

# Massachusetts

## CONTEXT DATA

### A. Context Statistics<sup>1</sup>

#### General Child Population (Census Bureau)<sup>2</sup>

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total children under 18 years	1,433,002	1,418,819	1,410,027	1,401,415
Race/ethnicity (%) <sup>3</sup>				
American Indian/ Alaska Native	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	5.6	5.7	5.9	6.0
Black	7.6	7.8	7.8	7.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	13.6	14.9	15.3	15.6
White	70.4	68.1	67.4	66.8
Two or more races	2.5	3.2	3.4	3.5
Child population in poverty (%)	13.1	14.3	15.2	X

#### Child Welfare Summary<sup>4</sup>

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Child maltreatment victims	34,639	24,428	20,262	19,234
Foster care entry rate per 1,000	4.3	3.9	3.8	3.8
Children in foster care on 9/30	9,639	8,945	8,600	8,549
Children adopted	790	725	724	754

#### Caseworker Visits for Children in Foster Care<sup>5</sup>

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Children receiving monthly visits (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	87
Numerator	N/A	N/A	N/A	83,292
Denominator	N/A	N/A	N/A	96,206
Children receiving visits in the home (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	79
Numerator	N/A	N/A	N/A	66,074
Denominator	N/A	N/A	N/A	83,292

### B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS] Unique Counts)<sup>6</sup>

#### Overview Maltreatment Information<sup>7</sup>

	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	69,805	48.7 per 1,000	66,152	46.6 per 1,000	62,443	44.3 per 1,000	62,257	44.4 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims	34,639	24.2 per 1,000	24,428	17.2 per 1,000	20,262	14.4 per 1,000	19,234	13.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	17	1.2 per 100,000	17	1.2 per 100,000	0	0.0 per 100,000	—	— per 100,000

#### Age of Child Victims (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Under 1 year	10.9	11.6	12.0	12.9
1 year	7.3	7.7	7.4	7.4
2 years	6.5	7.0	7.0	7.2
3 years	6.1	6.5	6.7	6.7
4 years	5.7	5.9	6.3	6.7
5 years	5.7	6.0	6.0	6.4
6 years	5.7	5.8	6.1	5.7
7 years	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.5
8 years	5.5	5.2	5.1	5.0
9 years	4.9	4.9	5.1	4.8
10 years	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.7
11 years	4.7	4.4	4.5	4.5
12 years	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.2
13 years	4.8	4.5	4.6	4.3
14 years	5.2	4.7	4.1	4.0
15 years	4.8	4.2	3.9	3.8
16 years	4.2	3.9	4.0	3.6
17 years	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.5
18+ years	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0
Missing data	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3
<b>Number</b>	<b>34,639</b>	<b>24,428</b>	<b>20,262</b>	<b>19,234</b>

#### Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
American Indian/ Alaska Native	0.1	0.1	<.1	0.1
Asian	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.8
Black	13.2	12.7	12.4	13.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	23.4	23.8	24.7	24.8
White	41.3	40.3	39.7	38.6
Two or more races	3.0	3.5	3.5	4.1
Missing data	17.0	18.1	18.1	16.9
<b>Number</b>	<b>34,639</b>	<b>24,428</b>	<b>20,262</b>	<b>19,234</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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 (%)<sup>8</sup>

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Emotional abuse	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
Medical neglect	—	—	—	—
Neglect	103.6	99.3	97.5	98.3
Physical abuse	13.8	14.1	15.0	<.1
Sexual abuse	2.8	3.4	3.8	14.9
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	<.1	<.1	<.1	4.2
<b>Number</b>	<b>34,639</b>	<b>24,428</b>	<b>20,262</b>	<b>19,234</b>

### Response Time (in hours)<sup>9</sup>

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Mean	—	—	—	—
Median	—	—	—	—

## 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	10,158	9,406	8,716	8,347	6,139	5,474	5,334	5,256	6,658	5,935	5,450	5,054	9,639	8,945	8,600	8,549
Median length of stay (months)	14.5	15.2	15.7	15.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.5	12.3	12.5	13.8	14.9	15.4	14.6	13.3

### 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	5.2	5.1	4.3	5.2	13.5	12.6	13.3	13.5	3.6	3.7	3.0	3.1	4.9	4.1	5.0	5.4
1 year	6.2	6.8	6.3	5.9	6.1	5.9	5.9	5.5	6.5	6.3	5.4	5.6	6.7	6.3	5.8	6.5
2 years	5.3	5.5	6.4	6.2	4.7	5.4	4.5	5.5	5.3	6.1	5.7	6.6	5.5	6.4	6.1	5.8
3 years	4.5	4.8	5.0	5.8	4.3	4.3	5.0	4.9	5.3	5.3	5.4	6.0	4.8	4.9	5.8	5.4
4 years	3.9	4.2	4.6	4.5	4.3	3.8	4.2	3.9	4.4	4.3	5.0	5.1	4.2	4.5	4.4	4.8
5 years	4.0	3.5	3.7	4.2	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.5	4.4	3.9	4.2	4.2	3.5	3.8	4.2	4.1
6 years	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.8
7 years	3.5	3.8	3.6	3.6	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.3	3.1	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.6
8 years	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.1	2.6	3.2	2.7	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.5
9 years	3.4	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.0	2.3	2.8	3.1	2.6	2.7	2.8	3.6	3.3	3.1	3.2
10 years	3.6	3.3	3.7	3.3	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	3.3	2.8	2.5	3.0	3.2	3.7	3.4	3.4
11 years	3.8	3.7	3.4	4.0	3.6	3.6	3.2	3.4	2.8	3.0	2.8	2.9	3.6	3.4	4.0	3.4
12 years	4.1	4.3	4.5	3.6	4.1	4.8	4.3	3.9	3.1	2.9	3.1	2.4	4.4	4.5	3.7	4.4
13 years	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.9	6.0	6.3	6.5	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.8	5.4	5.6	5.7	4.9
14 years	7.2	6.8	6.9	7.0	9.3	8.4	8.2	9.0	5.3	4.7	4.7	5.7	6.9	7.1	7.2	7.3
15 years	10.0	9.7	9.2	9.3	11.1	12.1	11.8	10.4	7.9	8.4	7.2	6.9	9.9	9.4	9.4	9.2
16 years	11.2	11.3	11.1	10.7	9.5	9.7	10.5	9.7	8.5	9.0	9.4	8.7	11.4	11.2	10.9	10.7
17 years	11.3	11.1	11.2	10.6	4.5	5.0	4.8	5.3	7.3	6.6	7.5	6.8	11.0	11.0	10.5	10.6
18 years	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	15.8	16.8	17.2	16.6	<.1	0.1	<.1	0.1
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

### Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care (%)<sup>10</sup>

	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	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	1.4	2.0	1.9	1.8	2.9	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.5
Black	16.4	16.5	16.2	15.5	15.7	14.6	14.5	14.1	15.7	15.4	15.6	15.3	16.5	16.0	15.5	14.7
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	26.3	27.1	27.4	26.7	28.1	28.5	27.6	26.5	27.0	28.1	28.8	27.9	27.0	27.3	26.6	25.9
White	48.0	46.3	45.5	46.6	45.4	45.4	46.5	46.8	47.9	46.3	44.5	45.5	46.4	45.7	46.8	47.4
Two or more races	4.6	4.8	4.9	5.5	3.7	4.4	4.5	5.4	3.8	4.4	4.3	4.7	4.6	4.9	5.1	5.9
Unable to determine	3.1	3.2	3.8	3.7	3.6	5.0	4.9	5.3	3.1	3.6	4.6	4.3	3.4	4.1	4.0	4.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	<.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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 Adoption<sup>11</sup> (AFCARS Foster Care File)

### Children Waiting for Adoption

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total waiting children	2,834	2,757	2,665	2,464
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,503	1,524	1,496	1,287

### Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)<sup>12</sup>

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Under 1 year	4.2	2.8	3.4	3.6
1 year	10.7	10.3	9.6	11.7
2 years	9.7	10.7	10.4	9.2
3 years	8.2	8.7	9.3	8.6
4 years	7.3	7.8	7.4	7.9
5 years	5.6	6.5	7.1	6.8
6 years	6.4	5.3	6.1	6.1
7 years	6.3	6.4	5.9	5.6
8 years	5.3	5.7	5.1	5.4
9 years	5.4	4.7	4.8	4.5
10 years	4.8	5.4	4.4	4.5
11 years	5.4	4.2	5.1	4.5
12 years	5.1	5.0	3.9	4.3
13 years	3.5	4.5	4.7	4.0
14 years	4.1	3.4	4.3	4.2
15 years	3.6	3.6	3.5	4.3
16 years	2.8	3.0	2.8	2.9
17 years	1.6	2.1	2.1	1.8

### Race/Ethnicity of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)<sup>13</sup>

	2009	2010	2011	2012
American Indian/Alaska Native	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.4
Asian	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.1
Black	15.3	15.4	14.7	14.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	26.7	27.5	26.3	24.0
White	45.7	44.8	46.8	48.7
Two or more races	6.8	6.6	6.3	6.8
Unable to determine	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

## E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

### Children Adopted

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total children adopted	790	725	724	754

### Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Under 1 year	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.5
1 year	17.6	16.1	12.4	11.0
2 years	16.2	16.1	15.3	16.7
3 years	11.6	13.4	13.8	14.6
4 years	9.7	9.1	9.7	9.5
5 years	10.5	7.7	8.4	10.1
6 years	4.9	6.2	6.1	7.4
7 years	5.9	6.2	7.6	6.0
8 years	5.1	4.8	5.2	6.4
9 years	2.7	3.7	4.6	4.4
10 years	4.3	4.0	5.1	3.1
11 years	2.2	3.6	3.9	3.4
12 years	2.2	2.6	2.2	2.3
13 years	1.5	2.1	1.7	1.5
14 years	1.9	1.1	1.0	1.5
15 years	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7
16 years	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.5
17 years	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3
18 years	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0
19 years	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3
20 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

	2009	2010	2011	2012
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Asian	1.3	1.0	1.0	2.1
Black	12.5	12.1	13.0	12.7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	19.5	22.6	24.3	25.6
White	54.1	51.4	49.7	47.6
Two or more races	7.5	7.9	7.2	7.3
Unable to determine	5.1	4.8	4.7	4.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

<sup>11</sup> 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.

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

<sup>13</sup> 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.

# Massachusetts

## 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	88.6	91.5	91.9	91.5
Children with one or more recurrences	11.4	8.5	8.1	8.5
<b>Number</b>	<b>19,498</b>	<b>13,301</b>	<b>10,873</b>	<b>9,773</b>

### 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	0.84	0.78	0.70	0.93
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.16	99.22	99.30	99.07
<b>Number</b>	<b>16,297</b>	<b>14,880</b>	<b>14,050</b>	<b>13,603</b>

### 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	11.7	11.9	13.0	16.3
Guardianship	7.0	4.5	6.1	6.6
Reunification	64.4	65.5	62.4	59.6
Other	16.9	18.1	18.6	17.6
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>6,658</b>	<b>5,935</b>	<b>5,450</b>	<b>5,054</b>

#### 3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Adoption	35.5	35.1	39.3	41.5
Guardianship	5.5	2.1	4.1	4.1
Reunification	31.5	34.9	29.0	30.9
Other	27.4	27.9	27.7	23.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>726</b>

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

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Adoption	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
Guardianship	2.3	1.8	1.9	1.8
Reunification	65.1	63.7	62.9	64.2
Other	32.3	34.3	34.9	33.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>2,622</b>	<b>2,368</b>	<b>2,206</b>	<b>1,997</b>

#### 3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Children age 12 or younger at entry	25.2	25.0	24.3	23.6
Children older than 12 at entry	74.8	75.0	75.7	76.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>1,017</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>855</b>

#### 3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)<sup>14</sup>

	American Indian/Alaska Native				2009	Asian				2009	Black			
	2009	2010	2011	2012		2009	2010	2011	2012		2009	2010	2011	2012
Adoption	7.7	14.3	11.1	0.0	7.2	7.1	4.7	17.1	9.5	9.5	10.7	13.1		
Guardianship	15.4	28.6	11.1	0.0	8.0	3.6	0.9	7.6	7.8	3.1	5.1	6.5		
Reunification	76.9	42.9	77.8	88.9	62.4	69.6	62.3	49.5	61.6	61.9	61.3	56.7		
Other	0.0	14.3	0.0	11.1	22.4	19.6	32.1	25.7	21.1	25.6	22.9	23.8		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
<b>Number</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>773</b>		

	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	8.7	9.2	11.4	14.4	13.0	13.5	14.1	17.5		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	2.8	3.6	6.2	7.7	6.1	7.8	6.9		
Reunification	50.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	70.7	69.3	65.8	61.5	62.1	63.7	60.1	59.1		
Other	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.6	18.6	19.2	17.9	17.1	16.6	18.0	16.4		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
<b>Number</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1,799</b>	<b>1,670</b>	<b>1,568</b>	<b>1,410</b>	<b>3,190</b>	<b>2,750</b>	<b>2,424</b>	<b>2,298</b>		

	Unable to Determine				2009	Two or More Races				2009	Missing Data			
	2009	2010	2011	2012		2009	2010	2011	2012		2009	2010	2011	2012
Adoption	17.9	14.0	14.9	17.2	23.1	21.9	22.1	25.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	8.7	1.9	8.0	6.5	7.8	4.2	7.7	6.8	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.0		
Reunification	63.8	72.4	66.7	67.9	58.0	64.6	60.4	56.5	95.5	100.0	90.0	100.0		
Other	9.2	11.7	10.4	8.4	11.0	9.2	9.8	11.4	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
<b>Number</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>		

<sup>14</sup> 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.	71.7	67.8	70.2	68.0
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	20.3	22.4	19.6	22.4
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	4.8	5.6	5.8	5.8
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	1.7	2.2	2.4	2.2
48 or more mos.	1.6	2.0	2.0	1.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>4,286</b>	<b>3,888</b>	<b>3,399</b>	<b>3,010</b>

##### 4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Children entering care for the first time	75.7	75.2	75.1	75.2
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	11.8	12.3	12.5	12.2
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	12.5	12.5	12.4	12.6
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>6,139</b>	<b>5,474</b>	<b>5,334</b>	<b>5,256</b>

#### 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.	1.4	1.3	0.7	1.0
At least 12 mos. but less than 24 mos.	28.4	25.7	21.1	22.9
At least 24 mos. but less than 36 mos.	31.9	31.2	31.7	33.5
At least 36 mos. but less than 48 mos.	21.9	20.5	24.9	21.0
48 or more mos.	16.5	21.3	21.6	21.7
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>822</b>

#### 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	74.0	75.4	78.6	81.0	48.8	49.0	49.2	53.3	23.3	23.4	24.2	25.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	25.9	24.5	21.3	18.9	51.2	51.0	50.8	46.7	76.7	76.6	75.8	74.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing placement setting counts	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Number</b>	<b>7,573</b>	<b>6,673</b>	<b>6,380</b>	<b>6,253</b>	<b>3,770</b>	<b>3,425</b>	<b>3,112</b>	<b>3,151</b>	<b>4,942</b>	<b>4,772</b>	<b>4,542</b>	<b>4,197</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>

#### 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	5.0	5.2	4.6	4.8
Institutions	1.2	1.7	1.3	1.0
Other settings	93.8	93.1	94.1	94.1
Missing data	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
<b>Number</b>	<b>3,595</b>	<b>3,154</b>	<b>3,061</b>	<b>3,059</b>

## Composite and Individual Measures Established for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews<sup>15</sup> (AFCARS Foster Care File)

### Composite 1: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification<sup>16</sup>

	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Composite Score<sup>17</sup></b>	<b>124.0</b>	<b>120.7</b>	<b>122.3</b>	<b>117.6</b>
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)	75.4	71.7	74.2	73.5
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)	5.5	6.4	5.9	6.2
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)	51.2	50.4	48.5	47.0
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?	16.2	15.3	15.6	17.0

### Composite 2: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Composite Score</b>	<b>86.3</b>	<b>83.7</b>	<b>75.9</b>	<b>88.6</b>
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?	29.8	27.0	21.9	24.0
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?	31.5	32.6	34.6	32.5
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?	15.4	14.7	16.0	19.5
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? <sup>18</sup>	6.5	6.0	6.6	8.0
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?	41.5	45.0	38.0	45.3

### Composite 3: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time<sup>19</sup>

	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Composite Score</b>	<b>114.7</b>	<b>112.9</b>	<b>114.5</b>	<b>119.3</b>
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?	23.7	23.0	25.5	27.7
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?	92.2	91.0	89.8	91.6
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?	43.6	44.7	44.0	41.9

### Composite 4: Placement Stability While in Foster Care<sup>20</sup>

	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Composite Score</b>	<b>76.7</b>	<b>77.9</b>	<b>80.8</b>	<b>85.2</b>
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?	72.6	74.0	77.4	80.3
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?	48.8	48.9	49.3	53.3
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?	23.3	23.4	24.2	25.1

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

<sup>16</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> 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>).

<sup>18</sup> 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.

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

<sup>20</sup> 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.

# Massachusetts

## STATE COMMENT

**Olga I. Roche, MSW, Acting Commissioner**  
**Department of Children and Families**  
**Executive Office of Health and Human Services**

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

### **Safety**

In August of 2009, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) implemented a differential response process for handling reports of child maltreatment in its SACWIS (FamilyNet). With differential response, reports can be screened-in for a CPS investigation or for an assessment response. Not all reports of abuse or neglect require the same type of intervention. An assessment response allows DCF to engage families more quickly when the reported concern does not warrant a formal investigation. An assessment response cannot be used for reports alleging sexual abuse, serious physical abuse or serious neglect. From October of 2009 through September of 2010, the use of the assessment response increased from 20% of the combined CPS investigations and assessment responses to 44% in 2012. Assessment responses do not result in findings of support or unsupport and have been reported on NCANDS as "Alternative Response Nonvictim." This has resulted in fewer supported and unsupported reports and allegations as well as fewer identified perpetrators.

Some timeframes have changed. Non-emergency reports are generally screened within 24 hours, however, in certain circumstances the time may be extended to up to 3 days. Emergency investigations must still be initiated within 2 hours, but the time for completion has been extended from 24 hours to 5 business days. Non-emergency investigations and assessment responses must be initiated within 2 business days and completed within 15 business days unless an extension is approved.

### **Placement**

- Outcome Measure 1.1: In FY2011, Recurrence of Maltreatment within 6 months declined to 1.1 percent. Alabama continues to demonstrate high standards concerning child safety. The number of children in care has significantly decreased since 2008.
  - Children in care at any time during the year decreased by 19.4% from FY2008 to FY2012 [16,881/13,613].
  - Admissions decreased by 20.8% from FY2008 to FY2012 [6,654/5,268].
- Placement stability slowly and steadily increased from 2007 to 2012.

### **Adoption**

For children adopted prior to April 23, 2012, Massachusetts reported the date the child's foster care placement ended as the discharge date on the AFCARS foster care file. The legalization date has been used as the discharge date since that time. The foster care placement end date can be significantly later than the adoption legalization. The delay in closing foster care placements accounts for the difference between the count of children discharged to adoption on the AFCARS foster care file and the count of children listed on the AFCARS adoption file.