



The AFCARS Report:

Washington

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: Washington

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	11,355	11,399	10,909	9,616	8,894
Number entered foster care during the FY	5,922	5,568	5,336	4,308	3,849
Number exited foster care during the FY	5,423	5,422	5,673	5,493	4,460
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	16,778	16,821	16,582	15,108	13,354
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	3,569	3,733	3,478	2,803	2,582
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	1,730	1,966	1,774	1,189	1,091
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	1,345	1,331	1,509	1,425	1,077

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=8,894

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	7.9	Male	50%	4,487
Median	7.0	Female	50%	4,407

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	9%	781	Pre-Adoptive Home	0%	21
1 Year	10%	862	Foster Family Home (Relative)	34%	3,068
2 Years	8%	675	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	38%	3,413
3 Years	7%	597	Group Home	3%	306
4 Years	6%	520	Institution	0%	35
5 Years	5%	472	Supervised Independent Living	9%	803
6 Years	5%	449	Runaway	1%	100
7 Years	4%	377	Trial Home Visit	13%	1,148
8 Years	4%	391			
9 Years	4%	321			
10 Years	4%	336			
11 Years	3%	305			
12 Years	4%	320			
13 Years	4%	317			
14 Years	3%	289			
15 Years	4%	310			
16 Years	3%	292			
17 Years	3%	305			
18 Years	3%	293			
19 Years	3%	277			
20 Years	3%	294			

Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	50%	4,332
Live with Other Relative(s)	1%	56
Adoption	29%	2,538
Long Term Foster Care	0%	0
Emancipation	11%	922
Guardianship	7%	595
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	3%	229

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	4%	331	Mean	28.3
Asian	1%	48	Median	22.0
Black or African American	8%	684		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1%	91		
Hispanic (of any race)	21%	1,888		
White	47%	4,184		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	7		
Two or More Races	18%	1,628		
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%	287		
1 - 5 Months	12%	1,104		
6 - 11 Months	15%	1,331		
12 - 17 Months	12%	1,074		
18 - 23 Months	12%	1,033		
24 - 29 Months	10%	915		
30 - 35 Months	8%	689		
3 - 4 Years	18%	1,565		
5 Years or More	10%	896		

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=3,849

Age at Entry		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number	
Mean		5.7	American Indian/Alaska Native		3%	102	
Median		4.0	Asian		1%	32	
			Black or African American		6%	242	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		1%	45	
			Hispanic (of any race)		23%	872	
			White		48%	1,809	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		0%	7	
			Two or More Races		18%	699	
			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		29%	1,102	Neglect		61%	2,350
1 Year		7%	252	Drug Abuse (Parent)		39%	1,511
2 Years		6%	250	Physical Abuse		16%	618
3 Years		6%	235	Housing		12%	459
4 Years		5%	199	Caretaker Inability To Cope		10%	376
5 Years		5%	201	Sexual Abuse		6%	243
6 Years		4%	159	Parent Incarceration		5%	196
7 Years		4%	145	Alcohol Abuse (Parent)		5%	181
8 Years		4%	135	Abandonment		4%	166
9 Years		3%	129	Child Behavior Problem		3%	104
10 Years		3%	119	Parent Death		1%	38
11 Years		3%	120	Child Disability		1%	23
12 Years		4%	135	Drug Abuse (Child)		1%	20
13 Years		3%	128	Alcohol Abuse (Child)		0%	13
14 Years		4%	136	Relinquishment		0%	3
15 Years		4%	150				
16 Years		2%	96				
17 Years		2%	75				
18 Years		1%	44				
19 Years		1%	28				
20 Years		0%	11				

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=4,460

Age at Exit		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number	
Mean		7.2	American Indian/Alaska Native		4%	159	
Median		6.0	Asian		1%	43	
			Black or African American		8%	335	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		2%	67	
			Hispanic (of any race)		22%	975	
			White		47%	2,108	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		0%	5	
			Two or More Races		17%	758	
			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		6%	243	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)		66%	2,924
1 Year		8%	349	Living with Other Relative(s)		0%	0
2 Years		10%	446	Adoption		24%	1,070
3 Years		8%	357	Emancipation		2%	106
4 Years		7%	308	Guardianship		7%	320
5 Years		7%	318	Transfer to Another Agency		0%	21
6 Years		6%	273	Runaway		0%	0
7 Years		5%	234	Death of Child		0%	6
8 Years		5%	205				
9 Years		4%	186				
10 Years		5%	200				
11 Years		4%	178				
12 Years		4%	195				
13 Years		4%	155				
14 Years		4%	182				
15 Years		4%	176				
16 Years		3%	141				
17 Years		2%	107				
18 Years		2%	72				
19 Years		1%	22				
20 Years		0%	12				
Time in Care		Months					
Mean		24.8					
Median		21.5					
Time in Care		Percent	Number				
Less than 1 Month		16%	706				
1 - 5 Months		10%	448				
6 - 11 Months		8%	336				
12 - 17 Months		10%	439				
18 - 23 Months		11%	496				
24 - 29 Months		11%	505				
30 - 35 Months		10%	424				
3 - 4 Years		17%	780				
5 Years or More		7%	326				

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2021 - N=2,582

Age as of September 30th			Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care			Years
Mean			7.1	Mean			4.0
Median			6.0	Median			3.0

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	1%	35	Less than 1 Year	34%	867
1 Year	12%	310	1 Year	7%	183
2 Years	11%	282	2 Years	7%	181
3 Years	8%	216	3 Years	6%	163
4 Years	7%	175	4 Years	6%	167
5 Years	6%	156	5 Years	6%	153
6 Years	7%	184	6 Years	6%	147
7 Years	5%	127	7 Years	5%	142
8 Years	6%	143	8 Years	5%	125
9 Years	5%	120	9 Years	4%	109
10 Years	5%	119	10 Years	4%	96
11 Years	4%	103	11 Years	3%	87
12 Years	5%	123	12 Years	3%	68
13 Years	5%	120	13 Years	2%	48
14 Years	4%	111	14 Years	1%	26
15 Years	4%	109	15 Years	1%	19
16 Years	3%	83	16 Years	0%	1
17 Years	3%	66	17 Years	0%	0

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	1%	16	American Indian/Alaska Native	2%	62
Foster Family Home (Relative)	38%	969	Asian	0%	7
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	54%	1,389	Black or African American	8%	205
Group Home	5%	118	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1%	28
Institution	0%	8	Hispanic (of any race)	21%	545
Supervised Independent Living	0%	0	White	49%	1,253
Runaway	1%	25	Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	1
Trial Home Visit	2%	57	Two or More Races	19%	480

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	53%	1,357
Female	47%	1,225

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=1,091), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021			
Mean		38.1				
Median		32.4				
Time in Care		Percent	Number	Time Since TPR		Months
Less than 1 Month		0%	1	Mean		18.2
1 - 5 Months		0%	6	Median		7.0
6 - 11 Months		3%	83			
12 - 17 Months		10%	264			
18 - 23 Months		15%	386			
24 - 29 Months		16%	403			
30 - 35 Months		13%	333			
3 - 4 Years		29%	755			
5 Years or More		14%	351			

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021⁴ - N=1,077

Age at Adoption		Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption			Months	
Mean		6.2	Mean			12.1	
Median		5.0	Median			6.7	
Age at Adoption		Percent	Number	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption		Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year		1%	11	Less than 1 Month		0%	0
1 Year		8%	91	1 - 5 Months		44%	463
2 Years		19%	210	6 - 11 Months		26%	276
3 Years		10%	113	12 - 17 Months		9%	99
4 Years		7%	75	18 - 23 Months		7%	71
5 Years		8%	85	24 - 29 Months		4%	47
6 Years		7%	73	30 - 35 Months		4%	42
7 Years		6%	63	3 - 4 Years		6%	61
8 Years		4%	41	5 Years or More		0%	5
9 Years		5%	51				
10 Years		4%	43	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number
11 Years		4%	48	American Indian/Alaska Native		2%	26
12 Years		4%	38	Asian		1%	8
13 Years		3%	28	Black or African American		6%	69
14 Years		3%	34	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		2%	18
15 Years		2%	25	Hispanic (of any race)		17%	181
16 Years		3%	27	White		53%	567
17 Years		2%	21	Unknown/Unable to Determine		0%	1
18 Years		0%	0	Two or More Races		19%	207
19 Years		0%	0				
20 Years		0%	0	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	67%	715	Male	51%	547
Unmarried Couple	4%	46	Female	49%	530
Single Female	26%	275			
Single Male	2%	24			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number	Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	4%	15	Yes	98%	1,054
Foster Parent	51%	181	No	2%	23
Stepparent	0%	0			
Other Relative	45%	160			

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>