



The AFCARS Report:

Maryland

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: Maryland

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	3,923	3,973	3,840	3,800	3,635
Number entered foster care during the FY	2,366	2,413	1,917	1,705	1,538
Number exited foster care during the FY	2,196	2,237	1,949	1,359	1,858
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	6,119	6,210	5,789	5,159	5,491
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	481	385	370	347	354
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	159	147	142	103	72
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	348	353	291	237	220

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=3,635

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	8.8	Male	51%	1,860
Median	9.0	Female	49%	1,772

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	5%	199	Pre-Adoptive Home	2%	68
1 Year	8%	275	Foster Family Home (Relative)	45%	1,592
2 Years	7%	272	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	34%	1,207
3 Years	6%	231	Group Home	8%	294
4 Years	6%	210	Institution	4%	146
5 Years	5%	171	Supervised Independent Living	2%	75
6 Years	4%	159	Runaway	1%	50
7 Years	4%	147	Trial Home Visit	3%	109
8 Years	4%	147			
9 Years	4%	141			
10 Years	3%	118			
11 Years	3%	124			
12 Years	4%	148			
13 Years	5%	198			
14 Years	5%	188			
15 Years	6%	220			
16 Years	7%	255			
17 Years	7%	255			
18 Years	3%	93			
19 Years	1%	42			
20 Years	1%	36			

Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	58%	2,096
Live with Other Relative(s)	7%	265
Adoption	9%	339
Long Term Foster Care	0%	0
Emancipation	4%	150
Guardianship	5%	186
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	16%	599

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%	2	Mean	26.5
Asian	0%	16	Median	20.8
Black or African American	55%	1,982		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	6		
Hispanic (of any race)	8%	300		
White	27%	976		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	29		
Two or More Races	7%	262		

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	4%	143
1 - 5 Months	15%	549
6 - 11 Months	13%	473
12 - 17 Months	12%	435
18 - 23 Months	13%	456
24 - 29 Months	10%	351
30 - 35 Months	8%	279
3 - 4 Years	19%	683
5 Years or More	7%	266

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

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=1,538

Age at Entry	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	7.6	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	0
Median	7.0	Asian	0%	6
		Black or African American	54%	774
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
		Hispanic (of any race)	8%	108
		White	29%	420
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	27
		Two or More Races	7%	94

Age at Entry	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	19%	297
1 Year	7%	103
2 Years	5%	73
3 Years	4%	65
4 Years	5%	71
5 Years	4%	60
6 Years	3%	43
7 Years	5%	71
8 Years	3%	42
9 Years	4%	62
10 Years	4%	64
11 Years	4%	64
12 Years	4%	63
13 Years	6%	93
14 Years	6%	90
15 Years	7%	115
16 Years	6%	86
17 Years	5%	72
18 Years	0%	2
19 Years	0%	2
20 Years	0%	0

Circumstances Associated with Child's Removal	Percent	Number
Neglect	55%	845
Drug Abuse (Parent)	28%	424
Physical Abuse	15%	234
Child Behavior Problem	15%	226
Housing	12%	180
Caretaker Inability To Cope	12%	178
Abandonment	9%	141
Child Disability	6%	96
Sexual Abuse	5%	81
Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	5%	80
Parent Incarceration	5%	78
Parent Death	3%	41
Drug Abuse (Child)	2%	38
Alcohol Abuse (Child)	1%	10
Relinquishment	1%	8

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=1,858

Age at Exit		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number	
Mean		10.0	American Indian/Alaska Native		0%	3	
Median		10.0	Asian		0%	5	
			Black or African American		56%	1,009	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	0	
			Hispanic (of any race)		7%	126	
			White		28%	501	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		2%	31	
			Two or More Races		6%	116	
			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%	61	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)		41%	739
1 Year		5%	93	Living with Other Relative(s)		15%	273
2 Years		7%	126	Adoption		12%	219
3 Years		7%	125	Emancipation		26%	474
4 Years		6%	111	Guardianship		4%	65
5 Years		6%	101	Transfer to Another Agency		1%	11
6 Years		4%	81	Runaway		0%	4
7 Years		4%	67	Death of Child		0%	8
8 Years		4%	66				
9 Years		4%	65				
10 Years		4%	71				
11 Years		3%	52				
12 Years		3%	46				
13 Years		3%	55				
14 Years		4%	67				
15 Years		4%	69				
16 Years		4%	74				
17 Years		11%	197				
18 Years		11%	195				
19 Years		3%	46				
20 Years		3%	54				
Time in Care		Months					
Mean		26.9					
Median		21.6					
Time in Care		Percent	Number				
Less than 1 Month		9%	160				
1 - 5 Months		13%	244				
6 - 11 Months		10%	183				
12 - 17 Months		11%	205				
18 - 23 Months		10%	186				
24 - 29 Months		10%	185				
30 - 35 Months		10%	179				
3 - 4 Years		19%	351				
5 Years or More		8%	142				

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2021 - N=354

Age as of September 30th			Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care			Years
Mean			6.6	Mean			3.2
Median			5.0	Median			2.0

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	0%	1	Less than 1 Year	43%	151
1 Year	9%	31	1 Year	6%	23
2 Years	17%	60	2 Years	8%	29
3 Years	12%	44	3 Years	6%	20
4 Years	8%	29	4 Years	5%	19
5 Years	6%	21	5 Years	5%	19
6 Years	6%	20	6 Years	5%	16
7 Years	3%	12	7 Years	6%	22
8 Years	5%	16	8 Years	3%	11
9 Years	6%	21	9 Years	3%	9
10 Years	4%	13	10 Years	3%	9
11 Years	4%	15	11 Years	3%	11
12 Years	4%	13	12 Years	2%	8
13 Years	4%	13	13 Years	1%	2
14 Years	3%	11	14 Years	1%	2
15 Years	4%	14	15 Years	1%	3
16 Years	3%	10	16 Years	0%	0
17 Years	3%	10	17 Years	0%	0

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	7%	25	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	0
Foster Family Home (Relative)	45%	157	Asian	0%	0
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	40%	141	Black or African American	42%	148
Group Home	3%	11	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	2%	6
Institution	3%	11	Hispanic (of any race)	10%	35
Supervised Independent Living	1%	3	White	35%	125
Runaway	0%	1	Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	2
Trial Home Visit	0%	0	Two or More Races	11%	38

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	51%	179
Female	49%	175

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=72), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021
Mean	42.4	
Median	35.5	

Time in Care	Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month	0%	0	Mean	23.1
1 - 5 Months	0%	1	Median	11.0
6 - 11 Months	1%	3		
12 - 17 Months	6%	22		
18 - 23 Months	15%	52		
24 - 29 Months	16%	57		
30 - 35 Months	14%	49		
3 - 4 Years	32%	113		
5 Years or More	16%	57		

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021⁴ - N=220

Age at Adoption	Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	5.2	Mean	9.2
Median	4.0	Median	6.4

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	1%	2
1 Year	8%	18	1 - 5 Months	45%	95
2 Years	15%	33	6 - 11 Months	29%	60
3 Years	18%	40	12 - 17 Months	13%	28
4 Years	13%	29	18 - 23 Months	7%	15
5 Years	10%	23	24 - 29 Months	0%	0
6 Years	7%	16	30 - 35 Months	2%	5
7 Years	5%	10	3 - 4 Years	1%	3
8 Years	6%	14	5 Years or More	0%	1
9 Years	5%	12			
10 Years	3%	6			
11 Years	1%	3			
12 Years	1%	2			
13 Years	1%	3			
14 Years	1%	2			
15 Years	0%	1			
16 Years	1%	2			
17 Years	2%	5			
18 Years	0%	0			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	0
Asian	0%	1
Black or African American	39%	85
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Hispanic (of any race)	3%	7
White	47%	104
Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	1
Two or More Races	10%	22

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	61%	131	Male	50%	110
Unmarried Couple	3%	7	Female	50%	110
Single Female	36%	76			
Single Male	0%	0			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number	Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	22%	20	Yes	0%	0
Foster Parent	71%	63	No	100%	220
Stepparent	2%	2			
Other Relative	4%	4			

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>