

Child Welfare Outcomes 2008–2011: Report to Congress Executive Summary



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Child Welfare Outcomes 2008–2011 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 Reports are created by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (the Department) to meet requirements of section 203(a) of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA).¹ ASFA created section 479A of the Social Security Act (the Act) to require 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. *Child Welfare Outcomes 1998* was the first report created in the Child Welfare Outcomes series of reports. The present report, *Child Welfare Outcomes 2008–2011*, is the twelfth report since the series' inception.

The reports provide information on state and national performance in operating child protection and child welfare programs. The reports present performance in seven outcome categories, which were identified 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 the Department 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
- 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

In 2011, there were approximately 742,000 instances of confirmed child maltreatment.

In addition to reporting on state performance in these outcome categories, the Child Welfare Outcomes 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 the 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.² Below is a summary of fiscal year (FY) 2011 data for these contextual factors.³

Characteristics of child victims⁴

- In 2011, there were approximately 742,000 instances of confirmed child maltreatment.⁵ The overall national child victim rate was 9.9 child victims per 1,000 children in the population.⁶ State child victim rates varied dramatically, ranging from 1.2 child victims per 1,000 children to 24.0 child victims per 1,000 children.⁷

Longer range AFCARS data show that, between FYs 2002 and 2011, the number of children in care on the last day of the FY decreased by 23.3 percent from 523,000 to 401,000.

- The national child victim rate decreased from 10.3 child victims per 1,000 children in the population in 2008 to 9.9 in 2011. This is a continuation of a long-term, downward trend in the child victimization rate that began in the early 1990s.⁸
 - The percentage of child victims of a particular race/ethnicity varied among states. In 2011, there were many states in which the percentage of minority race/ethnicity child victims was disproportionately greater than the percentage of these children in the state population.⁹ Disproportionate representation was found for Black child victims (27 states), Alaska Native/American Indian child victims (15 states), and child victims reported as having “two or more races” (10 states).

Foster care information overview

- Nationally, there were approximately 407,000 children in foster care on the last day of 2011. During that year, an estimated 247,000 children entered foster care, and 240,000 children exited foster care. Among the states, the foster care entry rate ranged from 1.3 children per 1,000 to 8.5 children per 1,000 in a state’s population.¹⁰
- Between 2002 and 2011, the number of children in care on the last day of the FY decreased by 23.3 percent, from 523,000 to 401,000.¹¹ While currently it is not possible to determine the cause of the decrease in the number of children in foster care using the AFCARS database, several states have made deliberate efforts to safely reduce the number of children in care through various programmatic and policy initiatives.¹²
- The percentage of children of a particular race/ethnicity entering foster care varied among states. In 2011, there were many states in which the percentage of minority race/ethnicity children entering foster care was

disproportionately greater than the percentage of these children in the state population.¹³ Disproportionate representation was found for Black children (32 states), Alaska Native/American Indian children (17 states), and children reported as having “two or more races” (20 states).

- Nationally, 240,000 children exited foster care in 2011. Of these children, 207,000 (86 percent) were discharged to a permanent home (i.e., were discharged to reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship).

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 1 and 2 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 2008 through 2011. Tables of these medians can be found at the end of this executive summary.¹⁴

Change in state performance over time is assessed by calculating a percent change in performance on the measures.¹⁵ The concept of percent change is used in this report to highlight the fact that some

changes may appear small in absolute terms but represent large proportional changes. For example, suppose that the rate of maltreatment recurrence increased from 1.0 percent to 2.0 percent in a state. This would be a doubling of the recurrence rate, so it would be misleading to say simply that maltreatment recurrence increased by 1.0 percent. This problem of magnitude of the numbers involved in comparisons is solved by calculating the “percent change” between the two data points.

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

- In 2011, 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 = 1.0 to 12.2 percent; median = 5.2 percent).
- States with higher victim rates tended to have higher maltreatment recurrence rates within a six-month period (Pearson’s $r=.57$).¹⁶ 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 six-month period (Pearson’s $r=.39$).
- Between 2008 and 2011, 48 percent of states demonstrated improved performance with regard to the measure of recurrence of child maltreatment (measure 1.1). However, a substantial number of states (42 percent) demonstrated a decline in performance on this measure.

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

- In 2011, state performance regarding the maltreatment of children while in foster care (measure 2.1) ranged from 0.00 to 1.59 percent, with a median of 0.32 percent.
- Between 2008 and 2011, equal numbers of states improved and declined in performance (45 states per category). Additionally, the

national median performance for this measure improved only slightly, from 0.36 percent in 2008 to 0.34 percent in 2011 (note that a lower percentage is desirable for this measure).

Outcome 3: Increase permanency for children in foster care

- In 2011, states were fairly successful in achieving a permanent home for all children exiting foster care (measure 3.1, median = 87.3 percent). However, states were less successful in achieving permanent homes for children exiting foster care who had a diagnosed disability (measure 3.2, median = 78.0 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 = 66.0 percent).
- For children who had been in foster care for long periods of time (measure C3.1), defined as 24 months or longer, only 31.8 percent (median) of these children had permanent homes by the end of 2011. Between 2008 and 2011, 58 percent of states exhibited an improvement in performance, and the national median for this measure increased from 28.7 percent to 32.3 percent (a 12.5 percent change).
- States that were 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 strong positive correlation (Pearson's $r=.67$) between these two measures in 2011.
- In many states, a considerable percentage of children who were emancipated from foster

States tend to be substantially more successful in finding permanent homes for the general foster care population (87.3 percent) than for children with a diagnosed disability (78.0 percent) and children who entered foster care when they were older than age 12 (66.0 percent).

Many states with a comparatively 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 (Pearson's $r=.52$).

care in 2011 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, 25.0 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 43.4 percent or more of the children emancipated from foster care, or who turned age 18 while in care, were in care for three years or longer (measure C3.3). However, it is encouraging to note that between 2008 and 2011, 54 percent of states showed improved performance on both measures 3.4 and C3.3.

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

- The 2011 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 68.4 and 70.5 percent (measures 4.1 and C1.1). The median length of stay in foster care for reunified children was 7.6 months (measure C1.2).
- States showed improvement between 2008 and 2011 in the percentage of children reentering foster care in less than 12 months from being reunified (measure C1.4). For this measure, 49 percent of states showed improvement over time, and the national median improved from 13.2 percent in 2008 to 11.8 percent in 2011, which amounted to a -10.6 percent change (note that a lower percentage is desirable for this measure).
 - Many states with a comparatively 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 $r=.52$). Conversely, many states with a high percentage of children

entering foster care at age 11 or younger also had a relatively low percentage of children reentering foster care (Pearson's $r = -.52$).

addition, the national median for this measure improved from 12.4 percent in 2008 to 13.5 percent in 2011 (an 8.9 percent change).

- Several states with high foster care entry rates also had relatively high percentages of reunifications occurring in less than 12 months (measure C1.1) (Pearson's $r = .42$) and relatively low median lengths of stay (measure C1.2) (Pearson's $r = -.45$).

The 2011 data indicate that achieving adoptions in less than 24 months still remains a challenge for all but a few States.

- Fifty-nine 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 53.0 percent in 2008 to 59.7 percent in 2011 (a 12.6 percent change).

Outcome 5: Reduce time in foster care to adoption

- In 2011, it was unusual in most states for adoptions to occur in less than 12 months from the child's entry into foster care. The national median for the corresponding measure (5.1a) was only 3.8 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 = 33.5 percent). However, it is encouraging to note that states are showing improvement on both measures. Between 2008 and 2011, the national median for measure 5.1a improved from 3.0 percent to 3.7 percent (a 23.3 percent change), and the national median for measure C2.1 improved from 29.0 percent to 33.6 percent (a 15.9 percent change).
- Seventy-two 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 23.0 percent in 2008 to 25.7 percent in 2011 (an 11.7 percent change).
- Many states (55 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 six months of the year (measure C2.4). In

States generally are more successful in minimizing the number of placement settings for children in care for less than 12 months, but children in care for longer periods of time tend to have far more placement setting changes.

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 85.9 percent for children in foster care for less than 12 months to 63.4 percent for children in foster care for 12 to 24 months, and then declined even further to 32.8 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, 4.5 percent or less of children entering foster care under the age of 12 were placed in group homes or institutions. However, in eight states, between 10 percent and 20 percent of young children were placed in group homes or institutions, indicating that this is still an important issue in several states.
- Between 2008 and 2011, 66 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 4.9 percent in 2008 to 4.5 percent in 2011 (a –8.2 percent change).

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:

- Between 2008 and 2011, state performance on the two safety-related outcome measures, recurrence of maltreatment and maltreatment in foster care, remained fairly consistent. For both of these safety measures, it is important to keep in mind that, while the percentages of maltreatment may be numerically small, these events have serious implications for the safety and well-being of children. Children who experience maltreatment, either at home or in out-of-home care, can experience a wide variety of consequences ranging from physical and mental health problems to issues with cognitive development and academic achievement.¹⁷ Furthermore, maltreatment recurrence is associated with an increase in trauma symptoms in children.¹⁸ States should continue to monitor performance on these two measures and work to improve upon their efforts to ensure that children remain safe.
- 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.
- There was a reduction in the number of children emancipating from foster care who entered foster care at age 12 or younger. It is encouraging that many states are making progress in their efforts to find permanent homes for children in care for longer periods of time. It would be beneficial to know the drivers that were behind states' successes in this area, and if these drivers might be implemented in other states.
- 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 youth 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 encountered in working with younger children and their families. Consequently, states with large numbers of youth in their foster care populations would benefit from developing strategies that target the needs of these youth.
- Many states that have a high percentage of reunifications occurring in less than 12 months from the child's entry into foster care also have a high percentage of children who reenter foster care in less than 12 months from the time of reunification. This is an important finding because it raises the possibility that not all of

the problems that resulted in the child's initial entry into foster care were resolved adequately at the time of reunification, or that new problems arose at the point of reunification that were not addressed sufficiently by the agency.

- 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.
- 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 2008 and 2011. More work is needed on how states can 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.

- Overall, the percentage of young children placed in group homes or institutions has continued to decline, but there are some 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 2008 and 2011.

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ Unless otherwise specified, the data used in this report are for federal fiscal year 2011 (October 1, 2010–September 30, 2011).

⁴ This report uses a duplicate count for child victims, which tallies a child each time he or she was found to be a victim of maltreatment. It is important to note that the Child Maltreatment report uses a unique count for child victims, which counts a child only once regardless of the number of times he or she was found to be a victim during the reporting year.

⁵ 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 (see *Child Maltreatment 2011*). 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. The total number of victims reported in this report is rounded to the nearest 1,000.

⁶ The national child victim rate is calculated by dividing the total number of child victims (741,937) by the child population for all states that submitted NCANDS data (74,810,766), and multiplying by 1,000.

⁷ 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.

⁸ Finkelhor, D., Jones, L., & Shattuck, A. (2009). *Updated trends in child maltreatment, 2009*. Durham, NH: Crimes Against Children Research Center. Retrieved from http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/Updated_Trends_in_Child_Maltreatment_2009.pdf

⁹ For the purposes of this report, we consider representation to be 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, Alaska Native/American Indian, Hispanic children (of any race), and children reported as having "two or more races." Other races were not included in the analysis because of their very small representation in the population of the majority of states. Pennsylvania was excluded from this analysis due to unavailable child victim data, and Puerto Rico was excluded due to unavailable child population data.

¹⁰ 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].

¹¹ For more information, see *Trends in Foster Care and Adoption—FY 2002—FY 2011* on the Children's Bureau website (<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 2011 were updated as of July 2012. AFCARS data from 2008 through 2011 used throughout this Child Welfare Outcomes Report were updated as of February 17, 2012.

¹² 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 from http://www.ncsl.org/documents/cyf/strategies_reducing_the_number_of_children_in_foster_care.pdf and (2) National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. (2010). State efforts to safely reduce the number of children in foster care. Retrieved from <http://www.nga.org/cms/home/nga-center-for-best-practices/center-publications/page-ehsw-publications/col2-content/main-content-list/state-efforts-to-safely-reduce-t.html>

¹³ Puerto Rico was excluded from the foster care entry race and ethnicity analysis due to unavailable data.

¹⁴ In the full Child Welfare Outcomes Report, two separate national medians are computed for each measure for 2011. In the 2011 "Range of State Performance" tables, national medians are calculated using all states that had adequate data available for 2011 only. However, when looking at performance over time, a separate 2011 national median is calculated that includes only the states that had adequate data available for all the relevant years (2008 through 2011). 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.

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, maltreatment of children in foster care was 0.36 percent in 2008 and 0.34 percent in 2011, so the formula is [(0.34–0.36)/0.36]x100= –5.6 percent change.

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ Goldman, J., Salus, M. K., Wolcott, D., & Kennedy, K. Y. (2003). What are the consequences of child abuse and neglect? In *A coordinated response to child abuse and neglect: The foundation for practice* (pp. 35–38). Washington DC: Department of Health and Human Services.

¹⁸ Finkelhor, D., Ormrod, R. K., & Turner, H. A. (2007). Polyvictimization and trauma in a national longitudinal cohort. *Development and Psychopathology*, 19, 149–166.

Table 1. Median State Performance, 2008–2011, Original Outcome Measures

Outcome Measures ¹⁹	Median Performance by Year			
	2008	2009	2010	2011
*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=52 states)	5.2%	5.6%	4.8%	5.2%
*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=47 states)	0.36	0.34	0.35	0.34
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=50 states)	87.7	87.3	86.7	87.3
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)	77.6	77.8	77.9	78.1
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=50 states)	67.6	66.6	65.6	66.0
*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=50 states)	26.1	26.3	25.5	25.1
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=50 states)	67.2	67.2	68.4	68.0
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=50 states)	3.0	3.4	3.6	3.7
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)	85.3	85.3	85.3	85.9
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)	61.8	60.6	61.6	63.4
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)	31.9	30.5	33.0	32.8
*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=50 states)	4.9	4.3	4.5	4.5

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

¹⁹ Data for this table include all states for which adequate data are available.

Table 2. Median State Performance, 2008–2011, Composite Measures

Composite Measures ²⁰	Median Performance by Year			
	2008	2009	2010	2011
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=49 states)	68.4	67.5	67.5	70.4
*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=49 states)	7.9 mos.	8.0 mos.	7.8 mos.	7.7 mos.
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=48 states)	43.4	41.4	42.5	41.3
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=49 states)	13.2	12.4	12.6	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=50 states) ²¹	29.0	31.9	32.4	33.6
*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=50 states)	31.0 mos.	30.4 mos.	29.6 mos.	29.4 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=50 states) ²²	23.0	24.7	24.9	25.7
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=44 states) ²³	12.4	13.5	12.7	13.5
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)	53.0	54.5	59.1	59.7
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=50 states)	28.7	29.7	29.7	32.3
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) ²⁴	93.3	93.8	94.9	95.0
*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=50 states)	46.1	45.8	44.4	43.6

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

²⁰ 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 1).

²¹ 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.

²² 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.

²³ 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.

²⁴ 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

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

Recent enhancements to the site

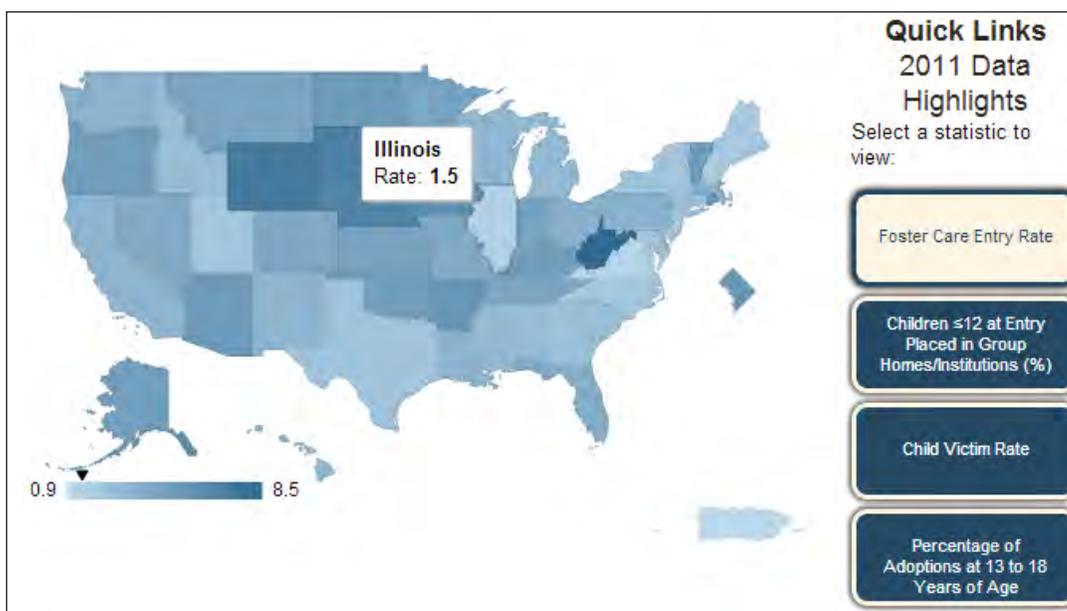
New features enable users to:

- Download data outputs into Excel
- Produce printer-friendly outputs

New Data Site features include downloadable Excel outputs and printer-friendly display options.

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).



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.

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.

Custom Report Builder

1 Choose State(s) or Region(s) to View

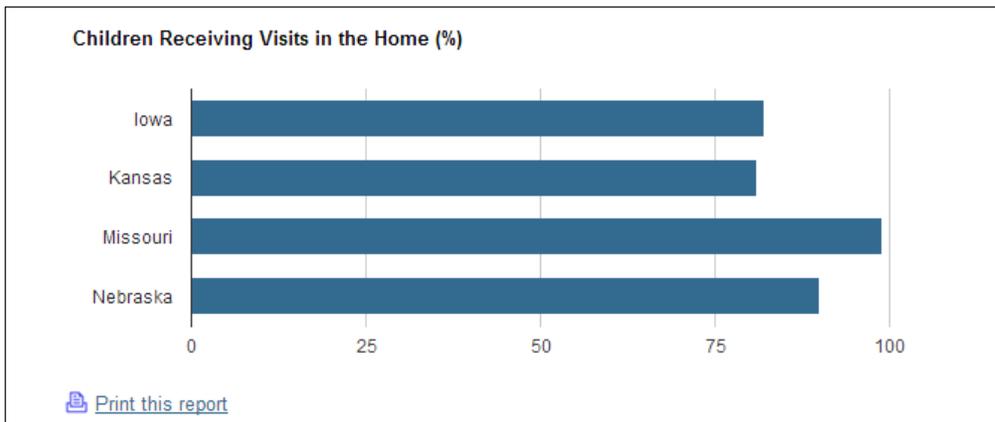
Add a State... Selected States:
None

[Multi-State Quick Select](#)

ACF Region... [What are ACF Regions?](#)

2 Choose Data to View

- * Demographics
- * Maltreatment
- * Foster Care
- * Permanency/Adoption
- * Race/Ethnicity Data
- * Age Group Data
- * Context Data
- * Outcomes Data
- * Composite Measures



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: 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011				
	2008	2009	2010	2011
Children Without a Recurrence	96.7	96.1	97.6	97.6
Children With One or More Recurrences	3.3	3.9	2.4	2.4
Number	943	942	1,018	674

[Export table to Excel](#)

[Print this report](#)

[View Hawaii's State data tables from the years 2008-2011 \(PDF, <2.2MB\)](#)

Planned enhancements to the data site

The data site continues to be updated and improved. Planned future enhancements include:

- New ways to view race/ethnicity data

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

Child Welfare Outcomes 2008–2011: 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 2008 through 2011 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



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

