

# Child Welfare Outcomes 2010–2013: Report to Congress Executive Summary



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*Child Welfare Outcomes  
2010–2013* includes:

- ❖ State data pages with:
  - Contextual data
  - Performance on original outcome measures
  - Performance on the CFSR composite measures
  - A state comment (if provided)
- ❖ A discussion of data issues and key findings of the data analyses across states

The Child Welfare Outcomes Report is created by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to meet requirements of section 203(a) of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA).<sup>1</sup> ASFA created section 479A of the Social Security Act (the Act) to require HHS to issue an annual report that assesses state performance in operating child protection and child welfare programs under titles IV-B and IV-E of the Act.<sup>2</sup> *Child Welfare Outcomes 1998* was the first report created in the Child Welfare Outcomes series of reports. The present report, *Child Welfare Outcomes 2010–2013*, is the fourteenth report since the series' inception.

The Child Welfare Outcomes Report provides information on national performance as well as the performance of individual states in seven outcome categories.<sup>3</sup> Prior to the first report, HHS identified these outcomes in close consultation with state and local child welfare agency administrators, child advocacy organizations, child welfare researchers, state legislators, and other experts in the child welfare field. The outcomes reflect a consensus of these groups regarding important performance objectives for child welfare practice. The seven national outcomes established by HHS through this consultation process are:

**SAFETY**  
**PERMANENCY**  
**WELL-BEING**



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families  
Children's Bureau



**Outcome 1:** Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

**Outcome 2:** Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

**Outcome 3:** Increase permanency for children in foster care

**Outcome 4:** Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing reentry

**During 2013, approximately 679,000 children were confirmed to be victims of maltreatment.**

**Outcome 5:** Reduce time in foster care to adoption

**Outcome 6:** Increase placement stability

**Outcome 7:** Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions

- Between 2010 and 2013, some racial/ethnic groups had increases in their victim rates, others saw decreases, and some remained relatively stable. The most notable decrease in child victim rate was for the Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander group, in which the victim rate decreased by over 2.0 children per 1,000 between 2010 and 2013. The most notable child victim rate increases occurred within the American Indian/Alaska Native group and for those children reported as having “two or more races.” For both of these groups, victim rates increased by over 1.0 child per 1,000 between 2010 and 2013.

### Foster care information overview

- Nationally, there were approximately 402,000 children in foster care on the last day of 2013. During that year, an estimated 255,000 children entered foster care, and 234,000 children exited foster care. Among the states, the foster care entry rate ranged from 1.3 children per 1,000 to 8.6 children per 1,000 in a state’s population.<sup>9</sup>
- Between 2002 and 2013, the number of children in care on the last day of the FY decreased by 23.3 percent, from 524,000 to 402,000.<sup>10</sup>
- The rates of children in foster care in 2013 varied substantially across racial/ethnic groups. American Indian/Alaska Native children had the highest rate of children in care, with 13.9 per 1,000 children in that racial/ethnic group’s overall child population. Asian children had the lowest rate, with 0.6 in care per 1,000 Asian children in the general child population.
- Some racial/ethnic groups experienced significant shifts over time in their rates of children in foster care. Most notably, the rate of Black children in care decreased from 11.3 per 1,000 in 2010 to 9.7 per 1,000 in 2013 in the racial ethnic group’s overall population, and the rate of American Indian/Alaska Native children in care increased from 12.2 to 13.9 per 1,000 between 2010 and 2013.
- Nationally, 234,000 children exited foster care in 2013. Of these children, 205,000 (88 percent) were discharged to a permanent home (i.e., were discharged to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship).

In addition to reporting on state performance in these outcome categories, this report also includes data on contextual factors and findings of analyses conducted across states. Data for most of the measures in this report come from two national child welfare-related data systems—the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS).

## CONTEXTUAL FACTORS

The Child Welfare Outcomes Report presents data on child welfare-related contextual factors relevant to understanding and interpreting state performance on the outcome measures. Below is a summary of fiscal year (FY) 2013 data for these contextual factors.<sup>4</sup>

### Characteristics of child victims<sup>5</sup>

- During 2013, approximately 679,000 children were confirmed to be victims of maltreatment.<sup>6</sup> The overall national child victim rate was 9.1 child victims per 1,000 children in the population.<sup>7</sup> State child victim rates varied dramatically, ranging from 1.2 child victims per 1,000 children to 19.7 child victims per 1,000 children.<sup>8</sup>
- Child victim rates in 2013 varied rather substantially across racial/ethnic groups. Black children had the highest rates of victimization at 14.3 victims per 1,000 children in that racial group’s overall child population. Asian children had the lowest rates, with 1.7 victims per 1,000 Asian children in the population.

**Longer range AFCARS data show that, between FY 2002 and 2013, the number of children in care on the last day of the FY decreased by 23.3 percent, from 524,000 to 402,000.**

## STATE PERFORMANCE ON OUTCOME MEASURES

This report includes a synopsis of key findings on the 12 measures established to assess performance on the seven national outcomes identified above, in addition to data on the four permanency composites (composed of 15 individual measures) used as part of the second round of the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs). These measures are described in detail in appendix B. Most of the outcome measures also are listed in tables 1 and 2 of this executive summary. Individual measures that are part of the CFSR Round 2 composite measures are preceded by a “C” throughout this report to distinguish them from the original measures. Note that Round 3 of the CFSRs will begin in 2015, and new measures will be incorporated into those reviews. However, at the time of the preparation of this report, those data were not yet available.<sup>11</sup>

All national medians for outcome measures referenced in this executive summary include only those states for which adequate data are available for 2010 through 2013. Tables of these medians can be found at the end of this executive summary.<sup>12</sup>

Change in state performance over time is assessed by calculating a percent change in performance on the measures.<sup>13</sup> Consistent with HHS’s historical approach to the analyses in these reports, a percent change of 5.0 or greater in either direction (i.e., positive or negative) is used as a general indicator that meaningful change in performance on the outcome measures occurred. Therefore, for purposes of the analyses presented in this report, if the percent change in performance from 2010 to 2013 was less than 5.0 in either direction, the determination is that there was “no change” in performance.

### Outcome 1: Reduce recurrence of child abuse and/or neglect

- In 2013, state performance varied considerably with regard to the percentage of child victims experiencing a recurrence of child maltreatment within a six-month period (measure 1.1) (range = 0.8 to 12.9 percent; median = 5.4 percent).
- States with higher victim rates tended to have higher maltreatment recurrence rates within a six-month period (Pearson’s  $r=.57$ ).<sup>14</sup> In addition, consistent with previous reports, states with a

relatively high percentage of children who were victims of neglect (as opposed to other forms of maltreatment) also had some tendency to have a relatively high percentage of maltreatment recurrence within a six-month period (Pearson’s  $r=.43$ ).

- Performance with regard to recurrence of child maltreatment (measure 1.1) declined between 2010 and 2013. The median went from 5.0 percent in 2010 to 5.4 percent in 2013, an 8.0 percent increase (note that a lower percentage is desirable for this measure). Furthermore, a slightly higher number of states demonstrated a decline in performance on this measure (23 states) than showed an improvement in performance (22 states).

### Outcome 2: Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care

- During 2013, state performance regarding the maltreatment of children while in foster care (measure 2.1) ranged from 0.00 to 1.34 percent, with a median of 0.35 percent.
  - Between 2010 and 2013, national performance fluctuated with regard to the maltreatment of children in foster care (measure 2.1). While 27 states declined in performance between 2010 and 2013, 16 improved. Though the national median exhibited a slight overall increase from .33 in 2010 to .34 in 2013, it declined between 2010 and 2012, and the percent change was not significant (3.0 percent increase).

**States with higher child victim rates also tend to have higher maltreatment recurrence rates.**

### Outcome 3: Increase permanency for children in foster care

- In 2013, states were fairly successful in achieving a permanent home for all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1, median = 88.8 percent). However, states were less successful in achieving permanent homes for children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2, median = 79.3 percent), and even less successful in finding permanent homes for children exiting foster care who entered care when they were older than age 12 (measure 3.3, median = 66.3 percent).
- For children who had been in foster care for long periods of time (measure C3.1), defined as 24 months or longer, only 32.9 percent (median) of these children had permanent homes by the end of 2013. Between 2010 and 2013, 32 states exhibited an improvement in performance, and the national

median for this measure increased from 29.8 percent to 32.8 percent (a 10.1 percent change).

- States that were generally successful in achieving permanency for children at the time of exit from foster care (measure 3.1) also were successful in achieving permanency for children who are in foster care for long periods of time (measure C3.1). This is demonstrated by the fact that there is a moderate positive correlation (Pearson's  $r=.56$ ) between these two measures in 2013.

**States that were successful in achieving permanency for children at the time of exit from foster care also were successful in achieving permanency for children who are in care for long periods of time (Pearson's  $r=.56$ ).**

In many states, a considerable percentage of children who were emancipated from foster care in 2013 were in foster care for long periods of time before they were emancipated (measures 3.4 and C3.3). In about one-half of the states, 22.1 percent or more of the children emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4), and 38.6 percent or more of the children emancipated from foster care, or who turned age 18 while in care, were in care for 3 years or longer (measure C3.3). However, it is encouraging to note that between 2010 and 2013, 31 states showed improved performance on measure 3.4, and 32 states showed improvement on measure C3.3.

#### Outcome 4: Reduce time in foster care to reunification without increasing reentry

The 2013 data suggest that, in many states, a majority of children discharged to reunification were reunified in a timely manner. Across states, the median percentage of reunifications occurring in less than 12 months was between 67.2 and 70.0 percent (measures 4.1 and C1.1). The median length of stay in foster care for reunified children was 7.9 months (measure C1.2).

- Between 2010 and 2013, there were overall declines in performance on nearly all of the reunification measures. While two measures, C1.1 and C1.4, showed slight improvements in their national medians over time, more states declined than improved in performance on all five of the reunification measures.
- Between 2010 and 2013, there was a significant decline in performance in the percentage of reunifications occurring in less than 12 months

**More states declined than improved in performance on all five of the reunification measures contained in the report.**

of the child's entry into foster care for children entering care for the first time (measure C1.3). For this measure, the national median dropped from 42.1 percent in 2010 to 37.2 percent in 2013 (an 11.6 percent decrease). Furthermore, 24 states declined in performance on this measure, while only 8 improved during this period.

- Overall, states with a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were age 12 or older at the time of entry also had a relatively high percentage of children reentering foster care (measure C1.4) (Pearson's  $r=.53$ ).
- Overall, states with relatively high foster care entry rates (measure C1.4) also had relatively high percentages of reunifications occurring in less than 12 months (measure C1.1) (Pearson's  $r=.41$ ).

#### Outcome 5: Reduce time in foster care to adoption

In 2013, the percentage of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months from a child's entry into foster care was fairly low (measure C2.1, median = 35.5 percent). However, it is encouraging to note that, between 2010 and 2013, 31 states improved in their performance on this measure.

- Thirty-three states showed improvement in the percentage of children in foster care for 17 months or longer on the first day of the year who became legally free for adoption in the first six months of the year (measure C2.4). The median for this measure increased from 11.8 percent in 2010 to 14.3 percent in 2013, a 21.2 percent change.
- Thirty-one states showed improved performance in the percentage of children in foster care for 17 months or longer on the first day of the year who were adopted by the end of the year (measure C2.3). Consistent with this finding, the national median for this measure increased from 24.9 percent in 2010 to 27.9 percent in 2013 (a 12.0 percent change).

#### Outcome 6: Increase placement stability

- In this report, adequate placement stability is defined as limiting the number of placement



settings for a child to no more than two for a single foster care episode. Among children with less than 12 months of time spent in foster care, the majority remained in stable placements during that time, having no more than two placements settings (median = 85.6 percent in 2013).

- The proportions of children who moved placement settings more than once increased with more time spent in foster care. The median across states was 64.8 percent for children who have been in foster care between 12 to 24 months, and 34.8 percent for children who have been in foster care for 24 months or longer.
- For children in care between 12 and 24 months, the percentage of children experiencing two or fewer placement settings (measure 6.1b) increased from 61.4 percent in 2010 to 64.8 percent in 2013 (a 5.5 percent increase). For this measure, 19 states improved in performance while only 4 declined.
- There was an even greater improvement in performance on measure 6.1c, the percentage of children in care for 24 months or longer who experienced two or fewer placement settings. For this measure, the median increased from 32.0 in 2010 to 34.7 in 2013, an 8.4 percent increase. Furthermore, 32 states demonstrated improvement on this measure, while only 9 declined in performance.

**The 2013 data indicate that achieving adoptions in less than 24 months still remains a challenge for all but a few states.**

### **Outcome 7: Reduce placements of young children in group homes or institutions**

- In about one-half of the states, 4.0 percent or less of children entering foster care under the age of 12 were placed in group homes or institutions in 2013. Data also indicate that there were only two states where the percentage of young children placed in group homes or institutions was above 10 percent.<sup>15</sup>
- Previous reports have shown significant improvements over time on measure 7.1, and this trend continued between 2010 and 2013 when the median decreased from 4.5 to 4.0 percent (an 11.1 percent decrease). During the 4-year span, 26 states showed improved performance on this measure, and 12 declined in performance.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION**

In reviewing the key findings in all seven outcome areas, it is clear that there are both areas of strength and areas in need of improvement with regard to achieving positive outcomes for children who come into contact with state child welfare systems. All of these areas deserve additional investigation in order to gain further understanding and move the child welfare field forward. Some areas needing additional attention are shown below. Note that the AFCARS data are too limited to provide insight into many of these issues, but they are presented here for the purpose of encouraging the field to further review and address the issues. These areas include the following:

- While the overall national child victim rate continues to decline, victimization rates for American Indian/Alaska Native children and for those reported as having “two or more races” increased between 2010 and 2013. Similarly, though the overall rates of children in foster care are dropping, the rate of American Indian/Alaska Native children in care has increased. Practitioners serving these populations will want to be aware of the varying shifts in these rates across different race/ethnicity groups.
- States continue to experience challenges finding permanent homes for children with disabilities and for children who entered foster care when they were older than age 12. Agencies should review their data and current practices to consider what additional barriers may be preventing these older youth and children with disabilities from being placed into permanent homes.
- States that were successful in achieving permanency for children at the time of exit from foster care also were successful in achieving permanency for children who were in foster care for long periods of time. Evaluating and understanding the practices of successful states could provide useful information to states that are working to improve performance in these areas.
- Between 2010 and 2013, there were overall declines in performance on nearly all of the measures related to timeliness of reunification without increasing

reentry. It is important to note that there may be a variety of factors that contribute to lower performance on these measures, and these factors may vary considerably between states. However, for those states that struggle in this area, a careful review of specific barriers would be beneficial.

- A consistent finding in the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports is that many states with a relatively high percentage of foster care reentries also had a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were adolescents (age 12 or older). The challenges that these older children present to state child welfare systems with regard to meeting the reunification needs of the children and their families may be quite different from those with younger children and their families. Consequently, states with large numbers of older children in their foster care populations would benefit from developing strategies to target the needs of these individuals.

- Overall, national performance on timeliness of adoptions has improved, but it continues to be a challenge for most states. States should continue to monitor performance on measures related to the timeliness of adoption and work to improve upon their efforts to ensure that children are placed quickly in secure, caring, and safe environments.
- The percentage of young children placed in group homes or institutions has continued to decline, but there are a few states that still struggle in this area. It would be useful to determine what specific strategies may have contributed to these improvements so that these practices could be shared with those states looking for additional assistance.

Data and analysis presented throughout the full Child Welfare Outcomes Report offer additional details regarding overall national performance. In addition, State Data Pages provide a profile of individual state performance between 2010 and 2013.

<sup>1</sup> See appendix A in the full report for the specifications of section 479A of the Social Security Act, as created by the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997. The group within HHS that is responsible for this report is the Children’s Bureau, within the Administration for Children and Families.

<sup>2</sup> The title IV-E agency is the state agency authorized to use federal title IV-E funds to support foster care, adoption assistance, and kinship guardianship assistance. Title IV-E has been amended on several occasions to provide federal funding to support foster care, adoption, and kinship guardian assistance. Title IV-B provides preventative and protective services for children. For a more detailed understanding of the history and changes over time, please see <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/title-iv-e-legislation-policy>.

<sup>3</sup> In this report, the designation of “state” includes the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Therefore, the report provides information on a total of 52 states, depending on the number of states that submitted adequate data for a particular measure.

<sup>4</sup> Unless otherwise specified, the data used in this report are for federal fiscal year 2013 (October 1, 2012–September 30, 2013).

<sup>5</sup> This report uses a unique count for child victims, which tallies a child only once regardless of the number of times he or she was found to be a victim during the reporting year.

<sup>6</sup> For the purposes of this report, a victim is a child for whom the state determined at least one maltreatment was substantiated or indicated; and a disposition of substantiated, indicated, or “alternative response victim” was assigned for a child in a specific report. This includes a child who died, and the death was confirmed to be the result of child abuse and neglect. A child may be a victim in one report and a nonvictim in another report. It is important to note that the Child Welfare Outcomes Report uses the total reported number of child victims as opposed to a national estimate of child victims, which often is reported in Child Maltreatment. The total number of victims reported in this report is rounded to the nearest 1,000.

<sup>7</sup> The national child victim rate is calculated by dividing the total number of child victims (678,932) by the child population for all states that submitted NCANDS data (74,399,940), and multiplying by 1,000. This calculation includes children under the age of 18.

<sup>8</sup> A state’s rate of child victims is defined as the number of child victims reported to NCANDS per 1,000 children in the state’s population.

<sup>9</sup> Rate of entry is calculated by dividing the total number of children entering foster care in a state by the total child population in that state and multiplying by 1,000 [(N entering FC/child population) x 1,000].

<sup>10</sup> For more information, see *Trends in Foster Care and Adoption—FY 2002–FY 2013* on the Children’s Bureau website at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/trends-in-foster-care-and-adoption>. The data used in *Trends in Foster Care and Adoption—FY 2002–FY 2013* were updated as of July 2014.

<sup>11</sup> The CFRs are periodic reviews of state child welfare delivery systems that assess conformity with federal child welfare requirements and assist states in helping children and families achieve positive outcomes. Complete and up-to-date information on the CFR process is provided on the Children’s Bureau website at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/monitoring/child-family-services-reviews>.

<sup>12</sup> In the Child Welfare Outcomes Report, two separate national medians are computed for each measure for 2013. In the 2013 Range of State Performance tables, national medians are calculated using data from all states that had adequate data available for 2013 only. However, when looking at performance over time, a separate national median is calculated for 2013 that includes only data from the states that had adequate data available for all the relevant fiscal years (2010 through 2013). This is done to provide a more accurate calculation of change over time. Therefore, the number of states (N) included in each of these calculations may vary, and these two medians may vary slightly.

<sup>13</sup> Percent change is calculated by subtracting “old” data from “new” data, dividing that result by old data, and multiplying it by 100. For example, maltreatment recurrence was 5.0 percent in 2010 and 5.4 percent in 2013, so the formula is [(5.4–5.0)/5.0]x100=8.0 percent increase.

<sup>14</sup> The strength of relationships in the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports is assessed using correlation coefficients, specifically Pearson’s *r*, which can range in value from –1 to +1.

<sup>15</sup> The two states were Arkansas and South Carolina.

**Table 1. Median State Performance, 2010–2013  
Original Outcome Measures**

Outcome Measures <sup>16</sup>	Median Performance by Year			
	2010	2011	2012	2013
*Measure 1.1: Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first six months of the year, what percentage had another substantiated or indicated report within a six-month period? (N=51 states)	5.0%	5.2%	5.1%	5.4%
*Measure 2.1: Of all children who were in foster care during the year, what percentage were the subject of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member? (N=48 states)	.33%	.29%	.28%	.34%
Measure 3.1: Of all children who exited foster care during the year, what percentage left to either reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship (i.e., were discharged to a permanent home)? (N=47 states)	86.3%	87.2%	87.4%	89.1%
Measure 3.2: Of all children who exited foster care during the year and were identified as having a diagnosed disability, what percentage left to either reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship (i.e., were discharged to a permanent home)? (N=42 states)	76.0%	76.8%	77.8%	78.7%
Measure 3.3: Of all children who exited foster care during the year and were older than age 12 at the time of their most recent entry into care, what percentage left either to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship (i.e., were discharged to a permanent home)? (N=47 states)	65.2%	65.1%	64.8%	65.8%
*Measure 3.4: Of all children exiting foster care in the year to emancipation, what percentage were age 12 or younger at the time of entry into care? (N=47 states)	24.5%	25.4%	23.5%	22.6%
Measure 4.1: Of all children reunified with their parents or caretakers at the time of discharge from foster care during the year, what percentage were reunified in less than 12 months from the time of entry into foster care? (N=47 states)	69.1%	68.3%	65.5%	65.8%
Measure 5.1a: Of all children discharged from care during the year to a finalized adoption, what percentage were discharged in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal from home? (N=47 states)	4.0%	3.7%	4.4%	3.2%
Measure 6.1a: Of all children served in foster care during the year who were in care for less than 12 months, what percentage had no more than two placement settings? (N=47 states)	85.2%	85.7%	85.1%	85.1%
Measure 6.1b: Of all children served in foster care during the year who were in foster care for at least 12 months but less than 24 months, what percentage had no more than two placement settings? (N=47 states)	61.4%	62.9%	64.2%	64.8%
Measure 6.1c: Of all children served in foster care during the year who were in foster care for at least 24 months, what percentage had no more than two placement settings? (N=47 states)	32.0%	32.8%	34.2%	34.7%
*Measure 7.1: Of all children who entered foster care during the year and were age 12 or younger at the time of their most recent placement, what percentage were placed in a group home or institution? (N=47 states)	4.5%	4.4%	4.5%	4.0%

\* For these measures, a lower number indicates better performance.

<sup>16</sup> Data for this table include all states for which adequate data are available.

Table 2. Median State Performance, 2010–2013  
Composite Measures

Composite Measures <sup>17</sup>	Median Performance by Year			
	2010	2011	2012	2013
Measure C1.1: Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification during the year who had been in care for eight days or longer, what percentage were reunified in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal from home? (Includes trial home visit adjustment) (N=47 states)	67.9%	70.6%	68.7%	69.8%
*Measure C1.2: Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification during the year who had been in care for eight days or longer, 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? (Includes trial home visit adjustment) (N=47 states)	7.5 months	7.5 months	8.0 months	7.9 months
Measure C1.3: Of all children who entered foster care for the first time in the six-month period just prior to the year shown, and who remained in care for eight days or longer, what percentage were discharged from foster care to reunification in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal from home? (Includes trial home visit adjustment) (N=47 states)	42.1%	41.2%	38.6%	37.2%
Measure C1.4: Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification in the 12-month period prior to the year shown, what percentage reentered care in less than 12 months from the date of discharge? (N=47 states)	12.6%	11.8%	11.8%	11.8%
Measure C2.1: Of all children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during the year, what percentage were discharged in less than 24 months from the date of the latest removal from home? (N=47 states) <sup>18</sup>	32.6%	33.0%	32.6%	34.8%
*Measure C2.2: Of all children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during the year, what was the median length of stay in care (in months) from the date of latest removal from home to the date of discharge to adoption? (N=47 states)	29.6 months	29.4 months	29.0 months	28.3 months
Measure C2.3: Of all children in foster care on the first day of the year who were in care for 17 continuous months or longer, what percentage was discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption by the last day of the year? (N=47 states) <sup>19</sup>	24.9%	25.4%	29.0%	27.9%
Measure C2.4: Of all children in foster care on the first day of the year who were in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer, and who were not legally free for adoption prior to that day, what percentage became legally free for adoption during the first six months of the year? (N=47 states) <sup>20</sup>	11.8%	13.3%	13.6%	14.3%
Measure C2.5: Of all children who became legally free for adoption in the 12-month period prior to the year shown, what percentage were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption in less than 12 months from the date of becoming legally free? (N=47 states)	58.4%	59.8%	63.0%	62.9%
Measure C3.1: Of all children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the year, what percentage were discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18th birthday and by the end of the year? (N=47 states)	29.8%	32.0%	33.1%	32.8%
Measure C3.2: Of all children who were discharged from foster care during the year, and who were legally free for adoption at the time of discharge, what percentage were discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18th birthday? (N=47 states) <sup>21</sup>	94.9%	94.3%	95.7%	96.0%
*Measure C3.3: Of all children who, during the year shown, either (1) were discharged from foster care prior to age 18 with a discharge reason of emancipation, or (2) reached their 18th birthday while in foster care, what percentage were in foster care for three years or longer? (N=47 states)	44.1%	43.4%	41.9%	38.7%

<sup>17</sup> Data for this table include all states for which adequate data are available. Individual measures developed for Composite 4: Placement stability are not shown in this table because the measures are nearly identical to the original measures of placement stability incorporated into measure 6.1 (see table 1).

<sup>18</sup> Although measure C2.1 is calculated exactly the same way as original measure 5.1b, the results can vary slightly because the source files are different for the composite measures. In the source files for measure C2.1, all children are excluded who were not age 17 for at least 1 day. No such exclusion exists for measure 5.1b. In addition, composites are calculated at the county level and then are aggregated to the state level, which also could influence slightly performance on C2.1 compared to 5.1b.

<sup>19</sup> The denominator for this measure excludes children who, by the last day of the year, were discharged from foster care with a discharge reason of reunification with parents or primary caretakers, living with relatives, or guardianship.

<sup>20</sup> A child is considered to be “legally free” for adoption if there is a date for parental rights termination reported to AFCARS for both mother and father. Also, the denominator for this measure excludes children who, during the first 6 months of the year, were discharged from foster care with a discharge reason of reunification with parents or primary caretakers, living with other relatives, or guardianship.

<sup>21</sup> A child is considered to be “legally free” for adoption if there is a date for the parental rights termination reported to AFCARS for both mother and father.



## CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES REPORT DATA SITE

The Child Welfare Outcomes Report Data Site provides users with the latest data from the state Data Pages of the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports and allows for significantly faster release of these data than is possible via the publication of the full report. The site features the latest Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) data that have been reviewed and approved by the states. Data updates to the site occur annually.

### Take advantage of the data site's increased capabilities

With the data site, you have the ability to:

- View one state's data or simultaneously compare data outputs for multiple states
- Create data outputs by ACF Region
- Isolate a specific state's context (including demographic) data and outcome variables
- Compare data across years or view data from one particular year
- Choose from a variety of data display formats, including map, graph, or table
- Get instant access to the state data tables from the full Reports
- Download customized data outputs in Excel or printer-friendly formats
- View two distinct breakdowns of the race and ethnicity data

The Child Welfare Outcomes Report Data Site can be accessed at [www.cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/data](http://www.cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/data).

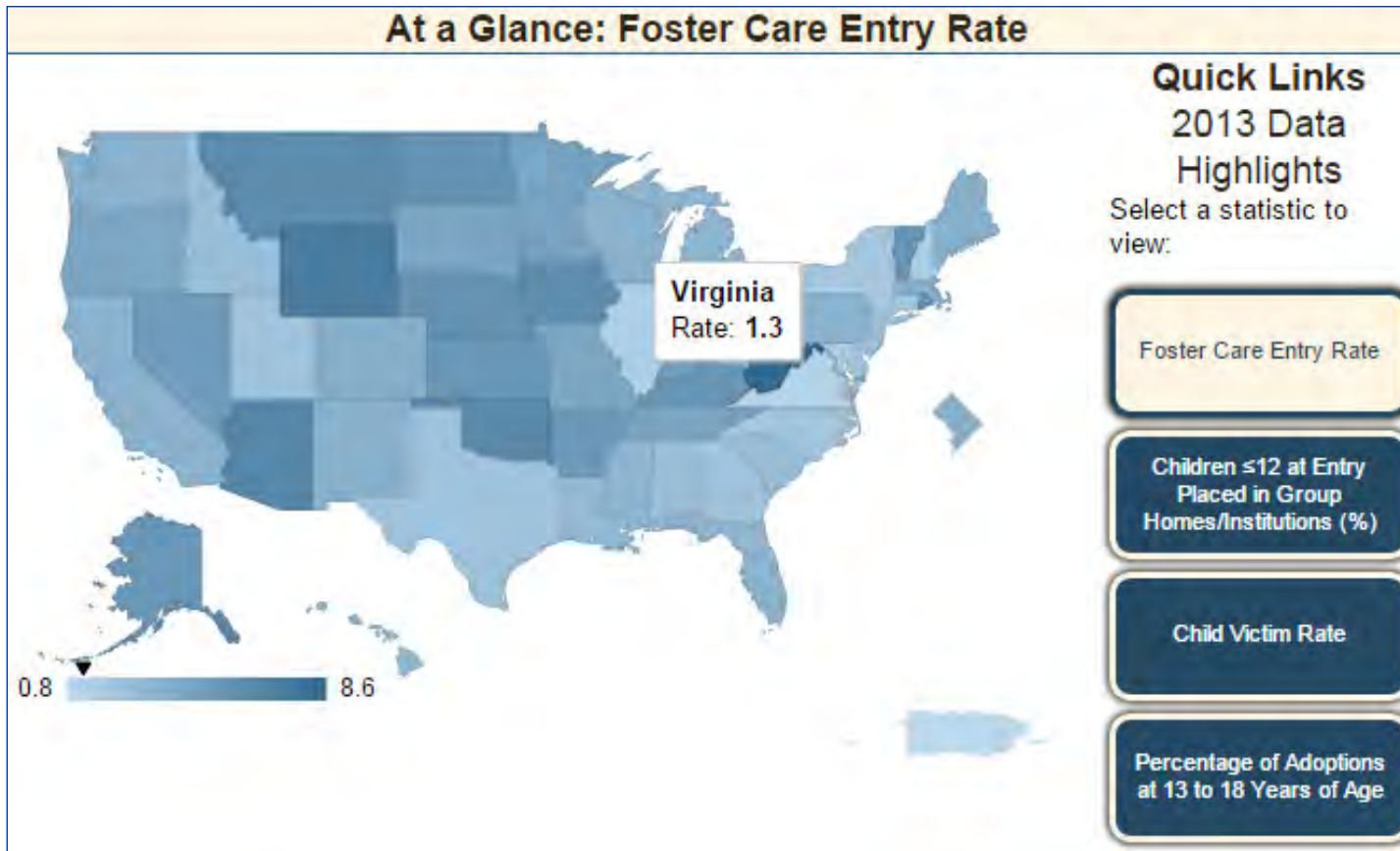
The screenshot shows the 'Custom Report Builder' interface. It is divided into two main sections. The first section, '1 Choose State(s) or Region(s) to View', contains a dropdown menu for 'Add a State...', a link for 'Multi-State Quick Select', another dropdown for 'ACF Region...', and a link for 'What are ACF Regions?'. To the right of these options is a box labeled 'Selected States:' which currently contains the word 'None'. The second section, '2 Choose Data to View', features a list of data categories with expandable icons (plus signs) and information icons (i in a circle). The categories listed are: Demographics, Maltreatment, Foster Care, Permanency/Adoption, Context Data, Outcomes Data, Composite Measures, Race/Ethnicity Data, and Age Group Data.

### The *Custom Report Builder* allows you to adapt your data outputs to fit your research needs

The *Custom Report Builder* gives you the capability of viewing data from a specific state, comparing data across states of your choosing, and even comparing data from states within a particular ACF Region. After the state(s) or region(s) is selected, you can choose the variables for viewing. Use the *Custom Report Builder's* drop-down data selection menu to change states and/or data elements. Once the initial outputs are created, you can isolate specific data years.

**Use *Quick Links* to view data on key child welfare indicators**

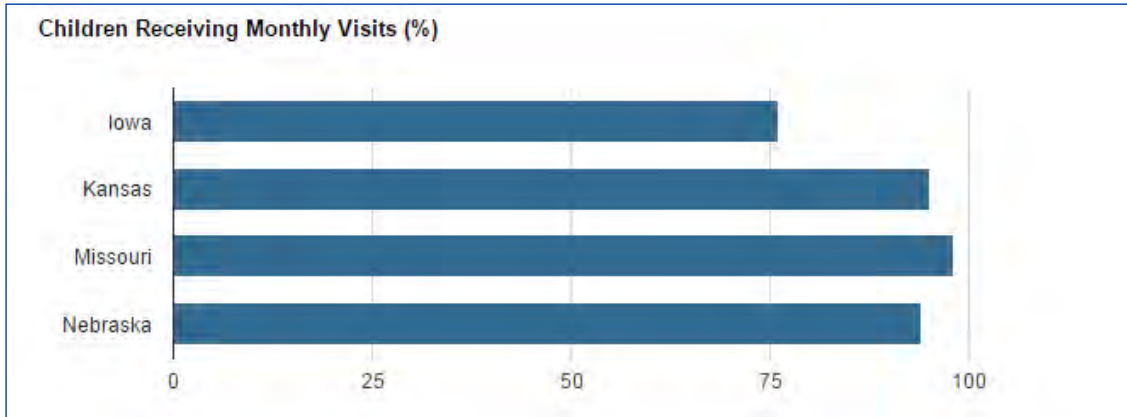
*Quick Links*, on the site homepage, features indicators of particular importance in the modern child welfare climate. See the example below for the types of *Quick Links* featured on the site and the kind of information available when selecting a particular *Quick Link* option (in this case, Foster Care Entry Rate).



## Choose from a variety of data output formats for presenting your data

You can choose to view your data in table, graph, or map format.

The graph and map options are particularly useful when viewing data from multiple states, as these formats provide good visual representations for making comparisons.



The table and graph options are ideal for looking at a state's data fluctuations over time.

1.1 Recurrence of Maltreatment Within 6 Months (%)				
Hawaii: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013				
	2010	2011	2012	2013
Children Without a Recurrence	97.6	97.6	98.1	98.9
Children With One or More Recurrences	2.4	2.4	1.9	1.1
Number	1,018	674	727	647

[Export table to Excel](#)  
[Print this report](#)

For questions or more information about the Child Welfare Outcomes Report Data Site, please contact the Children's Bureau: [CBDataTeam@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:CBDataTeam@acf.hhs.gov)

# Child Welfare Outcomes 2010–2013: Report to Congress

## Executive Summary



### VISIT THE CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES DATA SITE

The Child Welfare Outcomes Report Data Site provides users with the latest data from the State Data Pages of the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports. CWO data for 2010 through 2013 are currently available. Features of the site include:

- The latest AFCARS and NCANDS data
- A custom report builder
- *Quick Links* to important indicators
- Flexible data output formats

Visit the data website: <http://www.cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/data>

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Administration for Children and Families  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families  
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