

Facts About Children in Foster Care in Louisiana

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

Age:ⁱ Average Age: 10.0 years

4%	< 1 year	34%	11-15 years
26%	1-5 years	16%	16-18 years
21%	6-10 years	0%	≥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 (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	57%	40%
White (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	40%	55%
Hispanic	1%	3%
Am. Indian/Alaska Native (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	0%	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	0%	1%
Unknown	1%	N/A
2 or More Races (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	1%	1%

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

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

Foster Homes: In 2004, there were a total of 2,822 licensed kinship and non-relative foster homes in Louisianaⁱⁱⁱ. On September 30, 2003, 13% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.ⁱ

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 relatives¹.

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:

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

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

ⁱⁱⁱ Child Welfare League of America - National Data Analysis System
http://ndas.cwla.org/data_stats/access/predefined/Report.asp?ReportID=127