



For more information, call 1 (877) 505-5437
or visit us online: utahfostercare.org

Statewide Facts:

Teens in Foster Care

Nearly half of Utah's 2700 children in foster care are age 11 or older.

In FY2015, nearly 10% of children leaving Utah's foster care system did so due to aging out. "Aging out" means a child is 18 years or older and is released from the custody of the state or any other guardian. These youth are considered to be legally independent.

Teens who "age out" have been in foster care an average of 40 months (more than 3 years). The average length of stay for all children in foster care is 12 months.

The primary reason children, including teens, are placed into foster care is because of abuse and/or neglect in their biological homes.

Keeping brothers and sisters together is extremely important in children's lives. There is a need for families willing to foster/adopt more than one child and to foster/adopt children across a broad range of ages.

In FY2015, 604 children were adopted from the foster care system in Utah alone. Most of the children adopted from foster care are adopted by their foster parents.

While children 12 and older make up about half of all children in foster care, this group accounts for only 14% of children adopted from foster care.

Older youth are less likely to live in a family setting than the overall population of children in foster care.

Children placed outside a family setting are less likely to form the kind of lasting relationships with responsible adults that will help them move towards independence.

National statistic: Of youth who "age out" of foster care, less than half graduate from high school at the time they are discharged. Only a few more get their high school diplomas 2-4 years later.

Children who "age out" of foster care are more likely to experience unemployment, early pregnancy, homelessness, and incarceration than their peers.

In Utah, foster parents may be married or single. They may own or rent their homes. It takes 32 hours of in-class training and the ability to pass a criminal background check to become a foster parent. Utah Foster Care and the Utah Division of Child & Family Services provide ongoing training to foster and adoptive parents statewide.

Utah Foster Care is a private, non-profit organization contracted by the Division of Child & Family Services (DCFS) to find, educate, and support foster and adoptive families to care for the children in Utah's foster care system.