



**Why ICWA is the Gold Standard:** *Honorable Allie Greenleaf Maldonado, Chief Judge, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribal Court.*

### QUICK STATISTICS:

#### 1. Foster Care Population:

- 402,378 youth were in foster care in the United States as of 2013. (<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/foster.pdf>)
- This number includes 254,904 new entries into foster care. *Id.*
- This is double the number in the 1980s.

#### 2. Is this Stability?

- Over 50% of foster care alumni will have 7 or more placements. ([http://www.casey.org/media/AlumniStudy\\_US\\_Report\\_Full.pdf](http://www.casey.org/media/AlumniStudy_US_Report_Full.pdf))
- About 45% will have 8 or more placements. *Id.*
- About 3% will have 20+ placements. *Id.*
- Average child spends just under 2 years in foster care. (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcarsreport21.pdf>)
- 5% spend over 5 years in foster care. *Id.*

#### 3. Is this a Path to College?

- More than 1/3 will experience 5 or more school changes. ([http://www.casey.org/media/AlumniStudy\\_US\\_Report\\_Full.pdf](http://www.casey.org/media/AlumniStudy_US_Report_Full.pdf))
- More than 75% will not remain in school once placed in foster care. (<https://www.princeton.edu/futureofchildren/publications/journals/article/index.xml?journalid=40&articleid=135&sectionid=888>)
- Almost 65% will be transferred in the middle of the school year. (<https://www.princeton.edu/futureofchildren/publications/journals/article/index.xml?journalid=40&articleid=135&sectionid=888>)
- Only 58% will graduate high school by age 19. (<http://www.jimcaseyyouth.org/about/aging-out>)
- A disproportionate number will receive a GED rather than a diploma. (<http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/0711webcastfostercarefactsheet.pdf>)
- Those who reach 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade will on average read at a 7<sup>th</sup> grade level. (<http://www.fc2success.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/National-Fact-Sheet-on-the-Educational-Outcomes-of-Children-in-Foster-Care-Jan-2014.pdf>)
- 36% will repeat a grade. ([http://www.casey.org/media/AlumniStudy\\_US\\_Report\\_Full.pdf](http://www.casey.org/media/AlumniStudy_US_Report_Full.pdf))
- Fewer than 3% will earn a college degree by age 25 (compared to 28% of all 25-year-olds). (<http://www.jimcaseyyouth.org/about/aging-out>)

#### 4. Is this safety?

- One fifth will experience abuse or maltreatment during foster care, including sexual and physical abuse and neglect. ([http://www.casey.org/media/AlumniStudy\\_US\\_Report\\_Full.pdf](http://www.casey.org/media/AlumniStudy_US_Report_Full.pdf))

- We are seeing failed adoptions and second or third generation foster care more often.
5. Are they better off?
- More than ½ will have clinical levels of at least 1 mental health problem. ([http://www.casey.org/media/AlumniStudy\\_US\\_Report\\_Full.pdf](http://www.casey.org/media/AlumniStudy_US_Report_Full.pdf))
  - 1 in 5 will have three or more mental health problems. (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3061347/>)
  - 1 in 4 will experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). ([http://www.casey.org/media/AlumniStudy\\_US\\_Report\\_Full.pdf](http://www.casey.org/media/AlumniStudy_US_Report_Full.pdf))
  - PTSD rates for alumni were nearly twice as high as the rates for U.S. war veterans. *Id.*
  - 18,000+ will age out of foster care. (<https://www.fosterclub.com/article/foster-care-statistics>)
6. Incarceration Statistics
- 1 in 4 will be involved in the justice system within 2 years of leaving the foster care system. (<http://www.jimcaseyyouth.org/about/aging-out>)
  - 25-40% of young men and 10% of young women will be arrested. (<http://www.irp.wisc.edu/publications/focus/pdfs/foc142g.pdf>)
  - 25-50% of young men arrested will be convicted of a crime. *Id.*
  - 30% will be incarcerated. (<http://www.jimcaseyyouth.org/sites/default/files/documents/Cost%20Avoidance.pdf>)
7. Quality of Life
- More than 1 in 5 foster care alumni will become homeless after the age of 18. *Id.*
  - By age 24, only ½ will be employed. *Id.*
  - 1/3 will have household incomes at or below the poverty level (3 x the national rate).
  - 35% will meet the criteria for a substance abuse disorder. (<http://www.cars-rp.org/publications/Prevention%20Tactics/PT09.04.09.pdf>)
  - 71% of young women will be pregnant by 21 after leaving foster care. (<http://www.jimcaseyyouth.org/about/aging-out>)