



The AFCARS Report:

Iowa

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: Iowa

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	5,952	6,249	5,955	4,660	4,144
Number entered foster care during the FY	4,129	4,181	3,769	2,628	2,904
Number exited foster care during the FY	3,436	3,617	3,819	3,654	3,269
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	9,388	9,866	9,774	8,314	7,413
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	1,137	1,206	1,358	1,116	1,004
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	863	924	1,012	839	774
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	1,006	1,074	1,228	1,266	1,007

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=4,144

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	7.6	Male	51%	2,124
Median	7.0	Female	49%	2,017

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	8%	347	Pre-Adoptive Home	3%	129
1 Year	9%	371	Foster Family Home (Relative)	42%	1,751
2 Years	8%	323	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	39%	1,631
3 Years	6%	265	Group Home	7%	304
4 Years	6%	249	Institution	3%	126
5 Years	5%	224	Supervised Independent Living	1%	41
6 Years	6%	229	Runaway	1%	46
7 Years	5%	212	Trial Home Visit	3%	116
8 Years	4%	184			
9 Years	5%	191	Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
10 Years	3%	128	Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	64%	2,401
11 Years	4%	169	Live with Other Relative(s)	2%	73
12 Years	4%	163	Adoption	25%	936
13 Years	4%	175	Long Term Foster Care	5%	171
14 Years	5%	199	Emancipation	0%	0
15 Years	5%	202	Guardianship	2%	61
16 Years	5%	211	Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	2%	89
17 Years	6%	260			
18 Years	1%	27			
19 Years	0%	9			
20 Years	0%	2			

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	2%	69	Mean	15.3
Asian	0%	19	Median	9.7
Black or African American	15%	622		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	12		
Hispanic (of any race)	9%	355		
White	66%	2,733		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	80		
Two or More Races	6%	253		
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%	200		
1 - 5 Months	28%	1,144		
6 - 11 Months	25%	1,031		
12 - 17 Months	15%	608		
18 - 23 Months	10%	399		
24 - 29 Months	7%	276		
30 - 35 Months	4%	154		
3 - 4 Years	5%	211		
5 Years or More	3%	121		

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=2,904

Age at Entry		Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean		6.6	American Indian/Alaska Native	2%	46
Median		6.0	Asian	0%	11
			Black or African American	14%	400
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	10
			Hispanic (of any race)	9%	261
			White	67%	1,947
			Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	67
			Two or More Races	6%	162
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%	543	Drug Abuse (Parent)	54%	1,563
1 Year	8%	226	Neglect	24%	683
2 Years	6%	187	Child Behavior Problem	11%	309
3 Years	6%	166	Caretaker Inability To Cope	9%	270
4 Years	6%	176	Physical Abuse	9%	251
5 Years	5%	148	Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	8%	225
6 Years	5%	157	Sexual Abuse	3%	96
7 Years	5%	137	Housing	3%	85
8 Years	4%	122	Parent Incarceration	2%	60
9 Years	3%	101	Abandonment	2%	55
10 Years	3%	95	Alcohol Abuse (Child)	1%	29
11 Years	4%	107	Parent Death	1%	24
12 Years	4%	120	Drug Abuse (Child)	1%	21
13 Years	5%	135	Child Disability	0%	12
14 Years	5%	137	Relinquishment	0%	7
15 Years	4%	128			
16 Years	4%	121			
17 Years	3%	97			
18 Years	0%	0			
19 Years	0%	1			
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=3,269

Age at Exit		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number	
Mean		8.1	American Indian/Alaska Native		2%	60	
Median		7.0	Asian		0%	14	
			Black or African American		12%	386	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	11	
			Hispanic (of any race)		10%	314	
			White		69%	2,239	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		2%	54	
			Two or More Races		6%	190	
			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		3%	95	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)		52%	1,706
1 Year		10%	315	Living with Other Relative(s)		0%	1
2 Years		8%	275	Adoption		31%	1,016
3 Years		7%	229	Emancipation		5%	178
4 Years		6%	202	Guardianship		11%	363
5 Years		6%	201	Transfer to Another Agency		0%	0
6 Years		6%	182	Runaway		0%	3
7 Years		5%	176	Death of Child		0%	2
8 Years		5%	166				
9 Years		4%	139				
10 Years		4%	146				
11 Years		4%	133				
12 Years		5%	165				
13 Years		4%	142				
14 Years		4%	133				
15 Years		5%	150				
16 Years		4%	139				
17 Years		3%	94				
18 Years		6%	181				
19 Years		0%	6				
20 Years		0%	0				
Time in Care		Months					
Mean		18.8					
Median		16.6					
Time in Care		Percent	Number				
Less than 1 Month		3%	100				
1 - 5 Months		11%	358				
6 - 11 Months		20%	646				
12 - 17 Months		22%	714				
18 - 23 Months		20%	647				
24 - 29 Months		11%	362				
30 - 35 Months		6%	180				
3 - 4 Years		6%	194				
5 Years or More		2%	68				

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2021 - N=1,004

Age as of September 30th			Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care			Years
Mean			6.9	Mean			4.6
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%	39	Less than 1 Year	24%	244
1 Year	11%	114	1 Year	10%	96
2 Years	10%	97	2 Years	8%	82
3 Years	9%	92	3 Years	6%	65
4 Years	6%	65	4 Years	7%	66
5 Years	7%	69	5 Years	7%	67
6 Years	6%	64	6 Years	6%	57
7 Years	5%	54	7 Years	6%	60
8 Years	5%	51	8 Years	5%	48
9 Years	5%	53	9 Years	5%	48
10 Years	3%	35	10 Years	5%	50
11 Years	4%	43	11 Years	3%	30
12 Years	4%	42	12 Years	4%	40
13 Years	5%	50	13 Years	3%	30
14 Years	4%	45	14 Years	1%	12
15 Years	3%	29	15 Years	1%	8
16 Years	3%	32	16 Years	0%	1
17 Years	3%	30	17 Years	0%	0

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	13%	128	American Indian/Alaska Native	1%	7
Foster Family Home (Relative)	33%	336	Asian	1%	7
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	46%	460	Black or African American	15%	146
Group Home	4%	42	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	2
Institution	2%	25	Hispanic (of any race)	9%	88
Supervised Independent Living	0%	5	White	66%	661
Runaway	1%	8	Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	22
Trial Home Visit	0%	0	Two or More Races	7%	71

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	55%	551
Female	45%	452

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=774), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021
Mean	27.8	
Median	23.7	

Time in Care	Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month	0%	0	Mean	11.0
1 - 5 Months	2%	17	Median	6.0

6 - 11 Months	10%	96
12 - 17 Months	18%	176
18 - 23 Months	22%	219
24 - 29 Months	21%	207
30 - 35 Months	11%	107
3 - 4 Years	12%	121
5 Years or More	6%	61

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021⁴ - N=1,007

Age at Adoption	Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	5.9	Mean	9.7
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%	19	Less than 1 Month	0%	0
1 Year	14%	146	1 - 5 Months	38%	360
2 Years	13%	130	6 - 11 Months	40%	382
3 Years	10%	105	12 - 17 Months	11%	108
4 Years	6%	62	18 - 23 Months	5%	47
5 Years	8%	76	24 - 29 Months	3%	33
6 Years	7%	70	30 - 35 Months	1%	11
7 Years	6%	64	3 - 4 Years	1%	8
8 Years	6%	64	5 Years or More	0%	4
9 Years	4%	41			
10 Years	5%	48			
11 Years	4%	37			
12 Years	4%	43			
13 Years	3%	30			
14 Years	2%	24			
15 Years	2%	17			
16 Years	2%	20			
17 Years	1%	10			
18 Years	0%	1			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	1%	14
Asian	0%	4
Black or African American	12%	121
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	2
Hispanic (of any race)	8%	77
White	69%	698
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	12
Two or More Races	8%	79

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	64%	609	Male	50%	506
Unmarried Couple	2%	22	Female	50%	501
Single Female	29%	277			
Single Male	4%	41			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number	Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	9%	87	Yes	67%	679
Foster Parent	44%	435	No	33%	328
Stepparent	0%	1			
Other Relative	47%	473			

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>