Facts About Children in Foster Care in Vermont

**Total Population:** 1,409 children were in the foster care system in Vermont on September 30, 2003. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

**Age:**
- Average Age: 11.9 years
  - 2% < 1 year
  - 18% 1-5 years
  - 16% 6-10 years
  - 36% 11-15 years
  - 29% 16-18 years
  - 0% ≥19 years

**Gender:**
- Male: 56%
- Female: 44%

**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>97%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</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>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Length of Stay:**
- The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 26 months.

**Reunified:**
- 55% 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 1,441 licensed non-relative foster homes in Vermont.
- On September 30, 2003, 10% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.

**Adoption:**
- Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2003, 79% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 20% were adopted by relatives.

To find out how to become a foster parent in Vermont, please visit
http://projectfamilyvt.org/

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.