



# The AFCARS Report: Florida

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: Florida

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	24,641	24,404	24,563	23,518	23,507
Number entered foster care during the FY	16,799	16,175	15,597	13,392	13,212
Number exited foster care during the FY	15,094	15,505	14,572	13,712	12,654
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	39,735	39,909	39,135	37,230	36,161
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	7,977	9,144	9,283	9,073	9,046
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	4,819	5,727	5,850	5,150	5,649
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	3,831	4,455	4,714	4,534	3,938

## Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=23,507

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	7.3	Male	51%	11,899
Median	6.0	Female	49%	11,603

  

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	8%	1,933	Pre-Adoptive Home	2%	354
1 Year	10%	2,277	Foster Family Home (Relative)	42%	9,813
2 Years	9%	2,023	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	44%	10,339
3 Years	7%	1,721	Group Home	7%	1,658
4 Years	7%	1,548	Institution	1%	342
5 Years	6%	1,320	Supervised Independent Living	3%	821
6 Years	6%	1,312	Runaway	1%	180
7 Years	5%	1,195	Trial Home Visit	0%	0

  

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
9 Years	4%	1,015	Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	49%	11,073
10 Years	4%	885	Live with Other Relative(s)	0%	41
11 Years	4%	903	Adoption	39%	8,743
12 Years	4%	874	Long Term Foster Care	0%	0
13 Years	4%	918	Emancipation	4%	963
14 Years	4%	912	Guardianship	5%	1,022
15 Years	4%	865	Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	4%	816
16 Years	4%	914			
17 Years	4%	907			
18 Years	2%	405			
19 Years	1%	259			
20 Years	1%	178			

<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%	18	Mean	17.6
Asian	0%	32	Median	12.5
Black or African American	29%	6,823		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	9		
Hispanic (of any race)	17%	4,067		
White	45%	10,682		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	281		
Two or More Races	7%	1,590		

  

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	5%	1,208
1 - 5 Months	22%	5,115
6 - 11 Months	22%	5,100
12 - 17 Months	15%	3,444
18 - 23 Months	11%	2,566
24 - 29 Months	8%	1,986
30 - 35 Months	5%	1,290
3 - 4 Years	9%	2,114
5 Years or More	3%	684

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

**Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=13,212**

Age at Entry	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	6.0	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	21
Median	5.0	Asian	0%	23
		Black or African American	29%	3,820
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
		Hispanic (of any race)	18%	2,376
		White	44%	5,851
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	202
		Two or More Races	7%	914

  

Age at Entry	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	22%	2,845
1 Year	8%	1,003
2 Years	7%	934
3 Years	6%	830
4 Years	6%	745
5 Years	6%	746
6 Years	5%	707
7 Years	5%	652
8 Years	4%	590
9 Years	4%	502
10 Years	4%	485
11 Years	4%	518
12 Years	4%	487
13 Years	4%	469
14 Years	4%	489
15 Years	3%	429
16 Years	3%	377
17 Years	2%	254
18 Years	1%	69
19 Years	0%	53
20 Years	0%	27

  

Circumstances Associated with Child's Removal	Percent	Number
Neglect	56%	7,436
Drug Abuse (Parent)	48%	6,369
Caretaker Inability To Cope	17%	2,199
Housing	13%	1,755
Physical Abuse	13%	1,713
Abandonment	8%	1,043
Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	8%	1,020
Parent Incarceration	7%	923
Sexual Abuse	4%	532
Child Behavior Problem	2%	308
Parent Death	2%	271
Drug Abuse (Child)	1%	153
Relinquishment	1%	77
Alcohol Abuse (Child)	0%	20
Child Disability	0%	8

**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=12,654

Age at Exit	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	
Mean	7.3	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	35	
Median	6.0	Asian	0%	18	
		Black or African American	28%	3,532	
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	4	
		Hispanic (of any race)	18%	2,246	
		White	46%	5,790	
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	104	
		Two or More Races	7%	924	
<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%	522	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	45%	5,624
1 Year	10%	1,197	Living with Other Relative(s)	0%	7
2 Years	10%	1,265	Adoption	31%	3,873
3 Years	9%	1,118	Emancipation	6%	750
4 Years	7%	930	Guardianship	18%	2,245
5 Years	7%	840	Transfer to Another Agency	0%	7
6 Years	6%	757	Runaway	0%	0
7 Years	5%	675	Death of Child	0%	25
8 Years	5%	641			
9 Years	4%	554			
10 Years	4%	491			
11 Years	4%	491			
12 Years	4%	515			
13 Years	3%	431			
14 Years	3%	418			
15 Years	3%	347			
16 Years	3%	352			
17 Years	3%	359			
18 Years	4%	488			
19 Years	1%	101			
20 Years	1%	86			
Time in Care	Months				
Mean	19.8				
Median	16.1				
Time in Care	Percent	Number			
Less than 1 Month	2%	293			
1 - 5 Months	10%	1,321			
6 - 11 Months	23%	2,885			
12 - 17 Months	20%	2,516			
18 - 23 Months	14%	1,788			
24 - 29 Months	11%	1,377			
30 - 35 Months	7%	906			
3 - 4 Years	10%	1,311			
5 Years or More	2%	257			

### Children Waiting to be Adopted<sup>3</sup> on September 30, 2021 - N=9,046

Age as of September 30th	Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Years
Mean	7.2	Mean	5.0
Median	6.0	Median	4.0

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	4%	356	Less than 1 Year	26%	2,328
1 Year	10%	915	1 Year	8%	747
2 Years	10%	900	2 Years	7%	664
3 Years	8%	739	3 Years	6%	565
4 Years	7%	666	4 Years	6%	514
5 Years	6%	553	5 Years	5%	493
6 Years	6%	514	6 Years	6%	517
7 Years	5%	476	7 Years	5%	418
8 Years	5%	442	8 Years	5%	409
9 Years	5%	427	9 Years	5%	438
10 Years	4%	391	10 Years	4%	385
11 Years	4%	387	11 Years	4%	372
12 Years	4%	378	12 Years	4%	346
13 Years	5%	417	13 Years	4%	366
14 Years	5%	417	14 Years	3%	238
15 Years	4%	400	15 Years	2%	173
16 Years	4%	388	16 Years	1%	61
17 Years	3%	280	17 Years	0%	12

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	4%	353	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	3
Foster Family Home (Relative)	36%	3,266	Asian	0%	6
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	50%	4,505	Black or African American	28%	2,516
Group Home	8%	713	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	7
Institution	2%	145	Hispanic (of any race)	15%	1,377
Supervised Independent Living	0%	0	White	48%	4,364
Runaway	1%	64	Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	98
Trial Home Visit	0%	0	Two or More Races	7%	675

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	52%	4,662
Female	48%	4,382

**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	Of Children Waiting for Adoption whose Parents' Parental Rights have been Terminated (N=5,649), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021
Mean	27.0	
Median	23.7	

Time in Care	Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month	1%	59	Mean	14.7
1 - 5 Months	5%	482	Median	8.0
6 - 11 Months	11%	1,017		
12 - 17 Months	17%	1,499		
18 - 23 Months	17%	1,564		
24 - 29 Months	16%	1,416		
30 - 35 Months	10%	921		
3 - 4 Years	18%	1,627		
5 Years or More	5%	461		

### Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021<sup>4</sup> - N=3,938

Age at Adoption	Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	6.1	Mean	12.9
Median	5.0	Median	9.6

Age at Adoption	Percent	Number	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	3%	100	Less than 1 Month	0%	7
1 Year	11%	451	1 - 5 Months	31%	1,199
2 Years	14%	544	6 - 11 Months	29%	1,125
3 Years	11%	430	12 - 17 Months	18%	699
4 Years	8%	326	18 - 23 Months	9%	364
5 Years	7%	288	24 - 29 Months	5%	197
6 Years	7%	264	30 - 35 Months	3%	118
7 Years	6%	235	3 - 4 Years	3%	126
8 Years	5%	203	5 Years or More	1%	33
9 Years	5%	193			
10 Years	4%	146			
11 Years	4%	141			
12 Years	4%	155			
13 Years	2%	93			
14 Years	3%	111			
15 Years	2%	89			
16 Years	2%	82			
17 Years	2%	81			
18 Years	0%	6			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	0
Asian	0%	4
Black or African American	24%	938
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	2
Hispanic (of any race)	15%	587
White	52%	2,035
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	26
Two or More Races	9%	346

**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.

<b>Adoptive Family Structure</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>
Married Couple	61%	2,391	Male	50%	1,985
Unmarried Couple	4%	154	Female	50%	1,953
Single Female	31%	1,237			
Single Male	4%	155			
<b>Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption</b>			<b>Receive Adoption Subsidy</b>		
	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>		<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>
Non-Relative	23%	910	Yes	95%	3,759
Foster Parent	29%	1,116	No	5%	179
Stepparent	0%	2			
Other Relative	48%	1,864			

### 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>