

Foster care in Opolskie Voivodship in 2024

05 June 2025

↑ **2.7%**

Increase in the number of children in the foster care in relation to 2023

In Opolskie Voivodship, at the end of 2024, there were 2.1 thousand children in foster care, who were completely or partially deprived of the care of natural family, including 1.6 thousand in family foster care. Compared to 2023, the number of children staying in foster care increased.

Family foster care

Family foster care might be exercised in the form of foster family as well as foster home. In Opolskie Voivodship, at the end of 2024, childcare was provided by 966 foster families and 27 foster homes. On an annual basis the number of foster families increased, however in relation to 2015 it decreased. In the case of foster homes the tendency was reversed.

In 2024 there was a decrease in the number of foster families, while an increase of foster homes in relation to 2023

Table 1. Family foster care
as of 31 December

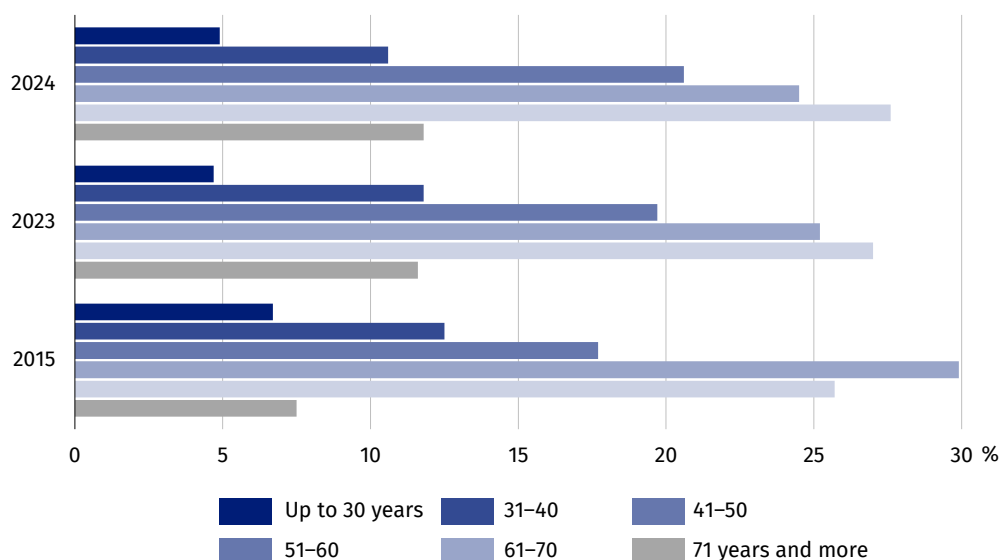
Specification	2015	2023	2024		
	in absolute numbers			2015=100	2023=100
Foster families	987	969	966	97.9	99.7
Related to the child	635	605	612	96.4	101.2
Non-professional	314	307	293	93.3	95.4
Professional ^a	38	57	61	160.5	107.0
Foster homes	19	26	27	142.1	103.8

^a These include professionals specialised families and the ones performing the function of a family emergency house.

The role of a foster family was most often undertaken by marriages. Their share at the end of 2024 amounted to 60.4% and was higher by 2.7 percentage points than the year before and by 6.8 percentage points compared with 2015.

As in the previous year as well as in 2015, on average, every second person acting as a foster family caregiver was aged 51–70 years with the share of the persons in this age group decreased in 2024, by 0.2 percentage point and by 3.6 percentage points, respectively, to the level of 52.1%.

Chart 1. Persons performing the function of family foster care by age groups
as of 31 December



There were a total of 1.6 thousand children in foster care at the end of 2024 (among whom boys were predominant). Both in relation to 2023, as well as to 2015, their number increased, respectively, by: 0.6% and 8.7%. Among all children under family foster care, similarly as in comparable years, the vast majority stayed in foster families. At the end of 2024 the share of children staying in family foster homes slightly decreased by 0.1 on the annual scale, however increased by 4.6 percentage points in relation to 2015.

Table 2. Children in family foster care
as of 31 December

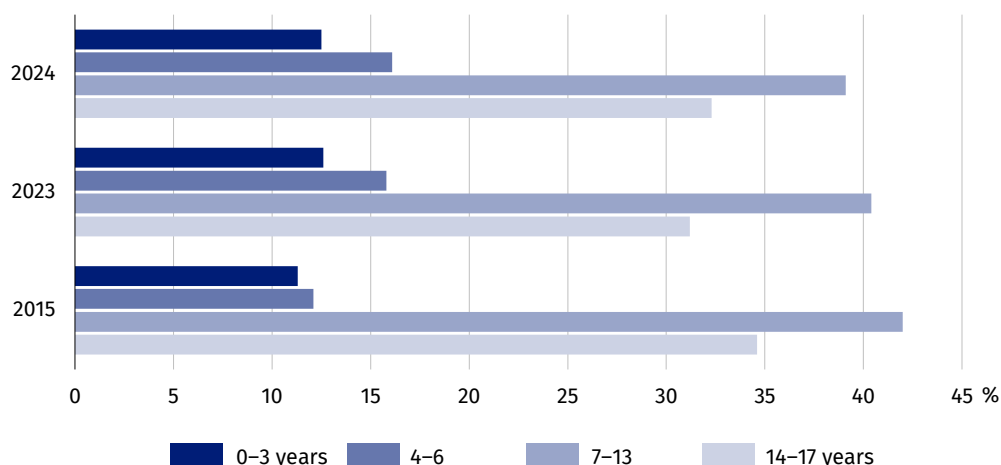
Specification	2015	2023	2024		
	in absolute numbers			2015=100	2023=100
In foster families	1346	1378	1389	103.2	100.8
of which up to 18 years	1164	1169	1184	101.7	101.3
In foster homes	126	212	211	167.5	99.5
of which up to 18 years	120	194	191	159.2	98.5

By analysing the number of children placed in foster families by family type, it can be noticed, that the most of them were in related families. Among all types of foster families, the share of children in related families at the end of 2024 amounted to 57.5% and it increased by 0.7 percentage point on annual basis, however in relation to 2015 it decreased by 2.1 percentage points.

At the end of 2024 children up to the age of 18 years accounted for 85.9% of all children placed in family foster care in the voivodship, versus 85.7% in the year prior and 87.2% in 2015. The analysis of particular age groups showed that in the surveyed years the highest share of children up to the age of 18 years occurred in the age group 7–13 years. Their share in the voivodship was at the level of 39.1–42.0%. The lowest percentages (oscillating between 11.3–16.1%) in the analysed period were children in the age groups 0–3 and 4–6 years.

In 2024, children up to the age of 18 years accounted for 85.9% of the total number of children in family foster care

Chart 2. Children under family foster care up to 18 years of age by age groups
as of 31 December

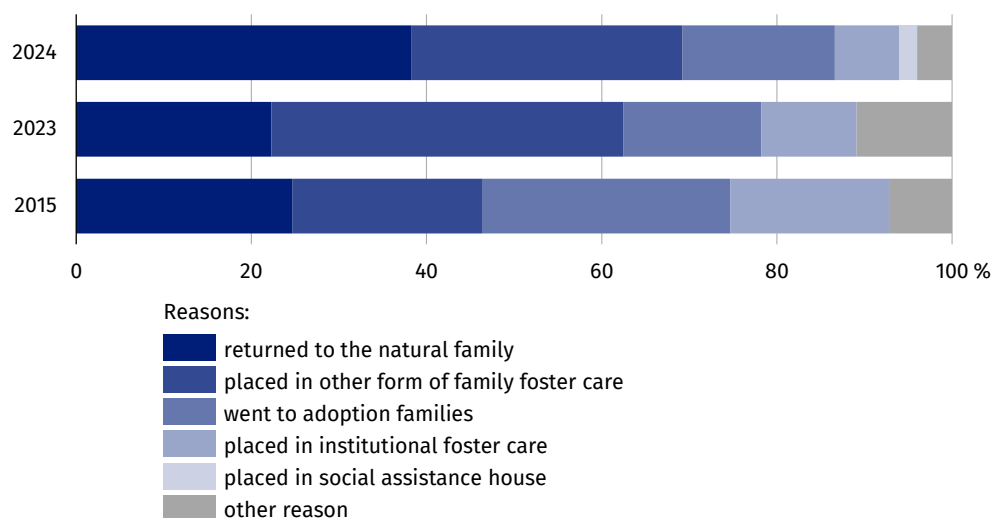


At the end of 2024, 192 children with legal confirmation of disability were in foster family care, while 78 were orphans.

In 2024, 149 children up to the age of 18 years left the family foster care, i.e. fewer by 34.9% than the year before and by 24.7% in relation to 2015. The most common reasons for minors to leave family foster care in 2024 was return to the natural family (38.3%), while in 2023 it was placement in other form of family foster care (40.2%), and in 2015 handing over for adoption (28.3%).

In 2024, the most common reason why minors left family foster care was return to the natural family

Chart 3. Children up to 18 years of age who left family foster care by reasons



In addition, in 2024, 95 residents over the age of 18 left the family foster care, i.e. more by 6.7% compared to the previous year and fewer by 17.4% in relation to 2015. Among adults, the percentage of residents, who became independent in 2024 was 72.6%, the year before – 70.8%, and in 2015 – 71.3%.

Institutional foster care

Institutional foster care, which ensures constant 24-hour care, may be provided in a care and education centre, a regional care and therapy centre as well as in pre-adoptive intervention centre. In Opolskie Voivodship, only care and education centres operated as part of institutional foster care and at the end of 2024 there were 31 of them. On an annual basis, as well as compared to 2015, their number increased: by 6.9% and by 29.2%, respectively. Similarly to previous years the highest number of socialisation type centres was recorded. At the end of

2024, these accounted for 87.1% of all care and education centres in the voivodship, the year before – 86.2% and in 2015 – 91.7%.

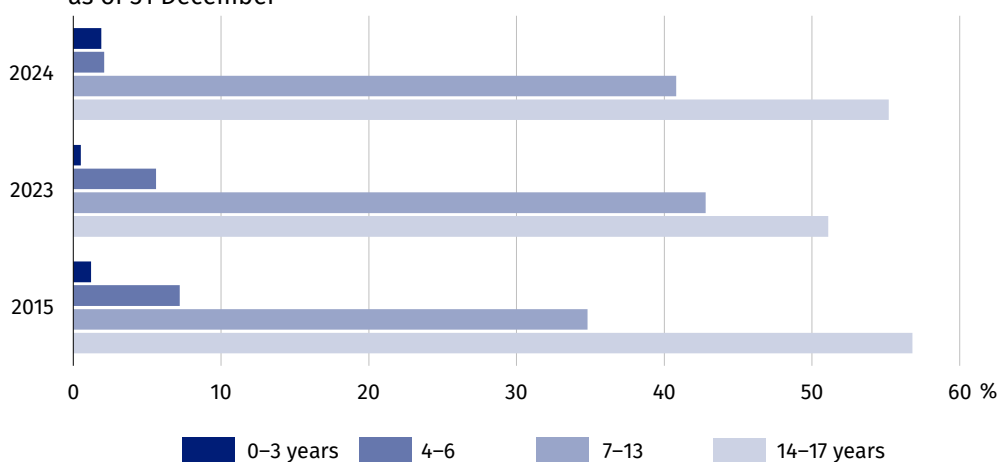
At the end of 2024, care and education centres had a total of 442 places for residents (of which 88.2% in socialisation type centres). In relation to 2023 their number increased by 6.8%, however decreased by 20.9% in relation to 2015.

Table 3. Institutional foster care centres
as of 31 December

Specification	2015	2023	2024		
	in absolute numbers			2015=100	2023=100
Centres	24	29	31	129.2	106.9
of which socialisation	22	25	27	122.7	108.0
Places	559	414	442	79.1	106.8
of which in socialisation centres	515	362	390	75.7	107.7
Residents	540	412	457	84.6	110.9
of which in socialisation centres	504	361	408	81.0	113.0

In care and education centres in Opolskie Voivodship at the end of 2024 there were 457 residents (increase in relation to 2023 by 10.9%, and fewer by 15.4% compared with 2015), of which vast majority in socialisation centres. Similarly as in the previous year and in 2015, there were more boys than girls in care and education centres.

Chart 4. Residents of institutional foster care centres up to 18 years of age by age groups
as of 31 December



The share of children up to the age of 18 in the total number of residents in institutional foster care at the end of 2024 was 92.8%, while the year before – 91.3%, and in 2015 – 90.4%. Among children up to the age of 18 the analysis of individual age groups indicated, that the most numerous group of residents were children in the age group 14–17 years, and their share at the end of 2024 amounted to 55.2% (the year before – 51.1% , and in 2015 – 56.8%).

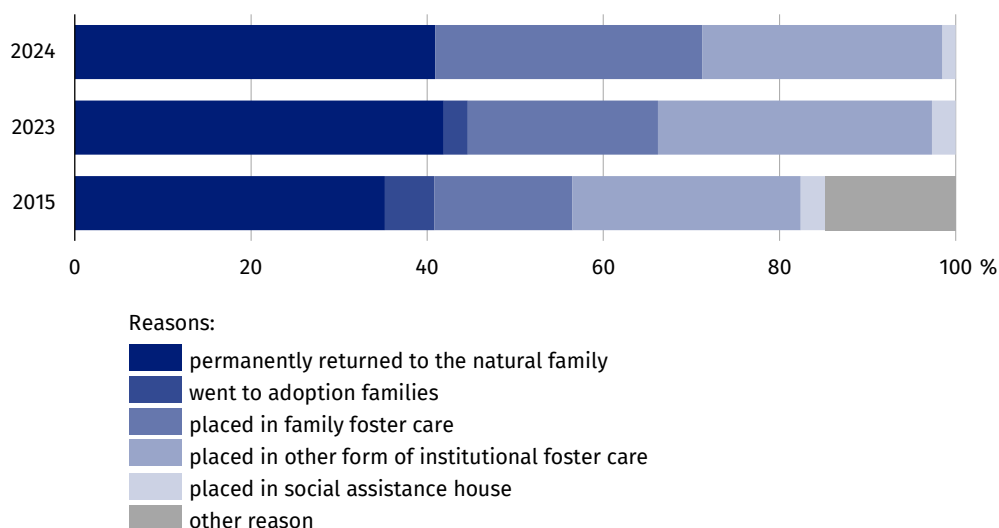
The least numerous group of residents were the youngest children (aged 0–3 years). Their share in 2024 was 1.9%, while in the years 2023 and 2015: 0.5% and 1.2%, respectively

In 2024 residents up to 18 years of age accounted for 92.8% of the total number of persons under institutional foster care

Persons with disabilities in 2024 accounted for 3.7% of all residents of institutional foster care in the voivodship. In relation to the previous year, as well as 2015, their share decreased by 1.6 percentage points and by 5.9 percentage points, respectively.

In 2024, 66 children up to the age of 18 left care and education centres, i.e. fewer by 10.8% than the year before and by 38.9% compared with 2015 r. In 2024 the most common reason why residents left facilities was, similarly as in the previous year and 2015, a permanent return to the natural family.

Chart 5. Residents up to 18 years of age who left centres of institutional foster care by reasons



Additionally, in 2024, 57 adult residents left care and education centres (more by 7.5% than the year before and fewer by 12.3% in relation to 2015), of whom 98.2% became independent.

Volunteer work in care and education centres in 2024 was supported by 18 volunteers, while in the year earlier – 16, and in 2015 – 46.

* * *

In case of quoting Statistics Poland data, please provide information: "Source of data: Statistics Poland" and in case of publishing calculations made on data published by Statistics Poland, please include information: "Own study based of figures of Statistics Poland".

Prepared by:
Statistical Office in Opole
Acting Director Renata Wasilewska
Phone: 77 453 14 52

Issued by:
Opolski Centre for Regional Surveys
Hanna Sterniuk-Mościcka
Phone: 514 901 001
e-mail: H.Sterniuk-Moscika@stat.gov.pl

Media managment:
Monika Bartel
Phone: 77 423 09 75
e-mail: M.Bartel@stat.gov.pl



www.opole.stat.gov.pl



[@Opole_STAT](#)



[@USOpole](#)

Related information

[Foster care in Opolskie Voivodship in 2023](#)

Data available in databases

[Local Data Bank](#)

Terms used in official statistics

[Social assistance](#)