

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.ⁱ Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:ⁱ Average Age: 10.5 years

4%	< 1 year	31%	11-15 years
24%	1-5 years	19%	16-18 years
19%	6-10 years	3%	≥19 years

Gender:ⁱ Male: 51% Female: 49%

Race and Ethnicity:	<u>Race/Ethnicity</u> ⁱ	<u>In out-of-home care</u>	<u>In state child population</u> ⁱⁱ
	Black (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	55%	36%
	White (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	41%	58%
	Hispanic	2%	3%
	Am. Indian/Alaska Native (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	0%	0%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	0%	1%
	Unknown	0%	N/A
	2 or More Races (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	3%	1%

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

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

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

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.ⁱ

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>

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

Sources:

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

ⁱⁱ U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000. *American FactFinder*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>

ⁱⁱⁱ Child Welfare League of America - National Data Analysis System
http://ndas.cwla.org/data_stats/access/predefined/Report.asp?ReportID=127