

Best Practices in Child Welfare Law Permanency Options and Timely Permanency

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Importance of Timely Permanency

Separation creates trauma

Longer separations result in
poor outcomes

Sustained sense of urgency

*To achieve permanency
for children in foster care
requires a sustained sense
of urgency that begins the
moment a child comes to
the attention of the child
welfare agency...*

- Casey Family Programs

Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA)

- Safety
- Expedite permanency
- Kansas CINC Code,
K.S.A. 38-2201 et seq.



Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)



Kansas

Child and Family Services Review (CFSR 4) Data Profile
AFCARS and NCANDS submissions as of 2-20-24

February 2024



Risk-Standardized Performance Visualization

Risk-Standardized Performance (RSP) is the percent or rate of children experiencing the outcome of interest, with risk adjustment. The vertical bars in the line graph represent the lower RSP and upper RSP of the 95% RSP (confidence) interval, and national performance (NP) is the dotted black line.

Safety Outcomes

Maltreatment in Care
(victimizations/100,000 days in care)

9.07 NP
6.74 RSP

Lower value is desired

Measured as the rate of abuse or neglect per days in foster care in a 12-month period that children experienced while under the state's placement and care responsibility

Recurrence of Maltreatment

9.7% NP
6.4% RSP

Lower value is desired

Measured as the percent of children who were the subject of a substantiated or indicated report of maltreatment in a 12-month period and who experienced subsequent maltreatment within 12 months of the initial victimization

Permanency Outcomes

Permanency in 12 Months (entries)

35.2% NP
31.9% RSP

Higher value is desired

Among children who entered foster care in a 12-month period, the percent who exited foster care to reunification, adoption, guardianship, or living with a relative within 12 months of their entry

Permanency in 12 Months (12-23 mos)

43.8% NP
35.8% RSP

Higher value is desired

Among children in foster care at the start of the 12-month period who had been in care for 12 to 23 months, the percent who exited to permanency in the subsequent 12 months

Permanency in 12 Months (24+ mos)

37.3% NP
33.3% RSP

Higher value is desired

Among children in foster care at the start of the 12-month period who had been in care 24 months or more, the percent who exited to permanency in the subsequent 12 months

Reentry to Foster Care

5.6% NP
6.6% RSP

Lower value is desired

Among children who discharged to permanency (excluding adoption) in a 12-month period, the percent who reentered care within 12 months of exit

Placement Stability
(moves/1,000 days in care)

4.48 NP
7.12 RSP

Lower value is desired

Among children who entered care in a 12-month period, the number of placement moves per day they experienced during that year

Performance Key

- State's performance (using RSP interval) is statistically better than national performance.
- State's performance (using RSP interval) is statistically no different than national performance.
- State's performance (using RSP interval) is statistically worse than national performance.
- Performance was not calculated due to exceeding the data quality limit on one or more data quality (DQ) checks done for the indicator. See footnotes for more information.

Permanency in 12 months: Children Entering Care

July 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024

Statewide	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
# of children who entered foster care in 12 month reporting period, who discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering foster care and before turning 18.	1,387	1,493	1,557	1,592	1,296	1,239	1,207	979	1,055	1,051
# Children who entered foster care in 12 month reporting period.	3,008	3,339	3,650	3,900	3,011	2,960	2,969	2,953	2,951	2,924
% of children who discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering foster care and before turning 18.	46.1%	44.7%	42.7%	40.8%	43.0%	41.9%	40.7%	33.2%	35.8%	35.9%



Rest of report:
[Permanency in 12 months
for Children Entering Care](#)

Permanency in 12 months: Children in Foster Care 12 to 23 Months

July 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024

Statewide

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
# of children who were in foster care 12 to 23 months on the first day of the 12 month reporting period, who discharged to permanency within 12 months and before turning 18.	594	549	581	572	584	568	555	564	569	587
# Children who were in foster care 12 to 23 months on the first day of the 12 month reporting period.	1,626	1,627	1,665	1,663	1,668	1,666	1,642	1,630	1,660	1,620
% of children who discharged to permanency within 12 months and before turning 18.	36.5%	33.7%	34.9%	34.4%	35.0%	34.1%	33.8%	34.6%	34.3%	36.2%



Rest of report:
[Permanency in 12 months for
Children in Foster Care 12-23 Months](#)

Permanency in 12 months: Children in Foster Care 24 Months or Longer

July 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024

Statewide

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
# of children who were in foster care 24 months or longer on the first day of the 12 month reporting period, who discharged to permanency within 12 months and before turning 18.	823	802	781	800	764	757	773	768	739	711
# Children who were in foster care 24 months or longer on the first day of the 12 month reporting period.	2,368	2,338	2,316	2,366	2,284	2,256	2,291	2,278	2,263	2,261
% of children who discharged to permanency within 12 months and before turning 18.	34.8%	34.3%	33.7%	33.8%	33.5%	33.6%	33.7%	33.7%	32.7%	31.4%



Rest of report:
[Permanency in 12 months for Children in Foster Care 24 Months or Longer](#)

Child Sense of Time

- Impact on growth, development & well-being
- Temporary vs. permanent
- Stability is crucial
- Continuity of relationships & parenting time
- Use of 4 questions to evaluate safety vs. risk



Focusing on the Goal

- **Safety versus Risk**



Safety

- Potential maltreatment in the future, degree of harm
- It determines the need for services to address potential future maltreatment
- **"Minimum Parenting Standards"**
- **Continued Services in the home**



Risk

- Potential for serious maltreatment which is imminent
- It determines the need for immediate protective or controlling interventions to protect the child from imminent danger

Case Plan Goal Discussion

- Reintegration
- Adoption
- Custodianship
- APPLA
- SOUL
- Maintain at Home



Child & Family Engagement

- Engagement is the foundation for positive working relationships
 - Leads to better outcomes
 - Allows space for difficult conversations
 - “Core Conditions” – Empathy, Respect and Genuineness
- Strengths-based child welfare
 - Framework – building on strengths of the family
 - Connection is one of the strongest indicators to successfully meeting goals

Engagement continued....

- Acknowledgement of the power differential
 - Client's mistrust of the system
- Three main skills to aid in engagement:
 - Professionals including parents in planning
 - Professionals being caring and supportive
 - Professionals praising parents for their efforts, ideas or achievements



Key Skills to Increase Family Engagement

Providing culturally grounded services

Awareness, education, understanding bias

Risk/safety

Balance strengths with complicating factors

Listen to what they see as a priority for their own family

Setting goals that are mutually agreed upon and provide choices as possible.

Share expectations in an open and sensitive way

Recognize and praise all progress

Include support systems

Resources

Kansas DCF Prevention and Protection Services

<https://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/PPS/Pages/PPSreports.aspx>

Foster Care and Adoption Summary Reports

<https://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/PPS/Pages/FosterCareDemographicReports.aspx>

Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) – Federal Reviews

<https://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/PPS/Pages/PPSservices.aspx>

Foster Care/Adoption Case Management Contract Performance Outcomes

<https://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/PPS/Pages/CaseManagementContractOutcomes.aspx>