

Children Maltreated in Foster Care - SFY 2009-2013

	SFY 2013		SFY 2012		SFY 2011		SFY 2010		SFY 2009	
Total Number of Children Maltreated in Care	48		50		42		44		31	
Maltreatment Type	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Abuse & Neglect										
Physical Abuse & Improper Medical Care	-	-	-	-	1	2.38%	-	-	-	-
Physical Abuse & Improper Supervision	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6.82%	-	-
Physical Abuse & Injurious Environment	-	-	-	-	1	2.38%	1	2.27%	-	-
Sexual Abuse & Injurious Environment	5	10.20%	-	-	1	2.38%	-	-	-	-
Abuse										
Physical Abuse	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	13.64%	3	9.68%
Sexual Abuse	1	2.04%	5	10.00%	6	14.29%	6	13.64%	2	6.45%
Neglect										
Improper Care	3	6.12%	3	6.00%	2	4.76%	3	6.82%	-	-
Improper Discipline (No Physical Injury)	6	12.24%	7	14.00%	12	28.57%	4	9.09%	6	19.35%
Improper Discipline (With Physical Injury)	6*	12.24%	6	12.00%	4	9.52%	5	11.36%	5	16.13%
Improper Medical Care	-	-	1	2.00%	-	-	1	2.27%	1	3.23%
Improper Supervision	14*	28.57%	10	20.00%	9	21.43%	6	13.64%	4	12.90%
Injurious Environment	13	26.53%	13	26.00%	3	7.14%	8	18.18%	7	22.58%
Injurious Environment (Domestic Violence)	1	2.04%	3	6.00%	1	2.38%	-	-	3	9.68%
Injurious Environment (Substance Abuse)	-	-	2	4.00%	2	4.76%	1	2.27%	-	-

* The total number of children maltreated in care for each year is unduplicated (top row of chart).

SFY 2013 was the only year an individual child was maltreated more than once while in Foster Care.

That child is shown in the neglect count under both maltreatment types (indicated by *)

In order to reflect 100% of instances of maltreatment, the total percentages for each type are figured on a demoninator of 49 children, rather than the 48 total shown at the top of the chart.

For SFY 2009-2012 there was no repeat maltreatment of children in care, therefore there are no duplicated counts.

Children Adopted by Foster Parents in North Carolina - SFY 2009-2013

	SFY 2013	SFY 2012	SFY 2011	SFY 2010	SFY 2009
Number of Children Adopted by their Foster Parents	303	307	386	404	361
Number of Children Adopted from DSS	1,133	1,275	1,296	1,474	1,538
Percentage of Children Adopted by their Foster Parents	26.74%	24.08%	29.78%	27.41%	23.47%

Children Exiting Foster Care in North Carolina - SFY 2009-2013

	SFY 2013		SFY 2012		SFY 2011		SFY 2010		SFY 2009	
Total Number of Children Exiting Care	4,622		5,224		5,247		5,170		5,520	
Reason for Exiting Care	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Reunification	1,535	33.21%	1,646	31.51%	1,849	35.24%	1,722	33.31%	1,903	34.47%
Adoption	1,133	24.51%	1,275	24.41%	1,296	24.70%	1,474	28.51%	1,538	27.86%
Emancipation	455	9.84%	539	10.32%	509	9.70%	516	9.98%	455	8.24%
Other	1,499	32.43%	1,764	33.77%	1,593	30.36%	1,458	28.20%	1,624	29.42%

Length of Time in Foster Care in North Carolina - by cohort - SFY 2009-2013

	SFY 2013		SFY 2012		SFY 2011		SFY 2010		SFY 2009	
Total Number of Children in Cohort [4]	4,801		4,561		4,694		4,563		4,702	
Median Number of Days in Care [5]	N/A		473		434		452		454	
Children Remaining in Care	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
After 90 days	4,337	90.34%	4,017	88.07%	4,149	88.39%	4,050	88.76%	4,135	87.94%
After 180 days	3,963	82.55%	3,612	79.19%	3,711	79.06%	3,667	80.36%	3,713	78.97%
After 360 days	2,994	62.37%	2,762	60.56%	2,777	59.16%	2,769	60.68%	2,822	60.02%
After 450 days	2,585	53.84%	2,382	52.23%	2,273	48.42%	2,289	50.16%	2,364	50.28%
After 540 days	2,250	46.86%	2,039	44.71%	1,867	39.77%	1,817	39.82%	1,955	41.58%
After 720 days	N/A	N/A	1,474	32.32%	1,269	27.03%	1,222	26.78%	1,386	29.48%
After 1080 days	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	616	13.13%	536	11.75%	615	13.08%

[4] A "cohort" is a group of children who entered DSS custody/placement authority for the very first time in a given fiscal year. This way of organizing the data ensures that each child is counted only once and that reentries to care are distinguished from initial entries.

[5] The median number of days reflects the point in time at which half of all of the children in the cohort have left care.

North Carolina DHHS Family Foster Home Licensure Requirements

Background Checks (Applicants and Adult Household Members):

- National Fingerprint based criminal record check (Adam Walsh Act)
- Local Court Record
- NC Department of Corrections Offender Database
- NC Sex Offender and Public Protection Registry
- Health Care Personnel Registry
- Responsible Individuals List
- Child Abuse/Neglect Clearance Letters from other states (for applicants/household members have not lived in NC for the past five years)

Medical/Mental Health Clearance:

- Applicants and all household members must receive a Medical Evaluation from a licensed medical provider. This evaluation provides documentation that there are not any physical or mental health issues that will prevent the applicants from caring for foster children.
- Foster home licensing social workers must discuss the following issues with applicants:
 - Any indication of alcohol abuse, drug abuse or illegal drug use by applicants or household members
 - Any indication that a member of the foster family is a perpetrator of domestic violence
 - Any indication that a member of the foster family has abused, neglected or exploited a disabled adult

Environmental Safety:

- The foster home must pass a fire inspection by the local fire inspector
- Environmental checklist must be completed by the foster home licensing social worker (addresses gun storage, water quality, general sanitary conditions of the home, etc)
- Exterior spaces around the home are clear of dangerous objects or hazardous items
- Foster children are provided protection from water hazards (swimming pools, ponds, lakes, etc.)
- Foster home's design allows children privacy while bathing, dressing, using toilet facilities
- The foster home is assessed to determine if there is enough space to accommodate the foster children
- Each foster child shall have his/her own bed
- Bedrooms shall not be shared by children of the opposite sex except by children age five and under
- The sleeping arrangements shall provide space within the bedroom for the bed and the child's personal possessions
- When children share a bedroom, a child under six shall not share a room with a child over 12, except when siblings are placed together
- No more than four children shall share a room
- Pets shall be assessed for safety

Foster parents must sign a Discipline Agreement that states foster children:

- Are provided training and discipline that is appropriate for the child's age, intelligence, emotional makeup, and past experience
- Are not subjected to cruel or abusive punishment
- Are not subjected to corporal punishment
- Are not deprived of a meal or contacts with family for punishment or placed in isolation time-out except when isolation time-out means the removal of a child to an unlocked room or area

from which the child is not physically prevented from leaving. The foster parent may use isolation time-out as a behavioral control measure when the foster parent provides it within hearing distance of a foster parent. The length of time alone shall be appropriate to the child's age and development

- Are not subjected to verbal abuse, threats, or humiliating remarks about himself/herself or his/her families

Training:

- 30 hours of pre-service for family foster care
- 40 hours of pre-service for therapeutic foster care
- CPR, First Aid, Universal Precautions
- Medication Administration
- Physical Restraints (if used)
- 10 hours of in-service training annually

Other:

- Foster home licensing social workers must document the Family History (Information about parents and siblings; support systems; personal experiences of abuse, neglect, domestic violence, significant experiences of loss and ability to cope with loss, grief, problems, stress, frustrations, crises; education and employment history; income; marriages and other significant relationships; parenting experiences, etc.)
- Supervising agency must address 12 Skill Areas of applicants:
 1. Assessing individual and family strengths and needs and building on strengths and meeting needs
 2. Using and developing effective communication
 3. Identifying the strengths and needs of children placed in the home
 4. Building on children's strengths and meeting the needs of children placed in the home
 5. Developing partnerships with children placed in the home, parents or the guardians of the children placed in the home, the supervising agency and the community to develop and carry out plans for permanency
 6. Helping children placed in the home develop skills to manage loss and skills to form attachments
 7. Helping children placed in the home manage their behaviors
 8. Helping children placed in the home maintain and develop relationships that will keep them connected to their pasts
 9. Helping children placed in the home build on positive self-concept and positive family, cultural, and racial identity
 10. Providing a safe and healthy environment for children placed in the home which keeps them free from harm
 11. Assessing the ways in which providing family foster care or therapeutic foster care affects the family
 12. Making an informed decision regarding providing family foster care or therapeutic foster care
- Foster home licensing social worker must address Conflict of Interest requirements
 - Applicant supervised by a Public or Private child-placing agency is NOT a member of the agency board of directors, governance structure, social services board, county commission or is an agency employee or relative of an agency employee.
 - Applicant supervised by a Private child-placing agency is NOT an owner of that Private child-placing agency.

Omnibus Foster Care and Permanency Subcommittee
Federal Legislation related to the timeframes for children served by the Foster Care
program
March 18th, 2014

A summary of major federal child welfare legislation:

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/otherpubs/majorfedlegis.pdf>

ASFA (1997) was the most proscriptive regarding timelines:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-105hr867enr/pdf/BILLS-105hr867enr.pdf>

Federal Legislation is largely codified in sections IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/safe2010draft.pdf>

and 42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq and 42 U.S.C. 5116 et seq (CAPTA):

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/capta2010.pdf>

The federal government enforces section IV-E of the Social Security Act by funding agencies that comply with its requirements. The final rule (1999) establishing the process for providing funding for the states is found here:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/fr012500.pdf>

The corresponding regulations are found here:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2012-title45-vol4/pdf/CFR-2012-title45-vol4-part1355.pdf>

(IV-E & IV-B)

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2012-title45-vol4/pdf/CFR-2012-title45-vol4-part1356.pdf>

(IV-E)

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title45-vol4/xml/CFR-2011-title45-vol4-part1357.xml>

(IV-B)

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/45/part-1340> (CAPTA)