

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 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.

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 1,000 days of foster care?

National Performance

**4.44 MOVES PER 1,000 DAYS
IN CARE**

(A lower value is desirable.)

Risk is adjusted on age of child at entry 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 that 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.

ADDITIONAL ADJUSTMENTS

This measure is 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.

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 these children were in foster care as of the end of the 12-month period

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 number of placement settings (greater than 5%)
- ✓ 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 #19:	Total number of removals from home to date
AFCARS Foster Care Element #20:	Date of discharge from last foster care episode
AFCARS Foster Care Element #21:	Reason for discharge
AFCARS Foster Care Element #23:	Date of placement in current foster care setting
AFCARS Foster Care Element #24:	Number of placement settings during this removal episode
AFCARS Foster Care Element #56:	Date of discharge from foster care

Data Elements Required for Risk-Adjusted Analysis

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

This measure 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 for less than 8 days are excluded.

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

For youth who enter care at age 17 and turn 18 during the period, an adjustment is made for time in foster care beyond the 18th birthday, and placement changes after that date.

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

Days in care for which the AFCARS file does not have placement information are excluded.

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

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