

Facts About Children in Foster Care in Iowa

Total Population: In State Fiscal Year 2007, 13,855 children were served in the foster care system in Iowa.ⁱ Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:ⁱ Average Age of all children in foster care: 10.6 years

1%	< 1 year	21%	11-15 years
27%	1-5 years	28%	16-18 years
19%	6-10 years	4%	≥19 years

Gender:ⁱ Male: 53% Female: 47%

Race and Ethnicity:	<u>Race/Ethnicity</u> ⁱ	<u>In out-of-home care</u>	<u>In state child population</u> ⁱⁱ
	Black	15%	3%
	White	76%	91%
	Am. Indian/Alaska Native	2%	0%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	1%	1%
	Unknown/Some Other Race	5%	2%
	2 or More Races	1%	2%
	Hispanic	6%	4%

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in foster care during Fiscal Year 2007 was 16 months.ⁱ

Reunified: 58% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2007 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers within 12 months of entering foster care.ⁱ

Family Foster Homes: **Licensed Family Foster Care:** In FY 2007, there were 6,014 children placed in a total of 2,474 licensed foster homes out of the total of 2,985 licensed foster homes in Iowa.ⁱⁱⁱ **Unlicensed Relative Foster Care:** 39% of all children in family foster settings were in relative homes; 19% of all youth in out of home settings were residing with their relatives.ⁱ

To find out how to become a foster parent in Iowa, please call 800-243-0756 or visit:

<http://www.iowakidsnet.com>

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

Sources:

ⁱ State of Iowa AFCARS population.

Foster Care: Unduplicated count of all children who were in foster care for at least 24 hours during the fiscal year. Includes licensed placements, unlicensed homes and children on "trial home visit" status.

Age is calculated based on the age of the child at the end of the fiscal year or upon discharge from foster care, whichever comes first.

Percent of all races will equal 100%; ethnicity data is compiled in addition to and separate from race data.

Length of Stay is calculated based on the time from the most recent removal to the end of the fiscal year or discharge from foster care, whichever comes first.

ⁱⁱ State Data Center of Iowa: <http://data.iowadatacenter.org/browse/state.html#Race>

ⁱⁱⁱ State Data Center of Iowa: RBA Bureau; CWIS