Facts About Children in Foster Care in Florida

30,677 children were in the foster care system in Florida on September 30, 2003¹. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

**Age:**
- Average Age: 8.2 years
- 7% < 1 year
- 34% 1-5 years
- 24% 6-10 years
- 25% 11-15 years
- 10% 16-18 years
- 0% ≥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 population²</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am. Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or More Races (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Length of Stay:**
The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 22 months.¹

**Reunified:**
51% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2003 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.¹

**Foster Homes:**
In 2004, there were a total of 5,734 licensed non-relative foster homes in Florida³. On September 30, 2003, 45% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.¹

**Adoption:**
Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2003, 48% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 31% were adopted by relatives.¹

To find out how to become a foster parent in Florida, please visit:
http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/fostercare/

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

Sources:

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