

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
CENTER FOR STATES

CFSR Permanency Outcome 1:

Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

Re-Entry 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.



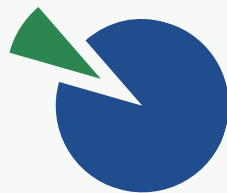
Definition:

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 re-entered foster care within 12 months of their discharge?

National Standard:

8.3%

(A lower value is desirable)



Companion Measure:

PERMANENCY IN 12 MONTHS FOR CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE

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.

NUMERATOR:

Number of children who re-enter 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

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

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 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

Notes

INCLUSIONS

If a child has multiple re-entries within 12 months of discharge, only his/her first re-entry is selected.

EXCLUSIONS

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

Exits to adoption are not included because they cannot be tracked reliably because some States issue new child identifiers if a child who was previously adopted enters foster care.

Changes From Round 2:

This new indicator is limited to those children who entered foster care during the year, whereas the CFSR Round 2 measure counted all children who were discharged to reunification or to live with a relative, regardless of when they entered foster care. The indicator is intentionally limited to focus on children who enter foster care within a 12-month period to better align it with the other cohorts. Because most children return to their homes or achieve permanency within the first year of entry into foster care, this indicator will capture the majority of the children who may re-enter foster care. It also aligns with the rationale that new interventions may best be monitored in an entry cohort. The denominator was also expanded to allow for discharges to guardianship in an effort to capture more discharges to permanency.

