

Children in Out-of-Home Care

Definition

Number in out-of-home care is children who were removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect during the reported year. Percent in foster homes is the percent of all children in out-of-home care who were placed in Department for Community Based Services or private foster homes.

Data in context

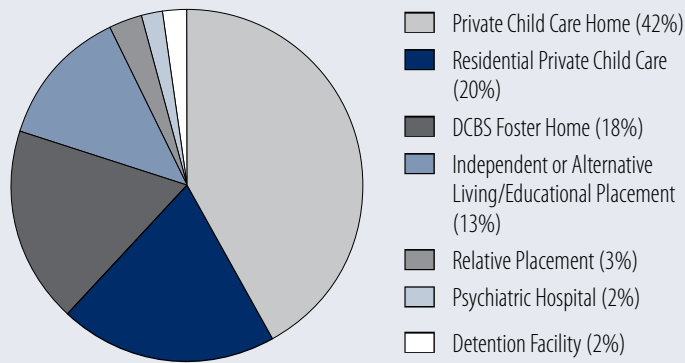
All children need safe environments and caring adults to thrive. In some cases, however, a child may not be able to remain in his or her home safely and must be moved to another setting. Ideally, a child can be placed with relatives; however, in a case where that is not possible or appropriate, the child is placed in a foster home. Children with extensive treatment needs may be placed in a residential facility and older youth may be placed in an independent living arrangement to develop life skills for adulthood.

Being removed from one's home is traumatic, and out-of-home care placements play a very important role in helping children deal with the transition. Unfortunately, many children currently or previously in out-of-home care suffer from poor physical health¹ and mental health issues.² Some children are moved from one setting to another, making continuity of health care a serious issue for children in foster care.³ Similarly, academic progress can be hampered by repeated changes in schools.

Detailed data from December 30, 2007, provide a point-in-time look at this population to supplement the data presented on the number of children served throughout the year. Most of the 7,275 children in foster care were ages 6-18 (62 percent), 26 percent were under age 6, and 12 percent were ages 18-21 (854 young adults) in 2007.⁴

The number of Kentucky children in out-of-home care increased by 8 percent from 2003 to 2007. The number of children in out-of-home care more than doubled in Cumberland, Grayson, LaRue, Magoffin, and Owsley

Kentucky Youth Ages 18-21 in Out-of-Home Care by Placement Type, 2007



Source: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

Counties during that time. Meanwhile, Pulaski County saw the largest decrease in the number of children in out-of-home care (177 fewer children).

All children need safe, permanent homes to maximize their opportunities in life; however, some children receive differential treatment from the child welfare system at critical points in the decision-making process. State and national data indicate that even when other variables are held constant, children of color are less likely to receive in-home support services and more likely to be placed in foster care than White children.^{5,6}

White children represented 75 percent of all children in out-of-home care in Kentucky in 2007.⁷ While the number of children in out-of-home care increased for all racial groups, children of color represented a larger portion of the population than in 2003, growing from 22 to 25 percent of the total out-of-home care population.⁸ In 2007, the proportion of White children among the out-of-home care population ranged from less than 63 percent in seven counties to 100 percent in 23 counties.⁹ Black children represented more than one third of all children in out-of-home care in Christian, Fayette, Fulton, Jefferson, and McCracken Counties.¹⁰

Strategies to support children in out-of-home care include more placement options, expanded services to help youth gain vital skills for success in school and the workforce, and medical passports to help providers easily access the records of children in foster care.¹¹

Data Source: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services.

Data Note: For children who had more than one placement in out-of-home care during the reported year, only the first placement type is reported. Some child victims are directly placed into the custody of relatives by the courts without entering the foster care system; the figures here underestimate placements with relatives. Other placements for children, such as hospitals, are not reflected in this data; this includes 17 records in 2003 and 26 in 2007 for such placement types.

Rate Calculation: (number of children in foster care in 2003 * 100) / (number of children in all types of out-of-home care in 2003)
(number of children in foster care in 2007 * 100) / (number of children in all types of out-of-home care in 2007)

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Children in out-of-home care (number & percent in foster homes)

	2003		2007	
	Number in out-of-home care	Percent in foster homes	Number in out-of-home care	Percent in foster homes
Kentucky	11,387	67	12,338	66
Adair	29	79	25	84
Allen	27	70	49	76
Anderson	35	40	57	26
Ballard	12	50	10	40
Barren	178	81	97	78
Bath	21	57	39	77
Bell	52	46	62	47
Boone	54	44	68	46
Bourbon	52	58	68	46
Boyd	198	72	276	69
Boyle	95	42	93	37
Bracken	21	90	17	82
Breathitt	21	81	24	71
Breckinridge	39	56	83	60
Bullitt	90	61	117	53
Butler	52	83	45	84
Caldwell	18	56	8	88
Calloway	77	61	81	53
Campbell	505	85	490	76
Carlisle	3	100	3	0
Carroll	16	50	18	61
Carter	95	75	88	76
Casey	18	44	5	80
Christian	138	70	105	49
Clark	77	66	94	73
Clay	135	60	185	65
Clinton	67	82	37	70
Crittenden	16	56	14	79
Cumberland	1	100	6	83
Daviess	329	71	327	76
Edmonson	29	86	60	50
Elliott	22	86	30	63
Estill	84	60	50	48
Fayette	833	62	1,006	72
Fleming	55	85	49	82
Floyd	46	76	94	80
Franklin	144	51	91	49
Fulton	39	64	37	57
Gallatin	7	43	8	63
Garrard	25	44	61	49

	2003		2007	
	Number in out-of-home care	Percent in foster homes	Number in out-of-home care	Percent in foster homes
Grant	50	56	30	63
Graves	120	74	132	68
Grayson	48	52	172	65
Green	20	95	18	89
Greenup	44	55	122	60
Hancock	16	63	15	60
Hardin	322	71	340	64
Harlan	84	51	128	42
Harrison	24	58	11	27
Hart	29	93	46	83
Henderson	114	63	97	69
Henry	10	40	19	58
Hickman	8	38	16	63
Hopkins	115	70	110	45
Jackson	47	38	45	62
Jefferson	1,556	70	1,808	73
Jessamine	116	74	63	52
Johnson	303	69	319	59
Kenton	420	53	490	59
Knott	31	71	36	67
Knox	86	48	64	58
LaRue	11	82	35	63
Laurel	278	55	216	56
Lawrence	43	65	45	71
Lee	23	30	48	35
Leslie	47	34	46	41
Letcher	114	92	71	89
Lewis	18	78	16	63
Lincoln	106	42	59	61
Livingston	20	55	13	62
Logan	65	85	81	72
Lyon	14	50	18	67
McCracken	185	64	199	65
McCreary	119	54	132	51
McLean	29	55	12	42
Madison	203	66	213	59
Magoffin	25	88	82	80
Marion	62	92	72	75
Marshall	71	66	75	77
Martin	23	87	42	88
Mason	39	62	38	74

	2003		2007	
	Number in out-of-home care	Percent in foster homes	Number in out-of-home care	Percent in foster homes
Meade	47	68	62	56
Menifee	27	96	16	81
Mercer	78	60	63	56
Metcalfe	18	100	29	93
Monroe	20	90	33	85
Montgomery	39	77	36	81
Morgan	36	97	31	74
Muhlenberg	59	61	66	73
Nelson	30	87	26	58
Nicholas	5	60	10	20
Ohio	97	67	76	72
Oldham	46	37	45	36
Owen	11	64	9	33
Owsley	4	0	24	42
Pendleton	49	49	29	17
Perry	139	71	190	70
Pike	78	91	115	83
Powell	30	47	41	80
Pulaski	362	61	185	49
Robertson	9	100	14	79
Rockcastle	110	40	88	50
Rowan	74	82	83	82
Russell	53	79	37	76
Scott	80	56	118	61
Shelby	194	79	172	70
Simpson	41	88	49	84
Spencer	9	33	25	48
Taylor	72	89	74	80
Todd	18	56	23	61
Trigg	19	47	19	84
Trimble	14	36	38	47
Union	13	62	26	58
Warren	357	84	478	78
Washington	18	100	14	100
Wayne	17	76	35	89
Webster	20	55	19	89
Whitley	217	67	164	62
Wolfe	35	91	44	64
Woodford	29	59	61	52