



The AFCARS Report:

New Mexico

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: New Mexico

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	2,657	2,508	2,326	2,120	1,841
Number entered foster care during the FY	1,902	1,679	1,447	1,184	929
Number exited foster care during the FY	1,824	1,793	1,609	1,372	1,188
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	4,479	4,299	3,933	3,489	3,027
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	1,424	1,205	1,194	1,040	785
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	812	597	621	629	480
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	311	297	336	281	319

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=1,841

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	7.7	Male	50%	923
Median	7.0	Female	50%	918

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	5%	98	Pre-Adoptive Home	3%	64
1 Year	9%	170	Foster Family Home (Relative)	36%	659
2 Years	7%	136	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	46%	840
3 Years	6%	114	Group Home	4%	68
4 Years	6%	115	Institution	3%	57
5 Years	6%	106	Supervised Independent Living	0%	4
6 Years	5%	93	Runaway	3%	47
7 Years	6%	103	Trial Home Visit	6%	102
8 Years	5%	83			
9 Years	5%	101			
10 Years	6%	102			
11 Years	5%	87			
12 Years	5%	88			
13 Years	5%	99			
14 Years	6%	105			
15 Years	5%	87			
16 Years	4%	82			
17 Years	4%	67			
18 Years	0%	1			
19 Years	0%	3			
20 Years	0%	1			

Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	45%	826
Live with Other Relative(s)	8%	146
Adoption	42%	775
Long Term Foster Care	0%	0
Emancipation	2%	44
Guardianship	1%	11
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	2%	29

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	7%	130	Mean	25.9
Asian	0%	0	Median	18.7
Black or African American	4%	81		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	3		
Hispanic (of any race)	63%	1,161		
White	21%	392		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	13		
Two or More Races	3%	59		

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	3%	51
1 - 5 Months	18%	330
6 - 11 Months	13%	241
12 - 17 Months	14%	265
18 - 23 Months	12%	219
24 - 29 Months	8%	147
30 - 35 Months	7%	129
3 - 4 Years	15%	273
5 Years or More	10%	186

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=929				
Age at Entry	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	6.3	American Indian/Alaska Native	8%	70
Median	5.0	Asian	0%	0
		Black or African American	3%	28
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	1
		Hispanic (of any race)	57%	526
		White	26%	243
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	20
		Two or More Races	4%	35

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	19%	173	Neglect	72%	666
1 Year	8%	73	Drug Abuse (Parent)	31%	291
2 Years	8%	72	Physical Abuse	21%	194
3 Years	7%	68	Housing	19%	181
4 Years	5%	51	Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	12%	110
5 Years	6%	55	Abandonment	9%	80
6 Years	4%	34	Parent Incarceration	8%	70
7 Years	4%	39	Caretaker Inability To Cope	5%	47
8 Years	5%	42	Drug Abuse (Child)	4%	40
9 Years	5%	51	Sexual Abuse	3%	32
10 Years	3%	30	Child Behavior Problem	3%	29
11 Years	4%	36	Parent Death	1%	10
12 Years	3%	32	Alcohol Abuse (Child)	1%	5
13 Years	5%	42	Child Disability	1%	5
14 Years	4%	35	Relinquishment	0%	3
15 Years	4%	36			
16 Years	3%	30			
17 Years	3%	30			
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=1,188

Age at Exit		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number	
Mean		7.9	American Indian/Alaska Native		8%	98	
Median		7.0	Asian		0%	0	
			Black or African American		4%	50	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	0	
			Hispanic (of any race)		61%	723	
			White		22%	261	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		1%	15	
			Two or More Races		3%	37	
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%	45	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)		49%	584
1 Year		6%	77	Living with Other Relative(s)		1%	15
2 Years		8%	90	Adoption		34%	402
3 Years		9%	104	Emancipation		6%	68
4 Years		7%	86	Guardianship		9%	102
5 Years		8%	90	Transfer to Another Agency		1%	12
6 Years		6%	74	Runaway		0%	5
7 Years		5%	64	Death of Child		0%	0
8 Years		4%	52				
9 Years		5%	60				
10 Years		4%	47				
11 Years		5%	57				
12 Years		5%	57				
13 Years		4%	43				
14 Years		4%	45				
15 Years		4%	47				
16 Years		3%	41				
17 Years		8%	93				
18 Years		1%	16				
19 Years		0%	0				
20 Years		0%	0				
Time in Care		Months					
Mean		25.1					
Median		19.6					
Time in Care		Percent	Number				
Less than 1 Month		19%	231				
1 - 5 Months		9%	103				
6 - 11 Months		8%	99				
12 - 17 Months		11%	127				
18 - 23 Months		10%	113				
24 - 29 Months		9%	105				
30 - 35 Months		7%	79				
3 - 4 Years		19%	221				
5 Years or More		9%	108				

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2021 - N=785

Age as of September 30th		Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care		Years
Mean		8.5	Mean		5.1
Median		9.0	Median		5.0

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	1%	7	Less than 1 Year	20%	157
1 Year	6%	49	1 Year	8%	59
2 Years	8%	65	2 Years	7%	58
3 Years	6%	47	3 Years	6%	51
4 Years	6%	51	4 Years	8%	60
5 Years	5%	38	5 Years	7%	57
6 Years	5%	41	6 Years	5%	40
7 Years	6%	51	7 Years	7%	56
8 Years	4%	34	8 Years	6%	49
9 Years	5%	43	9 Years	7%	55
10 Years	7%	53	10 Years	5%	40
11 Years	6%	48	11 Years	5%	42
12 Years	5%	41	12 Years	4%	33
13 Years	7%	54	13 Years	2%	13
14 Years	7%	57	14 Years	1%	7
15 Years	6%	47	15 Years	1%	6
16 Years	5%	38	16 Years	0%	0
17 Years	3%	21	17 Years	0%	2

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	8%	63	American Indian/Alaska Native	6%	48
Foster Family Home (Relative)	27%	211	Asian	0%	0
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	55%	434	Black or African American	6%	47
Group Home	3%	22	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Institution	5%	38	Hispanic (of any race)	63%	492
Supervised Independent Living	0%	0	White	21%	167
Runaway	2%	16	Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	4
Trial Home Visit	0%	1	Two or More Races	3%	27

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	51%	398
Female	49%	387

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=480), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021
Mean	41.2	
Median	35.5	

Time in Care	Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month	0%	1	Mean	24.1
1 - 5 Months	1%	6	Median	17.0

6 - 11 Months	3%	23
12 - 17 Months	10%	78
18 - 23 Months	12%	93
24 - 29 Months	15%	115
30 - 35 Months	12%	91
3 - 4 Years	28%	223
5 Years or More	20%	155

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021⁴ - N=319

Age at Adoption	Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	7.2	Mean	19.0
Median	6.0	Median	15.7

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	6%	18	1 - 5 Months	12%	39
2 Years	9%	30	6 - 11 Months	26%	83
3 Years	8%	25	12 - 17 Months	20%	65
4 Years	11%	34	18 - 23 Months	17%	54
5 Years	10%	31	24 - 29 Months	10%	32
6 Years	8%	25	30 - 35 Months	4%	14
7 Years	6%	20	3 - 4 Years	8%	26
8 Years	6%	18	5 Years or More	2%	6
9 Years	5%	16			
10 Years	5%	15			
11 Years	7%	22			
12 Years	5%	15			
13 Years	4%	13			
14 Years	5%	15			
15 Years	4%	12			
16 Years	2%	5			
17 Years	1%	3			
18 Years	0%	1			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	6%	20
Asian	0%	0
Black or African American	7%	21
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Hispanic (of any race)	63%	201
White	24%	75
Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	0
Two or More Races	1%	2

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	71%	228	Male	52%	166
Unmarried Couple	5%	17	Female	48%	153
Single Female	21%	66			
Single Male	3%	8			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number	Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	0%	1	Yes	100%	319
Foster Parent	73%	234	No	0%	0
Stepparent	0%	0			
Other Relative	26%	84			

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>