Facts About Children in Foster Care in Virginia

Total Population: 7,861 children were in the foster care system in Virginia on October 31, 2005. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:

- Average Age: 11.9 years
- 3% < 1 year
- 18% 1-5 years
- 11% 6-9 years
- 24% 10-12 years
- 29% 13-15 years
- 11% 16-18 years
- 4% 19-21 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</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>23% (non-Hispanic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>64% (non-Hispanic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am. Indian/Alaska Native</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0% (non-Hispanic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>4% (non-Hispanic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or More Races</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3% (non-Hispanic)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in care on November 1, 2005 was 32 months.

Reunified: 50% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2004 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.

Foster Homes: In 2004, there were a total of 4,288 licensed non-relative foster homes in Virginia.

- On September 30, 2004, 4% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.

Adoption: Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2004, 84% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 5% were adopted by relatives.

To find out how to become a foster parent in Virginia, please visit http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/fc/parenting.html

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

Sources:

2. Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for the FY 2004, 10/1/03 through 9/30/04.