



# The AFCARS Report:

## West Virginia

Preliminary FY<sup>1</sup> 2021 Estimates as of June 28, 2022 - No. 29

**SOURCE:** Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2021 data<sup>2</sup>

### Numbers at a Glance: West Virginia

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	6,737	7,206	7,322	7,334	7,152
Number entered foster care during the FY	5,020	5,154	5,105	4,707	4,710
Number exited foster care during the FY	3,824	4,436	4,772	4,515	4,759
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	10,561	11,642	12,094	11,849	11,911
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	2,980	3,320	3,402	2,705	2,454
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	1,878	2,133	2,220	1,900	1,774
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	1,070	1,410	1,699	1,683	1,856

### Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=7,152

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	8.1	Male	52%	3,694
Median	8.0	Female	48%	3,447

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	9%	633	Pre-Adoptive Home	0%	3
1 Year	8%	594	Foster Family Home (Relative)	54%	3,842
2 Years	6%	437	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	29%	2,066
3 Years	5%	391	Group Home	11%	782
4 Years	5%	386	Institution	2%	175
5 Years	5%	361	Supervised Independent Living	0%	25
6 Years	5%	350	Runaway	0%	13
7 Years	5%	332	Trial Home Visit	3%	210
8 Years	4%	321			
9 Years	4%	294			
10 Years	5%	325			
11 Years	4%	316			
12 Years	5%	338			
13 Years	5%	375			
14 Years	5%	388			
15 Years	6%	434			
16 Years	6%	409			
17 Years	6%	408			
18 Years	1%	57			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	2			

Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	57%	3,852
Live with Other Relative(s)	1%	99
Adoption	31%	2,066
Long Term Foster Care	0%	18
Emancipation	1%	59
Guardianship	5%	340
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	4%	277

<sup>1</sup> 'FY' refers to the Federal Fiscal Year, October 1st through September 30th.

<sup>2</sup> 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%	0	Mean	14.5
Asian	0%	2	Median	10.2
Black or African American	3%	248		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	2		
Hispanic (of any race)	1%	80		
White	88%	6,285		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	21		
Two or More Races	7%	512		
<b>NOTE:</b> All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.				
Time in Care	Percent	Number		
Less than 1 Month	5%	391		
1 - 5 Months	28%	2,021		
6 - 11 Months	22%	1,591		
12 - 17 Months	14%	1,022		
18 - 23 Months	12%	871		
24 - 29 Months	7%	521		
30 - 35 Months	4%	253		
3 - 4 Years	5%	337		
5 Years or More	2%	145		

### Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=4,710

Age at Entry		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number	
Mean		7.4	American Indian/Alaska Native		0%	0	
Median		7.0	Asian		0%	0	
			Black or African American		4%	192	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	2	
			Hispanic (of any race)		1%	44	
			White		87%	4,105	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		0%	13	
			Two or More Races		7%	352	
<b>NOTE:</b> 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		18%	852	Drug Abuse (Parent)		50%	2,343
1 Year		6%	287	Neglect		30%	1,429
2 Years		5%	234	Child Behavior Problem		14%	639
3 Years		5%	241	Housing		11%	523
4 Years		5%	230	Physical Abuse		11%	507
5 Years		5%	217	Parent Incarceration		6%	284
6 Years		4%	203	Abandonment		5%	259
7 Years		5%	213	Sexual Abuse		5%	212
8 Years		4%	193	Alcohol Abuse (Parent)		4%	207
9 Years		4%	186	Caretaker Inability To Cope		3%	130
10 Years		3%	163	Drug Abuse (Child)		2%	92
11 Years		4%	193	Parent Death		1%	56
12 Years		5%	229	Relinquishment		1%	35
13 Years		5%	221	Child Disability		0%	22
14 Years		6%	261	Alcohol Abuse (Child)		0%	12
15 Years		6%	265				
16 Years		6%	276				
17 Years		4%	204				
18 Years		1%	35				
19 Years		0%	4				
20 Years		0%	2				

**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=4,759

Age at Exit		Years	Race/Ethnicity		Percent	Number	
Mean		8.6	American Indian/Alaska Native		0%	0	
Median		8.0	Asian		0%	6	
			Black or African American		3%	163	
			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander		0%	0	
			Hispanic (of any race)		1%	42	
			White		88%	4,182	
			Unknown/Unable to Determine		0%	9	
			Two or More Races		8%	357	
<b>NOTE:</b> 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		4%	172	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)		45%	2,135
1 Year		10%	462	Living with Other Relative(s)		1%	68
2 Years		7%	346	Adoption		39%	1,862
3 Years		6%	297	Emancipation		2%	94
4 Years		6%	264	Guardianship		11%	543
5 Years		5%	250	Transfer to Another Agency		1%	49
6 Years		5%	228	Runaway		0%	0
7 Years		5%	234	Death of Child		0%	2
8 Years		5%	219				
9 Years		5%	219				
10 Years		4%	181				
11 Years		5%	229				
12 Years		4%	174				
13 Years		4%	201				
14 Years		4%	203				
15 Years		4%	208				
16 Years		5%	236				
17 Years		5%	254				
18 Years		8%	375				
19 Years		0%	5				
20 Years		0%	0				
Time in Care		Months					
Mean		18.6					
Median		16.3					
Time in Care		Percent	Number				
Less than 1 Month		2%	114				
1 - 5 Months		9%	432				
6 - 11 Months		22%	1,057				
12 - 17 Months		23%	1,091				
18 - 23 Months		18%	844				
24 - 29 Months		11%	535				
30 - 35 Months		6%	274				
3 - 4 Years		7%	338				
5 Years or More		1%	69				

### Children Waiting to be Adopted<sup>3</sup> on September 30, 2021 - N=2,454

Age as of September 30th			Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care			Years
Mean			7.6	Mean			5.7
Median			7.0	Median			5.0

  

Age as of September 30th			Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care			Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	7%	172			Less than 1 Year	23%	556		
1 Year	11%	264			1 Year	6%	159		
2 Years	6%	157			2 Years	5%	123		
3 Years	6%	135			3 Years	6%	143		
4 Years	6%	146			4 Years	5%	128		
5 Years	5%	127			5 Years	6%	147		
6 Years	5%	123			6 Years	6%	147		
7 Years	5%	126			7 Years	5%	132		
8 Years	5%	126			8 Years	6%	147		
9 Years	5%	123			9 Years	5%	134		
10 Years	5%	132			10 Years	6%	135		
11 Years	5%	130			11 Years	5%	126		
12 Years	5%	132			12 Years	4%	110		
13 Years	5%	128			13 Years	4%	99		
14 Years	4%	107			14 Years	4%	89		
15 Years	5%	123			15 Years	2%	43		
16 Years	5%	114			16 Years	1%	28		
17 Years	4%	89			17 Years	0%	8		

  

Placement Type			Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity			Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	0%	2			American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	0		
Foster Family Home (Relative)	53%	1,291			Asian	0%	2		
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	37%	913			Black or African American	4%	89		
Group Home	7%	177			Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0		
Institution	2%	46			Hispanic (of any race)	1%	33		
Supervised Independent Living	0%	1			White	87%	2,146		
Runaway	0%	2			Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	3		
Trial Home Visit	0%	7			Two or More Races	7%	181		

  

Sex			Percent	Number
Male	51%	1,240		
Female	49%	1,212		

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

<sup>3</sup> 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
Mean	23.3
Median	20.1

**Of Children Waiting for Adoption whose Parents' Parental Rights have been Terminated (N=1,774), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021**

Time Since TPR	Months
Mean	13.8
Median	8.0

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	1%	14
1 - 5 Months	8%	198
6 - 11 Months	17%	425
12 - 17 Months	18%	434
18 - 23 Months	21%	510
24 - 29 Months	14%	346
30 - 35 Months	7%	171
3 - 4 Years	10%	239
5 Years or More	5%	117

### Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021<sup>4</sup> - N=1,856

Age at Adoption	Years
Mean	6.1
Median	5.0

Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	13.3
Median	11.1

Age at Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	3%	62
1 Year	15%	273
2 Years	11%	210
3 Years	8%	149
4 Years	7%	137
5 Years	7%	135
6 Years	6%	115
7 Years	7%	121
8 Years	5%	94
9 Years	5%	102
10 Years	4%	71
11 Years	5%	94
12 Years	4%	77
13 Years	3%	63
14 Years	3%	49
15 Years	2%	38
16 Years	2%	32
17 Years	2%	29
18 Years	0%	5
19 Years	0%	0
20 Years	0%	0

Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	0%	2
1 - 5 Months	17%	307
6 - 11 Months	38%	706
12 - 17 Months	24%	438
18 - 23 Months	11%	202
24 - 29 Months	5%	100
30 - 35 Months	2%	30
3 - 4 Years	2%	43
5 Years or More	0%	9

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	0
Asian	0%	2
Black or African American	3%	52
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Hispanic (of any race)	1%	11
White	89%	1,654
Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	3
Two or More Races	7%	134

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

<sup>4</sup> 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	76%	1,398	Male	49%	914
Unmarried Couple	4%	71	Female	51%	942
Single Female	17%	322			
Single Male	3%	51			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number	Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	1%	18	Yes	100%	1,848
Foster Parent	50%	929	No	0%	3
Stepparent	0%	5			
Other Relative	49%	904			

### 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>