

Facts About Children in Foster Care in Illinois

Total Population: 16,272 children were in the foster care system in Illinois on January 31, 2007ⁱ. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:ⁱⁱ Average Age of children in care on September 30, 2003: 10.7 years

4%	< 1 year	24%	11-15 years
26%	1-5 years	18%	16-18 years
20%	6-10 years	9%	≥19 years

Gender:ⁱⁱ Male: 52% Female: 38%

Race and Ethnicity:	<u>Race/Ethnicity</u> ⁱⁱ	<u>In out-of-home care</u>	<u>In state child population</u> ⁱⁱⁱ
	Black (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	68%	18%
	White (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	24%	59%
	Hispanic	6%	17%
	Am. Indian/Alaska Native (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	0%	0%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	0%	3%
	Unknown	2%	N/A
	2 or More Races (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	0%	2%

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 54 months.ⁱⁱ

Reunified: 40% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2003 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.ⁱⁱ

Foster Homes: In January 2007, there were a total of 13,692 licensed kinship and non-relative foster homes in Illinois.ⁱ
On January 31, 2007, 38% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.ⁱ

To find out how to become a foster parent in Illinois, please call 800-572-2390 or visit <http://www.fosterkidsareourkids.org/>

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

Sources:

ⁱ Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. *Executive Statistical Summary*. <http://www.state.il.us/DCFS/docs/execstat.pdf>

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

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