

Facts about Children in Foster Care in Missouri

To find out how to become a foster or adoptive parent in Missouri, please call 1-800-554-2222
or visit:

askadopt@dss.mo.gov

Total Population of Children/Youth in Foster Care:

10,174 children were in the foster care system in Missouri on December 31, 2010. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Average Age of Children/Youth in Care: 9.3 years

Age of Children and Youth in Care

≤ 1 year	12%	12-15 years	19%
2-5 years	23%	16-18 years	17%
6-11 years	24%	≥19 years	5%

Gender of Children/Youth in Care: 4930 female, 5244 male

Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin

	In out-of-home care
One Race	No data
Two or More Races	.007%
White	71%
Black or African American	26%
American Indian and Alaska Native	.002%
Asian	.002%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	.0001%
Some other race	.01%
Hispanic or Latino Origin (of any race)	.02%

Length of Stay:

The average length of stay for children in care on 12-31-10 was 733.5 days

Reunification:

43% of the young people leaving the system as of calendar year 2010 were reunified with their birth parent(s) or primary caregiver(s).

Foster Homes:

On December 31, 2010, there were a total of 2,795 licensed non-relative foster homes in Missouri.

On December 31, 2010, 3,427 (or 34% of) children and youth living in out-of-home care were residing with kin.

Adoption:

In 2010, 1,175 children and youth with state agency involvement were adopted.

Sources: Missouri Department of Social Services Children's Division