



The AFCARS Report:

South Carolina

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: South Carolina

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	4,041	4,456	4,521	4,070	3,944
Number entered foster care during the FY	3,686	4,098	3,958	2,961	2,709
Number exited foster care during the FY	3,538	3,591	3,779	3,349	2,758
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	7,579	8,047	8,300	7,419	6,702
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	1,470	1,591	1,568	1,623	1,438
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	527	594	765	662	739
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	487	435	529	551	459

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=3,944

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	8.9	Male	52%	2,062
Median	9.0	Female	48%	1,878

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	5%	198	Pre-Adoptive Home	5%	198
1 Year	7%	261	Foster Family Home (Relative)	15%	594
2 Years	7%	268	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	64%	2,525
3 Years	6%	238	Group Home	3%	101
4 Years	5%	211	Institution	11%	428
5 Years	5%	181	Supervised Independent Living	0%	0
6 Years	4%	167	Runaway	2%	69
7 Years	4%	169	Trial Home Visit	1%	27
8 Years	4%	168			
9 Years	5%	180			
10 Years	4%	165			
11 Years	5%	195			
12 Years	5%	184			
13 Years	6%	226			
14 Years	6%	236			
15 Years	7%	276			
16 Years	7%	290			
17 Years	8%	320			
18 Years	0%	11			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	36%	1,406
Live with Other Relative(s)	3%	136
Adoption	35%	1,372
Long Term Foster Care	4%	143
Emancipation	0%	4
Guardianship	1%	40
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	21%	843

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%	10	Mean	21.2
Asian	0%	3	Median	15.7
Black or African American	34%	1,330		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	4		
Hispanic (of any race)	6%	221		
White	50%	1,960		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	6%	226		
Two or More Races	5%	187		
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%	239		
1 - 5 Months	20%	797		
6 - 11 Months	16%	640		
12 - 17 Months	11%	421		
18 - 23 Months	12%	486		
24 - 29 Months	9%	368		
30 - 35 Months	8%	304		
3 - 4 Years	12%	471		
5 Years or More	6%	218		

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=2,709

Age at Entry		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number	
Mean		8.0	American Indian/Alaska Native		0%	6	
Median		8.0	Asian		0%	4	
			Black or African American		35%	956	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	7	
			Hispanic (of any race)		6%	175	
			White		48%	1,286	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		7%	179	
			Two or More Races		3%	92	
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		13%	354	Neglect		74%	1,998
1 Year		6%	157	Physical Abuse		24%	653
2 Years		6%	160	Drug Abuse (Parent)		14%	387
3 Years		5%	133	Sexual Abuse		8%	229
4 Years		5%	125	Child Behavior Problem		5%	122
5 Years		5%	131	Abandonment		4%	103
6 Years		4%	111	Caretaker Inability To Cope		4%	96
7 Years		4%	117	Alcohol Abuse (Parent)		3%	69
8 Years		5%	129	Housing		2%	63
9 Years		4%	120	Parent Incarceration		2%	41
10 Years		4%	116	Drug Abuse (Child)		1%	26
11 Years		4%	121	Relinquishment		1%	15
12 Years		5%	130	Alcohol Abuse (Child)		0%	10
13 Years		5%	144	Parent Death		0%	10
14 Years		6%	169	Child Disability		0%	5
15 Years		7%	184				
16 Years		7%	188				
17 Years		4%	120				
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=2,758

Age at Exit		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number
Mean		9.1	American Indian/Alaska Native		0%	3
Median		9.0	Asian		0%	7
			Black or African American		34%	937
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	5
			Hispanic (of any race)		7%	197
			White		49%	1,361
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		6%	152
			Two or More Races		3%	92
NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.						
			Reason for Discharge		Percent	Number
			Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)		50%	1,377
			Living with Other Relative(s)		20%	551
			Adoption		16%	453
			Emancipation		9%	256
			Guardianship		3%	93
			Transfer to Another Agency		1%	14
			Runaway		0%	6
			Death of Child		0%	8

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2021 - N=1,438

Age as of September 30th			Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care			Years
Mean			9.1	Mean			6.1
Median			9.0	Median			6.0

Age as of September 30th			Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care			Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year			1%	18	Less than 1 Year			17%	239
1 Year			5%	77	1 Year			7%	103
2 Years			7%	99	2 Years			5%	79
3 Years			6%	93	3 Years			6%	87
4 Years			6%	90	4 Years			5%	73
5 Years			4%	64	5 Years			6%	90
6 Years			5%	67	6 Years			6%	87
7 Years			4%	63	7 Years			6%	87
8 Years			5%	70	8 Years			7%	106
9 Years			6%	87	9 Years			7%	99
10 Years			5%	70	10 Years			6%	87
11 Years			5%	72	11 Years			6%	93
12 Years			6%	92	12 Years			5%	79
13 Years			7%	96	13 Years			4%	56
14 Years			8%	108	14 Years			3%	42
15 Years			6%	89	15 Years			2%	22
16 Years			7%	97	16 Years			1%	8
17 Years			6%	86	17 Years			0%	0

Placement Type			Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity			Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home			14%	196	American Indian/Alaska Native			0%	4
Foster Family Home (Relative)			8%	119	Asian			0%	1
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)			67%	960	Black or African American			33%	474
Group Home			2%	27	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander			0%	1
Institution			8%	116	Hispanic (of any race)			6%	84
Supervised Independent Living			0%	0	White			52%	743
Runaway			1%	20	Unknown/Unable to Determine			3%	48
Trial Home Visit			0%	0	Two or More Races			6%	83

Sex			Percent	Number
Male			55%	792
Female			45%	646

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=739), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021
Mean	37.4	
Median	32.5	

Time in Care	Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month	0%	1	Mean	20.1
1 - 5 Months	3%	40	Median	11.0
6 - 11 Months	5%	69		
12 - 17 Months	6%	93		
18 - 23 Months	14%	197		
24 - 29 Months	15%	217		
30 - 35 Months	16%	227		
3 - 4 Years	27%	394		
5 Years or More	14%	200		

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021⁴ - N=459

Age at Adoption	Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	6.6	Mean	14.5
Median	5.0	Median	11.4

Age at Adoption	Percent	Number	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	1%	4	Less than 1 Month	0%	1
1 Year	7%	30	1 - 5 Months	17%	77
2 Years	15%	70	6 - 11 Months	37%	168
3 Years	10%	46	12 - 17 Months	19%	87
4 Years	11%	51	18 - 23 Months	12%	57
5 Years	6%	29	24 - 29 Months	7%	31
6 Years	5%	25	30 - 35 Months	3%	15
7 Years	7%	34	3 - 4 Years	4%	17
8 Years	4%	20	5 Years or More	1%	4
9 Years	6%	28			
10 Years	4%	18			
11 Years	4%	20			
12 Years	4%	19			
13 Years	6%	28			
14 Years	3%	15			
15 Years	2%	9			
16 Years	2%	8			
17 Years	1%	5			
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	27%	124
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Hispanic (of any race)	7%	30
White	56%	258
Unknown/Unable to Determine	6%	28
Two or More Races	4%	17

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	79%	361	Male	53%	242
Unmarried Couple	3%	12	Female	47%	217
Single Female	17%	80			
Single Male	1%	6			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number	Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	20%	93	Yes	99%	456
Foster Parent	77%	355	No	1%	3
Stepparent	0%	0			
Other Relative	2%	11			

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>