

## SIGNIFICANCE

## INDICATOR

Child maltreatment is a serious problem that has grave and costly consequences for the child, his or her family and the community at-large.

A child who has experienced abuse and neglect is more likely to have social, emotional and physical health problems and perform poorly in school.

### Child Abuse Reports

Reported incidents of suspected child abuse through the ChildLine and Abuse Registry. Does not include General Protective Service reports, which include less severe general neglect reports.  
(Number and rate per 1,000 children age 0-17)

COUNTY		RURAL		STATE	
2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
80	98	3,276	3,326	25,342	24,615
7.6	9.4	10.5	10.9	9.2	9.0

### Child Abuse Substantiations

Founded or indicated reports of child abuse. Does not include the number of children determined to need General Protective Services.

COUNTY		RURAL		STATE	
2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
30.0%	19.4%	19.7%	18.3%	15.6%	14.9%

### Repeated Child Abuse

Children with another substantiated incident of abuse following the first reported incident.  
(Data may be overstated.)

COUNTY		RURAL		STATE	
2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
12.5%	26.3%	12.8%	10.3%	8.9%	9.0%
1 in 8	1 in 4	1 in 8	1 in 10	1 in 11	1 in 11

In-home services are designed to strengthen families by addressing the root causes of abuse and neglect. The provision of in-home services helps a child to remain safely in his or her home.

### In-home Services

Children whose families received services in their homes to address concerns related to child safety and well-being during the year.

COUNTY		RURAL		STATE	
2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
805	1,299	32,965	31,258	164,099	168,821

Foster care is meant to be a temporary intervention to assure the safety and well-being of a child. A child who spends long periods of time in foster care is more likely than other children to drop out of school, have mental health challenges, experience unemployment and be homeless as an adult.

### Children Entering Foster Care

**All Entries** into Foster Care During the Year  
**First Time Entries** During the Year

COUNTY		RURAL		STATE	
2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
33	30	1,166	1,323	10,293	10,496
87.9%	83.3%	73.9%	74.8%	66.8%	68.7%

For more information on data reporting periods, citations and sources, please [CLICK HERE](#).



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### Children in Foster Care

<b>All Children in Foster Care</b> <i>(Rate per 1000 children age 0-18)</i>	
<b>Age</b>	
0-1	8.0
2-5	7.9
6-12	8.0
13+	9.3
<b>Race and Ethnicity</b>	
White	80.6%
African American	19.4%
Other	0.0%
Latino	0.0%
<b>Placement Setting</b>	
<b>Family Setting</b>	<b>82.8%</b>
Pre-adoptive Home	0.0%
Foster Family Home — Relative	19.4%
Foster Family Home — Non-relative	63.4%
<b>Congregate Care</b>	<b>10.8%</b>
Group Home	2.2%
Institution	8.6%
<b>Supervised Independent Living</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Runaway</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Trial Home Visit</b>	<b>6.5%</b>

COUNTY		RURAL		STATE	
2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
93	90	2,799	3,217	27,776	27,681
8.0	7.9	8.0	9.3	9.2	9.3
18.3%	14.4%	10.4%	11.2%	10.2%	11.6%
32.3%	32.2%	19.0%	22.2%	19.8%	21.1%
22.6%	22.2%	24.0%	24.9%	22.7%	22.5%
26.9%	31.1%	46.6%	41.8%	47.3%	44.8%
80.6%	85.6%	88.8%	89.4%	48.7%	52.2%
19.4%	14.4%	10.7%	10.4%	46.9%	46.0%
0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	1.2%	5.3%	3.5%
2.2%	1.1%	5.9%	5.9%	10.8%	11.8%
82.8%	82.2%	70.2%	74.3%	68.6%	71.4%
0.0%	0.0%	3.4%	3.7%	4.4%	4.7%
19.4%	15.6%	15.8%	17.1%	21.5%	22.4%
63.4%	66.7%	51.0%	53.5%	42.7%	44.3%
10.8%	16.7%	21.0%	18.6%	25.1%	22.4%
2.2%	5.6%	13.0%	11.5%	12.3%	11.7%
8.6%	11.1%	8.0%	7.1%	12.8%	10.7%
0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.4%	1.8%	1.9%
0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.3%	1.4%	1.8%
6.5%	1.1%	8.0%	6.3%	3.0%	2.5%

A child's separation from his or her parents or relatives is traumatic for all involved. Minimizing the time a child spends in foster care without compromising safety is key to healthy child development.

### Timely Reunification with Parents or Relatives

Children who entered foster care for the first time who were reunified with their parents or discharged to relatives within the next 12 months.

COUNTY		RURAL		STATE	
2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
62.9%	24.1%	59.8%	59.0%	53.5%	53.8%

A child re-entering foster care following a return to his or her family signals a breakdown in the family and a potential failure on the part of the child welfare system to appropriately address family needs.

### Re-entry into Foster Care

Children who re-entered foster care in fewer than 12 months following reunification with parents or relatives. (Data may be overstated.)

COUNTY		RURAL		STATE	
2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
24.3%	13.3%	21.0%	20.3%	27.0%	26.9%



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A child relies on his or her family for an array of supports from early childhood through adulthood. Without a permanent family, a child fails to have a sense of security and suffers from a lack of belonging.

**Children Leaving Foster Care**

Children who exited foster care by discharge reason and how long they were in foster care. Also includes the median length of stay for children remaining in foster care.

COUNTY		RURAL		STATE	
2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
Total Children Leaving Foster Care					
33	25	1,407	1,780	12,940	13,545
<b>Percent of Children Leaving Foster Care</b>					
35.5%	27.8%	50.3%	55.3%	46.6%	48.9%
[number of months until leaving]					
10.9	21.1	8.4	10.2	12.0	12.5
<b>Exit to Permanent Arrangements</b>					
Reunification					
45.5%	28.0%	60.6%	72.8%	55.7%	61.1%
[number of months until reunification]					
9.8	0.9	4.8	6.3	7.0	7.6
Adoption					
30.3%	60.0%	15.3%	12.4%	17.3%	16.9%
[number of months until adoption]					
35.3	23.3	34.8	31.5	31.8	30.0
Guardianship					
18.2%	0.0%	6.4%	4.2%	8.1%	6.1%
[number of months until guardianship]					
7.1	—	18.1	20.8	23.5	22.8
Live with Other Relatives					
6.1%	4.0%	6.3%	4.7%	6.1%	4.6%
[number of months until living with relatives]					
2.9	8.7	2.4	1.3	3.5	3.0
<b>Exit to Non-permanent Arrangements</b>					
Emancipation					
0.0%	0.0%	9.4%	5.0%	6.9%	6.5%
[number of months until emancipation]					
—	—	22.9	25.4	36.3	34.0
Transfer to Another Agency					
0.0%	8.0%	1.2%	0.8%	3.5%	4.1%
[number of months until transfer]					
—	8.7	1.8	0.9	5.4	6.4
Runaway					
0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.2%	2.3%	0.6%
[number of months until running away]					
—	—	9.8	24.0	8.3	18.5
<b>Death of Child</b>					
0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
[number of months until death of a child]					
—	—	7.0	11.0	4.5	12.7
<b>Total Children Remaining in Foster Care</b>					
60	65	1,498	1,437	15,920	14,136
[number of months children have been in care]					
16.3	19.3	15.4	12.8	15.6	13.5

Every time a child moves, the trauma caused by separation and lack of continuity grows. A child who faces multiple placements struggles to build and maintain healthy relationships and faces academic challenges due to school changes.

**Foster Care Placement Stability**

Children who were in foster care for 12 to 23 months and had three or more placement settings.

COUNTY		RURAL		STATE	
2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
22.7%	15.0%	38.6%	35.3%	35.9%	33.8%

The frequency and quality of visitation between the caseworker and a child is a key component to assuring safety, permanency planning and related service delivery.

**Caseworker Visits**

Children who were in foster care and visited on a monthly basis by a county or private agency child welfare worker.

COUNTY		RURAL		STATE	
2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
—	—	—	—	92%	92%

