



The AFCARS Report:

Illinois

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: Illinois

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	15,930	16,840	18,317	20,568	21,086
Number entered foster care during the FY	4,843	5,751	6,709	7,837	6,944
Number exited foster care during the FY	3,793	4,278	4,716	5,328	6,193
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	19,722	21,118	23,032	25,896	27,277
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	2,848	2,710	2,767	2,653	2,798
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	2,469	2,292	2,215	2,065	2,152
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	1,777	1,754	1,747	1,522	1,602

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=21,086

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	8.0	Male	51%	10,807
Median	7.0	Female	49%	10,279

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	6%	1,240	Pre-Adoptive Home	3%	699
1 Year	8%	1,761	Foster Family Home (Relative)	45%	9,220
2 Years	8%	1,735	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	38%	7,650
3 Years	8%	1,616	Group Home	1%	136
4 Years	7%	1,448	Institution	2%	421
5 Years	6%	1,281	Supervised Independent Living	3%	558
6 Years	5%	1,152	Runaway	2%	492
7 Years	5%	1,081	Trial Home Visit	5%	1,098

Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	50%	10,513
Live with Other Relative(s)	0%	0
Adoption	12%	2,476
Long Term Foster Care	10%	2,180
Emancipation	20%	4,201
Guardianship	5%	1,127
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	3%	589

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number
8 Years	5%	973
9 Years	4%	878
10 Years	4%	828
11 Years	4%	785
12 Years	4%	747
13 Years	4%	792
14 Years	4%	776
15 Years	4%	795
16 Years	4%	801
17 Years	4%	772
18 Years	3%	652
19 Years	2%	526
20 Years	2%	447

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%	20	Mean	28.7
Asian	0%	74	Median	21.7
Black or African American	39%	8,223		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	7		
Hispanic (of any race)	11%	2,363		
White	45%	9,398		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	155		
Two or More Races	4%	796		

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	3%	559
1 - 5 Months	12%	2,425
6 - 11 Months	14%	2,971
12 - 17 Months	14%	2,867
18 - 23 Months	12%	2,609
24 - 29 Months	11%	2,366
30 - 35 Months	8%	1,597
3 - 4 Years	17%	3,577
5 Years or More	10%	2,115

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

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=6,944

Age at Entry	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	5.5	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	7
Median	4.0	Asian	0%	28
		Black or African American	33%	2,275
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	3
		Hispanic (of any race)	12%	839
		White	50%	3,480
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	44
		Two or More Races	4%	248

Age at Entry	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	25%	1,748
1 Year	8%	544
2 Years	8%	520
3 Years	6%	436
4 Years	6%	389
5 Years	5%	342
6 Years	5%	322
7 Years	4%	305
8 Years	4%	261
9 Years	4%	289
10 Years	3%	219
11 Years	3%	224
12 Years	3%	215
13 Years	4%	264
14 Years	3%	233
15 Years	3%	228
16 Years	3%	173
17 Years	2%	122
18 Years	0%	5
19 Years	0%	3
20 Years	0%	18

Circumstances Associated with Child's Removal	Percent	Number
Neglect	92%	6,416
Drug Abuse (Parent)	10%	689
Physical Abuse	7%	520
Child Behavior Problem	3%	216
Caretaker Inability To Cope	3%	175
Sexual Abuse	1%	104
Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	1%	96
Abandonment	1%	40
Relinquishment	0%	31
Parent Death	0%	26
Parent Incarceration	0%	25
Housing	0%	17
Drug Abuse (Child)	0%	9
Child Disability	0%	7
Alcohol Abuse (Child)	0%	5

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=6,193

Age at Exit	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	
Mean	7.4	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	4	
Median	6.0	Asian	0%	19	
		Black or African American	36%	2,208	
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	1	
		Hispanic (of any race)	10%	600	
		White	49%	3,000	
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	62	
		Two or More Races	5%	281	
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	4%	230	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	54%	3,261
1 Year	7%	387	Living with Other Relative(s)	2%	94
2 Years	9%	541	Adoption	27%	1,639
3 Years	10%	578	Emancipation	11%	676
4 Years	8%	484	Guardianship	6%	355
5 Years	7%	414	Transfer to Another Agency	0%	13
6 Years	6%	362	Runaway	0%	1
7 Years	6%	341	Death of Child	0%	23
8 Years	5%	300			
9 Years	5%	270			
10 Years	4%	257			
11 Years	4%	232			
12 Years	4%	231			
13 Years	3%	183			
14 Years	3%	180			
15 Years	3%	179			
16 Years	2%	135			
17 Years	2%	119			
18 Years	3%	159			
19 Years	1%	83			
20 Years	2%	88			
Time in Care	Months				
Mean	33.2				
Median	25.5				
Time in Care	Percent	Number			
Less than 1 Month	9%	523			
1 - 5 Months	6%	392			
6 - 11 Months	8%	510			
12 - 17 Months	13%	778			
18 - 23 Months	11%	655			
24 - 29 Months	10%	591			
30 - 35 Months	8%	472			
3 - 4 Years	21%	1,287			
5 Years or More	14%	861			

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2021 - N=2,798

Age as of September 30th	Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Years
Mean	7.5	Mean	3.9
Median	7.0	Median	3.0

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	1%	39	Less than 1 Year	31%	873
1 Year	5%	151	1 Year	10%	276
2 Years	9%	242	2 Years	8%	223
3 Years	9%	258	3 Years	8%	220
4 Years	9%	242	4 Years	6%	177
5 Years	8%	210	5 Years	6%	180
6 Years	7%	193	6 Years	6%	155
7 Years	7%	185	7 Years	4%	118
8 Years	6%	180	8 Years	4%	121
9 Years	6%	156	9 Years	4%	117
10 Years	5%	140	10 Years	3%	80
11 Years	5%	135	11 Years	3%	77
12 Years	5%	140	12 Years	2%	67
13 Years	5%	137	13 Years	2%	53
14 Years	4%	124	14 Years	1%	29
15 Years	4%	124	15 Years	1%	21
16 Years	3%	89	16 Years	0%	10
17 Years	2%	53	17 Years	0%	1

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	20%	547	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	3
Foster Family Home (Relative)	35%	940	Asian	0%	5
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	42%	1,119	Black or African American	36%	992
Group Home	0%	8	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Institution	2%	41	Hispanic (of any race)	8%	214
Supervised Independent Living	0%	0	White	51%	1,430
Runaway	1%	15	Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	20
Trial Home Visit	1%	20	Two or More Races	5%	127

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	52%	1,448
Female	48%	1,350

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=2,152), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021
Mean	44.9	
Median	38.8	

Time in Care	Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month	6%	156	Mean	17.8
1 - 5 Months	4%	113	Median	9.0
6 - 11 Months	2%	67		
12 - 17 Months	4%	106		
18 - 23 Months	5%	130		
24 - 29 Months	11%	312		
30 - 35 Months	12%	335		
3 - 4 Years	34%	942		
5 Years or More	23%	637		

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021⁴ - N=1,602

Age at Adoption	Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	6.5	Mean	16.2
Median	5.5	Median	12.8

Age at Adoption	Percent	Number	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	0%	4	Less than 1 Month	0%	6
1 Year	5%	78	1 - 5 Months	14%	218
2 Years	11%	180	6 - 11 Months	32%	504
3 Years	14%	222	12 - 17 Months	22%	349
4 Years	11%	177	18 - 23 Months	14%	216
5 Years	9%	140	24 - 29 Months	7%	111
6 Years	8%	134	30 - 35 Months	3%	48
7 Years	7%	106	3 - 4 Years	5%	83
8 Years	6%	100	5 Years or More	2%	25
9 Years	5%	77			
10 Years	5%	82			
11 Years	4%	63			
12 Years	4%	57			
13 Years	3%	52			
14 Years	2%	34			
15 Years	2%	38			
16 Years	2%	26			
17 Years	2%	27			
18 Years	0%	5			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	2
Asian	0%	2
Black or African American	33%	526
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Hispanic (of any race)	6%	90
White	54%	862
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	23
Two or More Races	6%	96

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	61%	944	Male	50%	798
Unmarried Couple	2%	25	Female	50%	804
Single Female	35%	535			
Single Male	3%	45			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption			Receive Adoption Subsidy		
	Percent	Number		Percent	Number
Non-Relative	3%	48	Yes	100%	1,593
Foster Parent	53%	854	No	0%	8
Stepparent	0%	0			
Other Relative	44%	699			

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>