



Facts About Children in Foster Care in Washington

To find out how to become a foster parent in Washington, please call 1-800-760-5340 or visit: <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/>

To learn more about adoption in Washington, please visit: <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/adopt/index.asp>

Total Population: 10,323 children were in the foster care system in Washington on July 31, 2008ⁱ. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:ⁱ

6.5%	Infant < 1 year	14.2%	12-14 years
23.3%	1-3 years	18.6%	15-17 years
20.4%	4-7 years		

Gender:ⁱ Male: 50.8% Female: 49.2%

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>)	9.8%	4.3%
	White (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	59.7%	80.9%
	Hispanic	15.5%	14.6%
	Am. Indian/Alaska Native (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	12.1%	2.0%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	1.4%	6.8%
	Unknown/Other	1.7%	N/A
	2 or More Races (<i>non-Hispanic</i>)	11.8%	6.0%

Length of Stay: The median length of stay for children in out-of-home care in July 2008 was 572 days or about 17.6 months.

Reunified: 4,729 of the young people who exited from out of home care in Fiscal year 2008 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.

Foster Homes: In July 2008, there were a total of 5,875 licensed non-relative foster homes in Washington. 38.7% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.

Sources:

ⁱ All data reported is from the Department of Social and Health Services Children's Administration Case and Management Information System (CAMIS) provided by the Decision Support Unit unless otherwise noted.

ⁱⁱ U.S. Census Bureau, Census data as of 7/1/06. www.census.gov/popest/datasets.html.