

A Guide to Interpreting Foster Care Profile Reports

The Center for State Child Welfare Data
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INTRODUCTION

How to use this document

This document provides guidance on how to interpret the Foster Care Profile reports available on the Center for State Child Welfare Data's website (<https://fcda.chapinhall.org/>). The material is sorted by report category and explanations of each report appear in the order in which they are listed on the online report selection page. Each explanation is accompanied by a graphic showing sample output and a brief interpretation of the sample. The sample output is presented for demonstrative purposes only; it is not intended to focus on trends in any specific jurisdiction.

On what data are these reports based?

Foster Care Profile reports are generated using data from the Multistate Foster Care Data Archive (FCDA)—a longitudinal repository of data on children in foster care in the United States maintained by the Center for State Child Welfare Data. The FCDA is the oldest database of its kind, containing decades of information on nearly 3 million children who have spent time in foster care in more than 20 states.

Which children are included in these reports?

Definition of a foster care “spell”

The structure of the FCDA is based on foster care spells. A spell is a continuous period of time that a child spends in foster care. A placement event starts a spell; an exit event ends a spell. A child may experience multiple placement events (i.e., movements) during his/her spell. A child may also have more than one spell; this is the case when a child re-enters care after being discharged.

The FCDA contains data from multiple states. In order to maintain a multistate archive that permits valid comparisons between states, the FCDA establishes one set of common inclusion/exclusion criteria:

- Spells are physical custody spells (as opposed to legal custody spells). This means that trial home visits and runaways are classified as exits from foster care. Trial home visits are included in the count of reunifications. Children who are in the legal custody of the state but who do not enter foster care are not included.
- Spells that are fewer than five days long are not included.
- A spell is not included if, at the start of the spell, the child is 18 years old or older.
- If a child exits care by running away, reaching the age of majority, or exiting to a destination classified as “other/unknown” and the child comes back into foster care within seven days of exit, the re-entry is bridged to form one spell, rather than identified as a new spell.
- A spell is forced to exit to “reach majority” on the child’s 21st birthday if the child is still in care at that time.
- If a child exits care to “runaway” and the child’s age at exit is less than 10 years old, the exit type is changed to “other.”
- If a child exits care to “reach majority” and the child’s age at exit is less than 13 years old, the exit type is changed to “other.”

First admissions vs. all admissions

The title of each Foster Care Profile report indicates whether the data refer to all children entering foster care (All Admissions) or only children entering foster care for the first time (First Admissions). Most of the reports provide data on first admissions, only. Usually, when one has a question about the general trends in a given foster care

system, one wants to know about the experience of the typical child in care. Because re-entrants to foster care (children coming back into care after a previous spell) are normally a minority of children entering foster care during a given time period, and because as a group they are often qualitatively different from children coming into care for the first time, looking at first admissions usually provides the best picture of the typical experience of children in care.

Footnotes

Footnotes at the bottom of each Foster Care Profile report contain additional information, over and above the guidance presented in this document. These notes are report- and jurisdiction-specific and provide important details regarding the interpretation of the data.

How current are the data?

Note: Foster Care Profile reports refer to outcomes by calendar year.

Due to the various schedules on which state data are updated, different states may have different database cutoff dates. The cutoff date is almost always either June 30th or December 31st of a given year. The date as of which the data are updated—also known as the **sensor date**—appears at the bottom of every Foster Care Profile report. It is important to bear this date in mind when interpreting each report because it determines the way in which certain outcomes and comparisons can be interpreted. For example:

- Table 1 shows the number of children entering foster care for the first time in each year. Consider a state whose sensor date is 6/30/2012. Because the sensor date in this state is June of 2012, Table 1 only accounts for foster care admissions occurring in the first half of that year.
- Table 20 provides data on the number of children exiting foster care within one year of entering. Consider a state whose sensor date is 12/31/2011:
 - This figure is calculable for the CY 2010 entry cohort because as of 12/31/2011, all children in the CY 2010 entry cohort have had the opportunity to exit care within one year.
 - This figure is not calculable for the CY 2011 entry cohort because as of 12/31/2011, all children in the CY 2011 entry cohort have not yet had the chance to exit care within one year.

ADMISSION TRENDS

Figure 2: Entry Rate Per 1000 Children by Race/Ethnicity and Entry Year (First Admissions)

- The x-axis shows the entry cohort year.
- The y-axis shows the rate of entry to foster care per 1000 children in the general population.
- The rate of entry per 1000 children is provided for three racial/ethnic groups: White, African American, and Hispanic.
- **Note:** The data used to construct this figure are presented in tabular form in Table 4.
- **Sample interpretation:** In 2012, African American children entered foster care for the first time at a rate of 5.75 per 1000 African American children in the general population.

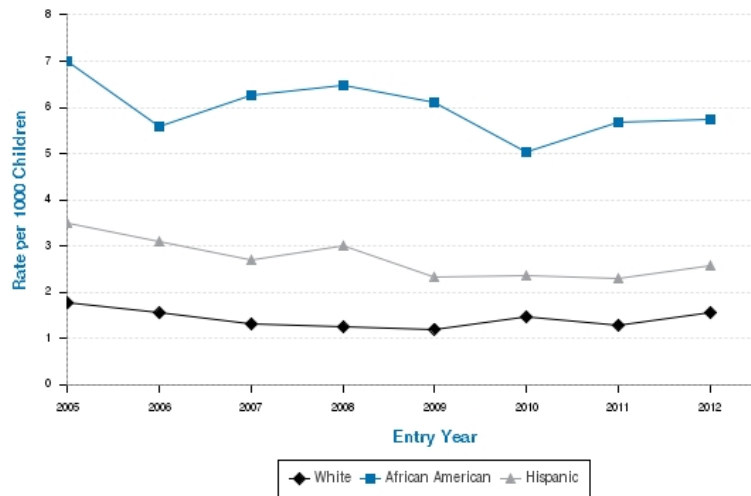


Figure 5: Entries, Exits, and January 1st Caseload (All Admissions)

- The x-axis shows the calendar year.
- The y-axis shows the number of children.
- Caseload: The number of children on the caseload on January 1st of the year.
- Entries: The number of children entering care during the year.
- Exits: The number of children exiting care during the year.
- Net Change: The number of entries during the year minus the number of exits during the year.
- **Note:** The data used to construct this figure are presented in tabular form in Table 16.
- **Sample interpretation:** In 2011, approximately the same number of children entered care as exited care. The caseload has been decreasing steadily since 2006.

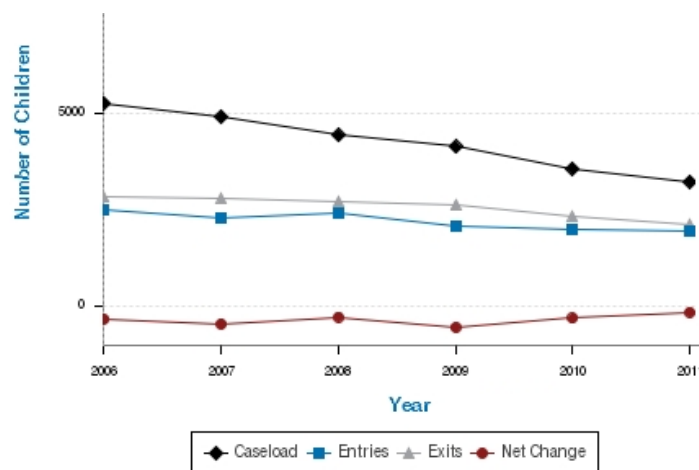


Table 1: Number and Percent of First Admissions by Age at Entry.

- Entry Year: Entry cohort year.
- Total First Admissions: The number of children entering foster care for the first time.
- Number by Age at Entry: The number of children in the entry cohort who were Under 1, 1-5, 6-12, and 13-17 years old when they entered foster care.
- Percent by Age at Entry: The percent of children in the entry cohort who fell into each of the abovementioned age groups.
- **Sample interpretation:** In 2011, 207 children entered foster care for the first time. Of those 207 children, 41 (20%) were under the age of 1 when they entered care.

Entry Year	Total First Admissions	Number by Age at Entry				Total First Admissions	Percent by Age at Entry			
		Under 1	1-5	6-12	13-17		Under 1	1-5	6-12	13-17
2005	385	60	93	85	147	100%	16%	24%	22%	38%
2006	454	89	110	75	180	100%	20%	24%	17%	40%
2007	395	66	93	76	160	100%	17%	24%	19%	41%
2008	225	40	50	39	96	100%	18%	22%	17%	43%
2009	270	57	60	48	105	100%	21%	22%	18%	39%
2010	237	45	72	49	71	100%	19%	30%	21%	30%
2011	207	41	53	33	80	100%	20%	26%	16%	39%

Table 2: Entry Rate Per 1000 Children by Age at Entry (First Admissions)

- Entry Year: Entry cohort year.
- Total First Admissions: The rate of entry to foster care per 1000 children in the general population.
- Age at Entry: The rate of entry to foster care per 1000 children in each age group in the general population.
- **Sample interpretation:** In 2012, children entered foster care for the first time at a rate of 1.96 per 1000 children in the general population. In that same year, children under the age of 1 entered foster care for the first time at a rate of 4.31 per 1000 children under age 1 in the general population.

Entry Year	Total First Admissions	Age at Entry			
		Under 1	1-5	6-12	13-17
2005	2.99	6.95	2.38	1.72	4.63
2006	3.57	11.77	3.12	1.48	5.37
2007	3.11	8.73	2.64	1.50	4.78
2008	1.77	5.29	1.42	.77	2.87
2009	1.82	5.85	1.35	.83	2.89
2010	1.60	4.62	1.62	.85	1.95
2011	1.40	4.21	1.19	.57	2.20
2012	1.96	4.31	1.13	1.18	3.58

Table 3: Number and Percent of First Admissions by Race/Ethnicity

- Entry Year: Entry cohort year.
- Total First Admissions: The number of children entering foster care for the first time.
- Number by Race/Ethnicity: The number of children in the entry cohort whose race/ethnicity was White, African American, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American, Other, and Unknown.
- Percent by Race/Ethnicity: The percent of children in the entry cohort who fell into each of the abovementioned racial/ethnic groups.
- **Sample interpretation:** In 2011, 6,184 children entered foster care for the first time. Of those children, 2,447 (40%) were Hispanic.

Entry Year	Total First Admissions	Number by Race/Ethnicity						
		White	African American	Hispanic	Asian Pacific Islander	Native American	Other	Unknown
2005	5,577	2,704	429	2,129	8	161	13	133
2006	5,142	2,304	427	2,091	9	158	16	137
2007	5,105	2,280	426	2,056	11	181	9	142
2008	5,991	2,488	576	2,533	14	249	14	117
2009	5,351	2,183	510	2,315	16	192	16	119
2010	5,793	2,544	514	2,332	16	219	8	160
2011	6,184	2,544	615	2,447	19	304	13	242

Entry Year	Total First Admissions	Percent by Race/Ethnicity						
		White	African American	Hispanic	Asian Pacific Islander	Native American	Other	Unknown
2005	100%	48%	8%	38%	0%	3%	0%	2%
2006	100%	45%	8%	41%	0%	3%	0%	3%
2007	100%	45%	8%	40%	0%	4%	0%	3%
2008	100%	42%	10%	42%	0%	4%	0%	2%
2009	100%	41%	10%	43%	0%	4%	0%	2%
2010	100%	44%	9%	40%	0%	4%	0%	3%
2011	100%	41%	10%	40%	0%	5%	0%	4%

Table 4: Entry Rate Per 1000 Children by Race/Ethnicity (First Admissions)

- Entry Year: Entry cohort year.
- Total First Admissions: The rate of entry to foster care per 1000 children in the general population.
- Race/Ethnicity: The rate of entry to foster care per 1000 children in each racial/ethnic group in the general population.
- **Note:** These data are presented in graphic form in Figure 2.
- **Sample interpretation:** In 2012, children entered foster care for the first time at a rate of 2.16 per 1000 children in the general population. In that same year, African American children entered foster care for the first time at a rate of 5.75 per 1000 African American children in the general population.

Entry Year	Total First Admissions	Race/Ethnicity		
		White	African American	Hispanic
2005	2.77	1.76	7.00	3.49
2006	2.36	1.54	5.57	3.08
2007	2.20	1.30	6.27	2.68
2008	2.32	1.24	6.48	3.01
2009	1.95	1.20	6.10	2.31
2010	1.98	1.46	5.02	2.34
2011	1.98	1.29	5.68	2.30
2012	2.16	1.55	5.75	2.58

Table 5: Disparity Ratios in Entry Rate Per 1000 Children (First Admissions)

- Entry Year: Entry cohort year.
- African American/White: The African American rate of entry per 1000 children divided by the White rate of entry per 1000 children (see Table 4).
- African American/Hispanic: The African American rate of entry per 1000 children divided by the Hispanic rate of entry per 1000 children (see Table 4).
- Hispanic/White: The Hispanic rate of entry per 1000 children divided by the White rate of entry per 1000 children (see Table 4).
- **Note:** The figures presented in this table are rate ratios. A rate ratio is used to compare the incidence rates of two groups. In this case, the rate ratio compares the foster care placement rates of children in two racial/ethnic groups.
- **Sample interpretation:** In 2012, African American children entered foster care at a rate that was 3.72 times greater than the rate of entry for White children.

Entry Year	African American/White	African American/Hispanic	Hispanic/White
2005	3.98	2.00	1.99
2006	3.63	1.81	2.00
2007	4.84	2.34	2.06
2008	5.22	2.15	2.42
2009	5.07	2.64	1.92
2010	3.43	2.14	1.60
2011	4.40	2.47	1.78
2012	3.72	2.23	1.67

PERMANENCY

Figure 3: Exit Type by Age at Entry (First Admissions, 3-Year Cohort)

- This figure provides data for a three-year entry cohort beginning on January 1st of the least recent of the last 8 years. For example, if the censor date is 6/30/2012, this figure provides exit information for the group of children who entered care for the first time between 1/1/2005 and 12/31/2007. This cohort is selected in order to maximize the information that can be learned about child exits; the earlier the cohort, the smaller the number of children who are still in care as of the censor date.
- The x-axis shows the child’s age at entry into foster care.
- The y-axis shows the percent of children in the entry cohort.
- Each line on the graph shows the percent of children who exited care to each of the destinations listed in the legend. The “Still in Care” line shows the percent of children who were still in care as of the censor date.
- **Sample interpretation:** 39% of children who entered care as infants (“0” years old) were adopted by the censor date. As age at entry increases, the likelihood of ultimately getting adopted generally decreases. 26% of children who entered care at age 16 aged out of foster care by the censor date; 38% of children who entered care at age 17 aged out of foster care by the censor date.

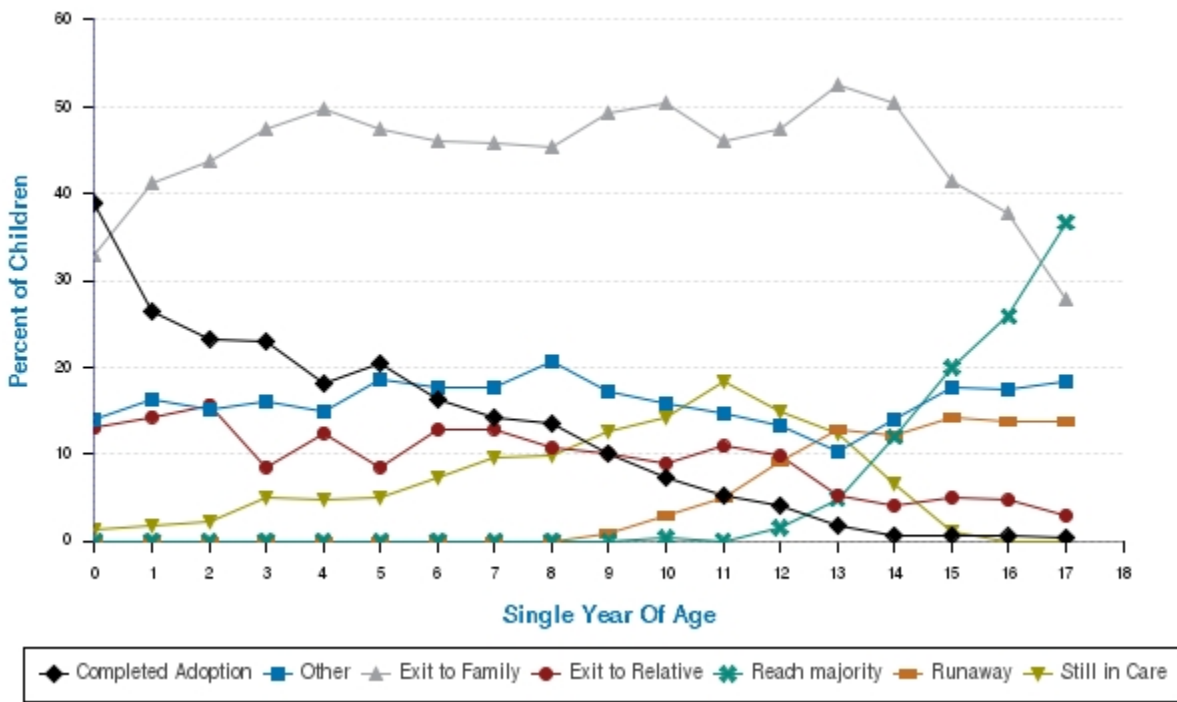


Figure 4: Cumulative Percent Discharged to Permanent Exits Within 2 Years of Entry by Age at Entry (First Admissions)

- The x-axis shows the entry cohort year.
- The y-axis shows the percent of children in the entry cohort discharged to a permanent exit within two years of entering care. Permanent exits include exits to reunification, relatives, and adoption.
- The cumulative percent of children discharged to a permanent exit within two years is stratified by the child’s age at entry: under age 1, 1-5 years old, 6-12 years old, and 13-17 years old.
- **Sample interpretation:** Of 6-12 year olds who entered foster care for the first time in 2006, 75% were discharged to a permanent exit within 2 years of entry.

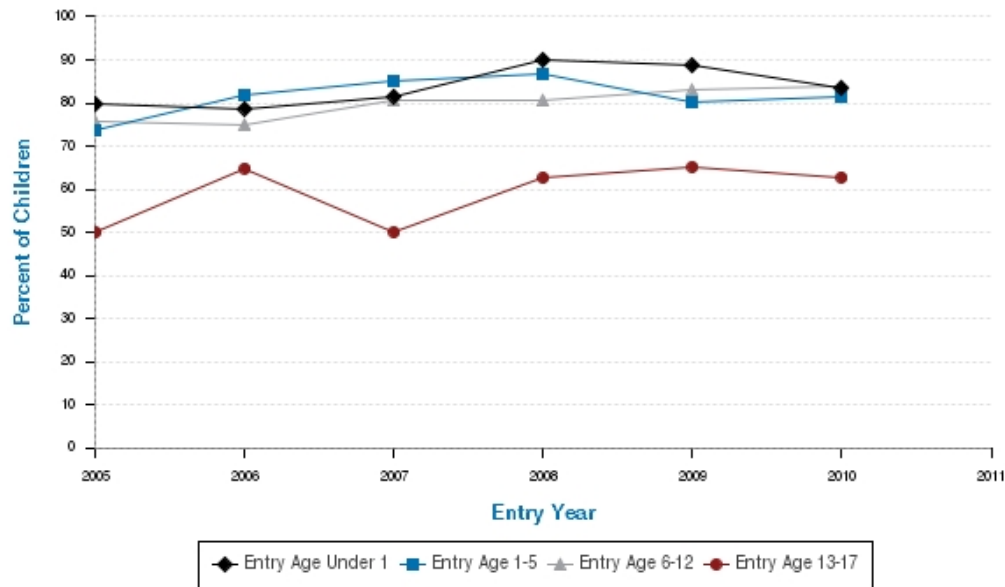


Table 10: Quartile Duration of First Admissions in Months, All First Admissions and by Age at Entry

- Entry Year: The entry cohort year.
- 25th percentile: The number of months it took for 25% of the entry cohort to exit foster care.
- 50th percentile: The number of months it took for 50% of the entry cohort to exit foster care. This is also known as the median length of stay.
- 75th percentile: The number of months it took for 75% of the entry cohort to exit foster care.
- Total First Admissions: The first table in this report provides outcomes for all children entering care for the first time. The subsequent tables provide outcomes by child age at entry.
- **Sample interpretation:** 25% of children entering care for the first time in 2010 exited care within 2.43 months. The median length of stay for 2010 first admissions was 12.07 months. The median length of stay is not calculable for 2011 first admissions because as of the censor date, 50% of the children in that cohort had not yet exited care.

Total First Admissions			
Entry Year	25th Percentile	50th Percentile	75th Percentile
2005	1.74	9.48	17.93
2006	7.87	17.87	27.15
2007	1.74	6.82	12.82
2008	1.57	6.69	20.95
2009	1.87	7.25	16.66
2010	2.43	12.07	17.48
2011	6.59	--	--

Table 11: Number and Percent of First Admissions by Entry Year and Exit Destination from First Spell

- **Entry Year:** The entry cohort year.
- **Total First Admissions:** The number of children entering foster care for the first time.
- **Total Discharged as of MM-DD-YYYY:** The number of first admissions that were discharged from foster care as of the censor date.
- **Number to Each Outcome:** The number of children in each entry cohort who, as of the censor date, were reunified, were adopted, exited to relatives/guardianship, reached majority (aged out), ran away, exited to some other destination, and were still in foster care as of the censor date.
- **Percent to Each Outcome:** The percent of children in each entry cohort who, as of the censor date, exited care to each of the abovementioned destinations.
- **Note:** Children in less recent entry cohorts have had more of an opportunity to exit foster care than children in more recent entry cohorts. Therefore, outcomes for different Entry Years should only be compared when the percent of children discharged is comparable. For example, in the sample below, 98% of children in the 2006 entry cohort have already been discharged; therefore, the proportion of children in each exit category is relatively stable. In contrast, only 50% of children in the 2011 entry cohort have exited care as of the same date. As the remainder of the children in that cohort exit care, they will leave the “still in first spell” column and enter one of the exit destination columns.
- **Sample interpretation:** In 2011, 407 children entered foster care for the first time. Of those 407 children, 203 (50%) had exited that spell as of 6/30/2012. Of the 407 children who entered care, 157 (39%) reunified; 204 (50%) were still in care as of 6/30/2012.

Number to Each Outcome									
Entry Year	Total First Admissions	Total Discharged as of 06-30-2012	Reunification	Adoption	Relatives	Reach Majority	Runaway	Other	Still in First Spell as of 06-30-2012
2005	311	310	140	98	42	11	17	2	1
2006	311	306	130	77	72	11	14	2	5
2007	345	338	160	102	43	18	14	1	7
2008	313	307	161	70	49	14	13	0	6
2009	288	273	146	70	36	16	5	0	15
2010	352	305	181	75	29	5	11	4	47
2011	407	203	157	22	12	6	5	1	204
2012	267	34	30	0	1	0	3	0	233
Percent to Each Outcome									
2005	100%	100%	45%	32%	14%	4%	5%	1%	0%
2006	100%	98%	42%	25%	23%	4%	5%	1%	2%
2007	100%	98%	46%	30%	12%	5%	4%	0%	2%
2008	100%	98%	51%	22%	16%	4%	4%	0%	2%
2009	100%	95%	51%	24%	13%	6%	2%	0%	5%
2010	100%	87%	51%	21%	8%	1%	3%	1%	13%
2011	100%	50%	39%	5%	3%	1%	1%	0%	50%
2012	100%	13%	11%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	87%

Table 12: Cumulative Number and Percent Discharged to Permanent Exits by Exit Type, All Entry Ages (First Admissions)

- Entry Year: The entry cohort year.
- Total First Admissions: The number of children entering foster care for the first time.
- Cumulative Number Discharged to Reunification, All Entry Ages: The number of children in each entry cohort that were discharged to reunification within 6 months of entering foster care, within 1 year of entering foster care, etc.
- Cumulative Percent Discharged to Reunification, All Entry Ages: The percent of children in each entry cohort that were discharged to reunification within 6 months of entering foster care, within 1 year of entering foster care, etc.
- Outcomes pertaining to reunification are followed by outcomes pertaining to adoption and discharge to relative/guardianship. Following that, outcomes are provided for children exiting to non-permanent exits (reach majority, runaway, and other).
- **Notes:**
 - Cells shaded in yellow indicate figures that are subject to change because only some of the children in the entry cohort have been in care long enough to achieve the outcome of interest. For example, in the sample below, the censor date is 6/30/2012. As of that date, of children who entered care in 2011, only those entering care between 1/1/2011 and 6/30/2011 had the opportunity to exit care within one year of entry. Therefore, the number of children in the 2011 cohort reunifying within 1 year (55) will increase on 12/31/2012, after we find out how many of the children who entered between 7/1/2011 and 12/31/2011 reunified within 1 year of entry.
 - Empty cells indicate figures that are not yet calculable because none of the children in the entry cohort have been in care long enough to achieve the outcome of interest. For example, in the sample below, the censor date is 6/30/2012. As of that date, none of children in the 2011 entry cohort had the opportunity to exit care within two years of entry. The earliest possible date on which a 2011 entrant can exit within 2 years is 1/1/2013.
- **Sample interpretation:** In 2011, 94 children entered foster care for the first time. Of those children, 35 (37%) reunified within 6 months of entry.

Entry Year	Total First Admissions	Cumulative Number Discharged to Reunification, All Entry Ages						Cumulative Percent Discharged to Reunification, All Entry Ages					
		Within 6 Months	Within 1 Year	Within 2 Years	Within 3 Years	Within 4 Years	Within 5 Years	Within 6 Months	Within 1 Year	Within 2 Years	Within 3 Years	Within 4 Years	Within 5 Years
2005	87	11	24	32	33	34	34	13%	28%	37%	38%	39%	39%
2006	106	20	34	44	45	50	50	19%	32%	42%	42%	47%	47%
2007	243	52	97	121	125	125	126	21%	40%	50%	51%	51%	52%
2008	207	50	79	92	92	94	--	24%	38%	44%	44%	45%	--
2009	97	26	35	46	47	--	--	27%	36%	47%	48%	--	--
2010	74	31	37	46	--	--	--	42%	50%	62%	--	--	--
2011	94	35	55	--	--	--	--	37%	59%	--	--	--	--
2012	43	4	--	--	--	--	--	9%	--	--	--	--	--

Table 20: Cumulative Number and Percent Discharged by Exit Type, All Exit Types, All Entry Ages (First Admissions)

- This report functions in the same way as Table 12, except that (a) it breaks out outcomes for children leaving care to non-permanent exits (runaway, reach majority, and other) and (b) it includes information regarding children who are still in care as of the censor date.

Table 21: Cumulative Number and Percent Discharged by Exit Type, All Exit Types, Entry Age Under 1 (First Admissions)

- This report functions in the same way as Table 20, except that it provides outcomes only for children who entered care as infants (under age 1).

Table 22: Cumulative Number and Percent Discharged by Exit Type, All Exit Types, Entry Age 1 to 5 (First Admissions)

- This report functions in the same way as Table 20, except that it provides outcomes only for children who entered care between the ages of 1 to 5 years old.

Table 23: Cumulative Number and Percent Discharged, All Exit Types, Entry Age 6 to 12 (First Admissions)

- This report functions in the same way as Table 20, except that it provides outcomes only for children who entered care between the ages of 6 to 12 years old.

Table 24: Cumulative Number and Percent Discharged, All Exit Types, Entry Age 13 to 17 (First Admissions)

- This report functions in the same way as Table 20, except that it provides outcomes only for children who entered care between the ages of 13 to 17 years old.

PLACEMENT TYPE/STABILITY

Table 6: Number and Percent of First Admissions by First Placement Type and Age at Entry

- Entry Year: The entry cohort year.
- Total First Admissions: The number of children entering foster care for the first time.
- Number by Placement Type: The number of children in each entry cohort experiencing a first placement type of foster care, kinship foster care, congregate care, and other.
- Percent by Placement Type: The percent of children in each entry cohort experiencing the abovementioned first placement types.
- All First Admissions: The first table in this report provides outcomes for all children entering care for the first time. The subsequent tables provide outcomes by child age at entry.
- **Sample interpretation:** In 2011, 1,513 children entered foster care for the first time. Of those children, 445 (29%) experienced non-relative foster care as their first placement.

All First Admissions										
Entry Year	Total First Admissions	Number By Placement Type				Total First Admissions	Percent By Placement Type			
		Foster	Kinship	Congregate	Other		Foster	Kinship	Congregate	Other
2005	2,114	973	191	858	92	100%	46%	9%	41%	4%
2006	1,815	881	168	692	74	100%	49%	9%	38%	4%
2007	1,695	864	157	616	58	100%	51%	9%	36%	3%
2008	1,786	880	148	696	62	100%	49%	8%	39%	3%
2009	1,490	622	142	671	55	100%	42%	10%	45%	4%
2010	1,514	575	195	692	52	100%	38%	13%	46%	3%
2011	1,513	445	232	784	52	100%	29%	15%	52%	3%

Table 7: Number and Percent of First Admissions by Predominant Placement Type and Age at Entry

- This report functions in the same way as Table 6, except that it provides information on children's *predominant* placement type. Predominant placement type is the placement type in which the child spent more than 50% of his/her spell in foster care. If there is no placement type in which the child spent more than 50% of his/her spell, predominant placement type is categorized as "Mixed."
- **Sample interpretation:** In 2011, 1,513 children entered foster care for the first time. Of those children, 524 (35%) experienced non-relative foster care as their predominant placement.

All First Admissions												
Entry Year	Total First Admissions	Number By Placement Type					Total First Admissions	Percent By Placement Type				
		Foster	Kinship	Congregate	Other	Mixed		Foster	Kinship	Congregate	Other	Mixed
2005	2,114	868	919	279	23	25	100%	41%	43%	13%	1%	1%
2006	1,815	741	787	238	30	19	100%	41%	43%	13%	2%	1%
2007	1,695	782	660	224	17	12	100%	46%	39%	13%	1%	1%
2008	1,786	792	721	221	34	18	100%	44%	40%	12%	2%	1%
2009	1,490	665	613	159	40	13	100%	45%	41%	11%	3%	1%
2010	1,514	581	717	160	43	13	100%	38%	47%	11%	3%	1%
2011	1,513	524	744	193	32	20	100%	35%	49%	13%	2%	1%

Table 8: Number and Percent of Movements Observed (First Admissions)

- Entry Year: The entry cohort year.
- Total First Admissions: The number of children entering foster care for the first time.
- Number by Number of Moves: The number of children in the entry cohort who experienced zero, one, two, or three or more moves during their spell.
- Percent by Number of Moves: The percent of children in the entry cohort who experienced zero, one, two, or three or more moves during their spell.
- **Note:** For more recent entry cohorts, less time will have elapsed to observe placement moves.
- **Sample interpretation:** In 2005, 177 children entered foster care for the first time. Of those children, 89 (50%) experienced no placement moves during their spell.

Entry Year	Total First Admissions	Number By Number Of Moves				Total First Admissions	Percent By Number Of Moves			
		No Moves	One Moves	Two Moves	Three or More Moves		No Moves	One Moves	Two Moves	Three or More Moves
2005	177	89	45	21	22	100%	50%	25%	12%	12%
2006	144	77	28	15	24	100%	53%	19%	10%	17%
2007	145	58	48	8	31	100%	40%	33%	6%	21%
2008	110	51	35	5	19	100%	46%	32%	5%	17%
2009	126	55	42	12	17	100%	44%	33%	10%	13%
2010	153	67	45	24	17	100%	44%	29%	16%	11%
2011	155	59	57	23	16	100%	38%	37%	15%	10%

Table 9: Number of Movements Observed Per Child by Duration Interval (First Admissions)

- Entry Year: The entry cohort year.
- 6 Months and Under: The average number of moves that children experienced during the first 6 months of their spell in foster care.
- 7 to 12 months: The average number of moves that children experienced during the second 6 months of their spell in foster care (i.e., months 7 through 12).
- 13 to 18 months, etc.: The remainder of the columns follow the convention above.
- **Note:** The average number of moves per child is based on the number of children in care during the 6-month interval. Empty cells indicate that, as of the censor date, enough time has not yet elapsed for all the children in the entry cohort to have had the chance to experience that interval. For example, in the sample below, the censor date is 6/30/2012. As of that date, all the children who entered care in 2011 have had the opportunity to be in care for 6 months or less; however, all of those children have not yet had the opportunity to be in care for 7 to 12 months.
- **Sample interpretation:** Children entering care for the first time in 2010 experienced an average of .58 moves per child during the first 6 months of their spell. Children experienced an average of .19 moves per child during the second 6 months of their spell.

Entry Year	6 Months and Under	7 to 12 Months	13 to 18 Months	19 to 24 Months	25 to 30 Months	31 to 36 Months	37 to 42 Months
2005	0.85	0.16	0.26	0.20	0.23	0.44	0.11
2006	0.92	0.21	0.28	0.18	0.10	0.04	0.07
2007	0.63	0.25	0.32	0.43	0.40	0.46	0.13
2008	0.63	0.40	0.38	0.50	0.31	0.15	0.67
2009	0.61	0.48	0.19	0.31	0.32	--	--
2010	0.58	0.19	0.23	--	--	--	--
2011	0.95	--	--	--	--	--	--
2012	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

RE-ENTRY

Table 13: Likelihood of Re-entry from Reunification, Discharge to Relative, Runaway, or Other Exit by Entry Cohort (First Admissions)

- Entry Year: The entry cohort year.
- Total First Admissions: The number of children entering foster care for the first time.
- Exits to Date: The number of children in the entry cohort who have exited care as of the censor date.
- Exits as a Percent of Admits: The percent of children in the entry cohort who have exited as of the censor date.
- Total Re-entries To Date: The number of children in the entry cohort who have re-entered care as of the censor date.
- Re-entries within 1 Year: The number of children in the entry cohort who re-entered within 1 year of exiting. This number is a subset of Total Re-entries To Date.
- Total Re-entries as Percent of Admits: The percent of children in the entry cohort who have re-entered care as of the censor date.
- Total Re-entries as Percent of Exits: For each entry cohort, the percent of exiters (children discharged from foster care) who have re-entered care as of the censor date.
- Re-entries w/in 1 year as Percent of Admits: The percent of first admissions who re-entered care within one year of exiting.
- Re-entries w/in 1 year as Percent of Exits: For each entry cohort, the percent of exiters who re-entered care within one year of exiting.
- The first table in this report shows exit and re-entry outcomes for all children who exited to either reunification, relative/guardianship, runaway, or other. Exits to adoption and reach majority are excluded from the analysis. The subsequent tables provide exit outcomes by specific exit type.
- **Note:** Entry years should only be compared when the percent of children discharged (exits as a percent of admits) is comparable. For more recent entry cohorts, less time will have elapsed to observe exit from and re-entry into care.
- **Sample Interpretation:** In 2010, 2,110 children entered foster care for the first time. Of these children, 1,442 (68%) had exited from that first spell as of the censor date. To date, 175 of those exiters have re-entered care; 157 of them re-entered within 1 year of exiting.

All Exits (Except Adoption and Reach Majority)									
Entry Year	Total First Admissions	Exits To Date	Exits as a Percent of Admits	Total Re-entries To Date	Re-entries w/in 1 Year	Total Re-entries as Percent of Admits	Total Re-entries as Percent of Exits	Re-entries w/in 1 Year as Percent of Admits	Re-entries w/in 1 Year as Percent of Exits
2005	2,812	2,081	74%	497	304	18%	24%	11%	15%
2006	3,084	2,455	80%	525	319	17%	21%	10%	13%
2007	2,854	2,342	82%	412	219	14%	18%	8%	9%
2008	1,756	1,347	77%	214	136	12%	16%	8%	10%
2009	1,795	1,355	75%	231	185	13%	17%	10%	14%
2010	2,110	1,442	68%	175	157	8%	12%	7%	11%
2011	2,021	1,002	50%	102	101	5%	10%	5%	10%

Table 14: Likelihood of Re-entry from Reunification, Discharge to Relative, Runaway, or Other Exit, by Exit Cohort (First Admissions)

- Exit Year: The year the child exited foster care (i.e., the *exit* cohort year).
- Total Exits (First Admissions): The number of children who exited their first foster care spell during the exit cohort year.
- Total Re-entries To Date: The number of exiters who re-entered care as of the censor date.
- Re-entries w/in 1 Year: The number of exiters who re-entered care within 1 year of exiting. This number is a subset of Total Re-entries To Date.
- Total Re-entries to Date as Percent of Exits: The percent of exiters who re-entered care as of the censor date.
- Re-entries w/in 1 Year as Percent of Exits: The percent of exiters who re-entered care within 1 year of exiting.
- **Note:** The number and percent of children re-entering care within 1 year is only stable for exit cohorts in which all exiters have had the opportunity to exit within 1 year as of the censor date. Incomplete figures are shaded in yellow.
 - For states with a 12/31 censor date, data for the most recent exit year are incomplete. As of 12/31 of that year, one year has not yet elapsed for all children in the most recent exit cohort.
 - For states with a 6/30 censor date, data for the most recent two exit years are incomplete. As of 6/30 of the most recent exit year, one year has not yet elapsed for all children in the most recent two exit cohorts.
- **Sample interpretation:** 1,416 children exited from their first foster care spell in 2010. To date, 226 (16%) of those children re-entered care; 186 (13%) of them re-entered within one year of exiting.

All Exits (Except Adoption)					
Exit Year	Total Exits (First Admissions)	Total Re-entries To Date	Re-entries w/in 1 Year	Total Re-entries to Date as Percent of Exits	Re-entries w/in 1 Year as Percent of Exits
2005	1,916	533	302	28%	16%
2006	2,192	493	311	22%	14%
2007	2,483	483	286	19%	12%
2008	1,999	372	178	19%	9%
2009	1,483	266	196	18%	13%
2010	1,416	226	186	16%	13%
2011	1,639	213	203	13%	12%
2012	694	31	31	4%	4%

Table 15: Number and Percent of All Admissions by Admission Type

- Entry Year: The entry cohort year.
- All Admissions: The total number of children who entered foster care.
- Number/Percent First Admission: The number/percent of children in the entry cohort who entered care for the first time.
- Number/Percent Re-entry: The number/percent of children in the entry cohort who were re-entering after a prior discharge.

Entry Year	All Admissions	Number		Percent	
		First Admission	Re-entry	First Admission	Re-entry
2005	3,532	2,812	720	80%	20%
2006	4,006	3,084	922	77%	23%
2007	3,741	2,854	887	76%	24%
2008	2,398	1,756	642	73%	27%
2009	2,389	1,795	594	75%	25%
2010	2,799	2,110	689	75%	25%
2011	2,672	2,021	651	76%	24%
2012	1,222	872	350	71%	29%

CASELOAD

Figure 6: Caseload on January 1st by Race/Ethnicity (All Admissions)

- The x-axis shows the year.
- The y-axis shows the percent of children on the January 1st caseload.
- The trend lines show the percent of children on the caseload who fall into each of the racial/ethnic categories listed in the legend.
- **Note:** The data used to construct this figure are presented in tabular form in Table 17.
- **Sample interpretation:** On 1/1/2011, 72% of children in foster care were African American. The racial/ethnic breakdown of the caseload has remained relatively stable since 2005.

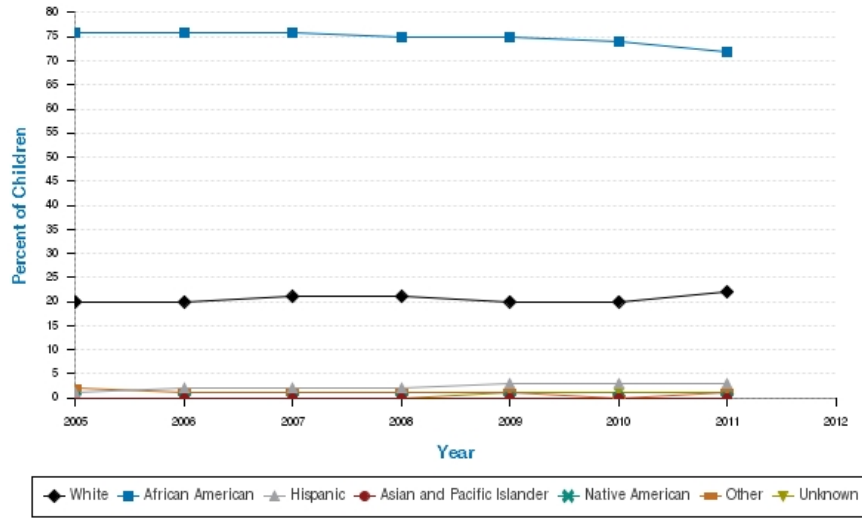


Figure 7: Caseload on January 1st by Age on January 1st (All Admissions)

- The x-axis shows the year.
- The y-axis shows the percent of children on the January 1st caseload.
- The trend lines show the percent of children on the caseload whose age on January 1st falls into each of the age groups listed in the legend.
- **Note:** The data used to construct this figure are presented in tabular form in Table 18.
- **Sample interpretation:** On 1/1/2011, 4% of children in foster care were infants under the age of 1. The proportion of children on the caseload that are teenagers has risen steadily since 2005.

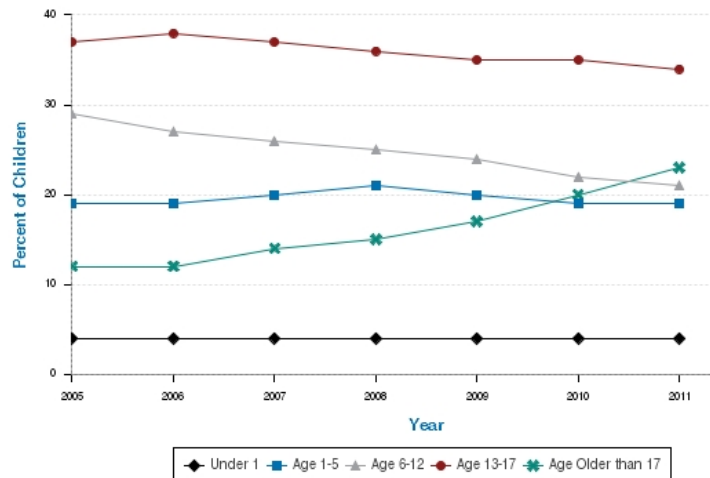


Figure 8: Caseload on January 1st by Placement Type on January 1st (All Admissions)

- The x-axis shows the year.
- The y-axis shows the percent of children on the January 1st caseload.
- The trend lines show the percent of children on the caseload who, on that day, were placed in each of the placement types listed in the legend.
- **Note:** The data used to construct this figure are presented in tabular form in Table 19.
- **Sample interpretation:** On 1/1/2012, 5% of children in foster care were placed in congregate care settings. The proportion of children on the caseload placed in kinship foster care declined between 2006 and 2010, but has been rising since 2010.

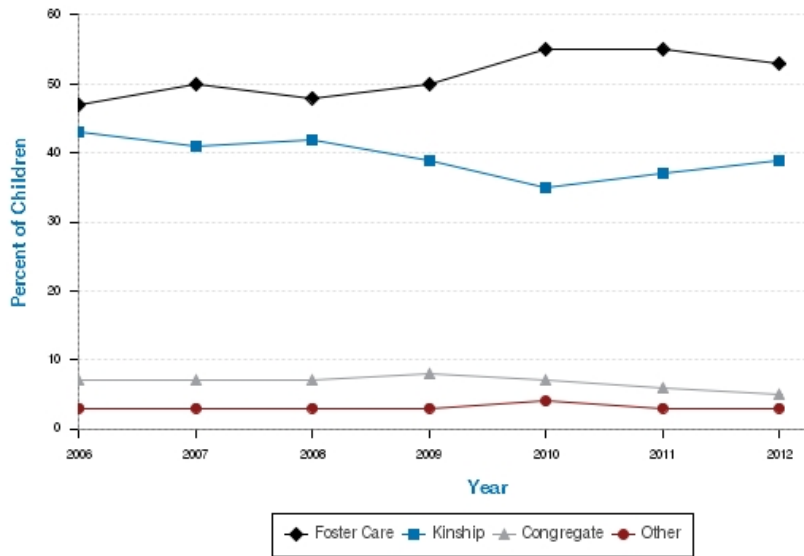


Table 16: Entries, Exits, and January 1st Caseload (All Admissions)

- Year: The calendar year.
- Total Caseload on January 1st: The number of children in foster care on January 1st of the year.
- Entries During Year: The number of children entering care during the year.
- Exits During Year: The number of children exiting care during the year.
- Net Change: The number of entries during the year minus the number of exits during the year.
- **Note:** These data are presented in graphic form in Figure 5.
- **Sample interpretation:** There were 3,211 children in foster care on 1/1/2011. During 2011, 175 fewer children entered care than exited care.

Year	Total Caseload on January 1st	Entries During Year	Exits During Year	Net Change
2006	5,248	2,463	2,819	-356
2007	4,892	2,275	2,757	-482
2008	4,410	2,393	2,690	-297
2009	4,113	2,045	2,614	-569
2010	3,544	1,966	2,299	-333
2011	3,211	1,933	2,108	-175

Table 17: Number and Percent of Children on January 1st Caseload, by Race/Ethnicity (All Admissions)

- Year: The calendar year.
- Total Caseload on January 1st: The number of children in foster care on January 1st of the year.
- Number/Percent of Children: The number/percent of children on the January 1st caseload broken down by their race/ethnicity.
- **Note:** These data are presented in graphic form in Figure 6.
- **Sample interpretation:** There were 7,094 children in foster care on 1/1/2011. Of those children, 5,116 (72%) were African American.

Number of Children								
Year	Total Caseload on January 1st	White	African American	Hispanic	Asian and Pacific Islander	Native American	Other	Unknown
2005	10,275	2,104	7,792	154	35	20	166	4
2006	10,116	2,061	7,697	165	30	29	128	6
2007	9,686	1,998	7,315	199	38	30	89	17
2008	9,122	1,884	6,863	200	38	26	72	39
2009	8,412	1,686	6,304	247	26	22	51	76
2010	7,719	1,581	5,722	255	31	16	37	77
2011	7,094	1,569	5,116	244	27	9	53	76
Percent of Children								
2005	100%	20%	76%	1%	0%	0%	2%	0%
2006	100%	20%	76%	2%	0%	0%	1%	0%
2007	100%	21%	76%	2%	0%	0%	1%	0%
2008	100%	21%	75%	2%	0%	0%	1%	0%
2009	100%	20%	75%	3%	0%	0%	1%	1%
2010	100%	20%	74%	3%	0%	0%	0%	1%
2011	100%	22%	72%	3%	0%	0%	1%	1%

Table 18: Number and Percent of Children on January 1st Caseload by Age on January 1st (All Admissions)

- Year: The calendar year.
- Total Caseload on January 1st: The number of children in foster care on January 1st of the year.
- Age on January 1st: The number/percent of children on the January 1st caseload broken down by their age group on that day.
- **Note:** These data are presented in graphic form in Figure 7.
- **Sample interpretation:** There were 7,094 children in foster care on 1/1/2011. Of those children, 267 (4%) were infants under the age of 1.

Number of Children						
Year	Total Caseload on January 1st	Age on January 1st				
		Under 1	1-5	6-12	13-17	Older Than 17
2005	10,275	389	1,928	2,981	3,768	1,209
2006	10,116	429	1,915	2,686	3,837	1,249
2007	9,686	416	1,919	2,493	3,540	1,318
2008	9,122	322	1,878	2,239	3,308	1,375
2009	8,412	314	1,683	2,016	2,951	1,448
2010	7,719	287	1,505	1,731	2,675	1,521
2011	7,094	267	1,317	1,474	2,415	1,621
Percent of Children						
2005	100%	4%	19%	29%	37%	12%
2006	100%	4%	19%	27%	38%	12%
2007	100%	4%	20%	26%	37%	14%
2008	100%	4%	21%	25%	36%	15%
2009	100%	4%	20%	24%	35%	17%
2010	100%	4%	19%	22%	35%	20%
2011	100%	4%	19%	21%	34%	23%

Table 19: Number and Percent of Children on January 1st Caseload by Placement Type on January 1st (All Admissions)

- Year: The calendar year.
- Total Caseload on January 1st: The number of children in foster care on January 1st of the year.
- Placement Type on January 1st: The number/percent of children on the January 1st caseload broken down by their placement type on that day.
- **Note:** These data are presented in graphic form in Figure 8.
- **Sample interpretation:** There were 3,463 children in foster care on 1/1/2012. Of those children, 1,827 (53%) were placed in non-relative foster care.

Number of Children					
Year	Total Caseload on January 1st	Placement Type on January 1st			
		Foster Care	Kinship	Congregate	Other
2006	4,633	2,169	2,004	314	146
2007	5,134	2,577	2,090	335	132
2008	4,842	2,334	2,050	324	134
2009	3,683	1,827	1,454	277	125
2010	3,237	1,781	1,117	215	124
2011	3,502	1,919	1,281	196	106
2012	3,463	1,827	1,344	188	104
Percent of Children					
2006	100%	47%	43%	7%	3%
2007	100%	50%	41%	7%	3%
2008	100%	48%	42%	7%	3%
2009	100%	50%	39%	8%	3%
2010	100%	55%	35%	7%	4%
2011	100%	55%	37%	6%	3%
2012	100%	53%	39%	5%	3%