

NRC-CWDT
 NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
 FOR CHILD WELFARE DATA
 AND TECHNOLOGY

A Service of the
 Children's Bureau/USDHHS
 CHLA • KTRIA • NICWA

Child Welfare Program Staff
Child and Family Service
Reviews: Measuring Performance
 Planning for the next CFSR

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CFSR . . . A beginning, not just an event!

The philosophy, outcomes, and processes
 are essentially the same:
 Maintain the momentum!

- Child Safety
- Child Permanency
- Child and Family Well-Being

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Guiding Principles

- Reviews promote principles of:
 - Family centered practice
 - Community based services
 - Strengthened parental capacity
 - Individualized services
 - Collaboration and partnership building

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CFSR: Seven Outcomes

Safety

- Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.
- Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Permanency

- Children have permanency and stability in their living arrangements.
- The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

Child and Family Well-Being

- Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.
- Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.
- Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

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CFSR: Seven Systematic Factors

- Statewide information system
- Case review system
- Quality assurance program
- Staff and provider training
- Service array
- Agency responsiveness to the community
- Foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment and retention

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The Child and Family Services Review "Connecting All The Pieces"

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State Data Profile

State Data Profiles are provided by the Children's Bureau using the following data sets submitted by the State and are designed to show the State's performance for the period under review and for previous years:

- AFCARS – Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System
- NCANDS – National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System

National Standards for the CFSR Data Indicators

- State AFCARS and NCANDS data were used to establish the national standards.
- Those measures and composites for which national standards have been developed are referred to as **Data Indicators**.



Data Indicators in the CFSR

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Measuring CFSR Outcomes

The two outcomes that have data indicators are:

Safety 1: *Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.*

Permanency 1: *Children have permanency and stability in their living arrangements.*

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Safety Related Data Indicators

Safety Indicator 1: Absence of Recurrence of Maltreatment

Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated abuse or neglect during the first 6 months of the 12-month target period, what percentage did not experience a recurrence of maltreatment within 6 months?

This **data indicator** is calculated strictly from information submitted by the State via the NCANDS data child file (unless an approved alternate source of data is used).

National Standard = 94.6%

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Safety Related Data Indicators

Safety Indicator 2: Absence of Abuse and Neglect in Foster Care

Of all children in foster care during the 12-month target period, what percentage were not maltreated by a foster parent or facility staff member?

This **data indicator** is calculated using NCANDS (or an approved alternate data source) and AFCARS data. NCANDS data produce the numerator (count of children maltreated in foster care) while AFCARS data produce the denominator (number of children served by the foster care system).

National Standard = 99.68%

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Fifteen Individual Measures in the Four Permanency Data Indicators

(Refer to Data Indicators Handout)

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Basic CFSR Terminology-Data Composites

Individual Measure: A specific statement that addresses a desired outcome within a given composite (for example, the percentage of reunifications occurring in less than 12 months)

Component: A primary part of a composite that may include one or more measures

Composite: A data indicator that incorporates State performance on multiple permanency-related individual measures

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Familiar Examples of Composite Scores

Course Grade: Each component of a course grade may have a different "weight." For example:

- Test score = 60%
- Term paper = 25%
- Class participation = 10%
- Homework assignments = 5%

SAT score: An SAT score represents performance on several subject areas:

- Critical Reading (Verbal) – Includes passage reading, sentence completion, etc.
- Mathematics – Includes algebra, geometry, etc.
- Writing – Includes multiple choice questions and a writing sample

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Why Data Composites for CFSR Permanency Outcomes?

Data Composite

- Are more comprehensive, more stable, and more reliable
- Measure a wider range of children's experiences
- Cover more of the State's child welfare population
- Provide a balanced view of a State's performance

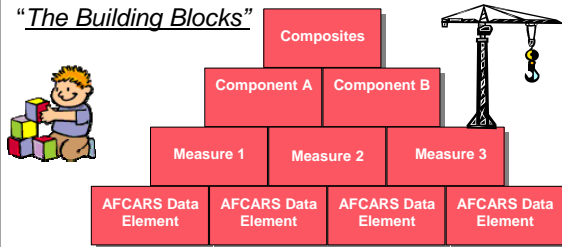


How Composites Were Developed

- The Children's Bureau explored multiple measures of an outcome such as permanency and stability of living situation.
- Principal Components Analysis (PCA) was used to:
 - Reduce the number of individual measures to those that best determine the outcome
 - Identify the measures that go together
 - Determine the contribution of each measure to the whole (i.e., weights) - this is how weighting for each measure is determined
 - Counties were used to calculate the composite scores because PCA requires a minimum of 500 units for analysis

CFSR Data Composites

"The Building Blocks"



Small Counties Rolled-up as Needed

- The Administration for Children and Families combined counties together as needed so that each unit of analysis included at least 50 children served by the foster care system during the period under review.
- The roll up assignments are completed and will not change.
- States will be able to identify counties that were rolled up into county groups.

How Composite Scores are Calculated

- From AFCARS data, the 15 individual permanency measures are calculated by county or county group.
- The standardized scores are calculated.
- The standardized scores and weighting from the PCA are used to compute the component scores.
- The component scores are averaged to produce the un-weighted county composite scores.

How Composite Scores are Calculated

(continued)




- The un-weighted county composite scores are multiplied by the number of children in counties to compute the weighted county composite score.
- The weighted composites are summed and then divided by the total number of children to produce the State composite.
- The State composite is transformed to a scaled State composite within a range of 50-150.

More detailed information on how composites are calculated is available from the NRC-CWDT.

The national standard for each of the composites was calculated using 2004 data and will not change during Round 2 of the CFSR.

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Calculating Each Measure

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Composite 1: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification*

National Standard = 122.6 or higher




*includes discharges to "reunification" and "living with other relative"

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Composite 1

Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification

Component A - Timeliness of Reunification

- ☉ All measures in this component:
 - Only include children who remained in care for 8 days or longer (8-day rule).
 - Include the "trial home visit adjustment." This is applicable to children who were discharged from care to "Reunification" or "Live with Relative" whose final placement was "Trial Home Visit" that lasted at least 30 days. In these instances, time in care is defined as the number of days between the latest removal and the date of the child's placement in the trial home visit, plus 30 days.

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Composite 1
Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification
Component A – Timeliness of Reunification

- **Measure 1:** Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification in the target 12-month period, what percent were reunified in less than 12 months from the date of latest removal from home?
- **Measure 2:** Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification in the target 12-month period, what was the median length of stay (in months) from the date of the latest removal from home until the date of discharge to reunification?
- **Measure 3:** Of all children who entered foster care for the first time in the 6-month period just prior to the target 12-month period, what percent were discharged from foster care to reunification in less than 12 months from the date of latest removal from home?

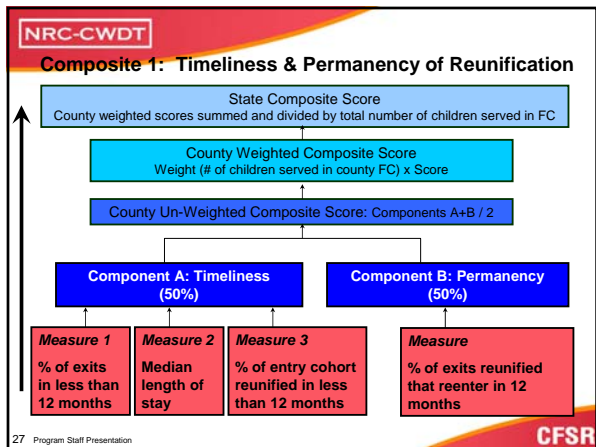
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Composite 1
Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification
Component B – Permanency of Reunification

- **Measure 1:** Of all children who were discharged from foster care to reunification in the 12-month period prior to the target 12-month period, what percent re-entered foster care in less than 12 months from the date of discharge?

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**Composite 2
Timeliness of Adoptions**

Component B – Progress toward adoption for children who have been in care for 17 months or longer

- **Measure 1:** Of all children in foster care on the first day of the 12-month target period who were in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer, what percent were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the last day of the 12 month target period? (denominator excludes children who, by last day of the target period, are discharged to reunification, live with relative or guardianship)
- **Measure 2:** Of all children in foster care on the first day of the 12-month target period who were in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer, and were not legally free for adoption prior to that day, what percent became legally free for adoption during the first 6-months of the 12-month target period? (denominator excludes children who, during the 6 month period, are discharged to reunification, live with relative or guardianship)

**Composite 2
Timeliness of Adoptions**

Component C – Timeliness of adoptions for children who are legally free for adoption

Measure: Of all children who became legally free for adoption during the 12 months prior to the target 12-month period, what percent were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption in less than 12 months from the date of becoming legally free?

Timeliness of Adoptions

MEASURE	National Median	National 25 th / 75 th Percentile
% exiting to adoption in 24 months from most recent entry	26.8%	36.6% (75 th Percentile)
Median length of stay to adoption. Lower score is preferable in this measure	32.4 months	27.3 months (25 th Percentile)
% Finalized adoption in 1 yr after 17 months in care	20.2%	22.7% (75 th Percentile)
% Became legally free for adoption in 6 months after 17 months in care	8.8%	10.9% (75 th Percentile)
% Adopted within 12 months of becoming legally free	45.8%	53.7% (75 th Percentile)

National Standards for composites are established at the 75th percentile as adjusted for sampling error. There are no standards for individual measures. For measures where a higher score is preferable, the 75th percentile is provided; for measures where a lower score is preferable, the 25th percentile is provided.

Composite 3: Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time

National Standard = 121.7 or higher



Composite 3 Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care **Component A: Achieving permanency for children in foster care for extended periods of time**

- **Measure 1:** Of all children who were in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the 12-month target period, what percent were discharged to a permanent home by the last day of the 12-month period and prior to their 18th birthday? (discharge reason of adoption, reunification, living with other relative, or guardianship)
- **Measure 2:** Of all children who were discharged from foster care during the 12-month target period, and who were legally free for adoption (i.e., there is a parental rights termination date for both parents) at the time of discharge, what percent were discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18th birthday?

Composite 3 Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care **Component B – Children growing up in foster care**

Measure: Of all children who either (1) were, prior to age 18, discharged from foster care during the 12-month target period with a discharge reason of emancipation, or (2) reached their 18th birthday while in foster care but had not yet been discharged from foster care, what percent were in foster care for 3 years or longer?

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Achieving Permanency for Children in Foster Care

MEASURE	National Median	National 25 th / 75 th Percentile
% in care for 24 months or longer exiting to permanent home in 12 months (less than 18 years old)	25.0%	29.1% (75 th Percentile)
% legally free children exiting to a permanent home before age 18	96.8%	98.0% (75 th Percentile)
% exiting to emancipation in care for 3 years or more	47.8%	37.5% (25 th Percentile)

Lower score is preferable in this measure

National Standards for composites are established at the 75th percentile as adjusted for sampling error. There are no standards for individual measures. For measures where a higher score is preferable, the 75th percentile is provided; for measures where a lower score is preferable, the 25th percentile is provided.

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Composite 4: Placement Stability

National Standard = 101.5 or higher



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Composite 4 Placement Stability (Composite 4 has no components)

- **Measure 1:** Of all children who were served in foster care during the 12-month target period, and who were in foster care for at least 8 days but less than 12 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings?
- **Measure 2:** Of all children who were served in foster care during the 12-month target period, and who were in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings?
- **Measure 3:** Of all children who were served in foster care during the 12-month target period, and who were in foster care for at least 24 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings?

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