



The AFCARS Report:

Alaska

Preliminary FY¹ 2021 Estimates as of June 28, 2022 - No. 29

SOURCE: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2021 data²

Numbers at a Glance: Alaska

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	2,739	2,781	2,879	2,860	2,828
Number entered foster care during the FY	1,321	1,337	1,496	1,353	1,324
Number exited foster care during the FY	1,346	1,251	1,337	1,338	1,291
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	4,085	4,032	4,216	4,198	4,119
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	1,032	1,006	951	1,019	972
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	432	430	375	288	318
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	366	353	396	354	339

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=2,828

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	7.7	Male	51%	1,444
Median	7.0	Female	49%	1,384

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	6%	177	Pre-Adoptive Home	27%	777
1 Year	7%	212	Foster Family Home (Relative)	26%	739
2 Years	7%	194	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	31%	874
3 Years	6%	182	Group Home	1%	22
4 Years	7%	199	Institution	3%	87
5 Years	6%	177	Supervised Independent Living	0%	0
6 Years	5%	150	Runaway	1%	18
7 Years	5%	153	Trial Home Visit	11%	311
8 Years	5%	141			
9 Years	5%	151			
10 Years	5%	152			
11 Years	5%	137			
12 Years	5%	146			
13 Years	6%	158			
14 Years	5%	146			
15 Years	4%	121			
16 Years	4%	122			
17 Years	4%	102			
18 Years	0%	8			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	45%	1,199
Live with Other Relative(s)	11%	300
Adoption	35%	937
Long Term Foster Care	0%	3
Emancipation	0%	2
Guardianship	3%	71
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	6%	152

¹ 'FY' refers to the Federal Fiscal Year, October 1st through September 30th.

² Data from both the regular and revised AFCARS file submissions received by June 28, 2022 are included in this report. Missing data are excluded from each table. Therefore, the totals within each distribution may not equal the total provided for that subpopulation (e.g. number in care on September 30th may not match the sum across ages for that group)

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	Time in Care	Months
American Indian/Alaska Native	49%	1,389	Mean	20.6
Asian	1%	20	Median	15.9
Black or African American	2%	67		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	2%	62		
Hispanic (of any race)	4%	109		
White	20%	553		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	13		
Two or More Races	22%	612		
NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.				
Time in Care	Percent	Number		
Less than 1 Month	4%	109		
1 - 5 Months	19%	524		
6 - 11 Months	19%	550		
12 - 17 Months	12%	331		
18 - 23 Months	13%	380		
24 - 29 Months	11%	314		
30 - 35 Months	6%	177		
3 - 4 Years	11%	317		
5 Years or More	4%	126		

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=1,324

Age at Entry		Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	
Mean		6.4	American Indian/Alaska Native	50%	658	
Median		5.5	Asian	0%	4	
			Black or African American	2%	25	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	2%	22	
			Hispanic (of any race)	3%	46	
			White	21%	273	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	13	
			Two or More Races	21%	280	
NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.						
Age at Entry		Percent	Number	Circumstances Associated with Child's Removal	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year		18%	244	Neglect	74%	986
1 Year		7%	87	Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	38%	502
2 Years		6%	86	Drug Abuse (Parent)	34%	454
3 Years		7%	87	Physical Abuse	16%	217
4 Years		7%	88	Parent Incarceration	7%	95
5 Years		5%	70	Sexual Abuse	7%	95
6 Years		4%	56	Abandonment	7%	94
7 Years		6%	77	Caretaker Inability To Cope	4%	56
8 Years		4%	57	Housing	4%	56
9 Years		5%	67	Child Behavior Problem	2%	23
10 Years		3%	46	Drug Abuse (Child)	1%	19
11 Years		5%	71	Alcohol Abuse (Child)	1%	15
12 Years		4%	57	Parent Death	1%	15
13 Years		4%	51	Child Disability	1%	8
14 Years		4%	52	Relinquishment	0%	4
15 Years		5%	62			
16 Years		3%	39			
17 Years		2%	26			
18 Years		0%	1			
19 Years		0%	0			
20 Years		0%	0			

NOTE: These categories are not mutually exclusive, so percentages will total more than 100% and counts will be more than the total number of entries.

Children Exiting Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=1,291

Age at Exit		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number	
Mean		8.2	American Indian/Alaska Native		43%	549	
Median		7.0	Asian		1%	18	
			Black or African American		3%	36	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		2%	26	
			Hispanic (of any race)		5%	71	
			White		24%	310	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		0%	4	
			Two or More Races		21%	277	
NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.							
Age at Exit		Percent	Number	Reason for Discharge		Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year		3%	33	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)		50%	631
1 Year		6%	74	Living with Other Relative(s)		0%	4
2 Years		9%	115	Adoption		26%	335
3 Years		8%	102	Emancipation		8%	107
4 Years		8%	99	Guardianship		9%	114
5 Years		6%	81	Transfer to Another Agency		6%	75
6 Years		7%	86	Runaway		0%	4
7 Years		6%	74	Death of Child		0%	2
8 Years		5%	62				
9 Years		4%	54				
10 Years		5%	71				
11 Years		4%	48				
12 Years		5%	59				
13 Years		5%	64				
14 Years		3%	40				
15 Years		4%	49				
16 Years		4%	49				
17 Years		2%	30				
18 Years		8%	101				
19 Years		0%	0				
20 Years		0%	0				
Time in Care		Months					
Mean		25.5					
Median		22.0					
Time in Care		Percent	Number				
Less than 1 Month		3%	33				
1 - 5 Months		7%	91				
6 - 11 Months		17%	220				
12 - 17 Months		14%	186				
18 - 23 Months		16%	202				
24 - 29 Months		13%	162				
30 - 35 Months		10%	125				
3 - 4 Years		14%	184				
5 Years or More		7%	86				

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2021 - N=972

Age as of September 30th			Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care			Years
Mean			7.8	Mean			5.1
Median			8.0	Median			4.5

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	2%	23	Less than 1 Year	22%	217
1 Year	8%	79	1 Year	8%	76
2 Years	7%	70	2 Years	7%	66
3 Years	6%	63	3 Years	7%	71
4 Years	8%	81	4 Years	6%	56
5 Years	7%	65	5 Years	6%	62
6 Years	5%	48	6 Years	5%	46
7 Years	6%	54	7 Years	6%	61
8 Years	5%	51	8 Years	7%	65
9 Years	6%	55	9 Years	6%	61
10 Years	6%	59	10 Years	6%	56
11 Years	5%	53	11 Years	5%	46
12 Years	6%	62	12 Years	4%	36
13 Years	6%	56	13 Years	3%	30
14 Years	5%	46	14 Years	1%	9
15 Years	3%	33	15 Years	1%	11
16 Years	5%	46	16 Years	0%	3
17 Years	3%	28	17 Years	0%	0

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	44%	428	American Indian/Alaska Native	46%	444
Foster Family Home (Relative)	16%	151	Asian	1%	7
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	35%	339	Black or African American	1%	14
Group Home	1%	5	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	2%	19
Institution	4%	38	Hispanic (of any race)	4%	40
Supervised Independent Living	0%	0	White	23%	222
Runaway	0%	3	Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	4
Trial Home Visit	1%	8	Two or More Races	23%	221

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	52%	502
Female	48%	470

NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.

³ Waiting children are identified as children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' parental rights have been terminated. Children 16 years old and older whose parents' parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation have been excluded from the estimate.

Time in Care	Months
Mean	33.6
Median	29.0

Of Children Waiting for Adoption whose Parents' Parental Rights have been Terminated (N=318), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021

Time Since TPR	Months
Mean	19.3
Median	11.0

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	0%	1
1 - 5 Months	1%	14
6 - 11 Months	7%	66
12 - 17 Months	11%	105
18 - 23 Months	16%	157
24 - 29 Months	19%	185
30 - 35 Months	11%	110
3 - 4 Years	24%	237
5 Years or More	10%	97

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021⁴ - N=339

Age at Adoption	Years
Mean	6.9
Median	6.0

Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	0.6
Median	0.0

Age at Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	1%	2
1 Year	8%	26
2 Years	12%	42
3 Years	10%	35
4 Years	9%	31
5 Years	7%	24
6 Years	8%	27
7 Years	6%	22
8 Years	4%	15
9 Years	5%	17
10 Years	5%	16
11 Years	3%	9
12 Years	6%	19
13 Years	5%	17
14 Years	2%	8
15 Years	3%	10
16 Years	4%	12
17 Years	2%	7
18 Years	0%	0
19 Years	0%	0
20 Years	0%	0

Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	98%	332
1 - 5 Months	0%	0
6 - 11 Months	1%	2
12 - 17 Months	0%	1
18 - 23 Months	0%	0
24 - 29 Months	0%	0
30 - 35 Months	1%	2
3 - 4 Years	0%	0
5 Years or More	0%	1

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	35%	118
Asian	2%	7
Black or African American	4%	12
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	2%	8
Hispanic (of any race)	4%	15
White	29%	99
Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	0
Two or More Races	24%	80

NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.

⁴ Note that the adoption data reported in this section are from the AFCARS Adoption file. Therefore, the number of adoptions reported here may not equal the number reported as discharges to adoption from foster care.

Adoptive Family Structure	Percent	Number	Sex	Percent	Number
Married Couple	71%	242	Male	45%	152
Unmarried Couple	1%	4	Female	55%	187
Single Female	25%	84			
Single Male	3%	9			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number	Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	1%	2	Yes	100%	339
Foster Parent	77%	262	No	0%	0
Stepparent	0%	0			
Other Relative	22%	75			

FY 2021 AFCARS Foster Care Data Release

Definitions and additional supporting information relevant to the populations presented in this report can be found by clicking on the tabs above the area chart displayed when using this link:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/trends-in-foster-care-and-adoption>