



**Arkansas Department
of Human Services**
Division of Children and Family Services
Cecile Blucker, Director



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January 4, 2012

The Honorable Stephanie Malone, Chair
House Committee on Aging, Children,
and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs
Arkansas Legislative Council
315 State Capitol Building
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

The Honorable Missy Irvin, Chair
Senate Committee on Children
and Youth
Arkansas Legislative Council
315 State Capitol Building
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Representative Malone and Senator Irvin:

Act 1222 of 1995 mandates a quarterly evaluation of the performance of the Division of Children and Family Services. Attached is the Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) produced in compliance with that mandate. The report covers the first quarter of SFY 2012 (July 2011 to September 2011).

Forty copies of the report are attached for your convenience.

Should you have questions regarding this material, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cecile Blucker".

Cecile Blucker
Director

CB: fs

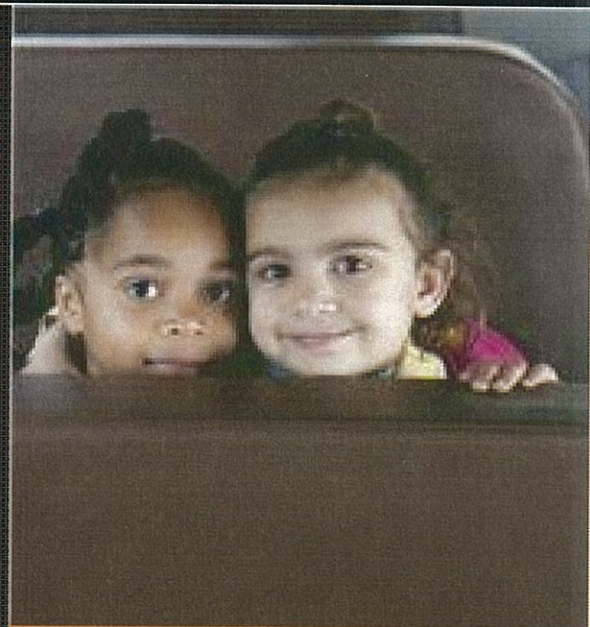
cc: John Selig, Director, Department and Human Services

Attachments (40)

Quarterly Performance Report

*1st Quarter
SFY 2012*

(July 2011 – September 2011)



Produced for:
*Arkansas Department of Human Services
Division of Children and Family Services
Quality Assurance Unit*

Produced by:
Hornby Zeller Associates, Inc.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) is distributed to the Division of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) managers and legislative committees dealing with children and youth. The QPR for the first quarter of State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2012, specifically July through September 2010, consists of three parts:

1. **Performance Indicators**, which provide information on service outcomes, such as:
 - a. *Percentage of Children with True Allegations of Child Maltreatment Three Months, Six Months and One Year after a Previous True Report*
 - b. *Percentage of Siblings in Placement who are Placed Together*
 - c. *Percentage of Children Adopted Within One Year of Having Their Goal Changed to Adoption*
2. **Compliance Index**, which reports on the Division's compliance with requirements set by DCFS with guidance from the Arkansas legislative children and youth committees, such as:
 - a. *Timely Completion of Child Maltreatment Assessments*
 - b. *24- and 72-Hour Initial Health Screenings for Children Entering Foster Care*
 - c. *Foster Home Recruitment*
3. **Description of Population and Services**, which describes the children who were the subjects of maltreatment reports, were served in foster care and were provided adoption services, such as:
 - a. *Permanency Goals of Children in Foster Care*
 - b. *Characteristics of Children in Pre-Adoptive Homes*

The QPR provides this information on a quarterly basis, showing trends over time. The report provides the agency with information on the populations it serves and on pertinent issues so the agency can improve performance and better target its efforts.

Part I: Performance Indicators

DCFS has established nine performance indicators to measure its progress with regard to its major goals of child safety, permanency and well-being. During the first quarter, DCFS continued its efforts toward meeting these goals. Overall, DCFS maintained a performance standard that mirrors past efforts and successes.

There were no noteworthy areas in this section during the first quarter.

Part II: Compliance Index

DCFS has set compliance measures with guidance from the House Committees on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs and the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth. An index is compiled by reporting the level of compliance with the measures.

For the first quarter, the QPR addresses six noteworthy areas, as shown below:

- **Timely Initiation of Child Maltreatment Assessments**

The percentage of DCFS investigations initiated on time was **84 percent**, an increase of four percentage points from the previous quarter (80 percent). Compliance remains less than the compliance goal of 95 percent.

Compliance with respect to the initiation of both Priority I and Priority II referrals improved in most DCFS Service Areas when compared to the previous quarter. Staff in eight of the agency's ten areas improved compliance regarding Priority I initiations, and staff in nine of the ten areas improved compliance among Priority II initiations. Despite these improvements, compliance in nearly all areas—Area 5 was the lone exception—remained below the established goal of 95 percent.

As a result, the Division has established corrective action plans to help improve the timeliness of initiations. Corrective actions include closer supervisory oversight of staff's workloads and the implementation of mandatory days and times that caseworkers are required to enter documentation into DCFS' information system (CHRIS). Other corrective actions consist of assigning investigations to staff sooner, making more efforts to see the alleged victims immediately, and initiating investigations on time on weekends and holidays. It is also expected that the hiring and training of new staff or reassignment of existing staff in several areas—including Areas 1, 2 and 8—will lead to further improvements in the timeliness of initiating investigations.

- **Timely Completion of Child Maltreatment Assessments**

The percentage of investigations completed in a timely manner for the quarter was **71 percent**, an increase of 18 percentage points from the previous quarter

(53 percent). Compliance for this index declined for three consecutive quarters before improving during this most recent quarter; nonetheless, it remains less than the compliance goal of 90 percent.

As was the case with the timely initiation of referrals, compliance with respect to the timely completion of referrals also increased among nearly all of DCFS' ten Service Areas. Improvements were observed in eight of the ten areas for Priority I referrals, and in all ten areas for Priority II referrals. Even so, only in Areas 3 and 5 did staff meet the established goal.

Because compliance in most areas remained below the goal of 90 percent, Area Directors have established corrective actions to improve compliance in future quarters. Agency staff in many areas have been authorized to work overtime in an effort to reduce the backlog of overdue investigations. Additionally, most areas have implemented processes in which investigation staff will conference with their supervisors at pre-determined intervals during the first 30 days of a new investigation. Another corrective action being undertaken is to ensure that investigations staff document their activities into CHRIS in a timelier fashion. The expectation is that these practices will continue to push completion rates even higher in future quarters.

- 24-Hour and 72-Hour Initial Health Screenings (IHS) for Children Entering Foster Care

Sixty-four percent of the children requiring a 24-hour initial health screening received the screening on time. This is an eight percentage point increase in compliance when compared to the previous quarter but below the goal of 95 percent.

During the quarter, **77 percent** of the children who required a 72-hour initial health screening received the service on time, an increase of five percentage points from the previous quarter (72 percent) yet below the goal of 95 percent.

No area met the 95 percent compliance goal for the 24-hour initial health screenings, although Area 10 nearly did (94 percent). Area 10 was also the only area that met the compliance goal for the 72-hour initial health screenings (96 percent). On the other hand, less than three-quarters of the children coming into foster care in six areas—Areas 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 9—who required either a 24-hour or 72-hour screening received the service on time. Staff from Area 9 struggled the most with just 16 percent of the Area's incoming children receiving the needed 24-hour screening on time and just 60 percent receiving a 72-hour screening on time.

The Division has established corrective actions to help remedy the barriers that prevent timely health screenings. Many areas have emphasized the need for caseworkers to schedule initial health screenings as soon as children come into

foster care. Furthermore, once health screenings are complete caseworkers are being encouraged to submit information to the agency's health service workers as soon as possible so that the relevant information can be entered into CHRIS in a timely manner. Several areas continue to attribute their compliance figures to scheduling and availability problems between workers and health care providers. Area Directors hope that more advanced planning, improved communication and scheduling with providers, and greater supervisory oversight can improve these percentages in future quarters.

- Comprehensive Health Assessments

The percentage of timely completed comprehensive health assessments rose to **82 percent**, an increase of 16 percentage points from the previous quarter (66 percent). Compliance remains below the goal of 95 percent.

With respect to completing children's comprehensive health assessments on time, just one of the ten DCFS Service Areas—Area 10—met the compliance goal of 95 percent. When compared to the previous quarter, however, nine of the ten areas increased compliance.

Despite the noteworthy improvements with respect to this measure, Area Directors acknowledge that further increases in compliance are still needed. The same issues that served as barriers to the timely completion of initial health screenings also adversely affected the percentage of children who had their comprehensive health assessments completed within 60 days of entering foster care. Area Directors hope that improved communication among staff and scheduling with providers can improve performance.

- Foster Home Recruitment

There were 140 new foster homes recruited during the quarter, an increase from the 131 homes recruited during the previous quarter. DCFS staff recruited far more than the goal of 80 new homes for the quarter, which represents a compliance rate of **175 percent**.

The statewide recruitment of foster homes continues to exceed the Division's expectations for quarterly recruitment, continuing a multi-year trend of exceeding the Division's own goal. This sustained effort can be attributed to an increase in the promotion and frequency of foster family inquiry meetings. In addition, DCFS continues to maintain an advantageous relationship with *The C.A.L.L. (Children of Arkansas Loved for a Lifetime)*, a faith-based foster parent recruitment organization that began in Pulaski County in 2007 but has since expanded into 19 additional counties. In fact, *The C.A.L.L.* now has a presence in all ten DCFS Service Areas and reportedly continues to attract dozens of prospective families through churches that would not have otherwise thought of becoming a foster family. The agency has also recently directed its Quality Assurance staff to

conduct a study that it hopes will identify strategies and practices that will strengthen its efforts to support and retain existing foster families.

- **Required Visits Made by Worker**

During the first quarter, the percentage of foster children who received a required visit from their caseworker averaged **58 percent**, which was an increase of five percentage points from the previous quarter and well below the goal of 85 percent. The percentage of children who received visits for each of the months from July through September was 58 percent, 55 percent, and 59 percent, respectively.

None of the individual DCFS Service Areas met the compliance goal of 85 percent, but eight of the ten areas improved compliance on this item when compared to the previous quarter. In fact, agency staff in three areas—Areas 3, 6 and 10—made visits to approximately three-fourths of their foster children during the quarter; as such, those areas came closer to meeting the compliance goal than the remaining areas did. On the other hand, DCFS staff in Areas 1, 2 and 7 once again completed less than half of their required visits during the quarter.

In order to increase the number of required visits made by workers, several areas have placed a greater focus on monitoring workers' visitation schedules. The Division has emphasized the need for its supervisors to ensure that workers manage their time efficiently. The efficient use of time also includes having staff schedule a greater number of visits in the late afternoon and evening when families are more likely to be at home. Several Area Directors also indicated that the documentation of visits in CHRIS is often incomplete, and subsequently indicated that they are implementing mandatory days and times during which staff must document any completed contacts. Area Directors elsewhere intend to increase the number of completed monthly visits by holding more frequent case staffings between supervisors and caseworkers, with the expectation that doing so will ensure that the agency's children and families are visited with greater consistency.

Part III: Description of Population and Services

The Description of Population and Services section describes the children who were subjects of maltreatment reports, were served in foster care and were provided with adoption services.

There were no noteworthy areas in this section for the first quarter.

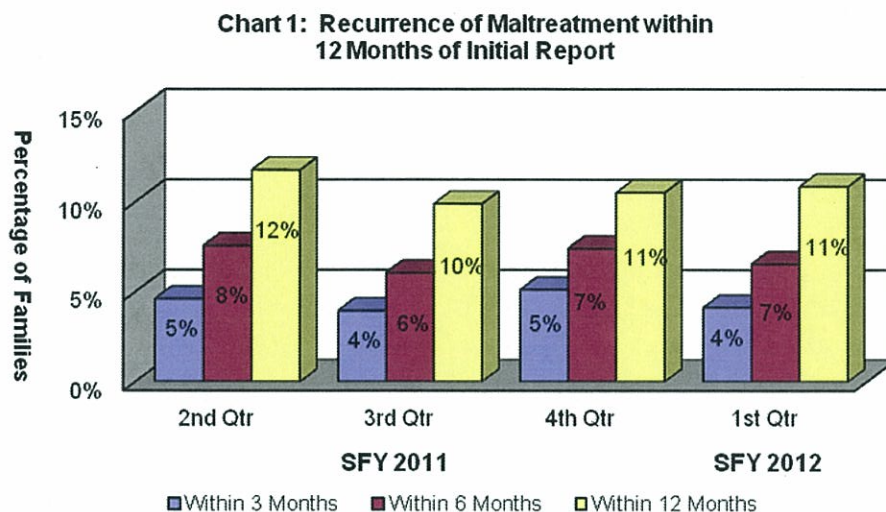
PART I: PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Division has established nine performance measures to indicate achievement levels related to its major goals in child safety, family preservation and permanency:

- Percentage of children with true allegations of maltreatment three months, six months and one year after a previous true report;
- Percentage of foster families with true reports of maltreatment;
- Percentage of children receiving Supportive Services or Protective Services who were abused or neglected within one year of the initiation of services;
- Percentage of children receiving Supportive Services or Protective Services who entered foster care within one year of the initiation of services;
- Percentage of children in foster care who returned home within eighteen months;
- Percentage of children in foster care who have experienced two or fewer placements;
- Percentage of siblings in placement who are placed together;
- Percentage of children who were adopted within one year of having their goal changed to adoption; and
- Number of children placed in pre-adoptive homes whose adoptions were finalized within twelve months of entering pre-adoptive placements.

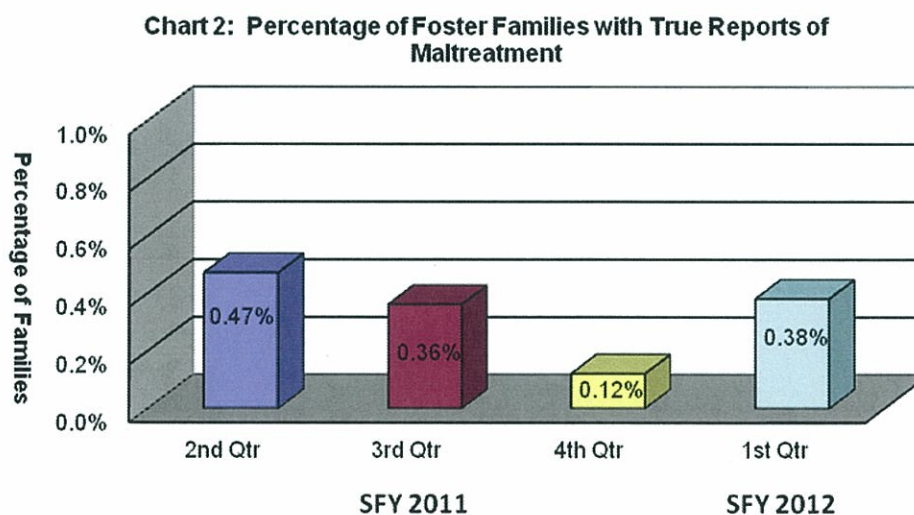
Percentage of Children with True Allegations of Child Maltreatment Three Months, Six Months and One Year after a Previous True Report

Of the 2,798 children involved in true reports of maltreatment during the first quarter one year ago, only 11 percent (303) had a subsequent true report within 12 months.



Percentage of Foster Families with True Reports of Maltreatment

Of the 36 foster home maltreatment reports received during the first quarter in which foster parents were the alleged offenders, only six were determined to be true. Based on the 1,580 foster homes¹ active during the quarter, the percentage of foster families with a true report of maltreatment was 0.38 percent.

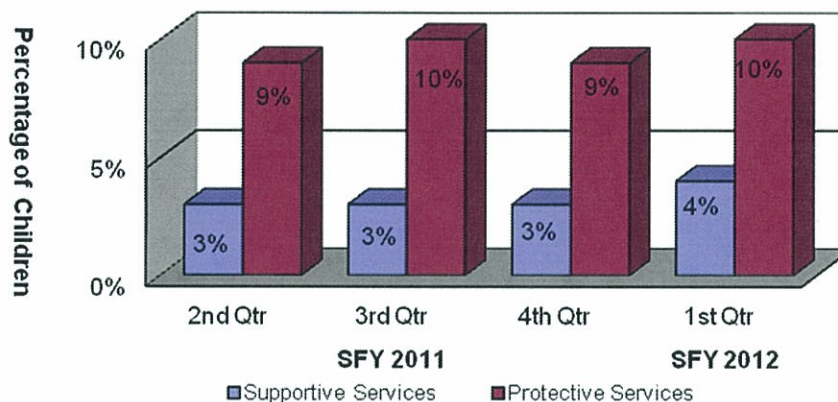


¹ This includes family and therapeutic foster homes.

Percentage of Children Receiving Supportive Services or Protective Services who were Abused or Neglected within One Year of the Initiation of Services

Of the 396 children who began receiving Supportive Services during the first quarter one year ago, fourteen children (4 percent) experienced a true report of maltreatment within one year. Of the 2,887 children who began receiving Protective Services during the first quarter one year ago, 293 children (10 percent) were involved in a true report within one year.

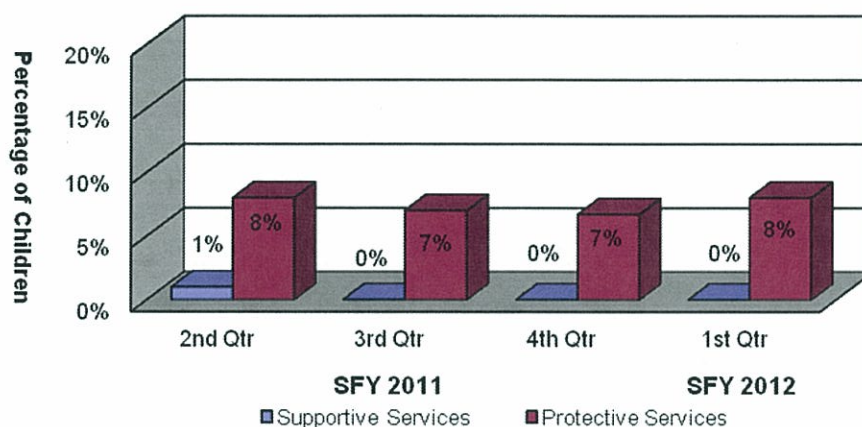
Chart 3: Children Receiving Supportive Services and Protective Services who were Abused or Neglected within One Year of the Initiation of Services



Percentage of Children Receiving Supportive Services or Protective Services who Entered Foster Care within One Year of the Initiation of Services

Of the 396 children who began receiving Supportive Services during the first quarter one year ago, one entered foster care within one year of the initiation of these services; 232 of the 2,887 (8 percent) children who began receiving Protective Services during the same timeframe entered care within one year.

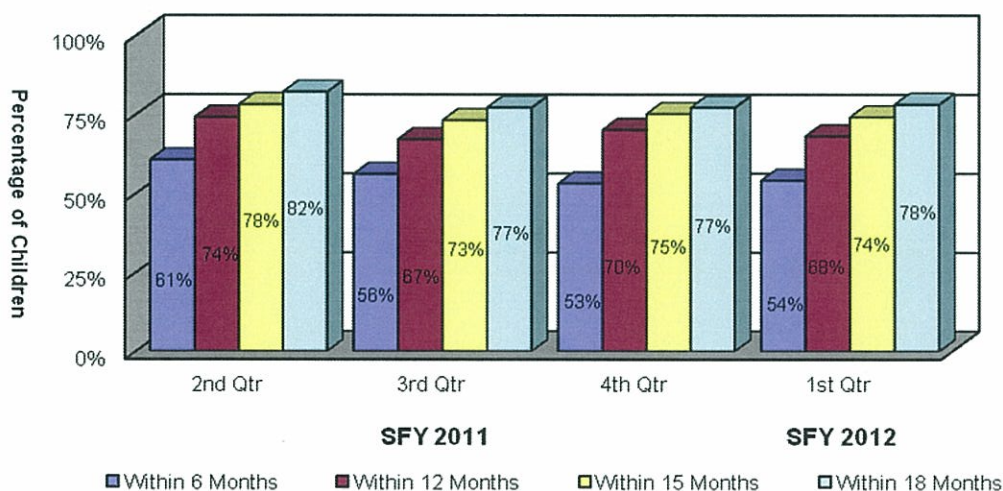
Chart 4: Children Receiving Supportive Services or Protective Services who Entered Foster Care within One Year of the Initiation of Services



Percentage of Children in Foster Care who Returned Home within Eighteen Months

During the quarter 18 months prior to the start of the current quarter, 1,007 children entered foster care. Of those, 788 children (78 percent) returned home within 18 months, similar to the previous quarter. The percentage of children returning home within 12 months stood at 68 percent, exceeding the national median of 48.4 percent.

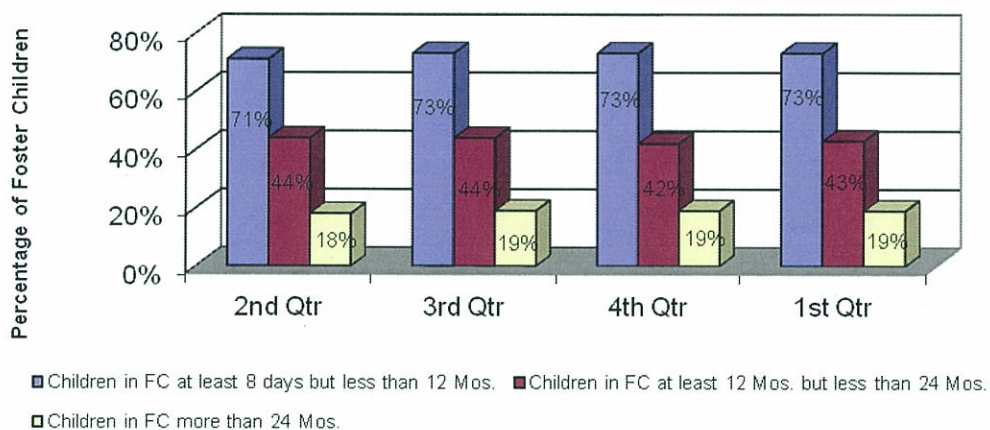
Chart 5: Children in Foster Care who Returned Home within Eighteen Months



Percentage of Children in Foster Care who have Experienced Two or Fewer Placements

Placement stability of children in foster care is measured by the percentage of children with two or fewer placements who are in care for varying lengths of time. Of the children at the end of the quarter who were in foster care for less than 12 months, 73 percent experienced two or fewer placements; the national standard is 86 percent. Of the children in foster care between 12 and 24 months, 43 percent had two or fewer placements; the national standard for this population is 65.4 percent. Finally, of the children who were in foster care for over two years, only 19 percent experienced two or fewer placements during their stay in foster care, with the national standard for this population being 41.8 percent.

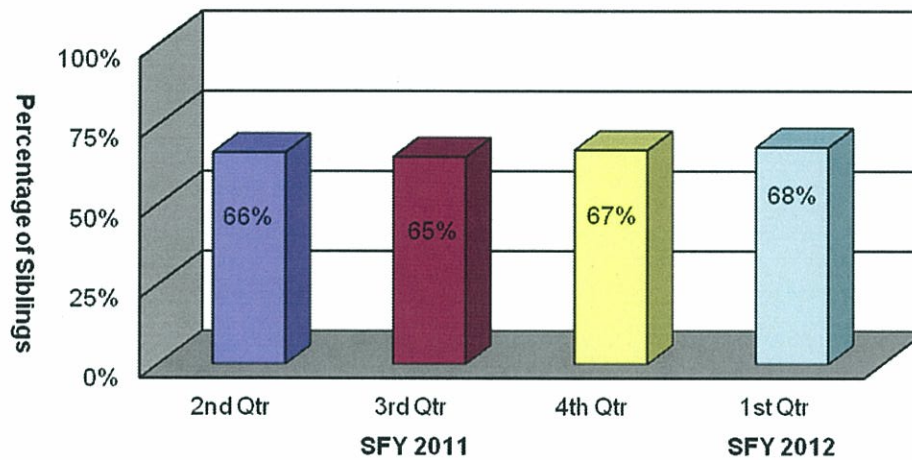
Chart 6: Children in Foster Care who have Experienced Two or Fewer Placements



Percentage of Siblings in Placement who are Placed Together

During the first quarter, there were 1,953 children with siblings in foster care. Of those children, 68 percent (1,324) were placed with at least one of their siblings. The success rate showed some improvement over the previous three quarters. Of those same 1,953 children, half were placed with all of their siblings, which was two percentage points higher than the previous quarter (48 percent). These figures do not exclude children who were placed separately for valid reasons such as safety issues or court orders.

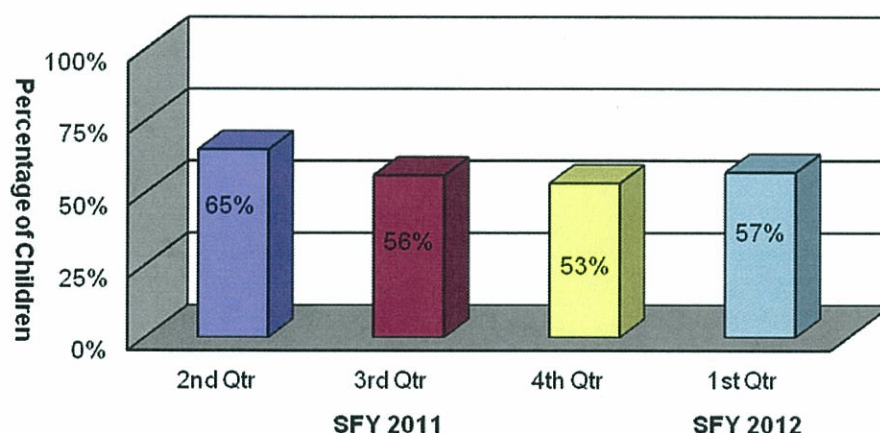
Chart 7: Siblings in Care who are Placed Together



Percentage of Children Who Were Adopted Within One Year of Having Their Goal Changed to Adoption

Of the 129 children whose goals were changed to adoption during the quarter one year ago, 74 children (57 percent) were adopted within one year of the goal change. This represents a four percentage point increase from the previous quarter (53 percent).

Chart 8: Percentage of Children Who Were Adopted Within One Year of Having Goal Changed to Adoption



Number of Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes whose Adoptions were Finalized within Twelve Months of Entering Pre-adoptive Placements

Between July and September 2010, 126 children were placed in a pre-adoptive home. Of those children, 112 (89 percent) had their adoptions finalized within 12 months of the placement.

Seven children (6 percent), however, experienced a disruption, which occurs when a child has been placed in a pre-adoptive home and the family or the child subsequently decides not to proceed with the adoption, resulting in the child leaving the home. Finalization of the adoption was still pending 12 months after the placement for 10 of the children.

**Table 1: Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes whose Adoptions were finalized within Twelve Months of Entering Pre-adoptive Placements
1st Quarter SFY 2012**

Adoption Status	Number of Children
Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes	126
Finalized Adoptions	112
Disrupted Adoptive Placements	7
Children with a Disruption who were Re-placed in Pre-adoptive Homes	3
Still Pending after Twelve Months	10

PART II: COMPLIANCE INDEX

The Division has set compliance measures with guidance from the Joint Interim Committee on Children and Youth. An index is compiled by reporting the level of compliance in relation to these measures.

<u>Goal</u>	<u>Compliance Measure</u>
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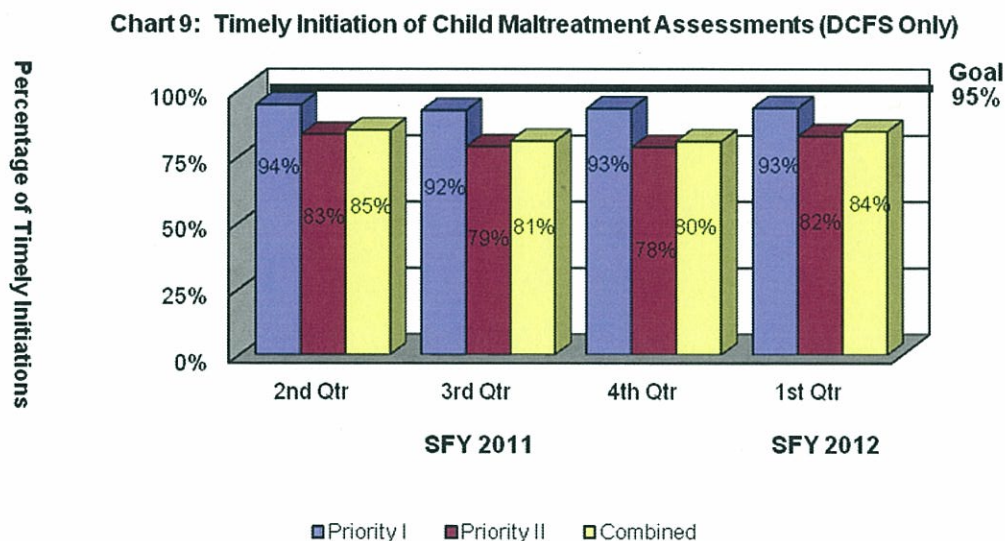
- | | |
|-----|---|
| 95% | <i>Timely Initiation of Child Maltreatment Assessments.</i> Timely initiation means the investigator interviews or observes the victim child outside the presence of the alleged offender within 24 hours of any report of alleged severe maltreatment or within 72 hours otherwise. |
| 90% | <i>Timely Completion of Child Maltreatment Assessments.</i> Timely completion means a determination must be made regarding an allegation of child maltreatment within 30 days of receipt of the allegation. |
| 95% | <i>24-Hour Initial Health Screenings.</i> This screening is conducted within 24 hours after removal from the home on children who enter foster care due to an allegation of severe maltreatment or if there is evidence of acute illness or injury. |
| 95% | <i>72-Hour Initial Health Screenings.</i> This screening is conducted within 72 hours after removal from the home on all children who enter foster care who are not subject to the 24-hour screening. |
| 95% | <i>Comprehensive Health Assessments.</i> The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate the physical and mental health status of all foster children and is to be completed within 60 days of a child entering foster care. |
| 80 | <i>Foster Home Recruitment.</i> DCFS must ensure that a sufficient number and variety of foster homes that meet minimal standards and match the needs and characteristics of foster children are available. The goal is 80 homes for the quarter or 320 homes for the year. |
| 95% | <i>Foster Home Re-evaluations.</i> DCFS must re-evaluate at least annually each foster home's ability to care for children. |
| 85% | <i>Required Visits Made by Worker.</i> DCFS must provide data on the percentage of monthly visits made by DCFS workers to children in foster care. |

Timely Initiation of Child Maltreatment Assessments

Whenever there is an allegation of child maltreatment, a Family Service Worker, a Crimes Against Children Division (CACD) staff member, or staff from another local law enforcement agency must interview or observe the victim child(ren) outside the presence of the alleged offender within 24 hours for Priority I referrals or within 72 hours for Priority II referrals. There were 8,080 referrals of child maltreatment during the quarter. Of those, 6,557 were assigned to DCFS for investigation—1,150 Priority I referrals and 5,407 Priority II referrals.

Of the DCFS assigned Priority I referrals, 1,069 (93 percent) were initiated within the required 24-hour period. Of the DCFS Priority II referrals, 4,455 (82 percent) were initiated within the required 72-hour period.² Overall, 84 percent of the referrals were initiated within the required timeframe. The combined compliance rate was four percentage points higher than the rate for the previous quarter.

As noted previously, the Crimes Against Children Division (CACD) of the Arkansas State Police is also responsible for handling child abuse assessments. CACD was responsible for 1,523 of the 8,080 referrals that came in during the quarter, of which 1,373 were Priority I referrals and 150 were Priority II referrals. Of the Priority I referrals, 1,285 (94 percent) were initiated in a timely manner while 139 (93 percent) of the Priority II referrals were initiated in on time.

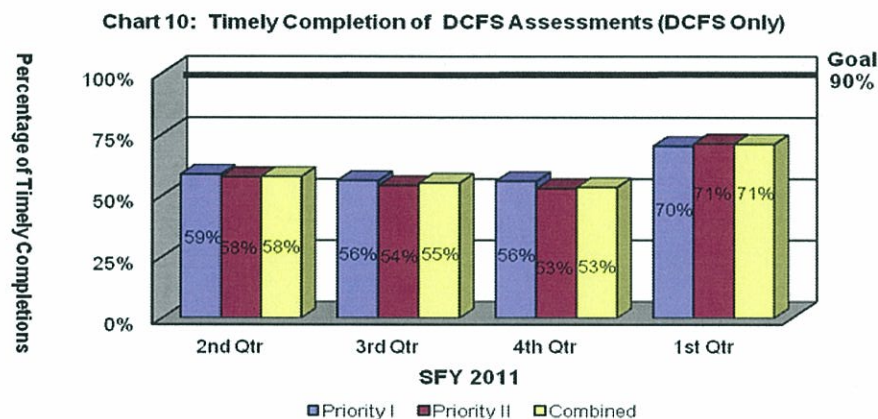


² DCFS had 1,069 Priority I referrals and 4,455 Priority II referrals that were initiated in a timely manner. Of those, 255 Priority I (24 percent) and 1,551 Priority II referrals (35 percent) were considered compliant due to reasonable diligence. CACD had 1,285 Priority I referrals and 139 Priority II referrals that were initiated in a timely manner. Of those, 253 Priority I (20 percent) and 35 Priority II (25 percent) referrals were considered compliant due to reasonable diligence.

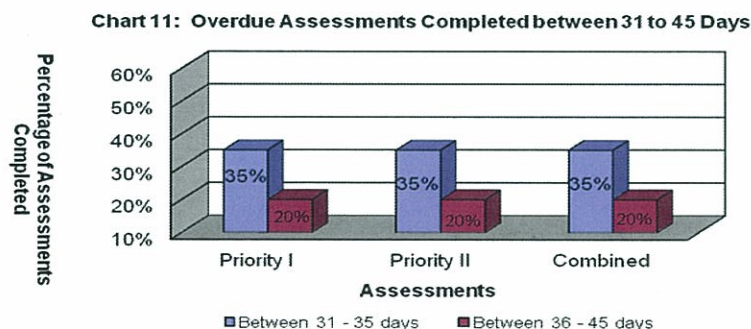
Timely Completion of Child Maltreatment Assessments

Of the 1,150 Priority I assessments assigned to DCFS, 805 (70 percent) were completed within the required 30-day period. Of the 5,407 DCFS Priority II assessments, 3,839 (71 percent) were completed within the required 30-day period. The completions resulted in an overall compliance rate of 71 percent, which was 18 percentage points higher than the previous quarter. Compliance continues to be below the goal of 90 percent (See plan of action in the Executive Summary).

As referenced earlier, the Crimes Against Children Division (CACD) of the Arkansas State Police was responsible for 1,523 of the incoming referrals received during the quarter—1,373 Priority I assessments and 150 Priority II assessments. Of the Priority I assessments, 971 (71 percent) were completed on time while 91 (61 percent) of the Priority II assessments were completed on time.



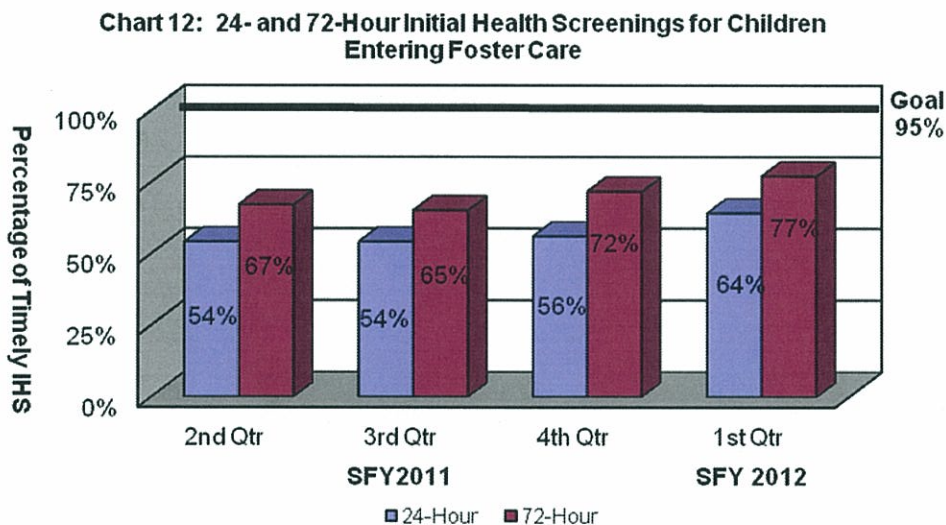
Of the 1,913 DCFS-assigned investigations that became overdue anytime during the quarter, 670 (35 percent) were completed within 31 to 35 days after the referral date and another 389 (20 percent) were completed within 36 to 45 days after the referral. Overall, 55 percent of the overdue investigations were completed within 15 days of being overdue (Chart 11).



24- and 72-Hour Initial Health Screenings for Children Entering Foster Care

When a child enters foster care due to an allegation of severe maltreatment or if there is evidence of acute illness or injury, DCFS must conduct an initial health screening within 24 hours of the child's removal from the home. Of the 373 children who required the 24-hour health screening during the first quarter, 240 children (64 percent) received the screening in a timely manner. The compliance rate was eight percentage points higher than the previous quarter and short of the goal of 95 percent.

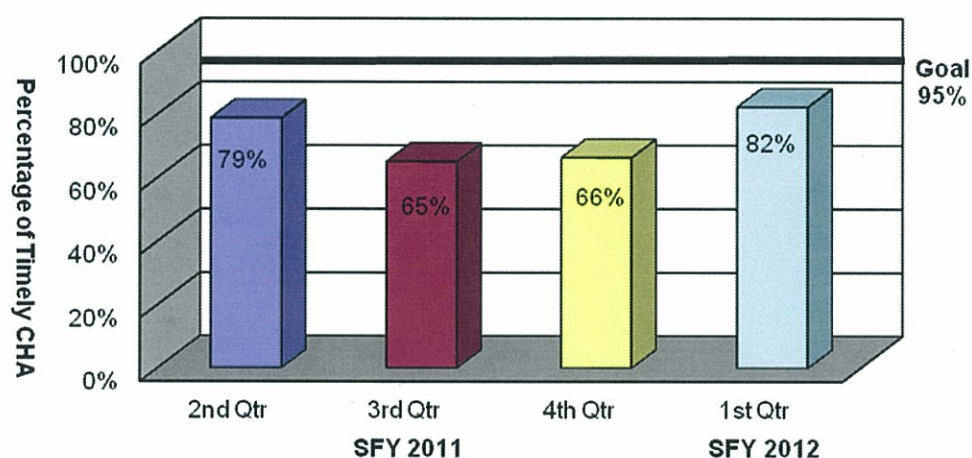
All children entering foster care who do not require the initial 24-hour health screening must still undergo an initial health screening within 72 hours of their removal. Of the 514 children who required the 72-hour health screening, 394 (77 percent) received their screenings on time, which was five percentage points higher than the previous quarter and short of the goal of 95 percent (See plan of action in the Executive Summary).



Comprehensive Health Assessments

All children entering foster care must receive a comprehensive health assessment as well to evaluate their physical and mental health status; the assessment is to be completed within 60 days of entering foster care. Between May 2, 2011 and August 1, 2011, 533 children entered foster care who remained in care for at least 60 days. Of those children, 438 received their comprehensive health assessment in a timely manner. The resulting compliance rate was 82 percent, which was 16 percentage points higher than the previous quarter and below the goal of 95 percent.

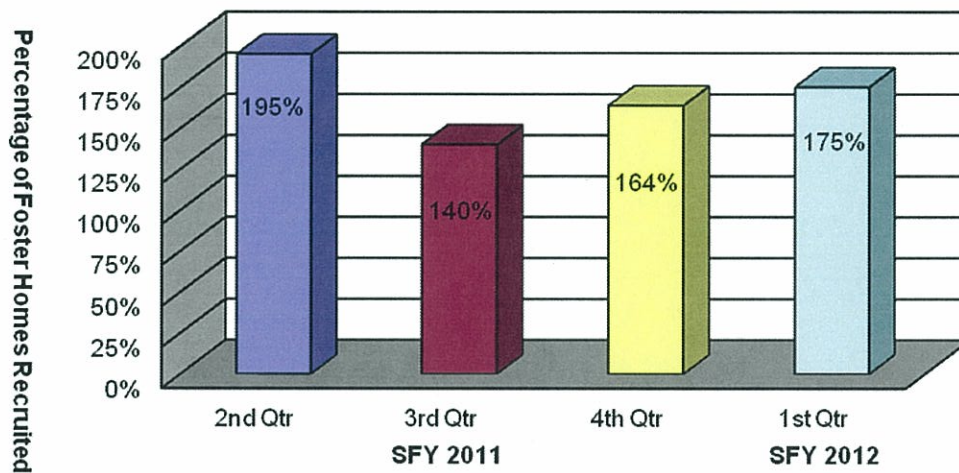
Chart 13: Comprehensive Health Assessments



Foster Home Recruitment

DCFS recruited 140 new foster homes during the first quarter, an achievement which continues to be well above the goal of 80 new homes. At the same time, 115 foster homes were closed resulting in a net gain of 25 foster homes for the quarter.

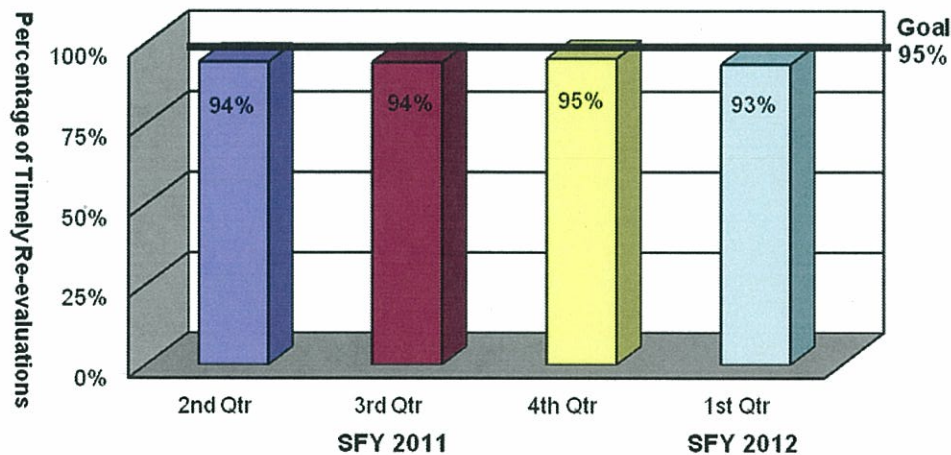
Chart 14: Foster Home Recruitment



Foster Home Re-evaluations

On an annual basis, at a minimum, DCFS is responsible to conduct re-evaluations of each foster home's ability to care for children. Of the 1,171 foster homes active at the end of the first quarter, a current re-evaluation was available for 1,092 homes. The resulting 93 percent compliance rate was two percentage points lower than the previous quarter and below the compliance goal of 95 percent.

Chart 15: Foster Home Re-evaluations

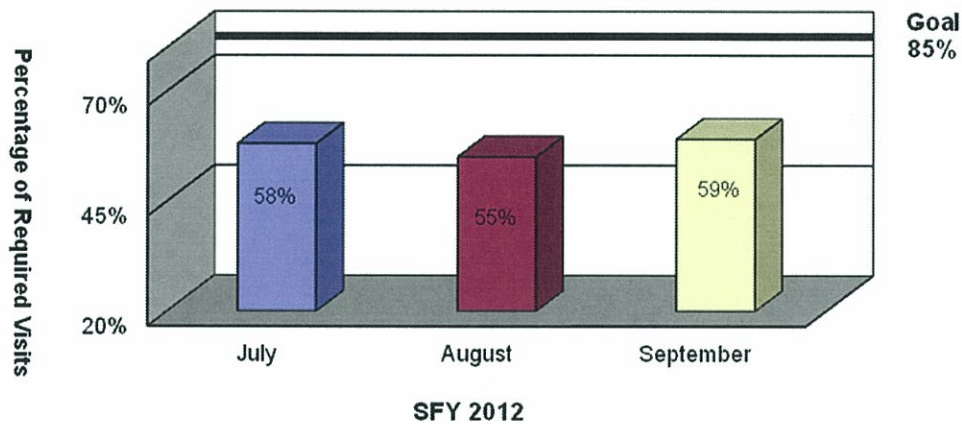


Required Visits Made by Worker

DCFS acknowledges the importance of worker contact with children in foster care and believes that these visits should be conducted face-to-face in the children's placement setting, at least once per month.

During the first quarter, an average of 58 percent of children in foster care received a monthly visit. This result was five percentage points higher than the previous quarter, and still below the goal of 85 percent (See plan of action in the Executive Summary).

Chart 16: Required Foster Care Monthly Visits Made by Worker



PART III: DESCRIPTION OF POPULATION AND SERVICES

This section describes the number and status of maltreatment assessments, children who were served in foster care and children who were provided adoption services.

Section I outlines characteristics of children in true maltreatment reports such as age, gender and ethnicity, and also compares state ethnicity data to national data. Additionally, this section defines the types of allegations in maltreatment reports.

Section II describes the foster care population. Specifically, it describes the characteristics of children in foster care, entries and exits of children in foster care, reasons children come into care, lengths of stay for children in foster care as well as children in relative care, placements of children in foster care and the number of placements children experience while in care.

Section III reports adoption data such as the characteristics of children available for adoption, current placement of those children, characteristics of children placed in adoptive homes, children whose parents have terminated their parental rights but have not been placed in adoptive homes, finalized adoptions and adoption subsidies.

Part III: Description of Population and Services

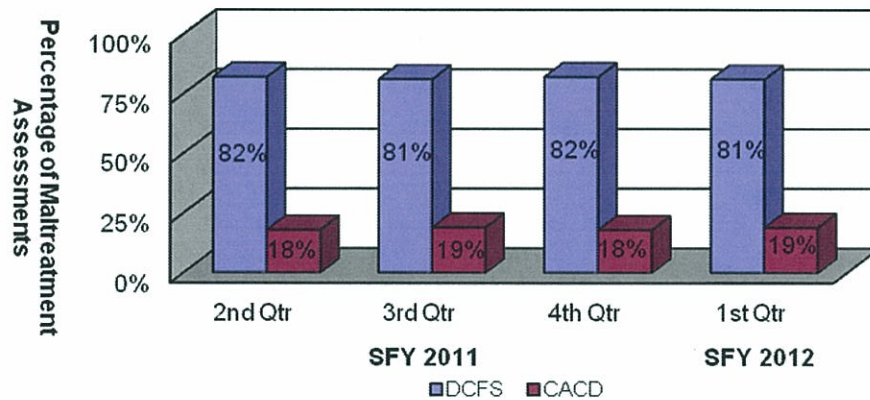
Section I: True Child Maltreatment Reports

Child Maltreatment Assessments

During the first quarter, 8,080 maltreatment reports were received and assigned for investigation. Of those, 6,557 (81 percent) were assigned to DCFS. This figure represents a 13 percent decrease in the number of reports assigned to DCFS from the previous quarter (7,535) and a five percent increase from the same quarter ending one year ago (6,246).

Of those same 8,080 reports, 1,523 (19 percent) were assigned to CACD. This figure represents a seven percent decrease in the number of reports assigned to CACD from the previous quarter (1,640) as well as an nine percent decrease from the same quarter ending one year ago (1,667).

Chart 17: Child Maltreatment Assessments



Of the 8,080 maltreatment reports received during the first quarter of SFY 2012, 1,792 reports (22 percent) were found to be true, a rate which was four percentage points lower than the quarter ending one year ago (26 percent). The national percentage is 25 percent.³ There were 2,478 victim children involved in the 1,792 true reports for the quarter, which represents a 16 percent decrease in the number of victim children reported during the same quarter ending one year ago (2,944).

Table 2: Child Maltreatment Assessments

	Total Assessments	True Assessments	Percent True
2nd Qtr SFY 2011	8,998	2,316	26%
3rd Qtr SFY 2011	7,768	1,921	25%
4th Qtr SFY 2011	9,175	2,113	23%
1st Qtr SFY 2012	8,080	1,792	22%

	DCFS			CACD		
	Total Assessments	True Assessments	Percent True	Total Assessments	True Assessments	Percent True
2nd Qtr SFY 2011	7,365	1,648	22%	1,633	668	41%
3rd Qtr SFY 2011	6,329	1,326	21%	1,439	595	41%
4th Qtr SFY 2011	7,535	1,516	20%	1,640	597	36%
1st Qtr SFY 2012	6,557	1,251	19%	1,523	541	36%

³ Source: Child Maltreatment 2007, Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau.

Characteristics of Children in True Maltreatment Reports

As referenced previously, 2,478 victim children were involved in true reports of maltreatment during the first quarter. The table below outlines the demographic information for these victim children.⁴

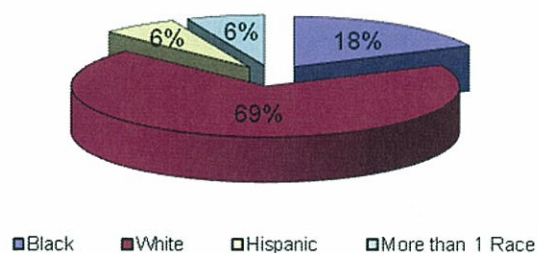
**Table 3: Characteristics of Children in True Maltreatment Reports
1st Quarter SFY 2012**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	96	27	1	0	0	12	12	148
	Male	100	25	0	1	1	7	15	149
2 to 5	Female	222	57	0	1	0	30	24	334
	Male	257	67	0	0	0	25	32	381
6 to 11	Female	272	66	0	1	0	24	26	389
	Male	261	62	1	0	0	24	26	374
12 to 15	Female	225	70	0	0	0	17	9	321
	Male	131	24	0	0	0	11	5	171
16 to 18	Female	93	27	1	0	0	4	8	133
	Male	40	17	1	0	0	2	2	62
18+	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total*		1,697	442	4	3	1	156	159	2,462

*Demographic data have not been entered into CHRIS for 16 children.

Of the children involved in true maltreatment reports, 69 percent were white and 18 percent were black.

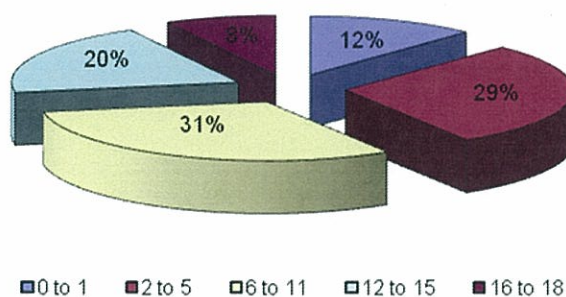
Chart 18a: Race/Ethnicity of Children in True Reports



⁴ Table three, and each subsequent demographic table, divides up "other" races and ethnicities into the following categories: "Hispanic," "More than One Race," "Asian" (includes Indonesian, Cambodian, Hmong and Vietnamese), "AIAN" (includes Native American, Alaskan Native and American Indian) and "NAPI" (includes Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders).

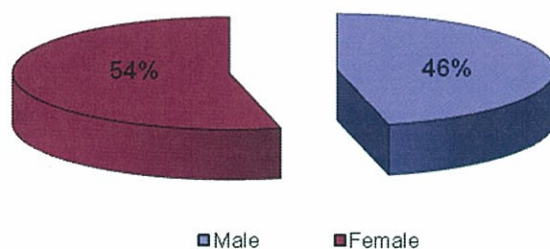
Children ages six to 11 represent the largest group of children involved in true maltreatment reports (31 percent) followed by children ages two to five (29 percent).

Chart 18b: Ages of Children in True Reports



More female children (54 percent) than male children (46 percent) were involved in true maltreatment reports.

Chart 18c: Gender of Children in True Reports



Children Involved in Allegations of True Maltreatment Reports

During the quarter, the majority of the 2,478 children involved in true maltreatment reports were involved in allegations of neglect (84 percent), followed by allegations of physical abuse (42 percent) and sexual abuse (28 percent).⁵

**Table 4: Percentage of Children Involved in True Allegations of Maltreatment
4th Quarter SFY 2011 – 1st Quarter SFY 2012**

	4th Quarter		1st Quarter	
Neglect	2,574	85%	2,088	84%
Physical Abuse	1,163	38%	1,049	42%
Sexual Abuse	764	25%	689	28%

Child Maltreatment Reports Involving Fatalities or Near Fatalities

During the first quarter of SFY 2012, there were seven investigations of a child fatality and six investigations of a near child fatality. A finding of True resulted for six of the 13 incidents, with three investigations unsubstantiated and four pending. Table 5 summarizes the findings of the reports involving the fatality or near fatality of a child. Appendix A provides a summary of each report involving a child fatality and Appendix B provides a summary of those involving a near fatality.

**Table 5: Findings of Maltreatment Reports
Involving Fatalities or Near Fatalities**

Finding	Child Fatality	Near Child Fatality
True	2	4
Unsubstantiated	1	2
Pending	4	0

⁵ The total number of children represented will outnumber the total children involved in true maltreatment reports because a child can be involved in more than one allegation. Therefore, the sum of percentages of children involved in maltreatment reports will be greater than 100 percent.

Part III: Description of Population and Services

Section II: Foster Care

Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

During the first quarter, 4,915 children spent time in foster care. This number includes children who remained in care from previous quarters as well as children who came into care during the quarter. The following table outlines the characteristics of the children who were in care during the quarter.

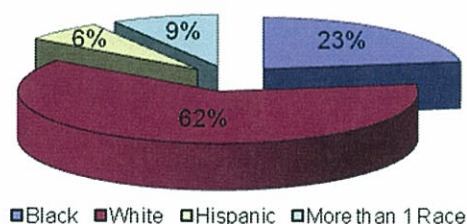
Table 6: Characteristics of Children in Foster Care During the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2012

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	224	77	0	0	0	19	31	351
	Male	265	99	0	1	3	18	33	419
2 to 5	Female	421	110	1	0	1	35	60	628
	Male	412	153	1	1	3	46	53	669
6 to 11	Female	401	125	1	0	1	39	42	609
	Male	401	132	1	0	0	45	81	660
12 to 15	Female	238	85	0	0	0	27	27	377
	Male	223	87	0	1	0	27	35	373
16 to 18	Female	166	66	1	0	0	20	20	273
	Male	149	78	1	1	0	15	15	259
18+	Female	69	51	0	0	0	11	11	142
	Male	78	45	0	0	0	9	11	143
Total*		3,047	1,108	6	4	8	311	419	4,903

*Demographic information have not been entered into CHRIS for 12 children.

The chart below shows that 62 percent of the children in foster care during the quarter were white and 23 percent were black. National data reveal that only 40 percent of the children in the national foster care system were white, while 31 percent of the children were black.⁶

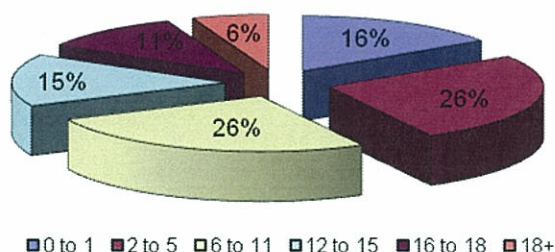
Chart 19a: Race/Ethnicity of Children in Care During the Quarter



⁶ Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) preliminary data submitted for children in foster care between 10/1/2007 and 9/30/2008 as of October 2009.

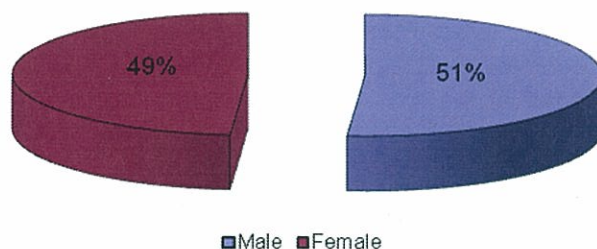
Children ages two to five and six to 11 (26 percent each) make up over half of the children who were in care during the quarter. This pattern was similar to the previous quarter.

Chart 19b: Ages of Children in Foster Care During the Quarter



The following chart shows that 49 percent of the children in foster care during the quarter were female and 51 percent were male. These percentages are also similar to the previous quarter.

Chart 19c: Gender of Children in Foster Care During the Quarter



At the end of the quarter, 4,011 children were in foster care, a decrease from the 4,105 children in care at the end of the previous quarter. The following table outlines the characteristics of the children in foster care at the end of the first quarter.

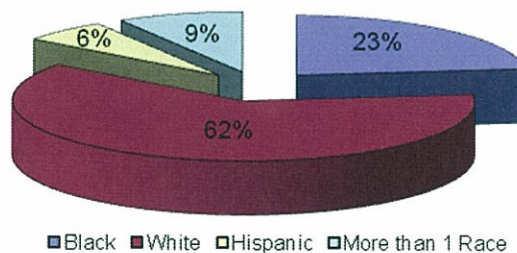
**Table 7: Characteristics of Children in Foster Care at the End of the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2012**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	His-panic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	181	69	0	0	0	14	27	291
	Male	225	79	0	0	3	15	27	349
2 to 5	Female	329	89	1	0	1	27	50	497
	Male	333	123	1	0	2	34	41	534
6 to 11	Female	325	102	0	0	1	28	38	494
	Male	315	102	1	0	0	33	65	516
12 to 15	Female	191	74	0	0	0	22	24	311
	Male	190	76	0	1	0	18	33	318
16 to 18	Female	143	55	0	0	0	19	16	233
	Male	129	74	1	1	0	15	13	233
18+	Female	47	41	0	0	0	8	9	105
	Male	63	39	0	0	0	8	8	118
Total*		2,471	923	4	2	7	241	351	3,999

*Demographic information have not been entered into CHRIS for 12 children.

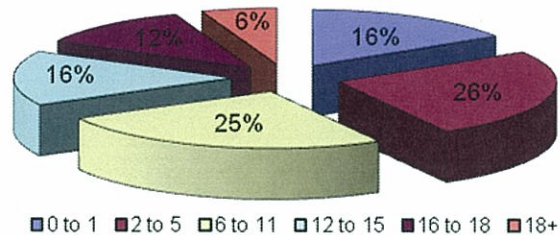
The chart below shows that 62 percent of the children in foster care at the end of the quarter were white, while 23 percent of the children were black. These percentages are consistent with the previous five quarters.

**Chart 20a: Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care
at the End of the Quarter**



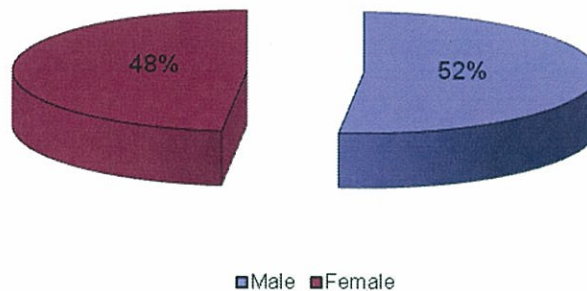
Children between the ages of two and five (26 percent) represent the largest group of children who were in care at the end of the quarter, followed closely by children between the ages of six and 11 (25 percent).

Chart 20b: Ages of Children in Foster Care at the End of the Quarter



Fifty-two percent of the children in foster care at the end of the quarter were male and 48 percent were female.

Chart 20c: Gender of Children in Foster Care at the End of the Quarter



Entries into Foster Care

During the first quarter, 933 children entered foster care, a decrease from the previous quarter (1,011).

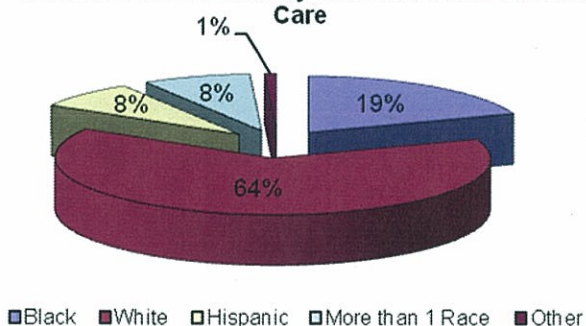
**Table 8: Characteristics of Children Entering Foster Care During the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2012**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	68	18	0	0	0	6	9	101
	Male	78	28	0	1	2	7	11	127
2 to 5	Female	92	19	0	0	0	20	10	141
	Male	88	24	1	0	2	5	3	123
6 to 11	Female	65	19	0	0	1	5	9	99
	Male	73	25	1	0	0	8	13	120
12 to 15	Female	45	13	0	0	0	7	7	72
	Male	46	16	0	0	0	11	3	76
16 to 18	Female	22	12	0	0	0	1	5	40
	Male	19	7	0	0	0	1	5	32
18+	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total*		596	181	2	1	5	71	75	931

*Demographic data have not been entered into CHRIS for two children.

The chart below shows that 64 percent of the children who entered foster care during the quarter were white, while 19 percent were black. National data indicate that 44 percent of the children who enter care are white, 26 percent are black and 20 percent are Hispanic.⁷

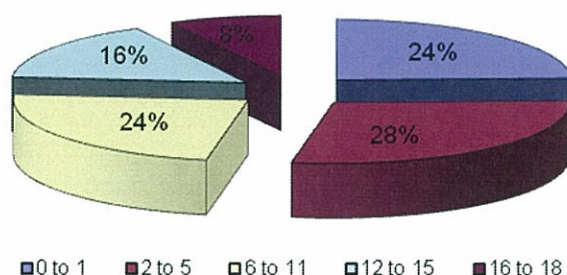
Chart 21a: Race/Ethnicity of Children who Entered Care



⁷ Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) preliminary data submitted for children in foster care between 10/1/2007 and 9/30/2008 as of October 2009.

Over three quarters of the children who entered foster care during the quarter were no older than 11 years of age.

Chart 21b: Ages of Children who Entered Care



Of the 933 children who entered care, 49 percent of the children were female and 51 percent were male.

Chart 21c: Gender of Children who Entered Care

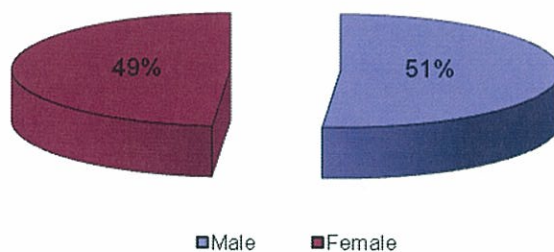


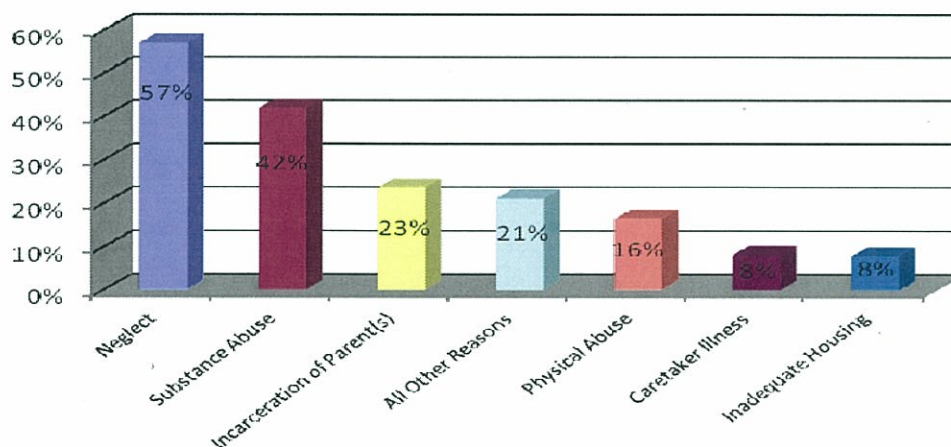
Table 9 displays the reasons for the entry into foster care for the 933 children who entered during the quarter. Neglect and substance abuse⁸ were the most prevalent reasons for the children's entry into care.

**Table 9: Reasons Children Who Entered Foster Care During the Quarter
Were Placed in Foster Care
1st Quarter SFY 2012**

Placement Reason	0 to 1	2 to 5	6 to 11	12 to 15	16 to 18	18+	Total
Neglect	115	163	132	83	39	0	532
Substance Abuse	106	127	89	48	21	0	391
Parent Incarceration	43	67	57	35	17	0	219
Physical Abuse	32	34	40	35	12	0	153
Child's Behavior	0	0	6	21	13	0	40
Abandonment	4	9	10	18	8	0	49
Inadequate Housing	15	22	16	11	9	0	73
Caretaker Illness	17	17	21	12	8	0	75
Sexual Abuse	4	14	21	15	4	0	58
Truancy	0	0	3	4	8	0	15
Child's Disability	3	0	0	2	0	0	5
Parent Death	0	0	3	1	0	0	4
Sex Offender	0	0	2	2	1	0	5
Relinquishment	0	0	0	2	3	0	5
Adoption	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Managed Mental Health	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	4	2	0	6
Teen Parent in Care	6	2	0	0	2	0	10
Total*	345	455	400	293	147	0	1,640

*There are more reasons for entry than children who entered care because a child may have more than one reason for entry.

**Chart 22: Reasons Children Who Entered Care During the Quarter
were Placed in Foster Care**



⁸ Of the 391 reasons for entry attributed to substance abuse, substance abuse by children accounted for seven reasons for entry (2 percent), while substance abuse by parents accounted for 384 reasons for entry (98 percent).

Exits from Foster Care

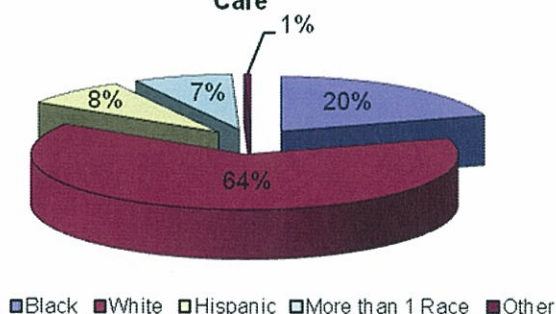
During the quarter, 924 children left foster care, which was a decrease from the previous quarter (1,063).

**Table 10: Characteristics of Children Exiting Foster Care During the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2012**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	44	9	0	0	0	5	4	62
	Male	41	20	0	1	0	3	6	71
2 to 5	Female	94	21	0	0	0	10	11	136
	Male	82	32	0	1	1	12	12	140
6 to 11	Female	79	23	1	0	0	11	4	118
	Male	86	29	0	0	0	13	16	144
12 to 15	Female	47	11	0	0	0	5	3	66
	Male	34	11	0	0	0	9	2	56
16 to 18	Female	38	17	1	0	0	3	5	64
	Male	30	8	0	0	0	1	5	44
18+	Female	8	4	0	0	0	1	1	14
	Male	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	9
Total*		590	187	2	2	1	73	69	924

Of the children who exited foster care, 64 percent were white and 20 percent were black. National data indicate that 44 percent of the children who leave foster care are white and 26 percent are black.⁹

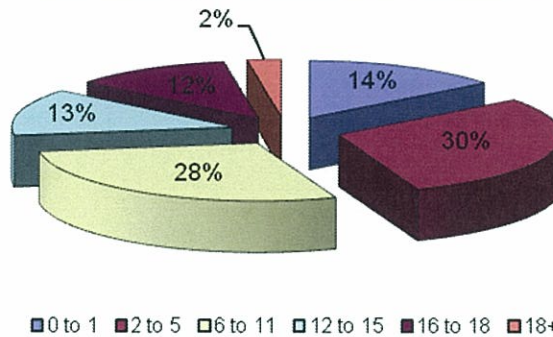
Chart 23a: Race/Ethnicity of Children who Exited Care



⁹ Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) preliminary data submitted for children in foster care between 10/1/2007 and 9/30/2008 as of October 2009.

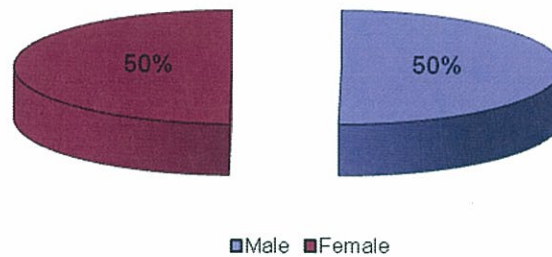
Children between the ages of two and 11 make up nearly three-fifths of the children who left foster care during the quarter.

Chart 23b: Ages of Children who Exited Care



The same percentage of female (50 percent) children exited foster care during the quarter as male (50 percent) children.

Chart 23c: Gender of Children who Exited Care

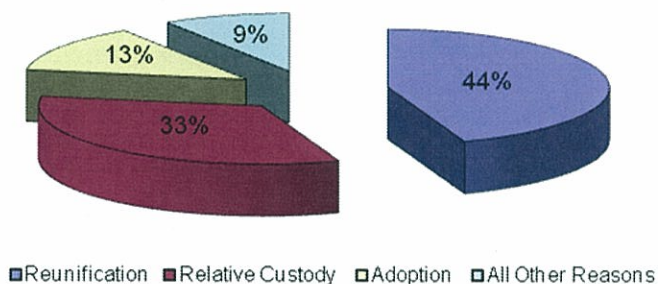


**Table 11: Reasons Children Exited Foster Care by Age
1st Quarter SFY 2012**

Reason	Age						Total
	0 to 1	2 to 5	6 to 11	12 to 15	16 to 18	18+	
Reunification	67	119	122	71	31	0	410
Relative Custody	39	101	101	36	30	0	307
Adoption	26	49	35	9	3	0	122
Child Aged Out	0	0	0	0	39	23	62
Non-Relative Custody	0	7	4	5	5	0	21
Custody Transfer	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Tribal Jurisdiction	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total*	133	276	262	122	108	23	924

The most prevalent reason that children left foster care during the quarter was reunification (44 percent). The second leading reason was relative custody (33 percent). National data indicate that the three most prevalent reasons children leave care are reunification (52 percent), adoption (19 percent) and relative care (8 percent).¹⁰ In addition to the percentage of Arkansas' children exiting to reunification being lower than that seen nationally, the percentage exiting to adoption (13 percent) is also lower; however, Arkansas has a significantly higher proportion of children exiting to relative custody.

Chart 24: Most Prevalent Reasons Children Left Care



¹⁰ Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) preliminary data submitted for children in foster care between 10/1/2007 and 9/30/2008 as of October 2009.

Permanency Goals of Children in Foster Care

The Division maintains two primary goals for children in foster care: safety and permanency. The second of these concerns is expressed by setting a permanency goal for each child in foster care within 30 days of the child entering care. Of the 4,011 children in foster care at the end of the quarter, 3,759 children had been in care for at least 30 days. Reunification (returning home) remained the most prevalent goal among children in foster care at 54 percent.

**Table 12: Permanency Goals of Children in Foster Care
4th Quarter SFY 2011 – 1st Quarter SFY 2012**

	4th Quarter		1st Quarter		National ¹¹
Return Home	2,129	55%	2,044	54%	49%
Adoption	777	20%	800	21%	24%
APPLA	464	12%	449	12%	N/A
Relative Care	110	3%	108	3%	4%
Guardianship	25	1%	29	1%	4%
Emancipation	0	0%	0	0%	6%
Long Term Care	0	0%	0	0%	8%
Not Yet Established	343	9%	329	9%	5%
Total	3,848	100%	3,759	100%	100%

*Sum of individual percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

¹¹ Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) preliminary data submitted for children in foster care between 10/1/2007 and 9/30/2008 as of October 2009.

Length of Stay of Children in Foster Care

The children in foster care anytime during the quarter were less likely to have longer stays in care when placed with a relative (34 percent) as compared to non-relative foster care (47 percent).

**Table 13a: Length of Stay of Children in Foster Care (Including Relative Care)
1st Quarter SFY 2012**

	Number	Percentage	National
Less than 30 days	447	9%	5%
30-90 Days	556	11%	20%
3-6 Months	660	13%	
6-12 Months	1,027	21%	17%
12-24 Months	1,067	22%	23%
24-36 Months	484	10%	12%
36+ Months	674	14%	24%
Total	4,915	100%	100%

**Table 13b: Length of Stay in Foster Care of Children in Relative Care
1st Quarter SFY 2012**

	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 days	18	2%
30-90 Days	87	11%
3-6 Months	178	22%
6-12 Months	249	31%
12-24 Months	178	22%
24-36 Months	78	10%
36+ Months	19	2%
Total*	807	100%

Number of Placements of Children in Foster Care

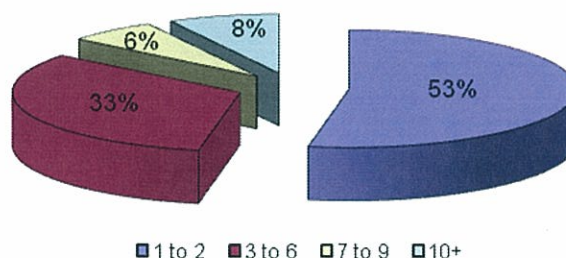
Overall, 53 percent of the children in care at the end of the first quarter experienced two or fewer placements. The result is similar to that of the previous quarter. It is not surprising that the likelihood of multiple placements increases the longer children remain in foster care.

**Table 14: Number of Placements of Children in Foster Care
1st Quarter SFY 2012**

	Children in FC Less Than 12 Months		Children in FC 12 and 24 Months		Children in FC More Than 24 Months		Total	
1-2 Placements	1,537	73%	374	43%	197	19%	2,108	53%
3-6 Placements	540	26%	387	44%	397	39%	1,324	33%
7-9 Placements	29	1%	91	10%	140	14%	260	6%
10+ Placements	6	0%	19	2%	294	29%	319	8%
Total*	2,112	100%	871	100%	1,028	100%	4,011	100%

*Sum of individual percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

**Chart 25: Number of Placements for Children in
Care at the End of the Quarter**



Characteristics of Children who Experienced Three or More Placements

At the end of the first quarter, 4,011 children were in foster care. Of those, 1,903 children (47 percent) experienced three or more placements while in care.

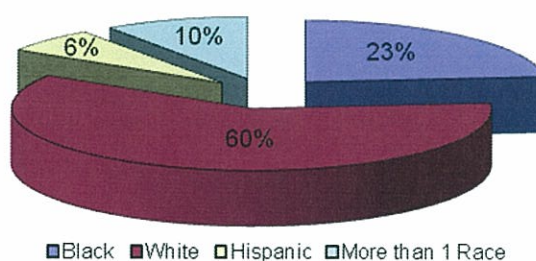
**Table 15: Characteristics of Children who Experienced Three or More Placements
1st Quarter SFY 2012**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	His-panic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	30	15	0	0	0	5	4	54
	Male	54	17	0	0	0	4	7	82
2 to 5	Female	123	32	0	0	0	9	25	189
	Male	152	41	0	0	0	13	24	230
6 to 11	Female	151	46	0	0	0	17	18	232
	Male	165	52	0	0	0	16	36	269
12 to 15	Female	108	42	0	0	0	12	14	176
	Male	123	54	0	1	0	13	24	215
16 to 18	Female	102	53	0	0	0	16	13	184
	Male	104	75	1	1	0	14	14	209
18+	Female	11	7	0	0	0	2	4	24
	Male	21	11	0	0	0	0	2	34
Total*		1,144	445	1	2	0	121	185	1,898

*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for five children.

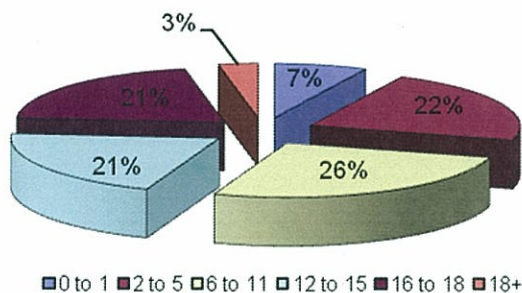
Of the children who experienced three or more placements, 60 percent were white and 23 percent were black.

Chart 26a: Race/Ethnicity of Children who Experienced Three or More Placements



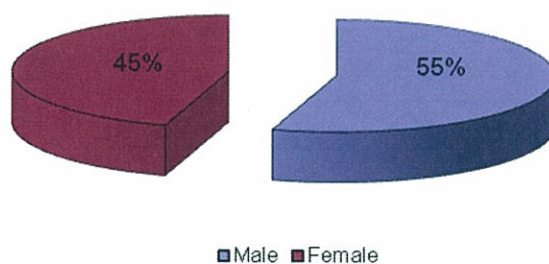
Children between the ages of six and 11 (26 percent) represented the largest group of children who experienced three or more placements followed by children ages two to five (22 percent) and 0 to one (21 percent).

Chart 26b: Ages of Children who Experienced Three or More Placements



More male children (55 percent) than female children (45 percent) experienced three or more placements.

Chart 26c: Gender of Children who Experienced Three or More Placements



Current Placement of Children in Foster Care

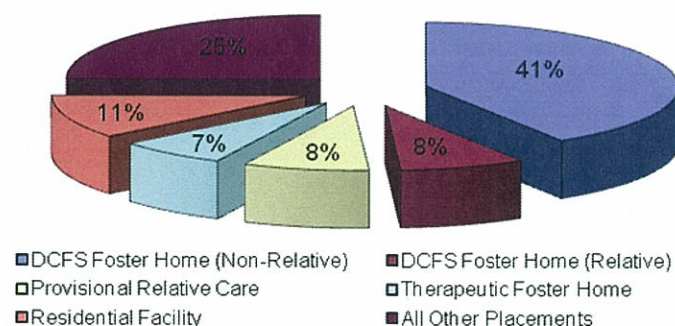
Forty-nine percent of the children in foster care at the end of the first quarter were placed in either a non-relative or relative DCFS foster home.

Table 16: Current Placement of Children in Foster Care at the End of the Quarter

Placement	Age						Total
	0 to 1	2 to 5	6 to 11	12 to 15	16 to 18	Over 18	
DCFS Foster Home (Non-Relative)	414	573	370	154	108	36	1,655
DCFS Foster Home (Relative)	43	113	108	30	18	6	318
Provisional Relative Care	88	102	91	37	7	3	328
Therapeutic Foster Home	3	40	125	88	25	5	286
Pre-Adoptive Home (Non-Relative)	30	70	46	13	2	0	161
Pre-Adoptive Home (Relative)	0	5	5	5	1	0	16
Emergency Shelter	6	17	50	36	21	2	132
Residential Facility	11	31	90	132	132	50	446
Youth Services	0	0	0	3	12	1	16
Runaway	0	0	1	7	25	3	36
Trial Home Visit	33	58	50	18	12	1	172
Hospital/Medical	4	2	4	7	9	0	26
ASAP CRT	0	0	2	4	6	0	12
Independent Living	0	0	0	3	7	109	119
Incarceration	0	0	0	6	6	3	15
Temporary Placement	9	23	29	22	8	0	91
Sub-Acute CRT	0	0	36	53	48	0	137
Acute CRT	0	0	4	4	4	1	13
ASAP Residential Treatment	0	0	0	1	7	2	10
ASAP Therapeutic Foster Care	0	0	0	3	7	2	12
DDS Placement	0	0	1	3	1	0	5
DYS Aftercare	0	0	1	2	1	0	4
Unknown*	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	641	1,035	1,013	631	467	224	4,011

*Unknown due to missing placement types.

Chart 27: Current Placement of Children in Foster Care

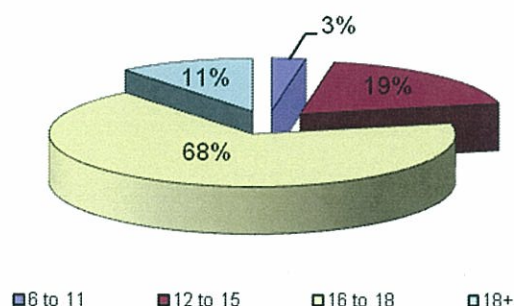


Characteristics of Children on Runaway Status at the End of the Quarter

Thirty-seven children were on runaway status at the end of the fourth quarter. This is a decrease from the previous quarter (46).

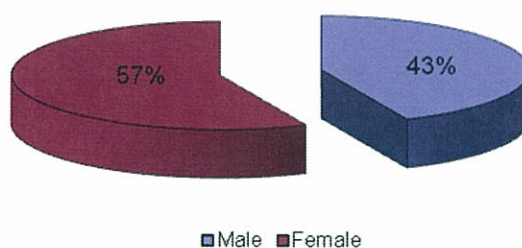
The majority of the children on runaway status (68 percent) were between the ages of 16 and 18.

Chart 28a: Ages of Children on Runaway Status at the End of the Quarter



More female children (57 percent) than male children (43 percent) were on runaway status at the end of the quarter. These percentages were the same as the previous quarter.

Chart 28b: Gender of Children on Runaway Status at the End of the Quarter



Characteristics of Children in Relative Care

During the first quarter, 807 children were placed in relative care,¹² a decrease from the previous quarter (822). This number includes children who remained in relative care from previous quarters as well as children who came into relative care during the current quarter. The following table outlines the characteristics of children residing in relative care.

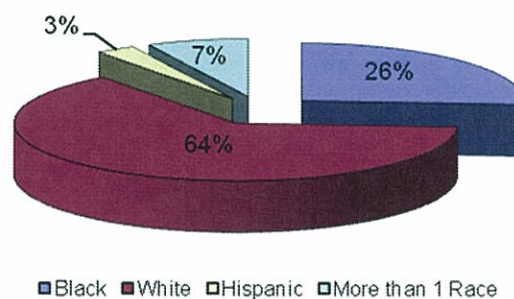
**Table 17: Characteristics of Children in Relative Care
1st Quarter SFY 2012**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	47	14	0	0	0	3	11	75
	Male	49	25	0	0	0	1	4	79
2 to 5	Female	95	32	0	0	1	2	12	142
	Male	92	30	0	0	0	1	16	139
6 to 11	Female	85	32	0	0	0	3	2	122
	Male	76	36	0	0	0	4	11	127
12 to 15	Female	30	10	0	0	0	2	2	44
	Male	18	14	0	0	0	2	2	36
16 to 18	Female	12	5	0	0	0	1	0	18
	Male	7	10	0	0	0	4	0	21
18+	Female	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Male	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total*		513	209	0	0	1	23	60	806

*Demographic data have not been entered into CHRIS for one child.

White children represent the highest percentage of children in relative care during the first quarter (64 percent).

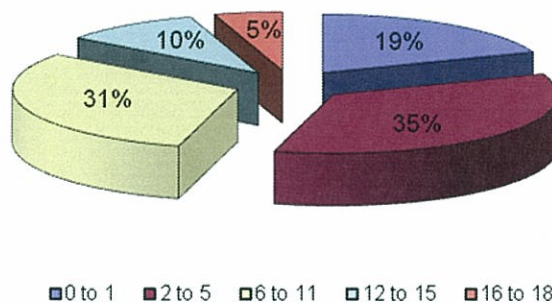
Chart 29a: Race/Ethnicity of Children in Relative Care



¹² Relative care includes both Provisional (Relative) placements and Licensed Foster Family Homes who served relative children during the quarter.

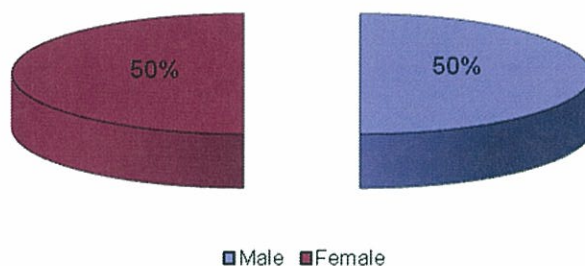
Children between the ages of two and five (35 percent) represent the largest age group of children in relative care, followed by children between the ages of six and 11 (31 percent).

Chart 29b: Ages of Children in Relative Care



Fifty percent of the children in relative care were male and 50 percent were female.

Chart 29c: Gender of Children in Relative Care



Part III: Description of Population and Services
Section III: Adoption

Characteristics of Children with a Permanency Goal of Adoption at the End of the Quarter

There were 800 children in care at the end of the quarter with a permanency goal of adoption. The table below outlines those children's characteristics.

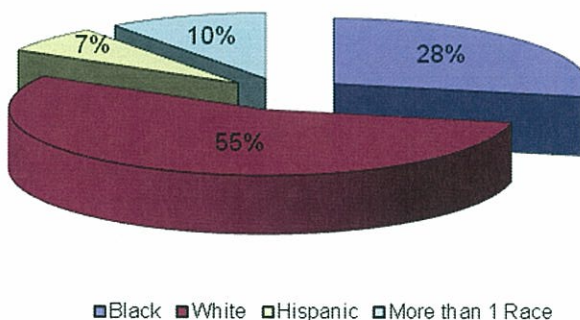
Table 18: Characteristics of Children with a Permanency Goal of Adoption at the End of the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2012

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	18	9	0	0	0	2	3	32
	Male	29	9	0	0	0	2	4	44
2 to 5	Female	58	21	1	0	0	5	12	97
	Male	61	28	0	0	0	7	11	107
6 to 11	Female	69	39	0	0	0	4	12	124
	Male	78	35	0	0	0	9	16	138
12 to 15	Female	50	30	0	0	0	9	6	95
	Male	44	28	0	0	0	8	13	93
16 to 18	Female	15	14	0	0	0	3	2	34
	Male	17	10	0	0	0	2	2	31
18+	Female	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Male	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Total*		441	224	1	0	0	52	81	799

*Demographic data have not been entered into CHRIS for one child.

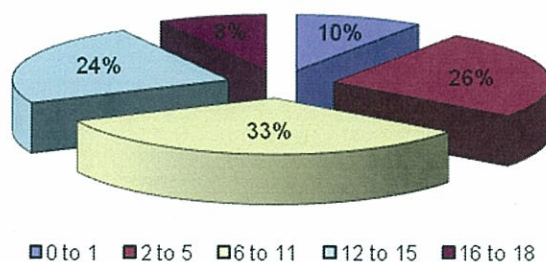
Of the children in care with a permanency goal of adoption at the end of the quarter, 55 percent were white, 28 percent were black, and 10 percent were multiracial. These percentages are similar to the previous quarter.

Chart 30a: Race/Ethnicity of Children with a Permanency Goal of Adoption During the Quarter



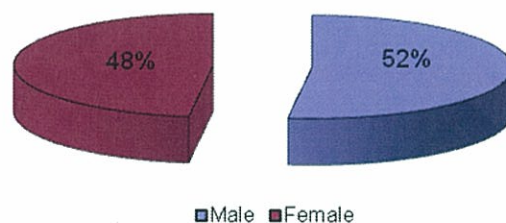
Children between the ages of six and 11 (33 percent) continue to represent the largest age group with a permanency goal of adoption.

Chart 30b: Ages of Children with a Permanency Goal of Adoption During the Quarter



More male children (52 percent) than female children (48 percent) had a permanency goal of adoption, similar to the previous quarter.

Chart 30c: Gender of Children with a Permanency Goal of Adoption During the Quarter



Characteristics of Children whose Parents have had Parental Rights Terminated at the end of the Quarter

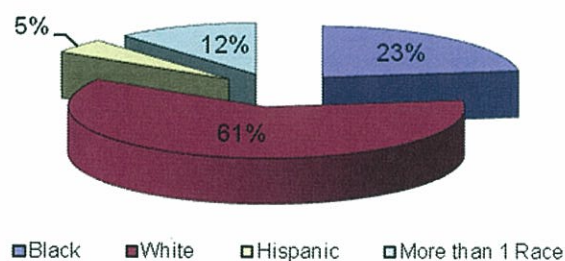
There were 562 children whose parents had their parental rights terminated¹³ as of the end of the first quarter. The table below outlines the characteristics of those children.

**Table 19: Characteristics of Children whose Parents have had Parental Rights Terminated at the end of the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2012**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	12	1	0	0	0	0	1	14
	Male	16	5	0	0	0	1	0	22
2 to 5	Female	40	8	0	0	0	2	10	60
	Male	37	17	0	0	0	2	8	64
6 to 11	Female	54	19	0	0	0	0	7	80
	Male	46	20	0	0	0	9	17	92
12 to 15	Female	39	16	0	0	0	2	6	63
	Male	46	21	0	0	0	4	11	82
16 to 18	Female	18	9	0	0	0	1	1	29
	Male	26	9	1	0	0	1	2	39
18+	Female	5	1	0	0	0	1	1	8
	Male	3	2	0	0	0	3	1	9
Total		342	128	1	0	0	26	65	562

Sixty-one percent of the children whose parents had their parental rights terminated at the end of the quarter were white, 23 percent were black, five percent were Hispanic, and 12 percent were multiracial.

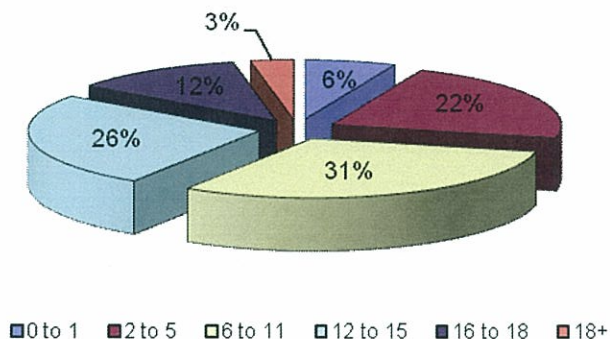
Chart 31a: Race/Ethnicity of Children whose Parents have had Parental Rights Terminated



¹³ Both parents' parental rights must be terminated for the child to be counted.

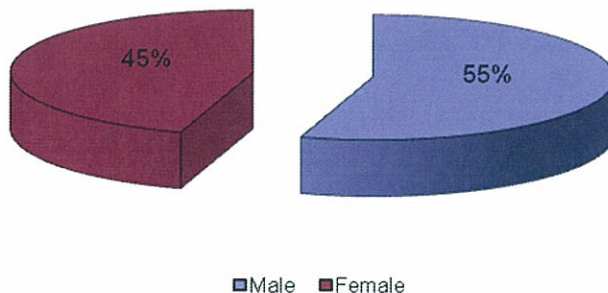
Children between the ages of six and 11 (32 percent) represent the largest group of children whose parents' parental rights were terminated followed by those between the ages of 12 and 15 years of age (26 percent).

Chart 31b: Ages of Children whose Parents have had Parental Rights Terminated



Of the children whose parents' rights were terminated, 55 percent were male and 45 percent were female.

Chart 31c: Gender of Children whose Parents have had Parental Rights Terminated



Characteristics of Children Available for Adoption at the End of the Quarter

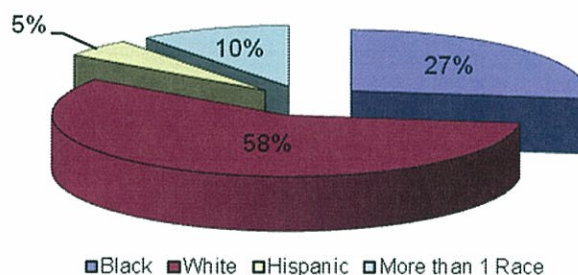
At the end of the fourth quarter, 394 children were available for adoption.¹⁴ Demographic information for children available for adoption, shown in the table below, is very similar to previous quarters.

**Table 20: Characteristics of Children Available for Adoption at the End of the Quarter
1st Quarter SFY 2012**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	9
	Male	11	3	0	0	0	1	0	15
2 to 5	Female	28	8	0	0	0	2	7	45
	Male	22	17	0	0	0	2	6	47
6 to 11	Female	35	19	0	0	0	0	4	58
	Male	35	18	0	0	0	8	8	69
12 to 15	Female	34	13	0	0	0	2	5	54
	Male	31	17	0	0	0	4	9	61
16 to 18	Female	11	5	0	0	0	0	0	16
	Male	13	5	0	0	0	0	2	20
Total		228	106	0	0	0	19	41	394

Of the children available for adoption, 58 percent were white and 27 percent were black.

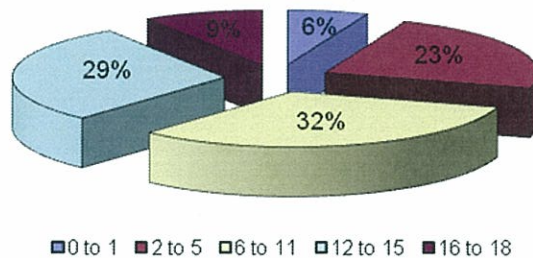
Chart 32a: Race/Ethnicity of Children Available for Adoption at the End of the Quarter



¹⁴ Children available for adoption are defined as children who have two TPR's and a goal of adoption.

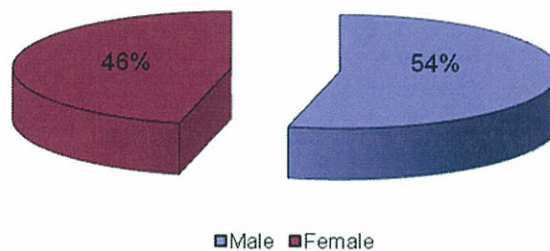
More of the children available for adoption at the end of the quarter were between the ages of six and 11 (32 percent) in comparison to any other age group.

Chart 32b: Ages of Children Available for Adoption at the End of the Quarter



More male children (54 percent) than female children (46 percent) were available for adoption.

Chart 32c: Gender of Children Available for Adoption at the End of the Quarter



Current Placements of Children Available for Adoption

More children who were available for adoption at the end of the first quarter were placed in DCFS foster homes (36 percent) than in any other type of placement, followed by placement in therapeutic foster homes (22 percent). These results are similar to the previous quarter.

**Table 21: Current Placements of Children Available for Adoption
1st Quarter SFY 2012**

Placement	Number of Children	Percentage*
DCFS Foster Home	143	36%
Pre-Adoptive Home	59	15%
Therapeutic Foster Home	85	22%
Residential Facility	59	15%
Hospital/Medical	6	2%
Emergency Shelter	4	1%
Temporary Placement	4	1%
Sub-Acute CRT	22	6%
ASAP Therapeutic Foster Care	3	0.8%
Youth Services	1	0.3%
Acute CRT	2	0.5%
ILP Sponsor	4	1%
DDS Placement	2	0.5%
Total*	394	100%

*The sum of individual percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Characteristics of Children in Pre-adoptive Placements

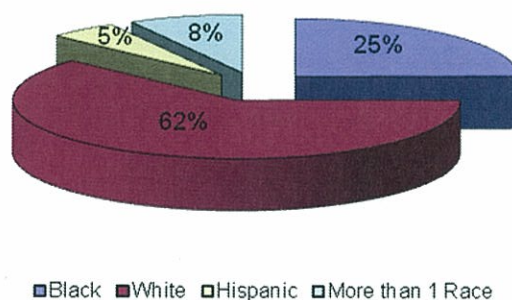
During the first quarter, 121 children were in pre-adoptive homes. This number includes children who entered a pre-adoptive home during previous quarters as well as children who were newly placed in a pre-adoptive home during the current quarter.

**Table 22: Characteristics of Children in Pre-adoptive Placements
1st Quarter SFY 2012**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	8	1	0	0	0	0	1	10
	Male	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	9
2 to 5	Female	12	6	0	0	0	1	3	22
	Male	10	11	0	0	0	0	2	23
6 to 11	Female	18	5	0	0	0	1	1	25
	Male	10	1	0	0	0	3	3	17
12 to 15	Female	5	1	0	0	0	1	0	7
	Male	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
16 to 18	Female	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Male	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total		75	30	0	0	0	6	10	121

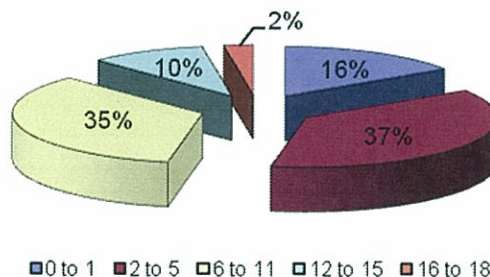
Of the children in pre-adoptive homes during the quarter, 62 percent were white and 25 percent were black.

Chart 33a: Race/Ethnicity of Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes During the Quarter



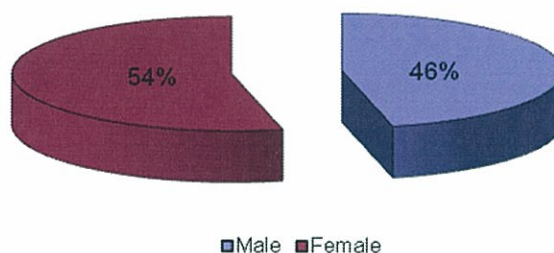
Children between the ages of two and five (37 percent) represent the largest age group of children placed in pre-adoptive homes followed by those between six and 11 years of age.

33b: Ages of Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes During the Quarter



Fifty-four percent of the children in pre-adoptive homes were female and 46 percent were male.

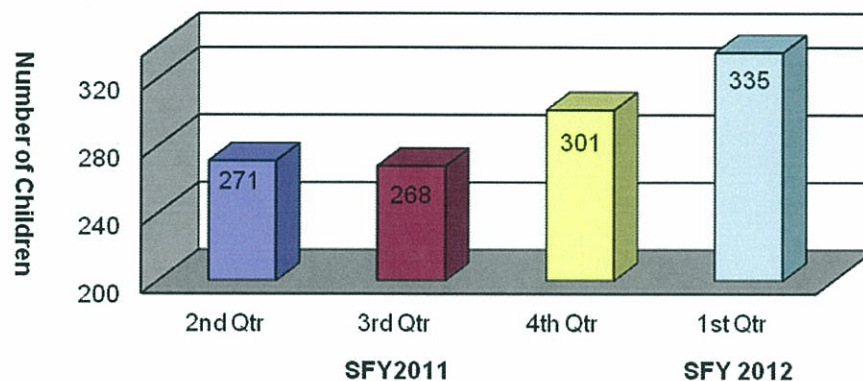
33c: Gender of Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes During the Quarter



Children not Placed in Pre-Adoptive Homes who are Available for Adoption

At the end of the quarter, there were 335 children who were available for adoption but who were not placed in pre-adoptive homes, an increase from the previous quarter (301). This statistic was derived by subtracting the number of children placed in pre-adoptive homes at the end of the quarter (59) from the number of children available for adoption at the end of the quarter (394).

Chart 34: Children not Placed in Pre-Adoptive Homes who are Available for Adoption



Children with Special Needs

Children with special needs are defined as:

- Caucasian and over the age of nine;
- African- American and two years of age or older;
- Members of a sibling group;
- Children who have severe medical or psychological needs that require ongoing treatment; or
- Children at high risk for the development of serious physical, mental or emotional conditions where documentation is provided by a medical professional specializing in the area of the condition for which the child is considered at risk.

During the first quarter, 66 children with special needs were in pre-adoptive placements.¹⁵

**Table 23: Children with Special Needs who were Placed in Pre-Adoptive Homes
1st Quarter SFY 2012**

Special Needs Condition	Number of Children
Race	66
Age	55
Member of sibling group	29

Characteristics of Children with Finalized Adoptions

During the quarter, 120 children had their adoptions finalized, a decrease from the previous quarter (177). The following table outlines the characteristics of the children with finalized adoptions.

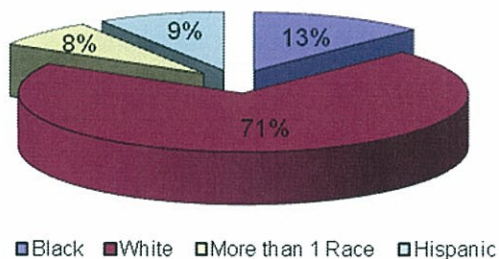
¹⁵ This number does not take into account children with severe medical and psychological needs. As enhancements are made to the data system to capture this information, it will be provided in future reports.

**Table 24: Characteristics of Children with Finalized Adoptions
1st Quarter SFY 2012**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	10	2	0	0	0	1	3	16
	Male	6	1	0	0	0	0	2	9
2 to 5	Female	14	5	0	0	0	1	1	21
	Male	16	5	0	0	0	4	3	28
6 to 11	Female	13	0	0	0	0	1	0	14
	Male	16	2	0	0	0	2	0	20
12 to 15	Female	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	5
	Male	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
16 to 18	Female	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Male	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total		85	15	0	0	0	11	9	120

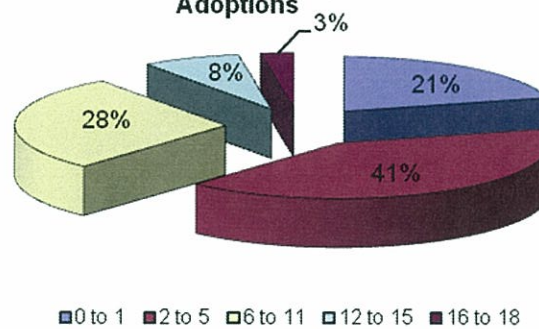
Of the 120 finalized adoptions during the first quarter, 71 percent of the adopted children were white and 13 percent were black.

Chart 35a: Race/Ethnicity of Children with Finalized Adoptions



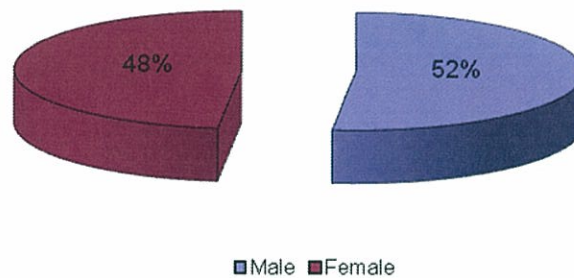
Children between the ages of two and five (41 percent) represented the largest age group of children whose adoptions were finalized during the quarter.

Chart 35b: Ages of Children with Finalized Adoptions



Of the children whose adoptions were finalized during the quarter, 52 percent were male and 48 percent were female.

Chart 35c: Gender of Children with Finalized Adoptions



Subsidized Adoptions

During the first quarter, 101 children began receiving adoption subsidies. Of those, 71 children received federally-funded subsidies and 30 received state-funded subsidies.

Characteristics of Children who Received Adoption Subsidies

During the first quarter, 4,410 children received adoption subsidies. The following table outlines the demographics of those children.

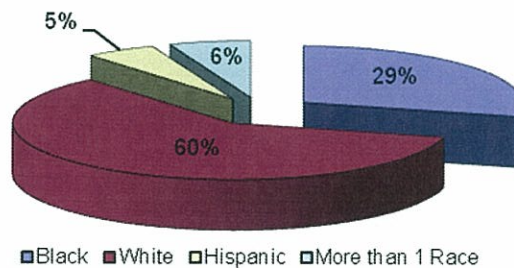
**Table 25: Characteristics of Children Receiving Adoption Subsidies
1st Quarter SFY 2012**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	18	5	0	0	0	3	4	30
	Male	20	9	0	0	0	1	2	32
2 to 5	Female	268	102	1	3	0	23	41	438
	Male	255	115	1	1	0	28	37	437
6 to 11	Female	492	233	3	0	0	51	64	843
	Male	531	247	4	2	1	58	52	895
12 to 15	Female	318	193	1	4	0	24	26	566
	Male	342	154	0	0	1	25	15	537
16 to 18	Female	144	85	0	0	0	9	9	247
	Male	148	81	0	1	0	2	10	242
18+	Female	37	19	0	0	0	3	2	61
	Male	49	20	0	0	0	0	1	70
Total*		2,622	1,263	10	11	2	227	263	4,398

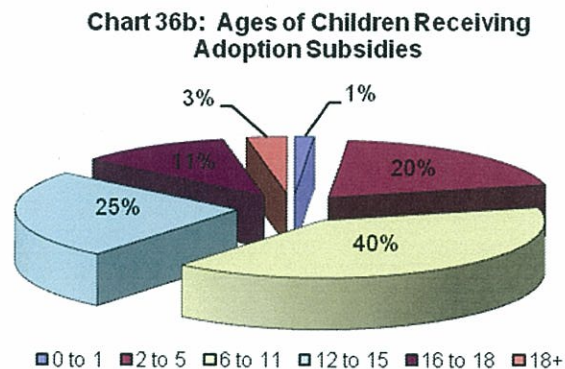
*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for 12 children.

Sixty percent of the children who received adoption subsidies were white and 29 percent were black, similar to the previous quarter.

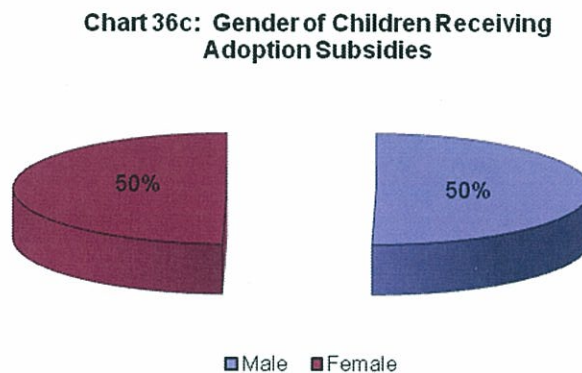
Chart 36a: Race/Ethnicity of Children Receiving Adoption Subsidies



The majority of the children receiving adoption subsidies during the quarter were between the ages of six and 11 (40 percent).



The gender distribution of the children was even.



Pre-Adoptive Homes

At the beginning of the first quarter, 696 pre-adoptive homes were available; by the end of the quarter, 612 pre-adoptive homes were available. Sixty percent of the homes available at the end of the quarter were approved to also serve as foster homes.

**Table 26: Pre-Adoptive Homes
1st Quarter SFY 2012**

	Total Adoptive Homes	Non-Foster Adoptive Homes	Foster Adoptive Homes
Homes available for children at beginning of quarter	696	287	409
Newly available homes	92	41	51
Homes that had children placed during the quarter	91	34	57
Homes that experienced a disruption	1	0	1
Homes that closed without a placement	86	52	34
Homes available at the end of the quarter	612	242	370

Appendix A: Child Fatality

True Fatality Reports

Child	County	Age	Race	Gender	Date of Death	Allegations or Preliminary Cause of Death	Placement at the Time of Incident	Relationship of Alleged Offender to the Child	Agency Conducting the Investigation	Legal Action By the Department	Services Provided Prior to the Incident	Services Provided After the Incident
Cali Marie Casey	Pulaski	<1	White	Female	8/27/2011	Inadequate Supervision	In-Home	Family Member	CACD	None	None	FC Case
Antonio Campbell	Pulaski	0	Black	Male	8/16/2011	Poison/ Noxious Substances	In-Home	Family Member	CACD	None	None	FC Case

Unsubstantiated Fatality Reports

Child	County	Age	Race	Gender	Date of Death	Allegations or Preliminary Cause of Death	Placement at the Time of Incident	Relationship of Alleged Offender to the Child	Agency Conducting the Investigation	Legal Action By the Department	Services Provided Prior to the Incident	Services Provided After the Incident
James Dowling	Franklin	4	White	Male	8/12/2011	Inadequate Supervision	In-Home	Family Member	CACD	None	Prior FC Case	None

Pending Fatality Reports

Child	County	Age	Race	Gender	Date of Death	Allegations or Preliminary Cause of Death	Placement at the Time of Incident	Relationship of Alleged Offender to the Child	Agency Conducting the Investigation	Legal Action By the Department	Services Provided Prior to the Incident	Services Provided After the Incident
Austin Harris	White	2	White	Male	7/18/2011	Physical Abuse	In-Home	Unknown	CACD	None	None	None
Cherish Samuels	Union	1	Multi-Ethnic	Female	8/9/2011	Physical Abuse/ Inadequate Supervision	In-Home	Unknown	CACD	None	Prior Investigation/ Prior PS Case	FC Case
Addison Holt	Baxter	1	White	Female	9/11/2011	Inadequate Supervision	In-Home	Family Member	CACD	None	None	None
Karsen Strickland	Pike	2	White	Male	9/12/2011	Physical Abuse	In-Home	Unknown	CACD	None	Prior PS Case	FC Case

Appendix B: Near Fatality

True Near Fatality Reports

Child	County	Age	Race	Gender	Date of Near Fatality	Allegations or Preliminary Cause of Near Fatality	Placement at the Time of Incident	Relationship of Alleged Offender to the Child	Agency Conducting the Investigation	Legal Action By the Department	Services Provided Prior to the Incident	Services Provided After the Incident
Child #1	Benton	10	White	Male	7/17/2011	Inadequate Supervision	In-Home	Family Member	DCFS	None	None	None
Child #2	Crittenden	3	Black	Male	7/28/2011	Inadequate Supervision	In-Home	Family Member	DCFS	None	None	None
Child #3	Crittenden	2	Black	Male	7/28/2011	Inadequate Supervision	In-Home	Family Member	DCFS	None	None	PS Case
Child #4	Hempstead	1	White	Female	8/1/2011	Inadequate Supervision	In-Home	Family Member	DCFS	Children Removed	None	FC Case

Unsubstantiated Near Fatality Reports

Child	County	Age	Race	Gender	Date of Near Fatality	Allegations or Preliminary Cause of Near Fatality	Placement at the Time of Incident	Relationship of Alleged Offender to the Child	Agency Conducting the Investigation	Legal Action By the Department	Services Provided Prior to the Incident	Services Provided After the Incident
Child #1	Craighead	1	White	Male	8/25/2011	Inadequate Supervision	In-Home	Family Member	DCFS	None	None	None
Child #2	Washington	5	White	Male	9/17/2011	Inadequate Supervision	In-Home	Family Member	DCFS	None	None	None

Pending Near Fatality Reports

There were no pending near child fatality reports during the first quarter of SFY 2012.

Appendix C: Fatalities of Children in Foster Care Who Did Not Receive a Maltreatment Investigation

There were no foster child fatalities which did not receive a maltreatment investigation during first quarter of SFY 2012.

Appendix D: Summary of Foster Care Maltreatment Reports

Foster Care Maltreatment Reports

Characteristics of Children in Foster Care Involved in Allegations of Maltreatment First Quarter SFY 2012

One hundred and eleven reports of alleged maltreatment, involving 116 children in foster care,¹⁶ were received by the hotline during the first quarter of SYF 2012.

In 36 reports involving 48 children, foster parents¹⁷ were identified as the alleged offenders. As displayed by the following chart, only six of those reports were found to be true. All six homes were subsequently closed.

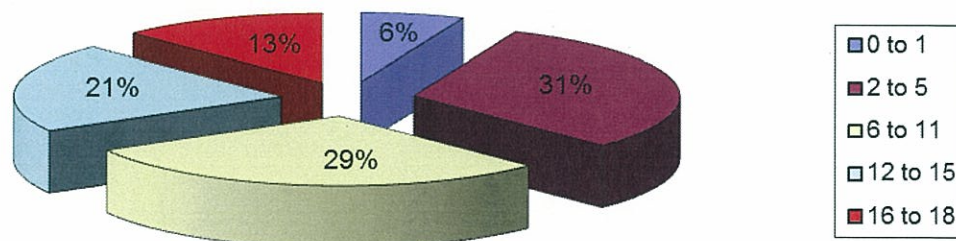
Foster Home Maltreatment Reports First Quarter SFY 2012

True	Unsubstantiated	Pending
6	30	0

All allegations of maltreatment concerning foster homes are investigated by the Crimes Against Children Division (CACD) of the Arkansas State Police. DCFS staff do not actively participate in the investigation of these reports. Allegations of maltreatment regarding foster homes require the agency to assess the safety of all children residing in the home.

The following charts describe the characteristics of the 48 foster children involved in allegations of maltreatment—with foster parents as the alleged offenders.

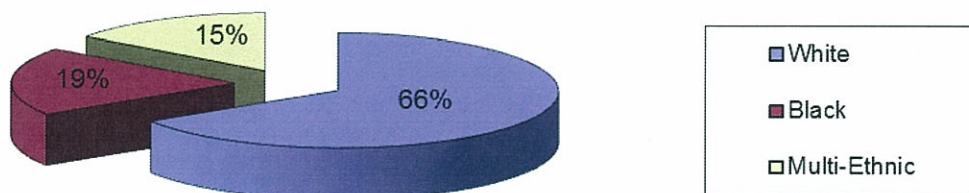
Reports by Age



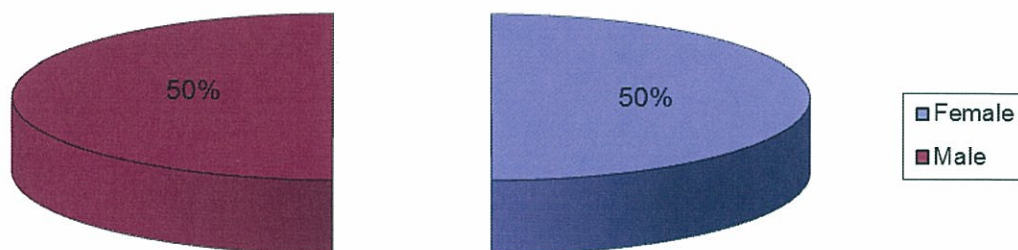
¹⁶ A maltreatment report can include more than one child.

¹⁷ This includes foster family homes and therapeutic foster homes

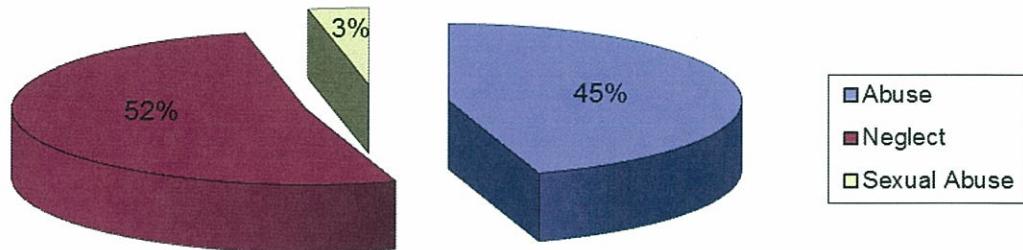
Reports by Race



Reports by Gender



Reports by Allegation



County

County	Number of Children Involved in Maltreatment Report	County	Number of Children Involved in Maltreatment Report
Benton	6	Cleveland	1
Pulaski	6	Drew	1
Washington	4	Faulkner	1
Craighead	4	Jefferson	1
White	4	Lonoke	1
Franklin	3	Newton	1
Mississippi	2	Phillips	1
St. Francis	2	Poinsett	1
Crittenden	2	Scott	1
Fulton	2	Sebastian	1
Greene	2	Lee	1