



Facts About Children in Foster Care in Mississippi

To find out how to become a foster parent in Mississippi, please call 1-800-345-6347 or visit: http://www.mdhs.state.ms.us/fcs_howfos.html

To learn more about adoption in Mississippi, please visit: http://www.mdhs.state.ms.us/fcs_adoptall.html

Total Population: 2,721 children were in the foster care system in Mississippi on September 30, 2003ⁱ. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:ⁱ Average Age: 10.1 years

4%	< 1 year	27%	11-15 years
25%	1-5 years	17%	16-18 years
24%	6-10 years	3%	≥19 years

Gender:ⁱ Male: 50% Female: 50%

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>)	54%	45%
	White (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	40%	52%
	Hispanic	1%	2%
	Am. Indian/Alaska Native (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	0%	0%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	0%	1%
	Unknown	1%	N/A
	2 or More Races (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	1%	1%

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 27 months.ⁱ

Reunified: 47% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2003 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.ⁱ

Foster Homes: In 2002, there was an estimated total of 986 licensed kinship and non-relative foster homes in Mississippiⁱⁱⁱ.

On September 30, 2003, 18% 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