

STATISTICS ILLUSTRATING TRENDS AND ISSUES IN CHILD WELFARE¹

Child maltreatment in 2009²

- 3.0 million children were identified as potential victims of abuse or neglect.
- An estimated 702,000 children were victims of abuse or neglect.

Children in foster care in 2010

- 408,000 children were in foster care on Sept. 30, 2010.
- 662,000 children were in foster care during the 2010 fiscal year (Oct. 2009-Sept. 2010).
- 48 percent of all children in foster care were age 10 or older.
- 51 percent had reunification with their birth families as their case goal.

Kinship care (relatives or tribal members as caregivers)

- 26 percent of children in foster care were living with related kinship caregivers who were foster parents.
- More than 2.7 million grandparents were the primary adults responsible for their grandchildren.³

Siblings in foster care

- An estimated 70 percent of children in foster care have siblings who are in foster care.⁴
- In 2010, 74 percent of children in the California child welfare system who had a sibling were placed with at least one sibling in foster care.⁵

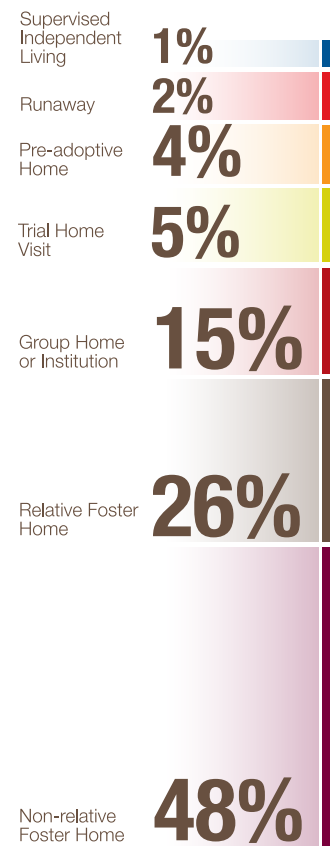
Racial and ethnic group overrepresentation in foster care

- African American children represent 29 percent of the children in foster care, but only 14 percent of the U.S. child population.⁶
- American Indian and Alaska Native children represent 2 percent of the children in foster care, but only 1 percent of the U.S. child population.⁷

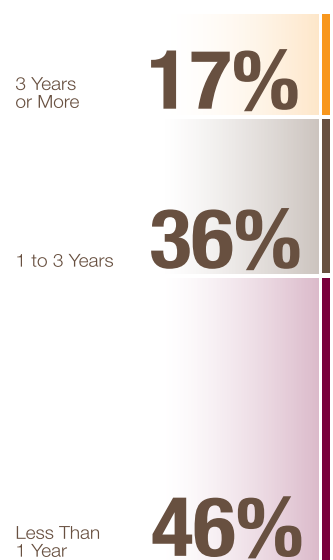
Aging out (when a youth in foster care becomes a legal adult)

- 21 percent of children and youth in foster care (82,000) were age 16 or older.
- Of the 254,000 children and youth exiting foster care in 2010, 11 percent (28,000) aged out without a permanent family.

Living situations for the 408,000 children in foster care on Sept. 30, 2010



Length of stay in foster care for children exiting foster care in 2010



- 1 Except where footnoted, data are for the period ending September 30, 2010 and were taken from figures available from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). Retrieved September 9, 2011 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/afcars/trends.htm and http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/afcars/tar/report18.htm
- 2 These figures represent unduplicated children. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2010). Child Maltreatment 2009. Available from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/index.htm#can.
- 3 United States American Community Survey 2010. Table B10056 Living with own grandchildren under 18 years. Retrieved September 22, 2011 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>
- 4 Shlonsky, A.R., Elkins, J., Bellamy, J.L. & Ashare, C.J. 2005. Introduction to the special issue on siblings and foster care. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 27(7): 693-695.
- 5 Needell, B., Webster, D., Armijo, M., Lee, S., Dawson, W., Magruder, J., Exel, M., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Williams, D., Simon, V., Hamilton, D., Lou, C., Peng, C., Moore, M., Jacobs, L., & King, B. (2011) Child Welfare Services Reports for California. Retrieved September 9, 2011 from University of California at Berkeley Center for Social Services Research website. URL: <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/>
- 6 Data on child population by race for 2009 were retrieved from the KIDS COUNT Data Center at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/acrossstates/Rankings.aspx?ind=103> on September 9, 2011.
- 7 Ibid.