



# The AFCARS Report:

## Alabama

Preliminary FY<sup>1</sup> 2021 Estimates as of June 28, 2022 - No. 29

**SOURCE:** Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2021 data<sup>2</sup>

### Numbers at a Glance: Alabama

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	5,637	5,930	5,783	5,573	5,341
Number entered foster care during the FY	4,098	4,075	3,985	3,504	3,631
Number exited foster care during the FY	3,379	3,631	3,958	3,603	3,741
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	9,015	9,561	9,741	9,175	9,081
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	1,272	1,346	1,688	1,761	1,675
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	533	514	523	549	492
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	504	714	738	816	794

### Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=5,341

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	7.9	Male	52%	2,752
Median	7.0	Female	48%	2,589

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	9%	479	Pre-Adoptive Home	2%	85
1 Year	9%	483	Foster Family Home (Relative)	15%	797
2 Years	7%	367	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	64%	3,423
3 Years	6%	334	Group Home	5%	275
4 Years	5%	276	Institution	9%	463
5 Years	5%	269	Supervised Independent Living	1%	39
6 Years	5%	267	Runaway	1%	53
7 Years	4%	231	Trial Home Visit	3%	183
8 Years	4%	233			
9 Years	4%	225			
10 Years	4%	208			
11 Years	4%	211			
12 Years	4%	219			
13 Years	5%	265			
14 Years	6%	294			
15 Years	6%	299			
16 Years	6%	321			
17 Years	6%	313			
18 Years	1%	36			
19 Years	0%	9			
20 Years	0%	2			

Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	40%	2,049
Live with Other Relative(s)	14%	720
Adoption	32%	1,670
Long Term Foster Care	1%	43
Emancipation	5%	233
Guardianship	5%	277
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	3%	173

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

<sup>2</sup> 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	0%	9	Mean	18.3
Asian	0%	6	Median	12.3
Black or African American	32%	1,690		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0		
Hispanic (of any race)	6%	306		
White	57%	3,064		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	10		
Two or More Races	5%	256		
<b>NOTE:</b> All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.				
Time in Care	Percent	Number		
Less than 1 Month	6%	313		
1 - 5 Months	23%	1,222		
6 - 11 Months	21%	1,095		
12 - 17 Months	14%	728		
18 - 23 Months	10%	547		
24 - 29 Months	8%	427		
30 - 35 Months	5%	246		
3 - 4 Years	10%	555		
5 Years or More	4%	208		

### Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=3,631

Age at Entry		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number	
Mean		6.3	American Indian/Alaska Native		0%	5	
Median		5.0	Asian		0%	5	
			Black or African American		29%	1,050	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	2	
			Hispanic (of any race)		5%	182	
			White		61%	2,232	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		0%	12	
			Two or More Races		4%	143	
<b>NOTE:</b> 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		22%	796	Drug Abuse (Parent)		49%	1,775
1 Year		8%	281	Neglect		23%	829
2 Years		6%	216	Physical Abuse		15%	537
3 Years		6%	219	Housing		12%	438
4 Years		5%	195	Caretaker Inability To Cope		8%	298
5 Years		5%	189	Child Behavior Problem		7%	238
6 Years		4%	148	Parent Incarceration		6%	217
7 Years		4%	137	Relinquishment		5%	191
8 Years		5%	167	Alcohol Abuse (Parent)		4%	152
9 Years		4%	131	Sexual Abuse		4%	149
10 Years		4%	146	Abandonment		4%	138
11 Years		3%	124	Parent Death		2%	63
12 Years		4%	132	Drug Abuse (Child)		1%	49
13 Years		5%	181	Child Disability		0%	11
14 Years		4%	156	Alcohol Abuse (Child)		0%	5
15 Years		4%	161				
16 Years		4%	141				
17 Years		3%	103				
18 Years		0%	8				
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=3,741

Age at Exit		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number
Mean		8.1	American Indian/Alaska Native		0%	5
Median		7.0	Asian		0%	4
			Black or African American		31%	1,168
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	2
			Hispanic (of any race)		5%	195
			White		58%	2,180
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		0%	3
			Two or More Races		5%	184
			<b>NOTE:</b> 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	6%	234	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)		36%	1,353
1 Year	8%	294	Living with Other Relative(s)		26%	982
2 Years	9%	328	Adoption		21%	790
3 Years	8%	291	Emancipation		9%	340
4 Years	6%	223	Guardianship		5%	204
5 Years	6%	207	Transfer to Another Agency		1%	56
6 Years	5%	195	Runaway		0%	6
7 Years	4%	160	Death of Child		0%	7
8 Years	4%	165				
9 Years	4%	144				
10 Years	4%	158				
11 Years	4%	155				
12 Years	4%	131				
13 Years	4%	149				
14 Years	4%	163				
15 Years	4%	144				
16 Years	4%	134				
17 Years	4%	136				
18 Years	8%	289				
19 Years	1%	30				
20 Years	0%	6				

Time in Care	Months
Mean	18.7
Median	14.0

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	7%	276
1 - 5 Months	20%	735
6 - 11 Months	18%	655
12 - 17 Months	15%	556
18 - 23 Months	12%	433
24 - 29 Months	10%	356
30 - 35 Months	6%	217
3 - 4 Years	10%	381
5 Years or More	3%	126

### Children Waiting to be Adopted<sup>3</sup> on September 30, 2021 - N=1,675

Age as of September 30th	Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Years
Mean	7.9	Mean	5.4
Median	7.0	Median	5.0

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	3%	57	Less than 1 Year	23%	391
1 Year	9%	156	1 Year	8%	128
2 Years	8%	131	2 Years	6%	94
3 Years	7%	118	3 Years	5%	82
4 Years	6%	103	4 Years	7%	109
5 Years	5%	88	5 Years	6%	99
6 Years	6%	101	6 Years	5%	86
7 Years	5%	84	7 Years	6%	99
8 Years	5%	81	8 Years	6%	104
9 Years	5%	85	9 Years	5%	86
10 Years	4%	73	10 Years	6%	104
11 Years	5%	81	11 Years	5%	80
12 Years	5%	77	12 Years	5%	80
13 Years	7%	109	13 Years	4%	68
14 Years	7%	112	14 Years	2%	38
15 Years	5%	88	15 Years	1%	23
16 Years	5%	77	16 Years	0%	3
17 Years	3%	54	17 Years	0%	1

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	5%	85	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	2
Foster Family Home (Relative)	1%	24	Asian	0%	2
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	80%	1,335	Black or African American	31%	527
Group Home	4%	69	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Institution	9%	146	Hispanic (of any race)	7%	112
Supervised Independent Living	0%	8	White	56%	936
Runaway	0%	7	Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	1
Trial Home Visit	0%	1	Two or More Races	6%	95

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	53%	880
Female	47%	795

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

<sup>3</sup> 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	31.0
Median	25.8

**Of Children Waiting for Adoption whose Parents' Parental Rights have been Terminated (N=492), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021**

Time Since TPR	Months
Mean	17.4
Median	11.0

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	0%	2
1 - 5 Months	3%	43
6 - 11 Months	10%	162
12 - 17 Months	15%	253
18 - 23 Months	17%	292
24 - 29 Months	14%	233
30 - 35 Months	10%	166
3 - 4 Years	23%	384
5 Years or More	8%	140

### Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021<sup>4</sup> - N=794

Age at Adoption	Years
Mean	6.5
Median	5.0

Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	8.3
Median	4.6

Age at Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	3%	21
1 Year	11%	87
2 Years	13%	105
3 Years	11%	87
4 Years	6%	49
5 Years	7%	58
6 Years	7%	54
7 Years	5%	42
8 Years	5%	42
9 Years	3%	27
10 Years	5%	37
11 Years	4%	30
12 Years	4%	34
13 Years	3%	23
14 Years	4%	29
15 Years	3%	23
16 Years	2%	18
17 Years	3%	21
18 Years	1%	5
19 Years	0%	2
20 Years	0%	0

Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	2%	17
1 - 5 Months	57%	450
6 - 11 Months	22%	172
12 - 17 Months	9%	69
18 - 23 Months	5%	37
24 - 29 Months	2%	13
30 - 35 Months	2%	17
3 - 4 Years	2%	16
5 Years or More	0%	2

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	1
Asian	0%	1
Black or African American	27%	211
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Hispanic (of any race)	6%	45
White	61%	486
Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	0
Two or More Races	6%	50

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

<sup>4</sup> 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	83%	648	Male	51%	404
Unmarried Couple	0%	0	Female	49%	390
Single Female	16%	125			
Single Male	1%	10			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number	Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	4%	29	Yes	93%	738
Foster Parent	96%	693	No	7%	56
Stepparent	0%	0			
Other Relative	0%	3			

### 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>