Facts About Children in Foster Care in Nebraska

Total Population: 5,148 children were in the foster care system in Nebraska on September 30, 2003. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age: Average Age: 11.3 years
- 3% < 1 year
- 21% 1-5 years
- 17% 6-10 years
- 29% 11-15 years
- 29% 16-18 years
- 0% ≥19 years

Gender: Male: 54%  Female: 46%

Race and Ethnicity:
- Black (non-Hispanic): 16% 5%
- White (non-Hispanic): 66% 82%
- Hispanic: 8% 8%
- Am. Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic): 8% 1%
- Asian/Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic): 0% 1%
- Unknown: 2% N/A
- 2 or More Races (non-Hispanic): 1% 2%

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 21 months.

Reunified: 71% 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 3,750 licensed non-relative foster homes in Nebraska.
On September 30, 2003, 15% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.

Adoption: Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2003, 51% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 20% were adopted by relatives.

To find out how to become a foster parent in Nebraska, please call 1-800-7PARENT (1-800-772-7368) or visit http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/foc/focindex.htm

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.