



# The AFCARS Report:

## New Jersey

Preliminary FY<sup>1</sup> 2021 Estimates as of June 28, 2022 - No. 29

**SOURCE:** Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2021 data<sup>2</sup>

### Numbers at a Glance: New Jersey

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	5,946	5,526	4,430	3,788	3,188
Number entered foster care during the FY	3,726	3,540	2,679	1,832	1,534
Number exited foster care during the FY	4,196	3,863	3,700	2,426	2,100
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	10,131	9,382	8,116	6,202	5,287
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	2,479	2,267	1,895	1,588	1,372
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	963	998	792	600	512
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	1,106	1,054	1,162	788	639

### Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=3,188

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	6.9	Male	51%	1,640
Median	6.0	Female	49%	1,547

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	10%	305	Pre-Adoptive Home	1%	17
1 Year	12%	374	Foster Family Home (Relative)	40%	1,282
2 Years	11%	337	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	53%	1,698
3 Years	7%	218	Group Home	1%	31
4 Years	5%	171	Institution	4%	143
5 Years	5%	154	Supervised Independent Living	0%	11
6 Years	5%	147	Runaway	0%	6
7 Years	4%	129	Trial Home Visit	0%	0
8 Years	4%	136			
9 Years	4%	142			
10 Years	4%	138			
11 Years	4%	123			
12 Years	5%	147			
13 Years	4%	120			
14 Years	4%	121			
15 Years	4%	114			
16 Years	4%	141			
17 Years	5%	171			
18 Years	0%	0			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	45%	1,444
Live with Other Relative(s)	3%	94
Adoption	43%	1,359
Long Term Foster Care	0%	12
Emancipation	4%	134
Guardianship	2%	50
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	3%	86

<sup>1</sup> 'FY' refers to the Federal Fiscal Year, October 1st through September 30th.

<sup>2</sup> 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	23.8
Asian	1%	26	Median	18.0
Black or African American	39%	1,242		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0		
Hispanic (of any race)	27%	868		
White	27%	862		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	14		
Two or More Races	5%	174		
<b>NOTE:</b> 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%	141		
1 - 5 Months	16%	516		
6 - 11 Months	16%	511		
12 - 17 Months	13%	425		
18 - 23 Months	13%	410		
24 - 29 Months	10%	320		
30 - 35 Months	8%	244		
3 - 4 Years	12%	393		
5 Years or More	7%	228		

### Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=1,534

Age at Entry		Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	
Mean		5.5	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	2	
Median		4.0	Asian	0%	4	
			Black or African American	37%	567	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	2	
			Hispanic (of any race)	28%	427	
			White	29%	445	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	19	
			Two or More Races	4%	68	
<b>NOTE:</b> 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		29%	452	Drug Abuse (Parent)	42%	651
1 Year		8%	116	Neglect	41%	629
2 Years		7%	106	Caretaker Inability To Cope	14%	217
3 Years		4%	69	Abandonment	13%	204
4 Years		5%	73	Physical Abuse	9%	131
5 Years		4%	59	Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	8%	129
6 Years		4%	67	Housing	8%	124
7 Years		4%	61	Parent Incarceration	5%	71
8 Years		4%	64	Child Behavior Problem	4%	60
9 Years		4%	64	Sexual Abuse	2%	38
10 Years		3%	44	Parent Death	1%	17
11 Years		4%	54	Relinquishment	1%	10
12 Years		3%	51	Child Disability	1%	8
13 Years		4%	54	Alcohol Abuse (Child)	0%	7
14 Years		3%	52	Drug Abuse (Child)	0%	7
15 Years		3%	47			
16 Years		4%	54			
17 Years		3%	47			
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=2,100

Age at Exit		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number	
Mean		7.8	American Indian/Alaska Native		0%	0	
Median		7.0	Asian		0%	8	
			Black or African American		41%	859	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	2	
			Hispanic (of any race)		25%	530	
			White		28%	586	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		0%	6	
			Two or More Races		5%	109	
			<b>NOTE:</b> 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		5%	107	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)		46%	974
1 Year		8%	173	Living with Other Relative(s)		5%	95
2 Years		10%	208	Adoption		31%	644
3 Years		7%	154	Emancipation		8%	173
4 Years		7%	154	Guardianship		8%	173
5 Years		5%	112	Transfer to Another Agency		1%	30
6 Years		5%	109	Runaway		0%	9
7 Years		6%	119	Death of Child		0%	2
8 Years		6%	118				
9 Years		4%	75				
10 Years		4%	79				
11 Years		4%	85				
12 Years		4%	79				
13 Years		4%	84				
14 Years		4%	85				
15 Years		3%	64				
16 Years		2%	50				
17 Years		3%	56				
18 Years		9%	183				
19 Years		0%	6				
20 Years		0%	0				
Time in Care		Months					
Mean		25.4					
Median		21.8					
Time in Care		Percent	Number				
Less than 1 Month		7%	137				
1 - 5 Months		11%	239				
6 - 11 Months		11%	236				
12 - 17 Months		13%	267				
18 - 23 Months		12%	261				
24 - 29 Months		13%	265				
30 - 35 Months		10%	212				
3 - 4 Years		17%	351				
5 Years or More		6%	130				

### Children Waiting to be Adopted<sup>3</sup> on September 30, 2021 - N=1,372

Age as of September 30th			Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care			Years		
Mean			6.7	Mean			3.8		
Median			6.0	Median			2.0		
Age as of September 30th			Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care			Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year			2%	21	Less than 1 Year			35%	487
1 Year			12%	167	1 Year			9%	120
2 Years			14%	192	2 Years			7%	96
3 Years			10%	137	3 Years			5%	70
4 Years			6%	82	4 Years			6%	77
5 Years			6%	76	5 Years			7%	92
6 Years			5%	72	6 Years			6%	76
7 Years			5%	67	7 Years			4%	56
8 Years			5%	71	8 Years			5%	69
9 Years			4%	57	9 Years			5%	62
10 Years			5%	72	10 Years			4%	50
11 Years			4%	54	11 Years			3%	44
12 Years			5%	72	12 Years			2%	32
13 Years			4%	60	13 Years			1%	17
14 Years			4%	52	14 Years			1%	15
15 Years			3%	48	15 Years			1%	8
16 Years			4%	51	16 Years			0%	1
17 Years			2%	21	17 Years			0%	0
Placement Type			Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity			Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home			1%	13	American Indian/Alaska Native			0%	0
Foster Family Home (Relative)			36%	495	Asian			1%	9
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)			58%	790	Black or African American			41%	563
Group Home			1%	12	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander			0%	0
Institution			4%	61	Hispanic (of any race)			25%	341
Supervised Independent Living			0%	0	White			27%	371
Runaway			0%	1	Unknown/Unable to Determine			0%	1
Trial Home Visit			0%	0	Two or More Races			6%	87
Sex			Percent	Number	NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.				
Male			53%	729					
Female			47%	643					

<sup>3</sup> 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=512), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021		
Mean		36.7			
Median		29.5			
Time in Care		Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month		0%	2	Mean	20.3
1 - 5 Months		1%	8	Median	7.0
6 - 11 Months		4%	51		
12 - 17 Months		12%	165		
18 - 23 Months		17%	240		
24 - 29 Months		17%	238		
30 - 35 Months		13%	182		
3 - 4 Years		22%	306		
5 Years or More		13%	180		

### Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021<sup>4</sup> - N=639

Age at Adoption		Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption			Months	
Mean		6.0	Mean			13.6	
Median		5.0	Median			9.7	
Age at Adoption		Percent	Number	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption		Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year		1%	6	Less than 1 Month		2%	10
1 Year		10%	61	1 - 5 Months		23%	146
2 Years		16%	105	6 - 11 Months		34%	217
3 Years		10%	65	12 - 17 Months		19%	118
4 Years		11%	70	18 - 23 Months		9%	57
5 Years		7%	45	24 - 29 Months		6%	37
6 Years		5%	34	30 - 35 Months		3%	20
7 Years		7%	44	3 - 4 Years		4%	23
8 Years		7%	45	5 Years or More		1%	7
9 Years		3%	21				
10 Years		4%	28				
11 Years		3%	19				
12 Years		4%	25				
13 Years		3%	20				
14 Years		3%	21				
15 Years		2%	11				
16 Years		1%	9				
17 Years		1%	9				
18 Years		0%	0				
19 Years		0%	0				
20 Years		0%	0				
				Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number
				American Indian/Alaska Native		0%	0
				Asian		0%	2
				Black or African American		39%	247
				Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	0
				Hispanic (of any race)		20%	130
				White		32%	203
				Unknown/Unable to Determine		0%	0
				Two or More Races		9%	56
NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.							

<sup>4</sup> 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	54%	341	Male	49%	310
Unmarried Couple	4%	26	Female	51%	329
Single Female	41%	259			
Single Male	1%	9			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number	Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	10%	66	Yes	99%	628
Foster Parent	48%	306	No	1%	4
Stepparent	0%	0			
Other Relative	42%	265			

### 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>