

Foster Care Facts and Figures

Children Entering Foster Care

- Approximately 293,000 children enter foster care each year.
- Currently, there are 496,000 children in foster care.
- There are approximately 130,000 children in foster care waiting for permanent families.

Characteristics of Children in Foster Care

- Almost half (42%) of children waiting for adoption are ages 9 or older.
- The average age of a child in foster care waiting to be adopted is 8.2 years.
- 32% of the children who are waiting to be adopted from foster care are African American.
- 19% of the children who are waiting to be adopted from foster care are Hispanic.

The Need for Parents

- Foster care is meant to be temporary, not a permanent situation for children to grow up in. Too often children remain in foster care for years; some move from home to home.
- Transitioning to adulthood is a difficult time for any adolescent. Youth in foster care are particularly in need of ongoing support and guidance from a permanent, loving family they can belong to up until age 18 and beyond.

