



## Facts about Children in Foster Care in Iowa

To find out how to become a foster or adoptive parent in Iowa, please call 800-243-0756

or visit: <http://www.iowakidsnet.com>

**Total Population:** In State Fiscal Year 2009, 11,394 children were served in the foster care system in Iowa. This is a decrease from SFY 2008 of 1,172 children.<sup>i</sup> Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

**Age:** Average age of all children in foster care<sup>ii</sup>: 10 years

4.1%	< 1 year	23.5%	11-15 years
27.4%	1-5 years	28.5%	16-18 years
16.1%	6-10 years	.4%	≥19 years

**Gender:** Male: 54.1% Female: 45.9%

<b>Race and Ethnicity:</b>	<u>Race/Ethnicity</u> <sup>iii</sup>	<u>In out-of-home care</u>	<u>In state child population</u> <sup>iv</sup>
	Black	15.0%	3.5%
	White	70.1%	88.8%
	Am. Indian/Alaska Native	2.2%	0.4%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	1.3%	1.9%
	Unknown/Some Other Race	9.2%	2.3%
	2 or More Races	2.3%	3.2%
	Hispanic	7.9%	6.7%

**Length of Stay:** The average length of stay for children in foster care during State Fiscal Year 2009 was 18.5 months.<sup>v</sup> The median of length of stay was 12.0 months.

**Reunified:** 40% of the young people leaving the system in SFY 2009 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers within 12 months of entering foster care.<sup>vi</sup>

**Family Foster Homes:** **Licensed Family Foster Care:** In SFY 2009, there were 4,742 children placed in a total of 2,199 licensed foster homes out of the total of 2,842 licensed foster homes in Iowa.<sup>vii</sup>

**Unlicensed Relative Foster Care:** 2,849

### Sources:

<sup>i</sup> State of Iowa AFCARS population -- Unduplicated count of all children who were in foster care for at least 24 hours during the fiscal year. Includes licensed placements, unlicensed homes and children on "trial home visit" status.

<sup>ii</sup> AFCARS - Age is calculated based on the age of the child at the end of the fiscal year or upon discharge from foster care, whichever comes first.

<sup>iii</sup> AFCARS - Percent of all races will equal 100%; ethnicity data is compiled in addition to and separate from race data.

<sup>iv</sup> State Data Center of Iowa: <http://data.iowadatacenter.org/browse/state.html#race>

<sup>v</sup> AFCARS - Length of Stay is calculated based on the time from the most recent removal to the end of the fiscal year or discharge from foster care, whichever comes first.

<sup>vi</sup> AFCARS - Measured according to the Child and Family Services Review Standards.

<sup>vii</sup> Iowa Department of Human Services, Bureau of Research and Statistics.