



# The AFCARS Report:

## Pennsylvania

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: Pennsylvania

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	16,891	16,566	15,526	14,354	13,664
Number entered foster care during the FY	10,998	10,155	9,528	7,254	7,499
Number exited foster care during the FY	9,661	9,931	10,058	8,062	7,804
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	26,552	26,497	25,584	22,416	21,467
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	3,711	3,763	3,411	3,212	3,057
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	2,068	2,256	1,958	1,768	1,771
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	2,077	2,628	2,849	2,087	2,214

### Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=13,664

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	8.2	Male	51%	6,916
Median	8.0	Female	49%	6,746

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	7%	927	Pre-Adoptive Home	2%	230
1 Year	8%	1,133	Foster Family Home (Relative)	44%	6,008
2 Years	8%	1,071	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	41%	5,575
3 Years	7%	907	Group Home	6%	882
4 Years	6%	807	Institution	4%	598
5 Years	5%	710	Supervised Independent Living	1%	152
6 Years	5%	640	Runaway	1%	137
7 Years	5%	615	Trial Home Visit	1%	81
8 Years	4%	592			
9 Years	4%	531			
10 Years	4%	524			
11 Years	4%	505			
12 Years	4%	588			
13 Years	4%	586			
14 Years	5%	625			
15 Years	6%	765			
16 Years	6%	813			
17 Years	6%	787			
18 Years	2%	229			
19 Years	1%	160			
20 Years	1%	131			

Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	70%	9,569
Live with Other Relative(s)	1%	116
Adoption	22%	2,975
Long Term Foster Care	0%	68
Emancipation	2%	271
Guardianship	4%	565
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	1%	89

<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%	10	Mean	21.2
Asian	0%	62	Median	16.1
Black or African American	34%	4,605		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	3		
Hispanic (of any race)	13%	1,727		
White	43%	5,872		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	253		
Two or More Races	8%	1,132		

  

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	5%	657
1 - 5 Months	19%	2,583
6 - 11 Months	18%	2,394
12 - 17 Months	11%	1,563
18 - 23 Months	12%	1,620
24 - 29 Months	10%	1,410
30 - 35 Months	7%	943
3 - 4 Years	14%	1,902
5 Years or More	4%	592

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

### Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=7,499

Age at Entry	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	7.3	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	11
Median	6.0	Asian	1%	38
		Black or African American	27%	2,061
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	2
		Hispanic (of any race)	12%	900
		White	49%	3,679
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	152
		Two or More Races	9%	656

  

Age at Entry	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	20%	1,467
1 Year	7%	529
2 Years	6%	427
3 Years	5%	380
4 Years	5%	365
5 Years	4%	308
6 Years	4%	299
7 Years	4%	274
8 Years	3%	260
9 Years	3%	220
10 Years	3%	211
11 Years	4%	287
12 Years	4%	301
13 Years	5%	338
14 Years	6%	424
15 Years	6%	475
16 Years	6%	482
17 Years	5%	387
18 Years	0%	29
19 Years	0%	20
20 Years	0%	5

  

Circumstances Associated with Child's Removal	Percent	Number
Drug Abuse (Parent)	37%	2,754
Caretaker Inability To Cope	23%	1,753
Neglect	23%	1,709
Child Behavior Problem	17%	1,276
Housing	13%	998
Physical Abuse	10%	729
Parent Incarceration	6%	461
Abandonment	4%	335
Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	4%	286
Sexual Abuse	3%	258
Drug Abuse (Child)	2%	137
Parent Death	1%	77
Child Disability	1%	62
Relinquishment	1%	55
Alcohol Abuse (Child)	0%	23

**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=7,804

Age at Exit		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number	
Mean		9.2	American Indian/Alaska Native		0%	6	
Median		9.0	Asian		0%	29	
			Black or African American		30%	2,305	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	2	
			Hispanic (of any race)		13%	1,016	
			White		47%	3,647	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		1%	98	
			Two or More Races		9%	701	
<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		4%	328	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)		43%	3,387
1 Year		6%	495	Living with Other Relative(s)		5%	367
2 Years		7%	554	Adoption		28%	2,186
3 Years		7%	510	Emancipation		10%	793
4 Years		6%	482	Guardianship		8%	660
5 Years		6%	434	Transfer to Another Agency		4%	328
6 Years		5%	370	Runaway		1%	71
7 Years		4%	345	Death of Child		0%	12
8 Years		4%	337				
9 Years		4%	294				
10 Years		4%	277				
11 Years		4%	281				
12 Years		3%	262				
13 Years		4%	309				
14 Years		4%	349				
15 Years		4%	341				
16 Years		6%	442				
17 Years		6%	486				
18 Years		9%	708				
19 Years		1%	67				
20 Years		1%	87				
Time in Care		Months					
Mean		22.1					
Median		19.2					
Time in Care		Percent	Number				
Less than 1 Month		10%	806				
1 - 5 Months		14%	1,066				
6 - 11 Months		13%	998				
12 - 17 Months		11%	893				
18 - 23 Months		12%	965				
24 - 29 Months		11%	847				
30 - 35 Months		8%	644				
3 - 4 Years		16%	1,248				
5 Years or More		4%	334				

### Children Waiting to be Adopted<sup>3</sup> on September 30, 2021 - N=3,057

Age as of September 30th			Age at Entry into Foster Care		
Mean			Mean		
Median			Median		
Age as of September 30th			Age at Entry into Foster Care		
Less than 1 Year	2%	59	Less than 1 Year	27%	839
1 Year	6%	182	1 Year	8%	248
2 Years	10%	301	2 Years	7%	215
3 Years	9%	274	3 Years	7%	210
4 Years	8%	240	4 Years	6%	196
5 Years	7%	209	5 Years	6%	178
6 Years	6%	191	6 Years	5%	160
7 Years	6%	172	7 Years	6%	173
8 Years	6%	177	8 Years	6%	170
9 Years	6%	172	9 Years	5%	140
10 Years	5%	148	10 Years	4%	131
11 Years	5%	140	11 Years	4%	118
12 Years	5%	158	12 Years	3%	82
13 Years	5%	139	13 Years	3%	77
14 Years	4%	137	14 Years	2%	59
15 Years	4%	134	15 Years	1%	44
16 Years	4%	125	16 Years	0%	14
17 Years	3%	99	17 Years	0%	3
Placement Type			Race/Ethnicity		
Pre-Adoptive Home	3%	96	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	1
Foster Family Home (Relative)	43%	1,310	Asian	0%	9
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	46%	1,412	Black or African American	37%	1,146
Group Home	4%	112	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	1
Institution	3%	105	Hispanic (of any race)	14%	442
Supervised Independent Living	0%	4	White	39%	1,185
Runaway	1%	17	Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	48
Trial Home Visit	0%	1	Two or More Races	7%	225
Sex			NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.		
Male	52%	1,577			
Female	48%	1,479			

<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=1,771), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021		
Mean		36.7			
Median		33.4			
Time in Care		Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month		1%	16	Mean	16.9
1 - 5 Months		2%	68	Median	9.0
6 - 11 Months		5%	158		
12 - 17 Months		7%	203		
18 - 23 Months		13%	390		
24 - 29 Months		16%	482		
30 - 35 Months		12%	378		
3 - 4 Years		33%	1,011		
5 Years or More		11%	351		

### Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021<sup>4</sup> - N=2,214

Age at Adoption		Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption			Months	
Mean		6.5	Mean			12.3	
Median		5.0	Median			8.5	
Age at Adoption		Percent	Number	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption		Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year		1%	25	Less than 1 Month		1%	13
1 Year		7%	165	1 - 5 Months		34%	725
2 Years		13%	289	6 - 11 Months		30%	637
3 Years		10%	226	12 - 17 Months		14%	290
4 Years		10%	220	18 - 23 Months		11%	226
5 Years		9%	199	24 - 29 Months		5%	98
6 Years		7%	160	30 - 35 Months		2%	45
7 Years		6%	125	3 - 4 Years		4%	78
8 Years		6%	133	5 Years or More		1%	18
9 Years		5%	110				
10 Years		5%	113				
11 Years		4%	98				
12 Years		4%	82				
13 Years		3%	64				
14 Years		3%	62				
15 Years		2%	41				
16 Years		2%	51				
17 Years		1%	28				
18 Years		1%	12				
19 Years		0%	5				
20 Years		0%	6				
Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number				
American Indian/Alaska Native		0%	0				
Asian		0%	9				
Black or African American		25%	564				
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	0				
Hispanic (of any race)		11%	249				
White		51%	1,136				
Unknown/Unable to Determine		1%	17				
Two or More Races		11%	239				
<b>NOTE:</b> All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.							

**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	61%	1,347	Male	52%	1,148
Unmarried Couple	6%	127	Female	48%	1,066
Single Female	32%	705			
Single Male	2%	35			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number	Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	32%	712	Yes	97%	2,145
Foster Parent	53%	1,184	No	3%	64
Stepparent	0%	2			
Other Relative	14%	316			

### 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>