



The AFCARS Report: Virginia

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: Virginia

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	4,795	4,915	4,925	4,773	4,977
Number entered foster care during the FY	2,741	2,940	2,800	2,505	2,335
Number exited foster care during the FY	2,842	2,849	2,701	2,687	2,595
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	7,635	7,754	7,612	7,451	7,570
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	1,826	1,766	1,934	1,967	1,899
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	1,307	1,091	1,236	1,243	1,289
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	801	879	769	844	878

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=4,977

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	10.7	Male	52%	2,573
Median	12.0	Female	48%	2,404

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	5%	239	Pre-Adoptive Home	0%	6
1 Year	6%	278	Foster Family Home (Relative)	10%	476
2 Years	5%	258	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	63%	3,094
3 Years	4%	213	Group Home	9%	460
4 Years	4%	205	Institution	2%	77
5 Years	4%	189	Supervised Independent Living	14%	708
6 Years	4%	200	Runaway	0%	0
7 Years	4%	179	Trial Home Visit	2%	114

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
9 Years	4%	183	Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	33%	1,642
10 Years	3%	172	Live with Other Relative(s)	8%	384
11 Years	3%	167	Adoption	37%	1,829
12 Years	4%	195	Long Term Foster Care	4%	195
13 Years	4%	217	Emancipation	15%	734
14 Years	5%	254	Guardianship	0%	0
15 Years	6%	298	Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	3%	154
16 Years	7%	332			
17 Years	8%	415			
18 Years	6%	297			
19 Years	6%	293			
20 Years	5%	228			

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	0%	10	Mean	23.4
Asian	1%	42	Median	18.7
Black or African American	26%	1,315		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	1		
Hispanic (of any race)	11%	547		
White	50%	2,499		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	75		
Two or More Races	10%	488		

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	4%	177
1 - 5 Months	18%	875
6 - 11 Months	15%	759
12 - 17 Months	12%	620
18 - 23 Months	14%	688
24 - 29 Months	9%	458
30 - 35 Months	7%	353
3 - 4 Years	14%	721
5 Years or More	7%	326

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

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=2,335

Age at Entry	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	8.5	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	5
Median	9.0	Asian	1%	13
		Black or African American	25%	575
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	1
		Hispanic (of any race)	10%	224
		White	52%	1,215
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	56
		Two or More Races	11%	246

Age at Entry	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	17%	388
1 Year	6%	136
2 Years	5%	110
3 Years	5%	114
4 Years	4%	84
5 Years	4%	88
6 Years	4%	84
7 Years	3%	73
8 Years	3%	78
9 Years	4%	95
10 Years	3%	73
11 Years	3%	71
12 Years	4%	91
13 Years	5%	105
14 Years	6%	150
15 Years	6%	139
16 Years	8%	190
17 Years	5%	121
18 Years	3%	80
19 Years	2%	35
20 Years	1%	28

Circumstances Associated with Child's Removal	Percent	Number
Neglect	51%	1,192
Drug Abuse (Parent)	32%	738
Child Behavior Problem	17%	387
Physical Abuse	14%	323
Housing	12%	282
Caretaker Inability To Cope	8%	186
Relinquishment	6%	139
Abandonment	5%	132
Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	5%	123
Sexual Abuse	5%	110
Parent Incarceration	5%	107
Drug Abuse (Child)	2%	50
Child Disability	1%	32
Parent Death	1%	21
Alcohol Abuse (Child)	1%	12

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=2,595

Age at Exit	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	
Mean	9.0	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	1	
Median	9.0	Asian	1%	14	
		Black or African American	26%	662	
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	2	
		Hispanic (of any race)	10%	271	
		White	52%	1,343	
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	36	
		Two or More Races	10%	266	
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%	110	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	27%	703
1 Year	8%	180	Living with Other Relative(s)	18%	453
2 Years	7%	174	Adoption	35%	890
3 Years	6%	149	Emancipation	16%	413
4 Years	5%	121	Guardianship	2%	59
5 Years	6%	134	Transfer to Another Agency	2%	46
6 Years	4%	97	Runaway	0%	8
7 Years	4%	97	Death of Child	0%	6
8 Years	4%	106			
9 Years	5%	122			
10 Years	4%	96			
11 Years	4%	89			
12 Years	3%	81			
13 Years	4%	95			
14 Years	5%	108			
15 Years	5%	116			
16 Years	5%	125			
17 Years	6%	135			
18 Years	6%	148			
19 Years	2%	46			
20 Years	2%	38			
Time in Care	Months				
Mean	24.2				
Median	19.4				
Time in Care	Percent	Number			
Less than 1 Month	8%	204			
1 - 5 Months	13%	324			
6 - 11 Months	10%	268			
12 - 17 Months	15%	401			
18 - 23 Months	14%	358			
24 - 29 Months	11%	293			
30 - 35 Months	7%	189			
3 - 4 Years	15%	391			
5 Years or More	6%	160			

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2021 - N=1,899

Age as of September 30th	Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Years
Mean	8.7	Mean	6.2
Median	9.0	Median	6.0

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	3%	48	Less than 1 Year	17%	330
1 Year	7%	137	1 Year	7%	129
2 Years	7%	135	2 Years	5%	99
3 Years	6%	109	3 Years	6%	118
4 Years	6%	107	4 Years	6%	115
5 Years	6%	110	5 Years	6%	120
6 Years	5%	101	6 Years	6%	119
7 Years	5%	94	7 Years	5%	103
8 Years	5%	95	8 Years	6%	105
9 Years	5%	96	9 Years	6%	118
10 Years	5%	89	10 Years	5%	99
11 Years	5%	86	11 Years	6%	116
12 Years	6%	108	12 Years	5%	102
13 Years	6%	114	13 Years	5%	101
14 Years	5%	100	14 Years	3%	56
15 Years	6%	117	15 Years	3%	50
16 Years	6%	121	16 Years	1%	14
17 Years	7%	132	17 Years	0%	5

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	0%	4	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	2
Foster Family Home (Relative)	12%	226	Asian	1%	15
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	77%	1,451	Black or African American	26%	489
Group Home	9%	168	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	1
Institution	1%	22	Hispanic (of any race)	10%	182
Supervised Independent Living	0%	9	White	52%	981
Runaway	0%	0	Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	22
Trial Home Visit	0%	7	Two or More Races	11%	207

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	54%	1,024
Female	46%	875

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=1,289), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021
Mean		31.0	
Median		25.5	

Time in Care	Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month	0%	5	Mean	16.4
1 - 5 Months	2%	41	Median	10.0
6 - 11 Months	7%	125		
12 - 17 Months	14%	260		
18 - 23 Months	21%	407		
24 - 29 Months	16%	311		
30 - 35 Months	11%	200		
3 - 4 Years	21%	400		
5 Years or More	8%	150		

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021⁴ - N=878

Age at Adoption	Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	7.4	Mean	14.3
Median	7.0	Median	11.0

Age at Adoption	Percent	Number	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	1%	9	Less than 1 Month	0%	4
1 Year	10%	86	1 - 5 Months	20%	176
2 Years	9%	83	6 - 11 Months	35%	303
3 Years	8%	68	12 - 17 Months	20%	174
4 Years	7%	62	18 - 23 Months	11%	93
5 Years	8%	69	24 - 29 Months	5%	48
6 Years	7%	59	30 - 35 Months	3%	29
7 Years	5%	47	3 - 4 Years	4%	39
8 Years	6%	52	5 Years or More	1%	11
9 Years	5%	45			
10 Years	4%	35			
11 Years	5%	48			
12 Years	4%	39			
13 Years	5%	40			
14 Years	5%	41			
15 Years	4%	33			
16 Years	4%	37			
17 Years	2%	19			
18 Years	0%	4			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	1
Asian	1%	6
Black or African American	22%	195
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	1
Hispanic (of any race)	8%	71
White	56%	496
Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	3
Two or More Races	12%	105

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	76%	655	Male	53%	465
Unmarried Couple	0%	4	Female	47%	412
Single Female	23%	196			
Single Male	0%	2			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption			Receive Adoption Subsidy		
	Percent	Number		Percent	Number
Non-Relative	2%	15	Yes	92%	806
Foster Parent	89%	778	No	8%	72
Stepparent	0%	0			
Other Relative	9%	81			

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>