



The AFCARS Report:

Mississippi

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: Mississippi

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	5,440	4,703	4,161	3,594	3,540
Number entered foster care during the FY	3,195	2,520	2,396	1,800	2,029
Number exited foster care during the FY	2,890	3,181	2,898	2,307	2,040
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	8,330	7,882	7,039	5,884	5,570
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	1,867	1,730	1,610	1,384	1,139
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	154	103	519	417	457
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	358	431	719	597	566

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=3,540

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	7.7	Male	50%	1,758
Median	7.0	Female	50%	1,782

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	8%	286	Pre-Adoptive Home	1%	18
1 Year	9%	310	Foster Family Home (Relative)	33%	1,176
2 Years	8%	294	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	49%	1,726
3 Years	7%	252	Group Home	4%	148
4 Years	6%	208	Institution	3%	91
5 Years	5%	194	Supervised Independent Living	0%	11
6 Years	5%	178	Runaway	1%	20
7 Years	4%	159	Trial Home Visit	10%	350
8 Years	4%	157			
9 Years	4%	147			
10 Years	4%	128			
11 Years	4%	151			
12 Years	4%	152			
13 Years	4%	136			
14 Years	5%	170			
15 Years	5%	181			
16 Years	4%	153			
17 Years	4%	147			
18 Years	2%	73			
19 Years	1%	41			
20 Years	1%	22			

Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	60%	2,121
Live with Other Relative(s)	3%	98
Adoption	32%	1,121
Long Term Foster Care	0%	0
Emancipation	4%	126
Guardianship	1%	43
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	0%	14

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%	1	Mean	21.3
Asian	0%	4	Median	13.2
Black or African American	38%	1,335		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0		
Hispanic (of any race)	3%	117		
White	53%	1,890		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	72		
Two or More Races	3%	121		
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	6%	212		
1 - 5 Months	23%	801		
6 - 11 Months	18%	653		
12 - 17 Months	10%	359		
18 - 23 Months	10%	357		
24 - 29 Months	9%	312		
30 - 35 Months	6%	203		
3 - 4 Years	11%	386		
5 Years or More	7%	257		

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=2,029

Age at Entry		Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean		6.5	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	0
Median		5.0	Asian	0%	2
			Black or African American	34%	684
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	3
			Hispanic (of any race)	4%	86
			White	56%	1,131
			Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	56
			Two or More Races	3%	67
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	21%	416	Neglect	72%	1,457
1 Year	8%	153	Drug Abuse (Parent)	46%	927
2 Years	7%	135	Housing	21%	434
3 Years	7%	133	Caretaker Inability To Cope	20%	400
4 Years	5%	94	Physical Abuse	10%	200
5 Years	5%	103	Parent Incarceration	7%	150
6 Years	4%	91	Abandonment	7%	144
7 Years	4%	83	Child Behavior Problem	5%	103
8 Years	4%	88	Sexual Abuse	5%	100
9 Years	4%	75	Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	4%	75
10 Years	4%	75	Drug Abuse (Child)	3%	71
11 Years	4%	82	Parent Death	2%	36
12 Years	4%	78	Child Disability	1%	13
13 Years	4%	90	Alcohol Abuse (Child)	0%	5
14 Years	4%	91	Relinquishment	0%	5
15 Years	5%	101			
16 Years	4%	74			
17 Years	3%	66			
18 Years	0%	1			
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=2,040

Age at Exit		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number	
Mean		8.3	American Indian/Alaska Native		0%	5	
Median		8.0	Asian		0%	7	
			Black or African American		35%	712	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	4	
			Hispanic (of any race)		4%	76	
			White		56%	1,136	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		2%	32	
			Two or More Races		3%	68	
			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%	63	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)		47%	948
1 Year		7%	135	Living with Other Relative(s)		13%	272
2 Years		8%	159	Adoption		28%	578
3 Years		8%	156	Emancipation		3%	58
4 Years		7%	143	Guardianship		8%	161
5 Years		7%	134	Transfer to Another Agency		0%	5
6 Years		6%	112	Runaway		0%	8
7 Years		5%	108	Death of Child		0%	2
8 Years		5%	95				
9 Years		5%	102				
10 Years		4%	83				
11 Years		4%	83				
12 Years		5%	103				
13 Years		5%	111				
14 Years		4%	81				
15 Years		4%	83				
16 Years		3%	69				
17 Years		4%	77				
18 Years		4%	81				
19 Years		2%	34				
20 Years		1%	18				
Time in Care		Months					
Mean		25.0					
Median		20.0					
Time in Care		Percent	Number				
Less than 1 Month		6%	124				
1 - 5 Months		10%	211				
6 - 11 Months		17%	338				
12 - 17 Months		13%	261				
18 - 23 Months		12%	247				
24 - 29 Months		10%	194				
30 - 35 Months		8%	168				
3 - 4 Years		17%	347				
5 Years or More		7%	140				

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2021 - N=1,139

Age as of September 30th			Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care			Years
Mean			7.9	Mean			4.9
Median			7.0	Median			4.0

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	2%	28	Less than 1 Year	27%	304
1 Year	6%	74	1 Year	8%	88
2 Years	10%	109	2 Years	6%	70
3 Years	9%	97	3 Years	7%	77
4 Years	7%	75	4 Years	6%	67
5 Years	6%	69	5 Years	6%	67
6 Years	6%	64	6 Years	5%	62
7 Years	6%	66	7 Years	5%	59
8 Years	5%	58	8 Years	5%	62
9 Years	4%	49	9 Years	5%	61
10 Years	5%	52	10 Years	4%	51
11 Years	6%	67	11 Years	4%	48
12 Years	5%	60	12 Years	3%	38
13 Years	5%	53	13 Years	3%	36
14 Years	6%	68	14 Years	2%	20
15 Years	6%	66	15 Years	2%	19
16 Years	4%	46	16 Years	1%	7
17 Years	3%	38	17 Years	0%	3

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	1%	13	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	1
Foster Family Home (Relative)	32%	367	Asian	0%	0
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	59%	674	Black or African American	36%	408
Group Home	4%	47	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Institution	2%	18	Hispanic (of any race)	3%	31
Supervised Independent Living	0%	1	White	55%	628
Runaway	0%	1	Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	17
Trial Home Visit	2%	18	Two or More Races	5%	54

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	51%	582
Female	49%	557

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=457), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021
Mean		36.6	
Median		30.6	

Time in Care	Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month	0%	3	Mean	15.8
1 - 5 Months	3%	29	Median	4.0
6 - 11 Months	6%	63		
12 - 17 Months	10%	110		
18 - 23 Months	14%	159		
24 - 29 Months	16%	181		
30 - 35 Months	12%	142		
3 - 4 Years	24%	278		
5 Years or More	15%	174		

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021⁴ - N=566

Age at Adoption		Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption		Months
Mean		7.1	Mean		8.6
Median		6.0	Median		5.4

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%	3
1 Year	8%	44	1 - 5 Months	56%	314
2 Years	10%	59	6 - 11 Months	22%	126
3 Years	11%	65	12 - 17 Months	11%	62
4 Years	7%	42	18 - 23 Months	5%	30
5 Years	9%	49	24 - 29 Months	2%	14
6 Years	6%	34	30 - 35 Months	0%	2
7 Years	7%	42	3 - 4 Years	2%	10
8 Years	5%	29	5 Years or More	0%	1
9 Years	5%	28			
10 Years	4%	23			
11 Years	4%	22			
12 Years	6%	34			
13 Years	5%	27			
14 Years	4%	20			
15 Years	4%	20			
16 Years	2%	12			
17 Years	2%	12			
18 Years	0%	1			
19 Years	0%	2			
20 Years	0%	0			

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	1
Asian	0%	0
Black or African American	31%	176
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Hispanic (of any race)	5%	26
White	60%	339
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	4
Two or More Races	4%	20

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	70%	398	Male	53%	301
Unmarried Couple	4%	20	Female	47%	265
Single Female	23%	130			
Single Male	3%	18			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number	Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	0%	0	Yes	93%	525
Foster Parent	100%	564	No	7%	41
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>