

# 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 the 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.

## Reentry to Foster Care

This indicator measures whether the agency's programs and practice are effective in supporting reunification and other permanency goals so that children do not return to foster care.



### Definition

Of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period who were discharged within 12 months to reunification, living with a relative, or guardianship, what percentage reentered foster care within 12 months of their discharge?

### National Performance

**8.1 PERCENT**

(A lower value is desirable.)

#### NUMERATOR

Number of children in the denominator who reenter foster care within 12-months of discharge

#### DENOMINATOR

Number of children who enter care in a 12-month period who discharged within 12 months to reunification, living with a relative, or guardianship

**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 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 Measures

#### PERMANENCY IN 12 MONTHS FOR CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE

Reentry to foster care in 12 months and permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care are companion measures. States are encouraged to monitor performance on permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care to determine if it worsens when performance on reentry to foster care in 12 months 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 #21:	Date of latest removal
AFCARS Foster Care Element #56:	Date of discharge from foster care
AFCARS Foster Care Element #58:	Reason for discharge

### 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)

## Notes

Reentry is based on children who discharge from foster care to reunification, to live with a relative, or to guardianship. Discharges to adoption are not included because they cannot be tracked reliably since some states issue new child identifiers if a child who was previously adopted enters foster care.

The denominator for Reentry into Foster Care is also the numerator from Permanency in 12 Months after all exclusions for that indicator and excluding children who discharged to adoption.

## INCLUSIONS

If a child has multiple reentries within 12 months of discharge, only his or her first reentry is selected.

## EXCLUSIONS

Children in care whose initial foster care episode lasted less than 8 days are excluded from the reentry analysis.

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

Children whose discharge from their first foster care episode did 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.

Children whose date of latest removal for the reentry episode is reported as being before the date of discharge for the prior episode are excluded.

Children who reenter foster care at age 18 or older are not counted as a reentry into foster care for this measure.

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

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