



The AFCARS Report:

Arizona

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: Arizona

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	15,031	13,360	13,330	13,599	14,890
Number entered foster care during the FY	10,057	9,173	9,607	9,365	8,368
Number exited foster care during the FY	11,866	10,549	9,359	8,659	7,379
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	26,897	23,909	22,689	22,258	22,269
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	4,749	4,216	3,876	3,643	3,088
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	3,295	2,966	2,687	2,463	2,421
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	4,298	3,926	3,373	2,905	1,977

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=14,890

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	8.2	Male	51%	7,532
Median	7.0	Female	49%	7,304

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	9%	1,323	Pre-Adoptive Home	4%	560
1 Year	9%	1,328	Foster Family Home (Relative)	52%	7,160
2 Years	7%	991	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	25%	3,409
3 Years	6%	873	Group Home	15%	2,010
4 Years	6%	824	Institution	2%	278
5 Years	5%	784	Supervised Independent Living	0%	30
6 Years	5%	728	Runaway	1%	193
7 Years	5%	677	Trial Home Visit	0%	1
8 Years	4%	586			
9 Years	4%	568			
10 Years	4%	538			
11 Years	4%	541			
12 Years	4%	552			
13 Years	4%	621			
14 Years	4%	612			
15 Years	5%	700			
16 Years	5%	710			
17 Years	5%	723			
18 Years	3%	497			
19 Years	2%	345			
20 Years	2%	278			

Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	40%	5,995
Live with Other Relative(s)	0%	4
Adoption	16%	2,363
Long Term Foster Care	0%	2
Emancipation	8%	1,249
Guardianship	1%	155
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	34%	5,104

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	5%	672	Mean	18.6
Asian	0%	38	Median	13.3
Black or African American	11%	1,580		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	31		
Hispanic (of any race)	35%	5,194		
White	30%	4,475		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	15%	2,271		
Two or More Races	4%	629		

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%	712
1 - 5 Months	20%	2,916
6 - 11 Months	21%	3,109
12 - 17 Months	17%	2,590
18 - 23 Months	12%	1,748
24 - 29 Months	8%	1,236
30 - 35 Months	5%	737
3 - 4 Years	8%	1,196
5 Years or More	4%	646

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=8,368

Age at Entry	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	6.4	American Indian/Alaska Native	5%	381
Median	5.0	Asian	0%	30
		Black or African American	9%	780
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	16
		Hispanic (of any race)	31%	2,554
		White	27%	2,218
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	24%	2,031
		Two or More Races	4%	344

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	22%	1,831	Neglect	66%	5,558
1 Year	6%	541	Drug Abuse (Parent)	35%	2,941
2 Years	6%	494	Housing	7%	566
3 Years	6%	499	Parent Incarceration	6%	477
4 Years	6%	482	Physical Abuse	6%	467
5 Years	5%	419	Abandonment	5%	449
6 Years	5%	414	Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	5%	443
7 Years	4%	376	Child Behavior Problem	5%	417
8 Years	4%	329	Caretaker Inability To Cope	3%	229
9 Years	4%	310	Sexual Abuse	3%	213
10 Years	4%	307	Parent Death	2%	140
11 Years	4%	320	Drug Abuse (Child)	1%	89
12 Years	4%	315	Child Disability	1%	52
13 Years	4%	376	Relinquishment	0%	15
14 Years	4%	358	Alcohol Abuse (Child)	0%	10
15 Years	5%	378			
16 Years	4%	334			
17 Years	3%	267			
18 Years	0%	3			
19 Years	0%	5			
20 Years	0%	1			

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=7,379

Age at Exit		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number	
Mean		7.4	American Indian/Alaska Native		5%	374	
Median		6.0	Asian		0%	17	
			Black or African American		11%	815	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	9	
			Hispanic (of any race)		36%	2,609	
			White		33%	2,373	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		10%	745	
			Two or More Races		5%	346	
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%	362	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)		52%	3,819
1 Year		12%	846	Living with Other Relative(s)		1%	39
2 Years		9%	659	Adoption		32%	2,320
3 Years		8%	548	Emancipation		6%	428
4 Years		6%	473	Guardianship		8%	622
5 Years		6%	450	Transfer to Another Agency		1%	104
6 Years		6%	414	Runaway		0%	17
7 Years		5%	339	Death of Child		0%	11
8 Years		5%	329				
9 Years		4%	298				
10 Years		4%	292				
11 Years		4%	294				
12 Years		4%	299				
13 Years		4%	307				
14 Years		4%	285				
15 Years		4%	267				
16 Years		4%	257				
17 Years		3%	223				
18 Years		4%	289				
19 Years		0%	33				
20 Years		0%	21				
Time in Care			Months				
Mean			17.5				
Median			14.6				
Time in Care			Percent	Number			
Less than 1 Month			10%	737			
1 - 5 Months			13%	926			
6 - 11 Months			20%	1,453			
12 - 17 Months			18%	1,315			
18 - 23 Months			15%	1,108			
24 - 29 Months			10%	723			
30 - 35 Months			6%	414			
3 - 4 Years			7%	538			
5 Years or More			2%	165			

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2021 - N=3,088

Age as of September 30th		Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care		Years
Mean		7.3	Mean		4.8
Median		6.0	Median		4.0

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	4%	110	Less than 1 Year	27%	839
1 Year	13%	390	1 Year	8%	238
2 Years	9%	273	2 Years	7%	206
3 Years	8%	234	3 Years	6%	192
4 Years	6%	185	4 Years	6%	178
5 Years	6%	191	5 Years	6%	182
6 Years	5%	166	6 Years	5%	150
7 Years	5%	155	7 Years	6%	182
8 Years	4%	137	8 Years	5%	168
9 Years	5%	159	9 Years	5%	153
10 Years	4%	126	10 Years	5%	148
11 Years	5%	151	11 Years	4%	130
12 Years	5%	141	12 Years	4%	110
13 Years	5%	148	13 Years	3%	100
14 Years	5%	145	14 Years	2%	70
15 Years	5%	161	15 Years	1%	30
16 Years	5%	146	16 Years	0%	12
17 Years	2%	70	17 Years	0%	0

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	16%	485	American Indian/Alaska Native	4%	122
Foster Family Home (Relative)	54%	1,639	Asian	0%	6
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	21%	626	Black or African American	11%	350
Group Home	8%	248	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	2
Institution	1%	29	Hispanic (of any race)	37%	1,151
Supervised Independent Living	0%	0	White	34%	1,052
Runaway	1%	24	Unknown/Unable to Determine	10%	294
Trial Home Visit	0%	0	Two or More Races	4%	111

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	51%	1,583
Female	49%	1,504

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=2,421), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021
Mean	30.6	
Median	25.7	

Time in Care	Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month	0%	5	Mean	14.5
1 - 5 Months	2%	50	Median	8.0

6 - 11 Months	7%	231
12 - 17 Months	15%	469
18 - 23 Months	20%	632
24 - 29 Months	18%	542
30 - 35 Months	12%	375
3 - 4 Years	17%	517
5 Years or More	9%	267

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021⁴ - N=1,977

Age at Adoption	Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	5.9	Mean	10.1
Median	5.0	Median	7.2

Age at Adoption	Percent	Number	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	2%	45	Less than 1 Month	0%	2
1 Year	18%	360	1 - 5 Months	39%	733
2 Years	14%	269	6 - 11 Months	38%	705
3 Years	9%	172	12 - 17 Months	12%	222
4 Years	7%	137	18 - 23 Months	4%	83
5 Years	6%	120	24 - 29 Months	2%	44
6 Years	7%	129	30 - 35 Months	2%	33
7 Years	5%	97	3 - 4 Years	2%	46
8 Years	4%	76	5 Years or More	0%	9
9 Years	4%	86			
10 Years	5%	93			
11 Years	4%	74			
12 Years	3%	62			
13 Years	3%	62			
14 Years	3%	57			
15 Years	2%	48			
16 Years	3%	56			
17 Years	2%	34			
18 Years	0%	0			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	3%	66
Asian	0%	4
Black or African American	10%	205
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	1
Hispanic (of any race)	37%	723
White	37%	731
Unknown/Unable to Determine	8%	159
Two or More Races	4%	71

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	69%	930	Male	50%	990
Unmarried Couple	0%	6	Female	50%	987
Single Female	28%	377			
Single Male	3%	41			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number	Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	25%	201	Yes	90%	1,778
Foster Parent	23%	180	No	10%	192
Stepparent	1%	6			
Other Relative	51%	402			

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>