



Facts About Children in Foster Care in West Virginia

To find out how to become a foster parent in West Virginia, please visit:

http://www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/children_adult/foster/

To learn more about adoption in West Virginia, please visit:

<http://www.wvdhhr.org/oss/adoption/>

Total Population: 4,331 children were in the foster care system in West Virginia on September 30, 2005.ⁱ
Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:ⁱ Average Age: 11 years

5%	< 1 year	31%	11-15 years
20%	1-5 years	27%	16-18 years
16%	6-10 years	2%	≥19 years

Gender:ⁱ Male: 55% Female: 45%

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>)	8%	4%
	White (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	85%	93%
	Hispanic	2%	1%
	Am. Indian/Alaska Native (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	0%	0%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	0%	2%
	Unknown	0%	N/A
	2 or More Races (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	6%	2%

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2005 was 21 months.ⁱ

Reunified: 52% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2005 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.ⁱ

Foster Homes: In 2004, there were a total of 384 licensed non-relative foster homes in West Virginiaⁱⁱⁱ.

On September 30, 2005, 5.7% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.ⁱ

Adoption: Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2005, 78% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 22% were adopted by relatives.ⁱ

Sources:

ⁱ Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for the FY 2005, 10/1/04 through 9/30/05.

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/home.asp?MainTopicID=3