

Facts About Children in Foster Care in Texas

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

Age:ⁱ

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

Gender:ⁱ Male: 53% Female: 47%

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>)	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.ⁱⁱⁱ

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

Foster Homes: On August 31, 2006, there were a total of 2,761 Department of Family and Protective Services verified foster homes in Texas.ⁱ 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.ⁱ

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.ⁱⁱⁱ

To find out how to become a foster 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

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

Sources:

ⁱ 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

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

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