



The AFCARS Report:

Texas

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: Texas

Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number in foster care on September 30 of the FY	32,150	32,960	31,427	29,991	28,042
Number entered foster care during the FY	19,840	20,497	18,455	16,434	15,127
Number exited foster care during the FY	18,183	19,403	19,673	17,552	16,887
Number served by the foster care system during the FY	50,331	52,361	51,097	47,543	44,929
Number waiting to be adopted on September 30 of the FY	13,443	13,822	12,932	12,319	11,639
Number waiting to be adopted for whom parental rights (for all living parents) were terminated as of the last day of the FY	8,549	8,888	8,578	7,730	7,463
Number adopted with public child welfare agency involvement during the FY	5,361	5,748	6,105	5,249	4,647

Children in Foster Care on September 30, 2021 - N=28,042

Age as of September 30th	Years	Sex	Percent	Number
Mean	7.1	Male	51%	14,399
Median	6.0	Female	49%	13,641

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Most Recent Placement Setting	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	9%	2,598	Pre-Adoptive Home	1%	351
1 Year	11%	2,971	Foster Family Home (Relative)	34%	9,457
2 Years	8%	2,277	Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	45%	12,417
3 Years	7%	2,013	Group Home	0%	3
4 Years	6%	1,799	Institution	11%	2,965
5 Years	6%	1,558	Supervised Independent Living	0%	22
6 Years	5%	1,477	Runaway	1%	220
7 Years	5%	1,342	Trial Home Visit	8%	2,150

Age as of September 30th	Percent	Number	Case Plan Goal	Percent	Number
9 Years	4%	1,113	Reunify with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	45%	12,334
10 Years	4%	1,142	Live with Other Relative(s)	10%	2,660
11 Years	4%	1,149	Adoption	39%	10,703
12 Years	4%	1,115	Long Term Foster Care	0%	50
13 Years	4%	1,155	Emancipation	2%	600
14 Years	4%	1,169	Guardianship	1%	246
15 Years	4%	1,227	Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	3%	864
16 Years	4%	1,228			
17 Years	4%	1,226			
18 Years	0%	93			
19 Years	0%	50			
20 Years	0%	25			

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%	38	Mean	18.9
Asian	0%	79	Median	12.5
Black or African American	21%	6,005		
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	37		
Hispanic (of any race)	43%	12,083		
White	29%	8,196		
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	242		
Two or More Races	5%	1,342		

Time in Care	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Month	3%	847
1 - 5 Months	20%	5,710
6 - 11 Months	25%	6,990
12 - 17 Months	18%	4,996
18 - 23 Months	10%	2,842
24 - 29 Months	7%	2,016
30 - 35 Months	4%	1,092
3 - 4 Years	8%	2,181
5 Years or More	5%	1,367

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

Children Entering Foster Care during FY 2021 - N=15,127

Age at Entry	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Mean	5.4	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	6
Median	4.0	Asian	0%	47
		Black or African American	19%	2,825
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	14
		Hispanic (of any race)	43%	6,510
		White	32%	4,807
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	185
		Two or More Races	5%	729

Age at Entry	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	25%	3,777
1 Year	8%	1,235
2 Years	7%	1,086
3 Years	7%	1,049
4 Years	6%	925
5 Years	5%	815
6 Years	5%	715
7 Years	5%	719
8 Years	4%	630
9 Years	4%	568
10 Years	3%	514
11 Years	3%	513
12 Years	3%	481
13 Years	3%	509
14 Years	3%	510
15 Years	3%	458
16 Years	3%	404
17 Years	1%	217
18 Years	0%	0
19 Years	0%	1
20 Years	0%	1

Circumstances Associated with Child's Removal	Percent	Number
Neglect	93%	14,088
Drug Abuse (Parent)	63%	9,479
Physical Abuse	23%	3,546
Child Disability	13%	1,932
Housing	9%	1,411
Abandonment	8%	1,176
Sexual Abuse	7%	1,055
Caretaker Inability To Cope	7%	1,029
Parent Incarceration	7%	1,013
Drug Abuse (Child)	7%	1,012
Alcohol Abuse (Parent)	7%	990
Child Behavior Problem	1%	218
Parent Death	1%	125
Alcohol Abuse (Child)	1%	105
Relinquishment	0%	9

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=16,887

Age at Exit	Years	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number	
Mean	7.3	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	17	
Median	6.0	Asian	0%	32	
		Black or African American	21%	3,522	
		Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	22	
		Hispanic (of any race)	41%	6,920	
		White	31%	5,263	
		Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	159	
		Two or More Races	6%	947	
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	2%	408	Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s)	40%	6,720
1 Year	11%	1,883	Living with Other Relative(s)	0%	0
2 Years	11%	1,934	Adoption	27%	4,640
3 Years	8%	1,420	Emancipation	7%	1,187
4 Years	7%	1,224	Guardianship	25%	4,225
5 Years	6%	1,072	Transfer to Another Agency	0%	40
6 Years	6%	1,005	Runaway	0%	44
7 Years	6%	942	Death of Child	0%	29
8 Years	5%	859			
9 Years	4%	670			
10 Years	4%	620			
11 Years	3%	581			
12 Years	3%	587			
13 Years	3%	557			
14 Years	3%	540			
15 Years	3%	482			
16 Years	3%	512			
17 Years	2%	416			
18 Years	7%	1,106			
19 Years	0%	29			
20 Years	0%	17			
Time in Care	Months				
Mean	21.1				
Median	17.3				
Time in Care	Percent	Number			
Less than 1 Month	3%	463			
1 - 5 Months	5%	789			
6 - 11 Months	19%	3,275			
12 - 17 Months	27%	4,574			
18 - 23 Months	19%	3,169			
24 - 29 Months	11%	1,864			
30 - 35 Months	6%	1,013			
3 - 4 Years	7%	1,243			
5 Years or More	3%	491			

Children Waiting to be Adopted³ on September 30, 2021 - N=11,639

Age as of September 30th	Years	Age at Entry into Foster Care	Years
Mean	7.5	Mean	5.3
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%	576	Less than 1 Year	24%	2,811
1 Year	12%	1,379	1 Year	8%	883
2 Years	8%	979	2 Years	7%	760
3 Years	7%	788	3 Years	6%	736
4 Years	6%	701	4 Years	6%	696
5 Years	5%	602	5 Years	6%	680
6 Years	5%	600	6 Years	6%	655
7 Years	5%	531	7 Years	5%	615
8 Years	5%	553	8 Years	5%	584
9 Years	4%	452	9 Years	5%	542
10 Years	4%	505	10 Years	4%	512
11 Years	5%	540	11 Years	5%	532
12 Years	5%	550	12 Years	4%	493
13 Years	5%	577	13 Years	4%	440
14 Years	5%	607	14 Years	3%	334
15 Years	6%	661	15 Years	2%	248
16 Years	5%	605	16 Years	1%	105
17 Years	4%	433	17 Years	0%	13

Placement Type	Percent	Number	Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
Pre-Adoptive Home	3%	351	American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	21
Foster Family Home (Relative)	26%	2,939	Asian	0%	36
Foster Family Home (Non-Relative)	56%	6,361	Black or African American	21%	2,410
Group Home	0%	0	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	25
Institution	13%	1,475	Hispanic (of any race)	44%	5,096
Supervised Independent Living	0%	3	White	29%	3,381
Runaway	1%	98	Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	76
Trial Home Visit	2%	186	Two or More Races	5%	588

Sex	Percent	Number
Male	52%	6,056
Female	48%	5,583

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=7,463), Time Elapsed since Termination of Parental Rights as of September 30, 2021
Mean		28.0	
Median		20.5	

Time in Care	Percent	Number	Time Since TPR	Months
Less than 1 Month	0%	28	Mean	27.6
1 - 5 Months	4%	494	Median	11.0
6 - 11 Months	15%	1,804		
12 - 17 Months	22%	2,558		
18 - 23 Months	16%	1,869		
24 - 29 Months	13%	1,490		
30 - 35 Months	7%	790		
3 - 4 Years	14%	1,601		
5 Years or More	9%	1,005		

Children Adopted with Public Agency Involvement in FY 2021⁴ - N=4,647

Age at Adoption	Years	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Months
Mean	5.6	Mean	14.8
Median	4.0	Median	10.4

Age at Adoption	Percent	Number	Time Elapsed from Termination of Parental Rights to Adoption	Percent	Number
Less than 1 Year	1%	40	Less than 1 Month	0%	2
1 Year	16%	744	1 - 5 Months	21%	954
2 Years	17%	809	6 - 11 Months	36%	1,688
3 Years	11%	514	12 - 17 Months	21%	953
4 Years	8%	352	18 - 23 Months	9%	439
5 Years	6%	283	24 - 29 Months	5%	215
6 Years	6%	265	30 - 35 Months	3%	131
7 Years	6%	270	3 - 4 Years	4%	176
8 Years	5%	249	5 Years or More	2%	88
9 Years	4%	189			
10 Years	4%	164			
11 Years	3%	146			
12 Years	3%	127			
13 Years	3%	140			
14 Years	2%	111			
15 Years	2%	77			
16 Years	2%	94			
17 Years	1%	68			
18 Years	0%	5			
19 Years	0%	0			
20 Years	0%	0			

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	6
Asian	0%	7
Black or African American	18%	855
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0%	7
Hispanic (of any race)	44%	2,022
White	31%	1,418
Unknown/Unable to Determine	1%	48
Two or More Races	6%	284

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	66%	3,070	Male	50%	2,339
Unmarried Couple	2%	90	Female	50%	2,303
Single Female	28%	1,311			
Single Male	4%	170			
Relationship of Adoptive Parents to Child Prior to Adoption			Receive Adoption Subsidy		
	Percent	Number		Percent	Number
Non-Relative	21%	983	Yes	92%	4,281
Foster Parent	45%	2,085	No	8%	366
Stepparent	0%	4			
Other Relative	34%	1,575			

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>