

Facts About Children in Foster Care in Alaska

Total Population:	2,116 children were in the foster care system in Alaska on January 1, 2008 ⁱ . Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.			
Age: ⁱ	4%	< 1 year	22%	11-15 years
	32%	1-5 years	10%	16-17 years
	27%	6-10 years	5%	≥17 years
Gender: ⁱ	Male: 49% Female: 52%			
Race and Ethnicity:	<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	<u>In out-of-home care</u> ⁱ	<u>In state child population</u> ⁱⁱ	
	Am. Indian/Alaska Native alone or in combination with other races	61%	25%	
	White excluding all other races	29%	63%	
	Other	10%	11%	
Length of Stay:	The average length of stay for children exiting care in FFY 2007 was 23 months. ⁱⁱⁱ			
Reunified:	54% of the young people leaving the system in FFY 2007 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers. ⁱⁱⁱ			
Foster Homes:	In January of 2007, there were a total of 1,113 licensed kinship and non-relative foster homes in Alaska ^{iv} . On January 1, 2008 31% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives. ⁱ			
Adoption:	Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FFY 2007, 44% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 56% were adopted by relatives. ⁱⁱⁱ			

To find out how to become a foster parent in Alaska, call 1-800-478-7307 or please visit:

<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/ocs/FosterCare/ready.htm>

To learn about foster parenting, please call the National Foster Parent Association at

1-800-557-5238 or visit www.nfpainc.org

Sources:

ⁱ Alaska Office of Children's Services, <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/ocs/Statistics/default.htm>

ⁱⁱ Population estimates for July 1, 2006, State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for the FY 2007, 10/1/06 through 9/30/07, supplied by Alaska Office of Children's Services.

^{iv} Alaska Office of Children's Services