

# Foster Care

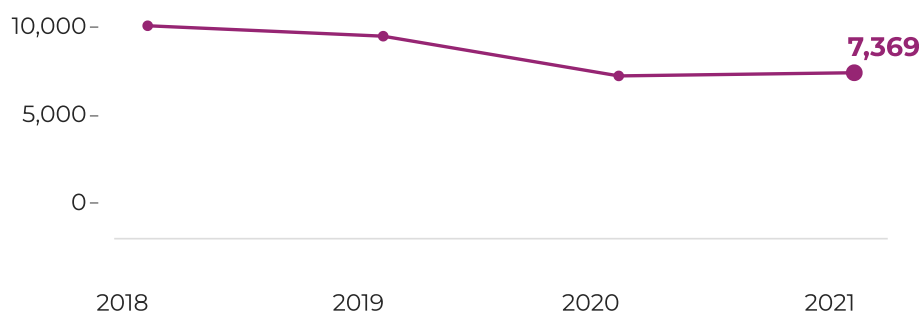
## Pennsylvania

Children are placed in foster care when a child protective services worker and court have determined that it is not safe for them to remain in their home. This decision should not be taken lightly: Separation from parents and disruptions from usual routines and familiar surroundings are traumatic for children. Children in foster care need strong relationships with caring adults, a network of social support, and services to cope with the challenging circumstances of family separation.

## Entering foster care

### Number and rate of children entering foster care

Number of children entering foster care<sup>1</sup>



Rate of entries into foster care per 1,000 children<sup>2</sup>

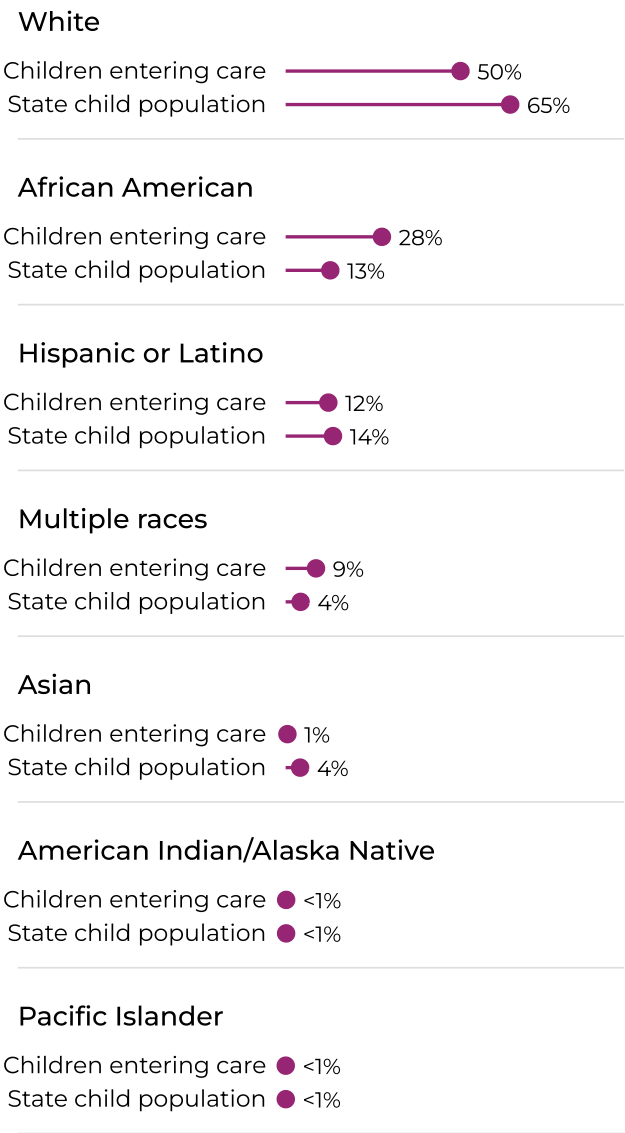
|      | Pennsylvania | U.S. |
|------|--------------|------|
| 2018 | 3.8          | 3.5  |
| 2019 | 3.6          | 3.4  |
| 2020 | 2.7          | 2.9  |
| 2021 | 2.8          | 2.8  |

### First-time entries into foster care

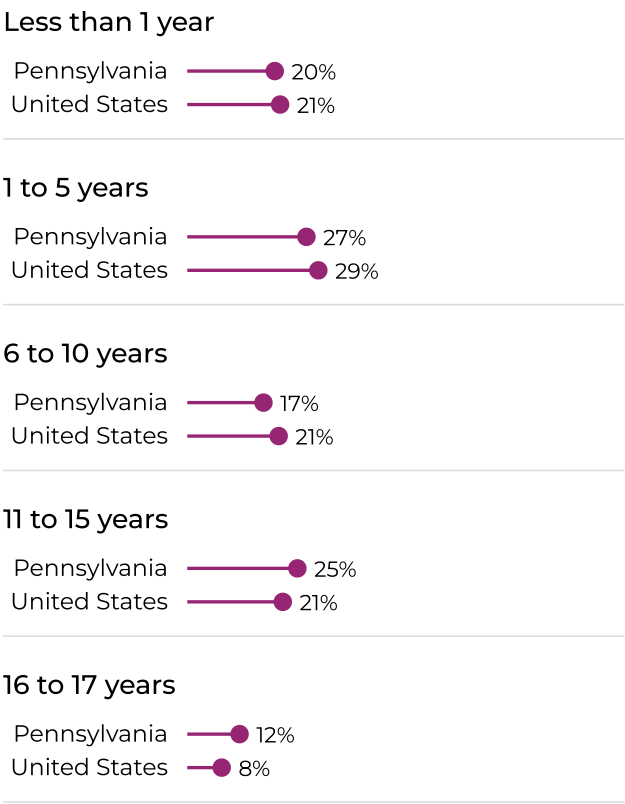
|                                                             | Pennsylvania | United States |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Number of children entering foster care for the first time  | 5,895        | 165,175       |
| Percent of children entering foster care for the first time | 80%          | 81%           |

# Demographics of children entering foster care

## Race and ethnicity<sup>3</sup>



## Age distribution



# Reasons for entering foster care<sup>4</sup>

## Parental substance abuse



## Inability to cope



## Neglect



## Child behavior problem



## Inadequate housing



## Physical abuse



## Parental incarceration



## Abandonment



## Other



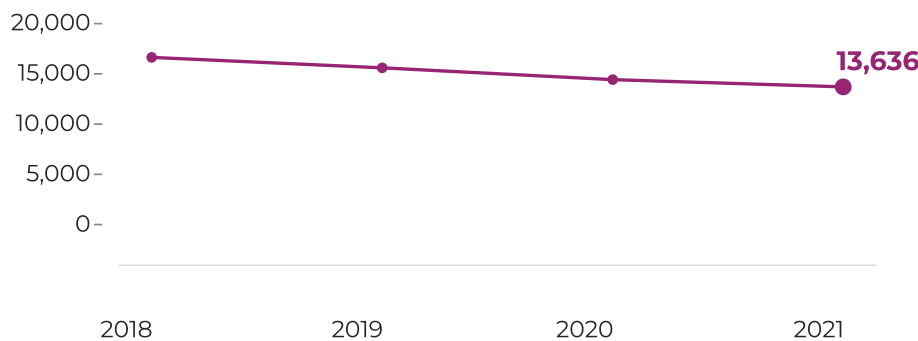
## Sexual abuse



# In foster care

## Number and rate of children in foster care

Number of children in foster care<sup>5</sup>



Rate of children in foster care per 1,000 children<sup>6</sup>

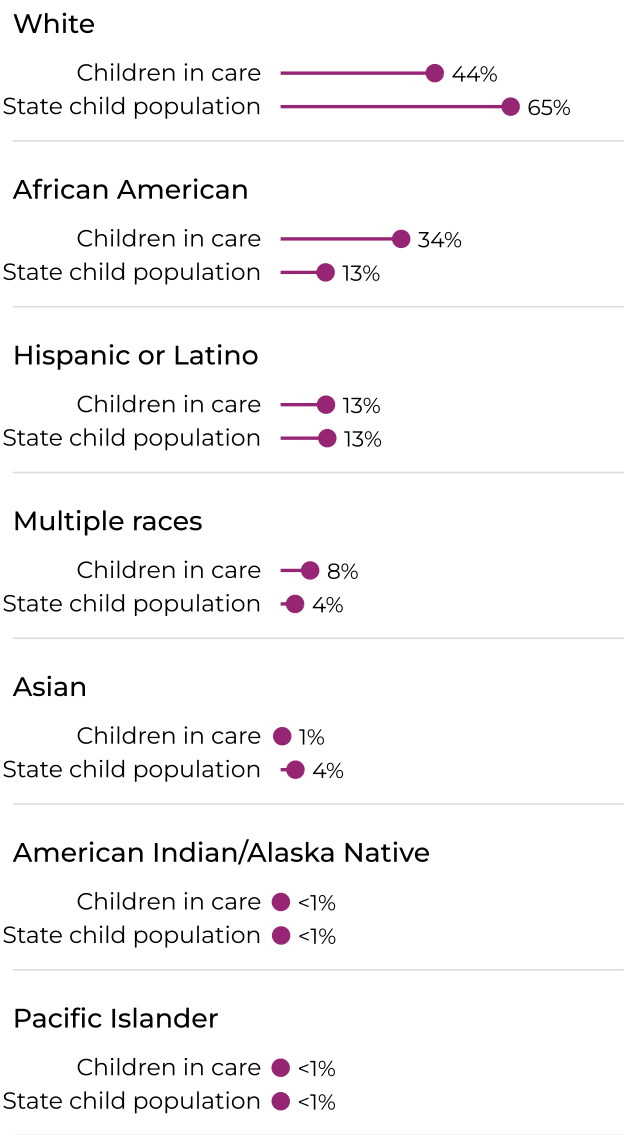
|      | Pennsylvania | U.S. |
|------|--------------|------|
| 2018 | 5.2          | 5.0  |
| 2019 | 4.9          | 4.9  |
| 2020 | 4.6          | 4.7  |
| 2021 | 4.3          | 4.5  |

# Other information on children in foster care

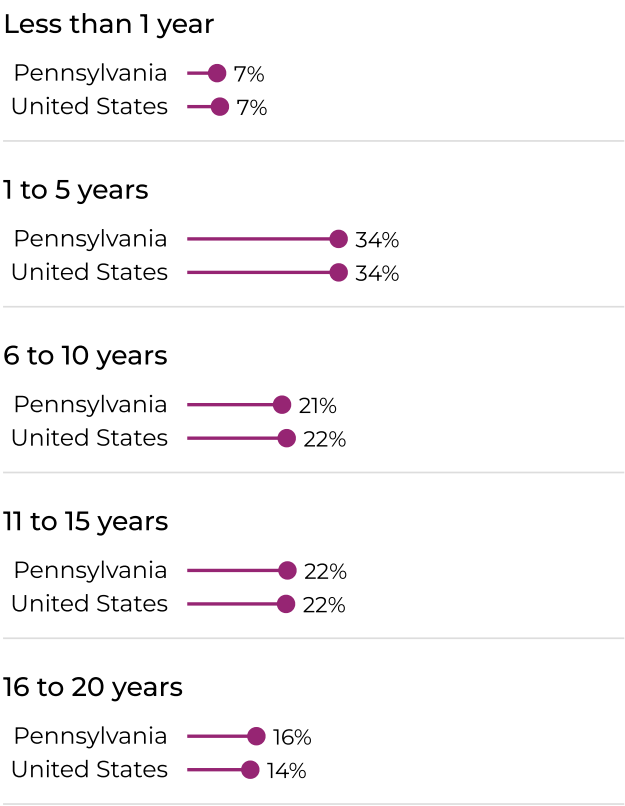
|                                                             | Pennsylvania | United States |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Average number of removals <sup>7</sup>                     | 1.3          | 1.3           |
| Percent of children entering foster care for the first time | 80%          | 81%           |
| Average length of time in foster care <sup>8</sup>          | 21.2 months  | 21.7 months   |

## Demographics of children in foster care

### Race and ethnicity



### Age distribution



# Placement settings and stability for children in foster care

## Current placement setting<sup>9</sup>

### Relative



### Nonrelative



### Group home or institution

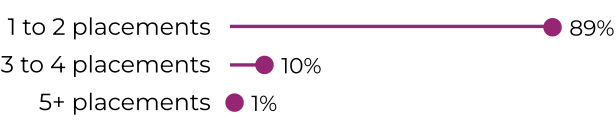


### Other

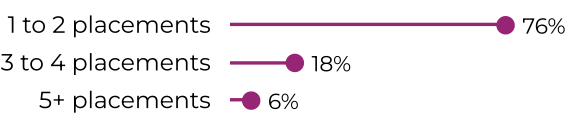


## Number of placements by length of time in care

### Less than 12 months



### 1 to 2 years



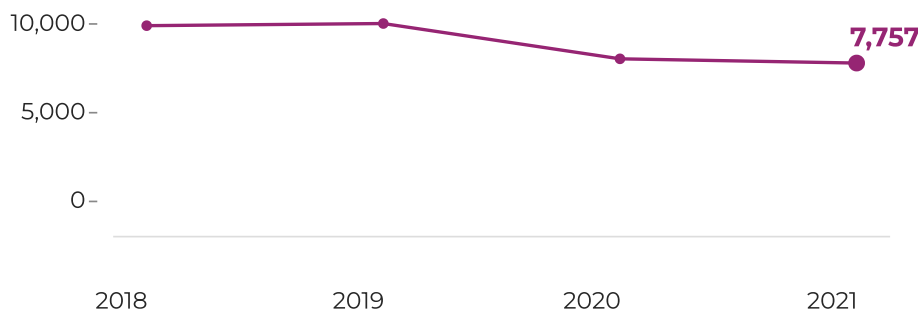
### 2+ years



# Exiting foster care

## Number and rate of children exiting foster care

### Number of children exiting foster care<sup>10</sup>



### Rate of children exiting foster care per 1,000 children<sup>11</sup>

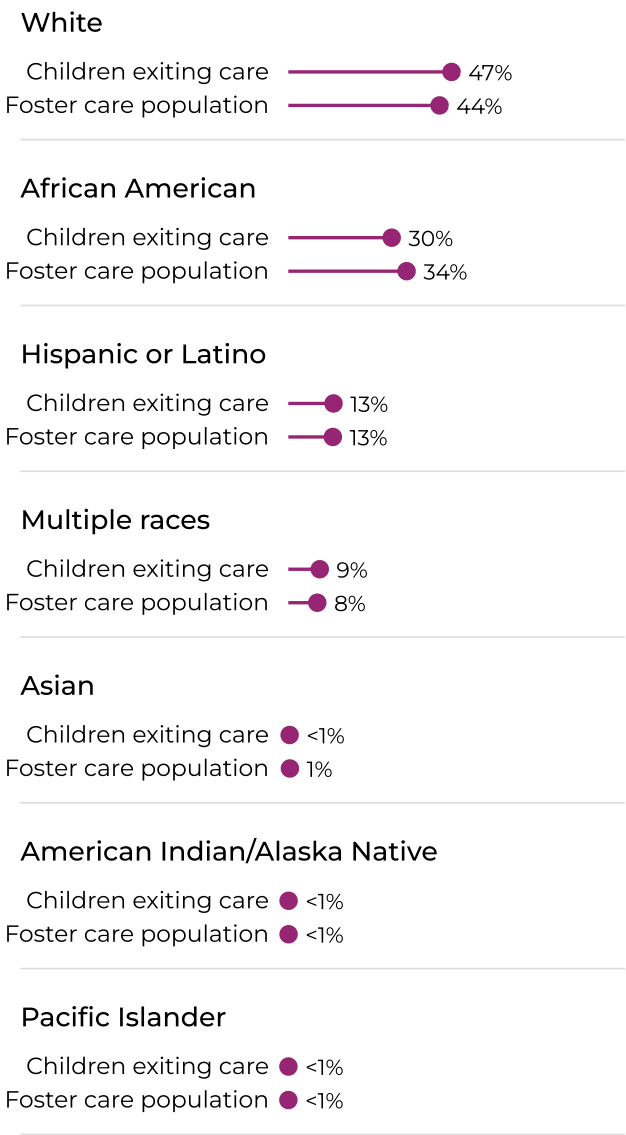
|      | Pennsylvania | U.S. |
|------|--------------|------|
| 2018 | 3.1          | 2.9  |
| 2019 | 3.2          | 2.9  |
| 2020 | 2.6          | 2.6  |
| 2021 | 2.4          | 2.4  |

# Time in foster care prior to exiting

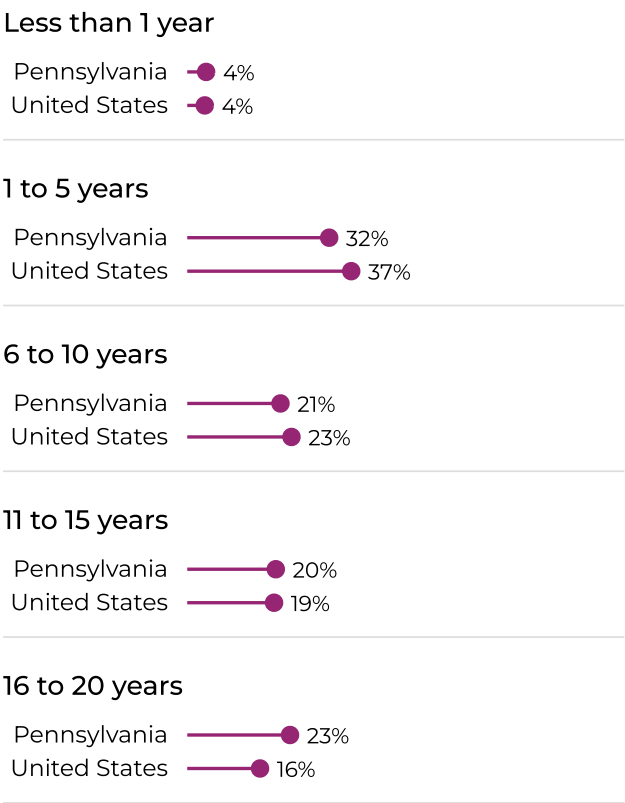
|                                                                           | Pennsylvania | United States |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Number of children exiting foster care in less than 30 days <sup>12</sup> | 1,373        | 30,196        |
| Percent of children exiting foster care in less than 30 days              | 19%          | 15%           |

## Demographics of children exiting foster care

### Race and ethnicity



### Age distribution



# Outcomes of children exiting foster care

## Reunification



## Adoption



## With relative or guardianship



## Emancipation



## Other



## Source, unless specified otherwise:

The data used in this publication were obtained from the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect and have been used in accordance with its Terms of Use Agreement license. The data represent the federal fiscal years 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 reporting periods (October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018, October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019, October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020, October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021, respectively). Unless otherwise noted, for each calculation, children who were missing data on the relevant indicator were excluded from analyses. The Administration on Children, Youth and Families, the Children's Bureau, the original dataset collection personnel or funding source, NDACAN, Cornell University and their agents or employees bear no responsibility for the analyses or interpretations presented here.

Datasets used include:

- Dataset #235, AFCARS Foster Care File FY2018, Version 3
- Dataset #239, AFCARS Foster Care File FY2019, Version 2
- Dataset #255, AFCARS Foster Care File FY2020
- Dataset #274, AFCARS Foster Care FY2021; Dataset #275, AFCARS Adoption FY2021

## Notes

<sup>1</sup>All figures related to entering foster care include children from birth to age 17 who entered care during the FFY.

<sup>2</sup>All rates are calculated using general child population data from the U. S. Census Bureau from 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 which are publicly available on the U.S. Census Bureau website.

<sup>3</sup>If a child is determined to be of Hispanic origin, they are only counted as Hispanic and are not included in any other racial/ethnic categories. Data for the general child population under age 20 in 2021 are from the U. S. Census Bureau which are publicly available on the U.S. Census Bureau website.

<sup>4</sup>For children entering care in FFY 2021. Other entry reasons include drug or alcohol abuse by the child, child's disability, relinquishment, and parental death. Total may exceed 100 percent because children could have more than one entry reason.

<sup>5</sup>All figures related to children currently in care include children from birth to age 20 in foster care on the last day of the FFY.

<sup>6</sup>All rates are calculated using general child population data (birth to age 20) from the U. S. Census Bureau from 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 which are publicly available on the U.S. Census Bureau website.

<sup>7</sup>Average number of times children were removed from the home, including the most recent removal.

<sup>8</sup>Length of stay in care is calculated based on the current removal episode.

<sup>9</sup>Current placement setting as of September 30, 2021. Other placement types include pre-adoptive home, runaway, supervised independent living, and trial home visit.

<sup>10</sup>All figures related to exits from care include children from birth to age 20 exiting care during the FFY.

<sup>11</sup>All rates are calculated using general child population data (birth to age 20) from the U. S. Census Bureau from 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 which are publicly available on the U.S. Census Bureau website.

<sup>12</sup>Includes children birth to age 17 that entered foster care in FFY 2021 and exited in less than 30 days.