

Statistics about orphans, adoption and foster care

- The most recent estimate is that there are approximately **145 million** orphans in the world (UNICEF 2008). *For this number, an orphan is defined as a child who has lost one or both parents.*
- To put the numbers into perspective:
 - Orphans world-wide = **145 million**
 - United States (Entire Population) = **just over 300 million**
 - Russia (Current Population) = **141 million**
- Every day **5,760** more children become orphans.
- **2,102,400** children become orphans every year in Africa alone.
- Every **15** seconds, another child in Africa becomes an AIDS orphan.
- **8** out of **10** children orphaned by AIDS live in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Approximately **250,000** children are adopted annually.
- Each year **14,505,000** children grow up as orphans and “age out” of the system by age sixteen and are forced out of the system with no family to belong to and no place to call home.
- Each day **38,493** orphans age out.
- Every **2.2** seconds another orphan ages out.
- Sixty percent of the girls who age out become prostitutes and **70%** of the boys become hardened criminals.
- **79,000** children annually in the US are in need of an adoptive family.
- In the US there are approximately **500,000** children in foster care.
- Approximately **51,000** children are adopted from the foster system each year.
- **130,000** of those children in U. S. foster care are waiting and available for adoption. *(Children waiting to be adopted include children with a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. Children whose parental rights have been terminated, who are 16 years old and older, and who have a goal of emancipation are excluded from the “waiting” population.)*