



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>

To learn more about adoption in Montana, please visit:
<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.ⁱ Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:ⁱ Average Age: 8.5 years

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|-----|------------|-----|-------------|
| 4% | < 1 year | 23% | 11-15 years |
| 37% | 1-5 years | 12% | 16-18 years |
| 23% | 6-10 years | 0% | ≥19 years |

Gender:ⁱ Male: 51.4% Female: 48.6%

| 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>) | 1% | 0% |
| | White (<i>non-Hispanic</i>) | 55% | 84% |
| | Hispanic | 0% | 3% |
| | Am. Indian/Alaska Native (<i>non-Hispanic</i>) | 39% | 9% |
| | Asian/Pacific Islander (<i>non-Hispanic</i>) | 0% | 1% |
| | Unknown | 1% | N/A |
| | 2 or More Races (<i>non-Hispanic</i>) | 3% | 3% |

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

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

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

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

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.ⁱ

Sources:

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

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

ⁱⁱⁱ Child Welfare League of America - National Data Analysis System.
http://ndas.cwla.org/data_stats/access/predefined/Report.asp?ReportID=127