Facts About Children in Foster Care in North Dakota

Total Population: 1,416 children were in the foster care system in North Dakota on September 30, 2006. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age: Average Age: 10.4 years
- 4% < 1 year
- 25% 1-5 years
- 19% 6-10 years
- 30% 11-15 years
- 21% 16-18 years
- 0% > 19 years

Gender: Male: 54%  Female: 46%

Race and Ethnicity:
- Black (non-Hispanic): 2% (1%)
- White (non-Hispanic): 57% (87%)
- Hispanic: 7% (2%)
- Am. Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic): 26% (8%)
- Asian/Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic): 0% (1%)
- Unknown: 0% (N/A)
- 2 or More Races (non-Hispanic): 6% (2%)

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2006 was 19.3 months.

Reunified: 51% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2006 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.

Foster Homes: In 2004, there were a total of 862 licensed non-relative foster homes in North Dakota. On September 30, 2006, 24% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.

Adoption: Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2006, 87% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 2% were adopted by relatives.

To find out how to become a foster parent in North Dakota, please visit:
http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily/fostercare/

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 2006, 10/1/05 through 9/30/06, supplied by Children and Family Services, North Dakota Department of Human Services.