

New Jersey

CONTEXT DATA

A. Context Statistics¹

General Child Population (Census Bureau)²

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total children under 18 years	2,045,848	2,062,412	2,043,986	2,026,384
Race/ethnicity (%) ³				
American Indian/ Alaska Native	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Asian	8.2	8.6	8.8	9.0
Black	14.6	14.3	14.1	14.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	21.6	22.4	23.1	23.7
White	53.2	51.8	51.0	50.2
Two or more races	2.2	2.7	2.8	2.9
Child population in poverty (%)	13.5	14.5	14.7	X

Child Welfare Summary⁴

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Child maltreatment victims	8,725	8,981	8,238	9,031
Foster care entry rate per 1,000	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.6
Children in foster care on 9/30	7,853	6,971	6,555	6,903
Children adopted	1,348	1,290	1,089	989

Caseworker Visits for Children in Foster Care⁵

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Children receiving monthly visits (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	96
Numerator	N/A	N/A	N/A	73,150
Denominator	N/A	N/A	N/A	76,032
Children receiving visits in the home (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	96
Numerator	N/A	N/A	N/A	70,474
Denominator	N/A	N/A	N/A	73,150

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	70,729	34.6 per 1,000	75,607	36.7 per 1,000	71,517	35.0 per 1,000	76,164	37.6 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims	8,725	4.3 per 1,000	8,981	4.4 per 1,000	8,238	4.0 per 1,000	9,031	4.5 per 1,000
Child fatalities	24	1.2 per 100,000	18	0.9 per 100,000	22	1.1 per 100,000	16	0.8 per 100,000

Age of Child Victims (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Under 1 year	15.2	13.7	15.0	14.5
1 year	6.8	7.1	6.6	6.9
2 years	6.3	6.6	6.8	6.6
3 years	6.0	6.2	6.6	6.4
4 years	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.2
5 years	5.8	5.7	5.7	6.2
6 years	5.7	5.4	5.9	5.7
7 years	5.2	5.5	5.4	5.9
8 years	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.3
9 years	5.0	4.9	4.6	4.4
10 years	4.7	5.0	4.8	4.5
11 years	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.3
12 years	4.0	4.6	4.2	4.5
13 years	4.6	4.4	3.9	4.2
14 years	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.1
15 years	4.7	4.2	4.2	3.8
16 years	3.7	4.0	3.4	3.1
17 years	2.7	3.0	3.1	2.9
18+ years	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.2
Missing data	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3
Number	8,725	8,981	8,238	9,031

Race/Ethnicity of Child Victims (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
American Indian/ Alaska Native	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Asian	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.9
Black	29.4	30.6	28.4	27.3
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.1
Hispanic (of any race)	17.2	19.6	21.1	23.0
White	31.4	28.6	30.4	31.1
Two or more races	1.3	1.6	1.9	1.6
Missing data	19.4	18.1	16.9	15.9
Number	8,725	8,981	8,238	9,031

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	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.8
Medical neglect	2.4	2.7	2.3	2.4
Neglect	79.1	80.9	82.6	84.8
Physical abuse	18.7	16.4	14.4	0.0
Sexual abuse	10.3	10.9	11.1	12.4
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.5
Number	8,725	8,981	8,238	9,031

Response Time (in hours)⁹

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Mean	41.9	20.9	17.8	15.5
Median	<24	<24	<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 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	8,380	7,480	6,701	6,351	4,788	4,676	4,491	5,237	5,386	5,236	4,672	4,718	7,853	6,971	6,555	6,903
Median length of stay (months)	15.8	15.4	14.6	13.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.0	13.4	13.1	10.0	15.6	14.3	13.5	12.1

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	8.1	8.9	8.9	9.2	23.6	21.7	22.2	21.3	6.1	6.1	6.4	6.8	8.7	9.0	9.2	9.3
1 year	10.1	10.3	10.6	10.7	7.3	7.8	7.5	7.9	8.7	8.5	8.2	9.0	10.1	10.5	10.8	10.7
2 years	8.3	8.5	8.9	9.3	6.4	6.3	6.9	6.7	9.0	9.3	8.9	9.5	8.4	9.0	9.3	9.3
3 years	6.3	7.2	7.0	8.0	6.1	5.6	6.5	6.5	7.9	7.3	7.9	8.0	7.0	6.9	8.1	7.5
4 years	5.0	5.5	6.0	5.8	4.9	5.3	5.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.6	6.5	5.5	6.0	5.7	7.1
5 years	4.7	4.6	5.1	5.4	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.9	5.1	5.5	5.1	5.4	4.3	5.1	5.4	5.4
6 years	4.1	4.6	4.1	4.6	4.1	4.2	4.9	5.0	4.4	4.8	4.9	5.2	4.4	4.1	4.5	5.3
7 years	4.2	3.7	4.1	4.3	3.7	4.0	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.3	4.5	4.7	3.7	4.1	4.2	4.4
8 years	3.7	4.0	3.8	4.0	2.8	3.8	3.5	3.7	3.9	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.9	4.0
9 years	4.0	3.2	3.4	3.7	3.6	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.6	4.0	3.7	3.9	3.1	3.3	3.7	3.7
10 years	4.0	3.9	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.6	3.4	3.0	3.9	3.6	3.3	3.4	3.7	3.1	3.1	3.4
11 years	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.4	2.5	3.5	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.8	3.2	3.1	3.6	3.8	3.4	3.1
12 years	3.9	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.3	3.4	3.2	2.8	3.5	2.9	3.1	2.9	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.2
13 years	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.8	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.3	3.7	3.9	3.7	3.7
14 years	5.1	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.5	3.7	3.9	4.1	4.0	3.1	3.6	3.5	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.0
15 years	6.4	5.4	5.0	4.7	5.0	4.8	4.8	3.9	5.0	3.8	3.7	3.6	5.3	4.9	4.7	4.3
16 years	6.9	6.8	6.4	5.6	6.0	5.8	4.7	4.9	5.4	4.2	4.4	3.9	6.7	6.5	5.6	4.9
17 years	7.1	7.3	7.7	6.3	5.3	5.0	4.7	4.6	5.6	4.9	4.5	4.2	7.2	7.7	6.6	6.2
18 years	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.2	<.1	<.1	0.0	6.7	9.4	10.5	9.2	3.0	0.6	0.5	0.2
19 years	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.3	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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Asian	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4
Black	51.3	50.2	48.2	44.9	39.9	40.5	37.8	35.2	43.9	44.2	43.9	38.5	49.4	48.3	44.2	41.9
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1	<.1
Hispanic (of any race)	15.3	17.6	18.0	21.3	17.8	19.9	23.0	21.7	16.4	19.1	19.7	22.1	16.0	17.9	20.2	21.0
White	24.6	24.3	25.5	25.6	27.7	28.3	27.0	30.1	27.9	26.4	26.6	28.5	24.2	25.4	25.7	27.1
Two or more races	2.8	3.0	3.6	3.9	2.2	2.9	2.5	2.5	3.1	2.3	2.9	3.3	2.3	3.5	3.3	3.3
Unable to determine	5.6	4.4	4.3	3.9	11.4	7.6	9.1	9.7	7.9	7.1	6.2	7.0	7.5	4.5	6.2	6.2
Missing data	<.1	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	<.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

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	2,728	2,630	2,308	2,232
Number of waiting children whose parents' rights have been terminated	1,095	1,639	699	766

Age of Children Waiting for Adoption (%)¹²

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Under 1 year	3.1	4.2	2.9	2.4
1 year	12.5	13.4	14.7	14.3
2 years	11.4	13.3	12.7	13.1
3 years	9.9	9.2	10.4	10.6
4 years	7.3	7.9	7.3	8.7
5 years	5.3	6.4	7.5	5.9
6 years	5.5	4.9	5.6	6.4
7 years	4.6	4.6	5.2	4.7
8 years	5.1	4.1	4.7	4.3
9 years	4.5	4.2	3.9	4.3
10 years	5.2	3.8	3.5	3.9
11 years	4.9	4.4	4.0	3.4
12 years	4.3	4.5	3.9	3.3
13 years	4.4	3.6	3.7	4.3
14 years	3.2	3.8	3.4	3.2
15 years	4.0	3.0	3.0	2.9
16 years	3.3	2.6	2.1	2.4
17 years	1.7	2.1	1.6	1.7

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

	2009	2010	2011	2012
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.0	0.0	<.1	<.1
Asian	0.3	0.4	0.3	<.1
Black	53.9	49.7	47.7	45.8
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	<.1	<.1	<.1	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	14.3	17.5	18.3	19.3
White	23.2	25.7	24.6	25.5
Two or more races	3.0	4.1	4.4	5.3
Unable to determine	5.2	2.6	4.5	3.9
Missing data	<.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

E. Characteristics of Children Adopted (AFCARS Adoption File)

Children Adopted

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total children adopted	1,348	1,290	1,089	989

Age of Children Adopted (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Under 1 year	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.6
1 year	12.5	10.5	10.1	12.2
2 years	18.0	17.4	18.1	18.7
3 years	12.6	12.2	14.0	13.9
4 years	8.2	8.6	9.0	7.8
5 years	5.4	6.8	7.3	7.8
6 years	6.3	5.3	5.7	6.7
7 years	4.5	4.7	4.1	4.2
8 years	4.6	4.4	4.1	4.9
9 years	4.1	5.3	4.6	4.2
10 years	3.3	4.5	2.8	2.8
11 years	2.7	4.5	3.2	3.0
12 years	3.0	2.8	3.9	3.0
13 years	2.8	3.6	3.0	3.0
14 years	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.6
15 years	2.7	1.6	2.0	1.8
16 years	2.2	1.9	1.9	1.0
17 years	2.1	1.3	1.5	0.6
18 years	0.2	<.1	0.2	0.0
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 (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.7
Black	48.4	49.7	45.7	46.6
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.1	<.1	0.0	0.0
Hispanic (of any race)	15.4	18.4	18.3	18.3
White	26.5	25.7	28.5	26.8
Two or more races	5.7	3.4	5.1	5.1
Unable to determine	3.5	2.4	2.2	2.5
Missing data	0.1	<.1	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.

New Jersey

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	94.4	94.3	94.8	94.9
Children with one or more recurrences	5.6	5.7	5.2	5.1
Number	4,191	4,473	3,914	4,691

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	0.16	0.15	0.13	0.23
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.84	99.85	99.87	99.77
Number	13,168	12,156	11,192	11,588

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	26.3	24.8	22.9	21.6
Guardianship	5.5	4.4	4.2	4.2
Reunification	58.6	58.6	60.5	63.7
Other	9.5	12.2	12.4	10.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	5,386	5,236	4,672	4,718

3.2 Exits of Children With a Diagnosed Disability (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Adoption	43.4	30.7	24.9	20.8
Guardianship	2.0	2.9	1.2	3.0
Reunification	40.3	44.5	50.3	55.4
Other	14.3	21.9	23.5	20.8
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	539	548	485	471

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

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Adoption	3.5	2.3	2.7	1.3
Guardianship	6.3	4.4	3.5	4.2
Reunification	59.0	52.2	52.9	58.1
Other	31.3	41.1	40.9	36.5
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	1,199	1,116	1,043	1,004

3.4 Exits to Emancipation (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Children age 12 or younger at entry	22.8	25.9	24.2	24.7
Children older than 12 at entry	73.5	72.3	74.4	73.1
Missing data	3.8	1.8	1.4	2.2
Number	373	513	488	413

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	7.1	11.4	9.1	21.9	29.3	28.1	23.8	26.5		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.7	4.5	6.3	6.3	4.8	4.5	4.8		
Reunification	100.0	33.3	100.0	0.0	89.3	77.1	81.8	71.9	53.1	51.4	55.8	55.5		
Other	0.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	3.6	5.7	4.5	0.0	11.2	15.7	15.9	13.3		
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	3	4	0	28	35	22	32	2,366	2,314	2,053	1,816		
	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	100.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	26.4	23.7	21.5	17.4	23.7	23.8	24.5	20.5		
Guardianship	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.9	3.2	2.9	3.6	5.8	5.0	4.9	4.4		
Reunification	0.0	60.0	100.0	100.0	61.4	63.1	64.6	70.3	60.9	61.0	60.6	66.1		
Other	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	8.4	10.1	11.0	8.7	9.6	10.1	10.0	9.0		
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	2	5	1	1	883	1,002	921	1,042	1,505	1,380	1,245	1,344		
	Unable to Determine				2009	Two or More Races				2009	Missing Data			
	2009	2010	2011	2012		2009	2010	2011	2012		2009	2010	2011	2012
Adoption	11.9	8.4	8.3	7.9	47.9	37.8	39.4	32.9	20.0	14.3	0.0	0.0		
Guardianship	3.5	2.4	2.8	1.2	6.6	5.0	5.8	5.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Reunification	78.7	81.9	82.0	83.8	43.7	53.8	51.1	49.7	80.0	85.7	0.0	0.0		
Other	5.9	7.3	6.9	7.0	1.8	3.4	3.6	12.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	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	427	371	289	328	167	119	137	155	5	7	0	0		

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.	69.6	71.8	70.3	76.7
At least 12 mos., but less than 24 mos.	18.8	19.8	20.0	15.1
At least 24 mos., but less than 36 mos.	6.1	4.1	5.0	4.5
At least 36 mos., but less than 48 mos.	2.2	1.9	2.4	1.8
48 or more mos.	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.3
Missing data	1.4	0.8	0.7	0.7
Number	3,157	3,068	2,825	3,005

4.2 Children Reentering Foster Care (%)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Children entering care for the first time	82.0	81.8	81.8	81.8
Children reentering care within 12 mos. of a prior episode	7.1	8.4	8.4	8.3
Children reentering care more than 12 mos. after a prior episode	10.7	9.8	9.8	9.9
Missing data	0.3	0.0	<.1	<.1
Number	4,788	4,676	4,491	5,237

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.	3.7	3.2	2.9	3.6
At least 12 mos. but less than 24 mos.	22.8	21.4	22.9	21.0
At least 24 mos. but less than 36 mos.	33.6	32.1	34.2	37.3
At least 36 mos. but less than 48 mos.	22.2	21.7	21.4	21.0
48 or more mos.	16.6	20.5	17.8	16.7
Missing data	1.1	1.2	0.8	0.5
Number	1,418	1,299	1,072	1,021

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	87.3	86.9	87.8	89.0	72.2	72.6	72.6	71.4	45.6	44.8	45.8	47.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Children with 3 or more placements	12.7	13.1	12.2	11.0	27.8	27.4	27.4	28.6	54.4	55.2	54.2	52.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Missing placement setting counts	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
Number	5,630	5,504	5,200	5,943	3,103	2,726	2,632	2,570	4,410	3,913	3,344	3,067	25	13	16	8

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	1.0	0.8	0.4	0.6
Institutions	1.4	1.8	1.3	1.3
Other settings	97.6	97.5	98.3	98.1
Missing data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Number	3,610	3,582	3,518	4,117

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	118.8	119.7	116.6	120.2
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)	65.6	67.3	65.0	71.8
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)	8.2	7.9	8.4	6.5
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)	43.6	46.4	42.4	43.4
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?	10.1	10.4	11.0	12.9

Composite 2: Timeliness of Adoptions

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Composite Score	122.6	130.1	133.0	141.3
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?	26.9	24.9	26.1	24.8
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?	32.2	32.6	31.2	30.9
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?	31.7	33.3	31.1	34.6
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	11.8	17.0	14.1	18.4
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?	63.2	63.7	73.9	70.5

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

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Composite Score	143.4	136.6	138.5	143.3
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?	39.5	38.4	38.0	40.5
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?	99.2	97.5	97.0	97.3
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?	36.8	40.3	36.7	37.6

Composite 4: Placement Stability While in Foster Care²⁰

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Composite Score	105.8	105.4	106.7	107.8
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?	85.9	85.4	86.2	87.5
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?	72.2	72.6	72.6	71.3
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?	45.6	44.9	46.0	48.0

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.

New Jersey

STATE COMMENT

Kara P. Wood, Director
Division of Child Protection and Permanency
Department of Children and Families

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

Performance

NJ's commitment toward achieving permanency for children through reunification is evident by an increase of 3.2% in exits to reunification from 60.5% in 2011 to 63.7% in 2012. Moreover, efforts toward timely reunification is also evident by a 6.4% increase from 70.3% in 2011 to 76.7% in 2010 in achieving permanency through reunification in less than 12 months.

NJ also demonstrates a strong commitment to permanency for older children in care. The number of children who entered care older than 12 years of age exiting to adoption, reunification or guardianship increased by 4.5% from 2011. In particular, exits to reunification for these children increased by 5.2% from 2011.

NJ's efforts toward achieving permanency for children in care over long periods of time reflects a 3% improvement from 2011 in the number of children in care 24 months or longer exiting to a permanent home prior to their 18th birthday.

The median length of stay for children exiting care was reduced from 13.1 months in 2011 to 10 months in 2012.

NJ continues to improve placement stability for children who are in foster care less than 12 months with 89% of these children experiencing two or fewer placements in 2012.

In regard to exits by race and ethnicity from 2011 to 2012, the number of Asian children exiting to adoption increased by 12.8%, while the number of Asian children exiting to reunification decreased by 9.9%. Additionally, the number of Hispanic children (of any race) who exited to reunification reflects an increase of 5.7% from 64.6% in 2011 to 70.3% in 2012.

NJ has achieved 96% compliance in the number of monthly and in-home caseworker visits with children in foster care for 2012.

In 2012, NJ experienced a significantly higher number of unique children who were the subject of an investigated report due to maltreatment (76,164) in comparison to the prior three years (2009 – 70,729 children). NJ investigates all reports of child abuse and neglect, and substantiated findings are based on a preponderance of evidence. Similarly, NJ saw an increase in the foster care entry rate from 2.2 per 1,000 in 2011 to 2.6 per 1,000 in 2012.

For children without a recurrence of maltreatment within 6 months, in 2012 NJ once again maintains compliance with the national standard by attaining 94.9% of children without a maltreatment recurrence.

The number of child maltreatment fatalities decreased from 22 in 2011 to 16 in 2012, which is the lowest number of fatalities reported since 2009.

Finally, NJ continues to work diligently to improve "time to investigate" child protective service reports. In 2012, the average response time was 15.5 hours in comparison to 2009 (41.9 hours), 2010 (20.9 hours), and 2011 (17.8 hours).