



Foster Care Awareness Day at the Capitol

February 26, 2024

The annual Foster Care Awareness Day at the Capitol offers opportunities to provide elected officials with education and first-hand experiences related to foster care in Idaho.

Hosted by Idaho Voices for Children, the day welcomes attendees from across the state, including foster care alumni, volunteers, providers, parents, youth, and child welfare advocates.

Foster care impacts thousands of Idaho children.

Last year, over 2,600 Idaho children were served in foster care. Safety and effective response go hand in hand. Most children enter foster care due to neglect and other reasons, not because of physical or sexual abuse. Providing targeted and effective interventions as soon as possible can safely allow children to remain with their families and thrive.

A majority of Idaho children in foster care are placed in a family setting, either with a foster family or relatives. Last year, there were 1,200 licensed foster families, a slight decrease from the previous three years. There is an ongoing need to recruit families who can provide care to sibling groups, adolescents, and those with special needs.

Most children are safely reunited with their own family or extended family. Of the children returning home, 67 percent were reunited with their parents/caregivers.

Let's improve child welfare outcomes in Idaho.

While our ultimate goal is to prevent abuse and neglect, we can improve the safety and well-being of children who have experienced maltreatment. Together, we must ensure that children who are served by foster care grow up in supportive families and receive help to heal, build lasting relationships, and reach their full potential.

At a Glance: Foster Care in Idaho

Idaho Children Impacted by Foster Care:

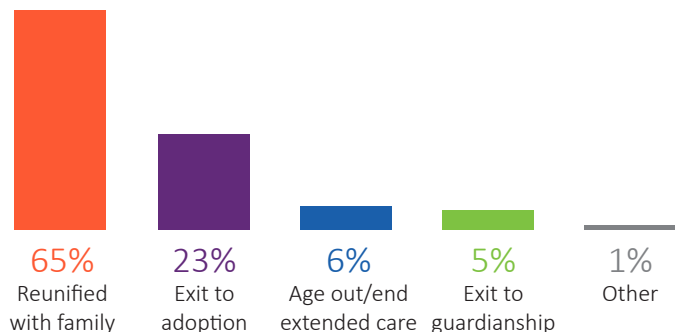


Reasons Idaho Children Enter Foster Care:



*Other includes substance abuse, child behavior problems, parent death, parent incarceration, relinquishment or inadequate housing.

Idaho Children Exiting Foster Care:



Sources: Annual Legislative Foster Care Report for SFY 2023; Facts, Figures, & Trends 2023-2024, Idaho Department of Health & Welfare.

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