



# The AFCARS Report:

## Montana

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: Montana

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	3,853	3,946	3,697	3,406	3,083
Number entered foster care during the FY	2,361	2,312	2,178	2,022	1,697
Number exited foster care during the FY	1,829	2,154	2,353	2,235	1,954
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	5,682	6,098	6,050	5,641	5,036
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	831	977	1,018	816	680
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	556	687	672	498	465
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	274	396	482	432	313

### Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=3,083

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	7.2	Male	51%	1,579
Median	6.0	Female	49%	1,504

  

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	7%	212	Pre-Adoptive Home	4%	132
1 Year	8%	252	Foster Family Home (Relative)	42%	1,310
2 Years	9%	269	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	33%	1,010
3 Years	7%	208	Group Home	6%	182
4 Years	7%	223	Institution	2%	67
5 Years	7%	213	Supervised Independent Living	0%	2
6 Years	6%	188	Runaway	0%	13
7 Years	6%	172	Trial Home Visit	12%	367

  

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
8 Years	6%	180	Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	74%	2,290
9 Years	4%	138	Live with Other Relative(s)	6%	190
10 Years	4%	131	Adoption	18%	546
11 Years	5%	148	Long Term Foster Care	1%	21
12 Years	4%	123	Emancipation	0%	2
13 Years	5%	153	Guardianship	1%	34
14 Years	4%	134	Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	0%	0
15 Years	4%	133			
16 Years	3%	105			
17 Years	3%	98			
18 Years	0%	3			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

<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	36%	1,122	Mean	23.3
Asian	0%	2	Median	15.8
Black or African American	1%	34		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	2		
Hispanic (of any race)	7%	213		
White	46%	1,404		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	41		
Two or More Races	9%	264		

  

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	5%	144
1 - 5 Months	19%	576
6 - 11 Months	16%	491
12 - 17 Months	15%	462
18 - 23 Months	12%	383
24 - 29 Months	7%	226
30 - 35 Months	6%	185
3 - 4 Years	12%	370
5 Years or More	8%	246

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

### Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=1,697

Age at Entry	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	5.9	American Indian/Alaska Native	22%	369
Median	5.0	Asian	0%	0
		Black or African American	1%	23
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	1
		Hispanic (of any race)	8%	129
		White	58%	977
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	42
		Two or More Races	9%	155

  

Age at Entry	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	18%	304
1 Year	7%	125
2 Years	8%	132
3 Years	7%	112
4 Years	7%	119
5 Years	7%	120
6 Years	6%	107
7 Years	3%	59
8 Years	6%	97
9 Years	3%	57
10 Years	5%	92
11 Years	4%	69
12 Years	3%	55
13 Years	4%	76
14 Years	4%	64
15 Years	3%	54
16 Years	2%	35
17 Years	1%	20
18 Years	0%	0
19 Years	0%	0
20 Years	0%	0

  

Circumstances Associated with Child's Removal	Percent	Number
Neglect	94%	1,601
Drug Abuse (Parent)	30%	511
Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	7%	123
Physical Abuse	6%	95
Parent Incarceration	5%	77
Caretaker Inability To Cope	2%	42
Drug Abuse (Child)	2%	41
Housing	2%	29
Sexual Abuse	1%	23
Abandonment	1%	18
Alcohol Abuse (Child)	0%	8
Child Behavior Problem	0%	7
Relinquishment	0%	6
Parent Death	0%	4
Child Disability	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=1,954

Age at Exit	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	7.6	American Indian/Alaska Native	23%	452
Median	7.0	Asian	0%	1

Age at Exit	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	3%	64
1 Year	7%	141
2 Years	8%	164
3 Years	9%	168
4 Years	8%	162
5 Years	7%	136
6 Years	7%	138
7 Years	5%	104
8 Years	6%	113
9 Years	4%	76
10 Years	5%	102
11 Years	4%	81
12 Years	4%	78
13 Years	5%	91
14 Years	3%	66
15 Years	3%	61
16 Years	3%	59
17 Years	3%	56
18 Years	5%	92
19 Years	0%	2
20 Years	0%	0

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

Reason for Discharge	Percent	Number
Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	59%	1,123
Living with Other Relative(s)	2%	31
Adoption	16%	313
Emancipation	5%	92
Guardianship	17%	334
Transfer to Another Agency	1%	22
Runaway	0%	2
Death of Child	0%	2

Time in Care	Months
Mean	20.4
Median	15.5

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	8%	160
1 - 5 Months	19%	370
6 - 11 Months	15%	296
12 - 17 Months	12%	230
18 - 23 Months	11%	209
24 - 29 Months	10%	194
30 - 35 Months	8%	147
3 - 4 Years	14%	276
5 Years or More	4%	70

### Children Waiting to be Adopted<sup>3</sup> on September 30, 2021 - N=680

Age as of September 30th	Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Years
Mean	8.5	Mean	5.1
Median	8.0	Median	5.0

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	2%	11	Less than 1 Year	24%	163
1 Year	7%	46	1 Year	8%	51
2 Years	8%	55	2 Years	8%	55
3 Years	6%	38	3 Years	6%	41
4 Years	6%	44	4 Years	4%	27
5 Years	7%	47	5 Years	6%	41
6 Years	6%	43	6 Years	6%	39
7 Years	5%	35	7 Years	7%	47
8 Years	5%	36	8 Years	5%	33
9 Years	4%	30	9 Years	5%	35
10 Years	5%	31	10 Years	7%	45
11 Years	3%	22	11 Years	5%	33
12 Years	5%	33	12 Years	4%	25
13 Years	6%	44	13 Years	2%	14
14 Years	6%	41	14 Years	3%	17
15 Years	7%	46	15 Years	1%	10
16 Years	6%	39	16 Years	0%	2
17 Years	6%	39	17 Years	0%	2

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	19%	132	American Indian/Alaska Native	34%	229
Foster Family Home (Relative)	25%	173	Asian	0%	1
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	40%	269	Black or African American	2%	11
Group Home	10%	66	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Institution	4%	24	Hispanic (of any race)	7%	46
Supervised Independent Living	0%	0	White	50%	340
Runaway	1%	5	Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	1
Trial Home Visit	2%	11	Two or More Races	8%	52

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	52%	351
Female	48%	329

**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=465), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021
Mean	41.9	
Median	36.3	

Time in Care	Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month	1%	4	Mean	23.1
1 - 5 Months	1%	10	Median	13.0
6 - 11 Months	3%	21		
12 - 17 Months	8%	54		
18 - 23 Months	12%	82		
24 - 29 Months	12%	83		
30 - 35 Months	12%	82		
3 - 4 Years	32%	218		
5 Years or More	19%	126		

**Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021<sup>4</sup> - N=313**

Age at Adoption	Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	6.7	Mean	14.4
Median	5.0	Median	11.9

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	6%	17
1 Year	6%	20	1 - 5 Months	14%	43
2 Years	12%	37	6 - 11 Months	32%	99
3 Years	11%	34	12 - 17 Months	21%	64
4 Years	11%	35	18 - 23 Months	9%	29
5 Years	10%	31	24 - 29 Months	7%	23
6 Years	6%	20	30 - 35 Months	6%	19
7 Years	6%	18	3 - 4 Years	4%	12
8 Years	7%	21	5 Years or More	0%	1
9 Years	5%	16			
10 Years	4%	13			
11 Years	5%	15			
12 Years	4%	11			
13 Years	4%	13			
14 Years	3%	10			
15 Years	1%	3			
16 Years	2%	6			
17 Years	3%	10			
18 Years	0%	0			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	19%	61
Asian	0%	0
Black or African American	2%	7
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Hispanic (of any race)	8%	25
White	56%	176
Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	0
Two or More Races	14%	44

**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	70%	219	Male	46%	144
Unmarried Couple	2%	5	Female	54%	169
Single Female	24%	76			
Single Male	4%	13			
<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	0%	0	Yes	100%	313
Foster Parent	61%	190	No	0%	0
Stepparent	0%	0			
Other Relative	39%	123			

### 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>