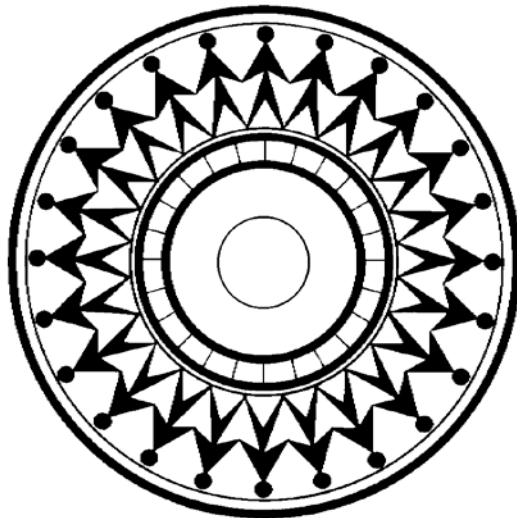


**AFCARS USER'S GUIDE  
ADOPTION FILE  
ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT, 2002  
VERSION 6**

**NDACAN DATASET NUMBER 179**



**National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect**

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**Data Provided by**

Children's Bureau  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families  
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Washington, DC 20204

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## PREFACE

The year 2002 data for the *Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)* have been given to the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect for public distribution by the Children's Bureau. Funding for the project was provided by the Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This user's guide supplement contains details about the AFCARS Adoption data for the year 2002, and should not be used for details of earlier releases.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SOURCE

Authors should acknowledge the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect and the original collector of the data when they publish manuscripts that use data provided by NDACAN. Users of these data are urged to follow some adaptation of the statement below.

The data used in this publication were made available by the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, and have been used with permission. Data from the *Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)* were originally collected by the Children's Bureau. Funding for the project was provided by the Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The collector of the original data, the funder, NDACAN, Cornell University and their agents or employees bear no responsibility for the analyses or interpretations presented here.

## PUBLICATIONS SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with the *Terms of Use Agreement* for these datasets, users of these data are required to deposit a copy of any published work or report based wholly or in part on these data with NDACAN. A copy of any completed manuscript, thesis abstract, or reprint should be sent to the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, Cornell University, Family Life Development Center, Beebe Hall, Ithaca, New York 14853. Such copies will be used to provide funding agencies with essential information about the use of NDACAN resources and to facilitate the exchange of information about research activities among data users and contributors.

## PURPOSE OF THE 2002 USER'S GUIDE SUPPLEMENT

The *AFCARS User's Guide Annual Supplement, 2002* is intended for use with the *Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) User's Guide and Codebook*. The *User's Guide* contains a general overview of the AFCARS project and detailed descriptions of the variables contained in the adoption and foster care files. This *Supplement* contains information specific to the 2002 AFCARS **Adoption** dataset, *Ad2002v6*. This document contains

- a table specifying which states submitted data in the years 1995 through 2002
- a count of the number of records submitted by each state for the 2002 files
- explanatory footnotes provided by the states

**PART 2**

**AFCARS**  
**ADOPTION DATABASE**



## HISTORY OF STATE ADOPTION SUBMISSIONS TO AFCARS

By AFCARS regulation, states were required to submit AFCARS data beginning in 1995; it was not until 1998, however, that penalties established by the same regulation became applicable. Data submitted prior to 1998 were often incomplete. The table below indicates the years in which individual states submitted adoption data. Please note that a black dot in a cell does not imply that a state's data file was complete; some state files contained very few records. The number of records in each state's files is contained in the *State Records Counts Table* for the year. 1999 was the first year that all states (including Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia) submitted data. Since then, all states have submitted data each year.

### STATES THAT SUBMITTED ADOPTION DATA

STATE	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999+
Alabama				●	●
Alaska				●	●
Arizona	●	●	●		●
Arkansas	●	●	●	●	●
California	●	●	●	●	●
Colorado	●	●	●	●	●
Connecticut			●	●	●
Delaware	●	●	●	●	●
District of Columbia	●	●	●	●	●
Florida	●	●	●	●	●
Georgia	●	●	●	●	●
Hawaii		●	●	●	●
Idaho	●	●	●	●	●
Illinois	●	●	●	●	●
Indiana	●	●	●	●	●
Iowa	●	●	●	●	●
Kansas			●	●	●
Kentucky	●	●	●	●	●
Louisiana		●	●	●	●
Maine	●	●	●	●	●
Maryland	●	●	●	●	●
Massachusetts	●	●	●	●	●
Michigan				●	●
Minnesota	●	●	●	●	●
Mississippi	●	●	●	●	●
Missouri				●	●
Montana		●	●	●	●
Nebraska		●	●		●
Nevada			●		●
New Hampshire				●	●

STATE	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999+
New Jersey	●	●	●	●	●
New Mexico	●	●	●	●	●
New York			●	●	●
North Carolina	●	●	●	●	●
North Dakota			●	●	●
Ohio	●	●	●	●	●
Oklahoma	●	●	●	●	●
Oregon	●	●	●	●	●
Pennsylvania		●	●	●	●
Rhode Island	●	●	●	●	●
South Carolina				●	●
South Dakota	●	●	●	●	●
Tennessee	●	●	●	●	●
Texas	●	●	●	●	●
Utah	●	●	●	●	●
Vermont	●	●	●	●	●
Virginia				●	●
Washington		●	●	●	●
West Virginia				●	●
Wisconsin	●	●	●	●	●
Wyoming				●	●
Puerto Rico		●	●	●	●

## 2002 ADOPTION UNDUPLICATED RECORD COUNTS

States submit data to AFCARS twice a year; the first reporting period ends April 30 and the second September 30. Prior to each annual release, the Children's Bureau combines submissions for the two reporting periods and removes duplicate records. The table that follows lists the number of records contained in the unduplicated annual 2002 files by state. Counts that vary from the previous version are highlighted.

FIPS	State	Records					
		v1	v2	v3	v4	v5a	v6
1	Alabama	249	249	249	249	249	249
2	Alaska	224	230	230	224	224	224
4	Arizona	793	793	793	809	809	809
5	Arkansas	297	297	297	297	297	297
6	California	8,741	8,840	8,840	8,011	8,011	8,011
8	Colorado	919	992	992	882	882	882
9	Connecticut	617	617	617	613	0	599
10	Delaware	133	133	133	133	133	133
11	District of Columbia	252	253	253	252	252	252
12	Florida	2,307	2,309	2,309	2,302	2,302	2,302
13	Georgia	1,097	1,135	1,135	1,067	1,067	1,067
15	Hawaii	366	366	366	366	366	366
16	Idaho	118	118	118	118	118	118
17	Illinois	3,633	3,634	3,634	3,633	3,633	3,633
18	Indiana	920	923	923	920	920	920
19	Iowa	882	886	886	882	882	882
20	Kansas	471	475	475	467	467	467
21	Kentucky	559	559	559	551	551	551
22	Louisiana	487	487	487	487	487	487
23	Maine	311	317	318	285	285	285
24	Maryland	938	949	949	927	927	927
25	Massachusetts	808	808	808	808	808	808
26	Michigan	2,847	2,848	2,848	2,845	2,845	2,845
27	Minnesota	626	626	626	618	618	618
28	Mississippi	227	227	227	234	234	234
29	Missouri	1,542	1,542	1,542	1,538	1,538	1,538
30	Montana	247	247	247	247	247	247
31	Nebraska	308	315	356	311	311	311
32	Nevada	253	254	254	322	322	322
33	New Hampshire	114	114	114	114	114	114
34	New Jersey	1,378	1,385	1,385	1,376	1,376	1,376
35	New Mexico	275	275	275	275	275	275
36	New York	3,791	3,791	3,791	3,791	3,791	3,791
37	North Carolina	1,324	1,324	1,324	1,324	1,324	1,324
38	North Dakota	137	137	137	137	137	137
39	Ohio	2,396	2,396	2,396	2,396	2,396	2,396
40	Oklahoma	1,011	1,014	1,014	995	995	995

FIPS	State	Records					
		v1	v2	v3	v4	v5a	v6
41	Oregon	1,115	1,115	1,115	1,115	1,115	1,115
42	Pennsylvania	2,020	2,020	2,020	1,944	1,944	1,944
44	Rhode Island	256	256	256	256	256	256
45	South Carolina	344	345	345	343	343	343
46	South Dakota	145	145	145	145	145	145
47	Tennessee	922	922	922	922	922	922
48	Texas	2,297	2,299	2,299	2,265	2,265	2,265
49	Utah	346	346	346	346	346	346
50	Vermont	153	153	153	152	152	152
51	Virginia	424	424	424	424	424	424
53	Washington	1,077	1,077	1,077	1,074	1,074	1,074
54	West Virginia	361	361	361	361	361	361
55	Wisconsin	1,028	1,028	1,028	1,021	1,021	1,021
56	Wyoming	52	52	52	52	53	53
72	Puerto Rico	408	431	431	193	193	193
<b>Total Records</b>		<b>52,546</b>	<b>52,839</b>	<b>52,881</b>	<b>51,419</b>	<b>50,807</b>	<b>51,406</b>

## 2002 ADOPTION STATE FOOTNOTES

States are encouraged, but not required, to provide explanatory footnotes along with their data submissions. The footnotes allow states to provide additional information they consider necessary for proper interpretation of their data. The footnotes may include such information as:

- general characteristics of the state's Adoption system
- characteristics of the population, including whether certain types of placements are included
- state definitions that differ from federal AFCARS definitions.

Footnotes for the 2002 versions of the Adoption data follow, sorted by element number and state. General state footnotes that are not specific to an element or period are given an element number of 00.

**NDACAN strongly recommends that users review the 2002 footnotes that follow before attempting to analyze the AFCARS Adoption data.**

Adoption Footnotes -- 2002		
<i>Element</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Note</i>
A00	Florida	RECORDS ARE SELECTED BASED ON DISCHARGE TRANSACTION DATE DURING THE PERIOD.
A00	Florida	DATA CONVERTED FROM LEGACY SYSTEMS TO FLORIDA SACWIS IN PHASES NOVEMBER 1, 2000 - SEPTEMBER 10, 2001. POST-CONVERSION DATA PURIFICATION CONTINUED THROUGH FEBRUARY 2002.
A00	Florida	DISCHARGE TRANSACTION DATE WAS CONVERTED IF PRESENT IN THE LEGACY SYSTEM. OTHERWISE, IT WAS POPULATED BY THE ACTUAL DATE OF DISCHARGE.
A00	Florida	DATA PURIFICATION AND RE-ENTRY OF CASES FOLLOWING AUTOMATED CONVERSION SERIOUSLY IMPACTED THE DISCHARGE TRANSACTION DATE FIELD. THE NUMBER OF ADOPTIONS REPORTED MAY BE DOWN IN THIS PERIOD AND INFLATED IN THE NEXT PERIOD OF REPORTING.
A00	Florida	THIS FILE REPRESENTS A COMPLETE RESUBMISSION OF ADOPTION DATA FOR THIS PERIOD.
A00	Indiana	Reporting of Private Adoptions is still being worked on. This file does not include Private adoptions.
A00	Louisiana	THIS IS OUR USUAL ADOPTION SUBMISSION. THANK YOU.
A00	New Mexico	THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO IMPLEMENTED A COMPUTER SYSTEM IN 1997 (FACTS) FOR TRACKING OF ADOPTION, FOSTER CARE AND CHILD CARE CLIENTS AND SOME MISSING DATA PROBLEMS ARE STILL BEING HANDLED.
A03	Florida	SYSTEM GENERATED PERSON ID NUMBER IS ENCRYPTED.
A03	Florida	THERE IS A RECOGNIZED ISSUE WITH DUPLICATE PERSON RECORDS IN FLORIDA'S SACWIS. EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE ARE UNDERWAY. THIS WILL AFFECT THE ABILITY TO USE THIS ELEMENT TO MATCH TO DATA FOR FUTURE REPORT PERIODS.

Adoption Footnotes -- 2002		
<i>Element</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Note</i>
A03	Iowa	Record numbers are encrypted in data submission.
A03	Nebraska	THE ADOPTION RECORD NUMBER IS A UNIQUE NUMBER FOR CHILD WHICH HAS BEEN ENCRYPTED.
A04	Iowa	The extract does not reflect private adoptions.
A04	New Mexico	THE REPORT CONTAINS ONLY CHILDREN WITH STATE AGENCY INVOLVEMENT.
A05	Iowa	A date of birth is required. We do not estimate date of birth
A05	Michigan	ALL CHILDREN IDENTIFIED AS 18 YEARS OR OLDER ARE STILL WARDS OF THE STATE AND ARE CONSIDERED DEPENDENT CHILDREN
A06	Nebraska	CHILD WITH UNKNOWN SEX IS INCLUDED IN THE MALE CATEGORY.
A07	California	'USED UNABLE TO DETERMINE' FOR RACE OF HISPANIC OR MEXICAN OR CENTRAL AMERICAN OR SOUTH AMERICAN AND 'YES' FOR HISPANIC ORIGIN CODE
A07	Nebraska	UNABLE TO DETERMINE INCLUDES PERSONS WITH RACE INDICATED AS OTHER.
A07	Washington	'Not reported' and 'does not apply' are both coded as 'Not reported'. This cannot be corrected in the current technical environment, but will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.
A09	Florida	DUE TO CHANGE IN METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION FROM LEGACY SYSTEM TO FLORIDA'S SACWIS, THIS ELEMENT IS NOW REPORTED MORE ACCURATELY.
A09	Iowa	Special needs includes: retardation; blind; deaf; physical; medical, emotional, or learning disability; substance abuse; racial background; age; sibling group; and delinquency.
A09	Nebraska	DETERMINATION OF SPECIAL NEEDS IS BASED ON WHETHER THE CHILD MEETS THE CRITERIA FOR SUBSIDY AS DEFINED BY THE STATE.
A09	Washington	Current information system does not include this question. This cannot be corrected in the current technical environment, but will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.
A10	Florida	DUE TO CHANGE IN METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION FROM LEGACY SYSTEM TO FLORIDA'S SACWIS, THIS ELEMENT IS NOW REPORTED MORE ACCURATELY.
A10	Iowa	Special needs includes: retardation; blind; deaf; physical; medical, emotional, or learning disability; substance abuse; racial background; age; sibling group; and delinquency.
A10	Nebraska	STATE POLICY STATES THAT SPECIAL NEEDS ARE AGE, GENERALLY AGE 8 AND OLDER, SIBLING GROUPS OF 3 OR MORE TO BE PLACED TOGETHER, BEHAVIORAL, EMOTIONAL, PHYSICAL, OR MENTAL DISABILITY, AND RACE, BUT RACE INSUFFICIENT BY ITSELF.
A10	Washington	Current information system does not include this question. This cannot be corrected in the current technical environment, but will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.
A11	Washington	Disabilities are reported only for children with an identified disability. Children with no disability and those not reported are both mapped as 'not reported'. This will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.

<b>Adoption Footnotes -- 2002</b>		
<b><i>Element</i></b>	<b><i>State</i></b>	<b><i>Note</i></b>
A12	Washington	Disabilities are reported only for children with an identified disability. Children with no disability and those not reported are both mapped as 'not reported'. This will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.
A13	Washington	Disabilities are reported only for children with an identified disability. Children with no disability and those not reported are both mapped as 'not reported'. This will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.
A14	Washington	Disabilities are reported only for children with an identified disability. Children with no disability and those not reported are both mapped as 'not reported'. This will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.
A15	Iowa	Other conditions include a medical learning disability, medical condition, medical alcohol abuse and drug abuse.
A15	Nebraska	INCLUDES CHILDREN WITH ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER AND/OR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
A15	Washington	Disabilities are reported only for children with an identified disability. Children with no disability and those not reported are both mapped as 'not reported'. This will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.
A16	Washington	Data for this element cannot be accurately obtained from the current information system's technical environment. This will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.
A17	Hawaii	THIS DATA IS NOT ALWAYS AVAILABLE WHEN THE CHILD IS ADOPTED AS IT IS NOT ON THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE, FATHER IS UNKNOWN OR HAS MOVED AWAY AND CANNOT BE LOCATED.
A17	Michigan	AGENCY REPORTED BIRTH YEAR OF BIRTH FATHER AS UNKNOWN. IN SOME CASES WHEN THE EXACT YEAR OF BIRTH WAS UNKNOWN, AN ESTIMATED YEAR WAS ENTERED.
A17	Washington	Data for this element cannot be accurately obtained from the current information system's technical environment. This will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.
A18	New Mexico	THE ADOPTION PIECE OF THE DATABASE NEEDS A FLAG INDICATING THIS INFORMATION. THE FLAG FIELD WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE ORIGINAL DESIGN. INFORMATION WAS ENTERED INTO EXTRACT FILE MANUALLY PER ANGELINA PALMERO'S INSTRUCTIONS.
A22	Florida	IN CASES THAT ARE CODED AS UNMARRIED COUPLE, FLORIDA LAW PERMITS LEGAL ADOPTION BY ONLY ONE OF THE TWO INDIVIDUALS.
A22	Washington	Data for this element cannot be accurately obtained from the current information system's technical environment. This will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.
A23	Washington	Data for this element cannot be accurately obtained from the current information system's technical environment. This will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.
A24	Washington	Data for this element cannot be accurately obtained from the current information system's technical environment. This will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.

Adoption Footnotes -- 2002		
<i>Element</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Note</i>
A25	California	'USED UNABLE TO DETERMINE' FOR RACE OF HISPANIC OR MEXICAN OR CENTRAL AMERICAN OR SOUTH AMERICAN AND 'YES' FOR HISPANIC ORIGIN CODE
A25	Washington	'Not reported' and 'does not apply' are both coded as 'Not reported'. This cannot be corrected in the current technical environment, but will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.
A26	Washington	'Not reported' and 'does not apply' are both coded as 'Not reported'. This cannot be corrected in the current technical environment, but will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.
A27	California	'USED UNABLE TO DETERMINE' FOR RACE OF HISPANIC OR MEXICAN OR CENTRAL AMERICAN OR SOUTH AMERICAN AND 'YES' FOR HISPANIC ORIGIN CODE
A27	Washington	'Not reported' and 'does not apply' are both coded as 'Not reported'. This cannot be corrected in the current technical environment, but will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.
A28	Washington	'Not reported' and 'does not apply' are both coded as 'Not reported'. This cannot be corrected in the current technical environment, but will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.
A29	Iowa	Iowa does not track non-welfare stepparent adoptions.
A29	Washington	Washington as a rule does not do Stepparent adoptions. This should default to 'does not apply' rather than 'not reported', if stepparent is not selected. This will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.
A30	Iowa	Iowa law defines relative as the fourth degree of consanguinity.
A30	Nebraska	INCLUDES GREAT AUNT/UNCLE, GRT GRANDPARENT, GRT GRT GRT GRANDPARENT, GRT GRT AUNT/UNCLE, GRT GRT GRT GRANDPARENT, GRT GRT GRT AUNT/UNCLE, ADOPTIVE SIBLING, BIOLOGICAL SIBLING, FIRST & SECOND COUSINS, GRANDPARENT, PARENT-IN-LAW, AUNT/UNCLE.
A30	Nebraska	FICTIVE KIN (IE. GODPARENTS) ARE NOT INCLUDED.
A30	Washington	'Not reported' and 'does not apply' are both coded as 'Not reported'. This cannot be corrected in the current technical environment, but will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.
A31	Washington	'Not reported' and 'does not apply' are both coded as 'Not reported'. This cannot be corrected in the current technical environment, but will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.
A32	Washington	'Not reported' and 'does not apply' are both coded as 'Not reported'. This cannot be corrected in the current technical environment, but will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.
A33	Iowa	Due to Iowa law, we do not perform adoptions that would be considered as 'another country' -- AFCARS value 3.
A34	Florida	DATA HAS BEEN CHANGED SINCE ORIGINAL SUBMISSION TO MORE ACCURATELY REPORT THIS ELEMENT. MOST, IF NOT ALL, PRIVATE AGENCY PLACEMENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER DCF CARE ARE MADE VIA CONTRACT WITH DCF AND ARE NOW REPORTED AS PLACED BY PUBLIC AGENCY.
A34	Iowa	The extract does not reflect private, independent, tribal adoptions, birth parent adoptions.



Adoption Footnotes -- 2002		
<i>Element</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Note</i>
A35	Florida	INCLUDES ONLY CHILDREN ENTERED IN THE CHILD WELFARE VOUCHERING SYSTEM (CWVS) AND FLORIDA'S SACWIS WITH THE SAME CLIENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER.
A35	Florida	CODED YES IF PAYMENT WAS MADE FOR MAINTENANCE SUBSIDY, WHETHER OR NOT TITLE IV-E.
A35	Washington	Inconsistencies between the total children receiving/not receiving subsidy in AD35 and dollars/count in AD36-37 cannot be corrected in the current technical environment. This will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.
A36	Florida	INCLUDES ONLY CHILDREN ENTERED IN THE CHILD WELFARE VOUCHERING SYSTEM (CWVS) AND FLORIDA'S SACWIS WITH THE SAME CLIENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER.
A36	Florida	MOST RECENT MONTHLY AMOUNT PAID FOR MAINTENANCE SUBSIDY ONLY.
A36	Washington	Inconsistencies between the total children receiving/not receiving subsidy in AD35 and dollars/count in AD36-37 cannot be corrected in the current technical environment. This will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.
A37	Florida	INCLUDES ONLY CHILDREN ENTERED IN THE CHILD WELFARE VOUCHERING SYSTEM (CWVS) AND FLORIDA'S SACWIS WITH THE SAME CLIENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER.
A37	Florida	CODED YES IF PAYMENT WAS MADE FOR MAINTENANCE SUBSIDY, TITLE IV-E.
A37	Washington	Inconsistencies between the total children receiving/not receiving subsidy in AD35 and dollars/count in AD36-37 cannot be corrected in the current technical environment. This will be corrected in Washington's new SACWIS system.