## Facts About Children in Foster Care in California

### Total Population:
78,278 children were in the foster care system in California on July 1, 2006. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

### Age:
- **Average Age:** N/A
- 6% < 1 year
- 25% 1-5 years
- 21% 6-10 years
- 30% 11-15 years
- 17% 16-18 years
- 1% > 19 years

### Gender:
- Male: 50%
- Female: 50%

### 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>28%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am. Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or More Races (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Length of Stay:
The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 39 months.

### Reunified:
62% 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 12,160 licensed non-relative foster homes in California. On July 1, 2006, 37% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.

### Adoption:
Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2003, 51% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 45% were adopted by relatives.

To find out how to become a foster parent in California, please call 1-800-KIDS-4-US or visit: [http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG1347.htm](http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG1347.htm)

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:

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