



Wisconsin Children in Out-of-Home Care

Annual Report for Calendar Year 2010

December 8, 2011

Research and Operations Section
Division of Safety and Permanence
Department of Children and Families

This report is available on the Internet at
<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwreview/reports/OOHC-Y.htm>

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CY 2010 Out-of-Home Care Report: Executive Summary

Statewide Summary

This report includes information on children in an out-of-home care (OHC) placement during Calendar Year (CY) 2010. Data from this report was taken from the eWISACWIS Out-of-Home Caseload Summary Report (SM10a112 Placement Activity Report) for CY 2010. Monthly and year-end counts have been produced at different times, for different purposes and/or by different means and may provide slightly different results. Thus, counts presented in this report may vary and differ from other published information.

Demographics of Children in OHC

- As of December 31, 2010, a total of 6,509 children were in an OHC placement in Wisconsin. This represents a decrease of 59 children from December 31, 2009. A total of 774 fewer children were in an OHC placement at the end of CY 2010 than CY 2006.
- Children under the custody of the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW) represented 34% of the total OHC population.
- The age of children statewide in OHC on December 31, 2010 was as follows:
 - 4 and under: 31%
 - 5-11: 28%
 - 12-15: 21%
 - 16-18: 21%
- More males are in OHC (54%) than females (46%).
- White children represented 53% of all children in OHC care. African American children represented 39%.
- Statewide, 30% of children are placed with relatives. In Milwaukee County, 33% of children in OHC are placed with relatives.

Entry into OHC CY 2010

- 4,686 children entered OHC statewide during CY 2010.
- 386 more males than females entered OHC.
- 60% were Caucasian children, 30% were African American children.

Discharge from OHC in CY 2009

- 4,739 children and youth were discharged from OHC during CY 2010.
- There were 53 more discharges than entries in CY 2010.
- Adoptions were finalized for 644 children.
- Reunification was the most frequent discharge reason (62%).
- Males accounted for 54% of discharges from OHC.
- Children ages 16-18 accounted for the largest share of children discharged from OHC (28%).
- Caucasian children accounted for 59% of total discharges from OHC
- African American children accounted for 31% of total discharges from OHC.
- The median time to discharge for children discharged in CY 2010 was 318 days

Introduction

Purpose of the Report

The *Wisconsin Children in Out-of-Home Care Report* is a broad overview of the children placed in out-of-home care (OHC) and provides demographic information for children in OHC during Calendar Year (CY) 2010. By supplying this information, it is hoped readers will have a better understanding of the children in OHC and the trends associated with the OHC population.

Data included in this report is presented at a statewide level, with information obtained from 71 counties, the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW) and the State-operated Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP). The appendices to this report provide specific OHC data for individual counties, the BMCW and the SNAP.

Overview of Child Welfare Service System in Wisconsin

Wisconsin's child welfare system is state-supervised and county-administered in 71 counties and state administered in Milwaukee County and the SNAP. The role of the Division of Safety and Permanence within the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is to supervise the county programs and assure the development and implementation of statewide policies and procedures that support child safety, permanence and well-being. In addition, the DCF administers child welfare services in the BMCW and the SNAP. For children with tribal affiliation, placements into OHC can be made under the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) through tribal courts.

Kinship Care

Many children reside with relatives where the parent and the relative have made the living arrangement voluntarily and the relative caregiver is eligible for and receives a Kinship Care (KC) payment to support their care of the relative child. These voluntary arrangements do not constitute an OHC placement. There are three basic eligibility requirements for Kinship Care:

- the basic needs of the child can be better met living with the relative than with the parent(s);
- the placement is in the best interests of the child; and
- the child currently or would potentially meet the requirements for court jurisdiction as being in need of protection or services if the child were to remain with the parent(s).

A child's voluntary living arrangement with a relative may become court-ordered or a child may be placed with a relative under a court-order. Children placed in Court-Ordered Kinship Care (COKC) are considered to be in OHC and are subject to all permanency planning requirements. Data included in this report includes information only from COKC cases.

Child in Need of Protective Services (CHIPS)

A child may be removed from his or her family home and placed into OHC due to safety concerns that cannot be controlled in the family home. If the Child Protective Services (CPS) worker determines that a child needs to be placed in OHC in order to ensure his or her safety, the child is placed into OHC via a court order or through a voluntary placement agreement.

Children placed in OHC through a court order are required to meet all permanency planning standards set forth by Wisconsin statute. Voluntary placement agreements can be for up to 180 days and placements must be court ordered to continue beyond 180 days.

Juvenile in Need of Protective Services (JIPS) and Delinquency

Children under a JIPS or Delinquency order may be placed in OHC. In order for the state to have jurisdiction under a JIPS petition, a child must meet one of the following as specified in s. 938.13, Stats.:

- be considered uncontrollable and the parent signs a petition;
- be habitually truant from school; be considered a school dropout;
- be habitually truant from home; committed a delinquent act before the age of 10;
- or be deemed not responsible or not competent.

For the state to have jurisdiction under a Delinquency petition, a child (ages 10-17) must be alleged to have committed a delinquent act. A referral is received by the county agency, the agency under the direction of local court system determines the types of services and interventions that will best address the needs of the child, family, and community.

This report includes data on children placed in non-secure OHC settings. Unless otherwise noted, the report does not include children in secure detention, juvenile corrections or adult corrections (children age 17). The data does include situations where secure detention is part of the overall OHC placement episode.

Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC)

The ICPC ensures that children in need of out-of-home placement in Wisconsin, from other states, receive the same protections guaranteed to the children placed in care within Wisconsin. Children under the custody of county child welfare agencies, the BMCW and the SNAP placed outside Wisconsin are included in this report. However, children placed from another state into OHC in Wisconsin are not included in this report.

Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP)

When rights of both birth parents are terminated for a child in OHC by a death, voluntary or involuntary court action, guardianship of the child in OHC is transferred to the SNAP. The State assumes foster care placement and payment responsibility for the child until the adoption is finalized. A child may be eligible for an Adoption Assistance subsidy if she/he meets the SNAP eligibility criteria. Pre-adoptive children, in OHC pending an adoption finalization served by the SNAP are included in this OHC report.

Report Interpretation and Data Limitations

The focus of this report is on the total population served under the child welfare program, i.e. those children and youth in an OHC placement who are placed under a court order or a formal voluntary placement agreement. Children can receive other types of child welfare services, such as in-home services. Information on other services is not included in this report. This report generally does not include counts of children in hospitals or mental health facilities unless the use of these facilities is part of an OHC placement episode.

The report is produced using data obtained from the electronic Wisconsin Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (eWiSACWIS). eWiSACWIS is an automated case management system designed for child welfare workers to support practice and documentation regarding children and families they serve. Data is entered into eWiSACWIS by county, BMCW and SNAP caseworkers in the course of day-to-day case management responsibilities. Information documented by the caseworker and their supervisors are used to generate management and statistical reports, including federal outcome measurement reports. The use of eWiSACWIS allows for improved timeliness and accuracy of child welfare placement data in Wisconsin. The quality of the data in this report is dependent upon the accuracy and timeliness of data submitted by the local agencies.

The data presented in this report is generally consistent with data reported to the federal government to meet the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). There are some differences with AFCARS data, particularly for juvenile justice cases, so the data and performance measures presented in this report may differ from AFCARS caseload and performance data for Wisconsin.

Historical data presented in this report includes data from eWiSACWIS, the Human Service Reporting System (HSRS) and the Kinship Care Tracking System (KCTS). The transition from HSRS and KCTS data to eWiSACWIS affected the quality of data prior to 2004, as previous systems were limited in capturing the full range of data currently available in eWiSACWIS.

The primary data source for this report is the DSP Out-of-Home Caseload Summary Report (SM10a112 Placement Activity Report). This report includes placement of children in licensed family foster care, treatment foster care, pre-adoptive foster homes, group homes and residential care centers, unlicensed relatives or non-relatives, and court-ordered placements with relatives under the Kinship Care program (COKC). The OHC caseload counts include children placed for both child protective service and juvenile justice purposes. Statewide counts include children under placement and care of a county child welfare agency, the BMCW or the SNAP. Data for this report was produced on July 18, 2011. Any data corrections or updates made by agencies after the time the data was produced is not reflected in this report.

Totals cited in graphs, tables and text throughout this report might not always be consistent. While a single data set is used for the report, there may be discrepancies in certain detailed information. Data inconsistencies may also be due to issues regarding conversion of data from HSRS to eWiSACWIS or inconsistencies in how data is recorded at the local agency level. DSP continues to work with agencies to improve data quality. Totals for the graphs and tables may vary as data elements in eWiSACWIS may be missing for some cases. Additional considerations regarding report interpretation and data limitations are outlined in **Appendix A**.

Key Definitions:

Child: Term used to address both children and juveniles served by county child welfare agencies, county juvenile justice agencies, the BMCW and the state SNAP.

Discharge: A child's placement episode ends with the date a child is discharged from OHC. The discharge date represents the date the child achieves a permanent outcome, such as reunification, adoption, guardianship, or permanent placement with a relative or adoption.

Placement: The use of a facility or home provider for the physical placement of the child who has been removed from his or her family home.

Placement Episode: A placement episode starts with a child's removal from home and ends with a discharge from OHC to a permanent home or to independent living. A child may be placed in multiple placement settings within a placement episode.

Placement Settings: Child welfare agencies seek to have a child stay in only one setting during his/her out-of-home care experience. Moreover, in some cases, a child may be placed with multiple providers or in different placement facilities during a single placement episode. These changes may be due to actions initiated by the agency, the provider, the child, the parent or the court. Standard placement settings include:

- Foster homes, including receiving homes, family foster homes, treatment foster home and pre-adoptive foster homes.
- Unlicensed relative and non-relative homes.
- Group homes.
- Residential care centers (RCCs).
- Shelter care.
- Detention.
- Trial reunification.
- Missing from out-of-home care.
- Supervised independent living.
- Hospital/Mental Health Facility.

Removal: A child's placement episode begins with the date of the child's removal from his or her home. The child is taken into physical custody and is placed into OHC under a court order or via a formal voluntary placement agreement between the agency, the parents and the placement provider. Information regarding the types of out-of-home care providers used can be found in **Appendix B**.

Children in Out-of-Home Care on December 31, 2010

Trends of Children in Out-of-Home Care

The number of children placed in OHC statewide has decreased over the past six years. **Figure 1** shows the decline of children in OHC since December 31, 2005. Over the six-year period, a total of 1,115 fewer children were in an OHC placement at the end of the calendar year (CY) in 2010, representing a decline of 15%

Figure 1: Statewide, the number of children in OHC appears to be declining.

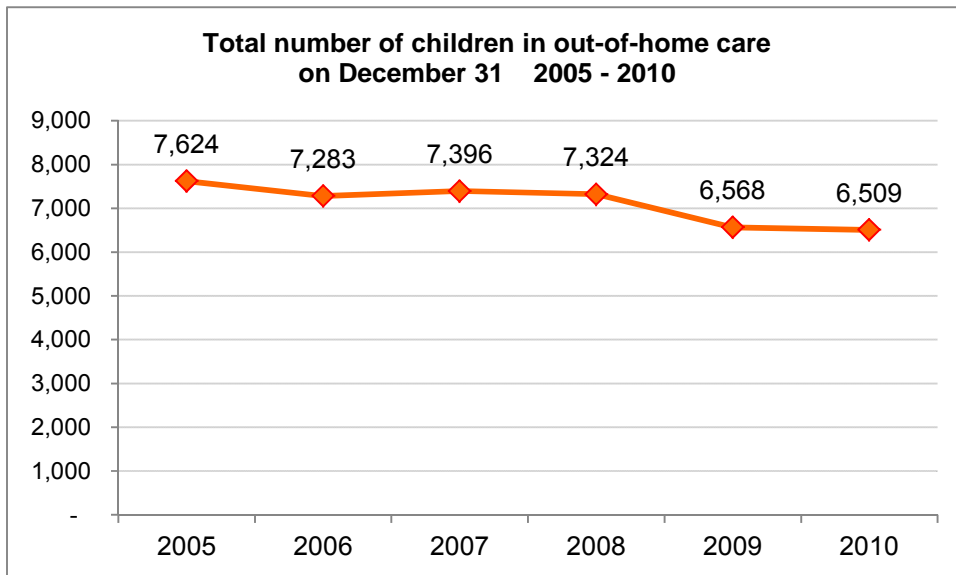
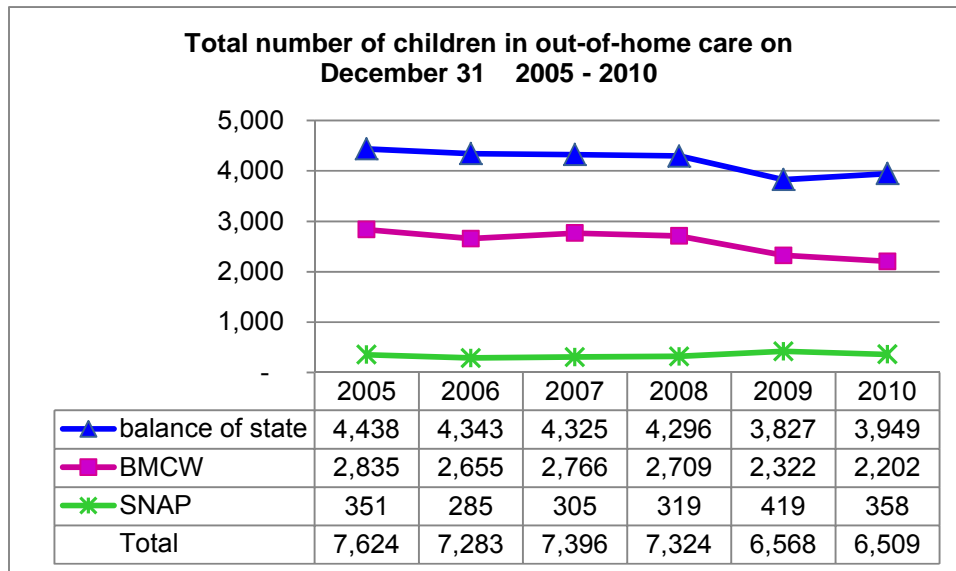


Figure 2 separates children in OHC by children placed in the BMCW Child, in non-Milwaukee counties (Balance of State), and in the Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP). The decrease in children in OHC has been somewhat steeper in Milwaukee than in the Balance of the State.

Figure 2: The decrease in children in OHC has been somewhat steeper in BMCW than the Balance of the State.



Case Types of Children in Out-of Home Care

The following is a description of the most common case types for a child:

CPS Family Ongoing: Used to denote a case where abuse and or neglect has been alleged. This case type is very broad and is used to document cases involving primary caregiver as well as secondary caregiver maltreatment.

Juvenile Justice (JJ): This case type is used for both Delinquency Cases and JIPS Cases. This case type is used for cases where children are involved in JJ services, but there are no maltreatment or child welfare issues.

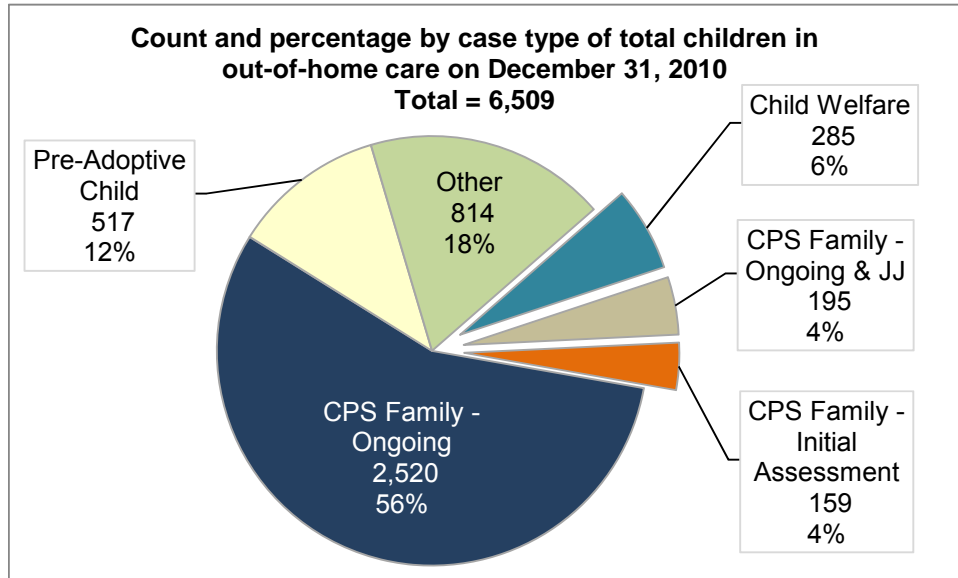
CPS Ongoing and JJ: This case type is used when a child or when multiple children within a single family case are being served due to CPS and/or JJ related concerns. For example: an older youth within the family may be an adjudicated delinquent while the family is also being served due to CPS concerns related to a younger sibling.

Pre-adoptive: This case type applies to those children for whom a termination of parental rights (TPR) has been completed. This case is created when a child is deactivated from their CPS Family case for reasons of TPR. The SNAP uses this case type to document their case management work between the TPR and finalization of the adoption.

Child Welfare: This case type is used to document those cases in which there are no specific allegations of abuse or neglect, but there is some service being provided to the child or family. This case type can include voluntary placements.

CPS-Family Ongoing cases account for almost half the children in OHC

Figure 3 outlines the most common case types noted for the children and their families.



Appendix C contains additional information on the “other” case types used statewide. **Appendix D** contains detailed case type information by count and percentage by county.

Relative Placements

Children in OHC may be placed with a relative via a Court-Ordered Kinship Care, Licensed Relative Foster Homes, and Unlicensed Relative Placement. Unlicensed relative placements are unpaid and are typically used on a temporary basis. Overall, there were 1,926 children in a relative placement on December 31, 2010. **Figure 4** shows the statewide percentage of children in a relative vs. non-relative placements.

Figure 4: Approximately one-third of children in OHC are in a relative placement

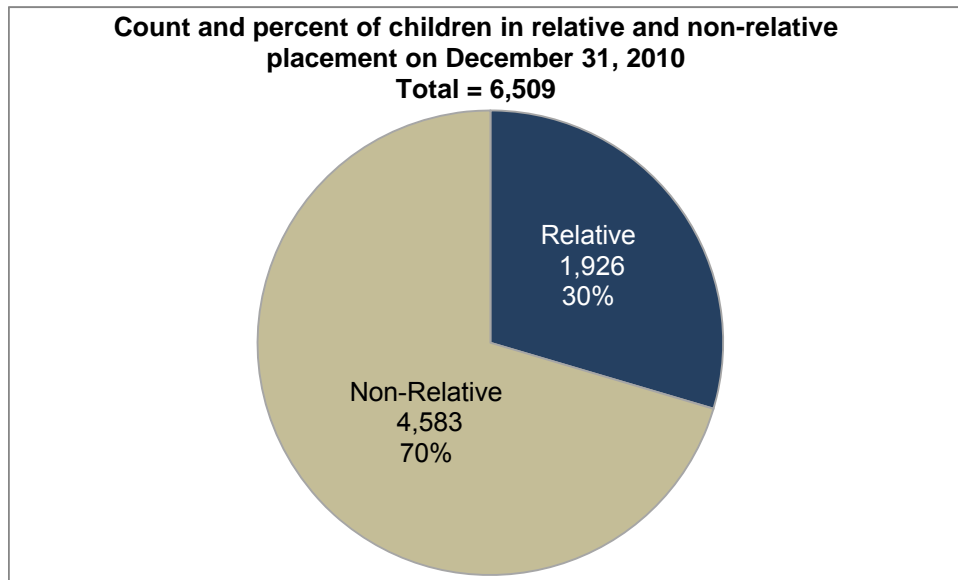
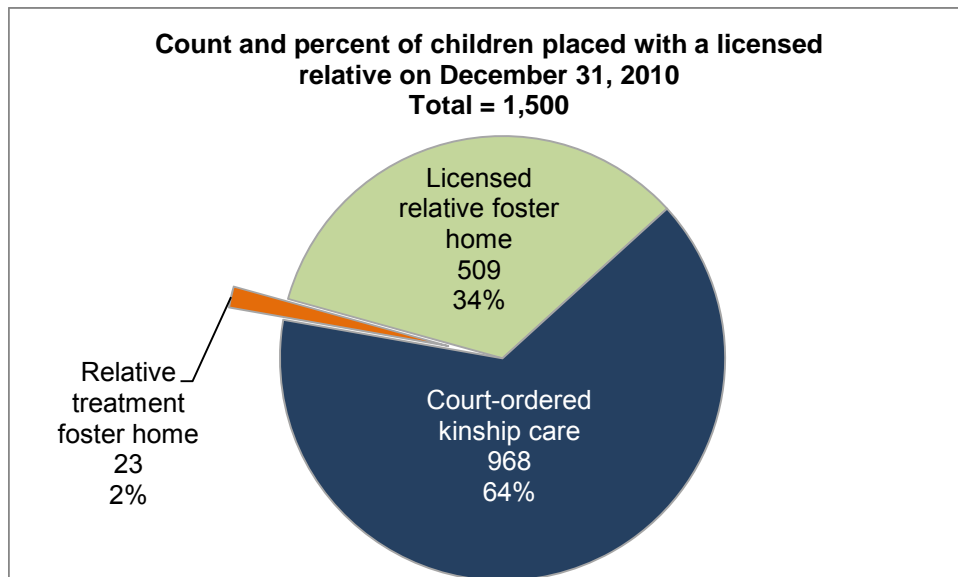
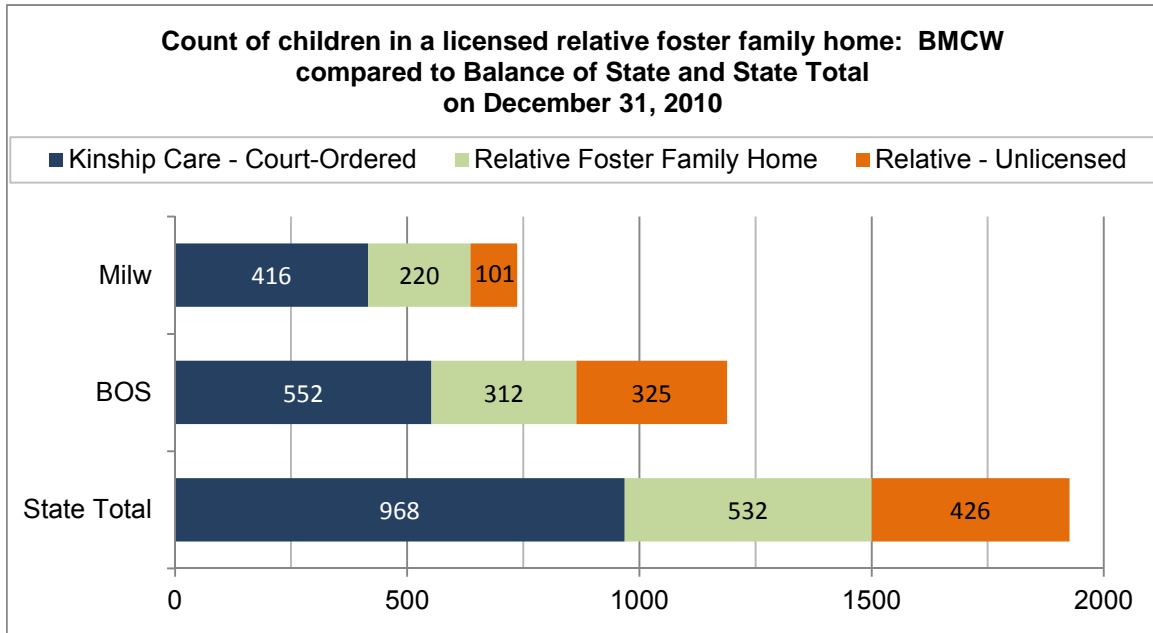


Figure 5: Almost two-thirds of children in a relative placement are in court-ordered kinship care



Children in BMCW account for 38 percent of the state's total relative placements and 41 percent of the state's total relative licensed placements (**Figure 6**). The percent of relative placements is slightly higher in BMCW (33%) than in the balance of the state (30%). The percentage of relatives *licensed* as foster parents is slightly higher in BMCW (10%) than in the balance of the state (8%).

Figure 6: BMCW accounts for more than two-fifths of statewide children in relative placement



Demographics of Children in Out-of Home Care

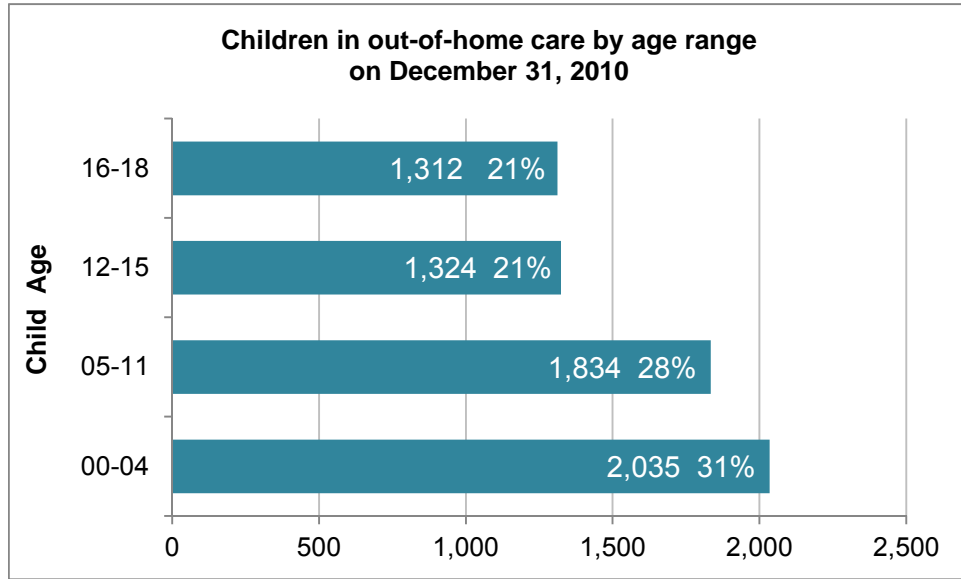
Age

Children may be in an OHC placement until they turn 18 or are 18 or older and attending high school. **Table 1** displays a count of children in OHC by age on December 31, 2010. **Figure 7** displays a count of children in OHC by age group on December 31, 2010.

Table 1: Count of Children in Out-of-Home Care by Age on December 31, 2010

Age in years	Total	% of total
Under 1	336	5%
1	453	7%
2	488	7%
3	398	6%
4	360	6%
5	352	5%
6	271	4%
7	251	4%
8	271	4%
9	223	3%
10	230	4%
11	236	4%
12	241	4%
13	280	4%
14	350	5%
15	453	7%
16	615	9%
17	553	8%
18+	148	2%
State Total	6,509	100%
Average Age of a Child in OHC = 9 yrs		

Figure 7: Children ages 0-4 accounted for 31% of children in out-of-home care



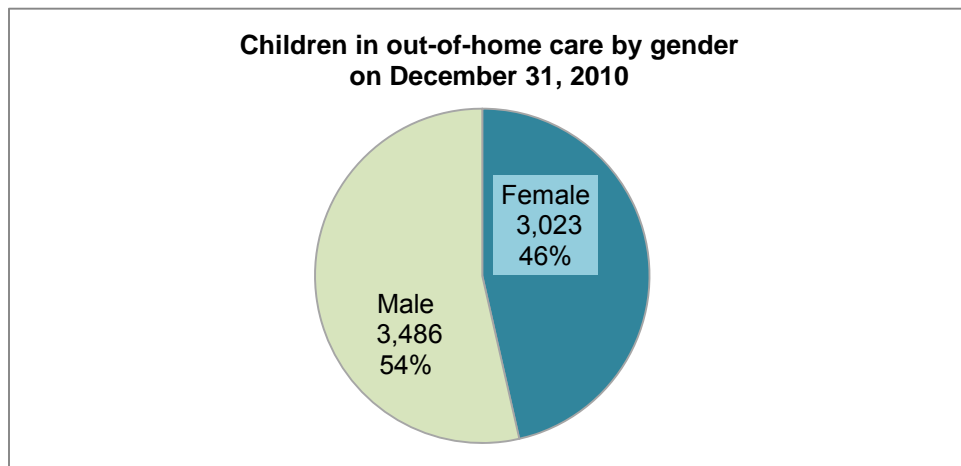
Note: The 4 children over the age of 18 are not represented in the graph above

Appendix E includes information on individual county OHC child count, by age range.

Gender

Figure 8 displays the count of children in OHC by gender on December 31, 2010. There were 463 more males than females in an OHC placement.

Figure 8: Males accounted slightly more than half of the OHC population as of December 31, 2010.

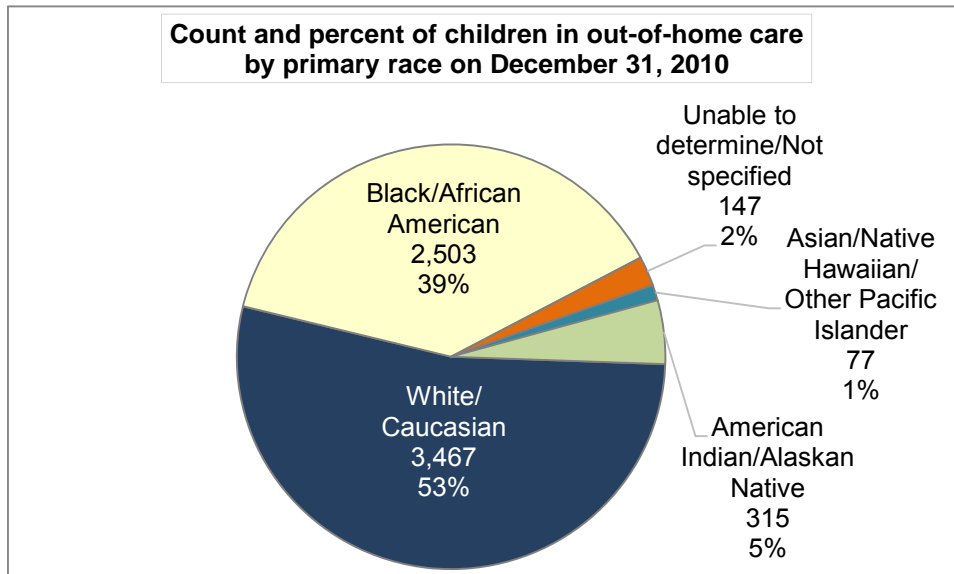


The predominance of males in OHC is particularly pronounced at older ages.

Race

In general, a person's race is determined by how the person self-identifies his/her race. In the case of young children, parents specify the race of the child. A worker can select "unable to determine" or "decline" if no person is available to identify the child's race, or if the parent, relative or guardian is unwilling to identify the child's race. **Figure 9** shows the count and percentage of children in OHC by race on December 31, 2010. **Appendix F** contains information on individual primary race counts and percentage by county.

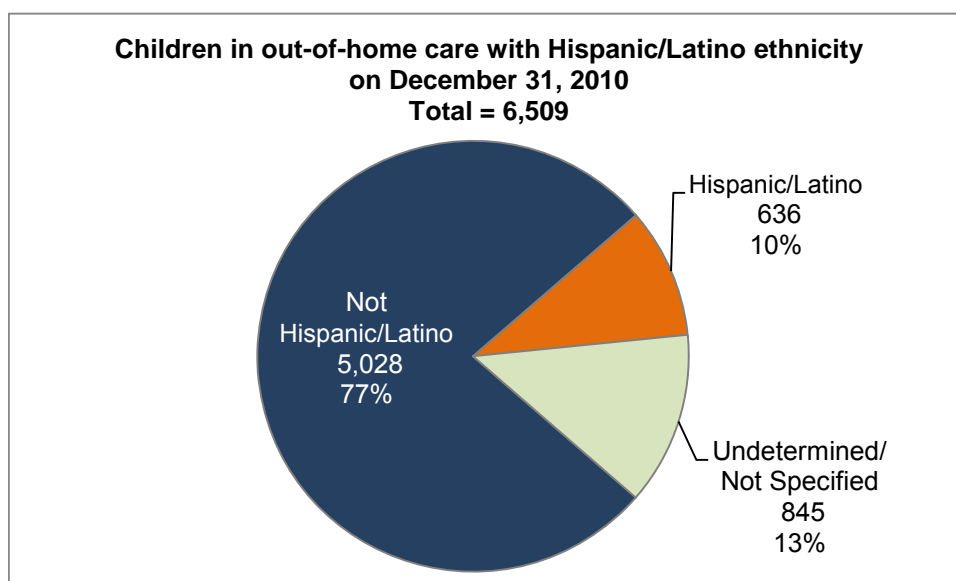
Figure 9: Caucasian children account for just over half the children in OHC. African American children account for two-fifths.



Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity

People of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity may be of any race. A total of 636 children on December 31, 2010 were identified with a Hispanic/Latino ethnicity, accounting for 10% of the OHC population. **Figure 10** shows the number of children with a designation of Yes, No, or Undetermined/not specified regarding their Hispanic/Latino ethnicity. **Appendix G** contains information on Hispanic or Latino ethnicity counts and percentage by county.

Figure 10: 10% of children in OHC on December 31, 2010 were identified with a Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.



Disability

Figure 11 presents summary data regarding whether a child in OHC has been clinically diagnosed by a qualified professional as having at least one of the following disabilities:

- Physically disabled
- Visually or hearing impaired
- Emotionally disturbed
- Learning disabled
- Mentally retarded
- Other medically diagnosed condition(s) requiring special care.

The reporting of a child's disability is frequently under-reported in eWISACWIS, primarily because the demographic information may not be updated to reflect new information regarding the diagnosis of children. Note that the disability categories are identified by the federal government for AFCARS reporting purposes. The names of the categories reflect those indicated by the federal government.

Figure 11: One in four children in OHC on December 31, 2010 had a diagnosed disability.

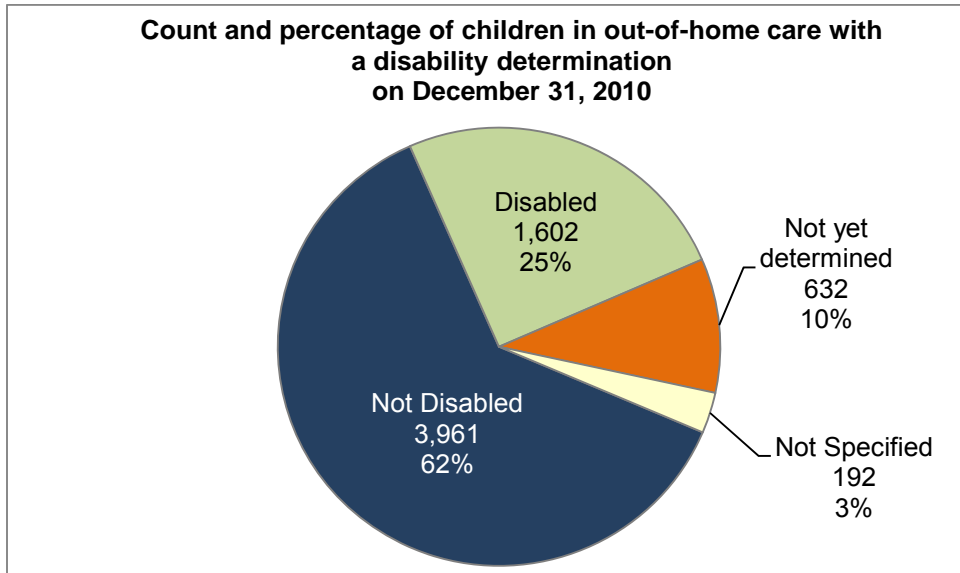
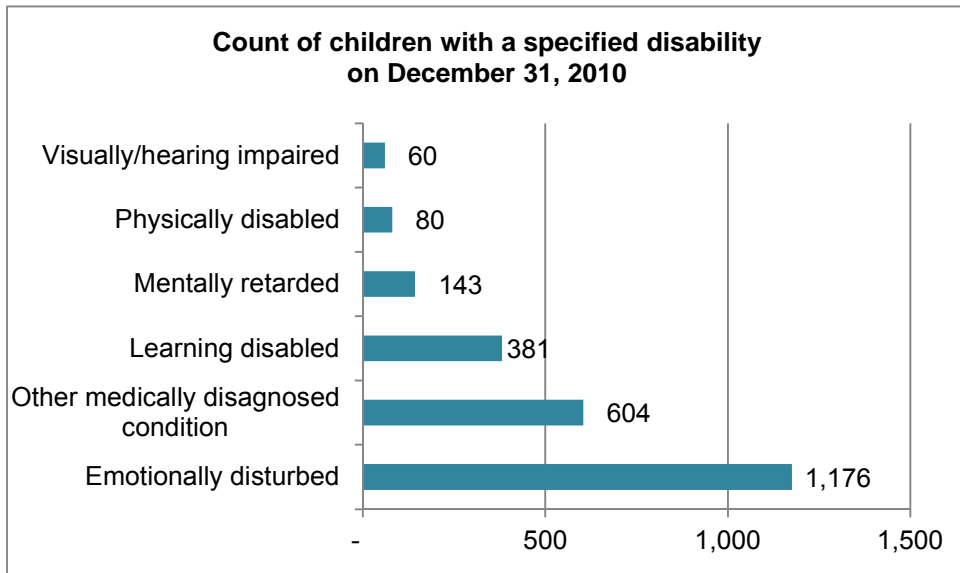


Figure 12 illustrates the types of disability selected for the 1602 of children in OHC with a documented disability determination. More than one disability may be documented for a specific child.

Figure 12: Almost 75% of the 1,602 children in OHC who were identified to have a disability, were diagnosed as emotionally disturbed.

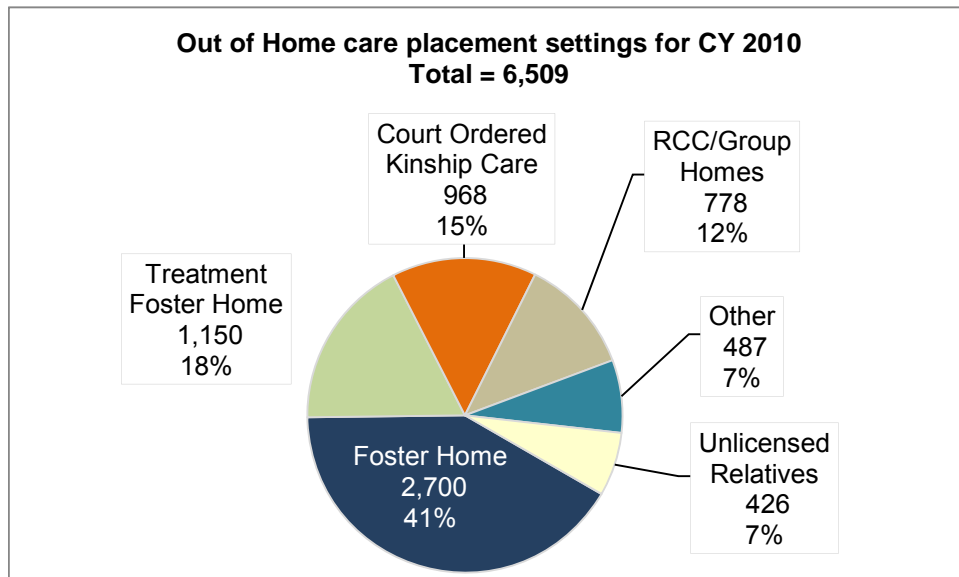


Note: Since children can have more than one diagnosis, numbers will sum to a number that is greater than the number of children.

Child Demographics by Out-of Home Care Placement Settings

This section outlines the number of children in OHC by their placement setting on December 31, 2010. Placement setting is defined as the type of setting in which the child resided at the end of the calendar year. **Appendix H** outlines the placement setting breakdown for all children, with percentages by placement settings. **Appendix I** outlines the count and percent of children in OHC by placement setting, by county. **Appendix J** outlines the placement setting breakdown of all children by age while **Appendix K** breaks down placement setting by race.

Figure 13 The vast majority of children in OHC, 81% are in a family setting with a relative or foster family.



Race

Figures 14a-14d displays the seven most frequent placement settings by the child's primary race as indicated in eWiSACWIS. The percentages are based upon the total number of children within each primary race group.

Figure 14a: 81% of White children are placed in a family setting between foster family homes, unlicensed relative placements, and court-ordered kinship care.

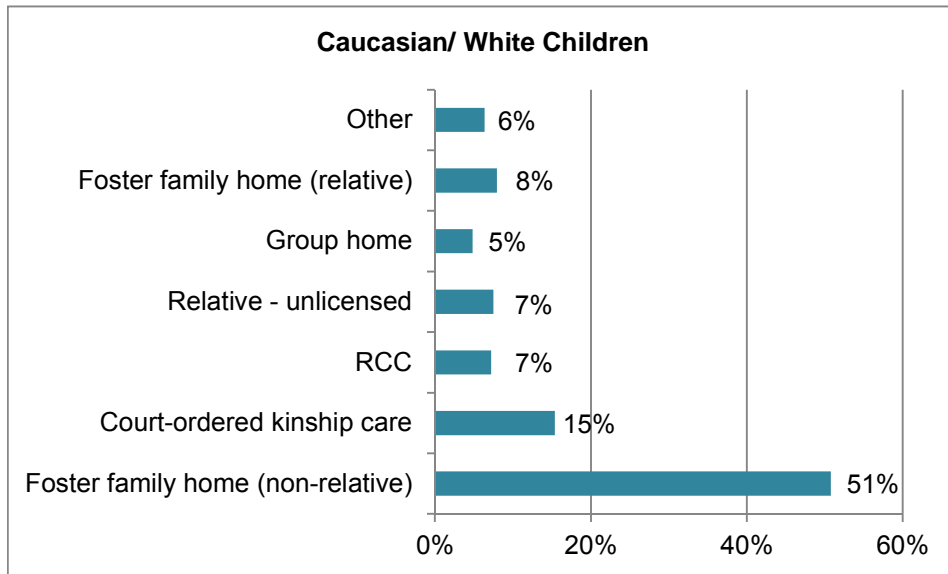


Figure 14b: 78% of Black/African American children are placed in a family setting between foster family homes, unlicensed relative placements, and court-ordered kinship care.

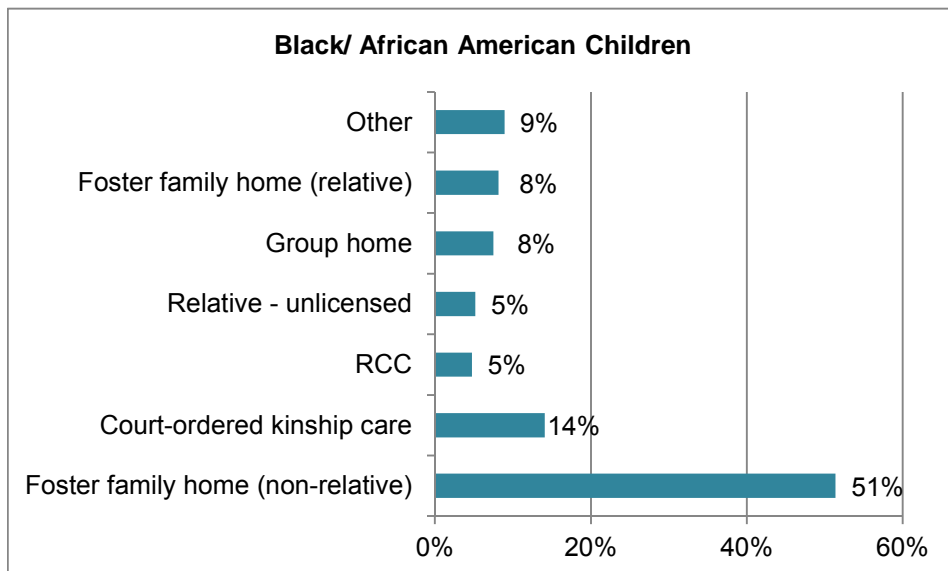
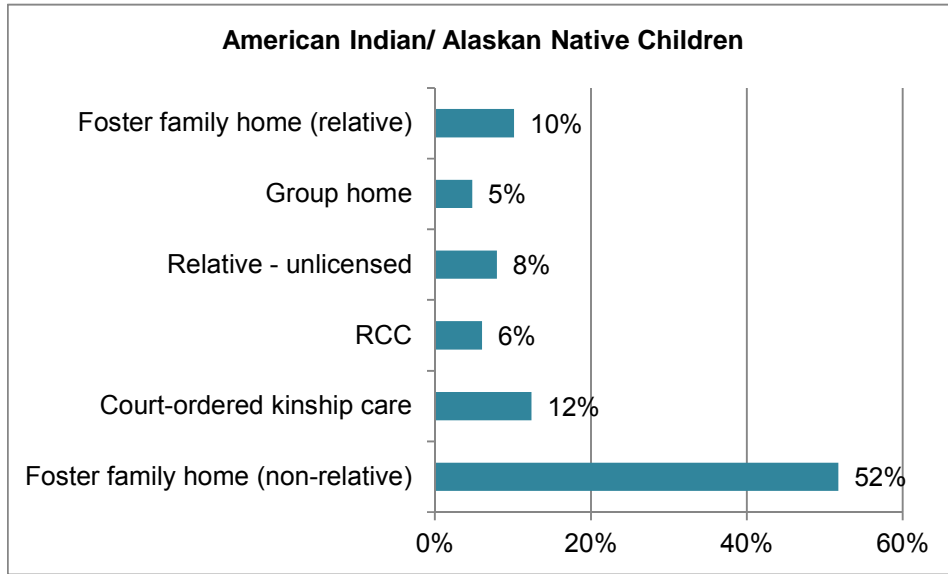


Figure 14c: 82% of American Indian/Alaskan Native children are placed in a family setting between foster family homes, unlicensed relative placements, and court-ordered kinship care.

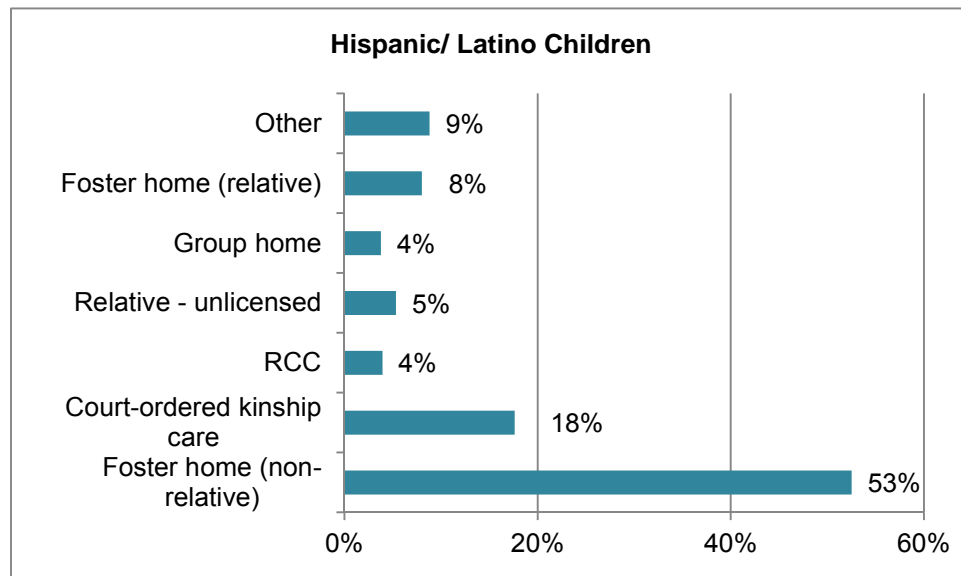


**Figures do not include Asian, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander. The total number of children is 77. 4 children are placed in detention, 36 in a non-relative foster home, 4 in a relative foster home, 4 in a group home, 10 in court ordered kinship care, 1 is missing from out-of-home care, 4 are in unlicensed placements, 2 are in pre-adoptive placements, 5 in RCCs, and 7 in non-relative treatment foster homes.*

Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity

Figure 15 displays the most frequent placement setting on December 31, 2010 for children identified as Hispanic/Latino.

Figure 15: 84% Latino/Hispanic children are placed in a family setting between foster family homes, unlicensed relative placements, and court-ordered kinship care.



NOTE: Number of Hispanic/Latino Children: 636

Child Entry into Out-of-Home Care in CY 2010

A child's entry into OHC is defined in this report as when a child was removed from home and placed in OHC during CY 2010. Counts included in this report contain information related only to a child's most recent removal from his or her family home and corresponding placement into OHC.

A total of 4,686 children entered OHC statewide during CY 2010; this represents a slight increase from the total of 4,639 children entering OHC in CY 2009. As noted above, this number includes only the child's most recent entry into OHC within a given county or the BMCW.

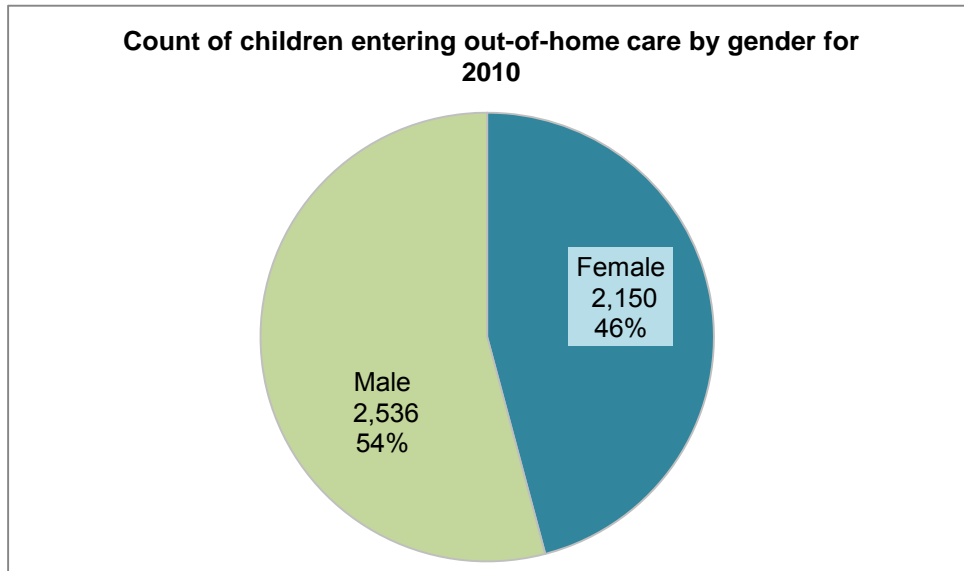
Appendix L shows CY 2010 entries by county. If a child entered care more than one time or in more than one county, this appendix shows the most recent entry in each county. **Appendix M** illustrates the number of entries, per 1,000 on a map of Wisconsin, by county.

Child Demographics of Entries

Entries by Child Gender

Figure 16 displays the 2010 CY counts of children who entered OHC by gender. During CY 2010, 386 more males than females entered OHC.

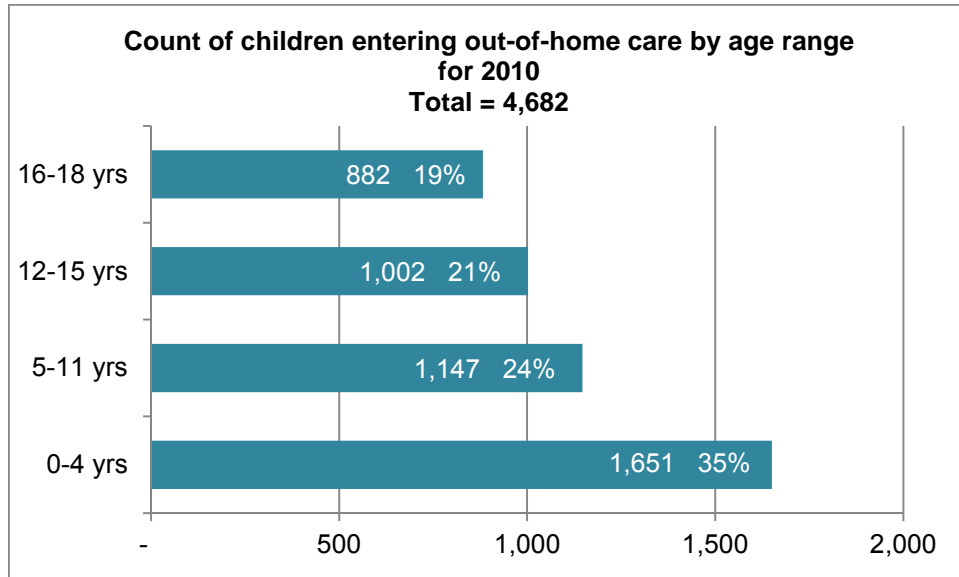
Figure 16: Slightly more male children than female children entered OHC in CY 2010.



Entries by Child Age Range

Children may enter into an OHC placement until they turn 18. **Figure 17** displays the breakdown of ages of children that entered OHC in CY 2010. The 0-4 age bracket accounted for the largest number entries into OHC (35%), followed by children in the 5-11 age bracket (24%). Children in the 16-18 age bracket account for the fewest entries into OHC (19%).

Figure 17: Children 0-4 years old account for one-third of CY 2010 entries into out-of-home care.

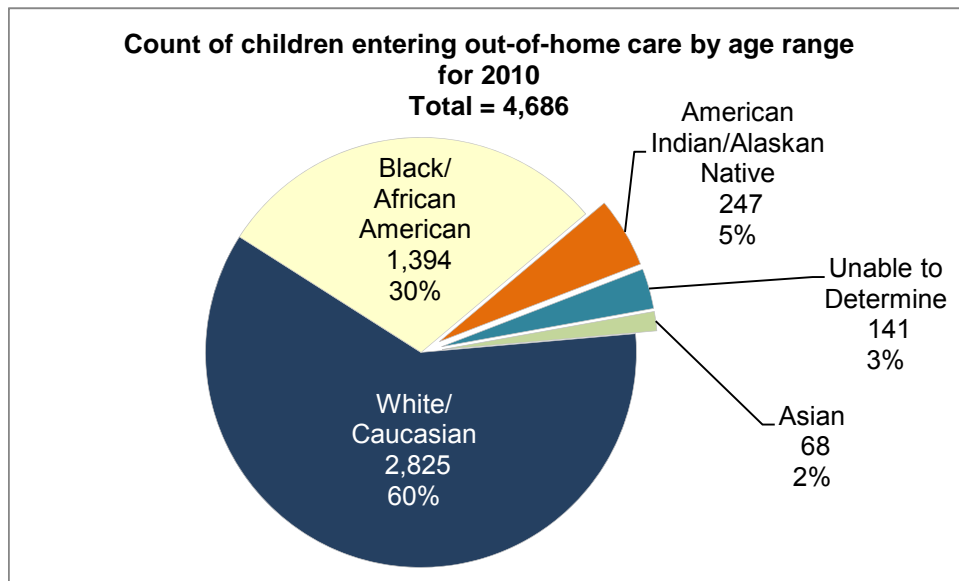


Note: Does not include 2 children ages 19-21 and 2 children whose age wasn't documented.

Entries by Child Race

Figure 18 shows the count of children who entered OHC by race during CY 2010. Caucasian children account for 60% of the entries, followed by African American children, who account for 30% of the entries.

Figure 18: White/Caucasian children accounted for two-thirds of the children entering OHC in CY 2010.

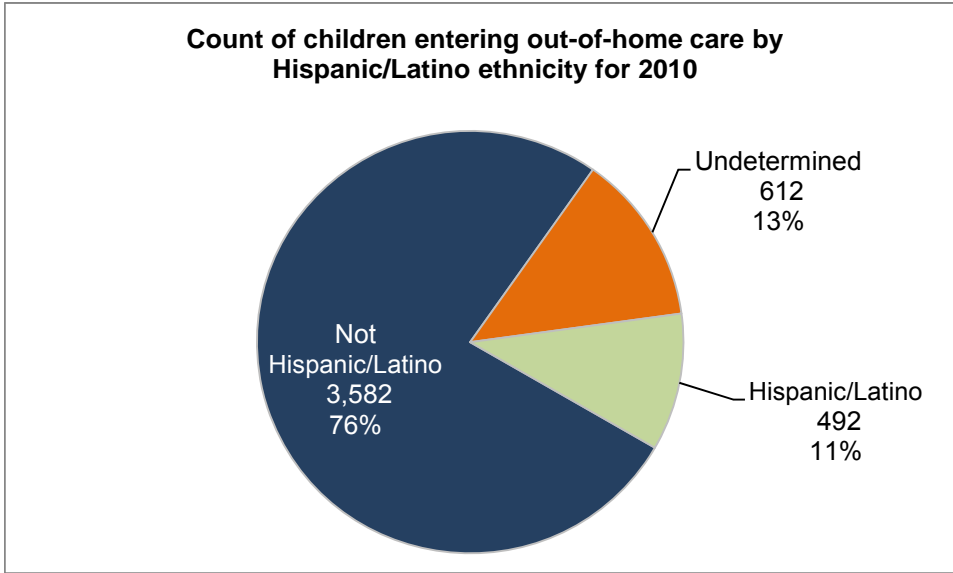


Note: Eight Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander children along with three children whose race is listed as “Declined” are included in the chart total above but are not represented graphically.

Entries of Hispanic/Latino Children

Figure 19 shows a total of 492 Hispanic/Latino children entered OHC during CY 2010.

Figure 19: 11% of children entering care in CY 2010 were identified as having Hispanic/Latino ethnicity

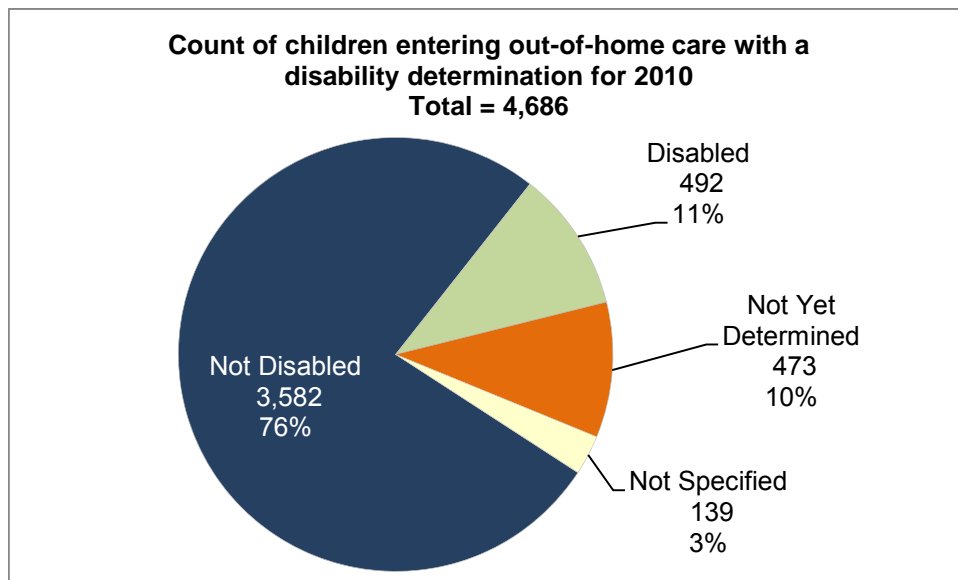


Entries for Children with Diagnosed Disabilities

492 children who entered OHC during CY 2010 were identified as having at least one clinically diagnosed disability. This accounts for 11% of the total population that entered OHC in CY 2010. However, this disability may not be the reason the child entered OHC. Moreover, subsequent additional information about a child's disability obtained later in the life of the case may not be reflected in the child's demographic information. Thus, the number of children with disabilities is likely under-reported in the OHC population.

Figure 20 shows a breakdown of children by disability status for the CY 2010 entries.

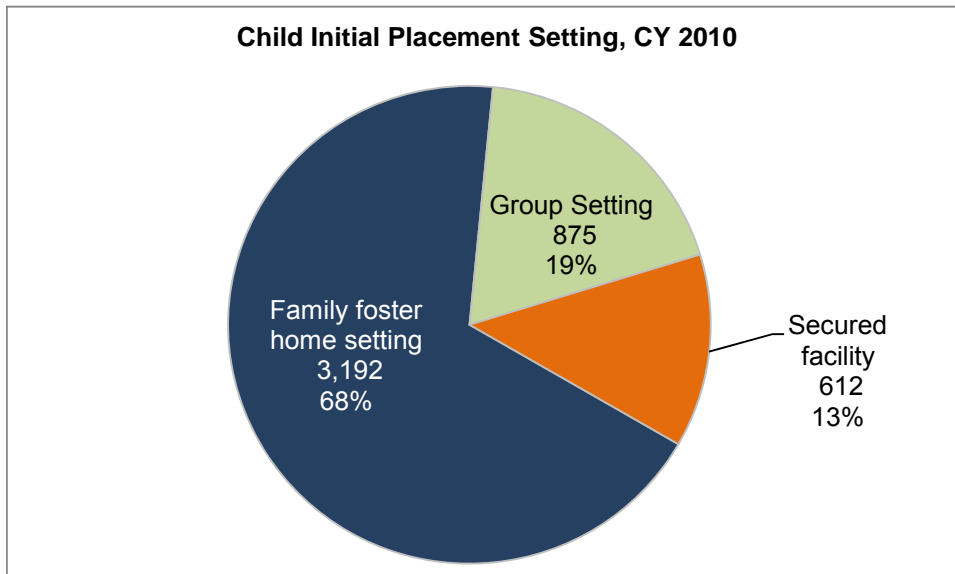
Figure 20: 11% of children entering OHC in CY2010 had a documented disability. This amount is likely under-reported



Initial Placement Settings

When a child enters OHC, an agency has numerous choices as to where to place the child. A child may be placed in a family foster home setting, a group setting or a secured facility setting. Initial placements may be a receiving home or a shelter facility, which are used to assess the child's needs and identify an appropriate placement. Child welfare program goals are to place the child in the least restrictive setting and allow the child to remain in the community to the extent possible. **Figure 21** details a breakdown of the three possible placement groupings. **Appendix N** lists counts of all initial placement settings for CY 2010.

Figure 21: Two-thirds of children coming into OHC in CY 2009 had an initial placement in a family foster home setting. Foster home settings do include unlicensed and court-ordered kinship care placements.



Child Removal Reasons

A child welfare worker is required to document removal reasons when a child enters OHC. Workers are encouraged to select as many removal reasons that apply to the specific case. **Appendix O** lists all removal reasons and their corresponding definitions. **Table 2** shows the number and percentage of children for each removal. Because a child may have more than one removal reason, the count of reasons is higher than the count of children and the percent of children impacted by all reasons will sum to higher than the number of children removed in CY 2010.

Table 2: Removal reason: count of and percent of reason identified for CY 2010

Removal Reason	Count	% of Total Removal Reasons	% of Children who have Removal Reason
Neglect	3,320	33%	71%
Child behavior problem	1,711	17%	37%
Caretaker inability to cope	1,051	11%	22%
Physical abuse	857	9%	18%
Parent drug abuse	722	7%	15%
Parent incarcerated	678	7%	14%
Parent alcohol abuse	417	4%	9%
Inadequate housing	407	4%	9%
Sexual abuse	199	2%	4%
Abandonment	141	1%	3%
Child drug abuse	134	1%	3%
Child clinically diagnosed	134	1%	3%
Child alcohol abuse	78	1%	2%
Parent death	70	1%	1%
Relinquishment	65	1%	1%
Total Removals	9,984	100%	-

Note: Child behavior problem removal reason includes juvenile justice placements.

Removal Reasons by Child Age Range and Gender

Figures 22-25 show the five most frequent removal reasons for each age group broken out by age and gender. A caretaker's inability to cope, neglect, and parental substance abuse, in every age group, are one of the top five reasons for removal. Parental incarceration is one of the top five reasons for each age group. Parental substance abuse is the total of parent alcohol and parent drug abuse counts. Males are significantly more likely to be removed for behavior reasons than females. A child may have multiple removals in the below graphs, and may have multiple reasons associated with each removal.

Figure 22: For children 0-4 years old, neglect was the most common removal reason followed by the parent's use/abuse of drugs and/or alcohol.

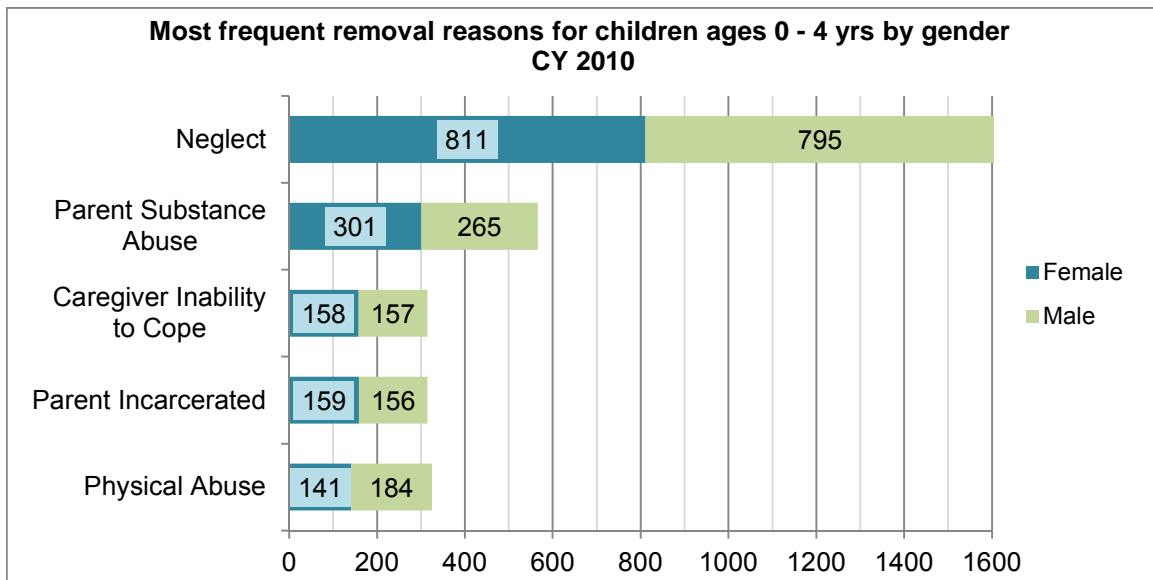


Figure 23: For children 5-11 years old, neglect was the most common removal reason, followed by parent substance abuse.

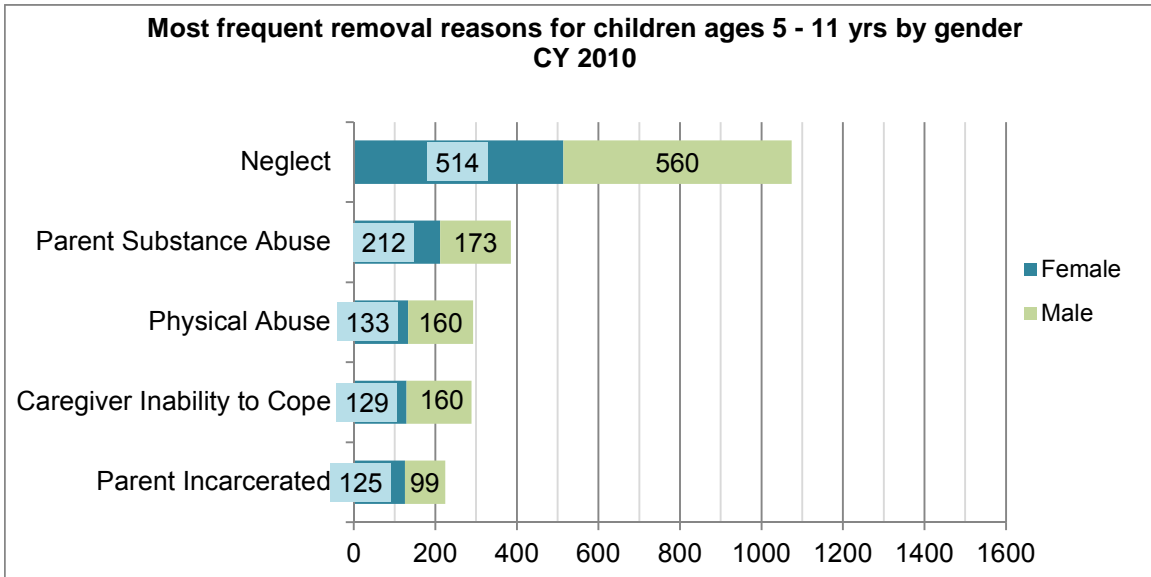


Figure 24: For children 12-15 years old, a child's behavior problem, especially more so in males, was the most common reason for removal.

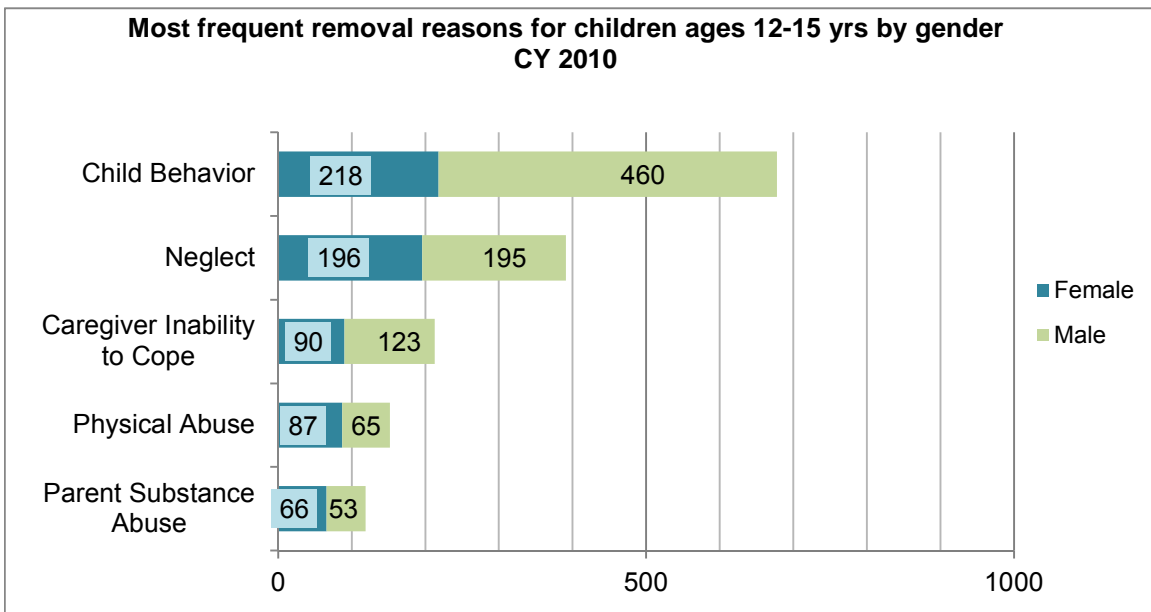
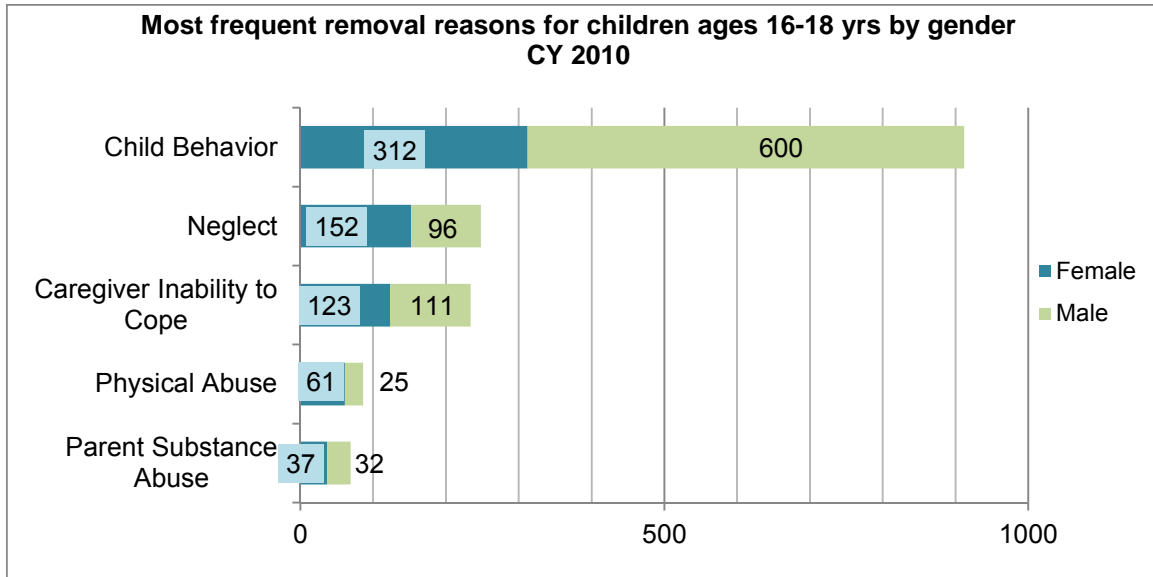


Figure 25: For children 16-18 years old, child behavior problem was the most common removal reason, followed by the caretaker's inability to cope.



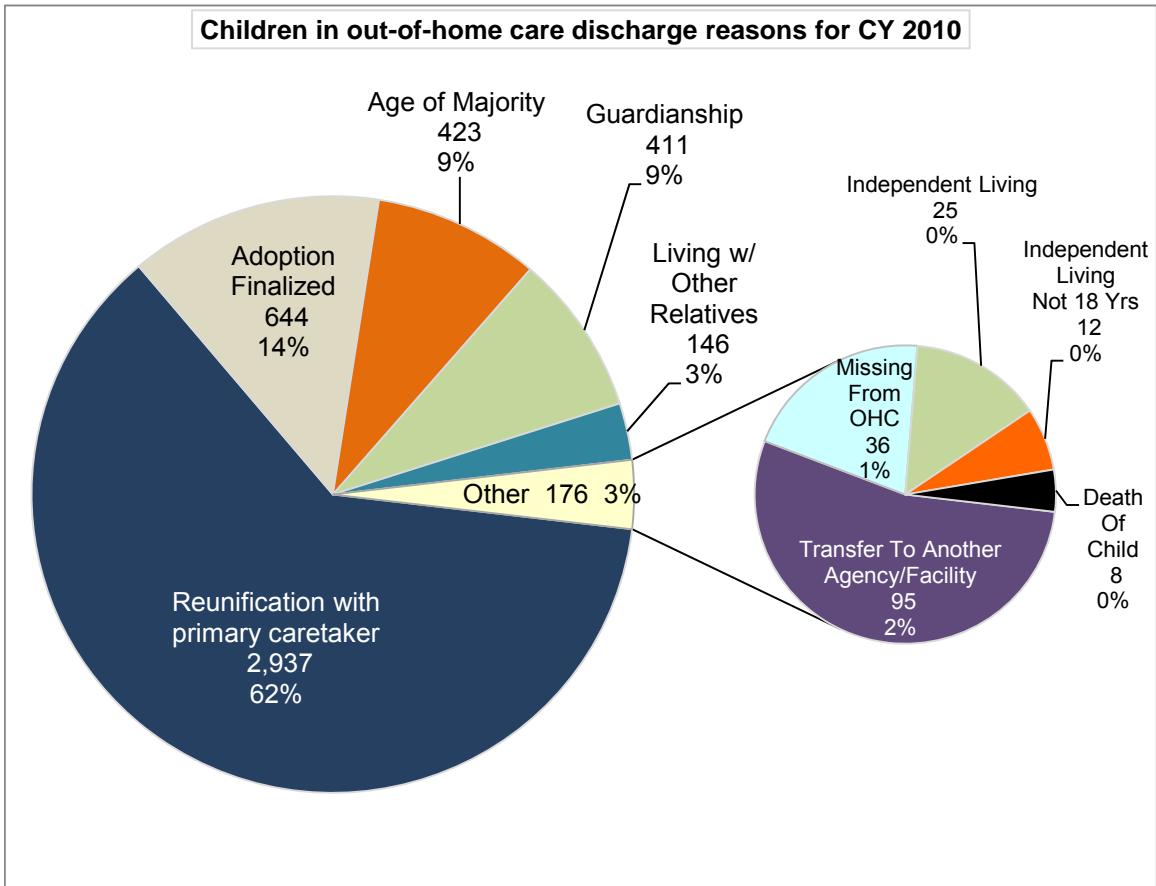
Child Discharge from Out-of-Home Care in CY 2010

Discharge Reasons

A child's discharge from OHC is defined as the end of a placement with no subsequent placements by an agency or the court. In these instances, a child is exiting a placement to a permanency outcome and the child welfare agency is no longer responsible for the child's physical custody. The child and his or her family may continue to receive services after the discharge from placement. Counts included in this report contain information related to a child's most recent discharge from OHC.

A total of 4,739 children were discharged from OHC statewide in CY 2010, a decrease of 754 children as compared to CY 2009. CY 2010 includes 644 children who were adopted through the SNAP program during this period. **Appendix P** includes entries and exit counts by county for CY 2010. **Figure 26** shows the most frequent reasons a child was discharged from OHC during CY 2010.

Figure 26: Reunification accounted for approximately two-thirds of discharges in CY 2010.



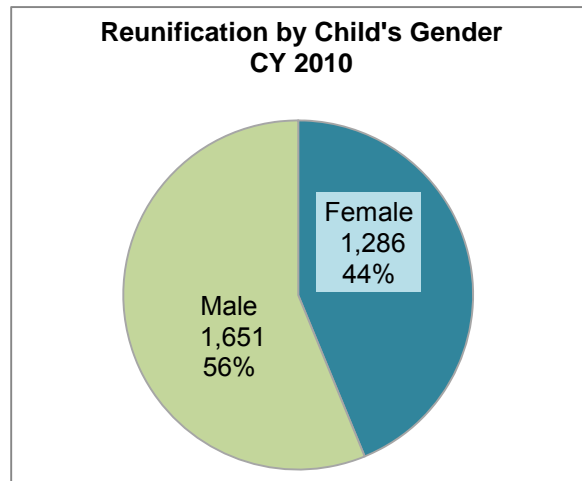
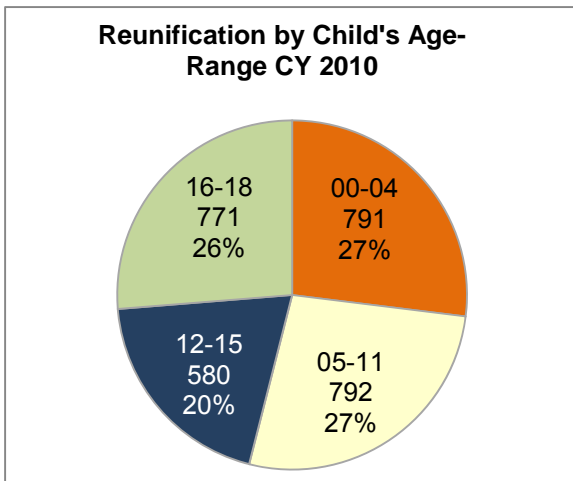
In 2010 reporting enhancements were made, making available specific data on the discharge reason of adoption. Due to past reporting constraints, this population was not included in prior annual reports.

Child Discharge Demographics, by Discharge Reason

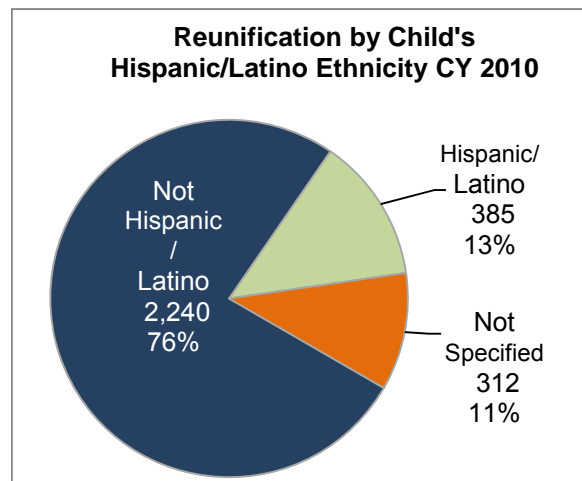
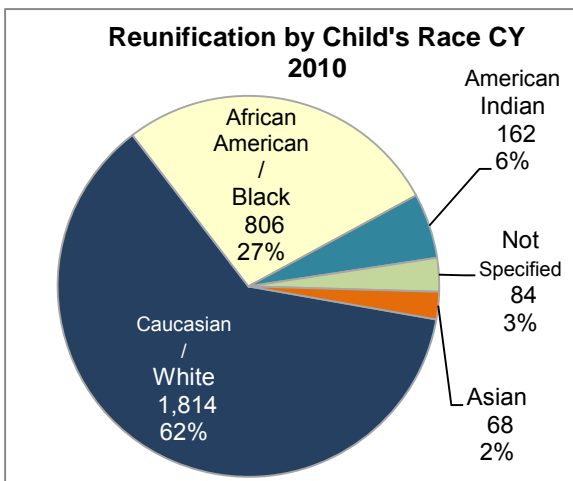
Demographic counts are based on a child's most recent discharge from OHC. All demographic data below is broken out by discharge reason, as the demographics for each reason vary.

In the following charts, Not Specified includes those children where the demographic information was either listed as "Unable to Determine", "Declined", or not documented. The demographic group listed in the charts as American Indian also includes Alaskan Native.

Figure 27: Reunification for CY 2010 by Age, Gender, Race, and Hispanic/Latino ethnicity

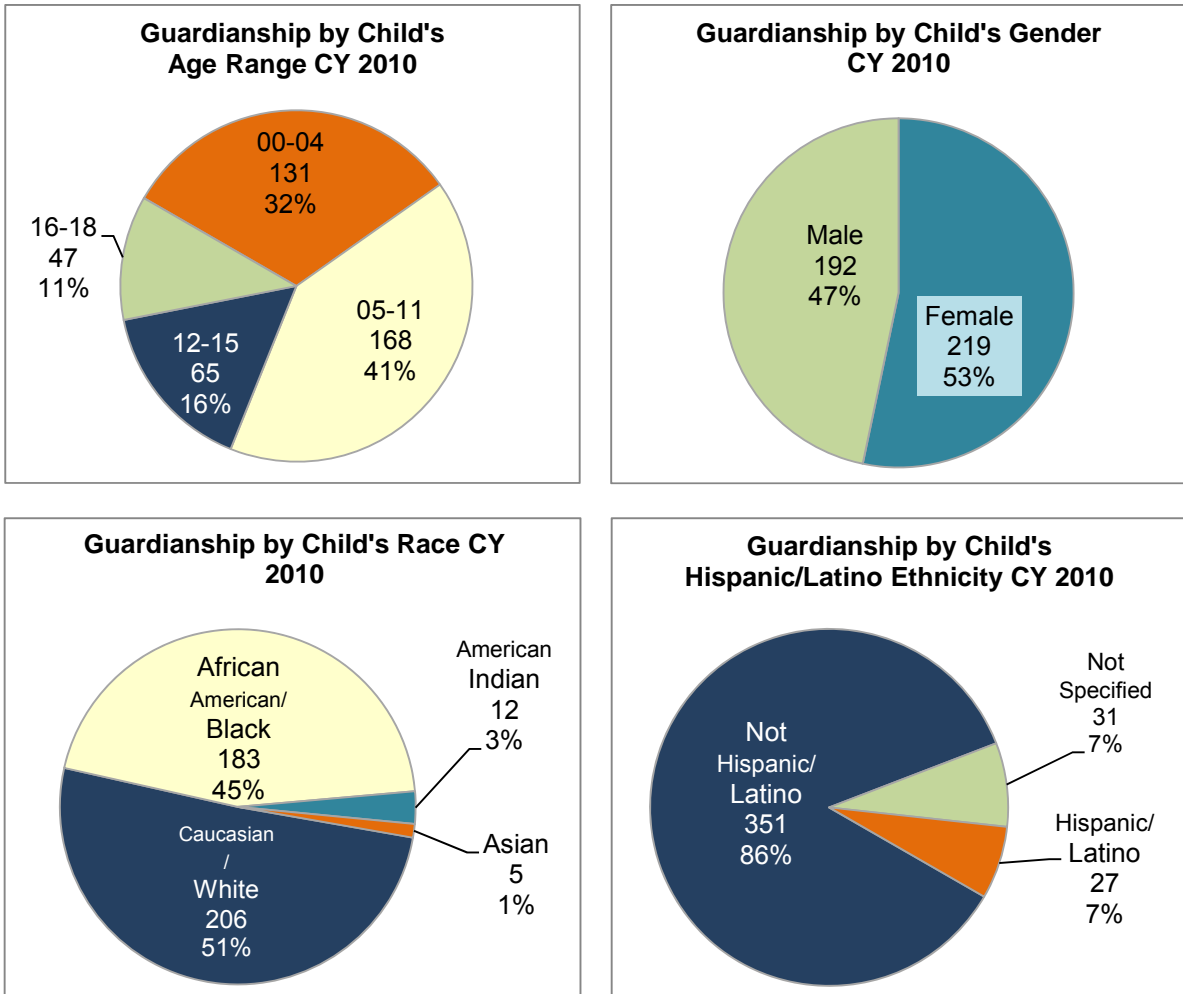


Note: Not depicted in above graph are 1 child not documented and 2 children 19 – 20 years.



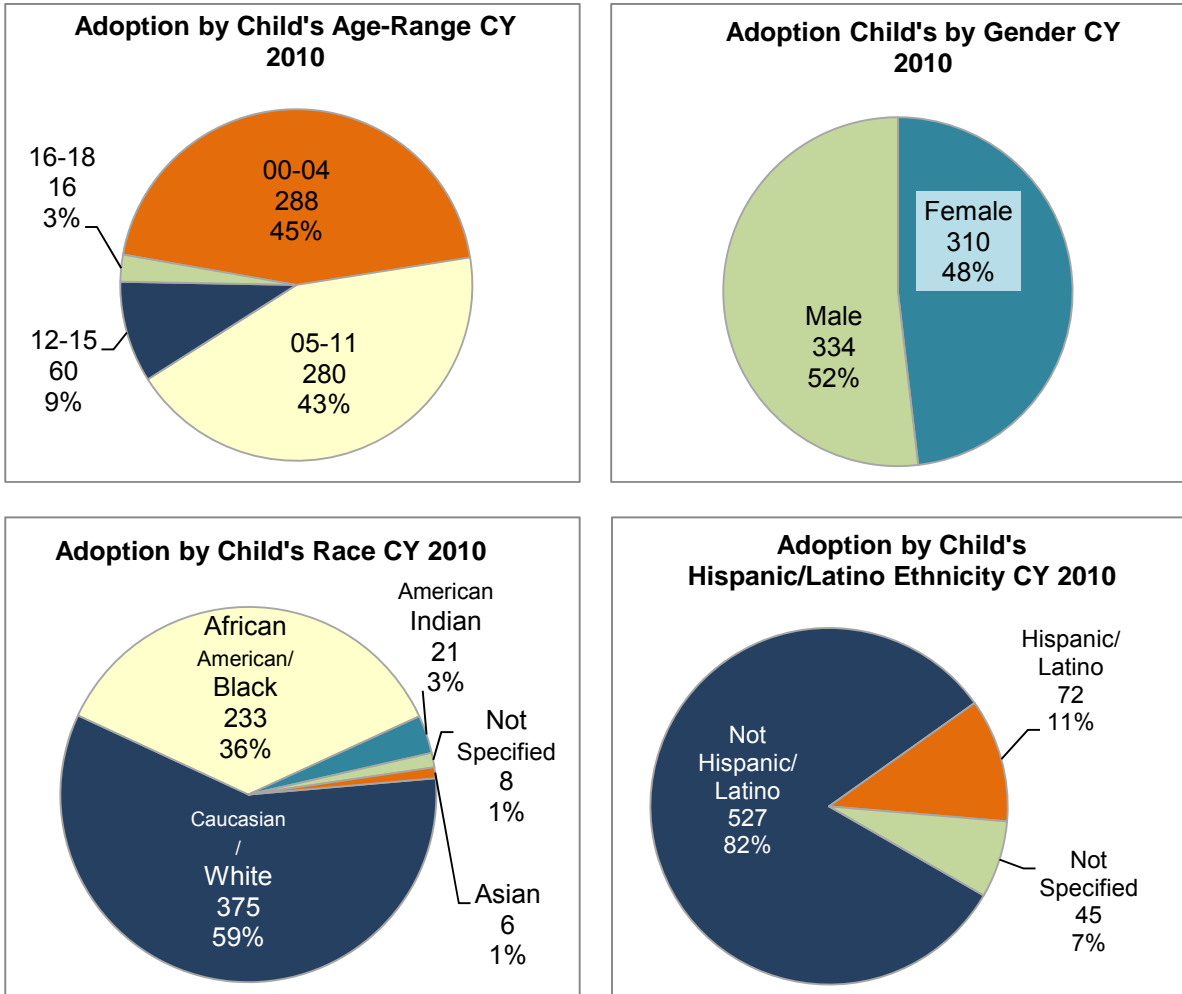
Note: Not depicted in the above graph are 3 Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander children.

Figure 28: Guardianship for CY 2010 by Age, Gender, Race, and Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.



Note: Not depicted in the above graph are 2 Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander children and 3 children whose race was not specified

Figure 29: Adoption for CY 2010 by Age, Gender, Race, and Hispanic/Latino ethnicity



Note: Not depicted in the above graph are 2 Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander children and 3 children whose race was not specified

Median Time to Discharge

Median Time to Discharge presents summary data on the median length of the OHC placement episode prior to discharge. The length of time is based on the time from the child's removal from home until the time of discharge. Statewide, children spent a median of 318 days in care before discharge. **Figure 31** displays the total Median Time to Discharge for children in OHC during CY 2010 by age. **Figure 32** displays the same information by Race.

Figure 30: Children 5-11 years have spent over a full year in care, on average, when they discharge

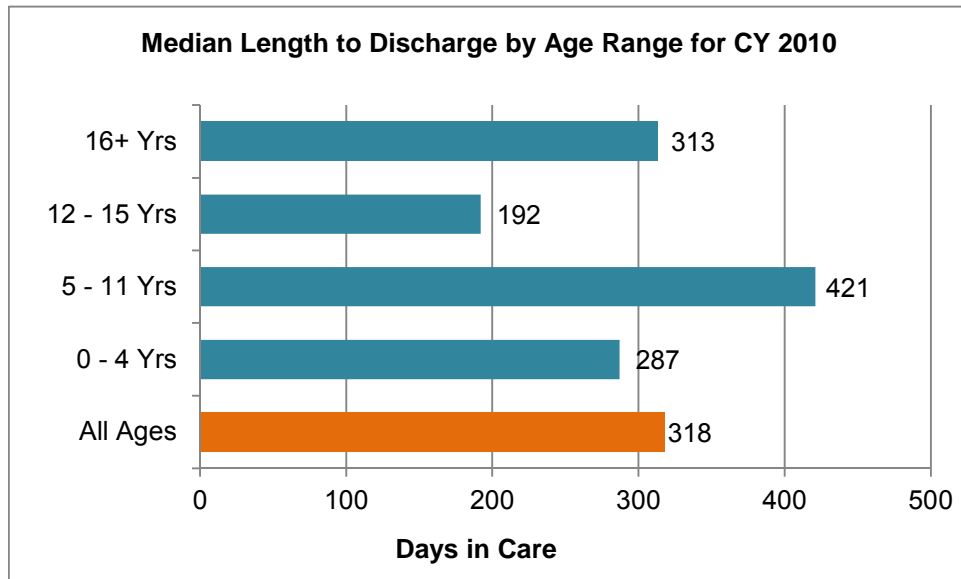
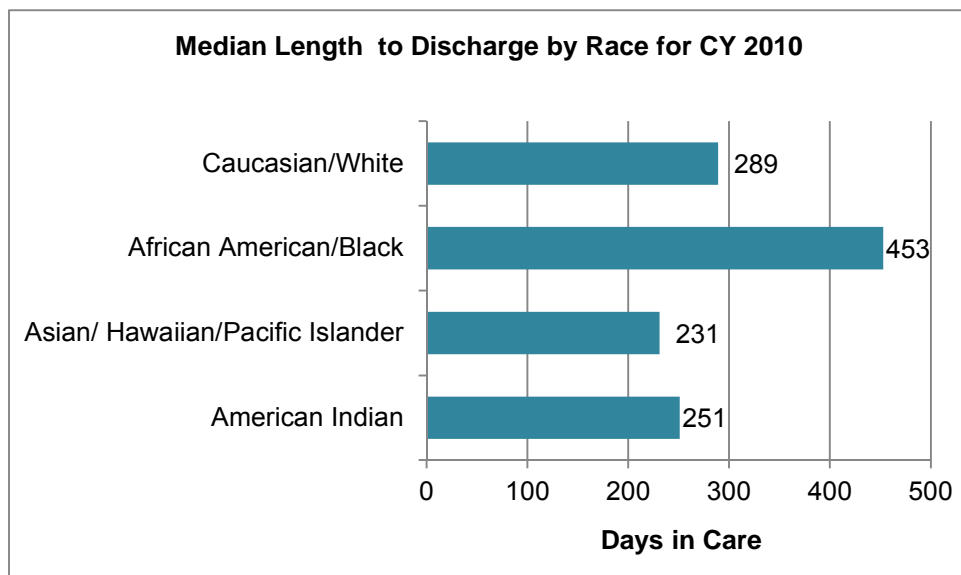


Figure 31: African American children have longer stays in care than Caucasian children



Entries and Discharge Comparison for Children Entering and Exiting Out-of-Home Care in CY 2010

This section compares the demographics of the children who entered and exited out-of-home care during the 2010 CY. The figures below illustrate the comparison by age, race, and Hispanic ethnicity.

Figure 32: There is not any significant difference in entries compared to exits when focusing on gender

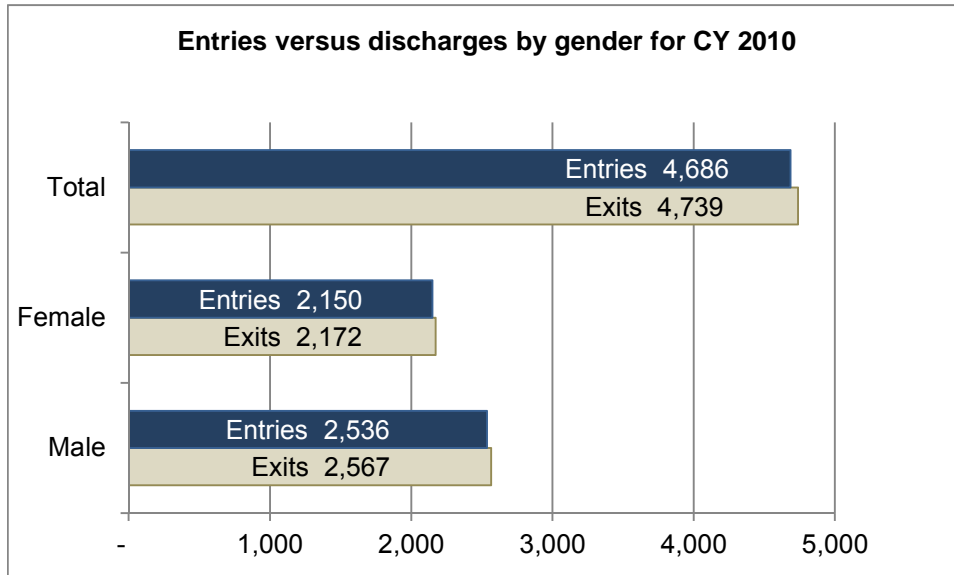


Figure 33: There are more entries than exits for children ages 0-4 while youth ages 16-18 are exiting at a significantly higher rate than entries.

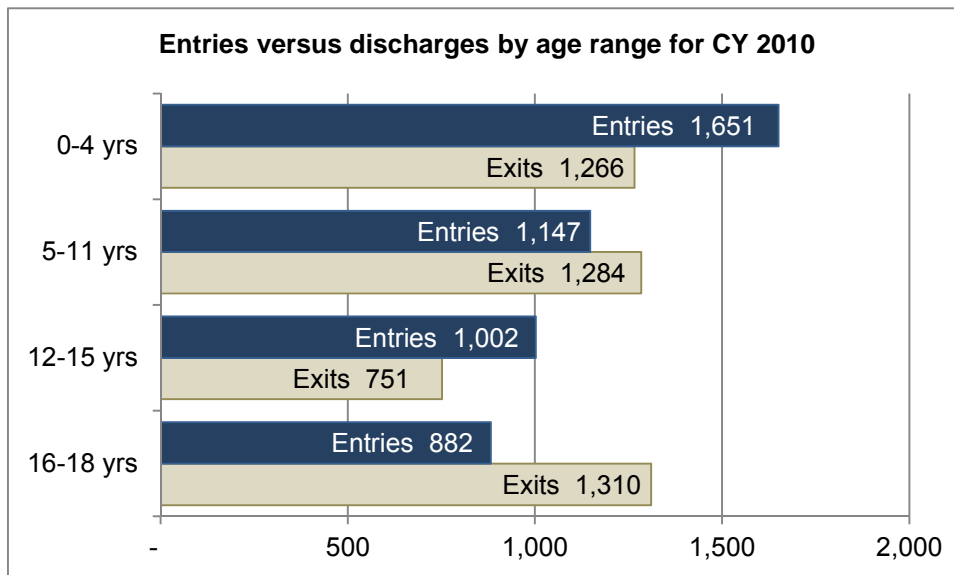


Figure 34: There does not appear to be a significant difference between entry and exits when focusing on race.

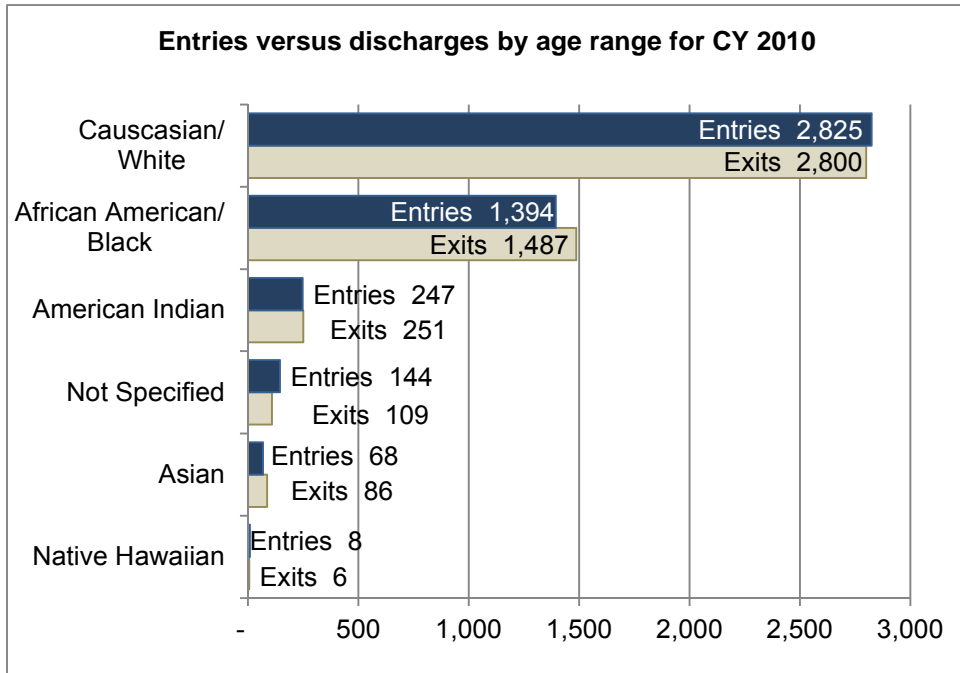


Figure 35: There does not appear to be a significant difference between entry and exits when focusing on ethnicity.

