

Facts About Children in Foster Care in the District of Columbia

Total Population: 3,092 children were in the foster care system in the District of Columbia on September 30, 2003ⁱ. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:ⁱ Average Age: 11.6 years

2%	< 1 year	31%	11-15 years
17%	1-5 years	18%	16-18 years
25%	6-10 years	8%	≥19 years

Gender:ⁱ Male: 52% Female: 48%

Race and Ethnicity:	<u>Race/Ethnicity</u> ⁱ	<u>In out-of-home care</u>	<u>In state child population</u> ⁱⁱ
	Black (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	85%	74%
	White (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	0%	12%
	Hispanic	2%	10%
	Am. Indian/Alaska Native (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	0%	0%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	0%	2%
	Unknown	12%	N/A
	2 or More Races (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	1%	2%

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 48 months.ⁱ

Reunified: 29% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2003 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.ⁱ

Foster Homes: In 2004, there were a total of 32 licensed non-relative foster homes in the District of Columbiaⁱⁱⁱ.
On September 30, 2003, 20% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.ⁱ

Adoption: Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2003, 71% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 29% were adopted by relatives.ⁱ

To find out how to become a foster parent in the District of Columbia, please call (202) 671-LOVE or visit: <http://cfsa.dc.gov/cfsa/cwp/view,a,3,q,519886.asp>

To learn about foster parenting, please call the National Foster Parent Association at 1-800-557-5238 or visit www.nfpainc.org

Sources:

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

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

ⁱⁱⁱ Child Welfare League of America - National Data Analysis System
http://ndas.cwla.org/data_stats/access/predefined/Report.asp?ReportID=127