



The AFCARS Report:

South Dakota

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 Dakota

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	1,603	1,560	1,706	1,683	1,647
Number entered foster care during the FY	1,184	1,144	1,215	1,115	1,013
Number exited foster care during the FY	968	1,145	1,027	1,108	982
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	2,571	2,705	2,733	2,791	2,629
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	365	371	396	446	485
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	313	345	358	404	439
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	181	183	211	209	222

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=1,647

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	7.4	Male	51%	843
Median	7.0	Female	49%	804

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	6%	104	Pre-Adoptive Home	4%	66
1 Year	9%	140	Foster Family Home (Relative)	25%	410
2 Years	7%	118	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	47%	780
3 Years	7%	123	Group Home	0%	0
4 Years	8%	128	Institution	16%	261
5 Years	6%	102	Supervised Independent Living	0%	5
6 Years	5%	87	Runaway	0%	6
7 Years	6%	98	Trial Home Visit	7%	119

Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	63%	997
Live with Other Relative(s)	2%	27
Adoption	24%	385
Long Term Foster Care	2%	34
Emancipation	0%	0
Guardianship	3%	42
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	7%	110

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number
8 Years	5%	85
9 Years	5%	88
10 Years	5%	80
11 Years	4%	60
12 Years	4%	63
13 Years	4%	66
14 Years	4%	73
15 Years	5%	87
16 Years	5%	76
17 Years	4%	69
18 Years	0%	0
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)

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	Time in Care	Months
American Indian/Alaska Native	57%	938	Mean	19.3
Asian	0%	7	Median	13.3
Black or African American	2%	31		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0		
Hispanic (of any race)	5%	84		
White	20%	330		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	0		
Two or More Races	16%	257		

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	6%	93
1 - 5 Months	19%	309
6 - 11 Months	21%	342
12 - 17 Months	14%	237
18 - 23 Months	12%	197
24 - 29 Months	8%	134
30 - 35 Months	5%	81
3 - 4 Years	12%	191
5 Years or More	4%	63

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

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=1,013

Age at Entry	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	6.3	American Indian/Alaska Native	52%	526
Median	6.0	Asian	0%	5
		Black or African American	4%	38
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	1
		Hispanic (of any race)	7%	68
		White	23%	238
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	0
		Two or More Races	14%	137

Age at Entry	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	16%	166
1 Year	7%	71
2 Years	8%	78
3 Years	7%	67
4 Years	7%	74
5 Years	5%	50
6 Years	6%	59
7 Years	6%	60
8 Years	5%	50
9 Years	6%	57
10 Years	5%	51
11 Years	3%	31
12 Years	4%	40
13 Years	4%	40
14 Years	3%	35
15 Years	3%	35
16 Years	3%	28
17 Years	2%	21
18 Years	0%	0
19 Years	0%	0
20 Years	0%	0

Circumstances Associated with Child's Removal	Percent	Number
Neglect	68%	686
Drug Abuse (Parent)	37%	377
Parent Incarceration	26%	260
Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	24%	248
Physical Abuse	13%	133
Abandonment	12%	118
Housing	8%	86
Child Behavior Problem	4%	42
Caretaker Inability To Cope	4%	40
Sexual Abuse	3%	33
Drug Abuse (Child)	3%	29
Relinquishment	2%	16
Alcohol Abuse (Child)	1%	7
Child Disability	1%	7
Parent Death	0%	4

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=982

Age at Exit	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	
Mean	7.8	American Indian/Alaska Native	45%	437	
Median	7.0	Asian	0%	2	
		Black or African American	6%	56	
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	1	
		Hispanic (of any race)	7%	70	
		White	30%	294	
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	0	
		Two or More Races	12%	122	
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	3%	33	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	47%	463
1 Year	7%	70	Living with Other Relative(s)	3%	33
2 Years	7%	73	Adoption	22%	220
3 Years	9%	86	Emancipation	7%	69
4 Years	8%	82	Guardianship	15%	143
5 Years	7%	66	Transfer to Another Agency	5%	52
6 Years	6%	62	Runaway	0%	2
7 Years	6%	60	Death of Child	0%	0
8 Years	5%	49			
9 Years	5%	54			
10 Years	4%	42			
11 Years	3%	34			
12 Years	5%	47			
13 Years	4%	36			
14 Years	4%	36			
15 Years	3%	29			
16 Years	3%	34			
17 Years	2%	22			
18 Years	7%	67			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			
Time in Care	Months				
Mean	17.6				
Median	13.7				
Time in Care	Percent	Number			
Less than 1 Month	17%	166			
1 - 5 Months	11%	110			
6 - 11 Months	18%	174			
12 - 17 Months	16%	162			
18 - 23 Months	10%	97			
24 - 29 Months	10%	98			
30 - 35 Months	6%	60			
3 - 4 Years	10%	94			
5 Years or More	2%	21			

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2021 - N=485

Age as of September 30th	Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Years
Mean	8.3	Mean	5.4
Median	8.0	Median	5.0

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	1%	4	Less than 1 Year	20%	99
1 Year	7%	32	1 Year	11%	54
2 Years	8%	37	2 Years	6%	28
3 Years	9%	45	3 Years	5%	24
4 Years	7%	35	4 Years	7%	36
5 Years	6%	29	5 Years	5%	25
6 Years	5%	26	6 Years	6%	27
7 Years	5%	23	7 Years	6%	28
8 Years	6%	30	8 Years	4%	19
9 Years	6%	27	9 Years	5%	23
10 Years	5%	24	10 Years	6%	30
11 Years	4%	17	11 Years	5%	25
12 Years	3%	16	12 Years	4%	17
13 Years	5%	25	13 Years	4%	18
14 Years	5%	26	14 Years	5%	25
15 Years	7%	36	15 Years	1%	6
16 Years	6%	28	16 Years	0%	1
17 Years	5%	25	17 Years	0%	0

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	14%	66	American Indian/Alaska Native	57%	275
Foster Family Home (Relative)	20%	98	Asian	0%	2
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	43%	208	Black or African American	3%	14
Group Home	0%	0	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Institution	22%	107	Hispanic (of any race)	6%	28
Supervised Independent Living	1%	3	White	17%	84
Runaway	0%	1	Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	0
Trial Home Visit	0%	2	Two or More Races	17%	82

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	53%	259
Female	47%	226

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=439), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021
Mean	35.7	
Median	30.5	

Time in Care	Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month	0%	1	Mean	19.3
1 - 5 Months	0%	1	Median	11.0
6 - 11 Months	3%	13		
12 - 17 Months	10%	47		
18 - 23 Months	21%	100		
24 - 29 Months	16%	77		
30 - 35 Months	12%	57		
3 - 4 Years	30%	145		
5 Years or More	9%	44		

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021⁴ - N=222

Age at Adoption	Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	5.9	Mean	13.8
Median	5.0	Median	11.5

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	2%	4
1 Year	8%	18	1 - 5 Months	15%	33
2 Years	11%	25	6 - 11 Months	35%	78
3 Years	13%	28	12 - 17 Months	20%	44
4 Years	14%	32	18 - 23 Months	18%	39
5 Years	9%	19	24 - 29 Months	7%	16
6 Years	9%	20	30 - 35 Months	1%	3
7 Years	6%	14	3 - 4 Years	2%	5
8 Years	5%	10	5 Years or More	0%	0
9 Years	6%	14			
10 Years	3%	6			
11 Years	5%	10			
12 Years	5%	12			
13 Years	1%	2			
14 Years	2%	4			
15 Years	2%	5			
16 Years	1%	2			
17 Years	0%	0			
18 Years	0%	0			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	51%	114
Asian	0%	1
Black or African American	4%	9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Hispanic (of any race)	8%	17
White	21%	47
Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	0
Two or More Races	15%	34

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	64%	142	Male	50%	111
Unmarried Couple	5%	11	Female	50%	111
Single Female	27%	59			
Single Male	5%	10			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption			Receive Adoption Subsidy		
	Percent	Number		Percent	Number
Non-Relative	4%	8	Yes	100%	222
Foster Parent	57%	125	No	0%	0
Stepparent	0%	0			
Other Relative	40%	88			

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>