Facts about Children in Foster Care in Montana

To find out how to become a foster parent in Montana, please call 1-866-936-7837 (866-9 FOSTER) or visit: [http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/cfsd/relatedtopics/fostercare.shtml](http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/cfsd/relatedtopics/fostercare.shtml)

To learn more about adoption in Montana, please visit: [http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/cfsd/adoption/adoptioninmontana.shtml](http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/cfsd/adoption/adoptioninmontana.shtml)

**Total Population:** 1,583 children were in the foster care system in Montana on September 30, 2009. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

**Age:**

- Average Age: 8.5 years
- 4% < 1 year
- 23% 1-5 years
- 37% 6-10 years
- 12% 11-15 years
- 0% 16-18 years
- 23% 19 years

**Gender:**

- Male: 51.4%
- Female: 48.6%

**Race and Ethnicity:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>In out-of-home care</th>
<th>In state child population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Am. Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or More Races (non-Hispanic)</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Length of Stay:** The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2009 was 26.5 months.

**Reunified:** 47% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2009 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.

**Foster Homes:** In FY 2009, there were a total of 831 licensed kinship and non-relative foster homes in Montana.

On September 30, 2009, 33% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.

**Adoption:** Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2009, 64% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 36% were adopted by relatives.

**Sources:**

1. Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for the FY-2009 (10/1/08 through 9/30/09).