



Facts About Children in Foster Care in Massachusetts

To find out how to become a foster parent in Massachusetts, please call 1-800-KIDS-508

To learn more about adoption in Massachusetts, please visit: <http://www.mareinc.org/>

Total Population: 6,680 children (less than 18 years old) and 1,276 young adults (18 to 23 years old) were in the foster care system in Massachusetts on September 30, 2008ⁱ. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:ⁱ Median Age: 11.7 years

15%	0-2 years	41%	12-17 years
10%	3-5 years	15%	≥18 years
18%	6-11 years		

Gender:ⁱ Male: 52% Female: 48%

Race and Ethnicity: ⁱ	<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	<u>In out-of-home care</u>	<u>In state child population</u>
	Black	18%	7%
	White	58%	79%
	Am. Indian/Alaska Native (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	0%	<1%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	1%	<1%
	Unknown/Other	16%	6%
	2 or More Races (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	6%	4%
	Hispanic	26%	11%

Length of Stay: The median length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2008 was 1.1 years.ⁱ

Reunified: 68% of the young people leaving the system in the 1st quarter of FY 2008 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.ⁱ

Foster Homes: On September 30, 2008, there were a total of 4,579 licensed kinship and non-relative foster homes in Massachusetts.ⁱ

On September 30, 2008, 32% of children under age 18 living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.ⁱ

Adoption: End of 1st Quarter (9/30/08) there were 2,523 consumers in placement with a goal of adoption, 40% were legally free for adoption and 80% were matched to a permanent family.

Sources:

ⁱ Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, Quarterly Report, Fiscal Year 2009, 1st Quarter.

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