



Child Welfare Report to the Legislature

Chapter 238 Oregon Laws 2007 Legislative Report for 2020 And

Chapter 418.319 Oregon Laws Legislative Report for 2020

Oregon Department of Human Services

The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) 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 2018 & 2019 *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 2018 and one ending September 2019 (the last finalized reporting period at the time of this report). The 2018 and 2019 *Child Welfare Data Book* report covers the federal fiscal year ending September 30 of each year.

The Department 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 % of IV-E Eligible foster children with lengths of stay over 24 months. Title IV-E of the Social Security Act is an important funding stream for foster care costs. It provides for federal reimbursement for a portion of the maintenance and administrative costs of foster care for children who meet specified federal eligibility requirements. The data displays two periods, the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and September 30, 2019.

Foster Care Stability

It is the goal of Child Welfare to place children in the custody of the Department in stable foster care placement and maintain that stability from the first placement throughout their length of stay.

**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	9/30/2018	9/30/2019
1	Number of children in foster care	7,672	7,181
	Number with 1 foster care placement	2,808	2,593
2	Number with >1 foster care placement	4,864	4,588
	Percent with 1 placement	36.6%	36.1%
	Percent with >1 placement	63.4%	63.9%

**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))	9/30/2018		9/30/2019	
		Number of Children	Percent of Total	Number of Children	Percent of Total
1	0	2,808	36.6%	2,593	36.1%
2	1	1,797	23.4%	1,682	23.4%
3	2	994	13.0%	918	12.8%
4	3	614	8.0%	551	7.7%
5	4	406	5.3%	363	5.1%
6	5	237	3.1%	242	3.4%
7	6	168	2.2%	151	2.1%
8	7	130	1.7%	125	1.7%
9	8	79	1.0%	100	1.4%
10	9	83	1.1%	61	0.8%
11	10	43	0.6%	49	0.7%
12	11	48	0.6%	48	0.7%
13	12	32	0.4%	40	0.6%
14	13	28	0.4%	31	0.4%
15	14	25	0.3%	30	0.4%
16	15	24	0.3%	32	0.4%
17	16	26	0.3%	25	0.3%
18	17	17	0.2%	14	0.2%
19	18	13	0.2%	19	0.3%
20	19	16	0.2%	13	0.2%
21	20	7	0.1%	9	0.1%
22	21	11	0.1%	6	0.1%
23	22	8	0.1%	10	0.1%
24	23	9	0.1%	9	0.1%
25	24	7	0.1%	7	0.1%
26	25	2	0.0%	2	0.0%
27	26	2	0.0%	6	0.1%
28	27	4	0.1%	8	0.1%
29	28	3	0.0%	4	0.1%
30	29	7	0.1%	5	0.1%
31	30	3	0.0%	2	0.0%
32	0	2	0.0%	5	0.1%
33	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
34	0	1	0.0%	1	0.0%
35	34	2	0.0%	3	0.0%
36	35	1	0.0%	1	0.0%
37	36	3	0.0%	4	0.1%
38	37	4	0.1%	3	0.0%
39	38	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
40	39	3	0.0%	3	0.0%
41	40	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
42	41	1	0.0%	2	0.0%
44	43	1	0.0%	1	0.0%
47	46	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
51	50	2	0.0%	0	0.0%
68	67	1	0.0%	0	0.0%

Placement Connections

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

There were 7,181 children in foster care as of September 30, 2019. The placement settings for children in foster care include out-of-home foster care, trial home visits, and pre-adoptive settings.

- A total of 41.6% of children in foster care were placed with relatives or parents where the Department maintains legal custody of the child as of on September 30, 2019. While slightly down since the previous year, the number and percentage has improved dramatically in the last decade (31% 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	9/30/2018		9/30/2019	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	Non-Relative Family Foster Home	3,040	39.6%	2,820	39.3%
	Relative Family Foster Home	2,450	31.9%	2,241	31.2%
	Trial Home Visit	868	11.3%	745	10.4%
	Residential/Institutional Care	375	4.9%	372	5.2%
	Pre-Adoptive Home	614	8.0%	672	9.4%
	Runaway	76	1.0%	85	1.2%
	Family Group Home	54	0.7%	56	0.8%
	Supervised Independent Living	195	2.5%	190	2.6%
1	Total in Care on 9/30	7,672	100.0%	7,181	100.0%
6	Total Number Placed with Relatives or with Biological Parents (on Trial Home Visit)	3,318	43.2%	2,986	41.6%

Children who are placed in Family Foster Care settings are placed in Relative Family Foster Homes or Non-Relative Family Foster Homes. The distribution of these two placement settings are found in the following table. Children in family foster care who are placed with relatives decreased slightly over the same time period. However, overall, in 2019, there were fewer children in family foster care, so the proportion of those placed in relative care was actually higher.

Percentage of Children in Family Foster Care Placed with Relatives

Item Number	Type of Placement	9/30/2018	9/30/2019
	Number of children in family foster care	5,490	5,061
	Number placed with relative	2,450	2,241
6	Percent with relative	44.6%	44.3%

Sibling Relationships

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

- On September 30, 2019, there were 3,512 children in out-of-home foster care, who were part of a sibling group. Of these children, 2,886 (82.2%) were placed with the same family as with one or more of their siblings.
- Between September 30, 2008, and September 30, 2019, the percentage of children not placed with any sibling improved from 19.9% to 17.1%, a 2.8% improvement.

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

For Children in Foster Care (All Types) who are part of a Sibling Group, the Percent placed apart from Siblings Item (4)

Item Number	Description	9/30/2018	9/30/2019
	Number of children part of a sibling group in foster care	3,855	3,512
	Number of children placed with a sibling	3,175	2,886
	Percentage of foster children placed WITH a sibling	82.4%	82.2%
4	Percentage of foster children placed apart from siblings	17.6%	17.8%

DHS Child Welfare remains challenged in making and maintaining placement decisions given the inadequate availability of relative and foster families. More homes are needed in Oregon to foster families are available for placement of children. DHS Child Welfare 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.

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The Department 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% of IV-E Eligible foster children with lengths of stay over 24 months. As of September 30, 2018, 36.3% of Title IV-E Eligible Foster children were in care for 24 or more months. By September 30, 2019, this increased to 38.6%.

