

## Facts About Children in Foster Care in California

<b>Total Population:</b>	78,278 children were in the foster care system in California on July 1, 2006 <sup>i</sup> . Most children are placed temporarily in foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.		
<b>Age:</b> <sup>i</sup>	Average Age: N/A		
	6%	< 1 year	30%
	25%	1-5 years	17%
	21%	6-10 years	1%
			11-15 years
			16-18 years
			≥19 years
<b>Gender:</b> <sup>i</sup>	Male: 50%	Female: 50%	
<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> )	28%	7%
	White ( <i>non-Hispanic</i> )	26%	35%
	Hispanic	42%	44%
	Am. Indian/Alaska Native ( <i>non-Hispanic</i> )	1%	1%
	Asian/Pacific Islander ( <i>non-Hispanic</i> )	2%	10%
	Unknown	0%	N/A
	2 or More Races ( <i>non-Hispanic</i> )	N/A	4%
<b>Length of Stay:</b>	The average length of stay for children in care on September 30, 2003 was 39 months. <sup>iii</sup>		
<b>Reunified:</b>	62% of the young people leaving the system in FY 2003 were reunified with their birth parents or primary caregivers. <sup>iii</sup>		
<b>Foster Homes:</b>	In 2004, there were a total of 12,160 licensed non-relative foster homes in California <sup>iv</sup> . On July 1, 2006, 37% of youth living in out-of-home care were residing with their relatives. <sup>i</sup>		
<b>Adoption:</b>	Of children with state agency involvement adopted in FY 2003, 51% were adopted by their non-relative foster parents and 45% were adopted by relatives. <sup>i</sup>		

**To find out how to become a foster parent in California, please call 1-800-KIDS-4-US or visit:** [http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/FosterParent\\_350.htm](http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/FosterParent_350.htm)

**To learn about foster parenting, please call the National Foster Parent Association at 1-800-557-5238 or visit** [www.nfpainc.org](http://www.nfpainc.org)

### Sources:

<sup>i</sup> Child Welfare Research Center. *Child Welfare Services Reports for California*.  
<http://cssr.berkeley.edu/cwscmsreports/Pointintime/fostercare/childwel/ageandethnic.asp>

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

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

<sup>iv</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)