



Facts About Children in Foster Care in Illinois

To find out how to become a foster parent in Illinois, please call 800-572-2390 or visit:

<http://www.fosterkidsareourkids.org/>

To learn more about adoption in Illinois, please visit:

<http://www.adoptinfo-il.org/adoption1-main.htm>

Total Population: 16,272 children were in the foster care system in Illinois on January 31, 2007ⁱ. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:ⁱⁱ Average Age of children in care on September 30, 2003: 10.7 years

| | | | |
|-----|------------|-----|-------------|
| 4% | < 1 year | 24% | 11-15 years |
| 26% | 1-5 years | 18% | 16-18 years |
| 20% | 6-10 years | 9% | ≥19 years |

Gender:ⁱⁱ Male: 52% Female: 38%

| Race and Ethnicity: | <u>Race/Ethnicity</u> ⁱⁱ | <u>In out-of-home care</u> | <u>In state child population</u> ⁱⁱⁱ |
|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| | Black (<i>non-Hispanic</i>) | 68% | 18% |
| | White (<i>non-Hispanic</i>) | 24% | 59% |
| | Hispanic | 6% | 17% |
| | Am. Indian/Alaska Native (<i>non-Hispanic</i>) | 0% | 0% |
| | Asian/Pacific Islander (<i>non-Hispanic</i>) | 0% | 3% |
| | Unknown | 2% | N/A |
| | 2 or More Races (<i>non-Hispanic</i>) | 0% | 2% |

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 54 months.ⁱⁱ

Reunified: 40% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2003 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.ⁱⁱ

Foster Homes: In January 2007, there were a total of 13,692 licensed kinship and non-relative foster homes in Illinois.

On January 31, 2007, 38% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.ⁱ

Sources:

ⁱ Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. *Executive Statistical Summary*.

<http://www.state.il.us/DCFS/docs/execstat.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for the FY 2003, 10/1/02 through 9/30/03.

ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000. *American FactFinder*. <http://factfinder.census.gov>