



The AFCARS Report:

Wisconsin

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: Wisconsin

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	7,721	7,821	7,653	7,105	6,771
Number entered foster care during the FY	5,175	4,988	4,620	4,001	3,616
Number exited foster care during the FY	4,512	4,723	4,617	4,329	3,815
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	12,226	12,540	12,271	11,434	10,586
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	1,397	1,406	1,540	1,412	1,391
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	726	663	673	551	579
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	692	755	711	748	710

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=6,771

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	7.4	Male	53%	3,573
Median	6.0	Female	47%	3,198

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	7%	461	Pre-Adoptive Home	1%	87
1 Year	9%	596	Foster Family Home (Relative)	40%	2,692
2 Years	9%	594	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	47%	3,159
3 Years	8%	544	Group Home	4%	269
4 Years	7%	460	Institution	5%	351
5 Years	6%	396	Supervised Independent Living	0%	19
6 Years	5%	365	Runaway	1%	56
7 Years	5%	328	Trial Home Visit	2%	136

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
9 Years	4%	281	Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	61%	4,030
10 Years	4%	265	Live with Other Relative(s)	1%	62
11 Years	4%	263	Adoption	19%	1,289
12 Years	4%	275	Long Term Foster Care	1%	89
13 Years	4%	269	Emancipation	0%	0
14 Years	5%	319	Guardianship	9%	624
15 Years	5%	347	Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	8%	518
16 Years	5%	342			
17 Years	5%	346			
18 Years	0%	4			
19 Years	0%	3			
20 Years	0%	1			

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	7%	488	Mean	21.0
Asian	1%	60	Median	14.8
Black or African American	28%	1,900		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	10		
Hispanic (of any race)	10%	668		
White	46%	3,111		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	129		
Two or More Races	6%	383		

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	4%	285
1 - 5 Months	19%	1,301
6 - 11 Months	18%	1,246
12 - 17 Months	14%	971
18 - 23 Months	12%	800
24 - 29 Months	9%	586
30 - 35 Months	6%	413
3 - 4 Years	12%	835
5 Years or More	5%	333

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

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=3,616

Age at Entry	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	6.8	American Indian/Alaska Native	8%	294
Median	6.0	Asian	1%	35
		Black or African American	22%	795
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	2
		Hispanic (of any race)	10%	358
		White	52%	1,855
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	85
		Two or More Races	5%	168

Age at Entry	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	19%	692
1 Year	8%	288
2 Years	7%	251
3 Years	6%	216
4 Years	5%	183
5 Years	4%	161
6 Years	4%	161
7 Years	4%	149
8 Years	3%	112
9 Years	4%	139
10 Years	3%	105
11 Years	4%	127
12 Years	4%	141
13 Years	5%	189
14 Years	5%	195
15 Years	5%	197
16 Years	6%	200
17 Years	3%	108
18 Years	0%	2
19 Years	0%	0
20 Years	0%	0

Circumstances Associated with Child's Removal	Percent	Number
Neglect	69%	2,483
Drug Abuse (Parent)	38%	1,392
Child Behavior Problem	14%	510
Parent Incarceration	12%	417
Physical Abuse	10%	348
Caretaker Inability To Cope	8%	300
Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	8%	291
Housing	6%	232
Sexual Abuse	3%	92
Abandonment	2%	71
Parent Death	2%	63
Relinquishment	2%	63
Child Disability	1%	50
Drug Abuse (Child)	1%	34
Alcohol Abuse (Child)	1%	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=3,815

Age at Exit	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	
Mean	8.8	American Indian/Alaska Native	7%	278	
Median	8.0	Asian	1%	48	
		Black or African American	24%	913	
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	1	
		Hispanic (of any race)	11%	412	
		White	50%	1,916	
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	67	
		Two or More Races	4%	170	
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%	123	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	52%	1,966
1 Year	7%	260	Living with Other Relative(s)	1%	40
2 Years	8%	312	Adoption	19%	712
3 Years	7%	268	Emancipation	9%	352
4 Years	6%	227	Guardianship	19%	706
5 Years	6%	225	Transfer to Another Agency	1%	31
6 Years	5%	196	Runaway	0%	3
7 Years	5%	198	Death of Child	0%	5
8 Years	4%	171			
9 Years	4%	171			
10 Years	4%	148			
11 Years	4%	141			
12 Years	4%	147			
13 Years	5%	173			
14 Years	5%	176			
15 Years	6%	211			
16 Years	5%	184			
17 Years	4%	134			
18 Years	9%	348			
19 Years	0%	1			
20 Years	0%	1			
Time in Care	Months				
Mean	21.5				
Median	16.7				
Time in Care	Percent	Number			
Less than 1 Month	6%	246			
1 - 5 Months	15%	561			
6 - 11 Months	16%	627			
12 - 17 Months	16%	625			
18 - 23 Months	12%	448			
24 - 29 Months	10%	374			
30 - 35 Months	7%	270			
3 - 4 Years	13%	496			
5 Years or More	4%	166			

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2021 - N=1,391

Age as of September 30th	Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Years
Mean	6.9	Mean	3.7
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	2%	31	Less than 1 Year	32%	451
1 Year	7%	102	1 Year	9%	123
2 Years	10%	136	2 Years	9%	120
3 Years	10%	139	3 Years	8%	108
4 Years	9%	119	4 Years	7%	96
5 Years	8%	108	5 Years	6%	79
6 Years	7%	97	6 Years	6%	83
7 Years	6%	86	7 Years	5%	70
8 Years	6%	90	8 Years	5%	70
9 Years	5%	76	9 Years	4%	57
10 Years	5%	72	10 Years	2%	31
11 Years	5%	71	11 Years	2%	32
12 Years	4%	60	12 Years	2%	31
13 Years	4%	55	13 Years	1%	18
14 Years	3%	44	14 Years	1%	8
15 Years	2%	33	15 Years	1%	7
16 Years	3%	43	16 Years	0%	5
17 Years	2%	29	17 Years	0%	2

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	6%	81	American Indian/Alaska Native	3%	44
Foster Family Home (Relative)	20%	283	Asian	1%	11
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	68%	943	Black or African American	32%	442
Group Home	2%	27	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	3
Institution	3%	47	Hispanic (of any race)	11%	157
Supervised Independent Living	0%	1	White	44%	612
Runaway	0%	6	Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	25
Trial Home Visit	0%	3	Two or More Races	7%	94

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	52%	729
Female	48%	662

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=579), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021
Mean		40.0	
Median		35.1	

Time in Care	Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month	0%	4	Mean	14.4
1 - 5 Months	2%	22	Median	6.0
6 - 11 Months	4%	57		
12 - 17 Months	7%	99		
18 - 23 Months	12%	164		
24 - 29 Months	13%	183		
30 - 35 Months	13%	187		
3 - 4 Years	34%	468		
5 Years or More	15%	207		

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021⁴ - N=710

Age at Adoption	Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	5.8	Mean	8.3
Median	5.0	Median	5.3

Age at Adoption	Percent	Number	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	4%	25	Less than 1 Month	0%	2
1 Year	10%	69	1 - 5 Months	55%	388
2 Years	14%	100	6 - 11 Months	26%	184
3 Years	11%	76	12 - 17 Months	10%	70
4 Years	9%	65	18 - 23 Months	5%	34
5 Years	9%	61	24 - 29 Months	2%	11
6 Years	9%	61	30 - 35 Months	1%	8
7 Years	6%	41	3 - 4 Years	1%	10
8 Years	5%	35	5 Years or More	0%	2
9 Years	5%	34			
10 Years	4%	25			
11 Years	4%	29			
12 Years	3%	23			
13 Years	2%	17			
14 Years	2%	14			
15 Years	3%	18			
16 Years	1%	7			
17 Years	1%	10			
18 Years	0%	0			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	6%	40
Asian	1%	5
Black or African American	21%	152
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Hispanic (of any race)	9%	66
White	55%	394
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	11
Two or More Races	6%	42

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	75%	529	Male	48%	341
Unmarried Couple	2%	12	Female	52%	369
Single Female	21%	148			
Single Male	2%	17			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption			Receive Adoption Subsidy		
	Percent	Number		Percent	Number
Non-Relative	0%	0	Yes	100%	707
Foster Parent	100%	709	No	0%	3
Stepparent	0%	0			
Other Relative	0%	1			

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>