Child Welfare Outcomes 2006–2009: Report to Congress

Executive Summary

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Federal data reporting systems offer critical information to the process of improving outcomes for children and families. For over 10 years, the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports to Congress have played a key role in making this important data more available and accessible. Created by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (the Department), the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports provide information on national and State performance in seven outcome categories, in addition to data on child welfare-related contextual factors and findings of analyses conducted across States.[1]

The Child Welfare Outcomes Reports were developed to meet requirements of section 203(a) of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA).[2] *Child Welfare Outcomes 1998* was the first report created in the Child Welfare Outcomes series of reports. The present report, *Child Welfare Outcomes 2006–2009*, is the tenth report since the series' inception.

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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 the FY 2009 data for these contextual factors.[3]

Characteristics of child victims

- In 2009, 763,000 children were confirmed to be victims of maltreatment.[4] The overall national confirmed child victim rate was 10.1 child victims per 1,000 children in the population.[5] State confirmed child victim rates varied dramatically, ranging from 1.5 child victims per 1,000 children to 29.9 child victims per 1,000 children.[6]

- The percentage of child victims of a particular race/ethnicity varied among States. In 2009, there were many States in which the percentage of minority race/ethnicity child victims was disproportionate to the percentage of these children in the State population.[7] Overrepresentation was found for Black child victims (22 States), Alaska Native/American Indian child victims (14 States), and Hispanic child victims (4 States).

Foster care information overview

- Nationally, there were approximately 435,000 children in foster care on the last day of FY 2009. During that year, an estimated 249,000 children entered foster care, and 265,000 children exited foster care. Among the States, the foster care entry rate ranged from 1.4 children per 1,000 to 8.6 children per 1,000 in a State's population.[8]

- Between FY 2002 and 2009, the number of children in care on the last day of the FY decreased by 19 percent. While currently it is not possible to determine the cause of the decrease in the number of children in foster care using the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) database, a number of States have made deliberate efforts to safely reduce the number of children in care through various programmatic and policy initiatives.[9]

> There was a continuous decline in the number of children in foster care between 2006 and 2009.

- The percentage of children of a particular race/ethnicity entering foster care varied among States. In 2009, there were many States in which the percentage of minority race/ethnicity children entering foster care disproportionately was greater than the percentage of these children in the State population.[10] Disproportionate representation was found for Black children (32 States), Alaska Native/American Indian children (13 States), and Hispanic children (6 States) entering foster care.

- Caution is warranted in evaluating the meaning of the disproportionate representation for children of various race/ethnicities entering foster care. Long-range trends using case-level AFCARS data indicate that, from 2002 through 2009, there was a downward trend for Black children as a proportion of the children entering foster care.[11]

- The same source showed that Hispanic children have increased as a proportion of children entering foster care, although this may be a function of the increase in the Hispanic population, in general, given that the number of Hispanic children entering foster care has not increased in proportion to their numbers in the general child population.

> From 2002 through 2009, there was a steady decline in the number of Black children entering foster care.

- Nationally, 226,000 children exited foster care to a permanent home in 2009 (i.e., were discharged to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship). Of these 226,000 children,

154,000 were discharged to reunification; 53,000 were discharged to adoption; and 19,000 were discharged to legal guardianship. In addition, 28,000 children were emancipated from foster care in 2009. There were approximately 11,000 children who exited care for reasons other than permanency or emancipation, such as transfer to another agency or to another State.

- Approximately 115,000 children were waiting for adoption in 2009.[12]

Nationally, there were approximately 435,000 children in foster care on the last day of FY 2009.

STATE PERFORMANCE ON OUTCOME MEASURES

The Child Welfare Outcomes Report presents data and analyses on seven outcome categories. A synopsis of key findings for these outcome areas is provided below. The measures relevant to these outcomes are described in detail in appendix B of the full report. Most of the outcome measures also are listed in tables I and II of this executive summary. Note that individual measures that are part of the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) permanency composites are preceded by a "C" to distinguish them from the original outcome measures. The original outcome measures were developed prior to the first Child Welfare Outcomes Report (1998) in close consultation with State representatives and other professionals in the field. The composite measures, developed in 2005 and adopted in 2006, were based on the same outcome goals, but were created in response to requests that the Department measure more detailed aspects of the original outcomes to allow a better understanding of State performance.

All national medians for outcome measures referenced in this executive summary include only those States for which adequate data are available for FY 2006 through FY 2009. Tables of these medians can be found at the end of this executive summary.[13]

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

- In 2009, State performance varied considerably with regard to the percentage of child victims experiencing a recurrence of child maltreatment within a 6-month period (measure 1.1) (range = 1.2 to 12.2 percent; median = 5.6 percent).

- States with higher victim rates tended to have higher maltreatment recurrence rates within a 6-month period (Pearson's r = .54).[14] In addition, consistent with previous Child Welfare Outcomes 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 6-month period (Pearson's r = .40).

- Between 2006 and 2009, 50 percent of States demonstrated improved performance with regard to the measure of recurrence of child maltreatment (measure 1.1). In addition, the median across States for this measure changed from 6.0 percent in 2006 to 5.6 percent in 2009. Given that a lower recurrence rate is desirable, this demonstrates an overall improvement in performance.[15]

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

- In 2009, State performance regarding the maltreatment of children while in foster care (measure 2.1) ranged from 0.05 to 2.04 percent, with a median of 0.33 percent.

- Between 2006 and 2009, 62 percent of States demonstrated improved performance. In addition, the median performance for this measure improved from 0.39 percent in 2007 to 0.33 percent in 2009 (a –15.4 percent change).

Outcome 3: Increase permanency for children in foster care

- In 2009, States were fairly successful in achieving a permanent home for all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1, median = 85.9 percent). However, States were less successful in achieving permanent homes for children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2, median = 77.0 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 = 66.5 percent).

- For children who had been in foster care for long periods of time (measure C3.1), defined at 24 months or longer, the data indicate that, while performance varied (range = 13.7 to 49.7 percent), all States struggled to some degree with finding permanent homes for these children. In 2009, only 28.9 percent (median) of these children had permanent homes by the end of the year. However, between 2006 and 2009, 70 percent of States exhibited an improvement in performance, and the national median for this measure increased from 25.5 percent to 28.9 percent (a 13.3 percent change).

- In many States, a considerable percentage of children who were emancipated from foster care in 2009 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, 25 percent or more of the children who were emancipated from foster care were age 12 or younger when they entered foster care (measure 3.4), and 45 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 2006 and 2009, 64 percent of States showed improved performance on measure 3.4, and 47 percent of States showed improvement on measure C3.3.

> In many States, a large percentage of children who were emancipated from foster care in 2009 were in foster care for long periods of time before they were emancipated.

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

- The 2009 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 about 67 percent (measures 4.1 and C1.1).

- Overall, 52 percent of States showed a decline in performance from 2006 to 2009 with regard to the median length of stay in foster care for reunified children (measure C1.2). Consistent with this finding, the national median for this measure also showed a decline in performance. The median length of stay in foster care for children prior to reunification increased from 7.1 months in 2006 to 8.0 months in 2009. Given that a shorter length of stay is desirable, this demonstrates a decline in performance (a 12.7 percent change).

- A longitudinal view of children from the time of entry into foster care (i.e., an entry cohort) until the time of discharge indicates that only a minority of States (41.4 percent) are reunifying children within a 12-month period from time of entry into foster care. This information is based on measure C1.3, which focuses on children entering care for the first time during the last 6 months of the prior year and follows them for 12 months to determine the percentage that reunified within this time period. Interestingly, those States that had a relatively high percentage of children reunified

> Overall, 52 percent of States showed a decline in performance between 2006 and 2009 in the median length of stay in foster care for reunified children.

within 12 months also tended to have a relatively high percentage of children who were visited by their caseworkers at least once monthly (Pearson's $r = .35$).

- Many States (60 percent) showed improved performance between 2006 and 2009 with regard to the percentage of children who reenter foster care in less than 12 months after being reunified (measure C1.4). In addition, the national median for this measure improved from 13.9 percent in 2006 to 13.2 in 2009 (a –5.0 percent change). Note that because a lower reentry rate is desirable, a negative percent change represents improved performance.

> Between 2006 and 2009, 60 percent of States showed improved performance in the percentage of children who reenter foster care within 12 months from discharge.

- Many States with a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care who were age 13 or older at the time of entry also had a relatively high percentage of children reentering foster care (measure C1.4) (Pearson's $r = .52$). Conversely, many States with a relatively high percentage of children entering foster care at age 12 or younger also had a relatively low percentage of children reentering foster care (Pearson's $r = -.48$).

Outcome 5: Reduce time in foster care to adoption

- Achieving timely adoptions was a challenge for all but a few States. The percentage of adoptions that occur in less than 12 months from the child's entry into foster care was quite low in almost all States (measure 5.1a, median = 3.4 percent). In addition, 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 = 33.8 percent).

> From 2006 to 2009, 77 percent of States demonstrated 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.

- From 2006 to 2009, 51 percent of States demonstrated improved performance with regard to the percentage of adoptions occurring in less than 24 months (measure C2.1). The national median for this measure also improved from 29.9 percent in 2006 to 33.8 percent in 2009 (a 13.0 percent change).

- Seventy-seven percent of 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 19.7 percent in 2006 to 23.6 percent in 2009 (a 19.8 percent change).

- Many States (61 percent) 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 6 months of the year (measure C2.4). In addition, the national median for this measure improved from 9.7 percent in 2006 to 12.3 percent in 2009 (a 26.8 percent change).

- Fifty-seven percent of States showed improved performance in the percentage of children who were legally free for adoption who were adopted within 12 months of becoming legally free (measure C2.5). In addition, the national median for this measure improved from 47.3 percent in 2006 to 55.4 percent in 2009 (a 17.1 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. Although most States appeared to be reasonably successful in achieving this

placement stability goal for children in foster care for less than 12 months, States tended to be far less successful in meeting this goal for children in foster care for longer periods of time. The median across States declined from 84.9 percent for children in foster care for less than 12 months to 60.8 percent for children in foster care for 12 to 24 months, and then declined even further to 30.5 percent for children in foster care for 24 months or longer.

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

- In about one-half of the States, 4.4 percent or less of children entering foster care under the age of 12 were placed in group homes or institutions. However, in nine States, between 12 percent and 19 percent of young children were placed in group homes or institutions, indicating that this is still an important issue in several States.

- Between 2006 and 2009, 60 percent of States showed improved performance in the percentage of children entering foster care when they were age 12 or younger who were placed in a group home or institution (measure 7.1). The national median for this measure also declined from 5.8 percent in 2006 to 4.4 percent in 2009.

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. 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:

- Nationally, performance on both of the child safety measures improved between 2006 and 2008, but these measures showed a performance decline in 2009. States should monitor this performance and work to build on their earlier efforts to ensure that children remain safe.

- Finding permanent homes for children who entered care when they were age 13 or older has been a challenge for many States. In addition to relatively low performance in 2009, a change in performance between 2006 and 2009 indicates a decline in this area. The reasons for low or declining performance need to be understood better. In addition, the strategies used by States that are more successful in this area should be examined carefully.

- The majority of States made considerable strides toward finding permanent homes for children who have been in foster care for 24 months or longer. It would be useful to determine the drivers behind the success of the 70 percent of States that showed improved performance on this measure between 2006 and 2009.

- Overall, national performance on the median length of stay in foster care for children reunified showed a performance decline between 2006 and 2009. However, the reentry rate for children reunified improved within this same time period. These two areas should be reviewed in conjunction with one another so that strategies can be developed that improve performance in both the timeliness and permanency of reunifications. For example, are there services that are effective in ensuring safe and timely reunifications, while also preventing reentry?

- Overall, national performance on timeliness of adoptions has improved, but it continues to be a significant challenge for most States. 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.

- An area in which States particularly have been effective in making performance gains is the percentage of children in foster care for 17 months or longer on the first day of the year who were adopted or became legally free for adoption in the first 6 months of the year. It would be valuable to understand how so many States have made gains in this area, and how this momentum can be sustained.

- Placement setting stability for children in foster care longer than 12 months consistently has been an area of difficulty for many States, and overall performance remained stagnant between 2006 and 2009. How can States prevent children from remaining in care for long periods of time and increase placement setting stability for children who have been in care for long periods of time?

- Consistent with *Child Welfare Outcomes 2004–2007*, States continue to make steady progress in reducing the percentage of young children placed in group homes or institutions. It would be useful to determine what strategies may have contributed to this continued success so that these advancements can be shared with other States working to make improvements.

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 2006 and 2009.

[1] 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.

[2] See appendix A in the full report for the specifications of section 479A of the Social Security Act as amended by the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.

[3] Unless otherwise specified, the data used in this report are for Federal fiscal year 2009 (October 1, 2008–September 30, 2009).

[4] For the purposes of this report, a victim of child maltreatment is defined as a child for whom an incident of abuse or neglect has been substantiated or indicated by an investigation or assessment. A State may include some children with alternative dispositions as victims (*Child Maltreatment 2008*). It is important to distinguish that the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports use the total reported number of child victims as opposed to a national estimate of child victims, which often is reported in *Child Maltreatment*.

[5] The national child victim rate is calculated by dividing the total number of child victims (762,940) by the child population for all States that submitted National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) data (75,512,062), and multiplying by 1,000.

[6] 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. Children with more than one report of substantiated or indicated maltreatment may be counted more than once.

[7] For the purposes of this report, we are defining representation as disproportionate when the percentage of a racial/ethnic group of victims constitutes at least one and one-half times the percentage of children of that racial/ethnic group in a State's child population. The analysis of disproportionate representation was conducted for Black, White, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Hispanic children (of any race). Other races were not included in the analysis because of their very small representation in the population of the majority of States. Puerto Rico was excluded from this analysis due to unavailable data.

[8] 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].

[9] See the following for examples: (1) Freundlich, M. (2010). Legislative strategies to safely reduce the number of children in foster care. *National Conference of State Legislatures*. Retrieved September 20, 2010, from http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=20929 and (2) National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. (2010). State efforts to safely reduce the number of children in foster care. Retrieved September 20, 2010, from http://www.nga.org/portal/site/nga/menuitem.9123e83a1f6786440ddcbeeb501010a0/?vgnextoid=73a4b637fff68210VgnVCM1000005e00100aRCRD

[10] For the purposes of this report, representation is considered disproportionate when a racial/ethnic group of children entering foster care constitutes at least one and one-half times the number of children of that racial/ethnic group in a State. The analysis of disproportionate representation was conducted for Black, White, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Hispanic children (of any race). Other races were not included in the analysis because of their very small representation in the population of the majority of States. Puerto Rico was excluded from the foster care entry race and ethnicity analysis due to unavailable data.

[11] Fajardo, V., Swope, H., and Zikratova, L., The Decline in the Number of Children in Foster Care: Emerging Trends in AFCARS and NCANDS Data. Presentation at the Children's Bureau's 13th National Child Welfare Data & Technology Conference, Making IT Work, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Bethesda, Maryland, July 19, 2010. This analysis used AFCARS data updated as of July 2010.

[12] There is no Federal definition for a "child waiting to be adopted." The definition used in the Child Welfare Outcomes Reports includes children and youth through age 17 who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parents' parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older whose parents' parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. A State's own definition may differ from that used here.

[13] In the Child Welfare Outcomes Report, two separate national medians are computed for each measure for FY 2009. In the 2009 "Range of State Performance" tables, national medians are calculated using all States that had adequate data available for FY 2009 only. However, when looking at performance over time, a separate FY 2009 national median is calculated that includes only the States that had adequate data available for all the relevant years (FY 2006 through FY 2009). 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. For consistency, the medians used in this executive summary are those that include States that had adequate data available for all relevant years.

[14] 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.

[15] Percent change is calculated by subtracting "old" data from "new" data, dividing that result by old data, and multiplying it by 100. For example, if maltreatment recurrence were 9.2 in 2006 and 7.6 in 2009, the formula is [(7.6–9.2)/9.2] x 100 = –17.4 percent change.

Table 1. Median State Performance, 2006–2009 Original Outcome Measures

Outcome Measures[16]	Median Performance by Year			
	2006	2007	2008	2009
*Measure 1.1: Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first 6 months of the year, what percentage had another substantiated or indicated report within a 6-month period? (N=50 States)	6.0%	5.5%	5.3%	5.6%
*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=45 States)	0.39	0.38	0.29	0.33
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)	87.2	86.7	86.0	85.9
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=40 States)	78.5	77.9	77.6	77.0
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)	70.6	67.8	67.3	66.5
*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)	27.9	26.3	25.6	25.4
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)	70.0	68.9	66.4	67.9
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)	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.4
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=49 States)	84.1	84.6	84.7	84.9
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=49 States)	60.0	60.6	61.0	60.8
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=49 States)	32.4	31.8	30.2	30.5
*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=48 States)	5.8	5.7	5.2	4.4

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

[16] Data for this table include all States for which adequate data are available.

Table 2. Median State Performance, 2006–2009 Composite Measures

Composite Measures[17]	Median Performance by Year			
	2006	2007	2008	2009
Measure C1.1: Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification during the year who had been in care for 8 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=46 States)	69.7%	68.4%	68.5%	67.9%
*Measure C1.2: Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification during the year who had been in care for 8 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=46 States)	7.1 mos.	7.7 mos.	8.0 mos.	8.0 mos.
Measure C1.3: Of all children who entered foster care for the first time in the 6-month period just prior to the year shown, and who remained in care for 8 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=46 States)	41.4	41.7	42.0	41.4
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)	13.9	13.1	13.4	13.2
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)[18]	29.9	31.2	29.5	33.8
*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)	30.8 mos.	30.2 mos.	30.8 mos.	30.2 mos.
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)[19]	19.7	20.9	23.1	23.6
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 6 months of the year? (N=44 States)[20]	9.7	9.7	11.6	12.3
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=44 States)	47.3	51.0	54.0	55.4
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)	25.5	26.0	27.8	28.9
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=44 States)[21]	94.3	94.4	93.6	94.2
*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 3 years or longer? (N=47 States)	45.7	44.2	44.3	45.0

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

[17] Data for this table include all States for which adequate data are available. Numbers are expressed as percentages except when measured by months, as noted. 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 I).

[18] 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. In this instance, there is the added possible impact of using only 49 States for C2.1, while 50 States were used for 5.1b.

[19] 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.

[20] 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.

[21] 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 new Child Welfare Outcomes Report Data Site, which launched in January of 2011, 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. 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

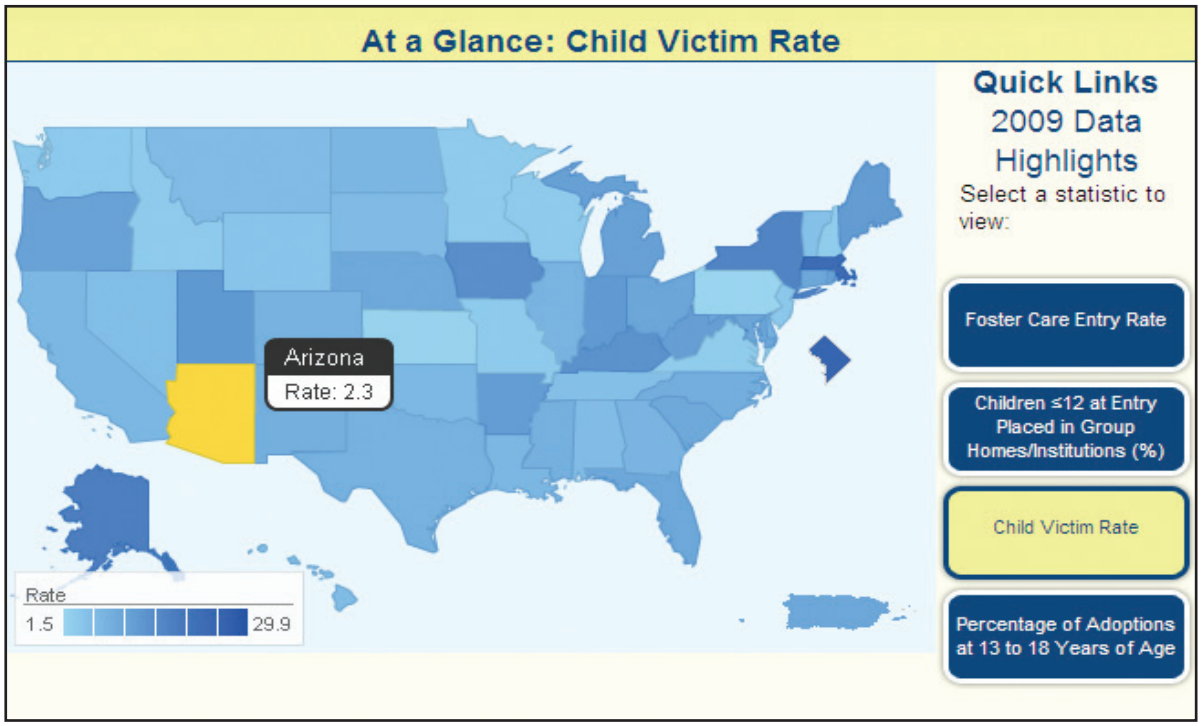
The new Child Welfare Outcomes Report Data Site can be accessed at http://www.cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/data

With the new 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

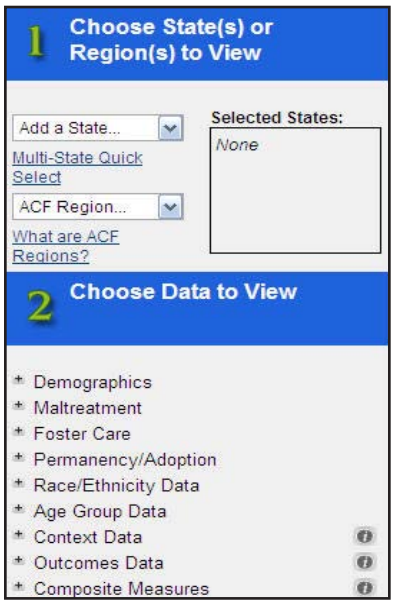
Use Quick Links to view data on key child welfare indicators

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, Child Victim Rate).



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

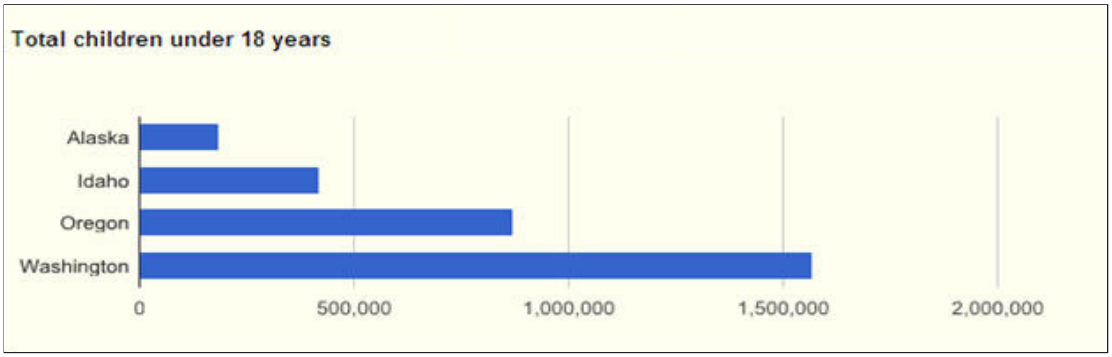
The Custom Report Builder gives you the capability of viewing data from a specific State, comparing data across States of your choosing, and even comparing data from States within a particular ACF Region. After the State(s) or Region(s) is selected, you can choose the variables that you are interested in 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.



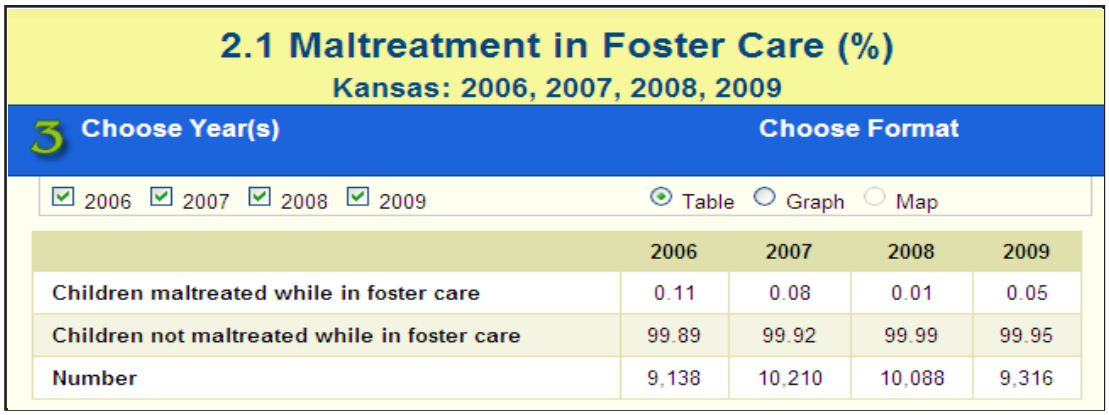
Choose from a variety of data output formats for presenting your data

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.



	2006	2007	2008	2009
Children maltreated while in foster care	0.11	0.08	0.01	0.05
Children not maltreated while in foster care	99.89	99.92	99.99	99.95
Number	9,138	10,210	10,088	9,316

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

Child Welfare Outcomes 2006–2009: Report to Congress
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VISIT THE CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES DATA SITE

The new 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 2006 through 2009 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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Use your mobile phone to access the data site

Children's Bureau

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