



The AFCARS Report:

Utah

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: Utah

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	2,954	2,611	2,488	2,373	2,119
Number entered foster care during the FY	2,284	1,979	2,020	1,625	1,522
Number exited foster care during the FY	2,108	2,263	2,084	1,721	1,751
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	5,062	4,874	4,572	4,094	3,870
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	802	728	684	686	698
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	386	387	361	296	305
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	665	818	639	518	560

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=2,119

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	8.5	Male	53%	1,114
Median	8.0	Female	47%	1,005

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	10%	211	Pre-Adoptive Home	8%	175
1 Year	8%	161	Foster Family Home (Relative)	31%	666
2 Years	6%	136	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	46%	967
3 Years	5%	112	Group Home	2%	47
4 Years	5%	107	Institution	4%	80
5 Years	4%	87	Supervised Independent Living	2%	36
6 Years	5%	96	Runaway	1%	29
7 Years	4%	88	Trial Home Visit	6%	119

Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	48%	1,015
Live with Other Relative(s)	7%	139
Adoption	32%	686
Long Term Foster Care	3%	62
Emancipation	1%	30
Guardianship	4%	81
Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	5%	100

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number
8 Years	4%	80
9 Years	4%	82
10 Years	4%	91
11 Years	4%	84
12 Years	4%	88
13 Years	5%	106
14 Years	5%	110
15 Years	6%	123
16 Years	6%	126
17 Years	5%	114
18 Years	3%	63
19 Years	2%	33
20 Years	1%	19

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	2%	40	Mean	15.9
Asian	1%	14	Median	10.4
Black or African American	4%	79		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1%	17		
Hispanic (of any race)	27%	571		
White	60%	1,264		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	11		
Two or More Races	6%	123		

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	8%	159
1 - 5 Months	24%	514
6 - 11 Months	24%	500
12 - 17 Months	15%	310
18 - 23 Months	10%	207
24 - 29 Months	7%	145
30 - 35 Months	4%	81
3 - 4 Years	6%	130
5 Years or More	3%	73

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

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=1,522

Age at Entry	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	6.4	American Indian/Alaska Native	3%	39
Median	6.0	Asian	1%	8
		Black or African American	3%	48
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1%	8
		Hispanic (of any race)	28%	425
		White	59%	904
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	11
		Two or More Races	5%	79

Age at Entry	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	21%	326
1 Year	7%	103
2 Years	6%	94
3 Years	7%	106
4 Years	5%	70
5 Years	4%	58
6 Years	6%	86
7 Years	4%	66
8 Years	4%	55
9 Years	4%	56
10 Years	4%	66
11 Years	4%	64
12 Years	5%	77
13 Years	5%	73
14 Years	5%	74
15 Years	4%	58
16 Years	4%	55
17 Years	2%	34
18 Years	0%	1
19 Years	0%	0
20 Years	0%	0

Circumstances Associated with Child's Removal	Percent	Number
Neglect	90%	1,370
Drug Abuse (Parent)	59%	893
Caretaker Inability To Cope	30%	461
Physical Abuse	23%	344
Parent Incarceration	22%	337
Housing	21%	314
Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	12%	181
Abandonment	11%	167
Child Behavior Problem	10%	150
Drug Abuse (Child)	9%	142
Sexual Abuse	8%	119
Parent Death	4%	61
Child Disability	3%	52
Alcohol Abuse (Child)	2%	26
Relinquishment	1%	21

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=1,751

Age at Exit	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	
Mean	7.9	American Indian/Alaska Native	4%	70	
Median	7.0	Asian	0%	8	
		Black or African American	4%	73	
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1%	13	
		Hispanic (of any race)	25%	433	
		White	60%	1,058	
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	10	
		Two or More Races	5%	86	
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%	94	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	41%	725
1 Year	12%	202	Living with Other Relative(s)	7%	123
2 Years	7%	115	Adoption	30%	531
3 Years	7%	128	Emancipation	7%	115
4 Years	7%	117	Guardianship	12%	210
5 Years	5%	88	Transfer to Another Agency	2%	28
6 Years	5%	94	Runaway	1%	10
7 Years	5%	89	Death of Child	0%	6
8 Years	5%	92			
9 Years	4%	68			
10 Years	4%	74			
11 Years	4%	64			
12 Years	4%	69			
13 Years	3%	61			
14 Years	3%	55			
15 Years	3%	61			
16 Years	4%	70			
17 Years	4%	66			
18 Years	5%	90			
19 Years	2%	30			
20 Years	1%	17			
Time in Care	Months				
Mean	17.3				
Median	14.7				
Time in Care	Percent	Number			
Less than 1 Month	8%	144			
1 - 5 Months	10%	179			
6 - 11 Months	21%	362			
12 - 17 Months	25%	440			
18 - 23 Months	16%	286			
24 - 29 Months	8%	134			
30 - 35 Months	4%	73			
3 - 4 Years	5%	86			
5 Years or More	2%	41			

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2021 - N=698

Age as of September 30th	Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Years
Mean	7.6	Mean	5.7
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	9%	62	Less than 1 Year	21%	150
1 Year	9%	61	1 Year	7%	47
2 Years	7%	50	2 Years	6%	41
3 Years	6%	41	3 Years	6%	45
4 Years	6%	39	4 Years	6%	40
5 Years	5%	37	5 Years	4%	27
6 Years	5%	35	6 Years	6%	41
7 Years	4%	27	7 Years	6%	44
8 Years	6%	40	8 Years	7%	47
9 Years	4%	29	9 Years	5%	33
10 Years	5%	36	10 Years	6%	39
11 Years	4%	31	11 Years	4%	31
12 Years	5%	34	12 Years	5%	37
13 Years	6%	41	13 Years	6%	40
14 Years	6%	40	14 Years	3%	23
15 Years	6%	41	15 Years	1%	8
16 Years	5%	32	16 Years	1%	5
17 Years	3%	22	17 Years	0%	0

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	24%	169	American Indian/Alaska Native	2%	16
Foster Family Home (Relative)	28%	193	Asian	1%	4
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	43%	302	Black or African American	6%	40
Group Home	1%	10	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1%	7
Institution	3%	19	Hispanic (of any race)	27%	185
Supervised Independent Living	0%	0	White	56%	393
Runaway	1%	5	Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	1
Trial Home Visit	0%	0	Two or More Races	7%	52

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	52%	365
Female	48%	333

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=305), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021
Mean	23.3	
Median	19.2	

Time in Care	Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month	1%	7	Mean	17.6
1 - 5 Months	8%	55	Median	8.0
6 - 11 Months	18%	124		
12 - 17 Months	19%	130		
18 - 23 Months	18%	127		
24 - 29 Months	15%	103		
30 - 35 Months	7%	49		
3 - 4 Years	10%	71		
5 Years or More	5%	32		

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021⁴ - N=560

Age at Adoption	Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	5.7	Mean	7.9
Median	4.0	Median	4.0

Age at Adoption	Percent	Number	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	6%	32	Less than 1 Month	6%	34
1 Year	17%	97	1 - 5 Months	57%	310
2 Years	10%	57	6 - 11 Months	18%	96
3 Years	10%	56	12 - 17 Months	11%	58
4 Years	9%	52	18 - 23 Months	3%	15
5 Years	6%	31	24 - 29 Months	2%	13
6 Years	6%	34	30 - 35 Months	1%	3
7 Years	5%	29	3 - 4 Years	2%	12
8 Years	5%	28	5 Years or More	1%	4
9 Years	4%	22			
10 Years	3%	17			
11 Years	4%	22			
12 Years	3%	19			
13 Years	4%	22			
14 Years	1%	8			
15 Years	2%	11			
16 Years	1%	5			
17 Years	2%	10			
18 Years	1%	6			
19 Years	0%	2			
20 Years	0%	0			

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	3%	16
Asian	0%	0
Black or African American	4%	21
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1%	6
Hispanic (of any race)	24%	136
White	62%	346
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	5
Two or More Races	5%	30

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	84%	469	Male	54%	302
Unmarried Couple	0%	1	Female	46%	258
Single Female	14%	76			
Single Male	3%	14			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption			Receive Adoption Subsidy		
	Percent	Number		Percent	Number
Non-Relative	21%	118	Yes	98%	540
Foster Parent	37%	207	No	2%	12
Stepparent	0%	1			
Other Relative	42%	233			

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>