



The AFCARS Report: Virginia

Preliminary FY¹ 2022 Estimates as of May 9, 2023 - No. 30

SOURCE: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2022 data²

Numbers at a Glance: Virginia

Fiscal Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	4,915	4,925	4,773	4,977	5,039
Number entered foster care during the FY	2,940	2,800	2,505	2,335	2,372
Number exited foster care during the FY	2,849	2,701	2,687	2,595	2,240
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	7,754	7,612	7,451	7,570	7,279
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	1,766	1,934	1,967	1,899	1,810
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	1,091	1,236	1,243	1,289	1,190
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	879	769	844	878	792

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 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>

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 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=5,039

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	10.7	Male	52%	2,614
Median	12.0	Female	48%	2,425

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	4%	218	Pre-Adoptive Home	1%	33
1 Year	6%	308	Foster Family Home (Relative)	9%	466
2 Years	4%	226	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	62%	3,055
3 Years	5%	234	Group Home	7%	365
4 Years	4%	204	Institution	2%	111
5 Years	4%	199	Supervised Independent Living	15%	725
6 Years	3%	167	Runaway	0%	0
7 Years	4%	194	Trial Home Visit	3%	152

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
8 Years	4%	178	Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	35%	1,750
9 Years	3%	171	Live with Other Relative(s)	8%	413
10 Years	4%	179	Adoption	35%	1,757
11 Years	4%	188	Long Term Foster Care	3%	164
12 Years	4%	197	Emancipation	15%	736
13 Years	4%	223	Guardianship	0%	0
14 Years	5%	268	Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	4%	193
15 Years	6%	326			
16 Years	7%	347			
17 Years	8%	389			
18 Years	6%	325			
19 Years	5%	238			
20 Years	5%	260			

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Time in Care	Months
Mean				23.0
Median				16.1

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	Time in Care	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	6	Less than 1 Month	4%	200
Asian	1%	50	1 - 5 Months	17%	880
Black or African American	27%	1,344	6 - 11 Months	18%	917
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	6	12 - 17 Months	15%	745
Hispanic (of any race)	11%	532	18 - 23 Months	10%	484
White	50%	2,531	24 - 29 Months	7%	366
Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	77	30 - 35 Months	8%	387
Two or More Races	10%	493	3 - 4 Years	15%	733
			5 Years or More	6%	327

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

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2022 - N=2,372

Age at Entry	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	
Mean	8.4	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	1	
Median	9.0	Asian	1%	24	
		Black or African American	26%	626	
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	6	
		Hispanic (of any race)	9%	216	
		White	52%	1,232	
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	2%	46	
		Two or More Races	9%	221	
NOTE: 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	15%	356	Neglect	54%	1,280
1 Year	6%	149	Drug Abuse (Parent)	31%	734
2 Years	5%	114	Child Behavior Problem	17%	395
3 Years	5%	112	Physical Abuse	14%	326
4 Years	4%	97	Housing	12%	276
5 Years	4%	100	Relinquishment	7%	157
6 Years	4%	85	Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	7%	156
7 Years	4%	87	Sexual Abuse	5%	125
8 Years	3%	79	Caretaker Inability To Cope	5%	123
9 Years	4%	95	Abandonment	5%	120
10 Years	3%	77	Parent Incarceration	5%	110
11 Years	4%	100	Drug Abuse (Child)	2%	52
12 Years	4%	103	Child Disability	2%	49
13 Years	4%	104	Parent Death	1%	22
14 Years	7%	163	Alcohol Abuse (Child)	1%	19
15 Years	7%	157			
16 Years	7%	161			
17 Years	5%	125			
18 Years	3%	69			
19 Years	1%	20			
20 Years	1%	19			

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=2,240

Age at Exit	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	
Mean	9.1	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	4	
Median	9.0	Asian	1%	14	
		Black or African American	25%	569	
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	1	
		Hispanic (of any race)	10%	234	
		White	51%	1,147	
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	31	
		Two or More Races	11%	240	
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	4%	80	Adoption	35%	774
1 Year	9%	175	Death of Child	0%	6
2 Years	8%	154	Emancipation	19%	418
3 Years	6%	117	Guardianship	1%	33
4 Years	5%	109	Living with Other Relative(s)	16%	346
5 Years	5%	108	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	27%	598
6 Years	5%	93	Runaway	1%	15
7 Years	4%	85	Transfer to Another Agency	1%	27
8 Years	4%	83			
9 Years	4%	86			
10 Years	4%	88			
11 Years	3%	71			
12 Years	3%	68			
13 Years	4%	76			
14 Years	5%	94			
15 Years	5%	100			
16 Years	5%	93			
17 Years	5%	95			
18 Years	8%	158			
19 Years	3%	51			
20 Years	3%	51			
Time in Care	Months				
Mean	25.9				
Median	21.6				
Time in Care	Percent	Number			
1 - 5 Months	13%	294			
12 - 17 Months	13%	301			
18 - 23 Months	13%	295			
24 - 29 Months	11%	248			
3 - 4 Years	17%	381			
30 - 35 Months	9%	205			
5 Years or More	7%	154			
6 - 11 Months	11%	235			
Less than 1 Month	6%	125			

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2022 - N=1,810

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%	51	Less than 1 Year	19%	335
1 Year	8%	152	1 Year	7%	128
2 Years	6%	107	2 Years	5%	93
3 Years	6%	114	3 Years	6%	113
4 Years	6%	101	4 Years	6%	112
5 Years	5%	99	5 Years	6%	102
6 Years	4%	81	6 Years	6%	101
7 Years	5%	94	7 Years	5%	92
8 Years	5%	85	8 Years	5%	91
9 Years	4%	80	9 Years	6%	110
10 Years	5%	85	10 Years	5%	94
11 Years	5%	96	11 Years	6%	103
12 Years	5%	83	12 Years	6%	112
13 Years	6%	103	13 Years	4%	78
14 Years	7%	121	14 Years	4%	76
15 Years	6%	110	15 Years	3%	51
16 Years	7%	135	16 Years	1%	19
17 Years	6%	113	17 Years	0%	0

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Sex	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	2%	28	Male	54%	985
Foster Family Home (Relative)	13%	227	Female	46%	825
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	76%	1,334			
Group Home	7%	122			
Institution	2%	35			
Supervised Independent Living	1%	13			
Runaway	0%	0			
Trial Home Visit	0%	4			

Time in Care	Months	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	31.7	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	4
Median	27.5	Asian	1%	13
		Black or African American	25%	458
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
		Hispanic (of any race)	10%	182
		White	51%	920
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	24
		Two or More Races	12%	209

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%	1	Of Children Waiting for Adoption whose Parents' Parental Rights have been Terminated (N=1,190), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2022	
1 - 5 Months	2%	35		
6 - 11 Months	9%	162		
12 - 17 Months	19%	336		
18 - 23 Months	13%	237		
24 - 29 Months	12%	217		
30 - 35 Months	14%	254		
3 - 4 Years	22%	407		
5 Years or More	9%	161		
			Mean	18.2
			Median	13.0

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.

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2022⁴ - N=792

Age at Adoption	Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	7.0	Mean	14.0
Median	6.0	Median	10.5

Age at Adoption	Percent	Number	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	1%	7	Less than 1 Month	0%	2
1 Year	12%	94	1 - 5 Months	22%	173
2 Years	11%	89	6 - 11 Months	35%	280
3 Years	9%	71	12 - 17 Months	18%	141
4 Years	7%	53	18 - 23 Months	11%	84
5 Years	6%	50	24 - 29 Months	5%	36
6 Years	6%	51	30 - 35 Months	5%	41
7 Years	5%	41	3 - 4 Years	3%	23
8 Years	5%	41	5 Years or More	1%	9
9 Years	6%	46			
10 Years	5%	40			
11 Years	4%	34			
12 Years	4%	31			
13 Years	4%	30			
14 Years	4%	32			
15 Years	4%	32			
16 Years	3%	23			
17 Years	3%	25			
18 Years	0%	2			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	2
Asian	1%	5
Black or African American	22%	176
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	0
Hispanic (of any race)	8%	65
White	54%	428
Unknown/Unable to Determine	0%	3
Two or More Races	14%	113

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	80%	617	Male	55%	435
Single Female	20%	152	Female	45%	356
Single Male	0%	2			
Unmarried Couple	0%	1			

Receive Adoption Subsidy	Percent	Number
Yes	89%	707
No	11%	85

Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption	Percent	Number
Non-Relative	1%	7
Foster Parent	86%	672
Stepparent	0%	0
Other Relative	13%	105

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.