



## 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/njfostrcare/>

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

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

**Age:**<sup>i</sup> 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:**<sup>i</sup> Male: 53% Female: 47%

<b>Race and Ethnicity:</b>	<u>Race/Ethnicity</u> <sup>i</sup>	<u>In out-of-home care</u>	<u>In state child population</u> <sup>ii</sup>
	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.<sup>i</sup>

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

**Foster Homes:** In 2004, there were a total of 7,621 approved kinship and non-relative foster homes in New Jersey<sup>iii</sup>.

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

### Sources:

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

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

<sup>iii</sup> Child Welfare League of America - National Data Analysis System [http://ndas.cwla.org/data\\_stats/access/predefined/Report.asp?ReportID=127](http://ndas.cwla.org/data_stats/access/predefined/Report.asp?ReportID=127)