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.
Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:
- 4% < 1 year
- 32% 1-5 years
- 27% 6-10 years
- 10% 11-15 years
- 5% 16-17 years
- 5% ≥17 years

Gender: Male: 49% Female: 52%

Race and Ethnicity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>In out-of-home care</th>
<th>In state child population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Am. Indian/Alaska Native alone or in combination with other races</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White excluding all other races</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
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Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children exiting care in FFY 2007 was 23 months.

Reunified: 54% of the young people leaving the system in FFY 2007 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.

Foster Homes: In January of 2007, there were a total of 1,113 licensed kinship and non-relative foster homes in Alaska.
On January 1, 2008 31% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.

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.

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:

1 Alaska Office of Children’s Services, http://www.hss.state.ak.us/ocs/Statistics/default.htm
3 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.
4 Alaska Office of Children’s Services