



24 Foster Care Statistics for #24forFosterCare

1. Nationwide, there are about 500,000 children and youth in the foster care system – through no fault of their own.
2. The average age of a foster youth is 8 and a half years old.¹
3. Kids in foster care change families, schools, and communities with appalling frequency. Two-thirds move seven or more times while in foster care.
4. Over 25,600 foster youth spend more than five years in foster care.
5. More than 1,200 youth are placed in foster care nationwide because of their own alcohol dependence problems.
6. Over half of all foster youth are reunited with their family or primary caregiver when they exit the system.
7. 6 percent of all children in the U.S. will find themselves in the foster care system before they turn 18.²
8. Foster youth are seven times more likely than non-foster youth to have Depression, and five times more likely to have Anxiety.
9. There were 10 percent more youth in foster care nationwide in 2016 than there were in 2012.³
10. One out of every five people who age out of the foster care system lack a home when they turn 18.⁴
11. By the time foster youth are 24, only half of them will have stable and steady employment. The same percentage develop substance abuse.
12. Among former foster youth, one-third of all males and three-fourths of all females rely on government assistance programs.
13. In comparison to veterans, former foster youth are twice as likely to suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.⁵
14. One out of every two foster youth has dealt with four or more Adverse Childhood Experiences.
15. Just over half – 51 percent – of all foster youth graduate high school.
16. Just one out of every five foster youth is at grade level in English and language arts in third grade, and only 9 percent are at grade level in math in eighth grade.
17. Less than one in four foster youth enroll in college.
18. By age 26, just 4 percent of former foster youth had successfully obtained a bachelor's degree.⁶
19. 54 percent of all former foster youth who are adopted have parents over the age of 50, and 16 percent have parents that are 60 or older.⁷
20. 95 percent of parents who adopt foster youth said they would make the same decision again.
21. Around 184,000 households in the U.S. have a foster youth in them.⁹
22. Compared to their peers, male former foster youth are four times as likely to commit a crime. Females are 10 times more likely.
23. One of the most vulnerable populations is a child in foster care. The FBI reports that close to 60 percent of the children rescued from sex trafficking were from foster care or group homes.
24. More than 23,000 children will age out of the US foster care system every year.

Credit:

<https://www.afs4kids.org/>
<https://foundationforfosterchildren.org/>
<https://nfyi.org/>

Sources:

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- 2: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/138/5/e20161118>
- 3: <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2018/05/02/this-new-federal-law-will-change-foster-care-as-we-know-it>
- 4: <https://www.nfyi.org/51-useful-aging-out-of-foster-care-statistics-social-race-media/>
- 5: <http://foster-care-newsletter.com/haunted-by-the-past-foster-children-with-ptsd/#.W6F4mc5KjX4>
- 6: <http://www.childrensrights.org/newsroom/fact-sheets/aging-out/>
- 7: https://aspe.hhs.gov/basic-report/children-adopted-foster-care-child-and-family-characteristics-adoption-motivation-and-well-being#_Toc300125443
- 8: <https://www.fosterclub.com/blog/statistics-and-research/current-state-foster-care>