



Facts About Children in Foster Care in Tennessee

To find out how to become a foster parent in Tennessee, please call 1-877-DCS-KIDS or visit: <http://state.tn.us/youth/fostercare/becomefosterparent.htm>

To learn more about adoption in Tennessee, please visit: <http://state.tn.us/youth/adoption.htm>

Total Population: 9,888 children were in the foster care system in Tennessee on June 30, 2005ⁱ. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:ⁱ Average Age: 9.0 years

4%	< 1 year	28%	11-15 years
30%	1-5 years	12%	16-18 years
26%	6-10 years	0%	≥19 years

Gender:ⁱ Male: 56% Female: 44%

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>)	32%	21%
	White (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	60%	73%
	Hispanic	3%	3%
	Am. Indian/Alaska Native (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	0%	0%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	0%	1%
	Unknown	0%	N/A
	2 or More Races (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	3%	2%

Length of Stay: The median length of stay for children in care on June 30, 2005 was 13 months.ⁱⁱ

Reunified: 55% 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 3,882 licensed kinship and non-relative foster homes in Tennessee.ⁱⁱⁱ

On September 30, 2003, 18% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.^{iv}

Adoption: Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2003, 69% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 10% were adopted by relatives.ⁱ

Sources:

ⁱ Tennessee Department of Children's Services. *Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2005*. <http://www.state.tn.us/youth/dcsinfo/reports.htm>

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

^{iv} Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for the FY 2003, 10/1/02 through 9/30/03