Child Protection Services by the #'s

State Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025)

Reports to Child Protection Services

Total reports made to Child Protection Services	16,119
Total reports alleging child abuse and/or neglect	15,623

Foster Care (Includes all Out of Home Placement Settings)

Children Entering Foster Care	1,026
Children in Foster Care (as of June 30, 2025)	1,737
Average Percent of Children Placed in Kinship Care	32.3%
Average Percent of Children Placed in a Family Setting	86.4%
Children Discharged from Foster Care	984
Monthly Caseworker Visits Federal Fiscal Year 2024	
Visits Occurring	18,214
Percent Occurring	96.13%
Visits Occurring in the Home	16,947
Percent Occurring in the home	93.04%

Licensed Foster Homes by Department of Social Services (as of June 30, 2025)

Native American Foster Homes	93
Total Foster Homes	793

Receiving Services In Home (without court involvement)

Children (Foster Care not Required)	618

Children Discharged from Foster Care

Reunification	423
Adoption	254
Guardianship	108
Transfer to Tribal Program	72
Reached Legal Adulthood (Age 18)	85
Placement with a Relative	34
Transfer to Other Agency	4
Runaway	2

Child Protection Services by the #'s	State Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025)
Transfer to Department of Corrections	1
Death of Child	1

Reunification

Average Number of Days from Initial Placement to Reunification	338
Percent Reunified within 12 Months	58.2%

Adoption

Children Placed in an Adoptive Home	270
Finalized Adoptions	254
Adoption by Foster Parent	147
Adoption by Relative	98
Adoption by Non-Relative	9
Average Months from Initial Placement to Finalized Adoption	33.8

Explanation of Terms:

State Fiscal Year: For budgeting and other financially related reasons governments and businesses often operate using a fiscal year. It starts at the beginning of a quarter and ends 365 days later. In South Dakota, the State Fiscal Year begins July 1st and ends June 30th.

Federal Fiscal Year: The Federal Fiscal Year is the accounting period for the federal government which begins on October 1st and ends on September 30th. The fiscal year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends.

Foster Care (Out-of-home Care): Is a temporary service provided by states for children who cannot live with their families. Children in foster care may live with relatives or with unrelated foster parents. Foster care can also refer to placement settings like group homes, residential care facilities, emergency shelters, supervised independent living and periods of trial reunification.

Receiving Services In Home (without court involvement): Number of children who are able to safely remain in their home. These children and their families receive services and are monitored by Child Protection Services or another agency.

Placement with Relative: Child has been placed in the legal custody of a relative by the court without a formal guardianship. This does not include placement with the child's mother or father.

Reunification: When children return home to their parent(s) or guardian(s).

Guardianship: Someone who is not the child's parent(s) is appointed to be responsible for the care, safety, and wellbeing of the child when the parent(s) are not able to do so. The child's parent(s) may or may not retain parental rights to their children.

Adoption: The establishment of a legally recognized lifelong relationship between an adoptive parent and a child. This only occurs after the rights of the biological parents are terminated.

Runaway: The child was on runaway status or the child's whereabouts were unknown at the time the court dismissed the child from Child Protection Services' custody.

Caseworker Visits: Caseworker Visits are defined as purposeful, face to face monthly interactions between Family Services Specialists and children in Foster Care which contribute to an assessment of safety and case planning processes.