

Financial Reimbursement of Foster Parents: A comparison of Australia, United Kingdom and the United States

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Abstract

In every country of the world, children are displaced for a variety of reasons. Each community must determine how they will provide for these children who require care away from their biological family. A common form of addressing this issue is placing the children with a foster family. This paper looks at the financial reimbursement of foster parents in three English speaking countries. Rather than arguing the value of adequate maintenance, this paper examines the rate of reimbursement as a percentage of the median income of each geographical location for comparative analysis. The authors note that none of the areas provide an adequate amount to replace income so governments could consider a policy shift to reframe the service of foster care into one of volunteering to help the community.

Keywords: Foster Care; Child Welfare; Foster Care Maintenance; Foster Care Pay

Introduction:

In every country of the world, children are displaced for a variety of reasons. Each community must determine how they will provide for these children who require care away from their biological family. Children need care when parents die and there are no extended family members willing or able to care for them, when medical circumstances prevent a parent from adequately caring for them, when financial circumstances prevent a parent from providing adequate shelter. Additionally, children require authorities to intervene when they are exposed to dangerous living environments or suffering from physical abuse or neglect. Despite the fact that all countries face this devastating reality, criteria for removal from parental care and placement of children in alternative living situations varies. Some countries utilize foster parents, while others rely on group homes or residential institutions.

A common theme that has emerged among most developed countries is that the developmental needs of children appear to be more adequately addressed within the family environment (Valle and Braco, 2013). To combat this reality, many countries have tried to establish effective interventions to target dysfunctional issues within the family system rather than just rescuing the children (Gilbert, 2012) thus promoting development and overall well-being (Valle and Braco, 2013). Many times if a biological parent is unable to sufficiently care for children governmental representatives will attempt to locate a close family member in order to create what is considered to be a Kinship placement. Situations arise in which no potential relatives are identified.

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In these cases, a community may seek to place the child in an alternative family environment and thus resort to a foster care placement. The selected foster family has no blood relation to the child but agrees to provide supervision and daily care to the child.

Governmental entities recognize that foster placement and kinship placement creates extensive financial burdens on the substitute family. Therefore, a maintenance or reimbursement rate is provided to the caretakers to assist in easing any financial responsibilities. Much research has been completed regarding the inadequacy of these reimbursement amounts (McHugh, 2002; DeVooght, Trends, and Blazey, 2012). While other potential benefits exist such as not paying taxes on the maintenance funds and the provision by other non-governmental agencies including donation of clothing, foods and other items to the serving parents, there is no doubt that a financial burden is placed upon those that decide to be foster parents.

This article has three overarching goals: 1) to describe the existing foster care systems and programs in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States; 2) to compare the reimbursement rates to foster parents in all three countries looking for any major differences in the data; and 3) to suggest future research in the area to assist in promoting policy changes.

1. Methods:

In 2013, Valle and Bravo identified a variety of difficulties in comparing international out of home care because of the vast differences in history, culture and social welfare systems. In order to compare countries that would have a similar foster system the authors selected Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. All of these are considered to be well developed, industrialized countries that possess the vital resources necessary to provide an advanced child welfare system. Additionally, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States were part of the former British Empire and therefore share a similar cultural background and English is the de facto language for the countries. A brief summary of the current foster care programs was created to examine any significant differences. The similarities that exist among the countries should provide a way to compare the payments received by the care givers.

The reimbursement rates were drawn from the governmental websites for each of the countries. In Australia and the United States, the rates were not published at the federal level but by the various providences and states. If the data could not be directly located on the governmental website a reliable association related to foster care services was referenced. To make the various reimbursement rates comparable considering the differing currencies, the researchers divided the rates by the local median income. This was not intended to be a way to determine if the reimbursement would replace the income of the foster family, but as a way to standardize the measurement. Since various studies have looked at the costs of raising a child compared to the reimbursement, this study took an alternative approach and compared to the income. It should be noted that the authors considered a cost of living comparison, but decided to look at the maintenance rate as a wage replacement which makes the median salary of the area a more reasonable measure. All median household incomes were also acquired through governmental websites.

In collecting the data, the researchers found various ways that providers were reimbursed. Some entities would include clothing allowance while others would have that as a separate amount that might be reimbursed only a few times per year. Most governmental bodies also paid a different amount if the child was considered to be of high need due to disability or other traits that would make the child a less desirable placement. To try and make the differing amounts as comparable as possible, the authors used the most basic form of maintenance that is received by the care givers and adjusted out clothing allowances when it could be determined. Three different data points were used in the comparison because most entities paid a progressively higher amount depending on the age of the child. The points used were at two years old, eight years old and fourteen years old.

2. Results and Discussion:

Each of the three foster care systems are summarized followed by a description of the foster care maintenance provided to caregivers. A final comparison is provided on the minimum, maximum and average amount paid per country for all three data points.

3.1 Australia:

The Australian system is designed so that each state has a slightly different way to address child endangerment concerns. Should intervention be deemed necessary, it begins with an attempt to help the family as a whole unit, providing services in effort to avoid more serious intervention (Fernandez and Atwool, 2013). If this process does not result in the desired outcomes and the situation elevates to be increasingly dangerous for the children, the state steps in and initiates more drastic measures to include removal of the child from the home (Sheehan & Borowski, 2013). One of the available options upon removal is to place the child in a foster home environment. If it is determined that there is little or no hope for reunification the care plan must suggest a long term assignment (Mapledorm, 2013).

In 2016, (Sterling Committee for the Review of Government Services Provision) \$2.4 billion was designated for children who are in out of home care services. According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2016) there were 43,339 children in care, 93.4% of these children were placed in foster homes.

All of the maintenance amounts were provided in totals per fortnight so annual median salaries were converted into fortnight numbers by dividing the annual total by 26. Tasmania reported the reimbursement amount based on have three children so the amount was reduced to represent one child. As table I shows, it appears that the highest reimbursement rate in Australia as a percentage of local median salary is Tasmania at the 2-year-old points with 17.63% and at the 8-year-old point with 17.63% and 23.41% respectively. The lowest reimbursement rate in Australia as a percentage of local median salary was in Western Australia at the 2 (10.91%) and 14-year-old (14.78%) data points, while South Australia had the low rate at the 8-year-old (12.49%) measurement.

3.2 United Kingdom:

The English system is the oldest of the three countries that the authors have reviewed. In 1853, Reverend Armistead removed children from a local spike, which was a place where people who were unable to support themselves were offered shelter and employment, and placed them in family units (Guishard-Pine, McCall, & Lloyd, 2008). From those small beginnings it has evolved into a system that serves thousands. At the end of March 2016, 70,440 children were supported by the foster system and 74% or 51,850 of these children were placed in foster care homes (Department of Education, 2016). The most recent trend in England is a shift toward kinship care, a modality in which children are placed with family and close friends (Munero and Gilligan, 2013). This movement may result in questioning what role the government should have in providing financial support to caregivers (Farmers and Moyers, 2008)

The United Kingdom foster care reimbursement amounts are listed in weekly rates. The sum is established at the federal level with differing rates according to geographical location. The three primary areas are London, South East and the remainder of the United Kingdom had the same rates. Additionally, the categories for reimbursement are not specifically numerical in the early stages of life, rather terms like baby and primary are utilized. The annual median salaries were obtained for ten geographical areas.

As table II shows, it appears that the highest reimbursement rate in the United Kingdom as a percentage of local median salary is Wales at all three data points: Baby (25.98%), Primary (29.36%) and the 11-15 range (33.59%) and the lowest reimbursement rate in the United Kingdom as a percentage of local median salary is London at all three data points: Baby (21.52%), Primary (24.70%) and the 11-15 range (27.88%). An interesting detail to establish regarding the United Kingdom is that the spread (maximum minus minimum) for all three data points is very small (4.46, 4.66, and 5.70% on Baby, Primary and the 11-15 range respectively). This could be interpreted to mean that all foster parents are reimbursed similarly which is likely a result of federal control of the program.

3.3 United States:

The United States federal government initially began funding foster care in the 1960s to support children removed from a home due to abuse, neglect or incarceration and foster care is provided by state and local public child welfare agencies in collaboration by voluntary agencies that receive the majority, if not all, of their funding from governmental entities (Courtney, Flynn & Beaupre, 2013). Out of home placements can include residential home and group home placement, but the most prominent type is the foster family. States are required to provide reimbursement to foster families to help the families supply sufficient necessities such as food, shelter, clothing and other expenses incurred for the wellbeing of the child.

In 2016, Congress allocated \$8,689 million dollars in federal support to child welfare purposes and as a condition of receiving foster care and other child welfare program funds, states must typically provide nonfederal resources at 20%-50% of program costs (Stoltzfus, 2017). According to the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) there were 427,910 children in foster care in September 30, 2015 and 84% of these children resided with family placements (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2017).

While the states are required to provide reimbursement the United States federal government does not set required amounts according to the title IV foster care maintenance program (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2012). Additionally, all states pay different amounts according to a child's age with an increase in age typically resulting in an increase in payments. In most situations there are different levels of reimbursement based on the child's need and the foster parents training.

The authors reviewed the reimbursement amounts for all fifty states, but did not include any states that had various rates across the individual state. The states that were excluded include Alaska, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania. New York was also excluded because the reimbursement in the Metro area differs from upstate. Monthly reimbursement amounts were utilized and if a daily rate was provided it was converted to monthly by multiplying by 30 days.

As tables III a-c demonstrate, it appears that the highest reimbursement rate in the United States as a percentage of local median salary at the two (19.19%) and eight (19.19%) year old level is Kentucky, while Tennessee is the highest at the 14-year-old level (21.70%) and the lowest reimbursement rate in the United States as a percentage of local median salary is Colorado at all three levels 2 years old (6.56%), 8 years old (6.56%) and at the 14-year-old mark (7.37%). The spread is much larger than the United Kingdom at all three levels which would be expected considering the states determine the rates (12.63%, 12.63% and 14.33% for the 2, 8 and 14-year-old marks respectively).

3.4 Comparison:

Chart I, Chart II and Chart III were included as comparison of the percentage for two-year-old, eight-year-old and 14-year-old reimbursement rates respectively. The country minimum, maximum and average for all three countries were charted. In all cases the United Kingdom had the largest replacement rate for the Minimum, Maximum and overall Average. This is expected due to the nature of the governmental entity having a more socialistic environment. The United States had the lowest Minimum, Maximum and Average for all cases with the exception of the maximum for two-year-old reimbursements. The highest average for all of the scenarios was the United Kingdom reimbursement of 14-year-old (Chart III) with 31.77%.

3. Conclusion and future research:

While there is significant fluctuation in the value of reimbursement provided from the various governmental entities, the one glaring statistic is that the maintenance funds are insufficient across the board if they were being considered a replacement for employment. The highest proportion being provided (United Kingdom with a 14-year-old) at 31.77% average wage replacement of the median household income, a parent would need more than three children in care to earn a median salary. When we look at the lowest average which was the United States two-year-old with 11.79% of the local median household income would require more than eight children (which is not allowed in most states). While reviewed studies have focused on the adequacy of reimbursement from the perspective of the maintenance provision covering the expenses incurred by the child's daily needs (DeVooght, Trends, and Blazey, 2012) we reorganized the literature to examine it from an income point of view. This lens was used because the amount of time required to raise a foster child generally exceeds that of a biological child due to the emotional, physical and psychological trauma they have had to endure. This reduces the amount of time one can spend earning a living which would impact yearly income potential.

When viewing from an income frame of reference, the inadequate reimbursement rate provided by the governmental agencies seems to be an issue that is experienced by foster care providers across the globe. While insufficient funds could be disheartening to care givers, there are still providers willing and able to experience the loss in order to provide homes for these needy children. Perhaps the question "are reimbursements rates high enough?" is not the question that should be posed. If governments were to reframe the entire system to one in which caregivers are actually completing a societal good it could assist in alleviating the strain that they have in locating sufficient high quality providers.

This initiative would likely require a large public relations campaign similar to the one that was utilized in the United States to increase people's motivation to buckle their seat belts (Crash test Dummies). Currently there is no definitive research that demonstrates that increasing foster care reimbursement rates would improve the foster care systems, therefore this type of campaign may be a reasonable option. Instead of trying to recruit with pay, governments could acknowledge the lack of pay and work on ways to thank them for their service similar to people that serve the armed forces. The comparison is not meant to minimize those that risk their lives for the country, rather a way to acknowledge those that spend time trying to save a life of children in need. While some research has indicated that spending more money to provide care can have a long term positive impact on future governmental costs (Raman, Inder, & Forbes, 2005), other researchers have questioned whether it might be more beneficial for foster parenting to be viewed as a volunteer activity instead of a professional one (Kirton, Beecham, & Oglivie, 2007).

Future research could potentially address several issues related to foster care reimbursement rates. The biggest topic would be determining if there is a correlation between higher foster care reimbursement rates and improved outcomes for the children in care. This has been attempted in some studies (Kirton, 2001) but there continues to be debate regarding what defines successful outcomes when it comes to foster care. Researchers could attempt to measure if increasing the existing stipend for the caregivers could have long term savings in other areas of social welfare as the children mature into adulthood. Increasing the amount of the stipend might also allow governments to recruit more foster parents that currently have a desire to serve, but lack the financial resources.

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Table I. Summary of Australia Income reimbursement for Foster Parents

	<i>New South Wales (NSW)^a</i>	<i>Queensland (QLD)^b</i>	<i>South Australia (SA)^c</i>	<i>Tasmania (TAS)^d</i>	<i>Victoria (VIC)^e</i>	<i>Western Australia (WA)^f</i>
<i>Median Household income^g</i>	\$ 79,955	\$ 76,960	\$ 75,135	\$ 69,893	\$ 77,714	\$ 88,494
<i>Fortnight Household income</i>	\$ 3,075	\$ 2,960	\$ 2,890	\$ 2,688	\$ 2,989	\$ 3,404
<i>Percentage at age 2</i>	15.48%	16.13%	11.25%	17.63%	12.66%	10.91%
<i>Percentage at age 8</i>	17.46%	17.38%	12.49%	17.63%	13.10%	12.85%
<i>Percentage at age 14</i>	23.41%	18.89%	17.97%	17.63%	18.62%	14.78%
<i>Birth</i>	\$476	\$477	\$325	\$474	\$378	\$371
<i>1</i>	476	477	325	474	378	371
<i>2</i>	476	477	325	474	378	371
<i>3</i>	476	477	325	474	378	371
<i>4</i>	476	477	325	474	378	371
<i>5</i>	537	477	361	474	378	371
<i>6</i>	537	515	361	474	378	371
<i>7</i>	537	515	361	474	378	437
<i>8</i>	537	515	361	474	392	437
<i>9</i>	537	515	361	474	392	437
<i>10</i>	537	515	361	474	392	437
<i>11</i>	537	559	361	474	434	437
<i>12</i>	537	559	361	474	434	437
<i>13</i>	537	559	519	474	557	503
<i>14</i>	720	559	519	474	557	503
<i>15</i>	720	559	519	474	557	503
<i>16</i>	480	559	703	474	557	503
<i>17</i>	480	559	703	474	557	503

- a. <http://www.fosteringnsw.com.au/financial-assistance-for-foster-carers/>
 b. <https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/foster-kinship-care-financial-support/>
 c. <https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/sites/g/files/net916/f/carer-payment-rates-loading.pdf>
 d. <http://www.keyassets.com.au/tasmania/become-foster-carer/allowances-foster-carers/>
 e. <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/children,-families-and-young-people/kinship-foster-and-other-care/support-for-carers-in-victoria>
 f. <https://www.dcp.wa.gov.au/FosteringandAdoption/Documents/Financial%20support%20information.pdf>
 g. <http://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/Documents/Average-Weekly-Earnings.pdf>

Table II. Summary of United Kingdom Income reimbursement for Foster Parents

	<i>London</i>	<i>South East</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	<i>West Midlands</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South West</i>	<i>North West</i>	<i>North East</i>	<i>Yorkshire</i>	<i>Northern Ireland</i>	<i>Wales</i>
Percentage at 2	21.52 %	24.63 %	23.34 %	24.95 %	23.77 %	24.96 %	25.16 %	25.17 %	25.29 %	25.37 %	25.98 %
Percentage at 8	24.70 %	28.26 %	26.38 %	28.19 %	26.86 %	28.21 %	28.44 %	28.44 %	28.58 %	28.67 %	29.36 %
Percentage at 14	27.88 %	32.06 %	30.17 %	32.25 %	30.72 %	32.26 %	32.53 %	32.54 %	32.69 %	32.79 %	33.59 %
Median Salary^b	£660	£552	£527	£493	£518	£493	£489	£489	£486	£485	£473
Babies^a	142	136	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123
Pre-primary^a	145	140	126	126	126	126	126	126	126	126	126
Primary^a	163	156	139	139	139	139	139	139	139	139	139
11 to 15^a	184	177	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	159	159
16 to 17^a	216	208	185	185	185	185	185	185	185	185	185

a. <https://www.gov.uk/foster-carers/help-with-the-cost-of-fostering>

b. <http://metro.co.uk/2015/11/18/how-does-your-salary-compare-with-the-rest-of-the-country-5511194/>

Table IIIa: United States Reimbursement rates Alabama through Kentucky

	AL ^a	AZ ^b	AR ^c	CA ^d	CO ^e	CT ^f	DE ^g	FL ^h	GA ⁱ	HI ^j	ID ^k	IL ^l	IA ^m	KS ⁿ	KY ^o
<i>Birth</i>	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1	463	669	410	707	349	780	391	439	410	576	274	401	479	665	723
2	463	635	410	707	349	780	391	439	410	576	274	409	479	665	723
3	463	635	410	707	349	780	391	439	410	576	274	409	479	665	723
4	477	609	410	707	349	780	391	439	410	576	274	409	479	665	723
5	477	609	410	707	349	780	391	439	410	576	274	409	479	665	723
6	477	609	410	765	349	780	391	439	410	576	274	427	479	665	723
7	488	624	440	765	349	789	391	451	465	650	300	427	499	665	723
8	488	624	440	765	349	789	391	451	465	650	300	427	499	665	723
9	488	624	440	765	349	789	391	451	465	650	300	427	499	665	723
10	488	624	440	805	349	789	391	451	465	650	300	453	499	665	723
11	488	624	440	805	349	789	445	451	465	650	300	453	499	665	723
12	488	624	440	805	392	789	445	451	465	650	300	453	499	665	723
13	488	867	470	843	392	856	445	451	465	676	300	491	546	665	786
14	501	867	470	843	392	856	445	527	533	676	431	491	546	665	786
15	501	867	470	843	392	856	445	527	533	676	431	491	546	665	786
16	501	867	500	883	424	856	445	527	533	676	431	491	546	665	786
17	501	867	500	883	424	856	504	527	533	676	431	491	553	665	786
18	501	867	500	883	424	856	504	527	533	676	431	491	553	665	786
Percentage at Age 2	12.41%	14.79%	11.72%	13.1%	6.56%	13.1%	7.66%	10.67%	9.61%	9.41%	6.81%	8.24%	10.5%	14.8%	19.19%
Percentage at Age 8	13.09%	14.54%	12.57%	14.2%	6.56%	13.2%	7.66%	10.94%	10.8%	10.6%	7.46%	8.60%	10.9%	14.8%	19.19%
Percentage at Age 14	13.44%	20.20%	13.43%	15.6%	7.37%	14.3%	8.72%	12.80%	12.4%	11.0%	10.7%	9.89%	11.9%	14.8%	20.86%
Monthly median salary ^p	\$ 3,730	\$ 4,291	\$ 3,500	\$ 5,375	\$ 5,326	\$ 5,946	\$ 5,105	\$ 4,119	\$ 4,270	\$ 6,124	\$ 4,023	\$ 4,966	\$ 4,561	\$ 4,492	\$ 3,768

- a. <https://afapa.org/2016/05/12/board-payments/>
- b. <https://dcs.az.gov/sites/default/files/media/CSO-1109A.pdf> Daily rates multiplied by 30
- c. http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/rulesRegs/Arkansas%20Register/2009/oct_2009/016.15.09-004.pdf
- d. <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/lettersnotices/EntRes/getinfo/acl/2016/16-57.pdf>
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- f. <http://www.ct.gov/DCF/cwp/view.asp?a=2639&Q=394382>
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- m. <http://www.childwelfarepolicy.org/reimbursement/ia.pdf>
- n. <http://www.childwelfarepolicy.org/reimbursement/ks.pdf>
- o. [http://manuals.sp.chfs.ky.gov/chapter%2012/24/Pages/1224PerDiemRates\(Including%20Specialized%20Foster%20Care\).aspx](http://manuals.sp.chfs.ky.gov/chapter%2012/24/Pages/1224PerDiemRates(Including%20Specialized%20Foster%20Care).aspx)
- p. <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2016/demo/acsbr15-02.pdf> annual rate divided by 12

Table IIIb: United States Reimbursement rates Louisiana through North Carolina

	<i>LA</i> ^a	<i>ME</i> ^b	<i>MD</i> ^c	<i>MA</i> ^d	<i>MI</i> ^e	<i>MN</i> ^f	<i>MS</i> ^g	<i>MO</i> ^h	<i>MT</i> ⁱ	<i>NE</i> ^j	<i>NV</i> ^k	<i>NH</i> ^l	<i>NJ</i> ^m	<i>NM</i> ⁿ	<i>NC</i> ^o
<i>Birth</i>	\$ 467	\$ 495	\$ 835	\$ 448	\$ 517	\$ 565	\$ 575	\$ 300	\$ 521	\$ 600	\$ 634	\$ 474	\$ 763	\$ 558	\$ 475
<i>1</i>	467	495	835	448	517	565	575	300	521	600	634	474	763	558	475
<i>2</i>	467	495	835	448	517	565	575	300	521	600	634	474	763	558	475
<i>3</i>	467	495	835	448	517	565	575	300	521	600	634	474	763	558	475
<i>4</i>	407	495	835	448	517	565	575	300	521	600	634	474	763	558	475
<i>5</i>	407	495	835	448	517	565	575	300	521	600	634	474	763	558	475
<i>6</i>	407	495	835	448	517	565	575	300	521	600	634	474	763	558	475
<i>7</i>	449	495	835	464	517	670	575	356	521	690	634	514	845	591	581
<i>8</i>	449	495	835	464	517	670	575	356	521	690	634	514	845	591	581
<i>9</i>	449	495	835	464	517	670	575	356	521	690	634	514	845	591	581
<i>10</i>	449	495	850	464	517	670	658	356	521	690	634	514	845	591	581
<i>11</i>	449	495	850	464	517	670	658	356	521	690	634	514	872	591	581
<i>12</i>	449	495	850	464	517	670	658	356	521	690	634	514	872	591	581
<i>13</i>	449	495	850	464	517	670	658	356	521	750	634	612	872	591	581
<i>14</i>	501	495	850	515	467	790	658	396	620	750	694	612	907	616	634
<i>15</i>	501	495	850	515	467	790	658	396	620	750	694	612	907	616	634
<i>16</i>	501	495	850	515	467	790	658	396	620	750	694	612	907	616	634
<i>17</i>	501	495	850	515	467	790	722	396	620	750	694	612	907	616	634
<i>18</i>	501	495	850	515	467	790	722	396	620	750	694	612	907	616	634
<i>Percent age at Age 2</i>	12.2 7%	11.5 4%	13.2 1%	7.60 %	12.1 5%	10.6 8%	17.0 0%	7.17 %	12.6 3%	13.0 9%	14.5 2%	8.09 %	12.6 8%	14.7 5%	11.9 2%

<i>Percent age at Age 8</i>	11.7 8%	11.5 4%	13.2 1%	7.89 %	12.1 5%	12.6 6%	17.0 0%	8.50 %	12.6 3%	15.0 6%	14.5 2%	8.78 %	14.0 4%	15.6 3%	14.5 8%
<i>Percent age at Age 14</i>	13.1 5%	11.5 4%	13.4 5%	8.75 %	10.9 7%	14.9 3%	19.4 6%	9.46 %	15.0 3%	16.3 6%	15.8 8%	10.4 4%	15.0 7%	16.3 0%	15.9 1%
<i>Monthly median salary^p</i>	\$ 3,81 1	\$ 4,29 1	\$ 6,32 1	\$ 5,88 6	\$ 4,25 7	\$ 5,29 1	\$ 3,38 3	\$ 4,18 7	\$ 4,12 6	\$ 4,58 3	\$ 4,36 9	\$ 5,85 9	\$ 6,01 9	\$ 3,78 2	\$ 3,98 6

- a. <http://dcfs.lacounty.gov%2fpolicy%2fhndbook%2520fce%2fE070%2fLOUISIANAFOSTERCARERATES0510.doc>
- b. <http://icpcstatepages.org/maine/foster-care/>
- c. <http://dhr.maryland.gov/foster-care/financial-information/>
- d. <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/DCF/c-fp-ap-guide.pdf>
- e. <https://dhhs.michigan.gov/OLMWEB/EX/FO/Public/FOM/905-3.pdf>
- f. <http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/publications/documents/pub/dhs-286623.pdf>
- g. <http://www.sos.ms.gov/ACProposed/00019917b.pdf>
- h. <https://dss.mo.gov/cd/info/cwmanual/section4/ch11/sec4ch11attach.htm>
- i. <http://icpcstatepages.org/montana/foster-care/>
- j. <http://www.childrens.nebraska.gov/PDFs/MeetingDocuments/2014/FCRate/April1/NFCFCRateReport04012014.pdf>
- k. <http://www.childwelfarepolicy.org/reimbursement/appendices/nv.pdf>
- l. <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcyf/adoption/reimbursement.htm>
- m. <https://www.fafsonline.org/foster-care-board-rates-nj/>
- n. <http://icpcstatepages.org/newmexico/foster-care/>
- o. <https://www2.ncdhhs.gov/dss/fostercare/>
- p. <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2016/demo/acsbr15-02.pdf> annual rate divided by 12

Table IIIc: United States Reimbursement rates North Dakota through Wyoming

	ND ^a	OK ^b	OR ^c	RI ^d	SC ^e	SD ^f	TN ^g	TX ^h	UT ⁱ	VT ^j	VA ^k	WA ^l	WV ^m	WI ⁿ	WY ^o
Birth	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1	703	455	575	432	383	471	746	693	468	411	462	562	600	384	835
2	703	455	575	432	383	471	746	693	468	411	462	562	600	384	835
3	703	455	575	432	383	471	746	693	468	411	462	562	600	384	835
4	703	455	575	409	383	471	746	693	468	411	462	562	600	384	835
5	803	455	575	409	383	471	746	693	468	411	541	562	600	420	835
6	803	527	655	409	458	471	746	693	498	465	541	683	600	420	835
7	803	527	655	409	458	471	746	693	498	465	541	683	600	420	835
8	803	527	655	409	458	471	746	693	498	465	541	683	600	420	835
9	803	527	655	409	458	471	746	693	498	465	541	683	600	420	850
10	803	527	655	409	458	471	746	693	498	465	541	683	600	420	850
11	803	527	655	409	458	471	746	693	498	465	541	683	600	420	850
12	803	527	655	409	458	471	746	693	498	465	541	683	600	420	850
13	803	527	655	474	458	471	855	693	528	465	541	703	600	478	850
14	877	593	741	474	518	566	855	693	528	505	686	703	600	478	850
15	877	593	741	474	518	566	855	693	528	505	686	703	600	478	850
16	877	593	741	474	518	566	855	693	528	505	686	703	600	499	850
17	877	593	741	474	518	566	855	693	528	505	686	703	600	499	850
18	877	593	741	474	518	566	855	693	528	505	686	703	600	499	850
Percent age at Age 2	13.93%	11.24%	12.74%	8.92%	9.73%	10.67%	18.93%	14.94%	8.93%	8.66%	8.37%	10.52%	17.14%	8.28%	16.64%
Percent age at Age 8	15.91%	13.03%	14.52%	8.46%	11.64%	10.67%	18.93%	14.94%	9.50%	9.79%	9.80%	12.78%	17.14%	9.06%	16.64%
Percent age at Age 14	17.37%	14.65%	16.42%	9.79%	13.16%	12.81%	21.70%	14.94%	10.07%	10.63%	12.42%	13.15%	17.14%	10.31%	16.94%
Monthly median salary ^p	\$ 5,046	\$ 4,047	\$ 4,512	\$ 4,839	\$ 3,937	\$ 4,418	\$ 3,940	\$ 4,638	\$ 5,243	\$ 4,749	\$ 5,522	\$ 5,344	\$ 3,502	\$ 4,637	\$ 5,018

- a. <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/policymanuals/62305/Content/ML/ML%203411%20SC%20623-05%20FC%20Maintenance%20Payments.pdf>
- b. <http://www.okdhs.org/services/foster/Pages/newrates.aspx>
- c. <https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/CHILDREN/FOSTERPARENT/Pages/rates.aspx>
- d. http://www.dcyf.ri.gov/questions/foster_care_questions.php#married
- e. <http://icpcstatepages.org/southcarolina/foster-care/>

- f. <http://www.childwelfarepolicy.org/reimbursement/sd.pdf>
- g. [https://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/dcs/attachments/Rates Announcement for FY 2015-2016.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/dcs/attachments/Rates%20Announcement%20for%20FY%202015-2016.pdf)
- h. https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/PCS/rates_childcare_reimbursement.asp
- i. <https://hspolicy.utah.gov/files/dcf/DCFS%20Practice%20Guidelines/300-%20Foster%20Care%20Rates.pdf>
- j. <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/reports/2013externalreports/286486.pdf>
- k. [http://www.dss.virginia.gov/files/division/dcf/fc/intro_page/guidance_manuals/fc/07_2015/Section_17_Funding Maintenance Costs.pdf](http://www.dss.virginia.gov/files/division/dcf/fc/intro_page/guidance_manuals/fc/07_2015/Section_17_Funding_Maintenance_Costs.pdf)
- l. <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/CA/fos/becoming-a-foster-parent>
- m. <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/bcf/policy/Documents/FC%20Policy%20-%20Sept%202015.pdf>
- n. <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/publications/pdf/0142.pdf>
- o. <http://icpcstatepages.org/wyoming/foster-care/>
- p. <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2016/demo/acsbr15-02.pdf> annual rate divided by 12

Chart 1: Comparison of Two-year-old reimbursement

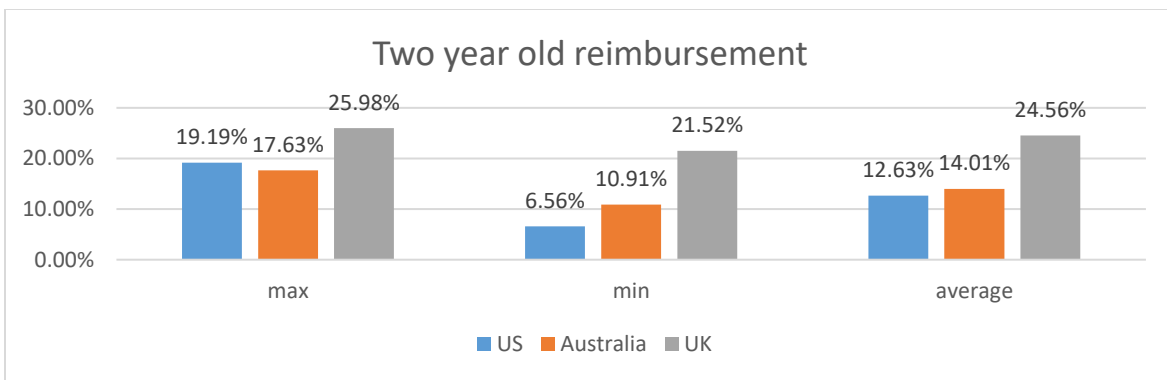


Chart 2: Comparison of Eight-year-old reimbursement

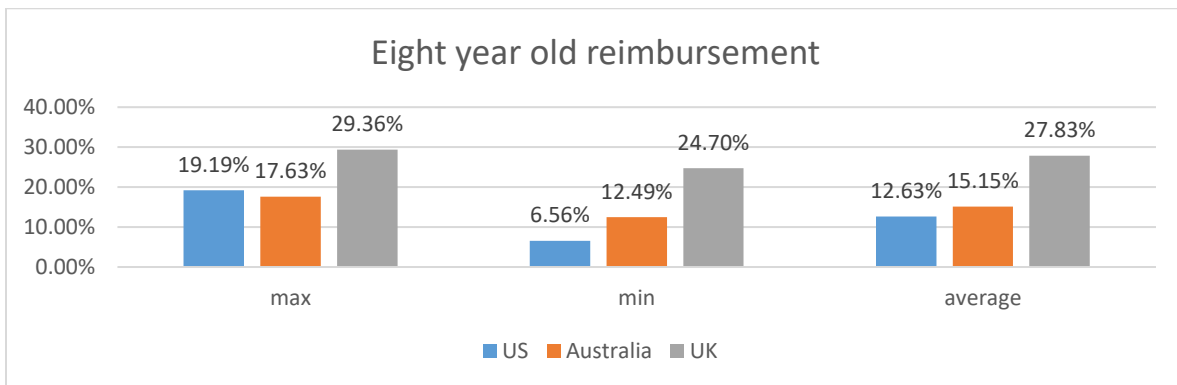


Chart 3: Comparison of Fourteen-year-old reimbursement

