

# 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.

## Placement Stability

This indicator measures whether the agency ensures that children who the agency removes from their homes experience stability while they are in foster care.



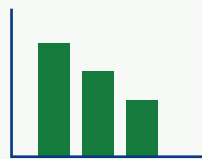
### Definition:

Of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period, what is the rate of placement moves per day of foster care?

### National Standard:

**4.12 moves per  
1,000 days in care**

(A lower value is desirable)



### Numerator:

Of the children in the denominator, the total number of placement moves during the 12-month period

### Denominator:

Among the children who enter foster care in a 12-month period, the total number of days that these children were in foster care as of the end of the 12-month period

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

### Changes From Round 2:

During CFSR Round 2, placement stability consisted of three measures that created a composite measure. The new indicator controls for the length of time that children spend in foster care, so only one indicator is needed. The new indicator looks at moves per day of foster care, rather than children as the unit of analysis. In Round 2, moves that took place prior to the monitoring period were counted. In Round 3, only those moves that occur during the monitoring period are counted and the initial placement is not counted. In addition, the Round 2 measure treated children who moved two times in an episode the same as children who moved 15 times; both failed to meet the measure. The new indicator counts each move, so it continues to hold States accountable for children who have already moved several times.

## 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 number of placement settings (>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 #23	Date of Placement in Current Foster Care Setting
AFCARS FC Element #24	Number of Placement Settings During This Removal Episode
AFCARS FC Element #56	Date of Discharge From FC

### 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 at entry.

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

Only placement settings that are required to be counted in the AFCARS file are used for this indicator. If the child is moved to a living arrangement or setting that would not result in the State increasing the number of placement settings reported in AFCARS, those moves are not included in this indicator (e.g., trial home visit episodes; runaway episodes; respite care; and changes in a single foster family home's status, for example, to reflect a licensing change from a foster care home to a home dually licensed for adoption).

Counts only the days in care within the 12-month period. The days in care and moves during the placement episodes are cumulative across episodes reported in the same year.

### EXCLUSIONS

Children in care less than 8 days and children who enter care at age 18 or older are excluded from this measure.

For youth who enter at age 17 and turn 18 during the period, any time in foster care beyond the 18th birthday or placement changes after that date are not counted.

The initial removal from the home (and into care) is not counted as a placement move.

### ADJUSTMENTS

Expressed as a rate per 1,000 days in care. The result of the numerator divided by the denominator is multiplied by 1,000 to produce larger numbers that are easier to understand.

