



Region 5

Who are the kids?

- There were 1,681 children in care longer than 60 days (January 2003).
- Of the children who were in care over 60 days, 42% were between 0-3 years; 41% were between 4-11 years; and 17% were 12 years or older.
- Of the children who were in care over 60 days, 65% were Caucasian; 6% were Native American; and 16% were African American.
- More than one-half of all children in care longer than 60 days in Region 5 had been in care longer than 18 months (October 2003).

Permanency Outcomes

Adoptions, Guardianships and Reunifications Achieved Region 5, 1995-2002

	Adoptions	Legally Free	Guardianships	Reunifications	Entry to Care
1995	100	249	39	2233	-
1996	116	281	40	2012	-
1997	144	359	40	1770	2319
1998	146	465	57	1529	1888
1999	192	436	69	1341	1846
2000	254	436	57	1242	1694
2001	208	465	60	1153	1845
2002	169	551	69	1129	1675
FY 2003	296	435	-	-	-

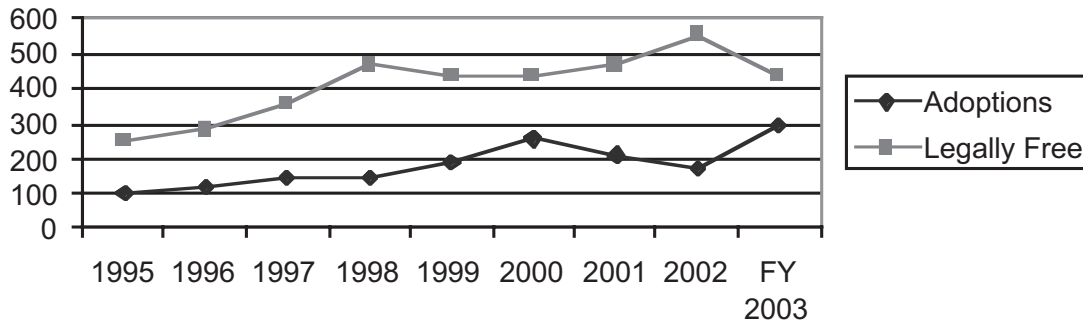
Note: The number of legally free children represents the number free on January 1 of the following calendar year. (For some of these children, adoption is no longer the plan). Other outcomes are for calendar year.

Source: Children's Administration, August 2003

- Of the children who were adopted in 2002, 52% were less than 2 years old at placement.
- The number of reunifications has declined 36% since 1997. However, a complementary decrease in the number of children entering care (20%) suggests that two thirds of this decrease is accounted for by a decrease in entries to care.



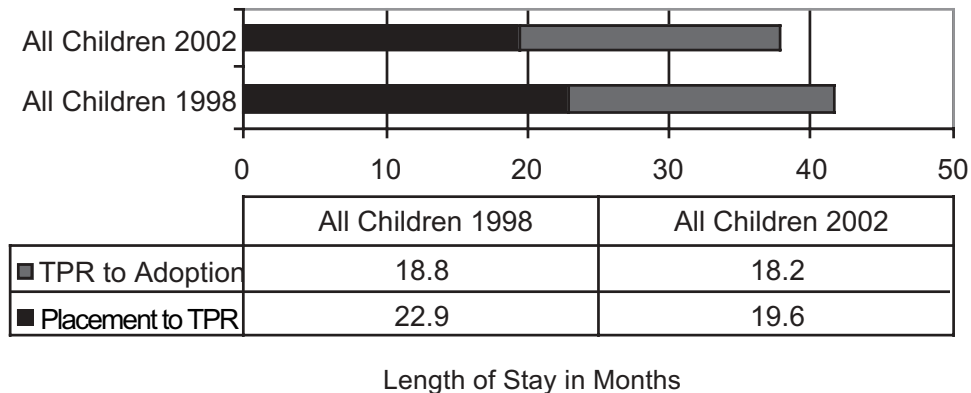
Adoptions and Legally Free Children, 1995-2002 Region 5



Source: Children's Administration, August 2003

- The number of adoptions has more than doubled since 1998. The number of legally free children has decreased slightly. These trends indicate a closing of the gap between the number of adoptions finalized and the number of legally free children awaiting permanence in Region 5.

Length of Time to Adoption Region 5 - 1998 & 2002



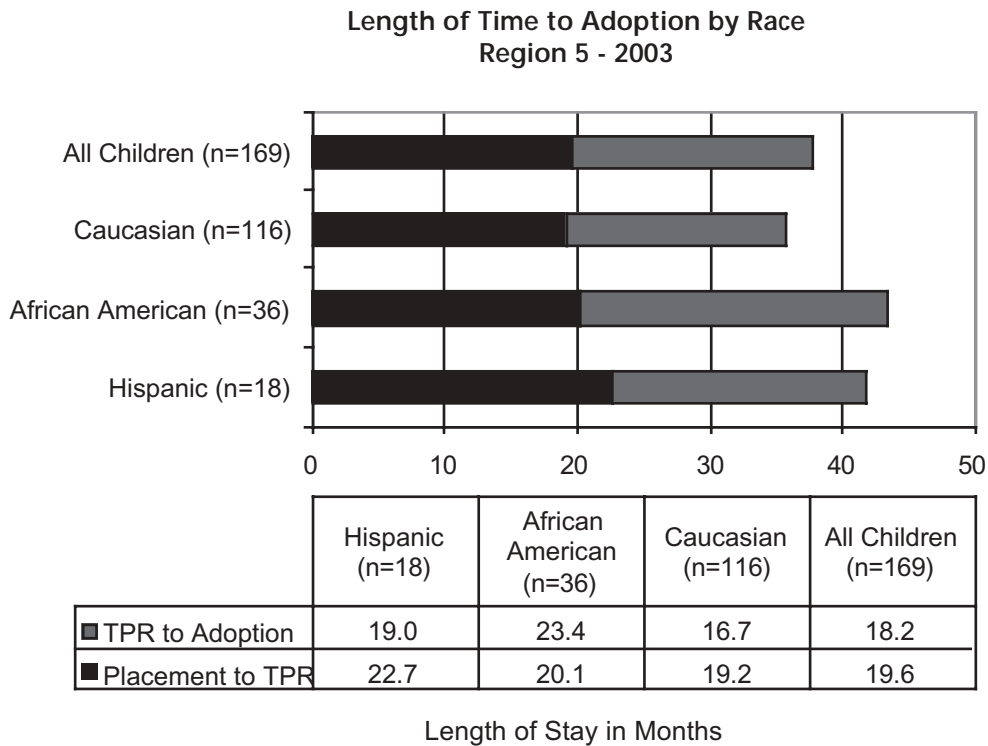
Source: Children's Administration, August 2003

- Overall, the total length of time in care for all children in Region 5 decreased by 3.9 months from 1998 to 2002, from 41.7 months to 37.8, respectively.
- The months in care from placement to TPR decreased by 3.3 months.
- The months in care from TPR to adoption finalization decreased by about 2 weeks. Half of the adoptions were completed within 15 months. The length of time is still one of the highest in the state suggesting that adoptions are not keeping up with children becoming legally freed.





Region 5 - Length of Time to Adoption by Race



Note: Hispanic children are also included in the other race categories. Only those racial categories with more than 10 children are presented at the regional level.

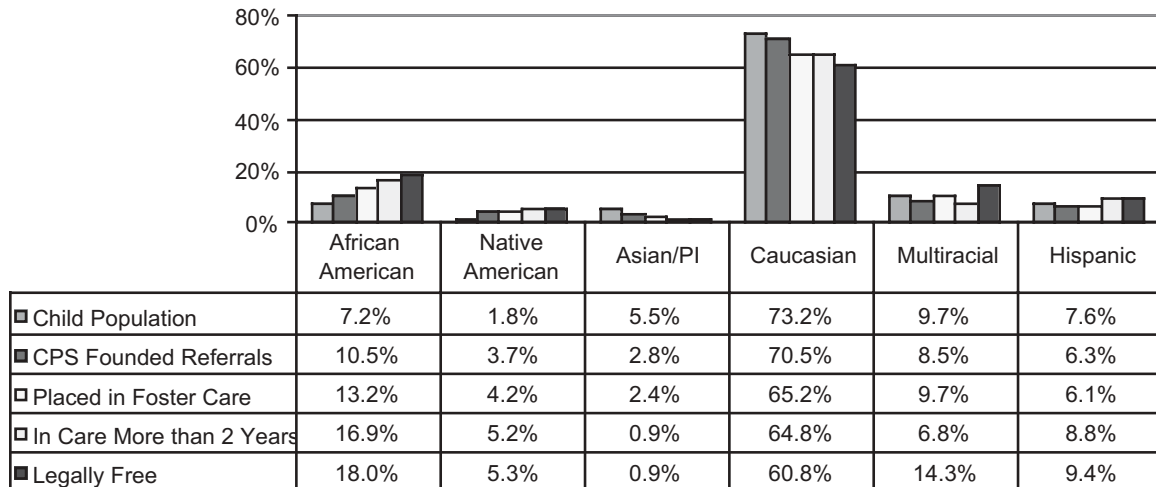
Source: Children's Administration, August 2003

The total length of time in care from placement to TPR and TPR to adoption finalization has increased by 2.1 months since 2001 for all children in Region 5, with the greatest increase in the number of months from TPR to adoption finalization.

- The total length of time in care for Hispanic children increased by 4.2 months.
- The total length of time in care for African American children has increased by 10 months since 2001; however, the length of time from placement to TPR decreased by 3 months.
- In contrast, the total length of time in care for Caucasian children decreased slightly by about 1 month from 2001 to 2002.

Region 5 - Racial and Ethnic Disproportionality

Region 5 Percentages of CPS Founded Referrals, Placed in Care, in Care More than Two Years, and Legally Free by Race/Ethnic Group, 2002



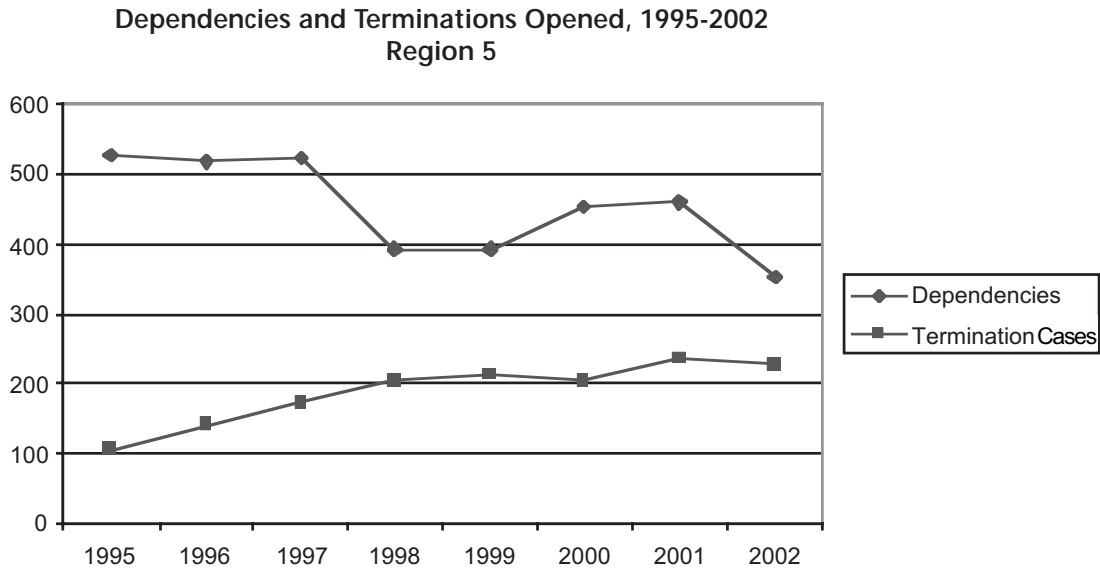
Note: The total across any category will not equal 100%; Hispanic children also are included in the other race categories; children of "Other" or "Unknown" race are not included in this chart. The Multiracial category was added in 2001 to reflect changes in the national Census Bureau data collection.

Source: Children's Administration, August 2003

- African American children are twice as likely as Caucasian children to be in foster care, and three times more likely to be in care longer than two years, and three times more likely to be legally free. The relative placement rate for African American children (23%) is lower than the state average for African American children (33%).
- Region 5 has the highest rate of relative placement in the state for Native American children (51%).
- Native American children are almost three times more likely than Caucasian children to be placed in foster care and to be in care longer than two years, and almost four times more likely to be legally free.
- Multiracial and Hispanic children are almost twice as likely as Caucasian children to be legally free.
- The number of minority children ages birth to three in care longer than one year following termination of parental rights has increased slightly since 1999, from 27 to 33 in 2003. Region 5 continues to have a greater proportion of the youngest minority children awaiting adoption compared to their Caucasian counterparts.



Region 5 - Legal Actions



Note: Each case represents approximately 1.5 children.

Source: Washington State Office of the Attorney General, August 2003. Dependencies and Terminations opened are the total cases opened in Pierce and Kitsap Counties.

- The number of dependencies has decreased by 33% since 1995.
- The number of termination cases opened has increased by 113% since 1995.
- Terminations as a proportion of dependencies have tripled since 1995, indicating that for every one opened termination there were 1.6 opened dependencies in the areas served by the Tacoma AGO office in 2002.