

The Effects of the Foster Care System

Adorina David

Foster care is a service almost every American is aware of, yet one of the least discussed topics in the media. There are several goals for this service: to protect and nurture children, meet the children's developmental needs, support the relationship and reunification between children and their families, and to help them build healthy, lasting relationships with those around them. Although this is the intention behind the service, and there are cases that have proven to be successful, the impact of the current system in the United States on children is not always ideal. This study aims to demonstrate the systemic consequences that foster children experience. It is then important to research unique factors that create differences between the children who are placed in the system and children who grow up in stable homes— meaning a safe home, having healthy relationships with family and friends, where they keep their possessions, and a home where they positively interact with their school and community—to show to the public the necessary changes that must be implemented in order to make this institution a more equitable system. This study highlights these substantial differences through the lenses of factors including behavior, academics, and health.