Facts About Children in Foster Care in Louisiana

**Total Population:** 4,541 children were in the foster care system in Louisiana on September 30, 2003. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

**Age:**
- Average Age: 10.0 years
- 4% < 1 year
- 26% 1-5 years
- 21% 6-10 years
- 34% 11-15 years
- 16% 16-18 years
- 0% >19 years

**Gender:**
- Male: 53%
- Female: 47%

**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>57%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am. Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or More Races (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Length of Stay:** The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 29 months.

**Reunified:** 49% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2003 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.

**Foster Homes:** In 2004, there were a total of 2,822 licensed kinship and non-relative foster homes in Louisiana.

- On September 30, 2003, 13% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.

**Adoption**

- Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2003, 75% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 10% were adopted by relatives.

To find out how to become a foster parent in Louisiana, please visit http://www.dss.state.la.us/departments/ocs/Foster_Parents.html

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

Sources:

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