

**Department of Human Services - Child Welfare Report to the Legislature
Chapter 238 Oregon Laws 2007 Legislative Report for 2016 And
Chapter 418.319 Oregon Laws Legislative Report for 2016
September 22, 2016**

The Department of Human Services is submitting this report to the Legislature as required by Senate Bill 413 enacted in the 2007 Regular Legislative Session and now part of Chapter 238 Oregon Laws 2007. This report relates to children in the Department’s Child Foster Care Program. As required, this report includes six (6) related data elements and the Department’s 2015 *Child Welfare Data Book* (previously the *Status of Children in Oregon’s Child Protection System*). The six (6) data elements are all related to our updates of information in the *Child Welfare Data Book* report; however, the data elements provide information covering the two years; one ending September 2014 and one ending September 2015 (the last finalized reporting period at the time of this report). The 2014 and 2015 *Child Welfare Data Book* report covers the federal fiscal year ending September 30 of each year.

The Department of Human Services is also submitting data to the Legislature as required by ORS 418.319. The law sets a goal for the Department to have no more than 33 percent of IV-E Eligible foster children with lengths of stay over 24 months. The data displays two periods, the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2014 and September 30, 2015.

Foster Care Stability

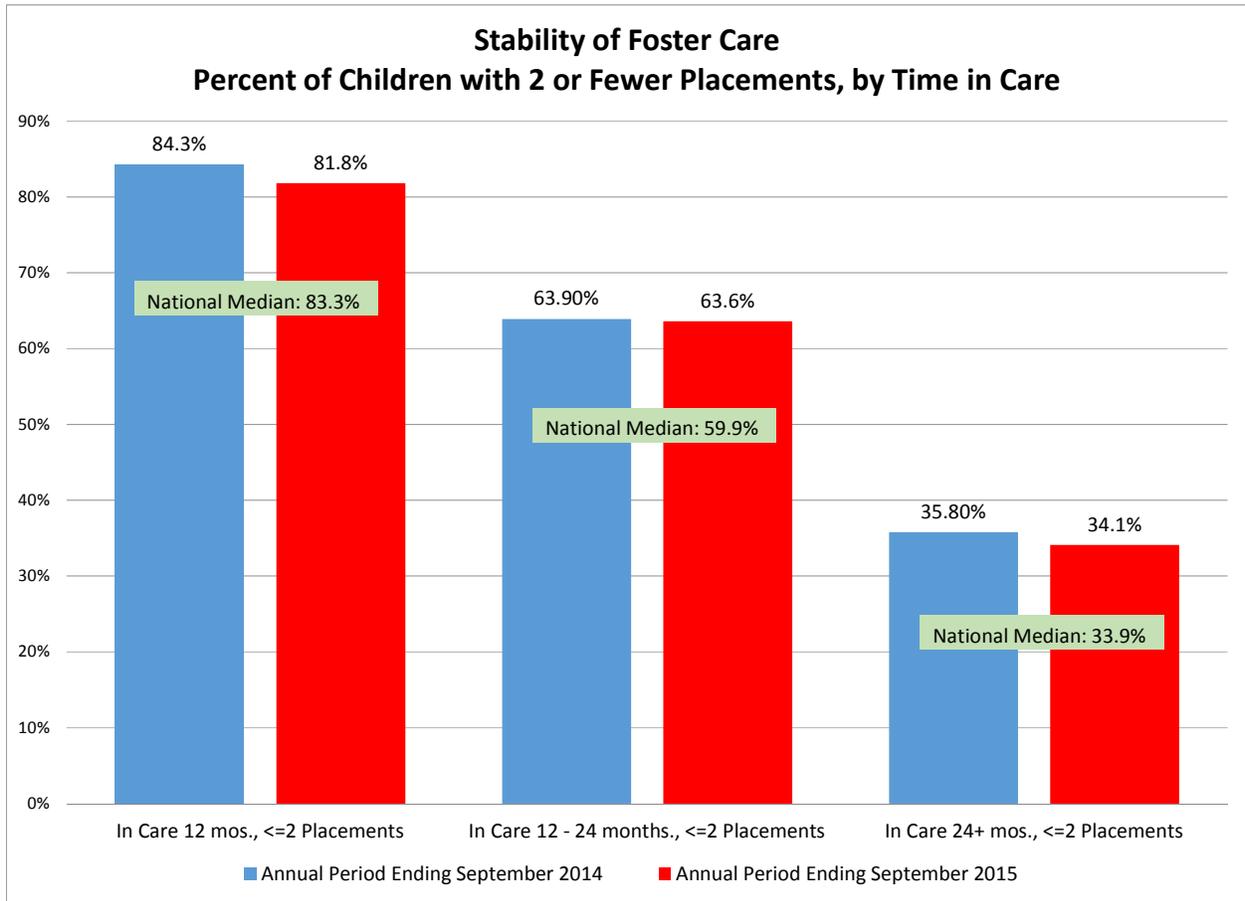
It is the goal of DHS Child Welfare to place children in the custody of DHS in stable foster care placement, and maintain that stability from the first placement throughout their length of stay. In the most recent reporting period, DHS Child Welfare achieves this goal with 33.9 percent of the children currently in foster care. This measure decrease for the 2014 reporting period and then increased in the 2015 reporting period.

**ORS 418-036, Section 1, Items (1) and (2)
Number of Children in Foster Care and Number with >1 Placement
for Children in Foster Care (all types)**

item Number	Description	9/30/2014	9/30/2015
1	Number of children in foster care	7,599	7,544
	Number with 1 foster care placement	2,259	2,558
2	Number with >1 foster care placement	5,340	4,986
	Percent with 1 placement	29.7%	33.9%
	Percent with >1 placement	70.3%	66.1%

Additionally, the Federal Children’s Bureau has developed national data measures for stability of placement in foster care. The measures look at the percent of children with two or fewer placements grouped by the amount of time the children have been in foster care. Oregon’s performance is better than the national median performance for children in foster care through 24 months. For children in foster care 24 months or more, Oregon’s performance is consistent

with the national median based on the Oregon Child and Family Services Review Data Profile from March 20, 2014, as provided by ACF.



**Number of Placements and Number of Placement Changes,
for Children In Foster Care (All Types)**

Number of Placements (Item (3))	Number of Placement Changes (Item (5))	9/30/2014		9/30/2015	
		Number of Children	Percent of Total	Number of Children	Percent of Total
1	0	2,259	29.7%	2,242	29.7%
2	1	1,942	25.6%	1,891	25.1%
3	2	1,204	15.8%	1,163	15.4%
4	3	689	9.1%	740	9.8%
5	4	426	5.6%	393	5.2%
6	5	298	3.9%	284	3.8%
7	6	157	2.1%	206	2.7%
8	7	130	1.7%	130	1.7%
9	8	91	1.2%	92	1.2%
10	9	68	0.9%	57	0.8%
11	10	59	0.8%	53	0.7%
12	11	56	0.7%	41	0.5%
13	12	37	0.5%	42	0.6%
14	13	30	0.4%	32	0.4%
15	14	29	0.4%	28	0.4%
16	15	23	0.3%	26	0.3%
17	16	16	0.2%	17	0.2%
18	17	21	0.3%	18	0.2%
19	18	15	0.2%	19	0.3%
20	19	13	0.2%	14	0.2%
21	20	5	0.1%	11	0.1%
22	21	5	0.1%	8	0.1%
23	22	8	0.1%	7	0.1%
24	23	2	0.0%	6	0.1%
25	24	4	0.1%	2	0.0%
26	25	3	0.0%	8	0.1%
27	26	5	0.1%	2	0.0%
28	27	0	0.0%	3	0.0%
29	28	1	0.0%	3	0.0%
30	29	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
33	32	1	0.0%	0	0.0%
35	34	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
36	35	1	0.0%	0	0.0%
38	37	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
43	42	0	0.0%	2	0.0%
45	44	1	0.0%	0	0.0%
57	56	0	0.0%	1	0.0%

Placement Connections

DHS helps maintain connections for children placed in foster care by working to place children in their same neighborhoods, same school communities, with relatives and by placing siblings together.

There were 7,544 children in foster care as of September 30, 2015. The placement settings for children in foster care include out-of-home foster care, trial home visits and pre-adoptive settings.

- A total of 43.5 percent of children in foster care were placed with relatives or were with parents where DHS maintains legal custody of the child on 9/30/2015. This percent has been improving for the past several years, up from 31.0 percent in early 2008.

**Percentage of Children in Foster Care Placed with Relatives
For Children in Foster Care (All Types), Item (6)**

Item Number	Type of Placement	9/30/2014		9/30/2015	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	Non-Relative Family Foster Home	3,559	46.8%	3,449	45.7%
	Relative Family Foster Home	2,387	31.4%	2,389	31.7%
	Trail Home Visit	840	11.1%	893	11.8%
	Residential/Institutional Care	318	4.2%	306	4.1%
	Pre-Adoptive Home	237	3.1%	249	3.3%
	Runaway	84	1.1%	91	1.2%
	Family Group Home	45	0.6%	48	0.6%
	Supervises Independent Living	129	1.7%	119	1.6%
1	total in Care on 9/30	7,599	100.0%	7,544	100.0%
6	Total Number Placed with Relatives or with Biological Parents (on Trial Home Visit)	3,227	42.5%	3,282	43.5%

Children who are placed in Family Foster Care settings are placed in Relative Caregiver Homes (related) or Family Foster Home (non-related). The distribution of these two placement settings are found in the following table. The percent of children in family foster care who are placed with relatives has increased by 0.8 percentage points between 2014 and 2015, a 0.9 percent increase.

Percentage of Children in Family Foster Care Placed with Relatives

Item Number	Type of Placement	9/30/2014	9/30/2015
	Number of children in family foster care	5,946	5,838
	Number placed with relative	2,387	2,389
	Percent with relative	40.1%	40.9%

Sibling Relationships

The existing bond and relationship between siblings has historically been overlooked in child welfare practice, but a number of systems have begun to recognize the need for sibling connections and relationships. Oregon has prioritized the protection and enhancement of sibling bonds since 2007.

- On September 30, 2015, there were 3,863 children in out-of-home foster care who were part of a sibling group. Of these children, 3,257 (84.3 percent) were placed with the same family as one or more of their siblings.
- Between March 2008 and June 2015 the percent of children not placed with any sibling improved from 19.9 percent to 15.7 percent, a 21.1 percent improvement.

This sibling placement success includes identifying placement settings with families who may accept three or four siblings into their home. DHS has experienced sibling groups as large as nine children requiring foster care placements.

Percentage of Children in Foster Care Placed with Relatives For Children in Foster Care (All Types) Item (4)

Item Number	Description	9/30/2014	9/30/2015
	Number of children part of a sibling group in foster care	3,817	3,863
	Number of children placed with a sibling	3,137	3,257
	Percentage of foster children placed WITH a sibling	82.2%	84.3%
4	Percentage of foster children placed apart from siblings	17.8%	15.7%

The Department remains challenged in making and maintaining placement decisions given the inadequate availability of relative and foster families. More homes are needed in Oregon to ensure that, at any given time or place, foster families are available for placement of children. The Department is addressing this need through the extension of relative search and reallocation of existing resources to recruit and retain foster parents for children. These efforts utilize proven strategies of Targeted, Child Specific and General Recruitment efforts.

Chapter 418.319 Oregon Laws Legislative Report for 2016

The Department of Human Services is submitting the following data to the Legislature as required by ORS 418.319. This report relates to children in the Department's Child Foster Care Program. The law sets a goal for the Department to have no more than 33 percent of IV-E Eligible foster children with lengths of stay over 24 months. On the last day of September 2014, 34.71 percent of Title IV-E Eligible Foster children were in care for 24 or more months. By

September 30, 2015 this figure reduced to 31.6 percent. This measure exceeds the goal of 33.0 in 2014 by 1.41 percent but is short of the goal in 2015 by 1.4 percent.

