

2009 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook: Child Welfare Indicators

The Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) Caseload

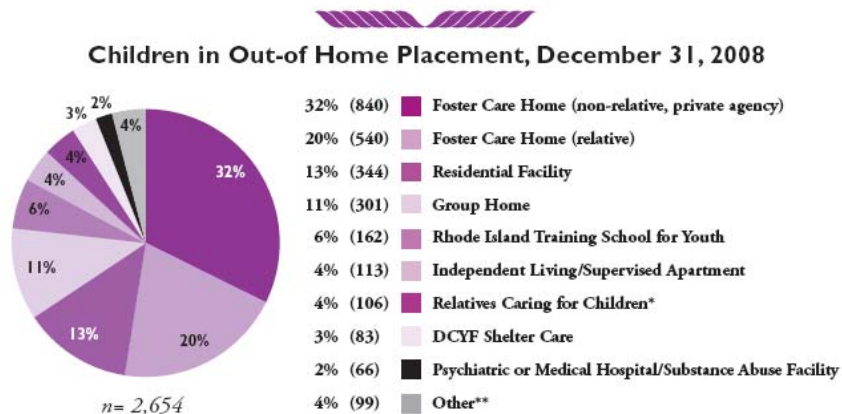
- Between 2000 and 2005, in Rhode Island, the total Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) caseload remained relatively constant at around 8,000 children. In 2006, the number of children on the DCYF caseload increased to 9,414, and in 2008, the total DCYF caseload decreased to 8,203.

Child Abuse and Neglect

- Of the 2,743 children who were victims of child abuse and neglect in 2008, 47% were under age six and 35% were ages three and younger.
- In 2008, the rate of confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect in Rhode Island was 10.7 per 1,000 children under age 18. The rate was 17.0 per 1,000 children in the core cities and 7.0 in the remainder of the state.
- In 2008, 79% of all instances of abuse and neglect were a result of neglect; 10% were physical abuse; 4% were sexual abuse; 1% were medical neglect; <1% were emotional abuse; and 4% were other types of abuse.
- Of the 1,466 Rhode Island children who were victims of abuse or neglect during Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2008 (whether or not they were removed from the home), 9.6% experienced one or more recurrences of abuse or neglect within six months, up from 7.8% in FFY 2004 but down from 13.3% in FFY 2007. The national standard is 6.1% or less.

Out-of-Home Placement

- On December 31, 2008 in Rhode Island, 2,654 children under age 21 in the care of the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) were in out-of-home placement, a 20% decrease since 2006.



* Relatives caring for children are classified as an out-of-home placement by DCYF, despite the fact that these relatives did not receive monetary payments from DCYF to care for the children and the children were never removed and never needed to be removed from the relatives' homes. In these cases, the relative caring for the child initiated contact with DCYF to receive assistance from the agency.

**The placement category "Other" includes: runaway youth in DCYF care or those with unauthorized absences (81), pre-adoptive homes (7), minors with mother in shelter/group home/residential facility (8), step parents (2) and trial home visit (1).

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- Of the children in out-of-home placements, 52% were in a foster care home, 13% were in a residential facility, 11% were in a group home, 4% were in independent living or supervised apartments, 6% were at the Rhode Island Training School, 3% were in temporary shelter care, 2% were in a psychiatric hospital, medical hospital or substance abuse facility and 4% were in other placements.

Older Youth in State Care

- In FFY 2008 in Rhode Island, there were 157 youth who “aged out” of DCYF care never having gained a permanent placement. Of these youth, 115 (73%) were older than age 12 at entry into care. As of July 1, 2007, youth in Rhode Island age out of the foster care system at 18 years old, a change from age 21 in previous years.

Adoption and Permanency

- In FFY 2008, 1,521 children in out-of-home placement in Rhode Island exited care. Of these children, 84% exited to a permanent placement (adoption, guardianship or reunification).



Exits from Foster Care*, Rhode Island, FFY 2008

	ALL EXITS	WITH DISABILITY	OVER AGE 12 AT ENTRY
Adoption	17%	20%	1%
Guardianship	4%	2%	2%
Reunification	63%	56%	68%
Aged Out	10%	NA**	17%
Other	5%	23%	11%
<i>Total Number</i>	<i>1,521</i>	<i>517</i>	<i>661</i>

Source: *Safety, permanency and well-being in Rhode Island: Child welfare outcomes annual report for FY 2008 (Draft)*. (2009). New Haven, CT: Prepared by The Consultation Center, Yale University School of Medicine for the Data Analytic Center of the Rhode Island Department of Children Youth & Families. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding. *Foster Care refers to all out-of-home placements, consistent with language used in federal reports. **Children with a disability who age out are included in the “other” category.

- The percentage of children in the Rhode Island child welfare system who were reunified with their family of origin in less than 12 months increased from 71% in FFY 2004 to 66% in FFY 2008. The national standard is 76%.
- The percentage of children in the Rhode Island child welfare system who were adopted in 24 months or less from the time of removal from the home decreased from 50% in FFY 2004 to 38% in FFY 2008. The national standard is 32%.
- The longer children are in care, the more likely it is that they have multiple placements which compromises healthy child development and can result in long-term social, emotional and educational risks. Almost two-thirds (65%) of children who had been in DCYF care more than 24 months experienced 3 or more placements.
- In Rhode Island in FFY 2007, 18% of children who entered out-of-home placement were reentering care within 12 months of a prior episode, down from 21% in FFY 2004. Despite this decrease, Rhode Island children re-enter care at more than twice the rate of the national standard (8.6%).