

New Jersey

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)²

	2007	2008	2009	2010 ³
Total children under 18 years	2,069,756	2,053,346	2,045,848	X
Race/ethnicity (%) ⁴				
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.2	X
Asian	7.7	7.8	8.2	X
Black	14.8	14.8	14.6	X
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	X
Hispanic (of any race)	20.1	20.7	21.6	X
White	55.0	54.4	53.2	X
Two or more races	2.1	2.2	2.2	X
Child population in poverty (%)	11.6	12.5	13.5	X

Child Welfare Summary⁵

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Child maltreatment victims	7,543	9,089	9,293	9,546
Foster care entry rate	2.3	2.6	2.3	2.3
Children in foster care on 9/30	8,309	8,763	7,853	7,360
Children adopted	1,564	1,265	1,348	1,238

Caseworker Visits for Children in Foster Care⁶

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Children receiving monthly visits (%)	20	30	54	73
Numerator	2,774	3,898	6,418	7,876
Denominator	13,646	12,869	11,800	10,742
Children receiving visits in the home (%)	90	93	95	95
Numerator	13,477	20,148	42,146	54,370
Denominator	15,042	21,644	44,274	57,016

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

Overview Maltreatment Information⁷

	2007		2008		2009		2010	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	68,985	33.3 per 1,000	83,064	40.5 per 1,000	86,379	42.2 per 1,000	93,833	45.9 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁸	7,543	3.6 per 1,000	9,089	4.4 per 1,000	9,293	4.5 per 1,000	9,546	4.7 per 1,000
Child fatalities	33	1.6 per 100,000	29	1.4 per 100,000	24	1.2 per 100,000	18	0.9 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Under 1 year	13.6	13.9	14.9	13.5
1 year	5.9	6.9	6.8	7.1
2 years	5.9	5.6	6.3	6.6
3 years	5.5	5.5	6.1	6.3
4 years	5.6	5.6	6.0	6.0
5 years	5.9	5.7	5.9	5.6
6 years	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.5
7 years	5.7	5.8	5.4	5.6
8 years	5.5	5.4	5.0	5.0
9 years	5.0	4.9	5.0	4.9
10 years	4.8	5.0	4.7	4.9
11 years	4.9	4.2	4.1	4.3
12 years	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.6
13 years	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.4
14 years	4.7	4.5	4.2	4.1
15 years	4.9	4.4	4.6	4.2
16 years	4.2	4.0	3.7	4.0
17 years	2.7	3.4	2.7	2.9
18+ years	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Missing data	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.4
Number	7,543	9,089	9,293	9,546

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Alaska Native/ American Indian	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Asian	0.8	0.8	1.2	1.2
Black	30.7	30.2	29.3	30.5
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	10.3	16.6	17.4	19.8
White	34.8	32.8	31.7	29.0
Two or more races	1.1	0.9	1.3	1.7
Missing data	22.2	18.7	19.0	17.8
Number	7,543	9,089	9,293	9,546

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 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 and are available at <http://www.census.gov/popest/datasets.html>. Child poverty data are from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS).

³ The 2010 Census Bureau general child population estimates were not available for inclusion in this report; however, they will be included in the 2008–2011 report. All 2010 rate calculations use 2009 child population estimates.

⁴ For race/ethnicity tables, all races exclude children of Hispanic origin.

⁵ 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. 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. The 2010 foster care entry rate was calculated using 2009 child population estimates from the Census Bureau.

⁶ Caseworker visits were a new reporting requirement as of FY 2007. While submission of numerators and denominators was not a requirement for FY 2007, this information is included in the report when available. Some States elected to use an approved sampling procedure. For more information, please see appendix C.

⁷ The rate for maltreatment investigations and victims is per 1,000 children under age 18; for fatalities, the rate is per 100,000 children under age 18. The 2010 rates were calculated using 2009 child population estimates from the Census Bureau.

⁸ Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

B. Child Maltreatment Data (NCANDS) Continued

Maltreatment Types of Child Victims (%)⁹

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Emotional abuse	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4
Medical neglect	0.0	2.3	2.3	2.5
Neglect	66.7	72.3	74.2	76.1
Physical abuse	26.1	19.4	17.6	15.4
Sexual abuse	9.7	9.3	9.7	10.3
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	7,543	9,089	9,293	9,546

Time to Investigation (in hours)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Mean	69.6	80.7	41.9	20.9
Median	>24 but <48	>24 but <48	<24	<24

C. Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

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

Overview Foster Care Information

	In Foster Care on 10/1				Entered Foster Care				Exited Foster Care				In Foster Care on 9/30			
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total number	10,723	8,948	8,380	7,488	4,688	5,249	4,788	4,670	7,115	5,519	5,386	4,837	8,309	8,763	7,853	7,360
Median length of stay (months)	16.7	15.6	15.8	15.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.0	13.8	14.0	13.0	18.8	15.8	15.6	14.6

Age of Children in Foster Care (%)

	In Foster Care on 10/1				Entered Foster Care				Exited Foster Care				In Foster Care on 9/30			
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007	2008	2009	2010
Under 1 year	7.5	8.7	8.1	8.9	22.4	21.7	23.6	21.7	5.0	5.7	6.2	6.3	7.4	8.1	8.8	8.6
1 year	8.4	9.4	10.1	10.3	6.9	7.6	7.3	7.8	6.9	8.5	8.6	8.9	9.5	10.0	10.1	10.2
2 years	7.1	7.8	8.3	8.5	5.1	5.4	6.4	6.3	7.6	9.1	9.0	9.9	8.1	8.1	8.4	8.6
3 years	5.9	5.8	6.3	7.2	5.6	5.8	6.1	5.6	7.0	7.2	7.9	7.8	5.8	6.2	7.0	6.7
4 years	4.9	5.2	5.0	5.6	4.4	4.3	4.9	5.3	5.6	5.8	6.1	6.5	5.2	4.8	5.5	5.8
5 years	4.3	4.3	4.7	4.5	4.2	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.9	5.1	5.8	4.3	4.6	4.3	4.9
6 years	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.6	4.2	4.4	4.1	4.2	4.5	5.1	4.4	5.1	4.0	4.0	4.4	4.0
7 years	4.0	4.2	4.2	3.7	3.4	3.7	3.7	4.0	3.8	4.6	4.1	4.4	4.1	4.1	3.7	4.0
8 years	4.0	4.0	3.7	4.1	3.5	3.4	2.8	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.0	3.6	3.9	3.6
9 years	3.5	4.0	4.0	3.2	3.0	3.5	3.6	3.2	3.2	3.7	3.6	4.3	4.0	3.9	3.1	3.2
10 years	3.9	3.6	4.0	3.9	3.5	3.2	3.0	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.7	3.0
11 years	3.7	4.1	3.6	3.8	3.4	2.8	2.5	3.4	3.0	3.5	3.0	4.0	4.1	3.4	3.6	3.7
12 years	4.7	4.1	3.9	3.5	3.0	2.8	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.6	3.1	4.0	3.8	3.4	3.5
13 years	5.1	4.9	4.0	4.0	4.5	3.8	3.3	3.7	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.8	5.1	3.9	3.7	3.8
14 years	5.6	5.9	5.1	4.2	5.4	4.3	4.5	3.7	4.3	4.7	4.0	3.2	6.0	4.9	4.1	4.0
15 years	6.5	6.2	6.4	5.4	5.5	6.0	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.7	5.0	4.0	6.4	6.3	5.3	4.8
16 years	6.6	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.4	6.2	6.1	5.7	5.5	5.1	5.4	4.0	7.1	6.9	6.7	6.4
17 years	6.2	6.4	7.1	7.3	4.6	6.1	5.2	5.0	6.6	6.7	5.6	4.6	6.8	6.9	7.2	7.7
18 years	2.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.2	<.1	9.0	6.4	6.7	5.9	0.5	2.5	3.0	3.4
19 years	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.1
20 years	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

	In Foster Care on 10/1				Entered Foster Care				Exited Foster Care				In Foster Care on 9/30			
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007	2008	2009	2010
Alaska Native/ American Indian	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.2	<.1	<.1	<.1
Asian	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2
Black	53.9	53.0	51.3	49.9	39.1	42.2	39.9	39.9	47.3	45.1	43.9	43.7	51.1	51.4	49.4	47.6
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	6.5	13.0	15.3	16.9	7.1	18.3	17.8	18.7	7.0	14.8	16.4	18.8	6.4	15.0	16.0	16.7
White	25.2	24.6	24.6	24.2	30.4	28.1	27.7	28.0	28.6	28.0	27.9	26.6	25.2	24.6	24.2	25.1
Two or more races	1.7	3.0	2.8	2.7	1.4	1.6	2.2	2.4	1.5	2.0	3.1	2.3	1.7	2.7	2.3	2.7
Unknown	12.2	6.0	5.6	5.8	21.5	9.0	11.4	10.3	14.8	9.3	7.9	7.6	15.2	5.8	7.5	7.5
Missing data	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	<.1	<.1	0.1	0.0	<.1	0.1	<.1

⁹ Percentages may total more than 100 because children can be victims of more than one type of maltreatment.

¹⁰ All races exclude children of Hispanic origin.

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

Children Waiting for Adoption

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total waiting children	3,180	3,029	2,696	2,466
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,889	1,322	938	729

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)¹²

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Under 1 year	2.4	2.8	3.1	3.2
1 year	11.7	12.4	12.2	12.8
2 years	12.8	11.7	11.4	13.4
3 years	7.9	8.8	9.9	9.3
4 years	6.9	6.5	7.3	8.2
5 years	5.3	6.2	5.3	6.4
6 years	5.1	4.7	5.5	4.8
7 years	4.7	5.4	4.6	4.6
8 years	4.7	5.2	5.1	4.3
9 years	4.7	5.0	4.6	4.3
10 years	4.5	4.8	5.2	3.9
11 years	4.4	3.9	4.9	4.5
12 years	4.2	4.8	4.4	4.6
13 years	5.0	4.1	4.3	3.6
14 years	4.9	4.6	3.2	4.0
15 years	4.6	4.1	4.0	3.2
16 years	3.9	3.0	3.3	2.8
17 years	2.2	1.9	1.7	2.1

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

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Alaska Native/American Indian	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.2	<.1	0.2	0.4
Black	55.6	54.8	54.0	50.0
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	5.4	13.5	14.2	16.2
White	23.0	23.4	23.2	24.2
Two or more races	2.0	4.4	3.0	3.4
Unknown	13.6	3.7	5.2	5.6
Missing data	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total children adopted	1,564	1,265	1,348	1,238

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Under 1 year	1.5	0.7	1.4	1.5
1 year	10.0	10.8	12.5	10.7
2 years	15.8	20.2	18.0	17.4
3 years	15.1	12.8	12.6	12.4
4 years	11.2	8.5	8.2	8.6
5 years	6.9	7.2	5.4	7.0
6 years	7.0	5.2	6.3	5.2
7 years	4.2	5.3	4.5	4.8
8 years	4.2	4.0	4.6	4.3
9 years	3.6	4.0	4.1	5.3
10 years	3.4	3.9	3.3	4.7
11 years	3.3	2.9	2.7	4.4
12 years	3.7	3.2	3.0	2.6
13 years	2.6	2.9	2.8	3.6
14 years	2.7	3.3	3.1	2.6
15 years	1.7	2.3	2.7	1.7
16 years	1.7	1.9	2.2	1.9
17 years	1.1	0.7	2.1	1.4
18 years	0.2	0.2	0.2	<.1
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Race/Ethnicity of Children Adopted (%)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Alaska Native/American Indian	0.4	<.1	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.3
Black	54.7	50.9	48.4	50.0
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.0	0.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	5.5	12.6	15.4	18.7
White	23.9	26.9	26.5	25.1
Two or more races	3.6	3.7	5.7	3.3
Unknown	11.5	5.4	3.5	2.3
Missing data	0.0	0.2	0.1	<.1

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.

New Jersey

OUTCOMES DATA

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

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Children without a recurrence	95.1	95.4	94.4	94.3
Children with one or more recurrences	4.9	4.6	5.6	5.7
Number	4,263	4,147	4,191	4,473

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 (%)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.10	0.09	0.16	0.15
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.90	99.91	99.84	99.85
Number	15,411	14,197	13,168	12,158

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

3.1 Exits of Children From Foster Care (%)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Adoption	20.9	25.2	26.3	26.8
Guardianship	6.2	6.7	5.5	4.7
Reunification	53.8	57.9	58.6	60.2
Other	16.9	10.1	9.5	8.3
Missing data	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	7,115	5,519	5,386	4,837

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Adoption	36.7	49.1	43.4	34.7
Guardianship	2.3	4.9	2.0	2.9
Reunification	31.9	32.6	40.3	47.4
Other	26.0	13.3	14.3	15.0
Missing data	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,152	631	539	481

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

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Adoption	1.3	2.0	3.5	2.9
Guardianship	4.3	7.6	6.3	5.4
Reunification	48.7	55.8	59.0	59.9
Other	42.6	34.5	31.3	31.8
Missing data	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,918	1,275	1,199	893

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Children age 12 or younger at entry	34.5	21.4	22.8	25.5
Children older than 12 at entry	65.4	77.1	73.5	73.5
Missing data	0.1	1.5	3.8	1.0
Number	846	411	373	302

3.5 Exits by Race/Ethnicity (%)¹⁴

	Alaska Native/Am. Indian					Asian					Black			
	2007	2008	2009	2010		2007	2008	2009	2010		2007	2008	2009	2010
Adoption	37.5	20.0	0.0	0.0	11.4	11.4	7.1	12.5	24.6	28.9	29.3	30.7		
Guardianship	0.0	60.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0	6.3	7.4	7.9	6.3	5.2		
Reunification	56.3	20.0	100.0	100.0	71.4	82.9	89.3	78.1	44.2	49.9	53.1	53.4		
Other	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.3	5.7	3.6	3.1	21.4	13.2	11.2	10.7		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	16	5	3	1	35	35	28	32	3,365	2,491	2,366	2,114		
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pac. Is.					Hispanic (of any race)					White			
	2007	2008	2009	2010		2007	2008	2009	2010		2007	2008	2009	2010
Adoption	0.0	0.0	100.0	20.0	16.4	20.7	26.4	26.1	16.9	23.7	23.7	25.6		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.4	4.5	3.9	3.8	5.7	6.8	5.8	5.2		
Reunification	100.0	0.0	0.0	60.0	56.8	66.4	61.4	63.2	61.5	61.4	60.9	62.4		
Other	0.0	100.0	0.0	20.0	20.8	8.3	8.4	6.8	13.5	8.1	9.6	6.8		
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	1	1	2	5	500	816	883	911	2,036	1,546	1,505	1,286		
	Unable to Determine					Two or More Races					Missing Data			
	2007	2008	2009	2010		2007	2008	2009	2010		2007	2008	2009	2010
Adoption	16.2	15.6	11.9	8.6	48.2	46.4	47.9	39.6	0.0	66.7	20.0	14.3		
Guardianship	4.1	3.9	3.5	2.2	9.1	6.4	6.6	5.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	69.3	74.6	78.7	83.8	33.6	43.6	43.7	53.2	0.0	33.3	80.0	85.7		
Other	8.4	5.9	5.9	5.4	7.3	3.6	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Missing data	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Number	1,052	512	427	370	110	110	167	111	0	3	5	7		

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 (%)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Less than 12 mos.	63.1	68.9	69.6	71.6
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	22.7	20.1	18.8	20.2
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	4.7	4.9	6.1	4.0
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	3.2	1.4	2.2	1.9
48 or more mos.	3.8	2.8	1.9	1.6
Missing data	2.6	1.8	1.4	0.8
Number	3,826	3,196	3,157	2,912

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Children entering care for the first time	80.5	79.9	82.0	81.8
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	8.8	7.6	7.1	6.7
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	8.3	12.3	10.7	11.5
Missing data	2.5	0.2	0.3	<.1
Number	4,688	5,249	4,788	4,670

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

5.1 Time to Adoption (%)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Less than 12 mos.	3.3	3.0	3.7	3.1
At least 12 mos. but less than 24 mos.	16.5	20.8	22.8	21.5
At least 24 mos. but less than 36 mos.	25.9	33.2	33.6	32.0
At least 36 mos. but less than 48 mos.	22.2	19.2	22.2	21.7
48 or more mos.	30.3	22.7	16.6	20.5
Missing data	1.9	1.1	1.1	1.2
Number	1,489	1,393	1,418	1,297

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			
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007	2008	2009	2010
Children with 2 or fewer placements	84.2	88.0	87.3	87.1	65.5	71.1	72.2	72.5	35.1	46.7	45.6	44.7	63.2	100.0	100.0	92.9
Children with 3 or more placements	15.0	12.0	12.7	12.9	33.5	28.9	27.8	27.5	63.9	53.3	54.4	55.3	1.4	0.0	0.0	7.1
Missing placement setting counts	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	35.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	5,594	6,076	5,643	5,469	3,863	3,306	3,090	2,756	5,810	4,797	4,410	3,919	144	18	25	14

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 (%)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Group homes	2.5	1.2	1.0	0.8
Institutions	3.1	2.0	1.4	1.8
Other settings	94.3	96.8	97.6	97.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	3,342	3,839	3,611	3,581

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

Composite 1: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification¹⁶

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Composite Score¹⁷	114.5	117.7	118.8	118.7
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)	62.5	66.2	65.6	67.1
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)	8.6	7.9	8.2	8.0
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)	40.9	43.4	43.6	45.2
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?	10.7	10.1	10.1	10.2

Composite 2: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Composite Score	108.3	115.1	122.6	130.1
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?	20.1	24.1	26.9	24.9
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?	37.8	32.7	32.2	32.6
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?	27.3	30.1	31.7	33.1
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	19.3	12.7	11.8	15.1
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?	49.6	55.5	63.2	67.0

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

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Composite Score	122.5	143.8	143.4	138.0
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?	35.4	37.2	39.5	38.2
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?	92.5	99.1	99.2	98.7
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?	49.1	32.3	36.8	39.9

Composite 4: Placement Stability While in Foster Care²⁰

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Composite Score	97.8	106.6	105.8	105.5
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?	83.9	86.9	85.9	85.6
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?	66.1	71.1	72.2	72.5
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?	35.9	46.8	45.6	44.9

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 include 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 at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwmonitoring/legislation/fed_reg.htm

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.

Jean Marimon, Director
Department of Children and Families

The following are New Jersey's comments on the State data presented in *Child Welfare Outcomes 2007–2010: Report to Congress*.

Performance

NJ continues to reduce the number of children entering foster care. The number of children who entered foster care in 2010 was 4,670. In fact, more children exited foster care than entered for the past four years.

NJ's use of congregate care placements for young children continues to show a steady decline, from 5.6% in 2007 to 2.6% in 2010.

The percentage of children reentering out-of-home placement care within 12 months declined from 8.8% in 2007 to 6.7% in 2010, the lowest it has been in four years.

NJ has shown significant improvement in placement stability for children in foster care. Its overall composite score has risen by 7.7 points from 97.8 in 2007 to 105.5 in 2010. For children in foster care between 12 and 24 months, 72.5% have 2 or fewer placements, compared to 2007 when it was 66.1%.

NJ continues to make significant improvements in accomplishing permanency through adoption in less than 24 months. In 2010, 24.9% of the children exited to adoption in less than 24 months, compared to 20.1% in 2007.

NJ also continues to make significant improvements in reducing the number of children whose parental rights have been terminated and waiting for adoption from 1,889 in 2007 to 729 in 2010. This is a 6.1% decrease and the lowest it has been in four years.

With regard to timeliness of adoptions, NJ is in the 75th percentile (67%) for children reaching adoption finalization within 12 months of being legally free. Overall, NJ has increased its composite score for timeliness of adoption from 108.3 in 2007 to 130.1 in 2010.

NJ data demonstrate strong performance in the two composite measures involving achieving permanency for children in foster care for long periods of time. NJ is in the 75th percentile (38.2%) for the first measure and exceeds the 75th percentile in the second measure at 98.7%.

NJ has shown a 35% increase in caseworker visits with children in foster care from 54% in FFY09 to 73% in FFY10. NJ also wishes to note that its own data for monthly visits for CY2010 were 95%.

NJ reduced its median "time to investigate" in hours from 24 to 48 hours in both 2007 and 2008, to under 24 hours in 2009 and 2010.