

CFSR Round 3 Statewide Data Indicator Series

The Children's Bureau conducts Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) in partnership with child welfare systems in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. CFSRs enable the Children's Bureau to assess conformity with federal child welfare requirements, determine the experiences of children and families receiving state child welfare services, and help states identify agency and program strengths and areas for improvement. Statewide data indicators provide important context in the evaluation and improvement of child outcomes related to safety and permanency by comparing national performance to a state's own performance over time. CFSRs also focus on child and family well-being as well as systemic requirements.



Capacity Building
CENTER FOR STATES

CFSR Permanency Outcome 1

Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

Permanency in 12 Months for Children Entering Foster Care

This indicator measures whether the agency reunifies children with parents or caregivers or places children in safe and permanent homes as soon as possible after removal.



Definition

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

National Performance

42.7 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

Risk is adjusted on age of child at entry and the state's foster care entry rate, as well as by state.

Adjusting on 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.

Additionally, every indicator is adjusted based on the particular state. Risk adjustment by state is part of the multilevel statistical modeling approach that accounts for the underlying risk of experiencing the outcome in a state after accounting for a child's specific risk.

Companion Measure

REENTRY TO FOSTER CARE IN 12 MONTHS

Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care and reentry to foster care in 12 months are companion measures. States are encouraged to monitor performance on reentry to foster care in 12 months to determine if it worsens when performance on permanency in 12 months for children entering care improves.

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%)
- ✓ Age at entry is greater than 21 (greater than 5%)
- ✓ Age at discharge is greater than 21 (greater than 5%)
- ✓ In foster care more than 21 years (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 discharge reason (exit date exists) (greater than 10%)
- ✓ Percentage of children on first removal (greater than 95%)

Data Periods Used to Calculate the National Performance

AFCARS 11B, 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B, 14A

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

Optional Data Elements

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

Data Elements Required for Risk-Adjusted Analysis

AFCARS Foster Care Element #6:	Child's date of birth
U.S. Census Bureau:	Child population, by state (used to derive state foster care entry rates)

For more information: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/monitoring/child-family-services-reviews/round3>

Updated 2019

Notes

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 care or discharge at age 18 are not counted as achieving permanency.

EXCLUSIONS

Complete foster care episodes that last less than 8 days are excluded.

Youth who enter care at age 18 or older are excluded.

Children who do not have a discharge reason are excluded.

Children who reenter foster care within the same reporting period are excluded, as the AFCARS reporting structure does not support reporting of the discharge reason for first episode.

If a child has two episodes and records have dates indicating the episodes overlap, only the most recent record is used.

ADJUSTMENTS

A trial home visit adjustment is applied to all AFCARS reporting periods used for this indicator. Six 6-month AFCARS reporting periods of data (3 years) are used to calculate the numerator in this indicator. This means that 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 six reporting periods used for the indicator, any time in that trial home visit that exceeds 30 days is discounted from the length of the stay in foster care. In other words, the actual date of discharge to permanency could occur at any time during the 3 years used to calculate this indicator, and the trial home visit adjustment would then be applied to see if it may result in a reduction in the length of time in foster care for the purposes of this data indicator.

