



Things You Need to Know about Orphans

The following statistics come primarily from *Christian Alliance for Orphans* (CAFO). CAFO makes it clear that “current estimates [do not] include the vast number of children who are living on the streets, exploited for labor, victims of trafficking, or participating in armed conflict. Thus, global orphan statistics significantly underestimate the number of orphans worldwide and fail to account for many children that are among the most vulnerable and most in need of a family.”¹

Use this handout as a tool to inform your prayers for orphans.

Global Orphan Statistics

- Total estimated number of orphans worldwide: 150 Million
- Estimated # that have lost only their mother: 34.5 Million
- Estimated # that have lost only their father: 101 Million
- Estimated # of “double orphans”: 17.6 million
- Estimated # of children in residential care: 2-8 Million

Domestic Adoption Statistics

- Number of U.S. Children awaiting adoption: 101,840
- Number of U.S. Children adopted 2013 (with public child welfare agency involvement): 50,608
- Average age of U.S. children awaiting adoption: 7 years, 7 months

Foster Care Statistics

- Children in foster care in the U.S.: 402,378
- Children in foster care waiting to be adopted: 101,840
- Children entering foster care in 2013: 254,904
- Children exiting foster care in 2013: 238,280
- Average time in care within the foster system: 21.8 Months
- Children “aging out” of the foster system in 2012 : 23,090
- Average age of a child waiting to be adopted: 7.7 years old
- Number of children in foster care whose parental rights were terminated in 2013: 58,887
- Approximate number of children adopted from foster care in 2013: 50,281
- Every year more than 23,000 children age out of foster care, leaving them without families of their OWN. (According to the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption)²
- 81.5 million Americans have considered adoption. If just 1 in 500 of these adults adopted, every waiting child in America would have a permanent family. (According to the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption)

Number of caring adults it takes to make a life-long difference for an orphan: 1

¹ See “On Understanding Orphan Statistics” at <https://cafo.org/resource/on-understanding-orphan-statistics/>

² Retrieved from <http://showhope.org/9-stats-about-the-orphan-crisis/>