

Quarterly Performance Report

*3rd Quarter
SFY 2010*

(January 2010 – March 2010)



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 Division of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) managers and legislative committees dealing with children and youth. The QPR for the third quarter of State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2010, specifically January through March 2010, consists of three parts:

1. **Performance Indicators**, which provide information on service outcomes, such as:
 - a. *Percentage of Families 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 Living with Adoptive Families within Twelve Months of the Termination of Parental Rights*

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 third 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 third 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 these measures.

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

- Timely Initiation of Child Maltreatment Assessments

The percentage for timely initiations stood at **87 percent**, an increase of two percentage points from the previous quarter (85%) but below the goal of 95 percent compliance.

Eight of the ten DCFS Service Areas improved compliance with Priority One initiations over the previous quarter, and five areas improved compliance with Priority Two initiations. All areas exceeded 90 percent compliance for Priority One initiations; and except for Areas 3 and 4, all areas met or exceeded 80 percent compliance for Priority Two initiations. Five areas—Areas 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7—exceeded the 95 percent goal for Priority One initiations, although only Area 5 met the 95 percent goal for Priority Two initiations.

With compliance in several areas below the goal of 95 percent for both Priority One and Priority Two initiations, the Division has established corrective action plans to help improve initiations' timelines. DCFS is developing area-wide and county-specific plans to help increase staff's ability to initiate investigations in a timely manner. Corrective actions include closer supervisory oversight of staff's workloads, assigning incoming investigations to staff more efficiently, and making greater efforts to see the persons cited in the investigation immediately.

- Timely Completion of Child Maltreatment Assessments

The percentage for timely completions stood at **55 percent**, an increase of 11 percentage points from the previous quarter (44%) but below the goal of 90 percent.

Nine of the ten DCFS Service Areas improved compliance with Priority One completions over the previous quarter, and eight areas improved compliance with respect to Priority Two completions. No areas met the 95 percent compliance goal for either Priority One or Priority Two completions.

Since compliance in all areas fell below the goal of 95 percent for both Priority One and Priority Two completions, areas have established corrective actions to increase compliance in future quarters. Most areas intend to increase supervisors' involvement in overseeing and ensuring that investigations are completed in a timely manner and documented correctly. The Division has also held or arranged for several trainings for Investigations staff and supervisors in recent quarters, which should lead to improved compliance. In addition, several areas are implementing processes in which investigations staff will conference with their supervisor several days before an investigation becomes overdue.

A heavy volume of overdue investigations certainly impacted staff's ability to complete newly assigned investigations in a timely manner, but this should no longer be the case for future quarters. A statewide directive from the DCFS Central Office required all Areas to significantly reduce their backlog of overdue investigations by April 15, 2010. As a result of this effort, staff should be able to devote their time to newly assigned investigations rather than overdue ones.

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

The percentage for 24-hour initial health screenings stood at **89 percent**, an increase of four percentage points from the previous quarter (85%), closer to the goal of 95 percent.

The percentage for 72-hour initial health screenings stood at **87 percent**, a decrease of three percentage points from the previous quarter (90%) and below the goal of 95 percent.

For the 24-hour screenings, seven areas exceeded compliance levels of 90 percent, including five areas—Areas 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7—that met or exceeded the 95 percent goal. However, a few areas struggled during the quarter. In particular, Areas 3, 8 and 9 all had compliance figures of less than 80 percent.

For the 72-hour screenings, eight areas exceeded compliance levels of 90 percent. This included three areas—Areas 4, 7 and 10—that met or exceeded the 95 percent goal. Only Areas 3 and 9 had compliance rates of less than 90 percent.

Since overall compliance fell below the goal of 95 percent in several areas, the Division has established corrective actions to help remedy the barriers that prevent more timely health screenings. Several areas attributed their compliance figures to scheduling and availability problems between workers and health care providers, and other areas cited the holiday schedule and inclement weather for failing to meet compliance. Despite these reported problems, Area Directors hope that more advanced planning, improved scheduling with providers, and greater supervisory oversight can improve these numbers.

- Comprehensive Health Assessments

The percentage for comprehensive health assessments stood at **57 percent**, a decrease of 21 percentage points from the previous quarter (78%) and below the goal of 95 percent.

Only one of the ten DCFS Service Areas improved compliance over the previous quarter, and no areas met the 95 percent goal. In fact, all areas except Area 6 had compliance rates of less than 75 percent. The same issues that negatively affected the timely completion of Initial Health Screenings also adversely affected the number of children who did not have their comprehensive health assessment completed within 60 days of entering foster care. Area Directors hope that improved scheduling with providers can improve the situation.

- Foster Home Recruitment

There were 112 new foster homes recruited during the quarter, a decrease from the 131 homes recruited during the previous quarter but still well above the goal of 80 new homes. This represents a compliance rate of **140 percent** for the quarter.

The statewide recruitment of foster homes has again exceeded the Division's goal for quarterly recruitment. This sustained effort can be attributed to an increase in the frequency of foster family inquiry meetings and other promotional efforts, as well as the agency's decision in 2008 to assign a dedicated staff person to manage and coordinate foster home recruitment statewide. Many individual areas continue to promote the need for new foster homes by recruiting at local organizations or civic groups. In addition, DCFS continues to maintain a strong partnership 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 expanded into more than a dozen additional counties over the past year. Presently, *The C.A.L.L.* has a presence in six of the ten DCFS Service Areas.

- Required Visits Made by Worker

During the third quarter, the percentage of children who received a required visit from their caseworker averaged **62 percent**, which was below the goal of 85 percent. The percentage of children who received visits from January through March averaged 59 percent, 62 percent, and 66 percent, respectively.

No DCFS Service Areas met the 85 percent compliance goal for required visits, although Area 4 came closest (80%). Of the remaining areas, only staff in Areas 3, 6, and 10 made at least two-thirds of their required visits.

In order to increase the number of required worker visits, several areas have placed a greater focus on monitoring workers' visitation schedules. The Division also emphasized the need for their supervisors to ensure that workers manage their time efficiently. Area Directors intend to increase the number of completed monthly visits with the addition of new staff (the Division employs seven percent more caseworkers than was the case one year ago) and by holding more frequent case staffings between supervisors and their staff. The purpose of such efforts is to lower worker caseloads, so that staff have more time to devote to completing their required monthly visits.

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 during the third quarter.

PART I: PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

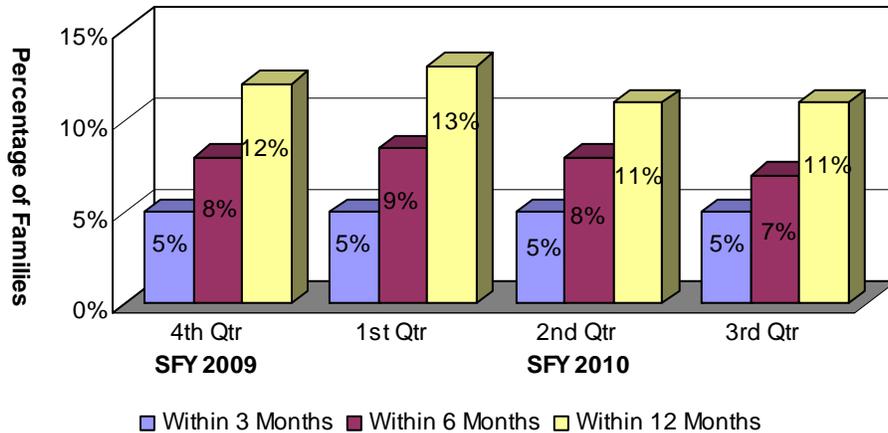
The Division has established nine performance measures to indicate achievement levels related to its major goals in child safety, family preservation and permanency:

- Percentage of families with true allegations of child 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, Protective Services or Intensive Family Services (IFS) who were abused or neglected within one year of the initiation of services;
- Percentage of children receiving Supportive Services, Protective Services or Intensive Family Services (IFS) 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 three or more placements within the past eighteen months;
- Percentage of siblings in placement who are placed together;
- Percentage of children living with adoptive families within twelve months of the termination of parental rights; and
- Number of children placed in pre-adoptive homes whose adoptions were finalized within twelve months of entering pre-adoptive placements.

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

Of the 1,827 families involved in true reports of maltreatment during the third quarter one year ago, only 11 percent (198) had a subsequent true report within 12 months. Fifty-four percent of the true reports involved both the same perpetrator and the same type of maltreatment as the initial report.¹

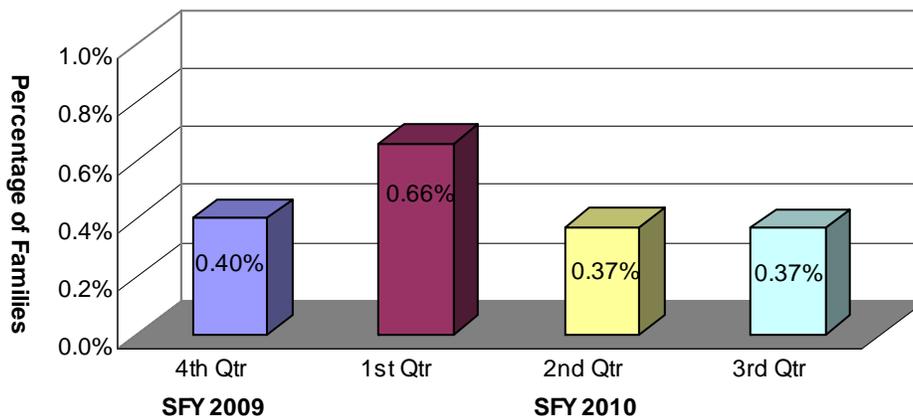
Chart 1: Recurrence of Maltreatment within 12 Months of Initial Report



Percentage of Foster Families with True Reports of Maltreatment

Of the 36 foster home maltreatment reports received during the third quarter, only six were found to be true. Based on the 1,637 foster homes² active during the quarter, the percentage of foster families with a true report of maltreatment was 0.37 percent.

Chart 2: Percentage of Foster Families with True Reports of Maltreatment



¹ The remaining 46 percent of the subsequent reports were distributed as follows: No repetition of perpetrator or type of abuse – 19.2 percent; Same perpetrator only – 8.6 percent; Same type of abuse only – 18.7 percent.

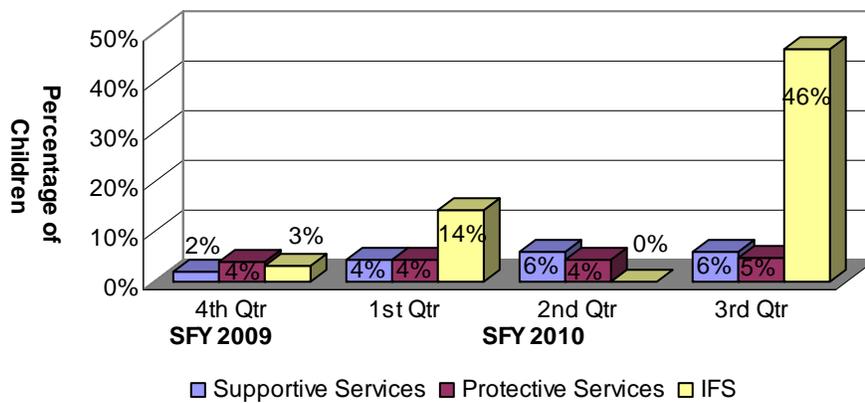
² This includes family and therapeutic foster homes.

Percentage of Children Receiving Supportive Services, Protective Services or Intensive Family Services (IFS) who were Abused or Neglected within One Year of the Initiation of Services

Generally, families receiving Supportive Services have less severe problems. However, families receiving Intensive Family Services (IFS) are, by definition, at imminent risk of having one or more children placed in foster care or already have children in foster care. Families receiving Protective Services generally fall between those two extremes.

Of the 420 children who began receiving Supportive Services between January and March 2009, 24 children (6%) experienced a true report of maltreatment within one year. Of the 3,618 children who began receiving Protective Services, 168 children (5%) were involved in a true report within one year. Of the 28 children who began receiving IFS, 13 children (46%) were involved in a true report within one year.

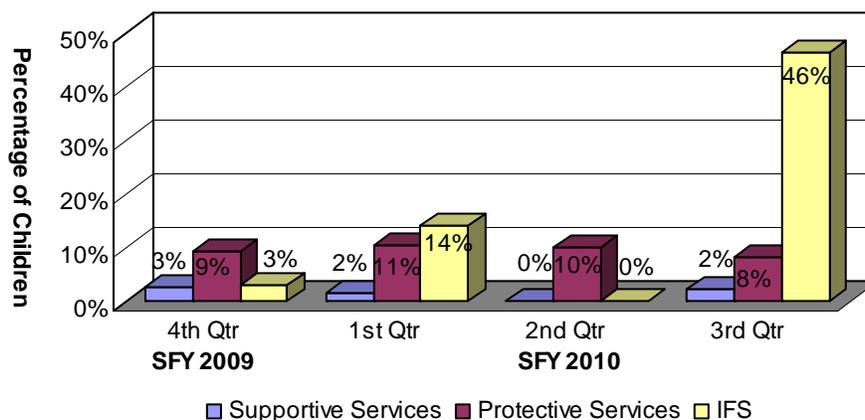
Chart 3: Children Receiving Supportive Services, Protective Services or IFS who were Abused or Neglected within One Year of the Initiation of Services



Percentage of Children Receiving Supportive Services, Protective Services or Intensive Family Services (IFS) who Entered Foster Care within One Year of the Initiation of Services

Ten of the 420 (2%) children who began receiving Supportive Services between January and March 2009 entered foster care within one year of the initiation of these services; 298 of the 3,618 (8%) children who began receiving Protective Services entered care within one year; and 13 of the 28 (46%) children who began receiving IFS entered care within one year.

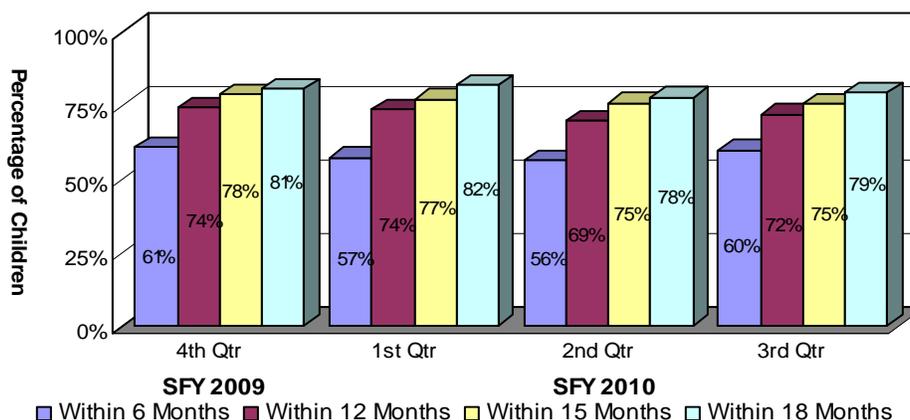
Chart 4: Children Receiving Supportive Services, Protective Services or Intensive Family Services who Entered Foster Care within One Year of the Initiation of Services



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, 1,022 children entered foster care. Of those, 808 children (79%) returned home within 18 months. Overall, the percentage of children who entered care 18 months ago and returned home increased, regardless of how long they had been in care.

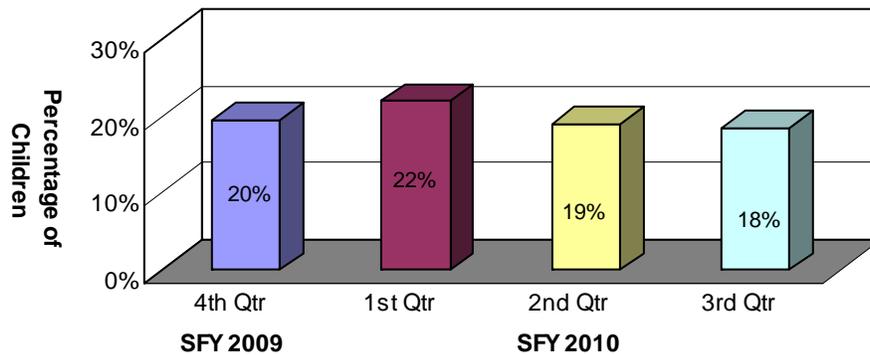
Chart 5: Children in Foster Care who Returned Home within Eighteen Months



Percentage of Children in Foster Care who have Experienced Three or more Placements within the Past Eighteen Months

Of the 1,070 children who entered foster care during the quarter beginning 18 months prior to the start of the current quarter, 197 children (18%) experienced three or more placements within 18 months. This was one percentage point lower than the previous quarter. Of those same 1,070 children, 156 (15%) experienced three or more placements within 15 months of entering foster care.

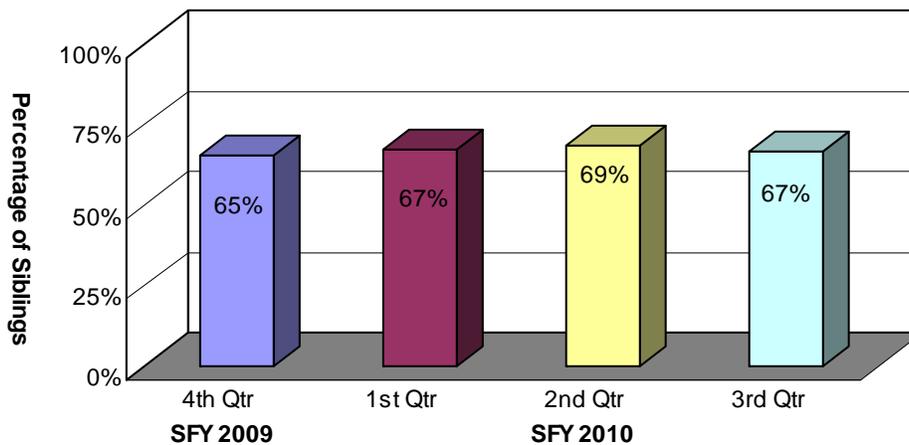
Chart 6: Children in Foster Care who have Experienced Three or More Placements within the Past Eighteen Months



Percentage of Siblings in Placement who are Placed Together

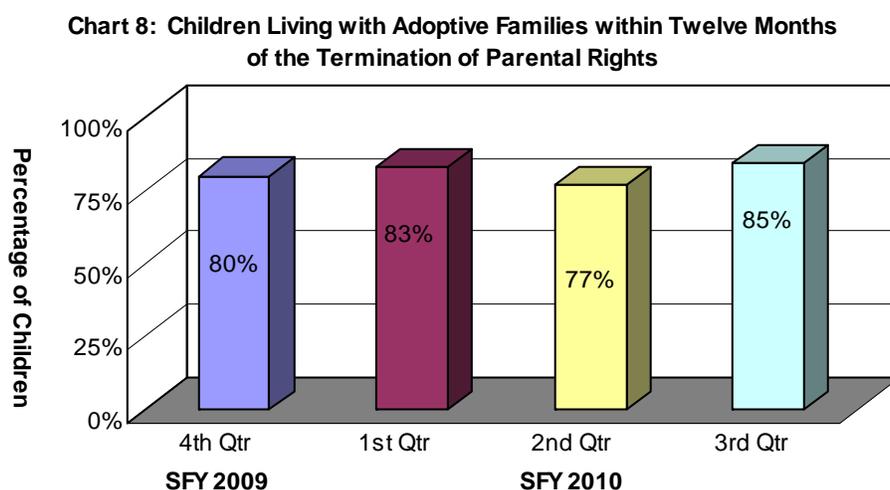
During the third quarter, there were 1,937 children with siblings in foster care. Of those children, 67 percent (1,291) were placed with at least one of their siblings. This percentage was two percentage points lower than the previous quarter and higher than the quarter ending one year ago (64%). Of those same 1,933 children, 48 percent were placed with all of their siblings, which was one percentage point lower than the previous quarter (49%). 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 Living with Adoptive Families within Twelve Months of the Termination of Parental Rights

Of the 84 children whose parents had their parental rights terminated between January and March 2009, 71 children (85%) were placed in adoptive homes within 12 months of the termination of parental rights. This was eight percentage points higher than the previous quarter (77%).



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

One-hundred and six children were placed in a pre-adoptive home between January and March 2009. Of those, 78 children (74%) had their adoptions finalized within 12 months of being placed in a pre-adoptive home. This was 14 percentage points lower than the previous quarter and lower than the same quarter ending one year ago (80%). Twenty-three children (22%) 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. Twenty-three children still had their adoption pending finalization 12 months after placement in an adoptive home.

**Table 1: Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes whose Adoptions were finalized within Twelve Months of Entering Pre-adoptive Placements
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

Adoption Status	Number of Children
Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes	106
Finalized Adoptions	78
Disrupted Adoptive Placements	23
Children with a Disruption who were Re-placed in Pre-adoptive Homes	18
Still Pending after Twelve Months	23

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.

Goal Compliance Measure

- 95%** ***Timely Initiation of Child Maltreatment Assessments.*** 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%** ***Timely Completion of Child Maltreatment Assessments.*** Timely completion means a determination must be made regarding an allegation of child maltreatment within 30 days of receipt of the allegation.

- 95%** ***24-Hour Initial Health Screenings.*** 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%** ***72-Hour Initial Health Screenings.*** 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%** ***Comprehensive Health Assessments.*** 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** ***Foster Home Recruitment.*** 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%** ***Foster Home Re-evaluations.*** DCFS must re-evaluate at least annually each foster home's ability to care for children.

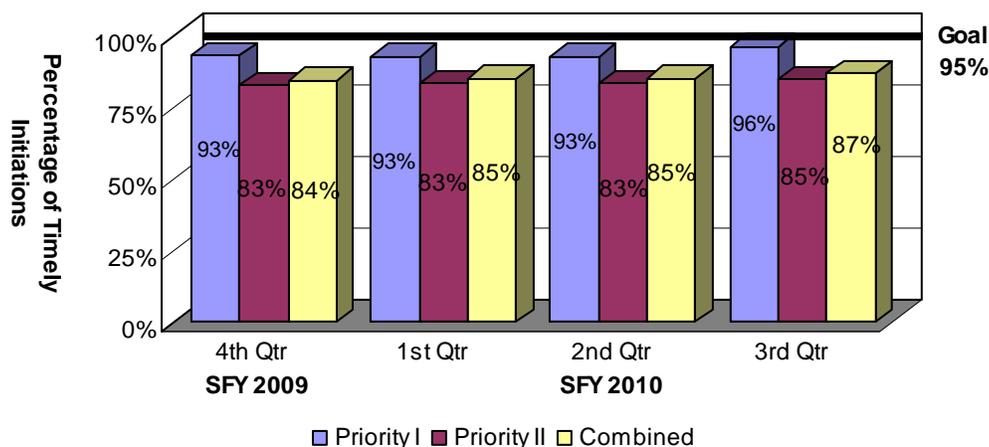
- 85%** ***Required Visits Made by Worker.*** DCFS must provide data on the percentage of monthly visits made by DCFS workers to children in foster care.

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 outside the presence of the alleged offender within 72 hours of the report (Priority II), unless there is an allegation of severe maltreatment, in which case the interview or observation must occur within 24 hours of the report (Priority I). There were 7,560 referrals for a child maltreatment assessment during the quarter. Of that number, 980 Priority I referrals and 5,062 Priority II referrals were assigned to DCFS for investigation. Of the DCFS Priority I referrals, 942 assessments were initiated within the required 24-hour period. Of the DCFS Priority II referrals, 4,292 assessments were initiated within the required 72-hour period.³ The resulting compliance rate was 96 percent for DCFS Priority I initiations and 85 percent for Priority II initiations, which resulted in a combined compliance rate of 87 percent. The combined compliance rate was two percentage points higher than 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 1,518 of the 7,560 referrals that came in during the quarter, of which 1,383 were Priority I referrals and 135 were Priority II referrals. Of the Priority I referrals, 1,367 assessments (99%) were initiated in a timely manner. Of the Priority II referrals, 133 assessments (99%) were initiated in a timely manner.

Chart 9: Timely Initiation of Child Maltreatment Assessments

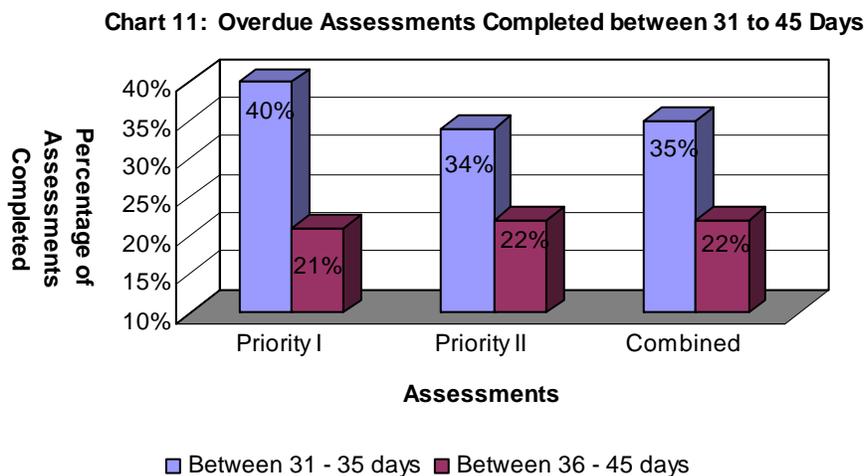
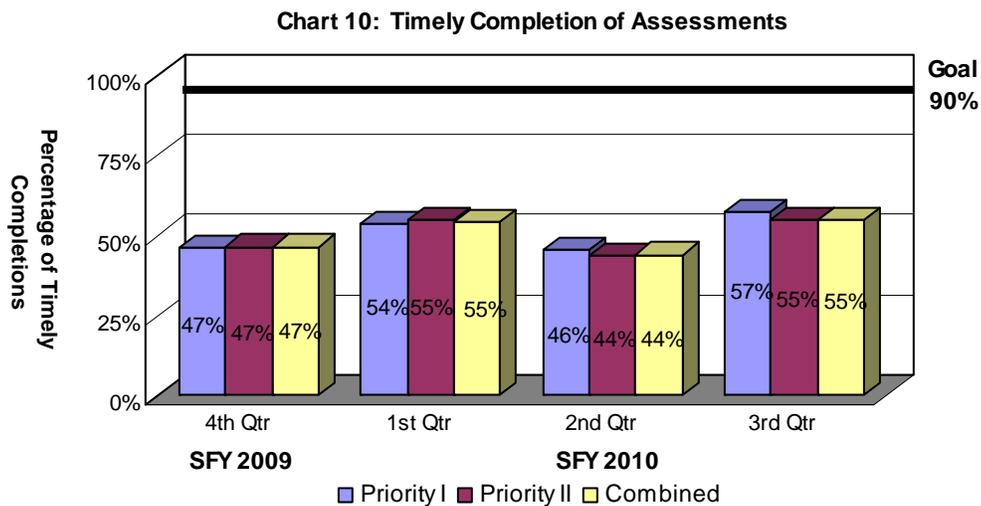


³ DCFS had 942 Priority I referrals and 4,292 Priority II referrals that were initiated in a timely manner. Of those, 162 Priority I (17%) and 1,035 Priority II referrals (24%) were considered compliant due to reasonable diligence. CACD had 1,367 Priority I referrals and 133 Priority II referrals that were initiated in a timely manner. Of those, 236 Priority I (17%) and 22 Priority II (17%) referrals were considered compliant due to reasonable diligence.

Timely Completion of Child Maltreatment Assessments

Of the 980 Priority I assessments initiated by DCFS, 563 (57%) were completed within the required 30-day period. Of the 5,062 DCFS Priority II assessments initiated, 2,773 (55%) were completed within the required 30-day period. Of the total 6,042 assessments assigned to DCFS, 3,336 were completed in a timely fashion. These completions resulted in a compliance rate of 55 percent, which was 11 percentage points higher than the previous quarter but below the goal of 90 percent (See plan of action in the Executive Summary).

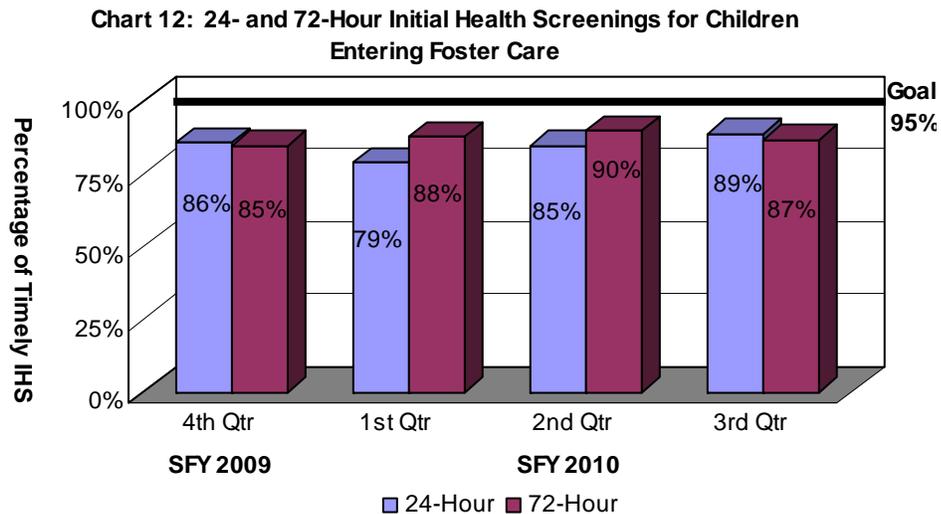
As referenced earlier, the Crimes Against Children Division (CACD) of the Arkansas State Police was responsible for 1,518 of the 7,560 incoming referrals during the quarter. Of that number, 1,383 were Priority I referrals and 135 were Priority II referrals. Of the Priority I assessments, 1,119 (81%) were completed on time. Of the Priority II assessments, 101 (75%) were completed on time.



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 196 children who required the 24-hour health screening during the third quarter, 175 children (89%) received the screening in a timely manner. The compliance rate was four percentage points higher than the previous quarter but still short of the goal of 95 percent.

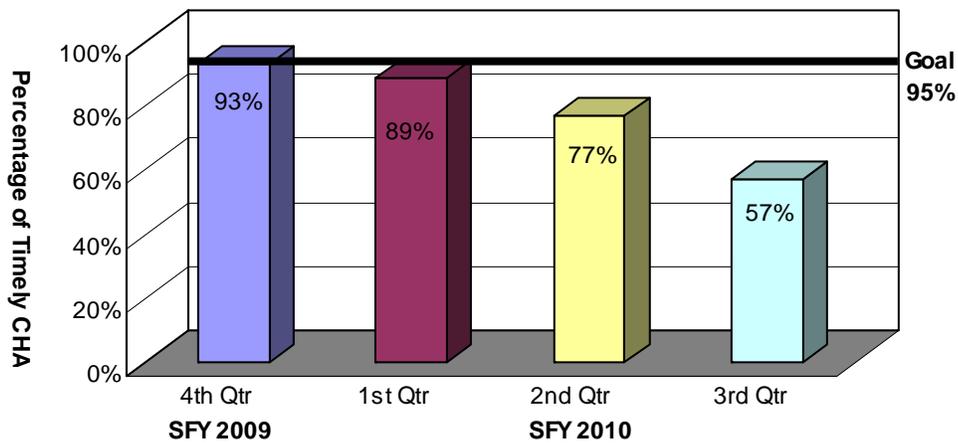
All children entering foster care who do not require the initial 24-hour health screening must still undergo an initial health screening within 72 hours of their removal. Of the 777 children who required the 72-hour health screening, 676 (87%) received their screenings in a timely manner, which was three percentage points lower 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 that evaluates their physical and mental health status within 60 days of entering foster care. Between November 2, 2009, and January 30, 2010, 552 children entered foster care who remained in care for at least 60 days. Of those children, 315 received their comprehensive health assessment within 60 days after entering care. The resulting compliance rate was 57 percent, which continued a downward trend in compliance for this item over the past year. While the compliance rate for this item nearly met the compliance goal of 95 percent during the quarter ending just one year ago (92%) the current compliance rate falls well below this goal.

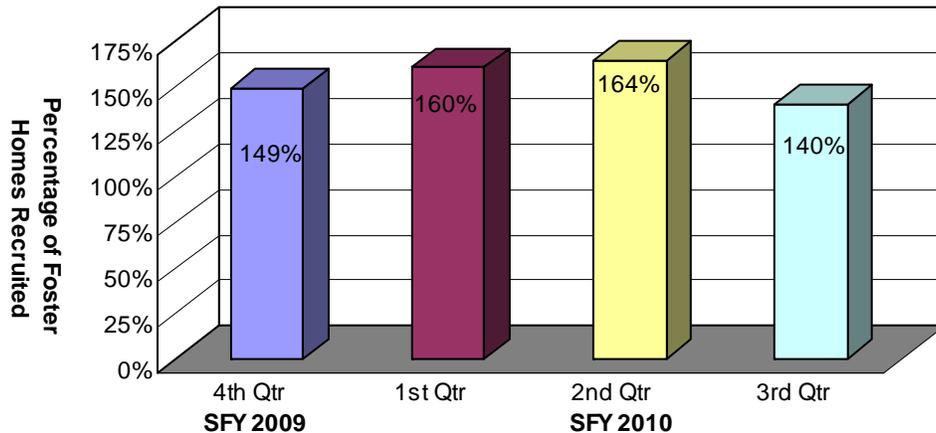
Chart 13: Comprehensive Health Assessments



Foster Home Recruitment

DCFS recruited 112 new foster homes during the third quarter, an achievement well above the goal of 80 new homes.

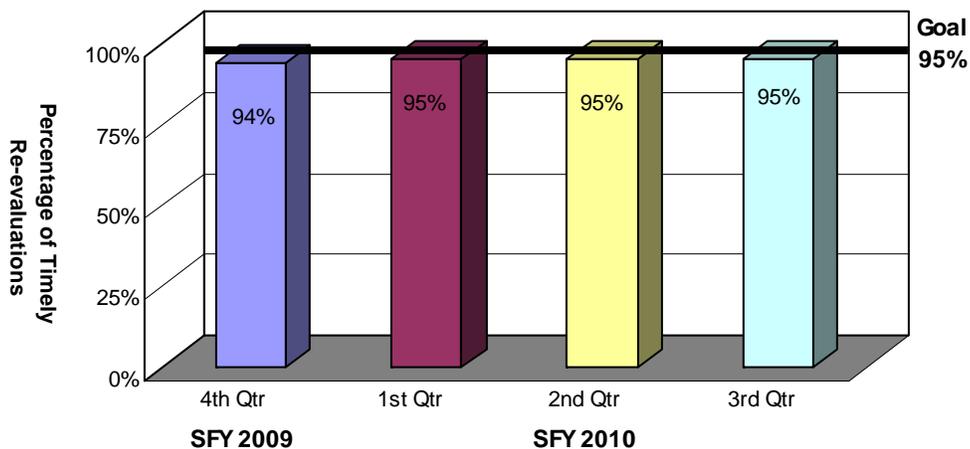
Chart 14: Foster Home Recruitment



Foster Home Re-evaluations

On an annual basis, at a minimum, DCFS conducts required re-evaluations of each foster home’s ability to care for children. Of the 1,198 foster homes active during the third quarter, a current re-evaluation was available for 1,138 homes. The resulting 95 percent compliance rate was the same as the previous quarter, meeting the goal of 95 percent.

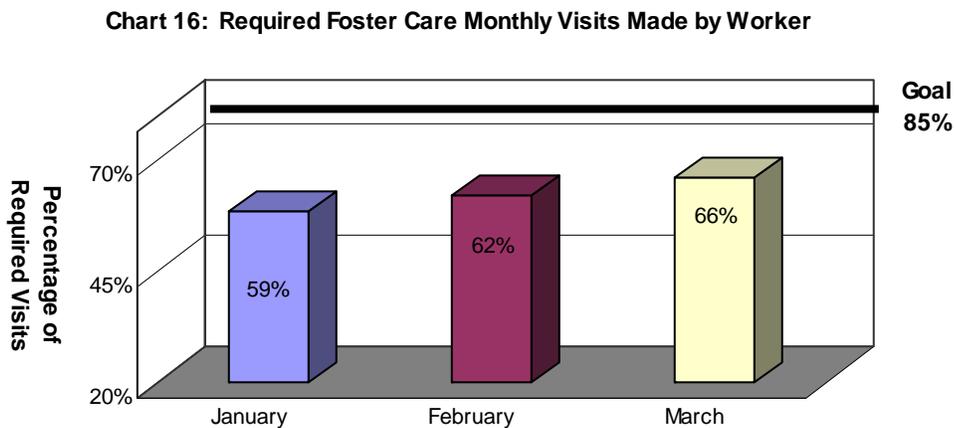
Chart 15: Foster Home Re-evaluations



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 in the home as often as possible. However, DCFS also recognizes that face-to-face visits in other locations can also meet good practice objectives. Consequently, the measurement of required monthly visits with children in care considers face-to-face visits in any setting as compliant.

During the third quarter, the percentage of children who received a monthly visit averaged 62 percent from January to March 2010, an increase of six percentage points from the previous quarter but below the goal of 85 percent (See plan of action in the Executive Summary).



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 specifically compare 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

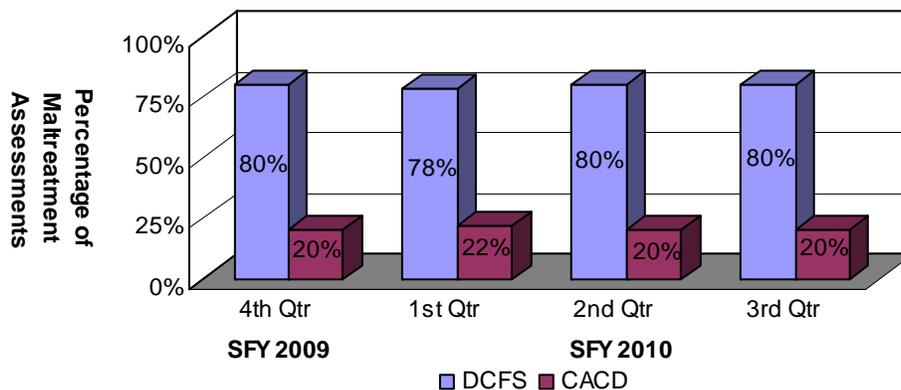
Section I: True Child Maltreatment Reports

Child Maltreatment Assessments

During the third quarter, 7,560 maltreatment assessments were assigned between DCFS and CACD. Of those assessments, 6,042 (80%) were assigned to DCFS. This figure represented a decrease in the number of assessments assigned to DCFS from the previous quarter (6,636), but an increase in assigned assessments from the same quarter ending one year ago (5,631). This signifies a seven percent increase in assessments assigned to DCFS compared to the quarter ending one year ago.

Of those same 7,560 assessments, 1,518 (20%) were assigned to CACD. This figure represented a decrease in the number of assessments assigned to CACD from the previous quarter (1,614), but still signified an increase in the number assigned from the same quarter ending one year ago (1,489). This represents a two percent increase in assessments assigned to CACD compared to the quarter ending one year ago.

Chart 17a: Child Maltreatment Assessments



Of the 7,560 maltreatment assessments assigned during the third quarter of SFY 2010, 1,854 reports (25%) were found to be true, which was three percentage points higher than those determined to be true for the same quarter ending one year ago (22%). The national percentage is 25 percent.⁴ There were 2,845 victim children involved in the 1,854 true reports during the quarter, which represents a 24 percent increase in the number of victim children reported during the same quarter ending one year ago (2,292).

Table 2: Child Maltreatment Assessments

	Total Assessments	True Assessments	Percent True
4th Qtr SFY 2009	8,803	1,862	21%
1st Qtr SFY 2010	7,819	1,612	21%
2nd Qtr SFY 2010	8,250	1,688	20%
3rd Qtr SFY 2010	7,560	1,854	25%

	DCFS			CACD		
	Total Assessments	True Assessments	Percent True	Total Assessments	True Assessments	Percent True
3rd Qtr SFY 2009	5,631	977	17%	1,489	556	37%
4th Qtr SFY 2009	7,012	1,164	17%	1,791	698	39%
1st Qtr SFY 2010	6,078	945	16%	1,741	667	38%
2nd Qtr SFY 2010	6,636	1,069	16%	1,614	619	38%
3rd Qtr SFY 2010	6,042	1,231	20%	1,518	623	41%

⁴ 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, 2,845 victim children were involved in true reports during the third quarter. The table below outlines the demographic information for these victim children.⁵

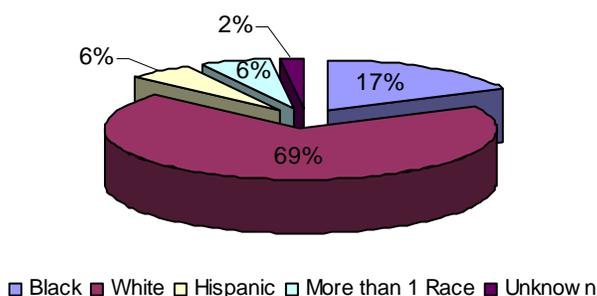
**Table 3: Characteristics of Children in True Maltreatment Reports
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	86	22	0	0	1	7	10	126
	Male	107	34	2	0	2	9	13	167
2 to 5	Female	241	43	0	0	2	26	25	337
	Male	239	63	0	0	3	22	22	349
6 to 11	Female	321	103	0	0	5	30	23	482
	Male	326	76	1	0	3	19	28	453
12 to 15	Female	300	69	0	0	0	22	25	416
	Male	145	28	0	1	1	8	7	190
16 to 18	Female	117	45	0	1	0	8	5	176
	Male	73	10	0	0	0	7	4	94
18+	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total*		1,955	493	3	2	17	158	162	2,790

*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for 55 children.

Of the children involved in true maltreatment reports, 69 percent were white and 17 percent were black.

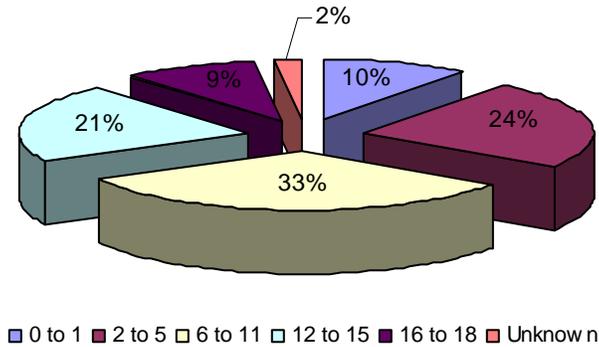
Chart 17a: Race/Ethnicity of Children in True Reports



⁵ 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).

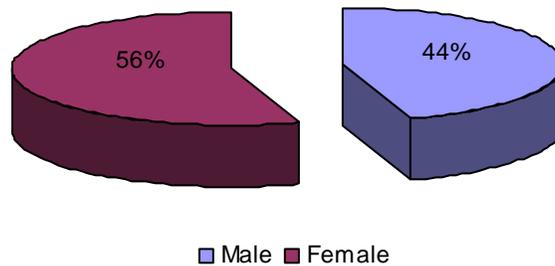
Children between the ages of six and 11 represent the largest group of children involved in true maltreatment reports (33%). These percentages were similar to the previous quarter.

Chart 17b: Ages of Children in True Reports



More female children (56%) than male children (44%) were involved in true maltreatment reports. These percentages were also similar to the previous quarter.

Chart 17c: Gender of Children in True Reports



Children Involved in Allegations of True Maltreatment Reports

During the quarter, the majority of the 2,845 children involved in true maltreatment reports were involved in allegations of neglect (81%), followed by allegations of physical abuse (41%) and sexual abuse (28%).⁶

**Table 4: Percentage of Children Involved in True Allegations of Maltreatment
1st Quarter SFY 2010 – 2nd Quarter SFY 2010**

	2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter	
Neglect	2,033	80%	2,303	81%
Physical Abuse	1,083	42%	1,155	41%
Sexual Abuse	761	30%	796	28%

Child Maltreatment Reports Involving Fatalities or Near Fatalities

During the third quarter of the state fiscal year, there were eight investigations of child fatalities and six investigations of near child fatalities across the state. A finding of True resulted for eleven of the fourteen incidents while two incidents were unsubstantiated and one was pending. Most of the children involved were three years of age or younger, with only one child who was 15 years old. Table 5 summarizes the findings for 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	7	4
Unsubstantiated	1	1
Pending	0	1

⁶ 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 third quarter, 4,852 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.

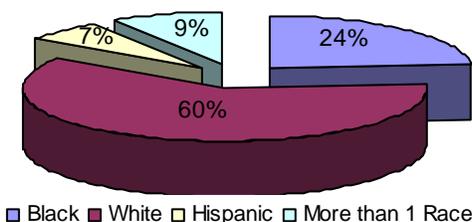
Table 6: Characteristics of Children in Foster Care During the Quarter
3rd Quarter SFY 2010

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	217	74	1	0	1	22	31	346
	Male	261	105	1	0	0	21	35	423
2 to 5	Female	366	123	0	0	2	36	69	596
	Male	358	115	2	1	1	50	59	586
6 to 11	Female	341	146	1	0	0	44	34	566
	Male	374	153	1	2	0	46	63	639
12 to 15	Female	251	89	1	0	1	18	45	405
	Male	229	99	1	3	0	28	34	394
16 to 18	Female	188	104	0	1	0	21	15	329
	Male	172	71	1	0	0	20	20	284
18+	Female	82	39	0	0	0	9	14	144
	Male	77	31	0	0	1	9	6	124
Total*		2,916	1,149	9	7	6	324	425	4,836

*Demographic information had not been entered into CHRIS for 16 children.

The chart below shows that 60 percent of the children in foster care during the quarter were white and 24 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.⁷

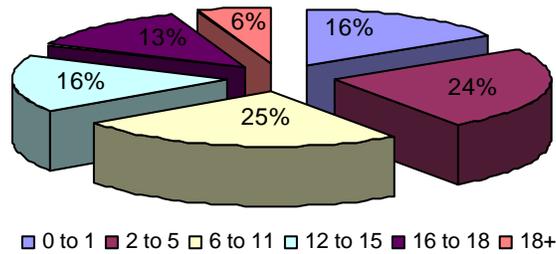
Chart 18a: Race/Ethnicity of Children in Care
During the Quarter



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.

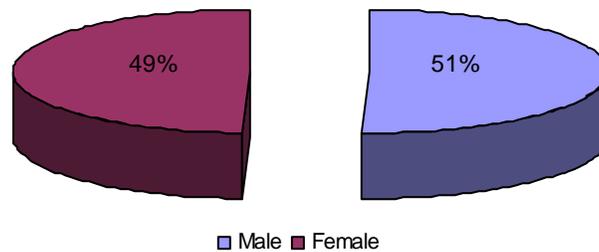
The following chart shows that children between the ages of six to 11 (25%) represent the largest group of children who were in care during the quarter. These percentages are similar to the previous quarter.

Chart 18b: 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 18c: Gender of Children in Foster Care During the Quarter



At the end of the quarter, 4,030 children were in foster care, an increase from the 3,924 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 third quarter.

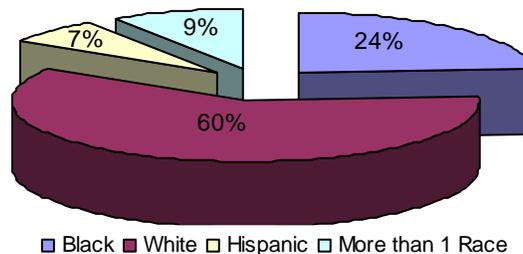
**Table 7: Characteristics of Children in Foster Care at the End of the Quarter
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	181	59	1	0	0	20	26	287
	Male	217	88	0	0	0	18	33	356
2 to 5	Female	287	99	0	0	1	29	64	480
	Male	294	94	2	1	0	41	44	476
6 to 11	Female	278	121	1	0	0	38	29	467
	Male	304	131	1	1	0	43	59	539
12 to 15	Female	206	68	0	0	0	17	35	326
	Male	198	89	1	3	0	22	30	343
16 to 18	Female	160	92	0	0	0	18	11	281
	Male	154	62	1	0	0	15	19	251
18+	Female	64	32	0	0	0	7	12	115
	Male	60	26	0	0	1	8	6	101
Total*		2,403	961	7	5	2	276	368	4,022

*Demographic information had not been entered into CHRIS for eight children.

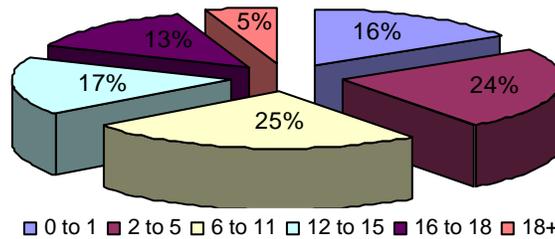
The chart below shows that 60 percent of the children in foster care at the end of the quarter were white, while 24 percent of the children were black. These percentages are consistent with the previous four quarters.

Chart 19a: Race/Ethnicity of Children in Foster Care at the End of the Quarter



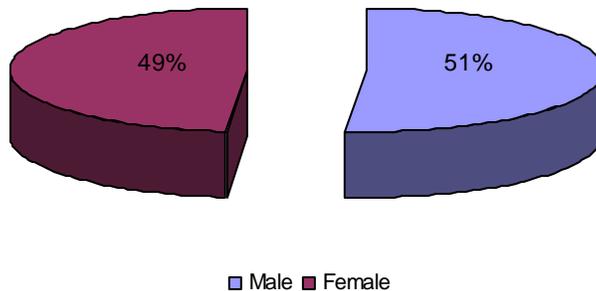
The following chart shows that children between the ages of six and 11 (25%) represent the largest group of children who were in care at the end of the quarter, followed closely by children between the ages of two and five (24%).

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



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

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



Entries into Foster Care

The data show that 1,059 children entered foster care during the third quarter, an increase from the previous quarter (984).

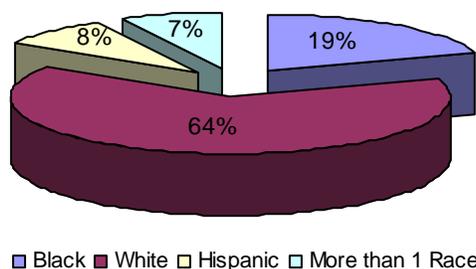
**Table 8: Characteristics of Children Entering Foster Care During the Quarter
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	77	17	0	0	1	8	10	113
	Male	82	29	1	0	0	7	10	129
2 to 5	Female	99	24	0	0	1	11	13	148
	Male	86	20	0	0	1	13	13	133
6 to 11	Female	83	28	0	0	0	15	5	131
	Male	85	30	0	1	0	10	10	136
12 to 15	Female	67	13	0	0	0	3	9	92
	Male	45	14	0	2	0	9	5	75
16 to 18	Female	34	15	0	1	0	2	2	54
	Male	17	11	0	0	0	8	1	37
18+	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total*		675	201	1	4	3	86	78	1,048

*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for 11 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.⁸

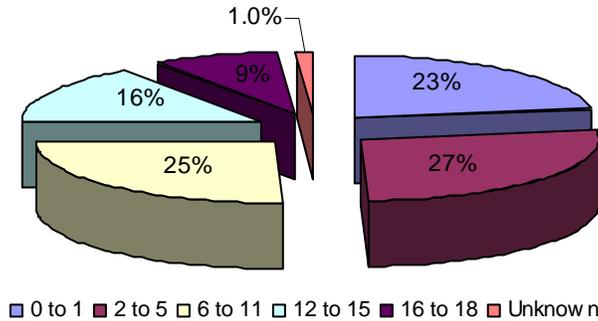
Chart 20a: Race/Ethnicity of Children who Entered Care



⁸ 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.

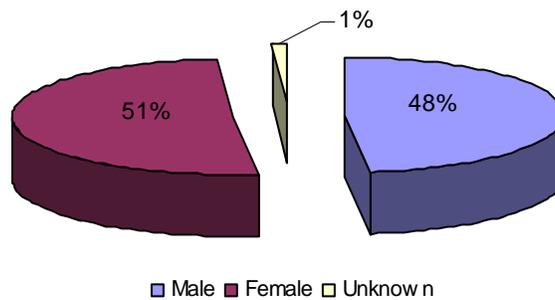
The following chart shows that 75 percent of the children who entered foster care during the quarter were no older than 11 years of age.

Chart 20b: Ages of Children who Entered Care



The following chart shows the gender of the children who entered foster care during the third quarter. Of the 1,059 children who entered care, 48 percent of the children were male and 51 percent were female.

Chart 20c: Gender of Children who Entered Care



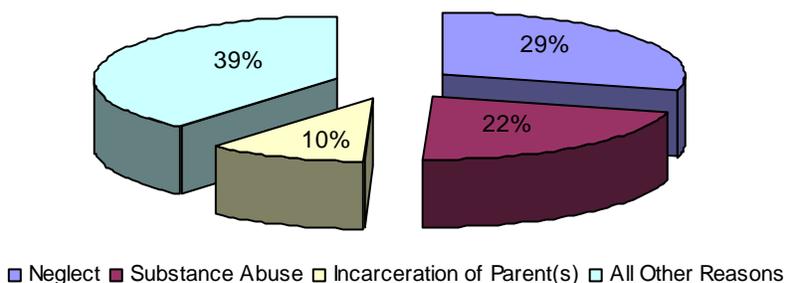
The distribution of the reasons children entered foster care were the same regardless if the children entered during the quarter (Table 9) or were in care at the end of the quarter (Table 10). Neglect and substance abuse⁹ were the most prevalent reasons for children’s entry into care.

**Table 9: Reasons Children Entered Foster Care During the Quarter
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

Placement Reason	0 to 1	2 to 5	6 to 11	12 to 15	16 to 18	18+	Total
Neglect	569	639	707	457	128	0	2,500
Substance Abuse	527	499	448	292	94	0	1,860
Parent Incarceration	189	249	264	153	45	0	900
Physical Abuse	157	181	230	185	70	0	823
Child’s Behavior	0	0	97	209	110	0	416
Abandonment	40	44	71	96	56	0	307
Inadequate Housing	128	136	175	119	32	0	590
Caretaker Illness	86	88	146	136	57	0	513
Sexual Abuse	17	49	113	137	39	0	355
Truancy	0	0	38	62	28	0	128
Child’s Disability	8	6	19	16	5	0	54
Parent Death	2	6	6	11	10	0	35
Sex Offender	0	0	13	14	8	0	35
Relinquishment	5	1	5	6	2	0	19
Adoption	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Managed Mental Health	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Other	1	1	15	8	3	0	28
Teen Parent in Care	52	2	0	0	1	0	55
Total*	1,781	1,901	2,348	1,902	688	0	8,626

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

**Chart 21: Reasons Children in Care During the Quarter
were Placed in Foster Care**



⁹ Of the 1,860 reasons for entry attributed to substance abuse, substance abuse by children accounted for 71 reasons for entry (4%), while substance abuse by parents accounted for 1,789 reasons for entry (96%).

**Table 10: Reasons Children in Foster Care at the End of the Quarter were Placed in Care
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

Placement Reason	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	His-panic	More Than 1 Race	Total
Neglect	1,337	441	1	1	1	158	193	2,132
Substance Abuse	1,014	283	1	0	1	97	151	1,547
Parent Incarceration	445	147	0	0	1	50	68	711
Physical Abuse	374	193	2	4	0	54	59	686
Child's Behavior	229	94	0	1	0	20	37	381
Abandonment	137	83	0	0	0	21	26	267
Inadequate Housing	311	120	0	0	0	32	50	513
Caretaker Illness	299	86	3	0	0	21	42	451
Sexual Abuse	201	63	1	0	0	29	21	315
Truancy	80	19	0	0	0	4	15	119
Child's Disability	37	9	0	0	0	2	1	49
Parent Death	18	8	0	0	0	0	4	30
Sex Offender	30	6	0	0	0	1	3	40
Relinquishment	6	6	0	0	0	0	2	14
Adoption	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Managed Mental Health	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other	9	13	0	0	0	1	3	26
Teen Parent in Care	14	25	0	0	0	10	1	50
Total*	4,542	1,597	8	6	3	501	676	7,333

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

Exits from Foster Care

During the quarter, 872 children left foster care, which was a decrease from the previous quarter (888).

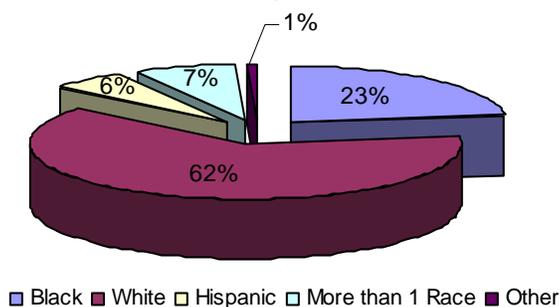
**Table 11: Characteristics of Children Exiting Foster Care During the Quarter
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	40	15	0	0	1	2	6	64
	Male	47	18	1	0	0	3	2	71
2 to 5	Female	83	25	0	0	1	8	6	123
	Male	68	21	0	0	1	9	15	114
6 to 11	Female	65	25	0	0	0	6	7	103
	Male	71	23	0	1	0	3	4	102
12 to 15	Female	46	23	1	0	1	1	10	82
	Male	34	11	0	0	0	6	4	55
16 to 18	Female	45	16	0	1	0	7	6	75
	Male	35	15	0	0	0	6	2	58
18+	Female	4	5	0	0	0	0	1	10
	Male	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	7
Total*		543	199	2	2	4	51	63	864

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

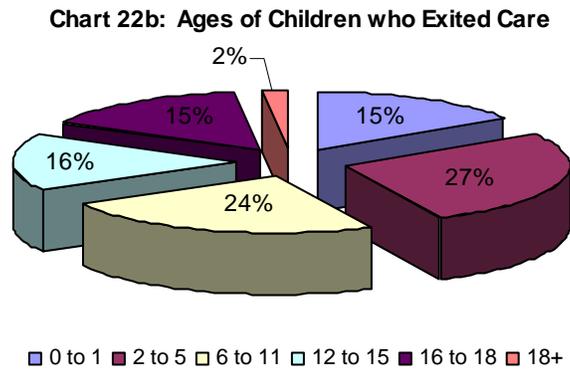
Of the 872 children who exited foster care, 62 percent were white and 23 percent were black. During the same quarter ending one year ago, 55 percent of the children who exited foster care were white and 33 percent were black. National data indicate that 44 percent of the children who leave foster care are white and 26 percent are black.¹⁰

Chart 22a: Race/Ethnicity of Children who Exited Care

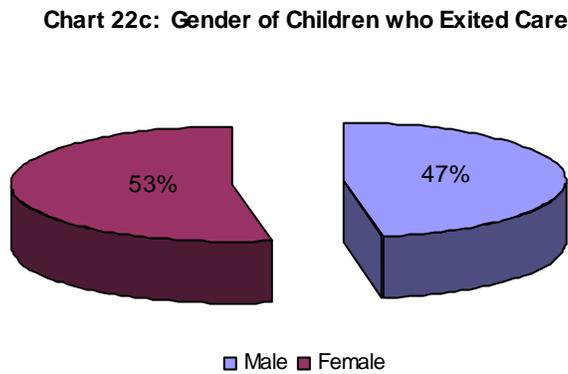


¹⁰ Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) preliminary data submitted for children in foster care between 10/1/2007 and 9/30/2008 as of October 2009.

The following chart shows that children between the ages of two and five (27%) represent the largest group of children who left foster care during the quarter.



Of the children who left care during the quarter, 53 percent were female and 47 percent were male.



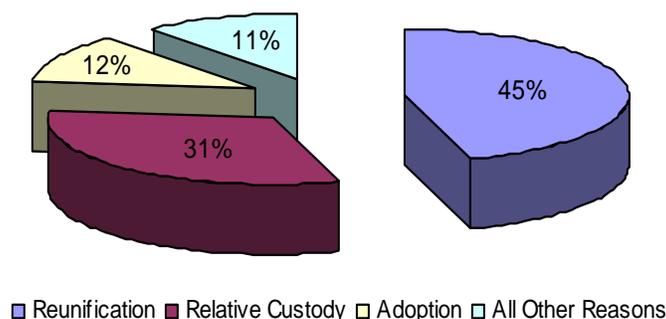
**Table 12: Reasons Children Exited Foster Care by Age
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

Reason	Age						Total
	0 to 1	2 to 5	6 to 11	12 to 15	16 to 18	18+	
Reunification	61	117	90	81	43	0	392
Relative Custody	42	74	84	41	31	0	272
Adoption	25	38	24	10	8	0	105
Child Aged Out	0	0	0	0	43	14	57
Non-Relative Custody	5	8	6	4	6	0	29
Custody Transfer	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Emancipation	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Death of Child	2	0	0	1	0	1	2
Tribal Jurisdiction	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Total*	135	237	205	137	133	17	864

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

The most prevalent reason that children left foster care during the quarter was reunification (45%). The second-leading reason was relative custody (31%). National data indicate that the three most prevalent reasons children left care are reunification (52%), adoption (19%) and relative care (8%).¹¹ The percentage of Arkansas' children exiting care to adoption (12%) is lower than that seen nationally.

Chart 23: Most Prevalent Reasons Children Left Care



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.

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. For the third quarter, returning home remained the most prevalent goal among children in foster care at 54 percent. National data reveal similar figures to the numbers shown here.¹²

**Table 13: Permanency Goals of Children in Foster Care
2nd Quarter SFY 2010 – 3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

	2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		National
Return Home	2,118	54%	2,156	54%	49%
Adoption	729	19%	809	20%	24%
APPLA	561	14%	568	14%	N/A
Remain at Home	152	4%	118	3%	N/A
Relative Care	108	3%	108	3%	4%
Guardianship	17	0.4%	15	0.4%	4%
Emancipation	0	0%	0	0%	6%
Long Term Care	0	0%	0	0%	8%
Not Yet Established	239	6%	256	6%	5%
Total*	3,924	100%	4,030	100%	100%

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

¹² 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

For the 4,852 children in foster care during the quarter, 55 percent were in care less than one year. A comparison to national data indicates that children in the state’s foster care system remain in care a decidedly shorter amount of time than do children nationwide.¹³

**Table 14a: Length of Stay of Children in Foster Care (Including Relative Care)
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

	Number	Percentage	National
Less than 30 days	524	11%	5%
30-90 Days	619	13%	20%
3-6 Months	578	12%	
6-12 Months	948	20%	17%
12-24 Months	1,007	21%	23%
24-36 Months	423	9%	12%
36+ Months	753	16%	24%
Total	4,852	100%	100%

**Table 14b: Length of Stay of Children in Relative Care
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 days	27	5%
30-90 Days	79	13%
3-6 Months	99	17%
6-12 Months	158	27%
12-24 Months	160	27%
24-36 Months	42	7%
36+ Months	26	4%
Total*	591	100%

**Table 14c: Length of Stay of Children in Foster Care (Excluding Relative Care)
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 days	497	12%
30-90 Days	540	13%
3-6 Months	479	11%
6-12 Months	790	19%
12-24 Months	847	20%
24-36 Months	381	9%
36+ Months	727	17%
Total	4,261	100%

¹³ 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.

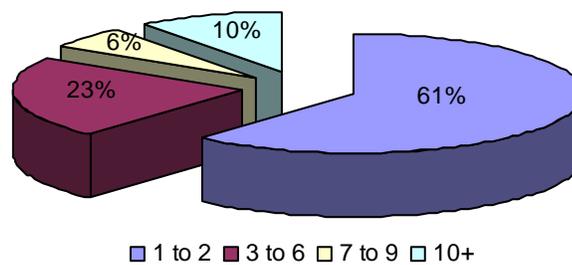
Number of Placements of Children in Foster Care

For children in care at the end of the third quarter, 61 percent experienced two or fewer placements, which is the same as the previous quarter.

**Table 15: Number of Placements of Children in Foster Care
2nd Quarter SFY 2010 – 3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

	2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter	
1-2 Placements	2,390	61%	2,472	61%
3-6 Placements	891	23%	912	23%
7-9 Placements	236	6%	234	6%
10+ Placements	407	10%	412	10%
Total*	3,924	100%	4,030	100%

Chart 24: Number of Placements for Children in Care at the End of the Quarter



Characteristics of Children who Experienced Two or More Placements

At the end of the third quarter, 4,030 children were in foster care. Of those, 2,223 children (55%) experienced two or more placements while in care.

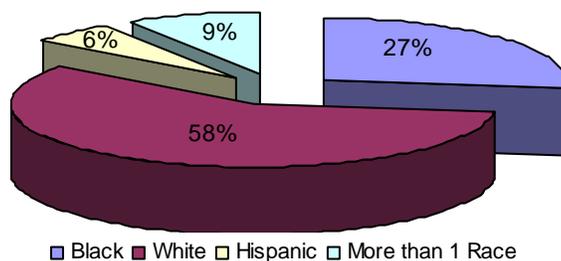
**Table 16: Characteristics of Children who Experienced Two or More Placements
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	38	20	1	0	0	3	9	71
	Male	60	31	0	0	0	4	7	102
2 to 5	Female	128	45	0	0	0	12	23	208
	Male	140	56	1	0	0	11	19	227
6 to 11	Female	152	76	1	0	0	20	12	261
	Male	201	77	1	1	0	25	37	342
12 to 15	Female	115	49	0	0	0	9	25	198
	Male	136	71	1	1	0	13	25	247
16 to 18	Female	158	96	0	0	0	17	18	289
	Male	166	74	1	0	1	14	20	276
Total		1,294	595	6	2	1	128	195	2,221

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

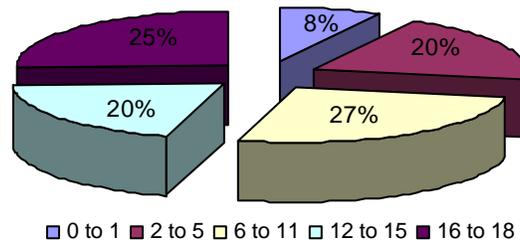
Of the 2,223 children who experienced two or more placements, 58 percent were white and 27 percent were black. These percentages are similar to the previous quarter.

Chart 25a: Race/Ethnicity of Children who Experienced Two or More Placements



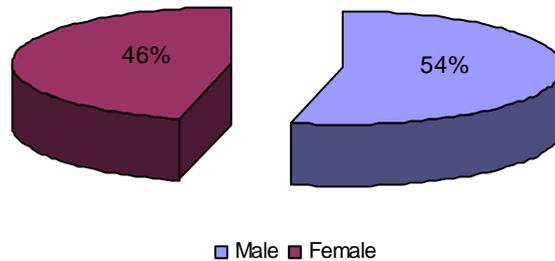
Children between the ages of six and 11 (27%) represented the largest group of children who experienced two or more placements, followed closely by those between the ages of 16 and 18 (25%).

Chart 25b: Ages of Children who Experienced Two or More Placements



More male children (54%) than female children (46%) experienced two or more placements, similar to the previous quarter.

Chart 25c: Gender of Children who Experienced Two or More Placements



Current Placement of Children in Foster Care

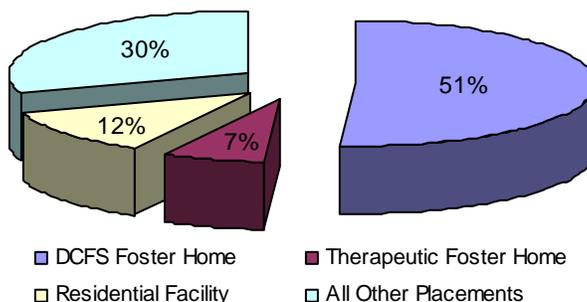
More children in foster care at the end of the third quarter were placed in DCFS foster homes (51%) than in any other type of out-of-home setting.

Table 17: 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	480	647	513	221	151	48	2,060
Relative Care	56	85	59	23	12	5	240
Therapeutic Foster Home	3	34	126	73	37	10	283
Pre-Adoptive Home	35	62	59	14	4	0	174
Emergency Shelter	4	14	51	43	31	0	143
Residential Facility	19	29	102	149	136	40	475
Youth Services	0	0	0	8	9	5	22
Runaway	0	2	0	8	37	7	54
Trial Home Visit	29	64	42	31	12	1	179
Hospital/Medical	10	2	8	3	7	0	30
ASAP CRT	0	0	1	7	4	0	12
Independent Living	0	0	0	0	6	93	99
Incarceration	0	0	0	6	8	1	15
Temporary Placement	9	16	18	10	7	2	62
Sub-Acute CRT	0	0	22	57	43	1	123
Acute CRT	0	0	7	8	10	2	27
ASAP Residential Treatment	0	0	0	2	10	2	14
ASAP Therapeutic Foster Care	0	0	0	6	7	0	13
DDS Placement	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Unknown*	1	2	0	0	1	0	4
Total	646	957	1,008	669	533	217	4,030

*Unknown due to data entry after data was collected for the report.

Chart 26: Current Placement of Children in Foster Care



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

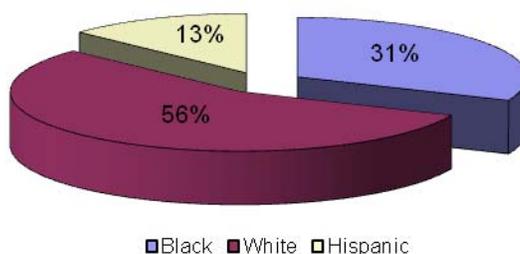
Fifty-four children were on runaway status at the end of the third quarter. This is an increase from the previous quarter (50).

**Table 18: Characteristics of Children on Runaway Status at the End of the Quarter
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 to 5	Female	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Male	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
6 to 11	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 to 15	Female	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Male	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3
16 to 18	Female	12	10	0	0	0	4	0	26
	Male	7	2	0	0	0	2	0	11
18+	Female	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Male	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total		30	17	0	0	0	7	0	54

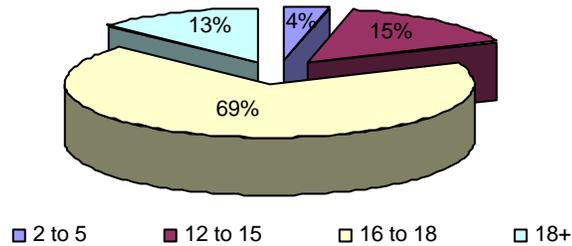
Of the children on runaway status at the end of the quarter, 56 percent were white and 31 percent were black.

Chart 27a: Race/Ethnicity of Children on Runaway Status at the End of the Quarter



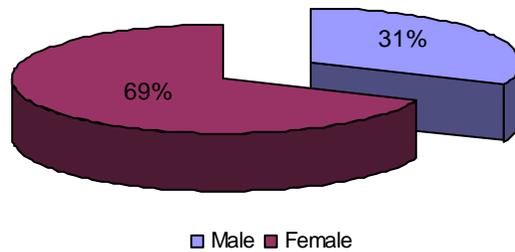
At the end of the quarter, the majority of children on runaway status (69%) were between the ages of 16 and 18.

Chart 27b: Ages of Children on Runaway Status at the End of the Quarter



More female children (69%) than male children (31%) were on runaway status at the end of the quarter. These percentages were similar to the previous quarter.

Chart 27c: Gender of Children on Runaway Status at the End of the Quarter



Characteristics of Children in Relative Care

During the third quarter, 591 children were in relative care, an increase from the previous quarter (537). 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.

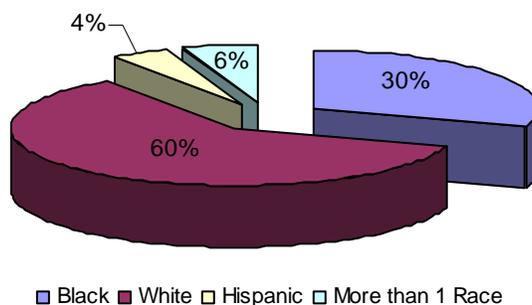
**Table 19: Characteristics of Children in Relative Care
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	34	13	0	0	0	1	5	53
	Male	40	15	0	0	0	2	1	58
2 to 5	Female	76	35	0	0	0	2	6	119
	Male	69	19	0	0	0	8	8	104
6 to 11	Female	37	32	0	0	0	4	5	78
	Male	50	22	0	0	0	2	6	80
12 to 15	Female	14	11	0	0	0	1	0	26
	Male	10	12	1	0	0	2	2	27
16 to 18	Female	7	14	0	0	0	1	0	22
	Male	12	5	0	0	0	1	0	18
Over 18	Female	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Male	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total		353	179	1	0	0	24	33	590

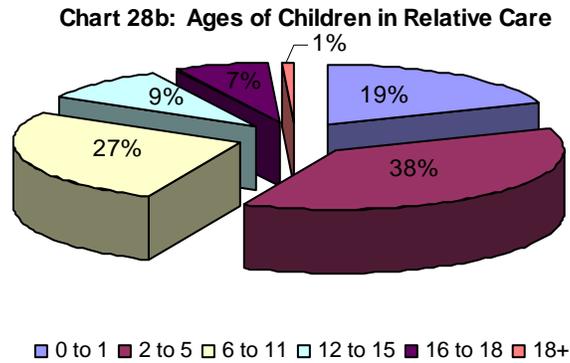
*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for one child.

White children represent the highest percentage of children in relative care during the third quarter at 60 percent, similar to the previous quarter.

Chart 28a: Race/Ethnicity of Children in Relative Care

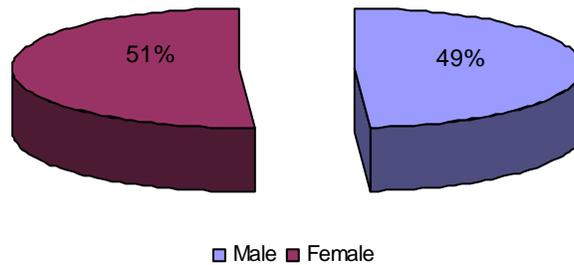


Children between the ages of two and five (38%) represent the largest age group of children in relative care, followed by children between the ages of six and 11 (27%).



Of the 591 children in relative care during the quarter, 51 percent were female and 49 percent were male; percentages which are similar to the previous quarter.

Chart 28c: 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 During the Quarter

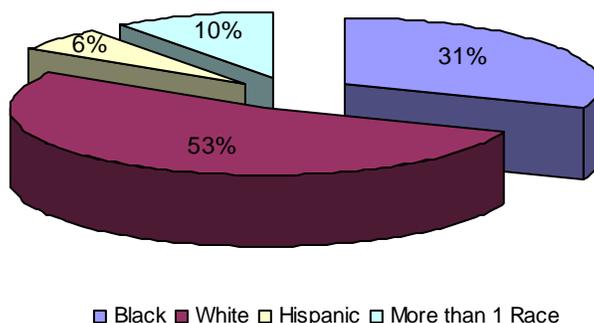
There were 880 children served during the third quarter with a permanency goal of adoption. This was an increase from the previous quarter (847). The table below outlines those children's characteristics.

**Table 20: Characteristics of Children with a Permanency Goal of Adoption During the Quarter
 3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	19	13	0	0	0	3	1	36
	Male	25	21	0	0	0	2	5	53
2 to 5	Female	57	28	0	0	0	7	13	105
	Male	65	37	0	0	0	8	14	124
6 to 11	Female	70	48	0	0	0	7	6	131
	Male	97	54	0	0	0	9	23	183
12 to 15	Female	43	23	0	0	0	4	9	79
	Male	58	26	0	0	0	7	15	106
16 to 18	Female	20	9	0	0	0	3	2	34
	Male	12	12	1	0	0	1	2	28
Over 18	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total		466	272	1	0	0	51	90	880

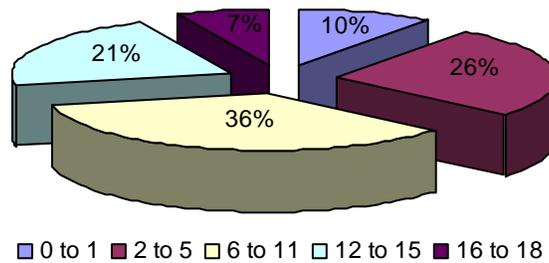
Of the 880 children with a permanency goal of adoption served during the quarter, 53 percent were white, 31 percent were black, and six percent were Hispanic. These numbers are similar to the previous quarter.

Chart 29a: Race/Ethnicity of Children with a Permanency Goal of Adoption During the Quarter



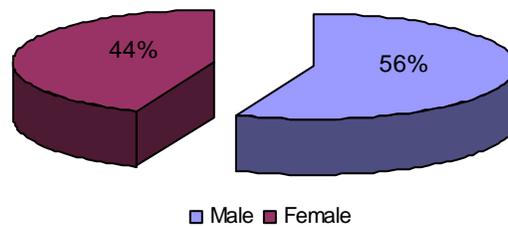
Children between the ages of six and 11 (36%) represent the largest group of children with a permanency goal of adoption. The age composition for children with a goal of adoption is similar to that of the previous quarter.

Chart 29b: Ages of Children with a Permanency Goal of Adoption During the Quarter



Of the 880 children with a permanency goal of adoption, 56 percent were male and 44 percent were female.

Chart 29c: Gender of Children with a Permanency Goal of Adoption During the Quarter



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

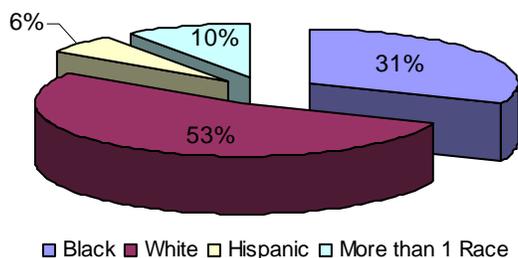
There were 809 children in care at the end of the quarter with a permanency goal of adoption. The table below outlines those children’s characteristics.

**Table 21: Characteristics of Children with a Permanency Goal of Adoption at the End of the Quarter
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	16	7	0	0	0	3	0	26
	Male	22	19	0	0	0	2	4	47
2 to 5	Female	45	26	0	0	0	7	11	89
	Male	62	36	0	0	0	5	9	112
6 to 11	Female	65	47	0	0	0	7	6	125
	Male	89	52	0	0	0	9	23	173
12 to 15	Female	43	21	0	0	0	4	8	76
	Male	56	25	0	0	0	7	15	103
16 to 18	Female	19	8	0	0	0	3	0	30
	Male	12	11	1	0	0	1	2	27
Over 18	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total		429	253	1	0	0	48	78	809

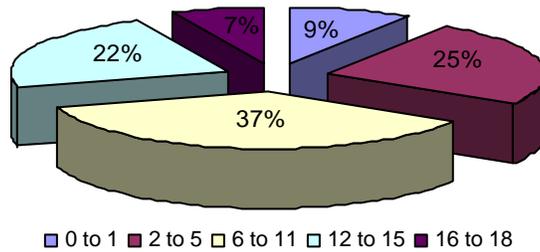
Of the 809 children in care with a permanency goal of adoption at the end of the quarter, 53 percent were white, 31 percent were black, and 10 percent were multiracial. These percentages are similar to the previous quarter.

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



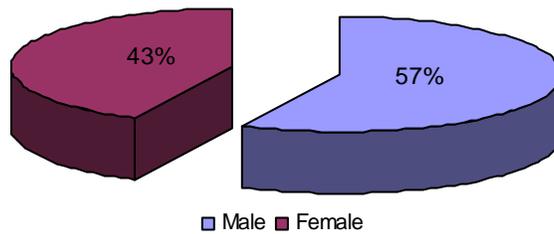
At the end of the quarter, children between the ages of six and 11 (37%) continued to represent the largest age group with a permanency goal of adoption.

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



More male children (57%) than female children (43%) in care at the end of the quarter had a permanency goal of adoption, similar to the previous quarter.

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



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

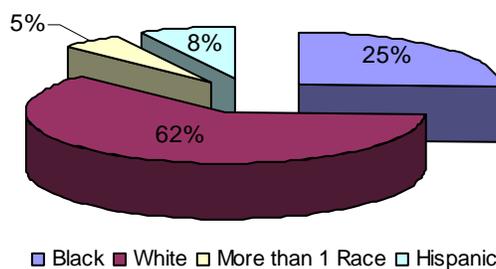
There were 102 children whose parents had their parental rights terminated during the third quarter. This was a sizeable increase from the second quarter (60). The table below outlines the characteristics of those children.

**Table 22: Characteristics of Children whose Parents have had Parental Rights Terminated During the Quarter
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	5	2	0	0	0	1	0	8
	Male	7	8	0	0	0	2	1	18
2 to 5	Female	8	2	0	0	0	3	0	13
	Male	6	4	0	0	0	2	3	15
6 to 11	Female	11	6	0	0	0	0	0	17
	Male	12	1	0	0	0	0	1	14
12 to 15	Female	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	8
	Male	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	9
16 to 18	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		63	26	0	0	0	8	5	102

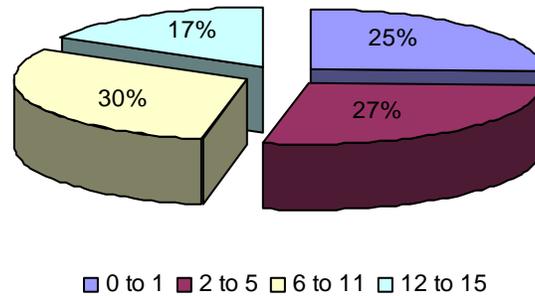
Sixty-two percent of the children whose parents had their parental rights terminated during the quarter were white, 25 percent were black, eight percent were Hispanic, and five percent were multiracial.

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



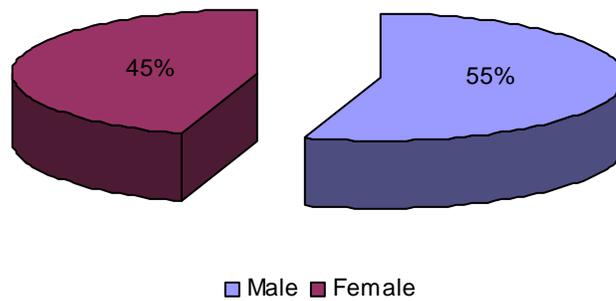
Children between the ages of six and 11 (27%) represent the largest group of children whose parents' parental rights were terminated during the quarter.

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



Of the 102 children whose parents' parental rights were terminated during the quarter, 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

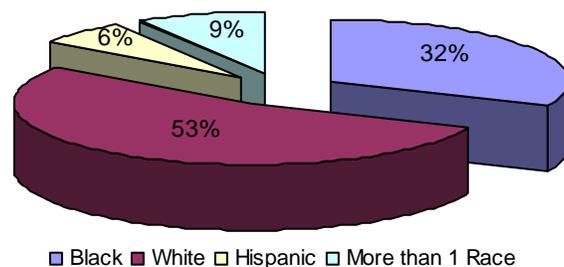
At the end of the third quarter, 526 children were available for adoption, an increase from the previous quarter (447). Demographic information for children available for adoption, shown in the table below, is very similar to previous quarters.

**Table 23: Characteristics of Children Available for Adoption at the End of the Quarter
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	7	5	0	0	0	1	0	13
	Male	10	9	0	0	0	2	4	25
2 to 5	Female	19	17	0	0	0	3	6	45
	Male	23	27	0	0	0	4	5	59
6 to 11	Female	49	32	0	0	0	5	3	89
	Male	69	33	0	0	0	5	12	119
12 to 15	Female	32	13	0	0	0	3	5	53
	Male	46	17	0	0	0	6	11	80
16 to 18	Female	14	5	0	0	0	2	0	21
	Male	11	8	1	0	0	1	1	22
Total		280	166	1	0	0	32	47	526

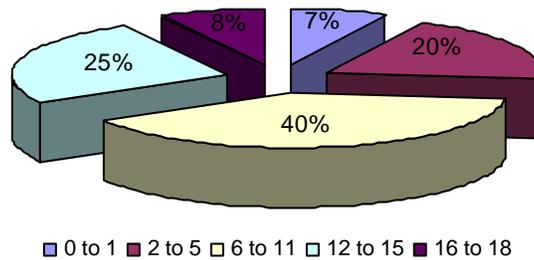
Of the children available for adoption, 53 percent were white and 32 percent were black. These percentages are similar to the previous quarter.

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



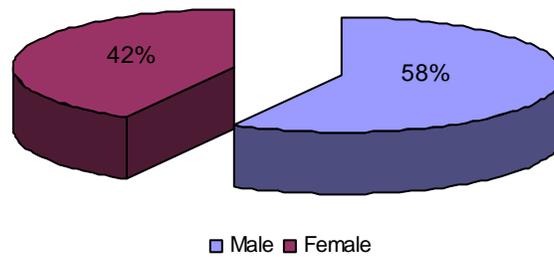
More children available for adoption at the end of the quarter were between the ages of six and 11 (40%) in comparison to any other age group.

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



At the end of the quarter, more male children (58%) than female children (42%) were available for adoption. These percentages are similar to the second quarter.

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



Current Placements of Children Available for Adoption

At the end of the third quarter, more children who were available for adoption were placed in DCFS foster homes (42%) than in any other type of placement, followed by therapeutic foster homes (19%). These results are similar to the previous quarter.

**Table 24: Current Placements of Children Available for Adoption
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

Placement	Number of Children	Percentage*
DCFS Foster Home	221	42%
Pre-Adoptive Home	82	16%
Therapeutic Foster Home	98	19%
Residential Facility	74	14%
Hospital/Medical	5	1%
Emergency Shelter	6	1%
Temporary Placement	3	0.6%
Sub-Acute CRT	20	4%
ASAP CRT	3	0.6%
Kinship Care	2	0.4%
ASAP Residential Treatment	2	0.4%
ASAP Therapeutic Foster Care	2	0.4%
Youth Services	1	0.2%
Acute CRT	5	1%
Incarceration	1	0.2%
DDS Placement	1	0.2%
Total*	526	100%

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

Characteristics of Children in Pre-adoptive Placements

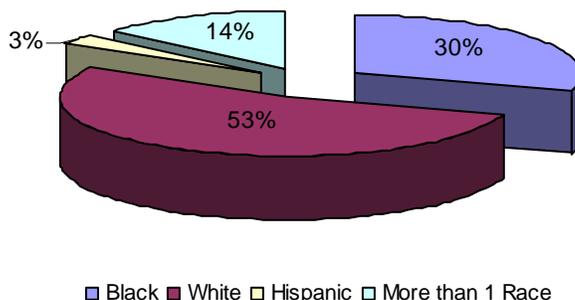
During the third quarter, 131 children were in pre-adoptive homes. This number includes children who entered a pre-adoptive home during previous quarters as well as children who were newly placed in a pre-adoptive home during the current quarter.

**Table 25: Characteristics of Children in Pre-adoptive Placements
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	4	7	0	0	0	0	1	12
	Male	7	5	0	0	0	1	2	15
2 to 5	Female	11	5	0	0	0	0	4	20
	Male	7	6	0	0	0	0	4	17
6 to 11	Female	15	4	0	0	0	1	1	21
	Male	16	5	0	0	0	2	2	25
12 to 15	Female	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	5
	Male	5	2	0	0	0	0	2	9
16 to 18	Female	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	5
	Male	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total		70	39	0	0	0	4	18	131

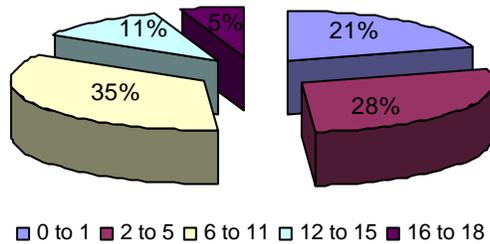
Of the 131 children in pre-adoptive homes during the quarter, 53 percent were white and 30 percent were black.

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



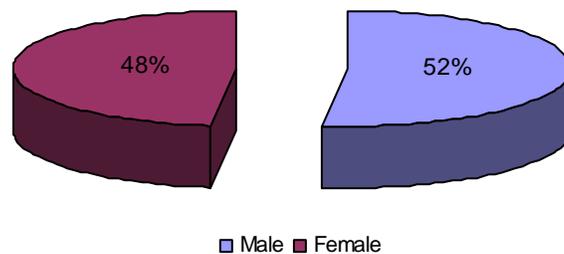
Children between the ages of six and 11 (35%) represent the largest age group of children placed in pre-adoptive homes.

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



Of the 131 children in a pre-adoptive home setting during the quarter, 52 percent were male and 48 percent were female. These percentages differ from the second quarter, when 55 percent were male and 45 percent were female.

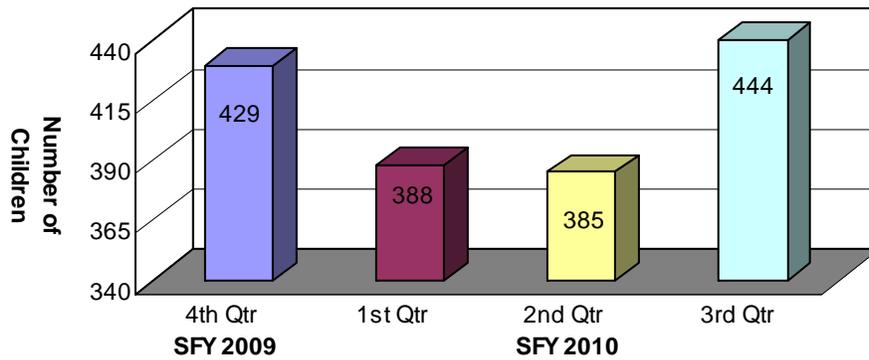
33c: Gender of Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes During the Quarter



Children not Placed in Adoptive Homes whose Parents have had their Parental Rights Terminated

During the third quarter, there were 444 children whose parents had their parental rights terminated but were not placed in adoptive homes, an increase from the previous quarter (385). This statistic was derived by subtracting the number of children placed in adoptive homes at the end of the quarter (82) from the number of children available for adoption at the end of the quarter (526).

Chart 34: Children not Placed in Adoptive Homes whose Parents have had their Parental Rights Terminated



Children with Special Needs

During the third quarter, 92 children with special needs were in pre-adoptive placements.¹⁴ Children with special needs are defined as children who have severe medical or psychological needs that require ongoing treatment. Children at high risk for the development of serious physical, mental or emotional conditions may be considered special needs if documentation is provided by a medical professional specializing in the area of the condition for which the child is considered at risk. Other children may be considered special needs if they are Caucasian and over the age of nine; African-American and two years of age or older; or members of a sibling group of three or more who are to be placed together, regardless of race or ethnicity.

**Table 26: Children with Special Needs who were Placed in Adoptive Homes
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

Special Needs Condition	Number of Children
Race	91
Age	71
Member of sibling group	43

Characteristics of Children with Finalized Adoptions

During the quarter, 101 children had their adoptions finalized, a decrease from the previous quarter (145). The following table outlines the characteristics of the children with finalized adoptions.

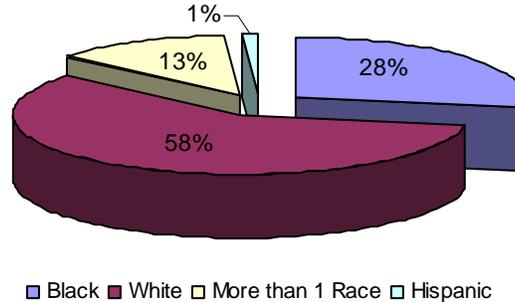
**Table 27: Characteristics of Children with Finalized Adoptions
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	9	5	0	0	0	0	2	16
	Male	2	4	0	0	0	0	1	7
2 to 5	Female	17	3	0	0	0	0	2	22
	Male	10	1	0	0	0	1	3	15
6 to 11	Female	7	2	0	0	0	0	3	12
	Male	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	11
12 to 15	Female	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Male	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
16 to 18	Female	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	6
	Male	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total		59	28	0	0	0	1	13	101

¹⁴ This number does not take into account children with severe medical and psychological needs because this data is not available in CHRIS (Arkansas' Children's Reporting and Information System). As enhancements are made to the data system to capture this information, it will be provided in future reports.

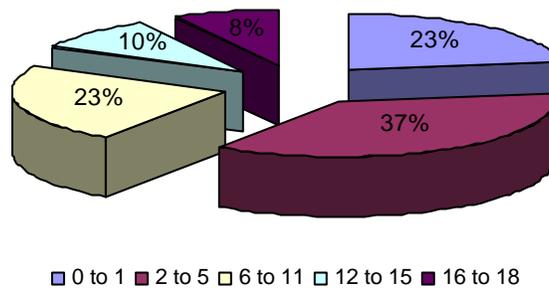
Of the 101 finalized adoptions during the third quarter, 58 percent of the adopted children were white and 28 percent were black.

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



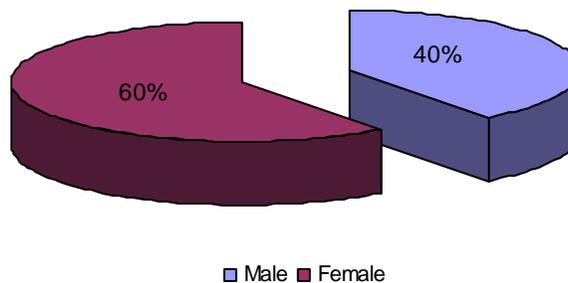
Children between the ages of two and five (37%) represented the largest age group of children whose adoptions were finalized during the quarter.

Chart 35b: Ages of Children with Finalized Adoptions



During the quarter, 60 percent of the children whose adoptions were finalized were female and 40 percent were male.

Chart 35c: Gender of Children with Finalized Adoptions



Subsidized Adoptions

During the third quarter, 81 children began receiving adoption subsidies. Of those, 71 children received federally-funded subsidies and ten received state-funded subsidies.

Characteristics of Children who Received Adoption Subsidies

During the third quarter, 3,829 children received adoption subsidies. The following table outlines the demographics of those children.

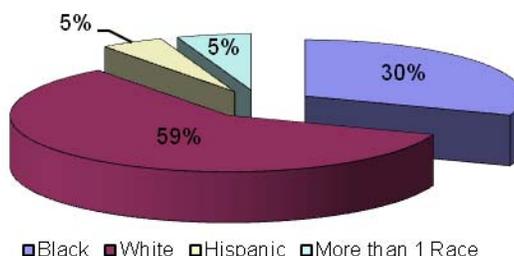
**Table 28: Characteristics of Children Receiving Adoption Subsidies
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	22	11	0	0	0	1	2	36
	Male	10	9	0	0	0	3	2	24
2 to 5	Female	218	77	2	0	0	20	36	353
	Male	213	110	1	2	0	20	23	369
6 to 11	Female	422	236	1	2	0	39	53	753
	Male	438	204	2	0	1	51	42	738
12 to 15	Female	280	175	1	2	0	20	21	499
	Male	318	163	0	1	1	12	12	507
16 to 18	Female	139	80	0	0	0	9	8	236
	Male	139	64	0	0	0	2	8	213
18+	Female	19	14	1	0	0	1	2	37
	Male	32	15	0	0	0	0	0	47
Total*		2,250	1,158	8	7	2	178	209	3,812

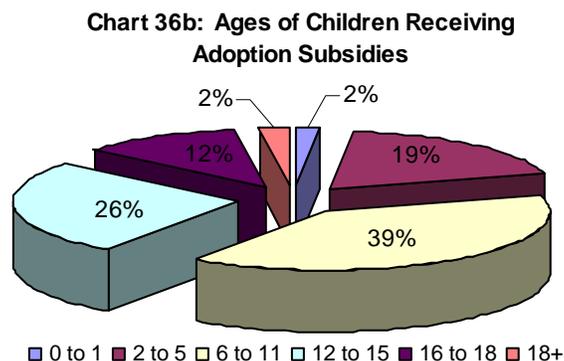
*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for 17 children.

Fifty-nine percent of the children who received adoption subsidies were white and 30 percent were black, similar to the previous quarter.

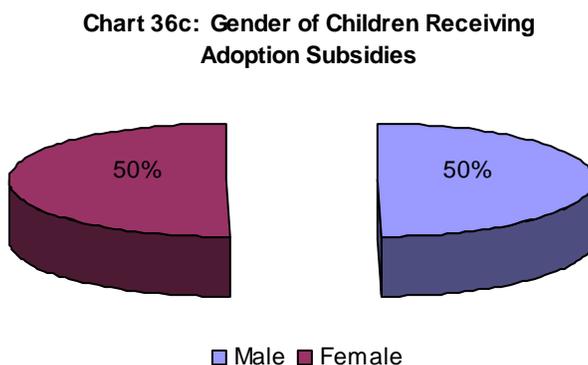
Chart 36a: Race/Ethnicity of Children Receiving Adoption Subsidies



The majority of the children receiving adoption subsidies during the quarter were between the ages of six and 11 (39%).



Of the children receiving adoption subsidies, 50 percent were male and 50 percent were female.



Adoptive Homes

At the beginning of the third quarter, 740 adoptive homes were available; at the end of the quarter, 654 adoptive homes were available.

**Table 29: Adoptive Homes
3rd Quarter SFY 2010**

	Total Adoptive Homes	Non-Foster Adoptive Homes	Foster Adoptive Homes
Homes available for children at beginning of quarter	740	305	435
Newly available homes	84	35	49
Homes that had children placed during the quarter	72	27	45
Homes that experienced a disruption	3	3	0
Homes that closed without a placement	101	39	62
Homes available at the end of the quarter	654	277	377

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
Abigail Farmer	Greene	<1	White	Female	3/5/2010	Inadequate Supervision	In Home	Family Member	CACD	72-Hour Hold	Prior Investigation	FC Case
Daton Bradley	Faulkner	<1	White	Male	2/19/2010	Inadequate Supervision	In Home	Family Member	CACD	72-Hour Hold	None	FC Case
Elaine Keene	Crawford	1	White	Female	3/10/2010	Threat of Harm/Failure to Protect	In Home	Family Member	CACD	None	None	None
Gary McPherson	Washington	15	White	Male	3/15/2010	Inadequate Supervision	Foster Care	Facility Staff	CACD	None	Prior Investigation/Prior FC Case	None
Laekyn Cole	Greene	<1	White	Female	1/12/2010	Inadequate Shelter/ Environmental Neglect	In Home	Family Member	CACD	72-Hour Hold	None	FC Case
Rosetta Middlebrooks	Fulton	<1	White	Female	1/16/2010	Inadequate Supervision	In Home	Family Member	CACD	None	None	PS Case
Ryan Smith	Desha	1	Black	Male	1/15/2010	Physical Abuse	In Home	Family Member	CACD	72-Hour Hold	Prior Investigation	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
Lamajey Balentine	Jackson	<1	Black	Male	1/28/2010	Sudden Infant Death	In Home	Family Member	CACD	72-Hour Hold	None	FC Case

Pending Fatality Reports

There were no pending fatality reports during 3rd Quarter SFY 2010

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	Sebastian	3	White	Male	2/9/2010	Physical Abuse/Failure to Protect	In Home	Family Member	CACD	None	Prior Investigation	FC Case
Child #2	Garland	1	White	Female	2/11/2010	Physical Abuse	In Home	Family Member	CACD	None	None	FC Case
Child #3	Crawford	<1	White	Female	3/10/2010	Physical Abuse	In Home	Family Member	CACD	72-Hour Hold	None	FC Case
Child #4	Sebastian	1	White	Female	3/16/2010	Inadequate Supervision	Foster Care	Foster Parent	CACD	None	FC Case	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	Lonoke	2	White	Female	1/20/2010	Inadequate Supervision	In Home	Family Member	CACD	None	None	SS Case

Pending 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	Sebastian	<1	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Male	3/29/2010	Newborn-Illegal Substance Exposure	In Home	Family Member	DCFS	72-Hour Hold	None	FC Case

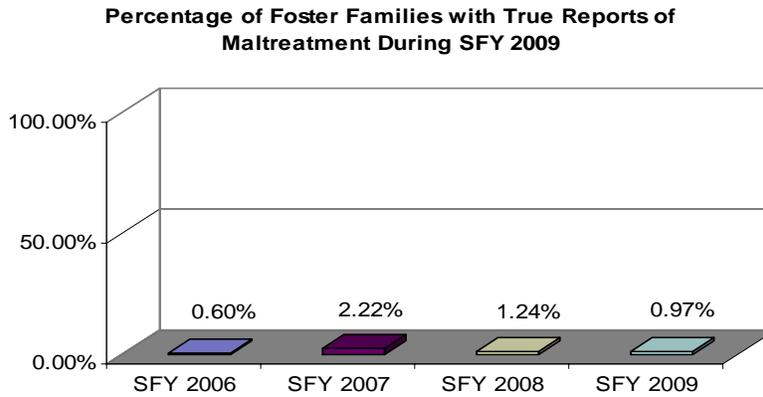
Appendix C: Fatalities of Children in Foster Care Who Did Not Receive a Maltreatment Investigation

Child	County	Age	Race	Gender	Date of Death	Preliminary Cause of Death	Placement at the Time of Incident	Legal Action By the Department	Services Provided Prior to the Incident	Services Provided After the Incident
Child #1	Lincoln	<1	White	Male	2/9/2010	Medical Problems	Foster Care	None	Foster Care	PS Case
Child #2	Fulton	19	White	Female	2/9/2010	Auto Accident	Foster Care/ILP Program	None	Foster Care	None

Appendix D: Summary of Foster Care Maltreatment Reports

Foster Care Maltreatment Reports

There were 162 foster home maltreatment reports received during SFY 2009. Of those, 18 were found to be true. Based on the 1,850 DCFS foster homes¹⁵ open during the year, the percentage of foster families with a true report of maltreatment was 0.97 percent. This is down 0.27 percentage points from SFY 2008 (1.24%).

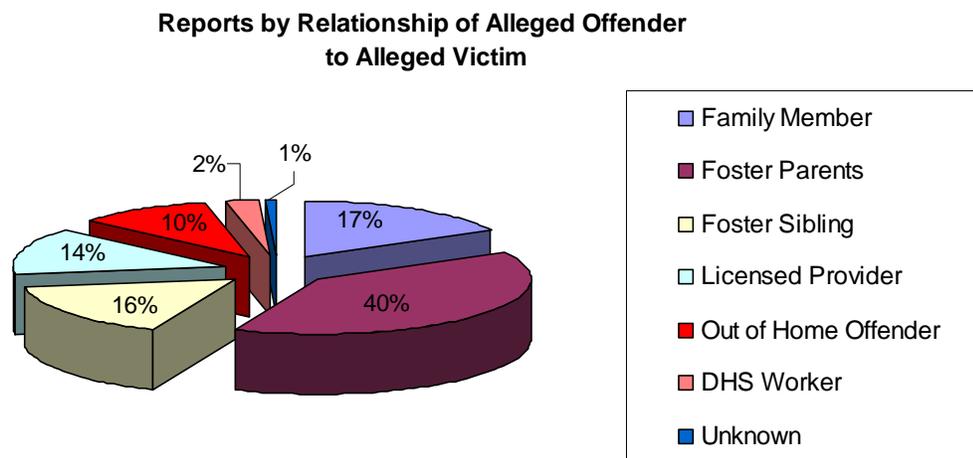


¹⁵ This includes family and therapeutic foster homes.

**Characteristics of Children in Foster Care Involved in Allegations of Maltreatment
3rd Quarter of SFY 2010**

One hundred and thirteen reports of alleged maltreatment, involving 149 children in foster care¹⁶, were received by the hotline during the third quarter of SYF 2010. Of those, 93 reports, involving 124 children, cited incidents that occurred while the child was in foster care.¹⁷

In 30 reports, involving 49 children, foster parents were identified as the alleged offenders. The following chart displays the relationship of alleged offenders to the 124 foster children involved in reports of maltreatment.



The following chart displays the 30 maltreatment reports that originated in foster homes—with foster parents as alleged offenders—by disposition. Only five were found to be true, and three of those homes were subsequently closed. One home was made unavailable and is in the process of closing. The other home was also made unavailable but is pending an administrative hearing.

**Foster Home Maltreatment Reports During
3rd Quarter of SFY 2010**

True	Unsubstantiated	Pending
5	25	0

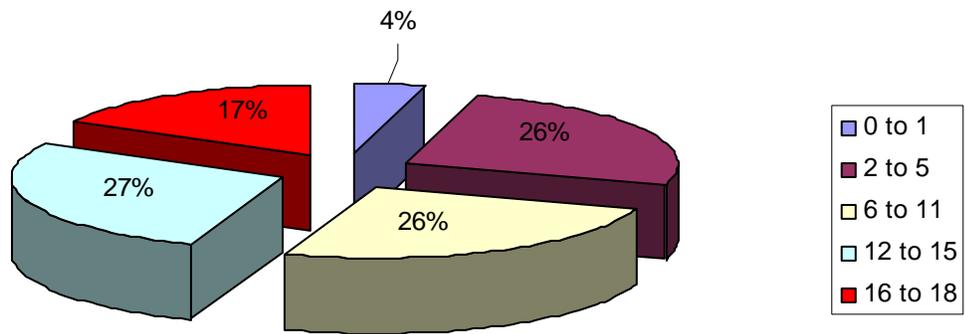
All allegations of maltreatment concerning foster homes are investigated by the Crimes Against Children Division (CACD) of the Arkansas State Police. DCFS staff do not actively participate in the investigation of these reports. Furthermore, all allegations of maltreatment regarding foster homes require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

The following charts describe the 124 foster children involved in allegations of maltreatment by age, race, gender, allegations, and location.

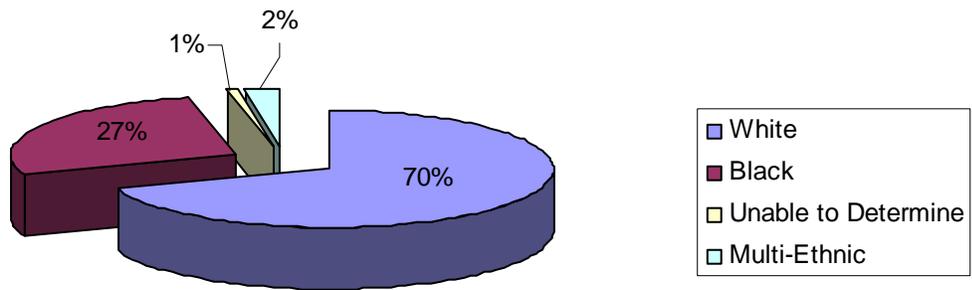
¹⁶ A maltreatment report can include more than one child.

¹⁷ The remaining 25 children were victims of an alleged incident that occurred prior to the child entering foster care. Those 25 children disclosed the alleged incident after entering care.

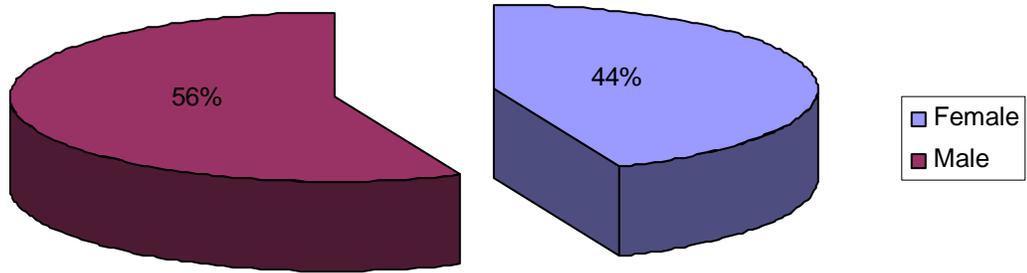
Reports by Age



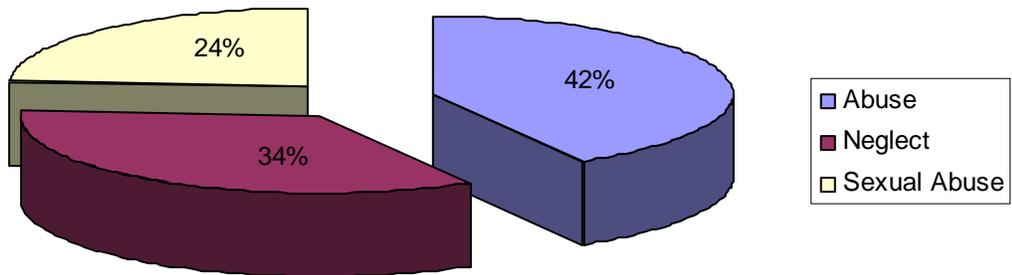
Reports by Race



Reports by Gender



Reports by Allegation



Reports by County

County	Number of Children Involved in Maltreatment Report	County	Number of Children Involved in Maltreatment Report
Pulaski	24	Union	2
Benton	14	Arkansas	2
Craighead	12	Carroll	2
Washington	6	Greene	2
Clay	6	Pike	2
St. Francis	4	Sebastian	2
Randolph	4	Columbia	2
Garland	4	Crittenden	2
Madison	4	Franklin	1
Ouachita	4	Polk	1
Johnson	3	Lee	1
Independence	3	Dallas	1
Jefferson	3	Logan	1
White	3	Hempstead	1
Miller	3	Lonoke	1
Mississippi	3	Cross	1