



Facts About Children in Foster Care in North Carolina

To find out how to become a foster parent in North Carolina, please call NC KIDS at 1-877-NCKIDS (1-877-625-4371) or visit: <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/fostercare/>

To learn more about adoption in North Carolina, please visit: <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/adopt/steps.html>

Total Population: 9,534 children were in the foster care system in North Carolina on September 30, 2003.ⁱ Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:ⁱ Average Age: 9.4 years

6%	< 1 year	30%	11-15 years
29%	1-5 years	14%	16-18 years
20%	6-10 years	1%	≥19 years

Gender:ⁱ Male: 51% Female: 49%

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>)	43%	26%
	White (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	46%	63%
	Hispanic	6%	6%
	Am. Indian/Alaska Native (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	2%	1%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	0%	2%
	Unknown	0%	N/A
	2 or More Races (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	2%	2%

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 24 months.ⁱ

Reunified: 42% 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 6,300 licensed kinship and non-relative foster homes in North Carolina.ⁱⁱⁱ

On September 30, 2003, 20% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.ⁱ

Adoption: Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2003, 68% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 14% were adopted by 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