



The AFCARS Report:

Massachusetts

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: Massachusetts

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	10,916	10,607	9,862	9,320	9,191
Number entered foster care during the FY	6,103	5,789	5,420	4,594	4,397
Number exited foster care during the FY	5,836	5,850	5,940	4,969	4,402
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	16,752	16,457	15,802	14,289	13,593
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	3,656	3,382	3,646	3,548	3,485
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	1,427	1,671	1,722	1,452	1,416
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	657	826	998	762	755

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=9,191

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	8.5	Male	51%	4,698
Median	8.0	Female	49%	4,490

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	6%	515	Pre-Adoptive Home	9%	843
1 Year	7%	678	Foster Family Home (Relative)	28%	2,538
2 Years	7%	680	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	38%	3,536
3 Years	6%	536	Group Home	10%	933
4 Years	5%	475	Institution	5%	451
5 Years	5%	458	Supervised Independent Living	0%	31
6 Years	5%	447	Runaway	1%	95
7 Years	5%	439	Trial Home Visit	8%	764
8 Years	5%	437			
9 Years	4%	407			
10 Years	4%	406			
11 Years	4%	390			
12 Years	5%	441			
13 Years	5%	484			
14 Years	6%	508			
15 Years	6%	582			
16 Years	7%	610			
17 Years	7%	667			
18 Years	0%	31			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	49%	4,495
Live with Other Relative(s)	8%	712
Adoption	36%	3,303
Long Term Foster Care	0%	30
Emancipation	4%	375
Guardianship	2%	218
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	0%	22

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%	17	Mean	25.6
Asian	1%	71	Median	18.9
Black or African American	15%	1,334		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	2		
Hispanic (of any race)	32%	2,978		
White	40%	3,674		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	304		
Two or More Races	9%	811		

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	4%	374
1 - 5 Months	17%	1,606
6 - 11 Months	16%	1,435
12 - 17 Months	11%	1,028
18 - 23 Months	11%	1,014
24 - 29 Months	9%	844
30 - 35 Months	7%	640
3 - 4 Years	15%	1,394
5 Years or More	9%	856

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=4,397

Age at Entry	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	7.6	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	2
Median	7.0	Asian	1%	44
		Black or African American	14%	603
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	1
		Hispanic (of any race)	32%	1,417
		White	41%	1,792
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	4%	183
		Two or More Races	8%	354

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

Age at Entry	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	18%	773
1 Year	6%	281
2 Years	6%	243
3 Years	5%	224
4 Years	4%	187
5 Years	5%	200
6 Years	4%	177
7 Years	4%	175
8 Years	4%	183
9 Years	4%	160
10 Years	4%	167
11 Years	4%	169
12 Years	4%	181
13 Years	5%	235
14 Years	6%	269
15 Years	6%	259
16 Years	7%	288
17 Years	5%	224
18 Years	0%	2
19 Years	0%	0
20 Years	0%	0

Circumstances Associated with Child's Removal	Percent	Number
Neglect	70%	3,087
Drug Abuse (Parent)	28%	1,253
Child Behavior Problem	13%	593
Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	11%	497
Caretaker Inability To Cope	9%	410
Physical Abuse	9%	383
Housing	3%	152
Abandonment	3%	128
Parent Incarceration	2%	103
Drug Abuse (Child)	2%	92
Relinquishment	2%	90
Sexual Abuse	2%	77
Parent Death	1%	59
Child Disability	1%	27
Alcohol Abuse (Child)	0%	19

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=4,402

Age at Exit		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number	
Mean		9.6	American Indian/Alaska Native		0%	3	
Median		9.0	Asian		1%	42	
			Black or African American		13%	578	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	1	
			Hispanic (of any race)		33%	1,442	
			White		41%	1,794	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		3%	149	
			Two or More Races		9%	392	
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		4%	155	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)		60%	2,627
1 Year		5%	208	Living with Other Relative(s)		2%	76
2 Years		6%	273	Adoption		17%	755
3 Years		7%	315	Emancipation		14%	620
4 Years		6%	267	Guardianship		7%	307
5 Years		5%	232	Transfer to Another Agency		0%	9
6 Years		5%	207	Runaway		0%	0
7 Years		4%	185	Death of Child		0%	8
8 Years		5%	209				
9 Years		4%	194				
10 Years		4%	176				
11 Years		4%	169				
12 Years		4%	189				
13 Years		4%	185				
14 Years		4%	188				
15 Years		4%	189				
16 Years		5%	233				
17 Years		5%	209				
18 Years		14%	601				
19 Years		0%	18				
20 Years		0%	0				
Time in Care			Months				
Mean			24.6				
Median			18.2				
Time in Care		Percent	Number				
Less than 1 Month		11%	470				
1 - 5 Months		11%	491				
6 - 11 Months		15%	656				
12 - 17 Months		13%	566				
18 - 23 Months		11%	500				
24 - 29 Months		8%	371				
30 - 35 Months		7%	298				
3 - 4 Years		15%	680				
5 Years or More		8%	370				

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2021 - N=3,485

Age as of September 30th			Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care			Years		
Mean			7.1	Mean			3.9		
Median			6.0	Median			3.0		
Age as of September 30th			Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care			Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year			2%	75	Less than 1 Year			30%	1,045
1 Year			9%	327	1 Year			8%	293
2 Years			10%	365	2 Years			7%	259
3 Years			8%	287	3 Years			7%	260
4 Years			7%	242	4 Years			7%	249
5 Years			6%	225	5 Years			7%	232
6 Years			7%	229	6 Years			7%	228
7 Years			6%	218	7 Years			6%	199
8 Years			6%	198	8 Years			6%	199
9 Years			6%	192	9 Years			4%	148
10 Years			5%	177	10 Years			4%	139
11 Years			5%	172	11 Years			3%	102
12 Years			5%	188	12 Years			2%	67
13 Years			5%	170	13 Years			1%	32
14 Years			5%	162	14 Years			1%	23
15 Years			4%	146	15 Years			0%	5
16 Years			2%	74	16 Years			0%	3
17 Years			1%	38	17 Years			0%	2
Placement Type			Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity			Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home			23%	816	American Indian/Alaska Native			0%	10
Foster Family Home (Relative)			22%	754	Asian			0%	16
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)			43%	1,485	Black or African American			12%	434
Group Home			8%	275	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander			0%	1
Institution			3%	120	Hispanic (of any race)			31%	1,080
Supervised Independent Living			0%	1	White			42%	1,477
Runaway			0%	1	Unknown/Unable to Determine			3%	108
Trial Home Visit			1%	33	Two or More Races			10%	359
Sex			Percent	Number	NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.				
Male			51%	1,770					
Female			49%	1,715					

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=1,416), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021
Mean	39.1	
Median	32.2	

Time in Care	Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month	0%	5	Mean	24.1
1 - 5 Months	1%	32	Median	16.0

6 - 11 Months	6%	212
12 - 17 Months	10%	356
18 - 23 Months	15%	521
24 - 29 Months	14%	486
30 - 35 Months	10%	357
3 - 4 Years	26%	900
5 Years or More	18%	616

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021⁴ - N=755

Age at Adoption	Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	6.5	Mean	20.8
Median	6.0	Median	17.0

Age at Adoption	Percent	Number	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	0%	1	Less than 1 Month	0%	1
1 Year	3%	24	1 - 5 Months	11%	76
2 Years	14%	105	6 - 11 Months	26%	184
3 Years	14%	105	12 - 17 Months	17%	119
4 Years	11%	81	18 - 23 Months	14%	104
5 Years	8%	61	24 - 29 Months	14%	98
6 Years	7%	55	30 - 35 Months	6%	42
7 Years	6%	43	3 - 4 Years	10%	72
8 Years	8%	58	5 Years or More	3%	22
9 Years	5%	40			

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	1
Asian	1%	4
Black or African American	12%	88
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Hispanic (of any race)	28%	212
White	45%	340
Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	20
Two or More Races	12%	90

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	66%	501	Male	52%	389
Unmarried Couple	9%	66	Female	48%	366
Single Female	23%	172			
Single Male	2%	15			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number	Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	0%	0	Yes	100%	754
Foster Parent	100%	755	No	0%	1
Stepparent	0%	0			
Other Relative	0%	0			

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>