



Facts About Children in Foster Care in New Jersey

To find out how to become a foster parent in New Jersey, please call 1-877-NJFOSTER or visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/njfoστεrcare/>

To learn more about adoption in New Jersey, please visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/njfoστεradopt/adoption/>

Total Population: 12,801 children were in the foster care system in New Jersey on September 30, 2003ⁱ. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:ⁱ Average Age: 8.8 years

7%	< 1 year	27%	11-15 years
31%	1-5 years	13%	16-18 years
22%	6-10 years	1%	≥19 years

Gender:ⁱ Male: 53% Female: 47%

Race and Ethnicity:	<u>Race/Ethnicity</u> ⁱ	<u>In out-of-home care</u>	<u>In state child population</u> ⁱⁱ
	Black (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	62%	16%
	White (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	24%	59%
	Hispanic	6%	16%
	Am. Indian/Alaska Native (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	0%	0%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	0%	6%
	Unknown	7%	N/A
	2 or More Races (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	N/A	2%

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 28 months.ⁱ

Reunified: 72% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2003 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.ⁱ

Foster Homes: In 2004, there were a total of 7,621 approved kinship and non-relative foster homes in New Jerseyⁱⁱⁱ.

On September 30, 2003, 4% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.ⁱ

Sources:

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

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