

Foster care in Opolskie Voivodship in 2021

7 July 2022

 **3,0%**

increase in the number
of children in foster care
in relation to 2020

In Opolskie Voivodship at the end of 2021, there were 2.0 thousand children in foster care, who were completely or partially deprived of the care of the natural family, including 1.6 thousand in family foster care. Compared to 2020, the number of children staying in foster care increased.

Family foster care

Family foster care may be exercised in the form of a foster family as well as a foster home. In Opolskie Voivodship, at the end of 2021, a childcare was provided by 978 foster families and 22 foster homes. Over the year, the number of foster families and foster homes increased. Compared to 2012, the number of foster families declined while the number of foster homes increased.

In 2021, there was an increase in both, the number of foster families and foster homes in relation to 2020.

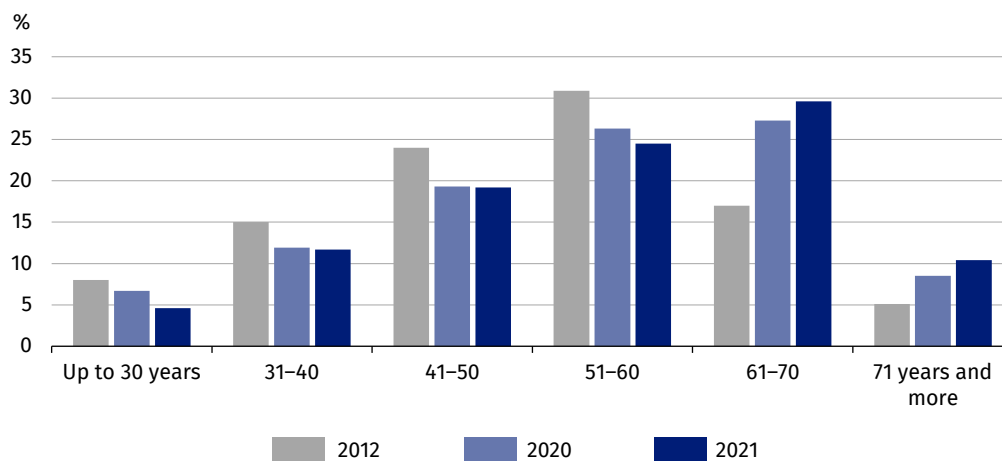
Table 1. Family foster care
as of 31 December

Specification	2012	2020	2021		
	in absolute numbers			2012=100	2020=100
Foster families	1072	957	978	91.2	102.2
Related to the child	708	594	618	87.3	104.0
Non – professional	332	304	299	90.1	98.4
Professional ^a	32	59	61	190.6	103.4
Foster homes	7	18	22	3times	122.2

^a They include professionals specialised families performing the function of a family emergency house as well as in 2012 – professional families, not related to the child, with many children.

The role of family foster care was most often undertaken by marriages, but their percentage in the voivodship was decreasing in favour of the percentage of unmarried persons. At the end of 2021, the share of marriages was by 5.4 percentage points lower than that recorded in 2012.

Chart 1. Structure of persons performing the function of family foster care by age groups as of 31 December



As in the previous year, the function of family foster care was most often undertaken by persons aged 61–70 years, and their share at the end of 2021 was at the level of 29.6% (a year before – 27.3%). In 2012, this function was most often performed by people in the age group 51–60 years (30.9%).

There were a total of 1.6 thousand children in foster care at the end of 2021 (among whom girls were slightly predominant). Compared to 2020, their number increased by 5.3%, and in relation to 2012 decreased by 0.8%. Among all children under family foster care, the vast majority, as in 2020 and 2012, stayed in foster families. At the end of 2021, the share of children in foster homes compared to 2012 increased fourfold.

Table 2. Children in family foster care as of 31 December

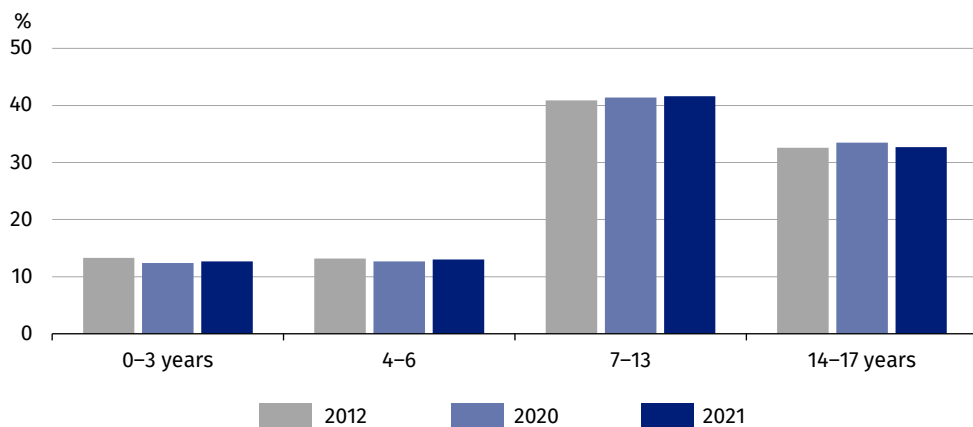
Specification	2012	2020	2021		
	in absolute numbers			2012=100	2020=100
In foster families	1536	1371	1411	91.9	102.9
of which up to the age of 18 years	1375	1156	1196	87.0	103.5
In foster homes	39	114	152	4times	133.3
of which up to the age of 18 years	38	101	137	4times	135.6

Analysing the number of children placed in foster families by family type, it can be noticed that the most of them were in related families. Among all types of foster families, the share of the number of children in related families at the end of 2021 was 56.6%, which means an increase of 0.9 percentage points per year, and a decrease of 3.8 percentage points in relation to 2012.

At the end of 2021, children up to the age of 18 years accounted for 85.3% of all children placed in family foster care in the voivodship, while in 2012 – 89.7%. The analysis of particular age groups showed that in the years in question the highest percentage was constituted by children in the age group 7–13 years. Their share in the voivodship was at the level of approx. 41%. The lowest percentages (oscillating between 12–13%) during the analysed period were found in the age groups 0–3 and 4–6 years.

In 2021, children up to the age of 18 years accounted for 85.3% of the total number of children in family foster care

Chart 2. Structure of children under family foster care up to 18 years of age by age groups as of 31 December

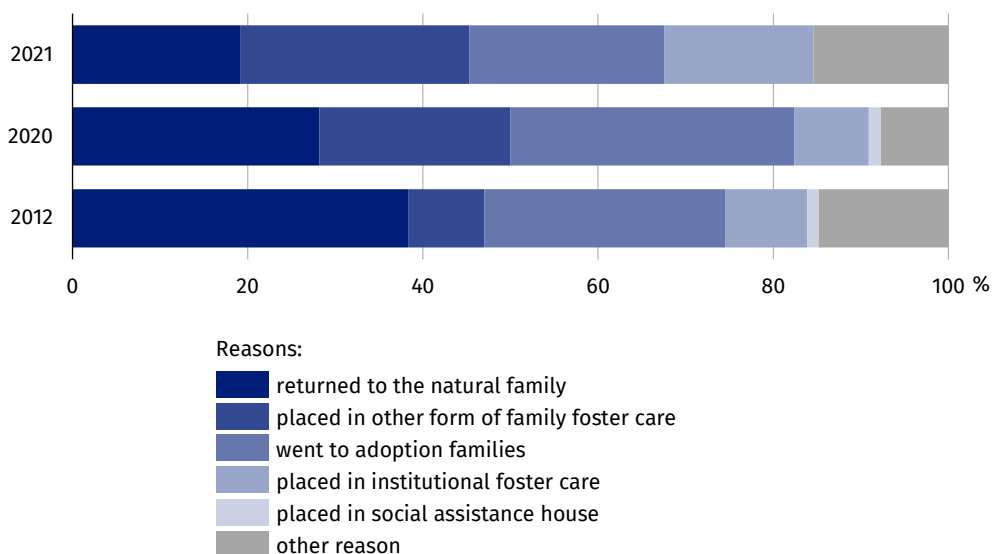


At the end of 2021, 165 children with legal confirmation of disability were in family foster care, and 54 were orphans.

In 2021, 188 children up to the age of 18 years left the family foster care, i.e. more by 32.4% than the year before and by 26.2% compared to 2012. The most common reason for minors to leave family foster care in 2021 was the placement in other form of family foster care (26.1%), while in 2020 the placement in adoption families, and in 2012 the return to their own families (32.4% and 38.3%, respectively).

In 2021, the most common reason why minors left family foster care was the placement in other form of family foster care.

Chart 3. Structure of children up to 18 years of age who left family foster care by reasons as of 31 December



In addition, 77 residents over the age of 18 years left the family foster care in 2021. Compared to 2020 and 2012, their number decreased (by 23.8% each). Among adults, the percentage of residents who became independent in 2021 was 62.3% and, in relation to 2012, it was almost twice as high.

Institutional foster care

Institutional foster care, which ensures constant 24-hour care, may be provided in a care and education centre, a regional care and therapy centre as well as in pre-adoptive intervention centre. In Opolskie Voivodship, only care and education centres operated as part of institutional foster care and at the end of 2021 there were 25 of them. Their number remained unchanged over the year and increased by 31.6% compared to 2012. As in the

previous year, the highest number of socialisation type centres was recorded. At the end of 2021, they accounted for 96.0% of all care and education centres in the voivodship, a year before – 92.0%, and in 2012 – 73.7%.

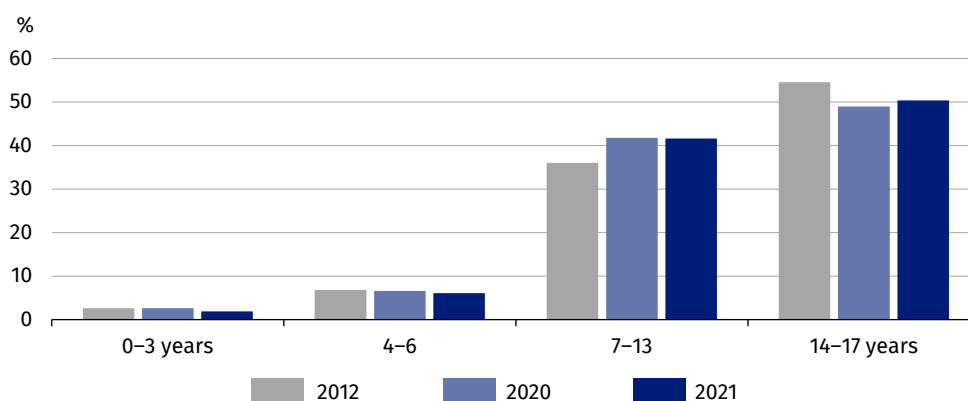
At the end of 2021, care and education centres had a total of 450 places for residents (of which 96.9% in socialisation type centres). In relation to 2020, their number decreased by 9.8%, and by 19.9% compared to 2012.

Table 3. Institutional foster care centres
as of 31 December

Specification	2012	2020	2021		
	in absolute numbers		2012=100	2020=100	
Centres	19	25	25	131.6	100.0
of which socialisation	14	23	24	171.4	104.3
PLaces	562	499	450	80.1	90.2
of which in socialisation centres	428	455	436	101.9	95.8
Residents	498	432	411	82.5	95.1
of which in socialisation centres	425	403	398	93.6	98.8

In care and education centres in Opolskie Voivodship at the end of 2021 there were 411 residents (a year-on-year decrease of 4.9%, and compared to 2012 of 17.5%), of which the vast majority in socialisation centres. As in the previous year and in 2012, there were more boys than girls in care and education centres.

Chart 4. Structure of residents of institutional foster care centres up to 18 years of age by age groups
as of 31 December



The share of children up to the age of 18 in the total number of residents in institutional foster care at the end of 2021 was 91.2%, while the year before – 90.7%, and in 2012 – 93.8%. The analysis of individual age groups showed that the most numerous group of residents were children in the age group 14–17 years, and their share at the end of 2021 was 46.0% (the year before – 44.4%, and in 2012 r. – 51.2%). The smallest group of residents were the youngest children (aged 0–3 years). Their percentage in 2021 did not exceed 2.0%, while in 2020 and 2012 – 2.5%.

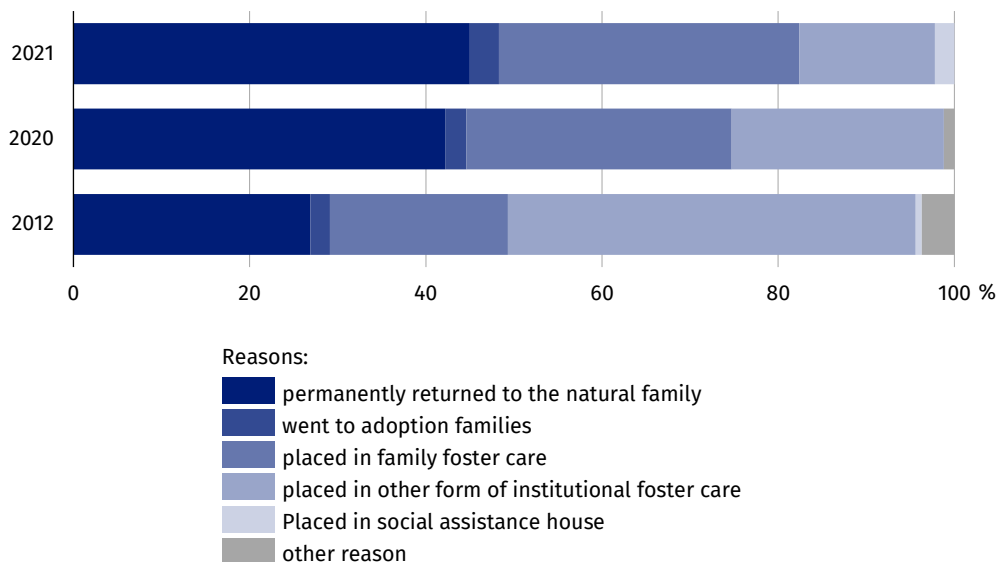
Persons with disabilities, i.e. those having legal confirmation of disability in 2021, accounted for 9.7% of all residents of institutional foster care in the voivodship. Compared to the years

In 2021, residents up to 18 years of age accounted for 91,2% of the total number of persons under institutional foster care

2020 and 2012, their percentage increased (by 2.1 percentage points and by 2.5 percentage points, respectively).

In 2021, 91 children up to the age of 18 years left care and education centres, i.e. more by 9.6% than the year before, and by 32.1% fewer than in 2012. As in the previous year, the most common reason why residents left facilities was a permanent return to the natural family, while in 2012 placing in other form of institutional foster care.

Chart 5. Structure of residents up to 18 years of age who left centres of institutional foster care according to the reasons



In addition, in 2021, 46 adult residents left care and education centres (fewer by 27.0% than in the previous year and by 17.9% compared to 2012), of whom 84.8% became independent.


Work in care and education centres, as part of volunteering, in 2021 was supported by 16 volunteers, while in the previous year – 22, and in 2012 – 61.


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Related information

[Social assistance, child and family services in 2020](#)

Data available in databases

[Local Data Bank](#)

Terms used in official statistics

[Living conditions of the population, social assistance](#)