

District of Columbia

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)²

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total children under 18 years	114,036	101,037	104,980	109,480
Race/ethnicity (%) ³				
American Indian/ Alaska Native	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	2.8	1.7	1.9	2.1
Black	61.5	65.4	62.9	60.4
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	12.2	12.0	13.0	13.8
White	20.5	17.6	18.8	20.0
Two or more races	2.7	3.1	3.3	3.5
Child population in poverty (%)	29.4	30.4	30.3	X

Child Welfare Summary⁴

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Child maltreatment victims	3,279	2,672	2,377	2,141
Foster care entry rate per 1,000	5.5	7.4	5.3	4.4
Children in foster care on 9/30	2,117	2,069	1,800	1,553
Children adopted	103	129	106	108

Caseworker Visits for Children in Foster Care⁵

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Children receiving monthly visits (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	95
Numerator	N/A	N/A	N/A	14,392
Denominator	N/A	N/A	N/A	15,112
Children receiving visits in the home (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	98
Numerator	N/A	N/A	N/A	14,048
Denominator	N/A	N/A	N/A	14,392

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS] Unique Counts)⁶

Overview Maltreatment Information⁷

	2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children who received a Child Protective Services response for an allegation of child maltreatment	14,544	127.5 per 1,000	12,463	123.4 per 1,000	13,187	125.6 per 1,000	13,812	126.2 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims	3,279	28.8 per 1,000	2,672	26.4 per 1,000	2,377	22.6 per 1,000	2,141	19.6 per 1,000
Child fatalities	5	4.4 per 100,000	2	2.0 per 100,000	3	2.9 per 100,000	2	1.8 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Under 1 year	10.5	9.6	10.0	10.1
1 year	4.3	5.5	4.8	6.2
2 years	4.2	4.9	4.7	5.0
3 years	4.2	5.0	5.1	6.1
4 years	5.0	5.0	4.7	5.3
5 years	5.9	6.5	5.9	6.6
6 years	5.3	6.4	7.1	7.0
7 years	6.4	5.6	5.0	6.0
8 years	5.7	5.7	5.3	5.3
9 years	5.2	5.7	4.4	4.5
10 years	4.8	5.3	5.9	5.2
11 years	5.5	4.9	4.6	4.9
12 years	5.4	5.6	6.4	4.2
13 years	6.1	5.7	6.1	5.5
14 years	6.5	5.4	5.9	6.0
15 years	5.9	5.8	5.1	4.8
16 years	4.9	4.4	5.4	4.0
17 years	3.8	2.8	3.4	3.2
18+ years	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Missing data	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2
Number	3,279	2,672	2,377	2,141

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
American Indian/ Alaska Native	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Asian	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1
Black	59.3	61.5	59.4	51.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	7.0	9.4	10.2	10.7
White	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	33.0	28.3	29.8	36.9
Number	3,279	2,672	2,377	2,141

¹ The source data for each table is indicated in parentheses for each section. A calendar year is the basis for data from the Census Bureau. Most of the other data on these pages are from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) or the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and are based on the Federal fiscal year, October 1 through September 30.

² The total child population and data on race/ethnicity represent estimates from the Census Bureau (<http://www.census.gov/popest/data/datasets.html>). Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). Child poverty data for 2012 were not available for inclusion in this report; however, they will be included in the 2010–2013 report.

³ For race/ethnicity tables, all races exclude children of Hispanic origin. The Child Welfare Outcomes Report Data Site (<http://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/data/overview>) provides alternative race/ethnicity breakdowns in which race and ethnicity are treated as two separate categories.

⁴ A child victim is defined as a child who is the subject of a maltreatment report for which the disposition is substantiated, indicated, or "alternative response victim." The rate for foster care entry is per 1,000 children in the state population. Data on child maltreatment victims are from NCANDS. Data on foster care entry rate, children in foster care on 9/30, and children adopted are from AFCARS.

⁵ As of 2012, there is a new methodology used to calculate the caseworker visits measures. Because the new methodology limits data comparisons with prior years, caseworker visits data from 2009 through 2011 are not included in this table. All states have the option of using an approved sampling procedure for the caseworker visits reporting requirement. See appendix C for more information on how these data are calculated and for a list of states using sampling methodology.

⁶ The unique count of child victims counts a child only once regardless of the number of times he or she was found to be a victim during the reporting year. This is a change from prior reports, and these data are now consistent with the reporting practice in the Child Maltreatment reports.

⁷ The rates for Child Protective Services Responses and victims are per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18.

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS) Continued

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁸

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Emotional abuse	1.2	1.6	1.4	1.5
Medical neglect	4.1	6.0	5.5	6.0
Neglect	67.5	65.5	63.3	63.7
Physical abuse	15.7	18.0	19.1	39.2
Sexual abuse	3.2	2.5	2.0	14.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	30.0	33.0	38.4	2.6
Number	3,279	2,672	2,377	2,141

Response Time (in hours)⁹

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Mean	27.3	17.6	15.8	16.7
Median	>24 but<48	>24 but<48	>24 but<48	>24 but<48

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

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

Overview Foster Care Information

	In Care on First Day of FY				Entered Care				Exited Care				In Care on Last Day of FY			
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total number	2,198	2,095	2,042	1,794	622	743	561	485	703	769	803	726	2,117	2,069	1,800	1,553
Median length of stay (months)	33.8	33.7	29.8	31.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	26.6	26.7	28.4	30.9	33.5	29.6	31.1	30.6

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Care on First Day of FY				Entered Care				Exited Care				In Care on Last Day of FY			
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012
Under 1 year	3.0	2.2	2.9	1.8	14.3	13.3	12.5	12.0	3.7	3.5	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.9	1.9	1.5
1 year	3.8	4.3	3.6	4.9	7.7	6.5	6.8	6.2	4.1	2.5	3.0	3.7	4.4	3.6	5.0	3.3
2 years	3.6	4.5	4.8	4.0	8.7	6.1	5.3	6.2	6.1	7.2	5.5	4.8	4.5	4.8	4.0	5.6
3 years	3.3	4.0	4.3	4.5	5.8	5.5	7.8	8.2	4.7	5.6	6.5	5.9	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.4
4 years	3.0	3.5	4.3	4.1	7.2	6.1	5.9	5.6	5.0	5.5	7.1	5.1	3.5	4.3	4.1	5.0
5 years	3.0	3.4	3.3	3.6	5.0	6.7	4.1	6.6	4.6	5.6	5.5	6.7	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.6
6 years	3.1	3.3	4.2	3.4	3.7	5.0	5.7	6.4	3.6	4.4	4.1	4.7	3.3	4.2	3.4	3.2
7 years	3.3	2.7	3.2	4.5	5.1	4.7	4.8	6.2	5.3	3.8	4.0	5.1	2.8	3.3	4.4	4.0
8 years	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.7	5.0	5.2	5.6	3.8	3.5	4.2	4.8	3.1	3.3	3.3	4.4
9 years	3.4	3.2	3.5	3.3	4.0	6.5	4.1	3.9	4.1	5.5	4.2	5.4	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.0
10 years	2.7	3.0	3.4	3.1	2.4	3.8	4.8	3.7	3.3	2.5	4.7	3.7	3.0	3.4	3.1	3.0
11 years	3.6	2.7	3.2	3.2	3.7	5.0	4.5	4.7	2.7	4.2	4.1	4.1	2.8	3.2	3.2	3.2
12 years	3.9	4.0	3.5	3.2	4.8	3.8	5.3	3.9	5.3	2.9	3.7	3.3	3.9	3.5	3.3	3.3
13 years	4.8	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.8	3.6	3.9	2.7	4.3	3.6	2.5	4.0	4.0	4.2	3.5
14 years	4.7	5.1	4.4	4.2	5.6	4.7	5.0	3.5	3.0	3.6	3.0	2.2	5.1	4.4	4.2	4.9
15 years	7.7	5.5	5.6	4.7	4.2	4.6	5.0	4.9	4.6	2.5	3.4	2.5	5.5	5.4	4.8	5.3
16 years	7.5	8.0	6.3	6.5	4.7	4.3	3.9	5.4	2.4	3.5	2.5	2.9	7.9	6.5	6.7	5.8
17 years	9.6	8.7	8.0	7.6	4.2	3.2	4.6	2.9	2.8	3.3	3.2	2.2	8.4	7.9	7.6	7.7
18 years	8.1	9.4	8.1	8.3	0.8	0.0	0.7	0.2	3.6	3.0	3.5	2.2	9.4	8.1	8.2	8.2
19 years	8.3	7.9	8.7	8.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	3.4	1.4	2.6	2.1	7.8	8.7	7.9	8.7
20 years	6.4	7.5	7.5	9.3	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	3.3	2.3	1.5	2.5	7.6	7.4	9.3	8.5
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	18.1	19.6	17.9	21.2	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1

Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)¹⁰

	In Care on First Day of FY				Entered Care				Exited Care				In Care on Last Day of FY			
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012
American Indian/ Alaska Native	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.1	<.1
Black	88.3	88.7	86.7	85.5	77.5	75.0	67.4	70.1	83.4	82.3	83.2	82.2	86.7	86.1	82.3	82.2
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.1	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	6.0	7.0	8.2	8.8	8.5	10.8	12.8	9.7	5.5	7.7	8.6	8.0	6.9	8.1	9.5	9.4
White	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.5
Two or more races	3.1	2.9	2.9	4.1	1.6	2.2	5.9	2.3	2.6	3.0	3.0	4.1	2.8	2.6	3.8	3.5
Unable to determine	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1
Missing data	1.8	0.8	1.6	1.0	10.9	11.2	12.8	16.9	6.8	5.7	4.4	5.0	2.8	2.7	3.8	4.1

⁸ These percentages are calculated against the number of unique victims. A child may have been the victim of more than one type of maltreatment, or the same type of maltreatment more than once. As a result, the total percentages both within and across maltreatment categories may exceed 100.

⁹ Response time is defined as the time between the report of suspected maltreatment and the first face-to-face contact with the alleged victim or with another person who can provide information on the allegation.

¹⁰ All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. The Child Welfare Outcomes Report Data Site (<http://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/data/overview>) provides alternative race/ethnicity breakdowns in which race and ethnicity are treated as two separate categories.

D. Characteristics of Children Waiting for Adoption¹¹ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total waiting children	486	420	357	302
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	26	23	32	26

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)¹²

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Under 1 year	1.0	1.0	0.6	0.3
1 year	6.8	4.8	7.0	3.6
2 years	7.0	8.1	6.7	10.9
3 years	5.1	6.4	6.7	7.6
4 years	4.9	6.0	6.2	8.3
5 years	5.3	4.3	6.4	6.3
6 years	3.9	5.7	3.9	3.6
7 years	3.5	3.6	6.2	5.6
8 years	3.9	3.6	4.2	7.0
9 years	4.7	4.0	3.9	4.6
10 years	6.4	4.3	2.8	3.3
11 years	4.9	4.5	3.9	3.0
12 years	8.6	5.0	5.0	3.0
13 years	6.6	8.3	5.3	4.3
14 years	8.6	7.4	7.3	6.0
15 years	7.6	8.8	8.4	6.3
16 years	8.8	7.4	8.1	7.6
17 years	2.1	6.9	7.3	8.6

Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)¹³

	2009	2010	2011	2012
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Black	88.3	88.3	89.6	86.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Hispanic (of any race)	5.3	7.1	5.3	7.9
White	1.2	1.0	0.6	1.0
Two or more races	3.9	3.3	2.8	2.6
Unable to determine	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	1.2	0.2	1.7	1.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total children adopted	103	129	106	108

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Under 1 year	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9
1 year	4.9	1.6	0.9	3.7
2 years	14.6	20.2	13.2	15.7
3 years	9.7	10.1	13.2	9.3
4 years	6.8	7.0	11.3	10.2
5 years	6.8	8.5	8.5	13.9
6 years	5.8	6.2	5.7	6.5
7 years	8.7	5.4	7.5	7.4
8 years	6.8	3.1	0.9	6.5
9 years	10.7	5.4	5.7	3.7
10 years	6.8	4.7	2.8	3.7
11 years	1.9	3.1	7.5	2.8
12 years	2.9	6.2	2.8	2.8
13 years	6.8	7.0	5.7	2.8
14 years	1.9	3.1	2.8	2.8
15 years	1.9	2.3	2.8	1.9
16 years	1.0	3.9	3.8	2.8
17 years	0.0	2.3	1.9	1.9
18 years	1.0	0.0	2.8	0.0
19 years	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black	91.3	94.6	90.6	95.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	5.8	3.9	8.5	4.6
White	1.9	1.6	0.9	0.0
Two or more races	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unable to determine	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

¹¹ There is no federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in the tables on this page includes children and youth through age 17 who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parents' parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A state's own definition may differ from that used here.

¹² Children older than 17 years fall outside of the definition used to identify waiting children and are therefore excluded from this table.

¹³ For race/ethnicity tables, all races exclude children of Hispanic origin. The Child Welfare Outcomes Report Data Site (<http://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/data/overview>) provides alternative race/ethnicity breakdowns in which race and ethnicity are treated as two separate categories.

District of Columbia

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Children without a recurrence	96.4	94.1	93.8	95.5
Children with one or more recurrences	3.6	5.9	6.2	4.5
Number	1,479	1,325	1,390	1,185

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

2.1 Maltreatment in Foster Care (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.28	0.28	0.19	0.35
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.72	99.72	99.81	99.65
Number	2,820	2,838	2,603	2,279

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

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Adoption	15.2	16.9	13.3	15.8
Guardianship	12.2	9.4	15.7	15.2
Reunification	46.5	47.6	49.7	44.5
Other	26.0	26.0	21.3	24.5
Missing data	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Number	703	769	803	726

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Adoption	11.4	7.4	8.7	14.3
Guardianship	11.4	11.1	8.7	4.8
Reunification	25.7	11.1	34.8	4.8
Other	51.4	70.4	47.8	76.2
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	35	27	23	21

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

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Adoption	0.6	1.4	1.0	1.7
Guardianship	4.4	1.4	6.6	8.7
Reunification	42.0	39.9	37.2	29.5
Other	53.0	57.2	55.1	60.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	181	208	196	173

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Children age 12 or younger at entry	46.7	38.6	36.2	40.6
Children older than 12 at entry	53.3	61.4	63.8	59.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	167	189	163	175

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)¹⁴

	American Indian/Alaska Native				2009	Asian				2009	Black			
	2009	2010	2011	2012		2009	2010	2011	2012		2009	2010	2011	2012
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.2	18.5	13.6	17.4	
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	13.0	10.4	17.1	16.2	
Reunification	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	42.5	43.4	46.1	40.2	
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	28.3	27.5	23.2	26.1	
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	
Number	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	586	633	668	597	
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander				2009	Hispanic (of any race)				2009	White			
	2009	2010	2011	2012		2009	2010	2011	2012		2009	2010	2011	2012
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.4	8.5	11.6	10.3	60.0	33.3	25.0	0.0		
Guardianship	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.1	6.8	5.8	19.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0		
Reunification	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	56.4	61.0	69.6	50.0	40.0	66.7	25.0	100.0		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.1	23.7	13.0	20.7	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	3	0	0	0	39	59	69	58	5	6	4	1		
	Unable to Determine				2009	Two or More Races				2009	Missing Data			
	2009	2010	2011	2012		2009	2010	2011	2012		2009	2010	2011	2012
Adoption	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	26.1	20.8	16.7	2.1	0.0	5.7	0.0		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.2	0.0	20.8	3.3	4.2	4.5	2.9	2.8		
Reunification	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	38.9	47.8	37.5	50.0	87.5	84.1	88.6	97.2		
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.8	26.1	20.8	30.0	6.3	11.4	2.9	0.0		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	4	2	2	1	18	23	24	30	48	44	35	36		

¹⁴ All races exclude children of Hispanic origin.

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

4.1 Time to Reunification (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Less than 12 mos.	68.8	73.5	62.4	58.5
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	18.3	13.9	18.5	23.5
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	6.4	5.7	10.0	8.4
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.4	1.9	1.8	5.6
48 or more mos.	3.7	4.6	7.3	4.0
Missing data	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Number	327	366	399	323

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Children entering care for the first time	79.3	84.1	80.9	76.5
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	9.5	7.1	8.6	8.9
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	10.8	8.7	10.2	14.6
Missing data	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.0
Number	622	743	561	485

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

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Less than 12 mos.	0.9	0.8	0.0	0.9
At least 12 mos. but less than 24 mos.	4.7	6.2	8.4	13.9
At least 24 mos. but less than 36 mos.	23.4	29.2	21.5	19.1
At least 36 mos. but less than 48 mos.	20.6	30.0	21.5	28.7
48 or more mos.	50.5	33.8	48.6	37.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	107	130	107	115

6. Increase Placement Stability (AFCARS Foster Care File)

6.1 Number of Placements by Time in Care (%)

	In Care Less Than 12 Months				In Care at Least 12 Months but Less Than 24 Months				In Care for 24 Months or Longer				Missing Time in Care			
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012	2009	2010	2011	2012
Children with 2 or fewer placements	78.0	80.2	81.6	80.3	55.2	53.8	58.1	54.6	21.5	22.5	22.1	23.1	0.0	80.0	0.0	0.0
Children with 3 or more placements	20.7	19.3	17.9	19.4	44.8	46.0	41.9	45.4	78.0	77.2	77.6	76.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing placement setting counts	1.3	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	100.0	20.0	0.0	0.0
Number	699	793	652	532	509	437	451	394	1,611	1,603	1,500	1,353	1	5	0	0

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

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

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Group homes	11.9	10.5	9.5	7.0
Institutions	0.6	1.0	0.7	1.0
Other settings	85.8	86.4	89.3	90.1
Missing data	1.7	2.1	0.5	1.8
Number	471	572	421	383

Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews¹⁵ (AFCARS Foster Care File)

Composite 1: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification¹⁶

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Composite Score¹⁷	92.7	114.7	104.4	92.3
C1.1: Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification during the year who had been in care for 8 days or longer, what percentage were reunified in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal from home? (Includes trial home visit adjustment)	63.5	66.3	54.5	51.9
C1.2: Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification during the year who had been in care for 8 days or longer, what was the median length of stay (in months) from the date of the latest removal from home until the date of discharge to reunification? (Includes trial home visit adjustment)	7.1	7.8	10.5	11.4
C1.3: Of all children who entered foster care for the first time in the 6-month period just prior to the year shown, and who remained in care for 8 days or longer, what percentage were discharged from foster care to reunification in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal from home? (Includes trial home visit adjustment)	28.1	29.7	42.8	28.0
C1.4: Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification in the 12-month period prior to the year shown, what percentage reentered care in less than 12 months from the date of discharge?	22.3	12.1	11.9	13.8

Composite 2: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Composite Score	71.0	91.4	80.3	99.3
C2.1: Of all children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during the year, what percentage were discharged in less than 24 months from the date of the latest removal from home?	5.8	6.9	8.5	14.9
C2.2: Of all children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during the year, what was the median length of stay in care (in months) from the date of latest removal from the home to the date of discharge to adoption?	46.9	40.4	47.3	43.9
C2.3: Of all children in foster care on the first day of the year who were in care for 17 continuous months or longer (and who, by the last day of the year, were not discharged from foster care with a discharge reason of reunification, living with relative, or guardianship), what percentage were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the last day of the year?	10.1	13.5	13.0	15.0
C2.4: Of all children in foster care on the first day of the year who were in care for 17 continuous months or longer, and who were not legally free for adoption prior to that day (i.e., there was not a parental rights termination date reported to AFCARS for both mother and father), what percentage became legally free for adoption during the first 6 months of the year? ¹⁸	3.5	5.1	4.3	5.4
C2.5: Of all children who became legally free for adoption in the 12-month period prior to the year shown (i.e., there was a parental rights termination date reported to AFCARS for both mother and father), what percentage were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption in less than 12 months from the date of becoming legally free?	76.7	85.5	83.1	95.3

Composite 3: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time¹⁹

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Composite Score	95.2	108.6	96.5	111.2
C3.1: Of all children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the year, what percentage were discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18th birthday and by the end of the year?	15.8	20.2	25.5	28.7
C3.2: Of all children discharged from foster care during the year, and who were legally free for adoption at the time of discharge (i.e., there was a parental rights termination date reported to AFCARS for both mother and father), what percentage were discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18th birthday?	100.0	100.0	99.0	100.0
C3.3: Of all children who, during the year shown, either (1) were discharged from foster care prior to age 18 with a discharge reason of emancipation, or (2) reached their 18th birthday while in foster care, what percentage were in foster care for 3 years or longer?	64.7	54.1	75.0	62.0

Composite 4: Placement Stability While in Foster Care²⁰

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Composite Score	83.8	84.9	87.6	86.8
C4.1: Of all children served in foster care during the year who were in care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months, what percentage had two or fewer placement settings?	76.4	77.6	78.9	78.0
C4.2: Of all children served in foster care during the year who were in care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months, what percentage had two or fewer placement settings?	55.7	54.4	58.1	55.5
C4.3: Of all children served in foster care during the year who were in care for at least 24 months, what percentage had two or fewer placement settings?	26.1	28.3	28.4	30.8

¹⁵ Individual measure performance is shown under each composite unless the state did not provide the data necessary to calculate those measures.

¹⁶ Calculation of measures C1.1, C1.2, and C1.3 includes a trial home visit adjustment. For these measures, if a child was reunified with a final placement type of "trial home visit," any length of time in the trial home visit beyond 30 days is excluded from the length of stay calculation done by ACF. In addition, only children in care for at least 8 days are included in these measures.

¹⁷ Detailed information on how the individual measures are combined to form the composites is provided in the Federal Register Announcement published by the Department of Health and Human Services on the Children's Bureau website (<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/data-indicators-second-round-of-cfsrs>).

¹⁸ Legally free means that there was a parental rights termination date reported to AFCARS for both mother and father. This calculation excludes children who, by the end of the first 6 months of the fiscal year, had discharged from foster care to reunification, living with relative, or guardianship.

¹⁹ A permanent home is defined as having a discharge reason of adoption, guardianship, or reunification (including living with relative).

²⁰ The "served" population refers to all children who were in the public foster care system during the year. This number is the sum of two mutually exclusive groups of children: the children who are already in care on the first day of the fiscal year (as of October 1) and the children who enter foster care during the year. An individual child is counted only once for each year.

District of Columbia

STATE COMMENT

Brenda Donald, Director
Child and Family Services Agency

The following are the District of Columbia's comments on the state data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2009–2012: Report to Congress*.

Under new leadership in 2012, the DC Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) and the local child-serving community developed and rallied around a strategic child welfare framework known as the Four Pillars. Each pillar represents an area ripe for improvement and features a values-based foundation, set of evidence-based strategies, and series of specific targets that indicate better outcomes for children and families.

For many years, the District had a broad front door and narrow back door, leaving children lingering in foster care. The Four Pillars strategies employ best practices and innovative solutions to reverse these realities while also improving quality.

The values behind the **Front Door** are more children growing up with their families and removals for safety only and as the last resort. When we have to remove, we seek to place with relatives first. We have implemented a Differential Response model that includes traditional investigation of high-risk reports and a non-adversarial family assessment for most reports of neglect. **Mirroring the national trend, the foster care population in the District declined by 15% between the end of FY2011 and the end of FY2012.**

The pillar of **Temporary Safe Haven** motivates us to ensure that foster care is a good but interim place for children to live while we work to get them back to a permanent home as quickly as possible. In light of the declining foster care population and emphasis on placement with kin, CFSA right sized family-based foster care and congregate care contracts for FY2013. The number of children placed with relatives increased 4% between FY2012-2013. The District has steadily reduced the percentage of children in group homes for many years, including an additional 5% drop in FY2012.

The **Well Being** pillar stands for every child's right to a nurturing environment that supports healthy growth and development, good physical and mental health, and academic achievement. Institutions don't make good parents. But when we must bring children into care for their safety, this pillar calls on the public agency to be the best parents we can. CFSA has developed a series of internal indicators regarding child and youth health and academic achievement that we track quarterly and report to the public.

The **Exit to Permanence** pillar is about ensuring that every child and youth leaves foster care as quickly as possible for a safe, permanent home or life-long connection and that older youth in care master the skills to succeed as adults. We have moved away from a one-size-fits-all approach to tailoring responses to the needs of distinct groups such as youth headed for college or teen parents. We have also gathered an array of community programs that help youth with academic achievement, employment, and financial literacy. Children exiting foster care to adoption, guardianship, or reunification increased from 72% to 82%. Percentage of youth aging out decreased from 24% to 18%.