Facts About Children in Foster Care in South Dakota

Total Population: 1,580 children were in the foster care system in South Dakota on September 30, 2003. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age: Average Age: 9.0 years

- 4% < 1 year
- 30% 1-5 years
- 26% 6-10 years
- 12% 11-15 years
- 0% ≥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>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am. Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>13%</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>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 22 months.

Reunified: 62% 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 744 licensed non-relative foster homes in South Dakota. On September 30, 2003, 18% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.

Adoption: Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2003, 69% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 10% were adopted by relatives.

To find out how to become a foster parent in South Dakota, please visit http://dss.sd.gov/fostercare/parent/

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.