

## Permanency



*Brought to the attention of CPS as a result of his mother's incarceration, a young boy spent his early years in uncertainty. His mother, a chronic addict, would seek treatment, and maintain short-term sobriety only to resume using drugs, engaging in criminal activities and endangering her child again. CPS worked diligently to keep the family intact; however, when it became evident that the instability would have long-term negative effects, the boy was placed into foster care and an adoptive home was sought. At the final post-adoption visit in his new home, a bright eyed seven-year-old excitedly told the social worker what his new name would be. The boy then proceeded to show off his recently won swimming award and his very own blue room decorated from wall-to-ceiling with posters of all of his baseball heroes.*

### Objective: Increase permanency for children in out-of-home care

Measured by: Children adopted

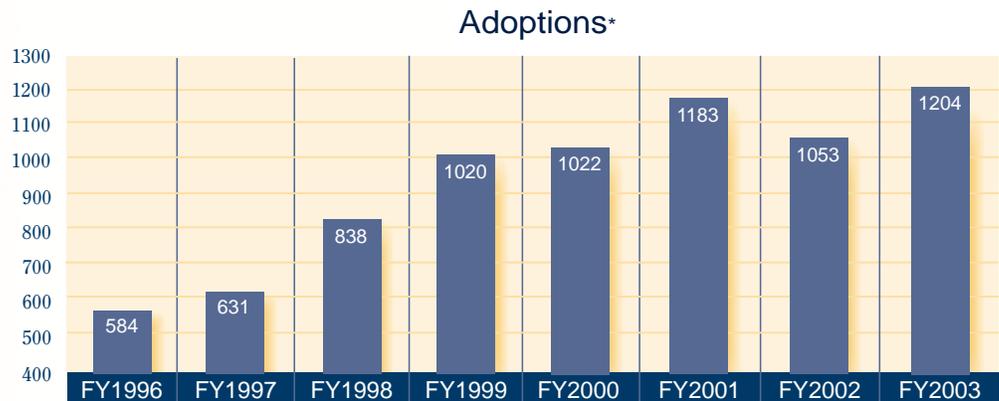
Those involved with children who come into state custody hope that with the provision of resources and support, children will be able to safely return to their birth families. There are incidences in which reunification is contrary to a child's best interest.

In such cases, every effort is made to identify and secure an permanent home as quickly as possible and more often than not, adoption is the most beneficial placement for children who cannot return home.

The Children's Administration has placed increased emphasis upon finding caring and capable adults who are willing to make a lifelong commitment to children in the state's foster care system through adoption.

In the past eight years, 7,535 children have been given new families and new lives through the state's adoption program.

The decline in fiscal year 2002 was the result of some families postponing adoptions until after the federal tax incentive for adoptions went into effect on January 01, 2003.



\* The number of children placed in out-of-home care with an accomplished permanent plan of adoption.

News Advisory, March 2004  
Performance Report, 2003