

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.

Permanency in 12 Months for Children in Care 24 Months or More

This indicator measures whether the agency continues to ensure permanency for children who have been in foster care for longer periods of time.



Definition

Of all children in foster care on the first day of a 12-month period who had been in foster care (in that episode) for 24 months or more, what percentage are discharged to permanency within 12 months of the first day?

National Performance

31.8 PERCENT

(A higher value is desirable.)

Risk is adjusted on age of child on the first day of a 12-month period, and by state.

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 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 which accounts for the underlying risk of experiencing the outcome in a state after accounting for a child's specific risk.

NUMERATOR

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

DENOMINATOR

Number of children in care on the first day of a 12-month period who had been in care (in that episode) for 24 months or more

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 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

Data Elements Required for Risk-Adjusted Analysis

AFCARS Foster Care Element #6:	Child's date of birth
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Notes

The trial home visit adjustment is not 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 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.

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.

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

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