

# 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.



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## 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 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 Standard:

# 40.5%

(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

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

### Companion Measure:

#### RE-ENTRY TO FOSTER CARE IN 12 MONTHS

For States required to include this indicator in their Program Improvement Plan (PIP), the State must not allow performance on the companion measure to exceed the threshold set for that State.

### Changes From Round 2:

This indicator now counts all types of permanency (reunification, living with relative, adoption, or guardianship) as a discharge to permanency. The measure was expanded to include all children who entered foster care that year, not just those children on their first removal episode. The window of time for the entry cohort was changed to a full year instead of 6 months to yield more stable estimates.

## 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 11B, 12A, 12B, 13A, 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

### Optional Data Elements

AFCARS FC Element #23	Date of Placement in Current Foster Care Setting
AFCARS FC Element #41	Current Placement Setting

### Additional Data Elements Required for Risk-Adjusted Analysis

AFCARS FC Element #6	Child's Date of Birth
U.S. Census Bureau	Child Population, by State (used to derive State foster care entry rates)

## Risk is adjusted on age at entry and the State's foster care entry rate.

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 that a State provides.

[www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb)

## 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 in care less than 8 days and children who enter care at age 18 or older are excluded.

### 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. For children with multiple foster care episodes in the 12-month period, this indicator uses the first episode reported. 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 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.

