

CFSR Round 3 Statewide Data Indicator Series

The Children's Bureau conducts Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) in partnership with State 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 child and family experiences while receiving State child welfare services, and help States identify agency and program strengths and areas for improvement. Statewide data indicators are used in the evaluation of child outcomes related to safety and permanency. CFSRs also focus on child and family well-being as well as systemic requirements.



Capacity Building
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CFSR Permanency Outcome 1:

Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Care 12 to 23 Months

This indicator measures whether the agency reunifies or places children in safe and permanent homes in a timely manner if permanency was not achieved during the first 12 to 23 months of foster care.



Definition:

Of all children in care on the first day of a 12-month period who had been in care (in that episode) between 12 and 23 months, what percentage are discharged to permanency within 12 months of the first day?

National Standard:

43.6%

(A higher value is desirable)



Numerator:

Number of children in the denominator who discharged to permanency within 12 months of the first day

Denominator:

Number of children in care on the first day of a 12-month period who had been in care (in that episode) between 12 and 23 months

Per Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)

Changes From Round 2:

This cohort was added in Round 3 to allow for children and youth in foster care who have already been in foster care between 1 and 2 years to be a focus for permanency, as well.

A significant portion of children who remain in care beyond a year achieve permanency within the next year.

Children who have been in care for 12–23 months are expected to have a higher percentage of exits to adoption and guardianship than children newly entering foster care.

Data Quality Checks Performed

- ✓ Dropped records (>10%)
- ✓ AFCARS IDs do not match from one period to the next (>40%)
- ✓ Missing date of birth (>5%)
- ✓ Missing date of latest removal (>5%)
- ✓ Date of birth after date of entry (>5%)
- ✓ Date of birth after date of exit (>5%)
- ✓ Age at entry is greater than 21 (>5%)
- ✓ Age at discharge is greater than 21 (>5%)
- ✓ In foster care more than 21 years (>5%)
- ✓ Enters and exits care the same day (>5%)
- ✓ Exit date is prior to the removal date (>5%)
- ✓ Missing discharge reason (exit date exists) (>5%)
- ✓ Percentage of children on first removal (>95%)

Data Periods Used to Calculate the National Standard

AFCARS 13B, 14A

Primary Data Elements Required for Calculation

AFCARS FC Element #1	Title IV-E Agency
AFCARS FC Element #4	Record Number
AFCARS FC Element #21	Date of Latest Removal
AFCARS FC Element #56	Date of Discharge From FC
AFCARS FC Element #58	Reason for Discharge

Additional Data Elements Required for Risk-Adjusted Analysis

AFCARS FC Element #6	Child's Date of Birth
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Risk is adjusted on age on the first day of a 12-month period.

Adjusting on 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.

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

Children who are age 18 or older are excluded from this measure. The trial home visit adjustment is not applied to this indicator.

