



# The AFCARS Report:

## Delaware

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: Delaware

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	791	701	585	467	444
Number entered foster care during the FY	448	403	300	273	294
Number exited foster care during the FY	403	430	379	353	280
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	1,194	1,131	964	820	724
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	281	245	201	160	107
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	130	167	123	82	44
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	108	116	129	116	88

### Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=444

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	9.3	Male	50%	221
Median	11.0	Female	50%	223

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	12%	52	Pre-Adoptive Home	3%	13
1 Year	7%	31	Foster Family Home (Relative)	15%	67
2 Years	6%	25	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	59%	263
3 Years	5%	21	Group Home	15%	67
4 Years	3%	14	Institution	4%	17
5 Years	3%	13	Supervised Independent Living	0%	0
6 Years	2%	10	Runaway	2%	8
7 Years	2%	9	Trial Home Visit	2%	9
8 Years	3%	15			
9 Years	3%	15			
10 Years	4%	16			
11 Years	4%	19			
12 Years	4%	17			
13 Years	5%	21			
14 Years	5%	21			
15 Years	9%	40			
16 Years	11%	47			
17 Years	13%	58			
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)	45%	198
Live with Other Relative(s)	3%	14
Adoption	23%	102
Long Term Foster Care	10%	45
Emancipation	7%	29
Guardianship	2%	7
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	11%	47

<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%	1	Mean	18.4
Asian	0%	0	Median	12.0
Black or African American	48%	212		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0		
Hispanic (of any race)	8%	36		
White	39%	171		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	0		
Two or More Races	5%	24		

  

**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	11%	48
1 - 5 Months	22%	97
6 - 11 Months	17%	76
12 - 17 Months	11%	50
18 - 23 Months	12%	53
24 - 29 Months	7%	33
30 - 35 Months	3%	14
3 - 4 Years	11%	50
5 Years or More	5%	23

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=294				
Age at Entry	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	7.4	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	0
Median	7.0	Asian	0%	0
		Black or African American	45%	131
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
		Hispanic (of any race)	9%	27
		White	43%	126
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	0
		Two or More Races	3%	10

  

**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	24%	70	Neglect	55%	161
1 Year	4%	12	Drug Abuse (Parent)	29%	85
2 Years	6%	18	Child Behavior Problem	23%	68
3 Years	4%	12	Housing	20%	60
4 Years	2%	7	Caretaker Inability To Cope	11%	31
5 Years	3%	9	Child Disability	10%	29
6 Years	3%	8	Drug Abuse (Child)	9%	26
7 Years	4%	13	Physical Abuse	6%	18
8 Years	3%	9	Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	6%	17
9 Years	4%	12	Parent Incarceration	5%	14
10 Years	3%	9	Parent Death	4%	11
11 Years	6%	18	Abandonment	1%	4
12 Years	4%	11	Sexual Abuse	1%	3
13 Years	5%	14	Relinquishment	1%	2
14 Years	6%	18	Alcohol Abuse (Child)	0%	1
15 Years	7%	21			
16 Years	6%	18			
17 Years	5%	15			
18 Years	0%	0			
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=280

Age at Exit		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number	
Mean		9.3	American Indian/Alaska Native		0%	0	
Median		9.0	Asian		0%	0	
			Black or African American		42%	117	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	0	
			Hispanic (of any race)		15%	42	
			White		38%	106	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		0%	0	
			Two or More Races		5%	15	
			<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		5%	15	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)		25%	69
1 Year		12%	34	Living with Other Relative(s)		3%	9
2 Years		5%	14	Adoption		31%	86
3 Years		6%	17	Emancipation		19%	52
4 Years		6%	17	Guardianship		23%	64
5 Years		2%	5	Transfer to Another Agency		0%	0
6 Years		5%	13	Runaway		0%	0
7 Years		4%	10	Death of Child		0%	0
8 Years		3%	8				
9 Years		3%	9				
10 Years		3%	9				
11 Years		4%	11				
12 Years		5%	15				
13 Years		4%	10				
14 Years		4%	10				
15 Years		3%	9				
16 Years		4%	12				
17 Years		4%	11				
18 Years		18%	51				
19 Years		0%	0				
20 Years		0%	0				
Time in Care		Months					
Mean		20.0					
Median		16.6					
Time in Care		Percent	Number				
Less than 1 Month		10%	27				
1 - 5 Months		17%	48				
6 - 11 Months		15%	41				
12 - 17 Months		12%	34				
18 - 23 Months		14%	39				
24 - 29 Months		11%	30				
30 - 35 Months		5%	14				
3 - 4 Years		13%	35				
5 Years or More		4%	12				

### Children Waiting to be Adopted<sup>3</sup> on September 30, 2021 - N=107

Age as of September 30th		Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care		Years
Mean		8.4	Mean		5.8
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	9%	10	Less than 1 Year	27%	29
1 Year	8%	9	1 Year	7%	7
2 Years	7%	8	2 Years	3%	3
3 Years	8%	9	3 Years	5%	5
4 Years	4%	4	4 Years	3%	3
5 Years	3%	3	5 Years	5%	5
6 Years	2%	2	6 Years	5%	5
7 Years	2%	2	7 Years	3%	3
8 Years	3%	3	8 Years	9%	10
9 Years	5%	5	9 Years	4%	4
10 Years	4%	4	10 Years	7%	7
11 Years	6%	6	11 Years	10%	11
12 Years	6%	6	12 Years	5%	5
13 Years	6%	6	13 Years	3%	3
14 Years	6%	6	14 Years	6%	6
15 Years	9%	10	15 Years	0%	0
16 Years	5%	5	16 Years	1%	1
17 Years	8%	9	17 Years	0%	0

  

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	10%	11	American Indian/Alaska Native	1%	1
Foster Family Home (Relative)	8%	9	Asian	0%	0
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	66%	71	Black or African American	50%	53
Group Home	12%	13	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Institution	2%	2	Hispanic (of any race)	5%	5
Supervised Independent Living	0%	0	White	39%	42
Runaway	0%	0	Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	0
Trial Home Visit	1%	1	Two or More Races	6%	6

  

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	55%	59
Female	45%	48

**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=44), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021		
Mean		32.9			
Median		29.6			
Time in Care		Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month		2%	2	Mean	29.8
1 - 5 Months		1%	1	Median	29.0
6 - 11 Months		11%	12		
12 - 17 Months		14%	15		
18 - 23 Months		12%	13		
24 - 29 Months		14%	15		
30 - 35 Months		7%	8		
3 - 4 Years		28%	30		
5 Years or More		10%	11		

### Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021<sup>4</sup> - N=88

Age at Adoption		Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption			Months	
Mean		4.8	Mean		9.5		
Median		3.0	Median		3.7		
Age at Adoption		Percent	Number	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption		Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year		7%	6	Less than 1 Month		1%	1
1 Year		27%	24	1 - 5 Months		59%	52
2 Years		9%	8	6 - 11 Months		10%	9
3 Years		9%	8	12 - 17 Months		16%	14
4 Years		10%	9	18 - 23 Months		2%	2
5 Years		0%	0	24 - 29 Months		5%	4
6 Years		6%	5	30 - 35 Months		3%	3
7 Years		3%	3	3 - 4 Years		3%	3
8 Years		6%	5	5 Years or More		0%	0
9 Years		5%	4				
10 Years		3%	3				
11 Years		3%	3				
12 Years		3%	3				
13 Years		3%	3				
14 Years		0%	0				
15 Years		3%	3				
16 Years		1%	1				
17 Years		0%	0				
18 Years		0%	0				
19 Years		0%	0				
20 Years		0%	0				
				Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number
				American Indian/Alaska Native		0%	0
				Asian		0%	0
				Black or African American		38%	33
				Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	0
				Hispanic (of any race)		8%	7
				White		47%	41
				Unknown/Unable to Determine		0%	0
				Two or More Races		8%	7
<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	80%	70	Male	60%	53
Unmarried Couple	3%	3	Female	40%	35
Single Female	16%	14			
Single Male	1%	1			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number	Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	36%	30	Yes	100%	88
Foster Parent	0%	0	No	0%	0
Stepparent	0%	0			
Other Relative	64%	53			

### 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>