

2008 STATUS of children

in Oregon's Child
Protection System



Introduction



Letter from Erinn Kelley-Siel, Assistant Director of the Children, Adults and Families Division of the Oregon Department of Human Services

This is the 11th year Oregon has released a Status of Children report, and it is designed to give the public information about the experiences of the children who come into Oregon's child protection system each year due to abuse or neglect.

It is important to remember that while this is a compilation of charts and graphs, it also tells a story about real children and real families.

There is some good news in that story—for example, the decline in the number of children served in foster care at the same time that fewer children were re-abused – but it is clear that we have much more work to do both here at DHS and in the state to achieve our vision for Oregon's children and families.

We have set out an ambitious agenda to fulfill that vision, and just this year the Governor and the Oregon legislature recognized one of our most urgent problems – chronic understaffing of child welfare workers.

Oregon parents must have the ability and resources to safely parent and meet the needs of their children. And when that is not possible, our child welfare system must provide excellent, equitable services that meet the needs of the children and families we serve in the most effective way possible.

But before we fulfill the vision, we have other urgent challenges, which are described in this report:

- Alcohol and drug use continues to be the single largest contributor to abuse or neglect, followed closely by domestic violence and parental involvement with law enforcement
- African American and Native American children continue to be over-represented in foster care
- Our resources to support children who are victims of abuse or neglect remaining safely in their own homes are stretched thin
- The number of foster families in 2008 declined, and our support for foster parents - relatives and non-relatives - continues to be inadequate

We have set clear goals focused on improving outcomes for children and their families, and we are making progress. Our individual, face-to-face contacts with children are increasing in quantity and quality. We are improving our processes to reduce the amount of time workers spend on paperwork and increase the amount of time they can spend with children and families. Implementation of the Oregon Safety Model continues to strengthen the consistency of our practice and our ability to ensure the safety of children throughout the life of a case.

In addition, through a partnership with Casey Family Programs and the Oregon Commission on Children and Families, communities are rallying in support of children and families in the child protection system—and in support of the system’s work—in new ways.

We know what we need to do to ensure that every child is safe, healthy and successful, and on the next page you will see the specific actions we are taking to do so.

But we cannot do it alone. We need support and resources from the state, local communities, and concerned Oregonians to achieve our goals. I invite Oregonians to join in our efforts to improve the lives of children and families and encourage you to use this report as a valuable tool in your discussions about Oregon’s child protection system.

Overview and Goals

The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) is the state agency responsible for accepting and caring for children who are dependent, abused or neglected and placed in DHS legal custody by a state court. The mission of the Child Welfare office is to provide safety, permanency and well-being for the children of Oregon and to provide services to their families.

DHS child welfare services—and this annual report—fall under four main categories: Child Protective Services, Family Services, Foster Care and Adoption Services. The 2008 Status of Children Report provides a snapshot of our state's child protection system. We have made significant progress in the state, and we have set out an ambitious agenda that will result in further improvements in the lives of children in every community in the state.

During 2008, DHS received more than 65,400 reports of child abuse and neglect—one report every 8 minutes. That is an increase over last year's total number of reports and illustrates the importance Oregonians place on reporting suspected cases of child abuse and neglect. Investigations of these reports found that 10,421 Oregon children were victims of child abuse or neglect, down slightly from last year's number of confirmed cases. Almost half of those victims were younger than age 6, and most—nearly 75 percent—were abused by one of their parents.

Almost 14,000 children spent at least one day in foster care in 2008, a significant reduction from the year before. On any given day, 8,775 Oregon children are in foster care, while that number was nearly 9,800 last year. Although the number of children in foster care in Oregon declined in 2008, Oregon continues to place more children in foster care than other states in the country. Safely reducing the number of children in foster care continues to be a goal for DHS and our partners across the state.

Oregon had about 150 fewer foster families in 2008 compared to the prior year, reflecting the decrease in foster children. However, the lower number of foster families does not mean a decline in their importance to the success of Oregon's child protection system. Foster families play a critical role, but that role is designed to be temporary. Children do best when their living situation is safe and permanent. In 2008, about 60% of children leaving foster care were reunited with their families, a decline from 2007's 64% reuniting with families.

This decline is an area of concern, and DHS is implementing a number of strategies to help children safely remain at home with their parents, rather than enter foster care in the first place. Another area of concern is the

increase in children entering foster care due to alcohol use, drug issues and domestic violence in their families. These factors are often interrelated and create seriously unsafe and unstable conditions for children.

Building on critical investments made in Oregon's child welfare program by the 2007 Oregon Legislature in four key areas (*Targeted addiction treatment and recovery services for parents; foster care reimbursement for relative caregivers; enhanced legal reviews in child dependency cases; some additional child welfare staff*), DHS goals falling into two main areas:

First, safely reduce the number of children in foster care by:

- Reducing the number of children entering foster care
- Increasing the number of children who remain safely at home after a founded report of neglect
- Increasing the number of children leaving foster care – either to reunite with parents or to be adopted/have permanent guardianship arrangements
- Decreasing the length of time children spend in foster care
- Increasing placements and connections with family (*relatives*)
- Reducing disparities and creating equitable outcomes for children of color in foster care
- Reducing the 2007 child abuse/neglect recurrence rate of 7.5%

Second, ensure that children in foster care are safe, stable and healthy by:

- Strengthening supports for out-of-home caregivers
- Increasing placements and connections with family (*relatives*) and ensuring on-going connections with parents and siblings
- Ensuring that children in foster care receive timely and appropriate medical services and mental health assessments
- Increasing capacity to deliver culturally and linguistically appropriate services
- Making Oregon a national leader for the absence of abuse in out-of-home-care
- Increasing the number of foster care homes/placements available

Fast facts for 2008

Child protective services

- 65,460 reports of abuse and neglect were received.
- 27,485 reports were referred for investigation.
- 6,943 referrals were founded for abuse or neglect—involving 10,421 victims.
- 48.6 percent of victims were younger than 6 years old.
- Threat of harm was the largest type of maltreatment experienced by victims (*48.7 percent*), followed by neglect (*32.9 percent*).
- 14 children died from causes related to familial/caregiver abuse and/or neglect.

Family services

- At 41.2 percent, alcohol and drug issues represented the largest single family stress factor when child abuse/neglect was present.
- The next most common stressors were domestic violence (*30.7 percent*) and parental involvement with law enforcement (*27.7 percent*).
- The average cost per family receiving family-based services (FBS) is \$1,556. Slightly more than 38 percent of families with an open child welfare case during the year received family-based services.

Foster care

- 13,965 children spent at least one day in some kind of foster care (*8,775 children on an average daily basis*).
- 6,200 children were in family foster care on an average daily basis, with almost 30 percent of those placed with relatives.
- Of children served in foster care, 61.1 percent were Caucasian, 10.4 percent did not have race recorded, 10.0 percent were Native American, 9.9 percent were Hispanic, 7.3 percent were African American, 0.9 percent were Asian/Pacific Islander.
- 57.3 percent of children in care on September 30, 2008, had two or fewer placements.
- There were 4,735 certified family foster homes in 2008.
- 518 children were in either professional shelter programs or residential treatment settings on an average daily basis.
- 1,510 youth received independent living program services.

- 59.7 percent of children leaving foster care were reunited with their families.

Adoption services

- 1,053 children had their adoptions finalized, with 30.2 percent of those children belonging to ethnic minorities.
- 77.3 percent of children adopted from DHS were adopted by relatives or non-relative foster parents.
- 559 children who were adopted had siblings also adopted during the year, primarily by the same family.
- 316 children exited foster care to a guardianship.

2008 race comparison: children in oregon, child victims, foster care entrants, in foster care population on 9/30/08.

Race/culture	Oregon's children*	Victims of child abuse/neglect	Children entering foster care	Children in foster care
African American	2.3%	5.6%	6.3%	7.9%
Asian	3.7%	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%
Caucasian	70.6%	56.8%	58.0%	60.8%
Hispanic (any race)	17.6%	15.7%	13.8%	9.5%
Native American	1.3%	4.8%	7.5%	10.6%
Pacific Islander	0.3%	0.4%	0.6%	0.4%

*2007 estimates of population younger than age 18, U.S. Census Bureau

- DHS has begun work on the issue of disproportionate representation of children in foster care, and is taking action to ensure that Oregon has a child welfare system that serves every child and family fairly and equitably.
- African American children make up 2.3 percent of Oregon's child population, but they account for 7.9 percent of Oregon's foster care population.
- Native American children make up 1.3 percent of Oregon's population, but they account for more than 10 percent of Oregon's foster care population.
- By comparison, white children comprise about 71 percent of Oregon's child population but only 61 percent of Oregon's foster care population.



Contents of this report

This report presents the status of children in Oregon’s child protection system during FFY 2008 (October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008) in four key areas.

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2 Family servicesPage 9

Discussion of family issues that impact the need for child protective services -- and the programs available to assist families in keeping children safe and protected.

3 Foster care.....Page 15

Information on children served in the Oregon foster care system—contributing factors to the need for foster care, disproportionality, family connections and the services children receive while in foster care.

4 Adoption services.....Page 25

Discussion of adoption programs and services and the children adopted or placed in guardianships.

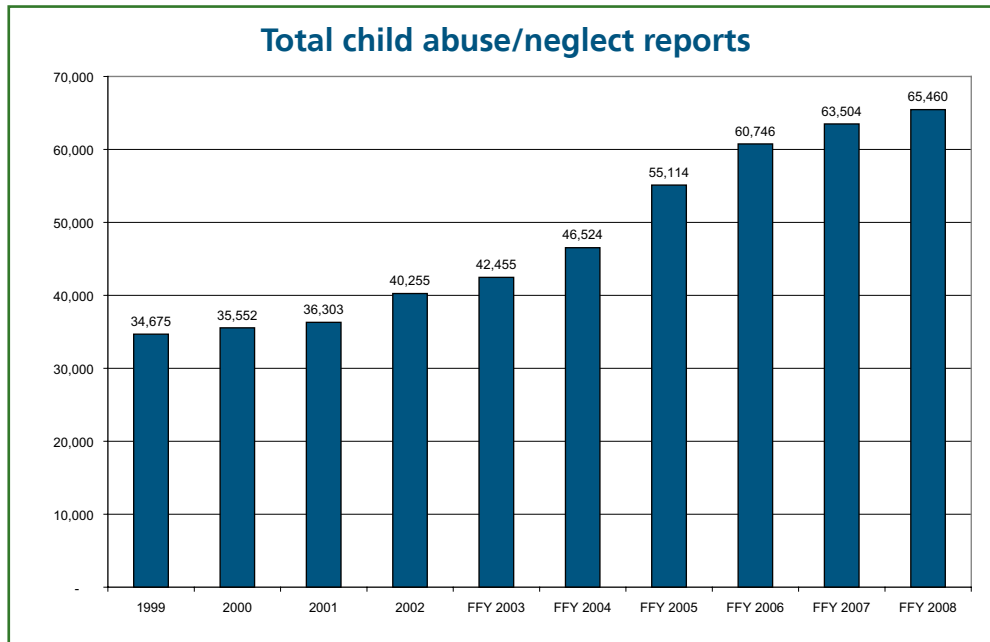


Child protective services

The number of abuse and neglect reports continues to increase — DHS received more than 65,000 reports of child abuse and neglect in FFY 2008.

During FFY 2008 DHS received 65,460 reports of suspected child abuse or neglect. Of those, 27,485 were referred for investigation.

Reports of alleged abuse and neglect



During FFY 2008:

- Public and private officials required by law to report suspected child abuse and neglect made 75.7 percent of the reports of abuse and neglect received by DHS.
- Of those reports, 39.0 percent came from schools and law enforcement agencies.
- Former spouses made 0.6 percent of the reports.

DHS immediately responds to reports of abuse and neglect involving familial relationships or when the alleged perpetrator has access to the child. In those situations, a Child Protective Services (CPS) worker makes face-to-face contact with the child, parents, siblings and alleged perpetrator to complete a comprehensive child safety assessment.

Source of child abuse/neglect reports

The response time for a worker to make contact is determined by the information collected from the reporter about access the alleged perpetrator has to the child. There are two types of response times —“within 24 hours” and “within 5 days.”

A within-24-hour response occurs when a report of abuse or neglect is received and the child is unsafe. A within-5-day response is used in circumstances where child safety will not be compromised and a more planned-out response will help ensure the safety of the child. The response time is determined by the CPS screener and begins when the report is received. Almost two-thirds of all investigated reports are assigned a within-24-hour response.

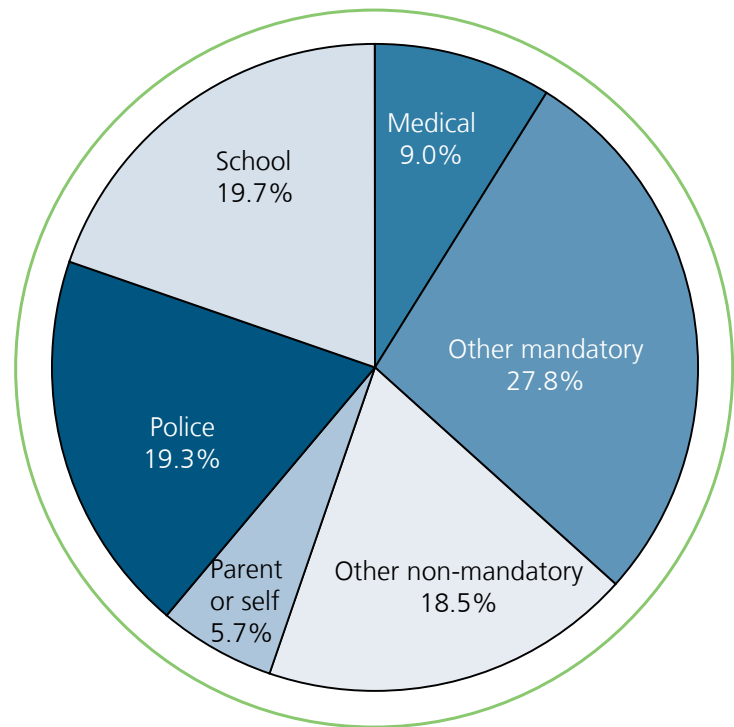
During FFY 2008 the average amount of time to respond to reports requiring contact within-24-hours was 21.0 hours; for the five-day response the average time was 3.8 days.

Of the reports referred for investigation, 6,943 (25.3 percent) were founded for abuse or neglect. The 6,943 founded referrals represent 10.6 percent of the total abuse and neglect report volume. Once there is a founded referral, children are considered victims of child abuse/neglect.

When DHS receives a report of abuse or neglect, and determines a child is unsafe at the conclusion of the CPS assessment, an in-home or out-of-home ongoing safety plan must be developed. If it is determined the child’s safety can be managed in the home and the family is willing to accept, cooperate with and is agreeable to in-home services, the child is able to remain in the home.

For FFY 2008, 63.2 percent of child victims remained in their homes. A total of 25.3 percent of the children who remained home had an ongoing safety plan implemented.

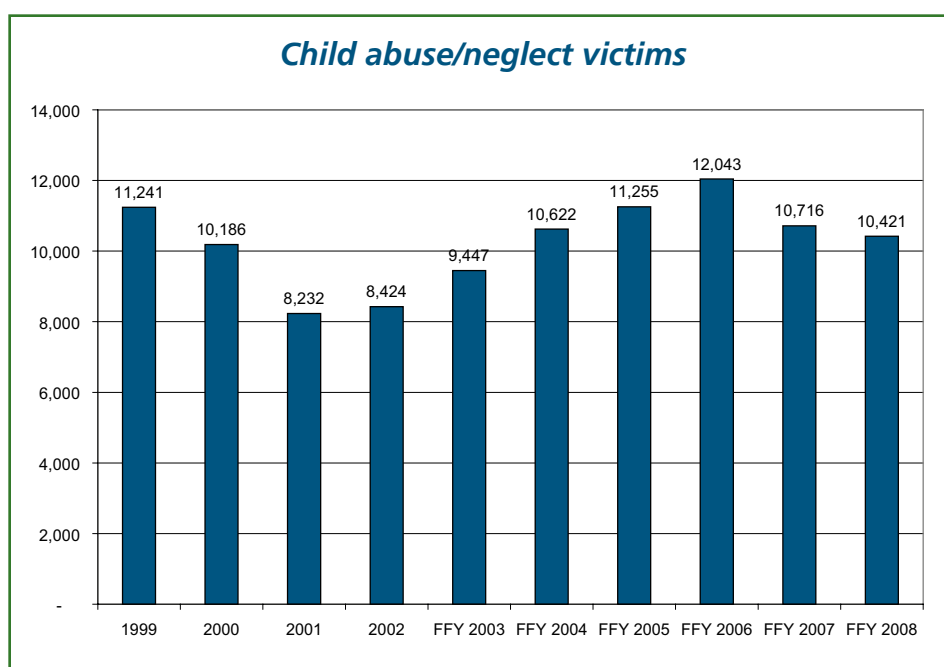
If separation of the child from the child’s home and parents is required, due to existing safety threats, then an out-of-home safety plan is necessary.



Victims of abuse and neglect

The number of abuse and neglect victims dropped to the lowest level in five years.

There were 10,421 unduplicated child abuse/neglect victims in FFY 2008, a 2.8 percent decrease from FFY 2007.



- Generally, the likelihood of being a victim declines as children get older. Infants make up the largest single age group of victims.
- 48.6 percent of victims were younger than 6 years old. The large number of young victims, as well as the intensity of family problems, results in more difficult cases that take longer to resolve.
- Older children also are victims of child abuse and neglect. In FFY 2008, 1,721 children age 13 and older were victims of abuse and neglect.
- Girls represent 52.6 percent of abuse/neglect victims.

In 2008, DHS expanded its capacity to report children having more than one race. In FFY 2008 a total of 3.8 percent of victims were of more than one race group. Just over 81 percent of the child victims in FFY 2008 who are of two or more race groups include Native American as one of the races, with 26.8% of children with two or more race groups including African American.

Total victims of abuse/neglect by age and gender

Age	Boys	Girls	Total	Percent of total
<1 year	771	659	1,430	13.7%
1	421	414	835	8.0%
2	385	360	745	7.1%
3	383	353	736	7.1%
4	327	344	671	6.4%
5	307	343	650	6.2%
6	293	301	594	5.7%
7	315	296	611	5.9%
8	278	253	531	5.1%
9	259	327	586	5.6%
10	228	254	482	4.6%
11	197	229	426	4.1%
12	173	230	403	3.9%
13	163	248	411	3.9%
14	155	256	411	3.9%
15	131	250	381	3.7%
16	86	226	312	3.0%
17	70	136	206	2.0%
Grand total	4,942	5,479	10,421	100.0%

2008 Race Comparison: Children in Oregon to Child abuse/neglect victims

Race	% of Oregon's children	% of victims of child abuse/neglect
Asian	3.7%	0.9%
Pacific Islander	0.3%	0.4%
African American	2.3%	5.6%
Caucasian	70.6%	56.8%
Hispanic (any race)	17.6%	15.7%
Native American	1.3%	4.8%
Two or more race groups	4.2%	na
Unknown/undeclared	na	15.8%

*2007 estimates of population younger than age 18, U.S. Census Bureau

Victims of child abuse/neglect, FFY 2006 - FFY 2008

Race	FFY 2006	FFY 2007	FFY 2008
Asian	0.9%	1.0%	0.9%
Pacific Islander	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%
African American	5.0%	5.9%	5.6%
Caucasian	58.1%	61.3%	56.8%
Hispanic (any race)	15.2%	14.0%	15.7%
Native American	4.9%	4.8%	4.8%
Unknown/undeclared	15.5%	12.7%	15.8%

Types of abuse and neglect incidents

During FFY 2008, although reports of child abuse and neglect rose overall, actual incidents of all abuse types declined by 3.7 percent from 2007 (from 13,306 to 12,820 incidents).

Each type of maltreatment experienced by a victim in a founded referral counts as an incident of child abuse/neglect. The number of incidents is larger than the number of victims because victims may have suffered more than one type of maltreatment and/or may have been involved in more than one founded referral.

Incidents	Number	Percent change from last year
Mental injury	241	6.2%
Physical abuse	1,018	3.9%
Neglect	4,216	-6.6%
Sexual abuse	1,104	-0.7%
Threat of harm	6,241	-3.6%
Total	12,820	-3.7%

Victims of sexual abuse

Age	Male	Female	Total
0-1	2	6	8
2-5	42	114	156
6-9	77	217	294
10-13	41	259	300
14-17	39	307	346
	201	903	1,104

- 35.4 percent of female victims age 14 or older are victims of sexual abuse
- 81.8 percent of sexual abuse victims are female.

Perpetrators of abuse and neglect

The perpetrators of child abuse and neglect are most often family members, making up 94.5 percent of all child abuse and neglect perpetrators. Mothers and fathers are the most prevalent perpetrators of child abuse/neglect. They represent 74.4 percent of all perpetrators.

Alleged perpetrator	Number	Percent
FAMILIAL		
Mother	6,210	43.7%
Father	4,350	30.6%
Live-in companion	756	5.3%
Ex live-in companion	322	2.3%
Stepfather	608	4.3%
Stepmother	73	0.5%
Stepsibling	45	0.3%
Brother	247	1.7%
Sister	26	0.2%
Foster parent/home	125	0.9%
Uncle	171	1.2%
Aunt	74	0.5%
Grandfather	148	1.0%
Grandmother	106	0.7%
Other relative	159	2.3%
Total Familial	13,420	94.5%

Alleged perpetrator	Number	Percent
NONFAMILIAL		
Neighbor/friend	149	1.0%
Unknown perpetrator	131	0.9%
Babysitter	41	0.3%
Other	457	3.2%
Total nonfamilial	778	5.5%
Total	14,198	100.0%

Fatalities related to familial child abuse and neglect

Lack of parental supervision is the top threat to Oregon's children.

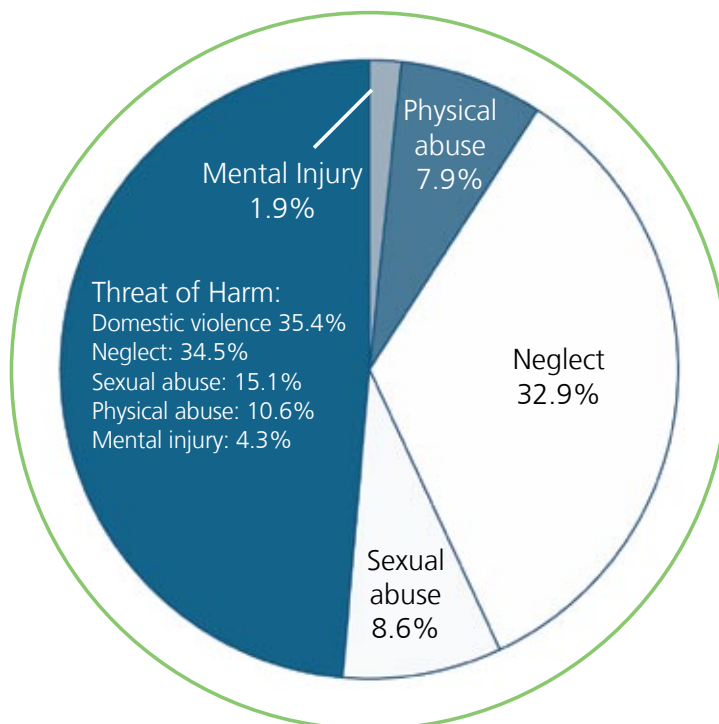
Fourteen children died from causes related to familial/caregiver abuse and/or neglect during FFY 2008. Twelve victims were age 5 and younger, demonstrating the vulnerability of this age group.

- In 12 of those fatalities at least one parent was a perpetrator. In one fatality both a parent and a live-in companion were the perpetrators. In one fatality just the live-in companion was the perpetrator.
- Ten fatalities were the result of neglect. Two fatalities were caused by abuse. Two fatalities were caused by both abuse and neglect.
- In four of the 14 fatalities, alcohol or other drugs were a factor.
- In nine of the fatalities, lack of appropriate supervision was a factor.
- No families had child welfare cases open for services at the time of the injury that led to the deaths of the children.

Number of child fatalities

Year	Abuse	Neglect	Abuse and neglect	Total
FFY 2008	2	10	2	14
FFY 2007	6	5	1	12
FFY 2006	7	5	5	17
FFY 2005	5	10	3	18
FFY 2004	5	3	0	8

Incidents of child abuse/neglect





Family services

Problems facing families

The major problems facing families of abused and neglected children are drug and/or alcohol abuse, domestic violence, and parental involvement with law enforcement.

Many families also have significant child care responsibilities. Some parents were abused as children. There usually are several stress factors in families of child abuse/neglect victims.

Stress factor	2006	2007	2008
Parent/caregiver alcohol or drug use	41.6%	38.5%	41.2%
Physical abuse of spouse/fighting	22.1%	23.6%	30.7%
Parent/caregiver involvement with law enforcement	25.3%	25.1%	27.7%
Head of household unemployed	11.8%	13.2%	16.1%
New baby/pregnancy	12.1%	12.6%	14.3%
Parent/caregiver history of abuse as a child	11.1%	11.0%	13.3%
Inadequate housing	7.2%	8.4%	11.7%
Heavy child care responsibilities	2.8%	3.1%	4.3%

Drug and alcohol abuse

At over 41 percent, alcohol and drug issues represent the largest single family problem when child abuse and/or neglect is present. Parents with alcohol or drug problems usually have additional issues. Their inability to remain clean and sober may result in job loss and homelessness, and create unsafe conditions for their children.

The Oregon Legislature provides funding to develop alcohol/drug treatment and housing services. CAF works with the Addictions and Mental Health Division (AMH) to reduce the barriers to treatment for parents. Available services include:

Outreach: Alcohol and drug outreach workers help parents get into alcohol and drug treatment as soon as possible. They help clients get on track with such things as transportation, finding child care and getting funds for treatment. They help identify and remove any barriers that might hinder a parent from staying clean and sober.

Recovery: Addiction recovery teams work with local resources to serve families with young children whose parents have alcohol and drug problems. At the center of each team is an alcohol and drug specialist. This specialist works

with community providers, courts, attorneys and health care professionals to build a support system to help parents reach recovery and stay clean and sober. These teams are located in each of the 16 DHS districts throughout the state. In addition, DHS received \$10 million dollars for treatment and recovery services for addicted parents through the Intensive Treatment and Recovery Services program. More than 700 parents accessed these services in 2008, and for parents who complete the treatment 95% were able to move toward reunification with their children.

Training and education

CAF and AMH:

- Educate and train foster parents, community members and other agencies serving high-risk parents;
- Help staff and community partners better understand the issues of addiction and treatment; and
- Learn new strategies to help parents and families reach and sustain the recovery that can change their lives.

Domestic violence

Domestic violence is a pattern of assaultive and/or coercive behaviors including physical, sexual and emotional abuses, as well as economic coercion adults use against their intimate partners to gain power and control in a relationship.

DHS Child Protective Services' authority to intervene with families is based on whether a child is being physically abused, sexually abused, neglected, suffering mental injury or subjected to a substantial risk of harm. Domestic violence may be present in cases where other types of abuse were the reason for the referral. Domestic violence may be the reason for the referral when it presents a substantial threat of harm to the child.

There usually are several stress factors in families of child abuse and neglect victims.

During the past several years DHS has increased staff training on domestic violence and updated a staff guide on responding to domestic violence cases. A copy of this guide can be found at http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/children/abuse/cps/dom_violence.shtml. DHS also has added "Threat of harm due to domestic violence" as a type of abuse.

Preserving families

Keeping families together

When it is safe, the victim of child abuse or neglect remains in the home. Child safety plans are developed for these families. Services to monitor in-home child safety may include housekeepers, homebuilders or other services that help support the parents ability to provide safety for their child.

DHS offers services both to monitor the child's safety in the home and to strengthen the family so the child will continue to be safe when DHS no longer is involved. Services are intended to improve parental protective capacities and may include teaching parenting skills, designing behavior modification programs, teaching conflict resolution and linking the family to broad-based community resources after treatment.

If a child cannot remain safely at home, he or she is placed in foster care and the family receives services to assist them in making changes that will allow their child to safely return home.

Strengthening families

DHS child welfare staff work with parents to develop case plans and decide on services to meet each child's safety, permanency, attachment and well-being needs. DHS and other community resources provide special rehabilitative services for the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

The DHS System of Care

DHS offers services under the System of Care approach, which uses principles of strength-based practice to better meet the individual needs of children and their families, so that children can be kept safe in their homes. The System of Care approach handles case planning in a manner that builds on the strengths of families, while ensuring the safety of children who are remaining in their homes, living with relatives or in foster care. DHS involves community partners in the development and delivery of services designed to meet the specific safety, permanency, attachment and well-being needs of the child and family.

Key elements of strengths/needs-based practice are found throughout the child welfare system:

- Parents are engaged in determining which services will best help them increase their protective capacity and become responsive to their child's safety needs.

- The needs of a child for safety, permanency, attachment and well-being are regularly assessed throughout the time a family is involved with DHS.
- The responsibility to strengthen the ability of families to meet the needs of a child is shared. Parents, extended families, foster parents and community partners all help meet the needs of a child.
- Case plans are crafted around individual needs of the parent and child. Unique services are delivered to the child and family in flexible ways.
- Coaching, mentoring, child-centered facilities and therapeutic supervision are used during visits to improve the bond between parent and child.
- Collaboration with community service providers establishes a broad base of community resources that can continue after DHS involvement ends.

Ensuring safe, permanent homes

Family-based services

The Family-Based Services (*FBS*) Program provides an array of services for children and families. Services are designed to strengthen families and increase a parent's ability to protect their child, and are intended to prevent foster care placement or to return a child home as soon as possible. Services are provided by contract in every county.

Each service type is designed to target problem areas children and their families typically experience when child welfare issues are present. Services complement traditional health, mental health and addiction recovery treatment programs, and are provided in collaboration with other community-based services.

Services include:

- Family decision meeting facilitation involves families in planning for the care of children in DHS custody.
- Parent training services provide experiential parent skill development to increase safety and well-being for the child, thereby avoiding foster care or allowing children to be returned home sooner.
- Intensive family services offer brief family therapy-based interventions in family homes or office settings.
- Supportive or remedial day care offers temporary child care assistance for parents needing respite or supportive services to complete required child welfare services.
- Family sexual abuse treatment is provided through psycho-educational groups for children who have been sexually abused and for their non-offending parents.

- Intensive home-based services are provided to families who need short-term intensive crisis intervention to maintain children in their homes.
- Aftercare services maintain changes achieved through family-based services.

Description	Number of services	Number of Families Served
Family decision meeting facilitation	4,544	3,546
Parent training services	2,805	1,699
Intensive family services	2,310	1,518
Family sexual abuse treatment	1,013	605
Supportive remedial daycare	616	499
Intensive home-based services	621	452
Aftercare services	185	155
Total FBS services	12,094	5,023*

*A family could receive more than one service during the year.

DHS also uses foster care prevention funds and System of Care funds to provide a variety of services in each county to help prevent children from entering foster care and to tailor services to each family's individual needs.



Foster care

Entering foster care

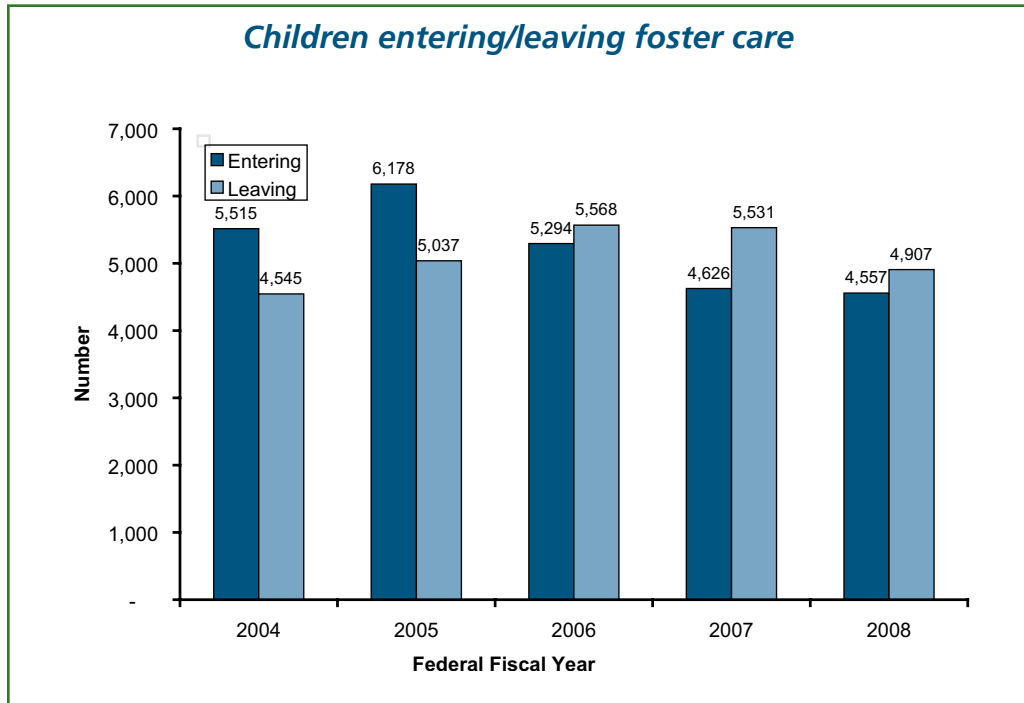
Contributing factors

Foster children range in age from birth to 18 (*age 21 for some children*) 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.

During FFY 2008, 53.0 percent of children who entered foster care had four or more reasons for removal from their homes.

Removal reason	FFY 2006		FFY 2007		FFY 2008	
	Number	% of entrants	Number	% of entrants	Number	% of entrants
Physical abuse	3,279	61.9%	2,957	63.9%	3,038	66.7%
Parent drug abuse	3,208	60.6%	2,554	55.2%	2,606	57.2%
Parent alcohol abuse	3,162	59.7%	2,546	55.0%	2,590	56.8%
Neglect abuse	2,631	49.7%	2,357	51.0%	2,160	47.4%
Child's behavior	2,452	46.3%	2,193	47.4%	2,157	47.3%
Inability to cope	1,605	30.3%	1,356	29.3%	1,534	33.7%
Inadequate housing	1,103	20.8%	1,061	22.9%	1,104	24.2%
Sexual abuse	390	7.4%	323	7.0%	342	7.5%
Child's disability	432	8.2%	312	6.7%	326	7.2%
Child drug abuse	79	1.5%	63	1.4%	54	1.2%
Child alcohol abuse	52	1.0%	52	1.1%	49	1.1%
Incarceration of parent	99	1.9%	60	1.3%	40	0.9%
Abandonment	83	1.6%	61	1.3%	32	0.7%
Death of parent	3	0.1%	3	0.1%	2	0.0%
Total number of foster care entrants	5,294		4,626		4,557	



Children served in foster care

During FFY 2008, 13,965 children spent at least one day in some kind of foster care. Of those, nearly 82.0 percent (11,450 children) were served in a family foster care setting.

Age of children served in foster care

Age group	Number	Percent
Age 0 - 5	5,486	39.3%
Age 6 - 12	4,494	32.2%
Age 13+	3,985	28.5%
Total served in foster care	13,965	100%

Almost 30 percent of children in family foster care were placed with relatives.

- Children younger than age 6 represented 39.3 percent of children served in foster care.
- Children ages 6-12 represented 32.2 percent of children served in foster care.
- Children age 13 and older made up 28.5 percent of the children served in foster care.

Disproportionate Representation

A very important goal is addressing the issue of disproportionate representation of minorities in foster care, especially Native American and African American children. Today, African American children make up 2.3 percent of Oregon’s child population, but they account for 7.3 percent of Oregon’s foster care population. Native American children make up 1.3 percent of Oregon’s population, but they account for 10 percent of Oregon’s foster care population. By comparison, white children comprise about 71 percent of Oregon’s child population but only 61.1 percent of Oregon’s foster care population. In FFY 08, a total of 17.4 percent of children served in foster care were of more than one race group.

Percent of Children Served in Foster Care by Race FFY08 (Race comparison: children in Oregon to children in foster care)

Race	% of Oregon’s children*	% of children in foster care
African American	2.3%	7.3%
Asian	3.7%	0.9%
Caucasian	70.6%	61.1%
Hispanic (any race)	17.6%	9.9%
Native American	1.3%	10.0%
Pacific Islander	0.3%	0.4%
Two or more race groups	4.2%	na
Unknown/undeclared	na	10.4%

*2007 estimates of population younger than 18, U.S. Census Bureau

Children Served in Foster Care, by Race FFY 2006-FFY 2008

Race	FFY 2006	FFY 2007	FFY 2008
African American	6.0%	6.8%	7.3%
Asian	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%
Caucasian	56.4%	63.1%	61.1%
Hispanic (any race)	12.2%	8.7%	9.9%
Native American	10.7%	9.9%	10.0%
Pacific Islander	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%
Unknown/undeclared	13.6%	10.4%	10.4%

This work is one of child welfare’s top priorities, and DHS is taking action to eliminate disparities and ensure that Oregon has a child welfare system that serves

every child and their family fairly and equitably. To support that goal, Governor Kulongoski issued an Executive order creating a statewide task force to study the issue and make research-based policy, practice, and workforce recommendations to the Legislature.

A new partnership with the Oregon Commission on Children and Families and Casey Family Programs is bringing new, catalytic resources to Oregon—both financial and technical—that will strengthen the foster care program and leverage new, focused community partnerships. Oregon has also launched pilot initiatives across the state, which will serve as models as Oregon begins statewide implementation of plans.

In related work, DHS has partnered with Oregon’s nine federally recognized Tribes to convene a first-ever “N8V Summit” to create action plans to reduce the over-representation of Native American children in state custody and improve the state’s compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act. In the 1970’s, Congress enacted the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), in response to a national crisis in which an alarmingly high percentage of Native American children were being removed from their families and tribal communities. ICWA assigns an enhanced responsibility to states to make “active efforts” to prevent

Indian child welfare act (ICWA) status

ICWA status	Number	Percent
ICWA eligible	632	4.5%
ICWA not eligible	13,333	95.5%
Total	13,965	100%

removal of tribal children from their families.

Maintaining community, family and sibling connections

DHS helps maintain connections for children placed in foster care by working to place children in their home communities, with relatives and by placing siblings together in out-of-home care.

The existing bond between siblings coming from dysfunctional families is stronger than for children raised in well-adjusted families. The bond between these brothers and sisters is unique; they learn early on to depend on and cooperate with each other to cope with their common problems.

It is often difficult to find foster families willing to take care of all of the children from a family. When siblings cannot be kept together, the separation adds to the children’s emotional burdens. For many children, this separation will be even

more traumatic because they often have stronger ties to their siblings than to their mother or father because of the abuse and/or neglect experienced at the hands of their parents.

- As of the last day of FFY 2008, there were 3,921 children in out-of-home foster care who were part of a sibling group. Of these children, 3,146 (80.2 percent) were placed with the same family as one or more of their siblings. The percent of children with siblings being placed with siblings is down slightly from those in care a year earlier, when 80.4 percent of children were placed with siblings.

There were 9,058 children in foster care as of September 30, 2008, the last day of the federal fiscal year. The settings for children in foster care include out-of-home foster care, trial home visits and pre-adoptive settings.

- 39.7 percent of children in foster care were placed with relatives, were with parents where DHS maintains custody, or were in a pre-adoptive home.

Maintaining stability while in foster care

It is DHS's goal to minimize the number of placements a child experiences while in foster care. Research suggests a link between placement instability and poor development. Studies have linked placement instability to children's aggression, coping difficulties, poor home adjustment and low self-esteem.

The benefits to foster children of experiencing placement stability are critical to their emotional, developmental and educational growth. Children who experience fewer moves in foster care tend to develop healthier attachments, experience more academic success and gain more useful life skills that assist them in their adult lives.

Frequent moves for a child in foster care (including the first move from the biological family) can result in the loss of one year developmentally and

Number of placements	2007		2008	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	2,788	29.2%	2,810	31.0%
2	2,529	26.5%	2,377	26.2%
3	1,408	14.7%	1,316	14.5%
4	849	8.9%	737	8.1%
5	529	5.5%	476	5.3%
6 or more	1,451	15.2%	1,342	14.8%
Total in care on 9/30	9,554	100.0%	9,058	100.0%

academically, as well as cause the child to fall behind in cognitive and social development when compared with children not in foster care.

- For children in care as of September 30, 2008, 57.3 percent of the children had two or fewer placements. This is an improvement over 2007.

Ensuring 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 provide the essential day-to-day parenting for these children until the children can return home or, if that is not possible, be placed with a permanent family.

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

DHS child welfare staff conduct thorough assessments and background checks on all 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.

During FFY 2008, DHS conducted background checks on, and certified, 1,877 new foster homes.

Each foster home is certified for a specific number of children. Foster parents may have special skills or preferences around ages and the special needs of children. Children who have been abused or neglected often need individualized attention and do better in homes with a limited number of children. It is the goal of DHS to carefully match children to a placement that meets their safety and well-being needs.

The department is always in need of foster parents to appropriately place children and keep children in their own communities.

- There were 4,735 family foster homes in Oregon as of September 30, 2008, a drop of 3 percent from the previous year.
- Of these homes, 36.9 percent were certified relative caregivers and 63.1 percent were non-relatives.

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.

Treating children's needs

Behavioral rehabilitation services

Behavioral rehabilitation services (BRS) provide the skill development necessary for children with debilitating emotional and behavioral challenges to return home or move to a less intensive level of care and to ultimately achieve permanence.

Children eligible for these services typically exhibit many of the following behaviors: aggression, mood disturbances, self-harm, running away, delinquency, sexual reactivity, victimizing and drug using.

Private agencies contracted to provide these services to Oregon's children must have the capability of addressing any and all of these behaviors in children who may be either male or female and who typically range in age from 6 through 17, although children younger than age 6 also may need these services.

In 2007, the Oregon legislature made a significant investment in BRS services which allowed DHS to expand services through 61 new contracts. The expansion of qualified providers meant that children could receive services closer to their home community.

More than 500 foster children per day receive these important services, including behavioral intervention, counseling and skill-building services in professional assessment and stabilization facilities, therapeutic foster care, and residential placement models. These service programs are administered through contracts with licensed private child-caring agencies.

On any given day during FFY 2008, behavioral rehabilitation services helped:

- 218 children in professional shelter programs, and
- 300 children in residential treatment settings.

Psychiatric residential treatment

Children in the state's custody whose mental health needs exceed or differ from the level or type of services provided by the BRS system may be served within the mental health services system in psychiatric residential placements or other mental health supported placements.

On any given day 65 foster children are served in psychiatric residential treatment settings. These children are directly served by the DHS Addictions and Mental Health Division.

Serving teens

Teenagers in foster care

Oregon Revised Statutes allow for children to remain in out-of-home care placement beyond the age of 18, and with a court order up to age 21.

During FFY 2008:

- Teens comprised 28.5 percent of the foster care population.
- A total of 3,985 teens spent at least one day in foster care.
- Teens who left foster care were reunited with their families 45.5 percent of the time.
- 198 current and former foster care youth received scholarships for higher education for the 2007-2008 school year through a federal grant awarded to DHS and implemented with the assistance of the Oregon Student Assistance Commission.

Comprehensive transition plans

Oregon law requires DHS to develop comprehensive transition plans for youths who are receiving services through DHS as a result of dependency, and to regularly report these plans to the court. These transition plans are required to include assessing and planning for the needs and goals of youths related to housing, physical and mental health, education, employment, community connections, and supportive relationships. The department also maintains voluntary services for youths to receive skills training.

Independent living programs

Foster care youths are eligible for Independent Living Program (ILP) services. ILP services are provided by 18 contracted community-based partners throughout the state.

- The number of youths receiving ILP services rose from 1,397 in FFY 2007 to 1,510 in FFY 2008, an increase of 8.1 percent.

ILP services help youths in foster care:

- Make the transition to self-sufficiency as adults;
- Receive the education, training and services necessary to obtain employment;
- Attain academic and/or vocational education and prepare for post-secondary training and education; and
- Obtain personal and emotional support and promote healthy interactions with dedicated adults.

Exiting foster care

Providing permanency and stability 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.

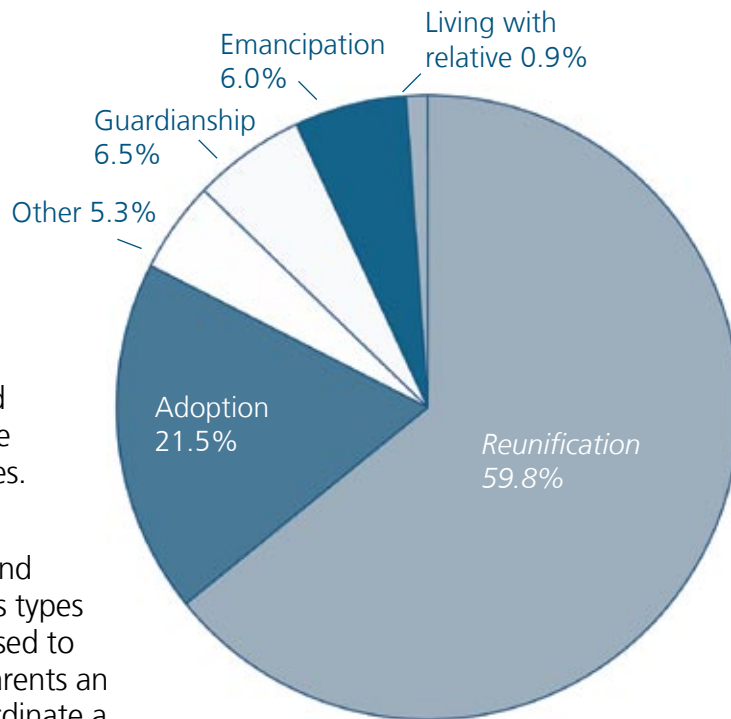
The child is returned home whenever it is possible to do so safely. DHS involves parents in planning to make their home a safe and healthy environment before their child returns home. However, the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) passed by Congress in 1997 limits the time parents have to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

During FFY 2008, 59.8% percent of children who left foster care were reunified with their families. If a child cannot return home, the law requires that an alternative permanency plan quickly be put into place.

Parents, extended families, foster parents and community partners work with DHS child welfare staff to make a plan for a permanent home for each child. Foster parents or relative caregivers can help with visits and can encourage parents to become involved in their children's activities.

Foster parents also can help the child and parents attend school and counseling appointments. Various types of family decision meetings are used to involve family members, foster parents and community partners to plan, coordinate and review these activities.

Most children leaving foster care are reunified with their parents. But for other children, a plan to reunify them with their parents does not occur for many reasons. These children who exit foster care may move on to various other living arrangements and permanent plans, such as adoption, guardianship or permanent relative care.



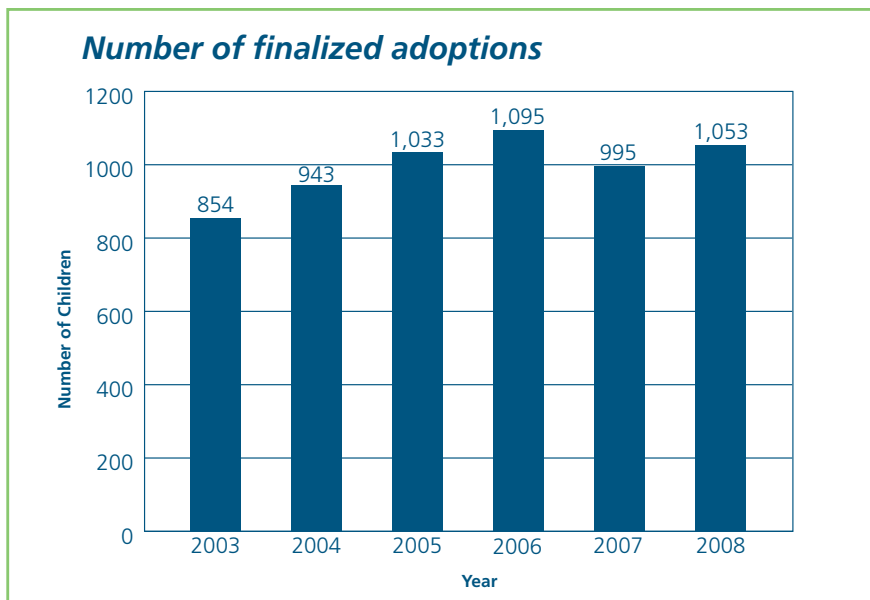


Adoption services

Promoting permanency

Adoptions

The DHS CAF Adoption Program promotes adoption and guardianship to help ensure permanent homes for children in foster care who are unable to return to the care of their biological parents. When it is determined that a child cannot return to the care of their biological parent(s), adoption or guardianship are the preferred permanency options. Over the years, Oregon progressively has increased the number of children achieving adoption.



CAF finalized adoptions for 1,053 children in FFY 2008, up from the previous year's 995 adoptions. Of the 1,053 children adopted, 241 were younger than age 3 at the time their adoption was finalized.

As children get older, the chances for an adoptive placement decrease dramatically, creating a critical need for adoptive homes for children older than age 7.

- Finalized adoptions in FFY 2008 were about evenly split between boys and girls.
- 30.5 percent of the children adopted during the year were ethnic minorities, up from 26.2 percent in the previous year.
- Adoptive homes for older children, children of color and sibling groups continue to be in high demand.

Age of adopted children

Age	Number of children	Percent of children	Gender	Number	Percent
less than 3	241	22.9%	Female	528	50.1%
3-4 years	251	23.8%	Male	525	49.9%
5-8 years	333	31.6%	Total	1,053	100.0%
9-10 years	103	9.8%			
11-13 years	83	7.9%			
14 and older	42	4.0%			
TOTAL	1,053	100.0%			

Race	Number of children	Percent of children
African American	79	7.5%
Asian	10	0.9%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	3	0.3%
Hispanic (any race)	218	20.7%
Native American	8	0.8%
Caucasian	732	69.5%
Unknown/Not Recorded	3	0.3%

In FFY 2008 a total of 5.6 percent of children with finalized adoptions were of more than one race group. Fifty of the 59 children (84.7 percent) who are of two or more race groups include African American as one of the races.

DHS places a high value on preserving and promoting relationships between siblings, placing them together in the same adoptive family whenever it is safe and possible to do so.

In FFY 2008, 559 children who were adopted had siblings also adopted during the year. Of these children, 535 (95.7 percent) were adopted by the same family as one or more of their siblings.

Adoption and guardianship services are provided statewide. Children who are adopted come from all areas of the state. Each DHS district has specialized staff who assist with the adoption process.

Federal and state laws require that preference must be given to relatives as the placement of choice for children unable to live safely with their parent(s).

Most families who adopt have some previous connection with the child prior to adoption. In FFY 2008, 77.3 percent of the children adopted from DHS were adopted by relatives or non-relative foster parents. Finding permanent homes for the remaining children requires DHS to recruit for homes from the general population within and outside of the state.

A primary goal of federal and state governments is to establish permanency for a child as soon as possible. The federal government has established parameters that guide states in this effort.

Establishing permanency in a timely way is one of the greatest child welfare challenges faced by state governments. Achieving timely adoptions continues to present challenges for Oregon. While the length of time to achieve adoption varies, the median time to adoption was 36.2 months for children whose adoptions were finalized in FFY 2008.

A key factor impacting Oregon's ability to establish permanency in a timely way is a shortage of available homes. CAF works diligently to recruit families who match the needs of each child. CAF also is currently expanding general, targeted and child-specific recruitments. The department hopes this will increase the number of available homes.

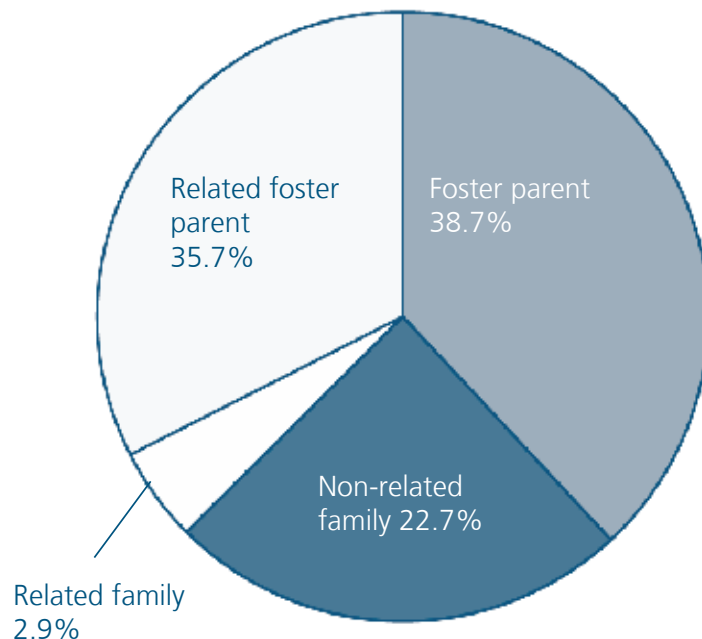
This careful process helps ensure adoptions will be successful. Statistics show 95.8 percent of Oregon's adoptive placements continued to finalization without disruption in FFY 2008.

The success of the DHS Adoption Program in achieving timely adoptions for children relies on strong partnerships with a variety of private sector agencies and individuals. These partnerships include:

- Special Needs Adoption Coalition, a group of 13 licensed Oregon private adoption agencies that recruit, train and link adoptive families with children;
- Boys and Girls Aid Society, which coordinates recruitment, training and screening of families, and contracts to operate the foster/adopt family inquiry telephone line;
- Northwest Adoption Exchange for nationwide recruitment of qualified adoptive families; and
- Approximately 75 out-of-state private adoption agencies that bring forward prospective adoptive families.

The department also collaborates with the state's two Heart Gallery organizations to recruit families. They are the Heart

Adoptive family relationship to child



Gallery of Oregon and The Heart Gallery of Lane County. Through the Heart Galleries, children who need an adoptive home are presented to the community through photo exhibits. Heart Galleries bring the message to local communities throughout the state that children need homes.

During FFY 2008 a total of 735 families adopted children, with 75.6 percent of those families recruited by CAF.

- 556 Oregon families recruited by CAF adopted 800 children.
- 44 families recruited by Oregon private adoption agencies adopted 57 children (5.4 percent). 48 families recruited by out-of-state private agencies adopted 75 children (7.1 percent).
- 87 families recruited by out-of-state public agencies adopted 121 children (11.5 percent).

While these efforts are commendable, there remains a shortage of homes willing and able to meet the needs of children in foster care. This means children wait longer to achieve permanency.

When adoption is the goal, a family is recruited that best matches the child's needs. Many factors are considered, including establishing permanency and maintaining ongoing relationships and connections for the child.

Because of their history of abuse and neglect, children who are adopted often have special needs:

Children with adoptions finalized in FFY 2008

Identified special need	Number	% of Children
Emotional disability	965	91.6%
Mental disability	78	7.4%
Physical disability	91	8.6%
Visual or hearing impaired	13	1.2%
Other condition or disability	908	86.2%

All children are entitled to the security of a permanent home. The stability of a safe, loving and nurturing home is vital to the overall well-being of children. The Adoption Program provides a comprehensive array of services and operations ranging from the recruitment of potential adoptive and guardianship families to support services that help ensure the success and longevity of the placement.

Adoption staff consist of social workers who have specialized training and expertise in adoption services. Through the development and implementation of policies, procedures and rules, the Adoption Program ensures Oregon's children are served in accordance with best-practice guidelines. Staff provide consultation,

facilitation and support to the decision-making process that determines whether adoption or guardianship is an appropriate case plan and in the best interests of the child. If the case plan is adoption, staff facilitate the termination of parental rights, either voluntarily or through court procedures. Potential adoptive families are recruited, trained and assessed for their ability to meet the needs of waiting children. Staff further coordinate and manage adoption assistance benefits.

In order to achieve the goal of sustaining adoptions, CAF makes a range of resources available to assist adoptive families. Adoption assistance and guardianship assistance benefits are available to children. These supplemental supports enhance the capacity of parents to meet the special needs of their children and strengthen placement stability. Adoptive children must have special needs to receive adoption assistance. The Adoption Assistance Program provides benefits such as medical coverage and monthly payments until the special-needs adopted child reaches the age of 18. One-time payments for unexpected needs also are available. Nearly all children adopted during FFY 2008 had special needs (*1,045 children, or 99.2 percent*) and received some sort of adoption assistance.

In addition to adoption assistance, Oregon provides other post-adoption support services. Adoptive families, at any time, are able to access support and assistance from their local DHS office through the Family-Based Services Program. Families also may receive ongoing post-adoption support services through the Oregon Post-Adoption Resource Center (*ORPARC*). ORPARC provides post-adoption support services to Oregon families who have adopted special-needs children from Oregon. The service also extends to families who have adopted from other states, and to families who have assisted guardianship arrangements for the care of their children.

Services provided statewide by ORPARC include:

- Information and referral, which provides continual research of statewide community resources;
- A database of regional/statewide resources;
- Assistance to initiate and maintain local adoption support groups;
- Parent training and education in both English and Spanish;
- Outreach to families via welcome packets, newsletters, e-mails, telephone lines, a toll-free number and Web site support;
- Advocacy;
- In-depth consultation; and
- A lending library that provides more than 700 books, audio and video tapes, CDs and DVDs. The library includes children's materials and

materials in both English and Spanish. Materials may be mailed to families at no cost to the families.

Other services offered by the Adoption Program are post-adoption communication agreements and search services. CAF recognizes and values the bond between children and their family of origin. CAF and many adoptive families recognize the importance of keeping siblings together and helping children stay connected with their family and community, as long as it is safe, appropriate and feasible to do so.

Oregon was the first state in the nation to use mediation for post-adoption communication agreements in parental rights termination cases. This process helps avoid the costly and stressful process of a court trial and lays the groundwork for the birth parents to be involved in planning for their child's future. In this process, the birth parents may voluntarily relinquish their parental rights. They play an important role in planning for their child and, in many cases, have ongoing communication with the child after the adoption is finalized.

An open adoption can work in the best interests of the child. Open adoption is defined as one in which there is some communication or contact between the birth relatives and the child and adoptive parent(s) after finalization. The scope of this communication typically ranges from an annual exchange of letters and/or pictures through confidential intermediary means to periodic telephone and/or face-to-face contact among the child, his or her adoptive family, and the child's family of origin. When incorporated into the child's adoption decree, such an agreement for post-adoption communication is legally binding.

During FFY 2008, 349 families who adopted children through CAF were referred for participation in mediation with one or more of their adopted children's birth parents. Through mediation, many of these families were able to reach an agreement regarding communication after finalization of the adoption.

Search services provided through the adoption program give adult adoptees whose adoptions occurred in Oregon the opportunity to search for information about their biological families. Biological parents also may come to CAF for assistance in searching for children who were adopted.

Guardianships

When a child cannot be returned home and adoption is not in the child's best interests, then the third best permanency option is guardianship. The number of children going to guardianship has increased during the past few years, though 2008 had fewer children exiting to guardianship than 2007. During FFY 2008 a

total of 316 children (6.3 percent of all children exiting foster care) exited to a guardianship. The majority of children go to guardianship with relatives.

- Almost 72% of guardianships are for children ages 6 and older.
- Children of all different racial and ethnic backgrounds exit to guardianship.

Children who go to guardianship also have assistance available to them to help sustain their placement. These children have the same background of child abuse/neglect and special needs as those children who exit to an adoptive home.

For children exiting to guardianship, a total of 12.0 percent of the children were of more than one race. A total of 76.3 percent of children who are of two or more race groups include African American as one of the races.

Exits to guardianship

Year	Number	% Change
2005	247	na
2006	259	4.9%
2007	334	29.0%
2008	316	-5.4%

Race	Number of children	Percent of children
African American	14	4.4%
Asian	1	0.3%
Hispanic (any race)	33	10.4%
Native American	48	15.2%
Caucasian	182	57.6%
Unknown/Not Recorded	38	12.0%

Age	Number	Percent
Age 0-5	89	28.2%
Age 6-12	141	44.6%
Age 13 and older	86	27.2%



Appendix: Q and A

Questions and answers about child abuse

Q: *What is child abuse?*

ORS 419B.005 defines child abuse as:

- Any assault, as defined in ORS chapter 163, of a child and any physical injury to a child that has been caused by other than accidental means. This includes any injury that appears to be at variance with the explanation of the injury.
- Any mental injury to a child. This includes only observable and substantial impairment of the child's mental or psychological ability to function caused by cruelty to the child. The child's culture is considered.
- Rape of a child includes, but is not limited to, rape, sodomy, unlawful sexual penetration and incest as those acts are defined in ORS chapter 163.
- Sexual abuse as defined in ORS chapter 163.
- Sexual exploitation, including use of children for pornography and prostitution.
- Negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child includes, but is not limited to, failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter or medical care. Any child who is under care or treatment solely by spiritual means pursuant to the religious beliefs or practices of the child or the child's parents or guardians shall not, for this reason alone, be considered a neglected or maltreated child.
- Threatened harm to a child means subjecting a child to substantial risk of harm to the child's health and welfare.
- Child selling includes buying, selling or trading for legal or physical custody of a child. This does not apply to legitimate adoptions or domestic relations planning.
- Permitting a person younger than 18 years of age to enter or remain in a place where methamphetamine is being manufactured.

Q: *If a parent spans a child, is it considered child abuse?*

Parents have a right to discipline their children. Simply spanking a child is not child abuse. However, tissue damage such as bruises, welts or lacerations may be signs of child abuse. Injuries such as these, not resulting from an accident, must be investigated.

Q: *What are child protective services?*

Child Protective Services (CPS) staff and law enforcement officials often work together when responding to reports of child abuse and neglect.

The Child Abuse Reporting Law, ORS 419B.005 to 419B.045, was enacted in 1971 and has been updated several times. The law was designed to provide early identification and protection of children who have been abused.

- When a report of suspected child abuse or neglect is received, CPS or a law enforcement agency responds. State policy requirements and protocols of the local multidisciplinary team are followed.
- The allegations are reviewed to determine if a child abuse assessment is appropriate. If not, the referral is said to be “closed at screening.”
- For those allegations requiring a face-to-face assessment, law enforcement and CPS staff investigate the allegations and determine responsibility for maltreatment of the child.
- A CPS-trained caseworker completes a safety assessment of the child, assesses caregiver protective capacity, and assesses supportive resources available to the family.
- After the investigation and assessment, an assessed referral is classified in one of three ways—founded, unfounded or unable to determine because of insufficient information.

CPS caseworkers identify and provide services to keep children safe. Wherever possible, the caseworker and other members of the team work collaboratively with the family. They prepare an action plan to provide safety for the child and use the strengths of the family.

Q: At what age can a child be left home alone?

Oregon law does not state specifically an age at which children may be left home alone. ORS 163.545 states that “a person having custody or control of a child younger than 10 years of age commits the crime of child neglect if, with criminal negligence, the person leaves the child unattended in or at any place for such period of time as may be likely to endanger the health or welfare of such child.”

Q: What is a mandatory reporter?

A mandatory reporter is someone required by law to report suspected child abuse or neglect. Mandatory reporters include:

- Physicians, interns and residents;
- Dentists;
- School employees;
- Licensed practical nurses and registered nurses;
- All employees of the Oregon Department of Human Services, State Commission on Children and Families, Child Care Division of the Employment Department, the Oregon Youth Authority, county health departments, community mental health and developmental disabilities programs, county juvenile departments, licensed child-serving agencies, and alcohol and drug treatment programs;
- Peace officers;

- Psychologists;
- Members of the clergy;
- Licensed clinical social workers;
- Optometrists;
- Chiropractors;
- Certified providers of foster care or any employee thereof;
- Attorneys;
- Naturopathic physicians;
- Firefighters;
- Emergency medical technicians;
- Licensed professional counselors;
- Licensed marriage and family therapists;
- Court-appointed special advocates as defined in ORS 412A.004;
- Child care providers registered or certified under ORS 657A.030 and 657A.250 to 657A.450; and
- All members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly.

Mandatory reporters must inform either DHS or a law enforcement agency if they have reasonable cause to believe they have had contact with a child who has suffered abuse or neglect, or a person who has abused or neglected a child. The law applies to any contact a mandatory reporter has with such a child or other person. There can be more than one reporter per child abuse/neglect report.

In addition, any other person may make a report of suspected child abuse/ neglect.

Q: What is threat of harm?

Threat of harm is a type of abuse and neglect. Threat of harm includes all activities, conditions and circumstances that place a child at threat of substantial harm or maltreatment.

Threat of substantial harm means threat of immobilizing impairment, life-threatening damage, or significant or acute injury to a child's physical, sexual, psychological or mental development or functioning. Examples of threat of harm include:

- Children living with a convicted sex offender (*e.g., a mother's boyfriend*),
- Children living in a serious domestic violence situation where they are likely to be injured, and
- Siblings of victims who have received serious injuries or have died from child abuse or neglect.

Appendix: County information

CPS assessments are given a disposition of Founded, Unfounded or Unable to Determine. When an assessment is founded, the children associated with that founded assessments are victims of child abuse/neglect.

FFY 2008 Assessments by disposition and county

County	Founded	Unfounded	Unable to determine	Total
BAKER	46	86	26	158
BENTON	62	154	42	258
CLACKAMAS	377	1,143	606	2,126
CLATSOP	79	201	53	333
COLUMBIA	78	302	64	444
COOS	160	258	152	570
CROOK	32	88	15	135
CURRY	10	54	25	89
DESCHUTES	185	499	23	707
DOUGLAS	161	449	118	728
GILLIAM	7	1-5**	1-5**	15
GRANT	12	43	9	64
HARNEY	29	62	1-5**	92-96**
HOOD RIVER	19	77	34	130
JACKSON	398	162	1,037	1,597
JEFFERSON	49	105	7	161
JOSEPHINE	156	166	356	678
KLAMATH	258	290	215	763
LAKE	10	36	15	61
LANE	600	1,254	413	2,267
LINCOLN	91	174	145	410
LINN	352	474	350	1,176
MALHEUR	97	258	39	394
MARION	840	1,673	209	2,722
MORROW	40	51	16	107
MULTNOMAH	1,484	3,753	1,425	6,662
POLK	133	250	28	411
SHERMAN	9	12	1-5**	22-26**
TILLAMOOK	37	176	23	236
UMATILLA	185	401	156	742
UNION	74	112	29	215
WALLOWA	16	13	1-5**	30-34***
WASCO	66	146	24	236
WASHINGTON	627	1,112	496	2,235
WHEELER	1-5**	1-5**	1-5**	9
YAMHILL	129	242	20	391
STATE*	6,943	14,343	6,199	27,485

*State total includes investigations by DHS Office of Investigations & Training

**Range given in order to assure confidentiality

The number of victims of child abuse/neglect in Oregon has been declining. To compare victim rates across counties of varying sizes, the rate of victims per 1,000 children in the county is used. The rate per 1,000 is affected by numerous factors including screening procedures, public awareness and the extent of other community resources. Population estimates are from The Center for Population Research and Census at Portland State University. The population numbers represent the number of children younger than age 18 in each county.

Victim rate per 1,000 children, by county, FFY 2006-2008

County	Population under 18			Victims			Rate per 1,000		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
BAKER	3,497	3,428	3,271	74	72	63	21.2	21.0	19.3
BENTON	15,986	15,630	17,843	103	99	101	6.4	6.3	5.7
CLACKAMAS	89,864	90,182	89,853	600	601	548	6.7	6.7	6.1
CLATSOP	8,066	8,019	8,092	90	94	92	11.2	11.7	11.4
COLUMBIA	11,831	11,852	11,530	182	119	120	15.4	10.0	10.4
COOS	12,928	12,820	12,542	245	227	234	19.0	17.7	18.7
CROOK	6,150	6,454	6,496	68	60	45	11.1	9.3	6.9
CURRY	3,731	3,704	3,496	50	35	17	13.4	9.4	4.9
DESCHUTES	34,382	35,666	36,442	313	275	268	9.1	7.7	7.4
DOUGLAS	22,762	22,619	22,446	296	248	243	13.0	11.0	10.8
GILLIAM	404	401	365	8	18	10	19.8	44.9	27.4
GRANT	1,729	1,686	1,600	44	24	19	25.5	14.2	11.9
HARNEY	1,800	1,778	1,669	55	42	37	30.6	23.6	22.2
HOOD RIVER	5,713	5,715	5,537	72	32	29	12.6	5.6	5.2
JACKSON	45,310	45,605	46,232	879	760	577	19.4	16.7	12.5
JEFFERSON	6,129	6,284	6,116	65	43	70	10.6	6.8	11.4
JOSEPHINE	17,264	17,320	17,116	271	213	242	15.7	12.3	14.1
KLAMATH	16,126	16,094	15,947	416	373	417	25.8	23.2	26.1
LAKE	1,726	1,724	1,560	30	20	27	17.4	11.6	17.3
LANE	71,898	71,361	73,645	793	799	912	11.0	11.2	12.4
LINCOLN	8,674	8,572	8,320	156	116	119	18.0	13.5	14.3
LINN	27,024	27,113	27,040	614	671	502	22.7	24.7	18.6
MALHEUR	8,268	8,136	7,970	244	187	152	29.5	23.0	19.1
MARION	81,158	81,790	82,373	1,662	1,387	1,404	20.5	17.0	17.0
MORROW	3,448	3,465	3,503	70	69	63	20.3	19.9	18.0
MULTNOMAH	155,818	157,184	159,555	2,281	2,271	2,099	14.6	14.4	13.2
POLK	15,460	15,343	16,088	241	244	217	15.6	15.9	13.5
SHERMAN	413	400	368	1-5*	9	16	2.4-12.1*	22.5	43.5
TILLAMOOK	5,077	5,058	4,794	81	37	55	16.0	7.3	11.5
UMATILLA	18,823	18,639	18,402	246	253	275	13.1	13.6	14.9
UNION	5,882	5,838	6,051	121	103	110	20.6	17.6	18.2
WALLOWA	1,482	1,450	1,339	33	17	26	22.3	11.7	19.4
WASCO	5,906	5,894	5,791	122	103	101	20.7	17.5	17.4
WASHINGTON	134,862	137,742	137,701	1,212	882	957	9.0	6.4	6.9
WHEELER	315	315	279	1-5*	6	1-5**	3.2-15.9**	19.0	3.6-17.9**
YAMHILL	22,371	22,263	22,991	299	207	226	13.4	9.3	9.8
State*	872,280	877,547	884,364	12,043	10,716	10,421	13.8	12.2	11.8

*State total includes investigations by DHS Office of Investigations & Training

**Range given in order to assure confidentiality

Each type of maltreatment experienced by a victim in a founded referral counts as an incident of child abuse/neglect. The number of incidents is larger than the number of victims because victims may have suffered more than one type of maltreatment and/or may have been involved in more than one founded referral.

FFY 2008 Incidents of child abuse/neglect, by county

County	Mental injury	Neglect	Physical	Sexual abuse and exploitation	Threat of harm
BAKER	1-5**	25	9	1-5**	36
BENTON	-	56	11	10	41
CLACKAMAS	6	163	48	93	281
CLATSOP	-	29	15	11	65
COLUMBIA	1-5**	24	29	12	81
COOS	7	113	30	26	116
CROOK	-	19	7	9	16
CURRY	1-5**	1-5**	1-5**	1-5**	8
DESCHUTES	1-5**	116	40	31	122
DOUGLAS	-	66	15	32	177
GILLIAM	-	1-5**	-	-	9
GRANT	1-5**	9	-	1-5**	11
HARNEY	-	28	8	1-5**	16
HOOD RIVER	-	15	1-5**	7	1-5**
JACKSON	19	249	50	64	423
JEFFERSON	-	35	11	12	25
JOSEPHINE	6	161	19	28	101
KLAMATH	42	123	49	23	399
LAKE	-	18	1-5**	-	17
LANE	47	358	74	74	568
LINCOLN	15	40	13	17	57
LINN	1-5**	208	44	70	282
MALHEUR	1-5**	110	19	10	55
MARION	25	864	94	89	640
MORROW	-	31	9	13	26
MULTNOMAH	28	582	210	233	1429
POLK	-	149	15	16	73
SHERMAN	1-5**	1-5**	-	1-5**	10
TILLAMOOK	-	15	1-5**	13	30
UMATILLA	1-5**	118	22	41	190
UNION	-	48	17	9	62
WALLOWA	-	13	-	-	17
WASCO	-	1-5**	15	10	81
WASHINGTON	18	321	90	91	648
WHEELER	-	-	-	1-5**	1-5**
YAMHILL	6	87	24	41	121
STATE*	241	4,216	1,018	1,104	6,241

*State total includes investigations by DHS Office of Investigations & Training

**Range given in order to assure confidentiality

Foster care rate per 1,000 children (on 9/30/08), by county

County	Child population			Number in foster care on 9/30			Rate per 1,000 children		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
BAKER	3,497	3,428	3,271	39	29	40	11.2	8.5	12.2
BENTON	15,986	15,630	17,843	47	49	45	2.9	3.1	2.5
CLACKAMAS	89,864	90,182	89,853	414	350	281	4.6	3.9	3.1
CLATSOP	8,066	8,019	8,092	104	80	83	12.9	10.0	10.3
COLUMBIA	11,831	11,852	11,530	155	153	116	13.1	12.9	10.1
COOS	12,928	12,820	12,542	224	191	203	17.3	14.9	16.2
CROOK	6,150	6,454	6,496	56	39	32	9.1	6.0	4.9
CURRY	3,731	3,704	3,496	41	47	39	11.0	12.7	11.2
DESCHUTES	34,382	35,666	36,442	170	115	106	4.9	3.2	2.9
DOUGLAS	22,762	22,619	22,446	331	276	279	14.5	12.2	12.4
GILLIAM	404	401	365	9	9	10	22.3	22.4	27.4
GRANT	1,729	1,686	1,600	17	12	15	9.8	7.1	9.4
HARNEY	1,800	1,778	1,699	44	39	28	24.4	21.9	16.8
HOOD RIVER	5,713	5,715	5,537	40	36	33	7.0	6.3	6.0
JACKSON	45,310	45,605	46,232	602	541	523	13.3	11.9	11.3
JEFFERSON	6,129	6,284	6,116	40	44	44	6.5	7.0	7.2
JOSEPHINE	17,264	17,320	17,116	181	168	217	10.5	9.7	12.7
KLAMATH	16,126	16,094	15,947	333	277	244	20.7	17.2	15.3
LAKE	1,726	1,724	1,560	14	9	17	8.1	5.2	10.9
LANE	71,898	71,361	73,645	1,261	1,185	1,130	17.5	16.6	15.3
LINCOLN	8,674	8,572	8,320	133	119	102	15.3	13.9	12.3
LINN	27,024	27,113	27,040	360	356	273	13.3	13.1	10.1
MALHEUR	8,268	8,136	7,970	96	76	76	11.6	9.3	9.5
MARION	81,158	81,790	82,373	1,443	1,301	1,240	17.8	15.9	15.1
MORROW	3,448	3,465	3,503	25	23	18	7.2	6.6	5.1
MULTNOMAH	155,818	157,184	159,555	2,568	2,398	2,329	16.5	15.3	14.6
POLK	15,460	15,343	16,088	222	211	182	14.4	13.8	11.3
SHERMAN	413	400	368	1-5**	1-5**	9	2.3-12.1**	2.5-12.5**	24.4
TILLAMOOK	5,077	5,058	4,794	37	29	27	7.3	5.7	5.6
UMATILLA	18,823	18,639	18,402	184	128	133	9.8	6.9	7.2
UNION	5,882	5,838	6,051	61	25	29	10.4	4.3	4.8
WALLOWA	1,482	1,450	1,339	1-5**	1-5**	1-5**	0.7-3.4**	0.7-3.4**	0.8-3.7**
WASCO	5,906	5,894	5,791	85	92	80	14.4	15.6	13.8
WASHINGTON	134,862	137,742	137,701	1,093	930	854	8.1	6.8	6.2
WHEELER	315	315	279	1-5**	0	0	3.2-15.9**	0.0	0.0
YAMHILL	22,371	22,263	22,991	135	131	131	6.0	5.9	5.7
STATE*	872,280	877,547	884,364	10,661	9,554	9,058	12.2	11.0	10.2

*State total includes IV-E eligible children served by the tribes

**Range given in order to assure confidentiality

FFY 2008 Foster care entrants & exits

County	Number entering	Number exiting
BAKER	23	14
BENTON	31	33
CLACKAMAS	190	254
CLATSOP	45	41
COLUMBIA	67	97
COOS	127	113
CROOK	20	25
CURRY	19	27
DESCHUTES	66	75
DOUGLAS	142	138
GILLIAM	1-5**	1-5**
GRANT	1-5**	1-5**
HARNEY	13	20
HOOD RIVER	17	21
JACKSON	261	262
JEFFERSON	32	32
JOSEPHINE	128	79
KLAMATH	133	163
LAKE	16	9
LANE	462	500
LINCOLN	57	73
LINN	175	254
MALHEUR	58	58
MARION	720	756
MORROW	14	18
MULTNOMAH	906	926
POLK	123	146
SHERMAN	10	1-5**
TILLAMOOK	15	17
UMATILLA	72	67
UNION	25	21
WALLOWA	1-5**	7
WASCO	38	50
WASHINGTON	413	477
YAMHILL	71	68
STATE*	4,557	4,907

*State total includes IV-E eligible children served by the tribes

**Range given in order to assure confidentiality

FFY 2008 Number of children experiencing at least 1 day in foster care (all types), by county and age on 9/30/2008

County	Age 0-5	Age 6-12	Age 13+	Total
BAKER	18	14	22	54
BENTON	30	26	22	78
CLACKAMAS	197	148	190	535
CLATSOP	42	31	51	124
COLUMBIA	69	88	56	213
COOS	130	107	79	316
CROOK	19	20	18	57
CURRY	18	20	28	66
DESCHUTES	62	50	69	181
DOUGLAS	172	152	93	417
GILLIAM	1-5**	1-5**	6	12
GRANT	1-5**	1-5**	9	17
HARNEY	13	19	16	48
HOOD RIVER	16	14	24	54
JACKSON	385	269	131	785
JEFFERSON	26	21	29	76
JOSEPHINE	110	102	84	296
KLAMATH	151	130	126	407
LAKE	6	11	9	26
LANE	648	611	371	1,630
LINCOLN	62	56	57	175
LINN	226	179	122	527
MALHEUR	63	37	34	134
MARION	844	658	494	1,996
MORROW	19	10	7	36
MULTNOMAH	1,135	934	1,186	3,255
POLK	141	100	87	328
SHERMAN	6	1-5**	1-5**	14
TILLAMOOK	22	8	14	44
UMATILLA	104	66	30	200
UNION	24	8	18	50
WALLOWA	1-5**	1-5**	1-5**	9
WASCO	53	48	29	130
WASHINGTON	521	434	376	1,331
YAMHILL	71	55	73	199
STATE	5,486	4,494	3,985	13,965

*State total includes IV-E eligible children served by the tribes

**Range given in order to assure confidentiality

FFY 2008 Number of certified foster homes on 9/30/08 by certification type

County	Regular certified homes	Special certified homes	Total
BAKER	30	1-5**	31-35**
BENTON	20	17	37
CLACKAMAS	132	102	234
CLATSOP	41	22	63
COLUMBIA	36	46	82
COOS	77	39	116
CROOK	14	9	23
CURRY	20	10	30
DESCHUTES	29	47	76
DOUGLAS	85	81	166
GILLIAM	8	1-5**	9-13**
GRANT	14	1-5**	15-19**
HARNEY	18	7	25
HOOD RIVER	12	8	20
JACKSON	146	140	286
JEFFERSON	14	7	21
JOSEPHINE	66	59	125
KLAMATH	41	44	85
LAKE	14	1-5**	15-19**
LANE	245	325	570
LINCOLN	32	30	62
LINN	100	83	183
MALHEUR	47	15	62
MARION	177	286	463
MORROW	7	10	17
MULTNOMAH	432	618	1,050
POLK	53	36	89
SHERMAN	1-5**	1-5**	1-5**
TILLAMOOK	20	8	28
UMATILLA	46	36	82
UNION	19	8	27
WALLOWA	7	0	7
WASCO	30	24	54
WASHINGTON	160	240	400
WHEELER	1-5**	0	1-5**
YAMHILL	39	41	80
STATE*	2,285	2,450	4,735

*State total includes Tribal homes and homes that are physically located outside the state.

**Range given in order to assure confidentiality

FFY 2008 Number of newly certified foster homes, by county of certification

County	Regular certified homes	Special certified homes	Total new homes
BAKER	1-5**	0	1-5**
BENTON	1-5**	12	13-17**
CLACKAMAS	43	59	102
CLATSOP	9	17	26
COLUMBIA	1-5**	25	26-30**
COOS	17	45	62
CROOK	1-5**	6	7-11*
CURRY	1-5**	1-5**	6
DESCHUTES	0	34	34
DOUGLAS	19	57	76
GILLIAM	1-5**	1-5**	1-5**
GRANT	1-5**	0	1-5**
HARNEY	1-5**	0	1-5**
HOOD RIVER	0	1-5**	1-5**
JACKSON	29	80	109
JEFFERSON	1-5**	7	8-12**
JOSEPHINE	15	34	49
KLAMATH	11	38	49
LAKE	6	1-5**	7-11**
LANE	24	178	202
LINCOLN	6	20	26
LINN	19	67	86
MALHEUR	15	1-5**	16-20**
MARION	26	199	225
MORROW	1-5**	7	8-12**
MULTNOMAH	42	325	367
POLK	7	34	41
TILLAMOOK	1-5**	1-5**	6
UMATILLA	8	23	31
UNION	1-5**	1-5**	7
WALLOWA	1-5**	1-5**	1-5**
WASCO	12	7	19
WASHINGTON	16	157	173
WHEELER	1-5**	0	1-5**
YAMHILL	8	24	32
STATE*	382	1,495	1,877

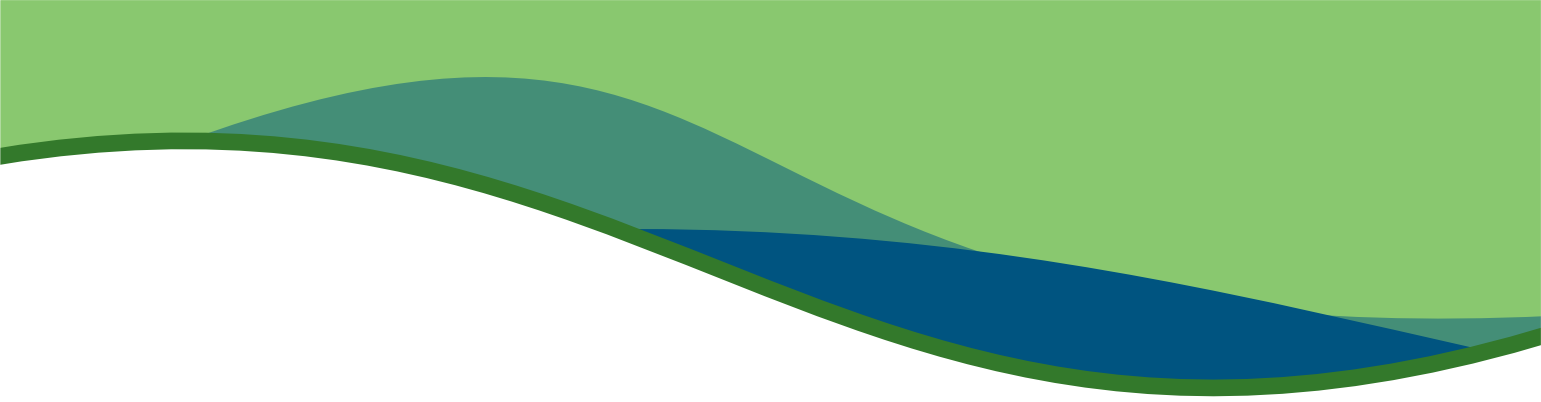
*State total includes Tribal homes and homes that are physically located outside the state.

**Range given in order to assure confidentiality

FFY 2008 Children with finalized adoptions, by district

Area of state	Children came from	Children went to
District 1: Clatsop/Columbia/Tillamook	16	23
District 2: Multnomah	222	119
District 3: Marion/Polk/Yamhill	154	104
District 4: Benton/Lincoln/Linn	69	68
District 5: Lane	220	175
District 6: Douglas	27	29
District 7: Coos/Curry	35	16
District 8: Jackson/Josephine	56	61
District 9: Gilliam/Wheeler/Hood River/ Wasco/Sherman	13	8
District 10: Crook/Deschutes/Jefferson	7	24
District 11: Klamath/Lake	44	29
District 12: Morrow/Umatilla	17	15
District 13: Baker/Union/Wallowa	6-10**	1-5**
District 14: Grant/Harney/Malheur	1-5**	6-10**
District 15: Clackamas	51	51
District 16: Washington	110	65
Oregon private licensed adoption agencies or out of state		255

***Range given in order to assure confidentiality*



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