Facts About Children in Foster Care in Massachusetts

Total Population: 9,481 children (less than 18 years old) and 1,288 young adults (18 to 23 years old) were in the foster care system in Massachusetts on March 31, 2006. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:
- Median Age: 12.6 years
- 12% 0-2 years
- 11% 3-5 years
- 20% 6-11 years
- 39% 12-17 years
- 12% ≥18 years

Gender:
- Male: 51%
- Female: 49%

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</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am. Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown/Other</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or More Races (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Length of Stay: The median length of stay for children in care on March 31, 2006 was 15 months.

Reunified: 60% of the young people leaving the system in the 3rd quarter of FY2006 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.

Foster Homes: On March 31, 2006 there were a total of 4,642 licensed kinship and non-relative foster homes in Massachusetts. On March 31, 2006, 26% of children under age 18 living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.

Adoption: Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2003, 56% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 40% were adopted by relatives.

To find out how to become a foster parent in Massachusetts, please call 1-800-KIDS-508

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.