



## Facts About Children in Foster Care in Wisconsin

To find out how to become a foster parent in Wisconsin, please call 1-800-947-8074 or visit: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/children/foster/>

To learn more about adoption in Wisconsin, please visit: <http://www.wiadopt.com/>

**Total Population:** 7,824 children were in the foster care system in Wisconsin on September 30, 2003<sup>i</sup>. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

**Age:**<sup>i</sup> Average Age: 10.4 years

4%	< 1 year	35%	11-15 years
22%	1-5 years	17%	16-18 years
22%	6-10 years	0%	≥19 years

**Gender:**<sup>i</sup> Male: 54% Female: 46%

<b>Race and Ethnicity:</b>	<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> )	44%	8%
	White ( <i>non-Hispanic</i> )	40%	80%
	Hispanic	8%	5%
	Am. Indian/Alaska Native ( <i>non-Hispanic</i> )	2%	1%
	Asian/Pacific Islander ( <i>non-Hispanic</i> )	1%	3%
	Unknown	1%	N/A
	2 or More Races ( <i>non-Hispanic</i> )	4%	2%

**Length of Stay:** The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 32 months.<sup>i</sup>

**Reunified:** 53% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2003 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.<sup>i</sup>

**Foster Homes:** In 2004, there were a total of 4,600 licensed non-relative foster homes in Wisconsin<sup>iii</sup>.

On September 30, 2003, 26% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.<sup>i</sup>

**Adoption:** Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2003, 78% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 14% were adopted by relatives<sup>ii</sup>.

### Sources:

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

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

<sup>iii</sup> Child Welfare League of America - National Data Analysis System [http://ndas.cwla.org/data\\_stats/access/predefined/Report.asp?ReportID=127](http://ndas.cwla.org/data_stats/access/predefined/Report.asp?ReportID=127)