

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## African American Children in America's Child Welfare System—FY2009

### **General Child Population** <sup>1</sup>

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- There were approximately 74.5 million children in the United States population in 2009.
- Of the estimated United States child population in 2009, approximately 11.25 million were African American.
- African American children made up approximately 15.1% of the United States child population (under 18 years) in 2009.

### **Child Maltreatment** <sup>2</sup>

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- During 2008, an estimated 732,000 children were determined to be victims of child maltreatment (abuse or neglect) by this nation's child protective services (CPS) systems. Approximately 21.9% of these child maltreatment victims were African American.
- The approximate distribution of African American child maltreatment victims by type of maltreatment is as follows: 70.9% were victims of neglect; 19.1% were victims of physical abuse; 6.8% were victims of sexual abuse; 4.2% were victims of psychological maltreatment; 3.2% were victims of medical neglect.

### **Entering Foster Care** <sup>3</sup>

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- Approximately 255,000 children entered the US foster care system in FY 2009.
- Of the children entering foster care in 2009, approximately 25% were African American.
- Approximately 65,000 African American children entered the US foster care system in the in FY 2009.
- African American children entered foster care at a rate 1.7 times their presence in the US child population.
- African American children were approximately 2.1 times more likely than white children to enter the US foster care system in 2009.

### **Exiting Foster Care** <sup>3</sup>

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- Approximately 276,000 children exiting the US foster care system in FY 2009.
- Of the children exiting foster care, approximately 27% were African American.
- Approximately 74,000 African American children exited the US foster care system in FY 2009.

### **In Foster Care (Out-of-Home Care)** <sup>3</sup>

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- Approximately 424,000 children were in the US foster care system at the end of FY 2009.
- Of the children in the US foster care system in 2009, approximately 30% were African American.
- Approximately 128,000 African American children were in the US foster care system at the end of FY 2009.
- African American children were present in the US foster care system at a rate 2 times their presence in the US child population.
- African American children were 2.8 times more likely to be in the US foster care system than white children in FY 2009.

### **Adopted from Foster Care** <sup>3</sup>

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- Approximately 57,000 children were adopted from the US foster care system in FY 2009.
- Of the children adopted from the US foster care system, approximately 25% were African American.
- Approximately 14,000 African American children were adopted from the US foster care system in FY 2009.
- In 2009, African American children were 2.1 times more likely than white children to experience adoption as the outcome of their involvement with the US foster care system.

### **Waiting to be Adopted from Foster Care** <sup>3</sup>

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- Approximately 115,000 children were waiting to be adopted from the US foster care system at the end of FY 2009.
- Of the children waiting to be adopted, approximately 30% were African American.
- Approximately 34,000 African American children were still waiting to be adopted from foster care at the end of FY 2009.
- African American children were 2.9 times more likely than white children to be waiting for adoption from the US foster care system.

**Data Sources:** (1) Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. *America's Children in Brief: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2010*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. (2) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Administration for Children and Families; Administration on Children, Youth and Families; Children's Bureau. (2010). *Child Maltreatment 2008*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. (3) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Administration for Children and Families; Administration on Children, Youth and Families; Children's Bureau. (2010). *Preliminary Estimates for FY 2009 as of July 2010*. Washington, DC: Children's Bureau.

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