1.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	5.4	13.2	12.4	11.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.2	0.4
Hispanic	10.8	12.2	11.3	14.2
White	36.5	63.6	63.0	61.1
Two or more races	N/A	5.9	6.5	5.8
Unknown/Missing data	41.7	0.4	0.9	0.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,047	1,141	1,204	1,077

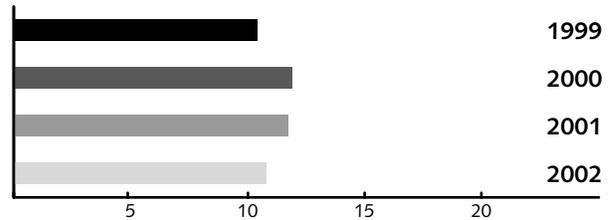
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	89.6	88.1	88.3	89.2
Children with one or more recurrences	10.4	11.9	11.7	10.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,378	3,075	3,083	2,422

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

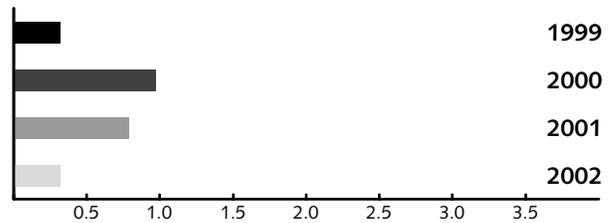


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.32	0.97	0.79	0.32
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.68	99.03	99.21	99.68
Total %	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	15,499	14,375	13,948	13,617

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

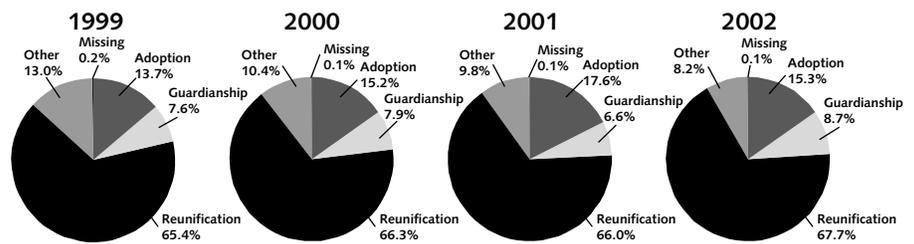


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	13.7	15.2	17.6	15.3
Guardianship	7.6	7.9	6.6	8.7
Reunification	65.4	66.3	66.0	67.7
Other	13.0	10.4	9.8	8.2
Missing data	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,376	7,129	6,438	6,541

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	22.2	18.8
Guardianship	—	—	26.7	14.6
Reunification	—	—	22.2	45.8
Other	—	—	28.9	20.8
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	—	45	48

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3
Guardianship	3.3	2.2	3.4	4.6
Reunification	76.4	81.6	80.1	80.4
Other	19.9	15.7	16.1	14.7
Missing data	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,372	2,246	2,179	1,972

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	29.4	30.3	22.0	25.1
Children older than 12 at entry	70.4	69.4	77.7	74.9
Missing data	0.2	0.3	0.3	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	405	333	327	343

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

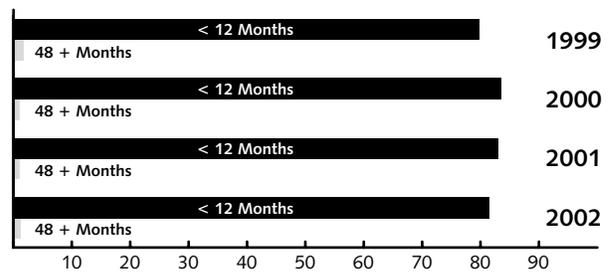
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	7.1	7.6	11.6	12.2	N/A	7.5	8.7	8.7	3.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.5	19.6	22.4	19.8	N/A	4.5	9.1	14.8
Guardianship	9.0	11.2	6.5	9.2	N/A	2.8	6.7	2.9	10.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.6	12.8	9.8	12.3	N/A	9.1	—	11.1
Reunification	51.3	43.9	47.3	53.9	N/A	78.5	78.8	77.7	69.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	56.7	58.5	60.6	60.3	N/A	81.8	90.9	74.1
Other	32.5	37.3	34.5	24.7	N/A	9.3	5.8	10.7	16.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.0	9.1	7.3	6.7	N/A	4.5	—	—
Missing data	—	—	0.2	—	N/A	1.9	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1	—	—	0.8	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	633	526	476	434	N/A	107	104	103	133	N/A	N/A	N/A	772	728	644	600	N/A	22	22	27

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	13.5	15.9	16.5	17.2	14.9	15.7	18.4	15.3	8.2	2.6	4.5	4.1	13.9	18.2	21.6	15.7	—	—	—	1.4
Guardianship	6.6	5.5	7.4	9.2	6.3	7.3	6.1	8.3	2.4	2.6	2.3	5.1	5.7	10.5	7.6	9.6	—	—	—	—
Reunification	69.0	71.2	68.6	66.4	67.5	68.9	67.4	69.5	77.6	85.0	88.2	86.7	69.9	58.7	59.0	65.4	—	—	—	97.2
Other	10.8	7.4	7.4	7.3	11.1	8.0	7.9	6.9	11.8	9.8	5.0	4.1	10.2	12.5	11.7	9.3	—	—	—	1.4
Missing data	0.1	—	—	—	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	—	—	—	—	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	100.0
Number	815	868	781	862	4,586	4,374	3,875	3,969	85	153	221	98	352	351	315	376	—	—	—	72

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

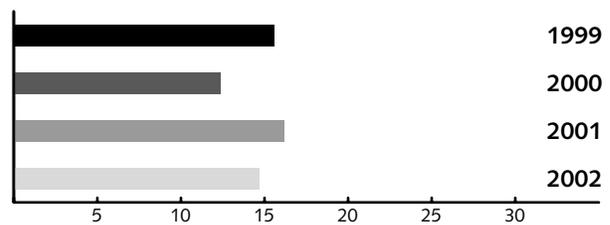
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	79.8	83.5	83.0	81.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	9.6	8.4	8.4	11.6
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	3.3	2.4	3.0	4.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.5	1.0	1.0	1.6
48 or more mos.	1.8	1.1	1.1	1.3
Missing data	4.0	3.5	3.6	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,826	4,727	4,247	4,428

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	67.9	69.6	71.2	73.4
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	15.6	12.4	16.2	14.7
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	9.6	9.3	11.9	10.8
Missing data	7.0	8.7	0.7	1.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	7,369	7,590	7,273	6,842

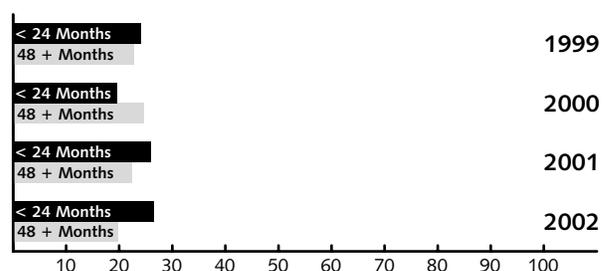
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	2.2	1.9	2.0	2.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	22.0	17.8	24.0	23.9
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	28.4	32.8	31.6	35.1
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	24.6	22.7	20.0	18.4
48 or more mos.	22.8	24.7	22.4	19.8
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,012	1,084	1,131	1,004

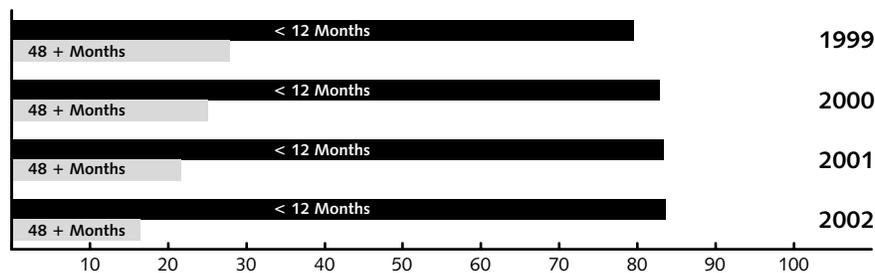
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	79.5	20.1	0.4	100.0	7,736
	2000	82.8	16.8	0.4	100.0	7,917
	2001	83.3	16.3	0.4	100.0	7,565
	2002	83.7	16.1	0.3	100.0	7,530
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	54.8	45.0	0.2	100.0	3,044
	2000	55.0	44.9	0.2	100.0	3,108
	2001	54.7	45.1	0.2	100.0	3,136
	2002	58.1	41.8	0.2	100.0	3,309
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	44.9	55.1	—	100.0	1,877
	2000	44.3	55.6	0.0	100.0	1,870
	2001	44.9	55.0	0.1	100.0	1,962
	2002	41.2	58.7	0.0	100.0	2,053
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	35.3	64.7	—	100.0	1,108
	2000	36.0	64.0	—	100.0	1,097
	2001	32.7	67.3	—	100.0	1,003
	2002	32.1	67.9	—	100.0	1,022
48 or more mos.	1999	27.9	71.7	0.4	100.0	1,931
	2000	25.0	74.6	0.4	100.0	1,755
	2001	21.6	78.0	0.4	100.0	1,575
	2002	16.4	83.6	—	100.0	1,351
Missing data	1999	92.1	6.5	1.4	100.0	368
	2000	94.8	3.7	1.5	100.0	327
	2001	94.3	4.0	1.7	100.0	298
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	14

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.7
Institutions	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.3
Other settings	97.0	97.4	97.0	97.0
Missing data	0.4	0.4	0.6	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,890	4,531	4,707	4,771

**Uma Ahluwalia, Assistant Secretary
Children's Administration
Washington Department of Social and Health Services
360-902-7820**

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

- Washington State continues to focus efforts on achieving stable permanent homes for children in out-of-home care in the shortest time possible. A high percentage of children were reunified within twelve months of their placement, and children in placement had more stable placements than ever before. Over 1,000 children have been adopted each year for the last four years and the number of legally-free children waiting for a permanent home has decreased significantly since 1998. In an effort to continually improve practice and statewide consistency, new initiatives are underway to better engage families in order to prevent placement in out-of-home care, to safely reunite children with their parents, and to increase relative involvement.
- The percent of children re-entering care has declined with the implementation of safety tools such as reunification assessments and transition plans, and the recurrence of abuse or neglect has decreased since the implementation of safety assessments and safety plans used during investigations. Improvements in the Child Protective Services system will be implemented over the next two years to further improve child safety and to address information technology system issues which impact the calculation of outcome measures such as duplicate entry of referrals.
- The Governor and legislature of Washington State are committed to managing by outcomes and the state has been tracking performance on select outcomes since 1997. We support the federal effort to evaluate states' performance in comparison to federal standards, but some unique characteristics of Washington's child welfare system make this comparison difficult. Because the scope of this report does not permit clarification of laws and policies that may influence the data, some of the results presented may be misleading. We support the federal government's efforts to explore state differences which may impact the comparability of the data. This work will assist us in improving child welfare services for all children and their families.

The following discussion focuses on Washington's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Washington Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2004, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2002. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Washington's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided below.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Washington's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 10.8 percent, which is more than both the national standard of 6.1 percent or less and the national median of 7.5 percent. Performance on this measure exhibited no change from 1999 to 2002. Information from the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to preventing maltreatment recurrence: (1) the refusal of many families in voluntary cases to participate in services; (2) insufficient safety assessments conducted at the time of case closure; and (3) an increase in chronic neglect cases.

The cross-State analyses found a small, but definite, positive relationship between State variation in performance on this outcome measure and State variation in the percentage of child victims experiencing neglect. For Washington, both the incidence of maltreatment recurrence (10.8 percent) and the percentage of child victims experiencing neglect (73.1 percent) were in the top quartile of the State rankings. This suggests that State definitions and laws pertaining to what constitutes maltreatment and what is required for substantiation may be related to State performance on the measure of maltreatment recurrence.

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

In CY 2002, Washington's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.32 percent, which is less than both the national standard of 0.57 percent or less and the national median of 0.39 percent. Performance on this measure exhibited no change from 1999 to 2002. Information in the CFSR Final Reports attributes State effectiveness in preventing maltreatment in foster care to: (1) ongoing facility reviews by licensors; (2) routine health and safety visits by social workers to all children in foster care (which are to be conducted every 90 days; and (3) the implementation of the Kids Come First safety assessments and safety planning.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 91.7 percent of children exiting foster care in Washington were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 86.1 percent); 79.2 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is about equal to the national median of 79.8 percent); and 85.2 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care exited to a permanent home (which is considerably more than the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 25.1 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is less than the national median of 26.9 percent. Washington's performance improved slightly from FY 1999 to FY 2002 with regard to: (1) the percentage of children exiting foster care who were discharged to a permanent home (+5.7 percent change); (2) the percentage of children with a diagnosed disability who were discharged to a permanent home (+6.7 percent); and (3)

the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (-14.7 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Washington occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 81.5, which is more than both the national standard of 76.2 percent or more and the national median of 68.0 percent. Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002. Information from the CFSR Final Report indicates that most reunifications take place very quickly, within 1 or 2 months of the child's entry into foster care. However, stakeholders in the State suggested that if a child remains in foster care past that point, there is a lack of consistent effort to achieve reunification in a timely manner, particularly with regard to providing the necessary services to parents in a timely manner. The report also indicates that some stakeholders in the State believe that it often takes longer than 12 months to address the parental deficits, particularly parental substance abuse problems.

Because the cross-State analyses found a substantial and positive relationship between State variation in the percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of entry into foster care and State variation in the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode, Washington's performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months must be considered in the context of its re-entry rate. For Washington, the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior foster care episode was 14.7, which is more than both the national standard of 8.6 or less and the national median of 9.9 percent. Thus, while Washington was in the top quartile of the State rankings for the percentage of reunifications within 12 months, it also was in the top quartile for the State rankings for the percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering within 12 months of a prior episode.

Washington's performance on the measure of foster care re-entry improved slightly from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-5.4 percent change). Information in the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to preventing re-entry into foster care: (1) insufficient services to families after reunification, and (2) insufficient safety assessments conducted at the time of reunification. The Report also notes that stakeholders in the State believe that family team meetings help prevent re-entries into foster care because relatives become more involved in supporting the families.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 26.7, which does not meet the national standard of 32.0 percent or more, but is more than the national median of 23.0 percent. Change in performance on this measure is assessed from FY 2000 to FY 2002 due to data quality issues for many States for this measure in FY 1999. Washington's performance on this measure improved from FY 2000 to FY 2002 (+35.2 percent change). Information in the CFSR Final Report identifies the following as potential barriers to achieving timely adoptions: (1) a shortage of attorneys and judges; (2) staff turnover; (3) delays in completing paperwork and home studies; and (4) the lengthiness of appeals to termination of parental rights decisions.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 83.7, which is less than the national standard of 86.7 percent or more, but is about equal to the national median of 84.1 percent. Washington's performance on this measure improved slightly from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+5.3 percent change). Information from the CFSR Final Report attributes placement instability to the following factors: (1) lack of appropriate matching of foster parents and children; (2) lack of adequate placement resources, particularly for children with behavioral or emotional problems; (3) inadequate training of foster parents; (4) insufficient support for relative foster care providers; and (5) lack of support services, such as respite care, for foster parents.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 3.0, which is substantially less than the national median of 8.6 percent. However, Washington's performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+15.1 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	403,481	399,140	393,721	389,171
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	N/A	0.5	0.6	0.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	3.5	3.6	4.0	4.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	0.7	1.0	0.9	0.9
White	95.1	93.0	92.9	92.9
Two or more races	N/A	1.5	1.4	1.5
Other	N/A	0.2	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	22.6	18.0	22.2	24.7

Child Welfare Summary	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	8,609	8,244	7,907	6,635
Children in foster care on 9/30	3,169	3,388	3,298	3,220
Children adopted	312	352	362	361

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	36,142	27,145	26,812	24,089	89.6 per 1,000	68.0 per 1,000	68.1 per 1,000	61.9 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	8,609	8,244	7,907	6,635	21.3 per 1,000	20.6 per 1,000	20.1 per 1,000	17.0 per 1,000
Child fatalities	1	4	1	13	0.2 per 100,000	1.0 per 100,000	0.2 per 100,000	3.3 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	3.2	6.2	6.8	6.9
1-5 years	25.2	27.9	29.1	29.8
6-10 years	28.2	26.6	27.4	27.1
11-15 years	23.2	23.8	23.0	24.3
16+ years	7.8	5.5	5.6	5.7
Unknown/Missing data	12.3	9.9	8.1	6.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,609	8,244	7,907	6,635

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.1	—	0.0	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2
Black	5.1	4.2	3.3	3.4
Hispanic	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.8
White	84.0	83.8	84.2	83.5
Two or more races	0.0	2.7	2.4	3.6
Unknown/Missing data	10.7	8.4	9.3	8.6
Total % ⁴	100.6	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	8,609	8,244	7,907	6,635

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	9.9	10.4	11.6	19.2
Medical neglect	1.4	1.2	0.9	1.3
Neglect	43.8	47.5	47.1	54.9
Physical abuse	25.1	29.1	28.6	30.7
Sexual abuse	8.6	7.7	7.0	7.7
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	18.7	18.7	23.5	6.4
Total % ⁵	107.7	114.6	118.7	120.2
Number	8,609	8,244	7,907	6,635

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	2,989	2,151	1,973	3,169	5,140
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	3,252	2,392	2,256	3,388	5,644
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	3,404	2,234	2,340	3,298	5,638
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	3,364	2,358	2,502	3,220	5,722

Median Length of Stay (Months)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	17.8				N/A				9.1				16.3			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	17.8				N/A				8.7				15.1			N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	15.7				N/A				10.5				16.2			N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	16.6				N/A				10.2				15.1			N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	2.6	2.3	2.8	2.5	7.8	8.4	8.7	8.2	2.7	2.8	3.0	2.7	2.8	3.3	3.2	3.2
1-5 years	16.9	15.7	16.2	16.0	17.4	17.8	17.2	17.9	17.5	14.5	16.8	16.9	16.4	17.4	16.5	16.7
6-10 years	20.6	19.8	18.4	16.3	16.5	15.4	14.0	14.6	15.4	15.7	15.0	14.2	20.5	18.9	17.2	16.0
11-15 years	32.6	34.2	34.7	37.5	37.8	37.3	38.5	39.2	26.3	27.4	25.4	28.5	33.5	34.1	36.0	35.9
16-18 years	25.5	26.0	25.9	25.4	20.3	21.1	21.2	19.6	35.0	36.8	37.1	34.2	24.7	24.4	24.8	26.4
19+ years	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.3	0.1	—	0.3	0.4	2.9	2.5	2.4	3.3	2.0	1.9	2.3	1.8
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.1	—	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	—	0.1	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,989	3,252	3,404	3,364	2,151	2,392	2,234	2,358	1,973	2,256	2,340	2,502	3,169	3,388	3,298	3,220

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	—
Asian	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.2	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.2	0.1	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	12.5	9.1	8.2	7.9	8.0	6.8	7.1	6.2	9.5	8.2	7.6	7.3	11.4	8.1	7.9	7.1
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.2	N/A	—	0.0	0.1	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.2	0.6	1.3	1.0	1.5	0.8	1.2	1.3	1.6	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.1
White	85.3	84.2	84.5	83.9	86.1	81.9	83.2	82.4	86.9	83.2	84.4	82.7	84.9	83.3	83.7	83.8
Two or more races	N/A	3.9	4.1	4.3	N/A	3.0	2.6	4.0	N/A	3.0	3.0	4.0	N/A	3.8	3.9	4.4
Unknown/Missing data	0.9	1.7	1.8	2.6	5.0	6.8	5.9	5.6	2.7	4.3	3.4	4.2	2.5	3.5	3.4	3.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,989	3,252	3,404	3,364	2,151	2,392	2,234	2,358	1,973	2,256	2,340	2,502	3,169	3,388	3,298	3,220

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview

	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	779	766	731	1,021
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	12	23	87	824

Age of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	3.6	3.9	4.1	3.9
1-5 years	30.8	28.7	28.5	24.2
6-10 years	40.9	38.8	32.0	24.8
11-15 years	22.5	24.5	29.1	32.7
16+ years	1.8	3.8	5.1	10.4
Unknown/Missing data	0.4	0.3	1.2	4.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	779	766	731	1,021

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	0.1	—
Asian	N/A	0.1	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	15.7	10.3	7.9	7.6
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.4
White	81.9	81.2	82.6	84.0
Two or more races	N/A	5.9	6.6	5.7
Unknown/Missing data	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	779	766	731	1,021

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.6
1-5 years	42.9	32.7	40.1	42.7
6-10 years	39.7	44.9	37.3	34.1
11-15 years	14.4	20.2	18.0	20.2
16+ years	1.9	1.7	3.9	2.5
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	312	352	362	361

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	—	—	—	—
Asian	N/A	—	0.3	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	9.3	15.1	7.2	6.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	0.6	2.8	0.6	0.6
White	86.9	76.4	84.3	84.8
Two or more races	N/A	5.4	7.7	8.3
Unknown/Missing data	3.2	0.3	—	0.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	312	352	362	361

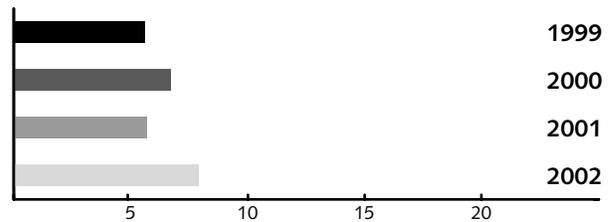
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	94.4	93.3	94.3	92.1
Children with one or more recurrences	5.6	6.7	5.7	7.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,500	4,343	4,020	3,294

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

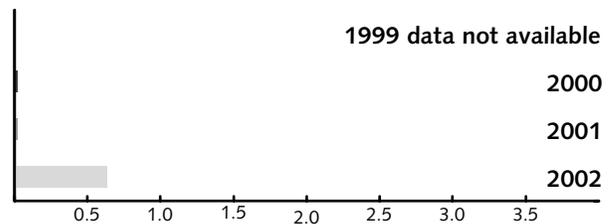


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	0.02	0.02	0.63
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	99.98	99.98	99.37
Total %	—	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	—	5,208	5,182	5,203

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

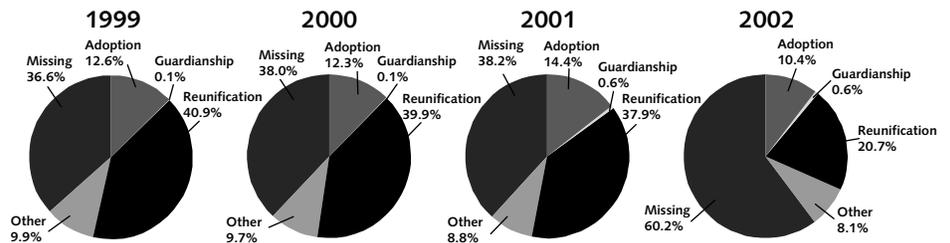


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	12.6	12.3	14.4	10.4
Guardianship	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.6
Reunification	40.9	39.9	37.9	20.7
Other	9.9	9.7	8.8	8.1
Missing data	36.6	38.0	38.2	60.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,973	2,256	2,340	2,502

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	9.7	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—
Reunification	29.9	—	—	—
Other	16.9	—	—	—
Missing data	43.5	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	—	—	—
Number	154	—	—	—

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.8
Guardianship	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.4
Reunification	38.4	39.4	38.4	20.8
Other	15.4	14.7	13.7	12.6
Missing data	46.1	45.7	47.0	65.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	983	1,180	1,185	1,295

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	29.1	34.5	29.6	19.2
Children older than 12 at entry	70.9	65.5	70.4	80.8
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	79	87	81	99

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

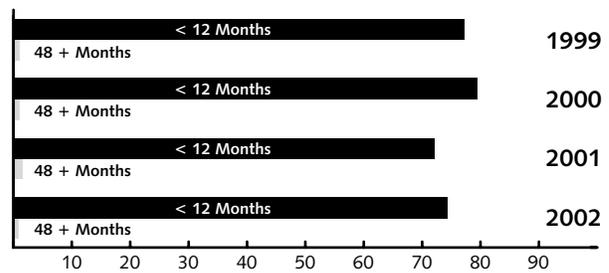
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	25.0	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.3	26.5	14.5	6.6	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.5	0.5	1.7	0.5	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	—	—	—	—	N/A	100.0	50.0	33.3	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	40.1	30.8	43.6	20.8	N/A	—	—	33.3
Other	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	25.0	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.4	8.1	7.3	9.3	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	100.0	N/A	—	—	66.7	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	32.6	34.1	33.0	62.8	N/A	—	100.0	66.7
Total %	—	—	—	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	100.0	100.0
Number	—	—	—	1	N/A	1	4	3	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	187	185	179	183	N/A	—	1	3

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	13.3	11.1	20.0	5.0	13.0	11.1	14.2	10.8	—	1.0	—	1.0	N/A	22.1	33.8	21.2	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	3.3	—	—	0.1	0.5	0.7	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	2.8	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	53.3	48.1	53.3	22.5	40.3	40.3	37.1	20.5	64.7	46.9	51.3	25.7	N/A	41.2	26.8	18.2	62.2	—	—	—
Other	13.3	—	6.7	7.5	9.6	10.2	9.0	8.3	5.9	6.1	8.8	6.7	N/A	8.8	5.6	4.0	2.7	—	—	—
Missing data	20.0	40.7	16.7	65.0	37.2	38.4	39.3	59.7	29.4	45.9	40.0	66.7	N/A	27.9	31.0	56.6	35.1	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—
Number	15	27	30	40	1,714	1,877	1,975	2,068	17	98	80	105	N/A	68	71	99	37	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

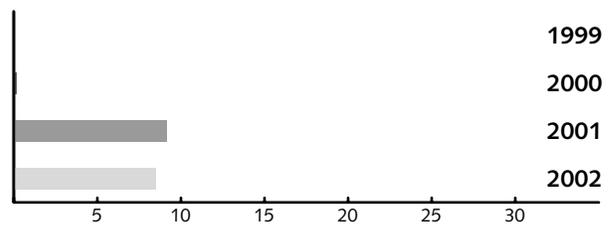
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	77.3	79.5	72.2	74.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	16.1	14.7	20.8	16.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	4.2	3.9	4.1	5.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.1	0.9	1.4	2.9
48 or more mos.	1.2	1.1	1.6	0.8
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	807	901	888	518

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	99.9	99.9	87.9	86.6
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	0.0	0.1	9.1	8.4
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	—	—	2.5	3.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,151	2,392	2,234	2,358

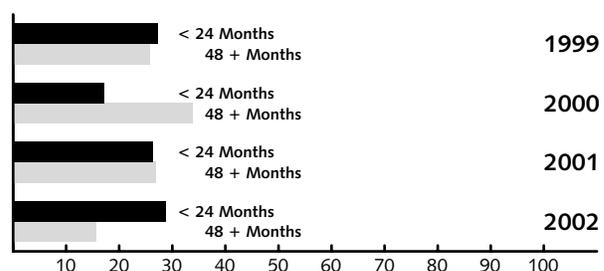
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	3.2	1.4	1.5	2.3
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	24.2	15.9	24.9	26.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	29.0	29.6	27.6	35.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	17.7	19.1	19.0	20.0
48 or more mos.	25.8	33.9	27.0	15.8
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	248	277	337	260

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



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	99.8	0.2	—	100.0	2,518
	2000	99.9	0.1	—	100.0	2,827
	2001	83.6	16.4	—	100.0	2,683
	2002	82.3	17.7	—	100.0	2,795
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	99.6	0.4	—	100.0	902
	2000	99.6	0.4	—	100.0	999
	2001	51.5	48.5	—	100.0	1,135
	2002	53.0	47.0	—	100.0	1,102
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	99.6	0.4	—	100.0	553
	2000	99.3	0.7	—	100.0	558
	2001	33.2	66.8	—	100.0	603
	2002	37.0	63.0	—	100.0	664
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	366
	2000	99.7	0.3	—	100.0	354
	2001	35.1	64.9	—	100.0	370
	2002	31.5	68.5	—	100.0	355
48 or more mos.	1999	99.9	0.1	—	100.0	792
	2000	99.4	0.6	—	100.0	904
	2001	49.8	50.2	—	100.0	846
	2002	42.5	57.5	—	100.0	796
Missing data	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	9
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	2
	2001	—	100.0	—	100.0	1
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	10

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	4.3	9.6	9.5	8.8
Institutions	3.1	1.1	0.9	1.3
Other settings	77.4	89.3	89.7	89.9
Missing data	15.2	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	967	1,072	939	1,072

West Virginia

[STATE COMMENT]

The following discussion focuses on West Virginia's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The West Virginia Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2002, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2000. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for West Virginia's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, West Virginia's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 7.9 percent, which is more than both the national standard of 6.1 percent or less and the national median of 7.5 percent. Performance on this measure declined from 1999 to 2002 (+41.1 percent change).

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

In CY 2002, West Virginia's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.63 percent, which is more than the national standard of 0.57 percent or less and the national median of 0.39 percent. Change in performance on this measure cannot be assessed due to possible data quality issues in prior years.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

West Virginia's performance on the measures relevant to outcome 3 cannot be assessed because of a large percentage of missing data pertaining to "reason for discharge" information for all 4 years. For example, in FY 2002, 60.2 percent of the exits from foster care reported for outcome measure 3.1 do not have such information.

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

West Virginia's performance in FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of reunifications occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care cannot be assessed because 60.2 percent of the exits from foster care in that year do not have "reason for discharge" information.

West Virginia's performance in FY 2002 with regard to the percent of re-entries into foster care within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 8.4 percent. This is less than both the national standard of 8.6 percent or less and the national median of 9.9 percent. Change in performance on this measure cannot be assessed due to data quality issues relevant to the measure in FY 1999 and FY 2000.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

West Virginia's performance in FY 2002 with regard to the percentage of adoptions occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care cannot be assessed because 60.2 percent of the exits from foster care in that year do not have "reason for discharge" information. In addition, there is a substantial discrepancy between the number of children reported to the AFCARS Adoption Database as being adopted in FY 2002 (361 children) and the number of children reported to the AFCARS Foster Care Database as exits from foster care to a finalized adoption (260 children). Thus, 28 percent of the children adopted in FY 2002 are not accounted for in the assessment of outcome measure 5.1— time to adoption.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 82.3, which is less than both the national standard of 86.7 percent or more and the national median of 84.1 percent. West Virginia's performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-17.5 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 10.1, which is more than the national median of 8.6 percent. West Virginia's performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+35.3 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	1,348,268	1,361,629	1,352,921	1,338,064
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1
Asian	N/A	2.6	2.6	2.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	7.9	8.3	8.5	8.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	4.2	5.5	5.6	5.7
White	84.1	80.4	80.1	79.7
Two or more races	N/A	2.0	2.0	2.1
Other	N/A	0.1	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	9.3	13.7	12.0	12.2

Child Welfare Summary

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	9,791	12,120	11,917	11,628
Children in foster care on 9/30	10,868	10,504	9,497	8,744
Children adopted	642	736	754	1,028

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	34,311	38,021	40,216	42,087	25.4 per 1,000	27.9 per 1,000	29.7 per 1,000	31.5 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	9,791	12,120	11,917	11,628	7.3 per 1,000	8.9 per 1,000	8.8 per 1,000	8.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	9	10	17	14	0.7 per 100,000	0.7 per 100,000	1.3 per 100,000	1.0 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	5.8	5.6	5.7	6.1
1-5 years	24.9	24.7	24.2	22.7
6-10 years	27.6	26.1	26.1	25.1
11-15 years	34.2	35.1	35.3	37.7
16+ years	7.3	8.0	8.1	7.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.6
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,791	12,120	11,917	11,628

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	3.0	2.8	2.8	3.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.8
Black	30.0	19.3	18.0	18.9
Hispanic	5.4	5.2	5.9	4.5
White	58.5	69.4	67.4	67.6
Two or more races	0.0	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	6.5	1.2	3.8	4.0
Total % ⁴	105.4	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,791	12,120	11,917	11,628

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.4
Medical neglect	0.0	0.6	0.4	0.7
Neglect	42.2	27.9	27.4	26.3
Physical abuse	21.9	15.4	15.5	14.5
Sexual abuse	37.9	40.0	38.7	42.2
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	23.2	20.3	21.7	21.8
Total % ⁵	125.8	104.6	104.3	105.9
Number	9,791	12,120	11,917	11,628

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	9,390	5,941	4,463	10,868	15,331
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	8,449	6,001	4,039	10,504	14,450
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	8,389	5,158	4,358	9,497	13,547
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	7,795	5,054	5,186	8,744	12,849

Median Length of Stay (Months)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	18.0				N/A				7.3				18.5			N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	16.0				N/A				6.5				16.5			N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	17.1				N/A				6.7				20.2			N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	22.5				N/A				7.3				21.3			N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	2.7	3.4	2.8	3.1	8.7	8.9	10.1	9.6	2.5	3.6	3.3	2.9	2.8	2.7	3.1	3.1
1-5 years	24.2	24.4	23.1	22.3	19.8	20.2	19.2	20.7	18.0	17.5	19.8	24.6	22.2	23.5	21.9	21.4
6-10 years	27.9	29.4	27.3	26.9	17.7	20.0	17.7	16.9	17.7	18.4	16.8	21.4	27.0	27.3	25.6	23.6
11-15 years	30.1	30.7	32.9	33.9	38.7	36.8	37.3	37.2	30.5	31.1	30.0	27.0	31.8	32.4	34.1	35.5
16-18 years	14.7	12.0	13.7	13.6	15.0	14.0	15.6	15.6	30.6	29.1	29.4	23.5	15.4	13.8	15.0	16.2
19+ years	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,390	8,449	8,389	7,795	5,941	6,001	5,158	5,054	4,463	4,039	4,358	5,186	10,868	10,504	9,497	8,744

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Alaska Native/American Indian	3.3	3.0	2.2	2.1	3.8	3.5	3.6	3.2	4.7	5.1	4.0	3.2	3.0	2.5	2.1	1.8
Asian	N/A	1.1	0.9	0.9	N/A	2.0	2.1	2.2	N/A	2.8	1.9	1.6	N/A	0.9	1.1	1.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	50.9	50.0	53.6	53.6	31.7	30.7	25.3	26.5	22.8	21.3	25.9	29.9	51.9	50.2	50.6	49.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	N/A	—	—	—	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	4.2	5.8	6.0	7.3	4.5	5.5	7.0	7.7	3.9	4.4	5.0	7.3	4.5	6.1	7.2	7.6
White	40.3	38.1	34.6	32.9	57.4	55.7	59.4	56.4	65.9	65.2	60.7	53.4	39.1	37.5	36.1	36.5
Two or more races	N/A	2.0	2.6	3.0	N/A	2.3	1.8	2.8	N/A	1.1	1.9	3.6	N/A	2.5	2.7	3.2
Unknown/Missing data	—	0.0	0.0	0.2	—	0.2	0.7	1.1	—	0.0	0.5	0.9	—	0.1	0.3	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	9,390	8,449	8,389	7,795	5,941	6,001	5,158	5,054	4,463	4,039	4,358	5,186	10,868	10,504	9,497	8,744

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview

	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	1,993	1,964	2,049	1,911
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,774	1,757	1,083	841

Age of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	4.6	3.6	3.7	2.8
1-5 years	37.5	35.2	29.9	27.6
6-10 years	35.0	36.0	36.5	34.2
11-15 years	19.1	21.5	25.7	30.0
16+ years	3.4	3.1	4.2	4.9
Unknown/Missing data	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,993	1,964	2,049	1,911

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	5.0	3.3	1.7	1.5
Asian	N/A	0.8	0.4	0.4
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	47.4	44.3	61.9	64.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	0.0
Hispanic	4.9	6.1	8.3	8.4
White	40.8	42.2	24.0	21.4
Two or more races	N/A	3.3	3.7	3.8
Unknown/Missing data	1.0	—	—	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,993	1,964	2,049	1,911

E. Children Adopted

(AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	2.3	2.7	6.8	6.3
1-5 years	41.0	42.1	43.9	40.9
6-10 years	40.0	36.5	33.8	35.3
11-15 years	13.6	16.8	14.1	15.0
16+ years	3.1	1.8	1.5	2.5
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	642	736	754	1,028

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	5.0	4.9	2.8	1.8
Asian	N/A	1.0	0.4	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	41.7	38.5	36.5	40.2
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	6.1	6.5	7.3	7.6
White	47.2	47.8	46.6	44.5
Two or more races	N/A	1.2	6.5	5.7
Unknown/Missing data	—	0.1	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	642	736	754	1,028

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

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

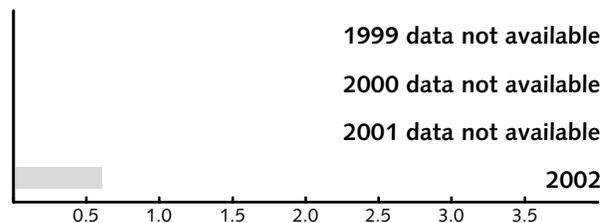
1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	—	—	—	—
Children with one or more recurrences	—	—	—	—
Total %	—	—	—	—
Number	—	—	—	—

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

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	0.61
Children not maltreated while in foster care	—	—	—	99.39
Total %	—	—	—	100.00
Number	—	—	—	15,156

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

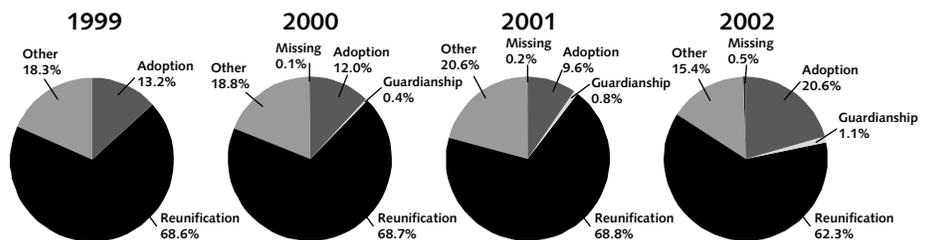


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	13.2	12.0	9.6	20.6
Guardianship	—	0.4	0.8	1.1
Reunification	68.6	68.7	68.8	62.3
Other	18.3	18.8	20.6	15.4
Missing data	—	0.1	0.2	0.5
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	4,463	4,039	4,358	5,186

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	28.8	27.0	6.8	25.6
Guardianship	—	—	—	0.2
Reunification	51.0	51.7	64.7	54.5
Other	20.1	21.3	28.4	19.7
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,425	1,276	981	1,019

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.8
Guardianship	—	—	—	0.4
Reunification	68.2	67.6	67.5	68.5
Other	31.1	31.5	31.9	30.0
Missing data	—	0.1	0.1	0.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	2,189	1,865	1,937	1,698

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	13.1	16.1	17.3	18.9
Children older than 12 at entry	86.9	78.7	76.8	65.3
Missing data	—	5.1	6.0	15.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	289	254	336	334

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

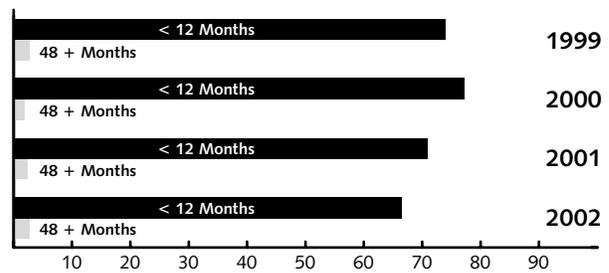
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	13.7	15.6	8.0	6.0	N/A	6.1	7.2	2.4	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	23.0	17.8	12.3	26.3	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	—	0.6	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	1.2	2.3	2.7	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	67.3	70.7	75.6	69.0	N/A	69.6	72.3	85.7	83.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	59.8	63.2	63.7	57.4	N/A	—	—	—
Other	19.0	13.7	15.9	24.4	N/A	24.3	20.5	11.9	16.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.2	17.5	21.1	13.3	N/A	—	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	0.6	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	0.3	0.6	0.2	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	—	—	—
Number	211	205	176	168	N/A	115	83	84	118	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,017	859	1,129	1,551	N/A	—	—	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	18.6	17.4	18.6	20.5	9.9	9.6	7.1	18.1	—	—	—	—	N/A	15.9	34.9	35.1	—	—	—	3.7
Guardianship	—	2.8	0.9	1.3	—	0.0	0.2	0.3	—	—	—	5.0	N/A	—	—	1.6	—	—	—	—
Reunification	68.0	61.8	61.8	65.1	71.2	70.7	71.4	64.4	—	—	81.8	85.0	66.7	72.7	51.8	42.6	—	100.0	91.7	96.3
Other	13.4	18.0	17.7	12.6	18.9	19.6	21.3	17.0	—	100.0	18.2	10.0	33.3	9.1	13.3	11.7	—	—	8.3	—
Missing data	—	—	0.9	0.5	—	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	N/A	2.3	—	9.0	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	172	178	220	381	2,939	2,635	2,644	2,767	—	1	11	20	6	44	83	188	—	2	12	27

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

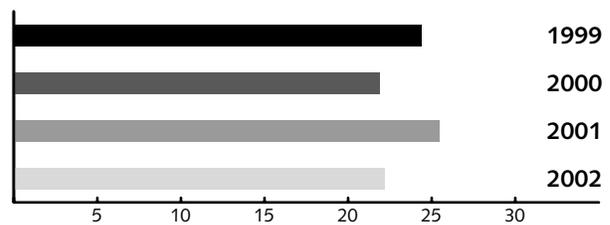
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	74.0	77.2	70.9	66.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	15.8	12.7	14.4	13.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	5.0	4.5	5.7	5.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.3	1.3	2.4	2.4
48 or more mos.	2.7	1.8	2.4	2.6
Missing data	0.2	2.5	4.0	9.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,061	2,775	2,998	3,233

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	66.3	64.4	66.0	68.4
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	24.4	21.9	25.5	22.2
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	9.4	7.0	8.0	6.2
Missing data	—	6.6	0.5	3.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	5,941	6,001	5,158	5,054

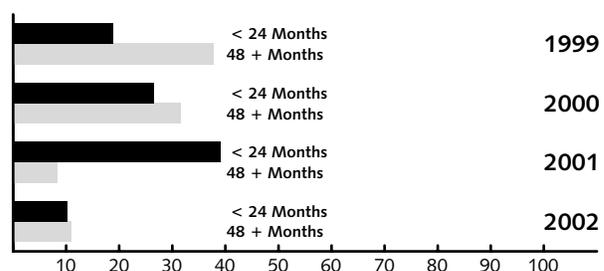
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	7.5	8.1	19.1	3.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	11.4	18.4	19.9	6.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	20.6	24.4	10.3	10.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	22.7	16.5	5.7	6.4
48 or more mos.	37.8	31.6	8.4	11.0
Missing data	—	1.0	36.6	61.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	587	484	418	1,067

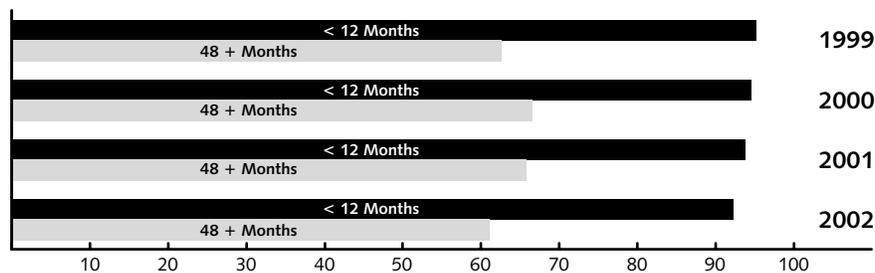
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	95.2	4.8	0.0	100.0	6,801
	2000	94.5	5.5	—	100.0	6,807
	2001	93.8	6.2	—	100.0	5,938
	2002	92.3	7.7	—	100.0	5,741
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	82.0	18.0	—	100.0	3,051
	2000	82.3	17.7	—	100.0	2,936
	2001	76.3	23.7	—	100.0	2,696
	2002	73.9	26.1	—	100.0	2,051
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	70.7	29.3	0.0	100.0	1,738
	2000	73.0	27.0	—	100.0	1,703
	2001	75.5	24.5	—	100.0	1,807
	2002	67.1	32.9	—	100.0	1,504
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	60.6	39.4	—	100.0	1,263
	2000	67.5	32.4	0.1	100.0	924
	2001	73.4	26.6	—	100.0	1,036
	2002	68.3	31.7	—	100.0	1,180
48 or more mos.	1999	62.6	37.3	0.1	100.0	2,436
	2000	66.5	33.4	0.0	100.0	2,068
	2001	65.8	34.1	0.0	100.0	2,055
	2002	61.1	38.8	0.0	100.0	2,342
Missing data	1999	100.0	—	—	100.0	42
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	12
	2001	100.0	—	—	100.0	15
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	31

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	2.0	3.1	5.0	7.3
Institutions	3.6	3.3	3.6	3.5
Other settings	94.4	91.6	91.1	87.8
Missing data	—	2.1	0.3	1.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,225	3,410	2,896	2,796

The following discussion focuses on Wisconsin's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Wisconsin Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2003, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2001. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Wisconsin's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2001*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than plus or minus 5.0 was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

Wisconsin's performance on outcome 1 cannot be assessed as part of the Federal Comment section because the State does not provide data to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) for calculating this outcome. To ensure data consistency across States, only data submitted through NCANDS are presented for this outcome in the Report to Congress. However, the State provided data for calendar year (CY) 2001 for this outcome for its CFSR using an alternative source. The alternative source indicated that 6.9 percent of children who were the subject of a substantiated or indicated child maltreatment report in the first 6 months of the calendar year experienced another substantiated or indicated child maltreatment within 6 months of the prior report. This does not meet the national standard of 6.1 percent or less.

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

In CY 2002, Wisconsin's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.61 percent, which is more than both the national standard of 0.57 percent or less and the national median of 0.39 percent. Change in performance on this measure cannot be assessed because 2002 was the first year that the State reported these data to NCANDS.

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 84.1 percent of children exiting foster care in Wisconsin were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 86.1 percent), and 69.7 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is less than the national median of 72.0 percent). However, 80.3 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 79.8 percent), and 18.9 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care, which is less than the national median of 26.9 percent. In general, Wisconsin's performance on the measures assessing outcome 3 exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002. However, performance declined with regard to the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (+43.5 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Wisconsin occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 66.5, which is less than both the national standard of 76.2 percent or more and the national median of 68.0 percent. Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-10.1 percent change).

Wisconsin's performance in FY 2002 with regard to the percent of re-entries into foster care within 12 months of a discharge from a prior foster care episode was 22.2 percent, which is more than both the national standard of 8.6 percent or less and than the national median of 9.9 percent. However, performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-8.9 percent change).

The cross-State analyses found a substantial positive relationship between State variation in performance on this outcome measure in FY 2002 and State variation in the percentage of children entering foster care in FY 2002 who were age 16 or older. States with a relatively high percentage of children age 16 and older entering foster care in FY 2002 tended to have a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were re-entering with 12 months of a prior episode. For Wisconsin, both the percentage of children entering foster care who were age 16 and older (15.6 percent) and the incidence of foster care re-entry (22.2 percent) were in the top quartile of the State rankings. One explanation for this is that children age 16 and older who enter foster care are often entering because of their own behaviors (or through the juvenile justice system) rather than as a result of maltreatment, and they may leave the foster care system before the behavior problems are fully resolved. This is particularly relevant to Wisconsin because this State provides child welfare foster care services to children in the juvenile justice system.

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 10.3, which is less than the national standard of 32.0 percent or more and the national median of 23.0 percent. Wisconsin's performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-45.5 percent change).

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 92.3, which is more than both the national standard of 86.7 percent or more and the national median of 84.1 percent. Wisconsin's performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 10.7, which is more than the national median of 8.6 percent. Wisconsin's performance on this measure declined from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (+90.1 percent change).

A. Key Context Statistics

General Population

(Census Bureau)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total children under 18 years	126,807	126,227	124,111	122,344
Race/ethnicity (%) ^{1,2}				
Alaska Native/American Indian	3.1	2.9	2.9	3.0
Asian	N/A	0.5	0.6	0.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	8.5	9.0	9.2	9.3
White	86.7	84.7	84.5	84.2
Two or more races	N/A	2.0	1.8	1.9
Other	N/A	0.1	0.0	0.0
% Child population in poverty	14.8	15.0	10.7	10.6

Child Welfare Summary

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Child maltreatment victims ³	1,221	1,332	990	692
Children in foster care on 9/30	774	815	965	929
Children adopted	45	61	46	52

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS)

Maltreatment Information Overview	Number				Rate			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	3,331	3,864	4,184	4,355	26.3 per 1,000	30.6 per 1,000	33.7 per 1,000	35.6 per 1,000
Child maltreatment victims	1,221	1,332	990	692	9.6 per 1,000	10.6 per 1,000	8.0 per 1,000	5.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	1	1	1	3	0.8 per 100,000	0.8 per 100,000	0.8 per 100,000	2.5 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	3.2	8.7	6.8	9.7
1-5 years	33.7	32.3	35.2	37.3
6-10 years	31.7	32.1	30.2	25.4
11-15 years	22.0	21.9	22.9	22.8
16+ years	6.4	5.0	4.7	4.8
Unknown/Missing data	2.9	—	0.2	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,221	1,332	990	692

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Alaska Native/American Indian	5.7	5.8	1.9	3.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3	0.6	1.1	0.3
Black	1.8	1.7	1.6	2.5
Hispanic	6.6	8.2	7.2	5.9
White	75.9	76.8	80.8	81.8
Two or more races	0.0	—	0.3	0.1
Unknown/Missing data	16.2	6.9	7.1	6.4
Total % ⁴	106.6	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	1,221	1,332	990	692

Maltreatment Type of Child Victims (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Emotional abuse	1.6	1.1	1.4	0.7
Medical neglect	1.8	1.2	1.8	2.9
Neglect	63.9	63.1	59.1	60.7
Physical abuse	29.4	27.3	28.9	30.8
Sexual abuse	9.0	10.3	10.7	12.3
Unknown/Missing data	0.0	—	—	—
Other	1.0	0.7	0.4	—
Total % ⁵	106.6	103.7	102.3	107.4
Number	1,221	1,332	990	692

¹ The convention for the data tables is the following: N/A in the data table means that the category was not applicable for the specific year. A dash (-) means that there is "no value" or the category is a true zero (that is, no children were reported as being in that category). A zero (0) means that there is a value for the category, but the value is less than 0.1 percent.

² The multiple and overlapping race categories in this and subsequent race tables are due to changes in the Census Bureau categories beginning in 2000. Because the reporting of these categories is a relatively new process for States, changes in percentages over time may be due to data quality issues.

³ A child victim is a child who is the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

⁴ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because Hispanics may be counted both by Hispanic ethnicity and by race.

⁵ Percentages may total more than 100 percent because children could have been victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

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

Number of Children	In Care on 10/1	Entered Care	Exited Care	In Care on 9/30	Total Served
FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	742	715	683	774	1,457
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	759	786	731	815	1,545
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	758	896	689	965	1,654
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	847	809	727	929	1,656

Median Length of Stay (Months)

FY1999 (10/1/98-9/30/99)	16.3	N/A	5.2	13.0	N/A
FY2000 (10/1/99-9/30/00)	13.0	N/A	4.3	12.5	N/A
FY2001 (10/1/00-9/30/01)	13.0	N/A	4.8	10.4	N/A
FY2002 (10/1/01-9/30/02)	10.4	N/A	7.2	11.8	N/A

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)	In Care On:				Entered Care During FY:				Exited Care During FY:				In Care On:			
	10/1/98	10/1/99	10/1/00	10/1/01	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Under 1 year	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.3	5.5	5.3	3.9	6.4	3.4	3.7	2.5	2.6	1.4	1.1	1.1	2.3
1-5 years	20.9	16.5	11.6	14.5	18.3	19.5	18.8	20.9	21.4	22.3	17.3	19.5	16.3	11.2	14.0	16.0
6-10 years	21.4	21.5	19.0	15.1	16.6	11.8	13.6	12.9	16.7	15.7	13.9	13.8	21.1	18.2	15.6	13.8
11-15 years	31.7	35.3	40.4	35.8	38.3	42.0	40.6	35.8	26.5	26.9	30.8	27.4	36.2	41.2	36.1	33.5
16-18 years	23.3	23.2	25.7	32.7	21.0	21.1	23.1	24.0	31.2	29.8	34.4	35.6	23.0	26.4	31.7	33.2
19+ years	0.7	1.4	1.5	0.4	0.1	0.3	—	—	0.6	1.4	1.0	0.8	1.4	1.2	0.6	1.1
Unknown/Missing data	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.2	0.1	—	—	—	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	742	759	758	847	715	786	896	809	683	731	689	727	774	815	965	929

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	3.4	3.6	2.2	1.4	2.8	1.8	1.5	2.3	2.3	2.6	2.2	1.9	3.7	2.7	1.6	1.8
Asian	N/A	0.5	0.5	0.4	N/A	0.5	0.6	0.1	N/A	0.5	0.7	0.1	N/A	0.5	0.4	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	3.2	4.3	4.5	2.5	2.9	2.2	1.9	2.2	1.6	1.8	3.2	1.2	4.4	4.5	3.0	3.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	N/A	0.1	—	—	N/A	0.3	—	—	N/A	0.4	—	—	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	8.1	9.5	7.9	7.6	8.7	11.2	8.5	8.0	7.0	12.7	9.4	8.1	9.6	8.2	7.4	7.5
White	83.3	80.5	82.2	86.0	80.7	79.4	83.6	81.6	84.0	78.2	79.2	84.0	80.2	81.5	85.6	83.6
Two or more races	N/A	—	0.3	0.6	N/A	0.8	0.3	0.5	N/A	0.5	0.1	0.7	N/A	0.2	0.4	0.4
Unknown/Missing data	1.2	1.4	2.4	1.7	4.8	3.9	3.7	5.2	4.7	3.1	5.1	3.9	1.4	2.3	1.7	3.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	742	759	758	847	715	786	896	809	683	731	689	727	774	815	965	929

D. Children Waiting to be Adopted (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data) ⁶

Overview

	9/30/99	9/30/00	9/30/01	9/30/02
Children waiting to be adopted	145	125	129	121
Children whose parents' rights have been terminated	107	89	91	82

Age of Waiting Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	2.1	2.4	1.6	3.3
1-5 years	35.2	23.2	24.8	28.9
6-10 years	40.0	43.2	34.1	28.1
11-15 years	18.6	25.6	31.8	34.7
16+ years	4.1	5.6	7.0	4.1
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	0.8	0.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	145	125	129	121

Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	2.1	1.6	1.6	—
Asian	N/A	—	—	0.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	5.5	6.4	6.2	2.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	12.4	12.0	6.2	5.8
White	80.0	79.2	85.3	89.3
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	—
Unknown/Missing data	—	0.8	0.8	1.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	145	125	129	121

E. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Fiscal Year Data)

Age of Adopted Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Under 1 year	—	—	—	1.9
1-5 years	48.9	39.3	30.4	44.2
6-10 years	31.1	41.0	50.0	36.5
11-15 years	13.3	14.8	17.4	15.4
16+ years	6.7	4.9	2.2	1.9
Unknown/Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	45	61	46	52

Race/Ethnicity of Adopted Children (%)

Alaska Native/American Indian	2.2	1.6	6.5	—
Asian	N/A	—	2.2	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	—	N/A	N/A	N/A
Black	11.1	8.2	—	5.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	N/A	—	—	—
Hispanic	8.9	11.5	19.6	11.5
White	71.1	78.7	71.7	80.8
Two or more races	N/A	—	—	1.9
Unknown/Missing data	6.7	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	45	61	46	52

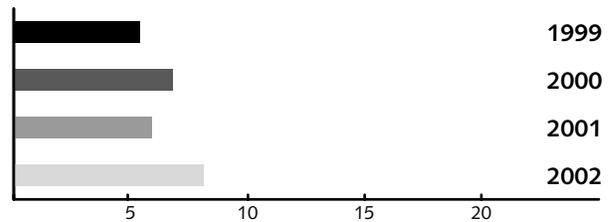
⁶ Waiting children are children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' rights have been terminated (TPR). Children 16 years and older with TPR, but with a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the waiting children and TPR populations.

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment

Within 6 Months (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children without a recurrence	94.6	93.2	94.1	91.9
Children with one or more recurrences	5.4	6.8	5.9	8.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	631	633	560	332

Percent Children With One or More Recurrences

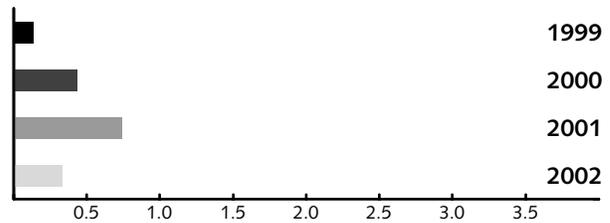


2. Reduce the Incidence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care (NCANDS, AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database Jan–Sept)

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.13	0.43	0.74	0.33
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.87	99.57	99.26	99.67
Total %	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number	1,482	1,406	1,486	1,506

Percent Children Maltreated in Foster Care

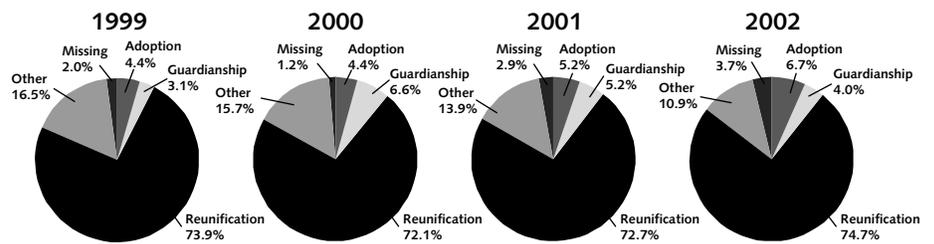


3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

3.1 Exits from Foster Care (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	4.4	4.4	5.2	6.7
Guardianship	3.1	6.6	5.2	4.0
Reunification	73.9	72.1	72.7	74.7
Other	16.5	15.7	13.9	10.9
Missing data	2.0	1.2	2.9	3.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	683	731	689	727

Percent Exits from Foster Care



3.2 Exits of Disabled Children (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	7.9	7.2	9.3	11.1
Guardianship	3.7	9.2	7.0	5.9
Reunification	63.4	63.2	62.0	62.2
Other	22.0	17.8	18.6	17.8
Missing data	3.0	2.6	3.1	3.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	164	152	129	135

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	0.3	0.3	0.5
Guardianship	1.3	1.7	3.0	1.9
Reunification	64.7	69.0	70.3	73.4
Other	32.5	27.8	24.3	18.8
Missing data	1.6	1.2	2.2	5.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	320	345	370	368

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children age 12 or younger at entry	7.9	13.9	6.7	12.9
Children older than 12 at entry	89.5	86.1	93.3	87.1
Missing data	2.6	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	38	36	45	62

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)

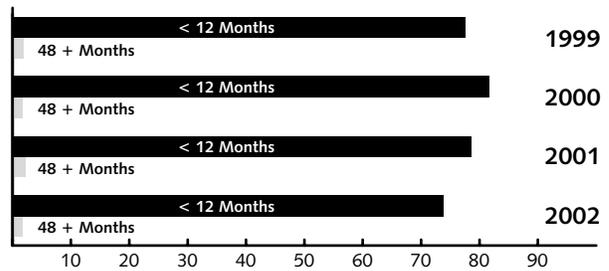
	Alaska Native/Am. In.				Asian				Asian/Pacific Islander				Black				Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	—	—	20.0	—	N/A	—	20.0	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	36.4	—	—	22.2	N/A	—	—	—
Guardianship	—	5.3	6.7	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	30.8	9.1	—	N/A	—	—	—
Reunification	93.8	63.2	60.0	78.6	N/A	100.0	40.0	100.0	50.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	54.5	53.8	77.3	66.7	N/A	66.7	—	—
Other	6.3	31.6	13.3	7.1	N/A	—	40.0	—	50.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	—	15.4	9.1	11.1	N/A	33.3	—	—
Missing data	—	—	—	14.3	N/A	—	—	—	—	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.1	—	4.5	—	N/A	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	—	—
Number	16	19	15	14	N/A	4	5	1	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	11	13	22	9	N/A	3	—	—

	Hispanic				White				Unable to Determine				Two or More Races				Missing Data			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Adoption	6.3	6.5	9.2	10.2	4.0	4.5	4.8	6.5	—	—	—	—	N/A	—	—	20.0	—	—	—	—
Guardianship	6.3	6.5	4.6	3.4	3.1	6.1	5.5	4.4	—	8.7	—	—	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reunification	64.6	75.3	67.7	78.0	73.7	72.0	73.8	74.0	90.6	69.6	71.4	82.1	N/A	100.0	100.0	80.0	—	—	—	—
Other	22.9	10.8	12.3	5.1	16.9	15.9	13.7	11.6	9.4	21.7	20.0	10.7	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missing data	—	1.1	6.2	3.4	2.3	1.4	2.2	3.4	—	—	8.6	7.1	N/A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A	100.0	100.0	100.0	—	—	—	—
Number	48	93	65	59	574	572	546	611	32	23	35	28	N/A	4	1	5	—	—	—	—

4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Reentry (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

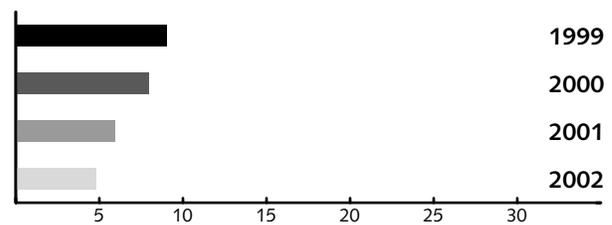
4.1 Time to Reunification (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	77.6	81.6	78.6	73.8
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	13.5	12.9	14.8	18.8
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	4.6	1.1	2.6	3.9
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.6	2.1	1.8	1.8
48 or more mos.	1.8	1.7	2.2	1.7
Missing data	—	0.6	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	505	527	501	543

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



4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Children entering care for the first time	80.4	85.0	90.3	91.5
Children re-entering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	9.0	8.0	5.9	4.8
Children re-entering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	—	—	—	0.5
Missing data	10.6	7.0	3.8	3.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	715	786	896	809

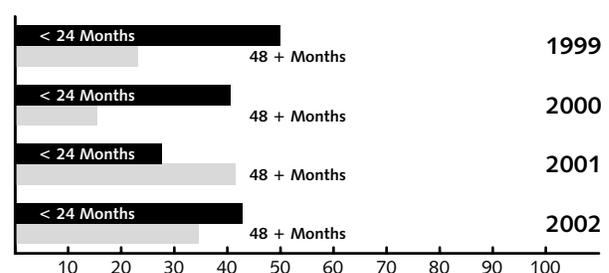
Percent Re-entries Into Foster Care Within 12 Months



5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)	1999	2000	2001	2002
Less than 12 mos.	20.0	21.9	11.1	10.2
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	30.0	18.8	16.7	32.7
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	23.3	21.9	25.0	14.3
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.3	21.9	5.6	8.2
48 or more mos.	23.3	15.6	41.7	34.7
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	30	32	36	49

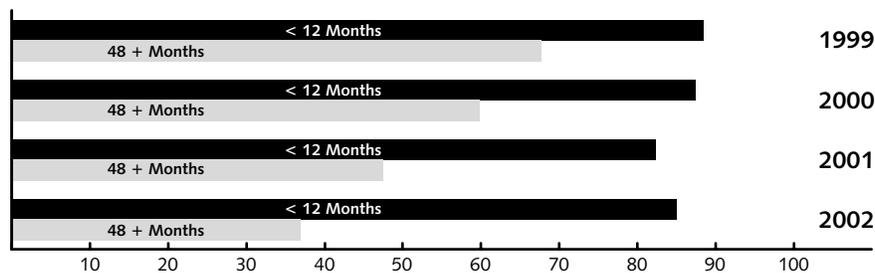
Percent Adoptions Occurring in < 24 Months or in 48 + Months of Entry



6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)		Children With 2 or Fewer Placements	Children With 3 or More Placements	Missing Data	Total %	Number
Less than 12 mos.	1999	88.5	10.8	0.7	100.0	834
	2000	87.4	11.7	0.9	100.0	907
	2001	82.4	16.6	1.0	100.0	1,017
	2002	85.0	14.3	0.7	100.0	938
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	1999	67.4	32.6	—	100.0	230
	2000	60.5	38.8	0.7	100.0	276
	2001	63.1	36.5	0.4	100.0	282
	2002	62.4	36.6	1.0	100.0	383
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	1999	54.1	45.9	—	100.0	133
	2000	48.5	51.5	—	100.0	97
	2001	34.7	64.5	0.8	100.0	121
	2002	41.4	57.9	0.7	100.0	140
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1999	43.6	56.4	—	100.0	94
	2000	44.0	56.0	—	100.0	84
	2001	52.5	47.5	—	100.0	59
	2002	33.8	64.6	1.5	100.0	65
48 or more mos.	1999	67.7	32.3	—	100.0	158
	2000	59.8	40.2	—	100.0	179
	2001	47.4	52.6	—	100.0	173
	2002	36.9	63.1	—	100.0	122
Missing data	1999	87.5	12.5	—	100.0	8
	2000	100.0	—	—	100.0	2
	2001	100.0	—	—	100.0	2
	2002	100.0	—	—	100.0	8

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



7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions

(AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Fiscal Year Data)

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 (%)

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Group homes	9.0	6.4	5.9	5.3
Institutions	5.0	4.8	3.9	4.7
Other settings	86.0	88.8	90.2	90.0
Missing data	—	—	—	—
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	301	312	307	301

Wyoming

[STATE COMMENT]

The following discussion focuses on Wyoming's performance with regard to each of the outcomes assessed in the Child Welfare Outcomes Annual Reports to Congress. The Wyoming Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was completed in fiscal year (FY) 2002, and compliance with the national standards was based on data from 2000. The final report for that review is available from www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwrp/staterpt. A discussion of the implications of CFSR findings for Wyoming's performance on the Report to Congress Outcomes is provided in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2000*.

The Federal Comment includes an examination of State performance in 2002 and the percent change in performance from 1999 to 2002. A difference in percent change from 1999 to 2002 that was less than 5.0 in either direction was considered to represent "no change in performance." With the exception of outcome measure 2.1, the data presented in the Report to Congress are rounded to one decimal. However, the percent change in performance was calculated using data rounded to two decimals. Measure 2.1 is rounded to two decimals because the national standard is less than one percent. Key findings of the analyses of national data pertaining to State variation in performance on the outcome measures are incorporated into a State's Federal Comment when relevant.

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

In calendar year (CY) 2002, Wyoming's rate of maltreatment recurrence within 6 months was 8.1 percent, which is more than both the national standard of 6.1 percent or less and the national median of 7.5 percent. Performance on this measure declined from 1999 to 2002 (+50.0 percent change).

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

In CY 2002, Wyoming's incidence of maltreatment in foster care was 0.33 percent, which is less than both the national standard of 0.57 percent or less and the national median of 0.39 percent. Wyoming's performance on this measure declined from 1999 to 2002 (+144.5 percent change).

Outcome 3. Increase permanency for children in foster care

In FY 2002, 85.4 percent of children exiting foster care in Wyoming were discharged to a permanent home (which is about equal to the national median of 86.1 percent); 79.3 percent of children with a diagnosed disability who exited foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is about equal to the national median of 79.8 percent); and 75.8 percent of children exiting foster care who were older than age 12 at entry into foster care were discharged to a permanent home (which is more than the national median of 72.0 percent). In addition, 12.9 percent of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into foster care, which is less than the national median of 26.9 percent. State performance with regard to achieving permanency for children exiting foster care either improved or exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002. However, State performance declined with regard to the percentage of children emancipated from foster care who were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (+63.4 percent change).

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

In FY 2002, the percentage of all reunifications in Wyoming occurring within 12 months of a child's entry into foster care was 73.8, which does not meet the national standard of 76.2 percent or more but is more than the national median of 68.0 percent. Performance with regard to reunifications within 12 months exhibited no change from FY 1999 to FY 2002. However, FY 2002 was the first year that Wyoming's data for this measure did not meet the national standard.

The percentage of entries into foster care in FY 2002 that were re-entries within 12 months of a prior foster care episode was 4.8, which is less than the national standard of 8.6 percent or less and the national median of 9.9 percent. Performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-46.1 percent change).

Outcome 5. Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In FY 2002, the percentage of all finalized adoptions occurring within 24 months of a child's entry into foster care was 42.9, which is more than both the national standard of 32.0 percent or more and the national median of 23.0 percent. Change in performance on this measure cannot be assessed because of discrepancies in prior years between the number of children reported to the AFCARS Adoption Database as adopted and the number of children reported to the AFCARS Foster Care Database as exiting to a finalized adoption.

Outcome 6. Increase placement stability

In FY 2002, the percentage of children who experienced no more than 2 placement settings during their first 12 months in foster care was 85.0, which does not meet the national standard of 86.7 percent or more, but is more than the national median of 84.1 percent. Wyoming's performance on this measure did not change from FY 1999 to FY 2002.

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

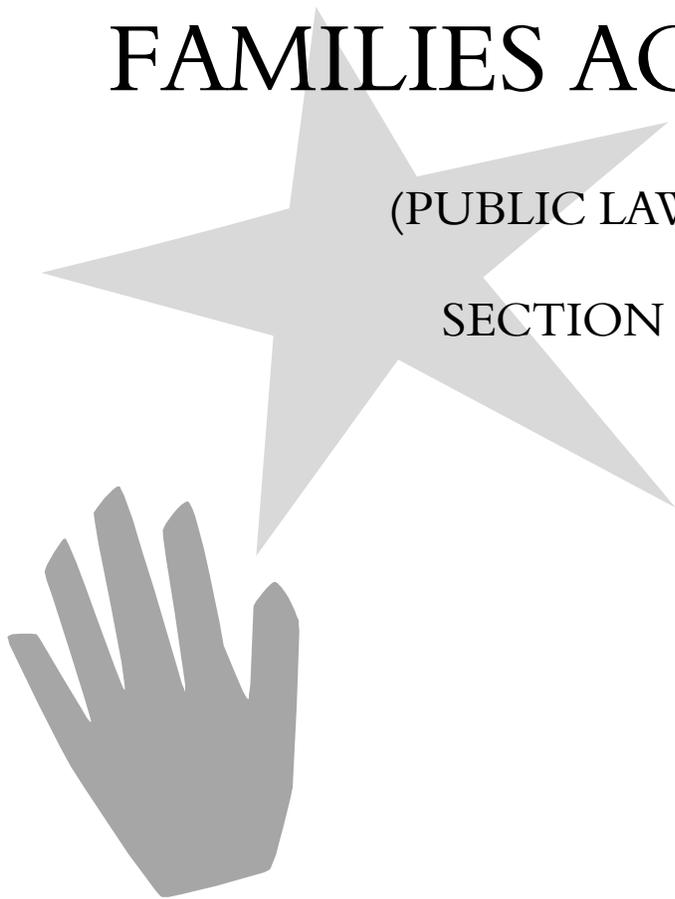
In FY 2002, the percentage of children age 12 or younger placed in a group home or institution was 10.0, which is more than the national median of 8.6 percent. Wyoming's performance on this measure improved from FY 1999 to FY 2002 (-28.6 percent change).

Appendix A

ADOPTION AND SAFE FAMILIES ACT OF 1997

(PUBLIC LAW 105-89)

SECTION 203(A)



ADOPTION AND SAFE FAMILIES ACT OF 1997 (PUBLIC LAW 105-89)

SEC. 203. Performance of States in Protecting Children.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT ON STATE PERFORMANCE.—Part E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670 et seq.) is amended by addition at the end of the following:

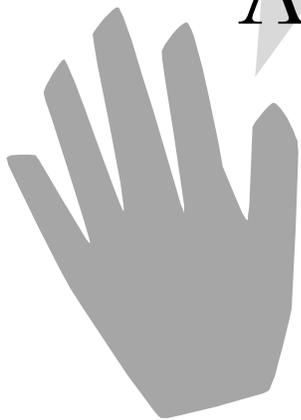
SEC. 479A. Annual Report.

The Secretary, in consultation with Governors, State legislatures, State and local public officials responsible for administering child welfare programs, and child welfare advocates, shall:

- (1) develop a set of outcome measures (including length of stay in foster care, number of foster care placements, and number of adoptions) that can be used to assess the performance of States in operating child protection and child welfare programs pursuant to parts B and E to ensure the safety of children;
- (2) to the maximum extent possible, the outcome measures should be developed from data available from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System;
- (3) develop a system for rating the performance of States with respect to the outcome measures and provide to the States an explanation of the rating system and how scores are determined under the rating system;
- (4) prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to ensure that States provide to the Secretary the data necessary to determine State performance with respect to each outcome measure, as a condition of the State receiving funds under this part; and
- (5) on May 1, 1999, and annually thereafter, prepare and submit to the Congress a report on the performance of each State on each outcome measure, which shall examine the reasons for high performance and low performance and, where possible, make recommendations as to how State performance could be improved.

Appendix B

GUIDING PRINCIPLES
FOR DEVELOPING THE
NATIONAL CHILD
WELFARE OUTCOMES
AND MEASURES



GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DEVELOPING THE NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES AND MEASURES

During the fall of 1998, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services engaged in a consultation process with representatives from State, Tribal, county and municipal child welfare agencies; private nonprofit child and family services agencies; State legislatures; Governors' offices; juvenile and family courts; local child advocacy organizations; and a national public employees union. The purpose of the consultation process was to obtain assistance from the field in developing a national set of child welfare outcomes and measures.

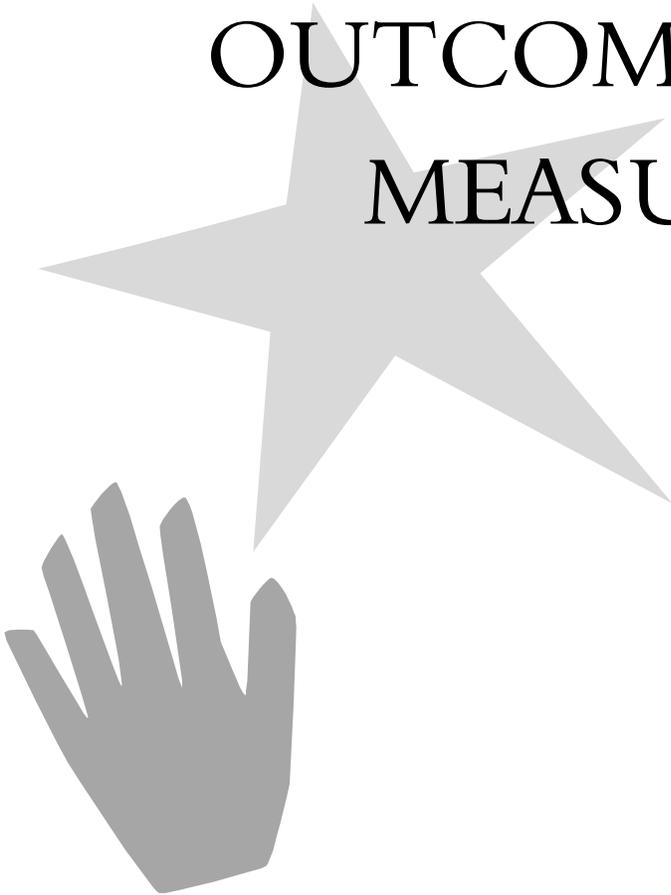
Discussions held during consultation meetings resulted in establishing four principles that served to guide the development of the child welfare outcomes and measures. These principles are the following:

- **The outcome measures should reflect performance that is to a large extent within the control of State child welfare systems.** It is difficult to identify outcomes that can be linked solely to child welfare system operations because of the dependency of child welfare on the functioning of many other systems. The outcomes related to safety, permanency, and well-being are significantly influenced by factors beyond the control of a child welfare agency. For example, the capacity and functioning of juvenile or family court systems, juvenile justice systems, law enforcement systems, mental health services, and substance abuse treatment systems in a State or community significantly affect a child welfare agency's ability to impact outcomes in the areas of safety, permanency, and well-being for the children it serves. In addition, economic conditions or the extent of substance abuse problems in a community can increase the number of children who are unsafe in their own homes or reduce the number of children who can be safely returned to their families once they have been removed from their homes.
- **The outcome measures should be assessed in ways that limit the potential for misinterpretation.** Determining the meaning of changes in State performance is complex. Such changes can be the result of other influencing factors and/or imbalances in the child welfare system. Basically, positive or negative changes must be viewed in relation to other conditions in the State. For example, an increase in the number of child abuse and/or neglect reports could be the result of an economic downturn or an increase in the extent of substance abuse problems in a community. Equally important is for States to focus attention on strengthening all parts of the system to ensure a balanced approach to systems performance. This will result in (1) better decisions for the children and families who come into contact with the child welfare agency and (2) improved performance on the outcome measures overall. Conversely, if a State focuses on improving one part of its system such as reducing the time children spend in foster care, the State may achieve the desired goal but negatively impact some other part of the system (e.g., increase the rate of re-entry of children into foster care).
- **The outcome measures should be used to assess the continuous improvement of each State over time, rather than compare the performance of States with one another.** Comparison across States on their performance on the outcome measures is difficult due to variations in State population demographics, programs, and policies and must be undertaken with great care. State performance is better assessed by tracking a State's own continuous improvement over time. Some useful factors in considering State variations may include the proportion of children in poverty in each State; the State's definition of abuse and/or neglect; the State's standards that prompt the removal of children from their homes and the decision to return them home; the resources available in the community to meet the needs of children and families; the resources allocated by the State to the child welfare system to develop and test innovative strategies to attain desired outcomes; and the internal capacity of the child welfare agency in terms of staffing, caseload size, and other factors.

- **The outcome measures should be based on data that are available through existing data collection systems in order to limit the reporting burden on the States.** There have been great advances at the State and Federal Government levels in collecting, analyzing, and reporting child welfare data using the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). This is evident by the number of States reporting data in this first annual report. Despite this progress, a significant number of States are in the process of improving their data collection capabilities through the design and implementation of new and improved Statewide Automated Child Welfare Systems (SACWIS). As a result, many State SACWIS systems are still developing and being refined, which means that the national collection and reporting of data to support measuring some or all of the outcomes are not yet available for all States. The Department is confident that State data will continue to improve each year and in subsequent annual reports and is providing assistance to States on developing and implementing their SACWIS systems, in addition to providing assistance on improving the quality of their data submissions on the outcome measures.

Appendix C

CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES AND MEASURES



CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES AND MEASURES

This document provides information about the child welfare outcomes and measures for **Child Welfare Outcomes 2002: Annual Report**.

Child Welfare Outcome 1:

Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

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

Child Welfare Outcome 2:

Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

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

Note: The reporting period for this measure is January 1 to September 30 (9 months).

Child Welfare Outcome 3:

Increase permanency for children in foster care

Measure 3.1: For all children who exited foster care, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?

Measure 3.2: For children who exited foster care and were identified as having a diagnosed disability, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?

Measure 3.3: For children who exited foster care and were older than age 12 at the time of their most recent entry into care, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?

Measure 3.4: Of all children exiting foster care to emancipation, what percentage was age 12 or younger at the time of entry into care?

Measure 3.5: For all children who exited foster care, what percentage by racial/ethnic category left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship?

Child Welfare Outcome 4:

Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing re-entry

Measure 4.1: Of all children who were reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care, what percentage was reunified in the following time periods?

- (1) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home
- (2) At least 12 months, but less than 24 months
- (3) At least 24 months, but less than 36 months
- (4) At least 36 months, but less than 48 months
- (5) 48 or more months

Measure 4.2: Of all children who entered foster care during the reporting period, what percentage re-entered care:

- (1) Within 12 months of a prior foster care episode?
- (2) More than 12 months after a prior foster care episode?

Child Welfare Outcome 5:

Reduce time in foster care to adoption

Measure 5.1: Of all children who exited foster care to a finalized adoption, what percentage exited care in the following time periods?

- (1) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home
- (2) At least 12 months, but less than 24 months
- (3) At least 24 months, but less than 36 months
- (4) At least 36 months, but less than 48 months
- (5) 48 or more months

Child Welfare Outcome 6:

Increase placement stability

Measure 6.1: Of all children served who had been in foster care for the time periods listed below, what percentage had no more than two placement settings during that time period?

- (1) Less than 12 months from the time of latest removal from home
- (2) At least 12 months, but less than 24 months
- (3) At least 24 months, but less than 36 months
- (4) At least 36 months, but less than 48 months
- (5) 48 or more months

Child Welfare Outcome 7:

Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions

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

Appendix D

HIGHLIGHTS OF *CHILD MALTREATMENT 2002*



HIGHLIGHTS OF *CHILD MALTREATMENT 2002*

SUMMARY

During calendar year 2002, an estimated 1,800,000 referrals alleging child abuse or neglect were accepted by State and local child protective services (CPS) agencies for investigation or assessment. The referrals included more than 3 million children, and of those, approximately 896,000 children were determined by CPS agencies to be victims of child abuse or neglect.

OVERVIEW

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 submitted voluntarily by the States and the District of Columbia. The first report from NCANDS was based on data for 1990; the report on data for 2002 is the 13th annual report.

The 1988 amendments to the 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 from the States.

How are the data used?

Data from the States are used for the annual report, *Child Maltreatment*, which is published each spring. In addition, data from the States are used systematically to measure the impact and effectiveness of CPS through performance outcome measures.

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 about:

- The characteristics of the report of abuse or neglect that are made to CPS agencies
- The characteristics of the alleged child abuse or neglect victims
- The disposition (or finding)
- The alleged maltreatments
- The risk factors of the child and the caregivers
- The services that are provided
- The characteristics of the perpetrators.

Where are the data available?

Aggregated counts by State are available for 1990–2002 from the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect at Cornell University. In addition, restricted usage files of case-level data for certain States are available for researchers. The *Child Maltreatment* reports are available on the Internet at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/cmreports.htm>.

VICTIMS

An estimated 896,000 children were determined to be victims of child abuse or neglect during 2002. The rate of victimization per 1,000 children in the national population dropped from 13.4 children in 1990 to 12.3 children in 2002.

What types of maltreatment were found?

More than 60 percent of child victims were neglected by their parents or other caregivers. Approximately 20 percent were physically abused, 10 percent were sexually abused, and 7 percent were emotionally maltreated. In addition, approximately 20 percent were victims of “other” types of maltreatment, based on specific State laws and policies. A child could be a victim of more than one type of maltreatment.

What were the characteristics of victims?

Children ages birth to 3 years had the highest rates of victimization at 16.0 per 1,000 children of this age in the population. Girls were slightly more likely than boys to be victims.

American Indian/Alaska Native and African American children had the highest rates of victimization when compared to their national population. While the rate of White victims of child abuse or neglect was 10.7 per 1,000 White children in the population, the rates were 21.7 per 1,000 children for American Indian/Alaskan Natives, and 20.2 per 1,000 children for African Americans.

REPORTS

Approximately two-thirds of the referrals received during 2002 were accepted for investigation or assessment. One-third of referrals were not accepted.

Who made the reports?

More than 50 percent of all reports that alleged child abuse or neglect were made by such professionals as educators, law enforcement and legal personnel, social services personnel, medical personnel, mental health personnel, child daycare providers, and foster care providers. Educators made 16.1 percent of all reports, while law enforcement made 15.7 percent, and social services personnel made 12.6 percent. The remaining 43.6 percent of the reports were made by such persons as friends, neighbors, and relatives.

What were the results of the investigations and assessments?

After conducting interviews with family members, the alleged child victim, and sometimes other people familiar with the family, the CPS agency makes a determination concerning whether the child is a victim of abuse or neglect, or is at risk for abuse or neglect. This determination often is called a disposition.

Approximately 30 percent of the reports included at least one child who was found to be a victim of abuse or neglect. Sixty-one percent of the reports were found to be unsubstantiated (including intentionally false); the remaining reports were closed for other reasons.

FATALITIES

Child fatalities are the most tragic consequence of maltreatment. In 2002, an estimated 1,400 children died due to child abuse or neglect.

What were the characteristics of these children?

Seventy-five percent of the children who died due to child abuse or neglect were younger than 4 years old, 12 percent were 4 to 7 years old, 6 percent were 8 to 11 years old, and 6 percent were 12 to 17 years old.

The overall rate of child fatalities was 2 deaths per 100,000 children. One-third of child fatalities were attributed to neglect. Physical abuse and sexual abuse also were major contributors to fatalities. Infant boys (younger than 1 year old) had the highest rate of fatalities, nearly 19 deaths per 100,000 boys of the same age in the national population. Infant girls had a rate of 12 deaths per 100,000 girls of the same age.

PERPETRATORS

More than 80 percent of perpetrators were parents. Other relatives accounted for 7 percent of the perpetrators, and unmarried partners of parents accounted for 3 percent. The remaining perpetrators included persons with other relationships to the child (camp counselor, school employee, etc.) or persons whose relationship to the child victim was not known by the CPS agency.

What were the characteristics of perpetrators?

Female perpetrators, who were mostly the mothers of the children, were typically younger than male perpetrators, who were mostly the fathers of the children. Women also comprised a larger percentage of all perpetrators than men (58 percent of perpetrators were women compared to 42 percent who were men).

Approximately 29 percent of all perpetrators of sexual abuse were relatives other than parents, and approximately 25 percent were not related to the child and did not have caretaking responsibilities for the child. Less than 3 percent of all parent perpetrators were associated with sexual abuse.

SERVICES

CPS agencies provide services to some families and their children during and as a result of an investigation or assessment.

Who received services?

Approximately 59 percent of victims and 31 percent of non-victims received services as a result of an investigation or assessment. Additional analyses indicated that children who were prior victims of maltreatment were approximately 80 percent more likely to receive services than first-time victims. Also, children with multiple types of maltreatment were approximately 80 percent more likely to receive services than children with only one type of recorded maltreatment.

What services were provided?

Services included both in-home and foster care services. Almost 25 percent of child victims were removed from their homes and placed in foster care. About 4 percent of non-victims also were removed from their homes. For the non-victims, the removal usually involved a short-term placement that occurred during the course of investigating the maltreatment report.

Appendix E

THE ANNUAL AFCARS REPORT: FY 2002



The AFCARS Report

Preliminary FY 2002 Estimates as of August 2004 (9)

How many children were in foster care on September 30, 2002? 532,000

SOURCE: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for the FY 2002, 10/1/01 through 9/30/02.

NOTES: Data from both the regular and revised submissions received by August, 2004 are included in the estimates. Some percentages do not total 100% and/or the estimated numbers do not add up to the total number in the category due to rounding.

What were the ages of the children in foster care?

Mean Yrs	10.2	
Median Yrs	10.8	
Under 1 Yr	5%	24,290
1 thru 5 Yrs	24%	128,947
6 thru 10 Yrs	22%	116,802
11 thru 15 Yrs	30%	158,290
16 thru 18 Yrs	17%	92,091
19 + Yrs	2%	10,321

What were the placement settings of children in foster care?

Pre-Adoptive Home	5%	24,960
Foster Family Home (Relative)	23%	124,036
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	46%	243,505
Group Home	9%	45,464
Institution	10%	54,472
Supervised Independent Living	1%	5,676
Runaway	2%	9,459
Trial Home Visit	4%	18,809

What were the lengths of stay in foster care?

Mean Months	32	
Median Months	18	
Less than 1 Month	5%	23,948
1 to 5 Months	18%	94,399
6 to 11 Months	16%	84,707
12 to 17 Months	12%	62,036
18 to 23 Months	8%	45,008
24 to 29 Months	7%	36,236
30 to 35 Months	5%	27,196
3 to 4 Yrs	13%	70,754
5 Yrs or More	16%	87,694

What were the case goals of the children in foster care?

Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s)	45%	238,331
Live with Other Relative(s)	5%	26,479
Adoption	21%	109,581
Long Term Foster Care	9%	46,119
Emancipation	6%	33,581
Guardianship	3%	16,389
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	10%	52,450

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2002 (continued)

What was the race/ethnicity of the children in foster care?

AI/AN Non-Hispanic	2%	9,792
Asian Non-Hispanic	1%	3,423
Black Non-Hispanic	37%	195,040
Hawaiian/PI Non-Hispanic	0%	1,465
Hispanic	17%	89,177
White Non-Hispanic	39%	205,478
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	14,432
Two or More Races Non-Hispanic	2%	12,986

What was the gender of the children in foster care?

Male	52%	278,916
Female	48%	252,932

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 2002? 303,000

What were the ages of the children who entered care during FY 2002?

Mean Yrs	8.5	
Median Yrs	8.6	
Under 1 Year	14%	41,874
1 thru 5 Years	26%	77,623
6 thru 10 Years	20%	61,555
11 thru 15 Years	29%	87,416
16 thru 18 Years	11%	34,046
19 or more Years	0%	208

What was the race/ethnicity of the children who entered care during FY 2002?

AI/AN Non-Hispanic	2%	6,889
Asian Non-Hispanic	1%	2,855
Black Non-Hispanic	28%	83,585
Hawaiian/PI Non-Hispanic	0%	1,110
Hispanic	17%	51,330
White Non-Hispanic	46%	139,861
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	8,555
Two or More Races Non-Hispanic	3%	8,332

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 2002? 281,000

What were the ages of the children who exited care during FY 2002?

Mean Years	10.1	
Median Years	10.2	
Under 1 Year	4%	12,059
1 thru 5 Years	27%	76,998
6 thru 10 Years	22%	61,089
11 thru 15 Years	24%	67,388
16 thru 18 Years	20%	56,360
19 or more Years	2%	6,365

What were the lengths of stay of the children who exited foster care during FY 2002?

Mean Months	21.7	
Median Months	11.7	
Less than 1 Month	19%	52,819
1 to 5 Months	17%	46,751
6 to 11 Months	15%	43,186
12 to 17 Months	11%	32,291
18 to 23 Months	8%	22,364
24 to 29 Months	6%	16,776
30 to 35 Months	4%	12,464
3 to 4 Years	10%	28,302
5 or More Years	9%	24,434

What was the race/ethnicity of the children who exited care during FY 2002?

AI/AN Non-Hispanic	2%	6,357
Asian Non-Hispanic	1%	2,739
Black Non-Hispanic	30%	84,366
Hawaiian/PI Non-Hispanic	0%	968
Hispanic	16%	44,931
White Non-Hispanic	45%	125,114
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	8,686
Two or More Races Non-Hispanic	3%	7,443

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.

What were the outcomes for the children exiting foster care during FY 2002?

Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s)	54%	152,757
Live with Other Relative(s)	10%	27,750
Adoption	17%	48,871
Emancipation	7%	19,509
Guardianship	4%	10,136
Transfer to Another Agency	2%	6,797
Runaway	2%	4,695
Death of Child	0%	530

NOTE: Deaths are attributable to a variety of causes including medical conditions, accidents and homicide.

How many children were waiting to be adopted on September 30, 2002? 126,000

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%	66,472
Female	47%	59,509

How old were the waiting children when they were removed from their parents or caretakers?

Mean Years	4.9	
Median Years	4.2	
Less than 1 Year	25%	31,659
1 thru 5 Years	37%	46,832
6 thru 10 Years	28%	35,572
11 thru 15 Years	9%	11,579
16 thru 18 Years	0%	343

How many months have the waiting children been in continuous foster care?

Mean Months	44	
Median Months	35	
Less than 1 month	0%	533
1 thru 5 months	4%	4,428
6 thru 11 months	7%	9,266
12 thru 17 months	10%	13,062
18 thru 23 months	11%	13,691
24 thru 29 months	11%	13,537
30 thru 35 months	9%	10,945
36 thru 59 months	24%	29,627
60 or more months	25%	30,904

What is the racial/ethnic distribution of the waiting children?

AI/AN Non-Hispanic	2%	2,146
Asian Non-Hispanic	0%	533
Black Non-Hispanic	42%	52,935
Hawaiian/PI Non-Hispanic	0%	336
Hispanic	13%	16,324
White Non-Hispanic	36%	45,410
Unknown/Unable to Determine	4%	4,751
Two or More Races Non-Hispanic	3%	3,547

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 old were the children on September 30, 2002?

Mean Years	8.5	
Median Years	8.5	
Less than 1 Year	3%	4,224
1 thru 5 Years	32%	40,204
6 thru 10 Years	30%	37,740
11 thru 15 Years	29%	36,310
16 thru 18 Years	5%	6,393

Where were the waiting children living on September 30, 2002?

Pre-Adoptive Home	16%	20,732
Foster Family Home (Relative)	16%	20,652
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	55%	69,448
Group Home	4%	4,837
Institution	7%	8,236
Supervised Independent Living	0%	151
Runaway	0%	627
Trial Home Visit	0%	437

**How many children in foster care had their parental rights terminated for all living parents?
67,000**

As of September 30, 2002, how many months had elapsed since the parental rights of these foster children were terminated?

Mean Months	25
Median Months	16

How many children were adopted from the public foster care system in FY 2002? 53,000

SOURCE: Adoptions can be reported to the AFCARS adoption database at any time after the adoption has been finalized. TAR 9 includes adoptions finalized in FY 2002 reported in regular and revised submissions by August 2004.

NOTES: The number of adoptions reported here do not equal the number of adoption discharges reported under foster care exits because the adoptions reported here include adoptions of some children who were not in foster care but received other support from the public agency. In addition, states have historically under reported adoption discharges. In contrast, states tend to more accurately report the adoptions to the AFCARS adoption database because those are the adoptions used to calculate adoption incentive awards. Some percentages do not total 100% and/or the estimated numbers do not add up to the total number in the category due to rounding.

What is the gender distribution of the children adopted from the public foster care system?

Male	50%	26,587
Female	50%	26,401

What is the racial/ethnic distribution of the children adopted from the public foster care system?

AI/AN Non-Hispanic	1%	685
Asian Non-Hispanic	1%	309
Black Non-Hispanic	36%	18,828
Hawaiian/PI Non-Hispanic	0%	169
Hispanic	16%	8,586
White Non-Hispanic	39%	20,833
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	1,745
Two or More Races Non-Hispanic	3%	1,831

How old were the children when they were adopted from the public foster care system?

Mean Years	7.0
Median Years	6.3

Less than 1 Year	2%	984
1 thru 5 Years	46%	24,412
6 thru 10 Years	32%	16,916
11 thru 15 Years	18%	9,313
16 thru 18 Years	2%	1,309
19 or more Years	0%	42

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	16	
Median Months	12	
Less than 1 Month	4%	1,894
1 thru 5 Months	18%	9,489
6 thru 11 Months	27%	14,268
12 thru 17 Months	19%	9,913
18 thru 23 Months	11%	5,676
24 thru 29 Months	7%	3,556
30 thru 35 Months	4%	2,288
3 thru 4 Years	6%	3,249
5 or more Years	2%	1,062

What proportion of the children adopted are receiving an adoption subsidy?

Yes	88%	46,826
No	11%	5,849

Children Adopted in FY 2002 (Continued)

What is the family structure of the child's adoptive family?

Married Couple	60%	31,843
Unmarried Couple	2%	798
Single Female	27%	14,354
Single Male	2%	1,153

What was the relationship of the adoptive parents to the child prior to the adoption?

Non-Relative	13%	6,728
Foster Parent	52%	27,567
Step-Parent	0%	68
Other Relative	20%	10,632

Appendix F

DATA SOURCES AND DATA ELEMENTS



CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES: DATA SOURCES AND ELEMENTS

Context Data

DATA ITEMS	DATA SOURCES AND ELEMENTS
Section A. Key Context Statistics	
Total Children Under 18 Years	U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
Child Population in Poverty	U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
Child Population Living in Metropolitan Areas	U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
Child Maltreatment Victims	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau
	<p>For 1999, the data source was NCANDS SDC: Sum of Item 3.2 A, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment or Risk of Maltreatment was Substantiated, and Item 3.2 B, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment was Indicated</p> <p>For 2000, there are three possible data sources: (1) NCANDS Child File, 2000: Elements 27, 29, 31, 33, Maltreatment Disposition Level; (2) NCANDS DCDC, 2000: Element 21, 23, 25, 27, Maltreatment Disposition Level; or (3) NCANDS SDC, 2000: Sum of Item 3.1A, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment was Substantiated; 3.1B, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment was Indicated; and 3.1C, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment was Given an Alternative Response that Identified Child Victim(s).</p> <p>For 2001-2002, there are 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).</p>
Children in Foster Care On 9/30 (End of FY)	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau
	AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database.
Children Adopted	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau
	AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Element 4, State Involvement.
Section B. Child Maltreatment Data	
Children Subject of an Investigated Report Alleging Child Maltreatment	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau
	<p>For 1999, the data source was NCANDS SDC: Item 3.2, Children Subject of a CPS Investigation or Assessment by Disposition Pertaining to the Child.</p> <p>For 2000, there were three possible data sources: (1) NCANDS Child File, 2000: Elements 27, 29, 31, 33, Maltreatment Disposition Level; (2) NCANDS DCDC, 2000: Elements 21, 23, 25, 27, Maltreatment Disposition Level; or (3) NCANDS SDC, 2000: Item 3.1, Children Subject of a CPS Investigation or Assessment by Disposition.</p> <p>For 2001-2002, there were 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.</p>

DATA ITEMS**DATA SOURCES AND ELEMENTS**

Section B. Child Maltreatment Data (continued)

Child Maltreatment Victims

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau

For 1999, the data source was NCANDS SDC: Sum of Item 3.2A, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment or Risk of Maltreatment was Substantiated; and Item 3.2B, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment was Indicated.

For 2000, there are three possible data sources:

- (1) NCANDS Child File, 2000: Elements 27, 29, 31, 33, Maltreatment Disposition Level;
- (2) NCANDS DCDC, 2000: Element 21, 23, 25, 27, Maltreatment Disposition Level; or
- (3) NCANDS SDC, 2000: Sum of Item 3.1A, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment was Substantiated; 3.1B, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment was Indicated; and 3.1C, Children for Whom the Allegation of Maltreatment was Given an Alternative Response that Identified Child Victim(s).

For 2001-2002, there were 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

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau

For 1999, the data source was NCANDS Summary Data Component: Item 5.1, Child Victims Who Died as a Result of Maltreatment.

For 2000, there are three possible data sources:

- (1) NCANDS Child File, 2000: Element 34, Maltreatment Death;
- (2) NCANDS DCDC, 2000: Element 28, Maltreatment Death; or
- (3) NCANDS SDC, 2000: Item 5.1, Child Victims who Died as a Result of Maltreatment.

For 2001-2002, there are 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

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau

For 1999, the data source was NCANDS SDC: Item 4.2, Child Victims by Age

For 2000, there are three possible data sources:

- (1) NCANDS Child File, 2000: Element 12, Child Age at Report, or a combination of Element 6, Report Date and Element 13, Child Date of Birth;
- (2) NCANDS DCDC, 2000: Element 11, Child Age at Report, or a combination of Element 6, Report Date and Element 12, Child Date of Birth; or
- (3) NCANDS SDC, 2000: Item 4.2, Child Victims By Age.

For 2001-2002, there are 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.

DATA ITEMS**DATA SOURCES AND ELEMENTS****Section B. Child Maltreatment Data (continued)**

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims	<p>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau</p> <p>For 1999, the data source was NCANDS SDC: Item 4.4, Child Victims by Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity; and Item 4.5, Child Victims by Race.</p> <p>For 2000, there are three possible data sources: (1) NCANDS Child File, 2000: Elements 15 through 20, Child Race, and Element 21, Child Ethnicity; (2) NCANDS DCDC, 2000: Element 14, Child Race, and Element 15, Child Ethnicity; or (3) NCANDS SDC, 2000: Item 4.4, Child Victims by Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity, and Item 4.5, Child Victims by Race.</p> <p>For 2001-2002, there are 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.</p>
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Maltreatment Type of Child Victims	<p>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau</p> <p>For 1999, the data source was NCANDS SDC: Item 4.1, Child Victims by Type of Maltreatment.</p> <p>For 2000, there are three possible data sources: (1) NCANDS Child File, 2000: Elements 26 through 33, Maltreatment Type, Maltreatment Disposition Level; (2) NCANDS DCDC, 2000: Elements 20 through 27, Maltreatment Type, Maltreatment Disposition Level; or (3) NCANDS SDC, 2000: Item 4.1, Child Victims by Type of Maltreatment.</p> <p>For 2001, there are 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.</p>
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Section C. Children in Foster Care

Children (for each FY) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Care On 10/1 • Entered Care • Exited Care • In Care On 9/30 • Total Served (FY) 	<p>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau</p> <p>AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care.</p>
Children's Median Length of Stay (for each FY) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Care On 10/1 • Exited Care • In Care On 9/30 	<p>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau</p> <p>AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care.</p>
Age of Children (for each FY) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Care On 10/1 • Entered Care • Exited Care • In Care On 9/30 	<p>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau</p> <p>AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care.</p>
Race/Ethnicity of Children (for each FY) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Care On 10/1 • Entered Care • Exited Care • In Care On 9/30 	<p>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau</p> <p>AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 8, Race; and Element 9, Hispanic Origin</p>

DATA ITEMS**DATA SOURCES AND ELEMENTS****Section D. Children Waiting to be Adopted on 9/30 (End of Fiscal Year)**

Children Waiting to be Adopted	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 35, Death of Parent; Element 43, Most Recent Case Plan Goal; Element 47, Date of Mother's Termination of Parental Rights; and Element 48, Date of Father's Termination of Parental Rights.
Children Whose Parents' Rights Have Been Terminated	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 35, Death of Parent; Element 47, Date of Mother's Termination of Parental Rights; and Element 48, Date of Father's Termination of Parental Rights.
Age of Waiting Children	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 35, Death of Parent; Element 43, Most Recent Case Plan Goal; Element 47, Date of Mother's Termination of Parental Rights; Element 48, Date of Father's Termination of Parental Rights.
Race/Ethnicity of Waiting Children	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 8, Race; 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. Children Adopted (AFCARS Annual Adoption Database)

Age of Children Adopted	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Element 4, State Involvement; and Element 5, Child's Date of Birth.
Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau AFCARS Annual Adoption Database: Element 4, State Involvement; Element 7, Race; and Element 8, Hispanic Origin.

Outcomes Data**CHILD WELFARE****OUTCOME MEASURES DATA SOURCES AND ELEMENTS****Outcome 1. Reduce Recurrence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect (NCANDS, DCDC)**

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau For 1999 (unless a State submitted revised data) the data source was NCANDS Detailed Care Data Component: Element 3, Report ID; Element 4, Child ID; Element 6, Report Date; and Element 8, Report Disposition. For 2000 there were two possible data sources: (1) NCANDS Child File, 2000: Element 3, Report ID; Element 4, Child ID; Element 6, Report Date; and Elements 27, 29, 31, and 33, Maltreatment Disposition Level; or (2) NCANDS DCDC, 2000: Element 3, Report ID; Element 4, Child ID; Element 6, Report Date; and Elements 21, 23, 25, and 27, Maltreatment Disposition Level. For 2001-2002, the data source was: (1) NCANDS Child File: Element 3, Report ID; Element 4, Child ID; Element 6, Report Date; and Elements 27, 29, 31, and 33, Maltreatment Disposition Level.
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**CHILD WELFARE
OUTCOME MEASURES DATA SOURCES AND ELEMENTS**

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

2.1 Maltreatment In Foster Care	<p>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau</p> <p>AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database, Element 21, Date of Latest Removal, and Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care</p> <p>For 1999 the data source was NCANDS DCDC: Element 3, Report ID; Element 4, Child ID; Elements 80, 93, and 106, Perpetrator Relationship.</p> <p>For 2000 there were two possible data sources: (1) NCANDS Child File 2000: Element 3, Report ID; Element 4, Child ID; and Elements 89, 108, and 127, Perpetrator Relationship; or (2) NCANDS DCDC 2000: Element 3, Report ID; Element 4, Child ID, Elements 80, 93, and 106, Perpetrator Relationship.</p> <p>For 2001-2002 the data source was: (1) NCANDS Child File: Element 3, Report ID; Element 4, Child ID; and Elements 89, 108, and 127, Perpetrator Relationship.</p>
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Outcome 3. Increase Permanency for Children in Foster Care

3.1 Exits from Foster Care	<p>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau</p> <p>AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care; and Element 58, Reasons for Discharge</p>
3.2 Exits of Disabled Children	<p>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau</p> <p>AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 10, Child Diagnosed with Disabilities; Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care; and Element 58, Reasons for Discharge</p>
3.3 Exits of Children Age 12 or Older at entry	<p>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau</p> <p>AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; and Element 58, Reasons for Discharge.</p>
3.4 Exits to Emancipation	<p>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau</p> <p>AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; and Element 58, Reasons for Discharge.</p>
3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity	<p>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau</p> <p>AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 8, Race; Element 9, Hispanic Origin; and Element 58, Reasons for Discharge.</p>

Outcome 4. Reduce Time to Reunification Without Increasing Re-entry

4.1 Time to Reunification	<p>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau</p> <p>AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care; and Element 58, Reasons for Discharge.</p>
4.2 Children Who Entered Foster Care During Fiscal Year	<p>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau</p> <p>AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 19, Total Number of Removals; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; and Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care.</p>

Outcome 5. Reduce Time in Foster Care to Adoption

5.1 Time to Adoption	<p>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau</p> <p>AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care; and Element 58, Reasons for Discharge.</p>
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**CHILD WELFARE
OUTCOME MEASURES DATA SOURCES AND ELEMENTS**

Outcome 6. Increase Placement Stability

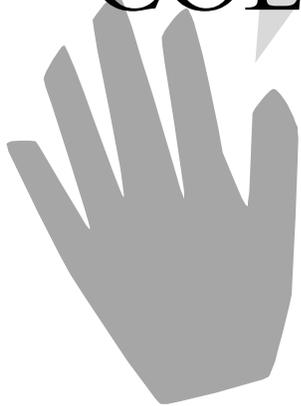
6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 24, Number of Previous Settings in Episode; and Element 56, Date of Discharge from Foster Care.
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Outcome 7. Reduce Placements of Young Children in Group Homes or Institutions

7.1 Placement Settings of Children Age 12 or Younger Who Entered Care During FY	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACF/ACYF, Children's Bureau AFCARS Annual Foster Care Database: Element 6, Date of Birth; Element 21, Date of Latest Removal; Element 23, Placement Date in Current Setting; Element 41, Current Placement Setting.
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Appendix G

GUILFORD'S
SUGGESTED
INTERPRETATIONS
FOR CORRELATION
COEFFICIENT VALUES



GUILFORD'S SUGGESTED INTERPRETATIONS FOR CORRELATION COEFFICIENT VALUES

Value	Interpretation
Less than .20	Slight, almost negligible relationship
.20 - .40	Low correlation; definite but small relationship
.40 - .70	Moderate correlation; substantial relationship
.70 - .90	High correlation; marked relationship
.90 – 1.00	Very high correlation; very dependable relationship