

Placement Stability



Capacity Building
CENTER FOR STATES

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 children who are removed from their homes experience stability in their placement setting while they are in foster care.

Definition

Of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period, what was the rate of placement moves per 1,000 days of foster care?

Risk Adjustment

Performance is risk adjusted by age of child at entry and by state. Adjusting by age controls for the fact that children of different ages have different likelihoods of experiencing the outcome, regardless of the quality of care that a state provides. Adjusting by state accounts for the underlying risk of experiencing the outcome in that particular state.

Additional Adjustments

This measure is expressed as a rate per 1,000 days in foster care. The result of the numerator divided by the denominator is multiplied by 1,000 to produce larger numbers that are easier to understand.

National Performance



**4.48 MOVES PER 1,000
DAYS IN CARE**

(A lower value is desirable)

Numerator

Among the children who entered foster care in a 12-month period, the total number of placement moves during that 12-month period

Denominator

Among the children who entered foster care in a 12-month period, the total number of days these children were in foster care as of the end of the 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

- ✓ Dropped records (greater than 10%)
- ✓ AFCARS IDs do not match from one period to the next (greater than 40%)
- ✓ Missing date of birth (greater than 5%)
- ✓ Missing date of latest removal (greater than 5%)
- ✓ Date of birth after date of entry (greater than 5%)
- ✓ Date of birth after date of exit (greater than 5%)
- ✓ Enters and exits care the same day (greater than 5%)
- ✓ Exit date is prior to the removal date (greater than 5%)
- ✓ Missing number of placement settings (greater than 5%)
- ✓ Percentage of children on first removal (greater than 95%)

Data Periods Used to Calculate the National Performance

AFCARS 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 #19:	Total number of removals from home to date
AFCARS Foster Care Element #20:	Date of discharge from last foster care episode
AFCARS Foster Care Element #21:	Reason for discharge
AFCARS Foster Care Element #23:	Date of placement in current foster care setting
AFCARS Foster Care Element #24:	Number of placement settings during this removal episode
AFCARS Foster Care Element #56:	Date of discharge from foster care

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

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Notes

When a child experiences multiple episodes in the same year and (a) the date of discharge is missing in the first 6-month AFCARS file and (b) the date of prior discharge in the second 6-month file is during the first 6-month file, then the date of prior discharge is used to calculate length of stay.

Days in foster care are counted in full-day increments; thus, children who enter foster care on one day and exit the next day are counted as being in foster care for 1 day.

For youth who enter foster care at age 17 and turn 18 during the period, an adjustment is made for time in foster care beyond the 18th birthday and placement changes after that date.

Inclusions

Only placement settings that are required to be counted in the AFCARS file are used for this indicator. If the child is moved to a living arrangement or setting that would not result in the state increasing the number of placement settings reported in AFCARS, those moves are not included in this indicator (e.g., trial home visit episodes, runaway episodes, respite care, and changes in a single foster family home's status to reflect a licensing change from a foster care home to a home dually licensed for adoption).

This measure counts only the days in foster care within the 12-month period. The days in foster care and moves during the placement episodes are cumulative across episodes reported in the same year.

Exclusions

The following are excluded:

- Youth who enter or exit care at age 18 or older
- Children in foster care for less than 8 days
- Days in foster care for which the AFCARS file does not have placement information

The initial removal from the home (and entry into foster care) is not counted as a placement move.

