# Facts About Children in Foster Care in Alabama

## Total Population:

6,079 children were in the foster care system in Alabama on September 30, 2003. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

### Age:

Average Age: 10.9 years

- 4% < 1 year
- 21% 1-5 years
- 20% 6-10 years
- 32% 11-15 years
- 20% 16-18 years
- 3% > 19 years

### Gender:

- Male: 51%
- Female: 49%

### 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>Black (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am. Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or More Races (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Length of Stay:

The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 34 months.

### Reunified:

46% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2003 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.

### Foster Homes:

In 2004, there were a total of 2,681 licensed non-relative foster homes in Alabama.

On September 30, 2003, 13% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.

### Adoption:

Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2003, 50% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 2% were adopted by relatives.

To find out how to become a foster parent in Alabama, please call 1-866-4-AL-KIDS or visit [http://www.dhr.state.al.us/page.asp?pageid=483](http://www.dhr.state.al.us/page.asp?pageid=483).

To learn about foster parenting, please call the National Foster Parent Association at 1-800-557-5238 or visit [www.nfpainc.org](http://www.nfpainc.org).

### Sources:

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