

## **Adoption Surveillance Report**

Data and Evaluation March 2016

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Table1: Children in RI DCYF foster care waiting for adoption for 2 years or longer

## Acknowledgement

This report, Adoption Surveillance Report, was produced by the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families' Data and Evaluation Unit, in collaboration with The Consultation Center at Yale University who provided AFCARS data. It represents a collaborative effort of many individuals.

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## Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families Efforts

In 2013, The Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families (RI DCYF) was one of six child welfare systems awarded a grant to fund the Adopt Well-Being Rhode Island Initiative, a partnership among RI DCYF, Family Service of Rhode Island, and Adoption Rhode Island that seeks to improve the overall standard of care in the child welfare and mental health systems in Rhode Island.

The Initiative will build a collaborative process to integrate multiple system reforms in an effort to achieve the main goals of the project. These goals are focused on improving the overall well-being of children and families through the implementation of trauma-informed, adoption-competent approaches to well-being and permanency outcomes. This system transformation will include implementation of trauma assessment, implementation of an on-going functional assessment of child well-being, a shift to data-driven case planning that is trauma-informed and adoption competent, and a focus on aligning the service array to meet the needs of children waiting to be adopted and post-adoption to ensure that safety, permanency, and well-being are achieved.

Also in 2013, Rhode Island was one of only 9 states across the country selected to be part of federal initiative to ensure diligent recruitment of diverse foster, adoptive, and kinship families for children in state care, *A Family for Every Child!* The goal of this initiative is to establish a comprehensive system of recruitment and support for resource families that also aligns with the goals of Adopt Well-Being Rhode Island to move the system to one that is trauma-informed and bests supports the well-being of all children and families.

The RI DCYF Adoption Surveillance Report provides information on children and youth involved with RI DCYF waiting for their forever family and who have found their forever family.

If you are interested in being a foster parent or adopting a child please contact Robin Perez, DCYF Foster Parent Recruiter: 401-528-3700 Adoption Rhode Island: 401-865-6000

## **Highlights and Key Findings**

- One thousand six-hundred and fifteen (1,615) children were adopted from the Rhode Island Child Welfare System between federal fiscal years 2008 and 2015.
- Among all Hispanic children who exited foster care in FFY2015, 22% exited care with adoption. Among all Black Non-Hispanic children who exited foster care in FFY2015, 12% exited care with adoption. Among all White Non-Hispanic children who exited foster care in FFY2015, 16% exited care with adoption.
- Of children whose parent's parental rights were terminated (TPR) in FY2008-13, 93.5% were adopted within two years of TPR\*.
- The largest proportion, 45.9%, of children who had been waiting for adoption\* for two years or longer on 3/15/2016 was between the ages of 11 and 15.
- Compared to children ages 10 or younger, children ages 11 or older at the time of TPR (in FY2008-13) had 6.6 times the odds of staying in placement for two years versus being adopted within two years (not including direct consent adoptions).
- The two largest racial and ethnic groups who had been waiting for adoption for two years or longer on 3/15/2016 were Hispanics and Whites: 35.1% and 51.4%, respectively.
- Of children removed from an adopted home in FY2008-15, the median length of time between adoption and first removal from home post-adoption was 7.1 years. The median age at first removal post-adoption\* was 14 years old.
- Of children removed from an adopted home in FY2008-15, 21.3% reunified with parents within 6 months of removal.
- Of children whose adoption was dissolved in FY2008-15, 34.6% were adopted by direct consent adoption\*.
- Of children whose adoption was dissolved in FY2008-15, the median length of time between adoption and dissolution was 7 years. The median age at dissolution\* was 13 years old.
- The data on children removed post adoption and adoption dissolutions suggest children who are adopted between the ages of 5 and 6 years *may* have an elevated risk of experiencing a removal or dissolution between the years of 13 and 14 years old. This suggests perhaps providing additional supports at the time of adoption and active outreach and supports to those youth and their families at the time the youth is entering adolescence, approximately 10 or 11 years old.
- Fifty-eight percent (58%) of children who experienced an adoption dissolution in FY2008-15 were subsequently adopted\*\*.

\* See terms and definitions page

<sup>\*\*</sup> Data reflect dissolutions that occurred between FY2008-15 and subsequent adoption that occurred before 2/24//2016.

## **Terms and Definitions**

#### • Termination of parental rights (TPR)

Termination of Parental Rights is the severing of the parent-child relationship by the state. If two parents have their parental rights terminated on different dates, the latter of the two dates is considered the TPR date.

#### • Waiting for adoption

A child is considered to be waiting for adoption if a child is 17 years old or younger and has a permanency goal of adoption and/or has parents' parental rights terminated.

If a child is waiting with TPR and a goal of adoption, length of time waiting for adoption is calculated from the date of TPR. If a child is waiting without TPR and with a goal of adoption, length of time waiting for adoption is calculated from the date at which permanency goal becomes adoption.

#### • Direct consent adoption

A child is adopted via direct consent when a birth parent gives direct consent for the adoption of his/her child to a specific family currently providing care to the child, instead of relinquishing his/her parental rights to a designated agency.

#### • Adoption disruption

Adoption disruption is an adoption process that ends after a child is placed in an adoptive home and before the adoption is legally finalized.

#### Removal post-adoption

A removal post-adoption is when a child is removed from adoptive home after the adoption is legally finalized.

#### Dissolution

Dissolution is a termination of parental right of adoptive parents after the adoption is legally finalized.

### **Adoptions**

Consistent with Child Welfare best practice, RI DCYF aims to promote safety, permanency and well-being among all children, youth and their families. RI DCYF makes concerted efforts to preserve families and support children in their families. When efforts to maintain children in their homes can no longer ensure child safety, for the safety of the child, the child is placed in foster care. When a child is removed from their home, the primary goal for permanency is reunification with their family. If permanency cannot be achieved by reunification with their family, the child can achieve permanency with a forever family through adoption.

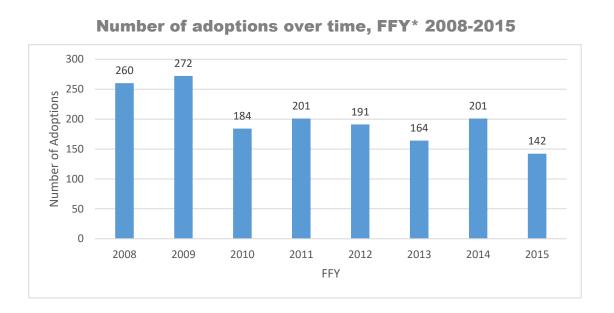


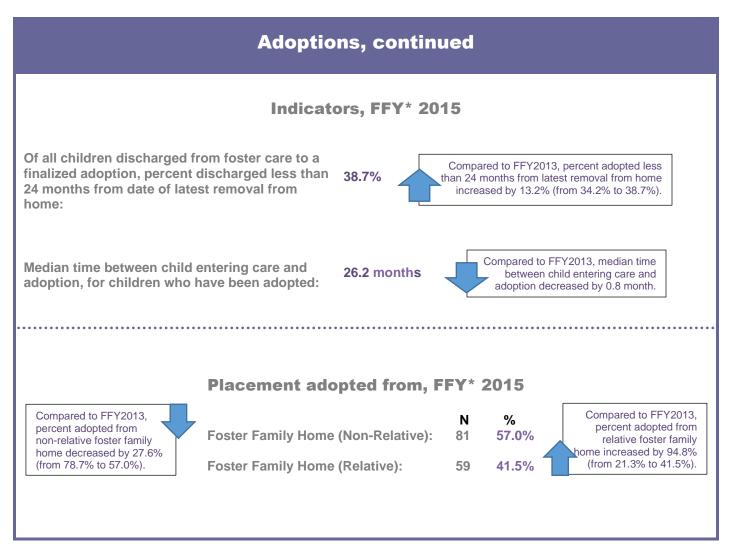
Figure 1. Number and percent of adoptions over time

#### Percent of adoptions over time, FFY\* 2010-2015

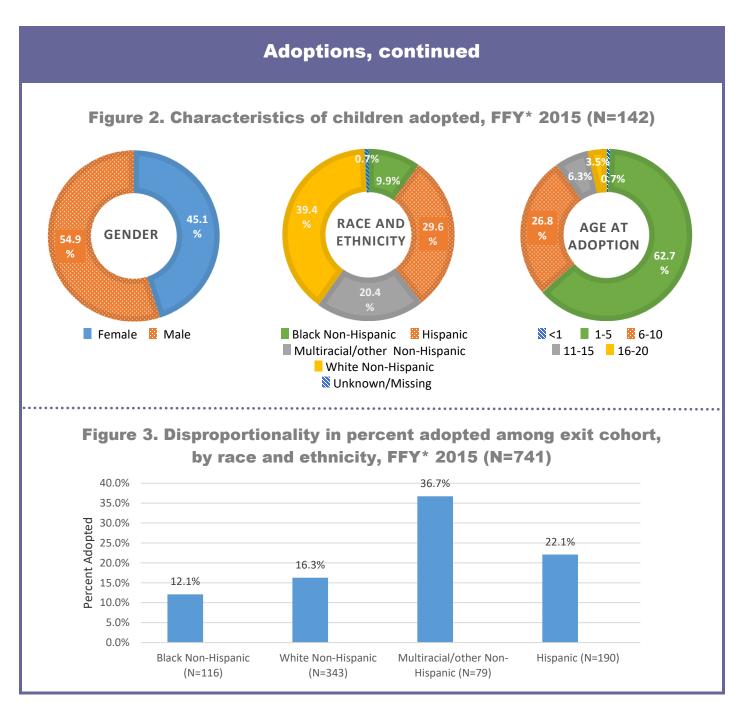
Although the number of adoption decreased over time, the percent of adoption among children exiting care increased (Number of children exiting care and percent exiting with reunification decreased and percent of children exiting with guardianship increased over the same time period)

# exited care	% reunification	% guardianship	% adoption
1254	63.2%	7.6%	14.6%
1311	59.6%	9.6%	15.3%
1175	57.0%	11.5%	15.7%
1069	62.2%	9.9%	15.1%
1091	55.3%	8.1%	18.4%
741	53.6%	10.8%	19.2%
	exited care 1254 1311 1175 1069 1091	exited carereunification125463.2%131159.6%117557.0%106962.2%109155.3%	exited carereunificationguardianship125463.2%7.6%131159.6%9.6%117557.0%11.5%106962.2%9.9%109155.3%8.1%

Source: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS). \*FFY: Federal Fiscal Year



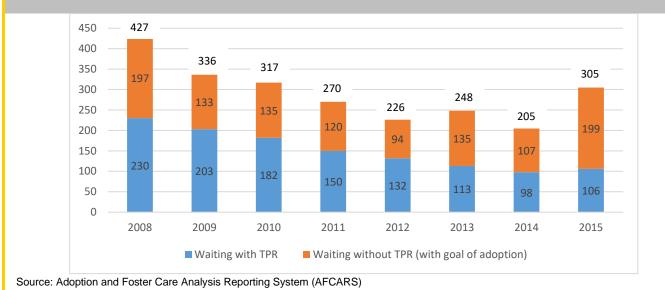
Source: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS). Data Note: 2 children were adopted from pre-adoptive home in FFY 2015. \*FFY: Federal Fiscal Year



Source: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Reporting System (AFCARS). \*FFY: Federal Fiscal Year

## **Children Waiting for Adoption**

A child is considered to be waiting for adoption if a child is 17 years old or younger and has a permanency goal of adoption and/or has parents' parental rights terminated for both parents. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parents' parental rights have been terminated and have a permanency goal of emancipation. There is no federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. The definition used in this report is consistent with AFCARS.

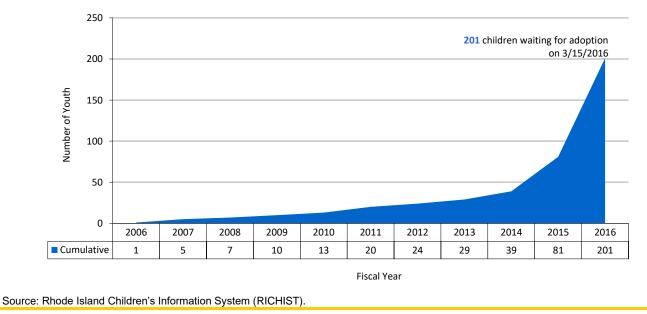


### Figure 4. Number of children waiting for adoption by year, FFY 2008-2015



### Children waiting for adoption on 3/15/2016: 201 60 children with TPR and 141 without TPR (with goal of adoption)





## **Children Waiting for Adoption, continued**

#### Current placement of children waiting for adoption on 3/15/2016

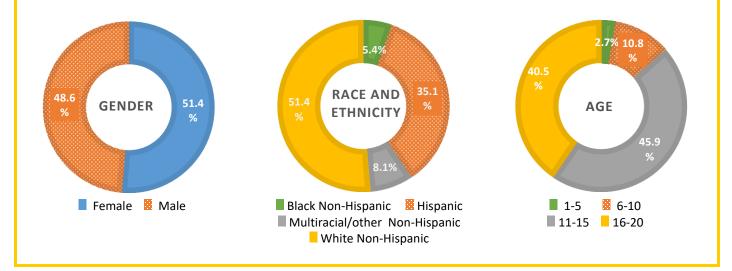
Placement Type	# children	%
Relative Kinship	67	33.3%
Non-relative Kinship	17	8.5%
Non-kinship	81	40.3%
Congregate Care	32	<b>15.9%</b>
Hospital	1	0.5%
Semi- / Independent Living	3	1.5%
TOTAL	201	100.0%

#### Median length of time waiting for adoption for children waiting for adoption on 3/15/2016

with TPR : 5.7 months without TPR (with goal of adoption) : 13.9 months

## Figure 6. Characteristics of children who have been waiting for adoption for 2 years or longer on 3/15/2016, (N=37)

For characteristics of all children waiting for adoption, see Appendix Table1

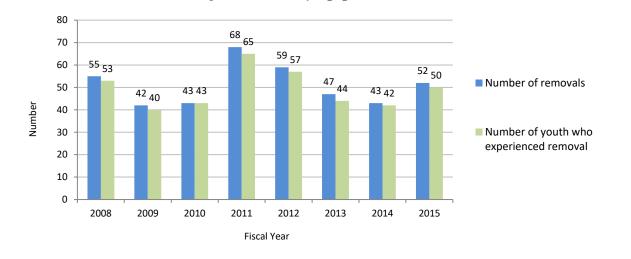


Source: RICHIST

- Children waiting without TPR have a primary permanency goal of adoption.
- If kinship is missing among children in non-relative foster care and private foster care, it is assigned proportionally based on existing data.
- Length of time waiting for adoption begins from the date at which both parents' parental rights become terminated. If a child is waiting for adoption without TPR, length of time waiting for adoption begins from the date at which the child's permanency goal becomes adoption.

## **Removals Post-Adoption, FY 2008-2015**

Figure 7. Number of removals and youth who experienced removals from adoptive home, by year of removal

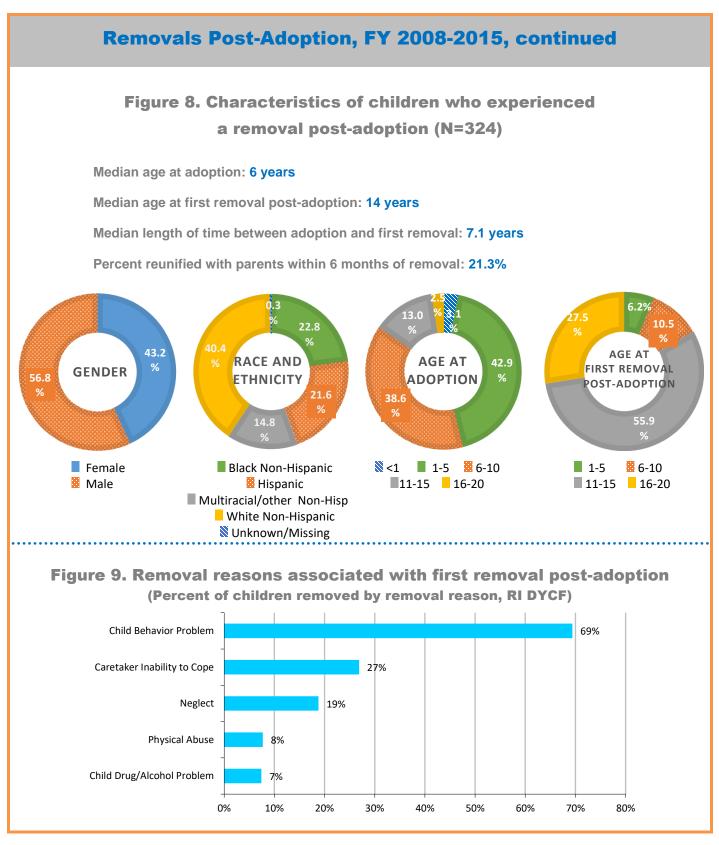


#### First placement type after removal from adoptive home

Placement Type	#	%
	removals	
Relative Kinship	33	<b>8.1%</b>
Non-relative Kinship	17	4.2%
Non-kinship	42	10.3%
Congregate Care	312	76.3%
Semi-/ Independent Living	2	0.5%
Other	3	0.7%
TOTAL	409	100.0%

Source: RICHIST

- If kinship is missing among children in non-relative foster care and private foster care, it is assigned proportionally based on existing data.
- Number of youth who experienced removals from adopted home is unduplicated within a fiscal year. However, a youth may have experienced removal in more than one year.
- Congregate Care includes acute residential treatment, emergency shelter, group homes, high end residential treatment, purchase of service emergency shelter, purchase of service group homes, residential counseling center, residential treatment center, and residential treatment center- substance abuse. Other includes DAS inpatient and psychiatric hospital.



Source: RICHIST

- Adoption age of children who experienced a removal from adopted home follows similar distribution as adoption age of all children adopted during same time period.
- Percentages do not add up to 100 as there can be more than one removal reason associated with removal. Less than 5 percent of children who experienced removal after adoption had the following remoal reasons associated with the removal: relinguishment, inadequate housing, parent incarceration, parent drug/alcohol problem, sexual abuse, or abandonment..

## **Dissolutions (TPR After Adoption), FY 2008-2015**

Adoption dissolution is defined as a termination of parental rights for youth who have been adopted.

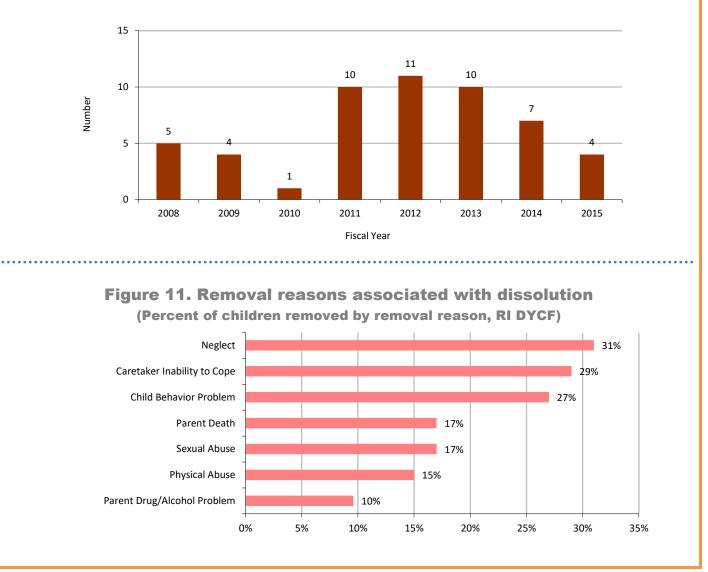
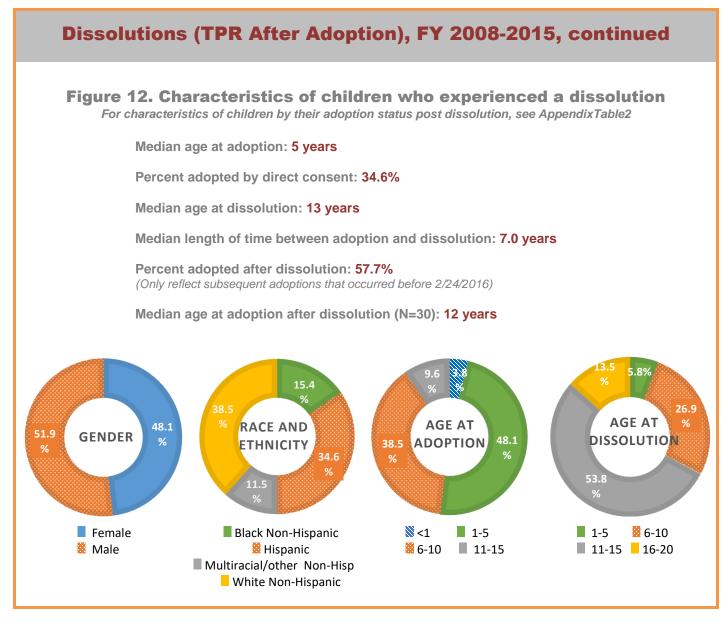


Figure 10. Number of dissolutions, by year (N = 52)

Source: RICHIST. Data Note:

Percentages do not add up to 100 as there can be more than one removal reason associated with removal. Less than 5 percent of children
who experienced dissolution had the following remoal reasons associated with dissolution: relinguishment, inadequate housing, parent
incarceration, child drug/alcohol problem, or abandonment.



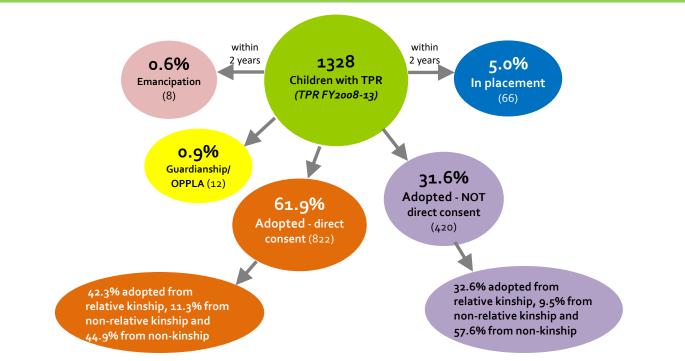
Source: RICHIST.

Data Notes:

 Adoption age of children who experienced a dissolution follows similar distribution as adoption age of all children adopted during same time period.

# Figure 13. Outcomes for Youth whose Parents' Parental Rights were Terminated in FY 2008-2013

For characteristics of youth whose parents' parental rights were terminated, see Appendix Table3



**Factors significantly associated with permenancy outcome 2 years post-TPR** <u>Odds ratio (OR) of staying in placement 2 years post-TPR compared</u> to being adopted - NOT direct consent

#### ✤ Age at TPR

Youth ages 11 or older at the time of TPR have 7 times the odds of staying in placement compared to youth ages 10 or younger

#### Disability

Youth with disability have 3 times the odds of staying in placement compared to those without

#### Sibling group

Youth in part of sibling group have 3 times the odds of staying in placement compared to those not in sibling group

#### Age at first removal

Youth ages 11 or older at the time of first removal have 5 times the odds of staying in placement compared to those 10 or younger

#### Age at most recent removal

Youth ages 11 or older at the time of most recent removal have 5 times the odds of staying in placement compared to those 10 or younger

Characteristics of youth	Unadjusted OR* (C.I.)
Age at TPR (years)	
11 or older compared to	6.56
10 or younger	(3.78 – 11.37)
Disability*	
Yes compared to	2.98
No	(1.73 – 5.13)
Part of sibling group	
No compared to	2.93
Yes	(1.65 – 5.19)
Age at first removal (years)	
11 or older compared to	4.85
10 or younger	(2.39 – 9.85)
Age at most recent removal (years)	
11 or older compared to	4.71
10 or younger	(2.45 – 9.05)
Odds ratio on this table are unadjusted and does not control for other to the outcome. Table includes only the factors significantly associate placement 2 years post-TPR (p<0.05). Placement at the time of TPR (by proxy definition), number of placements post-TPR are significant	ed with odds of staying in , experience of disruptions

staying in placement 2 years post-TPR, but are not included because of large confidence interval. Gender and number of removals between first removal and TPR were not significantly associated.

#### Source: RICHIST

Data Note: If kinship is missing among children in non-relative foster care or private foster care, it is assigned proportionally based on existing data.

## Table 1: Children in RI DCYF foster care waiting for adoption for 2 years or longer compared to less than 2 years, by demographic characteristics (on 3/15/2016)

	Total		waiting for or longer		waiting for an 2 years
Number and percent of children waiting	201	37	18.4%	164	81.6%
for adoption					
Gender					
Female	99	19	19.2%	80	80.8%
Male	102	18	17.7%	84	82.4%
Race and ethnicity					
Black Non-Hispanic	27	2	7.4%	25	92.6%
Hispanic (any race)	68	13	19.1%	55	80.9%
White Non-Hispanic	76	19	25.0%	57	75.0%
Multiracial/Other Non-Hispanic	27	3	11.1%	24	88.9%
Unknown	3	0	0.0%	3	100.0%
Median age (years)	7	15			6
Age (years)					
<1	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
1-5	79	1	1.3%	78	98.7%
6-10	53	4	7.6%	49	92.5%
11-15	50	17	34.0%	33	66.0%
16-20	19	15	79.0%	4	21.1%
Median age at TPR or goal of adoption	7		•		_
(years)	7		9		5
Median length of time waiting (years)	0.6	Ę	5.0	(	0.5
Removal reasons					
Neglect	111	11	9.9%	100	90.1%
Caretaker Inability to Cope	60	12	20.0%	48	80.0%
Parent Death	5	0	0.0%	5	100.0%
Parent Incarceration	15	1	6.7%	14	93.3%
Inadequate Housing	24	3	12.5%	21	87.5%
Child Behavior Problem	17	9	52.9%	8	47.1%
Child Drug/Alcohol Problem	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Parent Drug/Alcohol Problem	65	8	12.3%	57	87.7%
Relinguishment	7	1	14.3%	6	85.7%
Sexual Abuse	5	2	40.0%	3	60.0%
Physical Abuse	23	4	17.4%	19	82.6%

Source: RICHIST.

Data Notes:

- Percentages are calculated across rows.
- Foster care: Federal definition, including all children in out-of-home placement.

• Waiting for adoption: A child is considered to be waiting for adoption if a child is 17 years old or younger and has a permanency goal of adoption and/or has parents' parental rights terminated.

• Length of time waiting: If a child is waiting with TPR and a goal of adoption, length of time waiting for adoption is calculated from the date of TPR. If a child is waiting without TPR and with a goal of adoption, length of time waiting for adoption is calculated from the date at which permanency goal becomes adoption.

## Appendix

## Table 2: Children adopted after dissolution compared to those NOT adopted, by demographic characteristics

	Total		n adopted issolution	Children NOT adopted after dissolution			
Number and percent of children who	52	30	57.7%	22	42.3%		
experienced dissolution							
Gender							
Female	25	14	56.0%	11	44.0%		
Male	27	16	59.3%	11	40.7%		
Race and ethnicity							
Black Non-Hispanic	8	7	87.5%	1	12.5%		
Hispanic (an race)	18	9	50.0%	9	50.0%		
White Non-Hispanic	20	9	45.0%	11	55.0%		
Multiracial/Other Non-Hispanic	6	5	83.3%	1	16.7%		
Unknown	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%		
Median age at initial adoption (years)	5		4		7		
Age at initial adoption (years)							
<1	2	2	100.0%	0	0.0%		
1-5	25	17	68.0%	8	32.0%		
6-10	20	9	45.0%	11	55.0%		
11-15	5	2	40.0%	3	60.0%		
16-20	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%		
Median age at dissolution (years)	13		11.5		13		
Age at dissolution (years)							
<1	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%		
1-5	3	3	100.0%	0	0.0%		
6-10	14	11	78.6%	3	21.4%		
11-15	28	11	39.3%	17	60.7%		
16-20	7	5	71.4%	2	28.6%		
Median length of time between initial adoption and dissolution (years)	7.0		7.0	-	7.1		
Removal Reasons for Dissolution							
Neglect	16	11	68.8%	5	31.3%		
Caretaker Inability to Cope	15	4	26.7%	11	73.3%		
Parent Death	9	9	100.0%	0	0.0%		
Parent Incarceration	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%		
Inadequate Housing	1	1	100.0%	0	0.0%		
Child Behavior Problem	14	4	28.6%	10	71.4%		
Child Drug/Alcohol Problem	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%		
Parent Drug/Alcohol Problem	5	5	100.0%	0	0.0%		
Relinguishment	4	1	25.0%	3	75.0%		
Sexual Abuse	9	3	33.3%	6	66.7%		
Physical Abuse	8	5	62.5%	3	37.5%		

Source: RICHIST.

- Percentages are calculated across rows.
- Dissolution: Dissolution is a termination of parental right of adoptive parents after the adoption is legally finalized.

## Appendix

## Table 3: Outcomes two years post-TPR

Characteristics of Children		Adopted - NOT Direct Consent (n=420)		ect Consent (n=66) (n=420)		Emancipation (n=8)		Guardianship/ OPPLA (n=12)		Adopted - Direct Consent (n=822)	
Median age at TPR (years)		4		11		17		9		3	
Age at TPR (years)											
10 or younger	1123	348	31.0%	28	2.5%	0	0.0%	7	0.6%	740	65.9%
11 or older	205	72	35.1%	28	18.5%	8	3.9%	5	2.4%	82	40.0%
Gender											
Female	635	186	29.3%	32	5.0%	3	0.5%	7	1.1%	407	64.1%
Male	693	234	33.8%	34	4.9%	5	0.7%	5	0.7%	415	59.9%
Race/ethnicity											
Black Non-Hispanic	185	63	34.1%	9	4.9%	1	0.5%	4	2.2%	108	58.4%
Hispanic (any race)	354	120	33.9%	19	5.4%	1	0.3%	2	0.6%	212	59.9%
Multiracial/other Non-Hispanic	189	41	21.7%	6	3.2%	2	1.1%	2	1.1%	138	73.0%
White Non-Hispanic	589	192	32.6%	32	5.4%	4	0.7%	4	0.7%	357	60.6%
Unknown	11	4		0		0		0		7	
Disability											
Yes	473	162	34.3%	43	9.1%	2	0.4%	5	1.1%	261	55.2%
No	855	258	30.2%	23	2.7%	6	0.7%	7	0.8%	561	65.6%
Part of sibling group											
Yes	541	179	32.0%	45	8.3%	6	1.1%	6	1.1%	311	57.5%
No	651	214	32.9%	19	2.9%	2	0.3%	6	0.9%	410	63.0%
Unknown	136	33		2		0		0		101	
Placement at time of TPR											
Congregate Care	39	9	23.1%	25	64.1%	2	5.1%	2	5.1%	1	2.6%
Non-Congregate Care	1266	399	31.5%	41	3.2%	6	0.5%	10	0.8%	810	64.0%
Unknown	23	12		0		0		0		11	
Experienced any disruptions within 2 years after TPR (by proxy definition) TPR											
Yes	79	32	40.5%	43	54.4%	2	2.5%	2	2.5%	0	0.0%
No	1249	388	31.1%	23	1.8%	6	0.5%	10	0.8%	822	65.8%
Median age at first removal (years)		1		6.5		13		3		0	
Age at first removal (years)											
10 or younger	1262	396	31.4%	51	4.0%	2	0.2%	8	0.6%	805	63.8%
11 or older	66	24	36.4%	15	22.7%	6	9.1%	4	6.1%	17	25.8%

Department of Children, Youth & Families 

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Characteristics of Children		Adopted - NOT Direct Consent (n=420)		In Placement (n=66)		Emancipation (n=8)		Guardianship/ OPPLA (n=12)		Adopted - Direct Consent (n=822)	
Number of placements within 2 years post-TPR											
3 or less	1296	417	32.2%	40	3.1%	7	0.5%	10	0.8%	822	63.4%
4 or more	32	3	9.4%	26	81.3%	1	3.1%	2	6.3%	0	0.0%
Number of removals between first removal and TPR											
1 or less	1043	323	31.0%	46	4.4%	5	0.5%	7	0.7%	662	63.5%
2 or more	285	97	34.0%	20	7.0%	3	1.1%	5	1.8%	160	56.1%
Median age at most recent removal (years)		2		9		14		7.5		1	
Age at most recent removal (years)											
10 or younger	1238	389	31.4%	48	3.9%	1	0.1%	8	0.7%	792	64.0%
11 or older	90	31	34.4%	18	20.0%	7	7.8%	4	4.4%	30	33.3%
Removal reasons for most recent removal											
Physical Abuse	93	26	28.0%	3	3.2%	0	0.0%	1	1.1%	63	67.7%
Sex Abuse	31	7	22.6%	4	12.9%	1	3.2%	0	0.0%	19	61.3%
Neglect	752	225	29.9%	36	4.8%	3	0.4%	6	0.8%	482	64.1%
Inadequate Housing	202	76	37.6%	11	5.5%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	114	56.4%
Parent Alcohol/Drug Problem	585	203	34.7%	18	3.1%	2	0.3%	1	0.2%	361	61.7%
Child Alcohol/Drug Problem	13	5	38.5%	1	7.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	53.9%
Child Behavior Problem	40	6	15.0%	12	30.0%	3	7.5%	2	5.0%	17	42.5%
Caretaker Inability to Cope	339	81	23.9%	25	7.4%	3	0.9%	2	0.6%	228	67.3%
Other	231	113	48.9%	9	3.9%	0	0.0%	3	1.3%	106	45.9%
Median length of time between (years)											
Removal and TPR			.8		2.4	2.5		2.9		2.1	
TPR and Adoption (if adopted)		0	).4								

Source: RICHIST.

- Percentages are calculated across rows.
- Disruption is determined using proxy definition: a child is placed with a foster family or a pre-adoptive family after TPR and the placement ended due to child needing higher level of care, child's behavior problem, placement in longer term foster care setting or placement match problem. RI DCYF is implementing more systematic way to accurately monitor disruption.
- Disability: Includes mental retardation, emotional disturbance, hearing impairment, speech impairment, visual impairment, learning disabilities, physical disabilities, and other diagnosed conditions or disabilities.
- Placement at time of TPR: Congregate Care includes acute residential treatment, emergency shelter, group homes, high end residential treatment and residential treatment center.
- Removal reasons: Other includes parent incarceration, parent death, abandonment and relinquishment.