

FACTS ABOUT FOSTER CARE

Nebraska Children in Care¹:

Total Population: 4,729 children were in out-of-home placement in Nebraska on November 30, 2001

Age Range:

<i>Age</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
0-4 Years	883	18.7%
5-9 Years	814	17.2%
10-14 Years	1,133	24.0%
15-17 Years	1,624	34.3%
18-19 Years	273	5.8%
Not Reported	2	0.0%
Total	4,729	100.0%

Ethnicity:

<i>Race</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
White	3,392	71.7%
Black/African American	888	18.8%
American Indian	218	4.6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	30	0.6%
Mixed Race	169	3.6%
Other/Not Reported	32	0.7%
Total	4,729	100.0%

<i>Hispanic/Latino</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Yes	484	10.2%
No	4,245	89.8%
Total	4,729	100.0%

Gender:

<i>Gender</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Male	2,626	55.5%
Female	2,103	44.5%
Total	4,729	100.0%

Siblings²:

According to some studies, the majority of children in out-of-home care have siblings. Yet, studies also show that agencies succeed in keeping siblings together as little as 25 percent of the time.

¹ Children in Out-of-Home Placement, November 30, 2001, Nebraska Dept. of Health & Human Services

² National Foster Care Month Packet, May 2002

Foster Parents³:

For the Right Reasons: Reasons cited by people who choose to become foster parents include:

- Helping children;
- Giving back to the community;
- Possibility of becoming an adoptive parent;
- Love of children.

Age: Foster parents can be any age but are generally middle-aged with the majority falling between 35-50 years of age.

Family Structure: The majority of foster families has a female caregiver present and consists of a married two-parent household.

Single Parents: An estimated 25 percent of foster parents are single.

Financial Assistance :

The table below reflects minimum monthly reimbursement rates to foster parents for the care of a child in foster care for Nebraska and its ranking in the nation⁴.

2 years	\$222	Nebraska ranks 50 th in the nation
9 years	\$292	Nebraska ranks 45 th in the nation.
16 years	\$352	Nebraska ranks 48 th in the nation.

The average national monthly foster care basic maintenance payments⁵:

2 years	\$382
9 years	\$401
16 years	\$461

The average national monthly expenditure on children for husband/wife families in 2000⁶:

2 years	\$728
9 years	\$746
16 years	\$822

³ National Foster Care Month Packet, May 2002

⁴ http://www.casey.org/publications/foster_care_maintenance_payment

⁵ National Foster Care Month Packet, May 2002

⁶ National Foster Care Month Packet, May 2002

