



## Facts About Children in Foster Care in Texas

To find out how to become a foster or adoptive parent in Texas, please call 1-800-233-3405 or visit:

[http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Adoption\\_and\\_Foster\\_Care/About\\_TARE/Foster\\_Care/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Adoption_and_Foster_Care/About_TARE/Foster_Care/default.asp)

**Total Population:** 31,398 children were in the substitute care system in Texas on August 31, 2006<sup>i</sup>. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

**Age:**<sup>i</sup>

|     |            |     |             |
|-----|------------|-----|-------------|
| 22% | < 3 years  | 18% | 10-13 years |
| 15% | 3-5 years  | 25% | 14-17 years |
| 18% | 6-19 years | 3%  | ≥18 years   |

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

**Race and Ethnicity:**

| <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> )                    | 28%                        | 12%  |
| White ( <i>non-Hispanic</i> )                    | 32%                        | 43%  |
| Hispanic   | 38%                        | 41%  |
| Am. Indian/Alaska Native ( <i>non-Hispanic</i> ) | 0%                         | 0%   |
| Asian/Pacific Islander ( <i>non-Hispanic</i> )   | 0%                         | 2%   |
| Unknown/Other                                    | 2%                         | 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 25 months.<sup>iii</sup>

**Reunified:** 37% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2006 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.<sup>i</sup>

**Foster Homes:** On August 31, 2006, there were a total of 2,761 Department of Family and Protective Services verified foster homes in Texas.<sup>i</sup> Note: This does not include Texas Private Child Placing Agency verified home.

**Kinship:** On August 31, 2006, 26% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their non-verified relatives.<sup>i</sup>

**Adoption:** Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2003, 48% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 27% were adopted by relatives<sup>iii</sup>.

**Sources:**

<sup>i</sup> Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. *2006 Data Book*.  
[http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About/Data\\_Books\\_and\\_Annual\\_Reports/2006/databook/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/About/Data_Books_and_Annual_Reports/2006/databook/default.asp)

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

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