

# THE HEART OF ICWA

HONORABLE ALLIE GREENLEAF MALDONADO, CHIEF JUDGE,  
LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS TRIBAL COURT

## QUICK STATISTICS:

### 1. Foster Care Population:

- a. 402,378 youth were in foster care in the United States as of 2017.  
(<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/foster.pdf>)
- b. This number includes 254,904 new entries into foster care. *Id.*
- c. This is double the number in the 1980s.

### 2. Is this Stability?

- a. 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))
- b. About 45% will have 8 or more placements. *Id.*
- c. About 3% will have 20+ placements. *Id.*
- d. Average child spends just under 2 years in foster care.  
(<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcarsreport21.pdf>)
- e. 5% spend over 5 years in foster care. *Id.*

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

- a. 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))
- b. 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>)
- c. 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>)
- d. Only 58% will graduate high school by age 19. (<http://www.jimcaseyyouth.org/about/aging-out>)
- e. A disproportionate number will receive a GED rather than a diploma.  
(<http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/0711webcastfostercarefactsheet.pdf>)
- f. Those who reach 11th or 12th grade will on average read at a 7th 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>)
- g. 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))

h. 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?

a. 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))

b. We are seeing failed adoptions and second or third generation foster care more often.

5. Are they better off?

a. More than 1/2 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)

b. 1 in 5 will have three or more mental health problems.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3061347/>

c. 1 in 4 will experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

[http://www.casey.org/media/AlumniStudy\\_US\\_Report\\_MentalHealth.pdf](http://www.casey.org/media/AlumniStudy_US_Report_MentalHealth.pdf)

d. PTSD rates for alumni were nearly twice as high as the rates for U.S. war veterans. *Id.*

e. 18,000+ will age out of foster care. (<https://www.fosterclub.com/article/foster-care-statistics>)

6. Incarceration Statistics

a. 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>)

b. 25-40% of young men and 10% of young women will be arrested.

<http://www.irp.wisc.edu/publications/focus/pdfs/foc142g.pdf>

c. 25-50% of young men arrested will be convicted of a crime. *Id.*

d. 30% will be incarcerated.

<http://www.jimcaseyyouth.org/sites/default/files/documents/Cost%20Avoidance.pdf>

7. Quality of Life

a. More than 1 in 5 foster care alumni will become homeless after the age of 18. *Id.*

b. By age 24, only 1/2 will be employed. *Id.*

c. 1/3 will have household incomes at or below the poverty level (3 x the national rate).

d. 35% will meet the criteria for a substance abuse disorder. ([http://www.cars-  
rp.org/publications/Prevention%20Tactics/PT09.04.09.pdf](http://www.cars-<br/>rp.org/publications/Prevention%20Tactics/PT09.04.09.pdf))

e. 71% of young women will be pregnant by 21 after leaving foster care.

<http://www.jimcaseyyouth.org/about/aging-out>