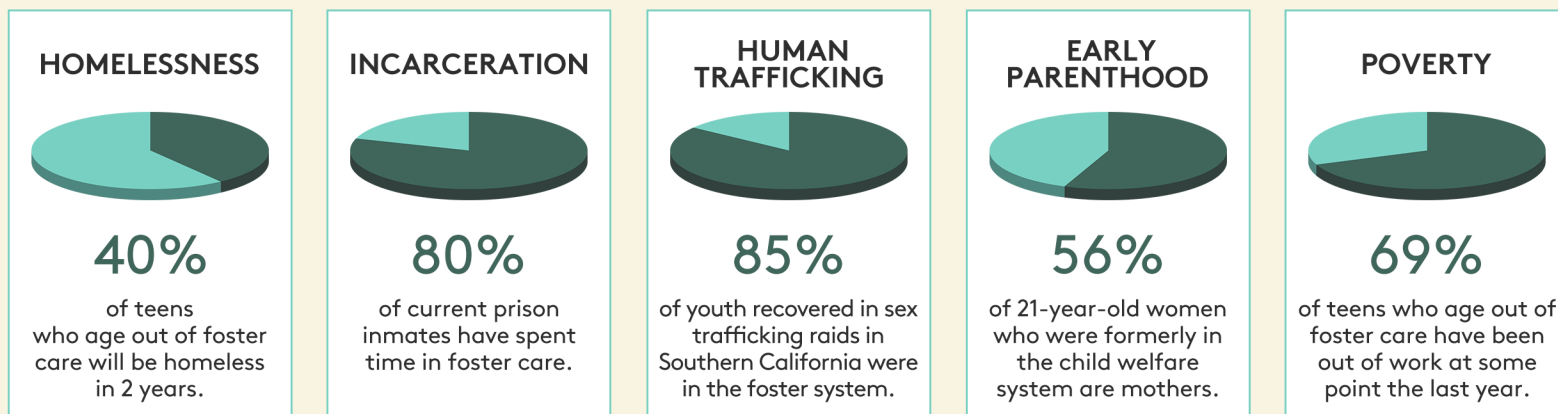


**Southern California has more than 40,000 children in foster care. Over 38,000 of them are in Los Angeles County.**

- 18.9% are under the age of 2.
- 26.2% are under the age of 10.
- 8.7% are 18 years and older and will be aging out of the system.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it more challenging for all these children to be placed in a home and many are “stuck in the system.” Without a loving family to take care of them, many of them will face 5 paths when they age out of the foster care system.



The Office of Life, Justice and Peace is working to promote fostering and adoption in LA, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties to provide another path for these children.

### MAY IS FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH, HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can promote foster care in your parish this May and throughout the year.

Please participate in the following ways:

- Invite a speaker from one of our partners to talk about foster care.
- Encourage the parish school and religious ed programs to host a parent’s night on fostering with a speaker.
- Include intercessions for foster youth during mass.
- Organize a blessing at Mass for foster and adoptive families in the parish.
- Tie in foster and adoption in your homily.
- Place our bulletin inserts so families learn about fostering.
- Encourage the school to host a drive for foster youth.
- Urge families who do not foster to serve fostering families in the parish in other ways.
- Order our prayer card to St Jerome Emiliani, patron of foster children.
- Share this information with your prayer groups ministries, DRE and parish council.

For more information, ideas and resources, visit: [lacatholics.org/foster](https://lacatholics.org/foster)



**Office of Life,  
Justice & Peace**  
Archdiocese of Los Angeles

