



CYFS Adoption Statistics Fiscal Year 15

- ▶ Some of our adoptive clients wanted to know a bit about the activities of the adoption program over the past year. We are happy to share this information. Our data is gathered by fiscal year (July 1 to June 30th). Feel free to talk to your adoption specialist if you have any additional questions or comments.

Fiscal Year 2015

- * **Crisis Pregnancy** counselors provided services to 22 birth parents facing an unexpected pregnancy. This included any expectant mother or father who was in need of counseling surrounding an unexpected pregnancy and who consider adoption as a viable option.
- * The **Adoption Program (Infant, AWC and Embryo)** provided 27 support groups and training opportunities on various topics related to adoption. 97 prospective adoptive parents participated in these events. Additionally 28 community awareness events were held to promote a positive adoption sense in our local communities.
- * The **Approved and Waiting List of Prospective Adoptive Parents** in the infant program stayed around 29-38 waiting families with the average waiting time to be 24.5 months.
- * The **Adoption Program (Infant, AWC and Embryo)** utilized over 80 social media postings to promote positive adoption sense in the local and online communities.
- * The **Embryo Adoption Program** had it's first successful transplant and we are looking forward to a new little one in early 2016.
- * The **Adoption Program (excluding the Conversion program)** placed 26 children:

Infant	7
Attorney Referred Infant	4
Waiting Children (AWC)	<u>15*</u>
Total	26
- * The **Adoption Conversion Program** provided case management to 303 cases. This includes cases at any stage from referral to finalization.
- * The **Adoption Conversion Program** finalized 176 Adoptions and 27 Guardianship cases (Remember adoption conversion means children who initially were in foster care, were unable to return home and were adopted by their foster family.)
- * Only reflects new placements. An additional 15 placements carried over from FY 14
- * ** AWC finalized are now reflected in the Adoption Conversion Statistics.



Statistics reflect only part of the activity of the adoption staff. Some other accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2015 include:

- * Reviewed the adoption fee scale and adjusted the budget to ensure there would not be an increase in adoption fees for FY 16.
- * Increased utilization of the CYFS website and Facebook page to inform the public of our services.
- * CYFS and the adoption program completed the Council on Accreditation process and passed with flying colors.
- * Staff received updated training on infant, embryo and waiting children adoptions. Staff received training from a local attorney on the changes/updated to adoption law—both in practice and policy. Staff received training on the DCFS updates and changes in practice that impacts adoptions in Illinois.
- * Researched local and national partners to strengthen visibility for birthparents and embryo adoptive parents.
- * Worked with foster care and counseling to create life books for children who have been in foster care before they were adopted. We now have the ability to ensure every child who enters foster care and every child who is adopted out of foster care will receive a life book.
- * The Adoption Conversion staff implemented a way to assist potential adoptive parents in understanding the adoption process before they adopt. Transitional meetings with the foster care, licensing and adoption staff are now available to foster parents as they contemplate adopting the child who is in their home. It is hoped these meetings will assist the parents in understanding the child's needs post adoption as well as lend clarity to the general adoption process.