

Table II-11. Children in Foster Care by Case Plan Goal, FY2004-FY2013

Number of Children in Foster Care by Most Recent Case Plan Goal

| Case Plan Goal | FY2004 | FY2005 | FY2006 | FY2007 | FY2008 | FY2009 | FY2010 | FY2011 | FY2012 | FY2013 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Reunite with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s) | 221,526 | 230,309 | 231,521 | 228,082 | 222,968 | 198,688 | 197,658 | 196,605 | 203,039 | 204,621 |
| Live with Other Relative(s) | 24,224 | 23,266 | 20,741 | 18,842 | 17,218 | 14,084 | 13,801 | 13,573 | 13,143 | 12,791 |
| Adoption | 113,587 | 113,714 | 118,234 | 118,267 | 111,118 | 101,623 | 98,180 | 96,393 | 93,083 | 91,694 |
| Guardianship | 20,846 | 20,665 | 22,178 | 20,990 | 17,830 | 16,048 | 14,959 | 15,136 | 14,807 | 13,602 |
| Long Term Foster Care ^a | 47,852 | 45,256 | 42,886 | 39,702 | 36,156 | 31,810 | 25,072 | 23,981 | 20,034 | 17,182 |
| Emancipation | 34,772 | 34,881 | 34,614 | 31,858 | 29,257 | 24,051 | 22,680 | 19,547 | 20,322 | 19,499 |
| Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established | 34,218 | 32,806 | 21,646 | 20,230 | 20,120 | 14,908 | 16,205 | 18,067 | 17,633 | 26,253 |
| Missing Case Plan Goal Data | 10,530 | 10,523 | 13,459 | 10,255 | 9,125 | 17,460 | 16,323 | 14,525 | 14,831 | 16,736 |
| <i>Total children in foster care</i> | <i>507,555</i> | <i>511,420</i> | <i>505,279</i> | <i>488,226</i> | <i>463,792</i> | <i>418,672</i> | <i>404,878</i> | <i>397,827</i> | <i>396,892</i> | <i>402,378</i> |

Share of Children in Foster Care by Most Recent Case Plan Goal

| Case Plan Goal | FY2004 | FY2005 | FY2006 | FY2007 | FY2008 | FY2009 | FY2010 | FY2011 | FY2012 | FY2013 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>Percentage of Children in Foster Care Whose Case Plan Goal Includes Permanency</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reunite with Parent(s) or Other Primary Caretaker(s) | 43.6% | 45.0% | 45.8% | 46.7% | 48.1% | 47.5% | 48.8% | 49.4% | 51.2% | 50.9% |
| Live with Other Relative(s) | 4.8% | 4.5% | 4.1% | 3.9% | 3.7% | 3.4% | 3.4% | 3.4% | 3.3% | 3.2% |
| Adoption | 22.4% | 22.2% | 23.4% | 24.2% | 24.0% | 24.3% | 24.2% | 24.2% | 23.5% | 22.8% |
| Guardianship | 4.1% | 4.0% | 4.4% | 4.3% | 3.8% | 3.8% | 3.7% | 3.8% | 3.7% | 3.4% |
| <i>Subtotal</i> | <i>74.9%</i> | <i>75.9%</i> | <i>77.7%</i> | <i>79.1%</i> | <i>79.6%</i> | <i>78.9%</i> | <i>80.2%</i> | <i>80.9%</i> | <i>81.7%</i> | <i>80.2%</i> |
| <i>Percentage of Children in Foster Care Whose Case Plan Goal Does Not Include Permanency</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Long Term Foster Care ^a | 9.4% | 8.8% | 8.5% | 8.1% | 7.8% | 7.6% | 6.2% | 6.0% | 5.0% | 4.3% |
| Emancipation | 6.9% | 6.8% | 6.9% | 6.5% | 6.3% | 5.7% | 5.6% | 4.9% | 5.1% | 4.8% |
| <i>Subtotal</i> | <i>16.3%</i> | <i>15.7%</i> | <i>15.3%</i> | <i>14.7%</i> | <i>14.1%</i> | <i>13.3%</i> | <i>11.8%</i> | <i>10.9%</i> | <i>10.2%</i> | <i>9.1%</i> |
| <i>Percentage of Children in Foster Care with Other Case Plan Goal Information</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established | 6.7% | 6.4% | 4.3% | 4.1% | 4.3% | 3.6% | 4.0% | 4.5% | 4.4% | 6.5% |
| Missing Case Plan Goal Data | 2.1% | 2.1% | 2.7% | 2.1% | 2.0% | 4.2% | 4.0% | 3.7% | 3.7% | 4.2% |
| <i>Subtotal</i> | <i>8.8%</i> | <i>8.5%</i> | <i>6.9%</i> | <i>6.2%</i> | <i>6.3%</i> | <i>7.7%</i> | <i>8.0%</i> | <i>8.2%</i> | <i>8.2%</i> | <i>10.7%</i> |
| <i>Percentage of Children in Foster Care with Any Case Plan Goal Information</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 100% |

Source: Table prepared by the Congressional Research Service on September 3, 2014 for the 2014 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 January 2009 for FY2001 and as of July 2014 for all other years shown.

Note: Some numbers may vary from previous versions of this table because foster care data are revised if states submit corrected information. States are instructed to report the child's case plan goal based on the latest review of the child's case plan – whether a court review or an administrative review. If the child was in care for less time than six months, the case plan goal is to be recorded as determined by the caseworker. For more guidance on reporting case plan goal information see HHS, ACF, ACYF, [AFCARS Technical Bulletin #1](#), revised February 2012, pp. 10-11.

a. The phrase "long term foster care" is no longer used in federal child welfare law. However, this case plan goal remains in the AFCARS regulation as a reporting category. Those regulations were developed before the term was removed from federal child welfare law and have largely remained unchanged since they were first finalized.