



# The AFCARS Report:

## Colorado

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: Colorado

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	5,704	5,542	5,340	4,804	4,248
Number entered foster care during the FY	5,134	4,785	4,420	3,554	3,542
Number exited foster care during the FY	4,873	4,741	4,402	3,936	3,899
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	10,577	10,283	9,742	8,740	8,147
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	953	997	1,007	921	872
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	514	499	516	488	520
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	948	910	919	832	790

### Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=4,248

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	8.8	Male	55%	2,318
Median	9.0	Female	45%	1,930

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	9%	363	Pre-Adoptive Home	2%	88
1 Year	9%	400	Foster Family Home (Relative)	27%	1,097
2 Years	6%	275	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	54%	2,217
3 Years	5%	233	Group Home	2%	84
4 Years	5%	192	Institution	10%	406
5 Years	4%	185	Supervised Independent Living	2%	76
6 Years	4%	169	Runaway	3%	109
7 Years	4%	165	Trial Home Visit	0%	6
8 Years	3%	138			
9 Years	3%	140			
10 Years	4%	161			
11 Years	4%	149			
12 Years	4%	159			
13 Years	4%	188			
14 Years	4%	183			
15 Years	5%	221			
16 Years	6%	255			
17 Years	7%	288			
18 Years	5%	207			
19 Years	3%	115			
20 Years	1%	61			

Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	74%	3,084
Live with Other Relative(s)	3%	111
Adoption	16%	668
Long Term Foster Care	6%	228
Emancipation	0%	7
Guardianship	1%	35
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	0%	9

<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	1%	38	Mean	17.2
Asian	1%	25	Median	11.3
Black or African American	11%	488		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	2		
Hispanic (of any race)	38%	1,624		
White	42%	1,787		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	59		
Two or More Races	5%	225		

  

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	8%	337
1 - 5 Months	25%	1,044
6 - 11 Months	19%	826
12 - 17 Months	13%	555
18 - 23 Months	10%	431
24 - 29 Months	7%	317
30 - 35 Months	5%	226
3 - 4 Years	8%	359
5 Years or More	4%	153

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

### Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=3,542

Age at Entry	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	7.5	American Indian/Alaska Native	1%	30
Median	7.0	Asian	1%	23
		Black or African American	11%	383
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	5
		Hispanic (of any race)	40%	1,420
		White	41%	1,455
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	62
		Two or More Races	5%	164

  

Age at Entry	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	20%	697
1 Year	6%	227
2 Years	5%	181
3 Years	5%	166
4 Years	5%	166
5 Years	4%	158
6 Years	4%	156
7 Years	4%	125
8 Years	4%	141
9 Years	3%	122
10 Years	4%	129
11 Years	4%	128
12 Years	4%	129
13 Years	4%	151
14 Years	6%	195
15 Years	5%	171
16 Years	6%	211
17 Years	5%	177
18 Years	2%	64
19 Years	1%	33
20 Years	0%	15

  

Circumstances Associated with Child's Removal	Percent	Number
Drug Abuse (Parent)	46%	1,627
Neglect	44%	1,553
Child Behavior Problem	15%	530
Physical Abuse	12%	432
Housing	11%	398
Caretaker Inability To Cope	11%	394
Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	9%	322
Parent Incarceration	8%	267
Abandonment	5%	194
Sexual Abuse	5%	182
Drug Abuse (Child)	2%	76
Parent Death	1%	47
Child Disability	1%	23
Alcohol Abuse (Child)	0%	16
Relinquishment	0%	6

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

**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=3,899

Age at Exit		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number
Mean		8.6	American Indian/Alaska Native		1%	25
Median		8.0	Asian		1%	21
			Black or African American		10%	397
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	10
			Hispanic (of any race)		39%	1,539
			White		42%	1,647
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		1%	35
			Two or More Races		6%	225
<b>NOTE:</b> All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.						
			Reason for Discharge		Percent	Number
			Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)		35%	1,261
			Living with Other Relative(s)		30%	1,059
			Adoption		17%	606
			Emancipation		5%	171
			Guardianship		10%	349
			Transfer to Another Agency		1%	51
			Runaway		2%	65
			Death of Child		0%	8
Time in Care		Months				
Mean		15.6				
Median		10.1				
Time in Care		Percent	Number			
Less than 1 Year		9%	340			
1 Year		7%	286			
2 Years		8%	310			
3 Years		6%	235			
4 Years		6%	215			
5 Years		5%	188			
6 Years		4%	168			
7 Years		4%	149			
8 Years		4%	149			
9 Years		4%	136			
10 Years		4%	144			
11 Years		4%	148			
12 Years		4%	147			
13 Years		3%	132			
14 Years		4%	167			
15 Years		4%	160			
16 Years		5%	198			
17 Years		6%	216			
18 Years		6%	219			
19 Years		3%	118			
20 Years		1%	54			
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### Children Waiting to be Adopted<sup>3</sup> on September 30, 2021 - N=872

Age as of September 30th		Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care		Years
Mean		7.5	Mean		4.9
Median		7.0	Median		4.0

  

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	1%	13	Less than 1 Year	27%	239
1 Year	12%	106	1 Year	8%	72
2 Years	11%	93	2 Years	6%	54
3 Years	7%	65	3 Years	5%	46
4 Years	8%	66	4 Years	6%	48
5 Years	6%	48	5 Years	6%	51
6 Years	4%	38	6 Years	6%	53
7 Years	4%	36	7 Years	6%	49
8 Years	5%	40	8 Years	5%	40
9 Years	4%	33	9 Years	4%	39
10 Years	5%	46	10 Years	5%	46
11 Years	4%	37	11 Years	5%	41
12 Years	5%	40	12 Years	4%	38
13 Years	6%	54	13 Years	2%	20
14 Years	5%	40	14 Years	2%	18
15 Years	4%	38	15 Years	1%	10
16 Years	6%	50	16 Years	1%	5
17 Years	3%	29	17 Years	0%	2

  

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	7%	65	American Indian/Alaska Native	1%	5
Foster Family Home (Relative)	20%	170	Asian	0%	1
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	66%	568	Black or African American	11%	97
Group Home	1%	13	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	1
Institution	5%	42	Hispanic (of any race)	33%	287
Supervised Independent Living	0%	2	White	48%	416
Runaway	1%	7	Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	7
Trial Home Visit	0%	0	Two or More Races	7%	58

  

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	54%	473
Female	46%	399

**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	Of Children Waiting for Adoption whose Parents' Parental Rights have been Terminated (N=520), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021		
Mean		33.0			
Median		28.6			
Time in Care		Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month		0%	4	Mean	21.0
1 - 5 Months		4%	33	Median	12.0
6 - 11 Months		5%	44		
12 - 17 Months		10%	87		
18 - 23 Months		17%	149		
24 - 29 Months		18%	158		
30 - 35 Months		15%	129		
3 - 4 Years		22%	188		
5 Years or More		9%	80		

### Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021<sup>4</sup> - N=790

Age at Adoption		Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption			Months	
Mean		5.5	Mean			15.4	
Median		4.0	Median			12.9	
Age at Adoption		Percent	Number	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption		Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year		2%	14	Less than 1 Month		0%	1
1 Year		13%	103	1 - 5 Months		18%	146
2 Years		17%	138	6 - 11 Months		25%	197
3 Years		12%	97	12 - 17 Months		27%	211
4 Years		10%	78	18 - 23 Months		13%	105
5 Years		6%	46	24 - 29 Months		7%	59
6 Years		6%	51	30 - 35 Months		5%	40
7 Years		4%	32	3 - 4 Years		3%	22
8 Years		4%	33	5 Years or More		1%	9
9 Years		5%	37				
10 Years		5%	37				
11 Years		3%	24				
12 Years		3%	26				
13 Years		3%	22				
14 Years		2%	16				
15 Years		1%	11				
16 Years		2%	13				
17 Years		1%	9				
18 Years		0%	3				
19 Years		0%	0				
20 Years		0%	0				
Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number				
American Indian/Alaska Native		1%	7				
Asian		1%	4				
Black or African American		7%	53				
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	0				
Hispanic (of any race)		36%	284				
White		50%	392				
Unknown/Unable to Determine		0%	2				
Two or More Races		6%	48				
<b>NOTE:</b> 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	74%	569	Male	51%	399
Unmarried Couple	5%	42	Female	49%	391
Single Female	20%	151			
Single Male	1%	11			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number	Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	2%	15	Yes	92%	724
Foster Parent	58%	456	No	8%	66
Stepparent	0%	2			
Other Relative	40%	315			

### 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>