



WFAPA

Wisconsin Foster and Adoptive Parent Association

Unusual Study Details Woes Among Veterans Of Foster Care



NEW YORK ~ Americans who have spent time in foster care are far more likely than other adults to lack a college degree, health insurance and a stable healthcare provider, according to a new federal analysis that is unprecedented in its scope. One striking finding in the report: Less than 5% of men who have been in foster care hold bachelor's degrees, compared with 31% of other men.

The analysis, released Wednesday, was compiled by researchers from the National Center for Health Statistics and the Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau. They analyzed data collected in interviews with nearly 25,000 Americans ages 18 to 44 that were conducted from 2011 through 2017 as part of the National Survey of Family Growth. Numerous past studies by academics and child-advocacy groups have documented the troubling outcomes that await many young people emerging from foster care; for example, higher-than-average homelessness, unemployment, substance abuse and incarceration.

The authors of the new report says their analysis nonetheless is groundbreaking, given that other studies either focused only on young adults, were limited to specific geographic regions or relied on data that was many years old. Among its findings:

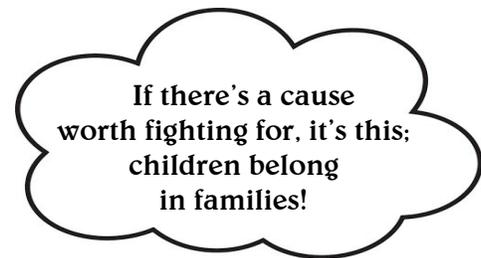
- Both men and women who had been in foster care were less likely than other adults to be married, and more likely to be cohabitating with a partner outside of marriage.

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May is National Foster Care Month

“Whether as a friend, a role model, or a guardian, any of us can be a supportive adult for a child in need. As we honor the countless Americans who are answering that call to action, let us mark this month by showing youth in foster care the best our country has to offer”

Presidential Proclamation - March 2013



Discounts For Foster Parents



Did you know that there are businesses throughout the community that offer discounts to foster parents? For more information, please go to www.chw.org, click on the tab "Children's In The Community", click on "foster care", click on "Resources and Education", and you will see the heading Discounts for foster parents.



With Mama Kasch

Mexican Street Tacos



INGREDIENTS:

2 Tbsp reduced sodium soy sauce, 2 Tbsp freshly squeezed lime juice, 2 Tbsp canola oil ~ divided, 3 cloves garlic, minced, 2 tsp chili powder, 1 tsp ground cumin, 1 tsp dried oregano, 3/4 cup diced red onion, 1 1/2 pounds skirt steak, cut into 1/2-inch pieces, 12 mini tortillas, warmed, 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro leaves, 1 lime, cut wedges

flour
into

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In a medium bowl, combine soy sauce, lime juice, 1 Tbsp canola oil, garlic, chili powder, cumin and oregano.
2. In a gallon size Ziploc bag or large bowl, combine soy sauce mixture and steak; marinate for at least 1 hour up to 4 hours, turning the bag occasionally.
3. Heat remaining 1 Tbsp canola oil in a large skillet over medium high heat. Add steak and marinade, and cook, stirring often, until steak has browned and marinade has reduced, about 5-6 minutes, or until desired doneness.
4. Serve steak in tortillas, topped with onion, cilantro and lime.



Authentic Pico de Gallo



INGREDIENTS: 1 lb tomatoes (3-4 medium), diced, 1/2 medium onion (1 cup chopped), 1 jalapeno pepper seeded and finely minced (optional), 1/2 cup cilantro chopped, 2 Tbsp lime juice from 1 lime, 1/2 tsp salt or to taste, 1/8 tsp black pepper.



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Add diced tomatoes, onion, jalapeno pepper, and chopped cilantro in a medium bowl.
2. Stir in 2 Tbsp lime juice and lightly season with 1/2 tsp and 1/8 tsp black pepper, or season to taste. Enjoy right away or cover and refrigerate overnight.

The key to a traditional pico de gallo is in letting it rest. Combine all of the ingredients, cover and refrigerate for a day. The tomatoes will juice up and the flavors will meld so every bite is flavor-packed.

No Longer Fostering Or You Have Questions? We Would Love To Hear From You.

We are interested to learn about families leaving foster care and the reasons behind their decision. This information can assist us to advocate for future policies to support foster families. If you are a former foster parent, please take a moment to provide feedback on your foster care experience. Also, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact WFAPA President, Tina Christopherson at twfapa@new.rr.com.

- Two-thirds of women who had been in foster care received some form of public assistance, compared with one-third of other women. Just over half of men who had been in foster care received public assistance, more than double the rate for other men.
- About 25% of men and 21% of women who had been in foster care did not have a high school or GED diploma, more than double the figure for other adults.
- Among men who had been in foster care, more than 34% lacked health insurance, compared with about 22% of other men. Foster care alumni also were more likely than others to be on Medicaid and to lack regular access to private doctor or a health maintenance organization.
- More than one-half of men and women who had ever been in foster care had engaged in their first sexual intercourse by age 15, compared with 28% of men and 25% of women who had never been in foster care.
- Among women who had been in foster care, one-half had given birth of a child by age 20; that compared with one-quarter of women who had never been in foster care.

According to the analysis, about 2.6% of American adults ages 18 to 44, or roughly 2.9 million people, had spent time in foster care. The rate was higher for African Americans ~ 3.8% of black men and 5% of black women.

The researchers said they were not placing full blame on the foster care system for the discrepancies they found. "Outcomes may not be due solely to foster care itself ... as youth who go into foster care may be those already at risk of adverse outcomes," they wrote.

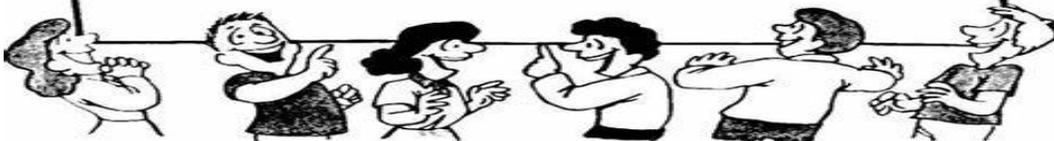
Article was written by David Crary, AP National Writer. It was published in the Eagle Herald on January 23, 2020.

ANNOUNCING..

October 2nd — October 4th, 2020

Grand Lodge Waterpark Resort in Rothschild, WI

Foster Parents ~ Get Your 12 Credits!



WFAPA BOARD MEMBERS

For additional Board Members, please go to our website, www.wfapa.org, and click on Board Members.

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715-923-1124

SAAN

Norma Schoenberg
920-922-9627

Do you need information? False allegations? Are you feeling lost? Are you under investigation?



FASPP may be able to help! Our FASPP and SAAN volunteers are highly trained to provide you with information and/or resources to guide you through various issues. FASPP and SAAN is made up of fellow foster or adoptive parents.



FASPP (Foster and Adoptive Support and Preservation Program)

FASPP's mission is to meet the needs of foster and adoptive parents statewide through a network of peer driven support and information which will help to preserve foster and adoptive families.

SAAN (Surviving Allegations of Abuse and Neglect)

SAAN is a peer driven support network, the purpose of which is to minimize the trauma to foster and adoptive families while undergoing an allegation without compromising the integrity of that investigation. Foster parents welcome children into their homes knowing that they bring their histories and issues along with them. For this reason, foster and adoptive parents are at a higher risk of having an allegation made against them. Undergoing an investigation is a stressful and scary situation for anyone, and SAAN is here to provide information to support you throughout the investigation process.

Please call or email the following people with questions in these areas:

Norma, Chairperson (Advice on general/allegations) ~ Phone: (920) 922-9627

Melissa (Focuses on fostering younger children) ~ Phone: (608) 333-6650 Email: lovedalemelissa@gmail.com

Tammy (Advice on general/foster) ~ Phone: (715) 497-3561 Email: tmeesha1973@yahoo.com

Lauri Thorssen (Advice on general/adoption) ~ Phone: (715) 816-4152 Email: lthorssen@gmail.com

Support Our Work By Becoming A Member



Considering joining or renewing your membership with WFAPA? WFAPA continues to play a role in influencing public policy and advocating on behalf of Foster and Adoptive children and parents in Wisconsin. WFAPA's Leadership has helped to educate policymakers and engage Foster and Adoptive Parents in the debate on issues that affect the Foster and Adoptive System.

As a member, you:

- ◆ Receive four newsletters in the mail each year.
- ◆ Get first hand information of what's happening at the State level.
- ◆ Who to call when an allegation arises.
- ◆ Peer Support.
- ◆ Opportunities to become involved in projects to help foster children.
- ◆ Scholarship information.
- ◆ Reduced rate for conferences.



Please join today. \$10.00 per family.

WFAPA Membership Form

For Family memberships, return this form along with \$10.00 to: Michelle & Larry Ward * W7018 Discovery Dr. * Fond du Lac, WI 54937 Email: twowards@charter.net

Name _____ Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____ Your Address _____

_____ Would you be willing to help out with WFAPA? yes no

County, State or Agency Name (that licenses you) _____

Additional Donation: \$5 \$10 \$25 \$50 Other _____

GO GREEN! I'd like to "go green" and paperless by receiving my newsletter online only.



Family Works Programs, Inc.

5604 Medical Circle, Madison, WI 53719
(800) 660-9204

www.family-works.com

Family Works Programs, Inc. is a community of people throughout Wisconsin dedicated to helping children with complex needs. Our treatment families are compassionate and committed to creating a healthy home for children who present significant challenges.



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Phone: 906-424-4476

Text: 715-923-1557

Fax: 906-424-4480

Email: misssherry@new.rr.com

www.alphabetshuffle.com



**No child should have to
use a trash bag to carry
their belongings**



What We Do:

- Welcome Bags and clothing for children entering foster care
- Retail environment where children can come "shop" for clothes
- Christmas For Kids program
- Back to School- supply program

**If you are interested in donating, volunteering
or receiving items for a foster child, contact us!**

wifostercloset.org
thefostercloset@yahoo.com
or Tammy at 715-497-3561

A Message from the President

Hello my dear friends,

First let me say, I hope and pray that each of you are well and healthy through this COVID-19 virus that is upon us. If there are any members that have been affected by this, please contact me personally so that we may reach out. We do care about all of you!

It is difficult to type this letter today as I am not sure where our State stands on getting back to some normalcy. Will there be another new date for Safer at Home by the governor? Will it be ok on May 26th? I do not have any of those answers and I am certain you are asking the same questions. Time will tell. As Wisconsinites we will make it through this!

Let me remind you that May is FOSTER CARE MONTH. We have about 7,300 children and youth in foster care throughout Wisconsin. I thank each one of you that takes in our foster children and guides them. Thanks also goes to all the Social Workers and others that are involved in these children's lives. I realize during this pandemic that it is has been difficult for all agencies and families to do what they do best. However, I know that all of you are doing your best and I, "thank you!" Do not forget to support our foster and kinship families by putting light blue hearts, ribbons or any decorations in your windows, doors or yards during the month of May. By doing this you are displaying your gratitude for the selfless work of our foster families.

As you know we had to cancel our Spring 2020 Conference. If our COVID-19 virus would like to leave us, we are looking forward to having our Fall 2020 Conference on October 2nd to October 4th in Wausau at the Grand Lodge Waterpark where we were in Fall of 2019. Please watch for our next newsletter for any updates. I do look forward to seeing everyone.

Lastly, please stay healthy and safe! Enjoy whatever summer may have in store for us with your families and this extra time we have together. Be kind, be mindful, practice self-care and offer to lend an ear to someone who is stressed out.

Warm thoughts,

Gina

Adoptive Mom Is Sick Of Third Degree

Dear Abby: I'm an adoptive mother who has had more than my fair share of inappropriate comments directed at me and my children. They usually come from strangers or acquaintances. I'm about up to here with them, so I thought I would write you about etiquette for interacting with adoptive families.

Though we may stand out to you, we think of ourselves as a family like any other. Please do NOT start a conversation with us that has the sole purpose of pointing out the obvious. Remember that my children have ears.



Please do not ask questions in front of them about them or their adoption. Don't ask in private unless you are a close friend. Better yet, let me broach the subject.

Please do not ALWAYS comment on my daughters' hair. Yes, it is nicely braided and decorated with beautiful beads. But isn't there something else you can say about them? Maybe just once? And please don't talk in front of them about how hard it must be for me to do their hair. I LOVE braiding it.

Please don't say I am a saint for adopting them. I chose to adopt because I never wanted to have biological children. And please don't say how nice it is for me to love them so much. Why would you expect that I wouldn't love my children?

Please do not pity my children. They have amazing lives, are fiercely loved and have bright futures ahead. And please do not introduce me to others as someone "who has adopted two girls from Africa." Because my daughters are black does NOT mean they are from Africa! I would much prefer you simply say, "Anne has two 8-year-old daughters."

And last, please remember that you and I are both people who love our families, and we have more in common than you think.~ ANNE FROM CALIFORNIA

DEAR ANNE: Thank you for a great letter. Sometimes well-meaning people simply don't think about the impact their words can have when they begin a conversation. I hope my readers will take your words to heart because they are valid.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.
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NATIONAL REUNIFICATION MONTH



Celebrated in June each year, National Reunification Month recognizes the people and efforts around the country that help families to stay together.



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When shopping on Amazon, don't forget to use the Amazon Smile Program! Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to WFAPA whenever you shop on Amazon Smile. Amazon Smile is the same Amazon you know-same products, same prices, same service.

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