



Facts about Children in Foster Care in North Carolina

To find out how to become a foster parent in North Carolina, please call NC KIDS at 1-877-NCKIDS (1-877-625-4371) or visit: <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/fostercare/>

To learn more about adoption in North Carolina, please visit: <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/adopt/steps.html>

Total Population: 9,399 children were in the foster care system in North Carolina on September 30, 2009.ⁱ Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:ⁱ

0-5 Years	36.98%
6-12 Years	28.10%
13-17 Years	30.18%
18 and over	3.94%

Gender:ⁱ Male: 51.6% Female: 48.4%

Race and Ethnicity:	<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	<u>In out-of-home care</u>	<u>In state child populationⁱ</u>
	White (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	51.6%	63%
	Black (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	39.8%	26%
	Hispanic	8.2%	6%
	Am. Indian/Alaska Native (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	1.5%	1%
	Other Race	7.1%	4%

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2009 was 24.2 months.

Foster Homes: In March of 2010, there were a total of 7,684 licensed kinship and non-relative foster homes in North Carolina.

On September 30, 2009, 20% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.

Adoption: Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2008, 1,166 were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 470 were adopted by relatives.

Sources:

ⁱData Resource: NC Child Welfare System (UNC Website: <http://ssw.unc.edu/ma/>) NCXPTR PQA083 Time in Care Analysis (July-September 2009)

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