



Facts About Children in Foster Care in Missouri

To find out how to become a foster parent in Missouri, please call (800) 554-2222 or visit <http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/fostercare/index.htm>

To learn more about adoption in Missouri, please visit: <http://www.dss.mo.gov/>

Total Population: 9,092 children were in the foster care system in Missouri on January 31, 2009.ⁱ Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:ⁱⁱ Children in care on January 31, 2009:

6%	< 1 year	25%	11-15 years
26%	1-5 years	21%	16-18 years
18%	6-10 years	5%	≥19 years

Gender:ⁱⁱ Male: 51% Female: 49%

Race and Ethnicity:	<u>Race/Ethnicityⁱ</u>	<u>In out-of-home care</u>	<u>In state child populationⁱⁱ</u>
	Black (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	64.4%	14%
	White (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	30.7%	79%
	Hispanic	2.6%	3%
	Am. Indian/Alaska Native (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	.3%	0%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	.1%	1%
	2 or More Races (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	.7%	2%

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in care for FY 2008 was 27.8 months.ⁱ

Reunified: 47.4% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2008 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.ⁱ

Foster Homes: As of January 31, 2008, there were a total of 6,069 licensed kinship and non-relative foster homes in Missouri.ⁱ

On January 31, 2009, 29% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives and kin.ⁱ

Adoption: Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2008, 60% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 27.5% were adopted by relatives.ⁱ

Sources:

ⁱ Missouri Department of Social Services, Children's Division.

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