



The AFCARS Report:

Arkansas

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: Arkansas

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	4,776	4,234	4,127	4,280	4,500
Number entered foster care during the FY	3,778	3,123	3,071	3,106	2,949
Number exited foster care during the FY	3,770	3,578	3,107	2,882	2,655
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	8,545	7,811	7,230	7,159	7,151
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	1,330	1,351	1,182	1,142	1,228
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	795	809	787	656	674
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	971	1,001	984	777	768

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=4,500

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	7.4	Male	50%	2,266
Median	7.0	Female	50%	2,234

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	8%	360	Pre-Adoptive Home	4%	179
1 Year	9%	418	Foster Family Home (Relative)	32%	1,434
2 Years	8%	344	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	45%	2,042
3 Years	7%	319	Group Home	5%	242
4 Years	6%	259	Institution	6%	255
5 Years	6%	268	Supervised Independent Living	0%	4
6 Years	6%	251	Runaway	1%	27
7 Years	5%	234	Trial Home Visit	7%	317
8 Years	5%	223			
9 Years	4%	185			
10 Years	4%	173			
11 Years	4%	172			
12 Years	4%	195			
13 Years	5%	224			
14 Years	5%	225			
15 Years	5%	210			
16 Years	5%	223			
17 Years	5%	217			
18 Years	0%	0			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	60%	2,620
Live with Other Relative(s)	3%	146
Adoption	27%	1,170
Long Term Foster Care	0%	0
Emancipation	3%	114
Guardianship	2%	102
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	4%	195

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	0%	3	Mean	16.6
Asian	0%	8	Median	11.3
Black or African American	20%	891		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	18		
Hispanic (of any race)	7%	299		
White	60%	2,703		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	10		
Two or More Races	13%	568		
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	5%	212		
1 - 5 Months	25%	1,122		
6 - 11 Months	23%	1,047		
12 - 17 Months	17%	761		
18 - 23 Months	10%	461		
24 - 29 Months	7%	319		
30 - 35 Months	3%	141		
3 - 4 Years	6%	266		
5 Years or More	4%	171		

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=2,949

Age at Entry		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number	
Mean		6.2	American Indian/Alaska Native		0%	3	
Median		5.0	Asian		0%	7	
			Black or African American		18%	539	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	12	
			Hispanic (of any race)		7%	201	
			White		62%	1,842	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		0%	12	
			Two or More Races		11%	333	
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		19%	566	Neglect		53%	1,561
1 Year		8%	222	Drug Abuse (Parent)		49%	1,431
2 Years		8%	222	Parent Incarceration		20%	585
3 Years		6%	184	Physical Abuse		15%	446
4 Years		6%	176	Housing		13%	369
5 Years		6%	172	Sexual Abuse		8%	238
6 Years		6%	165	Alcohol Abuse (Parent)		5%	142
7 Years		5%	151	Caretaker Inability To Cope		4%	119
8 Years		4%	128	Child Behavior Problem		4%	109
9 Years		4%	110	Abandonment		2%	67
10 Years		3%	101	Drug Abuse (Child)		2%	46
11 Years		3%	103	Parent Death		1%	26
12 Years		4%	105	Child Disability		0%	8
13 Years		4%	127	Alcohol Abuse (Child)		0%	6
14 Years		4%	114	Relinquishment		0%	4
15 Years		4%	106				
16 Years		4%	127				
17 Years		2%	65				
18 Years		0%	5				
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=2,655

Age at Exit		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number	
Mean		7.6	American Indian/Alaska Native		0%	2	
Median		6.0	Asian		0%	0	
			Black or African American		19%	511	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	6	
			Hispanic (of any race)		7%	189	
			White		61%	1,622	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		0%	9	
			Two or More Races		12%	316	
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		5%	121	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)		43%	1,137
1 Year		11%	290	Living with Other Relative(s)		15%	397
2 Years		9%	247	Adoption		28%	753
3 Years		7%	192	Emancipation		8%	211
4 Years		7%	192	Guardianship		5%	143
5 Years		6%	158	Transfer to Another Agency		0%	4
6 Years		5%	146	Runaway		0%	0
7 Years		5%	141	Death of Child		0%	7
8 Years		4%	115				
9 Years		4%	114				
10 Years		4%	96				
11 Years		4%	97				
12 Years		3%	83				
13 Years		3%	88				
14 Years		4%	97				
15 Years		4%	101				
16 Years		3%	83				
17 Years		3%	81				
18 Years		8%	213				
19 Years		0%	0				
20 Years		0%	0				
Time in Care		Months					
Mean		17.6					
Median		14.2					
Time in Care		Percent	Number				
Less than 1 Month		7%	177				
1 - 5 Months		14%	370				
6 - 11 Months		22%	571				
12 - 17 Months		22%	583				
18 - 23 Months		14%	379				
24 - 29 Months		10%	254				
30 - 35 Months		3%	69				
3 - 4 Years		6%	166				
5 Years or More		3%	80				

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2021 - N=1,228

Age as of September 30th			Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care			Years
Mean			8.8	Mean			6.0
Median			9.0	Median			6.0

Age as of September 30th			Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care			Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year			2%	21	Less than 1 Year			16%	199
1 Year			8%	95	1 Year			6%	78
2 Years			6%	78	2 Years			7%	89
3 Years			7%	86	3 Years			6%	75
4 Years			5%	59	4 Years			6%	79
5 Years			6%	76	5 Years			6%	73
6 Years			5%	61	6 Years			6%	73
7 Years			4%	51	7 Years			6%	73
8 Years			5%	56	8 Years			6%	78
9 Years			4%	49	9 Years			7%	88
10 Years			4%	52	10 Years			6%	73
11 Years			5%	65	11 Years			6%	72
12 Years			7%	80	12 Years			5%	56
13 Years			7%	86	13 Years			5%	58
14 Years			7%	86	14 Years			3%	39
15 Years			8%	93	15 Years			1%	14
16 Years			6%	74	16 Years			1%	11
17 Years			5%	60	17 Years			0%	0

Placement Type			Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity			Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home			13%	165	American Indian/Alaska Native			0%	0
Foster Family Home (Relative)			17%	213	Asian			0%	0
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)			51%	624	Black or African American			20%	243
Group Home			9%	108	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander			1%	9
Institution			9%	110	Hispanic (of any race)			7%	86
Supervised Independent Living			0%	1	White			58%	711
Runaway			0%	2	Unknown/Unable to Determine			0%	1
Trial Home Visit			0%	5	Two or More Races			14%	178

Sex			Percent	Number
Male			50%	610
Female			50%	618

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	Of Children Waiting for Adoption whose Parents' Parental Rights have been Terminated (N=674), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021
Mean		34.0	
Median		26.0	
Time in Care	Percent	Number	Time Since TPR
Less than 1 Month	0%	1	Mean
1 - 5 Months	2%	26	Median
6 - 11 Months	5%	63	
12 - 17 Months	15%	189	
18 - 23 Months	19%	234	
24 - 29 Months	18%	221	
30 - 35 Months	9%	115	
3 - 4 Years	18%	227	
5 Years or More	12%	152	

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021⁴ - N=768

Age at Adoption		Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption		Months
Mean		6.2	Mean		11.7
Median		5.0	Median		6.9
Age at Adoption	Percent	Number	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	3%	24	Less than 1 Month	1%	10
1 Year	16%	120	1 - 5 Months	45%	336
2 Years	14%	104	6 - 11 Months	28%	208
3 Years	8%	64	12 - 17 Months	9%	66
4 Years	9%	66	18 - 23 Months	5%	34
5 Years	5%	41	24 - 29 Months	5%	34
6 Years	6%	45	30 - 35 Months	2%	14
7 Years	6%	47	3 - 4 Years	5%	36
8 Years	3%	25	5 Years or More	2%	13
9 Years	4%	30			
10 Years	3%	22			
11 Years	5%	35			
12 Years	4%	28			
13 Years	3%	25			
14 Years	3%	24			
15 Years	3%	26			
16 Years	2%	16			
17 Years	2%	17			
18 Years	1%	7			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	2			
			Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
			American Indian/Alaska Native	1%	5
			Asian	0%	1
			Black or African American	15%	115
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	3
			Hispanic (of any race)	6%	49
			White	68%	524
			Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	1
			Two or More Races	9%	70

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	77%	590	Male	52%	398
Unmarried Couple	3%	26	Female	48%	370
Single Female	18%	139			
Single Male	2%	13			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number	Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	11%	87	Yes	89%	685
Foster Parent	62%	479	No	11%	83
Stepparent	0%	0			
Other Relative	26%	202			

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>