

Facts About Children in Foster Care in Wisconsin

Total Population: 7,824 children were in the foster care system in Wisconsin on September 30, 2003ⁱ. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:ⁱ Average Age: 10.4 years

4%	< 1 year	35%	11-15 years
22%	1-5 years	17%	16-18 years
22%	6-10 years	0%	≥19 years

Gender:ⁱ Male: 54% Female: 46%

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>)	44%	8%
	White (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	40%	80%
	Hispanic	8%	5%
	Am. Indian/Alaska Native (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	2%	1%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	1%	3%
	Unknown	1%	N/A
	2 or More Races (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	4%	2%

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 32 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 2004, there were a total of 4,600 licensed non-relative foster homes in Wisconsinⁱⁱⁱ. On September 30, 2003, 26% 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, 78% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 14% were adopted by relatives.ⁱⁱ

To find out how to become a foster parent in Wisconsin, please call 1-800-947-8074 or visit <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/children/foster/>

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