Facts About Children in Foster Care in Mississippi

Total Population: 2,721 children were in the foster care system in Mississippi on September 30, 2003. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age: Average Age: 10.1 years
- 4% < 1 year
- 25% 1-5 years
- 24% 6-10 years
- 27% 11-15 years
- 3% ≥ 19 years

Gender: Male: 50%  Female: 50%

Race and Ethnicity:
- Black (non-Hispanic): 54% 45%
- White (non-Hispanic): 40% 52%
- Hispanic: 1% 2%
- Am. Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic): 0% 0%
- Asian/Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic): 0% 1%
- Unknown: 1% N/A
- 2 or More Races (non-Hispanic): 1% 1%

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 27 months.

Reunified: 47% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2003 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.

Foster Homes: In 2002, there was an estimated total of 986 licensed kinship and non-relative foster homes in Mississippi.
On September 30, 2003, 18% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.

To find out how to become a foster parent in Mississippi, please call 1-800-345-6347 or visit http://www.mdhs.state.ms.us/fcs_howfos.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.
3 Child Welfare League of America - National Data Analysis System