



# Legislative Budget Office of LSC

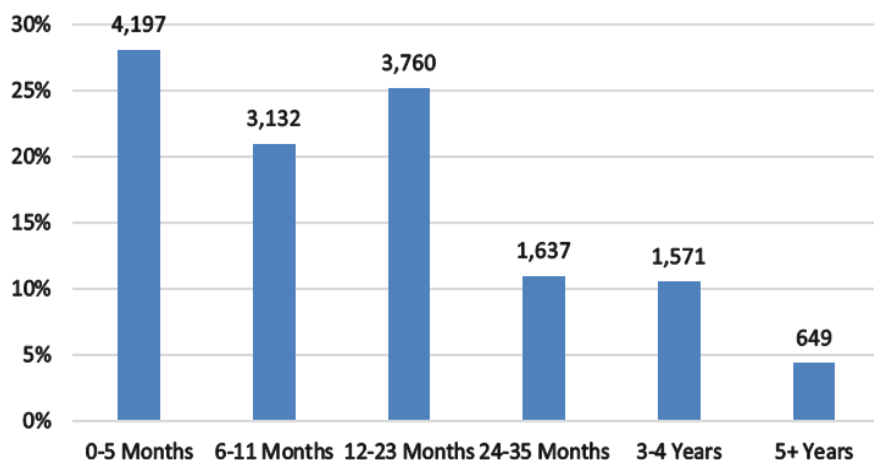
## Foster Care in Ohio

April 2024

Number of Children in Foster Care on September 30 of each Federal Fiscal Year (FFY), 2013-2022\*

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Ohio	12,223	12,519	13,205	13,725	14,961	15,730	16,387	16,017	15,449	14,946
U.S.*	396,197	410,563	421,443	429,989	436,556	434,564	423,587	405,240	389,506	366,394

Time Ohio's Foster Children Spent in Care, FFY 2022

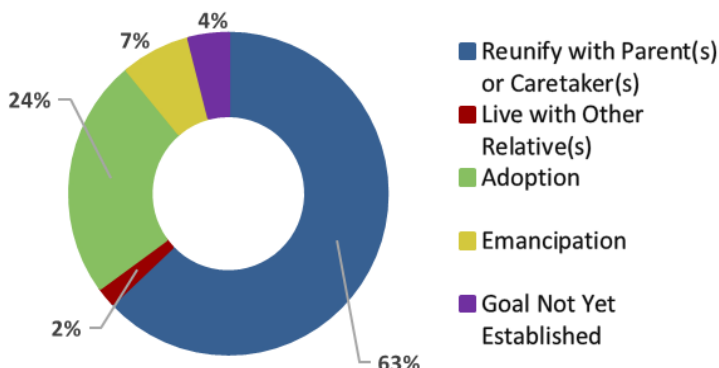


- ◆ The number of children in foster care in Ohio increased from FFY 2013 to FFY 2019 with the largest increase (9.0%) occurring in FFY 2017. From FFY 2013 to FFY 2017, the number in care increased 22.4%.
- ◆ Meanwhile, the number of children in foster care nationwide reached a 10-year high in FFY 2017. From FFY 2013 to FFY 2017, the number in care increased 10.2%.
- ◆ Child advocates believe the increases are due at least in part to the opioid crisis.
- ◆ In FFY 2022, the majority of children (28.1%) in foster care spent less than five months in care while 4.3% spent over five years.

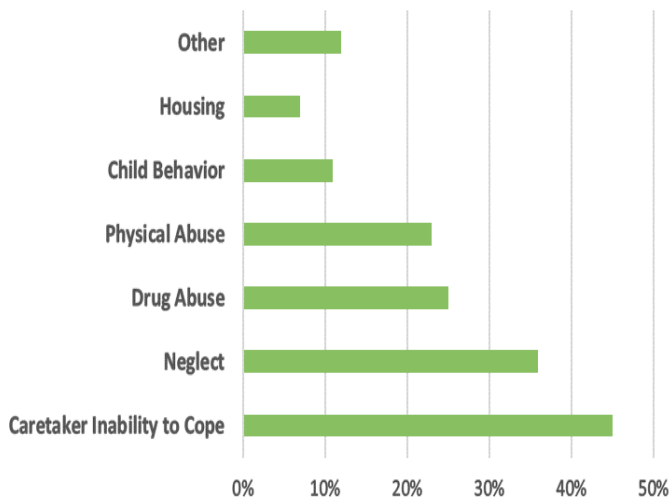
◆ In Ohio, approximately 63% of children in foster care have a case plan goal to reunify with parents or their caretakers, 24% have a goal of adoption, while 7% are seeking emancipation.



Case Plan Goal for Ohio Foster Children, FFY 2022



Reasons for Ohio Child's Removal from Home, FFY 2022



\*Note: These categories are not mutually exclusive; thus, percentages total more than 100%.

### Ohio Foster Care Statistics:

The median age of children entering care is **7** years, while the median age of children exiting care is **8** years.

The median length of time spent in care is **13** months.

In FFY 2022, Ohio children exited foster care for the following reasons: **40%** were reunited with a parent(s) or caretaker(s), **25%** moved to live with other relative(s), **16%** were adopted, **14%** were emancipated, **4%** were placed in a guardianship, and **1%** ran away.

### Steps to Becoming a Foster Parent



1. Contact a private or public agency to get started.
2. Attend 24 hour pre-placement training.
3. Fill out an application and complete a homestudy.
4. Get matched with a foster child!
5. Participate in home visits and ongoing training.

Data sources: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families' Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System; Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

\*Data for FFY 2022 is preliminary as of May 9, 2023; data for the United States includes the District of Columbia.