## Facts About Children in Foster Care in South Carolina

**Total Population:** 4,894 children were in the foster care system in South Carolina on September 30, 2003. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

**Age:**

- Average Age: 10.5 years
  - 4% < 1 year
  - 24% 1-5 years
  - 19% 6-10 years
  - 31% 11-15 years
  - 19% 16-18 years
  - 3% >19 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 (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</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>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or More Races (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Length of Stay:** The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 33 months.

**Reunified:** 53% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2003 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.

**Foster Homes:** In 2002, there were a total of 1,843 licensed non-relative foster homes in South Carolina. On September 30, 2003, 8% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.

**Adoption:** Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2003, 44% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 28% were adopted by relatives.

To find out how to become a foster parent in South Carolina, please call 1-888-CARE-4-US (1-888-227-3487) or visit [http://www.state.sc.us/dss/fostercare/index.html](http://www.state.sc.us/dss/fostercare/index.html).

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