

# Quarterly Performance Report

*4th Quarter  
SFY 2011*

*(April 2011 – June 2011)*



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

Produced by:  
*Hornby Zeller Associates, Inc.*

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) is distributed to the Division of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) managers and legislative committees dealing with children and youth. The QPR for the fourth quarter of State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2011, specifically April through June 2010, consists of three parts:

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

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

## Part I: Performance Indicators

DCFS has established nine performance indicators to measure its progress with regard to its major goals of child safety, permanency and well-being. During the fourth 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 fourth quarter.

## Part II: Compliance Index

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

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

- Timely Initiation of Child Maltreatment Assessments

The percentage of investigations initiated on time was **80 percent**, a decrease of one percentage point from the previous quarter (81 percent). Compliance for this index has declined for four consecutive quarters and remains less than the compliance goal of 95 percent.

With compliance in multiple areas falling below the goal of 95 percent, the Division has established corrective action plans to help improve the timeliness of initiations. Corrective actions include closer supervisory oversight of staff's workloads and assurance that staff enter key information into DCFS' information system—CHRIS—in a timely manner. Other corrective actions consist of assigning investigations to staff sooner, making more effort to see the alleged victims immediately, and initiating investigations on time on weekends and holidays. During the past several months, Area 1 has experienced significant turnover among its investigation staff, but it intends to reassign existing staff and hire new staff to combat the problem. As a result, it expects that the timeliness of initiating child maltreatment assessments will improve in the near future.

- Timely Completion of Child Maltreatment Assessments

The percentage of investigations completed in a timely manner for the quarter was **53 percent**, a decrease of two percentage points from the previous quarter. Compliance for this index has declined for three consecutive quarters and remains less than the compliance goal of 90 percent.

When compared to the previous quarter, compliance with respect to this measure decreased among both Priority I and Priority II referrals in the majority of DCFS' ten Service Areas. No individual Area met the compliance goal of 90 percent for either Priority level; however, Areas 5 and 10 came close to meeting the established compliance goals. Both Areas concluded investigations on time for well over 80 percent of their Priority I and II referrals. Less than three-fourths of the investigations within the remaining eight areas were completed on time, with Areas 1 and 2 having the lowest levels of compliance.

Because compliance in all ten areas fell below the goal of 90 percent, Area Directors have established corrective actions to improve compliance in future quarters. Staff in many areas have been authorized to work overtime in an effort to reduce the backlog of overdue investigations. Additionally, most areas have implemented processes in which investigation staff will conference with their supervisors at pre-determined intervals during the first 30 days of a new investigation. Another corrective action is ensuring that staff enter key information into CHRIS in a timelier fashion. The expectation is that the new practices will lead to the more timely completion of investigations in future quarters.

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

**Fifty-six percent** of the children requiring a 24-hour initial health screening received the screening on time. This is a two percentage point increase in compliance when compared to the previous quarter and below the goal of 95 percent.

During the quarter, **72 percent** of the children who required a 72-hour initial health screening received the service on time, an increase of seven percentage points from the previous quarter (65 percent) yet below the goal of 95 percent.

No area met the 95 percent compliance goal for the 24-hour initial health screenings, although Area 10 came close. Area 10 was also the only area that met the compliance goal for the 72-hour initial health screenings. On the other hand, less than three-quarters of the children coming into foster care in Areas 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9 who required either a 24-hour or 72-hour screening received the service on time. Area 6 struggled more than any other area, with less than one-fifth of its incoming children receiving the needed 24-hour screening on time and just one-half receiving a 72-hour screening on time.

Since overall compliance fell well below the goal of 95 percent, the Division has established corrective actions to help remedy the barriers that prevent timely health screenings. Several areas attributed their compliance figures to scheduling and availability problems between workers and health care providers. Area 6, which struggled the most, reported that some of the screenings had in

fact been completed on time; however, the relevant information is not entered into CHRIS in a timely manner. Despite these reported problems, Area Directors hope that more advanced planning, improved communication and scheduling with providers, and greater supervisory oversight can improve these percentages in future quarters.

- Comprehensive Health Assessments

The percentage of timely completed comprehensive health assessments rose to **66 percent**, an increase of one percentage point from the previous quarter (65 percent). Compliance remains below the goal of 95 percent.

With respect to completing children’s comprehensive health assessments on time, none of the ten DCFS Service Areas met the compliance goal of 95 percent. Areas 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8 completed less than two-thirds of the comprehensive health assessments on time. Only Area 3 came close to meeting compliance, completing 91 percent on time. The same issues that negatively impacted the timely completion of initial health screenings also adversely affected the percentage of children who had their comprehensive health assessments completed within 60 days of entering foster care. Area Directors hope that improved communication and scheduling with providers can improve the situation.

- Foster Home Recruitment

There were 131 new foster homes recruited during the quarter, an increase from the 112 homes recruited during the previous quarter. DCFS staff recruited far more than the goal of 80 new homes for the quarter, which represents a compliance rate of **164 percent**.

The statewide recruitment of foster homes continues to exceed the Division’s expectations for quarterly recruitment, continuing a multi-year trend of exceeding the Division’s own goal. This sustained effort can be attributed to an increase in the promotion and frequency of foster family inquiry meetings. In addition, DCFS continues to maintain an advantageous relationship with *The C.A.L.L. (Children of Arkansas Loved for a Lifetime)*, a faith-based foster parent recruitment organization that began in Pulaski County in 2007 but has since expanded into 19 additional counties. In fact, *The C.A.L.L.* now has a presence in all ten DCFS Service Areas. Aside from the increased frequency of inquiry meetings and the expanded efforts of *The C.A.L.L.*, DCFS Central Office staff anticipate that the planned production of new information brochures will offer a boost to foster home recruitment across the state.

- Required Visits Made by Worker

During the fourth quarter, the percentage of children who received a required visit from their caseworker averaged **53 percent**, which was a decrease of five percentage points from the previous quarter and well below the goal of 85 percent. The percentage of children who received visits for each of the months from April through June was 53 percent, 52 percent, and 53 percent, respectively.

None of the individual DCFS Service Areas came close to meeting the compliance goal of 85 percent, and only caseworkers in Areas 6 and 10 made at least 70 percent of their required visits. At the other end of the spectrum, DCFS staff in Areas 1, 2 and 7 completed fewer than half of their required visits.

In order to increase the number of required visits made by workers, several areas have placed a greater focus on monitoring workers' visitation schedules. The Division has emphasized the need for its supervisors to ensure that workers manage their time efficiently. Several Area Directors indicated that the documentation of visits in CHRIS is often incomplete, and subsequently indicated that a more concerted effort will be made to ensure that the visits are documented. Area Directors elsewhere intend to increase the number of completed monthly visits by holding more frequent case staffings between supervisors and caseworkers, with the expectation that doing so will ensure that the agency's children and families are visited with greater consistency. Finally, some areas are hoping that the agency's implementation of the differential response system—which will outsource many of the Division's traditionally "less serious" investigations of maltreatment to private agencies—will allow staff to devote more time to completing 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 for the fourth quarter.

## **PART I: PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

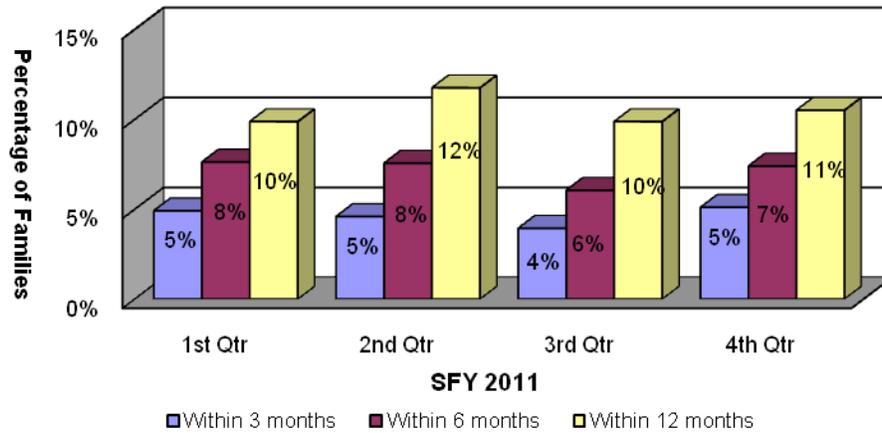
The Division has established nine performance measures to indicate achievement levels related to its major goals in child safety, family preservation and permanency:

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

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

Of the 2,476 children involved in true reports of maltreatment during the fourth quarter one year ago, only 11 percent (261) had a subsequent true report within 12 months.

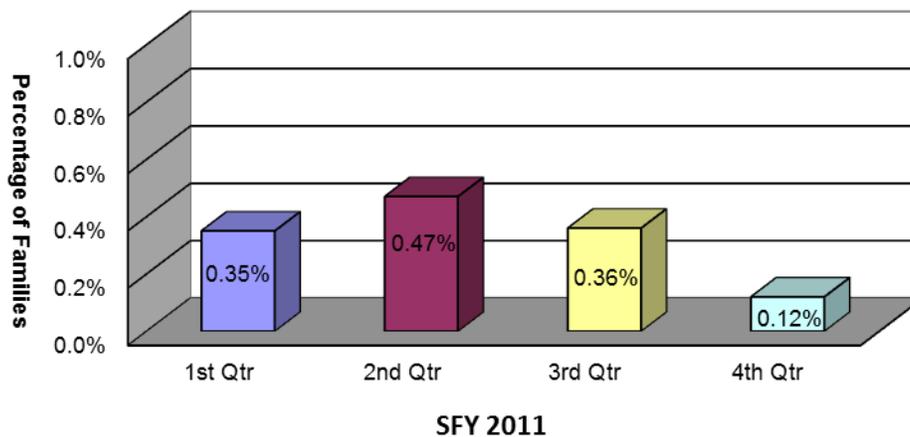
**Chart 1: Recurrence of Maltreatment within 12 Months of Initial Report**



**Percentage of Foster Families with True Reports of Maltreatment**

Of the 35 foster home maltreatment reports received during the fourth quarter in which foster parents were the alleged offenders, only three were determined to be true. Based on the 1,660 foster homes<sup>1</sup> active during the quarter, the percentage of foster families with a true report of maltreatment was 0.18 percent.

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

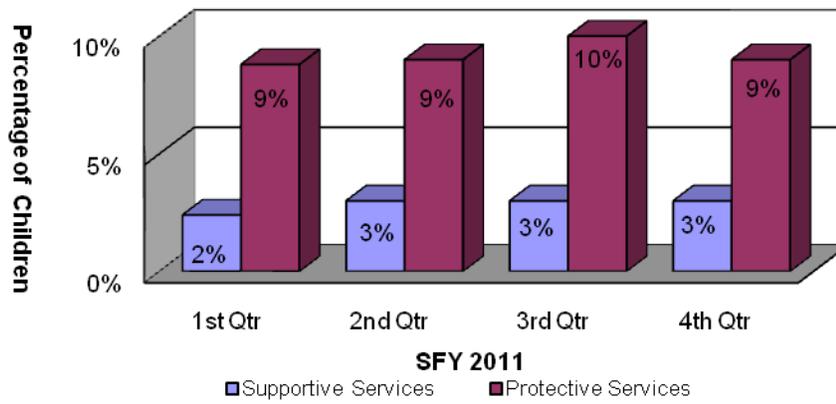


<sup>1</sup> This includes family and therapeutic foster homes.

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

Of the 457 children who began receiving Supportive Services during the fourth quarter one year ago, fifteen children (3 percent) experienced a true report of maltreatment within one year. Of the 3,533 children who began receiving Protective Services during the fourth quarter one year ago, 335 children (9 percent)<sup>2</sup> were involved in a true report within one year.

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

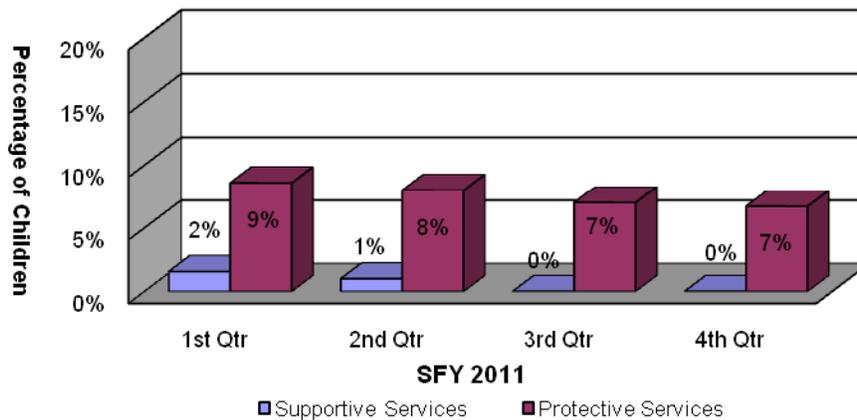


<sup>2</sup> Beginning with the first quarter of SFY 2011, a new methodology was utilized to measure this percentage. The population is now limited to in-home cases only.

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

Of the 457 children who began receiving Supportive Services during the fourth quarter one year ago, two entered foster care within one year of the initiation of these services; 238 of the 3,533 (7 percent) children who began receiving Protective Services during the same timeframe entered care within one year.

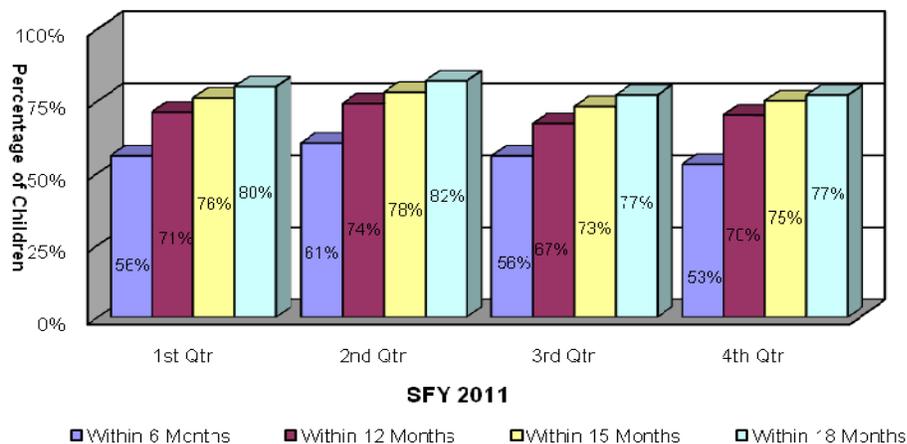
**Chart 4: Children Receiving Supportive Services or Protective Services who Entered Foster Care within One Year of the Initiation of Services**



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

During the quarter 18 months prior to the start of the current quarter, 938 children entered foster care. Of those, 722 children (77 percent) returned home within 18 months. A similar percentage of children returned home within 18 months of entering care in comparison to the previous quarter. The percentage of children returning home within 12 months stood at 70 percent, higher than the national median of 48.4 percent.

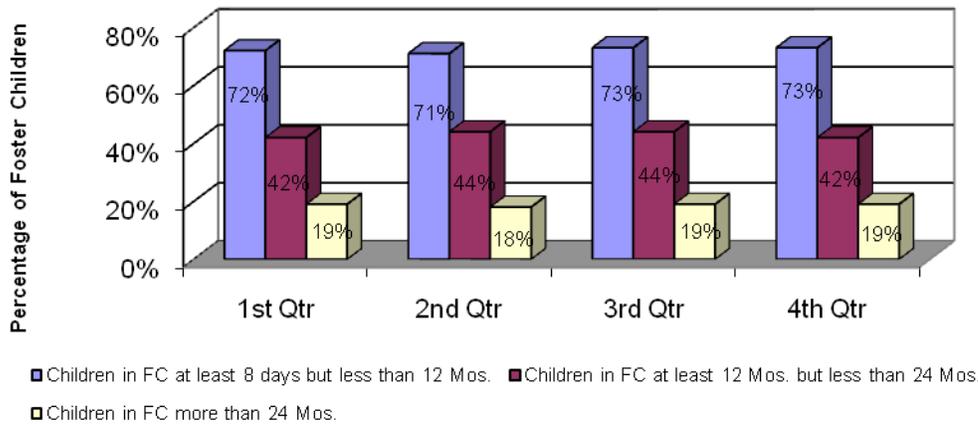
**Chart 5: Children in Foster Care who Returned Home within Eighteen Months**



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

Placement stability of children in foster care is measured by the percentage of children with two or fewer placements who are in care for varying lengths of time. Of the children at the end of the quarter who were in foster care for less than 12 months, 73 percent experienced two or fewer placements; the national standard is 86 percent. Of the children in foster care between 12 and 24 months, 42 percent had two or fewer placements; the national standard for this population is 65.4 percent. Finally, of the children who were in foster care for over two years, only 19 percent experienced two or fewer placements during their stay in foster care, with the national standard for this population being 41.8 percent.

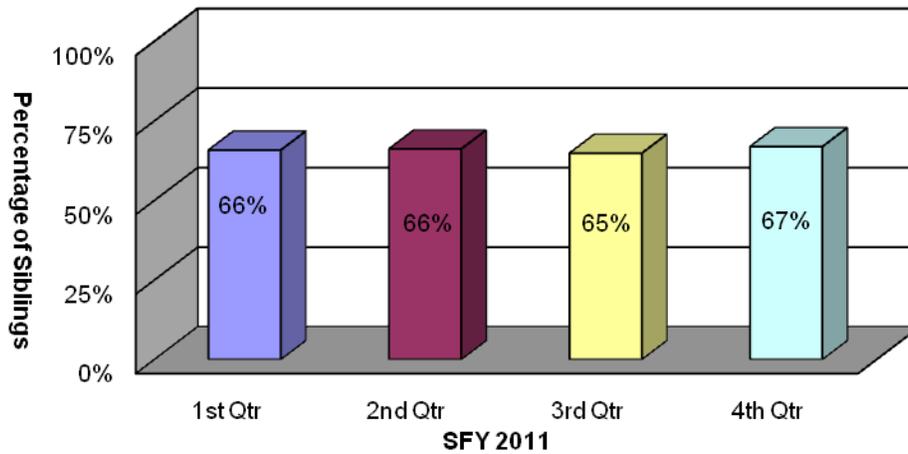
**Chart 6: Children in Foster Care who have Experienced Two or Fewer Placements**



***Percentage of Siblings in Placement who are Placed Together***

During the fourth quarter, there were 2,015 children with siblings in foster care. Of those children, 67 percent (1,349) were placed with at least one of their siblings. This was higher than the previous three quarters. Of those same 2,015 children, 48 percent were placed with all of their siblings, which was three percentage points higher than the previous quarter (45 percent). These figures do not exclude children who were placed separately for valid reasons such as safety issues or court orders.

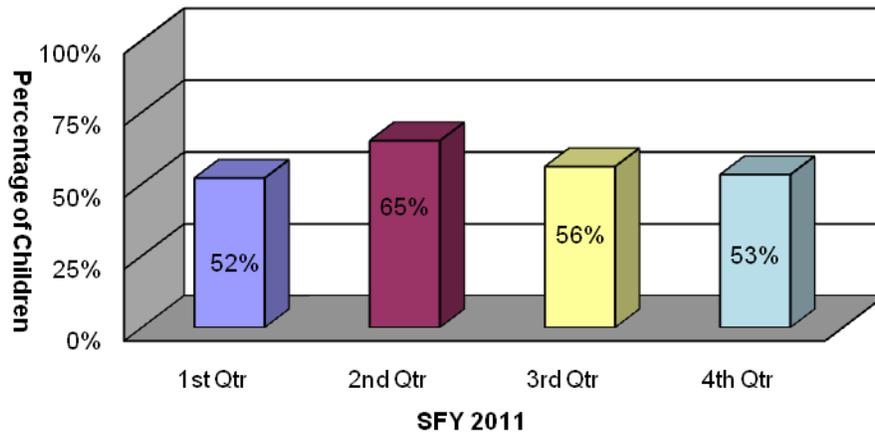
**Chart 7: Siblings in Care who are Placed Together**



***Percentage of Children Who Were Adopted Within One Year of Having Their Goal Changed to Adoption<sup>3</sup>***

Of the 139 children whose goals were changed to adoption during the quarter one year ago, 74 children (53 percent) were adopted within one year of the goal change. This represents a three percentage point decrease from the previous quarter (56 percent).

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



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<sup>3</sup> This performance indicator is incorporated into the QPR beginning with the correct quarter. However, the results from the previous three quarters are also presented for comparison purposes.

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

Between April and June 2010, 109 children were placed in a pre-adoptive home. Of those children, 99 (91 percent) had their adoptions finalized within 12 months of the placement. This result remained consistent with that evidenced in the previous quarter.

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

**Table 1: Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes whose Adoptions were finalized within Twelve Months of Entering Pre-adoptive Placements  
4th Quarter SFY 2011**

<b>Adoption Status</b>	<b>Number of Children</b>
Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes	109
Finalized Adoptions	99
Disrupted Adoptive Placements	7
Children with a Disruption who were Re-placed in Pre-adoptive Homes	2
Still Pending after Twelve Months	5

## 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.

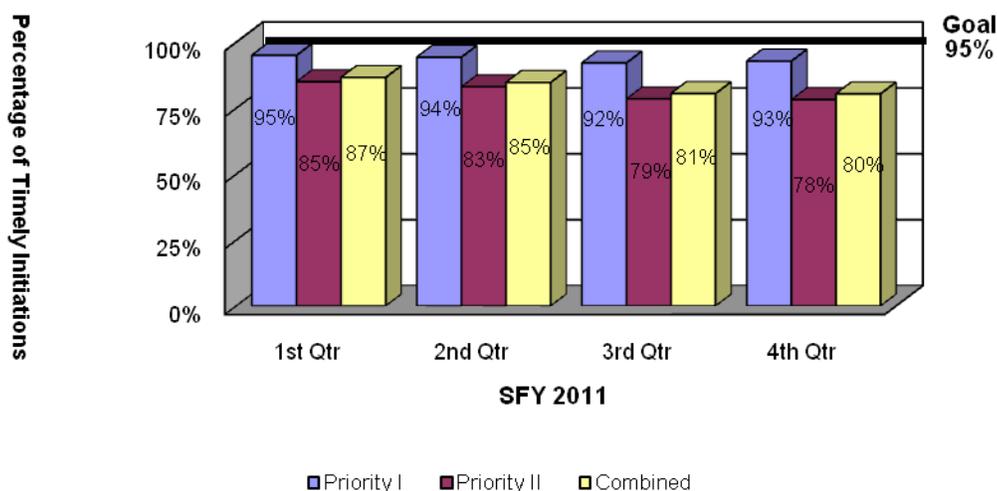
### *Timely Initiation of Child Maltreatment Assessments*

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(ren) outside the presence of the alleged offender within 24 hours for Priority I referrals or within 72 hours for Priority II referrals. There were 9,175 referrals of child maltreatment during the quarter. Of those, 7,535 were assigned to DCFS for investigation—1,134 Priority I referrals and 6,401 Priority II referrals.

Of the DCFS assigned Priority I referrals, 1,053 (93 percent) were initiated within the required 24-hour period. Of the DCFS Priority II referrals, 5,005 (78 percent) were initiated within the required 72-hour period.<sup>4</sup> Overall, 80 percent of the referrals were initiated within the required timeframe. The combined compliance rate was one percentage point lower than the rate for the previous quarter.

As noted previously, the Crimes Against Children Division (CACD) of the Arkansas State Police is also responsible for handling child abuse assessments. CACD was responsible for 1,640 of the 9,175 referrals that came in during the quarter, of which 1,503 were Priority I referrals and 137 were Priority II referrals. Of the Priority I referrals, 1,421 (95 percent) were initiated in a timely manner while 130 (95 percent) of the Priority II referrals were initiated in on time.

**Chart 9: Timely Initiation of Child Maltreatment Assessments (DCFS Only)**

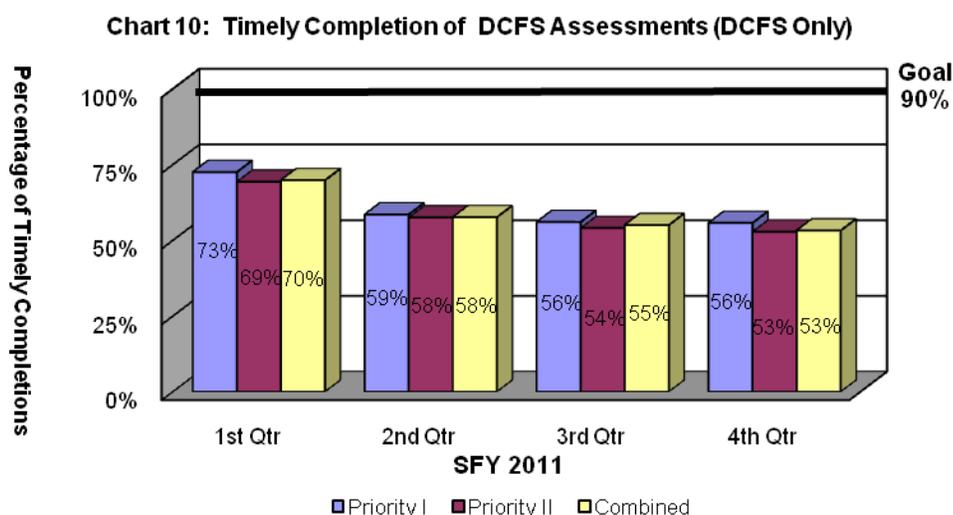


<sup>4</sup> DCFS had 1,053 Priority I referrals and 5,005 Priority II referrals that were initiated in a timely manner. Of those, 173 Priority I (16 percent) and 1,453 Priority II referrals (29 percent) were considered compliant due to reasonable diligence. CACD had 1,421 Priority I referrals and 130 Priority II referrals that were initiated in a timely manner. Of those, 198 Priority I (14 percent) and 22 Priority II (17 percent) referrals were considered compliant due to reasonable diligence.

### *Timely Completion of Child Maltreatment Assessments*

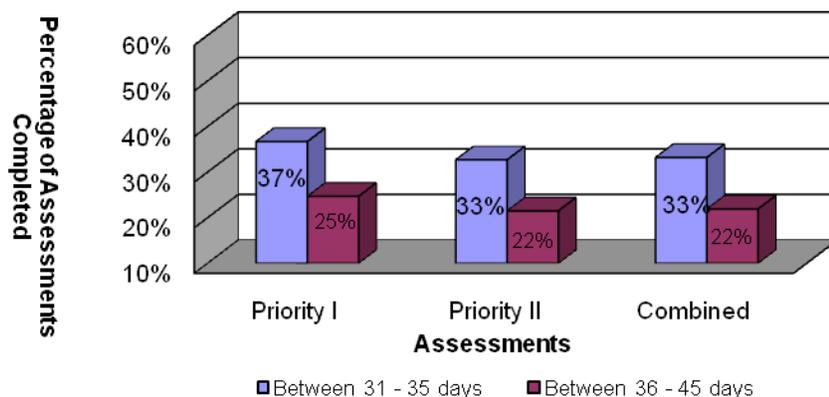
Of the 1,134 Priority I assessments assigned to DCFS, 632 (56 percent) were completed within the required 30-day period. Of the 6,401 DCFS Priority II assessments, 3,378 (53 percent) were completed within the required 30-day period. The completions resulted in an overall compliance rate of 53 percent, which was two percentage points lower than the previous quarter. Compliance continues to be below the goal of 90 percent (See plan of action in the Executive Summary).

As referenced earlier, the Crimes Against Children Division (CACD) of the Arkansas State Police was responsible for 1,640 of the incoming referrals received during the quarter—1,503 Priority I assessments and 137 Priority II assessments. Of the Priority I assessments, 1,067 (71 percent) were completed on time while 90 (66 percent) of the Priority II assessments were completed on time.



Of the 3,525 DCFS-assigned investigations that became overdue anytime during the quarter, 1,172 (33 percent) were completed within 31 to 35 days after the referral date and another 775 (22 percent) were completed within 36 to 45 days after the referral. Overall, 55 percent of the overdue investigations were completed within 15 days of being overdue (Chart 11).

**Chart 11: Overdue Assessments Completed between 31 to 45 Days**

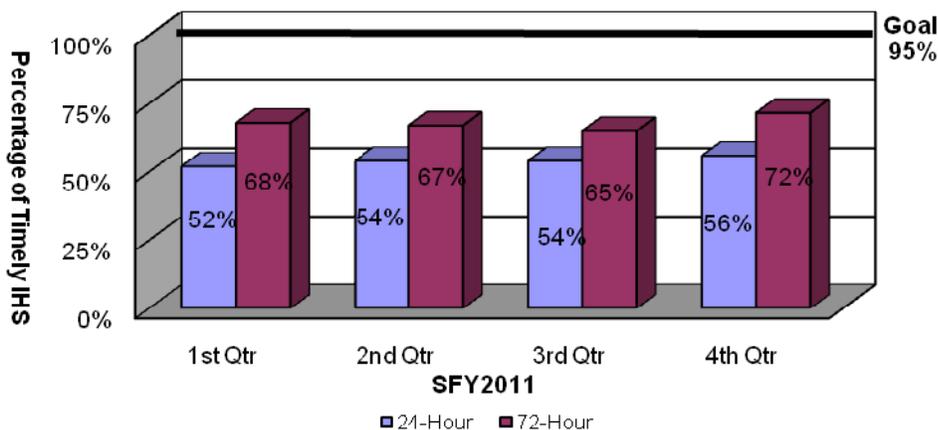


***24- and 72-Hour Initial Health Screenings for Children Entering Foster Care***

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 381 children who required the 24-hour health screening during the fourth quarter, 213 children (56 percent) received the screening in a timely manner. The compliance rate was two percentage points higher than the previous quarter and short of the goal of 95 percent.

All children entering foster care who do not require the initial 24-hour health screening must still undergo an initial health screening within 72 hours of their removal. Of the 685 children who required the 72-hour health screening, 491 (72 percent) received their screenings on time, which was seven percentage points higher than the previous quarter and short of the goal of 95 percent (See plan of action in the Executive Summary).

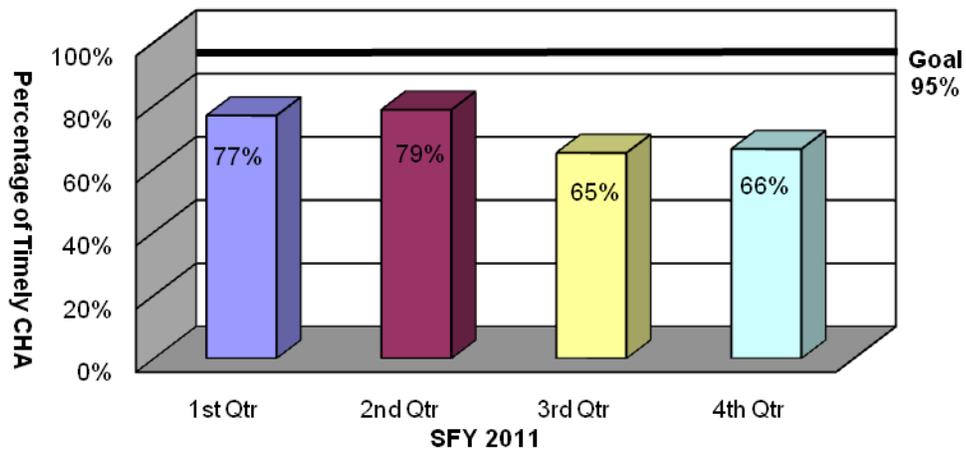
**Chart 12: 24- and 72-Hour Initial Health Screenings for Children Entering Foster Care**



### *Comprehensive Health Assessments*

All children entering foster care must receive a comprehensive health assessment as well to evaluate their physical and mental health status; the assessment is to be completed within 60 days of entering foster care. Between January 31, 2011 and May 1, 2011, 651 children entered foster care who remained in care for at least 60 days. Of those children, 431 received their comprehensive health assessment in a timely manner. The resulting compliance rate was 66 percent, which was one percentage point higher than the previous quarter and below the goal of 95 percent.

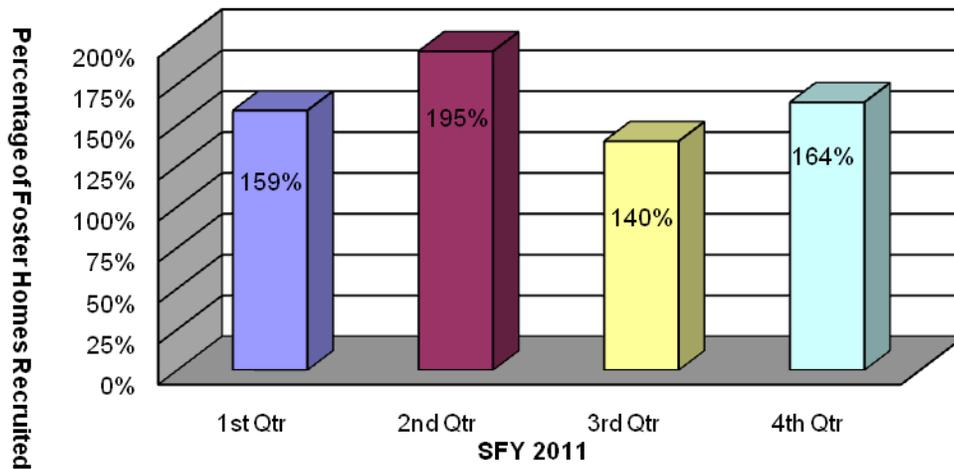
**Chart 13: Comprehensive Health Assessments**



***Foster Home Recruitment***

DCFS recruited 131 new foster homes during the fourth quarter, an achievement which continues to be well above the goal of 80 new homes. At the same time, 106 foster homes were closed resulting in a net gain of 25 foster homes for the quarter.

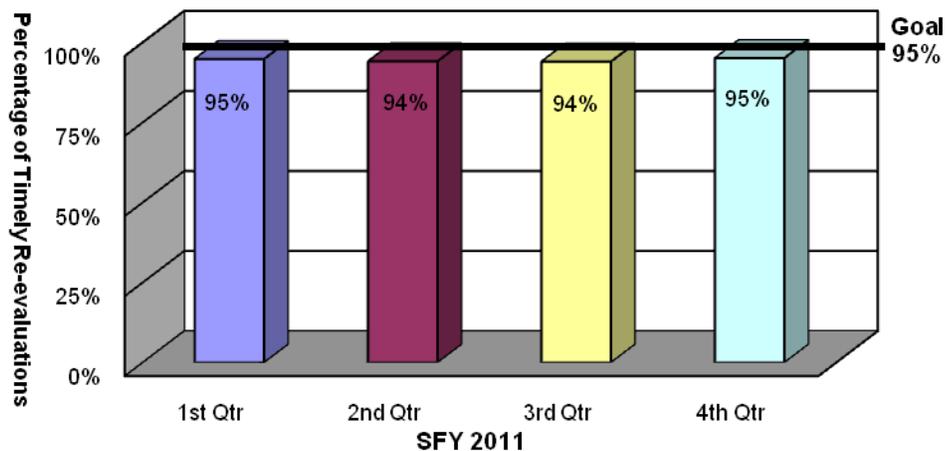
**Chart 14: Foster Home Recruitment**



***Foster Home Re-evaluations***

On an annual basis, at a minimum, DCFS is responsible to conduct re-evaluations of each foster home’s ability to care for children. Of the 1,152 foster homes active during the fourth quarter, a current re-evaluation was available for 1,092 homes. The resulting 95 percent compliance rate was one percentage point higher than the previous two quarters and met the compliance goal of 95 percent.

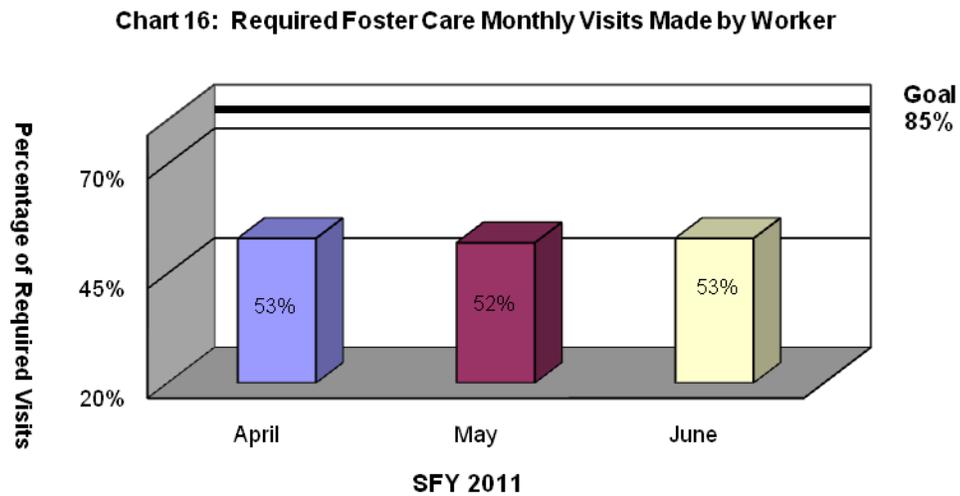
**Chart 15: Foster Home Re-evaluations**



***Required Visits Made by Worker***

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

During the fourth quarter, an average of 53 percent of children in foster care received a monthly visit. This result was five percentage points lower than the previous quarter, and still 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 compares state ethnicity data to national data. Additionally, this section defines the types of allegations in maltreatment reports.

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

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

## Part III: Description of Population and Services

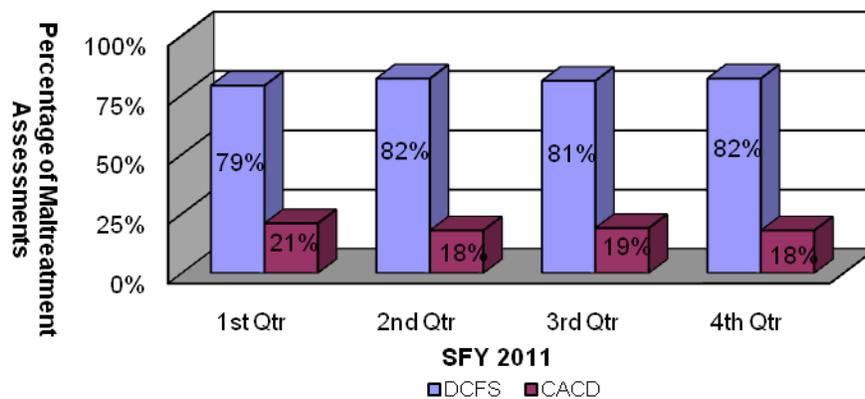
### Section I: True Child Maltreatment Reports

#### *Child Maltreatment Assessments*

During the fourth quarter, 9,175 maltreatment assessments were assigned for investigation. Of those assessments, 7,535 (82 percent) were assigned to DCFS. This figure represents a 19 percent increase in the number of assessments assigned to DCFS from the previous quarter (6,329) and a one percent increase in assigned assessments from the same quarter ending one year ago (7,468).

Of those same 9,175 assessments, 1,640 (18 percent) were assigned to CACD. This figure represents a 14 percent increase in the number of assessments assigned to CACD from the previous quarter (1,439) as well as an 10 percent decrease from the same quarter ending one year ago (1,827).

**Chart 17: Child Maltreatment Assessments**



Of the 9,175 maltreatment assessments assigned during the fourth quarter of SFY 2011, 2,113 reports (23 percent) were found to be true, a rate which was one percentage point lower than the quarter ending one year ago (24 percent). The national percentage is 25 percent.<sup>5</sup> There were 3,025 victim children involved in the 2,113 true reports for the quarter, which represents a six percent decrease in the number of victim children reported during the same quarter ending one year ago (2,240).

**Table 2: Child Maltreatment Assessments**

	<b>Total Assessments</b>	<b>True Assessments</b>	<b>Percent True</b>
<b>1st Qtr SFY 2011</b>	7,913	2,056	26%
<b>2nd Qtr SFY 2011</b>	8,998	2,316	26%
<b>3rd Qtr SFY 2011</b>	7,768	1,921	25%
<b>4th Qtr SFY 2011</b>	9,175	2,113	23%

	<b>DCFS</b>			<b>CACD</b>		
	<b>Total Assessments</b>	<b>True Assessments</b>	<b>Percent True</b>	<b>Total Assessments</b>	<b>True Assessments</b>	<b>Percent True</b>
<b>1st Qtr SFY 2011</b>	6,246	1,336	21%	1,667	720	43%
<b>2nd Qtr SFY 2011</b>	7,365	1,648	22%	1,633	668	41%
<b>3rd Qtr SFY 2011</b>	6,329	1,326	21%	1,439	595	41%
<b>4th Qtr SFY 2011</b>	7,535	1,516	20%	1,640	597	36%

<sup>5</sup> 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, 3,025 victim children were involved in true reports of maltreatment during the fourth quarter. The table below outlines the demographic information for these victim children.<sup>6</sup>

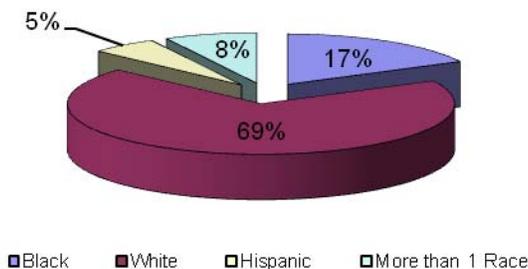
**Table 3: Characteristics of Children in True Maltreatment Reports  
4th Quarter SFY 2011**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	113	37	0	0	0	7	25	182
	Male	122	34	0	1	0	10	11	178
2 to 5	Female	262	49	1	1	0	26	34	373
	Male	293	66	1	0	1	23	33	417
6 to 11	Female	372	87	0	1	1	29	33	523
	Male	310	88	0	1	2	32	41	474
12 to 15	Female	274	77	0	0	0	20	26	397
	Male	149	37	0	1	0	9	13	209
16 to 18	Female	101	31	1	0	1	6	8	148
	Male	67	15	0	0	0	2	6	90
18+	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total*</b>		<b>2,063</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>2,991</b>

\*Demographic data have not been entered into CHRIS for 34 children.

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

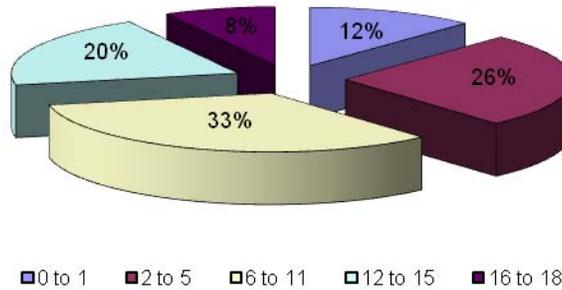
**Chart 18a: Race/Ethnicity of Children in True Reports**



<sup>6</sup> Table three, and each subsequent demographic table, divides up “other” races and ethnicities into the following categories: “Hispanic,” “More than One Race,” “Asian” (includes Indonesian, Cambodian, Hmong and Vietnamese), “AIAN” (includes Native American, Alaskan Native and American Indian) and “NAPI” (includes Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders).

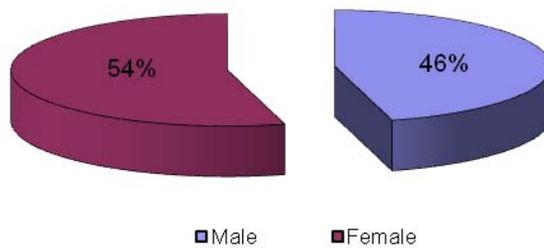
Children ages six to 11 represent the largest group of children involved in true maltreatment reports (33 percent) followed by children ages two to five (26 percent). These percentages are similar to the previous quarter.

**Chart 18b: Ages of Children in True Reports**



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

**Chart 18c: Gender of Children in True Reports**



***Children Involved in Allegations of True Maltreatment Reports***

During the quarter, the majority of the 3,025 children involved in true maltreatment reports were involved in allegations of neglect (85 percent), followed by allegations of physical abuse (38 percent) and sexual abuse (25 percent).<sup>7</sup>

**Table 4: Percentage of Children Involved in True Allegations of Maltreatment  
3rd Quarter SFY 2011 – 4th Quarter SFY 2011**

	3rd Quarter		4th Quarter	
<b>Neglect</b>	2,346	86%	2,574	85%
<b>Physical Abuse</b>	1,162	42%	1,163	38%
<b>Sexual Abuse</b>	795	29%	764	25%

***Child Maltreatment Reports Involving Fatalities or Near Fatalities***

During the fourth quarter of SFY 2011, there were six investigations of a child fatality and three investigations of a near child fatality. A finding of True resulted for six of the nine incidents, with one investigation unsubstantiated and two pending. 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**

<b>Finding</b>	<b>Child Fatality</b>	<b>Near Child Fatality</b>
<b>True</b>	4	2
<b>Unsubstantiated</b>	0	1
<b>Pending</b>	2	0

<sup>7</sup> 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 fourth quarter, 5,146 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.

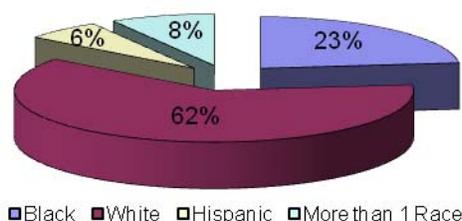
**Table 6: Characteristics of Children in Foster Care During the Quarter**  
4th Quarter SFY 2011

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	227	97	0	0	1	21	32	378
	Male	274	107	0	0	0	19	28	428
2 to 5	Female	422	126	2	0	1	28	64	643
	Male	427	154	2	1	1	47	61	693
6 to 11	Female	430	138	2	0	0	52	40	662
	Male	410	143	2	0	0	48	78	681
12 to 15	Female	263	90	1	0	0	24	31	409
	Male	230	85	0	1	1	23	42	382
16 to 18	Female	172	72	1	0	0	23	21	289
	Male	159	76	1	1	0	19	20	276
18+	Female	73	53	0	0	0	7	7	140
	Male	83	48	0	0	0	8	7	146
<b>Total*</b>		<b>3,170</b>	<b>1,189</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>5,127</b>

\*Demographic information have not been entered into CHRIS for 19 children.

The chart below shows that 62 percent of the children in foster care during the quarter were white and 23 percent were black. National data reveal that only 40 percent of the children in the national foster care system were white, while 31 percent of the children were black.<sup>8</sup>

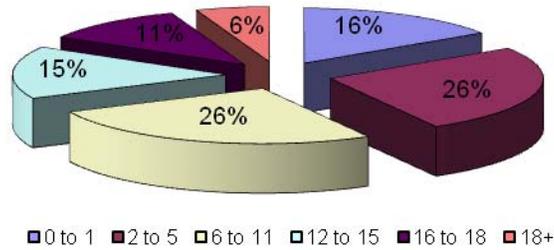
**Chart 19a: Race/Ethnicity of Children in Care During the Quarter**



<sup>8</sup> Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) preliminary data submitted for children in foster care between 10/1/2007 and 9/30/2008 as of October 2009.

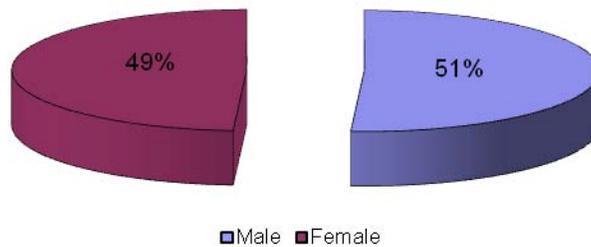
Children ages two to five and six to 11 (26 percent) represent the largest groups of children who were in care during the quarter, followed closely by those ages zero to one. This was similar to the previous quarter.

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



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

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



At the end of the quarter, 4,105 children were in foster care, a decrease from the 4,223 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 fourth quarter.

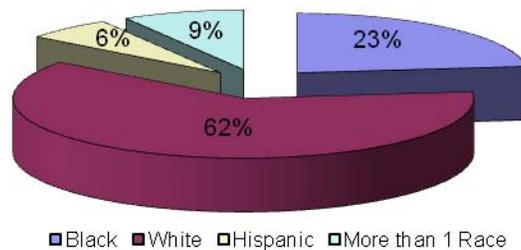
**Table 7: Characteristics of Children in Foster Care at the End of the Quarter  
4th Quarter SFY 2011**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	185	74	0	0	1	14	25	<b>299</b>
	Male	226	84	0	0	0	16	23	<b>349</b>
2 to 5	Female	339	94	1	0	1	19	46	<b>500</b>
	Male	326	125	0	1	1	40	48	<b>541</b>
6 to 11	Female	339	104	1	0	0	35	34	<b>513</b>
	Male	326	110	0	0	0	39	67	<b>542</b>
12 to 15	Female	201	74	0	0	0	20	25	<b>320</b>
	Male	187	73	0	1	1	18	35	<b>315</b>
16 to 18	Female	154	62	1	0	0	21	17	<b>255</b>
	Male	136	72	1	1	0	16	16	<b>242</b>
18+	Female	48	41	0	0	0	7	7	<b>103</b>
	Male	66	36	0	0	0	5	5	<b>112</b>
<b>Total*</b>		<b>2,533</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>4,091</b>

\*Demographic information have not been entered into CHRIS for 14 children.

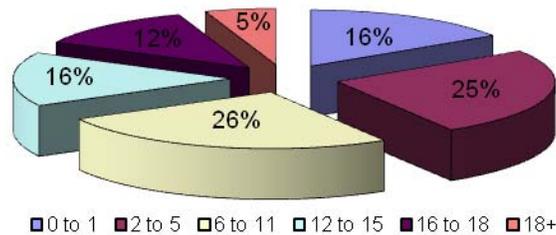
The chart below shows that 62 percent of the children in foster care at the end of the quarter were white, while 23 percent of the children were black. These percentages are consistent with the previous five quarters.

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



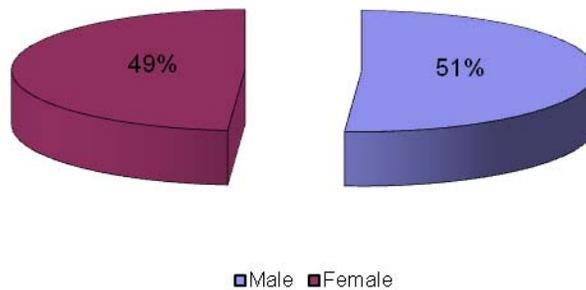
Children between the ages of six and 11 (26 percent) represent the largest group of children who were in care at the end of the quarter, followed closely by children between the ages of two and five (25 percent).

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



Fifty-one percent of the children in foster care at the end of the quarter were male and 49 percent were female.

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



**Entries into Foster Care**

During the fourth quarter, 1,011 children entered foster care, a decrease from the previous quarter (1,089).

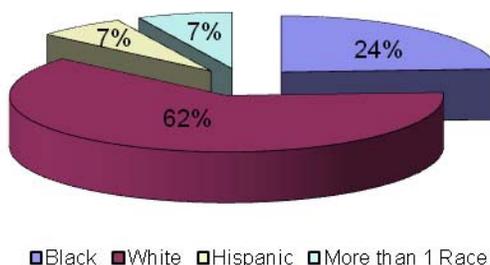
**Table 8: Characteristics of Children Entering Foster Care During the Quarter  
4th Quarter SFY 2011**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	63	34	0	0	0	7	7	111
	Male	81	38	0	0	0	5	7	131
2 to 5	Female	97	26	0	0	0	10	11	144
	Male	91	32	0	1	0	9	10	143
6 to 11	Female	86	35	0	0	0	13	6	140
	Male	75	32	0	0	0	9	11	127
12 to 15	Female	56	12	1	0	0	6	10	85
	Male	35	18	0	0	0	2	5	60
16 to 18	Female	20	9	1	0	0	4	1	35
	Male	20	6	0	0	0	1	3	30
18+	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total*</b>		<b>624</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>1,006</b>

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

The chart below shows that 62 percent of the children who entered foster care during the quarter were white, while 24 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.<sup>9</sup>

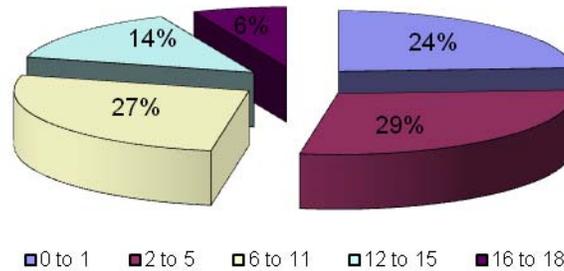
**Chart 21a: Race/Ethnicity of Children who Entered Care**



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

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

**Chart 21b: Ages of Children who Entered Care**



Of the 1,011 children who entered care, 51 percent of the children were female and 49 percent were male.

**Chart 21c: Gender of Children who Entered Care**

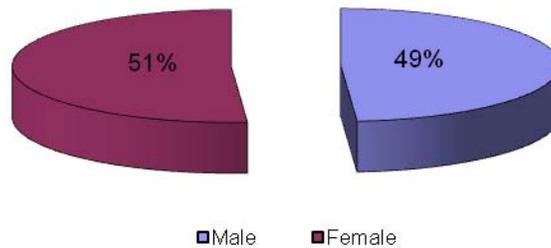


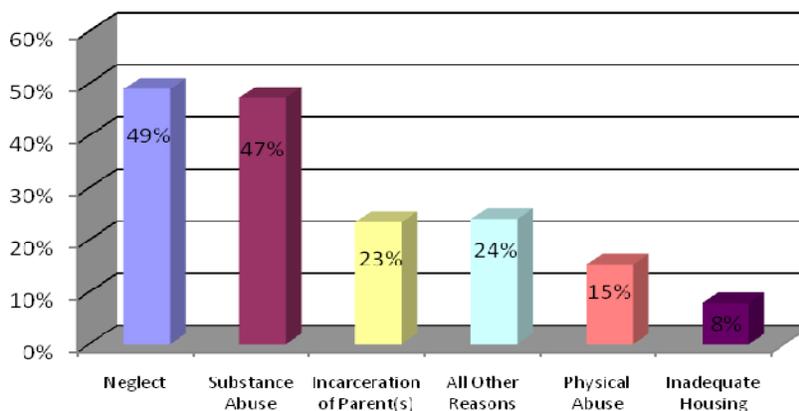
Table 9 displays the reasons for the entry into foster care for the 1,011 children who entered during the quarter. Neglect and substance abuse<sup>10</sup> were the most prevalent reasons for the children’s entry into care.

**Table 9: Reasons Children Who Entered Foster Care During the Quarter Were Placed in Foster Care  
4th Quarter SFY 2011**

Placement Reason	0 to 1	2 to 5	6 to 11	12 to 15	16 to 18	18+	Total
Neglect	125	140	128	76	25	1	495
Substance Abuse	126	148	138	47	18	1	478
Parent Incarceration	37	79	71	35	15	0	237
Physical Abuse	26	42	42	35	10	0	155
Child’s Behavior	0	0	3	18	12	2	35
Abandonment	5	7	5	10	11	0	38
Inadequate Housing	21	28	21	8	2	0	80
Caretaker Illness	11	11	13	11	8	0	54
Sexual Abuse	4	14	34	21	8	0	81
Truancy	0	0	6	8	4	0	18
Child’s Disability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parent Death	0	3	1	3	0	0	7
Sex Offender	0	0	2	0	1	0	3
Relinquishment	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Adoption	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Managed Mental Health	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Teen Parent in Care	3	1	1	0	0	0	5
<b>Total*</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1,688</b>

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

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



<sup>10</sup> Of the 478 reasons for entry attributed to substance abuse, substance abuse by children accounted for 12 reasons for entry (3 percent), while substance abuse by parents accounted for 466 reasons for entry (97 percent).

**Exits from Foster Care**

During the quarter, 1,063 children left foster care, which was an increase from the previous quarter (858).

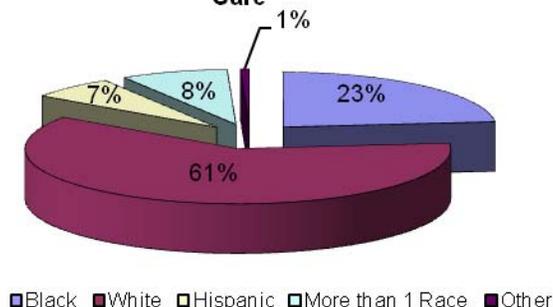
**Table 10: Characteristics of Children Exiting Foster Care During the Quarter  
4th Quarter SFY 2011**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	42	24	0	0	0	7	7	80
	Male	48	23	0	0	0	3	5	79
2 to 5	Female	84	32	1	0	0	9	19	145
	Male	101	31	2	0	0	7	13	154
6 to 11	Female	92	35	1	0	0	17	6	151
	Male	86	34	2	0	0	9	13	144
12 to 15	Female	62	16	1	0	0	4	6	89
	Male	44	13	0	0	0	5	7	69
16 to 18	Female	40	19	0	0	0	2	4	65
	Male	38	13	0	0	0	4	6	61
18+	Female	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	10
	Male	4	5	0	0	0	2	0	11
<b>Total*</b>		<b>648</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>1,058</b>

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

Of the children who exited foster care, 61 percent were white and 23 percent were black. National data indicate that 44 percent of the children who leave foster care are white and 26 percent are black.<sup>11</sup>

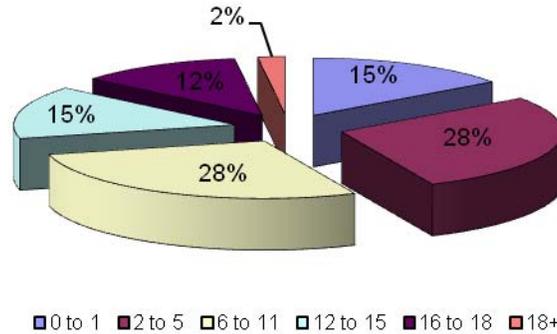
**Chart 23a: Race/Ethnicity of Children who Exited Care**



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

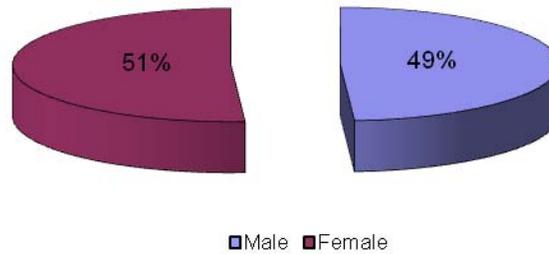
Children between the ages of two and five as well as children ages six to 11 (28 percent) represent the largest groups of children who left foster care during the quarter.

**Chart 23b: Ages of Children who Exited Care**



More female (51 percent) children exited foster care during the quarter than male (49 percent) children.

**Chart 23c: Gender of Children who Exited Care**



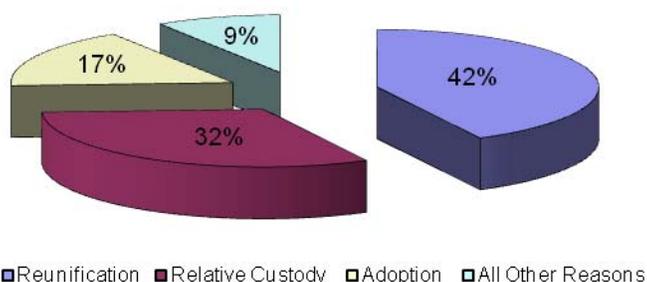
**Table 11: Reasons Children Exited Foster Care by Age  
4th Quarter SFY 2011**

Reason	Age						Total
	0 to 1	2 to 5	6 to 11	12 to 15	16 to 18	18+	
Reunification	64	140	140	66	37	0	<b>447</b>
Relative Custody	56	81	101	70	26	2	<b>336</b>
Adoption	35	73	48	16	5	0	<b>177</b>
Child Aged Out	0	0	0	0	49	16	<b>65</b>
Non-Relative Custody	4	5	6	4	6	2	<b>27</b>
Custody Transfer	0	0	0	2	1	1	<b>4</b>
Emancipation	0	0	0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
Death of Child	0	0	0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total*</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1,058</b>

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

The most prevalent reason that children left foster care during the quarter was reunification (42 percent). The second leading reason was relative custody (32 percent). National data indicate that the three most prevalent reasons children left care are reunification (52 percent), adoption (19 percent) and relative care (8 percent).<sup>12</sup> In addition to the percentage of Arkansas' children exiting to reunification being lower, the percentage exiting to adoption (17 percent) is also lower than that seen nationally; however, Arkansas has a significantly higher proportion of children that exit to relative custody.

**Chart 24: Most Prevalent Reasons Children Left Care**



<sup>12</sup> Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) preliminary data submitted for children in foster care between 10/1/2007 and 9/30/2008 as of October 2009.

***Permanency Goals of Children in Foster Care***

The Division maintains two primary goals for children in foster care: safety and permanency. The second of these concerns is expressed by setting a permanency goal for each child in foster care within 30 days of the child entering care. Of the 4,105 children in foster care at the end of the quarter, 3,848 children had been in care for at least 30 days. Reunification (returning home) remained the most prevalent goal among children in foster care at 55 percent.

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

	4th Quarter		National <sup>13</sup>
<b>Return Home</b>	2,129	55%	49%
<b>Adoption</b>	777	20%	24%
<b>APPLA</b>	464	12%	N/A
<b>Relative Care</b>	110	3%	4%
<b>Guardianship</b>	25	1%	4%
<b>Emancipation</b>	0	0%	6%
<b>Long Term Care</b>	0	0%	8%
<b>Not Yet Established</b>	343	9%	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,848</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

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<sup>13</sup> 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 5,146 children in foster care anytime during the quarter, 56 percent were in care for 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.<sup>14</sup>

**Table 13a: Length of Stay of Children in Foster Care (Including Relative Care)  
4th Quarter SFY 2011**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>National</b>
<b>Less than 30 days</b>	513	10%	5%
<b>30-90 Days</b>	631	12%	20%
<b>3-6 Months</b>	738	14%	
<b>6-12 Months</b>	1,022	20%	17%
<b>12-24 Months</b>	1,079	21%	23%
<b>24-36 Months</b>	464	9%	12%
<b>36+ Months</b>	699	14%	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,146</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 13b: Length of Stay in Foster Care of Children in Relative Care  
4th Quarter SFY 2011**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Less than 30 days</b>	45	5%
<b>30-90 Days</b>	127	15%
<b>3-6 Months</b>	168	20%
<b>6-12 Months</b>	209	25%
<b>12-24 Months</b>	182	22%
<b>24-36 Months</b>	66	8%
<b>36+ Months</b>	25	3%
<b>Total*</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

<sup>14</sup> 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.

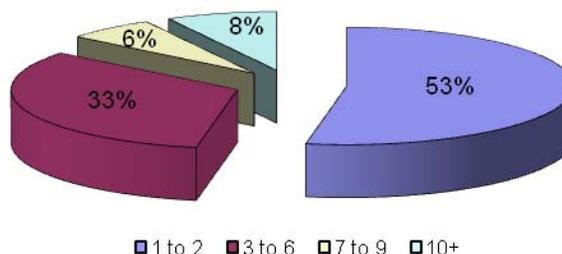
**Number of Placements of Children in Foster Care**

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

**Table 14: Number of Placements of Children in Foster Care  
4th Quarter SFY 2011**

	Children in FC Less Than 12 Months		Children in FC 12 and 24 Months		Children in FC More Than 24 Months		Total	
<b>1-2 Placements</b>	1,590	73%	387	42%	195	19%	2,172	53%
<b>3-6 Placements</b>	551	25%	429	46%	367	37%	1,347	33%
<b>7-9 Placements</b>	30	1%	86	9%	145	14%	261	6%
<b>10+ Placements</b>	4	0%	23	2%	298	30%	325	8%
<b>Total*</b>	<b>2,175</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,105</b>	<b>100%</b>

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



**Characteristics of Children who Experienced Three or More Placements**

At the end of the fourth quarter, 4,105 children were in foster care. Of those, 1,933 children (47 percent) experienced three or more placements while in care.

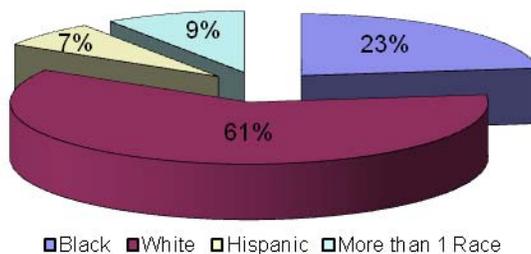
**Table 15: Characteristics of Children who Experienced Three or More Placements  
4th Quarter SFY 2011**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	29	15	0	0	0	1	2	47
	Male	57	14	0	0	0	5	7	83
2 to 5	Female	128	37	0	0	0	8	21	194
	Male	147	46	0	0	0	15	25	233
6 to 11	Female	141	35	0	0	0	18	17	211
	Male	169	55	0	0	0	22	33	279
12 to 15	Female	114	44	0	0	0	14	16	188
	Male	129	52	0	1	0	13	25	220
16 to 18	Female	108	55	0	0	0	18	15	196
	Male	103	68	1	1	0	14	15	202
18+	Female	16	10	0	0	0	3	4	33
	Male	25	12	0	0	0	0	2	39
<b>Total*</b>		<b>1,166</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>1,925</b>

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

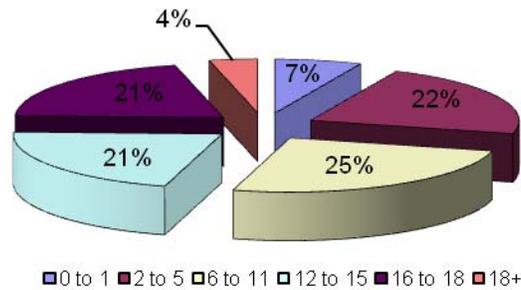
Of the children who experienced three or more placements, 61 percent were white and 23 percent were black.

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



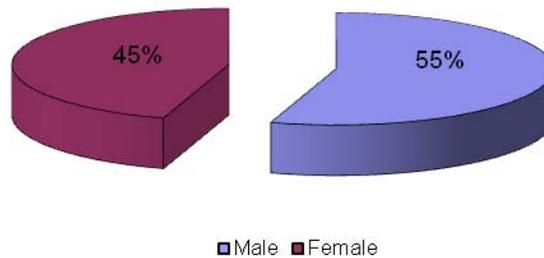
Children between the ages of six and 11 (25 percent) represented the largest group of children who experienced three or more placements followed by children ages two to five (22 percent).

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



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

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



**Current Placement of Children in Foster Care**

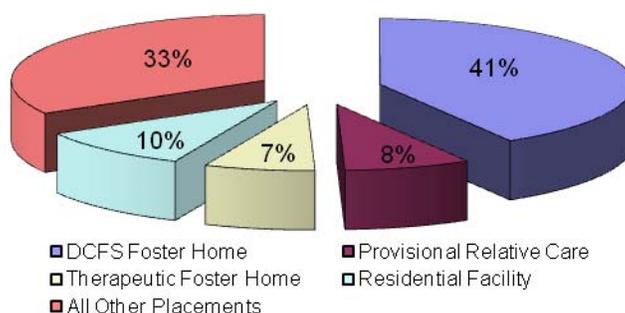
Forty-nine percent of the children in foster care at the end of the fourth quarter were placed in either a non-relative or relative DCFS foster home.

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

Placement	Age						Total
	0 to 1	2 to 5	6 to 11	12 to 15	16 to 18	Over 18	
DCFS Foster Home (Non-Relative)	422	584	377	159	118	34	1,694
DCFS Foster Home (Relative)	42	118	99	35	21	3	318
Provisional Relative Care	79	107	108	22	9	1	326
Therapeutic Foster Home	2	46	136	80	23	10	297
Pre-Adoptive Home (Non-Relative)	34	59	35	10	3	0	141
Pre-Adoptive Home (Relative)	0	7	2	4	1	0	14
Emergency Shelter	5	19	67	34	28	0	153
Residential Facility	16	27	88	120	126	49	426
Youth Services	0	0	0	4	16	2	22
Runaway	0	0	1	11	29	3	44
Trial Home Visit	32	58	70	45	19	0	224
Hospital/Medical	5	2	3	8	8	0	26
ASAP CRT	0	0	0	8	6	0	14
Independent Living	0	0	1	0	9	104	114
Incarceration	0	0	0	2	6	1	9
Temporary Placement	6	21	28	16	9	2	82
Sub-Acute CRT	0	0	37	62	38	0	137
Acute CRT	0	0	3	5	14	0	22
ASAP Residential Treatment	0	0	0	3	8	3	14
ASAP Therapeutic Foster Care	0	0	0	4	5	4	13
DDS Placement	0	0	2	3	1	0	6
DYS Aftercare	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Unknown*	5	0	0	2	1	0	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>1,048</b>	<b>1,057</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>4,105</b>

\*Unknown due to missing placement types.

**Chart 27: Current Placement of Children in Foster Care**

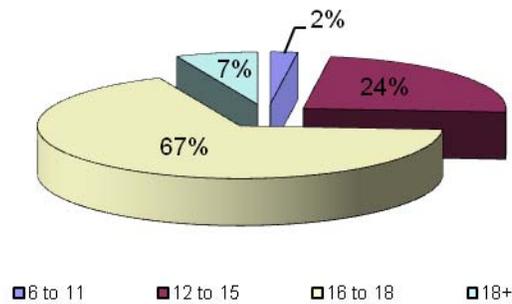


***Characteristics of Children on Runaway Status at the End of the Quarter***

Forty-six children were on runaway status at the end of the fourth quarter. This is an increase from the previous quarter (39).

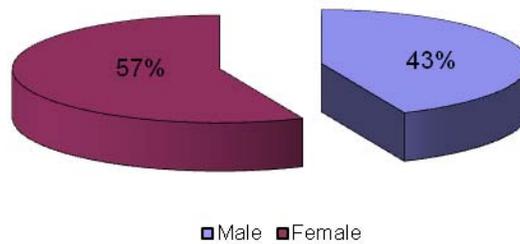
The majority of the children on runaway status (67 percent) were between the ages of 16 and 18.

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



More female children (57 percent) than male children (43 percent) were on runaway status at the end of the quarter. These percentages differ from the previous quarter when 62 percent of those on runaway status were females and 38 percent were males.

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



**Characteristics of Children in Relative Care**

During the fourth quarter, 822 children were placed in relative care,<sup>15</sup> an increase from the previous quarter (712). This number includes children who remained in relative care from previous quarters as well as children who came into relative care during the current quarter. The following table outlines the characteristics of children residing in relative care.

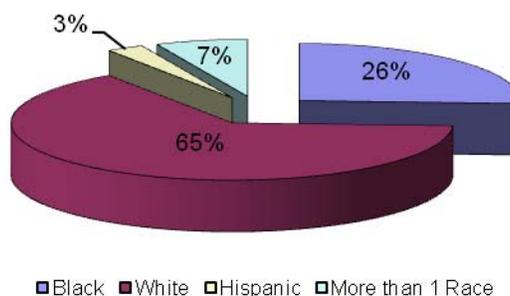
**Table 17: Characteristics of Children in Relative Care  
4th Quarter SFY 2011**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	48	18	0	0	0	0	8	74
	Male	54	17	0	0	0	1	1	73
2 to 5	Female	103	33	0	0	1	1	9	147
	Male	88	29	0	0	0	2	18	137
6 to 11	Female	78	35	0	0	0	6	5	124
	Male	85	39	0	0	0	6	9	139
12 to 15	Female	33	11	0	0	0	2	2	48
	Male	19	11	0	0	0	0	2	32
16 to 18	Female	13	4	0	0	0	1	0	18
	Male	6	12	0	0	0	3	1	22
18+	Female	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Male	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Total*</b>		<b>529</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>818</b>

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

White children represent the highest percentage of children in relative care during the fourth quarter (65 percent).

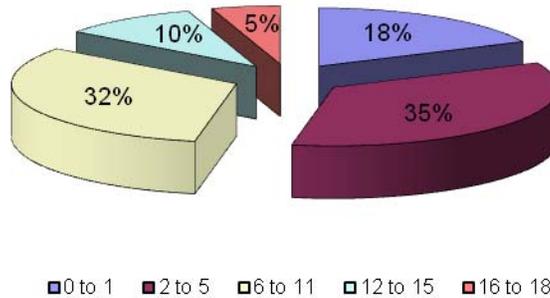
**Chart 29a: Race/Ethnicity of Children in Relative Care**



<sup>15</sup> Relative care includes both Provisional (Relative) placements and Licensed Foster Family Homes who served relative children during the quarter.

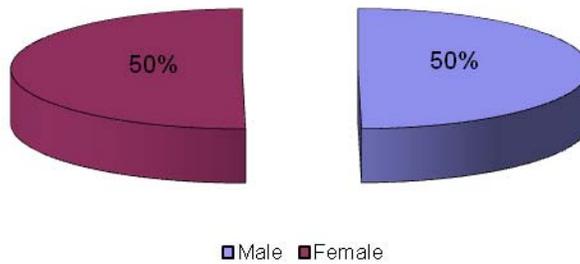
Children between the ages of two and five (35 percent) represent the largest age group of children in relative care, followed by children between the ages of six and 11 (32 percent).

**Chart 29b: Ages of Children in Relative Care**



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

**Chart 29c: Gender of Children in Relative Care**



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

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

There were 777 children in care at the end of the quarter with a permanency goal of adoption. The table below outlines those children’s characteristics.

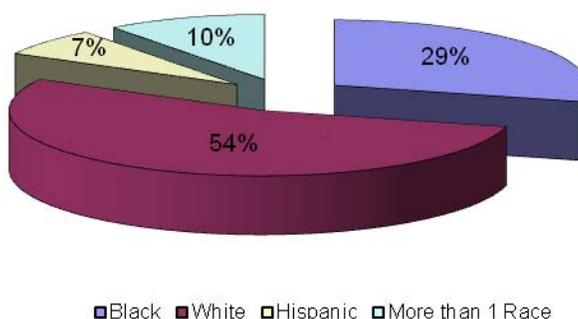
**Table 18: Characteristics of Children with a Permanency Goal of Adoption at the End of the Quarter  
 4th Quarter SFY 2011**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	18	10	0	0	0	1	1	30
	Male	30	9	0	0	0	2	2	43
2 to 5	Female	51	23	1	0	0	2	10	87
	Male	50	25	0	0	0	9	7	91
6 to 11	Female	64	37	0	0	0	5	11	117
	Male	72	38	0	0	0	9	22	141
12 to 15	Female	52	30	0	0	0	8	6	96
	Male	41	26	0	0	0	8	16	91
16 to 18	Female	17	14	0	0	0	5	2	38
	Male	19	11	1	0	0	3	2	36
18+	Female	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total*</b>		<b>416</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>774</b>

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

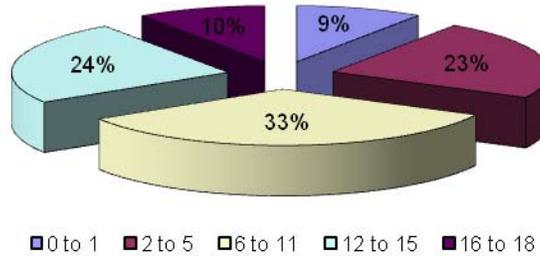
Of the children in care with a permanency goal of adoption at the end of the quarter, 54 percent were white, 29 percent were black, and 10 percent were multiracial. These percentages are similar to the previous quarter.

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



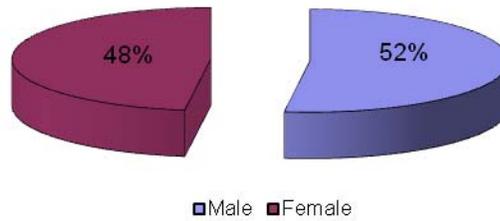
Children between the ages of six and 11 (33 percent) continue to represent the largest age group with a permanency goal of adoption.

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



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

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



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

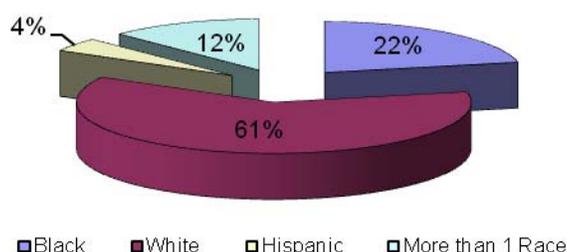
There were 553 children whose parents had their parental rights terminated<sup>16</sup> as of the end of the fourth quarter. The table below outlines the characteristics of those children.

**Table 19: Characteristics of Children whose Parents have had Parental Rights Terminated at the end of the Quarter  
4th Quarter SFY 2011**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	12	3	0	0	0	0	1	16
	Male	12	3	0	0	0	0	2	17
2 to 5	Female	40	7	0	0	0	1	9	57
	Male	31	12	0	0	0	2	10	55
6 to 11	Female	49	19	0	0	0	1	6	75
	Male	52	22	0	0	0	8	18	100
12 to 15	Female	45	14	0	0	0	2	6	67
	Male	46	18	0	0	0	3	12	79
16 to 18	Female	20	7	0	0	0	2	2	31
	Male	26	10	1	0	0	2	3	42
18+	Female	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Male	3	2	0	0	0	3	0	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>339</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>553</b>

Sixty-one percent of the children whose parents had their parental rights terminated at the end of the quarter were white, 22 percent were black, four percent were Hispanic, and 12 percent were multiracial.

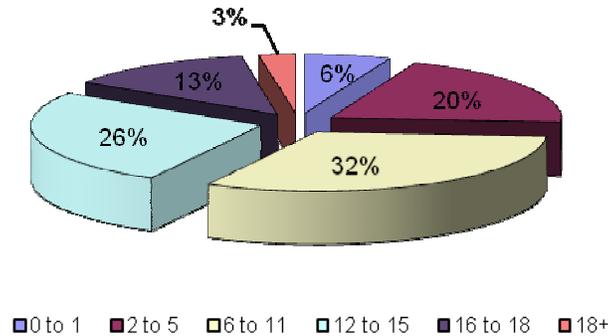
**Chart 31a: Race/Ethnicity of Children whose Parents have had Parental Rights Terminated**



<sup>16</sup> Both parents' parental rights must be terminated for the child to be counted.

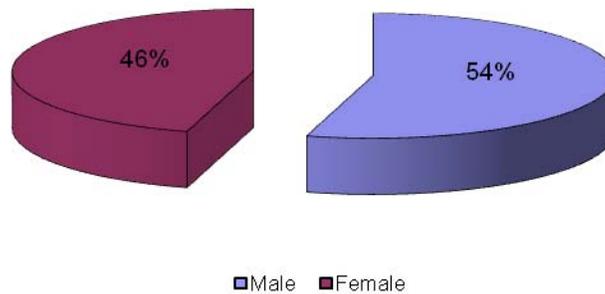
Children between the ages of six and 11 (32 percent) represent the largest group of children whose parents' parental rights were terminated followed by those between the ages of 12 and 15 years of age (26 percent).

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



Of the children whose parents' parental rights were terminated, 54 percent were male and 46 percent were female.

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



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

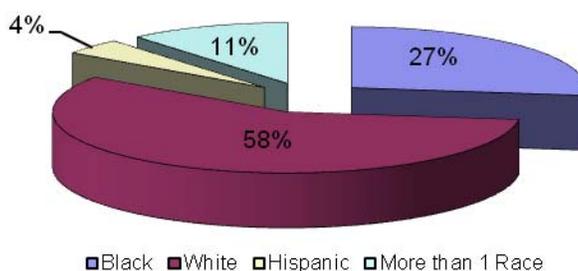
At the end of the fourth quarter, 360 children were available for adoption.<sup>17</sup> Demographic information for children available for adoption, shown in the table below, is very similar to previous quarters.

**Table 20: Characteristics of Children Available for Adoption at the End of the Quarter  
4th Quarter SFY 2011**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	10
	Male	6	2	0	0	0	0	1	9
2 to 5	Female	22	7	0	0	0	1	5	35
	Male	16	11	0	0	0	0	4	31
6 to 11	Female	34	18	0	0	0	0	2	54
	Male	36	20	0	0	0	6	12	74
12 to 15	Female	33	13	0	0	0	2	4	52
	Male	29	14	0	0	0	3	10	56
16 to 18	Female	10	4	0	0	0	2	0	16
	Male	14	5	1	0	0	1	2	23
<b>Total</b>		<b>207</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>360</b>

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

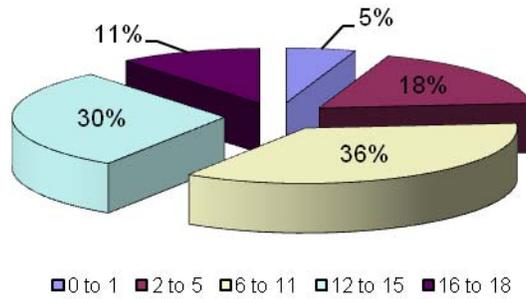
**Chart 32a: Race/Ethnicity of Children Available for Adoption at the End of the Quarter**



<sup>17</sup> Children available for adoption are defined as children who have two TPR's and a goal of adoption.

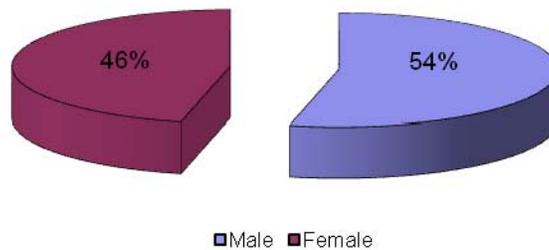
More of the children available for adoption at the end of the quarter were between the ages of six and 11 (36 percent) in comparison to any other age group.

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



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

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



***Current Placements of Children Available for Adoption***

More children who were available for adoption at the end of the fourth quarter were placed in DCFS foster homes (32 percent) than in any other type of placement, followed by placement in therapeutic foster homes (25 percent). These results are similar to the previous quarter.

**Table 21: Current Placements of Children Available for Adoption  
4th Quarter SFY 2011**

<b>Placement</b>	<b>Number of Children</b>	<b>Percentage*</b>
<b>DCFS Foster Home</b>	116	32%
<b>Pre-Adoptive Home</b>	59	16%
<b>Therapeutic Foster Home</b>	91	25%
<b>Residential Facility</b>	43	12%
<b>Hospital/Medical</b>	7	2%
<b>Emergency Shelter</b>	7	2%
<b>Temporary Placement</b>	3	0.8%
<b>Sub-Acute CRT</b>	20	6%
<b>ASAP Therapeutic Foster Care</b>	3	0.8%
<b>Youth Services</b>	1	0.3%
<b>Acute CRT</b>	4	1%
<b>ILP Sponsor</b>	3	0.8%
<b>DDS Placement</b>	3	0.8%
<b>Total*</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

**Characteristics of Children in Pre-adoptive Placements**

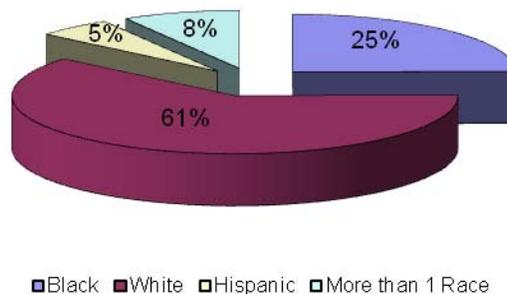
During the fourth quarter, 165 children were in pre-adoptive homes. This number includes children who entered a pre-adoptive home during previous quarters as well as children who were newly placed in a pre-adoptive home during the current quarter.

**Table 22: Characteristics of Children in Pre-adoptive Placements  
4th Quarter SFY 2011**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	8	1	0	0	0	2	1	12
	Male	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	12
2 to 5	Female	15	9	0	0	0	3	7	34
	Male	15	9	0	0	0	0	2	26
6 to 11	Female	19	9	0	0	0	1	1	30
	Male	14	7	0	0	0	3	2	26
12 to 15	Female	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
	Male	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	12
16 to 18	Female	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Male	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>101</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>165</b>

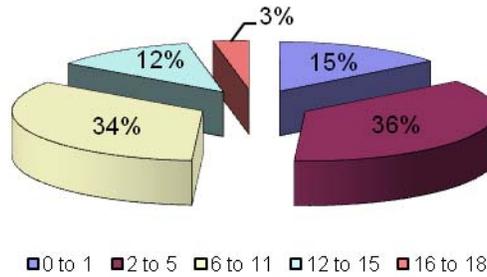
Of the children in pre-adoptive homes during the quarter, 61 percent were white and 25 percent were black.

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



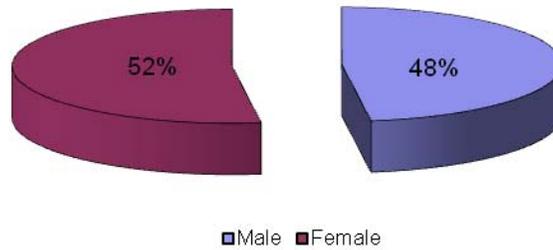
Children between the ages of two and five (36 percent) represent the largest age group of children placed in pre-adoptive homes followed by those between six and 11 years of age.

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



Fifty-two percent of the children in pre-adoptive homes were female and 48 percent were male. These percentages differ from the third quarter when 54 percent were male and 46 percent were female.

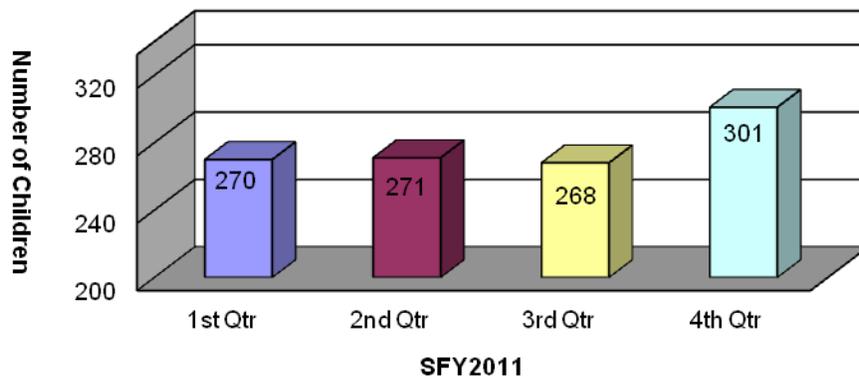
**33c: Gender of Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes During the Quarter**



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

At the end of the quarter, there were 301 children who were available for adoption but who were not placed in pre-adoptive homes, a slight increase from the previous quarter (268). This statistic was derived by subtracting the number of children placed in pre-adoptive homes at the end of the quarter (59) from the number of children available for adoption at the end of the quarter (360).

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



***Children with Special Needs***

Children with special needs are defined as:

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

During the fourth quarter, 109 children with special needs were in pre-adoptive placements.<sup>18</sup>

**Table 23: Children with Special Needs who were Placed in Pre-Adoptive Homes  
4th Quarter SFY 2011**

Special Needs Condition	Number of Children
Race	109
Age	96
Member of sibling group	63

***Characteristics of Children with Finalized Adoptions***

During the quarter, 177 children had their adoptions finalized, an increase from the previous quarter (112). The following table outlines the characteristics of the children with finalized adoptions.

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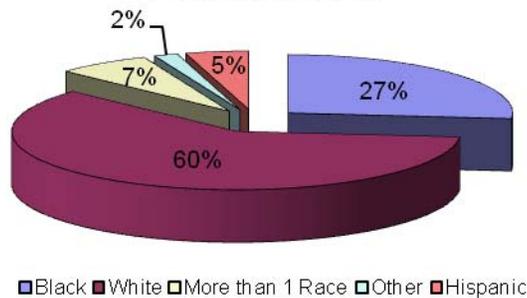
<sup>18</sup> This number does not take into account children with severe medical and psychological needs. As enhancements are made to the data system to capture this information, it will be provided in future reports.

**Table 24: Characteristics of Children with Finalized Adoptions  
4th Quarter SFY 2011**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	10	3	0	0	0	2	2	17
	Male	12	3	0	0	0	0	1	16
2 to 5	Female	20	14	0	2	0	3	3	42
	Male	21	9	0	0	0	0	2	32
6 to 11	Female	16	10	0	0	0	1	1	28
	Male	10	7	0	1	0	1	2	21
12 to 15	Female	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
	Male	7	1	0	0	0	1	0	9
16 to 18	Female	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>107</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>177</b>

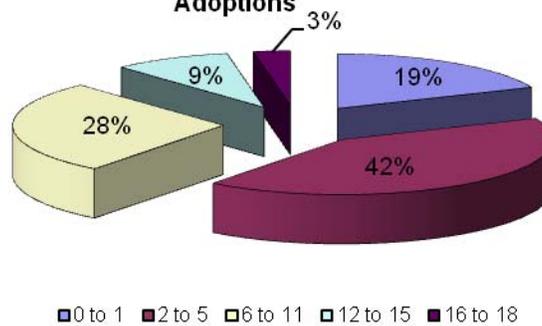
Of the 177 finalized adoptions during the fourth quarter, 60 percent of the adopted children were white and 27 percent were black.

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



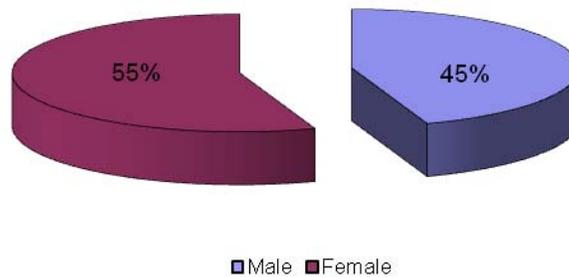
Children between the ages of two and five (42 percent) represented the largest age group of children whose adoptions were finalized during the quarter.

**Chart 35b: Ages of Children with Finalized Adoptions**



Of the children whose adoptions were finalized during the quarter, 55 percent were female and 45 percent were male.

**Chart 35c: Gender of Children with Finalized Adoptions**



**Subsidized Adoptions**

During the fourth quarter, 148 children began receiving adoption subsidies. Of those, 125 children received federally-funded subsidies and 23 received state-funded subsidies.

**Characteristics of Children who Received Adoption Subsidies**

During the fourth quarter, 4,322 children received adoption subsidies. The following table outlines the demographics of those children.

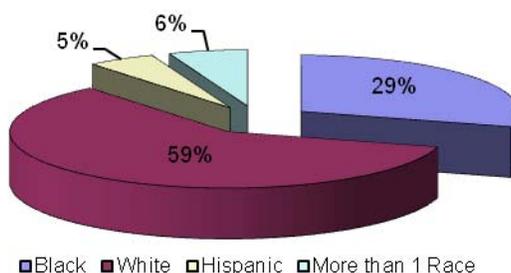
**Table 25: Characteristics of Children Receiving Adoption Subsidies  
4th Quarter SFY 2011**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	22	5	0	0	0	2	4	33
	Male	24	12	0	0	0	1	1	38
2 to 5	Female	262	100	2	3	0	24	41	432
	Male	262	116	2	1	0	28	34	443
6 to 11	Female	480	241	2	0	0	49	61	833
	Male	508	248	3	2	1	55	51	868
12 to 15	Female	312	192	1	4	0	24	25	558
	Male	336	151	0	0	1	21	14	523
16 to 18	Female	140	80	0	0	0	10	9	239
	Male	144	82	0	1	0	2	10	239
18+	Female	34	17	0	0	0	0	1	52
	Male	37	15	0	0	0	0	0	52
<b>Total*</b>		<b>2,561</b>	<b>1,259</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>4,310</b>

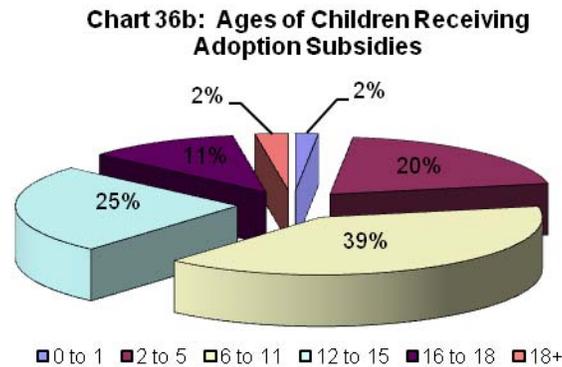
\*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for 12 children.

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

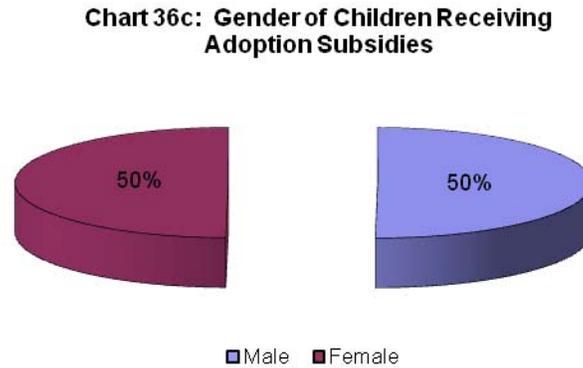
**Chart 36a: Race/Ethnicity of Children Receiving Adoption Subsidies**



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



The gender distribution of the children was even.



***Pre-Adoptive Homes***

At the beginning of the fourth quarter, 670 pre-adoptive homes were available; by the end of the quarter, 612 pre-adoptive homes were available. Fifty-seven percent of the homes available at the end of the quarter were approved to also serve as foster homes.

**Table 26: Pre-Adoptive Homes  
4th Quarter SFY 2011**

	Total Adoptive Homes	Non-Foster Adoptive Homes	Foster Adoptive Homes
Homes available for children at beginning of quarter	670	270	400
Newly available homes	109	54	55
Homes that had children placed during the quarter	93	32	61
Homes that experienced a disruption	2	2	0
Homes that closed without a placement	76	30	46
Homes available at the end of the quarter	612	264	348

*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
<b>Amoni Carter</b>	Desha	1	Black	Female	4/17/2011	Physical Abuse	In-Home	Family Member	CACD	None	None	None
<b>Liam Beustring</b>	Baxter	1<	White	Male	4/20/2011	Neglect	In-Home	Family Member	CACD	None	None	None
<b>Claudia Gregory</b>	Garland	1<	White	Female	5/18/2011	Physical Abuse	In-Home	Unknown	CACD	None	None	FC Case
<b>Dakota Saylor</b>	Conway	1	White	Male	6/17/2011	Inadequate Supervision	In-Home	Family Member	CACD	None	None	None

**Unsubstantiated Fatality Reports**

There were no unsubstantiated fatality reports during the fourth quarter of SFY 2011.

**Pending Fatality Reports**

Child	County	Age	Race	Gender	Date of Death	Allegations or Preliminary Cause of Death	Placement at the Time of Incident	Relationship of Alleged Offender to the Child	Agency Conducting the Investigation	Legal Action By the Department	Services Provided Prior to the Incident	Services Provided After the Incident
<b>Caiden Tharp</b>	Izard	1	White	Male	6/3/2011	Physical Abuse	In-Home	Unknown	CACD	None	None	FC Case
<b>Logan Swearingen</b>	Washington	1<	White	Male	6/8/2011	Physical Abuse	In-Home	Unknown	CACD	None	Prior Investigation / Previous PS Case	SS Case

**Appendix B: Near Fatality**

**True Near Fatality Reports**

Child	County	Age	Race	Gender	Date of Near Fatality	Allegations or Preliminary Cause of Near Fatality	Placement at the Time of Incident	Relationship of Alleged Offender to the Child	Agency Conducting the Investigation	Legal Action By the Department	Services Provided Prior to the Incident	Services Provided After the Incident
Child #1	Sebastian	1	Black	Female	5/13/2011	Physical Abuse / Inadequate Supervision	In-Home	Out of Home Offender	CACD	None	None	PS Case
Child #2	Desha	1<	Black	Female	6/10/2011	Physical Abuse/ Inadequate Supervision	In-Home	Family Member	CACD	None	None	FC Case

**Unsubstantiated Near Fatality Reports**

Child	County	Age	Race	Gender	Date of Near Fatality	Allegations or Preliminary Cause of Near Fatality	Placement at the Time of Incident	Relationship of Alleged Offender to the Child	Agency Conducting the Investigation	Legal Action By the Department	Services Provided Prior to the Incident	Services Provided After the Incident
Child #1	Sebastian	2	White	Male	5/29/2011	Inadequate Supervision	In-Home	Family Member	DCFS	None	None	None

**Pending Near Fatality Reports**

There were no pending near fatality reports during the fourth quarter of SFY 2011.

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

There were no foster child fatalities which did not receive a maltreatment investigation during fourth quarter of SFY 2011.

**Appendix D: Summary of Foster Care Maltreatment Reports**

**Foster Care Maltreatment Reports**

**Characteristics of Children in Foster Care Involved in Allegations of Maltreatment  
Fourth Quarter SFY 2011**

One hundred and thirty nine reports of alleged maltreatment, involving 142 children in foster care,<sup>19</sup> were received by the hotline during the fourth quarter of SYF 2011.

In 35 reports involving 46 children, foster parents<sup>20</sup> were identified as the alleged offenders. As displayed by the following chart, only two of those reports were found to be true. One of the two homes was subsequently closed and the other was made unavailable.

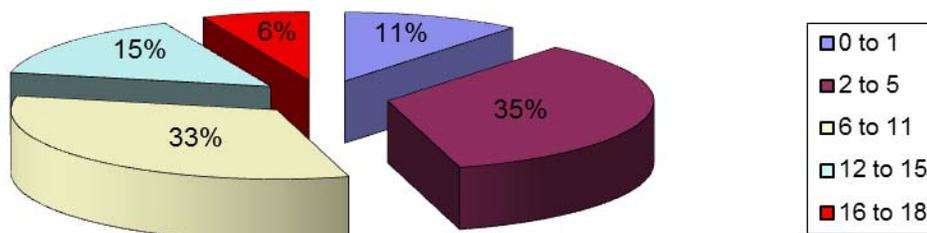
**Foster Home Maltreatment Reports  
Fourth Quarter SFY 2011**

True	Unsubstantiated	Pending
2	33	0

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

The following charts describe the characteristics of the 46 foster children involved in allegations of maltreatment—with foster parents as the alleged offenders.

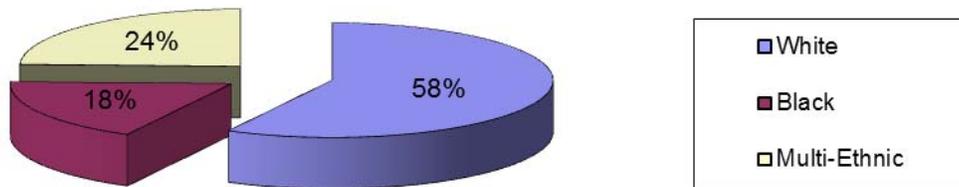
**Reports by Age**



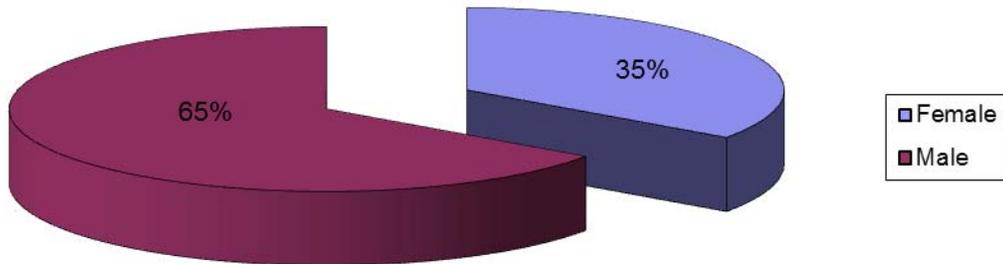
<sup>19</sup> A maltreatment report can include more than one child.

<sup>20</sup> This includes foster family homes and therapeutic foster homes

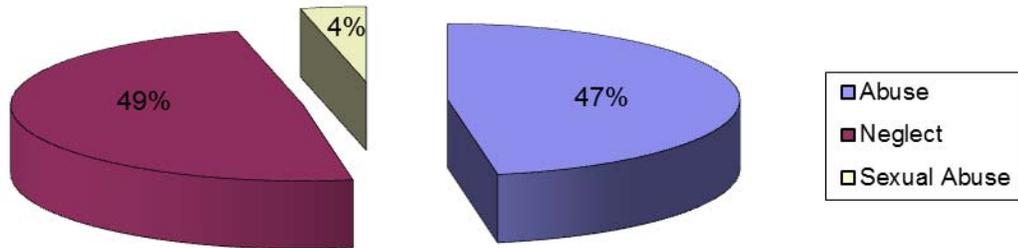
### Reports by Race



### Reports by Gender



**Reports by Allegation**



**County**

County	Number of Children Involved in Maltreatment Report	County	Number of Children Involved in Maltreatment Report
Washington	5	Saline	2
Pulaski	4	St. Francis	2
Benton	4	White	1
Sebastian	3	Lonoke	1
Franklin	3	Mississippi	1
Little River	2	Hot Spring	1
Boone	2	Greene	1
Desha	2	Phillips	1
Garland	2	Sharp	1
Howard	2	Craighead	1
Jefferson	2	Logan	1
Johnson	2		