

## 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<sup>i</sup>.  
Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

**Age:**<sup>i</sup> Average Age: N/A

6%	< 1 year	30%	11-15 years
25%	1-5 years	17%	16-18 years
21%	6-10 years	1%	≥19 years

**Gender:**<sup>i</sup> Male: 50% Female: 50%

**Race and Ethnicity:**

<u>Race/Ethnicity</u> <sup>i</sup>	<u>In out-of-home care</u>	<u>In state child population</u> <sup>ii</sup>
Black ( <i>non-Hispanic</i> )	28%	7%
White ( <i>non-Hispanic</i> )	26%	35%
Hispanic	42%	44%
Am. Indian/Alaska Native ( <i>non-Hispanic</i> )	1%	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander ( <i>non-Hispanic</i> )	2%	10%
Unknown	0%	N/A
2 or More Races ( <i>non-Hispanic</i> )	N/A	4%

**Length of Stay:** The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 39 months.<sup>iii</sup>

**Reunified:** 62% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2003 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.<sup>iii</sup>

**Foster Homes:** In 2004, there were a total of 12,160 licensed non-relative foster homes in California<sup>iv</sup>. On July 1, 2006, 37% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.<sup>i</sup>

**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.<sup>i</sup>

**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>

**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:

<sup>i</sup> Child Welfare Research Center. *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*.  
<http://cssr.berkeley.edu/cwscmsreports/Pointintime/fostercare/childwel/ageandethnic.asp>

<sup>ii</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000. *American FactFinder*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

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

<sup>iv</sup> Child Welfare League of America - National Data Analysis System  
[http://ndas.cwla.org/data\\_stats/access/predefined/Report.asp?ReportID=127](http://ndas.cwla.org/data_stats/access/predefined/Report.asp?ReportID=127)