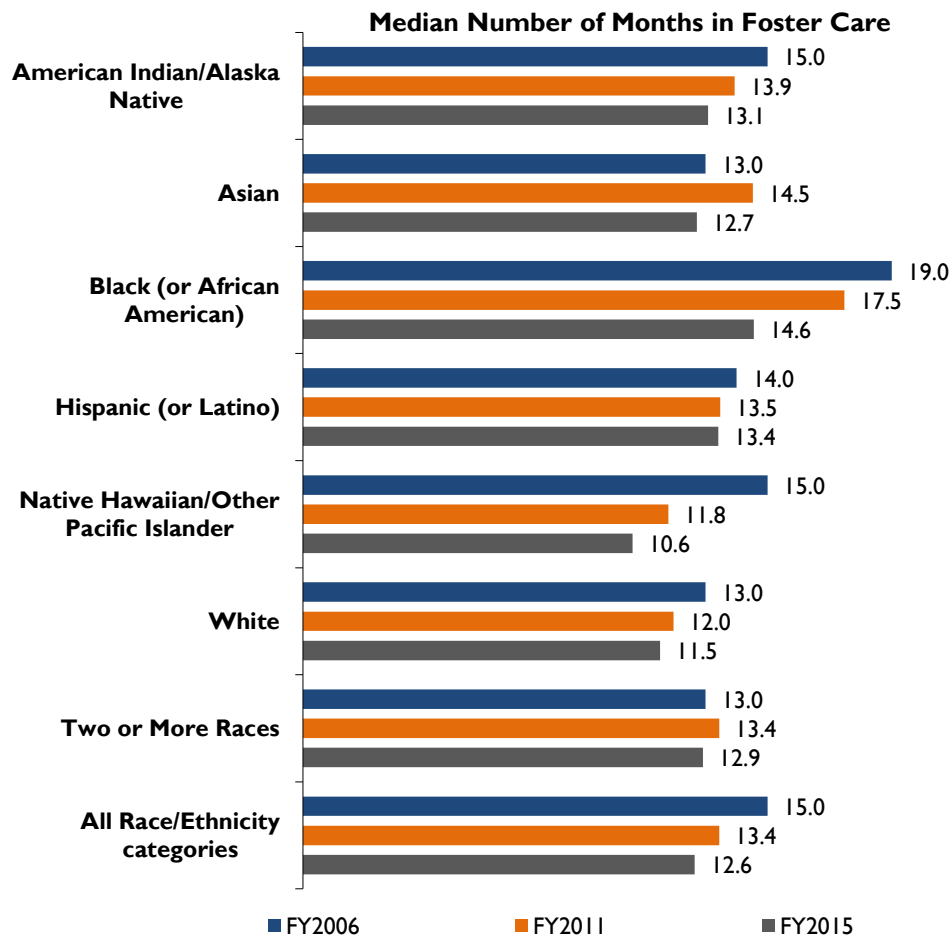


### Figure 11-11. Length of Stay in Foster Care by Race/Ethnicity, Selected Fiscal Years

Any child reported as “Hispanic or Latino” is included in that category only and is not included in any race category.

Overall, children’s median length of stay in foster care decreased from 15 months on the last day of FY2006 to less than 13 months on the last day of FY2015. The decrease varied by children’s race/ ethnicity. For African American and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander children the decrease was around 4 months. For white children it was less than two months. For Hispanic children it was less than one month. For Asian children and those of two or more races the median length of stay did not consistently decrease.



**Source:** Figure prepared by CRS on December 8, 2016 for the 2016 version of the House Ways and Means Committee Green Book. Based on AFCARS data, provided by HHS, ACF, ACYF, Children’s Bureau, as reported by the states as of July 2014 for FY2006, and June 2016 for FY2011 and FY2016.

**Notes:** A median measures the half way point: half the children in care had spent a longer number of months in care while half had spent a shorter amount of time. Median months in care are shown as of the last day of the fiscal year for children in care on that date. Median months in care for children whose race/ethnicity was reported as “unknown or undetermined” and those for whom this information was not reported (i.e., missing race/ethnicity data) are not shown separately but are included in the “all race/ethnicity” group. For corresponding information on median months in care see Table 11-11.

**Table II-11. Number of Months in Foster Care, by Race/Ethnicity as of the last day of FY2004-FY2015**

Any child reported as “Hispanic or Latino” is included in that category only and is not included in any race category.

“Mean” is the average number of months children have been in care. “Median” is the number of months at which half the children have been in care for fewer months and half for more months. Both the average (or mean) length of stay and the median length of stay in care have been decreasing. However, average (or mean) length of stay is longer than the median stay, because, while a large number of children enter and leave foster care in less than 12 months (driving the median down), a smaller number remain in care much longer (driving the average length of stay longer).

| Fiscal Year | American Indian/Alaskan Native |      | Asian  |      | Black or African American |      | Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander |      | Hispanic |      | White  |      | Unable to Determine |      | Two or More Races |      | Missing Race/Ethnicity Data |      | TOTAL Children and any race/ethnicity |      |
|-------------|--------------------------------|------|--------|------|---------------------------|------|--|------|----------|------|--------|------|---------------------|------|-------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|---------------------------------------|------|
|             | Median                         | Mean | Median | Mean | Median                    | Mean | Median                                 | Mean | Median   | Mean | Median | Mean | Median              | Mean | Median            | Mean | Median                      | Mean | Median                                | Mean |
| 2004        | 15.0                           | 25.6 | 14.0   | 25.6 | 22.0                      | 38.9 | 14.0                                   | 20.9 | 16.0     | 28.3 | 13.0   | 22.9 | 17.0                | 32.6 | 14.0              | 23.2 | 4.0                         | 7.2  | 16.0                                  | 29.5 |
| 2005        | 13.0                           | 23.6 | 14.0   | 25.2 | 21.0                      | 38.0 | 14.0                                   | 20.6 | 15.0     | 27.0 | 13.0   | 22.5 | 16.0                | 30.8 | 13.0              | 22.3 | 4.0                         | 7.9  | 15.0                                  | 28.6 |
| 2006        | 15.0                           | 24.9 | 13.0   | 23.3 | 19.0                      | 35.9 | 15.0                                   | 21.8 | 14.0     | 25.8 | 13.0   | 21.9 | 13.0                | 28.2 | 13.0              | 22.0 | 3.0                         | 8.3  | 15.0                                  | 27.3 |
| 2007        | 15.0                           | 24.7 | 13.0   | 22.9 | 19.0                      | 35.0 | 15.0                                   | 23.0 | 14.0     | 25.6 | 13.0   | 21.9 | 13.0                | 27.8 | 15.0              | 23.1 | 6.0                         | 9.1  | 15.0                                  | 26.9 |
| 2008        | 15.0                           | 24.0 | 13.0   | 22.7 | 18.0                      | 33.3 | 14.5                                   | 22.6 | 15.0     | 25.5 | 13.0   | 21.5 | 13.0                | 26.0 | 15.0              | 23.2 | 4.5                         | 8.2  | 15.0                                  | 26.2 |
| 2009        | 15.0                           | 24.3 | 12.0   | 22.2 | 19.0                      | 33.1 | 13.0                                   | 21.6 | 14.0     | 25.4 | 13.0   | 21.6 | 11.0                | 23.8 | 14.0              | 23.6 | 4.0                         | 9.8  | 15.0                                  | 26.0 |
| 2010        | 14.0                           | 23.0 | 13.0   | 22.1 | 18.0                      | 31.8 | 12.0                                   | 20.6 | 13.0     | 24.0 | 11.0   | 20.0 | 11.0                | 21.8 | 13.0              | 22.6 | 6.0                         | 15.3 | 13.0                                  | 24.5 |
| 2011        | 13.9                           | 23.0 | 14.5   | 23.4 | 17.5                      | 30.8 | 11.8                                   | 19.2 | 13.5     | 24.3 | 12.0   | 19.6 | 7.6                 | 16.7 | 13.4              | 21.9 | 4.2                         | 5.9  | 13.4                                  | 23.8 |
| 2012        | 13.3                           | 21.8 | 12.5   | 22.7 | 16.9                      | 29.5 | 11.5                                   | 17.7 | 13.2     | 23.7 | 11.6   | 18.9 | 9.5                 | 16.0 | 13.7              | 21.7 | 3.4                         | 6.5  | 13.1                                  | 22.8 |
| 2013        | 13.3                           | 21.3 | 13.7   | 23.0 | 16.2                      | 28.3 | 12.6                                   | 18.0 | 12.7     | 22.5 | 11.6   | 18.3 | 12.3                | 17.6 | 13.1              | 20.6 | 3.9                         | 7.0  | 12.8                                  | 21.9 |
| 2014        | 13.3                           | 20.5 | 12.0   | 20.5 | 14.8                      | 26.1 | 9.8                                    | 15.8 | 12.7     | 21.6 | 11.5   | 17.7 | 13.3                | 18.9 | 13.2              | 20.1 | 3.7                         | 5.9  | 12.6                                  | 20.8 |
| 2015        | 13.1                           | 20.1 | 12.7   | 20.9 | 14.6                      | 24.4 | 10.6                                   | 14.4 | 13.4     | 22.7 | 11.5   | 17.5 | 10.8                | 17.7 | 12.9              | 19.2 | 3.9                         | 6.5  | 12.6                                  | 20.4 |

**Source:** Table prepared by the Congressional Research Service on December 8, 2016 for the 2016 version of the House Ways and Means Committee Green Book. Based on AFCARS data provided by HHS, ACF, ACYF, Children’s Bureau, and as reported by the states as of July 2014 (FY2004-FY2010) and June 2016 (FY2011-FY2015).

**Note:** Data on median length of stay for FY2002-FY2010 was provided to CRS in whole numbers. Length of stay is as of the last day of the fiscal year for children who are in foster care on that date. Some data may vary from previous versions of this table because foster care data are revised if states submit corrected data.