

The number of children adopted from foster care almost doubled between 1995 and 2000, but increased by less than seven thousand children (13%) between 2000 and 2009.

Adoptions from Foster Care, Selected Years, FYs 1995–2009

	FY 1995	FY 2000	FY 2005	FY 2009
Alabama	128	202	324	629
Alaska	103	202	204	329
Arizona	215	853	1,012	1,653
Arkansas	84	325	316	601
California	3,094	8,818	7,490	7,438
Colorado	338	711	954	1,070
Connecticut	198	499	740	768
Delaware	38	103	78	125
District of Columbia	86	319	310	103
Florida	904	1,629	3,019	3,711
Georgia	383	1,091	1,127	1,389
Hawaii	42	280	452	279
Idaho	46	140	149	353
Illinois	1,759	5,664	1,837	1,429
Indiana	520	1,160	1,010	1,488
Iowa	227	729	947	967
Kansas	333	468	649	836
Kentucky	197	398	876	842
Louisiana	292	476	469	578
Maine	85	379	316	323
Maryland	324	552	620	734
Massachusetts	1,073	861	832	790
Michigan	1,717	2,804	2,883	3,200
Minnesota	232	614	732	660
Mississippi	109	288	242	306
Missouri	538	1,265	1,309	1,096
Montana	104	238	244	192
Nebraska	208	293	352	588
Nevada	155	231	412	525
New Hampshire	51	97	124	135
New Jersey	616	832	1,377	1,347
New Mexico	141	347	289	437
New York	4,579	4,234	3,407	2,398
North Carolina	289	1,337	1,203	1,725
North Dakota	42	108	152	137
Ohio	1,202	2,044	2,044	1,453
Oklahoma	226	1,096	1,013	1,564
Oregon	427	831	1,030	1,101
Pennsylvania	1,018	1,712	2,065	2,243
Rhode Island	216	260	217	272
South Carolina	231	378	382	513
South Dakota	42	94	113	167
Tennessee	458	431	1,114	1,001
Texas	804	2,045	3,181	4,976
Utah	283	303	346	502
Vermont	62	117	166	156
Virginia	320	448	510	663
Washington	645	1,141	1,305	2,091
West Virginia	139	352	368	541
Wisconsin	360	736	906	769
Wyoming	10	61	61	71
United States	25,693	50,596	51,278	57,264

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau, "Adoptions of Children with Public Welfare Agency Involvement by State FY 2002 – FY 2009," at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/afcars/adoptchild09.pdf. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

While the number of children waiting in foster care to be adopted has declined nationally and in all but a handful of states, the number is still way too high.

Children in Public Foster Care Waiting to be Adopted, FYs 2004–2009

	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY 2009
Alabama	1,599	2,128	1,658	1,824	1,692	1,582
Alaska	649	520	698	766	807	751
Arizona	2,124	2,478	2,644	2,492	2,153	2,691
Arkansas	949	1,191	945	780	872	850
California	16,299	16,700	21,202	20,830	17,847	15,634
Colorado	1,684	1,785	2,099	1,762	1,878	1,647
Connecticut	986	953	963	1,162	1,430	1,354
Delaware	218	274	302	311	304	239
District of Columbia	837	620	667	560	493	486
Florida	7,690	7,379	7,480	7,927	7,942	6,349
Georgia	2,507	2,370	2,305	2,162	2,244	1,791
Hawaii	1,019	980	808	733	555	401
Idaho	310	373	555	593	576	498
Illinois	3,432	3,408	5,746	5,598	4,608	2,728
Indiana	2,550	3,194	3,345	3,211	2,931	3,136
Iowa	1,139	1,265	1,419	1,299	1,158	1,003
Kansas	1,926	1,811	2,005	1,812	1,960	1,852
Kentucky	1,969	2,125	2,091	2,153	2,101	2,048
Louisiana	1,179	1,162	1,079	1,137	1,069	1,093
Maine	851	787	679	614	619	571
Maryland	2,202	1,954	1,626	1,660	1,506	1,220
Massachusetts	3,006	2,925	2,705	2,868	2,846	2,837
Michigan	6,486	7,061	6,164	6,115	5,674	4,902
Minnesota	1,795	1,579	1,638	1,674	1,393	1,227
Mississippi	914	858	903	898	996	975
Missouri	3,227	3,532	2,722	2,836	2,606	2,335
Montana	713	646	606	597	521	537
Nebraska	920	916	972	805	881	831
Nevada	1,573	1,701	1,786	1,936	2,200	2,095
New Hampshire	239	272	252	325	297	272
New Jersey	5,110	4,845	4,725	3,262	3,009	2,688
New Mexico	634	711	860	963	907	878
New York	10,650	9,238	8,040	7,659	7,014	6,890
North Carolina	3,074	3,137	3,116	3,095	2,903	2,722
North Dakota	277	344	321	337	288	315
Ohio	4,814	4,350	4,087	3,762	3,477	3,382
Oklahoma	4,471	3,504	3,657	4,022	3,766	3,429
Oregon	3,302	3,441	2,776	2,527	2,206	1,840
Pennsylvania	3,996	3,679	3,559	3,408	3,037	3,016
Rhode Island	331	407	405	400	415	333
South Carolina	1,769	1,819	1,771	1,779	1,803	1,807
South Dakota	480	472	507	452	423	380
Tennessee	1,776	1,717	1,788	1,622	1,477	1,326
Texas	9,957	10,947	12,542	13,552	13,414	12,844
Utah	437	436	475	574	553	565
Vermont	267	265	251	257	225	231
Virginia	1,611	1,823	1,783	1,834	1,769	1,612
Washington	2,317	2,167	2,361	2,837	3,025	2,865
West Virginia	976	1,312	1,204	1,278	1,300	1,220
Wisconsin	1,341	1,364	1,237	1,284	1,329	1,255
Wyoming	171	200	209	151	98	73
United States	128,753	129,125	133,738	132,495	124,597	113,606

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, "Children in Public Foster Care on September 30th of Each Year Who are Waiting to be Adopted FY2002–FY2009," at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/afcars/waiting2009.pdf.

Some children are being raised by grandparents or other relatives when their parents are unable to do so. More than 2.8 million grandchildren live with grandparents who are responsible for them. One-third of them have no parent living with them.

Children Living with Grandparents or Other Relatives, 2009

	Living in households headed by:		Grandchildren living with grandparents responsible for them:		
	Grandparent	Other Relative	Total	No parent of grandchild present	
				Number	Percent
Alabama	110,977	26,954	71,625	26,980	37.7%
Alaska	12,532	3,482	6,925	2,241	32.4
Arizona	144,835	50,610	77,722	22,396	28.8
Arkansas	58,192	11,772	39,302	15,335	39.0
California	735,450	367,117	313,542	75,160	24.0
Colorado	61,202	26,556	33,170	13,047	39.3
Connecticut	48,152	11,862	23,508	8,444	35.9
Delaware	14,852	4,487	9,075	2,469	27.2
District of Columbia	13,397	6,169	5,802	1,691	29.1
Florida	315,514	97,802	171,592	58,614	34.2
Georgia	213,418	73,132	130,841	48,057	36.7
Hawaii	40,584	11,314	10,509	2,788	26.5
Idaho	18,862	6,117	11,156	3,652	32.7
Illinois	213,258	74,899	113,181	33,817	29.9
Indiana	105,558	21,877	66,730	21,124	31.7
Iowa	26,755	7,098	14,120	4,650	32.9
Kansas	31,443	11,160	18,083	7,081	39.2
Kentucky	88,582	19,953	63,493	28,348	44.6
Louisiana	121,196	29,973	75,238	29,128	38.7
Maine	11,521	3,143	5,572	2,564	46.0
Maryland	106,405	34,245	51,916	15,109	29.1
Massachusetts	73,562	22,430	30,637	8,630	28.2
Michigan	134,355	35,082	68,951	20,963	30.4
Minnesota	42,631	14,487	21,194	6,623	31.2
Mississippi	105,511	22,131	69,008	22,358	32.4
Missouri	92,581	24,177	50,460	19,245	38.1
Montana	13,540	3,678	8,829	4,195	47.5
Nebraska	19,563	4,932	11,119	4,531	40.8
Nevada	50,791	21,094	28,337	7,135	25.2
New Hampshire	13,669	2,603	6,247	1,909	30.6
New Jersey	114,430	42,586	50,741	16,147	31.8
New Mexico	51,013	11,144	29,365	9,593	32.7
New York	304,458	106,983	140,185	39,526	28.2
North Carolina	155,146	48,977	99,144	40,564	40.9
North Dakota	5,309	1,117	3,048	1,030	33.8
Ohio	158,704	40,364	90,061	33,999	37.8
Oklahoma	67,976	16,136	43,479	17,062	39.2
Oregon	49,809	14,646	27,189	8,319	30.6
Pennsylvania	172,803	41,379	85,003	32,900	38.7
Rhode Island	13,236	4,799	4,835	1,554	32.1
South Carolina	96,450	25,705	56,740	22,721	40.0
South Dakota	12,506	3,710	8,207	2,818	34.3
Tennessee	138,120	32,339	80,695	29,230	36.2
Texas	610,289	194,691	356,410	103,547	29.1
Utah	46,812	16,885	18,381	4,489	24.4
Vermont	4,365	1,138	1,928	1,115	57.8
Virginia	119,711	39,017	62,220	21,890	35.2
Washington	82,908	28,925	43,781	16,690	38.1
West Virginia	38,366	6,741	23,603	9,916	42.0
Wisconsin	57,033	19,260	29,199	9,563	32.8
Wyoming	7,303	1,603	5,027	2,399	47.7
United States	5,345,635	1,748,481	2,867,125	943,356	32.9

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2009 American Community Survey, Tables B09006 and B10002. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.