Facts About Children in Foster Care in Arkansas

Total Population: 3,014 children were in the foster care system in Arkansas on September 30, 2003. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:
- Average Age: 10.1 years
- 4% < 1 year
- 27% 1-5 years
- 20% 6-10 years
- 30% 11-15 years
- 18% 16-18 years
- 1% ≥19 years

Gender: Male: 49% Female: 51%

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>31%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am. Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or More Races (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 21 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 1,076 licensed non-relative foster homes in Arkansas. On September 30, 2003, 3% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.

Adoption: Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2003, 87% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 13% were adopted by relatives.

To find out how to become a foster parent in Arkansas, please visit:
http://www.arkansas.gov/dhhs/chilnfam/FosterFamilies.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 Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for the FY 2003, 10/1/02 through 9/30/03.