

Mississippi Child and Family Services Review Data Profile: June 12, 2015

CHILD SAFETY PROFILE	Fiscal Year 2013ab						12-Month Period Ending 03/31/2014 (13B14A) (Not submitted)						Fiscal Year 2014ab					
	Reports	%	Duplic. Childn. ²	%	Unique Childn. ²	%	Reports	%	Duplic. Childn. ²	%	Unique Childn. ²	%	Reports	%	Duplic. Childn. ²	%	Unique Childn. ²	%
I. Total CA/N Reports Disposed¹	22,234		36,760		30,194								22,706		37,959		31,504	
II. Disposition of CA/N Reports³																		
Substantiated & Indicated	5,286	23.8	7,960	21.7	7,415	24.6							5,911	26.0	9,044	23.8	8,435	26.8
Unsubstantiated	16,948	76.2	28,800	78.3	22,779	75.4							16,795	74.0	28,915	76.2	23,069	73.2
Other	A												A					
III. Child Victim Cases Opened for Post-Investigation Services⁴			5,607	70.4	5,111	68.9								6,489	71.7	5,962	70.7	
IV. Child Victims Entering Foster Care Based on CA/N Report⁵			2,004 ^B	25.2	1,753	23.6								2,346 ^B	25.9	2,116	25.1	
V. Child Fatalities Resulting from Maltreatment⁶					11 ^C	0.1											22 ^C	0.3
STATEWIDE AGGREGATE DATA USED TO DETERMINE SUBSTANTIAL CONFORMITY																		
VI. Absence of Maltreatment Recurrence⁷ [Standard: 94.6% or more; national median = 93.3%, 25 th percentile = 91.50%]					3,265 of 3,492 ^D	93.5											3,929 of 4,190 ^D	93.8
VII. Absence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care⁸ (12 months) [standard 99.68% or more; national median = 99.5, 25 th percentile = 99.30]					6,061 of 6,119 ^E	99.05											6,660 of 6,732 ^E	98.93

The Permanency Data for FFY 2014 was based on the annual file created on 02/09/2015. NCANDS Safety Data for FY2014 were submitted on 1/30/2015.

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Additional Safety Measures For Information Only (no standards are associated with these):																		
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	Hours				Unique Childn. ²	%	Hours				Unique Childn. ²	%	Hours				Unique Childn. ²	%
VIII. Median Time to Investigation in Hours (Child File) ⁹	>24 but <48												<24					
IX. Mean Time to Investigation in Hours (Child File) ¹⁰	51.2 ^F												36.7 ^F					
X. Mean Time to Investigation in Hours (Agency File) ¹¹	51.8 ^G												40.9 ^G					
XI. Children Maltreated by Parents While in Foster Care. ¹²																	76 of 6,732	1.1

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NCANDS data completeness information for the CFSR			
Description of Data Tests	Fiscal Year 2013ab	12-Month Period Ending 03/31/2014 (13B14A) (Not submitted)	Fiscal Year 2014ab
Percent of duplicate victims in the submission [At least 1% of victims should be associated with multiple reports (same CHID). If not, the State would appear to have frequently entered different IDs for the same victim. This affects maltreatment recurrence]	6.5		6.7
Percent of victims with perpetrator reported [File must have at least 95% to reasonably calculate maltreatment in foster care]*	92.9		92.7
Percent of perpetrators with relationship to victim reported [File must have at least 95%]*	98.8		98.9
Percent of records with investigation start date reported [Needed to compute mean and median time to investigation]	99.0		99.2
Average time to investigation in the Agency file [PART measure]	Reported		Reported
Percent of records with AFCARS ID reported in the Child File [Needed to calculate maltreatment in foster care by the parents; also. All Child File records should now have an AFCARS ID to allow ACF to link the NCANDS data with AFCARS. This is now an all-purpose unique child identifier and a child does not have to be in foster care to have this ID]	100, but no matches found ^H		100.0

*Please note that these thresholds were relevant to CFSR Round 2 and do not directly apply to thresholds for CFSR Round 3.

FOOTNOTES TO DATA ELEMENTS IN CHILD SAFETY PROFILE

Each maltreatment allegation reported to NCANDS is associated with a disposition or finding that is used to derive the counts provided in this safety profile. The safety profile uses three categories. The various terms that are used in NCANDS reporting have been collapsed into these three groups.

Disposition Category	Safety Profile Disposition	NCANDS Maltreatment Level Codes Included
A	Substantiated or Indicated (Maltreatment Victim)	“Substantiated,” “Indicated,” and “Alternative Response Disposition Victim”
B	Unsubstantiated	“Unsubstantiated” and “Unsubstantiated Due to Intentionally False Reporting”
C	Other	“Closed-No Finding,” “Alternative Response Disposition – Not a Victim,” “Other,” “No Alleged Maltreatment,” and “Unknown or Missing”

Alternative Response was added starting with the 2000 data year. The two categories of Unsubstantiated were added starting with the 2000 data year. In earlier years there was only the category of Unsubstantiated. The disposition of “No alleged maltreatment” was added for FYY 2003. It primarily refers to children who receive an investigation or assessment because there is an allegation concerning a sibling or other child in the household, but not themselves, AND whom are not found to be a victim of maltreatment. It applies as a Maltreatment Disposition Level but not as a Report Disposition code because the Report Disposition cannot have this value (there must have been a child who was found to be one of the other values.)

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Starting with FFY 2003, the data year is the fiscal year.

Starting with FFY2004, the maltreatment levels for each child are used consistently to categorize children. While report dispositions are based on the field of report disposition in NCANDS, the dispositions for duplicate children and unique children are based on the maltreatment levels associated with each child. A child victim has at least one maltreatment level that is coded “substantiated,” “indicated,” or “alternative response victim.” A child classified as unsubstantiated has no maltreatment levels that are considered to be victim levels and at least one maltreatment level that is coded “unsubstantiated” or “unsubstantiated due to intentionally false reporting.” A child classified as “other” has no maltreatment levels that are considered to be victim levels and none that are considered to be unsubstantiated levels. If a child has no maltreatments in the record, and report has a victim disposition, the child is assigned to “other” disposition. If a child has no maltreatments in the record and the report has either an unsubstantiated disposition or an “other” disposition, the child is counted as having the same disposition as the report disposition.

1. The data element, “Total CA/N Reports Disposed,” is based on the reports received in the State that received a disposition in the reporting period under review. The number shown may include reports received during a previous year that received a disposition in the reporting year. Counts based on “reports,” “duplicated counts of children,” and “unique counts of children” are provided.
2. The duplicated count of children (report-child pairs) counts a child each time that (s)he was reported. The unique count of children counts a child only once during the reporting period, regardless of how many times the child was reported.
3. For the column labeled “Reports,” the data element, “Disposition of CA/N Reports,” is based on upon the highest disposition of any child who was the subject of an investigation in a particular report. For example, if a report investigated two children, and one child is found to be neglected and the other child found not to be maltreated, the report disposition will be substantiated (Group A). The disposition for each child is based on the specific finding related to the maltreatment(s). In other words, of the two children above, one is a victim and is counted under “substantiated” (Group A) and the other is not a victim and is counted under “unsubstantiated” (Group B). In determining the unique counts of children, the highest finding is given priority. If a child is found to be a victim in one report (Group A), but not a victim in a second report (Group B), the unique count of children includes the child only as a victim (Group A). The category of “other” (Group C) includes children whose report may have been “closed without a finding,” children for whom the allegation disposition is “unknown,” and other dispositions that a State is unable to code as substantiated, indicated, alternative response victim, or unsubstantiated.
4. The data element, “Child Cases Opened for Services,” is based on the number of victims (Group A) during the reporting period under review. “Opened for Services” refers to post-investigative services. The duplicated number counts each time a victim’s report is linked to on-going services; the unique number counts a victim only once regardless of the number of times services are linked to reports of substantiated maltreatment.
5. The data element, “Children Entering Care Based on CA/N Report,” is based on the number of victims (Group A) during the reporting period under review. The duplicated number counts each time a victim’s report is linked to a foster care removal date. The unique number counts a victim only once regardless of the number of removals that may be reported.

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6. The data element “Child Fatalities” counts the number of children reported to NCANDS as having died as a result of child abuse and/or neglect. Depending upon State practice, this number may count only those children for whom a case record has been opened either prior to or after the death, or may include a number of children whose deaths have been investigated as possibly related to child maltreatment. For example, some States include neglected-related deaths such as those caused by motor vehicle or boating accidents, house fires or access to firearms, under certain circumstances. The percentage is based on a count of unique victims of maltreatment for the reporting period.
7. The data element “Absence of Recurrence of Maltreatment” is defined as follows: Of all children who were victims of substantiated or indicated maltreatment allegation during the first 6 months of the reporting period, what percent were not victims of another substantiated or indicated maltreatment allegation within a 6-month period. This data element is used to determine the State’s substantial conformity with CFSR Safety Outcome #1 (“Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect”).
8. The data element “Absence of Child Abuse/or Neglect in Foster Care” is defined as follows: Of all children in foster care during the reporting period, what percent were not victims of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by foster parent or facility staff member. This data element is used to determine the State’s substantial conformity with CFSR Safety Outcome #1 (“Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect”). A child is counted as not having been maltreated in foster care if the perpetrator of the maltreatment was not identified as a foster parent or residential facility staff. Counts of children not maltreated in foster care are derived by subtracting NCANDS count of children maltreated by foster care providers from AFCARS count of children placed in foster care. The observation period for this measure is 12 months. The number of children not found to be maltreated in foster care and the percentage of all children in foster care are provided.
9. Median Time to Investigation in hours is computed from the Child File records using the Report Date and the Investigation Start Date (currently reported in the Child File in mmddyyyy format). The result is converted to hours by multiplying by 24.
10. Mean Time to investigation in hours is computed from the Child File records using the Report Date and the Investigation Start Date (currently reported in the Child File in mmddyyyy format). The result is converted to hours by multiplying by 24. Zero days difference (both dates are on the same day) is reported as “under 24 hours”, one day difference (investigation date is the next day after report date) is reported as “at least 24 hours, but less than 48 hours”, two days difference is reported as “at least 48 hours, but less than 72 hours”, etc.
11. Average response time in hours between maltreatment report and investigation is available through State NCANDS Agency or SDC File aggregate data. "Response time" is defined as the time from the receipt of a report to the time of the initial investigation or assessment. Note that many States calculate the initial investigation date as the first date of contact with the alleged victim, when this is appropriate, or with another person who can provide information essential to the disposition of the investigation or assessment.
12. The data element, “Children Maltreated by Parents while in Foster Care” is defined as follows: Of all children placed in foster care during the reporting period, what percent were victims of substantiated or indicated maltreatment by parent. This data element requires matching NCANDS and AFCARS records by AFCARS IDs. Only unique NCANDS children with substantiated or indicated maltreatments and perpetrator relationship “Parent” are selected for this match. NCANDS report date must fall within the removal period found in the matching AFCARS record.

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Additional Footnotes

- A. MS classifies all reports as "substantiated" or "unsubstantiated".
- B. For FFY 2014, the state provided the following comment regarding the increase in Child Victims Entering Care Based on a CA/N Report: "MDHS has improved the practice of assessments of safety and wellbeing."
- C. In FFY2013, MS reported 1 additional fatality in the Agency File. For FFY 2014, the state confirmed that all fatalities were reported in the Child File. The state confirmed the increase in fatalities reported in the Child File.
- D. For FFY 2014, MS was asked to provide a comment on the increase in the Absence of Recurrence of Maltreatment.
- E. For FFY 2014, MS provided the following comment regarding the decrease of Absence of Child Abuse and/or Neglect in Foster Care: "MDHS has improved the practice of assessments of safety and wellbeing." More children entering care may result in additional children at risk of maltreatment while in care. Please refer to the data completeness section for information on the state's performance on perpetrator data reporting.
- F. For FFY 2014, MS provided the following comment regarding the decrease in Mean Time to Investigation: "There has been an increase in staff, on-going training for regional directors, supervisors and workers, identify safety issues and accountability."
- G. For FFY 2014, MS provided the following comment regarding the decrease in Response Time: "The Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS) contributes the increase in initiating investigations to the use of structured Area Social Work Supervisor (ASWS)/worker case staffing's and an increase in direct service staff (in some locations)."
- H. For FFY 2013, no ID matches were found between NCANDS and AFCARS files.

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POINT-IN-TIME PERMANENCY PROFILE	Federal FY 2013ab		12-Month Period Ending 03/31/2014 (13B14A)		Federal FY 2014ab	
	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children
I. Foster Care Population Flow						
Children in foster care on first day of year ¹	3,617		3,579		3,715	
Admissions during year	2,501		2,901		3,017	
Discharges during year	2,056		2,187		2,146	
Children discharging from FC in fewer than 8 days (These cases are excluded from length of stay calculations in the composite measures)	86	4.2% of the discharges	139	6.4% of the discharges	112	5.2% of the discharges
Children in care on last day of year	4,063		4,294		4,586	
Net change during year	445		714		871	
II. Placement Types for Children in Care						
Pre-Adoptive Homes	26	0.6	54	1.3	65	1.4
Foster Family Homes (Relative)	1,170	28.8	1,325	30.9	1,449	31.6
Foster Family Homes (Non-Relative)	1,552	38.2	1,671	38.9	1,724	37.6
Group Homes	361	8.9	355	8.3	367	8.0
Institutions	217	5.3	220	5.1	247	5.4
Supervised Independent Living	16	0.4	20	0.5	23	0.5
Runaway	49	1.2	61	1.4	49	1.1
Trial Home Visit	583	14.3	530	12.3	530	11.6
Missing Placement Information	89	2.2	58	1.4	132	2.9
Not Applicable (Placement in subsequent year)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
III. Permanency Goals for Children in Care						
Reunification	2,526	62.2	2,577	60.0	2,735	59.6
Live with Other Relatives	199	4.9	194	4.5	199	4.3
Adoption	996	24.5	1,124	26.2	1,165	25.4
Long Term Foster Care	6	0.1	4	0.1	3	0.1
Emancipation	237	5.8	252	5.9	243	5.3
Guardianship	62	1.5	65	1.5	64	1.4
Case Plan Goal Not Established	11	0.3	27	0.6	55	1.2
Missing Goal Information	26	0.6	51	1.2	122	2.7

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	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children
IV. Number of Placement Settings in Current Episode						
One	1,376	33.9	1,535	35.7	1,608	35.1
Two	1,063	26.2	1,117	26.0	1,158	25.3
Three	569	14.0	597	13.9	615	13.4
Four	290	7.1	279	6.5	342	7.5
Five	174	4.3	195	4.5	210	4.6
Six or more	502	12.4	512	11.9	520	11.3
Missing placement settings	89	2.2	59	1.4	133	2.9
V. Number of Removal Episodes						
One	3,403	83.8	3,616	84.2	3,820	83.3
Two	562	13.8	573	13.3	649	14.2
Three	85	2.1	92	2.1	100	2.2
Four	12	0.3	13	0.3	17	0.4
Five	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Six or more	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Missing removal episodes	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
VI. Number of children in care 17 of the most recent 22 months² (percent based on cases with sufficient information for computation)	823	34.6	809	32.7	840	33.0
VII. Median Length of Stay in Foster Care (of children in care on last day of FY)	12.1		11.2		11.6	
VIII. Length of Time to Achieve Perm. Goal	# of Children Discharged	Median Months to Discharge	# of Children Discharged	Median Months to Discharge	# of Children Discharged	Median Months to Discharge
Reunification	1,511	10.0	1,669	8.5	1,628	7.9
Adoption	336	33.6	317	33.1	300	30.9
Guardianship	92	15.0	89	13.2	94	12.0
Other	108	45.5	98	42.1	114	40.6
Missing Discharge Reason (footnote 3, page 16)	7	4.3	12	3.8	10	5.0
Total discharges (excluding those w/ problematic dates)	2,054	12.7	2,185	11.3	2,146	10.8
Dates are problematic (footnote 4, page 16)	2	N/A	2	N/A	0	N/A

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Statewide Aggregate Data Used in Determining Substantial Conformity: Composites 1 through 4			
	Federal FY 2013ab	12-Month Period Ending 03/31/2014 (13B14A)	Federal FY 2014ab
IX. Permanency Composite 1: Timeliness and Permanency of Reunification [standard: 122.6 or higher]. Scaled Scores for this composite incorporate two components	State Score = 132.1	State Score = 138.0	State Score = 135.8
National Ranking of State Composite Scores (see footnote A on page 12 for details)	8 of 47	5 of 47	6 of 47
Component A: Timeliness of Reunification The timeliness component is composed of three timeliness individual measures.			
Measure C1 - 1: Exits to reunification in less than 12 months: Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification in the year shown, who had been in foster care for 8 days or longer, what percent was reunified in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal from home? (Includes trial home visit adjustment) [national median = 69.9%, 75 th percentile = 75.2%]	70.2%	74.4%	73.2%
Measure C1 - 2: Exits to reunification, median stay: Of all children discharged from foster care (FC) to reunification in the year shown, who had been in FC 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? (This includes trial home visit adjustment) [national median = 6.5 months, 25 th Percentile = 5.4 months (lower score is preferable in this measure ^B)]	Median = 7.4 months	Median = 6.3 months	Median = 6.1 months
Measure C1 - 3: Entry cohort reunification in < 12 months: Of all children entering foster care (FC) for the first time in the 6 month period just prior to the year shown, and who remained in FC for 8 days or longer, what percent was discharged from FC to reunification in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal from home? (Includes trial home visit adjustment) [national median = 39.4%, 75 th Percentile = 48.4%]	50.8%	46.0%	45.2%
Component B: Permanency of Reunification The permanency component has one measure.			
Measure C1 - 4: Re-entries to foster care in less than 12 months: Of all children discharged from foster care (FC) to reunification in the 12-month period prior to the year shown, what percent re-entered FC in less than 12 months from the date of discharge? [national median = 15.0%, 25 th Percentile = 9.9% (lower score is preferable in this measure)]	7.8%	6.2%	7.4%

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X. Permanency Composite 2: Timeliness of Adoptions [standard: 106.4 or higher]. Scaled Scores for this composite incorporate three components.	State Score = 125.6	State Score = 131.6	State Score = 125.8
National Ranking of State Composite Scores (see footnote A on page 12 for details)	3 of 47	2 of 47	3 of 47
Component A: Timeliness of Adoptions of Children Discharged From Foster Care. There are two individual measures of this component. See below.			
Measure C2 - 1: Exits to adoption in less than 24 months: Of all children who were discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption in the year shown, what percent was discharged in less than 24 months from the date of the latest removal from home? [national median = 26.8%, 75th Percentile = 36.6%]	20.8%	22.4%	22.4%
Measure C2 - 2: Exits to adoption, median length of stay: Of all children who were discharged from foster care (FC) to a finalized adoption in the year shown, what was the median length of stay in FC (in months) from the date of latest removal from home to the date of discharge to adoption? [national median = 32.4 months, 25th Percentile = 27.3 months (lower score is preferable in this measure)]	Median = 33.6 months	Median = 33.1 months	Median = 30.9 months
Component B: Progress Toward Adoption for Children in Foster Care for 17 Months or Longer. There are two individual measures. See below.			
Measure C2 - 3: Children in care 17+ months, adopted by the end of the year: Of all children in foster care (FC) on the first day of the year shown who were in FC for 17 continuous months or longer (and who, by the last day of the year shown, were not discharged from FC with a discharge reason of live with relative, reunify, or guardianship), what percent was discharged from FC to a finalized adoption by the last day of the year shown? [national median = 20.2%, 75th Percentile = 22.7%]	28.2%	24.5%	22.9%
Measure C2 - 4: Children in care 17+ months achieving legal freedom within 6 months: Of all children in foster care (FC) on the first day of the year shown who were in FC for 17 continuous months or longer, and were not legally free for adoption prior to that day, what percent became legally free for adoption during the first 6 months of the year shown? Legally free means that there was a parental rights termination date reported to AFCARS for both mother and father. This calculation excludes children who, by the end of the first 6 months of the year shown had discharged from FC to "reunification," "live with relative," or "guardianship." [national median = 8.8%, 75th Percentile = 10.9%]	17.7%	15.8%	11.0%
Component C: Progress Toward Adoption of Children Who Are Legally Free for Adoption. There is one measure for this component. See below.			
Measure C2 - 5: Legally free children adopted in less than 12 months: Of all children who became legally free for adoption in the 12 month period prior to the year shown (i.e., there was a parental rights termination date reported to AFCARS for both mother and father), what percent was discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption in less than 12 months of becoming legally free? [national median = 45.8%, 75th Percentile = 53.7%]	69.0%	73.8%	71.7%

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XI. Permanency Composite 3: Permanency for Children and Youth in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time [standard: 121.7 or higher]. Scaled Scores for this composite incorporate two components	State Score = 146.5	State Score = 139.8	State Score = 138.8
National Ranking of State Composite Scores (see footnote A on page 12 for details)	2 of 51	3 of 51	3 of 51
Component A: Achieving permanency for Children in Foster Care for Long Periods of Time. This component has two measures.			
Measure C3 - 1: Exits to permanency prior to 18th birthday for children in care for 24 + months. Of all children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the year shown, what percent was discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18th birthday and by the end of the fiscal year? A permanent home is defined as having a discharge reason of adoption, guardianship, or reunification (including living with relative). [national median 25.0%, 75th Percentile = 29.1%]	38.9%	34.9%	31.4%
Measure C3 - 2: Exits to permanency for children with TPR: Of all children who were discharged from foster care in the year shown, and who were legally free for adoption at the time of discharge (i.e., there was a parental rights termination date reported to AFCARS for both mother and father), what percent was discharged to a permanent home prior to their 18th birthday? A permanent home is defined as having a discharge reason of adoption, guardianship, or reunification (including living with relative) [national median 96.8%, 75th Percentile = 98.0%]	95.8%	96.5%	95.8%
Component B: Growing up in foster care. This component has one measure.			
Measure C3 - 3: Children Emancipated Who Were in Foster Care for 3 Years or More. 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 18 th birthday while in foster care, what percent were in foster care for 3 years or longer? [national median 47.8%, 25th Percentile = 37.5% (lower score is preferable)]	31.5%	35.4%	30.9%

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XII. Permanency Composite 4: Placement Stability [national standard: 101.5 or higher]. Scaled scored for this composite incorporates no components but three individual measures (below)	State Score = 91.0	State Score = 91.7	State Score = 92.0
National Ranking of State Composite Scores (see footnote A on page 12 for details)	31 of 51	31 of 51	30 of 51
Measure C4 - 1) Two or fewer placement settings for children in care for less than 12 months. Of all children served in foster care (FC) during the 12 month target period who were in FC for at least 8 days but less than 12 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings? [national median = 83.3%, 75 th Percentile = 86.0%]	81.6%	82.0%	81.6%
Measure C4 - 2) Two or fewer placement settings for children in care for 12 to 24 months. Of all children served in foster care (FC) during the 12 month target period who were in FC for at least 12 months but less than 24 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings? [national median = 59.9%, 75 th Percentile = 65.4%]	57.9%	57.2%	58.9%
Measure C4 - 3) Two or fewer placement settings for children in care for 24+ months. Of all children served in foster care (FC) during the 12 month target period who were in FC for at least 24 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings? [national median = 33.9%, 75 th Percentile = 41.8%]	33.3%	34.6%	35.4%

Special Footnotes for Composite Measures:

- A. These National Rankings show your State's performance on the Composites compared to the performance of all the other States that were included in the 2004 data. The 2004 data were used for establishing the rankings because that is the year used in calculating the National Standards. The order of ranking goes from 1 to 47 or 51, depending on the measure. For example, "1 of 47" would indicate this State performed higher than all the States in 2004.
- B. In most cases, a high score is preferable on the individual measures. In these cases, you will see the 75th percentile listed to indicate that this would be considered a good score. However, in a few instances, a low score is good (shows desirable performance), such as re-entry to foster care. In these cases, the 25th percentile is displayed because that is the target direction for which States will want to strive. Of course, in actual calculation of the total composite scores, these "lower are preferable" scores on the individual measures are reversed so that they can be combined with all the individual scores that are scored in a positive direction, where higher scores are preferable.

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PERMANENCY PROFILE FIRST-TIME ENTRY COHORT GROUP	Federal FY 2013ab		12-Month Period Ending 03/31/2014 (13B14A)		Federal FY 2014ab	
	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children
I. Number of children entering care for the first time in cohort group (% = 1 st time entry of all entering within first 6 months)	924	83.7	1,229	88.5	1,284	85.8
II. Most Recent Placement Types						
Pre-Adoptive Homes	3	0.3	6	0.5	13	1.0
Foster Family Homes (Relative)	256	27.7	339	27.6	311	24.2
Foster Family Homes (Non-Relative)	223	24.1	300	24.4	313	24.4
Group Homes	45	4.9	53	4.3	87	6.8
Institutions	35	3.8	37	3.0	42	3.3
Supervised Independent Living	1	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.1
Runaway	3	0.3	9	0.7	6	0.5
Trial Home Visit	340	36.8	471	38.3	500	38.9
Missing Placement Information	18	1.9	14	1.1	11	0.9
Not Applicable (Placement in subsequent yr)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
III. Most Recent Permanency Goal						
Reunification	800	86.6	1,056	85.9	1,122	87.4
Live with Other Relatives	28	3.0	42	3.4	43	3.3
Adoption	59	6.4	104	8.5	53	4.1
Long-Term Foster Care	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Emancipation	10	1.1	11	0.9	17	1.3
Guardianship	19	2.1	10	0.8	14	1.1
Case Plan Goal Not Established	1	0.1	1	0.1	0	0.0
Missing Goal Information	7	0.8	5	0.4	35	2.7
IV. Number of Placement Settings in Current Episode						
One	432	46.8	608	49.5	618	48.1
Two	264	28.6	362	29.5	376	29.3
Three	107	11.6	156	12.7	147	11.4
Four	54	5.8	50	4.1	70	5.5
Five	24	2.6	24	2.0	26	2.0
Six or more	25	2.7	15	1.2	35	2.7
Missing placement settings	18	1.9	14	1.1	12	0.9

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PERMANENCY PROFILE FIRST-TIME ENTRY COHORT GROUP (continued)	Federal FY 2013ab		12-Month Period Ending 03/31/2014 (13B14A)		Federal FY 2014ab	
	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children	# of Children	% of Children
V. Reason for Discharge						
Reunification/Relative Placement	282	95.9	426	93.8	450	94.7
Adoption	4	1.4	4	0.9	1	0.2
Guardianship	5	1.7	10	2.2	15	3.2
Other	3	1.0	6	1.3	4	0.8
Unknown (missing discharge reason or N/A)	0	0.0	8	1.8	5	1.1
	Number of Months		Number of Months		Number of Months	
VI. Median Length of Stay in Foster Care	8.2		7.3		not yet determinable	

AFCARS Data Completeness and Quality Information (Provided only for continuity with CFSR Round 2 and do not directly apply to CFSR Round 3).						
	Federal FY 2013ab		12-Month Period Ending 03/31/2014 (13B14A)		Federal FY 2014ab	
	N	As a % of Exits Reported	N	As a % of Exits Reported	N	As a % of Exits Reported
File contains children who appear to have been in care less than 24 hours	1	0.0 %	1	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
File contains children who appear to have exited before they entered	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
Missing dates of latest removal	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
File contains "Dropped Cases" between report periods with no indication as to discharge	18	0.9 %	25	1.1 %	6	0.3 %
Missing discharge reasons	7	0.3 %	12	0.5 %	10	0.5 %
	N	As a % of adoption exits	N	As a % of adoption exits	N	As a % of adoption exits
File submitted lacks data on Termination of Parental Rights for finalized adoptions	7	2.1 %	7	2.2 %	3	1.0 %
Foster Care file has different count than Adoption File of (public agency) adoptions (N= adoption count disparity).	14	4.0% fewer in the foster care file.	0	No discrepancy between foster care and unofficial adoption files.	13	4.2% fewer in the foster care file.
	N	Percent of cases in file	N	Percent of cases in file	N	Percent of cases in file
File submitted lacks count of number of placement settings in episode for each child	89	2.2 %	59	1.4 %	133	2.9 %

* The adoption data comparison was made using the discharge reason of "adoption" from the AFCARS foster care file and an *unofficial* count of adoptions finalized during the period of interest that were "placed by public agency" reported in the AFCARS Adoption files.

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FOOTNOTES TO DATA ELEMENTS IN THE PERMANENCY PROFILE

¹The FY 13, 2013b14a, and FY 14 counts of children in care at the start of the year exclude 39, 39, and 30 children, respectively. They were excluded to avoid counting them twice. That is, although they were actually in care on the first day, they also qualify as new entries because they left and re-entered again at some point during the same reporting period. To avoid counting them as both "in care on the first day" and "entries," the Children's Bureau selects only the most recent record. That means they get counted as "entries," not "in care on the first day."

²We designated the indicator, *17 of the most recent 22 months*, rather than the statutory time frame for initiating termination of parental rights proceedings at *15 of the most 22 months*, since the AFCARS system cannot determine the *date the child is considered to have entered foster care* as defined in the regulation. We used the outside date for determining the *date the child is considered to have entered foster care*, which is 60 days from the actual removal date.

³This count only includes case records missing a discharge reason, but which have calculable lengths of stay. Records missing a discharge reason and with non-calculable lengths of stay are included in the cell "Dates are Problematic".

⁴The dates of removal and exit needed to calculate length of stay are problematic. Such problems include: 1) missing data, 2) faulty data (chronologically impossible), 3) a child was in care less than 1 day (length of stay = 0) so the child should not have been reported in foster care file, or 4) child's length of stay would equal 21 years or more. These cases are marked N/A = Not Applicable because no length of stay can legitimately be calculated.

⁵This First-Time Entry Cohort median length of stay was 8.2 in FY 13. This includes 1 child who entered and exited on the same day (who had a zero length of stay). If these children were excluded from the calculation, the median length of stay would still be 8.2.

⁶This First-Time Entry Cohort median length of stay was 7.3 in 2013b14a. This includes 1 child who entered and exited on the same day (who had a zero length of stay). If these children were excluded from the calculation, the median length of stay would still be 7.3.

⁷This First-Time Entry Cohort median length of stay is Not Yet Determinable for FY 14. This includes 0 children who entered and exited on the same day (they had a zero length of stay). Therefore, the median length of stay would still be Not Yet Determinable, but would be unaffected by any 'same day' children. The designation, Not Yet Determinable occurs when a true length of stay for the cohort cannot be calculated because fewer than 50% of the children have exited.