NYS Office of Children and Family Services
Excerpt: Sample Data Guide for Permanency Outcomes

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Safety (Recurrence/Re-Reporting) Measures: (not included in this excerpt)

First Admission Cohort Measures:

In Care Population Measures: (not included in this excerpt)

- **In Care Population by Month**
- **In Care Population Characteristics**
- **Permanent Exits for In Care Population**
- **Placement Type**
- **Stability**

Re-Entry Measures: (not included in this excerpt)

Cohorts Explained

The measures for permanent exits (exits to reunification, relative, adoption) are presented from two perspectives:

1.   First Admissions Cohort: The first admissions cohort follows the children who entered care for the first time through a period of time. In order to understand children's *entire* foster care experience, it is best to start at the beginning of their foster care stay - their first admission.

2.   In-Care Population: The in-care cohort tracks the children who were in care on the last day of the year. This cohort follows all children who entered care (first admissions and children who have re-entered care) during the year and children who entered in previous years and are still in care. Information from this perspective can be useful in identifying current service needs.

The outcomes vary widely based on the cohort of children, and therefore, may illustrate different service needs. For example:
- Timely discharges: Generally, a significantly higher percent of children included in the first admissions cohort leave foster care to a permanent exit than the in-care cohort of children.
  - 2008 Admissions Cohort: Statewide Percent of Permanent Exits within 2 Years: 66%
  - 12/31/08 In-Care Cohort: Statewide Percent of Permanent Exits within 2 Years: 44%

Permanency Data Overview:

The LDSS Permanency Outcomes Data Packet provides charts and tables for users to compare their own district's performance over time as well as compare their districts performance to other districts. Many of the permanency data reflects OCFS' continuing commitment to using longitudinal analysis to understand child welfare services and outcomes.

The source of the permanency data is Child Care Review Service (CCRS). CCRS is the system of record for foster care placement, legal events, and adoption activity. The data in fall 2011 report includes data that was input into CCRS by June 30, 2011. The CCRS data in this packet was accessed primarily through the Multi-State Foster Care Data Archive (State Data Center).

In order to develop outcome performance data from a longitudinal perspective, CCRS data is processed to create child spells. A child spell is a continuous period of time in an out-of-home placement that is not interrupted by an absence or trial discharge of more than seven days. A child's spell(s) is associated with the county that most recently had jurisdiction over the child's care. Only spells that are at least five days long are included.
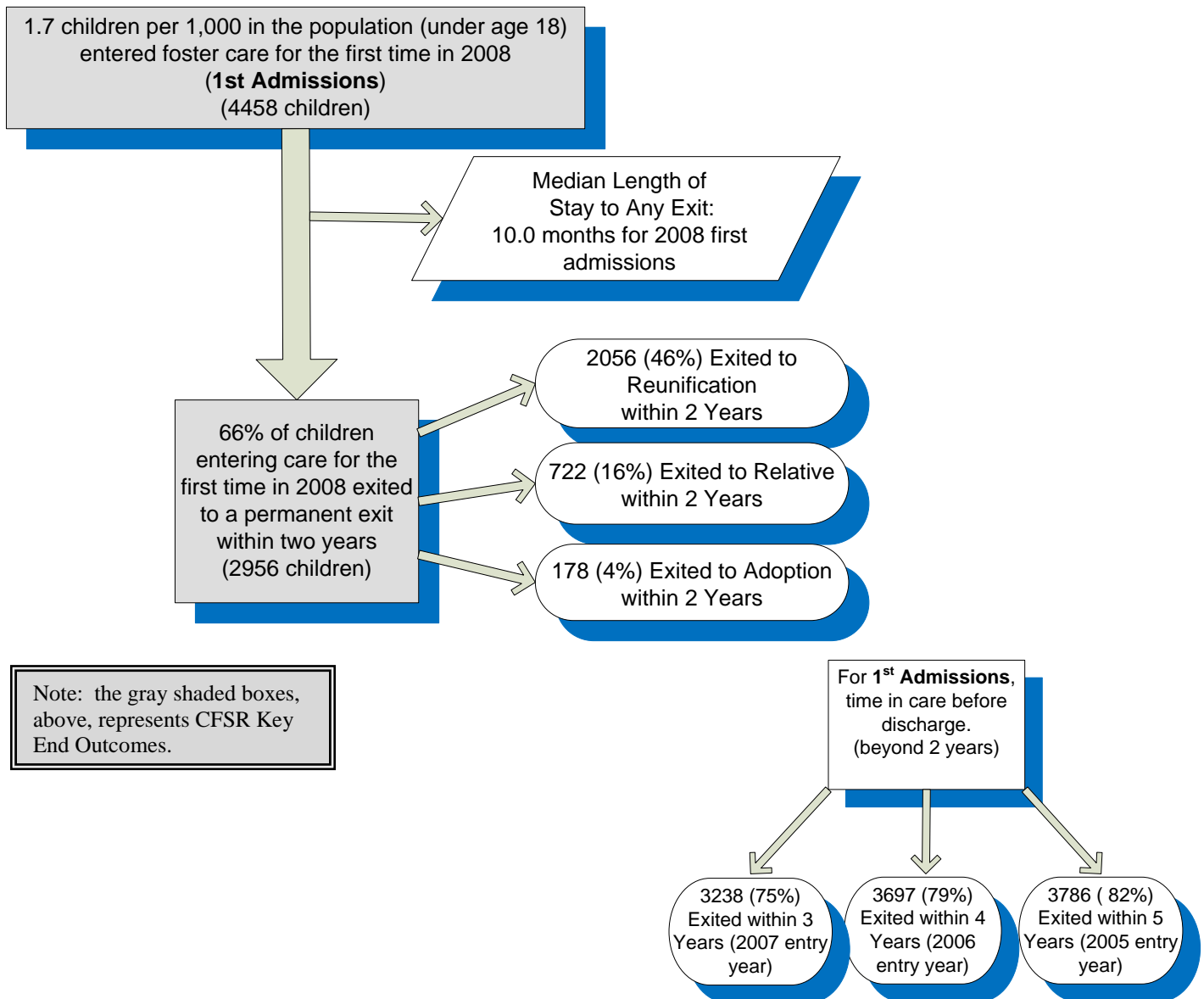
At the request of local districts, the LDSS Permanency Outcomes Data Packet includes only children who have been in the custody of the LDSS for all or part of their foster care spell. The data contained in this report does not include in care youth who have been under the custody of OCFS during their entire foster care spell.

The First Admissions Cohort data includes:

- **Rate of First Placement** (Key CFSR Outcome Measure)
- **Timely Permanent Exits** (Key CFSR Outcome Measure): Time in Care (up to five years) prior to a permanent discharge for children admitted to care for the first time. Charts are available for reunifications, exits to relative, and adoptions.
- **Placement Stability:** Moves (lateral, step up and step down moves) within one year of first admission

First Admissions Cohort: The first admissions cohort follows the children who entered care for the first time through a period of time. In order to understand children's *entire* foster care experience, it is best to start at the beginning of their foster care stay - their first admission.
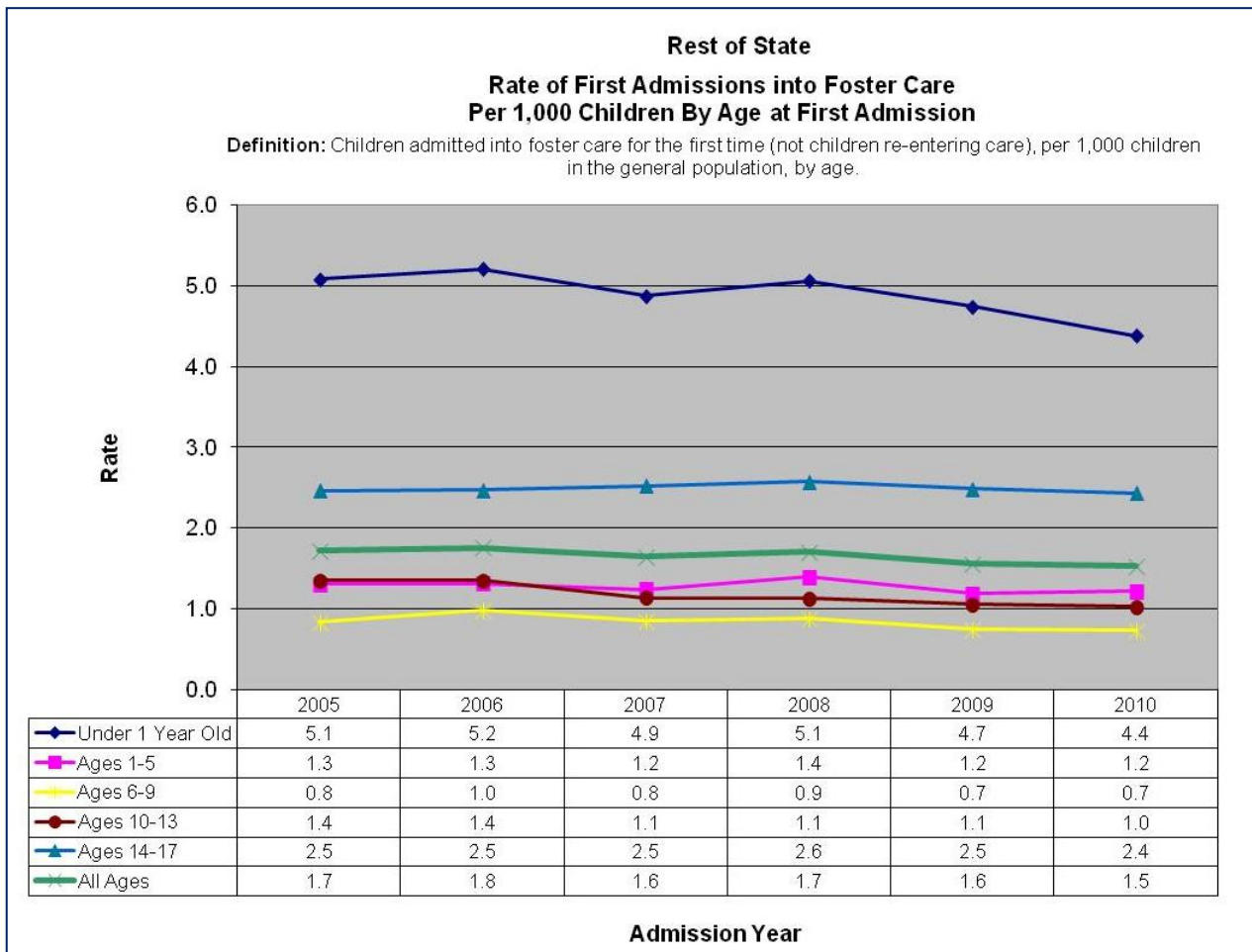
Admissions Cohort Data – Summary
Rest of State

1.7 children per 1,000 in the population (under age 18) entered foster care for the first time in 2008
(**1st Admissions**)
(4458 children)

Median Length of Stay to Any Exit:
10.0 months for 2008 first admissions

66% of children entering care for the first time in 2008 exited to a permanent exit within two years
(2956 children)

2056 (46%) Exited to Reunification within 2 Years

722 (16%) Exited to Relative within 2 Years

178 (4%) Exited to Adoption within 2 Years

Note: the gray shaded boxes, above, represents CFSR Key End Outcomes.

For **1st Admissions**, time in care before discharge.
(beyond 2 years)

3238 (75%) Exited within 3 Years (2007 entry year)

3697 (79%) Exited within 4 Years (2006 entry year)

3786 (82%) Exited within 5 Years (2005 entry year)

Admissions – Rate of First Placement into Foster Care (key outcome measure)

Definition: Children placed in foster care for the first time (not children re-entering care), per 1,000 children in the general population, by age.

Rest of State
Rate of First Admissions into Foster Care
Per 1,000 Children By Age at First Admission

Definition: Children admitted into foster care for the first time (not children re-entering care), per 1,000 children in the general population, by age.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Under 1 Year Old	5.1	5.2	4.9	5.1	4.7	4.4
Ages 1-5	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.2
Ages 6-9	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.7
Ages 10-13	1.4	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
Ages 14-17	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.4
All Ages	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.5

Admission Year

The first admissions rate /1,000 for children of "all ages" have decreased slightly.

In ROS, babies (children under 1 year old), continue to have the highest first placement rate per 1,000 babies in the population. In 2010, 4.4 babies (per 1,000 babies in the population) entered foster care).

Note: Upon request, OCFS will provide Client Identification Numbers (CINs) and other demographic information (such as: age at admission, gender, and ethnicity), for this group of children. CINs will enable a county to engage in case-level analysis.

County population estimates were provided by Woods and Poole Economics, Inc., 2007.

Has your county experienced any significant changes in CPS reports, indications, or preventive services that may impact admissions?

County Comparison Charts

The LDSS Permanency Outcomes Data Packet provides charts and tables for users to compare their own district's performance over time, as illustrated in the chart on the previous page.
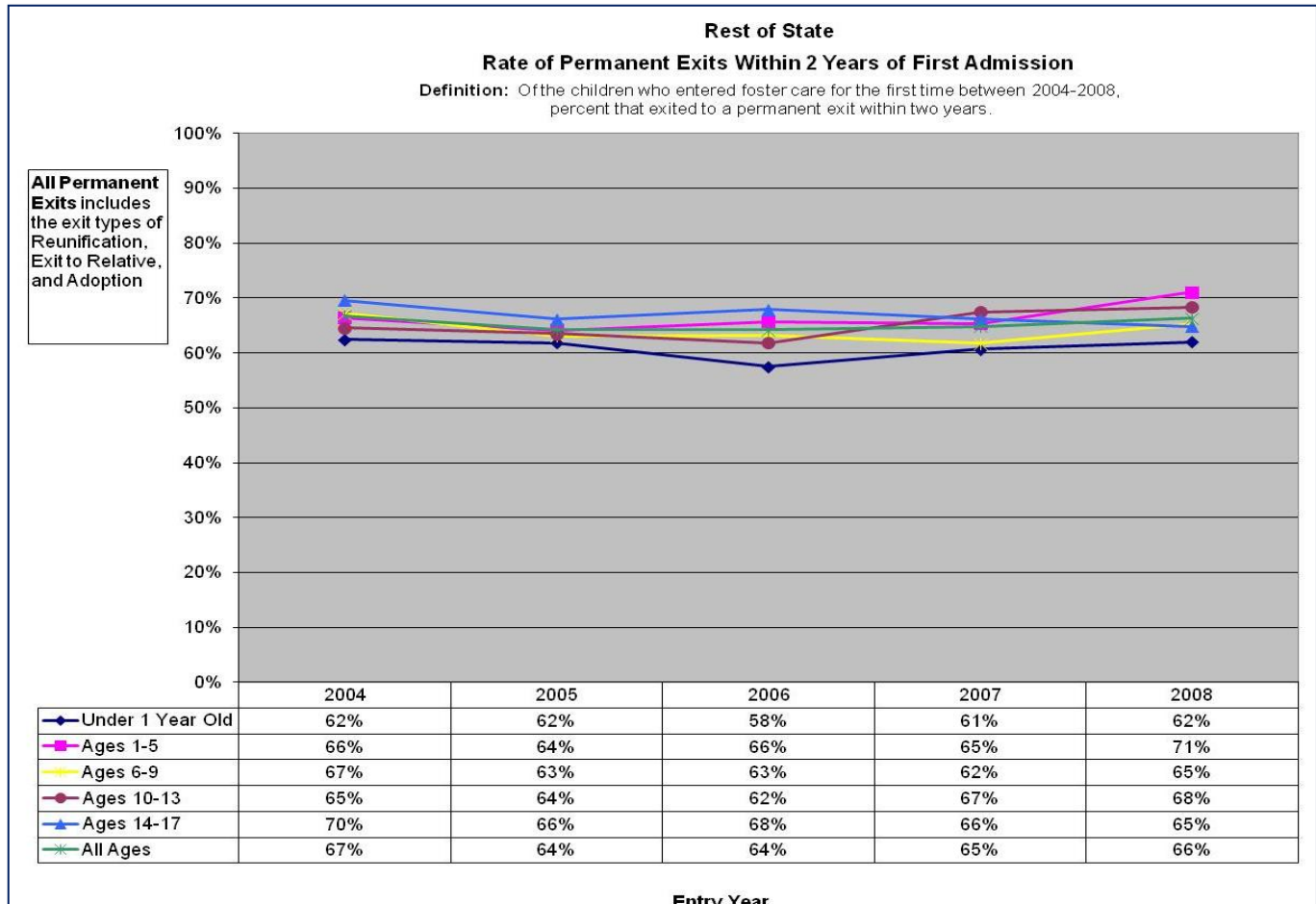
Additionally, performance measures, whenever possible, are also presented in a manner that allows a district to compare their performance to other districts. Districts can then identify performance for similar districts based on county size or other criteria, leading to statewide learning opportunities.

County comparison charts are located in each LDSS Outcomes Data Packet.

Rate of First Placements — All Ages

The rate of children (ages 0 - 17) placed in foster care for the first time in 2010, per 1000 children in the general population.

	Rank	District	Distribution of Scores (median=1.7)	Large	Medium	Small
Fewer children are being placed	1	Putnam	0.3			Putn
	2	Rockland	0.5			Rock
	3	Wayne	0.7			Wayn
	4	Seneca	0.7			Sene
	5	Nassau	0.7	Nass		
	6	Lewis	0.7			Lewis
	7	Tioga	0.7			Tioga
	8	Otsego	0.9			Otse
	9	Suffolk	1.0	Suff		
	10	Saratoga	1.0		Sara	
	11	Westchester	1.0	West		
	12	Madison	1.1			Madi
Within 0.5 Points of Median (1.2- 2.2)	13	Onondaga	1.2	Onon		
	14	Clinton	1.2			Clin
	15	Essex	1.3			Esse
	16	Allegany	1.4			Alle
	17	Monroe	1.4	Monr		
	18	Schuyler	1.4			Schu
	19	Ontario	1.4			Onta
	20	Orleans	1.4			Orle
	21	Erie	1.4	Erie		
	22	Oswego	1.5		Oswe	
	23	Yates	1.5			Yates
	24	Genesee	1.5			Gene
	25	Wyoming	1.5			Wyom
	26	Rest of State	1.5	ROS		
	27	Schoharie	1.5			Scho
	28	Livingston	1.6			Livin
	29	Chenango	1.7			Chen
	30	Sullivan	1.7			Sulli
	31	Niagara	1.8		Niag	
	32	Albany	1.8		Alba	
	33	Orange	1.9		Oran	
	34	Chemung	2.0		Chem	
	35	Rensselaer	2.0		Rens	
	36	St Lawrence	2.0			StLa
	37	Statewide	2.1	STW		
	38	Herkimer	2.1			Herk
	39	Steuben	2.2		Steu	
	40	Ulster	2.2		Ulst	
	41	Delaware	2.2			Dela
	42	Chautauqua	2.2		Chau	
More children are being placed	43	Dutchess	2.3		Dutc	
	44	Warren	2.5			Warr
	45	Fulton	2.6			Fult
	46	Broome	2.7		Broo	
	47	Oneida	2.7		Onei	
	48	Cattaraugus	2.7			Catt
	49	Montgomery	2.8			Mont
	50	Washington	2.8			Wash
	51	NYC	2.9	NYC		
	52	Cayuga	2.9			Cayu
	53	Jefferson	3.0			Jeff
	54	Tompkins	3.0			Tomp
	55	Schenectady	3.1		Sche	
	56	Franklin	3.4			Fran
	57	Greene	4.2			Gree
	58	Cortland	5.3			Cort
	59	Columbia	5.6			Colu

No First Admissions for the following county:

		Hamilton				Hami

Census Data for St. Regis is currently not available.

	##	St. Regis				StReg

Permanent Exits within Two Years of First Admission into Care

Definition: Of the children who entered care (for the first time) in given calendar year, percent that exited to a permanent exit within two years. Note that the year given is the year of first admission.

Rest of State
Rate of Permanent Exits Within 2 Years of First Admission
Definition: Of the children who entered foster care for the first time between 2004-2008, percent that exited to a permanent exit within two years.

All Permanent Exits includes the exit types of Reunification, Exit to Relative, and Adoption

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Under 1 Year Old	62%	62%	58%	61%	62%
Ages 1-5	66%	64%	66%	65%	71%
Ages 6-9	67%	63%	63%	62%	65%
Ages 10-13	65%	64%	62%	67%	68%
Ages 14-17	70%	66%	68%	66%	65%
All Ages	67%	64%	64%	65%	66%

Entry Year

Overall, ROS' performance in this area has been relatively stable: 64% - 67% of the children who entered care exited to a permanent exit within 2 years.

For the babies who entered care in 2008, fewer babies (62%) exit within two years (by the end of 2010).

What strategies can we employ to impact this outcome measure?

Note: Of all the children that entered care for the first time in 2008, 66% of them exited to a permanent exit within 2 years of placement (by 2010); 24% are still in care, 3% aged out, 2% were on runaway status for at least 30 days, and 5% experienced another type of exit (represented by physically in another setting for more than 30 days (i.e.: hospital). This level of local detail is found on the data table located in each LDSS Permanency Outcomes Data Packet.
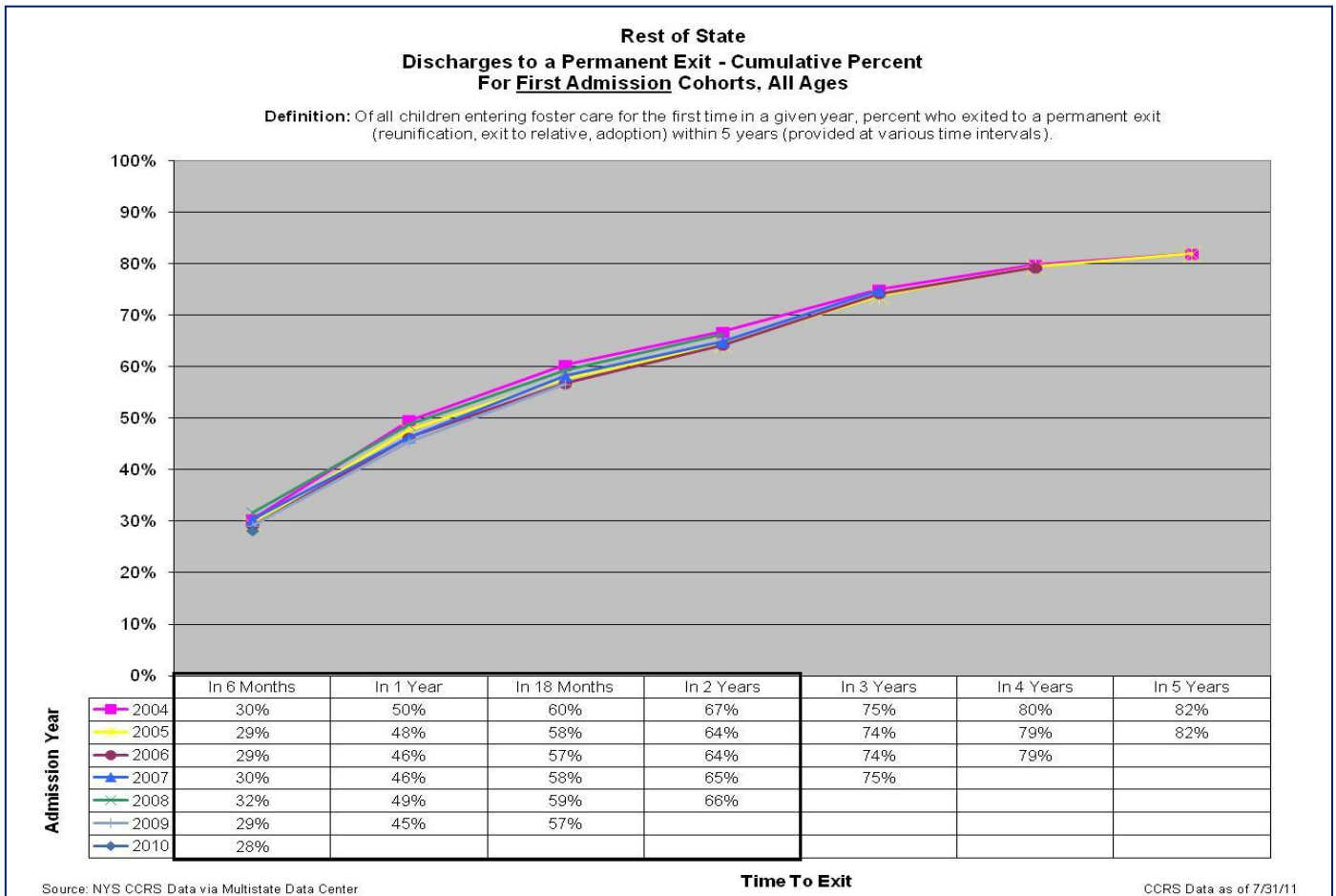**Be aware that the most recent year listed, 2008, is the year that the children _entered_ care.** If a child entered care on December 31, 2008, and they exited care [to a permanent exit] on December 31, 2010, they exited in two years. This chart contains data input into CCRS through June 30, 2011.

- What are the potential barriers that keep children in care for more than 2 years?
- If a child did not exit to a permanent exit, are they still in care or did they exit to another type of exit?

Time to Permanent Exit – First Admissions Cohort

Definition: Of all children entering care for the first time in a given year, percent who exited to a permanent exit (reunification, exit to relative, adoption) within five years (provided at various time intervals).

Rest of State
Discharges to a Permanent Exit - Cumulative Percent
For Underline First Admission Cohorts, All Ages

Definition: Of all children entering foster care for the first time in a given year, percent who exited to a permanent exit (reunification, exit to relative, adoption) within 5 years (provided at various time intervals).

Admission Year	In 6 Months	In 1 Year	In 18 Months	In 2 Years	In 3 Years	In 4 Years	In 5 Years
2004	30%	50%	60%	67%	75%	80%	82%
2005	29%	48%	58%	64%	74%	79%	82%
2006	29%	46%	57%	64%	74%	79%	
2007	30%	46%	58%	65%	75%		
2008	32%	49%	59%	66%			
2009	29%	45%	57%				
2010	28%						

Time To Exit

Source: NYS CCRS Data via Multistate Data Center

CCRS Data as of 7/31/11

> The percent of children who exit care at specific times since their first admission has remained quite steady in recent years.
> Notice that if we wait five years from a first admissions year of 2005, we see that 82% of the children first admitted into care have since exited to a permanent exit (by December 31, 2010).
> A key NYS CFSR permanency outcome is "permanent exits *within two years*". The data for this measure is outlined in the above table. Note that of the children who entered care in 2008, 66% exited care to a permanent exit (reunification, exit to relative, adoption) within 2 years (by December 31, 2010). There has been very little performance change since 2004.

Note: Data for each permanent exit type (reunification, exit to relative, adoption) is charted on the following pages.

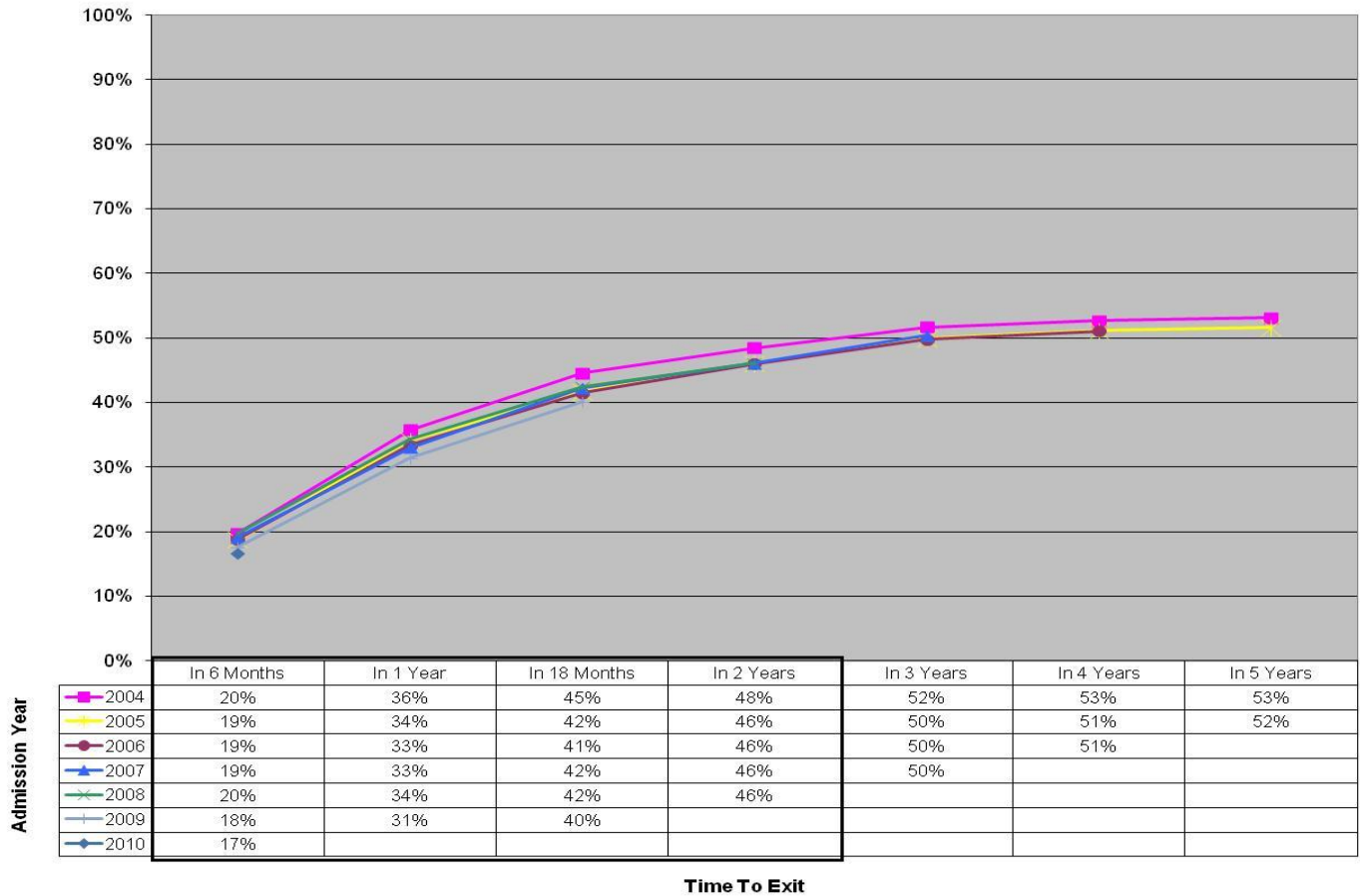Additional detail is found in each LDSS Permanency Outcomes Data Packet.

Time to Reunification – First Admissions Cohort
66% of the children who entered care [for the first time] in 2008 exited to a permanent exit
within 24 months. What percent exited to reunification?

Rest of State
Discharges to Reunification - Cumulative Percent
For First Admission Cohorts, All Ages
Definition: Of all children entering foster care for the first time in a given year, percent who exited to
reunification within 5 years (provided at various time intervals).

Admission Year	In 6 Months	In 1 Year	In 18 Months	In 2 Years	In 3 Years	In 4 Years	In 5 Years
2004	20%	36%	45%	48%	52%	53%	53%
2005	19%	34%	42%	46%	50%	51%	52%
2006	19%	33%	41%	46%	50%	51%	
2007	19%	33%	42%	46%	50%		
2008	20%	34%	42%	46%			
2009	18%	31%	40%				
2010	17%						

Time To Exit

Source: NYS CCRS Data via Multistate Data Center

CCRS Data as of 7/31/11

In ROS, in two years, 46% of the children who entered care in 2005 are reunified within 2 years of their admission date (by the end of 2007). This percent has remained static for four years.   Within 5 years, just over 50% of the 2005 cohort was reunified.

	Age at First Admission	Total Admitted *	# Reunified	% Reunified
1st Placement in **2008** and Exited within Two Years	Under 1 Year Old	760	217	29%
	Ages 1-5	1,023	408	40%
	Ages 6-9	501	218	44%
	Ages 10-13	623	321	52%
	Ages 14-17	1,551	892	58%
	All Ages	4,458	2,056	46%

Note: The table at the right shows the ROS number of reunifications for children who entered care in 2008 - 217 of the 760 babies admitted to care in 2008 are reunified (29%).
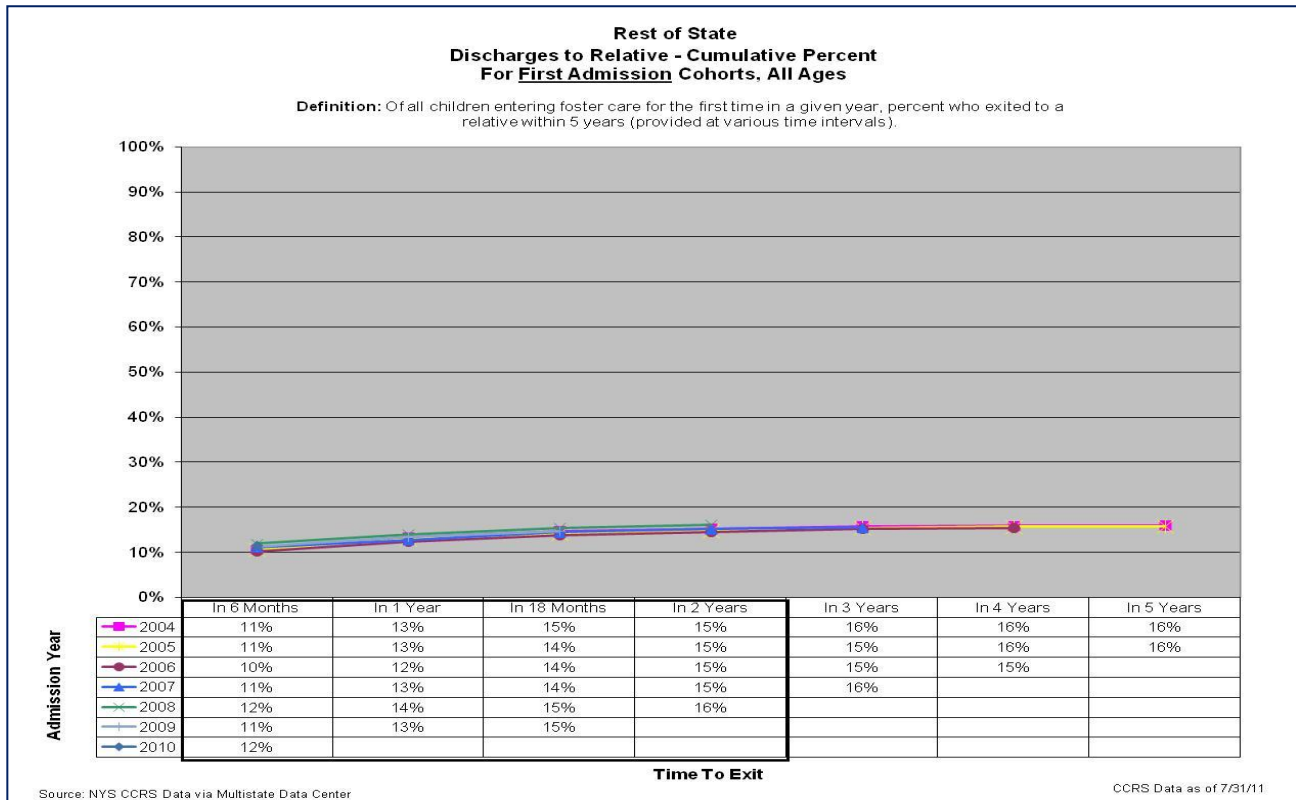
   Given the range of services provided to families of children entering foster care, what is your county's anticipated rate of reunification?
    Are there particular age groups/developmental stages that warrant a priority focus and improved services?
    Are you implementing a family engagement strategy – aimed at improving timely reunification?

Time to <u>Exit to Relative</u> - First Admission Cohort
66% of the children who entered care in <u>2008</u> exited to a permanent exit within 24 months.
What percent exited to relative?

Rest of State
Discharges to Relative - Cumulative Percent
For <u>First Admission</u> Cohorts, All Ages

Definition: Of all children entering foster care for the first time in a given year, percent who exited to a relative within 5 years (provided at various time intervals).

Admission Year	In 6 Months	In 1 Year	In 18 Months	In 2 Years	In 3 Years	In 4 Years	In 5 Years
2004	11%	13%	15%	15%	16%	16%	16%
2005	11%	13%	14%	15%	15%	16%	16%
2006	10%	12%	14%	15%	15%	15%	
2007	11%	13%	14%	15%	16%		
2008	12%	14%	15%	16%			
2009	11%	13%	15%				
2010	12%						

Time To Exit

Source: NYS CCRS Data via Multistate Data Center   CCRS Data as of 7/31/11

In contrast to a 46% *reunification* rate for children of all ages (see previous page), only 16% of children (all ages) exit to a relative.   If a child does not exit to a relative within the first six months of placement, their likelihood of an exit to a relative increases at a significantly slower rate.
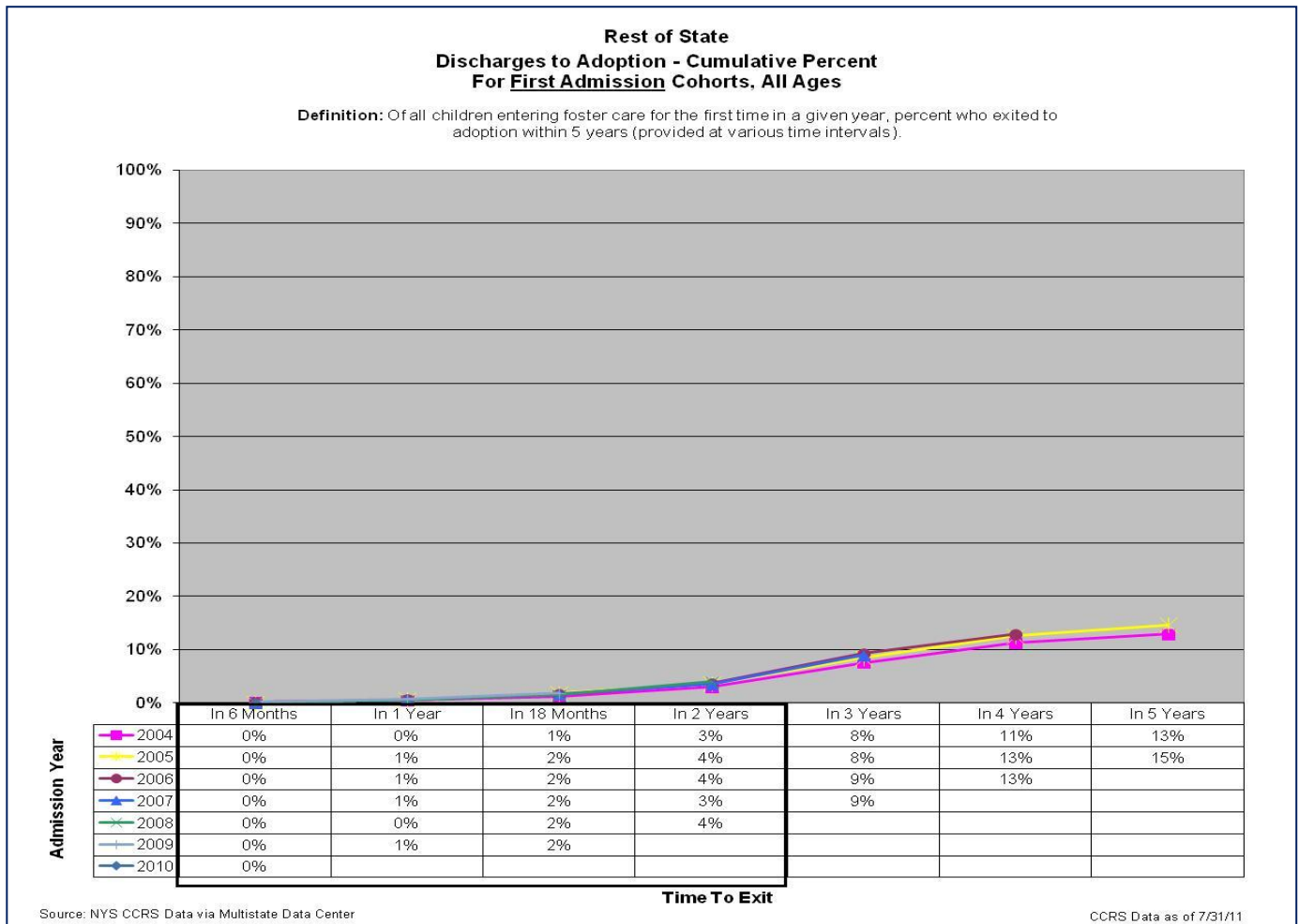
Reunification and Exit to Relative Practice Questions to Consider:

- The agency's policy for returning children home and discharge planning.
- The relationship between the timeliness with which children return home and the rate at which children re-enter foster care. (Re-entry chart can be found later in this data packet.)
- Any correlation between the number, type, and length of services provided prior to placement and the achievement of early reunification.
- The availability of identified services to support reunification (e.g., trial home visits).
- Whether the agency assists the families with contingency planning and securing services after reunification.
- Any correlation between the availability, accessibility, and appropriateness of services offered to children and families prior to and/or during their involvement with the agency and the achievement of early reunification.
- County-specific factors affecting reunification (i.e., availability of housing, court practices that affect the ability to meet this outcome).
- County's practice of locating fathers and extended family members to be considered permanency resources.

Time to <u>Adoption</u> - First Admission Cohort:
66% of the children who entered care in <u>2008</u> exited to a permanent exit within 24 months.
What percent exited to adoption?

Rest of State
Discharges to Adoption - Cumulative Percent
For <u>First Admission</u> Cohorts, All Ages

Definition: Of all children entering foster care for the first time in a given year, percent who exited to adoption within 5 years (provided at various time intervals).

Admission Year	In 6 Months	In 1 Year	In 18 Months	In 2 Years	In 3 Years	In 4 Years	In 5 Years
2004	0%	0%	1%	3%	8%	11%	13%
2005	0%	1%	2%	4%	8%	13%	15%
2006	0%	1%	2%	4%	9%	13%	
2007	0%	1%	2%	3%	9%		
2008	0%	0%	2%	4%			
2009	0%	1%	2%				
2010	0%						

Time To Exit

Source: NYS CCRS Data via Multistate Data Center

CCRS Data as of 7/31/11

In ROS, 4% of all the permanent exits within 2 years of first admission are exits to adoptions.

Note: The table below shows number of exits to adoption for children who entered care in 2008 (for Rest of State). Of all the 761 babies admitted to care in 2007, 13% (96 out of 761) exited to adoption. That percent of adoptions significantly decreases for children who older than one year old when they entered foster care for the first time.

Exit to Adoption Practice Questions to Consider:
- Does the county have concurrent planning protocols in place and a description of those protocols? When do adoption planning and/or services begin for a child?
- Does the county integrate permanency planning early in the case planning and in training of foster parents to support permanency for children?
- What is the county's practice for terminating parental rights if an adoptive home is not identified?
- What is the county and court's practice for approving a TPR petition? How does that affect time to adoption? (e.g.: time between placement and TPR petition filing, time between original TPR petition filing to disposition of the TPR; time between fact finding to disposition of the TPR.)
- How does the availability of resources (e.g., adoptive homes and post-adoption services) impact this outcome?

Moves (Lateral, Step Up, Step Down Moves) – First Admission Cohort
What percent of children move within the foster care system in a given year?

Statewide
Placement Stability
Movement for First Admissions

Definition: Of all children entering care for the first time in a given year, percent who had step-down, lateral or step-up moves within the following calendar year.

(Chart data, by Entry Year — Step-Down Moves, Lateral Moves, Step-Up Moves)

- 2005: 2%, 3%, 1%
- 2006: 5%, 8%, 1%
- 2007: 7%, 9%, 3%
- 2008: 2%, 15%, 6%
- 2009: 3%, 9%, 1%

Legend: ■ Step-Down Moves ■ Lateral Moves ■ Step-Up Moves

For the children who entered care in 2009, 13% of them experienced some type of move within their first year in foster care. Notice that lateral moves represent the largest number of moves for this population of children.

Although a stable foster care placement is preferable, it is important to note that a certain types of moves, for specific reasons are often considered desirable (a lateral move to reunite siblings, for example).

The table, below, identifies the various placement types and associated move types.

Mapping of Placement Types for Step Ups, downs, and Lateral Intra-Agency moves and Inter-Agency Transfers:

		To								
		Family-Based Care Level 1	Family-Based Care Level 2	Congregate Care (Residential) Level 1			Congregate Care (Residential) Level 2		Congregate Care (Residential) Level 3	
From	Description	PKC	PFC	PAO	PGH	PIL	PGR	PIN	PRT	POT
Family-Based Care Level 1:										
PKC	Kinship Care	Lateral	Step Up	Step Up	Step Up	Step Up	Step Up	Step Up	Step Up	Step Up
Family-Based Care Level 2:										
PFC	Foster Boarding Home	Step Down	Lateral	Step Up	Step Up	Step Up	Step Up	Step Up	Step Up	Step Up
Congregate Care (Residential) Level 1:										
PAO	Agency Operated Boarding Home	Step Down	Step Down	Lateral	Lateral	Lateral	Step Up	Step Up	Step Up	Step Up
PGH	Group Home	Step Down	Step Down	Lateral	Lateral	Lateral	Step Up	Step Up	Step Up	Step Up
PIL	Independent Living	Step Down	Step Down	Lateral	Lateral	Lateral	Step Up	Step Up	Step Up	Step Up
Congregate Care (Residential) Level 2:										
PGR	Group Residence	Step Down	Step Down	Step Down	Step Down	Step Down	Lateral	Lateral	Step Up	Step Up
PIN	Institution	Step Down	Step Down	Step Down	Step Down	Step Down	Lateral	Lateral	Step Up	Step Up
Congregate Care (Residential) Level 3:										
PRT	Residential Treatment	Step Down	Step Down	Step Down	Step Down	Step Down	Step Down	Step Down	Lateral	Lateral
POT	All other factype codes	Step Down	Step Down	Step Down	Step Down	Step Down	Step Down	Step Down	Lateral	Lateral

*Intra-agency moves are captured by a change in facility type (factype) in CCRS.

*21 Day Rule: Intra-agency movements that last 21 days or less are not counted as any kind of move (lateral, step up, or step down).

Frequently Asked Questions about the Permanency Data:

Q: What is the State Data Center?
A: Chapin Hall and the American Public Human Services Association established the Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data in 2004 to support child welfare agencies using longitudinal data. The State Data Center is supported through fees paid by member states (which currently include NYS and approximately 16 other states nationwide) and the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Casey Family Programs.

Q: Our district maintains our own records and some of those counts are different than the data in this data packet. The data warehouse also reports different counts. Why?
A: There are three primary reasons that numbers in this packet differ from those that appear on other routine reports that are distributed by OCFS.

1) Data are taken from a database on different dates: CCRS data in this packet includes data input through January 31, 2010. Timely data entry at the local level creates more complete and accurate data.

2) The data definitions differ: For the purpose of this data packet, CCRS data is processed to create child spells. A child spell is a continuous period of time in an out-of-home placement that is not interrupted by an absence or trial discharge of more than seven days. A child's spell is associated with the county that most recently had jurisdiction over the child's care. Only spells that are at least five days long are included. Children are counted as exiting foster care if they have been absent (for example on runaway status or in a hospital absence) or on trial discharge for seven or more days. If a child returns to foster care at or after seven days, this is counted as a new admission. A child's spell in foster care continues if the time out of care is fewer than seven days.

3) The universe of children is different: All CCRS placement data is analyzed. However, only the records for children who were recorded to be in LDSS custody for their entire foster care stay or a portion of their foster care stay are included in this data packet. Children who were exclusively in OCFS custody for their entire foster care stay are excluded.

Q: Are all exit types included in the data or just the permanent (reunification, relatives, adoption) exits?
A: Types of exits from foster care are summarized in six groups: reunification, relatives, adoption, reach majority, runaway, and other exit. Children released to a primary resource person are included in the counts of relative exits. "Other" exits include any other exit code recorded in CCRS associated with an M950 or an M990 code. The most common types of "other" exits were SB (Hospital), SD (Sent to detention), 582 – To Enter OCFS Facility, 585 – Administrative Action.

Q: Has this data packet refreshed all the data since the previous (fall 2009) data packet?
A: Yes. The numbers and percentages presented in this spring 2010 packet may differ from the data presented in the previous CFSR data packets. The data in previous data packets was pulled from CCRS or CONNECTIONS on different dates, and the data included in this packet has been refreshed and reflects additional data entry since the last data packet release.

Q: How else does the permanency data differ from previous versions?
A: The data packet user will note a few changes to the charting format, definitions and level of data, described below:

The Universe of Children: In previous years, all children who were recorded in CCRS were included in the data packet. This spring 2010 data packet does not include children who are exclusively in the custody of OCFS.

Median Length of Stay: OCFS has revised a data definition for "Median Length of Stay" to reflect the length of stay *to a permanent exit*. The previous data packets provided information on the Median Length of Stay to *any type of exit* (permanent exits, runaway, reached majority, etc.) (Additional information can be found on page 81 of the data overview guide.)

Children's Characteristics Table: The tables on pages 73-74 are additions to this spring 2010 data packet. This table stratifies the youth in care by age groupings, custody, designation (Article 3 or Article 10/Article 7), time in care (less than two years or two or more years), gender, and race/ethnicity.

Preventive/Protective Services Case Volume and Proximity of Placements: These measures are not included in the spring 2010 data packet. Please look for this data in the 2009 MAPS (Monitoring and Analysis Profile) data packet. When finalized, the MAPS data packets will be posted on HSEN Public Folders.

Q: Our County's estimate of the number of children who reside in our county differs from the estimate contained in the data packet.
A: Age, race and ethnicity population estimates were obtained from Woods and Poole Economics Inc.   The safety and permanency charts (excluding DMR data) base the youth population count on the Woods and Poole population estimates that were calculated in 2007. The DMR data determine the youth population based on the Woods and Poole population estimates that were calculated in 2008.

According to the Woods and Poole population estimates, calculated in 2007, NYS' 2009 youth population is estimated at 4,301,865. This represents a decrease of approximately 4% between 2003 and 2009. The counties outside of NYC (Rest of State – ROS) have an estimated 5.7% fewer children in 2009 than in 2003.

Q: We're a small county, and some of our data, have changed dramatically from one reporting period/year to the next, why?
A: Sharp changes in performance should be treated with caution. A small base population or small child count in a particular measure may significantly change the rate or percentage.

Q: Why isn't there any data related to disproportionate minority representation in our county's data?
A: Small counties in particular should note that disparity ratios were not calculated in counties with less than 50 minority children under 18 years; and (2) counties with less than 6 minority children with SCR reports.