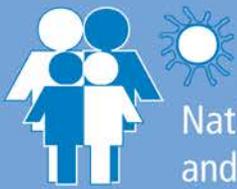


National Survey of Child  
and Adolescent Well-Being

**NSCAW II WAVE 2 REPORT SUMMARY**

# Child Permanency

**OPRE Report #2013-28**  
**October, 2012**



## NSCAW Wave 2 Report Summary: Child Permanency

The second National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW II) is a longitudinal study intended to answer a range of fundamental questions about the functioning, service needs, and service use of children who come in contact with the child welfare system (CWS). The study examines the well-being of children involved with child welfare agencies; captures information about the investigation of abuse or neglect that brought the child into the study; collects information about the child's family; provides information about child welfare interventions and other services; and describes key characteristics of child development. Wave 2 is a follow-up of children and families approximately 18 months after the close of the NSCAW II index investigation. The NSCAW II cohort of children, who were approximately 2 months to 17.5 years old at baseline, ranged in age from 16 months to 19 years old at Wave 2. Data collection for the second wave of the study began in October 2009 and was completed in January 2011.

This report summarizes permanency outcomes for children at Wave 2 of NSCAW II. Permanency in this report is considered to have been achieved when a child or youth is reported as discharged from foster care to one of the following arrangements: reunified with parents or primary caretakers; living with other relatives; living with a legal guardian; and legally adopted. Since this report is based on information collected up to 18 months after the index reports, it still may be too soon to determine if these permanency arrangements are stable. Key findings:

- For all children reported to child protective services in 2008, parental rights were terminated in 7.1% of cases by the 18-month follow-up. Although fewer than 3% of parents of children who were in-home at baseline had their parental rights terminated, among those whose child was living in formal kin care, foster care, or a group home or residential treatment program at baseline more than half experienced termination of parental rights.
- Between the close of the investigation and the 18-month follow-up, 22.3% of the sample were placed out of home: 72.6% had one placement, 18.9% had two placements, and 8.5% had three or more placements.
- The mean number of placements (for those placed out of home) was 1.4. The mean number of days out of home was 249. The oldest children had, on average, more placements and longer stays than younger children.
- Among children placed out of home after the index report, 36.5% had at least one attempt of reunification with parents. Young children (birth to 2 years old at baseline) were more likely to have a reunification attempt than other children.