



Facts About Children in Foster Care in Virginia

To find out how to become a foster parent in Virginia, please visit:

<http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/fc/index.html>

To learn more about adoption in Virginia, please visit:

http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/ap/children_for_adoption.html

Total Population: 7,861 children were in the foster care system in Virginia on October 31, 2005ⁱ. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:ⁱ

Average Age: 11.9 years			
3%	< 1 year	11%	10-12 years
18%	1-5 years	24%	13-15 years
11%	6-9 years	29%	16-18 years
		4%	19-21 years

Gender:ⁱⁱ Male: 53% Female: 47%

Race and Ethnicity:

<u>Race/Ethnicity</u> ⁱⁱ	<u>In out-of-home care</u>	<u>In state child population</u> ⁱⁱⁱ
Black	43%	23% (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)
White	46%	64% (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)
Hispanic	6%	6%
Am. Indian/Alaska Native	0%	0% (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)
Asian/Pacific Islander	0%	4% (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)
Unknown	5%	N/A
2 or More Races	5%	3% (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in care on November 1, 2005 was 32 months.ⁱ

Reunified: 50% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2004 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.ⁱⁱ

Foster Homes: In 2004, there were a total of 4,288 licensed non-relative foster homes in Virginia.^{iv}

On September 30, 2004, 4% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.ⁱⁱ

Adoption: Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2004, 84% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 5% were adopted by relativesⁱⁱ.

Sources:

ⁱ Virginia Department of Social Services. *Foster Care Children*. <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/fc/children.html>

ⁱⁱ Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for the FY 2004, 10/1/03 through 9/30/04.

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

^{iv} Child Welfare League of America - National Data Analysis System http://ndas.cwla.org/data_stats/access/predefined/Report.asp?ReportID=127