

Child Welfare Report to the Legislature
Chapter 238 Oregon Laws 2007 Legislative Report for 2018 And
Chapter 418.319 Oregon Laws Legislative Report for 2018
 Department of Human Services

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 *2017 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 2016 and one ending September 2017 (the last finalized reporting period at the time of this report). The *2016 and 2017 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, 2016 and September 30, 2017.

Foster Care Stability

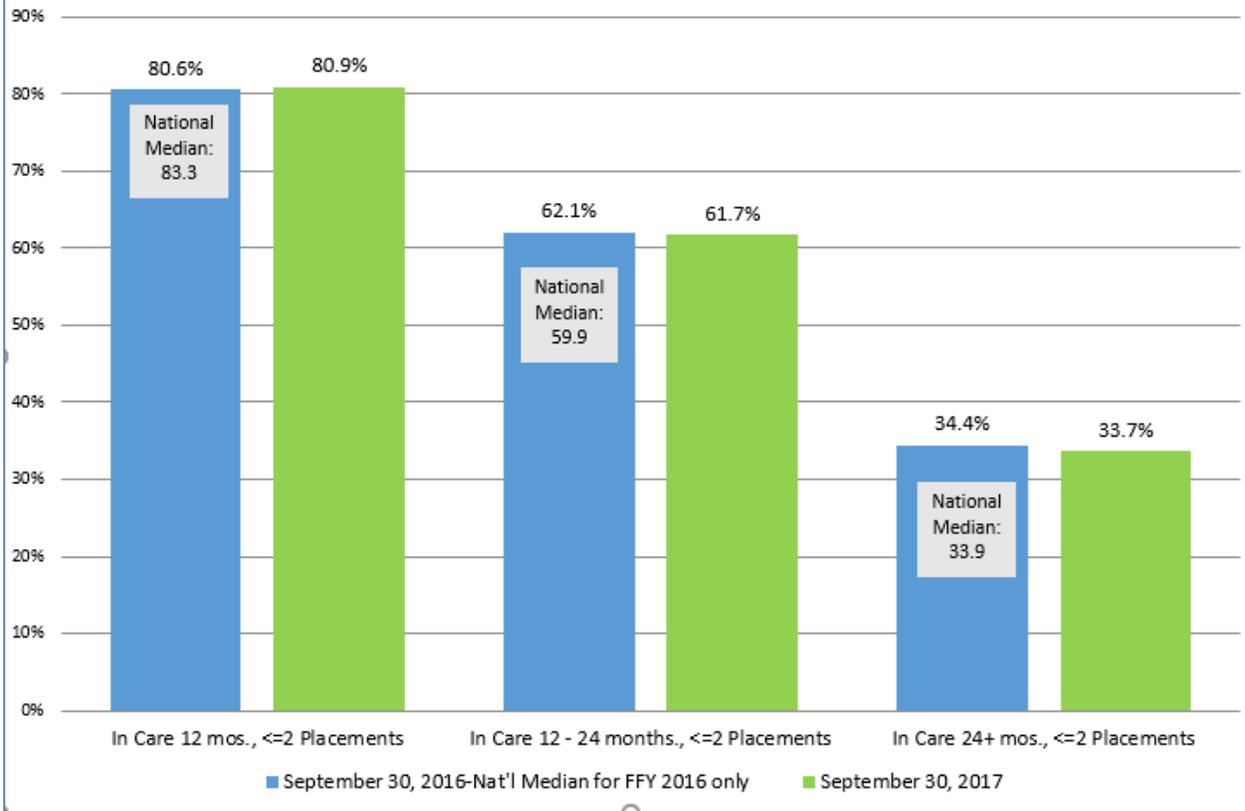
It is the goal of DHS Child Welfare to place children in the custody of DHS in stable foster care placement, and maintain that stability from the first placement throughout their length of stay.

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	9/30/2016	9/30/2017
1	Number of children in foster care	7,653	7,943
	Number with 1 foster care placement	2,574	2,963
2	Number with >1 foster care placement	5,079	4,980
	Percent with 1 placement	33.6%	37.3%
	Percent with >1 placement	66.4%	62.7%

Oregon's performance continues to approximate the national median performance for stability of foster children, as measured by the number of movements of children in foster care over time (note that this Children's Bureau measure has recently been dropped and this will not be reported in future).

Stability of Foster Care Percent of Children with 2 or Fewer Placements, by Time in Care



**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))	9/30/2016		9/30/2017	
		Number of Children	Percent of Total	Number of Children	Percent of Total
1	0	2,531	33.1%	2,962	37.3%
2	1	1,982	25.9%	1,989	25.0%
3	2	1,143	14.9%	1,053	13.3%
4	3	675	8.8%	605	7.6%
5	4	364	4.8%	376	4.7%
6	5	228	3.0%	219	2.8%
7	6	170	2.2%	165	2.1%
8	7	131	1.7%	114	1.4%
9	8	83	1.1%	86	1.1%
10	9	69	0.9%	66	0.8%
11	10	41	0.5%	43	0.5%
12	11	37	0.5%	31	0.4%
13	12	29	0.4%	39	0.5%
14	13	24	0.3%	28	0.4%
15	14	18	0.2%	28	0.4%
16	15	20	0.3%	23	0.3%
17	16	17	0.2%	15	0.2%
18	17	16	0.2%	13	0.2%
19	18	14	0.2%	12	0.2%
20	19	8	0.1%	16	0.2%
21	20	6	0.1%	5	0.1%
22	21	9	0.1%	3	0.0%
23	22	8	0.1%	8	0.1%
24	23	4	0.1%	6	0.1%
25	24	3	0.0%	2	0.0%
26	25	1	0.0%	4	0.1%
27	26	4	0.1%	5	0.1%
28	27	3	0.0%	2	0.0%
29	28	3	0.0%	6	0.1%
30	29	3	0.0%	4	0.1%
31	30	4	0.1%	0	0.0%
32	0	0	0.0%	4	0.1%
33	0	0	0.0%	2	0.0%
34	0	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
35	34	1	0.0%	1	0.0%
36	35	0	0.0%	2	0.0%
37	36	0	0.0%	4	0.1%
38	37	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
39	38	1	0.0%	0	0.0%
40	39	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
41	40	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
44	43	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
45	44	1	0.0%	0	0.0%
47	46	1	0.0%	0	0.0%
48	47	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
60	59	1	0.0%	0	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 7,956 children in foster care as of September 30, 2017. The placement settings for children in foster care include out-of-home foster care, trial home visits and pre-adoptive settings.

- A total of 45 percent of children in foster care were placed with relatives or were with parents where DHS maintains legal custody of the child on 9/30/2017. 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	9/30/2016		9/30/2017	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	Non-Relative Family Foster Home	3,136	40.9%	3,260	41.0%
	Relative Family Foster Home	2,763	36.1%	2,761	34.7%
	Trail Home Visit	816	10.7%	818	10.3%
	Residential/Institutional Care	71	0.9%	325	4.1%
	Pre-Adoptive Home	514	6.7%	512	6.4%
	Runaway	144	1.9%	65	0.8%
	Family Group Home	59	0.8%	59	0.7%
	Supervised Independent Living	157	2.0%	156	2.0%
1	total in Care on 9/30	7,660	100.0%	7,956	100.0%
6	Total Number Placed with Relatives or with Biological Parents (on Trial Home Visit)	3,579	46.7%	3,579	45.0%

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. The percent of children in family foster care who are placed with relatives has increased by 2.4 percentage points between 2016 and 2017, a 5.6 percent increase.

Percentage of Children in Family Foster Care Placed with Relatives

Item Number	Type of Placement	9/30/2016	9/30/2017
	Number of children in family foster care	6,207	6,080
	Number placed with relative	2,668	2,761
	Percent with relative	43.0%	45.4%

Sibling Relationships

The existing bond and relationship between siblings has 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, 2017, there were 4,153 children in out-of-home foster care who were part of a sibling group. Of these children, 3,442 (82.9 percent) were placed with the same family as one or more of their siblings.
- Between September 30, 2008 and September 30, 2017, the percent of children not placed with any sibling improved from 19.9 percent to 17.1 percent, a 14.1 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	9/30/2016	9/30/2017
	Number of children part of a sibling group in foster care	3,863	4,153
	Number of children placed with a sibling	3,257	3,442
	Percentage of foster children placed WITH a sibling	84.3%	82.9%
4	Percentage of foster children placed apart from siblings	15.7%	17.1%

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 2018

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percent of IV-E Eligible foster children with lengths of stay over 24 months. On the last day of September 2016, 30.9 percent of Title IV-E Eligible Foster children were in care for 24 or more months. By September 30, 2017 this figure increased to 32.8 percent.

