Facts About Children in Foster Care in Illinois

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

Age:

- Average Age of children in care on September 30, 2003: 10.7 years
- 4% < 1 year
- 26% 1-5 years
- 20% 6-10 years
- 24% 11-15 years
- 18% 16-18 years
- 9% ≥19 years

Gender:

- Male: 52%
- Female: 38%

Race and Ethnicity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>In out-of-home care</th>
<th>In state child population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>17%</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>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or More Races (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Length of Stay:

- The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 54 months.

Reunified:

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

Foster Homes:

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

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:

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