



Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 4, 2019

More Children Leaving Foster Care than Entering

Adoptions Break 6,000 Ceiling for First Time

New state figures show more children are leaving foster care for safe, permanent homes than are entering the child welfare system, as adoptions surged past 6,000 for the first time, according to Child Protective Services (CPS).

“Additional resources combined with a tenacious work ethic have led to unprecedented success for the DFPS this year,” said Governor Greg Abbott. “Texas is better because a record number of children have been adopted in 2019 and are experiencing the joy of a loving home this Christmas season. Equally impressive is the increase in the number of children who are reunited with family. The marked improvements demonstrated by DFPS are the result of the passion and commitment by DFPS staff.”

More than 20,000 children left Texas foster care, including more than 6,000 who were adopted, fiscal year 2019 data shows. More than half of the adoptions – 3,095 – were by relatives, also a new record for CPS.

The number of children leaving foster care outnumbered the number entering care by more than 1,700 children, a trend the state hopes will continue.

“This is certainly great news, and affirmation that our year-round adoption efforts are paying off,” said Kristene Blackstone, CPS associate commissioner. “And in many cases we are reunifying these children with their families.”

While the number of children entering the state’s care has dropped in recent years, to 18,615 in FY 2019, the number of adoptions has steadily increased, up by 25 percent in the last decade.

Also, Texas has expanded support for kinship caregivers who commit to caring for young family members and, as a result, more children are being adopted by relatives than ever.

As National Adoption Month wrapped up Thanksgiving weekend, more than 400 children and youth in Texas found permanent homes during Texas’ busiest month for adoptions.

But as Associate Commissioner Blackstone said, the need for permanent homes is year-round, and with Christmas only a few weeks away she hopes more foster children will benefit from the season’s good will.

“November is our busiest adoption month, by far, but there is nothing more joyful than an adoption at Christmastime,” she said.

Learn more at AdoptChildren.org

Foster Care and Adoption Numbers

	2019	2018	2017	2016
Children exiting foster care	20,343	19,961	18,851	18,524
Children entering foster care	18,615	20,685	19,864	19,079
Total children adopted	6,107	5,678	5,413	5,703
Adoptions by relatives	3,095	2,789	2,720	2,753
Adoptions by non-relatives	3,012	2,889	2,693	2,950