DCYF

Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families

# Adoption Surveillance Report

**Data and Evaluation**

November 2014

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# Acknowledgement

This report, Adoption Surveillance Report, was produced by the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families' Data and Evaluation Unit, in collaboration with The Consultation Center at Yale University who provided AFCARS data. It represents a collaborative effort of many individuals.

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## Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families Efforts

In 2013, The Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families (RI DCYF) was one of six child welfare systems awarded a grant to fund the Adopt Well-Being Rhode Island Initiative, a partnership among RI DCYF, Family Service of Rhode Island, and Adoption Rhode Island that seeks to improve the overall standard of care in the child welfare and mental health systems in Rhode Island.

The Initiative will build a collaborative process to integrate multiple system reforms in an effort to achieve the main goals of the project. These goals are focused on improving the overall well-being of children and families through the implementation of trauma-informed, adoption-competent approaches to well-being and permanency outcomes. This system transformation will include implementation of trauma assessment, implementation of an on-going functional assessment of child well-being, a shift to data-driven case planning that is trauma-informed and adoption competent, and a focus on aligning the service array to meet the needs of children waiting to be adopted and post-adoption to ensure that safety, permanency, and well-being are achieved.

Also in 2013, Rhode Island was one of only 9 states across the country selected to be part of federal initiative to ensure diligent recruitment of diverse foster, adoptive, and kinship families for children in state care, *A Family for Every Child!* The goal of this initiative is to establish a comprehensive system of recruitment and support for resource families that also aligns with the goals of Adopt Well-Being Rhode Island to move the system to one that is trauma-informed and bests supports the well-being of all children and families.

The RI DCYF Adoption Surveillance Report provides information on children and youth involved with RI DCYF waiting for their forever family and who have found their forever family.

**If you are interested in being a foster parent or adopting a child please contact**

**Robin Perez, DCYF Foster Parent Recruiter: 401-528-3700**

**Adoption Rhode Island: 401-865-6000**

## Highlights and Key Findings

- One thousand two-hundred and seventy two (1,272) children were adopted from the Rhode Island Child Welfare System between federal fiscal years 2008 and 2013.
- Of children whose parent's parental rights were terminated (TPR) in FY2008-11, 93% were adopted within two years of TPR*.
- The largest proportion, 59%, of youth who had been waiting for adoption* for two years or longer on 6/10/2014 was between the ages of 11 and 15.
- Compared to youth ages 10 or younger, youth ages 11 or older at the time of TPR (in FY2008-11) had 6.5 times the odds of staying in placement for two years versus being adopted within two years (not including direct consent adoptions).
- The two largest racial and ethnic groups who had been waiting for adoption for two years or longer on 6/10/2014 were Hispanics and Whites: 32% and 36%, respectively.
- Of youth removed from an adopted home in FY2008-13, the median length of time between adoption and first removal from home post-adoption was 6.8 years. The median age at first removal post-adoption* was 14 years old.
- Of youth whose adoption was dissolved in FY2008-13, the median length of time between adoption and dissolution was 6.4 years. The median age at dissolution* was 12 years old.
- The data on children removed post adoption and adoption dissolutions suggest children who are adopted between the ages of 5 and 7 years *may* have an elevated risk of experiencing a removal or dissolution between the years of 12 and 14 years old. This suggests perhaps providing additional supports at the time of adoption and active outreach and supports to those youth and their families at the time the youth is entering adolescence, approximately 10 or 11 years old.
- Sixty-one percent (61%) of children who experienced an adoption dissolution in FY2008-13 were subsequently adopted. All of the subsequent adoptions occurred within 2.5 years of dissolution**.

* See definitions page

** Data reflect dissolutions that occurred between FY2008-13 and subsequent adoption that occurred before 7/23/2014.

# Terms and Definitions

- **Termination of parental rights (TPR)**

  Termination of Parental Rights is the severing of the parent-child relationship by the state. If two parents have their parental rights terminated on different dates, the latter of the two dates is considered the TPR date.

- **Waiting for adoption**

  A child is considered to be waiting for adoption if a child is 17 years old or younger and has a permanency goal of adoption and/or has parents' parental rights terminated.

  If a child is waiting with TPR and a goal of adoption, length of time waiting for adoption is calculated from the date of TPR. If a child is waiting without TPR and with a goal of adoption, length of time waiting for adoption is calculated from the date at which permanency goal becomes adoption.

- **Direct consent adoption**

  A child is adopted via direct consent when a birth parent gives direct consent for the adoption of his/her child to a specific family currently providing care to the child, instead of relinquishing his/her parental rights to a designated agency.

- **Adoption disruption**

  Adoption disruption is an adoption process that ends after a child is placed in an adoptive home and before the adoption is legally finalized.

- **Removal post-adoption**

  A removal post-adoption is when a child is removed from adoptive home after the adoption is legally finalized.

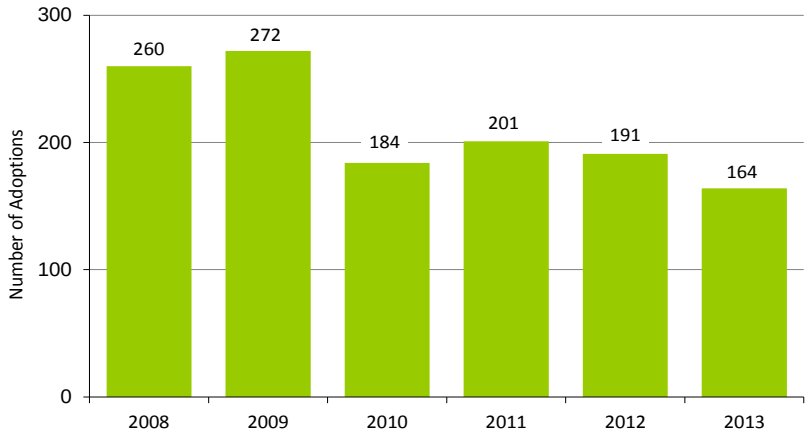
- **Dissolution**

  Dissolution is a termination of parental right of adoptive parents after the adoption is legally finalized.

# Adoptions

Consistent with Child Welfare best practice, RI DCYF aims to promote safety, permanency and well-being among all children, youth and their families. RI DCYF makes concerted efforts to preserve families and support children in their families. When efforts to maintain children in their homes can no longer ensure child safety, for the safety of the child, the child is placed in foster care. When a child is removed from their home, the primary goal for permanency is reunification with their family. If permanency cannot be achieved by reunification with their family, the child can achieve permanency with a forever family through adoption.

## Number of adoptions over time, FFY* 2008-2013




## Percent of adoptions over time, FFY* 2010-2013

***Although the number of adoption decreased over time, the percent of adoption for youth exiting care remained relatively constant***

(Number of youth exiting care decreased and percent of youth exiting with guardianship increased over the same time period)

| FFY | # exited care | % reunification | % guardianship | % adoption |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2010 | 1254 | 63.2% | 7.6% | 14.6% |
| 2011 | 1311 | 59.6% | 9.6% | 15.3% |
| 2012 | 1175 | 57.0% | 11.5% | 15.7% |
| 2013 | 1069 | 62.2% | 9.9% | 15.1% |

Source: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS).
*FFY: Federal Fiscal Year

# Adoptions, continued

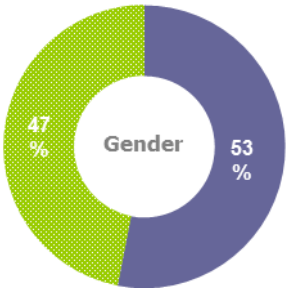
## Indicators, FFY 2013

| | |
|---|---|
| Of all children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption, percent discharged less than 24 months from date of latest removal from home | 34.2% |
| Median time between child entering care and adoption, for children who have been adopted: | 27.0 months |

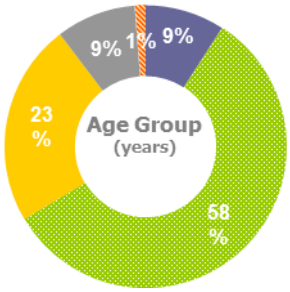
## Placement adopted from, FFY* 2013

| | N | % |
|---|---|---|
| Foster Care Non-Relative: | 129 | 78.7% |
| Foster Care Relative: | 35 | 21.3% |

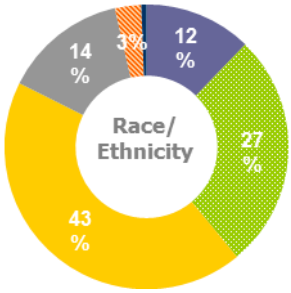
## Characteristics of youth adopted, FFY 2013




| | |
|---|---|
| Female | 53% |
| Male | 47% |




| | |
|---|---|
| <1 | 9% |
| 1-5 | 58% |
| 6-10 | 23% |
| 11-15 | 9% |
| 16-20 | 1% |



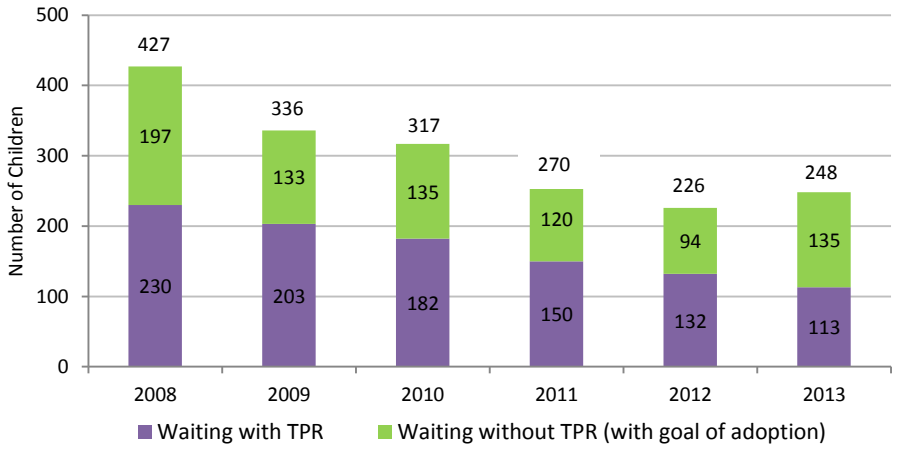

| | |
|---|---|
| Black | 12% |
| Hispanic | 27% |
| White | 43% |
| Other | 14% |
| Multiracial | 3% |
| Unknown | 1% |

Source: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS).
*FFY: Federal Fiscal Year

# Children Waiting for Adoption

A child is considered to be waiting for adoption if a child is 17 years old or younger and has a permanency goal of adoption and/or has parents' parental rights terminated for both parents. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parents' parental rights have been terminated and have a permanency goal of emancipation. There is no federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in this report is consistent with AFCARS.

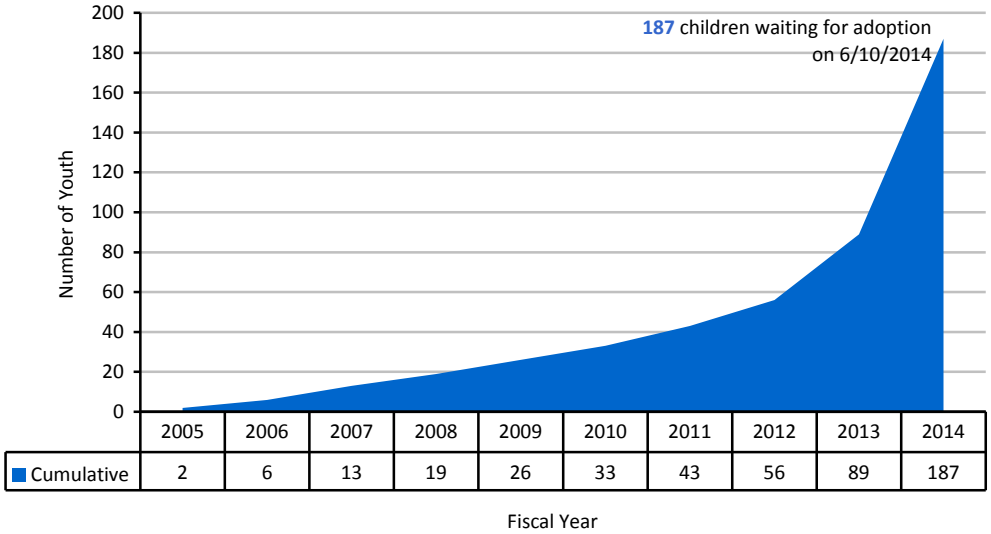
## Number of children waiting for adoption by year, FFY 2008-2013




Source: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS).

## Children waiting for adoption on 6/10/2014: 187
## 75 youth with TPR and 112 without TPR (with goal of adoption)

### Cumulative count of youth waiting for adoption, by year of TPR / goal of adoption




| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cumulative | 2 | 6 | 13 | 19 | 26 | 33 | 43 | 56 | 89 | 187 |

Source: Rhode Island Children's Information System (RICHIST).

# Children Waiting for Adoption, continued

## Current placement of children waiting for adoption on 6/10/2014

| Placement Type | # youth | % |
|---|---|---|
| Foster Care Non-Relative | 62 | 33.2% |
| Foster Care Relative | 53 | 28.3% |
| Foster Care Specialized | 30 | 16.0% |
| Congregate Care | 40 | 21.4% |
| Semi- / Independent Living | 2 | 1.1% |
| TOTAL | 187 | 100.0% |

## Median length of time waiting for adoption*

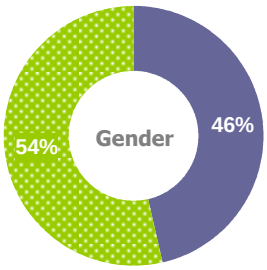
*for children waiting for adoption on 6/10/2014*

**with TPR : 2.55 years**

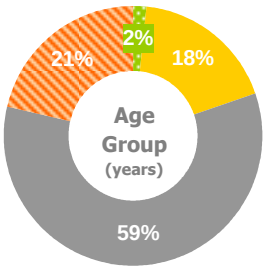
**without TPR (with goal of adoption) : 0.44 years**

## Characteristics of children who have been waiting for adoption for 2 years or longer on 6/10/2014, (N=56)

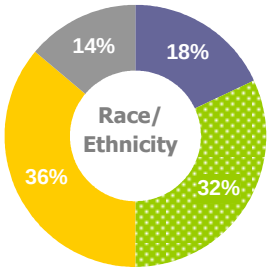
*For characteristics of all children waiting for adoption with TPR and without TPR (with goal of adoption), see Appendix Table1*




| | |
|---|---|
| Female | 46% |
| Male | 54% |




| | |
|---|---|
| <1 | 0% |
| 1-5 | 2% |
| 6-10 | 18% |
| 11-15 | 59% |
| 16-20 | 21% |




| | |
|---|---|
| Black | 18% |
| Hispanic | 32% |
| White | 36% |
| Other/Multiracial | 14% |
| Unknown | 0% |

Source: RICHIST.
Note: Children waiting without TPR have a primary permanency goal of adoption.
* Length of time waiting for adoption begins from the date at which both parents' parental rights become terminated. If a child is waiting for adoption without TPR, length of time waiting for adoption begins from the date at which the child's permanency goal becomes adoption.

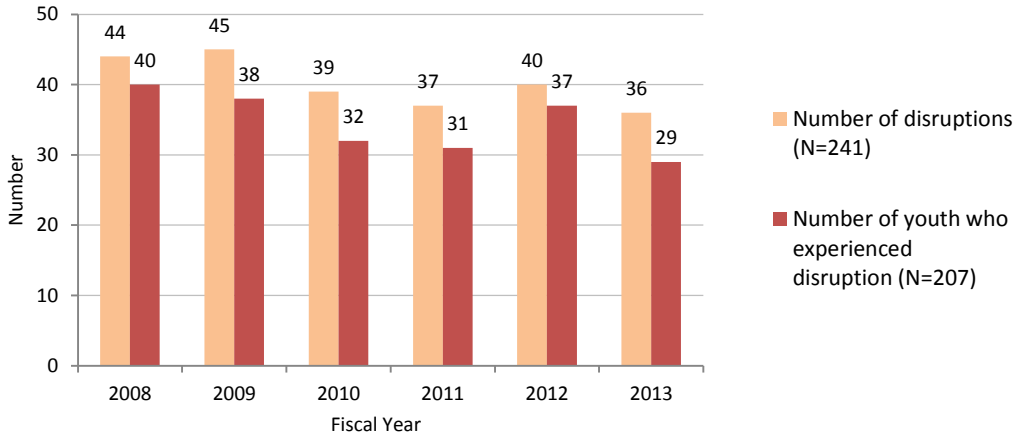
# Disruptions, Removals Post-Adoption and Dissolutions

In Round 2 of Child and Family Services Review, Rhode Island ranked #1 for the number of children who are adopted from foster care in timely manner. Although most adoptions are successful and timely, DCYF continuously examines factors associated with adoption disruptions, removals post-adoption and dissolutions to enhance supports and programs that can lead to successful adoption outcomes.

## Disruptions by Proxy Measure, FY 2008-2013

Disruption is an adoption process that ends after a child is placed in an adoptive home and before the adoption is legally finalized. Proxy definition of disruption used for this report is when a child is placed with a foster family or a pre-adoptive family after TPR and the placement ended due to any of the following reasons: child needs higher level of care, child's behavior problem, placement in longer term foster care setting, or placement match problem. **Because proxy definition was used, there may be some errors in estimating the actual number of disruptions.** RI DCYF is implementing more systematic way to accurately monitor disruptions.

### Number of disruptions and youth who experienced disruption, by year*




### Percent of youth who experience disruption, by year

*Of youth at risk of disruption (youth with TPR and had placement with foster family or pre-adoptive home post-TPR), percent who experienced disruption, by year*

| FY | # at risk of disruption | # disrupted | % |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2008 | 305 | 40 | 13.1% |
| 2009 | 292 | 38 | 13.0% |
| 2010 | 226 | 32 | 14.2% |
| 2011 | 203 | 31 | 15.3% |
| 2012 | 175 | 37 | 21.1% |
| 2013 | 141 | 29 | 20.6% |

Source: RICHIST.

* Number of youth who experienced disruption is unduplicated within a fiscal year. However, a youth may have experienced disruption in more than one year.

# Disruptions by Proxy Measure, FY 2008-2013, continued

## Number of disruptions per youth*

**(Median = 2)**

| # disruptions | # youth | % |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 86 | 59.7% |
| 2-3 | 50 | 34.7% |
| >3 | 8 | 5.6% |
| TOTAL | 144 | 100.0% |

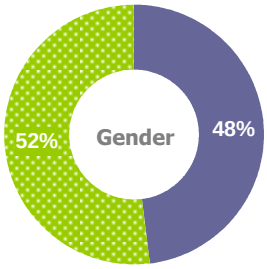
## Characteristics of youth who experienced disruption

*For characteristics of youth without disruption and all youth at risk of disruption, see AppendixTable2*

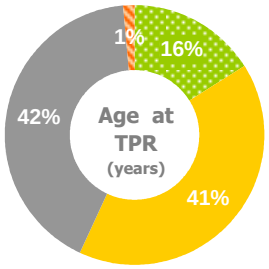
**Median age at TPR for youth who experienced disruption: 10 years**
*(Median age at TPR for youth who have NOT experienced disruption was 6 years)*

**Median age at disruption for youth who experienced disruption: 13 years**

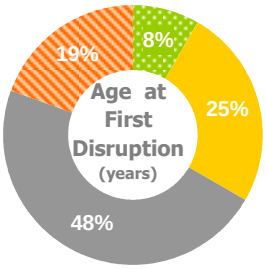
**Median length of time at a single placement, which ended with disruption: 0.4 years**
*(Median length of time at a single placement that did NOT end with disruption was 0.2 years)*



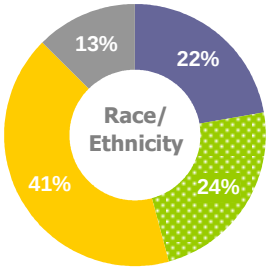

| | |
|---|---|
| Female | 48% |
| Male | 52% |




| | |
|---|---|
| <1 | 0% |
| 1-5 | 16% |
| 6-10 | 41% |
| 11-15 | 42% |
| 16-20 | 1% |




| | |
|---|---|
| <1 | 0% |
| 1-5 | 8% |
| 6-10 | 25% |
| 11-15 | 48% |
| 16-20 | 19% |



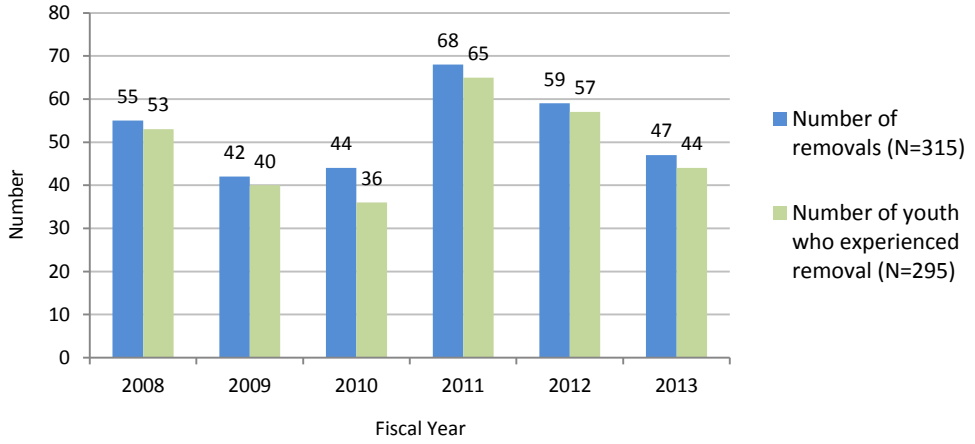

| | |
|---|---|
| Black | 22% |
| Hispanic | 24% |
| White | 41% |
| Other/Multiracial | 13% |
| Unknown | 0% |

Definition of disruption does not include foster family placements after TPR that ended with the following reasons: pre-adoptive placement, adoption, guardianship, reunification with parents, emancipation, detained at RITS, death of child, AWOL, court ordered placement change, placement closer to home, placement w/ friend, placement in FC home w/ sibling, placement w/ relative / kinship, provider closing/unavailable, TPR, CPS Investigation, licensing issue, subsidy ended, contract/rate change, TCP revoked, and other.

* Number of disruptions per youth is analyzed based on unduplicated count of youth who experienced disruption for FY2008-2013 combined.

## Removals Post-Adoption, FY 2008-2013

### Number of removals and youth who experienced removals from adoptive home, by year of removal*




### First placement type after removal from adoptive home

| Placement Type | # removals | % |
|---|---|---|
| Foster Care (Relative & Non-Relative) | 54 | 17.1% |
| Foster Care Specialized | 20 | 6.4% |
| Congregate Care | 236 | 74.9% |
| Semi-/Independent Living | 2 | 0.6% |
| Other | 3 | 1.0% |
| TOTAL | 315 | 100.0% |

Congregate Care includes acute residential treatment, emergency shelter, group homes, high end residential treatment, purchase of service emergency shelter, purchase of service group homes, residential counseling center, residential treatment center, and residential treatment center- substance abuse. Other includes DAS inpatient and psychiatric hospital.

Source: RICHIST.

* Number of youth who experienced removals from adopted home is unduplicated within a fiscal year. However, a youth may have experienced removal in more than one year.

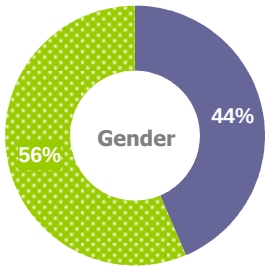
# Removals Post-Adoption, FY 2008-2013, continued

## Characteristics of children who experienced a removal post-adoption

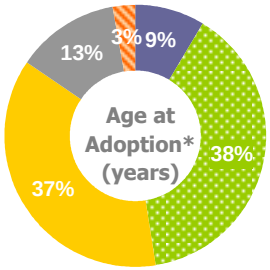
Median age at adoption: **6 years**

Median age at first removal post-adoption: **14 years**

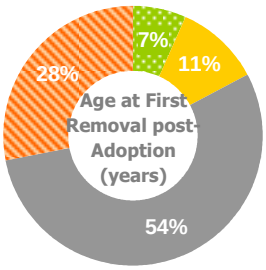
Median length of time between adoption and first removal: **6.8 years**



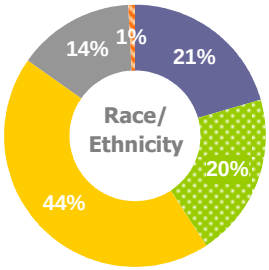

| | |
|---|---|
| Female | 44% |
| Male | 56% |




| | |
|---|---|
| <1 | 9% |
| 1-5 | 38% |
| 6-10 | 37% |
| 11-15 | 13% |
| 16-20 | 3% |



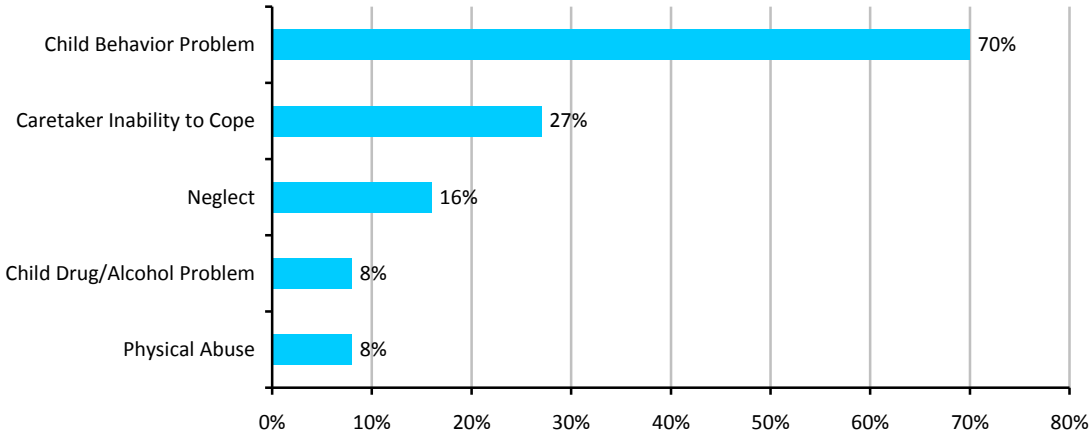

| | |
|---|---|
| <1 | 0% |
| 1-5 | 7% |
| 6-10 | 11% |
| 11-15 | 54% |
| 16-20 | 28% |




| | |
|---|---|
| Black | 21% |
| Hispanic | 20% |
| White | 44% |
| Other/Multiracial | 14% |
| Unknown | 1% |

## Removal reasons associated with first removal post-adoption

### (Percent of children removed by removal reason, RI DYCF)




Percentages do not add up to 100 as there can be more than one removal reason associated with removal. Less than 5 percent of children who experienced removal after adoption had the following remoal reasons associated with the removal: relinguishment, inadequate housing, parent incarceration, parent drug/alcohol problem, sexual abuse, or abandonment.

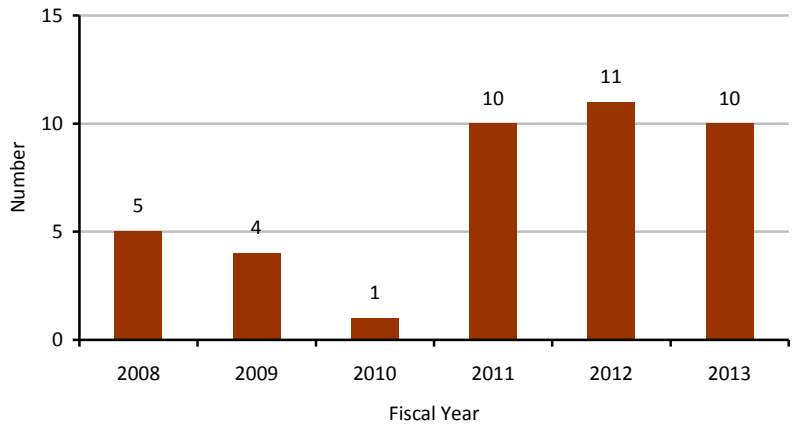
Source: RICHIST.

* Adoption age of children who experienced a removal from adopted home follows similar distribution as adoption age of all children adopted during same time period.

## Dissolutions (TPR After Adoption), FY 2008-2013

Adoption dissolution is defined as a termination of parental rights for youth who have been adopted.

### Number of dissolutions, by year (N = 41)




Source: RICHIST.

All children pictured in this report are children currently waiting for adoption. If interested in learning more about other children, please visit http://adoptionri.org

# Dissolutions (TPR After Adoption), FY 2008-2013, continued

## Characteristics of children who experienced a dissolution

*For characteristics of children by their adoption status post dissolution, see AppendixTable3*

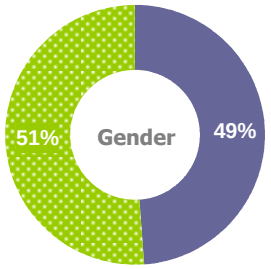
**Median age at adoption: 5 years**

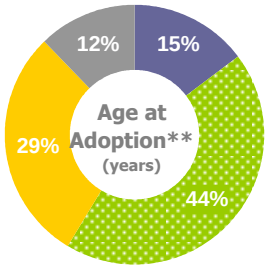
**Median age at dissolution: 12 years**

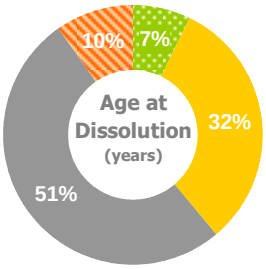
**Median length of time between adoption and dissolution: 6.4 years**

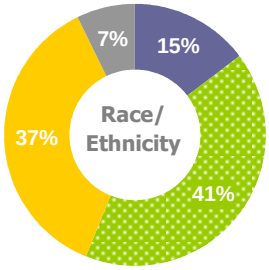
**Percent adopted after dissolution*: 61%**
*(All subsequent adoptions occurred within 2.5 years of dissolution)*

**Median age at adoption after dissolution (N=25): 11 years**




| | |
|---|---|
| Female | 49% |
| Male | 51% |

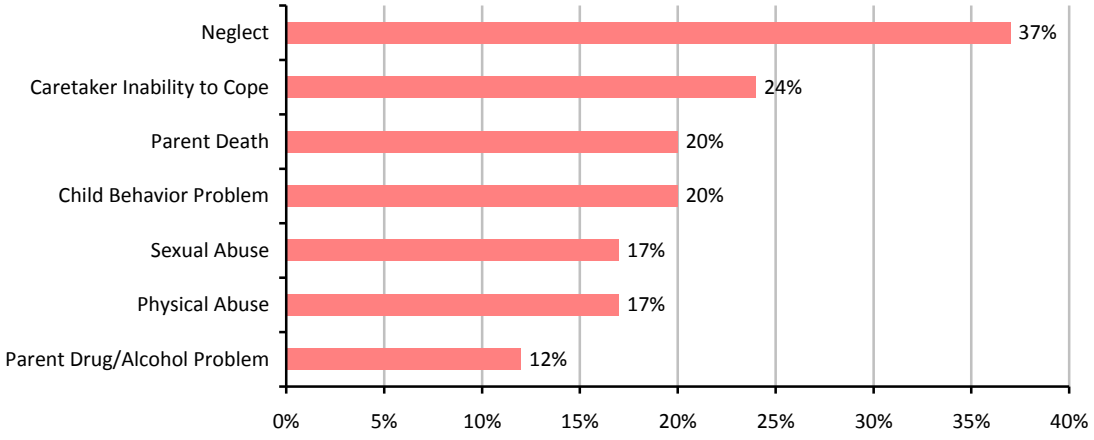
| | |
|---|---|
| <1 | 15% |
| 1-5 | 44% |
| 6-10 | 29% |
| 11-15 | 12% |
| 16-20 | 0% |

| | |
|---|---|
| <1 | 0% |
| 1-5 | 7% |
| 6-10 | 32% |
| 11-15 | 51% |
| 16-20 | 10% |

| | |
|---|---|
| Black | 15% |
| Hispanic | 41% |
| White | 37% |
| Other/Multiracial | 7% |

## Removal reasons associated with dissolution

**(Percent of children removed by removal reason, RI DYCF)**




Percentages do not add up to 100 as there can be more than one removal reason associated with removal. Less than 5 percent of children who experienced dissolution had the following remoal reasons associated with dissolution: relinguishment, inadequate housing, parent incarceration, child drug/alcohol problem, or abandonment.

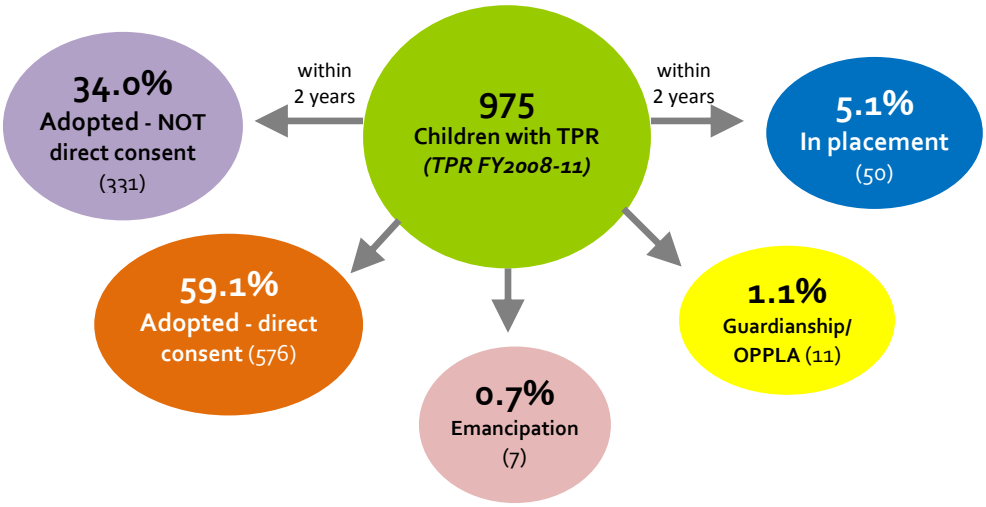
Source: RICHIST.

* Data reflect dissolutions that occurred between FY2008-13 and subsequent adoption that occurred before 7/23/2014.

** Adoption age of children who experienced a dissolution follows similar distribution as adoption age of all children adopted during same time period.

# Outcomes for Youth whose Parents' Parental Rights were Terminated in FY 2008-2011

*For characteristics of youth whose parents' parental rights were terminated, see Appendix Table4*




## Factors significantly associated with permenancy outcome 2 years post-TPR

**Odds ratio (OR) of staying in placement 2 years post-TPR compared to being adopted - NOT direct consent**

- **Age at TPR**
  Youth ages 11 or older at the time of TPR have 7 times the odds of staying in placement compared to youth ages 10 or younger

- **Disability**
  Youth with disability have 2 times the odds of staying in placement compared to those without

- **Sibling group**
  Youth in part of sibling group have 3 times the odds of staying in placement compared to those not in sibling group

- **Placement at time of TPR**
  Youth in congregate care at the time of TPR have 23 times the odds of staying in placement compared to those in non-congregate care

- **Disruption**
  Youth who experienced any disruption ( by proxy definition) post-TPR have 29 times the odds of staying in placement compared to those without experience of disruption

- **Age at first removal**
  Youth ages 11 or older at the time of first removal have 4 times the odds of staying in placement compared to those 10 or younger

- **Number of placements post-TPR**
  Youth with 4 or more placemets within 2 years post-TPR have 62 times the odds of staying in placement compared to those with 3 or less placements

- **Age at most recent removal**
  Youth ages 11 or older at the time of most recent removal have 4 times the odds of staying in placement compared to those 10 or younger

| Characteristics of youth | Unadjusted OR* (C.I.) |
|---|---|
| Age at TPR (years) | |
| 11 or older *compared to* 10 or younger | 6.50 (3.47 – 12.19) |
| Disability* | |
| Yes *compared to* No | 2.40 (1.30 – 4.42) |
| Part of sibling group | |
| No *compared to* Yes | 3.39 (1.70 – 6.76) |
| Placement at time of TPR* | |
| Congregate Care *compared to* Non-Congregate Care | 22.86 (10.06 – 51.92) |
| Experienced any disruptions within 2 years post-TPR (by proxy definition) | |
| Yes *compared to* No | 28.66 (13.76 – 59.66) |
| Age at first removal (years) | |
| 11 or older *compared to* 10 or younger | 3.51 (1.55 – 7.95) |
| Number of placements within 2 years post-TPR | |
| 4 or more *compared to* 3 or less | 61.50 (17.19 – 220.09) |
| Age at most recent removal (years) | |
| 11 or older *compared to* 10 or younger | 3.96 (1.88 – 8.33) |

Odds ratio on this table are unadjusted and does not control for other factors that may contribute to the outcome. Table includes only the factors significantly associated with odds of staying in placement 2 years post-TPR ($p<0.05$). Gender and number of removals between first removal and TPR were not significantly associated.

Source: RICHIST.

# Appendix

**Table 1: Youth in RI DCYF foster care* waiting for adoption for 2 years or longer compared to less than 2 years, by demographic characteristics (on 6/10/2014)**

| | Total Youth Waiting for Adoption** (N=187) | Youth waiting for 2 yrs or longer (n=56) | | Youth waiting for less than 2 yrs (n=131) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gender | | | | | |
| Female | 83 | 26 | 31.3% | 57 | 68.7% |
| Male | 104 | 30 | 28.9% | 74 | 71.1% |
| Race | | | | | |
| Black | 29 | 10 | 34.5% | 19 | 65.5% |
| Hispanic | 48 | 18 | 37.5% | 30 | 62.5% |
| White | 83 | 20 | 24.1% | 63 | 75.9% |
| Other/Multiracial | 25 | 8 | 32.0% | 17 | 68.0% |
| Unknown | 2 | 0 | | 2 | |
| Median Age (years) | 8 | 14 | | 5 | |
| Age (years) | | | | | |
| <1 | 2 | 0 | 0.0% | 2 | 100.0% |
| 1-5 | 69 | 1 | 1.5% | 68 | 98.5% |
| 6-10 | 42 | 10 | 23.8% | 32 | 76.2% |
| 11-15 | 59 | 33 | 55.9% | 26 | 44.1% |
| 16-20 | 15 | 12 | 80.0% | 3 | 20.0% |
| Median Age at TPR or Goal of Adoption (years) | 6 | 9 | | 4 | |
| Median Length of Time Waiting** (years) | 0.8 | 4.7 | | 0.4 | |
| Removal Reasons | | | | | |
| Neglect | 107 | 29 | 27.1% | 78 | 72.9% |
| Caretaker Inability to Cope | 50 | 17 | 34.0% | 33 | 66.0% |
| Parent Death | 6 | 1 | 16.7% | 5 | 83.3% |
| Parent Incarceration | 13 | 1 | 7.7% | 12 | 92.3% |
| Inadequate Housing | 26 | 10 | 38.5% | 16 | 61.5% |
| Child Behavior Problem | 15 | 6 | 40.0% | 9 | 60.0% |
| Child Drug/Alcohol Problem | 1 | 0 | 0.0% | 1 | 100.0% |
| Parent Drug/Alcohol Problem | 44 | 2 | 4.6% | 42 | 95.4% |
| Relinquishment | 2 | 1 | 50.0% | 1 | 50.0% |
| Sexual Abuse | 2 | 2 | 100.0% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Physical Abuse | 20 | 5 | 25.0% | 15 | 75.0% |

Source: RICHIST.
Note: Percentages are calculated across rows.
* Foster care: Federal definition, including all children in out-of-home placement.
** Waiting for adoption: A child is considered to be waiting for adoption if a child is 17 years old or younger and has a permanency goal of adoption and/or has parents' parental rights terminated.
** Length of time waiting: If a child is waiting with TPR and a goal of adoption, length of time waiting for adoption is calculated from the date of TPR. If a child is waiting without TPR and with a goal of adoption, length of time waiting for adoption is calculated from the date at which permanency goal becomes adoption.

# Appendix

**Table 2: Youth in RI DCYF foster care* with experience of disruption compared to those without, by demographic characteristics**

| | Total Youth at risk of Disruption** (N=755) | Youth who experienced Disruption (n=144) | | Youth who did NOT experience Disruption (n=611) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gender | | | | | |
| Female | 344 | 69 | 20.1% | 275 | 79.9% |
| Male | 411 | 75 | 18.3% | 336 | 81.8% |
| Race | | | | | |
| Black | 131 | 32 | 24.4% | 99 | 75.6% |
| Hispanic | 203 | 34 | 16.8% | 169 | 83.2% |
| White | 331 | 60 | 18.1% | 271 | 81.9% |
| Other/Multiracial | 82 | 18 | 22.0% | 64 | 78.0% |
| Unknown | 8 | 0 | | 8 | |
| Median Age at TPR (years) | 7 | 10 | | 6 | |
| Age at TPR (years) | | | | | |
| <1 | 28 | 0 | 0.0% | 28 | 100.0% |
| 1-5 | 300 | 23 | 7.7% | 277 | 92.3% |
| 6-10 | 231 | 59 | 25.5% | 172 | 74.5% |
| 11-15 | 179 | 60 | 33.5% | 119 | 66.5% |
| 16-20 | 17 | 2 | 11.8% | 15 | 88.2% |

Source: RICHIST.
Note: Percentages are calculated across rows.
* Foster care: Federal definition, including all children in out-of-home placement.
** Disruption: Adoption disruption is an adoption process that ends after a child is placed in an adoptive home and before the adoption is legally finalized.

# Appendix

**Table 3: Youth adopted after dissolution compared to those NOT adopted, by demographic characteristics**

| | Total Youth who experienced dissolution* (N=41) | Youth adopted after Dissolution (n = 25) | | Youth NOT adopted after Dissolution (n = 16) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gender | | | | | |
| Female | 20 | 11 | 55.0% | 9 | 45.0% |
| Male | 21 | 14 | 66.7% | 7 | 33.3% |
| Race | | | | | |
| Black | 6 | 6 | 100.0% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Hispanic | 17 | 9 | 52.9% | 8 | 47.1% |
| White | 15 | 7 | 46.7% | 8 | 53.3% |
| Other/Multiracial | 3 | 3 | 100.0% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Median Age at Initial Adoption (years) | 5 | 3 | | 7 | |
| Age at Initial Adoption (years) | | | | | |
| <1 | 6 | 5 | 83.3% | 1 | 16.7% |
| 1-5 | 18 | 13 | 72.2% | 5 | 27.8% |
| 6-10 | 12 | 5 | 41.7% | 7 | 58.3% |
| 11-15 | 5 | 2 | 40.0% | 3 | 60.0% |
| 16-20 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Median Age at Dissolution (years) | 12 | 10 | | 13 | |
| Age at Dissolution (years) | | | | | |
| <1 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% |
| 1-5 | 3 | 3 | 100.0% | 0 | 0.0% |
| 6-10 | 13 | 10 | 76.9% | 3 | 23.1% |
| 11-15 | 21 | 10 | 47.6% | 11 | 52.4% |
| 16-20 | 4 | 2 | 50.0% | 2 | 50.0% |
| Median Length of Time between Initial Adoption and Dissolution (years) | 6.4 | 6.5 | | 6.4 | |
| Removal Reasons for Dissolution | | | | | |
| Neglect | 15 | 11 | 73.3% | 4 | 26.7% |
| Caretaker Inability to Cope | 10 | 3 | 30.0% | 7 | 70.0% |
| Parent Death | 8 | 8 | 100.0% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Parent Incarceration | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Inadequate Housing | 1 | 1 | 100.0% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Child Behavior Problem | 8 | 2 | 25.0% | 6 | 75.0% |
| Child Drug/Alcohol Problem | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Parent Drug/Alcohol Problem | 5 | 5 | 100.0% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Relinquishment | 2 | 0 | 0.0% | 2 | 100.0% |
| Sexual Abuse | 7 | 3 | 42.9% | 4 | 57.1% |
| Physical Abuse | 7 | 4 | 57.1% | 3 | 42.9% |

Source: RICHIST.
Note: Percentages are calculated across rows.
* Dissolution: Dissolution is a termination of parental right of adoptive parents after the adoption is legally finalized.

**Table 4: Outcomes two years post-TPR**

| Characteristics of Youth | | Adopted NOT Direct Consent (n=331) | | In Placement (n=50) | | Emancipation (n=7) | | Guardianship/ OPPLA (n=11) | | Adopted via Direct Consent (n=576) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Median age at TPR (years) | | 5 | | 11 | | 17 | | 9 | | 3 | |
| Age at TPR (years) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 or younger | 813 | 273 | 33.6% | 21 | 2.6% | 0 | 0.0% | 7 | 0.8% | 512 | 63.0% |
| 11 or older | 162 | 58 | 35.8% | 29 | 17.9% | 7 | 4.3% | 4 | 2.5% | 64 | 39.5% |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Female | 466 | 147 | 31.5% | 22 | 4.7% | 4 | 0.9% | 7 | 1.5% | 286 | 61.4% |
| Male | 509 | 184 | 36.1% | 28 | 5.5% | 3 | 0.6% | 4 | 0.8% | 290 | 57.0% |
| Race/ethnicity* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Black | 158 | 55 | 34.8% | 9 | 5.7% | 1 | 0.6% | 4 | 2.5% | 89 | 56.4% |
| Hispanic | 267 | 93 | 34.8% | 17 | 6.4% | 1 | 0.4% | 1 | 0.4% | 155 | 58.0% |
| Other/Multiracial | 129 | 31 | 24.0% | 3 | 2.3% | 1 | 0.8% | 2 | 1.6% | 92 | 71.3% |
| White | 413 | 148 | 35.8% | 21 | 5.1% | 4 | 1.0% | 4 | 1.0% | 236 | 57.1% |
| Unknown | 8 | 4 | -- | 0 | -- | 0 | -- | 0 | -- | 4 | -- |
| Disability* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 365 | 134 | 36.7% | 31 | 8.5% | 3 | 0.8% | 5 | 1.4% | 192 | 52.6% |
| No | 609 | 197 | 32.3% | 19 | 3.1% | 4 | 0.7% | 6 | 1.0% | 383 | 62.9% |
| Unknown | 1 | 0 | -- | 0 | -- | 0 | -- | 0 | -- | 1 | -- |
| Part of sibling group | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 403 | 140 | 34.8% | 36 | 8.9% | 5 | 1.2% | 6 | 1.5% | 216 | 53.6% |
| No | 436 | 158 | 36.2% | 12 | 2.8% | 2 | 0.5% | 5 | 1.1% | 259 | 59.4% |
| Unknown | 136 | 33 | -- | 2 | -- | 0 | -- | 0 | -- | 101 | -- |
| Placement at time of TPR* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Congregate Care | 35 | 11 | 31.4% | 22 | 62.8% | 1 | 2.9% | 1 | 2.9% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Non-Congregate Care | 364 | 320 | 87.9% | 28 | 7.7% | 6 | 1.6% | 10 | 2.8% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Experienced any disruptions within 2 years after TPR (by proxy definition) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 58 | 21 | 36.2% | 33 | 56.9% | 2 | 3.5% | 2 | 3.5% | 0 | 0.0% |
| No | 917 | 310 | 33.8% | 17 | 1.9% | 5 | 0.5% | 9 | 1.0% | 576 | 62.8% |
| Median age at first removal (years) | | 1 | | 6 | | 14 | | 2 | | 0 | |
| Age at first removal (years) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 or younger | 921 | 309 | 33.6% | 40 | 4.3% | 0 | 0.0% | 8 | 0.9% | 564 | 61.2% |
| 11 or older | 54 | 22 | 40.7% | 10 | 18.5% | 7 | 13.0% | 3 | 5.6% | 12 | 22.2% |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of placements within 2 years post-TPR | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 or less | 953 | 328 | 34.4% | 32 | 3.4% | 7 | 0.7% | 10 | 1.1% | 576 | 60.4% |
| 4 or more | 22 | 3 | 13.6% | 18 | 81.8% | 0 | 0.0% | 1 | 4.6% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Number of removals between first removal and TPR | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 or less | 762 | 255 | 33.5% | 33 | 4.3% | 6 | 0.8% | 6 | 0.8% | 462 | 60.6% |
| 2 or more | 213 | 76 | 35.7% | 17 | 8.0% | 1 | 0.5% | 5 | 2.3% | 114 | 53.5% |
| Median age at most recent removal(years) | | 3 | | 9 | | 14 | | 7 | | 1 | |
| Age at most recent removal (years) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 or younger | 903 | 304 | 33.7% | 37 | 4.1 % | 0 | 0.0% | 8 | 0.9% | 554 | 61.3% |
| 11 or older | 72 | 27 | 37.5% | 13 | 18.0% | 7 | 9.7% | 3 | 4.2% | 22 | 30.6% |
| Removal reasons for most recent removal | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Physical Abuse | 63 | 23 | 36.5% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 1 | 1.6% | 39 | 61.9% |
| Sex Abuse | 22 | 7 | 31.8% | 4 | 18.2% | 1 | 4.6% | 0 | 0.0% | 10 | 45.4% |
| Neglect | 544 | 171 | 31.4% | 28 | 5.1% | 1 | 0.1% | 6 | 1.1% | 338 | 62.3% |
| Inadequate Housing | 162 | 64 | 39.5% | 9 | 5.6% | 1 | 0.6% | 0 | 0.0% | 88 | 54.3% |
| Parent Alcohol/Drug Problem | 428 | 157 | 36.7% | 13 | 3.1% | 1 | 0.2% | 1 | 0.2% | 256 | 59.8% |
| Child Alcohol/Drug Problem | 12 | 5 | 41.7% | 1 | 8.3% | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 6 | 50.0% |
| Child Behavior Problem | 28 | 2 | 7.1% | 10 | 35.7% | 3 | 10.7% | 1 | 3.6% | 12 | 42.9% |
| Caretaker Inability to Cope | 254 | 68 | 26.8% | 20 | 7.9% | 1 | 0.4% | 2 | 0.8% | 163 | 64.1% |
| Other* | 183 | 92 | 50.3% | 6 | 3.3% | 0 | 0.0% | 3 | 1.6% | 82 | 44.8% |
| Unknown | 1 | 0 | -- | 0 | -- | 0 | -- | 0 | -- | 1 | -- |
| Median Length of Time Between (years) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Removal and TPR | | 1.8 | | 2.5 | | 2.1 | | 2.8 | | 2.1 | |
| TPR and Adoption (if adopted) | | 0.4 | | -- | | -- | | -- | | -- | |

Source: RICHIST.
Note: Percentages are calculated across rows.
* Pre-Adopt is an underutilized/inconsistently used placement type classification and may be an undercount as pre-adoptive placements can be represented in the other categories.
* Removal reason: Other includes parent incarceration, parent death, abandonment, and relinquishment
* All races (except Hispanic) are non-Hispanic
* Disability: Includes mental retardation, emotional disturbance, hearing impairment, speech impairment, visual impairment, learning disabilities, physical disabilities, and other diagnosed conditions or disabilities.
* Placement at time of TPR: Non-Congregate Care includes foster care (relative, non-relative, private agency), pre-adoptive home, and other.