

# HEALTHY FAMILY & SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

## CHILDREN PLACED IN FOSTER/OUT-OF-HOME CARE

GOAL: All children in Calhoun County will reside in safe, permanent homes

Foster care is an arrangement in which children whose birth parents are unable to care for them are temporarily placed in homes with other adults who provide care. Foster care is arranged through the courts or a social services agency, but can also be an informal arrangement (e.g., kinship care or placement with relatives). Reunification with the birth family is typically the goal of foster care, but adoption may be an option when it is considered to be in the child's best interest.<sup>i</sup>

CHILDREN PLACED IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE FOR ABUSE/NEGLECT RATE PER 1,000 CHILDREN <sup>iii</sup>					
	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
Children Ages 0 – 17 Years					
Michigan	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.8
Calhoun County	5.6	5.7	6.7	6.1	7.9
Children Ages 0 – 8 Years					
Michigan	5.9	5.7	5.9	5.9	6.8
Calhoun County	8.2	8.0	9.6	8.1	10.5
Children Ages 0 – 5 Years					
Michigan	6.9	6.7	6.8	6.8	8.2
Calhoun County	10.3	8.76	10.9	9.4	13.0

At any point in time, roughly 13,000 Michigan children are in foster care. While some children can be, and are, eventually returned to their families, some cannot be returned to their homes, and foster parents are often asked to provide permanent homes.<sup>ii</sup>

The rate and number of children in out-of-home care with foster parents or relatives due to abuse/neglect are point in time counts at the end of the fiscal year (September 30). While the rate of Calhoun County children placed in out-of-home care remained relatively stable from 2011 through 2014, increases in 2015 resulted in the highest rates in the previous five-year span. The rate of out-of-home care placement for children ages 0 to 5 years has been consistently higher in comparison to age groups that also include older children.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN PLACED IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE FOR ABUSE/NEGLECT: CALHOUN COUNTY <sup>iii</sup>					
	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
Children Ages 0 – 17 Years					
	184	186	215	192	246
Children Ages 0 – 8 Years					
	130	125	149	123	160
Children Ages 0 – 5 Years					
	106	88	111	93	128

The number of children placed in out-of-home care for abuse/neglect in Calhoun County has fluctuated over the last five years. Again, increases in 2015 resulted in the highest number of out-of-home placements for abuse/neglect in the previous five years.

<sup>i</sup>National Adoption Center. What is Foster Care. <http://www.adopt.org/what-foster-care>, accessed January 17, 2017.

<sup>ii</sup> Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Raise Hope and Foster Dreams. [http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971\\_7117---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_7117---,00.html), accessed January 17, 2017.

<sup>iii</sup> Annie E. Casey Foundation. Kids Count Data Center, [www.datacenter.kidscount.org](http://www.datacenter.kidscount.org), accessed November 22, 2016.