Facts About Children in Foster Care in New Jersey

Total Population: 12,801 children were in the foster care system in New Jersey on September 30, 2003. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:
- Average Age: 8.8 years
- 7% < 1 year
- 31% 1-5 years
- 22% 6-10 years
- 27% 11-15 years
- 13% 16-18 years
- 1% > 19 years

Gender: Male: 53%  Female: 47%

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 (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am. Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or More Races (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 28 months.

Reunified: 72% 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 7,621 approved kinship and non-relative foster homes in New Jersey.
On September 30, 2003, 4% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.

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

To find out how to become a foster parent in New Jersey, please call 1-877-NJFOSTER or visit http://www.state.nj.us/njfostercare/

To learn about foster parenting, please call the National Foster Parent Association at 1-800-557-5238 or visit www.nfpainc.org