

Permanency in 12 Months for Children Entering Care

CFSR Round 4 Statewide Data Indicator Series

The Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) are a partnership between federal and state staff. The CFSR process enables the Children's Bureau to ensure conformity with federal child welfare requirements, determine what is happening to children and families receiving child welfare services, and assist states in enhancing their capacity to help children and families achieve positive outcomes related to safety, permanency, and well-being.

Statewide data indicators are used in the CFSR Round 4 process to evaluate state performance on safety and permanency outcomes. Performance on the indicators helps identify strengths and improvement needs. The Statewide Data Indicator Series presents detailed information on each statewide data indicator, including measure definitions, calculation specifications, data requirements, and national performance values for CFSR Round 4.



CFSR Permanency Outcome 1

Performance on this indicator is used to evaluate CFSR Permanency Outcome 1—children have permanency and stability in their living situations. This indicator measures whether permanency is achieved (through reunification, adoption, guardianship, or living with a relative) within 12 months of children entering foster care.

Definition

Of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period, what percentage were discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering foster care?

Risk Adjustment

Performance is risk adjusted by age of child at entry and the state's foster care entry rate, as well as by state. Adjusting by age at entry and the state's foster care entry rate controls for the fact that children of different ages and in states with lower entry rates have different likelihoods of experiencing the outcome, regardless of the quality of care a state provides. Adjusting by state accounts for the underlying risk of experiencing the outcome in that particular state.

National Performance



35.2 PERCENT

(A higher value is desirable)

Numerator

Number of children in the denominator who are discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering foster care

Denominator

Number of children who enter foster care in a 12-month period

Examining Equity

The Children's Bureau provides observed performance data disaggregated by age, race/ethnicity, and locality to states in the supplemental context data sent with the CFSR State Data Profile. State teams can use these data to help identify variations in the experiences and outcomes of different populations, including potential evidence of disproportionality and disparity.



Data Quality Checks Performed

- ✓ Child IDs for victims match across years (less than 1%)
- ✓ Child IDs for victims match across years, but dates of birth and sex do not match (greater than 5%)
- ✓ Missing age for victims (greater than 5%)

Data Periods Used to Calculate the National Performance

AFCARS 19B, 20A, 20B, 21A, 21B

Primary Data Elements Required for Calculation

AFCARS Foster Care Element #1:	Title IV-E agency
AFCARS Foster Care Element #4:	Record number
AFCARS Foster Care Element #6:	Child's date of birth
AFCARS Foster Care Element #20:	Date of discharge from last foster care episode
AFCARS Foster Care Element #21:	Date of latest removal
AFCARS Foster Care Element #56:	Date of discharge from foster care
AFCARS Foster Care Element #58:	Reason for discharge
U.S. Census Bureau	Child population, by state (used to derive state foster care entry rates)

Optional Data Elements

AFCARS Foster Care Element #23:	Date of placement in current foster care setting
AFCARS Foster Care Element #41:	Current placement setting

Notes

The trial home visit adjustment is applied to this indicator.

Inclusions

Permanency includes discharges from foster care to reunification with the child's parents or primary caregivers, living with a relative, guardianship, or adoption. Youth entering at age 17 who turn 18 while in foster care or discharge at age 18 are not counted as achieving permanency.

Exclusions

The following are excluded:

- Youth who enter or exit care at age 18 or older
- Complete foster care episodes that last less than 8 days
- Children who do not have a discharge reason
- Children who reenter foster care in the same reporting period due to AFCARS reporting structure not including discharge reason for the first episode

Adjustments

If a child discharges from foster care to reunification with parents or other caregivers after a placement setting of a trial home visit during any of the five data periods used for the indicator calculation, any time in that trial home visit setting that exceeds 30 days is discounted from the length of stay in foster care.

For more information: [CFSR Statewide Data Indicators webpage \(Center for States\)](#)

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