



# The AFCARS Report:

# Texas

Preliminary FY<sup>1</sup> 2022 Estimates as of May 9, 2023 - No. 30

**SOURCE:** Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2022 data<sup>2</sup>

### Numbers at a Glance: Texas

Fiscal Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	32,960	31,427	29,991	28,042	21,358
Number entered foster care during the FY	20,497	18,455	16,434	15,127	9,486
Number exited foster care during the FY	19,403	19,673	17,552	16,887	16,067
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	52,361	51,097	47,543	44,929	37,425
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	13,822	12,932	12,319	11,639	10,232
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	8,888	8,578	7,730	7,463	7,198
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	5,748	6,105	5,249	4,647	4,361

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>

<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 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=21,358

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	7.1	Male	52%	11,083
Median	6.0	Female	48%	10,273

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	9%	2,009	Pre-Adoptive Home	2%	369
1 Year	11%	2,418	Foster Family Home (Relative)	31%	6,611
2 Years	8%	1,748	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	48%	10,106
3 Years	7%	1,403	Group Home	0%	0
4 Years	6%	1,312	Institution	12%	2,549
5 Years	6%	1,198	Supervised Independent Living	0%	16
6 Years	5%	1,073	Runaway	1%	145
7 Years	5%	1,063	Trial Home Visit	6%	1,198

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
8 Years	4%	902	Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	36%	7,539
9 Years	4%	898	Live with Other Relative(s)	11%	2,379
10 Years	4%	774	Adoption	45%	9,454
11 Years	4%	847	Long Term Foster Care	0%	55
12 Years	4%	868	Emancipation	3%	591
13 Years	4%	874	Guardianship	1%	277
14 Years	4%	884	Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	4%	923
15 Years	4%	946			
16 Years	5%	1,010			

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Time in Care	Months
17 Years	4%	939	Mean	21.8
18 Years	0%	87	Median	15.3
19 Years	0%	60		
20 Years	0%	42		

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	Time in Care	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	21	Less than 1 Month	4%	833
Asian	0%	66	1 - 5 Months	18%	3,947
Black or African American	22%	4,688	6 - 11 Months	18%	3,760
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	30	12 - 17 Months	18%	3,841
Hispanic (of any race)	43%	9,241	18 - 23 Months	12%	2,667
White	28%	6,051	24 - 29 Months	8%	1,691
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	190	30 - 35 Months	5%	1,034
Two or More Races	5%	1,050	3 - 4 Years	10%	2,174
			5 Years or More	7%	1,411

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

### Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2022 - N=9,486

Age at Entry	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	
Mean	4.7	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	8	
Median	3.0	Asian	0%	32	
		Black or African American	21%	1,984	
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	17	
		Hispanic (of any race)	41%	3,875	
		White	31%	2,929	
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	122	
		Two or More Races	5%	518	
<b>NOTE:</b> 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	29%	2,742	Neglect	92%	8,714
1 Year	9%	861	Drug Abuse (Parent)	59%	5,580
2 Years	8%	726	Physical Abuse	25%	2,350
3 Years	7%	689	Child Disability	12%	1,155
4 Years	6%	550	Housing	11%	1,080
5 Years	5%	514	Parent Incarceration	8%	766
6 Years	5%	468	Abandonment	8%	716
7 Years	5%	430	Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	7%	706
8 Years	4%	387	Sexual Abuse	7%	699
9 Years	3%	310	Drug Abuse (Child)	7%	656
10 Years	3%	294	Caretaker Inability To Cope	7%	634
11 Years	3%	274	Child Behavior Problem	1%	99
12 Years	3%	268	Parent Death	1%	81
13 Years	3%	273	Alcohol Abuse (Child)	1%	70
14 Years	2%	217	Relinquishment	0%	13
15 Years	2%	227			
16 Years	2%	189			
17 Years	1%	67			
18 Years	0%	0			
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=16,067

Age at Exit	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	
Mean	7.1	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	29	
Median	6.0	Asian	0%	46	
		Black or African American	20%	3,275	
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	22	
		Hispanic (of any race)	42%	6,805	
		White	30%	4,886	
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	133	
		Two or More Races	5%	865	
<b>NOTE:</b> 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%	425	Adoption	28%	4,436
1 Year	12%	1,961	Death of Child	0%	35
2 Years	12%	1,886	Emancipation	6%	1,041
3 Years	8%	1,335	Guardianship	25%	4,010
4 Years	8%	1,221	Living with Other Relative(s)	0%	0
5 Years	7%	1,067	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	40%	6,485
6 Years	6%	917	Runaway	0%	23
7 Years	5%	815	Transfer to Another Agency	0%	37
8 Years	5%	796			
9 Years	4%	699			
10 Years	4%	595			
11 Years	4%	572			
12 Years	3%	545			
13 Years	3%	488			
14 Years	3%	459			
15 Years	3%	456			
16 Years	3%	427			
17 Years	2%	376			
18 Years	6%	980			
19 Years	0%	18			
20 Years	0%	12			
Time in Care	Months				
Mean	21.9				
Median	17.6				
Time in Care	Percent	Number			
1 - 5 Months	4%	581			
12 - 17 Months	28%	4,563			
18 - 23 Months	19%	3,051			
24 - 29 Months	11%	1,728			
3 - 4 Years	8%	1,328			
30 - 35 Months	6%	975			
5 Years or More	3%	515			
6 - 11 Months	18%	2,970			
Less than 1 Month	2%	356			

### Children Waiting to be Adopted<sup>3</sup> on September 30, 2022 - N=10,232

Age as of September 30th	Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Years
Mean	7.6	Mean	5.2
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	5%	465	Less than 1 Year	25%	2,577
1 Year	12%	1,269	1 Year	7%	691
2 Years	8%	864	2 Years	6%	631
3 Years	6%	599	3 Years	6%	644
4 Years	6%	584	4 Years	6%	604
5 Years	5%	528	5 Years	6%	616
6 Years	5%	495	6 Years	6%	578
7 Years	5%	521	7 Years	5%	549
8 Years	4%	450	8 Years	5%	541
9 Years	5%	481	9 Years	5%	512
10 Years	4%	413	10 Years	5%	472
11 Years	5%	478	11 Years	5%	490
12 Years	5%	489	12 Years	4%	408
13 Years	5%	522	13 Years	4%	386
14 Years	5%	554	14 Years	3%	277
15 Years	6%	570	15 Years	2%	180
16 Years	6%	587	16 Years	1%	64
17 Years	4%	363	17 Years	0%	9

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Sex	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	4%	369	Male	52%	5,359
Foster Family Home (Relative)	25%	2,517	Female	48%	4,873
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	55%	5,542			
Group Home	0%	0			
Institution	14%	1,407			
Supervised Independent Living	0%	6			
Runaway	1%	67			
Trial Home Visit	1%	112			

Time in Care	Months	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	30.0	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	14
Median	22.4	Asian	0%	34
		Black or African American	20%	2,077
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	17
		Hispanic (of any race)	44%	4,519
		White	29%	3,010
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	73
		Two or More Races	5%	474

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	0%	28	<b>Of Children Waiting for Adoption whose Parents' Parental Rights have been Terminated (N=7,198), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2022</b>	
1 - 5 Months	3%	346		
6 - 11 Months	12%	1,190		
12 - 17 Months	21%	2,153		
18 - 23 Months	18%	1,833		
24 - 29 Months	13%	1,297		
30 - 35 Months	7%	751		
3 - 4 Years	16%	1,597		
5 Years or More	10%	1,037		

Time Since TPR	Months
Mean	26.3
Median	11.0

<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.

## Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2022<sup>4</sup> - N=4,361

Age at Adoption		Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption		Months
Mean		5.3	Mean		13.8
Median		4.0	Median		9.4

  

Age at Adoption	Percent	Number	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	1%	45	Less than 1 Month	0%	1
1 Year	17%	757	1 - 5 Months	24%	1,024
2 Years	19%	815	6 - 11 Months	39%	1,706
3 Years	10%	425	12 - 17 Months	19%	810
4 Years	9%	379	18 - 23 Months	6%	278
5 Years	7%	301	24 - 29 Months	4%	184
6 Years	6%	254	30 - 35 Months	3%	132
7 Years	4%	195	3 - 4 Years	3%	148
8 Years	5%	214	5 Years or More	2%	74
9 Years	4%	160			
10 Years	3%	140			
11 Years	3%	129			
12 Years	3%	133			
13 Years	3%	111			
14 Years	2%	100			
15 Years	2%	71			
16 Years	1%	60			
17 Years	2%	70			
18 Years	0%	2			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

  

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	7
Asian	0%	9
Black or African American	17%	751
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	10
Hispanic (of any race)	45%	1,960
White	31%	1,341
Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	21
Two or More Races	6%	260

**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	68%	2,952	Male	51%	2,208
Single Female	27%	1,161	Female	49%	2,151
Single Male	4%	177			
Unmarried Couple	2%	69			

  

Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number	Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	21%	934	Yes	92%	4,029
Foster Parent	49%	2,146	No	8%	332
Stepparent	0%	3			
Other Relative	29%	1,278			

<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.