



## Facts About Children in Foster Care in Maryland

To find out how to become a foster parent in Maryland, please call 1-800-332-6347 or visit: <http://www.dhr.state.md.us/how/chldprnt/foster.htm>

To learn more about adoption in Maryland, please visit: <http://www.dhr.state.md.us/ssa/adopt.htm>

**Total Population:** 11,521 children were in the foster care system in Maryland on September 30, 2003<sup>i</sup>. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

**Age:**<sup>i</sup> Average Age: 11.4 years

4%	< 1 year	33%	11-15 years
19%	1-5 years	20%	16-18 years
19%	6-10 years	6%	≥19 years

**Gender:**<sup>i</sup> Male: 53% Female: 47%

<b>Race and Ethnicity:</b>	<u>Race/Ethnicity</u> <sup>i</sup>	<u>In out-of-home care</u>	<u>In state child population</u> <sup>ii</sup>
	Black ( <i>non-Hispanic</i> )	75%	32%
	White ( <i>non-Hispanic</i> )	20%	56%
	Hispanic	2%	5%
	Am. Indian/Alaska Native ( <i>non-Hispanic</i> )	0%	0%
	Asian/Pacific Islander ( <i>non-Hispanic</i> )	0%	4%
	Unknown	1%	N/A
	2 or More Races ( <i>non-Hispanic</i> )	1%	3%

**Length of Stay:** The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 48 months.<sup>i</sup>

**Reunified:** 41% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2003 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.<sup>i</sup>

**Foster Homes:** In 2002, there were a total of 4,440 licensed kinship and non-relative foster homes in Maryland<sup>iii</sup>.

On September 30, 2003, 35% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.<sup>i</sup>

**Adoption:** Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2003, 56% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 40% were adopted by relatives.<sup>i</sup>

### Sources:

<sup>i</sup> Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for the FY 2003, 10/1/02 through 9/30/03.

<sup>ii</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000. *American FactFinder*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

<sup>iii</sup> Child Welfare League of America - National Data Analysis System [http://ndas.cwla.org/data\\_stats/access/predefined/Report.asp?ReportID=127](http://ndas.cwla.org/data_stats/access/predefined/Report.asp?ReportID=127)