

Foster care in Opolskie Voivodship in 2022

5 June 2023

 **0.6%**

Decrease in the number of children in Foster care in relation to 2021

In Opolskie Voivodship, at the end of 2022, there were 2.0 thousand children in foster care, who were completely or partially deprived of the care of natural family, including 1.5 thousand in family foster care. Compared to 2021, the number of children staying in foster care decreased.

Family foster care

Family foster care might be exercised in the form of foster family as well as foster home. In Opolskie Voivodship, at the end of 2022, a childcare was provided by 953 foster families and 27 foster homes. Both on an annual scale, as well as in relation to 2015, the number of foster families decreased, while for foster homes it increased.

In 2022, there was a decrease in the number of foster families, while an increase in foster homes in relation to 2021.

Table 1. Family foster care
as of 31 December

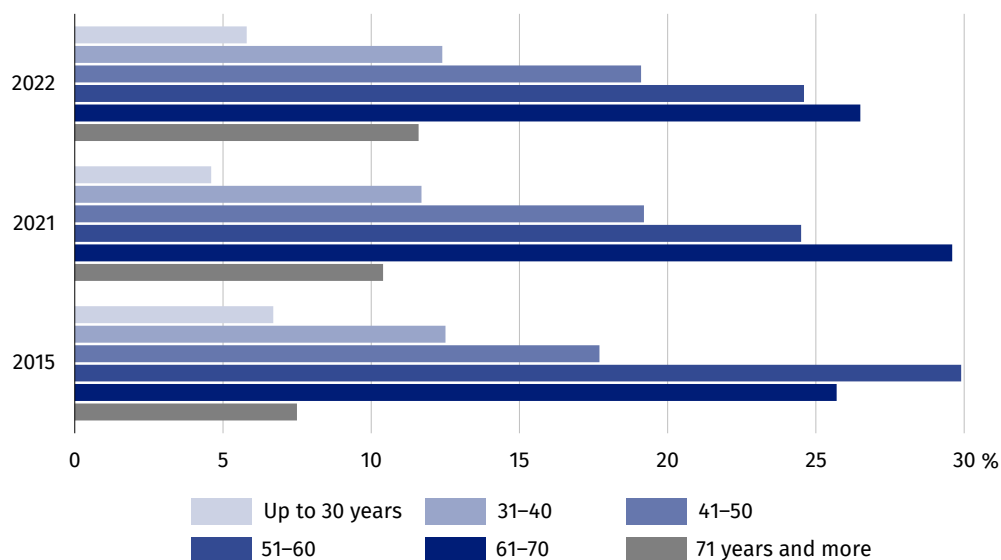
Specification	2015	2021	2022		
	in absolute numbers			2015=100	2021=100
Foster families	987	978	953	96.6	97.4
Related to the child	635	618	598	94.2	96.8
Non-professional	314	299	298	94.9	99.7
Professional ^a	38	61	57	150.0	93.4
Foster homes	19	22	27	142.1	122.7

^a They include professionals specialised families and the ones performing the function of a family emergency house.

The role of a foster family was most often undertaken by marriages. Their share at the end of 2022 amounted to 56.9% and was higher by 2.5 percentage points than in the previous year and by 3.3 percentage points compared to 2015.

As in the previous year, the role of a foster family was most often undertaken by persons aged 61-70 years and their share at the end of 2022 was at the level of 26.5% (the year before – 29.6%). In 2015, this function was most often performed by persons in the age group by persons in the age group 51-60 (29.9%).

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



There were a total of 1.5 thousand children in foster care at the end of 2022 (among whom boys were slightly predominant). In relation to 2021, their number decreased by 1.3%, while in relation to 2015, it increased by 4.8%. Among all children under family foster care, the vast majority, as in 2021 and 2015, stayed in foster families. At the end of 2022, the share of children staying in family foster homes increased by 2.2 percentage points compared to 2021 and by 3.3 percentage points in relation to 2015.

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

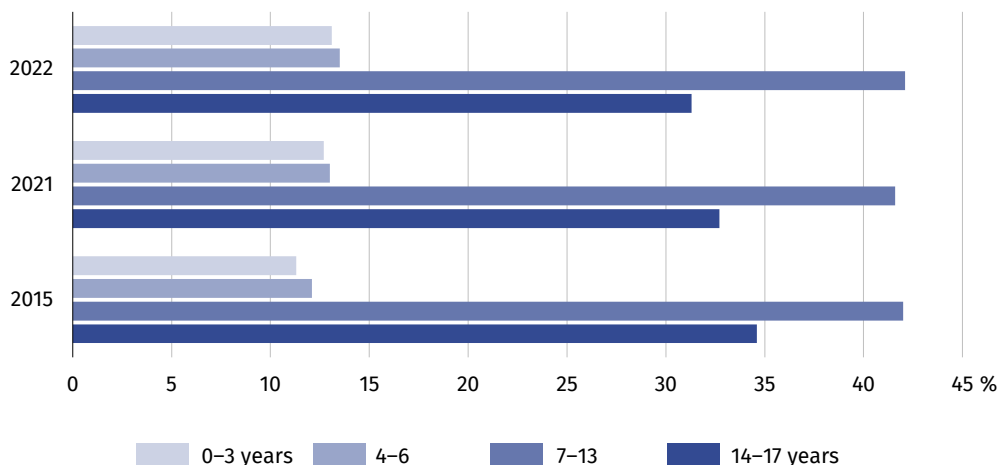
Specification	2015	2021	2022		
	in absolute numbers			2015=100	2021=100
In foster families	1346	1411	1360	101,0	96.4
of which up to 18 years	1164	1196	1140	97.9	95.3
In foster homes	126	152	183	145.2	120.4
of which up to 18 years	120	137	164	136.7	119.7

By 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 children in related families was 56.8% at the end of 2022, which means an increase of 0.2 percentage point on a yearly basis and in relation to 2015 a decrease of 2.8 percentage points.

At the end of 2022, children up to the age of 18 years accounted for 84.5% of all children placed in family foster care in the voivodship, while in the year before – 85.3% and in 2015 – 87.2%. The analysis of particular age groups showed that in the surveyed years the highest share was constituted by children in the age group 7–13 years. Their share in the voivodship was at the level of approx. 42%. The lowest percentages (oscillating between 11.0–13.5%) in surveyed period were children in the age groups 0–3 and 4–6 years.

In 2022, children up to the age of 18 years accounted for 84.5% 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

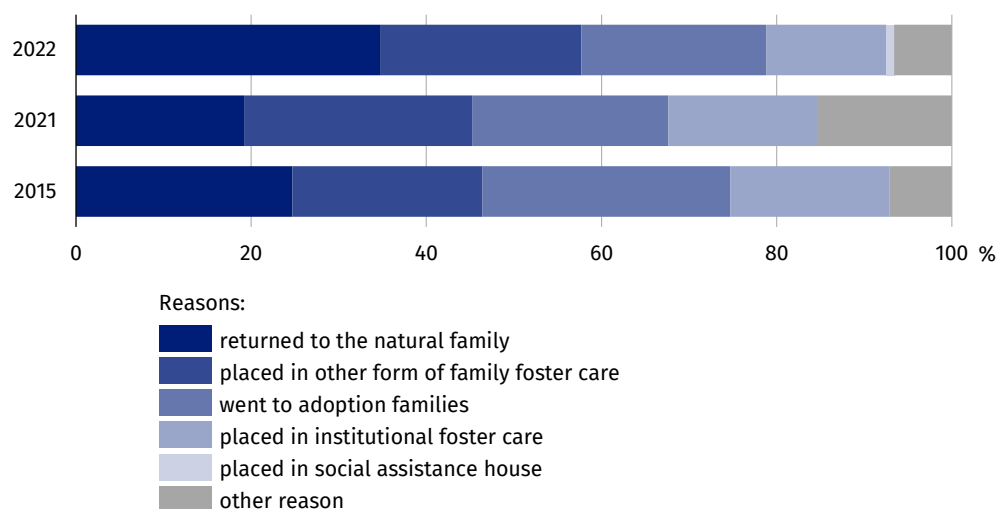


At the end of 2022, 184 children with legal confirmation of disability were in foster family care, while 58 were orphans.

In 2022, 227 children up to the age of 18 years left the family foster care, i.e. more by 20.7% than the year before and by 14.6% compared to 2015. The most common reasons for minors to leave family foster care in 2022 was return to their own families (34.8%), while in 2021 it was placement in other form of family foster care, whereas in 2015 it was handing over for adoption (26.1% and 28.3%, respectively).

In 2022, the most common reason why minors left family foster care was return to their own families

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



In addition, in 2022, 119 residents over the age of 18 left the family foster care in 2022. Their number increased by 54.5% compared to 2021 and by 3.5% in relation to 2015. Among adults, the percentage of residents, who became independent in 2022 was 60.5%, the year before – 62.3% and in 2015 – 71.3%.

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 2022 there were 27 of them. On an annual basis as well as compared to 2015 their number increased: by 8.0% and by 12.5%, respectively. Similarly to the previous year the highest number of socialisation type centres was recorded.

At the end of 2022, these accounted for 92.6% of all care and education centres in the voivodship, the year before – 96.0% and in 2015 – 91.7%.

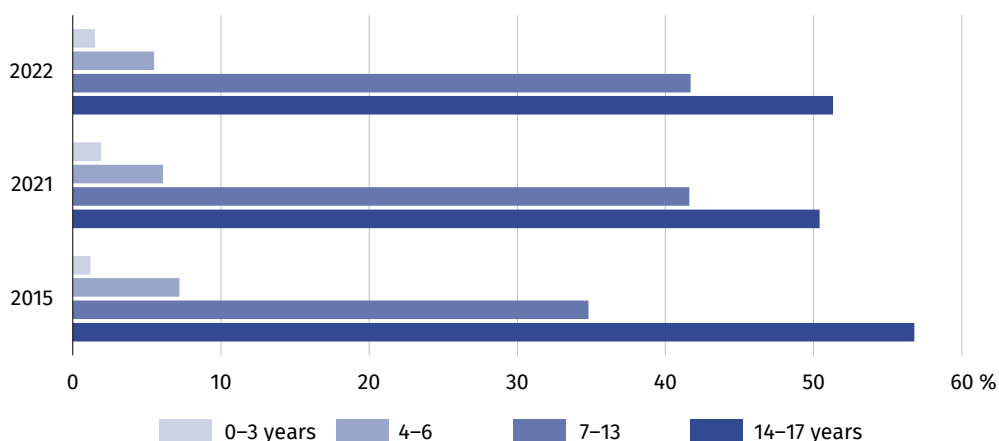
At the end of 2022, care and education centres had a total of 444 places for residents (of which 91.4% in socialisation type centres). In relation to 2021, their number decreased by 1.3% and in relation to 2015 by 20.6%.

Table 3. Institutional foster care centres
as of 31 December

Specification	2015	2021	2022		
	in absolute numbers			2015=100	2021=100
Centres	24	25	27	112.5	108.0
of which socialisation	22	24	25	113.6	104.2
Places	559	450	444	79.4	98.7
of which in socialisation centres	515	436	406	78.8	93.1
Residents	540	411	420	77.8	102.2
of which in socialisation centres	504	398	386	76.6	97.0

In care and education centres in Opolskie Voivodship at the end of 2022, there were 420 residents (on annual basis increase of 2.2% and in relation to 2015 a decrease of 22.2%), of which vast majority in socialisation centres. Similarly as in the previous year and in 2015, 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



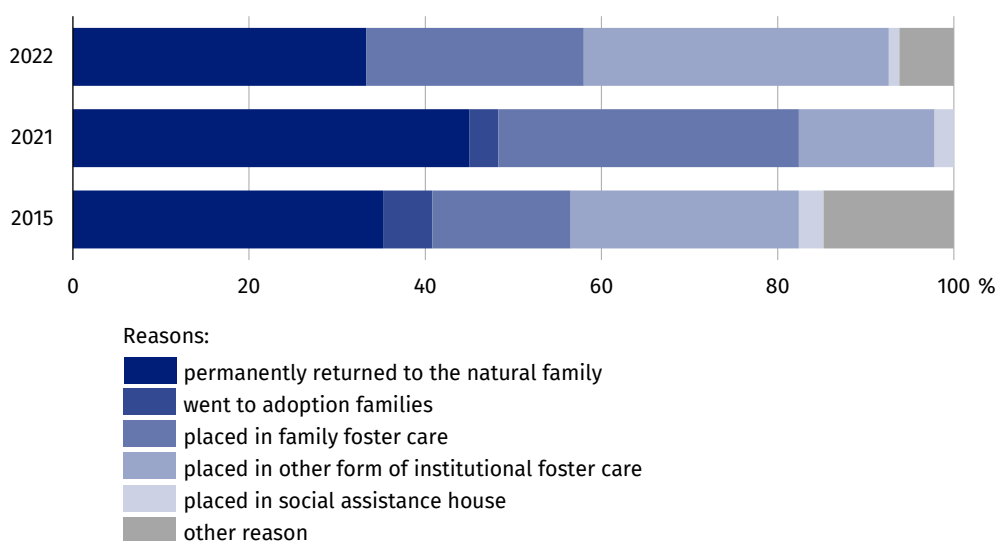
The share of children up to the age of 18 in the total number of residents in institutional foster care at the end of 2022 was 94.8%, while the year before – 91.2% and in 2015 – 90.4%. The analysis of individual age groups indicated, that the most numerous group of residents were children in the age group 14–17 years and its share at the end of 2022 was 48.6% (the year before – 46.0%, and in 2015 – 51.3%). The least numerous group of residents were the youngest children (aged 0–3 years). Their share in 2022 was 1.4%, while in the years 2021 and 2015: 1.7% and 1.1%, respectively.

Persons with disabilities, i.e. those having a legal confirmation of disability in 2022 accounted for 8.1% of all residents of institutional foster care in the voivodship. Compared to the years 2021 and 2015, their percentage decreased: by 1.6 percentage point and by 1.5 percentage point, respectively.

In 2022, residents up to 18 years of age accounted for 94.8% of the total number of persons under institutional foster care

In 2022, 81 children up to the age of 18 left care and education centres, i.e. fewer by 11.0% than the year before and by 25.0% compared to 2015. In 2022 the most common reason why residents left facilities was placing in another form of institutional foster care, while in 2021 and 2015 it was a permanent return to the natural family.

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



Additionally, in 2022, 66 adult residents left care and education centres (more by 43.5% than the year before and by 1.5% in relation to 2015), of whom 78.8% became independent.

Volunteer work in care and education centres was supported by 12 volunteers, while in the year earlier – 16 and in 2015 – 46.


Pracę w placówkach opiekuńczo-wychowawczych w ramach wolontariatu w 2022 r. wspierało 12 wolontariuszy, podczas gdy rok wcześniej – 16, a w 2015 r. – 46.


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In case of quoting Statistics Poland data, please provide information: “Source of data: Statistics Poland” and in case of publishing calculations made on data published by Statistics Poland, please include information: “Own study based of figures of Statistics Poland”.

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[Foster care in Opolskie Voivodship in 2021](#)

Data available in databases

[Local Data Bank](#)

Terms used in official statistics

[Social Assistance](#)