



The AFCARS Report:

Maine

Preliminary FY¹ 2022 Estimates as of May 9, 2023 - No. 30

SOURCE: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2022 data²

Numbers at a Glance: Maine

Fiscal Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	1,768	2,096	2,291	2,202	2,429
Number entered foster care during the FY	1,080	1,246	1,115	909	1,130
Number exited foster care during the FY	883	901	892	979	863
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	2,651	2,997	3,183	3,181	3,291
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	482	510	610	756	665
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	428	412	509	597	107
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	395	294	247	339	324

The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and The AFCARS Report (TAR) has changed.

AFCARS Background (AFCARS 1993)

The AFCARS final rule was published December 22, 1993; the federal regulations at 45 CFR 1355.40 implemented Section 479 of title IV-E of the Social Security Act. AFCARS was established to provide data that would assist in policy development and program management. Policymakers at the federal, tribal, and state levels use AFCARS to assess the number of children in foster care, the reasons they enter and exit care, and how to characterize other attributes of this population that could be associated with foster care outcomes. AFCARS data is collected two times per year: an "A" period (Oct 1 through March 31) and a "B" period (April 1 through Sept. 30). This report has been published since 1998 using three consecutive six-month AFCARS submissions for each release: "A" + "B" + "Subsequent A." The "Subsequent A" submission allows for the inclusion of adoption and foster care events not available when a State submitted their "B" submission.

New AFCARS (AFCARS 2020)

The AFCARS regulations were updated via the final rule published in May 2020 (85 FR 28410). The updated AFCARS supports improved and more sophisticated data analyses. Changes included increasing the number of foster care data elements collected from sixty-six to one hundred and eighty-six and adjusting the data format from ASCII to XML. The first submission of AFCARS 2020 was due May 15, 2023. Title IV-E agencies had until October 1, 2022 to prepare their data systems to collect and report AFCARS 2020 data. However, many States continue to be in a capacity-building mode with respect to collecting and submitting AFCARS 2020 data.

Publishing The AFCARS Report

The nature of the of changes described above requires CB to take additional time to fully assess and evaluate the first AFCARS 2020 submission (23A). This includes working with States to identify and address data quality issues. As a result, the "23A" data is not available for use as the "Subsequent A" file for the FY 2022 TAR. CB continues to evaluate and work with States to ensure the quality of their AFCARS 2020 submissions. Therefore, in order to ensure its timely publication, this Report uses only the "22A" and "22B" submissions as the source file.

Definitions and additional supporting information can be found by using this link:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/trends-in-foster-care-and-adoption>

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 May 9, 2023 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)

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2022 - N=2,429

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	6.8	Male	51%	1,233
Median	6.0	Female	49%	1,196

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	10%	244	Pre-Adoptive Home	9%	222
1 Year	9%	207	Foster Family Home (Relative)	37%	891
2 Years	9%	208	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	45%	1,082
3 Years	7%	178	Group Home	1%	17
4 Years	7%	174	Institution	1%	25
5 Years	6%	151	Supervised Independent Living	1%	27
6 Years	6%	134	Runaway	0%	3
7 Years	6%	136	Trial Home Visit	5%	125

Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	61%	1,431
Live with Other Relative(s)	0%	1
Adoption	28%	664
Long Term Foster Care	0%	10
Emancipation	1%	16
Guardianship	3%	65
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	6%	151

Time in Care	Months
Mean	19.7
Median	14.8

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	Time in Care	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	1%	19	Less than 1 Month	5%	113
Asian	0%	2	1 - 5 Months	17%	404
Black or African American	4%	90	6 - 11 Months	20%	493
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0	12 - 17 Months	17%	405
Hispanic (of any race)	3%	80	18 - 23 Months	10%	239
White	74%	1,785	24 - 29 Months	10%	242
Unknown/Unable to Determine	12%	287	30 - 35 Months	7%	174
Two or More Races	6%	147	3 - 4 Years	12%	289
			5 Years or More	3%	70

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

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2022 - N=1,130

Age at Entry	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	
Mean	5.4	American Indian/Alaska Native	1%	12	
Median	4.0	Asian	0%	2	
		Black or African American	3%	33	
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0	
		Hispanic (of any race)	3%	38	
		White	72%	804	
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	14%	157	
		Two or More Races	6%	63	
NOTE: 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	26%	299	Neglect	74%	837
1 Year	7%	74	Drug Abuse (Parent)	46%	525
2 Years	6%	69	Housing	17%	194
3 Years	6%	73	Caretaker Inability To Cope	14%	162
4 Years	7%	74	Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	13%	146
5 Years	6%	67	Physical Abuse	11%	124
6 Years	4%	48	Drug Abuse (Child)	8%	86
7 Years	5%	58	Abandonment	6%	64
8 Years	4%	49	Parent Incarceration	4%	48
9 Years	5%	61	Sexual Abuse	4%	41
10 Years	3%	35	Parent Death	2%	20
11 Years	3%	34	Child Behavior Problem	1%	15
12 Years	4%	42	Child Disability	1%	15
13 Years	4%	43	Alcohol Abuse (Child)	1%	7
14 Years	3%	34	Relinquishment	0%	4
15 Years	3%	34			
16 Years	2%	25			
17 Years	1%	9			
18 Years	0%	2			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

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 2022 - N=863

Age at Exit	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	
Mean	6.8	American Indian/Alaska Native	1%	9	
Median	6.0	Asian	0%	0	
		Black or African American	2%	19	
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	2	
		Hispanic (of any race)	3%	28	
		White	79%	684	
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	8%	73	
		Two or More Races	5%	46	
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%	33	Adoption	43%	361
1 Year	6%	56	Death of Child	0%	1
2 Years	13%	109	Emancipation	2%	14
3 Years	9%	81	Guardianship	8%	69
4 Years	9%	77	Living with Other Relative(s)	2%	13
5 Years	8%	69	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	46%	387
6 Years	6%	48	Runaway	0%	0
7 Years	6%	48	Transfer to Another Agency	0%	2
8 Years	6%	49			
9 Years	6%	50			
10 Years	4%	31			
11 Years	5%	40			
12 Years	5%	43			
13 Years	3%	28			
14 Years	4%	33			
15 Years	3%	28			
16 Years	2%	16			
17 Years	1%	11			
18 Years	1%	11			
19 Years	0%	1			
20 Years	0%	1			
Time in Care	Months				
Mean	25.6				
Median	24.5				
Time in Care	Percent	Number			
1 - 5 Months	9%	81			
12 - 17 Months	11%	92			
18 - 23 Months	13%	111			
24 - 29 Months	15%	131			
3 - 4 Years	19%	164			
30 - 35 Months	15%	127			
5 Years or More	3%	26			
6 - 11 Months	9%	75			
Less than 1 Month	6%	53			

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2022 - N=665

Age as of September 30th	Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Years
Mean	7.5	Mean	4.7
Median	7.0	Median	4.0

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	2%	10	Less than 1 Year	27%	180
1 Year	6%	38	1 Year	7%	48
2 Years	12%	81	2 Years	6%	43
3 Years	8%	53	3 Years	7%	46
4 Years	7%	47	4 Years	6%	40
5 Years	7%	45	5 Years	6%	42
6 Years	6%	43	6 Years	7%	45
7 Years	7%	44	7 Years	6%	37
8 Years	6%	37	8 Years	5%	35
9 Years	6%	41	9 Years	4%	28
10 Years	4%	27	10 Years	5%	34
11 Years	5%	32	11 Years	3%	20
12 Years	5%	32	12 Years	3%	20
13 Years	5%	31	13 Years	3%	23
14 Years	5%	30	14 Years	2%	15
15 Years	5%	34	15 Years	1%	7
16 Years	4%	27	16 Years	0%	0
17 Years	2%	13	17 Years	0%	2

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Sex	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	32%	210	Male	53%	355
Foster Family Home (Relative)	27%	177	Female	47%	310
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	37%	248			
Group Home	2%	10			
Institution	2%	13			
Supervised Independent Living	0%	0			
Runaway	0%	2			
Trial Home Visit	0%	3			

Time in Care	Months	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	34.3	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	2
Median	31.6	Asian	0%	0
		Black or African American	3%	20
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
		Hispanic (of any race)	3%	23
		White	80%	531
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	8%	55
		Two or More Races	5%	33

Time in Care	Percent	Number	NOTE: All races exclude children of Hispanic origin. Children of Hispanic ethnicity may be any race.	
Less than 1 Month	1%	5		
1 - 5 Months	2%	14		
6 - 11 Months	3%	20		
12 - 17 Months	9%	63		
18 - 23 Months	12%	80		
24 - 29 Months	17%	113		
30 - 35 Months	17%	116		
3 - 4 Years	32%	210		
5 Years or More	7%	44		

Of Children Waiting for Adoption whose Parents' Parental Rights have been Terminated (N=107), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2022

Time Since TPR	Months
Mean	38.1
Median	22.0

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.

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2022⁴ - N=324

Age at Adoption		Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption		Months
Mean		6.0	Mean		16.8
Median		5.0	Median		13.4

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	0%	0
1 Year	6%	18	1 - 5 Months	3%	10
2 Years	19%	61	6 - 11 Months	33%	100
3 Years	11%	36	12 - 17 Months	37%	113
4 Years	12%	39	18 - 23 Months	14%	42
5 Years	7%	24	24 - 29 Months	6%	19
6 Years	6%	19	30 - 35 Months	1%	3
7 Years	6%	19	3 - 4 Years	4%	11
8 Years	6%	20	5 Years or More	2%	6
9 Years	6%	20			
10 Years	5%	15			
11 Years	4%	14			
12 Years	5%	15			
13 Years	2%	8			
14 Years	3%	10			
15 Years	1%	3			
16 Years	0%	1			
17 Years	0%	1			
18 Years	0%	1			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	1
Asian	0%	0
Black or African American	3%	9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Hispanic (of any race)	2%	8
White	83%	268
Unknown/Unable to Determine	6%	19
Two or More Races	6%	19

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

Adoptive Family Structure	Percent	Number	Sex	Percent	Number
Married Couple	75%	243	Male	51%	165
Single Female	14%	46	Female	49%	159
Single Male	1%	4			
Unmarried Couple	9%	30			

Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number	Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	22%	53	Yes	87%	269
Foster Parent	47%	115	No	13%	39
Stepparent	0%	0			
Other Relative	32%	78			

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.