

Facts About Children in Foster Care in Washington

Total Population: 10,411 children were in the foster care system in Washington on July 31, 2007ⁱ. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:ⁱ

5.3%	Infant < 1 year	17.3%	12-14 years
16.2%	1-3 years	18.0%	15-17 years
26%	4-7 years		

Gender:ⁱ Male: 50.1% Female: 49.9%

Race and Ethnicity:

<u>Race/Ethnicity</u> ⁱ	<u>In out-of-home care</u>	<u>In state child population</u> ⁱⁱ
Black (non-Hispanic)	10.1%	4.3%
White (non-Hispanic)	60.6%	80.9%
Hispanic	15.1%	14.6%
Am. Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)	12.2%	2.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)	1.5%	6.8%
Unknown/Other	4.9%	N/A
2 or More Races (non-Hispanic)	10.7%	6.0%

Length of Stay: The median length of stay for children in out-of-home care in July 2007 was 536 days or about 17.5 months.

Reunified: 4,630 of the young people who exited from out of home care in Fiscal year 2007 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers, about 65%.

Foster Homes: In July 2007, there were a total of 5,888 licensed non-relative foster homes in Washington and 38.2% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.

To find out how to become a foster parent in Washington, please call 1-800-760-5340 or visit <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/>

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

Sources:

ⁱ All data reported is from the Department of Social and Health Services Children's Administration Case and Management Information System (CAMIS) provided by the Decision Support Unit unless otherwise noted.

ⁱⁱ U.S. Census Bureau, Census data as of 7/1/06. www.census.gov/popest/datasets.html.