



The AFCARS Report:

North Dakota

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: North Dakota

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	1,495	1,576	1,502	1,556	1,510
Number entered foster care during the FY	1,086	1,165	987	990	950
Number exited foster care during the FY	970	1,043	1,020	901	960
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	2,461	2,613	2,518	2,451	2,461
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	396	429	421	443	416
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	284	332	333	333	337
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	162	172	197	197	229

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=1,510

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	7.8	Male	51%	776
Median	7.0	Female	49%	734

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	7%	112	Pre-Adoptive Home	0%	0
1 Year	8%	118	Foster Family Home (Relative)	25%	365
2 Years	8%	122	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	64%	931
3 Years	7%	104	Group Home	0%	5
4 Years	6%	95	Institution	5%	78
5 Years	5%	77	Supervised Independent Living	0%	0
6 Years	5%	79	Runaway	0%	5
7 Years	5%	82	Trial Home Visit	5%	67

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
9 Years	5%	75	Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	59%	868
10 Years	4%	54	Live with Other Relative(s)	1%	20
11 Years	5%	81	Adoption	23%	343
12 Years	3%	49	Long Term Foster Care	4%	65
13 Years	4%	59	Emancipation	0%	0
14 Years	4%	62	Guardianship	2%	29
15 Years	5%	72	Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	9%	136
16 Years	5%	73			
17 Years	5%	68			
18 Years	2%	26			
19 Years	1%	13			
20 Years	1%	8			

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	45%	674	Mean	20.5
Asian	1%	8	Median	14.2
Black or African American	5%	78		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	5		
Hispanic (of any race)	4%	65		
White	33%	498		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	4%	65		
Two or More Races	8%	117		

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	6%	97
1 - 5 Months	19%	292
6 - 11 Months	19%	289
12 - 17 Months	12%	175
18 - 23 Months	12%	187
24 - 29 Months	7%	100
30 - 35 Months	6%	91
3 - 4 Years	13%	194
5 Years or More	6%	85

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

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=950

Age at Entry	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	6.9	American Indian/Alaska Native	38%	363
Median	6.0	Asian	1%	8
		Black or African American	8%	76
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	3
		Hispanic (of any race)	5%	48
		White	36%	342
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	6%	53
		Two or More Races	6%	57

Age at Entry	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	19%	176
1 Year	7%	66
2 Years	7%	64
3 Years	7%	64
4 Years	5%	43
5 Years	5%	48
6 Years	4%	42
7 Years	5%	49
8 Years	5%	47
9 Years	4%	34
10 Years	3%	29
11 Years	3%	28
12 Years	2%	23
13 Years	4%	40
14 Years	5%	46
15 Years	5%	49
16 Years	5%	48
17 Years	4%	38
18 Years	1%	14
19 Years	0%	1
20 Years	0%	1

Circumstances Associated with Child's Removal	Percent	Number
Drug Abuse (Parent)	31%	295
Neglect	29%	275
Child Behavior Problem	9%	90
Caretaker Inability To Cope	8%	76
Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	6%	61
Physical Abuse	6%	56
Parent Incarceration	5%	51
Abandonment	3%	33
Housing	3%	25
Sexual Abuse	2%	18
Drug Abuse (Child)	1%	8
Alcohol Abuse (Child)	0%	3
Child Disability	0%	3
Parent Death	0%	3
Relinquishment	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=960

Age at Exit	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	
Mean	8.4	American Indian/Alaska Native	33%	318	
Median	8.0	Asian	0%	4	
		Black or African American	7%	71	
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1%	7	
		Hispanic (of any race)	5%	47	
		White	44%	418	
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	4%	35	
		Two or More Races	6%	60	
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	5%	44	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	53%	512
1 Year	8%	72	Living with Other Relative(s)	6%	54
2 Years	7%	70	Adoption	23%	224
3 Years	7%	67	Emancipation	3%	33
4 Years	7%	68	Guardianship	7%	69
5 Years	6%	59	Transfer to Another Agency	7%	63
6 Years	5%	49	Runaway	0%	4
7 Years	4%	42	Death of Child	0%	1
8 Years	5%	50			
9 Years	4%	41			
10 Years	4%	42			
11 Years	3%	30			
12 Years	3%	30			
13 Years	4%	38			
14 Years	6%	59			
15 Years	5%	46			
16 Years	6%	58			
17 Years	4%	41			
18 Years	4%	41			
19 Years	0%	2			
20 Years	1%	10			
Time in Care	Months				
Mean	18.7				
Median	12.0				
Time in Care	Percent	Number			
Less than 1 Month	13%	119			
1 - 5 Months	19%	181			
6 - 11 Months	19%	181			
12 - 17 Months	12%	113			
18 - 23 Months	9%	84			
24 - 29 Months	6%	61			
30 - 35 Months	6%	54			
3 - 4 Years	12%	113			
5 Years or More	5%	45			

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2021 - N=416

Age as of September 30th	Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Years
Mean	8.0	Mean	4.8
Median	8.0	Median	4.0

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	1%	6	Less than 1 Year	23%	94
1 Year	4%	16	1 Year	8%	34
2 Years	10%	42	2 Years	8%	33
3 Years	7%	31	3 Years	7%	30
4 Years	8%	33	4 Years	8%	33
5 Years	5%	22	5 Years	6%	23
6 Years	6%	27	6 Years	7%	31
7 Years	6%	24	7 Years	6%	26
8 Years	7%	28	8 Years	6%	23
9 Years	6%	24	9 Years	5%	21
10 Years	5%	21	10 Years	4%	18
11 Years	7%	31	11 Years	4%	16
12 Years	5%	21	12 Years	3%	11
13 Years	5%	19	13 Years	3%	13
14 Years	6%	23	14 Years	1%	6
15 Years	4%	17	15 Years	0%	2
16 Years	4%	17	16 Years	0%	1
17 Years	3%	14	17 Years	0%	1

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	0%	0	American Indian/Alaska Native	48%	200
Foster Family Home (Relative)	23%	91	Asian	0%	2
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	72%	290	Black or African American	4%	18
Group Home	0%	1	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	1
Institution	4%	15	Hispanic (of any race)	4%	17
Supervised Independent Living	0%	0	White	30%	124
Runaway	0%	1	Unknown/Unable to Determine	3%	14
Trial Home Visit	1%	3	Two or More Races	10%	40

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	56%	233
Female	44%	183

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=337), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021
Mean	39.8	
Median	36.4	

Time in Care	Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month	0%	0	Mean	16.4
1 - 5 Months	1%	5	Median	10.0
6 - 11 Months	4%	18		
12 - 17 Months	5%	21		
18 - 23 Months	10%	43		
24 - 29 Months	14%	59		
30 - 35 Months	14%	57		
3 - 4 Years	35%	147		
5 Years or More	16%	66		

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021⁴ - N=229

Age at Adoption	Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	6.8	Mean	19.2
Median	6.0	Median	16.3

Age at Adoption	Percent	Number	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	0%	1	Less than 1 Month	0%	1
1 Year	8%	18	1 - 5 Months	6%	13
2 Years	12%	27	6 - 11 Months	36%	80
3 Years	9%	21	12 - 17 Months	14%	31
4 Years	10%	23	18 - 23 Months	19%	42
5 Years	8%	18	24 - 29 Months	9%	20
6 Years	7%	16	30 - 35 Months	6%	13
7 Years	6%	13	3 - 4 Years	9%	20
8 Years	8%	18	5 Years or More	1%	3
9 Years	7%	15			
10 Years	5%	11			
11 Years	4%	9			
12 Years	3%	6			
13 Years	3%	7			
14 Years	5%	11			
15 Years	1%	3			
16 Years	1%	3			
17 Years	4%	9			
18 Years	0%	0			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	32%	73
Asian	0%	0
Black or African American	7%	15
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	2%	4
Hispanic (of any race)	5%	12
White	43%	99
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	3
Two or More Races	10%	23

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	77%	177	Male	48%	110
Unmarried Couple	2%	4	Female	52%	119
Single Female	20%	45			
Single Male	1%	3			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption			Receive Adoption Subsidy		
	Percent	Number		Percent	Number
Non-Relative	3%	6	Yes	100%	229
Foster Parent	69%	157	No	0%	0
Stepparent	0%	0			
Other Relative	29%	66			

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>