



The AFCARS Report:

Nebraska

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: Nebraska

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	4,195	3,524	3,506	3,605	3,835
Number entered foster care during the FY	2,644	1,869	2,209	2,069	2,032
Number exited foster care during the FY	2,369	2,438	2,137	1,874	1,676
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	6,564	5,962	5,643	5,479	5,511
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	771	817	689	658	755
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	451	497	453	405	457
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	546	564	560	433	368

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=3,835

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	8.9	Male	49%	1,891
Median	8.0	Female	51%	1,944

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	5%	198	Pre-Adoptive Home	3%	125
1 Year	7%	254	Foster Family Home (Relative)	34%	1,322
2 Years	7%	253	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	43%	1,647
3 Years	6%	237	Group Home	2%	76
4 Years	6%	223	Institution	2%	76
5 Years	5%	179	Supervised Independent Living	4%	163
6 Years	6%	213	Runaway	1%	38
7 Years	5%	202	Trial Home Visit	10%	385

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
9 Years	5%	180	Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	64%	2,433
10 Years	4%	153	Live with Other Relative(s)	1%	54
11 Years	4%	148	Adoption	17%	667
12 Years	4%	161	Long Term Foster Care	0%	0
13 Years	5%	181	Emancipation	6%	245
14 Years	5%	183	Guardianship	7%	251
15 Years	5%	186	Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	4%	168
16 Years	6%	222			
17 Years	5%	205			
18 Years	4%	159			
19 Years	2%	60			
20 Years	2%	69			

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	4%	164	Mean	18.4
Asian	1%	39	Median	13.1
Black or African American	17%	663		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	10		
Hispanic (of any race)	21%	799		
White	45%	1,731		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	4%	136		
Two or More Races	8%	292		

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	4%	167
1 - 5 Months	21%	794
6 - 11 Months	21%	807
12 - 17 Months	16%	597
18 - 23 Months	13%	485
24 - 29 Months	9%	326
30 - 35 Months	5%	189
3 - 4 Years	9%	337
5 Years or More	3%	133

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

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=2,032

Age at Entry	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	7.6	American Indian/Alaska Native	4%	89
Median	7.0	Asian	1%	15
		Black or African American	14%	280
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	9
		Hispanic (of any race)	23%	464
		White	46%	925
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	4%	86
		Two or More Races	8%	164

Age at Entry	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	15%	310
1 Year	6%	121
2 Years	6%	113
3 Years	6%	114
4 Years	5%	108
5 Years	5%	100
6 Years	5%	99
7 Years	6%	119
8 Years	4%	72
9 Years	5%	94
10 Years	4%	82
11 Years	4%	87
12 Years	5%	96
13 Years	5%	95
14 Years	4%	86
15 Years	5%	106
16 Years	4%	84
17 Years	4%	80
18 Years	1%	12
19 Years	2%	46
20 Years	0%	8

Circumstances Associated with Child's Removal	Percent	Number
Neglect	60%	1,218
Drug Abuse (Parent)	31%	633
Physical Abuse	19%	377
Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	13%	259
Housing	13%	259
Parent Incarceration	10%	196
Child Behavior Problem	8%	155
Sexual Abuse	7%	149
Abandonment	6%	129
Caretaker Inability To Cope	3%	63
Parent Death	1%	28
Drug Abuse (Child)	0%	9
Relinquishment	0%	9
Child Disability	0%	4
Alcohol Abuse (Child)	0%	3

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=1,676

Age at Exit	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	
Mean	8.7	American Indian/Alaska Native	4%	70	
Median	8.0	Asian	0%	5	
		Black or African American	15%	245	
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	1	
		Hispanic (of any race)	19%	312	
		White	48%	808	
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	5%	76	
		Two or More Races	9%	152	
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	3%	54	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	58%	961
1 Year	8%	126	Living with Other Relative(s)	0%	0
2 Years	8%	131	Adoption	22%	369
3 Years	7%	109	Emancipation	7%	110
4 Years	8%	126	Guardianship	9%	156
5 Years	5%	86	Transfer to Another Agency	3%	54
6 Years	5%	84	Runaway	0%	3
7 Years	5%	83	Death of Child	0%	5
8 Years	5%	92			
9 Years	5%	77			
10 Years	4%	65			
11 Years	5%	78			
12 Years	5%	76			
13 Years	3%	57			
14 Years	4%	65			
15 Years	3%	57			
16 Years	5%	77			
17 Years	3%	57			
18 Years	4%	63			
19 Years	6%	104			
20 Years	1%	9			
Time in Care	Months				
Mean	20.2				
Median	17.0				
Time in Care	Percent	Number			
Less than 1 Month	7%	120			
1 - 5 Months	11%	182			
6 - 11 Months	15%	248			
12 - 17 Months	21%	345			
18 - 23 Months	16%	263			
24 - 29 Months	12%	199			
30 - 35 Months	7%	109			
3 - 4 Years	10%	162			
5 Years or More	3%	45			

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2021 - N=755

Age as of September 30th	Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Years
Mean	8.0	Mean	5.3
Median	7.0	Median	5.0

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	1%	10	Less than 1 Year	21%	155
1 Year	7%	54	1 Year	8%	58
2 Years	8%	61	2 Years	9%	66
3 Years	9%	68	3 Years	7%	56
4 Years	7%	55	4 Years	6%	42
5 Years	6%	44	5 Years	5%	41
6 Years	7%	54	6 Years	6%	46
7 Years	5%	41	7 Years	6%	42
8 Years	4%	30	8 Years	6%	42
9 Years	5%	41	9 Years	5%	39
10 Years	5%	38	10 Years	5%	34
11 Years	4%	33	11 Years	5%	37
12 Years	5%	36	12 Years	5%	34
13 Years	4%	33	13 Years	4%	33
14 Years	6%	46	14 Years	2%	18
15 Years	5%	41	15 Years	1%	9
16 Years	6%	45	16 Years	0%	3
17 Years	3%	25	17 Years	0%	0

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	15%	115	American Indian/Alaska Native	5%	37
Foster Family Home (Relative)	30%	224	Asian	2%	14
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	50%	380	Black or African American	20%	153
Group Home	1%	11	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Institution	2%	15	Hispanic (of any race)	17%	129
Supervised Independent Living	0%	0	White	44%	335
Runaway	1%	6	Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	10
Trial Home Visit	1%	4	Two or More Races	10%	77

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	53%	399
Female	47%	356

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=457), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021
Mean	33.0	
Median	27.3	

Time in Care	Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month	0%	0	Mean	18.3
1 - 5 Months	3%	19	Median	8.0
6 - 11 Months	6%	46		
12 - 17 Months	12%	89		
18 - 23 Months	20%	151		
24 - 29 Months	18%	133		
30 - 35 Months	11%	80		
3 - 4 Years	23%	175		
5 Years or More	8%	62		

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021⁴ - N=368

Age at Adoption	Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	5.9	Mean	10.4
Median	5.0	Median	7.2

Age at Adoption	Percent	Number	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	1%	5	Less than 1 Month	2%	6
1 Year	10%	37	1 - 5 Months	36%	121
2 Years	17%	62	6 - 11 Months	36%	119
3 Years	8%	31	12 - 17 Months	13%	44
4 Years	11%	39	18 - 23 Months	7%	23
5 Years	9%	33	24 - 29 Months	2%	6
6 Years	5%	18	30 - 35 Months	3%	9
7 Years	6%	22	3 - 4 Years	1%	5
8 Years	7%	26	5 Years or More	1%	2
9 Years	5%	17			
10 Years	4%	15			
11 Years	4%	16			
12 Years	4%	16			
13 Years	2%	7			
14 Years	1%	5			
15 Years	1%	5			
16 Years	2%	8			
17 Years	1%	3			
18 Years	1%	3			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	5%	17
Asian	0%	1
Black or African American	13%	47
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Hispanic (of any race)	11%	42
White	61%	225
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	8
Two or More Races	7%	26

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	71%	262	Male	48%	178
Unmarried Couple	3%	10	Female	52%	190
Single Female	24%	88			
Single Male	2%	8			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number	Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	0%	0	Yes	93%	343
Foster Parent	54%	192	No	7%	25
Stepparent	0%	0			
Other Relative	46%	164			

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>