



Foster Care 2006

- A total of 13,213 children were served in family foster care in FFY 2006; 16,142 children were served in all foster care arrangements. Older children (age 13 or older) make up 27.4 percent of the children served in all foster care arrangements.
- As with most foster children, DHS provides services to help reunify older children with their families. Half of children age 13 or older (50.4 percent) exiting from foster care are reunified with their families.
- On an average daily basis, there are 7,734 children in family foster care; 10,548 children were in all foster care arrangements on an average daily basis.
- There are 5,309 family foster homes in Oregon. These homes have an average of 1.5 foster children.
- 30.5 percent of children in family foster care are placed with relatives.

Upon request this publication can be furnished in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities by contacting:

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Best practices

Child centered, family focused and community based

DHS remains committed to strengths/needs-based practice, which has been a foundation of Oregon's child welfare system for a decade. This practice emphasizes keeping children in their immediate families and with extended relatives. When children are not able to remain with their families or relatives, neighborhood or community-based services are utilized. Keeping children within their communities and the same school whenever possible continues to be a guiding principle in serving children and families.

Services supporting best practice, such as Family Decision Meetings, improve the department's decision making process by encouraging the support and inclusion of the family, extended family and the community. The goal of all services provided to the family is to develop specific, individualized and appropriate interventions for children and families in a strengths/needs-based manner.

DHS child welfare continues to identify and develop community resources by working closely with community partners, schools, hospitals and communities of faith. In addition, the department continues to coordinate services for children and families through formalized relationships with organizations such as the Oregon Foster Parent Association, Court Appointed Special Advocates

Foster Care definition change :

During 2002, Oregon changed the state definition of foster care to be consistent with the federal definition as a result of the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA). This change in definition is reflected in program performance measures required by the federal Child and Family Services Review. For the purposes of federal reporting, foster care includes:

- ***24-hour substitute care for children placed outside their own homes.***
- ***Children who have physically left a foster care placement under state agency supervision and have been returned to the parent or legal guardian on a trial home visit, usually up to six months.***

Children who have physically returned home have not always been reported in this report as "still in foster care." Therefore, the total number of children currently in foster care shows an increase, starting in 2002, as a result of this change in definition.



(CASA), Citizen Review Boards (CRB) and the Juvenile Rights Project (JRP).

Children in foster care

Foster children range from 0-18 and come from many backgrounds and types of families. Many children needing foster care have been neglected or emotionally, physically or sexually abused. As a result, they may have emotional, behavioral, mental or physical problems that require special services.

Children who cannot remain safely at home enter foster care for various reasons. These children most often enter foster care as a result of their parents' actions and not as a result of the child's behavior. The percentages below reflect the proportion of foster care entrants with the reason for removal. In FFY 2006, 52.9 percent of children who entered foster care had four or more reasons for **Reasons children enter foster care** (includes all types of foster care)

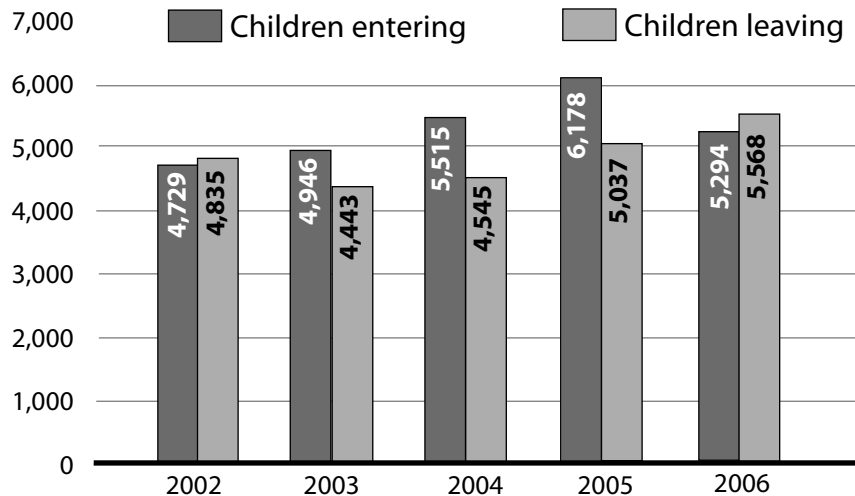
In FFY 2006,
52.9 percent of children who entered foster care had four or more reasons for removal.

Removal Reason	FFY 2004		FFY 2005		FFY 2006	
	Number	% of Entrants	Number	% of Entrants	Number	% of Entrants
Parent Drug Abuse	3,151	57.1%	3,855	62.4%	3,208	60.6%
Parent Alcohol Abuse	3,046	55.2%	3,788	61.3%	3,162	59.7%
Physical Abuse	3,239	58.7%	3,697	59.8%	3,279	61.9%
Child's Behavior	2,420	43.9%	2,618	42.4%	2,452	46.3%
Neglect Abuse	2,043	37.0%	2,599	42.1%	2,631	49.7%
Inability To Cope	2,606	47.3%	2,284	37.0%	1,605	30.3%
Inadequate Housing	1,436	26.0%	1,424	23.0%	1,103	20.8%
Child's Disability	447	8.1%	467	7.6%	432	8.2%
Sexual Abuse	422	7.7%	466	7.5%	390	7.4%
Incarceration Of Parent	112	2.0%	119	1.9%	99	1.9%
Abandonment	127	2.3%	109	1.8%	83	1.6%
Child Drug Abuse	79	1.4%	105	1.7%	79	1.5%
Child Alcohol Abuse	121	2.2%	93	1.5%	52	1.0%
Death Of Parent	3	0.1%	4	0.1%	3	0.1%
Total Number of Foster Care Entrants	5,515		6,178		5,294	



Children entering/leaving foster care

Federal Fiscal Year 2006



On the average daily basis, there are 7,734 children in family foster care.

A total of 13,213 children were served in family foster care in FFY 2006.

Race of children served in foster care

Asian	0.9%
African American	7.0%
Caucasian	65.3%
Hispanic	14.1%
Native American	12.4%
Pacific Islander	0.3%

*The race of 13.6 percent of children in foster care was not recorded.

Age of children served in foster care

0-5	39.8%
6-12	32.8%
13+	27.4%

removal.

Foster care settings include :

- *Nonrelative family foster homes.*
- *Relative care homes.*
- *Family group homes.*
- *Emergency shelters.*
- *Residential treatment programs.*

Children age 13 and older make up 27.4 percent of the children served in foster care.



- Child care institutions.
- Pre-adoptive homes.

Assuring quality in family foster care

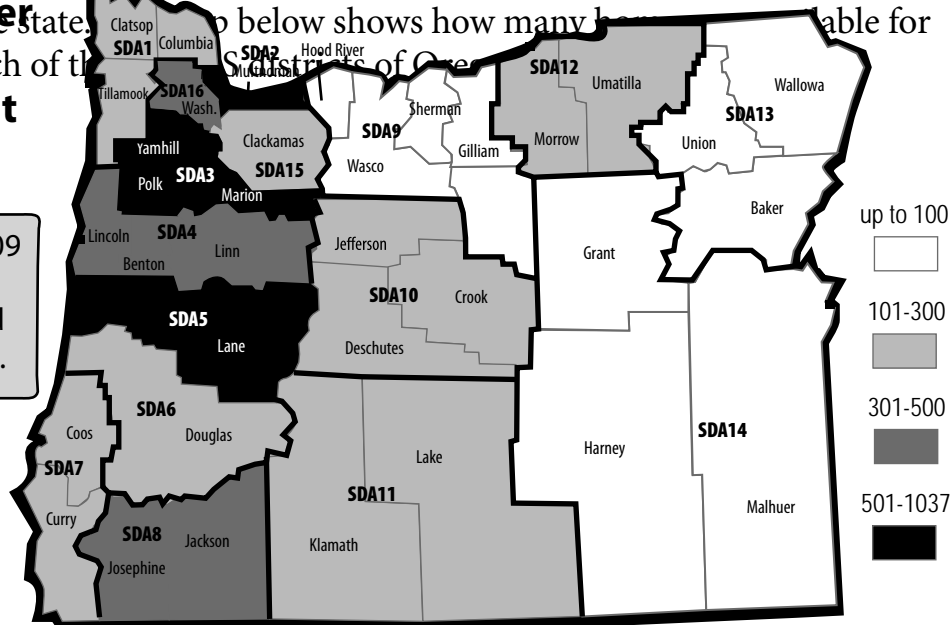
Foster parents care for children who have been abused or neglected and who cannot remain in their own homes. Foster parents come from all walks of life. They are essential people on whom DHS child welfare depends to do the day-to-day parenting for these children until they can return home or, if that is not possible, be placed with a permanent family.

All foster homes must be certified as meeting safety standards. The safety standards are the same for relatives, nonrelatives and families considering adoption.

A significant factor contributing to the safety and stability of children is keeping them involved with their families, schools and communities as much as safely possible. DHS works toward keeping children in their neighborhoods by having an adequate number of families available for children in need throughout the state. The map below shows how many families are available for

Family foster homes by DHS District

There are 5,309 family foster homes located across Oregon.



DHS child welfare conducts thorough assessment and background checks on prospective foster parents and relative caretakers. This includes a family assessment, home study, criminal records check, personal reference check,



home safety and health inspection, and a check for previous child abuse/neglect history.

Residential treatment services

Residential treatment services are provided to a significant number of children in the DHS child welfare system. Children served require intensive supervision and treatment because they have experienced severe abuse and neglect and/or have emotional problems that cannot be managed in a family setting.

- Professional shelter programs serve children with behavioral and emotional problems in need of professional evaluation. Programs provide assessment and evaluation to assist DHS in developing a treatment or placement plan for each child.
- Residential treatment services include an array of counseling, skill building and interventions provided in facilities under the close supervision of highly trained, professional staff.
- Therapeutic foster care programs use trained professional foster parents to provide supervision and treatment under the direction of a licensed private child care agency. Children served have abuse histories and behavior problems that are more appropriately treated in a family setting, but who still require the intense level of services and back-up offered by residential treatment providers.

In addition, some children have problems so severe that they require psychiatric hospitalization or placement in a mental health psychiatric residential treatment program.

Children served in residential treatment:

- Have been severely abused and/or neglected.
- Are unable to be maintained at home or in family foster care due to uncontrollable behaviors and emotional problems.
- Have not responded to outpatient counseling services provided in the community.

On any given day 664 foster children were served in some type of residential treatment.



- Have major school problems, have been expelled or have refused to attend school.
- Need daily training, guidance and supervision in a highly structured living environment.

Services to teens

During the legislative sessions in 2003 and 2005, Senate Bill 808 and Senate Bill 1034 were passed, requiring DHS to develop Comprehensive Transition Plans for youth who are receiving services through DHS as a result of dependency and to report these plans to the court. These transition plans are to include assessing and planning for the needs and goals of the youth related to housing, physical and mental health, education, employment, community connections and supportive relationships.

- Teens comprise 27.4 percent of the foster care population.
- During FFY 2006, 4,424 teens spent at least one day in foster care.
- Half of the teens who left foster care returned home (50.4 percent).
- 173 former foster care youth received scholarships for higher education through a federal grant awarded to DHS and implemented with the assistance of the Oregon Student Assistance Commission in 2006.

22 community providers make up the statewide ILP service network.

Foster care youth are eligible for Independent Living Programs (ILP). The number of youth receiving Independent Living Services rose from 1,248 served in FFY 2005 to 1,327 youth served in FFY 2006. ILP's services are provided by 22 contracted community-based partners throughout the state. The ILP services are directed at youth to assist them in the following ways:

- Making the transition to self-sufficiency as an adult.
- Receiving the education, training and services necessary to obtain employment.
- Attaining academic and/or vocational education and preparing for post-secondary training and education.
- Obtaining personal and emotional support and promoting healthy

1,327 youth received ILP services in FFY 2006, a 6.3 percent increase from the previous year.



interactions with dedicated adults.

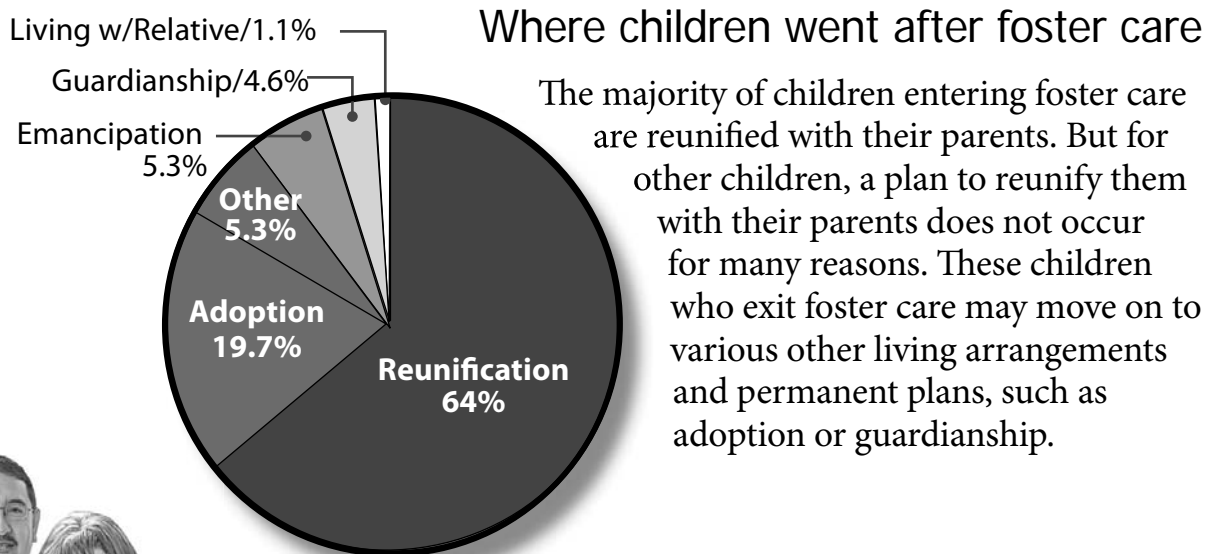
Permanency for children

When a child is placed in foster care, DHS child welfare staff, foster parents and other partners work together to ensure the child's needs are met.

The child will be returned home whenever it is possible to do so safely. However, the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) passed by Congress in 1997 limits the time parents have to make changes to keep their child safe. The role of foster parents or other caregivers is vital in helping the child return home or be placed in another permanent home.

Parents, extended family, foster parents and community partners work with DHS child welfare to make a plan for a permanent home for a child. Foster parents or relative caregivers can help with visits and can encourage parents to become involved in their children's activities. They can also help the child and parents get to school or counseling appointments.

During FFY 2006, 64 percent of children who left foster care were reunified with their families. If a child cannot return home, the law requires that an alternate permanency plan be put into place quickly. If adoption is not in the



DHS involves parents in planning to make their home a safe and healthy environment before their child returns home.



If you would like to become a foster or adoptive parent, call:

1-800-331-0503