Profile of Georgia's Foster Care System

Foster care is the temporary placement of children outside of their own homes due to abuse, neglect, or other family problems. When possible, Georgia's Division of Family and Children's Services, juvenile courts, and other agencies work with families to reunite them. When a child cannot return home safely, efforts are made to find the child a family through adoption, guardianship, or custody, or to prepare the child for independent life.

Total Population: 7,676 children were in the foster care system in Georgia on September 30, 2013.[1] The state's foster care population has significantly declined in recent years, reduced by nearly half of the 14,500 children in foster care at its peak in 2004. Children enter and exit foster care at different rates and for different reasons. In total, 13,675 children were served in foster care in FFY13. The median length of stay experienced by a child in foster care in FY13 was 11.6 months.

Age: Median Age: 7.6 years

6.8%	< 1 year	16%	8-11 years
22%	1-3 years	19%	12-15 years
22%	4-7 years	14%	16+ years

Gender: Male: 53%   Female: 47%

Race and Ethnicity:

43%	Black (non-Hispanic)	0.07%	Native American
44%	White (non-Hispanic)	0.22%	Pacific Islander
7.1%	Hispanic	5.0%	Other/multi-racial
0.14%	Asian		

Reason for Removal: 5,999 children were removed from the custody of their parents in FY13 and placed in foster care for one or a combination of the following reasons:

48%	Neglect	19%	Inadequate Housing
11%	Physical Abuse	12%	Incarceration
3%	Sexual Abuse	12%	Abandonment
29%	Parental Substance Abuse	23%	Caretaker Inability /Child Behavior

Placement Type:

64%	Non-Relative Foster Care	1%	Pre-Adoptive Home
17%	Relative Foster Care	17%	Group Home / Institution

Permanency at Exit:

48%	Reunification / Return Home	20%	Relative Custody
17%	Adoption	7%	Emancipation / Age-Out
6%	Legal Guardianship		

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[1] Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and reporting System (AFCARS) data submitted for FY 2013, 10/1/2012 through 9/30/2013.