Foster Plus

Siblings in Care

The facts & figures

Sibling relationships are so important to protect because they provide

strong emotional

connections
mutual support – both practical and emotional
a sense of unconditional love and support
shared experiences – both the ordinary and extraordinary

37%

of children with a sibling – 20,000 children – are separated from a sibling when placed in care.

That's more than

1 in 3 children

The main reasons for separating siblings in foster care are

There aren't enough foster families to support the number of siblings coming into care

Foster families don't have enough spare bedrooms to accommodate caring for more than one child

If a child requires specialist foster care for complex needs or disabilities

Sometimes it's in their best interests to be placed into different homes

Children with a disability or complex needs and behaviours

Those at greater risk of being

Those in a large sibling group separated from their sibling...

Children who go into care at an older age

Children placed in semi-independent accommodation or children's homes

26%

of children in care with 1 sibling are separated from each other

43%

of children in care with 2 siblings are separated from at least 1 sibling

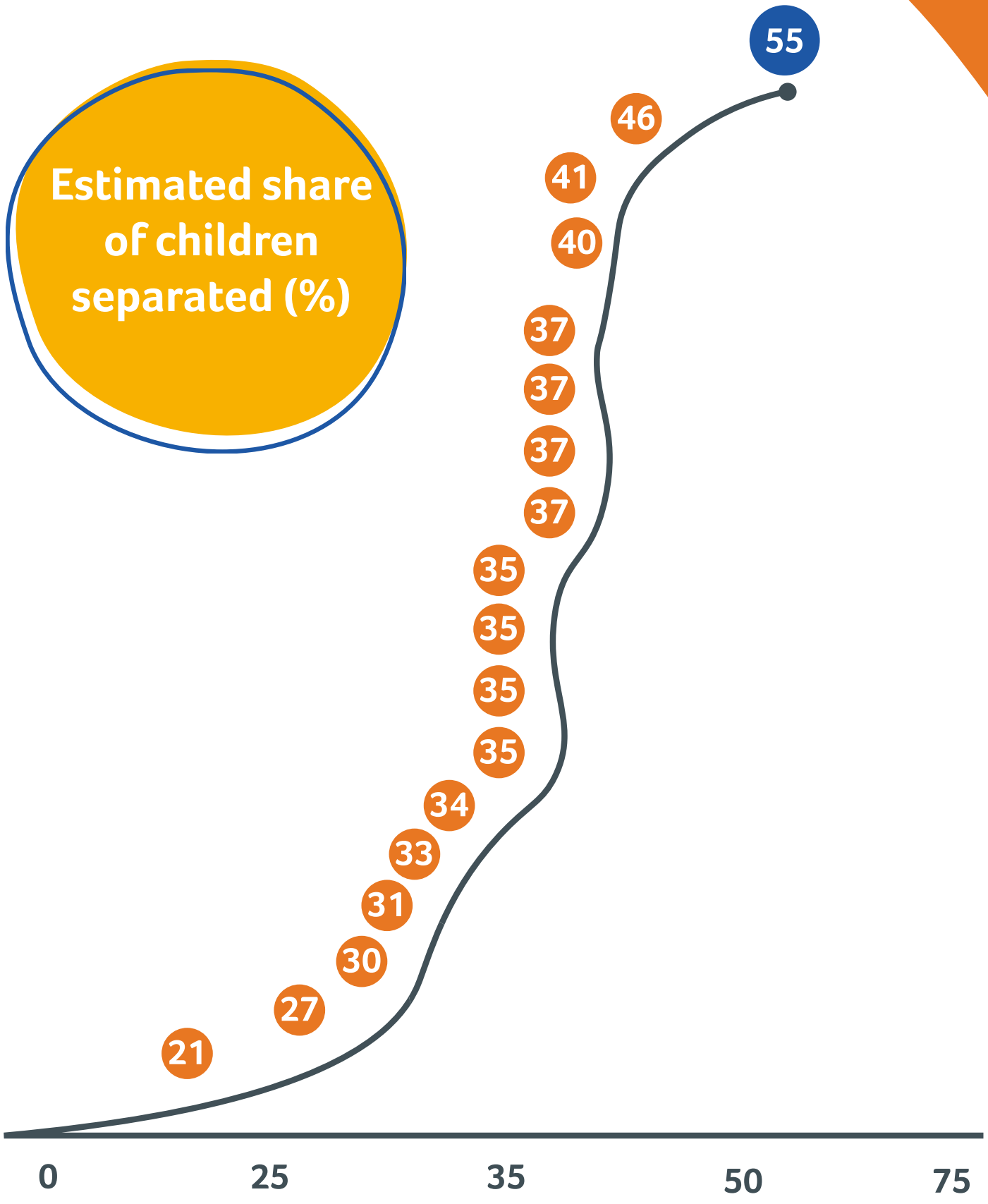
57%

of children in care with 3 siblings are separated from at least 1 sibling

64%

of children in care with 5 siblings are separated from at least 1 sibling

Siblings of Gypsy/Roma heritage are more likely to be separated...



Ethnicity

55 Gypsy/Roma

37 White British, Black Other, Black Caribbean,

31 Black African

46 Traveller (Irish Heritage)

41 Any other mixed background

40 White and black Caribbean

Asian Other

35 White & Black African, White and Asian, Other, Bangladeshi

34 White Other

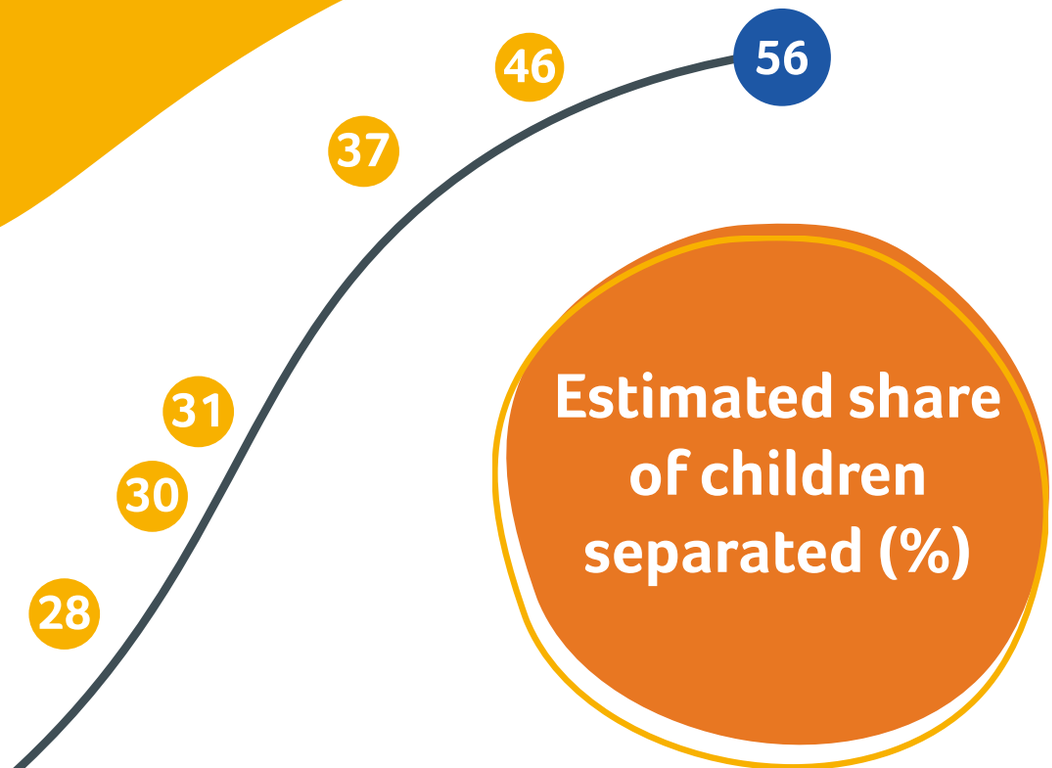
33 Pakistani

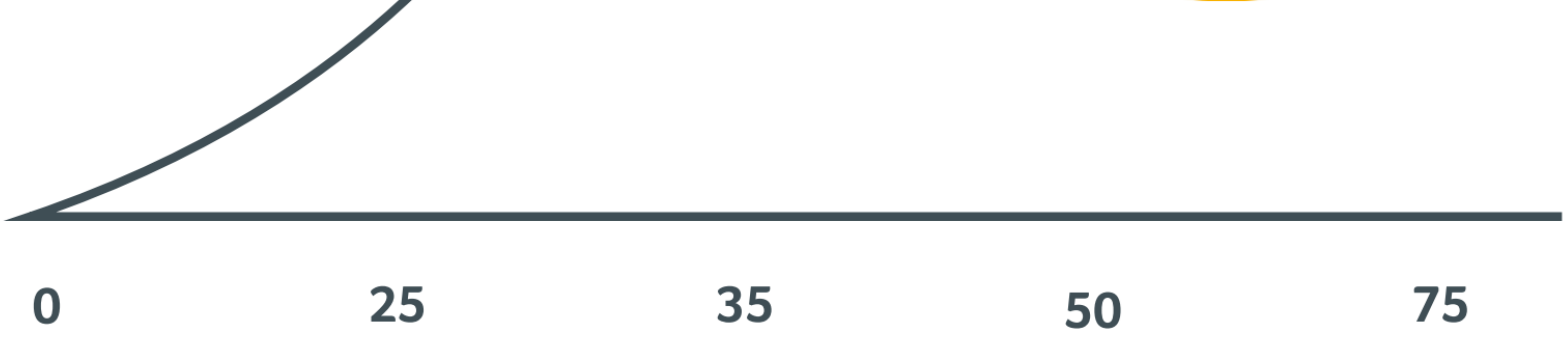
30 White Irish

27 Indian

21 Chinese

Siblings with social issues or complex behaviours are more likely to be separated...





Main reason for being in care

- **56** Socially unacceptable behaviour
- **46** Child disability
- **41** Family in acute stress, Family dysfuntion, Abuse or neglect
- **31** Absent parenting
- **30** Low income
- **27** Parental illness or disability

Keeping brothers and sisters together

Preserves family bonds

Promotes emotional wellbeing

Helps with transitioning and adjustment

Provides support and stability

Maintains a sense of identity and cultural connection

They need a **loving, supportive, nurturing** foster home where they can **grow, heal and thrive...**

Find out more about fostering siblings with Fosterplus

Get in touch with our experts today.

Enquire: www.fosterplus.co.uk/enquiry

Sources:

https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/siblings-in-care/