



The AFCARS Report:

Maine

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: Maine

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	1,584	1,768	2,096	2,291	2,202
Number entered foster care during the FY	820	1,080	1,246	1,115	909
Number exited foster care during the FY	1,067	883	901	892	979
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	2,651	2,651	2,997	3,183	3,181
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	576	482	510	610	756
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	502	428	412	509	597
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	456	395	294	247	339

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=2,202

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	6.6	Male	52%	1,137
Median	6.0	Female	48%	1,065

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	8%	167	Pre-Adoptive Home	8%	180
1 Year	10%	227	Foster Family Home (Relative)	38%	828
2 Years	9%	207	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	43%	928
3 Years	8%	187	Group Home	1%	24
4 Years	7%	152	Institution	2%	34
5 Years	6%	122	Supervised Independent Living	1%	17
6 Years	6%	138	Runaway	0%	1
7 Years	6%	141	Trial Home Visit	7%	141
8 Years	5%	108			
9 Years	4%	96			
10 Years	4%	96			
11 Years	4%	97			
12 Years	4%	99			
13 Years	4%	87			
14 Years	4%	87			
15 Years	3%	73			
16 Years	2%	54			
17 Years	2%	51			
18 Years	0%	4			
19 Years	0%	7			
20 Years	0%	2			

Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	53%	1,127
Live with Other Relative(s)	0%	5
Adoption	34%	717
Long Term Foster Care	1%	11
Emancipation	1%	13
Guardianship	4%	78
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	8%	159

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	1%	17	Mean	19.7
Asian	0%	1	Median	15.8
Black or African American	3%	67		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	3		
Hispanic (of any race)	3%	69		
White	77%	1,691		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	9%	208		
Two or More Races	7%	146		
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%	98		
1 - 5 Months	19%	414		
6 - 11 Months	15%	326		
12 - 17 Months	16%	358		
18 - 23 Months	14%	311		
24 - 29 Months	12%	263		
30 - 35 Months	7%	151		
3 - 4 Years	10%	211		
5 Years or More	3%	70		

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=909						
Age at Entry		Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	
Mean		5.3	American Indian/Alaska Native	1%	7	
Median		4.0	Asian	0%	1	
			Black or African American	2%	19	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	1	
			Hispanic (of any race)	3%	25	
			White	66%	601	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine	22%	201	
			Two or More Races	6%	54	
			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%	220	Neglect	85%	777
1 Year		8%	70	Drug Abuse (Parent)	46%	416
2 Years		9%	78	Caretaker Inability To Cope	18%	161
3 Years		6%	54	Physical Abuse	16%	145
4 Years		6%	57	Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	13%	118
5 Years		5%	43	Housing	10%	87
6 Years		7%	60	Parent Incarceration	7%	61
7 Years		5%	47	Drug Abuse (Child)	6%	58
8 Years		4%	34	Sexual Abuse	3%	31
9 Years		4%	33	Child Disability	3%	30
10 Years		3%	30	Abandonment	3%	24
11 Years		4%	37	Child Behavior Problem	2%	20
12 Years		4%	37	Parent Death	1%	8
13 Years		4%	32	Alcohol Abuse (Child)	1%	5
14 Years		4%	32	Relinquishment	0%	2
15 Years		3%	27			
16 Years		1%	10			
17 Years		1%	8			
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=979

Age at Exit		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number	
Mean		7.4	American Indian/Alaska Native		2%	19	
Median		6.0	Asian		0%	1	
			Black or African American		3%	26	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	1	
			Hispanic (of any race)		4%	36	
			White		82%	799	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		3%	25	
			Two or More Races		7%	72	
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		2%	23	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)		47%	454
1 Year		6%	60	Living with Other Relative(s)		2%	15
2 Years		12%	120	Adoption		36%	345
3 Years		9%	88	Emancipation		6%	54
4 Years		7%	71	Guardianship		10%	97
5 Years		8%	75	Transfer to Another Agency		0%	1
6 Years		6%	57	Runaway		0%	0
7 Years		6%	56	Death of Child		0%	0
8 Years		6%	54				
9 Years		5%	53				
10 Years		6%	54				
11 Years		4%	40				
12 Years		4%	39				
13 Years		4%	36				
14 Years		3%	33				
15 Years		3%	25				
16 Years		2%	18				
17 Years		2%	24				
18 Years		5%	47				
19 Years		0%	2				
20 Years		0%	3				
Time in Care		Months					
Mean		25.6					
Median		24.0					
Time in Care		Percent	Number				
Less than 1 Month		4%	39				
1 - 5 Months		7%	65				
6 - 11 Months		9%	87				
12 - 17 Months		15%	145				
18 - 23 Months		16%	155				
24 - 29 Months		19%	184				
30 - 35 Months		13%	128				
3 - 4 Years		14%	141				
5 Years or More		4%	35				

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2021 - N=756

Age as of September 30th			Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care			Years
Mean			7.1	Mean			4.5
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			2%	13	Less than 1 Year			26%	200
1 Year			8%	59	1 Year			8%	60
2 Years			11%	84	2 Years			7%	55
3 Years			10%	78	3 Years			7%	55
4 Years			7%	56	4 Years			7%	52
5 Years			6%	44	5 Years			7%	50
6 Years			7%	52	6 Years			7%	55
7 Years			6%	44	7 Years			4%	32
8 Years			6%	43	8 Years			6%	42
9 Years			5%	36	9 Years			5%	35
10 Years			5%	37	10 Years			6%	42
11 Years			5%	41	11 Years			3%	23
12 Years			5%	40	12 Years			2%	18
13 Years			4%	29	13 Years			2%	16
14 Years			5%	39	14 Years			2%	15
15 Years			3%	26	15 Years			1%	5
16 Years			3%	19	16 Years			0%	1
17 Years			2%	16	17 Years			0%	0

Placement Type			Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity			Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home			24%	180	American Indian/Alaska Native			1%	5
Foster Family Home (Relative)			30%	223	Asian			0%	0
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)			42%	316	Black or African American			3%	23
Group Home			2%	12	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander			0%	0
Institution			2%	17	Hispanic (of any race)			3%	24
Supervised Independent Living			0%	3	White			83%	631
Runaway			0%	0	Unknown/Unable to Determine			2%	13
Trial Home Visit			0%	2	Two or More Races			8%	60

Sex			Percent	Number
Male			52%	396
Female			48%	360

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=597), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021		
Mean		32.5			
Median		28.5			
Time in Care		Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month		0%	1	Mean	15.9
1 - 5 Months		2%	12	Median	8.0
6 - 11 Months		4%	33		
12 - 17 Months		9%	69		
18 - 23 Months		19%	146		
24 - 29 Months		21%	155		
30 - 35 Months		14%	105		
3 - 4 Years		23%	177		
5 Years or More		8%	58		

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021⁴ - N=339

Age at Adoption		Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption			Months	
Mean		6.4	Mean			16.7	
Median		5.0	Median			13.8	
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%	0
1 Year		4%	15	1 - 5 Months		3%	9
2 Years		18%	61	6 - 11 Months		34%	110
3 Years		11%	38	12 - 17 Months		35%	114
4 Years		10%	35	18 - 23 Months		15%	50
5 Years		10%	33	24 - 29 Months		6%	19
6 Years		4%	14	30 - 35 Months		2%	8
7 Years		6%	19	3 - 4 Years		4%	12
8 Years		6%	22	5 Years or More		1%	4
9 Years		5%	16				
10 Years		5%	17				
11 Years		5%	16				
12 Years		4%	13				
13 Years		3%	10				
14 Years		3%	10				
15 Years		2%	7				
16 Years		2%	6				
17 Years		1%	5				
18 Years		0%	1				
19 Years		0%	0				
20 Years		0%	0				
				Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number
				American Indian/Alaska Native		1%	2
				Asian		0%	0
				Black or African American		2%	6
				Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	1
				Hispanic (of any race)		6%	22
				White		85%	287
				Unknown/Unable to Determine		0%	0
				Two or More Races		6%	21
				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	67%	226	Male	50%	168
Unmarried Couple	9%	29	Female	50%	171
Single Female	21%	70			
Single Male	3%	11			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number	Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	5%	12	Yes	92%	311
Foster Parent	40%	106	No	8%	28
Stepparent	1%	2			
Other Relative	55%	146			

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>