

Facts About Children in Foster Care in Colorado

Total Population: 8,754 children were in the foster care system in Colorado on September 30, 2003ⁱ. Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Age:ⁱ Average Age: 11.2 years

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|-----|------------|-----|-------------|
| 5% | < 1 year | 30% | 11-15 years |
| 20% | 1-5 years | 24% | 16-18 years |
| 17% | 6-10 years | 4% | ≥19 years |

Gender:ⁱ Male: 58% Female: 42%

| 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>) | 12% | 4% |
| | White (<i>non-Hispanic</i>) | 50% | 66% |
| | Hispanic | 33% | 24% |
| | Am. Indian/Alaska Native (<i>non-Hispanic</i>) | 1% | 1% |
| | Asian/Pacific Islander (<i>non-Hispanic</i>) | 1% | 2% |
| | Unknown | 0% | N/A |
| | 2 or More Races (<i>non-Hispanic</i>) | 7% | 3% |

Length of Stay: The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 24 months.ⁱ

Reunified: 58% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2003 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers.ⁱ

Foster Homes: In 2002, there were a total of 3,641 licensed non-relative foster homes in Coloradoⁱⁱⁱ. On September 30, 2003, 14% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives.ⁱ

Adoption: Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2003, 58% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 31% were adopted by relatives.ⁱ

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

<http://www.changealifeforever.org/>

To learn about foster parenting, please call the National Foster Parent Association at 1-800-557-5238 or visit www.nfpainc.org

Sources:

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

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