



The AFCARS Report:

Puerto Rico

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: Puerto Rico

Fiscal Year	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	2,446	2,387	2,092	2,135
Number entered foster care during the FY	877	981	590	761
Number exited foster care during the FY	509	749	518	552
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	2,955	3,136	2,610	2,687
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	357	429	450	416
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	37	54	57	43
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	84	121	87	129

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=2,135

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	10.1	Male	52%	1,116
Median	10.0	Female	48%	1,019

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	3%	63	Pre-Adoptive Home	4%	75
1 Year	4%	82	Foster Family Home (Relative)	24%	517
2 Years	5%	97	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	28%	597
3 Years	5%	99	Group Home	4%	78
4 Years	4%	87	Institution	34%	729
5 Years	5%	101	Supervised Independent Living	0%	2
6 Years	5%	110	Runaway	0%	9
7 Years	5%	104	Trial Home Visit	6%	126
8 Years	5%	104			
9 Years	6%	118			
10 Years	5%	112	Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
11 Years	5%	104	Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	52%	1,111
12 Years	5%	99	Live with Other Relative(s)	0%	0
13 Years	5%	111	Adoption	19%	413
14 Years	6%	129	Long Term Foster Care	1%	26
15 Years	7%	146	Emancipation	13%	286
16 Years	8%	176	Guardianship	10%	222
17 Years	9%	194	Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	4%	77
18 Years	5%	99			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

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). Note: Due to data quality concerns, many of which are associated with the lingering effects of Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico's data are only included for the years 2018 through 2021 for both foster care and adoption. PR is in the process of addressing the quality of their data.

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	Time in Care	Months
American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	0	Mean	38.3
Asian	0%	0	Median	24.7
Black or African American	1%	16		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	1		
Hispanic (of any race)	90%	1,926		
White	4%	77		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	5%	112		
Two or More Races	0%	3		

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	5%	100
1 - 5 Months	15%	319
6 - 11 Months	13%	280
12 - 17 Months	7%	154
18 - 23 Months	9%	199
24 - 29 Months	6%	125
30 - 35 Months	8%	163
3 - 4 Years	14%	303
5 Years or More	23%	492

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

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=761				
Age at Entry	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	7.9	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	0
Median	8.0	Asian	0%	0
		Black or African American	1%	8
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	1
		Hispanic (of any race)	88%	669
		White	4%	33
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	6%	48
		Two or More Races	0%	2

Age at Entry	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	13%	98
1 Year	5%	36
2 Years	6%	47
3 Years	6%	42
4 Years	5%	38
5 Years	5%	37
6 Years	6%	47
7 Years	4%	34
8 Years	4%	27
9 Years	5%	40
10 Years	4%	33
11 Years	5%	36
12 Years	4%	33
13 Years	5%	40
14 Years	6%	43
15 Years	6%	49
16 Years	7%	50
17 Years	4%	31
18 Years	0%	0
19 Years	0%	0
20 Years	0%	0

Circumstances Associated with Child's Removal	Percent	Number
Neglect	85%	645
Physical Abuse	23%	174
Caretaker Inability To Cope	21%	157
Drug Abuse (Parent)	17%	128
Child Behavior Problem	11%	82
Housing	10%	73
Sexual Abuse	7%	53
Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	6%	46
Parent Incarceration	4%	30
Abandonment	4%	27
Drug Abuse (Child)	3%	23
Relinquishment	3%	21
Parent Death	1%	8
Alcohol Abuse (Child)	0%	2
Child Disability	0%	0

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=552

Age at Exit		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number	
Mean		9.1	American Indian/Alaska Native		0%	0	
Median		9.0	Asian		0%	0	
			Black or African American		0%	2	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	0	
			Hispanic (of any race)		94%	521	
			White		3%	14	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		3%	15	
			Two or More Races		0%	0	
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%	9	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)		58%	321
1 Year		5%	29	Living with Other Relative(s)		24%	131
2 Years		7%	37	Adoption		16%	86
3 Years		6%	32	Emancipation		0%	2
4 Years		6%	35	Guardianship		1%	6
5 Years		6%	33	Transfer to Another Agency		0%	0
6 Years		6%	34	Runaway		0%	0
7 Years		6%	33	Death of Child		1%	4
8 Years		5%	26				
9 Years		5%	26				
10 Years		5%	25				
11 Years		5%	29				
12 Years		5%	25				
13 Years		5%	27				
14 Years		4%	23				
15 Years		7%	38				
16 Years		6%	35				
17 Years		9%	47				
18 Years		2%	9				
19 Years		0%	0				
20 Years		0%	0				
Time in Care			Months				
Mean			24.9				
Median			20.7				
Time in Care		Percent	Number				
Less than 1 Month		3%	14				
1 - 5 Months		8%	44				
6 - 11 Months		15%	84				
12 - 17 Months		17%	92				
18 - 23 Months		19%	106				
24 - 29 Months		15%	84				
30 - 35 Months		6%	33				
3 - 4 Years		11%	60				
5 Years or More		6%	35				

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2021 - N=416

Age as of September 30th			Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care			Years
Mean			8.9	Mean			3.8
Median			9.0	Median			3.0

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	2%	7	Less than 1 Year	25%	104
1 Year	3%	13	1 Year	9%	38
2 Years	4%	16	2 Years	9%	39
3 Years	5%	20	3 Years	9%	39
4 Years	6%	25	4 Years	8%	34
5 Years	5%	21	5 Years	8%	35
6 Years	7%	28	6 Years	6%	24
7 Years	6%	27	7 Years	8%	32
8 Years	7%	29	8 Years	5%	22
9 Years	8%	34	9 Years	4%	15
10 Years	10%	40	10 Years	4%	16
11 Years	7%	31	11 Years	3%	11
12 Years	5%	22	12 Years	1%	3
13 Years	7%	28	13 Years	0%	2
14 Years	7%	28	14 Years	0%	2
15 Years	7%	28	15 Years	0%	0
16 Years	4%	15	16 Years	0%	0
17 Years	1%	4	17 Years	0%	0

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	16%	65	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	0
Foster Family Home (Relative)	7%	31	Asian	0%	0
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	37%	154	Black or African American	0%	1
Group Home	2%	7	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Institution	35%	143	Hispanic (of any race)	96%	398
Supervised Independent Living	0%	0	White	2%	10
Runaway	0%	0	Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	7
Trial Home Visit	3%	14	Two or More Races	0%	0

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	52%	217
Female	48%	199

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=43), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021			
Mean		61.1				
Median		59.4				
Time in Care		Percent	Number	Time Since TPR		Months
Less than 1 Month		0%	1	Mean		30.9
1 - 5 Months		4%	15	Median		27.0
6 - 11 Months		4%	15			
12 - 17 Months		2%	7			
18 - 23 Months		6%	24			
24 - 29 Months		6%	24			
30 - 35 Months		6%	25			
3 - 4 Years		24%	101			
5 Years or More		49%	204			

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021⁴ - N=129

Age at Adoption		Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption			Months	
Mean		6.5	Mean			19.4	
Median		6.0	Median			16.7	
Age at Adoption		Percent	Number	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption		Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year		2%	3	Less than 1 Month		0%	0
1 Year		9%	11	1 - 5 Months		6%	6
2 Years		10%	13	6 - 11 Months		31%	33
3 Years		9%	12	12 - 17 Months		21%	23
4 Years		8%	10	18 - 23 Months		22%	24
5 Years		9%	11	24 - 29 Months		6%	6
6 Years		9%	12	30 - 35 Months		7%	8
7 Years		8%	10	3 - 4 Years		6%	6
8 Years		5%	6	5 Years or More		2%	2
9 Years		6%	8				
10 Years		5%	6	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number
11 Years		5%	7	American Indian/Alaska Native		0%	0
12 Years		5%	6	Asian		0%	0
13 Years		3%	4	Black or African American		0%	0
14 Years		2%	2	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	0
15 Years		4%	5	Hispanic (of any race)		99%	128
16 Years		0%	0	White		1%	1
17 Years		1%	1	Unknown/Unable to Determine		0%	0
18 Years		1%	1	Two or More Races		0%	0
19 Years		0%	0	NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.			
20 Years		0%	0				

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	77%	75	Male	54%	70
Unmarried Couple	10%	10	Female	46%	59
Single Female	12%	12			
Single Male	0%	0			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number	Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	81%	105	Yes	51%	66
Foster Parent	8%	10	No	49%	63
Stepparent	0%	0			
Other Relative	11%	14			

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>