



Facts About Children in Foster Care in South Dakota

To find out how to become a foster parent in South Dakota, please visit:

<http://dss.sd.gov/fostercare/parent/>

To learn more about adoption in South Dakota, please visit:

<http://dss.sd.gov/adoption/>

Total Population: 1,444 children were in the foster care system in South Dakota on September 30, 2008ⁱ. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:ⁱ

38%	0-4 years	18%	12-15 years
32%	5-11 years	12%	16-18 years
		0%	≥19 years

Gender:ⁱ Male: 48.7% Female: 51.3%

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>)	5.9%	1%
White (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	33.6%	81%
Hispanic	7.7%	2%
Am. Indian/Alaska Native (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	59.8%	13%
Asian/Pacific Islander (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	.8%	1%
Unknown	-1%	NA
2 or More Races (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)		2%

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2008 was 502.8 days.

Reunified: 55.3% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2008 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.

Foster Homes: In 2008, there were a total of 765 licensed non-relative foster homes in South Dakotaⁱⁱⁱ.

On September 30, 2008, 21% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.

Adoption: Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2008, 57% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 40% were adopted by relatives.

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