



The AFCARS Report:

District of Columbia

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: District of Columbia

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	751	707	672	577	504
Number entered foster care during the FY	321	336	360	212	243
Number exited foster care during the FY	380	361	389	298	306
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	1,131	1,068	1,061	875	810
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	190	181	202	162	156
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	6	10	5	12	3
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	91	100	98	98	110

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=504

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	9.0	Male	49%	247
Median	9.0	Female	51%	257

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	5%	27	Pre-Adoptive Home	17%	87
1 Year	9%	46	Foster Family Home (Relative)	17%	85
2 Years	5%	23	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	52%	261
3 Years	5%	25	Group Home	6%	30
4 Years	5%	27	Institution	5%	27
5 Years	6%	28	Supervised Independent Living	1%	3
6 Years	4%	22	Runaway	2%	10
7 Years	4%	20	Trial Home Visit	0%	0

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
9 Years	5%	25	Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	46%	221
10 Years	4%	22	Live with Other Relative(s)	0%	2
11 Years	3%	17	Adoption	32%	156
12 Years	5%	23	Long Term Foster Care	0%	0
13 Years	4%	22	Emancipation	4%	20
14 Years	5%	27	Guardianship	12%	57
15 Years	7%	36	Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	6%	28
16 Years	6%	29			
17 Years	10%	49			
18 Years	2%	8			
19 Years	1%	5			
20 Years	0%	2			

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%	0	Mean	24.5
Asian	0%	2	Median	16.9
Black or African American	81%	395		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0		
Hispanic (of any race)	16%	77		
White	0%	1		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	1		
Two or More Races	2%	10		

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	4%	22
1 - 5 Months	16%	79
6 - 11 Months	20%	99
12 - 17 Months	12%	61
18 - 23 Months	10%	52
24 - 29 Months	10%	50
30 - 35 Months	7%	34
3 - 4 Years	12%	61
5 Years or More	9%	46

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

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=243

Age at Entry	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	7.0	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	0
Median	6.0	Asian	0%	0
		Black or African American	83%	186
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
		Hispanic (of any race)	14%	31
		White	0%	0
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	1
		Two or More Races	3%	6

Age at Entry	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	18%	43
1 Year	7%	17
2 Years	6%	15
3 Years	6%	14
4 Years	4%	9
5 Years	6%	15
6 Years	5%	12
7 Years	3%	7
8 Years	5%	11
9 Years	5%	12
10 Years	5%	11
11 Years	4%	10
12 Years	4%	10
13 Years	5%	12
14 Years	5%	12
15 Years	6%	15
16 Years	3%	8
17 Years	4%	10
18 Years	0%	0
19 Years	0%	0
20 Years	0%	0

Circumstances Associated with Child's Removal	Percent	Number
Neglect	74%	181
Physical Abuse	15%	37
Drug Abuse (Parent)	14%	33
Caretaker Inability To Cope	6%	15
Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	4%	10
Child Behavior Problem	4%	9
Sexual Abuse	3%	8
Abandonment	2%	6
Relinquishment	2%	5
Housing	1%	2
Parent Death	1%	2
Parent Incarceration	1%	2
Child Disability	0%	1
Alcohol Abuse (Child)	0%	0
Drug Abuse (Child)	0%	0

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=306

Age at Exit	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	
Mean	9.1	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	0	
Median	8.5	Asian	0%	0	
		Black or African American	86%	254	
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0	
		Hispanic (of any race)	14%	40	
		White	0%	0	
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	1	
		Two or More Races	0%	1	
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	1%	4	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	35%	107
1 Year	7%	20	Living with Other Relative(s)	1%	4
2 Years	10%	32	Adoption	35%	108
3 Years	6%	18	Emancipation	16%	50
4 Years	7%	22	Guardianship	11%	33
5 Years	6%	17	Transfer to Another Agency	1%	3
6 Years	4%	13	Runaway	0%	0
7 Years	5%	15	Death of Child	0%	1
8 Years	4%	12			
9 Years	5%	14			
10 Years	5%	15			
11 Years	5%	14			
12 Years	4%	12			
13 Years	3%	9			
14 Years	3%	9			
15 Years	4%	11			
16 Years	3%	9			
17 Years	3%	9			
18 Years	15%	45			
19 Years	2%	6			
20 Years	0%	0			
Time in Care	Months				
Mean	26.5				
Median	25.3				
Time in Care	Percent	Number			
Less than 1 Month	4%	13			
1 - 5 Months	11%	34			
6 - 11 Months	4%	13			
12 - 17 Months	12%	36			
18 - 23 Months	17%	52			
24 - 29 Months	20%	61			
30 - 35 Months	11%	35			
3 - 4 Years	16%	48			
5 Years or More	5%	14			

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2021 - N=156

Age as of September 30th	Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Years
Mean	7.8	Mean	4.5
Median	8.0	Median	3.0

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	3%	5	Less than 1 Year	27%	42
1 Year	13%	20	1 Year	8%	12
2 Years	5%	8	2 Years	7%	11
3 Years	6%	10	3 Years	9%	14
4 Years	8%	13	4 Years	4%	7
5 Years	6%	9	5 Years	5%	8
6 Years	3%	4	6 Years	6%	10
7 Years	5%	8	7 Years	8%	12
8 Years	6%	9	8 Years	5%	8
9 Years	6%	9	9 Years	4%	7
10 Years	6%	9	10 Years	6%	9
11 Years	5%	8	11 Years	4%	7
12 Years	5%	8	12 Years	0%	0
13 Years	6%	9	13 Years	2%	3
14 Years	4%	6	14 Years	2%	3
15 Years	4%	6	15 Years	2%	3
16 Years	2%	3	16 Years	0%	0
17 Years	8%	12	17 Years	0%	0

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	51%	80	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	0
Foster Family Home (Relative)	9%	14	Asian	0%	0
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	32%	50	Black or African American	85%	132
Group Home	4%	6	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Institution	3%	5	Hispanic (of any race)	14%	21
Supervised Independent Living	1%	1	White	1%	1
Runaway	0%	0	Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	0
Trial Home Visit	0%	0	Two or More Races	1%	1

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	58%	90
Female	42%	66

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=3), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021
Mean	39.7	
Median	30.9	

Time in Care	Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month	0%	0	Mean	30.0
1 - 5 Months	2%	3	Median	1.0
6 - 11 Months	5%	8		
12 - 17 Months	13%	21		
18 - 23 Months	18%	28		
24 - 29 Months	7%	11		
30 - 35 Months	10%	15		
3 - 4 Years	26%	40		
5 Years or More	19%	30		

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021⁴ - N=110

Age at Adoption	Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	6.2	Mean	5.7
Median	5.0	Median	2.3

Age at Adoption	Percent	Number	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	0%	0	Less than 1 Month	19%	20
1 Year	11%	12	1 - 5 Months	69%	74
2 Years	17%	19	6 - 11 Months	4%	4
3 Years	7%	8	12 - 17 Months	4%	4
4 Years	14%	15	18 - 23 Months	1%	1
5 Years	5%	5	24 - 29 Months	0%	0
6 Years	5%	6	30 - 35 Months	1%	1
7 Years	7%	8	3 - 4 Years	2%	2
8 Years	6%	7	5 Years or More	1%	1
9 Years	5%	6			
10 Years	5%	5			
11 Years	5%	5			
12 Years	3%	3			
13 Years	2%	2			
14 Years	2%	2			
15 Years	2%	2			
16 Years	1%	1			
17 Years	0%	0			
18 Years	1%	1			
19 Years	2%	2			
20 Years	1%	1			

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	0
Asian	0%	0
Black or African American	86%	94
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Hispanic (of any race)	12%	13
White	0%	0
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	2
Two or More Races	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	35%	39	Male	58%	64
Unmarried Couple	2%	2	Female	42%	46
Single Female	56%	62			
Single Male	6%	7			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption			Receive Adoption Subsidy		
	Percent	Number		Percent	Number
Non-Relative	0%	0	Yes	99%	109
Foster Parent	63%	69	No	1%	1
Stepparent	0%	0			
Other Relative	37%	40			

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>