

Quarterly Performance Report

*4th Quarter
SFY 2010*

(April 2010 – June 2010)



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

Produced by:
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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 fourth quarter of State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2010, specifically April through June 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 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 timely initiations increased by one percentage point from the previous quarter, rising to **88 percent**, but below the goal of 95 percent compliance.

Four of the ten DCFS Service Areas improved compliance with Priority I initiations over the previous quarter. However, six areas improved compliance with Priority II initiations, which make up the vast majority of all incoming referrals throughout the state. All areas met or exceeded the overall 88 percent compliance rate for Priority I initiations; additionally, all areas exceeded 75 percent compliance for Priority II initiations. Seven areas—Areas 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9 and 10—met the 95 percent goal for Priority I initiations while only Areas 5 and 9 met the 95 percent goal for Priority II initiations.

With compliance in most areas falling below the goal of 95 percent for Priority II initiations, the Division is establishing corrective action plans to help improve the timeliness of such initiations, developing area-wide and county-specific plans to help increase staff's ability to initiate investigations in a timely manner. Corrective actions will include closer supervisory oversight of staff's workloads, including frequent staffings between investigation supervisors and workers during a given month, and closely monitoring any investigation that approaches overdue status. Other corrective actions consist of assigning incoming investigations to staff more efficiently, making greater efforts to see the persons cited in the investigation immediately. Some areas, such as Area 2, anticipate that the addition of new investigations staff will also improve the timeliness of initiating child maltreatment assessments.

- Timely Completion of Child Maltreatment Assessments

The percentage of timely completions for the quarter was **69 percent**, an increase of 14 percentage points from the previous quarter (55%) but below the goal of 90 percent.

Nine of the ten DCFS Service Areas improved compliance in the timely completion of Priority I referrals over the previous quarter; in addition, nine areas improved compliance with respect to the timeliness of Priority II completions. Across both priority levels, Area 5 performed better than any other area, as its staff completed 94 percent of their Priority I investigations on time (just missing the 95 percent compliance goal) and 97 percent of their Priority II investigations (exceeding the 95 percent goal). Of the remaining areas, only Area 10 came close to approaching Area 5's success, with Area 10 staff completing four-fifths (80 percent) of their Priority I and three-fourths (76 percent) of their Priority II investigations on time.

Much of the improvement regarding the timely completion of child maltreatment investigations can be attributed to the recent yet significant reduction of overdue investigations within each Area. A statewide directive from the DCFS Central Office required all areas to close their backlog of overdue investigations during the fourth quarter. As a result of this effort, staff should now be able to devote their time to newly assigned investigations rather than overdue ones.

Despite the overall increase in compliance regarding the timely completion of investigations, compliance in nearly all areas still fell below the goal of 95 percent for both Priority I and Priority II completions. In response, areas have established corrective actions to increase compliance in future quarters. All areas reportedly plan 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.

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

Fifty-nine percent of the 24-hour initial health screenings were completed, a decrease of thirty percentage points from the previous quarter (89%), and below the goal of 95 percent.

During the quarter, **79 percent** of the 72-hour initial health screenings were completed, a decrease of eight percentage points from the previous quarter (87%) and below the goal of 95 percent.

For the 24-hour screenings, only two areas—Areas 2 and 10—exceeded the compliance level of 90 percent. On the other hand, several areas struggled during the quarter. In particular, fewer than half of the children coming into foster care in Areas 3, 6 and 9 whose situation required a 24-hour initial health screening received such a screening.

For the 72-hour screenings, three areas—Areas 4, 7 and 10—exceeded the compliance level of 90 percent. Areas 3, 5, 6 and 9 each had compliance rates of less than 80 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, while 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 of timely completed comprehensive health assessments rose by seven percentage points from the previous quarter with **64 percent** of the applicable children having received their health assessment appropriately. The result remains below the goal of 95 percent.

Seven of the ten DCFS Service Areas improved compliance over the previous quarter, although no areas met the 95 percent goal. Only staff in Area 6 came close to ensuring that all children entering foster care received a comprehensive health assessment on time, doing so in 93 percent of cases. Of the remaining areas, only Areas 4 and 7 completed more than two-thirds of their comprehensive health assessments on time. The same issues that negatively affected the timely completion of Initial Health Screenings also adversely affected the percentage of children who did not have their comprehensive health assessments 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 134 new foster homes recruited during the quarter, an increase from the 112 homes recruited during the previous quarter. This represents a compliance rate of **168 percent** for the quarter, achieving a number well above the goal of 80 new homes.

The statewide recruitment of foster homes has again exceeded the Division's expectations for quarterly recruitment, continuing a multiyear trend of exceeding the Division's own goal. 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 fourth quarter, the percentage of children who received a required visit from their caseworker averaged **61 percent**, which was below the goal of 85 percent. The percentage of children who received visits from April through June averaged 64 percent, 58 percent, and 60 percent, respectively.

None of the DCFS Service Areas met the 85 percent compliance goal for required visits, although Areas 4 (76%), 6 (76%) and 3 (73%) came closest. Meanwhile, staff in the remaining seven areas made fewer than 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 fourth quarter.

PART I: PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

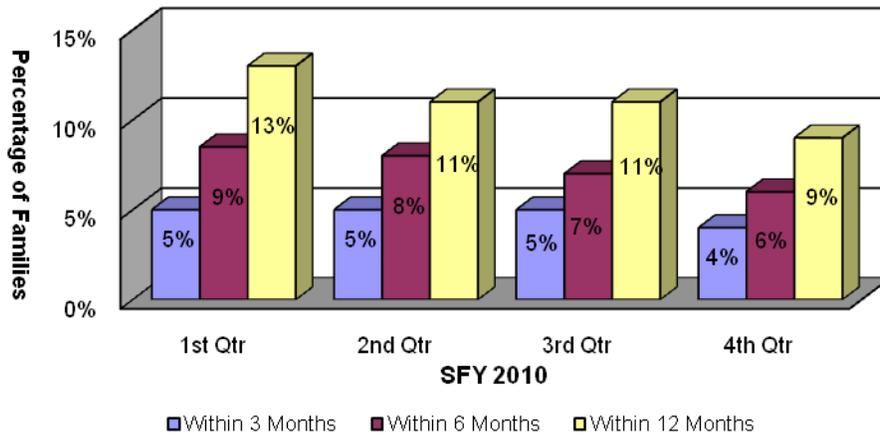
The Division has established nine performance measures to indicate achievement levels related to its major goals in child safety, family preservation and permanency:

- Percentage of 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 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 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 1,905 families involved in true reports of maltreatment during the fourth quarter one year ago, only nine percent (173) had a subsequent true report within the following 12 months. Fifty-one percent of the true reports involved both the same perpetrator and the same type of maltreatment as the initial report.¹

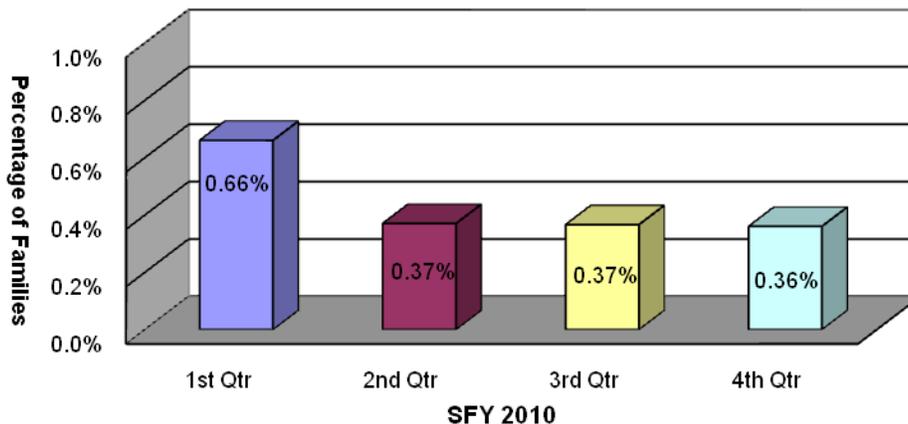
Chart 1: Recurrence of Maltreatment within 12 Months of Initial Report



Percentage of Foster Families with True Reports of Maltreatment

Six of the 42 foster home maltreatment reports received during the fourth quarter were found to be true. Based on the 1,666 foster homes² active during the quarter, the percentage of foster families with a true report of maltreatment was 0.36 percent.

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



¹ The remaining 49 percent of the subsequent reports were distributed as follows: No repetition of perpetrator or type of abuse – 17.9 percent; Same perpetrator only – 5.8 percent; Same type of abuse only – 24.9 percent.

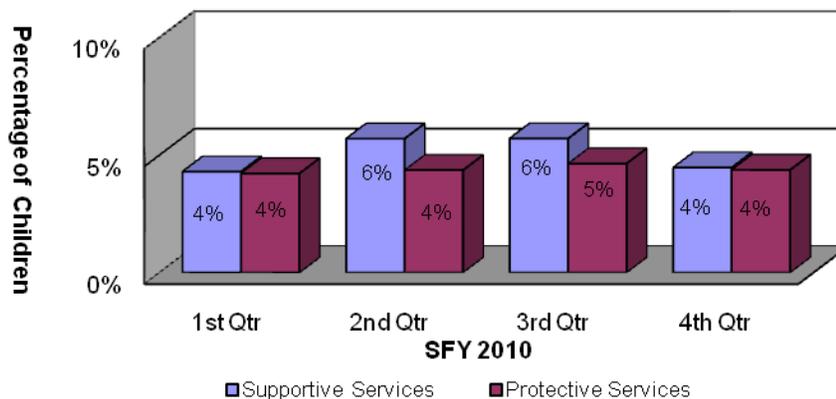
² This includes family and therapeutic foster homes.

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

Generally, families receiving Supportive Services have less severe problems and have no children placed in foster care. Families receiving Protective Services, on the other hand, have more serious issues that have necessitated DCFS' involvement and monitoring of the family.

Of the 425 children who began receiving Supportive Services between April and June 2009, 19 children (4%) experienced a true report of maltreatment within one year. The same percentage of children who began receiving Protective Services were involved in a true report within one year (179 of 4,095 children).

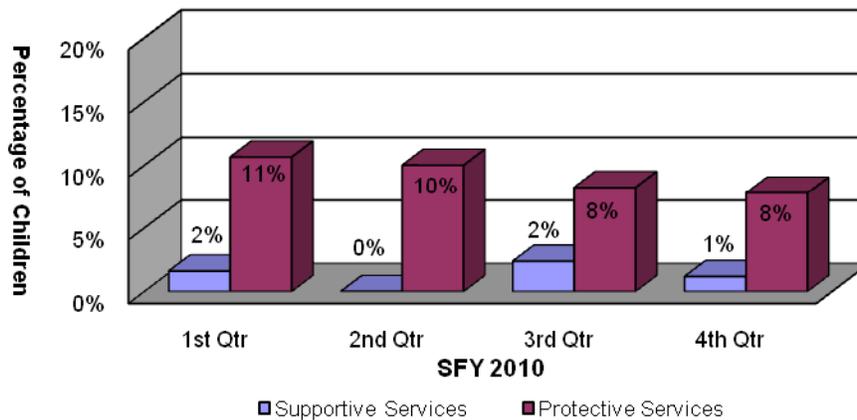
Chart 3: Children Receiving Supportive Services and Protective Services who were Abused or Neglected within One Year of the Initiation of Services



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

Five of the 425 (1%) children who began receiving Supportive Services between April and June 2009 entered foster care within one year of the initiation of these services; 319 of the 4,095 (8%) children who began receiving Protective Services entered care within one year.

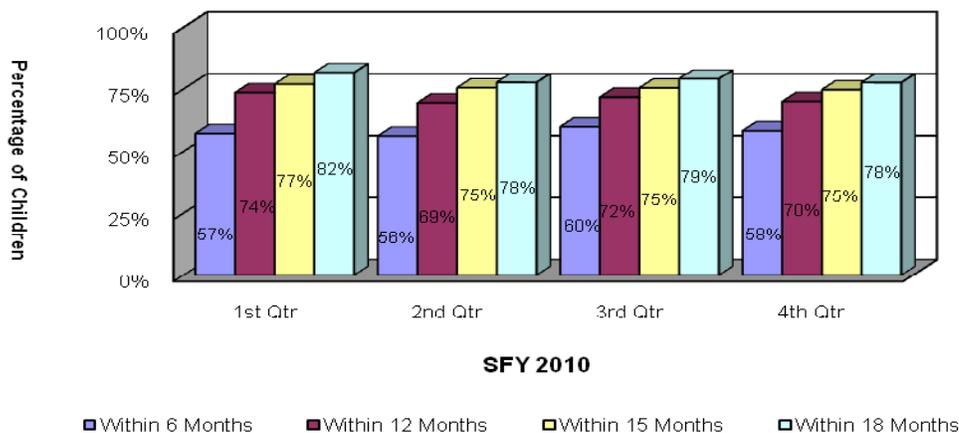
Chart 4: Children Receiving Supportive Services or Protective Services who Entered Foster Care within One Year of the Initiation of Services



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, 876 children entered foster care. Of those, 679 children (78%) returned home within 18 months. Overall, the percentage of children who entered care 18 months ago and returned home decreased from the previous quarter by one percentage point.

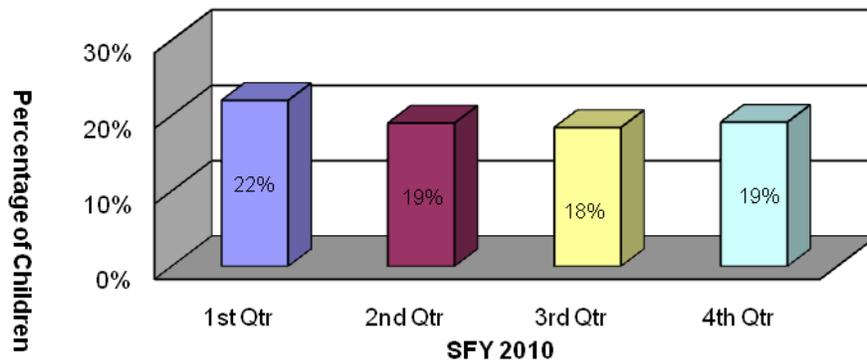
Chart 5: Children in Foster Care who Returned Home within Eighteen Months



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

Of the 921 children who entered foster care during the quarter beginning 18 months prior to the start of the current quarter, 176 children (19%) experienced three or more placements within 18 months. This result was one percentage point higher than the previous quarter. Of those same 921 children, 146 (16%) experienced three or more placements within 15 months of entering foster care.

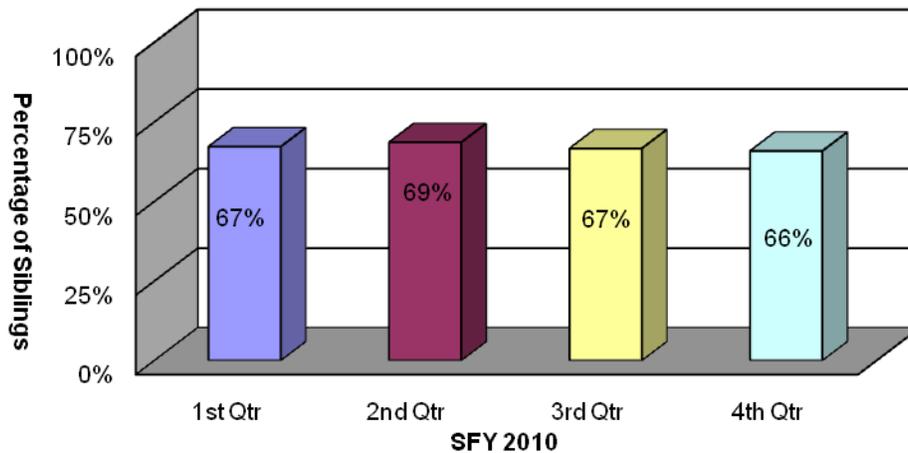
Chart 6: Children in Foster Care who have Experienced Three or More Placements within the Past Eighteen Months



Percentage of Siblings in Placement who are Placed Together

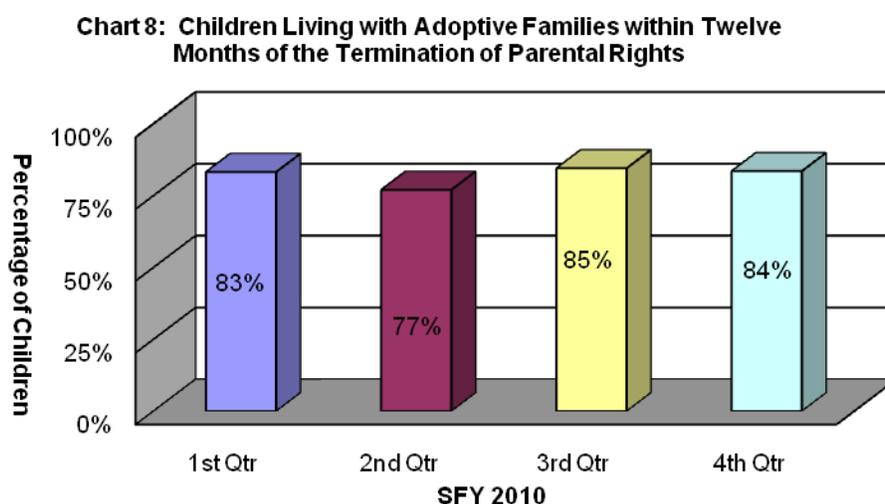
During the fourth quarter, there were 1,936 children with siblings in foster care. Of those children, 66 percent (1,275) were placed with at least one of their siblings. This percentage was similar both to the previous quarter and to the quarter ending one year ago. Of those same 1,936 children, 47 percent were placed with all of their siblings, a result which was nearly identical to the previous quarter (48%). 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 97 children whose parents had their parental rights terminated between April and June 2009, 81 children (84%) were placed in adoptive homes within 12 months of the termination of parental rights. This was one percentage point lower than the previous quarter (85%).



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

Eighty-eight children were placed in pre-adoptive homes between April and June 2009. Of those, 74 children (84%) had their adoptions finalized within 12 months of their placement in the pre-adoptive homes. This was ten percentage points higher than the previous quarter and slightly higher than the same quarter ending one year ago (82%). Fourteen children (16%) 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. Six children still had their adoptions pending finalization 12 months after their placement in the pre-adoptive homes.

**Table 1: Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes whose Adoptions were Finalized within Twelve Months of Entering Pre-adoptive Placements
4th Quarter SFY 2010**

Adoption Status	Number of Children
Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes	88
Finalized Adoptions	74
Disrupted Adoptive Placements	14
Children with a Disruption who were Re-placed in Pre-adoptive Homes	6
Still Pending after Twelve Months	6

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.

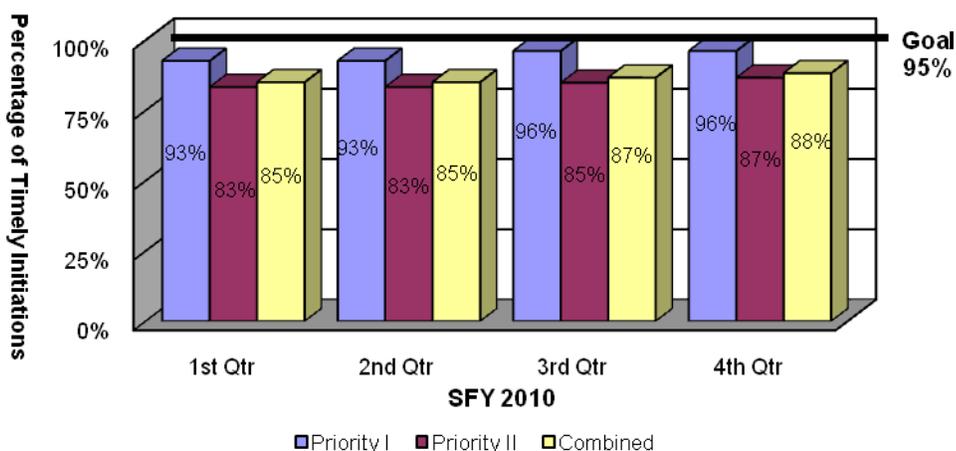
- 85%** ***Required Visits Made by Worker.*** DCFS must provide data on the percentage of monthly visits made by DCFS workers to children in foster care.

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 9,295 referrals for a child maltreatment assessment during the quarter. Of that number, 1,202 Priority I referrals and 6,266 Priority II referrals were assigned to DCFS for investigation. Of the DCFS Priority I referrals, 1,155 assessments were initiated within the required 24-hour period. Of the DCFS Priority II referrals, 5,429 assessments were initiated within the required 72-hour period.³ The resulting compliance rate was 96 percent for DCFS Priority I initiations and 88 percent for Priority II initiations, which resulted in a combined compliance rate of 88 percent. The combined compliance rate was one percentage point higher than the previous quarter.

As noted previously, CACD within the Arkansas State Police is also responsible for handling child abuse assessments. CACD was responsible for 1,827 of the 9,295 referrals that came in during the quarter, of which 1,643 were Priority I referrals and 184 were Priority II referrals. Of the Priority I referrals, 1,594 assessments (97%) were initiated in a timely manner. Nearly all of the 183 assessments conducted for Priority II referrals were initiated in a timely manner (99.5%).

Chart 9: Timely Initiation of Child Maltreatment Assessments



³ DCFS had 1,155 Priority I referrals and 5,429 Priority II referrals that were initiated in a timely manner. Of those, 167 Priority I (14%) and 1,368 Priority II referrals (25%) were considered compliant due to reasonable diligence. CACD had 1,594 Priority I referrals and 183 Priority II referrals that were initiated in a timely manner. Of those, 253 Priority I (16%) and 32 Priority II (17%) referrals were considered compliant due to reasonable diligence.

Timely Completion of Child Maltreatment Assessments

Of the 1,202 Priority I assessments initiated by DCFS, 839 (70%) were completed within the required 30-day period. Within that same time requirement, 4,305 of the 6,266 (69%) DCFS Priority II assessments initiated were completed in a timely manner. Overall, 5,144 of the 7,468 assessments assigned to DCFS were completed in a timely fashion. The total number of completions resulted in a compliance rate of 69 percent, which was 14 percentage points higher than the previous quarter but still well below the goal of 90 percent (See plan of action in the Executive Summary). Any investigation that is not completed within 30 days become overdue, and the expectation is that any overdue investigation will be completed sooner rather than later. During the fourth quarter, DCFS completed over half (51%) of its overdue investigations within the first five days in which they became overdue.

As referenced earlier, CACD within the Arkansas State Police was responsible for 1,827 of the 9,295 incoming referrals during the quarter. Of that number, 1,643 were Priority I referrals and 184 were Priority II referrals. Of the Priority I assessments, 1,364 (83%) were completed on time while 142 of the Priority II assessments or 77 percent were completed on time.

Chart 10: Timely Completion of DCFS Assessments

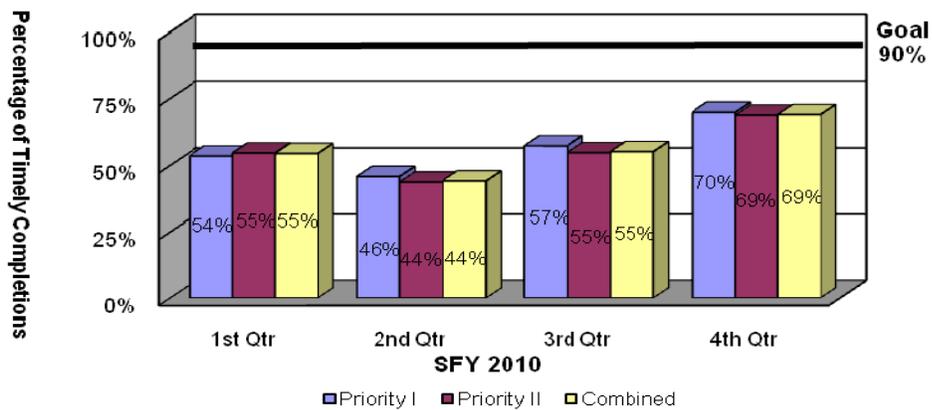
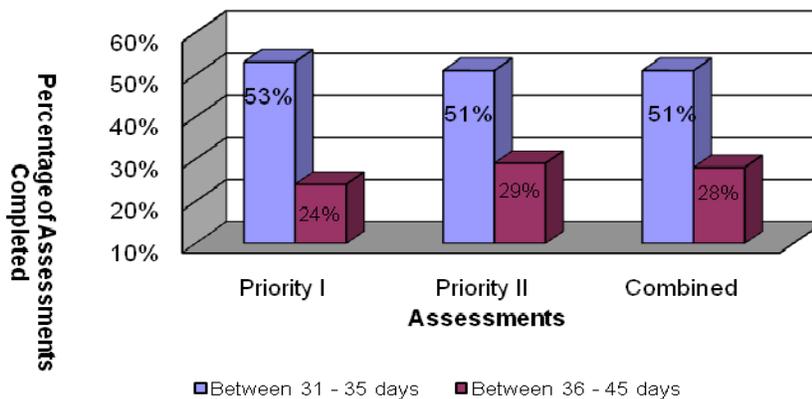


Chart 11: Overdue Assessments Completed between 31 to 45 Days

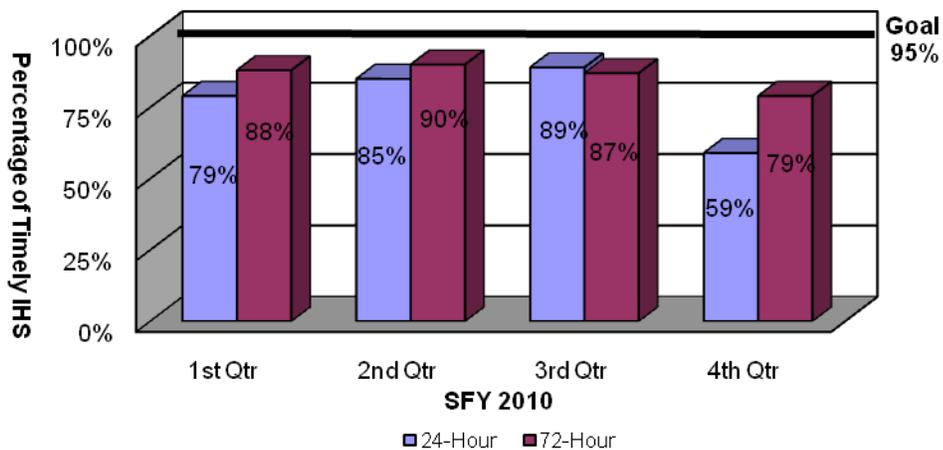


24- and 72-Hour Initial Health Screenings for Children Entering Foster Care

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 314 children who required the 24-hour health screening during the fourth quarter, 185 children (59%) received the screening in a timely manner. The compliance rate was 30 percentage points lower than the previous quarter and below 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 818 children who required the 72-hour health screening, 643 (79%) received their screenings in a timely manner, which was eight percentage points lower than the previous quarter and short of the 95 percent goal (See plan of action in the Executive Summary).

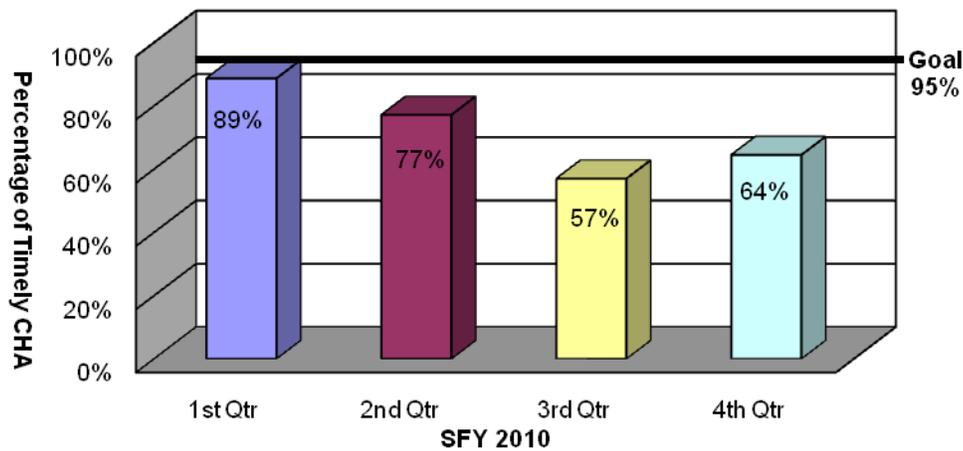
Chart 12: 24- and 72-Hour Initial Health Screenings for Children Entering Foster Care



Comprehensive Health Assessments

All children entering foster care must receive a comprehensive health assessment that evaluates their physical and mental health status within 60 days of entering care. Between January 31, 2010, and April 2, 2010, 401 children entered foster care who remained in care for at least 60 days. Of those children, 258 received their comprehensive health assessment within 60 days after entering care. The resulting compliance rate was 64 percent, which represented a seven percentage point improvement over the previous quarter and helped to reverse a downward trend in compliance over the previous year. Despite this slight turnaround, the compliance rate for this item is still below the compliance goal of 95 percent and lower than the quarter ending just one year ago (93%).

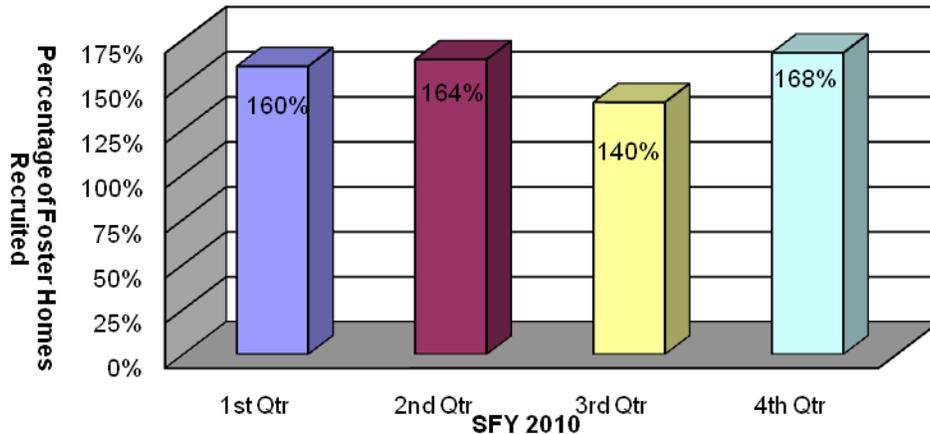
Chart 13: Comprehensive Health Assessments



Foster Home Recruitment

DCFS recruited 134 new foster homes during the fourth quarter, an achievement well above the goal of 80 newly recruited homes per quarter.

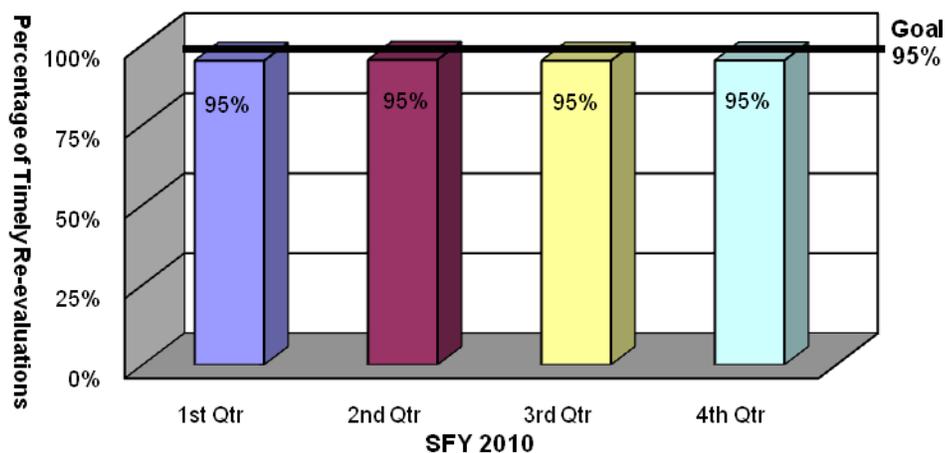
Chart 14: Foster Home Recruitment



Foster Home Re-evaluations

On an annual basis, at a minimum, DCFS is to conduct re-evaluations of each foster home’s ability to care for children removed from their homes. Of the 1,235 foster homes active during the fourth quarter, a current re-evaluation was available for 1,174 homes. The resulting 95 percent compliance rate was the same as the previous three quarters, with DCFS continuing to meet the goal of 95 percent.

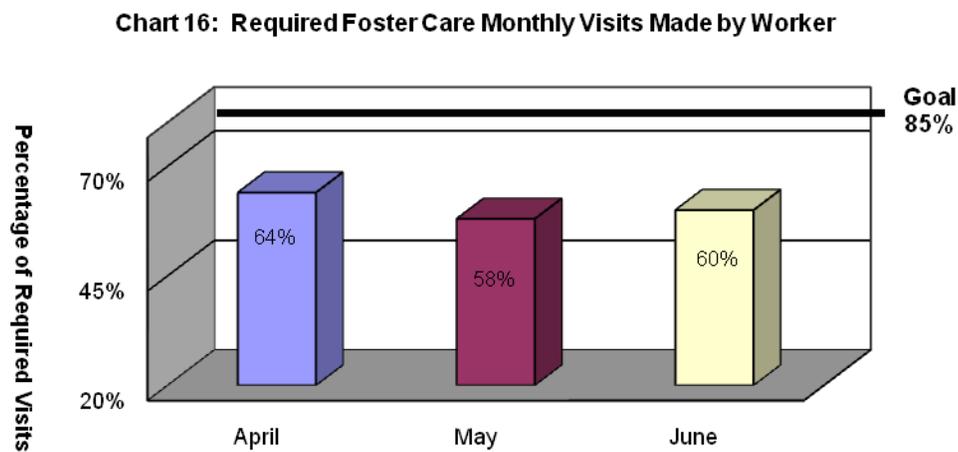
Chart 15: Foster Home Re-evaluations



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 being compliant.

During the fourth quarter, the percentage of children who received a monthly visit averaged 61 percent from April to June 2010, a decrease of one percentage point from the previous quarter and 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 placements for 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

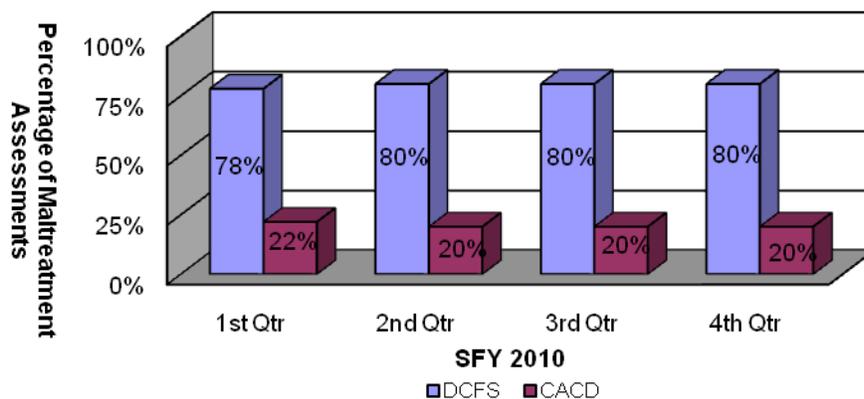
Section I: True Child Maltreatment Reports

Child Maltreatment Assessments

During the fourth quarter, 9,295 maltreatment assessments were assigned between DCFS and CACD. Of those assessments, 7,468 (80%) were assigned to DCFS. This figure represents an increase in the number of assessments assigned to DCFS from the previous quarter (6,042), and an increase in assigned assessments from the same quarter ending one year ago (7,012). In comparison to the quarter ending one year ago, the number of maltreatment assessments to be completed by DCFS has increased by seven percent.

Of the remaining assessments for the quarter, 1,827 (20%) were assigned to CACD. This figure represents an increase in the number of assessments assigned to CACD from the previous quarter (1,518) as well as in the number assigned assessments from the same quarter ending one year ago (1,791). The number of assessments assigned to CACD also saw an increase (2%) from the quarter ending one year ago.

Chart 17a: Child Maltreatment Assessments



Of the 9,295 maltreatment assessments assigned during the fourth quarter of SFY 2010, 2,240 reports (24%) were found to be true, a rate which was three percentage points higher than for those determined to be true for the same quarter ending one year ago (21%). The national percentage is 24 percent.⁴ There were 3,455 victim children involved in the 2,240 true reports during the quarter, which represents a 22 percent increase in the number of victim children included in reports during the same quarter ending one year ago (2,841).

Table 2: Child Maltreatment Assessments

	Total Assessments	True Assessments	Percent True
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%
4th Qtr SFY 2010	9,295	2,240	24%

	DCFS			CACD		
	Total Assessments	True Assessments	Percent True	Total Assessments	True Assessments	Percent True
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%
4th Qtr SFY 2010	7,468	1,548	21%	1,827	692	38%

⁴ Source: Child Maltreatment 2008, 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, 3,455 victim children were involved in true reports during the fourth quarter. The table below outlines the demographic information for these victim children.⁵

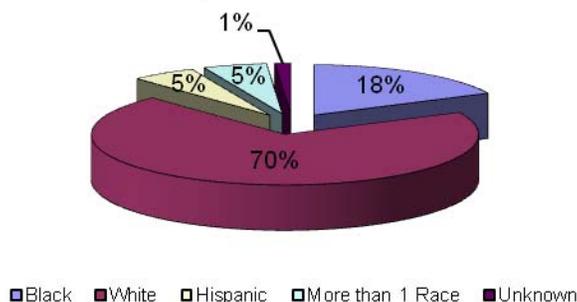
**Table 3: Characteristics of Children in True Maltreatment Reports
4th Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	137	39	0	0	0	8	13	197
	Male	148	39	1	2	2	11	15	218
2 to 5	Female	315	83	0	0	1	22	23	444
	Male	334	65	2	1	2	26	20	450
6 to 11	Female	389	99	0	0	1	21	26	536
	Male	372	115	3	1	5	38	34	568
12 to 15	Female	316	79	0	0	0	36	18	449
	Male	187	47	0	2	0	10	18	264
16 to 18	Female	140	30	0	0	0	12	10	192
	Male	68	15	0	0	0	2	5	90
18+	Female	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total*		2,408	611	6	6	11	186	182	3,410

*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for 45 children.

Of the children involved in true maltreatment reports, 71 percent were white and 18 percent were black.

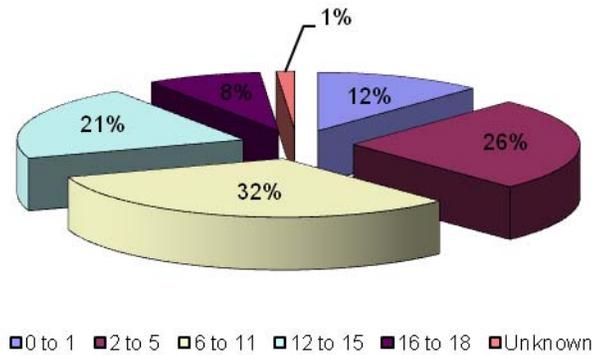
Chart 17a: Race/Ethnicity of Children in True Reports



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).

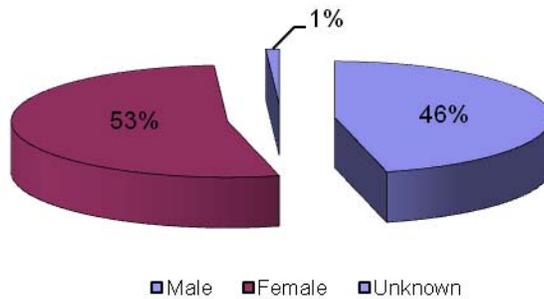
Children between the ages of six and 11 represent the largest group of children involved in true maltreatment reports (32%). These percentages were similar to the previous quarter.

Chart 17b: Ages of Children in True Reports



More female children (53%) than male children (46%) 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 3,455 children involved in true maltreatment reports were involved in reports involving allegations of neglect (85%), followed by allegations of physical abuse (40%) and sexual abuse (26%).⁶

**Table 4: Percentage of Children Involved in True Allegations of Maltreatment
3rd Quarter SFY 2010 – 4th Quarter SFY 2010**

	3rd Quarter		4th Quarter	
Neglect	2,303	81%	2,920	85%
Physical Abuse	1,155	41%	1,388	40%
Sexual Abuse	796	28%	895	26%

Child Maltreatment Reports Involving Fatalities or Near Fatalities

During the fourth quarter of the state fiscal year, there were three investigations of child fatalities and six investigations of near child fatalities across the state. A finding of True resulted for seven of the nine incidents while one incident was unsubstantiated and one was pending as of the end of the quarter. Most of the children involved in those reports were three years of age or younger, with only one child who was 14 years old. Table 5 summarizes the findings for the reports involving the fatality or near fatality of a child. Appendix A provides a summary of each report involving a child fatality and Appendix B provides a summary of those involving a near fatality.

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

Finding	Child Fatality	Near Child Fatality
True	1	6
Unsubstantiated	1	0
Pending	1	0

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 fourth quarter, 5,033 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 fourth quarter. The following table outlines the characteristics of the children who were in care during the quarter.

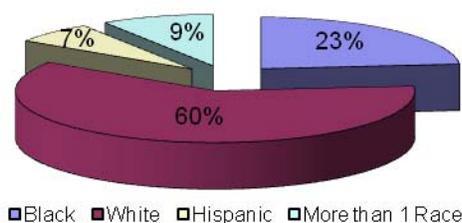
Table 6: Characteristics of Children in Foster Care During the Quarter
4th Quarter SFY 2010

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	230	90	1	0	0	24	33	378
	Male	271	97	1	0	1	27	35	432
2 to 5	Female	372	122	0	1	1	32	75	603
	Male	402	126	2	2	0	54	56	642
6 to 11	Female	370	148	2	0	1	43	36	600
	Male	378	162	1	1	2	48	75	667
12 to 15	Female	249	84	0	0	0	22	43	398
	Male	244	101	1	3	0	26	37	412
16 to 18	Female	185	101	0	0	0	19	21	326
	Male	173	77	1	0	0	17	24	292
18+	Female	86	37	0	0	0	10	14	147
	Male	76	31	0	0	1	7	7	122
Total*		3,036	1,176	9	7	6	329	456	5,019

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

The chart below shows that 60 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 were black.⁷

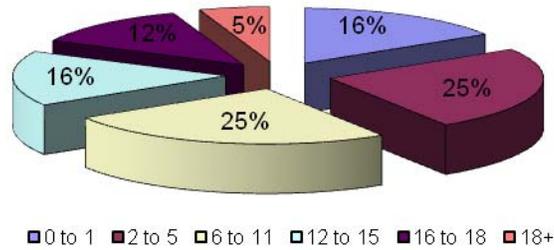
Chart 18a: Race/Ethnicity of Children in Care During the Quarter



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.

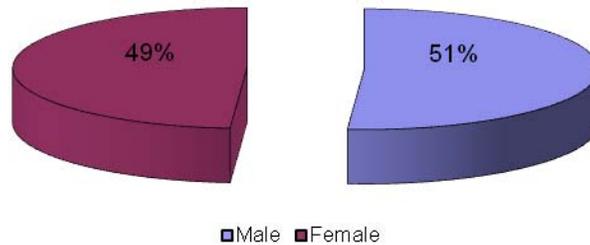
Children between the ages of two to five and six to 11 (25%) represent the largest groups of children by age who were in care during the quarter. These percentages are similar to the previous quarter.

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 fourth quarter, 4,118 children remained in foster care, an increase from the 4,030 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.

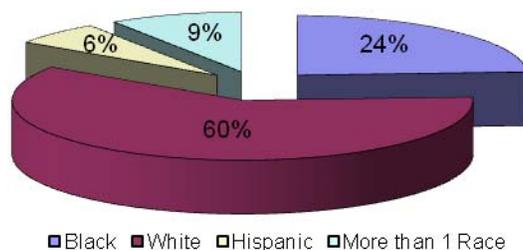
**Table 7: Characteristics of Children in Foster Care at the End of the Quarter
4th Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	176	75	1	0	0	17	25	294
	Male	225	87	0	0	0	19	29	360
2 to 5	Female	298	94	0	1	0	23	57	473
	Male	320	102	0	2	0	40	43	507
6 to 11	Female	299	122	1	0	0	36	33	491
	Male	304	133	1	1	1	38	65	543
12 to 15	Female	198	72	0	0	0	16	36	322
	Male	215	88	0	1	0	23	33	360
16 to 18	Female	157	91	0	0	0	18	19	285
	Male	150	71	1	0	0	16	22	260
18+	Female	66	28	0	0	0	7	13	114
	Male	62	26	0	0	1	5	6	100
Total*		2,470	989	4	5	2	258	381	4,109

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

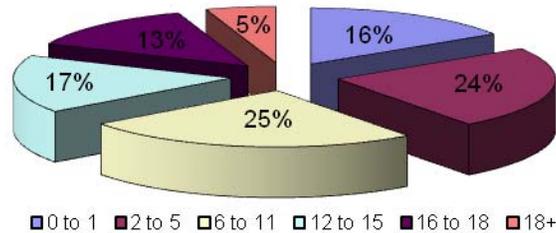
Sixty percent of the children in foster care at the end of the quarter were white, while 24 percent of the children were black. These percentages are consistent with the previous four quarters.

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



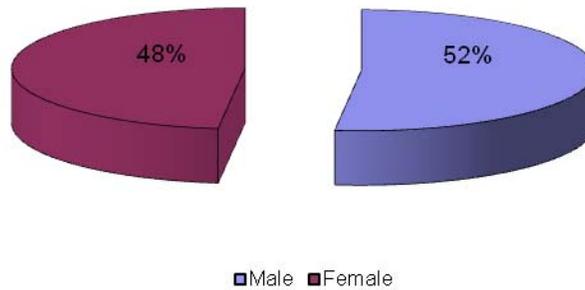
The following chart shows that children between the ages of six and 11 (25%) represent the largest age group of children who were in care at the end of the quarter, followed closely by children between the ages of two and five (24%).

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



Of the children in foster care at the end of the quarter, 48 percent of the children were female and 52 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 1,099 children entered foster care during the fourth quarter, an increase from the previous quarter (1,059).

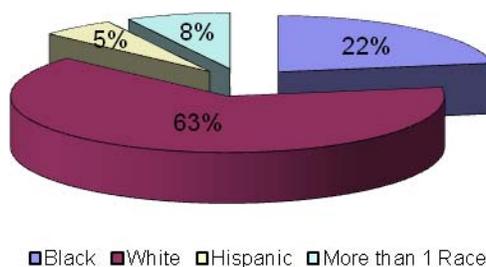
**Table 8: Characteristics of Children Entering Foster Care During the Quarter
4th Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	76	36	0	0	0	6	11	129
	Male	84	21	1	0	2	10	10	128
2 to 5	Female	89	27	0	0	1	4	9	130
	Male	100	28	0	0	0	15	5	148
6 to 11	Female	95	31	1	0	1	5	7	140
	Male	94	38	0	0	2	9	19	162
12 to 15	Female	58	19	0	0	0	6	8	91
	Male	45	18	0	0	0	1	3	67
16 to 18	Female	32	16	0	0	0	2	8	58
	Male	24	10	0	0	0	2	4	40
Total*		697	244	2	0	6	60	84	1,093

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

The chart below shows that 63 percent of the children who entered foster care during the quarter were white, while 22 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

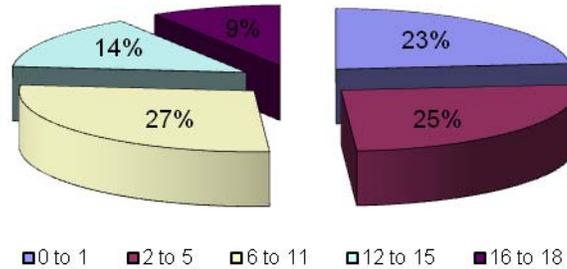
Chart 20a: Race/Ethnicity of Children who Entered Care



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.

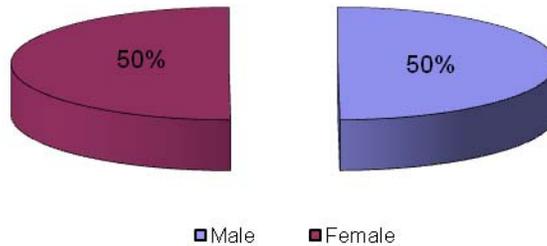
The following chart shows that over three-fourths (76%) of the children who entered foster care during the quarter were no older than 11 years of age.

Chart 20b: Ages of Children who Entered Care



The percentages of children who entered care during the fourth quarter were evenly split between males and females.

Chart 20c: Gender of Children who Entered Care



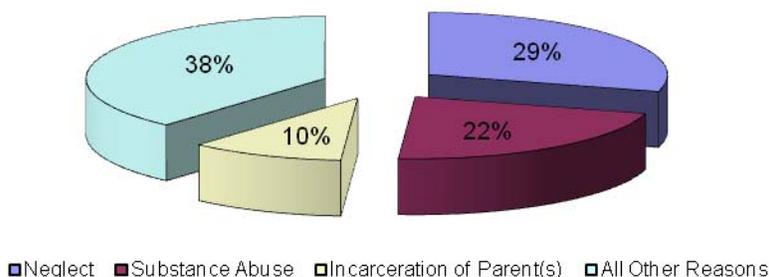
The distribution of the reasons children entered foster care were the same regardless if the children entered care during the quarter (Table 9) or were in care at the end of the quarter (Table 10). Neglect and substance abuse⁹ were the most prevalent reasons for children’s entry into care.

**Table 9: Reasons Children Entered Foster Care During the Quarter
4th Quarter SFY 2010**

Placement Reason	0 to 1	2 to 5	6 to 11	12 to 15	16 to 18	18+	Total
Neglect	609	683	753	461	132	1	2,639
Substance Abuse	556	527	485	288	94	0	1,950
Parent Incarceration	196	255	288	151	44	0	934
Physical Abuse	160	180	257	186	65	1	849
Child’s Behavior	0	0	97	202	114	0	413
Abandonment	36	43	70	95	61	1	307
Inadequate Housing	150	155	191	126	29	0	641
Caretaker Illness	85	89	143	134	66	0	517
Sexual Abuse	18	51	110	144	39	0	362
Truancy	0	0	48	55	26	0	129
Child’s Disability	8	6	17	15	6	0	52
Parent Death	2	5	9	11	11	0	38
Sex Offender	0	0	13	16	8	0	37
Relinquishment	3	1	5	5	1	0	15
Adoption	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Managed Mental Health	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Other	1	1	14	11	3	0	30
Teen Parent in Care	57	3	0	0	1	0	61
Total*	1,881	2,000	2,501	1,891	700	3	8,976

*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 1,950 reasons for entry attributed to substance abuse, substance abuse by children accounted for 65 reasons for entry (3%), while substance abuse by parents accounted for 1,885 reasons for entry (97%).

**Table 10: Reasons Children in Foster Care at the End of the Quarter were Placed in Care
4th Quarter SFY 2010**

Placement Reason	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	His-panic	More Than 1 Race	Total
Neglect	1,378	462	1	1	2	147	194	2,185
Substance Abuse	1,044	298	1	1	0	96	150	1,590
Parent Incarceration	480	141	1	1	0	45	70	738
Physical Abuse	374	210	2	2	0	57	58	703
Child's Behavior	232	89	0	1	0	17	45	384
Abandonment	127	82	0	0	0	15	34	258
Inadequate Housing	344	127	0	1	0	33	60	565
Caretaker Illness	298	96	0	0	0	19	42	455
Sexual Abuse	193	64	0	0	0	28	21	306
Truancy	81	26	0	0	0	5	22	134
Child's Disability	34	7	0	0	0	2	2	45
Parent Death	20	8	0	0	0	1	6	35
Sex Offender	28	7	0	1	0	2	3	41
Relinquishment	6	6	0	0	0	1	2	15
Adoption	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Managed Mental Health	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
Other	11	12	0	0	0	1	3	27
Teen Parent in Care	16	25	0	0	0	8	2	51
Total*	4,667	1,661	5	8	2	477	714	7,534

*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, 985 children left foster care, which was an increase from the previous quarter (872).

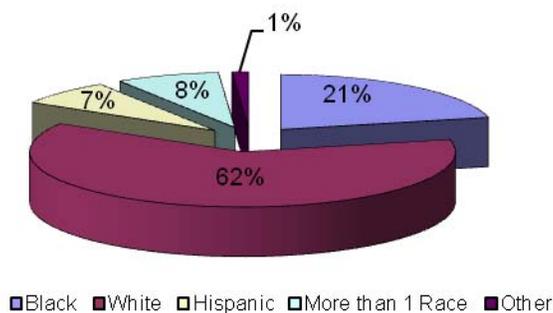
**Table 11: Characteristics of Children Exiting Foster Care During the Quarter
4th Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	56	17	0	0	0	7	8	88
	Male	49	11	1	0	2	8	6	77
2 to 5	Female	80	31	0	0	1	9	18	139
	Male	87	26	2	0	0	15	13	143
6 to 11	Female	80	29	1	0	1	7	4	122
	Male	78	34	0	0	1	10	10	133
12 to 15	Female	52	12	0	0	0	6	8	78
	Male	33	14	1	2	0	3	4	57
16 to 18	Female	49	24	0	0	0	4	3	80
	Male	32	11	0	0	0	2	2	47
18+	Female	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Male	9	0	0	0	0	1	1	11
Total*		609	210	5	2	5	72	77	980

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

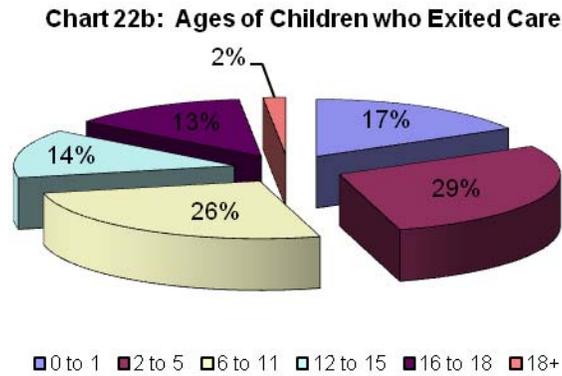
Of the 985 children who exited foster care during the quarter, 62 percent were white and 21 percent were black. During the same quarter ending one year ago, 59 percent of the children who exited foster care were white and 25 percent were black. National data indicate that 44 percent of the children who leave foster care are white and 26 percent are black.¹⁰

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

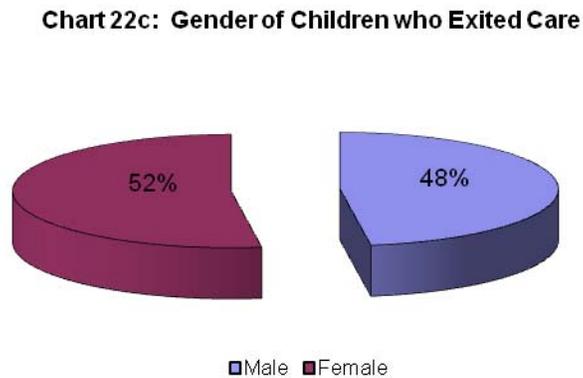


¹⁰ Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) preliminary data submitted for children in foster care between 10/1/2007 and 9/30/2008 as of October 2009.

The chart below shows that children between the ages of two and five (29%) represent the largest group of children who left foster care during the quarter. This group was followed closely by children in the six to 11 year age group (26%).



Of the children who left care during the quarter, 52 percent were female and 48 percent were male.



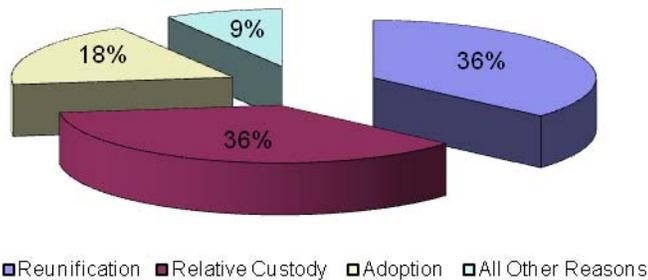
**Table 12: Reasons Children Exited Foster Care by Age
4th Quarter SFY 2010**

Reason	Age						Total
	0 to 1	2 to 5	6 to 11	12 to 15	16 to 18	18+	
Reunification	73	99	84	55	46	0	357
Relative Custody	65	104	104	61	22	0	356
Adoption	24	76	59	16	5	0	180
Child Aged Out	0	0	0	0	49	15	64
Non-Relative Custody	2	3	6	3	4	0	18
Custody Transfer	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Emancipation	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Death of Child	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total*	165	282	255	135	127	16	980

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

The most prevalent reasons that children left foster care during the quarter were reunification and relative custody (36% each). The third-leading reason was adoption (18%). National data indicate that the three most prevalent reasons children exit care are reunification (52%), adoption (19%) and relative care (8%).¹¹

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 fourth quarter, returning home remained the most prevalent goal among children in foster care with 56 percent of the children having such a permanency goal. National data reveal that the goal of reunification is slightly less prevalent nationwide than is the case in Arkansas; meanwhile, the goal of adoption is slightly more common nationally than is the case at the state level.¹²

**Table 13: Permanency Goals of Children in Foster Care
3rd Quarter SFY 2010 – 4th Quarter SFY 2010**

	3rd Quarter		4th Quarter		National
Return Home	2,156	54%	2,298	56%	49%
Adoption	809	20%	770	19%	24%
APPLA	568	14%	545	13%	N/A
Remain at Home	118	3%	145	4%	N/A
Relative Care	108	3%	117	3%	4%
Guardianship	15	0.4%	17	0.4%	4%
Emancipation	0	0%	0	0%	6%
Long Term Care	0	0%	0	0%	8%
Not Yet Established	256	6%	226	5%	5%
Total*	4,030	100%	4,118	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 5,033 children in foster care 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.¹³

**Table 14a: Length of Stay of Children in Foster Care (Including Relative Care)
4th Quarter SFY 2010**

	Number	Percentage	National
Less than 30 days	534	11%	5%
30-90 Days	696	14%	20%
3-6 Months	659	13%	
6-12 Months	923	18%	17%
12-24 Months	1,023	20%	23%
24-36 Months	446	9%	12%
36+ Months	752	15%	24%
Total	5,033	100%	100%

**Table 14b: Length of Stay of Children in Non-Relative Foster Care and Relative Care
4th Quarter SFY 2010**

	Children in Foster Care (Excluding Relative Care)		Children in Relative Care	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Less than 30 days	512	12%	22	3%
30-90 Days	602	14%	94	14%
3-6 Months	554	13%	105	16%
6-12 Months	750	17%	173	27%
12-24 Months	852	19%	171	26%
24-36 Months	397	9%	49	8%
36+ Months	715	16%	37	6%
Total	4,382	100%	651	100%

For the fourth quarter, children residing in relative care were slightly more likely to have been in care for less than one year than were children in non-relative foster care. Conversely, a higher percentage of children in non-relative foster care were likely to have been in care for longer than one year than was the case among children placed in relative care.

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.

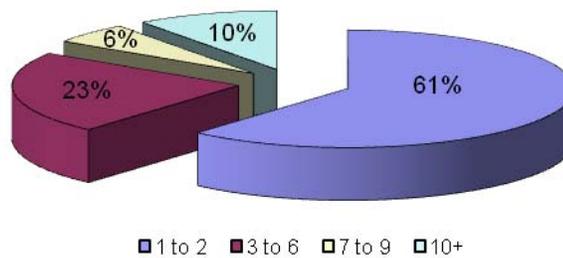
Number of Placements of Children in Foster Care

For children in care at the end of the fourth quarter, 61 percent experienced two or fewer placements, which is the same percentage resulting for the previous quarter.

**Table 15: Number of Placements of Children in Foster Care
3rd Quarter SFY 2010 – 4th Quarter SFY 2010**

	3rd Quarter		4th Quarter	
1-2 Placements	2,472	61%	2,532	61%
3-6 Placements	912	23%	936	23%
7-9 Placements	234	6%	234	6%
10+ Placements	412	10%	416	10%
Total*	4,030	100%	4,118	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 fourth quarter, 4,118 children were in foster care. Of those, 2,311 children (56%) experienced two or more placements while in care.

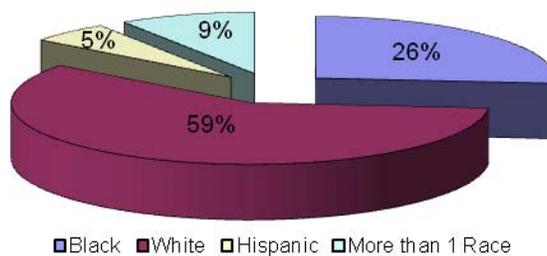
**Table 16: Characteristics of Children who Experienced Two or More Placements
4th Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	37	24	1	0	0	4	11	77
	Male	73	30	0	0	0	2	9	114
2 to 5	Female	146	42	0	0	0	11	25	224
	Male	165	52	0	0	0	12	18	247
6 to 11	Female	157	75	0	0	0	20	16	268
	Male	193	83	1	1	1	22	41	342
12 to 15	Female	122	53	0	0	0	7	24	206
	Male	146	76	0	1	0	17	26	266
16 to 18	Female	157	92	0	0	0	18	19	286
	Male	161	80	1	0	1	12	23	278
Total		1,357	607	3	2	2	125	212	2,308

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

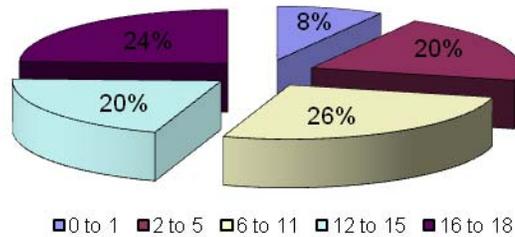
Similar to the percentages for the previous quarter, 59 percent of the children who experienced two or more placements were white and 26 percent were black.

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



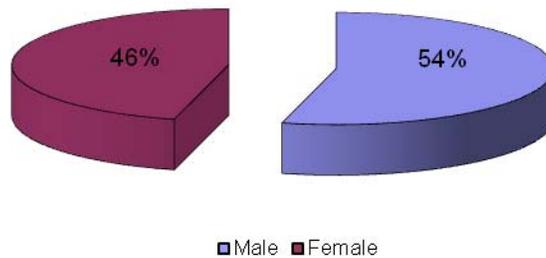
Children between the ages of six and 11 (26%) represented the largest group of children who experienced two or more placements, followed by those between the ages of 16 and 18 (24%).

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

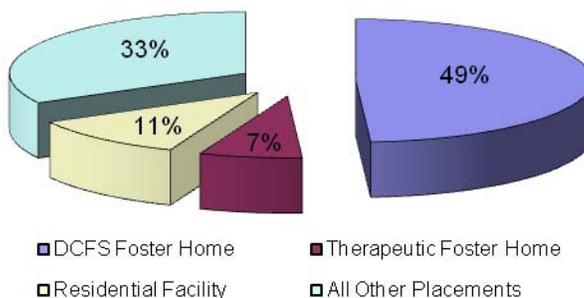
There were more children placed in DCFS foster homes (49%) at the end of the fourth quarter than in any other type of out-of-home setting.

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	466	651	509	206	144	53	2,029
Relative Care	65	112	72	34	10	7	300
Therapeutic Foster Home	3	26	138	71	32	10	280
Pre-Adoptive Home	39	52	46	12	2	0	151
Emergency Shelter	6	20	52	44	43	1	166
Residential Facility	22	26	88	151	133	37	457
Youth Services	0	0	0	7	14	1	22
Runaway	2	2	0	5	36	5	50
Trial Home Visit	43	79	65	50	26	1	264
Hospital/Medical	3	1	10	5	7	0	26
ASAP CRT	0	0	0	10	5	0	15
Independent Living	0	0	0	0	4	91	95
Incarceration	0	0	0	4	8	3	15
Temporary Placement	6	12	17	13	8	2	58
Sub-Acute CRT	0	0	28	52	44	1	125
Acute CRT	0	0	9	8	12	1	30
ASAP Residential Treatment	0	0	0	6	9	1	16
ASAP Therapeutic Foster Care	0	0	0	5	6	1	12
DDS Placement	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Unknown*	3	0	0	0	2	0	5
Total	658	981	1,035	683	546	215	4,118

*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

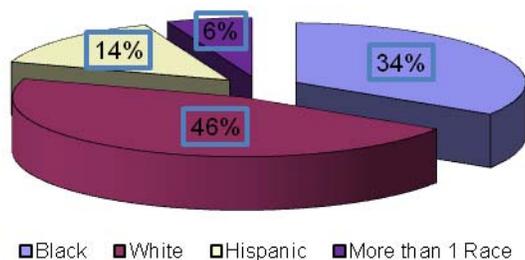
Fifty children were on runaway status at the end of the fourth quarter. This is a decrease from the previous quarter (54).

**Table 18: Characteristics of Children on Runaway Status at the End of the Quarter
4th 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	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
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	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Male	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
16 to 18	Female	11	6	0	0	0	3	1	21
	Male	6	5	0	0	0	3	1	15
18+	Female	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
	Male	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total		23	17	0	0	0	7	3	50

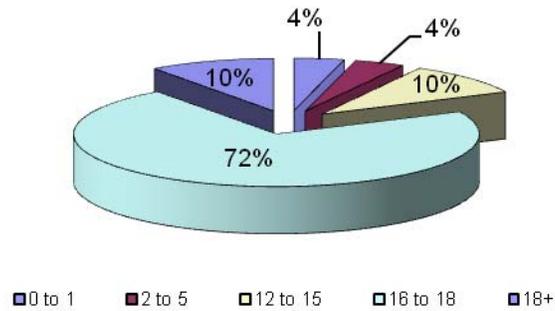
Of the children on runaway status at the end of the quarter, 46 percent were white and 34 percent were black. The remaining children were either Hispanic (14%) or multiracial (6%)

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



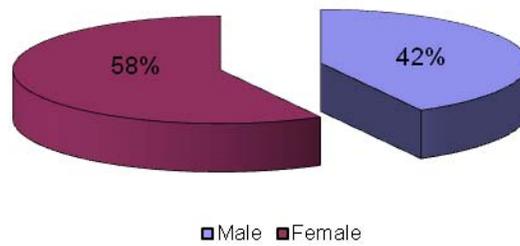
At the end of the quarter, the majority of children on runaway status (72%) were between the ages of 16 and 18.

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



More female children (58%) than male children (42%) were on runaway status at the end of the quarter.

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



Characteristics of Children in Relative Care

During the fourth quarter, 651 children were in relative care, an increase from the previous quarter (591). 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.

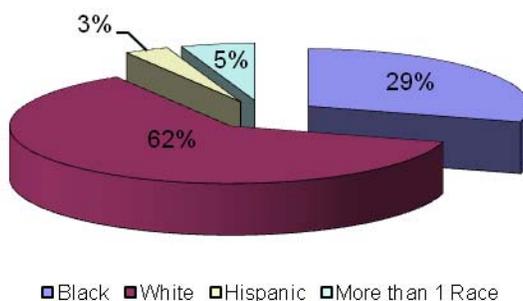
**Table 19: Characteristics of Children in Relative Care
4th Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	32	12	0	0	0	0	4	48
	Male	43	17	0	0	0	2	1	63
2 to 5	Female	77	35	0	0	0	0	10	122
	Male	78	26	0	0	0	4	8	116
6 to 11	Female	49	35	0	0	0	4	3	91
	Male	61	27	0	0	0	2	6	96
12 to 15	Female	24	5	0	0	0	3	1	33
	Male	18	11	1	0	0	3	2	35
16 to 18	Female	5	13	0	0	0	1	0	19
	Male	9	8	0	0	0	2	0	19
Over 18	Female	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Male	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total		401	191	1	0	0	21	35	649

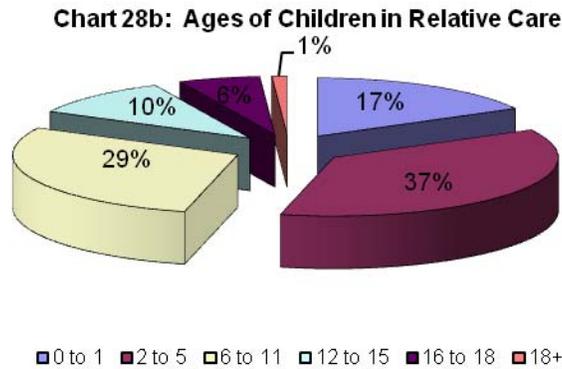
*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for two children.

White children represent the highest percentage of children in relative care during the fourth quarter with 62 percent having been placed with a relative during the quarter, similar to the previous quarter.

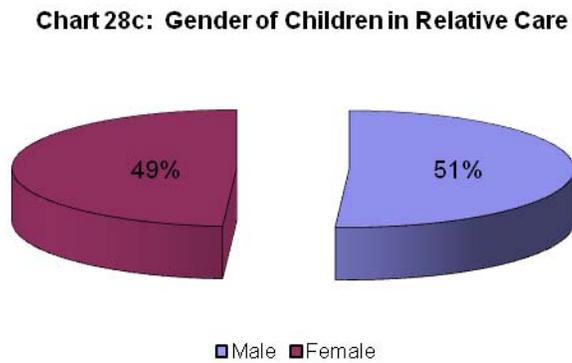
Chart 28a: Race/Ethnicity of Children in Relative Care



Children between the ages of two and five (37%) represent the largest age group of children in relative care, followed by children between the ages of six and 11 (29%).



Of the 651 children in relative care during the quarter, 51 percent were male and 49 percent were female; the percentages are similar to those from the previous quarter.



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

Characteristics of Children with a Permanency Goal of Adoption During the Quarter

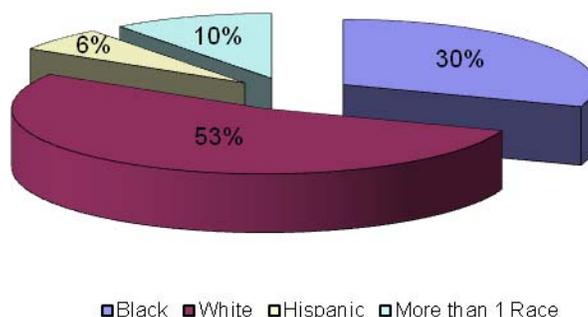
There were 896 children served during the fourth quarter with a permanency goal of adoption. This count was an increase from the previous quarter (880). The table below outlines the characteristics of the children for whom an adoptive home is being sought.

**Table 20: Characteristics of Children with a Permanency Goal of Adoption During the Quarter
 4th Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	22	10	0	0	0	7	0	39
	Male	28	21	0	0	0	2	3	54
2 to 5	Female	52	26	0	0	0	6	14	98
	Male	69	44	0	0	0	6	12	131
6 to 11	Female	71	53	0	0	0	8	9	141
	Male	94	49	0	0	0	8	26	177
12 to 15	Female	49	22	0	0	0	3	8	82
	Male	54	29	0	0	0	8	17	108
16 to 18	Female	21	7	0	0	0	4	0	32
	Male	17	11	1	0	0	1	3	33
Over 18	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total		477	273	1	0	0	53	92	896

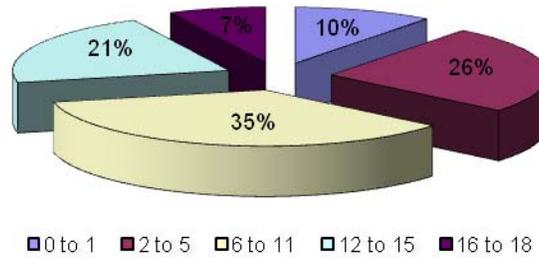
Of the 896 children with a permanency goal of adoption served during the quarter, 53 percent were white, 30 percent were black, and six percent were Hispanic. These percentages are similar to the previous quarter.

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



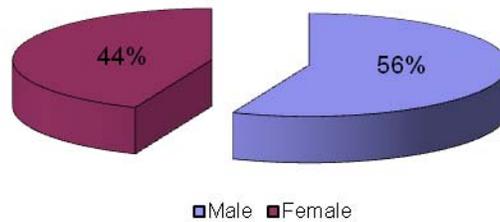
Children between the ages of six and 11 (35%) represent the largest group of children with a permanency goal of adoption. The age distribution of children with a goal of adoption is similar to that of the previous quarter.

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



Of the 896 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

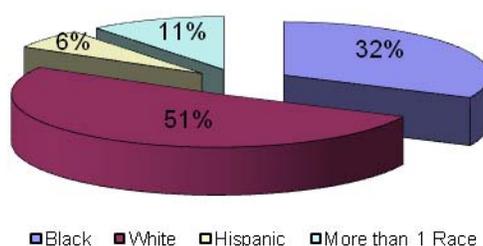
There were 770 children in care at the end of the quarter with a permanency goal of adoption. The table below outlines those children’s characteristics.

**Table 21: Characteristics of Children with a Permanency Goal of Adoption at the End of the Quarter
4th Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	17	8	0	0	0	6	0	31
	Male	23	19	0	0	0	1	3	46
2 to 5	Female	39	21	0	0	0	3	9	72
	Male	53	38	0	0	0	5	10	106
6 to 11	Female	60	50	0	0	0	8	9	127
	Male	73	43	0	0	0	7	23	146
12 to 15	Female	45	21	0	0	0	3	8	77
	Male	52	27	0	0	0	8	17	104
16 to 18	Female	17	7	0	0	0	4	0	28
	Male	16	11	1	0	0	1	3	32
Over 18	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total		395	246	1	0	0	46	82	770

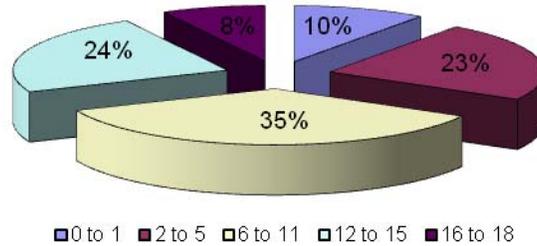
Of the 770 children in care with a permanency goal of adoption at the end of the quarter, 51 percent were white, 32 percent were black, and 11 percent were multiracial. These percentages are similar to the previous quarter.

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



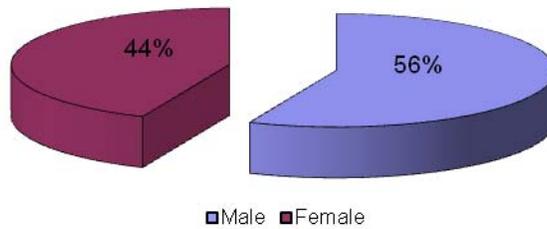
At the end of the quarter, children between the ages of six and 11 (35%) continued to represent the largest age group with a permanency goal of adoption.

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



A higher percentage of male children (56%) than female children (44%) who were in care at the end of the quarter had a permanency goal of adoption, a result which is similar to that of 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

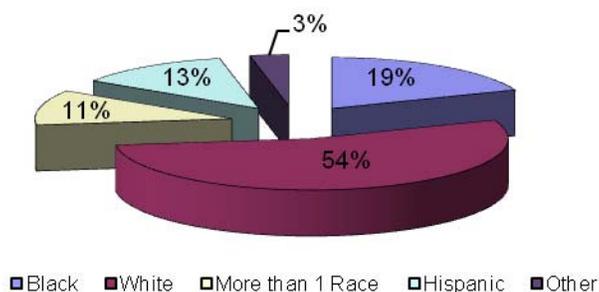
There were 63 children whose parents had their parental rights terminated during the fourth quarter. This was a decrease from the third quarter (102). The table below outlines the characteristics of those children.

**Table 22: Characteristics of Children whose Parents have had Parental Rights Terminated During the Quarter
4th Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	7	1	1	0	0	4	0	13
	Male	8	4	0	0	0	0	1	13
2 to 5	Female	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	9
	Male	5	0	0	1	0	1	1	8
6 to 11	Female	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	4
	Male	1	1	0	0	0	1	3	6
12 to 15	Female	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	4
	Male	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	5
16 to 18	Female	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		34	12	1	1	0	8	7	63

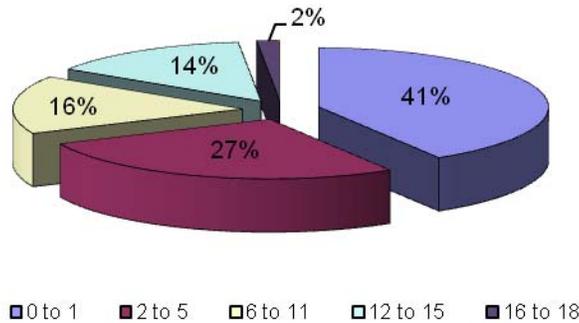
Fifty-four percent of the children whose parents had their parental rights terminated during the quarter were white, 19 percent were black, 13 percent were Hispanic, and 11 percent were multiracial.

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



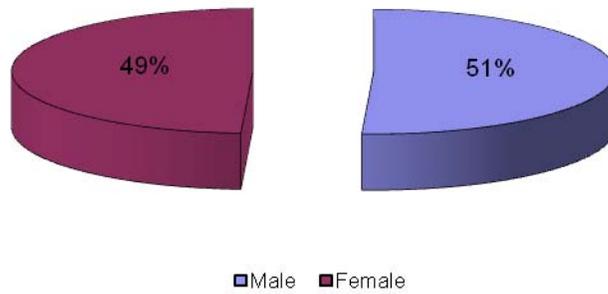
Children between the ages of zero and one (41%) represent the largest group of children whose parents' parental rights were terminated during the quarter.

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



Of the 63 children whose parents' parental rights were terminated during the quarter, 51 percent were male and 49 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

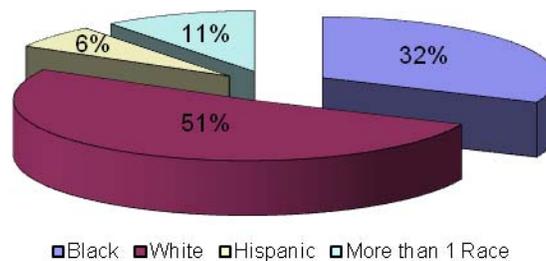
At the end of the fourth quarter, 513 children were available for adoption, a slight decrease from the previous quarter (526). Demographic information for children available for adoption, shown in the table below, is very similar to previous quarters.

**Table 23: Characteristics of Children Available for Adoption at the End of the Quarter
4th 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	3	0	15
	Male	12	8	0	0	0	1	2	23
2 to 5	Female	18	14	0	0	0	2	4	38
	Male	24	29	0	0	0	4	7	64
6 to 11	Female	45	31	0	0	0	5	4	85
	Male	56	27	0	0	0	4	15	102
12 to 15	Female	33	15	0	0	0	2	5	55
	Male	44	20	0	0	0	7	14	85
16 to 18	Female	11	5	0	0	0	3	0	19
	Male	14	8	1	0	0	1	3	27
Total		264	162	1	0	0	32	54	513

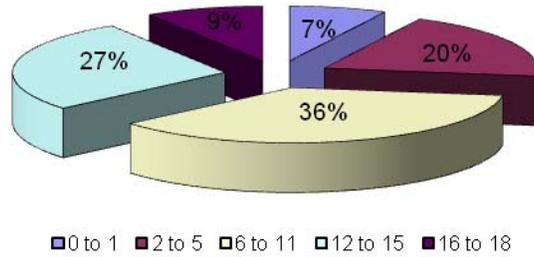
Of the children available for adoption at the end of the quarter, 51 percent were white and 32 percent were black. These percentages are similar to the previous quarter.

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



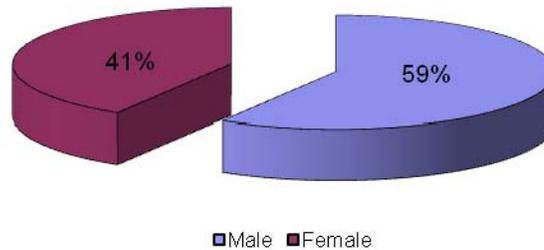
More children available for adoption at the end of the quarter were between the ages of six and 11 (36%) than was the case for any other age group.

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



At the end of the quarter, more male children (59%) than female children (41%) were available for adoption. These percentages are similar to the third 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 fourth quarter, more children who were available for adoption were placed in DCFS foster homes (40%) than in any other type of placement. The next largest percentage of placement types for children seeking an adoptive home was therapeutic foster homes (19%). These results are similar to the previous quarter.

**Table 24: Current Placements of Children Available for Adoption
4th Quarter SFY 2010**

Placement	Number of Children	Percentage*
DCFS Foster Home	204	40%
Pre-Adoptive Home	74	14%
Therapeutic Foster Home	96	19%
Residential Facility	81	16%
Hospital/Medical	8	2%
Emergency Shelter	6	1%
Temporary Placement	3	0.6%
Sub-Acute CRT	20	4%
ASAP CRT	3	0.6%
Kinship Care	4	1%
ASAP Residential Treatment	2	0.4%
ASAP Therapeutic Foster Care	1	0.2%
Youth Services	1	0.2%
Acute CRT	7	1%
ILP Sponsor	1	0.2%
DDS Placement	1	0.2%
Total*	513	100%

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

Characteristics of Children in Pre-adoptive Placements

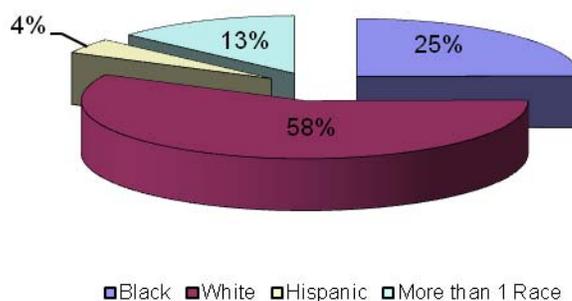
During the fourth quarter, 165 children were in pre-adoptive homes. This number includes children who entered a pre-adoptive home during previous quarters as well as children who were newly placed in a pre-adoptive home during the current quarter.

**Table 25: Characteristics of Children in Pre-adoptive Placements
4th Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	9
	Male	8	4	0	0	0	1	0	13
2 to 5	Female	12	7	0	0	0	3	6	28
	Male	22	10	0	0	0	0	5	37
6 to 11	Female	16	4	0	0	0	1	1	22
	Male	22	8	0	0	0	1	6	37
12 to 15	Female	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	5
	Male	2	2	0	0	0	1	3	8
16 to 18	Female	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Male	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total		95	41	0	0	0	7	22	165

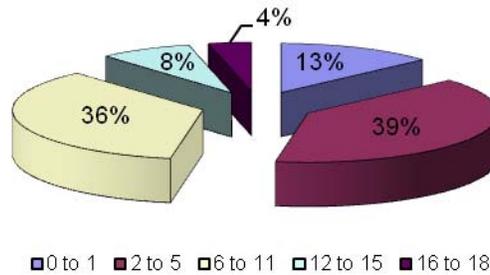
Of the 165 children in pre-adoptive homes during the quarter, 58 percent were white and 25 percent were black.

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



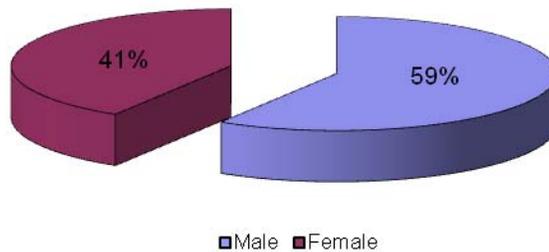
Children between the ages of two and five (39%) represent the largest age group of children placed in pre-adoptive homes, followed closely by children in the six to 11 age group (36%)..

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



Of the 165 children in a pre-adoptive home setting during the quarter, 59 percent were male and 41 percent were female. These percentages differ from the third quarter with 52 percent of the population being male and 48 percent female.

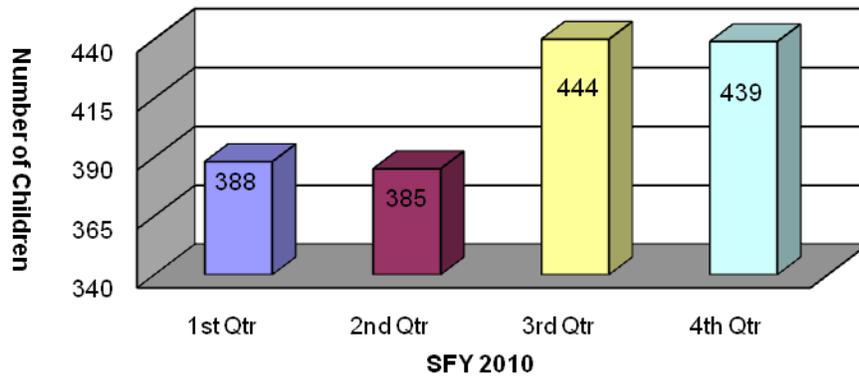
33c: Gender of Children Placed in Pre-adoptive Homes During the Quarter



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

During the fourth quarter, there were 439 children in foster care whose parents had their parental rights terminated but who were not placed in adoptive homes, a slight decrease from the previous quarter (444). This statistic was derived by subtracting the number of children placed in adoptive homes at the end of the quarter (74) from the number of children available for adoption at the end of the quarter (513).

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



Children with Special Needs

During the fourth quarter, 98 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
4th Quarter SFY 2010**

Special Needs Condition	Number of Children
Race	97
Age	83
Member of sibling group	42

Characteristics of Children with Finalized Adoptions

During the quarter, 181 children had their adoptions finalized, a sizeable increase from the previous quarter (101). The following table outlines the characteristics of the children with finalized adoptions.

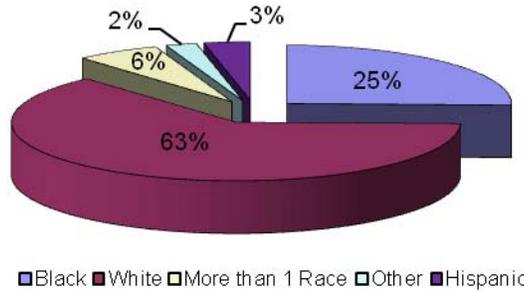
**Table 27: Characteristics of Children with Finalized Adoptions
4th Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	7	2	0	0	0	1	1	11
	Male	8	4	0	0	0	1	1	14
2 to 5	Female	20	11	0	1	0	3	3	38
	Male	23	8	2	0	0	1	3	37
6 to 11	Female	18	4	1	0	0	0	0	23
	Male	22	11	0	0	0	0	2	35
12 to 15	Female	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	9
	Male	4	3	0	0	0	0	1	8
16 to 18	Female	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Male	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total		114	46	3	1	0	6	11	181

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.

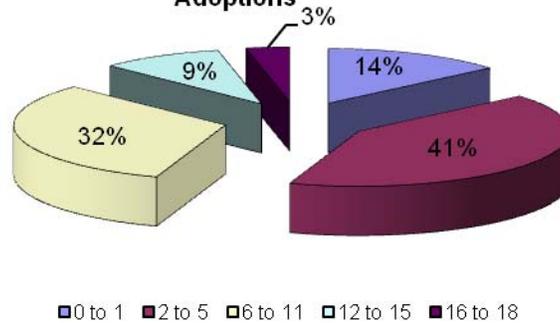
Of the 181 finalized adoptions which resulted during the fourth quarter, 63 percent of the adopted children were white and 25 percent were black.

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



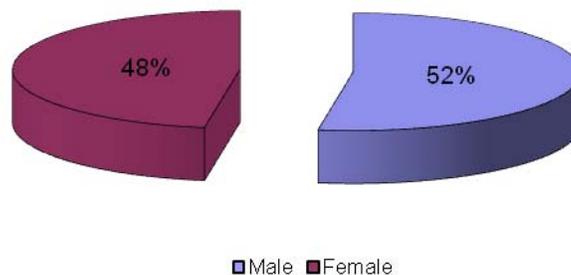
Children between the ages of two and five (41%) represent the largest age group of children whose adoptions were finalized during the quarter.

Chart 35b: Ages of Children with Finalized Adoptions



During the quarter, 48 percent of the children whose adoptions were finalized were female and 52 percent were male. These percentages differ from the third quarter when 40 percent of the children whose finalizations were finalized were male and 60 percent were female.

Chart 35c: Gender of Children with Finalized Adoptions



Subsidized Adoptions

During the fourth quarter, 173 children began receiving adoption subsidies. Of those children, 147 received federally-funded subsidies and 26 received state-funded subsidies.

Characteristics of Children who Received Adoption Subsidies

In total, 3,979 children received adoption subsidies during the quarter. The following table outlines the demographics of those children.

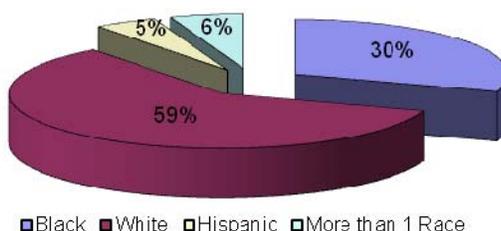
**Table 28: Characteristics of Children Receiving Adoption Subsidies
4th Quarter SFY 2010**

Age	Gender	White	Black	Asian	AIAN	NAPI	Hispanic	More Than 1 Race	Total
0 to 1	Female	25	9	0	0	0	2	4	40
	Male	15	13	0	0	0	2	2	32
2 to 5	Female	236	89	2	1	0	26	35	389
	Male	231	109	3	2	0	24	27	396
6 to 11	Female	438	236	2	1	0	65	54	766
	Male	458	221	2	0	1	48	44	774
12 to 15	Female	288	176	1	3	0	23	23	514
	Male	318	158	0	1	1	16	13	507
16 to 18	Female	141	84	0	0	0	10	7	242
	Male	140	67	0	0	0	2	8	217
18+	Female	25	15	0	0	0	0	3	43
	Male	32	11	0	0	0	0	0	43
Total*		2,347	1,188	10	8	2	188	220	3,963

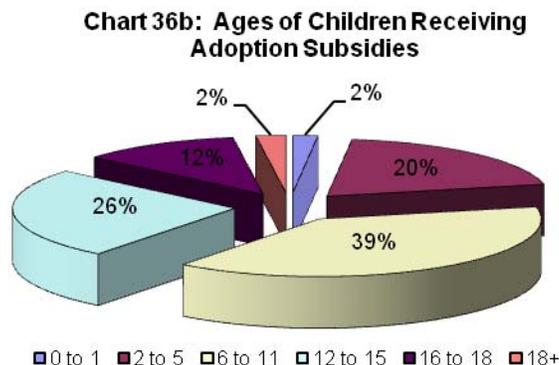
*Demographic data had not been entered into CHRIS for 16 children.

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

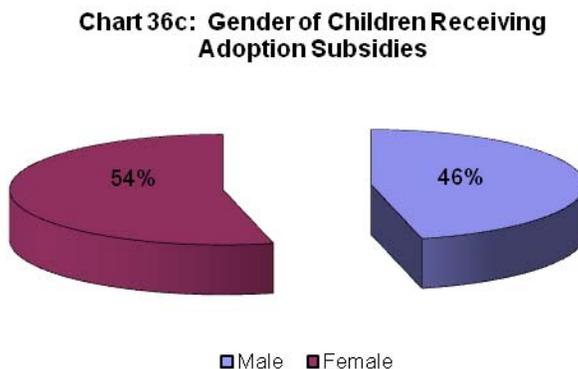
Chart 36a: Race/Ethnicity of Children Receiving Adoption Subsidies



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, 46 percent were male and 54 percent were female.



Adoptive Homes

At the beginning of the fourth quarter, 716 adoptive homes were available; at the end of the quarter, 559 adoptive homes were available.

**Table 29: Adoptive Homes
4th Quarter SFY 2010**

	Total Adoptive Homes	Non-Foster Adoptive Homes	Foster Adoptive Homes
Homes available for children at beginning of quarter	716	300	416
Newly available homes	133	60	73
Homes that had children placed during the quarter	92	24	68
Homes that experienced a disruption	3	2	1
Homes that closed without a placement	201	84	117
Homes available at the end of the quarter	559	254	305

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
Brandarris Jefferson	Union	>1	Black	Male	6/6/2010	Inadequate Supervision	In Home	Family Member	CACD	None	PS Case	PSCase

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
Gwendolyn Cox	Benton	6	White	Female	4/27/2010	Inadequate Supervision	In Home	Family Member	CACD	None	None	None

Pending Fatality Reports

Child	County	Age	Race	Gender	Date of Death	Allegations or Preliminary Cause of Death	Placement at the Time of Incident	Relationship of Alleged Offender to the Child	Agency Conducting the Investigation	Legal Action By the Department	Services Provided Prior to the Incident	Services Provided After the Incident
Charles Phillips	Grant	14	White	Male	4/29/2010	Inadequate Supervision	In Home	Unknown	CACD	None	None	None

Appendix B: Near Fatality

True Near Fatality Reports

Child	County	Age	Race	Gender	Date of Near Fatality	Allegations or Preliminary Cause of Near Fatality	Placement at the Time of Incident	Relationship of Alleged Offender to the Child	Agency Conducting the Investigation	Legal Action By the Department	Services Provided Prior to the Incident	Services Provided After the Incident
Child #1	Benton	1	White	Female	4/14/2010	Inadequate Supervision	In Home	Family Member	CACD	None	None	None
Child #2	Pulaski	<1	Black	Female	4/17/2010	Physical Abuse	In Home	Family Member	CACD	None	Prior PS Case	Current FC Case
Child #3	Chicot	<1	Multi-Ethnic	Female	5/12/2010	Neglect/Malnutrition	In Home	Family Member	DCFS	None	None	Current
Child #4	Washington	<1	White	Female	5/12/2010	Inadequate Supervision/Medical Neglect	In Home	Family Member	CACD	None	None	Current PS Case
Child #5	Baxter	<1	White	Male	4/28/2010	Medical Neglect	In Home	Family Member	DCFS	None	Prior PS Case	Current FC Case
Child #6	Grant	3	White	Female	6/18/2010	Inadequate Supervision	In Home	Family Member	CACD	None	None	Current FC Case

Unsubstantiated Near Fatality Reports

There were no unsubstantiated near fatality reports during the fourth quarter of SFY 2010.

Pending Near Fatality Reports

There were no pending near fatality reports during the fourth quarter for SFY 2010.

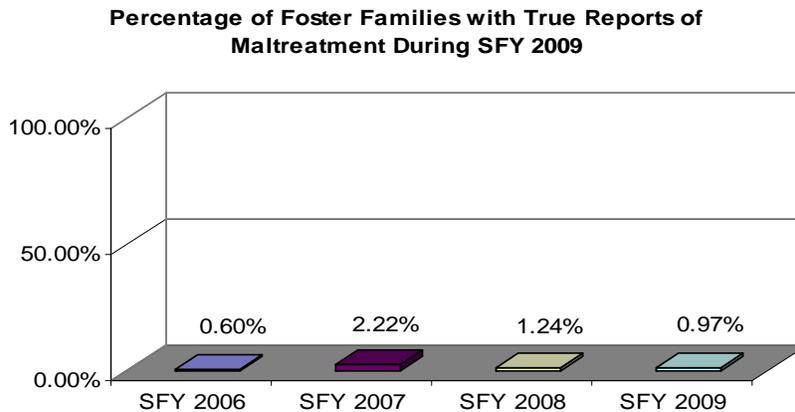
Appendix C: Fatalities of Children in Foster Care Who Did Not Receive a Maltreatment Investigation

There were no fatalities of children in foster care who did not have a maltreatment investigation during the fourth quarter for SFY 2010.

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%).



**Characteristics of Children in Foster Care Involved in Allegations of Maltreatment
4th Quarter of SFY 2010**

Ninety reports of alleged maltreatment, involving 107 children in foster care¹⁶, were received by the hotline during the fourth quarter of SYF 2010. Of those, 66 reports, involving 74 children, cited incidents that occurred while the child was in foster care.¹⁷

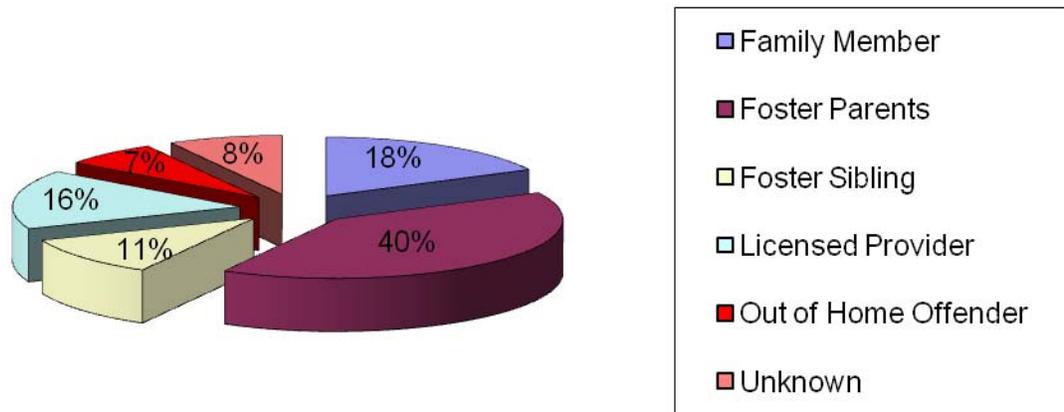
In 25 reports, involving 30 children, foster parents were identified as the alleged offenders. The following chart displays the relationship of alleged offenders to the 74 foster children involved in reports of maltreatment.

¹⁵ This includes family and therapeutic foster homes.

¹⁶ A maltreatment report can include more than one child.

¹⁷ The remaining 33 children were victims of an alleged incident that occurred prior to the child entering foster care. Those 33 children disclosed the alleged incident after entering care (during fourth quarter SFY 2010).

Reports by Relationship of Alleged Offender to Alleged Victim



The following chart displays the 25 maltreatment reports that originated in foster homes—with foster parents as alleged offenders— by disposition. Only three were found to be true, and one of those homes was subsequently closed. The other two true reports were concerning the same incident and the same foster home. That home was made unavailable and is in the process of closing.

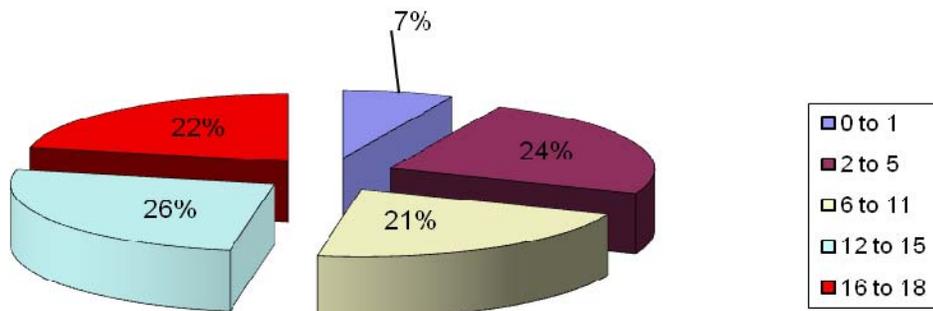
Foster Home Maltreatment Reports During 4th Quarter of SFY 2010

True	Unsubstantiated	Pending
3	22	0

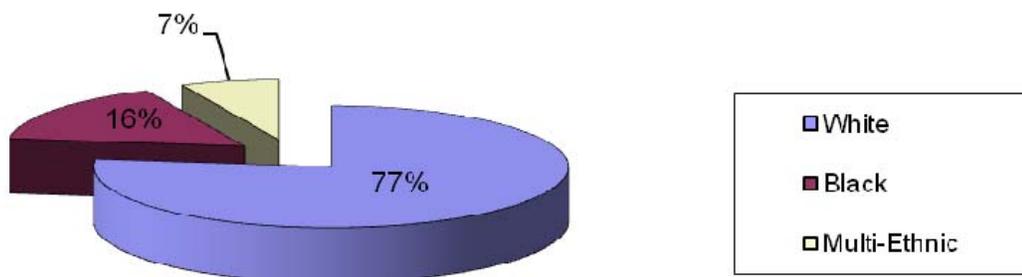
All allegations of maltreatment concerning foster homes are investigated by the Crimes Against Children Division (CACD) of the Arkansas State Police. DCFS staff do not actively participate in the investigation of these reports. Furthermore, all allegations of maltreatment regarding foster homes require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

The following charts describe the 74 foster children involved in allegations of maltreatment by age, race, gender, allegations, and location.

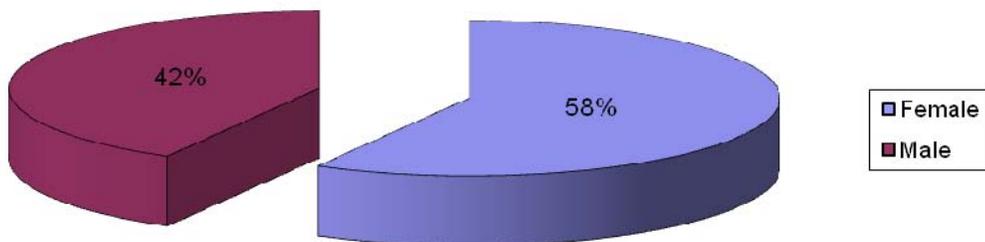
Reports by Age



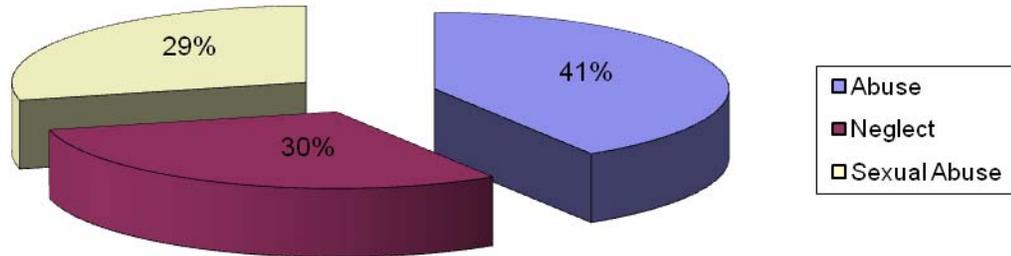
Reports by Race



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	8	St. Francis	2
Washington	7	Greene	2
Sebastian	7	Cross	1
Benton	4	Baxter	1
White	4	Union	1
Lonoke	3	Saline	1
Phillips	3	Cleburne	1
Independence	3	Crittenden	1
Jefferson	3	Franklin	1
Garland	3	Randolph	1
Jackson	2	Johnson	1
Dallas	2	Faulkner	1
Craighead	2	Ashley	1
Clark	2	Pope	1
Boone	2	Crawford	1
Drew	2		