

NATIONAL INTERSTATE DATA

- According to the most recent Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data, 532,000 children (as of 9/30/02) are in out-of-home placements.¹
- Interstate placements constitute approximately 5.5% (43,000) of children served in foster care during a given year. Children placed with relatives outside their home state make up the largest group of these placements. Almost 40% (17,200) of the 43,000 children involved in interstate placements are placed with relatives.²
- Children placed across state lines are twice as likely to be placed in pre-adoptive homes as children placed in state (30 % vs. 15 %). Furthermore, data demonstrate that most of the placements across state lines lead to permanency. Two-thirds or 61 % of the children placed in another state were placed with families who became their permanent families.³
- As with in-state adoptions, interstate adoptions are increasing dramatically.⁴ In 2002, 39 states reported that almost 10% of the total number of children receiving Title IV-E and state-funded adoption assistance were residing in a state other than the adoption assistance state. A comparison of 1997 and 2002 state data indicates that the number of children residing in a state other than the adoption assistance state grew by 70% over that five-year period.⁵ The rise in interstate adoptions is likely to continue. Adoption exchanges report that 63% of prospective families who respond to child-specific adoption recruitment do not reside in the same state as the child.⁶

¹ AFCARS Report. Data submitted for FY 2002, 10/01/01 through 9/30/02.

² Maza, Penelope. *The Role of Interstate Placements in States' Meeting the CFSR Standards*. Presented at Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (AAICPC) Annual Conference, May 2003.

³ Maza, Penelope. *Does Being Placed Out of State Make a Difference for Children in Foster Care?* Presented at AAICPC annual meeting on May 1, 2001.

⁴ AFCARS data indicate that the annual number of adoptions from foster care doubled between 1995 and 2000.

⁵ Oppenheim, Elizabeth, and Gilmore, Ursula. *Interstate Movement of Children Receiving Adoption Assistance*, APHSA, December 2003.

⁶ Adoption Exchange Association. "Home for the Holidays," 2002.